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Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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## Economic Watch: Increasing online demand boosts internet companies' revenue amid pandemic

SAN FRANCISCO, April 30 (Xinhua) -- Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, demand for home office, online learning and shopping is increasing, leading to the high-tech companies' results generally above market expectations in their quarterly financial reports released this week.

In Apple's second quarter of fiscal year 2021 ending on March 27, the company's operating income reached 89.6 billion U.S. dollars, up about 54 percent year on year, the highest level in the same period in history.

The company posted quarterly earnings per diluted share of 1.40 dollars, compared to 0.64 dollar for the same period of fiscal 2020, far exceeding market expectations.

Apple said consumers' home office trends have boosted company performance. Sales of iPhone amounted to approximately 48 billion dollars, up 66 percent from 29 billion dollars a year ago.

Facebook's financial report showed that its quarterly revenue grew to about 26.2 billion dollars, a year-on-year increase of 48 percent, with net income growing 94 percent to 9.50 billion dollars for the quarter ending on March 31.

Google's parent company "Alphabet" reported its first-quarter revenue at 55.3 billion dollars, up 34 percent from a year earlier. Its net profit amounted to 17.93 billion dollars, up by 162 percent.

Brookings Institution Senior Fellow Darrell West said consumers have gradually switched their work, study, shopping and social habits to an online mode, bringing business opportunities to the tech companies.

Amazon announced its financial results for the first quarter ending on March 31, with net sales of 108.5 billion dollars, up by 44 percent year on year. Its net income increased to 8.1 billion dollars in the quarter compared with 2.5 billion dollars a year ago.

Twitter announced financial results for its first quarter of 2021 with a total revenue of 1.04 billion dollars, up by 28 percent. Its quarterly net income amounted to 68 million dollars, compared with a net loss of 8 million dollars in a year ago.

Microsoft posted the quarterly financial report

with a revenue of 41.7 billion dollars, a year-on-year increase of 19 percent. The company's net profit was 15.5 billion dollars, up 44 percent.

Since the outbreak of the epidemic, global digital demand continued to grow, said Satya Nadella, Microsoft's chief executive officer (CEO).

However, the revenues of some leading manufacturing companies like Boeing and General Electric (GE) decreased largely year on year.

GE's financial report showed that its revenue in the first quarter was 17.1 billion dollars, down by 12 percent from the previous year. The quarter's net loss was approximately 2.8 billion dollars, while the net profit in the same period last year was about 6.2 billion dollars.

The continuing pandemic and supply chain issues are putting pressure on business operations, said the company.

The Boeing Company reported 2021's first-quarter revenue of 15.2 billion dollars, a 10-percent decrease from a year earlier, primarily driven by lower 787 deliveries and commercial services volume reduction amid the pandemic.

Its commercial airplane first-quarter revenue decreased to 4.3 billion dollars, a 31-percent drop year-on-year. The company's net loss for the quarter was approximately 560 million dollars.

Boeing President and CEO David Calhoun said the global pandemic continues to challenge the overall market environment, and with the acceleration of vaccine distribution, the company views 2021 as a key turning point for the industry's recovery.

## Iran's police dismantle online weapons trade gang

TEHRAN, May 1 (Xinhua) -- The Iranian police dismantled a gang involved in online weapons trade, a police commander said on Saturday.

Qassem Rezaee, deputy commander of the police, said that all the weapon traders were arrested within less than two weeks after being detected.

All the weapons put up for sale by the gang are made in the United States and smuggled into Iran from Turkey, Rezaee was quoted as saying by Tasnim News Agency.





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# WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

## CORONAVIRUS DIARY

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## Indian People Are Living In Hell



President Biden finally restricted travel from India starting next Tuesday. The policy will not apply to American citizens, lawful permanent residents or other exempted individuals, but people in those categories will still have to test negative prior to travel.

India surpassed 200,000 COVID-19 deaths with experts warning that the actual death toll is much higher. The surge in new infections has stretched India

's hospitals to the breaking point causing a shortage of oxygen, hospital beds and other supplies.

