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Inside C2

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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External backers pour billions into Ukraine to counter war damage

KYIV/LONDON, Feb 24 (Reuters) - Pictures of devastation in Ukraine following Russia's invasion have sparked urgent questions over how its reconstruction can be paid for. But before they can even begin to be answered, Kyiv is seeking billions just to ride out this year.

After a 30% contraction in its economy in 2022, Ukraine will need \$38 billion by the end of year to cover its budget deficit alone.

"We need these funds for critical costs: funding of salaries and pensions, education and medicine," Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal told a recent government meeting.

"For economic stability and a successful fight against the enemy, Ukraine needs more help."

On top of that, Kyiv has said it will need \$17 billion this year for urgent energy repairs and de-mining, and rebuilding some of its critical infrastructure.

The European Union is expected to provide the lion's share of funds, at \$18 billion, to cover the budget deficit. U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen stepped up calls on Thursday for increased financial support to Ukraine as the United States readies an additional \$10 billion in economic assistance.

UK issues export bans on every item used by Russia in war Beaten and divided, Italy's centre-left seeks new leader EU approves 10th package of Russia sanctions on anniversary of invasion -Sweden Kyiv has yet to identify sources of funding to meet those additional costs.

It is now pressing for a multibillion-dollar borrowing programme from the International Monetary Fund, with Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal saying he hopes to agree a \$15 billion multi-year program. IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva said on Tuesday lending to Ukraine could be "sizeable".

The fund approved a four-month monitoring program for Ukraine in December aimed at maintaining economic stability and helping promote donor financing, which should eventually pave the way towards "a possible full-fledged IMF-supported program", it said.

The scope of an IMF program is a source of ongoing debate. This is complicated by the premise that IMF financing is extended to countries that have the "institutional and political capacity and commitment to implement" a fund program, and generally does not include countries at war.

In the past 12 months, Ukraine has received \$36.4 billion from external sources, of which nearly 60% were concessional loans and the remainder grants, according to ministry of finance data.

Washington was Kyiv's top lender, providing nearly \$13 billion in grants over the period, while the European Union extended just over \$11 billion in a mix of grants and loans. Number three was the IMF, with the Washington-based



lender providing \$2.7 billion.

Aside from help on a national level, a number of multilateral lenders focussed on extending financing to the private sector have also helped shore up Ukrainian firms since the start of the year.

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) deployed some 1.7 billion euros (\$1.8 billion) to Ukraine for investments in vital infrastructure, energy and food security and support for the private sector in 2022.

This included providing hundreds of millions to Ukraine's railway company Ukrzaliznytsia, power grid operator Ukrenergo and gas firm Naftogaz, as well as private sector companies.

The lender says it is on track to take the total amount to 3 billion euros by the end of 2023.

The World Bank's private investment arm, the International Finance Corp (IFC), also signed off a plan for a \$2 billion support package in December, which foresees the lender co-financing in equal measure with governments.

It did not give details of the governments potentially involved, nor on the timetable for funds to be released.

Lisa Kaestner, regional manager for Ukraine at the IFC, said the lender was looking for projects in the transportation and communications sector, as well as agribusiness, as Ukrainians work to resurrect businesses disrupted by war.

"Understanding the risk is really challenging," Kaestner told Reuters. "But to me, one of the surprises has been

how the private sector has been so resilient."

Both the IFC and EBRD are also among investors in a fund managed by private equity firm Horizon Capital, which in turn invests in tech and export oriented businesses in Ukraine and Moldova. The fund had raised \$125 million in a first closing in September, and plans to reach \$200 million soon.

Ukraine's costs will only mount from here. The Kyiv School of Economics last month estimated the total amount of damage the war had caused to the country's infrastructure had risen to \$138 billion.

The cost of rebuilding will be dramatically higher.

In September, the World Bank estimated rebuilding the country could cost nearly \$350 billion. That was before major bombing campaigns by Russia launched in October, and experts predict this number will multiply when the lender publishes its updated assessment in April.

Arup Banerji, World Bank country director for Ukraine, said the nation will need continued financial support going forward.

"An economically weak Ukraine is also militarily weak. If there's hyperinflation, the economy's going under," said Banerji.

"Supporting Ukraine now is critical to avoid a devastating humanitarian crisis and to strengthen Ukraine for what it's doing for the rest of the world."



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WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

02/24/2023

The International Gate Will Rise

At today's Houston International District board meeting we reviewed the blueprints presented by architect C C Lee for the International Gate, the International Culture Museum and the Outdoor Music Theater.

The Board decided that in the next meeting we will review the budget proposed by the firm.

