

Subscribe to our notifications for the latest news and updates. You can disable anytime.

Later

Analysis Shows FDA Foreign Facility Inspections Hit Historic Low After Trump Admin Cuts

By Bailee Henderson



Cookies at BNP Media

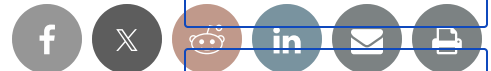
This BNP Media website uses cookies to enhance user experience and to analyze performance and traffic on our site. By clicking “Accept All Cookies”, we can bring you the best experience we have to offer. If you’d like to take the time to set which cookies we can use, click 'Manage your Cookies'.

If you are a registered visitor you will need to accept all cookies to have the targeted experience you desire.

[View our Privacy Policy](#)

Image credit: Freepik

November 6, 2025



ACCEPT ALL COOKIES

Reject All

Foreign food safety inspections conducted by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have hit a historic low due to Trump Administration budget and staff cuts, according to an investigative report by

[ProPublica](#).

Manage your Cookies

Through analysis of data from March 2025, the number of inspections compared to the same period in 2024. By the end of June 2025, the number of inspections was 10 percent lower compared to the same period in 2024.



Subscribe to our notifications for the latest news and updates. You can disable anytime.

and that, in the first half of 2025, the number of inspections was 10 percent lower compared to the same period in 2024. By the end of June 2025, the number of inspections was nearly 30 percent lower compared to the same period in 2024.

In May 2025, FDA announced a goal of inspecting 19,200 foreign manufacturing facilities that produce regulated goods; a goal which the agency has failed to meet, at least with respect to foods, and which *ProPublica*'s anonymous FDA sources called “comical,” given the severe cuts to FDA’s resources.

Historically, even prior to the Trump Administration, FDA has struggled to meet its inspection targets—both foreign and domestic—set by Congress under the *Food Safety Modernization Act* (FSMA) in 2011. [A 2025 report](#) from the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) uncovered that FDA has never met its FSMA-mandated foreign facility inspection goals. In 2019, the year in which FDA conducted the greatest number of foreign inspections, FDA only completed 9 percent (1,727) of the 19,200 target.

Since the inauguration of President Trump, however, the already under-resourced FDA has experienced:

Cookies at BNP Media

- [An initial round of mass layoffs in February](#), including 89 “indiscriminate” firings of experts within the Human Foods Program, resulting in the resignation of the Deputy Commissioner for Human Foods, Jim Jones.
- [An FDA spending freeze revealed in March](#), requiring staffers to “get every travel or purchase expense preapproved through an opaque, multistep process,” and resulting in a time lag that specifically impacted the inspection force. The significance of this issue was reaffirmed by staffers who spoke to *ProPublica*, revealing that investigators (who are responsible for paying off their own credit cards used for agency expenses) waited as a backlog of unfulfilled reimbursements climbed to more than \$1 million.
- [Another round of mass layoffs at HHS in March–April](#), including 3,500 and 2,400 staffers employed at FDA and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), respectively. Although HHS claimed that this round of layoffs would not affect inspectors, sources began to reveal this was actually the case.
- The eventual voluntary resignation of many FDA inspectors who could afford to leave, per insiders who spoke to *ProPublica*. The inspectorate workforce was significantly affected by the culling of agency support staff; after FDA lost 65 percent of those responsible for travel and budgets, inspectors found themselves burdened by having to book their own travel and accommodations, obtain diplomatic passports and visas, and coordinate with foreign authorities—resulting in frustration and inefficiency.
- [Significant budget cuts](#) that may have decreased FDA’s funding from \$7.2 billion in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 to as little as \$6.5 billion in FY 2026—a reduction that was suggested to be made possible by

This BNP Media website uses cookies to enhance user experience and to analyze performance and traffic on our site. By clicking “Accept All Cookies”, we can bring you the best experience we have to offer. If you do not wish to share this information, you can opt out by clicking “Manage your cookies”. If you are a registered visitor you will need to accept all cookies to have the targeted experience you desire.

[View our Privacy Policy](#)

moving to
reduced f
[Congress](#)
for FY 20



Subscribe to our notifications for the latest news and updates. You can disable anytime.

s also facing
)
e made official

Experts agree th
increased risk o

mers at an

Neither FDA nor the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) responded to *ProPublica's* request for comment or data.

Looking for quick answers on food safety topics?
Try Ask FSM, our new smart AI search tool.

Ask FSM →

Cookies at BNP Media

KEYWORDS: budgets HHS President Trump and food safety industry

This BNP Media website uses cookies to enhance user experience and to analyze performance and traffic on our site. By clicking “Accept All Cookies”, we can bring you the best experience we have to offer. If you'd like to take the time to set which cookies we can use, click 'Manage your Cookies'.

If you are a registered visitor you will need to accept all cookies to have the targeted experience you desire.

[View our Privacy Policy](#)

Share This Story



Bailee Henderson is the Digital Editor of *Food Safety Magazine*, where she covers industry-relevant current events, regulatory affairs, and scientific developments. She also produces the *Food Safety Five* Newsreel. Notably, Bailee's coverage for *Food Safety Magazine* has been featured in national televised news segments including *CBS Sunday Morning* and MSNBC's *Rachel Maddow Show*. She can be reached at hendersonb@bnpmedia.com.

Subscribe to our notifications for the latest news and updates. You can disable anytime.



Serovar Differences Matter: Utility of Deep Serotyping in Broiler Production and Processing

This article discusses the significance of Salmonella in...

METHODS

By: Nikki Shariat Ph.D.

Building a Culture of Hygiene in the Food Processing Plant

Everyone entering a food processing facility needs to...

PERSONAL
HYGIENE/HANDWASHING

By: Richard F. Stier, M.S.

Climate Change and Emerging Risks to Food Safety: Building Climate Resilience

This article examines the multifaceted threats to food...

INTERNATIONAL
By: Maria Cristina Tinoco

Ph.D., D.V.M. and Shamini Albert Raj M.A.

If you are a registered visitor you will need to accept all cookies to have the targeted experience you desire.

[View our Privacy Policy](#)

Related Articles



Subscribe to our notifications for the latest news and updates. You can disable anytime.



Food Safety Spending Cuts Associated with Fewer Hygiene Interventions by England Authorities, Study Shows

[See More](#)



Trump Pushes for Greater Production of Controversial Herbicide Glyphosate

[See More](#)

This BNP Media website uses cookies to enhance user experience and to analyze performance and traffic on our site. By clicking “Accept All Cookies”, we can bring you the best experience we have to offer. If you'd like to take the time to set which cookies we can use, click 'Manage your Cookies'.

If you are a registered visitor you will need to accept all cookies to have the targeted experience you desire.

[View our Privacy Policy](#)

Related Products

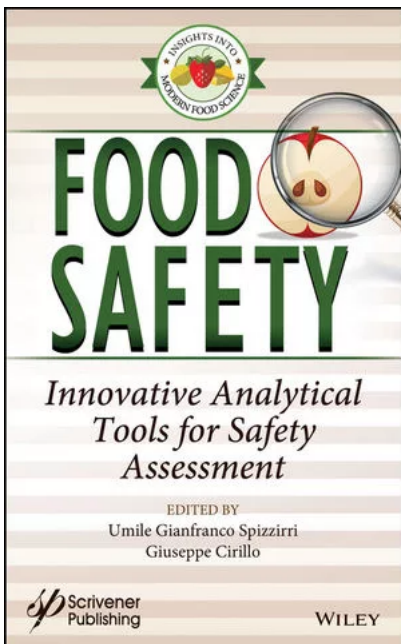
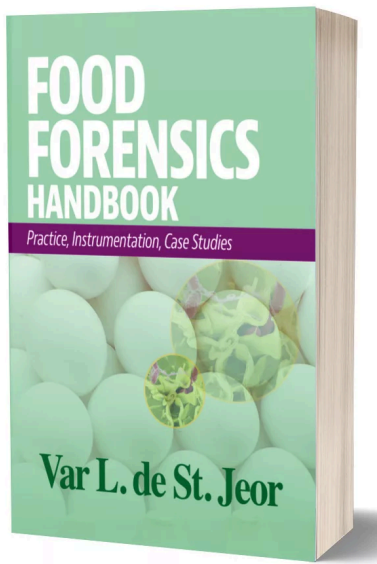


Food Safety
magazine

Subscribe to our notifications for the latest news and updates. You can disable anytime.

Edited By
PERRY G. WANG, MARK F. VITHA, and JACK F. KAY

WILEY



Cookies at BNP Media

Food Forensics Handbook Practice, Instrumentation, Case Studies

This BNP Media website uses cookies to enhance user experience and to analyze performance and traffic on our site. By clicking “Accept All Cookies”, we can bring you the best experience we have to offer. If you'd like to take the time to set which cookies we can use, click 'Manage your Cookies'.

If you are a registered visitor you will need to accept all cookies to have the targeted experience you desire.

[View our Privacy Policy](#)

Food Safety: Innovative Analytical Tools for Safety Assessment

SEE MORE PRODUCTS

Ev



Subscribe to our notifications for the latest news and updates. You can disable anytime.

A
S
a

st-

On Demand: From this webinar, attendees will learn where and why hazard analysis can fail, especially for high-risk products like leafy greens and meat/poultry.

[VIEW ALL](#)

[SUBMIT AN EVENT](#)

Related Directories

Eagle Product Inspection

Eagle Product Inspection is a leading manufacturer of hygienically designed x-ray equipment & inline fat analysis systems. Eagle specializes in complex x-ray inspection solutions using dual energy photon-counting technology for bone detection and inline fat analysis for a wide variety of industries, including meat, poultry and seafood.

METTLER TOLEDO Product Inspection

METTLER TOLEDO provides inspection solutions that boost profits, protect your brand, and help you comply with food safety regulations. Our full range of metal detectors, checkweighers, x-ray and vision inspection systems eliminate metal and foreign material in liquid or packaged products, verify weights, and ensure accuracy and integrity of packaging and labels.

Cookies at BNP Media

This BNP Media website uses cookies to enhance user experience and to analyze performance and traffic on our site. By clicking "Accept All Cookies", we can bring you the best experience we have to offer. If you'd like to take the time to set which cookies we can use, click 'Manage your Cookies'.

If you are a registered visitor you will need to accept all cookies to have the targeted experience you desire.

[View our Privacy Policy.](#)





Subscribe to our notifications for the latest news and updates. You can disable anytime.

Copyright ©2026. All Rights Reserved BNP Media, Inc. and BNP Media II, LLC.

Design, CMS, Hosting & Web Development :: ePublishing

Cookies at BNP Media

This BNP Media website uses cookies to enhance user experience and to analyze performance and traffic on our site. By clicking “Accept All Cookies”, we can bring you the best experience we have to offer. If you'd like to take the time to set which cookies we can use, click 'Manage your Cookies'.

If you are a registered visitor you will need to accept all cookies to have the targeted experience you desire.

[View our Privacy Policy](#)