

## Rate Cuts, Visa Alterations, and New Partnerships

September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025

- **First Fed Cut** – The Federal Reserve lowered interest rates by 0.25% on September 17, 2025, which is the first cut since December 18, 2024. The only committee member voting against the cut was Stephen I. Miran, who wanted a 0.5% cut (source: Federal Reserve).
- **Another Acquisition** – Pfizer announced the acquisition of Metsera, a weight-loss drug developer, in a deal valued at \$7.3 billion. This comes after the global obesity drug market is projected to reach \$150 billion by 2030 (source: Reuters).
- **Elevating Imports and Exports** – U.S. import prices rose by 0.3% in August 2025 after increasing by 0.2% in July 2025. Prices for U.S. exports also increased by 0.3% in August 2025 after jumping by 0.3% in July 2025 (source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics).
- **Abandoned Investment** – BP announced the abandonment of its Netherlands biofuel plant after facing weak demand. This comes after BP halted its biofuels plants in Australia, Germany, and the United States (source: Reuters).
- **Uneventful Employment** – The unemployment rate rose slightly to 4.3% in August 2025. Unemployment rates rose in Delaware, Maryland, and Minnesota and decreased in Alabama and Colorado. The remaining 45 states remained unchanged (source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics).
- **The Perfect Partnership** – Netflix signed a co-marketing deal with Anheuser-Busch InBev. InBev will be able to advertise on Netflix's live shows, like the NFL Christmas Day broadcast, and will create limited edition packaging and promotions for popular Netflix shows (source: Reuters).
- **Rough Report** – Cracker Barrel released its fourth quarter earnings call for fiscal year 2025, citing a 4.4% revenue decrease from Q4 FY 2024. This comes after Cracker Barrel's failed rebranding campaign that caused public backlash (source: Cracker Barrel).
- **Visa Revision** – President Trump increased the H-1B worker visa to \$100,000 to discourage hiring overseas. Many major tech companies, like Amazon and Microsoft, rely on H-1B visas to fill highly skilled jobs. Existing H-1B visas were not impacted by the regulation change (source: NBC News).
- **Two Touchdowns** – Isaiah Rodgers from the Minnesota Vikings became the first player in Vikings history with two defensive touchdowns in a single game. Rodgers is also the 11th player since 1966 to have interception and fumble return touchdowns in the same game (source: NFL).
- **AI's Impact** – A recent study by Pew Research found that 53% of U.S. adults believe that AI will worsen people's ability to think critically. Similarly, 50% of respondents believe that AI will worsen people's ability to form meaningful relationships (source: Pew Research Center).

### Definitions and Indexes

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