

## Macro Roundup Article

**Headline:** [Trading Places: Mobility Responses of Native and Foreign-Born Adults to the China Trade Shock](#)

**Article Link:** <https://www.nber.org/papers/w30904>

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**Tweet:** [@davidautor](#) finds that foreign-born populations were more likely than native workers to leave commuting zones that were most impacted by the China Shock. However, the foreign-born population was concentrated in zones with low China trade exposure.

**Summary:** U.S. commuting zones (CZs) that were more exposed to the China trade shock had substantially larger net reductions in the population of foreign-born workers but not in the population of native-born workers. The small and insignificant native-born responses have narrow confidence intervals, which is suggestive of modest heterogeneity in native-born adjustment across places. For foreign-born workers, comparing CZs at the 75th versus 25th percentiles of exposure to the trade shock, the more exposed CZ would have seen 1.7 and 2.3 percentage-point larger [10 yr] reductions, respectively, in the foreign-born population with a high school education or less and in the foreign-born population with some college education or more. Within trade-exposed CZs, foreign-born and native-born workers had comparably sized reductions in employment-population ratios. These trade-induced reductions in employment rates were larger in CZ initial foreign-born population shares were above (relative to below) the nation median. At the time of the surge in import competition from China, foreign-born workers were in the wrong locations to contribute much to regional changes in labor supply.

**Primary Topic:** Trade (not deficits)

**Topics:** Academic paper, Factoid, GDP, Immigration, Trade (not deficits), Workforce

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