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THE CANADA-US BORDER, TRUCKING AND THE PANDEMIC

Bill Anderson, CBI Director
CILTNA Fall Transport Outlook Virtual Conference, Nov. 9, 2020



University of Windsor



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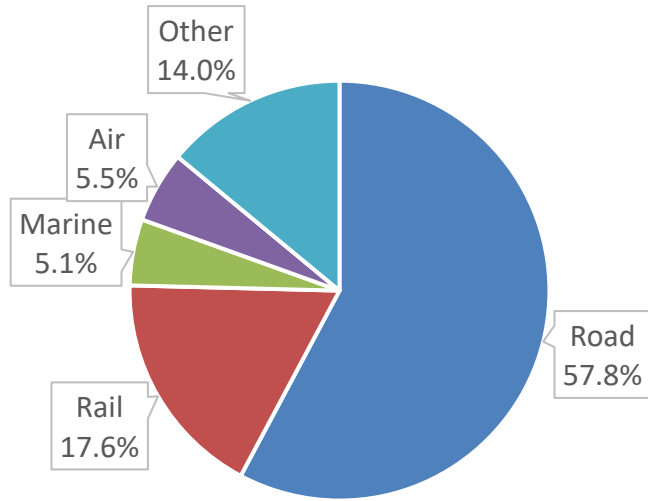
TRUCKING AND CANADA-US TRADE

- Trucking is largest mode, accounting for 58% of Canada-US trade by value
- About 75% of Ontario-US trade
- 50-75% of Quebec US trade
- A lot of this is in cross-border supply chains over relatively short distances
- Traffic focused on a few key crossings, especially in the Great Lakes
- Gordie Howe Bridge coming online
- Chronic labour supply issues

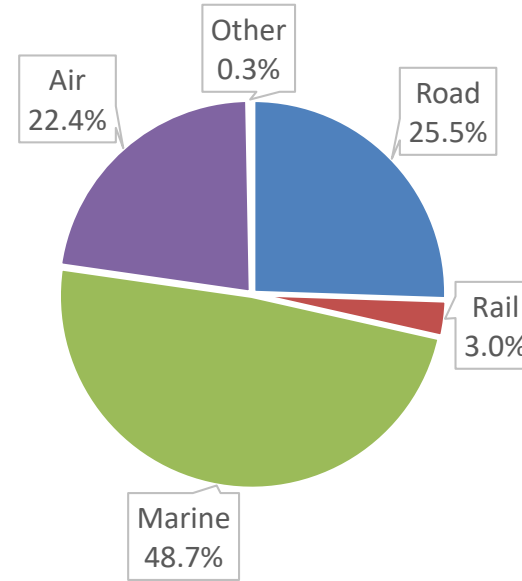


TRADE SHARES BY MODE (2018, VALUE)

