

## Fact Sheet on the Impact of Free Trade on Illinois Job Losses

- According to the Economic Policy Institute, since the passage of NAFTA, the net job loss (i.e., total job loss after jobs created by NAFTA are taken into account) for Illinois is 34,700. In terms of percentage of jobs lost to NAFTA, Illinois ranks #7 in the top ten hardest-hit states. In terms of number of jobs displaced, Illinois ranks #4 amongst all 50 states, DC and Puerto Rico (Economic Policy Institute, May 3, 2011. <http://www.epi.org/page/-/BriefingPaper308.pdf?nocdn=1>)
- China joined the World Trade Organization in 2001. Between 2001 and 2008, net job loss in Illinois totaled 105,500, the fourth-largest net job loss in the country. This represents 1.73% of total state employment (Economic Policy Institute, March 23, 2010 <http://www.epi.org/publications/entry/bp260/>)
- According to Citizens Trade Campaign, the following Illinois companies have had over 1,000 trade-certified job losses: Motorola, National Steel, Chrysler, Maytag, Zenith, Northwestern Steel, Caterpillar, Manufacturers Services.
- Free trade impacts even those whose jobs are not shipped overseas by placing a downward pressure on wages and benefits. According to 2008 estimates by the Economic Policy Institute, the U.S. trade imbalance brought about by free trade agreements costs 70% of American households without a 4-year college degree an average of \$2,560 each year. (Economic Policy Institute, <http://www.epi.org/publications/entry/4206/> )

It is difficult to project precise job loss figures from the potential passage of the Trans-Pacific Trade Agreement, because the deal and participating countries involved have not yet been finalized. However, based upon the results of the last two major free trade agreements, indications are clear that unless labor protections are included in the final deal, the Trans-Pacific Free Trade Agreement will contribute even more to the U.S. trade imbalance, resulting in even further job losses for Chicago and Illinois, and further wage and benefit reductions for American workers.