

U.S. TRADE DEVELOPMENTS

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The U.S. Department of Commerce (*Commerce News*, FT-900 (01-05)) reported that seasonally adjusted total exports of goods and services of \$87.7 billion and imports of \$116.1 billion in May 2001 resulted in a goods and services trade deficit of \$28.3 billion; this was \$3.7 billion less than the \$32.0 billion in April 2001.² May 2001 exports of goods and services were \$0.8 billion more than April 2001 exports of \$86.9 billion. May imports of goods and services were \$2.9 billion less than the April imports of \$118.9 billion.

May 2001 merchandise exports increased to \$62.8 billion from \$62.2 billion in April 2001. Merchandise imports decreased to \$197.2 billion from \$99.8 billion, causing the merchandise trade deficit to decrease in

May by \$3.3 billion to \$34.4 billion from \$37.7 billion in April. For services, exports increased to \$24.9 billion, and imports of services decreased to 18.8 billion from \$19.1 billion resulting in a surplus of \$6.1 billion slightly higher than \$5.7 billion surplus in April.

Exports of merchandise goods in March-May 2001 reflected increases in capital goods; automotive vehicles, parts and engines, consumer goods and in the statistical category "Other goods." Decreases occurred in foods, feeds, and beverages; and industrial supplies and materials. Imports of goods reflected decreases in capital goods, consumer goods, and automotive vehicles, parts, and engines, and industrial supplies and materials. Other goods and foods, feeds, and beverages were virtually unchanged. Additional information on U.S. trade developments in agriculture and specified manufacturing sectors, in April-May 2001, are highlighted in tables 1 and 2 and figures 1 and 2. Services trade developments are highlighted in table 3.

¹ The views and conclusions expressed in this article are those of the author. They are not necessarily the views of the U.S. International Trade Commission as a whole or of any individual Commissioner.

² Data for this article was taken largely from U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, "U.S. International Trade in Goods and Services," *Commerce News*, FT-900 (01-05), May 2001, <http://www.bea.doc.gov/bea/newsrel/trad0501.htm>, retrieved July 25, 2001.

Table 1
U.S. trade in goods and services, seasonally adjusted, Apr.-May 2001
(Billion dollars)

Item	Exports		Imports		Trade balance	
	May 2001	Apr. 2001	May 2001	Apr. 2001	May 2001	Apr. 2001
Trade in goods (Current dollars) (see note)						
Including oil	62.8	62.2	97.2	99.8	-34.4	-37.6
Excluding oil	62.7	61.9	86.8	89.7	-24.1	-27.8
Trade in services (Current dollars)	24.9	24.8	18.8	19.1	6.1	5.7
Trade in goods and services (Current dollars)	87.7	86.9	116.1	118.9	-28.4	-32.0
Trade in goods (1996 dollars) (Census basis)	69.0	68.3	103.2	106.9	-34.2	-38.6
Advanced technology products (not seasonally adjusted)	17.2	16.6	15.3	16.2	1.9	0.4

Note.—Data on goods trade are presented on a balance-of-payments (BOP) basis that reflects adjustments for timing, coverage, and valuation of data compiled by the Census Bureau. The major adjustments on BOP basis exclude military trade, but include nonmonetary gold transactions and estimates of inland freight in Canada and Mexico not included in the Census Bureau data. Data may not add to totals shown because of rounding details.

Source: Calculated from data from U.S. Department of Commerce, "Exhibit 1. U.S. International Trade in Goods and Services," "Exhibit 10. Exports and Imports of Goods by Principal End-Use Category (Constant Dollars Basis), 1996 Constant Dollar Basis," "Exhibit 16. Exports, Imports and Balance of Advanced Technology Products," FT-900 (01-05), July 19, 2001, found at Internet address <http://www.bea.doc.gov/bea/newsrel/trad0501.htm>.

