

Nebraska: Exports, Jobs, and Foreign Investment

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Exports Support Jobs for Nebraska's Workers

Export-supported jobs linked to manufacturing accounted for an estimated 30,700 jobs in Nebraska in 2009. Those jobs represented 3.8 percent of the state's private sector employment, which ranked 31st among the 50 states.

Exports Sustain More Than a Thousand Nebraska Businesses

A total of 1,214 companies exported goods from Nebraska locations in 2007. Of those, 971, or 80 percent, were small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), with fewer than 500 employees.

SMEs generated 26 percent of Nebraska's total exports of merchandise in 2007.

Foreign Investment Creates Jobs in Nebraska

In 2007, foreign-controlled companies employed 23,700 workers in Nebraska. Major sources of Nebraska's foreign investment in 2007 were Japan, France, Canada, the United Kingdom, and Switzerland.

Nearly one-half (48 percent) of these jobs, or 11,300 workers, were in the manufacturing sector in 2007.

Foreign-controlled companies accounted for 11 percent of total manufacturing employment in Nebraska in 2007.

Foreign investment in Nebraska was responsible for 2.9 percent of the state's total private-industry employment in 2007.

Nebraska Depends on World Markets

Nebraska's export shipments of merchandise in 2009 totaled \$4.9 billion, up \$1.9 billion (62 percent) since 2005. That was the fifth largest percentage change among the 50 states over that time period.

The state's largest market in 2009 was Canada, which received goods exports of \$1.4 billion (29 percent of Nebraska's total exports that year). Canada was followed by Mexico (\$1.1 billion), Japan (\$416 million), China (\$209 million), and Australia (\$195 million).

Nebraska's leading manufactured export category is processed foods, which alone accounted for \$1.5 billion, or 31 percent of Nebraska's total export shipments in 2009. Other top manufactured exports that year included machinery manufactures (\$876 million), chemical manufactures (\$417 million), and transportation equipment (\$332 million).

Nebraska's Metropolitan Exports

In 2008, the metropolitan area of Lincoln exported \$733 million in merchandise, 15 percent of Nebraska's total merchandise exports. Two other major metropolitan areas include some counties in Nebraska. Omaha-Council Bluffs (including some counties in Iowa) exported \$2.3 billion, while Sioux City (including some counties in Iowa and South Dakota) exported \$1.2 billion in merchandise in 2008.

Footnotes

Exports Support Jobs

Note: Export-related employment data shown do not include manufacturing and non-manufacturing jobs involved in the export of non-manufactured goods, such as farm products, minerals, and services sold to foreign buyers. Indirect exports exclude imported items. The complete 2008 export-related employment series is available on our [Export Related Jobs](#) pages. Additional information on methodology used in the export-related employment series can be found in the U.S. Census Bureau's publication [Exports from Manufacturing Establishments: 2008](#).

Source: State Export-Related Employment Project, International Trade Administration and Bureau of the Census.