

“All the News
That’s Fit to Print”

The New York Times

THE WEATHER
Today, partly cloudy, a few afternoon storms, high 85. **Tonight**, an early storm, late rain, low 63. **Tomorrow**, early rain, partly cloudy, cooler; high 73. Weather map is on Page B12.

VOL. CLXXIV No. 60,634

© 2025 The New York Times Company

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2025

Prices in Canada may be higher

\$4.00



JAMIE KELTER DAVIS FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Chicago Braces to Be Trump’s Next Target
Protesters trying to block ICE vehicles on Friday, as city officials spoke out against a looming immigration crackdown. Page A14.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Return of War Department Isn’t Just Nostalgia. It’s a Message.

By DAVID E. SANGER
When President Harry S. Truman signed the law creating the Defense Department from the remnants of the War Department in August 1949, Joseph Stalin was 16 days from proving the Soviets could detonate a nuclear weapon, and Mao Zedong was less than two months from declaring the creation of the People’s Republic of China. It was a terrifying time for Americans, and the new name

was intended to reflect an era in which deterrence was critical — because war, if it broke out among the superpowers, could be planet-ending. For decades, the odds of avoiding that nuclear exchange, or direct superpower conflict, seemed slim at best. So to many historians, the greatest accomplishment of the Cold War is that it largely stayed cold, despite wars in Korea and Vietnam, the Cuban Missile Crisis and arms races that followed. All of which makes President Trump’s executive order on

A Rebranding Trades a Defensive Posture for Hard Power

Friday seeking to restore the Pentagon to its old name — the War Department — more than just a throwback, a restoration of tough-guy nomenclature. At a moment when deterrence is more critical than ever — in cyberspace, outer space and a

world where Russia and China are celebrating an uneasy partnership to challenge American pre-eminence — Mr. Trump argues that the answer is to go back to the good old days. On Friday, he said that he believed restoring “war” to the department’s name — which may require congressional approval — was a “much more appropriate name, especially in light of where the world is right now.” To anyone who has watched

Continued on Page A7

Adams Insists He Won’t Drop Out of the Race

Plan Floated to Make Him Saudi Envoy

This article is by Dana Rubinstein, William K. Rashbaum, Nicholas Fandos and Maggie Haberman.

Close advisers have spent days crafting a plan for President Trump to nominate Mayor Eric Adams to be ambassador to Saudi Arabia, in an effort to end the mayor’s long-shot campaign for reelection in New York City, according to four people familiar with the discussions.

Steve Witkoff, a billionaire real estate investor and adviser to Mr. Trump, had pursued the matter, meeting personally with Mr. Adams this week in Florida and speaking with other people close to him.

But the hopes of sealing the exchange had faded by late Friday, at least temporarily, amid competing political pressures and public pushback over reports of a potential deal between Mr. Trump and the mayor.

Mr. Adams, a Democrat who is running as an independent, hastily convened a news conference outside Gracie Mansion late in the afternoon where he sought to undercut the idea that he was going anywhere. He insisted, more forcefully than he has done in recent days, that he was staying in the race, and derided his opponents as “spoiled brats.”

He did not directly address the possibility of taking an ambassadorship, or the conversations that his own advisers had joined to advance his prospects outside of New York City. He spoke for about five minutes, turned his back and walked away as reporters shouted questions.

The stakes are unusually high. If Mr. Adams were to take a position in the Trump administration and suspend his campaign, proponents of the plan thought, it could help consolidate opposition to Assemblyman Zohran Mamdani, the

Continued on Page A17

U.S. JOBS MARKET DRAGGED ITS FEET THROUGH AUGUST

RISK OF EXTENDED LAG

Uptick in Unemployment — Only 22,000 Positions Added

By LYDIA DePILLIS

After persevering through years of high interest rates and wild swings in economic policy, the labor market appears to be sputtering, in a slowdown that could build on itself as consumers lose confidence and pull back on spending.

Employers added only 22,000 jobs in August, well below the number that forecasters had expected. The unemployment rate rose very slightly to 4.3 percent, showing that both businesses’ appetite for new recruits and the number of available job-seekers have faded in the last several months.

The economy has been cooling since its red-hot pandemic peak as the Federal Reserve worked to tame inflation, and has more recently been buffeted by a barrage of tariffs and other disruptive actions by the Trump administration.

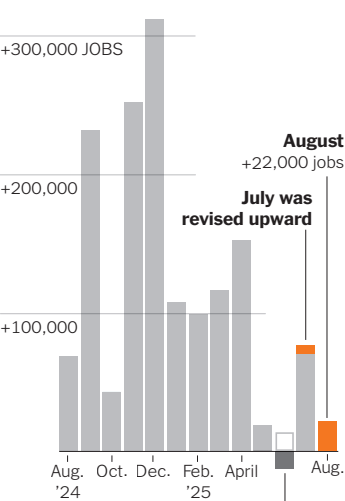
Employers haven’t been letting go of workers in large numbers, but employees have also been hanging on tightly to their jobs. That leaves little room for anyone entering the job market for the first time, or trying to get back in after losing work.

“Once you turn negative, you usually do so rapidly,” said Diane Swonk, chief U.S. economist for the accounting firm KPMG. “When the pace of hiring, the pace of layoffs and the pace of quits are so low, there’s very little margin for error.”

The August report solidified a reality that became apparent last month when job growth for the early summer was revised down substantially. With more employer surveys in, it now appears that the economy subtracted jobs in June, the first negative number since December 2020, with the Covid-19 pandemic still raging.

