

# EPI *ideas*

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## OFFSHORING, LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYMENT & STALLED JOBS

### **JOBS HEAD OVERSEAS, MANUFACTURING DECLINES**

Since NAFTA's signing in 1993 through 2002, the rise in the U.S. trade deficit with Canada and Mexico has caused the displacement of production that supported 879,280 U.S. jobs. Meanwhile, the offshoring of service and IT jobs to India, China, and other traditionally low-wage countries is raising alarms in the United States. EPI economists **Robert Scott** and **Josh Bivens**, experts in such issues as offshoring and international trade, can talk about these trends and where they are taking us.

### **EDUCATED, EXPERIENCED WORKERS SUFFER SLUMP**

A new report co-written by EPI and the National Employment Law Center reveals that two categories of workers are having an especially hard time finding new work: those with college degrees and those 45 and older. EPI economist and co-author **Sylvia Allegretto** finds that there are not enough quality jobs to get highly educated and experienced workers back to the workplace.

### **TRACKING THE MISSING LABOR FORCE**

The official unemployment rate only counts people who are actively seeking work. But with the persistent job shortage, many have given up looking for work in a labor market with three job seekers for every opening. Three EPI experts – president **Lawrence Mishel**, senior economist **Jared Bernstein**, and research director **Lee Price** – can discuss this missing labor force and analyze data on the growing number of uncounted unemployed and underemployed who don't show up on the official tally.

**REMINDER: UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES COME OUT THIS FRIDAY, AND EPI ECONOMISTS CAN DISCUSS THE FINDINGS.**

### **STRAIGHT TALK FROM EPI**

“People displaced from manufacturing ... eventually find a new job, but they take an average wage cut of 13 to 14 percent. The people who are hit hardest are older workers.”

**Josh Bivens**, *New York Times*

“We normally think that experience and education and good jobs insulate you, to some degree, from the ravages of unemployment and long-term unemployment. But we're seeing this downturn is really affecting all sectors and all education levels.”

**Sylvia Allegretto**,

*Providence Journal-Bulletin*

“It's this very high-stakes game of musical chairs, where the number of job seekers far surpasses available jobs. It leads some to get out of the game and quit the search, which has an illusory effect of lowering the unemployment rate.”

**Jared Bernstein**, *Arizona Republic*

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