

The Waiting Season

A trade deadline, a wildfire, and a nervous morning of data: North America waits with held breath.

In Washington, negotiators speak; in British Columbia, the fire speaks back.

Compiled from US and Canadian (English and French Canadian) sources.

In This Issue

01. Editor's Leader · Holding Pattern on Both Sides of the Border	PG 02
02. Executive Summary · The Day At A Glance	PG 04
03. How The Countries Are Doing · 10 Economies	PG 05
04. Deep Dive · North America Holds Its Breath Between a Trade Deadline and a Wall of Smoke	PG 06
05. What We Are Watching · Our Opinions	PG 08
06. Power Players · Five People Shaping The News	PG 09
07. Daily Briefing · By Country	PG 10
08. Corporate Pipeline · Sector Watch · Calendar	PG 12
09. Bottom Line · Sources & Methodology	PG 14

USA & CANADA - THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2026

Holding Pattern on Both Sides of the Border

North America is not panicking; it is stewing. The mood is watchful, restless, and oddly quiet, as both news and markets seem to pause for a signal that will determine how heavy the coming weeks will feel.

In Canada, that signal is a date: August 19, when tariffs of 50 per cent on Canadian goods could take effect. Trade Minister Dominic LeBlanc was in Washington again today, trying to narrow the gap, but sources say the two sides are not yet close to a deal.

The strain is not only economic. More than 20,000 Canadians have signed a petition calling for the removal of the U.S. ambassador, a small but telling measure of how personal the standoff has become.

Canada is fatigued by the fire and braced for the tariff; the U.S. is waiting on its own numbers.

ON THE REGION - AUGUST 2026

Meanwhile, British Columbia Premier David Eby toured the fire-ravaged Okanagan region on August 13, as crews assessed damage near the Bald Range wildfire. The crisis, which has forced thousands to flee, has become as much a test of endurance as of emergency response.

In the United States, the mood is more business-as-usual, but no less watchful. Softer producer-price data and a scripted feel to the White House calendar reinforce an impression of a country absorbing its stressors rather than confronting them.

The birth tourism task force, with more than 600 visas revoked, adds a quieter but sharper edge: a reminder that borders, and who gets to cross them, are never far from the emotional centre.

The Day At A Glance

A watching day across the continent: one country tired from fire, the other restless before a trade deadline, and both unwilling to look away from the horizon.

Canada - Trade

Minister LeBlanc was in Washington again, but Canadian sources describe the gap as still large six days before August 19.

Canada - Politics

Over 20,000 people have signed a petition demanding the removal of the U.S. ambassador, a raw signal of rising public frustration.

Canada - Society

Premier David Eby toured the fire-hit Okanagan as teams assessed damage near the Bald Range wildfire, where thousands remain displaced.

Canada - Society

Ottawa announced a \$24 million investment in cannabis and brain research, a reminder that ordinary budgets continue amid the strain.

United States - Economy

Softer producer-price figures and the morning jobless claims release left investors reading the data as cautious reassurance, not celebration.

United States - Economy

The S&P/TSX Composite held near flat at 36,670.60, an index matching a national mood: steady, alert, uncommitted.

United States - Politics

The State Department is moving against birth tourism, with more than 600 visas revoked and a task force now formalising the crackdown.

Both - Mood

Neither country is in crisis mode today, but neither is at ease; the region sits in a waiting room with two clocks on the wall.

Backdrop

The trade fight and the wildfires operate on different timescales, yet both leave ordinary people planning around uncertainty rather than certainty.

The Numbers At A Glance - USA & Canada - Thursday, August 13, 2026

US Producer Price Index SOFTER U.S. producer prices came in below market expectations	CA Tariff Threat 50% Potential U.S. tariffs if no deal by August 19	CA Ambassador Petition 20,000+ Signatories seeking removal of U.S. Ambassador Hoekstra	CA Research Spending C\$24M New federal funding for cannabis and brain research
US Visas Revoked 600+ Revocations linked to the birth tourism task force	CA TSX Composite 36,670.60 Index level near 9:30 a.m. ET, essentially flat	CA Wildfire Evacuees 20,000+ People evacuated in British Columbia's Bald Range crisis	US Debt Auction 30-YEAR Treasury auction scheduled later in the session

How The Countries Are Doing

North America is holding its breath, caught between an unresolved trade deadline and a fast-moving wildfire crisis. We gauge the mood across the two economies with fresh findings as of Thursday, August 13, 2026.

