



Research

Piling On: The Year in Regulation

SAM BATKINS | JANUARY 14, 2013

Despite a pronounced regulatory slowdown before Election Day, regulators still managed to add \$236.7 billion in regulations.

On paper, or at least in the editorial pages, 2012 was supposed to be a year of deregulation. President Obama's regulatory Czar, Cass Sunstein, [wrote](#) that the government would work "to eliminate unjustified regulatory costs and to reduce burdens." In one respect, Administrator Sunstein was correct; in 2012 the government published \$2.5 billion in regulatory rescissions. However, those cost savings were easily dwarfed by more than \$236 billion in new burdens. This caps a \$518 billion regulatory expansion during the last four years, more than the combined Gross Domestic Product of [Portugal and Norway](#).

Year	Proposed/Interim Rule Cost	Final Rule Cost
2009	\$921 Million	\$83 Billion
2010	\$21 Billion	\$125 Billion
2011	\$187 Billion	\$43 Billion
2012	\$20.7 Billion	\$215.9 Billion