

U.S. Census Bureau News

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Economic Indicators Division

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CB 16-73

Advance Report: U.S. International Trade in Goods March 2016

Monthly Release Schedule

Statistical Month	Date
April	5/25/16
May	6/27/16
June	7/28/16
July	8/26/16
August	9/29/16
September	10/26/16
October	11/25/16
November	12/29/16

This report presents two sets of trade in goods statistics: "Advance" statistics reflect partial coverage of the current and previous months; and "Final" statistics reflect complete coverage of the current and previous months and correspond to the trade in goods statistics published in the most recent "FT-900: U.S. International Trade in Goods and Services" release (FT-900). Values in the Advance Report are subject to change prior to the publication of the FT-900. All statistics are presented on a Census basis. For information on data sources, nonsampling errors, and definitions, see the information section on page A-1 of this release or at www.census.gov/foreign-trade/advance/current/adv_info.pdf.

Exhibit 1. Balance of Goods - Census Basis

In millions of dollars. Details may not equal totals due to rounding.

Period	Seasonally Adjusted	Not Seasonally Adjusted
	Advance	
2015		
Jan. - Dec.	-733,748	-733,748
Jan. - Feb.	-115,104	-100,733
January	-59,851	-57,405
February	-55,253	-43,328
March	-70,563	-64,390
April	-60,458	-61,423
May	-59,783	-57,046
June	-62,292	-64,838
July	-59,158	-68,360
August	-67,223	-68,025
September	-58,669	-65,492
October	-58,447	-61,565
November	-60,538	-61,965
December	-61,513	-59,912
2016		
Jan. - Feb.	-125,092	-111,030
January	-62,228	-57,094
February	-62,864	-53,936
March	-56,899	-52,900
April		
May		
June		
July		
August		
September		
October		
November		
December		
	Final	
2015		
Jan.- Dec.	-736,019	-736,019
Jan.- Feb.	-117,066	-102,614
January	-61,098	-58,716
February	-55,968	-43,899
March	-69,290	-63,102
April	-59,435	-60,367
May	-59,609	-56,932
June	-62,350	-64,939
July	-59,300	-68,527
August	-66,273	-67,084
September	-59,465	-66,166
October	-61,846	-65,036
November	-60,034	-61,486
December	-61,351	-59,765
2016		
Jan.- Feb.	-126,039	-112,144
January	-62,602	-57,599
February	-63,437	-54,545
March		
April		
May		
June		
July		
August		
September		
October		
November		
December		

NOTE: For information on data sources, nonsampling errors and definitions, see the information section on page A-1 of this release or at www.census.gov/foreign-trade/advance/current/adv_info.pdf.

Seasonally Adjusted

Exhibit 2. U.S. Exports of Goods by Principal End-Use Category

In millions of dollars. Details may not equal totals due to seasonal adjustment and rounding.

