

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE WORLD BANK COMES TO TOWN?

WHAT IS THE WORLD BANK'S CONNECTION TO AKRON?

HOW HAS GLOBALIZATION AFFECTED OUR COMMUNITY?

Many major manufacturing companies have left town.

Akron, Ohio was known as the rubber capital of the world. Nearly every Goodyear tire rolling off the assembly line was an Akron, Ohio product. Now not a single passenger tire is made in Akron. Only a few Nascar and specialty tires are currently produced here

Of the major tire companies, only Goodyear is still American owned. All the major tire companies have been bought out by foreign companies and the majority of tires are made overseas.

Airspring negotiated a union contract in 1987 to build a plant in Green, Ohio. After realizing they could find cheaper labor in Mexico, the company reduced its workforce from 300 people to 7 people by 2002.

In Canton and Youngstown, Ohio, the major steel industries moved their production overseas: Timpkin, Republic, LTV. (exact numbers, specifics?)

Trade-Related Job Loss.

According to Washington D.C.-based Economic Policy Institute, Ohio experienced 135,139 "trade-related" job losses during the 1994-2000 period.

Job exodus has eroded average wages.

Adjusted for inflation, the average Ohio worker earned \$13.73 an hour in 1979, in 2001 that number declined to \$12.81 an hour.

Population loss.

Akron's population has been dropping due to declining job opportunities in the central city. From 1990 to 1999 Akron's population declined from 223,182 to 211,822; a 5% decrease.

Ohio consumers do not necessarily benefit from free trade.

Does free trade result in cheaper prices or just greater profits for corporations? Give an example of a local plant whose prices raised after they moved production to Mexico. Tires? Cars?