

**BRIEFING**

**Record rise in U.S. wholesale prices**

Wholesale prices, driven by rising food costs, increased 0.8% in May and by an unprecedented amount over the past year as the U.S. economy emerges from pandemic lockdowns and pushes inflation higher.

The monthly gain in the producer price index, which measures inflation pressure before it reaches consumers, followed a 0.6% increase in April and a 1% jump in March, the Labor Department reported Tuesday.

Food prices jumped a sizable 2.6% with the cost of beef and veal rising, though the cost of fresh fruits declined. Energy costs rose 2.2%, reversing a 2.4% drop in April.

Over the past 12 months, wholesale prices are up 6.6%, the largest 12-month increase on records going back to 2010.

**Americans spend less; retail sales fall**

Retail sales fell in May, dragged down by a decline in auto sales and a shift by Americans to spend more on vacations and other services instead of goods.

Total sales dropped a seasonally adjusted 1.3% in May from the month before, the U.S. Commerce Department said Tuesday. Wall Street analysts expected a smaller decline of 0.5%.

Economists predicted retail sales to drop in May because of the lack of cars available for sale due to a worldwide shortage of chips, which are needed to power in-car screens and other features. Sales at auto dealerships fell 3.7% last month, the government said.

Another reason for the decrease: As more Americans are vaccinated, they are spending more of their money on haircuts, trips and other services that are not included in Tuesday's report.

**Judge blocks pause on oil, gas leases**

The Biden administration's suspension of new oil and gas leases on federal land and water was blocked Tuesday by a federal judge in Louisiana, who ordered that plans continue for lease sales that were delayed for the Gulf of Mexico and Alaska waters "and all eligible onshore properties."

U.S. District Judge Terry Doughty's ruling came in a lawsuit filed in March by Louisiana's Republican attorney general, Jeff Landry and officials in 12 other states. Doughty said his ruling applies nationwide.

The Interior Department had canceled oil and gas lease sales from public lands through June.

— Bulletin wire reports

**OREGON EMPLOYMENT DATA**

## Growth remains slow; 6,900 jobs added in May

*Some sectors are nearing pre-pandemic levels*

**BY MIKE ROGOWAY**  
The Oregonian

Oregon added jobs at a modest pace in May and the employment rate remained at 5.9%, unchanged from April's revised tally.

The state added 6,900 jobs in May, according to data out Tuesday from the Oregon Employment

Department, compared to an average of 11,400 jobs over the prior four months. Oregon has now recovered 62% of the jobs lost in the first month of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The state's jobless rate is roughly even with the national rate, which was 5.8% last month.

Hotels, restaurants and bars are

responsible for 43% of all Oregon jobs lost to the pandemic. And while relaxed health restrictions have allowed most to reopen, employment in the leisure and hospitality sector is picking up slowly.

Those industries added just 1,600 jobs in the past two months, the employment department said, and have 46,700 fewer jobs than it did before the pandemic.

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**Oregon job search requirements**

Oregonians receiving regular unemployment benefits must start looking for jobs by July 31 to keep receiving their weekly payments, the state said Monday, reinstating a requirement that had been on hold during the pandemic.

The Oregon Employment Department laid out the timetable for people to resume their work search:

- **An initial batch of 35,000 workers** are receiving notices indicating they must register with the state's iMatchSkills program, which matches their qualifications with current job openings on file with the state. The employment department says 220,000 claimants will have to register, so the state is breaking that total into groups and phasing in the registration period over five weeks.
- **On July 6**, the employment department says its WorkSource offices will reopen by appointment to help workers find a job. The department will launch an online scheduling tool or workers may call their local office to book an appointment.
- **By July 31**, people receiving regular jobless benefits must demonstrate they're looking for work in each week they claim benefits.
- **Self-employed workers and contractors** receiving benefits through the new Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program don't have to register yet, and there's no deadline for them to start their work search. The state says it will set a timeline for them soon.



People take photos at Universal Studios on Tuesday, the day California lifted most of its COVID-19 restrictions for its "grand reopening."

# CALIFORNIA COMEBACK

First state to lock down for COVID-19 fully reopens for summer tourism

**BY JOCELYN GECKER AND STEFANIE DAZIO**  
Associated Press

**S**AN FRANCISCO — California, the first state in America to put in place a coronavirus lockdown, has turned a page on the pandemic.

