November 13, 2025

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Dear Director Vought, Mr. Calabria, Director Arora, and Acting Commissioner Wiatrowski:

Now that the federal government shutdown has ended, we are writing to request information regarding your plans to release delayed federal economic data. The White House has announced it will not release certain datasets and claims – without explanation – that the Federal Statistical System may have been "permanently damaged."[1] This data is critical for American businesses and policymakers, including the Federal Reserve (Fed), which will rely on this data as it considers interest rate cuts on December 9 and 10, 2025.[2] Any failure by the Trump Administration to release delayed data could have disastrous consequences for our economy as Americans struggle to afford groceries, housing, and daily living expenses.

Federal statistical agencies and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) are responsible for releasing economic datasets, such as the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Employment Situation Reports (jobs data), collected by the federal government. They are also responsible for informing the public on when datasets will be released should any be delayed.[3] In recent weeks, the Trump Administration has failed to release September jobs data. Then, on November 12, 2025, the White House announced it would not release October's jobs data or CPI numbers[4] – a decision made while most agency staff with data expertise remained on furlough, unable to evaluate existing datasets or identify gaps.

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[1] CNBC, "White House says October jobs and inflation data may never be released because of the shutdown," Jeff Cox, November 12, 2025, https://www.cnbc.com/2025/11/12/white-house-october-data-release.html.
[2] Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, "Federal Open Market Committee," https://www.federalreserve.gov/monetarypolicy/fomccalendars.htm.
[3] Office of Management and Budget, Federal Register Notice, "Update of Statistical Policy Directive No. 3: Compilation, Release, and Evaluation of Principal Federal Economic Indicators—Changing Timing of Public Comments by Employees of the Executive Branch," February 15, 2024, https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2024-02-15/pdf/2024-03128.pdf.
[4] CNBC, "White House says October jobs and inflation data may never be released because of the shutdown," Jeff Cox, November 12, 2025, https://www.cnbc.com/2025/11/12/white-house-october-data-release.html.

But yesterday, the White House walked back those claims slightly when National Economic Council Director Kevin Hassett said that "[w]e'll get the jobs part [of the October jobs report], but we won't get the unemployment rate."[5] Hassett added uncertainty to the situation, stating: "We'll maybe be able to concoct something."[6] The September Producer Price Index (PPI), September Personal Consumption Expenditure (PCE), and Third Quarter Gross Domestic Product (GDP) are among other data releases that were postponed. The Administration has blamed these delays and cancellations on the government shutdown.

In reality, however, government shutdowns do not inherently inhibit the federal government from collecting or releasing economic data. Following a sixteen-day government shutdown in October 2013, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) suspended its data operations but subsequently published an "Updated Schedule of BLS News Releases" after the shutdown showing revised release dates.[7] Instead, it appears that the Trump Administration may be intentionally restricting the release of data. According to former Trump-appointed BLS Commissioner Bill Beach, for example, the September jobs data was "likely written in final draft" before the government shutdown. Yet the Administration refused to release this data.[8] And earlier this week, White House National Economic Director Kevin Hassett stated that "[s]ome of the stuff is lost forever, and some of it isn't" – raising concerns that some of the government surveys were never completed during the shutdown.[9]

We have written to Director Vought before, including twice during the government shutdown requesting immediate action to release the September jobs data and ensure that any additional data postponed because of the shutdown be processed and made public.[10] Director Vought failed to respond. He also failed to commit to releasing an updated production schedule for all Principal Federal Economic Indicators (PFEIs) impacted by the government shutdown, and to offer plans to ensure data integrity had not been compromised during the shutdown period.

The Trump Administration's failure to release data or provide a clear schedule for the release of delayed data leaves businesses and policymakers without access to critical economic information. This includes the Federal Reserve. Fed Chair Powell has stated explicitly that the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC), which makes decisions regarding interest rates, is "in

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[5] Bloomberg, "October Jobs Report to Skip Unemployment Rate, Hassett Says," Molly Smith, Hadriana Lowenkron, and Catherine Lucey, November 13, 2025, https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-11-13/october-jobs-report-to-skip-unemployment-rate-hassett-says.
[6] Post on X by Aaron Rupar, November 13, 2025, https://x.com/atrupar/status/1988979184337584332.
[7] U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Updated Schedule of BLS News Releases," updated December 6, 2013, https://www.bls.gov/bls/updated_release_schedule.htm.
[8] The Fiscal Lab on Capitol Hill, "Q&A on How the Government Shutdown Will Affect Reports from the Bureau of Labor Statistics," William Beach, October 1, 2025, https://fiscallab.org/financial-markets/qa-on-how-the-government-shutdown-will-affect-reports-from-the-bureau-of-labor-statistics.
[9] Bloomberg, "Hassett Says Lost October Data Means 'Cloudy' Economic Outlook," Molly Smith and Skylar Woodhouse, November 11, 2025, https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-11-11/hassett-says-lost-october-data-means-cloudy-economic-outlook.
[10] Letter from Senator Elizabeth Warren to Office of Management and Budget Director Vought and Acting Bureau of Labor Statistics Commissioner Wiatrowski, October 2, 2025, https://www.banking.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/warren_letter_to_vought_and_waitrowski_on_september_jobs_data.pdf; Letter from Senator Elizabeth Warren to Office of Management and Budget Director Vought and Chief Statistician of the United States Calabria, October 16, 2025, https://www.banking.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/warren_letter_to_omb_on_sept_econ_data.pdf.

