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Technical information: (202) 691-7101 • MXPinfo@bls.gov • www.bls.gov/mxp
Media contact: (202) 691-5902 • PressOffice@bls.gov

U.S. IMPORT AND EXPORT PRICE INDEXES – DECEMBER 2011

U.S. import prices edged down 0.1 percent in December, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today, after rising 0.8 percent the previous month. In December, declining prices for fuels more than offset a 0.1 percent rise in nonfuel prices. Export prices also decreased in December, falling 0.5 percent following a 0.1 percent advance in November.

Chart 1. One-month percent change in the Import Price Index: December 2010 – December 2011

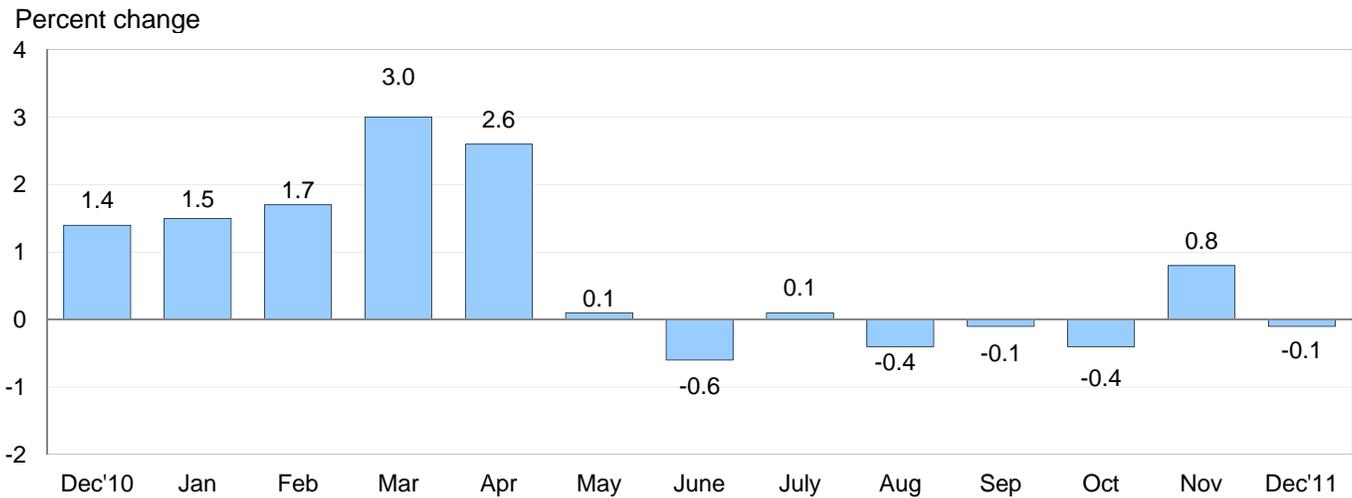
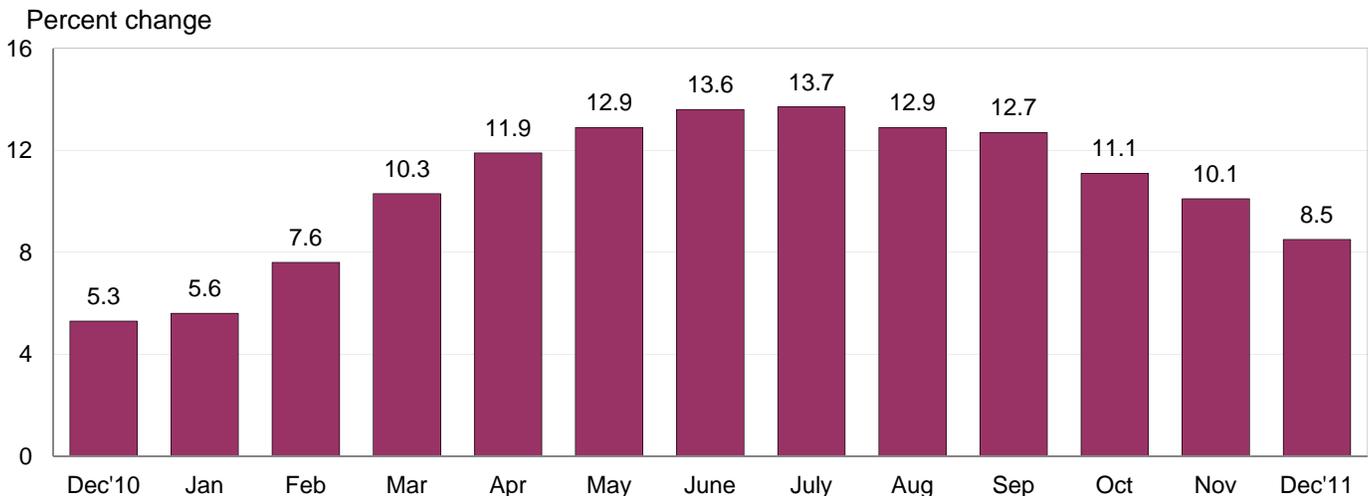


Chart 2. 12-month percent change in the Import Price Index: December 2010 – December 2011



All Imports: Import prices resumed a downward trend, declining 0.1 percent following a 0.8 percent upturn in November. The price index for overall imports rose 8.5 percent in 2011, driven by a 9.2 percent increase for the index over the first five months of the year. 2011 was the third consecutive year that import prices rose, advancing 5.3 percent and 8.6 percent, respectively in 2010 and 2009, after declining 10.1 percent in 2008.

Fuel Imports: Fuel prices fell 0.5 percent in December after rising 3.7 percent in November. In December, lower prices for both petroleum and natural gas, down 0.4 percent and 4.9 percent, respectively, each contributed to the overall decline. Despite falling 3.4 percent since April, overall fuel prices advanced 25.2 percent in 2011 as a 27.4 percent rise in petroleum prices more than offset a 9.4 percent drop in natural gas prices. Fuel prices previously advanced 14.2 percent in 2010 and 62.2 percent in 2009.

All Imports Excluding Fuel: The price index for nonfuel imports ticked up 0.1 percent in December following 0.2 percent decreases in each of the two previous months. In December, higher prices for each of the major finished goods categories led nonfuel import prices up despite lower prices for nonfuel industrial supplies and materials and foods, feeds, and beverages. Nonfuel import prices advanced 3.4 percent over the past year after rising 3.0 percent in 2010. Higher prices for nonfuel industrial supplies and materials; foods, feeds, and beverages; and finished goods all contributed to the 2011 increase in nonfuel prices.

Table A. Percent changes

Month	IMPORTS			EXPORTS		
	All imports	Fuel imports	Nonfuel imports	All exports	Agricultural exports	Non-agricultural exports
2010						
December.....	1.4	5.6	0.3	0.7	2.0	0.6
2011						
January.....	1.5	4.1	0.7	1.3	3.1	1.0
February.....	1.7	5.6	0.5	1.3	4.6	1.0
March.....	3.0	9.7	0.8	1.5	2.2	1.4
April.....	2.6	7.6	0.8	0.8	-0.5	0.9
May.....	0.1	-0.6	0.3	0.4	-1.1	0.5
June.....	-0.6	-2.3	0.0	0.1	0.8	0.2
July.....	0.1	0.1	0.2	-0.4	-4.0	0.1
August.....	-0.4	-2.1	0.2	0.4	1.6	0.3
September.....	-0.1	-1.0	0.2	0.5	1.9	0.3
October.....	-0.4 ^r	-0.6 ^r	-0.2	-2.0 ^r	-6.5	-1.4 ^r
November.....	0.8 ^r	3.7 ^r	-0.2	0.1	1.7 ^r	-0.2 ^r
December.....	-0.1	-0.5	0.1	-0.5	-2.6	-0.2
Dec. 2009 to 2010.....	5.3	14.2	3.0	6.5	20.5	5.1
Dec. 2010 to 2011.....	8.5	25.2	3.4	3.6	0.8	4.0