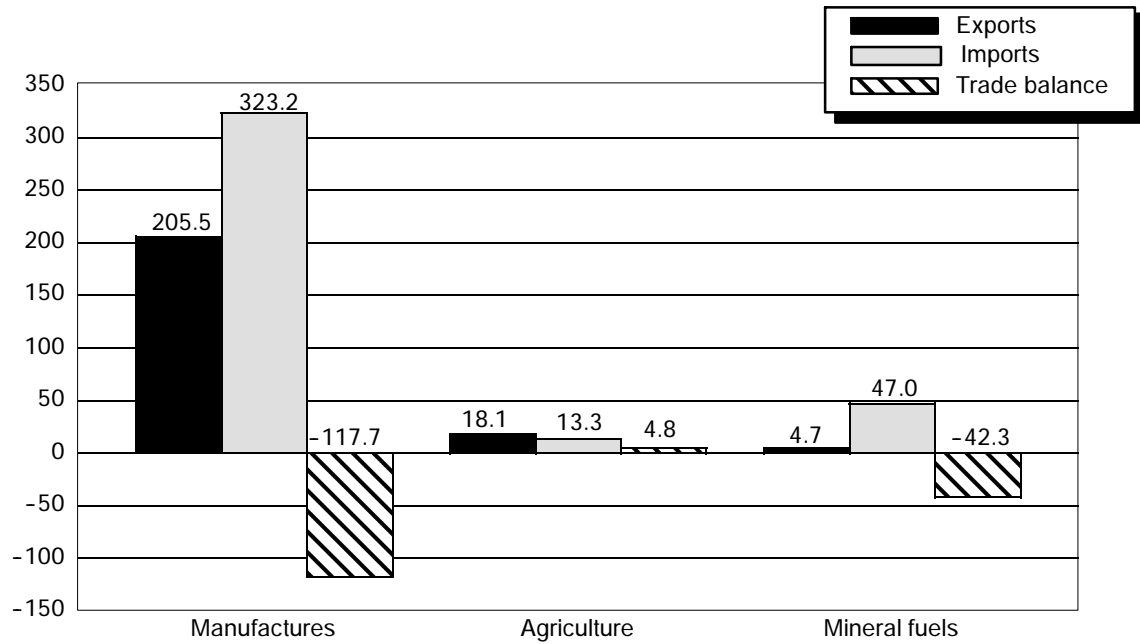
Table 2
Nominal U.S. exports and trade balances, agriculture and specified manufacturing sectors, Jan. 2000-May 2001

	Exports		Imports		Change in exports, Jan.-May 2001 over Jan.-May 2000	Share of total exports, Jan.-May 2001	Trade balance		
	May 2001	Jan.-May 2001	Jan.-May 2001	Jan.-May 2000			Jan.-May 2001	Jan.-May 2000	
	<i>Billion dollars</i>						<i>Percentage</i>		<i>Billion dollars</i>
ADP equipment & office machinery	3.2	17.9	32.6	17.9	34.8	0.0	5.5	-14.7	-16.9
Airplanes	2.7	11.9	6.1	10.7	4.2	11.2	3.7	5.8	6.5
Airplane parts	1.4	6.7	2.7	6.1	2.2	9.8	2.1	4.0	3.9
Electrical machinery	6.3	34.0	38.5	34.6	41.5	-1.7	10.5	-4.5	-6.9
General industrial machinery	2.9	14.3	14.9	13.7	14.8	4.4	4.4	-0.6	-1.1
Iron & steel mill products	0.5	2.4	5.2	2.4	6.8	0.0	0.7	-2.8	-4.4
Inorganic chemicals	0.5	2.6	2.7	2.1	2.4	23.8	0.8	-0.1	-0.3
Organic chemicals	1.5	7.4	13.2	7.4	11.0	0.0	2.3	-5.8	-3.6
Power-generating machinery	3.0	13.9	15.3	13.5	14.3	3.0	4.3	-1.4	-0.8
Scientific instruments	2.5	12.9	9.2	12.0	8.3	7.5	4.0	3.7	3.7
Specialized industrial machinery	2.2	12.2	9.3	12.4	9.7	-1.6	3.8	2.9	2.7
Televisions, VCRs, etc	2.0	10.5	25.0	10.9	25.0	-3.7	3.2	-14.5	-14.1
Textile yarns, fabrics and articles	0.9	4.4	6.2	4.3	6.3	2.3	1.4	-1.8	-2.0
Vehicles	5.2	23.1	66.3	25.7	67.9	-10.1	7.1	-43.2	-42.2
Subtotal	34.8	174.2	247.2	173.7	249.2	44.9	53.9	-73.0	-75.5
Other manufactures exports not included above	17.0	83.1	155.2	80.4	150.4	-42.6	25.7	-93.2	-87.0
Manufactures	51.8	257.3	402.4	254.1	399.6	1.3	79.6	-145.1	-145.5
Agriculture	4.1	22.2	16.7	20.9	17.0	6.2	6.9	5.5	3.9
Subtotal	55.9	279.5	419.1	275.0	416.6	7.5	86.5	-139.6	-141.6
Other exports, not included above	9.0	43.6	70.2	40.8	61.7	-42.6	13.5	-93.2	-87.0
Total	64.9	323.1	489.3	315.8	478.3	2.3	100.0	-166.2	-162.5

