

AFL-CIO

U.S. Trade Policy and Workers of Color

We know that the Trans-Pacific Partnership will result in shipping American jobs overseas, pressing wages down on remaining jobs and increasing our trade deficit. What is less discussed is how these ill effects will disproportionately affect people of color.

- **A million jobs:** The trade deficit with China has hit people of color particularly hard. Almost 1 million (958,800) people of color lost their jobs due to the massive U.S. trade deficit with China, costing them a total of \$10.1 billion in lost wages in 2011 alone.
Source: <http://www.epi.org/publication/unfair-trade-deals-lower-the-wages-of-u-s-workers/>
- **Fewer well-paid jobs:** The jobs people of color lost to trade paid better than jobs not affected by trade. On average, jobs shipped overseas paid people of color 25.5% better than jobs left behind.
Source: <http://www.epi.org/publication/trading-manufacturing-advantage-china-trade/>
- **Closing pathways to the middle class:** The loss of more than 1 million jobs in computer and electronic products between 2001 and 2011 eliminated 369,000 good jobs for people of color. Asian-Americans in this industry earned 47.9% more and African-Americans 29.3% more than workers of the same ethnicity in the nontraded jobs left behind.
Source: <http://www.epi.org/publication/trading-manufacturing-advantage-china-trade/>
- **Re-employment obstacles:** Workers of color are the very ones who have the most difficult time finding a new job with comparable pay, benefits, and conditions of work. When searching for a replacement job, workers of color who lost their jobs due to trade had re-employment rates 11 (for men) and 10 (for women) percent *less* than white workers, meaning the burden of trade falls disproportionately on minority communities. Source: Job Loss from Imports: Measuring the Costs, by Lori G. Kletzer, <http://bit.ly/1JwCxgW>
- **Continued manufacturing jobs loss:** The TPP is likely to have the same effect as prior trade policies, which have displaced jobs to China and Mexico. The TPP is poised to continue to undermine the U.S. manufacturing base, sending middle class jobs to countries with low wages and poor human rights records, like Vietnam, Brunei and Malaysia.
Source: <http://www.epi.org/blog/whats-wrong-with-the-tpp-this-deal-will-lead-to-more-job-loss-and-downward-pressures-on-the-wages-of-most-working-americans/>
- **TPP not different:** The TPP's supporters claim that "this time it is different," but have yet to explain *how*. They have produced **no** information on what new rules the TPP will put in place to stop the trend of moving U.S. manufacturing offshore. Source: <http://www.epi.org/publication/tpp-unlikely-to-be-good-deal-for-american-workers/>
- **Currency manipulation will continue to hurt workers of color:** TPP supporters have been very clear, however, that the TPP will do **nothing** to stop China or any TPP country (including Japan and Malaysia) from manipulating its currency to make its imports cheaper and U.S. goods more expensive. This means that, whatever else it does, the TPP will do nothing to arrest the current harmful pattern of destroying good, family-wage manufacturing jobs in the U.S., which disproportionately hurts workers of color and closes pathways to the middle class.
Source: <http://www.epi.org/publication/stop-currency-manipulation-in-the-trans-pacific-partnership-millions-of-jobs-at-stake/>