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U.S. House expects to pass \$500 billion coronavirus bill, avoids fight over remote voting



Inside C2

Southern DAILY

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Alarmed as COVID patients' blood thickened, New York doctors try new treatments



J Mocco, MD, Director of Mount Sinai's Cerebrovascular Center, David Reich, MD and President and COO of The Mount Sinai Hospital, and Hooman Poor, MD, an ICU doctor pose together outside the hospital in Manhattan, during the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in New York City, New York, U.S., April 17, 2020. REUTERS/Jeenah Moon

NEW YORK (Reuters) - As the novel coronavirus spread through New York City in late March, doctors at Mount Sinai Hospital noticed something strange happening to patients' blood.

J Mocco, MD, Director of Mount Sinai's Cerebrovascular Center, David Reich, MD and President and COO of The Mount Sinai Hospital, and Hooman Poor, MD, an ICU doctor pose together outside the hospital in Manhattan, during the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in New York City, New York, U.S., April 17, 2020. REUTERS/Jeenah Moon
Signs of blood thickening and clotting were being detected in different organs by doctors from different specialties. This would turn out to be one of the alarming ways the virus ravages the body, as doctors there and elsewhere were starting to realize.

At Mount Sinai, nephrologists noticed kidney dialysis catheters getting plugged with clots. Pulmonologists monitoring COVID-19 patients on mechanical ventilators could see portions of lungs were oddly bloodless. Neurosurgeons confronted a surge in their usual caseload of strokes due to blood clots, the age of victims skewing younger, with at least half testing positive for the virus.

"It's very striking how much this disease causes clots to form," Dr. J Mocco, a Mount Sinai neurosurgeon, said in

an interview, describing how some doctors think COVID-19, the illness caused by the coronavirus, is more than a lung disease. In some cases, Mocco said, a stroke was a young patient's first symptom of COVID-19.

As colleagues from various specialties pooled their observations, they developed a new treatment protocol. Patients now receive high doses of a blood-thinning drug even before any evidence of clotting appears.

"Maybe, just maybe, if you prevent the clotting, you can make the disease less severe," said Dr. David Reich, the hospital president. The new protocol will not be used on certain high-risk patients because blood thinners can lead to bleeding in the brain and other organs.

"FUNNY YOU MENTIONED THAT"
In the three weeks beginning mid-March, Mocco saw 32 stroke patients with large blood blockages in the brain, double the usual number for that period.

Five were unusually young, under age 49, with no obvious risk factors for strokes, "which is crazy," he said. "Very, very atypical." The youngest was only 31.

At least half of the 32 patients would test positive for COVID-19, Mocco said. Meanwhile, Dr. Hooman Poor, a Mount Sinai lung specialist, found himself working a late shift with 14 patients on ventilators. The ventilator readings were not what he expected.

The lungs did not seem stiff, as is common in pneumonia. Instead, it seemed blood was not circulating freely through the lungs to be aerated with each breath.

Poor ran into a kidney doctor that night, who remarked that dialysis catheters were often getting blocked with clots.

"And I said, 'It's funny that you mentioned that because I feel like all these patients have blood clots in their lungs,'" Poor recalled.

Reich, the hospital president, told Poor about the surge in strokes seen by Mocco and said the two doctors should team up, setting off days of discussions and meetings with the hospital's department heads.

At 2:46 a.m. on Easter Sunday, Poor sent Mocco his first draft of what would become the new treatment protocol.

DOCTORS SHARE FINDINGS

As their wards began to overflow with COVID-19 patients, the Mount Sinai doctors read papers describing similar findings from doctors in China's Hubei province and other hard-hit areas, and discussed them with their peers in phone calls and webinars.

Mocco called neurosurgeons he knows elsewhere in the country. At Philadelphia's Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, Dr. Pascal Jabbour had begun to see a similar surge in strokes among people with COVID-19. The way his patients' blood congealed reminded him of congenital conditions such as lupus, or certain cancers.

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U.S. House expects to pass \$500 billion coronavirus bill, avoids fight over remote voting

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The U.S. House of Representatives expects to pass a nearly \$500 billion coronavirus relief bill on Thursday but will put off any decision on changing its voting rules during the pandemic, avoiding a potential partisan fight.

