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**Ladies & Gentlemen,**  
Below please find this week's edition of *Executive Insight Brief* from The Roosevelt Group.

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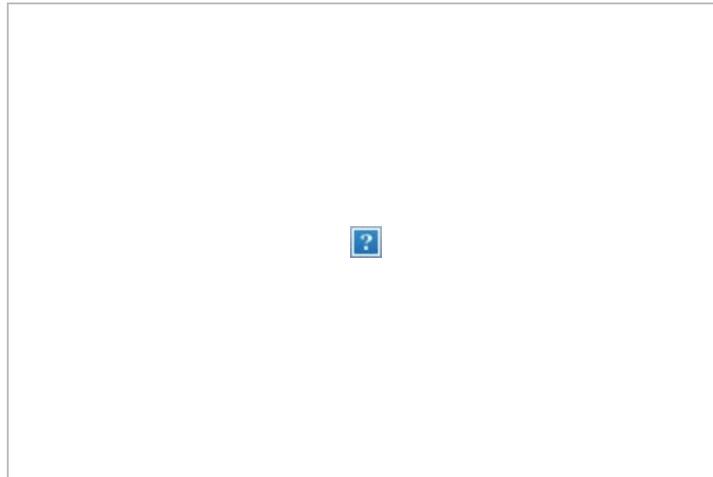
## Notable Headlines

- [Trump lawyers, special counsel fight over election interference case in court](#)
- [Grinning Vladimir Putin suggests support for Kamala Harris as U.S. accuses Russia of election interference](#)

- [Congo gets first desperately needed mpox vaccines, but vaccination campaign faces huge challenges](#)
- [FBI raids homes of top aides to New York City Mayor Eric Adams](#)
- [Hochul's headwinds become tougher with indictment of alleged foreign agent](#)

**Worth reading:** [New details emerge about the 14-year-old suspect and victims in the deadliest school shooting this year](#)

## View From The Hill



Welcome back to the Capitol Hill section of the TRG Executive Insight Brief! After their sleepy August Recess and Labor Day holiday, both chambers of Congress are poised to return to Washington next week to begin a three-week sprint to fund the federal government beyond the current fiscal year, which ends on September 30<sup>th</sup>. The House and Senate attempted to pass full year appropriations bills earlier in the summer with mixed results. Now, however, leadership in both chambers is openly admitting what everyone around town has known for months: Congress will need to pass a Continuing Resolution (CR) as a stopgap spending measure to avoid a lapse in appropriations, otherwise known as a government shutdown. There is simply not enough time over the next three weeks to finish finalizing full year bills, hammer out the chasm of differences between the House and Senate versions of these bills, and get final bills to President Biden for signature. So, the question is not if a CR will be needed but how long of a CR will get passed.

There is absolutely no appetite on either side of the aisle for a government shutdown just weeks before a pivotal election. House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) [announced](#) plans this week to vote on a fairly long CR that would last through March 2025 when the chamber returns next week. This sort of strategy is meant to appease the right, but is proving deeply frustrating for both appropriators, who have been hard at work writing full year bills, and moderate Republicans facing [tough](#) races back home. While the Speaker is likely to be able to muscle this through on a party-line vote, it remains to be seen whether any moderate, vulnerable Republicans might break and vote against this with Democrats.

It is also worth noting this long of a CR is seen as a nonstarter in the Democrat-controlled Senate, where it will certainly die. Most folks around town believe that an eventual inevitability will be a CR into early December after the election, but exactly when and how that will come together over the next three weeks is unclear.

One thing to keep in mind as Congress returns is that from now until November the only thing anyone cares about is the election. Both chambers are very much seen as up for grabs and the Great Summer Switch at the top of the ticket for Democrats has scrambled any prior assumptions or political strategy on both sides of the aisle.