Country	Politics	Budget	Money	Markets	Outside	What's Driving It
Canada Anxious - Canadian dollar	3	3	3	3	4	Trade Minister Dominic LeBlanc was in Washington today as the August 19 tariff deadline loomed, with Ottawa rejecting the latest U.S. offer. The anxiety is sharpened by the Bald Range wildfire crisis, which has forced evacuations and drawn federal aid.
United States Watchful - U.S. dollar	3	2	2	3	3	Washington is reactive rather than proactive, with softer-than-expected producer price data shaping market sentiment and a new State Department task force on birth tourism signalling a harder line on visas. The national mood is one of waiting on high-stakes negotiations and policy outcomes.

How to read the colours: 1 = calm, 2 = fairly good, 3 = mixed, 4 = some strain, 5 = serious strain. Updated Thursday, August 13, 2026.

UPPER - UPPER

North America Holds Its Breath Between a Trade Deadline and a Wall of Smoke

Canada and the United States are locked in a high-stakes waiting game this week, with tariff negotiations unresolved and a wildfire crisis testing Canadian resilience. The mood on both sides of the border is one of suspended tension, where economic data and disaster response are read as signals of what comes next.

Part 1 - The Trade Deadline That Will Not Wait

Trade Minister Dominic LeBlanc was in Washington again on Thursday, August 13, as the August 19 deadline for potential 50 percent U.S. tariffs on Canadian goods drew closer. Canada has rejected the latest U.S. trade offer, and sources say the two sides are not yet close to a deal.

The strain is now spilling into public life, with a petition calling for the removal of U.S. Ambassador Pete Hoekstra gaining more than 20,000 signatures. The anger is directed at Washington, but the underlying fear is about Canadian jobs and the economic order that has defined the relationship for decades.

Canada's lead trade negotiator warned U.S. counterparts that more tariffs could halt trade talks, sources say.

CTV NEWS - AUGUST 2026

Part 2 - A Wildfire That Redraws the Map of Normal

While the political class negotiates in Washington, British Columbia is fighting a different kind of emergency. The Bald Range wildfire has forced rapid damage assessments, and Premier David Eby is touring the fire-ravaged Okanagan region as thousands remain displaced.

Part 3 - The American Mood: Data, Policy and a Harder Visa Line

In the United States, softer-than-expected producer price data gave markets a moment of relief, with the S&P/TSX Composite flat at 36,670.60 in early trading. Investors are weighing corporate earnings against a government calendar packed with jobless claims and a 30-year Treasury auction.

The State Department has created a task force to crack down on birth tourism, with more than 600 visas already revoked. It is a policy move with quiet implications for Latin American applicants, signalling a stricter American posture on visa pathways.

POSSIBILITY	CHANCE	MARKETS	BREADTH	WHAT IT MEANS FOR LATIN AMERICA
A - Trade deal reached before deadline	Low	TSX steadies	Canada only	Removes tariff shock risk for regional trade

POSSIBILITY	CHANCE	MARKETS	BREADTH	WHAT IT MEANS FOR LATIN AMERICA
B - Tariffs take effect August 19	Elevated	Canadian dollar softens	North America	Direct hit to Canadian and U.S. exporters
C - U.S. visa line hardens further	Rising	Muted	Global	Tightens birth tourism pathways for LatAm applicants
D - Softer U.S. inflation persists	Moderate	Bonds supported	United States	Eases emerging-market rate pressure

Source: CityNews Toronto, Reuters, Just Security, CBC News, Global News - August 13, 2026

Eight Things We Are Watching

North America is holding its breath between a trade deadline and wildfire smoke. The next six months hinge on whether Washington and Ottawa can close a deal, and how British Columbia recovers.

What	How We See It	Over What Period	Why
Canada-U.S. trade talks	▼ CAREFUL	6 months	Canada rejected the latest U.S. offer and the August 19 deadline for potential 50 percent tariffs is days away, leaving supply chains and jobs exposed.
U.S. producer price data	◆ MIXED	6 months	Softer-than-expected producer prices calmed some nerves, but the market stayed flat as investors weighed whether slower inflation is durable.
B.C. wildfire recovery	◆ MIXED	6 months	More than 20,000 people have been evacuated from the Bald Range fire zone, and Premier Eby's tour of the Okanagan shows the long road ahead.
Birth tourism crackdown	▼ CAREFUL	6 months	The State Department task force has already revoked over 600 visas, signalling tighter scrutiny that could ripple into Latin American visa policies.
Petition against Ambassador Hoekstra	▼ CAREFUL	6 months	Over 20,000 Canadians have signed to demand the U.S. envoy's removal, a sign of how trade friction is spilling into public sentiment.
Canadian research spending	▲ POSITIVE	6 months	Ottawa's \$24 million commitment to cannabis and brain research points to continued investment in health science despite trade pressures.
U.S. jobless claims and Treasury auction	◆ MIXED	6 months	The day's labour data and a 30-year Treasury auction will offer clues on whether the economy is cooling enough to shift rates.

