



Week in Regulation

Short Week Leads to Light Haul

DAN GOLDBECK | SEPTEMBER 8, 2025

With the holiday-shortened week, it is hardly surprising that there was a rather limited set of meaningful rulemakings. There were nine actions with some kind of quantifiable economic effects, but most were measurable in the thousands - rather than millions - of dollars. The most substantial news of the week came in the administration finally releasing its agenda of upcoming regulatory and deregulatory actions last Thursday. Across all rulemakings, agencies published roughly \$14.2 million in total costs but cut 500 paperwork burden hours.

REGULATORY TOPLINES

- Proposed Rules: 29
- Final Rules: 47
- 2025 Total Pages: 43,043
- 2025 Final Rule Costs: -\$77.4 billion
- 2025 Proposed Rule Costs: -\$624.6 billion

NOTABLE REGULATORY ACTIONS

The most “significant” rulemaking of the week was the [proposed rule](#) from the Department of Transportation regarding “Procedures for Transportation Workplace Drug and Alcohol Testing Programs: Addition of Fentanyl to the Department of Transportation’s Drug-Testing Panel; Harmonization With Certain Items in the HHS Mandatory Guidelines for Urine and Oral Fluid; and Technical Amendments.” The agency estimates that the proposal’s adjustments to drug testing requirements would bring costs of roughly \$18 million.

TRACKING TRUMP 2.0

The most important regulatory news of the week was the release of Spring 2025 [edition](#) of the Unified Agenda of Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions (UA). Many will be understandably perplexed as to how the “Spring” agenda lands during the start of September. While this is the [latest release](#) of the Spring UA in recent memory – to say nothing of the 2012 edition that the Obama Administration apparently decided to simply forgo – the “spring” and “fall” release times have generally been something of a moving target. Regardless of the timing, this UA is notable because it gives the public the first broad look at the Trump Administration’s plans for its regulatory budget program over the coming year. Stay tuned for a deeper analysis of this document coming soon from the American Action Forum (AAF).

With Congress returning from its August recess, there was only nominal Congressional Review Act (CRA) news. That “news” was a Democratic Senator introducing another resolution of disapproval against a rulemaking from the current administration. This [resolution](#), coming from Senator Adam Schiff (D-CA), seeks to repeal the Trump Administration’s [rule](#) that extended certain compliance deadlines under emissions standards for oil and gas extraction and distribution facilities.

The AAF [CRA tracker](#) provides a full survey of activity under the law thus far in 2025. As of today, members of the 119th Congress have introduced CRA resolutions of disapproval addressing 58 rulemakings across the Biden and Trump Administrations that collectively involve \$138 billion in compliance costs. Of these, 16 have been passed into law, repealing a series of Biden Administration rules that had a combined \$3 billion in associated compliance costs – roughly 2 percent of that potential \$138 billion total. While the main window of CRA action has largely passed, there are still outstanding resolutions that could move legislatively. AAF will continue to monitor and update such developments as appropriate.

TOTAL BURDENS

Since January 1, the federal government has published \$702 billion in total regulatory net cost savings (with \$77.4 billion in cost savings from finalized rules) and 69.4 million hours of net annual paperwork cuts (with 48.6 million hours coming from final rules).

Year

- [Select All]
- 2025
- 2024
- 2023
- 2022
- 2021
- 2020
- 2019
- 2018
- 2017
- 2016
- 2015
- 2014
- 2013
- 2012
- 2011
- 2010
- 2009
- 2008
- 2007
- 2006
- 2005

Total Number of
Regulations
Finalized

138

Total Finalized Cost

\$-77.4b

Paperwork Hours

-48,625,775