

Latest Public Opinion Research on Tariffs

Updated March 5, 2025

Navigator

March 5, 2025

Americans have negative views on tariffs:

- **31%** view tariffs favorably, while **50%** say they are unfavorable.
- **76%** of Democrats say tariffs are unfavorable, compared to just **23%** of Republicans.
- **49%** of Americans are opposed to imposing new tariffs, while **37%** support it.

Tariffs on China viewed more favorably than tariffs on Canada and Mexico:

- **45%** support new tariffs on China, while **42%** oppose them.
- **38%** support new tariffs on Canada and Mexico, while **51%** oppose them.

Majority believe tariffs will drive up costs, including Republicans:

- **67%** believe tariffs will cause prices to go up.
- **82%** of Democrats believe prices will rise, along with **51%** of Republicans.
- **64%** of Independents believe prices will go up.

YouGov/The Economist

March 3, 2025

Most have negative views on tariffs on Mexico and Canada, but positive views on China tariffs:

- **38%** support tariffs on Mexico, while **47%** oppose them.
- **32%** support tariffs on Canada, while **52%** oppose them.
- **48%** support tariffs on China, while **35%** oppose them.
- **33%** support tariffs on the EU, while **49%** oppose them.

Steel and aluminum tariffs unfavorable:

- **35%** support tariffs on steel and aluminum, while **46%** oppose them.

Voters believe US companies and citizens will bear the cost of tariffs:

- **54%** say that tariffs are paid for by companies and people in the U.S.

- **24%** say that tariffs are paid for by companies and people in the country exporting products.

Most say tariffs will raise prices, even those who voted for Trump:

- **68%** believe that tariffs will increase the price of goods in the US, while just **8%** say there will be no effect on prices.
- **55%** of Trump voters say that tariffs will increase prices, compared to **89%** of Harris voters.

Public First/Politico

February 26, 2025

Voters split on use of tariffs:

- **35%** say they are supportive of using tariffs while **33%** say they are opposed.
- **41%** say tariffs will damage the economy while **33%** say tariffs would improve the economy.

Partisan divide:

- **61%** of Trump voters support his tariff plans.
- **16%** of Kamala Harris voters support Trump's tariff plans.

Voters not supportive of tariffs on Canada:

- **28%** say they support tariffs on Canada, while **43%** are opposed.

Voters split on tariffs on Mexico:

- **35%** of voters say they support tariffs on Mexico, while **39%** are opposed.

Voters in favor of tariffs on China:

- **45%** say they support tariffs on China, while **30%** are opposed.

Elon University

February 25, 2025

Most believe tariffs will lead to higher prices:

- **80%** of respondents say they believe tariffs will increase prices, with **45%** expecting significant price hikes.

- **50%** say tariffs will negatively impact small businesses, while **19%** expect a positive impact.
- **40%** expect the rate of inflation to increase as a result of Trump's economic policies, including tariffs.
- **70%** of Democrats expect higher inflation and **71%** of Republicans expect lower inflation.

Partisan divide:

- **93%** of Democrats and **79%** of Independents say tariffs will lead to higher prices, compared to **69%** of Republicans.

Other negative impacts:

- **66%** of Americans say they expect US producers will suffer because of higher costs for imported parts and materials.
- **69%** expect other countries to retaliate with tariffs on US goods.
- **44%** say they believe Trump's tariffs will result in shortages of goods due to supply chain disruptions. **74%** of Democrats say the supply of goods will worsen compared to **13%** of Republicans.

WaPo/Ipsos

February 20, 2025

Most are opposed to increasing tariffs on Mexico or Canada, while tariffs on China are more favorable:

- **25%** support tariffs on products from Mexico or Canada.
 - **50%** support 10% tariffs on imports from China.
 - **69%** say that tariffs on Mexico, Canada, and China would cause prices in the US to increase.
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Quinnipiac University

February 19, 2025

Majority say tariffs will hurt US economy:

- **51%** say tariffs will hurt the economy while **40%** say they will help the economy.
 - **94%** of Democrats say tariffs will hurt the economy, compared to just **10%** of Republicans.
 - **52%** of Independents say tariffs will hurt the economy.
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Emerson College

February 19, 2025

Tariffs remain a divisive issue, with Americans split on their impact on jobs:

- **39%** of voters think tariffs create jobs.
- **39%** of voters think tariffs eliminate jobs.
- **22%** of voters think tariffs have no impact on jobs.

Partisan breakdown:

- **65%** of Republicans think tariffs help create jobs.
 - **61%** of Democrats think tariffs eliminate jobs.
 - **39%** of Independents think tariffs eliminate jobs.
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Harvard/Harris

February 19, 2025

Voters see some positive effects of tariffs:

- **61%** support placing reciprocal tariffs on countries that have tariffs on US goods.
- **57%** of voters believe that tariffs are an effective policy tool.
- **54%** of voters say tariffs are helpful in gaining concessions from other countries.
- **61%** of voters support reciprocal tariffs on countries that place tariffs on US goods.
- **53%** of voters say reciprocal tariffs will cause other countries to lower their tariffs on US goods while **47%** say they will not have an effect.

Voters unsupportive of Mexico & Canada and Steel & Aluminum tariffs:

- **49%** of voters say that tariffs on Mexico and Canada are harmful, while **32%** say they are helpful.
- **46%** of voters say Trump's steel & aluminum tariffs are harmful, while **34%** say they are helpful.

Voters split on other effects:

- **62%** of voters believe tariffs will raise prices.
- **35%** of voters believe tariffs will help create US jobs, while **34%** believe they will eliminate them.
- **44%** of voters believe tariffs will increase government revenue.
- **39%** of voters say that reciprocal tariffs are helpful while **41%** say they are harmful.

Peterson Institute for International Economics

- **Smaller deficits improve trade:** When a country spends less than it earns, interest rates fall, weakening the currency. This makes exports cheaper and imports more expensive, helping to reduce the trade deficit.
- **Currency policy matters:** When a country buys foreign currency, its own currency loses value. This makes exports cheaper, imports more expensive, and helps reduce trade deficits.

Fiscal and exchange rate policy, not tariffs, can reduce the trade deficit

a. Trade balances and fiscal balances, 2003–22

