STATEMENTS SUPPORTING OBJECTIVE OFFICIAL STATISTICS

AUGUST–NOVEMBER 2025

E.1 CONTEXT

The Trump Administration fired Erika McEntarfer, the commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), on August 1, 2025. The firing was in response to BLS issuing large revisions to its estimates of payroll jobs, which the administration said was deliberately done by Dr. McEntarfer to embarrass the president. In fact, the commissioner has no role in producing these estimates and does not see them until shortly before their scheduled release. In addition, BLS has always adhered to its fundamental responsibilities to produce objective statistics for use by policymakers and the public, as prescribed by Title III of the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policy-Making Act of 2018 and other regulations, directives, and documents.

This document, prepared by the American Statistical Association (ASA) Project to Assess the Health of the Federal Statistical Agencies as a resource and for documentation purposes, lists statements by organizations following the firing of Dr. McEntarfer in support of objective official statistics. See *Supporting Materials: D* for a preliminary analysis of press coverage of BLS during the period August–November 2025.

E.2 STATEMENTS IN SUPPORT OF OBJECTIVE OFFICIAL STATISTICS

Through internet searches, the ASA project team identified 23 statements from professional associations and other organizations, prompted by the firing of Dr. McEntarfer. They are listed by statement date in Table E-1, followed by the complete text of each statement in alphabetical order by organization name. The text has been reproduced exactly as published with the exception that text is uniformly 11 point, titles are 20–24 points, spacing has been adjusted to keep statements to no more than 2 pages, and text about the organization issuing the statement has been deleted.

TABLE E-1. Statements in Support of Objective Official Statistics, August–November 2025

Date Issued	Organization	Title/URL
08/01/25	American Economic Association (AEA)	LinkedIn post on removal of BLS commissioner: (99+) Post | LinkedIn
08/01/25	Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS)	Endorsed Friends of BLS Statement (see below): Removal of BLS Commissioner Erika McEntarfer — Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics*
08/01/25	Data Foundation	Data Foundation Statement on Trustworthiness in Federal Statistics | LEARN | Data Foundation
08/01/25	Economic Policy Institute	Trump's firing of BLS commissioner is undemocratic and economically dangerous | Economic Policy Institute
08/01/25	Friends of BLS	Statement on Commissioner McEntarfer's Removal — The Friends of the Bureau of Labor Statistics
08/01/25	National Association for Business Economics (NABE)	Microsoft Word - NABE_STATEMENT_BLS_080125
08/01/25	USAFacts	LinkedIn post on removal of BLS commissioner: (99+) Post | LinkedIn
08/02/25	American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR)	AAPOR Statement on the Removal of BLS Commissioner McEntarfer - AAPOR
08/02/25	American Statistical Association (ASA)	LinkedIn post on removal of BLS Commissioner: (99+) Post | LinkedIn
08/02/25	Association of Public Data Users (APDU)	APDU Statement on Firing of Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Commissioner – Association of Public Data Users
08/02/25	Data Rescue Project	Support for the BLS
08/04/25	International Statistical Institute (ISI)	Statement about dismissal of Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Commissioner Erika McEntarfer in the United States | ISI
08/04/25	Leadership Now Project	Statement on President Trump's Firing of the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics — Leadership Now Project
08/04/25	Partnership for Public Service (PPS)	Partnership for Public Service statement on President Trump firing BLS commissioner • Partnership for Public Service
08/05/25	Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA)	Trump Fires BLS Commissioner After Accusing Her of Falsifying Data | COSSA
08/05/25	Royal Statistical Society (RSS)	RSS - A statement from the Royal Statistical Society on the dismissal of the Commissioner of Labor Statistics
08/05/25	Society for Advancing Business Editing and Writing (SABEW)	SABEW Statement on the Firing of BLS Commissioner | SABEW
08/06/25	American Enterprise Institute (AEI)	Trump Must Appoint a Nonpartisan Statistics Chief | American Enterprise Institute - AEI
08/08/25	Labor and Employment Relations Association (LERA)	BLS Statement
08/08/25	National Academies of Sciences and Medicine	Federal Leaders Should Respect and Safeguard the Integrity of Data from Government Statistical Agencies | National Academies

Date Issued	Organization	Title/URL
08/08/25	The Urban Institute	[Why the Firing of the BLS Commissioner Should Concern Every Data User	Urban Institute](#)
08/15/25	PHI	[Firing of Bureau of Labor Statistics Commissioner Risks Compromising a Key Resource - PHI](#)
08/28/25	American Political Science Association (APSA)	[FINAL-Statement-on-Removal-of-BLS-Commissioner.pdf](#)

* Text of COPAFS's three-sentence endorsement not shown separately below.

SOURCE: Compiled by project staff from Internet searches. Some items provided by The Friends of BLS.

Date Issued	Organization	Title/URL
		[Why the Firing of the BLS Commissioner Should Concern Every Data User	Urban Institute](#)

American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR)

AAPOR Statement on the Removal of BLS Commissioner McEntarfer

August 2, 2025

On behalf of the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR), we write to express deep concern regarding the removal of the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Erika McEntarfer, in response to the recent downward revisions in job numbers for May and June. In a robust and transparent statistical system, corrections are an inherent and expected part of the measurement process. As a professional association dedicated to the integrity and quality of research and data collection, AAPOR emphasizes that sound statistical systems must be able to revise and improve upon earlier estimates without political interference. Revisions to employment data occur routinely and are the result of additional reports received from businesses and government agencies, as well as ongoing refinements in seasonal adjustments. These processes are not signs of failure; they are essential features of a scientific approach to national measurement.

