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U.S. IMPORT AND EXPORT PRICE INDEXES - DECEMBER 2008 -

The U.S. Import Price Index declined 4.2 percent in December, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today, following decreases in each of the previous four months. Export prices also fell for the fifth consecutive month, declining 2.3 percent in December after a 3.4 percent drop the previous month.

Percent changes in import and export price indexes by End Use category - not seasonally adjusted -

Month	IMPORTS			EXPORTS		
	All imports	Petroleum imports	Non-petroleum imports	All exports	Agricultural exports	Non-agricultural exports
2007						
December.....	-0.2	-1.8	0.4	0.5	2.6	0.3
2008						
January.....	1.5	4.2	0.7	1.2	4.8	0.8
February.....	0.2	-1.3	0.6	0.9	4.6	0.6
March.....	3.1	10.1	1.1	1.6	4.7	1.3
April.....	2.8	8.1	1.3	0.5	-2.0	0.7
May.....	2.8	9.7	0.7	0.3	0.2	0.4
June.....	3.0	9.2	0.9	1.0	2.3	0.9
July.....	1.4	3.3	0.6	1.5	6.7	0.9
August.....	-3.1	-9.8	-0.4	-1.6	-9.6	-0.7
September.....	-3.6 ^r	-11.4 ^r	-1.0 ^r	-0.8	0.1	-0.9
October.....	-5.9 ^r	-22.0 ^r	-0.8 ^r	-2.1 ^r	-8.3 ^r	-1.4 ^r
November.....	-7.0 ^r	-28.5 ^r	-1.8	-3.4 ^r	-7.3 ^r	-2.9
December.....	-4.2	-21.4	-1.1	-2.3	-6.5	-1.9
Dec. 2006 to 2007.....	10.6	48.1	3.0	6.0	23.3	4.5
Dec. 2007 to 2008.....	-9.3	-47.0	0.9	-3.2	-11.6	-2.3

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Import Goods

Import prices fell 4.2 percent in December and have fallen 21.7 percent overall since July. Continued lower prices for both petroleum and nonpetroleum prices in December contributed to the decrease. Overall, import prices fell 9.3 percent in 2008, the first year the index declined since a 9.1 percent drop in 2001. The 2008 decrease was also the largest calendar year decline since the index was first published in 1982.

Petroleum prices fell sharply for the fifth consecutive month, decreasing 21.4 percent in December after falling 55.5 percent over the previous four months. Despite increasing 51.6 percent over the first seven months of 2008, petroleum prices finished the year down 47.0 percent for the December 2007-2008 period. That decline was the largest calendar year decrease since the index was first published in 1982 and followed a 48.1 percent increase in 2007.

Nonpetroleum prices also decreased for the fifth consecutive month in December and the index declined 4.9 percent overall since July. In December, the index fell 1.1 percent after a 1.8 percent decrease in November.

The December decline in nonpetroleum prices was primarily led by a second consecutive 5.1 percent decrease in the price index for nonpetroleum industrial supplies and materials. Falling prices for unfinished metals and chemicals were the largest contributors to the declines in each of the past two months. Nonpetroleum industrial supplies and materials prices fell 1.1 percent over the past year, led primarily by declining metals prices.

Capital goods prices and prices for automotive vehicles also contributed to the December decrease in nonpetroleum prices, falling 0.3 percent and 0.2 percent, respectively. Despite the declines, both indexes rose over the past year. Capital goods prices increased 0.3 percent in 2008, while prices for automotive vehicles advanced 0.7 percent.

In contrast, the price indexes for foods, feeds, and beverages and consumer goods prices both rose in December, increasing 2.3 percent and 0.1 percent, respectively. The December advance in foods, feeds, and beverages prices was driven by higher prices for vegetables and fruit, which more than offset lower meat prices. Foods, feeds, and beverages prices rose 5.7 percent for the 2008 calendar year, while the price index of import consumer goods increased 2.2 percent.

Export Goods

Export prices fell 2.3 percent as both agricultural and nonagricultural prices declined in December. Prices for exports were down 7.5 percent in the last quarter of 2008, the largest three-month decrease since the index was first published in 1983. Export prices declined 3.2 percent in 2008, the first calendar year drop since 2001 and the largest since 1998.

Agricultural products fell for the third consecutive month, decreasing 6.5 percent in December after a 7.3 percent drop the previous month. Falling prices for corn, soybeans, meat, and wheat were the largest factors leading the December decline. The price index for agricultural exports fell 11.6 percent in 2008, the largest calendar year decrease since the index was first published in 1985, following an increase of 23.3 percent in 2007 which was the largest calendar year increase since the index was first published.

Nonagricultural prices declined 1.9 percent in December and 2.3 percent in 2008. The annual decrease was the first calendar year drop for the index since 2001. In December, the decrease was led by a 6.0 percent decline in the price index for nonagricultural industrial supplies and materials. Lower prices for fuels, metals, and chemicals all contributed to the decrease. Nonagricultural industrial supplies and materials prices fell 9.6 percent for the December 2007-2008 period.

Prices for each of the major finished goods categories also decreased in December, although the indexes all rose overall in 2008. Capital goods prices and prices for automotive vehicles both declined 0.2 percent in December, while the price index for consumer goods fell 0.3 percent. In 2008, capital goods prices rose 0.7 percent, automotive vehicle prices 1.2 percent, and consumer goods prices 1.1 percent.

Summary of December-to-December Percent Changes

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
All Commodity Imports	7.0	3.2	-9.1	4.2	2.4	6.7	8.0	2.5	10.6	-9.3
Excluding Petroleum	0.0	1.3	-4.5	0.3	1.2	3.7	2.4	1.9	3.0	0.9
Petroleum	137.2	17.6	-39.5	56.9	12.8	30.3	42.4	5.3	48.1	-47.0
All Commodity Exports	0.5	1.1	-2.5	1.0	2.2	4.0	2.8	4.5	6.0	-3.2
Excluding Agricultural	1.2	0.9	-2.5	0.4	1.3	5.0	2.6	3.7	4.5	-2.3
Agricultural	-6.8	3.1	-1.8	8.0	13.4	-5.9	4.9	13.5	23.3	-11.6

Imports by Locality of Origin

Prices of imports from China fell 0.4 percent in December after a 0.5 percent decline in November. Despite the recent decreases, import prices from China advanced 3.1 percent in 2008 after rising 2.4 percent in 2007, the first calendar year increase for the index which was first published in 2003.

