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# USA OUTLOOK

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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Photo: REUTERS

## White House eyes return to growth of 3%, 4% by early 2026 after shutdown knock

White House economic adviser Kevin Hassett said the U.S. economy is expected to return to 3–4% growth by early 2026, recovering from the slowdown caused by the 43-day government shutdown, which economists estimate reduced growth by 1 to 1.5 percentage points. Although economists warn that tariffs, weak consumer spending, slower job growth, and global trade challenges are weighing on the outlook, Hassett said the administration remains focused on affordability and increasing Americans' purchasing power.

Hassett argued that inflation is on a favorable long-term path and said deficit reduction this year should ease price pressures. He also highlighted the administration's plans to improve affordability through proposals such as a \$2,000 dividend for lower- and middle-income Americans and the introduction of a 50-year mortgage to help with housing costs. Despite improvements, he acknowledged that everyday items like milk and hamburgers remain significantly more expensive than during Trump's first term.

Source:

<https://www.reuters.com/markets/us/white-house-eyes-return-growth-3-4-by-early-2026-after-shutdown-knock-2025-11-11/>

## Government Reopens as Trump Signs Bill to End Nation's Longest Shutdown

President Trump signed a spending bill that ends the 43-day government shutdown, the longest in U.S. history. The House passed the bill 222–209 after several Senate Democrats broke with their party to advance the measure, sparking internal backlash.

The shutdown caused major disruptions, including missed paychecks for federal workers and threats to food assistance. Trump blamed Democrats for the crisis, though polls show most Americans blame Republicans.

Six House Democrats from swing districts voted with Republicans to reopen the government. The bill funds federal agencies through January, guarantees back pay for furloughed workers, and reverses shutdown-related layoffs. It also includes a controversial provision allowing certain Republican senators to sue over past phone-record seizures, which both parties criticized but kept to avoid prolonging the shutdown.

Democrats plan to continue pressing for an extension of federal health-care subsidies — their main demand that was excluded from the final deal.



Source:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/11/12/us/politics/government-shutdown-vote-trump.html>



Photo: NYTIMES

## US to remove tariffs on some products from Ecuador, Argentina, Guatemala and El Salvador

The U.S. announced it will remove tariffs on certain foods and imports from Argentina, Ecuador, Guatemala, and El Salvador under new framework trade agreements expected to be finalized within two weeks. The goal is to lower prices on products like coffee, bananas, and other foods that are not produced in the U.S., as part of the Trump administration's broader push to address high living costs.

The deals maintain overall tariffs of 10% for Argentina, Guatemala, and El Salvador and 15% for Ecuador, but eliminate tariffs on items not grown or produced in the U.S. In return, the four countries agreed to reduce non-tariff barriers, avoid digital taxes on U.S. companies, and open their markets to U.S. agricultural and industrial goods.

The move comes as President Trump faces political pressure after recent Democratic election victories tied to voter frustration over high prices. The administration is also holding positive talks with other Latin American countries, Switzerland, and Taiwan for possible additional agreements.

Source:

<https://www.reuters.com/world/us/us-remove-tariffs-some-products-ecuador-argentina-guatemala-el-salvador-2025-11-13/>

## US trade chief says Trump now ready to issue tariff exemptions on some food products

U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer said on Friday that President Trump is ready to move forward with tariff exemptions for certain imported goods that are not produced in the United States, such as coffee, cocoa, and bananas. In a live interview with CNBC, Greer explained that these items fall into "micro-areas" of trade where tariffs serve no protective purpose because there is no U.S. industry to shield.

Greer noted that the timing is ideal because the U.S. has just finalized new trade agreements with four Latin American countries, creating a foundation for broader tariff adjustments. With these deals in place, he said, the administration is prepared to lift duties on select products in an effort to help lower prices for American consumers.

He emphasized that the exemptions align with President Trump's broader push to address affordability concerns in the U.S. economy, especially as the administration faces political pressure to ease household costs. Greer suggested that more tariff adjustments could follow as additional trade negotiations progress.



Photo: NYTIMES

Source:

<https://www.reuters.com/business/us-trade-chief-says-trump-now-ready-issue-tariff-exemptions-some-food-products-2025-11-14/>



Photo: NYTIMES

## Trump Administration Prepares Tariff Exemptions in Bid to Lower Food Prices

The Trump administration is preparing broad tariff exemptions to help lower rising food prices, which have hurt consumer confidence and the president's approval ratings. The exemptions may include products like beef, citrus, coffee, bananas, and cocoa, going beyond earlier limits and possibly applying even to countries without trade deals — a move that risks backlash from U.S. ranchers.

Democrats' recent election wins, driven by concerns about affordability, increased pressure on the administration to act. Officials say the exemptions could ease prices but acknowledge the impact might be limited, since many agricultural imports already come from tariff-exempt partners like Canada and Mexico.

The announcement comes as the U.S. signs new trade agreements with Argentina, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Ecuador, with more deals being negotiated with Switzerland, Taiwan, and India.

Source:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/11/13/us/politics/trump-tariffs-food-prices.html>