



**1ST WEEK
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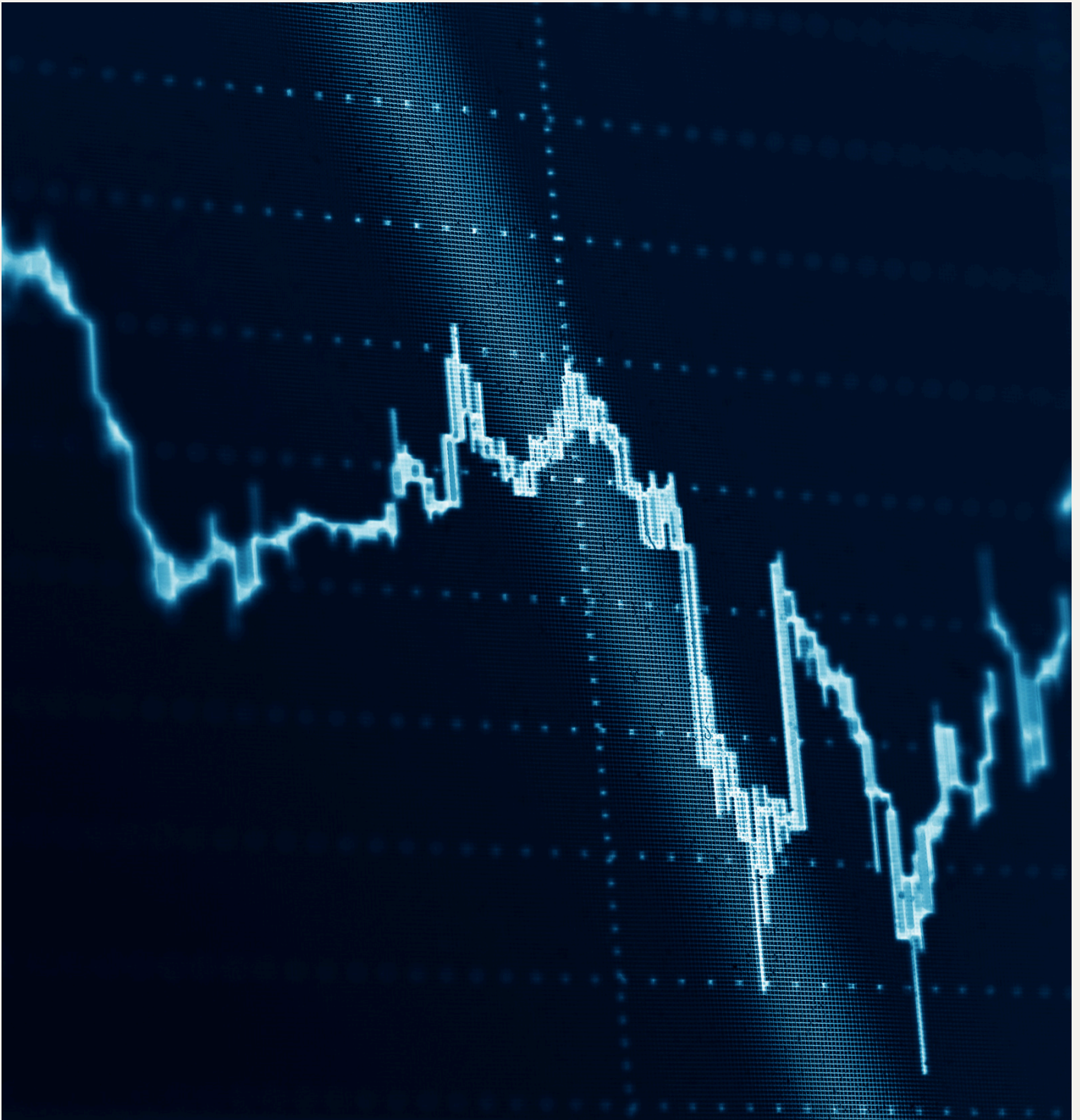
FINANCIAL MAGAZINE



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TRADE WARS, GOLD RUSH, AND ECONOMIC MILESTONES





CHINA'S GOLD RUSH

A STRATEGIC MOVE AMID TRADE TENSIONS

Why Is China Buying So Much Gold?

