GST after the rate cuts

In this report: the CGST estimate cut; GST growth each year; the months after the rate cuts; e-way bills; what October will be read against.

Deepest cut between the Budget Estimate and the Revised Estimate since 2020-21, in the eight years that CGST has had a Budget Estimate. In its Revised Estimate, the Union cut its own CGST estimate for 2025-26 by Rs 52,410 crore, or 5.2 per cent. The estimate fell from Rs 10,10,890 crore to Rs 9,58,480 crore. After GST rates were cut on 22 September 2025, gross GST grew 5.8 per cent from October 2025 to February 2026. From April to August 2025, before the cuts, it had grown 10.5 per cent.

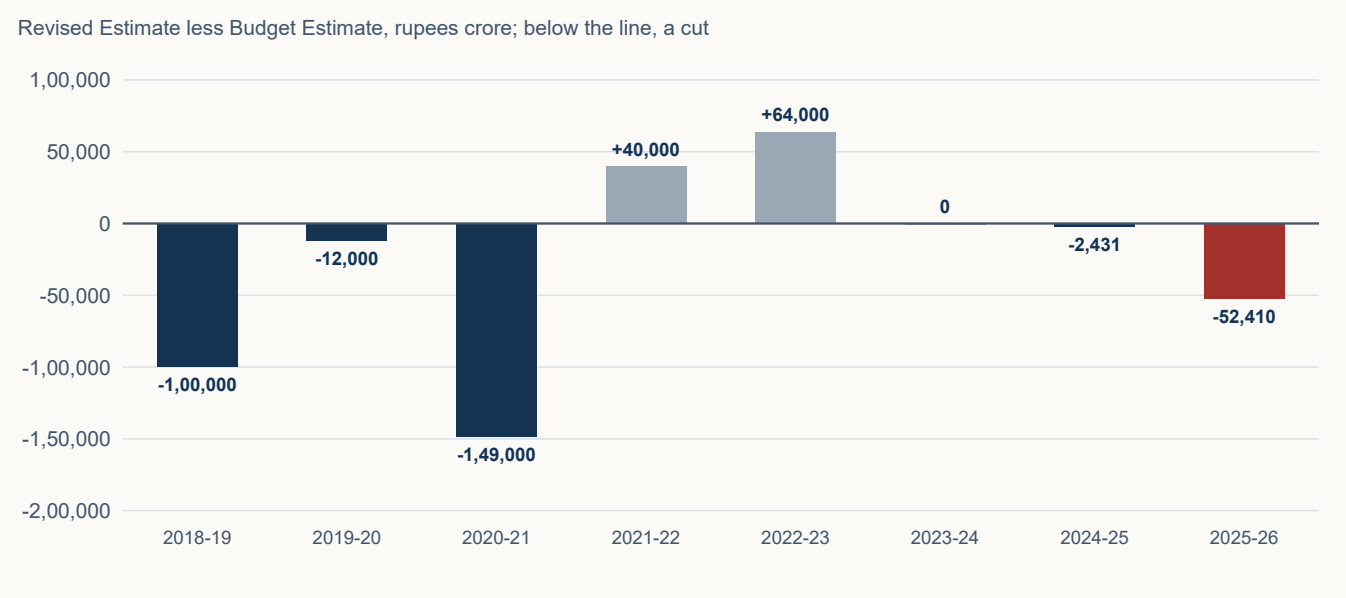
CGST has had a Budget Estimate since 2018-19, because GST began after the Budget for 2017-18 was presented. Measured from the full Budget's estimate, as each following Budget at a Glance prints it, only 2018-19 and 2020-21 saw deeper cuts in those eight years.

Finding	What the Government's own figures show
CGST estimate cut by Rs 52,410 crore	The Revised Estimate lowered the Union's CGST for 2025-26 by 5.2 per cent. It is the deepest cut within a year since 2020-21.
Growth fell after the rate cuts	Gross GST grew 5.8 per cent from October 2025 to February 2026. Before the cuts, from April to August 2025, it grew 10.5 per cent.
November 2025: 0.7 per cent	Gross GST grew 0.7 per cent in November 2025, and SGST, the State GST collected on sales within each State, fell by Rs 525 crore.
2025-26: slowest since 2020-21	GST grew 8.3 per cent in 2025-26. Growth has slowed in each of the four years from 2022-23.
Refunds up 39.4 per cent	Refunds in October 2025 rose to Rs 26,230 crore, and net GST grew 3.8 per cent.
E-way bill growth more than halved	E-way bills grew 10.1 per cent from April to August 2026. In the same months of 2025 they grew 22.0 per cent.
No study of the States	The Ministry told the Rajya Sabha that no formal study had been made of the effect on State finances.

