



If you would like to share news or information with our readers, please send the unique stories, business

news organization events, and school news to us including your name and phone number in case more information is needed.

For news and information consideration, please send to News@scdaily.com or contact John Robbins **832-280-5815** Jun Gai **281-498-4310**

U.S. manufacturing contracts; private payrolls post first drop since 2017

Southern DAILY Make Today Different

Southern Daily News is published by Southern News Group Daily

Thursday April 30, 2020 | www.today-america.com | Southern News Group

Coronavirus savages U.S. economy in first quarter; bigger hit still to come



FILE PHOTO: A delivery man wearing a mask walks rides his bicycle as the spread of the coronavirus disease

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The U.S. economy contracted in the first quarter at its sharpest pace since the Great Recession as stringent measures to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus almost shut down the country, ending the longest expansion in the nation's history.

The drop in gross domestic product (GDP) reported by the Commerce Department on Wednesday reflected a plunge in economic activity in the last two weeks of March, which saw millions of Americans seeking unemployment benefits. The rapid decline in GDP reinforced analysts' predictions that the economy was already in a deep recession and left economists bracing for a record slump in output in the second quarter.

"If the economy fell this hard in the first quarter, with less than a month of pandemic lockdown for most states, don't ask how far it will crater in the second quarter because it is going to be a complete disaster," said Chris Rupkey, chief economist at MUFG in New York.

RELATED COVERAGE

White House adviser sees 'cash' phase of economic rescue winding down
Gross domestic product declined at a 4.8% annualized rate last quarter, weighed down by a collapse in spending on healthcare as dentists' offices closed and hospitals delayed elective surgeries and non-emergency visits to focus on patients suffering from COVID-19, the potentially lethal

respiratory illness caused by the virus.

That was the steepest pace of contraction in GDP since the fourth quarter of 2008. Households also drastically cut back on purchases of motor vehicles, furniture, clothing and footwear. Receipts for transportation, hotel accommodation and restaurant services also plunged.

Businesses further tightened their purse strings and liquidated inventory, helping to overshadow positive news from a shrinking import bill, the housing market and more spending by the government. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast GDP falling at a 4.0% rate last quarter. The economy, which grew at a 2.1% rate in the fourth quarter, was in its 11th year of expansion, the longest on record. The Commerce Department's Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) said while it could not quantify the full effects of the pandemic, COVID-19 had partly contributed to the decline in GDP in the first quarter. The BEA said "stay-at-home" orders in March had "led to rapid changes in demand, as businesses and schools switched to remote work or canceled operations, and consumers canceled, restricted, or redirected their spending."

Many factories and nonessential businesses like restaurants and other social venues were shuttered or operated below capacity amid nationwide lockdowns to control the spread of COVID-19. The sharp contraction in GDP, together with record unemployment, could pile pressure on states and local

governments to reopen their economies.

It also deprives President Donald Trump of a success story to campaign around as he seeks re-election in November, and could ramp up criticism of the White House's initial slow response to the pandemic. Confirmed U.S. COVID-19 infections have topped one million, according to a Johns Hopkins University tally.

Stocks on Wall Street shrugged off the GDP report, and were trading higher after Gilead Sciences said its experimental antiviral drug met the main goal of a trial testing it in COVID-19 patients. The dollar fell against a basket of currencies, while U.S. Treasury prices rose. The U.S. Congress has approved a fiscal package of around \$3 trillion and the Federal Reserve has cut interest rates to near zero and greatly expanded its role as banker of last resort, but economists say these measures are inadequate. Fed officials were wrapping up a two-day policy meeting on Wednesday.

DIFFICULT ROAD AHEAD

Economists also did not believe that reopening regional economies, as some states are now doing, would quickly return the broader economy to pre-pandemic levels, which they said would take years. Reopening the economy also involves the risk of a second wave of infections and further lockdowns. Economists expect an even sharper contraction in GDP in the second quarter, with estimates for a drop as large as a 40% pace. They believe the economy entered recession in the second half of March when the social distancing measures took effect.

高科技快速數位快印來臨! MEET ALL YOUR PROMOTIONAL NEEDS UNDER ONE ROOF
為您提供各類廣告宣傳產品,設計製作一站式服務!

美南印刷 USA PRINTING
A Southern Chinese Daily Company



專業設計 ✓全彩印刷 ✓數碼快印 ✓大幅噴繪

TEL:281-983-8152 (CHINESE) 281-983-8154 (ENGLISH) WE'LL HELP YOU GET THE STAND OUT
11122 BELLAIRE BLVD., HOUSTON, TX 77072 E-MAIL: JENNIFERITC@GMAIL.COM

LOCAL NEWS

New York's Cuomo calls politics 'hammer into the middle' of U.S. during pandemic

(Reuters) - New York Governor Andrew Cuomo said on Wednesday that he was hearing the "music of a campaign season" in Washington's response to the coronavirus pandemic, warning that partisanship could drive a "hammer into the middle of this country."

FILE PHOTO: New York Governor Andrew Cuomo speaks during a news conference at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center which will be partially converted into a temporary hospital during the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in New York City, New York, U.S., March 24, 2020. REUTERS/Mike Segar

Cuomo's wide-ranging remarks also criticized what he called the "extraordinarily dangerous" politicization of the response to a pandemic that has killed more than 58,000 Americans and left millions jobless.

The Democratic governor, who has intermittently traded barbs with U.S. President Donald Trump and other Republican politicians during the crisis, made a thinly veiled reference to the upcoming national election in November.

"I've heard this music before. This is the music of a campaign season, this is the music of a rally, and balloons and 'It's us versus them' and 'We're good and they're bad' and that is poison right now as to where we are," Cuomo told a briefing.

Cuomo, who previously blasted Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's suggestion that states like New York should be able to declare bankruptcy if financially crippled by the crisis, took fresh aim at Florida Senator Rick Scott.

Scott, also a Republican, on Monday was quoted as lamenting the idea that "we're supposed to go bail them out".

As part of his daily slide presentation Cuomo prepared one showing that Florida receives \$30 billion more than it gives to the federal government on annual basis, while Kentucky, home to McConnell, is a net recipient of \$37 billion in funds.



FILE PHOTO:
New York
Governor An-
drew Cuomo
speaks during
a news con-
ference at the
Jacob K. Javits
Convention
Center which
will be partial-
ly converted
into a tempo-
rary hospital
during the
outbreak of
the corona-
virus disease
(COVID-19)
in New York
City, New
York, U.S.,
March 24

New York, in contrast, puts in \$29 billion more annually than it gets back in federal assistance, Cuomo said.

"Who is we and who is them?" Cuomo asked rhetorically at the briefing. "New York state bails them out every year."

Cuomo said that hospitalizations for COVID-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus, ticked lower on Tuesday, continuing a decline in its third week. But he disclosed

330 new deaths, a similar level to the past few days, and said the number of people newly admitted to the hospital actually increased slightly, a development that he noted was "not good".

He suggested he would move cautiously to lift a stay-at-home order due to expire on May 15, noting that Germany had seen its infection rate - the rate at which the virus spreads - rise since it relaxed social distancing moves.

He called for a bipartisan approach to the pandemic.

"We have to be at our best. When you start to politicize this situation and you start to say 'red' and 'blue', and 'this team' and 'that team', you may as well take a wedge and hammer it right into the middle of this country."

Stay Home!

BUSINESS

Save Lives!

Trump Orders Meat And Poultry Processing Plants To Stay Open During Coronavirus Crisis



President Trump has ordered meat processing plants to stay open.

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

WASHINGTON – Faced with worries of a meat shortage caused by the coronavirus, President Donald Trump on Tuesday ordered beef, pork and poultry processing plants to remain open despite safety concerns.

Citing his authority under the Defense Production Act, Trump declared in an executive order that "it is important that processors of beef, pork, and poultry ('meat and poultry') in the food supply chain continue operating and fulfilling orders to ensure a continued supply of protein for Americans." Trump declared meat plants as critical infrastructure.

The order sets the stage for a showdown between America's meat giants, which have been pressing to reopen plants, and some local officials and labor unions who've called for closures in a bid to prevent the virus from spreading. The president himself has long agitated for Americans to return to work and restore an economy crippled by social distancing measures.

Critics said the forced openings – some plants have closed because so many employees contracted the coronavirus – threaten the safety of workers who re-

main vulnerable to the disease.

Earlier, Trump said he did not fear any kind of food shortage.

"There's plenty of supply," Trump told reporters after meeting with Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis. "It's distribution."

Meat Plant Closures

U.S. processing plants shuttered due to the pandemic

- Cargill
- Conagra
- JBS
- Smithfield Foods
- Tyson Foods
- Other



ASSOCIATED PRESS In this April 2020, photo provided by Tyson Foods, workers wear protective masks and stand between plastic dividers at the company's Camilla, Georgia poultry processing plant. Tyson has added the plastic dividers to create separation between workers because of the coronavirus outbreak. (Tyson Foods via AP)

Congressional Republicans, including Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., have said shielding companies from lawsuits will help the economy reopen after weeks of lockdowns.

Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, the Senate's top Democrat, questioned McConnell's idea.

"Is he saying, if an owner tells a worker he needs to work next to a sick person without a mask and wouldn't be liable?" Schumer told reporters. "That wouldn't

make sense."

Trump spoke with reporters after a meeting with DeSantis in which he lauded Florida as a model for other states seeking to reopen their economies, despite the risks of resurgences in coronavirus cases. (Courtesy USA Today and https://www.msn.com/)



Related

[Coronavirus Is Breaking The Food Supply Chain](#)

[Covid-19 has forced large-scale farms that supply institutions to dump produce they can't sell](#)

America's food supply chain is in trouble because of coronavirus outbreaks in rural meatpacking plant communities.

Why it matters: For consumers, this means less meat at the grocery store. For many farmers, this means the prospect of financial ruin. For many animals, this means euthanasia instead of slaughter.

The big picture: Plants in more than a dozen states have closed in recent weeks, spanning beef, pork, poultry and fish.

- Many more plants are struggling to remain open despite significant outbreaks.

- More than 25% of U.S. pork production is now offline because of plant closures, WashPost reports, citing industry analysts.



terloo-Cedar Falls) Courier via AP

Between the lines: There's also an enormous human toll taking place at these plants.

- "It is not going to be easy to get workers six feet apart," William Schaffner, a professor of infectious diseases, told the N.Y. Times. "If you space people out, you reduce productivity."

What's next: House Ag Chair Collin Peterson told CNN today that he predicts shortages of pork as soon as next week.

- Peterson estimated that 60,000-70,000 pigs a day will need to be euthanized.



- If things don't turn around fast, "we are going to see multi-generational, longstanding [hog] farms not get through this financially," Minnesota hog farmer Greg Boerboom told the Star Tribune. (Courtesy USA Today and https://www.msn.com/)



Every 8 minutes, we respond to a disaster.

Your donation can help impact lives.



