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Michael Flynn says he is not ready to be sentenced, U.S. says he is ready



Inside C2

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Make Today Different

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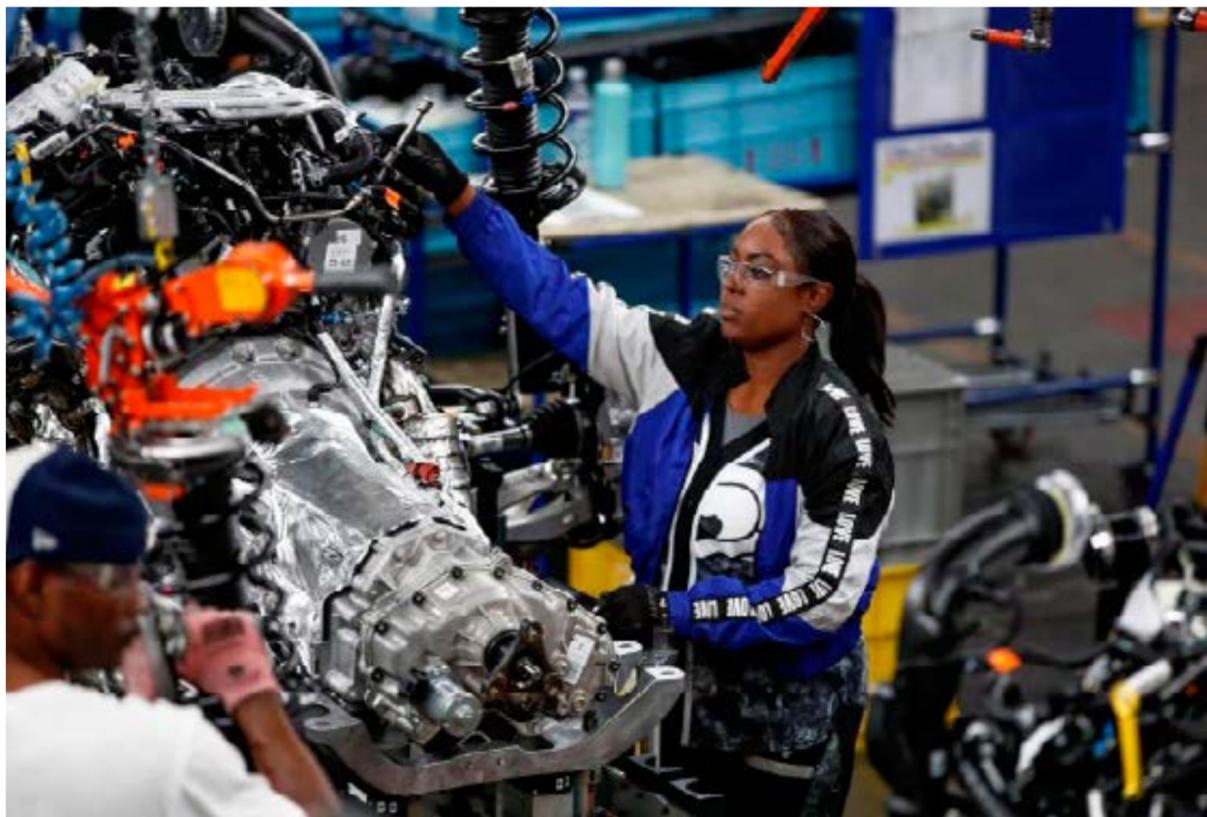
Sunday, September 8, 2019 | www.today-america.com | Southern News Group

Tight U.S. labor market shrinks gender and race gaps to record lows

NEW YORK (Reuters) - A tight U.S. labor market and booming demand in industries with an abundance of female workers is drawing more women back into the workforce, helping to shrink the longstanding gap in the labor participation rate between men and women to the narrowest on record.

FILE PHOTO: Workers build the 2020 Ford Explorer at Ford's Chicago Assembly Plant in Chicago, Illinois, U.S. June 24, 2019. REUTERS/Kamil Krzaczynski/File Photo
Other parts of a report released by the Labor Department on Friday showed that the longest economic expansion on record is leading to improvements for workers who are often left on the sidelines. Not only did the unemployment rate for African Americans drop to a record low of 5.5% in August, it narrowed to being 1.62 times the white unemployment rate, the smallest gap ever.

