



INTERNATIONAL
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Jobs Supported by Exports 2012: An Update

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Jobs Supported by Exports 2012

The value of U.S. exports of goods and services was \$2.2 trillion in 2012. Jobs supported by exports increased to 9.8 million in 2012, up 1.3 million since 2009 (Table 1). In 2012, every billion dollars of U.S. exports supported 4,926 jobs (Table 2), down from 5,998 jobs per billion dollars of U.S. exports in 2009. Increases in export prices and labor productivity continue to drive down the number of jobs supported per billion dollars of exports. Increases in jobs supported by goods exports account for almost all of the gains in jobs supported by exports. Jobs supported by services exports in 2012 have remained steady over the period.

Table 1. Jobs Supported by Exports, Total, Goods, and Services

	Total	Goods	Services
2009	8.5	6.0	2.5
2010	9.1	6.6	2.5
2011(R)*	9.7	7.2	2.5
2012(P)*	9.8	7.3	2.5

*Values for 2011 are revised from previous estimates; Values for 2012 are preliminary.

Source: ITA calculations from BLS data, 2009 to 2010; ITA calculations from BLS, BEA and Census data, 2011 to 2012.

Table 2. Jobs Supported per Billion Dollars of Exports: Total, Goods, and Services

	Total	Goods	Services
2009	5,998	6,645	4,866
2010	5,500	6,095	4,351
2011(R)*	5,105	5,583	4,080
2012(P)*	4,926	5,359	3,997

*Values for 2011 are revised from previous estimates; Values for 2012 are preliminary. The value of exports used in the calculation includes an adjustment for re-exports.

Source: ITA calculations from BLS data, 2009 to 2010; ITA calculations from BLS, BEA and Census data, 2011 to 2012.

Previous publications did not include disaggregated estimates of jobs supported by exports for years when historical input-output data were not available.¹ Disaggregated estimates which relied on the projection methodology² (as applied to total exports) were not robust. However, the Bureau of Labor Statistics' improved input-output data now make robust disaggregated results possible. The disaggregation projections differ slightly from the total export projection methodology, in that we apply the stable proportional relationship of jobs supported by goods (by services) and exports to jobs supported by total exports to the projected jobs supported by total exports. This ensures consistency between the three related measures – jobs supported by good, by services, and by goods and services.

Goods exports supported 7.3 million jobs in 2012, up 1.3 million jobs from those supported by goods exports in 2009 (Table 1). 2012 jobs supported by goods exports is the highest number of jobs since 1997. It should be noted, however, that in 1997 one billion dollars of goods exports supported 11,794 jobs, but in 2012 one billion dollars of goods exports supported only 5,359 jobs (Table 2).

Services exports supported 2.5 million jobs in 2012, remaining at the level achieved in 2009 (Table 1). Increases in export prices and labor productivity combine to keep jobs supported by services exports essentially flat despite increases in the value of services exports. That is, while the value of services exports increased by 22.5 percent from 2009 to 2012, the number of jobs supported by one billion dollars of services exports declined by 17.9 percent from 4,866 jobs for one billion dollars of services exports in 2009, to 3,997 jobs for one billion dollars of services exports in 2012 (Table 2).

¹ See Rasmussen and Martin, 2012, "Jobs Supported by Exports, 1993–2011." MAS Economic Brief #8, U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration, Washington, DC.

² See Johnson, Martin, 2011, "Projected Jobs Supported by Exports, 2009 and 2010," MAS Economic Brief #5, U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration, Washington, DC for a more detailed description of the current statistical method for jobs supported by exports.