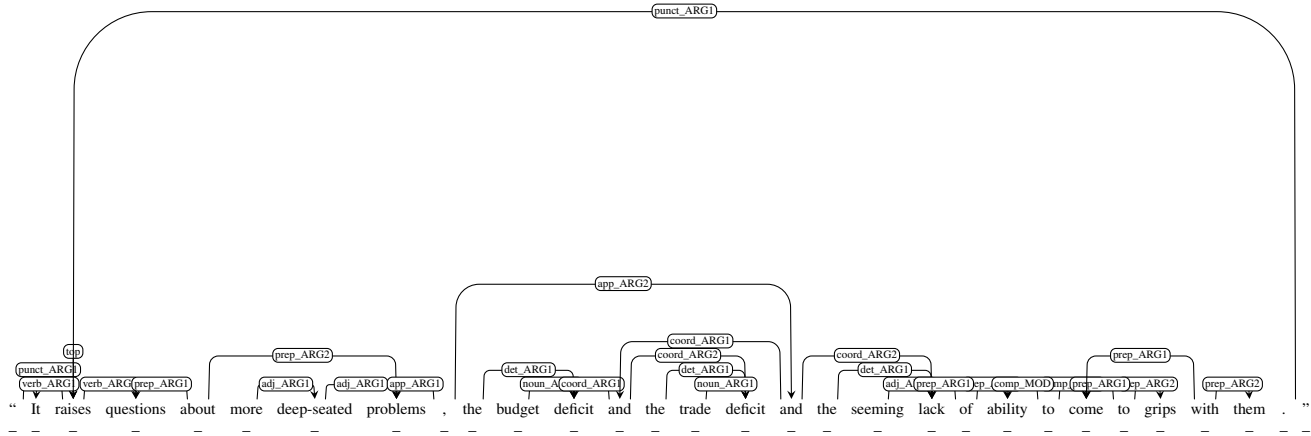
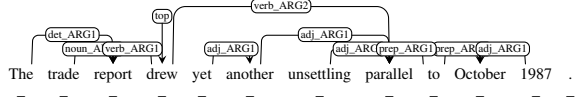


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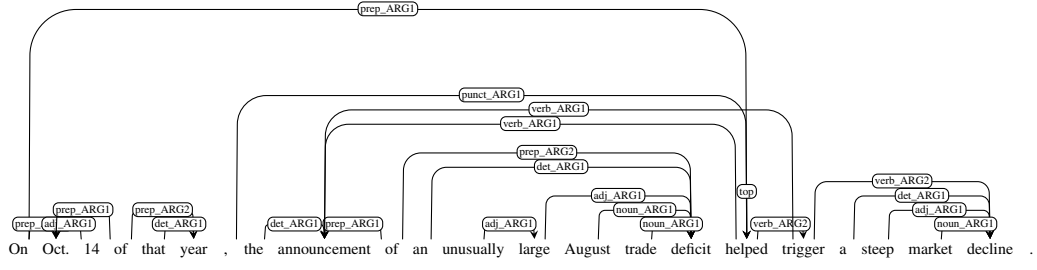




