



Senator Scott Jiu Wo Kawasaki

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Supporting Data Sources — Senate Joint Resolution 25

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What Alaska imports and exports

Our trading partners and what we exchanged last year

By **DAN ROBINSON**

In 2024, Alaska exported \$5.9 billion in goods to 117 countries and imported \$3.6 billion from 106. The state ranked 39th for the value of our exports last year and 46th for imports; for context, Alaska ranks 48th by population.

The state's large trade surplus — we export much more than we import — distinguishes us from the U.S. economy, which imported \$3.3 trillion in goods in 2024 and exported \$2.1 trillion. In other words, while the U.S. had a \$1.2 trillion trade deficit last year, Alaska had a \$2.3 billion trade surplus.

More than half of Alaska's exports go to Asian countries

By continent, Asia is Alaska's biggest export destination by a wide margin. Fifty-two percent of our export value goes to Asia, with nearly all sold to

three countries: China (\$1.5 billion), Japan (\$674 million), and South Korea (\$634 million).

Most of Alaska's Asia exports are fish and other seafood. China, for example, bought \$520 million in "fish, fresh, chilled or frozen and other marine products." Japan purchased \$480 million from that category and South Korea bought \$299 million.

The second largest category we export to Asia is metal ores. China purchased \$483 million last year, followed by South Korea (\$332 million), and Japan (\$184 million), presumably for further processing and resale.

Europe buys a lot of Alaska goods

Europe is also a major purchaser of Alaska goods, buying more \$1.3 billion worth last year. The largest recipient was Switzerland, which might be a surprise.

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About the import and export data and how trade is valued

U.S. Customs and Border Patrol and the U.S. Census collect information on goods entering and leaving the U.S. via automated forms. The Foreign Trade Division of the Census Bureau compiles and publishes these data as international trade statistics for the United States. Data on trade between Canada and the U.S. is provided by each country through a mutual data exchange that has been in place since 1990.

State-level export data is based on where the goods start their journey to the port of export. For consolidated shipments, the export location is where goods are consolidated.

Export values are set at the "free alongside ship" basis, or FAS, which reflects the transaction price including inland freight, insurance, and other charges incurred when placing the merchandise alongside the ship at the export port.

State-level imports are based on the declared destination for the goods upon entry filing. The value of imports is the price paid or payable for merchandise when sold for import to the United States, excluding U.S. import duties, freight, insurance, and other charges incurred in sending the merchandise to the U.S.

Commodity-level data used in this article are based on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System used by more than 200 economies as the source for their customs tariffs and collection of international trade statistics.

Source: www.census.gov/foreign-trade/index.html

Alaska's international trade and the value of goods exchanged in 2024



Sources: U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration; and Census Foreign Trade Division, International Trade Statistics

Almost all of the \$323 million in exports to Switzerland were for nonmonetary refined gold.

Switzerland's purchases are a good example of what many foreign businesses seek from Alaska: raw materials to which they presumably add value through resale in their own countries or further trade internationally.

Other large Alaska exports to Europe include \$165 million in zinc ores to Spain, \$99 million to Germany, \$64 million to Belgium, and \$43 million to Finland. Italy bought communications equipment worth \$49 million from Alaska.

Europe also purchases large quantities of Alaska seafood. The Netherlands purchased \$275 million in Alaska seafood products, France bought \$58 million, and Germany purchased \$49 million.

By continent, Alaska imports the most from Asia, by far

Asia is also Alaska's largest source of imports. Nearly 90 percent of what we buy from other countries — \$2.1 billion last year — comes from Asia. South Korea (\$1.2 billion), Vietnam (\$315 million), and Thailand (\$262 million) are our biggest Asian trading partners for imports.

Due in part to the complicated nature of international trade and supply chains, imports from China are large at \$92 million but well below the totals for South Korea, Vietnam, or Thailand.

Most of what we buy from Asia is a mix of petroleum oils for transportation and energy, semiconductors, and other electronics, likely for commercial and personal use. Although Alaska has substantial oil, we have limited refining capacity.

Alaska imported \$1.1 billion in petroleum products from South Korea last year. We also bought \$55 million in semiconductors and other electronic parts from Taiwan — \$40 million of which was solar panel components — \$46 million from South Korea in processors and hard drives. We also purchased \$32 million from the Philippines and \$28 million from China in semiconductors and other electronic components.

Alaska doesn't purchase as much from Europe as we send them

Alaska exports far more to Europe than it imports.

