

# Report: Kentucky sets record for job growth

**BY TOM LATEK**  
KENTUCKY TODAY

Gov. Andy Beshear says the state has again secured a job growth record.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported in April the number of people employed, the number of filled jobs and the civilian labor force in Kentucky were at the highest point in the state's history.

"More than ever before, we are getting people to work and filling more jobs," Beshear said. "This is great news for our families, and it's very appealing to companies looking to invest in the Commonwealth."

April's report confirms that Kentucky reached new highs for each of these monthly metrics:

- The number of people employed in April increased to 2,009,018.
- Kentucky's civilian labor force was 2,118,333 in April 2025.
- The number of jobs filled increased to 2,052,400.

Earlier this month, the governor provided an update on Kentucky's labor market, saying that not only have labor force numbers fully rebounded from the pandemic but they are at their highest levels since

the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics started keeping record.

April's labor report broke March's record. The number of people employed in April increased by 2,550 from March 2025. Kentucky's civilian labor force increased by 752 individuals from March 2025. And the number of filled jobs increased by 400 from March 2025. Estimates are preliminary and are subject to monthly and annual revisions.

The Governor also noted that over 11,700 Kentuckians will receive skills training thanks to support provided through the Bluegrass State

Skills Corp. (BSSC), which oversees programs attached to the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development that help private-sector businesses establish industry-specific training initiatives.

"One of Kentucky's greatest strengths is our hard-working, talented and diverse workforce, and we must continue to provide the resources needed for our workers to develop and grow," he stated. "The Commonwealth's economy continues to thrive, and to keep that momentum going, we need to connect Kentucky employees with skills training opportu-

nities. We are committed to building a better Kentucky, and programs like BSSC are helping us reach that goal."

This month's approvals included workforce training support for over 10,000 employees at Ford Motor Co.'s Fern Valley Road and Chamberlain Lane locations in Louisville, 273 trainees for Highlands Diversified Services in London, 269 employees at Steel Technologies in Louisville, 209 workers at F&E Aircraft Maintenance in Erlanger and 121 trainees at Amneal Pharmaceuticals in Glasgow, among others.

# Musk to cut political spending after backing Trump in 2024

**BY CHRIS MEGERIAN, THOMAS BEAUMONT AND RYAN J. FOLEY**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Elon Musk, the richest person in the world and a key financial supporter of President Donald Trump, said Tuesday that he'll be spending "a lot less" on political campaigns, a reversal that could be a setback for Republicans ahead of next year's midterm elections.

Musk disclosed his decision via video-conference during a Bloomberg forum in Doha, Qatar. It speaks to his possible disenchantment with politics after his tumultuous tenure as Trump's pick to lead the newly created Department of Government Efficiency, which has fallen far short of its goals for reducing federal spending. Musk has scaled back his government role to spend more time at his businesses, including Tesla, which have seen intense blow-back. Tesla reported a big drop in profits in the first quarter.

"In terms of political spending I'm going to do a lot less in the future," Musk said. Asked why, he responded that "I think I've done enough."

Musk's statement marks a reversal of the course he had set during the 2024 campaign — when he was among the very top political spenders — and immediately after.

Musk spent at least \$250 million supporting Trump in the presidential campaign, as the main contributor to America PAC, a super PAC that was active in advertising and funding door-to-door canvassing groups across the seven most-competitive states in the November presidential election.

Musk relished in the publicity, campaigning alongside Trump at times and headlining some of his own cam-



Lindsey Wasson | Associated Press

A person waves an "Impeach President Musk" sign during a protest, March 29, in Seattle.

paign rallies on the GOP nominee's behalf.

And while he took credit for helping Trump return to the White House, Musk suffered a public defeat in April, after he became deeply involved in a Wisconsin Supreme Court campaign. Musk-backed groups America PAC and Rebuilding America's Future spent more than \$21 million on the April 1 election in support of the Republican-backed candidate Brad Schimel.

But Schimel's defeat by 10 percentage points in Wisconsin, a state Trump carried just five months earlier, was a blow to Musk, who campaigned for Schimel in Green Bay the week-end before the election and had also pledged to enforce Trump's agenda in the 2026 midterm elections.

