

FDRA: New CPI Data Shows Tariffs Driving Footwear Price Increases, Pressuring American Families

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, the **Footwear Distributors and Retailers of America (FDRA)** responded to the latest Consumer Price Index (CPI) data, highlighting continued increases in footwear prices and the growing role tariffs are playing in driving inflation across the industry.

New analysis from FDRA shows overall inflation rose 4.2% year-over-year in May, marking the fastest pace in three years, while footwear prices jumped 5.2%, the fastest increase in nearly four years. Price increases were seen across categories, including men's (5.4%), women's (6.2%), and children's footwear (2.3%).

KEY FOOTWEAR INFLATION TRENDS AT A GLANCE



FDRA leaders emphasized that these rising costs are not just the result of broader economic trends but are increasingly tied to tariff policies affecting the footwear supply chain.

“Families are feeling the squeeze, and the footwear industry is seeing it play out in real time,” said **Matt Priest, President and CEO of FDRA**. “While there are many factors contributing to inflation, tariffs are playing an outsized role in driving up the cost of everyday essentials like shoes. These are not discretionary items—they're a necessity—and the longer these policies remain in place, the more pressure they put on American households.”

FDRA Chief Economist Gary Raines added that the latest numbers reinforce a clear and measurable trend in the data.

“Retail footwear prices rose again year-over-year in May—up in nine of the last ten months and now at their fastest pace in nearly four years,” said **Raines**. “What stands out is that footwear prices are rising faster than overall inflation, which is unusual and points to structural cost pressures beyond typical economic trends—particularly tariffs. At this trajectory, 2026 is on pace to see one of the fastest increases in footwear prices in more than three decades. These pressures have been building across the supply chain and are now clearly reaching store shelves and increasingly price-sensitive consumers.”

FDRA has consistently warned that tariffs are a direct tax on consumers, particularly affecting families purchasing essential goods like footwear. With import costs already rising and limited ability for companies to absorb additional expenses, industry leaders caution that continued tariff pressure will likely sustain upward pricing trends.

“Reducing footwear tariffs remains the most immediate step policymakers can take to provide relief,” **Priest** added. “Without action, these costs will continue to compound, and American families will continue to pay the price.”

For more information about [FDRA](#) or to schedule an interview with Matt Priest, 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