

MIB Monthly Newsletter | April 2025



## Inside the Pocket of a Giant Contrasting Responses Towards US Tariffs



### Inside the Issue

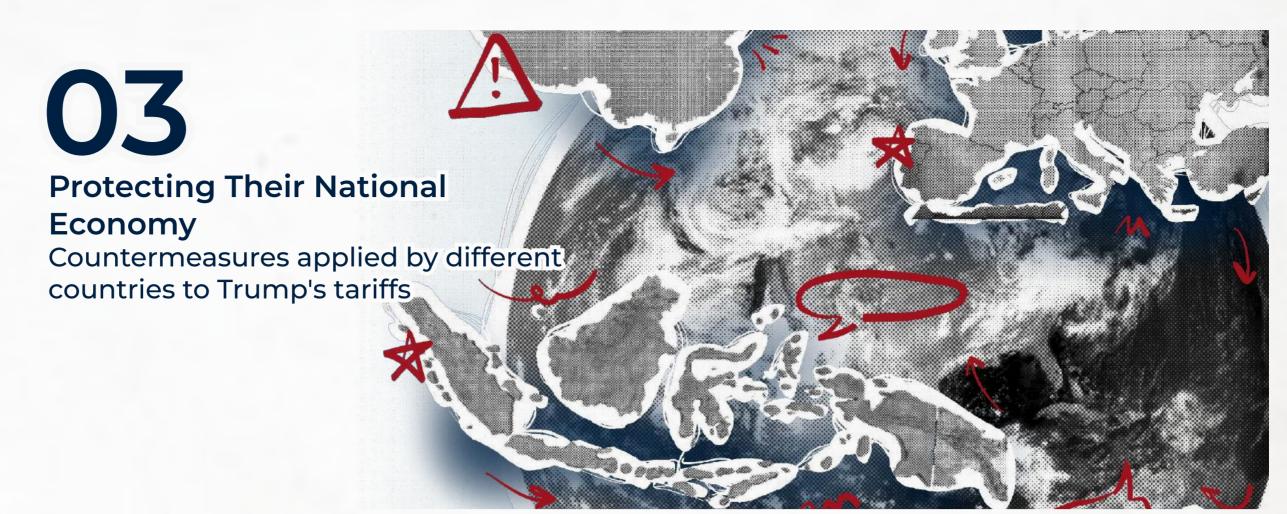
Protecting Their National Economy • Monthly National and International Tax Highlights • Monthly Tax Revenue















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## Protecting Their National Economy

Countermeasures applied by different countries to Trump's tariffs

This article discusses how each country responds to the imposed reciprocal tariffs on their imported goods as implemented by the current President of the United States of America, Donald Trump.

# Protecting Their National Economy

Countermeasures applied by different countries to

Trump's tariffs

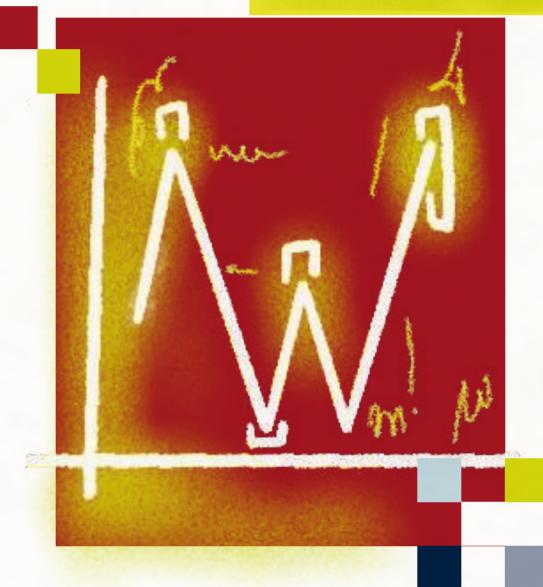
Onald Trump shook the global trading ecosystem when he announced that the United States would be imposing reciprocal tariffs on several countries, notably those imposing a 'considerably large' tariffs on American goods. The move that was pulled in early April 2025 managed to set off a series of events from countries looking to protect their own.

