



Kentucky: Exports, Jobs, and Foreign Investment

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Exports Support Jobs for Kentucky's Workers

Export-supported jobs linked to manufacturing account for an estimated 6.2 percent of Kentucky's total private-sector employment. Over one-fifth (22.1 percent) of all manufacturing workers in Kentucky depend on exports for their jobs (2009 data latest available).

Exports Sustain Thousands of Kentucky Businesses

A total of 3,064 companies exported from Kentucky locations in 2009. Of those, 2,437 (80 percent) were small and medium-sized enterprises with fewer than 500 employees.

Small and medium-sized firms generated nearly one-fifth (19 percent) of Kentucky's total exports of merchandise in 2009.

Foreign Investment Creates Jobs in Kentucky

In 2009, foreign-controlled companies employed 87,000 Kentucky workers. Major sources of foreign investment in Kentucky in 2009 included Japan, Germany, the United Kingdom, and Switzerland.

Foreign investment in Kentucky was responsible for 5.9 percent of the state's total private-industry employment in 2009.

Kentucky Depends on World Markets

Kentucky's export shipments of merchandise in 2011 totaled \$20.1 billion.

The state's largest market was Canada. Kentucky posted merchandise exports of \$6.5 billion to Canada in 2011, 32.1 percent of the state's total merchandise exports. Canada was followed by United Kingdom (\$1.5 billion), Mexico (\$1.5 billion), Japan (\$1.1 billion), and Brazil (\$997 billion).

The state's largest merchandise export category is transportation equipment, which accounted for \$7 billion of Kentucky's total merchandise exports in 2011. Other top merchandise exports are chemicals (\$3.9 billion), machinery (\$1.9 billion), computers and electronic products (\$1.5 billion), and primary metal manufactures (\$761 million).

Kentucky's Metropolitan Exports

In 2011, the following metropolitan areas in Kentucky recorded merchandise exports: Lexington-Fayette (\$2.2 billion), Bowling Green (\$341 million), Elizabethtown (\$198 million), and Owensboro (\$115 million). Cincinnati-Middletown (including some parts of Ohio and Indiana) exported \$18.7 billion, while Louisville/Jefferson County (including some parts of Indiana) exported \$6.8 billion, Huntington-Ashland (including some parts of West Virginia and Ohio) exported \$443 million, and Clarksville (including some parts of Tennessee) exported \$329 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.

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.