Six People Shaping The News

A trade minister, a provincial premier, and the officials around them are setting the tone for a tense Thursday.

Dominic LeBlanc

Canada's Trade Minister

He is back in Washington today as the August 19 tariff deadline looms, facing an American proposal Ottawa has already rejected. His ability to keep talks alive will define whether Canadian exporters face a 50 percent wall next week.

David Eby

Premier of British Columbia

He is touring the fire-ravaged Okanagan region while more than 20,000 residents remain displaced by the Bald Range wildfire. His government's response is being watched as a test of provincial resilience and federal cooperation.

Pete Hoekstra

U.S. Ambassador to Canada

He has become the focus of public anger north of the border, with more than 20,000 people signing a petition demanding his removal amid trade tensions. His presence symbolises the strained relationship between the two capitals.

Marco Rubio

U.S. Secretary of State

His State Department has created a task force to crack down on birth tourism, with more than 600 visas already revoked. The policy shift carries consequences for travellers and applicants across Latin America.

White House economic team

Executive Branch, United States

They confirmed a busy calendar around producer price data and jobless claims, with a 30-year Treasury auction set for later today. Their reading of softer inflation data will shape messaging in the final days before the tariff deadline.

B.C. emergency coordinators

Provincial response teams

Rapid damage assessments near the Bald Range fire are guiding evacuation and recovery decisions. Their work under fatigue and heat is the quieter story behind the numbers of displaced residents.

The Day, Country By Country

Two countries, two very different emotional registers. Canada is openly anxious and a little defiant; the United States is watchful and procedural, waiting for numbers and deadlines to speak.

CANADA

Trade fatigue meets national pride

The mood is anxious but resilient, with public anger at U.S. pressure now spilling into a petition signed by more than 20,000 people demanding Ambassador Hoekstra's removal. Trade Minister LeBlanc's return to Washington today has not softened the sense that the country is being pushed into a corner ahead of the August 19 tariff deadline. Sources: CityNews Toronto - August 13, 2026; CBC News - August 13, 2026.

Wildfires stretch solidarity

More than 20,000 people have been evacuated from British Columbia's Bald Range fire zone, and Premier Eby's tour of the Okanagan underscores both the human cost and the pride in cross-provincial emergency response. Ottawa has pledged federal aid, but the new normal of rapid-fire evacuations is weighing heavily. Sources: The Hindu - August 13, 2026; Global News - August 12, 2026.

UNITED STATES

A watchful capital

The national mood is business-as-usual but reactive, with the White House calendar focused on producer price data, jobless claims, and a 30-year Treasury auction later in the day. Softer-than-expected producer prices offered some comfort, but the S&P/TSX Composite sat flat at 36,670.60 as investors waited rather than acted. Sources: Reuters - August 13, 2026; Just Security - August 12, 2026.

Policy shifts with a border edge

The State Department's new task force on birth tourism has already revoked more than 600 visas, a move with implications for Latin American applicants. The crackdown sits alongside a government machine that seems more focused on enforcement than outreach. Sources: Just Security - August 12, 2026.

CANADA

Investment in health science

Ottawa announced a \$24 million investment in cannabis and brain research, a reminder that the country is still trying to fund long-term knowledge even amid short-term trade strain. The announcement lands as wildfires and tariffs dominate the daily conversation. Sources: Global News - August 12, 2026.

Economic flatness as a signal

The S&P/TSX Composite opened flat at 9:30 a.m. ET, reflecting a market unsure whether softer U.S. inflation data offsets the risk of a tariff shock. Canadian investors are calibrating for what happens if no deal is reached by next week. Sources: Reuters - August 13, 2026.

UNITED STATES

Economic print dominates

Unemployment Insurance claims and producer price data released this morning are being read as a gauge of whether the economy is cooling enough to shift expectations. The day's Treasury auction will add another layer to that reading. Sources: MTS Insights - August 13, 2026.

