Overview

With more than 96 percent of the world’s population and 75 percent of its purchasing power outside the United States, economic recovery, jobs, and future growth for America will depend on trade and investment. That includes reaching those customers with American goods and services through exports and expanding buying power and options for American companies and families with imports.

New Business Roundtable research, U.S. government data, and other data sources demonstrate the benefits of international trade and investment to jobs and the economy. In 2020, the COVID-19 global pandemic has brought dual public health and economic crises. Meeting both challenges requires restoring trade and supporting trade-dependent jobs to help America recover.

Trade Creates & Supports Jobs in the United States

- **International trade, including exports and imports, supported 40.6 million American jobs – one in five in 2018.** These trade-related jobs grew four times faster than total employment from 1992 to 2018 and are at large and small companies, on farms, in factories, and at the headquarters of U.S. globally engaged firms. A rebound in trade will help restore trade-related jobs lost during the pandemic. *(See U.S. Jobs Depend On Two-Way Trade)*

- **The United States exported $1.7 trillion in goods and $862 billion in services in 2018,** including aerospace products and parts, petroleum and coal products, motor vehicles and travel services. Of the 292,800 U.S. exporters, 98 percent are small- and medium-sized companies with less than 500 workers. *(See U.S. Businesses Grow With Exports)*

- **Customers in 233 countries and territories buy American-made goods and services,** including billions of dollars in annual exports to top markets like Canada, Mexico and China. U.S. goods exports have grown nearly 40 percent faster than GDP since 2009. Policies that help U.S. businesses, workers, and farmers once again reach the growing number of customers around the world can help lead an economic and jobs recovery. *(See U.S. Companies Export Throughout The World)*

- **Imports lower prices and increase choices for U.S. companies and families.** Lower raw material and input costs help U.S. companies stay competitive in global markets, while families can stretch paychecks further as trade agreements reduce the cost of products by eliminating costly barriers to trade. *(See U.S. Companies and Families Benefit from Imports)*

- **Free trade agreements (FTAs) have helped fuel rapid export growth from the United States to partner countries.** In 2018, $782 billion of U.S. goods exports, or 47 percent, went to FTA partners. This represents an increase of 68 percent since 2009. *(See The United States Needs Trade Agreements To Grow)*

- **Foreign-owned companies invest and build facilities and employ 7.4 million workers in the United States.** *(See Foreign Investment In The United States Creates Jobs)*
Overview

Creating and preserving quality U.S. jobs is a goal shared by all Americans. With more than 96 percent of the world’s population and 75 percent of the world’s purchasing power outside of the United States, future American economic growth and job creation depend on open markets abroad. At the beginning of 2020, the COVID-19 global pandemic dramatically decreased trade, stopped economic growth and ended millions of jobs across America. Policies that expand trade can create new job opportunities in the United States and help it recover faster.

Trade Creates & Supports Jobs in the United States

- Export growth increases jobs by generating new business for U.S. manufacturers, services providers and farmers. Imports support jobs and keep costs low, helping U.S. businesses compete and saving American families real dollars at the cash register.

- One in five American jobs depends upon international trade.

- U.S. trade-related employment grew four times faster than total employment from 1992 to 2018.

- Jobs in export-dependent industries pay about 16 percent more than jobs in less export-intensive industries.

- U.S. exporting plants increase employment 2 to 4 percent faster annually than plants that do not export. Exporting plants also are less likely to go out of business.

- Trade-supported jobs are not just at companies that export and import. Trade supports higher wages for workers and lower costs for companies and consumers, providing them with more money to spend on other things. This spending supports additional jobs throughout the U.S. economy in sectors like entertainment, education and construction.

By the Numbers

40,620,100
Number of Jobs in the United States Supported by Trade

Share of Jobs Tied to Trade
Increased 95 percent from 1992 to 2018

Jobs Tied to Trade
Top Sectors, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Jobs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trade &amp; Distribution</td>
<td>9.3 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof., Scient. &amp; Tech. Services</td>
<td>6.8 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal &amp; Rec. Services</td>
<td>2.7 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>1.9 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>1.4 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Contact: Paul DeLaney, Business Roundtable: pdelaney@brt.org
www.brt.org/trade
Overview

The United States exported an estimated $1.7 trillion in goods and $862 billion in services in 2018. Between 2009 and 2018, U.S. goods exports have increased by 58 percent and services exports by 63 percent. Large companies now account for 68 percent of the value of U.S. goods exports, with the rest provided by small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

Small & Large Employers Partner to Export

In addition to exporting directly themselves, thousands of American SMEs export indirectly when they sell goods and services to large U.S. exporters. Based on their direct and indirect export activity combined, SMEs represent more than 40 percent of the value of U.S. exports.

