

TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE IN OHIO 2010

A REPORT FROM
POLICY MATTERS OHIO

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Executive Summary

Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) provides help to workers who lose their jobs because of rising imports or shifts in U.S. production to overseas locations. Workers may receive additional unemployment benefits, training and a health coverage tax credit, among other benefits. Last year, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act substantially enhanced benefits under the program and widened eligibility to cover more workers.

Since those provisions became effective May 18, 2009, the number of Ohio workers certified to receive benefits under the program has sharply increased: In calendar 2009, there were 145 certifications covering 20,677 workers, compared to an average of 10,705 annually over the previous three years. While some of these workers have kept their jobs or been able to return to them, as at General Motors's Lordstown complex, TAA certifications generally reflect job losses. Thus, the numbers indicate a major increase in job losses due to trade. Ohio tied with Pennsylvania for the second-most certifications in the year ended May 17; only Michigan had more. The higher levels of workers certified has continued in 2010.

While more workplaces were certified, there was also a build-up in the time it took the U.S. Department of Labor to process petitions, mirroring such an increase nationally. In Ohio, processing time increased from 39.9 days in 2008 to 96.6 days in 2009 to 169.3 days for the first four and a half months of 2010.

Automotive companies such as GM and Ford once again led the list of the largest Ohio certifications. They were joined by steelmakers, and other diverse manufacturers: A Wal-Mart eyeglasses plant, an Avon cosmetics factory and a Japanese-owned semiconductor factory. Also among those certified in the past year were some of Ohio's leading companies: General Electric, Owens-Illinois, Convergys, Eaton, Goodyear, Nationwide Insurance, and Berry Co.

In the first year of the new TAA, workplaces covering workers in 58 of Ohio's 88 counties were certified. Most of those were in five counties: Trumbull, Cuyahoga, Lorain, Stark, and Hamilton, each of which had more than 1,500 workers qualify. Trumbull County alone had an estimated 5,602 workers certified, over one-fifth of all workers certified for the entire year.

Petitions for trade adjustment assistance may be filed by the company, a union representing workers, the state or at least three workers. More and more, workers themselves are the petitioners obtaining certification. In the year since the new TAA provisions became effective, workers filed more than 41 percent of the Ohio petitions that were certified, the largest of any type of petition filer and an increase from 29 percent between January 2007 and March 2009.

Workers in service industries and public-sector workers last year for the first time became eligible for TAA, as did greater numbers of workers employed by suppliers or who lost their jobs due to shifts in production overseas. A Policy Matters Ohio reading of cases certified in the last year found 28 certifications covering 931 employees that involved service work, representing

13.7 percent of certified Ohio petitions and 3.5 percent of the total workers certified during the year. All but two of these cases were shifts of production to foreign locations. Some certified service workers are employed by manufacturing companies, making it difficult to discern exactly how many service workers qualify only because of the expansion in eligibility.

Ninety-eight petitions in the last year, or 48 percent of the total, resulted from a shift in production to a foreign country. The largest number of these – 25, not counting shifts to multiple countries – was to Mexico. Another 11 went to India and 10 to China, again including only those that were shifts to a single country. Prior to the change in the law, workers affected by production shifts to India and China were not eligible for TAA, though in some instances they could qualify later if the Labor Department determined that imports harmed their employer.

Each of the three largest certifications involving production shifts – Ford Motor Co.’s Cleveland Casting Plant, Wal-Mart’s eyeglasses plant in Lockbourne and Avon’s cosmetics plant in Springdale – saw production go to Mexico. By contrast, an analysis of the labor department’s TAA decisions indicates that India receives a disproportionate amount of transferred non-manufacturing service sector jobs. In the year ended May 17, 26 Ohio service providers were certified because of shifts of production to other countries; of these, 11 covering 546 workers went solely to India. Common services included information technology or jobs related to finance, such as accounting or billing.

The most striking aspect of the Trade Adjustment Assistance program in Ohio since it was expanded is the number of workers who have qualified for benefits. Based on the increase in jobs officially certified as harmed by trade in the past year, it makes sense to extend the 2009 changes beyond their current expiration at the end of the year. At the same time, for the program to reach its full potential, DOL needs to step up the speed with which it processes petitions.

So far, only a small number of Ohio service-industry workers have been certified for TAA. Many businesses and workers are not aware of the expansion covering service-sector workers. The National Association of State Workforce Agencies recently recommended, “the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration (USDOL) pursue an aggressive public education campaign to ensure the business community and potential TAA applicants are aware of the TAA program and the services available through it.” It added that state workforce agencies and NASWA should be involved in this promotional campaign. Though the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services takes steps to inform dislocated workers and their employers about TAA, the state should take additional steps to increase the program’s visibility and make information about it available to more service workers in particular.

Trade Adjustment Assistance is an important program for workers who have lost their jobs because of trade, and can be even more valuable if current provisions are extended and more workers and companies become aware of the program.

