

Hoover Institution Survey – Tariff Policy – February 19-24, 2025 Adults in the U.S.



Sample 1,645 Adults in the U.S.
Margin of Error ±2.7%

1. There has been a lot of discussion about tariffs in the news lately. We would like to get your opinions about tariffs. A tariff is a tax that a country charges on products imported from other countries. There are two different kinds of tariffs: As a percentage of value, such as \$10 per \$100 of value of the imported goods. A flat charge on each item, say \$10 for each barrel of oil. Do you support raising tariffs on foreign-produced goods?

Yes	33%
No	44%
Not sure	23%

2. Do you support raising tariffs on goods from all countries or only some countries?

Among those who support raising tariffs on foreign-produced goods.

All	52%
Some	48%
None	1%

3. Do you support placing tariffs on goods made in Canada?

Yes	26%
No	53%
Not sure	20%

4. Do you support placing tariffs on goods made in Mexico?

Yes	34%
No	48%
Not sure	19%

5. Do you support placing tariffs on goods made in China?

Yes	48%
No	34%
Not sure	18%

6. Should tariffs be used to protect American jobs?

Yes	49%
No	27%
Not sure	24%

7. Should tariffs be used to protect American jobs, even if they raise prices for everyday Americans?

Yes	31%
No	44%
Not sure	25%

8. Which statement comes closer to your view?

- The United States should take the lead and raise tariffs on goods imported from other countries 15%
- The United States should only raise tariffs to match the tariffs charged by other countries on goods they import from the United States 51%
- The United States should remove or lower tariffs regardless of those imposed by other countries 15%
- I have no opinions on tariff policy 18%

9. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Do not know
Higher tariffs will make me better off financially.	5%	14%	25%	32%	24%
Higher tariffs will negatively affect my job security.	11%	17%	24%	17%	31%
Higher tariffs will positively affect my job security.	6%	15%	24%	22%	34%

10. Overall, what do you think raising tariffs does to the job security and wages of the average American?

- Hurt a lot 26%
- Hurt a little 20%
- Have no effect 9%
- Help a little 15%
- Help a lot 9%
- Not sure 21%

11. Overall, what do you think raising tariffs does to the prices that average Americans pay for their goods?

- Hurt a lot 39%
- Hurt a little 30%
- Have no effect 7%
- Help a little 5%
- Help a lot 4%
- Not sure 16%

12. Do you support increasing tariffs on foreign-made goods, even if they increase prices on household goods?

- Support 27%
- Oppose 49%
- Not sure 24%

Economic Knowledge Survey – February 19-24, 2022

Adults in the U.S.



13. President Trump has paused implementation of his proposed 25% tariffs on goods from Mexico and Canada. Do you think a 25% tariff on goods from Mexico and Canada are...

Too high	53%
The right amount	21%
Too low	2%
Not sure	24%

14. President Trump has imposed an additional 10% tariffs on goods from China. Do you think a 10% tariff on goods from China is...

Too high	24%
The right amount	32%
Too low	20%
Not sure	25%

15. Do you think the following statements are true or false?

	Definitely True	Probably True	Probably False	Definitely False	Not sure
Revenue from tariffs can be used to replace more than half of the existing income tax revenue collected by the federal government.	7%	26%	17%	19%	31%
Revenue from tariffs can be used to replace all the existing income tax revenue collected by the federal government.	5%	21%	18%	26%	30%

16. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Do not know
Tariffs are an effective way to pressure foreign governments to change their policies.	13%	33%	17%	14%	24%
Tariffs that raise the prices I pay for everyday goods are worthwhile if they protect American jobs.	10%	30%	20%	17%	23%
Tariffs that raise the prices I pay for everyday goods are worthwhile if they force other countries to give in to America's political demands.	9%	20%	23%	22%	26%

17. Many intermediate goods (like parts that are used to produce other goods) cross the border several times during production. Should tariffs be reduced so that the same physical good or part doesn't pay tariffs multiple times?

Yes	56%
No	12%
Not sure	32%

18. What usually happens to American jobs when tariffs are placed on imported manufactured goods?

Jobs increase in all sectors of the economy	13%
Jobs increase in protected industries that benefit from tariffs but may decrease in other industries	26%
Jobs decrease in all sectors of the economy	22%
Tariffs have no effect on jobs	7%
Do not know	33%

19. If the United States places new tariffs on goods from another country, how do you think that country is most likely to respond?

Retaliate by raising tariffs on American goods	58%
Give in to political demands and lower their tariffs	17%
Do nothing	4%
Not sure	21%

20. Would adding new tariffs on imported consumer goods lower, raise, or have no effect on consumer prices?

Lower	3%
Raise	64%
No effect	5%
It depends / Not sure	27%

21. What happens to domestic manufacturing when tariffs are imposed on imports?

Increases a lot	17%
Increases a little	30%
No effect	11%
Decreases a little	8%
Decreases a lot	7%
Not sure	27%

22. What effect would increasing tariffs on foreign-manufactured goods have on the rate of manufacturing in the United States?

Increase US manufacturing both immediately and over time	27%
Initially boost US manufacturing but reduce it in the long run	14%
Reduce US manufacturing at first but increase it over time	9%
Decrease US manufacturing both immediately and over time	12%
Have minimal impact on US manufacturing levels	9%
Not sure	30%

23. If one country removes its tariffs but another that it trades with keeps its tariffs, what is likely to happen to the rate of economic growth of the country that removes its tariffs?

