



2026 Annual Trade Report

PREPARED BY THE OFFICE OF GLOBAL BUSINESS
AT THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

MADE IN
ALABAMA



Export Alabama

Global Trade Catalyzes Alabama's Economic Growth

International trade and investment continues to be a cornerstone of Alabama's economic strength, creating jobs, fueling development and anchoring entire industries. In 2025, the state's total trade — combining exports and imports — reached \$58.6 billion, a clear indication of Alabama's deep integration into the global economy. From advanced manufacturing to natural resources, Alabama's trade relationships are a powerful engine of growth, generating economic activity and opportunity across the state. In 2004, **Alabama's Office of Global Business** began a coordinated effort between key partners to create a more efficient export support system for Alabama firms.

Today, this effort is known as Export Alabama.



Export Alabama

Export Growth and Global Reach

Alabama's export economy remains a solid contributor to economic growth across the state. In 2025, Alabama companies exported \$23.7 billion in goods and services. This figure is 14% higher than 2019, a signal that the state's recovery continues in the post-pandemic global economy.

These exports reached 190 countries in 2025, reflecting both the breadth and diversity of Alabama's trading relationships. While major economies like Canada, Mexico, China and Germany dominate the list of top destinations, Alabama's reach also extends to remote locales like Western Samoa, Tonga and the Solomon Islands. This global footprint underscores the adaptability and competitiveness of Alabama-made products in international markets.

The state's export portfolio is led by transportation equipment, a broad category that includes automobiles, aerospace components and ships. In 2025, transportation equipment alone totaled \$11.4 billion, accounting for nearly half of the state's total exports. Motor vehicles remain the single most valuable export item, with shipments to countries around the globe, reaching nearly \$8.2 billion.

Other strong export industries include chemicals (\$1.9 billion), primary metals (also \$1.9 billion), and minerals and ores (\$1.6 billion). Aerospace equipment performed well, with exports topping \$1.7 billion, growing more than 12% from the previous year. These sectors not only diversify Alabama's economy but also support high-skill, high-wage jobs across the state.





A Strategic Future in Global Markets

With international trade accounting for a significant share of Alabama's GDP in 2025, it's clear that global engagement is not a peripheral aspect of the state's economy — it's foundational. From supplying vehicles to Europe and Asia to sourcing components from across North America, Alabama's economy is both outward-looking and resilient.

By continuing to invest in infrastructure, workforce development and global partnerships, Alabama is positioning itself for sustained trade-driven growth.



INFRASTRUCTURE THAT SUPPORTS TRADE

Alabama's roads, ports, rail and digital networks provide the physical and technological backbone for global commerce.



WORKFORCE THAT POWERS TRADE

A skilled, adaptable workforce ensures that industries can compete and innovate in international markets.



PARTNERSHIPS THAT EXPAND TRADE

Global connections expand Alabama's influence and strengthen its economic resilience.



Infrastructure That Supports Trade

Alabama's ability to attract and retain global trade is supported by a robust logistics and trade infrastructure. Central to this is the Port of Mobile, one of the fastest-growing seaports in the nation. From 2019 to 2024, 234.4 billion tons of cargo moved through the Alabama Port Authority. It directly and indirectly supports one in seven jobs statewide and is set to expand further, with over \$1 billion in capital improvements planned over the next decade.

Additionally, Alabama's network of Foreign Trade Zones (FTZs) offers companies cost-saving advantages like duty deferral and elimination, as well as logistical efficiencies. As of 2024, the state hosts five primary FTZs and multiple subzones, making Alabama an even more attractive destination for globally oriented businesses.

PORT OF MOBILE

50-foot deep water

4 Super Post-Panamax cranes

2 Post-Panamax Cranes

Access to 5 Class I railroads and 4 shoreline railroads

Direct highway access via major interstates (I-10, I-65)



Alabama offers a strong logistics network with **six interstate corridors**, **five Class 1 railroads** and a **deepwater port system** that includes *Ports of Mobile, Birmingham and Huntsville*. This multimodal infrastructure lets companies move materials and products efficiently, supporting domestic and global markets.



