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****OREGON CHINA COUNCIL (OCC)****

****2024 OREGON- CHINA RELATIONS ANNUAL REPORT****

Exclusively prepared for Oregon Congressional Delegation Members, Oregon Governor Tina Kotek's Office, Oregon Legislature, Oregon State Government Agencies, Municipal Governments, and stakeholders with special emphases on the Oregon and China Trade Relations in 2024

January 2025

Overview

The Oregon China Council (OCC) is an all-volunteer Oregon 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the best interests of the people of Oregon through constructive people-to-people exchanges with China. Since 2004, OCC has been the organizer of various programs under the Oregon China Sister State Committee (ORS 285A.152), including legislative and trade missions, climate change and sustainability forums, economic forums, and hosting inbound and outbound delegations to strengthen Oregon's global competitiveness in trade and commerce, environmental sustainability, education, culture, and tourism, primarily through Oregon's official sister states - Tianjin Municipality (Provincial Status) and Fujian Province, China.

Oregon's trade relationship with China is a cornerstone of the state's economic and geopolitical strategy. As the U.S. navigates shifting global dynamics, Oregon's 41-year diplomatic partnership with China and its sister-state ties with Tianjin and Fujian position it as a critical player in subnational diplomacy. This relationship diversifies Oregon's economy, secures high-value jobs, and reinforces its leadership in sectors vital to U.S. competitiveness—semiconductors, agriculture, and clean technology. By anchoring trade in mutual economic and sustainability goals, Oregon mitigates supply chain risks, fosters innovation, and sets a model for resilient international engagement.

As 2024 marked the 10th anniversary of Oregon-Tianjin, the 40th anniversary of Oregon-Fujian, and the 20th anniversary of Oregon-China Council, the annual report lays out outcomes from trade relations with China and presents potential collaborations for the year ahead.

Trade Statistics OREGON-CHINA 2024

The State of Oregon and China share dynamic and enriched trade relations that cross Oregon's leading industries, such as agriculture, advanced manufacturing, clean tech and renewable energy, and other products that promote sustainability, consumer products, and tourism. Even though the trade numbers have fluctuated sector-by-sector in the past few years due to changing trade policy and global supply chain, the advantaged position of Oregon's trade with China has remained stable.

According to the latest statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau, China was Oregon's second-largest trading partner in 2024. Through November 2024, exports reached \$5.38 billion, representing 17% of Oregon's total global exports. This marks a significant 33% growth compared to 2023.

Dominated Commodities:

- ****Electronic Integrated Circuits (HS 8542):**** \$3.69 billion, comprising 69% of exports to China, with growth exceeding 100% from 2023.
- ****Semiconductor Devices (HS 8541):**** \$425.6 million, a remarkable 148% increase.
- ****Photo Film in Rolls (HS 3702):**** \$231.6 million, decreased by 57.77%.
- ****Mineral Or Chemical (HS 3104):**** \$186.1 million, an 88.07% increase.
- ****Seeds, Fruit, And Spores:**** \$48 million, a 31.04% increase from last year.
- ****Wheat Industry:**** \$53.8 million contribution.

Additionally, 2024 saw the introduction of several new commodities in the Oregon-China trade landscape, further diversifying the trade portfolio and opening new avenues for economic collaboration. These commodities include:

- ****Tanned Or Dressed Fur (HS 4302)****
- ****Machinery For Working Rubber Or Plastics (HS 8477)****
- ****Furniture Nesoi And Parts (HS 9403)****
- ****Waste And Scrap Of Paper Or Paperboard (HS 4707)****
- ****Finishing Agents, Dye Carriers, Etc. (HS 3809)****
- ****Unsaturated Acyclic & Cyclic Monocarboxylic Acids (HS 2916)****
- ****Polymers Of Ethylene, In Primary Forms (HS 3901)****
- ****Fats & Oils, Their Fractions, Fish & Marine Mammal (HS 1504)****

These additions signify the expanding range of goods involved in the trade relations between Oregon and China, showcasing the potential for further growth and mutual economic benefit beyond the semiconductor category.

OCC Efforts in Promoting Oregon Trade

The OCC board, four sub-chapters (Oregon-Fujian, Oregon-Tianjin, Eastern Oregon, Southern Oregon), and five committees (Education, Culture, Government Affairs, Commerce, Sustainability,

and Economic Revitalization) are made up of volunteers from different professional and community backgrounds committed to serving Oregon's best interests. In the past year, OCC has contributed to the remarkable trade figures in the following ways:

- **OCC Board Visits to Tianjin Business Bureau, Port of Tianjin, Fujian Provincial Department of Commerce, Foreign Affairs Office, Quanzhou Business Bureau on Promoting Oregon – Tianjin and Fujian Import and Export | January**

- **Oregon Sister State - Fujian Province Vice Governor Guo Ningning Friendship Visit in March 2024**

Fujian Vice Governor Guo's delegation, accompanied by Chinese Deputy Consul General in San Francisco Guoxuan Song, visited Oregon Governor Tina Kotek to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Oregon-Fujian Sister State Relationship. The visit deepened the subnational relations in Oregon exports to Fujian, climate and sustainability practices, national park cooperation, international education, and traditional cultural and sports exchanges. The Fujian delegation hosted the China (Fujian) – United States (Oregon) Economic and Trade Cooperation Exchange Forum. Importers, exporters, government, and trade agencies from both sides explored trade opportunities for Oregon wheat, hazelnut, alfalfa, and wine.

- **Oregon Outdoor Alliance | June**

OCC initiated a discussion with Oregon Outdoor Alliance Executive Director Susan Strible on exporting Oregon consumer products and establishing cross-border e-commerce collaborations that would help emerging Oregon brands tap into the Chinese consumer market.

