

Regulatory Freeze

Administration Policy:

President Trump issued an Executive Order (EO) calling for a [regulatory freeze](#) pending a review by new Trump administration officials. The EO requires that federal agencies do not propose or issue any rule until a new department or agency head is appointed. Further, it orders the withdrawal of any rules that have been submitted to but not yet published in the *Federal Register*. It also postpones for 60 days the effective date of any rules that have been published in the *Federal Register* but have not yet taken effect.

Background:

- Former President Biden added [more](#) regulatory cost to the U.S. economy than any President in history.
- According to a [2024 report](#), the total cost to the U.S. economy from final rules implemented by the Biden administration reached \$1.47 trillion during Biden's last year in office.
 - These rules also required an estimated 278.6 million hours of time from individuals and businesses to meet compliance.
- In Biden's first year in office, his administration added more than [\\$200 billion](#) in new regulatory cost to the U.S. economy, more than four times the cost added during former President Obama's first year.
- The Biden administration made the regulatory process less transparent by rolling back [policies](#) requiring federal agencies to disclose regulatory guidance (e.g., memos, statements of policy, or similar agency documents that can have a regulatory impact) and changed the cost/benefit analysis conducted on proposed rules to water down their estimated cost.
- During his first administration, President Trump initiated an aggressive deregulatory agenda. [EO 13771](#) required that a federal agency take two deregulatory actions for every new regulation.
 - According to a [report](#) from Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) in 2020, EO 13771 reduced regulatory costs by \$200 billion.
 - The same report also noted that the ratio of deregulatory actions to significant regulatory actions was closer to 5 to 1 during President Trump's first term.
- A 2019 interim [report](#) from the Council of Economic Advisers projected that overtime, Trump's deregulatory policies could raise real incomes by \$3,100 per household per year and save consumers and businesses roughly \$220 billion per year.