How import/export data and gross domestic product relate

While GDP and trade data track different things, understanding both can give a more comprehensive picture of what Alaska produces and what portions of that production are sold in international markets.

A state's gross domestic product, as detailed in the previous article, is the value of the goods and services produced within a state. The international trade data in this article track only goods exported from and imported to Alaska — services aren't included.

Any modern economy includes a significant exchange of services in addition to the easier-to-conceptualize exchange of goods such as food, cars, furniture, and raw materials including oil, natural gas, gold, and zinc.

Services are less tangible, and they include everything from geological mapping, accounting services, and legal advice to health care, transportation, entertainment, and education. In Alaska's case, the value of the services we produce represents over three-quarters of our total GDP. Services are an even larger percentage of the national GDP.

A closer look at the goods our economy produces and the goods we export reveal some key differences.

Oil is high-value and makes up a huge portion of Alaska's GDP, for example, but a relatively small share of our international exports — just 6 percent. That's because we send most of our oil to other parts of the U.S. rather than export it to other countries.

Seafood is an example in the other direction. It looms large in the export data, but not in GDP. One reason is seafood's production value is scattered through multiple GDP categories, including manufacturing, natural resources, and trade. Another reason is Alaska exports most of our seafood internationally.

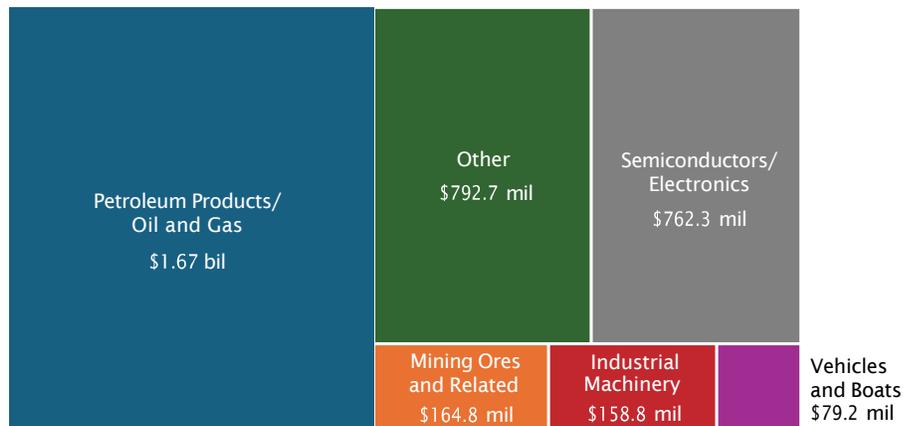
Although the U.S. is a large and lucrative market for the goods Alaska produces, the ability to also sell nearly \$6 billion of goods into international markets meaningfully enhances the value of those goods to the state.

What Alaska imported, exported internationally in 2024

Alaska exports: \$5.9 billion



Alaska imports: \$3.6 billion



Sources: U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration; and Census Foreign Trade Division, International Trade Statistics

We imported \$281 million in goods from Europe last year, only about a fifth of what they bought from us. Europe is a source of partially processed raw materials, industrial machinery, and consumer goods.

The state bought \$43 million worth of iron, steel, and ferroalloy and \$22 million in ships and boats from Italy; \$33 million in motor vehicles and \$1.5 million in other machinery from Sweden; and a combined \$23 million in three categories of electrical equipment and components and navigational and measuring/control instruments from Germany.

More recognizable products Alaska buys from Europe include \$234,000 in clothing from Italy,

\$169,000 in leather and hide tanning from Finland, \$149,000 in beverages from France, and \$112,000 in audio and video equipment from Germany.

Canada is Alaska's nearest neighbor and a big trade partner

Alaska buys substantially more from Canada than our nearest neighbor purchases from us. More than a third of what Canada sends to Alaska (\$351 million out of \$1 billion total last year) is petroleum, and we buy another \$84 million in crude oil.

The remaining \$600-plus million in goods Alaska

imported from Canada last year was a mix of products including \$62 million in metal ores, \$61 million in other machinery, and \$26 million in aerospace products and parts.

Alaska's main exports to Canada are mining and seafood resources. The largest single category is metal ores, which represented over half of Alaska's total exports to Canada last year at \$374 million.

Alaska exported more than \$100 million to Canada in two categories of fish and other seafood products and \$70 million in petroleum products. The state also exported raw materials (\$5 million in timber and logs) and equipment (\$20 million in aerospace products and parts and \$13 million in agriculture and construction machinery).

