

BAM!

BRADFIELD ANALYSIS
MONTHLY

Labor data and analysis
you want to know.

LABOR MARKET INTELLIGENCE

JUNE 2026 REPORT
(MAY DATA)

THE FULL PICTURE.
NOT JUST THE HEADLINES.

WE COMBINE TRADITIONAL
& ALTERNATIVE DATA TO
REVEAL WHAT'S REALLY
HAPPENING.

OUR DATA SOURCES

- GOVERNMENT DATA**
BLS • JOLTS • CPS • CES • U-6
CENSUS • NFIB • BEA
- EMPLOYER DATA**
ADP • CHALLENGER • EARNINGS
CONFERENCE BOARD • LIGHTCAST
- HIRING & ATS DATA**
GREENHOUSE • ICIMS • LEVER
WORKDAY • SMARTRECRUITERS
ASHBY • INTERNAL ATS SIGNALS
- JOB MARKETPLACES**
INDEED • LINKEDIN • GLASSDOOR
ZIPRECRUITER • SIMILARWEB
- ALTERNATIVE SIGNALS**
BUSINESS FORMATIONS • OFFICE
OCCUPANCY • CREDIT DATA
TRAVEL • CONSUMER SPEND
- CULTURAL & BEHAVIORAL**
GOOGLE TRENDS • TIKTOK • REDDIT
SOCIAL SENTIMENT • NEWS FLOW
- AI & TECH INTELLIGENCE**
AI DISPLACEMENT • JOB CUT TRACKERS
SKILLS DATA • GROWTH ROLES

THOUSANDS OF
DATA POINTS.
ONE CLEAR PICTURE.

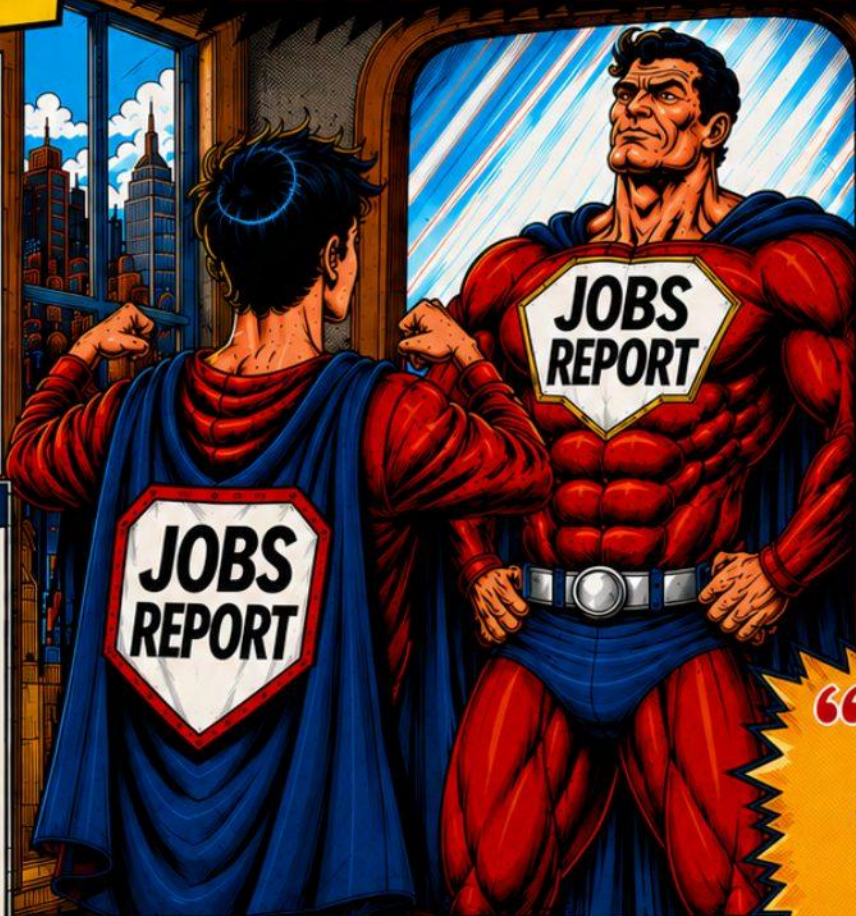
A comic presentation
of serious data.

THE TOOLS WE'VE BUILT

- BAM! SCORECARD™** Real-time composite scoring
- OCCUPATIONAL SIGNAL LENSES™**
Drill down by 500+ occupations
- GHOST JOB DETECTOR™**
Exposes noise in job postings
- OCR ACCURACY™**
Overtime Positioning check
- RUNNING CHARTS & ALERTS™**
Spot shifts. See what's next.

WE ALL SEE WHAT WE WANT TO SEE.

THE TRUTH IS OFTEN VERY DIFFERENT.



DATA APPROVED
BY REALITY



+172,000
JOBS ADDED



7.6M
OPENINGS



5.1M
HIRES



TECHNOLOGY CUTS:
38,242

“...evaluate new information
sources and consider
methodological changes
to improve data gathering...”

BAM! was built for
exactly this reason.
— Federal Chair Kevin Warsh

THE JOBS THEY DON'T TELL YOU ABOUT



- GHOST JOBS ARE EVERYWHERE.
- 18% OF JOB POSTINGS ARE DUPLICATES.
- 32% HAVE BEEN REPOSTED 30+ DAYS.
- REAL DEMAND IS LOWER THAN IT APPEARS.

BAM! LABOR MARKET INTELLIGENCE SCORES — JUNE 2026 (MAY DATA)

EMPLOYER DEMAND	ACCESSIBILITY	CONFIDENCE	WORKER CONFIDENCE	EXPERIENCE PRESSURE
52 /100	42 /100	46 /100	47 /100	44 /100
0-39 = WEAK	40-59 = CAUTION	60-79 = STRONG	80-100 = EXCEPTIONAL	

OVERALL
BAM! SCORE

46
/100

ONE PICTURE. CLEAR INSIGHT.



JOBS
ARE GROWING.



QUALITY
IS SHIFTING.



CONFIDENCE
IS FRAGILE.



THE FUTURE
ISN'T WHAT IT
USED TO BE.

LOOK BEYOND THE HEADLINES.
BUILD STRATEGIES ON WHAT'S REAL.

NEXT → THE BIG PICTURE

INTELLIGENCE ON
HOW WORK
REALLY WORKS.



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REAL DATA. REAL INSIGHT. REAL ADVANTAGE.

SOURCE KEY: BLS (CPS, JOLTS, U-6) • CHALLENGER • LINKEDIN WORKFORCE
INDEED HIRING LAB • CONFERENCE BOARD-LIGHTCAST • BAM! ANALYSIS

BAM!

WE BRING THE
PIECES TOGETHER
SO YOU SEE THE
WHOLE PICTURE.

WE READ. WE ASSEMBLE. WE CONNECT.



READ

Ingest thousands
of data points
from diverse
sources.



ASSEMBLE

Clean, normalize,
standardize,
remove noise.
Fill the gaps.



CONNECT

Spot relationships
across datasets
in real time.



ANALYZE

AI + human
analysis finds
what matters.



DELIVER

Turn pieces into
insight you can
actually use.

ONE PICTURE. CLEAR INSIGHT.

NOT JUST DATA. CONTEXT.
CONNECTION. CLARITY.

LABOR MARKET INTELLIGENCE

JUNE 2026 REPORT
(MAY DATA)

THE FULL PICTURE.
NOT JUST THE
HEADLINES.

WE COMBINE TRADITIONAL
& ALTERNATIVE DATA TO
REVEAL WHAT'S REALLY
HAPPENING.

