THE US-CHINA BUSINESS COUNCIL
美 中 贸 易 全 国 委 员 会

2026

US Exports to China

Goods Exports to China and the Jobs They Support, by State

THE US-CHINA BUSINESS COUNCIL
美 中 贸 易 全 国 委 员 会

ABOUT THE US-CHINA BUSINESS COUNCIL

Founded in 1973, the US-China Business Council (USCBC) is a private, nonpartisan, nonprofit association of around 270 American companies that do business with China. Our membership includes some of the largest and most iconic American brands, in addition to professional services firms and small- and medium-sized enterprises. We are headquartered in Washington, DC, with offices in Beijing and Shanghai.

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Executive Summary

This report explores the latest data on American exports to China and the jobs they support across the United States. These figures include goods exports during calendar year 2025. This report does not capture services exports to China.

American exports to China plummeted in 2025.

The plunge was the result of unprecedented tariffs in place for most of the year. China's retaliatory tariffs impacted all product categories — especially agriculture and fossil fuels.

Few regions and industries were spared from economic pain.

Compared to the year before, about 148,000 fewer American jobs were supported by exports to China. Rural and coastal areas alike saw jobs fall by several thousand. Texas, California, Louisiana, and Indiana suffered the steepest declines by dollar amount, with each losing billions in exports to China.

There were some bright spots.

Sales of non-substitutable products, like pharmaceuticals, medicines, and medical equipment, remained stable despite tariffs. Aerospace- and semiconductor-related exports also performed well, but not enough to make up for contractions elsewhere.

Despite the downturn, China remains the United States' third-largest export market.

Because of Chinese import substitution during the trade war, however, multiple exports may not recover to pre–trade war levels. Once markets are lost, they are hard to regain.

American companies need lasting tariff relief from both governments.

Trade data and public opinion polling strongly support the use of ongoing trade negotiations to ease tariff burdens on key American industries, consumers, and farmers, thereby expanding market access for American companies.

–$36.3 billion

Decline in US exports to China, 2024-2025

–26%

Percent decline in US exports to China, 2024-2025

–148,000 US jobs

Estimated loss of jobs supported by exports to China, 2024-2025

$86.6 billion

Total amount of extra tariffs paid on Chinese imports

29 states

Saw a 30% or steeper decline in exports to China in 2025

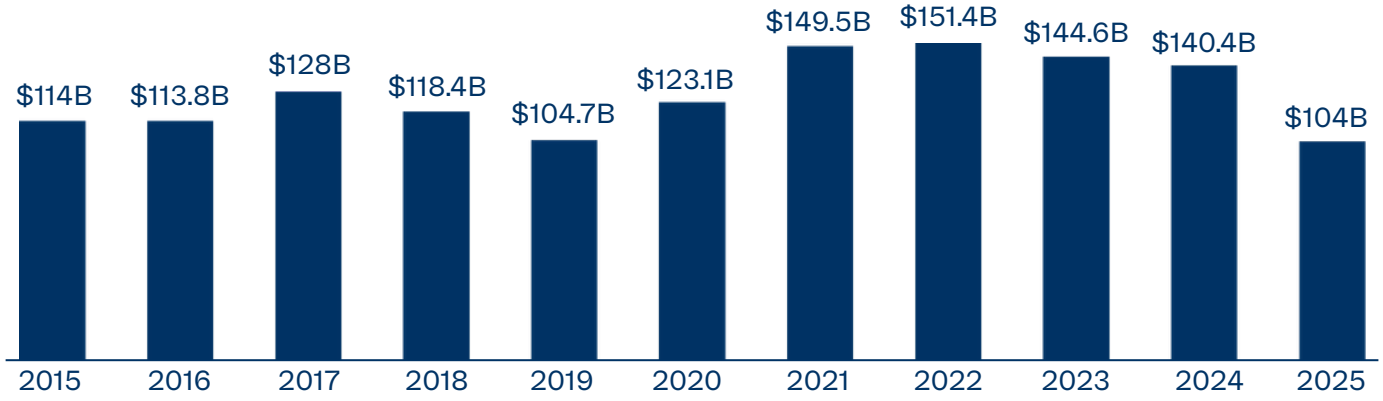
US Exports to China

2025

In 2025, tariffs cratered American exports to China. American companies and farmers were saddled with an estimated $86.6 billion in extra tariffs on their imports from China, including critical inputs. The same companies were subject to retaliatory tariffs on their exports to China. As a result, exports declined by $36.3 billion, the steepest single-year decline in recent history.

The losses affected bottom lines and employment decisions, hurting American competitiveness and wiping away market share. According to a 2026 poll, 66% of Americans believe tariffs on China have been bad for the US economy, and 76% say the tariffs have been bad for affordability.

US goods exports to China



Top US export markets, 2025

Market	Exports	Growth (y/y)	Growth (10 year)
1. Mexico	$327.1 billion	1.4%	43.2%
2. Canada	$311.4 billion	–7.3%	14.1%
3. China	**$104 billion**	**–25.9%**	**–8.7%**
4. Netherlands	$91.6 billion	8.5%	134.4%
5. United Kingdom	$90 billion	23.3%	78.7%
6. Japan	$79.5 billion	4.1%	30.6%
7. Germany	$79 billion	10.5%	65.7%

Market	Exports	Growth (y/y)	Growth (10 year)
8. Switzerland	$68.6 billion	202.2%	263.5%
9. South Korea	$67.2 billion	4.9%	57.6%
10. Taiwan	$52.8 billion	29.8%	110.2%