- **Oregon Wine Board | June**

OCC met with Oregon Wine Board Executive Director Gina Bianco and CFO Salt Crawford on Oregon-China wine industry exchanges, raising Oregon Pinot's profile in China and Oregon wine export.

- **Conference of State Governments (CSG) & Sister City Association | July**

State Senator Bill Hansell (OCC Board member and Chair of the Eastern Oregon Chapter) was the President of the CSG in 2024. This conference included a session on the state's relations with China in trade and the latest updates on the U.S.-China relationships. The conference had 18

legislators from 18 states exchange their interests and opinions on China's relations. China's Minister Counselor Zhou from the Chinese Embassy in Washington D.C. and OCC President Jin Lan attended and spoke. Attending legislators expressed interest in exploring potential trade and commerce opportunities with China.

- ****China Food and Drinks Fair | November****

OCC organized Oregon businesses to attend the 111th China Food and Drinks Fair (online), a trade promotion conference hosted by OCC-partnered organizations—the Tianjin Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export and the Tianjin Foreign Economic and Trade Promotion Association. Five food and beverage suppliers presented to fifteen Oregon importers, offering alternative supply solutions to optimize Oregon restaurants and food brands.

- ****Council on Foreign Affairs (CFR) RealEcon Listening Tour | December****

CFR RealEcon Director Matthew Goodman and Allison Smith visited Oregon for a two-day Listening Tour. OCC hosted a Roundtable Dinner Discussion with the Oregon Deputy Secretary of State, Business Oregon, Port of Portland, Oregon Wine Board, Oregon Wheat Commission, and importers and exporters attending. OCC also arranged for CFR delegates to meet with the Strategic Economic Development Corporation (SEDCOR) on the Mid-Willamette region's economic development and agriculture trade.

- ****4th Annual International China-Oregon Forum on Climate Change & Sustainability | December****

The forums have historically emphasized the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), endorsed by 193 member nations of the United Nations, including the United States and China, in 2015.

The 2024 forum, spanning two evenings and four sessions, featured 22 speakers and 53 attendees. Discussions focused on climate-smart cities, the collaboration between Crater Lake and Wuyishan National Parks, and Climate-Smart Agriculture, alongside keynote addresses by leaders from Oregon, Fujian, Tianjin, and the Chinese Consulate General in San Francisco.

The forum reiterated Oregon's and China's commitment to tackling climate change and enhancing sustainability through innovative ideas and technologies. Notable speakers included Chinese Consul General in San Francisco Zhang Jianmin, Tianjin Vice Mayor Zhang Ling, Fujian Vice Governor Wang Jinfu, Oregon Senator Michael Dembrow, Deputy Secretary of State Cheryl Myer, OCC President Jin Lan and Vice President Charlotte Christensen.

Senator Dembrow emphasized local achievements, such as the Elliott Research Forest and the successful removal of Klamath River dams, which restored salmon migration. Deputy Secretary Myers underscored the renovation of Portland International Airport (PDX), which incorporated sustainably sourced wood from collaborations with Oregon and Washington indigenous tribes.

With compelling scientific presentations and accessible visuals, the forum reinforced the importance of international partnerships in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and addressing global climate challenges.

Economic & Job Creation Impact

Oregon's export-driven economy relies on international markets like China to sustain and expand its workforce. U.S. International Trade Administration estimates show that \$1 billion in exports supports approximately 5,000–6,000 U.S. jobs. Applying this multiplier, Oregon's \$5.38 billion in exports to China supports roughly 22,000–25,000 jobs statewide, spanning:

- **Semiconductors:** High-skilled, high-wage roles in advanced manufacturing.
- **Agriculture:** Labor-intensive farming, processing, and distribution jobs.
- **Supply Chain:** Indirect logistics, transportation, and professional services employment.

According to US Census statistics, Oregon's general imports of goods amounted to approximately \$23.45 billion in 2024.

The above export-related job creation numbers do not include import-related jobs. Conservative estimations are at least 10,000 more China import-related jobs. Thus, more than **35,000** jobs in the state of Oregon are China-related.

This economic impact underscores the strategic importance of maintaining strong trade ties with China, particularly for rural communities and Oregon's tech sector.

Looking into 2025 on Trade and Commerce

Economic Forum | April [Time TBD]

OCC sustains the yearly tradition of hosting the Economic Forum, which brings relevant trade and commerce groups from Oregon and China together to promote Oregon commodities and explore innovative approaches such as cross-border e-commerce to strengthen regional and local economic development and job creation with collaborators from both sides.

Fujian Province Vice Governor's Visit in early June 2025

****Legislative and Trade Mission | September [Time TBD]****

Facilitate subnational exchanges to promote Oregon's leading industries and open new markets through in-person trade meetings, conferences, and trade policy dialogues.

Conclusion

The Oregon-China partnership is a model for international collaboration, blending trade, sustainability, education, sports, and culture. By deepening these ties, Oregon can thrive as a global leader, benefiting its citizens and reinforcing its reputation as a state of innovation, resilience, inclusiveness, and vision.

New Oregon China stakeholders are also emerging in the state, such as the Oregon Food & Beverage Export Alliance, Greater Portland Inc., and the Pacific Coast Intermodal Port (PCIP) – a container shipping facility being developed at the Port of Coos Bay in North Bend, Oregon. People-to-people exchanges and economic connectedness must continue to thrive and create more jobs for the State of Oregon. Oregon China Council is calling on the leadership of Oregon to strengthen the collective efforts to promote a healthier relationship and high-paying export jobs between Oregon and China.