

# Community is Global



According to the [World Bank](#), the average country imported over 28% of all products in 2020. In the United States, imports were as low as 13.3% of total GDP. However, the percentage of U.S. GDP for international trade (including imports, exports, and capital goods) was 28% in 2018 (before the pandemic reduced it).

Does this mean the local community gets credit for 72% of local land value in the United States?

At national boundaries, the United States, which is reasonably self-sufficient, only gets credit for 72% of its land value. However, in 2021, Canada's economy was 61% trade-based. So, Canada only gets credit for 39% of its land value. Some countries, eliminating trade, would have no land value at all. To understand why this text equates production of goods with land value, see [Is Land Value a Fluid](#).

When people talk about returning land value to the community, they rarely mean the nation-state. Usually, they are referring to the county or even some smaller jurisdiction.

While county infrastructure and opportunities significantly influence relative location value, the economic community is non-local. Eliminate all goods produced outside of the county's boundary, and it is not likely that more than a few percent are produced locally.

It is far more problematic than that. What percentage of the goods produced locally were produced exclusively with locally produced machines and tools? What percentage solely had producers trained locally?

Consider eliminating the world outside the bounds of the local community. Markets for local products, materials for local products, goods for local consumers, and materials for local infrastructure will be eliminated. Should the world outside the bounds of a local community cease to exist, the location value of the community drops to near zero.

Even at the national boundary, if one eliminated all products, machines, tools, and knowledge produced outside of the nation, there would be only a primitive society within.

If we got rid of the world beyond the nation's boundaries, that nation would still be in the Stone Age. Trade between a few kingdoms existed in Medieval Europe, but [Marco Polo started the Renaissance](#) by opening trade routes to China.

Slowly, as more nations are brought into the community, it rises above its primitive state. With each added country, the advancement rate increases until an inflection point is reached, at which point it decreases. Still, even as the rate of progress slows as the final nations are brought into the community, it is still improving.

Location value at any given point reaches a maximum only when all community boundaries have been removed. The global community creates location value.