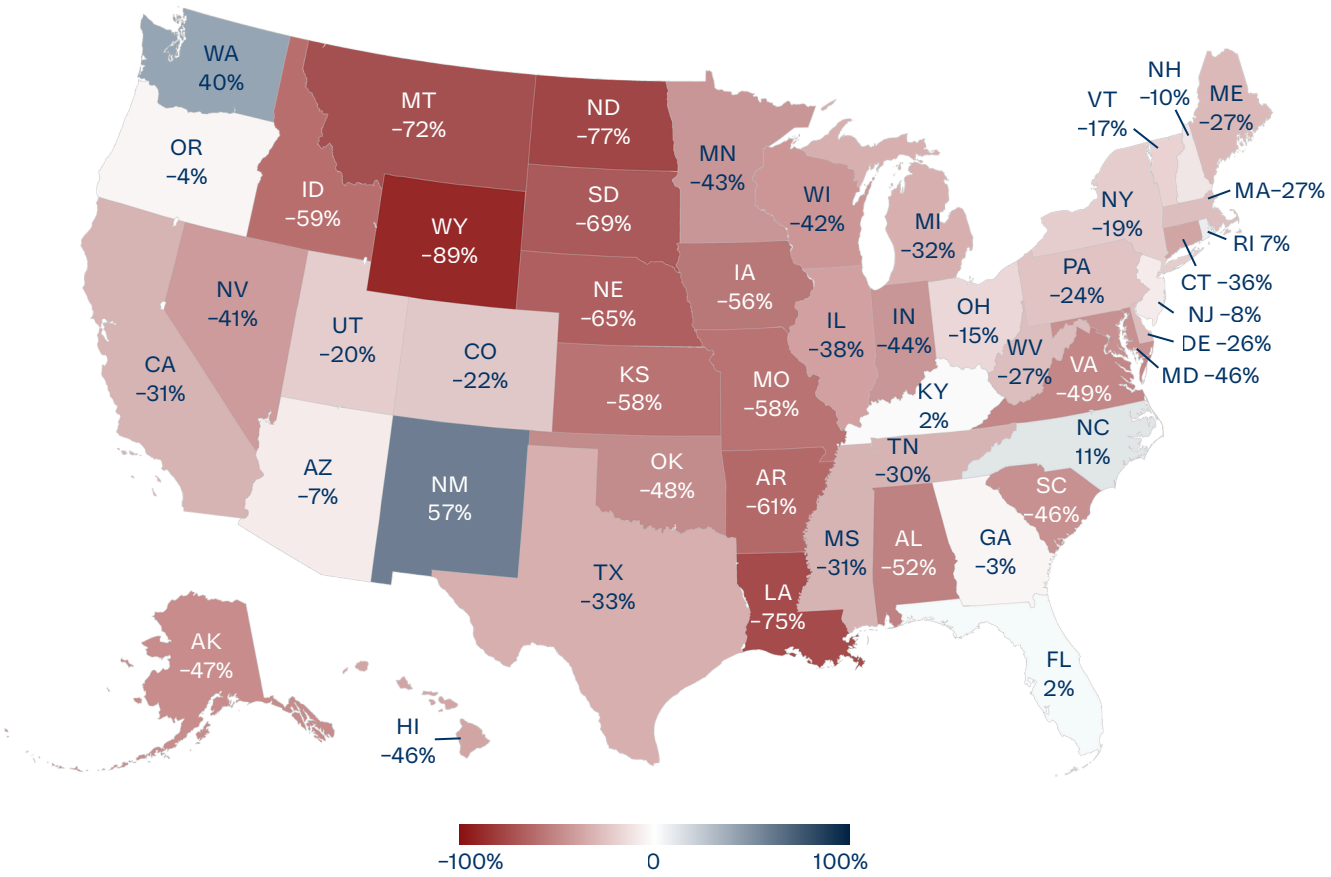
> When comparing losses as a percentage of total exports to China by region, America's agriculture-dominant heartland states suffered most.

Texas, California, and Washington continue to export the most goods to China. New Mexico has become a major exporter to China, joining the top 10 for the first time due to a significant boost in exports of semiconductors and their components.

Top 10 goods exporters to China by state, 2025

State	Exports	Growth (y/y)	Growth (10 year)
1. Texas	$14.5 billion	–32.9%	36%
2. California	$10.2 billion	–31.1%	–26.5%
3. Washington	$9.3 billion	40%	–40.3%
4. North Carolina	$6.7 billion	11.1%	191.4%
5. Oregon	$5.4 billion	–3.6%	16%
6. Kentucky	$4.8 billion	2%	115.5%
7. Indiana	$3.4 billion	–43.6%	64.4%
8. Illinois	$3.4 billion	–37.7%	–38%
9. Ohio	$3.1 billion	–15.5%	–5.4%
10. New Mexico	$3.1 billion	57%	2,297.8%

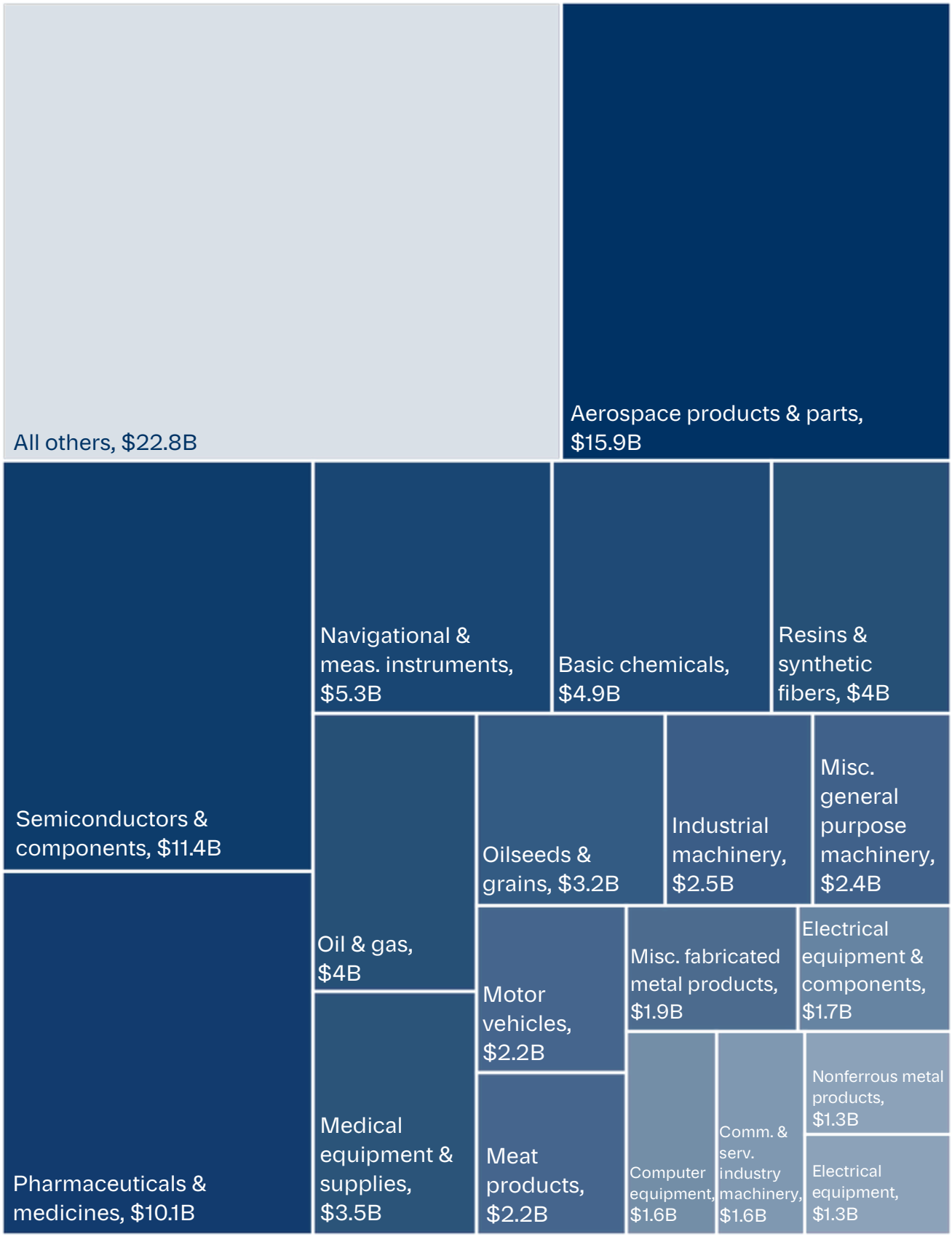
Percent change in goods exports to China by state, 2024-2025



