



U.S. International Transactions

Fourth Quarter and Year 2020

By Rudy Telles Jr.

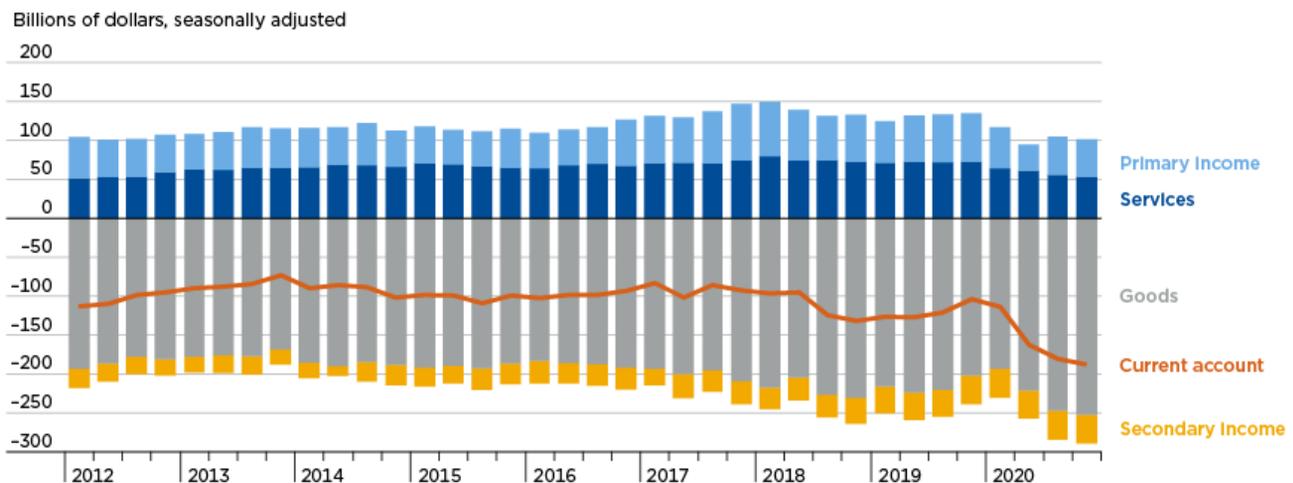
The U.S. current-account deficit, which reflects the combined balances on trade in goods and services and income flows between U.S. residents and residents of other countries, widened by \$7.6 billion, or 4.2 percent, to \$188.5 billion in the fourth quarter of 2020 (chart 1 and table A). The revised third-quarter deficit was \$180.9 billion.

The deficit was 3.5 percent of current-dollar gross domestic product (GDP), up from 3.4 percent in the third quarter.

The \$7.6 billion widening of the current-account deficit in the fourth quarter primarily reflected an expanded deficit on goods and a reduced surplus on services that were partly offset by a reduced deficit on secondary income.

The U.S. current-account deficit widened by \$167.0 billion, or 34.8 percent, to \$647.2 billion in 2020. The deficit was 3.1 percent of current-dollar GDP, up from 2.2 percent in 2019.

Chart 1. U.S. Current-Account Balance and Its Components



U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Table A. U.S. International Transactions

[Millions of dollars, seasonally adjusted]

Series	2020				Change 2020:Q3 to 2020:Q4
	Q1 ^r	Q2 ^r	Q3 ^r	Q4 ^p	
Current account					
Exports of goods and services and income receipts (credits)	892,561	695,812	799,227	840,007	40,780
Exports of goods and services	600,844	449,899	520,928	555,583	34,655
Goods	402,910	288,103	356,613	387,502	30,889
Services	197,934	161,796	164,315	168,081	3,766
Primary income receipts	256,618	212,032	241,270	248,394	7,124
Secondary income (current transfer) receipts	35,100	33,881	37,029	36,031	-998
Imports of goods and services and income payments (debits)	1,007,123	859,060	980,143	1,028,492	48,349
Imports of goods and services	730,474	610,586	712,326	755,568	43,242
Goods	596,591	509,581	604,067	640,459	36,392
Services	133,883	101,005	108,258	115,109	6,851
Primary income payments	204,466	178,690	193,051	200,533	7,482
Secondary income (current transfer) payments	72,183	69,784	74,766	72,391	-2,375
Capital account					
Capital transfer receipts and other credits	19	20	355	11	-344
Capital transfer payments and other debits	2,990	1,074	1,027	1,344	317
Financial account					
Net U.S. acquisition of financial assets excluding financial derivatives (net increase in assets / financial outflow (+))	830,146	-258,224	41,768	149,788	108,020
Direct investment assets	-9,777	41,894	103,631	17,509	-86,122
Portfolio investment assets	115,814	-947	153,270	82,077	-71,193
Other investment assets	724,354	-304,131	-216,953	47,764	264,717
Reserve assets	-245	4,960	1,820	2,438	618
Net U.S. incurrence of liabilities excluding financial derivatives (net increase in liabilities / financial inflow (+))	952,851	-63,529	199,620	414,804	215,184
Direct investment liabilities	52,746	-191	88,521	71,319	-17,202
Portfolio investment liabilities	-20,547	342,240	136,924	301,354	164,430
Other investment liabilities	920,653	-405,578	-25,825	42,130	67,955
Financial derivatives other than reserves, net transactions	-21,611	-12,744	28,425	2,633	-25,792
Statistical discrepancy					
Statistical discrepancy¹	-26,784	-43,137	52,161	-72,566	-124,727
Balances					
Balance on current account	-114,561	-163,248	-180,917	-188,484	-7,567
Balance on goods and services	-129,630	-160,687	-191,398	-199,985	-8,587
Balance on goods	-193,681	-221,478	-247,454	-252,957	-5,503
Balance on services	64,051	60,791	56,056	52,972	-3,084
Balance on primary income	52,152	33,342	48,218	47,861	-357
Balance on secondary income	-37,083	-35,903	-37,737	-36,361	1,376
Balance on capital account	-2,971	-1,054	-672	-1,333	-661
Net lending (+) or net borrowing (-) from current- and capital-account transactions²	-117,533	-164,303	-181,588	-189,817	-8,229
Net lending (+) or net borrowing (-) from financial-account transactions³	-144,317	-207,440	-129,427	-262,383	-132,956

p Preliminary

r Revised

1. The statistical discrepancy is the difference between net acquisition of financial assets and net incurrence of liabilities in the financial account (including financial derivatives) less the difference between total credits and total debits recorded in the current and capital accounts.
2. Sum of current- and capital-account balances.
3. Sum of net U.S. acquisition of financial assets and net transactions in financial derivatives less net U.S. incurrence of liabilities.

