

Steel and Aluminum Tariffs: Thousands of Exclusion Requests from US Firms

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About the data

Under Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962, the Commerce Department conducted investigations to determine whether steel and aluminum imports pose a threat to national security. On March 8, 2018, President Trump used the recommendations from these Commerce reports to impose a 25 percent tariff on imported steel and a 10 percent tariff on imported aluminum.

A tariff is a tax levied on imported goods and paid by the importer.

In response to these increased costs, US firms and individuals that use steel and aluminum may file a request to be excluded from these tariffs. The exclusion request process is conducted by the Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) of the Commerce Department, and all requests are now made publically available on <https://232app.azurewebsites.net/>. US producers of steel and aluminum have the ability to object to each of the exclusion requests within 30 days of its submission. Multiple objections can be made for a single exclusion request.

The data are created using the information provided on the exclusion requests. The data are updated regularly as additional exclusion requests and objections are submitted. When using the datasets, please refer to the variable descriptions below.

Citation

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Variable descriptions

Address

The street address of the company provided in the exclusion request form, “requesting organization information”. These data may have upper and lowercase inconsistencies due to submitter inconsistencies.

Aluminum_Approved

These data are calculated by the authors. It corresponds to the total number of aluminum exclusion requests that have been approved, by state.

Aluminum_Denied

These data are calculated by the authors. It corresponds to the total number of aluminum exclusion requests that have been denied, by state.

Aluminum_Exclusions

These data are calculated by the authors. It corresponds to the total number of aluminum exclusion requests submitted, by state.

Aluminum_Firms

These data are calculated by the authors. It corresponds to the total number of firms that submitted aluminum exclusion requests, by state.

Aluminum_Objections

These data are calculated by the authors. It corresponds to the total number of objections to the aluminum exclusion requests, by state.

Aluminum_Pending

These data are calculated by the authors. It corresponds to the total number of aluminum exclusion requests that are pending a decision, by state.

Approved

If the exclusion request has been approved, then it is “1”. If the exclusion request has been denied or undecided, then it is “0”.

City

The city of the company provided in the exclusion request form, “requesting organization information”. These data may have upper and lowercase inconsistencies due to submitter inconsistencies.

Code

The combination of the district and abbreviation for the firm that submitted the exclusion request.

Company

The name of the company provided in the exclusion request form, “requesting organization information”.

Denied

If the exclusion request has been denied, then it is “1”. If the exclusion request has been approved or undecided, then it is “0”.

Explanation

The response provided in the exclusion request as to why each company requires an exclusion.

Exporter_1

The first response for country of export provided under Source Countries of the exclusion request form, “identify the source countries for the single product for which the Exclusion is requested, the annual quantity to be supplied in kilograms, and the name of the current manufacturer(s) of the product. If this product is not obtained directly from the manufacturer, identify the current supplier(s) and the country of the supplier(s). The Exclusion Request, if granted, will pertain solely to the identified supplier(s) listed in this form and the country of origin. NOTE: Products encompassing more than one 10 - digit HTSUS code must submit a separate Exclusion Request for each pertinent code. Note that there are inconsistencies with the country names depending on the submitter of the form (i.e. one response may be capitalized while another is lowercase).

Exporter_2

The second response for country of export provided under Source Countries of the exclusion request form, “identify the source countries for the single product for which the Exclusion is requested, the annual quantity to be supplied in kilograms, and the name of the current manufacturer(s) of the product. If this product is not obtained directly from the manufacturer, identify the current supplier(s) and the country of the supplier(s). The Exclusion Request, if granted, will pertain solely to the identified supplier(s) listed in this form and the country of origin. NOTE: Products encompassing more than one 10 - digit HTSUS code must submit a separate Exclusion Request for each pertinent code. Note that there are inconsistencies with the country names depending on the submitter of the form (i.e. one response may be capitalized while another is lowercase).

