



Press Release

A Semi-semiconductor Tariff

ALLIE WATSON | JANUARY 21, 2026

On January 15, President Trump's 25-percent tariff on semiconductor imports went into effect. In new research, Trade Policy Analyst Jacob Jensen estimates the direct costs of these tariffs for U.S. consumers and businesses.

Key points:

- *At face value, this tariff impacts roughly \$240 billion worth of U.S. imports, raising U.S. consumer and business costs by an estimated \$31 billion.*
- *In reality, this tariff loses much of its potency due to the numerous tariff exemptions embedded within the executive order as well as the various trade agreements that place a cap on tariff rates.*
- *It is thus possible the actual costs of this tariff may be as low as about \$4 billion annually.*

[Read the analysis.](#)