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AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# USA OUTLOOK

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Foto: CNN

## US and Russia hold crunch talks over Ukraine border crisis

American and Russian officials were holding high-stakes talks Monday about the build-up of troops near Ukraine's border, as fears mount over a possible Russian invasion.

US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman and Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov began their meeting on Monday morning in Geneva, Switzerland, after holding a working dinner on Sunday evening.

The talks follow months of tension near the Ukraine-Russia frontier, where tens of thousands of Russian soldiers have massed.

"The United States is committed to the principle of 'nothing about you, without you' when it comes to the security of our European allies and partners, including Ukraine," the spokesperson said. "We are lashed up at every level with our allies and partners, and we will continue to be in the days and weeks ahead."

**Fuente**

<https://edition.cnn.com/2022/01/10/politics/us-russia-ukraine-meetings-geneva-intl/index.html>

## Readout of Vice President Kamala Harris's Call with President Alejandro Giammattei of Guatemala

Vice President Kamala Harris spoke today with President Alejandro Giammattei of Guatemala. She reaffirmed the administration's commitment to working together with Guatemala on a broad agenda that includes the root causes of migration, trafficking, economic development, and anti-corruption.

The two leaders discussed ongoing bilateral cooperation to disrupt human smuggling networks through the Human Smuggling and Trafficking Task Force the Vice President announced during her June 2021 visit to Guatemala.

The Vice President noted the importance of holding corrupt actors accountable, highlighting that corruption erodes public trust and undermines effective, accountable governance. The Vice President updated President Giammattei on U.S. government efforts to generate economic growth through the Call to Action she launched in May 2021, which has generated over \$1.2 billion dollars of private sector investment to the region.



Foto: US Embassy in Guatemala

**Fuente**

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2022/01/10/readout-of-vice-president-kamala-harris-call-with-president-alejandro-giammattei-of-guatemala/>



Foto: reuters.com

## Oil prices could hit \$100 as demand outstrips supply, analysts say

Oil prices that rallied 50% in 2021 will power further ahead this year, analysts predict, saying a lack of production capacity and limited investment in the sector could lift crude above \$100 a barrel.

Though the Omicron coronavirus variant has pushed COVID-19 cases far above peaks hit last year, analysts say oil prices will be supported by the reluctance of many governments to restore the strict restrictions that hammered the global economy when the pandemic took hold in 2020.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and its allies, a group known as OPEC+, are gradually relaxing the output cuts implemented when demand collapsed in 2020.

However, many smaller producers can't raise supply and others have been wary of pumping too much oil in case of renewed COVID-19 setbacks.

## Jobless claims: Another 230,000 Americans filed new claims last week

Initial unemployment claims unexpectedly jumped to total 230,000 last week, but still remained low compared to their pandemic-era averages.

Despite the rise in filings for first-time unemployment claims, jobless claims have held near or below their pre-virus levels for more than a month, underscoring the continued slowdown in firings and other involuntary separations as employers retain their existing workforces. New claims had averaged around 220,000 per week throughout 2019. And in early December, weekly claims had improved to come in below 190,000 for the lowest since 1969.

"The underlying trend is still falling; we expect new lows at the end of the month," Ian Shepherdson, chief economist for Pantheon Macroeconomics, wrote in a note earlier this week.