Miscellaneous trade with Australia and Latin America

Alaska exported \$820 million in goods to Australia in 2024, mainly in two related categories: \$676 million in gold and \$134 million in zinc ores. Alaska also sent about \$5 million in fish and seafood to Australia, primarily frozen pollock fillets, and — curiously — \$1.2 million in electric motor vehicles.

On the other side of the ledger with Australia was a paltry \$12 million in imports to Alaska, with most in mining machinery and parts and \$2.1 million in medical equipment. Alaska also imported about \$380,000 in beef from Australia and \$7,000 worth of water skis, surfboards, and other water sport equipment.

Alaska has limited trade with Latin America, including Mexico. We exported \$32 million worth of fish and seafood to Chile last year and a mix of mostly raw materials to a handful of other Latin American countries.

On the import side, interesting tidbits for Alaska include the \$6 million in meat products we bought from Argentina in addition to \$113 million in crude oil, \$3.5 million in electrical equipment from Brazil, and \$33.4 million in oil and gas pipeline steel and casings and \$3 million in communications equipment from Mexico.

Dan Robinson is chief of the Research and Analysis Section. Reach him at (907) 465-6040 or dan.robinson@alaska.gov.

ALASKA & CANADA

An integrated economy



Zinc

Canadian companies strengthen U.S. critical mineral supply chains

Canadian companies play a vital role in Alaska’s critical mineral supply chain, providing essential materials like zinc, germanium, and silver to the U.S. market.

Canada’s **Teck Resources**, in partnership with **NANA Regional Alaska Native Corporation**, operates one of the world’s largest zinc mines in northwest Alaska. For more than 40 years, this collaboration has created jobs, strengthened the regional economy, and reinforced U.S. access to critical minerals essential for manufacturing, technology, and national security.

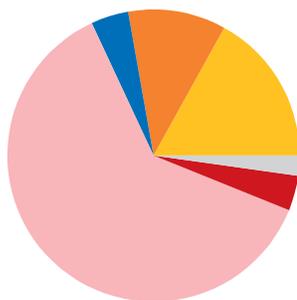


75 Canadian-owned companies employ 5,950 workers in Alaska



Canada is the #5 export market for Alaska

Alaska exports \$614 million in goods to Canada annually



Goods exports by industry

- Agriculture (17%)
- Energy (11%)
- Equipment & machinery (4%)
- Minerals & metals (62%)
- Transportation (4%)
- Other (2%)

Alaska exports \$111 million in services to Canada, including

Transport	\$50 million
Travel (including for education)	\$37 million
Business services	\$12 million
Charges for the use of intellectual property	\$5 million
Maintenance & repair services	\$3 million

Top Alaska goods exports to Canada

Ores, slag & ash	\$374 million
Fuel oil	\$70 million
Fish & crustaceans	\$67 million
Meat, fish & seafood preparations	\$24 million
Aircraft & parts	\$20 million
Animal or vegetable fats, oils & waxes	\$8 million
Animal feed & food industry residues	\$6 million
Wood & semi-finished wood products	\$6 million
Optical, medical & precision instruments	\$5 million
Iron & steel tubes, pipes & sheets	\$4 million



Photo: Viking Air

Support for Alaskan transportation industry

British Columbia-based **Viking Air** is a leading supplier of utility aircraft to help support the needs of rural businesses throughout Alaska. In 2020, Alaska-based **Maritime Helicopters** needed a new aircraft to operate on the North Slope and turned to the Viking Twin Otter Series to best support Alaska's oil and gas industry.

Many Alaskan pilots receive regular training through **Pacific Sky Aviation**, located in Alberta. This critical training ensures Alaskan-based flight services are able to continue fulfilling a wide variety of industry needs effectively.



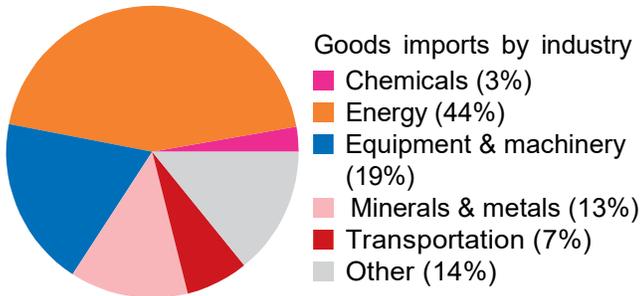
Photo: Chris Ford

Canada invests in Alaska

Trade with Canada supports **20,300 employees in Alaska** in addition to the **5,950 employees** at Canadian-owned businesses across the state. In addition, Alaska exports \$725 million in goods and services to Canada.

