



Washington: Exports, Jobs, and Foreign Investment

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Exports Support Jobs for Washington's Workers

Export-supported jobs linked to manufacturing account for an estimated 8.6 percent of Washington's total private-sector employment. Two-fifths (40.2 percent) of all manufacturing workers in Washington depend on exports for their jobs (2009 data latest available).

Exports Sustain Thousands of Washington Businesses

A total of 7,963 companies exported from Washington locations in 2009. Of those, 7,193 (90 percent) were small and medium-sized enterprises with fewer than 500 employees.

Small and medium-sized firms generated nearly one-quarter (23 percent) of Washington's total exports of merchandise in 2009.

Foreign Investment Creates Jobs in Washington

In 2009, foreign-controlled companies employed 93,200 Washington workers. Major sources of foreign investment in Washington in 2009 included Germany, Canada, the United Kingdom, and Japan.

Foreign investment in Washington was responsible for 4.0 percent of the state's total private-industry employment in 2009.

Washington Depends on World Markets

Washington's export shipments of merchandise in 2011 totaled \$64.6 billion.

The state's largest market was China. Washington posted merchandise exports of \$11.2 billion to China in 2011, 17.3 percent of the state's total merchandise exports. China was followed by Canada (\$8.4 billion), Japan (\$6.5 billion), Korea (\$3.3 billion), and United Arab Emirates (\$2.8 billion).

The state's largest merchandise export category is transportation equipment, which accounted for \$28.1 billion of Washington's total merchandise exports in 2011. Other top merchandise exports are agricultural products (\$11.4 billion), computers and electronic products (\$3.7 billion), petroleum and coal products (\$3.6 billion), and food products (\$2.9 billion).

Washington's Metropolitan Exports

In 2011, the following metropolitan areas in Washington recorded merchandise exports: Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue (\$41.1 billion), Bellingham (\$1.5 billion), Mount Vernon-Anacortes (\$1.5 billion), Longview (\$1.3 billion), Yakima (\$1.1 billion), Kennewick-Pasco-Richland (\$1.0 billion), Spokane (\$761 million), Olympia (\$440 million), Wenatchee-East Wenatchee (\$422 million), and Bremerton-Silverdale (\$65.9 million). Portland-Vancouver-Beaverton (including some parts of Oregon) exported \$20.9 billion, while Lewiston (including some parts of Idaho) exported \$74.1 million.

Prepared by the Office of Trade and Industry Information, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce. For more resources please see www.trade.gov/mas/ian.

Sources include resources from the U.S. Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration, Bureau of the Census, and Bureau of Economic Analysis. For detailed information on each section, please see our footnotes.