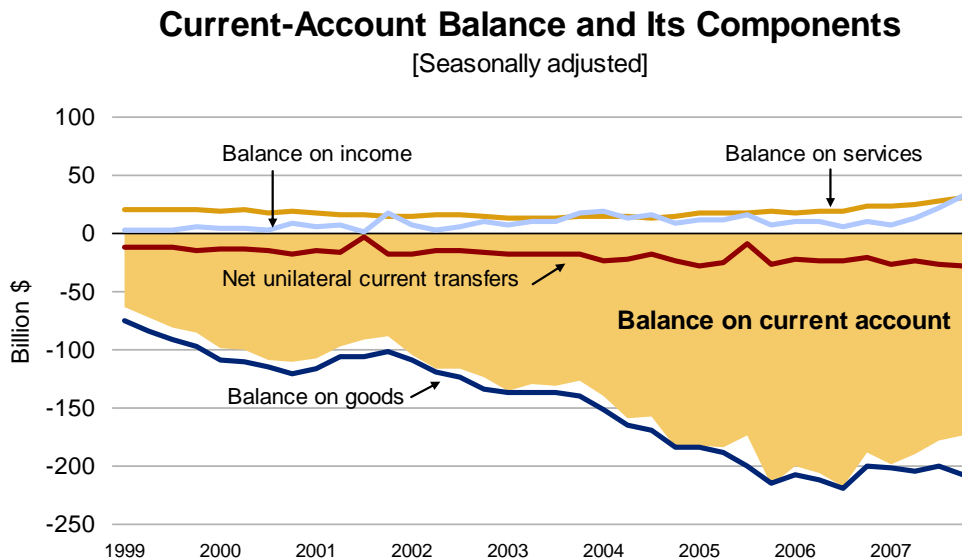


## U.S. CURRENT-ACCOUNT DEFICIT DECREASES IN FOURTH QUARTER 2007

*Preliminary estimates of U.S. international transactions*

The U.S. current-account deficit, the broadest measure of U.S. international trade in goods and services, receipts and payments of income, and net unilateral current transfers (such as gifts) decreased to \$172.9 billion (preliminary) in the fourth quarter of 2007 from \$177.4 billion (revised) in the third quarter. As a share of U.S. GDP, the deficit decreased to 4.9 percent from 5.1 percent. The previously published estimate of the current account for the third quarter was \$178.5 billion.



- The deficit on international trade in goods increased to \$208.1 billion from \$200.5 billion, as goods imports increased more than goods exports.
- The surplus on international trade in services increased to \$30.2 billion from \$28.0 billion, as receipts for services increased more than payments for services.
- The surplus on income increased to \$33.0 billion from \$21.3 billion, as income payments decreased more than income receipts.
- Net unilateral current transfers to foreign residents were \$28.1 billion, up from \$26.2 billion.

Net financial inflows—net acquisitions by foreign residents of assets in the United States less net acquisitions by U.S. residents of assets abroad—were \$230.1 billion in the fourth quarter, up from \$111.1 billion in the third.

- U.S.-owned assets abroad increased \$116.5 billion in the fourth quarter after they had increased \$174.0 billion in the third.
- Foreign-owned assets in the United States increased \$346.6 billion in the fourth quarter after they had increased \$276.6 billion in the third.

BEA data—including GDP, personal income, the balance of payments, foreign direct investment, the input-output accounts, and economic data for states, local areas, and industries—are available on the BEA Web site: [www.bea.gov](http://www.bea.gov). [E-mail alerts](#) are also available.

NOTE: The next release of U.S. international transactions will be on June 17, 2008.