OCTOBER 2025

CHRONOLOGY OF U.S. TARIFF MEASURES & CANADIAN/GLOBAL RESPONSES

PART 1:
TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S TRADE REVIEW AND RESETTING OF THE GLOBAL TRADING SYSTEM (JAN–MAY 2025)

Since January 2025, the U.S. government has issued more than 20 trade-related executive orders which have disrupted and fundamentally reshaped the international trading system. The global tariff policy (reciprocal and sectoral) has become the centre-piece of President Trump's economic policy generating more than $190B by October 2025 and increasing the average tariff rates from 2.5 to 15%. The Trump administration is emboldened to expand the tariff protectionist policy to cover other industries and sectors. All of this has created unprecedented economic uncertainty including the risk of a global recession. To avoid further tariffs and trade uncertainty, some 8 countries/regions have agreed to trade agreements/frameworks that have included a flat tariff rate plus concessions on investments, energy purchases, and export restrictions.

U.S. Tariff Action	Inauguration Day	CUSMA Tariffs on Exports from Canada & Mexico	Global Steel & Aluminum Tariff	Global Automobile & Auto Parts	Global Reciprocal Tariffs	Global Sectoral Tariffs	Tariffs on EU Imports
Quantum		25% tariff: non-CUSMA goods, except 10% on oil & potash	25% tariff on all steel & aluminum imports	25% tariff on auto & auto parts imported by the U.S.	Minimum 10% tariff on all nations. 10 to 60% tariffs on individualized countries		50% tariff on all EU imports
Authority & Rationale	Announced global trade review & tariffs on Canada, Mexico & China	**IEEPA (National Interest)** Illegal immigration to the U.S. & fentanyl related contraband	**Section 232 (National Security)** Unfair trade practices	**Section 232 (National Security)** Protecting & strengthening U.S. automotive industry	**IEEPA (National Interest)** Lack of reciprocity in trade relationships among economic partners & trade deficits as a security & economic threat	Announced imminent tariffs on semiconductors, pharmaceuticals, agricultural products, lumber. Possible new tariffs of 100% on films produced outside the U.S.	Perceived unfair trade practices & economic pressure amidst trade deal negotiations
Executive order issue date (I) & effective date (E)	Jan 20	**I:** Feb 1 **E:** Feb 3 (postponed to Mar 4) **E:** Mar 6 tariffs applied on only non-CUSMA exports	**I:** Feb 10 **E:** Mar 12	**I:** Mar 26 **E:** Apr 3 - Imported autos & auto parts. CUSMA compliant are exempted	**I:** April 2 Postponed for 90 days on Apr 9th (excluding China)		**I:** May 23 **E:** June 1 Postponed for 90 days
Month	January	February - March	February - March	February - March	April	April	May

Canada's Response: Retaliatory Actions, Policy Changes & Legal Challenges

Federal & Provincial Response

- **Feb 2** — **Several provinces** restrict sales of American alcohol & announced other retaliatory measures
- **Mar 4-5** — Tariffs on $30B goods imported from the U.S. **Canada** requested WTO consultations on tariffs. **Alberta** changes procurement rules & restricts U.S. alcohol sales
- **Mar 10** — **Ontario** applied a 25% surcharge on electricity exports but subsequently removed it
- **Mar 12** — **Canada** requested WTO consultations on steel & aluminum tariffs. **B.C.** restricts sales of American alcohol
- **Mar 13** — **Canada** imposed a 25% counter-tariff on steel & aluminum, valued at $29.8B
- **Apr 3** — **Canada** requested WTO consultations on auto & auto parts tariffs
- **Apr 9** — **Canada** exempted from global reciprocal tariffs. 25% tariff on non-compliant CUSMA-autos & 25% on non-Canadian or Mexican auto parts from the U.S.

Global response & legal challenges

Country & Actions Taken

- **Feb 4** — **China** requested consultations before the WTO on tariffs
- **Apr 4** — **China** requested consultations before the WTO on universal & country specific tariffs
- **Apr 9** — **China** retaliated with tit-for-tat tariffs & imposed retaliatory duties of 125%
- **May 12** — **China & the U.S.** agreed to suspend most tariffs for 90 days & lowered tariffs to 10% (China), 30% (U.S.)

