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O'Rourke holds rally near Mexican border that Trump threatens to shut



Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

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## U.S. inflation much softer in first quarter; puts spotlight on Fed

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. inflation was much weaker than initially thought in the first quarter amid a sharp slowdown in domestic demand, which could cast doubts on the Federal Reserve's view that the benign price pressures were largely because of temporary factors.

The weak inflation pulse reported by the Commerce Department on Thursday could also pile pressure on the U.S. central bank to cut interest rates, especially as the economy appeared to slow in the second quarter. Fed Chairman Jerome Powell said recently he believed the soft inflation "may wind up being transient."

The personal consumption expenditures (PCE) price index excluding the volatile food and energy components increased at a 1.0% rate last quarter, the government said. The so-called core PCE price index, which is the Fed's preferred inflation measure, was previously reported to have risen at a 1.3% pace.

The increase last quarter was the smallest in four years and pushed inflation further below the Fed's 2% target. Inflation has been running below its target this year and President Donald Trump has urged the Fed to cut rates. "The low inflation readings are likely to be persistent," said Sung Won Sohn, an economics professor at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. "With both inflation and economic growth going in the wrong direction, the Fed is likely to cut rates later this year."

The Fed early this month kept rates unchanged and signaled little inclination to adjust monetary policy anytime soon. Inflation has been restrained in part by weaker prices for portfolio management services, apparel, and airfare

Economists said the sharp downward revision to the first-quarter inflation rate raised the risk of a lower core PCE price index number in April. With healthcare costs rising at both the producer and consumer levels in April, economists had expected the core PCE price index reading to remain unchanged at 1.6% year-on-year in April.



FILE PHOTO: People shop at Macy's Department store in New York City, U.S., March 11, 2019. REUTERS/Brendan McDermid

## Wall St. slump continues on U.S.-China trade uncertainty

NEW YORK (Reuters) - U.S. stocks lost ground again on Thursday, as conflicting comments on trade talks from President Donald Trump and Beijing reinforced investor nervousness that a lengthy battle could be in the offing and harm global growth.

Traders work on the floor at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) in New York, U.S., May 23, 2019. REUTERS/Brendan McDermid

Trump said talks with China were going well but those comments were countered by a senior Chinese diplomat who said provoking trade disputes is "naked economic terrorism."

The lack of clarity around the trade battle has rattled investors of late, after the S&P 500 had risen more than 17% through the first four months of the year on optimism a trade deal between the two countries could be reached.

That optimism has faded, however, as the escalating dispute between the two countries has weighed heavily on Wall Street in May, with each of the three

main indexes declining at least 5% for the month. The benchmark S&P 500 is nearly 6% lower from its closing high on April 30.

"The market is coming to that realization that we are not getting really clean or clear information and it is going to be a lot of noise and just prepare for that," said Ben Phillips, chief investment officer at Even-star's in Newport Beach, California.

"It is a difficult market right now. There are a lot of macro signals that are starting to roll over and the question is the trade dispute causing that or is it other factors."

A government report on Thursday showed U.S. inflation was much weaker than initially thought in the first quarter on a sharp slowdown in domestic demand, while growth was also slightly lower than estimated in April.

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# China's retaliatory tariffs on U.S. goods take effect amid standoff

BEIJING (Reuters) - An increase in Chinese tariffs on most U.S. imports on a \$60 billion target list took effect as planned on Saturday, with Beijing retaliating against Washington's escalation in the trade war between the world's two largest economies.

The tariffs, announced on May 13 and taking effect as of midnight in Beijing (1600 GMT), apply additional 20% or 25% tariffs on more than half of the 5,140 U.S. products targeted. Beijing had previously imposed additional rates of 5% or 10% on the targeted goods.

No further trade talks between top Chinese and U.S. negotiators have been scheduled since the last round ended in a stalemate on May 10, the same day when U.S. President Donald Trump announced higher tariffs on \$200 billion of Chinese goods and then took steps to levy duties on all remaining Chinese imports.

China ordered the latest tariff increases in response to Trump's move.

Trump has accused China of breaking a deal to settle their trade dispute by reneging on earlier commitments made during months of negotiations. China has denied the allegations.

Beijing has grown more strident in recent weeks, accusing Washington of lacking sincerity and vowing that it will not cave to the Trump administration's demands. Its rhetoric has hardened particularly since Washington put Chinese tech giant Huawei Technologies Co Ltd on a blacklist that effectively bans the firm from doing business with U.S. companies.

Chinese state-owned newspapers warned this week that Beijing was ready to use its dominance in the production of rare earths - chemical elements used in everything from high-tech consumer electronics to military equipment - in its trade war with the United States.



FILE PHOTO: Imports from the U.S. are seen at a supermarket in Shanghai, China April 3, 2018. REUTERS/Aly Song



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# Editor's Choice



Women pray to mourn the victims of a ship accident, which killed several people on the Danube river, in Budapest, Hungary, May 31, 2019. REUTERS/Bernadett Szabo TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



A London taxi makes its way down the Mall, decked out in Union flag, with Buckingham Palace in the background in London



Iranians march during a protest marking the annual al-Quds Day (Jerusalem Day) on the last Friday of the holy month of Ramadan in Tehran



A worker sleeps underneath an embroidery machine at a workshop in Mumbai, India, May 31, 2019. REUTERS/Francis Mascarenhas TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



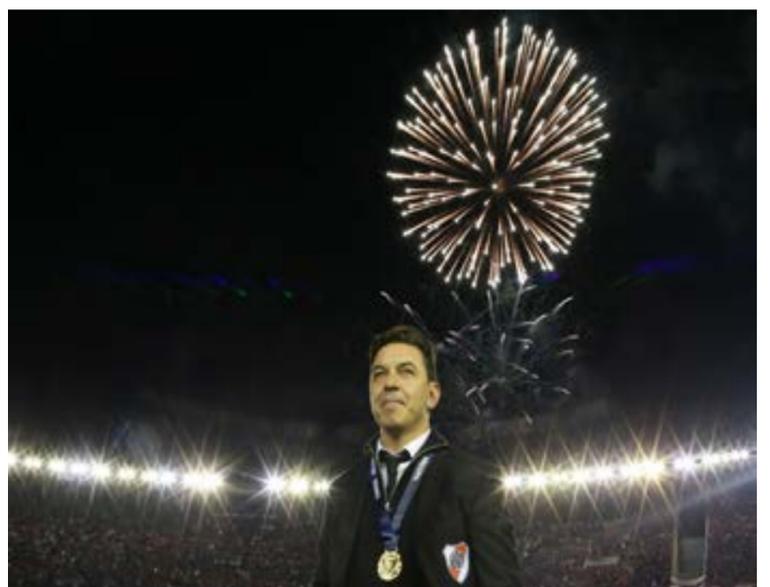
Venezuelan exiles hold a humanitarian collection drive for Venezuela, in Miami



Champions in an eight-way tie celebrate after the final round of the 92nd annual Scripps National Spelling Bee in Oxon Hill, Maryland.



Colette Giezantanner competes in the final round of the 92nd annual Scripps National Spelling Bee in Oxon Hill, Maryland.



Soccer Football - Recopa Sudamericana - Second Leg - River Plate v Atletico Paranaense - Antonio Vespucio Liberti Stadium, Buenos Aires, Argentina - May 30, 2019 River Plate coach Marcelo Gallardo celebrates after the match REUTERS/Agustin Marcarian

## Adoptees Still Pushing For Citizenship; Legislation Re-introduced In 2018



Members of the Adoptee Rights Campaign took their story to the Hill for a briefing co-hosted by Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii) and Adam Smith (D-Wash.), as well as former Rep. Bill Delahunt, who led the effort to pass the Child Citizenship Act in 2000. The Adoptee Citizenship Act of 2018 was introduced on March 8. Photo from the Adoptee Rights Campaign.

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

The Adoptee Citizenship Act of 2018 will provide U.S. citizenship for adoptees whose parents failed to finalize citizenship for them during their childhood despite being adopted as young children by U.S. citizens.

"International adoptees who were adopted by American parents and raised as Americans should have the same rights of citizenship as biological children," said Hirono in a press release yesterday. "I'm proud to work with Senator Blunt to close the loophole in the Child Citizenship Act and right this wrong."

The loophole has received widespread attention in the last few years with high profile cases like Adam Crapser who was deported to Korea, despite having been adopted by American citizens as a toddler. Crapser, like Korean adoptee Philip Clay, was deported after an arrest that flagged their citizenship status. Once deported to their country of birth adoptees face any number of challenges, starting with not knowing the language and not being connected to anyone there. At age 42, Clay jumped from the 14th story of a Korean apartment building to his death May 21, 2017.