Trade Adjustment Assistance in Ohio 2010

Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) provides help to workers who lose their jobs because of rising imports or shifts in U.S. production to overseas locations. It is a more comprehensive program than regular unemployment compensation and workers who participate get benefits for a longer time period, as well as training and a health coverage tax credit. Last year, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act substantially enhanced benefits under the program and widened eligibility to cover more workers. Workers in service industries and public-sector workers became eligible for the first time. Coverage has been extended to more workers who lose their jobs due to shifts in production abroad or who work for component part manufacturers that are harmed by trade. Income support for those in long-term training was increased, along with the tax credit for health-insurance coverage and training funds. The changes were effective May 18, 2009, and run through the end of this calendar year, when the program will return to its previous status if the changes are not reauthorized.

TAA, a federal-state program, requires two steps for workers to qualify. First, a company, the state, a union or at least three workers must successfully petition the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) for certification that trade impacts have contributed to job losses. Second, each certified worker must then apply for benefits with the state. Benefits can include financial support, a health coverage tax credit, and support for training, reemployment services, job search and relocation assistance. Those over 50 might also qualify for a wage supplement if their new wage is lower than that at their previous job. Income support and retraining benefits under TAA are among the best available for unemployed workers. This report, the sixth that Policy Matters Ohio has produced on the program in Ohio since 2004, reviews TAA certifications during the first year of the expanded program.¹

The number of Ohio petitions certified – and workers eligible for benefits – has grown enormously since the advent of the new TAA. During calendar year 2008, the Department of Labor certified 80 Ohio petitions covering an estimated 9,455 workers, while in 2009 there were 145 certifications and 20,677 certified workers. Through May 17 of 2010 there were 86 certifications covering 8,613 Ohio workers, putting 2010 on pace to approach the numbers of 2009. Ohio tied with Pennsylvania for the second most certifications in the year ended May 17; only Michigan had more. The figures for last calendar year were by far the highest of any year since at least 1995. While some of these workers have kept their jobs or been able to return to work, the numbers indicate a major increase in job losses due to trade.² Table 1 shows the number of workers certified each year since 1995:

¹ This report does not examine how many Ohio workers receive specific benefits they may be eligible for because of TAA certification.

² The number of workers covered under TAA is based upon an estimate made at the time the petition is filed by the petitioner. The U.S. Department of Labor requires that to file a petition, workers must have an official mass layoff notice or other affirmative indication from their employer that they will be laid off. In some instances, not all those people lose their jobs or they can be called back to work. However, TAA certifications generally reflect job losses.

Table 1

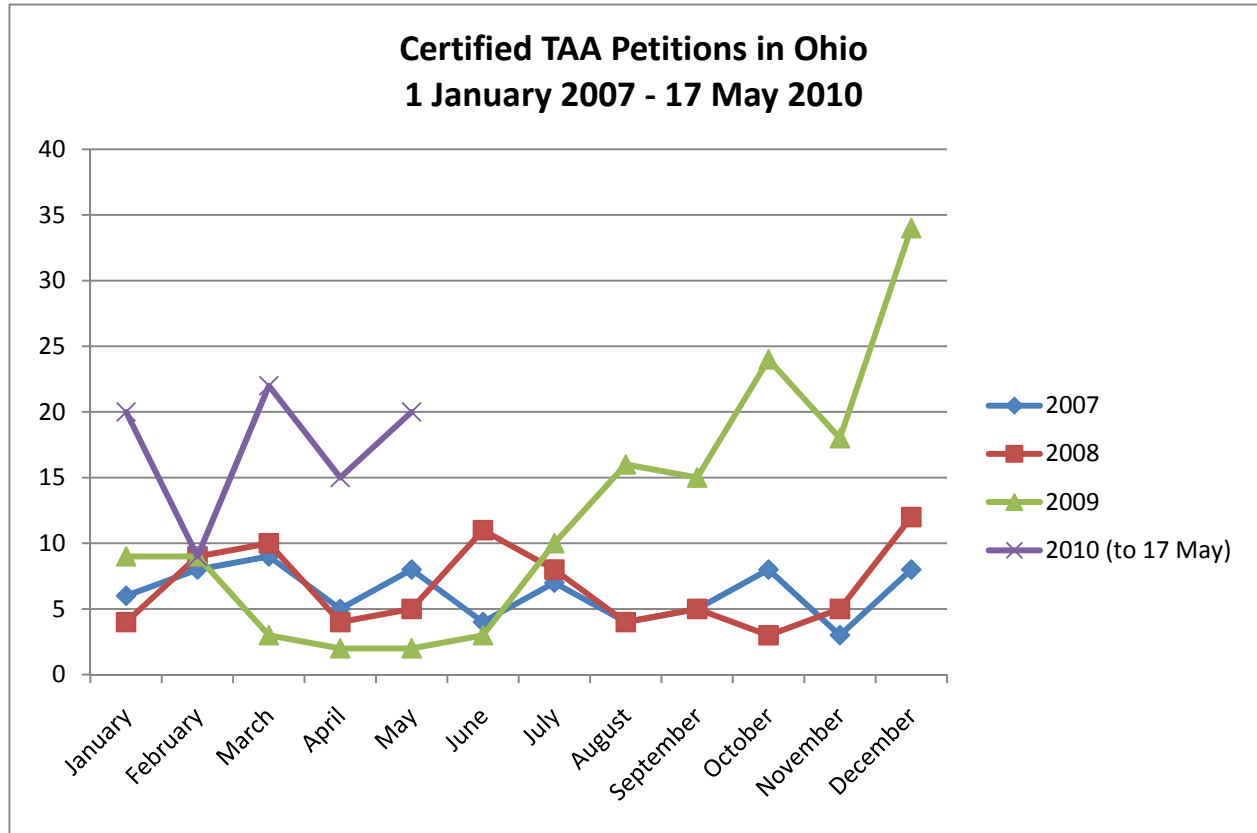
Ohio Workers Certified for Trade Adjustment Assistance, 1995-2010	
Calendar Year	Number of Workers
1995	2,330
1996	2,832
1997	3,298
1998	2,462
1999	4,564
2000	4,661
2001	6,509
2002	13,093
2003	7,470
2004	6,624
2005	3,967
2006	13,432
2007	9,228
2008	9,455
2009	20,677
2010 (through May 17)	8,613