FILE PHOTO: U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) walks inside the U.S. Capitol after it was announced U.S. congressional leaders and the White House agreed on nearly \$500 billion more in coronavirus relief for the U.S. economy, bringing to nearly \$3 trillion the amount allocated to deal with the crisis, in Washington, U.S., April 21, 2020. REUTERS/Tom Brenner

The bill, which will provide funds to small businesses and hospitals struggling with the economic toll of a pandemic that has killed more than 45,000 Americans, is expected to be the fourth coronavirus measure passed by Congress, boosting the overall federal financial response to almost \$3 trillion.

RELATED COVERAGE

Next round of coronavirus business aid to be as fair as possible: Kudlow

Democratic Speaker Nancy Pelosi backed away from calling for a vote on a measure that would allow members to cast proxy votes on colleagues' behalf during the crisis to promote social distancing and limit the risk of members being exposed to the virus, a Democratic leadership aide said Wednesday.

The response to the pandemic has become a political flashpoint with some Republican governors and President Donald Trump saying the widespread closures of businesses, schools and social institutions are causing economic dislocation that outweighs the damage caused by the virus.

Instead, Pelosi told other leading Democrats on a call that she and House Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy would have a bipartisan group of House lawmakers review remote voting by proxy and reopening the House, the aide



FILE PHOTO: New York governor Andrew Cuomo speaks in the Manhattan borough of New York City, New York, U.S., March 30, 2020. REUTERS/Carlo Allegri/File Photo

said.

Congress has not met in regular session since last month, and is in recess until at least May 4 because of the pandemic. But House leaders have called members back to Washington for a Thursday vote on the coronavirus aid.

The Republican-controlled Senate approved it on a voice vote Tuesday, but with some opposition expected in the House, leaders decided to bring members back for a roll call vote.

The proposal Democrats scrapped would have allowed proxy voting for the first time, so that in the future House members who cannot attend because of the pandemic can ask other members to vote for them.

House Republicans were opposed, saying there are already measures in place to ensure Congress can act in an emergency. Representative Rodney Davis, the top Republican on the House Rules Committee, said an existing rule allows the House to reduce the number of members

required to do business. That rule was set up after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, Davis said.

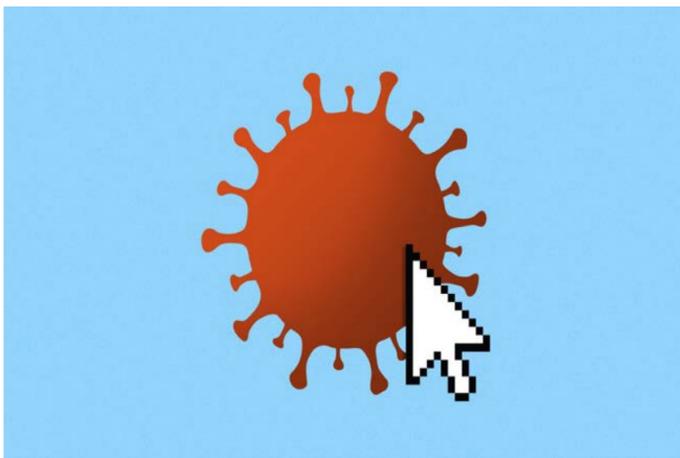
Pelosi told several news outlets she expects passage of the \$484 billion aid package, which includes funds for small businesses, hospitals and coronavirus testing. She said lawmakers would immediately move onto the next plan for tackling issues emerging from the outbreak that has crushed the nation's economy and battered its healthcare system.

Stay Healthy!

BUSINESS

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Coronavirus Dashboard



(Illustration: Eniola Odetunde/Axios)

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

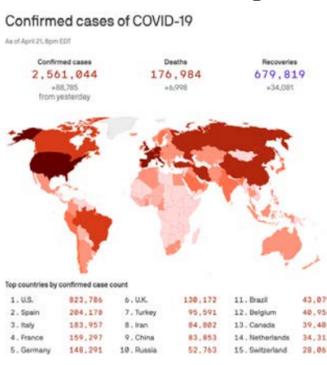
- Global:** Total confirmed cases as of 10:30 a.m. ET: 2,592,845 — Total deaths: 179,694 — Total recoveries — 696,177 — Map.
- U.S.:** Total confirmed cases as of 10:30 a.m. ET: 825,306 — Total deaths: 45,134 — Total recoveries — 75,673 — Total tested: 4,163,464 — Map.
- Public health latest:** FDA approves new at-home coronavirus test kits — CDC director warns winter wave of coronavirus cases could be deadlier.
- Food industry:** Coronavirus has hit American farmers from all sides — Tyson Meats closes Waterloo plant in latest pork shutdown
- Administration latest:** Trump announces 60-day suspension on issuing green cards.



