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Re: History of China Tariffs Imposed by the Trump Administration

History of Chinese Import Tariffs Imposed by the Trump Administration

United States Chamber of Commerce Summary

This article by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce provides an overview of the current tariffs.

Quick Take: Your Primer on Trump's China Tariffs (2019) United States Chamber Staff, Chamber of Commerce of the United States. May 10, 2019. Accessed online May 28, 2019.

<https://www.uschamber.com/series/above-the-fold/quick-take-your-primer-trump-s-china-tariffs>

The following bullet points were excerpted from the article:

- July 6, 2018: U.S. imposed 25% tariffs on \$34 billion of imports of Chinese goods, and China immediately retaliated with tariffs on U.S. exports in the same amount.
- August 23, 2018: U.S. imposed 25% tariffs on an additional \$16 billion of imports Chinese goods, and China immediately retaliated with tariffs on U.S. exports in the same amount.
- September 24, 2018: U.S. imposed tariffs on approximately \$200 billion worth of Chinese goods, including many everyday consumer products like electronics and housewares. China again retaliated with tariffs on another \$60 billion of American-made products.
- May 10, 2019: U.S. increased tariffs on approximately \$200 billion worth of Chinese goods from 10% to 25%.
- Coming in May 2019: The U.S. is proposing to levy tariffs of 25% on all goods imports from China not yet subjected to Section 301 tariffs (valued at approximately \$325 billion).
- 455,000. That's the number of American jobs estimated to be put at risk by U.S. tariffs on \$150 billion of imports from China and Chinese retaliation, according to a study commissioned by the Consumer Technology Association and the National Retail Federation. (citation: <https://tradepartnership.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/China-301-Tariffs-FINAL.pdf>)
- \$500. That's the cost to the average American household of the latest wave of tariffs, according to Kathryn Russ, an economics professor at the University of California at Davis. (citation: <https://www.npr.org/2019/05/10/721921317/new-round-of-tariffs-take-a-bigger-bite-of-consumers-budget>)
- Hear from the farmers, manufacturers, and others that are already feeling the impact (<https://www.uschamber.com/tariffs>)

Executive Actions

Below is an annotated bibliography of press releases related to the Chinese tariffs issued by the United States Trade Representative (USTR). The releases detail the review process and final implementation of the tariffs summarized above. Links embedded in the releases and, where applicable, to the relevant Federal Register Notices, have been included.

President Trump Announces Strong Actions to Address China's Unfair Trade (2018) Office of the United States Trade Representative. March 22, 2018. Accessed online May 28, 2019. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2018/march/president-trump-announces-strong>

- *Section 301 Fact Sheet* (2018) Office of the United States Trade Representative. March 22, 2018. Accessed online May 28, 2019. <https://ustr.gov/sites/default/files/USTR%20301%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf>
- *Findings of the Investigation into China's Acts, Policies, and Practices Related to Technology Transfer, Intellectual Property, and Innovation Under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974* (2018) Office of the United States Trade Representative. March 22, 2018. Accessed online May 28, 2019. <https://ustr.gov/sites/default/files/Section%20301%20FINAL.PDF>

From the report:

- China uses joint venture requirements, foreign investment restrictions, and administrative review and licensing processes to require or pressure technology transfer from U.S. companies.
- China deprives U.S. companies of the ability to set market-based terms in licensing and other technology-related negotiations.
- China directs and unfairly facilitates the systematic investment in, and acquisition of, U.S. companies and assets to generate large-scale technology transfer.
- China conducts and supports cyber intrusions into U.S. commercial computer networks to gain unauthorized access to commercially valuable business information.

Under Section 301 Action, USTR Releases Proposed Tariff List on Chinese Products (2018) Office of the United States Trade Representative. April 3, 2018. Accessed online May 28, 2019. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2018/april/under-section-301-action-ustr>

- 1,300 proposed tariff lines on approximately \$50 billion in imports.
- The list will undergo further review and a public hearing.
- “Today’s announcement comes just days after the USTR filed a request for consultations with China at the World Trade Organization (WTO) to address China’s discriminatory technology licensing requirements. Such consultations are the first step in the WTO dispute settlement process. If the United States and China are unable to reach a solution through consultations, the United States may request the establishment of a WTO dispute settlement panel to review the matter.”

