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U.S. job growth loses speed as fiscal stimulus ebbs



FILE PHOTO: People line up outside Kentucky Career Center prior to its opening to find assistance with their unemployment claims in Frankfort, Kentucky, U.S. June 18, 2020. REUTERS/Bryan Woolston

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. employment growth slowed further in August and permanent job losses increased as money from the government started running out, raising doubts on the sustainability of the economy's recovery from the deep COVID-19 recession.

Nearly a fifth of the job gains reported by the Labor Department on Friday were from the government's temporary hiring for the 2020 Census. While the unemployment rate fell below 10%, it was biased down by a continuing misclassification problem.

The slowdown pressures the White House and Congress to restart stalled negotiations for another fiscal package and is likely to become political ammunition for both Democrats and Republicans with just two months to go until the presidential election.

RELATED COVERAGE

US job creation slowed in Aug, while jobless rate drops below 10%

Racial gap in U.S. jobless rate widens again in August
"The labor market has entered a frustratingly slower second phase of the recovery," said Lydia Boussour, a senior U.S. economist at Oxford Economics in New York. "With one in two laid-off workers still unemployed and Congress unable to pass urgently needed fiscal aid, slower and more volatile job growth represents a significant risk for the economy."

Nonfarm payrolls increased by 1.371 million jobs last month after advancing 1.734 million in July. Government employment rose 344,000, with 238,000 temporary workers hired for the decennial census.

Excluding government, payrolls rose 1.027 million. Private sector employment gains were led by the retail sector, with 249,000 jobs created. Though professional and business services added 197,000 jobs, more than half of the gain was in temporary help services, reflecting the uncertain economic environment.

Employment in leisure and hospitality increased by 174,000 jobs, but hiring has stepped down from June and July when 2.0 million and 621,000 jobs were added respectively. Manufacturing employment rose 29,000 and construction added 16,000 jobs.

Programs to help businesses pay wages have either lapsed or are on the verge of ending. Economists credited government largesse for the sharp rebound in economic activity after it nearly ground to a halt following the shuttering of businesses in mid-March to control the spread of the coronavirus.

August's report is one of just two monthly labor market scorecards left on the calendar before the Nov. 3 presidential election. President Donald Trump, who is trailing in polls behind former Vice President Joe Biden, the Democratic Party nominee, cheered the continued job gains as a sign that the

economy is improving after suffering its biggest shock in at least 73 years in the second quarter.

"Great Jobs Numbers!" Trump wrote on Twitter.

Biden said the economy was in a K-shaped recovery, where "those at the top are seeing things go up those in the middle and bottom are seeing things go down and get worse," because "Trump has mismanaged the COVID crisis."

Employment is 11.5 million below its pre-pandemic level. Employment growth peaked at 4.781 million.

While the unemployment rate fell to 8.4% last month from 10.2% in July, it was distorted by people misclassifying themselves as being "employed but absent from work."

Without this error, the unemployment rate would have been about 9.1% last month, the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics estimated. At least 29.2 million were receiving unemployment benefits in mid-August. Blacks continued to experience high unemployment, with a 13% jobless rate compared to 7.3% for Whites and 10.5% for Hispanics. People who have permanently lost their jobs rose 534,000 to 3.4 million, accounting for 25% of the 13.6 million unemployed.

"This is a somewhat concerning sign of labor market sclerosis developing," said Michael Feroli, chief U.S. economist at JPMorgan in New York.



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U.S. loses Iran arms embargo bid as Putin pushes summit to avoid nuclear deal showdown

NEW YORK/MOSCOW (Reuters) - The United States lost a bid on Friday to extend a U.N. arms embargo on Iran as Russian President Vladimir Putin proposed a summit of world leaders to avoid "confrontation" over a U.S. threat to trigger a return of all U.N. sanctions on Tehran.

FILE PHOTO: A sign marks the seat of Iran's ambassador to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) ahead of a board of governors meeting at the IAEA headquarters in Vienna, Austria March 9, 2020. REUTERS/Lisi Niesner/File Photo

In a U.N. Security Council vote, Russia and China opposed extending the weapons ban, which is due to expire in October under a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers. Eleven members abstained, including France, Germany and Britain, while Washington and the Dominican Republic were the only yes votes.

"The Security Council's failure to act decisively in defense of international peace and security is inexcusable," U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in a statement.

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China's U.N. Ambassador Zhang Jun said in a statement after the vote that the result "once again shows that unilateralism receives no support and bullying will fail."

