U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

## U.S. International Transactions: Third Quarter 2015

## Current Account

The U.S. current-account deficit-a net measure of transactions between the United States and the rest of the world in goods, services, primary income (investment income and compensation), and secondary income (current transfers)increased to $\$ 124.1$ billion (preliminary) in the third quarter of 2015 from $\$ 111.1$ billion (revised) in the second quarter. The deficit increased to 2.7 percent of currentdollar gross domestic product (GDP) from 2.5 percent in the second quarter. The increase in the current-account deficit was largely accounted for by a decrease in the surplus on primary income and an increase in the deficit on secondary income.

## Goods and services

The deficit on goods and services increased to $\$ 133.7$ billion in the third quarter from $\$ 133.1$ billion in the second quarter.

Goods The deficit on goods increased to $\$ 190.0$ billion in the third quarter from $\$ 189.2$ billion in the second quarter.

[^0]Goods exports decreased to $\$ 379.9$
billion from $\$ 384.7$ billion. Exports decreased in three of the six major generalmerchandise end-use categories. The largest decrease-which more than accounted for the total decrease in goods exports-was in industrial supplies and materials, largely reflecting decreases in energy products, including petroleum and products, and in metals and nonmetallic products. Exports also decreased in capital goods except automotive. Exports increased in nonmonetary gold and in three major general-merchandise end-use categories. The largest increase in the end-use categories was in automotive vehicles, parts, and engines, mainly due to an increase in exports of passenger cars to areas other than Canada (ITA Table 2.1).

Goods imports decreased to $\$ 569.9$ billion from $\$ 573.9$ billion. Imports decreased in four of the six major general-merchandise end-use categories and in nonmonetary gold. The largest decreases were in industrial supplies and materials and in capital goods except automotive. The decrease in industrial supplies and materials was mainly due to decreases in petroleum and products and in metals and nonmetallic products. The decrease in capital goods except automotive was mainly due to decreases in oil-drilling, mining, and construction machinery and in "other" industrial machinery. Imports increased in two major general-merchandise end-use categories. The largest increase was in consumer goods except food and automotive, an increase that was more than accounted for by an increase in durable goods (ITA Table 2.1).

Services The surplus on services increased to $\$ 56.3$ billion in the third quarter from $\$ 56.1$ billion in the second quarter.

Services exports increased to $\$ 179.2$ billion from $\$ 177.7$ billion. Exports increased in seven of the nine major services categories. The largest increases were in other business services-particularly professional and management consulting services-financial services, and travel (for all purposes including education). Charges for the use of intellectual property and transport services decreased (ITA Table 3.1).

Services imports increased to $\$ 122.9$ billion from $\$ 121.6$ billion. Imports increased in five of the nine major services categories. The largest increase was in travel (for all purposes including education), largely due to an increase in personal travel. The largest decrease was in insurance services (ITA Table 3.1).

## Primary income

The surplus on primary income decreased to $\$ 46.1$ billion in the third quarter from $\$ 52.8$ billion in the second quarter.

Investment income Income receipts from foreigners on U.S. holdings of financial assets abroad decreased to $\$ 195.7$ billion from $\$ 196.7$ billion (ITA Table 4.1). The decrease was more than accounted for by a decrease in direct investment income on equity from foreign affiliates of U.S. parent companies, particularly in finance and insurance (ITA Table 4.2). Income on portfolio investment increased as income on equity and investment fund shares rose (ITA Table 4.3).

Income payments to foreigners on U.S. liabilities increased to $\$ 147.1$ billion from $\$ 141.4$ billion (ITA Table 4.1). The increase was largely due to an increase in direct investment income payments on foreign equity in U.S. affiliates of foreign parent companies, reflecting a recovery from second-quarter income losses for some affiliates (ITA Table 4.2). Also contributing to the increase was an increase in portfolio investment income payments, particularly interest on long-term debt securities issued by nondepository financial institutions (ITA Table 4.3).

Compensation of employees Receipts for compensation of U.S. residents paid by nonresidents were nearly unchanged at $\$ 1.8$ billion. Payments for compensation of foreign residents paid by U.S. residents were nearly unchanged at $\$ 4.3$ billion.

