

FOR RELEASE APRIL 17, 2025

# Negative Views of China Have Softened Slightly Among Americans

*Fewer now consider China an enemy or say it's the country posing the greatest threat to the U.S.*

**BY** Christine Huang, Laura Silver and Laura Clancy

**FOR MEDIA OR OTHER INQUIRIES:**

Christine Huang, Research Associate  
Gar Meng Leong, Communications Manager

202.419.4372

[www.pewresearch.org](http://www.pewresearch.org)

**RECOMMENDED CITATION**

Pew Research Center, April, 2025, "Negative Views of China Have Softened Slightly Among Americans"

## About Pew Research Center

Pew Research Center is a nonpartisan, nonadvocacy fact tank that informs the public about the issues, attitudes and trends shaping the world. It does not take policy positions. The Center conducts public opinion polling, demographic research, computational social science research and other data-driven research. It studies politics and policy; news habits and media; the internet and technology; religion; race and ethnicity; international affairs; social, demographic and economic trends; science; research methodology and data science; and immigration and migration. Pew Research Center is a subsidiary of The Pew Charitable Trusts, its primary funder.

© Pew Research Center 2025

## How we did this

Pew Research Center conducted this study to understand how Americans see China and its relationship with the U.S. The report gauges American views of China in terms of both economics and national security. This analysis builds on previous Center research on [Americans' opinions of China](#) and on the most pressing foreign policy issues of the day going back decades, such as [major world conflicts](#), [trade and tariffs](#), [U.S. military decisions](#) and [other related developments of the times](#).

For this analysis, we surveyed 3,605 U.S. adults from March 24 to March 30, 2025. Everyone who took part in this survey is a member of the Center's American Trends Panel (ATP), a group of people recruited through national, random sampling of residential addresses who have agreed to take surveys regularly. This kind of recruitment gives nearly all U.S. adults a chance of selection. Surveys were conducted either online or by telephone with a live interviewer. The survey is weighted to be representative of the U.S. adult population by gender, race, ethnicity, partisan affiliation, education and other categories. Read more about the [ATP's methodology](#).

Here are the [questions used for this analysis](#), [along with responses](#), and [its methodology](#).

# Table of Contents

<b>Overview: Negative Views of China Have Softened Slightly Among Americans</b>	<b>4</b>
Views by party	5
Views on trade and tariffs	7
<b>1. U.S. views of China and Xi</b>	<b>9</b>
Views of China are mostly negative	9
Americans largely lack confidence in Xi	11
<b>2. Views of China's role in the world</b>	<b>13</b>
Americans see China's global influence getting stronger	13
Which country is the leading economic power?	14
Which country is the leading military power?	15
<b>3. Views of trade between China and the U.S.</b>	<b>17</b>
Who benefits most from the U.S.-China trade relationship?	17
How do Americans feel about increased tariffs on China?	18
<b>4. Views of China as a competitor and threat to the U.S.</b>	<b>20</b>
Is China a partner, competitor or enemy of the U.S.?	20
China as a threat to the U.S.	21
What type of threat does China pose to the U.S.?	22
Tensions between China and Taiwan	23
<b>Acknowledgments</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Methodology</b>	<b>26</b>
The American Trends Panel survey methodology	26
<b>Topline questionnaire</b>	<b>32</b>

# Negative Views of China Have Softened Slightly Among Americans

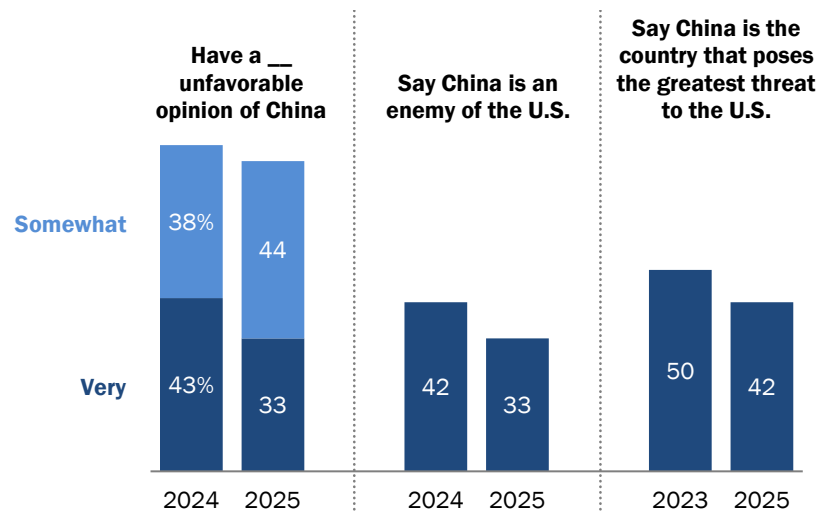
*Fewer now consider China an enemy or say it's the country posing the greatest threat to the U.S.*

Americans hold largely negative views of China: Most have a very or somewhat unfavorable view of the country, and they tend to name China as the nation that poses the greatest threat to the United States.

Still, attitudes toward China have warmed somewhat. **For the first time in five years, the share of Americans with an unfavorable opinion of China has fallen from the year before** – albeit slightly, from 81% in 2024 to 77% in 2025. And the share who have a *very* unfavorable opinion of China has dropped 10 percentage points since last year.

## American opinions of China are less unfavorable than they were in 2024

% of U.S. adults who ...



Note: The question about the country posing the greatest threat to the U.S. was open-ended. Those who named other countries are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 24-30, 2025.

"Negative Views of China Have Softened Slightly Among Americans"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

The share of Americans who call China an enemy of the U.S., rather than a partner or a competitor, has also fallen. One-third now hold this view, down from 42% last year.

Still, when asked which country poses the greatest threat to the U.S., Americans mention China more often than any other nation (42%). But the share who name China has fallen 8 points since 2023, when we last asked this question.

These are among the findings of a Pew Research Center survey conducted March 24-30, 2025, among 3,605 U.S. adults. The survey took place amid [escalating economic tensions](#) between the U.S. and China, caused in part by [rapidly shifting tariff policies](#):

- Before the survey was fielded, U.S. President Donald Trump imposed additional tariffs on China [in February](#) and again in [early March](#).
- After the survey concluded, Trump announced [sweeping tariffs on many countries](#), including further tariffs on China, in April.
- China also implemented new tariffs on the U.S., [both before](#) and [after the survey was fielded](#).

### Views by party

Negative attitudes toward China have softened among Republicans and Republican-leaning independents, though they continue to be more critical of the country than Democrats and Democratic leaners. **The share of Republicans with an unfavorable view of China is down 8 points since 2024, including a 16-point drop in the share with a very unfavorable view.** In comparison, unfavorable views among Democrats saw a 5-point decline.

Republicans are 14 points less likely than they were in 2024 to label China an enemy of the U.S. Since we first began asking this question in 2021, Republicans have generally been more likely to call China an enemy than a competitor, but they are now equally likely to use each label. Among Democrats, the share who consider China an enemy has fallen 6 points since last year.

For their part, Democrats have become less likely to name China as the country posing the greatest threat to the U.S. – 28% say this is the case, down from 40% in 2023. Republicans saw a more muted change in that time (-5 points). For Democrats, much of this change relates to an increasing share naming Russia as the top threat to the U.S.

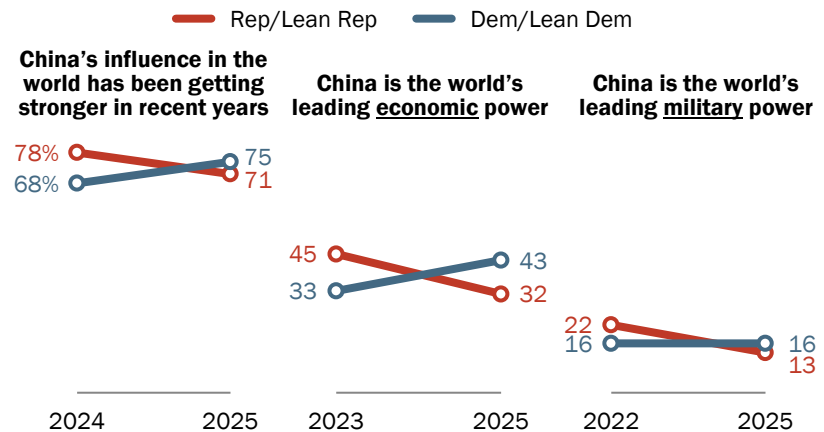
*For more on U.S. views of Russia, read “[Republican Opinion Shifts on Russia-Ukraine War](#).”*

There have also been pronounced changes from previous years in partisan assessments of China's international influence:

- In 2024, Republicans were 10 points more likely than Democrats to say China's global influence was growing. Now, adults in both parties are equally likely to hold this view.
- While Republicans used to be more inclined than Democrats to label China the world's top economic and military power, Democrats are now more likely to hold these views.

### Shifting partisan views of China's global influence

% who say each of the following, by party



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 24-30, 2025.  
 "Negative Views of China Have Softened Slightly Among Americans"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

## Views on trade and tariffs

Americans do not think the trade relationship between the U.S. and China is balanced. Nearly half (46%) say China benefits more from U.S.-China trade, though a quarter say both countries benefit equally; 10% think the U.S. benefits more.

A majority of Republicans say China benefits more from the U.S.-China trade relationship. Democrats are divided between the view that both countries benefit equally and the view that China benefits more.

We asked the same questions about [U.S. trade with Canada and Mexico](#). Americans consider the U.S.-China trade relationship *more* unbalanced than the others: 26% of Americans say Canada benefits more than the U.S. from their trade relationship, and 29% say this in Mexico's case.

Americans are largely skeptical about the effects of increased tariffs on China. **About half say these tariffs will be bad for the U.S., and a similar share say the tariffs will be bad for them personally.**

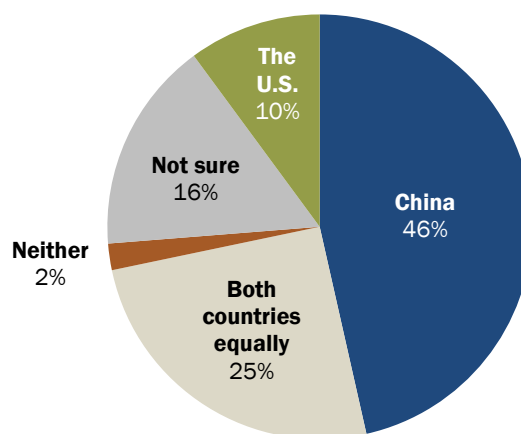
Among Democrats, 80% think the tariffs will harm the country, and 75% believe these measures will harm them personally.

Republicans are more optimistic. While only 17% say increased tariffs on China will be good for them personally, they are more inclined to say the tariffs will be good than bad for the country (44% vs. 24%).

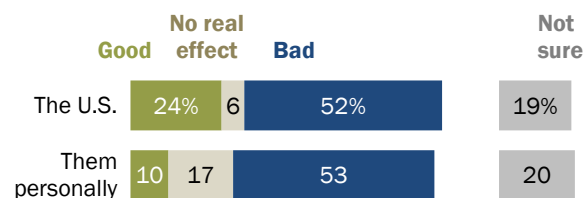
**Related:** [Americans Give Early Trump Foreign Policy Actions Mixed or Negative Reviews](#)

## Americans say trade with China primarily benefits China but think increased tariffs will be more bad than good for the U.S. and for themselves

% of U.S. adults who say that when it comes to trade between the U.S. and China, \_\_\_ benefits more



% of U.S. adults who say increased tariffs on China will be/have \_\_\_ for ...



Note: Those who did not answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 24-30, 2025.

"Negative Views of China Have Softened Slightly Among Americans"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER



**Guide to this report**

- Chapter 1: [U.S. views of China and Xi](#)
- Chapter 2: [Views of China's role in the world](#)
- Chapter 3: [Views of trade between China and the U.S.](#)
- Chapter 4: [Views of China as a competitor and threat to the U.S.](#)

# 1. U.S. views of China and Xi

Americans hold largely unfavorable opinions of China and Chinese President Xi Jinping, but ratings of both have improved slightly since 2024.

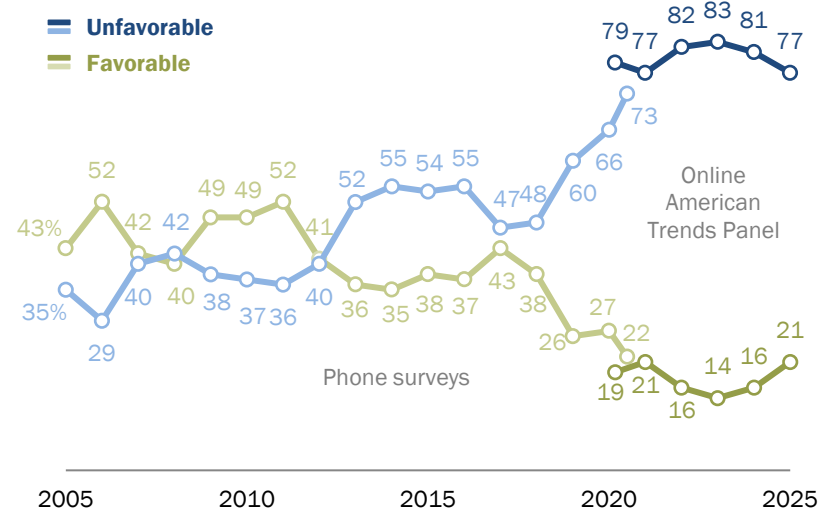
## Views of China are mostly negative

More than three-quarters of Americans (77%) have an unfavorable opinion of China. Though a sizable majority, **this reflects a decrease from 81% in 2024**. It also marks the first time in five years we've measured a significant year-over-year decline in the share of Americans with an unfavorable view of China.

The change is even greater when it comes to the share of those with a *very* unfavorable view of China: Today, 33% of U.S. adults have a very unfavorable view, down from 43% last year.

### American views of China warm slightly for first time since 2017

% of U.S. adults who have a(n) \_\_\_ opinion of China



Note: Those who did not answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 24-30, 2025.

"Negative Views of China Have Softened Slightly Among Americans"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

## Views by party

Views of China tend to vary by party. While majorities of adults in both parties have an unfavorable opinion of China, Republicans and Republican-leaning independents are significantly more likely than Democrats and Democratic leaners to hold this view (82% vs. 72%).

Still, views of China are warming across the board. The share of Republicans with a *very* unfavorable opinion of China has dropped 16 points since 2024, while the share among Democrats has dropped 6 points.

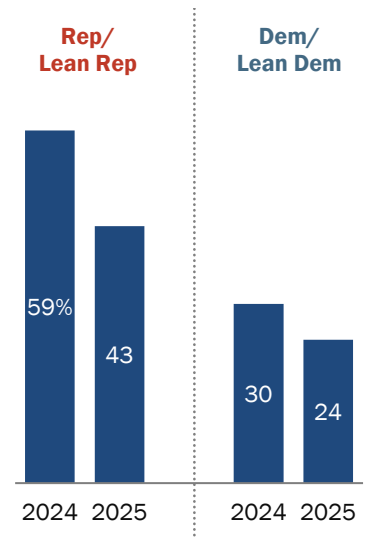
Conservative Republicans stand out among ideological groups, with about half (51%) saying they have a very unfavorable view of China. That is 20 points more than the share of moderate and liberal Republicans (31%) and roughly double the shares of conservative and moderate Democrats (24%) and liberal Democrats (24%) who say the same.

## Views by age

Older Americans are most critical of China. About half of those ages 65 and older have a very unfavorable opinion of China. This share drops to 37% among those ages 50 to 64, 27% among those ages 30 to 49, and 21% among adults under 30.

## Fewer Republicans, Democrats are very unfavorable toward China

% who have a *very* unfavorable opinion of China, by party



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 24-30, 2025.

"Negative Views of China Have Softened Slightly Among Americans"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

## Americans largely lack confidence in Xi

Three-quarters of U.S. adults have little or no confidence in Chinese President Xi Jinping to do the right thing regarding world affairs. **This includes 39% who have no confidence at all in him.**

Only about one-in-ten Americans (11%) say they have some confidence in Xi, and just 1% have a lot of confidence in him. Another 12% say they have never heard of the Chinese president.

