



U.S.-JAPAN TRADE AGREEMENT SEPTEMBER 26, 2019

On September 25, 2019, President Trump and Prime Minister Abe [announced](#) the signing of a trade agreement between the United States and Japan. The U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) has [posted](#) a general description of the agreement, but the final text is not yet available.

As described by the USTR, the agreement will eliminate Japanese tariffs on a number of U.S. agricultural products, including almonds, walnuts, blueberries, and broccoli. Japanese tariffs on other agricultural products, such as cheese, pork, poultry, ethanol, wine, and oranges will be gradually eliminated. Japan has also agreed to reduce tariffs on beef and will create a tariff-rate quota for wheat. In return, the U.S. has agreed to eliminate or reduce the tariff rates for imports from Japan, including cut flowers, persimmons, green tea, chewing gum, soy sauce, machine tools, fasteners, bicycles, and musical instruments.

In a separate agreement, the U.S. and Japan have also agreed to provisions on digital trade that are said to prohibit customs duties on digital products transmitted electronically, ensure barrier-free cross-border data transfers, and prohibit data localization requirements.

Notably absent from these agreements are provisions on automobiles and auto parts, that may become subject to additional U.S. duties under Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1964. The U.S. is currently considering such duties and an announcement is expected by mid-November.

Please contact [Marshall Miller](#), [Brian Murphy](#), [Sean Murray](#), or [Ryan Thornton](#) with questions.

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