Source: Policy Matters Ohio analysis of U.S. Department of Labor data. Numbers for 2007 and 2008 have been revised slightly from previous Policy Matters Ohio reports to exclude duplicates and others.

The new TAA amendments that went into effect on May 18, 2009, have impacted the timing of TAA petitions. Some petitions were withdrawn in early 2009 after the Department of Labor announced that they could be re-filed after May 18 to fall under the “new” TAA program, while other petitioners waited for the new provisions to go into effect, leading to a build-up of filings after May 18.³ Between May 18, 2008 and May 17, 2009, DOL certified 72 Ohio TAA petitions covering 7,591 workers. During the first full year of the new TAA, from May 18, 2009, to May 17, 2010, DOL certified 204 petitions covering 26,427 Ohio workers. Figure 1 shows how many Ohio TAA petitions have been certified monthly since 2007:

³ While 35 Ohio petitions were filed between March 1 and May 17, 2009, 117 were filed between May 18 and June 30. See http://www.doleta.gov/tradeact/taa/taa_search_form.cfm

Figure 1:



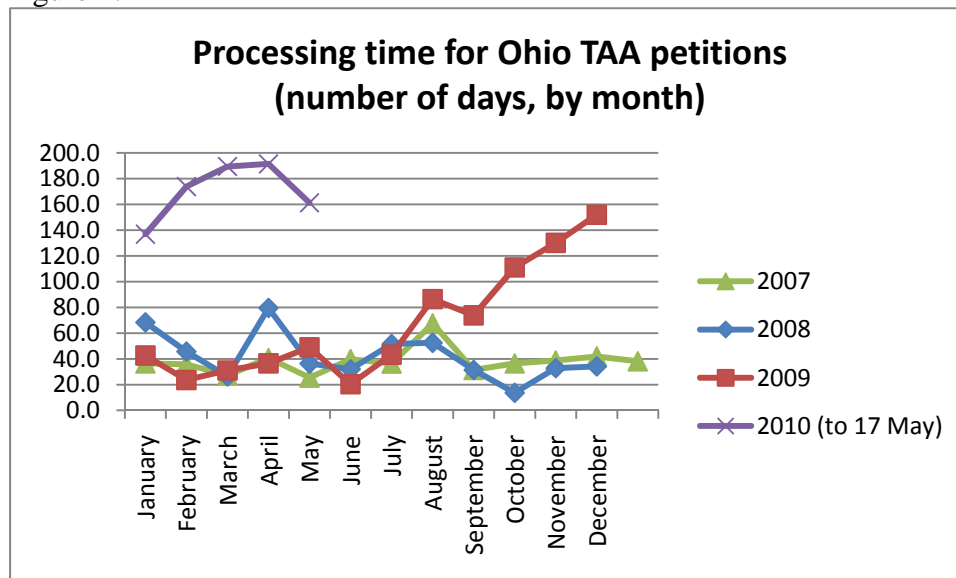
Source: Policy Matters Ohio analysis of U.S. Department of Labor data

In December 2009 alone, 34 petitions covering 8,206 Ohio workers were certified. If November is also included, then 52 certified petitions and 10,640 certified workers—over half of the numbers of workers certified in calendar 2009—occurred in the course of the last two months of that year. Five very large filings, which ranged from 565 workers to 1,344 workers, were certified in these months. Most likely, the jump in certifications reflects DOL working on the backlog that had been created with the advent of the new TAA.⁴

