



Illinois: Exports, Jobs, and Foreign Investment

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Exports Support Jobs for Illinois's Workers

Export-supported jobs linked to manufacturing account for an estimated 5.8 percent of Illinois's total private-sector employment. Nearly one-quarter (23.8 percent) of all manufacturing workers in Illinois depend on exports for their jobs (2009 data latest available).

Exports Sustain Thousands of Illinois Businesses

A total of 16,653 companies exported from Illinois locations in 2010. Of those, 15,045 (90 percent) were small and medium-sized enterprises with fewer than 500 employees.

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

Foreign Investment Creates Jobs in Illinois

In 2010, foreign-controlled companies employed 245,900 Illinois workers. Major sources of foreign investment in Illinois in 2010 included United Kingdom, Japan, Germany, and France.

Foreign investment in Illinois was responsible for 5.1 percent of the state's total private-industry employment in 2010.

Illinois Depends on World Markets

Illinois's export shipments of merchandise in 2012 totaled \$68.0 billion.

The state's largest market was Canada. Illinois posted merchandise exports of \$19.2 billion to Canada in 2012, 28.3 percent of the state's total merchandise exports. Canada was followed by Mexico (\$6.4 billion), Australia (\$5.4 billion), China (\$4.1 billion), and Germany (\$2.7 billion).

The state's largest merchandise export category is Machinery, Except Electrical, which accounted for \$20.1 billion of Illinois's total merchandise exports in 2012. Other top merchandise exports are Chemicals (\$7.9 billion), Transportation Equipment (\$7.4 billion), Computer & Electronic Products (\$6.3 billion), and Electrical Equipment, Appliances & Components (\$3.3 billion).

Illinois's Metropolitan Exports

In 2011, the following metropolitan areas in Illinois recorded merchandise exports: Peoria (\$15.2 billion), Decatur (\$9.3 billion), Rockford (\$1.6 billion), Champaign-Urbana (\$1 billion), Kankakee-Bradley (\$601 million), Danville (\$257 million), Bloomington-Normal (\$177 million), Springfield (\$158 million), Chicago-Joliet-Naperville (\$39.5 billion, portions of this MSA are shared with one or more other states)