TRADE NEWS WEEKLY

February 9-February 13, 2026

A summary of international business news prepared by the Hawaii Foreign-Trade Zone 9 with the collaboration of the Research and Economic Analysis Division of the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism, and based on research and information from various trade publications, which track news and events related to global trade. Other information sources may occasionally be included when appropriate.

CPSC Lists Goods That May Require Electronic Compliance Certificates

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has posted to its website a list of about 600 HTSUS numbers that it believes are likely to include products for which certificate of compliance information will have to be submitted electronically beginning July 8, 2026. However, this list does not encompass all HTSUS numbers for which an electronic certificate may be required.

The CPSC's eFiling program will require importers to electronically file data elements at the time of filing an entry, including (1) identification of the finished product, (2) the party certifying compliance, (3) each consumer product safety rule to which the finished product has been certified, (4) the date and place the finished product was manufactured, (5) when and where the finished product was most recently tested for compliance, and (6) contact information for the person maintaining test records.

This requirement will apply to imports of all CPSC-regulated consumer products and substances that require certification, including de minimis shipments. It will become effective July 8, 2026, for all such goods except those imported into a foreign-trade zone and subsequently entered for consumption or warehousing, for which it will become effective January 8, 2027.

The CPSC states that the recently issued list is intended to help the trade community understand when it and U.S. Customs and Border Protection will coordinate to flag specific HTSUS numbers or when a voluntary disclaim message may be filed, which may benefit an importer's risk score in the CPSC's system.

The Commission also encourages the trade community review its 1USG messaging guidance, as any entry with an e-filed certificate will be subject to this process. The CPSC notes that in addition to the products in the list referenced above there are other products that do not need certification but will still go through the 1USG messaging process.

The list can be found here: https://www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/CPSC-Guidance-and-HTS-List-for-Filing-of-Electronic-Certificates-6B-Cleared.pdf

Source: Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, P.A.

Assessing the State of Tariffs

The Trump administration's flagship tariff program, using the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), is designed to reduce the U.S. merchandise trade deficit by cutting imports by making them more expensive, and boosting exports via bilateral trade deals. The U.S. trade deficit fell 19.8% year-over-year in November 2025 as a result of reduced imports and improved exports.

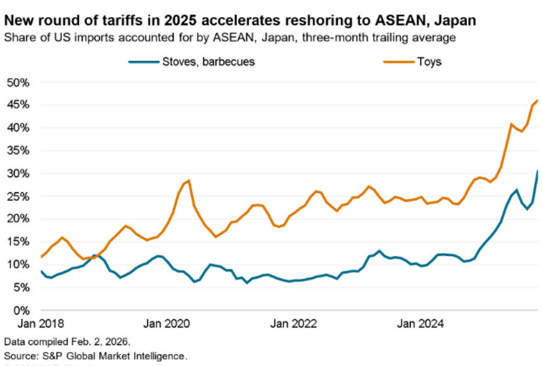
A shift in the mix of trade led the average U.S. import tariff rate to fall to 9.8% in November from 11.0% in October. That included reduced imports from higher-tariff-rate sources, including mainland China, and an increase in share from the lower-tariff-rate EU suppliers.

There was also a reduction in the share of total imports of higher-tariff-rate products including steel and autos.

Even when excluding tariff-exempted products, the average duty rate still fell to 18.9% in November from 20.5% in October, reflecting accelerated reshoring.

In the case of products covered by both IEEPA and Section 232 duties, there is a need to optimize sourcing of the non-Section 232 content. For example, this was shown by an increase in the share of metal stoves and barbecues from lower-tariff-rate Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) markets and Japan, which reached 30.5% in the three months to November 30, 2025, from 11.3% a year earlier, while for toys, the proportion increased to 46.0% from 28.6%.

Tariff rules will continue to change, shown by new trade deals with Switzerland, South Korea, Taiwan and — most recently — India. There are risks to existing IEEPA tariff rates if markets are perceived to not keep to their purchasing commitments. In the three months to November 30, 2025, exports of products to markets that have made such commitments increased by 8.9% year-over-year compared with 4.4% growth in supplies to all other markets.



Source: Panjiva Data

Legislative Actions

Tariffs.