Note.—Data may not add to totals shown because of rounding details. Data are presented on a Census basis.

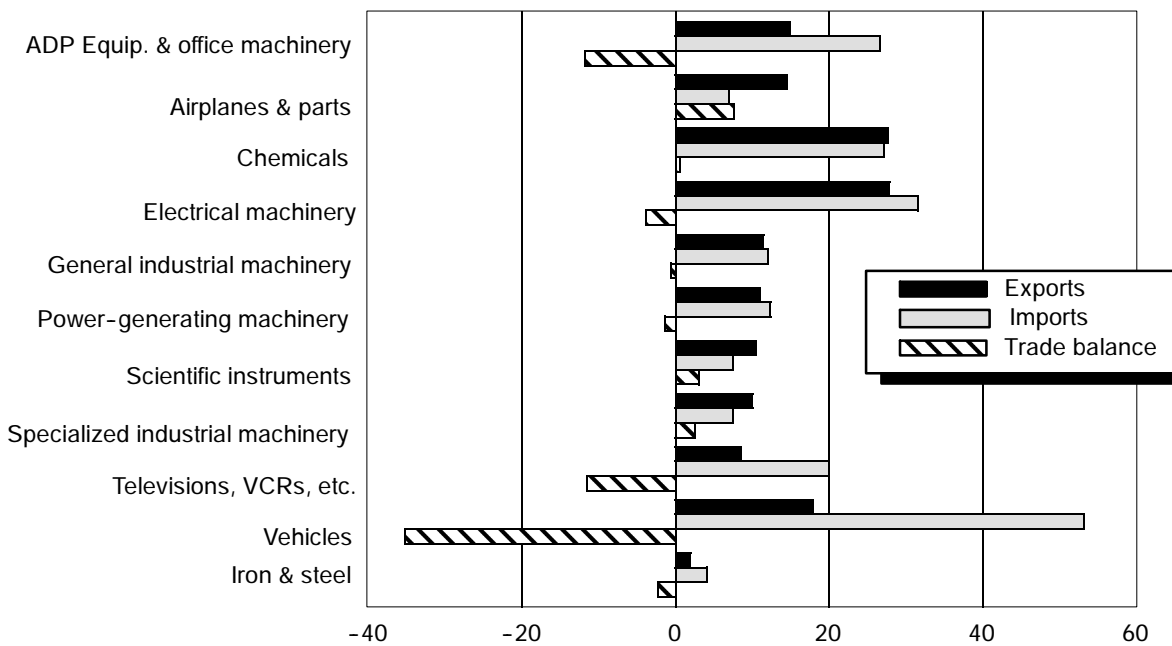
Source: Calculated from data from U.S. Department of Commerce, "Exhibit 15. Exports and Imports of Goods by Principal SITC Commodity Groupings," FT-900 (01-05), July 19, 2001, found at Internet address <http://www.bea.doc.gov/bea/newsrel/trad0501.htm>.

Figure 1
U.S. trade by major commodity, billion dollars, Jan.-Apr. 2001



Source: Calculated from data from U.S. Department of Commerce, "Exhibit 15. Exports and Imports of Goods by Principal SITC Commodity Groupings," FT-900 (01-04), June 21, 2001, found at Internet address <http://www.bea.doc.gov/bea/newsrel/trad0401.htm>.