Canadian-owned companies, including **TNG, North Pacific Seafoods, Holiday Stationstores** and **Teck**, are major contributors to Alaska's economy. They employ residents in every sector and contribute to the local economy with salary dollars, paying local taxes, and the purchase of goods and services in their supply chain.

Alaska imports \$1.0 billion in goods from Canada annually



Top Alaska goods imports from Canada

Fuel oil	\$351 million
Crude petroleum	\$84 million
Ores, slag & ash	\$62 million
Iron & steel tubes, pipes & sheets	\$48 million
Compressors & pumps	\$36 million
Wood & semi-finished wood products	\$24 million
Automobiles	\$20 million
Furniture & bedding	\$18 million
Engines & turbines	\$16 million
Pearls, gems, precious metals & jewelry	\$16 million

March 2025

Sources: All figures are in U.S. dollars. Unless otherwise specified, all figures are based on 2024 data. **U.S. Census Bureau:** goods trade, Canada's export ranking (2/2025 release). **Trade Partnership:** 2023 services trade (12/2024 release). **Dun & Bradstreet:** Canadian-owned businesses operating in the U.S. (2/2025 release). **Business Roundtable:** state jobs from Canada-U.S. trade (2018, 10/2020 release). Figures may not add up due to rounding. Produced by the Embassy of Canada in Washington, D.C.

CONTACT

THE CONSULATE GENERAL IN SEATTLE

1501 4TH AVE, SUITE 600, SEATTLE, WA, 98101

Craig Weichel
 Consul General
 seatl@international.gc.ca
 (206) 443-1777

@CanCGSeattle
 canada.ca/canada-in-seattle

Canada

Impact of recent tariffs on Canada's merchandise trade

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time in The Daily, Friday, August 2, 2019

On March 1, 2018, the United States announced its intent to impose import tariffs of 25% on Canadian steel products and 10% on Canadian aluminum products; these tariffs came into force on June 1. In response, on May 31, Canada announced its intent to impose retaliatory tariffs of 25% on imports of US steel products and 10% on imports of US aluminum products and various other products; these tariffs were implemented on July 1. Both governments lifted their respective tariffs on May 20, 2019. The impact of these tariffs on Canada's exports and imports was noteworthy and varied by product group.

US tariffs reverse upward trend in Canada's exports of steel to the United States

Canada's exports of steel products to the United States showed a strong upward trend in the two years prior to the introduction of the 25% tariff on US imports of Canadian steel. Higher volumes and prices for basic and semi-finished iron and steel products were also observed in those two years.

Following the announcement of these tariffs, Canada's exports of steel to the United States advanced notably, up 22.6% from February 2018 (the last month before the announcement) to May 2018 (the last month before implementation). In addition, from March to May 2018, the average monthly value of these exports was 30.3% higher than the monthly average observed in 2017, the year prior to the implementation of these supplementary tariffs.

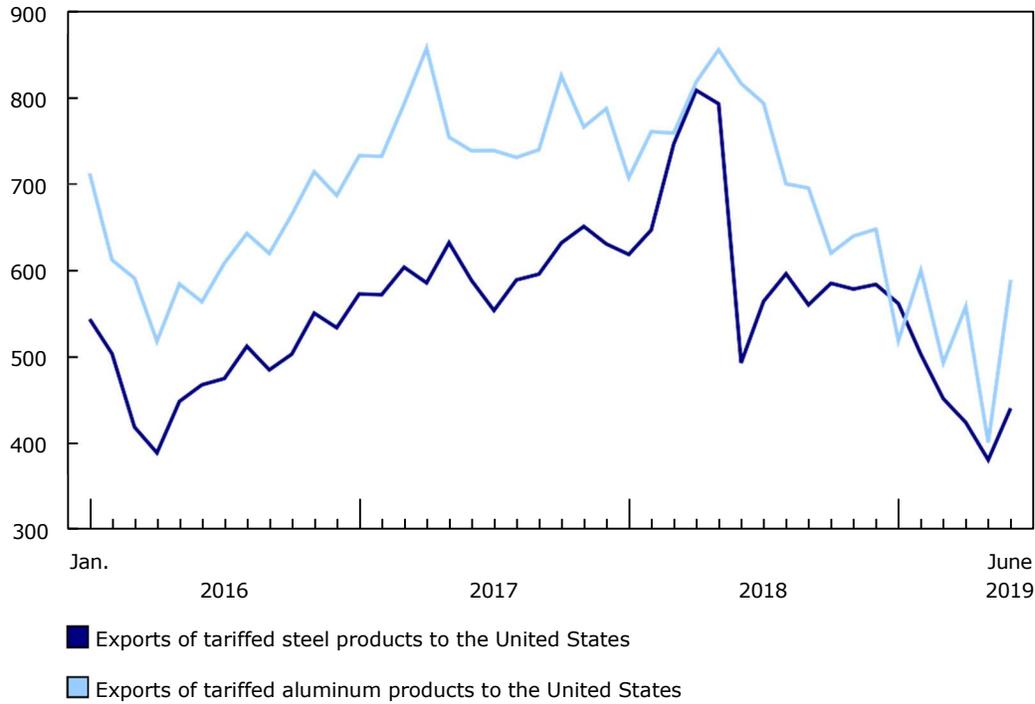
Exports of steel products to the United States decreased significantly immediately following the implementation of US tariffs, declining 37.8% in June 2018, before rebounding partially in July (+14.5%). While monthly export movements varied for the remainder of the tariff period, the net effect was a decline, as the value of exports in May 2019 was at its lowest level in almost 10 years.

