

Trump signs sweeping reciprocal tariff plan, says more coming

PUBLISHED THU, FEB 13 2025 9:15 AM EST UPDATED THU, FEB 13 2025 3:03 PM EST

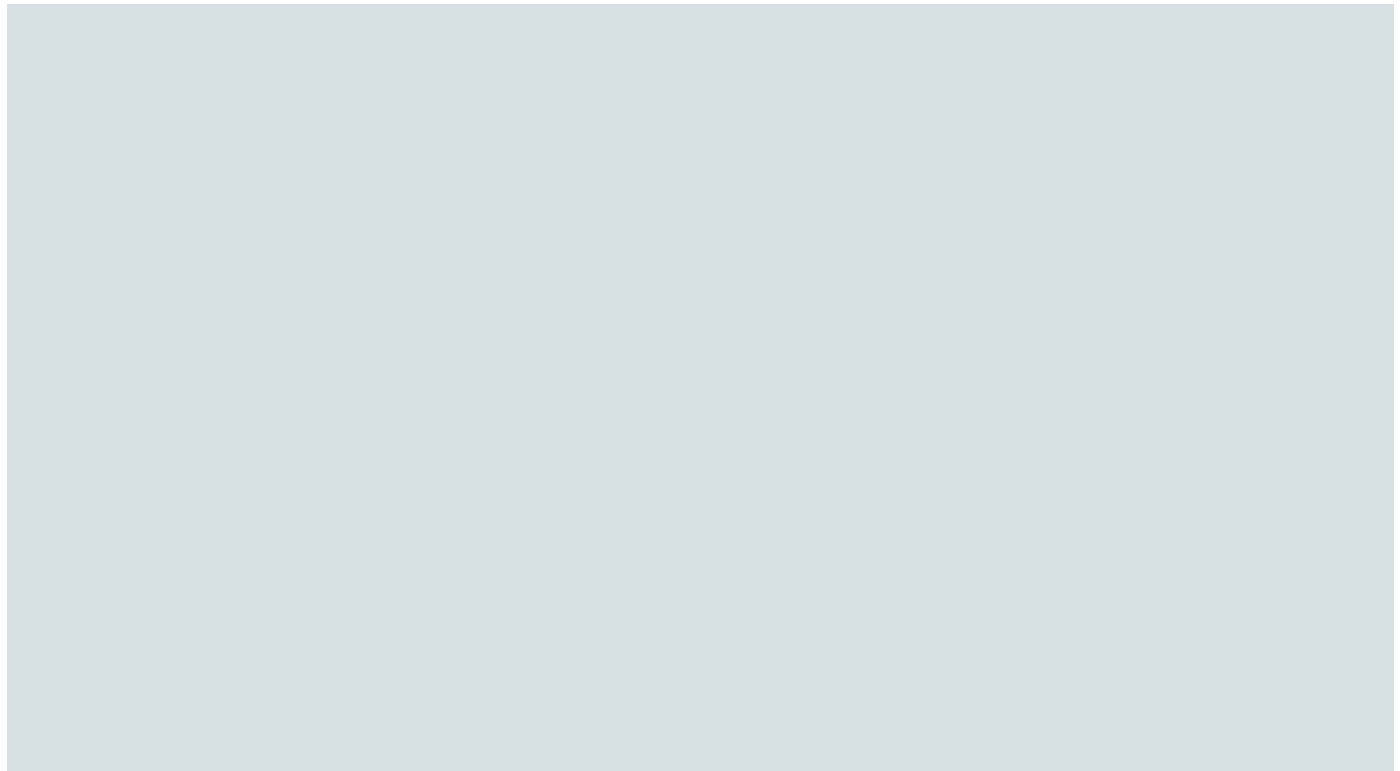


WATCH LIVE

Kevin Breuninger@KEVINWILLIAMB

KEY POINTS

- President Donald Trump held an Oval Office news conference on his plan to impose reciprocal tariffs.
- Trump said that the U.S. will treat other countries' non-tariff policies as unfair trade practices that warrant tariffs in response.
- The fresh tariffs do not go into effect until some months later, White House officials told CNBC.



U.S. President Donald Trump, joined by Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick, delivers remarks after signing an executive order on reciprocal tariffs in the Oval Office at the White House on February 13, 2025 in Washington, DC.

Andrew Hamik | Getty Images

President [Donald Trump](#) on Thursday signed a presidential memorandum laying out his plan to impose "reciprocal tariffs" on foreign nations.

"They charge us a tax or tariff and we charge them," Trump said during a press event in Oval Office.