A week after Trump's November victory,

Musk said the political action committees he supported would "play a significant role in primaries," adding later that he might help finance Republican challengers to GOP members of Congress who did not support Trump's nominees.

"How else? There is no other way," Musk wrote on X, which he rebranded after purchasing Twitter, in response to the suggestion of supporting intraparty challenges.

An adviser to Musk's PACs declined to comment Tuesday.

Once Trump took office, Musk held a prominent role as an adviser and leader of DOGE. He and his acolytes in the department fanned out widely across the federal government to enact deep cuts to the workforce and spending, in some cases seeking to shutter entire agencies altogether.

DOGE has pushed to

fire tens of thousands of workers in downsizing at agencies, ranging from the IRS to Health and Human Services, and pressured tens of thousands more to take buy-out and early retirement offers. And they sought to shut down agencies such as the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

With backing from DOGE, agencies have cancelled tens of thousands of government contracts and grants that they say do not align with the administration's priorities. Some of those moves were done so quickly that they had to be reversed after push-back or court rulings finding that they were illegal.

Critics say it amounts to a reckless chain-saw approach that could destroy much of the nation's apolitical civil

service, impair services for vulnerable populations, and halt critical research.

DOGE claims on its "Wall of Receipts" it has saved an estimated \$170 billion, but those savings numbers have been shown to be flawed and inflated in many cases.

Musk's role prompted intense pushback, including protests at his electric vehicle company, Tesla. Speaking to reporters earlier this month as he prepared to step back from DOGE, Musk noted the backlash.

"Being attacked relentlessly is not super fun," he said. "Seeing cars burning is not fun," he added, referring to the instances of Tesla cars being smashed or set on fire.

Musk's announced intention to step back from political spending comes during multiple new business opportuni-

ties, including a deal to host the latest versions of his Grok artificial intelligence chatbot on Microsoft's data centers.

Meanwhile, his brain-computer interface company Neuralink is planning to implant its experimental devices in dozens more people and his electric-vehicle company Tesla is developing a humanoid robot that Musk hopes to one day send to Mars.

Musk could change his mind about campaign spending. The 2026 midterm campaigns are just getting off the ground, while some candidates have not yet announced their candidacy for elections that remain 18 months away.

But as of Tuesday, Musk said he did not expect to.

"Well, if I see a reason to do political spending in the future, I will do it," Musk said. "I do not currently see a reason."

## VACCINE

FROM **PAGE A6**

COVID-19 shot but don't clearly fit into one of the categories.

"Is the pharmacist going to determine if you're in a high-risk group?" asked Dr. Paul Offit, a vaccine expert at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. "The only

thing that can come of this will make vaccines less insurable and less available."


The nation's leading pediatrics group said FDA's approach will limit options for parents and their children.

"If the vaccine were no longer available or covered by insurance, it will take the choice away from families who wish

to protect their children from COVID-19, especially among families already facing barriers to care," said Dr. Sean O'Leary of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Provisional data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows more than 47,000 Americans died from COVID-related causes

last year. The virus was the underlying cause for two-thirds of those and it was a contributing factor for the rest. Among them were 231 children whose deaths were deemed COVID-related, 134 of them where the virus was the direct cause — numbers similar to yearly pediatric deaths from the flu.



## LEGAL NOTICE

**Advertisement for Bids**

Notice is hereby given that the City of Elizabethtown will receive sealed bids for Crushed Limestone, Bituminous Concrete Paving and Materials, Pavement Milling and Pavement Striping. Bids may be submitted to the Office of the City Clerk, 200 West Dixie Avenue, P. O. Box 550, Elizabethtown, Kentucky 42702 until 10:00 a.m. on June 5, 2025, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Specifications and bid forms may be obtained from the City Clerk's office at the address listed above or by emailing at [jessica.graham@elizabethtownky.gov](mailto:jessica.graham@elizabethtownky.gov).

The City of Elizabethtown reserves the right to reject any and all bids or to let the contract as a whole, or for any part, and to waive any informalities or irregularities in the bids received.

/s/ Jeffrey H. Gregory, Mayor

Attest: Jessica J. Graham, City Clerk



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