## Secondary income (current transfers)

The deficit on secondary income increased to $\$ 36.6$ billion in the third quarter from $\$ 30.8$ billion in the second quarter. Secondary income receipts and payments include U.S. government and private transfers, such as U.S. government grants and pensions, fines and penalties, withholding taxes, personal transfers (remittances), insurance-related transfers, and other current transfers.

Secondary income receipts decreased to $\$ 31.6$ billion from $\$ 34.7$ billion. The decrease was more than accounted for by a decrease in U.S. government transfers, particularly fines and penalties paid to the U.S. government (ITA Table 5.1).

Secondary income payments increased to $\$ 68.2$ billion from $\$ 65.5$ billion, largely reflecting an increase in U.S. government grants to foreigners (ITA Table 5.1).

## Financial Account

Net U.S. borrowing measured by financial-account transactions was $\$ 24.7$ billion in the third quarter, down from $\$ 61.3$ billion in the second quarter. In the third quarter, net U.S. sales of financial assets excluding financial derivatives shifted from net acquisition in the second quarter, while net U.S. repayment of liabilities excluding financial derivatives shifted from net incurrence in the second quarter. The shift to repayment of liabilities exceeded the shift to sales of financial assets.

## Net U.S. acquisition of financial assets excluding financial derivatives

Net U.S. sales of financial assets excluding financial derivatives were $\$ 89.9$ billion in the third quarter, a shift from net acquisition of $\$ 141.2$ billion in the second quarter.

Direct investment assets (equity and debt instruments) Net acquisition of direct investment assets was $\$ 66.3$ billion in the third quarter, down from $\$ 105.1$ billion in the second quarter. The -more-
decrease was largely accounted for by a shift to net sales of debt instrument assets by both U.S. parent companies and U.S. affiliates. A decrease in reinvestment of earnings also contributed (ITA Table 6.1).

Portfolio investment assets (equity and investment fund shares and debt securities) Net U.S. sales of portfolio investment assets abroad were $\$ 115.0$ billion in the third quarter, a shift from net acquisition of $\$ 173.0$ billion in the second quarter. The shift reflected a shift to net U.S. sales of equity securities of $\$ 64.7$ billion, from net purchases of $\$ 117.3$ billion, and a shift to net sales of debt securities of $\$ 50.3$ billion, from net purchases of $\$ 55.8$ billion (ITA Table 7.1).

Other investment assets (currency and deposits, loans, insurance technical reserves, and trade credit and advances) Net U.S. sales of other investment assets were $\$ 41.0$ billion in the third quarter, down from $\$ 136.1$ billion in the second quarter. The decrease reflected a shift to net U.S. provision of loans from net foreign repayment of loans, including resale agreements, provided by U.S. nonbank financial institutions such as securities dealers and financial holding companies to foreign residents (ITA Table 8.1).

Reserve assets Transactions in U.S. reserve assets decreased holdings by $\$ 0.3$ billion in the third quarter, after decreasing holdings by $\$ 0.9$ billion in the second quarter. The decreases in both quarters reflected decreases in the U.S. reserve position in the International Monetary Fund.

Net U.S. incurrence of liabilities excluding financial derivatives
Net U.S. repayment of liabilities to foreigners excluding financial derivatives was $\$ 64.6$ billion in the third quarter, a shift from net incurrence of $\$ 204.3$ billion in the second quarter.

Direct investment liabilities (equity and debt instruments) Net incurrence of direct investment liabilities to foreigners was $\$ 39.2$ billion in the third quarter, down from $\$ 110.1$ billion in the second quarter. A decrease in net incurrence of debt instrument liabilities, which primarily reflected a shift to net repayment of debt owed by U.S. affiliates, accounted for much of the decrease. A decrease in foreign acquisition of equity in U.S. affiliates also contributed (ITA Table 6.1).