Similar to Americans' overall views of China, the share of those with confidence in Xi has risen slightly since 2024 (+4 points).

### Views by party

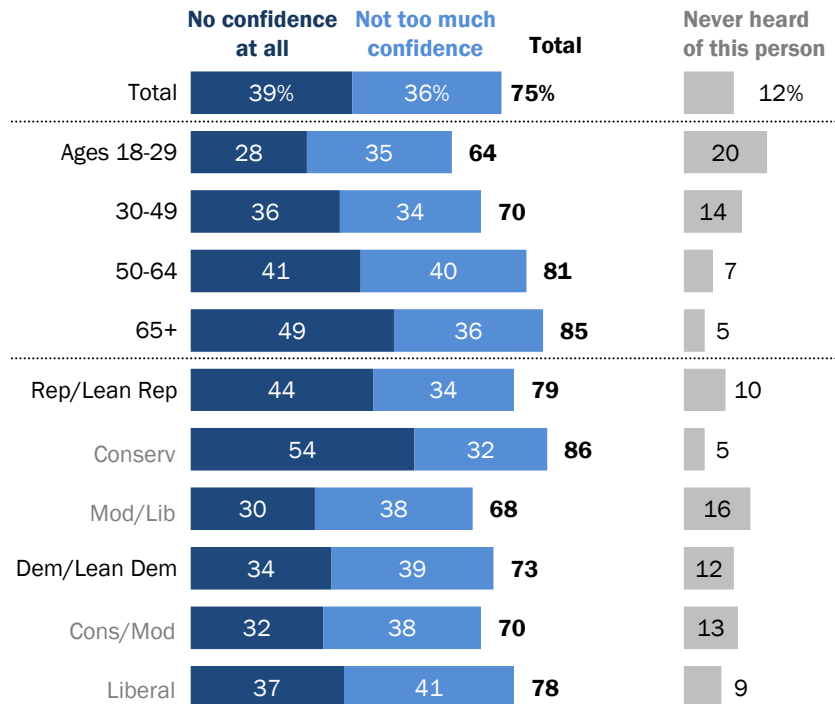
Opinions of Xi also vary by party. While sizable majorities of both Republicans and Democrats have little or no confidence in Xi's leadership on the world stage, Republicans are especially likely to lack confidence. Conservative Republicans are the most critical: 86% are not confident in Xi, including 54% who have no confidence at all.

### Views by age

Confidence in Xi is lowest among older Americans. Adults ages 65 and older are 21 points more likely than those ages 18 to 29 to have little or no confidence in the Chinese president (85% vs. 64%).

### Most Americans lack confidence in Xi's international leadership

% who have \_\_\_ in Chinese President Xi Jinping to do the right thing regarding world affairs



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 24-30, 2025.  
 "Negative Views of China Have Softened Slightly Among Americans"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Older adults are also more likely to know who Xi is. When asked, just 5% of those ages 65 and older say they have never heard of him. That share rises to 20% among adults ages 18 to 29.

## 2. Views of China's role in the world

Most Americans say China's international influence has been growing stronger in recent years. Still, Americans tend to say the U.S. – not China – is the world's top economic and military power.

### Americans see China's global influence getting stronger

A 73% majority of Americans say China's influence in the world has been getting stronger in recent years. A similar share (71%) held this view in 2024.

About two-in-ten (19%) say China's influence has stayed about the same, while 6% say it's getting weaker.

#### Views by party

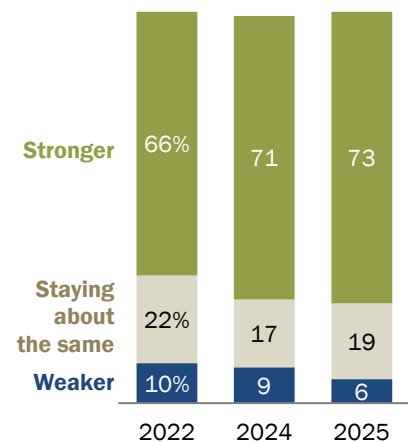
Unlike many other opinions related to China, there are no significant differences between Republicans and Democrats on this question. About equal shares in both parties say that China is growing stronger (71% vs. 75%).

#### Views by age

Americans ages 50 and older are slightly more likely than adults under 50 to say China's global influence is getting stronger (76% vs. 70%).

### Many in U.S. see China's influence strengthening

% of U.S. adults who say China's influence in the world has been getting \_\_\_ in recent years



Note: Those who did not answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 24-30, 2025.

"Negative Views of China Have Softened Slightly Among Americans"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

## Which country is the leading economic power?

About half of Americans (48%) think the U.S. is the world's leading economic power. Another 38% say it's China, and smaller shares name Japan (7%) or the EU (6%).

These views are largely unchanged since we last asked this question in 2023, though the share naming the U.S. as the world's top economic power has been as high as 54% in 2020.

### Views by party

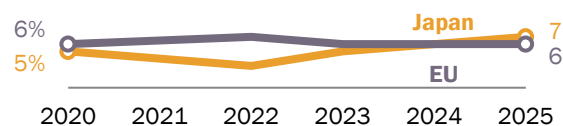
The stability of these views overall hides major partisan shifts that have occurred over the past two years.

In 2023, Republicans were about equally likely to describe the U.S. (46%) and China (45%) as the world's leading economy. **Among Republicans, the share naming the U.S. as the top economy has gone up 12 points, while the share naming China has fallen by about the same amount.** Today, a clear majority of Republicans (58%) name the U.S. as the world's top economic power, compared with 32% who name China.

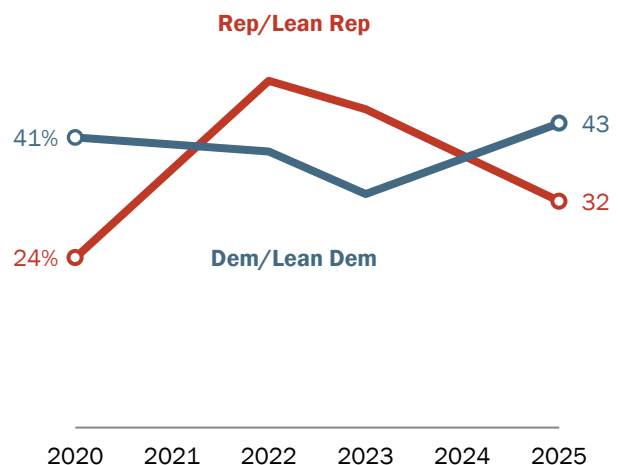
**Democrats are now about equally likely to name China (43%) and the U.S. (40%) as the world's leading economic power.** By comparison, 52% of Democrats said the U.S. was the top economy in 2023, and 33% said China.

### Democrats now more likely to say China is the world's top economic power

% of U.S. adults who say \_\_\_ is the world's leading economic power



% who say China is the world's leading economic power, by party



Note: Those who did not answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 24-30, 2025.

"Negative Views of China Have Softened Slightly Among Americans"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

## Views by age

Older Americans are less likely than younger people to say China is the world's leading economic power. Among those ages 65 and older, 27% name China as the top economy – a much larger share (60%) name the U.S. In comparison, adults under 30 are about equally likely to see China and the U.S. as the world's top economic power.

## Which country is the leading military power?

Most Americans (76%) say the U.S. is the world's leading military power. Fewer say the top military power is China (14%) or Russia (8%).

Compared with 2022, Americans are more likely to see the U.S. as the world's leading military power (+6 points), but they are still less likely than they were in 2020 to hold this view.

