

Cleveland Fed District Data Brief

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Ohio's International Trade Relationships

This *District Data Brief* is part of a four-report series examining the international trade relationships of the US states that are either partially or entirely contained within the Fourth District of the Federal Reserve System [↗](#): Ohio, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia.¹

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Topics [State and local economies](#)

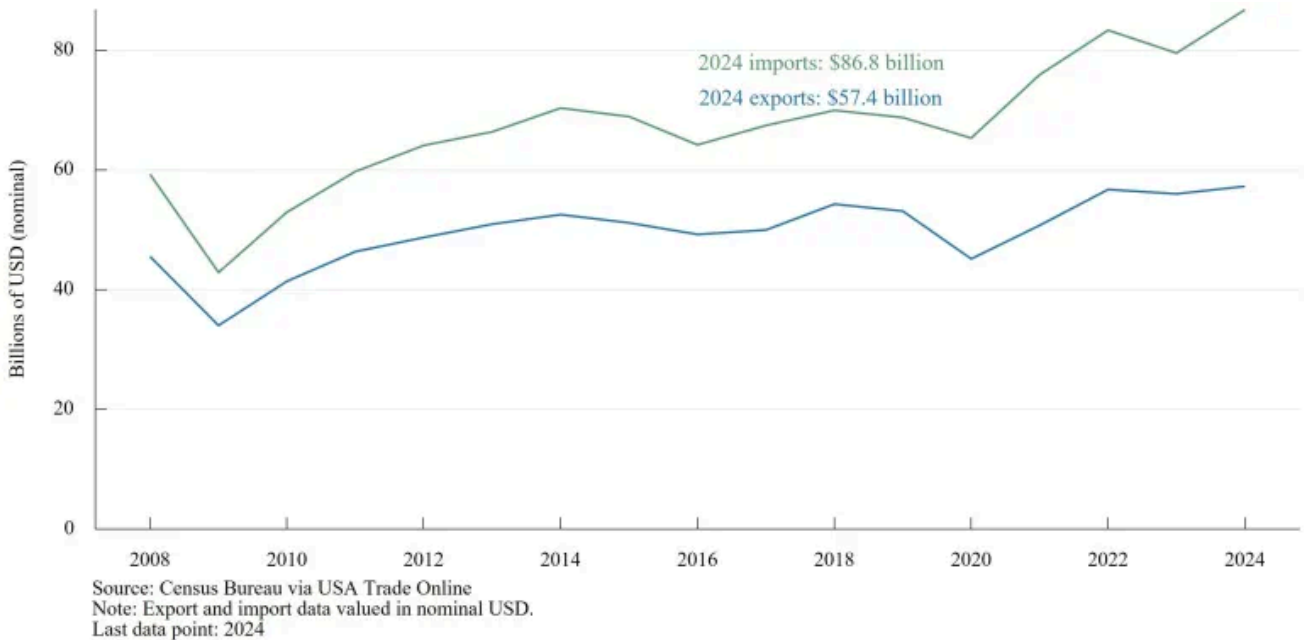
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Overview: Ohio's Product Imports and Exports

Figure 1 shows the total nominal value of Ohio's product imports and exports from 2008 through 2024. For each year during this period, Ohio was a net importer because the value of its imports exceeded the value of its exports. In 2024, the value of Ohio's imports was \$29.4 billion (40.8 percent) greater than that of its exports.² ³

Figure 1. Ohio's Annual Imports and Exports



Where Do Ohioans Import Products from, and What Are They Buying?

Figure 2 shows the percentage of Ohio's total imports from 2008 through 2024 by trading partner of origin. The figure's inset table provides information on the US dollar value and percentage share of Ohio's total imports by trading partner of origin in 2024. Both the figure and corresponding inset table are filtered to include only Ohio's top four import partners (in descending order as of 2024): Canada, the European Union, Mexico, and China. In 2024, these four partners collectively accounted for more than two-thirds (67.5 percent) of Ohio's total imports at a value of \$58.5 billion.

Canada was the largest source of Ohio's imports for most of the period from 2008 through 2024. Its decline in the mid-2010s coincided with an increase in US oil production following advancements in drilling technologies. As US oil production increased, Ohio imported less oil and gas from Canada, as reflected in the data shown in Figure 3. However, Ohio's oil and gas imports from Canada bounced back somewhat starting in 2021, leading to a slight rebound in its overall imports from Canada.

