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Consumers must dig deeper to pay electricity, gasoline



Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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## Tariffs threaten market-leading tech, consumer stocks

NEW YORK (Reuters) - U.S. technology and consumer discretionary stocks have been insulated from global trade tensions, but if another round of U.S. tariffs on Chinese goods goes into effect, even those high-flying sectors could come down to earth. The United States and China have already imposed tariffs on \$50 billion worth of each other's goods. The White House has proposed tariffs on an additional \$200 billion worth of Chinese imports, including furniture, handbags and some computer parts. U.S. President Donald Trump has said he is prepared to move forward with levies on an additional \$267 billion - in essence, all Chinese imports into the United States.

The inclusion of consumer goods is a shift from previous rounds of U.S. tariffs, which have primarily hit the industrial sector. Shares of companies such as Boeing Co and Caterpillar Inc have risen and fallen in tandem with trade sentiment.

On Wednesday, the Trump administration said that it invited Chinese officials to restart trade talks, which has been welcomed by Beijing. U.S. stocks have perked up on the news, but that optimism could be fleeting.

"Investors in general are too predisposed to react too positively to any signs of improvement in the situation," said Kristina Hooper, chief global market strategist at Invesco in New York. "I don't expect the (Trump) administration to back down." Companies in the tech and consumer discretionary sectors have begun sounding alarm bells. A broad array of U.S. industry groups, representing companies such as Microsoft Corp, Amazon.com Inc, Walmart Inc and Mattel Inc, has voiced opposition to the new tariffs.

Even Apple Inc, whose stock has contributed heavily to the S&P 500's gains, has warned that the proposed tariffs would affect several of its products, including the Apple Watch and AirPods headphones, though it did not mention the iPhone.



South Carolina National Guard soldiers transfer bulk diesel fuel into fuel tanker trucks for distribution in advance of Hurricane Florence

## Trump readies tariffs on \$200 billion more Chinese goods despite talks



U.S. President Donald Trump hosts a White House reception for Congressional Medal of Honor recipients in Washington

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. President Donald Trump has directed aides to proceed with tariffs on about another \$200 billion of Chinese goods, despite Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin's attempts to restart trade talks with China, a source familiar with the matter said on Friday.

The timing for activating the additional tariffs was unclear.

The green light for the tariffs, first reported by Bloomberg, initially dragged U.S. stocks lower, fueled drops in the Chinese yuan in offshore trading CNH=EBS and gains in the dollar index .DXY.

Trump, who had already imposed 25 percent tariffs on \$50 billion of Chinese goods, said a week ago that he would be adding tariffs on another \$200 billion in goods and had tariffs on another \$267 billion in Chinese imports "ready to go on short notice if I want."

The Trump administration has demanded that China cut its \$375 billion trade surplus with the United States, end policies aimed at acquiring U.S. technologies and intellectual property and roll back high-tech industrial subsidies.

The White House said in a statement that Trump had been clear that he and his administration would continue to take action to address China's trade practices and encouraged Beijing to

address U.S. concerns.

A public comment period ended last week for the \$200 billion tariff list, which included various internet technology products and other electronics, printed circuit boards, and consumer goods ranging from handbags to bicycles and furniture.

The U.S. Trade Representative's office has said it was working to revise the list based on issues raised in public hearings and written submissions. In previous rounds of anti-China tariffs, it has taken one to two weeks to make list revisions and another two to three weeks to begin collecting tariffs. The decision comes despite a Treasury invitation earlier this week to senior Chinese officials, including Vice Premier Liu He, for more talks to try to resolve trade differences between the world's two largest economies.

China's Foreign Ministry said it welcomed the invitation, but Trump later raised questions about it, saying on Twitter that he was under no pressure to make a deal with Beijing and that the United States "will soon be taking in Billions in Tariffs & making products at home. If we meet, we meet?"

A Treasury spokesman did not immediately respond to a query on the status of the China talks invitation. A USTR spokesman did not respond to queries about the tariffs.

