Computer Prices Will Rise in 2025

President-Elect Trump has been threatening other countries with high tariffs. With his re-election, he might actually do that, and that's going to increase computer prices. Tariffs are import duties, charged by U.S. Customs, when shipments arrive in the USA, which are then paid by the importer, and the costs are passed along to us. None of that is paid by the shipper or the country of origin of the product.

Congress sets tariffs, not the President, but there are exceptions, specifically these:

- The Trade Expansion Act of 1962, section 232, allows the president to set tariffs if the imports pose a threat to national security.
- The International Emergency Economic Powers Act world require

declaring a national emergency after an extraordinary threat.
- There's also the Trade Act of 1974, which allows the president to impose tariffs in response to unfair trade practices elsewhere.

More here:
Making Tariffs Great Again
https://www.csis.org/analysis/making-tariffs-great-again-does-president-trump-have-legal-authority-implement-new-tariffs

Tariffs are also negotiated on the basis of most-favored-nation trade status, and treaties like the USMCA treaty, the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement, formerly known as NAFTA. Ending those treaties with our trading partners will result in retaliatory import duties on US-made exports. What follows that are trade wars, inflation, parts shortages, rotting un-exportable soybeans, and spot food shortages. The marvels of year-round fresh fruit are a result of an efficient international marketplace, and duties and trade wars disrupt that. The overseas results also increase international migration pressures.

So it's likely that imported products are going to be more expensive soon, especially anything imported from China. Should we plan ahead?

Windows 10 Security Updates end Oct 14, 2025

If you've been putting off upgrading to computers that can run Windows 11, now may be the time. 10 years back, nearly all computers and PC parts were made in China. I had a chat with a power supply vendor about the China issues around then, and his comment was, "We're adding capacity in other countries, and will use the China production for sales in Asia."

Since then, that really has happened. On my bench right now, I have new power supplies and motherboards from Vietnam, a network-attached backup drive from Japan, a Lenovo computer made in Mexico, and a Dell laptop made in Vietnam. But don't let that fool you; ALL complex electronics are made with parts from multiple countries, and then assembled where listed on the product-- AMD processors here show six different countries as a possible source for the parts and final product. Apple is moving some iPhone production to India, but they're at 14%, so far. Despite the moves out of China, nearly every computer component is still an import.

So will computer prices rise in 2025, just in time for the big upgrade cycle? Yes. Supply and demand before the security cutoff will do that, and tariffs will also be a factor. Upgrading sooner will be cheaper; avoid next year's rush.
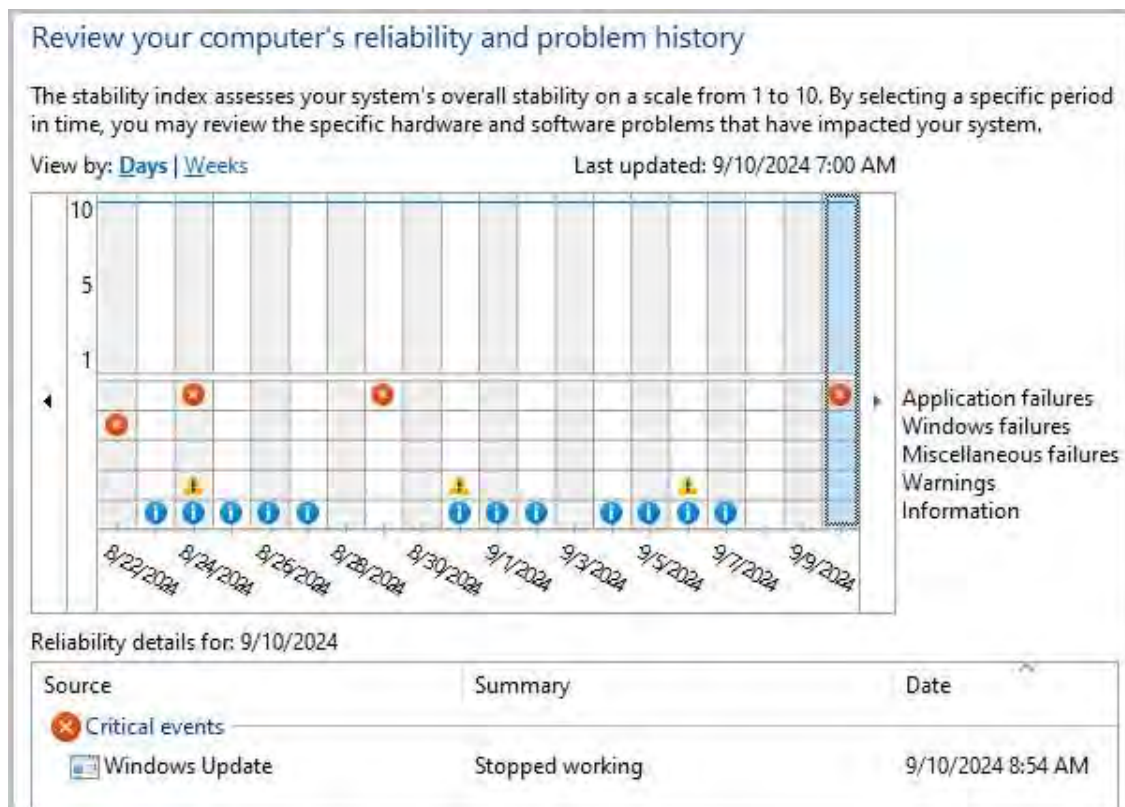
Sickly PC?

I get a lot of calls about computers being slow. I take a patient history like any other diagnostician, and ask when the symptoms started. I'm expecting to hear that it was after a suspicious email that **no one clicked on**, or after **not installing** a driver checker or coupon app. Or Wednesday morning, because that's when the Patch Tuesday updates from Microsoft break things. But sometimes, the answer is 'a few months.' OK, you waited because you didn't have certainty that the issue needed professional attention. Here's what you could have been done on your own to check your computer's health. It's also the early steps of what I do in a tuneup; in order to find where the problems are, you first have to narrow the range, and find out where they're **not**.

There are ways to repair all the issues below. I won't list them because many take longer to explain than to actually do, and other fixes can actually make things worse if done slightly wrong. If you find an issue, get a screen capture or a cell phone picture; it saves a lot of time later. These are in the order of most-common issues first.

Check the browser extensions for new items, by clicking the menu icon, usually those three dots or three bars at top-right. You're looking for Extensions (Chrome or Edge) or Add-ons (Firefox or Thunderbird). Is there anything in

there that you don't recognize or didn't ask to be installed? Make a note of the name, and search the web for it to check its reputation. If it's related to maps, coupons, drivers, or recipes, it's nearly all malware, and can be removed with a click. Some of these things leave junk behind; call me if in doubt that it's completely gone.

Click the Windows logo, also known as the start button, either on the screen or on the keyboard. Type 'update history' or just the first few letters until that shows up in the search result, and then click it. Look at the most-recent items; the most-likely issues are in the Quality Updates (monthly). You don't have to know what these things are--you're looking for the "Successfully installed on" dates, and finding anything that installed just before the issue started.

Run the Reliability Report from the Windows start, as above. Typing 'rel' there will generally bring it up as a search result. Each column there is a day; blue items are successful updates. Check for red items--those are errors.
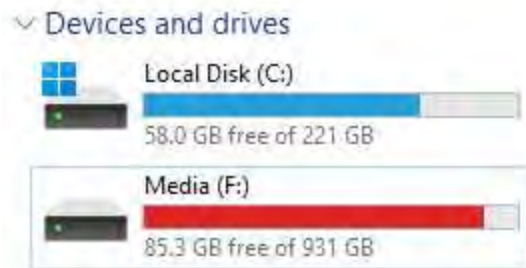

System tray: The yellow exclamation point is a UPS alert for a communication error, and the X means that sound is turned off.

Look in the System Tray, down by the clock, for warning flags. If there's an extra little icon on top of an icon that is normally there, float the mouse over it; there will usually be a message. Some are in English, but some will need to be looked up. All of them are software crying for help.

There are samples of these icons with flags on my site, here:
How to be a Computer Mystic
https://www.pc410.com/articles/how-to-be-a-computer-mystic/

Check for full drives. Any drive that's above 90% full will cause errors, small ones at first, and then big ones. Fortunately, Windows Explorer (that yellow file folder on the taskbar) will show those drives in red.

For computer help, call 410-871-2877
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