



## FACT SHEET

### Trade

**Issue Summary:** *The United States has entered into many trade agreements in an attempt to promote economic growth and eliminate trade and investment barriers. However, these trade agreements have resulted in enormous U.S. trade deficits. All future U.S. trade agreements should have a specific goal of reducing the U.S. trade deficit and balancing trade inflows and outflows, not just increasing total trade flows.*

- In 2013, the U.S. exported approximately \$1.4 trillion worth of goods. Agriculture represents about 10% of total exports. (USDA ERS)
- In 2013, the U.S. had a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of \$16.8 trillion (Trading Economics), of which agriculture contributed about \$201.6 billion. (The World Bank)
- Since 1960, U.S. agricultural exports have been greater than U.S. agricultural imports. This \$39 billion surplus helps counter the enormous U.S. non-agricultural trade deficit. (USDA ERS)
- The U.S. had a \$40.5 billion trade deficit in July 2014. This deficit represents a 3% drag on U.S. GDP growth. (U.S. Census Bureau)
- The U.S. is a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and has also entered into free trade agreements with 20 countries. (U.S. Trade Representative)
- Since joining the WTO and entering into these free trade agreements, instead of promoting economic growth, the U.S. has seen its trade deficit increase.
- Traditionally, free trade agreements focused on eliminating trade quotas, embargos and tariffs. Now, trade agreements focus on preempting domestic laws such as labor, public health, environmental, taxing and zoning laws.
- Trade Promotion Authority, also known as “fast track,” gives away Congress’s constitutional authority to negotiate trade agreements and instead vests it with the executive branch. This significantly reduces Congress’ and citizens’ ability to influence trade agreements.
- The U.S. is currently negotiating two trade agreements: the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), an agreement with 11 countries in the Asia-Pacific region and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), an agreement with the European Union.