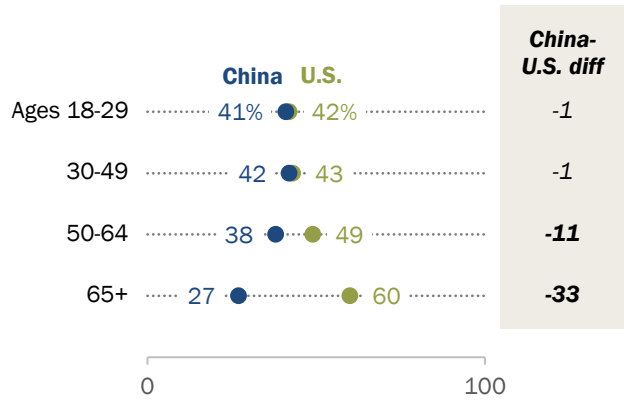
## Views by party

Republicans are more likely than Democrats to see the U.S. as the world's leading military power, though majorities of both parties hold this view (80% and 73%).

This is a reversal from 2022, when Democrats were more likely than Republicans to see

## Older Americans see the U.S. as having more economic power than China

% who say \_\_\_ is the world's leading economic power, by age group



Note: Statistically significant differences are in **bold**.

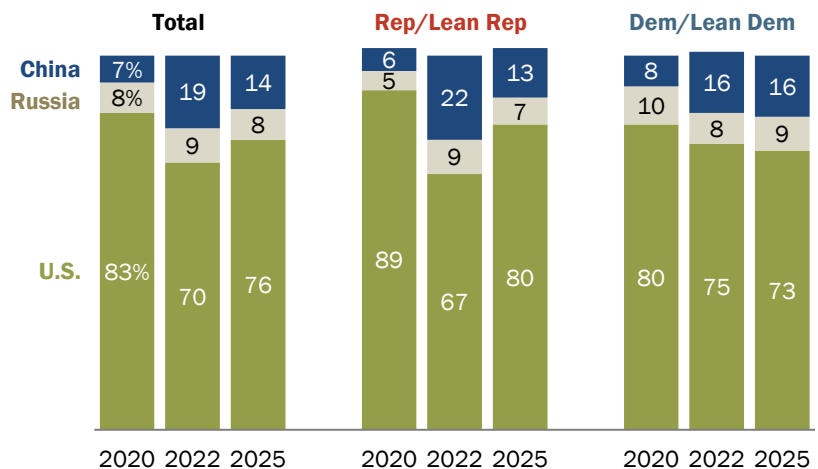
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 24-30, 2025.

"Negative Views of China Have Softened Slightly Among Americans"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

## Americans still see U.S. as world's top military power

% who say \_\_\_ is the world's leading military power



Note: Those who did not answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 24-30, 2025.

"Negative Views of China Have Softened Slightly Among Americans"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER



the U.S. as the leading military power (75% vs. 67%) and less likely than Republicans to name China (16% vs. 22%).

### 3. Views of trade between China and the U.S.

Americans tend to believe the U.S.-China trade relationship benefits China more than the U.S.: 46% hold this view, while a quarter say both countries benefit equally and 10% say the U.S. benefits more. Nonetheless, Americans are skeptical that increased tariffs on Chinese imports will have a positive effect on the country or on their own lives.

(The survey was conducted March 24-30, 2025, after President Donald Trump [implemented tariffs on China in February](#) and again in [early March](#), but before further tariffs were [imposed in April](#). China responded with tariffs on the U.S. [both before](#) and [after the survey was fielded](#).)

#### Who benefits most from the U.S.-China trade relationship?

When asked whether one country benefits more from U.S.-China trade, the largest share of Americans (46%) say China does, largely unchanged [since we last asked the question in 2023](#). The U.S.-China trade relationship is seen as more unbalanced than the U.S.-Canada or U.S.-Mexico trade relationships.

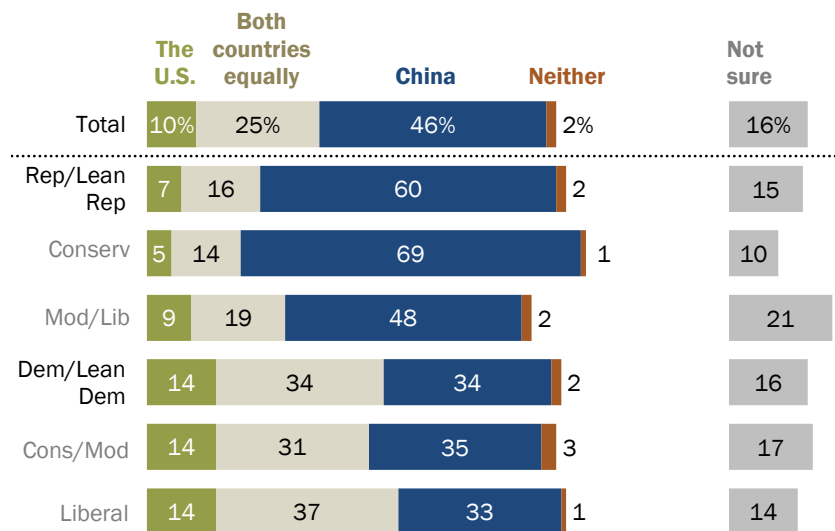
*For more on U.S. assessments of trade with the country's top trade partners, read "[How Americans view trade between the U.S. and China, Canada and Mexico](#)."*

#### Views by party

Republicans and Democrats see different winners in the U.S.-China trade relationship. Among Republicans and Republican-leaning independents, a 60% majority say China benefits more from U.S.-China trade. Conservative Republicans are especially likely to hold this view (69%). In comparison, Democrats and Democratic leaners are equally

#### Americans tend to say China is the main beneficiary in U.S.-China trade relationship

% of U.S. adults who say that when it comes to trade between the U.S. and China, \_\_\_ benefits more



Note: Those who did not answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 24-30, 2025.

"Negative Views of China Have Softened Slightly Among Americans"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

divided between saying China benefits more and saying the two countries benefit equally (34% take each stance).

### Views by age

Older Americans are more likely than younger adults to see China as the main beneficiary of trade between the U.S. and China. A majority of those ages 65 and older (56%) say China benefits more than the U.S., compared with 27% of those ages 18 to 29.

## How do Americans feel about increased tariffs on China?

As of mid-April, Trump has [implemented increasingly high tariffs](#) on imports from China – adding to the tariffs [put in place during his first administration](#).

**Many more Americans think increased tariffs on China will be bad for the U.S. – and for them personally – than say these tariffs will be good.**

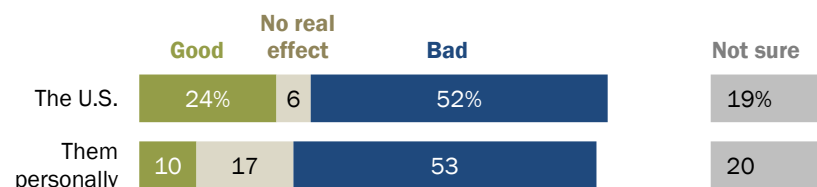
Around a quarter say either that increased tariffs will have no effect on the U.S. or that they are unsure about tariffs' national effects. Over a third say the same about how tariffs will affect them personally.

When we [asked similar questions in 2021](#), people were more likely to say tariffs would have a negative impact on the country than on themselves personally. Now, relatively equal shares anticipate a negative impact on both.

Americans who think the U.S. benefits more than China does from U.S.-China trade are far more likely to see the tariffs as bad than good for the country (68% vs. 18%). The same is true for those who think both countries benefit equally from U.S.-China trade – they tend to say tariffs will affect the U.S. negatively (71%) rather than positively (11%). **Those who say China benefits more from U.S.-China trade are about equally likely to say tariffs on China will be bad for the U.S. as to say they will be good (41% vs. 37%).**

### Americans tend to say tariffs on China will be bad for the U.S. and for them personally

% of U.S. adults who say increased tariffs on China will be/have \_\_\_ for ...



Note: Those who did not answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 24-30, 2025.

"Negative Views of China Have Softened Slightly Among Americans"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

*For more views of increasing tariffs on China, read “[Americans Give Early Trump Foreign Policy Actions Mixed or Negative Reviews.](#)”*

## 4. Views of China as a competitor and threat to the U.S.

When asked if China is an enemy, competitor or partner of the U.S., most Americans say China is a competitor. Even so, Americans most frequently name China as the country posing the top threat to the U.S.

Additionally, a majority of Americans say that tensions in China's relationship with Taiwan are important to U.S. national interests.

