

Industrial Trade Report

By GCP Industrial Products

Report Highlights

- At the current proposed tariff rates U.S. consumers face an overall average effective tariff rate of 28%, the highest since 1901.
- Recent remarks has seen Trump turned down his aggressive rhetoric towards China saying he'd be willing to "substantially" pare back his tariffs on China.
- The ISM® Prices Index has increased 21.1 points over the past six months to record its highest reading since June 2022.
- Global trade tensions are weighing on natural rubber prices, falling 16.5% month-over-month.
- The latest rise in global manufacturing production was limited to emerging markets, which continues to see traces of tariff-related front-loading activity, while developed market's manufacturing output returned to contraction.
- For March, U.S. ports are expected to process 2.14 million Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units (TEUs), up 11.1% year-over-year, due again to tariff-related front-loading activity.
- From March 24-31 to April 1-8 after the U.S. announced its reciprocal tariffs:
 - Global twenty-foot equivalent units booked plummeted by 49%.
 - Overall U.S. imports fell by 64%.
 - U.S. exports declined by 30%.
 - U.S. imports from China dropped 64%.
 - U.S. exports to China decreased by 36%.
- The ocean freight market has been thrown into turmoil. For Asia to N.A. East Coast starting May 5 there is a major spike in blank sailings totaling 35% of the total offered capacity. For Asia to N.A. West Coast 28% of total capacity is expected to be blanked.

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Tariffs

2025 Trump Tariff Threats and Actions				
Imposed On	Effective Date	Type of Tariff	Amount	Status
Various	May 3	Automobile Parts	25%	Pending
China	May 2	U.S. De Minimis Exemption Ends for China Low-Value Imports – Tariff Increases (Postal Items)	Duties Apply	Pending
Various	April 10	Reciprocal Tariff Paused, 10% Remains (exempt Canada and Mexico)	Varying	Active 10%
China	April 10	U.S. Enforces on China 125% Tariff	125%	Active
China	April 9	U.S. Enforces on China 84% Tariff	84%	Increased to 125% (April 10)
Various	April 5	Reciprocal Tariff (exempt Canada and Mexico)	Varying	Paused (April 10)
Various	April 3	Automobiles	25%	Active
Various	Unannounced	Countries Importing Oil from Venezuela	25%	Pending
Canada	TBD	Reciprocal to address all Canadian tariffs, taxes and non-tariff barriers	TBD	Pending
Various	March 12	Steel, Aluminum, and Derivatives	25%	Active
Canada	March 7	Potash Products not Covered by CUSMA/USMCA	10%	Active
Canada	March 4	Energy Products not Covered by CUSMA/USMCA	10%	Active
Canada/Mexico	March 4	U.S. 25% Tariff on Canada and Mexico Imports In Effect March 4th	25%	Active
China	March 4	U.S. Enforces on China additional 10% Tariff	20%	Active
China	February 4	U.S. Enforces on China 10% Tariff	10%	Active

Key Takeaways:

- At current proposed tariff rates, U.S. consumers face an overall average effective tariff rate of 28%, the highest since 1901. Even after adjusting for potential consumption shifts to lower/no tariff countries, the average tariff rate will be 18%, the highest since 1934.

Reciprocal Tariffs

- On April 9, Trump paused his massive reciprocal tariffs program for 90 days to allow countries to negotiate with the administration. Trump officials have said around 90 to 100 countries have come forward to negotiate deals.
- Without negotiated deals in place Trump could impose his tariffs on countries that rise as high as 50%, except for China, which the Trump administration set at 145% (some products as high as 245%).
- As a matter of reference, it typically takes 18 months for the U.S. to negotiate a trade deal, a grinding process of give-and-take.
- In the meantime, U.S. consumers and businesses face higher tariffs on imported goods (from nearly every nation) plus a deep uncertainty about where they will go from here.

Tariffs on China

- As recession worries grow and steep tariff rates threaten to all but shutter commerce between the world's two largest economies, the Trump administration is signaling intentions to tone down trade tensions with China.
- Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent recently told reporters that the trade war with China is "unsustainable" in its current form, and that a satisfactory arrangement does not necessarily mean an actual trade document.
- Trump has also turned down his aggressive rhetoric towards China saying he'd be willing to "substantially" pare back his tariffs on China.
- Trump's comments coincide with a recent Wall Street Journal report mentioning U.S. officials are considering plans to slash tariffs on Chinese imports. Under the proposals, the range could come down to between 50% to 65%.
- There is also reportedly a tiered approach being discussed, which would see 35% levies on items not considered critical for national security and 100% on those that are.
- Additionally, Trump mentioned he could announce tariff rates for countries, including China, "over the next two to three weeks" further adding that the deadline would ultimately depend on whether China engaged.
- The White House has yet to formally launch trade talks with the Chinese government, though Trump said "everything's active" when asked whether he was actively engaging with China.

Raw Material Pricing

Institute for Supply Management (IMS®) Price Index					
Month	Prices Higher	Prices Same	Prices Lower	Net	Index
Mar 2025	46.0%	46.7%	7.3%	+38.7	69.4
Feb 2025	31.4%	61.9%	6.7%	+24.7	62.4
Jan 2025	20.7%	68.3%	11.0%	+9.7	54.9
Dec 2024	14.4%	76.1%	9.5%	+4.9	52.5
Nov 2024	12.2%	76.1%	11.7%	+0.5	50.3
Oct 2024	19.8%	69.9%	10.3%	+9.5	54.8
Sept 2024	12.9 %	70.7 %	16.4 %	-3.5	48.3
Aug 2024	21.4%	65.2%	13.4%	+8.0	54.0
Jul 2024	22.6%	60.5%	16.9%	+5.7	52.9
Jun 2024	20.2%	63.8%	16.0%	+4.2	52.1
May 2024	25.5%	63.0%	11.5%	+14.0	57.0
Apr 2024	30.8%	60.1%	9.1%	+21.7	60.9
2024 Index Average Jan.-Dec.					53.6
2023 Index Average Jan.-Dec.					46.6
2022 Index Average Jan.-Dec.					64.7
2021 Index Average May-Dec.					82.8
Price index under 50 means prices are decreasing					
Price index above 50 means prices are increasing					

