

Wisconsin: Lost Jobs, Surging Deficits, Rising Inequality under “Free Trade” Deals

The **Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)** just negotiated behind closed doors with 11 Pacific Rim nations, would expand the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) “trade” pact model that has spurred massive U.S. trade deficits and job loss, downward pressure on wages, unprecedented levels of inequality and new floods of agricultural imports. The TPP expands NAFTA’s special protections for firms that offshore U.S. jobs. And U.S. negotiators literally used the 2011 Korea Free Trade Agreement (FTA) – under which exports have fallen and trade deficits have surged – as the template for the TPP.

Massive Trade-Related Job Losses for Wisconsin

Wisconsin has endured the net loss of more than 68,000 manufacturing jobs – one out of seven – since the 1994 NAFTA and the World Trade Organization agreements took effect. Nearly five million manufacturing jobs have been lost nationwide.

U.S. manufacturing workers who lose jobs to trade and find reemployment are typically forced to take pay cuts. Three of every five who were rehired in 2014 took home smaller paychecks, and one in three lost greater than 20 percent, according to Department of Labor data.

More than 75,000 specific Wisconsin jobs have been certified under the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program as lost to offshoring or imports since NAFTA. These numbers significantly undercount trade-related job loss as TAA only covers a subset of jobs lost to trade.

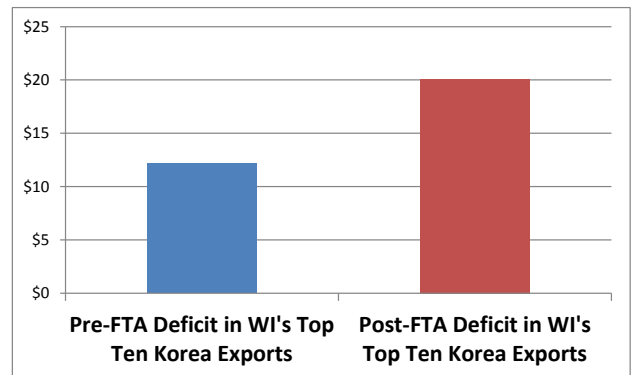
75,520 Trade-Related Wisconsin Job Losses Certified Under Just One Dept. of Labor Program since NAFTA



Southern Wisconsin workplaces with trade-related job losses –
For a full list see www.citizen.org/taadatabase

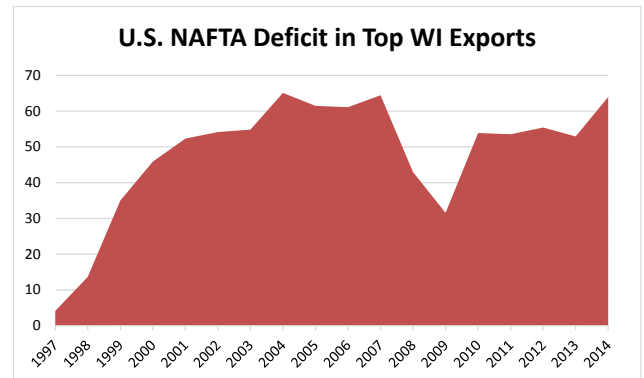
U.S. Trade Deficit with Korea in WI’s Top 10 Korea Exports Grows 66% under Korea FTA

The U.S. trade deficit with Korea in the top 10 products that Wisconsin exports to Korea – including everything from machinery to agricultural products – ballooned 66 percent in the FTA’s first three years.



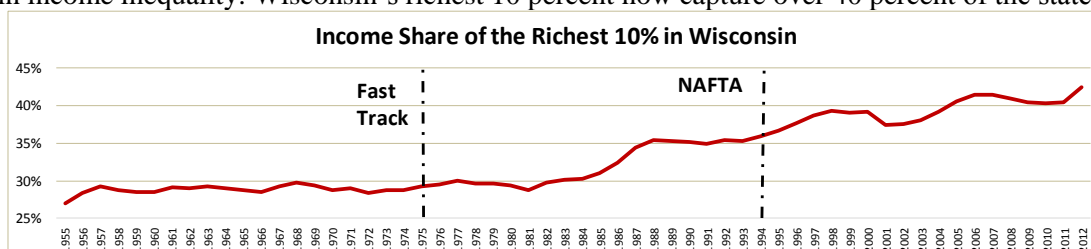
NAFTA Deficit in Top WI Products Surges

The U.S. trade deficit with NAFTA partners Mexico and Canada in the top 10 products that Wisconsin exports to those countries has risen 15-fold in the last 17 years.



Wisconsin Income Inequality Soars during Era of NAFTA-Style Deals

Study after study shows an academic consensus that the status quo trade model has contributed significantly to the historic rise in income inequality. Wisconsin’s richest 10 percent now capture over 40 percent of the state’s income.



