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February 2021

Why the Power Grid Failed in Texas and Beyond

Unusually cold temperatures exposed flaws in an electricity system designed for more consistent and predictable seasonal shifts.

Read more [here](#).



Major Disaster Declared After Texas Storms

President Biden declared a major disaster for much of Texas after the state was struck by a severe winter storm that left millions without power and water.

Read more [here](#).



Southern Cities Hit Hard by Storms Face New Crisis: No Water

Southern cities slammed by winter storms that left millions without power for days have traded one crisis for another: Busted water pipes.

Read more [here](#).



Back-Up Generator Demand Surges Amid Increase in Extreme Weather Events

Demand for alternative home powering sources is surging amid an increase in extreme weather events, such as the unprecedented snowfall across Texas.

Read more [here](#).



Gulf Freeze May Boost Gas Prices, But Only Briefly

A deep freeze in the Gulf state region and beyond forced as many as 11 refineries offline. The resulting capacity cuts could drive gas prices up by about 10 to 20 cents per gallon.

Read more [here](#).



U.S. Industrial Production Climbs 0.9 Percent in January

American industry expanded for the fourth consecutive month in January, but it has yet to return to the level of activity that preceded the pandemic.

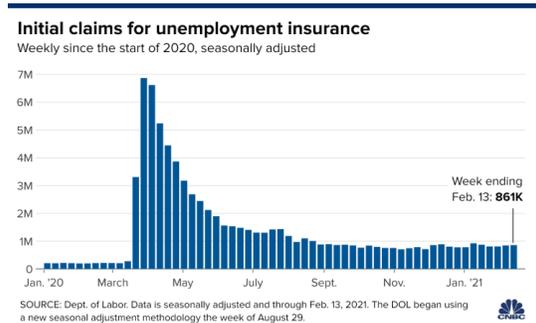
Read more [here](#).



Department of Labor Reports 861,000 Initial Unemployment Claims

The U.S. Department of Labor reported 861,000 initial unemployment claims for the most recent reporting period, suggesting continued problems in the labor market.

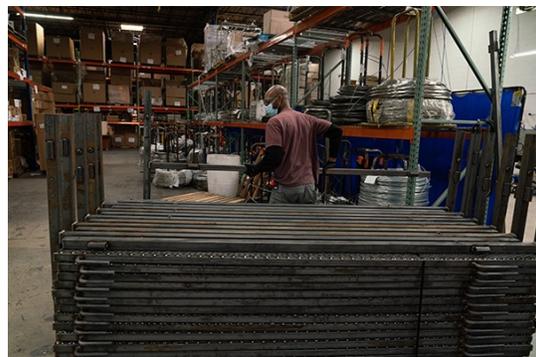
Read more [here](#).



U.S. Producer Prices in January Post Biggest Gain Since 2009

U.S. producer prices increased by the most since 2009 in January as the cost of goods and services surged, suggesting inflation at the factory gate may be starting to creep up.

Read more [here](#).



Employers Face Tough Questions About Mandating Vaccine

A recent Littler Mendelson survey showed that only 6% of employer respondents intend to mandate the COVID-19 vaccine for their workers.

Read more [here](#).



Congress Considers Immigration Bill

President Biden and Democrats in Congress are teaming up to unveil a bill that would overhaul America's immigration system.

Read more [here](#).



Biden Administration Eyes "Normal" Christmas

Andy Slavitt, the Biden Administration's COVID-19 advisor, says Christmas is a 'reasonable' timeline for getting back to normal.

Read more [here](#).



Adequate Ventilation Critical to Reducing Transmission of COVID-19

Scientists have found that adequate ventilation is critical to reducing the transmission of COVID-19, and NAM and the CDC have partnered to launch a webpage to provide useful information.

Read more [here](#).



Steel Producers Look to Cut Carbon Emissions

Steel makers are looking at how to reduce their carbon footprint, whether in ironmaking, improved steel pipelines and the reduction of waste.

Read more [here](#).



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