Press Release

Sector-specific Tariffs: Estimating the Costs

ALLIE WATSON | APRIL 15, 2025

Although President Trump paused his April 2 “Liberation Day” tariffs for 90 days, he continues to threaten imposing sector-specific tariffs in the near future. In new research Trade Policy Analyst Jacob Jensen and Killian Hughes estimate the cost of a 25-percent tariff on sector-specific U.S. imports.

Key points:

- *The threatened sectors include pharmaceuticals, copper, lumber, chemicals and minerals, semiconductors, and energy, which combined account for roughly 20-percent of U.S. imports.*
- *These new sector-wide tariffs would mirror the administration’s implementation of 25-percent tariffs on steel, aluminum, and automobiles.*
- *This research estimates that if the administration places a 25-percent tariff on these six product categories, U.S. firms will pay an additional $79.7 billion in taxes within the first year of implementation.*

Read the analysis.