

Industrial Trade Report

By GCP Industrial Products

Report Highlights

- The 90-day reduction in U.S. tariffs on Chinese imports started on May 14, 2025, and will expire on August 11, 2025.
- On August 12, 2025, the reciprocal part of the duty rate will increase from 10% to 34% unless further agreements are reached between the two nations before then.
- The ISM® Prices Index registered 69.8% in April, indicating raw materials prices increased for the seventh straight month after a decrease in September.
- Natural rubber prices have rebounded from April lows as it recovers from weakling demand factors such as declining oil prices, U.S. tariff policies and major producing countries entering peak harvesting season.
- The global manufacturing sector witnessed a slight acceleration of production growth in April, but the broader picture is a worrisome one. Worldwide business expectations slipped to the lowest since the height of the pandemic on concerns of rising trade barriers.
- U.S. ports processed 2.20 million Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units (TEUs) in April, up 9.1% year-over-year (YOY). May is forecast at 1.81 million TEUs, down 12.9% YOY to end 19 consecutive months of YOY growth.
- U.S. imports from China totaled 804,122 TEUs for the month of April, rising 5.4% from March and 6.2% YOY. China remained the top source of U.S. containerized imports, accounting for over 35% of the total inbound volume.
- Ocean carriers started introducing mid-month GRIs of \$1,000 - \$3,000/forty-foot equivalent unit (FEU) in May, with similar increases planned for June 1st and 15th.

Contents

Tariff Overview	3
U.S./China Tariffs	4
Raw Material Pricing	5
Commodity Pricing	6
Natural Rubber Pricing	6
Global PMI Manufacturing Heatmap	7
Global PMI Sector Heatmap	8
Producer Prices by Country	8
Imports to the United States	9
Total Trade Volume	10
U.S. Rubber Import & Export Stats	11
Monthly U.S. Imports	12
Ocean Schedule Reliability	12
Port Operations	13
Ocean Freight	14
Ocean Timeliness Indicator	15
Trucking Freight	16
GCP Production Times	17
Resources	18

Disclaimer - This document is published by GCP Elastomeric Inc. The findings, interpretations and conclusions expressed herein are a result of a collaborative process facilitated GCP but whose results do not necessarily represent the views of the company, nor the entirety of its employees, partners or other stakeholders.

© 2025 GCP Elastomeric Inc. All rights reserved.
No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying and recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system.

Tariffs

2025 Trump Tariff Threats and Actions				
Imposed On	Effective Date	Type of Tariff	Amount	Status
China	May 14	U.S. Enforces 10% Reciprocal Tariff	10%	Active
Various	May 3	Automobile Parts	25%	Active
China	May 2	U.S. De Minimis Exemption Ends for China Low-Value Imports – Tariff Increases (Postal Items)	Varying	Active
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%	Reduced to 10% (May 14)
China	April 9	U.S. Enforces on China 84% Tariff	84%	
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	10%	Active
China	February 4	U.S. Enforces on China 10% Tariff	10%	Active

Key Takeaways:

- With Trump's self-imposed July 9 deadline for reinstating country-specific reciprocal tariff rates fast approaching, only one agreement (with the United Kingdom) has been announced. Meanwhile, Trump and his administration officials are beginning to signal doubts about their ability to finalize individual trade deals in time.

U.S./China Tariffs

- Acknowledging the significance of their bilateral economic and trade relationship for both nations and the global economy, China and the U.S. agreed to temporarily reduce tariffs on each other's goods by 115%.
- This means the U.S. 2025 temporary tariff rate on Chinese produced goods will reduce from 145% to 30% (10% for reciprocal tariffs + 20% for the fentanyl tariffs levied earlier this year).
- The 90-day reduction in U.S. tariffs on Chinese imports started on May 14, 2025, and will expire on August 11, 2025.
- On August 12, 2025, the reciprocal part of the duty rate will increase from 10% to 34% unless further agreements are reached between the two nations.
- In their first call since the Geneva meeting, senior officials from both countries reaffirmed their commitment to continue high-level engagement as they work toward a broader agreement.
- Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Ma Zhaoxu and U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau exchanged views on a range of key issues.
- The call signals that both sides are reconnecting on the diplomatic level and is a positive sign that the communication channel established in Geneva is moving forward.
- Prior to the call on May 22nd, Chinese Minister Ma met with the new U.S. Ambassador to China, David Perdue, as Beijing hopes to align more closely with the U.S. for the ongoing trade discussions.
- In that meeting, Perdue said he shared Trump's priorities for constructive bilateral relations stating, "I look forward to working with the Ministry and counterparts to achieve concrete outcomes for the American people."
- In a separate meeting with JPMorgan Chase Jamie Dimon on Thursday, Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng said the negotiations with the U.S. on economic and trade issues have "made substantial progress," stressing Beijing's stance of intending to further open its market for American businesses to operate in China.
- Analysts believe strategic decoupling remains inevitable, expecting the Trump administration to use more targeted sectoral tariffs and non-tariff measures aimed at containing China's access to advanced technology.
- In response, China might tighten its export controls on rare earths to the U.S.

Raw Material Pricing

Institute for Supply Management (IMS®) Price Index					
Month	Prices Higher	Prices Same	Prices Lower	Net	Index
Apr 2025	49.2%	41.1%	9.7%	+39.5	69.8
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
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 69.8% in April, indicating raw materials prices increased for the seventh straight month after a decrease in September.
- The Prices Index recorded its highest reading since June 2022 (78.5%). The percent of companies reporting higher prices has consistently increased over the past six months, from a low of 12.2% in November 2024.
- Price increases are being driven by rises in steel and aluminum impacting the entire value chain, as well as the general 10% tariff applied to many imported goods.
- In April, 15 industries that reported paying increased prices for raw materials: Textile Mills; Furniture & Related Products; Nonmetallic Mineral Products; Machinery; Miscellaneous Manufacturing; Fabricated Metal Products; Chemical Products; Food, Beverage & Tobacco Products; Primary Metals; Paper Products; Computer & Electronic Products; Electrical Equipment, Appliances & Components; Transportation Equipment; Wood Products; and **Plastics & Rubber Products**.
- No industries reported paying decreased prices for raw materials.