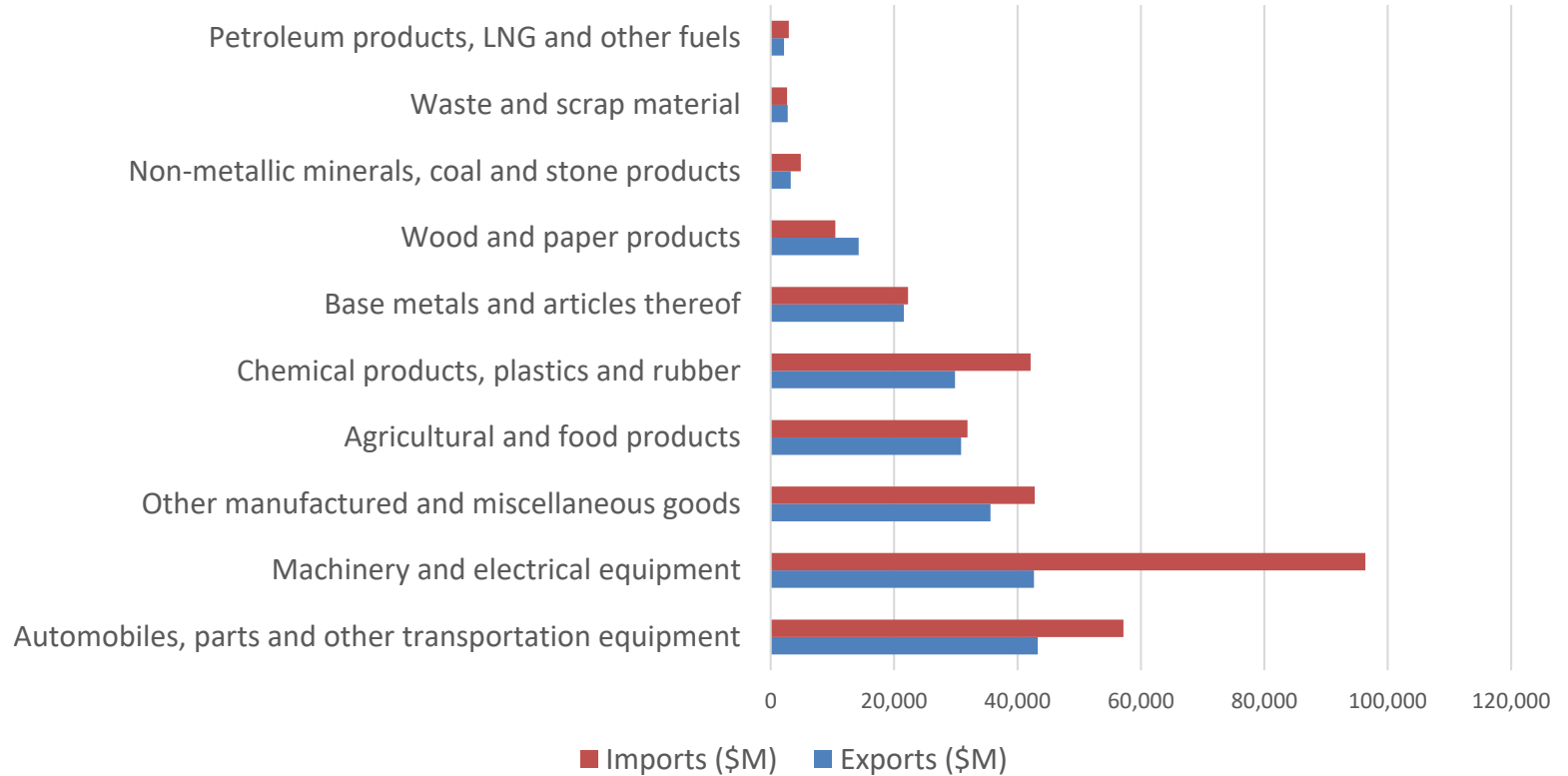
Canada-U.S. Trade Modal Shares



Rest of World Trade Modal Shares

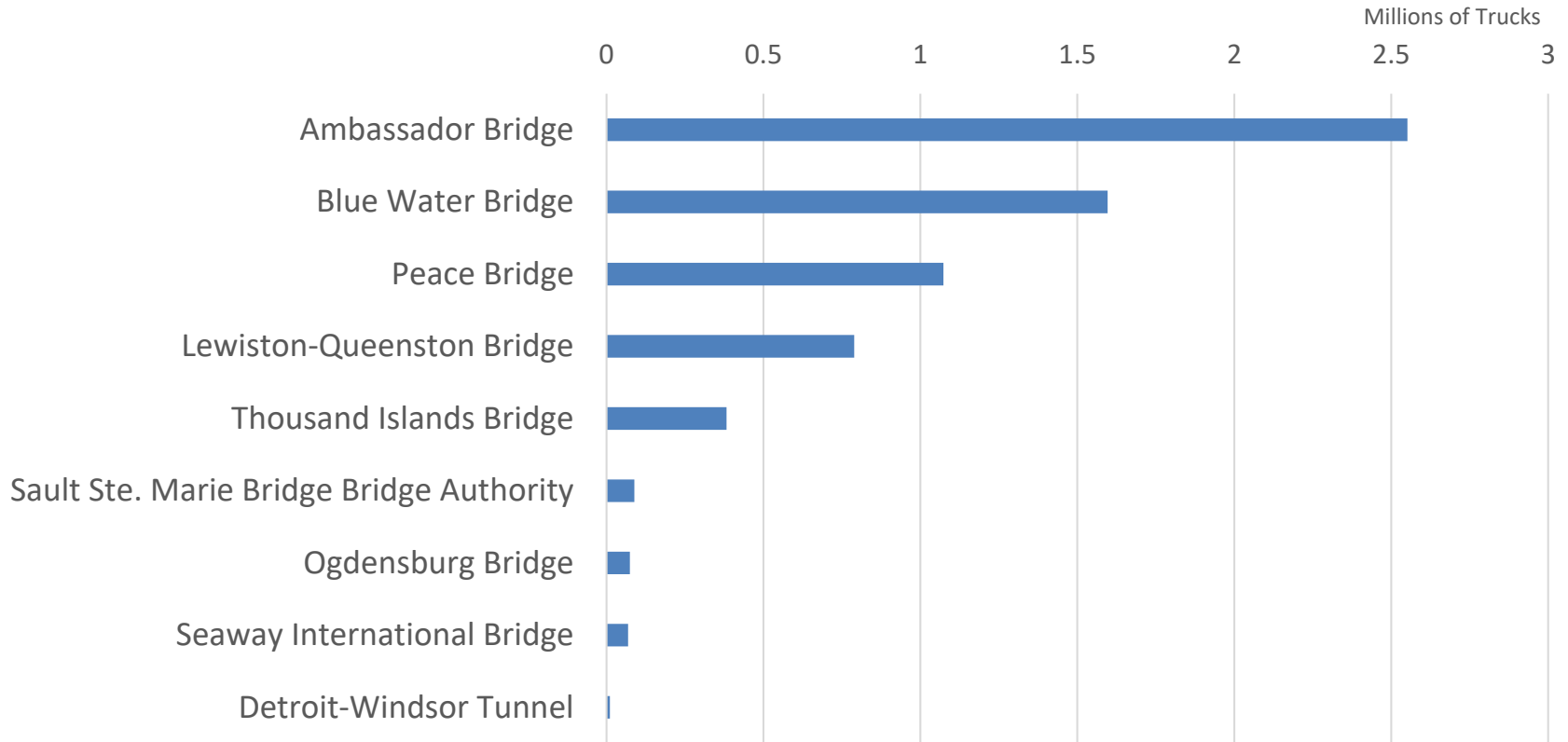


Canadian International Trade Value Shipped By