THE PIECES WE USE



GOVERNMENT DATA

BLS • JOLTS • CPS • CES • U-6
CENSUS • NFIB • BEA



EMPLOYER DATA

ADP • CHALLENGER • EARNINGS
CONFERENCE BOARD • LIGHTCAST



HIRING & ATS DATA

GREENHOUSE • ICIMS • LEVER
WORKDAY • SMARTRECRUITERS
ASHBY • INTERNAL ATS SIGNALS



JOB MARKETPLACES

INDEED • LINKEDIN • GLASSDOOR
ZIPRECRUITER • SIMILARWEB



ALTERNATIVE SIGNALS

BUSINESS FORMATIONS • OFFICE
OCCUPANCY • CREDIT DATA
TRAVEL • CONSUMER SPEND



CULTURAL & BEHAVIORAL

GOOGLE TRENDS • TIKTOK • REDDIT
SOCIAL SENTIMENT • NEWS FLOW



AI & TECH INTELLIGENCE

AI DISPLACEMENT • JOB CUT TRACKERS
SKILLS DATA • GROWTH ROLES

THE TOOLS WE'VE BUILT



BAM! SCORECARD™ Real-time composite scoring



OCCUPATIONAL SIGNAL LENSES™
Drill down by 500+ occupations



GHOST JOB DETECTOR™
Exposes noise in job postings



OCR TRACKER™ Overlistings check



RUNNING CHARTS & ALERTS™
Spot shifts. See what's next.

GOVERNMENT DATA

Employment, wages,
participation,
openings, layoffs



ALTERNATIVE SIGNALS

Business formation,
spending, travel,
office occupancy

EMPLOYER DATA

Payroll trends,
earnings, job cuts,
hiring plans.



HIRING & ATS DATA

Applications, interviews,
pipeline, conversion
rates.

JOB MARKETPLACES

Job postings,
search behavior,
market demand

THE BIG PICTURE

INTELLIGENCE
ON HOW WORK
REALLY WORKS.

CULTURAL & BEHAVIORAL

Trends, sentiment,
searches, content,
conversations



AI & TECH INTELLIGENCE

AI adoption, tech
layoffs, skills shift,
automation risk.

EVEN THE FED IS LOOKING FOR MORE.

"...evaluate new information sources and consider
methodological changes to improve data gathering..."

— FEDERAL RESERVE CHAIR KEVIN WARSH, JUNE 2026

BAM! was built for exactly this reason.
One report is never the whole story.

WHERE JOBS
ARE GROWING

WHERE HIRING
IS STRONG

WHERE ACCESS
IS GETTING HARDER

WHERE RISK
IS BUILDING

WHERE WORK
IS CHANGING

WHAT'S NEXT
& WHY

THE STORY BEHIND THE HEADLINES.
THE SIGNAL BEHIND THE NOISE.

WHO WE BUILD IT FOR

INVESTORS

See risk.
Spot opportunity.
Stay ahead.



EMPLOYERS

Plan workforce.
Benchmark.
Make confident
decisions.



HIRING LEADERS

Hire smarter.
Improve pipeline.
Win talent.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPERS & POLICY LEADERS

Understand your region.
Drive growth. Build
stronger communities.



MEDIA & ANALYSTS

Get the full context.
Tell the real story.
Back it with data.



BAM! TWO MINUTE READ

QUICK INSIGHTS.
DEEP CONTEXT.
SMARTER
DECISIONS.



BAM! COMBINES GOVERNMENT DATA, EMPLOYER SIGNALS, ALTERNATIVE DATA,
AND REAL-WORLD INSIGHT TO SHOW THAT'S THE BAM! DIFFERENCE.

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BAM!

TWO-MINUTE READ

SO
EVERYTHING'S
FINE... RIGHT?

THE HEADLINE LOOKED HEALTHY. THE MARKET UNDERNEATH DIDN'T.

The May jobs report, released in June,
gave the market exactly the headline it wanted.

On the surface, that sounds like a healthy labor market. It certainly sounds healthy if your definition of labor market health begins and ends with jobs added.

The problem is that jobs added is only one piece of the puzzle.

The real question is:

**WHAT JOBS WERE ADDED?
WHO GOT THEM?**

AND WHAT DID THE REST OF THE
LABOR MARKET HAVE TO SAY
ABOUT IT?

172,000
JOBS ADDED



4.3%

UNEMPLOYMENT



4 OF 5

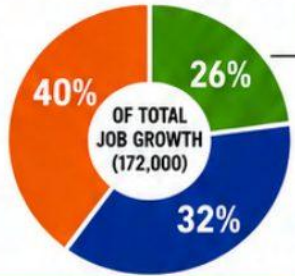
PAYROLL REPORTS
BEAT EXPECTATIONS



THE JOBS WERE REAL. THE STRENGTH WAS NARROW.

169,000
OF 172,000 JOBS
CAME FROM
THREE SECTORS.

98% OF JOB GROWTH
CAME FROM THREE SECTORS



LEISURE &
HOSPITALITY

70,000



HEALTHCARE &
SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

55,000



GOVERNMENT

44,000



ALL OTHER
SECTORS

3,000

73% OF JOB GROWTH CAME FROM HEALTHCARE & SOCIAL ASSISTANCE + LEISURE & HOSPITALITY.

PROFESSIONAL LABOR MARKET REALITY



PROFESSIONAL &
BUSINESS SERVICES

+6,000
JOBS



FINANCIAL
ACTIVITIES

-22,000
JOBS



INFORMATION

-2,000
JOBS



TECHNOLOGY
CUTS

38,242
JOBS



AI WAS CITED AS A REASON FOR LAYOFFS FOR THE FIRST TIME.

"...will evaluate new information sources and consider methodological changes to improve data gathering, with the aim of giving policymakers more accurate, relevant, contemporaneous, and actionable information..."

- KEVIN WARSH
FEDERAL RESERVE CHAIR
JUNE 2026

THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT **BAM!** WAS CREATED TO DO.

BAM! COMBINES GOVERNMENT DATA, EMPLOYER SIGNALS, ALTERNATIVE DATA,
AND REAL-WORLD INSIGHT TO SHOW YOU THE WHOLE PICTURE.

THAT'S THE BAM! DIFFERENCE.

OTHER DATA TOLD A DIFFERENT STORY

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**7.6 MILLION
OPENINGS**

**5.1 MILLION
HIRES**

OCR = 67%

**SOMETHING IS
GETTING LOST.**

JOLTS reported 7.6 million openings and only 5.1 million hires. By BAM! calculations, OCR was stuck at 67%.

That means employers continue creating opportunities faster than workers are successfully converting those opportunities into jobs.

And it raises an uncomfortable question:

NORMAL OCR: 80%+ | CURRENT OCR: 67%
GAP: 13 POINTS BELOW NORMAL

**IF THERE ARE 7.6 MILLION OPENINGS,
WHY ARE SO MANY PEOPLE STRUGGLING TO FIND WORK?**

THE GHOST POSTING PROBLEM



**THESE ARE
NOT THE
SAME THING.**

- ✓ Some positions remain posted for months.
- ✓ Some refresh automatically.
- ✓ Some collect resumes for future hiring needs.
- ✓ Some remain posted while internal candidates are considered.
- ✓ Some may no longer represent an active hiring need at all.

**HOW MANY?
NOBODY KNOWS.**

We don't know how many. Neither does anyone else. What we do know is that counting openings and counting hires produce very different pictures of the labor market.

That's exactly why **BAM!** tracks both **OCR** and **GPSS**.

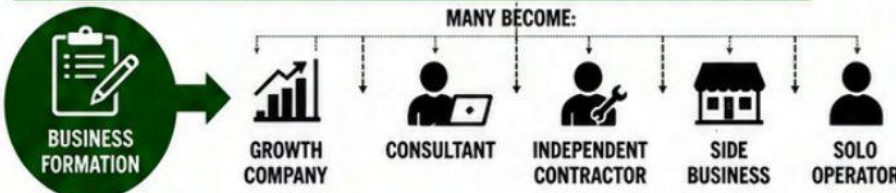
THE ALTERNATIVE DATA



DIFFERENT SOURCES. SAME DIRECTION.

BUSINESS FORMATIONS AREN'T EMPLOYERS (YET)

MANY BECOME:



**A BUSINESS FILING IS NOT THE
SAME THING AS A FUTURE EMPLOYER.**

Business formation remained elevated. But projected employer business formations increased only modestly. Some will become growth companies. Many will become sole proprietorships, consulting practices, independent contractors, side businesses, and owner-operated enterprises that never hire another employee.