### Is China a partner, competitor or enemy of the U.S.?

A majority of Americans (56%) say China is a competitor of the U.S., as opposed to an enemy (33%) or a partner (9%).

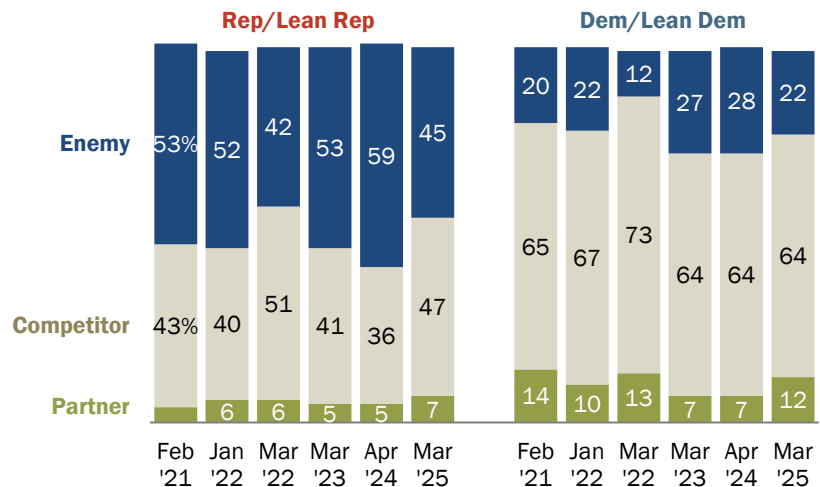
**For the first time since 2022, the share of people describing China as an enemy has fallen from the year before. In this case, the share has fallen 9 points since April 2024.**

#### Views by party

Republicans and Republican-leaning independents are about twice as likely as Democrats and Democratic leaners to describe China as an enemy (45% vs. 22%).

#### The view that China is an enemy of the U.S. has declined among both Republicans and Democrats

% who say China is a(n) \_\_\_ of the U.S., by party



Note: Those who did not answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 24-30, 2025.

"Negative Views of China Have Softened Slightly Among Americans"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

**But the share of Republicans describing China as an enemy has fallen 14 points since last year.** Now, relatively equal shares of Republicans describe China as a competitor (47%) and an enemy (45%).

**Democrats, too, are less likely to call China an enemy now than they were last year,** though the shift has been more muted (22%, down from 28%). Democrats are also slightly more likely to describe China as a partner now than last year (12%, up from 7%).

### Views by age

Older Americans are much more likely than younger adults to call China an enemy: 47% of those ages 65 and older hold this view, compared with 40% of those ages 50 to 64, 26% of those 30 to 49 and 19% of those 18 to 29. In comparison, younger Americans are most likely to see China as a competitor: 61% of adults under 30 say this, though some call China a partner (19%) or an enemy (19%).

### China as a threat to the U.S.

When asked in an open-ended question which country poses the greatest threat to the U.S., 42% of Americans name China. Another 25% name Russia, and 20% say they are not sure. Still others name the U.S. itself (3%), Iran (2%), North Korea (1%) or Israel (1%).

China was also considered the country posing the greatest threat in 2023, when the question was last asked. At that time, half the U.S. public held this view.

### Views by party

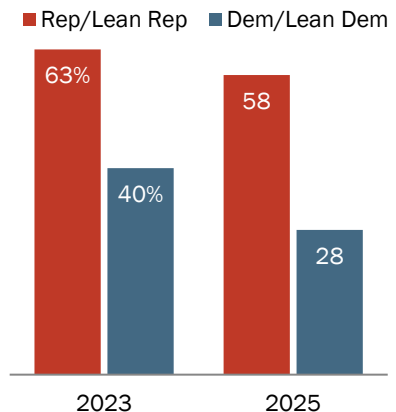
Republicans are more likely than Democrats to name China as the country that poses the greatest threat to the U.S. (58% vs. 28%). This view is particularly common among conservative Republicans, who are 23 points more likely than their moderate and liberal counterparts to hold this view (68% vs. 45%).

Conservative and moderate Democrats are 6 points more likely than liberal Democrats to consider China the top threat to the U.S. (31% vs. 25%).

Supporters of both parties have become less likely to name China as the country that poses the greatest threat to the U.S., but the decline has been particularly steep among Democrats. Democrats are 12 points less likely than in 2023 to name China as the top threat. In fact, the

### Republicans more likely than Democrats to name China as greatest threat

*% who say China is the country that poses the greatest threat to the U.S., by party*



Note: Open-ended question. Those who named other countries are not shown.  
Source: Survey of U.S. adults March 24-30, 2025.

"Negative Views of China Have Softened Slightly Among Americans"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

largest share of Democrats now name Russia, not China, as the country posing the greatest threat to the U.S. (39%).

Republicans have also become less likely to name China as the top threat, but to a lesser extent (-5 points).

## What type of threat does China pose to the U.S.?

Of those who named China as the country posing the greatest threat to the U.S., most agree China poses at least a fair amount of threat to the U.S. economy and to its national security.

These assessments are somewhat tempered from 2023. Since then, Americans who say China is the country posing the greatest threat to the U.S. have become 14 points less likely to say China poses *a great deal* of threat to the U.S. economy and 12 points less likely to say the same of China as a threat to U.S. national security.

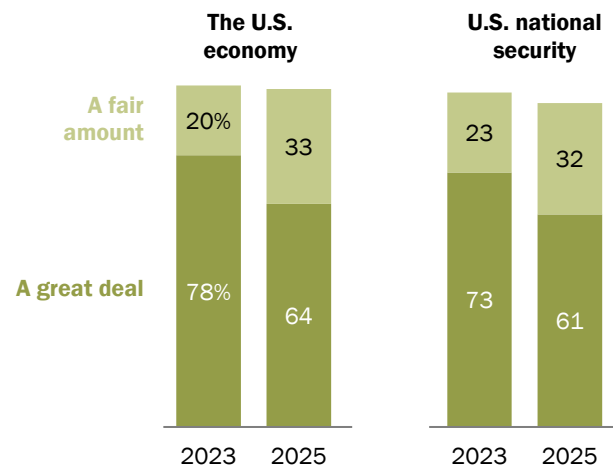
### Views by age

Older Americans who see China as the top threat to the U.S. are more inclined than their younger counterparts to consider China a major threat to national security. Of those ages 65 and older, 70% say China poses a great deal of threat to national security. In comparison, 46% of adults under 30 agree.

Older and younger Americans who name China as the top threat to the U.S. largely agree in their assessments of China as an economic threat.

### Americans who see China as top threat see the country as both a security and economic threat

*Among those who name China as the country posing the greatest threat to the U.S., % who say China poses \_\_\_ of threat to ...*



Note: Respondents were asked to consider the country they had just named as the top threat to the U.S. in an open-ended question. Those who named other countries are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 24-30, 2025.

"Negative Views of China Have Softened Slightly Among Americans"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

## Views by party

Republicans are especially inclined to see China as a major threat to national security: 65% of Republicans who consider China as the greatest threat to the U.S. hold this view, compared with 55% of their Democratic counterparts.

Among those who see China as the country posing the greatest threat to the U.S., Republicans and Democrats share similar views of China as a threat to the U.S. economy.

## Tensions between China and Taiwan

Roughly two-thirds of Americans (66%) say tensions between China and Taiwan are important to U.S. national interests, including 31% who think the issue is *very* important. Additionally, 47% say cross-strait tensions are *personally* important to them.

By way of comparison, similar shares of Americans describe China-Taiwan tensions as important to national interests

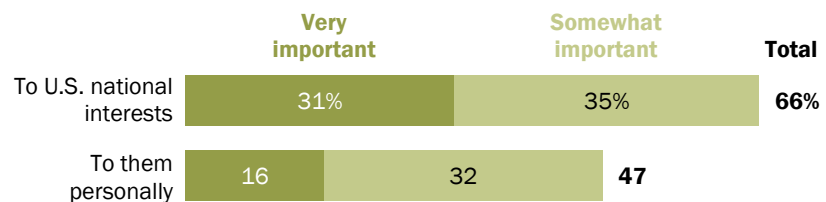
as say the same of the [Israel-Hamas war](#) (66%) and the [Russia-Ukraine war](#) (69%). However, fewer say it's personally important to them than say this of the other two conflicts.

The issue's importance among Americans has also declined over the last year. Compared with 2024, Americans are 9 points less likely to consider tensions between China and Taiwan important to national interests and 10 points less likely to consider the tensions important to them personally.

For more on Americans' views of the Israel-Hamas war, read "[How Americans view Israel and the Israel-Hamas war at the start of Trump's second term.](#)" And for more on American views of the Russia-Ukraine war, read "[Republican Opinion Shifts on Russia-Ukraine War.](#)"

### Americans consider cross-strait tensions important to national interests but less so to them personally

% of U.S. adults who say the tensions between China and Taiwan are very or somewhat important to ...



Source: Survey of U.S. adults March 24-30, 2025.

"Negative Views of China Have Softened Slightly Among Americans"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER



## Views by age

Older Americans are more likely than younger Americans to see cross-strait tensions as important to national interests and to them personally. Among those ages 65 and older, 78% consider the issue important to national interests, compared with 55% of those ages 18 to 29. Likewise, 65% of those 65 and older see tensions between China and Taiwan as important to them personally, compared with 36% of adults under 30.

## Views by education

Americans with more education place greater importance on the tensions between China and Taiwan. Those with at least a four-year college degree are 19 points more likely than those without to consider cross-strait tensions important to U.S. interests (79% vs. 60%) and 13 points more likely to say these tensions are important to them personally (56% vs. 43%).

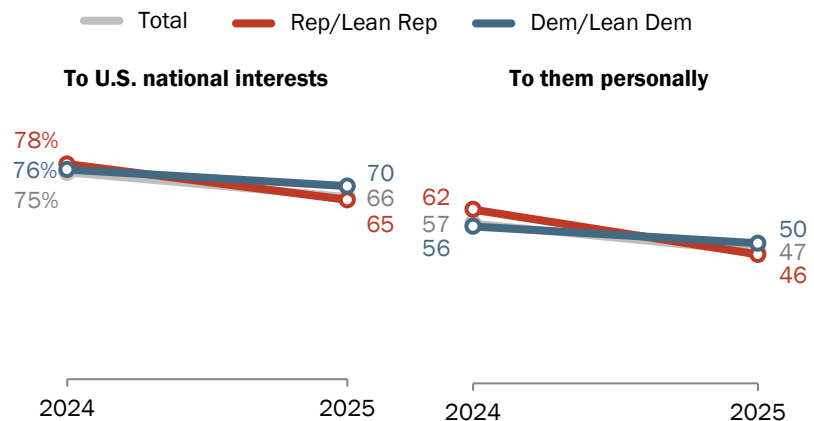
## Views by party

Democrats are more likely than Republicans to see tensions between China and Taiwan as important to U.S. national interests. However, Democrats and Republicans are similarly likely to consider cross-strait tensions personally important.

This is a reversal from last year, when supporters of each party were equally likely to consider tensions important to national interests, and Republicans were more likely to consider them personally important.

### Democrats now more likely than Republicans to say China-Taiwan tensions are important to U.S. interests

*% who say tensions between China and Taiwan are **very/somewhat** important ...*



Source: Survey of U.S. adults March 24-30, 2025.  
 "Negative Views of China Have Softened Slightly Among Americans"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

## Acknowledgments

This report is a collaborative effort based on the input and analysis of the following individuals.

Christine Huang, *Research Associate*

Laura Silver, *Associate Director, Global Attitudes Research*

Laura Clancy, *Research Analyst*

Dorene Asare-Marfo, *Senior Panel Manager*

Peter Bell, *Associate Director, Design and Production*

Janakee Chavda, *Associate Digital Producer*

Justine Coleman, *Associate Digital Producer*

Jonathan Evans, *Senior Researcher*

Moira Fagan, *Research Associate*

Janell Fetterolf, *Senior Researcher*

Shannon Greenwood, *Digital Production Manager*

Sneha Gubbala, *Research Analyst*

Anna Jackson, *Editorial Assistant*

Carolyn Lau, *International Research Methodologist*

Gar Meng Leong, *Communications Manager*

Kirsten Lesage, *Research Associate*

Jordan Lippert, *Research Analyst*

John Carlo Mandapat, *Information Graphics Designer*

William Miner, *Research Analyst*

Patrick Moynihan, *Associate Director, International Research Methods*

Georgina Pizzolitto, *Research Methodologist*

Maya Pottiger, *Communications Associate*

Jacob Poushter, *Associate Director, Global Attitudes Research*

Andrew Prozorovsky, *Research Assistant*

Dana Popky, *Associate Panel Manager*

Sofi Sinozich, *International Research Methodologist*

Maria Smerkovich, *Research Associate*

Kelsey Jo Starr, *Research Analyst*

Brianna Vetter, *Administrative Associate*

Richard Wike, *Director, Global Attitudes Research*

## Methodology

### The American Trends Panel survey methodology

#### Overview

Data in this report comes from Wave 166 of the American Trends Panel (ATP), Pew Research Center’s nationally representative panel of randomly selected U.S. adults. The survey was conducted from March 24 to March 30, 2025. A total of 3,605 panelists responded out of 4,045 who were sampled, for a survey-level response rate of 89%.

The cumulative response rate accounting for nonresponse to the recruitment surveys and attrition is 3%. The break-off rate among panelists who logged on to the survey and completed at least one item is 1%. The margin of sampling error for the full sample of 3,605 respondents is plus or minus 1.9 percentage points.

The survey includes [oversample](#) of Jewish, Muslim and non-Hispanic Asian adults in order to provide more precise estimates of the opinions and experiences of these smaller demographic subgroups. These oversampled groups are weighted back to reflect their correct proportions in the population.

SSRS conducted the survey for Pew Research Center via online (n=3,460) and live telephone (n=145) interviewing. Interviews were conducted in both English and Spanish.

To learn more about the ATP, read “[About the American Trends Panel](#).”

#### Panel recruitment

Since 2018, the ATP has used address-based sampling (ABS) for recruitment. A study cover letter and a pre-incentive are mailed to a stratified, random sample of households selected from the U.S. Postal Service’s Computerized Delivery Sequence File. This Postal Service file has been estimated to cover 90% to 98% of the population.<sup>1</sup> Within each sampled household, the adult with the next birthday is selected to participate. Other details of the ABS recruitment protocol have changed over time but are available upon request.<sup>2</sup> Prior to 2018, the ATP was recruited using landline and cellphone random-digit-dial surveys administered in English and Spanish.

---

<sup>1</sup> AAPOR Task Force on Address-based Sampling. 2016. “[AAPOR Report: Address-based Sampling](#).”

<sup>2</sup> Email [pewsurveys@pewresearch.org](mailto:pewsurveys@pewresearch.org).

A national sample of U.S. adults has been recruited to the ATP approximately once per year since 2014. In some years, the recruitment has included additional efforts (known as an “oversample”) to improve the accuracy of data for underrepresented groups. For example, Hispanic adults, Black adults and Asian adults were oversampled in 2019, 2022 and 2023, respectively.

### **Sample design**

The overall target population for this survey was noninstitutionalized persons ages 18 and older living in the United States. It featured a stratified random sample from the ATP in which Jewish, Muslim and non-Hispanic Asian adults were selected with certainty. The remaining panelists were sampled at rates designed to ensure that the share of respondents in each stratum is proportional to its share of the U.S. adult population to the greatest extent possible. Respondent weights are adjusted to account for differential probabilities of selection as described in the Weighting section below.

### **Questionnaire development and testing**

The questionnaire was developed by Pew Research Center in consultation with SSRS. The web program used for online respondents was rigorously tested on both PC and mobile devices by the SSRS project team and Pew Research Center researchers. The SSRS project team also populated test data that was analyzed in SPSS to ensure the logic and randomizations were working as intended before launching the survey.

### **Incentives**

All respondents were offered a post-paid incentive for their participation. Respondents could choose to receive the post-paid incentive in the form of a check or gift code to Amazon.com, Target.com or Walmart.com. Incentive amounts ranged from \$5 to \$20 depending on whether the respondent belongs to a part of the population that is harder or easier to reach. Differential incentive amounts were designed to increase panel survey participation among groups that traditionally have low survey response propensities.