Trucks, by Commodity Groups, 2018



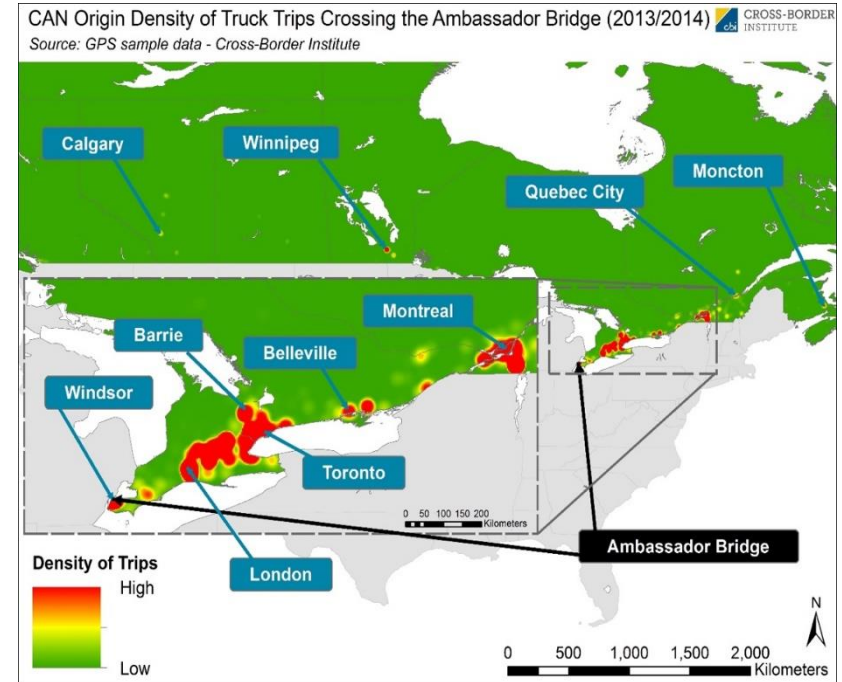
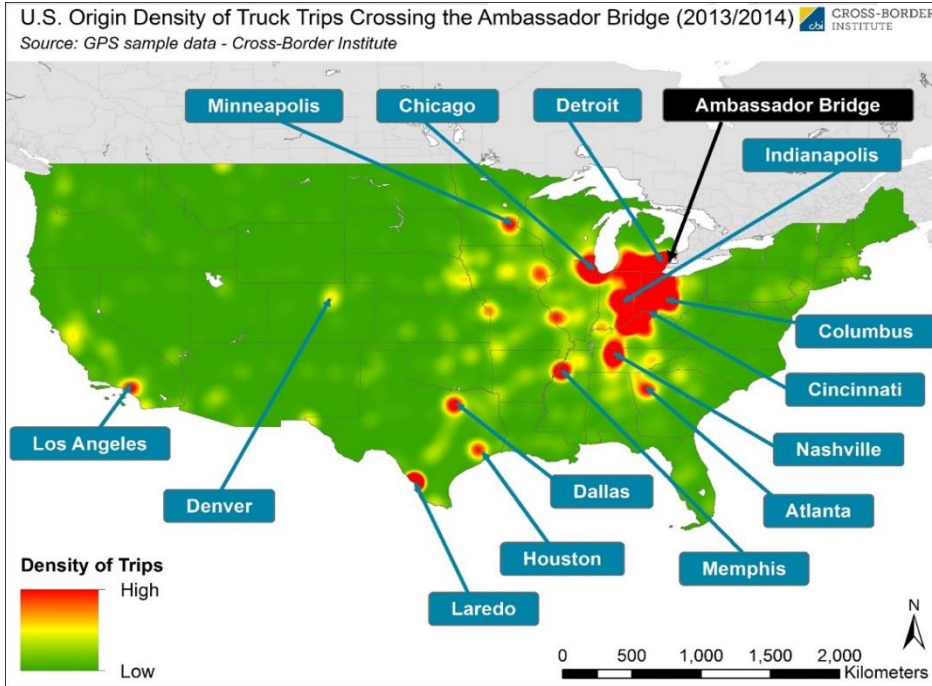
2019 Total Trucks at Ontario Crossings

Source: Bridge and Tunnel Operators Association