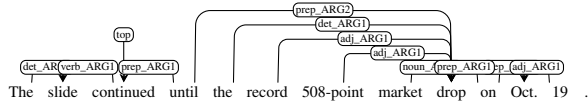
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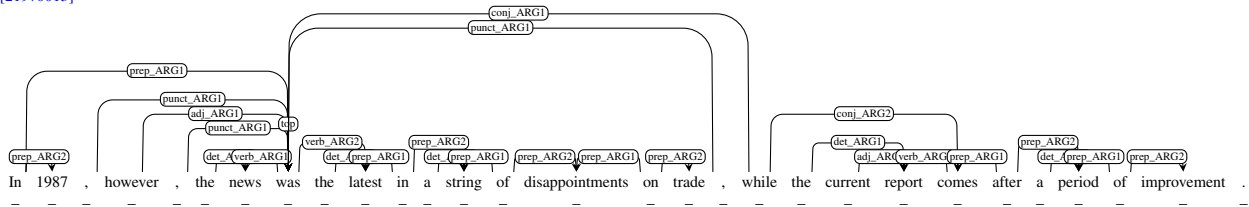
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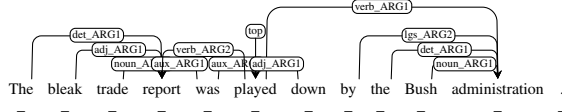
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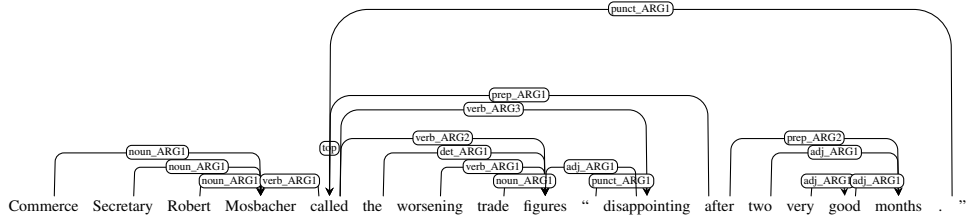
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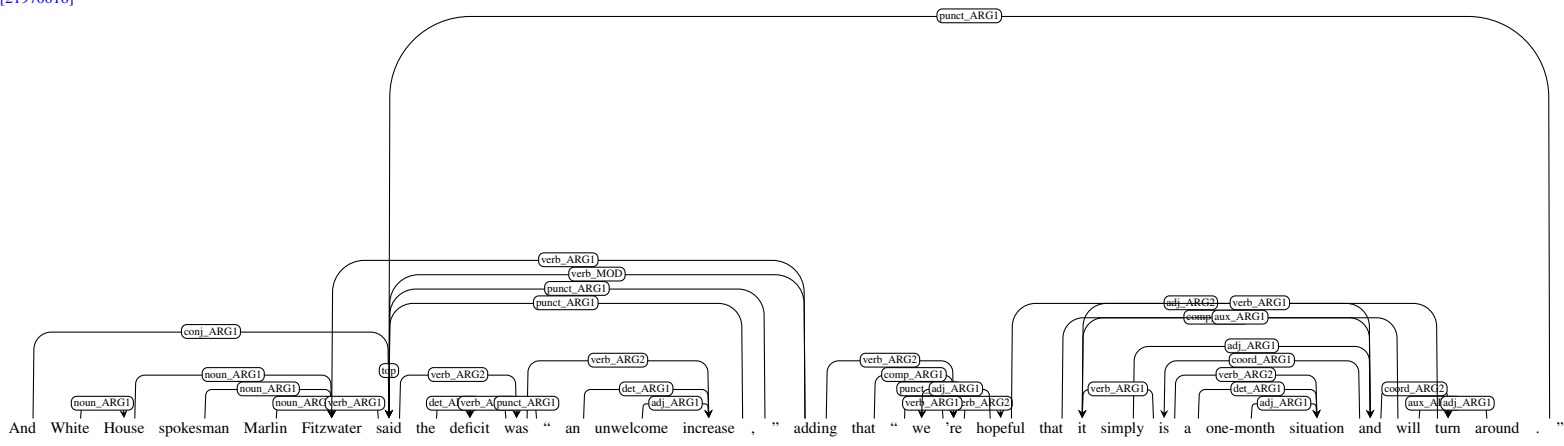
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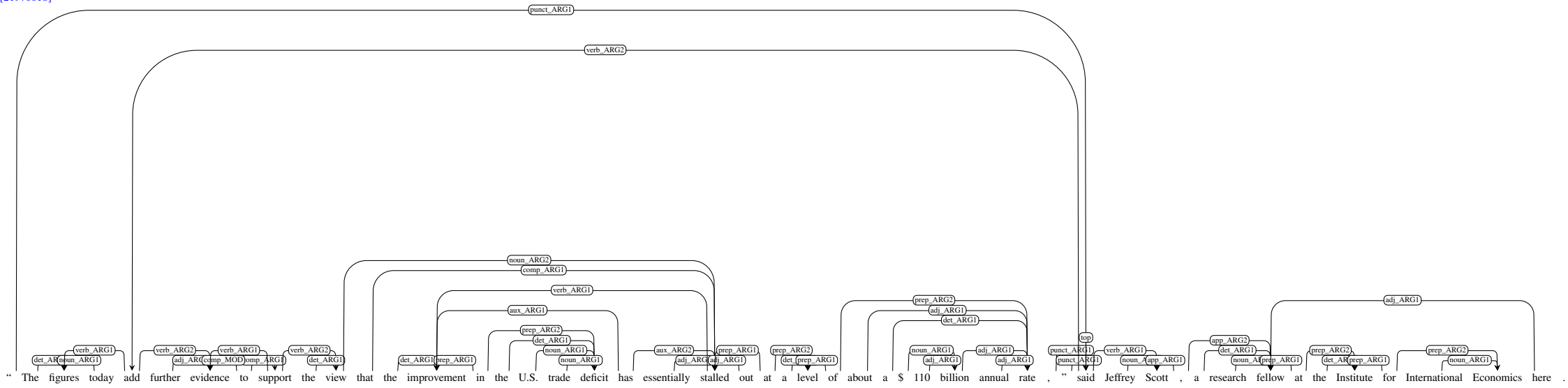
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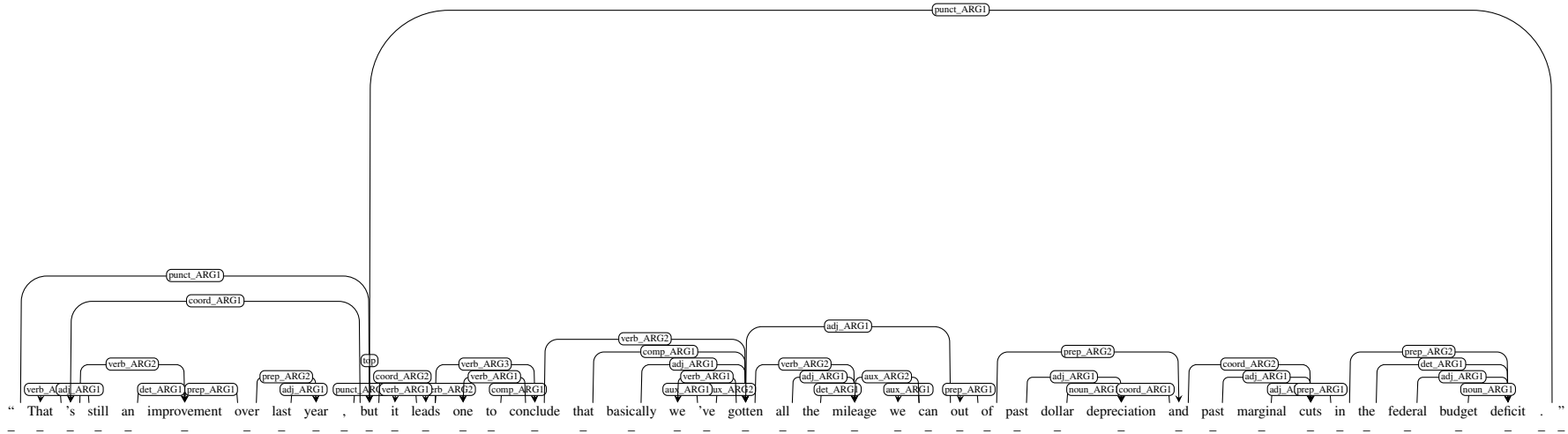
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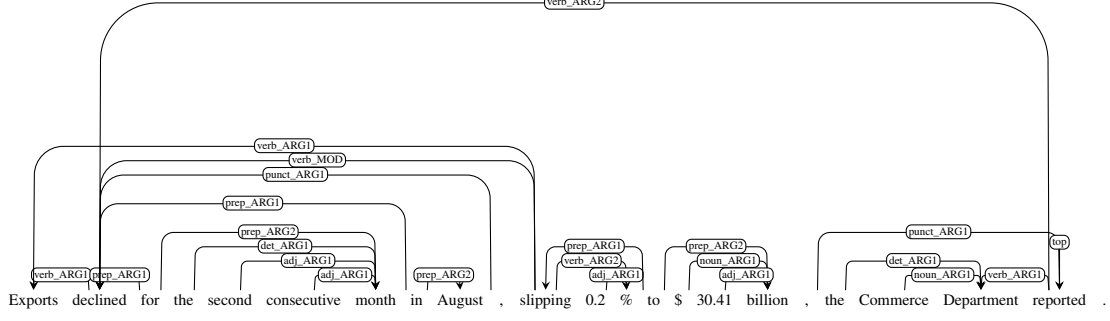
