

Global Manufacturing Economic Update



Essential Takes on Leading Economic Indicators

By [Chad Moutray](#) and [Linda Dempsey](#) ♦ April 18, 2019

Global Growth Continued to Slow, but Chinese Economy Stabilizes

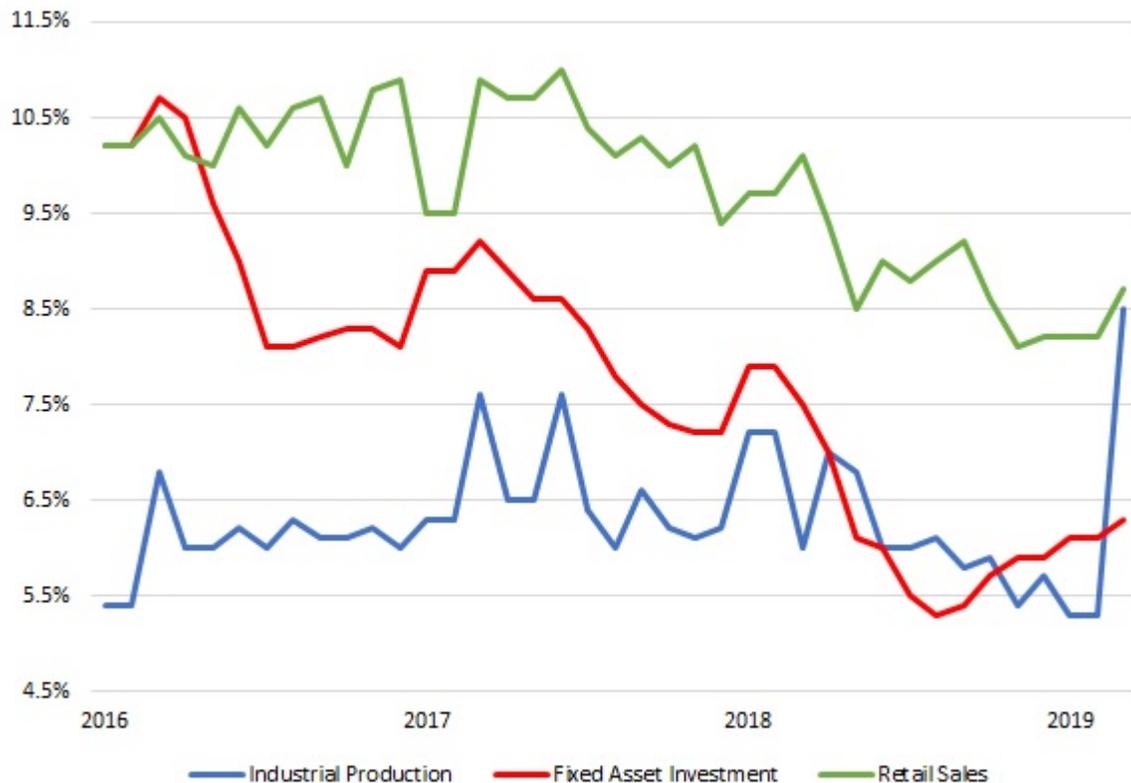
The Monthly Toplines

- The International Monetary Fund [expects global growth to slow](#) from 3.6 percent in 2018 to 3.3 percent in 2019, according to its latest World Economic Outlook. That estimate is down 0.2 percent from its January outlook. The IMF forecasts real GDP growth of 2.3 percent in the United States in 2019, down from 2.9 percent in 2018, and it predicts that advanced economies will ease from 2.2 percent in 2018 to 1.8 percent in 2019.
- This was consistent with softening growth in other indicators as well. For instance, the [J.P. Morgan Global Manufacturing PMI](#) was unchanged in March at 50.6, remaining the slowest growth rate since June 2016. The headline index has decelerated since reaching nearly a seven-year high in December 2017 (54.4), even with a slight positive expansion overall.
- Seven of the top 20 markets for U.S.-manufactured goods exports contracted in March, the same pace as in February. In March, [China](#) and [Singapore](#) expanded for the first time since late last year, but [France](#) and [Mexico](#) both returned to negative territory. Other markets that continued to contract included [Germany](#), [Hong Kong](#), [Italy](#), [Japan](#), [South Korea](#) and [Taiwan](#).
- Interestingly, the [United Kingdom](#) had the strongest PMI reading among these markets, but this might be somewhat deceiving. The solid reading in March in the United Kingdom had more to do with stockpiling of inventories as manufacturers tried to get ahead of Brexit uncertainties.
- The [Caixin China General Manufacturing PMI](#) expanded for the first time since November, suggesting that business leaders felt somewhat more upbeat in March. [Real GDP](#) held steady at 6.4 percent growth year-over-year in the first

