*Connecticut Exports Grew for the Fourth Year*

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Connecticut exports grew for the fourth consecutive year in 2024. Commodity exports increased by more than $1.5 billion or 9.7% (the ninth fastest in the nation) after increasing 3.2% in 2023.1 Many Connecticut companies export. The most recent data indicates that 4,714 companies exported from Connecticut in 2022. 89% of these companies were small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) with fewer than 500 employees. According to the most recent data, approximately 50,000 jobs were supported by Connecticut exports.2

**Connecticut Export Composition**

In 2024 at the two-digit Harmonized System (HS) commodity code level, Connecticut top five export commodities were (1) aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof; (2) industrial machinery, including computers (3) electric machinery, sound equipment, TV equipment, Parts; (4) optic, photo, medical or surgical instruments; and (5) special classification provisions, which typically consists of exports of repaired imports. This top five list is unchanged from 2023. Each of the top five export commodity sectors experienced increases in 2024. The state’s aerospace sector increased by over $650 million in 2024 (+14.0%) and had the largest increase of any sector, although the sector remained below pre-pandemic levels. Industrial machinery including computers rose $323 million (+8.6%) while electrical machinery was up $206 million (+13.5%). The industrial machinery including computers sector is up more than $1.8 billion (+81.6%) from ten years ago (2014).3

**Connecticut Partner Countries**

In 2024, the state’s top ten commodity export destinations were Canada, Germany, Mexico, China, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, France, Singapore, Japan, and South Korea. The largest 2024 increases were exports to Mexico, China, Canada, Poland, Singapore, and Hong Kong which each saw exports increase by over $100 million followed by Brazil, the Philippines, and the Netherlands with increases of over $90 million each. Exports to Germany, France, and the United Kingdom decreased in 2024 although Connecticut exports to those countries still averaged over $1 billion each. Compared to ten years ago (2014) Connecticut exports more to the Netherlands, China, Singapore, Mexico, Canada, and the United Kingdom (up more than $300 million each) but less to France, the United Arab Emirates, Algeria and South Korea. Even with these changes the top 10 countries receiving the most Connecticut exports is largely unchanged from the 2014 top ten list with the exceptions of the United Arab Emirates (down from 5th to 15th) and Singapore (up from 12th to 8th).

Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts was the largest Connecticut export commodity to Canada in 2024 followed by industrial machinery, electrical machinery, and plastics. Aircraft and industrial machinery had the largest 2024 increases in exports to Canada. Aircraft and industrial machinery were also the top two commodity exports to Germany followed by optic, photo, medical or surgical instruments, and electrical machinery. Electrical machinery was the top export commodity from Connecticut to Mexico followed by aircraft, industrial machinery, and sugars and sugar confectionary.

**U.S. Exports**

The annual U.S. trade deficit increased by $129 billion in 2024 after contracting $150 billion in 2023. Exports of goods and services increased $140 billion in 2024 while imports increased by $269 billion.4 Commodities exports increased $46.5 billion to over $2 trillion with Canada and Mexico the top two destinations for U.S. exports with $348.5 and $334.0 billion respectively.5 China was third at $143.5 billion followed by the Netherlands at $89.6 billion. The largest increases were Mexico (+$11.3 billion), Malaysia (+$8.3 billion), and the Netherlands (+$8.3 billion). Exports to Canada, Belgium, and China had the largest declines. Exports to China declined for the second consecutive year and fell below 7% of all U.S. commodities exports after being as high as 8.7% of commodities exports in 2020.

The top five U.S. export commodities were (1) mineral fuel, oil, bitumen substances, mineral wax; (2) industrial machinery, including computers; (3) electric machinery, sound equipment, TV equipment, parts; (4) vehicles, expert railway or tramway; and (5) aircraft, spacecraft, and parts. The largest increase was industrial machinery including computers which increased more than $19.0 billion. Electric machinery, sound equipment, TV equipment, parts increased by $12.8 billion and aircraft, spacecraft, and parts increased by $8.9 billion.

For the second consecutive year, Connecticut rose one place in 2024 and now ranks 30th in the U.S. in state-by-state exports. Three of the four largest states also had the most exports: Texas, California, and New York. Texas, Kentucky, and New Mexico had the largest increases in exports, up more the $7 billion each. As mentioned above, Connecticut exports increased more than $1.5 billion, a 9.7% increase – ninth fastest in the nation.

**New England Exports**

In 2024, the New England region’s top five export commodities were (1) industrial machinery, including computer; (2) optic, photo, medical or surgical instruments; (3) electric machinery, sound equipment, TV equipment, parts; (4) aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof, (5) pharmaceutical products. Precious stones and metals had the largest increase in 2024 followed by industrial machinery including computers and aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof. Exports of pharmaceuticals declined in 2024 but remained about 2022 and were more than twice the level that prevailed before 2021.

As a region, New England’s commodity exports increased by $629 million in 2024 and totaled more than $67.3 billion. The top five export destinations for New England Commodities were Canda, Mexico, China, Germany, and the United Kingdom. In 2024 the exports to the United Kingdom, Mexico, Singapore, and China increased by more than $1 billion each. Switzerland saw the fifth largest increase with New England exports up by over $760 million.

**2025 and Beyond**

For the first five months of 2025 (latest available) U.S. exports of goods and services were up $73.6 billion (5.5%) above the same period of 2024. If this growth continues, Connecticut and New England should have another year of expanding exports. There remains considerable uncertainty about the future of U.S. trade policy and the reaction to those policy changes by our trading partners. If there are trade conflicts between the U.S. and Connecticut’s largest trading partners (Canada, Mexico, and countries in the European Union) they would pose downside risks for Connecticut. On the other hand, Connecticut exporters are well-positioned to take advantage of opportunities that might arise with new agreements with these and other trading partners. n

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1 U.S. Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Division via wisertrade.org

2 https://www.trade.gov/data-visualization/state-trade-and-economy-factsheets

3 This and the following information regarding commodities exports U.S. Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Division via wisertrade.org

4 https://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/index.html

5 This and the following information regarding commodities exports U.S. Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Division via wisertrade.org