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USA OUTLOOK

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Foto: cncb.com

Many Americans face big tax bills on 2021 unemployment benefits

Many Americans who collected unemployment benefits in 2021 may be on the hook for big bills this tax season.

The federal government and most states treat unemployment benefits as taxable income.

However, tax wasn't collected on about 60% of unemployment benefits paid in 2021, according to Andrew Stettner, an unemployment expert and senior fellow at progressive think tank The Century Foundation who analyzed U.S. Department of the Treasury data.

Here's another way to think about it: About 60% of people opted not to withhold tax on those benefits, he said.

Approximately 25 million people received unemployment benefits in 2021. Workers collected \$325 billion in total benefits in 2021, Stettner said, citing Treasury data.

States, which administer the benefits, offer the option to withhold tax at a standard 10% rate. State governments reported just \$13.3 billion of tax withholding — roughly 40% of the \$32.5 billion that would have been collected if everyone opted to withhold tax, Stettner said.

Texas takes new border action; ex-Trump officials want more

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott on Wednesday delivered new orders along the U.S.-Mexico border and promised more to come as former Trump administration officials press him to declare an "invasion" and give state troopers and National Guard members authority to turn back migrants.

The two-term Republican governor did not say whether he supports such a concept, which constitutional scholars say is legally dubious, nearly unprecedented and would almost certainly face swift court challenges.

But for now, Abbott said state troopers would begin stopping and inspecting commercial vehicles that come across the border, which he acknowledged would "dramatically slow" vehicle traffic near U.S. ports of entry. He also said bus charters to Washington, D.C., would be offered to migrants who volunteer for them, in a dig at President Joe Biden and Congress, who Abbott has criticized for not doing enough.

Abbott said the inspection stops would occur on Texas roadways and follow the law. "But of course, everyone always files a lawsuit," he said.



Foto: ABC News



Foto: cbsnews.com

Justice Dept indicts Russian oligarch accused of violating U.S. sanctions, a first since Russia invaded Ukraine

A Russian oligarch and media executive has been charged for violating U.S. sanctions in an alleged scheme that involved hiring an American citizen to both run a Russian cable news network and secretly transfer a \$10 million investment out of the U.S., the Justice Department announced Wednesday.

Konstantin Malofeyev is accused of employing an American television producer, Jack Hanick, who was indicted last month on sanctions violations, to help create the Russian TV Network in 2013. Malofeyev allegedly paid Hanick through Russian entities until the end of 2018, according to investigators, and provided him with housing in Moscow. The Justice Department also alleged Malofeyev sent Hanick to Greece and Bulgaria between 2015 and 2016, in hopes of creating and then managing other television networks.

In 2014, Malofeyev was sanctioned by the U.S. for financing and promoting the separatist movement in Crimea. This designation both froze his assets and made it illegal for anyone to do business with him.

US consumer debt jumped by \$40 billion in February

Americans got into a lot more debt in February as rampant inflation kept up the pressure, the Federal Reserve's consumer credit report showed Thursday.

Debt levels jumped by nearly \$42 billion to a total of almost \$4.5 trillion. That's an annual increase of 11.3%, seasonally adjusted, far outperforming economists' expectations and setting a new high. In January, total credit had grown only 2.4%.

The Fed's historical consumer credit data goes back to the early 1940s. Revolving credit, which includes credit cards, jumped by 20.7% to about \$1.1 trillion. The category increased by only 4% in the prior month.

Nonrevolving credit, such as student or car loans, grew by 8.4% to \$3.4 trillion, also outpacing a smaller January gain. Americans have been challenged with a rapid pace of price increases everywhere, from the grocery store to the gas station. Year-over-year inflation has increased at a pace not seen in 40 years.



Foto: CNN



F.D.A. Panel Explores Challenges of Revamping Coronavirus Vaccines

Foto: The New York Times

A meeting of the committee underscored how many uncertainties lie ahead, including whether a vaccine that works better against variants can be ready by fall.

Researchers trying to devise an updated coronavirus vaccine for use this fall would have to settle on a formula as early as June to meet that deadline, federal officials said on Wednesday, even though some clinical trials are just now getting underway.

The assessment came during a daylong meeting

of outside advisers to the Food and Drug Administration, who convened to strategize about what the nation's coronavirus vaccine policy should look like moving forward. The session underscored how deeply the road ahead is studded with uncertainties.

Among the most basic questions debated: At what point would officials decide that the existing vaccines are not working well enough? And if better vaccines are deemed necessary, when might clinical trials provide answers about suitable replacements?



Fuente

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/04/06/us/politics/fda-coronavirus-vaccines-variants.html>