

BAD TRADE DEALS HURT IOWA FAMILIES

For too long, Democrats and Republicans alike have sold us a myth that what's good for big corporations is good for all of us. **It's a lie.** Major indicators show a worsening burden on working people and a growing gap between the rich and the poor—for generations.

This has been especially apparent in our trade policy. Since NAFTA was enacted in 1994, we've been promised that “free trade” deals would support good jobs and raise wages. Instead, they abandoned working-class communities by sending millions of jobs away.

13,800

fewer manufacturing jobs

Manufacturing jobs in Iowa have
fallen by 6% since NAFTA.

14,800

farms lost

There has been a **15% decline in**
farms in Iowa since NAFTA.



Job losses abounded during the NAFTA-WTO era, and they continue today. In recent years, John Deere has announced the outsourcing of its Dubuque skid-steer and compact-track-loader production to a new Ramos, Mexico, plant, and Whirlpool has cut 250 Amana jobs, with 341 more to come as its union said production was shifting to a new Mexican facility.



Jobs Are Still Leaving

- Congress has failed to reauthorize the Trade Adjustment Assistance program since it expired in 2022. That program had been a vital safety net for more than **22,196 Iowa workers** who lost their jobs to bad trade deals since data became available in 2009.
- The share of Iowa workers employed in manufacturing **fell from 17.4% to 13.6%** since 1994.
- Union density in Iowa **has fallen by 48%** since 1994.



Farmers are Losing Big

- Iowa has **14,800 fewer farms** than in 1994, down from 101,000 to 86,200.
- Trump's chaotic trade policies have hurt Iowa soybean farmers, resulting in a **\$1,000,000,000 loss in exports**.
- Iowa's Chapter 12 farm bankruptcy filings are up 157% in 2025. It's among the highest increases in the nation—double the 70% average in the Midwest and 3x the national average of 46%.



Impacts Felt Nationwide

- Worker productivity is up 85% nationwide since 1994, but real wages for Iowa manufacturing production workers **have dropped by 5.2%** – the equivalent of a \$1.42/hour pay cut.
- The U.S. has lost about **330,000 farms since NAFTA**, hollowing out rural communities that depended on them as agricultural production gets concentrated in a small number of industrial farms.
- Free trade was supposed to make our lives better, but **one in four adults** said they were struggling to get by in 2025.

More than 3.2 million jobs have been certified as lost due to our trade policies since 1994. This means fewer jobs with good pay, benefits, union representation, and a pathway to the middle class.

