

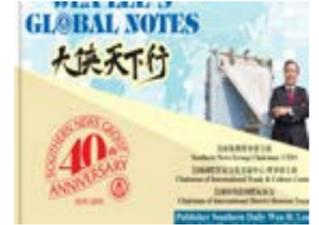


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John Robbins 832-280-5815  
Jun Gai 281-498-4310

Mr. Lee's Commentary and Dairy



Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

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Southern Daily News is published by Southern News Group Daily

**Publisher:** Wea H. Lee  
**President:** Catherine Lee  
**Editor:** John Robbins, Jun Gai  
**Address:** 11122 Bellaire Blvd., Houston, TX 77072  
**E-mail:** [News@scdaily.com](mailto:News@scdaily.com)

Sunday August 09, 2020 | [www.today-america.com](http://www.today-america.com) | Southern News Group

## Slowing U.S. job growth, rising COVID-19 raise doubts on the recovery's strength



FILE PHOTO: Hundreds of people line up outside a Kentucky Career Center hoping to find assistance with their unemployment claim in Frankfort, Kentucky, U.S. June 18, 2020. REUTERS/Bryan Woolston/File Photo

Slowing employment growth challenges the U.S. stock market's expectation of a V-shaped recovery. The S&P 500 index is up nearly 50% from its March trough. Economists see a U or W-shaped recovery.

Stocks on Wall Street were trading lower. The dollar rose against a basket of currencies. U.S. Treasury prices fell.

### BROAD SLOWDOWN

The economy, which entered recession in February, suffered its biggest blow since the Great Depression in the second quarter, with gross domestic product dropping at its steepest pace in at least 73 years.

Job growth slowed across all sectors last month. The leisure and hospitality industry hired 592,000 workers, accounting for about a third of nonfarm payrolls. The bulk of the jobs were at restaurants and bars. Retail employment rose by 258,000 jobs, with almost half of the gain in clothing and accessories stores.

Professional and business services added 170,000 jobs, concentrated in the temporary help services.

Government employment increased by 301,000. The model that the government uses to strip out seasonal fluctuations from the data normally anticipates education workers to drop off payrolls in July. This, however, happened earlier because of the pandemic, leading to a big gain in July.

The unemployment rate fell to 10.2% from 11.1% in June. It was again biased downward by people misclassifying themselves as being "employed but absent from work." Without this error, the jobless rate would have been about 11.2%. About 62,000 people dropped out the labor force last month, contributing to the drop in the reported unemployment rate.

Joblessness fell across all demographic groups, but remained high for Blacks, with the unemployment rate dipping to 14.6% from 15.4% in June. The unemployment rate for Hispanics dropped to 12.9% from 14.5%. The jobless rate for whites declined 9.2% from 10.1%.

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. employment growth slowed considerably in July, underscoring an urgent need for additional government aid as a resurgence of COVID-19 infections threatens to snuff out the nascent economic recovery.

The Labor Department's closely watched employment report on Friday came as Democratic leaders in Congress and top aides to President Donald Trump struggled to negotiate a fiscal package. Trump, who lags former Vice President Joe Biden, the presumptive Democratic Party nominee, in polls ahead of the Nov. 3 election, threatened to bypass Congress with an executive order.

"The jobs recovery is on very shaky ground and without seat belts for the unemployed provided by additional fiscal stimulus the economy could be in for a very bumpy ride," said Chris Rupkey, chief economist at MUFJ in New York. "There cannot be sustainable economic growth if the country has to carry on with the crushing weight of massive unemployment."

Nonfarm payrolls increased by 1.763 million jobs last month after a record rise of 4.791 million in June. Excluding government employment which was artificially boosted by a seasonal quirk related to local and state government education, and temporary hiring for the 2020 Census, payrolls rose 1.462 million, stepping down from 4.737 million in June.

Economists polled by Reuters had forecast 1.6 million jobs were added in July. While the number exceeded expectations, the economy has regained only 9.3 million of 22 million jobs lost between February and April.

Blacks continued to experience high unemployment. Racial inequality is a dominant theme in November's election.

### RELATED COVERAGE

U.S. Black-white unemployment rate gap widens again in July  
U.S. wholesale inventories decline further in June

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Economists believe July was probably the last month of employment gains related to the rehiring of workers after the reopening of businesses. A \$600 weekly unemployment benefit supplement, which made up 20% of personal income, expired last Friday. Thousands of businesses have exhausted loans offered by the government to help with wages, which economists estimate saved around 1.3 million jobs at the program's peak.

