

Hoover Institution Survey – Tariff Policy

February 19-24, 2025 - Adults in the U.S.



Sample 1,645 Adults in the U.S.
Conducted February 19-24, 2025
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	34%
No	43%
Not sure	22%

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	53%
Some	47%
None	0%

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

Yes	27%
No	53%
Not sure	20%

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

Yes	36%
No	46%
Not sure	18%

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

Yes	50%
No	33%
Not sure	17%

6. Should tariffs be used to protect American jobs?

Yes	51%
No	26%
Not sure	23%

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

Yes	33%
No	43%
Not sure	24%

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8. Which statement comes closer to your view?

- The United States should take the lead and raise tariffs on goods imported from other countries 16%
- The United States should only raise tariffs to match the tariffs charged by other countries on goods they import from the United States 52%
- The United States should remove or lower tariffs regardless of those imposed by other countries 15%
- I have no opinions on tariff policy 17%

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%	15%	25%	32%	24%
Higher tariffs will negatively affect my job security.	11%	17%	24%	18%	30%
Higher tariffs will positively affect my job security.	5%	16%	23%	22%	34%

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

- Hurt a lot 25%
- Hurt a little 21%
- Have no effect 9%
- Help a little 16%
- Help a lot 9%
- Not sure 20%

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

- Hurt a lot 38%
- Hurt a little 31%
- Have no effect 8%
- Help a little 5%
- Help a lot 4%
- Not sure 14%

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

- Support 29%
- Oppose 49%
- Not sure 22%

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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	22%
Too low	2%
Not sure	22%

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	22%
The right amount	34%
Too low	21%
Not sure	23%

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%	27%	17%	19%	30%
Revenue from tariffs can be used to replace all the existing income tax revenue collected by the federal government.	6%	21%	17%	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%	35%	17%	13%	23%
Tariffs that raise the prices I pay for everyday goods are worthwhile if they protect American jobs.	10%	32%	20%	17%	21%
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%	21%	23%	22%	25%

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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 57%
- No 12%
- Not sure 30%

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 28%
- Jobs decrease in all sectors of the economy 21%
- Tariffs have no effect on jobs 7%
- Do not know 31%

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 18%
- Do nothing 4%
- Not sure 20%

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

- Lower 3%
- Raise 64%
- No effect 6%
- It depends / Not sure 27%

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

- Increases a lot 18%
- Increases a little 31%
- No effect 12%
- Decreases a little 8%
- Decreases a lot 7%
- Not sure 25%

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 28%
- Initially boost US manufacturing but reduce it in the long run 15%
- Reduce US manufacturing at first but increase it over time 9%
- Decrease US manufacturing both immediately and over time 11%
- Have minimal impact on US manufacturing levels 9%
- Not sure 28%

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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	24%
The rate of economic growth decreases	30%
No change in the rate of economic growth	9%
Unsure	38%

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

Foreign manufacturers	25%
American manufacturers	65%
American consumers	10%

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

Foreign manufacturers	31%
American manufacturers	10%
American consumers	59%

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

The foreign company that makes the product	25%
The foreign government of the country it the import comes from	17%
The retailer or company that imports and sells the product in the United States	35%
The consumer who buys the product	23%

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

The foreign company that makes the product	11%
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	53%
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	67%
American companies that compete with foreign companies	6%
Not sure	21%

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

China	91%
Mexico	82%
Canada	75%
Japan	15%
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	38%

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	33%
Probably False	18%
Definitely False	8%
Not sure	28%

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

Strongly approve	28%
Somewhat approve	19%
Somewhat disapprove	7%
Strongly disapprove	35%
Not sure	11%

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

Strongly approve	26%
Somewhat approve	19%
Somewhat disapprove	8%
Strongly disapprove	35%
Not sure	11%

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

Strongly approve	35%
Somewhat approve	15%
Somewhat disapprove	10%
Strongly disapprove	32%
Not sure	9%

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

Strongly approve	26%
Somewhat approve	18%
Somewhat disapprove	9%
Strongly disapprove	34%
Not sure	13%

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

Agriculture or farming	1%
Arts / Entertainment	2%
Construction	4%
Education	7%
Government/public sector	3%
Healthcare and medical	7%
Manufacturing (includes factories, assembly, industrial production)	3%
Military / Armed Forces	1%
Not currently employed	29%
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	62%
Radio	28%
Print publications	25%

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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	50%
X (formerly Twitter)	38%
Instagram	31%
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	21%

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

Own	49%
Rent	37%
Live with others (no rent)	11%
Student housing/dormitory	0%
Other	2%

41. Do you speak a language other than English?

Yes	23%
No	77%

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

Yes	16%
No	84%

43. What describes the area where you live?

Rural	25%
Suburban	46%
Urban	29%

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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	41%
Some of the time	31%
Only now and then	15%
Hardly at all	9%
Don't know	3%

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

Liberal	24%
Moderate	33%
Conservative	31%
Not sure	12%

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

Democrat	31%
Republican	33%
Independent	25%
Other	3%
Not sure	8%

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	31%
Donald Trump	32%
Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.	0%
Jill Stein	0%
Cornel West	0%
Chase Oliver	0%
Other	0%
Did not vote for President	36%

49. Are you...?

Male	49%
Female	51%

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50. Respondent age by category

Under 30	21%
30-44	24%
45-64	33%
65+	22%

51. What racial or ethnic group best describes you?

White	67%
Black	13%
Hispanic	13%
Other	8%

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

HS or less	36%
Some college	29%
College grad	22%
Postgrad	13%

53. What is your marital status?

Married	40%
Separated	2%
Divorced	11%
Widowed	7%
Never married	34%
Domestic / civil partnership	6%

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

Yes	21%
No	79%