

Oklahoma Manufacturing Exports on the Rise

Newest Right to Work State Sells More Machinery, Equipment Abroad

In yet another sign that Sooner employees and businesses are benefiting from Oklahoma's enactment nearly three years ago of a Right to Work law barring forced union dues and "fees," the Oklahoma State Chamber reported recently that its international exports of goods grew by 8.8% from 2002 to 2003.

Manufacturing exports, which made up 91% of Oklahoma's total exports abroad in 2003, increased by an even stronger 9.3%.

Oklahoma's increase was nearly double the nationwide 4.6% increase in exports of U.S. goods for 2003 reported by the U.S. Census Bureau last month.

Oklahoma's exports of primary metal manufactured goods jumped by 31.8%. Non-electrical machinery exports rose by 28.8%, exports of electrical equipment, appliances and components increased by 15.3%, and plastics and rubber-products exports grew by 7.1%.

Sooners' Real Incomes Have Grown Twice as Fast as Forced-Dues State Average

National Right to Work Committee Vice President Matthew Leen pointed out that U.S. Department of Commerce data on personal income also bear witness to the value of Oklahoma's Right to Work law.

"In 2002 and 2003, Oklahomans' aggregate real income grew twice as fast as the non-Right to Work state average, even though oil prices, historically a key source of income for Sooners, fell during the first year," observed Mr. Leen.

Such data bear out predictions made



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Right to Work Oklahoma's exports of non-electrical machinery, plastics and rubber products, fabricated and

manufactured metal products, and electrical equipment all enjoyed healthy increases in 2003.

by the Committee and its allies during the Oklahoma campaign that a Right to Work law would improve the state's business climate, and employees' incomes would increase as a consequence.

These reports also inspire the freedom-loving citizens across much of America who are now lobbying their legislative and gubernatorial candidates to support enactment or preservation of Right to Work laws in their states.

Candidates in New Hampshire, Missouri, Colorado, and more than a dozen other states have already received

or soon will receive Right to Work surveys asking them to take a stand on the issue.

And as Election Day approaches, identified pro-Right to Work citizens in each of the targeted states will be mobilized to send postcards, letters, and other messages to the campaign offices of candidates who resist answering their surveys.

Several state and regional Right to Work citizens groups, with the National Committee's assistance, are implementing the State Survey '04 program.

Mr. Leen emphasized that these grass-roots groups are not motivated by the desire for better economic development alone.

"Right to Work is a matter of principle as well as economics. Right to Work laws' fundamental purpose is to protect the employee's personal freedom of choice," he said.

"Because of the massive resistance of the forced dues-funded union political machine, passing a state Right to Work law is never easy.

"As the Oklahoma campaign demonstrated, however, it can be done when hundreds of thousands of pro-Right to Work citizens are mobilized. And state candidate survey programs are the best way to accomplish that objective."

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