Specialization in North America
Specialization helps North America and its neighbors produce more goods. Farmers in Costa Rica specialize in coffee because coffee beans grow well in that environment. If they tried to grow crops that do not grow well in that country, they will produce fewer crops.

Although wheat grows well in the Great Plains, there is a scarcity of wood there. If a region experiences a scarcity of a good, they often trade with other regions to get what they need. North Carolina produces a surplus of wood, so wood is sent from there to regions where it is scarce.

Technology and Interdependence
Nations and regions are often interdependent upon other nations or regions. The United States specializes in producing cars, computers, and other machinery that is sold in other countries, such as Mexico and Canada. In turn, the United States trades with Canada and Mexico to get oil.

Inventions, innovations, and technology increase interdependency. For instance, people now use the Internet to purchase goods from a website. The company they order from might be in a different city. The goods might be manufactured in another city. The packing and shipping might happen in yet another city. The Internet links the consumer to different places and builds interdependence between regions.

Effects of Interdependence
International interdependence created a global economy. Companies in the United States have offices in other countries. Boeing, for example, is a company based in the United States. Boeing manufactures passenger-jets in Washington state and in 13 other countries. Boeing buys wheels, doors, and engines from countries that specialize in making them.

The global economy sometimes hurts businesses. For example the United States imports many cloth goods from other countries where they are cheaper to make. However, some North Carolina textile factories have had to close.