quarter of 2019, and following notable decelerations starting at the tail end of last year, Chinese [industrial production](#), [fixed asset investment](#) and [retail sales](#) all ramped up in March.

- The [IHS Markit Eurozone Manufacturing PMI](#) contracted for the second straight month, dropping to the lowest level since April 2013, and [industrial production](#) fell for the fourth time in the past six months. More encouragingly, [retail sales](#) grew for the second straight month in February, and the [unemployment rate](#) remained at 7.8 percent in February, the lowest since October 2008.
- The [U.S. trade deficit](#) pulled back further from the 10-year high of \$59.90 billion in December to \$51.13 billion in January and \$49.38 billion in February, the lowest point since June 2018. More importantly, U.S.-manufactured goods exports rose 1.65 percent in the first two months of 2019 relative to the same time frame in 2018, extending the solid growth last year overall.
- Manufacturers continue to focus on key trade developments at home and overseas, including:
 - Efforts to finalize a durable and enforceable trade deal between the United States and China and address tariffs that are undermining U.S. manufacturing activity;
 - Continued work by the administration and manufacturers to promote passage of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement;
 - Prospects for Senate action on the four nominees to the U.S. Export-Import Bank Board of Directors needed to restore a quorum following the recent Senate rules change, and for House movement on robust and long-term Ex-Im reauthorization legislation;
 - Action to move forward a strong reform and modernization agenda for the World Trade Organization;
 - Updates on border personnel movements and impacts on manufacturers;
 - Foreign trade barriers identified as part of the U.S. Trade Representative's annual report released at the end of March; and
 - Updates on the United Kingdom's efforts to negotiate an exit from the European Union.

Chinese Economic Indicators, Year-Over-Year, 2016–2019



Global Economic Trends

- Worldwide Manufacturing Activity:** The [J.P. Morgan Global Manufacturing PMI](#) was unchanged in March at 50.6, remaining the slowest growth rate since June 2016. The headline index has decelerated since reaching nearly a seven-year high in December 2017 (54.4), even with a slight positive expansion overall. In the latest survey, new orders were neutral for the second straight month. Exports continued to contract, but hiring and employment expanded modestly in March. On the positive side, the index for future output accelerated somewhat in March, with that indicator signaling strong production growth over the coming months. In addition, raw material costs continued to expand modestly, with the index for input prices unchanged but at the lowest point since September 2016.
- Top 20 Markets for U.S.-Manufactured Goods:** Among the largest export destinations, seven economies had declining manufacturing activity in March, the same number as in February. As such, the data continue to reflect softness in the sector globally. In March, [China](#) and [Singapore](#) expanded for the first time since late last year, but [France](#) and [Mexico](#) both returned to negative territory. Other markets that continued to contract included [Germany](#), [Hong Kong](#), [Italy](#), [Japan](#), [South Korea](#) and [Taiwan](#). Interestingly, the [United Kingdom](#) had the strongest PMI reading among these markets, but this might be somewhat deceiving. The solid reading in March in the United Kingdom had more to do with stockpiling of inventories as manufacturers tried to get ahead

of Brexit uncertainties. (Note that there are no manufacturing PMIs for comparison purposes for Belgium or Chile, our 13th and 20th largest trading partners, respectively.)

