

# Funding the Future

Article URL

<https://www.taxresearch.org.uk/Blog/2025/08/13/trumps-fixing-the-data/>

Published: January 12, 2026, 5:03 pm

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On Monday, [the FT reported that](#):

*Donald Trump has picked a loyalist from the rightwing Heritage Foundation to head the Bureau of Labor Statistics, after firing the former commissioner for a gloomy jobs report he claimed was “rigged”.*

*Trump said in a Truth Social post on Monday evening that he was nominating the “Highly Respected Economist” EJ Antoni to chair the agency.*

*“Our Economy is booming, and E.J. will ensure that the Numbers released are HONEST and ACCURATE. I know E.J. Antoni will do an incredible job in this new role,” Trump added.*

The Heritage Foundation was, of course, the lead think tank in the production of the ultra-far-right assault on American democracy, equality, and government that was entitled Project 2025, which is now seemingly guiding all the actions of the Trump regime in the USA.

[Robert Reich has attacked the proposed appointment](#), not least because E.J. Antoni (don't people in the Trump administration have names, or is the use of initials obligatory?) has suggested that revisions to first estimate labour data published in the USA can be eliminated by simply publishing the information much later, and only once a quarter, thereby denying US economic commentators, and those who rely upon that information, with data on trends in the economy that they need for real time decision-making.

When suggesting this, what this uninspired individual did not recognise was that there are significant problems with collecting data post the Covid pandemic, because it would appear that people are now much less willing to supply data to governments in response to enquiries made of them than was the case before 2020. Why this change of attitude has taken place is not clear, but the UK's Office for National Statistics is suffering exactly the same problem. Moving to the far right is the one thing that you can guarantee will not solve it.

And, Robert Reich is not the only person to be concerned about this. As [the FT notes](#) this morning:

*Donald Trump's sacking of the Bureau of Labor Statistics' boss after a grim jobs report earlier this month sparked investor fears that he was politicising the world's most closely watched economic data.*

*Trump's pick to lead the BLS, EJ Antoni, a fierce loyalist and cheerleader for the president's tariffs and economic strategy, has only deepened the anxiety.*

*"The hope was that he would pick someone . . . who people would have trust in and could lead the BLS in an appropriate way, with relevant experience and, ideally, not hyper-partisan," said Stan Veuger, senior fellow at the right-leaning American Enterprise Institute think-tank.*

*"EJ Antoni is really the opposite of that." "Even the people who may be somewhat sympathetic to his economic policy views don't think he's qualified," added Veuger.*

I would add that in my experience, the American Enterprise Institute is at least as far right as the Heritage Foundation. Of course, there might be some inter-think-tank rivalry being displayed in the comment that the FT has picked up upon, but the reality is that no one believes that this appointment is anything but a deeply partisan, profoundly biased, undermining exercise by Trump to ensure that the credibility of US government data is threatened, with the aim of supporting his regime's control of information on which an objective opinion regarding the economic performance of the USA can be formed. We really are living in a dystopian world now.