PORT OF BIRMINGHAM

Generates about \$128 million in local economic impact

Supports 1,500+ jobs

Short-rail access to 3 Class I rails

Largest inland port feeding the Port of Mobile

5 terminals handling diverse cargo for Central Alabama



PORT OF HUNTSVILLE

33,309 rail lifts in 2025

1 million+ total lifts since opening

Serves 400+ companies via air, rail and highway

Spans 7,400 acres, including airport

Generates \$1.8 billion in regional economic impact



EXPORTS

From Alabama to the World



Exports are a vital driver of Alabama's economy, supporting thousands of jobs and strengthening industries across the state. From automobiles and aerospace components to chemicals and industrial machinery, Alabama-made goods are reaching markets around the world, fueling economic growth at home.

This expanding global trade footprint is not only increasing opportunities for businesses across the state but also reinforcing Alabama's reputation as a leader in innovation and high-quality production.

 THE STATS

Exporting supports an estimated 90,000 Alabama jobs

Alabama's exports have increased 22% from 2015

Alabama ranks 23rd nationally for exported goods, based on total export value

Over 4,000 Alabama direct and indirect exporters

Around 80% of Alabama exporters are small- and medium-sized businesses

TOP EXPORT DESTINATIONS (2025)



Industry Highlights

Motor vehicles represent Alabama's single most valuable export item, totaling \$8.2 billion in 2025. The top foreign destinations for Alabama's motor vehicles last year were Germany, Canada, China, Mexico and South Korea. In 2025, Alabama ranked No. 2 among the nation's auto-exporting states, two years after earning the top ranking for the first time. Shipments went to 83 different countries last year.

Forestry exports approached \$1.5 billion in 2025, up slightly from the previous year. Canada was the top destination for these exports at \$200 million, followed by Mexico and the United Kingdom at \$167 million and \$165.5 million, respectively. Rounding out the top five destinations were China, at nearly \$148 million, and Turkey, at \$64 million. Alabama's forestry exports went to 117 countries last year.

Overseas shipments of aerospace products and parts from Alabama exceeded \$1.7 billion in 2025, up 12.3% from the previous year. The leading destinations for these shipments were Canada (\$340 million), Germany (\$266 million), France (\$218 million), India (\$159 million) and Taiwan (\$131 million). Overall, aerospace product shipments went to 99 countries.



TOP EXPORT COMMODITIES

Vehicles and Parts

\$9.5 billion

Mineral Fuels

\$2.3 billion

Aircraft and Parts

\$1.6 billion

Industrial Machinery

\$1.5 billion

Iron and Steel

\$1.4 billion



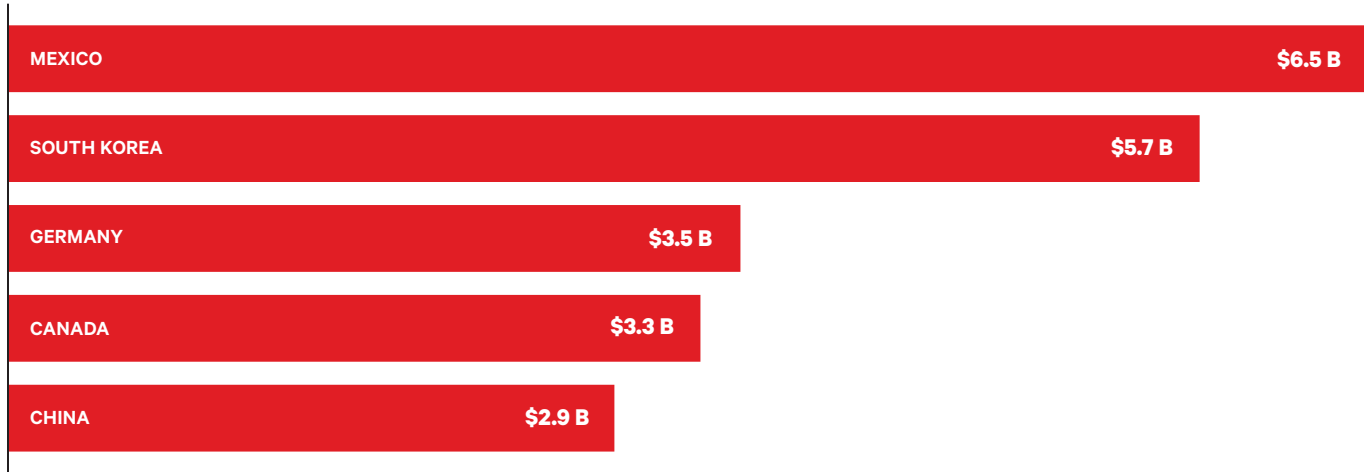
IMPORTS

Alabama Emerges as a Logistics Hub

Alabama's imports in 2025 totaled \$34.9 billion, reflecting the state's emerging status as a global logistics and distribution hub.