The share of women aged 25 to 54 who either have jobs or are looking for work rose by a full percentage point in August to 76.3%, according to the report. The gain helped to lift the overall labor participation rate to 63.2%, one of the bright spots in a monthly jobs report otherwise riddled with signs of a softening U.S. economy.



“What we’re seeing is the benefits of a strong labor market,” said Nick Bunker, an economist at the Indeed Hire Lab. “Workers who in the past have been shut out of the labor market, including women, workers of color and workers with disabilities have seen increasing gains.”

While the share of men who are working or looking for jobs is still higher at 89%, participation has been growing more strongly for women over the past several years.

Women are benefiting because they have a stronger presence in rapidly growing sectors such as health care and education, Bunker said. The education and health services sector, where women hold roughly three of every four jobs, added 32,000 jobs in August, topped only by the professional services and government sectors. However, many of those jobs are often low paying, contributing to the overall gender wage gap. The labor participation rate for men, in contrast, has stalled since the recession because men tend to work disproportionately in sectors such as manufacturing, which suffered greatly during the downturn, said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics.

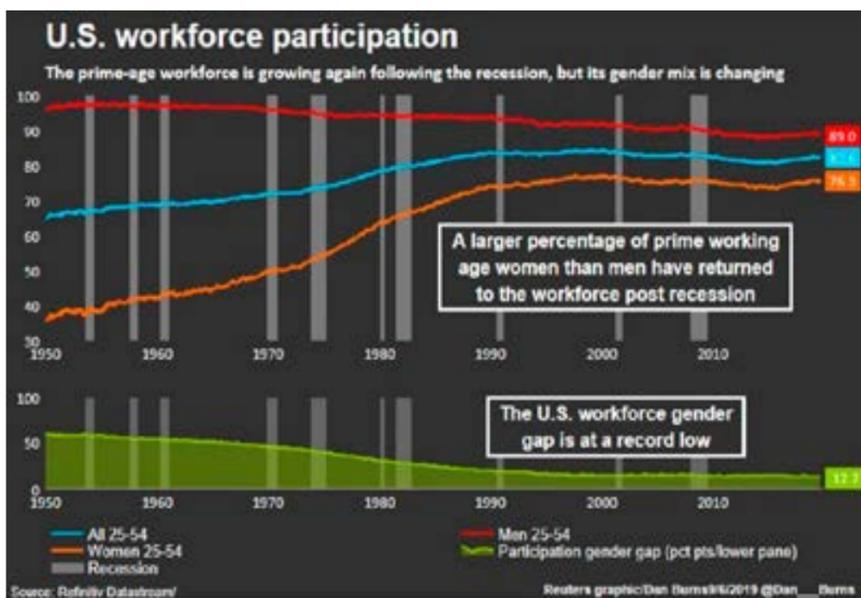
The labor participation rate for men is now 12.7 percentage points higher than women, down from 13.4 percentage points a year earlier, and the lowest since 1950.

That gap could continue to shrink as women benefit from college degrees, which they are more likely to hold than men, Zandi said. The labor participation rate for women increased steadily after the 1950s as more women entered the workforce, but the trend stopped in 2000 when the labor force participation rate for women peaked at 77%. Progress stalled in the United States as some women were hindered by expensive child care and other long-standing challenges, including the gender pay gap, Zandi said.

After bottoming at 73% in 2015, the participation rate for women is rising again and finally approaching the highs seen almost two decades

ago. FILE PHOTO: Workers build the 2020 Ford Explorer at Ford's Chicago Assembly Plant in Chicago, Illinois, U.S. June 24, 2019. REUTERS/Kamil Krzaczynski/File Photo

“This highlights why it’s so important to have a strong economy because it helps those that really have struggled for many decades,” Zandi said.



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Hope grows for deal to avoid U.S. tariffs on Mexican goods

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Hope grew on Wednesday for a deal to avoid the United States imposing tariffs on Mexican goods in return for Mexico doing more to halt illegal immigration but President Donald Trump said he was willing to go ahead with the import duties if he is not satisfied.

Trump said he thinks Mexico wants to reach an agreement to stop a new trade war - one that analysts believe might tip its economy into a recession - while a White House trade adviser and senior Republican U.S. lawmaker predicted that Washington might not introduce the proposed tariffs.

