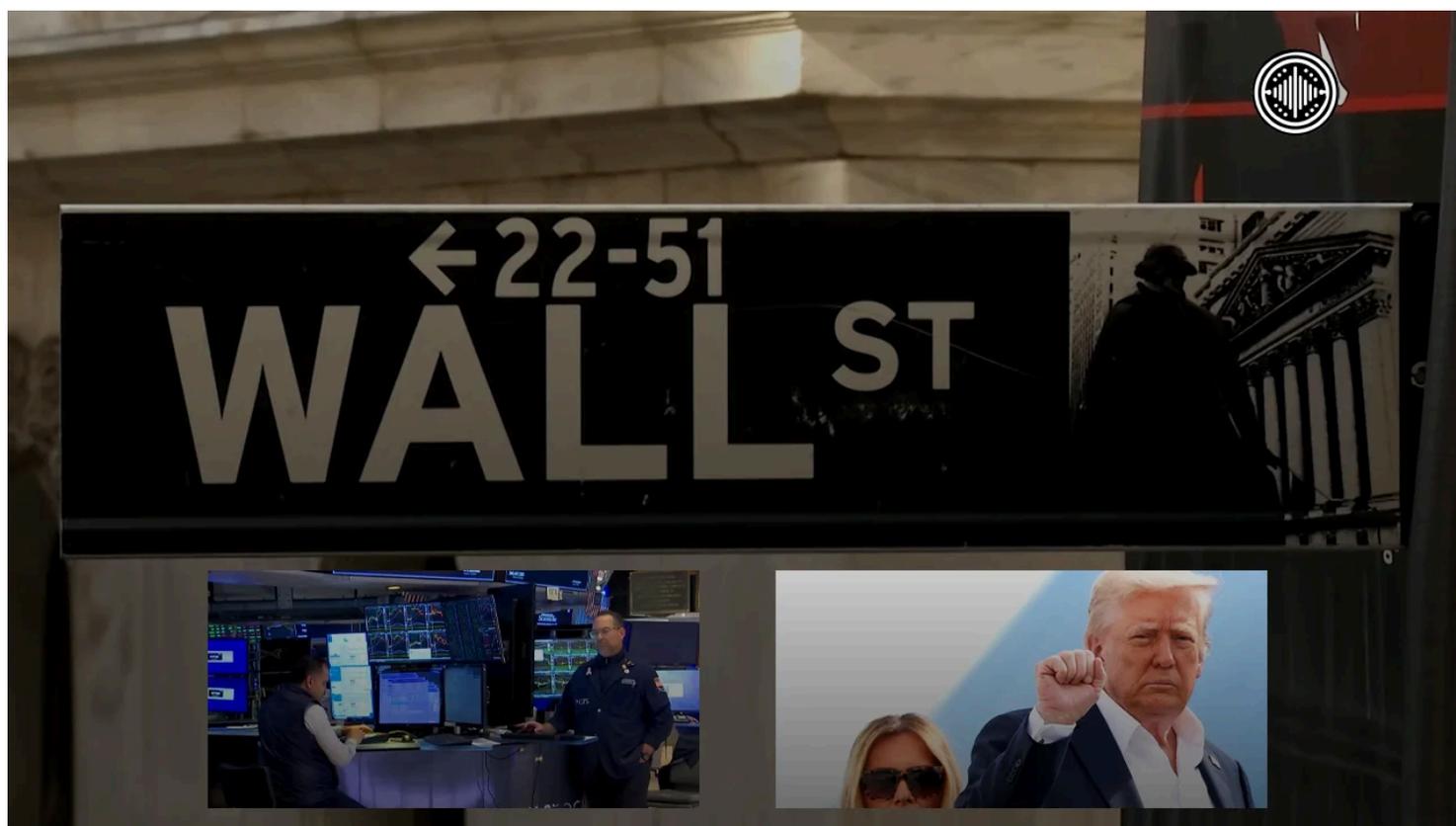


Trump's New Tariffs Shake Wall Street Futures Ahead of Earnings Reports

July 12, 2025

– Categories: Finance



Wall Street futures took a hit on Friday after former President Donald Trump unveiled a sweeping set of new tariffs, including a 35% levy on Canadian imports, a 15–20% general tariff proposal on most other countries, and a sharp 50% tariff on copper. The announcements, which come just before the release of key economic data and corporate

earnings, have rattled investor confidence and injected fresh volatility into the markets.

Futures tied to the Dow Jones Industrial Average, S&P 500, and Nasdaq all dropped by more than half a percent in early trading. The declines marked an end to the Dow's three-week winning streak, while the S&P and Nasdaq also slid after reaching record levels earlier in the week. Notably, Nvidia briefly crossed the \$4 trillion market cap threshold, underscoring mixed investor sentiment in the tech sector.

Financial and industrial shares bore the brunt of the downturn, as investors weighed the potential impact of heightened trade tensions on profits. Michael Landsberg, chief investment officer at Landsberg Bennett Private Wealth Management, observed that corporate earnings expectations remain muted, with tariff pressures already causing some firms to scale back their outlooks.

The market's cautious mood is further amplified by the upcoming release of data on inflation, retail sales, and producer prices. These figures are expected to influence the Federal Reserve's next move. While robust employment numbers have likely ruled out an interest rate cut in July, attention now turns to a possible shift in September.

Despite the broader decline, some stocks bucked the trend. Levi Strauss climbed over 10% after raising its revenue forecast, showing resilience in consumer goods. In contrast, Meta Platforms slipped following renewed regulatory concerns in Europe. Meanwhile, cryptocurrency-linked stocks moved higher as Bitcoin surged past \$118,000.

From a centre-right viewpoint, the tariff strategy reflects a bold assertion of U.S. economic interests, particularly in defending domestic industries. However, the market's reaction highlights the inherent risks: higher tariffs can introduce instability and create headwinds for growth. Investors are advised to keep a close eye on earnings reports and global trade developments, especially with monetary policy decisions looming.

In short, while Trump's tariff strategy aims to assert economic strength, its immediate impact on Wall Street reveals the delicate balancing act between protectionism and market confidence.