Commodity Pricing

IMS® Commodity Price Change	
Prices Up	
Aluminum (17)	Packaging (2)
Aluminum Products (2)	Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
Brass (2)	Plastic Resin (3)
Construction Materials	Power Train Products
Cooking Oils	Road Freight
Copper (3)	Steel (3)
Corrugated Boxes (2)	Steel — Hot Rolled (3)
Critical Minerals (2)	Steel — Stainless (2)
Electrical Components (3)	Steel Products (2).
Electronic Components (3)	
Maintenance, Repair, and Operations (MRO) Supplies	

IMS® Commodity Price Change
Prices Down
Gasoline and Diesel Fuel
Natural Gas (2)

IMS® Commodities in Short Supply
Electronic Components (2)
Plastic Resin
Semiconductors

*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)

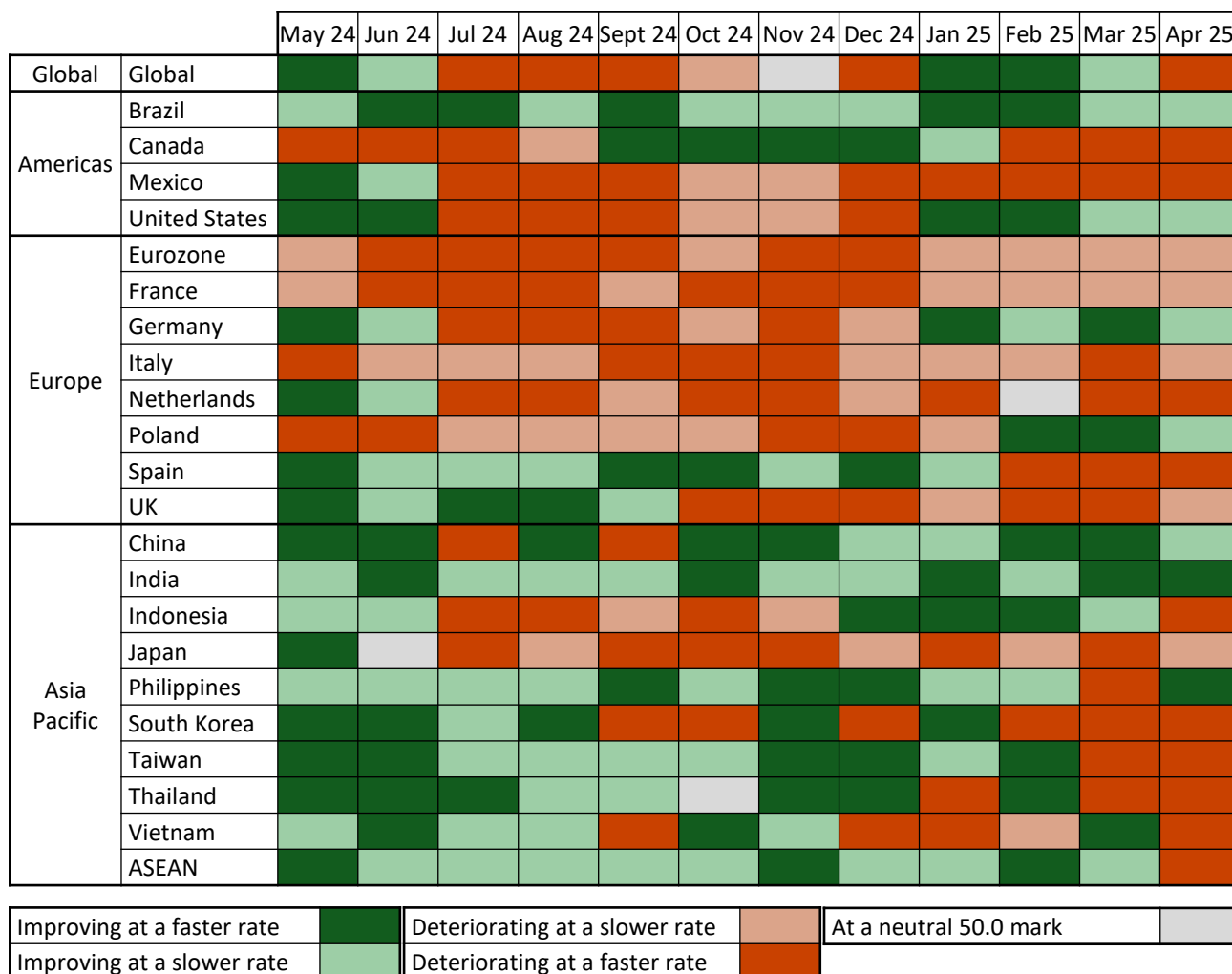


Key Takeaways:

- Natural rubber prices have rebounded from April lows as it recovers from weakling demand factors such as declining oil prices, U.S. tariff policies and major producing countries entering peak harvesting season. It is anticipated natural rubber prices will stabilize in the coming months, with potential for a recovery in the second half of 2025.

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:

- April's data revealed that the global economy continued to expand to start the second quarter. Moreover, the latest expansion in output was broad-based as both the manufacturing and service sectors collectively expanded for the fourth month in a row.
- Although the manufacturing sector witnessed a slight acceleration of production growth in April, the broader picture is a worrisome one. Worldwide business expectations slipped to the lowest since the height of the pandemic with concerns over the impact of rising trade barriers.