6. **World updates:** Rising global food

- insecurity — Italy's prime minister previews cautious reopening.
- 7. What should I do?** Hydroxychloroquine questions answered — Masks, lending books and self-isolating — Exercise, laundry, what counts as soap — Pets, moving and personal health — Answers about the virus from Axios experts — What to know about social distancing — How to minimize your risk.
- 8. Other resources:** CDC on how to avoid the virus, what to do if you get it, the right mask to wear.

World Coronavirus Updates



Data: The Center for Systems Science and Engineering at Johns Hopkins; Map:

Axios Visuals

Oil prices continued to slide in Asian trading Wednesday, as the novel coronavirus causes an unprecedented demand crash. The Brent crude futures fell 13% to \$16.82 a barrel and the June contract for West Texas Intermediate dropped 3% to \$11.20 a barrel, per CNBC.

The big picture: Several countries and regions in Europe, Asia and the U.S. are beginning to ease lockdown restrictions. But the World Health Organization has cautioned that moving too fast will undermine progress.

By the numbers: COVID-19 has infected more than 2.5 million people and killed over 177,400 worldwide as of Wednesday morning, per Johns Hopkins.

- More than 686,600 people have recovered from the virus. The U.S. has reported the most cases (more than 825,100 from 4.1 million tests), followed by Spain (more than 204,100).

What's happening: The world is "on the brink of a hunger pandemic" as it grapples with the coronavirus outbreak, David Beasley, chief of the UN's World Food Program told the UN Security Council on Tuesday, AP reports.

- **Italian** Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte said Tuesday that guidelines to cautiously reopen parts of the country will likely be applied beginning May 4. Italy reported Monday the fewest number of new cases since March 10 (2,256).

- **President Trump** announced on Tuesday he will sign an executive order to temporarily suspend issuing green cards to those seeking permanent residency.



- **Virgin Australia**, the country's second-largest carrier, has entered into voluntary administration because of COVID-19, the firm said in a statement Tuesday.

- **WHO's chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus** said at a Monday briefing "the worst is yet ahead of us" in the pandemic. Takeshi Kasai, the WHO regional director for the Western Pacific, added, "This is not the time to be lax."

- **Iran** allowed shopping malls to reopen on Monday, per the New York Times.

- **Iraq** lifted a curfew, enabling some private sector workers to return to work, the Times notes.

- **Germany** reopened some stores, Poland is permitting visits to parks and forests and in Norway students have returned to preschool, the BBC reported Monday.

- **In Denmark**, where preschool and elementary school students went back last Wednesday, dental surgeries, hair salons and tattoo parlors reopened Monday, per the BBC.



- **New Zealand's** level 4 lockdown measures requiring non-essential workers to stay home has been extended to 11:59 p.m. next Monday, when the country moves into a still-strict level 3. NZ has reported 14 COVID-19 deaths.

- **Pakistan** has decided to keep mosques open during the fasting month of Ramadan, which begins Thursday, as coronavirus cases continue to climb, AP reports.

- **The U.S. and Canada** have agreed to maintain border restrictions until May 21, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said.
- **Japan and Singapore** are struggling to control new waves of infections.

Between the lines: Policy responses to the crisis have been every-country-for-itself and — in the case of the U.S. and China — tinged with geopolitical rivalry.

- **But the scientific work** under way to understand the virus and develop a vaccine has been globalized on an unprecedented scale. (Courtesy axios.com)



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Editor's Choice



A man wears a gas mask as demonstrators take part in Operation Grid-Lock to Re-Open New York to protest against lockdown measures in the wake, during the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), at the New York State Capitol in Albany, New York



Demonstrators take part in Operation Grid-Lock to Re-Open New York to protest against lockdown measures in the wake, during the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), at the New York State Capitol in Albany, New York



A man holds a sign as demonstrators take part in Operation Grid-Lock to Re-Open New York to protest against lockdown measures in the wake, during the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), at the New York State Capitol in Albany, New York



American flags wave from vehicles as demonstrators take part in Operation Grid-Lock to Re-Open New York to protest against lockdown measures in the wake, during the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), at the New York State Capitol in Albany