Period	Total Census Basis (2)	End-Use Commodity Category (1)					
		Foods, Feeds, & Beverages	Industrial Supplies (3)	Capital Goods	Automotive Vehicles, etc.	Consumer Goods	Other Goods
Advance							
2015							
Jan. - Dec.	1,500,736	126,849	424,479	539,636	149,328	199,675	60,769
Jan. - Feb.	252,731	21,653	72,760	89,933	24,204	34,500	9,681
January	127,944	10,930	37,038	45,684	12,647	16,800	4,844
February	124,787	10,724	35,722	44,249	11,556	17,700	4,837
March	125,810	10,973	36,001	45,308	11,999	16,840	4,687
April	127,697	10,746	36,654	47,487	12,096	16,007	4,707
May	126,674	10,957	37,352	45,030	12,391	16,033	4,911
June	126,514	10,530	37,100	44,081	12,637	16,715	5,451
July	127,078	10,659	37,278	44,355	13,253	16,309	5,224
August	123,046	10,400	34,161	45,072	12,404	15,753	5,256
September	126,824	10,793	35,065	45,433	12,893	17,520	5,119
October	123,264	10,111	33,091	44,471	12,603	16,984	6,003
November	120,926	10,223	32,650	44,285	12,544	16,202	5,021
December	120,174	9,805	32,367	44,179	12,304	16,813	4,707
2016							
Jan. - Feb.	235,496	19,145	62,499	86,043	24,558	34,143	9,108
January	116,798	9,422	31,450	42,983	12,177	16,480	4,287
February	118,698	9,724	31,049	43,060	12,381	17,663	4,822
March	116,733	9,370	30,659	43,689	11,945	15,453	5,617
April							
May							
June							
July							
August							
September							
October							
November							
December							
Final							
2015							
Jan.- Dec.	1,504,914	127,704	428,172	538,341	151,563	197,817	61,317
Jan.- Feb.	254,050	21,820	73,838	90,185	24,521	34,525	9,161
January	128,461	11,010	37,573	45,838	12,783	16,760	4,497
February	125,589	10,809	36,265	44,347	11,739	17,765	4,664
March	126,114	11,024	36,222	45,220	12,350	16,126	5,171
April	128,440	10,829	36,859	47,298	12,500	16,046	4,910
May	127,056	11,002	37,720	44,847	12,627	15,967	4,895
June	126,592	10,559	37,041	44,082	12,666	16,764	5,480
July	127,795	10,718	37,376	44,289	13,277	16,337	5,798
August	123,760	10,466	35,157	44,390	12,767	15,775	5,205
September	126,412	10,852	35,152	45,300	12,933	17,041	5,134
October	123,261	10,260	33,531	44,363	12,771	16,537	5,799
November	121,169	10,273	32,849	44,352	12,856	15,881	4,959
December	120,263	9,901	32,429	44,015	12,296	16,818	4,804
2016							
Jan.- Feb.	234,297	19,167	62,795	85,336	24,973	33,021	9,004
January	116,206	9,429	31,487	42,803	12,315	15,979	4,193
February	118,091	9,738	31,308	42,532	12,658	17,043	4,811
March							
April							
May							
June							
July							
August							
September							
October							
November							
December							

(1) For a listing of the detail included in each end-use category, see <http://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/reference/codes/enduse/exeumstr.txt>

(2) Data are presented on a Census basis. The information needed to convert to a balance of payment basis is not available.

(3) Includes petroleum and petroleum products.

NOTE: For information on data sources, nonsampling errors, and definitions, see the information section on page A-1 of this release or at www.census.gov/foreign-trade/advance/current/adv_info.pdf.

Seasonally Adjusted

Exhibit 3. U.S. Imports of Goods by Principal End-Use Category

In millions of dollars. Details may not equal totals due to seasonal adjustment and rounding.

Period	Total Census Basis (2)	End-Use Commodity Category (1)					
		Foods, Feeds, & Beverages	Industrial Supplies (3)	Capital Goods	Automotive Vehicles, etc.	Consumer Goods	Other Goods
Advance							
2015							
Jan. - Dec.	2,234,483	127,348	482,405	598,138	347,860	590,729	88,003
Jan. - Feb.	367,835	21,084	88,286	98,437	54,563	92,367	13,098
January	187,794	10,620	46,193	50,072	28,084	46,401	6,424
February	180,041	10,464	42,094	48,365	26,479	45,966	6,674
March	196,373	10,931	42,165	52,196	29,016	54,052	8,013
April	188,155	10,881	41,468	52,258	28,600	48,447	6,502
May	186,456	10,465	40,710	50,491	29,440	48,091	7,259
June	188,805	11,091	41,755	48,855	29,776	50,456	6,873
July	186,237	10,495	42,009	49,112	29,985	47,495	7,141
August	190,269	10,690	39,768	50,478	29,744	51,549	8,040
September	185,493	10,687	38,168	49,040	28,789	51,017	7,792
October	181,711	10,081	35,635	48,767	28,715	50,838	7,675
November	181,464	10,383	35,965	49,387	29,139	48,589	8,001
December	181,686	10,561	36,475	49,118	30,094	47,828	7,609
2016							
Jan. - Feb.	360,587	21,908	67,497	97,214	59,701	99,213	15,053
January	179,026	10,721	34,140	47,995	30,603	48,011	7,557
February	181,562	11,188	33,357	49,219	29,098	51,203	7,497
March	173,632	10,495	32,427	47,429	28,302	46,525	8,454
April							
May							
June							
July							
August							
September							
October							
November							
December							
Final							
2015							
Jan.- Dec.	2,240,933	127,689	485,908	599,156	348,283	595,175	84,721
Jan.- Feb.	371,116	21,137	89,302	99,095	54,733	93,527	13,323
January	189,559	10,673	46,697	50,417	28,110	47,177	6,487
February	181,557	10,465	42,605	48,678	26,623	46,350	6,836
March	195,404	10,957	42,198	52,118	28,988	53,824	7,319
April	187,875	10,858	41,570	51,554	28,620	48,923	6,350
May	186,665	10,453	40,761	50,356	29,431	48,880	6,785
June	188,942	11,094	41,936	49,041	29,672	50,425	6,774
July	187,095	10,539	42,337	49,247	30,112	47,833	7,027
August	190,034	10,653	40,057	50,261	29,616	51,808	7,637
September	185,877	10,729	38,469	49,267	28,794	51,472	7,145
October	185,108	10,288	36,498	49,899	29,141	51,774	7,507
November	181,203	10,400	36,137	49,190	29,100	48,724	7,653
December	181,615	10,581	36,643	49,128	30,076	47,985	7,202
2016							
Jan.- Feb.	360,336	21,932	68,161	96,937	59,609	99,406	14,292
January	178,809	10,722	34,554	47,969	30,568	47,905	7,090
February	181,528	11,210	33,606	48,967	29,042	51,501	7,201
March							
April							
May							
June							
July							
August							
September							
October							
November							
December							

(1) For a listing of the detail included in each end-use category, see <http://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/reference/codes/enduse/exeumstr.txt>

(2) Data are presented on a Census basis. The information needed to convert to a balance of payment basis is not available.

(3) Includes petroleum and petroleum products.

NOTE: For information on data sources, nonsampling errors, and definitions, see the information section on page A-1 of this release or at www.census.gov/foreign-trade/advance/current/adv_info.pdf.

NOT Seasonally Adjusted

Exhibit 4. U.S. Exports of Goods by Principal End-Use Category

In millions of dollars. Details may not equal totals due to rounding.

Period	Total Census Basis (2)	End-Use Commodity Category (1)					
		Foods, Feeds, & Beverages	Industrial Supplies (3)	Capital Goods	Automotive Vehicles, etc.	Consumer Goods	Other Goods
Advance							
2015							
Jan. - Dec.	1,500,736	126,849	424,479	539,636	149,328	199,675	60,769
Jan. - Feb.	238,569	22,322	69,716	82,656	21,623	32,675	9,578
January	120,965	11,572	35,906	42,479	10,610	15,603	4,795
February	117,604	10,750	33,810	40,176	11,013	17,072	4,783
March	133,479	11,302	38,019	48,304	13,170	17,969	4,715
April	127,724	10,184	37,696	46,852	12,535	15,752	4,704
May	127,881	9,921	38,091	45,395	13,266	16,286	4,922
June	130,915	9,309	37,355	46,335	13,473	18,976	5,467
July	123,696	9,367	37,736	44,107	11,674	15,597	5,215
August	122,283	9,483	34,667	45,126	12,732	14,999	5,276
September	125,626	9,718	34,414	45,504	13,202	17,692	5,095
October	130,388	12,310	33,737	46,773	13,451	18,091	6,025
November	120,341	12,199	31,371	42,926	12,843	15,974	5,029
December	119,834	10,734	31,678	45,659	11,358	15,663	4,742
2016							
Jan. - Feb.	223,349	19,782	60,300	79,604	22,032	32,632	8,999
January	108,951	9,610	30,064	39,626	10,158	15,253	4,239
February	114,397	10,172	30,236	39,977	11,873	17,379	4,760
March	125,743	9,867	32,801	47,375	13,227	16,831	5,643
April							
May							
June							
July							
August							
September							
October							
November							
December							
Final							
2015							
Jan.- Dec.	1,504,914	127,704	428,172	538,341	151,563	197,817	61,317
Jan.- Feb.	239,745	22,488	70,760	82,864	21,884	32,691	9,058
January	121,398	11,657	36,439	42,593	10,705	15,556	4,448
February	118,348	10,831	34,322	40,271	11,179	17,135	4,610
March	133,785	11,351	38,245	48,221	13,571	17,197	5,199
April	128,505	10,263	37,914	46,667	12,972	15,781	4,907
May	128,259	9,959	38,454	45,215	13,522	16,204	4,905
June	130,994	9,330	37,303	46,342	13,496	19,028	5,496
July	124,391	9,418	37,831	44,050	11,688	15,616	5,789
August	123,011	9,538	35,668	44,452	13,115	15,012	5,225
September	125,281	9,766	34,498	45,370	13,234	17,300	5,113
October	130,463	12,527	34,184	46,662	13,610	17,660	5,819
November	120,570	12,242	31,570	42,995	13,127	15,670	4,966
December	119,909	10,822	31,744	45,502	11,345	15,657	4,839
2016							
Jan.- Feb.	222,035	19,805	60,593	78,932	22,397	31,414	8,894
January	108,273	9,619	30,101	39,456	10,255	14,697	4,145
February	113,762	10,186	30,493	39,476	12,142	16,716	4,749
March							
April							
May							
June							
July							
August							
September							
October							
November							
December							

