



California: Exports, Jobs, and Foreign Investment March 2012

Exports Support Jobs for California's Workers

Export-supported jobs linked to manufacturing account for an estimated 5.1 percent of California's total private-sector employment. Over one-fifth (22.4 percent) of all manufacturing workers in California depend on exports for their jobs (2009 data latest available).

Exports Sustain Thousands of California Businesses

A total of 57,915 companies exported from California locations in 2009. Of those, 55,530 (96 percent) were small and medium-sized enterprises with fewer than 500 employees.

Small and medium-sized firms generated over two-fifths (46 percent) of California's total exports of merchandise in 2009.

Foreign Investment Creates Jobs in California

In 2009, foreign-controlled companies employed 561,000 California workers. Major sources of foreign investment in California in 2009 included Japan, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, and France.

Foreign investment in California was responsible for 4.6 percent of the state's total private-industry employment in 2009.

California Depends on World Markets

California's export shipments of merchandise in 2011 totaled \$159.4 billion.

The state's largest market was Mexico. California posted merchandise exports of \$26.0 billion to Mexico in 2011, 16 percent of the state's total merchandise exports. Mexico was followed by Canada (\$17.2 billion), China (\$14.2 billion), Japan (\$13.1 billion), and Korea (\$8.4 billion).

The state's largest merchandise export category is computers and electronic products, which accounted for \$46.1 billion of California's total merchandise exports in 2011. Other top merchandise exports are transportation equipment (\$15.0 billion), machinery (\$14.8 billion), miscellaneous manufactured products (\$13.1 billion), and chemicals (\$12.5 billion).

California's Metropolitan Exports

In 2010, the following metropolitan areas in California recorded merchandise exports: Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana (\$62.2 billion), San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara (\$26.3 billion), San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont (\$21.4 billion), San Diego-Carlsbad-San Marcos (\$16.5 billion), Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario (\$6.2 billion), Sacramento--Arden-Arcade--Roseville (\$4.1 billion), Oxnard-Thousand Oaks-Ventura (\$2.6 billion), El Centro (\$2.5 billion), Bakersfield (\$2.1 billion), and Fresno (\$2.0 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.