

21 Million U.S. Jobs Depend on Imports, New Study Shows

Business Groups Release Report Highlighting Trade Benefits

WASHINGTON, May 20, 2021 – The U.S. Global Value Chain Coalition today joined eight other business organizations to release “[Imports Work for American Workers](#),” an economic impact study which found that imports support more than 21 million American jobs.

The study focuses on the net impact of imports on U.S. jobs — including statistics on sectors such as retail, apparel, transportation, manufacturing, and consumer technology. The study also looks at how imports support jobs in states across the U.S. as well as trade policy initiatives pending before Congress and the administration with the potential to preserve or diminish import-related jobs.

Among the key findings:

- Imports support more than 21 million American jobs across the country, including a net positive number in every U.S. state. The 10 states accounting for the largest number of import-related jobs are California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Virginia.
- Imports from key trading partners — including Canada, China, the European Union, and Mexico — support a net positive number of U.S. jobs.
- Import-related jobs are good jobs that pay competitive wages. Nearly 8 million of the jobs related to importing are held by minorities and 2.5 million jobs are held by workers represented by unions.
- The vast majority (96 percent) of companies who import are small or medium-sized businesses.
- U.S. trade policies, many now pending before Congress and the administration, have the potential to both support and hurt these jobs.

The American Apparel and Footwear Association, the American Chemistry Council, the Consumer Technology Association, the National Foreign Trade Council, the National Retail Federation, the Retail Industry Leaders Association, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the U.S. Fashion Industry Association and the U.S. Global Value Chain Coalition commissioned the study, which was prepared by Laura M. Baughman and Dr. Joseph F. Francois of [Trade Partnership Worldwide, LLC](#).

The study is being released during “[World Trade Week](#)” as part of “[World Trade Month](#)” to highlight the essential role that imports play in the U.S. and global economy.

View the full report [here](#).

About U.S. Global Value Chain Coalition

The U.S. Global Value Chain (USGVC) Coalition is on a mission to educate policymakers and the public about the American jobs and the domestic economic growth our companies generate through their value chains. We advocate, educate, conduct research, and engage on policies that support American workers and their families through U.S. global value chains.