Import prices from Canada fell for the fifth consecutive month, declining 3.2 percent in December following a 7.2 percent drop the previous month. Falling fuel prices continued to lead the decrease. The index fell 5.6 percent in 2008, the largest calendar year decline since an 11.7 percent drop in 2001. The price index for imports from the European Union also decreased for the fifth consecutive month in December, falling 1.7 percent. Despite the recent declines, the index ticked up 0.2 percent over the past year.

In contrast, prices of imports from Japan and from Mexico each rose in December, increasing 0.2 percent and 0.5 percent, respectively. The price index for imports from Japan increased 1.8 percent in 2008, the largest calendar year advance since the index rose 2.8 percent in 1995. Import prices from Mexico fell 5.0 percent in 2008, led by lower petroleum prices.

Import and Export Services

Import air passenger fares edged down 0.3 percent in December after a 5.0 percent decline in November. The December decrease was driven by a 10.2 percent drop in European fares which more than offset rising prices for Asian and Latin American/Caribbean fares. The index of import air passenger fares increased 16.2 percent overall for the December 2007-2008 period. In contrast, export air passenger fares advanced 0.8 percent in December as a 3.8 percent increase in Asian fares and a 3.0 percent rise in Latin American/Caribbean fares more than offset a 2.5 percent fall in European fares. Export air passenger fares rose 2.7 percent over the past 12 months.

The price index of import air freight declined 1.8 percent in December, led by a 6.8 percent decrease in European air freight prices. The drop followed decreases of 4.1 percent, 3.3 percent, and 3.2 percent, respectively, over the previous three months. Despite those declines, the index advanced 0.8 percent in 2008. Export air freight prices fell 2.7 percent in December, the fourth consecutive monthly decline for the index. However, for the year ended in December, export air freight prices rose 6.8 percent.

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Import and Export Price Index data for January 2009 are scheduled for release on February 18, 2009 at 8:30 A.M. (E.S.T.).

Table 1. U.S. import price indexes and percent changes for selected categories of goods: December 2007 to December 2008

[2000=100, unless otherwise noted]

Description	End Use	Relative importance Nov. 2008 ¹	Index		Percent change				
			Nov. 2008	Dec. 2008	Annual	Monthly			
					Dec. 2007 to Dec. 2008	Aug. 2008 to Sept. 2008	Sept. 2008 to Oct. 2008	Oct. 2008 to Nov. 2008	Nov. 2008 to Dec. 2008
All commodities		100.000	120.6	115.5	-9.3	-3.6	-5.9	-7.0	-4.2
All imports excluding petroleum		84.795	111.1	109.9	0.9	-1.0	-0.8	-1.8	-1.1
All imports excluding fuels (Dec. 2001=100) ..		82.767	113.9	112.6	1.1	-0.5	-0.8	-1.7	-1.1
Foods, feeds, & beverages	0	4.701	138.9	142.1	5.7	-1.7	-1.4	-4.7	2.3
Agricultural foods, feeds & beverages, excluding distilled beverages.....	00	3.625	153.6	159.0	7.2	-1.7	-1.6	-5.5	3.5
Nonagricultural foods (fish, distilled beverages).....	01	1.076	105.7	103.8	0.8	-1.6	-1.1	-2.0	-1.8
Industrial supplies & materials	1	33.772	176.9	154.8	-26.7	-8.1	-14.1	-17.3	-12.5
Industrial supplies & materials excluding petroleum.....		18.567	153.7	145.9	-1.1	-3.1	-3.3	-5.1	-5.1
Industrial supplies & materials excluding fuels (Dec. 2001=100).....		16.539	164.1	154.7	-0.5	-1.5	-3.3	-5.4	-5.7
Industrial supplies & materials, durable.....		10.506	151.1	141.3	-5.2	-3.0	-4.4	-6.8	-6.5
Industrial supplies & materials nondurable excluding petroleum.....		6.033	156.4	151.3	4.7	-3.3	-1.9	-2.5	-3.3
Fuels & lubricants.....	10	17.233	202.8	164.4	-43.4	-11.7	-20.7	-26.2	-18.9
Petroleum & petroleum products.....	100	15.206	207.0	162.6	-47.0	-11.4	-22.0	-28.5	-21.4
Crude.....	10000	10.767	205.6	166.6	-47.0	-13.3	-23.8	-29.8	-19.0
Fuels, n.e.s.-coals & gas.....	101	1.759	181.2	181.0	-1.3	-16.4	-3.1	-2.1	-0.1
Gas-natural.....	10110	1.557	172.3	172.2	-3.5	-18.6	-3.8	-2.4	-0.1
Paper & paper base stocks.....	11	0.810	115.1	113.4	3.8	0.2	-2.9	-1.1	-1.5
Materials associated with nondurable supplies & materials.....	12	5.300	155.7	148.2	9.5	1.8	-1.2	-2.9	-4.8
Selected building materials.....	13	1.938	119.0	118.2	1.9	0.5	-1.8	-1.2	-0.7
Unfinished metals related to durable goods.....	14	4.656	208.4	183.2	-15.7	-5.5	-7.3	-12.0	-12.1
Finished metals related to durable goods. ...	15	2.080	147.9	141.3	4.7	-1.5	-2.6	-5.1	-4.5
Nonmetals related to durable goods.....	16	1.755	110.5	109.5	5.5	-0.4	-0.6	-0.2	-0.9
Capital goods	2	22.787	92.8	92.5	0.3	-0.1	0.0	-0.5	-0.3
Electric generating equipment.....	20	2.946	111.4	111.0	2.9	-0.1	-0.7	-0.6	-0.4
Nonelectrical machinery.....	21	18.043	87.6	87.3	-0.5	-0.1	-0.1	-0.6	-0.3
Transportation equipment excluding motor vehicles (Dec. 2001=100).....	22	1.798	120.2	120.2	4.8	0.1	1.4	0.3	0.0
Automotive vehicles, parts & engines	3	14.176	107.7	107.5	0.7	-0.2	0.1	-0.5	-0.2
Consumer goods, excluding automotives ..	4	24.564	104.8	104.9	2.2	-0.1	0.1	-0.4	0.1
Nondurables, manufactured.....	40	11.359	108.1	108.2	2.6	-0.2	0.0	-0.1	0.1
Durables, manufactured.....	41	12.025	101.6	101.6	2.3	0.1	0.2	-0.4	0.0
Nonmanufactured consumer goods.....	42	1.180	103.2	103.5	-0.3	0.0	-0.7	-2.5	0.3

¹ Relative importance figures are based on 2006 trade values.

NOTES: Data may be revised in each of the three months after original publication.