HELP NOW ▶

redcross.org

Thursday, April 30, 2020

Editor's Choice



National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director Dr. Anthony Fauci and Ambassador Debbie Birx, the White House coronavirus response coordinator, attend a coronavirus response meeting between U.S. President Donald Trump and Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards in the Oval Office at the White House in Washington, U.S., April 29, 2020. REUTERS/Carlos



A girl sells protective face masks and gloves at the main market in downtown after the government eased the restrictions on movement aimed at containing the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), in Amman, Jordan April 29, 2020. REUTERS/Muhammad Hamed



American airlines jets made by Embraer and other manufacturers sit at gates at Washington's Reagan National airport as the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic continues to keep airline travel at minimal levels and the U.S. economy contracts in the first quarter at its sharpest pace since the Great Recession, in Washington, U.S., April 29, 2020. REUTERS/Kevin



White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany listens during a coronavirus response meeting between U.S. President Donald Trump and Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards in the Oval Office at the White House in Washington, U.S., April 29, 2020. REUTERS/Carlos Barria



Opposition activists gather to protest government's policies during the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis in Belgrade, Serbia, April 29, 2020. REUTERS/Marko Djurica



Nuria Bravo, 38, and her husband Francisco Pimentel, 40, pose for a photo with their newborn son Jesus as they arrive to their home from the hospital after she gave birth during a lockdown amid the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak, in Ronda, southern Spain, April 22, 2020. Picture



A woman feeds pigeons on a street as the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) continues in Belgrade



British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab deputising for Prime Minister Boris Johnson speaks during Prime Minister's Questions in the House of Commons Chamber in London, Britain, April 29, 2020.

Abbot Reopens Texas, Overriding Some Local Orders**Governor Abbott Will Allow State's Stay-At-Home Order To End Today And Open For Business On Friday**

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

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott said Monday he will allow his stay-at-home order for the Lone Star State to expire today, commencing a phased exit from the social distancing measures meant to mitigate the novel coronavirus pandemic. The Republican's new order, which supersedes local orders, will allow businesses like retail stores, malls, restaurants and theaters to reopen Friday but limits occupancy to 25%. The order will also allow libraries and museums to open.

Abbott noted that he wants barbershops, salons, gyms and bars open, "as soon as possible," and expects them to open no later than mid-May.

"Now it's time to set a new course, a course that responsibly opens up business in Texas," Abbott said. "We will open in a way that uses safe standards -- safe standards for businesses, for their employees as well as for their customers. Standards based upon data and on doctors."

His announcements comes as more states plan phased reopenings of their

economies, despite public health professionals having repeatedly stressed the dangers of relaxing social distancing measures too early, and it's being met with disapproval and skepticism by some Democrats in the state.



Governor Abbott details the plan to reopen Texas.

Experts widely agree that to control the epidemic in the absence of strict social distancing measures, states and localities will need to build the capacity for additional testing and contact tracing -- something Texas medical and public health officials have told CNN the state isn't doing at a large enough scale to reopen.

That process of identifying new cases of Covid-19 and then tracking down and quarantining anyone who could have

been infected by those newly identified cases would be crucial to returning to normal life.

But Abbott pushed back Monday, saying that the state "should easily exceed our goal of 25,000 tests per day" by early May and that Dr. Deborah Birx -- the White House coronavirus response coordinator -- told him, "the Texas plan was great." Abbott said the state will not mandate, but "strongly recommend," that everyone wear a mask as businesses reopen.

"Now more than ever, Texans must remain committed to safe distancing practices that reduce the spread of Covid-19, and we must continue to rely on doctors and data to provide us with the safest strategies to restore Texans' livelihoods," he said.



A young couple takes their vows during the pandemic.

Texas Democratic Party executive director Manny Garcia said in a statement following Abbott's announcement that his decision to let the order expire "is reckless, irresponsible, and puts all of us at risk," and called it "just the latest in the Republican coronavirus catastrophe."

And Texas Democratic Rep. Sylvia Garcia on Monday questioned what data and doctors Abbott relied on to make his decision, saying in a statement following his announcement that she's "disappointed that we got no real clarification as to what data he relies on."

While previewing the state's strategy earlier this month, Abbott said a group of medical and economic experts would guide him through a series of incremental steps aimed at slowly reopening the state's economy.

"A more strategic approach is required to ensure that we don't reopen only to have to close down again, so consistent

with CDC guidelines and based on advice from infectious disease specialists we will open Texas businesses in phases," Abbott said Monday.

**Texas restaurants to open on Friday with 25% occupancy limit.**

"We must also focus on protecting the most vulnerable Texans from exposure to Covid-19. If we remain focused on protecting the lives of our fellow Texans, we can continue to open the Lone Star State."

A premature opening of private businesses, he stressed, would risk further outbreaks.

That approach marks a significant step back from what some had anticipated would be a much more aggressive push from Abbott to reopen the famously pro-business Texas.

The Lone Star State and its \$1.8 trillion economy, second only to California in size, has been hit particularly hard by tumbling oil prices and the global pandemic.

As a result, Abbott has had to strike a delicate balance between two opposing forces: a push from the state's business community eager to get back to work and health professionals and economists warning that a premature restart could be deadly.

"The lives saved are priceless, but the price has been steep. Many have lost jobs, others have lost businesses. Many are struggling to pay their bills. I want those Texans to know they are not alone in this fight," he said Monday.

"Just as we united as one state to slow Covid-19, we must also come together to begin rebuilding the lives and the livelihoods of our fellow Texans."

Gov. Greg Abbott on Monday cited a rise in COVID-19 testing and a decrease in the percent of new cases in Texas as reasons to begin to reopen the state.



Movie houses in Texas will reopen.