The United States could now follow through on a threat to trigger a return of all U.N. sanctions on Iran using a provision in the nuclear deal, known as snapback, even though President Donald Trump abandoned the accord in 2018. Diplomats have said the United States could do this as early as next week, but would face a tough, messy battle.

"In the coming days, the United States will follow through on that promise to stop at nothing to extend the arms embargo," U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Kelly Craft said in a statement.

Diplomats have said such a move would put the fragile nuclear deal further at risk because Iran would lose a major incentive for limiting its nuclear activities. Iran already has breached parts of the nuclear deal in response to the U.S. withdrawal from the pact

and unilateral sanctions.

Iran's U.N. Ambassador Majid Takht Ravanchi warned the United States against trying to trigger a return of sanctions.

"Imposition of any sanctions or restrictions on Iran by the Security Council will be met severely by Iran and our options are not limited. And the United States and any entity which may assist it or acquiesce in its illegal behavior will bear the full responsibility," he said in a statement

'THE ISSUE IS URGENT'

Putin on Friday proposed a video summit with the United States and the remaining parties to the nuclear deal - Britain, France, China, Germany and Iran - to try to avoid further "confrontation and escalation" at the United Nations over Iran.

"The issue is urgent," Putin said in a statement, adding that the alternative was "only further escalation of tensions, increasing risk of conflict - such a scenario must be avoided."



Georgia, Texas And Florida Lead The Country In Coronavirus Cases Per Capita



U.S. averaging 1,000 deaths per day from coronavirus

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

(CNN)After adjusting for population, US states in the South and West continue to report the most daily coronavirus cases even after declines over the past few weeks.

Per capita, Georgia has reported the most cases per day over a seven-day average of any state, followed by Texas and Florida. The states are led by governors who pushed to reopen during the spring, saw major summer surges of cases and are currently pushing to reopen schools. Texas has issued a mandate requiring face masks, while Florida and Georgia have not. Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp has gone so far as to keep cities from making stricter rules and has sued the city of Atlanta for trying to require face masks. Georgia has allowed restaurants, bars and gyms to open at limited capacity.

A White House Coronavirus Task Force report dated August 16 and obtained by The Atlanta Journal-Constitution (AJC) recommends that Georgia do more to fight coronavirus.



Colleges are quickly learning it may be

next to impossible to create a coronavirus-free environment on campus.

The report comes as colleges are quickly learning it may be next to impossible to create a coronavirus-free environment on campus. Across the US, the virus continues to spread at high rates. The seven-day average of daily new coronavirus cases in the US declined on Monday to 49,000, the first time it's been below 50,000 since July 6. Still, worldwide, that average daily total is surpassed only by India, which has four times the number of people.

The US's seven-day average of new deaths has been over 1,000 per day for the past 23 days. In Florida, officials reported deaths of more than 200 people in a day Tuesday -- for at least the 10th time in the past month. More than 5.5 million Americans have been infected since the start of the pandemic and at least 172,000 have died. Georgia leads the pack in per capita cases

Georgia teacher resigns over back-to-school plan

Though conditions in some areas have improved modestly in recent weeks, the task force said Georgia remains in the red zone for severity of the outbreak as measured by rate of case growth and test positivity, the AJC reported.

"Georgia's small gains are fragile and statewide progress will require continued, expanded, and stronger mitigation efforts, including in all open schools," according to the White House report obtained by the AJC.



The AJC reported that the White House Coronavirus Task Force continues to recommend that Georgia close bars and gyms, restrict indoor dining at restaurants to one-quarter capacity in the highest risk counties, and limit social gatherings to 10 or fewer people, even within families.

In a statement to CNN, Kemp's office said the governor and Georgia Department of Health "Urge Georgians to wear a mask, watch their distance, wash their hands, and follow public health guidelines."

"Georgia continues to make strong progress in the fight against COVID-19," according to the statement emailed to CNN by Kemp press secretary Cody Hall. "Our 7-day average of new cases is down 26%, our hospitalizations are down 19%, and the 7-day average of positive tests is down to 9.4%. Georgia's transmission rate is 0.85 and testing capacity remains high but underutilized. This data is encouraging, but we cannot take our foot off the gas."

Massachusetts to require flu vaccines all students

Health officials in Massachusetts announced Wednesday that influenza vaccines will become mandatory in the state for the majority of students 6 months and older who attend day care, pre-school, K-12 schools or higher education institutions.