As gold prices soar past \$3,500 per troy ounce, China emerges as the driving force behind the rally. Both private investors and state institutions are stockpiling the metal, seeking a safe haven amid escalating U.S.-China trade tensions and global economic uncertainty.

Adrian Ash of BullionVault highlights “huge jumps” in trading volumes on the Shanghai Gold Exchange, while Joseph Cavatoni of the World Gold Council notes “record-setting” purchases by China’s central bank. Official reserves stand at 2,292 tons, but estimates suggest the true hoard could exceed 30,000 tons.

The surge aligns with President Trump’s aggressive tariffs, including 145 duties on Chinese imports. “Owning gold is literally the anti-dollar,” Ash says, signaling China’s push to diversify away from U.S. assets. This includes \$5.8 billion in ETF flows and a sell-off of U.S. Treasury Bonds in April 2025.

What’s Next for Gold?

Goldman Sachs projects \$3,700 per ounce by year-end, with JPMorgan eyeing \$4,000 by Q2 2026. However, Cavatoni warns that the same uncertainty fueling the rally could cap its gains. “Risk and volatility are still very much on investors’ minds,” he says.

Key Takeaway: China’s gold rush reflects a strategic shift to shield its economy from U.S. policy swings, with implications for global markets.



TRUMP'S 100 DAYS

A TURBULENT START IN CHARTS

Trump's Astonishing 100 Days, in 8 Charts



President Donald Trump's second term has been a whirlwind, marked by unprecedented executive actions and economic upheaval. Here's how his first 100 days stack up:

- **Executive Orders:** Trump signed a record 26 on day one, outpacing all modern presidents. From tariffs to immigration, these orders bypass Congress, though they've sparked numerous lawsuits.
- **Lawsuits:** Federal suits against Trump's policies—targeting cuts to federal programs, tariffs, and immigration reforms—are piling up faster than in any recent administration.
- **Tariff Revenue:** A spike in customs duties reflects Trump's trade war, but critics warn American consumers will bear the costs.
- **Dollar's Decline:** The U.S. dollar has slumped, with a sharp drop after April's tariff announcements, potentially boosting U.S. exports but eroding global confidence.
- **Market Slump:** The S&P 500 is down over 7%, the worst 100-day performance since 1974, driven by tariff and Fed policy shocks.
- **State Department Silence:** Press briefings are nearly nonexistent, aligning with cuts to diplomatic agencies.
- **Research Cuts:** NIH funding for medical research has plummeted, with targeted cuts to studies on transgender care and vaccines.
- **Approval Ratings:** Trump's popularity has tanked, turning strengths on the economy and immigration into liabilities.

Key Takeaway: Trump's aggressive policies have reshaped the economic landscape, but at the cost of market stability and public support.



DONALD TRUMP'S
100 DAYS

U.S.-UKRAINE MINERALS DEAL

A STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

U.S. and Ukraine Sign Critical Minerals Deal

The U.S. and Ukraine have inked a landmark agreement granting Washington access to Kyiv's rare earth minerals in exchange for a joint investment fund.

