

International Trade in Services Benefits North Dakota's Companies and Workers

IMPORTANCE OF SERVICES TO THE OVERALL U.S. ECONOMY

- **The United States is the world's leading services exporting nation.** International services markets offer huge opportunities for U.S. firms and their employees, accounting today for nearly one-third of total U.S. exports. Total elimination of global barriers to trade in services could raise U.S. annual income by over \$450 billion or \$6,830 per family of four.
- **U.S. services exports have doubled over the past 10 years.** The United States recorded a \$66 billion surplus on exports totaling \$381 billion in 2005. This surplus was 22 percent higher than in 2004. Sales through U.S. services companies operating abroad measured \$477 billion in 2003. These international transactions support high-paying jobs across the United States.

IMPORTANCE OF SERVICES TO THE NORTH DAKOTA ECONOMY

- The services sector represents 70 percent of sales by North Dakota businesses, employs 81 percent of the workforce, and pays 74 percent of the state's \$6.3 billion in wages.¹
- Services exporters in North Dakota employed over 1,400 people and generated \$113 million in export revenues in 2002.² For example, publishing industry exporters from North Dakota employed 1,000 people and generated \$110 million in export revenues.
- Affiliates of foreign services companies are part of this success. In 2003, foreign services companies had over \$20 million invested in property, plants, and equipment (PPE) in North Dakota and supported over 1,600 North Dakota jobs.³

¹ U.S. Census Bureau. *2002 Economic Census*. Available online at <http://www.census.gov/econ/census02/>.

² *Ibid.*

³ Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). *Foreign Direct Investment in the United States: Operations of U.S. Affiliates of Foreign Companies 2006*. Available online at <http://www.bea.gov/bea/di/di1fdiop.htm/>.