Across the country, only six states exported more to China last year than the year prior, and the severity of declines varied across the rest. States whose China exports are concentrated in agricuture or fossil fuels saw the steepest declines year over year, with Texas, California, Louisiana, and Indiana losing the most on an absolute basis.

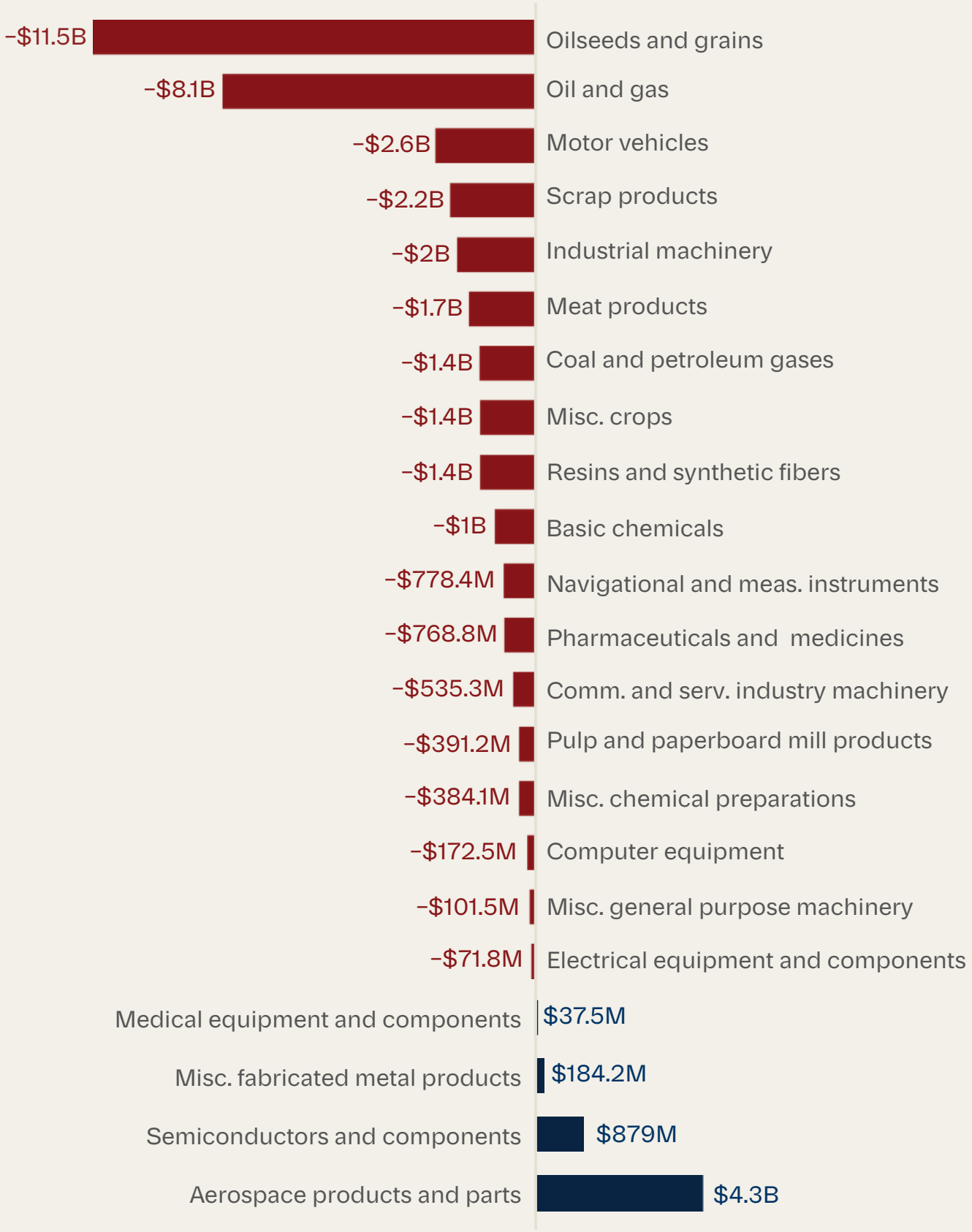
When comparing losses as a percentage of total exports to China by region, America's agriculture-dominant heartland states suffered most. See in-depth state breakdowns on our website.

