North Carolina is a major player in the world economy, exporting more than $33 billion worth of goods to global markets like Mexico and China. North Carolina’s exports include chemicals, automotive, and transportation goods, which are increasingly important to economic growth and job creation. In fact, international trade supports over 1.2 million North Carolina jobs.

In North Carolina, 1,248,500 jobs were supported by trade in 2019, representing 20.2% of all jobs in the state.

In 2020, 10,514 companies exported goods from North Carolina of which 87% were small- and medium-sized enterprises. In 2019, 292,500 people were employed by affiliates of companies at least 50% foreign-owned.

North Carolina exported $33.4 billion in goods to foreign markets in 2021, a 17% increase compared to 2020 driven by continued economic recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the global economy. North Carolina's largest markets in 2021 were:

- Canada ($6.5 billion)
- Mexico ($4.6 billion)
- China ($4.1 billion)
- France ($1.4 billion)
- Singapore ($1.0 billion)

Agricultural exports are important to North Carolina's economy, totaling $3.7 billion in 2020, according to the USDA.

Since 2014, the U.S. Export-Import Bank has financed $2 billion in exports from 157 companies in North Carolina.

Since 1971, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation - which has been modernized into the Development Finance Corporation (DFC) - has invested $1.1 billion in North Carolina companies for overseas investment.

Since 1992, the U.S. Trade and Development Agency has helped facilitate $147 million in exports from North Carolina companies.

Since 1961, 4,732 Peace Corps volunteers from North Carolina have served in dozens of countries overseas. In 2018-2019, 13,747 North Carolina students studied abroad. During 2020, 22,782 international students were enrolled in North Carolina colleges and universities and contributed $713 million to the North Carolina economy.

For sources, please visit http://usglc.org/NorthCarolina