

The Breakfast Table Times

TODAY'S NEWS, MADE FOR KIDS

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TOP STORY

August Jobs Report Shows Slower Hiring

WASHINGTON — Each month, the government reports how many jobs were added. This month's report came out on Friday, September 4. Economists expected employers to add about 53,000 jobs in August. That would be fewer jobs than earlier this summer. The report also tracks the unemployment rate. That rate shows how many people cannot find work.

Hiring has slowed in several industries this year. Slower hiring can worry workers looking for new jobs. It can also affect decisions at the Federal Reserve. The Federal Reserve sets interest rates for the whole country. Leaders in Washington will study these new numbers closely.

BACKGROUND

The jobs report comes out on the first Friday of each month from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Why it matters: Hiring numbers show whether businesses are growing and can affect paychecks and prices.

What to watch: Whether the Federal Reserve responds to slower hiring at its next meeting.

Source: CNBC (<https://www.cnbc.com/2026/09/03/august-2026-jobs-report-payrolls.html>); U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (<https://www.bls.gov/news.release/empstat.htm>)

NATION & WORLD

Vance Says U.S. Investigating Deadly Strike in Iran

WASHINGTON — Vice President JD Vance spoke about a deadly strike in Iran. The strike happened at a wedding and killed several people. Vance said the U.S. is investigating what happened very fully. The strike is linked to ongoing tension between the U.S. and Iran. In recent years, U.S. officials have debated military action against Iran.

This event has drawn attention from leaders around the world. Some political analysts say the strike creates challenges for Vance. He may face tough questions about it in future elections. Officials have not yet released full details of the investigation.

BACKGROUND

The United States and Iran have had a tense relationship for years, including past discussions about military strikes on Iranian sites.

Why it matters: Strikes like this can affect peace efforts and how people around the world view U.S. military actions.

What to watch: Officials are expected to share more findings from the investigation soon.

Source: Cyprus Mail (<https://cyprus-mail.com/2026/09/04/j-d-vance-says-us-investigating-deadly-strike-on-iran-wedding>); Middle East Eye (<https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/vance-us-investigating-strike-iran-wedding-very-fully>); AOL (<https://www.aol.com/articles/problem-iran-war-puts-jd-151428731.html>)

MONEY & WORK

Unemployment Rate Ticks Higher

WASHINGTON — The unemployment rate measures how many people want jobs but cannot find them. This rate has been slowly climbing over the past several months. Some reports say it is near its highest point in almost four years. Rising unemployment can be a sign the economy is slowing down. It does not always mean a recession is coming.

Government leaders and business owners watch this number closely. A higher rate can make it harder for job seekers to get hired quickly. Lower rates usually mean more businesses are hiring. Experts will keep tracking this number in the months ahead.

BACKGROUND

The unemployment rate is released alongside the monthly jobs report and tracks people actively seeking work.

Why it matters: A rising rate can signal a cooling economy, even if it does not mean a recession.

What to watch: Whether the rate keeps climbing in the reports released over the next few months.

Source: Trading Economics (<https://tradingeconomics.com/united-states/unemployment-rate>); CNBC (<https://www.cnbc.com/2026/09/03/august-2026-jobs-report-payrolls.html>)

SCIENCE & TECH

NASA Prepares Crew-13 Launch to Space Station

CAPE CANAVERAL, FLA. — NASA is preparing to launch its Crew-13 mission to the International Space Station. The mission is expected to lift off sometime in September. SpaceX will provide the rocket and spacecraft for the flight. Crew-13 will carry astronauts who will live and work in orbit. They will conduct science experiments and help maintain the station.

One unusual detail involves the launch pad itself. Reports say Tesla Cybertrucks will be used as support vehicles nearby. NASA has worked with SpaceX on crew launches for several years. The partnership helps NASA send astronauts to space regularly. Officials will confirm the exact launch date soon.

BACKGROUND

NASA has partnered with SpaceX for crewed missions to the International Space Station since 2020.

Why it matters: These missions keep science research running in orbit and show NASA's partnership with private companies.

What to watch: NASA's announcement of the exact September launch date.

Source: Houston Public Media (<https://www.houstonpublicmedia.org/articles/news/nasa/2026/08/03/558561/nasa-spacex-iss-launch-cybertrucks-elon-musk/>)

SCIENCE & TECH (CONT.)

