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Shutdown makes a mess of things

The furloughing of many federal workers unfairly caught in the middle of the political fight that shut the government down for 35 days until it reopened Friday has yet to show up in employment and manufacturing figures. Of course, even though agencies are back to work, the data will still be skewed because of the reduced amount of reports generated. President Trump might shut down the federal government again if a new agreement that includes funding for his wall isn't met in less than three weeks. But when the agencies are caught up, in all likelihood the labor market will still be hot. Weekly applications for first-time unemployment insurance plunged to their lowest figure in nearly 50 years. Manufacturing indexes were stronger than expected, with companies in the private sector indicating no negative impact because of the long stalemate in Washington. Stay tuned.

One-, 3- and 6-month London interbank offered rates (Libor) were steady over the last week, ending at 2.50%, 2.76% and 2.85%, respectively.