Bankruptcies are accelerating, especially in the retail sector. Coronavirus infections have soared across the country, forcing authorities in some of the worst-affected areas in the West and South to either shut down businesses again or pause reopenings, sending workers back home. The West and South account more than a third of the nation's employment. Demand for services has been hardest hit by the respiratory illness.

"The initial bounce from widespread re-openings is now behind us," said Sarah House, a senior economist at Wells Fargo Securities in Charlotte, North Carolina. "Further improvement will occur in fits and starts and depends on the course of the virus."



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# BUSINESS

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## WHO Chief Warns 'There May Never Be' A Silver Bullet For Coronavirus



World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus says that while some COVID-19 vaccine candidates have progressed to phase three testing, the world must remain reliant on "the basics" of disease control. Tedros is seen here last month in Geneva. (Photo/ Fabrice Coffrini/Pool/AFP via Getty Images)

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

Despite progress made on a vaccine against COVID-19, "there's no silver bullet at the moment and there might never be," the World Health Organization's director-general warned on Monday. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus' words marked six months since the organization declared COVID-19 a public health emergency of international concern. Tedros said that at that point, on Jan. 30, "there were fewer than 100 cases and no deaths outside of China." Three months later, the world had 3 million reported cases of COVID-19 and more than 200,000 deaths. Six months on, the figures have only worsened: now 18.1 million global cases and more than 690,000 deaths, according to the tracker at Johns Hopkins University. Tedros noted multiple vaccine candidates are in the third phase of clinical trials and expressed hope that a number

of them will be effective to prevent infection by the coronavirus. But until then, the world is reliant on "the basics" of disease control, he said:



COVID-19 Vaccine Candidate Heads To Widespread Testing In U.S. "Testing, isolating and treating patients, and tracing and quarantining their contacts. Do it all. "Inform, empower and listen to communities. Do it all.

"For individuals, it's about keeping physical distance, wearing a mask, cleaning hands regularly and coughing safely away from others. Do it all. "The message to people and governments is clear: Do it all." And when the disease is under control, he urged, "Keep going!" Phase three testing is designed to see if a vaccine candidate actually prevents disease. WHO reports that as of July 31, six vaccine candidates are in phase three. Last week, the vaccine candidate made by the U.S. biotech company Moderna and developed in collaboration with the National Institutes of Health entered phase three of testing. "Up to 30,000 volunteers will be assigned to one of two groups," NPR's Joe Palca explained. "One group will receive two injections spaced approximately 28 days apart of mRNA-1273, as the vaccine is known. The other group will receive an injection containing only salt water. Neither the volunteer nor the person administering the injection will know what's in the syringe in order to avoid bias in favor of one outcome or another. Of course, people running the trial will know who is getting what." Researchers will then monitor both groups to see who, if any, gets results.



U.S. Reaches \$2.1 Billion Deal With Sanofi, GlaxoSmithKline For COVID-19 Vaccine Push. Fauci Says He's 'Optimistic' Americans Will Get Coronavirus Vaccine Next Year So far, six vaccine candidates have joined Operation Warp Speed, the Trump

administration's push to have a coronavirus vaccine widely available by early 2021. Not all the candidates in Operation Warp Speed have reached phase three. More than 250,000 people have already registered their interest in participating in clinical trials, the top U.S. infectious disease specialist said last week. Dr. Anthony Fauci urged Americans to sign up at CoronavirusPreventionNetwork.org, "so that you can be part of the solution of this terrible scourge."



Fauci Says Virus May Never Be Eradicated

Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert, said COVID-19 will likely never be eradicated, a statement that contradicts President Trump's claims that the coronavirus will "go away." "I don't think we're going to eradicate this from the planet because it's such a highly transmissible virus that that seems unlikely," Fauci said in an interview with Reuters. "But what I think we can do with the combination of a good vaccine and attention to public health measures - by attention I don't mean shut down, I mean things that are just prudent - then I think we can get behind this." Fauci, however, said he believes the nation came move past the peak levels COVID-19 cases. "We may need to go through a season of it and then by next season, if we have a vaccine, it won't be a pandemic, it won't be immobilizing the world, it won't be destroying the economy," he said.

Anthony Fauci Fauci, a key member of the White House coronavirus task force, said he will not

make a "declarative statement" about when the virus will subside. "I don't know. I hope and feel it's possible that by the time we get through 2021 and go around for another cycle that we'll have this under control," he added. Trump, however, has repeatedly insisted that the virus will "just disappear" at some point whether or not an effective vaccine is distributed. On Wednesday, Trump reiterated his claim while advocating for schools to physically reopen in the fall that "this thing is going away." "It will go away like things go away and my view is that schools should be open," he said, referring to the coronavirus pandemic.