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Chart 3. One-month percent change in the Export Price Index: December 2010 – December 2011

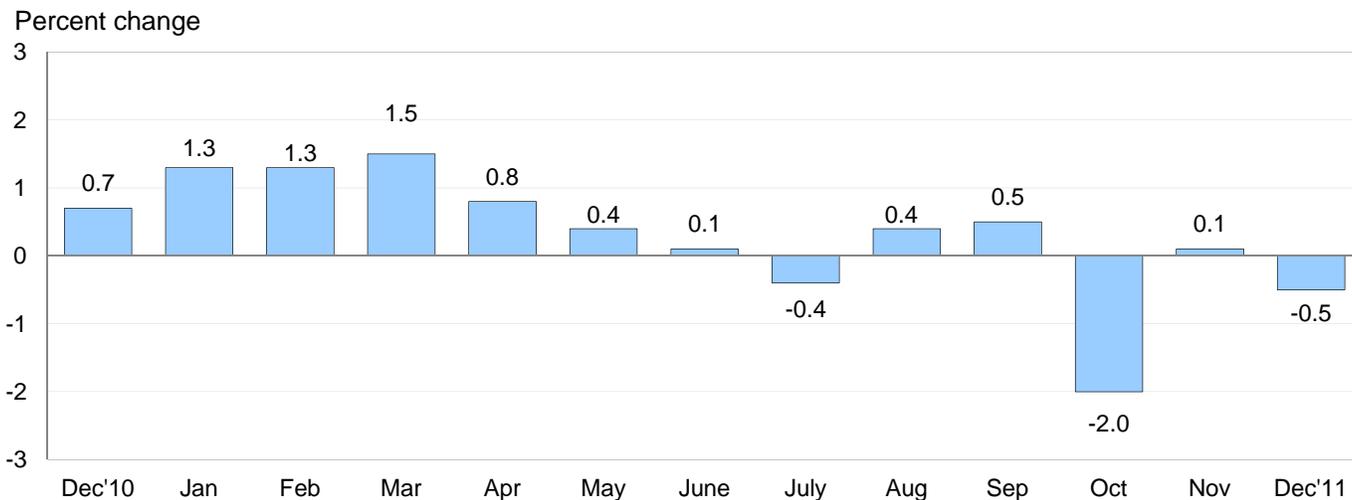
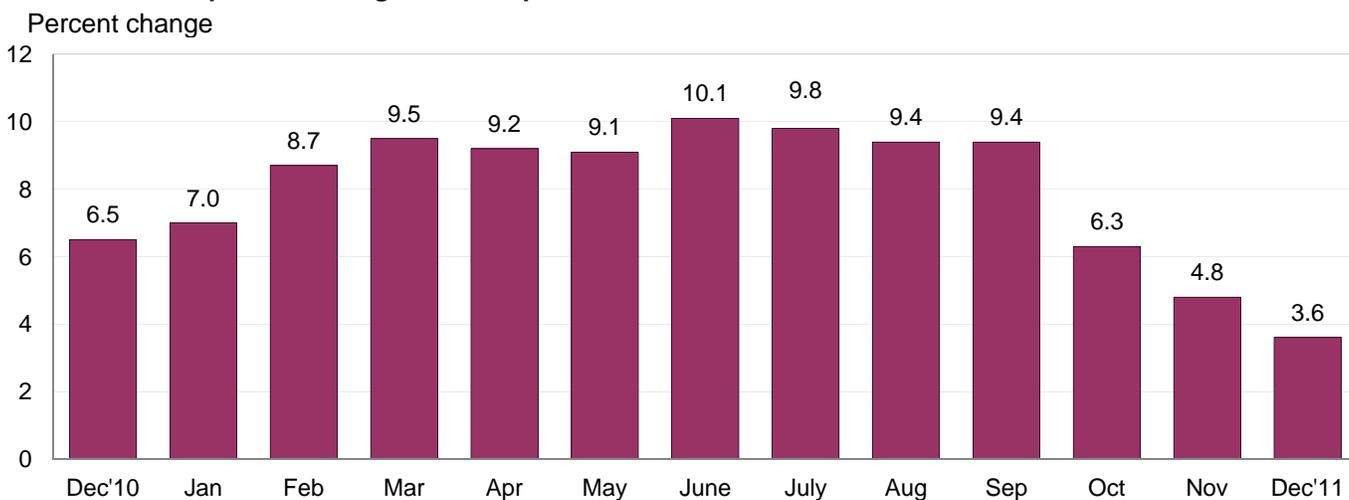


Chart 4. 12-month percent change in the Export Price Index: December 2010 – December 2011



All Exports: Prices for overall exports declined 0.5 percent in December, following a 0.1 percent advance in November and a 2.0 percent decrease in October. In December, falling prices for both agricultural exports and nonagricultural exports factored into the decrease in export prices. The price index for overall exports rose 3.6 percent in 2011 after rising 6.5 percent in 2010 and 3.4 percent in 2009.

Agricultural Exports: The price index for agricultural exports fell 2.6 percent in December, driven by lower prices for corn, soybeans, and wheat, down 8.2 percent, 4.0 percent, and 7.8 percent, respectively. Agricultural prices advanced 0.8 percent in 2011 despite falling 7.4 percent in the final quarter of the year. Agricultural prices rose 20.5 percent in 2010 and 9.2 percent in 2009 in contrast to the relatively small increase in 2011. The rise in agricultural prices in 2011 was driven by a 28.1 percent increase in vegetable prices and a 7.9 percent advance in corn prices.

All Exports Excluding Agriculture: Nonagricultural prices fell 0.2 percent in December, led by lower prices for nonagricultural supplies and materials. Prices for nonagricultural exports rose 4.0 percent in 2011 after a 5.1 percent increase the previous year and a 2.9 percent advance in 2009.

SELECTED DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Import Prices

Nonfuel Industrial Supplies and Materials: Nonfuel industrial supplies and materials prices edged down 0.1 percent in December led by a 0.7 percent drop in chemicals prices. In contrast, prices for nonfuel industrial supplies and materials rose 6.8 percent in 2011, driven by higher prices for both chemicals and metals.

Finished Goods: Prices for each of the major finished goods categories advanced in December and overall in 2011. Consumer goods prices rose 0.2 percent for the month and 3.2 percent in 2011, the largest calendar-year increase since a 3.5 percent advance in 1990. Prices for capital goods increased 0.2 percent in December, and advanced 0.9 percent over the past year. The price index for automotive vehicles ticked up 0.1 percent in December, and increased 3.7 percent in 2011, the largest calendar-year rise since a 3.9 percent advance in 1993.

Foods, Feeds, and Beverages: The price index for foods, feeds, and beverages fell 0.4 percent in December, driven by a 4.8 percent decline in vegetable prices. In contrast, foods, feeds, and beverages prices rose 6.3 percent over the past 12 months, led by a 41.4 percent jump in coffee prices in 2011.

Imports by Locality of Origin: The price indexes for imports from China, Mexico, and Japan all ticked up 0.1 percent in December, and each advanced in 2011, up 3.6 percent, 5.8 percent, and 2.3 percent, respectively. The 3.6 percent increase in import prices from China in 2011 was the largest calendar-year advance in the index since the index was first published in December 2003, and followed a 0.8 percent increase in 2010. In contrast, prices for imports from Canada fell 0.4 percent in December and the price index for imports from the European Union decreased 0.2 percent.

Transportation Services: Import air passenger fares advanced 1.6 percent in December and 5.7 percent over the past year. The December increase was led by higher Asian and Latin American/Caribbean fares. Import air freight prices fell for the fourth consecutive month, declining 0.6 percent in December. Despite those declines, the index rose 4.0 percent in 2011.