THE BAM! READ

The government headline is factually correct.

**172,000 JOBS
WERE ADDED.**

- ✓ Growth concentrated in three sectors
- ✓ Professional hiring remained sluggish
- ✓ Technology continued restructuring
- ✓ Small-business hiring plans weakened
- ✓ Long-term unemployment increased
- ✓ Opportunity conversion remains weak

The labor market isn't collapsing. But it isn't broadly healthy either.

**IT'S NARROW.
IT'S CLOGGED.
IT'S UNEVEN.**

BAM!

OUR TAKE

The headline said the labor market added jobs. The rest of the data shows a more complicated reality. High openings. Fewer hires. Weak conversion. More cuts. Slower demand. Structural change. To understand the labor market, you need more than one data point.



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BAM! OPPORTUNITY CONVERSION RATIO (OCR)

★ HOW EFFICIENTLY OPPORTUNITY BECOMES EMPLOYMENT ★

HERO SCORE

OCR
67%

MODERATE CONVERSION

OCR measures how efficiently opportunities become employment.

It does not explain why.

It measures the result.

THE HEADLINE NUMBER

7.6 MILLION
OPENINGS

APRIL 2026 JOLTS DATA

5.1 MILLION
HIRES

APRIL 2026 JOLTS DATA

**OCR MEASURES
THE GAP.
IT DOESN'T EXPLAIN
THE GAP.**

WHERE OCR COMES FROM

	Openings	7.6M
	Hires	5.1M
	OCR	67%

OCR SCALE

	80%+	HIGH CONVERSION
	65-79%	MODERATE CONVERSION
	50-64%	LOW CONVERSION
	BELOW 50%	POOR CONVERSION

NATIONAL OCR: 67%

WHAT EXPLAINS THE OTHER 33%?

GHOST POSTING
PRESSURE



SKILLS
MISMATCH



GEOGRAPHY



ATS
FRICTION



COMPENSATION



HIRING
DELAYS



INTERNAL
PROCESSES



7.6M
OPENINGS

5.1M
HIRES

**OCR MEASURES THE RESULT.
THE BAM! FRAMEWORK INVESTIGATES THE CAUSES.**

WHY DOES OCR USE APRIL DATA?

The Opportunity Conversion Ratio is calculated using JOLTS data.

Unlike the monthly payroll report, JOLTS is released on a different schedule and currently reflects April 2026 activity.

This is the most recent openings and hires data available at publication.



**DIFFERENT REPORT.
DIFFERENT TIMELINE.**

THE ALTERNATIVE DATA

LinkedIn

indeed

greenhouse

SmartRecruiters

icims

LEVER

THE CONFERENCE BOARD

**DIFFERENT SOURCES.
SAME GAP.
DIFFERENT EXPLANATIONS.**

WHAT OCR TELLS US

OCR answers one question:
How often do opportunities become hires?

OCR does not answer:

- Why opportunities failed to convert
- Whether ghost postings exist
- Whether workers were qualified
- Whether compensation was sufficient
- Whether ATS filters intervened

OCR measures the outcome.

The BAM! framework investigates the causes.

**OCR IS A SCORE.
NOT A DIAGNOSIS.**

THE BAM! READ

- ✓ Employers reported 7.6 million openings and 5.1 million hires.
- ✓ OCR measured a national conversion rate of 67%.
- ! Roughly one out of every three reported openings did not become hires during the measurement period.
- ★ OCR measures the result.
- ★ Accessibility, Ghost Posting Pressure, and Experience Pressure help explain the causes.



THE BAM! FRAMEWORK: HOW IT ALL CONNECTS

EMPLOYER
DEMAND
asks:



"Are jobs
being
created?"

ACCESSIBILITY
asks:



"Can workers
reach
them?"

OCR
asks:



"How often do
opportunities
become
hires?"

GHOST POSTING
PRESSURE
asks:



"Are all visible
opportunities
actually
opportunities?"

EXPERIENCE
PRESSURE
asks:



"How many
workers are
competing for
them?"

HIDDEN WORKFORCE
PRESSURE
asks:



"How many
workers aren't
being counted?"

SOURCE KEY:

BLS JOLTS (April 2026) • BAM! OCR Model • LinkedIn Workforce Data • Indeed Hiring Lab
Greenhouse • SmartRecruiters • iCIMS • Conference Board

HOW NONFARM PAYROLLS WORK AND WHAT THEY WERE NEVER DESIGNED TO MEASURE.

THE MOST IMPORTANT LABOR REPORT IN AMERICA

Every month, investors, economists, politicians, journalists, employers, and job seekers wait for one number:

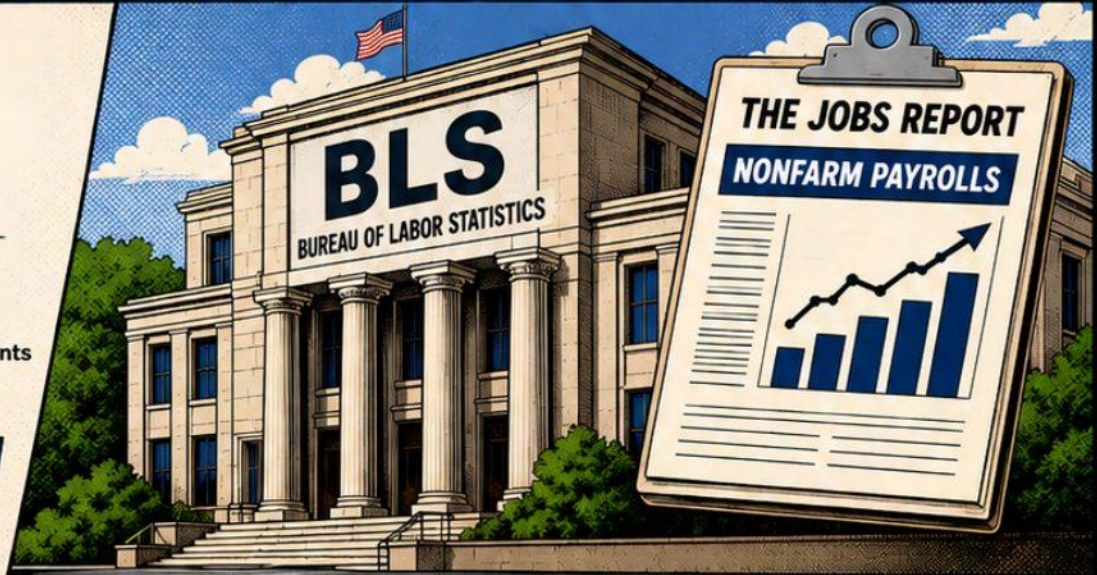
JOBS ADDED.

The figure comes from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' payroll survey, one of the most important economic measurements in the world.

Its purpose is straightforward:

**ARE EMPLOYERS ADDING
WORKERS TO THEIR PAYROLLS?**

For decades, it has helped answer that question exceptionally well.



WHAT THE PAYROLL REPORT MEASURES

- ✓ Corporate employees 
- ✓ Small-business employees 
- ✓ Government employees 
- ✓ Healthcare workers 
- ✓ Hospitality workers 
- ✓ Most wage-and-salary workers 

**IF YOU ARE ON A PAYROLL,
THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE YOU'RE COUNTED.**

WHAT THE PAYROLL REPORT DOESN'T MEASURE

- ✗ Many self-employed workers 
- ✗ Independent contractors 
- ✗ Many freelancers 
- ✗ Gig workers 
- ✗ Business owners without employees 
- ✗ Unpaid family workers 
- ✗ Informal work arrangements 

NO PAYROLL. NO COUNT.

Not because these workers don't matter.
Because they weren't the question the survey was designed to answer.

WHAT HAS CHANGED SINCE THE SURVEY WAS CREATED

FREELANCERS



Approximately
64 million
Americans performed
freelance work
during the
past year.

NON-EMPLOYER BUSINESSES



Nearly
29 million
U.S. businesses
operate without
employees.

EMPLOYER BUSINESSES



Roughly
6 million
U.S. businesses
employ workers.