Note. The statistics are presented in International Transactions Accounts [table 1.2](#) on BEA's website.

Data Availability and Methodology

Detailed statistics for U.S. international transactions and a description of the estimation methods are available on the Bureau of Economic Analysis website. For the statistics, see “[International Transactions, International Services, and International Investment Position Tables](#).” For the methods, see *U.S. International Economic Accounts: Concepts and Methods*.

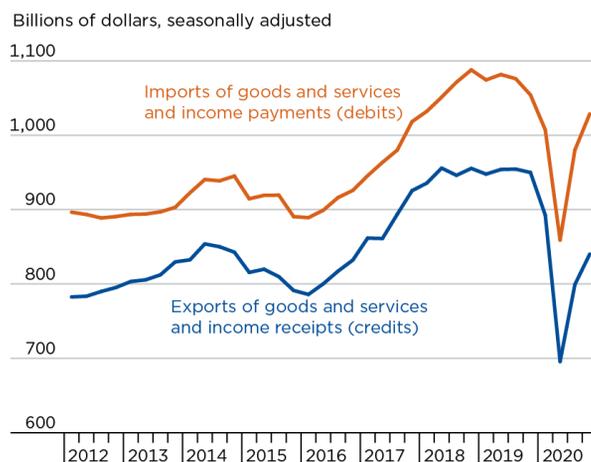
COVID-19 Impact on Fourth-Quarter 2020 International Transactions

Nearly all major categories of current-account transactions increased in the fourth quarter of 2020, the second consecutive quarter of broad-based growth following notable COVID-19-related declines in the second quarter of 2020. The full economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic cannot be quantified in the statistics, because the impacts are generally embedded in source data and cannot be separately identified. More information can be found in the “[Technical Note](#)” that accompanied the fourth-quarter 2020 international transactions statistics.

Current Account, Fourth Quarter

Exports of goods and services to, and income received from, foreign residents increased \$40.8 billion, to \$840.0 billion, in the fourth quarter (charts 2 and 3 and table B). Imports of goods and services from, and income paid to, foreign residents increased \$48.3 billion, to \$1.03 trillion (charts 2 and 4 and table C).

Chart 2. Current-Account Transactions



U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Trade in goods

Exports of goods increased \$30.9 billion, to \$387.5 billion, and imports of goods increased \$36.4 billion, to \$640.5 billion. The increases in both exports and imports reflected increases in nearly all major categories. The increase in exports was led by industrial supplies and materials and capital goods, and the increase in imports was led by industrial supplies and materials; automotive vehicles, parts, and engines; and consumer goods.

Trade in services

Exports of services increased \$3.8 billion, to \$168.1 billion, mainly reflecting increases in travel, primarily other personal travel, and in transport, mostly air freight and air passenger transport. Imports of services increased \$6.9 billion, to \$115.1 billion, mostly reflecting increases in travel, primarily other personal travel, and in transport, primarily sea freight transport.

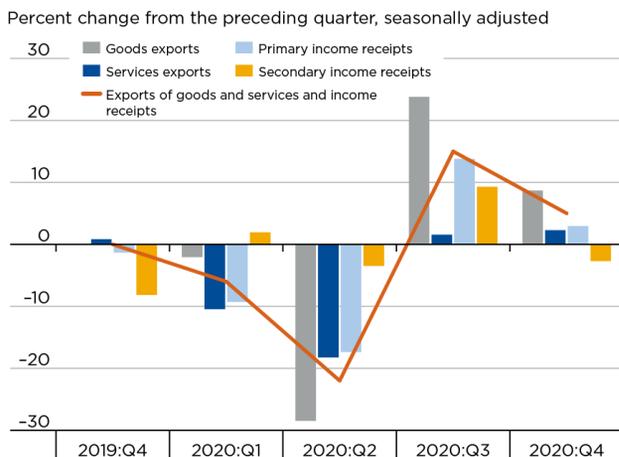
Primary income

Receipts of primary income increased \$7.1 billion, to \$248.4 billion, and payments of primary income increased \$7.5 billion, to \$200.5 billion. The increases in both receipts and payments mainly reflected increases in direct investment income, mostly earnings, and in portfolio investment income, mostly income on equity securities.

Secondary income

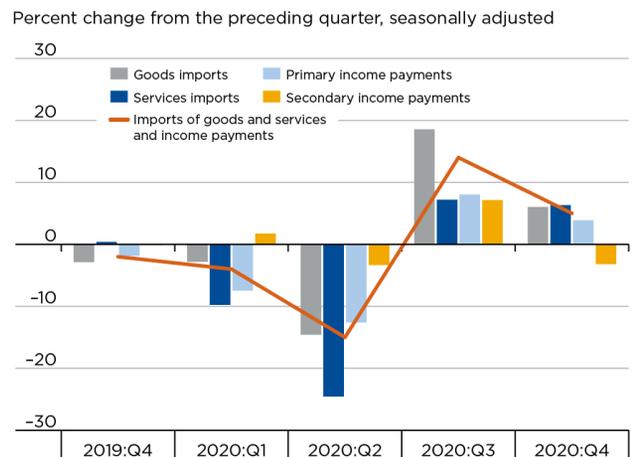
Receipts of secondary income decreased \$1.0 billion, to \$36.0 billion, reflecting a decrease in private transfers, mostly private-sector fines and penalties, that was partly offset by an increase in general government transfers, primarily taxes on income and wealth. Payments of secondary income decreased \$2.4 billion, to \$72.4 billion, reflecting decreases in private transfers, mostly private-sector fines and penalties, and in general government transfers, mostly international cooperation.

