



The Textiles and Apparel Industries and the U.S.-Colombia and U.S.-Panama TPAs

The entire U.S. textile and apparel supply chain — from cotton growers to textile and apparel manufacturers and retailers — supports the U.S.-Colombia and U.S.-Panama Trade Promotion Agreements.

Colombians love U.S. cotton, yarn, and fabric!

- The U.S. textile and apparel industries employ more than 500,000 U.S. workers — more jobs than just about any other manufacturing sector. An estimated 500,000 Colombian workers are also employed in these industries.
- U.S. yarn, fabric, and cotton exports to Colombia currently face duties of 10-15%. These duties would be immediately eliminated under the agreement.
- Colombia is now the 15th largest buyer of U.S. yarn, fabric and cotton in the world. In 2009, U.S. yarn, fabric and cotton exports to Colombia hit \$82 million.

Panamanians love U.S. textiles and footwear!

- In 2009, U.S. shipments of textiles and apparel to Panama increased 82% in only 4 years, totaling nearly \$32 million.
- Panamanians buy the 11th most U.S. footwear in the world and has been consistently increasing their demand. In 2009, the U.S. exported nearly \$8 million in U.S. footwear to Panama, an increase of 25% from the previous year.

Without the trade agreements, jobs will move elsewhere, not to the U.S.

- While Latin America remains a key market for U.S. textile exports with the top four markets being in the Americas, the Western Hemisphere textile and apparel industries face stiff competition from Asia.
- Uncertainty arising from the temporary nature of trade preferences has motivated U.S. investors to take their business elsewhere, mostly to Asia. From 2008 to 2009 alone, U.S. apparel imports from Colombia have dropped by 34%. In turn, U.S. yarn and fabric exports to Colombia have dropped by 38% during the same period.
- This dynamic is bad news for U.S. cotton growers and manufacturers of yarn, fiber, and fabric. Apparel manufacturers outside the Western Hemisphere use little U.S. cotton, yarn, and fabric.

The Western Hemisphere's integrated textile and apparel manufacturing industries use U.S. inputs on a significant scale — and that's good for tens of thousands of workers in the United States, Colombia, and Panama!