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Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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## China's vast countryside in rush to bolster COVID defences

SHANGHAI/BEIJING, Dec 29 (Reuters) - China's thinly resourced countryside is racing to beef up medical facilities before millions of factory workers return home for the Lunar New Year holiday next month from cities where COVID-19 is surging.

Having imposed the world's strictest COVID regime of lockdowns and relentless testing for three years, China reversed course this month towards living with the virus, leaving its fragile health system overwhelmed.

The lifting of restrictions, following widespread protests against them, means COVID is spreading largely unchecked and likely infecting millions of people a day, according to some international health experts.

China officially reported one new COVID death for Wednesday, down from three on Tuesday, but foreign governments and many epidemiologists believe the numbers are much higher, and that more than 1 million people may die next year.

China has said it only counts deaths of COVID patients caused by pneumonia and respiratory failure as COVID-related.

In the southwestern city of Chengdu, funeral parlours were busy late into the evening on Wednesday, with a steady stream of cars entering one that was heavily guarded by security personnel.

A van driver working for the parlour said "huge numbers of people" were inside.

Hospitals and funeral homes in major cities have been under intense pressure but the main concern over the health system's ability to cope is focused on the countryside.

At a Shanghai pharmacy, Wang Kaiyun, 53, a cleaner in the city who comes from the neighbouring Anhui province, said she was buying medicines for her family back home.

"My husband, my son, my grandson, my mother, they are all infected," she said. "They can't get any medicine, nothing for fever or cough."

Each year, hundreds of millions of people, mostly working in factories near the southern and eastern coasts, return to the countryside for the Lunar New Year, which starts on Jan. 22.

The holiday travel rush is expected to last for 40 days, from Jan. 7 to Feb. 15, authorities said.

The state-run China Daily reported that rural regions were beefing up their medical capacities.

It said a hospital in a rural part of Inner Mongolia where more than 100,000 people live was seeking bidders for a 1.9 million yuan (\$272,308) contract to upgrade wards into intensive care units.



Fever clinic in Fuzhou  
Liancheng County Central Hospital in the eastern Fujian province was seeking tenders for ambulances and medical devices ranging from breathing machines to electrocardiogram monitors.

In December, tenders put out by hospitals for key medical equipment were two-to-three times higher than in previous months, according to a Reuters review suggesting hospitals were scrambling to plug shortages.

TESTING REQUIREMENTS  
The world's second-largest economy is expected to suffer a slowdown in factory output and consumption in the near term as workers and shoppers fall ill. Its contact-intensive services sector was particularly hammered by the anti-virus curbs.

The re-opening also raises the prospect of Chinese tourists returning to shopping streets around the world, once a market worth \$255 billion a year globally. But some countries have been taken aback by the scale of the outbreak and are sceptical of Beijing's COVID statistics.

China's official death toll of 5,246 since the pandemic began compares with more than 1 million deaths in the United States. Chinese-ruled Hong Kong has reported more than 11,000 deaths.

The United States, India, Italy, Japan and Taiwan said they would require COVID tests for travellers from China.

The United States issued a travel alert on Wednesday advising Americans to "reconsider travel to China, Hong Kong, and Macau" and citing "reports that the healthcare system is overwhelmed" along with the risk of new variants.

The main airport in the Italian city of Milan started testing passengers arriving from Beijing and Shanghai on Dec. 26 and found that almost half of them were infected.

Top health officials from the European Union were holding talks to try to coordinate very different views on how to respond to China's decision to lift its COVID-19 restrictions and its wave of infections.

China has rejected criticism of its statistics as groundless and politically motivated attempts to smear its policies. It has also played down the risk of new variants, saying it expects mutations to be more virulent but less severe.

Omicron was still the dominant strain in China, Chinese health officials said this week.

Australia, Britain, France, Germany, Thailand and others said they would not impose additional restrictions on travel for now.

For its part, China, whose borders have been all but shut to foreigners since early 2020, will stop requiring inbound travellers to go into quarantine from Jan. 8.