- **Trade-Weighted U.S. Dollar Index Against Major Currencies:** After pulling back somewhat in January and February, the dollar has [trended higher](#) over the past few weeks, according to the Federal Reserve. Indeed, the U.S. dollar has risen 8.6 percent since Jan. 25, 2018, with manufacturers continuing to cite foreign exchange risks in their earnings reports. This index reflects currency rates per U.S. dollar, suggesting the dollar can purchase somewhat more today than it could roughly one year ago. At the same time, a stronger dollar also makes it more difficult to increase international demand, and the dollar has jumped 21.4 percent since June 30, 2014.
- **Eurozone:** The [IHS Markit Eurozone Manufacturing PMI](#) contracted for the second straight month, with that measure dropping from 49.3 in February to 47.5 in March, the lowest level since April 2013. New orders, exports and output also contracted in March, with sales declining at the fastest pace since December 2012. It was the sixth consecutive monthly decrease for both new orders and exports. At the same time, hiring expanded marginally in March, and the index for future output indicated modest growth over the next six months, albeit with some continued weakening in expectations.

On a country-by-country basis, the data mostly reflect the softening seen in the headline index. [Germany](#) contracted for the third straight month, with that measure falling to a level not seen since July 2012 and with new orders dropping at the fastest pace since April 2009. [Italy](#) has now contracted for six consecutive months, with its headline index being the weakest since May 2013, and [France](#) has seen activity decline in two of the past four months, including in March. In addition, manufacturers reported stagnant growth in [Austria](#), the slowest reading since March 2015. On the positive side, manufacturers in [Spain](#) cited expanding new orders and output once again in March, rebounding from an ever-so-slight contraction in February. Moreover, modest growth in the sector occurred in [Greece](#), [Ireland](#), the [Netherlands](#) and the [United Kingdom](#). As noted earlier, British manufacturers were stockpiling to stay ahead of Brexit uncertainty, with inventories at three-year highs for the third straight month.

Meanwhile, [real GDP](#) increased 1.8 percent in 2018, but on a year-over-year basis, Eurozone growth continues to slow, down from 1.6 percent in the third quarter to 1.1 percent in the fourth quarter. Moreover, [industrial production](#) fell for the fourth time in the past six months, down 0.2 percent in February on weaknesses in every category except nondurable consumer goods. Production declined 0.3 percent over the past 12 months, highlighting softer activity since February 2018. More encouragingly, [retail sales](#) grew for the second straight month, up 0.4 percent in February or 2.8 percent year-over-year. Along those lines, the [unemployment rate](#) continued to show labor market strength, remaining at 7.8 percent in February, the lowest since October 2008.

- **China:** The [Caixin China General Manufacturing PMI](#) expanded for the first time since November, suggesting that business leaders felt somewhat more upbeat in March. Key measures all increased, reflecting modest growth for the month, including for new orders, exports, output and employment. In addition, survey respondents continued to expect modest growth in production over the next six months. Similarly, the [official manufacturing PMI](#) data from the National Bureau of Statistics of China also reflected a rebound in activity, with that measure increasing from 49.2 in February, the lowest point since August 2012, to 50.5 in March. It was the first expansion in activity in the sector in China since October.

Overall, [real GDP](#) held steady at 6.4 percent growth year-over-year in the first quarter of 2019, the same pace as the fourth quarter of 2018. While this remained the slowest pace of growth since the fourth quarter of 1990, it suggests that China's economy has stabilized following sizable decelerations starting at the tail end of last year. Indeed, [industrial production](#) ramped up in March, expanding 8.5 percent year-over-year, the strongest gain since July 2014 and up sharply from 5.3 percent in January/February, which had been the weakest reading since March 2002. In addition, [fixed asset investment](#) and [retail sales](#) also accelerated to the best readings since at least mid-2018.

- **Canada:** The [IHS Markit Canada Manufacturing PMI](#) expanded at the slowest pace since September 2016, with the headline index declining from 52.6 in February to 50.5 in March. New orders contracted ever so slightly, pulled lower by falling exports. Hiring growth also weakened in March to the lowest point since October 2016. On a more positive note, manufacturers responding to the latest survey continue to be optimistic about production over the next six months, even as the future output index eased somewhat in March. Meanwhile, [manufacturing sales](#) fell 0.2 percent in February, led by weaknesses in the durable goods sectors, including motor vehicles. On a year-over-year basis, manufacturing sales have increased just 0.9 percent since February 2018.

In addition, [real GDP](#) edged up 0.1 percent in the fourth quarter, with 1.8 percent growth for 2018 as a whole, down from 3.0 percent in 2017. [Retail sales](#) declined 0.3 percent in January, falling for the third straight month, but spending rose 0.2 percent with motor vehicles and parts and gasoline station sales excluded. On a year-over-year basis, retail sales have risen just 1.1 percent since January 2018. (New retail spending data will be released April 18.)