"Mexico can stop it. They have to stop it, otherwise we just won't be able to do business. It's a very simple thing. And I think they will stop it. I think they want to do something. I think they want to make a deal, and they sent their top people to try and do it," Trump said at the start of a visit to Ireland. Warren criticizes Trump's 'dart throwing' Mexico tariff decision

U.S. pushes Mexico to take more asylum seekers, tighten controls: sources

Frustrated by the lack of progress on a signature issue from his 2016 election campaign, Trump unexpectedly told Mexico last week to take a harder line on curbing illegal immigration or face 5% tariffs on all its exports to the United States starting on Monday, rising to as much as 25% later in the year.

Mexican officials will seek to persuade the White House in talks hosted by U.S. Vice President Mike Pence on Wednesday that their government has done enough to stem immigration and avoid tariffs. Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said he was optimistic the talks can end in an agreement.

Trump said he would go ahead with the tariffs if Mexico does not do more to control migratio

Lopez Obrador has received an official list of U.S. products that could be subject to retaliatory tariffs if the duties threatened by Trump take effect, officials said in Mexico City.

Trump has faced resistance within his own Republican Party over the threatened tariffs, with many lawmakers concerned about the potential impact on cross-border trade and on U.S. businesses and consumers.



Trucks cross the border-line into the U.S. before border customs control at the World Trade Bridge, as seen from Laredo, Texas U.S., June 3, 2019. REUTERS/Carlos Jasso



Amanda, an asylum seeker from El Salvador, washes shoes as 16 year-old daughter Merli watches at a makeshift tent camp near the Brownsville-Matamoros International Bridge where they wait in hopes of soon being granted entry into the U.S. in Matamoros



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Editor's Choice



Children play as community members gather in a park to discuss gang violence in Manenberg township, Cape Town



A view of a looted supermarket after Hurricane Dorian hit the Abaco Islands in Marsh Harbour



Plastic waste pile and debris are seen up near the beach in Panama City



Riot police walk near a fire set by anti-extradition bill protesters during a protest at Prince Edward in Hong Kong



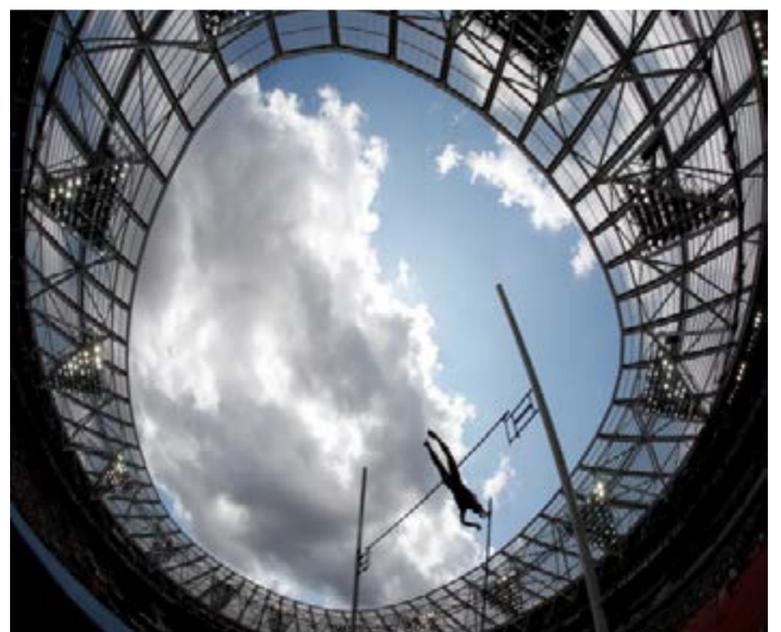
The faithful sing in the rain as Pope Francis holds Holy Mass at Zimpeto stadium in Maputo, Mozambique



Paddlers take part in the Fontanka-SUP stand up paddle boarding festival in Saint Petersburg



A hooded demonstrator waves a Puerto Rican flag during the seventh day of protest calling for the resignation of Governor Ricardo Rossello in San Juan



Athletics - Diamond League - London Anniversary Games - London Stadium, London, Britain 2019 Sweden's Michaela Meijer in action in the women's pole vault REUTERS/David Klein

The State Plans For The Next Storm "Future-Proofing" Texas Against Natural Disaster



Photo courtesy of Texas Task Force 1.