## 美南電視 15.3

每周一至五每晚7點專題節目

每晚7點播出  
專題節目

每天一至五下午6:30播出《美南新聞聯播》

- 每周一晚7點：主持人：黃梅子，《生活》節目（《生活故事會》、《丁師傅私房菜》和《修車師姐》三個單元輪流播出）
- 每周二晚7點：主持人：陳鐵梅，《美南時事通》
- 每周三晚7點，主持人：王潔，《美南時事通》、《美南名人堂》
- 每周四晚7點，主持人：Sky，《子天訪談錄》或馬健《J&J論壇》
- 每周五晚7點，主持人：蓋軍，《美南時事通》

美南網Scdaily.com和youtube 頻道Stv15.3 Houston同步收看直播



主持人: 黃梅子



主持人: 陳鐵梅



主持人: 王潔



主持人: 馬健



主持人: Sky



主持人: 蓋軍

# Wall St ends 2022 with biggest annual drop since 2008

Dec 30 (Reuters) - U.S. stocks closed out 2022 lower on Friday, capping a year of sharp losses driven by aggressive interest rate hikes to curb inflation, recession fears, the Russia-Ukraine war and rising concerns over COVID cases in China.

Wall Street's three main indexes booked their first yearly drop since 2018 as an era of loose monetary policy ended with the Federal Reserve's fastest pace of rate hikes since the 1980s.

The benchmark S&P 500 (.SPX) has shed 19.4% this year, marking a roughly \$8 trillion decline in market cap. The tech-heavy Nasdaq (.IXIC) is down 33.1%, while the Dow Jones Industrial Average (.DJI) has fallen 8.9%.

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The annual percentage declines for all three indexes were the biggest since the 2008 financial crisis, largely driven by a rout in growth shares as concerns over Fed's rapid interest rate hikes boost U.S. Treasury yields.

Venezuela economy grew 17.73% y/y through September - central bank Ecuador's \$290 mln Petrolia debt void on handover - gov't, company Biden signs \$1.66 trillion FY 2023 government funding bill  
Analysis: Is the party over? Mexico's peso could lose solid gains in 2023  
"The primary macro reasons ... came from a combination of events: the ongoing supply chain disruption that started in 2020, the spike in inflation, the tardiness of the Fed beginning its rate tightening program in the attempt to corral the inflation," said Sam Stovall, chief investment strategist at CFRA Research.

He also cited economic indicators pointing to recession, geopolitical tensions including the Ukraine war, and China's surging COVID cases and uncertainties over Taiwan.

Growth stocks have been under pressure from rising yields for much of 2022 and have underperformed their economically linked value peers, reversing a trend that had lasted for much of the past decade.

Apple Inc (AAPL.O), Alphabet Inc (GOOGL.O), Microsoft Corp (MSFT.O), Nvidia Corp (NVDA.O), Amazon.com Inc (AMZN.O), Tesla Inc (TSLA.O) are among the worst drags on the S&P 500 growth index (.IGX), down between 28% and 66% in 2022.



The S&P 500 growth index has fallen about 30.1% this year, while the value index (.IVX) is down 7.4%, with investors preferring high dividend-yielding sectors with steady earnings such as energy.

Energy (.SPNY) has recorded stellar annual gains of 59% as oil prices surged.

A trader works on the trading floor at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) in New York City. A trader works on the trading floor at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) in New York City, U.S., December 14, 2022. REUTERS/Andrew Kelly/File Photo

Ten of the 11 S&P (.SPX) sector indexes dropped on Friday, led by real estate and utilities.

"The housing market has really slowed down and the values of people's homes have declined off of the highs earlier this year," said J. Bryant Evans, investment advisor and portfolio manager at Cozad Asset Management in Champaign, Illinois.

"That affects people's mind frame and actually affects their spending a little bit." The focus has shifted to the 2023 corporate earnings outlook, with growing concerns about the likelihood of a recession.

Still, signs of U.S. economic resilience have fueled worries that rates could remain higher, though easing inflationary pressures have raised hopes of dialed-down rate hikes.

Money market participants see 65% odds of a 25-basis-point hike in the Fed's February meeting, with rates expected to peak at 4.97% by mid-2023.