Top U.S. Exports

- One of the fastest growing U.S. goods export categories is oil and gas, which increased by 37 percent per year since 2009. In 2018, exports of these products reached $76.4 billion.

- One of the fastest growing U.S. agricultural export categories is fruits and tree nuts, which increased by 7 percent per year since 2009. In 2018, exports of these products reached $13.9 billion.

- One of the fastest growing U.S. services export categories is computer services, which increased by 14 percent per year since 2009. In 2018, exports of these services reached $30.9 billion.

By the Numbers

292,800
Number of U.S. Businesses that Exported in 2018

98%
Share of U.S. Exporters that are Small- & Medium-Sized Businesses

Top U.S. Exports, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goods</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aerospace Products &amp; Parts</td>
<td>$143.5 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petroleum &amp; Coal Products</td>
<td>$103.9 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oil &amp; Gas</td>
<td>$76.4 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic Chemicals</td>
<td>$64.8 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor Vehicles</td>
<td>$61.1 billion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Services</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>$158.2 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mgmt. &amp; Advisory Services</td>
<td>$59.7 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royalties from Industrial Processes</td>
<td>$49.3 billion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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U.S. COMPANIES EXPORT THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

In 2018, U.S. companies sold their products in 233 countries and territories.

Top export markets include:

- **Canada**
  - Goods Exports: $300 billion
  - Services Exports: $69 billion

- **United Kingdom**
  - Goods Exports: $66 billion
  - Services Exports: $80 billion

- **China**
  - Goods Exports: $120 billion
  - Services Exports: $57 billion

- **Mexico**
  - Goods Exports: $266 billion
  - Services Exports: $33 billion

- **Germany**
  - Goods Exports: $58 billion
  - Services Exports: $36 billion

- **Japan**
  - Goods Exports: $75 billion
  - Services Exports: $47 billion

Fast Facts: How Exports Help the U.S. Economy Grow

- Goods and services exports accounted for 11.6 percent of U.S. GDP in 2018.
- U.S. exports have grown nearly 40 percent faster than GDP since 2009. The average annual export growth during this period was 5.5 percent, while the average annual GDP growth was 4.0 percent.
- U.S. top export markets for goods are Canada, Mexico, and China. Its top market for services is the United Kingdom.
- U.S. goods exports to Vietnam have grown by 15 percent per year since 2009, while U.S. services exports to China have grown by 15 percent per year.
- Restoring trade can help lead a jobs recovery when supported by policies that help American businesses, workers, and farmers reach the growing number of customers around the world.

Contact: Paul DeLaney, Business Roundtable: pdelaney@brt.org
www.brt.org/trade
Overview

Imports provide a variety of benefits for American companies and families. Imported consumer goods help keep prices down for families while increasing choices for foods and other products that are not available locally. Imported inputs help American manufacturers compete in both the United States and international markets, while exported goods (e.g., components) and services (e.g., design) often return to the United States as imports. To best meet the COVID-19 challenges, trade policies should ensure that American families and businesses retain access to both domestic and international inputs, supplies and services they need at prices they can afford.

American Families Benefit from Imports

- In 2018, 34 percent of U.S. imports were consumer goods. Prices for imported consumer goods tend to drop year after year, leaving American families more money to spend on locally provided goods and services, such as housing, education, and health care.
- Trade and investment liberalization policies save the average American family of four more than $10,000 per year through lower prices and increased specialization.

2008-2018 Price Decrease

- -88% for Televisions
- -63% for Computers
- -45% for Toys

Most Importers are Small Businesses

- In 2018, 224,400 American companies imported goods from 233 countries around the world.
- Nationally, 77 percent of importers were very small businesses with less than 20 employees, while less than 3 percent had over 500 employees.

American Exports and Imports are Linked Through Global Value Chains

- In 2018, 66 percent of American goods imports were raw materials, components and parts that are used by U.S. manufacturers to stay competitive.
- Many top U.S. imports are critical components for American exports. Conversely, American exports of raw materials and parts may return to the United States in imported finished goods.

Imports: Aerospace parts ($19B in 2018)

Exports: Civilian aircraft and parts ($131B in 2018)

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THE UNITED STATES NEEDS TRADE AGREEMENTS TO GROW

Overview

Trade with our free trade agreement (FTA) partner countries supports millions of American jobs. Trade agreements level the playing field by lowering other nations’ trade barriers, opening up foreign markets to U.S. exports and setting strong, enforceable rules for trade between the United States and those other countries. American businesses, workers and farmers benefit from market-opening agreements, and would be harmed from new barriers to trade that limit exports, competitiveness, and jobs in the United States.