The tariff is imposed by Trump in order to "Make America Great Again" - his infamous tagline and his goal for America by ensuring that their national economy is protected. This plan, however, only the currently-strained escalates relationship of America with other countries.

Relevant countries respond with different tactics - Indonesia aims to negotiate the imposed tariff while China is standing strong, in fact, not opening any chances of negotiation for the United States. The European Union is already preparing regulations budgets and as countermeasure.

Initiatives and feats - will these be enough for each country to 'defend' against the economic powerhouse that is the United States of America?

With global trade facing imbalances, how are countries safeguarding their national economy?



### Behind the **Reciprocal Tariffs:** What, how, and why it was planned by **Donald Trump**

On his current presidential run, Donald Trump managed to assemble a series of tariffs known as Reciprocal Tariffs, imposed on various countries, with different rates according to how much each country imposes an import tariff on American import goods.

In general, a reciprocal tariff is a type of levy or tax that a country places on another country, usually resulting in a trade restriction, as a response to similar actions taken by said country. The imposition of a reciprocal tariff may lead to back-and-forth responses of tariff imposition, which could later become one of the reasons for a possible trade war.

Donald Trump, as the President of the United States, should better the lives of American citizens, which he believed could be achieved through imposing reciprocal tariffs on countries he claimed had imposed a high tariff on American goods first. His act of imposing tariffs is seen as a retaliatory action towards other countries in order to secure American interests.

This is in line with one of the goals behind imposing reciprocal tariffs in general - impacting domestic industries, protecting local businesses, and preserving jobs for their citizens.

Under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), Trump is able to impose these tariffs, receiving the green light to enforce it using the reasoning that it is a national emergency that there is a rising condition of a "large and persistent annual U.S. goods trade deficit," citing the lack of reciprocity as behind this main reason phenomenon.

Reciprocal tariff itself is imposed based on the country of origin instead of the country from where it is exported. For example, if an item is exported from the Philippines but is originating from China, then the item will be imposed with a 145% reciprocal tariff as regulated for China, instead of the 10% baseline tariff for the Philippines.

#### The current state of the tariffs from the United States

The reciprocal tariffs imposed by the United States are, as quoted from the United States Trade Representative website, "necessary to balance bilateral trade deficits between the U.S. and each of our trading partners."

The tariff is imposed by imposing a uniform tariff on all imported goods from various countries. For example, all imported goods coming from Japan will be imposed with a 24% tariff, and goods sourced from Taiwan will be imposed with a 32% tariff. This concept is slightly different in comparison to the general reciprocity principle, where tariffs are imposed on specific goods matching the rate of tariff of said goods from each country.

However, using the principle would impose a higher burden on the United States' tax administration.

The country owns tens of thousands of codes correlating with different products. This proves the reciprocity principle to be unusable since it is less efficient in getting the point across for each country, according to the United States' capacity.

The first set of tariffs is imposed in early April 2025, with the highest rate imposed on China, initially with a rate of 34% before being increased to 145%. China is also considered as one of the countries with the highest US imported goods shares, with shares amounting to 18.5%.

Alongside China, there are other countries with high US import shares as well as those imposed with a high reciprocal tariff, mirroring how high the import tariffs that the United States claim their imported goods are being imposed with.