Retail businesses, restaurants, movie theaters and malls across the state will be allowed to reopen Friday at 25 percent capacity, as will museums and libraries. Bars, barber shops, gyms and hair salons will remain closed, likely until mid-May. Abbott also said masks and other strategies to contain the virus will be encouraged but not mandated. He made clear that his decision "supersedes all local orders," overriding Houston and Harris County — which had just launched a mask order.

Meanwhile, the Museum of Fine Arts Houston isn't ready to announce any re-opening date, citing the need to establish safety precautions and to communicate with city officials. But some Houston restaurant owners began making preparations to resume the limited dine-in services.

Major grocers and big-box retailers also said they will encourage shoppers to wear face masks inside its stores, but will not require them.

Related**Harris County launches efforts to ramp up testing in nursing homes**

Houston-area health agencies on Monday detailed plans to increase COVID-19 testing, focusing new efforts on nursing homes and areas with majority-minority populations.

Harris County has more than 500 nursing homes and long-term care facilities. And starting today, Harris County Public Health will deploy a "strike team" to test for COVID-19 at nursing homes and other congregate facilities.

In addition to testing residents and staff, the strike team will assess the sites and make recommendations, or issue orders to ensure best practices during the pandemic. (Courtesy <https://www.cnn.com/> and The Houston Chronicle)



從早上九點到下午四點，田孝京的電話會議就幾乎沒有停下來過，會議的主要內容，是說服他所在公司的承包商們接受更低的服務價格，以控制公司的生產成本。

田孝京是振華石油在阿聯酋某項目的常務副總經理，在前壹天晚上，美國WTI原油期貨五月合約的價格史無前例地跌至負數，震動全球市場。

"我入行至今大概已經13年了，也經歷許多次油價暴漲和暴跌，但是從來沒有想過原油期貨價格油價會有壹天跌至負數，震動全球市場。" 田孝京說道。

我們開了壹天的會，談降本增效

田孝京是振華石油在阿聯酋某項目的常務副總經理，他從2007年開始進入石油行業，曾參與過伊拉克艾哈代布油田項目開發及投資收回工作。2015年田孝京離開伊拉克，被派往阿聯酋負責當地壹個油田項目的生產銷售工作。

在田孝京的職業生涯中，他也曾經歷過油價的暴跌，但卻從來沒有想過會碰上油價跌至負數的情況。"我入行至今經歷過兩次油價的暴跌，壹次是2008年7月至2008年

12月，當時布倫特原油價格從創紀錄高位的144.49美元桶跌至36.61美元桶低點，區間最大跌幅75%。另壹次是2014年6月至2016年1月，當時布倫特原油價格從115.06美元桶跌至27.88美元桶，區間最大跌幅76%。

但是盡管經歷了兩次大跌，我從來沒想過有壹天國際油價會出現跌至負數的情況，也算見證歷史了。"

油價下跌的第二天，田孝京開了壹整天的電話會議，內容主要是如何用降本增效來應對油價的下跌，其中壹項很重要的工作，就是聯合各股東推動項目承包商降價。"我們是油田生產商，壹般來說，油田開發需要的鉆井、設備和壹些油田服務，大多是交給承包商來負責，目前要迅速控制成本，就需要我們利用多渠道多方同各個承包商談判，希望讓他們在原本價格的基礎上再降低5%-10%。"

但是這項工作並不容易，據田孝京介紹，阿聯酋的油田開采市場是壹個開放且充分競爭的市場，因此承包商們為了中標壹個油田項目，壹開始就會將價格壓得很低，而且在疫情期間，承包商的人力、運行成本都較往常更高，這時

據悉，本次召回範圍內的部分車輛使用了特定供應商在壹定時間內生產的變速箱機電單元上殼體

，其固定蓄壓器的螺紋在使用中可能開裂並引起油

壓下降，部分情況下造成離合器不再耦合，導致車

候說服他們接受降價，是壹件十分困難的事情。"但是沒辦法，還是得壹個個的去談判，說服他們。"

事實上，田孝京這樣忙碌的工作狀態已經維持了壹段時間，自從今年壹月以來，國際油價就開始了新壹輪的下跌，在這壹過程中，田孝京所在的項目組幾乎每天都在不停的測算國際油價的波動會給公司所帶來的衝擊和影響。"但因為油價波動得很厲害，我們幾乎每天都要重新做壹次全面的經營分析，很忙，但是更重要的是心裏壓力大，晚上的時候都很難睡好覺。"

仍要做好迎接暴風雨的準備

與大多數業內人士的分析相同，田孝

京也認為此次WTI原油五月期貨合約的價

格之所以會跌至負數，主要是因為原油期

貨需要交割的技術原因所導致："因為當

天是五月原油期貨的交割日，如果這時候

多頭不平倉，那就意味著自己要去進行實

物的交割，但事實上大多數人並沒有交割

的能力，只能選擇平倉，從而引發了價格

的下跌。當然這裏頭肯定也有資金故意推

動的因素，因為你可以看到在那天之後油

價很快就出現了短暫的反彈。"

不過，在田孝京看來，盡管WTI五

月期貨跌至負數是受到技術原因的直接

影響，但整體來看，國際油價仍將在短

期之內處於較低的價格區間裏。"

"因為目前的油價主要還是受到國際

市場供需關係變動的影響，從供給方面來

看，俄羅斯和歐佩克減產協議的失效，導

致石油的產量居高不下，而從需求來看，

據悉，這次WTI原油五月期貨合約的價

格之所以會跌至負數，主要是因為原油期

貨需要交割的技術原因所導致："因為當

天是五月原油期貨的交割日，如果這時候

多頭不平倉，那就意味著自己要去進行實

物的交割，但事實上大多數人並沒有交割

的能力，只能選擇平倉，從而引發了價格

的下跌。當然這裏頭肯定也有資金故意推

動的因素，因為你可以看到在那天之後油

價很快就出現了短暫的反彈。"