⁴ The U.S. Department of Labor stated in its annual report last year: “Another priority is developing the capability to process the significantly increased flow of petitions. Although the Department hired and trained new staff for the surge in workload, they have been unable to keep up with the accelerating volume of petitions filed under the new provisions that became effective on May 18, 2009. Consequently, TAA enters FY2010 with a significant backlog.” See “Good Jobs for Everyone: Performance and Accountability Report, FY 2009,” p. 78, at <http://www.dol.gov/sec/media/reports/annual2009/2009highlights.pdf>

While more workplaces were certified, there was also a build-up in the time it took the Labor Department to process petitions, mirroring an increase in petition filing nationally.⁵ The National Employment Law Project has reported that the average processing time grew from 37 days in 2008 to more than 100 days in 2009. In Ohio, processing time increased from 39.9 days in 2008 to 96.6 days in 2009 to 169.3 days for the first four and a half months of 2010. Although affected workers can get unemployment benefits while they are awaiting TAA certification, delays in certification make it harder for them to participate in the health-insurance tax credits available through TAA and also likely reduce the number of those who get retraining that will allow them to find new employment. Figure 2 shows how processing time in Ohio increased after the new provisions took effect:

Figure 2:



Source: Policy Matters Ohio analysis of U.S. Department of Labor data

Automotive and steel companies dominated the list of the largest Ohio certifications during the first year of the new TAA, as shown in Table 2. Auto-related companies have led Ohio TAA certifications for some time; in the last year, they were joined by more major steel makers. Wal-Mart's eyeglass plant outside Columbus, Avon Products Inc.'s cosmetics plant in Springdale, and the SUMCO Phoenix silicon-wafer factory in Maineville also ranked in the top 10. Each of these three companies shifted production abroad, the first two to Mexico, SUMCO to Japan and Indonesia. In the last year the top twenty largest certifications, roughly 10 percent of the total number of certifications for the period, accounted for 47.8 percent of all workers certified. The largest was the General Motors plant in Lordstown (Trumbull County), which covered 1,423 workers. In that case, the DOL found that imports of small cars, including those by GM itself, had increased, contributing to layoffs.⁶ Since the determination was made last fall, the plant has begun gearing up for production of GM's new Chevrolet Cruze, so those laid off workers who had not taken buyouts or retirements have been able to go back to work. Altogether, eight of the

⁵ *The Wall Street Journal* reported on this in an article last fall. See Dugan, Ianthe Jeanne, "Benefit Requests Jump," *The Wall Street Journal*, Nov. 9, 2009, p. A4

⁶ U.S. Department of Labor, TAA Decision 70623, <http://www.doleta.gov/tradeact/taa/taadecisions/taadecision.cfm?taw=70623>

top twenty certifications resulted from increased imports, nine occurred because of shifts in production to a foreign country, and three firms either supplied or did value-added work for a firm that was also certified.

Table 2

Top 20 Ohio TAA Certifications, May 18, 2009, to May 17, 2010				
Rank	Company Name	City	County	Est. No. Workers
1	General Motors Company	Lordstown	Trumbull	1,423
2	Severstal Warren, Inc.	Warren	Trumbull	1,344
3	Ford Motor Co.	Brook Park	Cuyahoga	1,125
4	Republic Engineered Products, Inc.	Lorain	Lorain	1,005
5	Delphi Packard Electrical/Electronic Architecture	Howland	Trumbull	901
6	Avon Products, Inc.	Springdale	Hamilton	740
7	Wal-Mart Stores East, LP	Lockbourne	Franklin	734
8	Alliance Castings Company, LLC	Alliance	Stark	625
9	Delphi Packard Electrical/Electronic Architecture	Warren	Trumbull	597
10	SUMCO Phoenix Corporation	Maineville	Warren	565
11	The Timken Company	Canton	Stark	474
12	United States Steel Corporation	Lorain	Lorain	473
13	Nordson Corporation	Amherst	Lorain	446
14	Hugo Boss Cleveland, Inc.	Brooklyn	Cuyahoga	356
15	CVG-Mayflower Vehicle Systems LLC	Norwalk	Huron	331
16	Senco Bands, Inc.	Cincinnati	Hamilton	329
17	Eaton Aeroquip, LLC	Van Wert	Van Wert	321
18	Janesville Acoustics	Norwalk	Huron	302
19	Yusa Corporation	Washington Court House	Fayette	299
20	Findlay Industries, Inc.	Findlay	Hancock	289

Source: Policy Matters Ohio analysis of Department of Labor data

Among those certified in the past year was a parade of many of Ohio's best-known employers:

- General Electric, which had four Northeast Ohio plants and 287 workers in its lighting business certified in the past year;
- Cincinnati-based Convergys, where 27 workers were affected by the shift of billing support and software development and maintenance jobs to India;
- Owens-Illinois in Perrysburg, where 18 workers were certified at the Global Manufacturing Engineering Center because of a shift of engineering design services to Peru;
- Ferro Corp.'s porcelain enamel operation in Cleveland was certified, with an estimated 27 workers, because some of its production went to a white-goods company that itself had been certified;
- 69 workers at Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.'s Tech Center as a result of a determination by the International Trade Commission that China was dumping tires;

- Nationwide Mutual Insurance Co.’s Finance Shared Service Center in Grove City, where 149 workers were certified because of a shift of accounting, procurement, reporting and data management services to India;⁷
- Workers at two hydraulic-parts plants of Eaton Corp., one in Van Wert that lost business from a customer that was certified under TAA, and another in Mentor that laid workers off when the company shipped production to Mexico; and
- 368 workers at several locations of Dayton’s Berry Co., certified because of shifts in production of internet and phonebook advertisements to India and the Dominican Republic.

