

A report by Defend America Action | August 2025

# **TRUMP'S AWFUL AUGUST**



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## Trump's *Awful August*

There's no question that Donald Trump had a terrible August. Trump and Republicans spent the month celebrating their signature policy move to gut Medicaid, kick over 15 million people off their health insurance, take food assistance away from millions of Americans, raise energy bills by hundreds of dollars per year, and increase the federal deficit by trillions of dollars. Already, **hospitals and clinics are closing over losing funding, health care premiums are rising, energy prices are up, students are defaulting on loans, and more – all while the ultra-wealthy get even richer.**

To make matters worse, Trump's disastrous tariff regime is wreaking havoc on the U.S. economy and leaving working families in the dust. Everyday costs, from groceries to energy bills, are rising. Job growth is falling, and economic activity is slowing. American consumers are upset, and it shows in Trump's tanking poll numbers. **Less than a third of Americans think the economy is in a good place right now, and a majority disapproves of Trump's job performance.**

Now, Trump is desperate to change the subject and distract from his failed agenda. From his failed foreign policy forays to his mid-decade redistricting power grab in Texas and authoritarian takeover of Washington, D.C., Trump has continued to abuse his power and humiliate the U.S. on the world stage. After he spent the month haphazardly lobbing tariff threats – only to chicken out at the last minute – Trump held a summit in Alaska, greeting Russian dictator Vladimir Putin with a red carpet and limousine ride, all to walk away empty-handed and embolden the war criminal. He also announced his intentions to meet with longtime U.S. enemy North Korea's murderous dictator. **It's clear that Donald Trump only intends to continue abusing his power and marching toward authoritarianism to benefit himself and his rich and powerful friends at the expense of working families.**

## ***New CBO Score Breaks Down Trump and Republicans' Big, Ugly Bill.***

A new damning CBO score on Trump and Republicans' Big, Ugly bill showed that it:

- Kicks more than **15 million people** off their health insurance and cuts nearly **\$1 trillion** from Medicaid.
- Will force **over 330 hospitals** and **570 nursing homes** to close across the country.
- Raises **health care costs** for tens of millions of low- and middle-income Americans.
- Raises energy costs **up to 18 percent** for everyone.
- Kills **millions of jobs** in clean energy.
- Takes food assistance away from about **4 million Americans**.
- Eliminates school meal access for **1 million kids**.
- Slashes **millions** in weather forecasting funding.
- Adds **\$4.1 trillion** to the deficit.

# *Trump Continued Tanking The U.S. Economy In August With His Disastrous Tariff Regime.*

## *Costs Rise*

- Consumer confidence in the U.S. economy **dropped** in August for the eighth straight month in a row.
- The core consumer price index, which excludes volatile food and energy costs, **rose** in June and July at the **fastest annual pace** in five months.
- Vegetable prices spiked **nearly 40 percent** in July, largely due to Trump's tariff scheme.
- Many food costs are rising faster than inflation overall, with eggs, **coffee**, beef and veal, candy and chewing gum, sugar and sweets, bacon, and bananas all **up between 4 and 16 percent** year-over-year.
- Energy prices are up 10 percent and **growing twice as fast** as inflation.
- U.S. housing affordability has reached levels of unaffordability not seen since the 2008 crisis, with a **57 percent gap** between median household income and the income required to purchase a median-priced home.
- The producer price index experienced its **largest rise in three years**, growing around 1 percent in July – **4.5 times faster** than economists anticipated.
- Construction material prices **rose faster than inflation last month** as Trump's tariffs on steel, aluminum, and copper caused prices to soar.
- Trump is pushing for **tariffs on imported furniture**, threatening to raise prices on commercial and home furnishings.
- Trucking **bankruptcies** are spiking thanks to Trump's expansive tariffs.