Foto: Project America Today



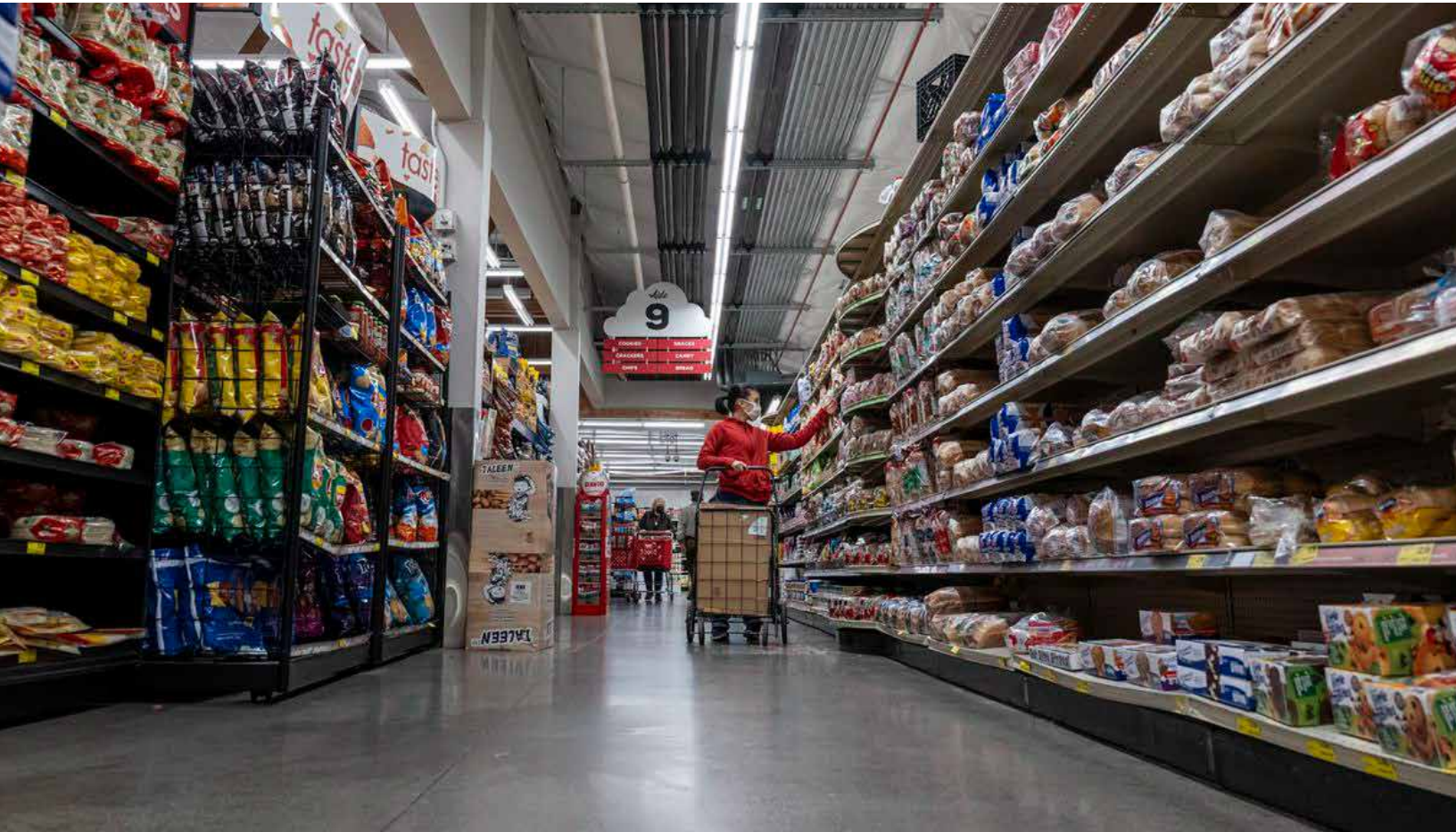


Foto: Bloomberg.com

## U.S. Inflation Shows More Staying Power After Hitting 7% in 2021

U.S. consumer prices are likely to extend their eye-popping gains after soaring last year by the most in nearly four decades, further burdening Americans and ramping up pressure on policy makers to act.

The consumer price index climbed 7% in 2021, the largest 12-month gain since June 1982, according to Labor Department data released Wednesday. The widely followed inflation gauge rose a

faster-than-expected 0.5% over the month. Investors took a relatively sanguine view of the data, which were broadly in line with expectations.

Though many economists anticipate inflation to moderate to around 3% over the course of 2022, consumers are likely months away from a meaningful respite, especially as the omicron variant of the coronavirus worsens labor shortages and prevents goods from reaching store shelves.



Fuente

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-01-12/u-s-inflation-shows-more-staying-power-after-hitting-7-in-2021>