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# Beto O'Rourke supporter teams up with Houston homeowner to confront sign thieves in a creative way

A Houston homeowner who caught people stealing "Beto for Senate" signs from his front yard woke up Friday morning to what he calls, "a pleasant surprise." His two adjoining properties were covered in black-and-white signage supporting U.S. Senate candidate Beto O'Rourke, who's running against incumbent Ted Cruz. The local man, who prefers to remain anonymous, Thursday told local stations he'd caught two sign thieves yanking the Beto posters from the front of his corner lot house in Glendower Court, a neighborhood between River Oaks and Montrose. Watch as Beto O'Rourke makes more than a dozen campaign stops over three days. "A local artist saw the newscast that (aired) and he was pretty angry," he explained. "He said, 'I want to demonstrate,' and I said sure." So the resident, who also owns the house next door, allowed the Beto supporter to plaster the black-and-white signs all over the front gates of his homes Thursday night. While he knew about the plan in advance, he said he was shocked at how many signs they were able to install. "It took me two weeks to even get my first sign," he laughed. The issue is more than a political one for him, the

local resident said, it also comes down to a matter of respect: "I don't care who you vote for, that's not cool. I don't care whether it's a Cruz sign or a Beto sign. It's my property." The first sign was stolen by a man walking his dog, a Ring surveillance video showed. Since it happened on his property, he said, he reported it to the Harris County Precinct One Constable's Office. The resident adds that he doesn't want to press charges, but that he does want that man to "have a serious talking to." In another recording, a blonde woman in a pink cardigan stops in front the property and yanks another sign off the lot, tosses it into her white Audi and drives away. The homeowner said he was surprised that a "middle-aged woman" would behave that way and wondered how her children might react. "I want to give that pink lady in the white SUV a message: Realistically, do you want your kids to see you taking home a political sign? I hope her kids or grandkids ask her, 'Hey mom, where'd you get this sign?'" With less than two months before the race, tensions between both camps' supporters are running high.

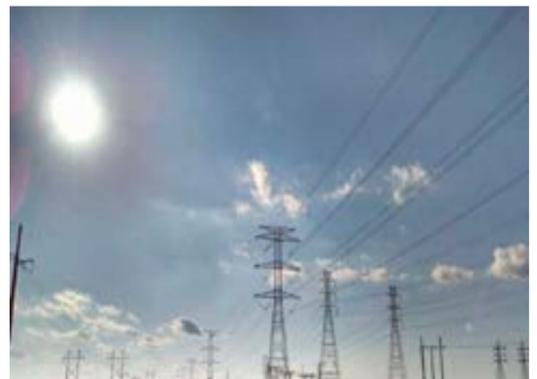


The Houston house was used "to send a message," the homeowner explains.

# Consumers must dig deeper to pay electricity, gasoline

Higher prices for electricity and gasoline pushed up overall consumer costs in Houston during the past year, the U.S. Labor Department reported. Houston consumers paid 22 percent more for gasoline, reflecting greater worldwide demand for gasoline and U.S. withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal in May, which sparked concerns over adequate oil supplies and raised crude prices. Higher electricity prices also packed a wallop for Houston area wallets, with the price of power spiking 9.8 percent over the past year. Prices were higher than usual because forecasters predicted a hot summer and expected the state would encounter

electricity shortages after several coal-fired plants in Texas were shuttered. Coal plants are not as cost effective to run as natural gas, a cheaper source of fuel. few weeks," DeHaan added. Initially, Oxford and Smith were transported to the Clark County Detention Center and charged with one count of child abuse or neglect. On Wednesday, following the autopsy, prosecutors added first-degree murder charges to both Smith and Oxford in the death of Daniel. Theriot, the boy's biological father from Liberty, was in



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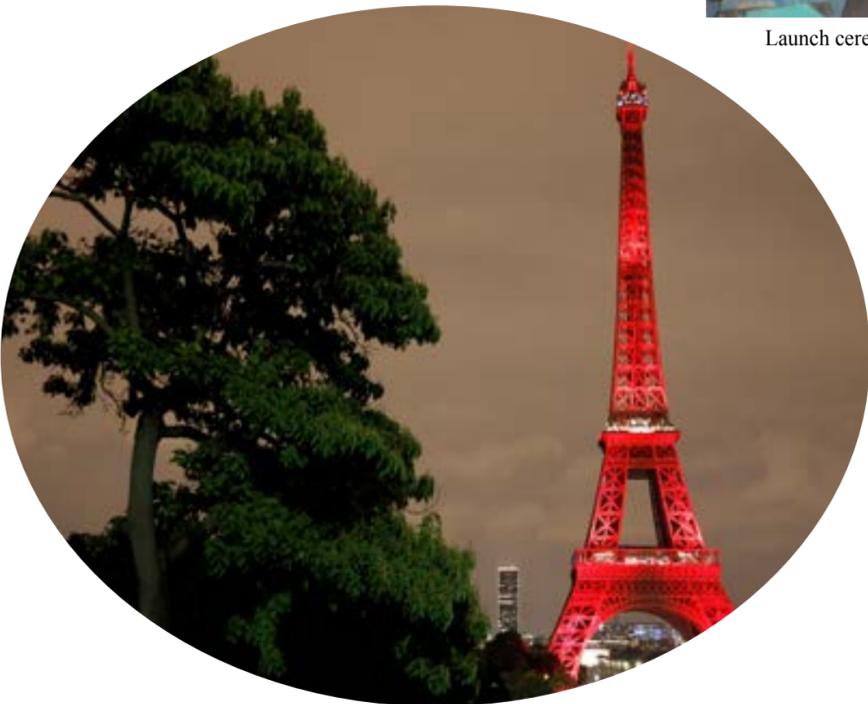
Editor's Choice



