

# The Great Recession and a Missing Generation of Exporters \*

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## Abstract

The Great Recession of 2007-2009 led to a large decline in new business formation and a “missing generation of firms” that contributed significantly to the slow recovery of the U.S. economy. Following similar logic, we hypothesize that the Great Recession also led to a “missing generation of exporters.” As such, we examine the effects of the Great Recession on U.S. exports with particular emphasis on U.S. firms’ decisions to enter markets abroad. A missing generation of exporters may pose risks not only to the recovery of U.S. exports, but also to aggregate employment and productivity growth.

**JEL:** F10, F40, E32, E44, J2

**Keywords:** entry, exit, business cycles, exports, firm dynamics, recession, financial crisis

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