Since January 1, 2007, an estimated 47,973 workers in 72 of Ohio’s 88 counties have become eligible for the TAA program. Five counties have seen over 2,000 workers qualify: Trumbull, Montgomery, Cuyahoga, Stark, and Lorain. In the first year of the new TAA, workplaces covering 26,427 workers in 58 counties were certified.⁸ Most of those were in five counties: Trumbull, Cuyahoga, Lorain, Stark, and Hamilton, each of which had more than 1,500 workers qualify. Trumbull County alone had an estimated 5,602 workers certified, over one-fifth of all workers certified for the entire year. Furthermore, Trumbull County not only saw the two largest certifications and four of the top ten, but also had the largest number of certified petitions – 20 – of any county in Ohio. Table 3 details the counties with the largest number of certified workers:

Table 3

Ten Ohio Counties with largest numbers of TAA certifications, May 18, 2009, to May 17, 2010			
Rank	County	Workers	Petitions
1	Trumbull	5,602	20
2	Cuyahoga	2,035	15
3	Lorain	1,964	4
4	Stark	1,603	6
5	Hamilton	1,566	8
6	Summit	1,237	14
7	Montgomery	944	18
8	Warren	890	5
9	Franklin	883	4
10	Huron	735	4

Source: Policy Matters Ohio analysis of Department of Labor data

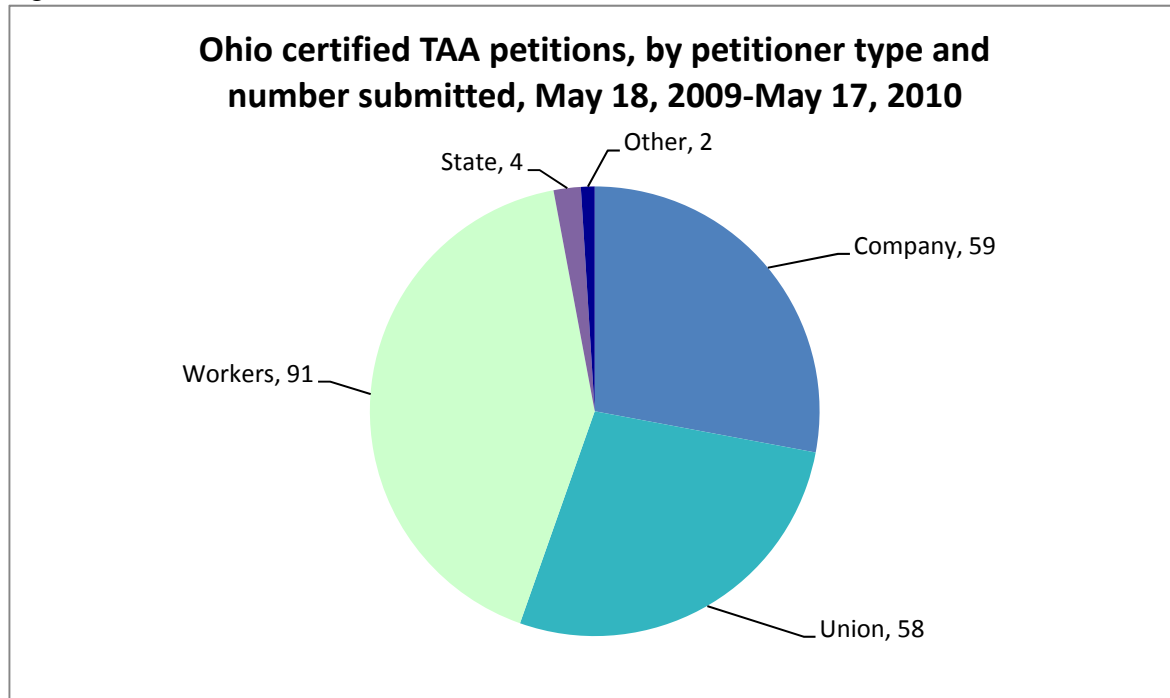
As noted, petitions for trade adjustment assistance may be filed by the company, a union representing workers, the state or at least three workers. More and more, workers themselves are the petitioners obtaining certification. In the year since the new TAA provisions became effective, workers filed more than 41 percent of the petitions that were certified, the largest of any type of petitioner and an increase from 29 percent in the period from January 2007 till March 2009. Conversely, while companies also are filing more petitions that lead to certification,

⁷ The workers at Nationwide were certified on May 18, 2010, one day beyond the calendar-year expansion of the TAA program, and they are not included in our data.