Portfolio investment liabilities (equity and investment fund shares and debt securities) Net U.S. repayment of portfolio investment liabilities to foreigners was $\$ 143.2$ billion in the third quarter, a shift from net incurrence of $\$ 262.2$ billion in the second quarter. The shift was largely accounted for by a shift to net foreign sales of U.S. debt securities of $\$ 99.8$ billion from net foreign purchases of $\$ 277.0$ billion (ITA Table 7.1). The shift to net foreign sales was mainly due to a shift to net sales of U.S. debt securities by Chinese residents (ITA Table 1.3).

Other investment liabilities (currency and deposits, loans, insurance technical reserves, trade credit and advances, and special drawing rights allocations) Net U.S. incurrence of other investment liabilities to foreigners was $\$ 39.4$ billion in the third quarter, a shift from net repayment of $\$ 168.0$ billion in the second quarter. The shift to net U.S. incurrence mainly reflected incurrence of loan liabilities to foreigners by U.S. securities dealers and other nonbank financial institutions (ITA Table 8.1).

## Financial derivatives other than reserves

Net transactions in financial derivatives other than reserves were $\$ 0.7$ billion in the third quarter, down from $\$ 1.8$ billion in the second quarter. Transactions in financial derivatives are only available as a net value equal to transactions in assets less transactions in liabilities. A positive value represents net cash payments by U.S. residents to foreign residents from settlements of derivatives contracts (net lending) and a negative value represents net U.S. cash receipts (net borrowing).

## Statistical discrepancy

The statistical discrepancy is the difference between net acquisition of assets and net incurrence of liabilities in the financial account (including financial derivatives) less the difference between total credits and total debits recorded in the current and capital accounts. The statistical discrepancy was $\$ 99.5$ billion in the third quarter compared with $\$ 49.8$ billion in the second quarter.

In the third quarter, the U.S. dollar appreciated 2.0 percent on a trade-weighted quarterly average basis against a group of 7 major currencies, after appreciating 0.6 percent on the same basis in the second quarter. Exchange rate data are based on Federal Reserve Statistical Release H.10.

```
* * *
```

Revisions to second quarter 2015
The current-account deficit in the second quarter of 2015 is revised upward to $\$ 111.1$ billion from $\$ 109.7$ billion. The goods deficit is revised upward to $\$ 189.2$ billion from $\$ 188.4$ billion. The services surplus is revised downward to $\$ 56.1$ billion from $\$ 58.4$ billion. The primary income surplus is revised upward to $\$ 52.8$ billion from $\$ 50.6$ billion. The secondary income deficit is revised upward to $\$ 30.8$ billion from $\$ 30.3$ billion. Second-quarter net borrowing from financial-account transactions is revised upward to $\$ 61.3$ billion from $\$ 59.7$ billion. Net U.S. acquisition of financial assets excluding financial derivatives is revised upward to $\$ 141.2$ billion from $\$ 137.5$ billion, and net U.S. incurrence of liabilities excluding financial derivatives is revised upward to $\$ 204.3$ billion from $\$ 199.0$ billion.

Release dates in 2016:
Fourth Quarter and Year 2015 $\qquad$ March 17, 2016 (Thursday)
First Quarter 2016 and Annual Revisions.. June 16, 2016 (Thursday)
Second Quarter 2016......................................................................September 15, 2016 (Thursday)
Third Quarter 2016 $\qquad$ December 15, 2016 (Thursday)

BEA's national, international, regional, and industry statistics; the SURVEY of Current BuSINESS; and BEA news releases are available without charge on BEA's Web site at www.bea.gov. At the site, you can also subscribe to receive free e-mail summaries of BEA releases and announcements.

