

# International Trade in Services Benefits Virginia'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 VIRGINIA ECONOMY

- The services sector represents 67 percent of sales by Virginia businesses, employs 73 percent of the workforce, and pays 77 percent of the state's \$97 billion in wages.<sup>1</sup>
- Services exporters in Virginia employed over 92,000 people and generated \$2 billion in export revenues in 2002.<sup>2</sup> For example:
  - Professional, scientific and technical industry services exporters in Virginia employed 38,800 people and generated \$1 billion in export revenues.
  - Telecommunications exporters from Virginia employed 31,600 people and generated \$624 million in export revenues.
  - Administrative and support services exporters from Virginia employed 15,100 people and generated \$134 million in export revenues.
  - Publishing exporters from Virginia employed 4,700 people and generated \$141 million in export revenues.
- Affiliates of foreign services companies are part of this success. In 2004, they had over \$4.4 billion invested in property, plants, and equipment (PPE) in Virginia and supported over 58,000 jobs.<sup>3</sup> Some of the important sectors and companies include:

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

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> 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/>.

- **Wholesale trade** (2004: 11,100 employed, \$1.2 billion PPE). Major foreign food and beverage firms such as Sodexo (French) participate in the Virginia wholesale industry.
- **Information** (2004: 5,900 employed, \$1 billion PPE). This highly varied sector includes telecommunication firms such as Deutsche Telekom (German).
- **Retail** (2004: 39,500 employed, \$2.2 billion PPE). Retailers such as Ikea (Swedish) have managed to thrive in Virginia's competitive retail environment.
- **Finance & Insurance** (2004: 1,500 employed, \$34 million PPE): Virginia is home to major foreign banking and investment operations, including Zurich North America (Swiss), one of Europe's largest insurance-based financial services firms.