



Read the jobs report yourself

Pull the jobs-report numbers straight from the BLS: type these commands into a new do-file and run them.

STEP 1 Set up (one time): get a BLS API key

The BLS asks for a free key so it can manage traffic on its API (the doorway Stata uses to request data). Sign up at data.bls.gov/registrationEngine, click the activation link it emails you, then:

```
net install getbls, from(https://raw.githubusercontent.com/raheem03/getbls/master/)+
global blskey YOUR_KEY
```

STEP 2 Grab the data from the BLS, then tidy it

Grab the household survey and the payroll survey, stack them, then make one column per series:

```
getbls LNS11300000 LNS14000000, years(2024-2026) clear
destring value, replace force
save household, replace
getbls CES0000000001 CES0000000010 CES6562000001, years(2024-2026) clear
append using household
gen date = ym(year, real(substr(monthID, 2, 2)))
keep date table value
reshape wide value, i(date) j(table) string
rename (value*) (payrolls women health_care participation_rate unemployment_rate)
format date %tmMon_CCYY
```

STEP 3 How many jobs were added?

```
gen jobs_added = payrolls - payrolls[_n-1]
gen jobs_3mo_avg = (jobs_added + jobs_added[_n-1] + jobs_added[_n-2]) / 3
list date jobs_added jobs_3mo_avg unemployment_rate participation_rate in -4/l, noobs
```

	Month	Jobs added (k)	3-month avg (k)	Unemp. rate (%)	Particip. rate (%)
1					
2					
3					
4					

STEP 4 Where have the jobs gone since January 2025?

Compare January 2025 with the latest month. Subtract, then work out the rest of the economy and women's share:

```
list date payrolls health_care women if date == tm(2025m1) | _n == _N, noobs
```

Total (k) _____ Health care (k) _____ Rest of economy (k) _____ Women's share (%) _____

STEP 5 Graph it

```
twoway (bar jobs_added date) (line jobs_3mo_avg date) if date >= tm(2025m1)
```

What do you notice?

1. Is the latest month's job gain above or below the 3-month average? Which better describes the trend?
2. Did unemployment change for a good reason or a bad one? (Hint: check participation.)
3. Is job growth since January 2025 broad-based? Who is getting the new jobs?
4. Write your own one-sentence headline for this month's jobs report.

† The first time you run getbls, it offers to install two helpers (insheetjson and libjson) — type yes. To skip retyping your key, add `global blskey YOUR_KEY` to your profile.do