

The Breakfast Table Times

TODAY'S NEWS, MADE FOR KIDS

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TOP STORY

U.S. Economy Loses Jobs in Surprise July Report

WASHINGTON — The U.S. government released its jobs report for July. The report brought a big surprise to economists. The economy lost about 23,000 jobs last month. That was a sharp change from recent growth. At the same time, the unemployment rate climbed higher. It reached its highest level in almost four years.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics collects this data every month. It surveys thousands of households and businesses across the country. Experts say one month of data does not always show a trend. Still, families and workers will watch the next report closely. That report covering August is expected in the coming weeks.

BACKGROUND

The Bureau of Labor Statistics is a federal agency that tracks how many people are working across the country. It has released a jobs report almost every month for decades.

Why it matters: Jobs numbers affect big decisions, like whether interest rates go up or down. They also affect how families feel about spending money.

What to watch: The next jobs report, covering August, comes out in the next few weeks.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, 'Employment Situation Summary,' <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/emp/sit.nr0.htm>; NBC News, 'July jobs report: US economy shed 23,000 jobs, a sudden reversal,' <https://www.nbcnews.com/business/economy/july-2026-jobs-report-rcna591138>; Trading Economics, 'US Unemployment Rate Rises to Near 4-Year High,' <https://tradingeconomics.com/united-states/unemployment-rate/news/483231>

NATION & WORLD

Philippine Schools Suspend Classes for Safety

MANILA, PHILIPPINES — Schools in several areas of the Philippines closed for one day. The closures took place on Tuesday, September 1. Local officials made the call for safety reasons. They did not always give one single cause. Heavy rain and flooding are common triggers at this time of year.

Students affected by the closures will make up lost class time later. Suspending classes for a day is a routine step in many Philippine communities. It helps families avoid dangerous travel during storms. Local governments often announce closures the night before or early in the morning. That gives families time to adjust their plans.

BACKGROUND

The Philippines often sees heavy rain and storms in late summer, which can make travel to school unsafe.

Why it matters: Class suspensions show how local leaders put student safety first, even when it changes daily plans for families.

What to watch: Families will watch for updates on whether classes resume as scheduled.

Source: GMA News Online, 'WALANG PASOK: Class suspensions for Tuesday, September 1, 2026,' <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/serbisyonpubliko/walangpasok/1000527/walang-pasok-class-suspensions-for-tuesday-september-1-2026/story/>

GOVERNMENT

How the Government Tracks Jobs Every Month

WASHINGTON — Every month, the government publishes a report on how many people have jobs. The report comes from an agency called the Bureau of Labor Statistics. That agency is part of the U.S. Department of Labor. To gather its numbers, it surveys thousands of households and businesses.

The household survey asks people directly if they are working or looking for work. The business survey asks employers how many workers they have on payroll. Combining both surveys gives a fuller picture than either one alone. Government leaders, business owners, and everyday workers all use this data. It helps them understand how the economy is doing right now.

BACKGROUND

The Bureau of Labor Statistics has published employment reports for many decades.

Why it matters: This data helps leaders make decisions about interest rates and the economy.

What to watch: The August report comes out soon and will be compared to July's numbers.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, 'Employment Situation Summary,' <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/emp/sit.htm>; U.S. Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Data, <https://www.dol.gov/ui/data.pdf>

MONEY & WORK

Economists Watch Closely After Jobs Report Surprise

WASHINGTON — After July's surprising jobs report, economists are watching the economy closely. Some worry the job losses and rising unemployment rate signal a slowdown. Others say it is too early to tell. Job numbers can bounce around from month to month.

For families, the report is a reminder to watch the wider economy. A slower job market can make it harder to find new work. It can also make raises harder to negotiate. Still, it does not mean trouble for every industry or region. The Bureau of Labor Statistics will release its next report in the coming weeks. That report, covering August, will give economists fresh data to study.

BACKGROUND

Economists often wait for more than one month of data before deciding if a trend is real.

Why it matters: How this uncertainty plays out can affect interest rates, hiring, and household budgets.

What to watch: The August jobs report, due within weeks, will offer a clearer picture of the labor market.

Source: NBC News, 'July jobs report: US economy shed 23,000 jobs, a sudden reversal,' <https://www.nbcnews.com/business/economy/july-2026-jobs-report-rcna591138>; Trading Economics, 'US Unemployment Rate Rises to Near 4-Year High,' <https://tradingeconomics.com/united-states/unemployment-rate/news/483231>; Bureau of Labor Statistics, Schedule of Releases, <https://www.bls.gov/schedule/>

SCIENCE & TECH

Meteorological Fall Begins, Ahead of the Equinox

NATIONAL — Tuesday marks the start of fall for weather scientists. This is called meteorological fall. It follows the calendar, not the sun. Real fall, called astronomical fall, starts later this year around September 22.

