



**Paladin
Risk Solutions**

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

Situational awareness for stakeholders and decision makers.



Report # 20-008

08 January 2021

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. CURRENT SITUATION	2
2. GLOBAL.....	3
2.1 COVID UPDATE.....	3
2.2 COVID-19 World News	5
2.3 Global Awareness	6
2.4 Political Extremism, Civil Unrest and Activism	7
3. CANADA.....	8
3.1 COVID UPDATE.....	8
3.2 COVID-19 Canada News	9
3.3 Canada Awareness.....	10
3.4 Canada – Political Extremism, Civil Unrest and Activism	11
4. USA.....	14
4.1 COVID UPDATE.....	14
4.2 COVID-19 USA News	15
4.3 USA Awareness.....	15
4.4 USA – Political Extremism, Civil Unrest and Activism (Provided by Welund).....	16
5. PALADIN RISK SOLUTIONS - SERVICES	20

NOTE: Paladin Risk Solutions is utilizing a secure cloud application to provide multiple layers of protection on the web and prevent exposure of open-source intelligence gathering and dark web investigations. This software enables research teams to maximize security, accelerate intelligence gathering and analysis, streamline network operations, and ensure full control and auditability of all research activity.

DISCLAIMER: *This report is confidential and is intended to be used solely by the client for whom this report was prepared and to whom it is addressed for information purposes only and for no other purpose, except as may be expressly stated herein. This report may not be copied, reproduced, disseminated, distributed or otherwise made available to any third party, in whole or in part, without the express written consent of Paladin Risk Solutions Inc. which consent may be withheld for any reason. In preparing this report, Paladin Risk Solutions Inc. has used its professional care and diligence and has endeavored to include in this report and to base its analysis upon information that it believes to be relevant to the purposes of this report; however, no representation or warranty, express or implied, is made by Paladin Risk Solutions Inc. as to the accuracy or completeness of the information included in this report.*

1. CURRENT SITUATION

The world watched the events which occurred in DC this week. For most of the world, what occurred in the US Capitol this week was seen as predictable. The attack on a democratic process must be seen for what it is, and those that participated must be held accountable for their actions, as should any protest leading to violence and vandalism. It will take time to fully understand the scope of what happened, including the police response and security around the Capitol. Even though, democracies must allow for protests they are required to be peaceful and conducted within legal frameworks. The US has seen riots and protests pertaining to both right- and left-wing issues and condoning one over another does not help regain the unity that is needed to maintain public confidence in government institutions.

