



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

January 11, 2024

For further information contact:

Peter Petainen, General Manager
Sault Ste. Marie Bridge Authority & BTOA President
906-635-5255 or 705-942-4345
petainenp@michigan.gov

2023 Border Traffic Statistics Issued by the Bridge and Tunnel Operators Association (BTOA)

Today the Bridge and Tunnel Operators Association (BTOA) released border crossing numbers for the year 2023 between the Province of Ontario and the States of Michigan and New York.

The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic continued to be felt in 2023. Car traffic was down 17.62% compared to pre-pandemic 2019 equating to a decline of approximately 4.8 million vehicles.

Truck traffic was deemed essential throughout the pandemic and therefore not subject to border restrictions resulting in 2023 truck volumes being similar to pre-pandemic volumes.

The Canada and United States federal governments imposed COVID-19 border restrictions on all non-essential travel on March 21, 2020. During the subsequent three years these restrictions were modified from time to time including Canadian requirements of pre-entry COVID-19 testing and using the ArriveCan app. These requirements along with the vaccination requirements were dropped in October 2022. The United States did not require pre-entry testing or utilization of an entry app but did require vaccination throughout. The vaccination requirement was dropped May 12, 2023. After this date there were no longer any COVID-19 border restrictions being imposed by either country.

In 2023, compared to 2022, overall car crossings increased by 37.65%. Truck crossings increased by 2.48%. Combined there were 28,943,379 car, truck and bus crossings, an increase of 27.65% or 6,269,781 more vehicles. However, for most of 2022, as described above, COVID-19 border restrictions were still in place.

The data for each individual crossing is as follows:

		2022	2023	Change	Percent
Ambassador Bridge	Passenger Cars	2,500,296	3,589,318	1,089,022	43.56%
	Trucks	2,302,992	2,566,476	263,484	11.44%
	Buses & Misc.	-	-	-	0.00%
	TOTAL	4,803,288	6,155,794	1,352,506	28.16%
Blue Water Bridge	Passenger Cars	1,455,634	2,009,411	553,777	38.04%
	Trucks	1,728,293	1,621,461	(106,832)	-6.18%
	Buses & Misc.	1,156	2,130	974	84.26%
	TOTAL	3,185,083	3,633,002	447,919	14.06%
Detroit-Windsor Tunnel	Passenger Cars	2,947,447	3,680,355	732,908	24.87%
	Trucks	21,257	18,473	(2,784)	-13.10%
	Buses & Misc.	1,668	13,939	12,271	735.67%
	TOTAL	2,970,372	3,712,767	742,395	24.99%
Ogdensburg Bridge	Passenger Cars	318,863	466,324	147,461	46.25%
	Trucks	68,796	68,406	(390)	-0.57%
	Buses & Misc.	114	299	185	162.28%
	TOTAL	387,773	535,029	147,256	37.97%
Peace Bridge	Passenger Cars	2,232,200	3,394,021	1,161,821	52.05%
	Trucks	1,073,293	1,081,496	8,203	0.76%
	Buses & Misc.	6,630	9,118	2,488	37.53%
	TOTAL	3,312,123	4,484,635	1,172,512	35.40%
Sault Ste. Marie Bridge Bridge Authority	Passenger Cars	534,325	869,201	334,876	62.67%
	Trucks	66,897	68,238	1,341	2.00%
	Buses & Misc.	23,738	33,467	9,729	40.98%
	TOTAL	624,960	970,906	345,946	55.35%
Seaway International Bridge	Passenger Cars	2,073,530	2,383,279	309,749	14.94%
	Trucks	62,378	63,328	950	1.52%
	Buses & Misc.	-	-	-	0.00%
	TOTAL	2,135,908	2,446,607	310,699	14.55%
Thousand Islands Bridge	Passenger Cars	1,201,983	1,501,511	299,528	24.92%
	Trucks	390,392	384,115	(6,277)	-1.61%
	Buses & Misc.	-	-	-	0.00%
	TOTAL	1,592,375	1,885,626	293,251	18.42%
Lewiston-Queenston Bridge	Passenger Cars	1,397,187	2,128,962	731,775	52.37%
	Trucks	780,650	783,904	3,254	0.42%
	Buses & Misc.	2,824	4,228	1,404	49.72%
	TOTAL	2,180,661	2,917,094	736,433	33.77%
Rainbow Bridge	Passenger Cars	1,227,985	1,811,589	583,604	47.53%
	Trucks	0	-	0	0.00%
	Buses & Misc.	5,712	11,700	5,988	104.83%
	TOTAL	1,233,697	1,823,289	589,592	47.79%
Whirlpool Rapids Bridge	Passenger Cars	247,358	378,630	131,272	53.07%
	Trucks	-	-	-	0.00%
	Buses & Misc.	-	-	-	0.00%
	TOTAL	247,358	378,630	131,272	53.07%
TOTALS	Passenger Cars	16,136,808	22,212,601	6,075,793	37.65%
	Trucks	6,494,948	6,655,897	160,949	2.48%
	Buses & Misc.	41,842	74,881	33,039	78.96%
	GRAND TOTAL	22,673,598	28,943,379	6,269,781	27.65%

*Some crossings do not segregate "Buses & Misc." and are included in "Passenger Cars".

