

Why Not Shop at Wal-Mart?

Low Wages:

Wal-Mart's average full-time pay lands a four-person family in poverty.

- Center for Strategic Research, AFL-CIO;
Business Week, 10/6/03

No Wages:

Thousands of documented cases charge that Wal-Mart has forced hundreds of thousands of workers to work "off the clock."

- US Securities and Exchange Commission

Poor Benefits:

Because of long waiting periods for eligibility and high costs, less than 50 percent of Wal-Mart's workers are covered by the company's health plan. Wal-Mart deliberately works employees less than 32 hours a week so they won't be eligible for health coverage.

- 2004 Wal-Mart Associate Guide;
www.walmartfacts.com;
Open Enrollment News, 9/03

Taxpayer Burdens:

Wal-Mart's low wages and poor benefits force many workers to rely on public aid. Taxpayers spend about \$420,750 per year on public aid programs for each Wal-Mart store with 200 workers because Wal-Mart workers often can't afford health insurance or food for their children.

- University of California Berkeley Center for Labor Research and Education, 8/04

Discrimination:

Women at Wal-Mart earn an average of \$5,000 less a year than men for doing the same jobs. Some 1.6 million women are eligible to join a class-action lawsuit charging Wal-Mart with discrimination. Wal-Mart also has had to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars to workers across the company who were subject to race discrimination.

- University of California Berkeley Center for Labor Research and Education

Destroying US Jobs:

By squeezing them for impossibly low prices, Wal-Mart forces its suppliers to move operations and jobs to low-wage countries such as China. In 2004 alone, Wal-Mart purchased \$18 billion worth of Chinese goods.

- San Francisco Chronicle, 12/29/04;
The Washington Post, 2/13/04;
PBS "Frontline," "Is Wal-Mart Good for America?," 11/16/04;
China Business Weekly, 11/29/04

Union Busting:

Wal-Mart fights to keep wages and benefits low by battling workers' attempts to form unions. The company announced February 9 it is closing a Quebec store rather than negotiate with workers who formed a union there.

- www.washingtonpost.com, 4/14/05

Child Labor:

Wal-Mart recently agreed to pay \$135,540 to settle federal charges that it broke child labor laws by having teenage workers use hazardous equipment such as a chain saw, paper bailers and fork lifts.

- *The New York Times*, 2/12/05

Food Monopoly:

Wal-Mart and other mega-chains get 68 cents of every food dollar spent in the United States, with 30 cents going to marketing, transportation & packaging. Farmers get two cents of every food dollar. For every one Supercenter that will open, two supermarkets will close. Since 1992, the supermarket industry has experienced a net loss of 13,500 stores.

- Fickes, Michael. "Big Boxers have big expansion plans." *Retail Traffic*. 1/12/02

Environmental Criminal:

In October 2004, the United States sued Wal-Mart for violating the Clean Water Act in nine states, calling for penalties of over \$3 million and changes to Wal-Mart building codes.

- *US v. Wal-Mart Stores Inc.*, 2004 WL 2370700

Global Superpower:

Of the 100 most powerful economies in the world, Wal-Mart ranks #19

compiled using information from WalMartWatch.com and OrganicConsumers.org



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