TRADE NEWS WEEKLY

July 6-July 10, 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.

Warehouse Entries No Longer Accepted on CAPE Tariff Refund Declarations

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has announced that effective July 7, 2026, warehouse entries (entry types 21 and 22) will no longer be accepted on the Consolidated Administration and Processing of Entries (CAPE) declarations seeking refunds of IEEPA tariffs. Warehouse entries submitted on a CAPE declaration on or after that date will be rejected with the ENTRY TYPE NOT ALLOWED error message.

CBP adds that warehouse entries that were accepted on a CAPE declaration from April 20, 2026, through July 6, 2026, without the submission of the corresponding warehouse withdrawal(s) will not be (re)liquidated with a refund of IEEPA tariffs. In such circumstances, filers will need to submit another CAPE declaration(s) with the warehouse withdrawals on which IEEPA tariffs were paid.

CBP states that warehouse withdrawals (entry types 31, 32, 34, and 38) will continue to be accepted on CAPE declarations since the IEEPA tariffs were paid on them. CBP will process approved IEEPA tariff refunds on warehouse withdrawals submitted via CAPE declarations upon the (re)liquidation of the associated warehouse entry. The liquidation process for warehouse entries will continue to be performed by CBP in the normal course after all withdrawals have been made and the warehouse entries are ready for liquidation, at which time CBP will process approved refunds of the IEEPA tariffs.
Source: Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, P.A.

U.S. Declines to Renew USMCA in its Current Form

The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) announced July 1, 2026, that the U.S. has not agreed to renew the U.S.-Mexico-Canada agreement (USMCA) in its current form but that the agreement remains in force.

The USMCA provides for its own termination as of July 1, 2036, unless each party confirms that it wishes to continue the agreement. Because the U.S. has declined to do so, there will now be annual joint reviews until an agreement to extend the USMCA is unanimous or the deal terminates.

USTR said it will continue to engage with Canada and Mexico to address the USMCA's "shortcomings and our trade deficits with these countries." To that end the U.S. plans to meet with Mexico the week of July 20, 2026, for a third round of bilateral negotiations. The U.S. and Canada have not held any formal negotiations but have reportedly been talking informally for months.
Source: Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, P.A.

Electronic Filing of Compliance Certificate Data Mandated

More than a decade after first proposing the idea, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has issued a final rule that will implement electronic filing of certificate of compliance information for imports of regulated consumer products and substances. This rule also makes certain revisions to the requirements for such certificates.

The CPSC states that its new 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 Jan. 8, 2027.

The CPSC believes that using electronically-filed information "will drive greater efficiencies in product inspections and more effectively target high-risk products being imported into the United States." eFiling will also "reduce inspection frequency and hold times for compliant product importers – rewarding firms with a record of compliance and enabling their imports to move more quickly."

The CPSC states that this rule also (1) modifies the definition of "importer" to ensure that a party eligible to make entry for imported, regulated consumer products is legally responsible for CPSC certificate requirements, (2) provides that importers will not be required to file a disclaimer message set with U.S. Customs and Border Protection for products that do not require a certificate, (3) clarifies that the requirement to certify regulated products applies to finished products and not component parts, (4) clarifies the party that is legally responsible for information on a finished product certificate, (5) requires private labelers to certify domestic products (unless they are certified by the manufacturer), and (6) aligns the agency's existing certificate rule with other CPSC rules on testing and certification.
Source: Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, P.A.

Import Ban Expanded by FCC

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has issued a notice that, effective July 16, 2026, prohibits the continued importation and marketing of equipment added to the Covered List in 2024 or earlier but authorized before the adoption of the FCC's 2022 rules.

The Covered List comprises equipment and services that have been determined to pose an unacceptable risk to U.S. national security or the security and safety of U.S. persons. Equipment on this list is banned from receiving new FCC equipment authorizations, which are required prior to importation, marketing, or sale in the U.S.

The FCC states that this new prohibition does not apply to the following.

- the continued use or operation of already-purchased communications equipment

- equipment added to the Covered List after 2024

- certain equipment added to the Covered List on March 12, 2021, when used for the purpose of physical security surveillance of critical infrastructure (this temporary suspension will be lifted on the effective date of an FCC order adopting a definition of "critical infrastructure")

- for any equipment subject to a use-based Covered List entry, importation and marketing of such equipment for uses other than public safety, government facilities, and other national security purposes.

The Covered List can be found at:

https://www.fcc.gov/supplychain/coveredlist

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

U.S. Retailers Frontload China Orders for Holiday Season

U.S. retailers have brought forward orders from China by four-to-six weeks to secure their inventories for Black Friday and Christmas holiday sales before expected tariff hikes later this year, shipping executives said.

President Donald Trump's visit to China last month has preserved the detente between the world's two largest powers, but uncertainty remains high.

A universal 10% U.S. tariff imposed by Washington in February, after the Supreme Court declared some earlier tariffs illegal, expires on July 24, 2026, but it is widely expected to be replaced with higher levies.

The U.S. Trade Representative has proposed a 12.5% tariff on imports from China and elsewhere following an investigation into forced labor, which Beijing denies, with a final decision expected in coming months.

"There is an expectation that tariffs could be raised again, or restored to previous levels, so everyone is rushing to get goods in before that happens," said Tony Meng, a China-based senior sales manager at shipping firm XPD Global.

Usually such orders peak in July-September, but shipping firms said volumes in May and June were higher than expected, contributing to a spike in shipping prices.