Trade Agreements Announced

- **May 8** — Economic Prosperity Deal reached with the **UK**
- **May 12** — AI investment deals with the **UAE**

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PART 2: EXPANDING U.S. PROTECTIONISM THROUGH PUNITIVE TARIFFS (MAY–JULY 2025)

So, what does all of this mean for Canada as the CUSMA review fast approaches with the deadline of June 30, 2026? As of October 2025, Canada has the lowest tariff rate of any American trading partner and 85% of Canada's trade with the U.S. is tariff free. However, punishing sectoral tariffs (on autos, aluminum, steel and softwood lumber) are severely impacting firms and communities in Canada. Furthermore, the Trump administration has already targeted Canada's banking sector as well as its supply management system.

U.S. Tariff Action	China-U.S.Trade Dispute	Global Steel & Aluminium Tariff	Canada-U.S. Trade Negotiations Suspended	Global Reciprocal Tariffs Deadline Extension	Special Tariffs on EU & Mexico	U.S. AI Action Plan	Canada Softwood Lumber Tariff Increase	Global Copper Tariffs	De minimis suspension
Quantum		Tariffs doubled on imported steel & aluminum from 25% to 50%	Canada-U.S.trade negotiations suspended due to dispute on Canada's Digital Services Tax	25% tariff on auto & auto parts imported by the U.S.	30% tariff on EU & Mexico	U.S. AI Action Plan with specific restrictions on chips*	U.S. Commerce Dept. raised softwood lumber duties from 8% to 14.5% after review	50% tariff on imports of semi-finished copper & copper derivatives	Suspended duty-free shipments of >$800
Authority & Rationale	China being slow to remove non-tariff trade countermeasures that had imposed	**Section 232 (National Security)** Unfair trade practices	N/A P.Trump: DST is a 'direct & blatant attack on our country'		Sustained U.S. trade deficit with both countries	Supporting the American AI industry	Unfair trade practices	**Section 232 (National Security)** Addressing the effects of copper imports on national security	**IEEPA (National Interest)**
Executive order issue date (I) & effective date (E)	May 30	**I:** June 3 **E:** June 4	**I:** June 27 **E:** June 27	**I:** July 7 **E:** July 9	**I:** July 12 **E:** Aug 1	**I:** July 23	**I:** July 25 **E:** Not later than Oct 6	**I:** July 30 **E:** Aug 1	**I:** July 30 **E:** Aug 29

Month: May | June | July

Canada's Response: Retaliatory Actions, Policy Changes & Legal Challenges

Federal & Provincial Response

- **July 30** — **Ontario** cancelled $100M deal with Starlink
- **July 31** — P.M. Carney notes complexity of talks, unlikely to meet Aug. 1 deadline

Global response & legal challenges

Country & Actions Taken

- **May 29** — **U.S.: International Trade Court** rules Liberation Day tariff scheme illegal
- **May 30** — **U.S.: Federal Appeals Court** grants temporary stay on rulling & keeps tariffs
- **June 2** — **China** accused the U.S. of violating the truce by introducing "discriminatory & restrictive measures"
- **June 24** — **EU** prepared a €95B retaliatory package & suspended its implementation on July 13
- **July 15** — **EU** threatened €72B retaliation package
- **July 24** — **EU States** voted for up to 30% tariff on €93B worth of U.S. imports
- **July 31** — **U.S.: Appeals Court** judge questions Trump's use of IEEPA for tariffs; DOJ admits it's the first time the law has been used this way

Trade Agreements Announced

- **July 2** — **Vietnam** trade deal
- **July 22** — **Japan & the Philippines** trade deals
- **July 23** — **Indonesia** trade deal
- **July 27** — **EU-U.S.** bilateral trade agreement
- **July 30** — **Pakistan & South Korea** trade deals
- **July 31** — **Malaysia** trade deal

***Notes:**

1. Negotiations with major trading partners such as Canada, Mexico, India, and China are still ongoing.
2. U.S. AI Action Plan includes: Expanding export restrictions beyond semiconductor manufacturing systems to cover vital components needed for AI scaling; Implementing geo-tracking or location verification for AI technologies; Strengthening enforcement through increased collaboration with intelligence agencies; Pursuing global alignment — pushing allies to adopt U.S. export control frameworks, and threatening noncompliance via tools like the Foreign Direct Product Rule and secondary tariffs
3. The U.S. government has repeatedly announced tariffs that were later modified, delayed, or never enacted, creating significant uncertainty in global markets.

