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WASHINGTON WATCH



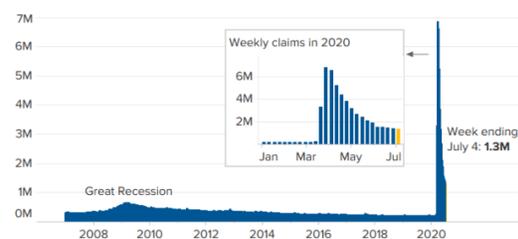
July 2020

Weekly Jobless Claims at Better-Than-Expected 1.3 Million

Weekly jobless claims were lower than expected last week as workers slowly returned to their jobs in the wake of rising coronavirus cases.

Read more [here](#).

Initial claims for unemployment insurance



SOURCE: Department of Labor. Data is seasonally adjusted. Data through July 4, 2020.



Business Groups Make Nationwide Push for Masks

Business groups and economists are calling on Americans to embrace face masks as the best way to slow the spread of COVID-19 and accelerate the economic recovery.

Read more [here](#).



Trump Threatens to Cut Funding for Schools If They Don't Reopen

President Trump ramped up his pressure campaign to get public schools to fully reopen amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Read more [here](#).



FBI Director Slams Chinese Cyberattacks on U.S.

FBI Director Christopher Wray slammed the Chinese government for its use of espionage and cyberattacks against the U.S., calling it "one of the largest transfers of wealth in human history."

Read more [here](#).



Hires Hit One-Month Record High While Layoffs See New Low

Job hires showed their biggest monthly gain ever and separations posted their largest drop as Americans started going back to work in May, the Labor Department reported.

Read more [here](#).



Trump Touts USMCA with Mexican President at White House

President Trump welcomed Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador to the White House to celebrate the new United States-Mexico-Canada trade agreement.

Read more [here](#).



Fewer Americans May Get a Second Stimulus Check

Another batch of one-time stimulus checks could be coming. But this time, far fewer Americans could receive payments.

Read more [here](#).



ICE: Foreign Students Taking Online-Only Classes in Fall Can't Remain in U.S.

The Trump administration unveiled new fall semester rules for foreign students, including a requirement that they take in-person classes to remain in the U.S.

Read more [here](#).



Energy Transfer Vows to Keep Pipeline Open After Court Order

Despite a judge ordering the Dakota Access oil pipeline to shut by early August, its owner Energy Transfer LP is continuing to schedule shipments.

Read more [here](#).



CBO Reports Federal Deficit Rises to Record \$2.7 Trillion Amid Pandemic

The federal deficit in the first nine months of the fiscal year hit a record \$2.7 trillion, nearly double the largest full-year deficit on record, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

Read more [here](#).



Supreme Court: Employers Can Deny Obamacare Birth Control Coverage

The Supreme Court ruled to uphold Trump administration rules allowing employers with sincere moral or religious objections to deny employees access to free contraceptive coverage.

Read more [here](#).



Joe Biden Proposes \$700 Billion-Plus 'Buy American' Campaign

Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden is proposing sweeping new uses of the federal government's regulatory and spending power to bolster U.S. manufacturing and technology.

Read more [here](#).



EIA Revises U.S. Oil, Gas Production Outlooks for 2020

The Energy Information Administration expects U.S. crude oil production to decline this year by 600,000 barrels per day and U.S. oil demand to fall by 8.15 million barrels per day.

Read more [here](#).



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