不過，在田孝京看來，盡管WTI五

月期貨跌至負數是受到技術原因的直接

影響，但整體來看，國際油價仍將在短

期之內處於較低的價格區間裏。"

"因為目前的油價主要還是受到國際

市場供需關係變動的影響，從供給方面來

看，俄羅斯和歐佩克減產協議的失效，導

致石油的產量居高不下，而從需求來看，

據悉，這次WTI原油五月期貨合約的價

格之所以會跌至負數，主要是因為原油期

貨需要交割的技術原因所導致："因為當

天是五月原油期貨的交割日，如果這時候

多頭不平倉，那就意味著自己要去進行實

物的交割，但事實上大多數人並沒有交割

的能力，只能選擇平倉，從而引發了價格

的下跌。當然這裏頭肯定也有資金故意推

動的因素，因為你可以看到在那天之後油

價很快就出現了短暫的反彈。"

不過，在田孝京看來，盡管WTI五

月期貨跌至負數是受到技術原因的直接

影響，但整體來看，國際油價仍將在短

期之內處於較低的價格區間裏。"

"因為目前的油價主要還是受到國際

市場供需關係變動的影響，從供給方面來

看，俄羅斯和歐佩克減產協議的失效，導

致石油的產量居高不下，而從需求來看，

據悉，這次WTI原油五月期貨合約的價

格之所以會跌至負數，主要是因為原油期

貨需要交割的技術原因所導致："因為當

天是五月原油期貨的交割日，如果這時候

多頭不平倉，那就意味著自己要去進行實

物的交割，但事實上大多數人並沒有交割

的能力，只能選擇平倉，從而引發了價格

的下跌。當然這裏頭肯定也有資金故意推

動的因素，因為你可以看到在那天之後油

價很快就出現了短暫的反彈。"

不過，在田孝京看來，盡管WTI五

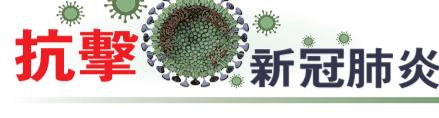
月期貨跌至負數是受到技術原因的直接

影響，但整體來看，國際油價仍將在短

期之內處於較低的價格區間裏。"

港府小心疫疫 下周分段復工

多數公僕正常上班 公共設施恢復開放“不犯聚”



香港連續3天錄得“零確診”，抗疫工作漸見成果，不少人都希望社會運作能回復往常。香港行政長官林鄭月娥28日宣佈，下周一（5月4日）將首階段回復政府服務，並提出當中4項安排，包括絕大部分政府僕員恢復正常上班；公共服務包括櫃檯服務、註冊服務或查詢服務亦回復正常辦公時間；公共設施如室外運動場地、圖書館、博物館等，在不違反“限聚令”下，恢復開放使用；各類委員會會議亦可恢復正常。至於開放所有現時關閉的場所則屬次階段安排，須視乎疫情發展再作處理和公佈。

■香港文匯報記者 杜思文



■林鄭月娥 香港文匯報記者 攝



■林鄭月娥28日宣佈，由下周一起，在不違反“限聚令”之下，包括室外運動場地、圖書館、博物館等公共設施將重新開放給市民使用。圖為現仍暫停開放的維園足球場。
中通社

28日，林鄭月娥出席行會前見傳媒時表示，自4月11日起，香港每天新增確診個案維持單位數水平，亦有多天零確診。疫情穩定下來，政府需要檢視現行公共衛生嚴控措施。

林鄭：預防措施更嚴格

林鄭月娥宣佈，特區政府將分兩階段回復正常的政府服務，首階段將於5月4日生效，包括絕大部分政府僕員須正常上班，除政府學校或部分康樂及文化事務署的表演場地等一些服務單位仍然關閉；公共服務恢復正常辦公時間，包括櫃檯服務、註冊服務或查詢服務；社會或市民享用的公共設施，在不違反禁止群組聚集的前提下恢復開放使用，包括室外運動場地、圖書館、博物館等；及各類委員會會議亦可恢復正常。不過，大型活動如慶典、頒獎禮等仍不能舉行，很多群組聚集的活動仍要繼續取消。

她強調，上述安排不等於放寬所有預防疫情措施，反之隨着人流增加，要有更嚴格的預防措施，包括出入政府大樓要量體溫、在大部分情況下戴口罩、提供消毒搓手液、彈性上班及用膳、多用視像會議等。

何時全面恢復須看疫情

至於第二階段，即政府何時全面恢復正常服務、開放所有關閉的場所，她表示要視乎疫情發展再處理和公佈。

林鄭月娥並感謝全港市民對特區政府防疫措施的支持，並表示政府會按部就班地檢視兩大類疫情防控措施，包括管制人員進出香港，及維持社交距離，並盡快公佈這些措施是否需要繼續。

她指出，特區政府聽取專家的意見，採取“suppress and lift（抑制和放寬）”的公共衛生策略。當疫情嚴峻時，要把它壓下去，當疫情穩定，則會稍微放寬。她強調疫情會有反覆，特區政府不能一下子完全放寬上述兩大類措施，只能逐步放寬，有需要或再收緊，直至研製出有效疫苗，令大部分人免疫，才能真正舒一口氣。