Key Takeaways:

- The ISM® Prices Index registered 69.4% in March, indicating raw materials prices increased for the sixth straight month.
- The Prices Index has increased 21.1 points over the past six months to record its highest reading since June 2022 (78.5%).
- Price increases have been largely fueled by sharp spikes in steel and aluminum costs due to tariffs. Additionally, copper corrugate and plastic resins have seen rising prices as companies shift away from foreign-made goods, causing domestic prices to rise amid new demand.
- In March, 15 industries that reported paying increased prices for raw materials: Nonmetallic Mineral Products; Textile Mills; Electrical Equipment, Appliances & Components; Fabricated Metal Products; Primary Metals; **Plastics & Rubber Products**; Paper Products; Miscellaneous Manufacturing; Transportation Equipment; Wood Products; Machinery; Chemical Products; Food, Beverage & Tobacco Products; Furniture & Related Products; and Computer & Electronic Products.
- No industries reported paying decreased prices for raw materials.

Commodity Pricing

IMS® Commodity Price Change	
Prices Up	
Aluminum (16)	Paints & Adhesives
Aluminum Products	Plastic Resin (2)
Brass	Polypropylene Resin (2)
Copper (2)	Steel (2)
Corrugate	Steel - Carbon (2)
Corrugated Boxes	Steel - Cold Rolled
Critical Minerals	Steel - Hot Rolled (2)
Electrical Components (2)	Steel - Scrap (3)
Electronic Components (2)	Steel - Stainless
Packaging	Steel Products

IMS® Commodity Price Change
Prices Down
Industrial Alcohols
Natural Gas

IMS® Commodities in Short Supply
Cable Assemblies
Critical Minerals
Electrical Components (54)
Electronic Components

*The number in brackets after each item indicates the number of consecutive months the commodity has been listed up or down. * Indicates those commodities both up and down in price.*

U.S. Natural Rubber Pricing (cents/kg)

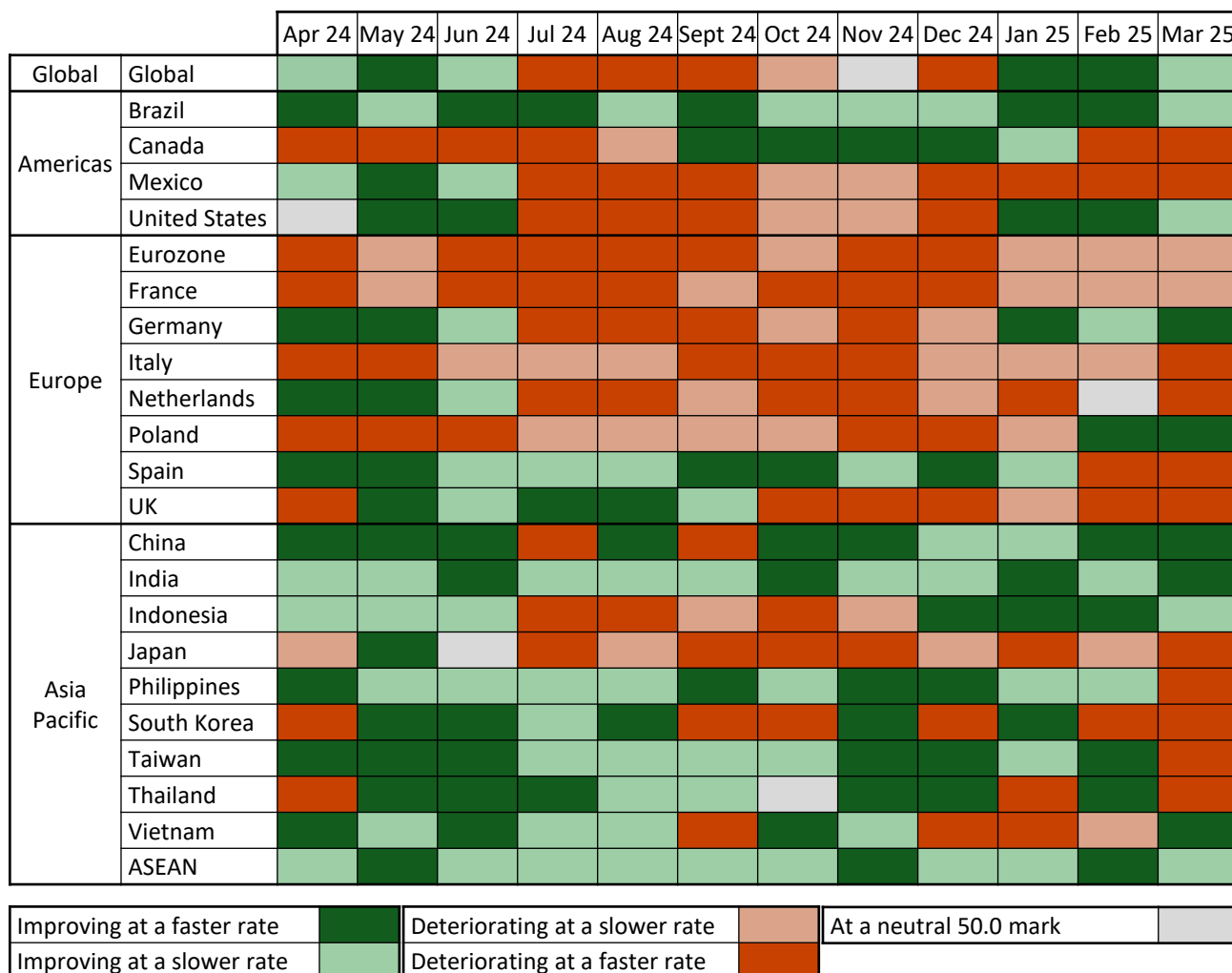


Key Takeaways:

- Rubber future have plummeted to around 167 U.S. cents per kg. as the market braces for increased supply with harvesting underway. Natural rubber typically sees peak harvesting beginning in May through September.
- Global trade tensions also weigh on prices as demand for rubber-based products used in automobiles, home appliances, machinery and footwear remain uncertain.

