

# Report: U.S. employers added 139,000 jobs in May

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. employers slowed hiring last month, but still added a solid 139,000 jobs amid uncertainty over President Donald Trump’s trade wars.

Hiring fell from a revised 147,000 in April, the Department of Labor said Friday. The job gains last month were above the 130,000 that economists had fore-

cast.

Healthcare companies added 62,000 jobs and bars and restaurants 30,000. The federal government shed 22,000 jobs, however, the most since November 2020, as Trump’s job cuts and hiring freeze had an impact. And factories lost 8,000 jobs last month.

Average hourly wages rose 0.4% from April

and 3.9% from a year earlier — a bit higher than forecast.

There were a few signs of potential weakening. Labor Department revisions shaved 95,000 jobs from March and April payrolls. The number of people in the U.S. labor force — those working or looking for work — fell by 625,000 last month, biggest drop since December

2023. And the percentage of those who had jobs fell last month to 59.7%, lowest since January 2022.

Trump’s aggressive and unpredictable policies — especially his sweeping taxes on imports — have muddled the outlook for the economy and the job market and raised fears that the American economy could be headed toward

recession. But so far the damage hasn’t shown up clearly in government economic data.

“The job market is still standing tall even as some of these headwinds start to blow,” said Daniel Zhao, lead economist at the jobs website Glassdoor. “But ultimately we’re all still waiting for the other shoe to drop. It’s still much too early for tariff impacts to be a significant drag on the economy.”

The U.S. economy and job market have proven surprisingly resilient in recent years. When the inflation fighters at the Federal Reserve raised their benchmark interest rate 11 times in 2022

and 2023, the higher borrowing costs were widely expected to tip the United States into a recession. They didn’t.

Still, the job market has clearly decelerated. So far this year, American employers have added an average of less than 124,000 a month. That is down 26% from last year, down almost 43% from 2023, and a down whopping 67% compared with 2022.

The modest job gains and steady unemployment rate are likely to keep the Fed on the sidelines for at least the next few months, economists said. The central bank Fed has kept its key short-term interest rate unchanged this year, after cutting it three times last year.

## Force: Library’s new assistant director

Continued from A1

lot of commitment. I was very busy taking care of my own kids.”

That shift in priorities brought them to Iola. And it was here that Force found an unexpected source of inspiration — the library.

“I had a baby and the first thing that got me out of the house by myself was joining the library’s crochet group,” she said. “I got really connected with that. It’s a strong group that’s loyal to each other and very supportive.”

Her passion for fiber arts — she spins, dyes, crochets, weaves, and knits — led to further involvement. Last summer, Jennifer Tarter, a library staff member, invited her to present a talk about her craft.

Though she had never worked in a library, Force saw familiar skills in the job posting for assistant director: managing facilities and people, coordinating volunteers, working

with budgets — responsibilities not unlike her previous role in camp leadership. “I’ve almost always worked with nonprofits,” she said. “This is the service-type job I was looking for.”

Despite not yet having a master’s in library science, Force’s experience and community perspective stood out. “They saw the value of my skills,” she said. “Currently, there is a lot of want for more people who are understanding of social needs, and my degree in Human Development and Family Studies helps with that.”

As part of accepting the role, Force committed to pursuing her master’s in library science through Emporia State University’s School of Library and Information Management (SLIM), a two-year online program.

**THIS POSITION** is more than a job change — it’s a stepping stone.

Under the mentorship of Sharon Moreland, who currently serves as director for both the Iola Public Library and the Southeast Kansas Library System, Force is being trained to eventually take over the Iola library’s directorship.

“Other library systems have done this — separated the joint director role into two positions,” Force explained. “Sharon and the Library Board agreed that this was the best path forward. The plan is for me to transition into the role after I finish my degree.”

In the meantime, she’s learning all aspects of library operations, including the business management side. “I can teach anyone to make a campfire or talk to kids about homesickness,” she joked. “But shelving? That’s something I’m still learning.”

Her vision for the library is rooted in accessibility and community

engagement. “I would like to see more participation, more people coming and using the services and programs,” she said. “The library, outside of work and school, is kind of our main community place.”

With a strong heart for families and a wealth of experience working with children, Force hopes to grow programming — particularly in the arts and for teens. She envisions collaborations with organizations like the Bowlus Fine Arts Center and more opportunities to showcase local talent in crafts such as pottery, woodworking, and fiber arts.