At the same time, the [unemployment rate](#) remained at 5.8 percent in March for the third straight month, not far from the 5.6 percent rate in December, which was the lowest point since the survey began in 1976. Manufacturing employment [increased](#) by 4,500 in March, but with just 1,500 more employees added over the past 12 months. ♦

- **Mexico:** The [IHS Markit Mexico Manufacturing PMI](#) contracted for the third time in the past five months in March, ending two months of progress. Indeed,

the headline index dropped from 52.6 in February, the best reading in 13 months, to 49.8 in March, with key measures slowing across the board and with both employment and output declining for the month. In addition, [industrial production](#) fell for the fourth consecutive month, down 0.8 percent over the past 12 months. At the same time, manufacturing production rose 1.1 percent year-over-year. Mexican industrial activity remains subpar overall.

- **Japan:** The [Nikkei Japan Manufacturing PMI](#) contracted for the second straight month, pulled lower by declining new orders, exports and output. Employment growth softened to the slowest pace of growth in the sector since November 2016, but the index for future output improved somewhat, signaling an outlook for modest growth in production for the next six months. In the larger economy, [real GDP](#) grew an annualized 1.9 percent in the fourth quarter, bouncing back from a 2.4 percent decline in the third quarter. Overall, the Japanese economy expanded just 0.8 percent in 2018. Meanwhile, [industrial production](#) increased 1.4 percent in February following three straight months of declines, but with output down 1.0 percent over the past 12 months. ♦
- **Emerging Markets:** After contracting in January for the first time since June 2016, the IHS Markit Emerging Markets Manufacturing PMI has expanded for two straight months, with the headline index growing at the fastest pace since July 2018. The emerging markets, which had been weighed down by softer global growth and a strong U.S. dollar, should benefit from a more dovish monetary policy from the Federal Reserve. In March, new orders, exports and output led the rebound, and manufacturers continued to see healthy gains in production over the next six months. Moreover, hiring was positive in March for the first time since January 2018.

The country-by-country data were mixed in March. [Nigeria](#), [Russia](#), the [United Arab Emirates](#) and [Vietnam](#) all experienced gains, but activity slipped somewhat ♦ several at multi-month lows, but still expanding modestly ♦ in [Brazil](#), [India](#), [Kenya](#), [Myanmar](#) and the [Philippines](#). As noted earlier, [China](#) and [Singapore](#) both expanded in March for the first time since late last year. In contrast, several emerging markets remained in negative territory in March with ongoing challenges, including the [Czech Republic](#), [Hong Kong](#), [Lebanon](#), [Malaysia](#), [Poland](#) and [South Korea](#).

- **International Trade:** The U.S. [trade deficit](#) pulled back further from the 10-year high of \$59.90 billion in December to \$51.13 billion in January and \$49.38 billion in February, the lowest point since June 2018. In general, the data have been highly volatile over the past year, with wild swings from month to month. In February, goods exports increased from \$137.45 billion to \$139.55 billion, buoyed by strength in civilian aircraft and passenger car exports. This was enough to counteract a gain in goods imports from \$210.67 billion to \$211.56 billion. Goods imports were led by solid growth in cell phone imports, but the Census Bureau noted that the volume of crude oil imports (172.4 million barrels) was the lowest since March 2012. In addition, the service-sector trade surplus rose from \$22.09 billion to \$22.63 billion, an eight-month high.

Encouragingly, U.S.-manufactured goods exports rose 5.6 percent in 2018 to just shy of \$1.4 trillion, using new seasonally adjusted data from [TradeStats Express](#). As such, last year's export pace was not far from the all-time high recorded in 2014, which was just more than \$1.4 trillion. For the first two months of 2019, U.S.-manufactured goods exports totaled \$178.11 billion using non-seasonally adjusted data, up 1.65 percent from \$175.22 billion for the same time frame in 2018. ♦