PLATFORM & GIG WORK



Millions earn
income through
rideshare, delivery,
online marketplaces,
and digital
platforms.

FRACTIONAL & PROJECT-BASED WORK



Consulting, contracting,
project work, and
fractional executive
roles continue
to expand.

MULTIPLE INCOME STREAMS



Many households
now rely on more
than one source
of earned income.

THE BAM! VIEW

- ✗ THE LABOR MARKET CHANGED.
- ! THE REPORT HASN'T KEPT UP.
- ✓ IT'S STILL DOING THE JOB
IT WAS DESIGNED TO DO.
- 🔍 TO SEE THE WHOLE PICTURE NOW,
WE JUST NEED TO LOOK FURTHER.



**ONE REPORT
TELLS YOU WHAT
HAPPENED.**

**THE OTHER PIECES
HELP EXPLAIN WHY.**

NEXT ➔

EMPLOYER DEMAND

**WHERE THE JOBS ARE
ACTUALLY BEING CREATED.**

EMPLOYER DEMAND

WHERE THE JOBS ARE ACTUALLY BEING CREATED

HERO SCORE EMPLOYER DEMAND

52 /100

MODERATE

Employers are still creating jobs.
The question is where.

THE HEADLINE NUMBER

+172,000 JOBS ADDED

MAY 2026 DATA

JOBS WERE CREATED.
OPPORTUNITY WASN'T
DISTRIBUTED EVENLY.

WHERE THE DEMAND ACTUALLY CAME FROM

	Healthcare & Social Assistance	55,000
	Leisure & Hospitality	70,000
	Government (Including Education and Public Admin.)	44,000
	Professional & Business Services	6,000
	Financial Activities	-22,000
	Information	-2,000

98% OF MAY'S JOB GROWTH
CAME FROM JUST THREE AREAS.
THE ENTIRE NET PAYROLL GAIN WAS
ACCOUNTED FOR BY THESE SECTORS.

WHAT JOBS WERE ACTUALLY ADDED?

LEISURE & HOSPITALITY



+70,000

Growth was led by accommodation, food services & drinking places.



HEALTHCARE & SOCIAL ASSISTANCE



Healthcare +35,000



Social Assistance +20,000

Total

+55,000



GOVERNMENT (INCLUDING EDUCATION AND PUBLIC ADMIN.)



Total Government +44,000

(Including Education and Public Administration)



THOSE JOBS ARE REAL. THEY MATTER. ESPECIALLY TO THE PEOPLE HIRED.

THAT'S IMPORTANT BECAUSE:

- Professional & Business Services added just 6,000 jobs.
- Financial Activities lost 22,000 jobs.
- Information lost 2,000 jobs.
- Technology announced 38,242 job cuts.
- AI was cited as a reason for some of those cuts for the first time.

If growth remains concentrated in a handful of sectors while many traditional professional sectors remain flat or negative, the question is no longer whether jobs were created.

WHAT KIND OF LABOR
MARKET IS ACTUALLY
GROWING?



THE ALTERNATIVE DATA

ADP



+122,000
Private Payroll
Jobs

NFIB



29%
Unfilled
Positions

HIRING PLANS



Net 9%
Lowest Since
May 2020

BUSINESS FORMATION



Remains
Elevated

CONFERENCE BOARD LIGHTCAST (MAY 2026)



Online Labor
Demand Down
4.1%

DIFFERENT SOURCES.
SAME MESSAGE.

DEMAND EXISTS.
DEMAND IS
CONCENTRATED.

THE
BAM!
READ

- ✓ Employers are still creating jobs. That's not in dispute.
- 🔍 What's in dispute is whether those jobs represent broad labor-market strength.
- 📊 May's gains were concentrated in Healthcare & Social Assistance, Leisure & Hospitality, and Government, while several professional sectors remained flat, negative, or under pressure.
- ★ Employer Demand scored 52 because demand still exists. It's simply showing up in fewer places than the headline suggests.

NEXT →

EMPLOYER ACCESSIBILITY

7.6 MILLION OPENINGS
5.1 MILLION HIRES.

WHAT HAPPENED TO
THE OTHER 2.5 MILLION?

BAMonthly.com

REAL DATA. REAL INSIGHT. REAL ADVANTAGE.

SOURCE KEY: (MAY 2026)
BLS JOLTS • ADP • NFIB
CONFERENCE BOARD LIGHTCAST • BAM! ANALYSIS

EMPLOYER ACCESSIBILITY

THE FRICTION BETWEEN OPEN AND HIRED

HERO SCORE EMPLOYER ACCESSIBILITY

42 /100
WEAK

Jobs can exist.
Workers can exist.
Employers can exist.

Accessibility measures
how efficiently
they connect.



GHOST POSTING PRESSURE

Some visible opportunities
may never convert into hiring.
Visibility and opportunity
are not always the same thing.

THE HEADLINE NUMBERS



7.6
MILLION
OPENINGS



5.1
MILLION
HIRES

OCR = 67%

**OCR MEASURES
THE GAP.
GHOST POSTING
PRESSURE HELPS
EXPLAIN IT.**

ACCESSIBILITY SCORE COMPONENTS



OCR
(Opportunity
Conversion Ratio)



Openings
vs. Hires



ATS Friction



Hiring
Activity



Ghost Posting
Pressure

**GHOST POSTING
PRESSURE: 43**

**STATUS:
SIGNIFICANT PRESSURE**

Accessibility measures
conversion, not demand.

WHERE ACCESSIBILITY BREAKS DOWN



LOCATION

The jobs may not be where
qualified workers live.



SKILLS

The jobs being created may
require different skills than
those possessed by available
workers.



EXPERIENCE

Workers may be overqualified,
underqualified, too specialized,
or too expensive.



GHOST POSTINGS

Some visible opportunities
may never convert into hiring.
Visibility and opportunity are
not always the same thing.



PROCESS

ATS filters, assessments, multiple
interviews, internal candidates,
and lengthy hiring cycles all
create friction.



ECONOMICS

Compensation, benefits,
relocation, and work arrangements
influence whether opportunities
are realistically viable.

THE ACCESSIBILITY JOURNEY



OPPORTUNITY



DISCOVERY



APPLICATION



QUALIFICATION



QUALIFICATION



INTERVIEW



OFFER



SUCCESS

**AT EVERY STEP,
PEOPLE FALL OUT
OF THE PROCESS.**

Some never
see the
opportunity.

You can see the posting.
The question is whether
there's really a job behind it.

Some are
filtered
out.

Some
withdraw.

Some are
rejected.

Some receive
offers they
cannot accept.

The result
is **friction**.

THAT'S IMPORTANT BECAUSE:

- Employers reported 7.6 million openings but only 5.1 million hires.
- OCR remained stuck at 67%.
- Ghost Posting Pressure scored 43.
- Hiring activity remains subdued despite elevated openings.
- Opportunity and employment are not the same thing.

THE ALTERNATIVE DATA

JOLTS

7.6M
Openings
5.1M
Hires

NFIB

Hiring Plans
Lowest Since
May 2020

INDEED

Hiring
Remains
Subdued

CONFERENCE BOARD- LIGHTCAST

Online Labor
Demand
Down 4.1%
(May 2026)

GHOST POSTING PRESSURE

43
SIGNIFICANT
PRESSURE
OCR: 67%
2.5M
OPENING-HIRE GAP

**DIFFERENT SOURCES.
SAME MESSAGE.**

**YOU CAN SEE THE POSTING.
THE QUESTION IS WHETHER
THERE'S REALLY A JOB BEHIND IT.**

**THE
BAM!
READ**

- Employers continue reporting demand for labor.
- Accessibility asks: "How efficiently do opportunities become employment?"
- Employers reported 7.6 million openings and 5.1 million hires, producing an OCR of 67%.
- Ghost Posting Pressure scored 43. The number of visible opportunities may be larger than the number of opportunities actually producing hires.
- Employer Accessibility scored 42 because meaningful friction remains between opportunity and successful hiring.

NEXT

EMPLOYER CONFIDENCE

HOW EMPLOYERS FEEL
ABOUT THE ROAD AHEAD.