US goods exports to China by category, 2025



Swings in key categories,* 2024-2025

Gains dwarfed by losses across nearly every category



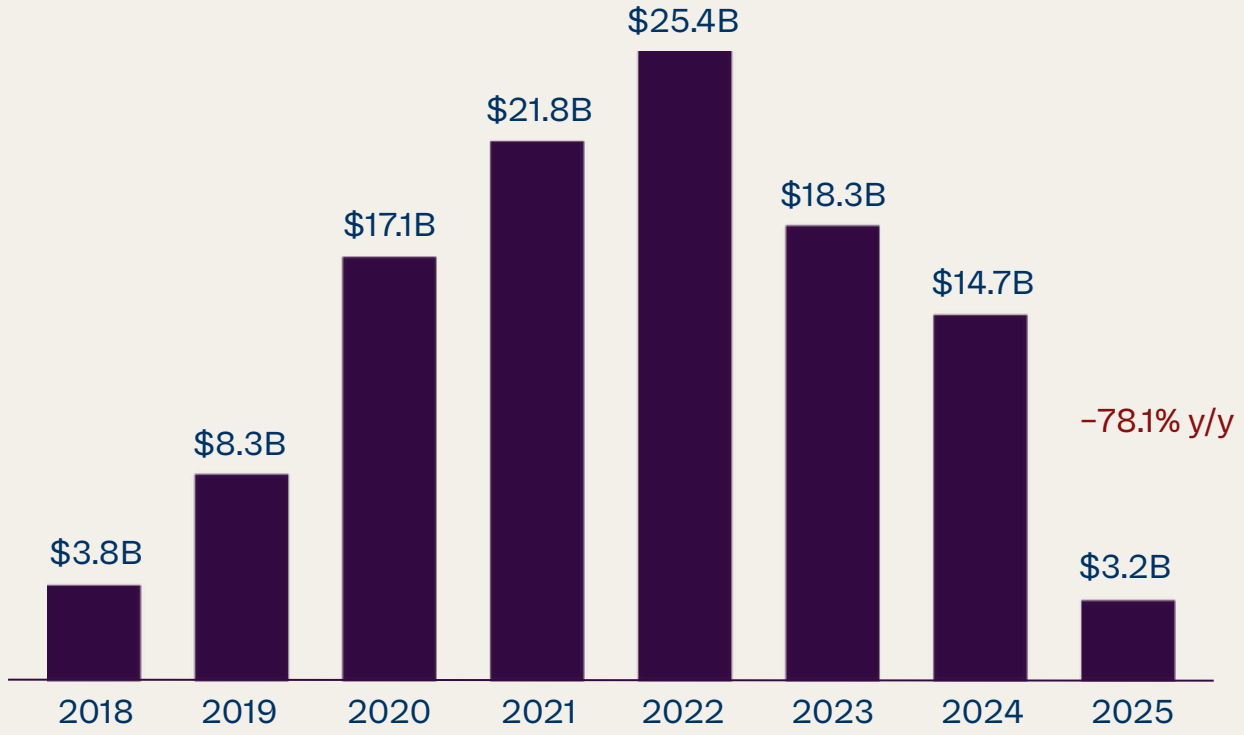
*Key categories are those with exports of $1.5 billion or more to China in 2024.

Oilseeds and grains in freefall

Chinese retaliatory tariffs sent American oilseeds and grains exports to China plummeting in 2025, causing financial and employment strain that farmers are still enduring. Soy and sorghum were hit with 10% tariffs from April through November, and corn and wheat were subject to 15% tariffs over the same period. These duties were levied on top of broad retaliatory tariffs, which peaked at 125% in April 2025 and settled at 10% from May onward. The loss of Chinese demand shrank markets for US producers, weighed on farm-gate prices, and further squeezed already thin margins for farmers.

Oilseeds and grains exports to China

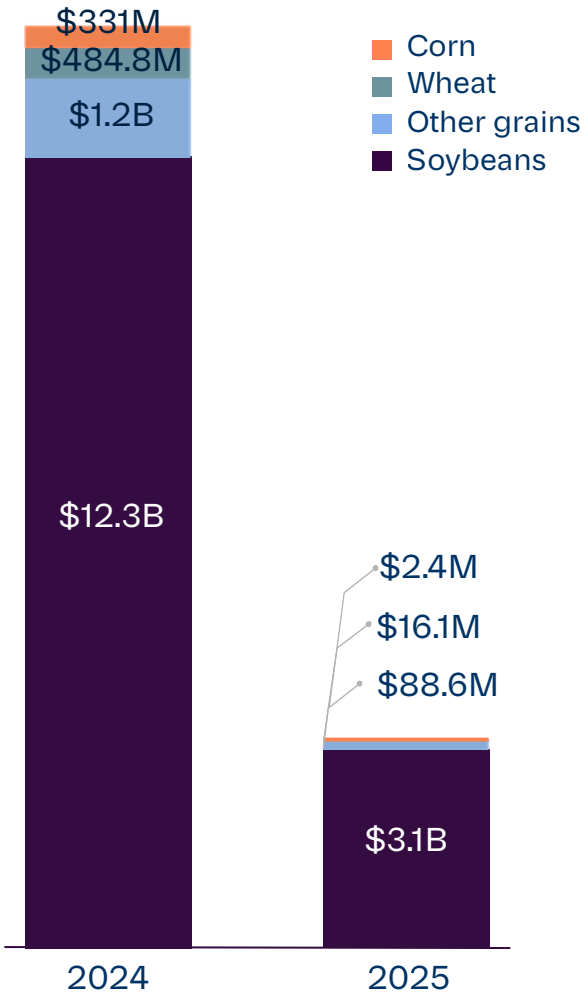
Shipments hit their lowest value in a decade



Soybean growers made up $1.5 billion of the $9.2 billion in losses by selling to other markets in calendar year 2025 — just 16 cents per dollar lost. Illinois and Iowa suffered the most, with each exporting at least $1 billion less of soybeans globally.

Breakdown of oilseeds and grains exports to China

Soybeans took a $9.2B hit, others disappeared



China, despite eschewing American soybeans for most of the buying season, increased its total imports of the crop in 2025, purchasing significantly more from Brazil and Argentina and cementing a pattern of lost market share for American farmers that began during the first trade war.

