



Trade Means Growth for Delaware

International trade—exports and imports of goods and services—supports 130,000 jobs in Delaware, or about 1 in 5 total jobs in the state.

Key facts about trade and jobs:

- The share of Delaware 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 2,200 Delaware 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.

Delaware companies exported \$9.5 billion in goods and services in 2023 to more than 170 markets around the world.

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

Country	Goods	Services	Total
Canada	\$851	\$328	\$1,180
China	\$445	\$227	\$672
United Kingdom	\$162	\$484	\$646
Mexico	\$338	\$187	\$525
Korea	\$369	\$111	\$480
Other	\$2,714	\$3,323	\$6,037

America's FTA partners account for just 6% of the world's population but purchased 42% of Delaware's goods exports in 2023.

Delaware's goods exports to Mexico were \$338 million in 2023, more than tripling since 2014.

The United Kingdom was the top export market for services exports in 2023 at \$484 million.

Delaware Exports, 2014-2023 (billions of dollars)



Delaware's total goods and services exports increased by \$922 million (11%) between 2014 and 2023.

In 2023, Delaware exported \$4.9 billion in goods and \$4.7 billion in services — a 10-year high for services.

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



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

Sector	Exports
Financial Services	3,370
Chemicals	1,442
Transportation Equipment	742
Computers & Electronic Products	612
Business, Professional & Technical Services	538
Machinery	454
Other	2,382

Delaware's top financial service exports in 2023 were credit-related services (\$2.6 billion) and total implicit financial services (\$283 million).

Delaware's top chemical exports in 2023 were pharmaceuticals (\$465 million) and acrylic polymer plastics (\$85 million).

Delaware's exports of digitally tradable services reached \$4.1 billion in 2023.

Foreign-headquartered companies directly employ 29,200 Delaware workers.

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

Sector	Jobs
Manufacturing	7,500
Retail Trade	4,300
Finance and Insurance	3,800
Information	1,600
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	1,300
Wholesale Trade	1,200
Other	9,500

British-owned companies employ the most Delaware workers (8,700), followed by German-owned companies (3,400).

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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