WHY EMPLOYERS MAY WANT WORKERS
BUT STILL HESITATE TO HIRE THEM.



BAMonthly.com

REAL DATA. REAL INSIGHT. REAL ADVANTAGE.

SOURCE KEY: (MAY 2026)
BLS JOLTS • NFIB • INDEED
CONFERENCE BOARD LIGHTCAST • BAM! ANALYSIS

BAM!

LABOR MARKET
INTELLIGENCE

EMPLOYER CONFIDENCE

WHAT EMPLOYERS SAY. WHAT EMPLOYERS DO.

Employers continue investing, hiring, and expanding.
They are also restructuring, automating, and becoming
more selective.

EMPLOYER
CONFIDENCE SCORE

46
/100

CAUTIOUS

HIRE. INVEST. EXPAND.



+172,000
PAYROLL JOBS ADDED



19,536
HIRING ANNOUNCEMENTS



BUSINESS FORMATION
STRONG



CAPITAL
INVESTMENT
CONTINUES

**SAME EMPLOYER.
TWO INSTINCTS.**

**EVERYONE WANTS GROWTH.
NOBODY WANTS MORE COST.**

CUT COSTS. AUTOMATE.
STREAMLINE.



97,006
ANNOUNCED JOB CUTS



38,242
TECHNOLOGY CUTS



NFIB HIRING PLANS
LOWEST SINCE
MAY 2020



AUTOMATION & AI
ACCELERATING

THE EMPLOYER SIGNALS

BAM! TRACKS WHAT EMPLOYERS ARE ACTUALLY DOING.



NFIB
HIRING PLANS



HIRING
ANNOUNCEMENTS



JOB CUTS



CORPORATE
EARNINGS



EMPLOYER
CONFIDENCE
WHAT COMPANIES
ARE ACTUALLY DOING.



AI
INVESTMENT



CAPITAL
PROJECTS



BUSINESS
FORMATION



BUSINESS
INVESTMENT

THE SIGNALS WERE MIXED



+172,000

PAYROLL JOBS ADDED



19,536

HIRING ANNOUNCEMENTS



97,006

ANNOUNCED JOB CUTS



NFIB HIRING PLANS

LOWEST SINCE
MAY 2020



AI INVESTMENT
SURGING

DATA CENTERS
INFRASTRUCTURE
AUTOMATION

**EMPLOYERS ARE SPENDING.
JUST NOT ALWAYS ON PEOPLE.**

WHY BAM! USES ALTERNATIVE DATA

A PAYROLL REPORT CAN TELL YOU
WHAT HAPPENED.

IT CAN'T TELL YOU WHAT EMPLOYERS
ARE THINKING.



GOVERNMENT
DATA

- Payrolls
- JOLTS
- Unemployment
- CPI / Inflation



EMPLOYER SIGNALS

- Hiring Plans
- Earnings
- Job Cuts
- Hiring Announcements
- AI Investment
- Capital Spending
- Business Formation

**A BETTER
VIEW OF
EMPLOYER
BEHAVIOR**

THE BAM! READ

Employers do not appear frozen.
Employers do not appear aggressive.
They appear **selective**.

- ✓ Hiring continues.
- ✓ Investment continues.
- ✓ Expansion continues.
- ✗ Restructurings continue.
- ✗ Technology cuts continue.
- ⚠ Hiring plans remain weak.

Employer Confidence scored **46**
because employers continue
moving forward, but they are
doing so carefully.

NEXT →

WORKER CONFIDENCE

HOW THE LABOR MARKET
LOOKS FROM THE OTHER SIDE.



MANY DATA POINTS.
ONE CLEARER PICTURE.

THAT'S THE BAM! DIFFERENCE.

WE DON'T FOLLOW
ONE REPORT.
WE FOLLOW IT!
THE TRUTH.



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WORKER CONFIDENCE

HOW THE LABOR MARKET FEELS FROM THE WORKER'S SEAT

HERO SCORE

WORKER CONFIDENCE

47 /100

UNEASY

The labor market can look healthy from a payroll report. It can look very different from a kitchen table.

THE HEADLINE NUMBERS

4.3%

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (U-3)
— MAY 2026 DATA —

8.1%

LABOR UNDERUTILIZATION RATE (U-6)
Nearly double the headline rate.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IS NOT THE SAME THING AS LABOR-MARKET HEALTH.

WHERE WORKER CONFIDENCE COMES FROM		
	JOB SECURITY Confidence in keeping current job	55
	EARNINGS Wages vs. cost of living	56
	OPPORTUNITY Belief that better opportunities exist	44
	MOBILITY Ability to change jobs and improve situation	40
	ACCESSIBILITY Ability to convert openings into jobs	42
	LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYMENT Workers stuck on the sidelines	32
OVERALL WORKER CONFIDENCE		47

THE HIDDEN WORKFORCE

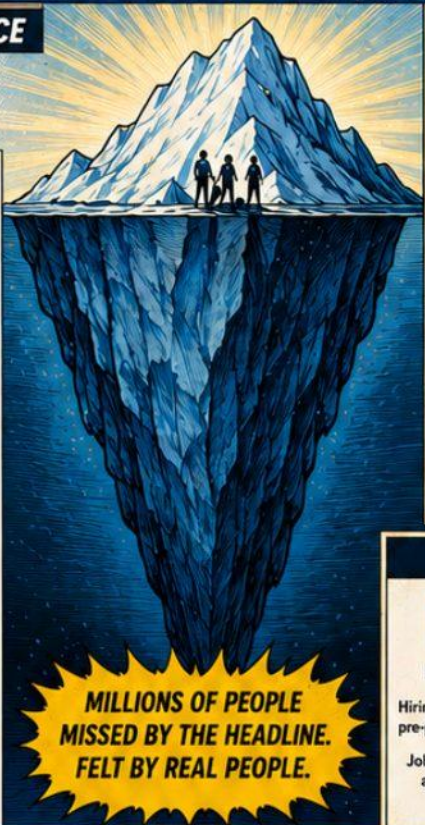
THE HEADLINE DOESN'T TELL THE WHOLE STORY.

ABOVE THE WATERLINE

- EMPLOYED**
- OFFICIALLY UNEMPLOYED (U-3)** 4.3%

BELOW THE WATERLINE

- LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYED** 2.0 MILLION
Up 524,000 from one year ago.
- PART-TIME FOR ECONOMIC REASONS** 4.8 MILLION
Want full-time work but can't find it.
- DISCOURAGED WORKERS** 486,000
Believe no jobs are available for them.
- MARGINALLY ATTACHED WORKERS** 1.7 MILLION
Available for work, but not counted in U-3.
- PEOPLE WHO WANT A JOB** 6.2 MILLION
Not in the labor force but still want employment.



MILLIONS OF PEOPLE MISSED BY THE HEADLINE. FELT BY REAL PEOPLE.

THE SIGNALS WERE MIXED		
	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE 4.3%	Historically low.
	WAGE GROWTH +3.4%	Wage growth remained positive but continued to moderate.
	PAYROLL GROWTH +172,000	Jobs were added, but unevenly.
	ACCESSIBILITY 42	Opportunity exists. Conversion remains difficult.
	LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYMENT 2.0 MILLION+	Up more than 500,000 from one year ago.
	TECHNOLOGY JOB CUTS 38,242	Technology job cuts announced in May.

THE ALTERNATIVE DATA				
LINKEDIN Hiring is ~20% below pre-pandemic levels. Job transitions at a decade low.	INDEED Low-hire, low-fire market. Job openings per unemployed worker remain below 2019 levels.	CONFERENCE BOARD Fewer consumers say jobs are "plentiful." More expect fewer jobs ahead.	MULTIPLE JOBHOLDERS 8.36 MILLION Americans now hold more than one job.	CONSUMER CREDIT Delinquencies & credit stress remain elevated for many households.

WHY WORKER CONFIDENCE IS LOW

- Millions want work that isn't showing up in the headline numbers.
- Too many workers remain stuck in part-time, low-pay, or underemployed roles.
- Long-term unemployment continues to rise.
- Hiring remains selective, especially for experienced professionals.
- The gap between opportunity and access continues to widen.