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(2) Data are presented on a Census basis. The information needed to convert to a balance of payment basis is not available.

(3) Includes petroleum and petroleum products.

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NOT Seasonally Adjusted

Exhibit 5. U.S. Imports of Goods by Principal End-Use Category

In millions of dollars. Details may not equal totals due to rounding.

Period	Total Census Basis (2)	End-Use Commodity Category (1)					
		Foods, Feeds, & Beverages	Industrial Supplies (3)	Capital Goods	Automotive Vehicles, etc.	Consumer Goods	Other Goods
Advance							
2015							
Jan. - Dec.	2,234,483	127,348	482,405	598,138	347,860	590,729	88,003
Jan. - Feb.	339,301	20,192	83,673	89,134	49,694	84,259	12,350
January	178,370	10,679	45,512	46,747	24,987	44,175	6,269
February	160,932	9,513	38,161	42,387	24,707	40,084	6,081
March	197,868	11,649	43,481	53,779	30,847	49,898	8,215
April	189,147	11,183	43,247	52,040	29,392	46,527	6,758
May	184,927	10,730	41,910	49,980	28,920	46,604	6,784
June	195,753	11,454	43,616	52,027	30,675	50,763	7,219
July	192,056	10,439	44,274	50,968	28,988	50,085	7,302
August	190,308	10,273	40,154	49,993	30,224	52,064	7,600
September	191,118	10,144	38,311	49,546	28,478	56,340	8,299
October	191,953	10,247	35,443	50,501	30,665	57,094	8,004
November	182,306	10,228	33,494	49,942	30,205	50,727	7,711
December	179,746	10,809	34,802	50,230	29,774	46,368	7,763
2016							
Jan. - Feb.	334,379	21,165	64,130	88,734	54,610	91,530	14,210
January	166,045	10,593	32,965	43,874	26,759	44,746	7,108
February	168,334	10,572	31,165	44,860	27,851	46,784	7,102
March	178,643	11,360	34,072	49,507	30,453	44,294	8,958
April							
May							
June							
July							
August							
September							
October							
November							
December							
Final							
2015							
Jan.- Dec.	2,240,933	127,689	485,908	599,156	348,283	595,175	84,721
Jan.- Feb.	342,360	20,241	84,644	89,735	49,851	85,314	12,574
January	180,113	10,728	46,020	47,080	25,012	44,935	6,339
February	162,246	9,513	38,624	42,655	24,840	40,379	6,235
March	196,886	11,679	43,550	53,674	30,812	49,672	7,499
April	188,872	11,157	43,344	51,382	29,412	46,976	6,601
May	185,191	10,718	41,970	49,833	28,908	47,403	6,360
June	195,933	11,456	43,799	52,216	30,571	50,774	7,117
July	192,918	10,484	44,628	51,100	29,117	50,404	7,186
August	190,095	10,235	40,444	49,791	30,095	52,296	7,233
September	191,447	10,187	38,609	49,769	28,480	56,811	7,591
October	195,499	10,454	36,303	51,667	31,118	58,128	7,828
November	182,056	10,246	33,655	49,738	30,161	50,871	7,386
December	179,674	10,831	34,962	50,251	29,758	46,526	7,346
2016							
Jan.- Feb.	334,179	21,187	64,768	88,490	54,521	91,699	13,513
January	165,873	10,596	33,364	43,869	26,730	44,633	6,680
February	168,306	10,592	31,403	44,621	27,792	47,066	6,833
March							
April							
May							
June							
July							
August							
September							
October							
November							
December							

(1) For a listing of the detail included in each end-use category, see <http://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/reference/codes/enduse/exeumstr.txt>

(2) Data are presented on a Census basis. The information needed to convert to a balance of payment basis is not available.

