



## **Trade Agreements Create Jobs and Economic Opportunities for U.S. Workers**

- **Trade is vital to U.S. economic success and job creation.** Approximately 42% of all U.S. jobs are connected to international trade, including 3 million manufacturing jobs and 3.9 million agricultural jobs.
- **Trade agreements open markets to U.S. exports.** Trade agreements level the playing field for American workers by lowering barriers to U.S. exports in all sectors and support U.S. jobs. The agreements require trading partners to significantly reduce the tariffs that U.S. companies face when exporting abroad. These state-of-the-art agreements also address non-tariff and regulatory barriers, require top-notch protection of intellectual property rights, and encourage greater regulatory harmonization to prevent barriers to U.S. exports. Agreements also include strong dispute settlement mechanisms for enforcing U.S. rights.
- **Trade agreements reduce tariffs on imports.** Tariffs are a tax on U.S. consumers. Trade has lowered prices and increased the purchasing power of an average American family of four by \$10,000.
- **The pending trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea are cost-free job creators.** Using President Obama's own calculation, the three pending trade agreements will support 250,000 jobs spanning all sectors of our economy: manufacturing, services, and agriculture. Jobs related to exports pay 15-17% more.
- **The three pending trade agreements will support jobs and economic recovery and do not require one dime of new government spending.** ITC estimates that agreements would increase U.S. goods exports by \$13 billion. The American Farm Bureau estimates that U.S. farm exports could increase by more than \$690 million to Colombia; more than \$195 million to Panama; and more than \$1.8 billion to South Korea
- **Trade agreements help small and medium-sized companies, creating jobs.** Passing the pending trade agreements would have direct benefits for SMEs and the jobs they create. In 2008, more than 80% of exporters to each of the three markets were small and medium-sized enterprises. These firms exported \$12 billion to Colombia, Panama, and South Korea.
- **The benefits of our trade agreements are long-lasting.** Since 2000, U.S. exports to the countries with which the United States has implemented trade agreements under trade promotion authority have grown almost twice as fast as our worldwide exports.
- **Failure to implement the pending trade agreements risks putting U.S. exporters at a competitive disadvantage in these markets, costing American jobs and slowing job creation.** America is falling behind as other countries move ahead. Our failure to act risks losing market share in these countries to foreign competitors and falling further behind. The EU has already ratified 25 agreements and has an additional 26 in the works. The EU-South Korea agreement is expected to provisionally enter into force on July 1. More than 180 agreements are in force with Asia-Pacific countries; an additional 90 are awaiting implementation or being negotiated

- **Online Resources**

- General Benefits of U.S. Free Trade Agreements: <http://trade.gov/fta/> and <http://www.fas.usda.gov/itp/ftas.asp>
- U.S. Chamber Trade resources:
  - How trade supports jobs in your state and district: <http://www.tradesupportsjobs.com/>
  - Grassroots outreach on the benefits of trade: <http://www.traderoots.org/>
- State Export Data - Globally: <http://tse.export.gov/TSE/TSEReports.aspx?DATA=SED>
- Exports by Metropolitan Area: <http://tse.export.gov/METRO/SelectReports.aspx?DATA=Metro>
- Colombia trade agreement
  - State and industry opportunity reports: <http://trade.gov/fta/colombia/>
  - Ag report: <http://www.fas.usda.gov/itp/us-Colombia.asp>
  - ITC economy-wide report: <http://www.usitc.gov/publications/332/pub3896.pdf>
- Panama trade agreement
  - State and industry opportunity reports: <http://trade.gov/fta/panama/>
  - Ag report: <http://www.fas.usda.gov/itp/us-Panama.asp>
  - ITC economy-wide report: <http://www.usitc.gov/publications/332/pub3948.pdf>
- South Korea trade agreement
  - State and industry opportunity reports: <http://trade.gov/fta/korea/>
  - Ag report: <http://www.fas.usda.gov/itp/us-koreata.asp>
  - ITC economy-wide report: <http://www.usitc.gov/publications/pub3949.pdf>