The US trade deficit widened in July as exports fell and the nation bought more cars and car parts from overseas. The trade gap rose 13% to $39.1bn compared with June's $34.5bn, said the US Commerce Department. Imports of cars, trucks, motoring parts and engines rose to a record $26.5bn. Much of that was supplied by US firms that have plants in Canada and Mexico. However the trend shows that the trade gap is closing.