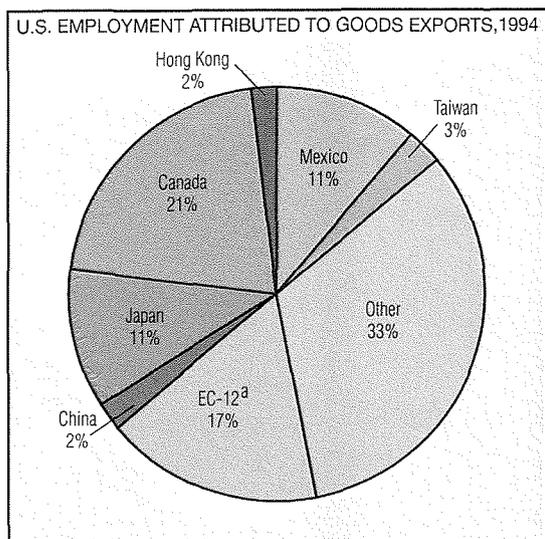
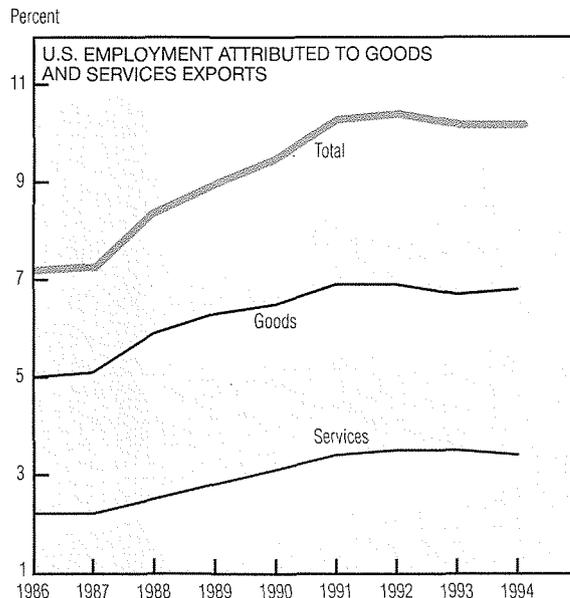
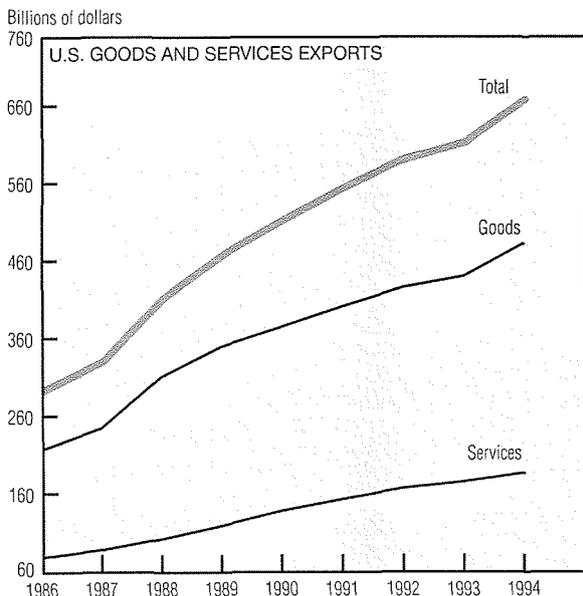


Exports and Employment



Change in U.S. Employment Attributed to Goods Exports

Foreign market	Thousands of workers		Percent change
	1986	1994	
Total	4,385	6,836	56
Canada	1,040	1,460	40
Mexico	250	729	192
Other Latin America	308	504	64
Japan	485	754	55
EC-12 ^a	766	1,133	48
China	64	138	116
Hong Kong	57	151	165
Taiwan	104	229	120
Other	1,311	1,738	33

a. The EC-12 countries comprise Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, and the U.K.
 SOURCE: Lester A. Davis, "U.S. Jobs Supported by Goods and Services Exports, 1983-94," U.S. Department of Commerce, Research Series OIMA-1-96, November 1996.

As the U.S. economy opens up to more international trade, the popular press has tended to focus on the loss of American jobs associated with increasing imports. However, exports are also growing and are providing employment opportunities for U.S. workers—a fact that is often overlooked.

Commerce Department data show that U.S. exports have expanded much faster than the economy over the last decade. As exports have grown, so has the share of the labor force devoted to their

production. However, while the value of international trade has climbed steadily over the last 10 years, the share of employment devoted to exports flattened out after 1991. The sharp increase prior to that time reflects the impact of the 1990 recession, when the demand for U.S. export goods rose and domestic demand weakened. The flattening out is the result of the recovery of domestic demand.

Now, more than 10% of all U.S. working hours are spent producing items that are consumed abroad.

For whom are these goods and services produced? America's two largest trading partners, Mexico and Canada, together account for almost a third of our export-driven employment. Other Latin American countries, Japan, and Europe are responsible for most of the remaining jobs. However, this is changing. While employment during the 1986-94 period grew most rapidly for goods and services shipped to Mexico, the next-fastest growth was spurred by exports to Hong Kong, Taiwan, and China.