Wisconsin Cannot Afford the TPP's Expansion of the NAFTA "Trade" Pact Model

Exports of WI Agri. Products Fall under FTAs

U.S. exports to Canada and Mexico of cattle – one of Wisconsin's top agricultural products – fell 46 percent in the first 21 years of NAFTA. And in the first three years of the Korea FTA, U.S. exports to Korea of milk, corn and soybeans – three more top Wisconsin agricultural products – fell 91, 59 and 2 percent, respectively.

NAFTA Deficit in Top WI Products Surges

Time and again, defenders of the trade status quo have tried to sell NAFTA-style deals to Congress with the promise that they would reduce U.S. trade deficits. Time and again, they have been wrong. The U.S. NAFTA deficit in the 10 sectors that constitute Wisconsin's top exports to Canada and Mexico has risen more than 15-fold in the last 17 years – a \$60 billion increase. That includes large increases in the NAFTA deficit in computer and electronic products and transportation equipment. **Nationwide, the aggregate U.S. goods trade deficit with FTA partners has increased 427 percent since the deals took effect, while declining 11 percent with all non-FTA partners during the relevant period.** The attempt to use the same old promises of trade deficit reduction to sell the TPP defies the evidence.

Exports of Wisc. Goods Fall under Korea FTA

Wisconsin's exports have fared poorly under the most recent Fast-Tracked expansion of the NAFTA trade model – a 2011 FTA with Korea that literally has served as the U.S. template for the TPP. In the first three years of the Korea FTA, the U.S. trade deficit with Korea in the top 10 products that Wisconsin exports to Korea – including everything from machinery to agricultural products – ballooned 66 percent as exports actually fell and imports rose. **The overall U.S. goods trade deficit with Korea surged \$13.6 billion (90 percent). According to the administration's trade-jobs ratio, that equates to the loss of over 90,000 U.S. jobs in three years of the FTA.**

Wisconsin Inequality Soars during FTA Era

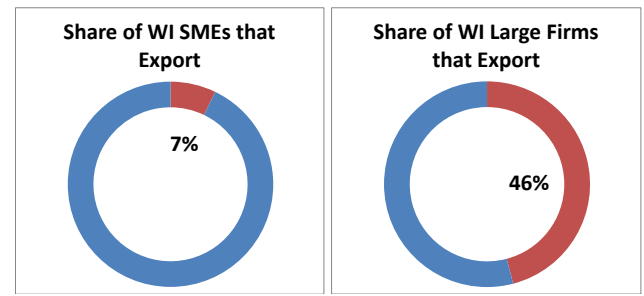
The richest 10 percent of Wisconsinites are now capturing more than 40 percent of all income in the state – a degree of inequality not seen in the 100 years on record. Study after study has produced an academic consensus that status quo trade has contributed to today's unprecedented rise in income inequality. NAFTA-style pacts have promoted the offshoring of well-paying U.S. manufacturing jobs, spurring broad middle-class wage stagnation as trade-displaced workers compete for lower-paying, non-offshoreable service sector jobs. A Center for Economic and Policy Research study finds that under the TPP, 90 percent of U.S. workers would lose more to inequality increases than gained in cheaper goods, spelling a pay cut.

Small Businesses Are Not Helped by FTAs

NAFTA-style pacts are often sold to Congress as promoting the interests of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) on the basis that they comprise most exporters. Even if setting aside the government data showing that FTAs have not actually increased export growth, SMEs comprise most exporters simply because they constitute 99.7 percent of U.S. firms. The more relevant question is what share of SMEs actually depend on exports for their success. In Wisconsin, only 7 percent of SMEs export any good to any country. In contrast, 46 percent of large firms in Wisconsin are exporters. Exporting is primarily the domain of large corporations, not small businesses.

Nine out of Ten Wisconsin Small and Medium Businesses Do Not Rely on Exports

Exporting is primarily the domain of large corporations – only 7 percent of Wisconsin's small and medium enterprises export any products, compared with 46 percent of the state's large firms.



TPP and TTIP Would Empower 593 Foreign Firms to Attack Wisconsin Policies

The TPP and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) would empower foreign corporations to bypass domestic courts and challenge U.S. and Wisconsin health, environmental and other public interest policies that they claim undermine new foreign investor rights not available to domestic firms under U.S. law. This controversial "investor-state dispute settlement" (ISDS) system would authorize foreign tribunals of three private attorneys unaccountable to any electorate to rule against policies and order unlimited taxpayer compensation for foreign firms' "expected future profits." Tribunals have ordered governments to pay foreign investors \$3.6 billion under existing U.S. pacts in ISDS attacks on environmental protections, health and safety measures and more, while more than \$34 billion is pending. The TPP and TTIP would expose Wisconsin and U.S. policies to an unprecedented increase in ISDS liability, given the 593 firms in Wisconsin owned by corporations in EU or TPP countries, any one of which could launch an ISDS claim.