#### **Countries imposed with reciprocal tariffs**

Country	Previous Rate	<b>Updated Rate</b>	Country Previous Rate		<b>Updated Rate</b>	
China	34%	145%	Malawi	17%	10%	
European Union	20%	10%	Mauritius	40%	10%	
Japan	24%	10%	Moldova	31%	10%	
Indonesia	32%	10%	Mozambique	16%	10%	
Vietnam	46%	10%	Myanmar	44%	10%	
South Korea	25%	10%	Namibia	21%	10%	
Taiwan	32%	10%	Nauru	30%	10%	
India	26%	10%	Nicaragua	18%	10%	
Switzerland	31%	10%	Nigeria	14%	10%	
Thailand	36%	10%	North Macedonia	33%	10%	
Malaysia	24%	10%	Norway	15%	10%	
Algeria	30%	10%	Pakistan	29%	10%	
Angola	32%	10%	Philippines	17%	10%	
Bangladesh	37%	10%	Serbia	37%	10%	
Bosnia & Herzegovina	35%	10%	South Africa	30%	10%	
Botswana	37%	10%	Sri Lanka	44%	10%	
Brunei	24%	10%	Tunisia	28%	10%	
Cambodia	49%	10%	Syria	41%	10%	
Chad	13%	10%	Vanuatu	22%	10%	
Côte d'Ivoire	21%	10%	Venezuela	15%	10%	
Equatorial Guinea	13%	10%	Zambia	17%	10%	
Falkland Islands	41%	10%	Zimbabwe	18%	10%	
Fiji	32%	10%	Democratic Republic of the	11%	10%	
Guyana	38%	10%	Congo			
Iraq	39%	10%				
Jordan	20%	10%				
Kazakhstan	27%	10%				
Laos	48%	10%				
Lesotho	50%	10%	*Countries unlisted in this			
Libya	31%	10%	table is imposed with			
Liechtenstein	37%	10%	an unchanging tariff rate of			
Madagascar	47%	10%	10%			

The 10% rate imposed across all countries on all their goods is the baseline reciprocal tariff rate, where it is applied in relation to the suspension of increased tariff rates following the executive order.

### What the United States aims to do with the announced tariffs

The United States aims to open negotiations with affected countries, using tariffs as a negotiation tool with other countries held at gunpoint. The United States has undeniable power over other countries, especially when it comes to their economic conditions.

Using their power and the reciprocal as a bargaining chip, the United States is opening channels for negotiations with each country, ensuring that they can reach an agreement before the final tariff rate is imposed once and for all.

Trump puts emphasis on the "reciprocal" part of the tariffs, confirming what tariffs the other countries are imposing on imported American goods, stating that "they do it to us, and we do it to them" at a news conference. The result that Trump anticipates is the leveling of the playing field between the United States and countries with higher U.S import tariffs compared to how high the U.S is charging the same goods.

The reciprocal tariffs are also imposed with the hopes of boosting domestic manufacturing.

Although Trump declares that the tariff is also imposed as a means to protect their national industries, one cannot overlook the fact that the United States does not seem too persistent or concerned with how the imposed reciprocal tariffs are affecting the global economic conditions.

### Global Countermeasures on the United States' Reciprocal Tariffs

Upon finding out that their country is imposed with reciprocal tariffs, every country has since planned to respond to the looming threat. Reasoning behind planning is apparent – each one looking out for their own. The reciprocal tariff sends each country scattering, looking for a way to ensure their country is safe from any trade issues while maintaining civil relations with one another.

No country is the same, with responses on the reciprocal tariff implementation varying from negotiation, bargaining, to even a mild acceptance. The differing responses also reflect each country's economic state and trade relations with the United States.

How different are the countermeasures taken in each country?

#### The European Union

Although the European Union or EU is considered a union of specifically European countries, the supranational organization is formed on the basis of an economic union between the countries to ensure a stronger alliance, benefiting each of the members.

This is reflected by the decision to impose a counter-tariff for American goods imported into the country, such as motorcycles and copper. The union arranged regulations, apparently being able to milk out almost EUR21 billion if the counter-tariff is imposed on American goods.

However, the EU is currently halting the imposition of said tariff, explaining that it will opt to make negotiations work before deciding to impose the counter-tariff. The tariff is postponed for 90 days, but the European Union will not hesitate to impose the counter-tariff if negotiations are deemed unsatisfactory.

In a topic related to tariff imposition, latest updates suggest that European countries are eyeing the Indonesian market and vice versa, with the latter aiming to add the European Union as another export destination.

Even if the reciprocal tariff is not the first "trade war" between the European Union and the United States, the possibility of the imposition further corrodes the relations between the two countries.

Reciprocal tariffs are also considered by the European Union as not credible or justified, emphasizing that imposing tariffs will only hurt businesses and consumers, taken from a statement made by the President of the European Union, Ursula von der Leyen. In addition, the imposition will only harm both countries.

