



Benefits from the U.S.-Korea Trade Agreement

Maine

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.

Maine Depends on World Markets

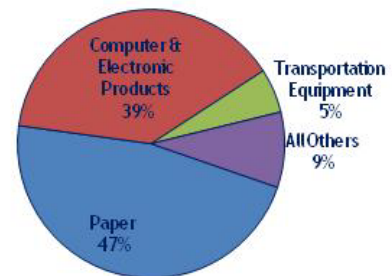
Maine's shipments of merchandise in 2010 totaled \$3.2 billion.

- A total of 1,426 companies exported goods from Maine locations in 2008.
- 1,231 of Maine exporting firms were small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), with fewer than 500 employees.
- SMEs generated nearly two-fifths (38.8 percent) of Maine's total exports of merchandise in 2008.

Trade Works for Maine

Recently implemented trade agreements have benefited Maine. For example, since the U.S.-Australia trade agreement entry into force in 2005, Maine's exports to Australia have grown by 87 percent. KORUS can similarly benefit Maine.

Maine Exported an Average of \$96 Million in Goods to Korea from 2008-2010



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

For more detail on how KORUS will benefit additional business and agricultural sectors in Maine, see the Department of Commerce fact sheets at: <http://www.trade.gov/fta/korea> and the Department of Agriculture fact sheets at: <http://www.fas.usda.gov/itp/us-koreata.asp>

KORUS Opens New Markets for Key Maine Exports

Paper Products – Maine’s exports of paper products to Korea averaged \$45 million per year from 2008 to 2010. U.S. paper and paper products producers will benefit from the immediate elimination of Korean tariffs on 100 percent of U.S. paper products. Korean tariffs in this sector currently average 0.2 percent. The top U.S. exports to Korea in this sector included printed books and brochures, chemical wood pulp, uncoated liner in rolls or sheets, paper, and newspapers.

Computers and Electronics Products – Computers and electronics products accounted for \$37 million per year of the state’s merchandise exports to Korea between 2008 and 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.

Transportation Equipment – Transportation equipment is an important Maine export. In 2008-2010, Maine exported \$5 million in transportation equipment to Korea on average. U.S. exporters of transportation equipment, including autos, auto parts, aircraft, fishing vessels, locomotives, and other transportation manufactures, will benefit from KORUS tariff reductions. Duties on most transportation equipment products will be eliminated immediately, including duties on nearly 68 percent of automotive exports, over 92 percent of aircraft and related parts, and over 99 percent of shipping and other transportation equipment. Duties on the remaining transportation equipment products will be eliminated over three or five years.

KORUS Creates Opportunities for Maine’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. The KORUS eliminates tariffs and other barriers on most agricultural products, increasing export opportunities for a range of New England’s agricultural products, including dairy, beef, fruits, and vegetables. 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.