

THE NAX INDEX

YOUR BAROMETER FOR NORTH AMERICAN
CROSS-BORDER FREIGHT CONDITIONS

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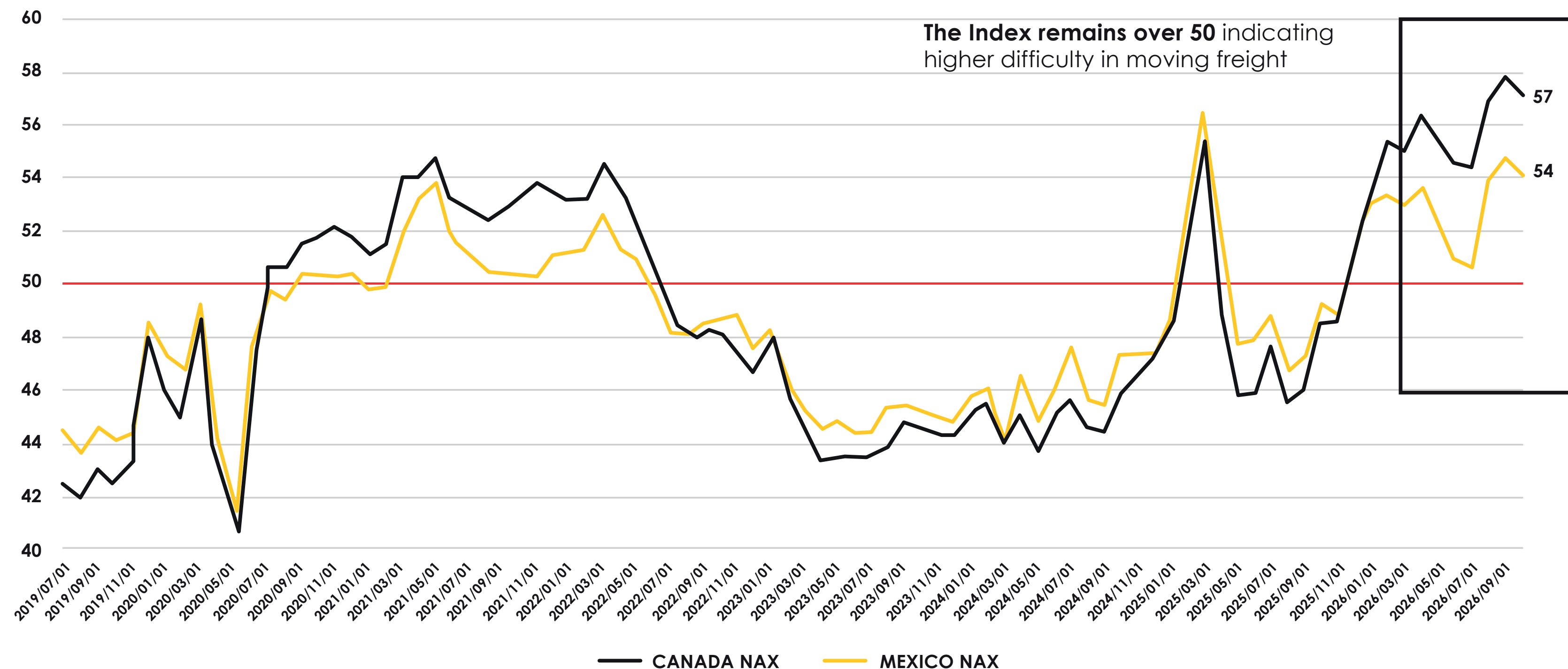


WHAT IS THE NAX INDEX?

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 - October 2026



CANADA NAX: 57
MEXICO NAX: 54

How to read:



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



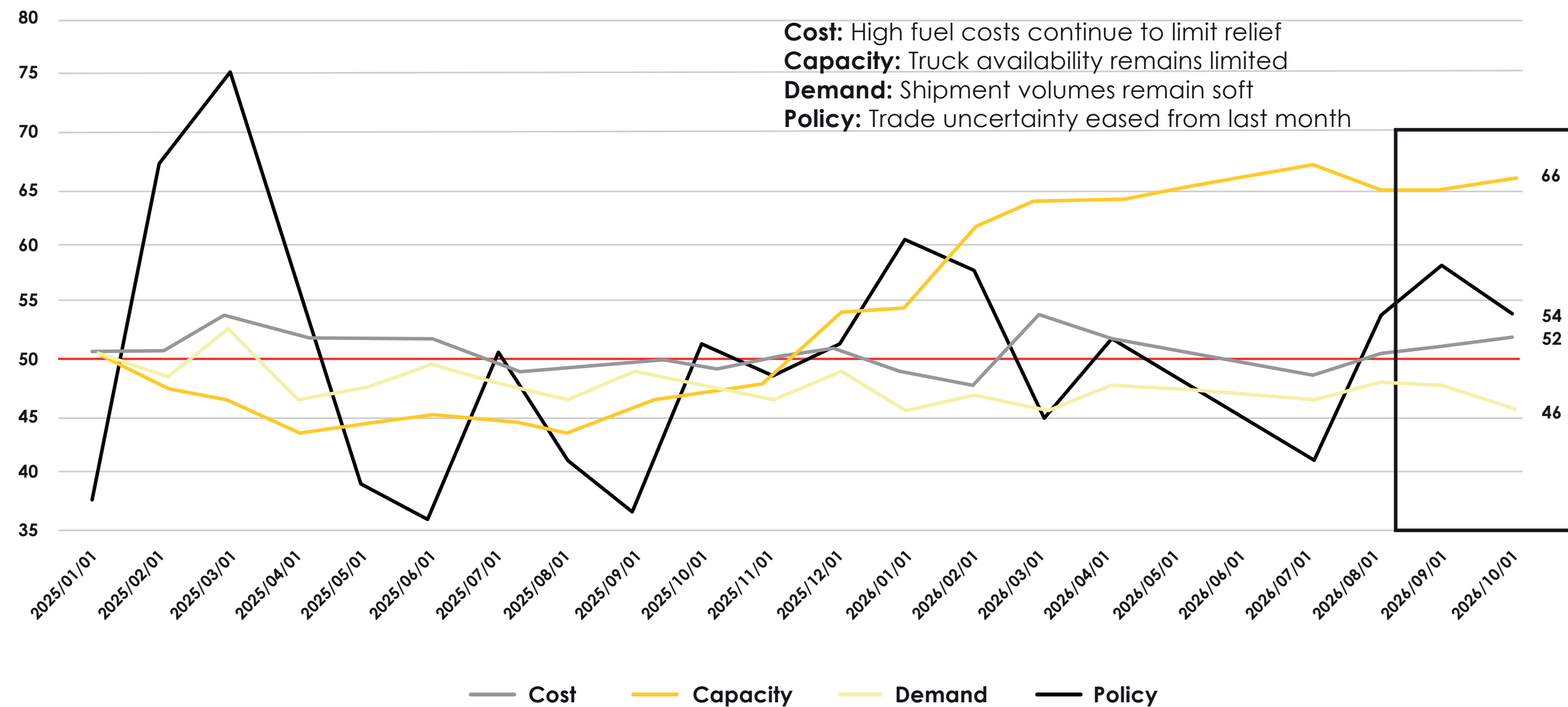
<50: looser conditions (cost ↓, capacity ↑, regulatory challenges low-medium)

[Read the Disclaimer](#)

COST, CAPACITY, DEMAND, POLICY

BREAKING DOWN THE 4 PILLARS OF THE NAX INDEX

NAX Breakdown: Cost, Capacity, Demand, Policy



Costs: Overall cost conditions changed little, but high diesel prices continue to raise fuel surcharges and limit relief in total transportation costs.



Capacity: Truck availability remains limited despite softer shipment volumes. Shippers still have fewer alternatives when primary carrier coverage is unavailable.



Demand: Shipment volumes remain relatively soft. Lower demand has helped prevent further strain on the market but has not been enough to meaningfully improve truck availability.



Policy: Policy conditions have eased from last month's increase, but existing trade measures continue to affect duties, product classifications, and landed-cost planning for some U.S.–Canada shipments.

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

- Cross-border conditions have improved modestly, but the market remains above the level associated with easier shipping conditions.
- Canada continues to require more planning than Mexico, particularly around capacity and total landed costs.
- Mexico remains more manageable in comparison, though limited truck availability can still affect pickup options and pricing.
- The focus heading into Q4 should remain on **capacity planning, fuel exposure, and total shipment costs**.

OCTOBER 2026 INSIGHTS

Cross-border conditions eased slightly, but limited capacity and high fuel costs continue to challenge shippers.

- ✓ **NAX remains above 50 for both Canada and Mexico**, indicating that cross-border shipping continues to be more difficult.
- ✓ **Truck availability has shown little improvement despite softer demand**, leaving fewer options when contracted capacity is unavailable.
- ✓ **High diesel costs and capacity continue to limit transportation cost relief**, even as shipment volumes remain relatively soft.
- ✓ **Trade-policy uncertainty has declined from last month's elevated levels**, but changes already in place continue to affect cost and planning for some U.S.–Canada shipments.
- ✓ **Canada remains more challenging than Mexico**, though both corridors showed modest improvement from the previous month.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Current conditions call for continued attention to capacity and total transportation costs as shippers prepare for Q4.

- ✓ **Secure capacity early on critical lanes**, particularly for shipments with fixed pickup or delivery commitments.
- ✓ **Review fuel surcharge terms and total transportation costs** as high diesel prices continue to affect all-in rates.
- ✓ **Maintain backup carrier options** where limited capacity could put delivery schedules at risk.
- ✓ **Review duties and landed costs for U.S.–Canada shipments** affected by current trade measures.
- ✓ **Use flexible pickup windows where possible** to improve carrier options and reduce short-notice coverage needs.

WHEN TO CONSIDER ALTERNATIVE MODES

- **Time-sensitive freight:** Consider expedited service when a delayed pickup or delivery could affect production or customer commitments.
- **Flexible, longer-haul freight:** Consider intermodal where additional transit time is acceptable and controlling transportation costs is a priority.

LET'S TALK ABOUT YOUR CROSS-BORDER SHIPPING

CONTACT TRAFFIX