

TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE 2015 Annual Report



INTRODUCTION

This report describes the services and outcomes for Trade-certified workers who participated or completed training in the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program during State Fiscal Year 2015 (SFY'15).

Trade-certified workers covered in this report were certified under and subject to the rules of the Trade Act of 1974, the Trade Act of 2002, the Trade and Globalization Adjustment Assistance Act of 2009, the Trade Adjustment Assistance Extension Act of 2011, or the sunset provisions of the 2011 law, known as Reversion 2014.

The 2009 and 2011 amendments expanded the types of business layoffs eligible for Trade-related certification. As a result, the number of workers covered by Trade petitions increased dramatically, as did the number of participants entering training. Most recently, Reversion 2014 limited the scope of certifications by eliminating service sector coverage. Texas Trade certifications issued by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) and workers covered by the certifications based on separation date are reflected in the following chart:



The Trade Adjustment Assistance Reauthorization Act of 2015 (TAARA 2015), signed into law on June 29, 2015, restores the service sector coverage and reauthorizes the Health Care Tax Credit (HCTC) program benefits. Workers in the program transitioned from Reversion 2014 to TAARA 2015 on September 28, 2015.

TAA SERVICE PROVISION AND OUTCOMES

During SFY'15, the Texas workforce system provided the following TAA services and outcomes:

- 6,192 workers were determined potentially TAA eligible and outreached for services.
- 2,130 workers applied for TAA services or benefits.
- 2,988 workers participated in TAA-supported training services. The most common training occupations supported were:
 - Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanic;
 - Truck Driver;
 - Office Clerk;
 - Medical Assistant; and
 - Network and Computer System Administrator.
- 346 workers participated in vocational and remedial training programs, either integrated or conducted concurrently at the same school.

The following performance results were attained for the 1,623 workers exiting TAA services in SFY'15:

- 1,235 (76 percent) entered employment;
- Of those entering employment, 91 percent retained employment over the following three quarters;
- Workers securing employment regained 87 percent of pre-layoff wage levels, based on a six-month follow-up; and
- 367 workers participated in basic skills enhancement during TAA-supported training.

The following were the most common sectors in which workers secured employment:

- Administrative and Support
- Manufacturing
- Health Care and Social Assistance

TAA OVERVIEW AND PETITION PROCESS

TAA is a federal program that assists U.S. workers who have lost or may lose their jobs as a result of foreign trade. TAA seeks to provide adversely affected workers with opportunities to obtain the skills, credentials, resources, and support necessary to become reemployed. TAA services and benefits are administered by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) in cooperation with Texas' 28 Local Workforce Development Boards, known collectively as Texas Workforce Solutions.



The first step to receiving TAA benefits and services is to file a petition online or by mail with DOL. Petitions can be obtained online or at Workforce Solutions Offices and can be filed by:

- three or more workers in the same firm or subdivision;
- the workers' employer;
- a union official or other duly authorized representative of the workers; or
- designated TWC or Workforce Solutions office staff.

Upon receiving a petition, DOL initiates an investigation to determine whether the circumstances of the layoff meet the group eligibility criteria established by the Trade Act of 1974, as amended.

TAA BENEFITS AND SERVICES

If a worker is a member of a DOL Trade-certified group, the worker may be eligible for the following benefits and services at a Workforce Solutions Office:

Employment and Case Management Services

Skill assessments, career counseling, support services, information on training, and more.

Training

Up to 130 weeks of occupational training.

Trade Readjustment Allowances

Up to 130 weeks of wage subsidies for workers enrolled in training within 26 weeks of their Trade-related layoff or 26 weeks from the petition certification, whichever date is later.

Alternate Trade Adjustment Assistance

A wage subsidy for up to two years, available to workers age 50 or over who are reemployed at annual wages of \$50,000 or less.

Job Search Allowance

Reimbursement for costs of job search outside the worker's local commuting area.

Relocation Allowance

Reimbursement for relocation costs for a job outside the worker's local commuting area.

For additional information on TAA benefits and services, visit TWC's Web page: www.texasworkforce.org/programs/trade-adjustment-assistance-program-overview.

TAA PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

A Trade petition identifies a worker group at a specific firm or subdivision and covers all individuals in that group. Generally, if a worker is laid off, a petition must be submitted within one year of the layoff for that worker to be covered and certified under a DOL-approved petition.

A group of workers may be eligible for TAA if their jobs are lost or threatened due to trade-related circumstances as determined by DOL investigation. These circumstances may include:

- increased imports of articles or products;
- shift in production to a foreign country that has a free trade agreement with the United States;
- employer's loss of business from a customer with TAA-certified workers; or
- employer identified as trade-injured by the International Trade Commission.

After investigation, DOL determines group eligibility to apply for TAA benefits and services. Once a determination is issued by DOL, TWC contacts the employer to secure individual worker eligibility, which is predicated on separation due to lack of work (layoff). Workers are notified by TWC of their potential eligibility, at which time they may apply for services at Workforce Solutions offices.

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Equal Opportunity Employer/Program

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

Relay Texas: 800-735-2989 (TTY) and 711 (Voice).

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