Puerto Rico: Price Movements of Top Exports and Other Highlights

July 2020

The export price indexes for the United States include Puerto Rico and other U.S. territories. Total exports for Puerto Rico amounted to $20.5 billion in 2019. That was a 13.3-percent increase from 2018 when exports totaled $18.1 billion. Export prices for pharmaceutical and medicine manufacturing and medical equipment and supplies manufacturing declined from March to June. The price index for basic chemical manufacturing also decreased over the same period.


Medical equipment and supplies manufacturing was Puerto Rico’s second largest export in 2019, representing 6.0 percent of total exports for the island.

Puerto Rico’s top 3 exports accounted for approximately 89.7 percent of the territory’s total exports in 2019.

- Pharmaceutical and medicine manufacturing export prices fell 0.7 percent over the past quarter.
- Export prices for pharmaceutical preparation manufacturing, which decreased 1.0 percent from March to June, drove the decline in pharmaceutical and medicine manufacturing export prices.
- The price index for pharmaceutical and medicine manufacturing exports recorded no change over the past 12 months.
Export prices for medical equipment and supplies manufacturing fell 1.0 percent from March to June.

The quarterly decline was driven by a 1.3 percent decrease in prices for surgical and medical instrument manufacturing exports.

Over the past 12 months, prices for medical equipment and supplies manufacturing exports declined 1.0 percent.

Export prices for basic chemical manufacturing fell 4.4 percent over the past quarter.

The price index for export basic chemical manufacturing fell 8.6 percent for the 12-month period ended in June.

The 12-month decrease in basic chemical manufacturing prices was driven by a 9.6-percent decline in prices for basic organic chemical manufacturing.

In 2019, the United States exported over $66.7 billion of pharmaceutical and medicine manufacturing products.

Puerto Rico remained the top U.S. exporter of pharmaceutical and medicine products in 2019.

Puerto Rico’s trade dollar value of export pharmaceutical and medicine products was higher than the value from the next 2 highest states, Indiana and California, combined.