EXPORT OVERVIEW:

- With the release of the October 2009 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 increased by 2.6 percent in October 2009 to $136.8 billion since September 2009, while imports increased 0.4 percent to $169.8 billion over the same period.

- In October 2009, the monthly U.S. goods and services trade deficit decreased by 7.6 percent to $32.9 billion when compared to September 2009. The surplus with South/Central America reached its highest level (at $1.2 billion) since October of 1998.

- Although the decline in year-to-date figures from 2008 to 2009 has been significant, the monthly figures do show signs of stabilization in U.S. goods and services trade. On a monthly basis, October represents the sixth consecutive month that goods and services exports have increased, with monthly exports rising from $121.7 billion in April 2009 to $136.8 billion in October 2009.

- The largest export markets for U.S. goods year-to-date through October 2009 were Canada ($167.9 billion), Mexico ($105.2 billion), China ($53.9 billion), Japan ($42.0 billion), and the United Kingdom ($38.2 billion).

- In October, U.S. good exports continue to show signs of improvement, with exports increasing of pharmaceutical preparations (up $559 million from September 2009), artwork (up $408 million), soybeans (up $398 million), and civilian aircraft (up $287 million).

- In October, the unit price per barrel of crude oil remained at a high level at $67.39 from the low of $39.22 per barrel in February 2009, but declined from September’s price of $68.17. The average daily barrels of crude oil imports at 8.35 million barrels was the lowest since January of 2000. The value of U.S. imports of petroleum products declined $2.6 billion from September to October, and the value of U.S. exports of petroleum products rose $49 million from the previous month. In October, the petroleum share of the deficit declined from 57.6 percent in September to 54.1 percent in October.

TRADE SPOTLIGHT: HAITI

- In October, the U.S. exported $63.4 million in goods to the Caribbean nation of Haiti, and through the first nine months of 2009 the U.S. exported $664 million to this market.

- Among the members of the Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act (CBTPA), Haiti represents the fourth largest market for U.S. goods exports. Haiti is an important market for American goods agricultural goods and machinery. In 2008, the largest U.S. goods export sectors to Haiti were cereals (particularly rice and wheat), electrical machinery, and machinery. The U.S. also exported nearly $257 million in charitable goods to Haiti in 2008.