



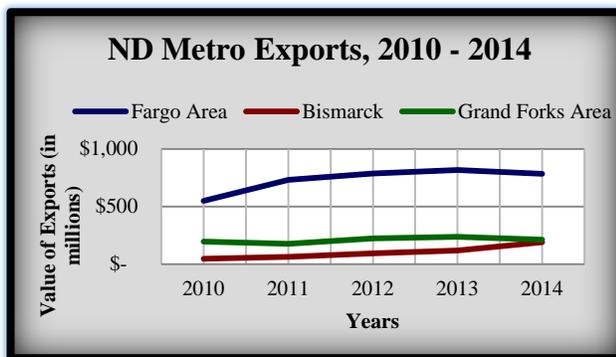
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## RECORD INCREASE IN 2014 EXPORTS FROM BISMARCK

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Commerce’s International Trade Administration (ITA) released new data showing record merchandise exports from the Bismarck metropolitan statistical area (MSA) in North Dakota. Between 2013 and 2014, goods exports from Bismarck MSA increased from \$119 million to \$191 million, an increase of \$72 million or 60.7 percent. In the same period, Fargo MSA decreased from \$817 million to \$782 million, a decrease of -4.3%; while Grand Forks MSA decreased from \$237 million to \$212 million, a decrease of -10.8%. This was Bismarck MSA’s fifth consecutive year of increased exports and one of only 139 metro areas to achieve record goods export levels.

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) region, TPP (Trans Pacific Partnership countries), and NAFTA were the leading destinations for Bismarck, Grand Forks, and Fargo exports. Key exports included machinery, manufactured goods, and crop production.



“Macroeconomic factors have a big impact on exports,” said Heather Ranck, Director of the U.S. Commercial Service office in Fargo, ND. “In 2014, our exports were impacted by the strong dollar and there were also economic slowdowns in some key overseas markets. These factors are outside our control, but companies should remain emboldened to establish connections during down periods so that they are ready to go when economic factors rebound in their favor,”

According to international trade figures, U.S. metropolitan area goods exports exceeded \$1.44 trillion in 2014, up \$36 billion from 2013.

The Department of Commerce’s International Trade Administration works with American businesses of all sizes to identify export opportunities for their products and services. For more information on exporting, contact the U.S. Commercial Service in Fargo at (701) 239-5080 or visit <http://www.export.gov/northdakota/>. For more information on the impact of Metropolitan Statistical Areas on U.S. exports, including fact sheets for the top 50 exporting MSAs in 2014, visit <http://www.trade.gov/mas/ian/metroreport/index.asp>

*The U.S. Commercial Service is the export promotion arm of the International Trade Administration within the U.S. Department of Commerce and assists U.S. exporters through offices in more than 100 U.S. cities and 72 countries worldwide.*