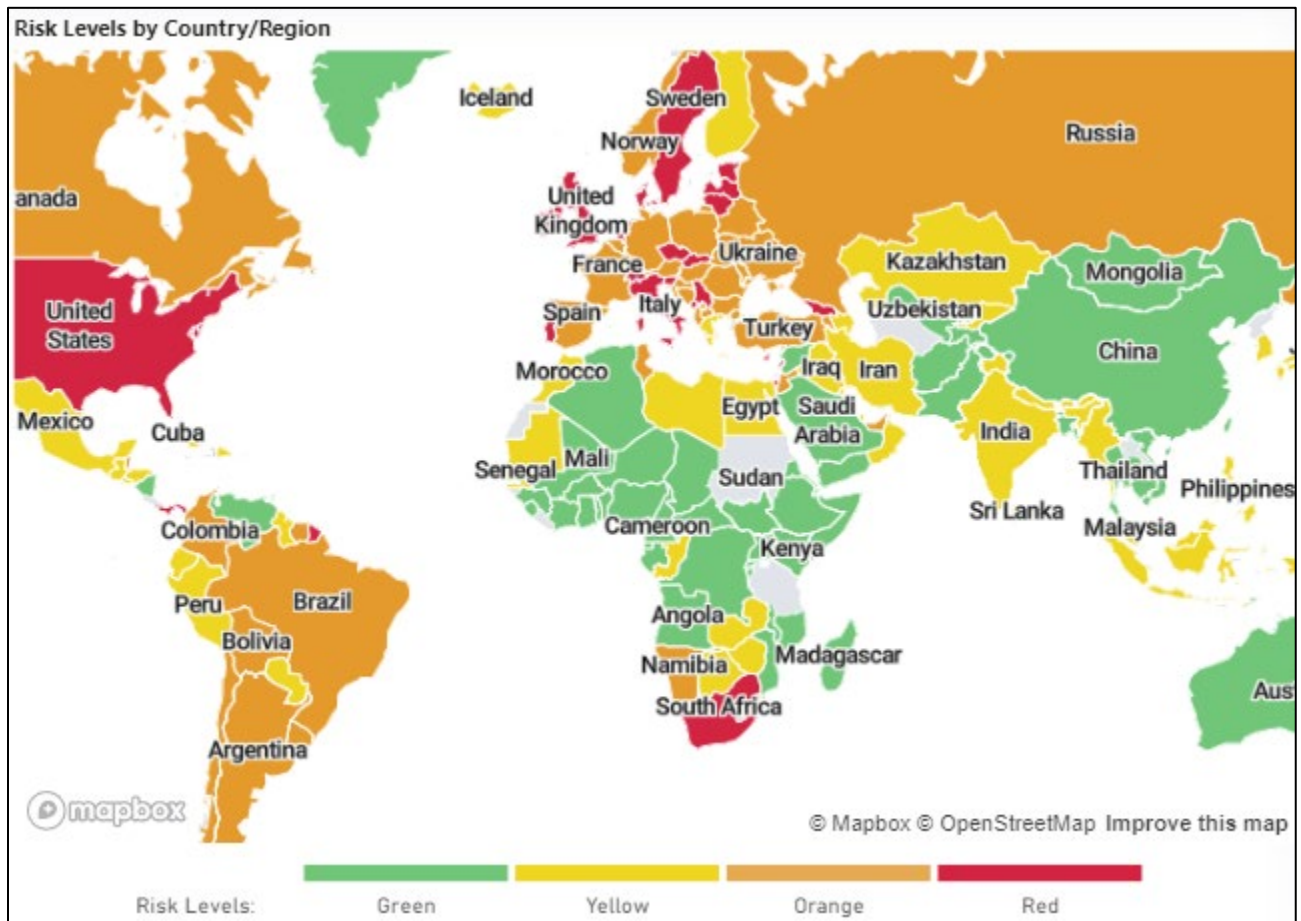
Rioting is another sign of a divide, not only between political parties, but also within American society. The fact that the population is split between each political party should be an indicator that civil unrest will continue. Clear divisions between the right and left may not only be promoted by those in the US, but countries such as Iran, China and Russia who have been known to use bots and other technical means to promote division in the West. All it takes is for hostile state actors to put post a Facebook event in a US political group, and any number of individuals will find the event and attend due to their own personal interest or to state their viewpoints and support their cause. It is in the interest of state actors to try to disrupt democratic foundations, and by inciting the extremes of both sides, they seek to trigger further rifts between them.

Unfortunately, mainstream media has historically been used to support political agendas, with the origin of some media agencies being directly associated to political parties. When incidents or events occur, the perspective of media reporting is often skewed towards the ideology of the party the news agency is aligned with. For instance, the riots which occurred this week were reported in various left-wing media in a more fearful manner than the much more violent and large-scale George Floyd/Black Lives Matter riots. This may suggest that those news agencies observed the events through a different lens than those who were opposed to attacking police and destroying entire city blocks. Human beings differ, so do their values, and such divisions are to be expected as the US grows its population and incorporates new and evolving perspectives. If people continue to judge the behavior of others, they will continue to alienate one another, causing increasing contempt for those that do not fit into their idea what is acceptable. This process can lead some individuals to become radicalized towards extremism. Over the last decade, we have observed this increasing in both the right and left political movements.

