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Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

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# China looks to lock in U.S. LNG as energy crunch raises



A liquefied natural gas (LNG) tanker leaves the dock after discharge at PetroChina's receiving terminal in Dalian, Liaoning province, China July 16, 2018. REUTERS/Chen Aizhu/File Photo

SINGAPORE/NEW YORK, Oct 15 (Reuters) - Major Chinese energy companies are in advanced talks with U.S. exporters to secure long-term liquefied natural gas (LNG) supplies, as soaring gas prices and domestic power shortages heighten concerns about the country's fuel security, several sources said.

The discussions could lead to deals worth tens of billions of dollars that would mark a surge in China's LNG imports from the United States in coming years. At the height of a Sino-U.S. trade war in 2019, gas trade briefly came to a standstill. LNG export facilities can take years to build, and there are several projects in North America in the works that are not expected to start exporting until the middle of the decade.

Talks with U.S. suppliers began early this year but speeded up in recent months amid one of the biggest power-generating, heating fuel crunch in decades. Natural gas prices in Asia have jumped more than fivefold this year, sparking fears of power shortages in the winter.

"Companies faced a supply gap (for winter) and surging prices. Talks really picked up since August when spot prices touched \$15/mmbtu", said a Beijing-based senior industry source briefed on the talks.

Another Beijing-based source said: "After experiencing the recent massive market volatility, some buyers were regretting that they didn't sign enough long-term supplies."

Imports for winter of 2021 are capped as soaring global prices hurt demand

Imports for winter of 2021 are capped as soaring global prices hurt demand

Sources expected fresh deals to be announced over the coming few months, after privately controlled ENN Natural Gas Co, (600803.SS), headed by the ex-LNG chief of China's largest buyer, CNOOC, announced a 13-year deal with Cheniere on Monday

It was the first major U.S.-China LNG deal since 2018.

The new purchases will also cement China's position as the world's top LNG buyer, taking over from Japan this year.

"As state-owned enterprises, companies are all under pressure to keep security of supply and the recent price trend has deeply changed the image of long-term supplies in the mind of leadership," said the first Beijing-based trader.

"People may have taken the spot (market) as the key in the past, but are now realizing that long-term cargoes are the backbone."

The sources declined to be identified as the negotiations are private.

Sinopec declined comment. CNOOC and Zhejiang Energy did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Venture Global and Cheniere both declined comment.

"We expect more deals to be signed before year-end. It's primarily driven by the global energy crunch and prices we"

U.S. cargoes used to be expensive versus oil-linked supplies from Qatar and Australia for example, but are cheaper now.

A deal at \$2.50 + 115% of Henry Hub futures, similar to ENN's deal according to traders, would be roughly about \$9-\$10 per million British thermal units (mmBtu) on a delivered basis into Northeast Asia. This includes an average shipping cost of \$2 per mmBtu for the U.S.-China route.

Jason Feer, global head of business intelligence with consultancy Poten & Partners said Chinese companies are heavily exposed to Brent-related pricing for LNG and the U.S. purchases give some diversity to the pricing.

Asian spot gas prices are currently trading at above \$37 per mmBtu after reaching a record high of over \$56 earlier this month. read more

Traders expect prices to go higher in winter when demand typically surges.

Chinese buyers are scouting for both near-term shipments to cover demand this winter and long-term imports as demand for gas, seen by Beijing as a key bridge fuel before reaching its 2060 carbon-neutral goal, is set for steady growth through 2035.

China's H1 2021 imports surged 28% on yr in counter-seasonal spike, but H2 imports seen capped by high prices



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# LOCAL NEWS

## U.S. offers payments, relocation to family of Afghans killed in botched drone attack

Oct 15 (Reuters) - The Pentagon has offered unspecified condolence payments to the family of 10 civilians who were killed in a botched U.S. drone attack in Afghanistan in August during the final days before American troops withdrew from the country.

The U.S. Defense Department said it made a commitment that included offering "ex-gratia condolence payments", in addition to working with the U.S. State Department in support of the family members who were interested in relocation to the United States.