Mexico was the No. 1 source for goods imported into Alabama during 2025, with a total of \$6.5 billion. Rounding out the Top 5 import sources were South Korea, Germany, Canada and China.

TOP IMPORT PARTNERS (2025)



TOP IMPORT COMMODITIES

Industrial Machinery

\$6.4 billion

Vehicles and Parts

\$5.8 billion

Electrical Equipment

\$5.5 billion

Mineral Fuels

\$2.6 billion

Aircraft and Parts

\$1.9 billion



TOTAL TRADE

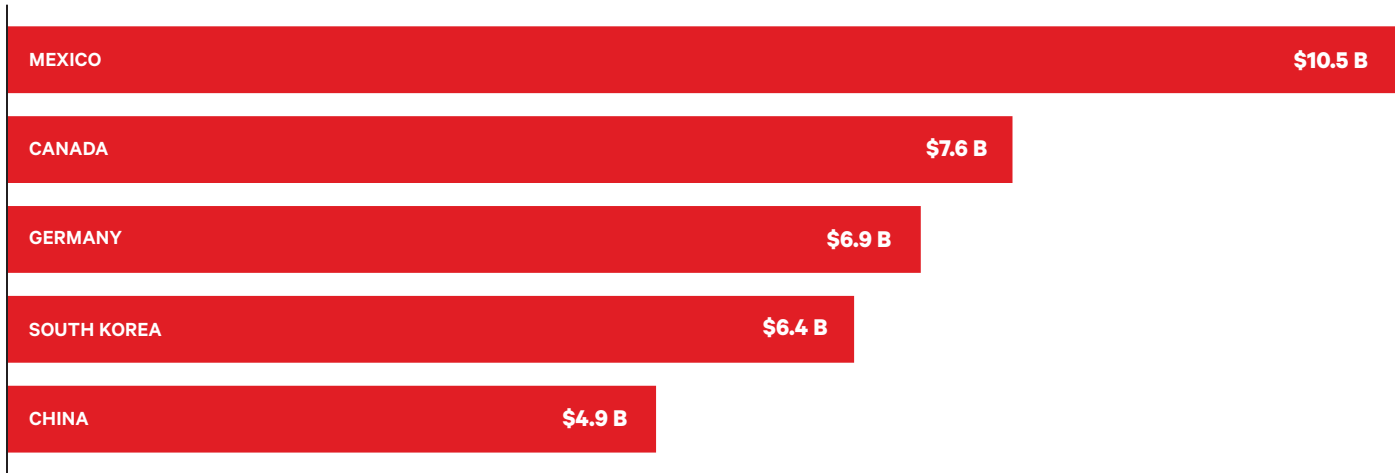
Alabama Strengthens Global Trade Ties

Alabama's total trade in 2025 reached \$58.6 billion, reinforcing the state's strong economic connection to the world. Alabama ranked 23rd among the states in exports, maintaining a strong presence in sectors like automotive, aerospace, chemicals and industrial machinery.

In 2025, Alabama's exports totaled \$23.7 billion, with imports totaling \$34.9 billion.

Mexico is Alabama's top bilateral trade partner, with export and import flows totaling more than \$10.5 billion in 2025. This includes imports valued at \$6.5 billion and exports valued at \$4 billion. Alabama's other top trade partners were Canada, Germany, China, India and South Korea.

TOP TRADING PARTNERS (2025 TOTAL TRADE)



OFFICE OF GLOBAL BUSINESS

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The Office of Global Business supports Alabama's foreign direct investment efforts by positioning the state as a global gateway to the U.S. and a platform for export-driven investment. The office serves as a liaison for visiting foreign delegations and dignitaries and works closely with the Office of Recruitment and Retention on foreign lead generation. This work is reinforced by Alabama's international offices in **Germany, South Korea and Japan**, which provides on the ground engagement in key markets and strengthens relationships with existing and prospective investors.



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