

UNITED STATES

A surprise announcement by the US Administration called for a 90-day pause on most tariffs above, a move that was met with relief across global markets. The European Union announced a 90-day pause on countermeasures against the United States, the day after President Donald Trump unveiled a similar pause on “reciprocal” tariffs. China however unveiled retaliatory tariffs on imports of US goods, matching additional tariffs imposed by US President Donald Trump and further inflaming a trade war between the world’s two biggest economies. The National Coffee Association of the US (NCA) has acknowledged the rapid developments concerning U.S. tariffs and impacts on coffee imports, as well as ongoing confusion regarding how to apply a new, complex and ambiguous tariff regime. The NCA cites that most critically, an ongoing flurry of documents issued by the U.S. Government — some incomplete or needing correction — with increasingly unclear interrelationships between provisions, has resulted in ongoing uncertainty regarding how exactly to apply the new regulations. Furthermore, the somewhat unique aspect of coffee that relates to the “substantial transformation” question, further complicates the landscape as it pertains to roasting and decaffeination.

COLOMBIA

The local coffee market remains tight due to limited coffee flow as the 2024/25 Mitaca harvest is further delayed. Harvesting is expected to begin by late April in southern Tolima up to central Caldas, with the peak anticipated between May and July. Rainfall in March and April has vastly exceeded historical averages, potentially increasing the risk of fungal diseases such as Roya (coffee leaf rust). These wetter conditions have also limited the occurrence of strong flowering events which may affect future production cycles.

CENTRAL AMERICA

Rains have begun in the region, triggering early flowering events. This is a welcome development after a very short and challenging 2024/25 season. Extreme price volatility is resulting in a higher risk of defaults, especially in Honduras and to a lesser extent in Nicaragua.

INDONESIA

Farmers, traders and exporters are all on Eid holiday, resulting in minimal trading activity. As local business resumes, hesitancy and uncertainty prevail due to market volatility and US tariffs. Harvesting activities are expected to increase in Sumatra and Java in the coming weeks, followed by Sulawesi and Flores.

VIETNAM

Robusta flowering is nearly complete, with mostly good fixation. Farmers have completed the third round of irrigation and it is estimated they have sold up to 75% of their crop already. After local traders released their stocks this past week, farmers are expected to be disciplined when offering their remaining availability.