Colin Kahl, the U.S. Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, held a virtual meeting on Thursday with Steven Kwon, the founder and president of Nutrition & Education International, the aid organization that employed Zemari Ahmadi, who was killed in the Aug. 29 drone attack, Pentagon Press Secretary John Kirby said late on Friday.

Ahmadi and others who were killed in the strike were innocent victims who bore no blame and were not affiliated with Islamic State Khorasan (ISIS-K) or threats to U.S. forces, Kirby said.

The Pentagon logo is seen behind the podium in the briefing room at the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, U.S., January 8, 2020. REUTERS/AI Drago/File Photo

The Pentagon logo is seen behind the podium in the briefing room at the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, U.S., January 8, 2020. REUTERS/AI Drago/File Photo

The drone strike in Kabul killed as many as 10 civilians, including seven children.

The Pentagon had said earlier that the Aug. 29 strike targeted an Islamic State suicide bomber who posed an imminent threat to U.S.-led troops at the airport as they completed the last stages of their withdrawal from Afghanistan.

However, reports had emerged almost immediately that the drone strike in a neighborhood west of Kabul's Hamid Karzai International Airport had killed civilians including children. Video from the scene showed the wreckage of a car strewn around the courtyard of a building. The Pentagon later said the strike was a "tragic mistake".

The strike came three days after an Islamic State suicide bomber killed 13



The Pentagon logo is seen behind the podium in the briefing room at the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, U.S., January 8, 2020. REUTERS/AI Drago/File Photo

U.S. troops and scores of Afghan civilians who had crowded outside the airport gates, desperate to secure seats on evacuation flights, after U.S.-trained Afghan forces melted away and the Taliban swept to power in the capital in mid-August.

The killing of civilians also raised questions about the future of U.S. counter-terrorism strikes in Afghanistan.



## Editor's Choice



Director George Clooney reacts as he and his wife lawyer Amal Clooney arrive for a screening of the film "The Tender Bar" as part of the BFI London Film Festival, in London, Britain, October 10. REUTERS/Henry Nicholls



Russian investigative newspaper Novaya Gazeta's editor-in-chief Dmitry Muratov, one of the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize winners, is greeted with champagne by editorial staff in Moscow, Russia October 8. REUTERS/Stringer



A satellite image in infrared color shows smoke rising as lava flows while the Cumbre Vieja volcano continues to erupt on the Canary Island of La Palma, Spain. Maxar Technologies/via REUTERS



Taliban fighter, Mostashhed from Wardak province, looks on as he visits Kabul for the first time as hundreds of Taliban fighters take a day off to visit the amusement park at Kabul's Qargha reservoir, at the outskirts of Kabul, Afghanistan, October 8. REUTERS/Jorge Silva



Surfers approach the sea on the beach in South Shields, Britain, October 10. REUTERS/Lee Smith



Dale Nething, 86, waits on the steps as his son Don Nething, 62, troubleshoots the combine harvester after it breaks down while being used to harvest corn in Ravenna, Ohio, October 11. Manufacturing meltdowns are hitting the U.S. heartland, as the semiconductor shortages that have plagued equipment makers for months expand into other components. Supply chain woes now pose a threat to the U.S. food supply and farmers' ability to get crops out of fields. REUTERS/

## Were Many People Of Color Left Out Of The 2020 Census? COVID Makes It Harder To Tell



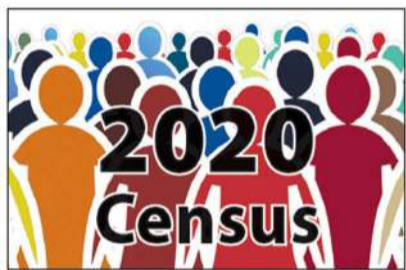
A person wearing a mask walks past posters encouraging census participation in Seattle in April 2020. The coronavirus pandemic has disrupted not only last year's national head count, but also a critical follow-up survey that the U.S. Census Bureau relies on to determine the tally's accuracy. (Photo/Ted S. Warren/AP)

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

The U.S. Census Bureau is extending a final round of door knocking into early 2022 for a key survey that is expected to help determine the accuracy of last year's national head count, NPR has learned.

