



Manufactured Exports Support & Sustain American Jobs

The latest available export-related employment numbers indicate that U.S. jobs dependent on manufactured exports reached an estimated 6.81 million in 2008. These 6.81 million jobs represented 5.9 percent of total private sector employment in the United States, or roughly one out of every 17 private sector jobs.

Of the 6.8 million jobs supported by manufacturing exports, two-fifths (2.83 million) were in the manufacturing sector indicating that more than one out of every five manufacturing jobs (22.1 percent) was supported by manufacturing exports. U.S. exports of manufactured products significantly impacted job growth in non-manufacturing sectors of the economy as well, and nearly three-fifths (3.99 million) were outside manufacturing in sectors such as services, wholesale and retail trade, and transportation.

A significant number of major U.S. manufacturing industries were heavily dependent on foreign sales in 2008. Eight manufacturing sectors counted more than 25 percent of all manufacturing jobs (one in every four jobs) as export-supported. These included computers & electronic products (37.8 percent of jobs export-dependent), textile mills (37.2 percent), primary metals (36.0 percent), machinery (33.5 percent), leather products (32.8 percent), transportation equipment (31.4 percent), electrical equipment, appliances & components (26.7 percent), and chemicals (26.6 percent).

Employment supported by manufactured exports also played significant roles in the job structure of many states. Twenty-six states counted over 100,000 jobs supported by manufactured exports in 2008 with two states registering more than a half-million such jobs: California at 737,600 jobs and Texas at 731,800. Other states with large numbers of jobs supported by manufacturing exports included Ohio (362,200 jobs), Illinois (360,200), Michigan (269,900), Washington (258,300), Pennsylvania (258,200), Indiana (233,600), New York (228,100), and North Carolina (208,600).

In 26 states, many of them with relatively small manufacturing sectors, manufacturing jobs supported by manufactured exports accounted for more than one out of every five jobs in the manufacturing sector. In Washington State, 41.4 percent of all manufacturing jobs were sustained by manufactured exports. Other states with large percentages of export-supported jobs included South Carolina (28.9 percent of jobs export-supported), Vermont (28.8 percent), Massachusetts (28.0 percent), Michigan (27.8 percent), Kansas (26.9 percent), Texas (26.3 percent), Ohio (25.9 percent), Illinois (24.7 percent), Connecticut (23.9 percent), Colorado (23.8 percent), Oregon (23.7 percent), and California (23.7 percent).

International Trade Administration

The International Trade Administration (ITA) is the premier resource for American companies competing in the global marketplace. ITA has 2,100 employees assisting U.S. exporters in more than 100 U.S. cities and 77 countries worldwide. For more information on ITA visit www.trade.gov.