



## MOROCCO

**Capital:**

Rabat

**Population (2008 est.):**

Morocco: 34.86 million  
Virginia: 7.71 million

**Government Type:**

Constitutional Monarchy

**Head of Government:**

King Mohammed VI

**Chief of State:**

Prime Minister Abbas El Fassi

**Languages (Official):**

Arabic (plus French and Berber dialects)

**Land Size:**

172,413 square miles  
(slightly larger than California)  
(CIA World Factbook)

**Currency:** ([www.oanda.com](http://www.oanda.com))

Moroccan Dirham (MAD)  
1US\$ = 8.39 MAD (April 2009)



(Morocco Map. CIA)

### DID YOU KNOW?

- The United States exported over \$1.5 billion in merchandise to Morocco in 2008, an annual increase of 13%. (World Trade Atlas)
- Morocco was the first country to seek diplomatic relations with the Government of the United States in 1777. (U.S. State Dept)
- In January 2006, the bilateral Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the United States and Morocco went into effect. The U.S.-Morocco FTA eliminated tariffs on 95% of bilateral trade in consumer and industrial products with all remaining tariffs to be eliminated within nine years.
- Morocco is the world's largest phosphate exporter, with 75% of world reserves.
- There are over 120 American firms with a presence in Morocco, including Boeing, Dell, Procter and Gamble, Coca Cola, Time Warner, and Delphi Automotive.
- Morocco is quickly becoming a regional production hub for the aerospace industry, attracting Europe's top companies. The automotive parts industry is also strong in Morocco, and supplies Europe's leading manufacturers. (Moroccan Embassy in Washington DC)
- Morocco is one of the major craft producing countries of the world. The Moroccan handicraft sector accounts for 20 percent of the national labor force and more than 10 percent of the country's gross domestic product. (MATIC)



## MOROCCO

### ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

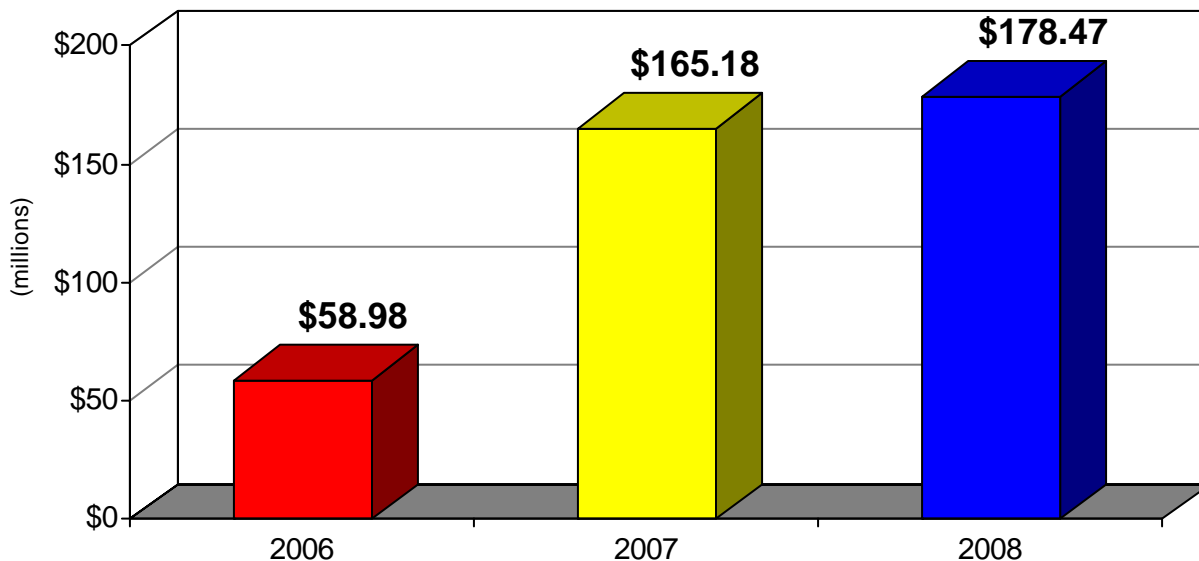
Morocco's economy grew by an estimated 5.4% in 2008. The country's financial sector managed to largely escape the turmoil engulfing much of the rest of the world, and Morocco's banking sector is relatively healthy and profitable. The real threat to Morocco's economy is coming from external sources—tourism has slowed dramatically, remittances from abroad are drying up, and demand in key export markets is weak due to the global recession. (Morocco Business News)

