



Groceries are photographed at the Lexington Herald-Leader newsroom in Lexington, Ky., on Saturday, May 24, 2025.

Maker of Tide, Charmin, Crest raising prices in Aug. due to tariffs

BY PIPER HANSEN
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As soon as this weekend, Lexington and Central Kentucky shoppers could see a bump in prices of some of America’s most prominent household goods made by Cincinnati-based Procter & Gamble.

The consumer goods giant announced Tuesday it will raise prices on about 25% of its products in August after it estimated tariffs would cost the company \$1 billion. P&G is the company behind such iconic brands like Pampers, Tide, Bounty, Charmin, Tampax, Gillette, Old Spice, Dawn and numerous others.

P&G’s Chief Financial Officer Andre Schulten said price increases will be “mid-single-digit” ones.

Company officials announced the forthcoming hike in prices when it reported its quarterly and fiscal year earnings earlier this week. It has not yet released an itemized list of which products will be

affected by the price increase. .

The company’s outgoing Chairman and CEO Jon Moeller told Yahoo Finance this week tariffs are “inherently inflationary.”

“It increases the cost of importation, and that’s part of the policy design,” Moeller said. “In some places, that makes a lot of sense. But it inherently increases costs. Then, manufacturers need to work through how much of that they can absorb and deal with and how much they need to pass on.”

P&G joins Adidas, Nike and Mattel, the maker of Barbies, in raising prices for American consumers as a result of tariffs. Some companies, the BBC reports, are importing fewer foreign goods and others, like GE Appliances, are moving or opening manufacturing operations stateside to avoid hurdling over and through changing trade and tariff policy.

P&G EARNINGS CALL
P&G reported its poorest

sales increase in seven years during its earnings call this week and didn’t elaborate on plans it has in the works to restructure parts of its business.

Last month, the company said it was making changes to a plan to cut 7,000 jobs as it struggles, like many other businesses, to keep growing and making a profit as consumers tackle economic uncertainty brought on by President Donald Trump’s tariff and trade policies.

P&G reported it made \$16 billion on sales of \$84.3 billion during the last fiscal year. Sales were unchanged compared to the previous year, according to the earnings report.

In its fourth quarter, or the months of April, May and June, the company reported its profit on \$20.9 billion in sales was \$3.6 billion, which surpassed forecasts, but organic sales during that time were the worst they’ve been since 2018.

Organic sales refer to revenue generated from a

company’s existing business operations and core products or services, without relying on such external factors as acquisitions or mergers.

As far as tariffs go, the president announced a sweeping plan in April but quickly paused them so his administration could negotiate new trade deals with other countries. Trump has been pushing the world’s leaders to come to terms before midnight Thursday, according to the BBC and other reports.

GROCERY PRICES ARE CHANGING IN LEXINGTON

Since Trump took office on Jan. 20, the Herald-Leader has been tracking the prices of the same 26 items sold at Kroger, Meijer and Publix in Lexington.

In the first five months of the year, analysis show grocery prices have increased slightly since the start of the president’s second term.

On inauguration weekend in January, the average price of the 26 groceries purchased — which includes such household staples as milk, eggs, bread, peanut butter, bananas, pasta, chicken and some baby products — was \$180.81.

In May, the same shopping cart of items had increased by \$1.08 to \$181.89, according to the analysis.

One of those items is a 105-ounce container of Tide laundry detergent, which is a signature brand of P&G.

In January, the average price of the jug was \$16.49. When the Herald-Leader checked prices again July 25, the average price of the same jug was \$17.32, which was the same average price we noted in June.

Another P&G item the Herald-Leader has been tracking is a 50-count box of size 6 Pampers. In January, the average price of the diapers was \$28.74. Last month, the average price was slightly less at \$28.49, which was the same average price noted in June.



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES, MONTE MCGREGOR

The eastern hellbender is a rare giant salamander, and was recently spotted in Eastern Kentucky.

