

NAFTA AND WORKERS: THE RECORD SO FAR

ABSTRACT

With three years of NAFTA experience behind us, it is now clear that both those who predicted the treaty would produce a job increase in the U.S. and wage and job gains for Mexico were as wrong in their predictions as those that predicted that NAFTA would cause massive job loss and wage decline in the U.S. NAFTA's impact on working people in both Mexico and the U.S. has been quite minor overall. This paper seeks to review the record briefly and outline explanations for this failure of major impact. It will also offer a series of predictions as to economic, political, and cultural consequences Mexico can expect over the next two decades due to increasing trade with the U.S., and will review and assess developments so far under the NAFTA side agreement on labor.