The change is the latest in a series of delays to the little-known but critical follow-up survey. The disruptions have raised concerns about whether the bureau can produce important indicators about who was missed and which groups were over- or undercounted in a census that was upended by both the coronavirus pandemic and interference by former President Donald Trump's administration.

The results of the Post-Enumeration Survey are factored into population statistics that guide how an estimated \$1.5 trillion a year in federal funds are distributed to local communities, as well as how to better carry out future once-a-decade counts that are used to reallocate each state's share of congressional seats and Electoral College votes.



In a statement on Friday, the bureau confirms what was expected to be a month-long operation for gathering information on housing units starting in late October, is now set to begin sometime in November and end in February.

"We adjusted the start date and operational length as a result of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the schedule of the preceding census operations," the bureau said of the change to the Post-Enumeration Survey, which does not involve college dorms, prisons or other group-living quarters and is not conducted in re-

mote areas of Alaska. About 1,100 of the bureau's field representatives — who, like all federal government employees, must be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 by Nov. 22 — will try to interview people at some 14,000 housing units while wearing masks and practicing social distancing.

Some census watchers outside the bureau say they're worried the difficulties of conducting in-person interviews during the pandemic could limit the usefulness of the survey's findings, which the bureau has said it plans to start releasing within the first three months of 2022.

**Were people of color undercounted by the census?** Decade after decade, the U.S. census has overcounted people who identify as white and not Latino, while undercounting other racial and ethnic groups. That unevenness often translates into inequities when census data is used to redraw voting districts and inform research and planning.

"I'm just worried that we're going to have a starting point for the next 10 years of enumeration counts that undercount people of color," Robert Santos, president of the American Statistical Association and President Biden's pick for the next Census Bureau director, told NPR in an interview before his April nomination. Santos, who is waiting for the Senate to vote on whether to confirm him, added that not having reliable PES results runs the risk of baking racial inequities into other government statistics that rely on census data.

"I don't think that that's acceptable," Santos said.

**Many people don't want to talk to Census Bureau workers because of COVID-19**

Door knocking for the PES, which takes place in multiple phases, started as originally planned in January 2020. It was supposed to wrap up by mid-2021.

But COVID-19 quickly intervened. Lower-than-expected levels of participation from the public in the final months of 2020 led the bureau to add another round of interviews about people's demographic information.

Those early response rates were hurt by a devastating new reality — "people don't want to open their doors to talk to a stranger during a pandemic," the bureau acknowledged in a March presentation to its scientific advisory committee. That raises

the risk of the bureau missing certain people not only in the census, but also in the follow-up survey that determines who was not counted.



**Could COVID-19 stop the bureau from releasing survey results?**

The delays to the survey make it harder for the bureau to collect accurate data. Tallying for the 2020 count has been over for nearly a year, and some people interviewed for the PES may have a hard time remembering exactly where they were living on Census Day, which was April 1, 2020. People who moved during the pandemic may not know who used to live at their current address.

And many households are experiencing census fatigue.

Data quality issues brought on by the pandemic have already forced the bureau to cancel a release of American Community Survey results this year and replace them with "experimental" estimates. Some census watchers fear the Post-Enumeration Survey may be headed toward a similar fate.

**There are early signs of a likely undercount of Black people**

In the meantime, researchers outside the bureau have been comparing the latest census numbers with a set of benchmark data based on birth and death certificates, Medicare enrollment files and other government records about the country's residents.

"It does look like the 2020 census had some undercount problems for some groups," says Citro, who recently conducted an independent analysis that was not part of her work with the committee. Using publicly available data and a method that is different from what's used for the PES, Citro estimates that nationally, the 2020 census may have produced a net undercount rate for Black people similar to what the bureau's PES estimated for the 2010 count (2.05%) or more than two times as high (4.36%).

"The Census Bureau did just a heroic and really outstanding job, but they faced a combination of circumstances for conducting a census that was unprecedented in our history," Citro, who once worked as a social science analyst at the bureau early

in her career, says of the pandemic and the push by Trump officials to end counting early.



