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At Chicago-Area Appliance Showroom, No Rush But Plenty of Confusion



By *John Keilman*, Reporter

The cavernous Abt Electronics appliance store in the Chicago suburbs hasn't seen a rush of tariff-spooked customers like car dealerships have, but co-president Mike Abt has encountered plenty of perplexity about how prices might change.

“There has definitely been more confusion this week than I've seen in 35 years,” he said.

He said companies that manufacture goods such as microwaves and small refrigerators in China have indicated they will raise prices because of tariffs. Others are taking a wait-and-see approach as trade negotiations continue.

Whirlpool, the largest U.S.-based appliance maker, has said its extensive domestic manufacturing operations make it better positioned than rivals to withstand tariffs. The Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers, an industry trade group, is scheduled to report first-quarter factory shipment numbers next week.