It is appropriate to ask whether current methodologies remain robust, and whether they need refinement in light of observed anomalies. Continuous evaluation and modernization of our statistical systems are vital to maintaining public trust. If flaws in the process are identified, new or improved methods should be considered. However, when the established and transparent procedures are followed, as is believed to be the case here, revisions alone are not valid grounds for personnel changes.

Undermining statistical leadership in response to expected and disclosed revisions risks politicizing federal statistics and damaging the credibility of institutions whose independence is foundational to democracy and good governance. We echo the sentiments expressed by the Data Foundation in their [recent statement](): trust in federal statistics is preserved not through perfection, but through transparency, methodological rigor, and a willingness to update and revise in full public view.

We urge that any concerns with the employment data revisions be addressed through a nonpartisan, professional review of the measurement process and its continued suitability—not through punitive actions against those who have followed established protocols. A careful and evidence-based investigation into the methodology and operations of the BLS is the proper step to safeguard both accuracy and public confidence.

AAPOR stands ready to assist in promoting data integrity and supporting efforts to ensure our federal statistical agencies continue to operate with independence, transparency, and professionalism.

American Economic Association (AEA)

Statement from The American Economic Association on the Dismissal of the BLS Commissioner

[posted by Martha Starr, AEA Washington, DC representative, on LinkedIn]

August 1, 2025

Leaders of the American Economic Association express their grave concern over the dismissal of the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) earlier today.

The independence of the federal statistical agencies is essential to the proper functioning of a modern economy. Accurate, timely, and impartial statistics are the foundation upon which households, businesses, and policymakers make critical decisions. Undermining the independence or credibility of these agencies threatens the integrity of the information that markets, institutions, and the public rely on every day.

Measuring the vast and dynamic U.S. economy in real time is inherently challenging. It is standard practice for statistical estimates to be revised as more complete and higher-quality data become available. These revisions reflect the commitment of statistical agencies to accuracy, transparency, and methodological rigor—not failure or bias.

The BLS has long had a well-deserved reputation for professional excellence and nonpartisan integrity. Safeguarding this tradition is vital for the continued health of the U.S. economy and public trust in our institutions.

We call upon elected officials to respect and preserve the independence of the nation's statistical infrastructure.

Lawrence Katz
President, American Economic Association

Katharine Abraham
President-Elect, American Economic Association

Karen Dynan
Chair, American Economic Association Committee on Economic Statistics

Kenneth Troske
Chair, American Economic Association Committee on Government Relations

American Enterprise Institute (AEI)

Trump Must Appoint a Nonpartisan Statistics Chief

Michael R. Strain, Senior Fellow, American Enterprise Institute Op-Ed

August 06, 2025

US President Donald Trump fired the commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics following a disappointing jobs report. But installing a lackey at the agency could lead policymakers, businesses, and investors to make costly mistakes and lose faith in official data, with far-reaching economic consequences.

After firing the commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) on Friday, US President Donald Trump has indicated that he will nominate the agency's next leader this week. It is imperative that Trump's nominee be perceived by businesses and investors as nonpartisan and independent of the White House. Because trust in the integrity of government data is a foundation of prosperity, it is in Trump's direct political interest to appoint an independent BLS chief.

The sacking of Erika McEntarfer, the BLS commissioner, came immediately after the bureau released its July employment report, which found that the US economy added only 73,000 jobs. As it does every month, the BLS report also included revised data for the previous two months. Those revisions were large, showing that the economy added only 19,000 net new jobs in May and 14,000 net new jobs in June.

Trump was furious, and asserted on social media that McEntarfer "faked" the jobs numbers, manipulating them "for political purposes." To be clear, there is not a shred of evidence to support those claims, and every reason to believe they are false. Even assuming nefarious intent, it would be very hard to fake the numbers. As William Beach, McEntarfer's Trump-appointed predecessor, explained to Politico, hundreds of analysts construct the numbers, which are finalized by about 40 people who have served under presidents of both parties. "The commissioner does not see these numbers until the Wednesday prior to the release on Friday," Beach added. "The commissioner doesn't have any hand or any influence or any way of even knowing the data until they're completely done."

By incorrectly asserting that the jobs data are biased, Trump is undermining the credibility of the information on which policymakers, businesses, households, and investors depend. The economic implications are far-reaching. Without a good sense of the economic facts on the ground, investors may perceive risk levels to be higher, businesses might delay new projects, and the US Federal Reserve could make a costly mistake in setting interest rates.

Trump's decision to fire McEntarfer and appoint a new BLS commissioner has a historical resonance that is hard to ignore. The Soviet Union and China regularly falsified economic data to buttress their policies. (Joseph Stalin executed the census official who found that the Soviet Union had a smaller population than Stalin had announced).

It cannot be stated often enough that the data produced by the BLS about the labor market—and US government economic data more broadly—are the gold standard. There is simply no substitute for it. While private-sector data are an important

complement to official statistics, they are often benchmarked against government data and are not nearly as representative nor as authoritative.

Likewise, revisions to official statistics—the trigger for McEntarfer's firing—are routine and not a cause for concern. Government agencies must balance the need for high-quality data with the imperative of timely reporting.

