

American Manufacturing Competitiveness Act: Effects of Temporary Duty Suspensions and Reductions on the U.S. Economy

(Investigation No. 332-565)

Click the following link to access the questionnaire

[Insert website link]

Background information

The current investigation is being conducted for the purpose of preparing the report required by section 4 of the American Manufacturing Competitiveness Act of 2016 (AMCA) (19 U.S.C. 1332 note), which directs the Commission to submit to the House Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Committee on Finance (Committees) “a report on the effects on the United States economy of duty suspensions and reductions enacted pursuant to this Act.” The information requested by this questionnaire is for use by the Commission in connection with investigation No. 332-565, *American Manufacturing Competitiveness Act: Effects of Temporary Duty Suspensions and Reductions on the U.S. Economy*, which will be delivered to the Committees by September 13, 2019. The AMCA directs the Commission to include in its report “a broad assessment of the economic effects of such duty suspensions and reductions on producers, purchasers, and consumers in the United States using case studies describing such effects on selected industries or by type of article as available data permit.” The AMCA also directs the Commission to solicit and include in the report “recommendations with respect to those domestic industry sectors or specific domestic industries that might benefit from permanent duty suspensions and reductions, either through a unilateral action of the United States or [through] negotiations for reciprocal tariff agreements, with a particular focus on inequities created by tariff inversions.” The questionnaire is has been designed to collect the information that will allow the Commission to prepare the report. You can learn more about this investigation at the following website: https://www.usitc.gov/research_and_analysis/what_we_are_working_on.htm.

Your firm is required by law to respond to this questionnaire.

Please read all instructions and return the completed questionnaire
to the USITC no later than DATE.

Confidentiality

With the exception of Section 3 of the questionnaire, the Commission has designated the information you provide in response to this questionnaire as "confidential business information" to the extent that the information would reveal the operations of your organization and is not otherwise available to the public. The Commission will not disclose such confidential business information except as provided for in section 5 of this questionnaire. Information received in the response to this questionnaire will be aggregated with information from other questionnaires responses and will not be published in a way that would reveal the operations of your firm. Section 3 of this questionnaire (Permanent Duty suspensions and reductions/Inequities through Tariff Inversions requests information that the AMCA requires the Commission solicit and append to the report. Thus, any information you provide in Section 3 will be included in the final report, including the name of the person making the request for a permanent duty suspension or reduction.

Completing the questionnaire

The best way to answer this questionnaire is to use the web version that is available at the link above. You will need the unique token found in the letter you received. Please note: this token is case sensitive.

If you would like to access the entire questionnaire to distribute portions of the survey within your firm, or if you are unable to use the web-based questionnaire, a fillable document is available for download at this link: xxxx.

Additional Information and Assistance

For more information about this report, please visit the Ongoing Investigations page, https://www.usitc.gov/research_and_analysis/what_we_are_working_on.htm. If you need any assistance with the questionnaire, please contact Kimberlie Freund at 202-708-5402 or Samantha DeCarlo at 202-205-3165 or email the project team at mtbeffects@usitc.gov.

More information about the U.S. International Trade Commission can be found by visiting <https://www.usitc.gov/>.

United States International Trade Commission

American Manufacturing Competitiveness Act: Effects of Temporary Duty Suspensions and Reductions on the U.S. Economy

Email: mtbeffects@usitc.gov

Please read all instructions and return the completed questionnaire to the USITC no later than DATE.

Section 1: Firm information and Industry or Sector

- 1) Please list your firm's primary address and a contact person.
 - a) Firm name
 - b) Address
 - c) City State Zip code Website address
 - d) Contact person's name
 - e) Contact person's job title
 - f) Contact person's telephone number (xxx-xxx-xxxx)
 - g) Contact person's email address (xxx@xxx.xxx)
- 2) How many full-time employees does your firm employ in the United States?
- 3) Are you a producer of a downstream product using the articles covered by the petitions you filed or on which you commented?
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
- 4) Has your firm experienced a material change since October 14, 2016 (e.g., merger or acquisition, closed operations, no longer importing product listed in the Miscellaneous Tariff Bill Act of 2018, etc.)?
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No

If yes, please describe:

- 5) The petition(s) you filed or commented on fall under the following industry/sector(s). (You will only see the industry/sector(s) that apply to your firm's approved petitions or comments.) If you disagree with the industry/sector(s), please contact the project team at mtbeffects@usitc.gov. To see a full list of the 9902 provisions covered by each industry/sector(s), go to xxxx.

