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WASHINGTON WATCH



September 2020

U.S. Manufacturing Activity Jumps in August

U.S. manufacturing activity accelerated to a nearly two-year high in August amid a surge in new orders, but employment continued to lag.

Read more [here](#).



Home Prices See Biggest Gains in Two Years

Strong demand, low supply and record low mortgage rates are combining to fuel the fastest home price growth since 2018.

Read more [here](#).



White House, Democrats Still Have 'Serious Differences' on Coronavirus Aid

The White House and Democrats are still far apart on the price tag for a fifth package designed to alleviate economic and health-care crises fueled by the pandemic.

Read more [here](#).



White House Halts Evictions as Fears of COVID-19 Housing Crisis Grow

The Trump administration announced that the CDC will invoke its authority to halt evictions through the end of the year in an effort to slow the

spread of COVID-19.

Read more [here](#).



Budget Deficit Projected at Record \$3.3 Trillion Due to Virus, Recession

The federal budget deficit is projected to hit a record \$3.3 trillion due to COVID-19 costs and the recession, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

Read more [here](#).



Fed Study Finds Wage Growth Skewed by High Unemployment

Despite a sharp spike in unemployment since March 2020, aggregate wage growth has accelerated due almost entirely to job losses among low-wage workers, a Fed study says.

Read more [here](#).



Drilling, Mines, Other Projects Hastened by Trump Order

The Trump administration is seeking to fast track environmental reviews of dozens of major energy and infrastructure projects during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Read more [here](#).



Trump Administration Proposes Easing Oil and Gas Permitting in National Forests

The Trump administration has issued a proposal that would make it easier to permit oil and gas drilling operations in national forests.

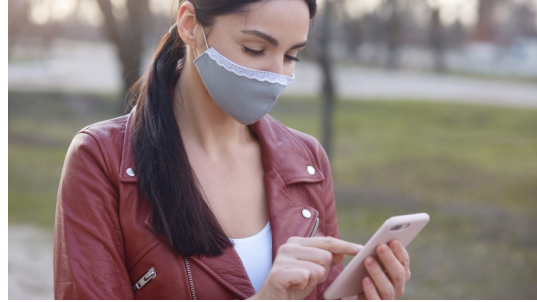
Read more [here](#).



Apple, Google Build Virus-Tracing Tech Directly into Phones

Apple and Google are trying to get more U.S. states to adopt their phone-based approach for tracing and curbing the spread of the coronavirus.

Read more [here](#).



U.S. Refineries Adapt to Fuel Demand Slump

Plunging demand for transportation fuels due to the coronavirus pandemic has prompted U.S. refineries to make operational changes.

Read more [here](#).



FAA Approves Amazon Drone Deliveries

Amazon has received approval from the Federal Aviation Administration to operate its fleet of Prime Air delivery drones.

Read more [here](#).



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