



Effects of the Trump Shutdown In Arizona

By Saharra Griffin

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President Donald Trump's shutdown of the federal government over demands for billions of dollars in new border wall funding is already having profound consequences for hundreds of thousands of working Americans and a wide range of vital services. And each day the impasse continues, as funding dries up and more agencies exhaust emergency measures, these harmful effects will only be exacerbated.

Although the new Democratic House majority passed legislation to reopen the government, the president has continued to stall negotiations.¹ To enable the stalemate, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and other Republican senators reversed their earlier opposition to the shutdown just days after the chamber unanimously passed a similar deal.

Due to Trump's shutdown, an estimated 7,300 federal employees in Arizona are furloughed or working without pay.² Below is a breakdown of affected federal employees and agencies in the state.

"Arizona law [requires] employers to verify that someone they want to hire can legally work in the United States. But a federal system business owners use has been shuttered due to the partial government shutdown as the peak season for Arizona's hospitality industry is just getting started." –Arizona Public Media, January 4, 2019³

U.S. Department of the Interior: 4,000 employees

In Arizona, an estimated 4,000 Interior Department employees, including those working for the following agencies, are furloughed or working without pay.

- **The National Park Service** supports the state's 24 national parks, monuments, and trails.
- **The Bureau of Indian Affairs** funds critical services for the 300,000 American Indians based in Arizona, including health care, law enforcement, housing, disaster relief, and infrastructure maintenance.⁴
- **The Bureau of Land Management** supports 12.2 million acres of public lands in Arizona.

- **The Bureau of Reclamation** is the nation's largest wholesale water supplier and second-largest hydropower producer.
- **The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service** manages the state's nine national wildlife refuges.
- **The U.S. Geological Survey** conducts research on natural resource issues, including water toxicity near mining activities.⁵

"Immediately after the shutdown began, [Arizona] provided a \$64,000 'donation' to the U.S. government that was intended to pay for ... keeping restrooms clean, removing trash, plowing park roads. As the shutdown stretches on, Arizona is still footing the bill." –The Guardian, January 5, 2019⁶

U.S. Department of Agriculture: 2,300 employees

In Arizona, an estimated 2,300 Department of Agriculture employees, including those working for the following agencies, are furloughed or working without pay.⁷

- **The Food Safety and Inspection Service** prevents foodborne illness by ensuring that meat, poultry, and egg products produced in Arizona are safe and accurately labeled.
- **The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service** defends the state's agricultural resources from pests and diseases.
- **The Office of Rural Development** offers loans and grants to help create jobs and support economic development in rural communities.
- **The Forest Service** protects and manages the state's six national forests.

"According to the Navajo Division of Transportation, nearly 8,000 miles of roads managed by Bureau of Indian Affairs remain mostly unplowed as the shutdown nears its second week." –KNAU Arizona Public Radio, January 3, 2019⁸

Additional agencies

The Trump shutdown is also harming the following workers and agencies:

- An estimated 600 Federal Aviation Administration and Transportation Security Administration employees at the state's nine commercial airports
- An estimated 450 Federal Bureau of Prisons employees at Arizona's four federal prisons and correctional institutions
- U.S. Attorneys' Offices in Phoenix, Tucson, Flagstaff, and Yuma

If the partial government shutdown continues, tax filing season could be more difficult for Arizona families and small businesses. Because IRS offices are closed and the agency is operating with a skeletal staff, taxpayers and preparers may have trouble accessing needed guidance.⁹ Last year, the agency processed 6.1 million refunds within the first week of filing season in January.¹⁰

“Tucson families said they are frustrated and worried about their finances, with the federal corrections officers feeling like a ‘pawn’ in politics. ‘It’s our livelihood, it’s our families. We’re on the front line everyday on the war on crime, and this is something we shouldn’t have to go through,’ said Richard Hernandez, a federal corrections officer.” –KOLD Tucson, January 5, 2019¹¹

Ironically, due to Trump’s temper tantrum for the sake of so-called border security, the state’s immigration courts in Eloy, Florence, Phoenix, and Tucson are now closed, stalling lawful asylum proceedings in an already backlogged system.¹²

Moreover, Arizona’s 550,000 small businesses are unable to receive guaranteed loans and technical assistance from the Small Business Administration state office in Phoenix.

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Endnotes

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- 2 Seth Hanlon and Saharra Griffin, “Effects of the Trump Shutdown on Federal Workers’ Paychecks: State-by-State Estimates,” Center for American Progress, December 21, 2018, available at <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/economy/news/2018/12/21/464638/effects-trump-shutdown-federal-workers-paychecks-state-state-estimates/>.
- 3 Matthew Casey, “Shutdown Means No E-Verify for Arizona Hospitality Industry,” Arizona Public Media, January 4, 2019, available at <https://www.azpm.org/p/home-articles-news/2019/1/4/143749-shutdown-means-no-e-verify-for-arizona-hospitality-industry/>.
- 4 Bureau of Indian Affairs, “What We Do,” available at <https://www.bia.gov/bia/ots/what-we-do> (last accessed January 2019).
- 5 U.S. Geological Survey, “Uranium in Spring Water North of Grand Canyon Likely Not Related to Nearby Mining Activity,” January 24, 2017, available at <https://www.usgs.gov/news/uranium-spring-water-north-grand-canyon-likely-not-related-nearby-mining-activity>.
- 6 Gabrielle Canon, “‘Appalling’ toilets and rule-breaking as US shutdown hits national parks,” *The Guardian*, January 5, 2019, available at <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/jan/04/national-parks-government-shutdown>.
- 7 U.S. Department of Agriculture, “Agencies,” available at <https://www.usda.gov/our-agency/agencies> (last accessed January 2019).
- 8 Ryan Heinsius, “Federal Government Shutdown Slows Snow Removal on Navajo Nation Roads,” KNAU Arizona Public Radio, January 3, 2019, available at <https://www.knau.org/post/federal-government-shutdown-slows-snow-removal-navajo-nation-roads>.
- 9 Internal Revenue Service, “Contact Your Local IRS Office,” available at <https://www.irs.gov/help/contact-your-local-irs-office>; Darla Mercado, “White House promises tax refunds will go out, but there’s hardly anyone at the IRS to do the work,” *CNBC*, January 7, 2019, available at <https://www.cnbc.com/2019/01/07/white-house-official-says-tax-refunds-will-be-sent-out-despite-government-shutdown.html>.
- 10 Internal Revenue Service, “Filing Season Statistics for Week Ending February 2, 2018,” available at <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/filing-season-statistics-for-week-ending-february-2-2018> (last accessed January 2019).
- 11 Melissa Egan, “Tucson families struggling through government shutdown,” *KOLD Tucson*, January 5, 2019, available at <http://www.tucsonnewsnow.com/2019/01/06/tucson-families-struggling-through-government-shutdown/>.
- 12 Lisa Riordan Seville and Hannah Rappleye, “Shutdown nearly shuts U.S. immigration courts, but deportations continue,” *NBC News*, January 5, 2019, available at <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/immigration/shutdown-nearly-shuts-u-s-immigration-courts-deportations-continue-n954826>.