

CONSULATE GENERAL OF INDIA
SAN FRANCISCO

MONTHLY COMMERCIAL REPORT AUGUST 2015

Important Commercial News – Aug. 2015

1 U S International Trade in Goods & Service

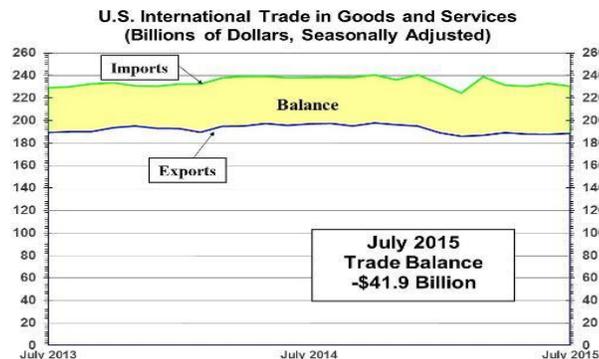
The U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, through the Department of Commerce, announced that the goods and services deficit was \$41.9 billion in July, down \$3.3 billion from \$45.2 billion in June, revised. July exports were \$188.5 billion, \$0.8 billion more than June exports. July imports were \$230.4 billion, \$2.5 billion less than June imports.

The July decrease in the goods and services deficit reflected a decrease in the goods deficit of \$3.4 billion to \$61.4 billion and a decrease in the services surplus of less than \$0.1 billion to \$19.6 billion. Year-to-date, the goods and services deficit increased \$10.6 billion, or 3.6 percent, from the same period in 2014. Exports decreased \$47.0 billion or 3.5 percent. Imports decreased \$36.4 billion or 2.2 percent.

The July figures show surpluses, in billions of dollars, with South and Central America (\$2.6), OPEC (\$0.7), United Kingdom (\$0.3), and Brazil (\$0.2). Deficits were recorded, in billions of dollars, with China (\$28.8), European Union (\$12.4), Germany (\$6.0), Japan (\$5.4), Mexico (\$3.8), Italy (\$2.3), South Korea (\$2.2), Canada (\$2.1), India (\$2.0), France (\$1.1), and Saudi Arabia (\$0.5).

* The deficit with Mexico decreased \$1.6 billion to \$3.8 billion in July. Exports increased \$0.7 billion to \$20.7 billion and imports decreased \$0.9 billion to \$24.5 billion.

* The deficit with the European Union decreased \$1.4 billion to \$12.4 billion in July. Exports increased \$0.5 billion to \$22.4 billion and imports decreased \$1.0 billion to \$34.8 billion.



2 Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg slams Donald Trump's anti-H1-B visa policy

An advocacy group backed by Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg has slammed US presidential aspirant Donald Trump for his proposed immigration policy, which would make it tougher for US companies to hire people on H-1B visas, hugely popular with Indian IT professionals.

In a blog post, FWD.US president Todd Shulte, said Trump's immigration policy on H-1B visas would have a direct impact on America's leadership in innovation and entrepreneurship, and it would also cost a whopping USD 400-500 billion to report all the 11.5 million illegal immigrants.

FWD.US is a leading US advocacy group founded and backed by Zuckerberg and other likeminded info-tech companies pushing for massive immigration that would make it easier for Indian IT professionals to come to the US. Almost 86 per cent of the H-1B visas that the US granted last year for computer

jobs had gone to Indian workers, a Computerworld analysis of government data showed recently.

"The idea we should radically restrict pathways for highly-skilled immigrants to come and stay here is again just wrong," Shulte wrote in his blog, days after Republican candidate Trump singled out the Facebook founder by name as he announced his immigration policy, wherein he proposed to raise the minimum wage for the popular H-1B visas, which at present is mandated to 65,000 per annum.

"Mark Zuckerberg's personal Senator, Marco Rubio, has a bill to triple H-1B that would decimate women and minorities," Trump had said. In his blog, Shulte said sectors with high percentages of H1-Bs not only have unemployment rates substantially lower than the national average, but those geographic areas with more H1-Bs have higher economic growth. Nearly, 40 per cent of Fortune 500 companies have been founded by immigrants or the children of immigrants.

"For every 100 H-1B workers, an additional 183 jobs among US native-born workers are created. Immigrants are nearly twice as likely to start their own business as native-born Americans," he added.

"We need to fix our nation's badly broken immigration system so that more highly-skilled immigrants can create jobs here in the US and that we can continue to be a magnet for the best and the brightest from all over the world; our global competitors aren't waiting while we waste time," he wrote.

That means creating a Startup Visa to help entrepreneurs create the next generation of innovation here in the US; it means clearing the green card backlog to allow those who qualify and want to stay here to build their lives and grow our economy, and it means increasing the numbers of H-1B visas and reforming the program so that we don't run out of spots in the current yearly allotment for this critical program within only a few days every year, he added.

