



Benefits from the U.S.-Korea Trade Agreement

Rhode Island

June 2011

The U.S.-Korea Trade Agreement (KORUS) Will Help Grow the U.S. Economy & Support U.S. Jobs

The impact of the eliminations of tariffs and related barriers is estimated to increase U.S. GDP by nearly \$12 billion and U.S. goods exports by nearly \$11 billion annually. Adding to this would be new exports of U.S. services, where U.S. firms exported \$12.6 billion to Korea in 2009. Together, these export opportunities support the President's National Export Initiative goal of doubling exports by 2015.

KORUS is Essential to Ensuring U.S. Competitiveness in Korea and Throughout Asia

Ten years ago, the United States was the top exporter to Korea providing one-fifth of all Korean imports; now we are in third place with less than 10% market share.

- U.S. exporters to Korea currently pay an average 6.2 percent tariff, or nearly \$1.3 billion a year, to Korea through tariffs on industrial goods.
- Korean exporters to the United States currently face an average 2.8 percent tariff.
- On the first day of the European Union (EU) – Korea FTA, 85% of Korean tariffs on EU products will go to zero.
- Chinese products in Korea benefit from lower transportation and labor costs.

Implementing KORUS can help U.S. businesses and their workers stem this downward slide by making U.S. products more competitive in the Korean market.

- Tariff elimination for over 95 percent of U.S. exports of consumer and industrial products within five years.
- Tariff elimination for nearly two-thirds of U.S. agricultural exports immediately on entry into force.
- Significant new market access for U.S. service suppliers.
- Extensive elimination of non-tariff barriers, including in the autos sector.
- Tariff eliminations and strong transparency obligations will facilitate SME exports.

Rhode Island Depends on World Markets

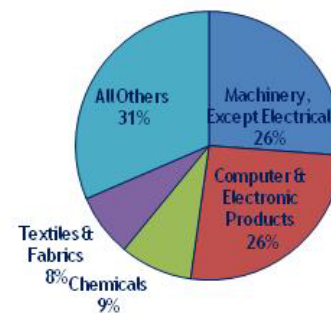
Rhode Island's shipments of merchandise in 2010 totaled \$1.9 billion.

- A total of 1,468 companies exported goods from Rhode Island locations in 2008.
- 1,306 of Rhode Island exporting firms were small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), with fewer than 500 employees.
- SMEs generated over half (50.7 percent) of Rhode Island's total exports of merchandise in 2008.

Trade Works for Rhode Island

Recently implemented trade agreements have benefited Rhode Island. For example, since the U.S.-Chile trade agreement entry into force in 2004, Rhode Island's exports to Chile have grown by 197 percent. Since the U.S.-Australia trade agreement entry into force in 2005, Rhode Island's exports to Australia have grown by 65 percent. KORUS can similarly benefit Rhode Island.

Rhode Island Exported an Average of \$12 Million in Goods to Korea from 2008-2010



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

KORUS Opens New Markets for Key Rhode Island Exports

Machinery Manufactures – Rhode Island’s exports of machinery will benefit from KORUS tariff reductions. Machinery manufactures accounted for a yearly average of \$3.3 million of Rhode Island’s merchandise exports to Korea in 2008-2010. Many machinery manufactures will receive duty-free treatment immediately upon entry into force of the agreement, including products such as refrigeration compressors, valves, renewable energy equipment, air pollution control equipment (pumps), water filtering and purifying equipment, and piston engines and engine parts. One hundred percent of agricultural and construction equipment, including tractors, lawn mowers, straw balers, conveyors, loaders, bulldozers, mechanical shovels, boring and sinking machinery, derricks, 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 13 percent.

Computers and Electronics Products – Computers and electronics products accounted for an annual average of \$3.3 million of Rhode Island’s merchandise exports to Korea in 2008-2010. Top U.S. exports in this sector included digital integrated circuitry, semiconductors, semiconductor manufacturing equipment, telecommunications equipment, radio and television parts, static converters, and magnetic tape. Korean tariffs range between zero and 13 percent. KORUS improves market access for computers and electronics products. With the immediate removal of many of these tariffs, U.S. exports will become much more competitive and affordable to Koreans.

Chemicals Manufactures – Chemicals manufactures accounted for an average of \$1.1 million per year of Rhode Island’s merchandise exports to Korea in 2008-2010. U.S. exporters of chemicals and related products, including pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, fertilizers, inorganic chemicals, organic chemicals, plastics, and agro-chemicals, will benefit from KORUS tariff reductions. Fifty percent of U.S. chemicals exports by value will receive duty-free treatment immediately upon entry into force of the agreement, with the remaining tariffs phased out within 10 years. Tariffs on high-trade U.S. products such as silicon and certain plastics articles will be eliminated immediately upon implementation of the Agreement. Current Korean chemicals tariffs average 6 percent and can be as high as 50 percent.

KORUS Creates Opportunities for Rhode Island’s Agriculture

Agricultural exports from Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island, estimated at \$768 million in 2009, supported roughly over 6,100 jobs, on and off the farm. These export sales make an important contribution to the New England farm economy, which had total cash receipts of \$2.4 billion in 2009. KORUS eliminates tariffs and other barriers on most agricultural products, increasing export opportunities for U.S. agricultural products like those produced in Rhode Island such as dairy, beef, and fruits. With immediate elimination of duties on nearly two-thirds of U.S. agricultural exports to Korea, KORUS gives U.S. exporters improved access to the Korean market for many of the products that have been highly protected.

For more information on agricultural exports and KORUS, see the fact sheets posted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at: <http://www.fas.usda.gov/itp/us-koreata.asp>

All state export data in this report are based on the 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: Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce, Origin of Movement Series; U.S. Department of Agriculture.

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