Global Sectors Heatmap

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

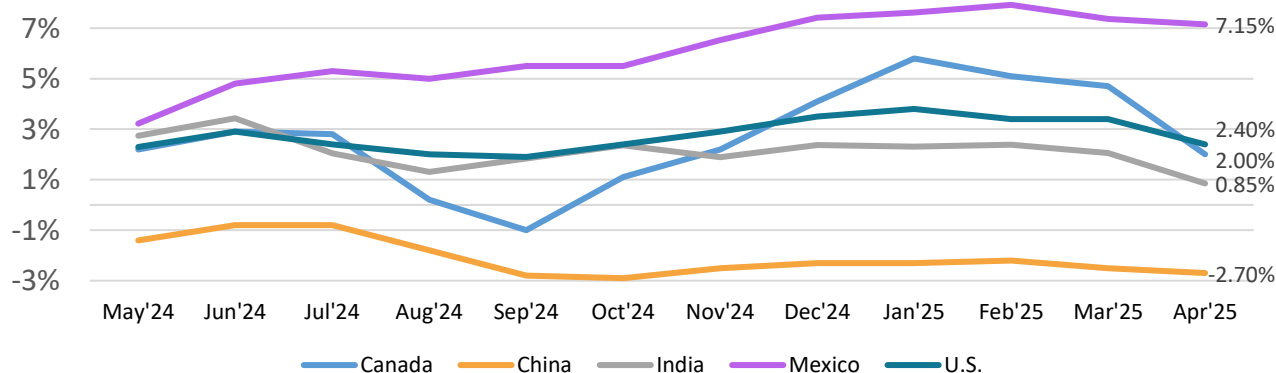
Improving at a faster rate		Deteriorating at a slower rate		At a neutral 50.0 mark	
Improving at a slower rate		Deteriorating at a faster rate			

Key Takeaways:

- The basic materials sector faces challenges from weak demand and geopolitical uncertainties. However, the stabilization in inventory levels may provide some support in the near term.
- The performance of the industrials sector has been mostly positive, but it remains heavily influenced by global investment trends and regional economic conditions, which may begin to pose challenges going forward.

Producer Prices by Country

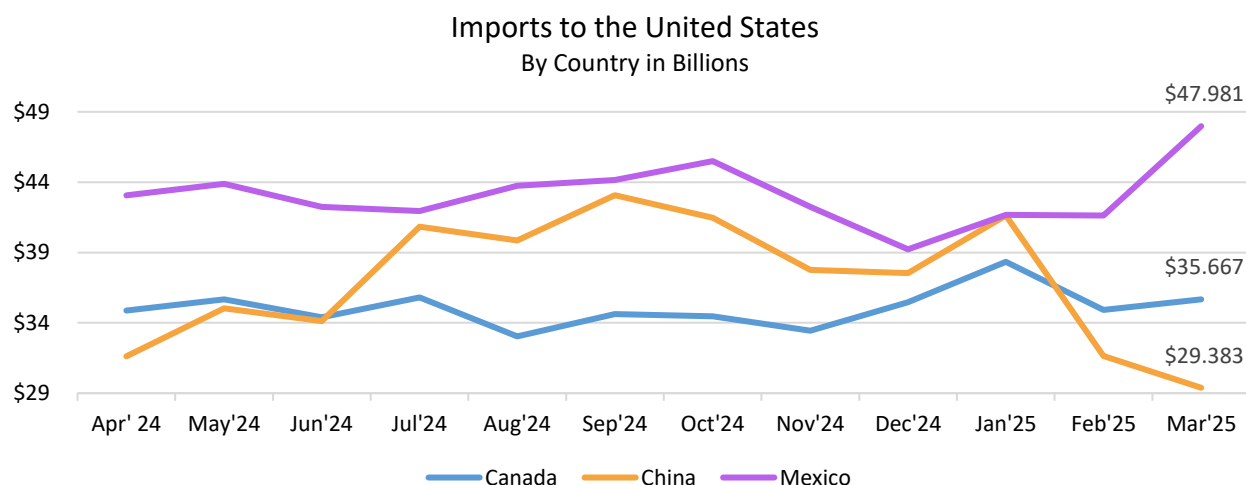
Producer Prices by Country
Percent Change Per Month Year Over Year



Key Takeaways:

- U.S. producer prices unexpectedly declined from 3.4% in March to 2.4% in April, marking the largest monthly drop since 2009. Prices for intermediate processed goods rose 0.2% in April and are up 0.5% versus last year. Prices for intermediate unprocessed goods declined 3.2% in April but are up 1.7% versus a year ago.
- China's producer prices fell 2.7% YOY in April, marking the 31st consecutive month of deflation and the steepest decline since last October. The contraction continues to be driven by rising external risks from escalating U.S. trade tensions and persistently weak domestic demand.
- India's wholesale prices for April 2025 declined to a 13-month low of 0.85%, down from 2.05% in March. This significant drop is primarily attributed to a decrease in the prices of food, fuel, and manufactured goods.

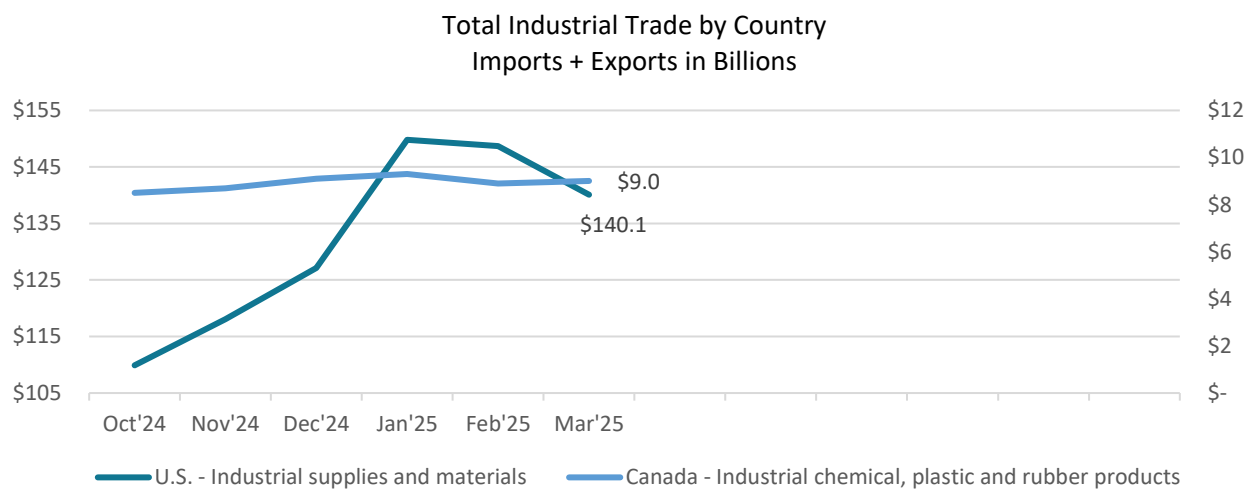
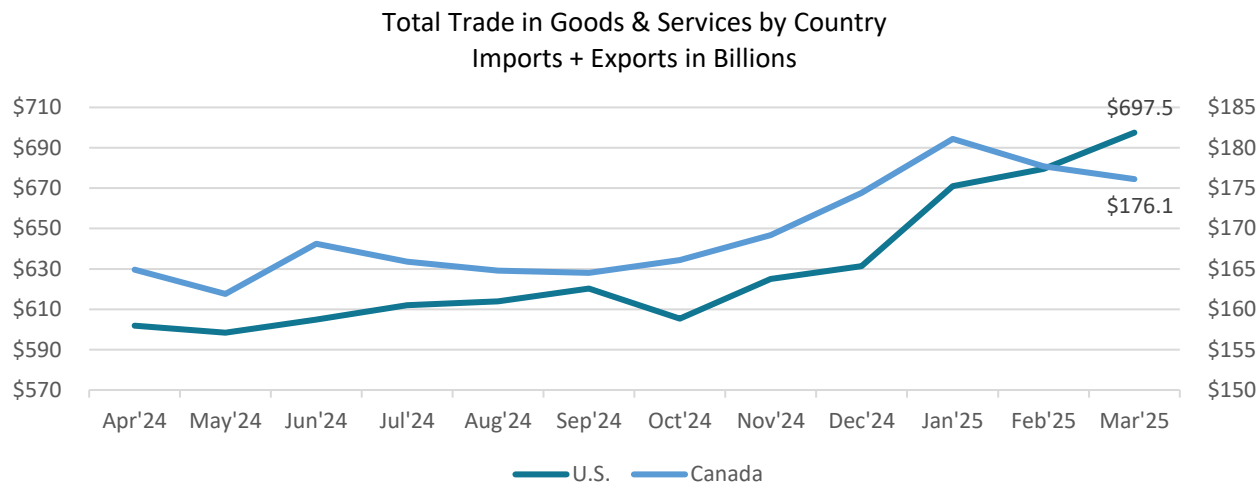
Imports to the United States