**Children were likely undercounted in 2020, too**

There are also signs the 2020 census likely didn't correct a decades-long flaw with the national tally: undercounting children.

"All the evidence I'm seeing from the 2020 census suggests that that's going to be a continuing problem," says Bill O'Hare, a demographer and former research fellow at the bureau who wrote the book *The Undercount of Young Children* in the U.S. Decennial Census.

O'Hare, who is currently consulting with the Count All Kids Campaign, estimates that the net undercount rate for children bumped up to 2.1% last year, while adults had a net overcount rate of less than a percent for the 2020 census, according to a report released this week. The report also cites preliminary estimates by Citro that suggest the net undercount rates for Black and Latinx children were about double that for all children.

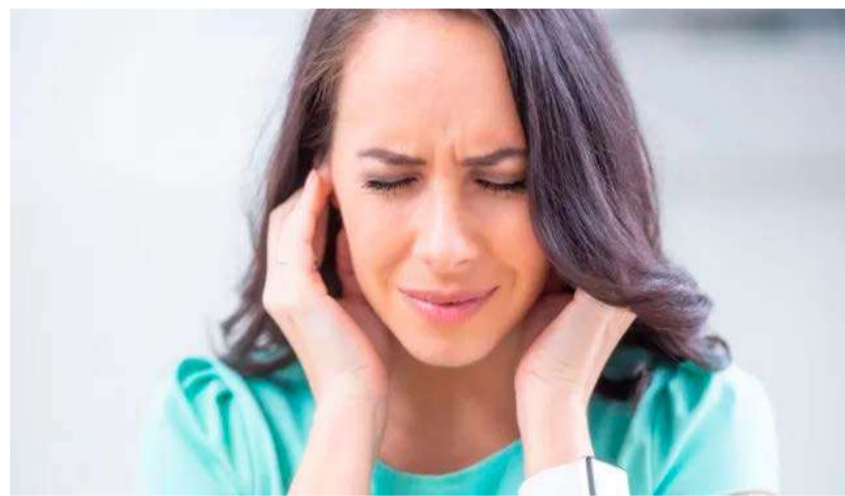
Still, both Citro and O'Hare say they're waiting for the PES results to reveal a more comprehensive look at the count's accuracy.

Jeri Green, a former senior adviser for civic engagement at the bureau, remains concerned that the 2020 census — which the agency recently estimated to cost around \$14.2 billion — will repeat the undercounting of Black people and Latinos, as well as Native Americans who live on reservations, in the 2010 census.



"The American taxpayer is being cheated, the congressional appropriators who funded the census also are not getting their dollars' worth, if the PES and the undercount are not accurate," Green says. "And we have to live with this for the next 10 years." (Courtesy npr.org)

## From The CDC: Nine Signs Of A Delta Variant Infection



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

The new variant of COVID-19 is different from previous versions. It's "more dangerous than other variants of the virus," says the CDC. "The Delta variant is highly contagious, more than 2x as contagious as previous variants," not to mention, "some data suggest the Delta variant might cause more severe illness than previous variants in unvaccinated people." How do you know if you have it? Read on for 9 symptoms, get vaccinated if you haven't been yet, and ensure your own health and the health of others.

**1. You May Have Bad Cold-Like Symptoms**



The CDC lists congestion or runny nose and sore throat as symptoms of COVID-19. Some studies, as well as anecdotal evidence, indicate that these nose-and-throat symptoms are more prevalent with Delta than with other strains. Professor Tim Spector, who runs the Zoe Covid Symptom study, has said that Delta can feel "more like a bad cold" for younger people. That's why it's essential to stay on top of any symptoms and get tested.

**2. You May Have Fever or Chills**



Temperature dysregulation is very common with COVID but you can still have COVID without a fever. Most doctors don't worry until your temperature is above 100.4 degrees—that's when it's considered significant. By the way, a fever isn't a bad thing. Dr. Anthony Fauci, the chief medical advisor to the President and the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, has said it's a sign your immune response is working. But it is a worrying sign if you have one during a pandemic.