The relevant industries and sectors are:

- Organic specialty chemicals
- Pesticide products and formulations
- Plastics
- Footwear
- Organic chemicals, other than specialty chemicals
- Household appliances, including commercial applications
- Apparel
- Fibers and yarns, except for raw cotton or raw wool
- Sporting goods
- Paints, pigments, and dyes
- Medicinal chemicals
- Motor, generator, and gear manufacturing
- Certain motor vehicle parts and manufacturing
- Other chemicals
- Other textiles and apparel
- Other manufacturing
- Other agricultural products

Section 2: Effect of Duty Suspension or Reduction

- 6) Since the date of enactment of the Miscellaneous Tariff Bill Act of 2018 (September 13, 2018), how have the duty suspensions and reductions for [industry/sector x] affected your firm? [Notes: Please indicate or describe only changes that your firm **has already made** as a direct result of the duty suspension or reduction. This question will be repeated for each industry/sector identified in Question 5 above.]

For [industry/sector x]:

Category	Actual positive change	No change	Actual negative change
Investment in capital or machinery	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Production volume	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Employment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wages	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Price of product to purchasers/consumers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Number of customers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sales revenue	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Production costs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Market share	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If the respondent clicks “actual positive change” or “actual negative change” above, a series of prepopulated questions will appear for each industry/sector. If the respondent clicks “no change,” then no questions will appear for the respondent.

Describe how your firm’s investment in capital or machinery has changed as a result of duty suspensions and reductions (e.g., planned purchases of capital or machinery, actual machinery purchases, new facilities):

(a.) Your firm indicated an actual positive change in investment in capital or machinery; please indicate dollar value of the change:
\$

(b.) Your firm indicated an actual negative change in investment in capital and machinery; please indicate a dollar value of the change:
\$

- (c.) Describe how your firm's production volume has been affected as a result of duty suspensions and reductions (e.g., increase/decreased production volume, or planned increase in production):
- (d.) Your firm indicated an actual positive change in employment; please indicate the number of employees that have increased:
- (e.) Your firm indicated an actual negative change in employment; please indicate the number of employees that have decreased:
- (f.) Describe how your firm's domestic wages have changed as a result of duty suspensions and reductions (e.g., increased/decreased employment wages directly related to duty suspensions and reductions):
- (g.) Describe how the price of your firm's products sold to purchasers/consumers has been affected as a result of duty suspensions and reductions (e.g., duty suspensions and reductions passed directly to purchasers or consumers through lower prices):
- (h.) Describe how your customer base has been affected as a result of duty suspensions and reductions (e.g. increased/decreased number of customers related to duty suspensions and reductions):
- (i.) Describe how your firm's sales revenue has been affected as a result of duty suspensions and reductions (e.g., increased/decreased sales revenue directly related to duty suspensions or reductions):
- (j.) Describe how your firm's production costs have been affected as a result of duty suspensions and reductions (e.g., increased/decreased production costs directly related to duty suspensions or reductions):
- (k.) Describe how your firm's market share has been affected as a result of duty suspensions and reductions (e.g., increased/decreased market share directly related to duty suspensions or reductions, products are now directly competitive with imports):

- 7) How do you anticipate your firm **will be impacted** by duty suspensions and reductions in the near future (i.e., before expiration of the 9902 provisions on December 31, 2020)? [Note: This question will be repeated for industry/sector identified in Question 5.]

