THE BREAKFAST TABLE

DAILY

"The day's news, for everyone at the table."

SCAN TO READ & PLAY

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TOP STORY • UNITED STATES

US Employers Add 165,000 Jobs, but Pay Still Trails Prices

October hiring was far stronger than experts expected, yet wages are not rising as fast as the cost of living.

Written and fact-checked by AI · News Pebbles

On Friday the Labor Department said US employers added 165,000 jobs in October. Unemployment, the share of people who want work but cannot find it, eased to 4.1 percent. AFP reported that experts had expected only 65,000 new jobs.

Hospitals, factories and transportation companies hired more people, while restaurants and construction companies let workers go. Average hourly earnings rose 3.1 percent over the past year.

Prices rose faster. Inflation, the rise in prices over time, reached 3.7 percent in September. So most workers can buy a little less than before.

The Federal Reserve, the US central bank, raised its main interest rate in September. Its next decision is on December 8-9.



The jobs report covers workers across the whole United States.

WHY IT MATTERS

Jobs, pay and prices decide how far a family's money goes each week, and they guide the Federal Reserve when it sets interest rates, which affect loans.

WORLD • IRAN AND THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ

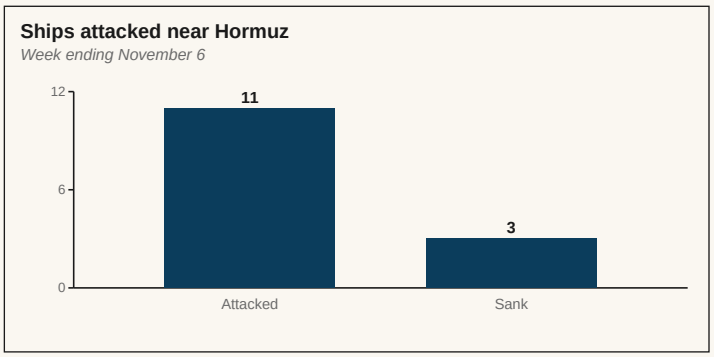
Mediators Work to Stop US-Iran Fighting as Ships Are Hit

Qatar and others urge a deal, while ships near a key oil route came under attack this week.

The Strait of Hormuz is a narrow stretch of sea next to Iran. Oil and gas tankers sail through it, so trouble there can raise fuel prices far away. The United States and Israel began a war on Iran on February 28, and Iran effectively shut the strait early on.

This week the UK Maritime Trade Operations centre said at least 11 ships were attacked in and around the strait, and three sank. On Friday night two projectiles hit Iran's Qeshm island; President Trump called them 'minor strikes'.

Talking goes on. Iran's foreign minister, Abbas Araghchi, spoke with 12 foreign ministers in 48 hours. Qatar's prime minister said the two sides should not wait for a 'perfect moment' to make a deal.



At least 11 ships were attacked and three of them sank, according to the UK Maritime Trade Operations centre.

CONNECT THE DOTS

Geography: the strait is a chokepoint, a narrow passage that many ships must use. Economics: when fewer tankers can pass, oil is harder to deliver, which can push fuel prices up around the world.

UNITED STATES • THE WHITE HOUSE

Trump Picks Stephen Miller as His New Chief of Staff

The president named his closest aide to run the White House team days after Republicans lost Congress.

A chief of staff manages a president's team of advisers. On Friday, November 6, President Trump announced that Stephen Miller will take the job 'starting Monday, November 9, 2026'.

Miller is 41. He is now the White House deputy chief of staff for policy and also the homeland security adviser, and he has been one of Trump's closest aides for more than a decade. He drove the government's mass deportation programme. He replaces Susie Wiles, the first woman in the job, whose last day was Friday.

The change follows the midterms, in which Republicans lost both the House and the Senate. Vice President Vance said the party lost because of the Iran war, and Trump said that was 'largely true'. Democrats take control of Congress in early January. Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer vowed to oppose Miller's appointment.

WHY IT MATTERS

The chief of staff shapes which plans move forward, so this choice hints at how Trump will work with Congress.

Also in United States

• Democrats take control of Congress in early January.

• Mike Johnson plans to step down as top House Republican, a source says.

ONE-LINE BRIEFS

• China: Two giant pandas on a 10-year loan met the public at Zoo Atlanta on Friday.

• Ukraine: Russia hit Kyiv overnight, damaging energy sites and a bridge.

TALK ABOUT IT

TALK ABOUT IT

Prices are rising faster than pay. How could a family make its money stretch?

Why can a narrow sea route matter to people far away?

Why might outside countries help two sides talk?

INDIA • ODISHA AND ANDHRA PRADESH

Odisha Asks for Rs 2,526 Crore After Cyclone and Floods

Two cyclones in a week left roads, homes and jobs damaged along India's east coast.

A cyclone is a huge spinning storm. Two hit India's east coast in a week. Cyclone Murasu came ashore near Ongole, in Andhra Pradesh, at about 1:00 a.m. on Tuesday, November 3, after Cyclone Arnab brought floods to Odisha.

Before Murasu, officials planned to move about 30,000 people to safety. No deaths or injuries had been reported at that time. The storm still uprooted trees and power poles, wrecked fishing boats and hit crops in Prakasam and Bapatla districts.

In Odisha's Ganjam district, all the blocks, the small local areas, were affected, with roads cut off and houses damaged. The Odisha government sent the central government a memorandum, a formal written request, asking for Rs 2,526 crore for relief and rebuilding in Ganjam, Gajapati and Kandhamal. An eight-member central team has visited the damaged areas. The state's Congress chief, Bhakta Charan Das, wants Rs 5,000 crore and a national calamity declaration for the floods.

WHY IT MATTERS

After a storm, families need roads, homes and work restored, and states often ask the national government for money to pay for it.

SPORTS CORNER

SPORTS

Tennis: Retired star Gaël Monfils was named captain of France's Davis Cup team.

TOMORROW'S WATCHLIST

• Whether the US and Iran agree to a deal, or fighting grows, as mediators keep talking.

• Talks between Ukrainian and Russian officials in Abu Dhabi, due within days.

"A good question at breakfast can be the start of the best story of the day." — The Breakfast Table

Keep exploring. See you tomorrow.