



Western States Pay High Price for US Trade Deficit with China

The bill for the nation's rapidly growing trade deficit with China is being paid for with U.S. jobs. A new study by the Economic Policy Institute reports that because the amount of goods we buy from China is growing so much faster than what we sell to China, the nation as a whole lost more than 2 million jobs since 1997, and 1.8 million jobs since 2001. Every state in the nation lost jobs that would have been here if we had been making those goods domestically instead of importing them.

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The western states, together, lost about one of every five jobs lost by the nation since 2001. And California lost 7 of every ten jobs lost in the West. Even taking its size into account, California was the hardest hit. Its 270,000 lost jobs add up to 1.8 percent of its total employment – the highest percentage for any state in the region. Losses in Oregon, Idaho, Colorado, Utah, and Washington add up to 1% or more of total state employment. Alaska, Wyoming, Montana, and Hawaii fared better, with jobs losses under 1%.

STATE DATA:

Jobs lost in the West from 2001 to 2006 due to the growing U.S. trade deficit with China

State	Number of jobs lost	Share of total state employment
California	269,300	1.80%
Oregon	25,700	1.60%
Idaho	8,500	1.50%
Colorado	30,700	1.40%
Utah	14,100	1.30%
Washington	27,000	1.00%
Alaska	2,100	0.70%
Wyoming	1,700	0.70%
Montana	2,500	0.60%
Hawaii	3,400	0.60%
TOTAL FOR REGION	385,000	

The Economic Policy Institute is an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan research institute – or “think tank” – that researches the impact of economic trends and policies on working people in the United States and around the world.