



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 281-965-6390 Jun Gai 281-498-4310



Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

Southern Daily News is published by Southern News Group Daily

Publisher: Wea H. Lee  
President: Catherine Lee  
Editor: John Robbins

Address: 11122 Bellaire Blvd., Houston, TX 77072  
E-mail: News@scdaily.com

Sunday, May 09 2021

## U.S. equities post mixed weekly results as Wall Street assesses economic data



NEW YORK, May 8 (Xinhua) -- U.S. equities posted mixed results in the busy week featuring a wave of key economic data.

For the week ending Friday, the Dow rose 2.7 percent to snap a two-week losing streak, and the S&P 500 advanced 1.2 percent, while the tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite dropped 1.5 percent.

The S&P U.S. Listed China 50 index, which is designed to track the performance of the 50 largest Chinese companies listed on U.S. exchanges by total market cap, logged a weekly decline of 4.3 percent.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen sparked some selling pressure in the equity markets Tuesday when she inferred that interest rates may need to move higher to keep the U.S. economy from overheating.

"For equity markets, there has been a recent history of downside volatility, over short stretches, any time someone at the Fed or Treasury implies any type of monetary tightening. Yellen's comments sparked a similar outcome," experts at Zacks Investment Management said in an analysis.

Yellen clarified on Wednesday that her previous comments about the possibility of the Federal Reserve raising interest rates were not a prediction or a recommendation.

Yellen's remarks came after the Federal Reserve

last week kept its benchmark interest rates unchanged at the record-low level of near zero.

Jerome Powell, in his Fed Chair Press Conference last Wednesday, said that the economic recovery was happening faster than expected, but acknowledged the unevenness. He said that "it is not time yet" to talk about tapering the Fed's asset purchase program, as it will "take some time before we see substantial further progress" toward the central bank's employment and inflation goals.

A batch of key economic indicators released this week made investors reassess the momentum of economic recovery.

U.S. employers added 266,000 jobs in April, with the unemployment rate little changed at 6.1 percent, indicating new signs of a stalling labor market recovery, the Labor Department reported on Friday.

The job growth in the United States in March was reduced by 146,000 to 770,000, while the figure for February was up by 68,000 to 536,000, according to the monthly employment report.

The number of the employed in April fell well short of Wall Street's estimates. Economists surveyed by Dow Jones had forecast 1 million new jobs.

The April jobs report came one day after the nation's weekly jobless claims data, which saw first-time claims

for unemployment insurance in the United States fell below the 500,000 level last week, a fresh pandemic-era low.

U.S. initial jobless claims, a rough way to measure layoffs, stood at 498,000 in the week ending May 1, a decrease of 92,000 from the prior week's revised level, the Department of Labor reported on Thursday. Economists surveyed by Dow Jones and The Wall Street Journal had forecast new claims to total a seasonally adjusted 527,000.

U.S. Services PMI (Purchasing Managers' Index) fell to 62.7 percent last month from a record 63.7 percent in March, the Institute for Supply Management (ISM) said on Wednesday. The reading was weaker than market expectations.

Meanwhile, the ISM manufacturing index dropped to 60.7 percent in April from 64.7 percent in March, also weaker than anticipated.

"Instead of living in fear of a correction and potentially making knee-jerk, emotional decisions as a result, prepare your investments for the long-term by focusing on key data points and economic indicators that could positively impact your investments in the future," Mitch Zacks, CEO at Zacks Investment Management, said in a note on Saturday.



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

# 美南新聞



WWW.SCDAILY.COM 281-498-4310

11122 BELLAIRE BLVD., HOUSTON, TX 77072

# WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

## CORONAVIRUS DIARY 05/08/2021



**Wea H. Lee**  
Wealee@scdaily.com

Chairman of International District Houston Texas  
Publisher Southern Daily Wea H. Lee  
Southern News Group Chairman / CEO  
Chairman of International Trade & Culture Center  
Republic of Guiana Honorary consul at Houston Texas



### ~ Our Mom ~ Celebrating Mother's Day



In the past several years mom spent a very joyful time with the whole family. She always would tell us that we needed to fight for our future. As an old saying goes, "When you see the mountain, we need to open the road. When you see the water, you need to build a bridge."

