



## TRADE GAP NARROWS IN DECEMBER 2004

*U.S. international trade in goods and services*

The U.S. monthly goods and services deficit narrowed in December 2004, according to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis and the U.S. Census Bureau. The deficit decreased \$2.9 billion from \$59.3 billion in November (revised) to \$56.4 billion in December, as exports increased more than imports.



### Exports

Exports of goods and services increased \$3.1 billion in December to \$100.2 billion, mostly as a result of an increase in goods exports. Services exports increased by a small amount.

- The increase in goods exports was mostly accounted for by increases in *capital goods, industrial supplies and materials, and consumer goods*.
- The increase in services exports was accounted for by small increases in most services categories that were partly offset by a decrease in *other transportation*.

### Imports

Imports of goods and services increased \$0.1 billion in December to \$156.6 billion, as both goods imports and services imports increased slightly.

- The increase in goods imports was more than accounted for by increases in *capital goods* and in *automotive vehicles, parts, and engines*. *Industrial supplies and materials* decreased.
- The increase in services imports was mostly accounted for by increases in *passenger fares, travel, and other private services* that were partly offset by a decrease in *other transportation*.

### Goods by geographic area (not seasonally adjusted)

- The goods deficit with China decreased from \$16.6 billion in November to \$14.3 billion in December. Exports increased \$0.3 billion to \$3.3 billion, while imports decreased \$2.1 billion to \$17.5 billion.
- The goods deficit with the European Union (25) decreased from \$10.5 billion in November to \$10.3 billion in December. Exports increased \$0.8 billion to \$15.4 billion and imports increased \$0.7 billion to \$25.7 billion.
- The goods deficit with Canada decreased from \$5.9 billion in November to \$4.9 billion in December. Exports decreased \$0.8 billion to \$16.0 billion and imports decreased \$1.9 billion to \$20.8 billion.

---

BEA's 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 its Web site: <[www.bea.gov](http://www.bea.gov)>.

NOTE: This and more information is provided in the February 10 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: December 2004. The next release is March 11, 2005.

Contacts: Services: Ralph Stewart, U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, 202-606-9690  
Goods: Vanessa Ware, U.S. Census Bureau, 301-763-2311