### **Data collection protocol**

The data collection field period for this survey was March 24 to March 30, 2025. Surveys were conducted via self-administered web survey or by live telephone interviewing.

**For panelists who take surveys online:**<sup>3</sup> Postcard notifications were mailed to a subset on March 24.<sup>4</sup> Survey invitations were sent out in two separate launches: soft launch and full launch. Sixty panelists were included in the soft launch, which began with an initial invitation sent on March 24. All remaining English- and Spanish-speaking sampled online panelists were included in the full launch and were sent an invitation on March 25.

---

**Invitation and reminder dates for web respondents,  
ATP Wave 166**

	Soft launch	Full launch
Initial invitation	March 24, 2025	March 25, 2025
First reminder	March 27, 2025	March 27, 2025
Final reminder	March 29, 2025	March 29, 2025

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

---

Panelists participating online were sent an email invitation and up to two email reminders if they did not respond to the survey. ATP panelists who consented to SMS messages were sent an SMS invitation with a link to the survey and up to two SMS reminders.

**For panelists who take surveys over the phone with a live interviewer:** Prenotification postcards were mailed on March 21. Soft launch took place on March 24 and involved dialing until a total of five interviews had been completed. All remaining English- and Spanish-speaking sampled phone panelists' numbers were dialed throughout the remaining field period. Panelists who take surveys via phone can receive up to six calls from trained SSRS interviewers.

### **Data quality checks**

To ensure high-quality data, Center researchers performed data quality checks to identify any respondents showing patterns of satisficing. This includes checking for whether respondents left questions blank at very high rates or always selected the first or last answer presented. As a result of this checking, three ATP respondents were removed from the survey dataset prior to weighting and analysis.

---

<sup>3</sup> The ATP does not use routers or chains in any part of its online data collection protocol, nor are they used to direct respondents to additional surveys.

<sup>4</sup> Postcard notifications for web panelists are sent to 1) panelists who were recruited within the last two years and 2) panelists recruited prior to the last two years who opt to continue receiving postcard notifications.

## Weighting

The ATP data is weighted in a process that accounts for multiple stages of sampling and nonresponse that occur at different points in the panel survey process. First, each panelist begins with a base weight that reflects their probability of recruitment into the panel. These weights are then calibrated to align with the population benchmarks in the accompanying table to correct for nonresponse to recruitment surveys and panel attrition. If only a subsample of panelists was invited to participate in the wave, this weight is adjusted to account for any differential probabilities of selection.

Among the panelists who completed the survey, this weight is then calibrated again to align with the population benchmarks identified in the accompanying table and trimmed at the 1st and 99th percentiles to reduce the loss in precision stemming from variance in the weights. Sampling errors and tests of statistical significance take into account the effect of weighting.

---

### American Trends Panel weighting dimensions

Variable	Benchmark source
Age (detailed)	2023 American Community Survey (ACS)
Age x Gender	
Education x Gender	
Education x Age	
Race/Ethnicity x Education	
Race/Ethnicity x Gender	
Race/Ethnicity x Age	
Born inside vs. outside the U.S. among Hispanics and Asian Americans	
Years lived in the U.S.	
Census region x Metropolitan status	
Volunteerism	2023 CPS Volunteering & Civic Life Supplement
Voter registration	2020 CPS Voting and Registration Supplement
Frequency of internet use	2024 National Public Opinion Reference Survey (NPORS)
Religious affiliation	
Party affiliation x Race/Ethnicity	
Party affiliation x Age	
Party affiliation among registered voters	

Note: Estimates from the ACS are based on noninstitutionalized adults. Voter registration is calculated using procedures from Hur, Achen (2013) and rescaled to include the total U.S. adult population.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

---

The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey.

---

**Sample sizes and margins of error, ATP Wave 166**

<b>Group</b>	<b>Unweighted sample size</b>	<b>Plus or minus ...</b>
Total sample	3,605	1.9 percentage points
Form 1	1,804	2.7 percentage points
Form 2	1,801	2.6 percentage points
Rep/Lean Rep	1,586	2.7 percentage points
Dem/Lean Dem	1,909	2.7 percentage points

Note: This survey includes oversamples of Jewish, Muslim, and non-Hispanic Asian respondents. Unweighted sample sizes do not account for the sample design or weighting and do not describe a group's contribution to weighted estimates. See the Sample design and Weighting sections above for details.

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER**

---

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request. In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

## Dispositions and response rates

### Final dispositions, ATP Wave 166

	AAPOR code	Total
Completed interview	1.1	3,605
Logged in (web) / Contacted (CATI), but did not complete any items	2.11	65
Started survey; broke off before completion	2.12	25
Never logged on (web) / Never reached on phone (CATI)	2.20	346
Survey completed after close of the field period	2.27	0
Other non-interview	2.30	1
Completed interview but was removed for data quality	2.90	3
Total panelists sampled for the survey		4,045
Completed interviews	I	3,605
Partial interviews	P	0
Refusals	R	90
Non-contact	NC	346
Other	O	4
Unknown household	UH	0
Unknown other	UO	0
Not eligible	NE	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>4,045</b>
AAPOR RR1 = $I / (I+P+R+NC+O+UH+UO)$		89%

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

### Cumulative response rate, ATP Wave 166

	Total
Weighted response rate to recruitment surveys	11%
% of recruitment survey respondents who agreed to join the panel, among those invited	73%
% of those agreeing to join who were active panelists at start of Wave 166	35%
Response rate to Wave 166 survey	89%
Cumulative response rate	3%

PEW RESEARCH CENTER



## **Topline questionnaire**

**Pew Research Center**  
**Spring 2025 Global Attitudes Survey**  
**April 17, 2025, release**

Methodological notes:

- Survey results are based on national samples. For further details on sample designs, refer to the Methodology section.
- Due to rounding, percentages may not total 100%. The topline “total” columns show 100% because they are based on unrounded numbers.
- Combined totals are based on unrounded topline figures. Prior to 2024, combined totals were based on rounded topline figures, so these figures might be different than in previous years.
- The U.S. survey was conducted on Pew Research Center’s American Trends Panel. Many questions have been asked in previous surveys on the phone. Phone trends for comparison are provided in separate tables throughout the topline. The extent of the mode differences varies across questions; while there are negligible differences on some questions, others have more pronounced differences. Caution should be taken when evaluating online and phone estimates.
- Not all questions included in the Spring 2025 Global Attitudes Survey are presented in this topline. Omitted questions have either been previously released or will be released in future reports.

		FAV_CHINA. Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of...? China							
		TOTAL Favorable	TOTAL Unfavorable	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	DK/Refused	Total
U.S.	Spring, 2025	21	77	2	19	44	33	2	100
	Spring, 2024	16	81	1	14	38	43	3	100
	Spring, 2023	14	83	1	13	39	44	2	100
	Spring, 2022	16	82	2	14	42	40	2	100
	Spring, 2021	21	77	1	19	37	39	3	100
	March, 2020	19	79	2	17	44	35	2	100

U.S. PHONE TRENDS FOR COMPARISON									
		FAV_CHINA. Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of...? China							
		TOTAL Favorable	TOTAL Unfavorable	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	DK/Refused	Total
U.S.	Summer, 2020	22	73	3	19	31	42	6	100
	Spring, 2020	27	66	3	23	33	33	7	100
	Spring, 2019	26	60	4	22	37	23	13	100
	Spring, 2018	38	48	5	33	32	15	14	100
	Spring, 2017	43	47	5	39	33	14	10	100
	Spring, 2016	37	55	6	31	36	19	9	100
	Spring, 2015	38	54	4	34	33	21	8	100
	Spring, 2014	35	55	7	28	34	21	10	100
	Spring, 2013	36	51	7	30	32	20	12	100
	Spring, 2012	41	40	6	34	25	15	19	100
	Spring, 2011	52	36	12	39	22	14	12	100
	Spring, 2010	49	37	10	39	24	12	14	100
	Spring, 2009	49	38	9	41	25	13	13	100
	Spring, 2008	40	42	9	30	26	16	19	100
	Spring, 2007	42	40	8	34	25	14	18	100
	Spring, 2006	52	29	12	40	19	10	19	100
	Spring, 2005	43	35	9	34	22	13	22	100