In a February 4, 2026, letter to U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Jamieson Greer and Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick, Senate Finance Ranking Member Wyden, D-Ore., and Sen. Van Hollen, D-Md., raised concerns that the Trump administration "appears to have created a closed-door tariff exclusion process allowing relief" from tariffs imposed under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act "largely for those with political connections." They alleged that this process "has lacked transparency and procedural fairness for American stakeholders … and it has opened the door to corruption and economic harm." They therefore asked the two officials to respond by March 4, 2026, to a series of related questions, including with respect to the criteria used to make exclusion determinations in the past and going forward.

H.R. 7276 (introduced January 30, 2026, by Rep. Amodei, R-Nev.) would impose a 30 percent duty on sheep products and lamb products from Australia or New Zealand.

H.J.Res. 147 (introduced February 2, 2026, by Rep. Meeks, D-N.Y.) would terminate the national emergency declared to impose tariffs on articles imported from Brazil.

Preference programs.

President Trump signed into law February 3, 2026, legislation reauthorizing the African Growth and Opportunity Act and the Haiti HELP and HOPE acts through December 31, 2026, with retroactive effect to September 30, 2025. A CVBP message states that retroactive duty refund requests are due by August 2, 2026.

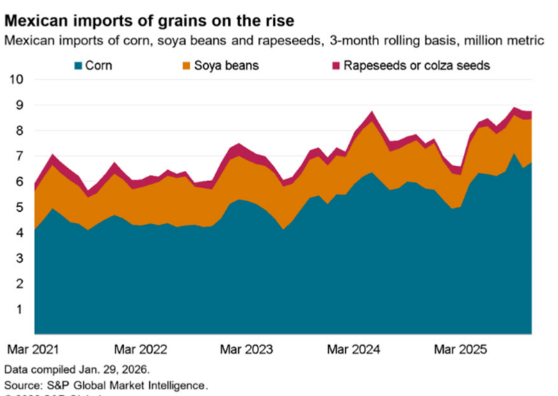
Duty refunds.

The China Trade Cheating Restitution Act (H.R. 7373, introduced February 4, 2026, by Rep. Panetta, D-Calif.) would amend the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 to modify the description of interest for purposes of certain distributions of antidumping and countervailing duties and to authorize a special distribution of those amounts. Panetta said this bill is designed to ensure that U.S. Customs and Border Protection distributes the remaining Anti-Dumping duties to U.S. garlic, honey, and crawfish producers that weren't paid between 2000 and 2014.

Imports.
More than a dozen senators wrote to USTR Greer and Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent February 3, 2026, to express concern about "the massive volumes of illicit Chinese e-cigarettes flooding into the United States." They called on the two officials to "use their respective enforcement and diplomatic authorities" to combat these imports, "whether tackling money laundering operations via FinCEN or negotiating directly with Chinese leaders to prevent future shipments."
Source: Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, P.A.

Imports from Mexico Reached Record Levels

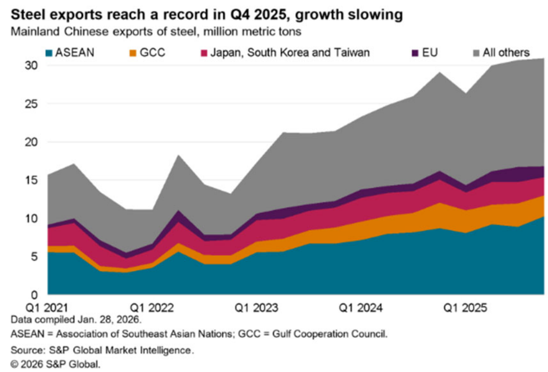
Mexican imports of corn, canola and soya have reached record levels, driven partly by the livestock industry's demand and the lifting of a ban on transgenic yellow corn imports. In 2025, Mexico imported 23.5 million metric tons of yellow corn from the U.S., which accounted for 99.6% of its yellow corn imports, up from 90.5% in 2023. The increase in imports of rapeseed and soya into Mexico, alongside international competition, has led to challenges for local producers, prompting protests from farmers amid pricing pressures and water usage restrictions.



