



West Virginia: Exports, Jobs, and Foreign Investment

February 2013

Exports Support Jobs for West Virginia's Workers

Export-supported jobs linked to manufacturing account for an estimated 3.1 percent of West Virginia's total private-sector employment. Over one-sixth (18.1 percent) of all manufacturing workers in West Virginia depend on exports for their jobs (2009 data latest available).

Exports Sustain Thousands of West Virginia Businesses

A total of 779 companies exported from West Virginia locations in 2010. Of those, 596 (77 percent) were small and medium-sized enterprises with fewer than 500 employees.

Small and medium-sized firms generated nearly one-third (30 percent) of West Virginia's total exports of merchandise in 2010.

Foreign Investment Creates Jobs in West Virginia

In 2010, foreign-controlled companies employed 24,800 West Virginia workers. Major sources of foreign investment in West Virginia in 2010 included United Kingdom, Canada, Japan, and Germany.

Foreign investment in West Virginia was responsible for 4.4 percent of the state's total private-industry employment in 2010.

West Virginia Depends on World Markets

West Virginia's export shipments of merchandise in 2012 totaled \$11.4 billion.

The state's largest market was Canada. West Virginia posted merchandise exports of \$1.8 billion to Canada in 2012, 15.7 percent of the state's total merchandise exports. Canada was followed by China (\$951 million), Netherlands (\$931 million), Japan (\$759 million), and India (\$735 million).

The state's largest merchandise export category is Minerals & Ores, which accounted for \$7.5 billion of West Virginia's total merchandise exports in 2012. Other top merchandise exports are Chemicals (\$1.5 billion), Transportation Equipment (\$1.2 billion), Primary Metal Manufactures (\$209 million), and Miscellaneous Manufactured Commodities (\$170 million).

West Virginia's Metropolitan Exports

In 2011, the following metropolitan areas in West Virginia recorded merchandise exports: Charleston (\$2 billion), Morgantown (\$58.7 million), Parkersburg-Marietta-Vienna (\$1 billion, portions of this MSA are shared with one or more other states), Huntington-Ashland (\$443 million, portions of this MSA are shared with one or more other states), Wheeling (\$177 million, portions of this MSA are shared with one or more other states)