Sources: Read on 28 October 2026. Budget at a Glance 2026-27, Receipts. Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question 2788, answered 17 March 2026. Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question 3611, answered 24 March 2026. Monthly Economic Review, September 2026. Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question 1204, answered 10 February 2026. Monthly Economic Review, April 2026. Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question 407, answered 3 February 2026. Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question 1047, answered 9 December 2025. Monthly Economic Review, August 2025.

The Union cut its CGST estimate by Rs 52,410 crore

Each Budget sets an estimate of the Union's CGST receipts, the Centre's share of GST. The next Budget prints a Revised Estimate for the same year, which is the Government's own updated figure.



Bars below the line are years in which the Union cut its CGST estimate within the year. The red bar is 2025-26, and the two deeper bars are 2018-19 and 2020-21. Each bar is measured from the Budget Estimate that the next year's Budget at a Glance prints, which for 2019-20 and 2024-25 is the full Budget of July and not the interim Budget of February.

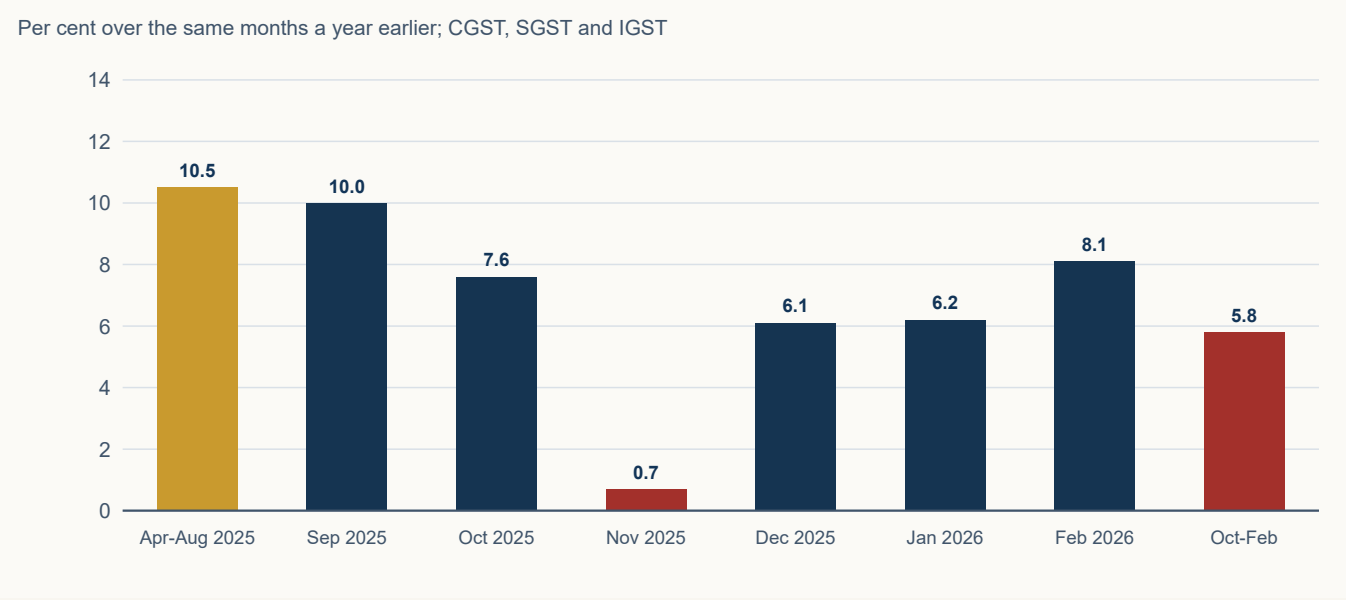
For 2025-26 the Budget Estimate was Rs 10,10,890 crore. The Revised Estimate, presented with the Budget for 2026-27, was Rs 9,58,480 crore, which is Rs 52,410 crore, or 5.2 per cent, lower.

GST collections grew 8.3 per cent in 2025-26, to Rs 22.3 lakh crore. That is the slowest growth since 2020-21, the year that the Ministry's own note ties to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Sources: Read on 28 October 2026. Budget at a Glance 2019-20, Receipts. Budget at a Glance 2020-21, Receipts. Budget at a Glance 2021-22, Receipts. Budget at a Glance 2022-23, Receipts. Budget at a Glance 2023-24, Receipts. Budget at a Glance 2024-25, Receipts. Budget at a Glance 2025-26, Receipts. Budget at a Glance 2026-27, Receipts. Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question 1204, answered 10 February 2026. Monthly Economic Review, April 2026.

After the rate cuts, month by month

The Ministry of Finance has given the Rajya Sabha gross GST for each month from September 2025 to February 2026. Each month is set here against the same month a year earlier.



The gold bar is April to August 2025, before the cuts. The red bars are November 2025 and the five months from October 2025 to February 2026 taken together.

In November 2025, the second full month at the new rates, gross GST was Rs 1,70,276 crore. That is 0.7 per cent above November 2024, the slowest growth of the six months.