#### China

China will be recalled as the country that stood their ground against the United States' reciprocal tariffs — effectively cutting off any possible communications and pushing the United States to yield on their own. This is based on the fact that China has been imposed the highest tariff, 145%, and to counter that, it has imposed a 125% tariff on American goods.

The decision to impose a 125% tariff has proven to crush any domestic demand, with Chinese media criticizing the tariff and some mentioning that the tariff is destabilizing the state of global trade.

Although reports differ, Chinese officials have stated that they have yet to reach out to the United States to talk deals on the tariff, let alone come to an agreement.

The statement contrasts to what Donald Trump shared to the media, saying that there are direct talks between China and the United States regarding trade without any specifics mentioned.

Despite the differing information, one thing is true — China is not accepting defeat on the reciprocal tariff. In addition to imposing similar tariffs, China also demanded the United States to remove all tariffs imposed on China and their goods. While this showcases their power and possibly upper-hand against the American economy, the unwillingness to open communication is escalating global trade imbalance, possibly resulting in a trade war.

Furthermore, China is "punishing" countries that reach any deal with the United States at the expense of China's interests. Although no specific action is mentioned yet, Chinese officials state that compromising China's affairs will only harm the countries and result in failure.

As a country with a huge economic influence, China also pressures other countries to enforce a restriction on exports containing materials that China is limiting, such as products containing Chinese critical minerals exported to the United States military from South Korea, further consolidating its power on global trade conditions.

#### Japan

The eastern country is also looking to negotiate with the United States regarding the imposed reciprocal tariff, initially set at 24%. This tariff is an additional tariff from the 25% tariff imposed on exports in the form of auto parts and vehicles to the United States.

In the middle of April 2025, Japan's representatives met with the United States', but the negotiation talks have yet to reap any desired results for both countries.

Japanese representatives stated during the first meeting that the United States should consider new tariff rates, as the current ones are highly affecting the Japanese national industries. While there are no agreements yet, both parties express goodwill and are open to discussing their needs, with Japan asking for the United States to remove additional tariffs.

#### India

India is headlined as one of the countries to be the first to strike a deal on the reciprocal tariff imposed by the United States. The deal ensures that India is exempted from Trump's reciprocal tariffs.

India is deemed open to trade practices, and progress regarding the negotiation talks is nearing completion, based on the information received from the United States officials.

Part of the reason for the fast deal is due to the few non-tariff trade barriers, a low amount of government subsidies, as well as the lack of currency manipulation.

India, making up nearly 3% of American imports by last February, will be exempted from a 27% reciprocal tariff if the deal is continued and agreed. In order to fulfill the deal, India is reportedly cutting off tariffs on several goods, but maintaining their stance on keeping the agricultural sector beneficial for its own country rather than appealing to the United States.

## Indonesia and Its Initiatives: How Indonesia negotiates the imposed tariffs

No different than other countries, Indonesia is also imposed with a reciprocal tariff, even with a higher rate in comparison to most countries. Initially set at 32%, the tariff is currently being set to 10% following the negotiation timeline.

In general, the Indonesian government is looking to negotiate a way out of the tariff, believing that creating a deal with the United States will be more beneficial to national economic conditions than yielding to the high tariff. However, negotiations show that a formal agreement has yet to be concluded between the Indonesian and the United States' representatives.

The delegation is predicted to run for the next two months, with the Indonesian government aiming to target several things to relieve the tension in Indonesian industries. Among other sectors, laborintensive sectors are predicted to have a higher loss, since the United States' tariff adds additional burden and increases prices, which could lead to a loss in terms of market competitiveness when compared to American goods.

Thus, the Indonesian government is offering several measures for the United States to reconsider their tariff imposition, as well as commencing moves to safeguard the national economic state.

Based on the statement from the Ministry of Finance, Sri Mulyani, Indonesia is applying several tactics, few mentioned are the implementation of the new administration system as well as the adjustment of the Import Income Tax.

### Indonesia's internal efforts to soften the tariff's blow

In terms of domestic efforts, the government is aiming to optimize internal management. The newly implemented tax administration system, known as the Core Tax Administration System or Coretax, is used to ensure optimal response.

This is especially when dealing with foreign organizations.