Key Takeaways:

- Despite broader tariff threats, goods flowing from Mexico to the U.S. remains robust, with imports showing consistent growth, specifically since the start increased tariffs against China.
- In March, U.S. imports from China decreased 12.6% from the previous month, but are still up 9.4% YOY. At the beginning of March, the U.S. implemented the second round of fentanyl tariffs (directed by President Trump) on imports from China and Hong Kong.
- Canadian imports to the U.S. grew slightly month-over-month (MOM) as the U.S. initially implemented broad tariffs on Canadian goods in early March. Those tariffs were then further adjusted, with exemptions and pauses reducing their impact for most sectors.

Total Trade Volume

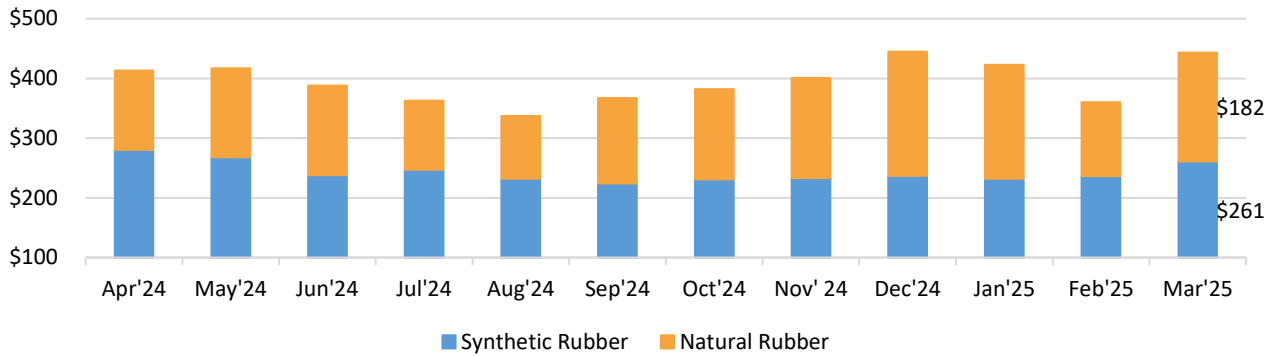


Key Takeaways:

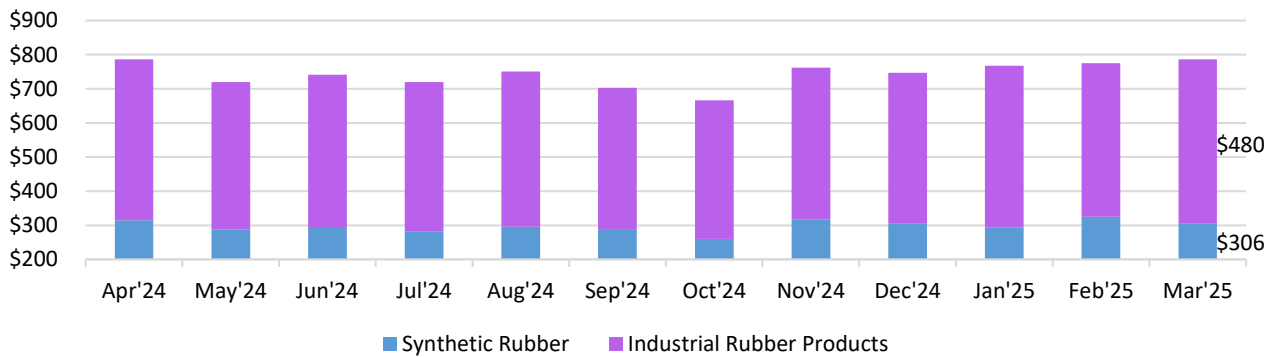
- Combining both imports and exports provide insights into the overall health and dynamics of that country or sector. If the totals are growing, it indicates a healthy, expanding economy or marketplace benefiting from both strong domestic and international markets.
- For the U.S., the export of industrial supplies and materials grew slightly by \$2.17 billion, while imports shrank -\$10.72 billion over February's totals.
- In Canada, exports of the industrial chemical, plastic and rubber products sector, continued their MOM decline, decreasing -0.5% while imports grew marginally at 1.7% for the month.