For [industry/sector x]:

Category	Anticipated positive change	No change	Anticipated negative change
Investment in capital or machinery	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Production volume	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Employment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wages	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Price of product to purchasers/consumers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Number of customers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sales revenue	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Production costs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Market share	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If the respondent clicks “anticipated positive change” or “anticipated negative change” above, a series of prepopulated questions will appear for each industry/sector. If the respondent clicks “no change,” then no questions will appear for the respondent.

- Describe how your firm’s investment in capital or machinery will change as a result of duty suspensions and reductions in the near future (e.g., planned purchases of capital or machinery, actual machinery purchases, planned new facilities):
- Your firm indicated an anticipated positive change in investment in capital or machinery; please indicate an estimated dollar value of the change in the in the near future: \$
- Your firm indicated an anticipated negative change in investment in capital and machinery; please indicate an estimated dollar value of the change in the near future: \$

- (d.) Describe how your firm's production volume will be affected as a result of duty suspensions and reductions in the near future (e.g., increase/decreased production volume, or planned increase in production):
- (e.) Your firm indicated an anticipated positive change in employment; please indicate the number of employees that may increase in the near future:
- (f.) Your firm indicated an anticipated negative change in employment; please indicate the number of employees that may decrease in the near future:
- (g.) Describe how your firm's wages are anticipated to change as a result of duty suspensions and reductions in the near future (e.g., increased/decreased employment wages directly related to duty suspensions and reductions):
- (h.) Describe how the price of your firm's product to purchasers/consumers will be affected as a result of duty suspensions and reductions in the near future (e.g., duty suspensions and reductions passed directly to purchasers or consumers through lower prices):
- (i.) Describe how your customer base will be affected as a result of duty suspensions and reductions (e.g. increased/decreased number of customers related to duty suspensions and reductions):
- (j.) Describe how your firm's sales revenue will be affected as a result of duty suspensions and reductions in the near future (e.g., increased/decreased sales revenue directly related to duty suspensions or reductions):
- (k.) Describe how your firm's production costs will be affected as a result of duty suspensions and reductions in the near future (e.g., increased/decreased production costs directly related to duty suspensions or reductions):
- (l.) Describe how your firm's market share will be affected as a result of duty suspensions and reductions in the near future (e.g., increased/decreased market share directly related to duty suspensions or reductions, products are now directly competitive with imports):

Section 3: Permanent Duty Suspensions and Reductions/ Inequities through Tariff Inversions

8) Are you recommending one or more permanent duty suspension or reduction?

- o Yes (If the respondent clicks yes, the following warning will appear and a table and follow up questions will appear for the respondent to answer.)

Warning: The information you submit in this section (Section 3) of the questionnaire will not be treated as confidential business information and may be included in the public report.

- o No (Respondent will skip to Section 4.)

a) In the table below, check each HTS 9902 number for which you recommend a permanent duty suspension or reduction. Also, check if the item for which you are recommending a permanent suspension or reduction has an inequity created by tariff inversions (i.e., the U.S. duty rates on intermediate(s)/input(s) is higher than the U.S. duty rate on the finished good).

Firm name	HTS 9902 number	Corresponding HTS 8-digit number	Duty rate of corresponding HTS 8-digit number	Does your firm recommend a permanent duty suspension or reduction for this HTS 9902 number? (check if yes)	Does this HTS 9902 number have an inequity created by a tariff inversion?	HTS 8-digit number of finished good
[Prepopulated]	[Prepopulated]	[Prepopulated]	[Prepopulated]	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
				<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
				<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
				<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
				<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

If the respondent checks the box above requesting a permanent duty suspension or reduction, the next questions will appear for the respondent. If the respondent does not click the box, then no questions will appear for the respondent.

b) Provide your firm's reasons for requesting a permanent duty suspension or reduction for each HTS 9902 number listed in the above table in Question 23.

If the respondent checks the box above and asserts that there is an inequity in the form of a tariff inversion, the next questions will appear for the respondent. If the respondent does not click the box, then no questions will appear for the respondent.

(c.) For every HTS 9902 number that your firm stated has an inequity created by tariff inversions, describe how these inequities affect your firm's production or operations.

