

# Impact of US Tariffs on Transportation Imports

## A Difference-in-Differences Analysis

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## Research Question

**How do tariffs affect imports and exports in the US?**

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**How do tariffs affect imports and exports in the US?  
Specifically what happens to the trucking industry?**

## Why This Research?

### Personal Motivation

I was an owner-operator for 2 years

During that time, I heard consistent complaints from fellow truckers:

- ▶ “Work is drying up at the ports”
- ▶ “Truck prices are through the roof”
- ▶ “Parts and maintenance costs keep rising”

These weren’t just complaints—they were patterns

### The Questions That Drove Me

1. Were tariffs causing the port slowdown?

 From Experience to Analysis

This research combines 2 years on the road with rigorous

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  - ▶ Winners, losers, and why?

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## What I Did

### Data

- ▶ **10 years** of monthly imports (2015-2025)
- ▶ **3 countries:** China, Mexico, Canada
- ▶ **Focus:** Transportation equipment
- ▶ **Source:** Federal Reserve (FRED), Census Bureau

### Method

- ▶ **Difference-in-Differences** approach
- ▶ **Treatment:** China (tariffs applied)
- ▶ **Control:** Mexico & Canada (smaller tariffs)
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### i Why Difference-in-Differences?

Compares how Chinese imports changed **relative to** control countries, isolating the causal effect of tariffs