

GLOBAL WEEKLY ECONOMIC NEWS IN THE ADVANCED ECONOMIES

(23 August 2021 – 27 August 2021)

Countries	Highlights
<p>US</p> <p>US slightly upgrades GDP estimate for last quarter to 6.6%</p>	<p>The US economy grew at 6.6% annual rate last quarter, slightly faster than previously estimated, pointed to a sustained consumer-led rebound from the pandemic recession. But worries are growing that the delta variant of the coronavirus is beginning to cause a slowdown. Thursday's report from the Commerce Department estimated that the nation's GDP its total output of goods and services accelerated slightly in the April-June quarter from the 6.5% it had reported last month. The economy's expansion last quarter followed a solid 6.3% annual growth rate in the January-March quarter.</p> <p><i>(Source: CNBC, 26 August 2021)</i></p>
<p>UK</p> <p>UK recovery begins to falter amid shortage of workers and supplies</p>	<p>Britain's economic recovery from the winter lockdown is showing signs of stalling amid shortages of workers and supplies due to the double whammy of COVID and Brexit, according to a Guardian analysis. Despite the easing of most government pandemic restrictions, consumer caution appears to have crept higher in the past month as the Delta variant fuels a persistently high infection rate. In the meantime, UK businesses have come under pressure from global supply chain disruption and staff shortages. Figures from the Bank of England show debit and credit card spending has fallen to 94% of its pre-pandemic level in recent weeks as the initial buzz from shops, pubs and restaurants reopening fades to a lower level. Footfall in town and city centres remains below pre-Covid levels, while retail sales unexpectedly dropped in July.</p> <p><i>(Source: The Guardian, 26 August 2021)</i></p>
<p>JAPAN</p> <p>Japan's economic view in August remains unchanged amid virus-linked risks</p>	<p>The Japanese government kept its view on the domestic economy in the monthly assessment for August, saying increasing weakness has been seen in some sectors, while warning of downside risks from a current resurgence of COVID-19 infection cases. The economy shows "further" weakness in some components and stays in a severe situation due to the pandemic, the Cabinet Office said. The wording was used for the fourth straight month following a downward revision in May, when the earlier COVID-19 state of emergency for Tokyo and some other areas was in effect. The report said the economy is forecast to continue recovering but warned that full attention should be paid to a "further increase in downside risks" due to the spread of the virus.</p> <p><i>(Source: Xinhua, 27 August 2021)</i></p>
<p>CHINA</p> <p>China's economic recovery wobbles as risks accumulate in August</p>	<p>China's economic rebound levelled off in August, suggesting the growth momentum is faltering in the wake of the recent regulatory crackdown, the authorities' tough response to virus outbreaks, and weak demand at home. China's economy slowed more than expected in July after staging a V-shaped recovery driven by exports and the industrial sector. The economy was hit by the spread of the highly transmissible delta variant and natural disasters in central China, which affected both production and consumption. Constraints that are impeding the global recovery persisted, including a chip shortage, logistics bottlenecks and high raw material prices. The Chinese government's recent campaign to clamp down on industries ranging from steel to education and property added to the dim outlook for growth in the world's second-largest economy.</p> <p><i>(Source: Bloomberg, 27 August 2021)</i></p>