



AIRPORT WAITS

THE TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION MAY HAVE TO SHUT DOWN OPERATIONS AT SOME AIRPORTS, THE AGENCY'S ACTING HEAD SAID WEDNESDAY. **A6**

'IT'S GO TIME!'

THE PORTLAND FIRE WILL FINALLY START ASSEMBLING A ROSTER AFTER THE WNBA SETTLED ITS LABOR AGREEMENT WITH PLAYERS AND ANNOUNCED THE DATE FOR THE EXPANSION DRAFT. **B1**

U.S. LABOR MARKET

It's a bad time to hunt for new jobs, 72% of workers say



Advance Illustration, Shutterstock

In mid-2022, 70% said it was a good time to get a job.

Christopher Rugaber *Associated Press*

Americans' outlook on the job market has turned increasingly pessimistic, a surprisingly negative shift given the low unemployment rate but one that likely reflects an ongoing hiring drought.

Just 28% of workers in a quarterly Gallup survey conducted late last year said now is a "good time" to find a quality job, with 72% saying it is a bad time. Those figures are a sharp reversal from just a few years ago, in mid-2022, when 70% said it was a good time.

Americans have quickly gotten more pessimistic: As recently as late 2024, just under half of workers still said it was a good time to search for a job.

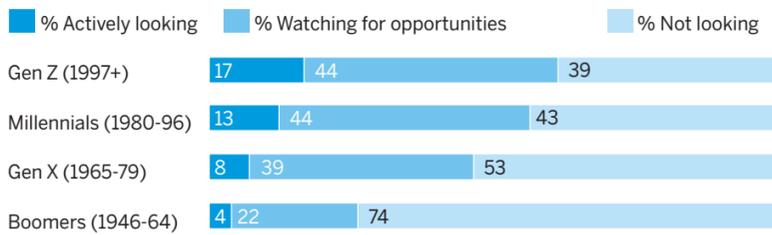
The current survey was conducted during the final three months of 2025, long before the Iran war that has sent oil and gas prices soaring and threatens to slow the economy as Americans redirect more of their dollars to filling gas tanks and away from other spending. The figures help explain other surveys that show Americans have a largely bleak view of the economy, even as many headline measures suggest it has been growing and job losses are low.

COLLEGE GRADS

Job pessimism is especially pronounced

WHO'S LOOKING FOR A JOB?

To what extent are you currently looking for a different job than the one you have now?



Source: Gallup Q4 2025. Data shown among currently employed respondents.

among college graduates. The shift is likely because hiring in many white-collar professions has been unusually weak for the past two years, in areas such as software, customer service and advertising.

The survey found a split based on education levels, with just 19% of workers with a college degree thinking that now is a good time to find a quality job, while 35% of workers without a college degree are optimistic.

A separate Gallup survey of U.S. adults overall found that college graduates' optimism about the job market is the lowest it's been since 2013.

Meanwhile, the gap in job market sentiment between Americans with and without a college degree was at its widest in that survey since Gallup started asking the question in 2001.

Barbara Ortutay and Kaitlyn Huamani *Associated Press*

The first jury verdict in a series of social media child safety trials this year is in — and it's not looking good for Meta. A jury in New Mexico found on Tuesday that the social media giant's platforms are harmful to children's mental health and imposed a \$375 million penalty.

While the fine is a tiny fraction of Meta's \$201 billion revenue in 2025, the verdict illustrates a growing shift in the public's perception of social media companies and their responsibilities in keeping young people safe on their platforms.

YOUNG WORKERS

Just about 2 in 10 workers ages 18-34 think now is a good time to find a job, compared to about 4 in 10 workers ages 65 and older who say the same.

Gallup's survey is consistent with what economists call the "low-hire, low-fire" job market: Businesses are largely holding onto their workers and measures of layoffs remain quite low. As a result, older workers are largely secure in their jobs. But hiring is also quite sluggish, making it harder for younger workers to break in and find permanent work.

It also found that younger workers are much likelier than older workers to say they're actively looking for a new job or watching for opportunities. Most Gen Z and Millennial workers say they're at **SEE U.S. LABOR MARKET, A2**

NBA

Key vote on Trail Blazers ownership is imminent

NBA commissioner on Tom Dundon: "He sees the opportunity to be very successful in Portland."

Joe Freeman *The Oregonian/OregonLive*

NEW YORK — The final push of Tom Dundon's pursuit of the Portland Trail Blazers unfolded this week in an opulent hotel in Midtown Manhattan, where the Dallas billionaire and members of his prospective ownership group met with representatives of the NBA board of governors.

After an extended interview Tuesday at The St. Regis New York, during which the group presented the final details of its sales agreement and touted its plans for the future of Oregon's most storied professional sports franchise, the board's finance committee left impressed. A vote by the full board of governors is expected in coming days and Dundon and his group are on track to assume ownership from the Paul G. Allen Estate by the end of the month.

"I see no reason why he won't be successful in Portland. I think that he recognizes it's a unique opportunity," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said Wednesday, following two days of board of governors meetings. "I'm just getting to know Tom. I've known him by reputation for a long time, not just through his ownership of the Carolina Hurricanes, but also through his other sports investments he's made.

"He's a go-getter. He's got a great reputation for having led a turnaround in the NHL. He certainly has enormous passion and spirit. He wants to be successful. He wants to be successful both as a businessman in Portland (and) he wants to be successful with the team on the floor."

Assuming the board votes in favor of the ownership transaction, which seems inevitable, Dundon would become the third majority owner in the 56-year **SEE NBA, A3**



Prospective Portland Trail Blazers owners Tom Dundon (center) and Sheel Tyle (right) sit courtside next to Jody Allen during an NBA game against the Minnesota Timberwolves at Moda Center on Oct. 22. *Sean Meagher, file*

What's next for social media firms after court ruling

A jury found Meta platforms harm children.

For years, social media companies have disputed allegations that they harm children's mental health through deliberate design choices that addict kids to their platforms and fail to protect them from sexual predators and dangerous content. This year, several state and federal court cases are heading to trial, and while the details vary, they all seek to hold companies responsible for what happens on their platforms.

The lawsuits have come from school districts, local, state and the federal government as well as thousands of families. The courtroom showdowns are the culmination of years of scrutiny of the platforms over child safety, and whether deliberate design

MORE INSIDE

A jury found both Meta and YouTube liable in a first-of-its-kind lawsuit that aimed to hold social media platforms responsible for harm to children using their services, awarding the plaintiff \$3 million in damages. **A7**

choices make them addictive and serve up content that leads to depression, eating disorders or suicide.

The outcomes could challenge the companies' First Amendment shield and Section 230 of the 1996 Communications **SEE CHILD SAFETY, A2**