WHAT BAM! SAW

The labor market is not one experience. It's millions of individual experiences happening at the same time. Positive headline indicators continue to coexist with real pressure beneath the surface. **That's why Worker Confidence scored 47. Uneasy, not broken.**

EXPERIENCE PRESSURE

COMPETITION DOESN'T COME ONLY FROM THOSE WE COUNT.

HERO SCORE
EXPERIENCE PRESSURE

44

/100

ELEVATED

Competition remains elevated across many professional occupations. Pressure exists at both ends of the experience spectrum.

THE HIDDEN WORKFORCE

U-3 UNEMPLOYMENT	U-6 UNEMPLOYMENT	LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED 27+ WEEKS
			
4.3%	8.1%	2.0 MILLION	27.5%

SOME WORKERS DISAPPEAR FROM THE HEADLINE. THEY DON'T DISAPPEAR FROM THE MARKET.

The headline unemployment rate only counts workers actively seeking work. Many others remain in the labor market—just not in the numbers we usually see.

EXPERIENCE PRESSURE COMPONENTS

	Exact Match Hiring Employers want the exact experience.	52
	Overqualification Penalty Overqualified candidates are often passed over.	48
	Hidden Workforce Pressure Labor supply outside headline measures.	39
	Long-Term Unemployment Staying unemployed longer increases friction.	41
	ATS Filtering Pressure Filters remove many qualified candidates.	45
	Professional Labor Weakness Demand for professionals remains uneven.	42

OVERALL EXPERIENCE PRESSURE: 44



HIDDEN WORKFORCE PRESSURE

You can't see the worker. The question is whether we're counting them.

THE EXPERIENCE TRAP

TOO LITTLE EXPERIENCE

- Need More Experience
- Need Specialized Experience
- Need Recent Experience
- Can't Get Started

TOO MUCH EXPERIENCE

- Too Expensive
- Too Senior
- Overqualified
- Not The Right Culture Fit
- Not Current Enough
- Not Flexible Enough



THE TRAP IS THE SYSTEM, NOT THE WORKER.

THE FILTERS BETWEEN PEOPLE AND JOBS

-  AI Screening
-  Applicant Tracking Systems (ATS)
-  Resume Parsing
-  Keyword Matching
-  Automated Ranking
-  Recruiter Review



MANY QUALIFIED PEOPLE NEVER GET REVIEWED BY A HUMAN.

WHAT EMPLOYERS SAY

We can't find people with the right depth of experience.

We need productivity on day one.

Candidates either don't have enough—or have too much.



WHAT WORKERS SAY

I have the experience. Why can't I get in?

They won't give me a chance to prove it.

Too much experience? Really?

No one will train me to get current.



THE ALTERNATIVE DATA

-  **LINKEDIN**
Competition for skilled jobs remains elevated.
-  **INDEED**
Applications per job remain at record highs.
-  **CONFERENCE BOARD**
Fewer consumers say jobs are plentiful.
-  **MULTIPLE JOBHOLDERS**
8.36 million Americans hold more than one job.
-  **CONSUMER CREDIT**
Delinquencies remain elevated.

	LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYMENT	2.0M People
	U-6 UNEMPLOYMENT	8.1%

DIFFERENT SOURCES. SAME MESSAGE.

HIDDEN WORKFORCE PRESSURE



39

SIGNIFICANT PRESSURE

-  U-6 remains nearly double U-3.
-  Long-term unemployment remains elevated.
-  Some workers stop searching.
-  Some accept part-time or temporary work.
-  Some leave the labor force entirely.

THIS DOESN'T MEAN THEY DISAPPEARED. IT MEANS MEASURING THEM BECAME HARDER.



BAM!

THE REAL LABOR STORY

THE LABOR MARKET MOST PEOPLE THINK THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT

BAM!
JUNE 2026
INTELLIGENCE
REPORT

At first glance, the June 2026 labor report looked like broad-based labor market strength. Looks can be deceiving. Nearly all of the month's job growth came from three sectors we've mentioned previously. Meanwhile, some of the occupations most commonly associated with the professional labor market contributed little to overall job growth.

When many workers discuss "the job market," they are talking about professional careers in:

MANAGEMENT | MARKETING | FINANCE | TECHNOLOGY | OPERATIONS | HUMAN RESOURCES | PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

We've pulled out two of those areas that have data we'd like to discuss: Professional & Business Services and Technology.

The data suggests those workers may be experiencing a very different labor market than the one reflected in the national headlines.

PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES

54%

PBS OCR
LOW CONVERSION

1.715M
OPENINGS

933K
HIRES

APRIL 2026
JOLTS DATA

**THE OPENINGS
WERE THERE.
THE HIRES
WEREN'T.**

- Professional & Business Services generated more than 1.7 million openings during April.
- Only 933,000 became hires.
- Nearly half of all openings failed to become employment.
- The data suggests employers are willing to explore hiring opportunities while remaining reluctant to make hiring decisions.

TECHNOLOGY

38,242

**TECHNOLOGY
JOB CUTS**

MAY 2026 DATA

**CUTTING JOBS.
BUILDING
THE FUTURE.**

- Technology announced 38,242 job cuts during May.
- At the same time, employers continued investing heavily in artificial intelligence, infrastructure, and automation while reducing headcount in other areas.
- The investment didn't stop. It simply changed its destination.

WHAT BAM! SAW



- Professional & Business Services appears both positive and hesitant.
- Jobs are being posted.
- Workers are applying.
- Yet almost half never become hires.
- The data suggests employers are willing to explore hiring opportunities while remaining reluctant to make hiring decisions.
- Technology appears to be facing a different challenge.
- The sector continues investing heavily in artificial intelligence, infrastructure, and automation while reducing headcount in other areas. So the investment didn't stop it just changed its destination.

**"...evaluate new
information sources
and consider
methodological
changes to
improve data
gathering."**

Federal Chair
Kevin Warsh

THE BAM! READ



- The professional labor market doesn't appear frozen. It appears cautious and somewhat stagnant.
- Professional & Business Services generated 1.7 million openings but hired fewer than one million workers.
- Technology eliminated tens of thousands of jobs while continuing to pour money into future growth.
- Taken together, the data suggests employers remain willing to invest.
- They simply appear more conflicted about where that investment should go.
- For workers, competition is no longer just against other candidates. Increasingly, it may also be against automation, artificial intelligence, and employers deciding not to hire at all.

NEXT →

**GHOSTS YOU CAN SEE
AND OTHER THINGS YOU CAN'T**

Ghost Jobs. Hidden Workers.
Missing Context.



SOURCE KEY:

BLS JOLTS (April 2026) • BLS Employment Situation (May 2026)
Challenger Job Cuts (May 2026) • LinkedIn Workforce Trends
Indeed Hiring Lab • BAM! OCR Model

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REAL DATA. REAL INSIGHT. REAL ADVANTAGE.



GHOST POSTING PRESSURE

43
SIGNIFICANT
PRESSURE

LinkedIn
Senior Product Manager
• Full-time • Remote
• Posted 120+ days ago

Indeed
Marketing Director
• Full-time
• Posted 90+ days ago

Company Careers
Data Analyst
• Full-time
• Posted 6 months ago

Head of Strategy
• Full-time
• Posted 60+ days ago

We're Hiring!
Growth Manager
• Full-time • Hybrid
• Posted 3 months ago

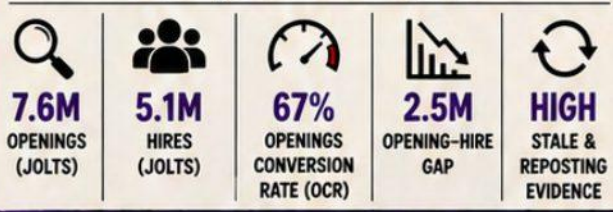
Senior Engineer
• Full-time • Remote
• Posted 100+ days ago

APPLIED.
NOTHING.
EVER.

- ✓ You can see the posting.
- ✓ You can apply for the posting.
- ✓ You can spend hours chasing the posting.
- ✓ The question is whether there's really a job behind it.

