

# MONTANA & CANADA

## An integrated economy



St. Mary & Milk Rivers

### As deep as the waters flow

Since the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the **St. Mary and Milk Rivers** have shared both infrastructure and resource management under the 1909 Boundary Waters Treaty. The rivers, straddling Alberta and Montana, supply drinking water for local residents and irrigation for farmers. In May of 2020, part of the infrastructure failed, diverting water flows from their needed routes. All levels of government, from both sides of the border, helped to ensure reconstruction, despite being in the middle of a worldwide pandemic. Construction materials were able to be delivered to the site through a specialized border crossing, and thankfully water began flowing again after just five months. Owing to existing partnerships and a commitment to solving problems, this project is just one of many successful, long-standing collaborations between Canada and the U.S.

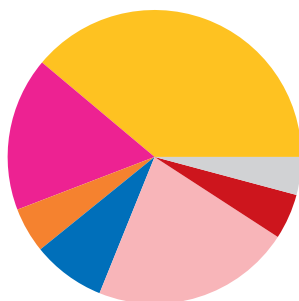


65 Canadian-owned companies employ 1,700 workers in Montana



Montana sells more goods to Canada (its #1 export market) than to its next seven largest foreign markets combined

Montana exports **\$869 million** in goods to Canada annually



**Goods exports by industry**

- Agriculture (39%)
- Chemicals (17%)
- Energy (5%)
- Equipment & machinery (8%)
- Minerals & metals (22%)
- Transportation (5%)
- Other (4%)

### Montana exports \$254 million in services to Canada, including

Transport.....	\$102 million
Travel (including for education).....	\$83 million
Business services.....	\$25 million
Financial services.....	\$22 million
Charges for the use of intellectual property.....	\$9 million

### Top Montana goods exports to Canada

Ores, slag & ash.....	\$125 million
Vegetables.....	\$115 million
Live animals.....	\$113 million
Salt, sulfur, earth & stone, lime & cement.....	\$41 million
Cereals.....	\$40 million
Animal feed & food industry residues.....	\$29 million
Agricultural machinery.....	\$26 million
Electricity.....	\$25 million
Oil seeds.....	\$25 million
Fuel oil.....	\$21 million



Photo: Bridger Aerospace

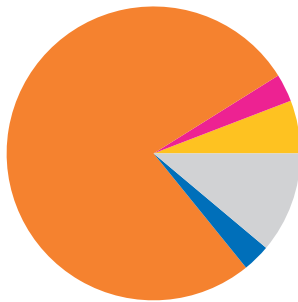
## Strengthening U.S. wildfire response

**Bridger Aerospace**, an American-owned, Montana-based aerial firefighting company, is enhancing wildfire suppression efforts across the U.S. With a specialized fleet, including the Canadian-built CL-415EAF “Super Scooper” aircraft and fixed-wing planes, the company provides rapid response and advanced firefighting capabilities to protect communities in high-risk areas like California and Alaska.

Bridger Aerospace’s commitment to U.S. wildfire management was reinforced in January 2025 when it secured a \$20.1 million, five-year contract with the U.S. Department of the Interior. The contract includes deploying air attack and surveillance aircraft for the Bureau of Land Management Alaska Fire Service, ensuring faster, more effective emergency response. Bridger Aerospace’s focus in Canada has primarily been on supporting wildfires in remote, forested areas, particularly in British Columbia and Quebec during the 2023 fires.

Many of Bridger’s pilots and mechanics are Canadian, having spent much of their careers supporting the Canadian aerial firefighting operations before joining Bridger to assist with both U.S. and Canadian wildfire seasons.

## Montana imports \$6.8 billion in goods from Canada annually



Goods imports by industry

- Agriculture (6%)
- Chemicals (3%)
- Energy (77%)
- Equipment & machinery (3%)
- Other (11%)

## Top Montana goods imports from Canada

■ Crude petroleum.....	\$5.1 billion
■ Animal or vegetable fats, oils & waxes.....	\$282 million
■ Fertilizers.....	\$123 million
■ Natural gas & other gases.....	\$97 million
■ Softwood lumber.....	\$86 million
■ Wood & semi-finished wood products.....	\$67 million
■ Agricultural machinery.....	\$67 million
■ Iron & steel tubes, pipes & sheets.....	\$49 million
■ Pearls, gems, precious metals & jewelry.....	\$40 million
■ Electricity.....	\$38 million

March 2025

Sources: All figures are in U.S. dollars. Unless otherwise specified, all figures are based on 2024 data. **U.S. Census Bureau:** goods trade, Canada’s export ranking (2/2025 release). **Trade Partnership:** 2023 services trade (12/2024 release). **Dun & Bradstreet:** Canadian-owned businesses operating in the U.S. (2/2025 release). Figures may not add up due to rounding. Produced by the Embassy of Canada in Washington, D.C.

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