United States Trade Representative

CONTACT INFORMATION

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ABOUT USTR

USTR is housed within the Executive Office of the President and reports directly to the U.S. President. Under the Obama Administration, the USTR is a cabinet level agency.

USTR officials play the lead role in trade negotiations between the U.S. and other governments. While USTR is the front-line negotiator, general trade policy positions and priorities are determined by congressional priorities and discussions within the Executive Branch.

The USTR helps develop trade policy positions of the U.S. government through the “interagency process.” This process involves finding common ground among U.S. Executive Branch agencies. USTR also has primary responsibility for consulting with members of Congress about the status of trade policy actions by the Executive Branch.

The USTR coordinates the work of the interagency trade process through two committees that have been established by Congress: the Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC), and the Trade Policy Review Group (TPRG). The TPSC is made up of over 90 specialized subcommittees whose membership are relevant civil service experts from relevant Executive Branch agencies. TPRG is convened by the Deputy U.S. Trade Representative and other Under Secretary-level officials and focuses on more fundamental and politically sensitive trade issues. If consensus on these issues cannot be reached, the matter is referred to the National Security Council for further interagency review at even higher levels, including Cabinet Secretaries. Only the most sensitive of issues are referred to the President for final decisions.

The agency consults with approximately 700 different advisors from specialized industries in USTR’s private sector advisory committee system to help develop trade policy. Every advisory committee is required to draft a report on pending trade agreements and present their opinions to the Legislative and Executive Branches. The committees are organized by industry and also include Executive and Legislative Branch representatives.
USTR also has prime responsibility for representing the U.S. in formal trade policy dispute litigation at the WTO within bilateral and regional agreements.

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

*Trade Toolbox*  [http://www.ustr.gov/trade-topics/trade-toolbox](http://www.ustr.gov/trade-topics/trade-toolbox)

The USTR Trade Toolbox contains useful material from country profiles, to trade acronyms and links to trade data.

*Trade Data References Site*  [http://www.ustr.gov/trade-topics/trade-toolbox/trade-data](http://www.ustr.gov/trade-topics/trade-toolbox/trade-data)

Great reference site for all kinds of trade data from different agencies.

**For Foreign Governments**


Gives full information on current trade laws of the United States


The USTR collects and distributes data for the U.S. tariff schedules and information available through Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests.


The USTR produces annual reports including the FOIA report, the National Trade Estimate report, the Special 301 report, the Trade Policy Agenda and Annual Report, and the Section 1377 Review of Telecommunications Trade Agreements.

Among the most important:

- The annual *National Trade Estimate* report provides information on barriers to U.S. exports as well as suggestions about policy measures to eliminate barriers.
- The annual *Special 301 Report* highlights a review of foreign government protection of international property rights (IPR).