

Funding Face Off, Downsizing, and Huge Hacks

July 28th, 2025

- **Index Increase** – The June 2025 Consumer Price Index increased by 0.3%, bringing the 12-month average to 2.7%. The gasoline index jumped by 1.0% in June 2025; however, the 12-month average still shows an 8.3% decline (source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics).
- **Downsizing** – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is cutting its workforce by 23% and closing its scientific research office in an effort to downsize. The restructuring will save about \$748.8 million (source: Reuters).
- **Descending Dollars** – The real average hourly earnings for all employees declined by 0.1% in June 2025. However, from June 2024 to June 2025, real average hourly earnings increased by 1.0% (source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics).
- **Funding Face Off** – Harvard and the Trump Administration will face off in court over \$2.5 billion in canceled federal grants. This comes after Harvard refused to implement changes in its governance, hiring, and admissions practices (source: Reuters).
- **Fantastic Financials** – Fastenal released its second quarter earnings report, citing an 8.6% increase in net sales from Q2 2024. The uptick in revenue stems from new customer contract signings and positive changes in foreign exchange rates. Similarly, net income increased by 12.8% in Q2 2025 compared to Q2 2024 (source: Fastenal).
- **Bounce Back** – U.S. import prices rose by 0.1% in June 2025, following a 0.4% decline in May 2025. Similarly, U.S. export prices increased by 0.5% in June 2025 after a 0.6% decline in May 2025 (source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics).
- **Huge Hacks** – Microsoft announced a mass attack related to its Microsoft SharePoint Server users, releasing an update to ensure device protection. Governments, schools, and hospitals were the immediate targets. This comes after Amazon informed nearly 220 million customers of Prime account attacks and the mass hack of Ring doorbells (source: Forbes).
- **Case Closed** – The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration closed its preliminary evaluation into nearly 455,000 Nissan vehicles. Nissan's fix is to evaluate metal debris in engine oil pans and extend the vehicle warranty on impacted vehicles to 10 years and 120,000 miles after inspection (source: Reuters).
- **Sayonara Cell Phones** – A new Pew Research study found that 74% of U.S. adults support a cell phone ban for middle and high school students, which is a 6% increase from 2024's study (source: Pew Research Center).
- **Par Performance** – Scottie Scheffler takes home his fourth title of 2025, winning the 2025 Open Championship. Scheffler became the 31st player in history with four major wins (source: Yahoo Sports).

Definitions and Indexes

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