Global PMI Manufacturing Heatmap

Included components for calculating the manufacturing conditions of each country are; Production output, new orders, new export orders, backlogs of work, employment, input prices, output prices, future expectations, quantity of purchases, suppliers' delivery times, stocks of purchases, stocks of finished goods.



Key Takeaways:

- March's data indicated that global economic growth accelerated to a three-month high (driven mostly by services), though growth over the first quarter was the weakest since late 2023. Worldwide business expectations slipped to the lowest since last September.
- The recent increase in manufacturing production was confined to emerging markets, where signs of tariff-related front-loading persisted, while manufacturing output in developed markets slipped back into contraction.

Global Sectors Heatmap

	Apr 24	May 24	Jun 24	Jul 24	Aug 24	Sept 24	Oct 24	Nov 24	Dec 24	Jan 25	Feb 25	Mar 25
Basic Materials												
Chemicals												
Resources												
Forestry & Paper Products												
Metals & Mining												
Industrials												
Industrial Goods												
Machinery & Equipment												
Construction Materials												
General Industrials												
Transportation												

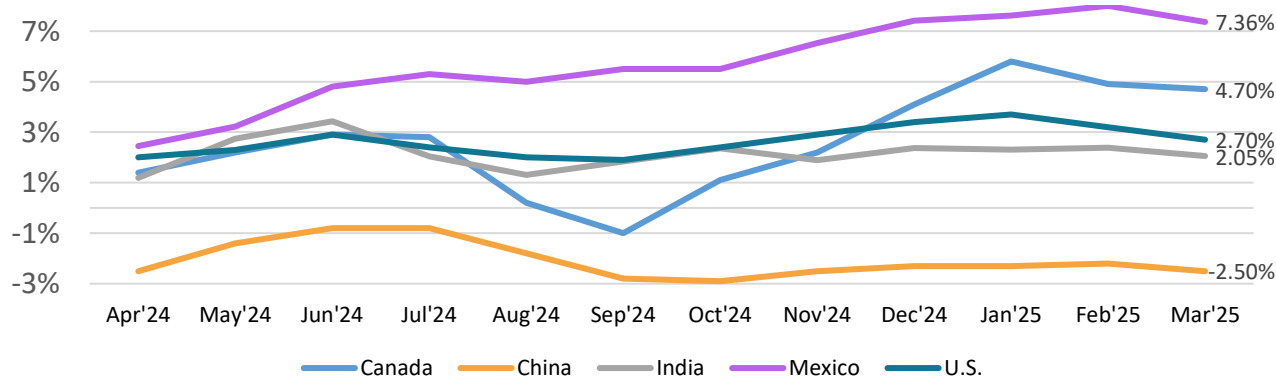
Improving at a faster rate		Deteriorating at a slower rate		At a neutral 50.0 mark	
Improving at a slower rate		Deteriorating at a faster rate			

Key Takeaways:

- The most recent S&P Global Sector data indicates a decline in growth for the basic materials sector, with all subsectors rapidly weakening on a month-over-month (MOM) basis.
- For industrials, march was a relatively positive driven mostly by emerging markets. Developed economies are grappling with contractions and heightened inflationary pressures.