One of the highlights regarding the developments of Coretax is how the government will enhance the service time, predominantly in regard to the tax refund process. Validating documents as well as data from foreign and different institutions, for example, with the United States Trade Representative, will be faster.

Peculiarly, the taxation process is one of the main criticisms that the United States presents in a report regarding the Indonesian taxation process and due diligence process.

The United States believes that the current process of completing any taxation-related services or needs in Indonesia lacks transparency and a legal basis – American companies are forced to pay high administrative sanction fees – as well as going through a long process of obtaining their tax refund.

The Ministry of Finance, however, also adds that in relation to Coretax, there will be several changes made to effectively cater to taxation needs. For example, the tax audit process is now shortened, running for only a maximum of 6 months from the previous 12 months. In addition, individual taxpayers with a refund of less than IDR100 million will be given directly without any tax audit process.

All these changes are made alongside automated data from Coretax, ensuring that the trading industry is efficient and safe to interact with.

To accompany the changes, the Ministry of Finance also mentioned several steps to be taken, such as the streamlining of import procedures and licensing, and provision of the National Logistics Ecosystem, where logistical transactions can be done digitally across various ports and airports.

Lastly, Indonesia is also looking to alter the state of the import duty, where rate adjustments are to be made for specific items, including electronics, laptops, and other items coming from the United States and is categorized as part of the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) goods.

### Arranging and managing deals with the United States

As negotiation talks have ensued between the two countries, Indonesian representatives express several notions that could be beneficial for both countries, highlighting the importance of keeping a level playing field between countries and lowering the expected reciprocal tariff for Indonesia.

Labor-intensive sectors are one of the highlighted concerns if the United States decides to move forward with the current applied reciprocal tariff for Indonesia.

A high tariff means that goods coming from this sector – garments, textiles, footwear, and furniture – have the possibility to impose a higher price, which puts the goods as the "higher-end" part of the market and thus loses against the American goods.

To this, Indonesian representatives are asking the United States to provide a fairer treatment for this sector, ensuring that the tariff imposed on the goods are set at a tariff similar to those coming from other ASEAN countries.

In exchange for the tariff relief, the Indonesian representatives are also bringing trade pawns to the mix. For example, the increase in volume for petroleum gas, gasoline, soybeans, soybean meal, and capital goods that are imported from the United States.

### Latest Update on the Reciprocal Tariffs and Countries' Stances

The 90-day postponement established by Donald Trump serves as an open window for countries to react — will the reciprocal tariff be implemented as is to the country, or will there be any changes, affecting goods coming and going out from the country?

Indonesia conveyed that the government has yet to reach an agreement with the United States regarding the state of the reciprocal tariff. The United States has just released a report detailing critiques of the Indonesian taxation process, and a higher import tariff threat is still looming over Indonesian goods.

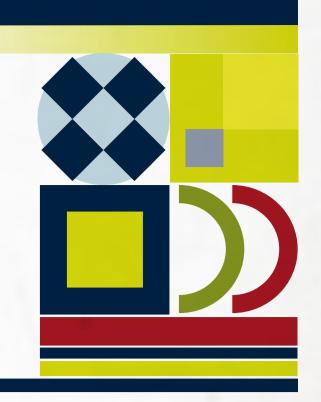
China is stronger than ever – declining any chance coming from the United States to reach out to them first – resulting in the highest reciprocal tariff rate to be imposed in comparison to other countries. However, Trump has been mentioning that the tariff imposed on China will substantially go lower, although not to 0%.

In more recent news, Japan, one of the United States' allies, apparently received a letter from China asking to form an alliance against the United States in order to secure the countries from the reciprocal tariffs. Analysts, however, shared that it is unlikely that Japan will be open to the idea of becoming an economic ally to China rather than having security backing from the United States.

India, being the country following the United States' "roadmap" on the reciprocal tariff negotiations, is marketing itself as the world's manufacturer in the midst of tension between the United States and China. This could also deepen the trade relations between India and the United States, which have been looking for ways to expand on their relations.