WHAT THIS MEASURES

Signals that visible opportunities may be producing fewer hires than expected.

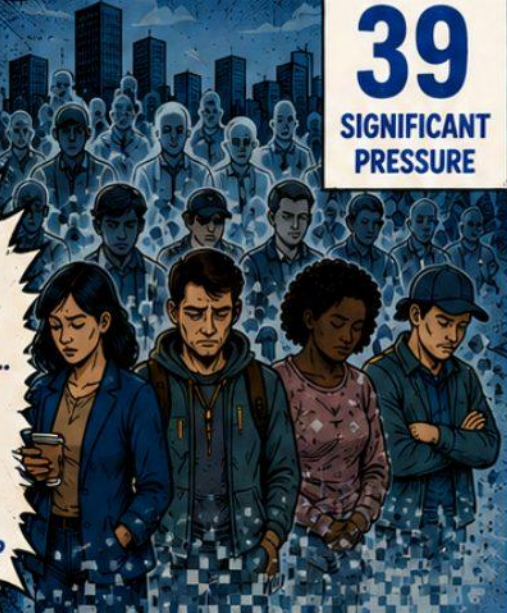


IMPACT: INFLUENCES EMPLOYER ACCESSIBILITY SCORE



HIDDEN WORKFORCE PRESSURE

39
SIGNIFICANT
PRESSURE

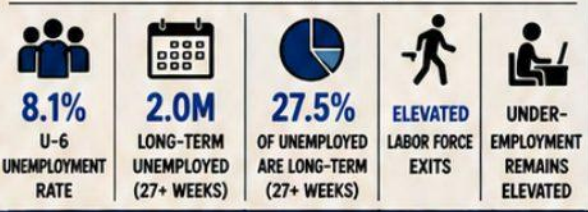


WHAT IF
SOME JOBS
AREN'T REALLY
OPPORTUNITIES...
+
...AND SOME
WORKERS
AREN'T REALLY
BEING COUNTED?

- ✓ They exist.
- ✓ The question is whether we're counting them.
- ✓ Many workers never appear in the headline unemployment rate.
- ✓ That doesn't mean they stopped competing for jobs.

WHAT THIS MEASURES

Workers who may not be fully reflected in headline unemployment figures.



IMPACTS: INFLUENCES EXPERIENCE PRESSURE & WORKER CONFIDENCE

BY THE NUMBERS

THE VISIBLE GHOST



7.6M
REPORTED
OPENINGS
(JOLTS)

THE INVISIBLE WORKER



8.1%
U-6
UNEMPLOYMENT
RATE
2.0M
LONG-TERM
UNEMPLOYED
(27+ WEEKS)
27.5%
OF UNEMPLOYED
OUT OF WORK
27+ WEEKS

DATA AS OF JUNE 2026
SOURCES: BLS JOLTS,
BLS CPS, BAM!
ANALYSIS



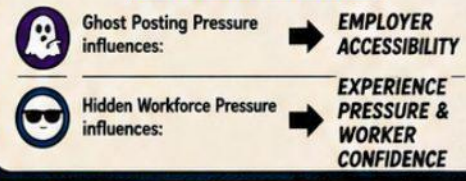
BAM! TAKE

GHOST POSTING PRESSURE ASKS:
**ARE ALL VISIBLE
OPPORTUNITIES ACTUALLY
OPPORTUNITIES?**



HIDDEN WORKFORCE PRESSURE ASKS:
**ARE WE COUNTING
EVERYONE COMPETING
FOR WORK?**

WHY IT MATTERS



**THE
BAM!
READ**

- ✓ Ghost jobs create friction, waste time, and kill confidence.
- 🔍 Workers go unseen, but they're still in the game.
- ⚠️ The gap between openings and hires is real and growing.
- ★ Experience Pressure scored 44 because competition remains elevated across many professional occupations.

NEXT
➔

**EMPLOYER
CONFIDENCE**
HOW EMPLOYERS
FEEL ABOUT THE
ROAD AHEAD.



THE HEADLINE



THE FINAL BAM! READ

SO... WHAT **REALLY** HAPPENED?

THE LABOR MARKET HAS TWO FACES.

BOTH ARE REAL.

THE FRICTION



LOOKS GOOD!

BAM!

AI

WHAT THE HEADLINE SAID

- ✓ **+172,000** Jobs Added
- ✓ **4.3%** Unemployment
- ✓ **4 of Last 5 Reports** Beat Expectations

LOOKS STRONG.

WHAT **BAM!** FOUND

- ⚠ 98% of growth came from three sectors
- ⚠ 7.6M openings became only 5.1M hires
- ⚠ OCR remained 67% (13 points below normal)
- ⚠ Professional hiring stayed weak
- ⚠ 38,242 technology cuts (first time AI cited)
- ⚠ Long-term unemployment hit 2.0 million (+524,000 YoY)
- ⚠ AI cited in layoffs for the first time

THE STORY GOT MORE COMPLICATED.

WHAT MOST PEOPLE NEVER SEE

- 👻 **GHOST POSTING PRESSURE: 43**
Visible jobs aren't always available jobs.
- 🕵 **HIDDEN WORKFORCE PRESSURE: 39**
Visible workers aren't all the workers.

THE PRESSURE REMAINS.

BAM! VERDICT

- 📈 Jobs are growing.
- 🎯 Opportunity exists.
- 🏢 Openings exist.
- 👤 Hiring remains selective.

- 💻 Technology investment is accelerating.
- 👤 Professional hiring is not.
- 🏢 Employers need workers.
- 👤 Workers can't find jobs.

THE JOBS REPORT ISN'T WRONG. IT'S INCOMPLETE.

GHOST LISTINGS
Will the opening-hire gap narrow?

OCR
Can conversion improve?

PROFESSIONAL HIRING
Recovery or further weakness?

AI IMPACT
Do workforce relocations spread?

NEW BUSINESSES
How many become employers?

FEDERAL RESERVE
Will policy support growth or tighten?

KEY TAKEAWAY
This isn't a good news vs. bad news report. It's a signal. Read the whole picture.

BAM! OPINION
STOP REACTING TO HEADLINES. START READING REALITY.

THE LABOR MARKET IS STRONG ON THE SURFACE. BUT UNDERNEATH, FRICTION IS BUILDING. DON'T BE FOOLED BY WHAT'S EASY TO SEE. PREPARE FOR WHAT'S NEXT.

KNOW MORE. DECIDE SMARTER. STAY AHEAD.

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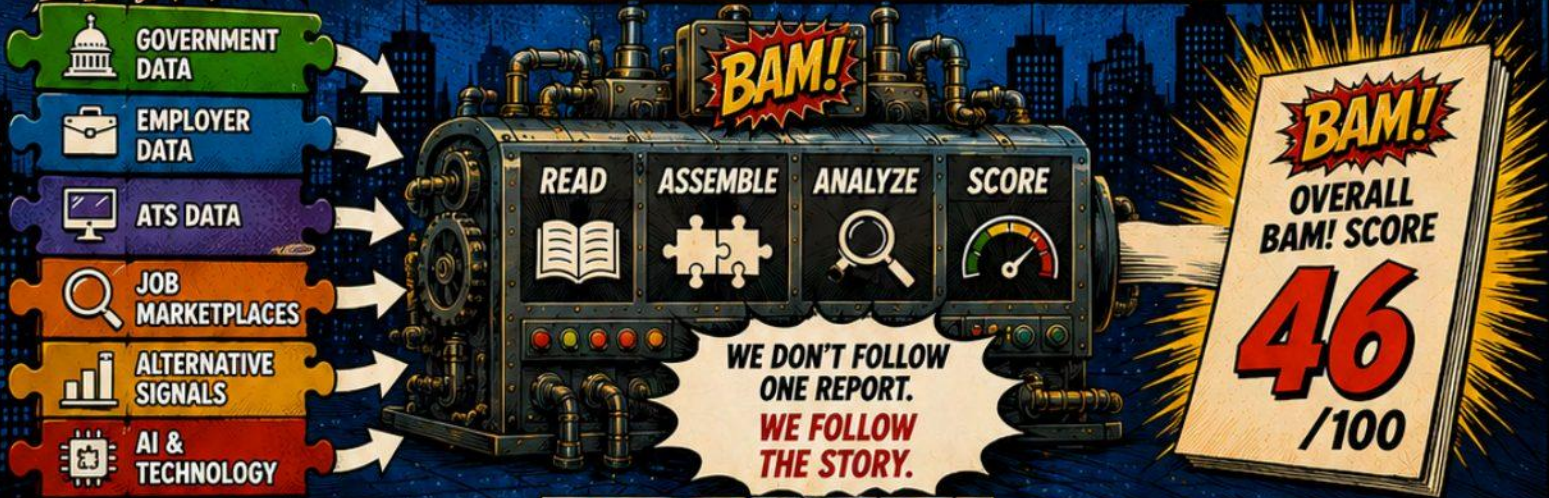
REAL DATA. REAL INSIGHT. REAL ADVANTAGE.

