

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 29, 2025

Susan M. Collins
President & Chief Executive Officer
Federal Reserve Bank of Boston
600 Atlantic Ave
Boston, MA 02210

Dear President Collins:

Thank you for the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston's (the Boston Fed) April 10 report, *Small and Medium-sized Businesses' Expectations Concerning Tariffs, Costs, and Prices* (Current Policy Perspectives No. 25-7).¹ This type of analysis helps us make better policy for Main Street, especially on quickly evolving issues like our current tariff policies. Much of the existing data available on the impact of tariffs on small businesses is anecdotal. As such, the Massachusetts delegation would be grateful if the Boston Fed could conduct follow-up surveys on the impact of tariffs on small businesses, including crosstabulations showing the expected and realized impacts of tariffs on small businesses broken down by industry, importer status, and firm size.²

Recent tariff actions announced by President Trump, including a proposed 10 percent across-the-board tariff and higher, targeted rates on certain trading partners, are already causing hardship in our communities. Small firms across Massachusetts tell us they face rising input costs and price uncertainty, and they question how much of those costs they can pass on to customers without losing sales.³ National reporting indicates that U.S. businesses are bracing for broader supply chain disruption as these measures roll out.⁴ Federal Reserve Beige Book reporting similarly points to tariff-related price pressures emerging in several regions, including the Boston District.⁵

To help us support small businesses navigating the evolving tariff environment, we would welcome any data and collaboration you can provide. Specifically, we would be grateful if you are able to provide:

1. Follow-up surveys on the impacts of tariffs on small businesses;

¹ Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, *Small and Medium-sized Businesses' Expectations Concerning Tariffs, Costs, and Prices* (CPP 25-7; Apr. 10, 2025), <https://www.bostonfed.org/publications/current-policy-perspectives/2025/smb-expectations-concerning-tariffs-costs-prices.aspx>

² *Id.*, Technical Appendix, <https://www.bostonfed.org/-/media/Documents/Workingpapers/PDF/2025/cpp20250410appendix.pdf>

³ U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, "Ranking Member Markey Hosts Virtual Discussion with Small Business Owners on the Impacts of Trump's Tariffs," May 9, 2025, <https://www.sbc.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2025/5/ranking-member-markey-hosts-virtual-discussion-with-small-business-owners-on-the-impacts-of-trump-s-tariffs>

⁴ Politico, "U.S. Businesses Brace for Impact of All-Out Trade War," July 16, 2025, <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/07/16/us-businesses-brace-for-impact-of-all-out-trade-war-00455478>

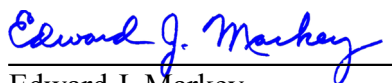
⁵ Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, *Summary of Commentary on Current Economic Conditions by Federal Reserve District* (Beige Book), July 2025 edition, <https://www.federalreserve.gov/monetarypolicy/beigebook202507-summary.htm>

2. Crosstabulations of the data by industry, importer status, and firm size;
3. A breakdown of New England and, if the sample allows, Massachusetts-specific data;
4. Data around whether tariff-related cost pressure has impacted hiring plans, hours, or wages;
5. Data around whether tariff-related cost pressure has impacted growth and investment plans for small businesses, including consideration or actions towards closure; and
6. Data around whether tariff-related cost pressure has increased costs for consumers.

We look forward to working with you to ensure that evidence from New England's small businesses informs federal policymaking in ways that support sustainable, broad-based growth.

Thank you again for your leadership and for the Boston Fed's continued service to our region and the nation.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey
Ranking Member, Committee
on Small Business and
Entrepreneurship



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



Jake Auchincloss
Member of Congress



Katherine M. Clark
Member of Congress



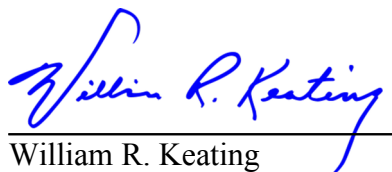
Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
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