Table 1. U.S. International Transactions--Continues
[Millions of dollars]

| Line |  | 2013 | 2014 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Change: } \\ & 2013 \text { to } \\ & 2014 \end{aligned}$ | Seasonally adjusted |  |  |  |  | Change: 2015:II to 2015:III |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  | 2014 |  | 2015 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | III | IV | I | $1{ }^{\text {r }}$ | $111{ }^{\text {p }}$ |  |
|  | Current account <br> Exports of goods and services and income receipts (credits) | 3,201,282 | 3,306,574 | 105,292 | 830,374 | 827,361 | 789,263 | 795,626 | 788,301 | -7,325 |
| 2 | Exports of goods and services. | 2,279,937 | 2,343,205 | 63,268 | 589,263 | 588,935 | 561,679 | 562,448 | 559,164 | -3,284 |
| 3 | Goods. | 1,592,043 | 1,632,639 | 40,596 | 412,933 | 409,126 | 382,803 | 384,705 | 379,934 | -4,771 |
| 4 | General merchandise | 1,557,698 | 1,609,715 | 52,017 | 407,927 | 401,801 | 377,244 | 379,862 | 373,821 | -6,041 |
| 5 | Foods, feeds, and beverage | 136,160 | 143,751 | 7,591 | 34,661 | 36,021 | 32,706 | 32,252 | 31,899 | -353 |
| 6 | Industrial supplies and materials. | 492,296 | 500,007 | 7,711 | 128,831 | 120,392 | 107,916 | 110,396 | 104,825 | -5,571 |
| 7 | Capital goods except automotive | 534,524 | 551,321 | 16,797 | 139,156 | 139,888 | 135,574 | 136,403 | 134,167 | -2,236 |
| 8 | Automotive vehicles, parts, and | 152,670 | 159,690 | 7,020 | 41,626 | 40,307 | 36,909 | 37,831 | 39,014 | 1,183 |
| 9 | Consumer goods except food and autom | 188,370 | 198,300 | 9,930 | 49,904 | 50,084 | 50,489 | 48,655 | 49,005 | 350 |
| 10 | Other general merchandise | 53,678 | 56,646 | 2,968 | 13,749 | 15,110 | 13,650 | 14,326 | 14,911 | 585 |
| 11 | Net exports | 462 | 296 | -166 | 103 | 53 | 77 | 41 | 65 | 24 |
| 12 | Nonmonetary gold | 33,883 | 22,628 | -11,255 | 4,902 | 7,271 | 5,482 | 4,802 | 6,047 | 1,245 |
| 13 | Services. | 687,894 | 710,565 | 22,671 | 176,331 | 179,810 | 178,876 | 177,743 | 179,230 | 1,487 |
| 14 | Maintenance and repa | 18,648 | 22,389 | 3,741 | 5,671 | 6,123 | 5,227 | 5,773 | 5,825 | 52 |
| 15 | Transpor | 87,415 | 90,031 | 2,616 | 22,621 | 22,754 | 21,687 | 21,039 | 20,896 | -143 |
| 16 | Travel (for all purposes including education) ${ }^{1}$. | 172,901 | 177,241 | 4,340 | 43,722 | 44,399 | 44,334 | 44,480 | 44,856 | 376 |
| 17 | Insurance services....................................... | 17,058 | 17,417 | 359 | 4,340 | 4,453 | 4,537 | 4,592 | 4,605 | 13 |
| 18 | Financial services | 84,091 | 87,290 | 3,199 | 21,351 | 22,410 | 22,732 | 21,522 | 21,908 | 386 |
| 19 | Charges for the use of intellectual property | 127,927 | 130,362 | 2,435 | 32,355 | 32,499 | 31,733 | 31,787 | 31,592 | -195 |
| 20 | Telecommunications, computer, and information service | 35,035 | 35,885 | 850 | 8,980 | 8,928 | 9,268 | 9,406 | 9,550 | 144 |
| 21 | Other business services. | 121,873 | 129,514 | 7,641 | 32,183 | 33,787 | 34,336 | 34,126 | 34,806 | 680 |
| 22 | Government goods and services | 22,946 | 20,438 | -2,508 | 5,106 | 4,456 | 5,021 | 5,019 | 5,192 | 173 |
| 23 | Primary income receipt | 794,763 | 823,353 | 28,590 | 209,715 | 206,554 | 194,746 | 198,472 | 197,505 | -967 |
| 24 | Investment income | 788,007 | 816,445 | 28,438 | 207,980 | 204,822 | 192,994 | 196,712 | 195,729 | -983 |
| 25 | Direct investment income | 478,051 | 476,617 | -1,434 | 121,657 | 118,625 | 107,508 | 108,016 | 105,304 | -2,712 |
| 26 | Portfolio investment incom | 278,439 | 308,205 | 29,766 | 78,498 | 78,287 | 77,430 | 80,420 | 81,894 | 1,474 |
| 27 | Other investment income | 31,144 | 31,321 | 177 | 7,755 | 7,849 | 8,015 | 8,216 | 8,478 | 262 |
| 28 | Reserve asset income | 374 | 301 | -73 | 70 | 61 | 40 | 59 | 53 | -6 |
| 29 | Compensation of employees. | 6,756 | 6,909 | 153 | 1,734 | 1,731 | 1,751 | 1,760 | 1,777 | 17 |