AMBASSADOR BRIDGE O-D PATTERNS

(FROM GPS DATA)



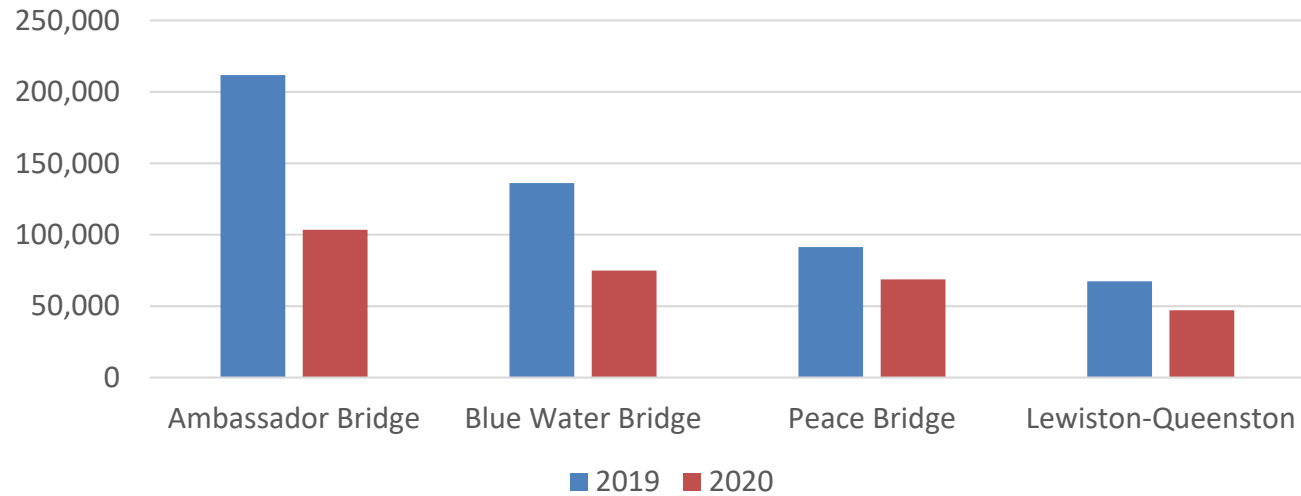
THE EFFECT OF THE COVID-19 CRISIS ON CARS AND TRUCKS AT ONTARIO'S HIGHWAY BORDER CROSSINGS