Exporter_3

The third response for country of export provided under Source Countries of the exclusion request form, “identify the source countries for the single product for which the Exclusion is requested, the annual quantity to be supplied in kilograms, and the name of the current manufacturer(s) of the product. If this product is not obtained directly from the manufacturer, identify the current supplier(s) and the country of the supplier(s). The Exclusion Request, if granted, will pertain solely to the identified supplier(s) listed in this form and the country of origin. NOTE: Products encompassing more than one 10 - digit HTSUS code must submit a separate Exclusion Request for each pertinent code. Note that there are inconsistencies with the country names depending on the submitter of the form (i.e. one response may be capitalized while another is lowercase).

Exporter_4

The fourth response for country of export provided under Source Countries of the exclusion request form, “identify the source countries for the single product for which the Exclusion is requested, the annual quantity to be supplied in kilograms, and the name of the current manufacturer(s) of the product. If this product is not obtained directly from the manufacturer, identify the current supplier(s) and the country of the supplier(s). The Exclusion Request, if granted, will pertain solely to the identified supplier(s) listed in this form and the country of origin. NOTE: Products encompassing more than one 10 - digit HTSUS code must submit a separate Exclusion Request for each pertinent code. Note that there are inconsistencies with the country names depending on the submitter of the form (i.e. one response may be capitalized while another is lowercase).

Exporter_5

The fifth response for country of export provided under Source Countries of the exclusion request form, “identify the source countries for the single product for which the Exclusion is requested, the annual quantity to be supplied in kilograms, and the name of the current manufacturer(s) of the product. If this product is not obtained directly from the manufacturer, identify the current supplier(s) and the country of the supplier(s). The Exclusion Request, if granted, will pertain solely to the identified supplier(s) listed in this form and the country of origin. NOTE: Products encompassing more than one 10 - digit HTSUS code must submit a separate Exclusion Request for each pertinent code. Note that there are inconsistencies with the country names depending on the submitter of the form (i.e. one response may be capitalized while another is lowercase).

HTS

The response on the exclusion request form, “10-Digit Harmonized Tariff Schedule Code of the United States (HTSUS) for the single aluminum [or steel] product covered by this request.”

ID

The identification number assigned by the Bureau of Industry and Security. It is unique for each exclusion request.

Objections

These data corresponds to the company name that has filed an objection against the exclusion request.

Origin_1

The first response for country of origin provided under Source Countries of the exclusion request form, “identify the source countries for the single product for which the Exclusion is requested, the annual quantity to be supplied in kilograms, and the name of the current manufacturer(s) of the product. If this product is not obtained directly from the manufacturer, identify the current supplier(s) and the country of the supplier(s). The Exclusion Request, if granted, will pertain solely to the identified supplier(s) listed in this form and the country of origin. NOTE: Products encompassing more than one 10 - digit HTSUS code must submit a separate Exclusion Request for each pertinent code. Note that there are inconsistencies with the country names depending on the submitter of the form (i.e. one response may be capitalized while another is lowercase).

Origin_2

The second response for country of origin provided under Source Countries of the exclusion request form, “identify the source countries for the single product for which the Exclusion is requested, the annual quantity to be supplied in kilograms, and the name of the current manufacturer(s) of the product. If this product is not obtained directly from the manufacturer, identify the current supplier(s) and the country of the supplier(s). The Exclusion Request, if granted, will pertain solely to the identified supplier(s) listed in this form and the country of origin. NOTE: Products encompassing more than one 10 - digit HTSUS code must submit a separate Exclusion Request for each pertinent code. Note that there are inconsistencies with the country names depending on the submitter of the form (i.e. one response may be capitalized while another is lowercase).

Origin_3

The third response for country of origin provided under Source Countries of the exclusion request form, “identify the source countries for the single product for which the Exclusion is requested, the annual quantity to be supplied in kilograms, and the name of the current manufacturer(s) of the product. If this product is not obtained directly from the manufacturer, identify the current supplier(s) and the country of the supplier(s). The Exclusion Request, if granted, will pertain solely to the identified supplier(s) listed in this form and the country of origin. NOTE: Products encompassing more than one 10 - digit HTSUS code must submit a separate Exclusion Request for each pertinent code. Note that there are inconsistencies with the country names depending on the submitter of the form (i.e. one response may be capitalized while another is lowercase).

