



## OVERVIEW

Alabama is located in the center of the fastest-growing region in the United States, the Southeast, and is an ideal hub for foreign-based businesses and businesses with an international focus.

Located on the Gulf of Mexico, Alabama is a gateway to the rapidly growing markets in Central and South America. The state is capitalizing on NAFTA through participation in such agreements as the States of the Gulf of Mexico Initiative, a regional effort designed to promote economic, educational and cultural exchanges between Mexican and U.S. states bordering the Gulf of Mexico.

## INVESTMENT AND TRADE FACTS

- More than 425 foreign-based companies from over 30 nations operate in Alabama.
- The state's top five export sectors in 2014 were transportation equipment, chemicals, primary metal manufacturing, mining and forestry products.
- Alabama ranks 24th (2014) in the U.S. for exports with companies shipping products to 194 countries.
- Exports from Alabama totaled \$19.518 billion in 2014, a near-record.
- Some 2,500 Alabama companies provide high-quality Alabama-made products and services ready for export. These significant industries include automotive, aerospace, agribusiness and forestry products, chemicals medical and biotechnology, electronics and steel.
- In 2014, the top five destination markets for Alabama exports were Canada, China, Mexico, Germany and the United Kingdom.
- Alabama is an important producer and exporter of agricultural products. Top agricultural exports include meat products, poultry and eggs, cotton, grain and oilseed milling products.
- Alabama's main imports include minerals, technology products, metals and chemicals.





## TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS

- The Alabama State Port Authority operates a full-service port on the Mobile River, 32 miles from the Gulf of Mexico. Transportation advantages include unencumbered access, adjacent to two interstate highways, five Class-1 railroads and access to 15,000 miles of inland waterways in 23 states.
- The U.S.-Mexico rail-ferry service from the ports of Mobile, Alabama and Coatzacoalcos, Mexico, features multi-vessel sailings and fast transit time (three days on the water.)
- The International Intermodal Center located in the Port of Huntsville Global Logistics Park, provides a single hub location specializing in receiving, transferring, storing, and distributing international and domestic cargo via air, rail, and highway.
- Five Foreign Trade Zones (FTZs) and numerous sub zones currently operate in Alabama. They are located in Birmingham, Dothan, Huntsville, Mobile and Montgomery.

## INTERNATIONAL TRADE ASSISTANCE

- Public/private grant programs are designed to assist Alabama companies in expanding export activities through participation in foreign trade shows and missions.
- Alabama Department of Commerce offers trade promotion services to Alabama manufacturers, including
  - participation in overseas catalog shows, trade shows, and trade missions;
  - opportunities to meet one-on-one with foreign buyers visiting Alabama; and
  - a listing in the Alabama Exporters Directory, a worldwide publication.
- Six Alabama banks provide complete international banking services for companies located in Alabama and throughout the Southeast.
- Additional export assistance is available through a number of non-profit trade associations, chambers of commerce, customhouse brokers, foreign freight forwarders, university programs, federal agencies and honorary consulates.
- Alabama Department of Commerce representatives with offices in Europe, China, Japan and Korea are available to lend assistance to Alabama manufacturers, international buyers, licensees and other potential business partners.

*Sources: Alabama Department of Commerce, Trade Division;  
U.S. Department of Commerce, ITA;  
Economic Development Partnership of Alabama  
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