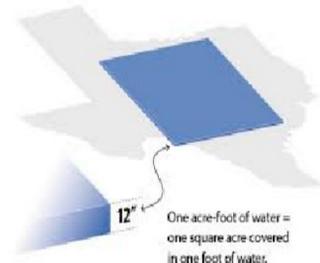
Overview After Hurricane Harvey slammed the Texas Gulf Coast in 2017, state leaders recognized the need to improve our ability to prepare for the inevitable storms to follow.

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

Gov. Greg Abbott has assembled a special group, the Governor's Commission to Rebuild Texas, both to assist with recovery operations and to recommend improvements in communication, coordination and infrastructure to lessen the impact of future hurricane events.

second-costliest hurricane in U.S. history.

= WATER FROM HURRICANE HARVEY (\$6 MILLION ACRE- FEET)



HARVEY'S TOLL In six days, Harvey caused historic flooding, dumping about 58 million acre-feet of water on the Texas coast.

145 mph destroyed residences and businesses alike. At least 68 people died as a direct result of the hurricane, mostly by drowning, while about 35 died from indirect effects such as motor-vehicle accidents.

In all, Gov. Abbott ultimately issued disaster declarations for 60 Texas counties, mostly on the coast but some located well away from the main areas of devastation.

The Comptroller's office estimated that the storm's net economic impact decreased the Texas gross state product (GSP) by \$3.8 billion in the first year after landfall, although activity associated with reconstruction and recovery caused the economy to regain ground quickly, producing an expected \$800 million gain to GSP after three years.

TEXAS COUNTIES INCLUDED IN TEXAS HARVEY-RELATED DISASTER DECLARATIONS

- ANGELINA, ARANSAS, ARKANSAS, AUSTIN, BASTROP, BEE, BEXAR, BIRMINGHAM, BROWARD, BURLINGTON, CALDWELL, CANTON, CANTON, CHAMBERS, COLORADO, COMAL, DENVER, FAYETTE, FORT BEND, GALVESTON, GOLIAD, GONZALES, GRIMES, GUADALUPE, HARDEMAN, HARRIS, JACKSON, JEFFERSON, JIM WELLS, KARNES, KERR, KLEBERG, LAVACA, LEE, LEON, LIBERTY, LIVE OAK, MADISON, MATAGORDA, MILAM, MONTGOMERY, NEUTON, NUÑEZ, ORANGE, POLK, REEFING, SISKIYOU, SAN AUGUSTINE, SAN JACINTO, SAN PATRICK, TRAVIS, TYLER, VICTORIA, WALKER, WALKER, WASHINGTON, WHARTON, WILLACY, WILSON

the worst of the muck, and they haul off the debris, and we sort of go back to our sense of complacency.



BILLY HAMILTON Deputy Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer, Texas A&M University System

"Texas has the best response to emergency situations in the country," he says. "It is the model. But recovery, planning, mitigation — it's never been as well organized. And it's not like we can point to some other place and say, 'Well, they're doing a lot better job.' Everybody's in the same boat.

The report's recommendations include: ensuring state emergency responders are effectively organized, trained and equipped, and that local officials and emergency managers have better training.

ommends institutionalizing this arrangement.



providing more timely assistance to survivors. The report suggests using state employees from various entities to create "recovery task forces" to help in specialized areas such as financial assistance.

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Axios-NewsWhip 2020 Attention Tracker Results

Guns Surge To Top Of National Conversation

Total interactions for week ending August 4th, 2019

ISSUE RANK THIS WEEK	WEEKLY RANK SINCE JAN. 7	1-WEEK TOTAL	CHANGE IN RANK
#1 Guns		28.3m	↗ 3
#2 Immigration		9.8m	↘ 1
#3 Foreign policy		9.3m	↘ 1
#4 Social issues		6.3m	↗ 2
#5 Economy		4.1m	--
#6 Trade		3.0m	↗ 6
#7 Climate change		3.0m	↗ 2
#8 Courts and electoral issues		2.6m	↘ 5
#9 Health care		2.4m	↗ 2
#10 Finance		2.2m	↘ 3

Other countries with similar or higher rates of video game playing have lower rates of shootings.

Other topics we examined that were related to the shooting included white supremacy, white nationalism, domestic terrorism, 8chan and mental illness.

