




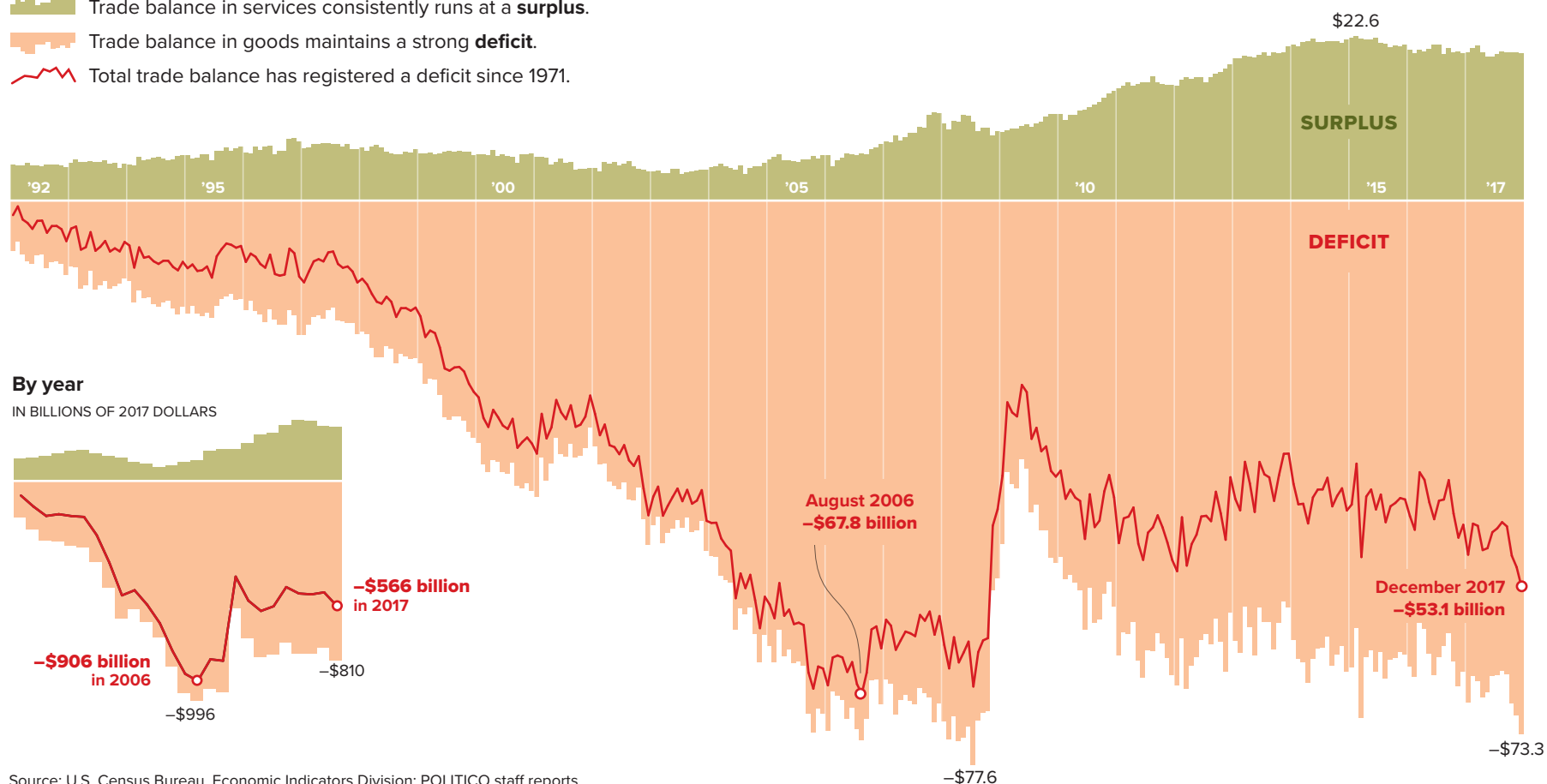
Feb. 7, 2018

Record Imports of Goods Aggravates Trade Imbalance

Driven by increased consumer and business demands for imported goods, the U.S. trade deficit deepened by 12 percent in 2017 to levels not seen since 2008. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross has retreated from 2016 Trump campaign claims of eliminating the trade deficit within two years, saying that enforcement actions, renegotiation of existing agreements and negotiation of new agreements will help, “but it is not practical to set an exact deadline.”

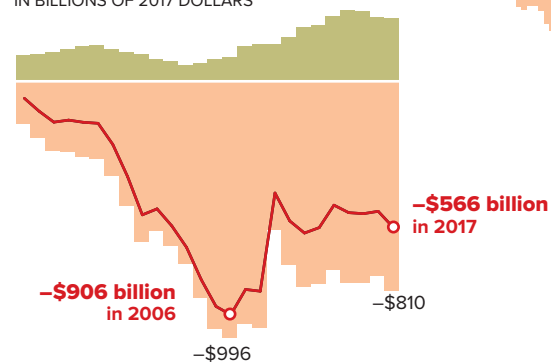
U.S. trade balance IN BILLIONS OF DOLLARS, BY MONTH, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

-  Trade balance in services consistently runs at a **surplus**.
-  Trade balance in goods maintains a strong **deficit**.
-  Total trade balance has registered a deficit since 1971.



By year

IN BILLIONS OF 2017 DOLLARS



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Economic Indicators Division; POLITICO staff reports

By Patterson Clark, POLITICO Pro DataPoint

Click here for more information about DataPoint, and an Account Manager will follow up shortly.