## Editor's Choice



A view of a house destroyed by a Russian missile strike in Kyiv, Ukraine December 29, 2022. REUTERS/Vladyslav Musiienko



People take shelter inside a metro station during massive Russian missile attacks in Kyiv, Ukraine December 29, 2022. REUTERS/Viacheslav Ratynskyi



A police investigator takes pictures as he works at a site of a residential house damaged during a Russian missile strike in Kyiv, Ukraine December 29, 2022. REUTERS/Valentyn Ogirenko



A flood victim takes refuge along a road in a makeshift tent, following rains and floods during the monsoon season in Mehar, Pakistan. REUTERS/Akhtar Soomro



Alexander Shulga with his dog next to him reacts in front of his and his neighbor's home destroyed by a strike, amid Russia's invasion of Ukraine, in Mykolaiv, Ukraine. REUTERS/Umit Bektas



People take shelter inside a metro station during massive Russian missile attacks in Kyiv, Ukraine December 29, 2022. REUTERS/Vladyslav Musiienko

**Southern DAILY** Make Today Different

**BUSINESS**

**“Make Art, Not War!”**

**Artists Around The World Leave Their Mark In Support Of Ukraine**

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



**Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine**  
Street artist Denys Antiukov and his assistant Hanna work on a mural inspired by the Russian Warship, Go E... Yourself! postage stamp in the Khorlytskiy district of Zaporizhzhia, southeastern Ukraine. (Photo/Albert Koshelev) | Future Publishing | Getty Images

**Key Point**  
Since Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24, artists around the world have created poignant murals to support Ukraine. We share here how artists have depicted the war across the globe.



**Belgrade, Serbia**  
A person walks next to a mural of Russian President Vladimir Putin, which has been vandalised with red spray paint and the word “War” written instead of the original text reading: “Brother”, following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, in Belgrade, Serbia, April 29, 2022. Marko Djurica | Reuters | Paris



**Paris**  
Fresco murals by French street artists Kedu Abstract and Jeff Aerosol are displayed on the wall of a Parisian building on March 14, 2022 in Paris, France. Chesnot | Getty Images



**Paris**  
A fresco mural by French street artist Julien Malland

**Borovsk, Russia**  
aka Seth Globepainter is displayed on the wall of a Parisian building on March 14, 2022 in Paris, France. Chesnot | Getty Images



**Paris**  
A man takes a picture of a fresco mural by French street artist Sara Chelou displayed on “The walls of peace” on March 28, 2022 in Paris, France. Chesnot | Getty Images



**Paris**  
A man takes a picture of a fresco mural by French street artist Eric Ze King aka EZK displayed on “The walls of peace” on March 28, 2022 in Paris, France. Chesnot | Getty Images



**Paris**  
French street artist and painter Christian Guemy (R) known as C215 poses in front of his fresco depicting a Ukrainian young girl with a quote attributed to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky: “I really don’t want my photos in your offices, because I am neither a god nor an icon, but rather a servant of the Nation.” Joel Seget | AFP | Getty Images



**Paris**  
A man takes a picture of a fresco murals displayed on “The walls of peace” on March 28, 2022 in Paris, France. Chesnot | Getty Images



**Borovsk, Russia**  
A child walks past by a graffiti made by the artist Vladimir Ovchinnikov in Borovsk, some 100kms south-west of Moscow, on April 14, 2022. Retired engineer Vladimir Ovchinnikov has spent decades painting murals on buildings in and around his small town south of Moscow. But since the outbreak of Russia’s conflict with Ukraine, the 84-year-old has found that some of his art is not welcome. | AFP | Getty Images



**Rome**  
Rome, the new mural by the artist Maupal against the invasion of Ukraine by Russia depicting two Matryoshkas. Francesco Fotia Universal Images Group | Getty Images



**Rome**  
Anti-Ukraine war mural by Italian street artist known by the name of ‘Laika’ depicting a hug between two women, one dressed in the Russian, the other in the Ukrainian national colors, respectively, above the word MIR (Peace) In the Ostiense district on March 09, 2022 in Rome, Italy. Andrea Ronchini | Nurphoto | Getty Images



**Rome**  
Peace. The new mural by street artist Laika dedicated to the crisis between Russia and Ukraine. Marilla Sicilia | Mondadori Portfolio | Getty Images



**Rome**  
A mural depicting a Ukrainian child under the SOS writing, created by the street artist known as ‘Harry Greb’, is seen next to the Coliseum metro station on March 17, 2022 in Rome, Italy. Andrea Ronchini | Nurphoto | Getty Images