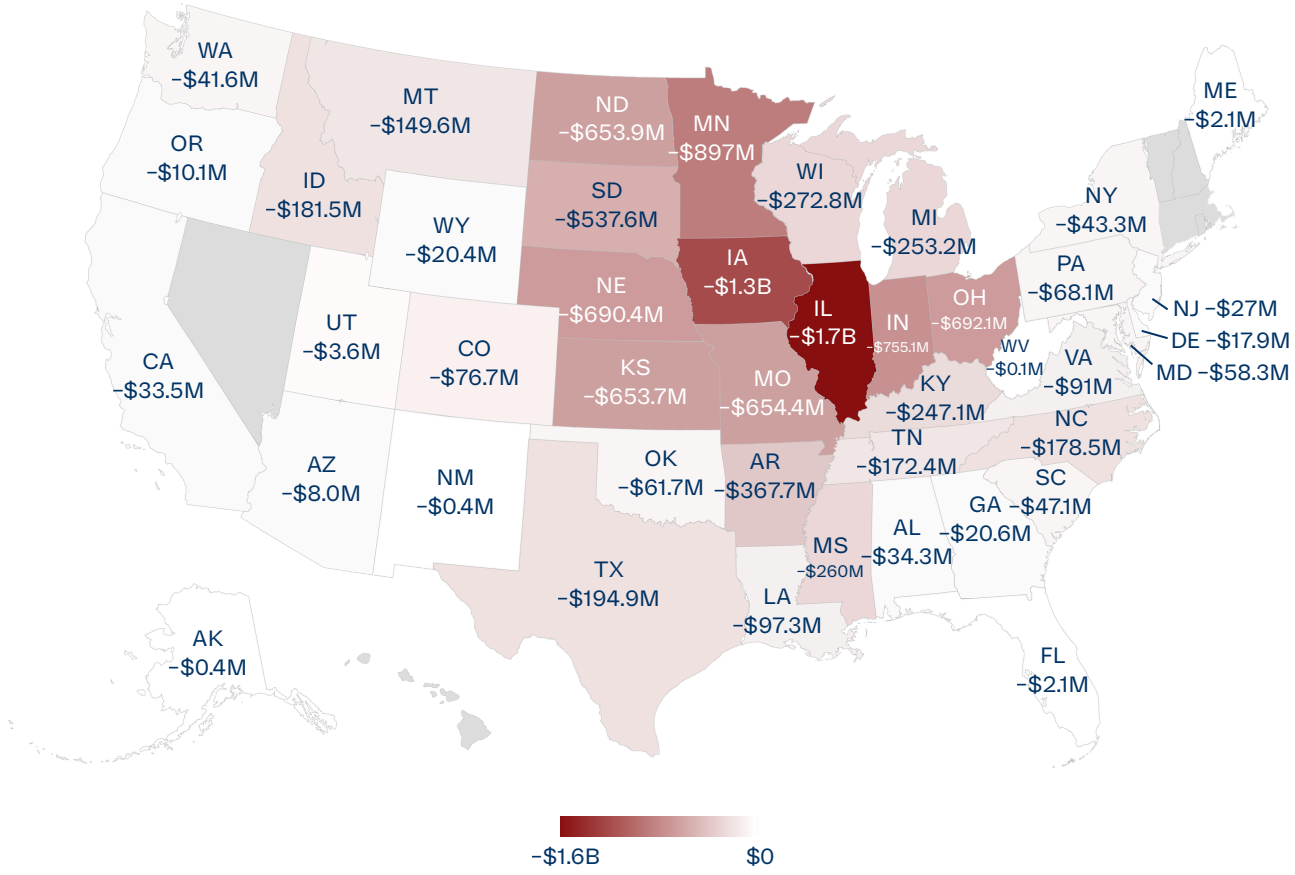
After the United States and China reached a trade truce in October 2025, China committed to increase its purchases of American soybeans, measured in million metric tons per crop year, over the next several years. While China restarted importing American soy in earnest in 2026, a significant shortfall during the normal purchasing season of fall 2025 had already taken its toll on American farmers.

As of July 2026, soybean exports to China were on par with 2024 by export value, and the US Department of Agriculture has confirmed China is on track to meet its volume-based commitments. However, soybeans were conspicuously excluded from the first tranche of tariff relief announced in September 2026, another sign that regaining market share could be difficult while China uses its dominance in soybean demand as a strategic asset in trade negotiations. The volume of China's purchases is unlikely to return to the high-water mark of 2016.

Exports of other grains to China, mainly comprised of sorghum, fell by $1.1 billion in 2025, and farmers were unable to find other customers to make up the losses. Kansas, Idaho, North Dakota, and Texas each saw their global exports in this category fall by more than $100 million. Exports of corn and wheat to China disappeared, both falling at least 97% year over year and amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars in lost sales.

The estimated jobs supported by oilseeds and grains exports to China fell to less than 20,900, 78% lower than in 2024. In late 2025, the Trump administration announced $12 billion in aid for distressed farmers, and it has requested a second aid package from Congress that has yet to pass.

Lost exports of oilseeds and grains to China by state, 2024-2025



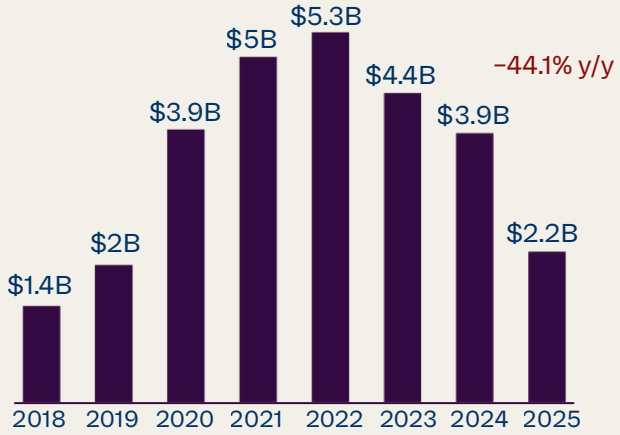
States without values did not export any oilseeds and grains to China in 2024 or 2025.

OTHER FARM GOODS ALSO PAID THE PRICE

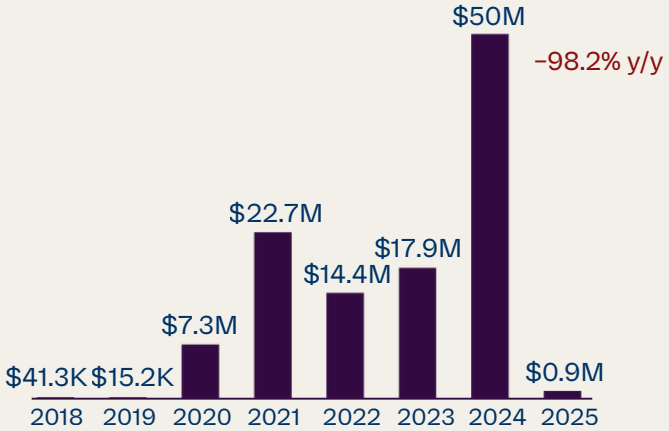
In addition to oilseeds and grains, nearly all major farm and ranch exports to China fell sharply due to the trade war. They were also among the first exports impacted by the conflict, subject to 10% retaliatory tariffs from March 4 to November 10. Total agricultural losses — including oilseeds and grains and the categories visualized below — amounted to $15.6 billion, a 69% contraction from the year prior. A notable category not pictured but affected by agriculture-specific tariffs is dairy products, which declined by $55.3 million (–9.4%) in 2025.

In September 2026, China announced it will reduce tariffs on the vast majority of agriculture imports from the United States. Addressing remaining tariffs, as well as the longstanding non-tariff barriers to American market access in China's agriculture sector, should be a top priority of the Board of Trade and recently announced agriculture working group.

