



Media Release

For Immediate Release
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Substantial Increase in U.S.- Singapore Trade

Singapore, November 30, 2006: AmCham Singapore today welcomed new trade statistics showing that total trade between the United States and Singapore increased to \$30.4 billion in the third quarter of 2006, an increase of 15.2 percent compared to the same period in 2005. The trade data was released by the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Over this same period, U.S. exports to Singapore increased 12.4% to \$17.2 billion from \$15.3 billion while Singapore's exports to the United States increased 18.9% to \$13.2 billion.

AmCham Executive Director, Nicholas de Boursac, said the trade increase was a welcome result of the U.S.-Singapore Free Trade Agreement. "AmCham was a strong advocate of the U.S. Singapore FTA. The FTA was not about lowering tariffs as these were already very low in both countries. It was about making Singapore a more attractive destination for U.S. investments and U.S. intellectual property. This increase in two-way trade demonstrates how successful the FTA has been and why it has contributed to increased wealth in both Singapore and the U.S. It also reinforces Singapore's position as the regional hub and heart of ASEAN," he said.

During the first two years since the U.S.-Singapore FTA came into effect on January 1, 2004, two-way trade has increased 11 percent. Singapore is the largest ASEAN market for U.S. exports, accounting for 42 percent of total exports to ASEAN. U.S. foreign direct investment in Singapore as of 2005 was \$48 billion double that in China at \$17 billion.

"We hope that the success of this free trade agreement will provide the incentive for continued efforts by governments in Asia and the United States to further trade liberalization in the region and elsewhere," de Boursac said.

Other key points in the released trade data included:

- Singapore remained the U.S.'s fifteenth largest trading partner during this period.
- Primary U.S exports to Singapore in the first half (H1) of 2006 included: machinery; electrical machinery; aircraft/aircraft parts; and optical/medical instruments.
- Singapore was the U.S.'s tenth largest export market in Q3 2006 (\$17.2 billion) compared to the eleventh largest in Q3 2005 (\$15.3 billion).

The trade data can be found on the US Embassy in Singapore website at http://singapore.usembassy.gov/ep_reports.html

AmCham represents an estimated \$50 billion of investments in Singapore and the region.

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