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Clashing with Trump, U.S. government report says climate change will batter economy



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Black Friday deals lure U.S. shoppers, biggest sales gains online



A Lord and Taylor sign is pictured during Black Friday shopping in New York City, New York, U.S., November 23, 2018. REUTERS/Carlo Allegri



A sign is pictured during Black Friday shopping in New York City

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Shoppers across the United States snapped up deep discounts on toys, clothing and electronics both online and at stores on Black Friday, giving retailers a strong start to their make-or-break holiday season.

A healthy economy and rising wages gave people the confidence to splash out on retailers' annual raft of bargains.

"The prices today are very good," said Jose Manuel Cruz Hernandez, 59, who hit the Del Amo Fashion Center in Torrance, California, with his sister Paulina Cruz, 66, who comes every year from Mexico City to shop.

The pair spent \$120 on princess dolls and other toys at the Walt Disney Co store, where items were 20 percent off. They spent a similar amount at Gap Inc, where items were discounted by about 55 percent.



Cruz Hernandez, a foreman at an aerospace firm, said he was comfortable with the U.S. economy and his own finances and plans to spend another \$1,000 on holiday gifts - about the same as last year.

A similar story played out online, where shoppers spent \$643 million by 10 a.m. ET, up 28 percent from a year ago, according to Adobe Analytics, which tracks transactions at most of the top U.S. online retailers. Smartphone sales in particular contributed to gains.

Foot traffic looked healthy at stores offering discounts, although detailed numbers on brick-and-mortar holiday sales will not be available for several days.

"Overall, Black Friday doesn't have the sense of urgency as in the past and feels more like a busy regular weekend day in many of the stores," said Dana Telsey at Telsey Advisory Group.

"Many of the promotions were available for the past couple of weeks," Telsey said. "We haven't noticed desperation from any retailer."

Shares of Macy's Inc, Kohl's Corp, and Target Corp all closed down on Friday and weighed on the broader S&P 500 retailing index, which closed down 0.56 percent.

People shop during the Black Friday sales shopping event at Roosevelt Field Mall in Garden City, New York, U.S., November 23, 2018. REUTERS/Shannon Stapleton

Investors are concerned retail sales growth may have peaked in the second quarter and business will slow down as comparisons get tougher, said Brian Yarbrough, retail analyst with Edward Jones.

Victoria's Secret owner L Brands, Walmart Inc and American Eagle Outfitters rose. J.C. Penney Co Inc ended flat and Amazon.com Inc closed slightly lower.

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Clashing with Trump, U.S. government report says climate change will batter economy

(Reuters) - Climate change will cost the U.S. economy hundreds of billions of dollars by the end of the century, hitting everything from health to infrastructure, according to a government report issued on Friday that the White House called inaccurate.

The congressionally mandated report, written with the help of more than a dozen U.S. government agencies and departments, outlined the projected impact of global warming on every corner of American society in a dire warning that is at odds with the Trump administration's pro-fossil-fuels agenda.

"With continued growth in emissions at historic rates, annual losses in some economic sectors are projected to reach hundreds of billions of dollars by the end of the century - more than the current gross domestic product (GDP) of many U.S. states," the report, the Fourth National Climate Assessment Volume II, said.

Global warming would disproportionately hurt the poor, broadly undermine human health, damage infrastructure, limit the availability of water, alter coastlines, and boost costs in industries from farming, to fisheries and energy production, the report said.

But it added that projections of further damage could change if greenhouse gas emissions are sharply curbed, even though many of the impacts of climate change - including more frequent and more powerful storms, droughts and flooding - are already under way. "Future risks from climate change depend primarily on decisions made today," it said.

The report supplements a study issued last year

that concluded humans are the main driver of global warming and warned of catastrophic effects to the planet.

The studies clash with policy under President Donald Trump, who has been rolling back Obama-era environmental and climate protections to maximize production of domestic fossil fuels, including crude oil, already the highest in the world, above Saudi Arabia and Russia. White House spokeswoman Lindsay Walters said the new report was "largely based on the most extreme scenario, which contradicts long-established trends by assuming that...there would be limited technology and innovation, and a rapidly expanding population."

