

Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)

Brief Description:

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is a proposed regional free trade agreement (FTA) that the United States is negotiating with 11 other countries throughout the Asia-Pacific region (Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam). U.S. negotiators and others describe and envision the TPP as a “comprehensive and high-standard” FTA that aims to liberalize trade in nearly all goods and services and include commitments beyond those currently established in the World Trade Organization (WTO). Conclusion of TPP could eliminate tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade and investment among the parties and could serve as a template for a future trade pact among APEC members and potentially other countries.

When complete, the TPP has the potential to provide new market access for American-made goods and services, strong and enforceable labor standards and environmental commitments, groundbreaking new rules on state-owned enterprises, a robust and balanced intellectual property rights framework, and a thriving digital economy. It could also include commitments that will improve the transparency and consistency of the regulatory environment to make it easier for small- and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) to operate across the region. By opening these new markets to American products, TPP will help ensure that we are not left behind by our competitors in a vital region of the world. Through this agreement, the U.S. is seeking to boost economic growth and support the creation and retention of high-quality jobs by increasing American exports to a region that includes some of the world’s most robust economies and that represents more than 40 percent of global trade.

TPP Timeline/History:

2005	The first talks began as the Trans-Pacific Strategic Partnership Agreement (TPSEP or P4). The negotiations initially included three countries (Chile, New Zealand and Singapore), and Brunei subsequently joined the agreement.
2006	The original TPP goes into effect, joined by the initial country members.
2008	March: U.S. joins negotiations for new TPP.
	December: President Bush notifies Congress of intent to negotiate with current TPP members.
2009	January: USTR asks for public comments on the U.S.’s negotiating position with the TPP.
	March: First negotiations scheduled for the new TPP, but postponed due to the inauguration of President Obama. Parties submit comments on the U.S. TPP negotiation position to the USTR.
	November: President Obama announced the U.S.’s intention to participate in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations.
	Nov -Dec: USTR staff brief Senate Finance House and Ways and Means Committees as well as the House Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Caucus, on the TPP.

	December: USTR officially notifies Congress of the U.S.'s intent to enter into negotiations on the TPP and asks for public comment on the TPP.
2010	January: Members of the House Trade Working Group ask the USTR for an initial briefing and consultation on the TPP negotiations. Parties submit public comments on the TPP to the USTR.
	February: USTR updates the House Ways and Means Committee and Senate Finance Committees on briefings with Industry Trade Advisory Committees (ITACS) and stakeholders, and on public comments submitted to the USTR.
	March: First round of negotiations - Melbourne, Australia Update on the First round of Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP) negotiations
	June: Second round of negotiations - San Francisco, California Update on the Second round of Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP) negotiations
	October: Third round of negotiations - Brunei Darussalam. This round included "meetings on agriculture, services, investment, government procurement, competition, environment, and labor. The groups focused on the objectives that they had set for this round: preparation of consolidated text and proposals for cooperation. Negotiations will continue through Saturday, with groups on telecommunications, e-commerce, textiles, customs, technical barriers to trade, and trade capacity building.
	December: Fourth round of negotiations - Auckland, New Zealand Update on the Fourth round of Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP) negotiations
2011	February: Fifth round of negotiations - Santiago, Chile Update on the Fifth round of Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP) negotiations
	March: Sixth round of negotiations - Singapore Update on the Sixth round of Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP) negotiations
	June: Seventh round of negotiations - Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam Update on the Seventh round of Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP) negotiations
	September: Eighth round of negotiations - Chicago, Illinois Update on the Eighth round of Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP) negotiations
	October: Ninth round of negotiations - Lima, Peru Update on the Ninth round of Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP) negotiations
	December: Tenth round of negotiations - Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia Update on the Tenth round of Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP) negotiations
2012	March: Round 11 of negotiations - Melbourne, Australia Update on the 11th round of Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP) negotiations
	May: Round 12 of negotiations - Dallas, Texas Update on the 12th round of Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP) negotiations
	July: Round 13 of negotiations - San Diego, California Update on the 13th round of Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP) negotiations