## Aerospace & Defense

### [Air Force going 'line by line' to bring down nuclear missile costs \(DefenseNews\)](#)

Andrew Hunter, Air Force Assistant Secretary for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics said the Air Force focused initially on the missile portion of the LGM-35A Sentinel intercontinental ballistic missile, and the program “really neglected the complexity of the ground infrastructure.” Hunter, who was speaking at the DefenseNews Conference earlier this week continued saying the service “underestimated” the complexity of building a network of launch centers. The Air Force is looking to “replace its arsenal of roughly 450 aging Minuteman III nuclear missiles, which are nearing the end of its life.” However, costs associated with refurbishing existing silos for the new missiles and replacing about 7,500 miles of copper cable connecting facilities have skyrocketed. It was originally expected Sentinel would cost \$77.7 billion, but now “the program is likely to cost about \$160 billion” if it stays on current course. This past July the military decided Sentinel was too important to cancel, but needed to be restructured to try and get costs down. But, the Pentagon said even a “reasonably modified” version would still cost around \$140.9 billion, which equates to 81% more than the original estimate.

### [Navy Secretary Breaks Law with Political Statements About Presidential Race, Watchdog Says](#)

### [NATO hosts Icelandic exercise to monitor vital north Atlantic passage \(DefenseNews\)](#)

Seven NATO countries completed an Iceland-based exercise aimed at defending vital underwater lines of communication and sea routes against conventional military threats and acts of sabotage. The annual exercise consisted of 11 days “of joint operations in the maritime transit route known as the GIUK gap, an acronym for Greenland, Iceland, and the United Kingdom.” This area forms an important “naval choke point,” a passage which connects two stretches of open ocean to the three land masses, vital to naval and air traffic between Europe and North America. The training, led by US Naval Forces Europe, brought together “1,200 participants from Iceland, Denmark, France, Norway, Poland, and Portugal.” Missions were based on a simulated threat to Iceland’s national security in order to test NATO’s ability to respond to crises that would threaten strategic lines of communication. Due to rising sea levels in the Arctic, new shipping lanes have emerged

which has fueled a race to see which country (Arctic or not) can control them.

## Budget & Economy

### [Wall Street edges lower as focus shifts to payrolls data \(Reuters\)](#)

The three main indexes slipped in choppy trading on Thursday as a “short-lived boost from a services activity survey fizzled out ahead of an upcoming employment report.” The nonfarm payrolls data for the month of August is due today amid worries of a slowdown in the economy. However, focus still remains on the possible Federal Reserve interest rate cut that is expected later this month. There were mixed reports this week, including a decline in weekly jobless claims, and an ADP survey which showed employers hired the fewest number of workers in 3.5 years in August. According to the CME Group’s FedWatch Tool “traders’ bets for a 25-basis point reduction in interest rates stand at 61%.” While many are expecting a rate cut, the question remaining is how large the cut will be. A larger cut may potentially indicate deeper concerns about economic stability.

### [Expect a \\$833B defense budget for FY25, but not on time, lawmaker says](#)

### [Friday’s jobs report for August is going to be huge. Here’s what to expect. \(CNBC\)](#)

Wall Street is gearing up for one of the most important economic releases of the year today, when the Labor Department puts out a jobs report expected to go a long way in determining the future of Federal Reserve policy. Assumptions are for growth of “161,000 for August and a slight decline in the unemployment rate to 4.2%” However, recent data, has pointed to a sharp slowdown in hiring and has put some downside risk to that forecast. Giacomo Santangelo, economist at job search site Monster said, “The labor market has cooled faster than we originally had been told, so that’s what’s calling [Friday’s report] into question.” He continued saying, “What the Fed is going to do in response, how are they going to adjust rates, is why we’re having this conversation.” While growth has been tailing off through much of 2024, it home in the July report that showed growth of just 114,000. While it wasn’t the lowest number in 2024, “it followed a Fed meeting that stirred up sentiment the central bank was being too complacent about a weakening economy and might hold interest rates high for too long.”

## Advanced Technologies

### [Senate panel to question US semiconductor firms on Russian weapons \(Reuters\)](#)

The US Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations said it will hold a hearing with

four companies on the use of American-manufactured semiconductors in Russian weapons deployed in the war in Ukraine. Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) announced the hearing will take place on Tuesday. Executives from Analog Devices, Advanced Micro Devices, Intel, and Texas Instruments will testify. The subcommittee said the companies' "products have consistently appeared in recovered Russian weapons. The hearing will probe the companies' compliance with export controls intended to block Russia from accessing American technology." The four companies are sending vice presidents who oversee trade compliance issues. In February of this year Blumenthal said semiconductor manufacturers should do more to keep their chips from illegally making their way into equipment used by the Russian military. Reports have shown US origin chips and other technology have continuously made their way into Russian equipment from drones, to missiles, and armored vehicles.

