



North Carolina: Exports, Jobs, and Foreign Investment

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Exports Support Jobs for North Carolina's Workers

Export-supported jobs linked to manufacturing account for an estimated 4.7 percent of North Carolina's total private-sector employment. Over one-sixth (17.7 percent) of all manufacturing workers in North Carolina depend on exports for their jobs (2009 data latest available).

Exports Sustain Thousands of North Carolina Businesses

A total of 8,055 companies exported from North Carolina locations in 2009. Of those, 7,067 (88 percent) were small and medium-sized enterprises with fewer than 500 employees.

Small and medium-sized firms generated over one-fifth (21 percent) of North Carolina's total exports of merchandise in 2009.

Foreign Investment Creates Jobs in North Carolina

In 2009, foreign-controlled companies employed 188,500 North Carolina workers. Major sources of foreign investment in North Carolina in 2009 included Germany, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, and Japan.

Foreign investment in North Carolina was responsible for 5.8 percent of the state's total private-industry employment in 2009.

North Carolina Depends on World Markets

North Carolina's export shipments of merchandise in 2011 totaled \$27 billion.

The state's largest market was Canada. North Carolina posted merchandise exports of \$6.3 billion to Canada in 2011, 23.4 percent of the state's total merchandise exports. Canada was followed by China (\$2.6 billion), Mexico (\$2 billion), Japan (\$1.6 billion), and Germany (\$1.1 billion).

The state's largest merchandise export category is chemicals, which accounted for \$4.8 billion of North Carolina's total merchandise exports in 2011. Other top merchandise exports are machinery (\$3.9 billion), transportation equipment (\$2.6 billion), computers and electronic products (\$2.4 billion), and textiles (\$2 billion).

North Carolina's Metropolitan Exports

In 2011, the following metropolitan areas in North Carolina recorded merchandise exports: Greensboro-High Point (\$4.1 billion), Durham-Chapel Hill (\$2.6 billion), Raleigh-Cary (\$2.3 billion), Hickory-Lenoir-Morganton (\$1.7 billion), Winston-Salem (\$1.3 billion), Rocky Mount (\$1.2 billion), Asheville (\$1.0 billion), Wilmington (\$952 million), Greenville (\$666 million), Fayetteville (\$308 million), Burlington (\$235 million), and Goldsboro (\$122 million). Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill (including some parts of South Carolina) exported \$6.3 billion, while Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News (including some parts of Virginia) exported \$2.6 billion.

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.