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# WASHINGTON WATCH



February 2021

## CBO Predicts Rapid Economic Growth by Mid-2021

The Congressional Budget Office upgraded its U.S. economic outlook, saying GDP growth will recover “rapidly.”

Read more [here](#).



## U.S. Productivity in Fourth Quarter Fell by Largest Amount in 39 Years

U.S. productivity in the October-December 2020 quarter fell by the largest amount in 39 years as the coronavirus pandemic roiled the labor market.

Read more [here](#).



## Federal Reserve Officials Split on Need for More Fiscal Aid

As the White House and Congressional Democrats press for a \$1.9 trillion pandemic relief package, Federal Reserve policymakers are split.

Read more [here](#).



## Biden Administration Starts Emissions Discussions

The Biden administration has begun conversations with utility and auto companies about working together to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Read more [here](#).



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## U.S. Unemployment Claims Fall to 779,000 But Job Cuts Continue

The number of Americans seeking unemployment benefits declined to 779,000 for the most recent reporting period, a still-historically high total as people keep losing jobs to the pandemic.

Read more [here](#).



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## Biden Signs Executive Orders Focused on Immigration

President Biden defended his early reliance on executive actions as he signed additional orders focused on immigration.

Read more [here](#).



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## Treasury Plans Record Debt Sale; No Big Changes Before New Stimulus

The U.S. Treasury Department held steady its planned issuance of longer-dated securities at an upcoming quarterly debt auction.

Read more [here](#).



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## Federal Court Tosses Trump EPA's 'Secret Science' Rule

A federal court has vacated the Trump administration's "secret science" EPA rule, which critics said would undermine the use of public health studies in agency rulemaking.

Read more [here](#).



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## U.S. Shale Predicted to Continue Growing Under Biden

A top energy analyst believes that the Biden administration will be hesitant to reduce U.S. oil and gas output despite green credentials.

Read more [here](#).



## McKinsey To Settle States' Opioid Claims for \$573 Million

McKinsey & Company has reached a \$573 million settlement with nearly 50 states as well as the District of Columbia and territories, over its role helping market and boost sales of opioids.

Read more [here](#).



## Biden Administration Pulls Drilling Permits

The Biden administration is revoking dozens of invalid drilling permits issued by Interior Department workers without the approval of political appointees.

Read more [here](#).



## Analysis: Future of WOTUS Remains Uncertain

The Waters of the U.S. rule has undergone multiple changes in recent years, but it's unclear when or if they will stop, according to legal experts.

Read more [here](#).



## FERC Mulls Stricter Pipeline Eminent Domain Rules

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has revived the issue of pipeline eminent domain.

Read more [here](#).



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Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce/Associated Industries of Arkansas  
1200 W. Capitol Ave., Little Rock, AR 72201  
P.O. Box 3645, Little Rock, AR 72203  
501-372-2222 | [arkansasstatechamber.com](http://arkansasstatechamber.com)