Export Prices

Nonagricultural Industrial Supplies and Materials: The price index for nonagricultural industrial supplies and materials fell 0.6 percent in December, led by a 2.9 percent drop in fuel prices that more than offset a 1.7 percent increase in prices for nonferrous metals. Despite decreasing 4.3 percent during the last three months of 2011, nonagricultural industrial supplies and materials prices rose 7.9 percent for the year.

Finished Goods: Finished goods prices were mixed in December. Consumer goods prices ticked up 0.1 percent, automotive vehicle prices edged down 0.1 percent, and prices for capital goods recorded no change. Each of the major finished goods categories advanced in 2011, with consumer goods prices rising 3.6 percent, automotive vehicle prices 2.6 percent, and capital goods prices 0.7 percent.

Transportation Services: Export air passenger fares increased 1.7 percent in December, driven by higher Asian and Latin American/Caribbean fares. The index for export air passenger fares rose 10.8 percent in 2011. Export air freight prices ticked up 0.1 percent in December, and advanced 12.6 percent over the past year.

Import and Export Price Index data for January 2012 are scheduled for release on Tuesday, February 14, 2012 at 8:30 a.m. (EST).

Table 1. U.S. import price indexes and percent changes for selected categories of goods: December 2010 to December 2011

[2000=100, unless otherwise noted]

Description	End Use	Relative importance Nov. 2011 ¹	Index		Percent change				
			Nov. 2011	Dec. 2011	Annual Dec. 2010 to Dec. 2011	Monthly			
						Aug. 2011 to Sept. 2011	Sept. 2011 to Oct. 2011	Oct. 2011 to Nov. 2011	Nov. 2011 to Dec. 2011
All commodities		100.000	142.3	142.2	8.5	-0.1	-0.4	0.8	-0.1
All imports excluding food and fuels (Dec. 2010=100)		67.170	103.1	103.2	3.2	0.2	-0.2	-0.3	0.1
All imports excluding petroleum		74.155	116.3	116.3	3.3	0.2	-0.4	-0.2	0.0
All imports excluding fuels (Dec. 2001=100) ..		72.821	120.3	120.4	3.4	0.2	-0.2	-0.2	0.1
Foods, feeds, & beverages	0	5.651	173.6	172.9	6.3	0.2	-0.6	0.0	-0.4
Agricultural foods, feeds & beverages, excluding distilled beverages.....	00	4.405	195.4	194.6	6.6	0.2	-0.9	0.3	-0.4
Nonagricultural foods (fish, distilled beverages).....	01	1.246	124.2	123.7	5.4	0.0	0.2	-1.1	-0.4
Industrial supplies & materials	1	40.088	265.0	264.0	18.6	-0.5	-1.0	1.9	-0.4
Industrial supplies & materials excluding petroleum.....		14.242	168.6	167.8	5.3	0.1	-2.1	-1.3	-0.5
Industrial supplies & materials excluding fuels (Dec. 2001=100).....		12.908	190.3	190.1	6.8	0.6	-1.5	-1.7	-0.1
Industrial supplies & materials, durable.....		7.758	179.9	180.3	5.3	0.6	-2.5	-2.5	0.2
Industrial supplies & materials nondurable excluding petroleum.....		5.150	155.1	153.1	5.2	-0.5	-1.6	0.1	-1.3
Fuels & lubricants.....	10	27.181	359.0	357.2	25.2	-1.0	-0.6	3.7	-0.5
Petroleum & petroleum products.....	100	25.847	400.3	398.8	27.4	-0.9	-0.3	3.8	-0.4
Crude.....	10000	19.219	408.9	409.1	27.7	-0.1	0.0	4.8	0.0
Fuels, n.e.s.-coals & gas.....	101	1.011	120.6	114.7	-8.9	-3.9	-8.5	3.0	-4.9
Gas-natural.....	10110	0.897	106.3	101.1	-9.4	-4.2	-9.7	4.3	-4.9
Paper & paper base stocks.....	11	0.619	116.2	114.6	-2.5	-1.1	0.2	-0.9	-1.4
Materials associated with nondurable supplies & materials.....	12	4.614	175.6	174.7	11.3	0.5	0.2	-0.3	-0.5
Selected building materials.....	13	1.037	129.9	130.7	2.9	0.3	-0.7	-0.3	0.6
Unfinished metals related to durable goods.....	14	3.658	277.3	278.9	4.8	0.7	-4.2	-5.1	0.6
Finished metals related to durable goods. . .	15	1.568	162.4	162.3	6.3	0.9	-2.1	0.1	-0.1
Nonmetals related to durable goods.....	16	1.412	115.8	115.1	5.9	0.7	0.0	-0.4	-0.6
Capital goods	2	20.681	92.6	92.8	0.9	0.0	-0.3	0.0	0.2
Electric generating equipment.....	20	2.664	118.6	118.6	4.3	-0.2	0.3	-0.1	0.0
Nonelectrical machinery.....	21	16.207	86.1	86.3	0.1	0.0	-0.5	0.1	0.2
Transportation equipment excluding motor vehicles (Dec. 2001=100).....	22	1.810	126.4	126.4	3.7	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Automotive vehicles, parts & engines	3	9.204	113.3	113.4	3.7	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
Consumer goods, excluding automotives ..	4	24.377	107.3	107.5	3.2	0.2	0.7	0.0	0.2
Nondurables, manufactured.....	40	12.045	114.3	114.3	3.5	0.2	1.2	0.1	0.0
Durables, manufactured.....	41	11.300	100.1	100.3	2.1	0.3	-0.2	0.2	0.2
Nonmanufactured consumer goods.....	42	1.032	114.5	116.0	11.9	0.8	0.2	-0.5	1.3

¹ Relative importance figures are based on 2009 trade values.

NOTES: Data may be revised in each of the three months after original publication.

Dash = Not available

Table 2. U.S. export price indexes and percent changes for selected categories of goods: December 2010 to December 2011

[2000=100, unless otherwise noted]

Description	End Use	Relative importance Nov. 2011 ¹	Index		Percent change				
			Nov. 2011	Dec. 2011	Annual Dec. 2010 to Dec. 2011	Monthly			
						Aug. 2011 to Sept. 2011	Sept. 2011 to Oct. 2011	Oct. 2011 to Nov. 2011	Nov. 2011 to Dec. 2011
All commodities.....		100.000	132.7	132.1	3.6	0.5	-2.0	0.1	-0.5
Agricultural commodities.....		11.383	205.3	200.0	0.8	1.9	-6.5	1.7	-2.6
All exports excluding food and fuels (Dec. 2010=100).....		80.697	102.4	102.4	2.4	0.2	-0.9	-0.5	0.0
Nonagricultural commodities.....		88.618	127.5	127.3	4.0	0.3	-1.4	-0.2	-0.2
Foods, feeds, & beverages.....	0	10.356	203.1	198.1	3.7	2.3	-6.9	2.1	-2.5
Agricultural foods, feeds & beverages, excluding distilled beverages.....	00	9.612	205.8	200.3	2.9	2.5	-7.4	2.3	-2.7
Nonagricultural foods (fish, distilled beverages).....	01	0.744	182.1	182.8	13.5	-0.1	-0.2	-1.1	0.4
Industrial supplies & materials.....	1	34.552	185.9	184.5	6.9	0.6	-3.4	-0.2	-0.8
Industrial supplies & materials, durable.....		12.349	187.1	188.0	7.6	2.3	-3.4	-1.5	0.5
Industrial supplies & materials, nondurable.....		22.204	186.0	183.3	6.4	-0.3	-3.5	0.5	-1.5
Agricultural industrial supplies & materials..	10	1.771	206.4	201.8	-9.5	-1.5	-1.5	-1.4	-2.2
Nonagricultural industrial supplies & materials.....		32.782	185.2	184.0	7.9	0.7	-3.5	-0.2	-0.6
Fuels & lubricants.....	11	8.948	278.5	270.5	15.6	0.2	-5.5	3.5	-2.9
Nonagricultural supplies & materials excluding fuels & building materials.....	12	22.965	173.2	173.6	5.6	0.9	-2.9	-1.5	0.2
Selected building materials.....	13	0.869	116.4	115.5	-0.6	0.4	0.3	0.2	-0.8
Capital goods.....	2	34.711	104.6	104.6	0.7	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Electrical generating equipment.....	20	3.381	113.0	113.1	3.0	0.0	-0.4	-0.6	0.1
Nonelectrical machinery.....	21	24.228	94.2	94.2	-0.2	-0.1	0.1	-0.1	0.0
Transportation equipment excluding motor vehicles (Dec. 2001=100).....	22	7.101	145.2	145.6	2.8	-0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3
Automotive vehicles, parts & engines.....	3	6.831	112.0	111.9	2.6	0.3	0.4	0.1	-0.1
Consumer goods, excluding automotives..	4	13.550	116.7	116.8	3.6	0.2	-0.5	-0.1	0.1
Nondurables, manufactured.....	40	6.715	113.5	113.6	-0.4	-0.2	-0.8	-0.3	0.1
Durables, manufactured.....	41	5.437	113.4	113.5	2.3	0.5	-0.2	0.0	0.1

