DOW	NASDAQ	S&P 500	30-YR T-BOND	CRUDE OIL	GOLD	SILVER	EURO
36,290.32 +38.30	15,188.39 +34.94	4,726.35 +13.28	2.07% -.01	$82.64 +1.42	$1,827.20 +8.60	$23.20 +.39	$1.1449 +.0082

Brown proposes $200M workforce plan

Associated Press

SALEM — Oregon Gov. Kate Brown is proposing a $200 million legislative package to bolster the state's workforce during the pandemic.

Oregon Public Broadcasting reports the program, titled "Future Ready Oregon," aims to prioritize key populations disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and existing disparities. They include Oregonians of color, women, low-income individuals, rural communities, veterans and those who are incarcerated or formerly incarcerated.

Lawmakers will consider the plan when the Legislature convenes Feb. 1.

Three specific sectors would benefit from the program: Health care, manufacturing and construction.

Members of Brown's Racial Justice Council, business groups and labor policy experts developed the program in late 2021 with the central theme of "meeting people where they are."

That means investing about $82 million in existing programs that have shown results in putting people to work. Those include programs administered by the state's nine regional workforce development boards, community colleges and career-specific apprenticeship programs.

The governor also wants to help especially hard-hit Oregonians by spending $95 million to solve problems that keep people out of the workforce. That includes covering the cost of tuition and fees for school and training programs, transportation, housing, food and child care costs.

The $12.5 million remaining would help launch initiatives to support those engaged in the program by helping them navigate the benefits available to them and connecting the business community to consortiums set up for each of the three sectors involved.

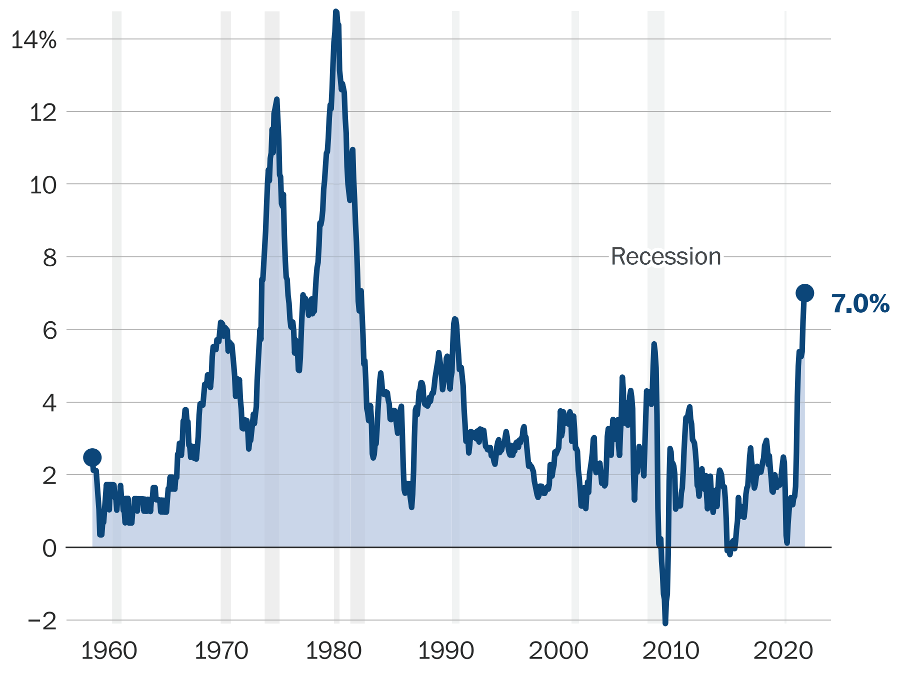
See **Workforce** / *A12*

PRICES SOAR

INFLATION CLIMBS TO LEVELS NOT SEEN SINCE THE 1980S. HERE'S WHY.

Inflation hits highest level in decades

Consumer price index, change from a year earlier



36% Inflation to rent a car

19% Inflation in cost of bacon

17% Inflation in cost of living and dining room furniture

11% Inflation in cost of men's coats and suits

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics THE WASHINGTON POST

BY PAUL WISEMAN • Associated Press

WASHINGTON — At first, it didn't even register as a threat. Then it seemed like a temporary annoyance.

Now, inflation is flashing red for the Federal Reserve's policymakers — and delivering sticker shock to Americans at the used car lot, the supermarket, the gas station, the rental office.

On Wednesday, the Labor Department reported that consumer prices jumped 7% in December compared with 12 months earlier — the hottest year-over-year inflation since June 1982. Excluding volatile energy and food prices, what is called "core" inflation rose 5.5% over the past year, the fastest such pace since 1991.

Bacon prices are up nearly 19% from a year ago, men's coats and suits nearly 11%, living and dining room furniture more than 17%. Renting a car will cost you 36% more, on average, than it did in December 2020.

"Prices are increasing broadly throughout the economy, and the Federal Reserve has been caught off-guard by the extent of inflation," said Gus Faucher, chief economist at PNC Financial.

See **Inflation** / *A12*

Nam Y. Huh/AP file

Cars sit on the lot of a dealership in Schaumburg, Illinois, on Dec. 16. Prices for cars jumped in December

Marta Lavandier/AP file

Beef cuts like these displayed at a Publix Supermarket on Oct. 20 in Miami have become more expensive.

Gerry Broome/AP file

A rental sign is displayed along Mebane, North Carolina, on Feb. 10. Rent has been rising, along with other prices.