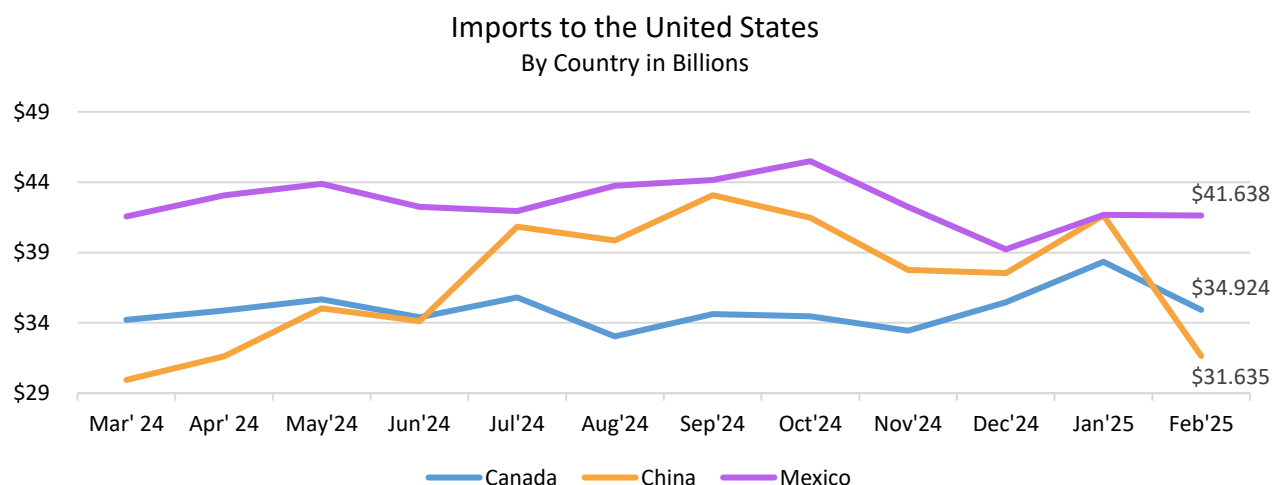
Producer Prices by Country

Producer Prices by Country
Percent Change Per Month Year Over Year



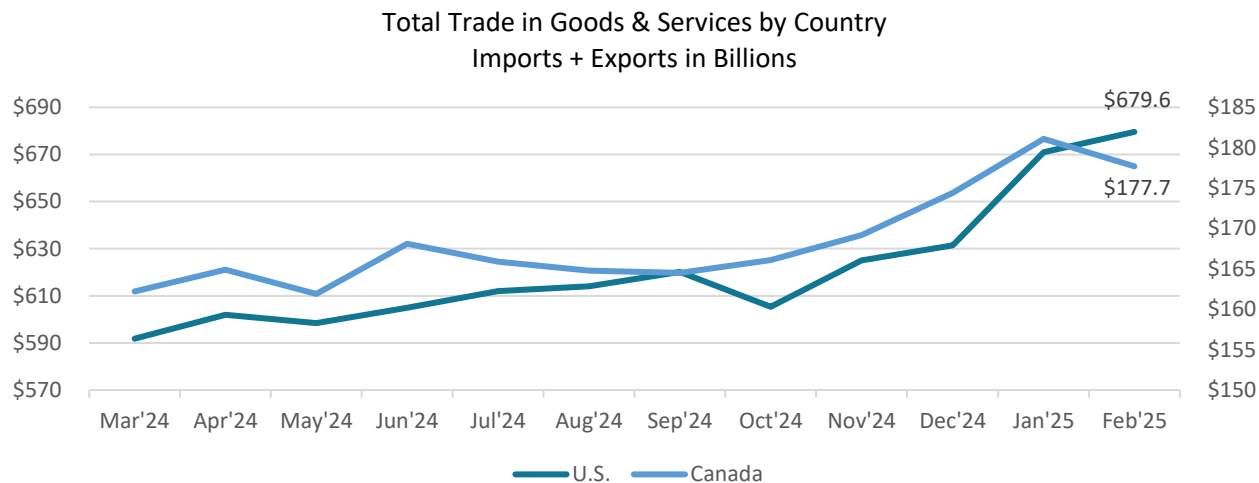
Key Takeaways:

- U.S. producer prices rose 2.7% year-on-year (YOY) in March. This marked the smallest annual gain since September. Despite the pullback, producer prices are expected to trend higher in the coming months due to the impact of tariffs.
- China's producer prices dropped by -2.5% YOY in March. This was the fastest annual fall since last November, amid a seasonal downtrend in energy demand and ongoing trade tensions with the U.S. that has fueled concerns over growing amounts of unsold exports, potentially pushing domestic prices even lower.
- India's wholesale prices increased by 2.05% YOY, marking the 17th consecutive month of wholesale inflation. Manufacturing prices accelerated to a 27-month high, mainly boosted by faster rises in paper & paper products, pharmaceuticals, chemical products and basic metals.

Imports to the United States**Key Takeaways:**

- Mexico remains the U.S.'s top import partner in February, decreasing slightly month-over-month (MOM).
- February imports from China saw a notable decline of 24% from January. This decline may be due to the Chinese Lunar New Year and fewer business days in the month, but also possibly the implementation of additional tariffs by the U.S. on Chinese imports which went into effect on February 4.
- Canadian imports to the U.S. fell nearly 9% due to lower exports of unwrought gold, iron and steel products, as U.S. businesses possibly looked to other sources in anticipation of looming tariffs.

Total Trade Volume

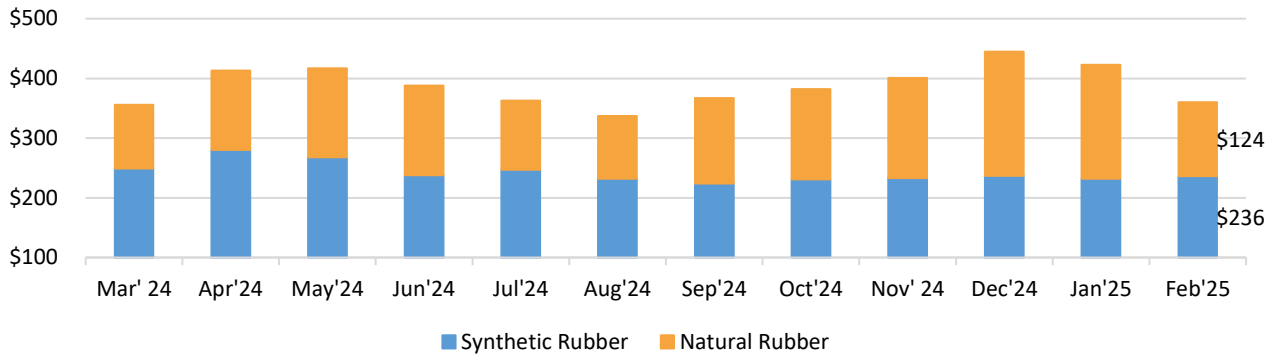


Key Takeaways:

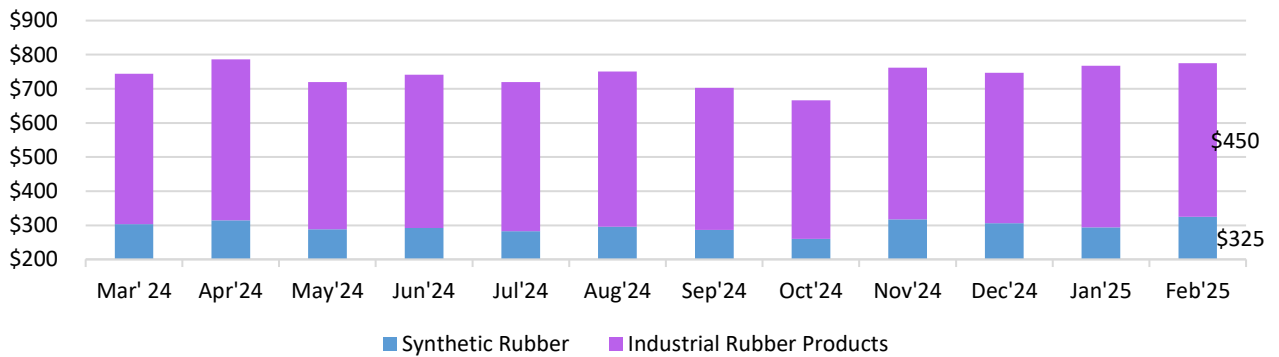
- Combining both imports and exports provide insights into the overall health and dynamics of that country or sector. If the totals are growing, it indicates a healthy, expanding economy or marketplace benefiting from both strong domestic and international markets.
- For the U.S., the export of industrial supplies and materials grew \$3.04 billion, while imports shrank -\$4.16 billion over January's totals.
- In Canada, exports of the industrial chemical, plastic and rubber products sector, continued their MOM decline, decreasing -4.3% while imports also fell -3.3% for the month.

