



Foreign-Trade Zones promote U.S. jobs and investment, global competitiveness and increased trade.

- ★ **330,000 workers** are directly employed by companies that operate in U.S. Foreign-Trade Zones.
- ★ Currently, there are **253 General Purpose Zones and 261 active subzones** throughout all 50 states and Puerto Rico.
- ★ **2,500 firms** across the country participate in the Foreign-Trade Zone program.
- ★ The combined value of shipments into U.S. Foreign-Trade Zones totaled **\$430.6 billion** in 2009.
- ★ Exports from zones to foreign countries totaled **\$28 billion** in 2009, an increase of 46 percent since 2004.

All numbers from 2009 FTZ Board Annual Report to Congress.

- The key policy objective of the Foreign-Trade Zone (FTZ) program is the optimization of economic development in the U.S., promoting job creation, investment and value-added activity here in America.
- FTZs are one of the most effective tools available today to increase the global competitiveness of U.S.-based operations, promote economic development and facilitate international trade. FTZs provide savings through duty deferral and reduction, encouraging U.S. investment and employment.
- The FTZ program has promoted American competitiveness for more than 75 years and is based on a simple idea: leveling the playing field for U.S.-based operations by providing them with similar U.S. tariff treatment to offshore producers.
- The Foreign-Trade Zones Board has been granted oversight of the FTZ program and is tasked with ensuring the program serves the public interest. U.S. Customs & Border Protection has day-to-day responsibility for ensuring proper zone activity and operations.

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