Growth in American Textile Manufacturing

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Abstract

The "Wear American Act" was intended to strengthen manufacturing and create domestic jobs in the textile industry. Despite a positive outlook on growth, it is unlikely that textile manufacturing will create the large number of jobs that it did in the past. The sector has changed in response to technology and the global market, and both the number and type of employees demanded has changed as well. The current domestic textile industry is driven by advanced technology. Furthermore, it is only viable because of the technological improvements to its factories. The current industry is designed to employ fewer workers in order be more productive and less dependent on labor costs. The textile industry of the future will not employ anywhere near the 1.3 million people that it did in 1946. Even a successful industry will not be a solution to policymakers' hopes for large-scale job creation.