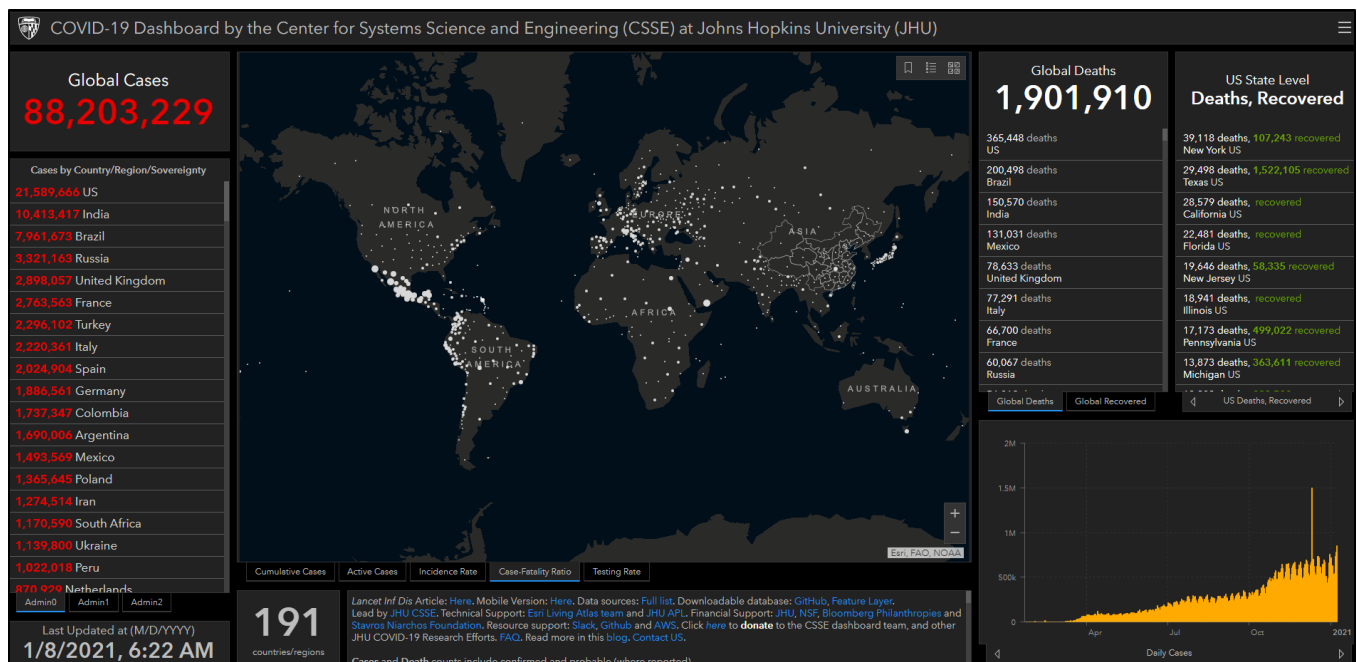
Overall, despite it appears incredibly outrageous for protestors to storm the Capitol. Yet, it is being reported that the majority of protestors did not plan on being part of the “attack”; nevertheless, protests can quickly become emotionally charged and lead to violence or co-opted by more extreme elements which makes the law-abiding protestors in attendance guilty by association. Following the chaotic protest and attack, Senators returned to the Capitol and certified Biden as President Elect – the protestors and attackers really only managed to delay the inevitable. What is shocking is that they were able to access this institution without a level of resistance used at much less important venues. In the end, President Trump conceded the election on Thursday and promised a smooth transition. However, he has also made comments contrary to his official statement which leaves us uncertain as to what may in store over the next two weeks. While in government the transition will mean a shift in power, the continued divide between the people of the US is sure to see continued civil unrest, protests, and demonstrations.

2. GLOBAL

2.1 COVID UPDATE



#	Country, Other	Total Cases	Total Deaths	Total Recovered	Active Cases	Serious, Critical	Tot Cases/ 1M pop	Deaths/ 1M pop	Total Tests	Tests/ 1M pop	Population
	World	88,695,489	1,910,193	63,760,204	23,025,092	108,645	11,379	245.1			
1	USA	22,152,595	374,391	13,147,747	8,630,457	29,035	66,722	1,128	265,521,160	799,730	332,013,304
2	France	2,727,321	66,841	198,756	2,461,724	2,616	41,735	1,023	36,890,043	564,509	65,348,904
3	UK	2,889,419	78,508	1,364,821	1,446,090	2,821	42,447	1,153	58,231,730	855,446	68,071,770
4	Brazil	7,961,673	200,498	7,096,931	664,244	8,318	37,318	940	28,600,000	134,055	213,345,480
5	Belgium	658,655	19,936	45,744	592,975	405	56,703	1,716	7,166,986	616,997	11,615,913
6	Italy	2,220,361	77,291	1,572,015	571,055	2,587	36,752	1,279	27,439,249	454,177	60,415,307
7	Russia	3,355,794	60,911	2,731,129	563,754	2,300	22,990	417	92,900,000	636,445	145,967,164
8	Germany	1,877,740	39,563	1,494,100	344,077	5,569	22,374	471	35,118,592	418,459	83,923,689
9	Serbia	356,125	3,513	31,536	321,076	215	40,845	403	2,378,015	272,742	8,718,926
10	Ukraine	1,105,169	19,588	778,345	307,236	177	25,350	449	5,645,178	129,489	43,595,887
11	Mexico	1,493,569	131,031	1,127,471	235,067	3,913	11,521	1,011	3,781,625	29,171	129,635,780
12	Poland	1,365,645	30,574	1,104,599	230,472	1,616	36,104	808	7,540,513	199,353	37,824,927
13	India	10,426,407	150,752	10,048,922	226,733	8,944	7,517	109	179,336,364	129,293	1,387,049,203
14	South Africa	1,170,590	31,809	938,216	200,565	546	19,609	533	6,967,478	116,716	59,696,176
15	Argentina	1,690,006	44,122	1,484,794	161,090	3,559	37,216	972	5,099,516	112,296	45,411,216



