

THE NAX INDEX

YOUR BAROMETER FOR NORTH AMERICAN
CROSS-BORDER FREIGHT CONDITIONS

TRAFFIX[®]

WWW.TRAFFIX.COM

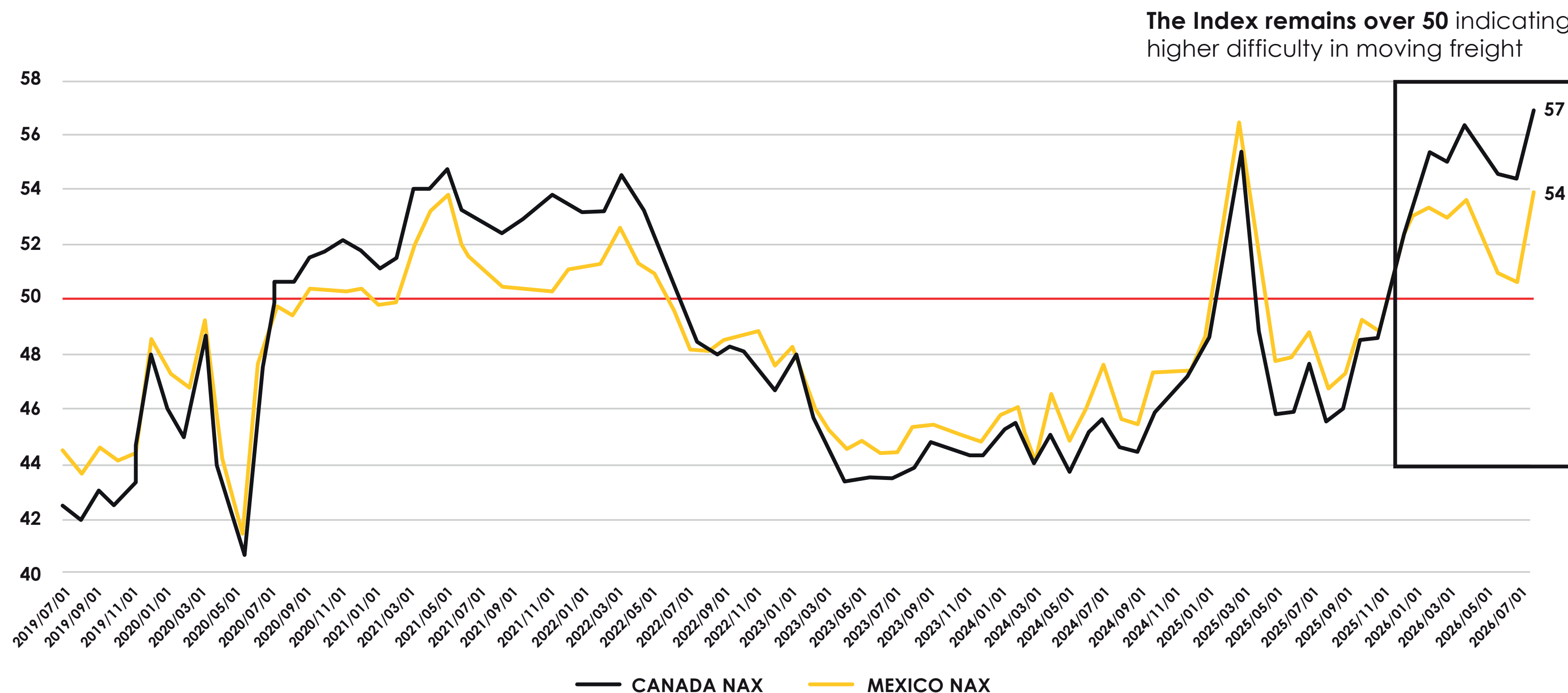


WHAT IS THE NAX INDEX?

The NAX Index is a single score that tracks market pressure for moving freight across the U.S.–Canada and U.S.–Mexico borders.

The NAX weighs the impact of more than 10 economic, freight and trade indicators to provide one signal. The NAX gives you a clear, composite view of market conditions so you can plan and act with confidence.

The NAX Index - August 2026



CANADA NAX: 57
MEXICO NAX: 54

How to read:



>50: tighter conditions (cost ↑, capacity ↓, regulatory challenges high)