香港大學感染及傳染病中心總監何栢良表示，下周一公務員恢復正常上班是合適的安排，若香港到下月3日仍然沒有新增個案，就已達到14天本地零感染，是重要的防疫里程碑，相信政府已將此納入考慮。

他指出，若到下月17日仍無新增個案，即連續28天本地零感染，屆時開始復課亦是安全做法。

香港文匯報訊（記者 杜思文）香港特區政府28日宣佈，下周一將分階段恢復公共服務，香港公務員事務局局長聶德權28日到何文田的駕駛考試中心、社會福利署銅鑼灣綜合家庭服務中心了解復工準備；香港民政事務局局長徐英偉28日亦到訪中央圖書館及銅鑼灣運動場，視察準備重開場地的相關工作，各部門均準備就緒，亦有完備的防疫措施及計劃。



■聶德權(左一)到訪銅鑼灣綜合家庭服務中心，了解同事在疫情下的工作情況。

香港運輸署計劃於下周一恢復駕駛路試，並於5月26日恢復筆試。聶德權在運輸署何文田駕駛考試中心，聽取運輸署署長陳美寶介紹駕駛考試中心的防疫措施，包括路試和筆試的所有考生必須在試場內及考試時戴上口罩；進入中心前要用酒精搓手液清潔雙手，並接受體溫檢測；考生如身體不適，不應到試場應考，應盡快求醫；如考生因健康理由缺席考試，可在考期當日起一個月內，向運輸署駕駛考試排期事務處遞交延期申請書及相關病假證明書或醫生證明書正本，以另訂考試日期。署方亦在考生座位安排上保持適當距離，並會加強清潔考試中心內的電腦。

喜見各部門已就緒

隨後，聶德權與香港社會福利署助理署長彭潔玲到訪社署銅鑼灣綜合家庭服務中心，了解各中心逐步恢復服務的措施，包括小組活動人數不超過4人、接見室裝設間隔等。

聶德權表示，很高興看到各部門已經準備

就緒，政府會繼續保持高度警覺，亦會採取所必要的預防措施，密切留意疫情的發展，以決定全面恢復正常公共服務的時間。他希望市民繼續和政府同心抗疫，亦感謝公務員在疫情中堅守崗位、服務市民。

另外，康文署將於5月4日開始正常上班，5月6日將重開有關場地，首階段將重開室外運動場地、圖書館及博物館，其後將考慮重開室內運動場地。

徐英偉及香港康文署署長劉明光視察香港中央圖書館及銅鑼灣運動場重開的相關工作，得悉康文署會加強防疫措施，包括加強清潔消毒設施、提供酒精搓手液、控制人流、為前線員工提供防疫裝備等，以保障公眾及員工的健康，減低病毒傳播風險。

徐英偉表示，社會各界必須審慎應對疫情變化，即使康文署會重開一些設施，但市民使用設施時也要做足防疫措施。他又感謝康文署員工在過去數月努力不懈，適切地處理設施的安排。

工聯促推“中央職保補償基金”

香港文匯報訊（記者 成祖明）香港工聯職安健協會藉着28日是“國際工傷紀念日”到政府總部請願，向所有因工傷亡的工友和家屬致以深切慰問，並呼籲雇主切實履行保障僕員職安健之責任，提供更安全的工作設施和環境，並希望提高社會對職業安全健康的關注，避免不幸事件再次發生。工會同時促請政府落實檢討及修訂《僕員補償條例》，推行“中央職業保險補償基金”制度。

工會認為《僕員補償條例》落實後，多年來未有作出檢討和修訂，令工友不能得到最佳保障，故促請政府全面檢討《僕員補償條例》和現時職安健政策，並設立“中央職業保險補償基金”，推行“中央職業保險補償基金”制度，協助從事高風險行業的工友，購買勞工保險。

工會亦要求政府將新冠肺炎納入“職業病”範圍，並檢討現時“工傷申報及索償程序”機制，縮短工傷判決程序及所需時間；將“建造業工傷復康先導計劃”的涵蓋範圍由建造業擴大至所有高風險行業；公開“違反職安健條例的刑罰”諮詢後的檢討和跟進工作，加重刑罰以收阻嚇作用，以及保障僕員在惡劣天氣上下班的安全。



■工聯職安健協會28日到政總請願，促請政府推行“中央職業保險補償基金”制度。

跨境生商務客抵港今起免檢

香港文匯報（記者 文森）香港新冠肺炎疫情持續緩和，28日連續第三天錄得“零確診”，為特區政府放寬防疫措施製造有利條件。香港特區政府28日公佈，下周一（5月7日）屆滿的各項入境檢疫措施，有效期將延長一個月至6月7日，但政府同時修訂規例，豁免跨境學童和商務旅客的入境強制檢疫限制，今日（29日）零時生效，相關安排詳情將於日內公佈。有經常持商務簽證到港的商人對修訂表示歡迎，香港零售業也希望商務客獲准訪港後，能刺激香港疲弱的市道。

自2月8日起生效的第五百九十九C章《若干到港人士強制檢疫規例》訂明，從內地、澳

門及台灣到香港的人士，或從內地以外地方到香港、但到港前14天內曾在內地、澳門及台灣逗留的人士，抵港後必須強制檢疫14天，有效期原訂將於5月7日屆滿。

香港食物及衛生局局長陳肇始28日召開記者會表示，香港行政長官會同行政會議通過該規例有效期將再延長一個月，至6月7日。她說，考慮到逐步恢復人流及經濟活動，規例亦作出修訂，豁免兩類人士接受強制檢疫的規定，包括（一）任何根據《教育條例》註冊學校接受幼兒、幼稚園、小學或中學教育的抵港人士，或為提供該等教育或安全進行行程的人士，如跨境學生、有關人員及服務提供者，以

