# Small US manufacturers divided over impact of Trump’s tariff policies



Small manufacturers across the United States are experiencing a range of effects following the Trump administration’s increased tariff measures aimed at rebalancing global trade. Introduced with the intention of revitalising domestic manufacturing jobs and reducing reliance on foreign imports, the tariffs have generated both support and concern among business owners.

Drew Greenblatt, proprietor of Marlin Steel Wire Products based in Baltimore, expressed his approval of the tariff policy. His company utilises American steel and provides components to sectors such as aerospace and food processing. Speaking to the Times of India, Greenblatt remarked that foreign trade policies have historically disadvantaged US competitors, citing European tariffs as an example that renders American products less competitive overseas. He believes that achieving fairer trade agreements could stimulate growth and employment within the United States.

Conversely, some small business owners are wary of the policy’s unpredictable effects. Corry Blanc, owner of a cookware company in Virginia, highlighted the uncertainty engendered by the tariffs. Although Blanc relies on domestic materials, he acknowledged his limited production capacity, leaving him unable to meet sudden increases in demand. Additionally, he expressed concern over potentially losing international customers amid shifting trade relations.

The impact has already been felt by manufacturers such as Michael Lyons in Maine. Lyons, whose company produces US-made leather goods, lost a longstanding Canadian buyer in the wake of escalating cross-border trade tensions. As a result, he has postponed plans for business expansion due to the growing uncertainties.

On a more optimistic note, Bayard Winthrop, CEO of the clothing brand American Giant, sees the tariffs as a potential avenue to revitalise the American textile industry. Winthrop attributes the decline of domestic textile manufacturing over the past thirty years largely to the effects of globalisation. He suggested that the new trade measures could help rebuild industrial capacity that has been lost.

Meanwhile, on the international stage, trade tensions continue to intensify. China has issued warnings against other countries engaging in trade agreements that could disadvantage Beijing, promising “reciprocal countermeasures” in response to US actions. The Chinese government has criticised the United States for “unilateralism and protectionism,” stating, “Appeasement will not bring peace.”

These developments illustrate the varied experiences and outlooks of small manufacturers navigating the complex landscape of US trade policy under the Trump administration.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

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