

U.S. to Impose 25% Tariffs on an Additional \$16 Billion of Chinese Goods

(Bloomberg) — The U.S. said it will begin imposing 25% duties on an additional \$16 billion in Chinese imports in two weeks, escalating a trade war between the world's two biggest economies.

Customs will begin collecting the duties on 279 product lines, down from 284 items on the initial list, as of Aug. 23, the U.S. Trade Representative's Office said in an emailed statement on Tuesday.

It will be the second time the U.S. slaps duties on Chinese goods in about the past month, despite complaints by American companies that such moves will raise business costs and eventually consumer prices. The U.S. levied 25% duties on \$34 billion in Chinese goods on July 6, prompting swift in-kind retaliation from Beijing. China has vowed to strike back again, dollar-for-dollar, on the \$16 billion tranche.

Click [HERE](#) for more details. Source: <http://time.com/5360461/us-tariffs-china-billions-trade-war/>

Global box volumes sustain slow, steady climb

Ocean carriers transported just under 14 million TEUs in June, a 1.3 percent increase from the same month a year ago.

Global transport volumes of containerized cargo continued to grow at a slow, steady pace in June, climbing 1.3 percent year-over-year to 13.99 million TEUs for the month, according to the latest data from industry analyst Container Trade Statistics (CTS). Contrary to typical seasonal demand patterns, however, total shipments were down 4.4 percent on a sequential basis, as imports and exports to and from Asia, Europe and North America were all down compared with May volumes.

On a year-over-year bases, containerized exports from Europe jumped 8.7 percent to 2.45 million TEUs, while import volumes grew 3.1 percent to 2.75 million TEUs. Growth in Far East Asia exports was much more muted, with volumes ticking up 0.9 percent to just shy of 8 million TEUs for the month, while import volumes increased 2.5 percent to 5.52 million TEUs.

In North America, on the other hand, container export volumes slipped 1.1 percent to 1.28 million TEUs, while imports rose 3.3 percent to 2.4 million TEUs compared with June 2017. Through the first half of 2018, total international volumes have grown 3.8 percent to 82.9 million TEUs compared with the six-month period last year, according to CTS. Ocean carriers are counting on a steady increase in international trade volumes in order to keep rates afloat after some disappointing first half financial results.

Container freight rates have been under considerable pressure from slowing demand growth and persistent overcapacity in the early portion of 2018, but as of last week, two of the primary indices measuring spot pricing were on the rise. The World Container Index, produced by London-based shipping consultant Drewry, shot up 13.5 percent from the week before and 6.6 percent year-over-year, while the Shanghai Shipping Exchange's Shanghai Containerized Freight Index clocked in 0.8 percent lower than in the first week of August 2017 despite a 3.1 percent sequential gain.

Click [HERE](#) for more details. Source: <https://www.americanshipper.com/main/full/global-box-volumes-sustain-slow-steady-climb-72191.aspx>

Interesting Facts:

Worldwide, only about 2% to 10% of containers are inspected.



COSCO Shipping Lines Back to Normal after Cyber Attack

Following last week's cyber attack, COSCO Shipping Lines informed that its network applications in the Americas have been totally recovered.

"All communication channels including telephone, email, and electronic data exchange have been restored. There has been a further increase in our service response. We are working at full stretch to process all the service requests received previously, and the service response is expected to be back on track within this week.

"Global networks of COSCO Shipping Lines are safe and stable, and our global business operations are steady and orderly," the company said in an update.

Commenting on the cyber attack, Naval Dome CEO Itai Sela said that the incident was very worrying.

"While COSCO shut down its connections as a precautionary measure, we have to emphasize that ships are not islands, they are not self-contained units. This is a mistaken belief. Shore- and ship-operations are cyber-connected," he said.

"If shore-based and ship-based IT systems are linked, it could open a gateway to the COSCO ships, leaving them highly susceptible to an attack. Vessels do not need to be attacked directly but an attack can arrive via the company's shore-based IT systems and very easily penetrate the ships' critical OT systems.

Click [HERE](#) for more details. Source: <https://worldmaritimeneews.com/archives/257916/cosco-shipping-lines-back-to-normal-after-cyber-attack/>

Indian products more competitive with US-China trade war, says CII

THE Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) says certain Indian products may become more competitive with the US imposing additional 25 per cent duty on imports worth US\$34 billion from China.

India should focus on the US market for items in the categories of machinery, electrical equipment, vehicles and transport parts, chemicals, plastics and rubber products, according to an analysis by the industry chamber.

Top exports from India to the US which are covered in the list of items for which tariffs have been hiked include pumps, parts of military aircraft, parts for electro diagnostic apparatus, passenger vehicles of 1500-3000cc, valve bodies and parts of taps, said the CII. Exports of these items stood at over US\$50 million in 2017 and can be increased with concerted efforts, says CII.

Countries such as Vietnam, Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia have increased their exports of these products to the US in recent years, the chamber noted.

Based on India's current exports to the US in these categories, products such as intermediate parts for the defence and aerospace sector, vehicles and auto parts, engineering goods, etc. have a higher potential for export, it said.

"Sectors like apparel and textiles, footwear, toys and games and cell phone manufacturing are becoming competitive industries in India and need to be encouraged," said CII.

The chamber suggested that the trade dialogue with the US should be strategised taking into account India's competitive advantage in these products.

Moreover, foreign direct investments from the US should be encouraged by boosting confidence of US firms in India's business climate, said CII, adding that this might necessitate addressing their concerns regarding non-tariff barriers in India for better long-term outcomes. In the domestic industry, it stated that it is important for India to enhance productivity while adding technology to its domestic production in the identified products.

CII examined 818 product lines where the US has raised tariffs for imports from China, reports Press Trust of India.

Click [HERE](http://www.shippingazette.com/menu.asp?encode=eng) for more details. Source: <http://www.shippingazette.com/menu.asp?encode=eng>

Interesting Facts:

The average costs of shipping a bicycle and a can of soda are \$10 and \$0.01 respectively.