Figure 2. Largest Trading Partners' Share of Ohio's Imports

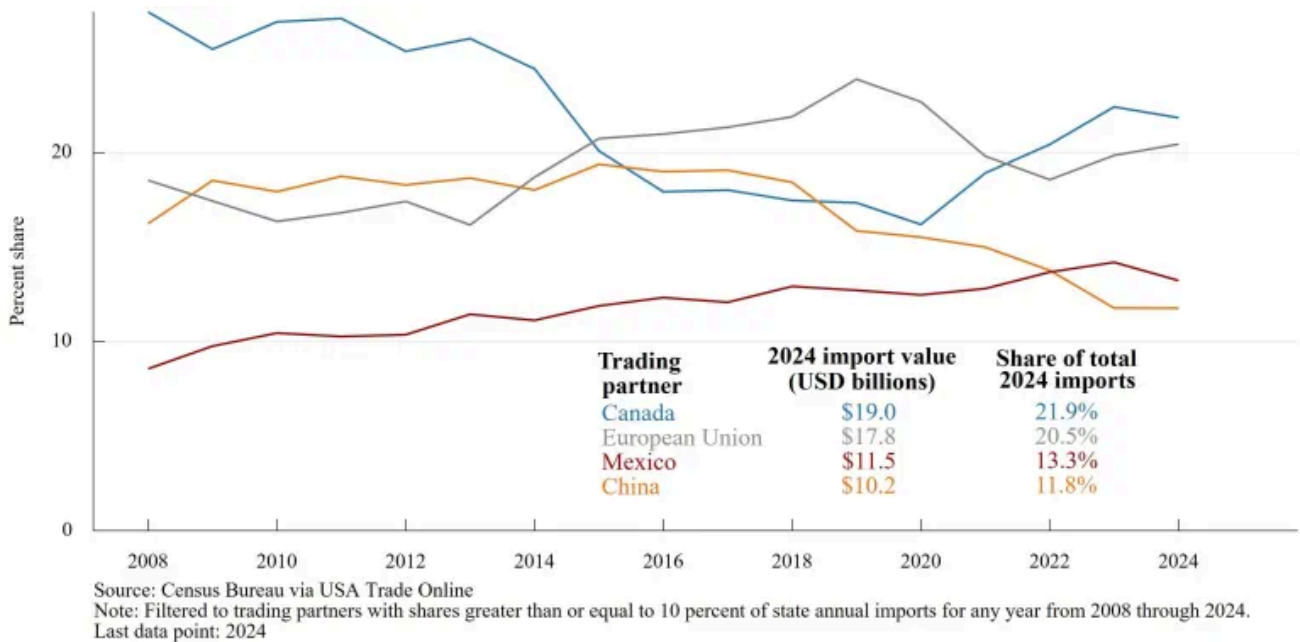
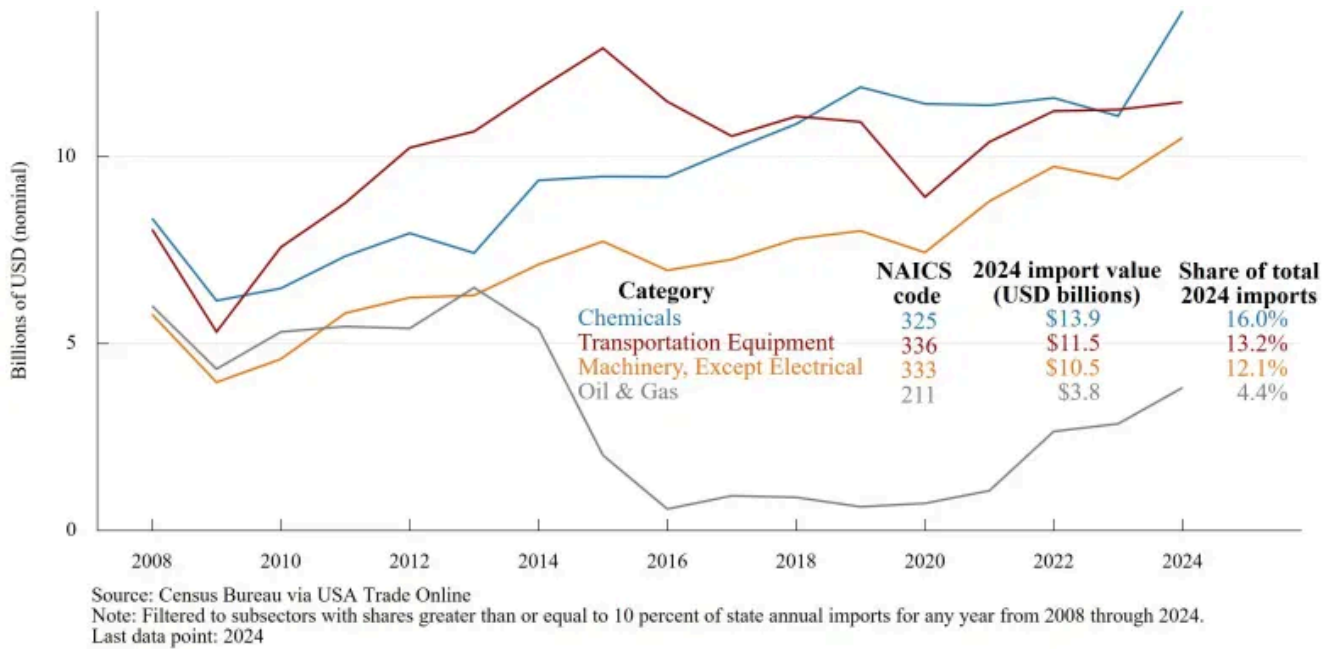


Figure 3 shows the US dollar value of Ohio's imported products from the largest [North American Industry Classification System](#) categories from 2008 through 2024. Both the figure and corresponding inset table are filtered to include only Ohio's four biggest imported product categories (in descending order as of 2024): chemicals, transportation equipment, machinery (except electrical), and oil and gas. In 2024, these four categories accounted for \$39.7 billion worth of Ohio's imports, equal to almost half (45.7 percent) of the state's total. Specifically, chemicals comprised the largest share of Ohio's imports at 16 percent (\$13.9 billion), with most of these being imports of pharmaceuticals and medicines, valued at \$9.0 billion. Transportation equipment accounted for the second-largest share (13.2 percent) of Ohio's imports at \$11.5 billion, with motor vehicle parts representing 76.5 percent of these imports. Machinery (except electrical) accounted for the third-largest share of Ohio's imports at \$10.5 billion, with about \$1.0 billion worth of imports from each of the following five manufacturing industry subgroups: (1) agriculture, construction, and mining machinery, (2) industrial machinery, (3) ventilation, heating, air-conditioning, and commercial refrigeration equipment, (4) metalworking machinery, and (5) engines, turbines, and power transmission equipment.

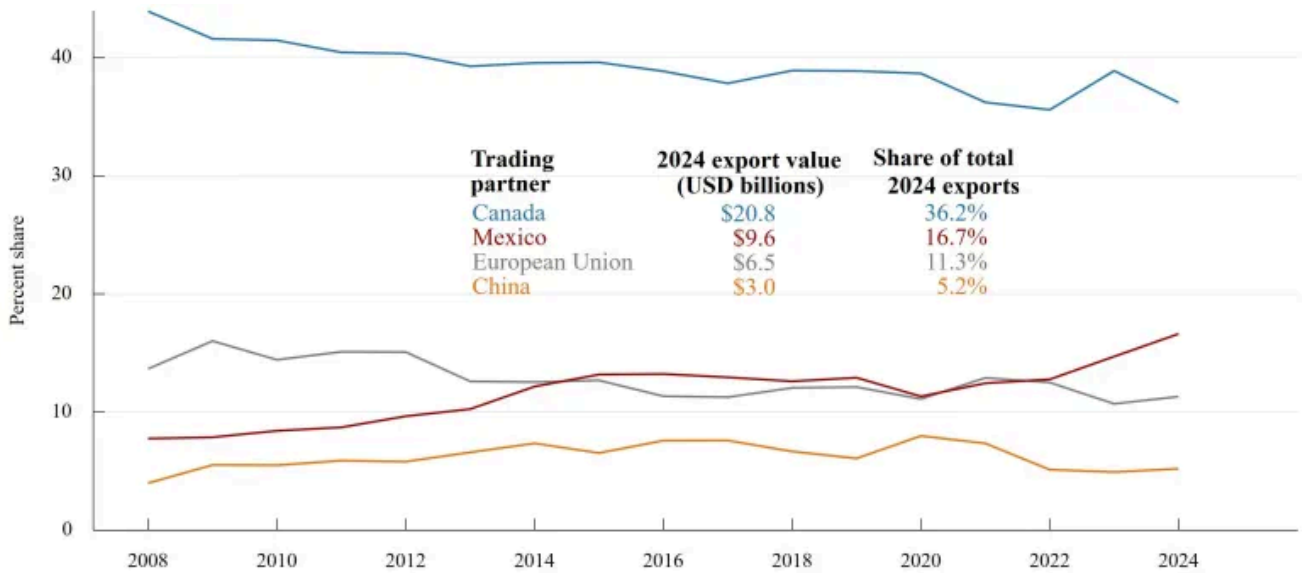
Figure 3. Value of Ohio's Imports by Category



Where Do Ohio's Exports Go, and What Products Does the State Sell?

