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DOGE Cuts Update Today: Treasury Plans 'Substantial' Layoffs

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The department is finalizing its plans in response to President [Donald Trump](#)'s February 11 executive order that directed agency heads to "undertake preparations to initiate large-scale reductions in force," according to the declaration from Trevor Norris, the deputy assistant secretary for human resources for the department, first reported by [Bloomberg](#).

"These plans will be tailored for each bureau, and in many cases will require separations of substantial numbers of employees through reductions in force (RIFs)," Norris wrote.

He added that "because RIFs are seniority-based, a RIF in any particularly competitive area will disproportionately affect reinstated probationary employees."



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File photo: The U.S. Treasury Department building is seen in Washington, D.C., on January 19, 2023. **SAUL LOEB/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES**

"The Treasury Department is considering a number of measures to increase efficiency, including a roll back of wasteful Biden-era hiring surges, and consolidation of critical support functions to improve both efficiency and quality of service. No final decisions have yet been made, and any current reporting to the contrary is false," a Treasury spokesperson told *Newsweek* on Wednesday.

The department has more than 100,000 employees, according to its website.

The declaration was among a collection of sworn affidavits by agency officials included in a court filing on Tuesday to document actions taken to comply with a 14-day temporary restraining order that directed 18 agencies to reinstate fired probationary employees.



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Earlier in March, U.S. District Judge James Bredar, in a lawsuit brought by Democratic attorneys general, found the administration did not follow laws set out for large-scale layoffs, and [ordered the employees to be reinstated](#).

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Tens of thousands of [job losses have been announced](#) across numerous federal agencies.

The Environmental Protection Agency plans to eliminate its scientific research office and could fire more than 1,000 scientists and other employees, The Associated Press reported on Tuesday.



The Department of Education has announced plans to lay off [more than 1,300 employees](#), while the Department of Veterans Affairs is planning a reorganization that includes cutting 80,000 jobs, according to an internal memo obtained by the AP this month.

Meanwhile, the [Pentagon](#) is [reportedly planning to cut its civilian workforce](#) by about 50,000 to 60,000 people.

At least 24,000 probationary workers had been terminated since Trump took office, according to a lawsuit filed by nearly 20 states alleging the mass firings are illegal. But earlier in March, two federal judges [ordered 19 federal agencies](#) to reinstate probationary workers who were fired.

Meanwhile, [about 75,000 federal workers accepted](#) the offer to quit in return for receiving pay and benefits until September 30.



How Much Spending Has DOGE Cut So Far?

DOGE has said its efforts have saved the federal government an estimated \$115 billion as of March 11. Musk had initially said his goal was to trim \$2 trillion from the federal budget, but backtracked in January, saying there was [a "good shot" of cutting half that amount](#).

DOGE says the receipts provided on its website—showing contract, grant, and lease cancellations—represent about 30 percent of total savings, meaning the top-line figure is not yet verifiable.

According to the Musk Watch DOGE Tracker designed by data analyst Brian Banks, the verifiable savings, as of March 11, were about \$8.6 billion.

Is DOGE a Government Agency?

Trump signed an executive order on his first day back in office on January 20, [officially creating](#) DOGE to modernize "federal technology and software to maximize governmental efficiency and productivity."



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Despite its name, it is not a government agency created by an Act of Congress but a task force charged with targeting waste and fraud in the federal government.

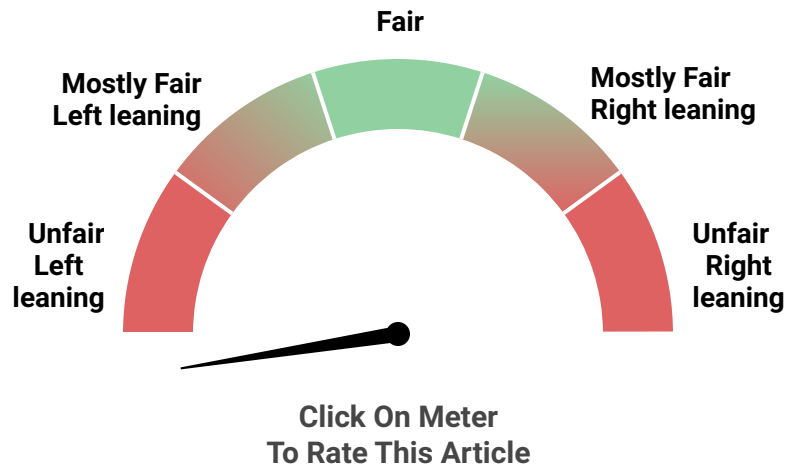
Update, 3/26/25, 10:08 a.m. ET: This article has been updated to add comment from a Treasury spokesperson.



