

34,939 new federal contract awards landed in seven days

From September 27 through October 3, 2026, USAspending counted 34,939 new federal contract awards. A Sunday reading of that drop — and of the small-business slice inside it — before the grapevine arrives late.

By Sunday, a prime award is already a public record. The useful question is smaller than the headline. What was actually new, and how much of it was tagged to a small business?

USAspending's award count, for contract types A, B, C, and D, with a new-awards-only filter, returned 34,939 awards with a base date from September 27, 2026, through October 3, 2026. The same dates without that new-awards-only filter returned 43,728 contract awards. Use 34,939 when you mean new. The larger number also counts awards that were not new in the window.

Of those 34,939 new contract awards, 18,155 were tagged small business on the same count.

Dollars are a second query

The count and the dollars do not come from the same field. Do not treat one as the other.

USAspending's place-of-performance geography endpoint, set to awards, returned 56 place rows for that same new-award filter. Adding those rows comes to \$8,370,424,136.20. One row has no place name. It is \$1,781,910.28 of the sum. This is the sum of the rows the endpoint sent back. It is not a single national total printed on its own line.

The same geography query, limited to small-business recipients, adds up to \$3,454,721,741.30.

Oregon's place-of-performance row in the full query is \$29,695,185.10. The small-business row for Oregon is \$18,030,421.54. That is work placed in Oregon. It is not a count of firms based in Oregon, and it is not a promise you will win any of it.

How to read one award

Start with the recipient. That is who holds the prime. On a weekend you are often not trying to become that firm. You are trying to see who just got the work, and whether they still need a supplier, a specialty trade, or a local partner.

Then read the agency. A defense award and an energy award do not lead to the same call on Monday. Then read the place of performance. That is where the government listed the work. It can differ from the company's home state. This pull does not score domestic content. It does show where the work was placed.

Read the industry code when you have it. A short code is a wide net. A full code is a narrow one. Do not guess the code from a project nickname.

What “new” does not mean

A new award is not an open bid. The prime is already posted. What may still be open is teaming, a supply buy, or a subcontract. Those windows are short. If you learn about the award many weekdays late, the first call may already have happened.

Keep the two counts apart. 43,728 is every contract award the count returned for those dates without the new-award limit. 34,939 is the new-award cut. Quoting the larger number as “new primes this week” would be wrong.

Small-business tags are the government's tag, not a review you did yourself. The tag is a filter, not a character reference.

Soft product note

WonAlert emails federal prime awards: the recipient, the amount, the industry code, the agency, and the place of performance. Starter watches one state. Pro is nationwide and adds industry-code filters. On the live Award Chase page, Starter is \$39 a month and Pro is \$79 a month. The mail is a radar, not a bid match and not a win rate. The figures in this piece were pulled from USAspending for this edition. They are not a forecast of awards you will win. <https://www.wonalert.com>

Federal awards · sourced with WonAlert. <https://www.wonalert.com>

USAspending window September 27 through October 3, 2026. State names only. Sunday Edition · October 4, 2026. Not a government site.