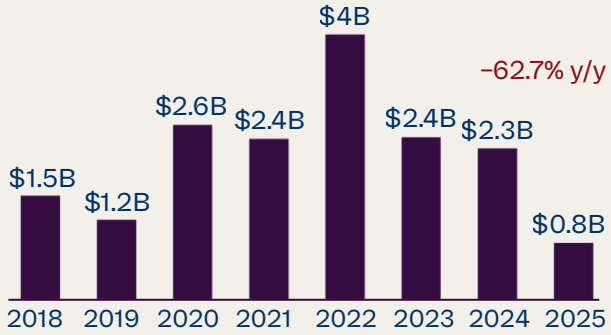
Meat products



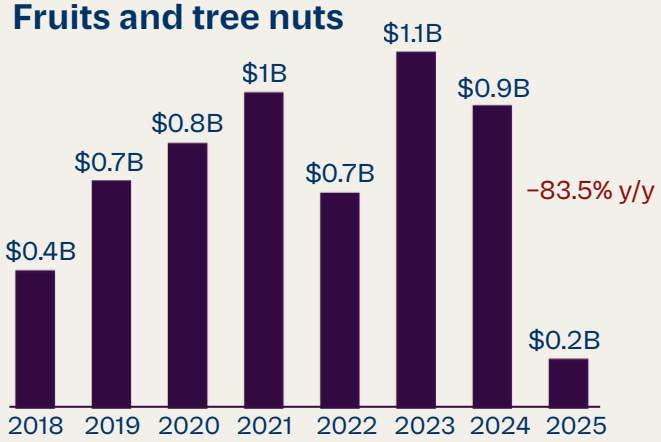
Poultry and eggs



Miscellaneous crops



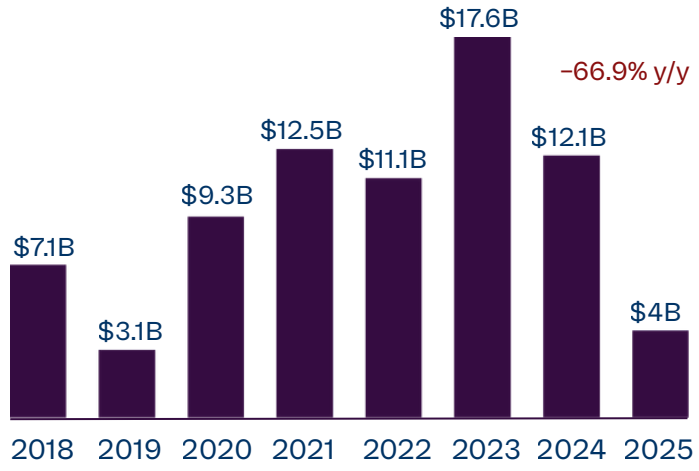
Fruits and tree nuts



Oil and gas exports froze

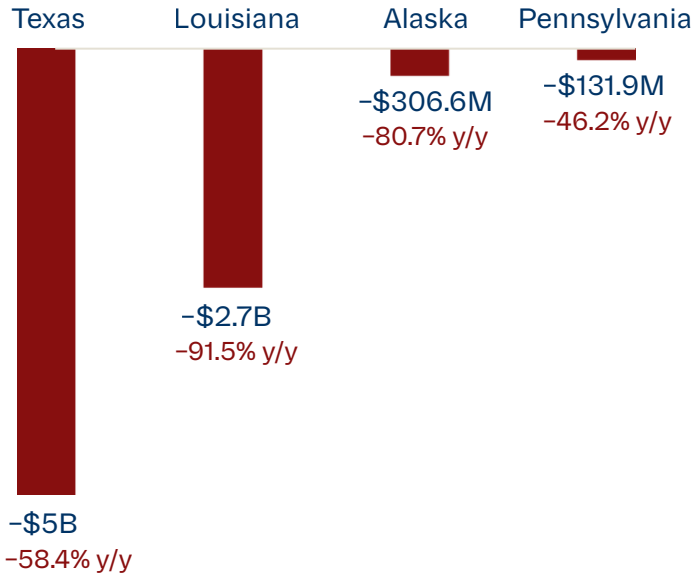
Oil and gas exports to China

Approached trade war 1.0 low



Declines in oil and gas exports by state

Gulf states felt the squeeze



Another casualty of the trade war was US exports of oil and gas to China, along with the jobs and incomes they support. In 2025, energy exports to China plummeted 66.9%, with supported jobs dropping by two-thirds.

The steep drop was due to the 10% and 15% retaliatory tariffs that China imposed on US crude oil and liquefied natural gas in response to now-defunct tariffs under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA). Despite the abolition of these tariffs, China's retaliatory duties remain in place, effectively freezing much of the energy trade.

Even if the United States and China reach a deal on energy, the trade war has added urgency to China's long-term push to diversify its energy mix and energy suppliers, which could lead to lower long-term sales to China.

Louisiana (–91.5%), Alaska (–80.7%), Texas (–58.4%), and Pennsylvania (–46.2%) experienced the most severe export losses, amounting to over $8 billion.

Aerospace products and parts trend upward

Aerospace was the striking exception to the broader collapse in US exports to China. While total exports declined substantially, aerospace exports jumped 37.3% in 2025, extending the sector's strong rebound in 2024 and rising faster than total US aerospace exports to the rest of the world. The increase occurred despite brief Chinese restrictions on aerospace imports, including the delay and cancelation of planned aircraft purchases in retaliation for April 2025 tariffs under IEEPA.

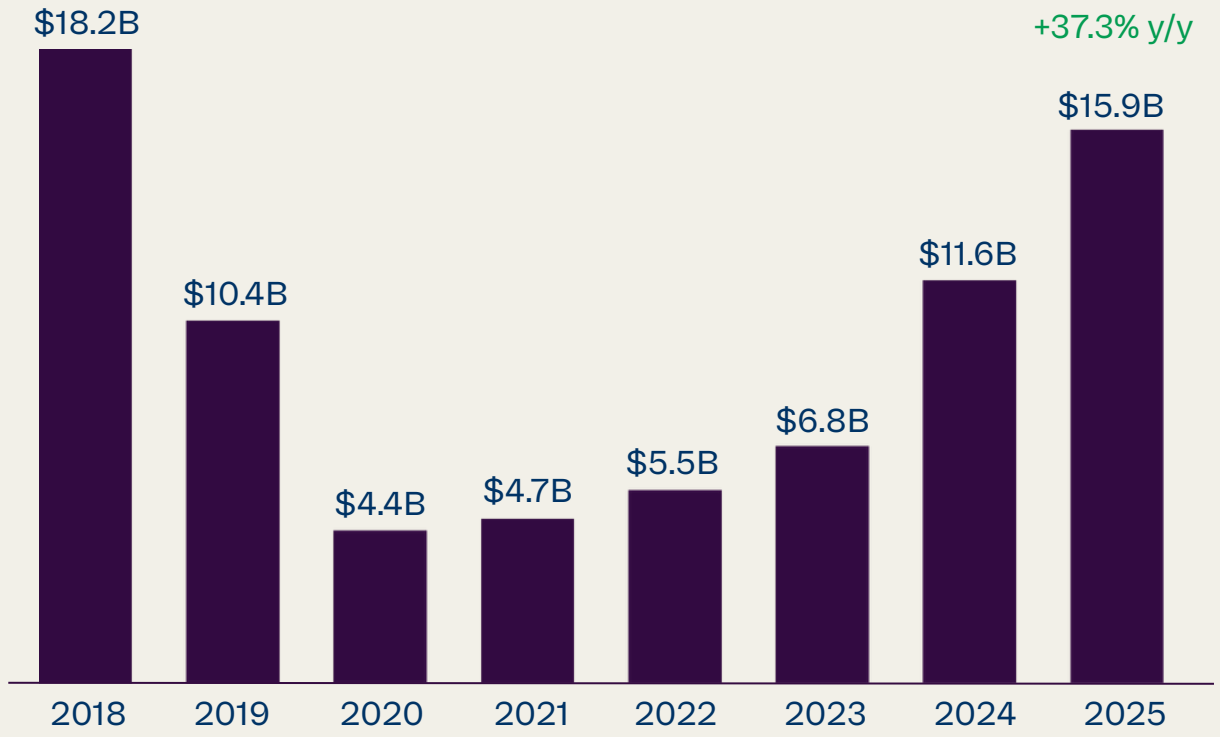
China has since resumed these deliveries, and earlier this year, it pledged further purchases.

