



INTERNATIONAL
TRADE
ADMINISTRATION

Jobs Supported by Exports 2015: An Update

Chris Rasmussen

Office of Trade and Economic Analysis
International Trade Administration
Department of Commerce

April 8, 2016

Jobs Supported by Exports 2015

Jobs supported by exports were an estimated 11.5 million in 2015 (Table 1). This figure represents a decline of approximately 50,000 (less than one percent) from 2014's total of 11.6 million jobs.¹ The decline in jobs supported in 2015 was driven by a decline in U.S. goods exports, along with increased labor productivity. A five percent decline in the nominal value of U.S. exports increased the number of jobs supported by a billion dollars of exports to 5,967 jobs, an increase of over 200 jobs per billion dollars as compared to 2014 (Table 2).

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

	Total	Goods	Services
2009(R)	9.6	5.8	3.8
2010(R)	10.1	6.2	4.0
2011(R)	10.9	6.6	4.3
2012(R)	11.2	6.7	4.5
2013(R)	11.3	6.7	4.7
2014(R)	11.6	6.8	4.8
2015 (P)	11.5	6.7	4.8

Note: Values for 2009 to 2014 are revised. Values for 2015 are preliminary. Jobs supported by goods and services exports may not sum to the total due to rounding.

Source: ITA calculations from BEA data.

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

	Total	Goods	Services
2009(R)	6,932	6,139	8,136
2010(R)	6,287	5,620	7,701
2011(R)	5,949	5,235	7,504
2012(R)	5,895	5,175	7,444
2013(R)	5,805	5,042	7,405
2014(R)	5,732	4,969	7,325
2015 (P)	5,967	5,279	7,300

Note: Values for 2009 to 2014 are revised. Values for 2015 are preliminary.

Source: ITA calculations from BEA data.

¹ See Table A-1 in the Appendix.

Goods exports supported an estimated 6.7 million jobs in 2015, a decrease of over 50,000 jobs from 2014. However, larger decreases in goods export prices relative to labor productivity improvements resulted in the number of jobs supported by one billion dollars of goods exports rising to 5,279 jobs supported for every billion dollars of goods exports (Table 2).²

Unlike goods exports, services exports increased in 2015. As a result, jobs supported by services exports increased, rising by an estimated 2,000 jobs as compared to 2014 (Table 2). Improvements in labor productivity resulted in a small decline in jobs supported per billion dollars of services exports with each billion dollars supporting an estimated 25 fewer jobs as compared to 2014.

Data Sources and Methodology

This study uses input-output analysis to measure the relationship between exports and jobs for 1998-2014.³ In particular, we used tables from BEA's Annual Industry Accounts to produce Domestic Total Requirements tables for 1998-2014. BEA data on employment by industry from the National Income and Product Accounts are used to calculate Employment Requirements tables for 1998-2014. The Employment Requirements tables are applied to export values to produce estimates of the labor embodied in the exported products. The export data used in the analysis are taken from BEA's Annual Industry Accounts, BEA's International Transactions Accounts and BEA's Tourism Satellite Accounts.

² Calculations based on BEA's price indices for exports indicate that goods prices fell by 6.8 percent in 2015, while prices for services fell by 0.6 percent. Overall, export prices fell by 4.9 percent.

³ The projection of jobs supported by exports in 2015 is based on the projection methodology employed in Martin Johnson (2011), "Projected Jobs supported by Exports, 2009 and 2010," MAS Economic Brief #5, U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration.

Appendix

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

	Total	Goods	Services
1998(R)	10,102,903	6,773,314	3,329,589
1999(R)	9,932,648	6,550,998	3,381,650
2000(R)	10,270,547	6,777,064	3,493,484
2001(R)	9,516,184	6,419,187	3,096,998
2002(R)	8,648,503	5,777,976	2,870,528
2003(R)	8,292,318	5,498,991	2,793,327
2004(R)	8,642,319	5,585,785	3,056,533
2005(R)	9,026,060	5,820,538	3,205,522
2006(R)	9,625,408	6,227,655	3,397,753
2007(R)	10,536,539	6,643,224	3,893,315
2008(R)	11,124,171	6,954,336	4,169,835
2009(R)	9,648,853	5,830,661	3,818,192
2010(R)	10,143,367	6,158,303	3,985,063
2011(R)	10,922,518	6,589,107	4,333,411
2012(R)	11,240,535	6,734,504	4,506,031
2013(R)	11,333,983	6,662,655	4,671,329
2014 (R)	11,563,650	6,773,088	4,790,561
2015(P)	11,515,500	6,722,580	4,792,920

Note: Values for 1998 to 2014 are revised. Values for 2015 are preliminary.

Source: ITA calculations from BEA data.

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

	Total	Goods	Services
1998(R)	11,685	10,853	13,846
1999(R)	11,139	10,352	13,064
2000(R)	10,533	9,690	12,675
2001(R)	10,498	9,903	11,991
2002(R)	9,810	9,325	10,958
2003(R)	9,109	8,589	10,341
2004(R)	8,384	7,798	9,717
2005(R)	7,922	7,316	9,326
2006(R)	7,421	6,822	8,844
2007(R)	7,149	6,498	8,625
2008(R)	6,814	6,105	8,452
2009(R)	6,932	6,319	8,136
2010(R)	6,287	5,620	7,701
2011(R)	5,949	5,235	7,504
2012(R)	5,895	5,175	7,444
2013(R)	5,805	5,042	7,405
2014 (R)	5,732	4,968	7,325
2015(P)	5,967	5,279	7,300

Note: Values for 1998 to 2014 are revised. Values for 2015 are preliminary.

Source: ITA calculations from BEA data.