Figure 2
U.S. trade in principal goods, billion dollars, Jan.-Apr. 2001



Source: Calculated from data from U.S. Department of Commerce, "Exhibit 15. Exports and Imports of Goods by Principal SITC Commodity Groupings," FT-900 (01-04), June 21, 2001, found at Internet address <http://www.bea.doc.gov/bea/newsrel/trad0401.htm>.

Table 3
Nominal U.S. exports and trade balances of services, by sectors, Jan. 2000-May 2001, seasonally adjusted

Service sector	Exports		Change Jan.-May 2001 over Jan.-May 2000	Imports		Trade balance	
	Jan.-May 2001	Jan.-May 2000		Jan.-May 2001	Jan.-May 2000	Jan.-May 2001	Jan.-May 2000
	<i>Billion dollars</i>		<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Billion dollars</i>			
Travel	33.8	34.4	-1.7	26.9	27.1	-0.6	7.3
Passenger fares	8.2	8.6	-4.7	10.2	9.9	-0.4	-1.3
Other transportation services	12.2	12.4	-1.6	17.3	16.4	-0.2	-4.0
Royalties and license fees	16.6	15.7	5.7	7.6	6.1	0.9	9.6
Other private sales	47.1	44.0	7.0	25.6	21.3	3.1	22.7
Transfers under U.S. military sales contracts	5.7	6.0	-5.0	5.9	5.5	-0.3	0.5
U.S. Government miscellaneous services	0.4	0.4	0.0	1.2	1.2	0.0	-0.8
Total	124.0	121.5	2.1	94.7	87.4	2.5	34.1

Note.—Services trade data are on a balance-of-payments (BOP) basis. Data may not add to totals shown because of rounding details and seasonal adjustments.

Source: Compiled from U.S. Department of Commerce, "Exhibit 3. U.S. Services by Major Category — Exports," "Exhibit 4. U.S. Services by Major Category — Imports," FT-900 (01-05), July 19, 2001, found at Internet address <http://www.bea.doc.gov/bea/newsrel/trad0501.htm>.

In May 2001, exports of advanced technology products were \$17.2 billion and imports of the same were \$15.3 billion, resulting in a surplus of 2.0 billion, about \$1.6 billion more than the April surplus of 0.4 billion.

The May 2001 trade data showed U.S. surpluses with Australia, Argentina, Brazil, Egypt, Hong Kong and Singapore. Deficits were recorded with Japan, China, Western Europe, Canada, Mexico, Korea, Taiwan, and OPEC member countries.

The export of goods and services during January-May 2001 increased to \$444.0 billion, up from \$432.8 billion during January-May 2000, an increase of 2.6 percent. However, imports of goods and services increased to \$599.3 billion, up from \$579.9 billion during the same period, an increase of 3.3 percent. As a consequence, the trade deficit increased to \$155.4 billion for the January-May period, up from \$147.1 billion during January-May 2000, an increase of 5.7 percent.

The export of goods during January-May 2001 increased to \$319.9 billion from \$311.3 billion during the same 2000 period, an increase of 2.8 percent, but imports of goods rose to \$504.5 billion, up from \$492.5 billion in January-May 2000, an increase of 2.4

percent. Consequently, the merchandise trade deficit rose to \$155.4 billion from \$147.1 billion, a 5.6 percent increase. Regarding trade in services, exports in January-May 2001 increased to \$124.0 billion up from \$121.5 billion in the same period of 2000, an increase of 2.1 percent. Imports of services rose to \$94.8 billion up from \$87.4 billion, an increase of 8.5 percent. The surplus on trade in services decreased to \$29.2 billion from \$34.2 billion.

The January-May 2001 exports of advanced technology products rose to \$91.0 billion up from \$88.4 billion in January-May 2000, an increase of 2.9 percent. Imports rose to \$83.8 billion from \$82.1 in the same period, an increase of 2.1 percent. The trade surplus increased to \$7.2 billion from \$6.3 billion in January-May 2000, an increase of 14.3 percent.