"It is more important now than ever to get a flu vaccine because flu symptoms are very similar to those of COVID-19 and preventing the flu will save lives and preserve healthcare resources," Dr. Larry Madoff, medical director of the Massa-

chusetts Public Health's bureau of infectious disease and laboratory sciences, said in a statement.



Students are expected to receive the vaccine by December 31, with the exemption of those with medical or religious reasons, homeschooled children or higher education students who are "completely off-campus and engaged in remote learning only," the health department said.

Massachusetts is the first state to require flu shots for children over the age of 5. All 50 states require vaccines for children to attend public schools, but according to the Immunization Action Coalition, none before now have required flu vaccines for children in kindergarten or above.

Connecticut, New Jersey, New York City, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island require flu vaccines for children in daycare or preschool but not for older children.

Health officials have been urging Americans to get vaccinated against flu in an effort to avoid complicating the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

Universities scramble with coronavirus outbreaks

Young people have been returning to schools and college campuses across the country, seeding new coronavirus outbreaks.

"It's just extremely difficult to consider yourself to be in a bubble when there is a very high level of community spread around you or when people are coming from all over the country and congregating on college campuses," said Dr. Leana Wen, the former Baltimore City Health Commissioner. "You can't keep coronavirus out." About a dozen colleges have reported cases on campus, with more than 100 students testing positive at University of Notre Dame, Iowa State

University, UNC-Chapel Hill and the University of Kentucky.

Outbreaks have been traced to off-campus gatherings, sororities, fraternities and dorms, leaving schools to reassess how to proceed with the fall semester. North Carolina State University, Oklahoma State University, Northeast Mississippi Community College, Western Kentucky University and East Carolina University have all reported significant numbers of cases as well.

In Mississippi, nearly 2,000 K-12 students and more than 300 employees have been quarantined due to possible exposure, Dr. Thomas Dobbs with the Mississippi Department of Health said at a briefing.

American Indian and Alaskan Natives hit harder by Covid-19

The rate of coronavirus among American Indian and Alaskan Native people is 3.5 times higher than among White people, according to a new report by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



Researchers found that cases among American Indians and Alaska Natives tended to be younger in age.

The report analyzed more than 340,000 confirmed cases across 23 states between late January and early July. There were 594 Covid-19 cases per 100,000 people among American Indians and Alaska Natives, compared to 169 cases per 100,000 Whites, the report released Wednesday shows.

Researchers found that cases among American Indians and Alaska Natives tended to be younger in age.

The report indicates that the virus incidence among American Indian and Alaskan Native people might reflect on the limited access to running water, household size and other factors that might facilitate Covid-19 community transmission. (Courtesy www.cnn.com)

Editor's Choice



A burning home is seen along Cherry Glen Road during the LNU Lighting Complex Fire on the outskirts of Vacaville, California. REUTERS/Stephen Lam



U.S. Senator Kamala Harris accepts the Democratic vice presidential nomination during an acceptance speech delivered for the largely virtual 2020 Democratic National Convention from the Chase Center in Wilmington, Delaware. REUTERS/Kevin Lamarque



A missile unveiled by Iran is launched in an unknown location. Iran unveiled new ballistic and cruise missile systems designed and manufactured locally, ignoring U.S. demands that Tehran halt its missile program. WANA via REUTERS



A Hindu devotee wearing a protective mask sanitizes a temporary platform, next to an idol of Hindu god Ganesha, the deity of prosperity, ahead of the Ganesh Chaturthi festival, in Kolkata, India. REUTERS/Rupak De Chowdhuri



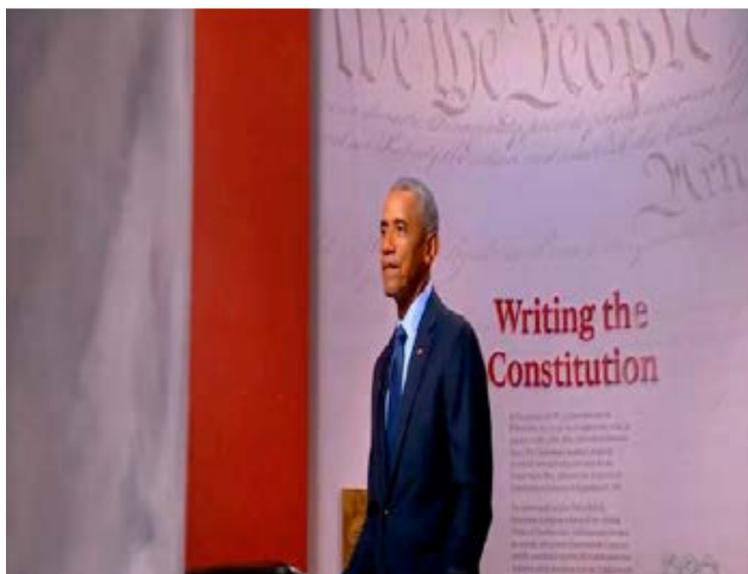
Employees of Minsk Tractor Works leave after shift as people, including their coworkers, gather near the plant to protest against presidential election results and to demand re-election in Minsk, Belarus. REUTERS/Vasily Fedosenko