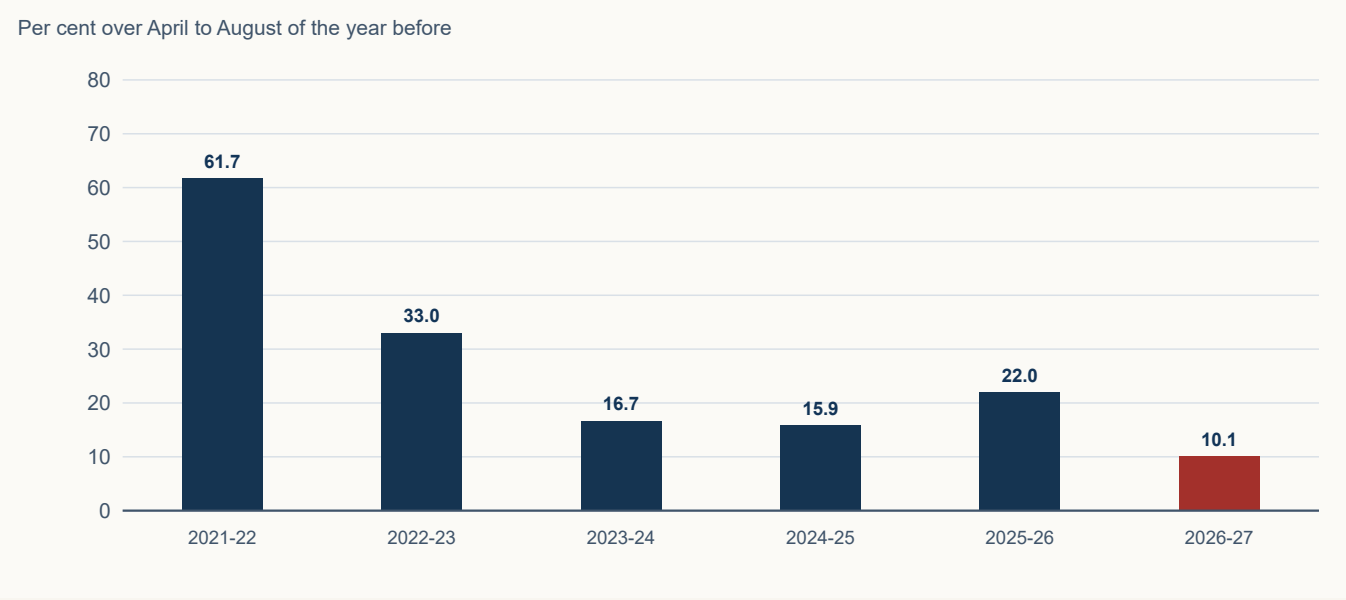
In the five months from October 2025 to February 2026, gross GST grew by 5.8 per cent, to Rs 9,09,876 crore from Rs 8,60,240 crore a year earlier. From April to August 2025, before the cuts, it had grown by 10.5 per cent.

SGST is the State's own GST on a sale made within the State. In November 2025 it was Rs 42,522 crore, which is Rs 525 crore, or 1.2 per cent, less than in November 2024.

Sources: Read on 28 October 2026. Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question 1047, answered 9 December 2025. Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question 2788, answered 17 March 2026. Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question 3611, answered 24 March 2026. Monthly Economic Review, September 2026.

E-way bills, and what October will be read against

From April to August 2026, 68.5 crore e-way bills were generated. That is 10.1 per cent more than a year earlier, against 22.0 per cent growth in the same months of 2025.



Each bar is the growth of e-way bills from April to August over the same months a year earlier. 2026-27 is in red.

The Department's Review of September 2026 gives the total for April to August 2026: GST collections of Rs 10.4 lakh crore, which is 11 per cent more than in the same months of 2025.

From 22 September 2025 the compensation cess was set at nil on a list of goods, and some goods taxed at 28 per cent moved to a GST rate of 40 per cent. From 1 February 2026 the cess was set at nil on tobacco goods and the other goods named in that day's notification. Pan masala, cigarettes and most other tobacco goods moved to the 20 per cent CGST schedule, which with SGST makes 40 per cent, and biris moved to the 9 per cent schedule.

So part of the GST collected on these goods in 2026 takes the place of tax that a year earlier was collected as cess. Growth measured across those dates counts that part as GST growth.

After the rate cuts, the Union lowered its own CGST estimate by Rs 52,410 crore, and over 2025-26 as a whole GST grew more slowly than in any year since 2020-21.

Sources: Read on 28 October 2026. Monthly Economic Review, August 2023, Monthly Economic Review, August 2025, Monthly Economic Review, September 2026, Monthly Economic Review, August 2026, Monthly Economic Review, May 2026, Monthly Economic Review, April 2026, CBIC Notification 03/2025-Compensation Cess (Rate), 31 December 2025, CBIC Notification 19/2025-Central Tax (Rate), 31 December 2025.