International Trade Policy Trends

- ***Senior U.S., Chinese negotiators hold repeated rounds of talks toward possible deal.*** Following a lull of several weeks, face-to-face dialogue between senior U.S. and Chinese negotiators resumed in late March, with rounds of talks held March 28 ♦ 29 in Beijing and April 2 ♦ 3 in Washington, D.C., further phone calls last week and potential further negotiations in late April and early May.
 - The meetings and calls focused heavily on text for a potential bilateral agreement, with growing signals from both sides that they are getting closer to a potential deal that could reach 150 pages. The discussions, led by U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Chinese Vice Premier Liu He, involved detailed work on text covering a [full mix of thorny bilateral issues](#), including structural issues such as forced technology transfer, intellectual property rights, cyber-theft, agriculture, services, nontariff barriers and currency; specific enforcement mechanisms to ensure that both sides meet commitments made; and purchases of U.S. goods and services.
 - Both U.S. and Chinese statements surrounding these talks have pointed to progress, with [U.S.](#) and [Chinese](#) official statements citing progress and a Secretary Mnuchin [press interview](#) hinting that the two sides may have even agreed to concrete enforcement mechanisms.
 - Yet a range of challenging issues remain, adding continued risk in the negotiations. NAM sources indicate there may still be sticking points not only on tariffs and enforcement, but also structural issues such as intellectual property, technology transfer and industrial policies. President Trump on April 4 said there would be no announcement of a summit until a deal is reached, and recent intel indicates the potential of additional in-person discussions in late April and early May.
 - The NAM continues to stress, both [publicly](#) and directly with senior administration officials, the need to address manufacturers' top concerns and to work toward a comprehensive, robust bilateral trade agreement that addresses [top manufacturing priorities](#).

For more on the NAM's work on China issues, contact [NAM Vice President of International Economic Affairs Linda Dempsey and NAM](#)

[Director of International Business Policy Ryan Ong.](#)

- ***Trump administration and manufacturers continue efforts to advance USMCA passage in 2019.***> Efforts to move forward the USMCA to legislative consideration continue apace:
 - President Trump met with the House USMCA Republican whip team in late March to assess current support, and Ambassador Lighthizer continues to press for USMCA support on Capitol Hill, particularly with House Democratic members.
 - House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Richard Neal (D-MA) issued three letters to the administration over the past two weeks, [one](#) setting forth the main issues on which Democrats are focused on regarding USMCA (including labor, environment, enforcement and medicines issues) and two more signed by all 25 Democrats on the committee, focused on ensuring that the USMCA concretely improves [labor conditions](#) and [environmental standards](#) in Mexico.
 - Separately, Congressmen Bill Pascrell (D-NJ) and Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) led a [letter](#) to Ambassador Lighthizer signed by 85 Democrats focused on labor and enforcement issues.
 - Mexico's lower chamber passed labor law reforms last week that are vital to ensure Mexico's full implementation of the agreement and to build Democratic support on Capitol Hill. Mexico's upper chamber is expected to take up the legislation before the end of the month.
 - The United States International Trade Commission is expected to issue its report on the USMCA as soon as today, and the administration could send to Congress in the coming weeks a draft legislative package on which Congress will provide input before the final USMCA implementing bill is sent.
 - Manufacturers continue to canvass Capitol Hill and hold in-district meetings to explain why passage of the USMCA is [critical](#) for the U.S. manufacturing sector and manufacturing workers. Just last week, manufacturers [released 50 state fact sheets](#) on the importance of the USMCA to manufacturers in every state. The NAM continues to work closely with its members, as co-leader of the [USMCA Coalition](#) and a member of the [Pass USMCA coalition](#), to move this important agreement forward in the months ahead. In the coming weeks and months, the NAM will continue to lead strong advocacy, grassroots and communications efforts to advance the USMCA.

For more information, contact [NAM Vice President of International Economic Affairs Linda Dempsey](#) and [NAM Director of International Trade Policy Ken Monahan](#).

- ***NAM urges quick Senate action on Ex-Im nominees following Senate rules change, while pursuing long-term reauthorization.*** On April 11, NAM President and CEO Jay Timmons sent this [letter](#) to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) urging quick action on the four Ex-Im Board of

Directors nominees following the Senate's procedural rule change. Manufacturers were also out in force at the annual [Export-Import Bank 2019 Annual Conference](#) at the end of March, where NAM Vice President of Government Relations [Jordan Stoick](#) moderated a panel on the importance of the Ex-Im Bank to the manufacturing supply chain. The panel, which also featured Click Bond President and CEO and NAM Executive Committee member Karl Hutter, [explored](#) the importance of preserving and protecting manufacturing, service and logistics across the U.S. supply chain, in terms of both American employment and national security. The NAM remains heavily engaged in advocating a strong multiyear reauthorization of the Ex-Im Bank, well before its reauthorization expires at the end of September. For more information, contact [NAM Vice President of International Economic Affairs Linda Dempsey](#).