U.S. Rubber Import & Export Stats

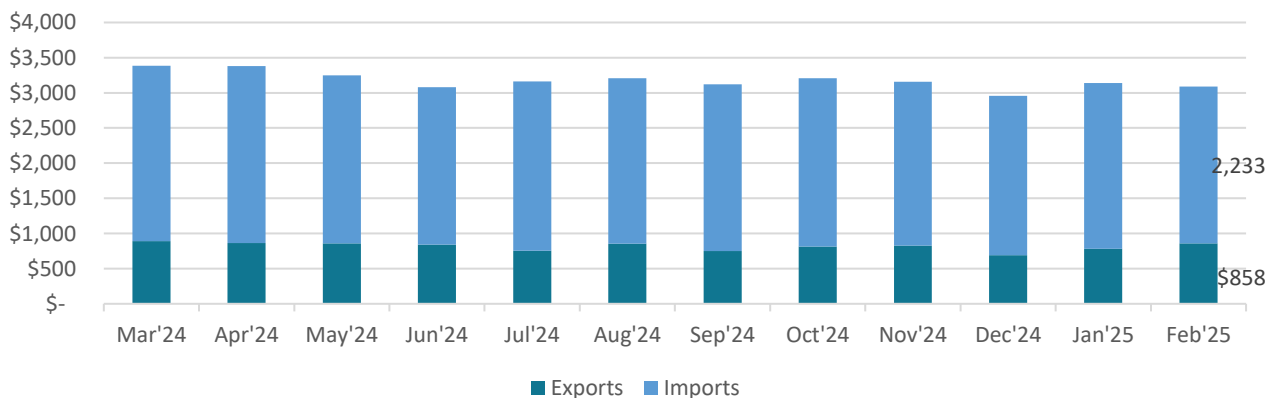
Import of Rubber Products
in Millions



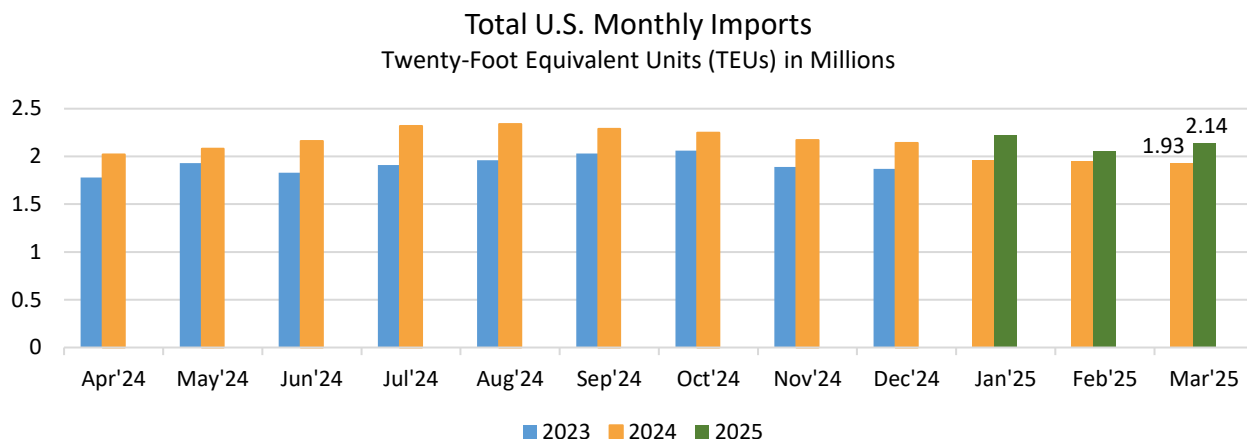
Export of Rubber Products
in Millions



Rubber Manufactured Goods
in Millions



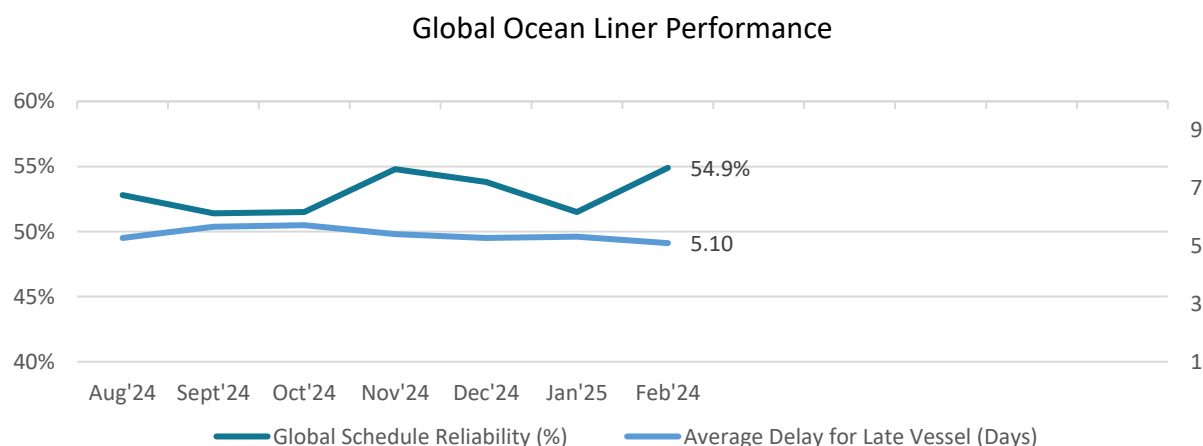
Monthly U.S. Imports



Key Takeaways:

- U.S. ports are expected to process 2.14 million Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units (TEUs), up 11.1% YOY. April, which includes cargo shipped before the new tariffs were announced, is forecast at 2.08 million TEUs, up 3.1% YOY.
- However, May is expected to end 19 consecutive months of YOY growth, dropping sharply to 1.66 million TEUs, down 20.5% from the same time last year.

