

Trans-Pacific Partnership Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Trans-Pacific Partnership?

The Trans-Pacific Partnership is a vehicle for Asia-Pacific-wide economic integration, which will strengthen U.S. ties to the robust economies of this region. The initiative starts with an economically-significant group of countries that share our vision of negotiating a high-standard, 21st century regional agreement. The goal is to include additional Asia-Pacific countries in successive clusters to eventually cover a region that represents more than half of global output and over 40 percent of world trade.

Why is the United States participating in the TPP?

The United States has decided to participate in the TPP because it is the best vehicle for the United States to advance our economic interests in the critical Asia-Pacific region. Expanding U.S. exports is critical to our economic recovery and to the creation and retention of high-quality jobs in the United States. With its rapid growth and large markets, there is no region with which expanding our trade is more vital than the Asia-Pacific.

What does the Administration mean when it says it wants to negotiate a “21st century” trade agreement?

The Administration recognizes that the concerns that workers, businesses, farmers, and ranchers have today are different than those they had a generation ago. We intend to negotiate a high-standard, regional agreement that addresses new and emerging issues, incorporates new elements reflecting our values and priorities, and responds to the 21st century challenges our citizens face.

Our goal is to develop an agreement that creates and retains U.S. jobs, including by promoting innovation and competitiveness, encouraging new technologies and emerging economic sectors, increasing the participation of small- and medium-sized businesses in trade, supporting the development of efficient production and supply chains that include U.S. firms in order to encourage firms to invest and produce in the United States, and promoting regulatory coherence and cooperation among the TPP members. We also are seeking to work with our TPP partners on other trade-related priorities, such as development, transparency, workers rights and protections, environmental protection and conservation and other issues.

How are you reaching out to the public to ensure you receive the input you need?

The Administration is committed to working in close partnership with Congress and stakeholders as it develops negotiating objectives for the TPP. We published a Federal Register Notice on December 16 seeking comments by January 25 to help the U.S. Government develop its negotiating objectives for the TPP. The U.S. Government received 129 detailed comments from business associations, NGOs, individual companies, and other groups, which we are reviewing carefully. We also are studying comments we received from Members of Congress. In addition,

we have launched a 50-state outreach plan seeking comments from stakeholders around the country on issues of concern to them.

We would welcome any additional questions or comments at <http://www.ustr.gov/about-us/contact-us/your-comment>.

What other countries are involved in the TPP?

The current members are Singapore, Chile, New Zealand, Brunei, Australia, Peru and Vietnam.

Are other Asia-Pacific countries also considering participation in the TPP?

Several other countries are actively considering joining. The TPP members welcome that interest and have established a process to facilitate the addition of new members going forward.

What is the expected timeline for negotiations/completion?

The TPP members seek to complete negotiations as expeditiously as possible, recognizing that all members share a high level of ambition for this agreement.