

**They may “lower prices,”  
but what is the real cost?  
YOU foot the bill, so find out!**

**1. Wal-Mart’s prices aren’t lower.**

- For one month, a newspaper in Arkansas tested the prices of 6 Wal-Marts against other stores. Out of 19 household items, Wal-Mart was cheapest on only 2. The lowest total for all 19 items was \$12.91. The highest total for all items? Wal-Mart, at \$15.86.
- When Wal-Mart first enters a town, they intentionally undercut the prices of local retailers. Once the local main street has become a ghost town, Wal-Mart’s prices start to drift upward.

**2. Wal-Mart wastes American tax dollars.**

- One half of Wal-Mart's 720,000 U.S. employees qualify for federal assistance under the food stamp program.
- Only 40% of Wal-Mart workers can afford the healthcare plan that Wal-Mart offers. Unless the employee has a spouse with medical benefits, healthcare is usually paid for by the government.
- Wal-Mart has liability insurance, but there is no medical pay out. An injured person is forced to sue Wal-Mart to collect medical expenses, lost wages and legal expenses; Wal-Mart chooses to spend taxpayer dollars in court rather than pay the entire medical expenses of injured parties.

**3. Wal-Mart uses sweat-shop labor.**

- Wal-Mart buys enough of a product to become the major source of income for its suppliers, then forces the suppliers to lower their prices. The only way companies can reach these lower prices is to move manufacturing jobs out of the U.S. into foreign sweatshops. Levi, Heinz, and Vlasic have all faced this problem.
- Garments carrying a "Made in the USA" label generally indicate products made by American workers protected by U.S. labor laws, but some of Wal-Mart’s “American made” products are made in sweatshops in Saipan, a U.S. territory not subject to labor laws.

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- Workers in Honduras work 88-hour weeks in 14 hour shifts, making 43 cents an hour, which only meets 54% of the cost of survival. (Wal-Mart's annual sales are 98 times greater than the entire national budget of Honduras, yet Wal-Mart doesn't even pay any taxes there.)

#### **4. Wal-Mart discriminates.**

- The National Labor Relations Board has ruled that Wal-Mart has threatened and penalized employees attempting involvement in unions.
- Despite greater average seniority and higher average performance ratings than her male counterpart, the average woman's salary is proportionally lower as she moves up the ladder.
- The average time from date of hire until first promoted to Assistant Manager is 4.38 years for women, but only 2.86 years for men.
- On June 19, 2001, over 1 million current and former female Wal-Mart employees filed the largest class action lawsuit ever. They are suing Wal-Mart for sex discrimination, claiming that women are predominately assigned lowest paying positions and are systematically denied promotions.

#### **5. Wal-Mart hurts the local economy.**

- On average, communities lose one and a half full-time jobs for every part-time job at Wal-Mart.
- The median income of a Wal-Mart employee is about \$12,000 as opposed to the national median income of \$25-30,000
- Pre-existing malls located within ½ a mile of a new Super Center can experience vacancy rates of up to 30-40%.

**Keep Wal-Mart from turning America into a third world country! Boycott Wal-Mart's unethical treatment of your local community, your nation, and your globe.**

For more information, and sources, visit:

- <http://www.flagstaffactivist.org/campaigns/walmyths>
  - <http://www.mcspotlight.org/beyond/companies/antiwalmart.html>
  - <http://www.homestead.com/perc/files/companies/walmart.html>
  - [http://www.ufcw.org/issues\\_and\\_actions/walmart\\_workers\\_campaign\\_info/index.cfm](http://www.ufcw.org/issues_and_actions/walmart_workers_campaign_info/index.cfm)
  - <http://www.flagstaffactivist.org/campaigns/walfacts.html>
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