U.S. Rubber Import & Export Stats

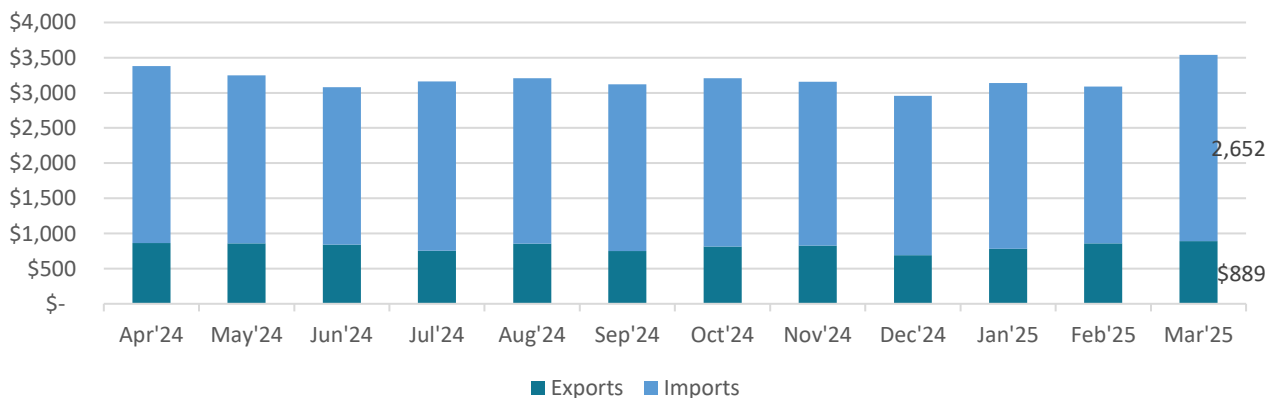
Import of Rubber Products
in Millions



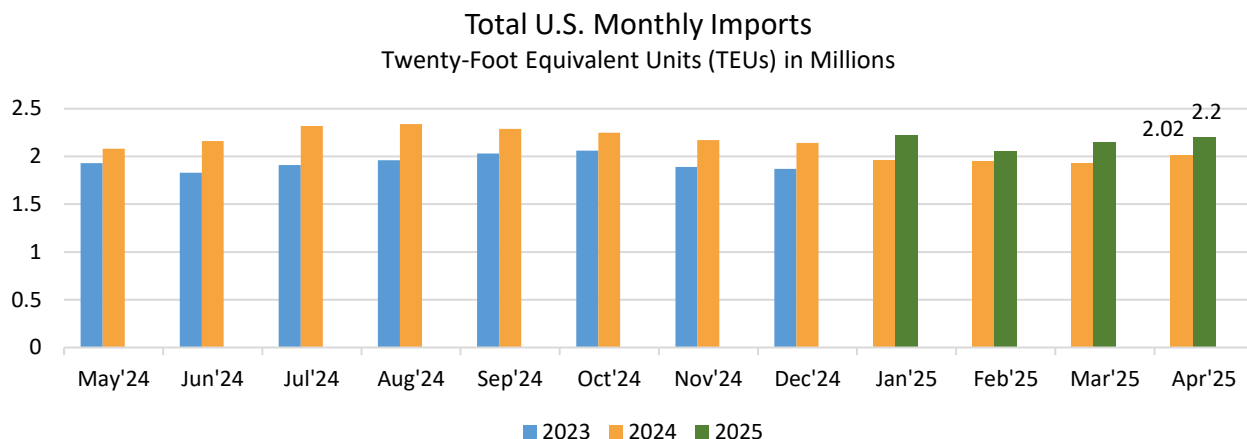
Export of Rubber Products
in Millions



Rubber Manufactured Goods
in Millions



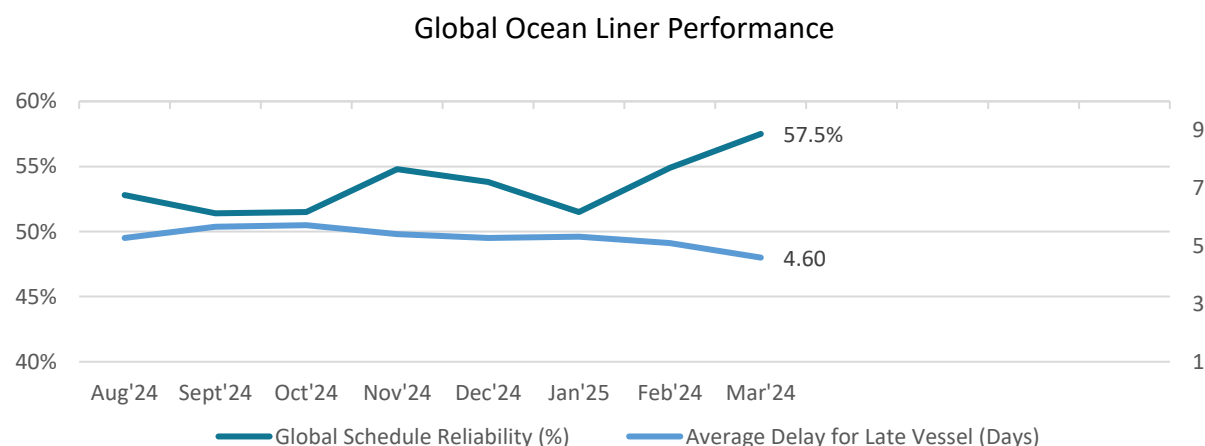
Monthly U.S. Imports



Key Takeaways:

- U.S. ports in April processed 2.20 million Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units (TEUs), up 9.1% YOY. May is forecast at 1.81 million TEUs, down 12.9% YOY to end 19 consecutive months of YOY growth.
- The current forecast would bring the first half of 2025 to 12.13 million TEUs, up only 0.3% over last year rather than the total of 12.78 million TEUs, up 5.7% YOY, that was forecast before the April tariffs announcement.