### [Israeli defense companies showcase in India advanced tech to counter drone threats](#)

### [US implements new controls on advanced technology alongside international partners \(Reuters\)](#)

On Thursday, the US published new controls on advanced technology, including quantum computers, in line with restrictions imposed by international partners. The controls will affect equipment for "producing advanced semiconductors, additive manufacturing items to produce metal components, and gate all-around field-effect transistor (GAAFET) technology." In a statement, Commerce official Alan Estevez said, "Today's action ensures our national export controls keep pace with rapidly evolving technologies and are more effective when we work in concert with international partners." Several countries, including the United Kingdom, already have imposed similar controls, and others are expected to do so as well. The new controls include reporting requirements for new foreign national employees working on quantum computer development in the US.

## **Military Installations & Communities**

### [Pentagon leaders head to Germany for the latest round of international talks on Ukraine Military Aid \(Military.com\)](#)

Top US military leaders will be in Germany to discuss Ukraine's wartime needs as Russia has conducted one of its deadliest airstrikes of the war. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and Gen. C.Q. Brown, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, will host a meeting at Ramstein Air Force Base of the Ukraine Defense Contact Group. This group is made up of military leaders from more than 50 nations that have regularly provided funds and weapon systems to bolster Ukraine. These nations have faced renewed calls from Volodymyr Zelenskyy for "additional air defenses and loosened restrictions on how far into Russia

Ukraine can fire American-provided munitions.” He has long pushed allies to go further to support the Ukrainian war effort. Earlier this week Zelenskyy said, “air defense systems and missiles are needed in Ukraine, not in a warehouse somewhere.” The Biden administration has kept strict control on how Ukraine can use American-made missiles with concerns that if they were used to strike deep into Russia the war would escalate. The meeting also comes as Zelenskyy has reshuffled his cabinet in recent days.

### [Father, Son Reunite at Army Training in Missouri, Officials Say. 'What Are the Chances'](#)

#### [Air Force investigating 7,000 gallon PFAS spill at New Mexico Base \(Military.com\)](#)

Cannon Air Force Base in New Mexico is investigating the environmental toll after 7,000 gallons of chemically contaminated water spilled on the facility over the summer. The tainted water contained PFAS, commonly known as ‘forever chemicals.’ According to a press release the spill occurred at “the fire training area on base between July 9 and July 15” with thousands of gallons of water leaking into a nearby retention pond. Col. Robert Johnston, the 27th Special Operations Wing and Cannon Air Force Base commander said in a release, “We understand the concerns of our community, our airmen, and their families. Please know that we are working expeditiously to address the affected area. We are committed to taking all necessary steps to ensure such incidents do not happen again in the future.” It is not believed drinking water was affected as those wells are located upstream. It is also not believed that off-base wells will be affected. Sampling continues to occur to weigh the environmental effect. Commander Johnston has also appointed a task force to examine and review “all current environmental compliance training, policy, and procedural guidance to ensure strict adherence to applicable requirements moving forward.” The Department of the Air Force is expected to provide a public update on November 12.

## Homeland Security

#### [US Widens Indictment of Russians in 'WhisperGate' Conspiracy to Destroy Ukrainian and NATO Systems \(Military.com\)](#)

The U.S. Justice Department has widened its indictment of Russians in the so-called WhisperGate malware attacks aimed at destroying computer systems in

Ukraine and 26 NATO allies including the United States. A superseding indictment announced Thursday names five Russian military intelligence officers in a conspiracy to demoralize the Ukrainian people on the eve of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. In their written response, excerpts of which were shared with Reuters, the companies echoed concerns revealed publicly by U.S. Steel on Wednesday. "Rejection of this transaction will lead to the idling of U.S. Steel's blast furnace facilities; ... likely cost thousands of jobs; and ultimately weaken the quality and resiliency of steel supply to U.S. industries." The U.S., they added, was "acting in this matter not on the basis of the facts, the law, or the United States national security interests, but on the basis of politics and the cynical exploitation thereof by third parties."

