Who Was Affected? A Data Story on Federal Layoffs Following the Trump Administration's Probationary Employment Cuts

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OPM data from 2023Q1 to 2023Q4 was analyzed to determine which employees were most impacted by the Trump administration's decision to cut probationary employees. After analyzing the article, "Layoffs accelerate at federal agencies with more cuts to come", it was determined the agencies mainly impacted by the Trump's administration decision were the *Department of Agriculture, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of Defense, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Veteran Affairs, Department of Energy*, and *Department of Education*. Given that information, the OPM dataset was further filtered based on the agency code for the impacted departments to only include OPM information from such departments.

Based on an analysis of the filtered dataset, it was determined the average **pay grade of affected employees was 8.79**, indicating mid-level professionals were most affected by the layoffs.

The table 1 below shows the job series that were impacted the most, with **nurses** being the most impacted. Five out of the **top 10 most impacted roles were related to public care and health services** which indicates those jobs seemed to be the most impacted by the Trump administration's decision

Job Series Title	Number of Employees
Nurse	18263
General Business And Industry	15687
Social Work	14649
Management And Program Analysis	13097
Miscellaneous Administration And Program	13081
Commissary Management	12260
Practical Nurse	11671
Medical Support Assistance	11263
Social Science	10483
Psychology	9865

<Table 1. Most Impacted Job Series>

Table 2 shows the states with the most employees impacted. The five largest states by population, **California, Texas, Florida, New York, and Pennsylvania** are on the list. **Virginia and Maryland** are also in the top 10, likely given its proximity to Washington D.C.

State	Number of Employees
CA	23809
TX	19572
FL	13812
VA	13718
CO	11257
PA	10668
WA	9910
MD	9618
AZ	9586
NY	9480

<Table 2. Most Impacted States>

Table 3 shows the job titles grouped by states that were impacted by the layoffs. The trends follow the two previous tables as California appears the most on the top 10 and public care and health service positions such as **Nurse** and **Social Science** appear very often. Virginia also appears twice again likely due to its proximity to the nation's capital.

State	Job Series Title	Number of Employees
CA	Commissary Management	1760
TX	Nurse	1366
CA	Social Science	1261
VA	Management And Program Analysis	1229
VA	Miscellaneous Administration And Program	1223
CA	Social Work	1200
CA	Nurse	1176
MT	Social Science	1123
CA	Miscellaneous Administration And Program	1088
ID	Social Science	1042

<Table 3. Most Impacted Job Series by State>

Tables 4 and 5 show the most impacted departments. Table 4 includes all agencies mentioned in the article, while Table 5 excludes the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Defense to highlight impacts on civilian agencies.

The first table shows that layoffs were concentrated in the Departments of Veterans Affairs, Defense, and Agriculture, with the Veterans Health Administration alone accounting for over 167,000 affected employees. When agencies under Veterans Affairs and Defense are excluded (Table 2), the Department of Agriculture emerges as the most heavily impacted, with six of its sub-agencies appearing in the top ten. Additionally, health-related agencies such as the Indian Health Service and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, along with two sub-agencies from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, also experienced significant reductions. These patterns suggest that the layoffs disproportionately affected civilian agencies focused on agriculture, public health, and housing.

Agency	Number of Employees
Veterans Health Administration	167719
Forest Service	25299
Natural Resources Conservation Service	17025
Defense Commissary Agency	15687
Veterans Benefits Administration	15405
Military Treatment Facilities (under Defense Health Agency)	13964
Indian Health Service	13329
Farm Service Agency	9777
Food Safety and Inspection Service	6337
Defense Logistics Agency	5586

Agency	Number of Employees
Forest Service	25299
Natural Resources Conservation Service	17025
Indian Health Service	13329
Farm Service Agency	9777
Food Safety and Inspection Service	6337
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service	4346
Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing	4120
Rural Development	3907
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	3229
Assistant Secretary for Housing — Federal Housing Commissioner	2857

<Table 4. Most Impacted Agencies>   <Table 5. Most Impacted Agencies (excluding VA and DD)>

Non-STEM occupations absorbed the bulk of the reductions. Layoffs reached 276,593 in non-STEM roles versus 66,696 in STEM roles. The difference aligns with the mission profiles of the hardest-hit departments—Agriculture, Veterans Affairs, Housing and Urban Development—where public service and administrative positions outnumber technical

ones. The evidence shows that the policy concentrated staffing cuts in functions that deliver direct services rather than in scientific or engineering work.