

The Breakfast Table Times — August 28, 2026 • Edition No. 5

TODAY'S NEWS, MADE FOR KIDS

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 2026

EDITION NO. 5

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TOP STORY

Jobs and Prices Reports Raise Questions

WASHINGTON — — The U.S. government released two important economic reports this month. One report showed hiring slowed more than expected in July. The other report tracked rising prices, known as inflation. Economists say both reports matter a lot. The Federal Reserve, the nation's central bank, watches this data closely. The Fed uses the numbers to help decide about interest rates. Slower hiring can worry leaders, especially if prices keep rising too. Several lawmakers in Washington reacted to the jobs report this week. Analysts say the decisions ahead could affect loans for cars and homes. Families may notice changes in prices and borrowing costs later this year.

BACKGROUND

Each month, the government reports how many jobs employers added and how prices changed nationwide.

Why it matters: *These reports can affect interest rates on loans that families use for cars, homes, and credit cards.*

What to watch: *Watch for the Federal Reserve's next meeting for any decisions on interest rates.*

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/empst.nr0.htm> and <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/cpi.nr0.htm>; CNN, <https://www.cnn.com/2026/08/08/business/jobs-report-fed-warsh-inflation>; NPR, <https://www.npr.org/2026/08/09/nx-s1-5924049/economist-explains-what-the-latest-jobs-report-and-inflation-data-means>

NATION & WORLD

Former Israeli Spy Chief Speaks on Iran

JERUSALEM — — A former leader of Israel's spy agency spoke out this week. His name is Barnea. He said Israel has 'no choice' but to keep striking Iran. He said this should continue until Iran's government changes. His words were reported by the Times of Israel on August 27. Barnea does not work for the government now. But people still listen to him. Israel and Iran have been rivals for a long time. Tension between them has grown lately. No one knows how this conflict will end. Leaders around the world are watching closely.

BACKGROUND

Israel and Iran have been rivals for years, with tensions rising through military and public actions.

Why it matters: *Comments from former officials can shape public opinion, even without an official government role.*

What to watch: *Watch for responses from Israel's current government and from Iranian leaders.*

Source: The Times of Israel, Aug. 27, 2026 liveblog, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog-august-27-2026/>

GOVERNMENT

Maine Voters Prepare for Fall Elections

AUGUSTA, MAINE — — Maine voters will head to the polls this fall for the 2026 elections. One of the most closely watched races is the election for U.S. Senator. Statewide elections also include other government positions across Maine. Campaigns have been underway for months as candidates share their plans with voters. Local election officials are preparing polling places and ballots ahead of election day. Civics teachers often use elections like this to explain how democracy works. Voting is one of the most direct ways people can shape decisions in government. Maine residents who want to vote should check registration deadlines with their town clerk. Turnout in past elections has varied depending on how competitive the races are.

BACKGROUND

Maine holds statewide elections every two years, and this year's ballot includes a U.S. Senate seat.

Why it matters: *Elections decide who represents Mainers in state government and in Congress.*

What to watch: *Watch for candidate debates and voter registration deadlines as election day nears.*

Source: Wikipedia, 2026 Maine elections, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2026_Maine_elections; 2026 United States Senate election in Maine, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2026_United_States_Senate_election_in_Maine

MONEY & WORK

Leaders React to Jobs Numbers

WASHINGTON — — After the July jobs report came out, reaction was quick in Washington. Some lawmakers said the numbers were a warning sign for the economy. Others said job markets can shift from month to month. Economists explained how slower hiring can affect everyday families. That includes people who are looking for new jobs right now. Reports like this also influence how banks set interest rates on loans. Higher interest rates can make it costlier to borrow money for cars or homes. Analysts say it is too early to know if this trend will continue. More economic data is expected in the coming weeks.

BACKGROUND

The jobs report is one of several reports the Federal Reserve studies before deciding on interest rates.