The nation's most populated state lifted most of its restrictions Tuesday, meaning no more state rules on social distancing or capacity limits at restaurants, bars, supermarkets, gyms, stadiums or anywhere else.

And masks — one of the most fraught symbols of the pandemic — are no longer mandated for vaccinated people in most settings, though businesses and counties can still require them.

Gov. Gavin Newsom celebrated the milestone by hosting a lottery-style selection of 10 winners who will get \$1.5 million each simply for being vaccinated. It was the grand finale to the nation's largest vaccine incentive — \$116 million in COVID-19 lottery jackpots and cash card giveaways. Oregon and other states have their own vaccine lotteries.

"Finally we are here, June 15th, to turn the page," Newsom declared from a stage at Universal Studios Hollywood.

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Ringo H.W. Chiu/AP photos

California Gov. Gavin Newsom mingles with movie characters at his news conference at Universal Studios in Universal City, California. As of Tuesday, there are no more state rules on social distancing, and no more limits on capacity at restaurants, bars, supermarkets, gyms, stadiums or anywhere else.

## State Senate will vote on scaling back business tax break

**BY HILLARY BORRUD**  
The Oregonian

Oregon lawmakers in the Democratic-controlled Senate are set to vote as soon as this week on a proposal to trim a controversial business tax break that allows qualifying business owners to pay much lower tax rates than wage earners.

With less than two weeks left in the legislative session, the plan emerged from a seemingly unlikely collaboration between Sen. Ginny Burdick, D-Portland, and Sen. Brian Boquist, a former Republican from Dallas who is now a member of the Independent Party of Oregon.

In 2017, House Democrats passed a bill to pare back the tax break after state tax data showed it benefitted lawyers and doctors — "suits and scrubs," Democrats complained — rather than the manufacturers and exporters touted as beneficiaries when lawmakers approved the provision in 2013. The 2017 bill died in the Senate, and qualifying taxpayers continue to use the break to cut their taxes by approximately \$100 million a year.

Boquist said in an interview Monday afternoon that it's not surprising he and Burdick worked together to scale back the tax break for pass-through businesses, because eight years ago they were both part of the small group of lawmakers who worked with then-Gov. John Kitzhaber, a Democrat, to craft the tax cut.

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## Dutch Bros files for IPO

*Grants Pass-based coffee chain has nearly 470 stores in 11 states*

**BY MIKE ROGOWAY**  
The Oregonian

Dutch Bros, the drive-thru chain of coffee stands based in Grants Pass, says it has filed for an initial public offering after years of rapid growth. It could be Oregon's first major IPO since 2004.

Bloomberg, citing unnamed sources, reported last month that the chain hoped a prospective stock offering would give it a \$3 billion market value. That could make it the biggest IPO in Oregon history.

Founded in 1992, Dutch Bros now operates

nearly 470 stores in 11 states, stretching from Seattle to San Antonio, where the franchise chain is in the process of opening its newest location. It employs about 13,000 altogether.

Dutch Bros reported in 2018 that it had sold an unspecified stake in the business to a private equity firm, TSG Consumer Products. At the time, Dutch Bros said it hoped to use "TSG's expertise and resources" to grow to 800 locations in five years.

Grants Pass natives Travis and Dane Boersma founded the business together after growing up on a family dairy farm. Dane Boersma was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, Lou Gehrig's disease, in 2005 and died in 2009.

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**EVICTIION MORATORIUM ENDING**

## How to get rent help in Oregon

**BY JAMIE GOLDBERG**  
The Oregonian

The state's eviction moratorium, which has been in place since early in the pandemic, is set to expire at the end of this month.

Oregon tenants who have struggled to pay rent during the coronavirus pandemic can apply for assistance directly through the state.

The state will distribute \$204 million in federal money to Oregon renters through

its new Oregon Emergency Rental Assistance Program. The program will serve renters who have incomes less than 80% of the area median income, have experienced financial hardship due to the pandemic and are in danger of experiencing homelessness or housing instability.

Eligible tenants can visit oregonrentalassistance.org to apply.

Tenants can apply for assistance to cover past due rent

and utility bills dating back to March 13, 2020. Renters can also request assistance to cover three months of future rent.

The application requires tenants to submit information verifying their identity, income, residence and the cost of their rent and utility bills.

In most cases, the assistance will be paid directly to a renter's landlord to bring the tenant current on rent.

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