



Economics Group

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Fuel Drives Import Prices Lower in March

Led by a 1.9 percent decline in petroleum prices, total import prices contracted 0.5 percent in March. The soft global economic environment is likely to persist and should restrain import price inflation in the near-term.

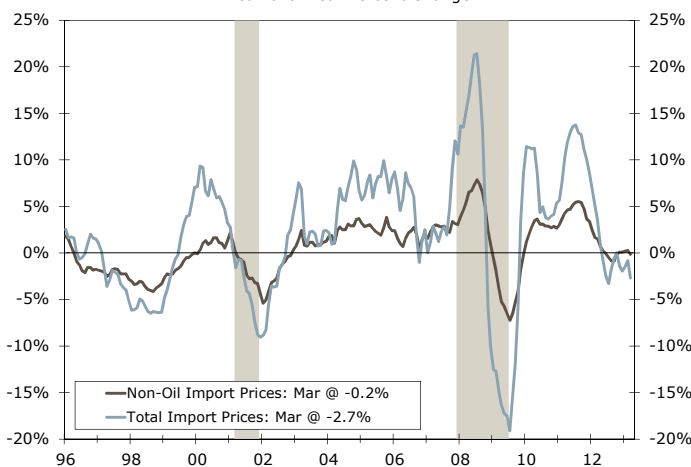
Petroleum Pulls Back

- Following January's downwardly revised 0.6 percent increase, import prices contracted for the first time since December as fuel prices moved lower on the month. Excluding fuel, import prices fell 0.2 percent as declines were recorded in industrial supplies, automobiles and parts and consumer goods.
- The only major component to record a gain last month was foods and beverages, up a solid 1.3 percent.

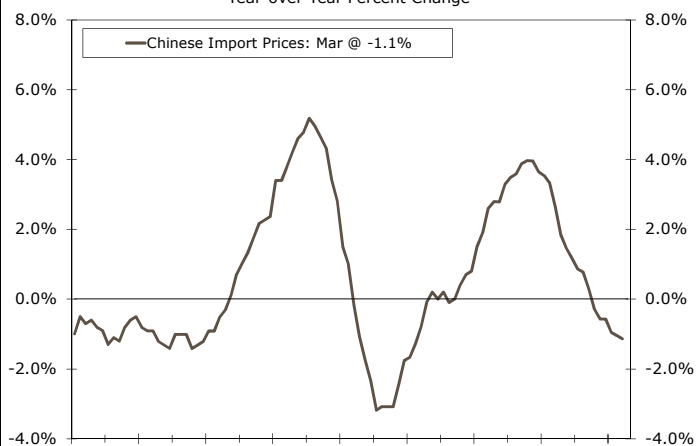
Chinese Inflation Slows

- Prices out of China declined 0.2 percent on the month and are down 1.1 percent versus a year ago. Pressures are unlikely to accelerate anytime soon given the slowing price trend. Elsewhere, import prices from Canada eased 0.2 percent last month following a strong February gain.
- Given the soft global demand backdrop, near-term inflation prospects are unlikely to accelerate.

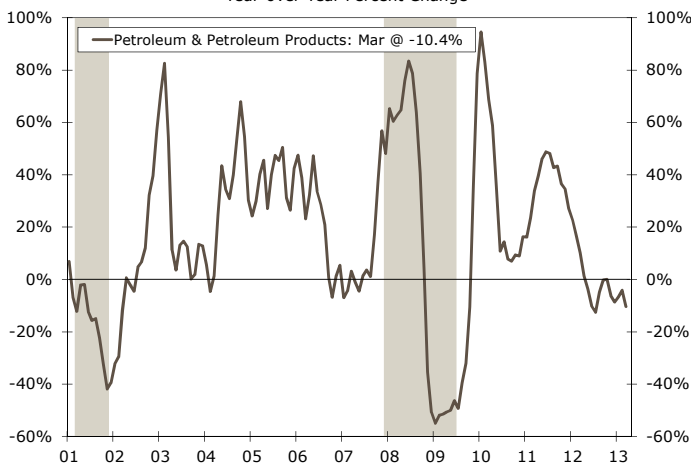
Import Prices
Year-over-Year Percent Change



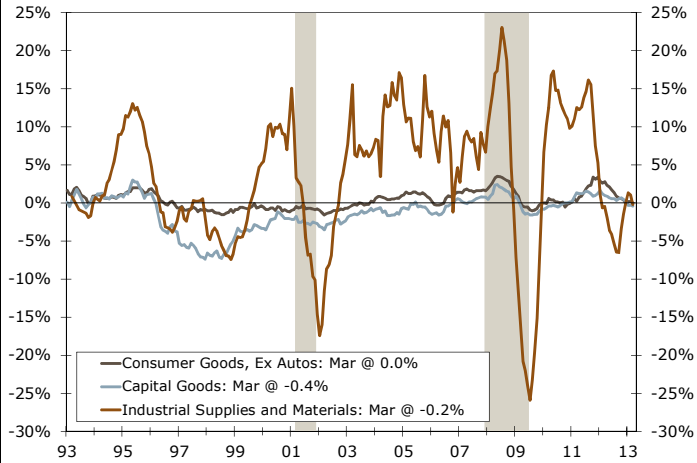
Chinese Import Prices
Year-over-Year Percent Change



Import Prices For Energy Products
Year-over-Year Percent Change



Import Prices By Sector
Year-over-Year Percent Change



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