The jobs figures are an estimate of the total number of payroll employees during the week that includes the 12th day of the month. Companies are surveyed, but some send in their responses late, while others pay their workers monthly, at the end of the month. The challenge for the BLS is to provide decision-makers with vital information as quickly as it can, while knowing that the longer it waits, the higher the quality of its data will be.

For example, the BLS could have waited until August to report data for May, but that would have made it hard for the Federal Reserve to set interest rates over the summer and for businesses to make important decisions that rely on the state of the labor market. So, instead, BLS releases an estimate for May in June, and then another based on more complete data in July, before it reports a final figure in August.

In addition to survey response issues, the BLS must contend with the challenge of estimating the reduction in employment from firms that exited the market in May, and the number of net new jobs in firms that were created in May. It must also account for seasonal fluctuations in employment.

The upshot is that revisions are just that—revisions, not corrections.

Moreover, while last week's revisions were large, with May's employment total revised down by 125,000 jobs and June's by 133,000 jobs, they did not strike me as worrisome or excessive. According to my calculations, over the past three decades there were ten instances of downward revisions larger than 100,000 jobs and 26 instances of upward revisions of more than 100,000 jobs.

Trump should think twice before attempting to install a lackey at the BLS. He would be wise to remember that when Argentina manipulated its inflation data—and markets stopped trusting official statistics—interest rates increased and the country's debt crisis worsened.

Still, even if Trump installs a yes-man as commissioner, we should continue to believe in the integrity of the data—which are extremely hard to rig—until the agency's civil servants give us reason not to.

McEntarfer made decisions at the BLS free from political influence. The agency's next leader should be just as independent. If not, policymakers, business leaders, households, and investors may begin to perceive government data as flawed, which can have damaging and cascading effects throughout the US economy. It is in Trump's direct political interest to avoid this. But given his history of scoring own goals, I am worried.

American Political Science Association (APSA)

Statement Regarding the Removal of Dr. Erika McEntarfer, Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics

August 28, 2025

The American Political Science Association (APSA) is deeply concerned by the recent removal of Dr. Erika McEntarfer as Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The decision to remove Commissioner McEntarfer appears to be in response to a standard revision to the agency's reported employment data for May and June. The Trump Administration levied the baseless accusation that the agency purposefully amended the report to reflect negatively upon the current Administration. The Administration has offered no evidence for the accusation or other reasons for the decision to remove Commissioner McEntarfer. Instead, it has publicly questioned the validity and impartiality of the agency's process of producing data, again without any supporting evidence.

As a federal statistical agency, BLS provides critical data on employment statistics and economic indicators. These data are a valuable resource for individuals, researchers, businesses, employers and governments in their efforts to provide credible research and to make sound economic decisions. The autonomy and impartiality that federal statistical agencies enjoy allows them to deliver data that are viewed as reliable and accurate. The effort to interfere in the production of labor statistics and unsubstantiated public assertions that those statistics are biased will lead to a dangerous erosion of trust in federal data and constitutes an unacceptable infringement on the principles of evidence-based research.

APSA stands in support of Commissioner McEntarfer and the statisticians who produce important jobs data at BLS. We further call on Congress to engage in oversight over the Trump Administration's removal of Commissioner McEntarfer, and to ensure the nonpartisan and independent nature of the federal statistical system.

Taeku Lee, President
Susan Stokes, President-elect

Mark Warren, Past President
Kimberly A. Mealy, Executive Director

American Statistical Association (ASA)

Ron Wasserstein, Executive Director of the American Statistical Association

[LinkedIn Post, August 2, 2025]

Friday's firing of Commissioner of Labor Statistics Erika McEntarfer is calamitous. The firing undermines Americans' trust in federal statistics, with adverse ramifications for the broad swath of decisions that these data inform, affecting all Americans. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) statistics are key inputs to far-reaching public and private policy decisions that have immediate and wide-reaching implications with continuing impacts on the economy
.
Further, firing a federal statistics official out of dislike for what official statistics indicate is tantamount to blaming your doctor for your diagnosis. The rigor, checks, and care that go into the production of official statistics are extensive, transparent, long respected, and used across administrations. Presidents may not like the statistics but have respected them.

We have utmost confidence in Commissioner McEntarfer's integrity and qualifications. Indeed, the Senate confirmed McEntarfer to be commissioner in a bipartisan 86-8 vote. We also have confidence in the veracity of the latest job numbers and commend the dedicated, committed, and talented BLS staff who work tirelessly to produce official statistics with commitment to accuracy and objectivity.

The public needs to be able to trust federal statistics, whether they be measures of our economy, crime, health, or the myriad other topics the federal statistical system covers, and to be confident the numbers have not been altered in any way. Public trust in federal statistics helps the administration, Congress, governors and state legislatures, business leaders and others as they work to gain support of their policies.

We also second the Friends of BLS call on Congress "to respond immediately, to investigate the factors that led to Commissioner McEntarfer's removal, to strongly urge the Commissioner's continued service, and ensure that the nonpartisan integrity of the position is retained."

With this firing, the United States is headed down the path taken by Greece and Argentina following their persecution of statistical leaders. That path led to uncertainty in the state of their economies by the world community, which exacerbated their economic challenges. Faltering trust in US economic statistics by the international community and private sector will have untold consequences for the financial health and economic well-being of the nation and the world.

