



May 2021

U.S. Job Openings Soar to Highest Level on Record

U.S. employers posted a record number of available jobs, illustrating starkly the desperation of businesses trying to find new workers as the country emerges from the pandemic.

Read more [here](#).



Producer Prices Jump in April, Raising Inflation Concerns

Companies paid much higher prices to producers in April for everything from steel to meat in another sign of inflation in an economy rapidly recovering from the pandemic.

Read more [here](#).



Increasing Number of States Move to End COVID-19 Unemployment Benefits

An increasing number of states are moving to end the extra \$300 a week in COVID-19 pandemic-related unemployment benefits, arguing the relief is discouraging workers from rejoining the labor force.

Read more [here](#).



Recovery Exposes Economic Weak Points

As the U.S. economy revs up, materials shortages and other supply chain problems are keeping it from growing at full speed.

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Employers Can Require Employees to Take the COVID-19 Vaccine

From a legal standpoint, employers can require the vaccine as a condition of employment based on previous regulations established by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Read more [here](#).



Trump Tax Break for Certain Businesses Gets Pass in Biden Plan

President Biden wants to raise taxes on the wealthy to help pay for the \$1.8 trillion American Families Plan. But his plan skips changes to the 20 percent pass-through business deductions.

Read more [here](#).



National Gas Average Tops \$3.02 Per Gallon as Hacked Pipeline Slowly Restarts

Gas prices have jumped more than eight cents in the last week as the Colonial Pipeline shutdown disrupted a crucial artery in the U.S. petroleum industry.

Read more [here](#).



Abbott Labs Has Team of 'Virus Hunters' to Monitor New COVID-19 Variants

Abbott Labs has a team of "virus hunters" working with health officials around the world to monitor COVID-19 variants, as some mutated strains show an ability to evade detection.

Read more [here](#).



Malware Thieves and Ransomware Turn Attention to Manufacturers

The manufacturing industry has been hit especially hard by cyber attackers, reporting the highest number of ransomware attacks over the last 12 months.

Read more [here](#).



U.S. Approves First Big Offshore Wind Farm

The U.S. government recently issued final federal approval for the Vineyard Wind project, a utility-scale wind farm that has been in the planning for more than a decade.

Read more [here](#).



What Employees Need to Feel Safe at Work

Companies might encounter certain challenges as they attempt to bring employees back to the office, as anxieties linger about the COVID-19 pandemic.

Read more [here](#).



Digital Commerce Is the New Norm for Manufacturers

Business buyers are now making digital purchasing a permanent change in how they procure products and services for their organizations.

Read more [here](#).



Part of Suez Canal Will Be Widened, Official Says

The chairman of the Suez Canal Authority said that part of the waterway would be widened after it was shut down in March by a grounded cargo ship.

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