## Monthly Highlights

Starting the second quarter of 2025, the Indonesian government is hit with the sudden changes in global economic and trade conditions – a not-suprising result from the global economic imbalance and uncertainties that have been looming over the globe.





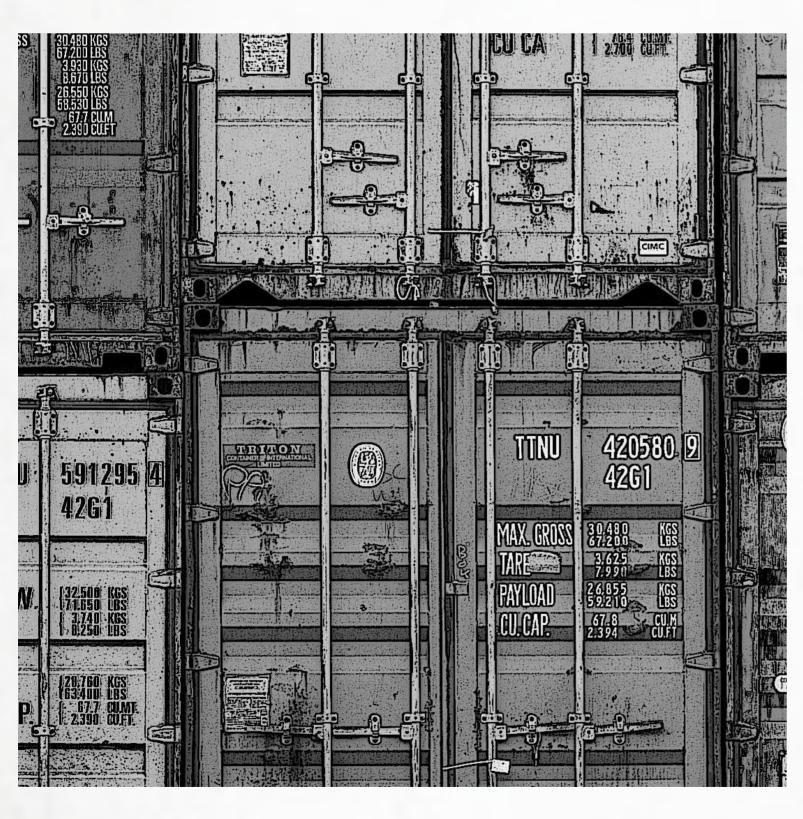
## Around 13 Million Taxpayers Filed Their Taxes Following the Deadline

Until the time of the deadline for Individual Taxpayer, the reported amount of Taxpayers that have reported their Annual Income Tax Returns reached a little more than 13 million Taxpayers.

This number is comprised of both Individual and Corporate Taxpayers, with the former having a much higher number of tax reporting, contributing around 12.64 million.

Most Taxpayers also used online filing platforms to file their taxes.

> Read more here & here



### Indonesia Charged with Reciprocal Tariffs from the **United States**

A unified imposition, the United States applied reciprocal tariffs to countries across the globe, doing it under the guise of "they did it first to us".

Indonesia is no exception, being imposed with a 32% tariff for their exported goods if sent to the United States. This rate is only half of what Indonesia had imposed for American goods, Trump claims.