In June 2019, the first month after tariffs were lifted, exports of steel products to the United States grew by 15.8%. This coincided with a 20.3% increase in export volumes of basic and semi-finished iron and steel products, the largest monthly increase in 10 years.



Chart 1
Exports of tariffed steel and aluminum products to the United States

millions of dollars



Note(s): Data are seasonally adjusted and on a customs basis.
Source(s): Canadian International Merchandise Trade Program.

Canada's exports of aluminum drop after implementation of US tariffs

As with steel products, exports of aluminum products to the United States also experienced significant growth in the two years prior to the introduction of tariffs. This increase coincided with a rise in prices of unwrought aluminum and aluminum alloys. Export volumes for aluminum products also rose during this time.

Following the announcement that 10% tariffs would be applied to US imports of aluminum from Canada, Canada's exports to the United States rose significantly, up 12.5% from February 2018, the month before the announcement, to May 2018.

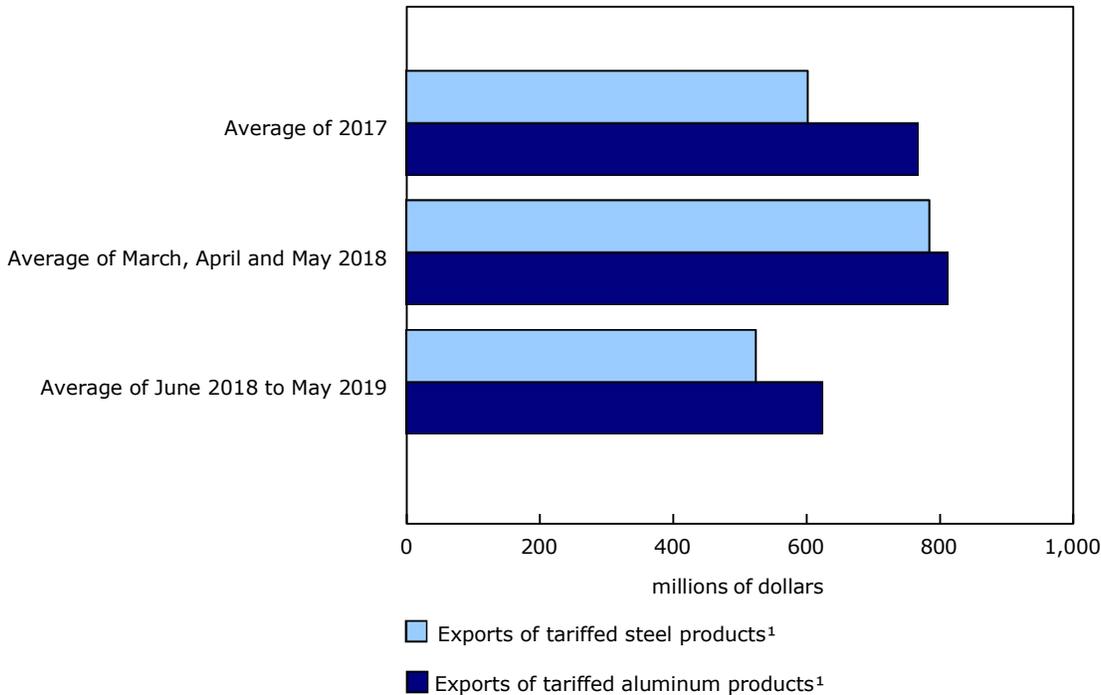
Following the implementation of these tariffs in June 2018, Canada's exports of aluminum products to the United States decreased more gradually than exports of steel products. Additionally, exports of aluminum products fell in each of the first five months following the introduction of tariffs before recovering slightly in November 2018. The average monthly export value during the tariff period was 18.6% lower than the average in 2017.

