Total exports for the Mountain-Plains region, which consists of Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, Utah, and Wyoming, were $53 billion in 2013. The export price index for primary metal manufacturing—the top export industry by trade value—declined 1.5 percent for the quarter ended in January 2015. Export prices for food manufacturing and computer and electronic products also decreased between October and January, while, in contrast, the export price index for transportation equipment increased for the 3 months ended in January 2015.

- Primary metal manufacturing was the Mountain-Plains region’s largest export in 2013 ($9.1 billion), accounting for 17.1 percent of the export trade dollar value for the region.
- Food manufacturing was the second biggest export for the region in 2013, with almost $6.5 billion in trade value.
- The top six export industries for the Mountain-Plains region accounted for over 73 percent ($38.8 billion) of the region’s total export dollars.

- Over 91 percent of Mountain-Plains exports of primary metals, $8.3 billion dollars, came from Utah.
- Driven by a 2.2-percent decrease in November, export prices for primary metal manufacturing declined 1.5 percent for the 3 months ended in January, following a 4.5-percent drop the previous 3 months.
- Prices for primary metal manufacturing also fell 1.5 percent over the year ended in January, led by lower prices for gold and other precious metals.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Statistics.
• Kansas was the region’s top exporter for food manufacturing, accounting for 38 percent of the Mountain-Plains export dollar value for this industry.

• The export price index for food manufacturing fell 5.4 percent between October and January, and 1.2 percent for the 12 months ended in January. A downward trend began in July and more than offset increases in early 2014.

• The decline over the 3 months ended in January was primarily led by a downturn in meat prices.

- Missouri was the region’s top exporting state for transportation equipment manufacturing in 2013, with 44 percent of the export trade dollar value, followed by Kansas with 34 percent.

- Prices for export transportation manufacturing ticked up 0.2 percent between October and January in contrast to prices for all manufactured exports which declined 3.8 percent.

- The index advanced 1.9 percent over the 12 months ended in January, led by rising aerospace parts manufacturing prices.

• Computer & electronic products were the top export industry in Colorado in 2013, and the state ranked second behind Utah in the Mountain-Plains region.

• Export prices for computer & electronic product manufacturing declined 0.5 percent for the 3 months ended in January and 1.1 percent between January 2014 and January 2015.

• The decline for the 3 months ended in January was driven by falling prices for computer equipment manufacturing.