



Hawaii: Exports, Jobs, and Foreign Investment September 2012

Exports Support Jobs for Hawaii's Workers

Export-supported jobs linked to manufacturing account for an estimated 1. percent of Hawaii's total private-sector employment. Nearly one-tenth (6. percent) of all manufacturing workers in Hawaii depend on exports for their jobs (2009 data latest available).

Exports Sustain Thousands of Hawaii Businesses

A total of 678 companies exported from Hawaii locations in 2009. Of those, 601 (89 percent) were small and medium-sized enterprises with fewer than 500 employees.

Small and medium-sized firms generated over one-third (37 percent) of Hawaii's total exports of merchandise in 2009.

Foreign Investment Creates Jobs in Hawaii

In 2009, foreign-controlled companies employed 26,400 Hawaii workers. Major sources of foreign investment in Hawaii in 2009 included Japan, France, the United Kingdom, and Switzerland.

Foreign investment in Hawaii was responsible for 5.5 percent of the state's total private-industry employment in 2009.

Hawaii Depends on World Markets

Hawaii's export shipments of merchandise in 2011 totaled \$909 million.

The state's largest market was Singapore. Hawaii posted merchandise exports of \$136 million to Singapore in 2011, 15. percent of the state's total merchandise exports. Singapore was followed by Australia (\$125 million), Canada (\$123 million), China (\$100 million), and Korea (\$95.5 million).

The state's largest merchandise export category is transportation equipment, which accounted for \$425 million of Hawaii's total merchandise exports in 2011. Other top merchandise exports are waste and scrap (\$129 million), petroleum and coal products (\$78.8 million), computers and electronic products (\$67 million), and food products (\$35.9 million).

Hawaii's Metropolitan Exports

In 2011, the following metropolitan areas in Hawaii recorded merchandise exports: Honolulu (\$375 million), which represented 83.1 percent of Hawaii's total merchandise exports.