Police officers detain an environmental activist protesting against the clearing of the Hambach forest following activists occupied the North Rhine-Westphalia State presentation in Berlin



Launch ceremony of Flipfopi the first dhow boat made entirely of recycled plastic in Lamu



Light show on the Eiffel Tower to celebrate the Japanese cultural season and 160 years of diplomatic relations between France and Japan in Paris



A man rides his bike around the waterfront docks before Hurricane Florence comes ashore in Washington, North Carolina



New York Governor Andrew Cuomo is kissed by his girlfriend Sandra Lee after voting in the New York Democratic primary election at the Presbyterian Church in Mt. Cisco



Afghanistan's Charlie Chaplin, Karim Asir, 25, looks on during his rehearsals in Kabul



Nepali Hindu women dance during celebrations for the Teej festival in Chandigarh



Soldier eats ice cream as she visits a zoo in Pyongyang

Tony Award-Winning U.S. Playwright Neil Simon Dies At 91

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

(Reuters) – U.S. playwright Neil Simon, who became one of Broadway's most prolific and popular playwrights as he combined humor, drama and introspection in works such as "The Odd Couple," "The Goodbye Girl" and "Lost in Yonkers," died on Sunday at the age of 91, his representatives said.

Simon died at New York-Presbyterian Hospital in New York City of complications from pneumonia, Broadway theater representatives DKC/O&M said in a statement on Sunday. Simon was admitted to the hospital a few days ago and the pneumonia was in his lungs, Simon's long-time publicist Bill Evans said in a Sunday phone interview. Evans said he gave Simon a kidney in 2004.

"It was wonderful to be in his life and for him to be in my life," Evans said, calling Simon a major figure in American culture. "It has been so great to be part of all of it."

Simon drew on his tumultuous New York Jewish upbringing in many of his works.

A new Simon play almost every theatrical season was a Broadway staple from 1960 through the mid-1990s, placing him in the ranks of America's top playwrights. He wrote more than 40 plays that were funny, moving and immensely popular – sometimes shifting from slapstick to melodrama with the turn of a phrase.

At one point he had a record four plays running simultaneously on Broadway.



Simon was called "not just a show business success but an institution" by one New York critic. While his voice and comedy were decidedly East Coast and often



Screenwriter Neil Simon at the Paramount Studios lot in Hollywood, California April 6, 1998. (Photo/REUTERS)

reflected an ethnic Jewish experience, Simon's works played to packed houses around the world.

He won Tony Awards for "The Odd Couple," "Biloxi Blues" and "Lost in Yonkers" and a fourth for his overall contribution to American theater. He was nominated for 13 other Tonys.

"Lost in Yonkers" (1990), a painfully funny story about the relationship between an abusive mother and her grown children, also won the Pulitzer Prize for drama in 1991.

Simon's childhood was marred by the breakup of his parents. At first he was reluctant to draw on that pain, fearing it would make his plays too dark.

Later in his career he would use his own painful experiences, such as in the semi-biographical "Brighton Beach Memoirs," to give his work more depth.

But being entertaining was his primary goal.

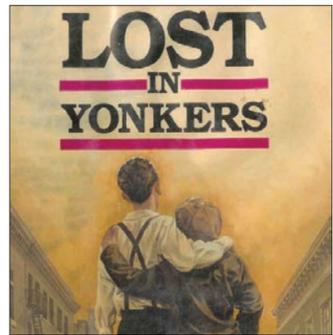
"When I was a kid, I climbed up on a stone ledge to watch an outdoor movie of Char-

lie Chaplin," Simon once told Life magazine. "I laughed so hard I fell off, cut my head open and was taken to the doctor, bleeding and laughing.

"... My idea of the ultimate achievement in a comedy is to make a whole audience fall onto the floor, writhing and laughing so hard that some of them pass out."

