



## Arkansas: Exports, Jobs, and Foreign Investment

### September 2012

#### Exports Support Jobs for Arkansas's Workers

Export-supported jobs linked to manufacturing account for an estimated 5.3 percent of Arkansas's total private-sector employment. One-seventh (14.2 percent) of all manufacturing workers in Arkansas depend on exports for their jobs (2009 data latest available).

#### Exports Sustain Thousands of Arkansas Businesses

A total of 1,472 companies exported from Arkansas locations in 2009. Of those, 1,164 (79 percent) were small and medium-sized enterprises with fewer than 500 employees.

Small and medium-sized firms generated over one-seventh (15 percent) of Arkansas's total exports of merchandise in 2009.

#### Foreign Investment Creates Jobs in Arkansas

In 2009, foreign-controlled companies employed 33,500 Arkansas workers. Major sources of foreign investment in Arkansas in 2009 included France, the United Kingdom, Japan, and Switzerland.

Foreign investment in Arkansas was responsible for 3.5 percent of the state's total private-industry employment in 2009.

#### Arkansas Depends on World Markets

Arkansas's export shipments of merchandise in 2011 totaled \$5.6 billion.

The state's largest market was Canada. Arkansas posted merchandise exports of \$1.3 billion to Canada in 2011, 24.2 percent of the state's total merchandise exports. Canada was followed by Mexico (\$680 million), China (\$413 million), Japan (\$214 million), and Korea (\$195 million).

The state's largest merchandise export category is food products, which accounted for \$829 million of Arkansas's total merchandise exports in 2011. Other top merchandise exports are transportation equipment (\$770 million), chemicals (\$740 million), machinery (\$602 million), and agricultural products (\$506 million).

#### Arkansas's Metropolitan Exports

In 2011, the following metropolitan areas in Arkansas recorded merchandise exports: Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway (\$892 million), Pine Bluff (\$218 million), Jonesboro (\$111 million), and Hot Springs (\$81 million). Memphis (which includes some counties of Tennessee and Mississippi) exported \$12.0 billion, while Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers (which includes some counties from Missouri) exported \$568 million, and Fort Smith (which includes some counties from Oklahoma) exported \$428 million.

Prepared by the Office of Trade and Industry Information, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce. For more resources please see [www.trade.gov/mas/ian](http://www.trade.gov/mas/ian).

Sources include resources from the U.S. Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration, Bureau of the Census, and Bureau of Economic Analysis. For detailed information on each section, please see our footnotes.