| 30 | Secondary income (current transfer) receipts ${ }^{2}$. | 126,582 | 140,016 | 13,434 | 31,396 | 31,872 | 32,838 | 34,706 | 31,632 | -3,074 |
| 31 | Imports of goods and services and income payments (debits). | 3,578,042 | 3,696,100 | 118,058 | 928,279 | 930,499 | 907,557 | 906,717 | 912,425 | 5,708 |
| 32 | Imports of goods and services.. | 2,758,331 | 2,851,529 | 93,198 | 715,134 | 717,258 | 695,968 | 695,521 | 692,865 | -2,656 |
| 33 | Goods....... | 2,294,630 | 2,374,101 | 79,471 | 596,009 | 595,089 | 574,959 | 573,897 | 569,918 | -3,979 |
| 34 | General merchandise | 2,276,882 | 2,358,653 | 81,771 | 591,750 | 591,428 | 571,986 | 570,542 | 566,590 | -3,952 |
| 35 | Foods, feeds, and beverage | 116,004 | 126,683 | 10,679 | 32,049 | 32,112 | 32,515 | 32,855 | 32,235 | -620 |
| 36 | Industrial supplies and materials... | 686,692 | 672,611 | -14,081 | 166,846 | 160,564 | 132,682 | 126,065 | 122,380 | -3,685 |
| 37 | Capital goods except automotive.. | 557,893 | 595,732 | 37,839 | 151,305 | 152,546 | 153,214 | 153,159 | 150,331 | -2,828 |
| 38 | Automotive vehicles, parts, and engines | 309,572 | 328,499 | 18,927 | 83,445 | 83,931 | 84,233 | 88,447 | 88,913 | 466 |
| 39 | Consumer goods except food and autom | 533,957 | 559,392 | 25,435 | 139,139 | 143,437 | 147,989 | 149,052 | 151,798 | 2,746 |
| 40 | Other general merchandise... | 72,764 | 75,736 | 2,972 | 18,966 | 18,838 | 21,353 | 20,964 | 20,933 | -31 |
| 41 | Nonmonetary gold...... | 17,748 | 15,448 | -2,300 | 4,259 | 3,660 | 2,973 | 3,355 | 3,328 | -27 |
| 42 | Services | 463,700 | 477,428 | 13,728 | 119,126 | 122,170 | 121,009 | 121,624 | 122,946 | 1,322 |
| 43 | Maintenance and repa | 7,486 | 7,468 | -18 | 1,854 | 1,974 | 2,083 | 2,128 | 2,213 | 85 |
| 44 | Transport..................................................... | 90,634 | 94,219 | 3,585 | 23,377 | 24,334 | 24,726 | 24,120 | 24,250 | 130 |
| 45 | Travel (for all purposes including education) ${ }^{1}$. | 104,107 | 110,787 | 6,680 | 27,767 | 28,814 | 29,081 | 29,601 | 30,750 | 1,149 |
| 46 | Insurance services | 53,420 | 50,096 | -3,324 | 12,496 | 12,592 | 12,201 | 12,116 | 11,906 | -210 |
| 47 | Financial services | 18,519 | 19,503 | 984 | 5,003 | 4,941 | 4,716 | 5,024 | 4,974 | -50 |
| 48 | Charges for the use of intellectual property n.i.e. | 38,999 | 42,124 | 3,125 | 10,571 | 10,720 | 9,594 | 9,986 | 10,012 | 26 |
| 49 | Telecommunications, computer, and information services.. | 33,812 | 33,314 | -498 | 8,359 | 8,302 | 8,171 | 8,204 | 8,153 | -51 |
| 50 | Other business services | 91,389 | 95,752 | 4,363 | 23,588 | 24,582 | 24,964 | 25,001 | 25,318 | 317 |
| 51 | Government goods and services n.i.e. | 25,334 | 24,163 | -1,171 | 6,111 | 5,910 | 5,472 | 5,444 | 5,371 | -73 |
| 52 | Primary income payments.. | 570,220 | 585,369 | 15,149 | 147,985 | 146,529 | 144,998 | 145,712 | 151,362 | 5,650 |
| 53 | Investment income | 554,392 | 569,031 | 14,639 | 143,868 | 142,354 | 140,805 | 141,417 | 147,084 | 5,667 |
| 54 | Direct investment income | 176,347 | 176,152 | -195 | 44,940 | 42,992 | 37,814 | 35,908 | 40,646 | 4,738 |
| 55 | Portfolio investment income. | 361,750 | 378,705 | 16,955 | 95,412 | 95,864 | 99,459 | 101,730 | 102,482 | 752 |
| 56 | Other investment income | 16,295 | 14,174 | -2,121 | 3,516 | 3,498 | 3,532 | 3,779 | 3,957 | 178 |
| 57 | Compensation of employees.. | 15,828 | 16,339 | 511 | 4,117 | 4,175 | 4,193 | 4,296 | 4,277 | -19 |
| 58 | Secondary income (current transfer) payments ${ }^{2}$...................... | 249,492 | 259,202 | 9,710 | 65,160 | 66,712 | 66,591 | 65,484 | 68,198 | 2,714 |
|  | Capital account |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 59 | Capital transfer receipts and other credits ................................ | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 60 | Capital transfer payments and other debits ................................\| | 412 | 45 | -367 | 1 | (*) | 24 | 20 | n.a. | n.a. |