Rare hellbender salamander spotted in Eastern Kentucky

BY MONICA KAST
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No, that’s not a rock — it’s a rare giant salamander, recently spotted in Eastern Kentucky.

The eastern hellbender spends most of its life under large, flat rocks in fast-flowing streams, which can make them difficult to find. Hellbenders are salamanders whose population is declining and rarely seen in the wild, and especially rare in Kentucky, the state Department of Fish and Wildlife said in a Facebook post.

One was recently spotted in an Eastern Kentucky stream, which is a good indicator of a healthy environment.

“Hellbenders are often called the ‘canary in the coal mine’ for stream health,” the department said. “Because they require clean water and stable habitat, their presence can signal a healthy ecosystem — and their decline can be an early warning sign of environmental problems.”

Eastern hellbenders live in 15 states, including Kentucky. The amphibian has a

flattened body with a large tail and tiny eyes and spends its entire life in water, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

“Cool and clear water is important because hellbenders breathe entirely through their skin, which contains numerous folds to increase oxygen absorption,” the service said.

“Adult eastern hellbenders spend most of their life under large, flat rocks that shelter them; whereas larval and juvenile hellbenders hide beneath large rocks and under small stones in gravel beds.”

However, the number of the salamanders are declining.

In 2024, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed designating the eastern hellbender as endangered due to multiple threats, including habitat destruction and water quality degradation.

Of the 626 known populations of eastern hellbenders, 41% are “extirpated,” or completely destroyed, and another 36% are declining, according to the organization.

Trump urges Fed board to ‘assume control’ if rates not cut

BY HADRIANA LOWENKRON, MAGAN CRANE
Bloomberg News

President Donald Trump called on the Federal Reserve board to “assume control” if Chair Jerome Powell does not lower interest rates, escalating his ongoing feud with the central bank’s head.

“Jerome ‘Too Late’ Powell, a stubborn MORON, must substantially lower interest rates, NOW. IF HE CONTINUES TO REFUSE, THE BOARD SHOULD ASSUME CONTROL, AND DO WHAT EVERYONE KNOWS HAS TO BE DONE!” the president wrote on social media Friday.

The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the president’s remarks.

Trump’s post came after Fed officials left interest rates unchanged on Wednesday. In his post-meeting press conference,

Powell didn’t offer any clear sign that policymakers were likely to cut at their next meeting, in September. Investors now anticipate just one cut by year’s end.

Rate decisions are made by the Federal Open Market Committee, which Powell chairs. Its voters include the seven members of the Fed Board of Governors in Washington, and five presidents of the Fed’s regional reserve banks. The FOMC elects its leader and a vice chair once a year.

Following Wednesday’s decision, Trump resumed his sharp criticism of Powell after a short-lived detente, hammering the central bank chief over rate-setting policies and a renovation of the Fed’s headquarters that critics have accused the chair of mismanaging. Trump has asked lawmakers about whether he should fire Powell, then told reporters

he had no intention of doing so, suggesting he was willing to wait until the bank chief’s term as chair ends in May.

Two Fed governors, Christopher Waller and Michelle Bowman, voted against Wednesday’s decision, the first time two members of the board have dissented since 1993.

Trump cited those votes in a subsequent social media post, writing: “STRONG DISSENTS ON FED BOARD. IT WILL ONLY GET STRONGER!”

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said Thursday he expected Trump to be able to announce Powell’s replacement by the end of the year.

“We are putting together a very good list of candidates,” he told CNBC. “I would expect that we could have an announcement by the end of the year.”

Bessent also pointed to dissenting voices in Wednesday’s decision and to two potential openings on the Fed board early next year, suggesting that it could soon have a “majority” of advocates in favor of rate cuts. Governor Adriana Kugler’s position opens in January, and Po-

well’s slot on the board would be the second, if he decides to leave the central bank altogether when his term as chair is up.

Powell has leaned into

the view that the Fed is well-positioned for now, given lingering uncertainties surrounding the economic impact of Trump’s tariffs. His message on

Wednesday was carefully balanced, tempering expectations for a September rate cut, but not closing the door to one.

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