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Trump's Tariff Tsunami: How January 2025 Ignited Economic Turmoil

From soaring prices to shaken small businesses, a trade war's ripple effects hit home.

In January 2025, President Donald Trump reignites global trade tensions by announcing sweeping tariffs on imports from major partners, including China, Canada, and Mexico. These measures, part of a broader "America First" economic agenda, aim to bolster domestic industries but quickly trigger retaliatory actions from affected nations. The immediate aftermath sees a sharp decline in U.S. stock markets, with the S&P 500 entering correction territory by mid-March.

The controversy centers on the abruptness and scale of the tariffs. Economists warn of inflationary pressures, as import costs surge. Indeed, consumer prices rise by 0.5% in January alone, marking the largest monthly increase since August 2023. Core inflation reaches 3.3% annually, complicating the Federal Reserve's monetary policy and dampening hopes for interest rate cuts.

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