## *Jobs Growth Falls*

- Trump's **anemic economy** has delivered the **worst three months of job growth** since the pandemic.
- American companies experienced their **highest rate of layoffs** since the COVID-19 pandemic this month, with U.S.-based employers announcing **more than 800,000** job cuts through the end of July.
- Construction industry hiring **fell by 16,000 jobs** last month.

## *Economic Activity Slows*

- Homes are **selling** at their slowest summer pace in a decade, yet home prices continue to rise. Yet even as prices rise, home values are **falling** in half of major US metropolitan areas.
- Home construction permits fell 2.8 percent to a **five-year low** this month.
- Fast-casual and fast-food restaurant sales dropped last quarter by **as much as 7 percent** for many businesses, including Sweetgreen, Chipotle, KFC, Wendy's, Popeyes, Wingstop, and more.



## *Trump Tanks In The Polls.*

### *Americans Continue To Reject Trump and Republicans' Big, Ugly Bill*

- **53 percent** say the GOP budget will hurt the average American.
- **51 percent** oppose the GOP's Big, Ugly Bill.
- A majority (**63 percent**) believe Republicans put the interests of the rich ahead of those of working Americans.

### *Americans Broadly Continue To Oppose Trump's Tariffs*

- **71 percent** say tariffs will increase prices on goods, and twice as many Americans would prefer for tariffs on foreign goods to be decreased as want them to be increased.

### *Polling on Trump's Economy Sours*

- **72 percent** of Americans believe the state of the economy is fair or poor.
- Nearly 70 percent of Americans said they believe the American dream no longer holds true or never did, the highest level in 15 years.
- **63 percent** of Americans say the economy is getting worse.
- **1 in 3 Americans** now say their financial situation has deteriorated in the past year.
- American consumer sentiment **unexpectedly fell** this month for the first time in months, dropping 6 percent in August.
- Homebuilder sentiment hit its **lowest level** since late 2022 this month.
- **60 percent** disapprove of Trump's performance on inflation and the cost of living.
- The **vast majority** of U.S. adults are at least somewhat stressed about the cost of groceries.
- **Just 37 percent** of Americans approve of Trump's handling of the economy.
- A record low **25 percent** of Americans say they have a good chance of improving their standard of living.

### *Trump's DC Takeover Is Wildly Unpopular*

- **56 percent** of registered voters, and 61 percent of independents, said they oppose Trump's decision to deploy the National Guard to DC.
- **55 percent** of Americans say it's "completely" or "somewhat" unacceptable for the federal government to take control of local police in the wake of Trump's DC takeover.
- **Only 38 percent** of Americans support Trump's use of troops in DC.

### *Trump Disapproval Soars*

- **Less than a third** of Americans – a dismal 31 percent – currently say they are satisfied with the direction of the country.
- **60 percent** disapprove of Trump's performance on inflation and the cost of living.
- **58 percent** of Americans disapprove of Trump's job performance, up 7 percent since April.
- **Less than 40 percent** of Americans approve of Trump's job performance.

## *Trump's Foreign Policy Agenda Is Falling Apart.*

### *Trump Embraced and Emboldened A War Criminal at Failed Putin Summit*

- Trump **threw in the towel** on ending Russia's War in Ukraine as he promised after two failed summit meetings, throwing our ally Ukraine under the bus.
- Trump's much-hyped summit with Putin **delivered nothing** for the American people or the prospect for peace – no ceasefire, no deal, no progress – while handing the brutal dictator exactly what he wanted: legitimacy and time to continue his war, exposing Trump as weak and ineffective on the world stage.
- Putin was only emboldened by the summit. In the days that followed, **Putin escalated his attacks** on Ukraine dramatically with his largest strike in weeks and even **bombed** a U.S. factory in western Ukraine.



### *Trump Continued His March Toward Authoritarianism, Expressing Interest In Meeting With Murderous North Korean Dictator*

- In a **meeting** with South Korea's president Lee Jae-myung this month, Trump continued his march toward authoritarianism, **embracing** the murderous North Korean dictator instead of unequivocally supporting a longtime American ally.