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Economic Activity Between US and Canada in Serious Decline

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WHATCOM COUNTY, Wash. -- A new academic study funded by the Canadian government reaffirms a story of a serious decline in economic activity along the Canada and U.S. border.

The report shows the value of trade between the two countries dropped 9% in 2008.

At the same time, auto and truck traffic at the border declined 4.8% from one year earlier.

The researchers from Western Washington University and the University of Buffalo attribute the deterioration both to the recession and U.S. inspired border controls.

One bright spot noted by the border study relates to rail exports, which were up at most of the eight northern border points studied.

WWU researchers concluded that border processes established in the aftermath of 9/11 have disrupted the social and economic fabric of borderlands.

They also warned the long run real living standards of both Canadians and Americans have been adversely affected by post 9/11 border security developments.

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