We are so very proud that we had such a wonderful mom to set the example for our future.

Today we all celebrate Mother's Day. Everybody has their own story about their mother. We all should feel they are the greatest.

Almost five years ago our mom passed away in Washington, D.C. When we are here celebrating Mother's Day without her, we feel a kind of sadness and still remember her every day.

When I was a teenager our family lived in a small town nearby the China and Burma border. This poor town had no water and no electricity. I remember mom was the one

who went to the water well and got water and cooked a meal for the whole family. When she was a young adult mom was a music teacher in her hometown. Almost twenty-five years later I was with my mom when we visited her hometown again. A lot of people still called out, "our teacher is coming back!" Suddenly I saw tears come rolling down her cheeks, but with a very proud smile. Mom

had never told us about her teaching career before. After a long journey, we finally came to America. Mom spent a lot of time with my sisters in Dallas and Washington D.C. Every time when I visited her she prepared a home-cooked meal and always played a flute to entertain the whole family. She loved music and became a music teacher.



Media and social media icons: iTalk88, STV LIVE, Southern News 美南新聞, 公共頁 美南網, 头条 今日頭條 美國美南網, 抖音 美南美南網, 西瓜視頻 美國美南網, Facebook Page: Southern News 美南新聞, Tik Tok ID: Southern News Group, Instagram ID: Southern News

**Southern DAILY** Make Today Different

## Editor's Choice



A man is doused by a water cannon during clashes as several hundred people gather at the Bois de la Cambre/Ter Kamerenbos park for an anti-lockdown party called "La Boum 2" in defiance of coronavirus restrictions in Brussels, Belgium May 1, 2021. REUTERS/Yves Herman



Rohan Aggarwal, a resident doctor treating COVID patients, looks at a patient's X-ray scan during his 27-hour shift in the emergency room at Holy Family Hospital in New Delhi, India, May 1, 2021. Aggarwal, 26, doesn't even complete his medical training until next year. And yet, at one of the best hospitals in India, he is the doctor who must decide who will live and who will die when patients



People carry a body of a man, who died from the coronavirus, during his cremation at a crematorium in New Delhi, May 3. REUTERS/Adnan Abidi



Ultra-Orthodox Jews look at discarded items on a flight of stairs after 45 people were killed in a stampede at a Jewish religious festival in Mount Meron, northern Israel, April 30, 2021. REUTERS/Ronen Zvulun



Turkish riot police officers scuffle with demonstrators as they attempt to defy a ban and march on Taksim Square to celebrate May Day, during a nationwide coronavirus "full closure" in Istanbul, Turkey May 1, 2021. Over 200 demonstrators were detained. REUTERS/Kemal Aslan



Fumie Takino, 89, founder of a senior cheer squad called Japan Pom Pom, and other members prepare to pose for photos before filming a dance routine for an online performance in Tokyo, Japan, April 12, 2021. Japan, one of the world's most rapidly aging nations, with almost 30% of its population older than 65, is known for the longevity of its seniors. But acceptance of the squad took time in a nation with fixed notions about senior life. "We went to a senior-citizens club, and they really didn't like us. They didn't smile even once. Japanese women, wearing things like that, at their ages!"

# BUSINESS

## Confidence In COVID-19 Vaccines Continues To Rise, Poll Shows



COVID-19 vaccination programs are under way in many parts of the world. (Photo/REUTERS/Shannon Stapleton)

### Key Points

- A new Ipsos-World Economic Forum survey shows a notable increase in COVID-19 vaccination intent since December in all 15 countries studied.
- Eighty-nine percent of people in Brazil say they're ready to be vaccinated, with confidence also very high in Italy, China and Spain.
- Confidence in the vaccines has risen most in Italy – up 36 percentage points since December.