The International Gate will be the first phase of our plan. This bridge will be designed with very modern LED signs and with many welcome messages in different languages.

We are convinced that the strength of our country has been built by tens of millions of immigrants from all over the world. They devoted their whole lives and energy to come over here to call the U.S. their home.

We are very proud that we are building this model project for the rest of the country to show our different cultural heritages.

We hope the gate will be the first step for our district to improve our community life.



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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



Southern DAILY Make Today Different

Editor's Choice



Demonstrators take part in an anti-war protest in front of the Russian embassy in Paris, France, February 24, 2022. REUTERS/Gonzalo Fuentes



Cars drive towards the exit of the city in Kyiv, Ukraine, February 24, 2022. REUTERS/Valentyn Ogirenko



Jose Aguilera, 22, a Venezuelan migrant seeking asylum in the U.S., and awaiting the end of Title 42, stands covered by a blanket at the border between Mexico and the United States, in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. REUTERS/Jose Luis Gonzalez



A local is seen by a window after her house is destroyed by a Russian military strike, as Russia's attack on Ukraine continues, in the village of Stepne, in Zaporizhzhia Region, Ukraine. REUTERS/Stringer



Revelers take part in the traditional "Els Enfarinats" (The Floured) festival, in the town of Ibi, Alicante Province, Spain. REUTERS/Eva Manez



People queue at an ATM in Mariupol, Ukraine, February 24, 2022. REUTERS/Carlos Barria

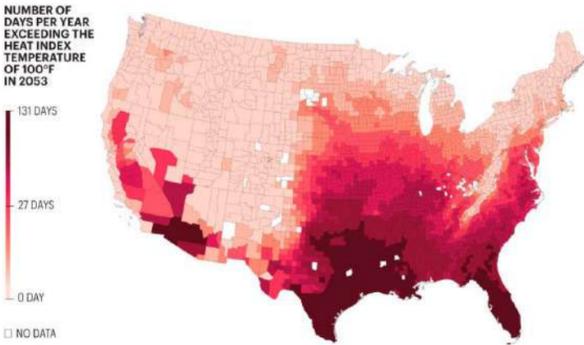
Southern DAILY Make Today Different

BUSINESS

'We Need To Be Prepared For The Inevitable, That A Quarter Of The Country Will Soon Fall Inside The Extreme Heat Belt With Temperatures Exceeding 125 Degrees Fahrenheit And The Results Will Be Dire.'

Study: 'Extreme Heat Belt' Will Soon Impact Over 100 Million Americans

AMERICA'S 'EXTREME HEAT BELT'



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

Key Points

A heat model released Monday by researchers from the non-profit group First Street Foundation estimates heat risks at the property level across the U.S. Researchers found the local hottest seven days of any particular area are expected to become the hottest 18 days over the next 30 years.

By 2053, 1,023 counties could experience heat index temperatures above 125 degrees. As record-high temperatures recently swept across several parts of the U.S. this summer, new data on heat risks forecast an 'extreme heat belt' will emerge in large parts of the country by 2053.

The heat model released Monday by researchers from the nonprofit group First Street Foundation estimates heat risks at the property level across the U.S. and how the intensity of hot days will change over the next three decades. The model identified the seven hottest days for any property this year and used that metric to determine how many of those days would occur in 30 years.

Researchers found the local hottest seven days of any particular area are expected to become the hottest 18 days over the next 30 years. Miami-Dade County may experience the most dramatic shift in temperature, where the region's seven hottest days, which include heat index temperatures at 103 Fahrenheit degrees, could increase to 34 days a year at that temperature by 2053.



According to the model, an 'extreme heat belt' will encompass an area stretching from Texas and Louisiana to Illinois, Indiana and even parts of Wisconsin. By 2053, 1,023 counties could experience heat index temperatures above 125 degrees, an area home to more than 107 million that covers a quarter of U.S. land area. The model also estimates that just next year, 50 counties are expected to see temperatures beyond that figure.

'Increasing temperatures are broadly discussed as averages, but the focus should be on the extension of the extreme tail events expected in a given year,' Matthew Eby, founder and CEO of First Street Foundation, said in a statement. (see below.)

'We need to be prepared for the inevitable, that a quarter of the country will soon fall inside the Extreme Heat Belt with temperatures exceeding 125 degrees Fahrenheit and the results will be dire,' Eby said.

Along with the report, the nonprofit has made an online tool available for users to search U.S. addresses and see their estimated heat risk. (https://riskfactor.com/)

Learn How Risks Are Calculated A property's Flood Factor, Fire Factor, and Heat Factor indicate its comprehensive risk from flooding, wildfire, or extreme heat ranging from 1 (minimal) to 10 (extreme).



Flood Factor Flood Factor® considers flooding from rain, rivers, tidal, and storm surge to determine the risk of water reaching the building over a 30 year period.



Fire Factor Fire Factor® considers the property's building materials, and distance to fire risk areas, and burnable materials, such as vegetation, to determine the risk of being impacted by wildfire.



Heat Factor Heat Factor™ considers the property's distance to water, land use, and relative elevation to determine the severity of extreme heat at the property and calculate the cost of staying cool.

Risk Factors Across The United States As featured in the New York Times 'For too long, we have let people live in communities, and even attracted them to join a community, while keeping them in a state of

ignorance about the risk that they're under.' Source: 'Here is the first-ever map showing wildfire risk to American homes.' National Association of Realtors® 'Flood Factor enables our members to become the source of the resource. It increases transparency. It's really about giving them accurate information so they can make a great decision. It builds trust and confidence with clients. It's a valuable tool to access information.'



From the Wall Street Journal 'The model from the nonprofit First Street Foundation represents the first attempt to make property-level wildfire-risk scores freely available.'

Source: 'Tens of millions of U.S. properties face wildfire risk, new study says.'

Risk Factor Risk Factor is a free tool created by the nonprofit First Street Foundation to make it easy to understand risks from a changing environment. The online tool available for users to search U.S. addresses and see their estimated heat risk. (Go here: https://riskfactor.com/)

Statement From The First Street Foundation

First Street Foundation Finds an emerging 'Extreme Heat Belt' will Impact Over 107 Million Americans by 2053

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Brooklyn (NY) – (August 15, 2022) - First Street Foundation today released their peer-reviewed extreme heat model along with the implications highlighted in The Sixth National Risk Assessment: Hazardous Heat. The report identifies the impact of increasing temperatures at a property level, and how the frequency, duration, and intensity of extremely hot days will change over the next 30 years from a changing climate. The Foundation's analysis combines high-resolution measurements of land surface temperatures, canopy cover, impervious surfaces, land cover, and proximity to water to calculate the current heat exposure, and then adjusts for future forecasted emissions scenarios. This allows for the determination of the number of days any property would be expected to experience dangerous levels of heat. The model highlights the local impacts of climate change by identifying the seven hottest days expected for any property this year, and using that metric to calculate how many of those days would be experienced in 30 years.

2053 AT LEAST ONE 125 DEGREE DAY



The most severe shift in local temperatures is found in Miami-Dade County where the 7 hottest days, currently at 103°F, will increase to 34 days at that same temperature by 2053. Across the country, on average, the local hottest 7 days are expected to become the hottest 18 days by 2053. In the case of extreme heat, the model finds 50 counties, home to 8.1 million residents, that are expected to experience temperatures above 125°F in 2023, the highest level of the National Weather Services' heat index. By 2053, 1,023 counties are expected to exceed this temperature, an area that is home to 107.6 million Americans and covers a quarter of the US land area. This emerging area, concentrated in a geographic region the Foundation calls the 'Extreme Heat Belt,' stretches from the Northern Texas and Louisiana borders to Illinois, Indiana, and even into Wisconsin.



'Increasing temperatures are broadly discussed as averages, but the focus should be on the extension of the extreme tail events expected in a given year,' said Matthew Eby, founder and CEO of First Street Foundation. 'We need to be prepared for the inevitable, that a quarter of the country will soon fall inside the Extreme Heat Belt with temperatures exceeding 125°F and the results will be dire.' The peer-reviewed First Street Foundation Extreme Heat Model will now be incorporated with Risk Factor for every property in the contiguous United States. Visitors to Risk Factor will find their Heat Factor alongside their Flood Factor and Fire Factor, and can learn the specific risks to their property, today and up to 30 years into the future. ### First Street Foundation First Street Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) research and technology group working to define America's growing climate risk. (Courtesyhttps://thehill.com/)

Southern DAILY Make Today Different

COMMUNITY

The More Resources We Can Harness On The Red Planet, The Fewer We Need To Bring With Us

Almost Everything We Need To Live On Mars Is Already There

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



is key to producing other materials. Carbon extracted from the atmosphere could then be used to make a wide range of things, from plastics to rocket propellant to habitat-heating fuel.

Mineral resources are in abundance as well, including iron, titanium, nickel, aluminum, sulfur, chlorine and calcium. 'Clay-like minerals are also ubiquitous in the Martian surface soils, making the manufacturing of ceramics for pottery and similar purposes a straightforward enterprise,' reads the STI paper. 'The most common material measured by the Viking landers on Mars was silicon dioxide (SiO2)... the basic constituent of glass, which thus can readily be produced on Mars using sand-melting techniques similar to those that have been used on Earth for thousands of years.'

SiO2 could also be used to make 'many important glass products, including fiberglass, an excellent material for constructing various types of structures.' To protect Martian settlers from cosmic radiation and intense cold, the most logical thing to do is build habitats underground, ultimately filling the caverns with inflatable habitat modules. Digging out habitats would also be an efficient way to expose subsurface water ice and other resources needed for ISRU.

Food could also be produced on Mars in a 'protected atmospheric environment using sunlight,' or possibly using an artificial light source. 'Earth independence requires that the astronauts grow their own food or that the food be grown for them robotically. Such robotic agriculture exists now. Possible food sources which could be produced on planet include mushrooms, insects, cyanobacteria (e.g. spirulina) and duckweed, along with many others.' The STI paper also mentions the possibility of developing a 'rice paddy aquaculture' or 'taking a plethora of insect species to Mars.'

If this all sounds familiar that is because, yes, this is pretty much exactly how it all goes down in Kim Stanley Robinson's Red Mars. To actually realize a Martian outpost anything like what is outlined in the STI paper (and/or Red Mars), we would rely on advances in robotics technology and automated systems. Basically, we would need to send robots to start building our Martian settlement for us before we arrive, and continue to maintain the habitat, food-production systems, and other equipment.

'The crew is there to explore, and to colonize, not maintain and repair. Any time spent on 'living there' and 'housekeeping' should be minimized to an oversight role of robotic automated tasks,' reads the STI paper. We are starting to scratch the surface of developing robotic systems that could break ground on our new Martian home.

A prototype instrument called Moxie will be included on the Mars 2020 rover for extracting oxygen from the Martian atmosphere. NASA is also considering a plan to launch an orbiter to Mars in 2022 that would search for ice deposits near the surface of the Red Planet, helping scientists pick the ideal location for a Martian outpost.

The point is, the resources we need are already there waiting for us. We just need to figure out how to use them. (Courtesy/NASA via Aviation Week)

Related Future Work: Will Your Career Of Tomorrow Be On Mars?

Look around the space where you are sitting. How many of the things you see were not available to you as a child? Perhaps you note a laptop, smart phone or Wi-Fi connection? Now imagine these things vanished. What would your life be like? Think back to when you were a child. Could you have imagined the items you now can't live without? This same dynamic may soon be on the horizon for jobs on Mars—we may one day wonder how we ever confined our human activities to Earth.



Advancing technology continues to create more unique and interesting jobs—for now, all of them based on planet Earth. But change may be upon us.

'If the human race is to continue for another million years, we will have to boldly go where no one has gone before.'

— Stephen Hawking As Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos, NASA scientists and others continue to bring the possibility of living on another planet into the foreseeable future, the reality of an inter-planetary economy and job market could be just around the corner. By 2024, Musk's SpaceX aims to send the first astronaut to Mars. President Trump's 2020 budget included funding for a manned Mars mission to launch as soon as 2026, with a goal of bringing back samples of the Red Planet. Such studies of rock, soil and atmosphere samples could bring new insights into the sphere's geology and water presence, and may even locate evidence of past or current life.

In fact, multiplanet settlements may be crucial for the long-term survival of humans. Amazon's founder and CEO Jeff Bezos believes that expanding our living options in our solar system 'is not some thing that we may choose to do; this is something we must do.' Colonizing another planet could lift the barriers Earth may present to the continued expansion of humanity.

Why Mars? While planets in our solar system are subject to extreme temperatures and the dangerous elements of space, Mars has some similarities to Earth. It is also in what is called the Habitable Zone, an area where conditions might potentially support life. While its air is too thin to breathe and its surface temperature too cold for unsheltered life, Mars—unlike other planets in our solar system—has the benefit of a 24-hour day, four seasons, canyons, volcanoes, polar ice caps, river beds, dried lakes and even some liquid water. Based on our current exploration and understanding of our solar system, there is no planet better suited to interplanetary migration than Mars.

What Jobs Will Be Available On Mars? Initially, a strong background in science and mathematics will be most desirable. However, as a yearning to see more of Mars accelerates, films, television programs, and reality shows marketed on Earth will attract talent of all kinds to the Red Planet. The opportunity to be highly innovative on Mars will be another aspect of work on the planet and a strong additional talent attractor. An early Mars colony could generate a lot of income by being an inventors colony. Isolated from the distractions of Earth and challenged to come up with solutions to problems on the planet, Mars will be a pressure cooker for innovation with inhabitants being free to innovate without the bureaucratic 'cray on Earth,' explains Dr. Robert Zubrin, founder of the Mars Society and author of the new book The Case for Space.