**3. You May Have a Cough**



A COVID cough "is usually a dry (un-

productive) cough, unless you have an underlying lung condition that normally makes you cough up phlegm or mucus," says the Zoe Symptom Study. "However, if you have COVID-19 and start coughing up yellow or green phlegm ('gunk') then this may be a sign of an additional bacterial infection in the lungs that needs treatment."

**4. You May Have Shortness of Breath or Difficulty Breathing**



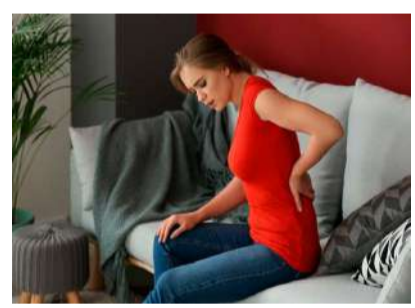
If you have a hard time breathing, call a medical professional and the CDC says "look for emergency warning signs for COVID-19. If someone is showing any of these signs, seek emergency medical care immediately: Trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion, inability to wake or stay awake, pale, gray, or blue-colored skin, lips, or nail beds, depending on skin tone."

**5. You May Have Fatigue**



Fatigue—as if you have, well, a virus—is a common symptom if you get COVID. It can also last longer than a year, according to one big new study in the *Lancet*. More than half of those studied had at least one symptom that did not go away after a COVID infection, at least after a year of study. An estimated 30% of people who get COVID may have this problem. The authors found that these "long haulers" suffer "fatigue or muscle weakness, problems with mobility, pain or discomfort, and anxiety or depression" among other debilitating problems.

**6. You May Have Muscle or Body Aches**



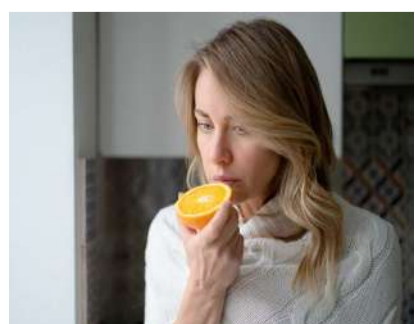
Dr. Fauci has warned that "long haulers" can develop "myalgia"—or body aches—and they can be caused by an initial infection. These might feel like a heart attack or just a pain in the neck, but are unusual in their appearance, in that you may not know how they happened. If it feels really weird, suspect COVID.

**7. You May Have a Headache**



When COVID first hit these shores, the symptoms were said to be a dry cough or shortness of breath. Little did the experts know at the time, there were many more—including crushing headaches, described by one patient as "an alien feeling inside of my body and a vise grip on my head but nothing that sounded like the typical description of COVID." Others have called it a "jackhammer."

**8. You May Have a New Loss of Taste or Smell**



The original keystone symptoms of a COVID infection, a loss of taste or smell are anecdotally less common than they were before, but can still happen and are a telltale sign of COVID.

**9. You Have Have Gastrointestinal Issues**



Nausea or vomiting and diarrhea are symptoms the CDC says to watch for. Originally thought of as a "respiratory illness," COVID has proven to disrupt all systems, including gastrointestinal. The CDC notes that "this list does not include all possible symptoms. CDC will continue to update this list as we learn more about COVID-19. Older adults and people who have severe underlying medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes seem to be at higher risk for developing more serious complications from COVID-19 illness."

**How to Stay Safe Out There**



"From the standpoint of illness, hospitalization, suffering, and death, the unvaccinated are much more vulnerable," Fauci says. "When you look at the country as a whole in getting us back to normal, the unvaccinated — by not being vaccinated — are allowing the propagation and the spread of the outbreak, which ultimately impacts everyone." Get tested if you feel you have any of the symptoms mentioned here. And says the CDC: "Get vaccinated as soon as you can. If you're in an area of substantial or high transmission, wear a mask indoors in public, even if you're fully vaccinated," says the CDC. (Courtesy <https://www.eatthis.com/>)