

The Bureau of Labor Statistics does this every year. So why is this year's routine data revision suddenly controversial?

The BLS revised employment numbers downward by 911,000 jobs for the 12-month period ending in March 2025. Secretary Chavez-DeRemer called this a "massive downward revision" that undermines the "integrity of data being published by BLS" and criticized the bureau's leadership for using "outdated methods." The Secretary called into question the motives of the BLS leadership.

Yet this revision is well within historical norms. Every year, the BLS conducts annual "benchmark revisions" using more complete data from unemployment insurance records—replacing initial estimates based on surveys. As economist [Michael Strain from the American Enterprise Institute explained](#): *"This is well within the norm of revisions and will not shock economists or policymakers who understand the data. There is no political bias at work in the revision."*

The process is transparent and widely understood by economists and the statistical community. It's designed to give Americans the most accurate employment picture possible. All economic indicators have similar processes.

Instead of impugning the integrity of the bureau and its leadership, we need to fund the modernization efforts the BLS has long requested to improve data collection and transparency. We need to stop blaming dedicated civil servants for following established, scientifically sound procedures. We need to end the hiring freeze immediately and stop converting scientific positions into political ones. We need to restore the advisory committees to BLS and other federal statistical agencies that have provided external review of and well-considered suggestions for improvement of BLS statistical practices. And we need to stop manufacturing problems where none exist.

Americans trust BLS data. These revisions reflect better data quality, not political manipulation. Destroying that trust will cause irreparable harm to our economy.

The real question: Will we support the professionals working to give us accurate information about our economy, or will we baselessly undermine public trust in essential government statistics? We choose to stand with the dedicated statisticians and economists at BLS who serve Americans with integrity every day.