



NEW ZEALAND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE
Manatū Aorere

APRIL 2025

Update on US tariffs

MARKET INTELLIGENCE REPORT

Report

On April 9 (US time), US President Trump announced:

- An increase in additional ‘reciprocal’ tariffs on imports from China to 125% (NB: This brings total US additional tariffs on China to 145%, on top of the US’s standard tariff).
- 90-day pause on reciprocal tariffs on all other (56) countries for which a ‘reciprocal’ additional tariff of over 10% had been announced, and “a substantially lower tariff during this period, of 10%”

The White House clarified that the **10% additional tariff remains in effect for all countries (including (New Zealand) subject to [Executive Order 14257](#), other than China.**

White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt and Commerce Secretary Scott Bessent have said:

- 10% additional tariff remains in effect:
 - **Leavitt:** “There will be a 90 day pause on the reciprocal tariffs as these negotiations are ongoing, and the tariff level will be brought down to a universal 10% tariff.”
 - **Bessent:** When asked how this announcement would affect the countries currently facing only the 10% tariff, Bessent replied, “Yes, that’s going to remain.”
- Sectoral tariffs remain in effect:
 - **Bessent:** When asked by reporters if the pause will apply to sectoral tariffs, Bessent said, “No, it’s only reciprocal”.

The [Executive Order](#) titled “*Modifying Reciprocal Tariff Rates to Reflect Trading Partner Retaliation and Alignment*” was released 11 April (NZT) and backdated to April 9 2025.

What does this mean for New Zealand?

Official documentation from the White House ([linked here](#)) clarifies that there is no change for New Zealand exporters:

- The **additional 10% tariff still applies to New Zealand, on top of existing US tariffs.**
- Further, as stated in Executive Order 14257 of 2 April:

- the 25% sectoral tariffs on [steel](#), [aluminium](#), including products and derivatives; and [automobiles and some automobile parts](#) are still applicable for imports from all countries, instead of the additional 10% tariff.
 - Products currently exempt from the 10% additional tariff are: lumber, copper, semiconductors, pharmaceuticals, certain critical minerals, and energy and energy products: listed in Annex II of the Executive Order. These may be subject to sector-specific tariffs in future; the sector investigations into lumber and copper, announced previously, remain ongoing.
- It is not clear what will happen at the end of the 90-day pause.

NOTE: The Tariff Finder (www.tariff-finder.govt.nz) has been updated to include the applicable tariffs for New Zealand goods trading into the US, for each tariff line – i.e. it specifies whether the 10% additional tariff applies, or a 25% sector-specific tariff, or the tariff line is currently exempt from additional tariffs.

Please contact us with any further questions on us.exports@mfat.govt.nz

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