Aerospace exports to China support more than 55,400 American jobs, and Washington and Kentucky are the main sources, exporting $8 billion and $3.3 billion, respectively.

South Carolina recorded the most dramatic increase in these exports in 2025, with aerospace exports to China leaping 875% over the year earlier, hitting a four-year high and supporting an additional 600 jobs. The surge was primarily the result of increased aircraft deliveries and the expansion of production capability in the state.

Aerospace products and parts exports to China

Striking exception to broader export collapse



Semiconductors and components tick higher

Semiconductors presented a paradox in 2025: China continued buying more American chips even as both governments took steps to restrict the trade. US semiconductor exports to China grew by 8.4% over the previous year and supported more than 36,000 American jobs. Export growth slowed compared to 2024, in line with a broader slowdown in US chip exports worldwide.

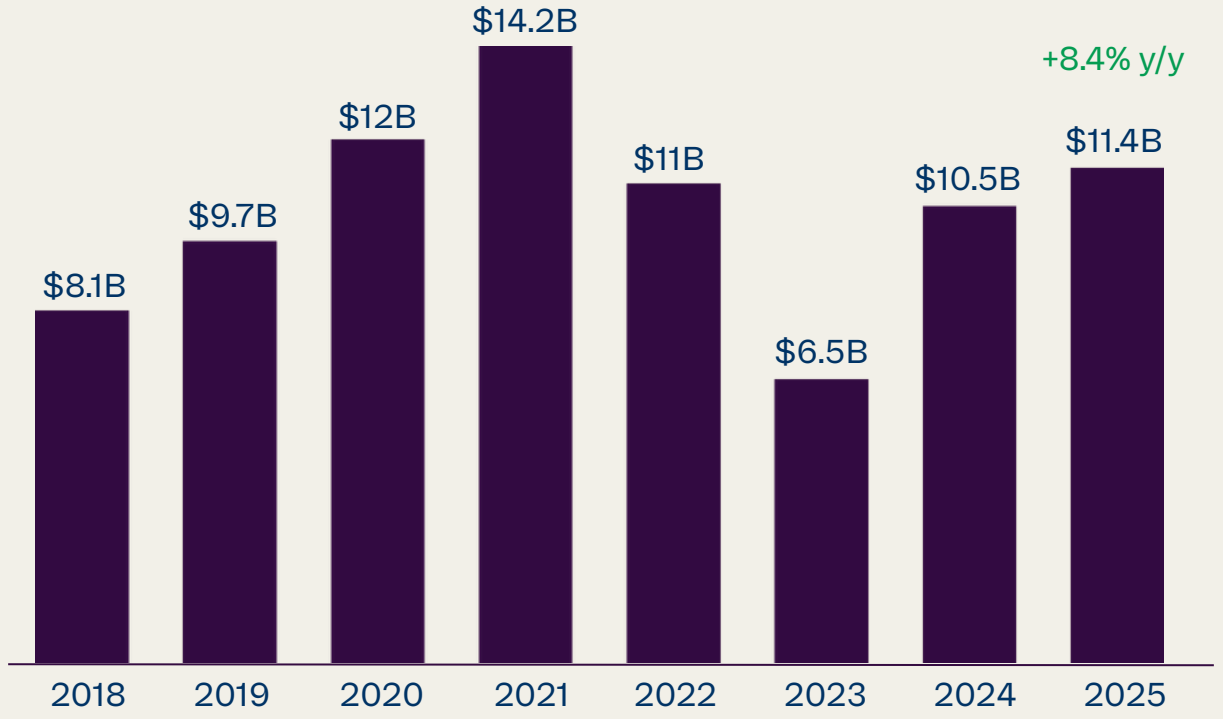
The benefits were concentrated in a handful of states. Oregon ($4.5 billion), New Mexico ($2.9 billion), and Texas ($1.8 billion) comprised 82% of the $11.4 billion of total chip exports to China.

In New Mexico's case, exports surged 68.7% over 2024. High Chinese demand for memory chips, along with the development and expansion of fabrication and packaging plants under funding from the CHIPS and Science Act, explains most of the growth. California, another top exporter, moved in the opposite direction, with semiconductor exports to China declining more than $560 million, partly due to production capacity shifting to other states.

Despite expanding their exports to China in recent years, advanced chip manufacturers are feeling the strain on their market position. The United States maintains strict controls on advanced semiconductor exports to China, and China has issued explicit guidance to domestic firms against using certain US chips as part of its self-sufficiency drive.