Global Ocean Schedule Reliability



Key Takeaways:

- Global ocean schedule reliability (measuring 60+ carriers) improved by 3.6% MOM to 54.9%, the highest level recorded since May 2024. In addition, the average arrival delay of LATE vessels improved to 0.22 days, which continues its downward trend from the pervious month.

Port Operations

Current North America Vessel Dwell Times						
Region	Port	Vessels Waiting	Average Wait for Birth	Rail Dwell Times		
U.S. West Coast	LA/LB	3	7 days	7 days		
	OAK	4	6 days	6 days		
	SEA/TAC	1	5 days	5 days		
Canada West Coast	Van	9	10 days	8 days		
	PRR	2	2 days	9 days		
U.S. East Coast / Gulf Coast	NY/NJ	4	0 days	6 days		
	BAL	7	8 days	8 days		
	NOR	5	2 days	2 days		
	CHS	0	1 days	4 days		
	SAV	4	3 days	3 days		
	HOU	2	4 days	10 days		
Improving over last month			Consistent over last month		Deteriorating over last month	

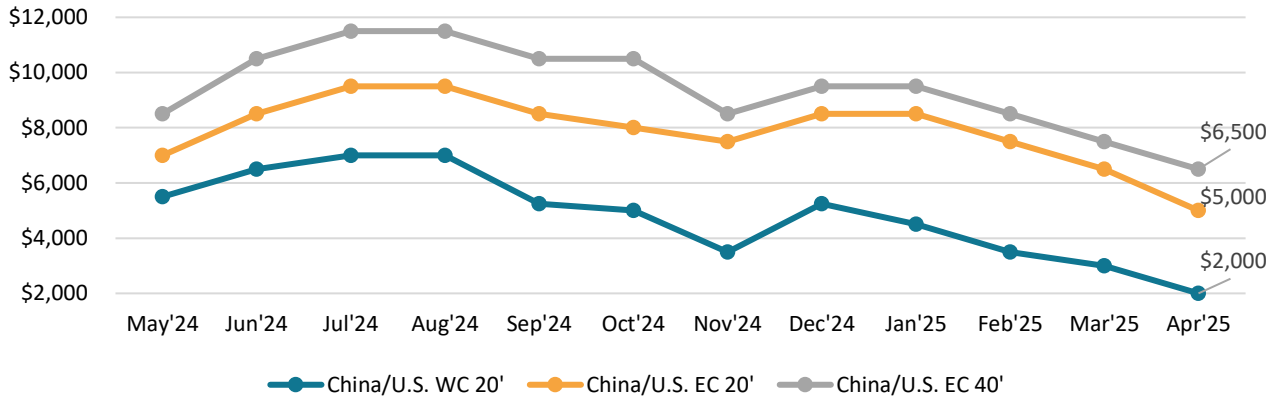
Key Takeaways:

- Despite posting strong first-quarter numbers in 2025, ports across North America are preparing for a significant downturn in cargo volumes as new tariffs threaten to reshape global maritime trade patterns.
- Booking volumes for U.S. containerized imports have dropped 20% from their January peaks, despite still being 30% higher YOY compared to 2024. However, as tariff-related uncertainty intensified, the impact on trade volumes becomes even more pronounced.
- From March 24-31 to April 1-8, the logistics industry witnessed precipitous declines across multiple sectors.
- Global twenty-foot equivalent units booked plummeted by 49%. Overall U.S. imports fell by 64%. U.S. exports declined by 30%. U.S. imports from China dropped 64%. U.S. exports to China decreased by 36%.
- These dramatic reductions coincided with the April 2nd announcement by the Trump administration of new tariff measures. The result was a widespread booking freeze, as shippers paused to reassess their strategies.

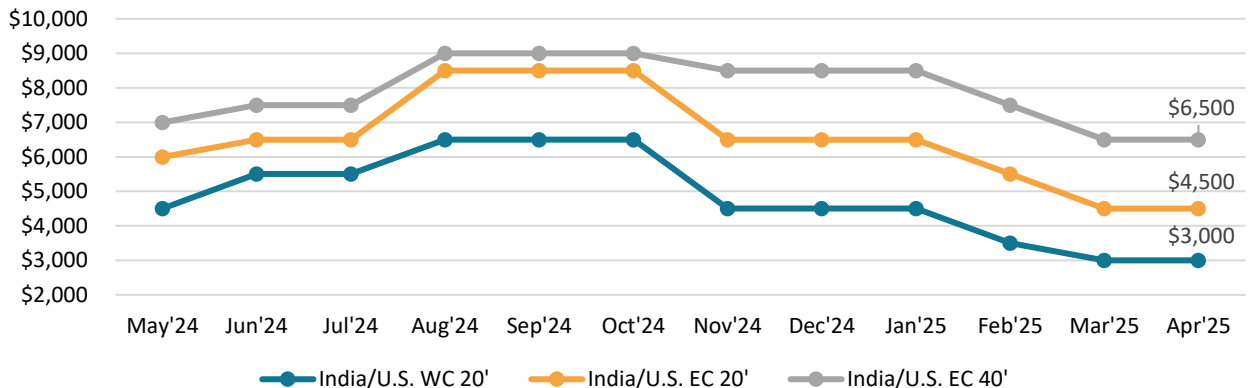
Ocean Freight

All rates stated on this page are GCP's port to door rates, fully delivered, inclusive of all fees.