The government's next update of the National Climate Assessment, she said, "gives us the opportunity to provide for a more transparent and data-driven process that includes fuller information on the range of potential scenarios and outcomes."

Trump last year announced his intention to withdraw the United States from the 2015 Paris Deal agreed by nearly 200 nations to combat climate change, arguing the accord would hurt the U.S. economy and provide little tangible environmental benefit. Trump and several members of his cabinet have also repeatedly cast doubt on the science of climate change, arguing that the causes and impacts are not yet settled.

U.S. President Donald Trump takes questions from the media after speaking via teleconference with troops from Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach, Florida, U.S., November 22, 2018. REUTERS/Eric Thayer

Environmental groups said the report reinforced their calls for the United States to take action on climate change.

"While President Trump continues to ignore



the threat of climate change, his own administration is sounding the alarm," said Abigail Dillen, president of environmental group Earthjustice. "This report underscores what we are already seeing firsthand: climate change is real, it's happening here, and it's happening now."

Previous research, including from U.S. government scientists, has also concluded that climate change could have severe economic consequences, including damage to infrastructure, water supplies and agriculture.

Severe weather and other impacts also increase the risk of disease transmission, decrease air quality, and can increase mental health problems, among other effects.

Trump says shutdown possible over border security
Thirteen government departments and agencies, from the Agriculture Department to NASA, were part of the committee that compiled the new report.

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Editor's Choice



A plastic recycling yard is seen in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico November 22, 2018. Picture taken November 22, 2018. REUTERS/Jose Luis Gonzalez



People look at products at the World Trade Center Apple Store during a Black Friday sales event in Manhattan, New York City



Women prepare to carry their shopping bags near Century 21 during a Black Friday sales event in Manhattan, New York City



A Black Friday sales event advertisement sign is seen as a man shops inside a Saks Fifth OFF 5TH Outlet in Garden City, New York



Nov 24, 2018; Columbus, OH, USA; Ohio State Buckeyes band members celebrate after a touchdown against the Michigan Wolverines at Ohio Stadium. Mandatory Credit: Joe Maiorana-USA TODAY Sports



ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating - 2018 Internationaux de France



An empty shopping cart stands outside a target store during a Black Friday sales event in Westbury, New York



People walk past Top Shop ahead of a Black Friday sales event in Manhattan, New York City

The Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) is one of the three programs of the federally funded Senior Corps.

Volunteers share their love and wisdom with children and youth in the Harris County community.

Foster Grandparents volunteer a minimum of 20 hours a week and on special assignments volunteers can serve up to 40 hours per week.

- A stipend of \$2.65 per hour which by federal law is not taxable and does not affect rent calculations and other benefits
• Limited transportation reimbursement
• A meal at the volunteer site or limited reimbursement
• In-service training
• Excess liability insurance
• The satisfaction of knowing they have made a difference in the life of a child

Related



The Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) Is Part of the Senior Corps

Senior Corps is a United States government agency under the authority of the Corporation for National and Community Service. Its stated mission is to provide aid to senior citizens in communities while promoting a sense of community.

The three programs have unique histories, and each was developed to meet a specific need. The Foster Grandparent Program was piloted on August 28, 1965, to entice low income people over 60 in community service.

The Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) - Making A Difference In The Community

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



ministration on Aging in 1968, and before being legislated and signed into law under President Richard Nixon.



The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) began as an outgrowth by private groups and government agencies to create opportunities of engagement, activity, and growth for older Americans following the work of the Community Service Society of New York on Staten Island beginning in 1965.

History Senior Corps was formed from a merge of its constituent programs: Foster Grandparents, Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), and Senior Companions—were merged when the Corporation for National and Community Service was formed by then-president Bill Clinton in 1993.

ties. When the Corporation for National and Community Service was formed by then-president Bill Clinton in 1993, the three organizations were reformed into the single agency Senior Corps. The Foster Grandparent Program was piloted on August 28, 1965, to entice low income people over 60 in community service.

