Letters

Nafta has had little impact on US jobs

From Mr Jonathan Huneke

Sir, While I have the utmost respect for Rick MacArthur, he is dead wrong on the jobs impact of Nafta (Letters, March 10). Numerous studies have pointed to Nafta’s minimal or even slightly positive impact on US employment. In 2004, the non-partisan Congressional Research Service weighed a number of competing analyses and concluded that “NAFTA had little or no impact on aggregate employment” and “did not cause the widening U.S. trade deficit with Mexico.”

Most of the jobs purportedly “lost” after Nafta would have been lost anyway, due in large part to technological change. The challenge before us now is, how do we prepare workers for the jobs of the 21st century? With the US reported to have gained some 1.2m export-supported jobs since 2009, it’s clear that freer trade can be part of a robust US jobs recovery.

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