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## 303 Tobacco industry shows trade of \$1.6 billion

The United States tobacco industry closed the first four months of 1990 with a surplus of over \$1.6 billion; up 26.6 percent (\$344 million) when compared to the same period of 1989, according to the Tobacco Merchants Association of the U.S., Inc. (TMA). This compares to the nation's overall merchandise trade deficit for the January to April period of \$28.1 billion.

"While the overall merchandise trade deficit was \$5.98 billion in April alone, the U.S. tobacco industry had a surplus of nearly \$482.5 million," Dr. Thomas C. Slane, vice president of economic programs for the association, said in a TMA news release.

The April industry surplus was led by shipments of 13.28 billion cigarettes valued at an all-time monthly high of \$391.2 million,

bringing April's total export value of tobacco products to nearly \$417.6 million, the highest monthly figure on the record, according to Slane. When compared with March the balance of trade in leaf tobacco was down nearly \$62.8 million (-39.3 percent), excluding imports of oriental leaf, a type of leaf tobacco that is not grown in the U.S. but is needed in the production of exported American Blend cigarettes, he said.

Tobacco products, comprised of cigarettes, cigars, little cigars, smoking tobacco, chewing tobacco and snuff, represent the majority of all U.S. tobacco exports. The value of American-made tobacco products shipped to foreign consumers reached \$1.4 billion in the first four months of 1990, up 38.8 percent

(\$393.2 million) over the same period of 1989.

"Cigarettes accounted for \$1.3 billion or 93.5 percent of all U.S. tobacco products exported in the first four months of 1990," Slane said. "This was nearly 387.3 million (41.8 percent) over the same period of 1989." Exports of little cigars increased nearly 5.1 times in value, while the export of large cigars was up 44.8 percent in value.

Japan was the most significant foreign market for American-made cigarettes in the first four months of 1990, accounting for 31 percent of all cigarettes exported. Other significant countries of destination for cigarettes manufactured in the U.S. were Belgium; Hong Kong; United Arab Emirates; Saudi Arabia; Singapore; South Korea and Taiwan.

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