The European Union, South Korea, Japan and Taiwan all export more goods to China than the United States. The United States fluctuated between being China’s third and fifth largest import source over the past three years.

Though US exports to China have grown significantly over the last decade, US imports to China in 2017 accounted for around 8.4 percent of China’s total imports, compared to 13 percent from the European Union, 9.6 percent from South Korea, and 9 percent from Japan.

China’s slowing economy had an impact on its purchases of US goods in 2015 and 2016, but rebounded in 2017, growing 14.5 percent over the previous year after dropping 9.6 percent in 2016 and 6.5 percent in 2015. The European Union fared much better over the same period, however, and grew 17.7 percent in 2017.

Note: Data for this chart are based on PRC government statistics. The value of PRC imports from the United States is higher than US exports to China because of several data discrepancies between US and PRC trade statistics, reflecting methodological differences regarding shipping costs, as well as tariffs that are applied as goods pass through other customs territories on their way to China.