Origin_4

The fourth response for country of origin provided under Source Countries of the exclusion request form, “identify the source countries for the single product for which the Exclusion is requested, the annual quantity to be supplied in kilograms, and the name of the current manufacturer(s) of the product. If this product is not obtained directly from the manufacturer, identify the current supplier(s) and the country of the supplier(s). The Exclusion Request, if granted, will pertain solely to the identified supplier(s) listed in this form and the country of origin. NOTE: Products encompassing more than one 10 - digit HTSUS code

must submit a separate Exclusion Request for each pertinent code. Note that there are inconsistencies with the country names depending on the submitter of the form (i.e. one response may be capitalized while another is lowercase).

Origin_5

The fifth response for country of origin provided under Source Countries of the exclusion request form, “identify the source countries for the single product for which the Exclusion is requested, the annual quantity to be supplied in kilograms, and the name of the current manufacturer(s) of the product. If this product is not obtained directly from the manufacturer, identify the current supplier(s) and the country of the supplier(s). The Exclusion Request, if granted, will pertain solely to the identified supplier(s) listed in this form and the country of origin. NOTE: Products encompassing more than one 10 - digit HTSUS code must submit a separate Exclusion Request for each pertinent code. Note that there are inconsistencies with the country names depending on the submitter of the form (i.e. one response may be capitalized while another is lowercase).

Pending

If the exclusion request is still pending a decision, then it is “1”. If the exclusion request has been denied or approved, then it is “0”.

Percent

The response on the exclusion request form, “Identify the percentage of total steel [or aluminum] product covered under this Exclusion Request not available from steel [or aluminum] manufacturers in the United States.”

Previous_BIS

The response on the exclusion request form, “If this is a renewal of a previously granted exclusion request, please provide the ID number of the previously granted exclusion request.”

Product_Type

The first response to the exclusion request form, “identify the class of Aluminum [or steel] product for which the Exclusion is sought.” It indicates the main product listed on the form.

Received_Date

The date the exclusion request was received by the Commerce Department.

State

The state of the company provided in the exclusion request form, “requesting organization information”. These data correspond to the 50 states, plus the District of Colombia and Puerto Rico.

Status

The status of the exclusion request at the time the data were pulled. There were a number of tariff exclusion requests that seem to be in the system and appear in our algorithm search but do not appear in the general portal interface. For those, the status is blank.

Steel_Approved

These data are calculated by the authors. It corresponds to the total number of steel exclusion requests that have been approved by state.

Steel_Denied

These data are calculated by the authors. It corresponds to the total number of steel exclusion requests that have been denied, by state.

Steel_Exclusions

These data are calculated by the authors. It corresponds to the total number of steel exclusion requests submitted, by state.

Steel_Firms

These data are calculated by the authors. It corresponds to the total number of firms that submitted steel exclusion requests, by state.

Steel_Objections

These data are calculated by the authors. It corresponds to the total number of objections to the steel exclusion requests, by state.

Steel_Pending

These data are calculated by the authors. It corresponds to the total number of steel exclusion requests that are pending a decision, by state.

Total_Amount

The response provided in the exclusion request form, “total requested annual exclusion quantity in kilograms (1 metric ton = 1,000 kilograms).” Note that some firms wrote “kg” after the amount and others wrote the total amount as a decimal. If this answer was left blank, then it is “-999”.

Total_Approved

These data are calculated by the authors. It corresponds to the total number of steel and aluminum exclusion requests that have been approved by either state or congressional district depending on the dataset.

Total_Denied

These data are calculated by the authors. It corresponds to the total number of steel and aluminum exclusion requests that have been denied by either state or congressional district depending on the dataset.

Total_Exclusions

These data are calculated by the authors. It corresponds to the total number of exclusion requests submitted by either state or congressional district depending on the dataset.

Total_Firms

These data are calculated by the authors. It corresponds to the total number of firms that submitted exclusion requests by either state or congressional district depending on the dataset.

Total_Objections

These data are calculated by the authors. It corresponds to the total number of objections to the exclusion requests by either state or congressional district depending on the dataset.

Total_Pending

These data are calculated by the authors. It corresponds to the total number of steel and aluminum exclusion requests that are pending a decision by either state or congressional district depending on the dataset.

URL

The URL to the exclusion request in the online portal.

ZIP

The zip code of the company provided the exclusion request form, “requesting organization information”.