2.2 COVID-19 World News

- [Low vitamin D status is associated with coronavirus disease 2019 outcomes](#)

A meta-analysis of over 10 studies and almost 362,000 participants has found that COVID-19 patients are more likely to have a higher incidence of low vitamin D levels than those without COVID. It is likely that supplementation of vitamin D may be a protective factor against COVID-19, especially in those individuals who live in areas with less sun exposure year-round.

- [A Continent Where the Dead Are Not Counted](#)

Africa appears to have weathered the COVID-19 pandemic much better than most jurisdictions, with all African countries reporting less COVID-19 cases cumulatively than all of France. Some hypothesized that Africa has a younger population, has more experience with infectious diseases such as Ebola and HIV, or the population may have had more exposure to coronaviruses; however, most African countries do not register all deaths. In fact, deaths are mostly registered when a death certificate is required for inheritance or pension requirements. In 2017, Nigeria, Africa's largest country, is believed to only had 10% of deaths registered. In comparison, it is believed that in most Western countries, 90% of deaths are registered. Due to lack of data, it is difficult to estimate mortality rates. Mortuary owners saw an increase of business in the summer, although it is unclear why that was. Despite the numbers showing that Africa was mostly spared, it is assessed that the numbers do not show the entire picture and that it is likely that Africa saw a much larger COVID-19 death toll than recorded.

- [Vaccines Take a While to Kick In. Experts Say That Means the Body Is Doing Its Job](#)

Reports of people becoming diagnosed with COVID-19 within a week or so of receiving the vaccine had concerned some individuals; however, experts are stating that this is normal. Most vaccines kick in after at least two weeks, and the COVID-19 vaccine is only as effective as clinical trials found, if both doses are received. Those who got COVID-19 despite a vaccination may have been exposed to it before the vaccine and were in the incubation period, or right after the vaccination. It is important information for public health officials in Ontario, Canada and the UK who have decided to use all provided doses as first doses, providing second doses after subsequent shipments. Those who have received the first dose, many of whom are in vulnerable populations and were under the impression they were consenting to the vaccination as per the manufacturer's trials, may not be as protected as they may believe. Furthermore, such decisions may cause distrust in health officials for have changing their protocol after some COVID-19 vaccines had already been administered, causing some to wonder what other things health officials may go back on, or may do for the appearance of public health or their effectiveness.

- [Moderna raises 2021 vaccine output forecast to at least 600 million doses](#)

Moderna has raised its 2021 vaccine output by 100 million, promising to produce at least 600 million doses of the vaccine this year. The company hopes that it may even be able to produce a billion doses and is hiring and prepping operations for that number. To date, Moderna has advised that it has provided the USA with 18 million of the 200 million doses deal, while the Canadian government has agreed to buy 40 million doses.

- [Immunity to the Coronavirus May Last Years, New Data Hint](#)

A research study not yet peer reviewed or published has found that even eight months after infection, most individual had immune cells that could prevent being ill. The fact the rate has been slowed at the beginning suggests that this type of immunity may last years. Despite that, the study has been the largest and longest scope study regarding COVID-19 immunity. The findings appear to be consistent with other findings, such as SARS immunity (also a coronavirus), which appears to still produced immune cells which are available 17 years after the illness. Other studies have found that despite lack of antibodies, immune cells may still exist for the

virus, thus antibody testing may not be a proper test for immunity to the virus. Some people in the study did not have long lasting immunity, possibly related to the degree of exposure. However, the majority of individuals did appear to still be immune, providing exciting news for researchers and the public in regards to the immunity from the COVID-19 vaccine.