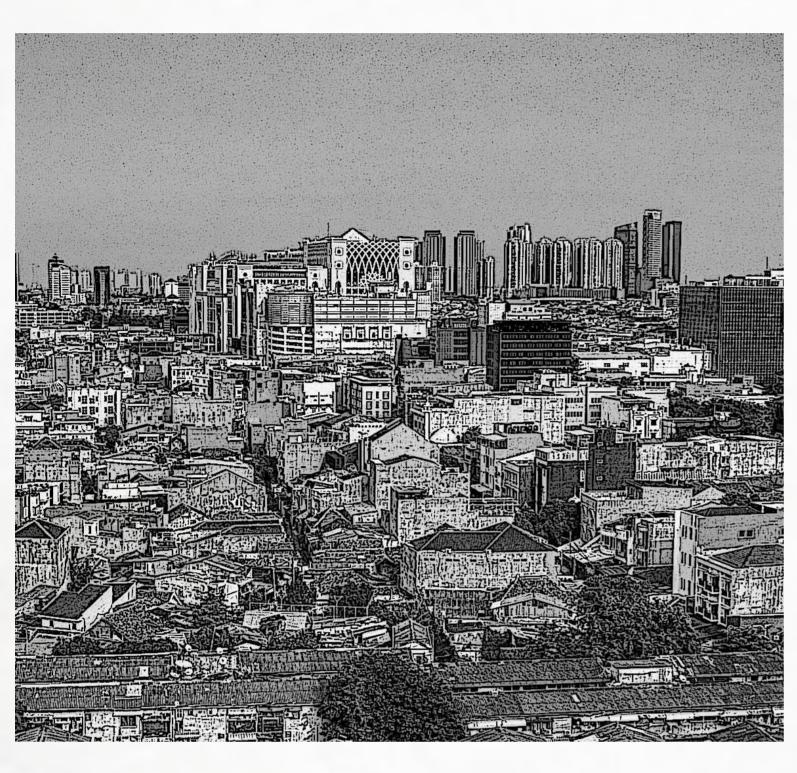
The rate is then lowered to 10% following a 90-day postponement as Trump "relieved" those not retaliating the tariffs.

> Read more here

## Monthly Highlights

Starting the second quarter of 2025, the Indonesian government is hit with the sudden changes in global economic and trade conditions — a not-suprising result from the global economic imbalance and uncertainties that have been looming over the globe.





### Jakarta Issues Regional Land and Building Tax Incentives Throughout 2025

The regional government of Jakarta prepares several tax incentives that their citizen can use for the 2025 Tax Year. These incentives are developed specifically for Regional or Urban and Rural Land and Building Tax.

The offered incentives ranges from exemption of payable Land and Building Tax to exemption of any tax sanctions. There are several requirements that must first be fulfilled by Jakarta citizens to use these incentives.

> Read more here



### Government Laid Out Strategies to Combat the United States' Reciprocal Tariffs

To combat the sudden reciprocal tariffs imposed by the United States to countries everywhere, Indonesia included, there are several strategies that the government plan to roll out. These strategies are mainly developed to ensure that national economy is safe from any external changes.

For example, the government plans to change up applicable rates for export duty, and is open regarding any changes that should be made regarding taxation on merger and acquisition regulation.

> Read more here, here & here

## Monthly Highlights

Starting the second quarter of 2025, the Indonesian government is hit with the sudden changes in global economic and trade conditions – a not-suprising result from the global economic imbalance and uncertainties that have been looming over the globe.





### Jakarta Imposes Vehicle Fuel Tax with a Rate of 5 Percent for **Private Vehicles**

After previous unconfirmed status, the Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax or also known as PBBKB is enacted in Jakarta. Previously, the rate for the tax is set at 10% for private vehicles, and public transportation are entitled to a 50% discount off the former tax rate.

Now, the tax will be applied with a 5% rate for private vehicles and 2% for public transportation.

> Read more here

### **International Tax Highlights**



### China and the US Go Back and Forth with Tariff **Imposition**

Both the United States and China responds with the reciprocal tariffs that was introduced, with both countries seemingly unrelenting to show their "weakness", thus continuing to impose higher tariffs for one another.



### Several Countries' Responses to Trump's **Reciprocal Tariffs**

The reciprocal tariffs imposed by Donald Trump starting off ripple effect countries affected by the tariffs are retaliating or negotiating. However, they are scrambling to protect their national economy.



### Venice Imposes **Tourist Tax for** Daytrippers until Summer

To maintain the environment, the Venice government reimposes tourist tax for daytime visitors, starting from the easter weekend until July 2025 when summer holidays start.

> Read more here

> Read more <u>here</u>, <u>here</u> & <u>here</u>

> Read more here

**April 2025** 

### Monthly Tax Revenue

Indonesia's monthly tax revenue is showing signs of recovery, with recent reports indicating a gradual increase in tax revenue. The Ministry of Finance attributes this increase to the tax reformation programs, including the implementation of an updated Core Tax Administration System.

