

What is the sequester?

Depending on what news agency you gather your information from, there are different versions of what the sequester is and how it will affect us. In an effort to pinpoint an unbiased definition, here is what was found from the National Skills Coalition...

Sequesters are automatic, across-the-board cuts. Sequestration was created under the Budget Control Act (BCA) in August 2011. It is a debt limit deal that was passed by Congress. As the law is currently written, Congress and the Administration have no control over these cuts. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is responsible for implementing the cuts.

The BCA imposed caps on discretionary programs that will reduce federal spending by about \$1 trillion over the next ten years. Sequestration is in addition to the caps and will cut another \$1.2 trillion over the same period.

The sequesters apply from 2013 through 2021. The budget cuts are spread out equally over each of the nine years, which means about \$109 billion in cuts per year. The cuts are divided equally between "national defense" and all other (non-defense) programs. In other words, \$54.7 billion in cuts for both the defense and non-defense programs.

The non-defense sequesters include both mandatory and discretionary programs. However, a number of key mandatory programs are protected from the cuts: Social Security, Medicaid, S-CHIP, SNAP (food stamps) child nutrition, SSI, refundable tax credits such as the EITC and Child Tax Credit, veterans' compensation and other benefits, and federal retirement benefits. Cuts to Medicare are limited to 2 percent (although Medicare will account for an increasing share of the absolute dollar cuts because the cost of Medicare is increasing so rapidly).

In 2013, the following will occur: \$16 billion of the non-defense cuts will come from entitlement programs, an estimated 8.2 percent cut to non-exempt programs. About \$38.7 billion in remaining non-defense cuts will come from an estimated 9.1 percent across-the-board cut in funding for discretionary programs. The Pell Grant program is exempt. These cuts are not a part of the regular appropriations process and are in addition to any regular non-defense appropriations in Fiscal Year 2013.

In 2014, the sequesters will be applied proportionately to the non-exempt mandatory programs in the aggregate, and the statutory cap on overall non-defense discretionary spending. Beginning in 2014, the non-defense discretionary cuts will occur through additional reductions in the spending caps established under the BCA. This means that the cuts will be achieved through the normal appropriations process. As a result:

The cuts do not have to be applied equally to all non-defense discretionary programs. Policymakers will decide through the regular process which programs to cut, and by how much, and which programs to protect. Pell Grants will not be protected.

Note: A number of policymakers have indicated their intention to undo or somehow prevent the defense sequesters. There has been no similar call to prevent the non-defense cuts, although the President has been clear that he would veto any bill that just undoes the defense sequesters. If the defense sequesters were somehow undone, the non-defense programs would have to absorb those cuts as well.

News and Notes

- ⇒ Daylight Saving Time occurs on Sunday, March 10.
- ⇒ The BMV is now located in South Zanesville in the same shopping plaza as Pick N Save, or directly behind the Burger King. It is no longer in Sunrise Center.

Farmers Almanac Weather Outlook

MARCH 2013: temperature 48° (3° above avg.); precipitation 5.5" (1.5" above avg.); **Mar 1-3:** Showers, warm; **Mar 4-7:** Rain to snow, then sunny, cold; **Mar 8-12:** Showers, then sunny, warm; **Mar 13-18:** Rain to snow, then sunny, cool; **Mar 19-24:** Scattered t-storms, warm; **Mar 25-31:** Sunny, then t-storms, cool.

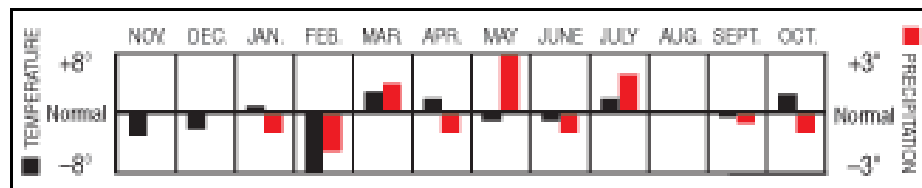
APRIL 2013: temperature 57° (2° above avg.); precipitation 2.5" (1" below avg.); **Apr 1-4:** T-storms, then sunny, cool; **Apr 5-6:** Sunny, warm; **Apr 7-10:** T-storms, then sunny, cool; **Apr 11-15:** Sunny, warm; **Apr 16-18:** T-storms, then sunny, cool; **Apr 19-26:** Scattered t-storms, seasonable; **Apr 27-30:** Sunny, cool.

Annual Weather Summary: November 2012 to October 2013

Winter will be colder and drier than normal, with above-normal snowfall. The coldest periods will be from late December through early January and in early and mid-February. The snowiest periods will occur in mid- to late November, mid- to late December, and early to mid-January.

April and May will be warmer and rainier than normal. Summer will be slightly warmer and rainier than normal, with the hottest periods in late July and mid-August.

September and October will be warmer and drier than normal.



Happy Birthday to...

Lincoln Deitrick	3/23
Jeff Dunlap	3/18
Todd Graham	3/2
Jeff Hill	3/22
Mike Paisley	3/20
Bill Roberts	3/21

Happy Anniversary to...

Ken Buckey	20 years
Marty Haddox	28 years
Gary Hogue	27 years
Mike Marolt	5 years
Katie Settles	7 years
Mike Paisley	26 years
Sandy Snelling	8 years
Tim Snelling	8 years