

The SMU Trade Dashboard: Tracking and Quantifying the Trump II Tariffs (March 2026)

This paper, prepared by researchers at the **Singapore Management University (SMU)**, explains the development and working of the **SMU Trade Dashboard**, an online platform designed to monitor and assess the economic impact of the tariff policies introduced during President Donald Trump's second term ("Trump II"). The paper is primarily a methodological guide explaining how tariff information is collected, organized, and used to estimate its economic consequences.

Purpose of the Study

The primary objective of the research is to provide governments, businesses, researchers, and policymakers with an easy-to-use tool that tracks changes in international tariffs and estimates their likely impact on global trade and national economies. Rather than merely listing tariff announcements, the dashboard attempts to show how these policy changes influence trade flows, wages, industrial production, and overall economic welfare.

What is the SMU Trade Dashboard?

The dashboard consists of two major components:

1. Tariff Tracker

The Tariff Tracker allows users to:

- Check tariffs applicable to specific products.
- Search tariffs by product category or industrial sector.
- Compare tariff rates across countries.
- View which products and sectors are affected by new tariff measures.
- Track tariff changes from January 2025 onwards.

Instead of simply showing current tariff rates, it also identifies:

- the date when a tariff became effective,
- the countries involved,
- products affected,
- and the value of trade impacted.

2. Trade Simulation

The second feature estimates the broader economic consequences of tariff changes.

It measures possible effects on:

- International trade volumes
- National income
- Industrial output
- Wages
- Consumer welfare
- Sectoral performance

These estimates help users understand not only **which tariffs changed**, but also **what those changes may mean for economies around the world**.

Why Was This Dashboard Created?

Since early 2025, the United States introduced several new tariff measures through Executive Orders and Presidential Proclamations.

These policy changes occurred rapidly and frequently.

Keeping track of them became difficult because:

- multiple executive orders amended earlier ones,
- tariffs differed across countries,
- product-specific exemptions were introduced,
- tariff rates changed several times.

The dashboard brings all these scattered government announcements into one structured database that users can search and analyse easily.

How Was the Information Collected?

Researchers collected tariff information from official U.S. government sources, especially:

- Executive Orders
- Presidential Proclamations
- U.S. Federal Register

Each government notification was examined carefully to record:

- affected countries,
- products,
- tariff percentages,
- implementation dates,
- amendments,
- exemptions.

Initially, researchers manually reviewed every order.

Later, they introduced an Artificial Intelligence system that could automatically read official documents and convert them into structured tariff data, while human experts continued reviewing the AI's work for accuracy.

Countries Covered

Although the study focuses mainly on U.S. tariffs, it also includes retaliatory tariff actions taken by major trading partners, including:

- China
- Canada

- Mexico
- India
- United Kingdom

The authors also mention that additional countries may be added as trade developments continue.

Major Tariff Events Covered

The dashboard records many significant trade policy developments during 2025–2026, including:

- Tariffs on imports from Canada, Mexico, and China.
- Temporary suspension and later re-imposition of tariffs.
- Reciprocal tariffs affecting dozens of countries.
- Tariffs on steel, aluminium, copper, timber, automobiles, and automobile parts.
- Trade agreements with countries such as the United Kingdom and Japan.
- Tariff adjustments connected to geopolitical issues involving Russia, Venezuela, Iran, and Cuba.

Each event is linked to the exact Executive Order or Presidential Proclamation that introduced it.

Economic Effects Studied

The dashboard estimates how tariff changes influence:

International Trade

Higher tariffs generally increase import costs, potentially reducing trade between countries.

Industrial Production

Some industries may gain temporary protection while others face higher production costs due to more expensive imported inputs.

Employment and Wages

Industries benefiting from tariffs may see improved employment prospects, whereas sectors dependent on imported goods may face higher costs and weaker competitiveness.

Consumer Welfare

Consumers may ultimately pay higher prices if import costs rise, reducing purchasing power.

Overall National Welfare

The study evaluates whether tariff policies improve or reduce a country's overall economic well-being after considering changes in production, prices, trade, and income.

Use of Artificial Intelligence

One notable feature of the project is the use of AI to process complex legal documents.

The AI system:

- reads Executive Orders,
- extracts tariff information,
- identifies affected products,
- prepares structured datasets,
- flags uncertain cases for human review.

According to the paper, after training with human-verified examples, the AI achieved a very high level of accuracy and significantly reduced the time required to update the dashboard.

Importance of the Research

The study has practical value because it:

- provides a centralized source for tariff information,
- improves transparency in international trade policy,
- enables policymakers to assess economic consequences quickly,
- assists businesses in understanding changing import costs,
- supports academic research on international trade,
- helps governments prepare responses to foreign tariff actions.

Key Strengths

The paper's strengths include:

- Reliance on official government sources.
- Regular updating of tariff information.
- Combination of legal documentation with economic analysis.
- Coverage of multiple countries and industries.
- Integration of AI with human verification.
- Public accessibility through an online dashboard.

Limitations

The authors also acknowledge several limitations:

- The simulations rely on historical trade data because newer global trade datasets are not yet available.
- Economic outcomes are estimates rather than predictions.
- Future tariff announcements may require further updates.

- Results depend on assumptions about how businesses and consumers respond to tariff changes.

Conclusion

The **SMU Trade Dashboard** is an innovative digital platform that combines official trade policy information with economic analysis to provide a comprehensive picture of the evolving global tariff landscape during the Trump II administration. By systematically collecting tariff announcements, organizing them into a searchable database, and estimating their likely effects on trade, production, wages, and welfare, the dashboard serves as a valuable resource for governments, businesses, researchers, and policymakers. Its combination of official data, artificial intelligence, and economic modelling makes it an important tool for understanding how changes in trade policy can influence the global economy.

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For queries, please contact:

Vikramshila Risk Advisory Pvt. Ltd.

Email: info@vsrpl.in

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