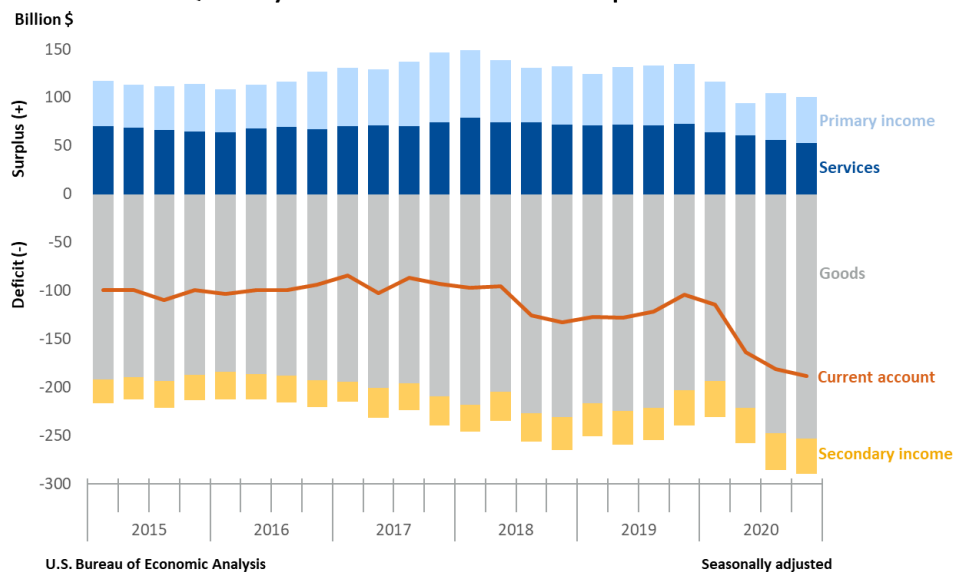


U.S. Current Account Deficit Widens in Fourth Quarter 2020

U.S. International Transactions

The U.S. current account deficit, which reflects the combined balances on trade in goods and services and income flows between U.S. residents and residents of other countries, widened by \$7.6 billion, or 4.2 percent, to \$188.5 billion in the fourth quarter of 2020. The widening mostly reflected an expanded deficit on goods and a reduced surplus on services that were partly offset by a reduced deficit on secondary income. The fourth quarter deficit was 3.5 percent of current dollar gross domestic product, up from 3.4 percent in the third quarter.

Quarterly U.S. Current Account and Component Balances



- Exports of goods increased \$30.9 billion, to \$387.5 billion, while imports of goods increased \$36.4 billion, to \$640.5 billion.
- Exports of services increased \$3.8 billion, to \$168.1 billion, while imports of services increased \$6.9 billion, to \$115.1 billion.
- Receipts of primary income increased \$7.1 billion, to \$248.4 billion, while payments of primary income increased \$7.5 billion, to \$200.5 billion.
- Receipts of secondary income decreased \$1.0 billion, to \$36.0 billion, while payments of secondary income decreased \$2.4 billion, to \$72.4 billion.
- Net financial account transactions were -\$262.4 billion, reflecting net U.S. borrowing from foreign residents.

The increases in nearly all major current account transactions in the fourth quarter—the second consecutive quarter of broad-based growth following notable COVID-19-related declines in the second quarter—partly reflect the economic recovery. The effects of the pandemic cannot be separately identified in the statistics. For more information, see [U.S. International Transactions, Fourth Quarter and Year 2020](#).

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

NOTE: The next release of U.S. international transactions will be on June 23, 2021.

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