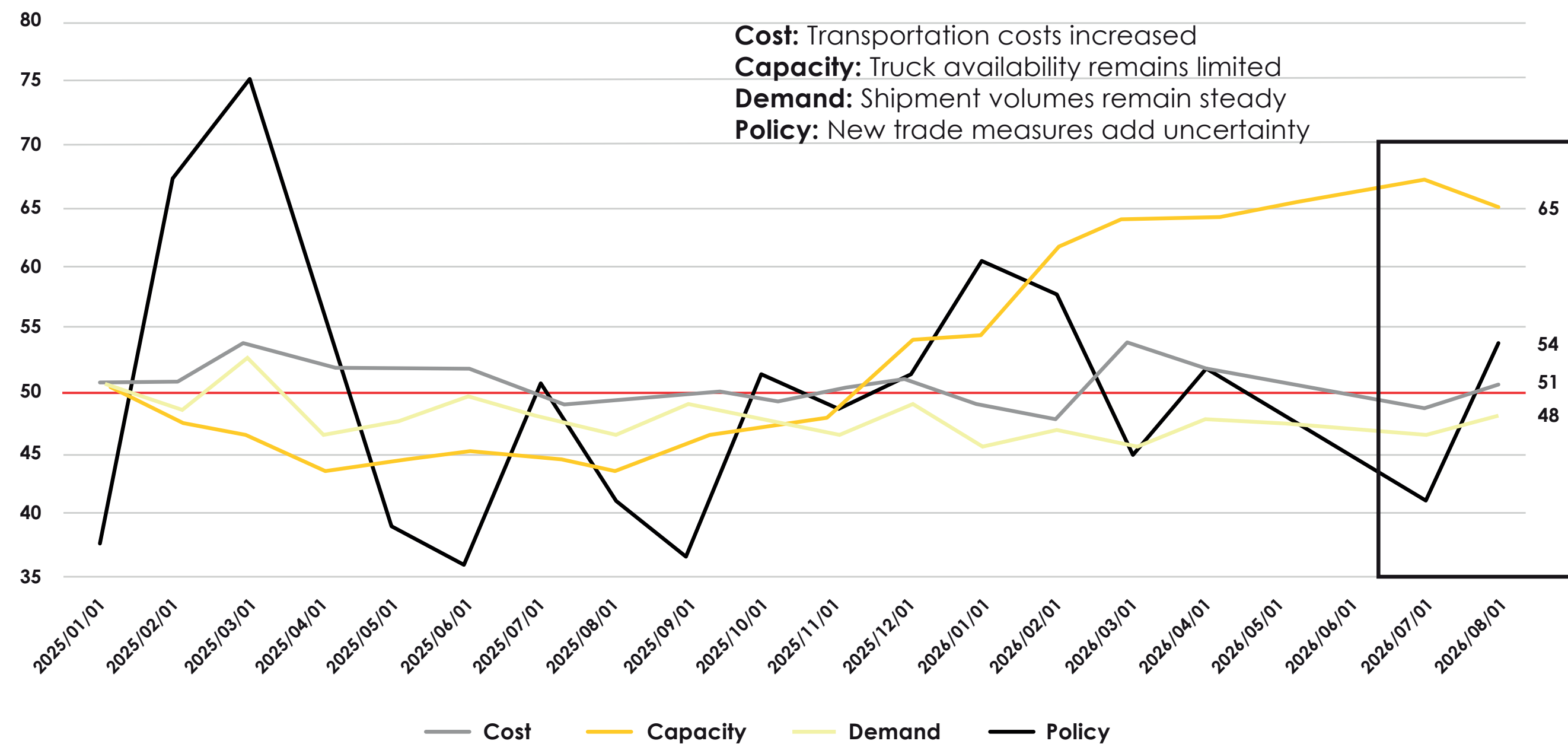
<50: looser conditions (cost ↓, capacity ↑, regulatory challenges low-medium)

[Read the Disclaimer](#)

COST, CAPACITY, DEMAND, POLICY

BREAKING DOWN THE 4 PILLARS OF THE NAX INDEX

NAX Breakdown: Cost, Capacity, Demand, Policy



Costs: Fuel and carrier costs moved higher again, reducing the pricing relief seen last month. Freight that requires quick pickup, fixed delivery times, or limited carrier options may come at a higher cost.



Capacity: Truck availability remains the main day-to-day challenge. Lower seasonal volumes have not provided much relief.



Demand: Shipment volumes have changed little. Demand is not rising sharply, but it has not fallen enough to make trucks easier to secure.



Policy: New and pending tariffs have made Canada-related shipment costs harder to predict. Reviewing duties, product classifications, and landed costs before shipping is now essential for impacted commodities.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR COMPANIES SHIPPING BETWEEN MEXICO, THE US, AND CANADA?

- Cross-border freight became more difficult this month as higher costs and new trade measures added to limited truck availability.
- Canada is somewhat more challenging than previous months with more uncertainty around shipment costs and capacity planning.
- Mexico in comparison, is more similar to previous months, but shippers should still book ahead for high-volume and time-sensitive freight.
- Monitor tariff exposure, confirm carrier coverage early, and keep backup options available for shipments with fixed deadlines

AUGUST 2026 INSIGHTS

Cross-border planning becomes more demanding as limited capacity now overlaps with greater trade-policy uncertainty.

- ✓ The NAX remains above 50, indicating shippers should expect tighter conditions for cross-border freight.
- ✓ Lower seasonal volumes have not made trucks much easier to secure. Capacity remains the main day-to-day challenge, especially for freight with fixed pickup or delivery windows.
- ✓ Canada shipments may require closer cost and schedule reviews as new trade measures add uncertainty to U.S.- Canada freight planning.
- ✓ Mexico remains more manageable than Canada, but truck availability can still affect pickup coverage and rates.
- ✓ Transportation costs remain high, leaving less room for savings when freight requires short notice or guaranteed service.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Truck availability remains limited, and tariff changes require close attention to shipment costs and product requirements.

- ✓ **Review tariff exposure for Canada-related shipments** before the new duties take effect, and update landed-cost estimates for affected goods.
- ✓ **Confirm truck coverage early**, especially for U.S.–Canada freight.
- ✓ **Separate freight, fuel, and duty charges when estimating the total cost** of each shipment.
- ✓ **Prepare a backup carrier or border-crossing option**, where possible, for freight with fixed delivery dates.

WHEN TO CONSIDER ALTERNATIVE MODES

- **Time-sensitive freight:** Consider expedited service when a late delivery could affect production or a customer commitment.
- **Cost-focused freight:** Consider intermodal on suitable lanes to reduce reliance on limited truck capacity.

LET'S TALK ABOUT YOUR CROSS-BORDER SHIPPING

CONTACT TRAFFIX