



Trade Means Growth for Alabama

International trade—exports and imports of goods and services—supports 530,000 jobs in Alabama, or about 1 in 5 total jobs in the state.

Key facts about trade and jobs:

- The share of Alabama jobs supported by trade has more than doubled since the early 1990s.
- Jobs in export-intensive industries offer compensation that averages about 16 percent higher than other jobs.
- Imports let American families stretch their budgets and help U.S. manufacturers keep costs down and competitiveness up.
- Over 4,200 Alabama companies exported in 2022. Nationally, 97% of trading firms are small-and medium sized enterprises.
- Since 2008, companies that import or export goods have accounted for 3 out of 5 new American jobs.

Alabama companies exported \$33 billion in goods and services in 2023 to nearly 190 markets around the world.

Top Markets for Alabama Exports, 2023 (millions of dollars)

Country	Goods	Services	Total
Germany	\$5,067	\$271	\$5,338
Canada	\$3,891	\$479	\$4,370
China	\$3,688	\$327	\$4,015
Mexico	\$3,186	\$330	\$3,516
Korea	\$1,191	\$160	\$1,350
Other	\$10,257	\$3,932	\$14,189

America's FTA partners account for just 6% of the world's population but purchased 37% of Alabama's goods exports in 2023.

Alabama's goods exports to Poland were \$523 million in 2023, a nearly 1,500% increase since 2014.

The United Kingdom was the top export market for services exports in 2023 at \$517 million.

Alabama Exports, 2014-2023 (billions of dollars)



Alabama's total goods and services exports increased by \$9.0 billion (38%) between 2014 and 2023.

In 2023, Alabama exported \$27 billion in goods and \$5.5 billion in services — a 10-year high for each.

Most services export growth has been driven by digital trade, which is allowing more Alabama companies to reach customers abroad more easily.



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Top Goods and Services Exports from Alabama, 2023 (millions of dollars)

Sector	Exports
Transportation Equipment	14,808
Minerals & Ores	2,211
Chemicals	2,160
Primary Metals	1,762
Travel Services	1,409
Financial Services	1,401
Other	9,030

Alabama's top transportation equipment exports in 2023 were cars and vehicles (\$11.3 billion) and aircrafts and parts (\$1.7 billion).

Alabama's top agricultural exports in 2023 were frozen poultry (\$337 million) and live chickens (\$128 million).

Alabama's exports of digitally tradable services reached \$3.4 billion in 2023.

Foreign-headquartered companies directly employ 120,000 Alabama workers.

Alabama Workers Employed at Foreign-Owned Companies by Sector, 2021

Sector	Jobs
Manufacturing	65,800
Retail Trade	12,200
Wholesale Trade	11,100
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	3,100
Finance and Insurance	2,800
Information	1,900
Other	23,100

Japanese-owned companies employ the most Alabama workers (21,500), followed by German-owned companies (15,900).

Each job at a foreign-owned company typically supports three other U.S. jobs indirectly.

In 2021, U.S. affiliates of foreign-owned companies employed 8 million Americans, exported \$412 billion in goods, and spent \$78 billion on R&D.

Data Sources

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