Dash = Not available

Table 2. U.S. export price indexes and percent changes for selected categories of goods: December 2007 to December 2008

[2000=100, unless otherwise noted]

Description	End Use	Relative importance Nov. 2008 ¹	Index		Percent change				
			Nov. 2008	Dec. 2008	Annual	Monthly			
					Dec. 2007 to Dec. 2008	Aug. 2008 to Sept. 2008	Sept. 2008 to Oct. 2008	Oct. 2008 to Nov. 2008	Nov. 2008 to Dec. 2008
All commodities.....		100.000	118.2	115.5	-3.2	-0.8	-2.1	-3.4	-2.3
Agricultural commodities.....		8.833	160.0	149.6	-11.6	0.1	-8.3	-7.3	-6.5
Nonagricultural commodities.....		91.167	115.2	113.0	-2.3	-0.9	-1.4	-2.9	-1.9
Foods, feeds, & beverages.....	0	8.186	164.7	154.7	-9.6	0.4	-8.1	-5.9	-6.1
Agricultural foods, feeds & beverages, excluding distilled beverages.....	00	7.456	166.8	156.1	-10.9	0.5	-8.8	-6.4	-6.4
Nonagricultural foods (fish, distilled beverages).....	01	0.730	148.5	144.2	6.0	-0.1	1.6	0.4	-2.9
Industrial supplies & materials.....	1	28.753	147.7	138.9	-9.9	-2.6	-4.5	-8.7	-6.0
Industrial supplies & materials, durable.....		10.872	149.6	140.8	-11.6	-4.7	-4.2	-6.5	-5.9
Industrial supplies & materials, nondurable.....		17.881	147.4	138.5	-8.8	-1.4	-4.7	-9.8	-6.0
Agricultural industrial supplies & materials.....	10	1.377	131.6	122.4	-15.4	-2.2	-5.7	-11.4	-7.0
Nonagricultural industrial supplies & materials.....		27.376	148.9	140.0	-9.6	-2.7	-4.5	-8.4	-6.0
Fuels & lubricants.....	11	4.114	196.3	171.7	-22.9	-3.1	-10.6	-17.9	-12.5
Nonagricultural supplies & materials excluding fuels & building materials.....	12	22.194	144.8	137.6	-7.3	-2.7	-3.4	-6.8	-5.0
Selected building materials.....	13	1.068	115.4	114.5	0.7	0.2	1.0	-1.0	-0.8
Capital goods.....	2	40.537	101.5	101.3	0.7	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2	-0.2
Electrical generating equipment.....	20	3.863	109.1	108.8	1.2	0.3	0.1	-0.5	-0.3
Nonelectrical machinery.....	21	28.500	93.4	93.1	-0.5	-0.2	-0.3	-0.2	-0.3
Transportation equipment excluding motor vehicles (Dec. 2001=100).....	22	8.174	131.0	131.3	5.0	0.1	0.3	-0.1	0.2
Automotive vehicles, parts & engines.....	3	10.076	108.2	108.0	1.2	0.1	0.4	-0.1	-0.2
Consumer goods, excluding automotives..	4	12.448	108.8	108.5	1.1	0.3	0.5	-0.9	-0.3
Nondurables, manufactured.....	40	5.654	106.7	106.1	-1.9	-0.5	-0.2	-1.9	-0.6
Durables, manufactured.....	41	5.750	109.9	109.9	4.5	1.4	1.1	0.0	0.0

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Table 3. U.S. import price indexes and percent changes for selected categories of goods: December 2007 to December 2008

[December 2005=100, unless otherwise noted]

Description	NAICS	Relative importance Nov. 2008 ¹	Index		Percent change				
			Nov. 2008	Dec. 2008	Annual	Monthly			
					Dec. 2007 to Dec. 2008	Aug. 2008 to Sept. 2008	Sept. 2008 to Oct. 2008	Oct. 2008 to Nov. 2008	Nov. 2008 to Dec. 2008
Nonmanufactured articles.....		14.952	101.6	87.7	-37.9	-12.4	-20.4	-24.7	-13.7
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting...	11	1.687	124.9	139.6	17.2	-2.4	-4.0	-7.0	11.8
Crop production.....	111	1.209	128.8	155.4	27.1	-1.8	-5.4	-5.1	20.7
Mining.....	21	13.265	99.2	82.4	-42.5	-13.1	-21.7	-26.5	-16.9
Mining (except oil and gas) (Dec. 2006=100).....	212	0.440	127.9	127.7	19.5	2.0	0.8	-1.5	-0.2
Manufactured articles.....		84.488	109.0	106.4	-1.8	-0.7	-1.8	-2.8	-2.4
Manufactured goods, part 1.....	31	10.455	107.6	107.2	1.0	-0.6	-0.3	-1.5	-0.4
Food manufacturing.....	311	2.551	120.5	117.8	0.6	-1.8	-1.3	-5.6	-2.2
Beverage and tobacco product manufacturing.....	312	0.873	105.7	106.1	1.6	0.0	-0.1	-0.4	0.4
Textile mills.....	313	0.473	111.8	110.4	1.2	-0.6	-0.5	-1.1	-1.3
Textile product mills.....	314	0.800	102.3	102.3	1.7	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.0
Apparel manufacturing.....	315	4.215	102.1	102.8	0.6	-0.5	0.2	0.1	0.7
Leather and allied product manufacturing. .	316	1.543	106.0	105.8	2.4	-0.3	0.3	0.0	-0.2
Manufactured goods, part 2.....	32	18.472	116.7	108.9	-6.7	-0.8	-5.1	-6.8	-6.7
Wood product manufacturing.....	321	1.182	93.7	92.8	-0.5	0.7	-4.3	-1.9	-1.0
Paper manufacturing.....	322	1.378	111.4	110.2	6.6	0.1	-1.6	-0.9	-1.1
Petroleum and coal products manufacturing.....	324	3.579	103.1	75.5	-45.2	-4.9	-17.0	-25.0	-26.8
Chemical manufacturing.....	325	9.141	127.7	124.3	7.7	1.2	-0.4	-1.3	-2.7
Plastics and rubber products manufacturing.....	326	1.844	113.4	113.3	7.1	0.3	-0.3	-0.4	-0.1
Nonmetallic mineral product manufacturing.....	327	1.244	118.1	117.8	7.6	-0.2	2.4	-0.1	-0.3
Manufactured goods, part 3.....	33	55.561	106.7	105.3	-0.7	-0.7	-0.8	-1.7	-1.3
Primary metal manufacturing.....	331	5.532	145.6	129.3	-13.6	-4.8	-6.7	-11.0	-11.2
Fabricated metal product manufacturing. . .	332	2.865	120.7	119.5	7.1	-0.2	0.0	-0.9	-1.0
Machinery manufacturing.....	333	7.127	110.4	110.3	3.2	0.0	-0.3	-0.5	-0.1
Computer and electronic product manufacturing.....	334	14.479	91.4	91.0	-3.7	-0.3	-0.2	-0.5	-0.4
Electrical equipment, appliance, and component manufacturing.....	335	4.038	114.1	113.9	4.9	0.3	0.4	-0.4	-0.2
Transportation equipment manufacturing. . .	336	14.996	104.8	104.6	1.1	-0.2	0.2	-0.5	-0.2
Furniture and related product manufacturing.....	337	1.605	110.5	110.2	7.5	0.1	-0.2	-0.7	-0.3
Miscellaneous manufacturing.....	339	4.920	110.4	110.7	2.2	-0.3	0.0	-0.5	0.3

