

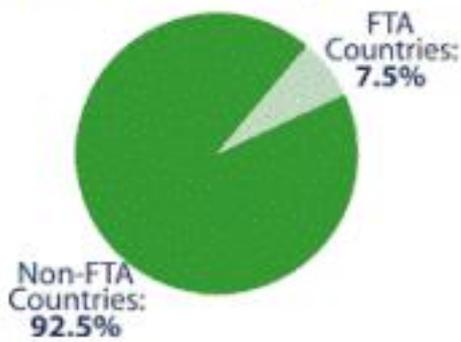
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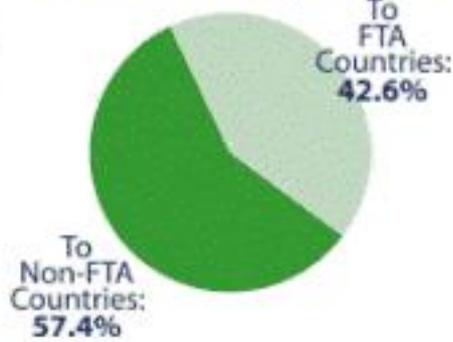
As a Member on the Ways & Means Subcommittee Trade, I have seen firsthand how important fair trade is to our economy. As the number one manufacturing nation in the world, it is essential that we have as many open markets for our goods as possible. Contrary to much-repeated myths, trade greatly benefits U.S. workers, consumers, manufacturers, and small businesses. This is particularly true in Northern California where our local economies are largely agriculture based. Fair trade levels the playing field for American small businesses, removing unfair barriers around the world that block U.S. goods and services from entering important markets, and in turn, helps grow our economy and create more jobs for American workers.

In the last decade, U.S. trade has helped raise GDP by nearly 40 percent and has helped add 16 million jobs. With 96 percent of the world's consumers living outside the U.S., it is imperative to job creation and continual economic growth that U.S. producers be able to reach those consumers through expanded exports. Put another way, we can not eat all the food we produce in Northern California. We must market our products overseas to grow and create jobs.

Percent of World GDP, 2006

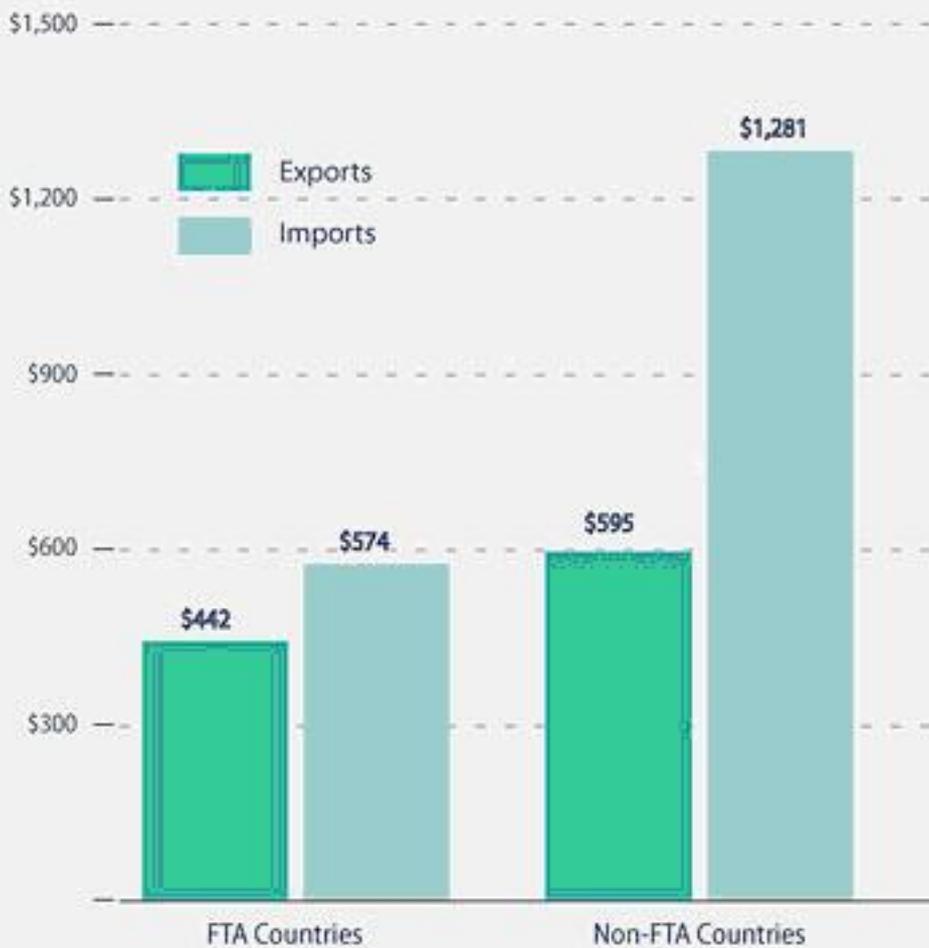


Percent of U.S. Exports, 2006



Free Trade Agreement Partners and the U.S. Trade Balance, 2006

value of trade in billions of dollars



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce.

