



North Dakota: Exports, Jobs, and Foreign Investment

February 2013

Exports Support Jobs for North Dakota's Workers

Export-supported jobs linked to manufacturing account for an estimated 3. percent of North Dakota's total private-sector employment. over one-seventh (14.5 percent) of all manufacturing workers in North Dakota depend on exports for their jobs (2009 data latest available).

Exports Sustain Thousands of North Dakota Businesses

A total of 885 companies exported from North Dakota locations in 2010. Of those, 763 (86 percent) were small and medium-sized enterprises with fewer than 500 employees.

Small and medium-sized firms generated over one-third (36 percent) of North Dakota's total exports of merchandise in 2010.

Foreign Investment Creates Jobs in North Dakota

In 2010, foreign-controlled companies employed 11,600 North Dakota workers. Major sources of foreign investment in North Dakota in 2010 included Canada, Netherlands, France, and United Kingdom.

Foreign investment in North Dakota was responsible for 3.8 percent of the state's total private-industry employment in 2010.

North Dakota Depends on World Markets

North Dakota's export shipments of merchandise in 2012 totaled \$4.3 billion.

The state's largest market was Canada. North Dakota posted merchandise exports of \$3.1 billion to Canada in 2012, 71.4 percent of the state's total merchandise exports. Canada was followed by Mexico (\$282 million), Australia (\$124 million), Belgium (\$77 million), and Russia (\$55 million).

The state's largest merchandise export category is Oil & Gas, which accounted for \$1.2 billion of North Dakota's total merchandise exports in 2012. Other top merchandise exports are Machinery, Except Electrical (\$1.2 billion), Agricultural Products (\$504 million), Food & Kindred Products (\$358 million), and Chemicals (\$334 million).

North Dakota's Metropolitan Exports

In 2011, the following metropolitan areas in North Dakota recorded merchandise exports: Bismarck (\$64 million), Fargo (\$731 million, portions of this MSA are shared with one or more other states), Grand Forks (\$176 million, portions of this MSA are shared with one or more other states)