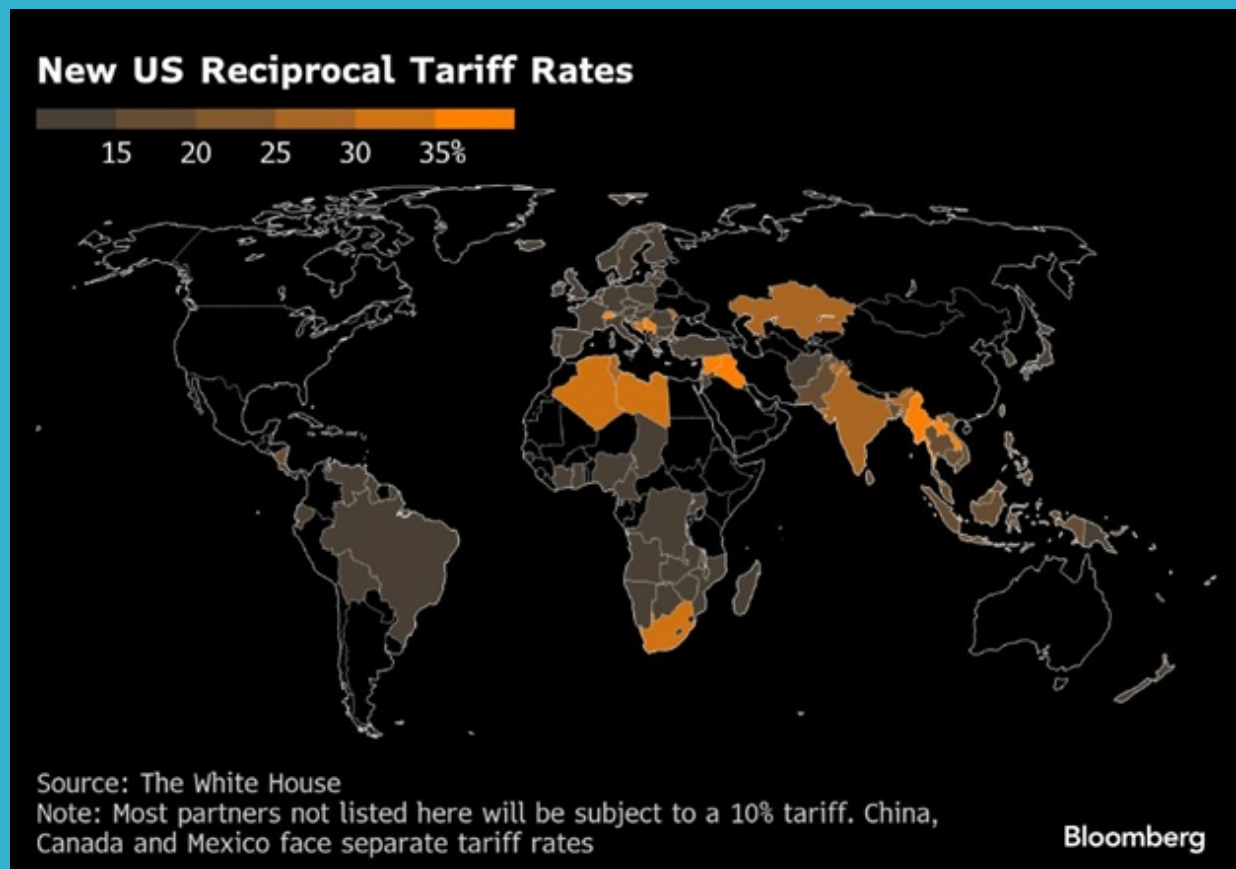


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Trump's New Tariffs Raise Global Stakes with Softer Market Response

Four months after Trump's initial tariff hike announcement, his latest round unveiled on July 31 raised U.S. average tariffs to around 15%—the highest since the 1930s—triggering global concerns but a more muted market reaction. Though the global economy initially held up, economists warn of a serious demand shock and possible rate cuts as trade uncertainty grows. Key U.S. trading partners face steep new levies, with some countries like Switzerland hit particularly hard. While Trump's aim is to boost domestic manufacturing and reduce trade deficits, analysts say U.S. consumers and companies may face rising costs, and global retaliation remains a risk.

Source: Supply Chain Brain



Mars Joins Wave of U.S. Firms Ramping Up Domestic Manufacturing

Mars Inc. plans to invest \$2 billion in U.S.

Stronger Growth Ahead? IMF Says Yes—But Inflation Isn't Over Yet

Global growth is now projected at 3.0% for

manufacturing by 2026, including new facilities in Utah and Ohio, as part of a broader trend of domestic reinvestment by major American companies. The move supports job creation, local production, and aligns with growing political pressure to bolster U.S. manufacturing.

Source: Supply Chain Brain

2025 and 3.1% in 2026, slightly higher than earlier estimates due to improved financial conditions and pre-tariff activity. While global inflation is expected to ease, U.S. inflation may remain above target, with risks from tariffs, uncertainty, and geopolitical tensions still looming.

Source: IMF

With EPA in Flux, States Forge Their Own PFAS Rules

States are grappling with how to protect residents from PFAS-contaminated water amid regulatory uncertainty at the federal level, as the EPA reconsiders Biden-era drinking water standards. Many states are passing their own laws to set stricter limits, fearing potential rollbacks. This decentralized approach raises concerns about regulatory patchwork, compliance burdens, and possible legal conflicts. Meanwhile, the chemical industry and environmental advocates remain divided on the best path forward.

Source: The Washington Post

Chemical Sector Sees M&A Shift Toward Quality and Resilience Amid Market Headwinds

M&A activity in the U.S. Chemicals sector has slowed due to economic headwinds, global competition, and tariff-related uncertainty, with deal volume down nearly 28% year-over-year. Strategic buyers remain active, especially in acquiring tariff-resilient and high-margin businesses in key segments like Life Sciences, EVs, and Aerospace. Private equity is returning to the sector, focusing on platform acquisitions and add-ons, driven by defensible markets and stable earnings.

Source: Capstone Partners

Brenntag Expands Avebe Partnership to Supply Sustainable Potato-Based Ingredients in U.S.

Brenntag has expanded its partnership with Dutch cooperative Avebe to distribute their full range of specialty potato-based starches, proteins, and fibers to Food & Nutrition customers in the U.S., building on their existing collaboration across Europe. This move strengthens Brenntag's North American presence and supports the growing demand for sustainable, plant-based, clean-label ingredients.

Source: Corporate Brenntag

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