Figure 4 shows that, from 2008 through 2024, Canada was Ohio's largest export market; over one-third (36.2 percent) of the state's 2024 exports were sent to Canada. By comparison, Ohio's second-, third-, and fourth-largest export markets in 2024—Mexico, the European Union, and China, respectively—together comprised about one-third (33.2 percent) of total exports that year, collectively valued at \$19.1 billion. From 2008 through 2024, the share of Ohio's exports sent to Canada fell slightly, while the share sent to Mexico rose modestly.

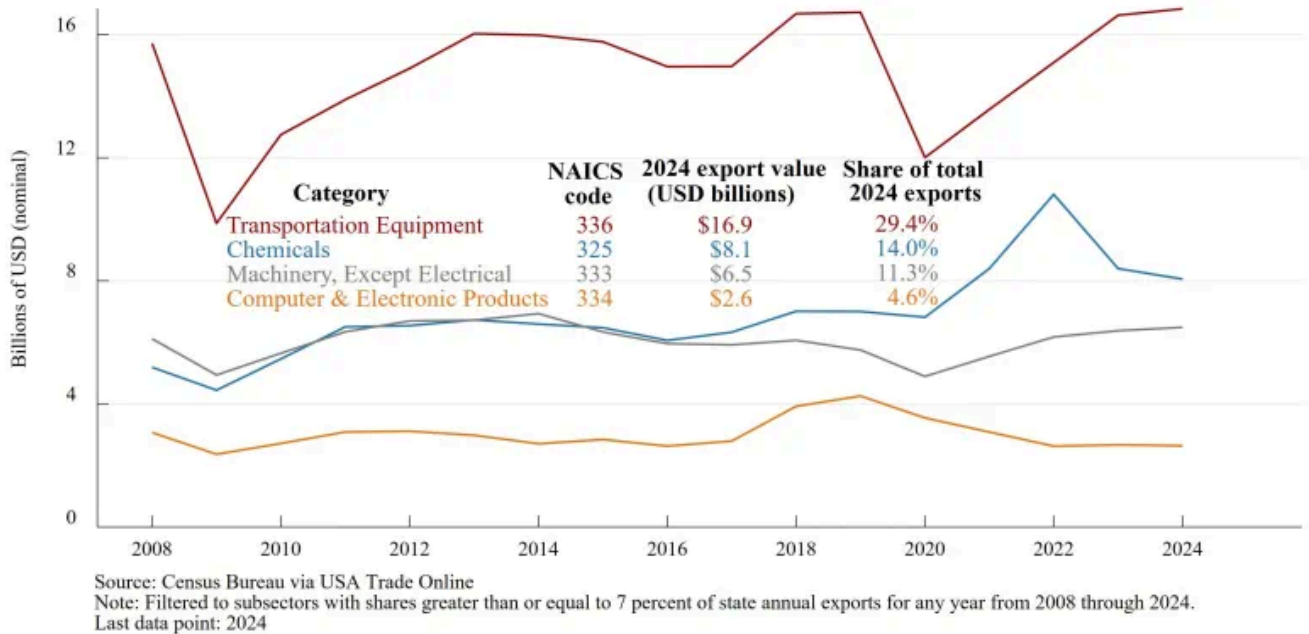
Figure 4. Largest Trading Partners' Share of Ohio's Exports



Source: Census Bureau via USA Trade Online
 Note: Filtered to trading partners with shares greater than or equal to 7 percent of state annual exports for any year from 2008 through 2024.
 Last data point: 2024

Figure 5 shows that, from 2008 through 2024, Ohio's largest export category was transportation equipment. In 2024, Ohio exported more transportation equipment than it imported based on US dollar value (\$16.9 billion in exports and \$11.5 billion in imports). Aerospace products and parts (\$6.4 billion) and motor vehicle parts (\$5.3 billion) together comprised about two-thirds of Ohio's transportation equipment exports in 2024. Chemicals was the second-most-prominent export category in 2024, totaling \$8.1 billion. Within this category, Ohio exported \$1.0 billion worth of pharmaceuticals and medicines (well below its \$9 billion worth of imports) and \$2.5 billion worth of soaps, cleaning compounds, and toilet preparations.