### [DOJ indicts former Trump campaign adviser, Russian intel officers in new cases](#)

#### [US warned Nippon its U.S. Steel bid poses a national security risk \(Reuters\)](#)

The Biden administration told Nippon Steel, opens new tab in a letter on Saturday its \$14.9 billion acquisition of U.S. Steel, opens new tab would pose a national security risk by harming the American steel industry, three people said, adding to evidence the U.S. is poised to block it. The deal faces opposition from numerous Democrats and Republicans, with Vice President and Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris saying on Monday she wants U.S. Steel to remain "American owned and operated." Her Republican rival Donald Trump has pledged to block the deal if elected. In the letter, which has not been previously reported, the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) said the deal would damage American steel production and decrease the likelihood that U.S. Steel would continue to aggressively seek trade remedies, the people who were familiar with the matter said, adding that the companies were given until Wednesday to respond. "The committee has identified risks to the national security of the United States arising as a result of the transaction," the letter said, according to one of the sources.

## Transportation & Infrastructure

#### [Biden-Harris Administration Announces More Than \\$1 Billion in Grants for 350+ Communities to Make Local Roads Safer \(USDOT\)](#)

Today, U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg announced more than \$1 billion in grants through President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) program. The funding will go directly to 354 local, regional, and tribal communities to improve roadway safety and prevent deaths and serious injuries on America's rural and urban roads, including some of the most dangerous in the country. The announcement – a key component of DOT's comprehensive National Roadway Safety

Strategy launched in 2022 – is paired with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's release of its early estimates of traffic fatalities for the first half of 2024, estimating that traffic fatalities declined for the ninth straight quarter. An estimated 18,720 people died in motor vehicle traffic crashes, a decrease of about 3.2 percent as compared to 19,330 fatalities projected to have occurred in the first half of 2023. Fatalities declined in both the first and second quarters of 2024. Even with road fatalities decreasing over the past nine quarters straight, they remain far too high. Over 40,000 people have died on U.S. roads in each of the last three years, and a disproportionate number of people are killed in rural areas or while walking or bicycling. Additionally, traffic fatalities remain a leading cause of death for school-aged children and young adults.

### [Military's \\$17.9 Billion Moving Contract Off to Slow Start](#)

#### [Maryland cuts \\$1.3B in 6-year transportation draft plan \(CBS News\)](#)

Maryland's six-year capital transportation plan will decrease by \$1.3 billion, according to a draft plan released Tuesday, reflecting operating costs that are outpacing revenue growth, state officials said. The reduction in the \$18.9 billion program for fiscal years 2025 to 2030 will result in some deferred projects, such as sidewalk repair and intersection improvements, officials said. It also will delay the transition to the electrification of the state's bus fleet. "Despite significant budgetary challenges, the Maryland Department of Transportation continues to prioritize the safety of all who use our transportation system and make investments in projects that will help grow our economy," Maryland Transportation Secretary Paul Wiedefeld said in a news release. For example, the state will proceed with plans for the Frederick Douglass Tunnel to replace the 1.4-mile (2.3-kilometer) Baltimore & Potomac Tunnel that connects Baltimore's Penn station to MARC's West Baltimore Station. The state will also continue plans for the Howard Street Tunnel to create vertical clearance improvements along CSX's Rail Corridor to allow double-stack trains to travel between Baltimore and Philadelphia. The proposal also won't affect plans to rebuild the Francis Scott Key Bridge, which [collapsed under the impact](#) of a massive container ship that lost power and crashed into one of its supporting columns.

