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AAPI Adults Are Skeptical of Tariffs and Have More Unfavorable Views of Trump Than Before He Took Office

Most AAPI adults say racism is a serious problem in this country, but few have confidence in the government to handle it.

More AAPI adults have unfavorable views of Trump compared to before he took office in [December 2024](#) (71% v. 60%) according to a new AAPI Data/AP-NORC poll. A majority also view JD Vance (61%), Elon Musk (64%), and Robert F. Kennedy Jr (57%) unfavorably. Dislike for [Trump](#) and [Vance](#) is higher among AAPI adults than in the general population.

Amid [ongoing changes](#) to U.S. tariff policy under the Trump administration, most AAPI adults expect the price of goods to increase and their availability to decrease. A majority express deep concern about the cost of goods and the possibility of a recession.

About half of AAPI communities say that Trump's tariffs will lead to a decrease in the number of jobs in the U.S., while only a quarter think they will result in job growth—a lower share than the [general public](#) (24% vs 40%). AAPI adults are split on how the tariffs will impact U.S. manufacturing.

Like the [general public](#), most AAPI adults are very concerned about the cost of groceries and the possibility of a recession. About half also express concern about the affordability of large consumer purchases, the cost of products at minority-owned small businesses and ethnic grocery stores, the availability of consumer goods, and the cost of eating out at ethnic restaurants. Fewer are concerned about the costs of shopping on direct shipping e-commerce sites.

“These results are in line with our previous polling on the cost of living. It's clear that many AAPI adults are feeling increasingly pessimistic about their economic future,” says Karthick Ramakrishnan, executive director of AAPI Data and a researcher at UC Berkeley. “The survey findings also suggest that the current administration's economic policies are exacerbating these financial anxieties.”

Many AAPI adults describe key U.S. trading partners as not friendly or enemies of the U.S., including China (87%), Mexico (44%), and India (40%). AAPI adults are more optimistic about the U.S. relationship with Canada, with 70% describing Canada as a close ally or a friendly nation.

AAPI adults are unsure what the U.S.'s role should be on the world stage: 38% believe the country should be less active, 37% think it should be more active, and 25% say its current level of involvement is about right. Still, compared to the [general public](#), more want the U.S. to take on a larger role in world affairs (37% v. 23%).

AAPI adults are more optimistic than the [general population](#) that diversity makes the U.S. stronger (73% v. 60%). At colleges and universities, a majority also favor support services (66%) and scholarships (63%) for students from underrepresented groups, courses that teach about racism (62%), and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs (58%). Fewer in the [general public](#) agree with such measures.

AAPI communities are more divided about whether DEI programs have gone too far, not far enough, or been about right in colleges and universities, the federal government, corporations, and nonprofits.

When it comes to race and diversity issues in the U.S., about half of those in AAPI communities say racism is a very serious issue (53%), while another third say it is moderately serious. Seven in ten report experiencing discrimination when applying for jobs and shopping in stores. Just over half say the same when interacting with the police and doctors. These findings are consistent with the inaugural [AAPI Data/AP-NORC Poll from October 2023](#).

Few are very confident in the government's ability to adequately deal with discrimination in healthcare (15%), employment (12%), housing (12%), and law enforcement (11%).

"Members of the AAPI community continue to face acts of discrimination and hate crimes or incidents at alarming rates," says Jennifer Benz, deputy director of The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. "Many don't trust the government to protect racial and ethnic minority groups from discrimination in the economic, housing, health care, or legal sectors."

Although reports of hate crimes or incidents among AAPI adults have declined since [October 2023](#), one in four still report they experienced such issues in the past year. This includes 13% who faced racial slurs or verbal harassment and 7% who were threatened with violence.

About the Study

The nationwide study was conducted by The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and AAPI Data from June 3-11, 2025, using the Amplify AAPI Monthly survey drawing from NORC's Amplify AAPI® Panel designed to be representative of the U.S. Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander household population. Online and telephone interviews were offered in English, the Chinese dialects of Mandarin and Cantonese, Vietnamese, and Korean with 1,130 Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders aged 18 and older living in the United States. The margin of sampling error is +/- 4.7 percentage points.

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The two organizations have established The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research to conduct, analyze, and distribute social science research in the public interest on newsworthy topics, and to use the power of journalism to tell the stories that research reveals. Learn more at www.apnorc.org.

About AAPI Data

AAPI Data is a leading research and policy organization producing accurate data to shift narratives and drive action toward enduring solutions for Asian American (AA) and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (NHPI) communities across the nation. AAPI Data aspires to transform public and private systems to ensure that all AA and NHPI communities are recognized, valued, and prioritized. Learn more at aapidata.com. Email press@aapidata.com for more questions.

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