

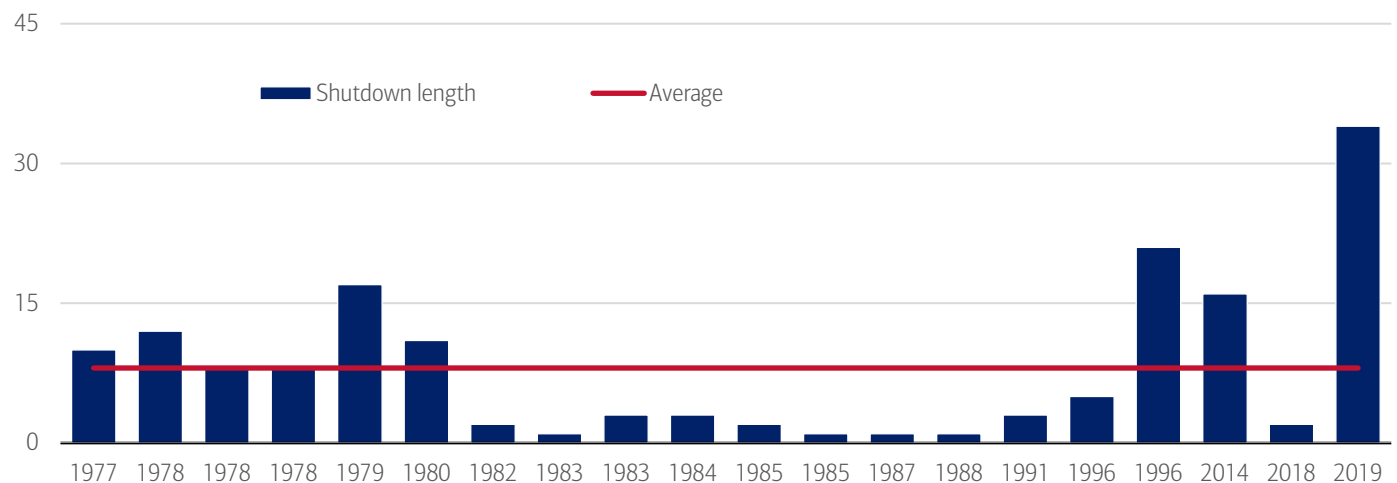
## Institute Daily Insights

# Congress faces funding deadline

26 September 2025

**Since FY 1977, there have been a total of 20 government shutdowns – with 7 out of 20 exceeding the average length of 8 days**

Government shutdown lengths in days



**Source:** BofA Global Research, Congressional Research Service (CRS)

**Note:** FY = Fiscal year

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Congress is pushing up against its deadline — September 30th at midnight — to pass a funding bill and avert a government shutdown. Since 1977, US lawmakers have failed to meet this deadline 20 times, with past shutdowns spanning an average of eight days, though the most recent shutdown, in 2019, lasted more than four times that.

BofA Global Research notes that the economic effects of government shutdowns are modest. Should a full shutdown begin on October 1, they expect a drag of about 0.1pp (percentage points) of gross domestic product (GDP) growth per week. However, that drag is typically reversed in future quarters.

Meanwhile, from an operational perspective, non-essential operations would pause — historically furloughing around 800,000 workers, though fewer today due to federal headcount reductions. Essential services like defense, law enforcement, and air traffic control continue, as do mandatory spending programs (e.g., Social Security, Medicare) and Treasury debt operations.

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