U.S. Current-Account Deficit Increases in Fourth Quarter 2018
Preliminary Estimates of U.S. International Transactions

The U.S. current-account deficit increased to $134.4 billion (preliminary) in the fourth quarter of 2018 from $126.6 billion (revised) in the third quarter of 2018. As a percentage of U.S. GDP, the deficit increased to 2.6 percent from 2.5 percent. The previously published current-account deficit for the third quarter was $124.8 billion.

Quarterly U.S. Current-Account and Component Balances

- The deficit on international trade in goods increased to $233.1 billion from $229.5 billion as goods exports decreased more than goods imports.
- The surplus on international trade in services decreased to $66.1 billion from $67.5 billion as services imports increased more than services exports.
- The surplus on primary income increased to $60.4 billion from $60.3 billion as primary income receipts increased more than primary income payments.
- The deficit on secondary income (current transfers) increased to $27.8 billion from $24.9 billion as secondary income payments increased more than secondary income receipts.

Net U.S. borrowing measured by financial-account transactions was $168.3 billion in the fourth quarter, an increase from net borrowing of $36.8 billion in the third.

- Net U.S. acquisition of financial assets excluding financial derivatives was $172.0 billion in the fourth quarter, up from $78.3 billion in the third.
- Net U.S. incurrence of liabilities excluding financial derivatives was $320.2 billion in the fourth quarter, up from $102.9 billion in the third.
- Net borrowing in financial derivatives other than reserves was $20.1 billion in the fourth quarter, up from $12.3 billion in the third.