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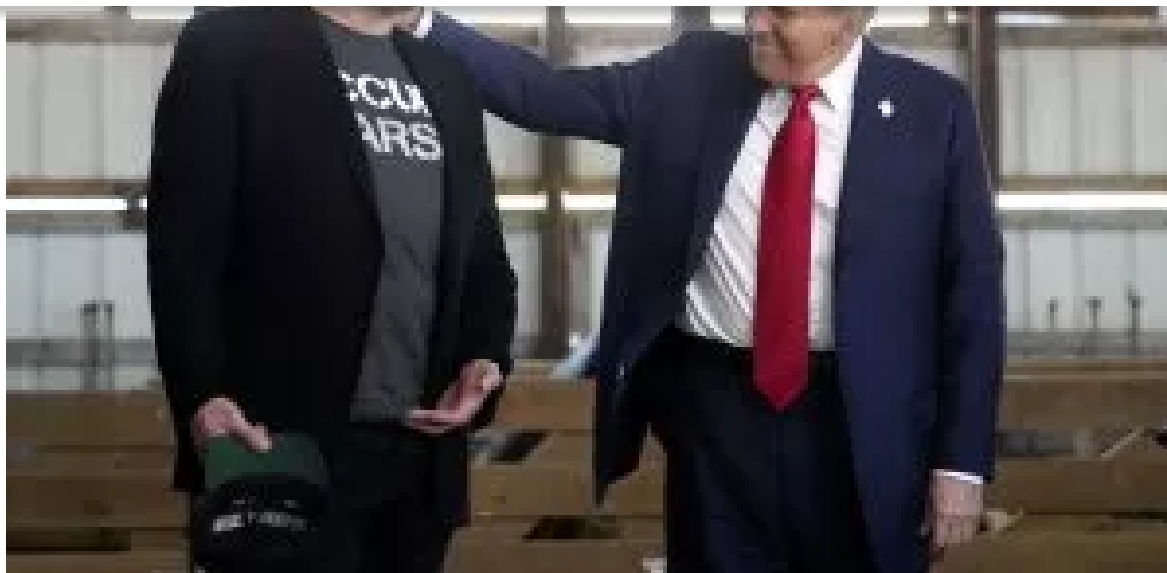


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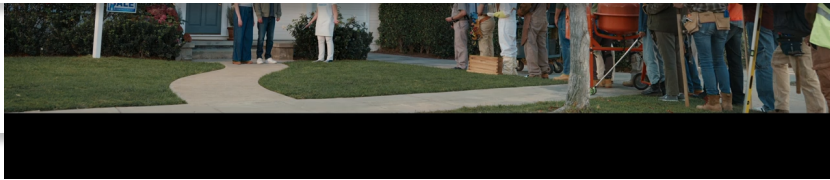
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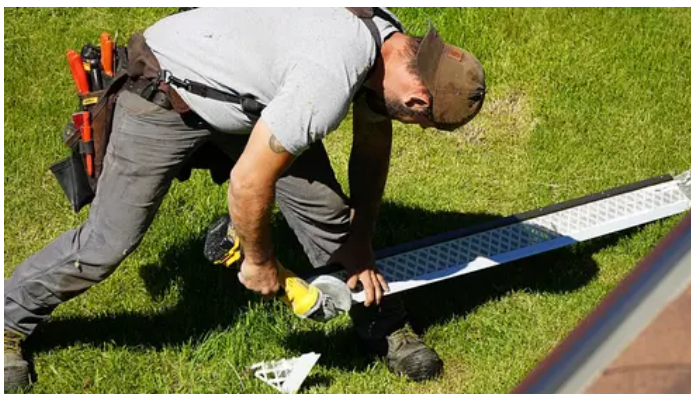
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About the writer

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Khaleda Rahman is Newsweek's National Correspondent based in London, UK. Her focus is reporting on education and national news. Khaleda ... [read more](#)



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