Chart 3. Percent Change in Exports of Goods and Services and Income Receipts



U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Chart 4. Percent Change in Imports of Goods and Services and Income Payments



U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Table B. Exports of Goods and Services and Income Receipts

[Millions of dollars, seasonally adjusted]

Series	2020				Change 2020:Q3 to 2020:Q4
	Q1	Q2	Q3 ^r	Q4 ^p	
Exports of goods and services and income receipts	892,561	695,812	799,227	840,007	40,780
Exports of goods	402,910	288,103	356,613	387,502	30,889
General merchandise	398,008	282,789	349,571	379,949	30,378
Foods, feeds, and beverages	33,242	31,612	34,801	40,071	5,270
Industrial supplies and materials	133,921	92,419	108,105	120,563	12,458
Energy products	58,771	30,827	39,068	43,230	4,162
<i>Of which: Petroleum and products</i>	50,819	24,684	32,744	33,892	1,148
Nonenergy products	75,150	61,592	69,037	77,333	8,296
Capital goods except automotive	131,794	99,048	111,693	118,052	6,359
Automotive vehicles, parts, and engines	37,413	15,121	36,457	38,209	1,752
Consumer goods except food and automotive	46,832	33,327	44,964	48,945	3,981
Other general merchandise	14,806	11,262	13,552	14,108	556
Net exports of goods under merchandising	151	169	175	244	69
Nonmonetary gold	4,750	5,145	6,867	7,309	442
Exports of services¹	197,934	161,796	164,315	168,081	3,766
Manufacturing services on physical inputs owned by others	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Maintenance and repair services n.i.e.	4,168	3,607	2,973	2,844	-129
Transport	20,327	10,825	12,071	13,587	1,516
Travel (for all purposes including education)	35,373	12,765	10,825	12,791	1,966
Business	6,589	1,636	1,976	2,528	552
Personal	28,783	11,129	8,849	10,262	1,413
Construction	588	519	619	544	-75
Insurance services	3,819	3,702	4,562	4,576	14
Financial services	33,664	33,695	35,032	34,643	-389
Charges for the use of intellectual property n.i.e.	28,327	26,884	28,808	30,026	1,218
Telecommunications, computer, and information services	13,441	13,677	13,718	13,929	211
Other business services	47,383	46,598	45,675	45,079	-596
Personal, cultural, and recreational services	4,982	4,147	4,223	4,267	44
Government goods and services n.i.e.	5,861	5,376	5,808	5,795	-13
Primary income receipts	256,618	212,032	241,270	248,394	7,124
Investment income	254,938	210,564	239,768	246,878	7,110
Direct investment income	120,010	104,532	132,791	137,403	4,612
Income on equity	114,276	99,456	127,901	132,544	4,643
Dividends and withdrawals	113,684	75,113	56,092	97,262	41,170
Reinvested earnings	592	24,343	71,809	35,282	-36,527
Interest	5,734	5,076	4,889	4,859	-30
Portfolio investment income	109,726	89,026	91,774	94,805	3,031
Income on equity and investment fund shares	74,988	58,376	60,245	62,866	2,621
Interest on debt securities	34,737	30,650	31,528	31,939	411
Other investment income	25,054	16,941	15,160	14,673	-487
Reserve asset income	149	65	44	-3	-47
Compensation of employees	1,680	1,468	1,502	1,516	14
Secondary income (current transfer) receipts²	35,100	33,881	37,029	36,031	-998

p Preliminary

r Revised

n.a. Not available

n.i.e. Not included elsewhere

1. See also International Services [table 2.1](#).

2. Secondary income (current transfer) receipts include U.S. government and private transfers, such as fines and penalties, withholding taxes, insurance-related transfers, and other current transfers.

Note. The statistics are presented in International Transactions Accounts [table 1.2](#), [table 2.1](#), [table 3.1](#), [table 4.1](#), and [table 5.1](#) on BEA's website.

Table C. Imports of Goods and Services and Income Payments

[Millions of dollars, seasonally adjusted]

Series	2020				Change 2020:Q3 to 2020:Q4
	Q1	Q2	Q3 ^r	Q4 ^p	
Imports of goods and services and income payments	1,007,123	859,060	980,143	1,028,492	48,349
Imports of goods	596,591	509,581	604,067	640,459	36,392
General merchandise	590,395	476,539	589,677	632,421	42,744
Foods, feeds, and beverages	38,658	36,821	40,047	39,983	-64
Industrial supplies and materials	121,463	89,689	103,141	115,084	11,943
Energy products	47,892	22,729	30,806	35,085	4,279
<i>Of which: Petroleum and products</i>	45,148	20,057	27,901	31,375	3,474
Nonenergy products	73,571	66,960	72,335	79,999	7,664
Capital goods except automotive	162,279	146,561	165,686	174,911	9,225
Automotive vehicles, parts, and engines	87,851	41,033	85,786	96,725	10,939
Consumer goods except food and automotive	151,632	141,096	168,756	178,971	10,215
Other general merchandise	28,513	21,339	26,260	26,747	487
Nonmonetary gold	6,196	33,042	14,390	8,038	-6,352
Imports of services¹	133,883	101,005	108,258	115,109	6,851
Manufacturing services on physical inputs owned by others	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Maintenance and repair services n.i.e.	1,558	1,341	1,579	1,547	-32
Transport	22,865	13,612	16,142	18,970	2,828
Travel (for all purposes including education)	22,497	2,387	4,027	6,866	2,839
Business	2,888	291	627	903	276
Personal	19,609	2,096	3,400	5,963	2,563
Construction	315	246	245	284	39
Insurance services	14,104	14,737	16,078	16,633	555
Financial services	10,053	9,702	9,582	9,459	-123
Charges for the use of intellectual property n.i.e.	11,191	9,032	10,197	10,262	65
Telecommunications, computer, and information services	9,901	9,310	9,394	9,569	175
Other business services	29,633	28,628	28,668	28,861	193
Personal, cultural, and recreational services	5,666	5,868	6,220	6,456	236
Government goods and services n.i.e.	6,101	6,141	6,126	6,204	78
Primary income payments	204,466	178,690	193,051	200,533	7,482
Investment income	199,849	175,430	189,517	196,502	6,985
Direct investment income	43,410	33,372	49,105	53,474	4,369
Portfolio investment income	127,424	120,245	121,793	124,680	2,887
Income on equity and investment fund shares	45,336	41,315	42,132	45,010	2,878
Interest on debt securities	82,088	78,929	79,661	79,670	9
Other investment income	29,014	21,813	18,619	18,349	-270
Compensation of employees	4,617	3,261	3,535	4,031	496
Secondary income (current transfer) payments²	72,183	69,784	74,766	72,391	-2,375
Supplemental detail on insurance transactions:					
Premiums paid	32,738	33,798	36,749	37,234	485
Losses recovered	19,115	18,892	18,973	18,947	-26

p Preliminary

r Revised

n.a. Not available

n.i.e. Not included elsewhere

1. See also International Services [table 2.1](#)

2. Secondary income (current transfer) payments include U.S. government and private transfers, such as U.S. government grants and pensions, fines and penalties, withholding taxes, personal transfers (remittances), insurance-related transfers, and other current transfers.

Note. The statistics are presented in International Transactions Accounts [table 1.2](#), [table 2.1](#), [table 3.1](#), [table 4.1](#), and [table 5.1](#) on BEA's website.

Capital Account, Fourth Quarter

Capital-transfer receipts decreased \$344 million, to \$11 million, in the fourth quarter (table A). Third-quarter transactions reflected the U.S. Department of State's sale of a property in Hong Kong. Capital-transfer payments increased \$0.3 billion, to \$1.3 billion, reflecting an increase in investment grants.

Financial Account, Fourth Quarter

Net financial-account transactions were -\$262.4 billion in the fourth quarter, reflecting net U.S. borrowing from foreign residents.

Financial assets

Fourth-quarter transactions increased U.S. residents' foreign financial assets by \$149.8 billion (charts 5 and 6 and table D). Transactions increased portfolio investment assets, primarily debt securities, by \$82.1 billion; other investment assets by \$47.8 billion, resulting from large and partly offsetting transactions in loans and deposits; direct investment assets, primarily equity, by \$17.5 billion; and reserve assets by \$2.4 billion.

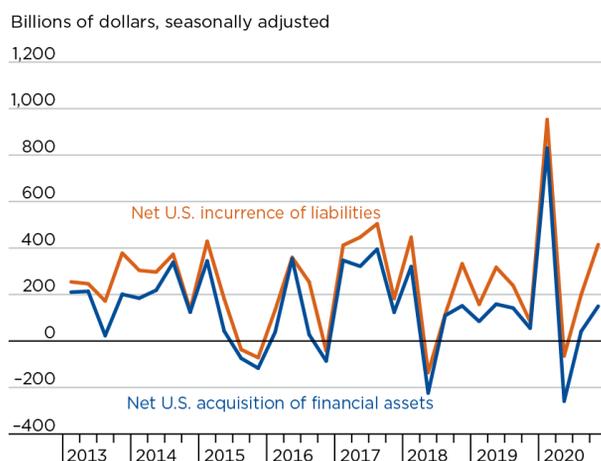
Liabilities

Fourth-quarter transactions increased U.S. liabilities to foreign residents by \$414.8 billion. Transactions increased portfolio investment liabilities, mostly equity securities, by \$301.4 billion; direct investment liabilities, primarily equity, by \$71.3 billion; and other investment liabilities, mostly currency and deposits, by \$42.1 billion.

Financial derivatives

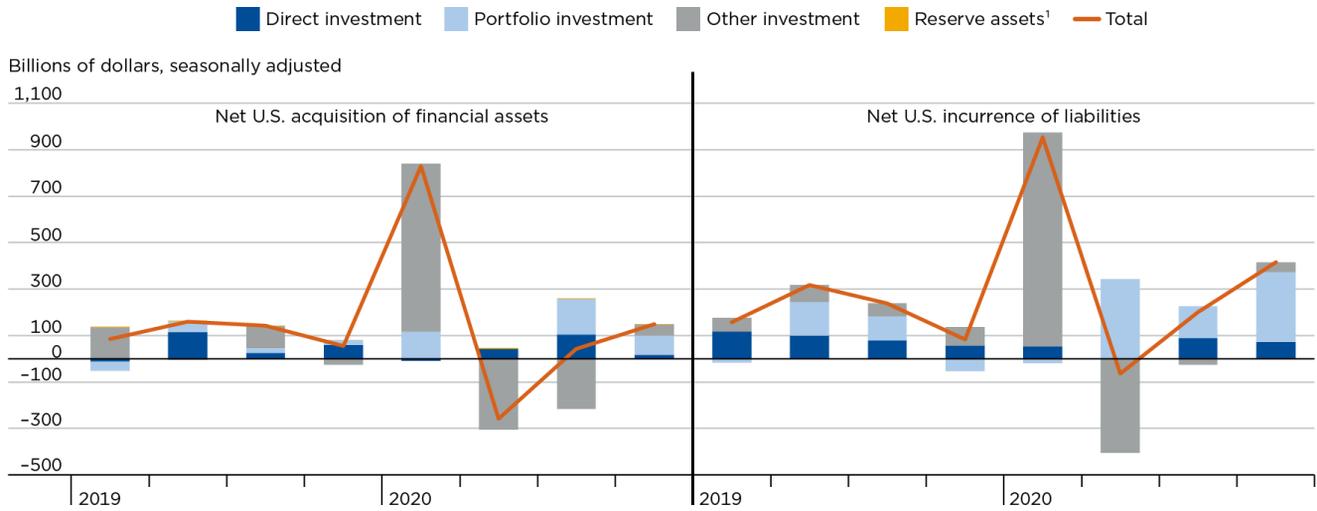
Net transactions in financial derivatives were \$2.6 billion in the fourth quarter, reflecting net lending to foreign residents.

Chart 5. Acquisition of Financial Assets and Incurrence of Liabilities Excluding Financial Derivatives



U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Chart 6. Transactions in Financial Assets and Liabilities Excluding Financial Derivatives



1. Transactions in reserve assets are relatively small and may not be clearly visible. See table D for these statistics.
U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Table D. Net U.S. Acquisition of Financial Assets and Net U.S. Incurrence of Liabilities

[Millions of dollars, seasonally adjusted]

Series	2020				Change 2020:Q3 to 2020:Q4
	Q1	Q2	Q3 ^r	Q4 ^p	
Net U.S. acquisition of financial assets excluding financial derivatives (net increase in assets / financial outflow (+))	830,146	-258,224	41,768	149,788	108,020
Direct investment assets	-9,777	41,894	103,631	17,509	-86,122
Equity	14,908	50,587	79,528	29,672	-49,856
Equity other than reinvestment of earnings	14,316	26,243	7,719	-5,611	-13,330
Reinvestment of earnings	592	24,343	71,809	35,282	-36,527
Debt instruments	-24,685	-8,693	24,104	-12,162	-36,266
Portfolio investment assets	115,814	-947	153,270	82,077	-71,193
Equity and investment fund shares	279,965	-67,540	92,247	-4,982	-97,229
Debt securities	-164,151	66,593	61,023	87,058	26,035
Short-term securities	-73,206	21,807	20,320	34,957	14,637
Long-term corporate securities	-69,619	34,197	30,653	40,833	10,180
Other long-term securities	-21,326	10,589	10,050	11,268	1,218
Other investment assets	724,354	-304,131	-216,953	47,764	264,717
Other equity	1,298	10	215	324	109
Currency and deposits	539,992	-312,539	-131,026	-44,633	86,393
Loans	187,829	8,485	-84,382	88,656	173,038
Trade credit and advances	-4,765	-87	-1,761	3,417	5,178
Reserve assets	-245	4,960	1,820	2,438	618
Monetary gold	0	0	0	0	0
Special drawing rights	49	20	5	7	2
Reserve position in the International Monetary Fund	-327	4,902	1,785	2,454	669
Other reserve assets	33	38	29	-23	-52
Net U.S. incurrence of liabilities excluding financial derivatives (net increase in liabilities / financial inflow (+))	952,851	-63,529	199,620	414,804	215,184
Direct investment liabilities	52,746	-191	88,521	71,319	-17,202
Equity	45,263	29,919	42,073	87,641	45,568
Equity other than reinvestment of earnings	27,540	20,290	11,854	53,422	41,568
Reinvestment of earnings	17,723	9,630	30,219	34,219	4,000
Debt instruments	7,482	-30,110	46,449	-16,322	-62,771
Portfolio investment liabilities	-20,547	342,240	136,924	301,354	164,430
Equity and investment fund shares	263,713	64,646	138,882	258,482	119,600
Debt securities	-284,261	277,595	-1,958	42,872	44,830
Short term	-10,748	343,807	-53,415	-12,331	41,084
Treasury bills and certificates	13,452	311,348	-23,560	10,017	33,577
Federally sponsored agency securities	-4,708	-1,634	-5,920	16	5,936
Other short-term securities	-19,492	34,093	-23,935	-22,364	1,571
Long term	-273,513	-66,212	51,456	55,203	3,747
Treasury bonds and notes	-300,497	-201,698	66,406	49,590	-16,816
Federally sponsored agency securities	56,721	-57,017	-56,133	8,462	64,595
Corporate bonds and notes	-27,992	184,769	40,730	-3,681	-44,411
Other	-1,745	7,734	453	832	379
Other investment liabilities	920,653	-405,578	-25,825	42,130	67,955
Other equity	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Currency	26,014	29,399	36,861	29,051	-7,810
Deposits	481,772	-271,073	-40,941	32,821	73,762
Loans	409,408	-167,278	-23,398	-25,338	-1,940
Trade credit and advances	3,459	3,374	1,653	5,596	3,943
Special drawing rights allocations	0	0	0	0	0

p Preliminary

r Revised

n.a. Not available

Note. The statistics are presented in International Transactions Accounts [table 1.2](#), [table 6.1](#), [table 7.1](#), and [table 8.1](#) on BEA's website.

Updates to Statistics

The U.S. international transactions statistics for the third quarter have been updated to incorporate newly available and revised source data (table E). In addition, the statistics for the first three quarters of 2020 have been updated to align the seasonally adjusted statistics with annual totals.

Table E. Updates to the Third-Quarter 2020 International Transactions Aggregates

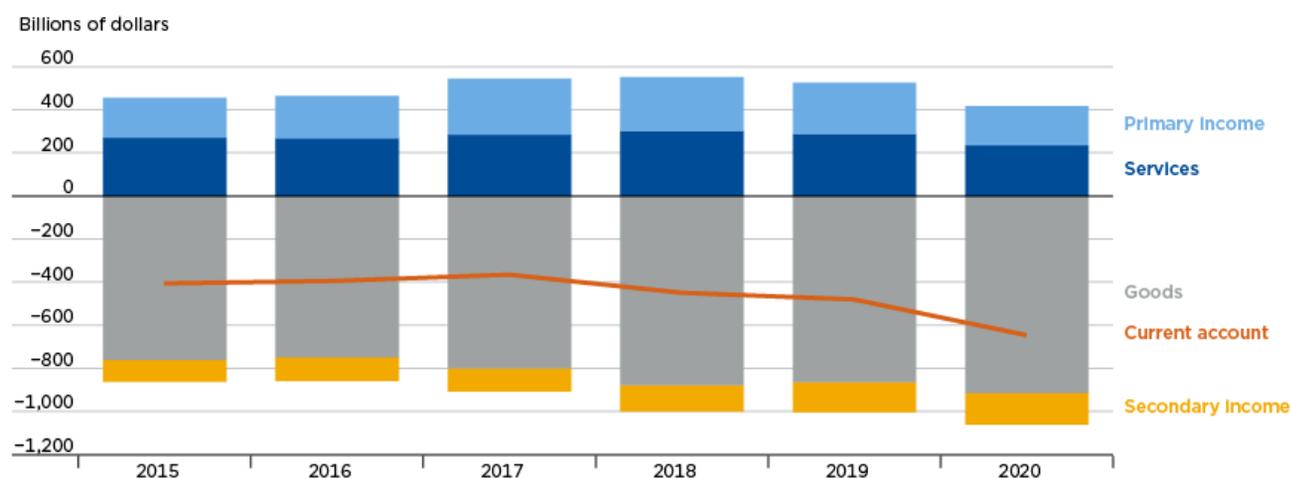
[Millions of dollars, seasonally adjusted]

Series	Preliminary Estimates	Revised Estimates
Balance on current account	-178,513	-180,917
Balance on goods	-245,565	-247,454
Balance on services	57,158	56,056
Balance on primary income	48,108	48,218
Balance on secondary income (current transfers)	-38,213	-37,737
Net lending or borrowing from financial-account transactions	-221,071	-129,427
Net U.S. acquisition of financial assets	-73,048	41,768
Net U.S. incurrence of liabilities	172,022	199,620
Financial derivatives other than reserves, net transactions	23,999	28,425

Current Account, Year 2020

The \$167.0 billion widening of the current-account deficit in 2020 mostly reflected reduced surpluses on primary income and on services and an expanded deficit on goods (chart 7).

Chart 7. Annual U.S. Current-Account Balance and Its Components



U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Exports of goods and services to, and income received from, foreign residents decreased \$578.3 billion, to \$3.23 trillion in 2020. Imports of goods and services from, and income paid to, foreign residents decreased \$411.3 billion, to \$3.87 trillion (charts 8 and 9 and table F).

Trade in goods

Exports of goods decreased \$217.3 billion, to \$1.44 trillion, mainly reflecting decreases in capital goods, mostly civilian aircraft, engines, and parts, and in industrial supplies and materials, mostly petroleum and products. Imports of goods decreased \$166.1 billion, to \$2.35 trillion, mainly reflecting decreases in industrial supplies and materials, mostly petroleum and products, and in automotive vehicles, parts, and engines, mainly passenger cars, that were partly offset by an increase in nonmonetary gold.

Trade in services

Exports of services decreased \$183.7 billion, to \$692.1 billion, and imports of services decreased \$130.1 billion, to \$458.3 billion. The decreases in both exports and imports mainly reflected decreases in travel, mostly other personal travel, and in transport, mostly air passenger transport.

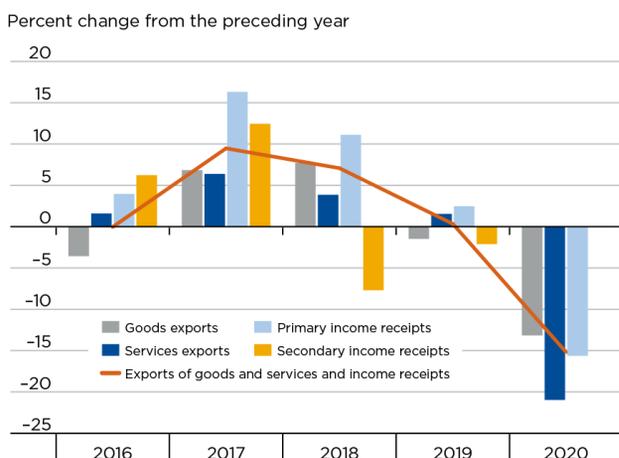
Primary income

Receipts of primary income decreased \$177.4 billion, to \$958.3 billion, mostly reflecting decreases in direct investment income, mostly earnings; in other investment income, primarily interest on loans and deposits; and in portfolio investment income, mostly income on equity securities. Payments of primary income decreased \$122.6 billion, to \$776.7 billion, mostly reflecting decreases in direct investment income, mostly earnings, and in other investment income, primarily interest on loans and deposits.

Secondary income

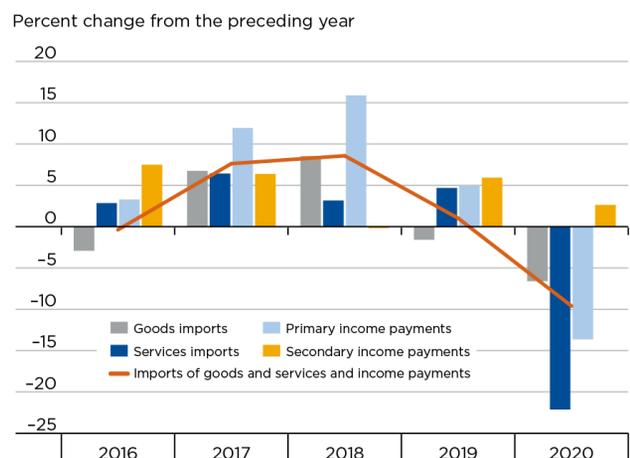
Receipts of secondary income increased \$0.1 billion, to \$142.0 billion, reflecting an increase in private transfers, mostly insurance-related transfers, that was mostly offset by a decrease in general government transfers, mostly government-sector fines and penalties. Payments of secondary income increased \$7.4 billion, to \$289.1 billion, reflecting increases in private transfers, mostly insurance-related transfers, and in general government transfers, primarily international cooperation.

Chart 8. Annual Percent Change in Exports of Goods and Services and Income Receipts



U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Chart 9. Annual Percent Change in Imports of Goods and Services and Income Payments



U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Table F. Current Account
[Millions of dollars]

Series	2017	2018	2019	2020 ^P	Change 2019 to 2020
Current account					
Exports of goods and services and income receipts (credits)	3,542,008	3,792,867	3,805,938	3,227,607	-578,331
Exports of goods	1,557,003	1,676,950	1,652,437	1,435,128	-217,309
Foods, feeds, and beverages	132,761	133,129	131,103	139,726	8,623
Industrial supplies and materials	459,380	537,038	526,843	455,009	-71,834
Capital goods except automotive	533,696	563,375	548,111	460,586	-87,525
Automotive vehicles, parts, and engines	157,867	158,836	162,468	127,200	-35,268
Consumer goods except food and automotive	197,190	205,524	205,028	174,068	-30,960
Other general merchandise	54,357	56,833	59,127	53,727	-5,400
Net exports of goods under merchanting	210	270	435	739	304
Nonmonetary gold	21,544	21,945	19,323	24,072	4,749
Exports of services	830,388	862,433	875,825	692,126	-183,699
Manufacturing services on physical inputs owned by others	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Maintenance and repair services n.i.e.	23,239	27,948	27,868	13,592	-14,276
Transport	86,342	93,251	91,092	56,810	-34,282
Travel (for all purposes including education)	193,834	196,465	193,315	71,754	-121,561
Construction	2,053	2,948	3,189	2,271	-918
Insurance services	18,223	17,904	16,238	16,660	422
Financial services	128,035	132,420	135,698	137,034	1,336
Charges for the use of intellectual property n.i.e.	118,147	118,875	117,401	114,046	-3,355
Telecommunications, computer, and information services	47,657	49,653	55,657	54,766	-891
Other business services	167,270	177,261	189,441	184,735	-4,706
Personal, cultural, and recreational services	25,664	23,759	23,372	17,619	-5,753
Government goods and services n.i.e.	19,924	21,949	22,555	22,840	285
Primary income receipts	997,524	1,108,472	1,135,691	958,314	-177,377
Direct investment income	561,051	587,855	578,075	494,736	-83,339
Portfolio investment income	355,337	412,496	426,407	385,331	-41,076
Other investment income	74,404	100,837	123,611	71,827	-51,784
Reserve asset income	385	632	873	255	-618
Compensation of employees	6,347	6,652	6,725	6,166	-559
Secondary income (current transfer) receipts	157,094	145,012	141,984	142,040	56
Imports of goods and services and income payments (debits)	3,907,277	4,242,560	4,286,163	3,874,818	-411,345
Imports of goods	2,356,345	2,557,251	2,516,767	2,350,698	-166,069
Foods, feeds, and beverages	138,825	148,331	151,560	155,508	3,948
Industrial supplies and materials	508,645	580,696	525,864	429,377	-96,487
Capital goods except automotive	642,864	694,656	681,051	649,437	-31,614
Automotive vehicles, parts, and engines	359,118	372,368	376,804	311,395	-65,409
Consumer goods except food and automotive	603,470	648,441	655,930	640,456	-15,474
Other general merchandise	90,739	101,566	113,607	102,859	-10,748
Nonmonetary gold	12,685	11,193	11,953	61,666	49,713
Imports of services	544,836	562,069	588,359	458,256	-130,103
Manufacturing services on physical inputs owned by others	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Maintenance and repair services n.i.e.	6,796	7,133	7,823	6,025	-1,798
Transport	96,515	106,303	107,458	71,588	-35,870
Travel (for all purposes including education)	117,972	126,008	134,594	35,777	-98,817
Construction	1,950	3,151	1,327	1,090	-237
Insurance services	50,889	43,735	51,547	61,552	10,005
Financial services	36,649	39,249	40,350	38,797	-1,553
Charges for the use of intellectual property n.i.e.	44,405	43,933	42,733	40,681	-2,052

Series	2017	2018	2019	2020 ^p	Change 2019 to 2020
Telecommunications, computer, and information services	43,091	42,558	43,720	38,174	-5,546
Other business services	106,991	107,834	113,584	115,790	2,206
Personal, cultural, and recreational services	17,530	19,190	21,140	24,211	3,071
Government goods and services n.i.e.	22,047	22,975	24,083	24,572	489
Primary income payments	739,731	857,298	899,347	776,740	-122,607
Direct investment income	210,745	245,383	248,791	179,361	-69,430
Portfolio investment income	445,886	488,207	495,604	494,142	-1,462
Other investment income	66,205	106,590	136,167	87,795	-48,372
Compensation of employees	16,895	17,117	18,785	15,443	-3,342
Secondary income (current transfer) payments	266,365	265,943	281,689	289,124	7,435
Balances					
Balance on current account	-365,269	-449,693	-480,226	-647,210	-166,984
Balance on goods	-799,343	-880,301	-864,331	-915,570	-51,239
Balance on services	285,552	300,364	287,466	233,870	-53,596
Balance on primary income	257,793	251,174	236,344	181,574	-54,770
Balance on secondary income	-109,272	-120,931	-139,705	-147,084	-7,379

p Preliminary

n.a. Not available

n.i.e. Not included elsewhere

Note. The statistics are presented in International Transactions Accounts [table 1.2](#) on BEA's website.

