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U.S. Trade Surplus With Mexico Narrows To US$200 Million During April-June 1993

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On Aug. 30, the US Commerce Department reported the US merchandise trade surplus with Mexico narrowed to US$200 million during April-June of 1993, down from US$500 million in the first quarter of the year. The report did not specify figures on exports and imports between the two countries for the second quarter. However, monthly trade balance statistics show that Mexican exports to the US increased by 8% each month from April to June. For example, Mexico's exports to the US during June totaled US$3.525 billion, up from US$3.257 billion in May. US petroleum imports from all sources which in the second quarter increased by 12% from the first quarter may account for the jump in Mexican exports to the US, since crude oil traditionally accounts for a high percentage of US imports from Mexico. In a related matter, the Mexico City-based trade consulting company Jetro reported that Mexico's trade deficit with Japan during January-June increased to US$1.45 billion, a 14% jump over the same period in 1992. Mexican exports to Japan during the first half of the year totaled US$492 million, down 23% compared to 1992. Mexican imports of Japanese products totaled US$1.94 billion. (Sources: Notimex, Associated Press, 08/30/93; La Jornada, 08/31/93; Agence-France Presse, 09/02/93)

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