

## Reuters Fails to Provide Background on Union-Funded “Jobs Study”

Reporting on a new “study” on U.S.-China trade, Reuters reporter Doug Palmer [writes](#):

Unfair Chinese trade and currency practices caused the loss of as many as 2.4 million U.S. jobs between 2001 and 2008, according to a study released on Tuesday.

The report by the left-leaning Economic Policy Institute said China’s “currency manipulation” was a major cause of the United States’ trade deficit with China, though it said other Chinese practices contributed to the deficit.

While Palmer mentions that EPI is “left-leaning,” he fails to mention that the organization receives [30% of its funding](#) from trade-averse labor unions, and that its [board of directors](#) is manned by nine of the most powerful union leaders in America, including Andy Stern (SEIU), Richard Trumka (AFL-CIO), Ron Gettelfinger (UAW), Leo Gerard (USW).

And while Palmer freely lists EPI’s “jobs” statistics, he fails to report that EPI’s methodology - which does not count a single actual job and instead simplistically derives “job loss” numbers from the US trade deficit - has been routinely debunked for the past decade by, among others, the Cato Institute’s Dan Griswold (in [2000](#), [2001](#), [2003](#), [2005](#), and [2007](#)), AEI’s Phil [Lew](#), the [US Chamber of Commerce](#), and the non-partisan [FactCheck.org](#). Considering the tense state of U.S.-China trade relations, Palmer should have included this perspective when covering such an incendiary study.

Scott Lincicome March 29, 2010

Tags: [AFL-CIO](#), [china](#), [Doug Palmer](#), [Economic Policy Institute](#), [Reuters](#), [SEIU](#), [trade](#), [UAW](#), [USW](#)

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