**Sofia, Bulgaria**  
A resident walks past mural painting by Bulgarian artist Stanislav Belovski depicting Russian President Vladimir Putin holding his own body in Sofia, on March 15, 2022. Nikolay Doychinov | AFP | Getty Images



**Amsterdam, Netherlands**  
Murals of two young Ukrainian victims portrayed on the wall. On the left, Vitaliy Skakun Volodymyrovych (1996-2022) who is seen as a hero by the Ukrainian army for his heroic action during the explosion of a bridge to stop the Russian army, on the right, 10-year-old Ukrainian Polina, murdered by Russian soldiers when she and her family tried to flee Kyiv by car. Ana Fernandez | Sopa Images | Getty Images



**Buenos Aires, Argentina**  
A woman walks pass the mural “No to war” by muralist Maximiliano Bagnasco in Buenos Aires on March 5, 2022. Juan Mabromata | AFP | Getty Images



**Barcelona, Spain**  
A passer-by is seen observing the graphic representation of Ukraine’s president Zelensky calling for an end to the Russian invasion is seen in Plaza de Sant Jaume. Paco Freire | Lightrocket | Getty Images



**Barcelona, Spain**  
A passer-by is seen taking photos of artist TvBoy’s new collage for peace in Ukraine. TvBoy, the Italian artist living in Barcelona, installs a new collage on the war in Ukraine in Plaza de Sant Jaume, representing three children installing a flag of peace on a Russian tank. Paco Freire | Lightrocket | Getty Images



**Barcelona, Spain**  
A woman looks at a new work by Italian street artist TvBoy that depicts Russian President Vladimir Putin in prison, in Barcelona on March 31, 2022. Josep Lago | AFP | Getty Images



**Barcelona**  
A newsagent picks up magazines next to a mural by Italian urban artist Salvatore Benintende aka “TV BOY” depicting a girl painting a peace symbol on an Ukraine’s flag, reading “Hope” in Barcelona on April 30, 2022. Pat Barrena | AFP | Getty Images



**Gdansk, Poland**  
A mural of Putin, Hitler, and Stalin with a slogan “No More Time” is seen on the wall next to the PKM Gdansk Jasien train station. Mateusz Slodkowski | Lightrocket | Getty Images (Article Continues Below)

**Southern DAILY** Make Today Different

(Article Continues From Above)

**“Make Art, Not War!”**

**Artists Around The World Leave Their Mark In Support Of Ukraine**

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



**Gdansk, Poland**  
Yellow heart pierced by bullets on a blue background with inscription in Ukrainian and Polish - “Ukraine is fighting” - is seen in Gdansk, Poland on 6 March 2022 The mural was created to support Ukrainian people during the Russian war against Ukraine. Michal Fludra | Nurphoto | Getty Images



**Poznan, Poland**  
A mural by graffiti artist KAWU depicting Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy as Harry Potter with Z on his forehead (instead of lightning bolt) symbolising Russia’s invasion of Ukraine is seen in Poznan, Poland March 9, 2022. Piotr Skornicki | Reuters



**Kyiv, Ukraine**  
Kyiv, a mural against Putin in the city center, the inscription reads: Ukraine 5: Putin 0. Nicola Marfisi | Universal Images Group | Getty Images



**Kyiv**  
Young people ride their e-scooters past a ‘stop

**Kyiv**  
the war’ poster in central Kyiv on May 19, 2022 in Kyiv, Ukraine. Christopher Furlong | Getty Images



**Kyiv**  
Ukrainian soldiers take pictures of a mural titled ‘Saint Javelin’ dedicated to the British portable surface-to-air missile has been unveiled on the side of a Kyiv apartment block on May 25, 2022 in Kyiv, Ukraine. The artwork by illustrator and artist Chris Shaw is in reference to the Javelin missile donated to Ukrainian troops to battle against the Russian invasion. Christopher Furlong | Getty Images



**Lviv, Ukraine**  
People take pictures of a sculpture depicting the President of Russia Vladimir Putin called “Shoot yourself” in the centre of Kyiv. Sergei Chuzavkov | Lightrocket | Getty Images



