U.S. INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

FY 2018 AT A GLANCE

Tariff and Trade Information Services

WHAT WE DO

The USITC's tariff and trade information services offer the Commission, policymakers, international trade negotiators, and the public a rich array of international trade-related resources. Among these services, the USITC:

- maintains the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS), which provides the applicable tariff rates and statistical categories for all merchandise imported into the United States;
- develops and maintains the online DataWeb, which provides worldwide interactive access to current and historical U.S. trade data;
- operates the USITC's Main Library, which has an extensive collection specializing in international trade matters and serves the Commission and the public;
- operates the Trade Remedy Assistance Office (TRAO), which provides information to small businesses concerning the remedies and benefits available under U.S. trade laws and provides technical assistance and advice, including informal legal support, to eligible small businesses seeking remedies; and
- collects and evaluates petitions seeking temporary duty (tariff) suspensions or reductions for specific imported goods, then prepares a report for use by the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Ways and Means and the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance in developing a Miscellaneous Tariff Bill for Congressional consideration.

The USITC also contributes to:

- the management of the International Trade Data System (ITDS), a one-stop web portal shared by numerous federal trade agencies that is designed to facilitate the movement of imported and exported merchandise;
- the maintenance of U.S. commitments under Schedule XX of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade/ World Trade Organization (GATT/WTO);
- the maintenance of an electronic version of the U.S. Schedule of Services under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS); and
- the preparation of the electronic database that supports U.S. submissions to the WTO Integrated Database.

HTS

- 2018 basic edition released: January 2018
- 2018 revision 1, 1.1, and 1.2 released (electronic only): February 2018
- 2018 revision 2 and 2.1 released (electronic only): March 2018
- 2018 revision 3 released (electronic only): April 2018
- 2018 revision 4 and 4.1 released (electronic only): May 2018
- 2018 revision 5 released (electronic only): May 2018
- 2018 revision 6 released (electronic only): June 2018
- 2018 revision 7 released (electronic only): July 2018
- 2018 revision 8 released (electronic only): August 2018
- 2018 revision 9 released (electronic only): August 2018
- 2018 revision 10 released (electronic only): August 2018
- 2018 revision 11 released (electronic only): August 2018
- 2018 revision 12 released (electronic only): September 2018
- "484(f)" requests considered: 28

DATA WEB

- Registered users: 341,714
- Data reports, average generated per month: 219,739

  % generated for U.S. government staff: 5.2%

  % generated for public, multilateral institutions, and universities: 70.7%

  % generated for internal/other uses: 24.1%

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To access the Harmonized Tariff Schedule, scan this code with a QR reader on your smart phone, or visit: https://hts.usitc.gov/current

HOW WE DO IT

The HTS is based on the international Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (known simply as the Harmonized System), a global tariff classification system that covers nearly all world trade in goods. The USITC generally publishes a new edition of the HTS annually and updates it as needed throughout the year. Each revision of the HTS is posted on the USITC's internet site (https://hts.usitc.gov/current).

The USITC also maintains an online HTS search tool (hts.usitc.gov), a search engine designed to assist government agencies, customs brokers, and the importing public in determining proper tariff classifications. The HTS search tool provides an Internet-based, user-friendly version of the HTS. The tool includes sophisticated navigation and search features and links to classification rulings by U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

The USITC's Director of Tariff Affairs and Trade Agreements chairs the Committee for Statistical Annotation of the Tariff Schedules (the "484(f) Committee"), which also includes representatives of U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the Census Bureau. The committee analyzes and evaluates petitions requesting changes in HTS statistical reporting categories.

USITC staff participates in the U.S. Delegation to the World Customs Organization (WCO), an international organization headquartered in Brussels, Belgium, which oversees the continuous development and maintenance of the global Harmonized System (HS). USITC staff leads the U.S. delegation to the HS Review Sub-Committee and the Scientific Sub-Committee and participates in the delegation to the Harmonized System Committee.

The USITC DataWeb is an interactive, self-service, Internet-based system that provides access to extensive tariff and trade data. It is available to the public on a full-time, free-of-charge basis, on the USITC web site at: http://dataweb.usitc.gov. USITC staff as well as staff at various federal government agencies, congressional offices, U.S. trade negotiating groups, and U.S. embassies rely on these data. The DataWeb is also used extensively by educational institutions, the U.S. private sector, and numerous private and public entities in other countries.

The Trade DataWeb, updated monthly, provides U.S. import and export data on a monthly, quarterly, annual, or year-to-date basis and can be retrieved in a number of classification systems, including the Harmonized Tariff Schedule, the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC), the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC), or the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). A "Commodity Translation Wizard" translates between these classification systems.

The Tariff DataWeb offers extensive information on U.S. import duties, preferential tariff programs, and staged tariff reductions. The DataWeb also provides prepared reports concerning U.S. trade on a product and regional basis and links to pertinent USITC publications.

The USITC's Main Library collection includes roughly 40,000 book and serial titles covering U.S. and international trade laws and practices, as well as numerous CD-ROM and on-line information databases. Although its primary mission is to support Commission research, the USITC's Main Library is open to the public.