Semiconductors and components exports to China

Rose despite restrictions from both sides



Medical exports to China largely spared

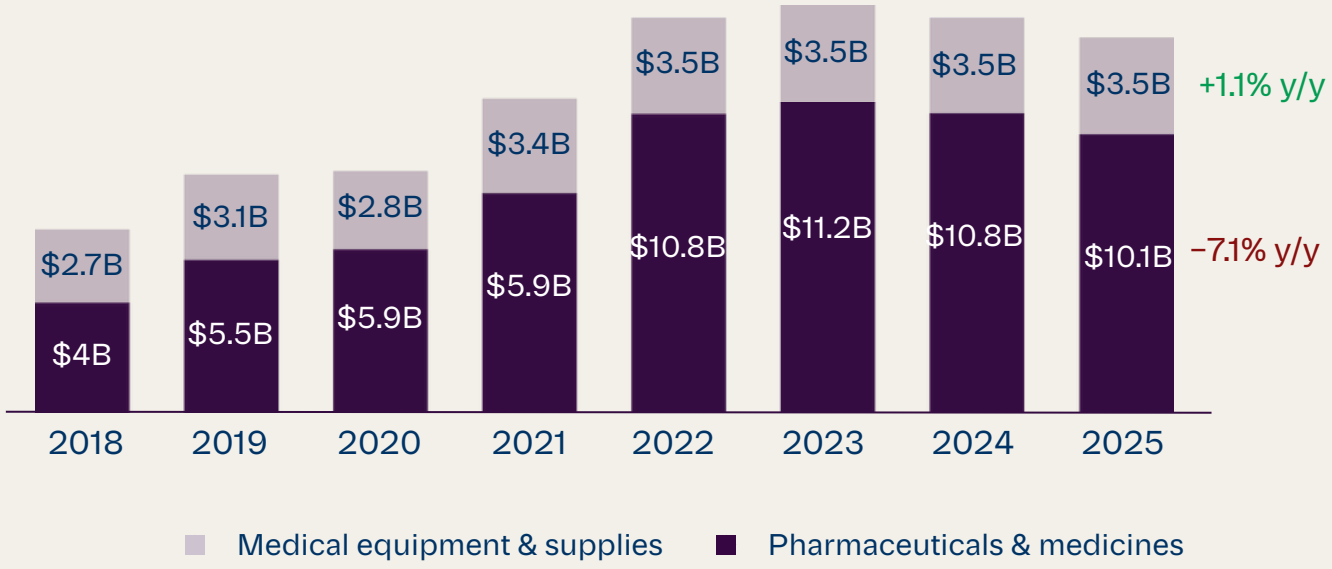
Pharmaceuticals and medicines as well as medical equipment and supplies were among the few major export categories that remained stable in 2025. Many products were not readily substitutable, including the oncology drugs, specialized medicines, and medical equipment on which Chinese hospitals and patients continued to depend. Advance shipping also eased some of the blow as companies anticipated tariff pressure and bulked up inventories ahead of tariff announcements.

Shortly after "Liberation Day," the Chinese government granted tariff exemptions and other preferential treatment to some medical products in order to shield Chinese patients and hospitals. The government has not formally publicized most of these measures, making it impossible to estimate the extent and durability of tariff relief.

Stability in the face of a trade war benefited the more than 74,000 American workers whose jobs are supported by medical exports to China. North Carolina led with $4.6 billion in this sector's exports to China, followed by Indiana with $1.9 billion, California with $1.5 billion, and Tennessee with $916.2 million.

Medical exports to China

Largely spared due to lack of substitutes



Impact on American Jobs

2025

In 2025, the US-China trade war had a severe impact on American employment. The collapse in exports meant that they no longer supported more than a quarter of related jobs compared to the year prior — an estimated decline of roughly 148,000 jobs nationwide.

The toll on American employment

Exports to China supporting the most employment in 2025	Jobs supported	Change (y/y)	Growth (y/y)
1. Pharmaceuticals and medicines	59,168	−4,524	−7.1%
2. Aerospace products and parts	55,409	15,044	37.7%
3. Semiconductors and components	36,395	2,810	8.4%
4. Navigational and meas. instruments	21,129	−3,076	−12.7%
5. Oilseeds and grains	20,864	−74,505	−78.1%
6. Basic chemicals	17,740	−3,648	−17.1%
7. Medical equipment and supplies	15,487	165	1.1%
8. Resins and synthetic fibers	14,458	−5,026	−25.8%
9. Motor vehicles and parts*	12,283	−11,204	−47.7%
10. Electrical equipment and components	11,675	−491	−4%
11. Comm. and serv. industry machinery	11,470	−3,808	−24.9%
12. Industrial machinery	10,994	−8,676	−44.1%
13. Misc. general purpose machinery	10,313	−442	−4.1%
14. Meat products	8,067	−6,374	−44.1%
15. Engines & turbines	6,594	−886	−11.8%
All exports to China	**404,333**	**−147,765**	**−26.8%**

*Includes motor vehicles, parts, and bodies and trailers

The damage touched most sectors. Exports declined in 12 of the 15 leading product categories, including oilseeds and grains, motor vehicles and parts, industrial machinery, meat products, basic chemicals, and electrical equipment and components. Oil and gas fell off the list of top jobs-supporting sectors entirely — these exports to China supported 15,765 jobs in 2024, but those shrank by 66.9% in 2025, a loss of more than 10,500 jobs. Similarly, exports of miscellaneous crops to China supported 9,000 fewer jobs in 2025 than they did the year prior. Chinese retaliatory tariffs were the main driver, compounded in some sectors by regulatory restrictions and changing Chinese demand. Growth in aerospace and semiconductor exports to China was not enough to offset the employment impacts of those losses.

Moreover, there has not been a meaningful increase in manufacturing sector jobs since 2024, the original rationale for US tariffs.

The financial pressure from plummeting exports was similarly widespread across regions. California lost the most, with 18,697 fewer jobs supported, followed by Indiana with 15,570 fewer jobs supported and Texas with 14,803 fewer jobs supported. The toll was neither exclusively coastal nor confined to agriculture and energy-producing states; it reached technology centers, manufacturing communities, and farm states alike.

> The collapse in exports meant that they no longer supported more than a quarter of related jobs compared to the year prior — an estimated decline of roughly 148,000 jobs nationwide.

Methodology

This year's edition of the US-China Business Council's Export Report uses data from Trade Partnership Worldwide, an economic research firm. The report provides a breakdown of each US state's goods exports to China. Goods export figures are primarily based on data from the US Census Bureau, the US Department of Agriculture, and Moody's Analytics. Goods export figures are classified according to the US government's North American Industry Classification System. Job figures include both direct jobs (employment in the exporting sector) and indirect jobs (upstream employment in other sectors supported by exports of a given sector).

Jobs estimates are based on export estimates and employment-requirement tables from the US Bureau of Labor Statistics.

This year's edition of the export report uses the same sector categories for goods as last year's. Goods exports cover calendar years 2015-2025. Because historical data from each of these sources are revised annually, this edition of the report replaces all prior editions. Graph labels are rounded for readability, but visualizations are drawn to exact values. As a result, visualization components with the same value label can look slightly different in size. This report uses a methodology that credits agricultural exports to states in which crops are grown as opposed to states with large ports where bulk commodities are aggregated prior to export. A detailed explanation of the methodology informing our estimates of goods exports and jobs is available on Trade Partnership Worldwide's website.

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