Cases across the U.S. have gradually began falling over the past two weeks after states like Florida, Texas and Arizona experienced heavy outbreaks over the summer. However, there is still a dangerously high plateau that signifies the country is still struggling to get the pandemic under control. Over the last three days, the United States has confirmed about 50,000 new cases every 24 hours. (Courtesy msn.com)

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# WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

08/08/2020

CORONAVIRUS DIARY

## Congress Unable To Deliver Second Stimulus Package

Democrats and Republicans failed to agree on a second stimulus package and were unable to deliver the much needed aid on its self-imposed deadline.

President Trump said that if policy makers do not resolve the second stimulus package issues, he would take things into his own hands. He said that if Democrats continue to hold this critical relief hostage, "I will act under my authority as president to get Americans the relief they need."

Today, a lot of families can't make their rent payment. The grocery prices keep going on up and the free food lines are getting longer. The virus testing is going very slow. Students can't go back to school which is creating a lot of social problems. Is this the country we are living in?

We deeply regret that our country is in such deep trouble. Is America no longer beautiful?



Southern News Group 40th Anniversary 1979-2019 STV KVVV15.3 美南國際電視台 Southern News Group Chairman / CEO Chairman of International Trade & Culture Center Chairman of International District Houston Texas Publisher Southern Daily Wea H. Lee

# Editor's Choice



A boy climbs on downed trees in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Isaias in Astoria Park in Queens, New York, August 5, 2020.



A United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket carrying NASA's Mars 2020 Perseverance Rover vehicle lifts off from the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Cape Canaveral, Florida, July 30, 2020. The next-generation robotic rover - a car-sized six-wheeled vehicle carrying seven scientific instruments - will search for traces of potential past life on Earth's planetary neighbor, and is also scheduled to deploy a mini helicopter on Mars and try out equipment for future human treks. Its arrival at Mars is planned for Feb. 18 at the site of an ancient river delta.



A protestor in a Grim Reaper costume holds up a sign with the number 152K to represent the number of victims of the coronavirus in the U.S., as President Donald Trump's motorcade heads into his Trump National golf course, in Washington, August 2,...



A general view shows the damage at the site of the deadly blast in Beirut's port area, Lebanon August 5, 2020. REUTERS/Mohamed Azakir



A Texas Guerrillas member who calls himself, "Apex," third from right and others carry weapons at a Black Lives Matter rally in Austin, Texas, August 1. Members of the armed groups said they were there to protect BLM protesters

which was...MORE



Demonstrators shout slogans during a protest against femicide and domestic violence, in Istanbul, Turkey August 5, 2020. President Tayyip Erdogan's AK Party is considering whether to pull Turkey out of an international accord designed to protect women, party officials said, alarming campaigners who see the pact as key to combating rising domestic violence. REUTERS/Murad Sezer



Jewish worshippers pray on Tisha B'Av, a day of fasting and lament, that commemorates the date in the Jewish calendar on which it is believed the First and Second Temples were destroyed, at the Western Wall in Jerusalem's Old City July 29, 2020...



A protestor casts a projection during a demonstration against police violence and racial inequality in Portland, Oregon, August 1, 2020. REUTERS/Caitlin Ochs

There Are Growing Signs That Some People May Have Heightened Protection Against SARS-CoV-2, Possibly Due To Recent Infection By Other Coronavirus Types

Can the Common Cold Help Protect Against COVID-19?



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

Since the pandemic began, it's been known that the severity of coronavirus illness varies widely between people. Could the common cold be the reason why? It's still just a theory, but researchers in California suspect that if you've recently had a cold -- many of which are also caused by coronaviruses -- your immune system's T-cells might recognize SARS-CoV-2 and help fight it.

"We have now proven that in some people, preexisting T-cell memory against common cold coronaviruses can cross-recognize SARS-CoV-2, down to exact molecular structures," said study co-lead author Daniela Weiskopf, an assistant professor at the La Jolla Institute for Immunology.

"This could help explain why some people show milder symptoms of disease while others get severely sick," she said in an institute news release.

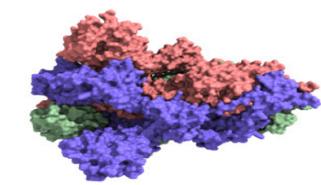


Still, Weiskopf and her team cautioned that even if that's true, it's too soon to say if immune cell memory will help you recover any faster from COVID-19. The

new research was spurred by evidence -- collected from COVID-19 patients around the world -- that immune system T-cells were reacting to fragments of SARS-CoV-2's makeup, even though these cells had never encountered the virus before.

