

U.S. weekly jobless claims drop, but coronavirus layoffs loom

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The number of Americans filing for unemployment benefits unexpectedly fell last week as employers continued to hold on to their workers, but the coronavirus pandemic is expected to lead to an increase in layoffs as companies battle supply chain disruptions and sagging demand for some goods and services.

Some businesses are already cutting jobs and demand is weakening, at least at the factory level. Other reports on Thursday showed companies announced more than 600 layoffs through March 12 tied to the outbreak, while producer prices fell by the most in five years in February as prices for energy products and services such as hotel accommodation, shipping and air travel dropped.

Financial markets are expecting the Federal Reserve will aggressively cut interest rates again at its policy meeting next week to counter the coronavirus, which investors fear is the catalyst that will derail the longest economic expansion on record, now in its 11th year.

"It's just a matter of time before the fallout from the coronavirus starts to show up in increased layoff activity," said Nancy Vanden Houten, lead U.S. economist at Oxford Economics in New York.

Initial claims for state unemployment benefits dropped 4,000 to a seasonally adjusted 211,000 for the week ended March 7, the Labor Department said. Jobless claims are the most timely labor market indicator. They have declined for two straight weeks.

conomists polled by Reuters had forecast claims rising to 218,000 in the latest week.

The four-week moving average of initial claims, considered a better measure of labor market trends as it ironed out week-to-week volatility, rose 1,250 to 214,000 last week.

Unadjusted claims for Washington state, hardest hit by the virus, which causes a respiratory disease called COVID-19, rose modestly last week.

The World Health Organization on Wednesday termed the coronavirus outbreak a pandemic. The virus with flu-like symptoms has killed at least 38 people in the United States and sickened more than 1,300. Overall, more than



FILE PHOTO: X model SUVs being built on the assembly line are seen at the BMW manufacturing facility in Greer, South Carolina, U.S. November 4, 2019. REUTERS/Charles Mostoller/File Photo

4,700 people have died from COVID-19 and over 127,000 have been infected.

The Fed last week slashed its benchmark overnight interest rate by a half percentage point to a target range of 1.00% to 1.25%, in its first emergency rate cut since the financial crisis. Financial markets have fully priced in a rate reduction of as much as 75 basis points at the U.S. central bank's March 17-18 policy meeting.

Economists are predicting the Fed will reduce its benchmark overnight interest rate to zero by year-end, given low inflation expectations, un-

derscored by a plunge in Treasury yields. The dollar jumped against a basket of currencies after the European Central Bank announced more stimulus to fight the coronavirus but did not lower rates. Stocks on Wall Street continued to drop, with the Dow Jones Industrials index on course for its worst day since 1987 as investors took a dim view of President Donald Trump's decision to suspend travel from Europe. U.S. Treasury prices rose.

WEAK PRODUCER PRICES The disease originated in China, the

main source of inputs used in factories, as well as goods consumed in the United States. While some Chinese factories have resumed operations after Beijing extended the Lunar New Year holidays in an effort to curb the spread of the virus, they are running below capacity. The coronavirus is hurting demand for transportation, especially air travel, as well as entertainment and recreation, and leisure and hospitality services.

00030 - 1

March 2020

Document 00030

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS HOUSTON DOWNTOWN MANAGEMENT DISTRICT 1313 MAIN STREET STANDBY GENERATOR

The Houston Downtown Management District (the "Downtown District") will receive sealed bids for the 1313 Main Street Standby Generator Project, located in Downtown Houston, Texas. Bids will be received until 10:00 AM, local time on Tuesday, March 24, 2020 by the Director of Construction, Downtown District. Bids received after this time will not be accepted. Bids are to be delivered to 1313 Main Street Houston, Texas 77002. Beginning Tuesday, at 9:00am on March 10, 2020, Bid Documents will be available at www.civcastusa.com. Any Addenda will be distributed through www.civcastusa.com. Bid Documents may also be examined at the MBDA (Minority Business Development Agency Business) Business Center (2302 Fannin Street, Suite 165, Houston, TX 77002) or viewed online at isqft.com.

A MANDATORY Pre-bid Conference will be held at 2.00 PM on Tuesday, March 17, 2020, at the project location at 1313 Main Street, Houston, Texas 77002. All bidders (general contractors) are invited to attend. Bids will be ruled non-responsive if received from a bidder who did not attend the Pre-bid Conference. Late arrivals will not be admitted to the Pre-bid Conference.

Bidders shall comply with City Ordinance 95-336 (March 29, 1995) and Exec. Order No.1-2 (June 14, 1995), and City of Houston Affirmative Action and Contract Compliance Division Minority/Women Business Enterprise (M/WBE) Procedures (June 1995). The successful Bidder will be required to make good faith efforts to achieve an M/W/S/DBE participation goal of 20 percent.

美南新聞，全新網頁 WWW.SCDAILY.COM

世界新闻每天更新，为您带来全新的资讯感受



2020新平台·新方向

- 國際時事 僑社活動 社區新聞 工商資訊 在地活動 網路黃頁 商業廣告 分類廣告



美南新聞 Southern News Group

美南國際電視網 Southern TV

休士頓黃頁 Houston Chinese Yellow Pages

美南新聞網 www.scdaily.com

美南國際貿易中心 International Trade Center www.ithouston.org

美南新聞日報 Southern Chinese Daily

休士頓旅遊指南 Houston Travel Guide

今日美南微信公眾號 WeChat ID: today-america

美南印刷廠 U.S.A. Printing www.southernnews.com



今日美國網站 今日美國微信公眾號

Editor's Choice



Airport worker in a protective mask looks on as travelers arrive at the O. R. Tambo International Airport (ORTIA) in Kempton Park



A woman holds a box of face masks to sell after Bolivia's government declared a national emergency and suspension of school classes, in El Alto



A woman passes a departure board at Dulles International Airport in Virginia



Journalists wearing protective face masks attend at the Boliviano Holandes hospital, in El Alto



A boy wears a mask as he waits for the start of the first One-day International cricket match between India and South Africa, amid coronavirus fears, in Dharamsala



10-year-old Selvin Jimenez receives food donations from the National Guard in New Rochelle, New York, U.S., March 12, 2020. REUTERS/Shannon Stapleton TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



Jordanian designer Samia AlZakleh works on crystal-covered masks at her shop in Amman



The Grand Princess cruise ship carrying passengers who have tested positive for coronavirus travels past the skyline in San Francisco



District F -- Update On Coronavirus and Community Events

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

A recent confirmed case of the coronavirus was shown to be the first instance in the Greater Houston region where it was spread via the community.

lying health conditions such as heart disease, lung disease or diabetes are the ones who are at higher risk for severe COVID-19 illness. Those with a higher risk should stay home, and away from large groups of people as much as possible, including public places.



Citizens' health and safety are the #1 priority. The postponement of these events will help us to contain and mitigate this virus.

Related Coronavirus: Keeping things in perspective The impact of the coronavirus is being felt around the world.

we shouldn't panic and outlines some causes for optimism. By Ignacio López-Goñi, imicrobiologist, University of Navarra (Spain) Regardless of whether we classify the new coronavirus as a pandemic, it is a serious issue.



1. We know what it is The first cases of AIDS were described in June 1981 and it took more than two years to identify the virus (HIV) causing the disease.

be very high. 2. We know how to detect the virus Since January 13, a test to detect the virus has been available. 3. The situation is improving in China The strong control and isolation measures imposed by China are paying off.



5. People heal Much of the reported data relates to the increase in the number of confirmed cases and the number of deaths, but most infected people are cured.

It is the age of international science cooperation. After just over a month, 164 articles could be accessed in PubMed on COVID19 or SARSCov2, as well as many others available in repositories of articles not yet reviewed.