Despite these high profile cases, The Adoptee Citizenship Act failed to pass during the 114th Congress in late 2016. But adoptees haven't given up advocating for the passage of this bill.

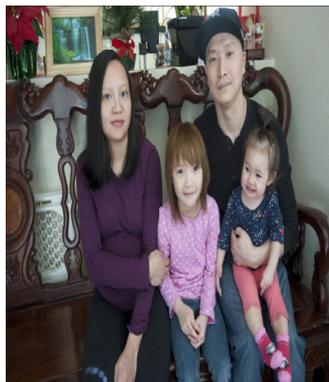


An estimated 35,000-75,000 international adoptees are impacted and living in the United States without citizenship despite being adopted by American citizens and raised in this country their entire lives, according to statistics from the Adoptee Rights Campaign.

In 2000, the Child Citizenship Act was passed to help remedy this problem for intercountry adoptees, making citizenship automatic for children adopted internationally. But the passage of that law was only made applicable for international adoptions from 2000 forward, leaving all those adopted prior to that

without citizenship and vulnerable to deportation if they did not go through the naturalization process while they were minors.

"Closing the existing loopholes in the Child Citizenship Act will ensure international adoptees are treated equally under U.S. law," said Rep. Adam Smith, in a press release today. This bill will positively impact thousands of Americans, by granting citizenship they should have had in the first place and fostering stability in their lives and communities. I look forward to working with my colleagues to advance this important legislation."



**In 2016, an immigration judge ruled that Korean American adoptee, Adam Crapser, will not be granted relief from pending deportation to South Korea. Crapser, who is married and has three small children, was adopted by an American couple at the age of three and is alienated from his birth country and culture.**

Fortunately for Kim-Alessi, she has her permanent resident status, which allows her to remain in this country and be gainfully employed. But she is not allowed to vote, collect government benefits or apply for federal employment.

"This bill is going to monumentally life-changing," said Kim-Alessi who in recent years had succumbed to the idea that she would remain a permanent legal resident her entire life. "Since I've never been a citizen, it's hard to opine in all the ways this would impact me." (Courtesy

<https://chronicleofsocialchange.org/>)

### Related

**Bill aims to protect Korean-American adoptees from deportation**



**Korean-American adoptees are drawing attention to a petition and calling on Congress to support a law to prevent deportations of legal adoptees. File Photo by Kevin Dietsch/UPI | License Photo**

NEW YORK, May 29 (UPI) -- Tens of thousands of international adoptees in the United States, many of them of Korean descent, are under threat of potential deportation because of neglected paperwork.

Adoptees legally adopted by U.S. citizens need better protection, and a new law could lift them out of immigration limbo, said Jenny Town, a leading analyst in Washington on North Korea affairs, and managing editor of 38 North. The Adoptee Citizenship Act of 2019 would allow certain adoptees, whose applications for U.S. citizenship were never filed with the government before 2000, to acquire automatic citizenship, she said.



Town, herself a Korean-American adoptee, has been circulating the petition, calling on Congress to support the new law. But the request is being made at a time when the Trump administration continues to pursue a wall at the Mexico border, and the president's supporters want to curtail immigration.

The act, if passed, would also allow deported adoptees to return to the United States.

Town is concerned the current mood in Washington could hurt their chances.

"On the policy side of immigration, people view this as criminals coming back, or trying to come back, regardless of the type of crime," Town said.

The petition is being circulated online following the high-profile deportation of Adam Crapser, a South Korea-born adoptee brought to the United States at age 3 but deported in 2016 over criminal convictions, including unlawful possession of a firearm and assault.



Town said Crapser is one of many cases of deportations. Other adoptees were forcibly removed because of minor violations, even unpaid parking tickets, she said.

Town, who was adopted when she was 3 years old, said the South Korean experience with inter-country adoptions offers a cautionary tale.

While many children needed homes, others were "recruited from poor families" in past decades.