- More on the request: <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2018/march/following-president-trump%E2%80%99s-section>

USTR Issues Tariffs on Chinese Products in Response to Unfair Trade Practices (2018) Office of the United States Trade Representative. June 15, 2018. Accessed online May 28, 2019. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2018/june/ustr-issues-tariffs-chinese-products>

- This release includes 1,102 tariff lines split into two sets with a total value of \$50 billion in 2018 trade values. Items listed on both sets will be subject to a 25 percent tariff.
- The first set includes 818 lines covering \$34 billion in imports from China from the proposed list published April 6, 2019. Tariff collection will begin on July 6, 2018:
<https://ustr.gov/sites/default/files/enforcement/301Investigations/List%201.pdf>
- The second set contains 284 lines covering approximately \$16 billion in imports. This list will undergo further review:
<https://ustr.gov/sites/default/files/enforcement/301Investigations/List%202.pdf>
- The action includes a request for public comment and states the intention of the USTR to announce a process for the public to request specific products be excluded from tariffs.
- Interested persons filed approximately 3,200 written submissions. In addition, USTR and the Section 301 Committee convened a three-day public hearing from May 15-17, 2018, during which 121 witnesses provided testimony and responded to questions. The public submissions and a transcript of the hearing are available on www.regulations.gov in docket number USTR-2018-0005.
- Federal Register Notice: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/06/20/2018-13248/notice-of-action-and-request-for-public-comment-concerning-proposed-determination-of-action-pursuant>

USTR Releases Product Exclusion Process for Chinese Products Subject to Section 301 Tariffs (2018) Office of the United States Trade Representative. July 6, 2018. Accessed online May 28, 2019. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2018/july/ustr-releases-product-exclusion>

- The first set of tariffs come into effect the day of the release.
- USTR publishes a Federal Register notice detailing a process through which the public can request specific products be excluded from tariffs:
<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/07/11/2018-14820/procedures-to-consider-requests-for-exclusion-of-particular-products-from-the-determination-of>

USTR Finalizes Second Tranche of Tariffs on Chinese Products in Response to China's Unfair Trade Practices (2018) Office of the United States Trade Representative. August 7, 2018. Accessed online May 28, 2019. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2018/august/ustr-finalizes-second-tranche>

- 279 of the original 284 tariffs covering approximately \$16 billion of imports, will be subject to a 25 percent tariff effective August 23, 2018.
- Final list: <https://ustr.gov/sites/default/files/enforcement/301Investigations/Final%20Second%20Tranche.pdf>
- Federal Register Notice: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/08/16/2018-17709/notice-of-action-pursuant-to-section-301-chinas-acts-policies-and-practices-related-to-technology>

USTR Finalizes Tariffs on \$200 Billion of Chinese Imports in Response to China's Unfair Trade Practices (2018) Office of the United States Trade Representative. September 18, 2018. Accessed online May 28, 2019. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2018/september/ustr-finalizes-tariffs-200>

- \$200 billion in tariffs effective September 24, 2018 at 10 percent.
- January 1, 2019, the tariffs increase to 25 percent.
- “The list contains 5,745 full or partial lines of the original 6,031 tariff lines that were on a proposed list of Chinese imports announced on July 10, 2018.”
- Changes to the list were made in response to public comment.
- Final list: <https://ustr.gov/sites/default/files/enforcement/301Investigations/Tariff%20List-09.17.18.pdf>
- Federal Register Notice: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/09/21/2018-20610/notice-of-modification-of-section-301-action-chinas-acts-policies-and-practices-related-to>
- On March 5, 2019, it was noticed in the Federal Register that the planned increase to 25 percent was postponed and that the “action will remain at 10 percent until further notice.” <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/03/05/2019-03935/notice-of-modification-of-section-301-action-chinas-acts-policies-and-practices-related-to>
- On May 15, 2019, it was noticed in the Federal Register that the planned increase to 25 percent would take effect May 10, 2019. This action excludes products exported prior to May 10, 2019, that enter the United States prior to June 1, 2019. These products shall remain at 10 percent.
- An additional opportunity for the public to request items be excluded from tariffs is noticed in the Federal Register on September 18, 2018: <https://ustr.gov/sites/default/files/enforcement/301Investigations/FRN%20exclusion%20process.pdf>

Statement By U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer on Section 301 Action (2018) Office of the United States Trade Representative. May 10, 2018. Accessed online May 28, 2019. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2019/may/statement-us-trade-representative>

- “Earlier today, at the direction of the President, the United States increased the level of tariffs from 10 percent to 25 percent on approximately \$200 billion worth of Chinese imports. The

President also ordered us to begin the process of raising tariffs on essentially all remaining imports from China, which are valued at approximately \$300 billion.”

- <https://www.natlawreview.com/article/ustr-announces-fourth-list-chinese-imports-section-301-tariffs>
- Federal Register Notice: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/05/09/2019-09681/notice-of-modification-of-section-301-action-chinas-acts-policies-and-practices-related-to>