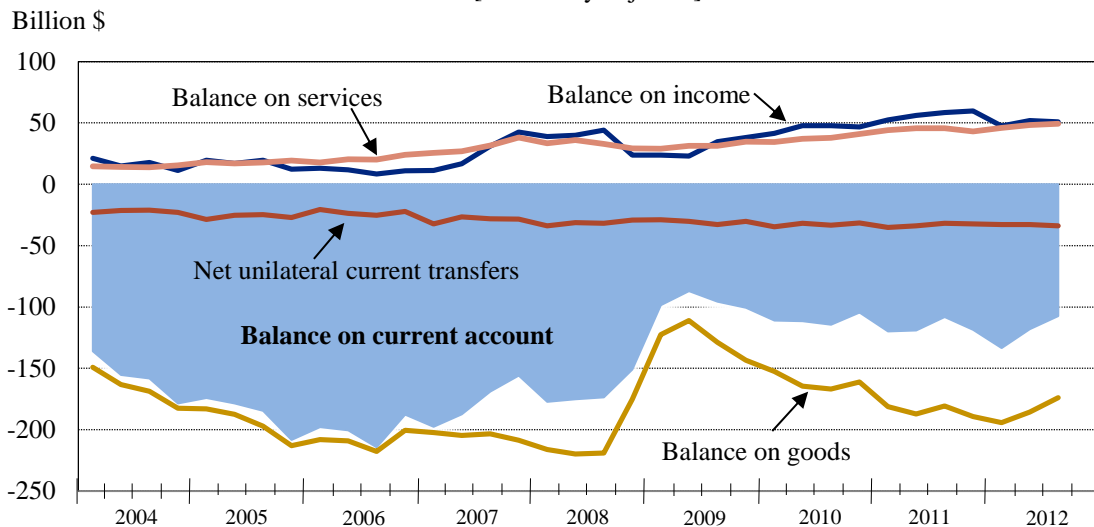


U.S. CURRENT-ACCOUNT DEFICIT DECREASES IN THIRD QUARTER 2012

Preliminary estimates of U.S. international transactions

The U.S. current-account deficit—the combined balances on trade in goods and services, income, and net unilateral current transfers—decreased to \$107.5 billion (preliminary) in the third quarter of 2012 from \$118.1 billion (revised) in the second quarter of 2012. As a percentage of U.S. GDP, the deficit decreased to 2.7 percent from 3.0 percent. The previously published current-account deficit for the second quarter was \$117.4 billion.

U.S. Current-Account Balance and Its Components
[Seasonally adjusted]



- The deficit on international trade in goods decreased to \$173.9 billion from \$185.7 billion, as goods imports decreased more than goods exports.
- The surplus on international trade in services increased to \$49.4 billion from \$48.3 billion, as services receipts increased more than services payments.
- The surplus on income decreased to \$50.8 billion from \$52.1 billion, as income payments increased more than income receipts.
- Net unilateral current transfers to foreign residents were \$33.8 billion, up from \$32.7 billion.

Net financial inflows were \$45.8 billion in the third quarter, down from \$105.0 billion in the second.

- U.S.-owned assets abroad increased \$229.8 billion in the third quarter after decreasing \$248.2 billion in the second.
- Foreign-owned assets in the United States increased \$282.0 billion in the third quarter after decreasing \$143.6 billion in the second.

BEA data—including GDP, personal income, the balance of payments, foreign direct investment, the input-output accounts, and economic data for states, local areas, and industries—are available on the BEA Web site: www.bea.gov. [E-mail](#) alerts are also available.

NOTE: The next release of U.S. international transactions will be on March 14, 2013.