

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Category: Policy and Program Announcements, Agricultural Situation, Trade Policy Monitoring, WTO Notifications

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Report Highlights:

On May 12, the United States and the People's Republic of China jointly announced a reduction of Chinese tariffs related to the series of original tariff announcements dated April 4, April 9, and April 11 that had increased rates by 125 percent on top of existing tariffs and retaliatory tariffs. The rates associated with these State Council Tariff Commission Announcements 4, 5, and 6 will now be 10 percent. The retaliatory tariffs of 10-15 percent on U.S. agricultural products that were imposed by China on March 10 in retaliation for U.S. fentanyl tariffs remain in place. In addition, though the May 12 announcement indicated several non-tariff actions since April 4 would be addressed, questions remain on other non-tariff measures that occurred around the same time. This report provides the English version of the joint statement and a table containing up-to-date tariffs applied to U.S. agricultural, fishery, and forestry products as an attachment.

FAS China provides this analysis and reporting as a service to the United States agricultural community, and to our farmers, ranchers, rural communities, and agribusiness operations in support of a worldwide agricultural information system and a level playing field for U.S. agriculture.

General Information

A Joint Statement on the China-U.S. Economic and Trade Meeting in Geneva was published by the Chinese Ministry of Commerce on May 12, 2025. According to this joint statement, China plans to modify its application of reciprocal tariffs on products originating from the United States. Specifically, China will suspend 24 percent of the additional ad valorem duty rate, which was originally set at 34 percent by China's State Council Tariff Commission (SCTC) in Announcement No. 4 of 2025 (see GAIN report [CH2025-0073](#)). This suspension of 24 percent will be for an initial period of 90 days, starting May 14, 2025, while a remaining ad valorem rate of 10 percent will be retained on these products. Furthermore, China will also remove the modified additional rates of duty on U.S. products that were imposed by SCTC Announcements No. 5 (see GAIN report [CH2025-0076](#)) and No. 6 (see GAIN report [CH2025-0079](#)) of 2025. In addition to tariff adjustments, China has stated it will adopt all necessary administrative measures to suspend or remove non-tariff retaliatory measures that have been put in place against the United States since April 2, 2025. The primary non-tariff countermeasures taken by China after April 2, 2025, include the suspension of imports from six U.S. facilities exporting poultry meat, poultry bone meal, and sorghum.

The joint statement did not include mention of the retaliatory tariffs that were previously applied against U.S. agricultural products. According to SCTC Announcement No. 2 issued on March 4, 2025, specific tariffs were applied to various agricultural commodities (see GAIN report [CH2025-0044](#)). A 10 percent tariff was applied to items such as sorghum, soybeans, pork, beef, aquatic products, fruits, vegetables, and dairy products. A 15-percent tariff was imposed on other items, including chicken, wheat, corn, and cotton. Currently, certain U.S. agricultural products are also subject to Section 301 retaliatory tariffs (which can be excluded upon request by importers) and Section 232 retaliatory tariffs. As a result, U.S. agricultural, fishery, and forestry products generally face a much higher applied tariff compared to products from other competing countries.

The following joint statement was published on the White House website:

The Government of the United States of America (the “United States”) and the Government of the People’s Republic of China (“China”),

Recognizing the importance of their bilateral economic and trade relationship to both countries and the global economy.

Recognizing the importance of a sustainable, long-term, and mutually beneficial economic and trade relationship.

Reflecting on their recent discussions and believing that continued discussions have the potential to address the concerns of each side in their economic and trade relationship; and

Moving forward in the spirit of mutual opening, continued communication, cooperation, and mutual respect.

The Parties commit to take the following actions by May 14, 2025:

The United States will (i) modify the application of the additional ad valorem rate of duty on articles of China (including articles of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and the Macau Special Administrative Region) set forth in Executive Order 14257 of April 2, 2025, by suspending 24 percentage points of that rate for an initial period of 90 days, while retaining the remaining ad valorem rate of 10 percent on those articles pursuant to the terms of said Order; and (ii) removing the modified additional ad valorem rates of duty on those articles imposed by Executive Order 14259 of April 8, 2025 and Executive Order 14266 of April 9, 2025.

China will (i) modify accordingly the application of the additional ad valorem rate of duty on articles of the United States set forth in Announcement of the Customs Tariff Commission of the State Council No. 4 of 2025, by suspending 24 percentage points of that rate for an initial period of 90 days, while retaining the remaining additional ad valorem rate of 10 percent on those articles, and removing the modified additional ad valorem rates of duty on those articles imposed by Announcement of the Customs Tariff Commission of the State Council No. 5 of 2025 and Announcement of the Customs Tariff Commission of the State Council No. 6 of 2025; and (ii) adopt all necessary administrative measures to suspend or remove the non-tariff countermeasures taken against the United States since April 2, 2025.

After taking the aforementioned actions, the Parties will establish a mechanism to continue discussions about economic and trade relations. The representative from the Chinese side for these discussions will be He Lifeng, Vice Premier of the State Council, and the representatives from the U.S. side will be Scott Bessent, Secretary of the Treasury, and Jamieson Greer, United States Trade Representative. These discussions may be conducted alternately in China and the United States, or a third country upon agreement of the Parties. As required, the two sides may conduct working-level consultations on relevant economic and trade issues.

The MOFCOM version can be found on the MOFCOM website and is also an attachment.

Attachments:

[250512 Table 1 China Agricultural Fishery and Forestry Tariffs on US Commodities.xlsx](#)

[MOFCOM Version - Joint Statement on China-U.S. Economic and Trade Meeting in Geneva.pdf](#)