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## **North Dakota Exports Up 24% in the First Half of 2012**

*ND has moved from 44<sup>th</sup> to 41<sup>th</sup> largest exporting state*

North Dakota exports were \$2.05 billion for the first half of 2012, a 24% increase over 2011, with total U.S. exports increasing 7% over the same period. The U.S. trade deficit narrowed to the lowest in 18 months and as of June 2012 is at \$42.9 billion. June exports of U.S. goods were \$132.8 billion, the highest ever recorded, with growth from states like North Dakota contributing.

The top five ND exports included crude oil (\$438 million, a 47% increase from first half of 2011), self-propelled dozers (\$237 million, a 21% increase over 2011), agricultural tractors (\$161 million, a 32% increase over 2011), soil-related agricultural equipment (\$111 million, a 24% increase over 2011) and wheat (\$96 million, a 21% decrease from first half of 2011). It is important to note that most of North Dakota's crude oil exports return to the U.S. via a pipeline that briefly enters Canada.

"Agricultural and construction machinery exports are showing impressive gains in the first half of 2012," said U.S. Commercial Service Office Director Heather Ranck. "If we remove crude oil exports from the analysis, North Dakota exports are up by 19% in 2012 over 2011 through June. That's nearly three times the national average growth rate."

Canada continues to be North Dakota's number one export destination with exports increasing from \$1 billion in the first half of 2011 to \$1.34 billion in the first half of 2012 which accounts for 66% of the exports from North Dakota. The top Canadian imports from North Dakota include crude oil (\$438 million), self-propelled dozers (\$98 million), agricultural tractors (\$83 million) and biodiesel (\$83 million, up from zero in 2011). The other top export destinations for North Dakota goods include Mexico (\$126 million), Australia (\$72 million), Belgium (\$53 million), and Russia (\$49 million).

North Dakota gained on its position and is now the 41<sup>st</sup> largest exporter among the 50 states in the first half of 2012 up from the 44<sup>th</sup> position in the first half of 2011. North Dakota is now exporting more than New Hampshire, Alaska, New Mexico, Maine, Rhode Island, Montana, South Dakota, Wyoming, and Hawaii. With a 24% increase, North Dakota had the 7<sup>th</sup> highest semi-annual export growth rate compared to other states.

With its network of offices across the U.S. and in more than 80 countries, the U.S. Commercial Service utilizes its global presence and international marketing expertise to help U.S. companies sell their products and services worldwide. In FY 2011, worldwide CS assistance helped U.S. businesses facilitate 14,600 export successes worth \$54 billion in export sales. These exports support economic and job growth across the country.

For information on the Commercial Service, call the U.S. Commercial Service – North Dakota office at (701) 239-5080, or visit [www.export.gov/northdakota](http://www.export.gov/northdakota).