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# USA OUTLOOK

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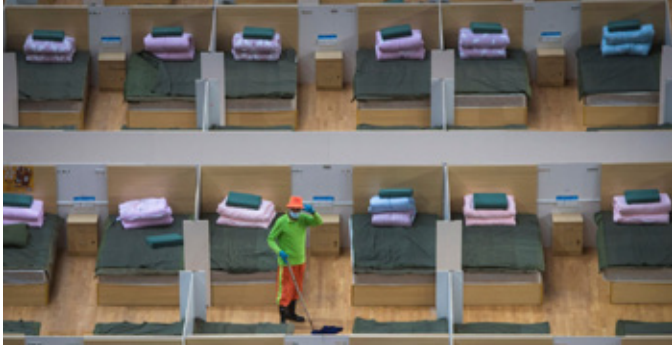


Foto: nytimes.com

## Coronavirus Cases Seemed to Be Leveling Off. Not Anymore

The news seemed to be positive: The number of new coronavirus cases reported in China over the past week suggested that the outbreak might be slowing — that containment efforts were working. But on Thursday, officials added more than 14,840 new cases to the tally of the infected in Hubei Province alone, bringing the total number to 48,206, the largest one-day increase so far recorded. The death toll in the province rose to 1,310, including 242 new deaths.

The sharp rise in reported cases illustrates how hard it has been for scientists to grasp the extent and severity of the coronavirus outbreak in China, particularly inside the epicenter, where thousands of sick people remain untested for the illness.

Confronted by so many people with symptoms and no easy way to test them, authorities appear to have changed the way the illness is identified. Hospitals in Wuhan, China — the largest city in Hubei Province and the center of the epidemic — have struggled to diagnose infections with scarce and complicated tests that detect the virus's genetic signature directly. Other countries, too, have had such issues.

The few experts to learn of the new numbers on Wednesday night were startled. Lung scans are an imperfect means to diagnose patients. Even patients with ordinary seasonal flu may develop pneumonia visible on a lung scan.



Foto: Washington Post

## Trump takes on Judge Amy Berman Jackson ahead of Roger Stone's sentencing

First he went after the prosecutors who recommended a multiyear sentence for his friend Roger Stone. Then President Trump turned his Twitter ire to the "witch hunt disgrace" of special counsel Robert S. Mueller III's investigation, which led to Stone's indictment. But perhaps most surprising was Trump's decision to target U.S. District Judge Amy Berman Jackson — who will determine Stone's fate when he appears in her courtroom next Thursday.

Paul G. Cassell, a former federal judge in Utah, called the personal nature of the president's attacks "highly unusual and an extraordinary departure from the way things are ordinarily handled."

But, he said, the nation's system of government insulates judges from political pressure because they are appointed for life. While most judges would prefer not to be the target of attacks on social media, including from the president, he said, the independence of the judiciary provides protection from repercussions.

"Judge Jackson will simply move forward and decide the case," said Cassell, now a law professor at the University of Utah, "and ignore the surrounding atmospherics from the president and the others who are responding to him."



Foto: CNBC.com

## US deficit surges 25% in fiscal 2020 and is \$1.1 trillion over the past year

The sea of red ink is getting deeper and deeper in Washington, with the federal government already racking up a budget deficit that is averaging close to \$100 billion a month.

Treasury Department data released Wednesday show the shortfall at \$389.2 billion in the first four months of fiscal 2020. That's a 25% gain over the same period last year and already about 40% of the total deficit for fiscal 2019.

Over the past 12 months, the government has spent \$1.06 trillion more than it has taken in. All the red ink has bought the total national debt to \$23.3 trillion.

Receipts actually are on the rise comparatively, coming in at \$1.18 trillion through January compared with \$1.1 trillion a year earlier.

However, the rate of spending is adding to the shortfall, with outlays coming in at \$1.57 trillion vs. \$1.42 trillion for the first four months in fiscal 2019. That's a 9.6% spending increase.

President Donald Trump has insisted that economic growth would cover the cost of the tax cuts implemented in the 2017 deal he struck with Congress. While GDP rose 2.9% in 2018, it slowed to 2.3% in 2019 as the debt and deficits continue to rise.

Fuente

<https://www.cnbc.com/2020/02/12/us-deficit-swells-25percent-in-fiscal-2020-up-1point1-trillion-over-past-year.html>



Foto: politico.com

## U.S. charges Huawei with racketeering and theft

The Justice Department charged Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei with racketeering and stealing trade secrets from U.S. firms over two decades, the agency announced Thursday, opening another front in the Trump administration's battle against the leading maker of networking equipment.

The indictment accuses Huawei of building its empire on the backs of other companies, including six U.S. firms, by copying intellectual property and then selling it in products around the world.

In some instances, Huawei leaned on academics to steal trade secrets or provided financial rewards to employees who did its bidding, according to the indictment that names Huawei and its Chinese subsidiaries, as well as two subsidiaries based in the U.S.

The U.S. government has been on a broader crusade against Huawei, warning that its alleged ties to Beijing pose a national security threat.

Congress and the Trump administration have hamstrung the company's business in the U.S., while pressing allies around the globe to ban the company's networking equipment.

Huawei did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Fuente

<https://www.politico.com/news/2020/02/13/us-charges-huawei-with-racketeering-and-theft-14912>