The president said that under the plan, the U.S. will treat other countries' non-tariff policies as unfair trade practices that warrant tariffs in response.

Those include value-added taxes, or VATs, and other practices that the office of the U.S. trade representative deems to be unfair trade limitations.

Trump said that foreign countries will not be allowed to send merchandise or other items to the U.S. through another country.

He also suggested that additional tariffs, including on auto imports, are on the way, Reuters reported.

"We want a level playing field," Trump said.

VATs are consumption taxes levied at different stages of a supply chain. They are "trade neutral," the nonpartisan Tax Foundation noted Wednesday in a report accusing the Trump administration of [mistakenly blaming VATs](#) for a lack of U.S. competitiveness in Europe.

The reciprocal tariffs will not go into effect immediately. Trump said that Howard Lutnick, his nominee for Commerce secretary, will lead the studies to determine the appropriate tariff levels for each affected country.

Lutnick said in the Oval Office that he expects those studies will be complete by April 1.

In a [Truth Social post](#) sent after the event, Trump said his plan will include provisions for "subsidies" and "Nonmonetary Tariffs and Trade Barriers" that other countries employ.

"America has helped many Countries throughout the years, at great financial cost. It is now time that these Countries remember this, and treat us fairly," Trump wrote.

The new tariffs will follow duties Trump has already slapped on [China, Canada and Mexico](#), as well as on imports of [steel and aluminum](#). Trump's tariffs on Canada and Mexico are [currently on pause](#) after both countries pledged to crack down on illegal crossings and drug trafficking at their respective borders with the U.S.

Read more CNBC politics coverage

â€¢ [Trump signs sweeping reciprocal tariff plan, says more coming](#)

â€¢ [Top federal prosecutor, DOJ official quit after refusing order to toss Eric Adams case](#)

â€¢ [Bribery law targeted by Trump previously hit suppliers for Elon Musk's Tesla](#)

â€¢ [Trump gets high approval ratings for his first weeks, new CBS poll finds](#)

â€¢ [Tariffs: How they work, who pays for them and why Trump loves them](#)

As a presidential candidate, Trump floated the possibility of imposing across-the-board tariffs on all U.S. imports. But he also advocated for Congress to pass what he called the "[Trump Reciprocal Trade Act](#)," which would empower him to slap tariffs on the goods of any country that has higher tariffs on U.S.-made goods.

Since taking office, Trump has [signaled his plans](#) to impose [tariffs on the European Union](#). He has highlighted U.S. trade deficits with European partners and complained that EU nations do not purchase

enough American cars or farm equipment.

[EU leaders](#) have vowed to retaliate against new U.S. tariffs, while warning that Trump's actions risk sparking a widespread trade war that ultimately hurts everyone.

The new reciprocal tariffs were expected to come before Indian Prime Minister [Narendra Modi's visit](#) with Trump at the [White House](#) on Thursday afternoon.

â€” *CNBC's Eamon Javers contributed to this report.*

Donâ€™t miss these insights from CNBC PRO

â€¢ Don't expect a 20% S&P 500 three-peat this year, Wells Fargo says

â€¢ BlackRockâ€™s Rick Rieder thinks this corner of the bond market is too cheap to ignore

â€¢ The 'clock is ticking' on stalled stock market to make a move or break down, says chart analyst

â€¢ Analysts speculate selling by Buffett could be behind recent Bank of America weakness

â€¢ JPMorgan manager says his \$39 billion ETF can profit from volatility in 2025 â€” and it yields 7%



Subscribe to CNBC PRO
Subscribe to Investing Club
Licensing & Reprints
CNBC Councils
Select Personal Finance
CNBC on Peacock
Join the CNBC Panel
Supply Chain Values
Select Shopping
Closed Captioning
Digital Products
News Releases
Internships
Corrections
About CNBC
Ad Choices
Site Map
Podcasts

Careers
Help
Contact

News Tips

Got a confidential news tip? We want to hear from you.

GET IN TOUCH



CNBC Newsletters

Sign up for free newsletters and get more CNBC delivered to your inbox

SIGN UP NOW

Get this delivered to your inbox, and more info about our products and services.

Advertise With Us

PLEASE CONTACT US

Privacy Policy
CA Notice
Terms of Service

Â© 2025 CNBC LLC. All Rights Reserved.Â A Division of NBCUniversal
Data is a real-time snapshot *Data is delayed at least 15 minutes. Global Business and Financial News, Stock Quotes, and Market Data and Analysis.
Market Data Terms of Use and Disclaimers
Data also provided by