



Virginia: Exports, Jobs, and Foreign Investment

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Exports Support Jobs for Virginia's Workers

Export-supported jobs linked to manufacturing account for an estimated 3. percent of Virginia's total private-sector employment. Over one-sixth (17.4 percent) of all manufacturing workers in Virginia depend on exports for their jobs (2009 data latest available).

Exports Sustain Thousands of Virginia Businesses

A total of 5,177 companies exported from Virginia locations in 2009. Of those, 4,414 (85 percent) were small and medium-sized enterprises with fewer than 500 employees.

Small and medium-sized firms generated nearly one-third (32 percent) of Virginia's total exports of merchandise in 2009.

Foreign Investment Creates Jobs in Virginia

In 2009, foreign-controlled companies employed 151,400 Virginia workers. Major sources of foreign investment in Virginia in 2009 included the United Kingdom, Japan, Germany, and France.

Foreign investment in Virginia was responsible for 5.1 percent of the state's total private-industry employment in 2009.

Virginia Depends on World Markets

Virginia's export shipments of merchandise in 2011 totaled \$18.1 billion.

The state's largest market was Canada. Virginia posted merchandise exports of \$2.9 billion to Canada in 2011, 16.1 percent of the state's total merchandise exports. Canada was followed by China (\$1.8 billion), United Kingdom (\$1.1 billion), Mexico (\$901 million), and Germany (\$868 million).

The state's largest merchandise export category is chemicals, which accounted for \$3 billion of Virginia's total merchandise exports in 2011. Other top merchandise exports are computers and electronic products (\$2.2 billion), transportation equipment (\$2 billion), machinery (\$1.7 billion), and minerals and ores (\$1.3 billion).

Virginia's Metropolitan Exports

In 2011, the following metropolitan areas in Virginia recorded merchandise exports: Richmond (\$5.1 billion), Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford (\$994 million), Roanoke (\$660 million), Lynchburg (\$424 million), Danville (\$313 million), Charlottesville (\$249 million), and Harrisonburg (\$122 million). Washington-Arlington-Alexandria (including parts of the District of Columbia, Maryland, and West Virginia) exported \$10.2 billion, while Kingsport-Bristol-Bristol (including some parts of Tennessee) exported \$3.3 billion, Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News (including some parts of North Carolina) exported \$2.6 billion, and Winchester (including some parts of West Virginia) exported \$297 million.