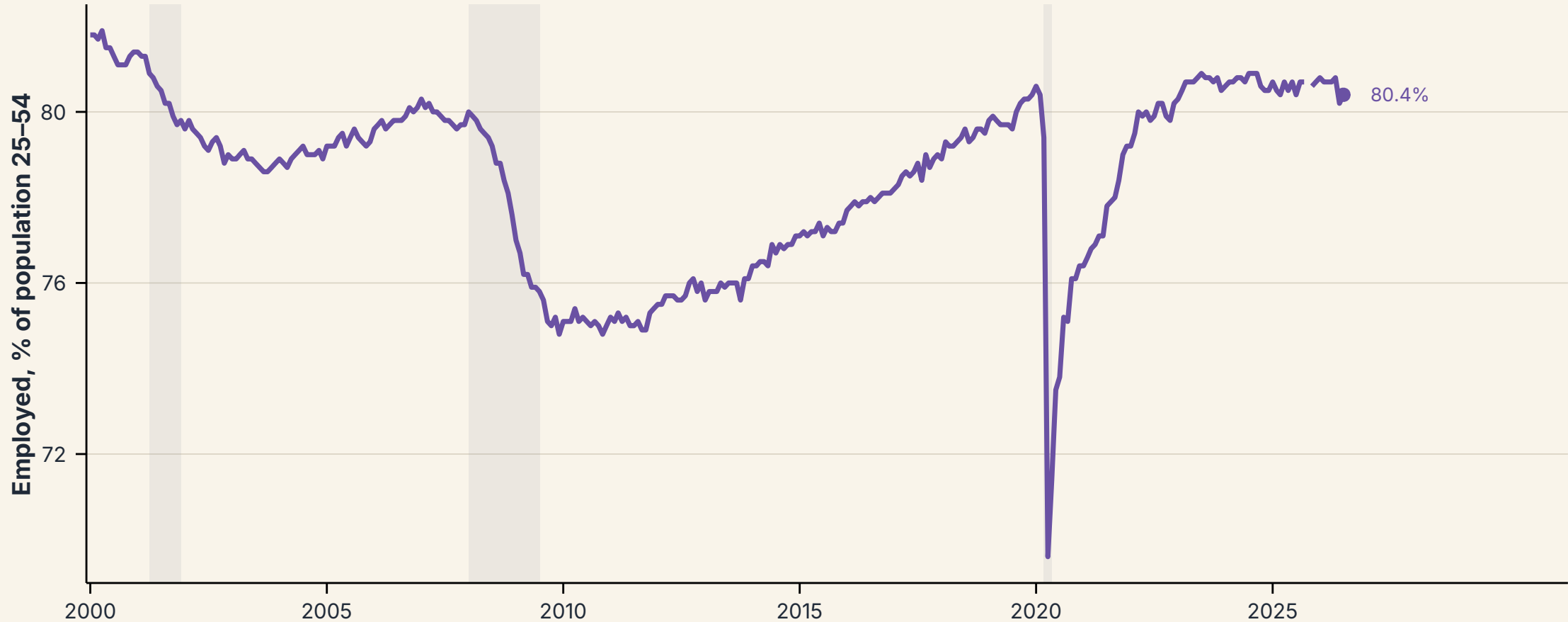


The Cleanest Jobs Gauge: Prime-Age Employment

Latest: July 2026



Notes: Employment-population ratio for ages 25-54, seasonally adjusted. Immune to ageing-population distortions that pull down the headline participation rate - economists' preferred single labour gauge. Shaded bars: NBER recessions. The October 2025 US government shutdown interrupted data collection and publication for that reference month. The line breaks there rather than drawing across it. Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics via FRED (LNS12300060). Retrieved 01 Sep 2026. Chart by Mokhtar Tabari · vizdelta.com