Association of Public Data Users (APDU)

APDU Statement on Firing of Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Commissioner

August 2, 2025

The moment many of us in the public data community have feared has come to pass: the President has fired the head of a federal statistical agency because the data are politically inconvenient.

Today President Trump accused BLS Commissioner Dr. Erika McEntarfer of deliberately reporting false numbers to reflect poorly on this administration, with no evidence of his claims, and he ordered her firing.

To be clear, the BLS Commissioner simply did what her job entails: reporting the truth based on well-respected, well-documented, transparent, and reliable standards. Those standards include revising prior estimates as new data become available, a process which has happened with every jobs report (under administrations of both parties) for decades without incident.

Under the law, disliking the data is not a qualifying reason to remove the BLS Commissioner from her four-year appointment. Under our democracy, it is unacceptable to fire someone for publishing data collected in accordance with scientific standards.

We concur wholeheartedly with our colleagues at the [Friends of BLS, who wrote in their statement](#): "This rationale for firing Dr. McEntarfer is without merit and undermines the credibility of federal economic statistics that are a cornerstone of intelligent economic decision-making by businesses, families, and policymakers. U.S. official statistics are the gold standard globally. When leaders of other nations have politicized economic data, it has destroyed public trust in all official statistics and in government science." This is a road that we, as a country, cannot afford to take.

And we echo their call to Congress to respond immediately, to investigate the factors that led to Commissioner McEntarfer's removal, to strongly urge the BLS Commissioner's continued service, and ensure that the nonpartisan integrity of the position is retained.

Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA)

Trump Fires BLS Commissioner After Accusing Her of Falsifying Data

August 5, 2025

On August 1, President Trump abruptly fired the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Commissioner Erika McEntarfer after baselessly accusing her of deliberately reporting false numbers in the Employment Situation report released that morning. The White House released an accompanying statement in which the Administration accused McEntarfer of having a "lengthy history of inaccuracies" that harmed the public's trust in the agency. This unprecedented removal of a Congressionally-approved agency head greatly undermines the credibility of the federal economic statistical enterprise, which has been the gold standard for U.S. labor data collection for almost 150 years.

COSSA joins the Friends of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, of which COSSA is a member, in calling for "Congress to respond immediately, to investigate the factors that led to Commissioner McEntarfer's removal, to strongly urge the Commissioner's continued service, and ensure that the nonpartisan integrity of the position is retained." The full statement condemning the action can be found here.

Data Foundation

Data Foundation Statement on Trustworthiness in Federal Statistics

WASHINGTON, D.C., August 1, 2025—Data Foundation President and CEO Nick Hart issued the following statement following the President's removal of the Bureau of Labor Statistics Commissioner on August 1, 2025, and other recent comments about federal statistics:

The Data Foundation reaffirms its commitment to supporting the integrity and independence of America's federal statistical system. Recent events underscore the importance of the institutional and legal safeguards that protect the objectivity of federal statistics and serve the American people and economy.

Statistical independence is not dependent on any single individual but is built into the system itself through robust policies, procedures, legal frameworks, and the culture and people of the statistical system. The Foundations for Evidence-Based Policy-making Act (Evidence Act), signed into law by President Trump on January 14, 2019, established comprehensive protections for statistical agencies. Building on this foundation, the Office of Management and Budget's Public Trust Rule—a regulation required by the Evidence Act—codifies four fundamental responsibilities for statistical agencies: producing timely information, conducting credible and accurate activities, maintaining objectivity, and protecting data provider confidentiality. We have confidence that federal statistical products retain their fidelity to those principles.

These protections operate through the career professionals who staff federal statistical agencies and bring decades of expertise in following established scientific principles. Federal statistical agencies use rigorous quality controls, peer review processes, and transparent methodologies that ensure reliability and accuracy regardless of leadership changes. The Public Trust Rule provides tools for these professionals to help reinforce the system's ability to operate with the integrity necessary to produce objective statistics. To be clear, federal statistics always rely on the trust of the American people and businesses.

Last week, I had a productive meeting with new Chief Statistician Mark Calabria, who reinforced his support for federal statistical agencies and their dedicated experts. This commitment provides reassurance that the principles established in the Evidence Act and Public Trust Rule will continue to guide federal statistical activities.

Public trust in federal statistics is essential to their value for all Americans. New survey results analyzed and published by the American Statistical Association in July 2025 suggest that trust in federal statistics has remained stable from late-2024 to mid-2025. The country's businesses and leaders need reliable estimates of the population and economy, including key indicators like employment, inflation, and gross domestic product. From businesses making investment decisions to families choosing where to live, Americans depend on accurate statistical information. This trust is earned through adherence to professional standards, transparency, and protection of confidentiality. The legal framework established by the Evidence Act—including the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act—provides the foundation that supports this trust.

Data Rescue Project

Support for the BLS

August 2, 2025

We imagine that many of you have already heard the news about last night's removal of the Bureau of Labor Statistics Commissioner, Erika McEntarfer. We are dismayed by these actions and join our partner groups, the Friends of BLS, COPAFS, APDU, and others, in calling on Congress to investigate these actions. We encourage you to read the Friends of the BLS statement, if you have not done so.

We remain firm in our support of the federal employees who work diligently to make our federal statistical system one of the best in the world and decry attempts to politicize the BLS or any other agency.

Trump's Firing of BLS Commissioner is Undemocratic and Economically Dangerous

Statement • By Heidi Shierholz [EPI President]

August 1, 2025

Today, Trump directed his team to fire the commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) because he didn't like the jobs numbers they released. This is a move straight out of an autocratic playbook.