及（二）擁有關乎符合香港經濟發展利益的生產作業、業務活動或提供專業服務的人士（例如商務旅客等）。

特區政府28日晚已刊憲，訂立修訂規例，使以上兩類抵港人士29日起獲豁免檢疫。食物及衛生局副秘書長（衛生）陳偉基補充：“修訂規例雖然生效，但仍要等到豁免申請機制出台，業界才可正式申請。”陳肇始透露，該局將與商務及經濟發展局、教育局研究具體細節，再與內地溝通，她稱：“豁免人士要符合什麼要求、停留時間、有什麼防護措施要遵守，相關政策局正處理細節，當然會跟業界商討。”



■香港特區政府公佈，各項入境檢疫措施有效期延長至6月7日，但同時豁免跨境學童和商務旅客的入境強制檢疫限制。圖為香港國際機場為入境旅客量度體溫。

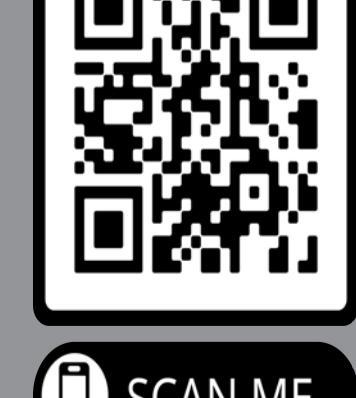
資料圖片

我們的新網站

www.scdaily.com

美南新聞
Southern News Group

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。



SCAN ME

美军指挥官探访翌日 阿富汗基地遭自杀攻击3死15伤

(综合报导) 美国2月与塔利班签署历史性和平协议后，阿富汗内乱似乎并未获得缓解。美军驻阿富汗指挥官偕阿富汗防长28日到访首都喀布尔的1个政府军特种部队基地后，基地29日随即遭受自杀炸弹攻击，造成3名平民死亡、15人受伤。暂未有组织出面承认责任，政府则将此事归咎于塔利班。

时值回教斋戒月，据报1名自杀攻击者在喀布尔近郊的军事基地外，在平民人群中引爆炸弹，造成死伤。该批平民为军事基地合

美国反封城抗议发起人自己确诊后竟又上街！遭网民炮轰

(综合报导) 美国北卡罗莱纳州2周前出现民众上街示威「反封城」反居家令」。不过，讽刺的是，抗议活动领袖惠特洛克(Audrey Whitlock)稍后也被确诊感染新冠肺炎，必须隔离14天。之后，她向支持者宣称隔离期已结束，将继续投入街头抗争，此举引来美国网民炮轰，痛批她根本是「杀人犯」。

据报导，反封城团体「重启北卡」(RE-OPEN NC)固定每周二在州长库柏(Roy Cooper)的官邸旁集会抗议，要求州长撤销封城令，让他们恢复原有的生活，并认为强制隔离政策违反宪法。这场街头抗议已持续3周。发起人之一的惠特洛克缺席前2次抗议活动后，遭人踢爆她已确诊，需强制隔离14天。



哈伯望远镜发现 阿特拉斯彗星分解成30块



(综合报导) 原本可能是今年天文奇观的阿特拉斯彗星(Comet AT-LAS C/2019 Y4)，已经在我们眼前瓦解了，哈伯太空望远镜的观测发现，彗星已破碎为30块。

太空网(Space.com)报导，阿特拉斯彗星在2019年12月29日被发现，之后彗星开始迅速变亮。然而，在3月中旬，彗星又开始突然变暗，原因是彗核的冰芯已经开始破裂，这是颇罕见的事，因为它还没有很接近太远，与地球相距1.46亿公里就开始分

解了。

对天文学家来说相当幸运的是，哈伯太空望远镜成功捕捉到这颗彗星的灭亡过程。4月20日，哈伯观测到彗星分裂成30个碎片，几天后的4月23日，只发现了25个碎片，可能是被其他碎片遮住了。

加州大学洛杉矶分校(UCLA)行星科学和天文学教授大卫·杰威特(David Jewitt)说：「两天之内，彗星发生了很大变化，以至于我们还很难将彗星的整个动态图做出来。」

马里兰大学，哈伯第二观测小组负责人叶全志(Quanzhi Ye)

说：「这真是奇景，因为我们很少看到彗星突然的碎裂。大多数破碎的彗星，通常太小、太暗而看不见，如今能够被清楚的拍摄，每十年也只会发生一次或两次。」

这样的突发事件，能帮助科学家更好地了解了彗星，以及它们分裂的



华尔街「爱国斯坦」自曝：中镖烧到快死了

(综合报导) 如果你有买股票，那么你或多或少对这位华尔街「爱国斯坦」有印象！纽约证交所中最上镜的交易员图克曼(Peter Tuchman)，自从3月26日确诊新冠肺炎后，经过长达一个多月的治疗，近日他接受美国雅虎财经网的采访，表示已经逐渐康复，虽然还有一些后遗症，但已经急著想要回去上班了。

图克曼在纽约证交所担任股票交易员长达30年，上月26日他对外宣布自己染上新冠肺炎，治疗期间连续发烧十天，病毒攻击他身上任何一个

地方，他经常迷失方向，甚至出现脑膜炎症状。

他表示，他很荣幸在他身边有一群很棒的医生，很荣幸能走过黑暗时刻，当凌晨三点，发烧快40度，觉得自己快死了的时候，医师安慰他，「只要你还能呼吸，待在家里，你会慢慢变好的！」

