

Wal-Mart: The Facts Tell The Story

Wal-Mart is the face of economic globalization.

1. Wal-Mart is the biggest corporation in the world, the biggest seller of food products on a global level, and the biggest private employer in the U.S. and Mexico.

www.corp-research.org/archives/mar-apr05.htm

www.economist.com/printedition/displayStory.cfm?Story_ID=2593089

www.csmonitor.com/2005/0315/p01s03-woam.html

2. Over 70% of the commodities sold in Wal-Mart come from China. If Wal-Mart were an individual economy, it would rank as China's 8th biggest trading partner.

www.chinadaily.com.cn/english/doc/2004-11/29/content_395728.htm

3. Every year, Wal-Mart mandates a 5% drop in its suppliers' prices for standardized products, forcing suppliers to outsource production to low-wage countries.

www.businessweek.com/maqazine/content/04_49/b3911401.htm

www.fastcompany.com/maqazine/77/walmart.html

4. More than half the country shops at Wal-Mart every week. Of every \$100 spent by US consumers in all types of shops, \$8 is spent at Wal-Mart. Wal-Mart makes a profit of \$20,000 a minute.

www.inequality.org/nwjan04.html

www.economist.com/printedition/displayStory.cfm?Story_ID=2593089

5. In Central America, millions of small, struggling farmers are being shut out of domestic markets which have been swallowed by big box stores in the last 10 years.

www.nytimes.com/2004/12/28/international/americas/28guatemala.html

Wal-Mart abuses workers, at home and abroad.

6. El Salvadoran women make 15 cents a pair for pants that sell for \$16.95 at Wal-Mart. Typical factory work days in China are 12 to 18 hours long at reported pay levels of 3 to 10 cents an hour.

www.now.org/issues/wfw/wm-facts.html#foot2

www.willthomas.net/Convergence/Weekly/China.htm

www.lizmichael.com/qinshi.htm

7. In the U.S., Wal-Mart and Target pay substantially lower wages and are less likely to give health benefits than their competitors.

www.ufcw.org

<http://laborcenter.berkeley.edu/lowwage/walmart.pdf>

www.startribune.com/stories/1557/5414931.html

8. More than 70% of Wal-Mart's U.S. workers are women, most of whom earn less than the federal poverty wage guidelines for a family of three.

www.afcio.org/corporateamerica/walmart/walmart_2.cfm

www.now.org/issues/wfw/wm-facts.html#foot2

9. Wal-Mart workers are forced to work off the clock, denied breaks, and made to work at a brutal pace through the deliberate under-staffing of stores.

www.thenation.com/docprint.mhtml?i=20050103&s=featherstone

10. Wal-Mart was caught using undocumented workers to clean its stores at below minimum wages and violating child labor laws.

www.cbsnews.com/stories/2005/03/18/national/main681593.shtml

www.fosters.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050305/NEWS0201/50305047

11. In Germany, Wal-Mart banned sexual relationships between co-workers, then required workers to inform on each other through an anonymous hotline.

www.ufcw.org/press_room/index.cfm?pressReleaseID=128

Wal-Mart is forcefully anti-union.

12. Wal-Mart illegally fires and intimidates workers exercising workplace rights and sends "strike teams" to stores that have voted to unionize.

www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/20050226/walmart_quebecruling_20050225/Canada?s_name=&no_ads=

13. Workers are routinely denied the right to have a co-worker witness an interview with a manager.

www.union-network.org/unisite/sectors/commerce

14. Wal-Mart refuses to bargain with unions. Rather than comply with Canadian law for reaching a contract with its workers, Wal-Mart is shutting its Jonquiere store at the loss of 200 jobs.

www.icftu.org/displaydocument.asp?Index=991219513&Language=EN

www.ufcw1518.com/index2.html?view.php?id=1042~mainFrame

15. Wal-Mart is front runner in the "race to the bottom". Southern California grocery chains cited "the labor policies of non-union superstore retailers" as a factor in their demanding wage and benefit cuts from UFCW grocery workers.

www.ufcw.org/issues_and_actions/walmart_workers_campaign_info/index.cfm

Wal-Mart destroys communities.