4 Stanford Ignite invites entrepreneurs and innovators to apply for Bangalore program

Stanford Graduate School of Business returns to Bangalore with Stanford Ignite, the 11-week certificate program for innovators and entrepreneurial thinkers. Prospective applicants for the 8 January — 20 March 2016 program may apply online by 29 September 2015.

Designed to deliver the same highly personal and immersive instruction that executives and students at Stanford experience, Stanford Ignite-Bangalore is aimed at technical professionals, innovators, and entrepreneurs with no previous graduate management education; it is also appropriate for non-business graduate students, post-doctoral scholars, engineers, and scientists.

"Stanford Ignite is intended to help innovators move their ideas and discoveries into the marketplace, whether as entrepreneurs or — in the case of innovators within a large company — as intrapreneurs," said faculty director James M. Lattin, the Robert A. Magowan Professor of Marketing. "This program gives high-potential individuals the core business skills and experience for translating their ideas into impactful ventures."

Meeting at the state-of-the-art Infosys facilities over extended weekends, classes are taught by the same world-class Stanford Graduate School of Business faculty who teach in the MBA program, both on the ground as well as through high-definition educational technology from Silicon Valley. In addition, the program is customized to the Indian context with instruction and mentoring provided by business leaders, entrepreneurs, venture capitalists, and coaches from throughout the country.

In aggregate, Stanford Ignite participants have started over 100 successful companies since the program was first introduced at Stanford in 2006.

The first international offering outside Silicon Valley, Stanford Ignite-Bangalore returns to India for the fourth time next year. The program is offered annually in other innovation hubs around the world including Beijing, China; Santiago, Chile; and New York City. It will be offered in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and London, England, in September 2015. It is also offered at Stanford in winter and summer.

Financial support: Accepted applicants will be eligible to apply for a 50% scholarship. The scholarships will be awarded to up to four exceptional self-sponsored participants. Applicants must first be accepted into the program before applying for the fellowship. Tuition fee of US\$8,500 includes course materials, program events, and lunch and dinner for evening and Saturday sessions.

5 Yuvraj Singh invests in US burger chain

Cricketer Yuvraj Singh has now set his eyes on juicy burgers. Singh's company YouWeCan Ventures has invested in American burger chain Carl's Jr that is set to open its first store in India.

CybizBrightStar, the master franchisee of Carl's Jr here, said YouWeCan has picked up an undisclosed amount of equity in the company. This would also lead to Singh acting as 'brand ambassador' for the burger chain that has been associated with celebrities such as Paris Hilton, Kim Kardashian and Padma Lakshmi.

Last month, Singh picked up a stake in JetSetGo, an online marketplace for jets and helicopters. Cybiz, which has interests in the F&B sector, has been looking to raise capital for Carl's Jr. It raised around Rs 12.5 crore from Delhi-based PE Now Foods last month. "With our expansion plan of opening 100 outlets in 10 years across metros and Tier 1 & 2 cities, we aim at raising Rs 180-200 crore in the next couple of years," said Sam Chopra, chairman of Cybiz Corp.

Although, Indian consumers have not been eating out lately much with top QSR chains reporting flat sales, burger brands including Carl's Jr have been flocking to the country due to stagnating sales in bigger markets.

6 India, US to hold key commercial dialogue next month

India and the US will hold first-ever high-level strategic and commercial dialogue next month in Washington focusing on areas such as ease of doing business and smart cities with an aim to boost investment and raise bilateral trade five-fold to US \$ 500 billion annually.

"The Strategic and Commercial Dialogue (S&CD) will be held in Washington DC in 6-7 weeks," US under secretary of commerce for international trade Stefan M Selig told reporters. He is in town to meet with commerce secretary Rita Teatoria for the preparatory talks. Selig said these dialogues will revolve around four areas -- ease of doing business; innovation and entrepreneurship; smart cities with a specific focus on renewable energy, and harmonization of standards to increase trade.

"The S&CD will be the signature, annual dialogue between our two governments. It will serve as a high-level meeting between our senior government and Cabinet officials as well as an ongoing, sustainable forum for policy discussions," he added. Selig said all these steps are meant to strengthen the economic and commercial ties between the two countries and create a stronger partnership.

This commercial track would be a platform for both short-term and long-term deliverables, he said, adding that S&CD would focus on not only securing near-term trade and investment outcome, but areas of long-term collaboration.

"We see that the S&CD also serves as a road map, one that will display the next steps to define our partnership in the medium and long term. "These steps can also be seen as four ambitious and important goals. The first goal is perhaps the

most ambitious: to increase bilateral trade five-fold from USD 100 billion today to USD 500 billion annually," he added.

On Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), he said compulsory licensing and IPR concerns are "obviously something that our two governments continue to talk about at all levels. We will continue to do so".

American companies, particularly from the pharmaceutical sector, have time and again alleged that Indian IPR structure discriminates them. They had also raised concerns over issuance of a compulsory license by India.

7 Dept. of Commerce Announces Private Sector Participants of Upcoming U.S.-India CEO Forum

The Department of Commerce announced the 17 member companies that comprise the U.S. section of the U.S-India CEO Forum, which will hold its next meeting in Washington DC on September 21st. The CEO Forum will gather top business and government leaders from the U.S. and India to discuss efforts to improve the commercial and economic relationship between our two countries. During the Forum, U.S. and India CEOs will have an opportunity to provide joint private sector recommendations directly to high-level government officials from both countries that address economic challenges in several key areas including trade and investment; fostering innovation; developing a skilled workforce; and enabling rapid and secure movement of goods.

Secretary Penny Pritzker of the Department of Commerce and Caroline Atkinson, Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy U.S. National Security Adviser for International Economics, serve as the U.S. government co-chairs for the U.S. India CEO Forum.

The U.S. CEOs selected for this year's Forum include:

- Ajay Banga, President and CEO – MasterCard, Inc.
- Mary Barra, CEO – General Motors

- Sanjay Bhatnagar, President and CEO – WaterHealth International
- Michael Burke, Chairman and CEO – AECOM Technology Corporation
- Ahmad Chatila, CEO – SunEdison, Inc.
- David Cote, Chairman and CEO – Honeywell International, Inc.; Forum Co-Chair
- Andres Gluski, President and CEO – AES Corporation
- Paul Jacobs, Executive Chairman – Qualcomm, Inc.
- Charles R. Kaye, Co-CEO – Warburg Pincus, LLC
- Ellen Kullman, Chair and CEO – DuPont
- Andrew Liveris, Chairman and CEO – The Dow Chemical Company
- Michael Mahoney, President and CEO – Boston Scientific Corporation
- Shantanu Narayen, President and CEO – Adobe Systems, Inc.
- Indra Nooyi, Chairman and CEO – PepsiCo, Inc.
- Dinesh Paliwal, Chairman, President and CEO – Harman International
- Douglas Peterson, President and CEO – McGraw Hill Financial Industries
- James Taiclet, Chairman, President and CEO – American Tower Corporation

8 Trade delegation:

No trade related delegation visited India from the jurisdiction of this Consulate.

A trade delegation from Govt. of Haryana led by Mr. Manohar Lal Kattar, Chief Minister visited the Bay Area from Aug. 19-21, 2015. The delegation comprised of officials from the Govt., HSIIDC and business owners. They held one to one meetings with executives from Oracle, CEO of Acaldgild, and Managing Director of Sifycorp. Besides this they held roundtable workshop at TiE office. They also signed Memorandum of Understanding with Google and Applied Materials to explore the possibilities of doing business in Haryana.

9 Trade enquiries:

During the month of Aug. the following organizations / persons approached this Consulate for various trade related queries. All of them were appropriately responded:

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| a | Mr. Dipesh Suthar, Georgia | Import of Pets |
| b | Agilam Marketing Pvt. Ltd. Madurai | Night wear for women |
| c | Gokul Exim International, TN | Wheat Flour |

d	Rhonda Exports, TN	Socks & White shirts
e	Mr. M.A. Sarma, India	Granite Stone
f	Mr. Ramesh Kothari, Rajasthan	Industrial Mineral, Marble & Granite
g	Benjamin Ho, San Jose	Laptops
h	Sri Vittal Exports, TN	Fresh Vegetables, Rice, Spices
i	Mr. Saravanan S., India	Sarees
j	Mr. Sanjay Patel, Sacramento	Foreign Collaboration
k	Rey Cera Creation, Gujrat	Ceramic Tiles
l	Far Wind Exports, India	Coconut Water
m	Ike Trading Company Ltd., Oregon	Lumber
n	Sethi Exports & Manufacturers, India	Silk Sarees

9 Trade Disputes:

Mr. Naresh Srivastava of Longmarch International of Kanpur approached this Consulate regarding non-payment of dues from Dass Trading Company, Turlock, CA. The Post has taken up the case with the California based company requesting them to settle their differences amicably.

The Post was also approached by Ms Vickie Petticord of E. Jordan Brook Company, Santa Fe Springs, California complaining non-payment of dues from Mr. Vishwanath Krishna Dikshit & Mr. Prasanna Dikshit against the goods supplied by the California based company. Consulate raised the issue with the individuals in India and was successful in getting a commitment from them for leasing the payment.

10 Visas:

During the month of Aug. this Consulate issued **1061** Business and **3511** Tourist visas.

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