U.S. EXPORT FACT SHEET
January 2010 Export Statistics Released March 11, 2010

EXPORT OVERVIEW:

- With the release of the January 2010 U.S. International Trade in Goods and Services report by the Department of Commerce’s U.S. Census Bureau and the Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. exports of goods and services decreased by 0.3 percent in January 2010 to $142.7 billion since December 2009, while imports decreased 1.7 percent to $180.0 billion over the same period.
- In January 2010, the monthly U.S. goods and services trade deficit decreased by 6.6 percent to $37.3 billion when compared to December 2009.
- U.S. goods and services exports in January 2010 are up 15.1 percent from the $123.9 billion in exports in January 2009.
- In January, the average import price per barrel of crude oil was the highest value since October 2008 at a price of $73.89 per barrel; this is up from the low of $39.22 per barrel in February 2009. The decline in value of crude oil imports since December was due entirely to a decrease in quantity, with the January quantity of crude oil imports (245.3 million barrels) at the lowest level since February 1999.

TRADE SPOTLIGHT: Services Exports*

- U.S. services exports totaled $509.2 billion in 2009, down $40.4 billion (or 7.4 percent) from 2008. This decline in exports caused the U.S. trade surplus in services to decline slightly to $138.4 billion, down $5.9 billion (or 4.1 percent) from 2008.
- U.S. exports of services increased by 0.4 percent in January 2010 to $44.3 billion since December 2009, while imports increased 0.4 percent to $32.2 billion over the same period.
- The top services export category in 2009 was other private services ($231.3 billion), which include business, professional and technical services. This sector was less affected by last year’s economic downturn showing only a 0.9 percent drop in exports between 2008 and 2009, relative to a 7.4 percent decline in all services, and an 18.1 percent decline in goods trade over the same period. In January 2010, the U.S. exported $20.1 billion in other private services.
- In dollar terms, the travel sector was the most affected sector during the economic downturn. In 2009, exports of travel services fell $15.9 billion (14.4 percent) to $94.2 billion. In January 2010, the U.S. exported $8.1 billion in travel services.
- As tourism declined, U.S. exports measured as passenger fares (fees paid to U.S. carriers) also fell. In 2009, receipts for passenger fares fell $4.7 billion (15.0 percent) to $26.9 billion. In January 2010, the U.S. exported $2.3 billion in passenger fares.
- Other transportation services were strongly affected by the fall in goods trade in late 2008 and 2009, as this sector includes freight charges and shipping fees paid to U.S. firms. In 2009, exports of other transportation services fell $14.0 billion (23.8 percent) to $44.9 billion. In January 2010, the U.S. exported $4.1 billion in other transportation services.
- In 2009, exports of royalties and license fees fell $7.2 billion (7.8 percent) to $84.4 billion. In January 2010, the U.S. exported $7.4 billion in royalties and license fees.
- Government services represented the only export growth sector among the major services sectors. In 2009, U.S. exports of government services grew by $3.6 billion (15.1 percent) to $27.4 billion. In January 2010, the U.S. exported $2.3 billion in government services.

*Note: Services totals include revisions to the December 2009 data.

U.S. Export Fact Sheets are prepared by ITA’s Office of Trade and Industry Information, (202) 482-3809.