- The March 20, 2020 [agreement](#) between Canada and the US permits continued truck movements but limits personal crossings to essential workers. It has been extended four times.
- Recent trends in crossings reflect this agreement, as well as the early shutdown of production assets on both sides of the border.
- The data in the charts below are from the web site of the [Bridge and Tunnels Operators Association](#) (click on “Traffic Data”)
- 2019 total crossings data show that crossings by cars are more broadly spread across the bridges and tunnel, while crossings by trucks are concentrated on 4 bridges across the Detroit, St. Clair and Niagara Rivers.



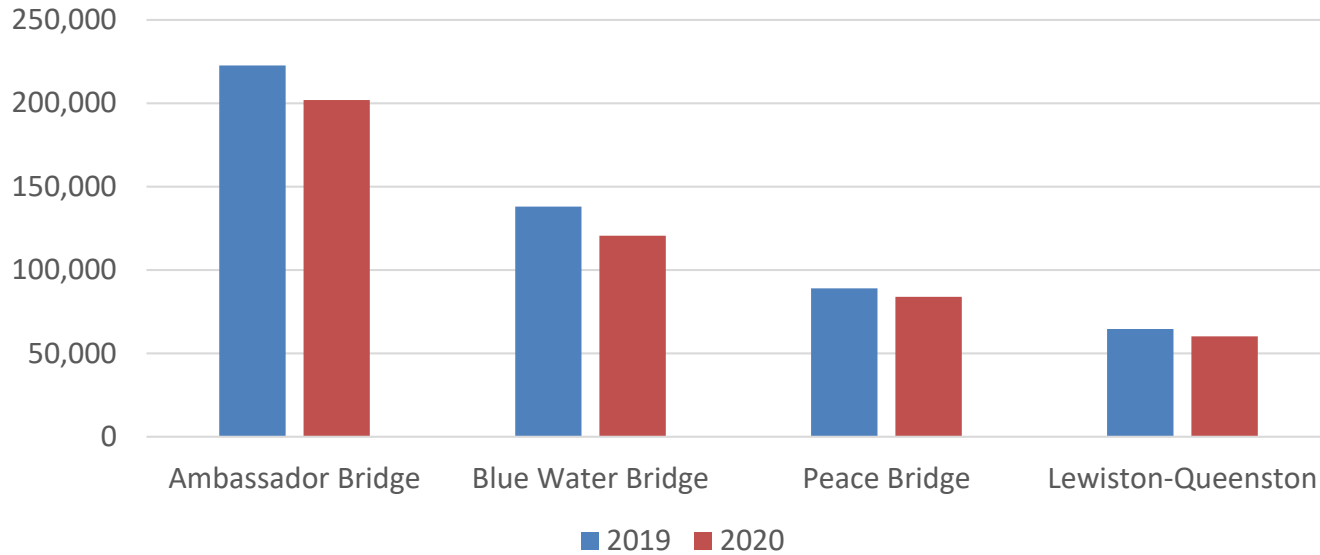
April Truck Traffic at Selected Crossings 2019 vs 2020

