California: Price Movements of Top Exports and Other Highlights

October 2019

In 2018, California ranked second among U.S. states and territories in total exports. The export dollar value from California totaled $178.4 billion, an increase of 3.8 percent from the 2017 value of $171.9 billion. The export price index for the top export industry in California, computer and electronic product manufacturing, fell over the third quarter of 2019. Export prices for transportation equipment manufacturing and chemical manufacturing fell over the same period and machinery manufacturing prices advanced.

Top Six California Exports by Trade Dollar Value, 2018

- In 2018, California accounted for 6.7 percent of total U.S. exports of transportation equipment.
- The top 6 export industries from California accounted for roughly 70.2 percent of the state’s total export dollars.

U.S. Export Price Indexes: Computer and Electronic Product Manufacturing

- The price index for export computer and electronic product manufacturing declined 0.2 percent for the 3 months ended in September.
- Computer and electronic product manufacturing export prices fell 1.8 percent for the 12-month period ended in September.
- The 12-month drop in computer and electronic product manufacturing prices was driven by a 7.9-percent decline in prices for computer and peripheral equipment manufacturing.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Statistics.

Export Price Indexes and California Highlights

- Prices for export transportation equipment manufacturing fell 0.1 percent for the 3-month period ended in September.
- Export transportation equipment manufacturing prices increased 1.5 percent for the 12-month period ended in September.
- A 2.9-percent increase in prices for motor vehicle body and trailer manufacturing drove the 12-month increase in transportation equipment manufacturing prices.

- Machinery manufacturing export prices increased 0.2 percent for the 3-month period ended in September.
- Prices for engine, turbine, and power transmission equipment manufacturing contributed to the 3-month increase, rising 4.7 percent for the period ended in September.
- Prices for machinery manufacturing exports advanced 1.9 percent over the past 12 months.

- Chemical manufacturing export prices decreased 0.7 percent for the 3 months ended in September.
- Prices for chemical manufacturing exports decreased 1.6 percent from September 2018 to September 2019.
- The 12-month drop in chemical manufacturing prices was driven by a 3.6-percent decline in prices for basic chemical manufacturing.