



HAMPTON ROADS ECONOMIC MONTHLY
The State of Tariffs

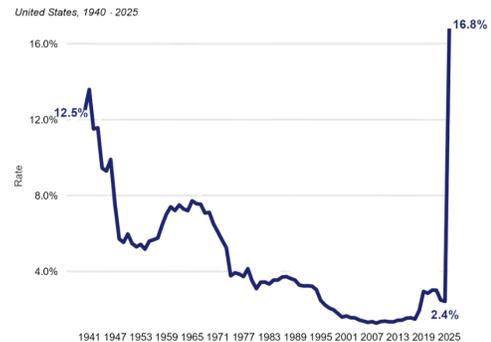
Recent changes in U.S. trade policy have significantly increased tariffs on a range of goods and countries, pushing the **average effective U.S. tariff rate** from **2.4% in 2024** to nearly **17% in 2025** - the highest level since the 1930s. While exemptions leave some trade untouched, economists are closely watching the potential impacts on employment, prices, and long-term economic growth.

Tariffs on products such as steel and aluminum, along with broader country-specific and “reciprocal” tariffs, have reshaped the current trade landscape. Although the long-term economic effects remain uncertain, research suggests tariffs can influence consumer spending, business investment, and labor market conditions as industries adjust to new costs and supply chain dynamics.

In the latest **Hampton Roads Economic Monthly**, Regional Economist Nikki Johnson explores how these tariff changes may affect both the national economy and the Hampton Roads region.

[*Explore the impacts of tariffs on employment, real estate, and more >*](#)

AVERAGE EFFECTIVE TARIFF RATE



HAMPTON ROADS HOUSING CONSORTIUM Celebrating 30 Years of Impact

This year marks the **30th Anniversary of the Hampton Roads Housing Consortium (HRHC)**. What began as a vision for better coordination has evolved into a powerhouse of regional collaboration. Over the last 30 years, HRHC has worked tirelessly across jurisdictional lines from the Peninsula to the Southside to address the diverse housing needs of Hampton Roads.

HRHC members include city and county government representatives as well as professionals from private and non-profit organizations from all sectors of the housing industry. The organization's success over the last three decades is rooted in a simple but profound belief: *we are stronger when we work together.*



[Learn more about the Hampton Roads Housing Consortium >](#)



HAMPTON ROADS REGIONAL COORDINATION BASE PLAN Local Leaders Unite to Strengthen Regional Emergency Response

Hampton Roads recently marked an important milestone in regional preparedness with the formal adoption of the **Hampton Roads Regional Coordination Base Plan**, ceremonially signed during the March meeting of the Chief Administrative Officers (CAO) Committee. The plan reflects the region's ongoing commitment to collaboration and coordinated emergency response.

Developed through a series of regional emergency management exercises involving local leadership, emergency managers, and HRPDC staff, the plan outlines decision-making roles, communication protocols, and how localities can support one another when emergencies extend beyond local boundaries.

This regional agreement reinforces a shared commitment to preparedness and ensures Hampton Roads is better positioned to respond when communities need it most.

[*Learn more about the Hampton Roads Regional Coordination Base Plan >*](#)

Two Important Opportunities to Help Shape the Future of Hampton Roads:

Regional Congestion Survey

Survey open through March 15

The HRTPO is seeking public input to identify and address congestion concerns. Commuters are invited to take the **Hampton Roads Congestion Survey** to identify areas of delay and share feedback using an interactive map. Results will help planners better understand congestion patterns across the region.

In 2023, Hampton Roads travelers lost an average of 17 hours to congestion. Community input will help inform future mobility strategies and investments.



[*Share your commuting experience and enter to win \\$100 gift card >*](#)

Hampton Roads HORIZON Survey

Survey open through March 31

HRPDC is seeking public input for **Hampton Roads Horizon, a long-range regional strategic plan** focused on improving quality of life and strengthening economic competitiveness.

The five-minute survey allows participants to allocate an imaginary \$1,000 across 19 regional strategies. Results of the survey will help identify the strategies that matter most to Hampton Roads residents. Participants will also be entered for a chance to win one of five \$100 gift cards.



[*Learn more & share your vision for Hampton Roads >*](#)

SAVE THE DATES: MARCH 27-28

The Great American Cleanup Returns to Hampton Roads

Each year, thousands of volunteers across the region roll up their sleeves for the kickoff of the **Hampton Roads Great American Cleanup**, a two-day regionally coordinated effort to remove litter, beautify public spaces, and protect our waterways. Since 2012, volunteers have removed more than 327 tons of litter from the environment, showing what we can accomplish when communities work together.