The rate of economic growth increases	23%
The rate of economic growth decreases	29%
No change in the rate of economic growth	9%
Unsure	39%

24. Who benefits the most by putting tariffs on imports to the United States?

Foreign manufacturers	25%
American manufacturers	64%
American consumers	11%

25. Who benefits the least by putting tariffs on imports to the United States?

Foreign manufacturers	32%
American manufacturers	10%
American consumers	58%

26. When goods cross the US border, who is responsible for paying the tariff?

The foreign company that makes the product	24%
The foreign government of the country it the import comes from	16%
The retailer or company that imports and sells the product in the United States	35%
The consumer who buys the product	25%

27. When goods cross the US border, who is responsible for collecting the tariff that is paid?

The foreign company that makes the product	12%
The foreign government of the country it the import comes from	24%
The retailer company that imports and sells the product in the United States	52%
The consumer who buys the product	12%

28. Who receives the money collected from tariffs?

The foreign company that makes the product	6%
The American government in the form of tax revenue	65%
American companies that compete with foreign companies	6%
Not sure	23%

29. What three countries are the largest trading partners of the United States? Please select 3 answers

China	91%
Mexico	83%
Canada	76%
Japan	14%
Taiwan	7%
United Kingdom	7%
India	5%
Germany	4%
South Korea	4%
Vietnam	2%

30. What trade agreement governs trade between Canada, the United States, and Mexico?

NAFTA	34%
USMCA	22%
There is no trade agreement among those three countries	5%
Not sure	39%

31. Do you think the following statement is true or false? Countries that trade less and produce most goods in their own country typically grow faster than countries that trade more and source goods in other countries.

Definitely True	13%
Probably True	32%
Probably False	18%
Definitely False	8%
Not sure	29%

32. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as President?

Strongly approve	25%
Somewhat approve	18%
Somewhat disapprove	7%
Strongly disapprove	37%
Not sure	12%

33. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling the economy?

Strongly approve	24%
Somewhat approve	18%
Somewhat disapprove	9%
Strongly disapprove	36%
Not sure	12%

34. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling immigration?

Strongly approve	32%
Somewhat approve	15%
Somewhat disapprove	9%
Strongly disapprove	33%
Not sure	10%

35. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling foreign policy?

Strongly approve	24%
Somewhat approve	18%
Somewhat disapprove	9%
Strongly disapprove	35%
Not sure	14%

36. Which of the following best describes the industry you work in?

Agriculture or farming	1%
Arts / Entertainment	2%
Construction	4%
Education	6%
Government/public sector	3%
Healthcare and medical	7%
Manufacturing (includes factories, assembly, industrial production)	3%
Military / Armed Forces	1%
Not currently employed	30%
Professional services (office work, banking, legal, tech)	7%
Retail or wholesale trade	7%
Technology / Research	6%
Transportation and logistics (shipping, trucking, warehousing)	2%
Other	22%

37. Where do you get your news? Select all that apply

Social Media (digital audio / video)	64%
Television	63%
Radio	27%
Print publications	24%

38. What social media sites do you use to get your news? Select all that apply

Among those who get news from social media

Facebook	56%
YouTube	52%
X (formerly Twitter)	38%
Instagram	32%
TikTok	23%
Reddit	19%
Spotify / Apple Podcasts	10%
LinkedIn	9%
Truth Social	6%

39. Have you lost your job at any point in the last three years?

Yes	15%
No	64%
Not Applicable	22%

40. Do you own or rent your place of residence?

Own	48%
Rent	39%
Live with others (no rent)	10%
Student housing/dormitory	0%
Other	2%

41. Do you speak a language other than English?

Yes	27%
No	73%

42. Are you a current or former member of a labor union?

Yes	15%
No	85%

43. What describes the area where you live?

Rural	25%
Suburban	46%
Urban	29%

44. Some people seem to follow what's going on in government and public affairs most of the time, whether there's an election going on or not. Others aren't that interested. Would you say you follow what's going on in government and public affairs ...

Most of the time	40%
Some of the time	30%
Only now and then	16%
Hardly at all	10%
Don't know	4%

45. In general, how would you describe your own political viewpoint?

Liberal	25%
Moderate	33%
Conservative	29%
Not sure	13%

46. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a ...?

Democrat	32%
Republican	29%
Independent	26%
Other	3%
Not sure	10%

47. Are you registered to vote?

Yes	73%
No	23%
Don't know	4%

48. Who did you vote for in the election for President in 2024?

Kamala Harris	34%
Donald Trump	31%
Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.	0%
Jill Stein	1%
Cornel West	0%
Chase Oliver	0%
Other	1%
Did not vote for President	34%

49. Are you... ?

Male	48%
Female	52%

50. Respondent age by category

Under 30	19%
30-44	24%
45-64	35%
65+	21%

51. What racial or ethnic group best describes you?

White	62%
Black	12%
Hispanic	18%
Other	8%

52. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

HS or less	38%
Some college	28%
College grad	23%
Postgrad	12%

53. What is your marital status?

Married	41%
Separated	2%
Divorced	11%
Widowed	7%
Never married	33%
Domestic / civil partnership	6%

54. Are you the parent or guardian of any children under the age of 18?

Yes	22%
No	78%