



INTERNATIONAL
TRADE
ADMINISTRATION

Benefits from the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement

California

www.export.gov/fta/korea/state

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The U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement Provides Enhanced Market Access

The U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement (FTA) offers tremendous opportunities for U.S. exporters. Nearly 95 percent of U.S. exports of consumer and industrial products will enter Korea duty-free within three years of entry into force of the agreement, including computers and electronic products; auto parts; power generation equipment; chemicals; medical and scientific equipment; and certain wood products. Most remaining tariffs will be eliminated within 10 years. Almost two-thirds of U.S. agricultural exports will be immediately duty-free when the FTA is implemented (\$1.9 billion duty-free out of \$2.9 billion 2005-2007 average).

Recognizing that non-tariff barriers in Korea are often as much of an impediment to market access as tariffs, the FTA includes an extensive set of provisions that will eliminate such measures across sectors, including autos, high technology, pharmaceuticals and medical devices, financial services, and telecommunications. The agreement includes strong transparency provisions, including commitments to publish in advance proposed government regulations that affect trade and to allow a reasonable opportunity for interested parties to provide input. The agreement contains strong provisions on technical barriers to trade to enhance transparency of the regulatory process in Korea and ensure nondiscriminatory treatment for U.S. companies that test and certify products to Korean standards.

California Depends on World Markets

California's export shipments of merchandise in 2007 totaled \$134.2 billion, ranking California second only to Texas (\$168.2 billion) among the states in terms of total exports in 2007.

Exports Support Jobs for California Workers – Export-supported jobs linked to manufacturing account for an estimated 5.3 percent of California's total private-sector employment. Over one-fifth (21.9 percent) of all

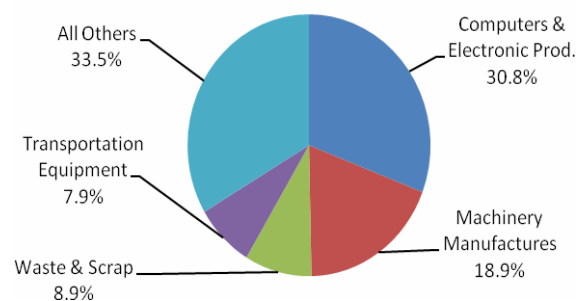
manufacturing workers in California depend on exports for their jobs. (2006 data are the latest available.)

Exports Sustain Thousands of California Businesses – A total of 52,428 companies exported goods from California locations in 2006. Of those, 50,029 (95 percent) were small and medium-sized enterprises with fewer than 500 employees.

California SMEs Will Benefit from U.S.-Korea FTA Provisions

Small and medium-sized firms generated more than two-fifths (44 percent) of California's total exports of merchandise in 2006. This was the sixth highest percentage among the states, and was well above the 29 percent export share for SMEs nationally. SMEs particularly benefit from the tariff-elimination provisions of free trade agreements and should benefit when the agreement enters into force. The transparency obligations, particularly those contained in the customs chapters, are also very important to SMEs, which may not have the resources to navigate customs and regulatory red tape.

California Exported \$7.4 Billion in Goods to Korea in 2007



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration.

The U.S.-Korea FTA Moves the Trade Relationship to Full Partnership

The U.S.-Korea FTA will level the playing field by rectifying the significant tariff imbalance that currently favors Korean exporters over U.S. exporters. Korea's current applied tariffs on industrial goods average 6.2 percent. The average applied U.S. tariff rate is only 2.8 percent - less than half of the Korean rate. Because of these higher tariffs, U.S. exporters do not have equivalent access to the Korean market. The U.S.-Korea FTA levels the playing field and enhances competition because it moves the U.S.-Korea commercial relationship to full partnership and reciprocal commitments.

The Korea FTA Opens New Markets for Key California Exports

Computers and Electronic Products- Computer and electronic products accounted for \$2.3 billion of the state's merchandise exports to Korea in 2007. The top U.S. exports in this sector included digital integrated circuitry, magnetic tape and navigational equipment. Korean tariffs range between zero and 13 percent. The U.S.-Korea FTA improves market access for computer and electronic products. With the immediate removal of many of these tariffs, U.S. exports will become much more competitive and affordable to Koreans.

Machinery Manufactures—California's exports of machinery will benefit from U.S.-Korea FTA tariff reductions. Machinery manufactures accounted for \$1.4 billion of the state's merchandise exports to Korea in 2007. Many machinery manufactures will receive duty-free treatment immediately upon entry into force of the agreement, including products such as refrigeration compressors, water filtering and purifying equipment. One hundred percent of agricultural and construction equipment, including bulldozers, mechanical shovels, boring and sinking machinery, and dumpers, will continue to receive duty-free treatment. The elimination of Korean tariffs on U.S. machinery manufactures will provide a competitive boost to U.S. exporters, who will no longer face tariffs as high as 8 percent.

Transportation Equipment- Transportation equipment accounted for \$585 million of the state's export sales to the Korean market in 2007. California's exporters of transportation equipment, including aircraft, fishing vessels, locomotives, and other transportation manufactures, will benefit from U.S.-Korea FTA tariff reductions. Duties on most transportation equipment products will be eliminated immediately, including duties on 87 percent of aircraft and related parts. Duties on a small group of products will be eliminated over three or ten years.

U.S.-Korea FTA Creates Opportunities for California's Agriculture

In 2006, California's agriculture exports to the world amounted to \$10.5 billion (latest data available). The U.S.-Korea FTA eliminates tariffs and other barriers on most agricultural products, increasing export opportunities for U.S. agricultural products like those produced in California such as dairy, beef, vegetables, fruits, and tree nuts. With immediate elimination of duties on more than 60 percent of current U.S. trade, the U.S.-Korea FTA gives U.S. exporters improved access to the Korean market for many of the products that have been highly protected. U.S. exporters shipped \$3.5 billion in farm products to Korea in 2007.

For more information on agricultural exports and the U.S.-Korea FTA, see the fact sheets posted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at:

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/itp/us-koreafta.asp>

Free Trade Works for California

In the first four years of the U.S.-Chile FTA (2004-2007), California's exports to Chile have grown 315 percent. Since the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) entered into force in 1994, California's combined exports to Canada and Mexico have increased 167 percent.

All state export data in this report are based on an unrevised Origin of Movement (OM) series. This series allocates exports to state based on transportation origin, i.e., the state from which goods began their journey to the port (or other point) of exit from the United States. The transportation origin of exports is not always the same as the location where the goods were produced. Thus conclusions about "export production" in a state should not be made solely on the basis of the OM state export figures.

Sources: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Origin of Movement Series; U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Prepared by the International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.