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Table 4. U.S. export price indexes and percent changes for selected categories of goods: December 2007 to December 2008

[December 2005=100, unless otherwise noted]

Description	NAICS	Relative importance Nov. 2008 ¹	Index		Percent change				
			Nov. 2008	Dec. 2008	Annual	Monthly			
					Dec. 2007 to Dec. 2008	Aug. 2008 to Sept. 2008	Sept. 2008 to Oct. 2008	Oct. 2008 to Nov. 2008	Nov. 2008 to Dec. 2008
Nonmanufactured articles.....		6.053	123.5	114.9	-18.0	-0.8	-11.0	-5.8	-7.0
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting...	11	4.828	138.8	128.7	-18.1	0.2	-12.3	-6.0	-7.3
Crop production.....	111	4.479	142.7	131.8	-19.2	0.3	-13.0	-6.4	-7.6
Mining.....	21	1.225	89.7	84.4	-17.7	-5.0	-5.3	-4.7	-5.9
Mining (except oil and gas).....	212	0.844	92.6	91.9	-7.6	-2.6	-3.0	-3.5	-0.8
Manufactured articles.....		91.950	109.0	107.2	-0.6	-0.6	-1.1	-2.6	-1.7
Manufactured goods, part 1.....	31	6.994	120.5	117.0	2.0	-0.6	-1.3	-3.3	-2.9
Food manufacturing.....	311	4.578	134.0	128.7	3.0	-0.8	-1.7	-4.8	-4.0
Beverage and tobacco product manufacturing.....	312	0.502	104.0	105.5	1.6	-1.2	-0.4	0.0	1.4
Apparel manufacturing.....	315	0.486	101.5	101.6	1.3	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1
Manufactured goods, part 2.....	32	22.682	114.7	109.7	-4.4	-0.9	-2.9	-7.1	-4.4
Wood product manufacturing.....	321	0.537	111.2	111.2	1.3	0.3	0.1	-1.2	0.0
Paper manufacturing.....	322	2.010	115.3	113.6	1.0	0.2	0.0	-1.0	-1.5
Petroleum and coal products manufacturing.....	324	2.637	119.6	98.2	-30.6	-3.4	-13.1	-23.4	-17.9
Chemical manufacturing.....	325	14.338	115.2	111.4	-1.5	-0.8	-1.5	-5.9	-3.3
Plastics and rubber products manufacturing.....	326	2.291	111.7	110.7	4.3	0.8	0.4	-0.5	-0.9
Nonmetallic mineral product manufacturing.....	327	0.869	112.2	112.2	4.6	0.8	1.2	0.7	0.0
Manufactured goods, part 3.....	33	62.274	105.7	105.1	0.4	-0.5	-0.3	-0.8	-0.6
Primary metal manufacturing.....	331	4.294	126.0	118.2	-9.2	-6.4	-5.2	-8.4	-6.2
Fabricated metal product manufacturing. ...	332	2.858	119.0	118.6	4.8	-0.2	0.6	-0.3	-0.3
Machinery manufacturing.....	333	12.542	111.4	111.3	4.4	0.1	0.5	-0.1	-0.1
Computer and electronic product manufacturing.....	334	16.659	92.9	92.5	-4.0	-0.3	-1.1	-0.4	-0.4
Electrical equipment, appliance, and component manufacturing.....	335	3.726	107.0	106.4	0.4	0.2	0.0	-0.5	-0.6
Transportation equipment manufacturing....	336	17.129	107.8	108.0	2.7	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.2
Miscellaneous manufacturing.....	339	4.716	111.9	111.8	5.5	1.3	1.4	-0.2	-0.1

¹ Relative importance figures are based on 2006 trade values.

NOTES: Data may be revised in each of the three months after original publication.

Dash = Not available

Table 5. U.S. import price indexes and percent changes for selected categories of goods: December 2007 to December 2008

[2000=100, unless otherwise noted]

