LAST YEAR BUSINESS MADE A PROMISE.
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SMEs that export grow more than twice as fast as those that do not.

International SMEs are three times more likely to introduce products or services that are new to their sector.

SMEs with both importing and exporting activities report a 10% employment growth.
Trade is way too low and has been way too low for a long time... If there is no international trade, if there is no cross-border investment, if services, capital, people and goods do not cross borders, then it’s less activity for you, it’s less jobs in whichever country you are headquartered.”

CHRISTINE LAGARDE
Managing Director,
International Monetary Fund
Africa accounts for 16% of the world population but only 3.3% of global trade.
Open trade for environmental goods and services could be a positive push to rapidly transfer technology and services which many countries need if we want to reduce our environmental footprint.”

JEAN-LOUIS CHAUSSADE
CEO
Suez
In 2015, the value of world trade fell by 13% while G20 protectionist measures have increased by 40%.
Donald Trump threatens to pull US out of WTO

Donald Trump suggested on Sunday that the US could pull out of the World Trade Organisation and said the EU had been created largely to compete against the US in international trade.

In an interview with NBC, the Republican presidential candidate said the US might withdraw from the WTO if his plans to use tariffs to bring factories back from Mexico were challenged.

Hillary Clinton Opposes Trans-Pacific Partnership

Few countries have done as well out of international trade as Germany. Last week the Ifs Institute, an economics think-tank, said Germany’s current account surplus was set to hit an all-time high of $110 billion this year. A strong export industry and a currency weakened by the travails of its southern neighbours make Germany’s economic position hard to challenge. Yet on September 17th between 100,000 and 200,000 Germans will take to the streets in cities across the country to protest against the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), a free trade deal currently being negotiated between the European Union and America. They will also protest against CETA, a similar deal between the EU and Canada. In a poll conducted by the European Commission in May, 60% of Germans opposed TTIP compared to the EU average of 43%. Only the Austrians were less keen. Why is a nation of exporters so wary of liberalising trade?

One big factor is a growing resistance to change. Unlike their peers in other European countries, Germans consider their country to be in good economic shape. A big change to the status quo, such as a new trade agreement, strikes them as a threat to existing privileges rather than an opportunity to improve their lot. When asked about their reasons for opposing the TTIP, Germans overwhelmingly say that it will curtail consumer rights, compromise data and environmental protection and women’s labour protections. They fear that the creation of new extra-European arbitration courts to settle trade disputes may empower large global corporations at the expense of consumers and smaller firms. Many are suspicious of what they consider a secretive and illiberal style of regulation.

Not all these concerns can be ignored. Negotiators have already revised plans for trade arbitration to reassure critics. But most arguments have little basis in fact. Greater trade would improve choice and reduce prices for Germans. Harmonising standards would benefit small companies. And rather than make things worse for workers, the deal is likely to create more jobs. Yet politicians have been slow to make these points. At the same time, organised interest of trade deals such as TTIP, an anti-globalisation group,
NAFTA added around 17 million jobs to the US economy.

Every 22 new international packages shipped by UPS leads to 1 new international job.

In Chile, workers in the most open sectors earned on average 25% more in 2008.
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