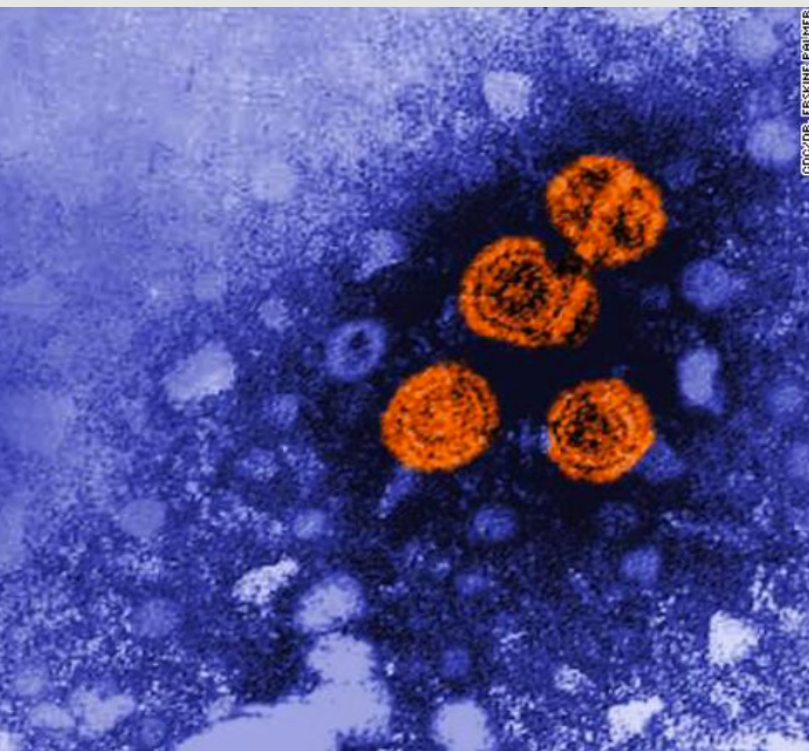


USA OUTLOOK

Weekly newsletter
May 30 to June 3





GEOFFREY LERKINE PRIMER

Photo: cnn.com

FDA investigating hepatitis A outbreak possibly linked to fresh strawberries

The US Food and Drug Administration is investigating a potential link between a hepatitis A outbreak and fresh organic strawberries.

The FDA with the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Public Health Agency of Canada, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and state and local partners, said the strawberries were branded as FreshKampo and HEB and purchased between March 5 and April 25.

They were distributed nationwide and sold at a number of retailers including Aldi, HEB, Kroger, Safeway, Sprouts Farmers Market, Trader Joe's, Walmart, Weis Markets and WinCo Foods.

The potentially affected strawberries are now past their shelf life, FDA said, but people who froze them for later use should not eat them.

Source

<https://edition.cnn.com/2022/05/30/health/strawberries-hepatitis-fda-investigation/index.html>

Job openings declined slightly in April from a high point

Employers had 11.4 million vacancies, nearly two for every worker seeking a job.

The labor market may be cooling off, but not by much, according to new data on job openings and turnover.

Employers had 11.4 million vacancies in April, according to the Labor Department, down from a revised total of nearly 11.9 million the previous month, which was a record.

The April vacancies represented 7 percent of the entire employment base, and left nearly two available jobs for every person looking for work, reflecting continued high demand for labor even as the Federal Reserve begins to tamp it down.

The number of people who left their jobs was steady, at six million, also close to the highest number ever recorded, as was the number of people hired, at 6.6 million. The data, gathered on the last business day of April, was reported Wednesday in the Labor Department's monthly Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey, or JOLTS report.



Photo: nytimes.com

Source

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/06/01/business/economy/job-openings-april-2022.html>



Photo: apnews.com

Here's how the government wants to disaster-proof your home

On this first day of the Atlantic hurricane season, federal officials are launching a new initiative to modernize building codes so that communities can be more resilient to hurricanes, flooding, wildfires, and other extreme weather events that are intensifying due to climate change.

Deanne Criswell, the administrator for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and Ali Zaidi, the deputy national climate adviser to President Joe Biden, discussed the initiative Wednesday during a briefing at the National Hurricane Center in Miami, where recovering from a hit similar to Hurricane Andrew could cost hundreds of billions today. Updated building codes provide a range of smart design and construction methods “that save lives, reduce property damage, and lower utility bills,” according to a news release announcing the National Initiative to Advance Building Codes. It applies to new construction and to homes and buildings that are rebuilt due to damage.

Source

<https://apnews.com/article/floods-climate-biden-politics-emergency-management-8d5272e86eacc26de00dc79aa8e0d76f>

Airfares surge 50% as domestic and international travel rebound

More Americans are taking to the skies this summer than there are available plane seats, driving up ticket prices as airlines grapple with surging fuel costs, staffing challenges and smaller fleets.

Airfares at American Airlines, Delta Air Lines and United Airlines — the three largest domestic carriers — shot up nearly 50% for the week ending May 23 compared to a year ago, according to an analysis by Cowen, a financial services firm. Cowen tracked nearly 300 routes across four different fare categories for the carriers using data from New York-based Harrell Associates, which tracks airline pricing trends.

A report from Mastercard Economics Institute shows consumers are booking domestic and international travel at a rate not seen since before the pandemic. By the end of April, flight bookings were up 25% compared to pre-pandemic levels, with the report's authors noting an “unprecedented surge” in international trips, based on anonymized spending data from Mastercard cardholders.



Photo: cbsnews.com

Source

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/airfare-ticket-prices-up-50-percent-as-domestic-international-travel-rebounds/>



Photo: Robyn Beck | AFP | Getty Images

Covid vaccinations for children under age 5 to begin as early as June 21, White House says

Covid vaccinations for children under age 5 are expected to begin as early as June 21, a senior Biden administration health official said on Thursday.

Dr. Ashish Jha, the White House Covid response coordinator, said the Biden administration will initially make 10 million doses of Pfizer and Moderna vaccines available to states, pharmacies and community health centers. States can begin placing orders on Friday, Jha said, but the vaccine doses will ship only after the Food and Drug Administration authorizes the shots.

The FDA is expected to make its decision on Pfizer and Moderna's Covid shots for infants through preschoolers soon after the agency's committee of independent experts reviews the data on June 15, Jha said. The Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention would then issue its recommendations quickly after the FDA decision, which would allow vaccinations to begin after the Juneteenth federal holiday, he said.

Jha said it will take some time for the vaccination program to ramp up, but added that every parent should be able to get an appointment within weeks of the rollout.

"We're going to ship doses out as fast as possible," Jha told reporters during White House press briefing. "We're going to make sure that supply is always meeting demand. And we're going to do everything we can to make it easy fo



Source

<https://www.cnbc.com/2022/06/02/white-house-expects-covid-vaccinations-for-children-under-5-to-begin-as-early-as-june-21.html>