SOURCE: BLS JOLTS (APRIL 2026) • BLS EMPLOYMENT SITUATION (MAY 2026) CHALLENGER JOB CUTS (MAY 2026) • LINKEDIN WORKFORCE TRENDS INDEED HIRING LAB • BAM! OCR MODEL

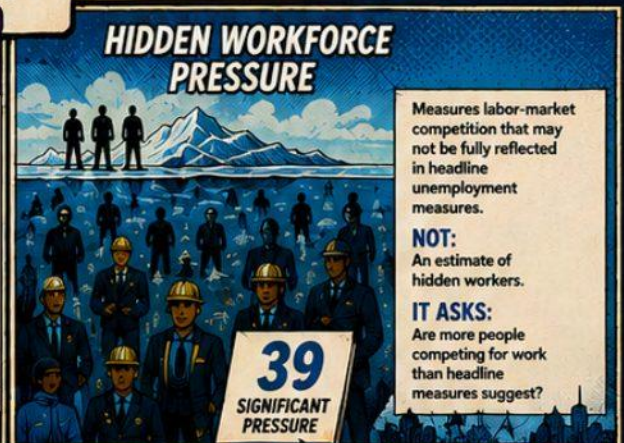
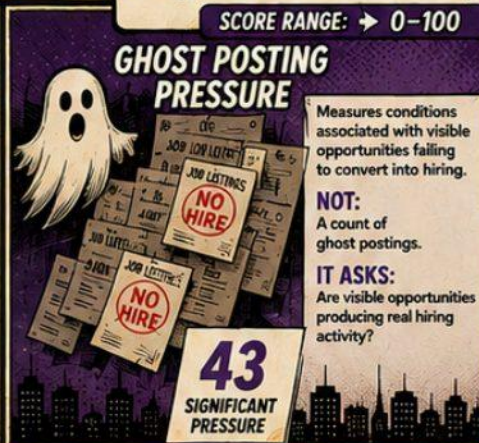
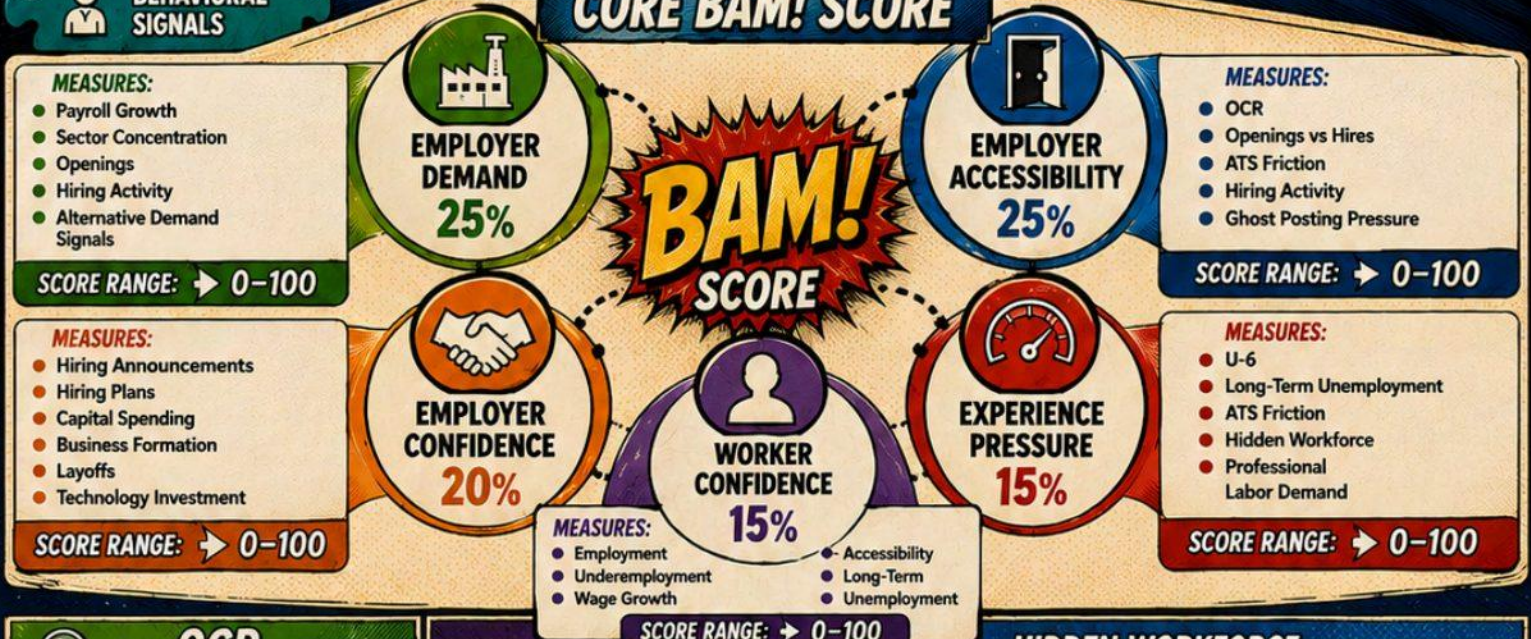
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METHODOLOGY

HOW WE TURN THOUSANDS OF DATA POINTS INTO ONE CLEAR PICTURE



CORE BAM! SCORE



IMPORTANT!

BAM! COMBINES GOVERNMENT LABOR STATISTICS, EMPLOYER SIGNALS, HIRING ACTIVITY, LABOR-DEMAND DATA, AND ALTERNATIVE INDICATORS.

NO SINGLE REPORT TELLS THE WHOLE STORY.

THE BAM! DIFFERENCE

- ✓ Multi-Source Data
- ✓ Real-Time Signals
- ✓ Context Over Noise
- ✓ Story Over Statistics

THAT'S WHY WE READ THEM ALL.

BAM! BAMonthly.com

REAL DATA. REAL INSIGHT. REAL ADVANTAGE.

SOURCE KEY: BLS JOLTS (APR 2026) • BLS EMPLOYMENT SITUATION (MAY 2026)
CHALLENGER JOB CUTS (MAY 2026) • LINKEDIN WORKFORCE TRENDS
INDEED HIRING LAB • BAM! OCR MODEL

BAM! LEGAL / PUBLICATION PAGE

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★
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★



ABOUT BAM! ★

BAM! is an independent labor intelligence publication that combines government labor statistics, employer signals, labor-demand data, hiring activity, and alternative workforce indicators to provide a broader view of labor-market conditions.



IMPORTANT NOTES



- ✓ **BAM!** scores are directional indicators designed to help interpret labor-market conditions.
- ✓ Scores are not forecasts, guarantees, or predictions.
- ✓ Methodologies, weightings, and component measures may evolve as additional data and historical observations become available.

**WE INTERPRET
THE DATA.
YOU MAKE
THE DECISIONS.**

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**LABOR MARKETS
ARE COMPLEX.**

**CONTEXT MATTERS.
SO DOES CAUTION.**

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**RESPECT THE WORK.
SUPPORT THE MISSION.**



**BAM! READS EVERYTHING.
SO YOU CAN SEE WHAT MATTERS.
THANK YOU FOR READING!**

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REAL DATA. REAL INSIGHT. REAL ADVANTAGE.