9. There are already vaccine prototypes Our ability to design new vaccines is spectacular. There are already more than eight projects underway seeking a vaccine against the new coronavirus.



縱橫四十載 厚積薄發，重新起航



- International Affairs, Community News, Local Activities, Commercial Ads, Overseas Activities, Business Information, Network Yellow Pages, Classified Ads



美南新聞 Southern News Group

美南國際電視網 Southern TV

休士頓黃頁 Houston Chinese Yellow Pages

美南新聞網 www.scdaily.com

美南國際貿易中心 International Trade Center www.itcheouston.org

美南新聞日報 Southern Chinese Daily

休士頓旅遊指南 Houston Travel Guide

今日美南微信公眾號 WeChat ID: today-america

美南印刷廠 U.S.A. Printing www.southernnewsgr.com



Drastic Measures Issued Globally As Pandemic Takes Hold

WHO Declares Coronavirus Global Pandemic



The U.S. now has the eighth highest number of cases in the world.

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

The World Health Organization has officially declared the coronavirus a global pandemic, as the number of cases continues to multiply worldwide, with tens of millions of people living under unprecedented lockdowns. The pandemic declaration came as the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 topped 127,000 in about 120 countries, with more than 4,700 deaths blamed on the virus. The WHO's director said Wednesday health officials are alarmed by both the spread of the virus and the failure of governments to act.

From Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, World Health Organization (WHO): "In the days and weeks ahead, we expect to see the number of cases, the number of deaths and the number of affected countries climb even higher. WHO has been assessing this outbreak around the clock, and we are deeply concerned both by the alarming levels of spread and severity and by the alarming levels of inaction."

Pandemic Highlights



President Trump Announces Europe Travel Ban In the United States, President Trump addressed the nation in a primetime speech from the Oval Office Wednesday, ordering a travel ban that's unprecedented in U.S. history. "I have decided to take several strong but necessary actions to protect the health and well-being of all Americans. To keep new cases from entering our shores, we will be suspending all travel from Europe to the United States for the next 30 days." Trump said the travel ban would not apply to the United Kingdom — even though coronavirus is spreading in Britain and Northern Ireland. Trump owns Trump Turnberry and Trump International Golf Links in Britain.

Top Italian Health Official Among

827 Coronavirus Dead as Italy Faces "Darkest Hour" In Italy, where 60 million people are under an unprecedented nationwide lockdown, the death toll has increased to at least 827. Authorities have ordered all shops closed except food markets and pharmacies. Italy's economy has all but ground to a halt, with Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte describing the outbreak as the country's "darkest hour." Among the recent dead is Roberto Stella, the head of the medical association in the northern Italian province of Varese.

Germany In Germany, where there have been about 2,000 confirmed cases so far, Chancellor Angela Merkel said that the majority of the German people are likely to contract the virus. German Chancellor Angela Merkel: "When the virus is out there, the population has no immunity, and no therapy exists, then 60 to 70% of the population will be infected, as long as the situation continues to exist."

Iran -- Coronavirus Death Toll Hits 429 Iran's government has urged people to remain in their homes, as the country's death toll rose to 429 and over 10,000 infected. On Wednesday, Iranian officials accused the Trump administration of "medical terrorism" over U.S.-imposed sanctions that have severely hampered Iran's ability to respond to the outbreak. Iran has asked the International Monetary Fund for \$5 billion in emergency funding.

China One relative bright spot is China, where draconian measures appear to have stemmed the spread of the virus. Just 24 new infections were reported on Wednesday across China, and 10 of those involved people who recently traveled abroad.