Source: Bridge and Tunnel Operators Association



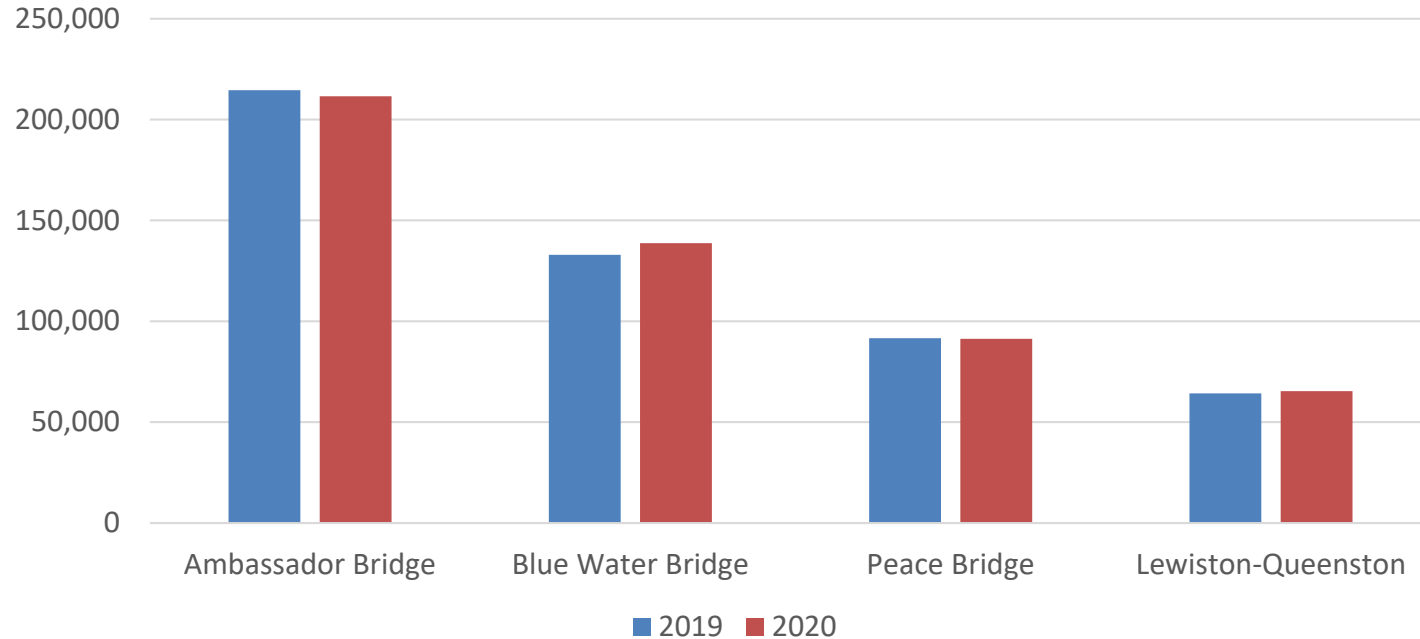
June Truck Traffic at Selected Crossings 2019 vs 2020

