

PRESS RELEASE | March 4, 2025

FDRA's Matt Priest Expresses Concern Over President Trump's Imposed Tariffs Ahead of Joint Address to Congress

Shoe Sales Plunged Over Tariff Inflation Fears

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Matt Priest, President and CEO of the Footwear Distributors and Retailers of America (FDRA), issued the following statement ahead of President Donald Trump's upcoming joint address to Congress:

"We look forward to President Trump's joint address to Congress tonight to hear more about his vision to strengthen the economy and lower inflation. However, we are deeply concerned about his decision to double emergency tariff rates and impose new tariffs on imports from Mexico and Canada. These tariffs act as taxes, driving up the costs of everyday goods like shoes, significantly burdening American families and businesses.

"Our concerns are rooted in what we are seeing from the ground. According to our industry sales survey, for the week ending February 22nd, footwear sales plunged -26.2% compared to the same retail week in 2024. Our survey includes over 3,000 stores. Sales declines hit every region of the country. This sharp decline isn't just a typical business cycle fluctuation; it's a clear indication of a shift in consumer behavior and sentiment tied to the ongoing rise in inflation, which continues to grow, alongside concerns that new tariffs will push costs even higher.

"We remain committed to working with the administration to develop a thoughtful and surgical approach to tariffs that can strengthen our economy without placing undue strain on hardworking Americans."

Recent Coverage on Footwear and Inflation Trends:

1. **Footwear News** – [FDRA's Matt Priest Says Trump's Additional 10% Tariff on China Would Be 'Catastrophic' for Some Shoe Companies](#)
2. **Sourcing Journal** – [Shoppers Across the Political Spectrum Say Trump's Tariffs Will Raise Retail Prices](#)
3. **New York Times** – [Live Updates: Markets Fall After New Trump Tariffs Prompt Retaliation](#)

For more information about the survey or to schedule an interview with **Matt Priest**, please contact FDRA at fdracomms@cgagroup.com.

About FDRA

FDRA is governed and directed by footwear executives and is the only trade organization focused solely on the footwear industry. Serving the full footwear supply chain, it boosts its members' bottom lines through innovative products, training, consulting on footwear design and development, sourcing and compliance, trade and customs, advocacy, and consumer and sales trend analysis for shoe retailers around the world. FDRA supports 500 companies and brands worldwide, representing 95% of the total U.S. footwear industry. Learn more: fdra.org