**Berlin, Germany**  
A woman sits in front of a graffiti tribute to the Ukrainian Military and their ongoing war with Russia. Joe M O’Brien | Lightrocket | Getty Images



**Berlin**  
A cyclist passes by a part of the Berlin Wall de-

**Berlin**  
orated with a graffiti of a Ukrainian flag colored Peace symbol, expressing solidarity with Ukraine at Potsdamer Platz on May 4, 2022 in Berlin, Germany. Omer Messinger | Getty Images



**Vilnius, Lithuania**  
VILNIUS, LITHUANIA - APRIL 26: Street art paintings which supports Ukraine on April 26, 2022 in Vilnius, Lithuania. Russia invaded neighbouring Ukraine on February 24, 2022, and has been met with worldwide condemnation in the form of rallies, protests and peace marches taking place in cities across the globe. Paulius Peleckis | Getty Images



**Dublin, Ireland**  
People pass a mural of President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskiy, by the artist Aches, in central Dublin. Picture date: Monday April 4, 2022. Niall Carson | Pa Images | Getty Images



**Edinburgh, Scotland**  
New street art which has appeared in Leith, Edinburgh, in response to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. The mural features a Nightingale, the official national bird of Ukraine, against the country’s flag. Picture date: Tuesday April 5, 2022. Jane Barlow | Pa Images | Getty Images

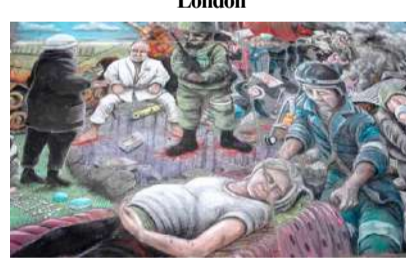


**Bristol, U.K.**  
Artwork of Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskiy being portrayed as Superman is seen on a

**Cardiff, Wales**  
wall of a shop, on May 15, 2022 in Bristol, England. Matt Carly | Getty Images



**Cardiff, Wales**  
A resident looks at new street art mural has appeared in Cardiff depicting Ukraine’s capital Kyiv under siege on March 01, 2022 in Cardiff, Wales. Huw Fairclough | Getty Images



**London**  
A drawing describing the Russia-Ukraine war on the floor at Trafalgar Square. Demonstrations in support of Ukraine have been ongoing on an everyday basis in London since the Russia-Ukraine War started on 24th February 2022. Hesther Ng | Lightrocket Getty Images



**London**  
Stop the War and the pro Russian ‘Z’ with a cross through it, solidarity with Ukraine graffiti in Shoreditch, London. Matthew Chattle | Future Publishing | Getty Images



**Krakow, Poland**  
A mural depicting Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskiy and ‘Glory to Ukraine’ slogan written in Polish is seen in Krakow, Poland on 22 March, 2022. Beata Zawrzel | Nurphoto | Getty Images



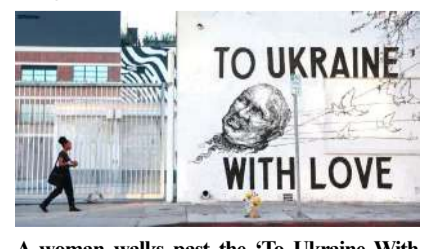
**Nairobi, Kenya**  
An artist showing a protest symbol power sign by a street mural created by a group of Artists from Maasai Mbili depicting Kibera’s love for Ukraine amidst the war. Donwilson Odhiambo | Sopa Images | Getty Images



**Nairobi**  
A girl poses by a street mural created by a group of Artists from Maasai Mbili depicting a sign of love from Kibera to Ukraine amidst the war. Donwilson Odhiambo | Lightrocket | Getty Images



**Los Angeles**  
A street stencil by artist IGoodHombre depicts Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy gripping submachine guns as a person walks past on Melrose Avenue on March 30, 2022 in Los Angeles, California. Mario Tama | Getty Images



**Los Angeles**  
A woman walks past the ‘To Ukraine With Love’ mural by artists Corie Mattie and Juliano Trindade depicting Russian President Vladimir Putin on March 14, 2022 in Los Angeles, California. Mario Tama | Getty Images (Courtesy https://www.cnn.com/2022/03/30)