¹ Relative importance figures are based on 2009 trade values.

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Table 3. U.S. import price indexes and percent changes for selected categories of goods: December 2010 to December 2011

[December 2005=100, unless otherwise noted]

Description	NAICS	Relative importance Nov. 2011 ¹	Index		Percent change				
			Nov. 2011	Dec. 2011	Annual Dec. 2010 to Dec. 2011	Monthly			
						Aug. 2011 to Sept. 2011	Sept. 2011 to Oct. 2011	Oct. 2011 to Nov. 2011	Nov. 2011 to Dec. 2011
Nonmanufactured articles.....		23.299	175.2	174.6	22.6	-0.1	-0.5	3.8	-0.3
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting...	11	2.062	175.5	173.9	4.8	1.5	-0.3	-1.7	-0.9
Crop production.....	111	1.495	181.4	180.1	5.5	2.0	-0.9	-1.4	-0.7
Mining.....	21	21.237	174.8	174.3	24.7	-0.2	-0.5	4.4	-0.3
Mining (except oil and gas) (Dec. 2006=100).....	212	0.363	150.6	148.7	5.8	-1.0	-0.7	-2.8	-1.3
Manufactured articles.....		76.216	118.0	117.9	4.9	-0.1	-0.3	-0.1	-0.1
Manufactured goods, part 1.....	31	10.942	123.9	124.0	8.6	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.1
Food manufacturing.....	311	3.289	157.0	157.8	11.1	-0.4	-0.8	1.0	0.5
Beverage and tobacco product manufacturing.....	312	0.887	112.0	111.9	1.5	0.1	0.2	0.1	-0.1
Textile product mills.....	314	0.868	118.6	119.2	11.8	0.6	0.1	-0.1	0.5
Apparel manufacturing.....	315	4.044	111.5	111.2	7.6	0.1	0.4	-0.1	-0.3
Leather and allied product manufacturing. . .	316	1.481	116.5	116.8	7.6	0.0	0.9	0.9	0.3
Manufactured goods, part 2.....	32	19.012	141.1	140.1	10.0	-1.0	0.4	0.3	-0.7
Wood product manufacturing.....	321	0.631	107.1	107.4	2.5	0.7	-1.5	-0.6	0.3
Paper manufacturing.....	322	1.150	112.4	111.6	0.9	-0.5	0.3	-0.2	-0.7
Petroleum and coal products manufacturing.....	324	5.501	183.2	180.5	28.5	-3.8	-0.8	1.7	-1.5
Chemical manufacturing.....	325	9.132	134.9	134.2	3.7	0.3	1.4	-0.4	-0.5
Plastics and rubber products manufacturing.....	326	1.742	126.0	125.7	7.9	0.2	0.5	0.2	-0.2
Nonmetallic mineral product manufacturing.....	327	0.766	127.3	127.5	3.2	0.1	-0.6	0.1	0.2
Manufactured goods, part 3.....	33	46.262	109.6	109.8	2.2	0.2	-0.5	-0.4	0.2
Primary metal manufacturing.....	331	4.383	181.2	182.3	5.0	0.9	-3.8	-4.2	0.6
Fabricated metal product manufacturing. . .	332	2.496	128.7	128.9	6.2	1.2	-0.8	0.4	0.2
Machinery manufacturing.....	333	5.321	119.3	119.3	3.9	0.1	-0.2	0.1	0.0
Computer and electronic product manufacturing.....	334	14.145	82.5	82.9	-2.6	-0.1	-0.6	-0.1	0.5
Electrical equipment, appliance, and component manufacturing.....	335	3.460	117.2	117.5	3.4	0.1	0.6	0.1	0.3
Transportation equipment manufacturing....	336	10.267	109.8	109.9	3.3	0.0	-0.1	0.1	0.1
Furniture and related product manufacturing.....	337	1.208	113.2	113.1	5.4	0.5	0.6	0.2	-0.1
Miscellaneous manufacturing.....	339	4.982	122.6	122.4	7.1	0.3	-0.2	0.3	-0.2

¹ Relative importance figures are based on 2009 trade values.

NOTES: Data may be revised in each of the three months after original publication.

Dash = Not available

Table 4. U.S. export price indexes and percent changes for selected categories of goods: December 2010 to December 2011

[December 2005=100, unless otherwise noted]

Description	NAICS	Relative importance Nov. 2011 ¹	Index		Percent change				
			Nov. 2011	Dec. 2011	Annual	Monthly			
					Dec. 2010 to Dec. 2011	Aug. 2011 to Sept. 2011	Sept. 2011 to Oct. 2011	Oct. 2011 to Nov. 2011	Nov. 2011 to Dec. 2011
Nonmanufactured articles.....		8.919	170.4	165.7	0.2	1.2	-8.8	2.5	-2.8
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting...	11	6.507	192.9	186.5	-1.6	2.0	-10.5	3.4	-3.3
Crop production.....	111	6.073	199.5	192.5	-2.7	2.2	-11.5	4.3	-3.5
Mining.....	21	2.412	120.3	118.9	5.3	-0.7	-4.0	-0.1	-1.2
Mining (except oil and gas).....	212	1.641	143.5	143.0	9.5	-1.1	-2.1	-0.7	-0.3
Manufactured articles.....		87.620	120.2	119.9	4.2	0.2	-0.9	0.0	-0.2
Manufactured goods, part 1.....	31	7.403	144.5	142.7	5.5	1.0	-0.7	-0.4	-1.2
Food manufacturing.....	311	5.202	164.6	162.3	6.6	1.5	-0.1	-0.5	-1.4
Beverage and tobacco product manufacturing.....	312	0.550	116.1	114.7	-0.1	1.0	-1.4	1.8	-1.2
Apparel manufacturing.....	315	0.412	114.4	114.8	9.6	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.3
Manufactured goods, part 2.....	32	26.660	133.6	132.5	6.3	0.0	-2.4	0.5	-0.8
Wood product manufacturing.....	321	0.383	114.0	113.7	-2.2	0.9	-0.5	-0.2	-0.3
Paper manufacturing.....	322	1.919	121.6	119.4	-2.7	-0.8	-0.8	-1.7	-1.8
Petroleum and coal products manufacturing.....	324	6.045	169.9	163.8	17.2	0.6	-6.6	4.3	-3.6
Chemical manufacturing.....	325	15.578	130.5	130.9	4.4	-0.2	-1.4	-0.5	0.3
Plastics and rubber products manufacturing.....	326	2.040	116.1	116.0	7.8	0.2	0.9	-0.1	-0.1
Nonmetallic mineral product manufacturing.....	327	0.694	111.0	110.6	-1.7	0.6	0.2	-0.1	-0.4
Manufactured goods, part 3.....	33	53.557	112.6	112.8	2.9	0.4	-0.3	-0.3	0.2
Primary metal manufacturing.....	331	5.148	177.5	179.7	12.0	3.1	-2.9	-2.7	1.2
Fabricated metal product manufacturing.	332	2.510	128.8	128.9	5.3	-0.2	0.5	0.5	0.1
Machinery manufacturing.....	333	10.501	117.9	117.9	2.3	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0
Computer and electronic product manufacturing.....	334	13.743	89.5	89.5	-2.2	-0.1	0.1	-0.1	0.0
Electrical equipment, appliance, and component manufacturing.....	335	3.055	111.6	111.4	1.6	0.0	-1.2	-0.3	-0.2
Transportation equipment manufacturing....	336	13.079	114.9	115.1	2.8	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2
Miscellaneous manufacturing.....	339	5.229	124.4	124.5	10.3	0.3	0.0	-0.2	0.1