		CONFID_XI. How much confidence do you have in each of the following leaders to do the right thing regarding world affairs? Chinese President Xi Jinping								
		TOTAL Confidence	TOTAL No confidence	A lot of confidence	Some confidence	Not too much confidence	No confidence at all	Never heard of this person	DK/Refused	Total
U.S.	Spring, 2025	13	75	1	11	36	39	12	1	100
	Spring, 2024	9	79	1	7	33	46	10	2	100
	Spring, 2023	8	77	1	7	30	47	13	1	100

U.S. PHONE TRENDS FOR COMPARISON									
		CONFID_XI. How much confidence do you have in each of the following leaders to do the right thing regarding world affairs? Chinese President Xi Jinping							
		TOTAL Confidence	TOTAL No confidence	A lot of confidence	Some confidence	Not too much confidence	No confidence at all	DK/Refused	Total
U.S.	Summer, 2020	18	77	2	16	22	55	5	100
	Spring, 2020	22	71	2	20	26	45	8	100
	Spring, 2019	38	49	2	35	27	23	13	100
	Spring, 2018	39	50	5	34	27	23	12	100
	Spring, 2017	31	60	2	29	29	31	9	100
	Spring, 2014	28	58	2	26	26	32	14	100

		ECON_POWER. Today, which one of the following do you think is the world's leading economic power?					
		The U.S.	China	Japan	The countries of the European Union	DK/Refused	Total
U.S.	Spring, 2025	48	38	7	6	2	100
	Spring, 2023	48	38	5	6	3	100
	Spring, 2022	43	43	3	7	3	100
	March, 2020	54	33	5	6	2	100

## U.S. PHONE TRENDS FOR COMPARISON

		ECON_POWER. Today, which one of the following do you think is the world's leading economic power?							
		The U.S.	China	Japan	The countries of the European Union	Other (DO NOT READ)	None/There is no leading economic power (DO NOT READ)	DK/Refused	Total
U.S.	Summer, 2020	52	32	5	6	0	0	4	100
	Spring, 2020	59	30	3	4	0	1	3	100
	Spring, 2019	50	32	7	6	1	1	4	100
	Spring, 2018	49	33	6	7	1	1	4	100
	Spring, 2017	51	35	5	5	0	0	2	100
	Spring, 2016	54	34	6	2	0	1	3	100
	Spring, 2015	46	36	7	7	0	1	3	100
	Spring, 2014	40	41	8	7	0	0	4	100
	Spring, 2013	39	44	7	4	0	1	6	100
	Spring, 2012	40	41	6	5	0	1	7	100
	Spring, 2011	38	43	6	6	0	0	6	100
	Spring, 2010	38	41	8	6	0	0	7	100
	Spring, 2009	48	33	7	5	0	1	6	100
	Spring, 2008	46	26	10	10	0	1	7	100

		MIL_POWER. Today, which one of the following do you think is the world's leading military power?				
		The U.S.	China	Russia	DK/Refused	Total
U.S.	Spring, 2025	76	14	8	2	100
	Spring, 2022	70	19	9	3	100
	March, 2020	83	7	8	2	100

## U.S. PHONE TRENDS FOR COMPARISON

		MIL_POWER. Today, which one of the following do you think is the world's leading military power?						
		The U.S.	China	Russia	Other (DO NOT READ)	None/There is no leading military power (DO NOT READ)	DK/Refused	Total
U.S.	Spring, 2020	83	6	8	1	0	3	100
	Spring, 2016	72	12	10	3	0	3	100

		THREATS_OPEN. What country do you think poses the greatest threat to the U.S.? [OPEN-END]									
		China	Iran	Israel	North Korea	Russia	United States	Other	No country	DK/Refused	Total
U.S.	Spring, 2025	42	2	1	1	25	3	2	4	22	100

		AMONG THOSE WHO NAME CHINA AS THE COUNTRY THAT POSES THE GREATEST THREAT TO THE U.S.: THREAT_TYPE_ECON. To what extent does the country you listed in the previous question pose a threat to...? The U.S. economy								
		TOTAL A great deal/A fair amount	TOTAL Not too much/Not at all	A great deal	A fair amount	Not too much	Not at all	DK/Refused	Total	N=
U.S.	Spring, 2025	97	3	64	33	3	0	0	100	1511

		AMONG THOSE WHO NAME CHINA AS THE COUNTRY THAT POSES THE GREATEST THREAT TO THE U.S.: THREAT_TYPE_SEC. To what extent does the country you listed in the previous question pose a threat to...? U.S. national security								
		TOTAL A great deal/A fair amount	TOTAL Not too much/Not at all	A great deal	A fair amount	Not too much	Not at all	DK/Refused	Total	N=
U.S.	Spring, 2025	94	6	61	32	5	1	0	100	1511

		ASK IF FORM 1: GROWINFLU1_CHINA. For each of the following countries, would you say its influence in the world in recent years has been...? China					
		Getting stronger	Getting weaker	Staying about the same	DK/Refused	Total	N=
U.S.	Spring, 2025	73	6	19	2	100	1804
	Spring, 2024	71	9	17	3	100	3600
	Spring, 2022	66	10	22	2	100	3581

		CHINA_TRADE. When it comes to trade between the U.S. and China, would you say ...?						
		China benefits more than the U.S.	The U.S. benefits more than China	Both countries benefit equally	Neither country benefits	Not sure	DK/Refused	Total
U.S.	Spring, 2025	46	10	25	2	16	1	100
	Spring, 2023	47	7	23	2	19	1	100

		ASK IF FORM 2: TARIFFS_COUNTRYNS. Overall, do you think these increased tariffs will be ...?						
		Good for the U. S.	Bad for the U. S.	No real effect either way	Not sure	DK/Refused	Total	N=
U.S.	Spring, 2025	24	52	6	19	0	100	1801

		ASK IF FORM 2: TARIFFS_INDIVNS. Overall, do you think these increased tariffs will be ...?						
		Good for you personally	Bad for you personally	No real effect either way	Not sure	DK/Refused	Total	N=
U.S.	Spring, 2025	10	53	17	20	0	100	1801

		CONFERS_C. How important would you say each of the following is to you personally? The tensions between China and Taiwan								
		TOTAL Important	TOTAL Not important	Very important	Somewhat important	Not too important	Not at all important	Not sure	DK/Refused	Total
U.S.	Spring, 2025	47	35	16	32	23	12	17	0	100
	January, 2024	57	29	23	34	19	9	14	0	100

		CONFGeo_C. Regardless of how important they are to you personally, how important is each of the following for the U.S.'s national interests? The tensions between China and Taiwan								
		TOTAL Important	TOTAL Not important	Very important	Somewhat important	Not too important	Not at all important	Not sure	DK/Refused	Total
U.S.	Spring, 2025	66	17	31	35	12	5	16	1	100
	January, 2024	75	12	45	30	8	4	12	0	100

		CHINA_US_ENEMY. On balance, do you think of China as a partner of the U.S., a competitor of the U.S. or an enemy of the U.S.?				
		Partner	Competitor	Enemy	DK/Refused	Total
U.S.	Spring, 2025	9	56	33	2	100
	Spring, 2024	6	50	42	3	100
	Spring, 2023	6	52	38	3	100
	Spring, 2022	10	62	25	2	100
	January, 2022	9	54	35	2	100
	Spring, 2021	9	55	34	2	100

## U.S. PHONE TRENDS FOR COMPARISON

		CHINA_US_ENEMY. On balance, do you think of China as a partner of the U.S., a competitor of the U.S. or an enemy of the U.S.?				
		Partner	Competitor	Enemy	DK/Refused	Total
U.S.	Summer, 2020	16	57	26	2	100
	May, 2012	16	66	15	3	100

		U.S. Party ID with Leaners			
		Reps and Rep Leaners	Dems and Dem Leaners	DK/Refused/N o lean	Total
U.S.	Spring, 2025	48	48	5	100