

# DN

## The Patriot-News

### OPENING DAY

THE PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES AND THE PITTSBURGH PIRATES HAVE THEIR SIGHTS SET ON THE POSTSEASON AS THE BEGINNING OF THE BASEBALL SEASON STARTS TODAY. **C1**

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LABOR

## 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.

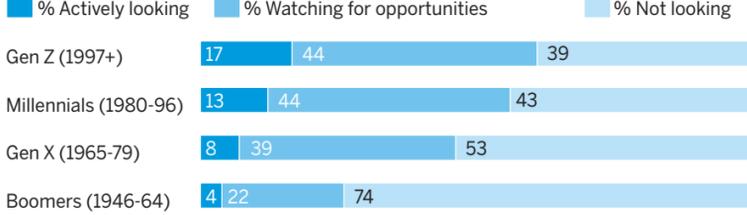
The current survey was conducted during the final three months of 2025, long before the Iran war that has sent oil and gas prices soaring and threatens to slow the economy as Americans redirect more of their dollars to filling gas tanks and away from other spending. The figures help explain other surveys 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 among college graduates. The shift is likely

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.

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.

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 least watching for opportunities, while

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

## Pa. House again passes bill to repeal state's gay marriage ban

The state's current law was rendered unenforceable by the U.S. Supreme Court's 2015 ruling in favor of same-sex marriage, but some conservatives want the issue to be revisited.

Zack Hoopes zhoopes@pennlive.com

A bill to repeal Pennsylvania's currently unenforceable same-sex marriage ban cleared the state House for the second time Wednesday, with the partisan divide on the issue little changed in two years.

The measure, which would strike the line in state law saying that marriage is "between one man and one woman," passed on a 127-72 vote, with all but one Democrat voting for it, along with 26 Republicans.

Wednesday's vote lost support over the same bill that passed in the House two years ago, 133-68, although the vote is consistent with polls showing a recent backlash to gay marriage among the GOP voter base. The previous bill was not taken up in the Republican-majority state Senate, and the current one is also a long shot.

"This is not a symbolic vote; there is not a thing symbolic about the connection I have and the right all Pennsylvanians deserve to not live in constant fear that their union is in imminent danger," said the bill's author, Rep. Malcolm Kenyatta, D-Philadelphia, who married his husband in 2022. "Marriage is not symbolic, there are legal, practical and financial things connected to the institution of marriage."

The bill would eliminate the state's heterosexual-only marriage definition as well as the clause declaring that same-sex marriages from other jurisdictions will not be honored in Pennsylvania.

Those laws have been rendered null

SEE LEGISLATURE, A5

NATION & WORLD

## Social media addiction

Meta and YouTube must pay millions after a jury decided they designed their platforms to hook young users without concern for their well-being. **B2**

WEEKEND

## Movies set in Pa.

Pennsylvania wasn't all that represented in this year's crop of Academy Award-nominated films, but the state has a long history on the silver screen. **D1**



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