



Illinois: Exports, Jobs, and Foreign Investment

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Exports Support Jobs for Illinois's Workers

Export-supported jobs linked to manufacturing account for an estimated 5.8 percent of Illinois's total private-sector employment. Nearly one-quarter (23.8 percent) of all manufacturing workers in Illinois depend on exports for their jobs (2009 data latest available).

Exports Sustain Thousands of Illinois Businesses

A total of 15,884 companies exported from Illinois locations in 2009. Of those, 14,239 (90 percent) were small and medium-sized enterprises with fewer than 500 employees.

Small and medium-sized firms generated over one-fifth (22 percent) of Illinois's total exports of merchandise in 2009.

Foreign Investment Creates Jobs in Illinois

In 2009, foreign-controlled companies employed 250,800 Illinois workers. Major sources of foreign investment in Illinois in 2009 included the United Kingdom, Japan, Germany, and France.

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

Illinois Depends on World Markets

Illinois's export shipments of merchandise in 2011 totaled \$64.6 billion.

The state's largest market was Canada. Illinois posted merchandise exports of \$19.2 billion to Canada in 2011, 29.7 percent of the state's total merchandise exports. Canada was followed by Mexico (\$5.7 billion), China (\$3.9 billion), Australia (\$3.7 billion), and Brazil (\$2.6 billion).

The state's largest merchandise export category is machinery, which accounted for \$17.8 billion of Illinois's total merchandise exports in 2011. Other top merchandise exports are chemicals (\$8.5 billion), transportation equipment (\$6.7 billion), computers and electronic products (\$6.1 billion), and electrical equipment (\$3.1 billion).

Illinois's Metropolitan Exports

In 2011, the following metropolitan areas in Illinois recorded merchandise exports: Peoria (\$15.2 billion), Decatur (\$9.3 billion), Rockford (\$1.6 billion), Champaign-Urbana (\$1.0 billion), Kankakee-Bradley (\$601 million), Danville (\$257 million), Bloomington-Normal (\$177 million), and Springfield (\$158 million). Chicago-Joliet-Naperville (including some parts of Indiana and Wisconsin) exported \$39.5 billion, while St. Louis (including some parts of Missouri) exported \$12.3 billion, and Davenport-Moline-Rock Island (including some parts of Iowa) exported \$6.7 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.