



Tennessee: Exports, Jobs, and Foreign Investment

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Exports Support Jobs for Tennessee's Workers

Export-supported jobs linked to manufacturing account for an estimated 5.2 percent of Tennessee's total private-sector employment. One-fifth (19.6 percent) of all manufacturing workers in Tennessee depend on exports for their jobs (2009 data latest available).

Exports Sustain Thousands of Tennessee Businesses

A total of 4,743 companies exported from Tennessee locations in 2009. Of those, 3,906 (82 percent) were small and medium-sized enterprises with fewer than 500 employees.

Small and medium-sized firms generated nearly one-sixth (16 percent) of Tennessee's total exports of merchandise in 2009.

Foreign Investment Creates Jobs in Tennessee

In 2009, foreign-controlled companies employed 116,300 Tennessee workers. Major sources of foreign investment in Tennessee in 2009 included Japan, the United Kingdom, Germany, and France.

Foreign investment in Tennessee was responsible for 5.2 percent of the state's total private-industry employment in 2009.

Tennessee Depends on World Markets

Tennessee's export shipments of merchandise in 2011 totaled \$30 billion.

The state's largest market was Canada. Tennessee posted merchandise exports of \$8.3 billion to Canada in 2011, 27.7 percent of the state's total merchandise exports. Canada was followed by Mexico (\$3.8 billion), China (\$2 billion), Japan (\$1.6 billion), and Belgium (\$1.1 billion).

The state's largest merchandise export category is transportation equipment, which accounted for \$5.4 billion of Tennessee's total merchandise exports in 2011. Other top merchandise exports are chemicals (\$4.6 billion), computers and electronic products (\$4.3 billion), miscellaneous manufactured products (\$3.6 billion), and machinery (\$2.9 billion).

Tennessee's Metropolitan Exports

In 2011, the following metropolitan areas in Tennessee recorded merchandise exports: Nashville-Davidson--Murfreesboro--Franklin (\$5.9 billion), Knoxville (\$2.6 billion), Morristown (\$353 million), Jackson (\$348 million), Cleveland (\$207 million), and Johnson City (\$130 million). Memphis (including some parts of Mississippi and Arkansas) exported \$12.0 billion, while Kingsport-Bristol-Bristol (including some parts of Virginia) exported \$3.3 billion, Chattanooga (including some parts of Georgia) exported \$1.6 billion, and Clarksville (including some parts of Kentucky) exported \$329 million.

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.