

China slaps back as nations weigh responses to tariffs

By Elaine Kurtenbach
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BANGKOK — China has hit back with a stiff import tax on U.S. goods as countries and industries around the world weighed their responses to President Donald Trump’s latest tariff hikes, which are roiling global trade and world markets.

China on Friday took the retaliation route by imposing a 34% tariff beginning Thursday on all imported products from the United States, matching the 34% imposed on Wednesday by Trump on Chinese imports, along with increased tariffs on other countries and major trading partners.

Trump was swift to criticize Beijing’s move. “China played it wrong, they panicked — the one thing they cannot afford to do,” he wrote in a social media post, adding: “My policies will never change. This is a great time to get rich.”

Countries were taking different approaches as they sought ways to deal with the potential disruption to trade and supply chains. Taiwan’s president promised to provide support to industries most vulnerable to the 32% tariffs Trump ordered in his “Liberation Day” reciprocal tariffs announcement.

Vietnam, where the U.S. is a major trade partner, said its deputy prime minister would visit the U.S. for talks on trade.

Some, such as the head of the European Union’s European Commission, have vowed to fight back while promising to improve the rule book for free trade. Others such as Britain said they were hoping to negotiate with the Trump administration for relief.

Fighting back

As with earlier counter-moves to U.S. trade penalties, Beijing hit back with targeted action, as well as its universal 34% tariff on all products from the U.S.

The Commerce Ministry in Beijing said it will impose more export controls on rare earths, which are materials used in high-tech products such as computer chips and electric vehicle batteries. Included in the list was samarium and its compounds, which are used in aerospace manufacturing and the defense sector. Another element, gadolinium, is used in MRI scans.

China’s customs administration said it had suspended imports of chicken from two U.S. suppliers, Mountaire Farms of Delaware and Coastal Processing. It said Chinese customs had repeatedly detected furazolidone, a drug banned in China, in shipments from those companies.



Nam Y. Huh/Associated Press

The world’s nations were taking different approaches as they sought ways to deal with the potential disruption to trade and supply chains from new U.S. tariffs.

Additionally, the Chinese government said it has added 27 companies to lists of businesses subject to trade sanctions or export controls.

China also filed a lawsuit with the World Trade Organization, saying the U.S. tariffs were “a typical unilateral bullying practice that endangers the stability of the global economic and trade order.”

Seize the day

India was hit by a 26% tariff rate, lower than the 34% for Chinese exports and 46% for Vietnam. Its Commerce Ministry said it was “studying the opportunities that may arise due to this new development in U.S. trade policy.” It said talks were underway on a trade agreement, including “deepening supply chain integration.”

The U.S. was New Delhi’s biggest trading partner in 2024, with two-way trade estimated at \$129 billion, according to U.S. data. The two nations have set an ambitious target of more than doubling their bilateral trade to \$500 billion by 2030. Most pharmaceuticals and other medicines, important Indian exports to the U.S., are exempt from the reciprocal tariffs.

However, diamonds and other gems, another major export industry, are subject to the higher duties.

Business groups said they viewed the challenge as a chance to improve India’s competitiveness. “At a time when global trade dynamics are shifting rapidly, Indian exporters must be equipped with the right policies, strategies, and support to compete effectively,” S.C. Ralkan, head of the Federation of Indian Export Organizations, said in a statement.

We need to talk

Most U.S. trading partners have emphasized that they hope negotiations can help resolve trade friction with Washington. Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba said he was prepared to fly to Washington in a last-ditch effort to

forestall the 24% tariffs Trump ordered for exports from the U.S.’ biggest Asian ally.

“The global trading system has serious deficiencies,” the president of the EU’s European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, said Thursday while on a visit to Uzbekistan. But she chided Trump, saying that “reaching for tariffs as your first and last tool will not fix it. This is why from the onset we have always been ready to negotiate with the United States.”

In Italy, Premier Giorgia Meloni told state TV that she believes that the 20% tariffs on exports from Europe were wrong but that “it is not the catastrophe that some are making it out to be.” Her government planned to meet this week with representatives of affected sectors to formulate plans. “We need to open an honest discussion on the matter with the Americans, with the goal, at least from my point of view, of removing tariffs, not multiplying them,” Meloni said.

Vietnam’s Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Pham Thu Hang, said Hanoi would keep talking with the U.S. to “find practical solutions” as the 46% tariffs threatened to decimate exports of footwear, electronics, textiles and seafood.

“If enforced, would negatively impact bilateral economic and trade relations as well as the interests of businesses and people in both countries,” Hang said in comments cited by state-run media, which reported that the deputy prime minister and former finance minister, Ho Duc Phoc, was scheduled to visit the U.S. for trade talks this week.

