



USA OUTLOOK

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER
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Photo: NY TIMES

Gas Prices Continue to Surge in U.S., Rising 14% in a Week

Gas prices in the United States have risen sharply, increasing 14% in one week to an average of \$3.41 per gallon, according to data from AAA. The surge is largely due to disruptions in global oil supply after U.S. and Israeli attacks on Iran, which have limited oil shipments from the Persian Gulf and cut off roughly one-fifth of the world's oil supply.

The price increase varies across the country. Drivers in California are paying around \$5.08 per gallon, the highest in the nation, while drivers in Kansas pay about \$2.90. President Donald Trump said the military operation in Iran is a priority despite rising fuel costs, though experts note that government tools like the Strategic Petroleum Reserve could only provide limited short-term relief if shortages continue.

Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/03/07/business/gasoline-prices.html>

U.S. Court Takes First Steps Toward Ordering Tariff Refunds

A federal judge from the United States Court of International Trade ordered the Trump administration to begin taking steps toward issuing over \$100 billion in tariff refunds to businesses. The ruling follows a decision by the Supreme Court of the United States that determined former President Donald Trump had illegally used the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) to impose tariffs on U.S. trading partners.

The order is considered an early victory for thousands of companies seeking refunds for tariffs they paid. However, the administration is expected to appeal or attempt to delay repayments, arguing that returning the money could create serious financial challenges for the government.

The situation is complicated because tariff **payments go through a long "liquidation" process**, where final amounts are confirmed months after goods enter the country. As a result, many importers—including large companies like FedEx and Costco—have filed lawsuits to ensure they can recover the money they paid if the tariffs are ultimately ruled invalid.



Photo: NYTIMES

Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/03/04/us/politics/judge-order-trump-tariff-refunds.html>



Photo: NY TIMES

Trump Announces He Is Replacing Noem With Oklahoma Senator

Donald Trump announced he is replacing Kristi Noem as Secretary of the United States Department of Homeland Security with Markwayne Mullin, a senator from Oklahoma. The decision followed growing frustration within the administration and criticism during congressional hearings, particularly regarding a costly government advertising campaign that prominently featured Noem.

Noem, who had faced months of controversies related to spending decisions, department management, and immigration enforcement tactics, will instead take on a **new role as special envoy for the “Shield of the Americas,” a security initiative focused on the Western Hemisphere.**

Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/03/05/us/politics/kristi-noem-markwayne-mullin-trump.html>

Trump Says He Should Have Role in Choosing Iran’s Next

Donald Trump stated that the United States should **have a role in choosing Iran’s next leader, calling Mojtaba Khamenei an “unacceptable” candidate to succeed Ali Khamenei.** His comments represent the most detailed explanation yet of his vision for U.S. involvement in shaping a future government in Iran.

Trump has suggested using the recent U.S. operation in Venezuela, which removed Nicolás Maduro from power, as a model for Iran. However, his remarks have created uncertainty about U.S. objectives, as senior officials like Pete Hegseth and Marco Rubio maintain that the goal is not regime change but rather to **dismantle Iran’s nuclear and missile capabilities.**

The proposal has also raised historical sensitivities, **recalling the 1953 Iranian coup d’état, when the United States helped overthrow Iran’s elected prime minister Mohammad Mossadegh and reinstall the shah.** Analysts note that such history could complicate any attempt by Washington to influence **Iran’s future political leadership.**



Photo: NYTIMES

Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/03/05/us/politics/trump-iran-leader.html>



Photo: NYTIMES

Trump Calls On Private Companies to Take On a Bigger Role in Cyber

Donald Trump released a new National Cybersecurity Strategy calling for greater involvement of private companies in U.S. cybersecurity, including potentially helping disrupt adversary networks. This approach could expand the role of the private sector in cyber operations, although legal barriers and concerns about retaliation from foreign actors remain unresolved.

The strategy also focuses on modernizing government systems, strengthening infrastructure protection, developing a skilled cyber workforce, and leveraging artificial intelligence to detect and counter cyber threats. Experts note that the document is significantly shorter than previous strategies and does not explicitly identify China or Russia as cyber adversaries, which some argue could reduce deterrence.

Additionally, the administration is expected to issue executive orders to complement the strategy, including measures targeting cybercrime and online scams. Analysts stress that if private companies take on a larger operational role, clear legal frameworks and government oversight will be necessary to manage risks and ensure coordination with national security efforts.

► Source:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2026/03/01/business/energy-environment/iran-war-oil-prices.html>