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

On 20 Dec, 2018

The **December Edition of your Logistics Market Snapshot** is now available.

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**DECEMBER
2018**

**LOGISTICS
MARKET SNAPSHOT**

U.S. MARKET:	
Core Economic Outlook	The U.S. GDP increased at an annual rate of 3.5% in the third quarter of 2018, according to the second estimate released by the Bureau of Economic Analysis in late November. For the second estimate for the third quarter, the growth of jobs and income growth remains the primary drivers of growth. The increase in GDP is primarily driven by a recovery in government spending, imports, which are a subtraction in the total value of GDP, increased (due to tax cuts) and a decline in the total government transfer for state and federal government expenditures. The total government transfer for state and federal government expenditures in the third quarter of 2018 is \$1.55 billion, down from \$1.6 billion in the second quarter of 2018.
U.S. Trade Deficit	The U.S. goods and services trade deficit increased 1.7% in October 2018 to \$11.5 billion. In October, the U.S. had a trade surplus with South and Central America, Hong Kong, Israel, and Singapore. The U.S. had a trade deficit with China, European Union, Korea, Japan, Mexico, EU, South Korea, India, Canada, OPEC, Taiwan, South Africa, United Kingdom, and Russia (due to OPEC's decision).
Import Volume	In October 2018, the U.S. imported \$11.6 billion of goods, increasing 3.2% from September and the highest annual rate in 2018. October imports of goods were up 1.1% from the same month in 2017. The largest import category in October 2018 was machinery and transport equipment, up 1.1% from the same month in 2017. The largest import category in October 2018 was machinery and transport equipment, up 1.1% from the same month in 2017.
Export Volume	In October 2018, the U.S. exported \$23.1 billion of goods, decreasing 0.2% from September. October exports of total goods and services were up 1.7% from the same month in 2017. The largest export category in October 2018 was machinery and transport equipment, up 1.1% from the same month in 2017.
Import & Export Price Index	The U.S. import price index increased 0.1% in November 2018, following a 0.2% rise the previous month. The November drop was primarily due to a decline in the price of machinery and transport equipment. The largest 12-month increase in the import price index was in January 2018 and 1.2% in December 2018. Lower energy and food prices in November were also a factor in the price index. The export price index increased 0.2% from the previous month.
Unemployment Rate	The unemployment rate in America was 4.7% in November 2018, unchanged from October and the lowest rate since December 2016. In December 2018, the unemployment rate was 4.7%, down from 4.8% in November 2018. The unemployment rate in Georgia was 3.6% in October 2018, down from 3.7% the previous month.
Labor Force Participation Rate	The labor force participation rate was 62.8% in November 2018, unchanged from the previous month. The labor force participation rate in Georgia was 62.8% in November 2018, unchanged from the previous month.
Leading Economic Index	The leading economic index for the U.S. increased 0.1% in October 2018, resulting in a reading of 112.1. According to the Conference Board, "The U.S. economy slightly in October, and the pace of improvement slowed for the first time in 18 months. The index still points to a solid economic growth in early 2019, but the road gets rougher in early 2019. The index is still 0.1% below the long-term trend, but the gap is narrowing. The index is still 0.1% below the long-term trend, but the gap is narrowing. The index is still 0.1% below the long-term trend, but the gap is narrowing."
Funding from	In October 2018, the U.S. received \$1.1 billion of funding from the U.S. Treasury, down from \$1.2 billion in September. The U.S. received \$1.1 billion of funding from the U.S. Treasury, down from \$1.2 billion in September.
Light Vehicle Sales	Light vehicle sales in the U.S. were up 1.1% in October 2018, down from 1.2% in September. Light vehicle sales in the U.S. were up 1.1% in October 2018, down from 1.2% in September.
Personal Income	Personal income increased 0.2% to \$17.8 billion in October 2018. The increase in personal income in October 2018 was primarily due to an increase in wages and salaries, and a decrease in government transfers. Personal income in Georgia was up 0.2% in October 2018, down from 0.1% in September.

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