



Increased Exports AND Imports = More U.S. Jobs ***July 23, 2010***

The American retail industry employs nearly 15 million workers

One in every five jobs in the United States is related to the retail industry. With a diverse range of job opportunities, the retail industry provides opportunity for millions of Americans with a wide range of backgrounds, work experience and education levels.

- There are approximately 300,000 management, business and financial jobs in the retail industry. In 2006, sales managers in the retail industry made an average of more than \$40/hour.
- Sixteen retail companies made it onto the 2009 "Fortune 100 Best Companies to Work For" list.

Retailers offer professional careers, flexibility and opportunity for advancement unlike any other industry. From students looking for their first workplace experience, or seniors looking for extra income, to professionals looking for a career, few industries provide an environment for enrichment at all stages of career development. Retailers are also well known for their innovation and cutting edge business practices in areas such as supply chain management, marketing, sustainability, commercial real estate, and other professional disciplines.

Open and predictable global supply chains are critical for retailers' success

To provide the quality and variety of choices that consumers demand, retailers must have access to global markets. Reducing tariffs and trade barriers will promote growth and benefit millions of jobs across the economic supply chain. With retailers directly or indirectly supporting 20 percent of America's private sector employment, policymakers should do everything possible to break down foreign and domestic trade barriers and support a sector so vital to U.S. economic recovery.

- Global engagement provides U.S. consumers with lower prices and more choices, supports millions of American jobs and strengthens relations with our trading partners to promote U.S. products throughout the world.
- American retailers are also opening new retail stores overseas, promoting U.S. exports, advancing American values, and helping other U.S.-based companies to remain competitive in the global marketplace.
- The United States is the world's largest exporter and importer. Trade is critical to America's prosperity - fueling economic growth, supporting good jobs at home, raising living standards and helping Americans provide for their families with affordable goods and services.

The Trade and American Competitiveness Coalition is made up of U.S. business enterprises that support policies and legislation that will enhance U.S. competitiveness in the international economy to promote growth and prosperity for America's businesses, workers and consumers.

The Retail Industry Leaders Association is the trade association of the world's largest and most innovative retail companies. RILA members include more than 200 retailers, product manufacturers, and service suppliers, which together account for more than \$1.5 trillion in annual sales, millions of American jobs and more than 100,000 stores, manufacturing facilities and distribution centers domestically and abroad.