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## ‘Day of profound joy’



Released hostage Evyatar David reacts upon arriving at the Rabin Medical Center-Beilinson Hospital in Petah Tikva, Israel, on Oct. 13. STOYAN NENOV/REUTERS

## Families and residents cheer as hostages released

Kathryn Palmer, Zac Anderson, Michael Collins and Bart Jansen  
USA TODAY

Israel celebrated the release of the remaining hostages taken by Hamas militants in the Oct. 7, 2023, attacks as the first phase in the U.S.-brokered ceasefire plan was met with joy around the world on Oct. 13.

Twenty Israeli hostages in Gaza were transferred to the International

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Family and friends of Israeli hostage Eitan Horn react to the news of his release at their house in Rosh Haayin, Israel, on Oct. 13.

GIL COHEN-MAGEN/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

## Economists forecast stronger U.S. growth

Weak job gains, inflation are likely to mar outlook

Howard Schneider  
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – Surging business investment is expected to offset weaker growth in consumption and global trade and keep the U.S. economy growing near trend, according to a National Association for Business Economics survey, though slow job growth, higher unemployment and stickier inflation will mar the outlook.

The Trump administration’s new import taxes remain a drag on the economy’s performance, the survey concluded, with more than 60% of the 40 economists in the poll estimating tariffs would knock up to half a percentage point from economic growth, with both imports and exports falling, and consumer prices rising as a result of the levies. None saw tariffs boosting growth.

But the latest version of NABE’s quarterly survey, released Oct. 13 as part of the group’s annual meeting, upgraded the more pessimistic views about the U.S. outlook offered earlier in the year when concerns about the economic blow from tariffs and the risks of a broader trade war were at their peak.

The median projection was for the economy to grow 1.8% in 2025, around most estimates of underlying potential, compared with 1.3% projected in the June survey.

Inflation as measured by the Federal Reserve’s preferred Personal Consumption Expenditures price index was seen ending the year at 3%, down slightly from the 3.1% projected as of June. But it was also seen declining only to 2.5% in 2026, compared with 2.3% in the June survey, a slower return toward the Fed’s 2% target.

The unemployment rate, meanwhile,

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## 4 dead, at least 20 hurt in shooting at bar in SC

Karissa Waddick  
USA TODAY

Four people were killed and at least 20 others injured in a shooting at a busy South Carolina bar on Oct. 12, authorities say.

The shooting occurred shortly before 1 a.m. at Willie’s Bar and Grill on St. Helena Island, about an hour north of Hilton Head, according to the Beaufort County Sheriff’s Office. Multiple victims were transported to area hospitals. Among those injured, at least four were in critical condition.

The office declined to release the names of those killed pending notification of family members.

“Multiple victims and witnesses ran

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Willie’s Bar and Grill is seen Oct. 12 after an early-morning shooting at the bar on St. Helena Island, South Carolina, that left at least four dead.

SEAN RAYFORD/GETTY IMAGES

## Trump: U.S. may provide Tomahawks to Ukraine

Bart Jansen  
USA TODAY

President Donald Trump said he is considering providing Tomahawk missiles for Ukraine to defend itself against Russia in its ongoing war of three years, a move the Kremlin has warned would increase tensions with the West.

Trump said he had a good conversation on Oct. 12 with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who asked for additional weapons.

“They need Patriots very badly,” Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One. “They’d like to have Tomahawks. That’s a step up.”

The latest threat reflects another

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Firefighters work at the site of a Russian drone strike on Oct. 13 in the outskirts of Odesa, Ukraine.

NINA LIASHONOK/REUTERS

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