



West Virginia: Exports, Jobs, and Foreign Investment

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Exports Support Jobs for West Virginia's Workers

Export-supported jobs linked to manufacturing account for an estimated 3.1 percent of West Virginia's total private-sector employment. Over one-sixth (18.1 percent) of all manufacturing workers in West Virginia depend on exports for their jobs (2009 data latest available).

Exports Sustain Thousands of West Virginia Businesses

A total of 741 companies exported from West Virginia locations in 2009. Of those, 576 (78 percent) were small and medium-sized enterprises with fewer than 500 employees.

Small and medium-sized firms generated over one-quarter (27 percent) of West Virginia's total exports of merchandise in 2009.

Foreign Investment Creates Jobs in West Virginia

In 2009, foreign-controlled companies employed 22,700 West Virginia workers. Major sources of foreign investment in West Virginia in 2009 included the United Kingdom, France, Japan, and Germany.

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

West Virginia Depends on World Markets

West Virginia's export shipments of merchandise in 2011 totaled \$9 billion.

The state's largest market was Canada. West Virginia posted merchandise exports of \$1.5 billion to Canada in 2011, 17. percent of the state's total merchandise exports. Canada was followed by Brazil (\$695 million), Netherlands (\$689 million), India (\$644 million), and Italy (\$614 million).

The state's largest merchandise export category is minerals and ores, which accounted for \$5.3 billion of West Virginia's total merchandise exports in 2011. Other top merchandise exports are chemicals (\$1.6 billion), transportation equipment (\$977 million), primary metal manufactures (\$210 million), and nonmetal mineral products (\$152 million).

West Virginia's Metropolitan Exports

In 2011, the following metropolitan areas in West Virginia recorded merchandise exports: Charleston (\$2.0 billion), and Morgantown (\$58.7 million). Washington-Arlington-Alexandria (including some parts of the District of Columbia, Virginia, and Maryland) exported \$10.2 billion, while Parkersburg-Marietta-Vienna (including some parts of Ohio) exported \$1.0 billion, Huntington-Ashland (including some parts of Kentucky and Ohio) exported \$443 million, Hagerstown-Martinsburg (including some parts of Maryland) exported \$333 million, Winchester (including some parts of Virginia) exported \$297 million, Wheeling (including some parts of Ohio) exported \$177 million, Steubenville-Weirton (including some parts of Ohio) exported \$163 million, and Cumberland (including some parts of Maryland) exported \$39.8 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.