Source: Bridge and Tunnel Operators Association



September Truck Traffic at Selected Crossings 2019 vs 2020

Source: Bridge and Tunnel Operators Association



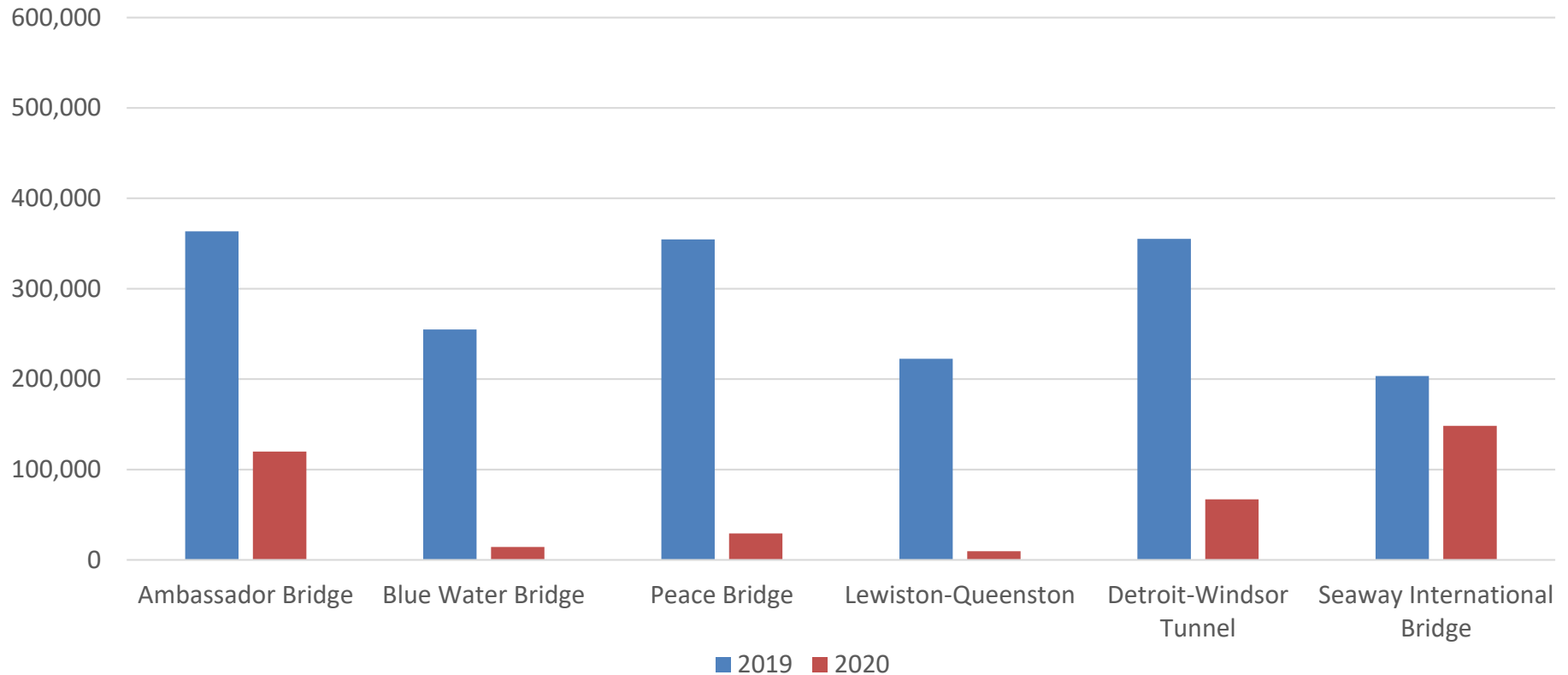
TRUCK CROSSINGS IN 2020, COMPARED TO SAME MONTHS IN 2019

- Truck crossings fell a lot in April, despite being relatively unrestricted under the Canada-US agreement.
- Biggest drop at Ambassador Bridge, about 50% in April.
- Major contributor: plant shutdowns in automotive and other industries so less movement of intermediate goods in cross-border supply chains.
- June levels returned close to 2019
- September at 2019 levels full caught up with 2019
- Shippers, carriers and drivers still face challenges
- Light vehicle crossings, including business travel, a different story



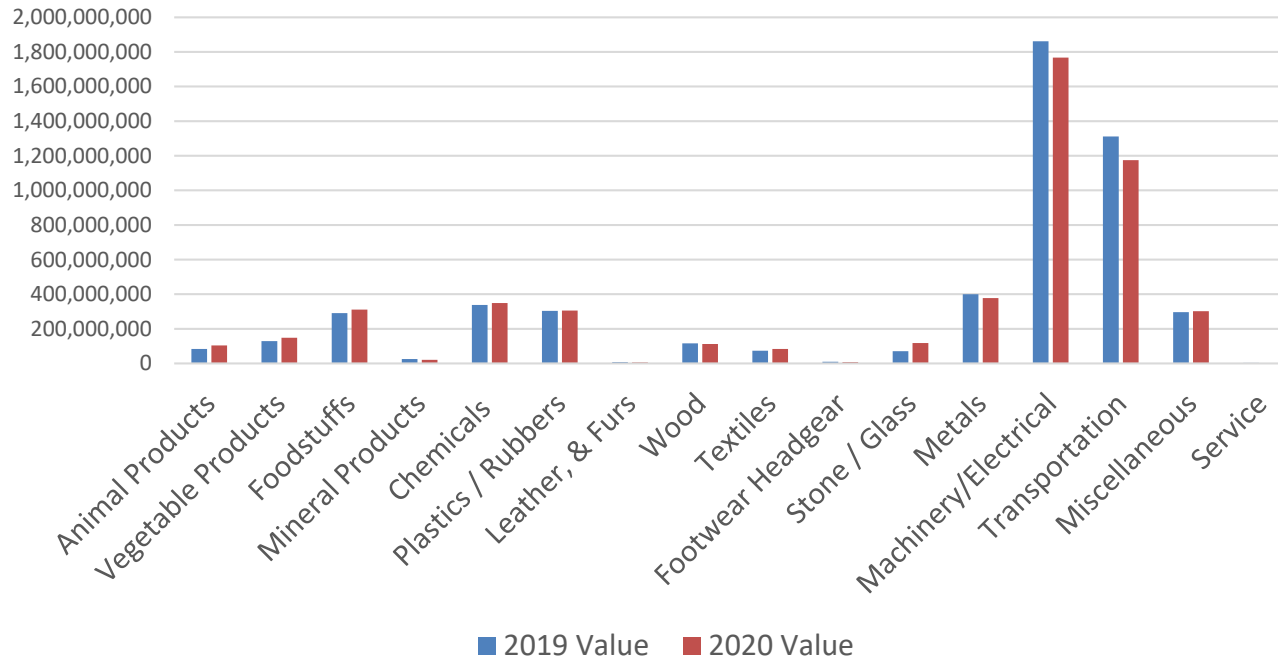
September Car Traffic at Selected Crossings 2019 vs 2020

