



# COVID-19 crushes U.S. economy in second quarter

July 31, 2020



*The U.S. economy suffered its biggest blow since the Great Depression in the second quarter as the COVID-19 pandemic shattered consumer and business spending, and a nascent recovery is under threat from a resurgence in new cases of coronavirus.*

1. The worst economic collapse \_\_\_\_\_

2. That's what happened to the U.S. economy in the April to June quarter, \_\_\_\_\_

3-1. GDP, the broadest measure of economic activity, \_\_\_\_\_

3-2. in the biggest economic dive \_\_\_\_\_

4. That was more than triple \_\_\_\_\_

5-1. Much of that weakness came in April \_\_\_\_\_

5-2. with stay-at-home orders \_\_\_\_\_

6. Since then, many states have tried to re-open \_\_\_\_\_

7. New coronavirus cases have spiked in many of those early states, \_\_\_\_\_

8. Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell warned this week \_\_\_\_\_

"As we have emphasized throughout the pandemic, the path forward for the economy is extraordinarily uncertain and will depend in large part on our success in keeping the virus in check."

9-1. Thursday's devastating report comes \_\_\_\_\_

9-2. when an extra \$600-a-week jobless benefit \_\_\_\_\_

10-1. Economists point to the record aid \_\_\_\_\_

10-2. as a major reason why the economy has started to stabilize \_\_\_\_\_

But the recovery, still in its early days, is likely to be slow, says Mizuho Securities chief economist Steven Ricchiuto:

"I think the recovery is going to take time. However, against that backdrop, year-over-year growth rates and GDP could be back to zero by the second quarter of next year. That doesn't mean the economy's back to the level it was prior to the shutdown, but it does mean that the bulk of the deterioration will be behind us within a one year period of time."

11. And this slow rebound \_\_\_\_\_

12. More than 1.4 million people \_\_\_\_\_

13. All told, over 30 million Americans \_\_\_\_\_

### [Vocabulary]

**the Great Depression:** the period of economic depression which began in 1929 and lasted through most of the 1930s when there was a worldwide economic depression and mass unemployment

**GDP:** gross domestic product; the total value of the goods and services that a country produces in a year, not including income received from money invested in other countries

**broad:** You use broad to describe something that includes a large number of different things or people.

• *A broad range of issues was discussed.*

**dive:** a sudden or sharp decline, as in stock prices

• *Stock prices took a dive.*

• *economic dive*

**grind to a halt:** to slowly stop; to slow down and stop; to be unable to move further

• *Our project will grind to a halt if the CEO pulls his approval.*

• *Every day about noon, traffic in town grinds to a halt.*

**varying:** not all the same

• *staff members with varying levels of experience*

• *Attempts have been made to help, with varying degrees of success.*

□ **spike**: to increase suddenly and sharply

• *Battery sales spiked after the storm.*

□ **scale back**: to make something smaller in size, amount, etc. than it used to be

• *The company is scaling back its plans for new stores.*

• *They've scaled back their expenditure considerably.*

• *Despite current price advantage, U.K. manufacturers are still having to scale back*

*production.*

□ **Federal Reserve**: the central bank of the United States; incorporates 12 Federal Reserve branch banks and all national banks and state chartered commercial banks and some trust companies; the Federal Reserve Bank

□ **Jerome Powell**: (February 4, 1953~)16th Chair of the Federal Reserve

□ **bounce back**: a recovery following a setback

• *She had pneumonia, but she bounced back in less than a week.*

□ **persist**: to continue to exist; If something undesirable persists, it continues to exist.

• *Contact your doctor if the cough persists.*

• *Call your doctor if the symptoms persist for more than three days.*

• *If symptoms persist for more than 7 days, stop use of this product.*

□ **keep in check**: to keep someone or something under control; to restrain someone or something.

• *I was so angry I could hardly hold myself in check.*

□ **deadline**: a specific time or date by which you have to do something

• *The deadline for applications was last Friday.*

• *I worked hard to meet the deadline.*

□ **extra**: in addition to the usual or expected amount

• *There's no extra money for emergencies.*

• *We need extra space for guests.*

□ **jobless benefit**: unemployment benefit; money that the government pays to unemployed people who are looking for a job

• *The state is overwhelmed with the flood of applications for jobless benefits — more than*

*6.8 million since mid-March.*

□ **due to**: if something is due to happen, it is expected to happen or should happen

• *The first price increases are due to come into force in July.*

□ **run out**: to become void, expire; If something runs out, it becomes used up so that there is no more left.

• *Our renter's insurance ran out last month.*

• *...the day my visa ran out.*

- **point to:** to show the truth or importance of something
  - *The evidence clearly points to her guilt.*
- **aid:** money, food, or other help that an organization or government gives to a country or area where people need it, for example because of a war or flood
  - *They have already pledged billions of dollars in aid.*
  - *The UN provided emergency economic aid to the refugees.*
- **stabilize:** to reach a state where there are no longer any major changes or problems; to become stable
  - *Oil prices have stabilized for now.*
  - *Although her illness is serious, her condition is beginning to stabilize.*
- **Mizuho Securities:** an investment bank that delivers sophisticated services and optimal financial solutions that meet a broad array of client needs
- **economist:** an expert in economics, especially one who advises a government department, business, or organization
  - *That is what most economists expect to happen.*
  - *The economists warned us the economy would crash following the Brexit vote.*
- **backdrop:** the situation or place in which something happens;
  - *Her new novel has 19th-century China as its backdrop.*
  - *Negotiations were carried out against a backdrop of continued fighting.*
- **year-over-year:** comparing or based on comparing the same time period in successive years
  - *year-over-year growth*
  - *year-over-year increases/declines*
  - *year-over-year growth rate*
- **shutdown:** the closing of a factory, shop, or other business, either for a short time or for ever
  - *The shutdown is the latest in a series of painful budget measures.*
  - *All seven plants have had temporary shutdowns this year.*
- **bulk:** something that is very large, wide, and solid; You can refer to something's bulk when you want to emphasize that it is very large.
  - *...the shadowy bulk of an ancient barn.*
  - *We looked up at the great dark bulk of the cathedral.*
- **deterioration:** process of changing to an inferior state; the action or process of becoming impaired or inferior in quality, functioning, or condition : the state of having deteriorated
  - *the deterioration of academic standards*
  - *bulk of the deterioration*
- **rebound:** a reaction to a crisis or setback or frustration

• *He is still on the rebound from his wife's death.*

□ **shed**: to get rid of; to shed something means to get rid of it.

• *The firm is to shed 700 jobs.*

• *He had maintained a rigid diet, shedding some twenty pounds.*

□ **all told**: with everything included or counted

• *All told, there were 104 people on the payroll.*

• *All told, it seems like an awful mess.*

• *expecting eight guests all told*

□ **unemployment assistance**: a program that temporarily expands unemployment insurance (UI) eligibility to self-employed workers, freelancers, independent contractors, and part-time workers impacted by the coronavirus pandemic in 2020.

[参照辞書: *Merriam-Webster, Oxford English Dictionary, America Heritage of the English language, Collins English Dictionary, Macmillan Dictionary, the Free Dictionary, Wikipedia*]