SpaceX's Giant Starship Rocket Passes Summer Test

BOCA CHICA, TEXAS — This summer, SpaceX test-flew its giant new rocket called Starship. The flight was mostly successful, according to Spaceflight Now. Starship is the largest rocket SpaceX has ever built. It is designed to carry astronauts and cargo deep into space.

SpaceX hopes to use Starship for future Moon and Mars missions. Engineers are still studying data from the test flight. Each test brings SpaceX closer to regular Starship launches. NASA is watching Starship's progress closely for its own space plans.

BACKGROUND

Starship is SpaceX's newest and largest rocket, designed to be reused for future missions.

Why it matters: Starship's progress could shape future NASA Moon missions and deep space travel.

What to watch: The date of the next Starship test flight.

Source: Spaceflight Now (<https://spaceflightnow.com/2026/07/25/super-heavy-starship-rocket-chalks-up-mostly-successful-test-flight/>)

SPORTS

Yankees Enter Final Stretch of MLB Season

NEW YORK — The New York Yankees faced the Detroit Tigers in a series this week. Early September marks the final stretch of the MLB regular season. Teams across the league are jockeying for playoff positions. Every game carries extra weight this time of year.

The Yankees have been focused on finishing strong down the stretch. Manager decisions about pitching and lineups become more important now. Fans are watching the standings closely as the season winds down. The regular season is set to wrap up in early October.

BACKGROUND

Major League Baseball's regular season runs from spring through early October, followed by the playoffs.

Why it matters: September games often decide which teams make the playoffs.

What to watch: How the Yankees perform in their final regular-season games.

Source: Covers.com (<https://www.covers.com/sport/baseball/mlb/teams/main/new-york-yankees/>); Baseball-Reference (<https://www.baseball-reference.com/teams/NYY/2026-schedule-scores.shtml>); ESPN (https://africa.espn.com/mlb/video/_/gameId/401473087)

Giants Prepare to Open 2026 Season Against Cowboys

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — The New York Giants are preparing for their first game of the season. They are scheduled to play the Dallas Cowboys on September 13. That game will kick off the Giants' 2026 NFL season. Coaches have spent training camp working on both offense and defense.

Fans are eager to see how the roster performs in real games. The Cowboys are a longtime rival of the Giants. A strong start can set the tone for the rest of the season. Both teams will make final roster decisions before the opener.

BACKGROUND

The Giants and Cowboys are longtime NFC East rivals who face each other every season.

Why it matters: A team's opening game can set the tone and confidence for the rest of the season.

What to watch: How the Giants' new roster performs in its first real game of the season.

Source: FOX Sports (<https://www.foxsports.com/nfl/week-1-dallas-cowboys-vs-new-york-giants-sep-13-2026-game-boxscore-11050>); Giants.com (<https://www.giants.com/schedule/>)

SOUTHERN MAINE

Southern Maine Sees Rainy, Unsettled Start to September

PORTLAND, MAINE — September began on an unsettled note across southern Maine. Widespread rain moved into the region midweek, forecasters said. The rain followed a mostly dry stretch at the end of August. Some areas saw steady showers for more than a day.

Local meteorologists said the pattern was typical for early fall. Cooler temperatures often follow the first big rains of September. Residents can expect breaks of sunshine later in the week. Farmers and gardeners welcomed the rain after a dry summer stretch.

BACKGROUND

Maine typically shifts from a dry summer to more frequent rain as autumn approaches.

Why it matters: Rainfall affects farmers, water supplies, and outdoor plans across the region.

What to watch: Whether sunnier weather returns for the weekend, as forecasters expect.

Source: FOX23 Maine (<https://fox23maine.com/news/local/weather-09-01-2026>)

Report Tracks Maine's Commercial Real Estate Sales

PORTLAND, MAINE — A new report lists building sales across Maine this month. These sales are called commercial real estate. That means stores, offices, and warehouses. The report shows who bought and sold these buildings in September.

Many sales can mean people trust the local economy. New owners often fix up buildings. Some open new stores or offices. This kind of activity helps show if the economy is healthy. Experts will watch if these sales continue into fall.

BACKGROUND

Reports like this track sales of business properties across Maine each month.

Why it matters: Steady sales of stores and offices can be a sign of a healthy local economy.

What to watch: Whether this pace of commercial sales continues into the fall months.

Source: MaineBiz (<https://mainebiz.biz/article/a-roundup-of-maines-commercial-real-estate-sales-from-september-2026>)