U.S. Labs Face Shortage of Supplies Needed to Test for Coronavirus Across the U.S., labs are reporting shortages of critical equipment and chemicals needed to test for the virus. And Time magazine reports the White House has blocked the public release of a report by the director of national intelligence warning the United States is starkly unprepared for a global pandemic. On Capitol Hill,

Dr. Fauci warned lawmakers Wednesday that COVID-19 is likely 10 times deadlier than seasonal flu and that the pandemic is certain to get worse. "How much worse we'll get will depend on our ability to do two things: to contain the influx of people who are infected coming from the outside and the ability to contain and mitigate within our own country. Bottom line, it's going to get worse," Dr. Fauci said



Sen. Lamar Alexander Blocks Quick Passage of Paid Sick Leave Bill On Capitol Hill, Tennessee Republican Senator Lamar Alexander blocked a motion to immediately pass legislation that would guarantee 14 days of paid sick leave to workers during public health emergencies. This comes as Democrats in the House of Representatives prepare to debate a package of bills Thursday to give workers 14 days paid sick leave and up to three months of paid family and medical leave.

Washington DC Public Health Emergency Washington, D.C., Mayor Muriel Bowser declared a public health emergency in the nation's capital, where there have been 10 confirmed cases of coronavirus including a staffer for Washington Democratic Senator Maria Cantwell.

School Closures from Coronavirus Affecting Over 1 Million K-12 Students Nationwide In Seattle, Governor Jay Inslee has ordered public schools closed for a minimum of two weeks, bringing the total number of U.S. school closures to over 1,500 — affecting over 1 million K-12 students nationwide.

NBA suspends season after Utah Jazz player contracts coronavirus, plus other COVID-19 updates The National Basketball Association (NBA) has announced that it is suspending all of its games until further notice after a player for Utah Jazz was confirmed to have

contracted coronavirus. According to a report by the Associated Press, games will be suspended for at least two weeks.



Tom Hanks and wife contract Coronavirus Actor Tom Hanks says he and his wife, actress Rita Wilson, have been diagnosed with coronavirus. In a statement posted to Instagram, Hanks said he and his wife were traveling in Australia when they were tested after exhibiting symptoms like tiredness, body aches, chills and "slight fevers." Even Hollywood has been affected by the coronavirus. On Wednesday, celebrities Tom Hanks and Rita Wilson announced they have both tested positive for COVID-19 after coming down with flu-like symptoms during a trip to Australia.



"Well, now. What to do next? The Medical Officials have protocols that must be followed. We Hanks' will be tested, observed, and isolated for as long as public health and safety requires. Not much more to it than a one-day-at-a-time approach, no?" he wrote. (Courtesy https://www.democracynow.org/)

我們的新網站
www.scdaily.com



- 主頁 新聞 電視 黃頁 美南論壇 活動 工商資訊 生活資訊 ITC 美南廣場 登陸



美南新聞成立四十周年!



熱門新聞

查看更多 >

新的美南新聞網站隆重推出5大板塊提升，為客戶，讀者提供了更好的瀏覽體驗。

廣告
跟以往的舊網站相比，廣告的曝光率增多了，從傳統的固定廣告，演變成滾動廣告，讓每一個客戶的廣告都有公平的曝光率。解決了以前客戶廣告在最下面看不到的問題。

美南論壇
新添加了美南論壇，供大家全休斯頓發布招聘，求職，買賣，生活資訊等信息，打造華人最大的聚集地。實現全平臺的信息服務。

黃頁與分類廣告
改版黃頁與分類廣告- 流量監控，黃頁分類更細致，更詳細。分類廣告可通過論壇模式發布。

個性化訂閱
用戶可根據自己的喜好訂閱不同的分類新聞，廣告。我們每周會推送一些客戶訂閱內容的廣告語新聞，增大與客戶之間的互動。

網速
新網站同比舊網站網速提升許多。新網站啟用的是AWS.Amazon的服務器。用戶打開網頁和圖片的速度會比以往大大提升。



春節遊園會
2020美南春節園遊會

2020-01-20



地方新聞
韓國瑜夫人李佳芬女士將抵達休士頓
2019-12-04



國際新聞
聯國示警全球 暖化將無力回天
2019-12-03



今日要聞
留住蘋果美國工廠 川普考慮關稅豁免
2019-11-22



SCAN ME

2020