- [UK records more than 1,000 daily virus deaths](#)

The UK is reporting over 62,000 new daily cases, one of the highest rises since testing has started. The UK has also seen 1,041 people die of COVID-19 in one day, its highest death toll since April. The number of those hospitalized has is now almost 40% more than its previous peak in April, with over 30,000 people fighting for their lives. Deaths are believed to continue to increase for a few weeks, fueled by the increased transmission of the new variant of COVID-19. However, it is hoped that the third and new lockdown restrictions currently implemented and passed in the Parliament, which is to be implemented until March, will bring down the numbers and provide breathing room for the healthcare system. Currently, no guarantees can be made regarding children going back to school for this school year, although the government may reassess that in the Spring. So far, over 1.4% of the UK population has been vaccinated in the UK, and the February target is currently at 13.9 million individuals.

2.3 Global Awareness

- [Crime and anti-crime security policy in Mexico in 2020](#)

Mexico's criminal underworld has only flourished due to the pandemic, despite attempts at anti-crime efforts. Mexico has been hard hit by the virus, with over 125,000 dead and many impoverished from pandemic effects and the reduction in travel.

- [India Approves Oxford-AstraZeneca Covid-19 Vaccine and 1 Other](#)

India this week approved the emergency use of two COVID-19 vaccines, including the Oxford-AstraZeneca and another made by the country itself. India, the second largest populated country in the world, is also considering approving the Pfizer and Russian Sputnik V vaccines. India is struggling with containing the virus, with the second most infections after the USA, with the tally believed to not show the complete picture and the extent of the transmission. The unemployment rate in India is at its highest in 45 years, and the country has a very large young population with almost 40% of people under the age of 19. Youth has been hardest hit by the pandemic globally, showcasing how India's young population may be harder hit by pandemic effects.

- [Australia says China should allow in WHO Covid investigators 'without delay'](#)

WHO has tried to send a group of experts to China for the last few months, and has been in talks with China since July. The delegation was not to probe that the virus originated in a lab, but instead figure out how the virus was transmitted to humans from animals. China has recently advised that it has not processed the visas of some of the WHO delegation coming to investigate the origins of the virus, despite members already being on route. WHO Director General Tedros Ghebreyesus requested that China allow the delegation in, advising that the investigation is of a priority for WHO. Australia's Foreign Minister Marise Payne has issued a statement urging China to allow WHO to investigate COVID-19 origins "without delay", suggesting that such visas can be issues quickly and without difficulty. Australia is calling on the rest of the world to react to China's actions and for global cooperation as was seen with other pandemics, in an effort to locate a solution together instead of working against one another. Experts are afraid that due to the passage of time, the mission may be less likely to be successful at figuring out its goal. Bilateral relations between Australia and China continue

to be strained, despite economic pressures from China, the country's largest trading partner. Australia appearing to be a spearheading country for criticism against China, as other countries are also waking up to the threat that China poses to Western democracy.

2.4 Political Extremism, Civil Unrest and Activism

- [Dozens arrested in Turkey as students protest Erdogan university pick](#)

Hundreds of protestors gathered in Istanbul to protest President Erdogan allegedly undemocratically appointing a new university Director, believed to be done in an effort to crack down on academic freedom. The university has previously been involved in leftist causes and protesting against the government, and in 2018, President Erdogan was given the power to appoint directors of public universities via its executive presidential system. Despite a recent ban on gatherings due to the pandemic, students protested and approximately 36 of them were detained during the protest. Anti-riot police attended and observed but did not intervene. Turkey is known for banning or cracking down on protests, using tear gas and other methods to disperse demonstrators. In 2013, Turkey was criticized by the international community for its heavy-handed actions against protestors, and has recently been under scrutiny generally for its human rights violations.

