

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

COVID-19's Effect on International Trade in Goods for the "U.S. International Trade in Goods and Services" Report

Data Collection

Did the U.S. Census Bureau change its data collection procedures this month?

Yes. Certain import transactions that are typically filed via paper were estimated. These paper transactions typically make up less than 0.1% of the total import value in a given month and should not have a large impact on import statistics. Once the Census Bureau is able to process these transactions, the import statistics will be revised to include the actual data.

Methodology

Has the reliability of the monthly trade estimates changed?

No. As detailed above in the data collection area for international trade in goods, there was an estimation of the data that are typically filed via paper transactions. However, the impact of these estimates should be minimal on the overall import statistics.

Seasonal Adjustment

Did the Census Bureau alter the procedures for developing seasonally adjusted estimates for international trade in goods data?

No. An alteration was not made to our procedures for developing our seasonally adjusted estimates. Seasonal adjustments are based on annual data and are projected for a full calendar year. These factors are produced with April statistics. When we complete our annual seasonal adjustment review in April of this year, it will only include data through December 2019 and does not include any of the months when COVID-19 impacted the statistics.

Additional Information

Are there additional Census Bureau resources available on the COVID-19 Pandemic?

Yes. The Census Bureau has created a [COVID-19 reference page](#) which includes links to relevant Census data sources. There is also a more general [FAQ on the impact of COVID-19 on operations](#).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Economic Indicators

Division Last updated:

September 3, 2020