



July 2021

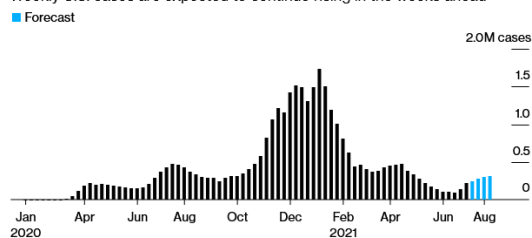
COVID Increase in Hot-Spot U.S. States Predicted to Worsen

The recent rise in COVID-19 cases shows no signs of abating in U.S. states, including Arkansas, that have fueled the uptick as the delta variant proliferates.

Read more [here](#).

Forecasted Rise

Weekly U.S. cases are expected to continue rising in the weeks ahead

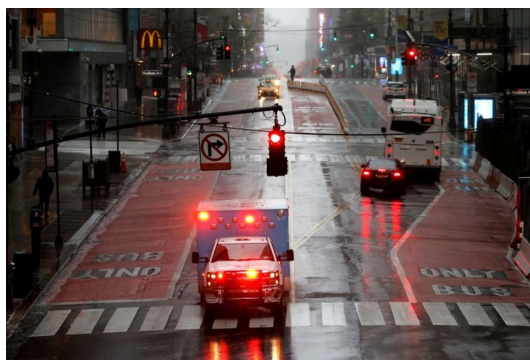


Source: CDC
Note: Data are observed and forecasted weekly COVID-19 cases

Biden Administration Releases COVID Funds to Boost Local Economies

The Biden administration has released \$3 billion in COVID-19 rescue funds aimed at helping localities bolster their economies in the wake of the pandemic.

Read more [here](#).



Senators, White House in Talks to Finish Infrastructure Bill

Senators and the White House remain locked in intense negotiations to salvage a bipartisan infrastructure deal, with pressure mounting on all sides to wrap up talks and show progress.

Read more [here](#).



U.S. Manufacturers Take Double Hit from Labor and Materials

Labor and supplies are tight for manufacturers.

Read more [here](#).



Housing Prices Hit New High in June, Up 23 Percent in Year

The median sale price of an existing home rose to a record high of \$363,300 in June as purchases broke a four-month string of declines.

Read more [here](#).



Young Workers Remaining with Manufacturers Because of Training Opportunities

Training, development, and career growth opportunities are essential to keeping manufacturing employees young than 25.

Read more [here](#).



New Technology Propels Efforts to Fight Western Wildfires

Firefighters are using new technology and better positioning of resources in a bid to keep small blazes from erupting into mega-fires.

Read more [here](#).



Chinese Floods Tangle Supply Chains

Floods have wreaked havoc in central China, posing challenges to a major economic hub.

Read more [here](#).



As Coastal Flooding Worsens, Some Cities Retreat

Managed retreat is an opportunity to preserve the essential while redesigning high-risk areas in ways that are better for everyone.

Read more [here](#).



How Companies Can Defend Against Ransomware Attacks

Ransomware attacks are increasing in frequency, and companies need to safeguard industrial control systems and operational technology.

Read more [here](#).



Carbon-Capture Pipelines Offer Climate Aid

The projects could transform the Corn Belt into one of the world's largest corridors for carbon capture and storage.

Read more [here](#).



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