	September: Round 14 - Leesburg, Virginia Update on the 14th round of Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP) negotiations
	December: Round 15 - Auckland, New Zealand Update on the 15th round of Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP) negotiations
2013	March: Round 16 – Singapore Update on the 16th round of Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP) negotiations
	May: Round 17 - Lima, Peru Update on the 17th round of Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP) negotiations
	July: Round 18 - Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia Update on the 18th round of Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP) negotiations
	August: Round 19 - Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Update on the 19th round of Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP) negotiations
	September: TPP Chief Negotiators Meeting - Washington, D.C. Read out of the Trans-Pacific Partnership discussions in Washington, D.C.
	November: TPP Chief Negotiators Meeting - Salt Lake City Readout of the meetings of Chief Negotiators for the Trans-Pacific Partnership
	December: TPP Ministers Meeting - Singapore Statement from the Ministers and Heads of Delegation for the Trans-Pacific Partnership Countries
2014	February: TPP Ministers Meeting – Singapore Statement of the Ministers and Heads of Delegation for the Trans-Pacific Partnership Countries
	May: TPP Ministers Meeting – Singapore Joint Statement at the TPP Ministers Meeting in Singapore
	July: Round 20 - Ottawa, Canada

TPP Quick Facts:

- The TPP is a proposed regional free trade agreement (FTA) that the U.S. is negotiating with 12 other countries throughout the Asia-Pacific region.
- The negotiations initially included three countries (Chile, New Zealand and Singapore), and Brunei subsequently joined the agreement.
- In 2008 the U.S. agreed to enter negotiations with the TPP members.
- TPP countries are the largest goods and services export market of the U.S.
- U.S. goods exports to TPP countries totaled \$698 billion in 2013, representing 44 percent of total.
- U.S. exports of agricultural products to TPP countries totaled \$58.8 billion in 2013, 85 percent of total U.S. agricultural exports. U.S. private services exports totaled \$172 billion in 2012 (latest data available), 27 percent of total U.S. private services exports to the world.

- The United States' 28 million SMEs account for nearly two-thirds of net new private sector jobs in recent decades. America's small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) alone exported \$247 billion to the Asia-Pacific in 2011 (latest data available).
- The U.S. is seeking through this agreement to provide SMEs the tools they need to compete across TPP markets ; specifically (1) commitments to provide access to information on utilizing FTAs – a problem that SMEs have identified as a disproportionate challenge for them; and (2) establishment of a regular review of how TPP is working for SMEs.
- TPP plans to benefit SMEs by eliminating tariff and non-tariff barriers, streamlining customs procedures, strengthening intellectual property protection, promoting e-commerce, and developing more efficient and transparent regulatory regimes. In addition, TPP will include a first-ever chapter focusing on issues that create particular challenges for SMEs.

TPP Members and Potential Members:

Country/Region	Status	Date
Brunei	Original Signatory	2004 June
Chile	Original Signatory	2005 June
New Zealand	Original Signatory	June 2005
Singapore	Original Signatory	2005 June
United States	Negotiating	2008 February
Australia	Negotiating	2008 November
Peru	Negotiating	2008 November
Vietnam	Negotiating	2008 November
Malaysia	Negotiating	2010 October
Mexico	Negotiating	2012 October
Canada	Negotiating	2012 October
Japan	Negotiating	2013 March
Republic of China	Announced Interest	2013 September
Republic of Korea	Announced Interest	2013 November

TPP USTR Helpful Links:

[TPP Summary of U.S. Objectives](#)

[Outlines of the TPP](#)

[FACT SHEET: The United States in the TPP](#)

[Public Comments on TPP](#)

[USTR Fact Sheet on the Economic Benefits of the TPP](#)

[TPP Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[List of USTR TPP Negotiators](#)

[State Benefits from Trade with the Asia-Pacific Region](#)

TPP USTR Reports:

[USTR 2013 National Trade Estimate Report on Foreign Trade Barriers](#)

[2013 Trans-Pacific Partnership \(TPP\) Trade Ministers' Report to Leaders](#)

[Report on Proposals Advanced in Negotiations on a Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement That May Require Amendments to U.S. Trade Remedy Laws](#)

TPP Map:

