



100 Reasons to Stop Future Government Shutdowns

The 35-day partial shutdown of our federal government, from Dec. 22, 2018 until Jan. 28, 2019, adversely affected 800,000 civil servants who were denied their paychecks, harmed our national security and economy, and resulted in diminished services to the public and the business community. The 100 news stories below provide a window into the harmful consequences of the shutdown.

National Security

1. Former Homeland Security officials issue dire warnings on the partial government shutdown's effect on national security, saying the lapse in funding is likely putting the United States at risk. ([The Hill](#))
2. From counterterrorism investigations to cybersecurity protections, critical elements of the country's national security infrastructure show signs of strain during the shutdown. ([CNN](#))
3. Former U.S. diplomat says shutdown hurts U.S. standing abroad. ([VOA News](#))

Justice and Law Enforcement

4. The shutdown stalled FBI criminal, counterintelligence and counterterrorism investigations. Crucial training for FBI agents on critical response missions were postponed or canceled. ([FBI Agents Association](#))
5. FBI Director Christopher Wray told his agents that the five-week government shutdown has been “mind-boggling” and “unfair.” ([USA Today](#))
6. Security at federal prisons may have been hampered due to staffing shortages as guards call in sick and low morale among guards being asked to work without pay. ([Washington Post](#))
7. Federal court civil cases involving government interests go into deep freeze during shutdown. ([Politico](#))
8. Family visits at a New York jail were canceled because of staffing shortages and inmates reportedly went on a hunger strike. ([New York Times](#))
9. Shutdown threatens to delay criminal justice reforms signed into law by Trump. ([New York Times](#))



The Economy and Business

10. The shutdown has caused economic damage to the U.S. economy. ([New York Times](#))
11. Government shutdown cost US economy \$3B in permanent losses: CBO. ([Fox Business](#))
12. A shut down government actually costs more than an open one. ([New York Times](#))
13. Some 2,500 retailers around the country were unable to accept any form of SNAP EBT payments because they failed to meet a license renewal deadline before the shutdown. ([PBS News Hour](#))
14. The Small Business Administration stopped processing loan guarantees when the shutdown began, meaning thousands of firms could not get the money they need to start or expand their companies. ([Washington Post](#))
15. U.S. government shutdown creating angst for defense contractors. ([Defense News](#))
16. U.S. Chamber calls for end to government shutdown as businesses struggle. ([CNN](#))
17. Small government contractors lost \$2.3 billion in revenue 34 days into the shutdown. ([Nextgov](#))
18. Companies such as Uber and Lyft were waiting for lawyers at the Securities and Exchange Commission to review paperwork to qualify them to have public stock offerings. ([AP](#))
19. The Federal Trade Commission had to suspend its investigation of Facebook for violating an agreement regarding its handling of user data. ([Washington Post](#))
20. Halted activities at the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, the oversight body responsible for approval of new labels and formulations of alcoholic beverages, led beer makers such as Samuel Adams and Sierra Nevada to be unable to sell new products. ([Wall Street Journal](#))
21. The government shutdown cost the Washington, D.C., region nearly \$200 million in tax revenue. ([Governing](#))
22. In Ogden, Utah, where about 5,000 people are employed by the IRS and the U.S. Forest Service, business at restaurants dropped by about half. ([CBS News](#))
23. Travel industry seeing big losses from shutdown. ([Fox News](#))
24. Washington, D.C., spent \$46,000 a week to keep tourist sites clean. ([WUSA9](#))
25. Former GSA official warns the shutdown pain could soon hit landlords. ([Washington Business Journal](#))

Immigration

26. The shutdown takes its toll on the immigration courts, with an estimated 42,000 immigration hearings canceled. ([CNN](#))
27. Due to the government shutdown, employers across the country are unable to complete E-Verify checks that determine whether an individual is legally eligible to work in the U.S. The system was set up to prevent illegal immigrants from gaining employment. ([The Hill](#))
28. President Trump's border-security-inspired shutdown just caused cancellation of an international border security conference. ([Washington Post](#))
29. As the government shutdown over the border wall nears record length, close to 100,000 CBP and ICE employees are working without pay. ([Foreign Policy](#))

Science, Research and the Environment

30. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which monitors the conditions of the oceans, major waterways and the atmosphere, stopped most of its research activities. ([E&E News](#))
31. The longest government shutdown in history has kept the National Science Foundation from divvying out grants that were worth \$127 million in the same period last year. ([HuffPost](#))
32. Cleanups at Superfund sites around the nation were canceled. ([AP](#))
33. Shutdown results in a halt to EPA inspections of chemical factories, power plants, oil refineries, water treatment plants, and thousands of other industrial sites for pollution violations. ([New York Times](#))
34. Government shutdown hits funding, resources and morale in science. ([The Scientist](#))
35. Scientists were unable to post emergency updates of the World Magnetic Model, which cellphone GPS systems and military navigators use to orient themselves because NOAA staff were furloughed. ([Washington Post](#))
36. A National Museum of Natural History curator stopped research on ancient humans of Kenya. ([Washington Post](#))
37. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's aerial surveys of endangered Mexican gray wolves in Arizona and New Mexico stopped. ([Washington Post](#))
38. Testing stopped on the Space Launch System, which will be the most powerful rocket NASA has built and will enable exploration of destinations far into the solar system. ([Politico](#))
39. NASA's research into melting ice sheets in the Arctic was frozen by the government shutdown. The agency's ice-monitoring satellite was designed to track world ice loss without interruption, and the shutdown threatened the only ongoing record of the change. ([Science](#))
40. Super Bowl of astronomy kicks off without NASA amid government shutdown. ([Space.Com](#))

41. Shutdown imperils California wildfire recovery efforts. ([NPR](#))
42. As shutdown drags on, USDA scientists scramble to keep insects, plants and microbes alive. ([Los Angeles Times](#))
43. Shutdown forced graduate students out of their labs and stalled research. ([Minnesota Daily](#))

Public Health

44. The FDA is not accepting new applications or fees from the pharmaceutical industry to review new drug applications during the shutdown. ([CNBC](#))
45. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention canceled its January session on contaminated drinking water at U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune. ([Atlanta Journal Constitution](#))
46. The federal government's partial shutdown took a bite out of the FDA's ability to ensure the safety of American food, forcing the agency to shift inspections toward products it considers high risk. ([WebMD](#))
47. Government shutdown puts the public's health at risk. ([APHA.org](#))

Agriculture

48. Farmers holding federal Farm Service Agency loans and the agricultural lenders they work with were left to grapple with financial issues during the government shutdown. ([AgWeek](#))
49. The National Agricultural Statistics Service and the Economic Research Service did not provide current data on global supply and demand for farm products, crop and livestock production estimates and other agricultural economics. ([Pew Research Center](#))

Transportation

50. NTSB: Shutdown delayed 97 crash investigations. ([The Hill](#))
51. The government shutdown is officially causing flight delays: With a shortage of air traffic controllers, some flights to LaGuardia and other East Coast airports have been delayed. ([Vox](#))
52. Delta Air Lines lost more than \$25 million in revenue because of decreased travel. ([CNBC](#))
53. Washington Dulles International Airport closed screening lanes on January 14 because of absent TSA agents. Miami International Airport and Houston's George Bush Intercontinental Airport closed screening lanes during the weekend of January 12-13. ([Politico](#))
54. Delta Airlines delayed the launch of brand-new Airbus A220 jets because safety inspectors were furloughed. ([Bloomberg](#))
55. The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority lost \$400,000 every weekday from the shutdown. Train ridership in the Washington, D.C., area decreased by 16 percent and bus ridership in the Washington, D.C., area decreased by 8 percent. ([WAMU.ORG](#))

56. Government shutdown adversely impacted funding for small, midsize and rural transit. ([Politico](#))
57. Southwest Airlines agreed to pay FAA for inspector's time during government shutdown. ([Wall Street Journal](#))
58. Federal shutdown forces some states to delay contracts for road and bridge work. ([SFGATE](#))

Housing

59. Approximately 1,150 federal project-based rental assistance contracts from the Department of Housing and Urban Development were not renewed on time. ([NPR](#))
60. Shutdown's pain cut deep for the homeless and other vulnerable Americans. ([New York Times](#))
61. The National Association of Realtors surveyed more than 2,000 realtors. Eleven percent reported that the shutdown impacted current clients. Of those who were impacted, 13 percent had a delay because of IRS income verification issues. ([National Association of Realtors](#))
62. USDA rural loans were on hold, impacting the ability for people to buy a home. ([USA Today](#))

Native Americans

63. Native American tribes were facing food and medicine shortages and funds for critical services because the shutdown stopped federal funds used for stocking food pantries. ([Washington Post](#))
64. 'We know how to survive,' but U.S. shutdown cuts deep for Native Americans. ([Reuters](#))

Museums, National Parks and Federal Lands

65. The National Park Service lost an estimated \$14 million in entrance fees alone because of the government shutdown, impacting parks' ability to fund maintenance and repair, visitor services, and habitat rehabilitation. ([Think Progress](#))
66. Preparations for the National Gallery of Art's signature exhibition of 16th century Italian master Tintoretto is weeks behind schedule. ([Washington Post](#))
67. Nineteen Smithsonian Institution museums and the National Zoo were closed to tourists. ([CNN](#))
68. Shutdown cancels MLK day of service programs in some national parks. ([Washington Post](#))
69. Visitors damaged Yellowstone National Park's hot pools, trees in Joshua Tree National Park and fragile desert landscape at Death Valley National Park. ([Forbes](#))
70. The consequences of the longest federal shutdown in U.S. history are likely to linger and have long-term consequences for national parks and forests. ([Bloomberg](#))

71. New York committed to paying \$65,000 a day to ensure the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island were open for tourists. ([The Hill](#))
72. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service directed employees to return to work at 38 wildlife refuges to make sure hunters and others have access despite the government shutdown, angering wildlife groups who accuse the Trump administration of trying to minimize the public impact and limit the political blowback for President Donald Trump. ([PBS News Hour](#))

Citizen Services

73. IRS reportedly needs up to 18 months to catch up from government shutdown. ([The Street](#))
74. Government shutdown is hurting thousands of federal employees with disabilities. ([The Hill](#))
75. The government shutdown has led organizations that help victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse to cut back on lifesaving services, furlough staff and turn people away from shelters. ([Washington Post](#))
76. Many government websites were rendered insecure or inactive due to web certificate expirations. ([engadget.com](#))
77. Federal regulators were unable to investigate robocalls and identity theft victims. ([Washington Post](#))
78. Taxpayers found Taxpayer Assistance Centers locked and people were unable to address time sensitive financial matters. ([Newsday](#))
79. As of January 26, 2019, the IRS had a backlog of 5 million unanswered pieces of mail from taxpayers. ([Washington Post](#))
80. The Consumer Product Safety Commission stopped issuing recalls or providing information about unsafe consumer products. ([Wall Street Journal](#))
81. Some 40,000 homes were left “unsold” for each month the government was shut down because Federal Emergency Management Agency could not approve the flood insurance plans. ([CBS News](#))
82. Several agencies were not accepting Freedom of Information Act requests, limiting public transparency into government’s operations. ([The Hill](#))
83. Government shutdown stalls preparedness for hurricane season. ([NPR](#))
84. Government shutdown impacts crisis center. ([Fox46 Charlotte](#))

Federal Workforce

85. Federal workers miss 2nd paycheck as shutdown reaches day 35. ([Fox Business](#))
86. Secret Service maintains mission in face of shutdown, but lack of pay hurting morale. ([CNN](#))
87. Government jobs were considered stable. Now the damage from the shutdown could cause workers to flee. ([CNBC](#))

88. Federal employees who worked without pay during the shutdown say morale is low. ([Federal News Network](#))
89. Government shutdown driving both current and aspiring federal workers away. ([Glassdoor](#))
90. Officials at the federal government's 401(k)-style retirement savings program reported Monday that they saw a steep increase in federal workers pulling money out of their Thrift Savings Plan accounts during the partial government shutdown. ([Government Executive](#))
91. The shutdown could hurt the recruitment and retention of cybersecurity talent. ([Nextgov](#))
92. Feds dig out from 35 days' worth of piled-up work. ([Government Executive](#))
93. Nearly 20 percent of air-traffic controllers nationwide are eligible for retirement and some reported plans to retire. ([Wall Street Journal](#))
94. 40K feds received unemployment during the shutdown. Now they have to pay it back. ([Government Executive](#))
95. The Peace Corps stopped recruiting volunteers. ([National Peace Corp Association](#))
96. The government shutdown leads to emotional psychological issues for federal employees. ([Washington Post](#))
97. "No more food banks!" Federal workers demonstrate in the halls of the Senate. ([The New Yorker](#))
98. Coast Guard families told they can have garage sales to cope with government shutdown. ([Washington Post](#))

Federal Data Collection

99. Government shutdown is over, so where is the economic data? ([New York Times](#))
100. These are all the data delayed by the shutdown. ([Bloomberg](#))