



# WASHINGTON MONITOR

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## Trade Briefs

### U.S. Trade Deficit Drops in 2009

On February 10, the U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC) released data from the Census' Bureau of Economic Analysis on U.S. international trade in goods and services in December 2009. The data shows that the U.S. trade deficit decreased by 45% in 2009.

While the drop in the trade deficit appears to be good news in the aggregate for American businesses, the biggest change was in U.S. consumption, as imports dropped off significantly. Therefore, the data shows that the "leveling" of the trade deficit has more to do with the cash-strapped U.S. consumer rather than increased competitiveness or market share for U.S. exporters.

The goods deficit dropped by \$323.3 billion from 2008. Decreases occurred in industrial supplies, capital goods, auto parts and vehicles, foods and beverages, and consumer goods. The significant drop in consumption in 2009 is not surprising, given the dire economic situation in the U.S.

The services surplus actually dropped by \$8.0 billion. Decreases in services occurred in travel, transportation, royalties, passenger fares, and financial services.

The U.S. trade deficit with Japan decreased by \$44.8 billion. However, this is the third largest trade deficit with any U.S. trading partner, behind only China and Mexico.

## Dumping Watch

### Final Results in AD Administrative Review of Japanese SSSSC

On February 10, the Department of Commerce (DOC) gave notice that it had reached final results in the administrative review of the antidumping (AD) duty order on stainless steel sheet and strip in coils (SSSSC) from Japan. The review covers two producers/exporters: Hitachi Cable Ltd. (Hitachi) and Nippon Kinzoku Co., Ltd. (NKKN). The DOC announced changes to the margin calculations for these two producers/exporters. The weighted-average dumping margins are 0.00% for Hitachi and 0.54% for NKKN. The DOC will instruct Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to assess duties according to these margins within 15 days.

### Federal Register Notices

#### *International Trade Administration*

[A-588-845] Stainless Steel Sheet and Strip in Coils from Japan: Final Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review 75 FR 6631-6634, February 10, 2010.

[A-201-822] Stainless Steel Sheet and Strip in Coils From Mexico; Final Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review 75 FR 6627-6631, February 10, 2010.

[C-533-825] Polyethylene Terephthalate Film, Sheet, and Strip from India: Final Results of Countervailing Duty Administrative Review 75 FR 6634-6635, February 10, 2010.

[A-570-905] Certain Polyester Staple Fiber from the People's Republic of China: Extension of Preliminary Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review 75 FR 6352, February 9, 2010.

[A-475-818] Certain Pasta from Italy: Notice of Final Results of the Twelfth Administrative Review 75 FR 6352-6354, February 9, 2010.

Mission Statement; Secretarial China Clean Energy Business Development Mission; May 16-21, 2010 75 FR 6180-6183, February 8, 2010.

Mission Statement: Secretarial Indonesia Clean Energy Business Development Mission May 23-25, 2010. 75 FR 6178-6180, February 8, 2010.

[A-570-956] Certain Seamless Carbon and Alloy Steel Standard, Line, and Pressure Pipe from the People's Republic of China: Postponement of Preliminary Determination of Antidumping Duty Investigation 75 FR 6183-6184, February 8, 2010.

#### *International Trade Commission*

[Investigation No. 337-TA-693] In the Matter of Certain Foldable Stools; Notice of Commission Decision Not To Review an Initial Determination Granting Complainant's Motion To Amend the Complaint and Notice of Investigation 75 FR 6706, February 10, 2010.

[Inv. No. 337-TA-702] In the Matter of: Certain Liquid Crystal Display Modules and Products Containing the Same, and Methods for Making the Same; Notice of Investigation 75 FR 6705-6706, February 10, 2010.

[Investigation No. 337-TA-663] In the Matter of Certain Mobile Telephones and Wireless Communication Devices Featuring Digital Cameras, and Components Thereof; Notice of the Commission's Determination To Grant a Joint Motion To Terminate the Investigation With

Respect to Respondents Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd., Samsung Electronics America, Inc., and Samsung Telecommunications America, LLC on the Basis of a Settlement Agreement; Termination of the Investigation 75 *FR* 6704-6705, February 10, 2010.

Agency Form Submitted for OMB Review 75 *FR* 6220, February 8, 2010.

**The Week Ahead**

- On February 15, the ITC was closed for the Presidents' Day holiday.
- On February 18, the ITC will hold a hearing on the five-year sunset review on chloropicrin from China.
- On February 19, the ITC will hold a vote on the preliminary phase AD and CVD investigations into drill pipe from China.