Technical Documentation

Sources and Limitations

The data in this release are compiled from administrative records from official U.S. import and export merchandise trade statistics. The merchandise trade data are a complete enumeration of documentation collected by the U.S. Bureau of Customs and Border Protection and are not subject to sampling error. Quality assurance procedures are performed at every stage of collection, processing and tabulation. However, the data are still subject to non-sampling errors. These errors include undocumented shipments, timeliness, data capture errors and errors in the estimation of low-valued transactions.

Related-party shipments are identified by the indicators, "R" for related or "N" for nonrelated, that are required on every import or export transaction. However, importers and exporters do not always report the indicator on their shipments. No attempt is made to estimate the related-party status of shipments with missing indicators; instead, they are categorized on the data tables as "nonreported." Therefore, the ratios of related and unrelated-party trade to total trade are understated.

Users are advised to consider these limitations in their analysis of this data as they may affect the results. For more information on data sources and methodology, please read the document "Information on the Collection and Publication of Trade Statistics" at www.census.gov/foreign-trade/reference/guides/tradestatsinfo.html.

Definitions

Related-party trade:

Imports: : Title 19 of USC Chapter 4, Section 1401a (g)(1) of the Tariff Act of 1930, defines related-party trade import transactions between parties with various types of relationships including "Any person directly or indirectly owning, controlling, or holding with power to vote, 5 percent or more of the outstanding voting stock or shares of any organization and such organization."

Exports: The Foreign Trade Regulations, 30.1, define a related-party export transaction as one between a U.S. exporter and an ultimate consignee, where either party owns, directly or indirectly, 10 percent or more of the other party.

Imports for Consumption: The import data shown in this report are imports for consumption. The data measure all merchandise that has physically cleared Customs, entering consumption channels immediately, or after withdrawal from bonded warehouses under Customs custody or from Foreign Trade Zones.

Customs Value: The import data in this report are based on Customs value, generally defined as the price actually paid or payable for merchandise when sold for exportation to the United States. Customs value excludes U.S. import duties, freight, insurance and other charges incurred in bringing the merchandise to the United States.

F.A.S. Value: Exports are valued on a free alongside ship basis. This value reflects the transaction price of the good, including inland freight, insurance and other charges incurred in placing the merchandise alongside the ship at the port of export.

Low Value Transactions: The total values of transactions valued as much as or below $2,500 for exports and $2,000 ($250 for certain quota items) for imports are estimated for each country, using factors based on the ratios of low-valued shipments to individual country totals for past periods.

Re-exports: Exports of foreign merchandise that previously entered the U.S. Customs Territory and are exported in substantially the same condition as when imported.

Selected World Areas and Grouping Definitions

Africa – Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, British Indian Ocean Territories, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cabo Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo (Brazzaville), Congo (Kinshasa), Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, French Southern and Antarctic Lands, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mayotte, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Reunion, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, St. Helena, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Western Sahara, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Euro Area - Euro Area - Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain.

Europe - Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Faroe Islands, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Gibraltar, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Svalbard, Jan Mayen Island, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan, Vatican City.

European Union - Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden.

North America - Canada, Mexico

Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) - Algeria, Angola, Congo (Brazzaville), Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela.

Pacific Rim Countries - Australia, Brunei, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea (South), Macau, Malaysia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan.

South/Central America - Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Bolivia, Brazil, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Curacao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas), French Guiana, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Martinique, Montserrat, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, St. Kitts and Nevis, Sint Maarten, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Comments, suggestions and/or inquiries related to these data may be directed to the U.S. Census Bureau, Economic Indicators Division, International Trade Indicator Macro Analysis Branch, Washington, D.C. 20233.