



Idaho: Expanding Exports and Creating Jobs through Trade Agreements

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Exports Support Jobs for American Workers

Total exports from Idaho helped contribute to the record-setting value of U.S. goods and services exports in 2012, which reached \$2.2 trillion. Nationally, jobs supported by exports reached nearly 10 million in 2012, up 1.3 million since 2009. In 2011, over one-sixth (18.0 percent) of all manufacturing workers in Idaho depended on exports for their jobs.

Exports Sustain Thousands of Idaho Businesses

A total of 1,818 companies exported from Idaho locations in 2011. Of those, 1,525 (83.9 percent) were small and medium-sized enterprises with fewer than 500 employees.

Small and medium-sized firms generated over one-quarter (27.5 percent) of Idaho's total exports of merchandise in 2011.

Foreign Investment Creates Jobs in Idaho

In 2011, foreign-controlled companies employed 13,400 Idaho workers. Major sources of foreign investment in Idaho in 2011 included France, the United Kingdom, Canada, and Germany.

Foreign investment in Idaho was responsible for 2.7 percent of the state's total private-industry employment in 2011.

Idaho Depends on World Markets

Idaho's export shipments of merchandise in 2012 totaled \$6.1 billion.

The state's largest market was Canada. Idaho posted merchandise exports of \$1.3 billion to Canada in 2012, representing 21.8 percent of the state's total merchandise exports. Canada was followed by Singapore (\$963 million), Taiwan (\$755 million), Korea (\$572 million), and China (\$468 million).

The state's largest merchandise export category is Computer & Electronic Products, which accounted for \$2.9 billion of Idaho's total merchandise exports in 2012. Other top merchandise exports are Transportation Equipment (\$672 million), Food & Kindred Products (\$637 million), Primary Metal Manufactures (\$415 million), and Chemicals (\$337 million).

Idaho's Metropolitan Exports

In 2012, the following metropolitan areas in Idaho recorded merchandise exports: Boise City-Nampa (\$4.1 billion), Coeur d'Alene (\$527 million), Idaho Falls (\$281 million), Pocatello (\$151 million) and Lewiston (\$88 million, portions of this MSA are shared with one or more other states).

Free Trade Agreements

The United States currently has free trade agreements in force with 20 countries, which account for \$3.3 billion (54 percent) of Idaho's exports. During the past 10 years, exports from Idaho to these markets grew by 344 percent, with NAFTA, Singapore, Korea, Australia, and Peru showing the largest dollar growth during this period.