- [21 arrested at anti-lockdown protest in London, Met says](#)

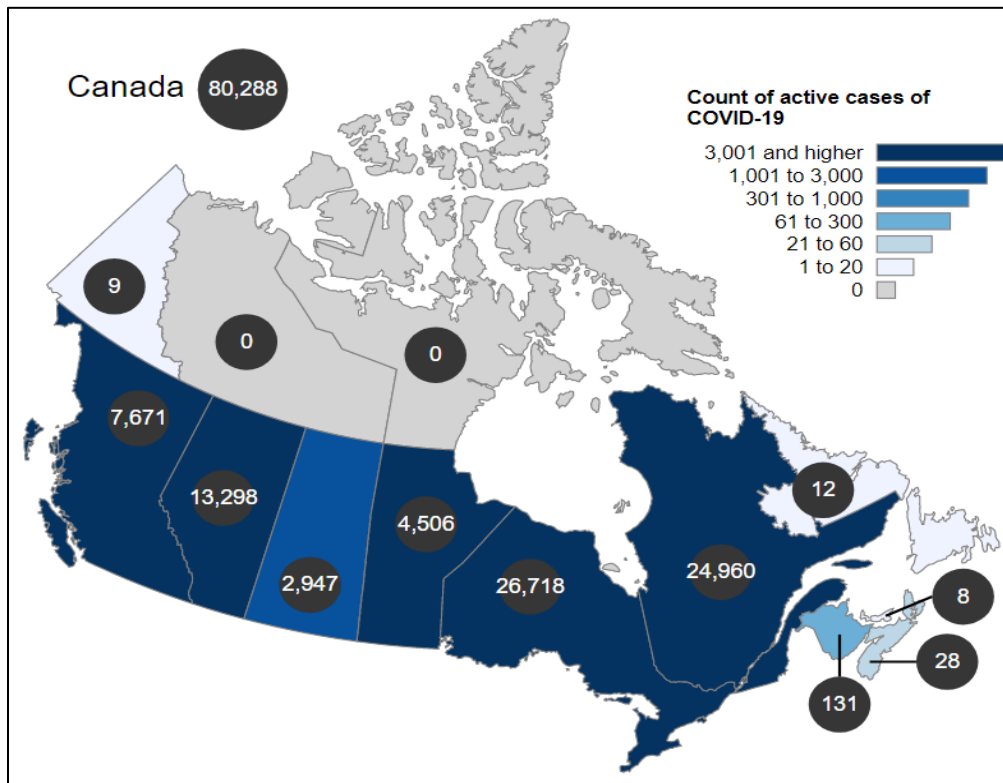
With the UK going into a lockdown which may possibly last until March, anti-lockdown demonstrators protested on the street, ending in at least 21 people arrested. With a strict lockdown only allowing residents to go to conduct essential activities such as going to the grocery store or the doctor, with protests not considered essential. Organizers as well as protestors are held responsible for breaking lockdown rules, and police has threatened that they will fine and not reason with protestors, those not wearing masks in public and anyone caught in a large gathering. Police will continue to scrutinize the movements of people in public to ensure they are not participating in non-essential activities.


- [Farmers protest: 25 buses, tarpaulin sheets and a very large tent as protest sites tackle rain](#)

Indian protestors are getting prepared to continue their demonstrations against the new agricultural law, despite the cold weather and heavy rain. School buses have been used as night shelters for protests, as well as provide refuge from the rainfall. Previously, protestors were using tents causing mattresses to become wet, but some have used tarpaulin sheets to waterproof the structures. Such planning for protest logistics showcases the dedication of protestors for their cause, suggesting that protestors will continue to fight against the new laws, with little accommodation from either side regarding the issue. Talks are scheduled between the farmers union and the government. The protest has challenged the stereotypes of women in India, as more and more women take lead roles in the protest, the largest in India in recent times.