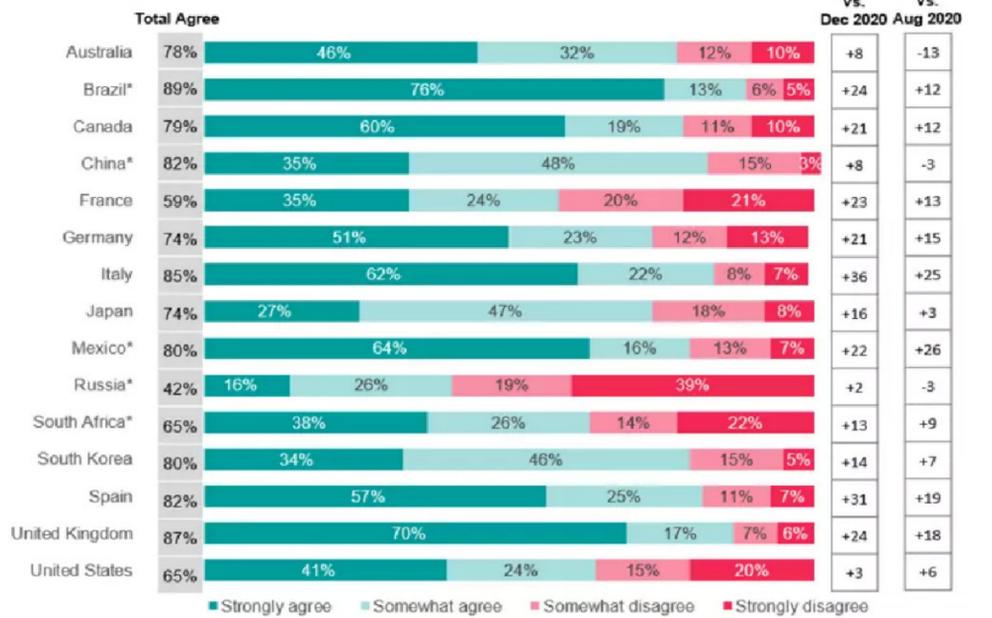
Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

With COVID-19 vaccination programs now under way in many parts of the world, confidence about getting the shot continues to rise. The latest vaccine survey from Ipsos and the World Economic Forum looked at people's intention to be vaccinated at the earliest possible date. During the last few days of February, more than 13,500 adults under the age of 75 – who had not been vaccinated at that point – were asked online whether they would be likely to get their shots when offered.

**Where are people most confident about being vaccinated?**

- Very high in Brazil (89%) Italy (85%), China (82%), Spain (82%), Mexico (80%) and South Korea (80%).
- Fairly high in Canada (79%), Australia (78%), Japan (74%) and Germany (74%).
- Middling in the United States (65%), South Africa (65%) and France (59%).
- Low in Russia (42%).

"If a vaccine for COVID-19 were available to me, I would get it"



Q. To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following: If a vaccine for COVID-19 were available, I would get it! n=12,076 online adults aged 16-74 across 15 countries; excludes those who report receiving the vaccine. Source: Ipsos Global Advisor, February 25-28, 2021; February data excludes those who stated they have received the vaccine. \*Online samples in Brazil, China, Mexico, Russia, and South Africa tend to be more urban, educated, and/or affluent than the general population.

The countries with the smallest increase from December 2020 of those who strongly agree they would get the vaccine are Russia (+2 to 16%) and the US (+3 to 41%).

At the other end of the spectrum, the number of adults who agree strongly that they would receive the COVID-19 vaccine rose by 36 percentage points to 62% in Italy, and 31 points to 57% in Spain. People in Brazil and the UK also express a high degree of confidence in being vaccinated.

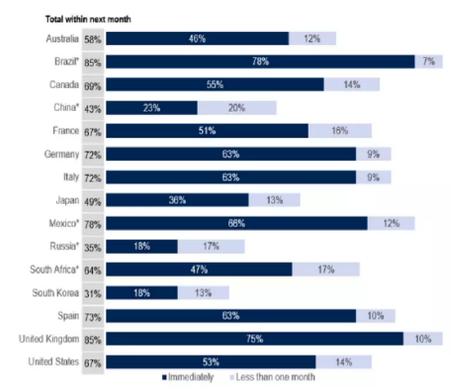
### How many people have been vaccinated?

The UK has made solid progress with the rollout of its vaccination programme. According to the country's National Health Service (NHS), the total number of people to have received at least one dose had reached 17,179,491 at the end of February. In the final week of the month, 2,249,002 people received a vaccination shot.

That means about one-third of the UK population has now been given at least one dose of the vaccine. By comparison, in the US that proportion is 14% and for Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, and Spain it is between 3% and 5%, according to data from Oxford University cited by Ipsos.