As the COVID-19 crisis spreads, oxygen has become one of the scarcest commodities. One young man waited for five hours to get oxygen for his sick grandparents.

China and India foreign ministers held a conference call on Friday and agreed to keep the supply chains and

cargo flights open to ensure a steady flow of medical supplies.

Helplessness, frustration and anger has been blamed on the government which has failed because of policy makers and politicians who have put contingency plans ahead of the crisis.

Two air force transport planes carrying U.S. supplies of oxygen cylinders and masks arrived in New Delhi Friday. The White House has

pledged to help India combat the pandemic.

Anger toward Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is growing because of his decision to hold huge election rallies as the pandemic soared.

We really don't understand why this politician still wanted to accomplish his political goals in order to sacrifice the lives of so many people.



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## Editor's Choice



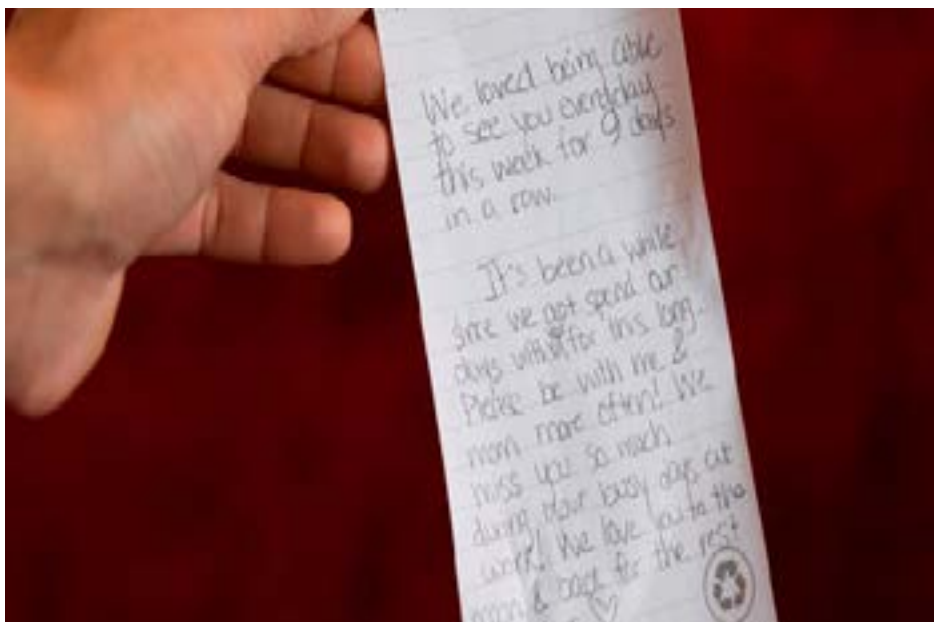
Syringes are seen prepped at a coronavirus vaccine clinic held by Variety - the Children's Charity of the Delaware Valley on their campus in Worcester, Pennsylvania, April 29. REUTERS/Hannah Beier



Dr. Mayank Amin draws the Pfizer-BioNTech coronavirus vaccine at a clinic run by Skip-pack Pharmacy in Collegeville, Pennsylvania, March 7, 2021. Montgomery County has one of the highest per capita vaccination rates in the state. On a gray Saturday morning in late February, Amin slipped into a Superman costume, the remnant of Halloween past that he now sometimes wears for vaccina-



Thomas Macconnell, 16, who is on the autism spectrum, receives a coronavirus vaccine in Worcester, Pennsylvania, April 29. REUTERS/Hannah Beier



Dr. Mayank Amin holds a note from his wife during his morning puja (daily ritual) at his parents' home in Lansdale, Pennsylvania, February 27. The young pharmacist reunites with



Michelle Melton, who was 35 weeks pregnant when she received her first vaccine from Dr. Mayank, sits with her 10-day-old baby after receiving her second vaccine



Michael Farris, 21, who is on the autism spectrum, looks outside after receiving a coronavirus vaccine at Variety - the Children's Charity of the Delaware Valley during a vaccine clinic on their campus in conjunction with Skip-pack Pharmacy