⁸ In one case, the Department of Labor did not identify the Ohio location.

their share has fallen from 37 percent to 28 percent of the total. Unions filed a nearly equal share of the certified petitions in the last year. Figure 3 shows the origin of certified petitions in the most recent period:

Figure 3



Data: Policy Matters Ohio analysis of Department of Labor data

As they have before, automotive companies remain the largest source of certifications in Ohio under the TAA program. During the last year, the Motor Vehicle Parts and Accessories industry continued to hold the number one spot with 3,519 workers certified, or 13 percent of the total. Table 4 describes how many workers were certified in the last year in the 10 largest industries. Many employees at steel-related companies also have been certified for benefits; the metal and steel industries comprise four of the top spots, with a total of 5,416 workers certified. The cosmetics and eyeglasses industries each reflect one large layoff – Avon Products and Wal-Mart, respectively – cited earlier. Interestingly, a number of large certifications include leased workers employed by other firms.

Table 4

Standard Industrial Classifications with the greatest number of Ohio workers certified for TAA 18 May 2009 - 17 May 2010			
Rank	SIC Code	Description	Number of Workers Certified
1	3714	Motor Vehicle Parts & Accessories	3,519
2	3795	Wiring and Connector Components	1,854
3	3711	Motor Vehicle & Passenger Car Bodies	1,816
4	3441	Fabricated Structural Metal	1,344
5	3316	Cold-Rolled Steel Sheet, Strip, and Bars	1,005
6	3844	Cosmetics	740
7	3827	Eye Glasses	734
8	3312	Rolled Steel Products	698
9	2821	Plastics Materials And Synthetic Resins	651
10	3743	Production of Railcar Castings	625

Source: Policy Matters Ohio analysis of Department of Labor data

Since May 18, 2009, the Trade Adjustment Assistance program has been expanded to cover many workers who previously were not eligible for assistance. As noted, these include workers in service industries and public-sector workers; those who lost their jobs due to production shifts to countries with which the United States does not have a free-trade agreement; direct suppliers to companies that already have been certified for trade benefits; and workers who make components where there have been rising imports of the products that use the components.

In the first full year under the new rules, workers in service industries accounted for a small share of the total number of workers certified in Ohio – just 2.6 percent, according to the Department of Labor’s classifications by industry. These involved 17 petitions or 8 percent of all successful petitions. On average, these certifications covered 41 workers. No public workplaces in Ohio were certified.

A reading of each of the DOL decisions found a number of instances in which certified employees were doing service work at manufacturing companies, such as workers providing finance and accounting services at Eastman Kodak in Dayton, or accounts-payable workers at Ashland Inc. in Dublin. In other cases, Policy Matters Ohio reclassified workers in manufacturing after reviewing each decision, which briefly describes the work being done. Overall, this reading concluded 28 certifications covering 931 employees that involved service work, or 3.5 percent of the total workers certified during the year. Table 5 breaks out by sector how many petitions and workers were certified under the new provisions.

Table 5

Certified Ohio TAA Petitions by Industry Sector, 18 May 2009 – 17 May 2010				
	Petitions	Percent of Petitions	Workers	Percent of Workers
Manufacturing	176	86.3%	25,496	96.5%
Service	28	13.7%	931	3.5%
Total	204	100.0%	26,427	100.0%

Source: Policy Matters Ohio analysis of Department of Labor data

The Department of Labor found a somewhat higher share of petitions certified nationally – more than 17 percent – involved service workers during the first four and half months the new TAA provisions were in effect.⁹

All but two of the service-industry certifications in Ohio involved shifts in production, as opposed to growing imports or other reasons. These included 49 employees who provided accounting and financial services at Accenture LLP in Dayton; 10 technical support and financial services workers at SuperValu Inc. in Milford; 29 call-center workers at Ceridian Corp. in Broadview Heights; and 130 help desk and information technology employees at Pomeroy IT Solutions in Cincinnati, among others.

