



# Trade Means Growth for Arkansas

**International trade—exports and imports of goods and services—supports 310,000 jobs in Arkansas, or about 1 in 5 total jobs in the state.**

Key facts about trade and jobs:

- The share of Arkansas jobs supported by trade has 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.
- Nearly 2,200 Arkansas 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.

**Arkansas companies exported \$10 billion in goods and services in 2023 to nearly 170 markets around the world.**

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

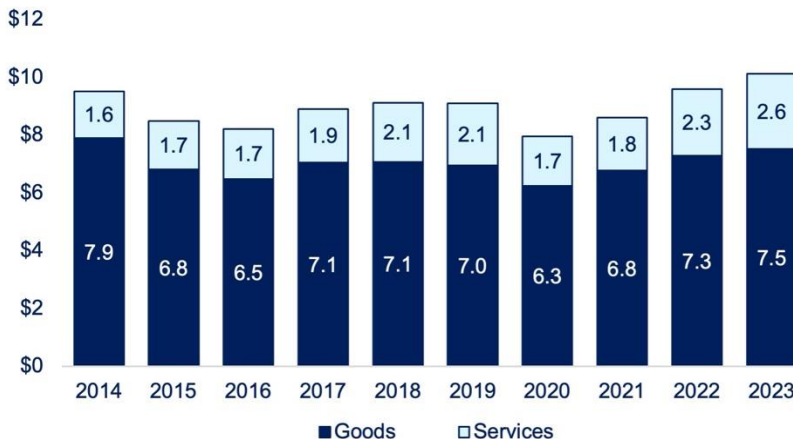
Country	Goods	Services	Total
Canada	\$1,620	\$278	\$1,898
Mexico	\$1,190	\$165	\$1,355
China	\$954	\$149	\$1,103
Japan	\$457	\$102	\$559
United Kingdom	\$222	\$264	\$485
Other	\$3,085	\$1,657	\$4,742

America's FTA partners account for just 6% of the world's population but purchased 48% of Arkansas' goods exports in 2023.

Arkansas' goods exports to Indonesia were \$156 million in 2023, an increase of over 350% since 2014.

Canada was the top export market for services exports in 2023 at \$278 million.

Arkansas Exports, 2014-2023 (billions of dollars)



Arkansas' total goods and services exports increased by \$614 million (6.4%) between 2014 and 2023.

In 2023, Arkansas exported \$7.5 billion in goods and \$2.6 billion in services — a 10-year high for services.

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



# Trade Means Growth for Arkansas

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

Sector	Exports
Agricultural Products	1,725
Transportation Equipment	1,612
Travel Services	927
Food & Kindred Products	745
Chemicals	686
Machinery	648
Other	3,799

Arkansas' top agricultural product exports in 2023 were soybeans (\$945 million) and rice (\$416 million).

Arkansas' top transportation equipment exports in 2023 were aircrafts and parts (\$849 million) and motor vehicle parts (\$179 million).

Arkansas' exports of digitally tradable services reached \$1.4 billion in 2023.

## Foreign-headquartered companies directly employ 59,100 Arkansas workers.

### Arkansas Workers Employed at Foreign-Owned Companies by Sector, 2021

Sector	Jobs
Manufacturing	30,800
Retail Trade	2,100
Wholesale Trade	1,900
Information	900
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	900
Finance and Insurance	500
Other	22,000

British-owned companies employ the most Arkansas workers (8,000), followed by Swiss-owned companies (5,800).

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

**Arkansas jobs supported by trade:** Trade Partnership Worldwide for Business Roundtable, [https://s3.amazonaws.com/bri.org/Business-Roundtable\\_TradeandAmericanJobs2022.pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/bri.org/Business-Roundtable_TradeandAmericanJobs2022.pdf).

**Trade-supported jobs compensation:** Riker, David, "Export-Intensive Industries Pay More on Average: An Update," <https://www.usitc.gov/publications/332/ec201504a.pdf>.

**Arkansas exporting companies:** U.S. Census Bureau, "Profile of U.S. Importing and Exporting Companies," <https://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/Press-Release/edb/edbrel2022.pdf>.

**Goods traders job creation:** Kamal, Fariha, Ouyang, Wei, Handley, Kyle, "The rise of exporters and importers in US job growth: Insights from newly released data," <https://cepr.org/voxeu/columns/rise-exporters-and-importers-us-job-growth-insights-newly-released-data>.

**Arkansas goods and services export data:** Trade Partnership Worldwide's *CDxports* database, <https://tradepartnership.com/data/cdxports-and-cdxjobs/>.

**Arkansas FDI data:** U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, "Activities of U.S. Affiliates of Foreign Multinational Enterprises"; <https://www.bea.gov/international/di1fdiop>.