

# U.S. FOREIGN - TRADE ZONES

## EXPANDING U.S. EXPORTS, JOBS, & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### ABOUT FOREIGN-TRADE ZONES

- The Foreign-Trade Zone (FTZ) program was created by Congress in 1934 to expedite and encourage foreign commerce. The FTZ Board at the Department of Commerce reviews all FTZ applications.
- Foreign-trade zones (FTZs) are secure areas within the United States that are considered to be outside of U.S. Customs territory for tariff purposes.
- U.S. Customs and Border Protection oversees daily operations. All other U.S., state, and local laws apply.
- FTZ benefits are available to any U.S.-based company. Firms do not need to locate in a specific area or region to participate in the program.
- There are 200 active FTZs in the United States, employing more than 550,000 American workers in more than 1,200 active FTZ operations.

1,300    
Active FTZ Operations

550,000 

American workers employed in U.S. FTZs

### BENEFITS FOR BUSINESSES

FTZs provide significant advantages for U.S.-based firms:

- **Job Creation and Retention:** FTZs provide a competitive advantage for U.S.-based manufacturing and distribution operations. As a result, jobs that otherwise might be located abroad are created and retained in the United States.
- **Increased Exports:** The elimination of duties on exported merchandise makes U.S.-based companies more competitive in export markets.
- **Investment:** FTZs encourage multinational firms to establish U.S.-based operations, attracting foreign investment to the United States. These firms are also more likely to utilize U.S.-made components, providing added stimulus to local and regional economies.

### BENEFITS FOR THE UNITED STATES

FTZs provide substantial economic benefits to our nation:

- **Job Creation and Retention:** FTZs provide a competitive advantage for U.S.-based manufacturing and distribution operations. As a result, jobs that otherwise might be located abroad are created and retained in the United States.
- **Increased Exports:** The elimination of duties on exported merchandise makes U.S.-based companies more competitive in export markets.
- **Investment:** FTZs encourage multinational firms to establish U.S.-based operations, attracting foreign investment to the United States. These firms are also more likely to utilize U.S.-made components, providing added stimulus to local and regional economies.

### ADDRESS KEY POLICY ISSUES TO PROTECT AND STRENGTHEN THE U.S. FTZ PROGRAM

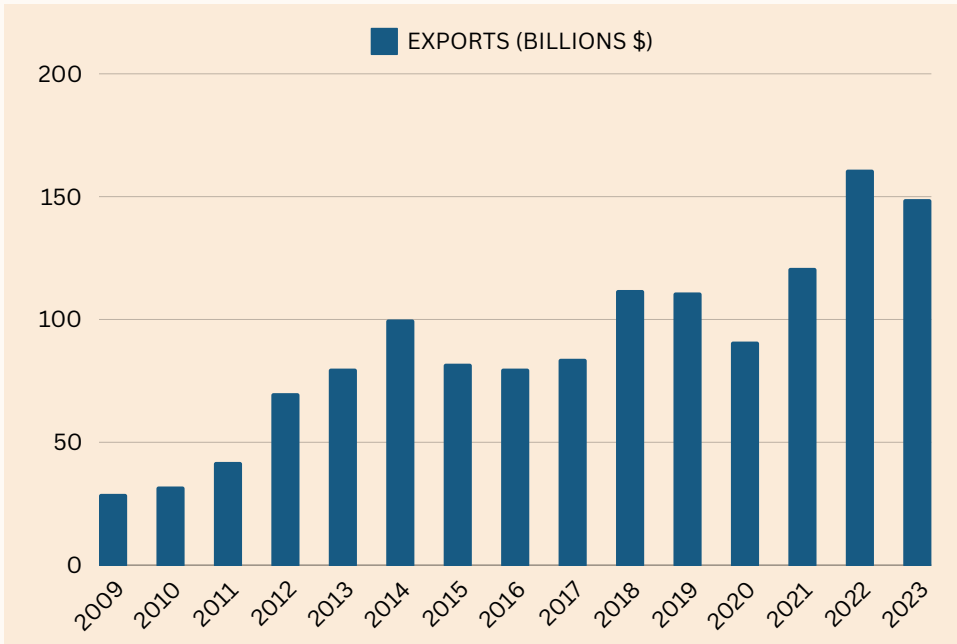
- **Tariffs:** Correct the misapplication of special duties under Sec. 301 and other trade duties on FTZ merchandise
- **USMCA:** End restrictions that impose U.S. duties on foreign components of FTZ exports to Canada and Mexico. Allow FTZ manufacturers to use established USMCA rules of origin to make FTZ products more cost-competitive with Canadian and Mexican products in USMCA markets.
- **Illicit Trade/Forced Labor:** Allow secure storage of targeted merchandise pending final determination of admissibility into U.S. Commerce
- **321/De Minimis:** Prevent mass transfer of U.S. e-commerce fulfillment to other countries by allowing FTZs to use duty-free *de minimis* procedures (Sec. 321)
- **Regulations:** Update regulations governing the FTZ program (19 CFR Part 146/ 15CFR Part 400)

Value of exports  
from U.S. FTZs  
**\$149B**

# FOREIGN-TRADE ZONE FACTS

EXPORTS, EMPLOYMENT & MANUFACTURING REMAIN STRONG

## TOTAL FTZ EXPORTS FROM 2009 - 2023



In 2023, U.S. Foreign-Trade Zones:

- Exported \$ 149 billion in merchandise
- Employed over 550,000 Americans in high-paying jobs throughout the country
- Received more than \$949 billion worth of foreign and domestic merchandise

Source: Annual Report of the Foreign-Trade Zones Board - 2023

## ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTS FOUND IN U.S. FOREIGN-TRADE ZONES

- In 2023, there were 374 active production operations throughout the U.S.
- Manufacturing operations received nearly \$585 billion in merchandise while warehouse/distribution operations received nearly \$364 billion in merchandise.
- Foreign vs. Domestic Inputs: About 68% of the shipments received at zones involved domestic status merchandise, indicating that FTZ activity tends to involve domestic operations that include significant domestic inputs alongside foreign inputs.

A wide range of industries use the FTZ program to access foreign components at competitive prices. The most common foreign-status inputs include the following:

### Top 10 Foreign-Status Products in FTZs (2023)

1. Consumer Electronics
2. Vehicles
3. Electrical Machinery
4. Vehicle Parts
5. Pharmaceuticals
6. Crude Oil
7. Petroleum Products
8. Other Electronics
9. Other Metals/Minerals
10. Consumer Products

**\$949B**

In merchandise received in FTZs

For more information, contact us:  
The National Association of Foreign-Trade Zones  
529 14th Street NW, Ste. 1071  
Washington, DC, 20045

Tel 202.331.1950  
Fax 202.331.1994  
www.naftz.org

  
PARTNERSHIP. PRIDE. PROSPERITY.