



Arkansas: Exports, Jobs, and Foreign Investment February 2013

Exports Support Jobs for Arkansas's Workers

Export-supported jobs linked to manufacturing account for an estimated 5.3 percent of Arkansas's total private-sector employment. One-seventh (14.2 percent) of all manufacturing workers in Arkansas depend on exports for their jobs (2009 data latest available).

Exports Sustain Thousands of Arkansas Businesses

A total of 1,627 companies exported from Arkansas locations in 2010. Of those, 1,275 (78 percent) were small and medium-sized enterprises with fewer than 500 employees.

Small and medium-sized firms generated nearly one-quarter (24 percent) of Arkansas's total exports of merchandise in 2010.

Foreign Investment Creates Jobs in Arkansas

In 2010, foreign-controlled companies employed 34,800 Arkansas workers. Major sources of foreign investment in Arkansas in 2010 included France, Japan, United Kingdom, and Switzerland.

Foreign investment in Arkansas was responsible for 3.6 percent of the state's total private-industry employment in 2010.

Arkansas Depends on World Markets

Arkansas's export shipments of merchandise in 2012 totaled \$7.6 billion.

The state's largest market was Canada. Arkansas posted merchandise exports of \$1.7 billion to Canada in 2012, 21.7 percent of the state's total merchandise exports. Canada was followed by Mexico (\$845 million), China (\$720 million), France (\$365 million), and Brazil (\$360 million).

The state's largest merchandise export category is Transportation Equipment, which accounted for \$2.1 billion of Arkansas's total merchandise exports in 2012. Other top merchandise exports are Chemicals (\$925 million), Food & Kindred Products (\$768 million), Machinery, Except Electrical (\$712 million), and Primary Metal Manufactures (\$569 million).

Arkansas's Metropolitan Exports

In 2011, the following metropolitan areas in Arkansas recorded merchandise exports: Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway (\$892 million), Pine Bluff (\$218 million), Jonesboro (\$111 million), Hot Springs (\$81 million), Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers (\$568 million, portions of this MSA are shared with one or more other states), Fort Smith (\$428 million, portions of this MSA are shared with one or more other states)