

# *Trump to Impose Sweeping New Tariffs on Much of the World*

The Trump administration will impose much higher tariff rates for exports from dozens of countries next week, scrapping a system of levies that the United States has had in place for decades.



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Reporting from Washington

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President Trump unveiled a battery of new tariffs on Thursday targeting exports from dozens of U.S. trading partners, as he followed through with a disruptive plan to remake global trade.

Steep tariffs on more than 60 countries are set to snap into place at 12:01 a.m. Aug. 7, as the president realizes his vision for changing trade patterns he has long criticized as unfair and made central to his presidential campaign. Tariffs will range as high as 50 percent on some countries that the president has deemed to have unbalanced trade or that have not offered concessions to Washington in recent negotiations.

The administration had disclosed some tariff rates for countries on the president's social media account or in fact sheets over the past several weeks, but the specific rates that importers and exporters would need to pay to move certain goods across U.S. borders had remained unclear until just hours before the president's self-imposed deadline of Aug. 1.

On Thursday night, the administration released the new rates in an executive order that argued that the U.S. trade deficit was “an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and economy of the United States.”

The order also delayed the date when the tariffs will take effect from Aug. 1, as the president had originally planned, until Aug. 7. Goods that are loaded onto ships before the Aug. 7 date and enter the United States before Oct. 5 will also not be subject to the new tariffs, the administration said.

In replacing tariff rates that the United States negotiated with other countries and that have been in place for decades, the president is introducing a trading system of his own imagining, one that is much more protectionist and isolationist than before.

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Eswar Prasad, a professor of trade policy at Cornell University, called it “a dark day in the annals of global trade integration, which was once seen as having so much promise in bringing countries together around a vision of shared prosperity.”

“Trump has decisively and irrevocably taken the hammer to the global rules-based trading system, breaking it apart in a way that is going to be difficult to put together again for a long time to come,” he said.

Administration officials signaled they remained open to additional negotiations. Earlier Thursday, Karoline Leavitt, the White House press secretary, said the United States had struck deals with many major trading partners that had opened markets and pledged to invest in the United States, even though the terms of those deals remained hazy.

“The rest of those countries that either do not have a deal or have a letter, they will be hearing from this administration by the midnight deadline tonight,” Ms. Leavitt said.

The president said Thursday that he had struck trade deals with several countries that day, but did not specify which ones. A senior administration official who briefed reporters also declined to say.



Mexico had an extended deadline for a trade deal. Sandy Huffaker/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images

Few nations were spared by Mr. Trump's orders. One of America's biggest trading partners, Canada, will have tariffs on its exports to the United States increase to 35 percent from 25 percent on Friday. The move exempts all goods traded under a deal he brokered with Canada and Mexico during his first term.

On Aug. 7, Bolivia, Ecuador, Iceland and Nigeria will have tariff rates set at 15 percent, while exports from Sri Lanka and Taiwan will be subject to duties of 20 percent. The highest rates appeared to be those targeting Syria, Laos and Myanmar, at 40 or 41 percent, as well as Brazil at 50 percent — tariff levels that could cripple those country's exports and raise costs for American consumers.

Some of the tariff rates reflect preliminary trade deals brokered between the United States and a handful of trading partners in recent weeks, including Britain, Indonesia, the Philippines, Japan, South Korea and the European Union. Those countries appeased Mr. Trump by offering to purchase vast amounts of American energy and airplanes, make investments in U.S. factories and lower their barriers to U.S. exports of farm and industrial goods.

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Countries that have agreed to these preliminary deals will be subject to tariffs of between 10 to 20 percent, lower than what the president threatened originally but still vastly higher than historical levels.

Earlier Thursday, Mr. Trump wrote on his social media account that he had concluded a call with Claudia Sheinbaum, Mexico's president, and agreed to pause any escalation in tariffs on Mexico for 90 days, "with the goal of signing a Trade Deal." He did not mention the existing trade deal between the United States, Mexico and Canada, which he updated and signed in his first term.

Separately, top U.S. officials also met with their Chinese counterparts in Stockholm this week to discuss extending a trade truce that expires Aug. 12. Chinese officials said afterward they had secured a 90-day extension on any tariff increase, while Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said on CNBC on Thursday that an extension was likely.

“There’s still a few technical details to be worked out on the Chinese side between us,” Mr. Bessent said. “I’m confident that it will be done, but it’s not 100 percent done.”

Greta M. Peisch, a former trade official and a lawyer at the Washington firm Wiley Rein, said that the administration had made clear that there was “a real deadline,” but was still likely to be open to further deal-making. “I don’t think they’re going to close the door to it,” she said.

The administration has said that its trade deals will open foreign markets for U.S. farmers and factories and boost American prosperity. But economists have warned that the tariffs are likely to raise costs for American consumers and slow the economy.

The tariffs also face potential legal obstacles, and could ultimately be struck down in the coming months. On Thursday, a federal appeals court heard arguments in a case brought by states and businesses that say the president exceeded his authority under law by issuing such sweeping duties.

For companies that depend on international business, the last-minute announcement sowed confusion and uncertainty, with companies unsure late in the day on Thursday whether their imports would be subject to much steeper tariffs the next day.

Richard A. Mojica, a customs attorney at Miller & Chevalier Chartered, said that his law firm had constructed a complex flow chart to counsel companies that were trying to figure out how to calculate the various new tariffs they would pay, which he said was “not as simple as it has been historically.”

“It’s just a very complicated landscape,” he said.

One big question is now that the tariff map is more or less settled, will foreign

companies commit to manufacturing in the United States in order to remain competitive in the mammoth American market. The problem they face, when it comes to multi-decade investment choices, is Mr. Trump's continuously changing whims.

"Fifteen percent is for today," Peter Kim, a managing director at KB Securities, said of South Korea's new tariff rate. "It will take a while for Korean companies especially to say 'OK, this is a new regime, we will start to make these long-term decisions on our manufacturing base.' Some companies I've spoken to are just saying, we're just going to weather it out, at least a few years, before we feel comfortable."

Lydia DePillis contributed reporting from Seoul.

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