BLS is one of the most respected statistical agencies in the world, known for its methodological rigor, independence, and transparency. The president's belief that the BLS commissioner personally "produced" the jobs numbers is preposterous and shows a complete misunderstanding of how government statistical agencies operate. These data are the product of careful work by hundreds of expert economists, statisticians, and civil servants following transparent, well-established methodologies.

Dr. Erika McEntarfer is a highly respected labor economist with deep expertise in labor market data. Like all BLS commissioners, she is bound by strict norms of nonpartisanship and statistical integrity. To fire her over an official data release—simply because the numbers do not serve a particular political narrative—is a deeply dangerous attack on the foundations of a functioning democracy.

And it's not just undemocratic—it's economically dangerous. The economy runs on reliable data. Businesses use these numbers to decide whether to hire or expand. The Federal Reserve uses them to set interest rates. State and local governments use them to plan budgets. If policymakers and the public can't trust the data—or suspect the data are being manipulated—confidence collapses and reasonable economic decision-making becomes impossible. It's like trying to drive a car blindfolded. This manufactured chaos will reduce business investment and consumer spending, making a recession—and soaring unemployment—far more likely in coming months.

The firing of the BLS commissioner follows a week of reporting that almost 20% of price inflation data was unable to be collected for the month of July, stemming from severe resource constraints. Between illegal firings, starving data agencies of needed resources, and now political intimidation, the U.S. looks set to run into the next economic downturn flying blind. The cost of this incompetence will be felt by working people first.

The Friends of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)

Statement on Commissioner McEntarfer's Removal

Today [August 1, 22025], President Trump called into question the integrity of the Employment Situation report that the BLS released this morning. He accused BLS Commissioner Erika McEntarfer of deliberately reporting false numbers to reflect poorly on this administration. This baseless, damaging claim undermines the valuable work and dedication of BLS staff who produce the reports each month. This escalates the President's unprecedented attacks on the independence and integrity of the federal statistical system.

The President seeks to blame someone for unwelcome economic news. The Commissioner does not determine what the numbers are but simply reports on what the data show. The process of obtaining the numbers is decentralized by design to avoid opportunities for interference. The BLS uses the same proven, transparent, reliable process to produce estimates every month. Every month, BLS revises the prior two months' employment estimates to reflect slower-arriving, more-accurate information.

This rationale for firing Dr. McEntarfer is without merit and undermines the credibility of federal economic statistics that are a cornerstone of intelligent economic decision-making by businesses, families, and policymakers. U.S. official statistics are the gold standard globally. When leaders of other nations have politicized economic data, it has destroyed public trust in all official statistics and in government science.

BLS operates as a federal statistical agency and is afforded autonomy to ensure the data it releases are as accurate as possible. To politicize the work of the agency and its workers does a great disservice not only to BLS but to the entire federal statistical system which this country has relied on for almost 150 years. We stand firmly behind the BLS, Commissioner McEntarfer, and the data they work hard to produce. Commissioner McEntarfer is a widely-respected economist who has devoted her career to public service. She has an impeccable record. Over ninety percent of U.S. Senators supported her confirmation.

We call on Congress to respond immediately, to investigate the factors that led to Commissioner McEntarfer's removal, to strongly urge the Commissioner's continued service, and ensure that the nonpartisan integrity of the position is retained. The statement from the President undermines these tenets and politicizes data which cannot and should not be used for political points.

The Friends of BLS Co-Chairs: William Beach, Erica L. Groshen and Paul Schroeder

The Friends of BLS Steering Committee Members: Tom Beers, Demetra Nightingale, Mary Jo Mitchell, Steve Pierson, Ken Poole, Aaron Sojourner

International Statistical Institute (ISI)
A Non-Profit, Non-Governmental Organisation, Established in 1885

Statement about dismissal of Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Commissioner Erika McEntarfer in the United States

August 4, 2025

The ISI expresses its deep concern regarding the reported dismissal of Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Commissioner Erika McEntarfer in the United States.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics, a fact-finding agency in the field of labor economics and statistics, serves as a crucial part of the U.S. Federal Statistical System. While the appointment of BLS leadership falls within the purview of the U.S. government, the motivation behind Dr. McEntarfer's dismissal raises serious questions about a violation of the internationally agreed UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and a disregard for the globally accepted professional ethics of statisticians. BLS data products must be publications of facts that serve the U.S. government, financial markets and the public. National statistical agencies and their commissioners must operate free from political pressure to ensure the quality and integrity of their work. Until now, the global community has rightly held U.S. federal statistics in high regard. The ISI supports the fact-finding mission of all government agencies involved in data collection, analysis, and communication.

In particular, the efficient functioning of financial markets is dependent on trustworthy statistics, especially for market-sensitive statistics such as employment and consumer prices. Experience has shown that lack of trust in official statistics can lead to an increased risk premium on borrowing rates, for example. In addition, the labor market statistics reflect the socioeconomic condition of the country and have real impacts on public policies.

In a civilised society, decisions must be based on facts. When facts are called into question, an independent, high-quality assessment is required. We therefore appeal to the U.S. government to consider ways of addressing any doubts about the BLS work to safeguard well-rooted public confidence in federal statistics in the United States. To this end, ISI promotes independent evaluation of the methods and outcomes to maintain their credibility. With its 140-year legacy in the statistics profession, the ISI stands ready to support such a process.