A helping hand

Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te said he will offer the “greatest support” to industries most affected by the new tariffs. Taiwan’s trade surplus with the U.S. is relatively high, partly because the island is a major source of

computer chips and other advanced technology. Lai said in a statement on his Facebook page that “we feel that this is unreasonable and are also worried about the subsequent impact these measures may have on the global economy.”

Lai said he instructed Premier Cho Jung-tai to work closely with industries that are affected and to communicate with the public about plans to stabilize the economy.

Ishiba, the Japanese leader, and other governments also said they were preparing countermeasures to help industries cope.

Likewise, von der Leyen said the EU was consulting with steel and auto makers, pharmaceutical companies and other industries about how to give them more “breathing space.”

Looking elsewhere

Trump’s decision to sharply raise tariffs on countries spanning the globe is “self-defeating,” Wang Huiyao, president of the Chinese think tank Center for China and Globalization, said in an interview.

The latest tariffs impose heavy burdens on some countries in Latin America, the Middle East, Africa and Asia.

It’s a trade war with the world, Wang said, while China’s strategy is to trade more with Southeast Asia, Latin America, Europe, the Middle East and other developing nations.

“The likely outcome is that China will become the largest trading nation and its economy will be trading more with other nations, and the U.S. may ... become more isolated,” Wang said.

Europe will work to build more bridges, and as a regional economic bloc of 450 million people, larger than the U.S., it also has its own huge market, said von der Leyen, the European Commission president.

The EU is its own “safe harbor in tumultuous times,” she said.

iffs with a tariff on vehicles imported from the United States.

Stellantis has also been dealing with some of its own challenges. In December CEO Carlos Tavares stepped down amid an ongoing struggle with slumping sales.

Stellantis’ North American operations had been the company’s main source of profits for some time, but struggles piled up last year, with the company citing rising competition and larger market changes.

In efforts to revive sales, Stellantis previously made a number of leadership changes in October, which included naming new heads of operations in North America and Europe.

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Legal Bids & Proposals

Legal Bids & Proposals

Choice Partners (CP), a division of the Harris County Department of Education (HCDE), is accepting proposals in response to the following Requests for Proposals (RFP). Interested proposers may go to www.choicepartners.org to register to download the solicitation or call 877-696-2122.

- RFP #25/027AK Ice Cream Products, due by Friday, May 2nd, 2025 @ 2:00 PM CT
- RFP #25/029TP Wireless Temperature Monitoring Systems and Other Related Products, due by Friday, May 2nd, 2025 @ 2:00 PM CT
- RFP #25/028TC Retail Energy Purchase, due by Thursday, May 1st, 2025 @ 2:00 PM CT

All proposals must be submitted via the HCDE online eBid System at the following link: <https://hcdeebid.ionwave.net>. Proposals will be opened via Zoom; Information regarding dates, times, and a link to join the meeting is (located within) the eBid System under the "Activities" tab specific to the solicitation. IPLHOU0076802

Request for Proposals (RFPs)
Multiple Opportunities Available
Proposal Deadline: May 16, 2025, by 11:00 AM ET

The Governing Board of the Central Indiana Educational Service Center (CIESC), acting as the Lead Public Agency on behalf of Edge Public and participating entities—including all K-12 schools, local and state government agencies, higher education institutions, and nonprofit organizations—is seeking proposals from qualified vendors for a range of RFPs:

- Food Distribution for Schools and Educational Facilities
- Fresh Produce Distribution for Schools and Educational Facilities
- Dairy Distribution for Schools and Educational Facilities
- Building and Facilities Supplies and Services – Retail Stores Purchases
- Janitorial and Sanitation Supplies

Contracts resulting from this solicitation may be awarded to multiple vendors. All RFPs are subject to the Lead Public Agency’s General Conditions & Requirements to Offerors. Full specifications and proposal documents are available via the CIESC Procurement Portal at <https://ciesc.cooppurchase.com>. Only proposals submitted through this portal will be accepted.

Deadline for submission: Friday, May 16, 2025, by 11:00 AM ET.
IPLHOU0076801

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File #: 25-T-0678
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J Durkee Survey, Abstract No. 1070
Use: Cellular
Height: 150ft
A public hearing will be held at the Tower Commission meeting on May 19th, 2025 at 3:30 pm.
The location of the meeting is the Council Chamber, City Hall Annex, 901 Bagby. Additional information may be obtained by writing or calling applicant Holly Gatti, 903 596 8464, 11710 FM 2661 Tyler TX 75709.
City of Houston Planning & Development
Dept 832 393 6600, PO Box 1562 Houston TX 77251-1562.
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Citation by Publication

CAUSE NUMBER: 202489586
RECEIPT NUM: 1021223
TRACKING NUMBER: 74457080
DEL TO: EMIL

Plaintiff: MCCARTY, SEAN ALAN
vs.
Defendant: BARRETT, JORDAN MILAN

IN THE 269th JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS
County of Harris

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of forty-two days after the date of issuance of this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. In addition to filing a written answer with the clerk, you may be required to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file your answer with the clerk. Find out more at TexasLawHelp.org."