Table 1. U.S. International Transactions--Table Ends
[Millions of dollars]

p Preliminary r Revised n.a. Not available (*) Transactions are between zero and +/- \$500,000
${ }^{1}$ All travel purposes include 1) business travel, including expenditures by border, seasonal, and other short-term workers and 2) personal travel, including health-related and education-related travel.
${ }^{2}$ Secondary income (current transfer) receipts and payments include U.S. government and private transfers, such as U.S. government grants and pensions, fines and penalties, withholding taxes, personal transfers (remittances), insurance-related transfers, and other current transfers.
 contracts, and a negative value represents net U.S. cash receipts.
${ }^{4}$ The statistical discrepancy, which can be calculated as line 109 less line 108, is the difference between total debits and total credits recorded in the current, capital, and financial accounts. In the current and capital accounts, credits and debits are labeled in the table. In the financial account, an acquisition of an asset or a repayment of a liability is a debit, and an incurrence of a liability or a disposal of an asset is a credit.
${ }^{5}$ Current- and capital-account statistics in the international transactions accounts differ slightly from statistics in the National Income and Product Accounts (NIPAs) because of adjustments made to convert the international transactions statistics to national economic accounting concepts. A reconciliation between annual statistics in the two sets of accounts appears in NIPA table 4.3B.
${ }^{6}$ Net lending means that U.S. residents are net suppliers of funds to foreign residents, and net borrowing means the opposite. Net lending or net borrowing can be computed from current- and capital-account transactions or from financial-account transactions. The two amounts differ by the statistical discrepancy
Note: Details may not add to totals because of rounding. Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis


[^0]:    NOTE: This news release is available on BEA's Web site <www.bea.gov> along with Highlights related to this release, the latest detailed statistics for U.S. international transactions, and a description of the estimation methods used to compile them. The third-quarter statistics in this release are preliminary and will be revised on March 17, 2016. All links in the text of this release-including archived versions of this release-refer to the latest available statistics.