Simon's plays made him a wealthy man and many were turned into films, which made him even wealthier and earned him four Academy Award nominations. Among his works appearing on movie screens were "Barefoot in the Park," "Plaza Suite," "Brighton Beach Memoirs," "Biloxi Blues" and "Broadway Bound."

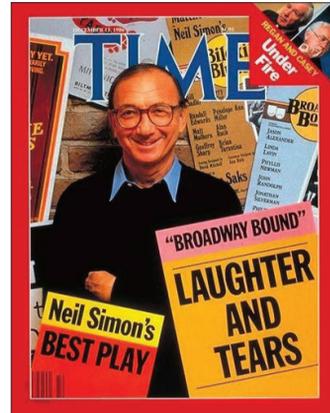
"The Odd Couple" was even made into a successful television sitcom.



Early Simon works were sometimes deemed too sentimental or commercial by critics but as his career entered its third decade, the plays grew more serious, more mature. Frank Rich of the New York Times wrote of "Biloxi Blues" (1985) that Simon "at last begins to examine himself honestly, without compromises, and as a result is his most persuasively serious ef-

fort."

Marvin Neil Simon was born on July 4, 1927, in the New York City borough of the Bronx, son of Irving, a garment salesman, and Mamie Simon.



After attending New York University and the University of Denver and serving in the U.S. Air Force Reserve, Simon and his mentor, older brother Danny Simon, worked together in the 1940s writing comedy sketches for radio performer Goodman Ace.

Simon and Danny, whose living arrangements once inspired Neil's "The Odd Couple," then moved to television, working with such popular entertainers as Sid Caesar, Phil Silver and Jackie Gleason, and with other writers including Mel Brooks and Woody Allen.

But Simon did not like television work and in 1960 came up with "Come Blow Your Horn," which became a modest Broadway hit. It was followed by "Barefoot in the Park" in 1963, which ran for more than 1,500 performances. Simon would go on to dominate the 1960s with "The Odd Couple," "Sweet Charity," "Plaza Suite" and "The Last of the Red Hot Lovers."

In the '70s he turned out "The Prisoner of Second Avenue," "The Sunshine Boys" and "California Suite" while his '80s works included "Brighton Beach Memoirs," "Biloxi Blues," "Broadway Bound"

and "Rumors." Simon continued into the next decade with "Lost in Yonkers," "Jake's Women," "The Goodbye Girl" and "Laughter on the 23rd Floor."

His semi-autobiographical trilogy – "Brighton Beach Memoirs," "Biloxi Blues" and "Broadway Bound" – was a fixture on Broadway in the 1980s.

CREATIVE 'PINBALL MACHINE'

Simon once compared his own creative process to a pinball machine, such as when he was writing "Lost in Yonkers." The creative concept, he said, began "to move circuitously around in my brain, bouncing off one neuron to another, like a pinball that hits every number of the board repeatedly, rolls down, hits the flippers and goes bouncing back up for another go at every bell-ringing number again."

Simon's plays were usually set in New York with characters whose problems were similar to those experienced by Simon.



"Chapter Two," for example, dealt with a writer whose first wife had died, trying to open himself to love a new woman. Simon's wife of 20 years, Joan Baim, died of cancer in 1973, after which he married actress Marsha Mason, who starred in the 1979 film version of "Chapter Two." Mason was nominated for an Oscar for 1977's "The Goodbye Girl," another Simon play he adapted for the screen.

Simon received Kennedy Center honors in 1995 from President Bill Clinton for his contribution to the arts and to popular culture in the 20th century.

"He challenges us and himself never to take ourselves too seriously," Clinton said in presenting the award. "Thank you for the wit and the wisdom."

Simon was married five times, twice to actress Diane Lander. He is survived by wife Elaine Joyce and his three daughters from different marriages, Evans said. (Courtesy oann.com)

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Dr. Yip is a board-certified pediatrician who completed her medical degree, internship and residency at Baylor College of Medicine. She is a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics and member of the American Medical Association, Texas Medical Association, Harris County Medical Society and Texas Pediatric Society.

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# U.S., EU Firms in China Feel Pinch From Trump's Tit-for-Tat Trade War

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



The assembly line of a Ford Motor Co. plant is seen in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province, in April 2017.

