



Kentucky: Exports, Jobs, and Foreign Investment

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Exports Support Jobs for Kentucky's Workers

Export-supported jobs linked to manufacturing account for an estimated 6.2 percent of Kentucky's total private-sector employment. Over one-fifth (22.1 percent) of all manufacturing workers in Kentucky depend on exports for their jobs (2009 data latest available).

Exports Sustain Thousands of Kentucky Businesses

A total of 3,237 companies exported from Kentucky locations in 2010. Of those, 2,596 (80 percent) were small and medium-sized enterprises with fewer than 500 employees.

Small and medium-sized firms generated nearly one-fifth (19 percent) of Kentucky's total exports of merchandise in 2010.

Foreign Investment Creates Jobs in Kentucky

In 2010, foreign-controlled companies employed 89,500 Kentucky workers. Major sources of foreign investment in Kentucky in 2010 included Japan, Germany, United Kingdom, and Canada.

Foreign investment in Kentucky was responsible for 6.1 percent of the state's total private-industry employment in 2010.

Kentucky Depends on World Markets

Kentucky's export shipments of merchandise in 2012 totaled \$22.1 billion.

The state's largest market was Canada. Kentucky posted merchandise exports of \$7.3 billion to Canada in 2012, 33.1 percent of the state's total merchandise exports. Canada was followed by Mexico (\$1.7 billion), United Kingdom (\$1.5 billion), Japan (\$1.3 billion), and Brazil (\$1.1 billion).

The state's largest merchandise export category is Transportation Equipment, which accounted for \$8.3 billion of Kentucky's total merchandise exports in 2012. Other top merchandise exports are Chemicals (\$4.2 billion), Machinery, Except Electrical (\$1.9 billion), Computer & Electronic Products (\$1.7 billion), and Electrical Equipment, Appliances & Components (\$753 million).

Kentucky's Metropolitan Exports

In 2011, the following metropolitan areas in Kentucky recorded merchandise exports: Lexington-Fayette (\$2.2 billion), Bowling Green (\$341 million), Elizabethtown (\$198 million), Owensboro (\$115 million), Louisville/Jefferson County (\$6.8 billion, portions of this MSA are shared with one or more other states)