Figure 5. Value of Ohio's Exports by Category



Conclusion

From 2008 through 2024, Canada was the largest destination for Ohio’s exports and frequently the largest source of its imports. Mexico, the European Union, and China were Ohio’s next three largest trading partners. Transportation equipment was both a major import and export category for Ohio and is one industry in which Ohio exported more than it imported in 2024. By contrast, in chemicals, another key industry for Ohio trade, the state imported more than it exported in 2024. The gap between imports and exports was particularly pronounced for one category of chemicals products, namely pharmaceuticals and medicines.

Footnotes

1. The Fourth District covers Ohio, the eastern half of Kentucky, parts of western Pennsylvania, and the northern panhandle of West Virginia. [Return to 1](#)
2. The data collected for this *District Data Brief* were sourced from the Census USA Trade Online data tool, which is subject to revisions. The data contained in the figures’ inset tables have been rounded. [Return to 2](#)
3. Whether something is classified as an import depends on where the product is manufactured or where it undergoes “substantial transformation,” not where the company is headquartered. For example, when a pharmaceutical company that is headquartered in the United States manufactures products in Ireland or Singapore and then ships those products to the United States, those products would be considered imports from Ireland or Singapore. [Return to 3](#)

Appendix

Table A1. Top Categories and Industry Groups for Ohio's Imports in 2024

		2024 import value (USD billions)
Oil and Gas	Total	3.83
Chemicals	Basic Chemicals	2.09
	Resin, Synthetic Rubber, and Artificial and Synthetic Fibers and Filaments	1.45
	Pesticides, Fertilizers, and Other Agricultural Chemicals	0.12
	Pharmaceuticals and Medicines	8.95
	Paints, Coatings, and Adhesives	0.19
	Soaps, Cleaning Compounds, and Toilet Preparations	0.69
	Other Chemical Products and Preparations	0.42
	Total	13.91
Machinery, Except Electrical	Agriculture, Construction, and Machinery	1.06
	Industrial Machinery	1.16

	Commercial and Service Industry Machinery	0.57
	Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning, and Commercial Refrigeration Equipment	1.11
	Metalworking Machinery	1.26
	Engines, Turbines, and Power Transmission Equipment	1.32
	Other General Purpose Machinery	4.04
	Total	10.52
Transportation Equipment	Motor Vehicles	0.72
	Motor Vehicle Bodies and Trailers	0.04
	Motor Vehicle Parts	8.77
	Aerospace Products and Parts	1.68
	Railroad Rolling Stock	0.08
	Ships and Boats	0.01
	Transportation Equipment, Not Elsewhere Specified or Included	0.17
	Total	11.47

Source: Census Bureau via USA Trade Online

Note: Subsector totals may not sum to sector totals due to rounding.

Table A2. Top Categories and Industry Groups for Ohio's Exports in 2024

		2024 export value (USD billions)
Chemicals	Basic Chemicals	1.37
	Resin, Synthetic Rubber, and Artificial and Synthetic Fibers and Filaments	1.67
	Pesticides, Fertilizers, and Other Agricultural Chemicals	0.11
	Pharmaceuticals and Medicines	1.00
	Paints, Coatings, and Adhesives	0.64
	Soaps, Cleaning Compounds, and Toilet Preparations	2.50
	Other Chemical Products and Preparations	0.78
	Total	8.06
Machinery, Except Electrical	Agriculture, Construction, and Machinery	0.55
	Industrial Machinery	0.70
	Commercial and Service Industry Machinery	0.42


	Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning, and Commercial Refrigeration Equipment	0.25
	Metalworking Machinery	0.72
	Engines, Turbines, and Power Transmission Equipment	1.40
	Other General Purpose Machinery	2.45
	Total	6.49
Computer and Electronic Products	Computer Equipment	0.43
	Communications Equipment	0.46
	Audio and Video Equipment	0.11
	Semiconductors and Other Electronic Components	0.27
	Navigational, Measuring, Medical, and Control Instruments	1.34
	Magnetic and Optical Media	0.03
	Total	2.64
Transportation Equipment	Motor Vehicles	3.94

	Motor Vehicle Bodies and Trailers	0.75
	Motor Vehicle Parts	5.33
	Aerospace Products and Parts	6.41
	Railroad Rolling Stock	0.11
	Ships and Boats	0.01
	Transportation Equipment, Not Elsewhere Specified or Included	0.31
	Total	16.85

Source: Census Bureau via USA Trade Online

Note: Subsector totals may not sum to sector totals due to rounding.

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