

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, July 01, 2005

Contact: Michael Lally
215-597-7141

Export Growth Benefits Pennsylvania Companies
2004 Pennsylvania exports are up over previous year

The Commerce Department's Commercial Service Philadelphia U.S. Export Assistance Center today cited recently-released data that shows Pennsylvania exports increased 13 percent in 2004 over the previous year, reaching \$18.5 billion last year.

Pennsylvania exports increased to many of the state's top destinations, including China (38 percent); Belgium (88 percent); India (18 percent); South Korea (36 percent), Hong Kong (28 percent); and Brazil (41 percent). Several other Pennsylvania export destinations posted solid gains as well.

Chemicals, computers and electronics, machinery, and primary metals ranked among Pennsylvania's leading exports.

"Ninety-five percent of the world's consumers live outside of the United States, and more Pennsylvania companies are looking to increase their bottom line by making new sales abroad, said Export Assistance Director Michael Lally "Exporting helps companies grow and compete by enabling them to diversify their portfolios and weather changes in the domestic economy."

The Bush Administration has pressed forward bilaterally, regionally, and multilaterally to expand trade and the economic opportunities that it creates for all Americans. Among these are the U.S. free trade agreements with Singapore, Chile, and Australia that have reduced or eliminated trade barriers and opened doors for more sales of U.S. goods and services to those countries. Negotiations have also concluded on a U.S.-Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR) involving Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic.

The Philadelphia U.S. Export Assistance Center is part of the worldwide network of the U.S. Commercial Service, a Commerce Department agency that helps small and medium-sized U.S. businesses sell their products and services globally. Now in its 25th year, the U.S. Commercial Service has kept pace with the changing dynamics of a global economy and has expanded to include 108 U.S. Export Assistance Centers throughout the United States and more than 150 international offices in over 80 countries. In 2004, the U.S. Commercial Service helped U.S. businesses generate export sales worth \$26 billion dollars.

The Pennsylvania U.S. Export Assistance Center network includes offices in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Harrisburg. For more information on the U.S. Commercial Service, please visit www.export.gov.

###