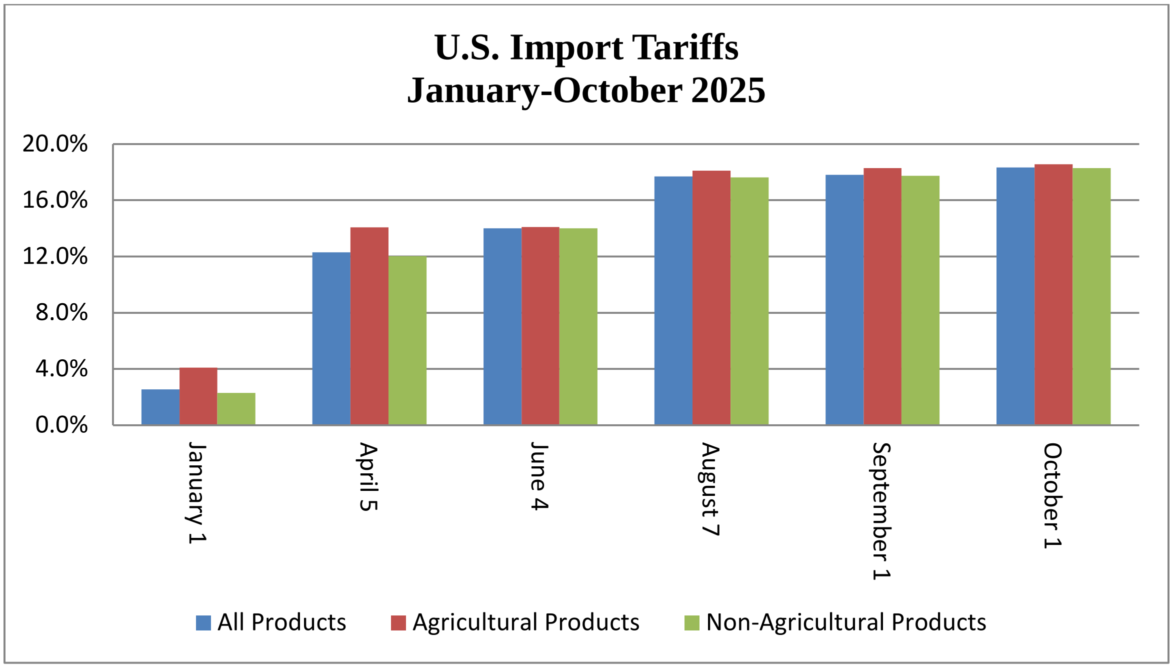
President Trump Raises Tariffs on U.S. Imports to Their Highest Rates in Decades, Soaring Over 600% From January 2025

President Trump has ratcheted up U.S. tariffs since the start of his second term on January 20, 2025, to their highest rates in decades, although some have been lowered or paused. The Trump Administration's evolving tariff regime affects the business community, creating uncertainty for them and increasing prices for American retailers and consumers.

[The World Trade Organization (WTO) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Tariff Tracker] shows the simple average tariff rate on all U.S. imports from the world rose to more than 18% on **all** imports on October 1, 2025, from 2.6% at the beginning of the year, up more than a staggering 600%. For **agricultural products**, the average tariff rate has jumped from about 4% to over 18% from January to October 2025.



The simple average tariff on **non-agricultural products** on October 1 exceeded 18%, affecting important sectors of the U.S. economy. For example, tariffs on chemicals, transportation equipment, and clothes rose to record highs of 13.2%, 19.3%, and 24.7%, respectively, as shown in the table below.

Tariffs on U.S. Imports from the World Simple Average Tariff Rate			
	January 1, 2025	**October 1, 2025**	**% Change**
All U.S. Imports	2.6%	18.3%	+604%
U.S. Imports of Agricultural Products	4.1%	18.6%	+354%
U.S. Imports of Non-Agricultural Products	2.3%	18.3%	+696%
Chemicals	1.9%	13.3%	+600%
Transportation Equipment	2.3%	19.4%	+743%
Clothes	8.3%	24.7%	+198%

U.S. importers may absorb some of the extra costs associated with higher tariffs, at least for a time, but ultimately wholesalers and retailers will pass the added costs to consumers, especially if they remain in place over an extended period. Further, the Trump tariffs are added to all existing tariffs.

The Trump Administration's tariff regime, which affects countries worldwide, has yet to be fully felt, but it has already shaken many U.S. businesses and disrupted established supply chains. The legality of Mr. Trump's unilateral tariff regime is being challenged in U.S. courts. In addition, some countries have implemented and/or announced tit-for-tat retaliatory measures on U.S. exports or U.S. companies (e.g., China, Canada, and the European Union).

Sources: World Trade Organization and International Monetary Fund

Note: Content First will focus on data from international reporting agencies during the current extended U.S. government shutdown because federal statistical reporting agencies are currently shuttered and producing no new data.