¹ Relative importance figures are based on 2009 trade values.

NOTES: Data may be revised in each of the three months after original publication.

Dash = Not available

Table 5. U.S. import price indexes and percent changes for selected categories of goods: December 2010 to December 2011

[2000=100, unless otherwise noted]

Description	Harmonized system	Relative importance Nov. 2011 ¹	Index		Percent change				
			Nov. 2011	Dec. 2011	Annual	Monthly			
					Dec. 2010 to Dec. 2011	Aug. 2011 to Sept. 2011	Sept. 2011 to Oct. 2011	Oct. 2011 to Nov. 2011	Nov. 2011 to Dec. 2011
Live animals; animal products.....	I	1.312	166.9	166.4	6.4	-0.7	0.5	-0.3	-0.3
Meat and edible meat offal.....	02	0.319	217.1	215.0	11.5	-2.5	-0.6	4.4	-1.0
Fish and crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates.....	03	0.682	122.5	121.5	1.7	-0.6	0.3	-2.4	-0.8
Vegetable products.....	II	1.792	207.9	210.2	11.0	1.5	-1.5	-1.0	1.1
Edible vegetables, roots, and tubers.....	07	0.322	319.8	306.3	-5.8	-0.2	1.3	0.6	-4.2
Edible fruit and nuts; peel of citrus fruit or melons.....	08	0.484	113.9	113.5	-0.6	-4.5	-7.3	-0.5	-0.4
Coffee, tea, mate and spices.....	09	0.486	287.4	295.9	35.6	9.8	-1.4	-1.0	3.0
Animal or vegetable fats and oils (Dec. 2009=100).....	III	0.291	133.8	136.6	1.2	-3.1	-7.2	3.5	2.1
Prepared foodstuffs, beverages, and tobacco.....	IV	2.581	158.4	157.4	5.5	-0.2	0.1	0.3	-0.6
Cocoa and cocoa preparations (Dec. 2009=100).....	18	0.208	96.5	84.9	-11.7	-0.6	-4.4	2.2	-12.0
Preparations of cereals, flour, starch or milk; bakers' wares (Dec. 2007=100).....	19	0.253	125.7	125.5	-5.6	-0.6	-0.9	0.1	-0.2
Preparations of vegetables, fruit, nuts, or other parts of plants.....	20	0.390	170.1	174.3	17.8	-1.7	2.2	4.2	2.5
Beverages, spirits, and vinegar.....	22	0.861	122.6	122.4	1.6	0.2	0.4	0.1	-0.2
Mineral products.....	V	26.747	360.7	359.0	25.4	-1.0	-0.6	3.7	-0.5
Mineral fuels, oils and residuals, bituminous substances and mineral waxes.....	27	26.400	356.7	355.0	25.5	-1.0	-0.5	3.8	-0.5
Products of the chemical or allied industries.....	VI	8.806	150.1	149.6	4.2	0.3	1.4	0.2	-0.3
Inorganic chemicals.....	28	1.149	391.4	389.7	19.3	1.1	0.9	2.8	-0.4
Organic chemicals.....	29	2.773	137.0	136.5	-0.1	0.1	-0.4	-0.5	-0.4
Pharmaceutical products.....	30	3.179	116.3	116.4	0.7	0.3	3.9	0.0	0.1
Fertilizers (Dec. 2009=100).....	31	0.303	151.0	145.5	29.8	1.1	-0.3	0.5	-3.6
Essential oils and resinoids (Dec. 2001=100).....	33	0.422	127.4	127.2	2.8	0.2	0.6	0.0	-0.2
Miscellaneous chemical products.....	38	0.475	104.5	104.8	4.4	-0.8	-0.7	-1.4	0.3
Plastics and articles thereof; rubber and articles thereof.....	VII	2.908	152.6	151.5	6.7	0.5	0.2	-0.5	-0.7
Plastics and articles thereof.....	39	1.791	142.0	142.4	6.2	0.6	0.1	-0.4	0.3
Rubber and articles thereof.....	40	1.117	173.0	169.1	7.7	0.2	0.2	-0.7	-2.3
Raw hides, skins, leather, furskins, travel goods, etc.....	VIII	0.533	123.2	123.2	6.7	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.0
Articles of leather; travel goods, bags, etc. of various materials.....	42	0.489	123.6	123.7	7.0	0.1	0.5	0.5	0.1
Wood, wood charcoal, cork, straw, basketware and wickerwork.....	IX	0.664	129.5	129.9	2.9	0.6	-1.3	-0.5	0.3
Woodpulp, recovered paper, and paper products.....	X	1.254	114.9	114.1	-0.2	-0.6	0.3	-0.1	-0.7
Paper and paperboard; articles of paper pulp, paper or paperboard.....	48	0.848	109.9	109.6	2.6	-0.4	0.6	0.5	-0.3
Textile and textile articles.....	XI	5.206	115.7	115.5	9.0	0.3	0.3	-0.1	-0.2
Articles of apparel and clothing accessories, knitted or crocheted.....	61	1.987	106.4	106.1	5.3	0.0	0.2	-0.5	-0.3
Articles of apparel and clothing accessories, not knitted or crocheted.....	62	1.953	117.1	116.9	11.8	0.3	0.5	0.2	-0.2
Made-up or worn textile articles.....	63	0.649	113.0	113.6	13.0	1.2	0.0	-0.1	0.5
Headgear, umbrellas, artificial flowers, etc. ...	XII	1.230	116.0	116.5	7.1	0.1	0.9	1.0	0.4

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 5. U.S. import price indexes and percent changes for selected categories of goods: December 2010 to December 2011 — Continued
 [2000=100, unless otherwise noted]

