



Georgia: Exports, Jobs, and Foreign Investment September 2012

Exports Support Jobs for Georgia's Workers

Export-supported jobs linked to manufacturing account for an estimated 4.7 percent of Georgia's total private-sector employment. Nearly one-fifth (18.8 percent) of all manufacturing workers in Georgia depend on exports for their jobs (2009 data latest available).

Exports Sustain Thousands of Georgia Businesses

A total of 9,516 companies exported from Georgia locations in 2009. Of those, 8,365 (88 percent) were small and medium-sized enterprises with fewer than 500 employees.

Small and medium-sized firms generated one-third (33 percent) of Georgia's total exports of merchandise in 2009.

Foreign Investment Creates Jobs in Georgia

In 2009, foreign-controlled companies employed 170,600 Georgia workers. Major sources of foreign investment in Georgia in 2009 included Japan, the United Kingdom, Germany, and France.

Foreign investment in Georgia was responsible for 5.3 percent of the state's total private-industry employment in 2009.

Georgia Depends on World Markets

Georgia's export shipments of merchandise in 2011 totaled \$34.7 billion.

The state's largest market was Canada. Georgia posted merchandise exports of \$6.3 billion to Canada in 2011, 18.1 percent of the state's total merchandise exports. Canada was followed by China (\$3.2 billion), Mexico (\$2 billion), Singapore (\$1.5 billion), and Japan (\$1.2 billion).

The state's largest merchandise export category is transportation equipment, which accounted for \$8.5 billion of Georgia's total merchandise exports in 2011. Other top merchandise exports are machinery (\$4.5 billion), chemicals (\$3.7 billion), paper products (\$3.4 billion), and computers and electronic products (\$2.2 billion).

Georgia's Metropolitan Exports

In 2011, the following major metropolitan areas in Georgia recorded merchandise exports: Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta (\$17.2 billion), Savannah (\$4.1 billion), Gainesville (\$783 million), Brunswick (\$699 million), Dalton (\$506 million), and Hinesville-Fort Stewart (\$407 million). Three major metropolitan area exporters in Georgia included some counties from neighboring states. Chattanooga (including some parts of Tennessee) exported \$1.6 billion, while Augusta-Richmond County (including some parts of South Carolina) exported \$1.4 billion, and Columbus (including some parts of Alabama) exported \$358 million in 2011.