The January-May 2001 trade data in goods and services showed trade deficits with Canada, Mexico, Western Europe, the Euro area (EU-11), the European Union (EU-15), EFTA, Eastern Europe, China, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, and OPEC. Trade surpluses were recorded with Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain, Australia, Argentina, Brazil, and Egypt. U.S. trade developments with major trading partners are highlighted in table 4.

Table 4
U.S. exports and imports of goods with major trading partners, Jan. 2000-May 2001
(Billion dollars)

Country/areas	Exports			Imports			Trade balance	
	May 2001	Jan.-May 2001	Jan-May 2000	May 2001	Jan.-May 2001	Jan.-May 2000	Jan.-May 2001	Jan.-May 2000
Total	64.9	323.1	315.8	97.1	489.3	478.3	-166.2	-162.5
North America	23.8	115.9	120.5	31.5	151.3	148.4	-35.4	-27.9
Canada	15.2	72.3	76.3	20.1	96.4	94.9	-24.1	-18.6
Mexico	8.6	43.6	44.3	11.4	55.0	53.5	-11.4	-9.2
Western Europe	16.2	80.1	74.9	20.8	104.1	97.0	-24.0	-22.1
Euro Area	9.5	50.1	47.3	14.4	71.6	65.5	-21.5	-18.2
European Union (EU-15)	14.1	71.4	67.4	19.0	95.3	88.7	-23.9	-21.3
France	1.7	9.0	8.3	2.6	13.6	12.1	-4.6	-3.8
Germany	2.6	13.5	12.5	5.2	25.7	23.9	-12.2	-11.4
Italy	0.8	4.4	4.3	2.0	10.2	10.0	-5.8	-5.7
Netherlands	1.6	8.9	8.7	0.9	4.1	4.0	4.8	4.7
United Kingdom	4.1	18.3	17.0	3.6	18.3	17.8	0.0	-0.8
Other EU	0.9	5.2	4.8	1.9	9.7	7.7	-4.5	-2.9
EFTA ¹	1.7	6.6	5.5	1.4	7.0	6.7	-0.4	-1.2
Eastern Europe/FSR	0.6	3.0	2.3	1.1	6.6	6.4	-3.6	-4.1
Russia	0.3	1.2	0.8	0.4	3.2	3.1	-2.0	-2.3
Pacific Rim Countries	15.2	80.0	78.8	29.3	156.0	158.6	-76.0	-79.8
Australia	0.9	4.5	5.3	0.5	2.6	2.4	1.9	2.9
China	1.6	7.4	5.9	7.8	37.8	34.8	-30.4	-28.9
Japan	4.9	26.4	25.7	9.7	55.9	59.1	-29.5	-33.4
NICs ²	5.8	31.6	32.8	7.6	40.0	42.1	-8.4	-9.3
Latin America	5.2	25.0	23.1	5.8	29.8	29.0	-4.8	-5.9
Argentina	0.4	1.9	1.9	0.3	1.3	1.2	0.6	0.7
Brazil	1.4	6.6	5.4	1.3	5.9	5.4	0.7	0.0
OPEC	1.7	8.9	7.4	5.8	27.5	25.1	-18.6	-17.7
Other Countries	3.0	13.8	11.8	5.0	25.6	24.9	-11.8	-13.1
Egypt	0.3	1.4	1.4	0.1	0.4	0.3	1.0	1.1
South Africa	0.3	1.3	1.0	0.4	1.9	1.5	-0.6	-0.5
Other	2.3	11.1	9.4	4.5	23.4	23.1	-12.3	-13.7

¹ The European Free Trade Area (EFTA) includes Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland.

² The newly industrializing countries (NICs) include Hong Kong, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, and Taiwan. FSR = Former Soviet Republics.

Note.—Country/area figures may not add to the totals shown because of rounding. Exports of certain grains, oilseeds, and satellites are excluded from country/area exports but included in total export table. Also some countries are included in more than one area. Data are presented on a Census Bureau basis.

Source: Calculated from data from U.S. Department of Commerce, "Exhibit 14. Exports, Imports and Balance of Goods by Selected Countries and Geographic Areas," FT-900 (01-05), July 19, 2001, found at Internet address <http://www.bea.doc.gov/bea/newsrel/trad0501.htm>.