Description	Harmonized system	Relative importance Nov. 2008 ¹	Index		Percent change				
			Nov. 2008	Dec. 2008	Annual	Monthly			
					Dec. 2007 to Dec. 2008	Aug. 2008 to Sept. 2008	Sept. 2008 to Oct. 2008	Oct. 2008 to Nov. 2008	Nov. 2008 to Dec. 2008
Live animals; animal products.....	I	1.152	130.1	125.8	-0.2	-3.5	-2.9	-6.2	-3.3
Meat and edible meat offal.....	02	0.272	157.3	149.9	1.8	-1.8	-2.1	-7.3	-4.7
Fish and crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates.....	03	0.580	102.2	99.5	0.4	-2.3	-1.5	-2.8	-2.6
Vegetable products.....	II	1.404	150.2	176.6	24.8	-1.1	-3.1	-4.6	17.6
Edible vegetables, roots, and tubers.....	07	0.406	237.5	354.5	73.7	-1.4	10.8	-1.1	49.3
Edible fruit and nuts; peel of citrus fruit or melons.....	08	0.415	102.8	116.8	24.4	1.5	-6.6	-5.7	13.6
Coffee, tea, mate and spices.....	09	0.245	147.3	144.8	-5.0	-1.0	-9.9	-4.2	-1.7
Prepared foodstuffs, beverages, and tobacco.....	IV	2.298	133.7	134.0	4.3	-1.5	-2.4	-2.3	0.2
Preparations of cereals, flour, starch or milk; bakers' wares (Dec. 2007=100).....	19	0.187	104.4	102.5	2.5	-1.0	-3.0	-4.9	-1.8
Preparations of vegetables, fruit, nuts, or other parts of plants.....	20	0.243	133.7	132.1	-1.8	0.1	-0.9	-3.9	-1.2
Beverages, spirits, and vinegar.....	22	0.839	114.7	114.6	1.8	-2.2	-1.9	-0.3	-0.1
Mineral products.....	V	17.336	204.6	167.9	-41.3	-11.6	-20.2	-25.2	-17.9
Salt; sulfur; earths and stone; plaster materials, lime & cement (Dec.2007=100)...	25	0.225	102.4	102.3	2.3	-0.3	0.0	-0.7	-0.1
Mineral fuels, oils and residuals, bituminous substances and mineral waxes.....	27	16.665	201.9	164.3	-42.7	-11.8	-20.7	-26.0	-18.6
Products of the chemical or allied industries.....	VI	8.213	140.6	135.1	5.2	1.8	-0.2	-2.9	-3.9
Inorganic chemicals.....	28	1.204	291.0	252.3	19.0	7.2	-0.5	-0.7	-13.3
Organic chemicals.....	29	2.510	125.2	119.3	-6.0	0.1	-0.3	-6.6	-4.7
Pharmaceutical products.....	30	2.428	113.1	112.9	2.5	-0.6	-0.1	-0.4	-0.2
Tanning & dyeing extracts; dye & pigments; varnish & paints; putty.....	32	0.174	105.1	104.8	2.1	2.2	-3.6	-0.5	-0.3
Essential oils and resinoids (Dec. 2001=100).....	33	0.429	122.3	120.9	5.8	-1.5	0.7	-2.2	-1.1
Miscellaneous chemical products.....	38	0.433	98.4	97.5	-1.1	-1.9	-0.8	-1.3	-0.9
Plastics and articles thereof; rubber and articles thereof.....	VII	3.097	133.3	130.9	4.3	0.1	-1.2	-2.1	-1.8
Plastics and articles thereof.....	39	2.046	130.8	130.0	5.8	0.1	-2.4	-0.8	-0.6
Rubber and articles thereof.....	40	1.051	138.2	132.6	1.5	0.1	0.8	-4.6	-4.1
Raw hides, skins, leather, furskins, travel goods, etc.....	VIII	0.620	112.8	112.2	1.5	-0.7	0.5	-0.3	-0.5
Articles of leather; travel goods, bags, etc. of various materials.....	42	0.569	113.2	112.8	1.6	-0.8	0.6	-0.4	-0.4
Wood, wood charcoal, cork, straw, basketware and wickerwork.....	IX	1.220	114.5	113.4	-0.8	0.7	-4.5	-1.9	-1.0
Woodpulp, recovered paper, and paper products.....	X	1.534	114.9	113.8	5.6	0.0	-1.5	-0.8	-1.0
Paper and paperboard; articles of paper pulp, paper or paperboard.....	48	1.089	114.0	113.7	12.0	-0.2	0.5	-0.5	-0.3
Printed matter.....	49	0.271	119.3	119.3	1.4	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
Textile and textile articles.....	XI	5.318	103.7	103.8	0.8	-0.2	0.0	-0.3	0.1
Articles of apparel and clothing accessories, knitted or crocheted.....	61	1.919	100.6	99.4	-1.3	0.0	-0.2	0.1	-1.2
Articles of apparel and clothing accessories, not knitted or crocheted.....	62	2.102	102.7	104.6	1.9	-0.5	0.5	0.0	1.9
Made-up or worn textile articles.....	63	0.541	95.7	95.7	3.1	0.5	-0.2	-0.1	0.0
Headgear, umbrellas, artificial flowers, etc. ...	XII	1.287	106.8	106.8	2.8	-0.1	0.2	0.3	0.0
Footwear and parts of such articles.....	64	1.080	105.9	105.9	3.3	-0.1	0.2	0.4	0.0

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 5. U.S. import price indexes and percent changes for selected categories of goods: December 2007 to December 2008 — Continued
 [2000=100, unless otherwise noted]

Description	Harmoni- zied system	Relative importance Nov. 2008 ¹	Index		Percent change				
			Nov. 2008	Dec. 2008	Annual	Monthly			
					Dec. 2007 to Dec. 2008	Aug. 2008 to Sept. 2008	Sept. 2008 to Oct. 2008	Oct. 2008 to Nov. 2008	Nov. 2008 to Dec. 2008
Stone, plaster, cement, asbestos, ceramics, glass etc.....	XIII	1.074	122.7	122.3	7.6	-0.3	3.6	-0.3	-0.3
Articles of stone, plaster, cement, asbestos, or mica (Dec. 2001=100).....	68	0.400	119.5	119.6	13.0	0.2	3.3	-0.1	0.1
Ceramic products.....	69	0.346	132.0	131.9	8.9	-0.5	7.7	-0.2	-0.1
Glass and glassware.....	70	0.328	115.1	113.9	0.4	-0.7	0.0	-0.6	-1.0
Pearls, stones, precious metals, imitation jewelry, and coins.....	XIV	2.569	130.6	128.5	-9.8	-7.6	-2.1	-6.3	-1.6
Base metals and articles of base metals.....	XV	7.165	178.3	164.8	-3.7	-2.3	-4.8	-8.1	-7.6
Iron and steel.....	72	2.324	257.9	221.3	5.4	-1.7	-8.6	-7.8	-14.2
Articles of iron or steel.....	73	1.986	162.8	158.9	18.7	-0.1	-0.7	-1.5	-2.4
Copper and articles thereof.....	74	0.641	215.4	187.8	-36.4	-6.2	-8.0	-23.2	-12.8
Aluminum and articles thereof.....	76	0.916	126.4	118.4	-16.0	-4.1	-5.4	-12.0	-6.3
Tools, implements, cutlery, spoons and forks, of base metal; parts thereof.....	82	0.392	116.4	115.7	4.1	0.2	0.4	-0.5	-0.6
Miscellaneous articles of base metal.....	83	0.492	132.2	132.0	4.0	0.2	1.0	0.0	-0.2
Machinery, electrical equipment, TV image and sound recorders, parts, etc.....	XVI	25.388	88.1	87.9	-0.7	-0.1	-0.1	-0.6	-0.2
Machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof.....	84	13.004	88.0	87.6	-1.7	-0.2	-0.2	-0.8	-0.5
Electrical machinery and equip, sound and TV recorders & reproducers, parts.....	85	12.384	88.2	88.2	0.2	0.0	-0.1	-0.2	0.0
Vehicles, aircraft, vessels and associated transport equipment.....	XVII	13.047	109.2	108.9	0.6	-0.1	0.1	-0.5	-0.3
Motor vehicles and their parts.....	87	12.063	108.0	107.8	0.4	-0.2	0.0	-0.7	-0.2
Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof (Dec. 2002=100).....	88	0.887	115.6	115.5	4.6	0.1	2.8	0.2	-0.1
Optical, photo, measuring, medical & musical instruments; & timepieces.....	XVIII	3.042	101.3	101.0	1.2	-0.1	0.0	-0.2	-0.3
Optical, photographic, measuring and medical instruments.....	90	2.723	99.2	99.0	1.0	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2
Clocks and watches and parts thereof.....	91	0.239	121.6	120.4	2.3	-0.2	0.9	-1.1	-1.0
Miscellaneous manufactured articles.....	XX	4.011	107.4	107.2	5.2	0.1	0.1	-0.2	-0.2
Furniture & stuffed furnishings; lamps & lighting fittings, nesoi; prefab bldgs.....	94	2.333	112.8	112.5	6.7	0.1	0.1	-0.4	-0.3
Toys, games and sports equipment; parts and accessories thereof.....	95	1.465	99.8	99.8	3.0	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0
Miscellaneous manufactured articles.....	96	0.213	112.4	112.3	4.0	-0.2	-0.3	-0.2	-0.1

1 Relative importance figures are based on 2006 trade values.

NOTES: Data may be revised in each of the three months after original publication.