In 1968, the Senior Companion Program began as part of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare and Administration on Aging. Five years later, President Richard Nixon asked Congress to expand the role of low-income older volunteers who provide personal services to others.

RSVP began as an outgrowth by private groups and government agencies to create opportunities of engagement, activity, and growth for older Americans. One of the earliest programs, the Community Service Society of New York, began in 1965 on Staten Island. The project involved a small group of volunteers who were dedicated to serving their communities in a variety of ways.

Foster Grandparents First operational on August 28, 1965, the Foster Grandparents program enables se-

of these children, receive pre-service and monthly training sessions, transportation reimbursement, an annual physical, and accident and liability insurance while working with the child/children. Some Foster Grandparents also receive small tax-free stipends to offset costs incurred while participating in the program; eligibility for these stipends is based on income criteria.

Senior Corps is for people age 55+ who want to share their experiences with others who are most in need of mentors, coaches, or a companion.

Advertisement for 'NOW & THEN' luncheon. Text: 'Foster Grandparents - Connecting History and Values to Today's Youth for a Better Tomorrow'. Date: Thursday, December 6, 2018, 11:00 AM-1:30 PM. Location: The Junior League of Houston, 1811 Briar Oaks Lane | Houston, TX 77027.

Advertisement for 'NOW & THEN' luncheon listing sponsors. Sponsors include: Evelyn Rubenstein JCC Houston, United Way, National & Community Service, Texas Health and Human Services Commission, Communities in Schools, TexanPlus, Retirement Center Management, Home Instead, DistinctiveLife, Becca, Bridgewood, The Village of Meyerland, The Village of River Oaks, The Village of The Heights, The Village of Tanglewood.

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Hoover Dam is one of the greatest engineering feats of the 20th century. Built during the Great Depression, it was the biggest public works project in the country. Now, as California and the West expand into renewable energy, there's a \$3 billion plan to bring the power plant into the 21st century.

Close to a million people come each year to the Arizona-Nevada border to be awed by the mighty dam, a 726-foot high wall of concrete housing 17 power generators, reports CBS News' Jamie Yuccas.

"3.25 million cubic yards of concrete. Basically you could pave a road from San Francisco to New York with the concrete in the dam," Len Schilling said. He manages the Hoover Dam, which provides power to three states and water to more than 20 million people, producing enough power to support more than a million homes.

The generators take in water from Lake Mead. The water is funneled through spinning turbines to create electricity. Then the water is released to flow downstream. Los Angeles is its largest customer. "Fifty-five percent to California, 25 percent to Nevada, and then 20 percent to Arizona customers," Schilling said.

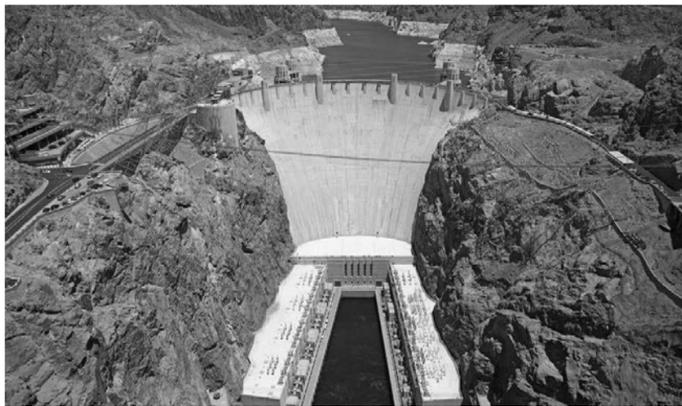
The dam was built to tame the Colorado River after devastating floods. Now the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power is looking to turn it into a giant energy storage system, similar to the job a battery performs.



"In fact it's one of the simplest technologies: pump water up hill when there's too much energy and let it run down hill when there's not enough energy," said David Wright, general manager of the Department of Water and Power. They have already implemented the plan that works on a much smaller scale in Castaic, California.

