

Macro Roundup Article

Headline: [Setser On China's Trade Surplus](#)

Article Link: https://twitter.com/Brad_Setser/status/1597000480760410114

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Tweet: China's trade surplus has continued to grow since the pandemic, with manufacturing exports ~ 14% of GDP. The trade surplus is poised to grow, as China's bill for imported commodities falls. @Brad_Setser

Summary: The popular deglobalization narrative simply isn't in China's trade data -- manufacturing exports are up massively, and that has pushed the surplus up even as China's commodity import bill reached record levels (the commodity bill is poised to fall now, by the way.) China's currency is (still) managed (in my judgment, even if the PBOC's reported reserves don't change,) so movements reflect the interaction of market pressure and political decisions. But at some level, a weaker CNY, even with a massive trade surplus, reflects a judgment by China's policymakers that they need to sustain the rise in exports (relative to China's GDP) even as global demand for manufactures drops (to offset China's domestic weakness.)

Primary Topic: Trade (not deficits)

Topics: Database, Factoid, GDP, Op-Ed/Blog Post, Trade (not deficits)

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