Ninkasi Brewing unveils canned cocktails

BY ANDRE MEUNIER

The Oregonian

Ninkasi Brewing of Eugene and Portland mixologist Jeffrey Morgenthaler have teamed up on a line of canned cocktails being released throughout Oregon and the West.

Ninkasi co-founders Nikos Ridge and Jamie Floyd tapped Morgenthaler, known in Portland for creating the bar programs at the now-closed Clyde Common restaurant and Pepe Le Moko bar, to create the cocktails.

Floyd and Morgenthaler, in an interview a day ahead of the cocktails' official release, said the venture is the latest innovation by Ninkasi, which sold more beer in Oregon in 2020 than any craft brewery.

"It was an absurd idea to start a brewery making IPA when we did," Floyd said of Ninkasi launching Total Domination IPA as its flagship beer when the brewery opened in 2006. The brewery also purchased its own canning line.

"That's the first time it struck a nerve in me, because once we had beer in cans, I thought cocktails in a can would be smart, too," Floyd said. "Nikos and I, our first thought was that we'd want to do that with Jeffrey."

Morgenthaler's relationship with Ninkasi dates back to the brewery's earliest days, when he was a web designer and bartender in Eugene. He designed one of Ninkasi's earliest websites in 2007, a year before he moved to Portland and started at Clyde Common.

Morgenthaler is known for his cocktail advice blog and the 2014 recipe book it inspired, "The Bar Book." He hopes to open a cocktail bar of his own in the first half of 2022.

"My whole thing as evidenced by sharing on my blog for the last 20 years is getting more delicious cocktails in the hands of more people," Morgenthaler said. "It's really the thing that drives everything that I've done forever. I can only get so many drinks in hands working behind the bar."

See **Ninkasi** / *A12*

BRIEFING

Delta extends deadline for travel vouchers

Delta Air Lines said Wednesday it will extend through 2023 the window for customers to rebook credits earned when they purchased but then canceled flights during the pandemic.

Before the announcement, Delta flight credits were set to expire at the end of 2022. The new date will also apply to all tickets bought in 2022. Customers will be able to use the credits throughout 2024 if the trip is booked by Dec. 31, 2023, the airline said.

The move was not immediately matched by American Airlines or United Airlines, where credits are set to expire March 31 and Dec. 31, respectively.

Passengers are entitled to refunds under federal law if the airline cancels their flight. But if the passenger cancels, airlines generally provide only some form of credit or voucher, typically with a one-year expiration.

Refunds have become a major source of airline consumer complaints to the U.S. Transportation Department.

Stocks gain after inflation report

Wall Street capped a day of wobbly trading with modest gains for stocks Wednesday, as investors weighed the implications of the latest economic snapshot showing rising inflation.

The S&P 500 rose 0.3% after veering between a loss of 0.1% and a gain of 0.8% over the course of the day. The Dow Jones Industrial Average eked out a 0.1% gain, while the Nasdaq composite rose 0.2%.

Investors were focused on a report from the Labor Department, which showed consumer prices jumped 7% last month. The sharp increase, which was in line with economists' forecasts, came a day after Fed Chair Jerome Powell told Congress that the central bank stands ready to raise rates to fight inflation.

"That's the next (thing) that investors are looking at, trying to figure out what the Fed is really, really going to do and what they really can do," said Tom Martin, senior portfolio manager with Globalt Investments.

Economy grew slowly at year-end

The Federal Reserve said Wednesday that the economy was growing at a modest pace at the end of 2021 but was still being held back by ongoing supply-chain disruptions and labor shortages.

In its latest survey of business conditions around the country, the Fed said its 12 regional banks found that the economy was continuing to grow. But many regions reported a sudden pullback in spending on leisure travel, hotels and restaurants because of the rapid spread of the omicron variant of the coronavirus.

"Although optimism remained high generally, several districts cited reports from businesses that expectations for growth over the next several months cooled somewhat during the last few weeks" of 2021, a period when COVID cases were rising sharply.

—Bulletin wire reports

Fact checkers: YouTube lets its platform be 'weaponized'

Associated Press

More than 80 fact checking organizations are calling on YouTube to address what they say is rampant misinformation on the platform.

In a letter to CEO Susan Wojcicki published Wednesday, the groups say the Google-owned video platform is "one of the major conduits of online disinformation and misinformation worldwide."

YouTube's efforts to address the problem, they say, are proving insufficient.

"What we do not see is much effort by YouTube to implement policies that address the problem," the letter says. "On the contrary, YouTube is allowing its platform to be weaponized by unscrupulous actors to manipulate and exploit others, and to organize and fundraise themselves."

The problem, these groups said, is especially rampant in non-English speaking countries and the global south.

The fact checkers are all members of the International Fact Checking Network and include Rappler in the Philippines, Africa Check, Science Feedback in France and dozens of other groups. They lambasted YouTube, saying it frames discussions about disinformation as a "false dichotomy" of deleting or not deleting content.

Displaying fact-checked information is more effective than deleting content, the fact checkers wrote.

They propose that YouTube focuses on providing context and use debunk statements that are "clearly superimposed" on videos. They also called for YouTube to act against repeat offenders and beef up efforts against misinformation in languages other than English.

In a statement, YouTube spokesperson Elena Hernandez said the company has "invested heavily in policies and products in all countries we operate to connect people to authoritative content, reduce the spread of borderline misinformation, and remove violative videos."

She called fact checking "a crucial tool to help viewers make their own informed decisions," but added that it is "one piece of a much larger puzzle to address the spread of misinformation."