To: BARRETT, JORDAN MILAN

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to be and appear before the 269th Judicial District Court of Harris County, Texas in the Courthouse in the city of Houston, Texas at or before 10:00 o'clock A.M. Monday, MAY 12, 2025, being the Monday next after the expiration date of forty-two days after this citation is issued, and you are hereby commanded and required then and there to appear and file written answer to the PLAINTIFFS ORIGINAL PETITION filed in said Court on December 30, 2024, in a suit numbered 202489586 on the docket of said court, wherein MCCARTY, SEAN ALAN Plaintiff(s) and BARRETT, JORDAN MILAN, Defendant(s), the nature of plaintiff's demand being and the said petition alleging:

On or about May 10, 2023, Plaintiffs, Sean McCarty, was operating his 1999 Toyota Camry in the Northbound lane on the 1200 block of Shepherd Drive in the far-left lane at the intersection of 1200 Shepherd Drive and 4700 Nett Street in Houston, Harris County, Texas in a reasonable and prudent manner, exercising ordinary care for his safety, and the safety of others, when he was involved in a collision with a vehicle, which was owned by Defendant, The Safir Ali Group and being operated by and driven by Defendant, Jordan Milan Barrett. The collision, which was proximately caused by Defendants' negligence, occurred as follows: Plaintiff, Sean McCarty, was operating his vehicle in a safe manner traveling northbound on Shepherd Drive when Defendant, Jordan Milan Barrett, made an unsafe lane change and collided with struck the vehicle that Mr. McCarty was driving. As a result of the negligent conduct of Defendant, Jordan Milan Barrett, as well as the negligence of Defendants, The Safir Ali Group and Hamper, Inc., and the resulting collision, Plaintiff sustained substantial physical injuries and property damage. Attempts to personally serve Jordan Milan Barrett have been unsuccessful.

Notice hereof shall be given by publishing this Citation once a week for four consecutive weeks previous to MAY 12, 2025, in some newspaper published in the County of HARRIS, if there be a newspaper published therein, but if not, then the nearest county where a newspaper is published, and this Citation shall be returned on MAY 3, 2025, which is forty two days after the date it is issued, and the first publication shall be at least twenty-eight days before said return day.

HEREIN FAIL NOT, but have before said court on said return day this Writ with your return thereon, showing how you have executed same.

WITNESS:Marilyn Burgess, District Clerk of Harris County, Texas

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF SAID COURT at Houston, Texas on March 27, 2025.

Marilyn Burgess, District Clerk of Harris County, Texas
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Stellantis halts production in Canada, Mexico

By Michelle Chapman
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Automaker Stellantis is temporarily halting production at a plant in Canada and a plant in Mexico shortly after President Donald Trump announced a 25% tariff on imported vehicles. The move will result in the temporary lay-off of 900 U.S. employees.

Stellantis, which owns car brands like Jeep, Citroën and Ram, said Thursday it will be temporarily pausing production at the Windsor assembly plant in Canada for the weeks of April 7 and 14. Operations will resume at the facility the week of April 21.

The company will also be temporarily pausing production at the Toluca

assembly plant in Mexico for the month of April, starting on April 7.

Due to the production pause, there will be temporary layoffs at the Warren and Sterling stamping plants in Michigan and at the Indiana and Kokomo transmission plants and Indiana. Kokomo casting facility in Indiana.

Stellantis plans to continuously monitor the situation to determine if further action is necessary.

In an email from North American Chief Operating Officer Antonio Filosa sent to employees, Filosa said that Stellantis will quickly adapt to the policy changes imposed by Trump. He noted that the actions that the company is taking “are necessary given the current market

dynamics.”

“We understand that the current environment creates uncertainty,” Filosa wrote. “Be assured that we are very engaged with all of our key stakeholders, including top government leaders, unions, suppliers and dealers in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico, as we work to manage and adapt to these changes.”

Late last month Trump said he was placing 25% tariffs on auto imports, a move the White House claimed would foster domestic manufacturing but could also put a financial squeeze on automakers that depend on global supply chains. Later Thursday, Prime Minister Mark Carney said Canada will match U.S. President Donald Trump’s 25% auto tar-