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WASHINGTON WATCH



June 2020

U.S Economy Adds 2.5 Million Jobs in May, Jobless Rate Declines

Employment stunningly rose by 2.5 million in May and the jobless rate declined to 13.3 percent, data that was far better than economists had been expecting.

Read more [here](#).



Dow Jumps, NASDAQ Hits a Record After Surprise Jobs Surge

Stocks rallied after an unexpected surge in U.S. jobs raised hope that the economy is starting to recover from the coronavirus pandemic.

Read more [here](#).



Federal Court Rejects Dicamba, Popular EPA-Approved Herbicide

A federal appeals court in California ruled that the federal government must revoke its approval of Dicamba, a widely used weed killer.

Read more [here](#).



Trump Signs Order Expediting Permitting for Infrastructure

Projects

President Trump signed an executive order that would expedite permitting for infrastructure projects, building on earlier orders to ease regulations for industry.

Read more [here](#).



Nearly 1.9 Million People Applied for Unemployment Last Week

Nearly 1.9 million people applied for U.S. unemployment benefits last week, evidence that many employers are still cutting jobs.

Read more [here](#).



Visa Restrictions Likely to Worsen Economic Downturn

A new research paper finds that restrictions on the Optional Practical Training (OPT) program is likely to further hurt the economy.

Read more [here](#).



U.S. Service Sector Contracts for Second Month in Row

The U.S. services sector shrank for a second month in May as the coronavirus pandemic triggered shutdowns and layoffs around the country.

Read more [here](#).



Wipes and Masks Plague Sewers, Storm Drains

By flushing the wrong products, people are taxing infrastructure that is already deteriorating.

Read more [here](#).



U.S. Trade Gap Rises to \$49.4

Billion in April

The U.S. trade deficit hit its highest level in eight months in April as the coronavirus pandemic smothered America's commerce with other countries.

Read more [here](#).



ISM Non-Manufacturing Activity Index Shows Increase in May

The Institute for Supply Management (ISM) reported that its non-manufacturing activity index rose to a reading of 45.4 in May from 41.8 in April.

Read more [here](#).



Commerce Department Reports Factory Orders Dropped 13 Percent in April

The Commerce Department said factory orders dropped 13 percent after falling 11 percent in March.

Read more [here](#).



Remote Work Will Be a Legacy of the Pandemic, Survey Finds

Remote work may be the most influential legacy of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a recent survey released by the Conference Board.

Read more [here](#).



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