The showcase of a souvenir-shop displays a protective gear at the famous red-light district "Reeperbahn" during the outbreak of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Hamburg



A cashier wearing a protective face mask looks at French President Emmanuel Macron (not seen) as he visits a Super U supermarket about the partnership with local producers in Saint-Pol-de-Leon during a day trip centered on agriculture amid the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak



Medical staff assess for COVID-19 at public Victoria Health Unit, BC



Cars are stuck in a traffic jam before curfew to contain the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), in Shubra El Kheima, Al Qalyubia Governorate, north of Cairo

Farmers Battered By Food Glut As COVID-19 Shifts How America Eats

U.S. Facing Food Shortages



Fresh Milk Being Dumped By A Dairy In Florida.

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

Protectionist measures by national governments during the coronavirus crisis could provoke food shortages around the world, the UN's food body has warned. Harvests have been good and the outlook for staple crops is promising, but a shortage of field workers brought on by the virus crisis and a move towards protectionism - tariffs and export bans - mean problems could quickly appear in the coming weeks, Maximo Torero, chief economist of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, told the Guardian. As the coronavirus continues to infect more and more people, food supply chains have started to become more strained in recent days. In normal times, 35 per cent of the food we eat - around 70 million meals every day - is prepared outside our homes, by restaurants and caterers, in cafes and school canteens. Because restaurants'

needs are very different to those of people cooking at home, billions of pounds of produce was suddenly left without a buyer. British farmers are warning they have been forced to throw millions of gallons of milk down the drain because it no longer has a buyer

Dumped Milk, Smashed Eggs, Plowed Vegetables: Food Waste of the Pandemic

China has claimed victory over the coronavirus outbreak inside its borders, but now the country faces another crisis: food shortages. Rumors of a food shortage have swirled on social media for weeks, in the wake of the coronavirus lockdown that stopped tens of millions of people from going to work, and a leaked government document made public last Thursday shows that government officials have also been planning for a shortfall in food supplies. Beef farmers bracing for 'desperate

crisis' if more plants close. Smithfield Foods, the world's largest pork processor, is shuttering two U.S. plants that process bacon and ham, after closing a separate hog slaughterhouse because of a coronavirus outbreak among employees. "The closures are part of the domino effect underway in our industry," said CEO Ken Sullivan. "Meat plants, honed over decades for maximum efficiency and profit, have become major "hot spots" for the coronavirus pandemic, with some reporting widespread illnesses among their workers. The health crisis has revealed how these plants are becoming the weakest link in the nation's food supply chain, posing a serious challenge to meat production," writes the New York Times.



'Our supply line is brittle': Thomas Massie warns

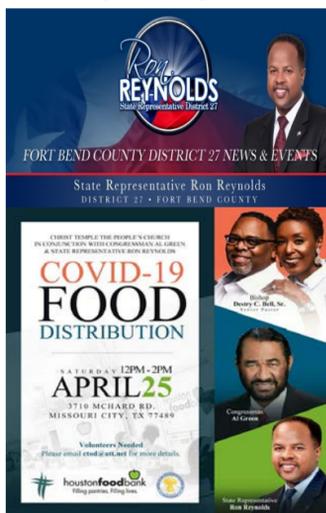
US could be weeks away from food shortages. Kentucky Rep. Thomas Massie warned that the United States could face food shortages due to the "brittle" supply chain, bankrupting farmers and forcing them to euthanize livestock. "We are weeks, not months, away from farmers euthanizing animals that would have been sold for meat/food. Also, fruits and vegetables are going to rot in the fields." "After weeks of concern about shortages in grocery stores and mad scrambles to find the last box of pasta or toilet paper roll, many of the nation's largest farms are struggling with another ghastly effect of the pandemic. They are being forced to destroy tens of millions of pounds of fresh food that they can no longer sell," writes the New York Times. "We Can't Give Our Product Away" - Farmers Toss Thousands Of Acres

Of Fruits, Veggies As Sales Plummet because of the shut down of businesses. Restaurants, bars and hotels are not buying anything so many small farmers not able to market their products.