One way that could happen was if T-cells had gained a memory of these viral components from a prior encounter with a common cold coronavirus. Study co-lead author Dr. Alessandro Sette, also of the Institute, called these cold viruses COVID-19's "less dangerous cousins."

So in the new study, the La Jolla researchers collected samples from people who'd never been exposed to SARS-CoV-2. Their analysis showed that unexposed people had a wide range of memory T-cells that were equally reactive against SARS-CoV-2 as well as four types of common cold coronaviruses. They also found that memory T-cells that recognized the common cold also recognized key sites on the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus.



This could mean that the fight against a

common cold might be teaching T-cells to recognize at least some parts of SARS-CoV-2 -- and perhaps jump-start the fight against SARS-CoV-2 should it appear. Some T-cells appeared to target the "spike" protein on the surface of SARS-CoV-2, the area of the virus that recognizes and binds to human cells.

Other parts of the immune system's memory seemed to target other SARS-CoV-2 proteins, Weiskopf's team reported Aug. 4 in Science. The latter point is important because most vaccines under development target the spike protein. Including other targets on SARS-CoV-2 might boost a vaccine's potency, the researchers explained.

Dr. Amesh Adalja is an infectious disease expert and a senior scholar at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security in Baltimore. Reading over the new report, he said it "provides more evidence that the fact that humans are exposed to other coronaviruses on a regular basis does have an impact on their immunity to the novel coronavirus." Still, just how or to what extent infection with a common cold might affect infection with SARS-CoV-2 remains "unclear," Adalja added.



Would people who've recently encountered the common cold have no or fewer symptoms of COVID-19? According to Adalja, "the next step in the studies is understanding what the differences are among individuals who have this T-cell immunity that cross-reacts, versus others that do not."

In labs all over the world lately, scientists working on COVID-19 have stumbled on an intriguing sort of finding again and again. They've found that blood samples from healthy people who were never exposed to the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus contain reactive immune cells and targeted antibodies that could, perhaps, help stave off COVID-19. These people may—it is still just a hypothesis—possess some degree of

pre-existing immunity. If correct, it's even possible that this immunity has saved thousands from the worst manifestations of this terrible disease.

Some of the first hints of pre-existing immunity came via T cells, the white blood cells that destroy infected cells in the body or help other parts of the immune system target an invading pathogen. In one study originally published as a preprint on medRxiv April 22, a group of scientists in Germany reported an intriguing result.

Immunity to common cold viruses is not thought to be very long-lasting for people, regardless of age, so it is debatable how durable a protective effect would be

Out of 68 healthy donors who had been tested for prior exposure to SARS-CoV-2 and who were found to be negative, 24 of them had a small number of T cells in their blood that reacted when exposed to the SARS-CoV-2 spike (S) protein—a complex structure protruding from the virus's exterior surface. The study, which was later published in Nature July 29, explains that the cells in question produced proteins on their surfaces, an indication of an immune response.

If that is indeed what's going on here, one possible explanation would be that the healthy donors had been infected by another coronavirus relatively recently, perhaps one that causes a common cold, says coauthor Andreas Thiel, an immunologist at the Charité hospital, part of Universitätsmedizin Berlin. Besides more serious diseases such as COVID-19 and SARS, human coronaviruses have been known for decades to cause what are usually much milder infections. The specific viruses that cause these illnesses are found all around the world.

"Although these viruses are not very similar [to SARS-CoV-2], the low degree of similarity is of course sufficient that the immune system, at least partly, is cross-reacting, which is a very normal thing," he says. An earlier study in Nature on July 15 from Singapore reported that 23 patients who had caught the original SARS virus 17 years ago and a further 37 individuals who had never been found to have had SARS or COVID-19 possessed CD4+ helper T cells and CD8+ killer T cells that reacted to the

SARS-CoV-2 nucleocapsid (N) protein.



A study in Science today (August 4) also found SARS-CoV-2 reactive T cells in pre-pandemic blood samples from 25 healthy individuals. In this case, the authors also mapped 142 specific points on the SARS-CoV-2 virus called epitopes associated with this activity.

This allowed them to show, in subsequent experiments, that the T cells also reacted when exposed to epitopes on common cold coronaviruses that were similar to SARS-CoV-2 epitopes, supporting the idea that previous exposure to these common viruses might leave our immune systems primed to respond to the novel coronavirus.

Determining whether the T cell activity really is protective against COVID-19 is tricky, Le Bert says. "You would need to study people before and after getting infected."

Le Bert adds that having some degree of immunity also does not mean that people definitely won't get infected in the first place. They may still experience mild symptoms, for example, as their immune system fends off the virus. (Courtesy www.medicinenet.com and //www.the-scientist.com/)

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