Description	Harmo- nized system	Relative importance Nov. 2011 ¹	Index		Percent change				
			Nov. 2011	Dec. 2011	Annual	Monthly			
					Dec. 2010 to Dec. 2011	Aug. 2011 to Sept. 2011	Sept. 2011 to Oct. 2011	Oct. 2011 to Nov. 2011	Nov. 2011 to Dec. 2011
Footwear and parts of such articles.....	64	1.053	115.4	116.0	7.5	0.1	1.0	1.1	0.5
Stone, plaster, cement, asbestos, ceramics, glass etc.....	XIII	0.704	130.4	130.6	3.2	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.2
Articles of stone, plaster, cement, asbestos, or mica (Dec. 2001=100).....	68	0.243	124.2	124.2	4.0	-0.2	1.6	0.2	0.0
Ceramic products.....	69	0.202	141.1	141.2	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Glass and glassware.....	70	0.258	124.6	124.9	3.7	0.5	-0.2	0.0	0.2
Pearls, stones, precious metals, imitation jewelry, and coins.....	XIV	3.097	201.9	204.7	16.2	5.0	-4.0	-2.1	1.4
Base metals and articles of base metals.....	XV	4.842	190.0	189.5	0.9	-1.6	-2.3	-2.2	-0.3
Iron and steel.....	72	0.902	247.8	246.6	6.7	-0.3	-2.5	-2.9	-0.5
Articles of iron or steel.....	73	1.541	161.4	161.6	5.6	0.2	0.4	-0.1	0.1
Copper and articles thereof.....	74	0.492	338.5	343.9	-9.5	-5.7	-9.5	-5.5	1.6
Nickel and articles thereof (Dec. 2009=100)...	75	0.135	109.2	106.5	-16.8	-4.8	-6.7	-7.5	-2.5
Aluminum and articles thereof.....	76	0.830	143.6	140.7	-2.4	-2.5	-2.2	-2.6	-2.0
Tools, implements, cutlery, spoons and forks, of base metal; parts thereof.....	82	0.313	123.6	124.0	2.6	0.6	-0.4	-0.1	0.3
Miscellaneous articles of base metal.....	83	0.359	131.6	131.3	2.7	-0.2	0.1	-0.1	-0.2
Machinery, electrical equipment, TV image and sound recorders, parts, etc.....	XVI	22.788	85.5	85.7	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2	0.0	0.2
Machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof.....	84	11.337	88.5	88.6	0.2	0.1	-0.3	0.1	0.1
Electrical machinery and equip, sound and TV recorders & reproducers, parts.....	85	11.451	82.6	82.9	-0.4	-0.1	-0.2	-0.1	0.4
Vehicles, aircraft, vessels and associated transport equipment.....	XVII	8.578	114.6	114.8	3.7	0.2	-0.2	0.0	0.2
Motor vehicles and their parts.....	87	7.629	113.9	114.1	3.9	0.2	-0.2	0.1	0.2
Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof (Dec. 2002=100).....	88	0.864	115.8	115.8	1.6	0.0	-0.1	0.0	0.0
Optical, photo, measuring, medical & musical instruments; & timepieces.....	XVIII	3.094	105.3	105.3	3.4	0.2	-0.2	0.0	0.0
Optical, photographic, measuring and medical instruments.....	90	2.855	102.9	102.9	3.5	0.1	-0.1	0.0	0.0
Clocks and watches and parts thereof.....	91	0.176	127.7	127.6	2.7	0.8	-1.2	-0.2	-0.1
Miscellaneous manufactured articles.....	XX	3.491	111.7	111.6	4.0	0.3	0.6	0.1	-0.1
Furniture & stuffed furnishings; lamps & lighting fittings, nesoi; prefab bldgs.....	94	1.720	115.4	115.3	4.3	0.3	0.5	0.1	-0.1
Toys, games and sports equipment; parts and accessories thereof.....	95	1.568	104.5	104.5	3.5	0.2	0.9	0.1	0.0
Miscellaneous manufactured articles.....	96	0.203	133.2	132.9	6.4	0.3	-0.1	0.0	-0.2

¹ Relative importance figures are based on 2009 trade values.

NOTES: Data may be revised in each of the three months after original publication.

Dash = Not available

Table 6. U.S. export price indexes and percent changes for selected categories of goods: December 2010 to December 2011

[2000=100, unless otherwise noted]

Description	Harmoni- zied system	Relative importance Nov. 2011 ¹	Index		Percent change				
			Nov. 2011	Dec. 2011	Annual	Monthly			
					Dec. 2010 to Dec. 2011	Aug. 2011 to Sept. 2011	Sept. 2011 to Oct. 2011	Oct. 2011 to Nov. 2011	Nov. 2011 to Dec. 2011
Live animals; animal products.....	I	2.083	208.7	207.3	16.1	0.4	1.6	0.0	-0.7
Meat & edible meat offal (Dec. 2006=100). . .	02	1.284	171.2	169.8	17.3	2.4	1.7	0.4	-0.8
Fish and crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates.....	03	0.427	196.0	199.9	15.3	-0.5	-0.6	-0.9	2.0
Vegetable products.....	II	5.821	237.9	231.6	2.7	3.3	-11.5	4.8	-2.6
Edible fruit and nuts; peel of citrus fruit or melons.....	08	0.957	130.0	137.0	6.3	-7.7	1.2	4.8	5.4
Cereals.....	10	2.330	291.7	271.0	5.8	8.0	-15.7	6.3	-7.1
Oilseeds and misc. grains, seeds, fruits, plants, straw and fodder.....	12	1.962	239.1	231.3	-7.8	3.1	-15.6	4.1	-3.3
Animal or vegetable fats and oils (Dec. 2009=100).....	III	0.503	147.9	146.9	4.8	0.7	-7.0	-1.5	-0.7
Prepared foodstuffs, beverages, and tobacco.....	IV	2.657	150.5	147.4	0.1	1.3	0.0	-1.4	-2.1
Preparations of vegetables, fruit, nuts or other parts of plants (Dec. 2009=100).....	20	0.350	110.2	109.6	4.9	-0.1	0.6	0.3	-0.5
Miscellaneous edible preparations.....	21	0.435	117.1	113.0	-5.3	-0.2	-0.5	0.0	-3.5
Beverages, spirits, and vinegar (Dec. 2008=100).....	22	0.331	104.6	104.0	-0.7	0.0	-0.3	-0.8	-0.6
Residues and waste from the food industries; prepared animal feed.....	23	0.675	210.9	199.6	-9.2	3.2	-2.1	-4.7	-5.4
Mineral products.....	V	8.818	327.5	318.8	14.6	0.0	-5.6	3.0	-2.7
Mineral fuels, oils and residuals, bituminous substances and mineral waxes.....	27	8.231	324.4	314.9	16.2	0.1	-6.0	3.3	-2.9
Products of the chemical or allied industries.....	VI	13.005	155.0	155.2	4.8	-0.1	-0.7	0.5	0.1
Inorganic chemicals.....	28	1.015	196.0	199.9	3.1	-1.0	0.2	0.4	2.0
Organic chemicals.....	29	3.338	166.5	167.2	8.3	-0.7	-2.3	1.1	0.4
Pharmaceutical products.....	30	3.861	124.2	123.8	-1.7	-0.2	-1.2	-0.2	-0.3
Tanning or dyeing extracts, dyes, paints, varnish, putty, & inks.....	32	0.684	152.2	152.2	28.9	4.5	4.7	4.5	0.0
Essential oils and resinoids; perfumery cosmetic or toilet preparations.....	33	0.767	133.3	133.1	5.4	0.3	-0.4	-0.3	-0.2
Soap; lubricants; waxes, polishing or scouring products; candles, pastes.....	34	0.478	124.8	124.7	3.1	0.1	0.2	1.3	-0.1
Miscellaneous chemical products.....	38	1.836	149.9	150.3	4.7	0.1	-0.4	-0.3	0.3
Plastics and articles thereof; rubber and articles thereof.....	VII	5.161	147.3	147.5	5.1	-0.1	-1.6	-2.4	0.1
Plastics and articles thereof.....	39	4.112	137.7	138.2	3.2	0.0	-2.0	-2.1	0.4
Rubber and articles thereof.....	40	1.049	192.8	192.0	13.7	-0.4	-0.1	-4.0	-0.4
Raw hides, skins, leather, furskins, travel goods, etc.....	VIII	0.394	123.9	120.5	-2.8	-1.9	-2.3	-4.9	-2.7
Wood, wood charcoal, cork, straw, basketware and wickerwork.....	IX	0.507	109.5	107.4	-2.1	0.7	-0.1	0.2	-1.9
Woodpulp, recovered paper, and paper products.....	X	2.554	119.7	116.7	-5.7	-0.9	-1.8	-3.9	-2.5
Woodpulp and recovered paper.....	47	0.805	130.1	120.9	-17.5	-2.3	-4.2	-10.6	-7.1
Paper and paperboard; articles of paper pulp, paper or paperboard.....	48	1.260	118.1	117.3	-0.2	-0.3	-0.7	-0.8	-0.7
Printed material.....	49	0.489	119.3	119.3	1.7	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0
Textile and textile articles.....	XI	2.084	134.1	131.8	-8.1	-1.5	-1.7	-1.0	-1.7
Cotton, including yarns and woven fabrics thereof.....	52	0.794	177.7	170.1	-24.4	-3.3	-4.3	-2.6	-4.3