- ***Presidential determination on Section 232 automotive report due mid-May.*** Despite Capitol Hill and business community requests, the administration has yet to make public the Commerce Department's final Section 232 report on the national security implications of automobile and automotive parts imports that was delivered to President Trump on Feb. 17. The president has 90 days from Feb. 17 to make a decision on what, if any, action to take. The NAM has weighed in repeatedly regarding this investigation, explaining in [written comments](#), [oral testimony](#) and in multiple media engagements that these imports do not represent a national security threat and that commercial issues should be dealt with through commercial actions, such as the soon-to-be launched talks with Japan and the European Union. Members of Congress also continue to weigh in and [urge a rejection of tariffs](#). Several pieces of legislation to reform Section 232 procedures have also been introduced, including by [Sens. Pat Toomey \(R-PA\) and Mark Warner \(D-VA\)](#) and [Sens. Rob Portman \(R-OH\) and Doug Jones \(D-AL\)](#). For more information, contact [NAM Vice President of International Economic Affairs Linda Dempsey and NAM Director of International Trade Policy Ken Monahan](#).
- ***The NAM seeks fully functional and modern WTO.*** NAM President and CEO Jay Timmons and NAM Vice President of International Economic Affairs Linda Dempsey visited [WTO](#) headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, at the end of March to seek updates on reform efforts and share manufacturers' views that a reformed and modernized WTO that focuses on trade liberalization is critical. They met with [Director-General Roberto Azev do](#), [Deputy Director-General Alan Wolff](#) and ambassadors from Australia, Canada, the European Union and New Zealand. More information on the NAM's findings and views are found in [this blog](#). For more information, contact [Linda and NAM Director of International Trade Policy Ken Monahan](#).
- ***The Trump administration shifts border resources to address immigration issues.*** On March 27, U.S. Customs and Border Protection [announced plans](#) to reassign for at least 30 days border agents to assist border patrol processing facilities "to process, care for and transport individuals in custody." While operational details about the flow of commercial goods across the U.S.  Mexico border are still emerging, initial reports indicate

changes that are impacting commercial traffic across the border, including the [shutdown of Sunday service](#) for commercial truck processing through Nogales' Mariposa crossing and closures and delays at other ports across the border in Texas (El Paso, Laredo, Brownsville and Hidalgo), Arizona (Nogales) and California (Otay Mesa). Additional changes to when and if commercial processing lanes are open and the number of personnel inspecting commercial crossing are possible. On April 2, the NAM issued a [full release](#) with a statement from NAM President and CEO Jay Timmons and statistics from NAM Chief Economist Chad Moutray, calling for robust action on [comprehensive immigration reform](#) and laying out the negative impact for manufacturers of a temporary closing of the U.S. ♦ Mexico border. The NAM is monitoring the situation closely, actively engaging with NAM members on these issues and communicating with senior levels of the administration. For more information, contact [NAM Vice President of International Economic Affairs Linda Dempsey](#), [NAM Director of International Trade Policy Ken Monahan](#) and [NAM Director of International Business Policy Ryan Ong](#).

- ***USTR releases 2019 National Trade Estimate Report on foreign trade barriers.*** On March 29, USTR [released](#) its longstanding [annual report](#) on international trade barriers around the world, highlighting trade barriers in 65 markets. The report, more than 500 pages in length:
 - Includes a major focus on areas such as the European Union, as well as markets in Asia (China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Thailand and Vietnam), the Americas (Argentina, Brazil and Canada), Europe (Russia) and Africa (Kenya);
 - Covers a wide range of priority trade barriers that the [NAM highlighted in its October 2018 comments](#), including import tariffs, export subsidies and limitations, discriminatory localization policies, lack of intellectual property protection, technical barriers to trade, investment restrictions and digital trade; and
 - Includes a series of more detailed documents, including a summary of the [biggest developments highlighted in the report](#), and fact sheets on [reductions in technical barriers to trade](#), [successes on sanitary and phytosanitary issues](#) and [digital trade barriers](#).

For more information about this report and the NAM's efforts to highlight trade barriers that are impacting manufacturers in the United States, contact [NAM Director of International Business Policy Ryan Ong](#).

- ***The United States and Japan started trade talks this week.*** The United States and Japan continued [bilateral trade discussions](#) toward a trade agreement from April 15 to 16 in Washington, D.C., with meetings between Ambassador Lighthizer and Japanese Economy Minister Toshiimitsu Motegi. The talks built on the September [joint statement](#) between President Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and focused on trade in goods, including agriculture, as well as digital trade. The NAM provided manufacturers' [priorities](#) for the negotiations in November, and USTR released a [summary](#) of U.S.

objectives for the negotiations in December. For more information, contact [NAM Director of International Trade Policy Ken Monahan](#).

- ***The EU extends Brexit deadline until October 31, while British Prime Minister Theresa May continues to seek shorter-term solution.*** On April 11, EU leaders [granted](#) an extension of the deadline for the United Kingdom to leave the EU to October 31. Under the terms of the extension, the UK must participate in European elections in May or depart the EU on June 1 without a Brexit deal. Prime Minister May continues to work with the UK Parliament to try to push for an earlier exit. That outcome would require the UK Parliament to approve her agreement with the EU on the [withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union](#), which the House of Commons has rejected twice this year. European Council President Donald Tusk said on April 11 that “the course of action will be entirely in the UK’s hands,” and that the UK “can still ratify the withdrawal agreement, in which case the extension can be terminated” or the UK could choose to “cancel Brexit altogether.” For more information, contact [NAM Director of International Trade Policy Ken Monahan](#).

Take Action

- ***Stop Fakes Roadshows***

Ongoing

These roadshows deliver important information about intellectual property to the audience that needs it most: start-ups, entrepreneurs, small and medium-sized businesses, independent creators and inventors. Experts from multiple government agencies that deal with intellectual property issues present the information. To learn more, click [here](#).

- ***Webinar: Doing Business in Namibia***

April 24, 2019

U.S. Embassy Windhoek will host a webinar on opportunities for U.S. businesses in Namibia on Wednesday, April 24, at 9:00 a.m. EDT. The webinar is free and open to all U.S. businesses that may be interested in business opportunities in Namibia and will be hosted by U.S. Ambassador to Namibia Lisa A. Johnson. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

- ***Webinar: Investment and Export Opportunities to Enable Rwanda’s Agriculture Transformation***

April 29, 2019

U.S. Embassy Kigali will host a webinar on investment and export opportunities for U.S. businesses in Rwanda’s agriculture sector on Monday, April 29, at 10:00 a.m. EDT. The webinar is free and open to all U.S. businesses that may be interested in business opportunities in Rwanda and will be hosted by U.S. Ambassador to Rwanda Peter Vrooman. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

- **Caribbean Microgrid Infrastructure Reverse Trade Mission**

April 29 ♦ May 4, 2019

Washington, D.C. and New York, New York

The U.S. Trade and Development Agency is hosting the Caribbean Microgrid Infrastructure Reverse Trade Mission. This visit will bring energy infrastructure decision-makers from Belize, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines to the United States to introduce them to U.S. microgrid technologies, equipment and services that can support the development and implementation of resilient electricity infrastructure. The itinerary will provide opportunities for U.S. companies to meet with and showcase their solutions to the delegation, as well as learn about upcoming microgrid-related project opportunities in the Caribbean. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

- **FABTECH**

May 7 ♦ 9, 2019

Monterrey, Mexico

FABTECH is the primary gathering for leading metal manufacturers in Mexico. Attendees from Mexico and South America will converge to find solutions, network, learn and experience firsthand the latest innovations in the metal forming, fabricating, welding and finishing industries. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

- **Argentina ICT Modernization Reverse Trade Mission**

May 13 ♦ 22, 2019

San Jose, California

The USTDA is hosting a delegation of decision-makers from Argentina's information and communications technology sector for an introduction of cutting-edge U.S. technologies that can support improvements in Argentina's e-government services, the modernization of cybersecurity protection systems and the expansion of internet access to urban and rural populations. The itinerary will connect delegates from Argentina's local and federal governments to leading U.S. technology providers that offer viable solutions to support the development and expansion of fiber-optic networks, broadband infrastructure, communications satellites, e-government services and data centers. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