It’s also shaping up to be an unusually lackluster year: Since

Continued on Page A12



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics | Note: Data is seasonally adjusted. THE NEW YORK TIMES



MAGGIE SHANNON FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Joseph Chahayed’s customers hope to tap into his good fortune for Saturday’s Powerball drawing.

Inside Joe’s, the Luckiest Gas Station in America

By THOMAS FULLER
ALTADENA, Calif. — Visitors to Joseph Chahayed’s Southern California gas station sometimes place their palms on the glass windows, trying to channel good vibes. Other times they ask for a hug or a selfie. “I don’t know how many hundreds of people have tried to take pictures with me,” Mr. Chahayed said as he served a procession of customers buying lottery tickets on Thursday. Mr. Chahayed is the owner of

Sold \$2 Billion Winner, Escaped a Wildfire

what some might call the luckiest gas station in America. Three years ago, the winning ticket for the largest lottery jackpot in American history — \$2.04 billion — was sold here at Joe’s Service Center. Mr. Chahayed received \$1 million for selling the Powerball ticket. But two years later came even

greater good fortune for his station, amid even greater tragedy for his city. Joe’s Service Center sits on the busy corner of Fair Oaks Avenue and Woodbury Road in Altadena. When he arrived at work on the morning of Jan. 8, black smoke blanketed the station, so thick he could see neither sky nor sun. The Eaton fire, one of the most destructive wildfires in California history, was bearing down on his business, his little patch of the American dream he had built

Continued on Page A20

Colleges Lose Tool That Spots Low-Income High Achievers

By STEPHANIE SAUL and DANA GOLDSTEIN
When the Supreme Court banned affirmative action in college admissions in 2023, many universities began looking more closely at socioeconomic status to admit more diverse classes without considering race. Scores of schools turned to a tool created by the College Board, which administers the SAT exam, to identify promising high school students from disadvantaged neighborhoods and schools. This week, the College Board quietly notified schools that it was eliminating the tool, called Landscape. The board provided little explanation for its decision. The move comes at a time when the Trump administration has

Decision Is Made Amid Attacks on Diversity

stepped up its attacks on diversity efforts in education, and less than a month after the White House said it would be on the lookout for schools using “hidden racial proxies” to seek out minority applicants. It is unclear whether Landscape was being used for that purpose. The tool was an online dashboard where college admission officers could enter an applicant’s address and high school, and see a wealth of data on the community where the student lived, including median family income, the per-

Continued on Page A13

Debate Flares on Unproven Tylenol-Autism Link

By AZEEN GHORAYSHI
For more than a decade, scientists have asked whether acetaminophen — the active ingredient in the painkiller Tylenol — could affect fetal brain development, causing problems in children like autism and A.D.H.D. Some studies have suggested that there is a link; others have found none. Now the latest study, a scientific review by researchers at Harvard’s T.H. Chan School of Public Health and the Icahn School of

New Research Kindles Alarm and Caution

Medicine at Mount Sinai, has been swept into a larger, politically fraught debate about the causes of autism, spurred in part by the views of Robert F. Kennedy Jr., the Health and Human Services secretary. There has been speculation that Mr. Kennedy may cite Tylenol use during pregnancy, among other

environmental factors, as a potential cause of autism in an upcoming report. The review that began the latest round of controversy, which examined 46 existing studies, eight of them looking specifically at autism, found there was evidence for a connection between acetaminophen use during pregnancy and neurodevelopmental disorders. But the researchers who conducted the review cautioned that their conclusion did not mean ac-

Continued on Page A16



ARTS C1-6
Stepping Into Some Big Heels
The countertenor Anthony Roth Costanzo sings in the play “Galas,” a tribute to Maria Callas. PAGE C1

An Artist’s Doubleheader
The painter Ambra Wellmann, whose work reflects the chaos of the internet, has two shows in Manhattan. PAGE C1

NATIONAL A9-17, 20
Stifling ‘Polluter Pays’ Idea
The Trump administration tries to spare the oil industry from paying for climate damage by cranking up efforts to kill laws and lawsuits. PAGE A9

Electoral College Trending Red
In the next decade, population shifts are expected to add electors to reliably Republican states and take away some from Democratic strongholds. PAGE A10

Diplomatic Concern in Seoul
South Koreans were among the hundreds of workers apprehended during an immigration raid at a Hyundai E.V. plant in Georgia, officials said. PAGE A15

INTERNATIONAL A4-8
Starmer’s Deputy Resigns
Angela Rayner, Britain’s deputy prime minister, stepped down after an ethics adviser found she had failed to pay adequate property taxes. PAGE A5

Why Hamas Won’t Give Up
The group believes that war is a “price” Palestinians must pay for their ultimate freedom. News Analysis. PAGE A6

TRAVEL C7-9
Devoted to Nature’s Beauty
Readers shared the names of many of their favorite state parks. Here are some highlights. PAGE C8



SPORTS B6-9
New Quarterback, New Aura
The freshman Bryce Underwood has given a jolt of excitement to a tradition-bound Michigan football team. PAGE B6

Rebounding to U.S. Open Final
Amanda Anisimova, who rallied to defeat Naomi Osaka in the semifinal, will face Aryna Sabalenka. PAGE B8

BUSINESS B1-5
Anthropic Settles Authors’ Suit
The \$1.5 billion settlement by the A.I. company is the largest payout in the history of U.S. copyright cases. PAGE B1

Hollywood’s Lost Summer
Excluding the Covid pandemic years, multiplexes in the U.S. and Canada had their worst summer since 1981. PAGE B1

OPINION A18-19
Jessica Grose PAGE A18

