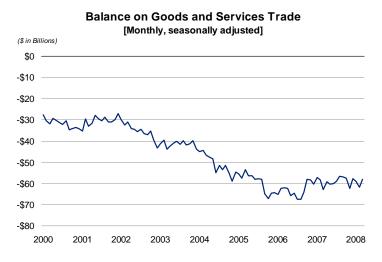


MARCH 2008 TRADE GAP IS \$58.2 BILLION

U.S. international trade in goods and services

The U.S. monthly goods and services deficit decreased in March 2008, according to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis and the U.S. Census Bureau. The deficit decreased from \$61.7 billion (revised) in February to \$58.2 billion in March, as imports decreased more than exports. The February deficit was lower than its previously published value of \$62.3 billion.



Exports

Exports of goods and services decreased \$2.6 billion in March to \$148.5 billion, mostly reflecting a decrease in goods exports. Services exports were virtually unchanged.

- The decrease in goods exports was more than accounted for by decreases in *capital goods; automotive vehicles*, parts, and engines; and consumer goods. An increase in foods, feeds, and beverages was partly offsetting.
- Services exports were virtually unchanged as a decrease in transfers under U.S. military sales contracts (which includes support services and related equipment) was partly offset by increases in other private services (which includes items such as business, professional, and technical services, insurance services, and financial services) and royalties and license fees.

Imports

Imports of goods and services decreased \$6.1 billion in February to \$206.7 billion, mostly reflecting a decrease in goods imports. Services imports decreased slightly.

- The decrease in goods imports was mostly accounted for by decreases in *automotive vehicles*, *parts*, *and engines*; *industrial supplies and materials*; and *consumer goods*.
- The decrease in services imports was more than accounted for by a decrease in *other transportation* (which includes freight and port services). An increase in *other private services* was partly offsetting.

Goods by geographic area (not seasonally adjusted)

- The goods deficit with Japan increased from \$6.9 billion in February to \$7.5 billion in March. Exports decreased \$0.1 billion to \$5.6 billion, while imports increased \$0.6 billion to \$13.1 billion.
- The goods deficit with China decreased from \$18.4 billion in February to \$16.1 billion in March. Exports increased \$0.6 billion to \$6.4 billion, while imports decreased \$1.7 billion to \$22.4 billion.
- The goods deficit with the European Union increased from \$6.9 billion in February to \$7.5 billion in March. Exports increased \$0.3 billion to \$24.1 billion, while imports increased \$0.9 billion to \$31.6 billion.

BEA data—including GDP, personal income, the balance of payments, foreign direct investment, the input-output accounts, and economic data for states, local areas, and industries—are available on the BEA Web site: www.bea.gov. E-mail alerts are also available.

NOTE: This and more information is provided in the May 9 press release issued by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis and the U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. International Trade in Goods and Services: March 2008. The next release is June 10, 2008.

Contacts: Services: Ralph Stewart 202-606-2649
Goods: Maria Iseman 301-763-2311
Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce
U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce