

# U.S. International Transactions

## First Quarter 2022

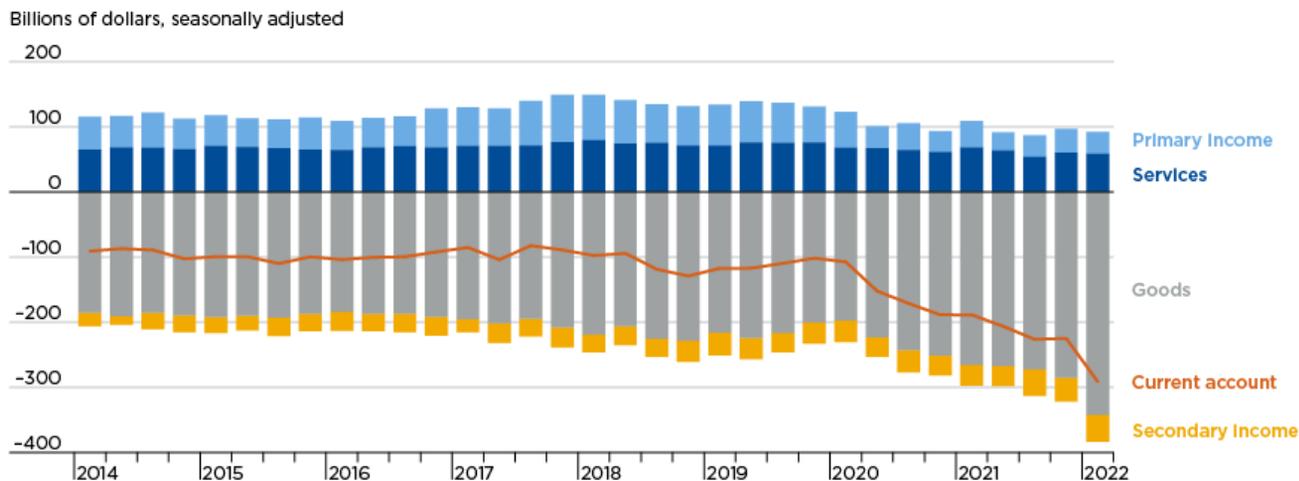
By Rudy Telles Jr.

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 \$66.6 billion, or 29.6 percent, to \$291.4 billion in the first quarter of 2022 (chart 1 and table A). The revised fourth-quarter deficit was \$224.8 billion.

The first-quarter deficit was 4.8 percent of current-dollar gross domestic product, up from 3.7 percent in the fourth quarter.

The \$66.6 billion widening of the current-account deficit in the first quarter mostly reflected an increased deficit on goods.

**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	2021			2022	Change 2021:Q4 to 2022:Q1
	II <sup>r</sup>	III <sup>r</sup>	IV <sup>r</sup>	I <sup>p</sup>	
<b>Current account</b>					
<b>Exports of goods and services and income receipts (credits)</b>	<b>929,394</b>	<b>952,285</b>	<b>1,001,171</b>	<b>1,026,911</b>	<b>25,740</b>
Exports of goods and services	630,247	641,582	686,479	704,642	18,163
Goods	435,556	441,893	473,521	487,422	13,901
Services	194,691	199,688	212,959	217,220	4,261
Primary income receipts	256,960	267,976	271,520	278,624	7,104
Secondary income (current transfer) receipts	42,187	42,727	43,173	43,645	472
<b>Imports of goods and services and income payments (debits)</b>	<b>1,135,795</b>	<b>1,178,660</b>	<b>1,226,009</b>	<b>1,318,329</b>	<b>92,320</b>
Imports of goods and services	833,962	860,724	911,479	988,412	76,933
Goods	702,985	714,472	758,540	829,669	71,129
Services	130,977	146,251	152,939	158,743	5,804
Primary income payments	228,932	234,408	234,527	245,227	10,700
Secondary income (current transfer) payments	72,901	83,528	80,003	84,690	4,687
<b>Capital account</b>					
<b>Capital transfer receipts and other credits</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3,819</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Capital transfer payments and other debits</b>	<b>890</b>	<b>828</b>	<b>1,857</b>	<b>2,074</b>	<b>217</b>
<b>Financial account</b>					
<b>Net U.S. acquisition of financial assets excluding financial derivatives (net increase in assets / financial outflow (+))</b>	<b>296,073</b>	<b>466,485</b>	<b>49,404</b>	<b>343,108</b>	<b>293,704</b>
Direct investment assets	180,545	87,710	64,912	115,200	50,288
Portfolio investment assets	173,874	305,649	-106,715	203,116	309,831
Other investment assets	-58,823	-39,476	88,194	23,859	-64,335
Reserve assets	477	112,603	3,013	932	-2,081
<b>Net U.S. incurrence of liabilities excluding financial derivatives (net increase in liabilities / financial inflow (+))</b>	<b>428,362</b>	<b>676,601</b>	<b>230,257</b>	<b>626,362</b>	<b>396,105</b>
Direct investment liabilities	116,823	161,484	97,255	93,543	-3,712
Portfolio investment liabilities	146,867	200,804	-61,631	239,004	300,635
Other investment liabilities	164,672	314,312	194,633	293,815	99,182
<b>Financial derivatives other than reserves, net transactions</b>	<b>-8,611</b>	<b>-7,980</b>	<b>-23,095</b>	<b>5,762</b>	<b>28,857</b>
<b>Statistical discrepancy</b>					
<b>Statistical discrepancy<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>66,382</b>	<b>5,289</b>	<b>22,734</b>	<b>15,972</b>	<b>-6,762</b>
<b>Balances</b>					
<b>Balance on current account</b>	<b>-206,402</b>	<b>-226,375</b>	<b>-224,837</b>	<b>-291,418</b>	<b>-66,581</b>
Balance on goods and services	-203,715	-219,142	-225,000	-283,770	-58,770
Balance on goods	-267,429	-272,579	-285,019	-342,247	-57,228
Balance on services	63,714	53,437	60,020	58,477	-1,543
Balance on primary income	28,027	33,568	36,993	33,397	-3,596
Balance on secondary income	-30,714	-40,800	-36,831	-41,045	-4,214
<b>Balance on capital account</b>	<b>-881</b>	<b>2,990</b>	<b>-1,844</b>	<b>-2,046</b>	<b>-202</b>
<b>Net lending (+) or net borrowing (-) from current- and capital-account transactions<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>-207,282</b>	<b>-223,384</b>	<b>-226,681</b>	<b>-293,464</b>	<b>-66,783</b>
<b>Net lending (+) or net borrowing (-) from financial-account transactions<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>-140,900</b>	<b>-218,096</b>	<b>-203,948</b>	<b>-277,492</b>	<b>-73,544</b>

**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 [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 the recently updated *U.S. International Economic Accounts: Concepts and Methods* and “[A Primer on the U.S. International Economic Accounts](#).”

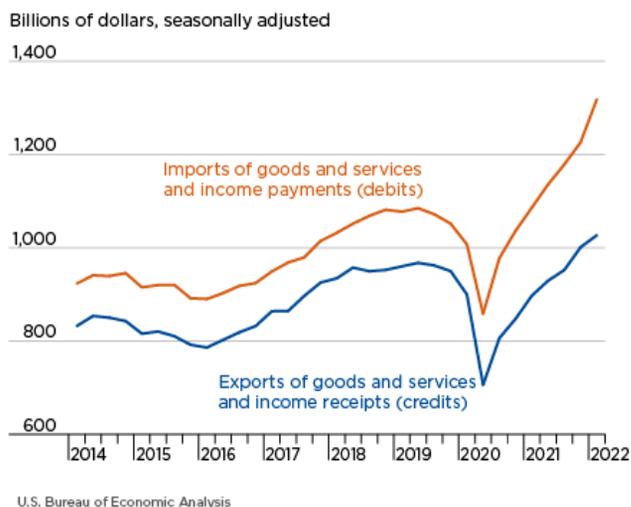
## Coronavirus (COVID-19) Impact on First-Quarter 2022 International Transactions

All major categories of current-account transactions increased in the first quarter of 2022, the seventh 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.

## Current Account

Exports of goods and services to, and income received from, foreign residents increased \$25.7 billion to \$1.03 trillion in the first quarter (charts 2 and 3 and tables A and B). Imports of goods and services from, and income paid to, foreign residents increased \$92.3 billion to \$1.32 trillion (charts 2 and 4 and tables A and C).

**Chart 2. Current-Account Transactions**



## Trade in goods

Exports of goods increased \$13.9 billion to \$487.4 billion, mostly reflecting an increase in industrial supplies and materials, primarily petroleum and products. Imports of goods increased \$71.1 billion to \$829.7 billion, reflecting widespread increases in consumer goods, in industrial supplies and materials, and in capital goods.

## Trade in services

Exports of services increased \$4.3 billion to \$217.2 billion, mainly reflecting increases in government goods and services n.i.e. (not included elsewhere), in other business services, primarily professional and management consulting services, and in travel, led by other personal travel. Imports of services increased \$5.8 billion to \$158.7 billion, mainly reflecting increases in transport, mostly sea freight transport, and in charges for the use of intellectual property, primarily licenses for the use of outcomes of research and development (such as patents and trade secrets).

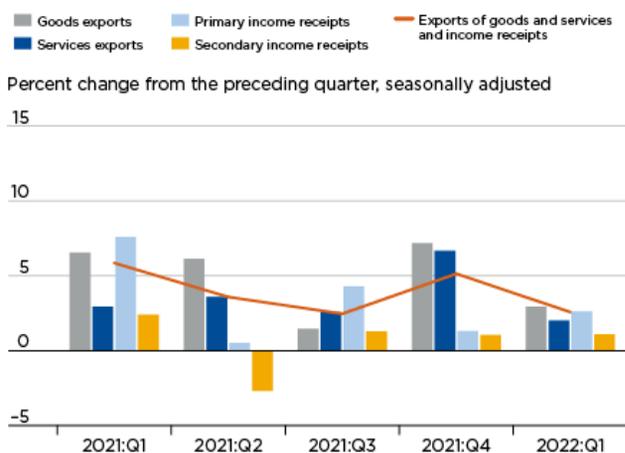
## Primary income

Receipts of primary income increased \$7.1 billion to \$278.6 billion, and payments of primary income increased \$10.7 billion to \$245.2 billion. The increases in both receipts and payments mostly reflected an increase in portfolio investment income, primarily equity securities and interest on long-term debt securities.

## Secondary income

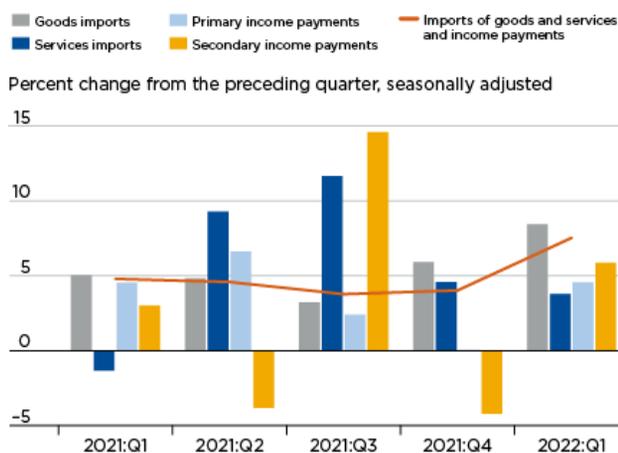
Receipts of secondary income increased \$0.5 billion to \$43.6 billion, mostly reflecting an increase in general government transfers, primarily taxes on income and wealth. Payments of secondary income increased \$4.7 billion to \$84.7 billion, reflecting increases in general government transfers, mostly international cooperation, and in private transfers, mostly insurance-related transfers.

**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	2021			2022	Change 2021:Q4 to 2022:Q1
	II <sup>r</sup>	III <sup>r</sup>	IV <sup>r</sup>	I <sup>p</sup>	
<b>Exports of goods and services and income receipts</b>	<b>929,394</b>	<b>952,285</b>	<b>1,001,171</b>	<b>1,026,911</b>	<b>25,740</b>
<b>Exports of goods</b>	<b>435,556</b>	<b>441,893</b>	<b>473,521</b>	<b>487,422</b>	<b>13,901</b>
General merchandise	427,268	434,603	466,835	481,296	14,461
Foods, feeds, and beverages	40,772	38,432	44,085	44,326	241
Industrial supplies and materials	151,958	158,428	171,104	184,245	13,141
Energy products	63,114	68,286	79,352	87,172	7,820
<i>Of which: Petroleum and products</i>	51,070	53,070	62,146	70,899	8,753
Nonenergy products	88,844	90,142	91,752	97,073	5,321
Capital goods except automotive	131,760	130,800	134,784	138,700	3,916
Automotive vehicles, parts, and engines	35,095	34,398	37,131	37,564	433
Consumer goods except food and automotive	52,625	57,671	63,305	59,547	-3,758
Other general merchandise	15,058	14,874	16,427	16,913	486
Net exports of goods under merchanting	212	234	175	199	24
Nonmonetary gold	8,077	7,056	6,510	5,928	-582
<b>Exports of services<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>194,691</b>	<b>199,688</b>	<b>212,959</b>	<b>217,220</b>	<b>4,261</b>
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.	3,132	3,302	3,146	3,259	113
Transport	15,890	16,508	18,969	19,718	749
Travel (for all purposes including education)	15,618	17,412	23,856	25,099	1,243
Business	3,070	3,333	4,583	5,037	454
Personal	12,549	14,079	19,274	20,062	788
Construction	728	825	860	614	-246
Insurance services	5,432	5,905	6,012	5,996	-16
Financial services	42,449	43,442	43,714	43,052	-662
Charges for the use of intellectual property n.i.e.	30,427	31,080	32,646	32,071	-575
Telecommunications, computer, and information services	14,642	14,696	16,044	15,599	-445
Other business services	54,408	54,829	55,708	57,426	1,718
Personal, cultural, and recreational services	6,203	5,970	5,912	5,771	-141
Government goods and services n.i.e.	5,764	5,720	6,091	8,615	2,524
<b>Primary income receipts</b>	<b>256,960</b>	<b>267,976</b>	<b>271,520</b>	<b>278,624</b>	<b>7,104</b>
Investment income	255,243	266,244	269,774	276,865	7,091
Direct investment income	144,353	147,463	145,836	146,696	860
Income on equity	140,667	143,856	142,309	143,281	972
Dividends and withdrawals	51,853	74,744	37,632	93,662	56,030
Reinvested earnings	88,814	69,112	104,676	49,619	-55,057
Interest	3,686	3,607	3,527	3,415	-112
Portfolio investment income	96,347	104,031	108,943	115,431	6,488
Income on equity and investment fund shares	63,883	69,840	73,342	76,796	3,454
Interest on debt securities	32,464	34,191	35,601	38,636	3,035
Other investment income	14,496	14,980	14,961	14,654	-307
Reserve asset income	47	-231	35	83	48
Compensation of employees	1,717	1,732	1,746	1,759	13
<b>Secondary income (current transfer) receipts<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>42,187</b>	<b>42,727</b>	<b>43,173</b>	<b>43,645</b>	<b>472</b>

**p** Preliminary**r** Revised**n.a.** Not available**n.i.e.** Not included elsewhere1. See also International Services [table 2.1](#).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	2021			2022	Change 2021:Q4 to 2022:Q1
	II <sup>r</sup>	III <sup>r</sup>	IV <sup>r</sup>	I <sup>p</sup>	
<b>Imports of goods and services and income payments</b>	<b>1,135,795</b>	<b>1,178,660</b>	<b>1,226,009</b>	<b>1,318,329</b>	<b>92,320</b>
<b>Imports of goods</b>	<b>702,985</b>	<b>714,472</b>	<b>758,540</b>	<b>829,669</b>	<b>71,129</b>
General merchandise	696,418	709,165	751,544	818,264	66,720
Foods, feeds, and beverages	46,047	47,169	48,452	52,067	3,615
Industrial supplies and materials	155,851	168,378	180,547	197,144	16,597
Energy products	56,209	63,162	69,555	78,351	8,796
<i>Of which: Petroleum and products</i>	51,726	57,674	63,684	71,170	7,486
Nonenergy products	99,642	105,216	110,992	118,793	7,801
Capital goods except automotive	189,878	192,318	199,334	215,024	15,690
Automotive vehicles, parts, and engines	87,083	83,781	86,467	94,813	8,346
Consumer goods except food and automotive	188,953	186,690	202,203	228,146	25,943
Other general merchandise	28,607	30,829	34,541	31,070	-3,471
Nonmonetary gold	6,567	5,307	6,996	11,406	4,410
<b>Imports of services<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>130,977</b>	<b>146,251</b>	<b>152,939</b>	<b>158,743</b>	<b>5,804</b>
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.	1,921	1,991	2,020	2,041	21
Transport	24,620	28,610	31,403	34,595	3,192
Travel (for all purposes including education)	11,782	17,286	19,840	20,232	392
Business	1,411	1,861	2,047	2,120	73
Personal	10,371	15,425	17,794	18,112	318
Construction	350	327	448	354	-94
Insurance services	14,302	15,294	15,646	15,542	-104
Financial services	11,808	12,732	13,546	13,307	-239
Charges for the use of intellectual property n.i.e.	10,550	11,976	10,966	13,870	2,904
Telecommunications, computer, and information services	10,631	10,609	11,438	11,394	-44
Other business services	31,552	34,016	34,047	34,030	-17
Personal, cultural, and recreational services	7,146	7,086	7,300	7,052	-248
Government goods and services n.i.e.	6,315	6,325	6,284	6,325	41
<b>Primary income payments</b>	<b>228,932</b>	<b>234,408</b>	<b>234,527</b>	<b>245,227</b>	<b>10,700</b>
Investment income	224,660	229,864	229,966	240,145	10,179
Direct investment income	80,119	80,487	78,483	81,148	2,665
Portfolio investment income	127,718	131,247	133,377	141,229	7,852
Income on equity and investment fund shares	46,413	47,072	48,228	52,084	3,856
Interest on debt securities	81,305	84,175	85,149	89,145	3,996
Other investment income	16,824	18,130	18,105	17,769	-336
Compensation of employees	4,272	4,544	4,561	5,081	520
<b>Secondary income (current transfer) payments<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>72,901</b>	<b>83,528</b>	<b>80,003</b>	<b>84,690</b>	<b>4,687</b>
Supplemental detail on insurance transactions:					
Premiums paid	35,536	39,023	40,097	41,217	1,120
Losses recovered	25,969	29,480	25,407	25,300	-107

**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

Capital-transfer payments increased \$0.2 billion to \$2.1 billion in the first quarter, mostly reflecting an increase in U.S. government investment grants (table A).

## Financial Account

Net financial-account transactions were -\$277.5 billion in the first quarter, reflecting net U.S. borrowing from foreign residents.

### Financial assets

First-quarter transactions increased U.S. residents' foreign financial assets by \$343.1 billion (charts 5 and 6 and table D). Transactions increased portfolio investment assets, mainly long-term debt securities and equity, by \$203.1 billion; direct investment assets, primarily equity, by \$115.2 billion; other investment assets, primarily loans, by \$23.9 billion; and reserve assets by \$0.9 billion.

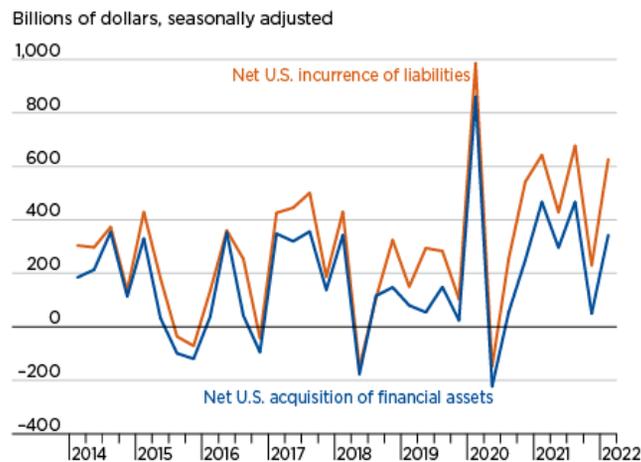
### Liabilities

First-quarter transactions increased U.S. liabilities to foreign residents by \$626.4 billion. Transactions increased other investment liabilities, mostly loans and deposits, by \$293.8 billion; portfolio investment liabilities by \$239.0 billion, resulting from large and partly offsetting transactions in debt and equity securities; and direct investment liabilities, mostly equity, by \$93.5 billion.

### Financial derivatives

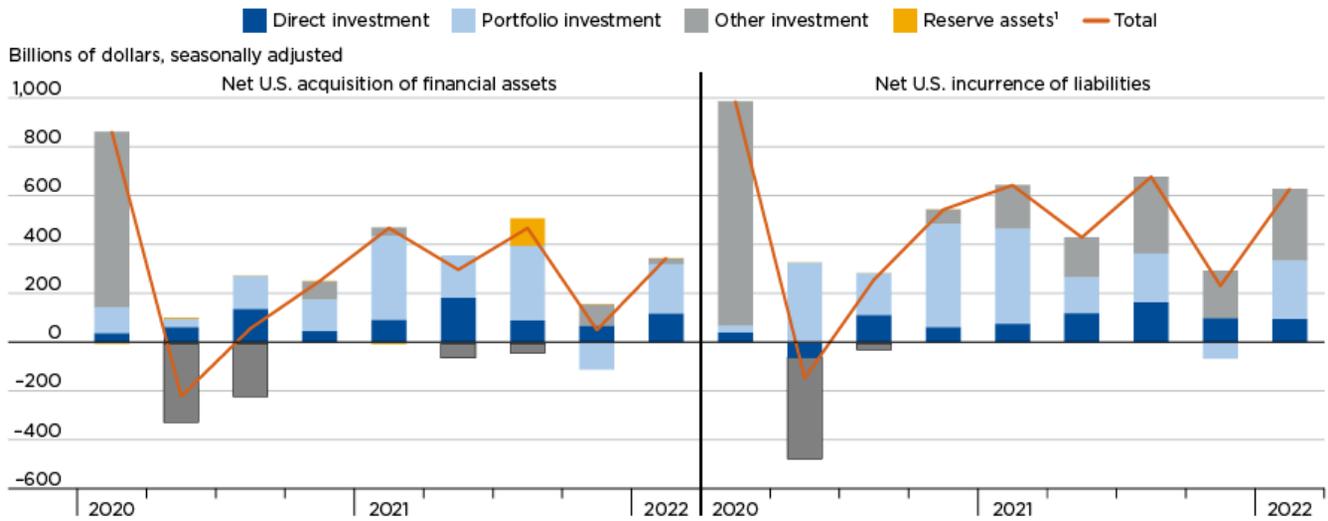
Net transactions in financial derivatives were \$5.8 billion in the first quarter, reflecting net U.S. lending to foreign residents.

**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	2021			2022	Change 2021:Q4 to 2022:Q1
	II <sup>r</sup>	III <sup>r</sup>	IV <sup>r</sup>	I <sup>p</sup>	
<b>Net U.S. acquisition of financial assets excluding financial derivatives (net increase in assets / financial outflow (+))</b>	<b>296,073</b>	<b>466,485</b>	<b>49,404</b>	<b>343,108</b>	<b>293,704</b>
<b>Direct investment assets</b>	<b>180,545</b>	<b>87,710</b>	<b>64,912</b>	<b>115,200</b>	<b>50,288</b>
Equity	127,908	70,211	142,683	118,612	-24,071
Equity other than reinvestment of earnings	39,094	1,099	38,007	68,994	30,987
Reinvestment of earnings	88,814	69,112	104,676	49,619	-55,057
Debt instruments	52,636	17,498	-77,771	-3,412	74,359
<b>Portfolio investment assets</b>	<b>173,874</b>	<b>305,649</b>	<b>-106,715</b>	<b>203,116</b>	<b>309,831</b>
Equity and investment fund shares	101,664	112,252	-153,474	111,457	264,931
Debt securities	72,210	193,397	46,759	91,660	44,901
Short-term securities	55,661	3,280	-49,821	-70,340	-20,519
Long-term corporate securities	10,141	144,071	67,355	125,858	58,503
Other long-term securities	6,408	46,046	29,225	36,142	6,917
<b>Other investment assets</b>	<b>-58,823</b>	<b>-39,476</b>	<b>88,194</b>	<b>23,859</b>	<b>-64,335</b>
Other equity	0	37	0	0	0
Currency and deposits	-85,911	-36,617	76,553	1,348	-75,205
Loans	30,169	-2,378	10,079	28,739	18,660
Trade credit and advances	-3,081	-518	1,563	-6,228	-7,791
<b>Reserve assets</b>	<b>477</b>	<b>112,603</b>	<b>3,013</b>	<b>932</b>	<b>-2,081</b>
Monetary gold	0	0	0	0	0
Special drawing rights	4	112,838	835	1,517	682
Reserve position in the International Monetary Fund	437	11	2,169	-596	-2,765
Other reserve assets	36	-247	9	11	2
<b>Net U.S. incurrence of liabilities excluding financial derivatives (net increase in liabilities / financial inflow (+))</b>	<b>428,362</b>	<b>676,601</b>	<b>230,257</b>	<b>626,362</b>	<b>396,105</b>
<b>Direct investment liabilities</b>	<b>116,823</b>	<b>161,484</b>	<b>97,255</b>	<b>93,543</b>	<b>-3,712</b>
Equity	88,427	116,731	102,069	67,314	-34,755
Equity other than reinvestment of earnings	32,419	58,951	45,554	9,901	-35,653
Reinvestment of earnings	56,008	57,779	56,515	57,412	897
Debt instruments	28,396	44,754	-4,814	26,229	31,043
<b>Portfolio investment liabilities</b>	<b>146,867</b>	<b>200,804</b>	<b>-61,631</b>	<b>239,004</b>	<b>300,635</b>
Equity and investment fund shares	34,237	129,615	-279,938	-137,438	142,500
Debt securities	112,630	71,189	218,307	376,441	158,134
Short term	-64,607	7,882	53,110	76,998	23,888
Treasury bills and certificates	-50,852	-2,765	59,028	20,988	-38,040
Federally sponsored agency securities	-1,746	954	309	248	-61
Other short-term securities	-12,009	9,693	-6,227	55,762	61,989
Long term	177,237	63,307	165,198	299,444	134,246
Treasury bonds and notes	185,388	79,256	145,684	193,165	47,481
Federally sponsored agency securities	5,879	-24,449	16,934	-12,649	-29,583
Corporate bonds and notes	-13,522	7,504	2,124	112,060	109,936
Other	-508	996	456	6,868	6,412
<b>Other investment liabilities</b>	<b>164,672</b>	<b>314,312</b>	<b>194,633</b>	<b>293,815</b>	<b>99,182</b>
Other equity	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Currency	12,650	7,321	18,284	17,425	-859
Deposits	50,289	166,191	-30,744	118,041	148,785
Loans	98,753	25,629	197,963	156,068	-41,895
Trade credit and advances	2,980	2,336	9,129	2,282	-6,847
Special drawing rights allocations	0	112,834	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 first quarter of 2012 through the fourth quarter of 2021 have been updated to incorporate newly available and revised source data and updated seasonal adjustments (table E). For more information, see “[Annual Update of the U.S. International Transactions Accounts](#)” in this issue of the *Survey of Current Business*.

**Table E. Updates to the Fourth-Quarter 2021 International Transactions Aggregates**

[Millions of dollars, seasonally adjusted]

Series	Preliminary estimates	Revised estimates
<b>Balance on current account</b>	<b>-217,880</b>	<b>-224,837</b>
Balance on goods	-283,446	-285,019
Balance on services	54,476	60,020
Balance on primary income	44,246	36,993
Balance on secondary income (current transfers)	-33,156	-36,831
<b>Net lending or borrowing from financial-account transactions</b>	<b>-133,616</b>	<b>-203,948</b>
Net U.S. acquisition of financial assets	113,623	49,404
Net U.S. incurrence of liabilities	224,377	230,257
Financial derivatives other than reserves, net transactions	-22,861	-23,095