Financial-Account Transactions, Year 2020

Net financial-account transactions were -\$743.6 billion in 2020, reflecting net U.S. borrowing from foreign residents (table G).

Financial assets

Transactions in 2020 increased U.S. residents' foreign financial assets by \$763.5 billion. Transactions increased portfolio investment assets, mostly equity, by \$350.2 billion; other investment assets, mostly loans, by \$251.0 billion; direct investment assets, mainly equity, by \$153.3 billion; and reserve assets by \$9.0 billion.

Liabilities

Transactions in 2020 increased U.S. liabilities to foreign residents by \$1.50 trillion. Transactions increased portfolio investment liabilities, mainly equity securities, by \$760.0 billion; other investment liabilities, primarily deposits, loans, and currency, by \$531.4 billion; and direct investment liabilities, mostly equity, by \$212.4 billion.

Financial derivatives

Net transactions in financial derivatives were -\$3.3 billion in 2020, reflecting net borrowing from foreign residents.

Table G. Capital and Financial Accounts and Statistical Discrepancy

[Millions of dollars]

Series	2017	2018	2019	2020 ^p	Change 2019 to 2020
Capital account					
Capital transfer receipts and other credits	19,200	3,286	67	406	339
Capital transfer payments and other debits	6,805	7,482	6,311	6,435	124
Financial account					
Net U.S. acquisition of financial assets excluding financial derivatives (net increase in assets / financial outflow (+))	1,188,188	358,971	440,751	763,477	322,726
Direct investment assets	405,375	-151,298	188,469	153,257	-35,212
Equity	392,160	-218,115	173,537	174,694	1,157
Equity other than reinvestment of earnings	41,979	72,008	17,442	42,667	25,225
Reinvestment of earnings	350,181	-290,123	156,095	132,026	-24,069
Debt instruments	13,215	66,817	14,932	-21,437	-36,369
Portfolio investment assets	569,375	335,263	46,570	350,213	303,643
Equity and investment fund shares	139,940	171,300	-191,306	299,689	490,995
Debt securities	429,435	163,963	237,876	50,524	-187,352
Short term	191,685	14,298	167,565	3,878	-163,687
Long term	237,751	149,665	70,311	46,646	-23,665
Other investment assets	215,127	170,017	201,053	251,033	49,980
Currency and deposits	173,372	106,078	132,600	51,793	-80,807
Loans	34,827	61,431	66,116	200,589	134,473
Trade credit and advances	5,422	1,179	970	-3,197	-4,167
Reserve assets	-1,690	4,989	4,659	8,974	4,315
Monetary gold	0	0	0	0	0
Special drawing rights	78	156	237	81	-156
Reserve position in the International Monetary Fund	-1,812	4,824	4,271	8,814	4,543
Other reserve assets	44	10	150	78	-72
Net U.S. incurrence of liabilities excluding financial derivatives (net increase in liabilities / financial inflow (+))	1,546,281	758,291	797,960	1,503,746	705,786
Direct investment liabilities	366,996	261,480	351,629	212,396	-139,233
Equity	302,046	344,269	290,311	204,896	-85,415
Equity other than reinvestment of earnings	199,818	199,068	142,991	113,105	-29,886
Reinvestment of earnings	102,228	145,201	147,320	91,791	-55,529
Debt instruments	64,950	-82,789	61,318	7,499	-53,819
Portfolio investment liabilities	790,796	303,075	179,980	759,972	579,992
Equity and investment fund shares	149,633	156,916	-244,069	725,723	969,792
Debt securities	641,163	146,159	424,049	34,248	-389,801
Short term	11,840	30,462	-43,158	267,314	310,472
Long term	629,323	115,697	467,207	-233,066	-700,273
Other investment liabilities	388,489	193,736	266,350	531,379	265,029
Currency and deposits	217,677	12,825	204,101	323,904	119,803
Loans	156,395	164,968	52,402	193,394	140,992
Trade credit and advances	14,417	15,943	9,847	14,082	4,235
Special drawing rights allocations	0	0	0	0	0
Financial derivatives other than reserves, net transactions	23,998	-20,404	-38,340	-3,297	35,043
Statistical discrepancy					
Statistical discrepancy ¹	18,779	34,165	90,921	-90,326	-181,247
Balances					
Balance on capital account	12,394	-4,196	-6,244	-6,030	214
Net lending (+) or net borrowing (-) from current- and capital-account transactions ²	-352,875	-453,890	-486,470	-653,240	-166,770
Net lending (+) or net borrowing (-) from financial-account transactions ³	-334,095	-419,724	-395,549	-743,566	-348,017

^p Preliminary

1. The statistical discrepancy is the difference between net acquisition of assets and net incurrence of liabilities in the financial account (including financial derivatives) less the difference between total credits and total debits recorded in the current and capital accounts.
2. Sum of current-account balance (table G) and capital-account balance.
3. Sum of net U.S. acquisition of financial assets and net transactions in financial derivatives less net U.S. incurrence of liabilities.

Note. The statistics are presented in International Transactions Accounts [table 1.2](#) and [table 6.1](#) on BEA's website.

Upcoming Update to the U.S. International Transactions Accounts

The annual update of the U.S. International Transactions Accounts will be released along with preliminary estimates for the first quarter of 2021 on June 23, 2021. See “[Preview of the 2021 Annual Update of the International Economic Accounts](#)” in this issue.



Survey of Current Business
apps.bea.gov/scb
scb@bea.gov
(301) 278-9004