Overall, Canada's exports of aluminum products to the United States fell by more than half after US tariffs were implemented, reaching their lowest level in more than 10 years in May 2019. At the same time, prices and volumes of unwrought aluminum and aluminum alloys also experienced significant decreases.

In June 2019, the first month after tariffs were lifted, exports of aluminum products to the United States were up 47.2%. Meanwhile, export volumes of unwrought aluminum and aluminum alloys rose 35.3%, the largest increase in over 10 years.

Chart 2

Average monthly export value in 2017, before US tariff implementation in 2018, and during tariff period



1. To the United States.

Note(s): Data are seasonally adjusted and on a customs basis.

Source(s): Canadian International Merchandise Trade Program.

Canada's imports of US steel products rise sharply in June 2018 and decline steeply in July 2018

Canada responded to the US tariffs on steel and aluminum products with the announcement in May 2018 of retaliatory tariffs on imports of US steel and aluminum products as well as various other products from the United States. Following this announcement, Canada's imports of steel products from the United States rose 31.3%, bringing the value of these imports in June 2018 to the second highest level on record.

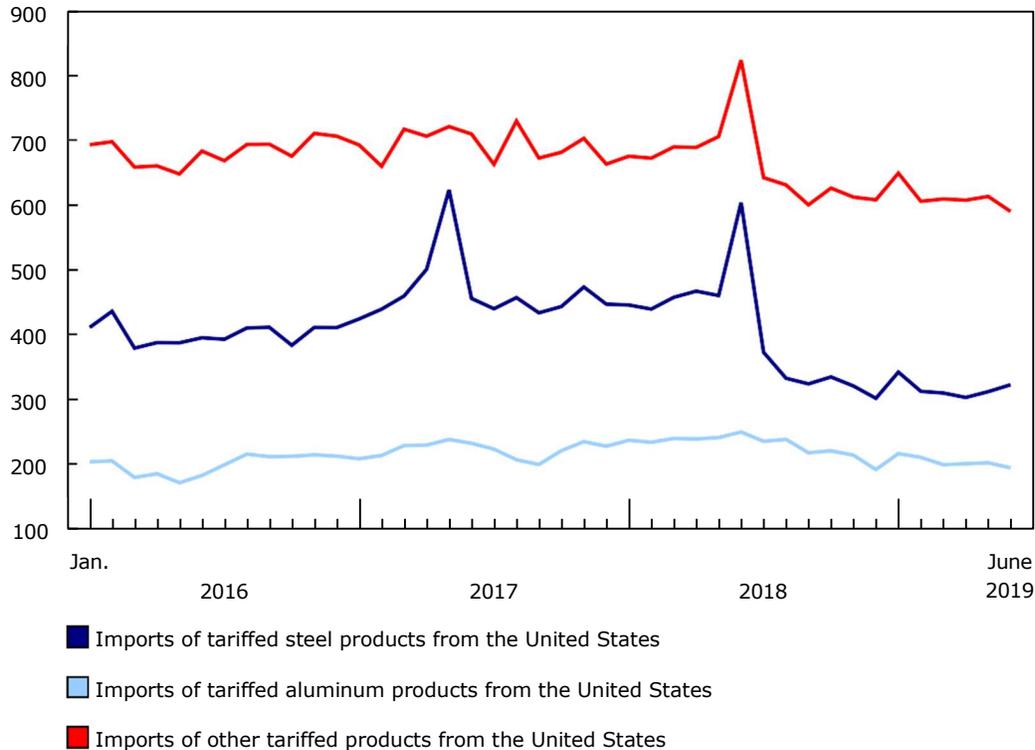
After Canada began collecting retaliatory tariffs, imports of US steel products fell sharply in July (-38.3%) and August 2018 (-10.8%). Fewer fluctuations in imports of US steel products were evident after this period, although they decreased a further 6.2% from August 2018 to May 2019.

Overall, the monthly average value of imported US steel products from July 2018 to May 2019 was 30.5% lower than the 2017 monthly average. However, average monthly prices of basic and semi-finished iron and steel products increased during this period, up 22.0% from 2017.