• In 2018, $782 billion of U.S. goods exports, or 47 percent, went to FTA partners.
• Since 2009, U.S. goods exports to countries with FTAs in effect with the United States in 2018 have increased by 68 percent.
• U.S. exports to Canada and Mexico have increased by $406 billion (286 percent) since NAFTA went into effect in 1994.
• U.S. exports to Chile have increased by 464 percent – from $2.7 billion to $15.3 billion – since the FTA with Chile took effect in 2004.
• U.S. exports to Singapore of industrial machinery have increased from $292 million to nearly $1.8 billion since the FTA with Singapore went into effect in 2004.
• Honduras bought 47 percent of U.S. exports of fibers, yarns and threads in 2018.
• In 2018, $208 billion of U.S. services exports, or 24 percent, went to FTA partners.
• U.S. exports to Australia of insurance services have increased from $154 million to $1.4 billion, or by over 700 percent, since 2006 (earliest year available).

By the Numbers

68% 
Increase in American Goods Exports to FTA Partners Between 2009 and 2018

Per Capita Purchases of American Goods, 2018

$1,680

$130

Non-FTA Countries

FTA Partner Countries

* U.S. FTAs in effect with countries in 2018.

In 2018, FTA partners purchased 12.9 times more goods per capita from the United States than non-FTA partners.

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Overview

Foreign-owned companies help grow the U.S. economy and jobs. In 2017, foreign-owned companies added over $1 trillion to U.S. GDP, including goods exports of $380 billion and R&D spending of over $60 billion. They employed 7.4 million workers in the United States, including over 2 million workers – or 1 out of every 6 – in the manufacturing sector. Employment at U.S. subsidiaries included:

- 1.2 million workers employed by companies based in the United Kingdom;
- 885,200 workers employed by companies based in Japan;
- 773,800 workers employed by companies based in Germany;
- 734,200 workers employed by companies based in France;
- 726,900 workers employed by companies based in Canada.

Foreign-Owned Companies Employed 7.4 Million American Workers Across Many Industries, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Employment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>2,509,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>2,196,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail Trade</td>
<td>778,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wholesale Trade</td>
<td>701,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof. Services</td>
<td>463,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance &amp; Insurance</td>
<td>409,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information</td>
<td>299,100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Selected Foreign-Owned Companies Employing Workers in the United States

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABB Inc.</td>
<td>Electrical Equipment Manufacturing</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAE Systems</td>
<td>Aerospace Manufacturing</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gerdau Ameristeel</td>
<td>Steel Manufacturing</td>
<td>Brazil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infosys Technology Ltd.</td>
<td>IT/Business Services</td>
<td>India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KPMG LLP</td>
<td>Consulting Services</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siemens</td>
<td>Electrical Equipment Manufacturing</td>
<td>Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toyota Motor Manufacturing</td>
<td>Automotive Manufacturing</td>
<td>Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UBS Financial Services</td>
<td>Financial Services</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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DATA SOURCES

U.S. JOBS DEPEND ON TWO-WAY TRADE

**Population and Purchasing Power:** Derived from World Bank population and GDP estimates


**U.S. BUSINESSES GROW WITH EXPORTS**


**U.S. COMPANIES EXPORT THROUGHOUT THE WORLD**

**Exports, Rankings, and Trends:** Derived from Census data


**U.S. COMPANIES USE IMPORTS TO MAKE COMPETITIVE PRODUCTS**


**Imports as Components:** Derived from Census end-use import data


**Price Changes:** Derived from BLS Consumer Price Index database ([http://www.bls.gov/cpi/](http://www.bls.gov/cpi/))

**THE UNITED STATES NEEDS TRADE AGREEMENTS TO GROW**

**Exports and Trends:** The Trade Partnership ([http://tradepartnership.com/data/cdxexports-and-cdxjobs](http://tradepartnership.com/data/cdxexports-and-cdxjobs))

**Per Capita Purchases of U.S. Goods:** Derived from Census data and World Bank population estimates

**FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES CREATES JOBS**

**Employment Data:** BEA “Direct Investment & Multinational Companies” database ([http://bea.gov/iTable/index_MNC.cfm](http://bea.gov/iTable/index_MNC.cfm))

**Foreign Investors:** Uniworld BP database of “Foreign Firms Operating in the United States” ([http://www.uniworldbp.com](http://www.uniworldbp.com))

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