

NEWSLETTER

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Trump tariffs live updates: US-China trade framework set, now awaits Trump and Xi nod

The US and China agreed to a framework and implementation plan to ease trade tensions on Tuesday. “We have reached a framework to implement the Geneva consensus,” US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick said.



The commerce secretary indicated the deal should resolve issues between the two countries on rare earths and magnets. Representatives will now take the proposal to their respective leaders for approval. The progress comes after two days of trade talks between the US and China in London. The high-stakes negotiations follow Trump's call with Xi Jinping last week, which both leaders framed as positive.

Tensions between the two countries had been rising since they reached a temporary truce in mid-May in Geneva. Both countries accused the other of breaching the agreement while ratcheting up pressure on other issues.

Meanwhile, though Trump's most sweeping tariffs continue to face legal uncertainty, on Tuesday, the president received a favorable update. A federal appeals court held a decision saying his tariffs can temporarily stay in effect. The US Court of International Trade had blocked their implementation last month, deeming the method used to enact them "unlawful."

The latest twists and turns in Trump's trade policy come as the president pushes countries to speed up negotiations. The US sent a letter to partners as a "friendly reminder" that Trump's self-imposed 90-day pause on sweeping "reciprocal" tariffs is set to expire in early July.

White House advisers have for weeks promised trade deals in the "not-too-distant future," with the only announced agreement so far coming with the United Kingdom. US and Indian officials held trade talks this week and agreed to extend those discussions on Monday and Tuesday ahead of the July 9 deadline.

New tariffs are coming into play: Effective Wednesday, June 4, Trump doubled tariffs on steel and aluminum from 25% to 50%.

Gruber Logistics to host thematic events at transport logistic 2025

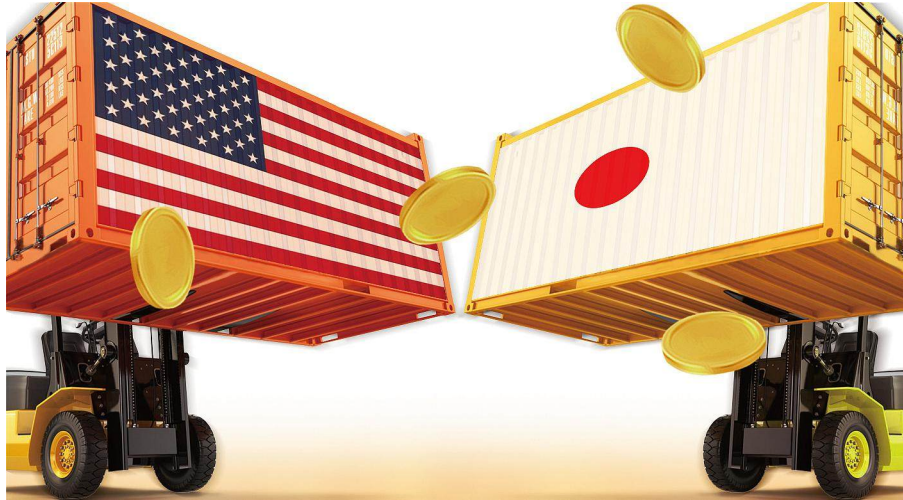
Gruber Logistics will take part in the 2025 edition of transport logistic, scheduled to take place in Munich with a packed agenda of official events and workshops, placing a strong focus on sustainable mobility and the digital transformation of logistics processes. Of particular interest is the presentation of new hydrogen and electric truck prototypes, which Gruber Logistics will showcase in collaboration with Alice, the European logistics innovation network, and the Aeveto cluster, which brings together several European research projects dedicated to zero-emission heavy vehicles. The main event is set for Thursday 5 June at 11.00 am, at the Exhibitor Stage in hall B5, where the session titled “Next generation hydrogen and electric heavy vehicles” will take place. It will be an opportunity to assess the current state of the energy transition in road freight transport and explore which solutions are already available or in an advanced stage of development.



In addition to the main event, Gruber Logistics is organising three thematic workshops at its stand, each designed to delve into specific aspects of innovation in transport. On Monday 2 June (3.30–4.30 pm), the discussion will centre on electric vehicles in urban areas and the most suitable logistics model. On Tuesday 3 June (3.30–4.30 pm), the focus will shift to the challenges of autonomous driving for heavy vehicles. On Wednesday 4 June (2.00–3.30 pm), the workshop will address the complexities of fuel emission accounting in road transport.

Gruber Logistics' presence at the fair extends beyond the events it is organising directly. The company is also involved in several official panels. On Tuesday 3 June (3.00–4.00 pm), the focus will be on the Brenner corridor for road and rail, a vital artery for freight transport to Italy, with the participation of Martin Gruber, the company's CEO. On Wednesday 4 June (9.45–11.45 am), Fabrizio Borgogna, head of Public Affairs, Innovation and Sustainability, will speak at a panel on solutions for the digital integration of small carriers. Later that day (11.30 am–12.30 pm), Andrea Condotta, director of Public Affairs, Innovation and Sustainability, will join a session on strengthening interregional cooperation and promoting intermodal freight transport. Finally, from 2.00 to 4.00 pm, Fabrizio Borgogna will return to discuss practical cases of intermodal transport using the Esep4Freight platform.

