



## Retail mogul sued for funding Epstein

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## New graduates finding challenging job market



The unemployment rate for recent college graduates ages 22 to 27 stood at 5.7% in the fourth quarter of 2025, up from 5.3% in the previous quarter. MARIO TAMA/GETTY IMAGES FILE

## Crew maneuvers Orion out of Earth's orbit

### Artemis II on track for historic Moon mission

Eric Lagatta  
USA TODAY

For the first time since 1972, humans are once again heading toward the moon.

The Artemis II mission, which launched April 1 from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, got the green light to begin its lunar journey after a day of orbiting high above Earth.

After getting approval from the mission management team late on April 2, the four astronauts ignited the Orion spacecraft's main engine for about six minutes, NASA said in a news release.

The maneuver helped to propel the vehicle on a path that will take it beyond the bounds of Earth's gravity to, in the days ahead, circle our celestial neighbor.

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Artemis II crew members Jeremy Hansen, Reid Wiseman, Christina Koch, and Victor Glover answer questions from reporters during the first downlink event of their mission.

PROVIDED BY NASA

## Rebound doesn't change U.S. economic 'narrative'

Rachel Barber  
USA TODAY

In 2025, new college graduates wanted remote, high-paying jobs that aligned with their values. In 2026, they just want a job.

With 89% worrying artificial intelligence could replace entry-level roles – up from 64% last year – 67% of graduates now say they would accept a lower-paying position if it offered more job security, Monster's 2026 State of the

Graduate Report found.

"They do not want to be 'the last one in, first one out' of their new job," Monster career expert Vicki Salemi said, adding that young people are noticing waves of corporate layoffs. "They really want to feel like they're going to be in a job for the long term."

An April 2 Challenger, Gray & Christmas report may have confirmed some of their fears. It found employers announced 60,620 layoffs in March – up 25% from February – with AI adoption

the primary reason behind the cuts.

Overall, the U.S. economy added 178,000 jobs in March, the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimated April 3 – a figure well above forecasters' expectations. This news comes after the revised jobs report for February showed a loss of 133,000 jobs. The return to work in March of about 31,000 striking Kaiser Permanente health care workers accounts for some of the rebound.

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## Skirmish over replacing Pam Bondi looming in Senate

### Some in GOP critical of DOJ's recent actions

Zachary Schermele  
USA TODAY

Pam Bondi is out at the Justice Department. And all roads to replace her lead through one place: the U.S. Senate.

The impending political brawl on Capitol Hill to supplant the embattled attorney general, fired by President Donald Trump on April 2, is already getting underway.

For a number of reasons, it won't be easy or quiet, regardless of whom Trump chooses to permanently take her place.

Fury over the Justice Department's handling of the Jeffrey Epstein files has spread like wildfire in Congress among lawmakers in both parties. Tamping down that frustration will be crucial in determining how much support her successor gets in the GOP-controlled



Former Attorney General Pam Bondi's replacement will have to answer for changes at the traditionally apolitical Justice Department.

KEVIN DIETSCH/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Senate. While the next nominee will only need a simple majority vote to become the next attorney general, just a few Republicans could derail the confirmation.

In February 2025, every Republican senator and one Democrat, Sen. John Fetterman, of Pennsylvania, voted to confirm Bondi to lead the DOJ.

A lot has happened since to rattle the

Senate's GOP moderates.

Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, has been critical of some of the DOJ's most-scrutinized actions and joined with Democrats to call for an investigation into Bondi's oversight of the release of the files connected to Jeffrey Epstein, the disgraced financier and convicted sex offender. Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, has spoken out against DOJ budget cuts and previously said the investigation into the Fed raised "a lot of disturbing questions."

Bondi's replacement will have to answer for much bigger changes at the traditionally apolitical Justice Department, which for the first time in recent history has actively pursued investigations into a president's political enemies under Bondi's leadership. The department has targeted Democratic senators, the former FBI director and the New York state attorney general. The pattern has drawn the ire even of some GOP senators whom Trump need on board with another DOJ chief.

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