

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 10, 2025

The Honorable Lori Chavez-DeRemer
Secretary
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20210

The Honorable Erika McEntarfer
Commissioner, Bureau of Labor Statistics
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Secretary Chavez-DeRemer and Commissioner McEntarfer:

We write to express serious concern regarding the Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) recent decision to scale back its collection of critical price and inflation data.¹ This action undermines one of the federal government's most essential responsibilities: providing accurate, timely, and impartial economic statistics. At a time when Americans are already feeling the strain of rising costs due to President Trump's reckless tariffs and failure to effectively crack down on price gouging², reducing the quality of this data is misguided. These numbers affect nearly every household in the country—impacting Social Security, wages, interest rates, and how businesses and families make financial decisions.

According to recent reports, BLS has begun reducing the number of businesses surveyed to assess prices due to an ongoing hiring freeze, which comes on the heels of the Administration's other deeply problematic personnel actions.³ Indeed, federal workers have experienced reductions in force, have been terminated without cause, and have been placed on leave in violation of the law, which only results in additional direct costs to taxpayers and hampers the ability of federal agencies to serve the American public. In the most recent Consumer Price Index (CPI) release covering April, agency staff relied more heavily on less precise estimation methods, such as substituting price data from dissimilar products or other geographic regions - the equivalent of an educated guess.⁴ These practices may save time, but they sacrifice precision and reliability. The expanded use of these shortcuts amounts to a quiet degradation of the very data millions of Americans rely on.

¹ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Notice of CPI collection reductions", June 4, 2025, <https://www.bls.gov/cpi/notices/2025/collection-reduction.htm>.

² Emily Peck and Courtenay Brown, Axios, "Businesses are raising prices after tariffs — even on unaffected goods", June 4, 2025, <https://www.axios.com/2025/06/04/trump-tariffs-prices>.

³ Chrostopher Rugaber, AP, "Inflation data threatened by government hiring freeze as tariffs loom", June 4, 2025, <https://apnews.com/article/inflation-economy-trump-tariffs-bls-labor-a70c57bfd04a4deb9d7a3bb08f99aba9>.

⁴ Matt Grossman, Wall Street Journal, "Economists Raise Questions about Quality of U.S. Inflation Data", June 4, 2025, [https://www.wsj.com/economy/cpi-inflation-data-accuracy-8bd2a8ae?](https://www.wsj.com/economy/cpi-inflation-data-accuracy-8bd2a8ae?gaa_at=eafs&gaa_n=ASWzDAjq44LkcvW58JSF7QLM-mmjRntQsMrl85o8RqrNF4SgqWPIgzmMUb&gaa_ts=68407940&gaa_sig=BY70CBzZsE1Bz-mz_V0U6SIJO7ERcObkn4i_L1BleOgBs0miNZDM7Vk0j5fhgCCsnJ5oJVMlI2XUM2ZVTr8Zjg%3D%3D)

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This is not a minor administrative adjustment. Inaccurate and incomplete data will have serious downstream consequences. Inflation measures based on BLS data guide cost-of-living adjustments for tens of millions of Social Security recipients, wage increases in collective bargaining agreements, and policymaking at the Federal Reserve. Payments on roughly \$2 trillion in inflation-indexed Treasury bonds are tied to these figures, as are tax brackets and numerous private-sector contracts. American consumers, businesses, investors, and public institutions depend on this data to make informed decisions. Any erosion in its accuracy could reverberate across the entire U.S. economy.

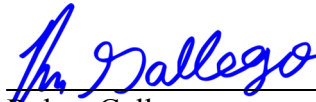
In light of these concerns, we respectfully request answers to the following questions no later than June 19, 2025:

1. How many positions at BLS have been eliminated or remain unfilled due to the hiring freeze?
2. How many BLS employees are in the deferred resignation program?
3. How many BLS employees in total and by separation type have separated from federal employment for any reason?
4. Please identify each change to a statistical program of the BLS since January 20, 2025, the reason for the change and the impact on the accuracy or availability of data. Are additional reductions in data collection planned? If so, which regions, states, localities or sectors will be affected? Please share any analysis conducted of each change on the credibility and accuracy of the statistical program.
5. Are there plans to reduce collection for other major economic indicators, including but not limited to data on Gross Domestic Product, consumer spending, employment, and wages?
6. Does BLS intend to use alternative technologies or internet-based tools to fill current data collection gaps? If so, please describe such plans and the analysis of the change on the credibility and accuracy of the statistical program.
7. Has BLS communicated with the Federal Reserve regarding any concerns about the accuracy or reliability of inflation data?
8. Has BLS consulted with the Social Security Administration regarding the potential impact on benefit calculations?

9. Please provide all internal and external communications, documents, analyses, and plans related to the President's Budget proposal to reorganize the BLS, the Bureau of Economic Analysis, and the Census Bureau under the Department of Commerce.
10. What specific impact would the proposed reorganization have on the Bureau of Labor Statistics' ability to fulfill its statutory mission, including its independence, data integrity, and operational capacity?

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your prompt and thorough response.

Sincerely,



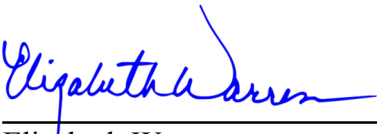
Ruben Gallego
United States Senator



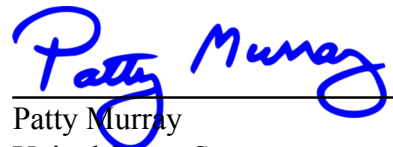
Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



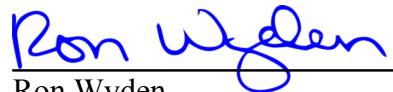
Elizabeth Warren
Ranking Member
Committee on Banking,
Housing, and Urban Affairs




Patty Murray
United States Senator



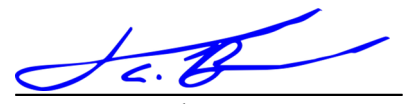
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator