



Press Release

Do Tariffs Impact Prices? The Case of Aluminum

ALLISON EDWARDS | JANUARY 28, 2020

The Trump Administration has argued that China and other nations pay for the administration's tariffs indirectly. In a new study, AAF President Douglas Holtz-Eakin and Director of Trade and Immigration Policy Jacqueline Varas explore whether the president's tariffs translate into price increases in the United States, using aluminum – which received some of the first tariffs implemented by the administration – as a case study. They conclude that aluminum prices increased after each of the president's major tariff announcements, and these jumps are far larger than typical price fluctuations.

See related story in *Axios*, “[Americans pay the full cost for aluminum tariffs.](#)”

Their central points:

- The Trump Administration has imposed new tariffs on over \$300 billion of U.S. imports;
- This study analyzes how aluminum prices changed immediately after key announcements of the president's tariffs between December 2017 through August 2018; and
- The data indicate that the tariffs translate into price increases almost immediately in the United States.

[Read the research.](#)