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 6. U.S. export price indexes and percent changes for selected categories of goods: December 2010 to December 2011 — Continued
 [2000=100, unless otherwise noted]

Description	Harmo- nized system	Relative importance Nov. 2011 ¹	Index		Percent change				
			Nov. 2011	Dec. 2011	Annual	Monthly			
					Dec. 2010 to Dec. 2011	Aug. 2011 to Sept. 2011	Sept. 2011 to Oct. 2011	Oct. 2011 to Nov. 2011	Nov. 2011 to Dec. 2011
Stone, plaster, cement, asbestos, ceramics, glass etc. (Dec. 2008=100).....	XIII	0.685	116.8	116.4	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.0	-0.3
Glass and glassware.....	70	0.381	99.3	98.7	0.5	-0.1	0.5	-0.1	-0.6
Pearls, stones, precious metals, imitation jewelry, and coins.....	XIV	5.665	291.4	296.0	25.1	5.7	-2.9	-1.5	1.6
Base metals and articles of base metals.....	XV	5.568	174.3	173.5	3.3	-0.4	-4.0	-1.1	-0.5
Iron and steel.....	72	1.734	212.6	211.0	6.1	1.2	-3.9	-5.1	-0.8
Articles of iron or steel.....	73	1.288	172.8	172.8	8.1	0.1	0.5	0.9	0.0
Copper and articles thereof.....	74	0.654	247.6	249.1	-3.7	-3.2	-17.1	6.0	0.6
Aluminum and articles thereof.....	76	0.898	128.5	125.6	-2.6	-1.7	-4.4	-0.9	-2.3
Tools, implements, cutlery, spoons and forks, of base metal; parts thereof.....	82	0.341	128.4	128.4	2.4	-0.1	0.9	0.0	0.0
Miscellaneous articles of base metal.....	83	0.308	135.7	136.3	9.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4
Machinery, electrical equipment, TV image and sound recorders, parts, etc.....	XVI	26.427	96.3	96.3	0.7	-0.1	0.0	-0.1	0.0
Machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof.....	84	15.550	108.6	108.6	1.5	0.0	-0.1	0.1	0.0
Electrical machinery and equipment and parts and accessories thereof.....	85	10.877	82.9	82.9	-0.6	-0.1	0.0	-0.4	0.0
Vehicles, aircraft, vessels and associated transport equipment.....	XVII	10.747	124.4	124.6	2.0	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.2
Motor vehicles and their parts.....	87	6.047	111.2	111.2	2.1	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.0
Optical, photo, measuring, medical & musical instruments; & timepieces.....	XVIII	5.794	105.5	105.6	-1.6	0.0	0.1	-0.2	0.1
Miscellaneous manufactured articles.....	XX	1.378	108.5	108.5	1.2	0.0	-0.5	-0.1	0.0
Furniture; stuffed furnishings; lamps and lighting fittings nesoi;.....	94	0.657	119.3	119.2	0.7	-0.2	-0.7	-0.2	-0.1
Toys, games and sports equipment; parts and accessories thereof.....	95	0.595	90.0	90.0	-1.7	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0

1 Relative importance figures are based on 2009 trade values.

NOTES: Data may be revised in each of the three months after original publication.

Dash = Not available

Table 7. U.S. import price indexes and percent changes by locality of origin: December 2010 to December 2011
 [2000=100, unless otherwise noted]

Description	Percent of U.S. imports ¹	Index		Percent change				
		Nov. 2011	Dec. 2011	Annual Dec. 2010 to Dec. 2011	Monthly			
					Aug. 2011 to Sept. 2011	Sept. 2011 to Oct. 2011	Oct. 2011 to Nov. 2011	Nov. 2011 to Dec. 2011
Industrialized Countries²	39.494	133.2	133.0	3.8	-0.3	-0.3	0.5	-0.2
Nonmanufactured articles.....	4.457	246.9	244.9	12.2	-1.1	0.4	5.5	-0.8
Manufactured articles.....	34.670	123.9	123.9	2.6	-0.2	-0.4	-0.4	0.0
Other Countries³	60.506	142.2	142.3	10.3	0.0	-0.3	1.1	0.1
Nonmanufactured articles.....	12.079	364.8	365.0	26.4	0.1	-0.8	3.3	0.1
Manufactured articles.....	48.226	112.0	112.0	4.9	-0.1	0.0	0.2	0.0
Canada	14.271	155.2	154.6	4.4	-1.3	-1.0	1.2	-0.4
Nonmanufactured articles.....	3.991	236.1	233.9	10.6	-0.5	-0.3	6.2	-0.9
Manufactured articles.....	10.005	137.5	137.4	1.4	-1.7	-1.3	-1.2	-0.1
European Union⁴	17.186	137.3	137.0	6.1	0.0	0.4	0.1	-0.2
Nonmanufactured articles.....	0.256	379.5	379.7	38.5	-4.7	5.6	2.6	0.1
Manufactured articles.....	16.854	133.6	133.2	5.4	0.1	0.4	0.1	-0.3
France (Dec. 2003=100)	1.995	120.7	121.2	-0.2	-0.1	0.2	0.2	0.4
Germany (Dec. 2003=100)	4.510	115.4	115.3	2.5	0.0	-0.3	-0.2	-0.1
United Kingdom (Dec. 2003=100)	2.795	133.4	133.3	3.8	-0.4	-0.3	0.2	-0.1
Latin America⁵	18.406	181.3	181.7	10.9	0.2	-1.1	1.9	0.2
Nonmanufactured articles.....	5.479	397.3	398.9	26.9	1.2	-0.8	5.7	0.4
Manufactured articles.....	12.844	134.4	134.7	2.1	-0.5	-1.2	-0.6	0.2
Mexico (Dec. 2003=100)	11.380	147.9	148.1	5.8	0.4	-0.7	0.9	0.1
Nonmanufactured articles (Dec. 2008=100).....	1.900	212.1	212.8	26.7	0.5	-0.6	5.4	0.3
Manufactured articles (Dec. 2008=100) ...	9.437	95.8	95.9	0.2	0.3	-0.8	-0.4	0.1
Pacific Rim (Dec. 2003=100)⁶	34.852	104.8	104.7	2.6	0.1	-0.2	0.3	-0.1
China (Dec. 2003=100)	19.595	105.0	105.1	3.6	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.1
Japan	6.198	102.0	102.1	2.3	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.1
Asian NICs⁷	5.555	91.1	90.9	2.7	-0.1	-0.7	-0.1	-0.2
ASEAN (Dec. 2003=100)⁸	5.987	105.2	105.1	4.7	0.1	-0.9	0.4	-0.1
Asia Near East (Dec. 2003=100)⁹	3.795	277.2	276.6	23.8	1.9	-0.4	0.3	-0.2

1 Percentage of trade figures are based on 2009 trade values.

2 Includes Western Europe, Canada, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

3 Includes Eastern Europe, Latin America, OPEC countries, and other countries in Asia, Africa and the Western Hemisphere.