Global Ocean Schedule Reliability



Key Takeaways:

- Global ocean schedule reliability (measuring 60+ carriers) improved by 3.0% MOM to 57.5%, the highest level recorded since November 2023. In addition, the average arrival delay of late vessels improved to 0.5 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	4	0 days	7 days	
	OAK	2	0 days	5 days	
	SEA/TAC	0	0 days	5 days	
Canada West Coast	Van	1	2 days	5 days	
	PRR	1	3 days	5 days	
U.S. East Coast / Gulf Coast	NY/NJ	4	0 days	9 days	
	BAL	4	0 days	8 days	
	NOR	6	1 days	4 days	
	CHS	1	1 days	3 days	
	SAV	4	2 days	2 days	
	HOU	0	4 days	8 days	
Improving over last month			Consistent over last month		Deteriorating over last month

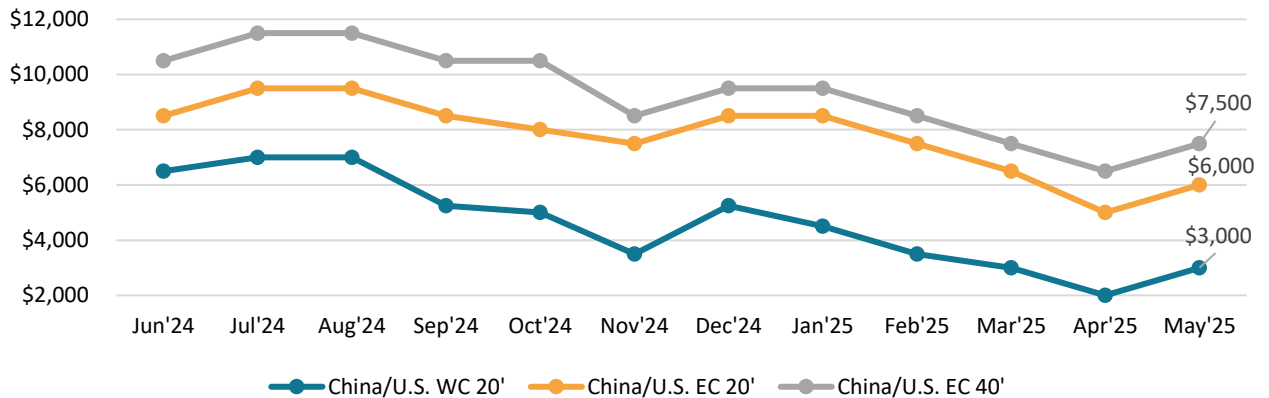
Key Takeaways:

- U.S. container imports remained strong in April despite tariff and geopolitical risks intensifying.
- U.S. imports from China totaled 804,122 TEUs for the month, rising 5.4% from March and 6.2% YOY. China remained the top source of U.S. containerized imports, accounting for over 35% of the total inbound volume.
- While growth remained strong in April, it likely reflects U.S. importers continuing to pull shipments forward ahead of new tariffs. Since the tariffs did not apply to goods already in transit, the greater impact is expected to appear in May's import results.
- At the port level, April's increase in China-origin shipments was especially visible along the West Coast. Long Beach and Los Angeles saw substantial MOM gains of 16.7% and 23.6%, respectively. These jumps contrast sharply with declines at major East and Gulf Coast ports.
- The differences may suggest that some importers prioritized faster trans-Pacific routes over moving goods via the Panama or even Suez Canals, highlighting how policy shifts can quickly reshape routing decisions, even before volume impacts appear at a broader level.

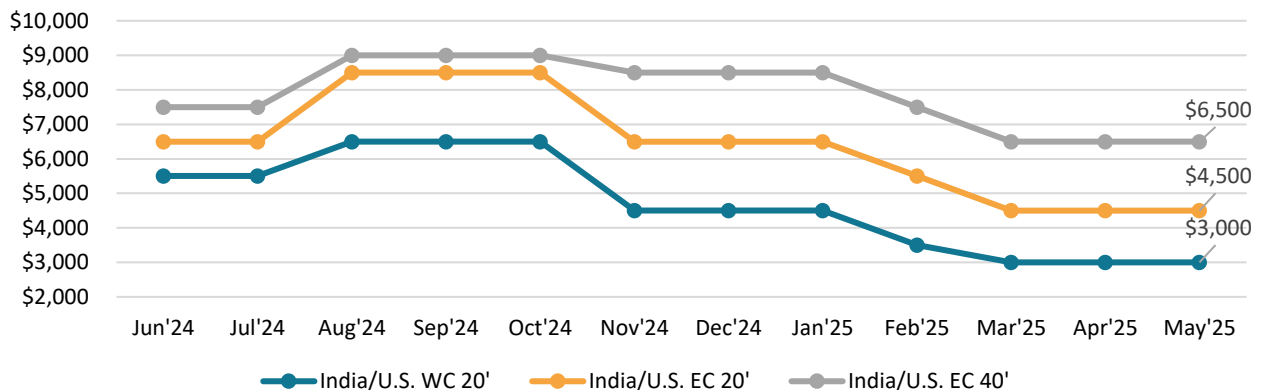
Ocean Freight

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

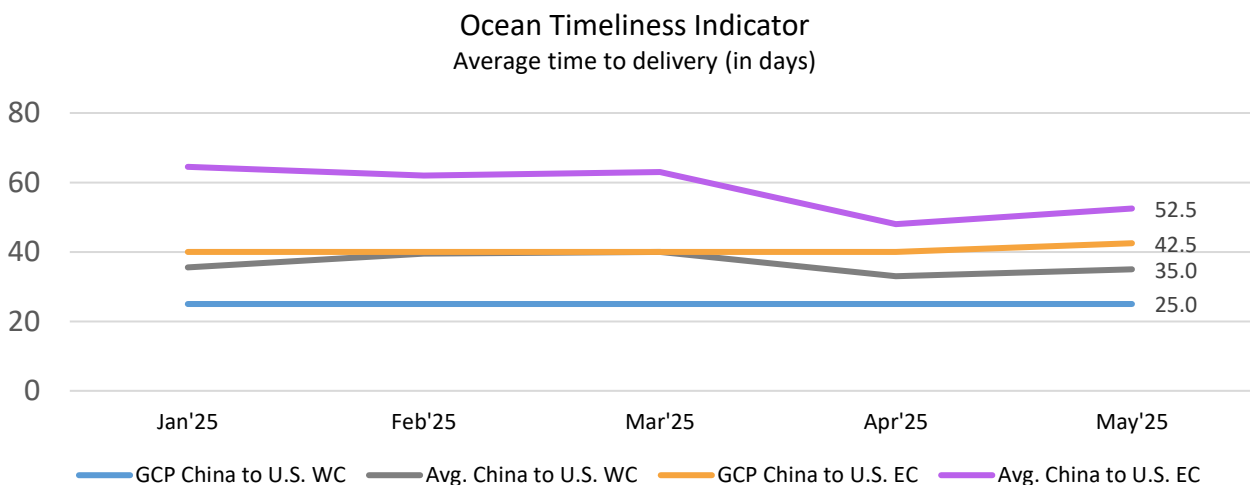


Key Takeaways:

