South Dakota’s international engagement fuels job growth and increases exports. Over 900 South Dakota companies exported some $1.4 billion worth of goods in 2019, which helped support more than 120,000 jobs in the state. The majority of companies that export from South Dakota are also small and medium sized businesses.

In South Dakota, **124,500 jobs** were supported by trade in 2018, representing **20.4%** of all jobs in the state.

In 2018, **919 companies** exported goods from South Dakota of which **77%** were small- and medium-sized enterprises. In 2017, **12,600 people** were employed by affiliates of companies at least 50% foreign-owned.

South Dakota exported **$1.4 billion** in goods to foreign markets in 2019. South Dakota’s largest markets in 2019 were:

- Canada ($526 million)
- Mexico ($312 million)
- Japan ($75 million)
- China ($75 million)
- Germany ($44 million)

Agricultural exports are important to South Dakota’s economy, totaling **$3.6 billion** in 2018, according to the USDA.

Since 2014, the **U.S. Export-Import Bank** has financed **$11 million** in exports from 11 companies in South Dakota.

Since 1992, the **U.S. Trade and Development Agency** has helped facilitate **$33 million** in exports from South Dakota companies, supporting an estimated **190 jobs** in the state.

Since 1961, **676 Peace Corps volunteers** from South Dakota have served in dozens of countries overseas.

In 2017-2018, **864 South Dakota students** studied abroad.

During 2019, **2,064 international students** were enrolled in South Dakota colleges and universities and contributed **$45 million** to the South Dakota economy.

For sources, please visit http://usglc.org/South-Dakota