



Governor's Office of Economic Development

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International Trade a Bright Spot in the Utah Economy
New non-stop to Tokyo enhance Pacific Rim business relationships

Salt Lake City – As a part of events surrounding the new non-stop service to Tokyo from Salt Lake City, a delegation of Utah business and government leaders will receive a briefing from the US Commercial Service on expanded trade opportunities with Japan. Following the briefing, the delegation will participate in a reception with key Japanese business leaders celebrating the first non-stop Delta airlines flight from Salt Lake City to Tokyo, Japan. They will be exploring future business ties between Utah and Japanese companies.

“International trade is one of the very bright spots in the current economic climate for Utah. Our overall export trade has grown by over 31% in the past year. The Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce International Business Committee is making every effort to help Utah businesses grow their foreign trade opportunities. The direct flight to Tokyo which connects to dozens of Pacific Rim destinations cuts substantial travel time and adds a great deal of convenience for company representatives who want to do business in Utah,” said, Spencer Eccles, chairman of the Salt Lake City Chamber of Commerce, International Business Committee.

According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Utah's economy is significantly benefited by exports. One out of every five manufacturing jobs depends on exports. 2,300 companies in Utah export goods, with 85% of those companies either being small or medium businesses. In the past three years, increased exports in Utah are estimated to have been partially responsible for the creation or retention of over 20,000 new jobs.

“The new route directly to Tokyo will open many more doors in our already expanding export market. We believe the added convenience of this flight will add to our growing Asian tourism and Utah businesses will have an increased opportunity for business partnerships,” said Jason Perry, executive director, of the Governor's Office of Economic Development.

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About the Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development

The Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) charter is based on Governor Huntsman's commitment to economic development statewide. The mandate for this office is to provide rich business resources for the creation, growth and recruitment of companies to Utah and to increase tourism and film production in the state. GOED accomplishes this mission through the administration of programs that are based around industries or "economic clusters" that demonstrate the best potential for development. GOED utilizes state resources and private sector contracts to fulfill its mission.