

Questions for PubPol/Econ 541
Nov 18

Trade Adjustment Assistance

Brainard et al., “Insuring America’s Workers in a New Era of Offshoring,” 2005.

- Why is wage insurance more likely to encourage reemployment than unemployment compensation?
- Why do the authors argue that it should be given to all displaced workers, not just those displaced by trade?
- Why does wage insurance lead to more effective retraining than TAA?

Rosen, “Strengthening Trade Adjustment Assistance,” 2008.

- Who qualifies for TAA, and what do they get?
- How does US expenditure on TAA differ from expenditure on similar programs in other major countries?
- What’s wrong with TAA?

Lawrence, “A Numbers Argument for Renewing Trade Adjustment Assistance,” 2015.

- Are the gains from trade agreements large enough to justify the expenses of TAA?
- Does Lawrence advocate for adjustment assistance only for trade-displaced workers? Why does he associate it with passing Trade Promotion Authority?

Beattie, “The flaws in trying to compensate globalisation’s losers,” 2017.

- Does the EU have a program analogous to Trade Adjustment Assistance?
- Does the author mention any examples of successful compensation of producers hurt by imports?
- How much money does TAA hand out, and to how many workers?
- Does TAA achieve the aim of compensating losers from trade?
- Does TAA achieve the aim of making trade agreements politically acceptable?
- Why should advocates of globalization be opposed to TAA?
- Does the author favor doing nothing to help those who lose from trade?

James, “Maladjusted: The Misguided Policy of ‘Trade Adjustment Assistance’,” 2007.

- What has been the primary motivation for enacting and extending TAA?
- What sectors of the US economy have had the most certifications for TAA, according to the FY2006 data presented?
- Are trade displaced workers more in need of help than workers displaced by other causes?

Collins, Benjamin, “Trade Adjustment Assistance for Workers: Background and Current Status,” CRS Report R47200, Congressional Research Service, updated July 19, 2023.

- When was TAA most recently reauthorized and until when?
- What were the “sunset provision” in that act, and when did they apply?
- If workers were approved for TAA prior to July 2022, did they lose their benefits?
- Has legislation been introduced to reauthorize TAA, and has it passed?
- What is the status now?

Brown, Sherrod, “Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) Reauthorization Act of 2024,” *US Senate*, Undated.

- When did TAA expire, and if passed, when will it then expire?
- What is the political affiliation of the bill’s sponsors?
- Do unions support it?
- Who got the benefits from TAA?
- What benefits did TAA provide before it expired?