



Commentary: Imagine what Saban thinks as dynasty falters

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Hiring slows further as jobless rate climbs



Data on the U.S. economy suggests a wobbling job market due to heightened immigration enforcement and uncertainty from on-again, off-again tariffs. FREDERIC J. BROWN/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES FILE

Report likely to cement Fed rate cut this month

Paul Davidson
USA TODAY

Hiring in the United States slowed further in August as President Donald Trump’s aggressive trade, immigration and federal layoff policies took a growing toll on a rapidly softening labor market.

Employers added a disappointing 22,000 jobs and the unemployment rate rose from 4.2% to 4.3%, the Bureau of Labor Statistics said Sept. 5.

Ahead of the report, economists surveyed by Bloomberg had estimated that 75,000 jobs were added in August.

While few businesses are laying off workers, hiring has fallen below the pre-pandemic average, making it tough for employees who lose jobs to find new positions.

In another worrisome sign, payroll

gains for June and July were revised down by a total of 21,000 and now reveal the economy shed 13,000 jobs in June – the first job losses since the depths of the pandemic in December 2020.

“August’s employment report confirmed that the labor market has headed off a cliff-edge,” economist Bradley Saunders of Capital Economics wrote in a note to clients.

And over the longer term, Trump’s policies likely will have a bigger impact on hiring, forecasters say.

Some industries did hire in August. Health care, a reliable jobs engine the past couple of years, again drove payroll gains with 31,000. Leisure and hospitality, which includes restaurants and bars, added 28,000.

However, professional and business services shed 17,000 jobs. Manufacturing, which has been buffeted by the tar-

iffs, lost 12,000 and is down 78,000 jobs this year, defying Trump’s claims of a manufacturing revival as makers bring production back to the United States. Construction lost 7,000 jobs.

The public sector lost 16,000 jobs, including 15,000 in the federal government, which is down 97,000 positions so far this year.

The Trump administration is sharply cutting the federal workforce through layoffs, hiring freezes and buyouts.

A federal hiring freeze has been extended from July 15 to Oct. 15. More than 150,000 federal employees have accepted buyouts while tens of thousands more have been laid off. Just some of those layoffs have shown up in the monthly job numbers because they were being challenged in court. But the Supreme Court struck down that injunction in early July, and Goldman

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FBI agents carry boxes during a search of the home of John Bolton, former national security adviser to President Donald Trump, on Aug. 22 in Bethesda, Maryland. ANDREW HARNIK/GETTY IMAGES

Electronics, papers taken in search of Bolton’s residence

Bart Jansen
USA TODAY

A federal magistrate judge revealed that the FBI removed computers, other electronics and documents during a search of John Bolton’s house and that President Donald Trump’s former national security adviser is under investigation for possible violations of the Espionage Act.

However, U.S. Magistrate Judge Timothy Sullivan kept confidential a court document that details what investigators were hoping to find when they searched his house Aug. 22.

Bolton, who served during Trump’s first term and has since become a vocal critic of the administration, has not been charged in connection with the matter.

The belongings seized from Bolton’s Maryland home included two iPhones, typed documents in folders labeled Trump I to IV, white binders labeled reflections on “allied strikes,” a Dell 3620 computer, a Dell 2330 computer, a Dell laptop and a couple of USB drives, according to a filing by Assistant U.S. Attorney Thomas Sullivan that was posted on the public docket Sept. 4.

Bolton is under investigation for possible violations of two federal laws: for gathering defense information and

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U.S. deploying stealth fighter jets to Caribbean

Steve Holland and Phil Stewart
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – The United States has ordered the deployment of 10 F-35 fighter jets to Puerto Rico to conduct operations against drug cartels, sources say, adding more firepower to intensifying U.S. military operations in the Caribbean that are stoking tension with Venezuela.

The new deployment comes on top of an already bristling U.S. military presence in the southern Caribbean as President Donald Trump carries out a campaign pledge to crack down on groups he blames for funneling drugs into the United States.

The disclosure about the F-35s came just hours after the Pentagon accused Venezuela of a “highly provocative” flight on Sept. 4 by fighter jets over a U.S. Navy warship.

It also follows a U.S. military strike on Sept. 2 that killed 11 people and sank a boat from Venezuela that Trump said was transporting illegal drugs.

At every turn, the Trump administration

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The disclosure about the F-35s came hours after the Pentagon accused Venezuela of a “highly provocative” flight by fighter jets over a U.S. Navy warship on Sept. 4. MARCO GARCIA/REUTERS FILE

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