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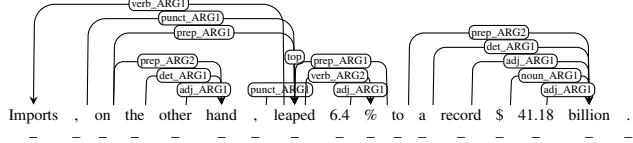
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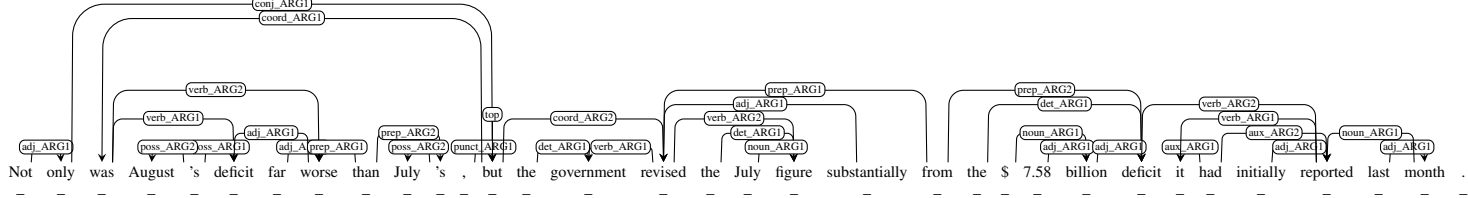
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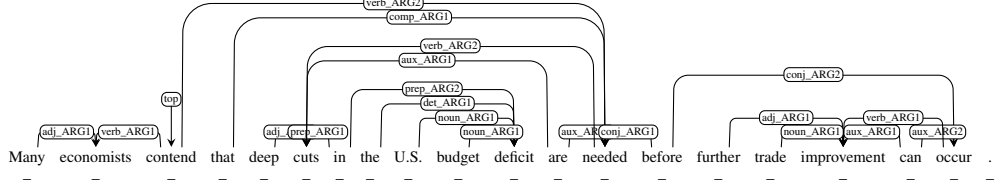
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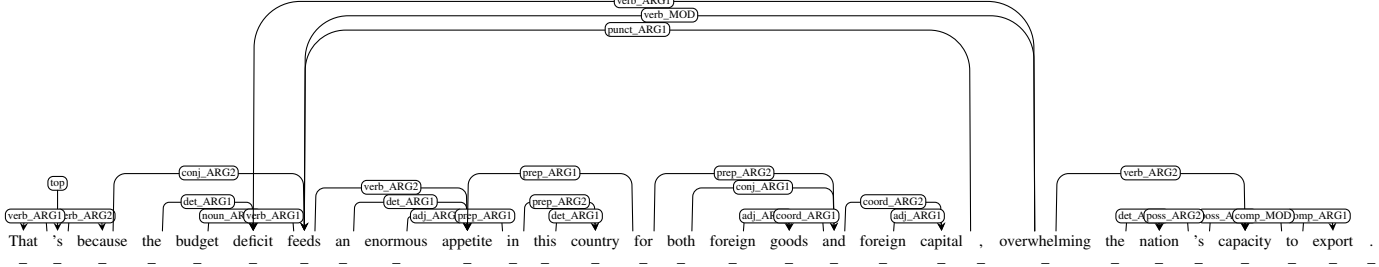
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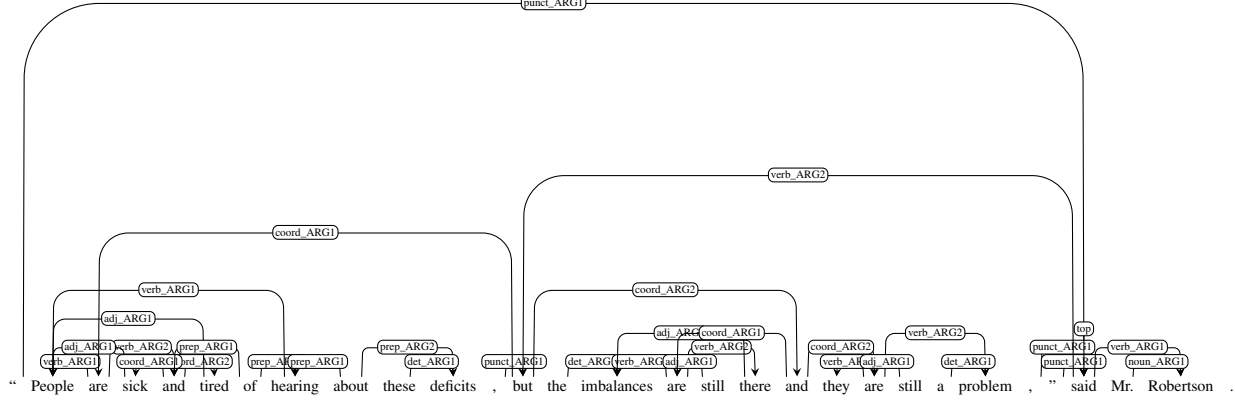
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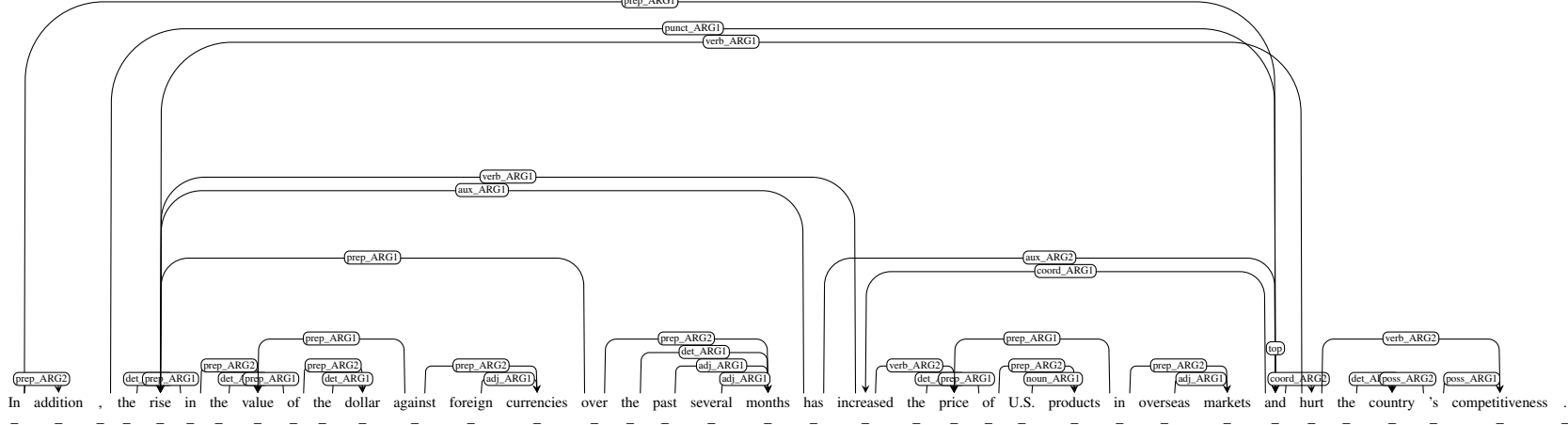
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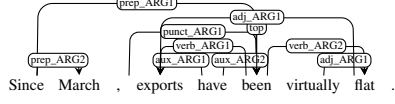
[1970025]



[1970026]



[1970027]



[1970028]

At the same time , William T. Archey , international vice president at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce , notes : " Clearly the stronger dollar has made imports more attractive " by causing their prices to decline .

[21970029]

Most economists expect the slowing U.S. economy to curb demand for imports .

[21970030]

But they foresee little substantial progress in exports unless the dollar and the federal budget deficit come down .

[21970031]

" The best result we could get from these numbers would be to see the administration and Congress get serious about putting the U.S. on an internationally competitive economic footing , " said Howard Lewis , vice president of international economic affairs at the National Association of Manufacturers .

[21970032]

" That must start with cutting the federal budget deficit . "

[21970033]

August 's decline in exports reflected decreases in sales of industrial supplies , capital goods and food abroad and increases in sales of motor vehicles , parts and engines .

[21970034]

The jump in imports stemmed from across-the-board increases in purchases of foreign goods .

[21970035]

The numbers were adjusted for usual seasonal fluctuations .

[21970036]

Alan Murray contributed to this article .

[21970037]

(In billions of U.S. dollars , not seasonally adjusted)