Why it matters: *Interest rate decisions affect how much it costs families to borrow money.*

What to watch: *Watch for the next jobs and inflation reports in the coming weeks.*

Source: CNN, <https://www.cnn.com/2026/08/08/business/jobs-report-fed-warsh-inflation>; NPR, <https://www.npr.org/2026/08/09/nx-s1-5924049/economist-explains-what-the-latest-jobs-report-and-inflation-data-means>; Rep. Steny Hoyer statement, <https://hoyer.house.gov/media/press-releases/hoyer-statement-august-jobs-report-0>

SCIENCE & TECH

Astronomers Spot Galaxy With Extra Arms

Space.com shared a new photo this week. It shows a galaxy with extra spiral arms. Most spiral galaxies have just a few arms. This galaxy seems to have more arms than usual. The photo appeared as the site's photo of the day on August 27. Scientists study galaxy shapes to learn how galaxies form. Extra arms can happen when two galaxies interact. Their gravity can pull gas and stars into new shapes. Scientists do not yet know why this galaxy looks this way. They plan to study it further. Photos like this help us see how varied galaxies can be.

BACKGROUND
Space.com regularly features a daily astronomy photo drawn from telescope images and research.

Why it matters: Studying unusual galaxies helps scientists understand how galaxies, including our own, form and change.

What to watch: Astronomers may study this galaxy further to learn what caused its extra arms.

Source: Space.com, Aug. 27, 2026, <https://www.space.com/astronomy/galaxies/glowing-galaxy-with-anomalous-extra-arms-space-photo-of-the-day-for-aug-27-2026>

SPORTS

Yankees' Bats Stay Hot in Win Over Astros

NEW YORK — — The New York Yankees beat the Houston Astros 9-3 on August 27 at Yankee Stadium. It marked the third straight game with at least seven runs scored. That shows the Yankees' offense is heating up. The Yankees' bats have been especially productive over the past week. That has put pressure on opposing pitchers early in games. Strong hitting streaks like this one often boost team morale. That matters heading into the final stretch of the season. Fans at Yankee Stadium were treated to another high-scoring win. The team will look to keep the momentum going in its next games. Consistent run production is often seen as a good sign for a strong finish.

BACKGROUND
Major League teams play 162 games each season, and late-season streaks can shape playoff chances.

Why it matters: Winning and scoring consistently late in the season can affect a team's playoff position.

What to watch: Watch whether the Yankees keep scoring heavily in upcoming games.

Source: MLB.com, <https://www.mlb.com/stories/game/823503>; ESPN box score, https://www.espn.com/mlb/boxscore/_/gameId/401816696; Pinstripe Alley, <https://www.pinstripealley.com/yankees-scores-standings>

Giants Set for Preseason Game Against Jets

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — — The New York Giants are set to play a preseason game against the New York Jets. The game is set for August 28. Preseason games let teams try out different players before the regular season begins. Coaches use these games to evaluate rookies and backup players competing for roster spots. The Giants and Jets are both preparing final rosters ahead of the season opener. Preseason results do not count in the standings. Still, they matter for players hoping to make the team. Fans can watch the game on television or follow updates online. The regular season for both teams begins in the weeks ahead.

BACKGROUND
NFL teams play several preseason games each August to help set their final rosters.

Why it matters: Preseason play can determine which players make the team once the regular season starts.

What to watch: Watch for roster cuts from both teams in the days after this game.

Source: Big Blue Interactive, <https://bigblueinteractive.com/2026/08/27/preview-new-york-giants-at-new-york-jets-august-28-2026/>; New York Jets, <https://www.newyorkjets.com/news/jets-at-steelers-preseason-game-preview-08-27-2026>

OUR TEAMS
New York Yankees Yankees 9, Astros 3
Third straight game scoring seven or more runs; played Aug. 27 at Yankee Stadium.

SOUTHERN MAINE

Shark Sightings Reported Along Maine Coast

PORTLAND, MAINE — — Shark sightings have been reported along the southern Maine coast this summer. This happens most years along the coast. Sharks often follow fish and seals through these waters. Maine wildlife officials say beachgoers should stay alert. They do not need to avoid the water completely. Simple steps can lower the small risk of an encounter. Swim near lifeguards and stay away from seals. Coastal towns post safety alerts when a shark is seen nearby. Scientists keep track of shark activity along the coast. This research helps them understand ocean life near Maine. Most summers end with no shark problems at all.

BACKGROUND
Southern Maine's coastline has seen periodic shark sightings in recent summers.

Why it matters: Understanding shark activity helps communities balance beach safety with coastal wildlife.

What to watch: Watch for updated safety advisories from local beach patrols this summer.

Source: Portland Press Herald, <https://www.pressherald.com/2026/08/13/explore-shark-sightings-southern-maine/>