

43 Days in Limbo: The Shutdown That Broke Records

On October 1st, 2025, after the U.S. Congress attempted to and spectacularly failed multiple times to pass appropriations, the U.S. government entered its 11th shutdown. At 43 days long, this shutdown has set a new national record. It was allowed to happen in the first place because the U.S. Congress was unable to pass a full-year appropriation or get enough support for a 'continuing resolution'. When this happens, the government is forced to enter a 'shutdown' wherein most parts of the government that are considered 'non-essential' are, as you can guess, shut down. This typically affects public transportation employees, airport staff, and postal office workers. The Republican controlled House put forth plans that didn't contain certain policy provisions demanded by the Democrats, especially regarding healthcare subsidies.

This particular shutdown has led to almost 730,000 workers being placed in unpaid limbo or being furloughed, having been designated as 'non-essential' (which I can imagine most of the 730,000 weren't too pleased with). This was also the U.S. Congress politely asking them to move aside until they got their act together. One must not feel too sad about the 730,000 furloughed workers, though, as they will receive their lost pay as back pay, and according to Reuters, this is costing the government \$400 million every day. As someone whose proudest achievement so far has been getting an A+ in my 10th CBSE Math Exam, I can confidently tell you that this isn't going to be cheap for the U.S. Government.

Now for some objective facts that I consider 'fun'! This shutdown represents the 7th shutdown under the reign of a Republican president out of 11 shutdowns in total. It is also the second one during a Donald Trump presidency, the first one being during his first term. It is also to be noted that Mr Trump now holds the record of overseeing two of the longest government shutdowns in U.S. history.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that \$14 billion has been permanently lost from the economy due to the shutdown, and you know this is serious when the budget office of the same people who let this happen in the first place is saying this. It's also been estimated that each week of the shutdown led to the U.S. GDP dropping by 0.1 points. While it might seem all fun and games for us watching this unfold in India, we must remember how intertwined today's global markets are, especially with the U.S. A stock market that is as sensitive to FII deal flows as India will have investors pulling out of Indian stocks immediately if they get spooked in the slightest. Additionally, the Data Blackout that occurred as a result of the shutdown caused the collection of several key economic data points to be halted or delayed. This affects all organisations that need economic and statistical data or indicators, like the Federal Reserve, and could once again lead to increased volatility in the global markets.

Moreover, government food stamp programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) were affected, which led to a hilarious situation where a few state governments ended up suing the federal government.

On November 12, 2025, the shutdown finally came to an end after the President signed legislation reopening the government. However, it must be said that in reality, the problem is far from over. This legislation just provides the government a window until January 30, 2026, to resolve all the appropriations.

Links:

- 730,000 workers affected:
<https://bipartisanpolicy.org/explainer/who-is-missing-paychecks-in-the-2025-shutdown-when-and-where/>
- Reuters link: Trump signs deal to end longest US government shutdown in history -
https://www.reuters.com/legal/government/us-house-vote-deal-end-longest-government-shutdown-history-2025-11-12/?utm_source=chatgpt.com
- Congressional budget office estimate:
<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/oct/29/economic-loss-government-shutdown-2025>
- Link for GDP drop of 0.1 points: <https://www.cbo.gov/publication/61823>
- State govt suing federal govt:
<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/snap-food-stamps-lawsuit-25-states-trump-administration/>
- Data Blackout:
<https://apnews.com/article/economy-trump-government-shutdown-jobs-7606871d40d0b8b9e58ca42672e22112>