Conclusion

Coronavirus has highlighted the vulnerability of our current food system. Reports points to delays planting crops in Southern Europe that could lead to problems in a few months. The UN's Food and Agriculture Organization forecasts that the Covid-19 pandemic will cause shortages of some crops this year. In that scenario, producer countries are likely to prioritize their home markets over exports, increasing the onus on British producers to supply this country's needs. And then we have a grand solar minimum to deal with, which will take the agricultural sector to task with shorter growing seasons and a too wet climate. (Courtesy drsircus.com)

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標應該是緩沖疫情造成的影響，並確保當疫情得到控制時，幫助經濟實現穩定和可持續復蘇。

此外，多邊合作對全球健康復蘇至關重要。為了支持發展中國家的必要支出，雙邊債權人和國際金融機構應提供優惠融資、贈款和債務減免。同時需要開展協作，防止全球化趨勢出現倒退，使經濟復蘇不會受到生產率進壹步下降的損害。

或遇大蕭條以來最糟經濟衰退

IMF14日發布新壹期《世界經濟展望報告》，預計今年全球經濟將萎縮3%，衰退程度遠超2008年國際金融危機引發的經濟下滑，為20世紀30年代大蕭條以來最糟糕的全球經濟衰退。

IMF首席經濟學家吉塔·戈皮納特稱，經濟增長依賴旅遊、酒店和娛樂等行業的國家，其經濟正受到尤其嚴重的幹擾。吉塔·戈皮納特說，疫情造成的2020年和2021年全球GDP的累計損失可能達到9萬億美元左右，大於日本和德國經濟之和。IMF總裁格奧爾基耶娃上周指出，目前IMF預計今年將有超過170個國家出現人均收入負增長。

《世界經濟展望報告》預計今年發達經濟體經濟將萎縮6.1%，新興市場和發展中經濟體經濟將萎縮1%。報告預計今年美國經濟將萎縮5.9%，歐元區經濟將萎縮7.5%，日本經濟將萎縮5.2%，韓國經濟將萎縮1.2%。報告稱，疫情將使英國陷入壹個世紀以來最嚴重的經濟衰

退，2020年英國經濟將萎縮6.5%，2021年英國經濟增速有望回調至4%。

IMF預計今年澳大利亞經濟將萎縮6.7%。IMF壹位專家表示，澳大利亞“正在進入近30年來的首次衰退”。不過報告預計，澳大利亞2021年預計將增長6.1%，增速高於美國、英國等發達經濟體。

《世界經濟展望報告》預測2020年中東及中亞地區經濟將萎縮2.8%，較1月份2.8%的增速預測大幅下調5.6個百分點。其中，2020年沙特阿拉伯經濟將萎縮2.3%。IMF預計印度2020年經濟增速1.9%，將是印度自1991年以來經濟增速最低的壹年。IMF預測2020年撒哈拉以南非洲地區經濟將萎縮1.6%，其中尼日利亞和南非經濟將分別萎縮3.4%和5.8%。

多國經濟持續受到沖擊

據外媒報道，美國聖路易聯邦儲備銀行行長布拉德14日表示，隔離措施每天導致美國家庭收入損失250億美元。與此同時，美國白宮經濟顧問拉裏·庫德洛14日在接受福克斯商業新聞網採訪時表示，“按照現在的速度，政府3490億美元中小企業援助貸款計劃最早周四就將耗盡資金。”對中小企業的援助貸款是美國總統特朗普簽署的2萬億美元疫情救助計劃的壹部分，美國中小企業管理局在4月3日啟動了這壹計劃。

據 Main Street America14日發布的壹項調查顯示，約三分之二的中小企

業表示，如果業務中斷以目前的速度持續長達五個月，他們可能不得不永久關閉。如果封鎖現狀持續兩個月，將有350萬家小型企業存在倒閉風險；如果持續五個月，將有750萬家小型企業永久關閉。

為緩解新冠肺炎疫情對經濟的沖擊，英國政府推出了史無前例的財政支持政策，這也導致政府負債大幅上升。英國預算責任辦公室14日發布報告稱，基於英國當前封鎖措施將持續三個月假設，英國本財年預算赤字規模將增加2180億英鎊，達到約2730億英鎊，相當於國內生產總值(GDP)的14%，該預算赤字率將為二戰以來最高。報告預計，在該情境下，2020年英國經濟將萎縮12.8%，英國失業率將從疫情前3.8%攀升至6月底的10%。

14日，法國政府將今年經濟預期進壹步下調為萎縮8%。法國經濟與財政部長布魯諾·勒梅爾當天告訴商業調頻電視臺，由於限制措施延長至5月，預計今年經濟萎縮8%，比9日公布的6%跌幅更深。法國總統馬克龍13日晚發表電視講話說，為防控疫情而實施的“居家令”將延長至5月11日。法國政府上周宣布將緊急經濟救助措施從450億歐元追加至1000億歐元，超過國內生產總值的4%。

