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That's Fit to Print"

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2025

THE WEATHER
 Today, breezy, clouds and sunshine, not as cold in the afternoon, high 43. Tonight, mostly clear, low 31. Tomorrow, partly cloudy, rain at night, high 46. Weather map is on Page B12.

Prices in Canada may be higher

\$4.00

UNEMPLOYMENT RISES IN WARNING FOR U.S. ECONOMY

HITS A FOUR-YEAR HIGH

Delayed Data Shows Jobs Added, Though Wage Growth Slowed

By REBECCA DAVIS O'BRIEN

The unemployment rate rose to a four-year high in November, a warning sign for the health of a labor market strained by the Trump administration's cuts to the federal work force and tariffs that have raised the cost of doing business.

Data released by the federal government on Tuesday showed that the jobless rate last month rose to 4.6 percent from 4.4 percent in September, the last month that officials had a full picture of the labor force before the weeks-long government shutdown. It is the highest unemployment rate since September 2021, when the economy was emerging from the Covid-19 pandemic.

At the same time, employers added 64,000 jobs in November, partly reversing a decline in October, a gain driven largely by the health care sector. But the federal government shed 168,000 jobs in October and November, as workers hit by deferred resignations came off the payroll, according to the report by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Wage growth also slowed to a level not seen since 2021, a measure that comes as more Americans express pessimism about the economy and concerns about affordability.

Analysts and policymakers had hoped that the data released on Tuesday would help clarify the state of the economy after months of conflicting signals. For now, the signs are still mixed.

The report exposed emerging imbalances that could tilt the labor market in either direction in the coming months. And analysts noted that the government shutdown may have complicated the data gathering behind this report, making it less reliable.

"The report is a disappointment, overall," said Beth Ann Bovino, the chief economist at U.S. Bank. "The jobs market is weaker than we saw at the beginning of the year."

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PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHRISTOPHER CAPOZZIELLO FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Federal agents searched a property near Brown University's campus in Providence, R.I., this week.

Brown's Tradition of Openness Is Now Fractured

By DANA GOLDSTEIN

Brown University is an elite school, set high on a hill, with manicured greens and wrought-iron gates.

But one of its special features is that those gates are often open to the larger city of Providence, R.I. — both physically and metaphorically. City residents are invited to attend many events and, students and professors said, some buildings are often unlocked.

Many academic departments are housed on residential streets, in the tidy Victorian houses that dominate the city's East Side. They sit amid the homes of professors — and Providence's mayor, Thayer and Wickenden Streets, which are packed with restaurants, cafes and shops, are not just popular student hangouts but also hubs for city residents.

Those streets were eerily quiet early this week as the authorities

SPOTLIGHT Kash Patel's impulse to speak too soon revived doubts about his competence. PAGE A19



A memorial included pictures of the students killed in Saturday's shooting, MukhammadAziz Umurzokov, left, and Ella Cook.

continued to search for a shooter that entered a classroom on Saturday afternoon, killing two students and wounding nine others before slipping out into the December darkness and disappearing.

It had already been an extraordinarily difficult year for Brown. As part of its broader campaign

against elite academia, the Trump administration moved to block over \$500 million in research funds, then pressured the university to reach a settlement. More broadly, Brown and other selective colleges are facing questions about how well they serve the public interest.

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With Films Dramatic or Droll, Reiner Turned Our Joy Up to 11

Few movies take possession of you like "This Is Spinal Tap," the delightful shaggy-haired 1984 rock 'n' roll parody that turned Rob Reiner into a filmmaker. The

MANOHLA DARGIS movie, about a ridiculous group of heavy-metal rockers, didn't set the world or entertainment industry on fire on its release.

Yet it kick-started an unlikely career that rapidly picked up momentum with crowd pleasers that won love and sometimes awards, and often cleaned up at the box office.

Reiner's gifts as a filmmaker were performance-based and steeped in comedy; he wasn't an auteurist icon like Martin Scorsese, one of the inspirations for the filmmaker character whom Reiner played in "This Is Spinal Tap."

Rather, Reiner made his mark in the stories he told. In their variety, generosity and in their open, unembarrassed appeal to the audience, his movies recalled an earlier era when studio directors raced from set to set, from

one story to the next, making some of the solid and, at times, soaring films that defined Old Hollywood.

In an astonishingly short, fertile period of time starting in the mid-1980s, Reiner directed films as different as the coming-of-age drama "Stand by Me" and the charming fairy tale "The Princess Bride"; persuaded his mother, Estelle, to deliver one of the most famous lines in movies ("I'll have what she's having") in "When Harry Met Sally . . ."; and unleashed Kathy Bates on James Caan in "Misery."

With down-to-earth humor, flights of fancy and a born entertainer's desire to keep you engaged, Reiner honed his craft, turned comics and theater actors into stars, and gave millions of people pleasure and reasons to go to the movies. Yet despite his success, he always seemed like

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UNSHAKABLE BELIEFS In films like "A Few Good Men," Rob Reiner's ideas of honor and morality were as plain as could be. PAGE C1



MARISSA ALPER FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Party Power in a Shrimp Tower

Whether to save space, wow guests or indulge in nostalgia, tall food is taking over. This edible tree checks all the boxes. Page D8.

NATIONAL A13-21, 24

Toxic Runoff in Alaska

A warmer, rainier Arctic means 200 rivers are "rusting," a yearly regional checkup documented. PAGE A24

Beauty Brings Safer Streets

Environmental design interventions play a subtle role in helping Philadelphia reduce gun violence. PAGE A13



INTERNATIONAL A4-12

Eyeing Venezuela's Oil Fields

The White House says it is confronting the country's leader to curb drug trafficking. But gaining access to vast energy reserves is a priority. PAGE A8

Fleeing Saudi Arabia

Many single mothers and their children are trapped there. Edith, a worker from Kenya, was adamant that her daughter would not be among them. PAGE A6

Poaching of Rare Elephants

More than a dozen Bornean elephants have been killed — including five beheaded — in Malaysia in the past 18 months, the authorities said. PAGE A12

BUSINESS B1-5

Avoiding China's Stranglehold

Japan built its own supply chain for crucial rare-earth minerals after an embargo by Beijing 15 years ago. It could be a model for others. PAGE B1

A.I.'s Role in Electricity Costs

Senators want information from tech firms on the effects of data centers' energy use on utility bills. PAGE B1

FOOD D1-8

Party With Holiday Desserts

What makes these showstoppers so satisfying is how anyone can make them for a dramatic tableau. PAGE D1

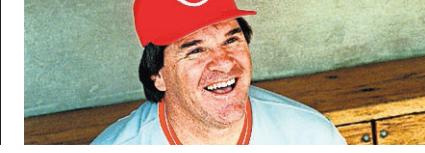
SPORTS B6-9

A.W.N.B.A. Money Rift

Contract talks between the league and its players show big differences in revenue-sharing proposals. PAGE B8

Yeas and Nays on Rose

Peers of the career hits leader, who is no longer barred, weigh in on if he should become a Hall of Famer. PAGE B6



ARTS C1-6

New Art for the High Line

The artist Tuan Andrew Nguyen will resurrect a towering ancient Buddha that the Taliban demolished. PAGE C5

Century-Old Opera Still Stuns

Alban Berg's masterpiece "Wozzeck," which debuted in the shadow of World War I, will break your heart. PAGE C1

OPINION A22-23

Bret Stephens

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