- **Reverse Trade Mission: Kenya Emergency Communications Systems**

May 13 ♦ 22, 2019

Washington, D.C.; Chicago, Illinois; and Silicon Valley, California

The USTDA is hosting a visit to connect Kenyan decision-makers with leading U.S. emergency management companies and solutions providers. The itinerary will introduce the delegation to U.S. technologies, services and policies featuring international best practices in emergency communications systems. The visit occurs as the Kenyan government seeks to upgrade the country's emergency communications systems and improve responses to natural disasters in remote areas. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

- Latin America Microgrid Infrastructure Reverse Trade Mission**
 June 10-14, 2019
 Washington, D.C. and Chicago, Illinois

The USTDA is hosting a reverse trade mission that will bring energy sector decision-makers from Brazil, Costa Rica, Panama and Peru to the United States to introduce them to U.S. microgrid technologies, equipment and services that can support the development and implementation of accessible and resilient electricity infrastructure. For more information, click [here](#).
- Reverse Trade Mission: Turkey Live Wire Maintenance and Repair**
 June 11-22, 2019
 Washington, D.C.; Atlanta, Georgia; and Kansas City, Missouri

The USTDA is hosting a delegation of Turkish power sector decision-makers to introduce them to leading U.S. companies and training facilities supporting the live wire and maintenance repair sector. The visit occurs as the Turkish Government plans to invest in modern technologies to meet growing demand in its energy sector and to ensure the safety of linemen workers while minimizing service disruption. As part of the itinerary, the USTDA will host a [business briefing](#) for U.S. companies to learn about upcoming project opportunities in Turkey's energy sector. For more information, click [here](#).
- Indo-Pacific LNG Supply and Gas Infrastructure Reverse Trade Mission**
 June 17-21, 2019
 Washington, D.C. and Houston, Texas

The USTDA is hosting a reverse trade mission to build upon the USTDA's ongoing collaboration with Japan's Ministry of Tourism, Economy and Industry on developing high-quality infrastructure in the Indo-Pacific region. Decision-makers from Indonesia, Vietnam and the Philippines will participate in a series of trainings designed to increase their knowledge and capacity in developing and implementing LNG and gas infrastructure. The training will feature best practices of value-based procurement, LNG contracting and technical management. The delegation will also learn about U.S. LNG supply options and the capabilities of U.S. equipment and service providers. For more information, click [here](#).
- Reverse Trade Mission: Egypt Petroleum Ports Development**
 July 6-20, 2019
 Washington, D.C.; Houston, Texas; and New Orleans, Louisiana

The USTDA is hosting a visit for decision-makers from Egypt's energy sector to meet with leading U.S. companies that can support the country's port expansion goals. The itinerary will introduce the delegation to U.S. goods, services and technologies that can advance the transport of petroleum to the global market. This visit occurs as the Egyptian government pursues plans to improve the transport of petroleum products to its ports and expand its piers, port depth and storage capacity along its coast. Their goals make it an opportune time for U.S. companies to engage and showcase solutions and services that can support the deployment of oil and gas. For more information, click [here](#).

- Vietnam Emergency Communications Technologies Reverse Trade Mission***
July 13 ♦ 27, 2019
New York, New York; Chicago, Illinois; and Washington, D.C.
 The USTDA is hosting a delegation of decision-makers from Ho Chi Minh City's emergency management sector to support the development of an integrated emergency communication system for the city. The visit will support Ho Chi Minh City's goals to improve citizen accessibility to emergency responders and enhance communication capabilities among departments during fire, police and health emergencies. For more information, click [here](#).
- Discover Global Markets: Powering & Building the Middle East & Africa***
September 30 ♦ October 2, 2019
Houston, Texas
 The U.S. Commercial Service will help U.S. firms access oil and gas, renewable energy, electricity infrastructure, construction, engineering and transportation sectors in the Middle East and Africa. Access the U.S. Commercial Service's market intelligence resources at Discover Global Markets to learn more about how strong government investment plans and growing populations are creating new energy and infrastructure opportunities for U.S. exporters across the Middle East and Africa. For more information and to register, click [here](#).
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