



Idaho: Exports, Jobs, and Foreign Investment

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Exports Support Jobs for Idaho's Workers

Export-supported jobs linked to manufacturing account for an estimated 3.9 percent of Idaho's total private-sector employment. Nearly one-sixth (16.1 percent) of all manufacturing workers in Idaho depend on exports for their jobs (2009 data latest available).

Exports Sustain Thousands of Idaho Businesses

A total of 1,114 companies exported from Idaho locations in 2009. Of those, 984 (88 percent) were small and medium-sized enterprises with fewer than 500 employees.

Small and medium-sized firms generated over one-fifth (22 percent) of Idaho's total exports of merchandise in 2009.

Foreign Investment Creates Jobs in Idaho

In 2009, foreign-controlled companies employed 14,400 Idaho workers. Major sources of foreign investment in Idaho in 2009 included France, the United Kingdom, Canada, and Switzerland.

Foreign investment in Idaho was responsible for 2.9 percent of the state's total private-industry employment in 2009.

Idaho Depends on World Markets

Idaho's export shipments of merchandise in 2011 totaled \$5.9 billion.

The state's largest market was Canada. Idaho posted merchandise exports of \$1.6 billion to Canada in 2011, 27.9 percent of the state's total merchandise exports. Canada was followed by Taiwan (\$761 million), Singapore (\$610 million), Korea (\$532 million), and China (\$398 million).

The state's largest merchandise export category is computers and electronic products, which accounted for \$2.9 billion of Idaho's total merchandise exports in 2011. Other top merchandise exports are food products (\$564 million), primary metal manufactures (\$482 million), chemicals (\$391 million), and agricultural products (\$252 million).

Idaho's Metropolitan Exports

In 2011, the following metropolitan areas in Idaho recorded merchandise exports: Boise City-Nampa (\$4.1 billion), Coeur d'Alene (\$563 million), Idaho Falls (\$228 million), Pocatello (\$167 million), and Lewiston (including some counties in Washington) exported \$74.1 million.