Hurricane Genevieve is seen from the International Space Station (ISS) orbiting Earth in an image taken by NASA astronaut Christopher J. Cassidy. NASA/Christopher J. Cassidy/via REUTERS



Goldfish bowl-like acrylic screens are seen installed as part of new social distancing measures at Jazz Lounge Encounter, a night club for seeking encounters, at Ginza district in Tokyo, Japan. REUTERS/Issei Kato



Former U.S. President Barack Obama speaks by video feed during the virtual 2020 Democratic National Convention as participants from across the country are hosted over video links from the originally planned site of the convention in Milwaukee,...

F.D.A. OK's Expanded Use of Blood Plasma to Treat Coronavirus Patients



President Trump on Sunday described the blood plasma treatment as "a powerful therapy" made possible "by marshaling the full power of the federal government."

OVERVIEW

The Food and Drug Administration on Sunday gave emergency approval for expanded use of antibody-rich blood plasma, drawn from people who have recovered from Covid-19.

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

The Food and Drug Administration on Sunday gave emergency approval for expanded use of antibody-rich blood plasma to help hospitalized coronavirus patients, allowing President Trump, who has been pressuring the agency to move faster to address the pandemic, to claim progress on the eve of the Republican convention.

At a news briefing, he described the treatment as "a powerful therapy" made possible "by marshaling the full power of the federal government."

The decision will broaden use of a treatment that has already been administered to

more than 70,000 patients. But the F.D.A. cited benefits for only some patients. And, unlike a new drug, plasma cannot be manufactured in millions of doses; its availability is limited by blood donations.

Mr. Trump has portrayed his demands to cut red tape and speed approval of treatments and vaccines as a necessary response to a public health emergency. But Sunday's announcement came a day after he repeated his unfounded claim that the F.D.A. was deliberately holding up decision-making until after the election, this time citing a "deep state."

regulatory process, hurt public confidence in safety and introduce a different kind of public health risk.



Patient Javier Alvarez donating plasma at Houston Methodist Hospital last month. (Photo/The New York Times)

No randomized trials of the sort researchers consider most robust have yet shown benefit from convalescent plasma. But the F.D.A. said the data it had so far, including more than a dozen published studies, showed that "it is reasonable to believe" that the treatment "may be effective in lessening the severity or shortening the length of Covid-19 illness in some hospitalized patients," in particular those who receive it early.

Patients less than 80 years old who received plasma with a high level of virus-fighting antibodies within three days of diagnosis, and who were not on a respirator, were about 35 percent more likely to be alive a month later compared with those who received plasma with a low level of the antibodies, according to Dr. Peter Marks, the director of F.D.A.'s center for biologics, evaluation and research.

Mr. Trump stripped away the agency's nuanced language during his appearance before reporters at the White House, saying that convalescent plasma has been "proven to reduce mortality by 35 percent."

The F.D.A., which is responsible for approving new medicines, delayed the authorization for about a week after top health officials, including Dr. Francis S. Collins, the director of the National Institutes of Health, and Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, the top infectious disease specialist, questioned whether the data was sufficient.



Mr. Trump complained in a tweet on Saturday, claiming without any evidence that

officials were "hoping to delay the answer until after November 3rd" — Election Day — and urging the F.D.A. to "focus on speed, and saving lives!"

Mark Meadows, the White House chief of staff, also accused government regulators over the weekend of slow-walking the approval, calling it "a fumble."

At his news conference, Mr. Trump struck a more positive note, saying the agency had "really stepped up," especially "over the last few days."

Related

COVID-19 Blood-Transfusion Therapy Finding Success In Houston Nation's First Experimental Plasma Treatment Against COVID-19 Is Currently Being Tested At Houston Methodist



Houston Methodist's physician-scientists have been readying the nation's first experimental COVID-19 plasma treatment.

