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Trade deficit with China costs 1.8 million jobs nationwide, 66,100 in Ohio since 2001 China's 2001 entry into the WTO was supposed to improve trade balance

The dramatic rise in the United States' trade deficit with China in recent years has cost jobs in every state, with **Ohio** ranking as the 8th hardest hit state in numeric terms since China entered the World Trade Organization in 2001. In *Costly Trade with China*, a new report issued today by the Economic Policy Institute, economist Robert Scott reports that growth in the trade deficit with China displaced production that would have supported 2,166,000 U.S. jobs and job opportunities since 1997. The vast bulk (1.8 million) of the job displacement has come since China's 2001 entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO), a move that was supposed to improve the trade balance. Since China entered the WTO in 2001, nationwide job losses averaged 441,000 per year—more than the total employment in greater Dayton, Ohio.

The 1.8 million jobs lost nationwide since 2001 are distributed among all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The hardest hit states in numeric terms are California (-269,300), Texas (-136,900), New York (-105,900), Illinois (-79,900), Pennsylvania (-78,200), North Carolina (-77,200), Florida (-71,900), **Ohio** (-66,100), Georgia (-60,400), Massachusetts (-59,300), Michigan (-54,900), and New Jersey (-49,500). These results are based on an analysis of the net employment impact of imports and exports. Although U.S. exports to China have grown, imports from China have grown far more rapidly, with import growth outstripping export growth by over five to one.

The 66,100 jobs and job opportunities removed from Ohio's economy represented 1.2 percent of the state's total employment in 2006. The jobs were concentrated in manufacturing and related service industries.

“China's entry into the WTO was supposed to require that it open its markets to imports from the United States and other nations. Instead, it has further tilted the international economic playing field against domestic workers and firms, and in favor of multinationals,” said Scott. “This has accelerated the global race to the bottom in wages and environmental quality and caused the closing of thousands of U.S. factories, cutting employment in a wide range of communities, states and entire regions of the United States.”

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