\$3 Billion Hoover Dam Project Plans To Bring Power Plant Into The 21st Century

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



"This isn't something we're looking at lightly. This is something that has been thought about and now it's, let's look at the engineering, let's look at the feasibility," Wright said.

The project calls for a wind- and solar-powered pump station to be built 20 miles downstream. Water would be pumped back up to Lake Mead through underground pipes and sent back down during periods of higher demand.

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, a proponent of green energy, is also behind the plan.

"You're talking about a price tag of \$3 billion. That's a lot of money," Yuccas said. "The cost of inaction is more," Garcetti responded. "We've got drought and fires in the West... We're going to be talking about 100 billions, trillions of dollars of costs if we don't confront climate change now."

California has a mandate of zero carbon emissions by 2045, and stands to gain the most from the plan. Some of the businesses down river are concerned there may not be enough water for recreation.

"So how do you sell people down river that this is going to be a good thing, especially during a drought when water levels are low?" Yuccas asked.



"You have to listen to stakeholders that are there. We can't just do this, and mandate it and say, 'It's our dam... and we're gonna do whatever,'" Garcetti said.

The project is in its infancy. It requires an environmental impact study along with a debate over how the cost will be divided between all of the energy users.

"The western United States might be divided by state borders but we really have the same electricity lines, the same water. We realize that our fates are tied together," Garcetti said.

It's a visionary project that some hope will stem the flow of climate change before it's too late. (Courtesy <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/>)

Related

HOOVER DAM

Hoover Dam is a concrete arch-gravity dam in the Black Canyon of the Colorado River, on the border between the U.S. states of Nevada and Arizona. It was con-

structed between 1931 and 1936 during the Great Depression and was dedicated on September 30, 1935, by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Its construction was the result of a massive effort involving thousands of workers, and cost over one hundred lives. Originally known as Boulder Dam from 1933, it was officially renamed Hoover Dam, for President Herbert Hoover, by a joint resolution of Congress in 1947.

Since about 1900, the Black Canyon and nearby Boulder Canyon had been investigated for their potential to support a dam that would control floods, provide irrigation water and produce hydroelectric power. In 1928, Congress authorized the project. The winning bid to build the dam was submitted by a consortium called Six Companies, Inc., which began construction on the dam in early 1931. Such a large concrete structure had never been built before, and some of the techniques were unproven. The torrid summer weather and lack of facilities near the site also presented difficulties. Nevertheless, Six Companies turned the dam over to the federal government on March 1, 1936, more than two years ahead of schedule.



Hoover Dam impounds Lake Mead, the largest reservoir in the United States by volume (when it is full). The dam is located near Boulder City, Nevada, a municipality originally constructed for workers on the construction project, about 30 mi (48 km) southeast of Las Vegas, Nevada. The dam's generators provide power

for public and private utilities in Nevada, Arizona, and California. Hoover Dam is a major tourist attraction; nearly a million people tour the dam each year. The heavily traveled U.S. Route 93 (US 93) ran along the dam's crest until October 2010, when the Hoover Dam Bypass opened.

Hydroelectricity is electricity produced from hydropower. In 2015 hydropower generated 16.6% of the world's total electricity, [1] and was expected to increase about 3.1% each year for the next 25 years.

Hydropower is produced in 150 countries, with the Asia-Pacific region generating 33 percent of global hydropower in 2013. China is the largest hydroelectricity producer, with 920 TWh of production in 2013, representing 16.9 percent of domestic electricity use.



The cost of hydroelectricity is relatively low, making it a competitive source of renewable electricity. The hydro station consumes no water, unlike coal or gas plants. The average cost of electricity from a hydro station larger than 10 megawatts is 3 to 5 U.S. cents per kilowatt-hour. [2] With a dam and reservoir it is also a flexible source of electricity since the amount produced by the station can be changed up or down very quickly to adapt to changing energy demands. Once a hydroelectric complex is constructed, the project produces no direct waste, and in many cases, has a considerably lower output level of greenhouse gases than fossil fuel powered energy plants. (Courtesy https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hoover_Dam)

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