As a non-governmental and non-profit global statistical organisation, the ISI calls on all statisticians to stand behind the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. The ISI also appeals to the U.S. government to take decisive actions to respect and restore public confidence in federal statistics in the United States. This goes beyond official statistics in the U.S., bearing significant global implications.

Xuming He, ISI President
Fabrizio Ruggeri, ISI President-Elect

BLS Commissioner Dismissal Statement

The Labor and Employment Relations Association (LERA) is deeply concerned by the August 1, 2025 dismissal of the commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

All of LERA's constituencies depend on trustworthy, transparent, non-politicized government statistics. Labor and management need reliable and credible statistics to plan strategies for their organizations and to find common-ground solutions, implement collective agreements, and avoid unnecessary conflict. Politicized economic data will make it more difficult for mediators and arbitrators to resolve disputes. Researchers require reliable statistical indicators to generate insights that deepen our understanding of the economy and the workplace.

At all levels of government, statistical agencies need to be independent in order to provide the impartial and trustworthy statistics that are essential to the functioning and prosperity of our society, and that provide a foundation for productive labor-management relationships. LERA urges elected officials, congressional policymakers, business leaders, labor organizations, and all stakeholders to support well-resourced and independent government statistical agencies, including the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Labor and Employment Relations Association
Advancing Workplace Relations **LERA**

August 8, 2025

Leadership Now Project

Statement on President Trump's Firing of the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics

NEW YORK, NY—Daniella Ballou-Aares, CEO of the Leadership Now Project, issued the following statement in response to President Trump's firing of Dr. Erika McEntarfer, Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and his efforts to discredit the bureau's recent jobs report:

"President Trump's firing of the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Dr. Erika McEntarfer, and his comments undermining the bureau's recent jobs report threaten the integrity of an essential economic institution."

"The credibility of the Bureau of Labor Statistics depends on its independence and analytical rigor. Business leaders rely on the bureau to make sound economic decisions. Politicizing it damages market confidence, investor trust, and ultimately, American competitiveness."

"As Michael Strain of the American Enterprise Institute rightly stated, '*It is imperative that businesses, households and investors believe that official government data are accurate and do not reflect any political bias. Fortunately, that is true of the data, but by sowing doubt, President Trump is undermining the integrity of the information that businesses, investors and households rely on.*'"

"Leadership Now calls upon Congress to ensure this Administration upholds the independence and integrity of our democratic and economic institutions. We urge fellow business associations and leaders to join us."

National Academy of Sciences/National Academy of Medicine

Federal Leaders Should Respect and Safeguard the Integrity of Data from Government Statistical Agencies

August 8, 2025

Federal statistics are vital to public policy and essential to the nation's economic well-being. Businesses, investors, and governments at all levels rely on trustworthy data to assess conditions, allocate resources, and make plans. The ability of federal statistical agencies to produce objective and credible information—free from political or other undue influence—is critical to effective decision-making, as well as to public trust in government.

For over 50 years, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's Committee on National Statistics has evaluated and guided federal statistical programs and methods across administrations of both parties. Since 1992, it has issued a regularly updated report articulating the core principles and practices that enable statistical agencies to fulfill their mission with integrity and efficacy. Among those principles is that statistical agencies must execute their missions without being subject to pressures to advance any political or personal agenda.

We urge federal leaders to respect and safeguard the integrity and objectivity of our federal statistical agencies and the information they produce, and to uphold the professional standards and statutory protections that allow these agencies to serve the nation effectively, impartially, and in the public interest.

Marcia McNutt
President, National Academy of Sciences

Victor J. Dzau
President, National Academy of Medicine

National Association for Business Economics (NABE)

NABE Statement of Support for the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Federal Statistical System

August 1, 2025

The National Association for Business Economics (NABE) strongly condemns the baseless removal of Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Commissioner Erika McEntarfer and the unfounded accusations leveled against the work of the agency. This unprecedented attack on the U.S. statistical system threatens the long-standing credibility of our economic data infrastructure.

Business leaders and policymakers depend on reliable, impartial economic data to guide decisions that affect investment, employment, and the health of the economy. The BLS produces these data using transparent, rigorously documented, and scientifically sound methodologies. U.S. economic statistics are regarded as the gold standard worldwide, setting the benchmark for accuracy, transparency, and independence.

Large revisions to jobs numbers in recent years reflect not manipulation, but rather the dwindling resources afforded to statistical agencies—resources that are essential to timely, accurate measurement. To cast doubt on the integrity of these processes for political reasons risks doing lasting harm to the institutions that support American economic stability.

Commissioner McEntarfer is a highly respected labor economist and a dedicated career civil servant, having spent more than 20 years at the U.S. Census Bureau before being appointed to lead the BLS. Her work has earned broad bipartisan trust. Her removal threatens to erode public confidence in the BLS and the broader federal statistical system, even as these institutions continue to uphold the highest standards of integrity and excellence.

NABE encourages Congress to review the circumstances surrounding the dismissal of Commissioner McEntarfer, ensure that statistical agencies are adequately resourced to produce timely and accurate data, and consider steps to strengthen their independence and integrity. We also urge elected officials, business leaders, and the broader policy community to speak out in support of the BLS and the federal statistical system. Preserving trust in these institutions is essential to sound economic decision-making and long-term prosperity.

