

# Kiel Trade & Tariff Monitor: Tariff Deltas Dataset Documentation

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## Abstract

This document describes a structured dataset that compiles tariff changes announced, implemented, or threatened by the US administration since January 20th, as well as other countries responses. The dataset consists of well-formatted CSV files, publicly available on our website, and aims to offer comprehensive bilateral tariff information. It is designed to serve researchers and policymakers by providing detailed insights into trade policy adjustments. This documentation outlines the dataset's structure, data collection methodology, and guidelines for both users and contributors.

## 1 Introduction

Tariff changes have significant economic implications, influencing trade flows, domestic industries, and international relations. Tracking these tariff deltas is crucial for understanding the evolving landscape of global trade policy. This dataset, available publicly in CSV format, provides a detailed record of tariff announcements, implementations, and threats by the US and other countries. It is intended to support analysis and informed decision-making among researchers, policymakers, and businesses.

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## 2 Data Collection and Sources

Data is recorded following a first-in-first-out (FIFO) principle to ensure that the earliest announced tariffs are documented first. Priority is given to economically significant countries such as the US, China, EU, Canada, and Mexico. The primary sources for data collection include:

- **USTR** (United States Trade Representative)
- **WTO filings**
- **Federal Register**
- **Official trade documents**

Secondary sources are used to verify data when primary documentation is uncertain. Primary source documents are stored as PDFs in a structured Dropbox directory for organized reference.

## 3 Dataset Structure

The dataset is organized in a bilateral format:

- Each bilateral country pair is stored in its own file (e.g., `tariffs_usa_chn.xlsx`).
- Tariffs imposed on groups (e.g., the EU) or globally (erga omnes, EO) are stored separately.

The following variables are standardized across all files:

- **destination**: ISO3 code of the country imposing the tariff.
- **origin**: ISO3 code of the affected country.
- **date.announced**: Date of announcement (YYYYMMDD).
- **date.active**: Date when the tariff becomes active (YYYYMMDD).
- **date.updated**: Date of any updates (YYYYMMDD).
- **date.suspended**: Date when the tariff is suspended (YYYYMMDD, empty if active).
- **product.code**: HS code for the affected product.
- **tariff.value**: Decimal representation of the tariff (e.g., 0.25 for 25%).

### Sample Dataset Rows

destination	origin	date.announced	date.active	date.updated	date.suspended	product.code	tariff.value
USA	CHN	20170315	20170401	20170420		850440	0.25
USA	EU	20170510	20170601	20170615		870310	0.30

## 4 Usage and Accessibility

The dataset is available on our website in CSV format. It is released under a Creative Commons Attribution License, allowing use with proper citation. Users are encouraged to reference the dataset as follows:

```
Kiel Institute for the World Economy. (2025). Structured Tariff  
Deltas Dataset: Kiel Trade & Tariff Monitor.  
Retrieved from https://kiel.institute/tariffs.
```

## 5 FAQ

**Q: How are multi-country tariffs handled?**

**A:** Tariffs affecting groups (e.g., the EU or EO) are recorded in separate files to clearly differentiate bilateral entries from multilateral tariffs.

## 6 Future Updates and Contact Information

The dataset will be regularly maintained and updated, with revisions scheduled quarterly. For feedback, contributions, or further inquiries, please contact:

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tradepolicy@ifw-kiel.de
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## 7 References

### Primary Sources:

- USTR Official Website (<https://ustr.gov>)
- WTO Filings (<https://www.wto.org>)
- Federal Register (<https://www.federalregister.gov>)
- Chinese Ministry of Finance (<https://www.mof.gov.cn/en/>)
- Official Trade Documents (various)