Elsewhere around the world, vaccine uptake is also on the rise. In India, 21 million doses have now been administered. Last month that was just 5.8 million, according to Bloomberg, which also reported that 1.6 million people were vaccinated on Saturday in India.

Once the COVID-19 vaccine becomes available to you, when would you get the vaccine?



Q. Once the COVID-19 vaccine becomes available to you, when would you get the vaccine? n=12,076 online adults aged 16-74 across 15 countries who agree they would get the vaccine; excludes those who report receiving the vaccine. Source: Ipsos Global Advisor, February 25-28, 2021; February data excludes those who stated they have received the vaccine. \*Online samples in Brazil, China, Mexico, Russia, and South Africa tend to be more urban, educated, and/or affluent than the general population.

As vaccination begins to lead to declining rates of infection, hospitalization and fatality in many countries, people aren't just becoming more confident about being vaccinated, they say they wouldn't hesitate.

Asked by Ipsos when they would get the vaccine, in most of the countries surveyed, the majority answered "immediately".

# Southern DAILY

# COMMUNITY

While The Variant Spreads More Easily, Researchers Say Its Symptoms Are Not More Severe Than The Previous Versions Of The Virus

## More Contagious Variant Of COVID Virus First Seen In UK Discovered In Harris County--First Case In Texas



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

HOUSTON — The first known case of the more contagious variant of COVID-19, variant B.1.1.7 that was first found in the United Kingdom, has now been discovered in the Houston area, Harris County Public Health officials said Thursday. Public health officials said it's the first known case of the variant in Texas. The infected person was reported to be a man between 30 and 40 years old who lives on the county's southwest side, outside of Houston's city limits. He has no history of travel, which suggests there could be community spread.

**Related: What is the new COVID-19 variant? FAQ**

"The individual is stable, in isolation, and will remain there until cleared by public health officials. HCPH epidemiologists are identifying, notifying, and quarantining all close contacts and are conducting a thorough investigation in conjunction with the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)," the county's health leaders stated in a press release.

**New variant is more easily transmitted but not more severe**

Based on available studies in the United Kingdom, scientists believe the B.1.1.7 variant to be more easily transmitted than previously identified strains of the SARS-CoV-2 variant but not more severe in symptoms. In addition, the currently approved vaccines are thought to be effective against this variant, public health officials say. The discovery comes as the Texas Medical Center

reports surging COVID-19 hospitalizations. With nearly 2,000 COVID-19 patients, hospitals are already operating at surge capacity.

"Our hospitals are busy, our emergency rooms are busy," President and CEO of Memorial Hermann Houston Dr. David Callender said. "We are not overwhelmed but there is quite a demand for hospital care today."

Although the new strain is a concern, it's not a surprise to medical professionals. Callender said they've been watching how it has been playing out in other areas where the variant is the dominant strain. "Bottom line is we need to be prepared for higher numbers and a more significant surge that can last longer. So we are trying to make sure we are ready," he said.

If there is a bright side, it's that the variant strain doesn't appear more deadly and does respond to the vaccine.

"There is hope with the vaccines," Callender said.



Memorial Hermann Hospital Houston

### Harris County's warning for the public

"This has the potential to throw jet fuel on an already dangerous situation," said Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo.

During a press conference Thursday, Hidalgo expressed her concern about the arrival of the new COVID variant and said the health department is aggressively investigating the links to the infected individual. She encouraged all residents to limit indoor gatherings and instead opt for outdoor activities.

"The health and safety of everyone in our community remains our top priority. Though mutations of a virus are expected, we are closely monitoring this case and any potential contacts to prevent the ongoing spread of the virus at all levels," said Dr. Sherri Onyiego, health authority for Harris County. "The prevention measures for this strain are no different and our community should continue staying home in addition to wearing facemasks, social distancing, getting tested, and washing your hands frequently. We know that our community is growing COVID fatigue, but as cases and hospitalizations are steadily increasing, now is not the time to drop our guard down."

