

2013 Sequestration

Agencies Reduced Some Services and Investments, While Taking Certain Actions to Mitigate Effects

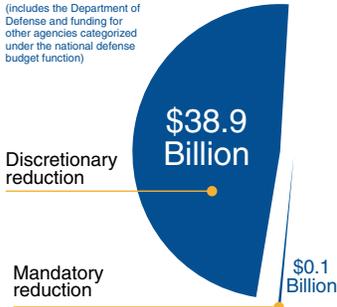
HIGHLIGHTS FROM GAO-14-244

Across-the-board reductions, known as sequestration, cut federal agencies' budgets by a total of

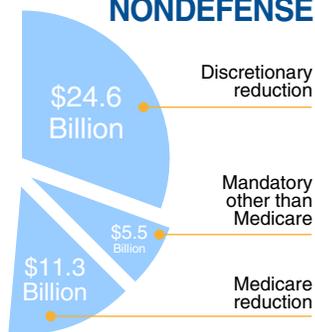
\$80.5 BILLION

DEFENSE

(includes the Department of Defense and funding for other agencies categorized under the national defense budget function)



NONDEFENSE



Numbers do not add due to rounding.

Federal agencies and Congress took action to mitigate the effects:



Agencies transferred or reprogrammed funds to higher priority activities

Agencies used prior year unobligated balances to offset reductions



Congress enacted funding increases after sequestration that helped mitigate its effects for some select programs

The 23 federal agencies GAO reviewed took a range of personnel and non-personnel actions to implement reductions:

Personnel-related Actions



- Canceled or limited monetary awards (20 agencies)
- Reduced employee travel (20 agencies)
- Reduced employee training (19 agencies)
- Curtailed external hiring (19 agencies)
- Reduced overtime (15 agencies)
- Curtailed internal hiring (14 agencies)
- Offered voluntary early retirement and voluntary separation incentive pay (buyouts) to employees (9 agencies)
- Furloughed employees (7 agencies)

Non-personnel Actions



- Rescoped contracts for:**
 - Program management or support services (19 agencies)
 - Information technology (18 agencies)
 - Facilities and building services (15 agencies)
 - Hardware procurement (14 agencies)
- Rescoped or delayed:**
 - Other contracts (16 agencies)
 - Planned maintenance or repairs (15 agencies)
 - New grants (13 agencies)
 - Core function-related activities (12 agencies)
- Canceled:**
 - Grants/other core function-related activities (16 agencies)
 - Contracts related to core functions (4 agencies)

These actions affected agency operations and services to the public, for example:



Department of Defense
Furloughed more than **640,500 employees** (most civilian employees) for 6 days



Department of Labor
Nearly **11 percent reduction** in Emergency Unemployment Compensation benefits for long-term unemployed workers on average for the remainder of fiscal year 2013



Department of Housing and Urban Development
An estimated **42,000 fewer** very low-income households received rental assistance vouchers at the end of calendar year 2013 than at the end of calendar year 2012 (a 2.2 percent decline) primarily due to sequestration



Department of Justice
More than **1,600 fewer criminal and civil cases filed** by the U.S. Attorneys' Offices compared to fiscal year 2012 due to staffing reductions (a 1 percent reduction)



Environmental Protection Agency
Conducted an estimated **1,000 fewer annual inspections** for compliance with environmental laws (out of about 20,000 historically per year)