



Louisiana: Exports, Jobs, and Foreign Investment

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Exports Support Jobs for Louisiana's Workers

Export-supported jobs linked to manufacturing account for an estimated 6.9 percent of Louisiana's total private-sector employment. One-fifth (19.9 percent) of all manufacturing workers in Louisiana depend on exports for their jobs (2009 data latest available).

Exports Sustain Thousands of Louisiana Businesses

A total of 2,737 companies exported from Louisiana locations in 2010. Of those, 2,370 (87 percent) were small and medium-sized enterprises with fewer than 500 employees.

Small and medium-sized firms generated two-fifths (40 percent) of Louisiana's total exports of merchandise in 2010.

Foreign Investment Creates Jobs in Louisiana

In 2010, foreign-controlled companies employed 51,700 Louisiana workers. Major sources of foreign investment in Louisiana in 2010 included United Kingdom, France, Netherlands, and Canada.

Foreign investment in Louisiana was responsible for 3.3 percent of the state's total private-industry employment in 2010.

Louisiana Depends on World Markets

Louisiana's export shipments of merchandise in 2012 totaled \$63.2 billion.

The state's largest market was China. Louisiana posted merchandise exports of \$9.3 billion to China in 2012, 14.8 percent of the state's total merchandise exports. China was followed by Mexico (\$6.5 billion), Japan (\$3.8 billion), Netherlands (\$3.6 billion), and Canada (\$2.7 billion).

The state's largest merchandise export category is Petroleum & Coal Products, which accounted for \$23.4 billion of Louisiana's total merchandise exports in 2012. Other top merchandise exports are Agricultural Products (\$19.5 billion), Chemicals (\$8.3 billion), Food & Kindred Products (\$5.1 billion), and Machinery, Except Electrical (\$1.8 billion).

Louisiana's Metropolitan Exports

In 2011, the following metropolitan areas in Louisiana recorded merchandise exports: New Orleans-Metairie-Kenner (\$20.3 billion), Baton Rouge (\$4.9 billion), Lake Charles (\$4.2 billion), Lafayette (\$656 million), Shreveport-Bossier City (\$366 million), Houma-Bayou Cane-Thibodaux (\$338 million), Monroe (\$141 million), Alexandria (\$83.2 million)