## Indonesian Tax Revenue Bounced Back in March 2025

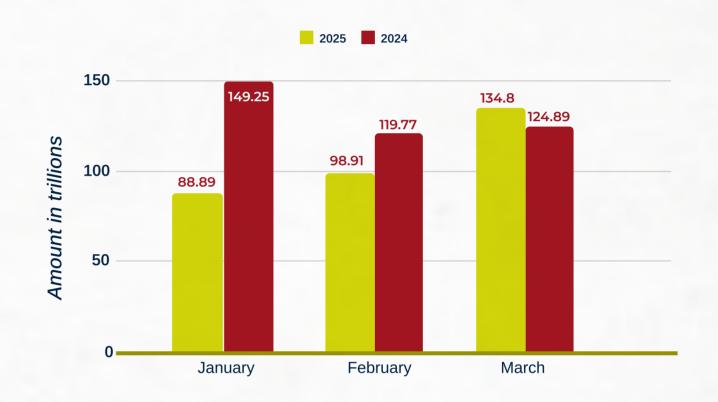


The collected tax revenue for March 2025 resulted in a better performance when compared to previous months. The collected amount of tax revenue reach IDR322.6 trillion throughout the first quarter of 2025.

In March alone, the number reached IDR134.8 trillion, exceeding each collected amount on January and February 2025. Compared to 2024, it also faces yearly revenue growth.

The collected amount of tax revenue in March 2025 is able to reach said amount, according to the Minister of Finance, due to the implementation of the new administrative tax system, the Core Tax Administration System or the Coretax.

### Collected Amount of Tax Revenue Until March 2025



### **The Core Tax Administration System & Revenue**

The Coretax is a system developed by the Directorate General of Taxes since 2019, which development is divided into 5 (five) parts, emphasizing on the intricacies of the system. Valued at IDR1.3 trillion, the system is part of the tax reformation program commenced by the government.

The collection of tax revenue, however, did not prosper during its first months of implementation. Various reports were made regarding how the system's inability to hold up tens of thousands of tax invoices and resulted in servers crashing every time any taxpayer intends on creating and uploading tax invoices, or reporting their taxes.

In addition, the resolve time of the new system is deemed unacceptable for a system that took years and trillions of the state's budget to develop, furthering taxpayers' anger and disappointment. The government then promised a quick fix and maintenance for the system, along other tax obligation reliefs.

This issue resulted in a low amount of collected tax revenue during the first two months of 2025, noting that it was far lower when compared to the collected tax revenue in 2024 during the same time period. The government then reported that the collected amount of tax revenue in March 2025 managed to surpass both individual collected revenue in January and February 2025. In addition, the collected tax revenue in March 2025 is considerably higher than the collected amount in March 2025, managing a yearly growth.

#### Details of the Collected Tax Revenue Amount Until March 2025

Revenue Type	Amount		
Taxation Revenue	IDR400.1 T		
Tax Revenue	IDR322.6 T		
Customs and Excise Revenue	IDR <b>77.</b> 5 T		
Non-Tax State Revenue	IDR115.9 T		

> Read more here

### Tax Calendar

### May 2025



**Tax Calendar** 

### **May 2025**

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
29	30	31	May Day	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10*	11
<b>12</b> Vesak 2569 BE	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 Ascension Day	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8

#### Reminders

1 May 2025 May Day

10 May 2025 Extended Deadline – Payment and Filing for March 2025 Value Added Tax

12 May 2025 Vesak 2569 BE

15 May 2025 Submission Deadline – Value Added Tax Invoices Payment Deadline – April 2025 Art. 4(2), 15, 21/26, 22, 23/26 Income Tax, and 25 Income Tax, SME Final Income Tax, and Self-Assessed VAT

20 May 2025 Filing Deadline – April 2025 Art. 4(2), 15, 21/26, 22, 23/26, and 25 Income Tax

29 May 2025 Ascension Day

2 June 2025 Payment and Filing Deadline - April 2025 Value Added Tax

### Contact Us

### **PT MIB Global Grup**

Treasury Tower, 31st Floor, Jl. Jend. Sudirman Kav. 52-53 DKI Jakarta, Indonesia - 12190

www.mib.group