- The May 12th China/U.S. de-escalation is driving a big bump in China/U.S. ocean demand after a significant drop in volumes since the U.S.'s 145% tariffs on China took effect in early April.
- In response, carriers started introducing mid-month GRIs of \$1,000 - \$3,000/forty-foot equivalent unit (FEU) with similar increases planned for June 1st and 15th, aiming to push rates as high as possible over the next few weeks.
- If successful, rate levels could reach the 2024 Asia - U.S. West Coast high achieved last July (\$7,000/TEU). Daily transpacific rates out of China have already started increasing.

- As demand rebounds, carriers are rushing to restore blanked sailings and suspended services that were previously cancelled during the April lull.
- However, many transpacific vessels and containers were shifted to other lanes in the interim and are now out of position. This is leading to some capacity and equipment shortages in China as bookings pick back up.
- Tight capacity, combined with increased demand, bad weather, and multi-day delays at some Chinese container hubs, is also adding upward cost pressure on container prices.
- Current reports suggest that delays at eastern and northern Chinese ports range from three to seven days depending on the carrier and trade lane. The situation remains fluid, and there are concerns congestion will worsen as more vessels are diverted from Europe routes to U.S. routes in June.
- Hapag-Lloyd said on May 21st it has seen an increase of more than 50% in China-U.S. cargo bookings since the two countries signed a preliminary trade deal slashing tariffs for 90 days following their meetings on May 11th/12th.

Ocean Timeliness Indicator

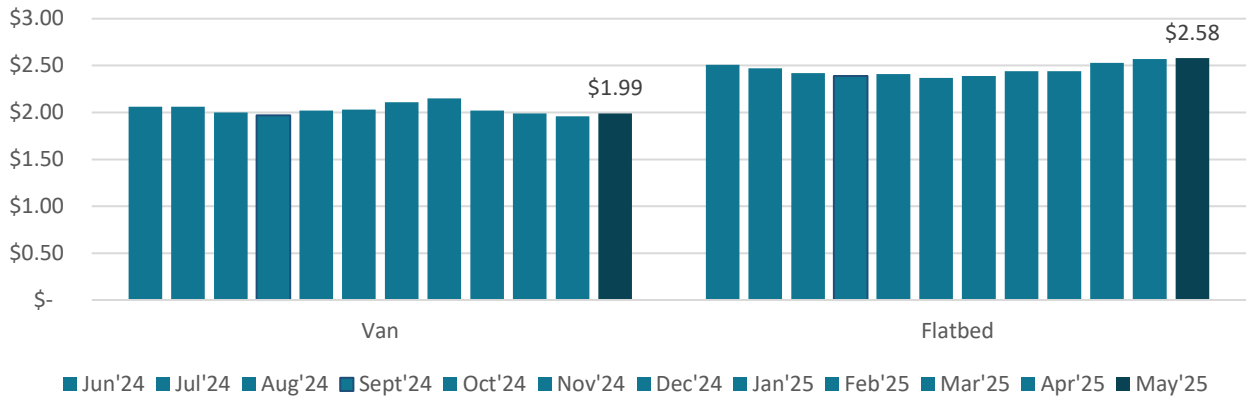


Key Takeaways:

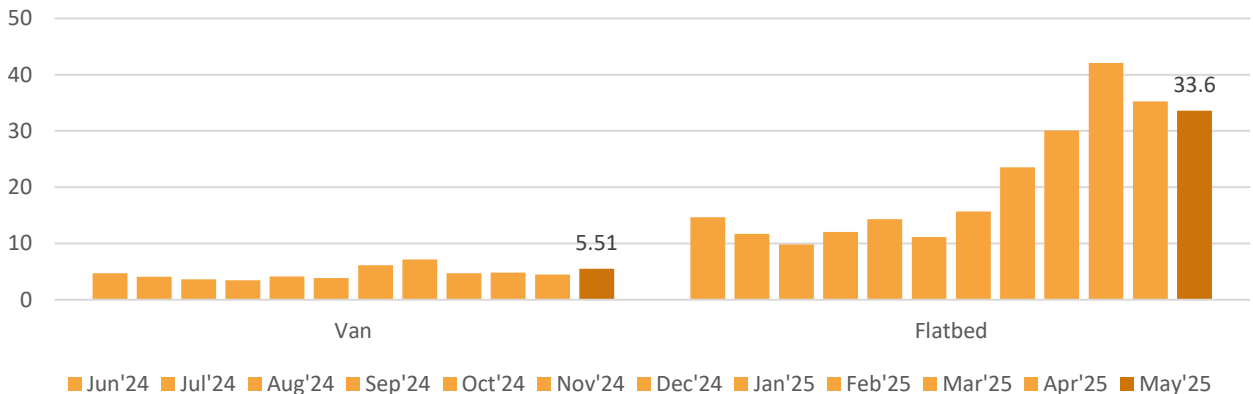
- For the average calculations we use the Flexport's Ocean Timeliness Indicator (OTI), which tracks transit time from the cargo ready date at the exporter's factory or facility to departure from the destination port (EC - NY/NJ or WC - L.A./Long Beach).
- GCP's delivery time uses our port-to-door transit 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



