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[Logistics Market Snapshot - February 2018](#) [1]

On 01 Mar, 2018

FEBRUARY 2018		LOGISTICS MARKET SNAPSHOT
U.S. MARKET	<p>The U.S. GDP increased at an annual rate of 2.8% in the fourth quarter of 2017, according to the advance estimate released by the Bureau of Economic Analysis in late January. In the third quarter, real GDP increased 2.2%. The increase in real GDP in the fourth quarter reflected positive contributions from personal consumption expenditures (PCE), manufacturing fixed investment, exports, residential fixed investment, state and local government spending, and federal government spending that were partly offset by a negative contribution from private inventory investment. Imports, which also a contribution to the calculation of GDP, increased 5.0% in 2017. In February 13, the latest available month forecast for real GDP growth (seasonally adjusted annual rate) for the first quarter of 2018 is 2.7%. Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. The 100-man-hour average duration of unemployment in 2017 was 36.1 weeks.</p>	
U.S. Trade Deficit	<p>The U.S. goods and services trade deficit increased 0.5% in December 2017 to \$21.4 billion. In December, the U.S. had a trade surplus with South and Central America, Hong Kong, Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom, and Singapore. The U.S. had a trade deficit with China, European Union, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Korea, South Korea, India, Canada, EU28, Taiwan, South Korea, and France. Source: U.S. Census Bureau.</p>	
Export Volume	<p>In December 2017, the U.S. exported \$22.4 billion of cargo, increasing 2.8% from November. The November report of goods (22.0 billion), fuels, feeds, & beverages (22.1 billion), capital goods (21.2 billion), consumer goods (22.2 billion) and non petroleum inputs (22.1 billion) were the highest on record. Source: U.S. Census.</p>	
Import Volume	<p>In December 2017, the U.S. imported \$22.9 billion of cargo, increasing 2.8% from November. The December report of capital goods (21.4 billion) was the highest on record. Source: U.S. Census.</p>	
Import & Export Price Index	<p>In a report price increased 0.2% in January 2018, the largest one-month rise since the index increased 1.2% in May 2017. Higher prices for both nonfuel imports and fuel imports contributed to the January advance. In a report price increased 0.2% in January 2018. The index has not risen by more than 0.2% since it advanced 1.2% in May 2017. In January, the increase in nonmanufacture prices more than offset a decline in agricultural prices. Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.</p>	
Unemployment Rate	<p>The unemployment rate in America remained at 4.1% in January 2018, rising at the same rate of a year since October 2017. A preliminary 260,000 net new jobs were created in January 2018, up from 260,000 in December. January 2018 marked the 80th straight month of job creation, the longest such streak on record. The unemployment rate in Georgia was 4.4% in December 2017, up from 4.2% the previous month. In December, Georgia added 1,200 new jobs to the end-of-year with a 100% increase in high employment of 4,128,000. Source: U.S. BLS, U.S. BLS.</p>	
Labor Force Participation Rate	<p>The labor force participation rate remained at 62.7% in January 2018. The labor force participation rate for those of prime working age (15-64) was 62.9% in January, matching the same as the previous month. Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (BLS) (The Bureau of Labor Statistics has revised its data on labor force participation rate in 2017 and 2018.)</p>	
Leading Economic Index	<p>The leading economic index for the U.S. increased 0.2% in January 2018, ending at a reading of 106.4. According to The Conference Board, the all-inclusive index in January continued to point to robust economic growth in the first half of 2018. While the recent stock market volatility will not be reflected in the U.S. LEI until next month, employment and household wealth are the strongest leading indicators for overall economic and should not be greatly impacted. Source: Conference Board. The LEI was mostly positive in the January report index to 106.4. The LEI is a composite of 10 economic indicators that together create a leading indicator of economic activity in the business cycle. The all-inclusive index is the most reliable and comprehensive measure of the leading economic index.</p>	
Homeing Starts	<p>In December 2017, housing starts rose an annualized 1,261,000 units, down 2% from the previous month and 4.9% lower compared to December 2016. The index of pending home sales index that houses closed and that contracts have been signed rose 1.0% in December 2017, up 4.9% from the previous month, and the highest reading since March 2017 (2.0%). According to the National Association of Realtors, the amount of higher mortgage rates may be encouraging more waiting buyers to begin their search now. In 2018, the 100-hour average existing home sales and price growth as moderate, primarily because of the new low for the expected impact in high-end housing markets. Source: U.S. Census, National Association of Realtors.</p>	
Light Vehicle Sales	<p>More light vehicle sales were an annualized 1,261,000 units, down 2% from the previous month and 4.9% lower from January 2017. Sales of light trucks and light trucks fell in January 2018 compared to the previous month. More light truck sales in January 2018 were higher than in January 2017. Source: U.S. Census Bureau. Sales of light trucks and light trucks fell in January 2018 compared to the previous month. More light truck sales in January 2018 were higher than in January 2017. Source: U.S. Census Bureau. Sales of light trucks and light trucks fell in January 2018 compared to the previous month. More light truck sales in January 2018 were higher than in January 2017. Source: U.S. Census Bureau.</p>	

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