16. Wal-Mart engages in predatory pricing to drive off competition and gain a monopoly in local markets.

www.newrules.org/retail/news_archive.php?browseby=slug&slugid=28

www.house.gov/weiner/report37.htm

17. Wal-Mart is planning yet another store for a sacred Mexican site. It has already opened a store next to the pyramids at Teotihuacan outside Mexico City.

www.americas.org/item_18764

www.progressive.org/march05/teoti0305.html

18. Tax policy and economic development incentives, along with limited land use controls, favor the growth of Wal-Mart and other big box retailers at the expense of small, local community-based businesses.

www.clarku.edu/leir/christopherson.htm

19. Once Wal-Mart has captured a regional market or is made to start paying local taxes, it moves or consolidates stores, abandoning communities. 371 Wal-Mart stores stand empty.

www.alternet.org/stories/18926/

20. Wal-Mart stores produce sprawl and congestion. A typical Wal-Mart requires over 1,000 parking spaces and generates 10,000 car trips every day.

www.vermontwalmartwatch.org/impact/walmart_impact.html

21. Wal-Mart targets poor communities. The presence of a Wal-Mart store in a community leads to higher poverty rates.

www.thenation.com/doc.mhtml?i=20050103&c=1&s=featherstone

http://cecd.aers.psu.edu/policy_research.htm

Wal-Mart gets what it wants through manipulation, guile and dirty tactics.

22. Wal-Mart uses its market power to influence trade policy and transport industry regulation. For example, it wrote legislation to have truck drivers' maximum working day extended to 16 hours.

www.clarku.edu/leir/christopherson.htm

<http://money.canoe.ca/News/Other/2005/03/08/954368-ap.html>

23. Wal-Mart flouts community laws as it pleases. In Maryland, it plans to erect two stores side by side to get around size-cap limits.

http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/business/217730_bigbox28.html

24. Wal-Mart uses its money to smear its opposition in the media with charges of elitism and racism, while doling out money to churches and community groups for their loyalty.

www.blackcommentator.com/130/130_wal_mart.html

www.newrules.org/retail/news_slug.php?slugid=293

25. Wal-Mart is arguing that its constitutional rights are compromised by class action suits that deprive it of its "rights" to defend itself against each individual's claim.

www.businessweek.com/magazine/content/05_12/b3925088.htm

26. Without informing their customers, Wal-Mart has begun using radio frequency tagging to track purchases after they leave the store.

www.zmag.org/content/print_article.cfm?itemID=7034§ionID=13

27. Wal-Mart has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars in California alone to swing ballot measures. It spends \$2 million every day on PR.

www.sffaiith.com/ed/news/2005news/0501news.htm

www.nytimes.com/2005/06/01/movies/01walm.html?pagewanted=2&hpib

Wal-Mart's growth is subsidized by U.S. tax payers.

28. The cost of welfare benefits to Wal-Mart workers is an estimated \$3 billion a year – \$2000 a year per employee at the federal level and another \$1000 at the state and local levels. Wal-Mart is the #1 corporate beneficiary of state public health programs.

<http://edworkforce.house.gov/democrats/WALMARTREPORT.pdf>
www.aflcio.org/corporateamerica/walmart/walmart_1.cfm

29. Wal-Mart costs local economies jobs and wages. On average, 1.5 higher paying jobs are lost for every one created.

www.alternet.org/stories/18926/
www.aflcio.org/corporateamerica/walmart/upload/chicago_bigbox_ordinance.pdf
www.lawmall.com/rpa/rpashils.htm

30. Wal-Mart has received over \$1 billion in development subsidies. In Louisiana, HUD funds are being used to subsidize a Wal-Mart store.

www.goodjobsfirst.org/pdf/wmtstudy.pdf
www.smartgrowthla.org

31. Wal-Mart stores cost towns more in city services than smaller retailers which locate near existing core facilities. Big box sprawl also causes a rise in police costs.

www.newrules.org/retail/econimpact.html

People are fighting back.

32. At any time, Wal-Mart faces about 8,000 lawsuits, currently including 42 class-action suits.

www.economist.com/printedition/displayStory.cfm?Story_ID=2593089

33. Wal-Mart faces the largest sex-discrimination case in history. Charges include passing women over for promotions, paid women significantly less than their male co-workers, and creating a climate where sexual harassment is tolerated and protected.

www.thenation.com/doc.mhtml?i=20021216&s=featherstone

34. Over 220 proposed Wal-Mart stores have been successfully blocked.

www.alternet.org/stories/18926/

35. In Inglewood, Ca, more than 61 percent of the mostly African American and Latino voters rejected Wal-Mart's ballot measure that would have OK'ed Wal-Mart's Inglewood project and exempted it from local and state planning reviews.

www.aflcio.org/aboutaflcio/magazine/0604_walmart.cfm

36. There are between five and ten times as many Wal-Mart stores in Arkansas, Oklahoma, Mississippi and Missouri as there are in New Jersey, California and New York, states with strong trade unions.

www.economist.com/printedition/displayStory.cfm?Story_ID=2593089

37. Striking workers and their trade union UFCW were successful in defending employer-financed health insurance in Southern California when leading supermarket retailers tried to emulate Wal-Mart's social dumping approach.

www.ufcw.org/issues_and_actions/walmart_workers_campaign_info/index.cfm