This timeline is based on 60+ sources (White House releases, Financial Times, CBC News, etc.). Citations are grouped chronologically in the bibliography to align with events in the timeline.

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PART 3: BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS, NEW TRADE DEALS, BUT MORE TRADE UNCERTAINTY (JULY–OCT 2025)

Canada and the U.S. have begun consultations on the CUSMA review and it is expected that the Trump administration will want to finalize a new agreement well before the CUSMA deadline and likely by early 2026. Several key questions will need to be addressed including: Are the recent U.S. trade agreements (with EU, Japan, Korea, etc.) a framework for a new CUSMA? Is the era of "a comprehensive free-trade agreement" over? What concessions will Canada need to make in order to secure a more balanced agreement with the U.S.? To what extent and how quickly can Canada diversify its trade with other partners and reduce its reliance on the U.S.?

U.S. Tariff Action	Special Tariffs on Brazil	Non-CUSMA Tariff Increase (Fentanyl Tariffs)	New Country-level Reciprocal Tariffs	Implementation of Reciprocal Tariffs	U.S.-China Trade Negotiations Extension	Special Tariffs on India
Quantum	50% tariff on Brazilian imports	Canada tariffs raised from 25% to 35%. Mexico granted 90-day exemption	New tariffs set on several countries ranging from 10% to 41%, including some with trade agreements		Truce with China extended by 90 days	50% tariffs on Indian imports
Authority & Rationale	**IEEPA (National Interest)** Brazil's government alleged interference on the U.S.' economy	**IEEPA (National Interest)** Alleged failure by Canada to curb fentanyl flows	**IEEPA (National Interest)** Continued lack of reciprocity in U.S. trade relations	Implementation of sweeping tariffs on imports from various countries, marking a 'new era of trade rivalry'		**Section 232 (National Security)** India's continuous purchasing of Russian oil
Executive order issue date (I) & effective date (E)	**I:** July 30 **E:** Aug 7	**I:** July 31 **E:** Aug 1	**I:** July 31 **E:** Aug 7	**E:** Aug 7	**I:** Aug 11 **E:** Aug 12	**I:** Aug 12 **E:** Aug 27

U.S. Tariff Action	Tariff Exception	CUSMA Review	New tariffs announcment	Additional Softwood Lumber Tariff	Medium & Heavy Trucks Tariffs
Quantum		The U.S. started internal consultations in anticipation of the agreement review	100% imported pharmaceuticals; 25% kitchen cabinets, bathroom vanities, upholstered furniture (set to increase in 01/26)	Additional 10% tariff on softwood timber & lumber, total combined rate to over 40%	25% tariff on medium & heavy trucks imported into the U.S.
Authority & Rationale	Modifying the scope of April 2 tariffs & established a framework to implement trade agreements	Achieving better terms for the U.S.	**Section 232 (National Security)** Protecting US industries	**Section 232 (National Security)** Protecting Americans from imports that may affect National Security	Encourage more domestic production & overhaul supply chains in the global automotive industry
Executive order issue date (I) & effective date (E)	Sept 5	Sept 17	**I: Sept 25th** (announced), Sept 29th (issued) **E: Oct 1st** (first announced), Oct 14th (changed)	Sept 30	**I:** Oct 6 **E:** Nov 1

Month: July | August | September | October

Canada's Response: Retaliatory Actions, Policy Changes & Legal Challenges

Federal & Provincial Response

- **Aug 5** — P.M. Carney launches new strategy to back Canada's softwood lumber industry
- **Aug 13** — **Ontario** launched a $1B program to support steel, aluminum, & auto firms hit by tariffs
- **Aug 22** — Retaliatory tariffs on CUSMA-compliant goods removed as of Sept 1
- **Sept 19** — **Canada** launched a second round of internal consultations

Global response & legal challenges

Country & Actions Taken

- **Aug 5** — **Brazil** started WTO consultations against tariffs on certain products
- **Aug 29** — **U.S.: Appeals Court** ruled tariffs to be unlawful; kept in place, pending a further appeal before SCOTUS
- **Sept 19** — **Mexico** launched internal consultations

Trade Agreements Announced

- **Sept 5** — Framework agreement implementing the previous deal with **Japan**

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