Morocco's economy is dependant on agriculture, tourism, foreign investment, and remittances from migrant workers abroad, mainly Spain. In 2008, there were an estimated 650,000 Moroccans living and working in Spain, especially in the construction sector. The collapse of the real estate market in Spain in 2008 has meant unemployment for many migrant laborers from Morocco, and the Spanish government has offered financial incentives for them to return home as job loses in Spain continue to rise. (Magharebia)

Textiles and clothing dominate Morocco's exports. The country's colorful, hand-crafted rugs and handicrafts are known throughout the world. Seafood is another important export, accounting for 50% of Morocco's agriculture exports and 12% of total exports. Morocco exports a significant amount of sardines and anchovies to the United States. (MATIC and Moroccan Embassy)

The Moroccan economy continues to diversify, with the automotive and aerospace industries becoming a larger part of the industrial base. Electronics and telecommunications are also growing sectors, and Morocco is a popular location for the film industry due to its stunning natural landscapes. (Moroccan Embassy)

### VIRGINIA EXPORTS TO MOROCCO



(Source for Graph: World Trade Atlas)



## MOROCCO

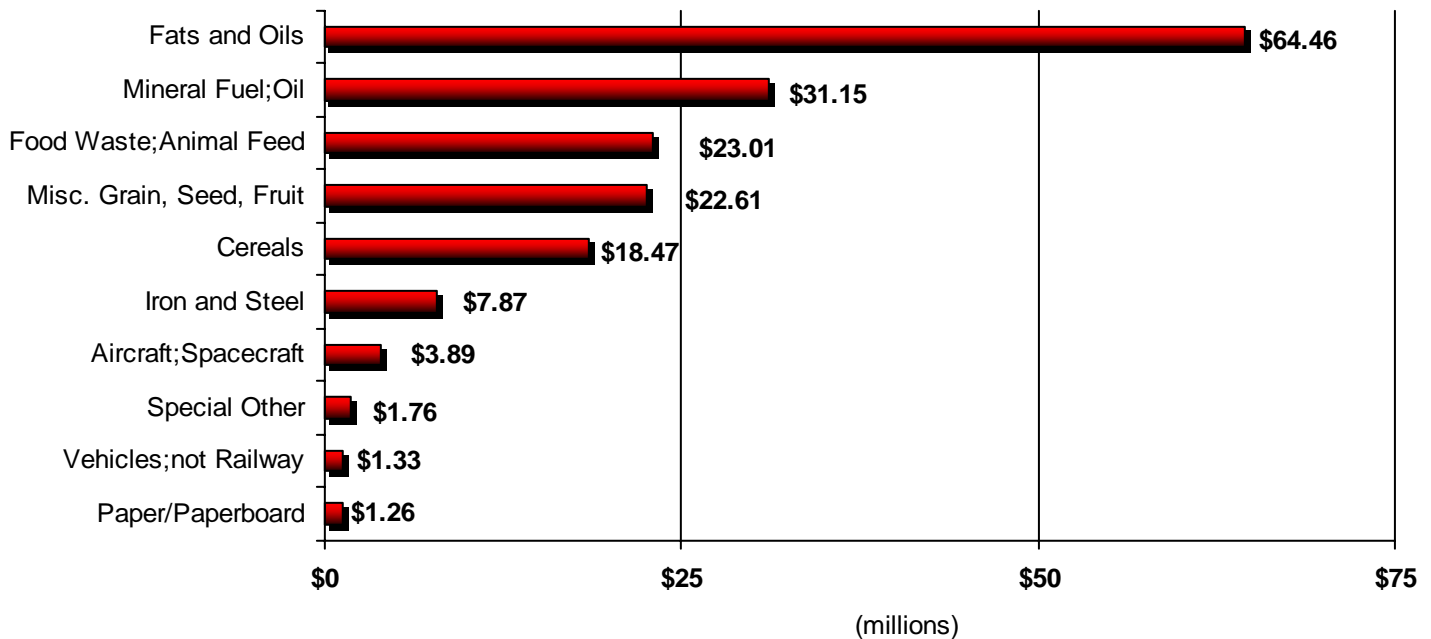
### VIRGINIA EXPORTS TO MOROCCO

The last two years have seen a spike in Virginia's exports to Morocco, growing from \$59 million in 2006 to \$178 million in 2008. 2009 year-to-date exports, however, are down almost 60% over 2008, reflecting weak global demand and falling international trade volume in general.

In 2008, Virginia was the 4th top exporting states to Morocco, behind Louisiana, Washington, and Texas. While the United States' top exports to Morocco have moved away from commodities and into technology and industrial equipment (especially military equipment), Virginia's exports to Morocco are primarily based on agricultural products, especially soybean derivatives. Soybean oil was the single largest exported commodity to Morocco via Virginia, followed by bituminous coal, soybean residues, soybeans, and corn. Trailing agricultural products are ferrous waste and scraps, parts for airplanes and helicopters, and items in the "special other" category, which consist primarily of goods that are temporarily imported into the United States to be repaired or altered, then "re-exported".

The fastest growing exports to Morocco via Virginia in 2008 were soybean oil, unbleached kraft liner (paper), and parts for airplanes and helicopters.