图克曼表示，目前检验结果是体内已经没有冠状病毒，虽然还不是100%健康，但肯定正在康复。



美确诊破百万 川普乐观说了一句话

(综合报导) 新冠病毒仍在美肆虐，至今已确诊破百万、并造成5.8万人死亡，超越越战阵亡人数。面对此一数据，美国总统川普28日却乐观地表示「疫情最糟糕的日子已过去了」，暗示重启全国经济的时机即将来到。

据美《国会山庄》报报导，川普在白宫接见受惠于紧急贷款计画的小型企业主时，对美国重启饱受疫情冲击的经济表达乐观。他表示，「我们的国家正在对抗这可怕的祸害时，政府持续帮助那些失去挚爱、悲切伤痛的美国人民，我们同舟共济、终将战胜；我们的即将重返且变得更大。」

在川普接见小企业主的场合上，与会者感谢川普政府的「薪资保障计划」(Paycheck Protection Program)，让许多小企业得以在疫情中生存，持续发放员工薪资，一名受邀上台演讲的

受薪员工向川普政府表示，「你们真的就是我的家人」，其他受邀到场的小企业主也对川普团队赞美有加。

正当白宫仍在寻求复苏全美经济，美国已有数州宣布在未来数周将放宽原先的居家防疫等限制政策。而白宫防疫团队最高公卫专家佛奇(Anthony S. Fauci)28日也表示，他希望在5月底或6月初时，每一位需要检测新冠病毒的人民都可以受检。

虽然川普一心想恢复经济，但纽约时报先前取得美国国土安全部、卫生及公共服务部相关文件报导，根据文件预测显示，美国居家防疫如实施30天就松绑，全美新冠肺炎感染人数将在夏季飙升，恐夺走20万条人命，死亡人数只比毫无防疫作为少10万人。

我们能看到一群彗星在天际，但是这样的机率并不高。

4月24日，哈伯太空望远镜庆祝运作30周年。在过去的30年中，哈伯进行了超过140万次观测，发现了宇宙中的4.7万个物体，使我们看到了宇宙的真正美丽。

美南報業電視傳媒集團
SOUTHERN NEWS GROUP

SOUTHERN CHINESE DAILY NEWS

報業 黃頁 電視
印刷設計 國際貿易中心

美南報業電視傳媒集團
SOUTHERN NEWS GROUP

SOUTHERN CHINESE DAILY NEWS

報業 黃頁 電視
印刷設計 國際貿易中心

11122 BELLAIRE BLVD., HOUSTON, TX 77072

WWW.SCDAILY.COM 281-498-4310

美南新聞



四十年來與休士頓僑社一起成長



印尼泰拳選手在公園訓練



奧地利田徑運動員恢復訓練



美南新聞

休斯頓地區
最大華人媒體

微信公眾號



報紙 電視 廣告 黃頁

美南日報



美南電視15.3



休斯頓黃頁



分類廣告



同體共生 休士頓佛光人支援抗疫前線

新冠疫情繼續攀升，位於美國中部的德州4月20日已有20,400人確診，546人往生。佛光人遵循佛光山開山星雲大師人間佛教的理念，國際佛光會休士頓協會在國際佛光會和「星雲文化教育公益基金會」的支援下，募得7,000個口罩。佛光山中美寺覺妙法師、如悟法師與協會理事蕭瑛禎，4月21日捐贈5,400個口罩予當地的消防局、警察局、兒童醫院、Houston Methodist Hospital。

Houston Methodist Hospital旗下共有8個醫院，分佈在休士頓不同的地區，執行長Mindy La Russa特別來函，感謝佛光山加入團隊，一起對抗疫情，讓醫護人員在精神上得到鼓舞，得以保持在最佳狀態下照顧

本報記者秦鴻鈞報導

病人。Houston Police 與 Fort Bend county Sheriff Department 非常感謝中美寺，在疫情期间給予第一線工作員打氣、安心，他們每天在外奔跑，危機重重，沒想到在關鍵時刻，佛教團體能伸出援手，佛光人把口罩親自送到他們的手上，讓他們很感動。

星雲大師常教導「給」的真義，佛光人真正感受到給的力量。疫情當前，佛光人發揮「同體共生」的精神，與第一線工作人員共同防疫，祈願疫情盡快解除，大家回復正常生活。



休士頓協會捐贈 Houston Police 500 個口罩，Lieutenant Dennis Davis (左二) 接收。人間社記者心湘攝



休士頓協會捐贈 Fort Bend County Sheriff Department 500 個口罩，隊長 Jewel Brandfilled 接收。人間社記者心湘攝

「美南山東同鄉會」在「友家」餐館以盒飯贈送在「防疫」一線的華裔警察。



「友家山東館」老闆徐洪濱（右）代表山東同鄉會贈盒飯給警察。



圖為華裔警察 Michael Lee (右) 與「友家」老闆、「美南山東同鄉會」副會長徐洪濱 (左)。



「友家山東館」老闆徐洪濱（右）代表山東同鄉會贈盒飯給警察。

国会议员Sheila Jackson Lee走访社区分享关爱



国会议员 Sheila Jackson Lee 一直在全天候工作，积极保持与居民们最佳的通讯和第一时间的协助。并通过与地方官员、医务人员和公共卫生专家合作。为执行最前线的服务确保德州人们得到最先进和急需的资源，特地走访了 NRG center 和 Jacinto City Heritage Hall 社区服务中心等帮助人民安全地返回家园，向地区人民提供最新及时信息并解决任何问题或疑虑。并希望召集来的资源提供给最需要的人。希望给所有社区团结一致的力量共度难关。

