



South Dakota: Exports, Jobs, and Foreign Investment February 2013

Exports Support Jobs for South Dakota's Workers

Export-supported jobs linked to manufacturing account for an estimated 2.8 percent of South Dakota's total private-sector employment. Over one-seventh (14.5 percent) of all manufacturing workers in South Dakota depend on exports for their jobs (2009 data latest available).

Exports Sustain Thousands of South Dakota Businesses

A total of 671 companies exported from South Dakota locations in 2010. Of those, 559 (83 percent) were small and medium-sized enterprises with fewer than 500 employees.

Small and medium-sized firms generated over one-sixth (18 percent) of South Dakota's total exports of merchandise in 2010.

Foreign Investment Creates Jobs in South Dakota

In 2010, foreign-controlled companies employed 7,200 South Dakota workers. Major sources of foreign investment in South Dakota in 2010 included Canada, United Kingdom, France, and Switzerland.

Foreign investment in South Dakota was responsible for 2.2 percent of the state's total private-industry employment in 2010.

South Dakota Depends on World Markets

South Dakota's export shipments of merchandise in 2012 totaled \$1.6 billion.

The state's largest market was Canada. South Dakota posted merchandise exports of \$693 million to Canada in 2012, 44.7 percent of the state's total merchandise exports. Canada was followed by Mexico (\$345 million), China (\$78 million), Japan (\$55 million), and Belgium (\$44 million).

The state's largest merchandise export category is Food & Kindred Products, which accounted for \$515 million of South Dakota's total merchandise exports in 2012. Other top merchandise exports are Machinery, Except Electrical (\$293 million), Transportation Equipment (\$153 million), Beverages & Tobacco Products (\$135 million), and Computer & Electronic Products (\$122 million).

South Dakota's Metropolitan Exports

In 2011, the following metropolitan areas in South Dakota recorded merchandise exports: Sioux Falls (\$458 million), Rapid City (\$20.8 million)