Waiting on Washington talks

Even with a busy domestic calendar, the unresolved Canada trade negotiation hangs over U.S. policymaking. The White House confirmed the day's schedule without telegraphing a breakthrough, and markets are holding position. Sources: TradingView - August 13, 2026; Reuters - August 13, 2026.

Pipeline, Sectors, And The Calendar

ITEM	TYPE	WHEN	STATUS
U.S. tariffs on Canadian goods	Trade deadline	August 19, 2026	Unresolved
Canada-U.S. trade negotiations	Diplomacy	August 13, 2026	In progress
Bald Range wildfire evacuations	Emergency response	August 12-13, 2026	Active
Petition to remove Ambassador Hoekstra	Public campaign	August 13, 2026	Growing
U.S. producer price data release	Economic data	August 13, 2026	Released
U.S. jobless claims	Economic data	August 13, 2026	Released
30-year Treasury auction	Debt issuance	August 13, 2026	Scheduled
Cannabis and brain research investment	Funding announcement	August 13, 2026	Announced
B.C. wildfire damage assessments	Recovery	August 13, 2026	Underway
Birth tourism task force enforcement	Immigration policy	August 12, 2026	Active

Sector Watch - Four Things to Track

CANADIAN EXPORT SECTOR

The August 19 deadline for potential 50 percent U.S. tariffs puts exporters in limbo, with Canada rejecting the latest offer and no deal close. Logistics and manufacturing firms are bracing for disruption if negotiations stall.

U.S. TREASURY AND RATES

Softer producer price data and a 30-year auction later today are shaping expectations for borrowing costs. The flat open on the S&P/TSX Composite suggests investors are waiting for clearer direction.

B.C. EMERGENCY AND RECOVERY SERVICES

More than 20,000 evacuees and rapid damage assessments near the Bald Range fire are straining provincial resources even as federal aid is pledged. Recovery spending will likely accelerate once the fire is contained.

HEALTH AND BRAIN RESEARCH

Ottawa's \$24 million investment in cannabis and brain research signals continued public funding for medical science. The sector may see follow-on grants and academic partnerships.

Calendar - Next 30 Days

DATE	EVENT	WHY IT MATTERS
August 19, 2026	Potential 50% U.S. tariffs on Canadian goods take effect	Trade deadline if no deal is reached in Washington negotiations.
August 13, 2026	30-year U.S. Treasury auction	Signal for long-term borrowing costs and investor demand.
August 13, 2026	U.S. jobless claims and PPI release	Read on labour market and inflation temperature.
August 12-13, 2026	B.C. wildfire damage assessments	Determines scale of recovery and federal aid needed.
August 13, 2026	Dominic LeBlanc in Washington	Final push before tariff deadline.
August 13, 2026	Cannabis and brain research funding announced	Confirmed \$24 million Canadian investment.
September 2026	Potential trade deal announcement	If talks progress, a deal could be announced before tariffs escalate.
September 2026	U.S. Federal Reserve policy meeting	Rate decision influenced by inflation and jobs data.
September 2026	B.C. wildfire season peak	Continued evacuation and recovery operations likely.
September 2026	Birth tourism visa policy updates	Further revocations and policy guidance expected.

What Today Tells Us

The region feels suspended between two deadlines: one set by a trade calendar, the other by fire conditions. Canada is bracing for a 50 percent tariff wall while also counting its evacuated and its displaced, emotions pulled between anger at Washington and pride in local response.

The United States is quieter on the surface, absorbed in data prints and auctions, but the unresolved negotiation and the birth tourism crackdown show an administration using border and economic pressure at once. Both countries are waiting, and the next week will tell whether that waiting hardens into conflict or resolves into deal-making.

Sources & Method

CANADA	CityNews Toronto, CBC News, Global News, BNN Bloomberg, Medicine Hat News, Lethbridge Herald - August 12-13, 2026 (English and French Canadian).
UNITED STATES	Reuters, AP News, Just Security, MTS Insights, TradingView, NPR, The Wall Street Journal, U.S. News - August 12-13, 2026 (English).

Method. We sweep the regions main outlets in their languages, rank by impact, and skip what we covered before.

Compiled from major USA & Canada outlets in the regions main languages.
editor@riotimesonline.com - riotimesonline.com - (c) 2026 The Rio Times Online
Personal use only. Please do not redistribute. Not financial advice.