### VIRGINIA'S TOP EXPORTS TO MOROCCO - 2008



(Source for Graph: World Trade Atlas)



## MOROCCO

### VEDP TRADE EVENTS

---

For a complete listing of VEDP's international trade events, please visit the "Events" tab on our website: [www.ExportVirginia.org](http://www.ExportVirginia.org)

### VEDP CONTACT INFORMATION

---

**Virginia Economic Development Partnership  
Division of International Trade**

P.O. Box 798  
901 East Byrd Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23218-0798  
Tel: (804) 545-5764  
Fax: (804) 545-5751  
E-mail: [clientservices@yesvirginia.org](mailto:clientservices@yesvirginia.org)  
Website: [www.exportvirginia.org](http://www.exportvirginia.org)

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

---

Association of Moroccan Professionals in America: <http://www.amp-usa.org/>  
AMCHAM Morocco: <http://www.amcham-morocco.com/>  
American Embassy in Rabat: <http://rabat.usembassy.gov/>  
Embassy of Morocco in Washington DC: <http://dcusa.themoroccanembassy.com/>  
Moroccan American Trade and Investment Center: <http://www.moroccanamericantrade.com/>  
Morocco Business News: <http://www.moroccobusinessnews.com/>

### WORKS CITED

---

FX Currency Converter Online. March 2009. <<http://www.oanda.com/convert/classic>>  
Magharebia.com. "Facing Unemployment, Moroccans in Spain Return Home." August 6, 2008.  
<<http://www.magharebia.com>>  
Moroccan American Trade and Investment Center (MATIC). Textile and Clothing Industry in Morocco. <<http://www.moroccanamericantrade.com/newsite/textiles.pdf>>  
Morocco Business News. News- Economy. April 6, 2009.  
<<http://www.moroccobusinessnews.com/Content/Article.asp?idr=20&id=892>>  
United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). World FactBook. Morocco. 2009.  
<<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>>  
United States Department of State. Background Note: Morocco. March 2009.  
<<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5431.htm>>  
World Trade Atlas. U.S. State Export Edition. Annual 2008. Global Trade Information Services. <<http://www.worldtradestatistics.com/state/>>

Last Updated: April 2009

*\*Information provided by VEDP Fast Facts is intended as advice and guidance only. The information is in no way exhaustive and the VEDP is not a licensed broker, banker, shipper or customs agency. VEDP shall not be liable for any damages or costs of any type arising out of, or in any way connected with the use of, these Fast Facts.*