

A MONTH AFTER IT HARDWARE IMPORT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM WENT LIVE...

PC imports from China up over 11%

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After a month's gap, the import of personal computers, including laptops and tablets, from China surged 11.3 per cent to \$276 million in December. This occurred when total imports of such items contracted by 0.8 per cent, according to the latest data from the commerce department.

The same month witnessed a decline in the import of personal computers from countries/regions like Singapore and Hong Kong, which saw a decrease of 66.1 per cent and 41.8 per cent, respectively. These marginal players accounted for \$11.6 million and \$13.6 million worth of shipments to India in December.

China's share in total shipments of these items to India stood at 89.4 per cent in December. It was 76.4 per cent for the April-December period of FY24.

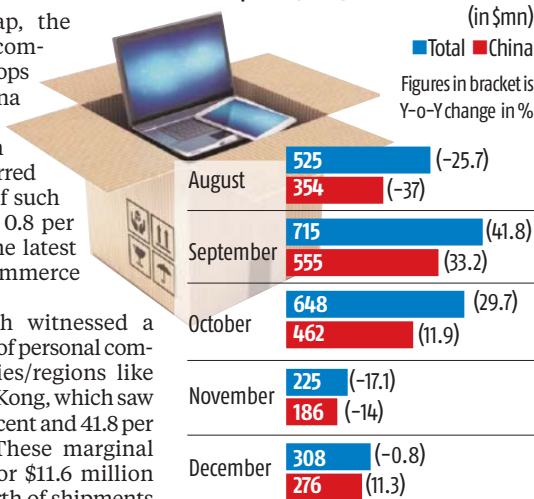
In November, when the government's online monitoring system for the import of electronic hardware items became operational, imports from China contracted by 14 per cent, while the overall decline was 17 per cent.

On August 3 last year, the central government announced plans to categorise products in the information technology hardware segment, such as laptops, tablets, all-in-one personal computers, ultra-small form factor computers, and servers, under the "restricted" label.

This announcement led to a surge in the import of laptops and tablets in September (by 41.8 per cent) and October (by 29.7 per cent), amid fears of licensing requirements. However,

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PC imports (2023)



Source: Commerce department

after the industry expressed serious concerns over the decision — which was originally aimed at reducing import dependence on China and ensuring a trusted supply chain — the government deferred the implementation until November 1.

In a further step-down, the government announced that it would not restrict the import of such electronic products from any territory, while also introducing a new contactless import authorisation system.

With the import monitoring system now in place, the government is able to collect data about specific products coming in from different sources.

India's key trading partners have expressed concerns over the online monitoring system at the World Trade Organization.

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live streaming services, while delivering an innovative and convenient digital entertainment experience at affordable prices,” said the statement.

With the addition of Disney’s acclaimed films and shows to Viacom18’s renowned productions and sports offerings, the JV will offer a compelling, accessible and novel digital-focused entertainment experience to people in India and the Indian diaspora globally. The JV will also be granted exclusive rights to distribute Disney films and productions in India, with a licence to more than 30,000 Disney content assets.

“It is a landmark deal. Reliance has positioned itself as a dominant player in the media sector which is consolidating and there is no other large player other than Sony and Zee. The JV entity is valued at over Rs 70,000 crore on post money basis in which RIL will own a majority stake,” Aliasgar Shakir, senior group VP at Motilal Oswal said.

Last April, the JioCinema OTT platform became a part of Viacom18 portfolio after the completion of the transaction for strategic partnership with Reliance, Bodhi Tree Systems, and Paramount Global. As part of the transaction, the JioCinema app became a part of the Viacom18 portfolio apart from giving Viacom18 access to Rs 15,145 crore in cash for expansion.

Viacom18, which won the digital streaming rights of IPL, created new viewership benchmarks on the opening weekend itself last year, drawing over 100 million new viewers.

PC imports...

US Trade Representative Katherine Tai raised the issue last month during the India-US Trade Policy Forum (TPF), which she co-chaired with Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal. Tai commended India for implementing the import management system in a facilitative manner that has so far minimised the impact on trade, and urged India to ensure that the end-to-end online system

currently in operation and related policies do not restrict trade going forward.

Tai later told reporters that she stressed the need for India to keep the country, as well as relevant stakeholders, informed about its plan for the import monitoring system for laptops, tablets, and select IT hardware. India has already said that the system has been put into place until September 2024.

Drug cos...

“We issued a notice and they took corrective action. The suspension order was revoked after CAPA was implemented by the manufacturers,” said M N Sridhar, joint director of drug control in Tamil Nadu. Of the six companies, action on one company has only been partially revoked.

The action was taken following the inspection of random samples of fixed-dose combinations (FDC), vaccines, syrups, complex formulations, and bulk drugs, among others, from manufacturers. This was to verify and validate manufacturing standards.

Since the end of 2022, the CDSCO has been conducting risk-based inspections at several pharma manufacturing sites in India, in collaboration with state drugs controllers (SDCs). By December 2023, inspections had been carried out at 261 premises, according to a Rajya Sabha response by Minister of State for Health Bharati Pawar.

The firms were identified based on risk criteria, such as the number of drugs declared as not of standard quality, complaints, and the criticality of the products, Pawar said in her response. Based on the findings of the inspections, more than 200 actions -- including the issuance of show-cause notices, stop production orders, and the suspension and cancellation of licences -- have been taken by state licensing authorities.

Last year, 17 firms in Himachal Pradesh were asked to cease manufacturing as they failed to meet stipulated norms. Baddi, a pharma manufacturing hub in Himachal,

