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DAILY ROUNDUP

US job cuts decline; Dollar General plans rural-focused expansion; Amazon may sever ties with Postal Service

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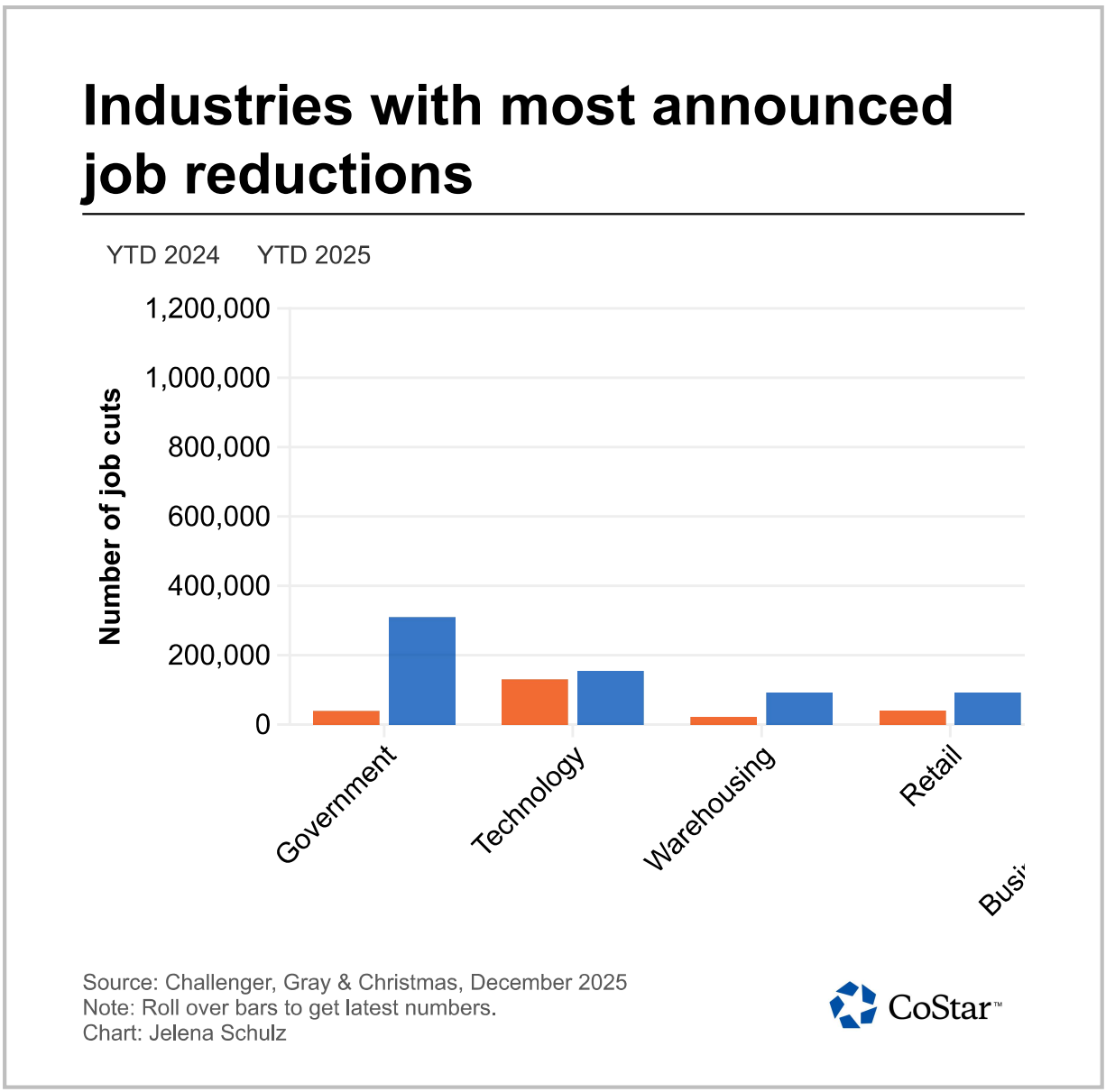
Challenger, Gray & Christmas said government led U.S. categories with more than 300,000 announced job cuts so far in 2025. (Getty Images)

By Lou Hirsh, Linda Moss
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US job cuts decline

U.S.-based employers announced 71,321 job reductions during November, down 53% from the prior month but still 24% higher than a year earlier, according to Challenger, Gray & Christmas. Cuts for the month also remained high by historical standards, based on more than 30 years of tracking by the outplacement firm.

“Layoff plans fell last month, certainly a positive sign,” Chief Revenue Officer Andrew Challenger said in a statement Thursday. “That said, job cuts in November have risen above 70,000 only twice since 2008: in 2022 and in 2008.”



Year to date through November, U.S. job reductions totaled just under 1.2 million, an increase of 54% from the first 11 months of 2024. That was just the sixth time since 1993 that reductions passed 1.1 million for the January-November period.

Job reductions so far in 2025 were led by government with 308,091, sparked largely by a rise in federal agency cuts, with reductions of 153,536 in technology, 92,512 in warehousing and 91,954 in retail. Real estate had 2,040 announced cuts in the first 11 months, down from 4,692 a year earlier.

Dollar General plans rural-focused expansion

Discount giant Dollar General plans to open about 450 stores next year — which CEO Todd Vasos described as "the right mix right now" — focusing on expanding its presence in rural America. The Goodlettsville, Tennessee-based retailer, with a fleet of over 20,000 stores, outlined its real estate plans as it reported third-quarter earnings Thursday.

The planned 2026 store rollouts would pace behind the roughly 575 new stores in the U.S. and just over a dozen in Mexico opening in fiscal 2025. Dollar General debuted 196 stores in the third quarter alone, Vasos said during a call with analysts.

"Overall, our new store projects continue to deliver healthy returns despite higher occupancy and operating costs," Vasos said. "Importantly, we're committed to mitigating these cost pressures where possible and continue to see significant runway for new store expansion with approximately 11,000 opportunities for Dollar General stores in the U.S.

“And while we’ve always said that, for a variety of reasons, we don’t expect to capture every opportunity, we’re excited about our ability to significantly grow our footprint in the years to come,” the CEO said. The majority of the new locations, in the discounter's 8,500-square-foot format, “will be predominantly in rural communities,” according to Vasos.

Amazon may sever ties with Postal Service

Amazon may be gearing up for further expansion of its already fast-growing national network of distribution hubs, depending on the outcome of talks with the U.S. Postal Service. The e-commerce giant relies heavily on the postal agency for parcel deliveries but is mulling other options.

Citing sources, The Washington Post Thursday said U.S. Postmaster General David Steiner plans a reverse auction in early 2026, possibly resulting in more competition for Amazon’s business by making postal facilities available to the highest bidder. Amazon is the Postal Service’s top customer, providing more than $6 billion in annual revenue for the long-struggling agency under a contract that expires in October 2026, the Post reported.

“We’ve continued to discuss ways to extend our partnership that would increase our spend with them, and we look forward to hearing more from them soon — with the goal of extending our relationship that started more than 30 years ago,” Seattle-based Amazon said in a statement, noting that discussions with the postal agency have been ongoing for nearly a year.

“Given the change of direction and the uncertainty it adds to our delivery network, we’re evaluating all of our options that would ensure we can continue to deliver for our customers,” Amazon said.

Reached by CoStar News, a Postal Service spokesman said the agency had no comment.

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