As the sixth largest exporting state in the U.S. -- and the largest in the Midwest -- exports are a major part of the Illinois economy. In 2019, Illinois exported more than $59 billion worth of goods, with international trade supporting more than 1.5 million jobs in the state.

Illinois exported $59.9 billion in goods to foreign markets in 2019. Illinois's largest markets in 2019 were:
- Canada ($15.6 billion)
- Mexico ($9.3 billion)
- Australia ($3.5 billion)
- Germany ($3.3 billion)
- China ($2.9 billion)

Agricultural exports are important to Illinois's economy, totaling $8.5 billion in 2018, according to the USDA.

Since 2014, the [U.S. Export-Import Bank](https://www.exim.gov) has financed $2 billion in exports from 225 companies in Illinois.

Since 1971, the [Overseas Private Investment Corporation](https://www.opic.gov) - which has been modernized into the Development Finance Corporation (DFC) - has invested $2.1 billion in Illinois companies for overseas investment.

Since 1992, the [U.S. Trade and Development Agency](https://www.usaid.gov) has helped facilitate $2.4 billion in exports from Illinois companies, supporting an estimated 14,200 jobs in the state.

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**EDUCATION + VOLUNTEERISM**

Since 1961, 9,274 Peace Corps volunteers from Illinois have served in dozens of countries overseas.

In 2017-2018, 10,098 Illinois students studied abroad.

During 2019, 53,724 international students were enrolled in Illinois colleges and universities and contributed $1.9 billion to the Illinois economy.