Source: Panjiva Data

Japan's Steel Production Impacted by China Excess Capacity

Global steel supply chains have been disrupted by mainland China's excess capacity, leading to the Japan Iron and Steel Federation reporting the lowest production levels since 1969. Despite global tariffs aimed at protecting the steel industry, mainland Chinese steel exports rose 6.2% year-over-year in the fourth quarter of 2025 to 30.9 million metric tons — a record high — with significant growth in exports to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region. Weak steel prices are expected to persist in 2026, with potential deep production cuts in mainland China if financial losses increase.



Source: Panjiva Data

U.S. to Eliminate Some Tariffs, Lower Others on Imports from India

The U.S. is dropping some tariffs on imports from India immediately and has pledged to lower others if the two sides successfully conclude a trade agreement.

The U.S. and India announced February 6, 2026, the conclusion of a framework for an interim trade agreement that represents a step toward a broader bilateral deal that the White House said, "will include additional market access commitments and support more resilient supply chains." A joint statement said officials will "promptly implement" this framework and work toward finalizing the interim agreement.

In a related move, President Trump issued an executive order (EO) lifting the additional 25 percent tariff he had imposed on imports from India due to its continued purchases of Russian oil and oil products. This change was effective with respect to goods entered or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption on or after 12:01 a.m. EST on Feb. 7, 2026. The EO explains that

this tariff is being removed because India has committed to stop direct and indirect imports of Russian oil, has represented that it will purchase U.S. energy products, and has pledged to expand bilateral defense cooperation over the next 10 years.
Source: Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, P.A.

China Warns Panama of 'Heavy Prices' After Canal Ports Ruling

China warned Panama on Tuesday, February 3, 2026, there would be "heavy prices" to pay after a court ruling there annulled Hong Kong-based CK Hutchison's contract to operate two ports at the Panama Canal.

China's Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office called the ruling by Panama's Supreme Court "absurd," "shameful and pathetic," and vowed to defend the interests of Chinese firms.

Last week's court ruling annulled a key contract that Panama Ports Company, a CK Hutchison subsidiary, has held since the 1990s to operate container terminals at the canal's Pacific and Atlantic entrances.

The legal decision, which cited constitutional violations and concerns over public interest, was seen as a win for Washington amid intensifying U.S.-China rivalry over the control of global trade routes.

The ruling threatens to disrupt the Hong Kong conglomerate's proposed $23-billion sale of 43 ports in 23 countries, including the two at the Panama Canal, to a consortium led by BlackRock and Mediterranean Shipping Company.

"The ruling ignored the facts, breached trust, and seriously damaged the legitimate rights and interests of enterprises in Hong Kong, China," the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office said on its social media account.

"China has sufficient means and tools, and sufficient strength and ability to defend a fair and just international economic and trade order," the office said.

If the Panamanian authorities "insist on having their own way … heavy prices both politically and economically will surely be paid!" it added.

The court decision was welcomed by U.S. authorities. John Moolenaar, chair of the U.S. House Select Committee on China, called it a "win for America."

Without naming the U.S. in the statement, the Chinese office said, "some country has … used bullying tactics to force other countries to obey their will" and that Panama had "willingly succumbed" to hegemonic power.

U.S. President Donald Trump, who initially celebrated the proposed $23-billion ports sale, has called for the U.S. to "take back" the Panama Canal in the face of Chinese influence.

CK Hutchison's subsidiary last week said the ruling was inconsistent with the legal framework that had allowed it to operate the ports.
Source: Reuters

Canada Urged to End Wine Boycott

The U.S. is urging Canada to end its boycott of U.S. wines, a response to U.S. tariffs that led to a 77.6% decline in U.S. wine imports to Canada in the three months to October 31, 2025. This situation resulted in U.S. wines constituting only 5.0% of Canadian wine imports in the three months to October 31, 2025, down from 17.0% in 2024, while Canada has increased imports from the EU, Australia and Chile as a substitute.

The trade tensions have driven a marked impact on U.S. wine producers, with a 49.8% drop in exports to Canada in the 12 months to October 31, 2025, compared with 2024, with USMCA renegotiations marking the next uncertainty to be dealt with.
Source: Panjiva Data