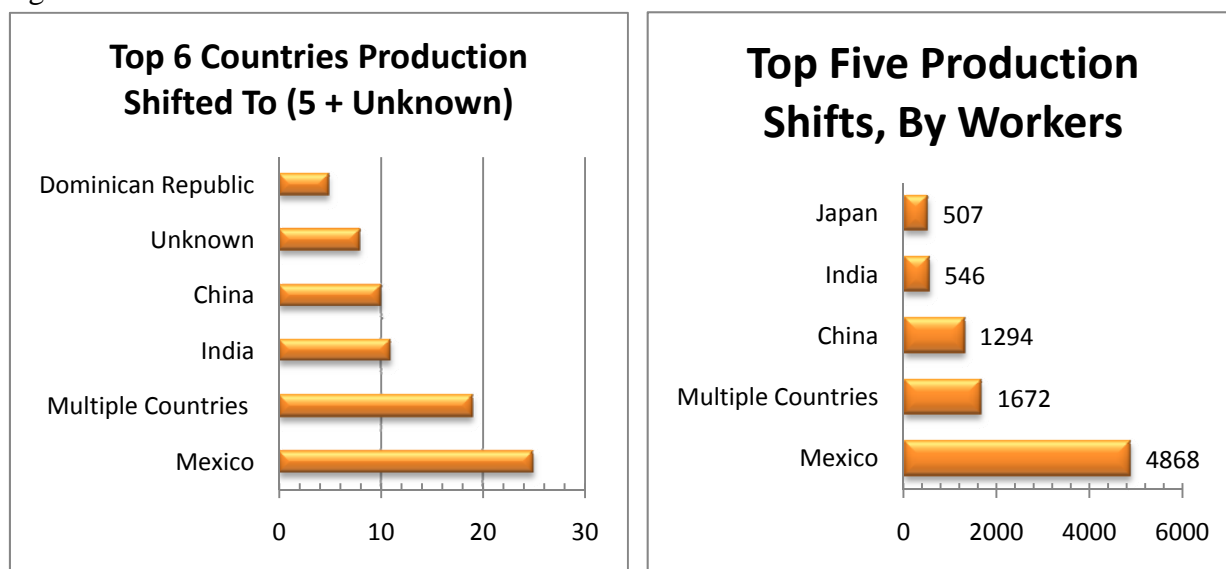
At least fourteen petitions that were certified in the past year, covering 397 service workers, clearly would not have qualified under the old, more restrictive rules. However, some service workers are employed by manufacturing companies, making it difficult to discern exactly how many service workers qualify only because of the expansion in eligibility. Some service workers who were employed by manufacturing companies previously qualified for Trade Adjustment Assistance because their work was considered to be part of making an “article,” as the law required.

Ninety-eight petitions in the last year, or 48 percent of the total, resulted from a shift in production to a foreign country. For the period January 1, 2007 through May 17, 2009, production shifts resulted in about 43 percent of total certifications. Thus, the expansion of the program to encompass more production shifts has increased the share of certifications owing to that, but it has not climbed substantially. Many of the nations where production is heading are not nations with which the United States has a free-trade agreement, as the TAA specified before the changes. Twenty-five of the production shifts, or a quarter of the total, were to Mexico. This excludes those shifts, 19 in all, that involved multiple countries.¹⁰ Another 11 went to India, and 10 to China, again including only those that were shifts to a single country. Prior to the change in the law, workers affected by production shifts to India and China were not eligible for TAA, though in some instances they could subsequently qualify if the Labor Department determined that imports from those countries harmed their employer. Figure 4 shows the leading nations for production shifts during the first year of the new TAA:

⁹ U.S. Department of Labor, “Trade Adjustment Assistance for Workers,” Report to the Committee on Finance of the Senate and Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives, December 2009, pp. 7-8

¹⁰ Six of those 20 involved Mexico, for instance, while nine involved China and nine included India.

Figure 4



Source: Policy Matters Ohio analysis of Department of Labor data

As the charts make clear, by far the largest number of Ohio jobs that have been shifted abroad and certified under the trade assistance program have been going to Mexico. Each of the three largest certifications involving production shifts – Ford Motor Co.’s Cleveland Casting Plant, Wal-Mart’s eyeglasses plant in Lockbourne and Avon’s cosmetics plant in Springdale – saw production go to Mexico. It is possible that the trade adjustment program covers more workers whose jobs go to Mexico than overseas nations because workers are more likely to learn of such production shifts; they may know because they helped train workers or saw the machinery from their plant shipped there.¹¹ The vast bulk of the jobs shifted to Mexico, as with China, are manufacturing jobs.

By contrast, an analysis of the labor department’s TAA decisions indicates that India receives a disproportionate amount of transferred non-manufacturing service sector jobs. Workers at these companies would not have qualified for TAA benefits in the past because they involve production shifts to India, a country with which the United States does not have a free-trade agreement (as noted, some such workers might have qualified later because of damages from imports, but probably not in many instances).

In the year ended in May, 26 Ohio service providers were certified because of shifts of production to other countries; of these, 11 went to India. Common services included information technology or jobs related to finance, such as accounting or billing. If one includes production shifts that involved more than one country, the number that involved some jobs going to India rises to 16. Most of the shifts to India involve smaller numbers of jobs than production shifts in general.

¹¹ Conversation with Rick McHugh, National Employment Law Project, June 21, 2010

The 11 certified shifts solely to India covered 546 jobs. By contrast, the five production shifts to Japan affected 507 workers. All of the shifts transferring production to Japan involved Japanese-owned companies. This seems to indicate a number of Japanese companies are returning home.

