

Statement from FDRA's Matt Priest on Footwear Inflation and Economic Pressures

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, **Matt Priest, President and CEO of Footwear Distributors and Retailers of America (FDRA)**, released the following statement regarding the latest footwear economic data and the mounting inflationary pressures facing American consumers:

“The latest inflation data confirms what the footwear industry and American families are already feeling at the checkout counter. Footwear prices rose nearly 2.5 percent in March, the sharpest increase in more than three years, as tariffs continue to stack on top of higher energy costs and global instability.

“For months, brands and retailers have done everything possible to absorb rising costs and hold prices down. But with footwear tariffs more than doubling over the past year, duties surging by more than 80 percent, and oil-driven supply chain costs climbing, that buffer has been exhausted. These price increases are no longer theoretical—they're landing squarely on consumers.

“At a time when inflation remains elevated, and household budgets are stretched, layering more tariffs onto everyday goods like shoes only adds fuel to the inflation fire. If policymakers are serious about easing inflationary pressure, the place to start is by pulling back on punitive trade policies that raise prices for working families without fixing the underlying problems.”

For more information about [FDRA](#) or to schedule an interview with Matt Priest on the state of the footwear industry, please email 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 98% of the total U.S. footwear industry. Learn more: fdra.org