The frontloading means that the 35% growth in U.S. imports from China in May, which overshadowed April's 11% growth and March's contraction, could be sustained in June but may fade later in the summer.

Exports have been a key growth driver this year for China, compensating for structural weakness in domestic demand and building on a strong 2025 when the world's second-largest economy posted a record $1.2 trillion trade surplus.

China's top U.S. export items by value in May included smartphones, lithium-ion batteries, solid-state drives, toys, kitchenware and festival products. June data will be released on July 14.

Shipping group Maersk MAERSKb.CO said in a statement to Reuters that container space has been tightening on the China–U.S. route since mid-May, due to "stronger customer demand and earlier seasonal bookings."

A China-based shipping executive, who requested anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media, said back-to-school items such as stationery and apparel were part of the May-June frontloading, while early Christmas stockpiling also played a role.

He added May's rise was also due to soccer World Cup-related orders, including jerseys, flags, souvenirs and large-screen TVs. The U.S. co-hosts the tournament with Canada and Mexico.
Source: Reuters

Vietnam Trade

A Vietnam News Agency article reports that the U.S. signed June 25, 2026, with Vietnam a memorandum of understanding (MOU) under which the two sides "plan to share electronic cargo manifest data in real time, or as quickly as possible, to support risk management and detect violations, including trade fraud, counterfeit goods, smuggling, origin fraud and tax evasion." The article adds that the MOU "is also expected to streamline customs clearance procedures for compliant businesses and reduce inspection-related delays at border checkpoints while improving the competitiveness of exports from both countries."
Source: Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, P.A.

Shipping Costs Rise

Maritime consultancy Drewry's World Container Index showed spot shipping rates from Shanghai to New York on June 25, 2026, were $7,149 per 40-foot container, 6% higher than a week before and 25% up on the year. On the Shanghai to Los Angeles route the cost was $5,750, 12% up on the week and 54% higher on the year.

"Importers continue frontloading shipments ahead of potential tariff changes and higher bunker-related costs," a Drewry report said.

Outdoor furniture maker Jin Chaofeng said it would be hard to pass the entire cost of shipping fees on to customers, pointing to thin pricing power and profit margins for Chinese manufacturers in less technologically advanced sectors.

Kyle Henderson, CEO and co-founder of container-tracking software provider Vizion, warned however that tariffs still weigh on overall U.S. demand which remains below its three-year average and should only be described as "normal-to-soft."

The higher shipping costs reflect capacity management by transport firms more than surging U.S. demand, Henderson said, citing some canceled sailings in recent weeks.

Henderson expects volumes to drop after July and into the third quarter due to a "combination of inventory already landed and a tariff environment that structurally raises the cost of China-origin goods."
Source: Reuters

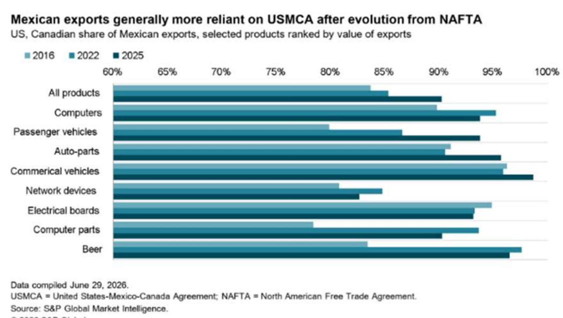
U.S. Supply Chains Continue Tariff-Driven Uncertainty

Global trade policies and supply chain regulations continue to be the defining source of uncertainty for supply chain decision-makers. We identify issues to watch in the U.S., the EU and globally during the rest of 2026 and into 2027.

U.S. supply chains face another year of tariff-driven uncertainty as Section 301 and Section 232 actions remain the central tools of trade policy. Current Section 301 (forced labor-related) tariffs cover 75.1% of imports not otherwise covered by Section 232, while the excess-manufacturing review could extend coverage to 99.4% and run until March 2027. Five Section 232 reviews, United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) renewal talks, and possible market-specific actions against Vietnam, Germany and the EU add further uncertainty. Although a U.S.-India deal is close, forecasts still point to India's U.S. trade surplus widening to US$57.0 billion by 2030, leaving scope for renewed U.S. dissatisfaction.

The EU is balancing protectionism, dealmaking and supply chain regulations. Relations with mainland China are deteriorating as EU imports from mainland China rise, led by batteries, autos/components and pharmaceuticals, where mainland Chinese suppliers have sharply increased market share. Antidumping review pressure may therefore broaden. At the same time, trade deals with Mercosur and India create medium-term export opportunities, with EU exports to Mercosur forecast to grow 2.4% annually and exports to India by 4.0% through 2030. Supply chains must also prepare for the EU Deforestation Regulation, fossil fuel import rules, wider Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) coverage and new steel safeguards from July 2026.

Trade policy risk is broadening beyond the U.S. and EU as geopolitical rivalries and elections reshape sourcing assumptions. Mainland China-Japan tensions have increased after Japan relaxed defense export controls, with mainland China expanding dual-use restrictions and rare earth exports to Japan falling 81.3% year over year in the three months to May 2026. In South America, elections in Colombia, Peru and Brazil may affect investment policy, although the region remains externally oriented, with mainland China taking 26.1% of exports from nine large economies in 2025. The UK also faces policy flux, including new steel measures and defense-led supply chain development.



Source: Panjiva Data