As 2022 was not a normal traffic year, a more apt comparison of 2023 traffic would be to the pre-pandemic year of 2019 as described below:

In 2023, compared to 2019, overall car crossings decreased by 17.62%. Truck crossings increased by 0.28%. Combined there were 28,943,379 car, truck and bus crossings, a decrease of 14.20% or 4,788,576 less vehicles.

		2019	2023	Change	Percent
Ambassador Bridge	Passenger Cars	4,423,950	3,589,318	(834,632)	-18.87%
	Trucks	2,551,517	2,566,476	14,959	0.59%
	Buses & Misc.	-	-	-	0.00%
	TOTAL	6,975,467	6,155,794	(819,673)	-11.75%
Blue Water Bridge	Passenger Cars	2,944,860	2,009,411	(935,449)	-31.77%
	Trucks	1,596,580	1,621,461	24,881	1.56%
	Buses & Misc.	5,002	2,130	(2,872)	-57.42%
	TOTAL	4,546,442	3,633,002	(913,440)	-20.09%
Detroit-Windsor Tunnel	Passenger Cars	4,177,293	3,680,355	(496,938)	-11.90%
	Trucks	11,146	18,473	7,327	65.74%
	Buses & Misc.	31,478	13,939	(17,539)	-55.72%
	TOTAL	4,219,917	3,712,767	(507,150)	-12.02%
Ogdensburg Bridge	Passenger Cars	591,772	466,324	(125,448)	-21.20%
	Trucks	74,529	68,406	(6,123)	-8.22%
	Buses & Misc.	257	299	42	16.34%
	TOTAL	666,558	535,029	(131,529)	-19.73%
Peace Bridge	Passenger Cars	4,021,927	3,394,021	(627,906)	-15.61%
	Trucks	1,073,541	1,081,496	7,955	0.74%
	Buses & Misc.	20,700	9,118	(11,582)	-55.95%
	TOTAL	5,116,168	4,484,635	(631,533)	-12.34%
Sault Ste. Marie Bridge Bridge Authority	Passenger Cars	1,217,958	869,201	(348,757)	-28.63%
	Trucks	88,909	68,238	(20,671)	-23.25%
	Buses & Misc.	46,282	33,467	(12,815)	-27.69%
	TOTAL	1,353,149	970,906	(382,243)	-28.25%
Seaway International Bridge	Passenger Cars	2,349,169	2,383,279	34,110	1.45%
	Trucks	69,072	63,328	(5,744)	-8.32%
	Buses & Misc.	-	-	-	0.00%
	TOTAL	2,418,241	2,446,607	28,366	1.17%
Thousand Islands Bridge	Passenger Cars	1,663,274	1,501,511	(161,763)	-9.73%
	Trucks	382,678	384,115	1,437	0.38%
	Buses & Misc.	-	-	-	0.00%
	TOTAL	2,045,952	1,885,626	(160,326)	-7.84%
Lewiston-Queenston Bridge	Passenger Cars	2,639,335	2,128,962	(510,373)	-19.34%
	Trucks	789,404	783,904	(5,500)	-0.70%
	Buses & Misc.	6,546	4,228	(2,318)	-35.41%
	TOTAL	3,435,285	2,917,094	(518,191)	-15.08%
Rainbow Bridge	Passenger Cars	2,494,218	1,811,589	(682,629)	-27.37%
	Trucks	0	-	0	0.00%
	Buses & Misc.	20,294	11,700	(8,594)	-42.35%
	TOTAL	2,514,512	1,823,289	(691,223)	-27.49%
Whirlpool Rapids Bridge	Passenger Cars	440,264	378,630	(61,634)	-14.00%
	Trucks	-	-	-	0.00%
	Buses & Misc.	-	-	-	0.00%
	TOTAL	440,264	378,630	(61,634)	-14.00%
TOTALS	Passenger Cars	26,964,020	22,212,601	(4,751,419)	-17.62%
	Trucks	6,637,376	6,655,897	18,521	0.28%
	*Buses & Misc.	130,559	74,881	(55,678)	-42.65%
	GRAND TOTAL	33,731,955	28,943,379	(4,788,576)	-14.20%

*Some crossings do not segregate "Buses & Misc." and are included in "Passenger Cars".

Notwithstanding the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on border crossings, traffic has been declining since the year 2000.

Overall, traffic in 2023 comprised 28,943,379 vehicles, 44.73% lower than in 2000 when 52,367,401 vehicles traversed the border. This equates to a decline of 23,424,022 vehicles. For individual crossing data, see the attached document entitled "2000 – 2023 Comparative Traffic Volume Analysis of Bridge & Tunnel Operators Association (BTOA) Crossings."

Bridge and Tunnel Operators Association

The Bridge and Tunnel Operators Association (BTOA) is a binational membership organization representing the international bridge and tunnel crossings between the Province of Ontario and the States of Michigan and New York. Members of the BTOA include the: Federal Bridge Corporation Limited and Michigan Department of Transportation operating the Blue Water Bridge, Buffalo and Fort Erie Public Bridge Authority, Detroit Windsor Tunnel LLC and the Windsor Detroit Borderlink Limited operating the Detroit Windsor Tunnel, Niagara Falls Bridge Commission, Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority, Sault Ste. Marie Bridge Authority, Seaway International Bridge Corporation, Ambassador Bridge, and the Thousand Islands Bridge Authority.

###

**For more information and BTOA contact information, go to
www.bridgeandtunneloperators.org**