The new TAA provisions broadened eligibility so that workers making component parts qualify not only if imports are increased for the products they make, but also for the products into which their components are assembled. It also provided that direct suppliers to a location that had been certified would be eligible for TAA. For instance, Thieman Stamping Co. in New Bremen was certified because a loss of business of its metal fabrications and stampings to TAA-certified customers contributed importantly to layoffs.¹²

A sizeable share of the certifications involves “upstream suppliers” of companies that have been certified under TAA. In the first year of the new TAA, 36 or 18 percent of the Ohio certifications, covering 3,868 workers or 14 percent of the total, involved such firms.

¹² U.S. Department of Labor, TAA Decision 73564,
<http://www.doleta.gov/tradeact/taa/taadecisions/taadecision.cfm?taw=73564>

Recommendations

The most striking aspect of the Trade Adjustment Assistance program in Ohio since it was expanded is the number of workers who have qualified for benefits. Some of the expansion may reflect the economic downturn—but imports also declined during 2009, reducing the likelihood of trade-related job losses. The certifications continue at a high level even now. Based on the increase in jobs officially certified as harmed by trade in the past year, it makes sense to extend the 2009 changes beyond their current expiration at the end of the year.

At the same time, for the program to reach its full potential, DOL needs to step up the speed with which it processes petitions. By mid-May, the determination time for petitions certified in Ohio was approaching six months.

So far, only a small number of Ohio service-industry workers have been certified for TAA (though more than one in eight petitions being certified involves service workers, according to Policy Matters Ohio's analysis). In part, this may reflect the lower level of unionization of the service sector. None of the 28 service-industry certified petition was filed by a union.

Many businesses and workers are not aware of the expansion covering service-sector workers. In Ohio, information about TAA is made available at One Stop employment centers, through the state's Rapid Response program that serves dislocated workers and on the web site of the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services. The department also contacts employers to make them aware of TAA when it receives official notice of mass layoffs, but ODJFS does not currently advertise TAA.¹³ The National Association of State Workforce Agencies recently recommended, "the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration (USDOL) pursue an aggressive public education campaign to ensure the business community and potential TAA applicants are aware of the TAA program and the services available through it."¹⁴ It added that state workforce agencies and NASWA should be involved in this promotional campaign. The State of Ohio also should take additional steps to increase the visibility of the program and make information about eligibility available to more service workers in particular.¹⁵

The Trade Adjustment Assistance is an important program for workers who have lost their jobs because of trade, and can be even more valuable if current provisions are extended and more workers and companies become aware of the program.

¹³ E-mail (June 28, 2010) and phone conversation (June 23, 2010) with Diana Allen, Trade Section Chief, Office of Unemployment Compensation, Ohio Department of Job & Family Services.

¹⁴ NASWA Recommendations for Reauthorization of Trade Adjustment Assistance, <http://www.workforceatm.org/sections/pdf/2010/TAAReauthorizationRecommendations.pdf>

¹⁵ A Policy Matters Ohio report last year recommended a state-wide marketing campaign and other steps to expand outreach for the program. See Policy Matters Ohio's 2009 report, *Trade Adjustment Assistance: New Opportunities for Ohio Workers*, <http://www.policymattersohio.org/TradeAdjustmentAssistance2009.htm>

**Appendix 1: TAA Certifications by County
18 May 2009 to 17 May 2010**

Rank	County	Workers	Petitions
1	Trumbull	5602	20
2	Cuyahoga	2035	15
3	Lorain	1964	4
4	Stark	1603	6
5	Hamilton	1566	8
6	Summit	1237	14
7	Montgomery	944	18
8	Warren	890	5
9	Franklin	883	4
10	Huron	735	4
11	Richland	637	4
12	Hancock	561	6
13	Lucas	486	3
14	Highland	462	4
15	Erie	394	3
16	Shelby	387	3
17	Fulton	358	2
18	Williams	340	2
19	Clark	334	2
20	Ashland	329	3
21	Van Wert	321	1
22	Licking	308	5
23	Fayette	299	1
24	Miami	250	6
25	Hocking	242	1
26	Lake	241	5
27	Allen	200	1
28	Moraine	195	2
29	Marion	191	1

Rank	County	Workers	Petitions
30	Logan	188	1
31	Seneca	161	1
32	Portage	160	4
33	Geauga	156	1
34	Perry	154	2
35	Paulding	147	1
36	Union	146	2
37	Holmes	133	3
38	Crawford	123	2
39	Mahoning	95	1
40	Butler	90	3
41	Wayne	87	2
42	Sandusky	82	3
43	Jackson	77	1
44	Tuscarawas	77	1
45	Auglaize	65	4
46	Brown	64	1
47	Washington	64	1
48	Henry	60	1
49	Fairfield	55	1
50	Gallia	51	4
51	Putnam	50	1
52	Wood	47	3
53	Defiance	39	1
54	Ashtabula	23	1
55	Hardin	12	1
56	Clermont	10	1
57	Knox	9	1
58	Preble	4	1

Note: One certified petition is not included above because it covered more than one location and the county could not be identified.

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