The experimental blood plasma treatment transfuses vital antibodies found in the plasma of recovered COVID-19 patients into a critically ill patient, in the hopes of providing that patient with lifesaving treatment. One of the major advantages of this treatment approach is that it can be tested and used right now, while vaccines and antiviral drugs can take from months to years to develop.

From Bench to Bedside — Fast The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) classifies this experimental treatment as an emergency investigational new drug protocol (eIND) that requires FDA approval for each patient infused with donated convalescent serum. Houston Methodist physician-scientists

began recruiting blood plasma donors from across the Greater Houston area who have recovered after testing positive for the COVID-19 virus. We immediately identified willing donors, who each give a quart of blood plasma in a procedure much like donating whole blood.



The physician-scientists at Methodist are seeking additional FDA approval for follow-up experimental studies, and possibly a multicenter national trial on the effectiveness of convalescent serum therapy against the COVID-19 virus.

Beating COVID-19 — Using Antibodies Made to Fight It Plasma from someone who has recovered from COVID-19 contains antibodies made by the immune system that potentially could be used to destroy the virus. Transfusing this antibody-rich plasma into a COVID-19 patient — a patient still fighting the virus — may transfer the benefits of the antibodies into a healing, possibly life-saving therapy.

What Is Donating Plasma Like? The process for donating plasma is similar to donating blood and takes about an hour. Plasma donors are hooked up to a small device that removes plasma while simultaneously returning red blood cells to their bodies. Unlike regular blood donation in which donors have to wait for red blood cells to replenish between donations, plasma can be donated more frequently, as often as twice a week.

Your Plasma Donation Is Vital We are hoping that this can be a viable, scalable treatment that helps in this crisis. If you have had COVID-19 and are interested in helping others by donating your plasma, please call 346.238.4360. Please note: You do not have to be a Houston Methodist patient to donate, but you must have a verified, positive COVID-19 test. (Courtesy https://www.houstonmethodist.org/)



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家庭式教育在国外并不罕见，很多父母会因为各种原因让自己的孩子在家进行学习，并且收到的效果也都很不错，所以外国人对这种教育方式也都习以为常，但这位来自英国的妈妈Katie却因为自己特殊的家庭教育吸引了大家的关注，因为她不让自己的三个孩子看书，取而代之的是每天7个小时的网游时间。

Katie最大的女儿今年12岁，另外两个是7岁和10岁的儿子，三个孩子即不看书也不去学校，每天的任务就是妈妈要求的最少打7个小时的。

通常是这样的，二儿子会最先起床，有的时候从早上五点就开始玩游戏，然后大约在八点左右小儿子也开始了，最后才是大女儿。

Katie觉得游戏要比教科书更能影响孩子，在游戏中孩子们也可以学习到很多生活中

需要的知识，所以她不顾别人的质疑而坚持要让孩子们这样，尽管她承认现在孩子们也不能完整地写下字母表。

为了让孩子们有最好的游戏教育，Katie家里有四台高配置的电脑，5个ipad，1个Wii游戏机和两个PS系列游戏机，家里的网速也经过了升级，Katie的家里甚至要比网络会所还要高级。

她让孩子们玩的游戏也多种多样，基本上现在比较受欢迎的她都会让孩子们来玩，比如《部落冲突》《模拟人生》《精灵PokemonGo》...

她表示有些游戏世界观十分庞大，即使是大人也不一定能够看懂，所以这样的游戏要等到孩子们大一点再开始玩。

同时，Katie还说通过游戏，她的三个孩子交到了全世界各个年龄的朋友，这要比上学只

在固定的小圈子里活动更有价值，年纪轻轻就具有了国际视野，在学校的孩子可做不到。

Katie也有自己的规矩，坚决不能熬夜玩，8点前要熄灯睡觉，不能玩限制级的游戏，孩子们遵守的都特别好。

现在，Katie的大女儿因为自身感兴趣所以每周都会上一次英语和数学的课程，而另外两个儿子对那些一点也不感兴趣，所以还都只是每天玩游戏，唯一需要外出的就是每周二的足球时间，照Katie的话说，那就是每周一次的体育课。

总之，Katie很满意自己的教育方式，当然她也希望自己的孩子们以后能够成才，但她也表示不强求孩子们改变自己，并且她还说至少当孩子们长大后回会想起来，自己的童年过得很开心。