## Biotechnology & Healthcare

#### [Three blood biomarkers may give women a picture of their heart disease risk decades in advance, study shows \(CNN\)](#)

Measuring the levels of three biomarkers in blood in midlife may give women a clearer picture of their risk of major cardiovascular events like heart attacks and strokes decades earlier than current risk calculators do, a new study suggests. When it comes to the worries that women have about their health, heart disease isn't usually at the top of the list – but it probably should be. Heart disease is the No. 1 killer of women in the United States. In 2021, it was responsible for the deaths of more than 310,000 women, about 1 in every 5 female deaths, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. About 80% of women ages 40 to 60 are living with at least one risk factor for coronary artery disease, research has found, but only about half of women recognize heart disease as

their biggest health risk. Experts say that having better measures of risk earlier in life might help women take critical steps to improve their health before it's too late.

### [Steward Health CEO refuses to testify despite Senate panel subpoena](#)

### [U.S. allows ADHD drugmaker to increase production limit to ease ongoing shortage \(NBC News\)](#)

The Drug Enforcement Administration has increased the production limit for Takeda Pharmaceutical's ADHD drug Vyvanse and its generic versions by about 24% to address the medicine's ongoing shortage in the United States. The raised production limit follows the Food and Drug Administration's request in July, the DEA said in a notice on Tuesday. ADHD drugs have been in short supply for years. The FDA warned of a shortage of Israel-based drugmaker Teva Pharmaceutical Industries' Adderall in October 2022, troubled by manufacturing delays. That led to a spike in demand and subsequent shortage of Takeda's Vyvanse. Vyvanse, also known as lisdexamfetamine, is classified by the DEA as a schedule II controlled substance, which is applied to drugs considered to have a high likelihood of being abused, and additional prescribing safeguards are put in place.

## Climate & Development

### [Biden set to announce billions for rural energy in Wisconsin visit \(The Hill\)](#)

President Biden is set to announce billions of dollars in federal investments for climate-friendly energy in rural America during a visit to the battleground state of Wisconsin on Thursday. During a stop in Westby, Biden will announce \$7.3 billion in federal funding for rural electric cooperatives around the nation to build or purchase climate-friendly power. These consumer-owned power providers will receive funds from the Inflation Reduction Act, which the administration says includes the largest investment in rural electrification since 1936. One recipient of the funding is the Dairyland Power Cooperative, which is headquartered in nearby La Crosse. It will receive \$573 million. The Dairyland cooperative will put the money toward a larger \$2.1 billion project to purchase wind and solar electricity from rural Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota and Illinois. The co-op estimates its power rates will be 42 percent lower over 10 years because of the funding. The announcement comes as Biden visits several swing states this week — along with Michigan and Pennsylvania — that are critical for Vice President Harris's candidacy. Biden narrowly won Wisconsin in the last election, and his announcement Thursday will take place in Vernon County, which Trump won by roughly 5 percentage points in 2020.

### [Yellen makes case for Inflation Reduction Act's clean energy tax credits in North Carolina](#)

[Oil prices hold at 14-month low as demand worries offset big US storage withdrawal \(Reuters\)](#)

Oil prices held at a 14-month low on Thursday as worries about demand in the U.S. and China and a likely rise in supplies out of Libya offset a big withdrawal from U.S. inventories and a delay to output increases by OPEC+ producers. Brent futures were down 1 cent to settle at \$72.69 a barrel, while U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude fell 5 cents, or 0.1%, to settle at \$69.15. That was the lowest close for Brent since June 2023 for a second day in a row and the lowest close for WTI since December 2023 for a third day in a row. The U.S. Energy Information Administration said energy firms pulled 6.9 million barrels of crude out of storage during the week ended Aug. 30. That was much bigger than the draw of 1 million barrels analysts forecast in a Reuters poll, but was in line with the draw of 7.4 million barrels reported by the American Petroleum Institute industry group on Wednesday. Further support came from discussions between the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and allies led by Russia, known collectively as OPEC+, about delaying output increases due to start in October.

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## Next Week's Hearings

**Armed Service Committee:**

**House:** NONE

**Senate:** NONE

**Appropriations Committee:**

**House:** 9/11, 10:00 AM - Joint Oversight Hearing on Severe Food Distribution Shortages in Tribal and Elderly Communities

**Senate:** NONE

**Homeland Security Committee:**

**House:** NONE

**Senate:** 9/10, 3:30 PM - The US Companies' Technology Fueling the Russian War Machine



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