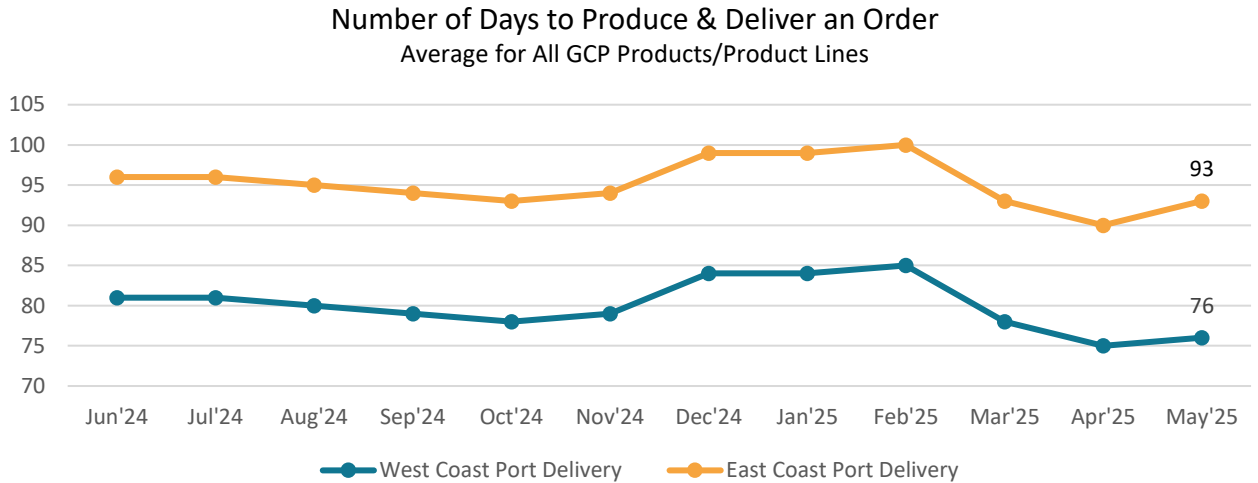
North American Load-to-Truck Ratio
Average Number of Loads Posted for Every Truck Posted



Key Takeaways:

- The national average spot rate, excluding fuel, was essentially flat in April, rising slightly MOM. Compared to April 2024, the national average spot linehaul rate is 4.0% higher YOY but remains 2.8% below the long-term average.
- With the pull-forward of shipments ahead of the anticipated tariffs nearing an end, freight demand remained subdued in April as truckload volumes trended unseasonably lower throughout the month.
- The for-hire carrier population experienced a notable increase in April, with a net gain of 555 carriers over the previous month. This marked the largest monthly increase since September 2022 and only the third instance of net growth in the past 31 months.

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://www.ghy.com/tariff-tracker/>
- <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/2025/05/joint-statement-on-u-s-china-economic-and-trade-meeting-in-geneva/>
- <https://www.cnbc.com/2025/05/23/china-says-us-dialogue-to-continue-as-beijing-hints-trade-talks-are-advancing.html>
- https://english.www.gov.cn/news/202505/23/content_WS682fa9f9c6d0868f4e8f2c1b.html
- <https://www.cnn.com/2025/05/23/economy/trump-trade-regional-tariffs>

Raw Material Prices/Commodity Pricing

- <https://www.ismworld.org/supply-management-news-and-reports/reports/ism-report-on-business/pmi/April>

Natural Rubber Pricing

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

Global PMI Manufacturing/Global Sectors Heatmap

- <https://www.spglobal.com/marketintelligence/en/mi/research-analysis/monthly-pmi-bulletin-may-2025.html>
- https://cdn.ihsmarkit.com/www/pdf/6001114_6001036_0.1.pdf

Producer Prices

- <https://tradingeconomics.com/canada/producer-prices-change>
- <https://tradingeconomics.com/china/producer-prices-change>
- <https://tradingeconomics.com/india/producer-prices-change>
- <https://tradingeconomics.com/mexico/producer-prices-change>
- <https://tradingeconomics.com/united-states/producer-prices-change>

Imports to the United States

- <https://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/balance/c1220.html>
- <https://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/balance/c5700.html>
- <https://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/balance/c2010.html>

Total Trade Volume

- <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/250506/dq250506a-eng.htm>
- <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/250506/t002a-eng.htm>
- <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/daily-quotidien/250506/dq250506a-eng.pdf?st=TILLwQ-H>
- <https://www.bea.gov/news/2025/us-international-trade-goods-and-services-march-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-see-first-year-over-year-drop-since-2023-as-impact-of-tariffs-increases>

Ocean Schedule Reliability

- <https://www.sea-intelligence.com/press-room/322-global-schedule-reliability-records-2-consecutive-m-m-increases>
- <https://mykn.kuehne-nagel.com/news/article/seaexplorer-schedule-reliability-report-april-20-May-2025>

Port Operations

- <https://www.flexport.com/global-logistics-update/May-22-2025-CBP-excludes-feeder-vessels/>
- <https://www.descartes.com/resources/knowledge-center/global-shipping-report-may-2025-april-us-imports-post-strong-growth-despite-headwinds>
- https://www.freightwaves.com/news/long-beach-sees-record-teus-on-trade-war-effect?oly_enc_id=9029B0672490J7T
- <https://www.supplychainbrain.com/articles/41820-port-of-la-uncertainty-remains-following-pause-on-china-tariffs>

Ocean Freight

- <https://www.joc.com/article/china-us-ocean-bookings-surge-since-weekend-trade-deal-hapag-lloyd-6004653>
- <https://www.joc.com/article/trans-pacific-carriers-announce-massive-june-rate-hikes-6005450>
- <https://theloadstar.com/spot-rates-on-transpacific-surge-after-news-of-tariff-time-out/>
- <https://ufreight.com/port-congestion-and-box-shortages-result-from-us-tariff-linked-cargo-rush/>

Ocean Timeliness Indicator

- <https://www.flexport.com/blog/flexport-ocean-timeliness-indicator/>

Trucking Freight

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

GCP Production Times

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



678 Belmont Ave W #202
Kitchener | Ontario | Canada | N2M 1N6
Toll: 888-893-5427 | Phone: 519-893-8207
Fax: 866-527-1983
Web: www.gcpindustrial.com

GCP Elastomeric Inc. cannot foresee all circumstances under which this information and our products in conjunction with other manufactures products may be used. Physical properties are typical values obtained from sample testing at Akron laboratories or GCP Approved Manufacturer™ laboratories. Actual production values may vary. It is the users' responsibility to ensure the products are appropriate for their application. We accept no responsibility for results obtained by the application of the information or the safety and suitability of our products, either alone or in combination with other products.