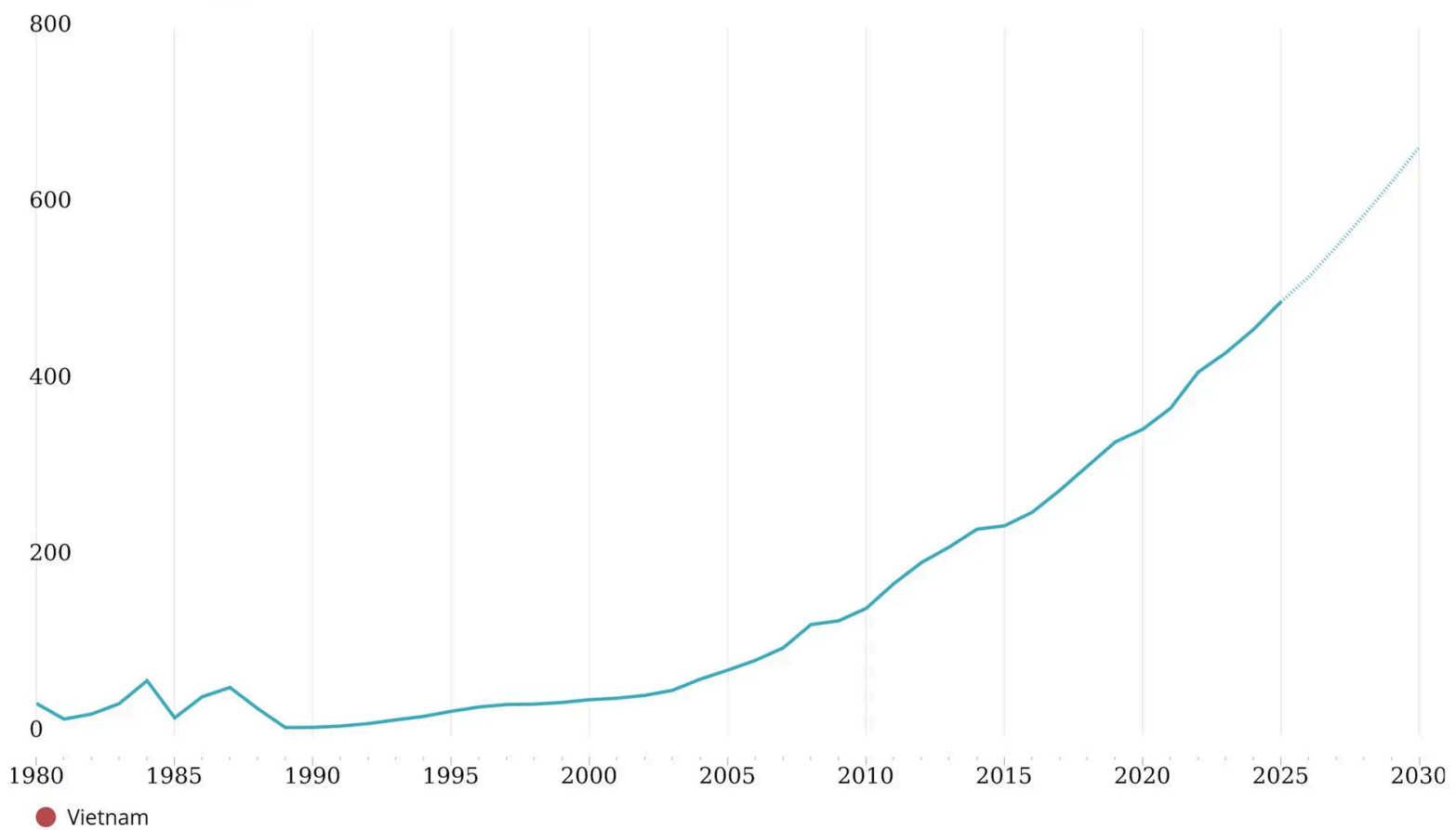
Signed after tense negotiations, the deal aims to secure Ukraine's economic future while bolstering U.S. supply chains for electronics and clean energy technologies.

President Trump framed the agreement as a safeguard for U.S. aid, claiming it protects America's \$123 billion contribution to Ukraine's war effort. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent called it a signal of commitment to a "free, sovereign, and prosperous Ukraine." Ukraine's Economy Minister Yulia Svyrydenko emphasized that Kyiv retains full ownership of its resources.

The deal taps Ukraine's deposits of 22 critical minerals, reducing Western reliance on China's dominant supply. A similar EU-Ukraine agreement exists, and the U.S. previously explored mining investments under the Biden administration.

Key Takeaway: This partnership strengthens U.S. strategic interests while supporting Ukraine's recovery, but its success hinges on sustained diplomatic trust.





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VIETNAM'S ECONOMIC ASCENT

CHASING THE \$1 TRILLION MARK

Vietnam's GDP Growth: How Long to Reach \$1 Trillion?

Vietnam's economy reached \$476.3 billion in 2024, ranking fourth in Southeast Asia. From \$43 billion in 1986 to \$433.7 billion in 2023, the country has shown remarkable growth. The IMF projects Vietnam's GDP at \$491 billion in 2025, climbing to \$666.5 billion by 2030, overtaking Thailand to become ASEAN's fourth-largest economy.

The Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR) is more bullish, forecasting \$676 billion by 2029 and \$1.41 trillion by 2039, propelling Vietnam to the world's top 25 economies. This trajectory hinges on sustained reforms and global trade integration.

Key Takeaway: Vietnam's rapid growth positions it as an ASEAN powerhouse, with a \$1 trillion GDP within reach by the late 2030s.



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