## OVERVIEW

\* The number of U.S. businesses in China reporting a "strong negative impact" from the current U.S. tariffs stood at 21.5%, with the figure jumping to 47.2% if new tariffs on an additional \$200 billion of Chinese imports are imposed

\* European Chamber's report found the trade war is extending beyond just U.S. and Chinese companies, reflecting the highly connected nature of global markets and supply chains

(Beijing) — Two-thirds of American businesses in China are feeling a pinch from tit-for-tat protective tariffs in the U.S.-China trade war, with many saying things

will worsen if the U.S. follows through on threats to levy even more tariffs, accord-

ing to a new survey released last Thursday.

The trade dispute between the U.S. and China is hurting U.S. and European companies operating in China, with firms planning to cut investment as manufacturing costs increase and demand for products drop.

American companies warned that an escalation could cause even greater pain, according to an Aug. 29 to Sept. 5 survey of more than 430 American companies conducted by AmCham China and AmCham Shanghai. The polling found that more than 60 percent of the firms were hurt by the initial round of tariffs between the two governments, with 74 percent foreseeing harm from future U.S. tariffs and 68 percent from potential Chinese retaliatory duties.

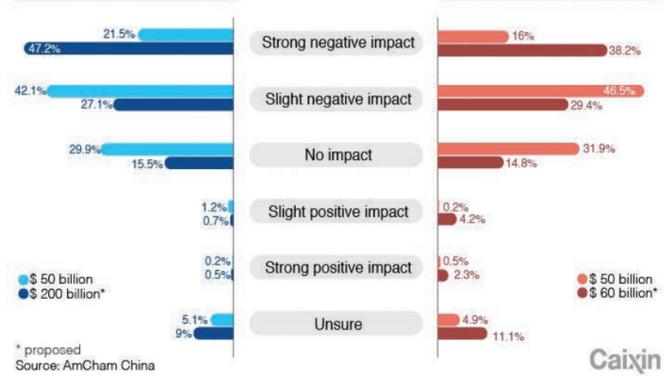
The U.S. and China have engaged in a series of tit-for-tat tariffs since July, when President Donald Trump started slapping duties on \$50 billion of Chinese imports. Trump raised the stakes last week, announcing he's willing to impose tariffs on an additional \$267 billion in Chinese goods, on top of a proposed \$200 billion his administration is already considering. China has said it would be forced to retaliate to all of the U.S. measures.

With the new round of trade barriers, "the U.S. administration runs the risk of a downward spiral of attack and counter attack, benefiting no one," said William Zarit, chairman of AmCham China.

Short-Term Pain Trump administration officials counter that the short-term pain of its trade dispute will become worth it when China agrees to buy more Ameri-

## Foreign Firms Feel Pinch From U.S., China Trade War Tariffs

Impact felt by U.S. firms in China from protective tariffs



Caixin

can-made products and better shield U.S. companies from intellectual-property theft. They say previous strategies of prolonged negotiations with Beijing failed to protect American companies and workers.

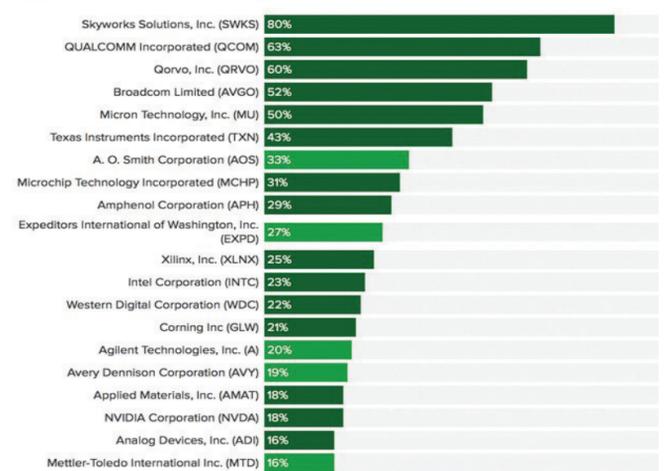
But the AmCham survey underscores the damage that trade barriers could impose on economies in both countries by denting production, boosting prices and slowing investment. The U.S. Federal Reserve in a monthly survey published Wednesday also said American companies are growing increasingly concerned about the fall-

out from a trade war.

Respondents of the AmCham survey were primarily in manufacturing, with automotive, machinery and chemical producers expected to take the biggest hit from future tariffs. Profit losses, higher manufacturing costs and decreased product demand were some of the biggest downsides of the tariffs, according to the report. Nearly one-third of respondents are considering delaying or canceling investments, especially those in the agribusiness industry. (Courtesy <https://www.bloomberg.com>)

## Companies with the most China exposure

By portion of their revenue coming from China



Source: UBS

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