The big picture: Unlike most other hot-button political topics, most of the stories that went the farthest about the weekend shootings were straightforward breaking news headlines without partisan tilt.

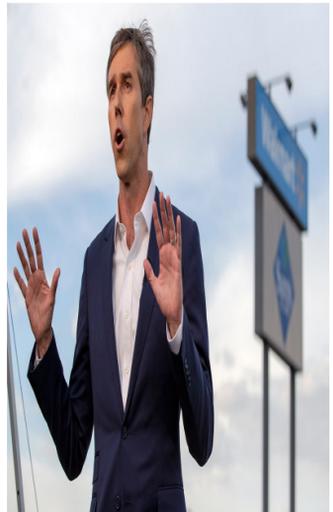
Accounts of heroism were the genre of non-breaking news that generated the most interactions.

2020 candidates: While many of the 2020 Democrats sought to place responsibility for the shootings on Trump, these stories largely didn't break through.

Among the 75 biggest stories about guns and shootings from last week (which included the Gilroy Garlic shooting from the previous weekend) only two of these stories were about comments from 2020 candidates:

Pete Buttigieg: America 'Under Attack From Homegrown White Nationalist Terrorists' (HuffPost, 147k interactions)

Our 2020 attention tracker is based on data from NewsWhip exclusively provided to Axios as part of a project that will regularly update throughout the 2020 campaign.



Why this tracker matters: The data on interactions — including likes, comments and shares — highlights an important, but under-appreciated element of an election: the ability to see beyond our own social feeds and understand the broader universe playing out of how candidates and issues are moving the minds of voters.

It measures enthusiasm in a way that traditional polling does not.

The sample size taken from these social media platforms is massive.

Social media is powered by emotion-driven content, and emotional responses are likely to be aligned with a voter's true beliefs in a way that can be masked in polling.

While the volume of interactions does not gauge the sentiment of the reactions, the ability to generate reach allows a candidate to expand the universe of potential voters.

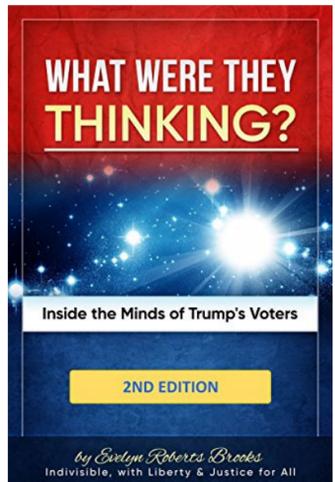
Bots also cannot be ignored, and we will point out in this space if there are documented instances of bot activity for certain candidates or issues.

Methodology: This project measures

the number of social media interactions generated on stories published about the 2020 candidates and issues.

Interactions are calculated from reactions, comments and shares on those stories on Facebook as well as the number of shares from more than 300,000 influential Twitter accounts and retweets and likes on those posts.

Tracked published stories come from a defined universe of more than 450,000 domains.



A story registers for a candidate or issue if the keyword is mentioned in the headline, summary or URL of the story.

Our search format for candidates looks like: "Joe Biden" OR ("Biden" AND ("President" OR "2020" OR "election" OR "Democrats" OR "primary"))

For issues, we use a keyword tree for related terms.

See past editions of the tracker here: https://www.axios.com/2020-attention-tracker-library-3c8f61f3-a64c-4473-ac32-3ea76d525770.html



Beto O'Rourke: Trump's 'racism' leads to violence like El Paso mass shooting (CNN, 93k)

The mass shootings were the biggest story for just 5 of the candidates on the week that included the second debate. Three of those 5 came from conservative outlets.

and Twitter (2.08M) for stories written on the Saturday of the shootings as well as the following two days.

These pieces were largely blowback against President Trump and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy for comments that video games were to blame for the shootings.



After the two mass shootings last weekend, gun violence has displaced immigration as the most-talked about news topic on social media for the first time since May, according to data from NewsWhip provided exclusively to Southern Daily via Axios.

Why it matters: The emotional intensity of gun violence makes it a topic that generates ferocious debate and calls for action on social media after a high-profile event. Yet the activism is cyclical, and the issue has yet to be a defining issue in elections.

Between the lines: Video games were the topic adjacent to the shooting that generated the most interactions (retweets, likes, comments, shares) on Facebook

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

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