### Scientists trying to understand new coronavirus variant

Scientists say the new variant does not seem to cause more serious COVID-19 illness than previous versions of the virus

Does it spread more easily? Make people sicker? Mean that treatments and vaccines won't work? Questions are multiplying as fast as new variants of the coronavirus, especially the one moving through England and now popping up in the U.S. and other countries. Scientists say there is reason for concern and more to learn, but that the new variants should not cause alarm. Worry has been growing since before Christmas when Britain's prime minister said the coronavirus variant seemed to spread more easily than earlier ones and was moving rapidly through England. On Tuesday, Colorado health officials said they had found it there.

### Here are some questions and answers on what's known about the virus so far.

**Q: WHERE DID THIS NEW VARIANT COME FROM? A:** New variants have been seen almost since the virus was first detected in China nearly a year ago. Viruses often mutate, or develop small changes, as they reproduce and move through a population. Most changes are trivial. "It's the change of one or two letters in the genetic alphabet that doesn't make much difference in the ability to cause disease," said Dr. Philip Landrigan, a former Centers for Disease Control and Prevention scientist who directs a global health program at Boston College.



Photo issued by the University of Oxford, shows of vial of coronavirus vaccine developed by AstraZeneca and Oxford University, in Oxford, England. Britain has authorized use of a second COVID-19 vaccine, becoming the first country to greenlight an easy-to-handle shot that its developers hope will become the "vaccine for the world." The United Kingdom government says the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency has made an emergency authorization for the vaccine developed by Oxford University and UK-based drug-maker AstraZeneca. (John Cairns/University of Oxford via AP, File)

**Q: HOW DOES ONE VARIANT BECOME DOMINANT? A:** That can happen if one variant takes hold and starts spreading in an area, or because "super spreader" events helped it become established. It also can happen if a mutation gives a new variant an advantage, such as helping it spread more easily than other ones that are circulating. Scientists are still working to confirm whether the variant in England spreads more easily, but they are finding some evidence that it does. The variant "out-competes the other strains and moves faster and infects more people, so it wins the race," Landrigan said. The British variant was first detected in September, WHO officials said. A new South African variant also has emerged.

**Q: WHAT'S WORRISSOME ABOUT THE BRITISH VARIANT? A:** It has many mutations — nearly two dozen — and eight are on the spike protein that the virus uses to attach to and infect cells. The spike is what vaccines and antibody drugs target. Dr. Ravi Gupta, a virus expert at the University of Cambridge in England, said modeling studies suggest it may be up to two times more infectious than the version that's been most common in England so far. He and other researchers posted a report of it on a website scientists use to quickly share developments, but it has not been formally reviewed or published in a journal.

**Q: DOES IT MAKE PEOPLE SICKER OR MORE LIKELY TO DIE? A:** "There's no indication that either of those is true, but clearly those are two issues we've got to watch," Landrigan said. As more patients get infected with the new variant, "they'll know

fairly soon if the new strain makes people sicker." A WHO outbreak expert, Maria Van Kerkhove, said that "the information that we have so far is that there isn't a change" in the kind of illness or its severity.



In this Dec. 1, 2020, file photo, people wait their turn to be called for a PCR test for the COVID-19 outside a hospital in Barcelona, Spain. (AP Photo/Emilio Morenatti, AP)

**Q: WHAT DO THE MUTATIONS MEAN FOR TREATMENTS? A:** A couple of cases in England raise concern that the mutations in some of the emerging new variants could hurt the potency of drugs that supply antibodies to block the virus from infecting cells. Studies on antibody response are under way, Van Kerkhove said. One drugmaker, Eli Lilly, said that tests in its lab suggest that its drug remains fully active.

**Q: WHAT ABOUT VACCINES? A:** Scientists believe current vaccines will still be effective against the variant, but they are working to confirm that. On Wednesday, British officials reiterated that there is no data suggesting the new variant hurts the effectiveness of the available vaccines. Vaccines induce broad immune system responses besides just prompting the immune system to make antibodies to the virus, so they are expected to still work, several scientists said.

**Q: WHAT CAN I DO TO REDUCE MY RISK? A:** Follow the advice to wear a mask, wash your hands often, maintain social distance and avoid crowds, public health experts say. "The bottom line is we need to suppress transmission" of the coronavirus, said the WHO's director-general, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. "The more we allow it to spread, the more mutations will happen." (Courtesy <https://www.khou.com/article/news>)