

Rate Cuts, Retirement Updates, and Retail Reductions

November 10th, 2025

- **Rate Reduction** – The Federal Reserve announced another 0.25 rate cut on October 29, 2025. Two committee members opposed the 0.25 rate cut, with Stephen I. Miran advocating for a 0.50 rate cut and Jeffrey R. Schmid, who preferred no rate cut (source: The Federal Reserve).
- **Retail Reduction** – Many major retailers have started layoffs despite the holiday season being in full swing. Amazon is reducing its workforce by 14,000 corporate roles, while Target is cutting 1,800 corporate roles and UPS is eliminating 34,000 positions (source: Yahoo Finance).
- **Big Buyout** – Kimberly-Clark announced the purchase of Kenvue, the maker of Tylenol, for \$40 billion, which is the largest buyout in the U.S. consumer goods sector. This comes after a slew of pending lawsuits that Kenvue is facing related to its Tylenol and baby powder products (source: Reuters).
- **Fine Financials** – Amazon released its Q3 2025 results, citing a 13% increase in net sales from Q3 2024; however, Q3 2025 operating income remained the same as Q3 2024 due to \$2.5 billion in a legal settlement with the FTC and \$1.8 billion in severance costs associated with layoffs (source: Amazon).
- **Coin Conundrum** – The United States has officially stopped producing pennies, causing retailers to adjust prices and round cash transactions. The U.S. isn't the first country to eliminate low-value coins. Canada, Australia, Ireland, and New Zealand have all had similar phase-outs, rounding cash transactions to the nearest five cents (source: Reuters).
- **AI Alliance** – Microsoft has signed a \$9.7 billion five-year deal with data-center operator IREN, which will provide Microsoft with access to Nvidia's chips. The partnership will allow Microsoft to expand without having to build a new data center (source: Reuters).
- **Ready to Retire?** – A 2025 Northwestern Mutual Planning & Progress study found that the average American now needs \$1.26 million to retire, which is a \$200,000 decrease from what was needed in 2024 (source: Yahoo Finance).
- **Strong Storm** – Hurricane Melissa made landfall in Jamaica as a Category 5 storm, which is the strongest storm the region has ever seen. Scientists believe the intensification of the storm was due to unusually warm Caribbean waters (source: Reuters).
- **Detroit Deals** – Aidan Hutchinson signed a four-year contract extension with the Detroit Lions worth \$180 million. This includes \$141 million guaranteed, which is the most guaranteed for a non-quarterback (source: New York Post).
- **Double Hitter** – The Los Angeles Dodgers became the eighth team to win back-to-back World Series Championships after beating the Toronto Blue Jays on Saturday, November 1 (source: ESPN).

Definitions and Indexes

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