Japan Eyes \$7B U.S. Chip Imports to Ease Trade Deficit Amid Tariff Talks



Japan is considering a major move to reduce its trade imbalance with the United States by purchasing up to 1 trillion yen (\$6.94 billion) worth of American-made semiconductors, according to a report by Asahi newspaper. The initiative is part of ongoing tariff negotiations between the two nations, with Japanese officials aiming to ease U.S. concerns over the nearly 10 trillion yen trade deficit.

The plan, still under discussion, involves subsidizing domestic Japanese companies to buy U.S. semiconductor products, notably from leading tech firms such as Nvidia. The effort highlights Japan's strategic push to align more closely with American trade interests while strengthening its own high-tech industry amid growing global chip demand.

The proposal comes as part of broader economic talks and is seen as a gesture of goodwill toward the Biden administration, which has maintained a firm stance on tariffs since taking office. Japan's Economic Revitalization Minister Ryosei Akazawa, who is leading the tariff negotiations, is scheduled to visit the United States around May 30 for the fourth round of discussions. The talks are expected to cover trade imbalances, supply chain resilience, and tech sector cooperation.

Analysts say the move could not only narrow the trade gap but also secure more favorable terms in future U.S.-Japan economic agreements. Japan's potential commitment to U.S. chip imports aligns with Washington's broader strategy to secure global semiconductor supply chains and support its domestic chip industry through international collaboration.

By targeting semiconductor imports, Japan aims to both satisfy U.S. trade demands and ensure domestic industries remain competitive in the rapidly evolving tech landscape. The proposal, if finalized, would mark one of the largest Japanese tech import pledges in recent years.

Logistics and SME firms brace for boom in shipments

Representatives from the logistics sector and small and medium-sized companies said on Wednesday Hong Kong can expect a sharp rise in outbound shipments as exporters seize the window of opportunity presented by a truce over the next 90 days in tariffs to send goods to the United States. Under the deal, the United States agreed to lower its tariffs on Chinese goods to 30 percent while China will reduce its own to 10 percent over the next 90 days.



Speaking on an RTHK programme, Gary Lau, chairman of the Hong Kong Association of Freight Forwarding and Logistics, said he expects export volumes and demand to pick up as early as next week.

"I think we might still need about four or five more days to digest the new measures as we have to go through the logistical procedures after all and coordinate with importers overseas," he said. "But I believe there'll be a more obvious turnaround next week as demand will soar significantly for local exporters during the 90-day grace period. And there could be more demand for air freight due to increased requests from e-commerce platforms."

The logistics veteran also noted that while a majority of the firms will opt to ship by sea due to cost factors, businesses with more urgent transport needs might turn to air freight, but air transport costs could soar by at least 40 to 50 percent.

Following the truce, the United States also more than halved the duties for small parcels shipped from the mainland, Hong Kong and Macau to 54 percent. Such charges are under "de minimis" duties on small packages valued at less than US\$800.

"Now you say that the tariffs are reduced to about 50 percent, but we have a saying 'wool comes from the sheep's back', so those tariffs are still borne by consumers," Lau said. "And the tariffs are actually still too high." Lau estimated that the volume of small parcels being sent over to the United States from China under the new 54 percent tariff would only reach 70 to 80 percent of levels just before the tariff war and called for more reductions.

RealVantage expands into South Korea with \$71m logistics investment

Construction and leasing are expected to start in Q4 2026.



Proptech firm RealVantage, backed by private wealth investors from Australia, Hong Kong, Malaysia, and Singapore, has entered the South Korean market with its largest investment yet — a US\$55m deal for the Anpyeong Logistics Center.

In partnership with ESR Kendall Square, the project has a planned investment duration of 35 months, with construction completion and leasing expected to begin in Q4 2026.

The center is a five-storey, dry-storage Class A warehouse covering approximately 36,600 square meters of net leasable space, including four floors dedicated to warehouse operations.

Featuring large floor plates, the facility is strategically located in Icheon — a key logistics hub just an hour's drive from Seoul's central business district and 30 minutes from major population centers such as Bundang and Seongnam.

Given its proximity to major manufacturing complexes and urban centers, the logistics center is expected to attract tenants from e-commerce, high-tech manufacturing, and third-party logistics sectors. Market analysts anticipate a favorable supply-demand gap emerging by 2025, supporting strong tenant demand and potential value appreciation upon project delivery.

RealVantage CEO Keith Ong said their entry into South Korea positions RealVantage to capitalise on the booming e-commerce demand for last-mile logistics infrastructure.



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