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CONTACT: Matt Englehart/Seamus Kraft
202-482-3809

Seattle Metro Area Ranks 4th Among the Nation's Export Markets *Mid-Year Data Emphasizes Positive Impact Exports Have on Metropolitan Economies*

WASHINGTON – Today the U.S. Commerce Department announced new data in a series that precisely measures merchandise export values for metropolitan areas. Through the first half of 2007, the Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue metropolitan area was the fourth largest export market in the United States, with sales in the global marketplace totaling \$25.1 billion. Ten percent of Seattle's merchandise exports go to NAFTA countries, plainly illustrating the economic value of open markets.

“Exports are powering the U.S. economy,” said U.S. Commerce Secretary Carlos M. Gutierrez. “Opening new markets for Seattle's exporters will further bolster the metropolitan area trade and support local jobs. In the first half of 2007, the benefit of existing free trade agreements on Seattle's economy is clear having exported \$2.4 billion to Canada and Mexico, and \$16 million to Central America and the Dominican Republic.”

Across the United States, the top ten metropolitan areas posted total export sales of an impressive \$207 billion through the first half of 2007. These exports accounted for 37 percent of total U.S. exports over this period. The top ten markets include New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island; Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown; Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana; Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue; Detroit-Warren-Livonia; Chicago-Naperville-Joliet; San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara; Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Miami Beach; Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington; and Boston-Cambridge-Quincy.

Key Seattle Trade Facts:

- The Seattle metropolitan area exported \$25.1 billion worth of goods in the first half of 2007.
- The Seattle metropolitan area accounted for 87 percent of Washington's merchandise exports in the first half of 2007, the highest share in the nation.
- Japan was among the leading export destinations for Seattle's exports of goods in the first half of 2007. Other leading destinations were China and Canada.
- Transportation equipment was among the top Seattle exports in the first half of 2007.
- Other top exports were computer and electronic products (\$1.2 billion, 5 percent); fishing, hunting and trapping (\$832 million, 3 percent); and machinery, except electrical (\$819 million, 3 percent).
- Ten percent of Seattle's merchandise exports go to NAFTA countries.

Background

The data series contains merchandise export values for 369 metropolitan areas. Service export values are not included in this series. Available for 2005, 2006, and now first half 2007, this data also contains metro area exports as a percent of the state total, where possible; product exports to individual countries for the 50 largest metropolitan areas; top global export product categories; and total exports to ten regional destinations.

For additional information and to view the complete data series and methodology, visit www.trade.gov/metrodata.

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