



# VICTORY PARTNERS

## MIDDLE MARKET INSIGHT

## What Business Owners Need To Know

### \$125.3 BILLION

GOODS TRADE DEFICIT INCREASES BY 17.8% TO \$125.3 B

### IMEX

GOODS IMPORTS JUMP TO 11.5%; EXPORTS INCREASE 7.2%

### RETAIL

INVENTORIES RISE 2.0%; WHOLESALE STOCKS UP 2.3%

### ALL SEVEN

COUNTRIES WERE ALSO ON LAST YEAR'S BLACKLIST AS WELL

### CHINA

STILL IS THE LARGEST ORIGIN OF COUNTERFEIT AND PIRATED GOODS

### UKRAINE'S

U.S. REVIEW HAS BEEN SUSPENDED, WHICH MADE LAST YEAR'S LIST

### 1,500 AMAZON

WORKERS QUALIFY TO VOTE IN THIS ELECTION TO UNIONIZE

### DOMINOS FALL

OVER 100 OTHER AMAZON FACILITIES HAVE VOICED FOR SIMILAR ACTION

### FIRST AMAZON

WAREHOUSE TO UNIONIZE ALSO CAME FROM STATEN ISLAND

## U.S. Goods Trade Deficit Hits Record High

- The goods trade deficit in the United States increased dramatically in March, owing to a jump in imports, implying that trade remained a drag on growth in the first quarter.
- The goods trade imbalance increased by 17.8% to \$125.3 billion, according to the Commerce Department. Imports increased by 11.5 percent, surpassing an increase in exports of 7.2 percent. For the sixth quarter in a row, trade has drained growth from the economy.
- "The frontloading of imports related to the Russia-Ukraine war is likely to have caused much of the import surge as companies increased inventories of raw materials and finished goods in anticipation of potential shortages,' Goldman Sachs said in a statement."

## China, Russia, and 5 Others Make U.S. Property Rights Blacklist

- China, Russia, and five other nations have been added to the United States' yearly blacklist for insufficient enforcement of intellectual property rights, leaving American businesses vulnerable to copyright and trademark piracy.
- This year, the US put on hold its evaluation of Ukraine, which was on the blacklist last year, while it tries to stave off a Russian invasion. Saudi Arabia was also removed from the trade office's priority watch list, noting its efforts to combat counterfeit and pirated goods, as well as the establishment of special intellectual property enforcement courts and other measures.
- "U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai said that the report identifies countries 'that are falling short' and promised that the Biden administration 'will continue to engage with these trading partners to level the playing field for our workers and businesses.'"

## Second Amazon Warehouse on Staten Island Begins Union Vote

- Longer breaks, greater health and safety policies, and wages are among the demands of the Amazon Labor Union. The labor in Amazon warehouses is fast-paced and physically demanding, with employees lifting items weighing up to 50 pounds.
- The election comes less than a month after the Amazon Labor Union won a historic victory in organizing the country's first Amazon warehouse - a large facility across the street where 8,300 workers pick and wrap items for customer orders. The Amazon Labor Union, formed by former and current Amazon employees, achieved what other well-established unions had long sought but failed to achieve.
- Amazon has objected to the Amazon Labor Union tactics, including alleging that organizers harassed and threatened employees who didn't support the union, and that in exchange for their support, workers were given marijuana. Indeed, organizers have opening discussed offering marijuana to workers.

Sources: [www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) | [www.apnews.com](http://www.apnews.com) | [www.npr.org](http://www.npr.org)