Join the effort and make a difference!

Cleanups will be taking place across the region on Friday, March 27 and Saturday, March 28! Everyone is welcome: individuals, families, school groups, civic organizations, businesses, military teams, and neighborhood volunteers. Register online to join an existing cleanup or get support to host your own!

[Learn more and register for the Great American Cleanup >](#)



CHARTING THE COURSE FOR HAMPTON ROADS

Meet Your Regional Transportation Leaders



**KEITH
DARROW**
TTAC Chair
City of Norfolk



**KAREN
KITSIS**
TTAC Vice Chair
Hampton Roads
Transit (HRT)

The Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC) advises the HRTPO Board on regional transportation initiatives. Committee members play a critical role ensuring regional transportation planning and programming efforts reflect local/agency priorities and meet federal and state regulations.

The recently elected **TTAC Chair Keith Darrow** and **Vice Chair Karen Kitsis** bring decades of experience and a shared vision of improving transportation in Hampton Roads. We're grateful for their leadership.

[Learn more about Keith and Karen >](#)

ON THE MAP

Get Ready to Fish, Swim, Play in Hampton Roads

With signs of spring in the air and warmer temperatures ahead, it's the perfect time to get outside and explore everything Hampton Roads has to offer.

The **Fish, Swim, Play** website is a resource that helps residents and visitors discover the region's natural beauty. The site features interactive maps highlighting public water access points, parks, and recreational trails across Hampton Roads, making it easier to find new places to fish, paddle, swim, hike, bike, or simply enjoy the outdoors.



Whether you're planning a weekend adventure or just looking for a new spot to explore close to home, Fish, Swim, Play is a great place to start.

[*Explore the site and start planning your next outdoor adventure >*](#)

Public Input Opportunities

[*Hampton Roads Congestion Public Survey*](#) (Survey open through March 15, 2026)

[*Hampton Roads HORIZON Public Survey*](#) (Survey open through March 31, 2026)

HRPDC/HRTPO In the News

[*Regional Trends Signal Slower Growth for Suffolk*](#) (Suffolk News-Herald, March 10, 2026)

[*Hampton Roads Planning District Commission is asking for community input — and giving people fake money to do it*](#) (WHRO, March 4, 2026)

[*Route 17 widening ranked highly in HRTPO 2050 plan*](#) (Smithfield Times, March 4, 2026)

[*Hampton Roads Sinking Gradually, Study Finds*](#) (National Today, February 20, 2026)

[*Hampton Roads Is Gradually Sinking, New Study Finds*](#) (WVEC, February 17, 2026)

Need Help?



NEED HELP?



○○○ Access to Services

○○○ ADA Accommodations

○○○ Language Assistance

LET US KNOW!



The HRPDC & HRTPO are committed to making regional planning accessible. If you need assistance with additional accommodations please let a staff member know or contact titlevis@hrpdcva.gov

Follow Us on Facebook



Reminder: The HRPDC will not meet this month.

Upcoming Meetings

PDC



TPO



Katie Cullipher
Director of Communications

Matt Klepeisz

Phone: 757.420.8300
Fax: 757.523.4881
TTY: 757.390.2578

Communications Administrator

Joe Turner
Communications and Web Manager

Robert Cofield
Graphic and Web Designer

Quan McLaurin
DEI & Title VI/Civil Rights Liaison

[HRPDC
Website](#)

[HRTPO
Website](#)

[Join Mailing
List](#)

The Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC) and Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO) fully comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice, and related nondiscrimination statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. HRPDC's website, www.hrpdcva.gov, and HRTPO's website, www.hrtpo.org, may be translated into multiple languages. Publications and other public documents can be made available in alternative languages and formats, if requested. HRPDC public meetings are always held in ADA-accessible facilities and in transit-accessible locations when possible. Auxiliary services can be provided to individuals who submit a request at least seven days prior to a meeting. Requests made within seven days will be accommodated to the greatest extent possible. Any person who believes they have been aggrieved by an unlawful discriminatory practice by HRPDC under Title VI has a right to file a formal complaint. Any such complaint may be in writing and filed with the HRPDC and/or the appropriate state or federal agency within 180 days of the alleged discriminatory occurrence. For more information on HRPDC's Title VI program, or to obtain a Title VI Complaint Form, please call (757) 420-8300 or email: qmclaurin@hrpdcva.gov

HRPDC and HRTPO | 723 Woodlake Drive | Chesapeake, VA 23320 US