



North Carolina: Exports, Jobs, and Foreign Investment

April 2013

North Carolina Employment Snapshot

In 2012, there were 3.3 million private industry employees in North Carolina. Of these, 440 thousand (or 13.4 percent) were in the manufacturing sector.

Exports Sustain Thousands of North Carolina Businesses

A total of 10,802 companies exported from North Carolina locations in 2011. Of those, 9,486 (87.8 percent) were small and medium-sized enterprises with fewer than 500 employees.

Small and medium-sized firms generated one-quarter (24.6 percent) of North Carolina's total exports of merchandise in 2011.

Foreign Investment Creates Jobs in North Carolina

In 2010, foreign-controlled companies employed 188,200 North Carolina workers. Major sources of foreign investment in North Carolina in 2010 included Germany, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, and Japan.

Foreign investment in North Carolina was responsible for 5.8 percent of the state's total private-industry employment in 2010.

North Carolina Depends on World Markets

North Carolina's export shipments of merchandise in 2012 totaled \$28.7 billion.

The state's largest market was Canada. North Carolina posted merchandise exports of \$7.0 billion to Canada in 2012, 24.2 percent of the state's total merchandise exports. Canada was followed by China (\$2.5 billion), Mexico (\$2.3 billion), Japan (\$1.7 billion), and Germany (\$1.0 billion).

The state's largest merchandise export category is Chemicals, which accounted for \$5.3 billion of North Carolina's total merchandise exports in 2012. Other top merchandise exports are Machinery, Except Electrical (\$4.4 billion), Transportation Equipment (\$3.1 billion), Computer & Electronic Products (\$2.7 billion), and Textiles & Fabrics (\$1.8 billion).

North Carolina's Metropolitan Exports

In 2011, the following metropolitan areas in North Carolina recorded merchandise exports: Greensboro-High Point (\$4.1 billion), Durham-Chapel Hill (\$2.6 billion), Raleigh-Cary (\$2.3 billion), Hickory-Lenoir-Morganton (\$1.7 billion), Winston-Salem (\$1.3 billion), Rocky Mount (\$1.2 billion), Asheville (\$1.0 billion), Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill (\$6.3 billion, portions of this MSA are shared with one or more other states), Greenville (\$666 million), Fayetteville (\$308 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.