The Partnership for Public Service

Partnership for Public Service statement on President Trump firing BLS commissioner

August 4, 2025

WASHINGTON – The nonpartisan, nonprofit Partnership for Public Service today released the following statement from President and CEO Max Stier on President Trump's decision to fire Bureau of Labor Statistics Commissioner Dr. Erika McEntarfer over the results of the July jobs report:

"The American people rely on a nonpartisan Bureau of Labor Statistics to help them make informed financial decisions and better understand our economic health. Having unbiased access to this information underpins public trust in our institutions. President Trump is once again destroying the credibility of our government by firing expert and nonpartisan officials because he does not like the facts that they present. Governments that go down this path find themselves in ugly territory very quickly."

PHI

Firing of Bureau of Labor Statistics Commissioner Risks Compromising a Key Resource

August 15, 2025

This month's firing of Erika McEntarfer, who served as Commissioner of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), risks undermining a critical resource that policymakers and the general public rely on to understand changes in the U.S. employment landscape—and our overall economy.

Operated within the U.S. Department of Labor, the BLS has long served as a reliable source of employment numbers, occupational projections, and wage data (among many other data points)—vital information for those seeking to understand the direct care workforce and improve conditions for these essential workers.

"The BLS operates with a trusted methodology, implemented and overseen by expert economists and statisticians," said PHI's Vice President of Research and Evaluation, Kezia Scales, PhD. "We call on the federal Administration to ensure that the Bureau and its dedicated staff have the resources and leadership they need to maintain this standard of transparency and reliability."

PHI leverages BLS data to estimate and share key information about direct care workforce numbers, growth, and wage rates by occupation and care setting. "For many decades, the BLS has provided a critical, nonpartisan resource to help us understand—and strengthen—the U.S. labor economy," said PHI's President and CEO, Jodi M. Sturgeon. "We call on the Administration to make choices that sustain the public's trust in this essential resource, and leave vital workforce data uncompromised."

PHI was a signatory to a September 2024 Friends of the BLS letter urging increased funding for the Bureau to safeguard its ability to sustain quality workforce data. Without sufficient resourcing or experienced leadership, BLS risks losing its position as a credible source of data—and instead becoming an obstacle to advocates, policymakers, and practitioners seeking to advance real progress on behalf of millions of American workers.

Alongside dramatic reductions in force for vital federal agencies and unprecedented cuts to Medicaid and other vital programs, the firing of the BLS Commissioner (and the broader threat to our federal data infrastructure that it represents) contributes to a deeply concerning pattern of disruption to our nation's public resources. For direct care workers—who also now see their right to basic labor protections through the Fair Labor Standards Act suspended— the cascading effects of these changes will challenge their ability to provide the care and support Americans rely on each day.

Royal Statistical Society (RSS)

A statement from the Royal Statistical Society on the dismissal of the Commissioner of Labor Statistics, Dr Erika McEntarfer

August 8, 2025

The Royal Statistical Society (RSS) notes with concern the dismissal of Erika McEntarfer as Commissioner of Labor Statistics by US President, Donald Trump, at a time when the global economy is experiencing significant disturbance.

The United Nations' Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics establishes international professional and scientific standards for the production of official statistics. The RSS, as one of the world's leading statistical societies and with a membership that includes official statisticians from many countries, is keenly interested in the adherence to these standards across the world to ensure quality and integrity.

Any concerns regarding data or methodology should be independently evaluated to ensure credibility is maintained. The dismissal undermines international trust in US statistics, which has ramifications well beyond policy decisions within the US, with impacts on global confidence in the world economy.

The RSS is against all forms of political interference in the production of official statistics and urges President Trump to ensure that the nonpartisan integrity of the position is retained. Furthermore, reassurance is needed to ensure that statisticians working for federal agencies have confidence to continue producing the objective statistical information that enables those in power to gain the trust of their communities.

These actions are essential to ensure a healthy democracy in the US, and to maintain international credibility in its statistics.

Society for Advancing Business Editing and Writing (SABEW)

SABEW Statement on the Firing of BLS Commissioner

August 5, 2025

The Society for Advancing Business Editing and Writing (SABEW) is raising concerns over the continual attack on reliable and independent government data that business journalists depend on to accurately report on the economy. The latest blow comes with the firing of Bureau of Labor Statistics Commissioner Erika McEntarfer.

On Aug. 1, the Trump administration cited, without any evidence, that the weak numbers in the most recent jobs report were the result of political meddling. McEntarfer's subsequent firing leaves vulnerable not only the BLS but other government agencies that collect vital data. It also erodes the public's trust.

We must guard against any actions that compromise access to fair and accurate information and journalists' ability to report on it. Federal data from BLS, as well as the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, and U.S. Census Bureau, are the bedrock of reporting on the economy. Without it, SABEW fears its members will not be positioned to best serve the public.

Please see our July 4th statement about the importance of accurate federal data.

Urban Institute

Why the Firing of the BLS Commissioner Should Concern Every Data User

Jonathan Schwabish, Senior Fellow

August 8, 2025

On the day the July jobs report was released, showing a slowing labor market, President Trump fired the commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Erika McEntarfer. This action undermines the integrity of the federal statistical agency data ecosystem.