南非央行行長萊塞特·卡尼亞戈14日表示，疫情爆發將會影響人們的健康和社會活動，因此，央行預計2020年南非GDP將會收縮6.1%。

國際貨幣基金組織(IMF)發布報告，預計新冠肺炎疫情將導致今年全球經濟萎縮3%，全球金融體系也面臨前所未有的嚴峻挑戰。IMF認為，如果疫情在下半年消退，各國採取的政策措施有效防止企業大量破產、長期失業和系統性金融壓力等問題出現，全球經濟增長有望在明年反彈至5.8%。

為維護全球金融體系穩定、支持全球經濟增長，各國央行降低利率保持貨幣政策寬松。目前，發達國家已將利率減至歷史低位，近半數新興市場經濟體的央行也已經降息；央行同時購買壹系列資產，為金融體系提供流動性，以抵消金融條件收緊的影響並保持信貸向實體經濟的流通，並增加美元互換額度等舉措進壹步增加流動性。IMF指出，各央行公布的擴張資產負債表計劃，包括發放貸款及購買資產至今已累計超過6萬億美元。

《報告》指出，在此次危機中，新興市場和發展中經濟體面臨的風險最大，這些國家經歷了有記錄以來最為劇烈的投資流動逆轉，外部債務融資的減少可能使杠桿較高和可信度較差的借款者承壓。這可能導致債務重組規模增加，對現有的債務處置框架構成考驗。

《報告》建議，政策制定者需要在維護金融穩定和支持經濟活動之間取得平衡。貨幣、財政和金融政策的共同目

全球金融體系面臨挑戰

國際貨幣基金組織(IMF)14日發布《全球金融穩定報告》(簡稱《報告》)說，控制新冠肺炎疫情的必要措施已經引發經濟衰退，全球金融體系也受到巨大沖擊，加強國際協調對應對疫情和穩定金融市場至關重要。

《報告》認為，自新冠肺炎疫情爆發以來，全球金融環境急劇收緊，經濟前景急劇惡化，未來壹年全球經濟增長和金融穩定下行風險顯著增加。疫情對經濟的影響存在不確定性，造成金融市場波動性大幅上升。

外資行用倉位配置力挺中國資產

綜合報導 受全球疫情影響，財富管理市場可能重構，投資者眼下最關心的是，到底配什麼資產？

記者在近期採訪中獲悉，不少投資機構表示看好中國市場，主動調整倉位。從壹些數據來看，部分外資機構近期持續加倉中國公司股票。

渣打銀行(中國)有限公司(下稱渣打中國)策略部認為，未來有兩個領域值得關注：壹是消費

行業相關的白馬龍頭，需求在復工復產後有機會逐步反彈；二是新基建、5G帶動的科技產業鏈。

由於疫情防控形勢持續向好，復工復產順利推進，不少外資機構將目光轉移至中國等新興市場。

“A股已納入MSCI，未來和國際資本市場會越來越接軌，中國境內資本市場肯定是我們重點布局的部分。我們從去年就已經開始有所布局。”渣打中國投資產品及投資顧問總監聞成向記者表示。

從資產管理規模來看，在渣打財富管理的投資產品配置中，目前中國境內資產占全部資產的比例，已經從原來的不到10%增至目前的25%。

渣打中國投資策略部認為，在全球疫情還沒出現拐點之前，中國境內市場雖然短線缺乏明確的方向，但基本會優於海外市場表現。中國境內資產成為全球範圍內波動較小的選擇之壹，未來其在制度建設和產業升級上的紅利將帶動價格中

樞逐步向上。市場觀點大多認為，二季度A股會企穩反彈，但市場情緒波動和影響尚需時間消除。

目前來看，市場仍存在較大波動的可能性，但並不缺乏投資機會。聞成表示，年初渣打中國就提出三個投資趨勢，分別是可持續發展(ESG)、女性消費和養老。“這些投資趨勢未來還是存在的，當投資者希望尋找返場機會的時候，這些都是可以考慮的選擇。”

近期，渣打中國已與內地基金公司合作，推出配置A股資產的女性消費主題基金，涉及行業包括服飾、子女教育、醫療健康等。