



Alaska: Exports, Jobs, and Foreign Investment

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Exports Support Jobs for Alaska's Workers

Export-supported jobs linked to manufacturing account for an estimated 1.6 percent of Alaska's total private-sector employment. Nearly one-tenth (7.3 percent) of all manufacturing workers in Alaska depend on exports for their jobs (2009 data latest available).

Exports Sustain Thousands of Alaska Businesses

A total of 299 companies exported from Alaska locations in 2009. Of those, 225 (75 percent) were small and medium-sized enterprises with fewer than 500 employees.

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

Foreign Investment Creates Jobs in Alaska

In 2009, foreign-controlled companies employed 12,800 Alaska workers. Major sources of foreign investment in Alaska in 2009 included the United Kingdom, Japan, Canada, and France.

Foreign investment in Alaska was responsible for 5.3 percent of the state's total private-industry employment in 2009.

Alaska Depends on World Markets

Alaska's export shipments of merchandise in 2011 totaled \$5.2 billion.

The state's largest market was China. Alaska posted merchandise exports of \$1.4 billion to China in 2011, 27.5 percent of the state's total merchandise exports. China was followed by Japan (\$1.1 billion), Korea (\$644 million), Canada (\$584 million), and Germany (\$261 million).

The state's largest merchandise export category is fish products, which accounted for \$2.5 billion of Alaska's total merchandise exports in 2011. Other top merchandise exports are minerals and ores (\$1.8 billion), oil and gas (\$277 million), primary metal manufactures (\$268 million), and forestry products (\$118 million).

Alaska's Metropolitan Exports

The metropolitan areas of Anchorage and Fairbanks were likely major metropolitan exporters for Alaska in 2011; however an export value total is not available due to federal disclosure regulations.