



Department of Commerce List of All NWS Vacancies Confirms NWSEO statements: 668 Vacant Positions

(July 12, 2017) The National Weather Service has 668 vacant positions and these numbers continue to grow. The information, in response to a Freedom of Information Act request from NWSEO General Counsel Richard Hirn, confirms what NWSEO has been stating all along: Many forecast offices are struggling to fill emergency essential shifts with the burden placed on the backs of dedicated employees. Overtime work is routine in many offices as emergency essential positions go unfilled for months and sometimes years. The long-term vacancy crisis is degrading service to the American public and jeopardizing the NWS mission of saving lives and protecting property. NWSEO hears from members who struggle with health problems and work-life issues due to the overtime work created by these vacancies. NWSEO continues to work on your behalf to get offices fully staffed and to create work-life conditions of employment.

The Department of Commerce Workforce Management Office response to NWSEO's FOIA request includes the following documents, with information as recent as April 12, 2017, confirming a total of 668 vacant NWS positions. This response provides an identification of every vacant position in the NWS by location and job title/position/occupational series.

[Field Operations Vacancies](#)

[Headquarters Vacancies](#)

[National Water Center Vacancies](#)

To summarize the results:

Number all NWS positions: 5013

Number of all positions filled as of April 12, 2017: 4345

Number of all positions vacant as of April 12, 2017: 668

In October 2015, Dr. Uccellini promised members at NWSEO's National Convention that filling positions was his top concern and expressed optimism in the newly hired WFMO Director. In February 2016, Dr. Marshall Shepherd, host of The Weather Channel's Weather Geeks show, asked NWS Director Dr. Uccellini about the high number of NWS vacancies during one of his broadcasts. Dr. Uccellini replied, "We're on top of this... We want to staff up. We want to staff up to have the Weather Service fully staffed as it should be." In the time since Dr. Uccellini's comments at the NWSEO National Convention in October 2015, through May 2017 the NWS lost an additional 74 non-managerial positions. Is the NWS Director really "on top of this?" Shouldn't the NWS Director be accountable like you? Under his leadership, NWS vacancies continue to increase month after month, year after year.

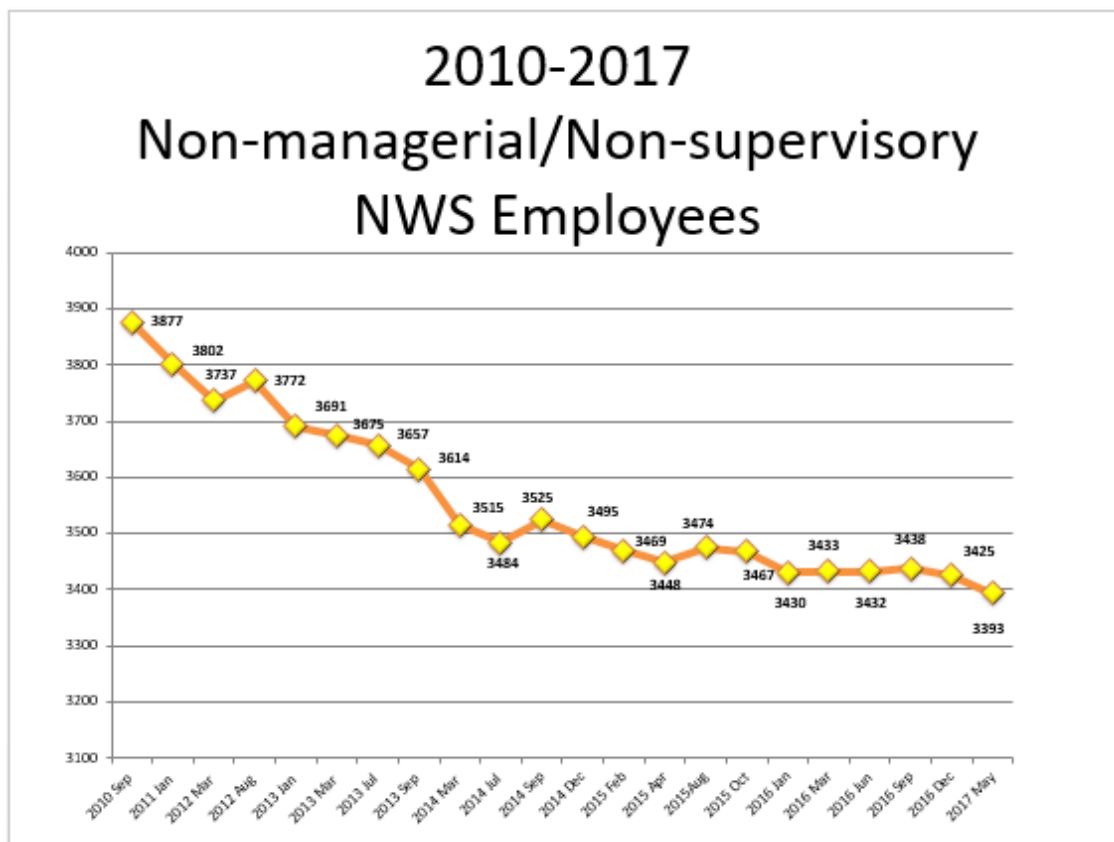
[View Dr. Uccellini on The Weather Channel's Weather Geeks show discuss the vacancies at 3:05-5:09.](#)

[NWSEO's examination of the vacancy numbers used on the Weather Channel's Weather Geeks show.](#)

NWSEO's work to inform Congress about NWS vacancies motivated key members of the House Science Committee to request a Government Accountability Office study on the issue. [The GAO report, released in June 2017, confirms the vacancy rate in NWS operational units has reached a point where NWS employees are "unable at times to perform key tasks."](#)

[Complete GAO Report to Congress available here.](#)

NWSEO has been tracking the NWS vacancies since 2010. The graph below shows the steady decline in the number of non-managerial/non-supervisory NWS employees from 2010 - May 2017.



NWSEO continues its efforts to fully staff NWS offices. NWSEO is the only organization with the ability to lobby Congress and the Administration to preserve NWS jobs, promote better working conditions and career promotions for NWS. Your membership support is greatly appreciated.

-NWSEO-

No one cares more for National Weather Service employees than National Weather Service employees.

No one works harder for National Weather Service employees than National Weather Service employees.

We are NWSEO.