



Iowa: Exports, Jobs, and Foreign Investment February 2013

Exports Support Jobs for Iowa's Workers

Export-supported jobs linked to manufacturing account for an estimated 7.1 percent of Iowa's total private-sector employment. Over one-fifth (21.2 percent) of all manufacturing workers in Iowa depend on exports for their jobs (2009 data latest available).

Exports Sustain Thousands of Iowa Businesses

A total of 2,596 companies exported from Iowa locations in 2010. Of those, 2,174 (84 percent) were small and medium-sized enterprises with fewer than 500 employees.

Small and medium-sized firms generated over one-quarter (29 percent) of Iowa's total exports of merchandise in 2010.

Foreign Investment Creates Jobs in Iowa

In 2010, foreign-controlled companies employed 43,900 Iowa workers. Major sources of foreign investment in Iowa in 2010 included United Kingdom, Netherlands, Japan, and Germany.

Foreign investment in Iowa was responsible for 3.5 percent of the state's total private-industry employment in 2010.

Iowa Depends on World Markets

Iowa's export shipments of merchandise in 2012 totaled \$14.6 billion.

The state's largest market was Canada. Iowa posted merchandise exports of \$4.3 billion to Canada in 2012, 29.7 percent of the state's total merchandise exports. Canada was followed by Mexico (\$2.5 billion), Japan (\$892 million), China (\$752 million), and Germany (\$658 million).

The state's largest merchandise export category is Machinery, Except Electrical, which accounted for \$4.5 billion of Iowa's total merchandise exports in 2012. Other top merchandise exports are Food & Kindred Products (\$3.1 billion), Agricultural Products (\$1.5 billion), Chemicals (\$1.2 billion), and Transportation Equipment (\$943 million).

Iowa's Metropolitan Exports

In 2011, the following metropolitan areas in Iowa recorded merchandise exports: Des Moines-West Des Moines (\$970 million), Cedar Rapids (\$881 million), Iowa City (\$317 million), Ames (\$256 million), Waterloo-Cedar Falls (\$220 million), Dubuque (\$150 million), Davenport-Moline-Rock Island (\$6.7 billion, portions of this MSA are shared with one or more other states), Sioux City (\$2.6 billion, portions of this MSA are shared with one or more other states)