

Oklahoma exports \$5.1 billion in '08

Oklahoma companies exported \$5.1 billion in goods in 2008, the highest figure recently recorded, according to a State Chamber of Oklahoma report. The figure is about \$600 million more than Oklahoma companies sold in 2007.

The *2009 Oklahoma Export Statistics Report* shows Canada is still Oklahoma's largest export destination, accounting for 34.2 percent of the state's total global exports, followed by Mexico, 7.1 percent and Japan, 5.7 percent.

Countries purchasing Oklahoma goods at

a highly increased rate are Australia, up 88 percent; China, up 62 percent; Germany, up 20 percent; and Japan, up 16 percent.

"This report confirms what we have been saying for a long time — Oklahoma workers, and the businesses they work for, continue to outpace some of the best economies in the world," said Mike Seney, senior vice president of operations at the State Chamber.

"Even during a global slowdown, Oklahomans dug down deep and produced one of the state's best years."

International trade now supports nearly one in every five American jobs, according to the Business Roundtable, an

association of CEOs of leading U.S. companies with more than \$5 trillion in annual revenues and nearly 10 million employees.

In Oklahoma, data from the U.S. Department of Commerce estimates nearly one-fifth of all manufacturing workers depend on exports for their job.

This includes 1,870 manufacturing companies, 83 percent of which employ fewer than 500 workers.

The State Chamber report shows Oklahoma exports more than 30 different categories of products.

Comparing the top goods exported from 2007 to 2008, chemicals climbed by 35 percent,

primary metal manufacturing exports rose by 20.7 percent and transportation equipment exports increased by 18.5 percent.

Machinery (except electrical) was again the largest export category for Oklahoma.

More than \$1.3 billion was exported in that category, an increase of more than 14 percent. Transportation equipment (\$655 million, 18.5 percent increase) was second.

"As Oklahoma's economy continues to diversify and grow, we need to do everything we can to keep our workforce strong," Seney said.

Those wanting to read the complete export report are invited to visit www.okstatechamber.com.