Global trade expected to moderately contract over next three months

Key findings:
- GTB forecasts a slight decline of world trade, dropping mildly by -2 points to 45.
- Six out of seven GTB countries are below the 50-points-threshold of no growth.
- Only India regains a positive growth outlook, climbing +5 points to an index of 54.
- Overall downward tendency equally triggered by weakening air (-3 to 42 points) as well as ocean trade (-2 to 46 points).

The global air trade outlook remains negative, dropping -3 points to 42, as all seven GTB countries are forecasted to contract. A significant decline in air trade is expected in Japan (-7 points) and Germany (-7 points). India (-4 points), UK (-4 points), China (-2 points), USA (-2 points) and South Korea (-1 point) are also predicted to decline to varying degrees.

Global ocean trade is predicted to mildly decline, dropping -2 points to 46. India (index 60) and – to a lesser extent – Japan (index 51) are the two countries forecasted to grow modestly. The weakest ocean outlook on the other hand is for China, dropping -4 points to an index of 43. The USA ocean outlook improved slightly (+1 point), but is still expected to contract, lingering below the 50-points-threshold of no growth. For the UK (-5 points), Japan (-4 points) and South Korea (-3 points), ocean trade is also predicted to decelerate. The outlook for Germany remains with 45 index points unchanged.

The DHL Global Trade Barometer predicts protracted slowdown in global trade, sliding -2 points to 45 since the latest update in September. Out of all the surveyed countries, only India is expected to grow moderately at 54 points (+5 points). Japan (-5 points) and UK (-4 points) show the largest drop in outlook, while the respective trade outlooks for China (-3 points), Germany (-3 points), South Korea (-2 points) and USA (-1 point) are also slightly decelerating.
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About the DHL Global Trade Barometer:

The DHL Global Trade Barometer 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.

For detailed information about the DHL Global Trade Barometer visit https://www.logisticsofthings.dhl/gtb.

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 unrivalled 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 380,000 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 unrivalled presence in developing markets, DHL is decisively positioned as “The logistics company for the world”.

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