



South Dakota: Exports, Jobs, and Foreign Investment

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Exports Support Jobs for South Dakota's Workers

Export-supported jobs linked to manufacturing account for an estimated 2.8 percent of South Dakota's total private-sector employment. Over one-seventh (14.5 percent) of all manufacturing workers in South Dakota depend on exports for their jobs (2009 data latest available).

Exports Sustain Thousands of South Dakota Businesses

A total of 594 companies exported from South Dakota locations in 2009. Of those, 483 (81 percent) were small and medium-sized enterprises with fewer than 500 employees.

Small and medium-sized firms generated one-fifth (20 percent) of South Dakota's total exports of merchandise in 2009.

Foreign Investment Creates Jobs in South Dakota

In 2009, foreign-controlled companies employed 7,400 South Dakota workers. Major sources of foreign investment in South Dakota in 2009 included Canada, the United Kingdom, France, and Japan.

Foreign investment in South Dakota was responsible for 2.2 percent of the state's total private-industry employment in 2009.

South Dakota Depends on World Markets

South Dakota's export shipments of merchandise in 2011 totaled \$1.5 billion.

The state's largest market was Canada. South Dakota posted merchandise exports of \$517 million to Canada in 2011, 35.5 percent of the state's total merchandise exports. Canada was followed by Mexico (\$395 million), China (\$70.2 million), Japan (\$54.8 million), and Germany (\$42.6 million).

The state's largest merchandise export category is food products, which accounted for \$505 million of South Dakota's total merchandise exports in 2011. Other top merchandise exports are machinery (\$264 million), beverages and tobacco (\$172 million), transportation equipment (\$116 million), and computers and electronic products (\$112 million).

South Dakota's Metropolitan Exports

In 2011, the following metropolitan areas in South Dakota recorded merchandise exports: Sioux Falls (\$458 million), and Rapid City (\$20.8 million). Sioux City (including some parts of Iowa and Nebraska) exported \$2.6 billion.