Imports from the United States recovered modestly (+3.4%) in June 2019 after the tariffs were lifted.

Chart 3
Imports of tariffed steel, aluminum and other products from the United States

millions of dollars



Note(s): Data are seasonally adjusted and on a customs basis.
Source(s): Canadian International Merchandise Trade Program.

Moderate decrease in Canada's imports of US aluminum products after tariffs are implemented

While Canada's imports of steel products were notably affected by these retaliatory tariffs, the impact on imports of aluminum products was more moderate. In the month following the announcement of 10% tariffs (June 2018), Canada's imports of aluminum products from the United States were up 3.6%.

With the implementation of these tariffs, imports of aluminum products declined 5.8% in July 2018, followed by a steady, moderate decrease of 14.1% in comparison to May 2019. Despite these declines, the average monthly value of imports from July 2018 to May 2019 was 3.9% below the monthly average in 2017, when these supplementary tariffs were not a factor.

Despite the elimination of tariffs in late May, there was a 3.9% decline in imports of aluminum products from the United States in June 2019.

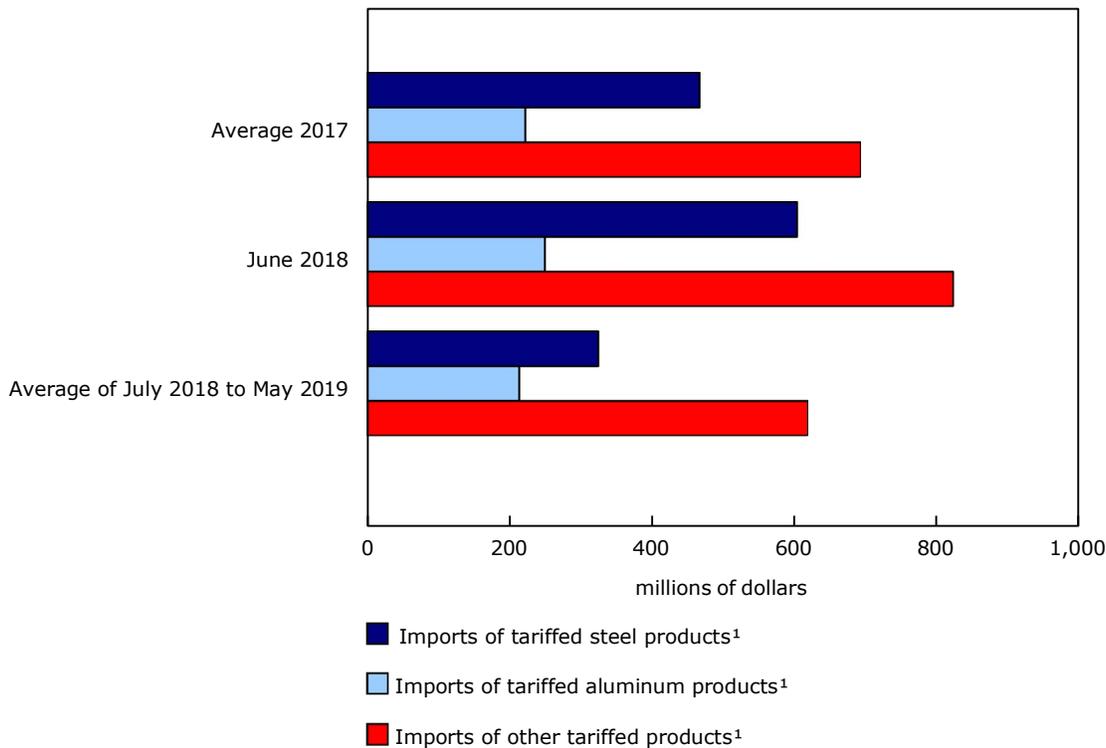
Marked increase in Canada's imports of other tariffed products from the United States followed by steep decline after tariff implementation

In addition to steel and aluminum products, Canada implemented tariffs on imports of a variety of other products from the United States. Similar to the trend seen in imports of steel and aluminum products over this period, imports of these other products rose after the tariffs were announced and fell once the tariffs were implemented. In fact, these imports rose 16.8% in June 2018, followed by a 22.0% decline in July, the first month they were subject to retaliatory tariffs. In May 2019, imports declined a further 2.8% in comparison to August 2018.

Following the implementation of the tariffs, the monthly average import value was 10.8% lower than the monthly average for 2017, with the value of imports reaching a low in September 2018.