(d.) Please fill out the table below for every HTS 9902 number that your firm stated has an inequity created by tariff inversions:

HS 9902 Number	Are the inequities created by tariff inversions a result of NTR duty rates?	Are the inequities created by tariff inversions a result of free trade agreements?	Please specify which FTA has created the tariff inversion:
[Prepopulated]	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

Section 4: Other

If your organization would like to further explain any of the responses in this questionnaire, use the space below. Please do not use the Tab key when entering text.

If your organization would like to submit a statement for the public record, click on the link below to view the *Federal Register* notice about this investigation and go to page [X] of this notice for instructions. All written submissions are due by DATE.

[LINK TO FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE]

SECTION 5 – Certification

The undersigned certifies that the information supplied herein in response to this questionnaire is complete and correct to the best of his/her knowledge and belief and understands that the information submitted is subject to audit and verification by the USITC.

Section 332(g) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1332(g)) provides that the Commission may not release information which it considers to be confidential business information unless the party submitting such information had notice, at the time of submission, that such information would be released by the Commission, or such party subsequently consents to the release of the information. The undersigned acknowledges that all information, including confidential business information, submitted in this questionnaire response and throughout this investigation may be disclosed to and used: (i) by the Commission, its employees and Offices, and contract personnel (a) for developing or maintaining the records of this or a related proceeding, or (b) in internal investigations, audits, reviews, and evaluations relating to the programs, personnel, and operations of the Commission including under 5 U.S.C. Appendix 3; or (ii) by U.S. government employees and contract personnel for cybersecurity purposes. The undersigned understands that all contract personnel will sign appropriate nondisclosure agreements. The Commission will not otherwise disclose information in a manner that would reveal the operations of the firm supplying the information. The information your organization provides in response to this questionnaire for sections 1, 2, 4, and 5 will be treated by the Commission as confidential business information and will not be disclosed to the public unless required by law. The information will be aggregated with information from other questionnaire responses and will not be published in a manner that would reveal the operations of your organization.

Certifier's name and title

Date of certification

Check the box below in place of a written signature to indicate that the authorized official listed has certified the information provided.

☐ Certified

SECTION 6 – Submitting the questionnaire

- 1) Before submitting your firm's completed questionnaire, please report the actual number of hours required to complete this questionnaire and the cost to your organization of doing so, including all preparatory activities.

Hours

Cost (\$)

Please use one of the submission options shown below to submit your questionnaire.

To submit the online questionnaire:

Click the submit button (online questionnaire only): Upon clicking the submit button, your completed questionnaire will be securely sent to the project team. If you need to change answers after submission, please contact our project team at mtbeffects@usitc.gov.

To submit the offline questionnaire:

- 1) **Dropbox:** Transmit your completed questionnaire through our secure electronic drop box. Go to <https://dropbox.usitc.gov/> and follow the instructions. In the PIN entry box, type: **XXXX**
- 2) **Email:** Email your completed questionnaire to our project team at mtbeffects@usitc.gov. Note that submitting your questionnaire response by email will subject your organization's confidential business information (CBI) to transmission over an unsecured environment and to possible disclosure to third parties. Any risk of disclosure of CBI during transmission is assumed by your organization and not us. However, once we receive the email, we will store your questionnaire response in our secured environment and safeguard it as detailed in the certification in section 6.
- 3) **Print:** If you prefer to send your completed questionnaire in hard copy (paper) form, print out a completed copy and mail or fax the hardcopy to:

United States International Trade Commission
Attention: MTB Effect Survey 2018
Office of Industries, Room 504
500 E Street, SW, Washington, DC 20436

Fax: 202-205-3161

We do not recommend sending the questionnaire by regular U.S. mail because this type of mail undergoes extra processing to screen for hazardous material that will likely delay the delivery. Instead, we recommend overnight mail service.

Thank you for providing your response. The Commission will be compiling the information from the questionnaire responses to analyze the effects of duty suspension and reductions enacted under the AMCA. During the analysis phase, we may contact you for follow-up discussions about interpreting the data and other issues affecting the industries/sectors under consideration.