“I think the people have been my favorite part of the job so far,” Force said. “There are really wonderful people who work here and the patrons are great. I’m excited to help make the library even more of a hub for our community.”

## Turf: Council to discuss options

Continued from A1

bers, Rehder said the city could pursue a Community Development Block Grant that would pay for \$650,000 of the project with a \$130,000 match.

This, coupled with money from USD 257, could put turf on Fields 2 and 3 at Riverside Park at a projected cost of about \$1.75 million.

But for now, it’s up to the Council to decide at what level, if any, the city wishes to further pursue the matter.

**ALSO** to be discussed Monday is whether to extend the time during which fireworks can be sold locally.

State lawmakers extended the deadline to allow fireworks sales from temporary stands from June 20 through July 7, and year-round from permanent structures.

Iola allows fireworks sales and usage June 27 through July 5.

In another matter, the Council will decide on a request to allow a fireworks show following a July 1 baseball game featuring the newly established KC/Iola Hormigas at Allen Community College.

Council approval is necessary due to the type of fireworks that will be a part of the display, with sky rockets and mortars, which are prohibited in city limits.

**COUNCIL** members also are expected to take final action on establishing the City of Iola Land Bank, which allows the city to take in properties for future development.

There will be several stipulations, Rehder said. The land must

be vacant, with a minimum 50-by-100 parcel, for single-family use. The land also must have a clear title and transferred to the city via quit claim deed.

**ALSO** on the agenda is a discussion about the city’s purchasing policy, which allows the city to


favor local vendors, provided their bid is within 7% of the lowest comparable bid.

The discussion was requested by Councilman Jon Wells

Monday’s 6 p.m. meeting will be at the New Community Building at Riverside Park.


The public is invited.

Today




78 | 65

Sunday



85 | 63

Monday



82 | 58

Temperature		Precipitation	
High Thursday	71	24 hrs as of 8 a.m. Thursday	.40
Low Thursday night	63	This month to date	4.20
High a year ago	83	Total year to date	27.84
Low a year ago	56	Excess since Jan. 1	12.35

Sunrise 5:59 a.m.

Sunset 8:42 p.m.

## Public notice

(First published in The Iola Register May 31, 2025)

**IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF ALLEN COUNTY, KANSAS**

Colt Energy, Inc., John M. Mealey and James W. Mealey, Plaintiffs,

vs.

Kittie Wakefield and Jas. Wakefield and the unknown heirs, executors, administrators, devisees, trustees, creditors, and assigns of any deceased defendants; the unknown spouses of any defendants; the unknown executors, administrators, devisees, trustees, creditors, successors, and assigns of any defendants who are or were partners or in partnership; the unknown guardians, conservators, and trustees of any defendants who are minors or are under any legal disability; and the unknown heirs, executors, administrators, devisees, trustees, creditors, and assigns of any person alleged to be deceased, Defendants.

Case No. AL 25 CV 33  
Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 60  
**TITLE TO REAL ESTATE INVOLVED** /s/ Colt Energy, Inc., John M. Mealey and James W. Mealey

**NOTICE OF SUIT**

The State of Kansas to the above named defendants and all other persons who are or may be concerned: You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in the District Court of Allen County, Kansas, by Colt Energy, Inc., John M. Mealey and James W. Mealey praying for an order quieting the title to the following described real property, to-wit: That part of the NW/4 of Section 11, Township 24 South, Range 18 East of the Sixth Principal Meridian, commencing at a point 80 rods East and 60 rods North of the Southwest corner of the NW/4 of said Section, thence North to the North bank of Deer Creek, thence down said North and West bank and following the meanderings thereof to a point West of the place of beginning, thence East to the place of beginning, containing 12 acres, more or less, Allen County, Kansas (the “Property”).

The Petition further seeks an order holding the plaintiffs, John M. Mealey, a single person, and James W. Mealey, a single person, to be the owners of the real property above described, free of all right, title and interest of the above named defendants, and anyone claiming by, through or under them.

You are hereby required to plead to said Petition on or before July 14, 2025, in said Court, Allen County, Kansas. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon said Petition.

Keith A. Brock, #24130  
ANDERSON & BYRD, LLP  
216 S. Hickory, P.O. Box 17  
Ottawa, Kansas 66067  
(785) 242 1234, telephone  
(785) 242 1279, facsimile  
[kbrock@andersonbyrd.com](mailto:kbrock@andersonbyrd.com)  
Attorneys for Plaintiffs

(5) 31 (6) 7, 14



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