Source: Bridge and Tunnel Operators Association

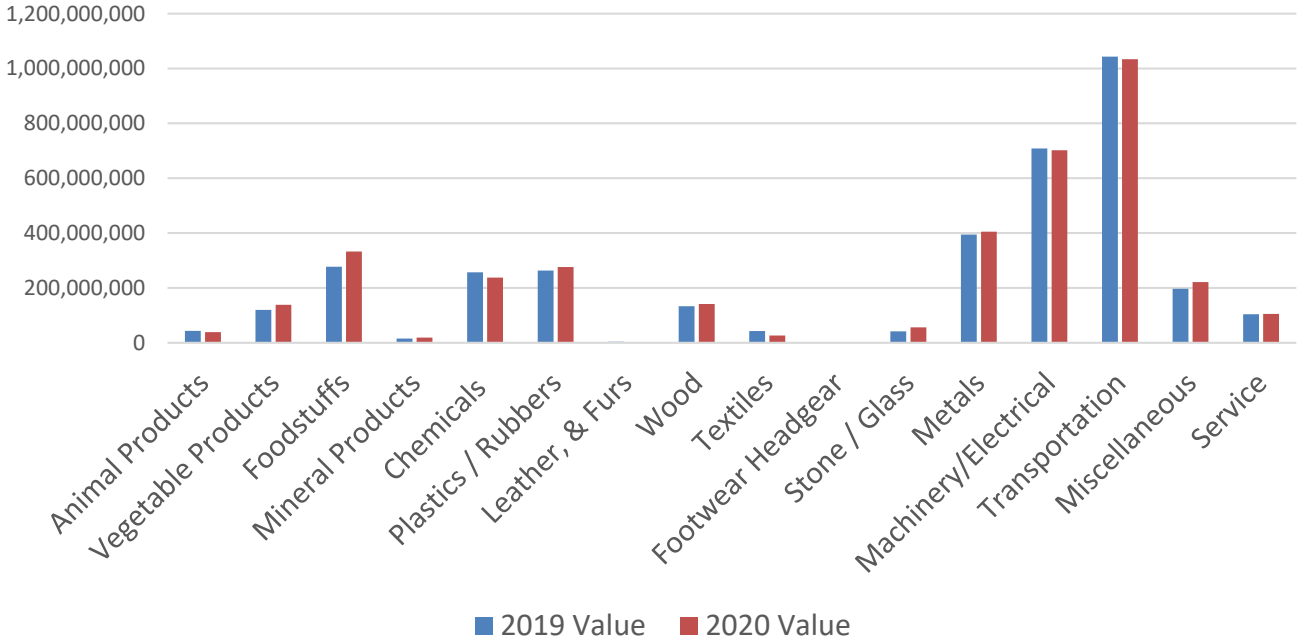


Value of US Exports by Truck, Detroit Month of August, 2019 – 2020

Source: USBTS <https://www.bts.gov/transborder/>



Value of US Imports by Truck, Detroit Month of August, 2019 - 2020



US BTS DATA INDICATIONS

- No major change in the broad composition or level of Canada-US trade at the Detroit River Crossings
- There may still be differences at a more detailed level (especially in agrifood)

QUESTION FOR THE FUTURE

- Will restrictions on business travel have a negative impact on cross-border supply chain trade over the next few years?

