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**FARGO-MOORHEAD, BISMARCK EXPORTS INCREASE OVER 30% IN 2011**  
*NATIONAL INCREASE OF NEARLY 40 PERCENT SINCE 2009*

FARGO – The U.S. Department of Commerce released new data showing that in 2011, merchandise exports from Bismarck, ND metropolitan statistical area (MSA) increased 36% in 2011, while merchandise exports from Fargo-Moorhead MSA increased 33% and Grand Forks MSA merchandise exports decreased 11%. The national average was a 16% increase. These data are based on an Origin of Movement (OM) ZIP-code-based series and are therefore not comparable with state-based reports. U.S. merchandise exports from MSAs have increased nearly 40 percent since 2009.

All three regional MSA's largest export market was the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation zone, which includes 21 member countries including Canada. Fargo-Moorhead exported \$515 million to APEC, Grand Forks - \$135 million, and Bismarck - \$34 million. Machinery exports were the leading exports from Fargo-Moorhead and Bismarck; while crops were the main export from Grand Forks.

“The continued growth of exports from our cities and communities across the country are making a real difference in creating American jobs and helping grow our economy,” said Acting U.S. Commerce Secretary Rebecca Blank. “Though more work remains, cities large and small across this country have a vital role to play when it comes to fueling the growth of U.S. exports, and the numbers demonstrate that more exports from individual metropolitan areas are helping American businesses build things here and sell them everywhere to create jobs.”

A total of 308 metropolitan areas (83.9 percent of reported MSAs) recorded positive growth in area exports between 2010 and 2011. The three largest metropolitan area exporters showed growth rates roughly at or above the national growth rate with exports from New York up 23.5 percent from 2010, Houston (up 29.6 percent from 2010 and Los Angeles up 16.9 percent from 2010. Much of the growth in these metropolitan areas was fueled by exports of transportation equipment, chemicals, computer and electronic products, petroleum and coal products, and primary metal manufacturing.

For more information on the impact of MSAs on U.S. exports, including fact sheets for the top 50 exporting MSAs in 2011, visit <http://www.trade.gov/mas/ian/metroreport/index.asp>.

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).

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