Average GCP/China Container Cost, U.S. Dollars



Average GCP/India Container Cost, U.S. Dollars

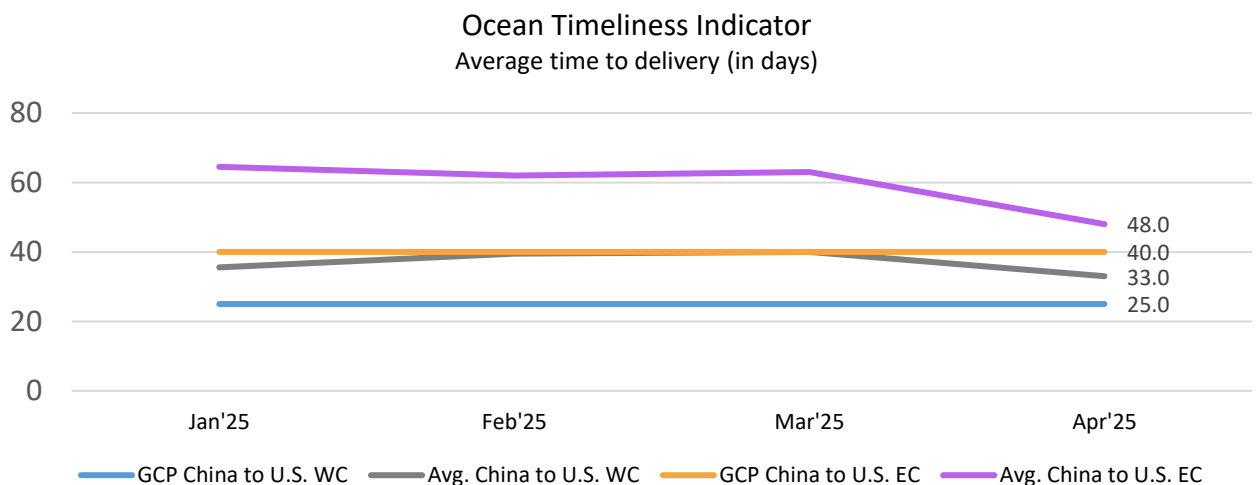


Key Takeaways:

- The ocean freight market has been thrown into turmoil as a dizzying array of tariff announcements, exemptions and retractions has left shippers and businesses struggling to keep pace with the rapidly changing situation.
- The impact on freight has been significant. The initial rollout of reciprocal tariffs led to a widespread drop in container bookings out of Asia. However, many shippers sourcing from other Asian countries (outside of China) have started increasing their orders again, attempting to get ahead of possible tariff resummptions in July.

- For China shipments the extreme tariffs have led to a sharp decline in container export bookings, with increased blanked sailings on this lane as demand slumps.
- For Asia to N.A. East Coast there is now a major spike in blank sailings totaling 35% of the planned capacity for the week starting on May 5, which is quite extreme. For the week after it is increased to 42% of the total offered capacity.
- For Asia to N.A. West Coast starting April 28, 13% of the offered capacity is scheduled to be blanked which is then more than doubled to 28% for the week starting May 5th.
- The escalation in blanked capacity illustrates a dramatic change in the market reminiscent of the start of the pandemic when demand collapsed for several months.
- Though country-to-country level data shows rates to the U.S. have increased slightly from origins like Vietnam since the tariff pause, prices from China have surprisingly not collapsed.
- China - N. A. rates have eased, however, the blanked sailings along with early implementation of peak season surcharges will aim to prevent rates from sliding further.

Ocean Timeliness Indicator

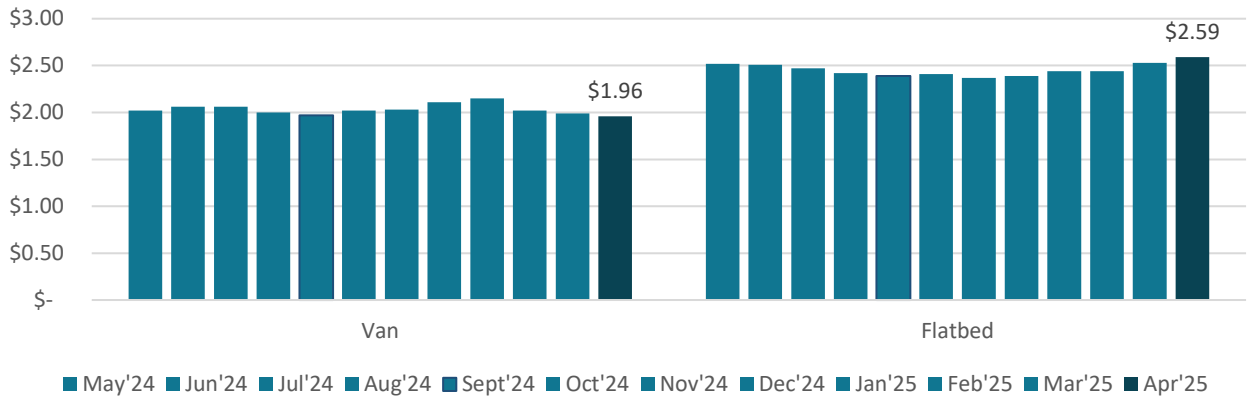


Key Takeaways:

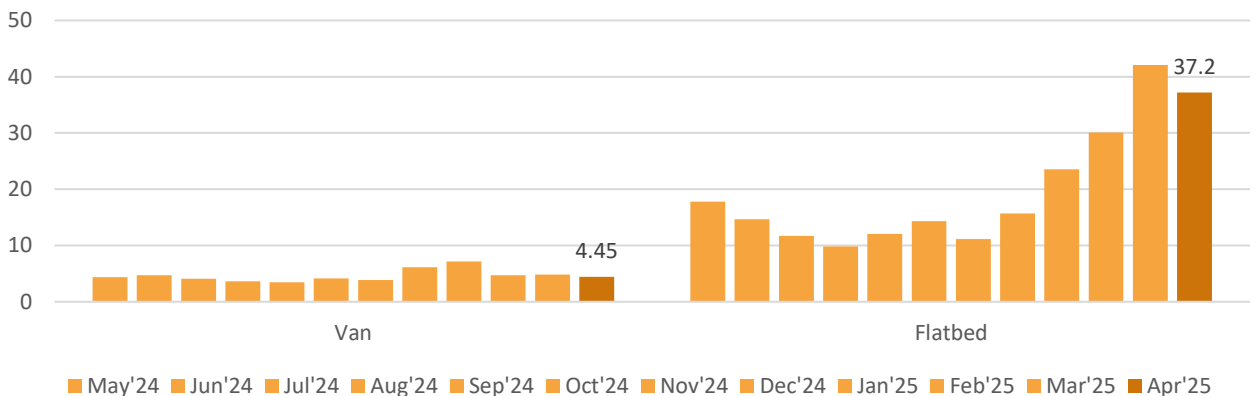
- For the average calculations we use the Flexport's Ocean Timeliness Indicator (OTI), which tracks transit time from the cargo ready date at the exporter's factory or facility to departure from the destination port (EC - NY/NJ or WC - L.A./Long Beach).
- GCP's delivery time uses our port-to-door transit time, tracking the days an average order takes to ship and be delivered to your location, including ocean and all other intermodal transit.

