Positive global trade outlook, driven by improved growth prospects in South Korea and China

Key findings:
- Overall growth forecast for global trade slightly improves, reaching an index value of 67 points.
- All constituent countries continue to see positive trade predictions, with prospects in South Korea and China particularly brightening.
- Growth in global air trade is predicted to remain unchanged at a high level while the outlook for global ocean trade improves moderately compared to last publication in March 2018.
- Machinery Parts & Components as well as Industrial Raw Materials were the most important growth drivers, offsetting the decline in Basic Raw Materials.

The positive global prospects are fueled by the increasingly bright outlooks for trade in South Korea (+4), China (+2) and the US (+1) compared to March. However, a slowdown of trade growth in the UK (-4), Japan (-3) and India (-5) dampens the global outlook. Germany is the only constituent country with an unchanged outlook compared to the previous quarter.

At a solid level of 70, the global air trade outlook remains unchanged. Air trade is seeing some headwinds appearing in the US and the UK, as the index is down by -4 and -6 points, respectively, compared to March. Japan and India see minor decreases by -2 and -1 points, respectively. An accelerated growth outlook for South Korean (+6) and German (+3) air trade compensates for those setbacks, as well as a mild improvement in China (+1).

Meanwhile, the outlook for global ocean trade slightly improved, increasing by +1 point to 64 compared to the previous quarter. This goes back to a dynamic development in the US (+4), China (+3) and South Korea (+3), offsetting the reduced growth outlook for ocean trade in India (-6), UK (-3), Japan (-3) and Germany (-1).

Machinery Parts & Components and Industrial Raw Materials had the highest impact on the improved growth forecast. Trade in High Tech and Consumer Personal and Household Goods is predicted to grow strongly as well. In contrast, there is a negative growth prediction for Basic Raw Materials.

The DHL Global Trade Barometer index continues to forecast a solid growth for global trade as the index hits 67, representing a slight increase (+1) compared to the previous release in March.
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About the DHL Global Trade Barometer:

The DHL Global Trade Barometer is an early indicator for the current state and future development of global trade. It is based on import and export data for a number of intermediates and early-cycle commodities that serve as the basis for further industrial production. Sources for the index are aggregated market data from air and containerized ocean freight from seven countries (China, South Korea, Germany, India, Japan, UK, USA), which account for more than 75 percent of world trade. These data are evaluated using artificial intelligence and various statistical methods and compressed to a single index value that represents the weighted average of the current growth and the upcoming two months of trade. The index, which was designed in cooperation with Accenture, is published four times a year by DHL on a global scale as well as for each of the seven countries surveyed.

About DHL:

Being the world’s leading logistics provider, DHL is ideally equipped to derive a global trade outlook from logistics data. DHL has both, a deep understanding of the driving forces behind global trade volumes and the industry expertise to analyze and interpret occurring market data. With its family of divisions, DHL offers an unrivaled portfolio of logistics services ranging from national and international parcel delivery, e-commerce shipping and fulfillment solutions, international express, road, air and ocean transport to industrial supply chain management. DHL employs about 350,000 people in more than 220 countries and territories worldwide, reliably enabling global trade flows. With specialized solutions for growth markets and industries including technology, life sciences and healthcare, energy, automotive and retail, a proven commitment to corporate responsibility and an unrivaled presence in developing markets, DHL is decisively positioned as “The logistics company for the world”.

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