December 2018 Trade Gap is $59.8 Billion

U.S. international trade in goods and services

The U.S. monthly international trade deficit increased in December 2018 according to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis and the U.S. Census Bureau. The deficit increased from $50.3 billion in November (revised) to $59.8 billion in December, as imports increased and exports decreased. The previously published November deficit was $49.3 billion. The goods deficit increased $9.0 billion in December to $81.5 billion. The services surplus decreased $0.5 billion in December to $21.8 billion.

Exports
Exports of goods and services decreased $3.9 billion, or 1.9 percent, in December to $205.1 billion. Exports of goods decreased $3.9 billion and exports of services decreased less than $0.1 billion.

- The decrease in exports of goods mostly reflected decreases in industrial supplies and materials ($2.1 billion) and in capital goods ($1.7 billion).
- The decrease in exports of services mostly reflected a decrease in transport ($0.2 billion). An increase in financial services ($0.1 billion) partly offset the decrease.

Imports
Imports of goods and services increased $5.5 billion, or 2.1 percent, in December to $264.9 billion. Imports of goods increased $5.1 billion and imports of services increased $0.5 billion.

- The increase in imports of goods mostly reflected increases in capital goods ($2.7 billion) and in consumer goods ($2.4 billion).
- The increase in imports of services mostly reflected an increase in transport ($0.4 billion).

For more detailed information on trade by type of good or service and with major trading partners, see U.S. International Trade in Goods and Services, December 2018.