4 Includes European Union countries.

5 Includes Mexico, Central America, South America and the Caribbean.

6 Includes China, Japan, Australia, Brunei, Indonesia, Macao, Malaysia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines and Asian Newly Industrialized Countries.

7 Asian Newly Industrialized Countries. Includes Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea and Taiwan.

8 Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Includes Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

9 Includes Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

NOTES: Data may be revised in each of the three months after original publication.

Regions are not mutually exclusive.

Dash = Not available

Table 8. U.S. international price indexes and percent changes for selected transportation services: December 2010 to December 2011

[2000=100, unless otherwise noted]

Description	Relative importance Nov. 2011 ¹	Index		Percent change				
		Nov. 2011	Dec. 2011	Annual	Monthly			
				Dec. 2010 to Dec. 2011	Aug. 2011 to Sept. 2011	Sept. 2011 to Oct. 2011	Oct. 2011 to Nov. 2011	Nov. 2011 to Dec. 2011
Air Freight								
Import Air Freight	100.000	177.9	176.9	4.0	-0.3	-2.4	-1.8	-0.6
Europe (Dec. 2003=100).....	25.495	168.8	168.2	18.0	-0.4	-2.9	-3.3	-0.4
Asia.....	72.464	157.1	156.2	-0.1	-0.3	-2.3	-1.3	-0.6
Export Air Freight	100.000	144.0	144.2	12.6	0.3	-0.8	-0.9	0.1
Europe (Dec. 2006=100).....	38.834	130.4	129.6	10.6	0.3	-0.3	-1.1	-0.6
Inbound Air Freight	100.000	162.0	160.5	4.6	0.0	-0.5	-0.9	-0.9
Europe (Dec. 2003=100).....	24.453	149.4	149.4	12.8	0.2	-2.9	-2.4	0.0
Asia.....	65.327	146.6	144.4	2.4	-0.1	0.4	-0.3	-1.5
Outbound Air Freight	100.000	143.5	144.4	14.4	0.2	0.4	-0.7	0.6
Europe (Dec. 2003=100).....	36.792	163.3	163.0	11.0	-0.5	2.1	-0.3	-0.2
Asia.....	44.579	133.4	134.6	17.8	0.9	-1.6	-1.2	0.9
Air Passenger Fares								
Import Air Passenger Fares	100.000	176.7	179.5	5.7	-2.1	1.9	-0.7	1.6
Europe.....	37.160	180.0	176.4	3.3	0.0	2.0	-3.5	-2.0
Asia.....	26.454	155.2	162.6	3.7	-3.4	-0.3	2.5	4.8
Latin America/Caribbean.....	14.694	173.1	186.9	9.2	-7.9	2.0	1.2	8.0
Export Air Passenger Fares	100.000	184.1	187.2	10.8	-13.4	-2.2	-2.3	1.7
Europe.....	29.693	212.7	208.7	10.2	-12.1	-0.6	-7.3	-1.9
Asia.....	31.304	174.2	178.4	13.2	-17.1	-5.2	1.6	2.4
Latin America/Caribbean.....	20.080	190.7	206.1	9.0	-3.0	-2.1	1.7	8.1

¹ Relative importance figures are based on 2009 trade values.

NOTES: Data may be revised in each of the three months after original publication.

Dash = Not available

TECHNICAL NOTE

Import and Export Merchandise and Services Price Indexes -- All indexes use a modified Laspeyres formula and are not seasonally adjusted. Price indexes are reweighted annually, with a two-year lag in the weights. Published series use a base year of 2000=100 where possible. More detailed index series and additional information may be obtained at <http://www.bls.gov/mxp>, or by calling (202) 691-7101.

Merchandise Goods Classification Systems -- The merchandise price indexes are published using three classification systems. Items are classified by end use according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis Classification System, by industry according to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), and by product category according to the Harmonized System (HS). While classification by end use and product category are self-explanatory, some notes are in order for classifying items by industry. In the NAICS imports and exports tables, items are classified by output industry, not input industry. As an example, NAICS import index 326 (plastics and rubber products manufacturing) include outputs such as manufactured plastic rather than inputs such as petroleum. The NAICS classification structure also matches the classification system used by the PPI (Producer Price Index) to produce the NAICS primary products indexes.

Import Price Indexes -- Products have been classified by the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States Annotated (TSUSA). Import prices are based on U.S. dollar prices paid by the U.S. importer. The prices are generally either "free on board" (f.o.b.) foreign port or "cost, insurance, and freight" (c.i.f.) U.S. port transaction prices, depending on the practices of the individual industry. The index for crude petroleum is calculated from data collected by the U.S. Department of Energy.

Export Price Indexes -- Products have been classified by the Harmonized Schedule B classification system of the U.S. Bureau of the Census. The prices used are generally either "free alongside ship" (f.a.s.) factory or "free on board" (f.o.b.) transaction prices, depending on the practices of the individual industry. Prices used in the grain index, excluding rice, are obtained from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Services Price Indexes -- Starting in September 2008 the Import Air Passenger Fares Indexes represent changes in the average revenue per passenger received by foreign carriers from U.S. residents and are calculated from data obtained from an airline consulting service. These data include tickets sold by travel agencies and travel websites. Tickets sold directly by the airlines are excluded, as are frequent flyer tickets generally. Starting in January 2008 the Export Air Passenger Fares Indexes represent changes in the average revenue per passenger received by U.S. carriers from foreign residents and are calculated from data collected directly from airlines. These data include frequent flyer tickets and those sold by consolidators. Taxes and fees are included in the Import Air Passenger Fares Index and excluded from the Export Air Passenger Fares Index. The Air Freight Indexes are calculated from data collected directly from airlines. These data exclude mail and passenger baggage. The scope of the service being priced is the movement of freight from airport to airport only, and does not include any ground transportation or port service. The Air Freight Indexes are presented using two definitions: Balance of Payments (which represent transactions between U.S. and foreign residents) and International (which represent transactions inbound to and outbound from the U.S.). Fact sheets specifying detailed information for each services industry are available at <http://www.bls.gov/mxp> under "MXP Publications."

Import Indexes by Locality of Origin -- Prices used in these indexes are a subset of the data collected for the Import Price Indexes. Beginning with January 2002, the indexes are defined by locality of origin using a nomenclature based upon the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Nonmanufactured goods are defined as NAICS 11 and 21 and manufactured goods are defined as NAICS 31-33.

Revision Policy -- To reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents, monthly data may be revised in each of the three months after original publication. After three months, no further data revisions take place. So, for example, data released in the January release will be subject to revision in the releases for February, March, and April.

Uses of the Data -- The primary use of the indexes is to deflate trade statistics, notably the foreign trade sector of the National Income and Product Accounts constructed by the Department of Commerce. Other published indexes are useful for general market analysis. For trade in international services, Balance of Payments indexes are used for deflating National Income and Product Accounts, while International indexes are more appropriate for market analysis. Merchandise and services indexes also can be used to study U.S. competitiveness and to compute price elasticities, and the merchandise import indexes by country or region of origin are useful in terms of trade analysis.

E-Mail Subscription -- The U.S. Import and Export Price Indexes news release is available through an e-mail subscription service at (<http://www.bls.gov/bls/list.htm>).

Additional Information -- More detailed data are available on the Import/Export Price Indexes home page at (<http://www.bls.gov/mxp>). Flat Files and the FTP server are available for users requiring access to either a large volume of time series data or other related documentation. The FTP site can be accessed at <ftp://ftp.bls.gov>. For technical assistance in using the BLS Internet site, send e-mail to (labstat.helpdesk@bls.gov). For Import/Export Price Index data requests, send e-mail to (mxpinfo@bls.gov).

Information from this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; Federal Relay Service: 1-800-877-8339.