Similar to aluminum products, imports of these other products did not immediately recover in June 2019, falling 3.8% in the first month after the tariffs expired.

Chart 4
Average monthly import value in 2017, before Canadian tariff implementation in June 2018, and during tariff period



1. From the United States.

Note(s): Data are seasonally adjusted and on a customs basis.
Source(s): Canadian International Merchandise Trade Program.

Values of exports and imports of tariffed products at roughly the same levels since the beginning of 2018

The steel and aluminum products that the US government identified for tariffs represented about \$16.6 billion of Canadian exports in 2017. In retaliation, the Canadian government decided to target an equal value of imports from the United States. Even though the implementation of these tariffs resulted in high volatility in monthly trade values, since January 2018, values of both Canada's exports and imports of tariffed products have been roughly the same (\$22 billion).

Value of collected duties in Canada and the United States increases

The implementation of tariffs was evident in the increase in the value of duties collected by both the Canadian and the US governments during this period. Duties collected on Canada's imports of steel, aluminum and other tariffed products from the United States rose significantly, from a monthly average of \$46.9 million in 2017 to \$189.7 million after the retaliatory tariffs were applied. The ratio of duties collected to the value of Canada's total imports from the United States rose from 0.2% in June 2018 to 0.7% in July 2018.

For Canada's exports, the duties collected by the US government on Canadian steel and aluminum products rose by a greater amount than the duties Canada collected on these goods. In 2017, the United States collected an average of \$24.2 million in duties per month, rising to an average of \$205.0 million per month in the period following the implementation of US tariffs. The ratio of duties collected to total US imports of Canadian products rose from 0.1% in May 2018 to 0.6% in June 2018.

Note to readers

The aggregate values discussed in this release correspond to the Harmonized System (HS) codes that were subject to tariffs and include trade with the United States only. Two US aluminum codes specified in the Presidential Proclamation Adjusting Imports of Aluminum into the United States (aluminum castings and forgings included in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States codes 7616.99.51.60 and 7616.99.51.70) are excluded from the Canadian aluminum export values. In the Canadian export classification, these products are combined with other products that are not in scope for US tariffs.

The price data are aggregated at the North American Product Classification System group level and include trade with all countries and not just the United States. The steel and aluminum HS codes subject to tariffs are contained in these groups (311, 312, 321 and 327), along with other HS codes that were not subject to tariffs.

Data definitions and data quality

The Canadian international merchandise trade data presented in this report are on a customs basis and are seasonally adjusted. Prices are based on aggregate Paasche (current-weighted) price indexes (2012=100). Volumes, or constant dollars, are calculated using the Laspeyres formula (2012=100).

"Duties" represent the values collected based on the tariff rates applied to imports classified under the Harmonized System as outlined in the Customs Tariff, as well as the values collected based on the goods subject to countervailing duties, antidumping duties or other subsidies under the Special Import Measures Act. The values of duties were reported by the importer on the Canada Customs Coding Form when goods were presented to the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) for import into Canada. More information can be found on the [CBSA's website](#).

The values of duties included in this report do not necessarily represent the amounts of duty paid.

The ratio of duties to imports is calculated by dividing the value of imports by the value of duties; it is expressed as a percentage.

United States Census Bureau data

The United States Census Bureau's international trade statistics, as published on July 3, 2019, were converted from US dollars to Canadian dollars using the Bank of Canada's monthly average of the daily end-of-day exchange rate.

The United States Census Bureau provides the following note with regard to the "calculated duty" data: "Estimates of calculated duty do not necessarily reflect amounts of duty paid and should, therefore, be used with caution. The inclusion in the figures of some US products returned after processing and assembly abroad, for which a portion of the value is eligible for duty free consideration, may cause these duty figures to be somewhat overstated as a result. In cases where articles are dutiable at various or special rates, a dutiable value is shown but no duty is calculated. Thus, there is an understatement in the estimates of calculated duty to the extent that these situations exist."

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2201.

For more information on Canada's import duties and tariffs, please see [Canada's import duties, 1988 to 2018](#). For data on Canada's import and duty values, please see [Canada's import and duty values from the world and from the United States](#). For data on the impact of tariffs on Canadian industries, please see [Facts on select Canadian industries impacted by tariffs](#).

For more information, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; STATCAN.infostats-infostats.STATCAN@canada.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; STATCAN.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.STATCAN@canada.ca).

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Nita Boushey (613-404-4965; nita.boushey@canada.ca), International Accounts and Trade Division.