From removing data from hundreds of government websites to scrubbing or changing data fields deemed to fall under the president's executive orders targeting diversity, equity, and inclusion programs, the objectivity and trustworthiness of the federal government's data has been repeatedly undermined. If the country cannot trust the agencies that collect, analyze, and produce data that are used for countless purposes, how are other governments, businesses, nonprofits, communities, and individuals going to assess their own work, investments, and more?

Data from the BLS, US Census Bureau, Bureau of Economic Analysis, and other federal statistical agencies are essential to the functioning of the US economy. They inform the development and implementation of programs and policies and provide insights that help businesses and governments plan and invest. BLS employment and job data, for example, are used by businesses to forecast job demand, which shapes hiring and training strategies. Wage and salary data help employers benchmark compensation across regions as they compete for talent. And BLS price data are used by the Federal Reserve to help set interest rates, influencing borrowing costs for both businesses and homeowners. Without accurate and trustworthy data from these agencies, consumers, businesses, and governments risk making risky and uninformed decisions.

Defending data integrity at the Bureau of Labor Statistics

President Biden appointed McEntarfer to the role in July 2023 and, like many before her, she served across presidential terms. Like all BLS commissioners, McEntarfer oversaw the agency's more than 2,000 people while managing crucial economic data and regular reports, including data on employment and unemployment, inflation, earnings and wages, and job openings and labor turnover. She is the only commissioner to be fired—in this case, explicitly for overseeing job numbers that did not support the president's message.

I have some experience with the work BLS does to preserve accuracy and integrity of its data. Last fall, I was part of a team of experts (PDF) convened by the Department of Labor to conduct an inquiry into the BLS's procedures and practices for fair and timely release of public data. The team was asked to investigate three data disclosure incidents in 2024 in which BLS data were potentially released to a subset of users or released too early or too late. Our team concluded that all three incidents were isolated events caused by human error and were not related to the quality or accuracy of BLS work, and that the agency's technology and software modernization plans were hampered by several years of underfunding.

In my interactions with the commissioner, I found McEntarfer to be candid and honest about the agency's challenges, their mistakes, and their goal to produce honest, objective, and timely statistics for the country. She made all witnesses available to us during our 60 days of investigation.

Policymakers have a Role in Protecting Federal Data

The executive branch, of course, is not the only branch of government that has power and responsibility over the nation's data agencies. Over the past 20 years, inflation-adjusted spending on the BLS has declined by more than 13 percent. In an era when data are more important and data collection is more complicated than ever, these reductions already erode the trust, value, and reliability of BLS data.

Federal policymakers can take steps to strengthen and support the nation's data collection agencies:

1. **Act now to support the nation's data infrastructure.** The administration argues that firing the commissioner was warranted because of the revised job numbers, which it describes as the "biggest miscalculations in over 50 years." Firing the commissioner because the numbers don't align with the administration's messaging jeopardizes the independence of the nation's statistical infrastructure. Whether a policymaker represents an urban or rural area, the North or the South, or communities with higher or lower incomes, objectively understanding those patterns is key to good governance and public policymaking. Policymakers should support the country's data agencies by protecting their independence and defending their work from political interference.

2. **Increase BLS funding.** Funding for the BLS is at its lowest point since 2001, driven by legislation enacted by both parties. Cuts of this size threaten the quality and reliability of data, leading to less-effective policy. Though budgets involve competing demands, the 2001 inflation-adjusted budget for the BLS was about $100 million more than its budget in 2024, which, if maintained at that level more than a 10-year period, would be less than 0.025 percent of the total $4.1 trillion added to the national debt under the recently enacted One Big Beautiful Bill Act.

3. **Continue oversight.** Statistical agencies—including the BLS, Census Bureau, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Statistics of Income Division, and many more—are not without their flaws. Releases are sometimes late. Revisions may be necessary. That is why public oversight—like the panel I sat on late last year—is so important. Objective, high-quality, and nonpolitical data are crucial to good policy, and sufficient oversight policies can be the key to ensuring data meet these standards.

The nation's data collection agencies are critical to producing better evidence-based public policy. From estimating the financial cost and impact of those policies to understanding who will be affected, our nation needs these essential data to maintain a well-functioning economy.

Policymakers have a responsibility to ensure that those who collect, analyze, and manage those organizations are free from political interference, conducting their work without fear of retribution or reprisal. They can take these steps to ensure the nation's agencies are trustworthy, accurate, and timely. But, doing so requires immediate, decisive action.

USAFACTS STATEMENT REGARDING TODAY'S BLS NEWS

At USAFacts, we rely heavily on data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) every day to help Americans understand what's happening in the economy when it comes to inflation, employment, wages, and much more.

This morning, the President ordered the firing of the BLS Commissioner. The circumstances of this decision — coming after today's lower-than-expected jobs report — has created fears of future politicization of one of our most critical economic data agencies.

The United States has long set the global standard for economic data because of the independence granted to statistical agencies. Politicizing that process is a serious departure from that tradition. This administration — and every administration — should protect this independence.

Undermining trust in official statistics threatens the integrity of the data that millions of Americans — from business leaders to everyday voters — depend on to understand our economy.

Data about jobs, prices, and wages belong to the American people. Their tax dollars fund this work, and they deserve information that is accurate, timely, and free from political interference.

To preserve public trust, every agency responsible for government data must remain independent and insulated from political pressure. Today's decision puts the future trust of government statistics in the hands of this administration.

As the President said, "Important numbers like this must be fair and accurate, they can't be manipulated for political purposes." His next steps must live up to those values.

USAFacts

August 1, 2025