(3) Includes petroleum and petroleum products.

NOTE: For information on data sources, nonsampling errors, and definitions, see the information section on page A-1 of this release or at www.census.gov/foreign-trade/advance/current/adv_info.pdf.

ADVANCE REPORT INFORMATION SECTION

GOODS (CENSUS BASIS)

Data for goods on a Census basis are compiled from the documents collected by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection and reflect the movement of goods between foreign countries and the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and U.S. Foreign Trade Zones. They include government and non-government shipments of goods and exclude shipments between the United States and its territories and possessions; transactions with U.S. military, diplomatic, and consular installations abroad; U.S. goods returned to the United States by its Armed Forces; personal and household effects of travelers; and in-transit shipments. Data for U.S. exports to Canada are derived from import data compiled by Canada. For more information on the data exchange and substitution please refer to the FT-900. The General Imports value reflects the total arrival of merchandise from foreign countries that immediately enters consumption channels, warehouses, or Foreign Trade Zones.

For imports, the value reported is the U.S. Customs and Border Protection appraised value of merchandise—generally, the price paid for merchandise for export to the United States. Import duties, freight, insurance, and other charges incurred in bringing merchandise to the United States are excluded.

Exports are valued at the f.a.s. (free alongside ship) value of merchandise at the U.S. port of export, based on the transaction price including inland freight, insurance, and other charges incurred in placing the merchandise alongside the carrier at the U.S. port of exportation.

NONSAMPLING ERRORS

The goods data are a complete enumeration of documents collected by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection and are not subject to sampling errors. Quality assurance procedures are performed at every stage of collection, processing, and tabulation. However, the data are still subject to several types of nonsampling errors. The most significant of these include reporting errors, undocumented shipments, timeliness, data capture errors, and errors in the estimation of low-valued transactions.

Reporting Errors: Reporting errors are mistakes or omissions made by importers, exporters, or their agents in their import or export declarations. Most errors involve missing or invalid commodity classification codes and missing or incorrect quantities or shipping weights. They have a negligible effect on aggregate import, export, and balance of trade statistics. However, they can affect the detailed commodity statistics.

Undocumented Shipments: Federal regulations require importers, exporters, or their agents to report all merchandise shipments above established exemption levels. The U.S. Census Bureau has determined that not all required documents are filed, particularly for exports.

Timeliness and Data Capture Errors: The U.S. Census Bureau captures import and export information from administrative documents and through various automated collection programs. Documents may be lost, and data may be incorrectly keyed, coded, or recorded. Transactions may be included in a subsequent month's statistics if received late.

Low-valued 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.

The U.S. Census Bureau recommends that data users incorporate this information into their analyses, as nonsampling errors could impact the conclusion drawn from the results. For a detailed discussion of errors affecting the goods data, see "U.S. Merchandise Trade Statistics: A Quality Profile," available at www.census.gov/foreign-trade/aip/quality_profile10032014.pdf or from the Economic Indicators Division, U.S. Census Bureau.

ADJUSTMENTS FOR SEASONAL AND TRADING-DAY VARIATIONS

Goods are initially classified under the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (Harmonized System), which is an internationally accepted standard for the commodity classification of traded goods. The Harmonized System describes and measures the characteristics of the goods and is the basis for the systems used in the United States: Schedule B for exports and Harmonized Tariff Schedule for imports. Combining trade into approximately 140 export and 140 import end-use categories makes it possible to examine goods according to their principal uses. These categories are used as the basis for computing the seasonal and trading-day adjusted data. These adjusted data are then summed to the six end-use aggregates for publication.

The seasonal adjustment procedure (X13-ARIMA-SEATS) is based on a model that estimates the monthly movements as percentages above or below the general level of series (unlike other methods that redistribute the actual series values over the calendar year).

Each June, advance seasonally adjusted data are updated to reflect recalculated seasonal adjustments. For December statistical month Advance Reports, each prior month of the most recent full year of advance data is updated so that the totals of the seasonally adjusted months equal the annual totals.

DATA AVAILABILITY

The "Advance Report: U.S. International Trade in Goods" is available at the following: www.census.gov/foreign-trade/advance/current/.