Dash = Not available

Table 6. U.S. export price indexes and percent changes for selected categories of goods: December 2007 to December 2008

[2000=100, unless otherwise noted]

Description	Harmonized system	Relative importance Nov. 2008 ¹	Index		Percent change				
			Nov. 2008	Dec. 2008	Annual	Monthly			
					Dec. 2007 to Dec. 2008	Aug. 2008 to Sept. 2008	Sept. 2008 to Oct. 2008	Oct. 2008 to Nov. 2008	Nov. 2008 to Dec. 2008
Live animals; animal products.....	I	1.596	160.3	155.6	-0.4	-0.2	-0.9	-10.4	-2.9
Meat & edible meat offal (Dec. 2006=100). . .	02	0.807	124.0	119.7	-4.2	-1.6	-2.6	-16.0	-3.5
Fish and crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates.....	03	0.462	153.9	151.4	11.0	0.5	3.1	-0.6	-1.6
Vegetable products.....	II	4.642	187.6	171.5	-15.2	1.1	-11.5	-5.4	-8.6
Edible fruit and nuts; peel of citrus fruit or melons.....	08	0.643	109.8	107.0	-11.8	-3.9	-6.1	-1.9	-2.6
Cereals.....	10	1.883	203.9	177.7	-25.8	8.6	-15.0	-10.4	-12.8
Oilseeds and misc. grains, seeds, fruits, plants, straw and fodder.....	12	1.382	194.8	178.4	-14.5	-4.4	-15.7	-4.0	-8.4
Prepared foodstuffs, beverages, and tobacco.....	IV	2.426	132.9	131.1	1.9	0.4	-2.1	-0.7	-1.4
Miscellaneous edible preparations.....	21	0.463	121.4	121.6	3.8	0.2	1.0	-0.6	0.2
Residues and waste from the food industries; prepared animal feed.....	23	0.550	176.8	164.4	-6.6	1.9	-10.4	-2.6	-7.0
Mineral products.....	V	4.148	236.5	207.4	-23.2	-3.5	-11.2	-17.7	-12.3
Mineral fuels, oils and residuals, bituminous substances and mineral waxes.....	27	3.614	229.2	196.8	-24.9	-3.6	-12.3	-18.9	-14.1
Products of the chemical or allied industries.....	VI	11.780	136.9	133.7	-0.3	-0.9	-1.3	-5.2	-2.3
Inorganic chemicals.....	28	1.327	206.4	203.8	18.7	2.0	0.2	-1.9	-1.3
Organic chemicals.....	29	3.305	138.6	131.8	-11.5	-2.0	-3.3	-13.6	-4.9
Pharmaceutical products.....	30	2.540	113.9	112.9	-3.3	-0.7	-0.5	-2.6	-0.9
Tanning or dyeing extracts, dyes, paints, varnish, putty, & inks.....	32	0.553	113.9	114.1	-2.5	-0.3	-0.3	-1.0	0.2
Essential oils and resinoids; perfumery cosmetic or toilet preparations.....	33	0.679	119.6	118.7	0.3	-0.8	-0.6	-2.1	-0.8
Soap; lubricants; waxes, polishing or scouring products; candles, pastes.....	34	0.432	121.9	121.8	7.8	1.3	-0.2	-0.7	-0.1
Miscellaneous chemical products.....	38	1.758	130.9	127.0	4.7	0.2	0.5	0.3	-3.0
Plastics and articles thereof; rubber and articles thereof.....	VII	5.565	141.9	136.7	0.9	0.3	-1.0	-4.2	-3.7
Plastics and articles thereof.....	39	4.430	135.0	129.9	-1.4	0.1	-1.7	-4.2	-3.8
Rubber and articles thereof.....	40	1.135	173.3	167.2	10.3	1.3	1.6	-4.0	-3.5
Raw hides, skins, leather, furskins, travel goods, etc.....	VIII	0.392	111.0	94.2	-19.8	-0.9	-1.6	-2.0	-15.1
Wood, wood charcoal, cork, straw, basketware and wickerwork.....	IX	0.648	109.5	108.6	-1.8	-0.4	-0.2	-2.2	-0.8
Woodpulp, recovered paper, and paper products.....	X	2.413	107.6	105.5	-8.3	-0.3	-1.4	-7.4	-2.0
Woodpulp and recovered paper.....	47	0.524	91.9	86.5	-29.7	-0.6	-6.6	-24.4	-5.9
Paper and paperboard; articles of paper pulp, paper or paperboard.....	48	1.378	114.4	113.5	2.9	0.3	0.9	-0.3	-0.8
Printed material.....	49	0.511	113.1	112.1	-7.9	-1.3	-0.1	-3.6	-0.9
Textile and textile articles.....	XI	2.237	104.4	103.9	-1.3	-0.4	-2.0	-2.6	-0.5
Cotton, including yarns and woven fabrics thereof.....	52	0.630	95.0	92.3	-10.7	-2.0	-7.1	-7.5	-2.8
Stone, plaster, cement, asbestos, ceramics, glass etc.....	XIII	0.840	113.5	113.5	2.1	0.4	1.0	0.0	0.0
Glass and glassware.....	70	0.446	99.5	99.5	0.2	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0
Pearls, stones, precious metals, imitation jewelry, and coins.....	XIV	3.758	165.7	161.1	-6.2	-6.2	-1.7	-5.3	-2.8
Base metals and articles of base metals.....	XV	5.377	154.0	144.1	-11.2	-3.5	-6.0	-7.1	-6.4

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 6. U.S. export price indexes and percent changes for selected categories of goods: December 2007 to December 2008 — Continued
 [2000=100, unless otherwise noted]

