

# **Oregon: Exports, Jobs, and Foreign Investment**

## ***Exports Support Jobs for Oregon Workers***

Export-supported jobs linked to manufacturing account for an estimated 5.7 percent of Oregon's total private-sector employment. Nearly one-fifth (19.4 percent) of all manufacturing workers in Oregon depend on exports for their jobs (2003 data are the latest available.)

Note: Export-related employment data shown do not include manufacturing and non-manufacturing jobs involved in the export of non-manufactured goods, such as farm products, minerals, and services sold to foreign buyers. Indirect exports exclude imported items. The complete 2003 export-related employment series is available on our [Export Related Jobs](#) pages. Additional information on methodology used in the 2003 export-related employment series can be found in the U.S. Census Bureau's publication [Exports from Manufacturing Establishments: 2003](#).

Source: State Export-Related Employment Project, International Trade Administration and Bureau of the Census.

## ***Exports Sustain Thousands of Oregon Businesses***

A total of 4,047 companies exported goods from Oregon locations in 2005. Of those, 3,570 companies, or 88 percent, were small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), with fewer than 500 employees.

SMEs generated almost one-third (29 percent) of Oregon's total exports of merchandise in 2005.

Source: International Trade Administration and Bureau of the Census, Foreign Trade Division: Exporter Database.

## ***Foreign Investment Creates Jobs in Oregon***

In 2004, foreign-controlled companies employed 47,600 workers in Oregon. Major sources of Oregon's jobs in 2004 included Germany, the United Kingdom, Japan, Switzerland, France, and Sweden.

Over 22 percent, or 10,700 workers of these workers, were in the manufacturing sector in 2004. Foreign-controlled companies accounted for 5.3 percent of total manufacturing employment in Oregon in 2004.

Foreign investment in Oregon was responsible for 3.5 percent of the state's total private-industry employment in 2004.

Note: All figures exclude employment in banks affiliated with foreign companies.  
Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis.

### ***Oregon Depends on World Markets***

Oregon's export shipments of merchandise in 2006 totaled \$15.3 billion.

Oregon exported to 191 foreign destinations in 2006. The state's largest market that year was NAFTA member Canada, to which Oregon shipped goods worth \$2.7 billion (18 percent of the state's total 2006 exports). Canada was followed by China (\$1.4 billion), and South Korea (\$1.3 billion). Other top markets included Japan, Malaysia, the Phillipines, Mexico, Taiwan, Costa Rica, and Singapore. Canada is Oregon's biggest growth market, in dollar terms. Export shipments to Canada rose from \$1.4 billion in 2002 to \$2.7 billion in 2006, an increase of \$1.3 billion. During this period the state also posted large increases in the value of exports to China (up \$709 million), Malaysia (up \$636 million), Mexico (up \$526 million), and Costa Rica (up \$459 million).

Of Oregon's 30 top markets, exports to South Africa grew the fastest from 2002 to 2006, increasing 417 percent, from \$21 million to \$111 million. Oregon also more than tripled its exports to Costa Rica (up 367 percent), Egypt (up 314 percent), and India (up 249 percent).

Oregon's leading manufactured export category is computer and electronic products, which alone accounted for \$6.5 billion, or 43 percent, of Oregon's total export shipments in 2006. Other top manufactured export sectors that year were transportation equipment (\$1.9 billion), machinery manufactures (\$1.6 billion), and chemical manufactures (\$497 million).

In dollar terms, Oregon's leading manufactured export growth category is computers and electronic products. Export shipments of these products during the 2002-2006 period grew \$1.9 billion, going from \$4.7 billion to \$6.5 billion. Other manufactured export categories that registered large dollar growth over this time span were transportation equipment (up \$918 million), machinery manufactures (up \$626 million), primary metal manufactures (up \$324 million), and paper products (up \$152 million).

In percentage terms, Oregon's fastest-growing manufactured export category is primary metal manufactures, which grew 189 percent, from \$171 million in 2002 to \$495 million in 2006. Other fast-growing manufactured exports during this period were miscellaneous manufactures (up 123 percent), transportation equipment (up 95 percent), and petroleum and coal products (up 94 percent).

Source: Origin of Movement State Export Series, Bureau of the Census, Foreign Trade Division. Caution: The Origin of Movement series allocates exports to states 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. Consequently, conclusions about "export production" in a state should not be made solely on the basis of the Origin of Movement state export figures.