Trucking Freight

North American Trucking Rates
Average Spot Rate/Mile, U.S. Dollars



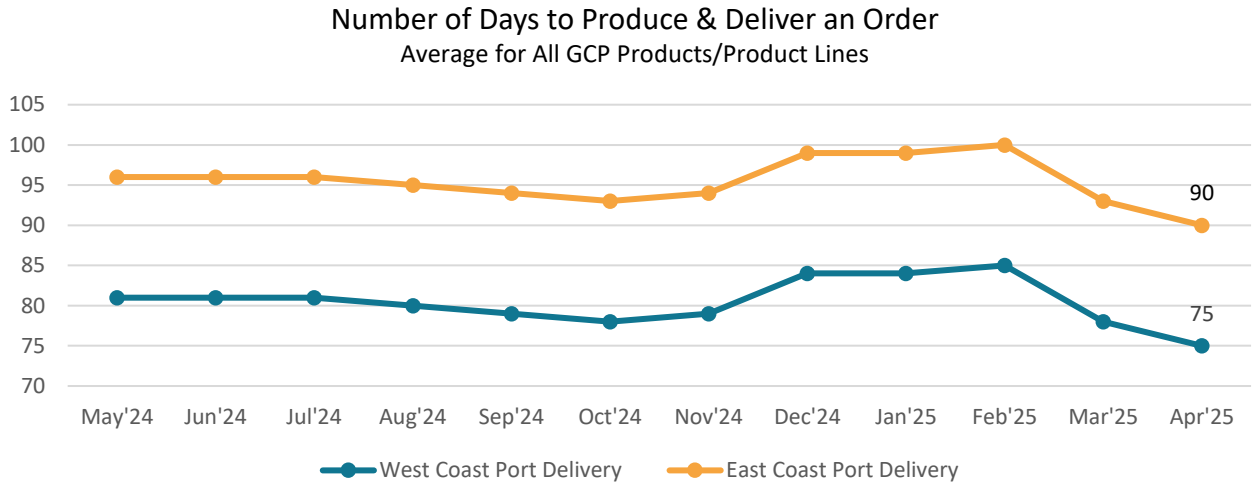
North American Load-to-Truck Ratio
Average Number of Loads Posted for Every Truck Posted



Key Takeaways:

- Average rates in both the spot and contract markets changed little in the past month, keeping the contract-to-spot spread elevated above historic averages.
- Ongoing uncertainty surrounding tariff policy, both proposed and enacted, continues to exert downward pressure on freight demand. Following the typical winter seasonal slowdown, trucking activity remains subdued as tender volumes are underperforming relative to historical seasonal expectations.
- Trucking capacity continues to exit the marketplace creating tighter market conditions compared to years past, but tender rejections data still indicates ample supply is available.

GCP Production Times



Key Takeaways:

- The chart above represents the aggregated time it takes for an average GCP order to be fulfilled, from submission of the purchase order to the delivery of the product. It consolidates data from all facilities into a single figure, including the time required to book a container—currently averaging 10.5 days—along with ocean shipping and all other transit times.
- For specific production times on each of our product lines and products, please see our April 2025 production index. ([View here](#))

Resources

Tariffs

- <https://budgetlab.yale.edu/research/state-us-tariffs-april-15-2025>
- <https://www.ghy.com/tariff-tracker/>
- <https://www.cnn.com/2025/04/23/business/new-tariffs-trump-weeks/index.html>
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Raw Material Prices/Commodity Pricing

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Natural Rubber Pricing

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- <https://businessanalytiq.com/procurementanalytics/index/natural-rubber-price-index/>

Global PMI Manufacturing/Global Sectors Heatmap

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Producer Prices

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Imports to the United States

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- <https://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/balance/c5700.html>
- <https://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/balance/c2010.html>
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- <https://www.freightwaves.com/news/mexico-remains-top-us-trade-partner-laredo-no-3-gateway>
- <https://www.descartes.com/resources/knowledge-center/global-shipping-report-february-imports-strong-amid-trade-tensions>

Total Trade Volume

- <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/250403/dq250403a-eng.htm?indid=3612-3&indgeo=0>
- <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/daily-quotidien/250403/dq250403a-eng.pdf?st=aMcKdCly>
- <https://www.bea.gov/news/2025/us-international-trade-goods-and-services-february-2025>
- https://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/Press-Release/current_press_release/ft900.pdf

U.S. Rubber Import & Export Stats

- https://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/Press-Release/current_press_release/ft900.pdf

Monthly U.S. Imports

- <https://nrf.com/media-center/press-releases/import-cargo-levels-to-drop-sharply-amid-new-tariffs-and-uncertainty>

Ocean Schedule Reliability

- <https://www.sea-intelligence.com/press-room/316-new-carrier-alliances-launch-with-record-schedule-reliability>

Port Operations

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- <https://gcaptain.com/port-of-los-angeles-braces-for-cargo-decline-as-trade-war-intensifies/>
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Ocean Freight

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Trucking Freight

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- <https://www.ryantrans.com/news/april-2025-industry-update>
- <https://www.chrobinson.com/en-us/resources/insights-and-advisories/north-america-freight-insights/apr-2025-freight-market-update/key-freight-service-updates/na-truckload/>

GCP Production Times

- <https://www.gcpindustrial.com/production-times-updates/>



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