RHODE ISLAND & CANADA
Partners in security & prosperity

ProvPort, operated by Waterson Terminal Services. Photo: ProvPort

ProvPort — Waterson Terminal Services

Port infrastructure and logistics connections between Rhode Island and Canada keep the American economy moving. One of only two deep water ports in New England, ProvPort, which is operated by **Waterson Terminal Services** (WTS), is located at the convergence of Narragansett Bay and the Providence River, with connections to major North American railroads.

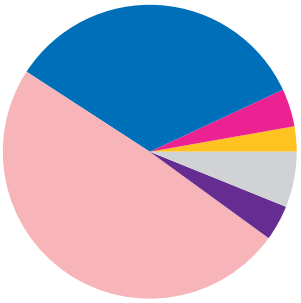
Contracts with Canadian exporters, including Quebec-based cement exporters, keep ProvPort among the busiest in the region. As New England develops offshore wind, ProvPort and WTS have coordinated closely with ports in Canada to service vessels and supply this growing clean energy industry.

This partnership means more business and trade through Rhode Island, which means more jobs and stronger economic opportunities.

35 Canadian-owned companies employ 950 workers in Rhode Island

Canada is the #2 export market for Rhode Island

Rhode Island
exports $592 million
in goods to Canada annually



Goods exports by industry

- Agriculture (3%)
- Chemicals (4%)
- Equipment & machinery (34%)
- Minerals & metals (49%)
- Plastics & rubbers (4%)
- Other (6%)

Rhode Island exports $239 million in services to Canada, including

Travel (including for education)	$94 million
Business services	$34 million
Charges for the use of intellectual property	$31 million
Financial services	$31 million
Transport	$28 million

Top Rhode Island goods exports to Canada

Pearls, gems, precious metals & jewelry	$263 million
Plastics & plastic articles	$23 million
Optical, medical & precision instruments	$22 million
Electric motors & generators	$21 million
Inorganic chemicals	$13 million
Toys, games, sporting & recreation equipment	$8 million
Meat, fish & seafood preparations	$7 million
Fish & crustaceans	$6 million
Ceramics	$6 million
Iron & steel tubes, pipes & sheets	$6 million

Museum of Work and Culture in Woonsocket, RI.
Photo: Museum of Work and Culture

The Museum of Work and Culture: A bridge across borders

The Museum of Work and Culture in Woonsocket, Rhode Island exemplifies how Canada and the United States share deep, people-to-people connections — in this case built on migration, labor, and cultural exchange—that continue to strengthen our bilateral relationship.

Its story begins with French-Canadian families who left Quebec's farms for the textile mills of New England, carrying with them language, traditions, and hope. By 1920, they made up 70% of Woonsocket's population, shaping its culture while forging new lives in America.

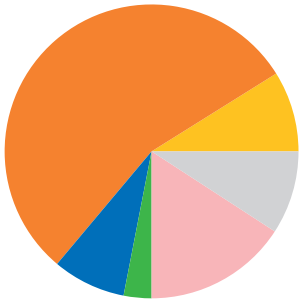
The museum transformed a former mill into an immersive tribute. Visitors walk through a recreated Quebecois farmhouse, hear voices from union halls, and feel the hum of mill machinery — experiences that honor resilience and shared heritage.

This museum is more than history; it is a living testament to Canada–U.S. friendship. It celebrates how migration and labor intertwined to create bonds of family, faith, and solidarity across borders. Today, dedicated staff and volunteers ensure these narratives endure, reminding us that our two nations' ties are rooted in the lived experiences of ordinary people whose courage and culture continue to unite us.

Rhode Island

imports $1.5 billion

in goods from Canada annually



Goods imports by industry

- Agriculture (9%)
- Energy (55%)
- Equipment & machinery (8%)
- Forest products (3%)
- Minerals & metals (16%)
- Other (9%)

Top Rhode Island goods imports from Canada

- Fuel oil.....$714 million
- Pearls, gems, precious metals & jewelry.....$148 million
- Petroleum coke & bitumen..... $81 million
- Optical, medical & precision instruments.....$74 million
- Fish & crustaceans.....$52 million
- Salt, sulfur, earth & stone, lime & cement.....$37 million
- Wood & semi-finished wood products.....$30 million
- Meat, fish & seafood preparations.....$23 million
- Animal meats.....$21 million
- Plastics & plastic articles..... $19 million

May 2026

Sources: All figures are in U.S. dollars. Unless otherwise specified, all figures are based on 2025 data. ***U.S. Census Bureau****: goods trade, Canada's export ranking (2/2026 release).* ***Trade Partnership Worldwide****: 2024 services exports (2/2026 release).* ***Dun & Bradstreet****: Canadian-owned businesses operating in the U.S. (2/2026 release). Figures may not add up due to rounding. Produced by the Embassy of Canada in Washington, D.C.*

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