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## Logistics Market Snapshot - April 2018 [1]

On 02 May, 2018

| <div>  <div> APRIL 2018 LOGISTICS MARKET SNAPSHOT </div> </div> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      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| <b>U.S. MARKET:</b>                                                                                                                              | <p>The U.S. GDP increased at an annual rate of 3.9% in the fourth quarter of 2017, according to the final estimate released by the Bureau of Economic Analysis in late March. In the third quarter, real GDP increased 3.2%. The increase in real GDP in the fourth quarter reflected positive contributions from personal consumption expenditures (PCE), nonresidential fixed investment, exports, residential fixed investment, state and local government spending, and federal government spending that were partly offset by negative contributions from private inventory investment, which was a subtraction in the calculation of GDP. Increased. Source: BEA, Apr. 18, 2018, <a href="https://www.bea.gov/newsroom/2018/04/18/gdp">https://www.bea.gov/newsroom/2018/04/18/gdp</a></p> <p>The U.S. goods and services trade deficit increased 1.8% in February 2018 to \$17.6 billion. In February, the U.S. had a trade surplus with South and Central America, Hong Kong, South Korea, Singapore, and Taiwan. The U.S. had a trade deficit with China, European Union, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Italy, South Korea, India, Canada, UK, France, Saudi Arabia, and Russia. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Apr. 18, 2018, <a href="https://www.census.gov/commerce/foreigntrade/goodsandtrade/201802.html">https://www.census.gov/commerce/foreigntrade/goodsandtrade/201802.html</a></p> <p>In February 2018, the U.S. imported \$18.4 billion of cargo, increasing 1.6% from January. The February export of automotive vehicles, parts, and engines (\$14.4 billion) were the highest demand. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Apr. 18, 2018, <a href="https://www.census.gov/commerce/foreigntrade/goodsandtrade/201802.html">https://www.census.gov/commerce/foreigntrade/goodsandtrade/201802.html</a></p> <p>The U.S. import prices were unchanged in March 2018. Higher prices for medical price offset declining prices for transportation. U.S. export prices increased 0.8% in March 2018, the month consecutive month for increases. In March, higher prices for agricultural exports drove the monthly advance, offsetting lower transportation support prices. Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Apr. 18, 2018, <a href="https://www.bls.gov/news.release/wholesale/20180301.html">https://www.bls.gov/news.release/wholesale/20180301.html</a></p> <p>The unemployment rate in America remained at 4.9% in March 2018, down from 5.0% in February 2017. In January 2017, it was 5.0% and new jobs were created in March 2018, and before that most economies were expanding and down from 5.0% in February. March 2018 marked the 307th straight month of job creation, the longest such streak on record. The unemployment rate in Georgia was 5.8% in February 2018, the same as the previous month. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Apr. 18, 2018, <a href="https://www.census.gov/commerce/foreigntrade/goodsandtrade/201802.html">https://www.census.gov/commerce/foreigntrade/goodsandtrade/201802.html</a></p> <p>The labor force participation rate slightly decreased to 62.8% in March 2018. The labor force participation rate for those aged 16 and over was 62.8% in March. Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Apr. 18, 2018, <a href="https://www.bls.gov/news.release/labor/20180301.html">https://www.bls.gov/news.release/labor/20180301.html</a></p> <p>The leading/economic index for the U.S. increased 0.3% in March 2018, ending a streak of 2018. According to The Conference Board, "while the headline gain is slower than in previous months, its six-month growth rate increased further, and points to continued solid growth in the U.S. economy for the rest of the year. The strength among the components of the leading index have been very unbalanced over the last six months. However, labor market components made negative contributions in March and have weakened in the past few weeks." Source: Conference Board, March 2018, <a href="https://www.conferenceboard.org/press-releases/20180301">https://www.conferenceboard.org/press-releases/20180301</a></p> <p>In February 2018, housing starts were an annualized 1,250,000 units, down 1.0% from the previous month and 0.8% lower compared to February 2017. The value of pending home sales index that has not closed yet has been higher than in February 2018, up 0.8% from the previous month, but 0.1% lower than February 2017. According to the National Association of Realtors, contract signings rebounded in most areas in February, but the gains were not large enough to keep up with last February's pace, which was the second highest in over a decade (0.5%). Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Apr. 18, 2018, <a href="https://www.census.gov/commerce/foreigntrade/goodsandtrade/201802.html">https://www.census.gov/commerce/foreigntrade/goodsandtrade/201802.html</a></p> <p>New light vehicle sales were an annualized and seasonally adjusted 27.4 million in March 2018, up 0.8% from the previous month and 0.8% higher than March 2017. Automakers attributed higher vehicle sales in March to an extra selling day, generally good weather in many areas, and strong sales incentives. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Apr. 18, 2018, <a href="https://www.census.gov/commerce/foreigntrade/goodsandtrade/201802.html">https://www.census.gov/commerce/foreigntrade/goodsandtrade/201802.html</a></p> <p>Personal income increased 0.8% to \$18.8 billion in February 2018. The increase in February primarily reflected increases in wages and salaries and transfer payments. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Apr. 18, 2018, <a href="https://www.census.gov/commerce/foreigntrade/goodsandtrade/201802.html">https://www.census.gov/commerce/foreigntrade/goodsandtrade/201802.html</a></p> |

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