The total trade volume between Germany and the United States amounted to over $184 billion in 2018. Germany is the 6th largest U.S. export market. By overlaying that trade volume with the total of German-created jobs in any given state, one can see a general trend between increasing trade activity and higher employment by German-owned affiliates.

5,300 German companies create 692,000 jobs in the U.S., contributing in many positive ways to the overall success of local communities and transatlantic economy. For more than 30 years, the Representative of German Industry and Trade (RGIT) has highlighted the strength of the economic relationship between the U.S. and Germany.

RGIT communicates the interests of German business on behalf of its principals, the Federation of German Industries (BDI) and the Association of German Chambers of Commerce and Industry (DIHK).

Through its actions, RGIT highlights the importance of German business in the U.S. and encourages the further deepening of the U.S. and Germany’s already close ties. Transatlantic economic integration is based on a trusting business environment, a reliable framework, and open markets. This is what RGIT supports — for more than 30 years, on both sides of the Atlantic.

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This material is distributed by the Representative of German Industry and Trade (RGIT) on behalf of the Federation of German Industries (BDI) and the Association of German Chambers of Commerce and Industry (DIHK). Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

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Traditionally, German companies have a strong presence in the U.S. Their affiliates represent efficient technologies, a high degree of value added, and attractive jobs. According to the German Bundesbank, more than 5,300 companies in the U.S. benefit from German investment. Most of these are affiliates of small- and medium-sized enterprises.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, more than 10% of foreign direct investment in the U.S. comes from Germany. Manufacturing is by far the largest sector that benefits from German investment. Other areas of German activity include trade, insurance, and finance.

On average, German-owned affiliates spend more than $7.8 billion annually for research and development. Almost 80% of these expenditures are directed towards the manufacturing sector thereby contributing to the long-term competitiveness of this sector in the U.S.

German affiliates employ 692,000 people across the entire U.S. Therefore, German companies are the fourth-largest foreign employer. Overall, German companies accounted for almost 10% of the total 7 million U.S. jobs created by foreign affiliates.

Over 40 percent of the jobs created by German affiliates in the U.S. are in manufacturing. Among foreign investors, Germany was the second-largest job creator in this sector. German companies thus play a key role in U.S. efforts to strengthen the industrial base.

German companies invest in their workforce, and an increasing number of them offer cutting-edge German-style apprenticeships, especially in manufacturing. The earn-while-you-learn approach offers apprentices a thorough professional education without accumulating student debt, and results in a specialized, high-skilled workforce that helps the U.S. economy embrace technical innovation, keep pace with market developments, and seize growth opportunities.