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April 2021

Fed Says U.S. Economic Activity Has Picked Up to Moderate Pace

U.S. economic activity has picked up pace and consumer spending has improved, according to the recently released Fed's Beige Book.

Read more [here](#).



After Union Battle, Bezos to Focus on Amazon Workers

After a union battle at an Alabama warehouse, Amazon founder Jeff Bezos said he will focus on making the company a better place to work.

Read more [here](#).



U.S. Industrial Production Warms with the Weather, Rising 1.4 Percent

American industry rebounded last month as the United States recovered from an unusually frigid February.

Read more [here](#).



Walmart Announces Plan to Make More Workers Full Time

Walmart is moving more of its workers full time as the nation's largest private employer looks for more ways to attract and retain employees.

Read more [here](#).



Survey Finds Many U.S. Employers Facilitating Coronavirus Vaccines

Employers are taking several steps to facilitate employee vaccination, according to a recent survey by Willis Towers Watson.

Read more [here](#).



U.S. Retail Sales Surge in March, Pushed by Use of Consumer Stimulus Checks

A fresh batch of stimulus checks sent consumer prices surging in March as the U.S. economy continued to get juice from aggressive congressional spending.

Read more [here](#).



Unemployment Claims Falls to Coronavirus Pandemic Low of 576,000

The Labor Department reported that the number of Americans filing first-time jobless claims during the most recent period fell to the lowest level since the onset of COVID-19.

Read more [here](#).



Big Business Pushback Against Voting Measures Gains Momentum

Big business has ratcheted up its objections to proposals that would make it harder to vote, with several hundred companies and executives signing a new statement.

Read more [here](#).



Senate Democrats to Advance

Infrastructure Bill to Gauge Bipartisan Support

The Democratic-controlled U.S. Senate is expected to take its first step forward soon on President Biden's \$2.3 trillion infrastructure package.

Read more [here](#).



Despite Normal Spring, Texas Electric Grid Seeks Boost

The electric grid manager for most of Texas issued an electricity conservation watch, appealing to customers to conserve electricity despite weather conditions typical for spring.

Read more [here](#).



Interior Department Halts Mining, Leasing for Two Years on Alaska Tracts

The Interior Department put a hold on a last-minute series of Trump administration orders that proposed to open as much as 28 million acres of federal lands in Alaska to mining.

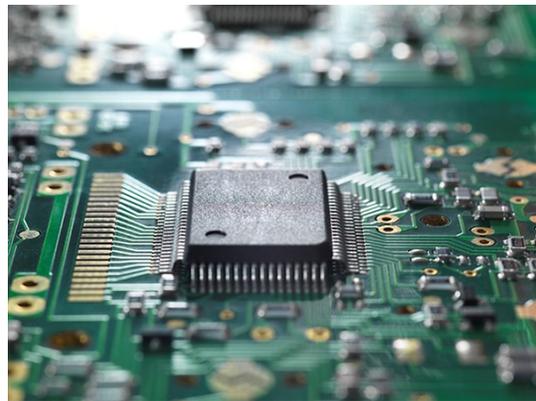
Read more [here](#).



Biden's Chip Dreams Face Reality Check of Supply Chain Complexity

President Biden's plans to rejuvenate U.S. chip manufacturing will have to address the complexity of the global semiconductor supply chain.

Read more [here](#).



New Projects to Boost Gulf of Mexico Oil Production

U.S. Gulf of Mexico oil production should jump to an average 1.71 million barrels per day (bpd) in 2021 and 1.75 million bpd in 2022.

Read more [here](#).



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