Description	Harmoni- zied system	Relative importance Nov. 2008 ¹	Index		Percent change				
			Nov. 2008	Dec. 2008	Annual	Monthly			
					Dec. 2007 to Dec. 2008	Aug. 2008 to Sept. 2008	Sept. 2008 to Oct. 2008	Oct. 2008 to Nov. 2008	Nov. 2008 to Dec. 2008
Iron and steel.....	72	1.295	184.3	169.2	-13.5	-6.9	-11.3	-10.3	-8.2
Articles of iron or steel.....	73	1.524	159.4	158.7	7.7	-0.5	-0.6	-0.1	-0.4
Copper and articles thereof.....	74	0.505	180.1	117.5	-49.7	-3.6	-9.3	-20.4	-34.8
Aluminum and articles thereof.....	76	0.763	108.8	101.8	-27.9	-7.0	-9.0	-13.7	-6.4
Tools, implements, cutlery, spoons and forks, of base metal; parts thereof.....	82	0.408	121.8	121.9	5.5	0.1	1.2	0.0	0.1
Miscellaneous articles of base metal.....	83	0.379	129.1	128.1	-0.4	0.1	-0.1	-1.1	-0.8
Machinery, electrical equipment, TV image and sound recorders, parts, etc.....	XVI	31.430	94.7	94.4	-0.4	-0.1	-0.3	-0.1	-0.3
Machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof.....	84	17.676	104.4	104.2	1.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	-0.2
Electrical machinery and equipment and parts and accessories thereof.....	85	13.754	84.1	83.8	-2.2	-0.1	-1.1	-0.2	-0.4
Vehicles, aircraft, vessels and associated transport equipment.....	XVII	14.636	117.8	118.0	2.6	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.2
Motor vehicles and their parts.....	87	8.615	107.7	107.6	1.4	0.1	0.5	0.1	-0.1
Optical, photo, measuring, medical & musical instruments; & timepieces.....	XVIII	6.236	106.0	105.8	0.4	-0.4	0.0	-0.8	-0.2
Miscellaneous manufactured articles.....	XX	1.483	108.3	108.1	1.3	0.2	0.2	-0.5	-0.2
Furniture; stuffed furnishings; lamps and lighting fittings nesoi;.....	94	0.794	117.4	117.4	2.4	0.5	0.3	-0.3	0.0
Toys, games and sports equipment; parts and accessories thereof.....	95	0.540	95.1	95.1	2.4	0.2	0.7	0.0	0.0

1 Relative importance figures are based on 2006 trade values.

NOTES: Data may be revised in each of the three months after original publication.

Dash = Not available

Table 7. U.S. import price indexes and percent changes by locality of origin: December 2007 to December 2008
 [2000=100, unless otherwise noted]

Description	Percent of U.S. imports ¹	Index		Percent change				
		Nov. 2008	Dec. 2008	Annual	Monthly			
				Dec. 2007 to Dec. 2008	Aug. 2008 to Sept. 2008	Sept. 2008 to Oct. 2008	Oct. 2008 to Nov. 2008	Nov. 2008 to Dec. 2008
Industrialized Countries²	42.888	123.4	120.5	-3.0	-3.2	-3.8	-5.0	-2.4
Nonmanufactured articles.....	4.201	188.2	168.4	-26.2	-13.9	-18.9	-16.8	-10.5
Manufactured articles.....	38.251	118.2	116.3	0.0	-1.1	-1.4	-3.4	-1.6
Other Countries³	57.112	118.4	112.7	-11.6	-3.9	-7.7	-7.7	-4.8
Nonmanufactured articles.....	12.058	198.0	171.4	-38.6	-11.5	-21.3	-25.1	-13.4
Manufactured articles.....	44.837	106.6	103.6	-2.3	-0.5	-2.2	-2.0	-2.8
Canada	16.032	138.9	134.4	-5.6	-5.1	-6.6	-7.2	-3.2
Nonmanufactured articles.....	3.711	185.0	165.7	-25.5	-14.5	-17.7	-17.7	-10.4
Manufactured articles.....	12.028	131.3	129.5	1.5	-0.6	-1.9	-3.5	-1.4
European Union⁴	17.355	126.4	124.3	0.2	-1.4	-1.4	-2.5	-1.7
Nonmanufactured articles.....	0.249	249.0	221.4	-27.4	-14.5	-24.4	-0.9	-11.1
Manufactured articles.....	16.987	123.8	121.8	0.6	-1.2	-0.9	-2.5	-1.6
France (Dec. 2003=100)	1.844	118.8	118.0	6.2	-0.6	0.4	-1.8	-0.7
Germany (Dec. 2003=100)	4.732	109.1	108.0	-1.2	-1.1	-0.9	-1.6	-1.0
United Kingdom (Dec. 2003=100)	2.684	122.8	117.7	-7.0	-4.2	-3.9	-4.6	-4.2
Latin America⁵	18.032	145.9	137.1	-15.1	-4.9	-10.7	-10.1	-6.0
Nonmanufactured articles.....	5.151	200.4	190.3	-34.3	-10.4	-22.0	-26.2	-5.0
Manufactured articles.....	12.786	136.5	127.7	-4.9	-1.3	-4.0	-2.2	-6.4
Mexico (Dec. 2003=100)	10.710	129.9	130.6	-5.0	-2.7	-7.1	-6.8	0.5
Pacific Rim (Dec. 2003=100)⁶	33.822	101.7	101.2	1.3	-1.1	-0.1	-0.7	-0.5
China (Dec. 2003=100)	15.926	103.1	102.7	3.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.5	-0.4
Japan	8.032	95.7	95.9	1.8	-0.6	0.5	0.3	0.2
Asian NICs⁷	5.887	92.0	91.1	2.5	-0.7	-0.8	-0.5	-1.0
ASEAN (Dec. 2003=100)⁸	6.041	98.7	97.6	-1.1	-1.2	-1.2	-1.6	-1.1
Asia Near East (Dec. 2003=100)⁹	3.928	173.9	150.7	-34.0	-10.2	-16.9	-20.2	-13.3

1 Percentage of trade figures are based on 2006 trade values.

2 Includes Western Europe, Canada, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

3 Includes Eastern Europe, Latin America, OPEC countries, and other countries in Asia, Africa and the Western Hemisphere.

4 Includes European Union countries.

5 Includes Mexico, Central America, South America and the Caribbean.

6 Includes China, Japan, Australia, Brunei, Indonesia, Macao, Malaysia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines and Asian Newly Industrialized Countries.

7 Asian Newly Industrialized Countries. Includes Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea and Taiwan.

8 Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Includes Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

9 Includes Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

NOTES: Data may be revised in each of the three months after original publication.

Regions are not mutually exclusive.

