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WASHINGTON WATCH



July 2021

Delta Variant Raises Fears Virus Surge Will Derail Recovery

Resurgent pandemic worries have been fueled by fears that faster spreading variants of the COVID-19 virus may upend the economy's strong recovery.

Read more [here](#).



GOP Blocks Infrastructure Bill Temporarily

Senate Republicans blocked Democrats' attempt to start formal debate on a bipartisan infrastructure plan, arguing that Democrats are rushing the procedural vote.

Read more [here](#).

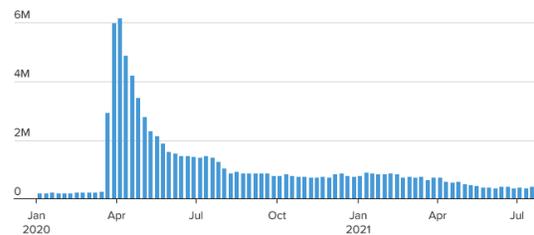


U.S. Jobless Claims Show Surprise Gain, Well Above Expectations

Weekly jobless claims unexpectedly moved higher despite hopes that the U.S. labor market is poised for a strong recovery heading into the fall.

Read more [here](#).

Initial claims for unemployment insurance



Local Officials Across U.S. Reimposing COVID-19 Mask Rules

Local officials across the country are pleading with Americans to once again wear masks inside as the delta variant rips through the U.S.

Read more [here](#).



China Rejects Hacking Charges, Accuses U.S. of Cyberspying

China rejected an accusation by Washington and its Western allies that Beijing is to blame for a hack of the Microsoft Exchange email system.

Read more [here](#).



New Cybersecurity Order Issued for U.S. Pipeline Operators

The Department of Homeland Security announced new requirements for U.S. pipeline operators to bolster cybersecurity.

Read more [here](#).



U.S. Home Construction Jumps 6.3 Percent in June

Home construction in the U.S. jumped 6.3 percent in June, another big swing in a volatile year.

Read more [here](#).



U.S. Judge Rules DACA Program Illegal, Suspends New Applications

A U.S. federal judge in Texas blocked new applications to a program that protects immigrants who were brought to the U.S. as children from deportation.

Read more [here](#).



U.S. Manufacturing Output Dips as Chip Shortage Weighs on Motor Vehicles

Output at U.S. factories unexpectedly fell in June as motor vehicle production dropped amid an unrelenting global semiconductor shortage.

Read more [here](#).



Wholesale Inflation over Past Year Jumps by Record Amount

Inflation at the wholesale level jumped 1 percent in June, pushing price gains up over the past 12 months by a record 7.3 percent.

Read more [here](#).



Fed Says U.S. Supply Chain Disruptions to Continue

Supply chain disruptions that have persisted throughout the pandemic are likely to take longer than anticipated to clear up.

Read more [here](#).



Oil Prices Fall After OPEC Reaches Agreement

Oil prices dropped more than 2 percent after major global oil producers reached a compromise on supply.

Read more [here](#).



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