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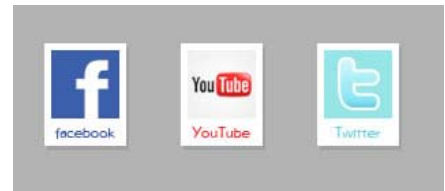
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Trade is a jobs program that works

President Obama recently renewed his call to [double the goods exported by the U.S. in five years](#). He also reiterated his conviction that free trade – the voluntary exchange of goods and services between nations without government obstruction – plays an important role in fueling economic growth and job creation.

The President has proposed to start liberalizing trade by passing [trade agreements with South Korea, Colombia, and Panama](#). The details of these agreements have already been negotiated. This is a great policy option to help create jobs for the unemployed and encourage economic growth.

[Free trade agreements](#) make it easier for American businesses to sell their products and services around the world. 95 percent of consumers of American goods live outside of the U.S. [Exports of U.S. goods and services](#) account for nearly one-third of our GDP, and generate one-fifth of domestic manufacturing jobs.

The Department of Commerce estimates that every \$185,000 of exports creates one job in the United States. Given that the U.S. exports about \$1.8 trillion in goods and services each year, realizing the President's goal of doubling exports during the next five years would create millions of [new jobs and increased economic growth](#).

Opponents of trade liberalization claim that [jobs are lost](#) as a result of increased competition with foreign producers. Additional competition can result in some job loss, which can be acute in certain sectors and painful for those involved. Yet those costs are dwarfed by the benefits free trade creates.

[Free trade improves our standard of living](#) by giving millions of Americans access to higher quality, lower priced, and more diverse goods. U.S. businesses also benefit from access to lower cost imports, which reduces their input costs, enabling them to produce more, hire more, and compete in the world market.

Some make the case the free trade is the most effective program to [fight poverty](#) in the developing world as well.

The ability of federal spending, like the \$787 billion [stimulus package](#) and the latest \$15 billion "[jobs bill](#)," to create real and sustainable jobs is dubious at best. Yet the federal government does have the ability to facilitate free trade, which is an effective job creation policy for the U.S. and our trade partners.



Tags: [double exports](#), [free trade](#), [globalization](#), [international trade](#), [protectionism](#), [trade agreements with South Korea](#), [U.S. exports](#)



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