Scientists split the year into four seasons of three months each. This makes it easier to track weather over time. Meteorological fall runs from September 1 to November 30. This time brings cooler days and busy weeks for storms. Astronomical fall depends on how Earth tilts toward the sun. Both systems help people understand changing seasons in different ways.

BACKGROUND

Weather scientists created the meteorological calendar to make it easier to compare weather data year after year.

Why it matters: *Knowing the difference helps explain why weather reports sometimes say fall has started before the actual equinox.*

What to watch: *Cooler temperatures are expected to arrive gradually over the next few weeks.*

Source: Almanac.com, 'Daily Calendar for Tuesday, September 1, 2026,' <https://www.almanac.com/calendar/date/2026-09-01>

SPORTS

Giants Close Out Preseason With Win Over Jets

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — The New York Giants closed their preseason with a 23-6 win over the Jets. The win capped a busy stretch of practice games before the regular season. Several backup and rookie players got extra playing time in the finale. Coaches used the game to make final decisions about the roster.

Preseason games do not count in the standings. Still, they help coaches decide who makes the final roster. With preseason finished, the Giants must trim their roster to the league limit. That process happens in the days right before the season begins. Fans will get their first real look at the regular lineup in the season opener.

BACKGROUND

The Giants also won an earlier preseason game against the Miami Dolphins.

Why it matters: *These games help decide who makes the final team.*

What to watch: *The regular season begins soon, and the Giants must finalize their roster first.*

Source: Yahoo Sports, 'New York Giants wrap preseason with 23-6 victory over New York Jets,' <https://sports.yahoo.com/articles/york-giants-vs-jets-live-212525825.html>; Giants.com, 'Instant Analysis: Giants close preseason with 23-6 win over Jets,' <https://www.giants.com/news/instant-analysis-giants-close-preseason-with-23-6-win-over-jets>; Big Blue Interactive, 'Preseason Game Review: New York Giants 23 - New York Jets 6,' <https://bigblueinteractive.com/2026/08/30/preseason-game-review-new-york-giants-23-new-york-jets-6/>

Yankees Rout Red Sox 16-1 in Blowout Win

NEW YORK — The New York Yankees crushed the Boston Red Sox 16-1 on Sunday. It was one of their most lopsided wins of the season. The offense came alive early, scoring runs in several different innings. That gave the pitching staff a comfortable lead to work with. The blowout capped a strong stretch of play heading into September.

Wins like this can boost morale heading into a season's final month. Every game matters more in September for teams chasing playoff spots. The Yankees still have several games left against division rivals. Performances like this show the kind of offense they hope to carry into October. Fans packed the stands to watch the lopsided victory unfold.

BACKGROUND

The Yankees and Red Sox are longtime rivals who have played each other for more than 100 years.

Why it matters: *Big wins like this can help a team's confidence as the season winds down.*

What to watch: *The Yankees have more games left this season that will help decide the playoff picture.*

Source: ESPN, 'Yankees 16-1 Red Sox (Aug 30, 2026) Final Score,' https://www.espn.com/mlb/game/_/gameId/401816732/red-sox-yankees; MLB.com, 'MLB Gameday: Red Sox 1, Yankees 16 Final Score (08/30/2026),' <https://www.mlb.com/gameday/red-sox-vs-yankees/2026/08/30/823502/final/wrap>

OUR TEAMS

New York Yankees Played the Los Angeles Angels in Anaheim on August 31; final score was not available at press time

West Coast night games often finish after our print deadline — check online for the result. The Yankees beat the Boston Red Sox 16-1 on Sunday, August 30.

SOUTHERN MAINE

Southern Maine Gears Up for Labor Day Weekend

PORTLAND, MAINE — Labor Day falls on September 7 this year. It marks the unofficial end of summer across southern Maine. Before the holiday, beaches and parks often see a final rush of visitors. Many local businesses use the long weekend as their last big push of the season.

Most schools across the region open around late August or early September. That means summer vacation and the holiday weekend arrive close together for many families. The overlap can make the first week of September feel busy. Families juggle school schedules, sports practices, and outdoor plans all at once. Soon, cooler weather will settle in across the region.

BACKGROUND

Labor Day became a national holiday in 1894 to honor American workers.

Why it matters: *The holiday weekend is important for local tourism businesses and marks a seasonal turning point for the region.*

What to watch: *Cooler weather and quieter beaches usually follow soon after the holiday weekend.*

Source: Maine Events August & September 2026, <https://tg207.com/blog/happenings-around-maine-late-summer-events-from-augusta-to-southern-maine>; WGME News, <https://wgme.com/news/local>; Almanac.com, 'Daily Calendar for Tuesday, September 1, 2026,' <https://www.almanac.com/calendar/date/2026-09-01>