a meeting-by-meeting situation" and heavily reliant on monthly data, emphasizing that there is no "risk-free path" forward.[11] Any misstep could have serious consequences for the U.S. economy and American households. Indeed, after the October FOMC meeting, Chair Powell said that a continued data blackout "could be an argument in favor of caution."[12] He likened the lack of data to driving in the fog and suggested the Fed may have to "slow down" – that is, pause on cutting interest rates at the next FOMC meeting in December.[13]

Failing to collect or release data collected during the shutdown will have cascading consequences for Americans. For example, the October collection of the Current Population Survey (CPS) has provided the nation's only annual source of reliable information on school enrollment and educational attainment through a partnership between the National Center for Education Statistics and BLS.[14] Educators, policymakers, and researchers depend on this data to allocate funding and track educational outcomes. It remains unclear whether the October CPS was collected or whether these critical education statistics will be released.

It is critical that businesses, consumers, workers, Congress, and the Fed have access to timely and comprehensive economic data. The Administration must release as much economic data as possible before the Fed's meeting and resume normally scheduled data releases as soon as possible. Furthermore, it must clarify to the public which data were and were not collected during the shutdown, as well as provide a detailed explanation for any decision made to discontinue collection, halt processing, or cancel completely any data that was delayed due to the government shutdown. To help us understand how you plan to address the delays, please answer the following questions by December 1, 2025:

1. On November 12, 2025, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said that the federal statistical system may have been "permanently damaged."[15] The White House made this claim before the government reopened, and federal statistical agency staff were brought back from furlough.

    a. What did the White House mean by "permanently damaged"? Please explain in detail.

    b. What evidence does the White House have to support this claim?

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[11] Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, "Transcript of Chair Powell's Press Conference," September 17, 2025, pp. 10-11, https://www.federalreserve.gov/mediacenter/files/FOMCpresconf20250917.pdf; Fortune, "The Fed just lost a key data feed on the job market days before its next rate meeting. A former BLS chief warns it's 'very concerning' as Powell is left 'flying blind'," Eva Roytburg, October 23, 2025, https://fortune.com/2025/10/23/bls-chief-adp-data-powell-interest-rates-flying-blind/.

[12] The Wall Street Journal, "Future Fed Rate Cuts 'Far' From Certain After Divided Meeting," Nick Timiraos, October 29, 2025, https://www.wsj.com/economy/central-banking/fed-cuts-interest-rates-federal-reserve-by-another-quarter-point-but-data-blackout-obscures-the-path-ahead-0268bdf6.

[13] The New York Times, "Fed Cuts Rates to Lowest Level Since 2022 but Casts Doubt on December Move," Colby Smith, October 29, 2025, https://www.nytimes.com/2025/10/29/business/fed-interest-rates-decision.html.

[14] U.S. Census Bureau, "Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Current Population Survey, School Enrollment Supplement," May 23, 2025, https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/05/23/2025-09265/agency-information-collection-activities-submission-to-the-office-of-management-and-budget-omb-for.

[15] CNBC, "White House says October jobs and inflation data may never be released because of the shutdown," Jeff Cox, November 12, 2025, https://www.cnbc.com/2025/11/12/white-house-october-data-release.html.

2. On November 12, 2025, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said that the October CPI and jobs reports will "likely never" be released. On November 13, 2025, however, National Economic Council Director Kevin Hassett said that "we're going to get half the employment report."[16]

    a. Please confirm what employment data will be released and when.

3. On November 13, 2025, National Economic Council Director Kevin Hassett said that the September jobs report may be released during the week of November 17, 2025.

    a. Can you confirm that this data will be released?

    b. If you will not commit to releasing this report, please provide a detailed explanation for withholding data that is already prepared.

4. Given the conflicting answers provided by White House officials this week, we ask that you provide clear answers to the following questions.

    a. What data was postponed due to the government shutdown?

    b. What data was automatically collected during the government shutdown?

    c. What data was not collected during the government shutdown?

    d. What data releases will the Administration be able to publish retroactively?

    e. Are there any data releases the Administration expects it will not be able to release? Please provide a detailed explanation.

    f. Was the October Current Population Survey (CPS) School Enrollment Supplement collected during the shutdown, and will it be released?

5. Will you commit to releasing an updated production schedule for all PFEIs impacted by the government shutdown, including firm estimated release dates?

6. What steps were being taken to ensure data integrity was not compromised during the shutdown?

Your prompt and comprehensive response to these questions is essential to restoring public confidence in federal economic statistics.

[16] Bloomberg, "October Jobs Report to Skip Unemployment Rate, Hassett Says," Molly Smith, Hadriana Lowenkron, and Catherine Lucey, November 13, 2025, https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-11-13/october-jobs-report-to-skip-unemployment-rate-hassett-says.

Sincerely,

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