How Do I Apply For Interplanetary Work? Interplanetary job seekers can apply for desired opportunities on the career web pages of organizations such as SpaceX, Bezos's Blue Origin and NASA. Also helpful will be specialized industry job sites like Space Individuals and Space Careers. NASA has even released posted advertising jobs on Mars for surveyors, farmers, teachers and technicians. While most jobs working in space are currently based on Earth, space exploration companies require people in every career discipline. Opportunities in engineering, design, software development, manufacturing, human resources, finance, IT, legal, marketing, sales and many other jobs that exist on our planet will be available. How Will I Get To My New Job? To make Mars a viable option for a new economy, affordable, safe, reliable and frequent transportation must be available to the general public. Reusable rocket technology like Musk's will be essential to creating the equivalent of an airline industry in space. Initial passenger rockets could potentially carry up to 100 people or more and 450 tons of cargo.

Will It Be Safe To Live And Work On Mars? If terraforming, or any other transformative process, is used in an attempt to alter the environment to make Mars habitable, there is no guarantee of a positive outcome. Warming the planet could awaken previous or current Martian life forms, with unknown consequences. A lower gravitational pull could weaken our bones and muscles, and increased radiation may heighten our chances of cancer. In all cases, safety is a concern and the loss of life is a distinct possibility for early settlers. Initial isolation from larger groups of people or a sustained dramatic change to social, living and dietary conditions, along with sleep disorders due to slightly longer days, could present a challenge to the mental and emotional well-being of those living and working on Mars. How Will I Communicate With Those On Earth? Eventually, near-real-time holoportation capable of virtually placing people in the same room, even if they are on different planets, will make communicating with family, friends and co-workers on Earth a natural and seamless experience. As image and personal bot technologies advance, your physical location may not matter all that much.

Are Earth Visits An Option? With the doubling of technological advancement about every 12 to 18 months, return visits to Earth will certainly be in the cards someday. Until then, hologram rooms and other technologies could provide virtual reality visits that come fairly close to feeling like you are back on Earth. If you decide to break up your travels and live on the moon first, as Bezos advises, the chances of an Earth holiday are pretty good.

Where Will I Live, Eat and Shop? Initially, all living, eating and shopping spaces will be indoors to insulate humans from unbreathable air and cold temperatures. If the planet behaves favorably in our attempts to inhabit it, future communities could mirror those on Earth, and familiar activities could even include grabbing lunch at McDonald's. But considering the likely cost of raising cattle on Mars or developing and producing lab-grown meat, you should expect to pay a lot more for your Big Mac. Vegetables will most likely be the first crops grown on Mars, so a salad may be the best choice for your budget. As for shopping, Amazon could still be your desired option; Bezos is already planning deliveries to the moon. Healthcare On Mars? Recruitment decisions will need to be thoughtful and measured, and contingencies must be in place for re-deploying skills and talents to other meaningful work when a person no longer fulfills his or her job responsibilities or the position isn't needed. This will also lead to considerations of disability and retirement. To ensure a high quality of life for all Mars citizens, programs must be in place to house and care for those who can no longer do these things for themselves, and a universal health care and universal basic income model could guarantee health care and a minimum livable income to everyone, regardless of circumstance. However, the social-economic dynamic on the Red Planet could change as a space airline industry develops, as noted earlier.

Will I Feel Like I Belong On Mars? Once a homogenous Martian population evolves, will those from Earth be welcome on Mars? Will an independent Mars economy evolve, or will Earth be fiscally strengthened and positioned as the central economic hub of our solar system? If Mars does develop an independent economy with little to no reliance on an import/export market, will it become sovereign on Earth? Will such sovereignty create political and power struggles, divided ideals and, ultimately, lead to a scenario like that in H.G. Wells' War of the Worlds? Education and understanding will be key as humans seek to inhabit other planets in our solar system and, perhaps someday, beyond. Organizations like the National Space Society, a non-profit group dedicated to the creation of a spacefaring civilization, has been leading the charge in this area since 1974 and is a good source for research, articles, publications and general information about how those on Earth can leverage 'the vast resources of space for the dramatic betterment of humanity.' The Mars Society, founded in 1998, is another helpful source of information specifically related to human settlement on the Red Planet. On Mars, humans will discover unique ways to contribute meaningfully to our cosmos and perhaps even sustain the human race. (Courtesy Forbes.com)



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