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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:	
<b>Gross Domestic Product</b>	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. In a more moderate pace, the second estimate of real gross domestic product increased more after the stimulus transfer to personal consumption expenditures (PCE) and state and local government spending. Imports, which are a subtraction in the total value of GDP, increased 1.0% over the year. As of December 1, the total GDP was \$18.6 trillion for the third quarter (seasonally adjusted annual rate) and the fourth quarter of 2018 is 3.5% (seasonally adjusted annual rate). (Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis)
<b>U.S. Trade Deficit</b>	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 France (Source: U.S. Census Bureau)
<b>Import Volume</b>	In October 2018, the U.S. imported \$11.6 billion of goods, increasing 3.7% from September and the highest annual rate in recent years. October imports of goods from the top 10 countries (China, EU, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Canada, U.S., Taiwan, South Africa, and Singapore) increased 1.1% from the prior month. (Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis)
<b>Export Volume</b>	In October 2018, the U.S. exported \$2.1 billion of goods, decreasing 0.2% from September. October exports of industrial goods and materials (\$17.2 billion), consumer goods (\$17.8 billion), and petroleum (\$18.7 billion) were the highest in recent years. (Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis)
<b>Import &amp; Export Price Index</b>	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 led by some food prices. U.S. import prices decreased 0.2% in November. The largest 1-month decrease in the index was for coffee, in January 2018 and 1.2% in December 2018. Lower agricultural prices in November were driven down by strong agricultural prices. Change in the November index: U.S. import prices increased 1.2% from the prior year. (Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis)
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	The unemployment rate in America was 4.7% in November 2018, unchanged from October and the lowest rate since December 2016. It previously hit 4.6% and then jobs were created in November 2018, slightly less than what had been added in October. However, all a strong number. In the first 11 months of 2018, 2.17 million net new jobs were created, the most since 2017. The unemployment rate in Georgia was 3.6% in October 2018, down from 3.7% the previous month. (Source: BLS, BLS, BLS)
<b>Labor Force Participation Rate</b>	The labor force participation rate was 62.8% in November 2018, unchanged from the previous month. The labor force participation rate is the number of people working or looking for work divided by the total number of people aged 16 and over. (Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, BLS, BLS) The labor force participation rate remains at a historic low of 62.8% after a long period of recovery from 2010.
<b>Leading Economic Index</b>	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 LEI increased slightly in October, and the pace of improvement slowed for the first time in over a year. The index still points to a modest economic growth in early 2019, but the rapid pace of growth in early 2018 has been slowed. While still a leading indicator, the index's track record has been mixed. The index is likely to be a moderate to slow indicator in early 2019." (Source: Conference Board) Note: The index was seasonally adjusted and annualized. (Source: Conference Board) The index is a composite of 10 economic indicators that together provide a snapshot of the economy and predict the future pace. The annual seasonally adjusted rate is a composite of 10 economic indicators that together provide a snapshot of the economy and predict the future pace. The index is a composite of 10 economic indicators that together provide a snapshot of the economy and predict the future pace. The index is a composite of 10 economic indicators that together provide a snapshot of the economy and predict the future pace.
<b>Freight Rates</b>	In October 2018, freight rates were up 1.1% from the previous month, up 2.7% from the previous month. The index is a composite of 10 economic indicators that together provide a snapshot of the economy and predict the future pace. The index is a composite of 10 economic indicators that together provide a snapshot of the economy and predict the future pace. The index is a composite of 10 economic indicators that together provide a snapshot of the economy and predict the future pace. The index is a composite of 10 economic indicators that together provide a snapshot of the economy and predict the future pace.
<b>Light Vehicle Sales</b>	Light vehicle sales were up 1.1% from the previous month, up 2.7% from the previous month. The index is a composite of 10 economic indicators that together provide a snapshot of the economy and predict the future pace. The index is a composite of 10 economic indicators that together provide a snapshot of the economy and predict the future pace. The index is a composite of 10 economic indicators that together provide a snapshot of the economy and predict the future pace. The index is a composite of 10 economic indicators that together provide a snapshot of the economy and predict the future pace.
<b>Personal Income</b>	Personal income increased 0.2% to \$17.8 trillion in October 2018. The increase in personal income in October was due to an increase in wages, salaries, and benefits, and government income. Personal income in October was up 0.2% from the previous month. Personal income increased 1.1% in October, which is a solid indicator of economic growth. Personal income in October was up 0.2% from the previous month. Personal income increased 1.1% in October, which is a solid indicator of economic growth. Personal income in October was up 0.2% from the previous month. Personal income increased 1.1% in October, which is a solid indicator of economic growth.

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