"The system wasn't regulated," Town said. "That's where the problem stems from." (Courtesy <https://www.upi.com/>)

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The Transportation Security Administration updated its policy on cannabis over the Memorial Day weekend, making changes to the medical marijuana section of its “What Can I Bring?” webpage from reading “no” to “yes” (with “special instructions”). Specifically, the agency is clarifying that hemp-derived CBD products may now be carried on planes under certain circumstances. Previously, the TSA made no distinction between marijuana and hemp-derived preparations and warned on its website that cannabis products cannot be taken as carry-on items or in checked bags. But since the 2018 Farm Bill federally legalized hemp and its derivatives, that’s no longer the case. Now the agency’s webpage specifies that possession of “certain” cannabis products are illegal under federal law, and TSA agents are required to report suspected violations such as possession of “certain” products to law enforcement.



Here’s the new policy as it appears on TSA’s website:

**Medical Marijuana**

**Carry On Bags: Yes (Special Instructions)**

**Checked Bags: Yes (Special Instructions)**

Possession of marijuana and certain cannabis infused products, including some Cannabidiol (CBD) oil, remain illegal under federal law. TSA officers are required to report any suspected violations of law, including possession of marijuana and certain cannabis infused products.

Products/medications that contain hemp-derived CBD or are approved by the FDA are legal as long as it is produced within the regulations defined by the law under the Agriculture Improvement Act 2018.

TSA’s screening procedures are focused on security and are designed to detect potential threats to aviation and passengers. Accordingly, TSA security officers do not search for marijuana or other illegal drugs, but if any illegal substance is discovered during security screening, TSA will refer the matter to a law enforcement officer.

**“Products/medications that contain hemp-derived CBD or are approved by the FDA are legal as long as it is produced within the regulations defined by the law under the Agriculture Improvement Act 2018,” a new section states.**

**Report: TSA Moves To Allow Hemp-Derived CBD On Flights**



CBD buds of chocolate by Chronic Candy are displayed at the Big Industry Show at the Los Angeles Convention Center.(RICHARD VOGEL/ASSOCIATED PRESS/FILE)

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



It’s not clear how the agency plans to enforce the new policy, unless it intends to train agents to test CBD preparations for the presence of THC and maintain a database

of products that are approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

A TSA spokesperson told Marijuana Moment in an e-mail that the policy change was spurred by the FDA’s approval of a cannabis-derived anti-seizure medication, Epidiolex.

“TSA was made aware of an FDA-approved drug that contains CBD oil for children who experience seizures from pediatric epilepsy,” the spokesperson wrote. “To avoid confusion as to whether families can travel with this drug, TSA immediately updated TSA.gov once we became aware of the issue.” But the FDA approved the CBD prescription drug nearly a year ago, calling into question the notion that the TSA acted “im-

mediately.”

The rest of the TSA page on cannabis mostly retains language from the earlier version. The agency’s efforts are “focused on security and are designed to detect potential threats to aviation and passengers,” it says, so it doesn’t use resources to seek out illicit drugs.



However, “if any illegal substance is discovered during security screening, TSA will refer the matter to a law enforcement officer.”

The TSA has gone back-and-forth on its marijuana policy as more states opt to legalize the plant for medical or adult use. In April 2017, the agency took advocates by surprise after it updated the medical marijuana section of the “What Can I Bring?” page to include a green “yes,” indicating that medical cannabis was permitted in carry-ons or checked bags.

“TSA security officers do not search for marijuana or other drugs,” the page said at the time. “In the event a substance that appears to be marijuana is observed during security screening, TSA will refer the matter to a law enforcement officer.”

But shortly after the page started attracting press attention, TSA temporarily removed the medical cannabis section and tweeted that a “mistake was made in the database.” The agency later posted an updated version of the page, which specified that marijuana was not in fact allowed on planes.

**Medical Marijuana**

**Carry On Baggage: Yes**

**Checked Baggage: Yes**

“With the legalization of industrial hemp and its derivatives, multiple federal agencies are now revisiting their policies to clarify what is and isn’t allowed.

The US Patent and Trademark Office released a memo earlier this month stipulating that certain hemp products may qualify for registered trademarks. The Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau said in April that CBD cannot currently be added to alcoholic beverages, as the FDA has yet to release updated guidelines on adding hemp-derived products into the food supply.



**Hemp growing at a farm.**

The US Department of Agriculture has told industry stakeholders that they are allowed to import hemp seeds from other countries, and the agency also said it was accepting intellectual property protection applications. Both the FDA and the USDA are in the process of developing broader regulatory guidelines for hemp and its derivatives, with the FDA set to hold a public hearing on the issue this Friday. (Courtesy <https://www.bostonglobe.com/>)

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