Dash = Not available

Table 8. U.S. international price indexes and percent changes for selected transportation services: December 2007 to December 2008

[2000=100, unless otherwise noted]

Description	Relative importance Nov. 2008 ¹	Index		Percent change				
		Nov. 2008	Dec. 2008	Annual	Monthly			
				Dec. 2007 to Dec. 2008	Aug. 2008 to Sept. 2008	Sept. 2008 to Oct. 2008	Oct. 2008 to Nov. 2008	Nov. 2008 to Dec. 2008
Air Freight								
Import Air Freight	100.000	145.6	143.0	0.8	-3.2	-3.3	-4.1	-1.8
Europe (Dec. 2003=100).....	26.640	141.4	131.8	-11.1	-7.7	-6.4	-10.4	-6.8
Asia.....	61.936	125.8	126.3	4.4	-0.6	-1.4	-0.9	0.4
Export Air Freight	100.000	139.5	135.7	6.8	-1.4	-1.9	-1.5	-2.7
Europe (Dec. 2006=100).....	42.188	130.2	125.0	9.8	-1.6	-3.9	-3.1	-4.0
Inbound Air Freight	100.000	142.8	139.3	0.9	-2.5	-2.6	-3.3	-2.5
Europe (Dec. 2003=100).....	29.194	141.2	131.8	-8.4	-6.0	-4.8	-8.4	-6.7
Asia.....	58.228	122.0	121.6	4.8	-0.2	-1.1	-0.4	-0.3
Outbound Air Freight	100.000	138.7	133.9	7.7	-1.7	-3.3	-2.5	-3.5
Europe (Dec. 2003=100).....	41.611	157.8	151.4	7.1	-2.3	-4.3	-2.0	-4.1
Asia.....	40.735	123.9	121.5	9.6	-1.1	-3.0	-3.0	-1.9
Air Passenger Fares								
Import Air Passenger Fares	100.000	157.6	157.2	16.2	-6.9	2.9	-5.0	-0.3
Europe.....	45.226	163.7	147.0	18.5	-10.1	4.1	-7.0	-10.2
Asia.....	25.280	138.3	152.3	14.1	-7.8	0.9	1.5	10.1
Latin America/Caribbean.....	11.256	129.4	157.6	22.8	-13.0	-3.3	-0.2	21.8
Export Air Passenger Fares	100.000	158.6	159.9	2.7	-11.0	-5.6	-2.2	0.8
Europe.....	29.947	190.1	185.3	1.5	-10.9	-3.3	-7.2	-2.5
Asia.....	35.648	136.3	141.5	11.9	-14.9	-10.3	4.0	3.8
Latin America/Caribbean.....	20.582	163.2	168.1	-1.1	-8.3	-1.2	-2.2	3.0

¹ Relative importance figures for Air Passenger Fares Indexes are based on 2006 trade values, while the relative importance figures for the Air Freight Indexes are based on 2005 trade values.

NOTES: Data may be revised in each of the three months after original publication.

Dash = Not available

TECHNICAL NOTE

Import and Export Merchandise and Services Price Indexes -- All indexes use a modified Laspeyres formula and are not seasonally adjusted. Price indexes for merchandise goods are reweighted annually, with a two-year lag in the weights. Published series use a base year of 2000=100 where possible. More detailed index series and additional information may be obtained at <http://www.bls.gov/mxp>, or by calling (202) 691-7101.

Merchandise Goods Classification Systems -- The merchandise price indexes are published using three classification systems. Items are classified by end use according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis Classification System, by industry according to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), and by product category according to the Harmonized System (HS). While classification by end use and product category are self-explanatory, some notes are in order for classifying items by industry. In the NAICS imports and exports tables, items are classified by output industry, not input industry. As an example, NAICS import index 326 (plastics and rubber products manufacturing) include outputs such as manufactured plastic rather than inputs such as petroleum. The NAICS classification structure also matches the classification system used by the PPI (Producer Price Index) to produce the NAICS primary products indexes.

Import Price Indexes -- Products have been classified by the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States Annotated (TSUSA). Import prices are based on U.S. dollar prices paid by the U.S. importer. The prices are generally either "free on board" (f.o.b.) foreign port or "cost, insurance, and freight" (c.i.f.) U.S. port transaction prices, depending on the practices of the individual industry. The index for crude petroleum is calculated from data collected by the U.S. Department of Energy.

Export Price Indexes -- Products have been classified by the Harmonized Schedule B classification system of the U.S. Bureau of the Census. The prices used are generally either "free alongside ship" (f.a.s.) factory or "free on board" (f.o.b.) transaction prices, depending on the practices of the individual industry. Prices used in the grain index, excluding rice, are obtained from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Services Price Indexes -- Starting in September 2008 the Import Air Passenger Fares Indexes represent changes in the average revenue per passenger received by foreign carriers from U.S. residents and are calculated from data obtained from an airline consulting service. These data include tickets sold by travel agencies and travel websites. Tickets sold directly by the airlines are excluded, as are frequent flyer tickets generally. Starting in January 2008 the Export Air Passenger Fares Indexes represent changes in the average revenue per passenger received by U.S. carriers from foreign residents and are calculated from data collected directly from airlines. These data include frequent flyer tickets and those sold by consolidators. Taxes and fees are excluded from both indexes. The Air Freight Indexes are calculated from data collected directly from airlines. These data exclude mail and passenger baggage. The scope of the service being priced is the movement of freight from airport to airport only, and does not include any ground transportation or port service. The Air Freight Indexes are presented using two definitions: Balance of Payments (which represent transactions between U.S. and foreign residents) and International (which represent transactions inbound to and outbound from the U.S.). Fact sheets specifying detailed information for each services industry are available at <http://www.bls.gov/mxp> under "Publications and Other Documentation."

Import Indexes by Locality of Origin -- Prices used in these indexes are a subset of the data collected for the Import Price Indexes. Beginning with January 2002, the indexes are defined by locality of origin using a nomenclature based upon the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Nonmanufactured goods are defined as NAICS 11 and 21 and manufactured goods are defined as NAICS 31-33.

Revision Policy -- To reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents, monthly data may be revised in each of the three months after original publication. After three months, no further data revisions take place. So, for example, data released in the January release will be subject to revision in the releases for February, March, and April.

Uses of the Data -- The primary use of the indexes is to deflate trade statistics, notably the foreign trade sector of the National Income and Product Accounts constructed by the Department of Commerce. Other published indexes are useful for general market analysis. For trade in international services, Balance of Payments indexes are used for deflating National Income and Product Accounts, while International indexes are more appropriate for market analysis. Merchandise and services indexes also can be used to study U.S. competitiveness and to compute price elasticities, and the merchandise import indexes by country or region of origin are useful in terms of trade analysis.

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