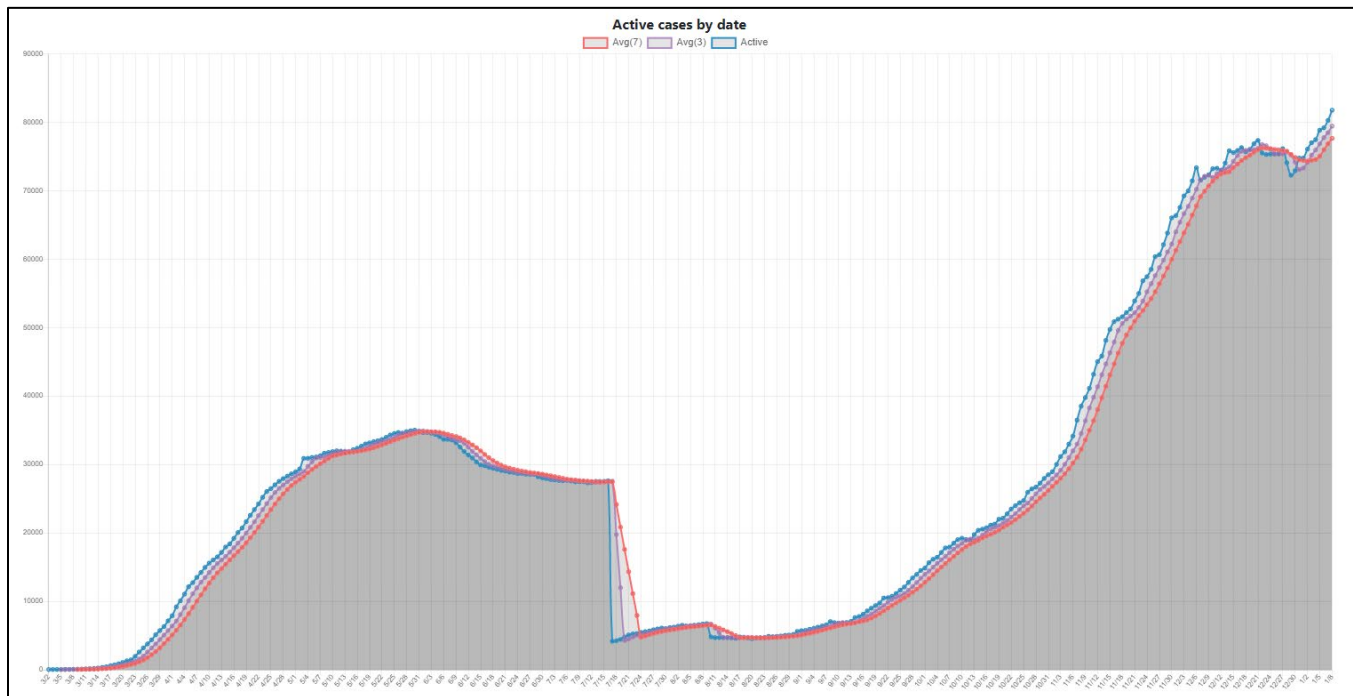
3. CANADA

3.1 COVID UPDATE



Prov.	Total Confirmed	Total Deaths	Total Recovered	Total Active
Total	639,383 (↑4,249)	16,605 (↑26)	541,005 (↑2,738)	81,773 (↑1,485)
BC	56,015	970	47,374	7,671
ON	208,394 (↑4,249)	4,882 (↑26)	175,309 (↑2,738)	28,203 (↑1,485)
QC	220,518	8,562	186,996	24,960
AB	108,469	1,217	93,954	13,298
MB	25,742	717	20,519	4,506
NB	717	9	577	131
SK	17,138	177	14,014	2,947
PEI	102	0	94	8
NL	392	4	376	12
NS	1,524	65	1,431	28
YT	69	1	59	9
NT	24	0	24	0
NU	266	1	265	0
	13	0	13	0
Rate of change	↑ 0.7%	↑ 0.2%	↑ 0.5%	↑ 1.8%

Prov.	Total Test	Total Waiting	Total Hosp	Total ICU
Total	19,224,312	-	-	-
BC	1,508,966	-	372	74
ON	8,294,922	66,970	1446 (-26)	369 (+6)
QC	5,078,127	-	1380	202
AB	2,888,432	-	871	139
MB	432,839	-	228	31
NB	157,265	-	1	1
SK	442,063	-	176	31
PEI	79,839	-	-	-
NL	74,033	-	1	0
NS	245,830	-	0	0
YT	6,057	47	-	-
NT	10,092	31	0	0
NU	5,847	388	0	0
Rate of change	↑ 0.0%	-	-	-



Source: <https://www.covid-19canada.com>

3.2 COVID-19 Canada News

- [Quebec imposes curfew, tightens lockdown restrictions as coronavirus health crisis deepens](#)
 Quebec is the first province in Canada to impose a month-long curfew from 8am to 5pm starting January 9, with no one allowed to leave their homes with the exception of going to work. It also extended its previous

lockdown measures for another month. Grocery stores are to close at 7:30pm and gas station and pharmacies will be allowed to stay open after the curfew. Those that break the rules may face fines. Quebec already has closed bars, dine in restaurants and entertainment venues since October, while in December all non-essential stores were closed and the school break was extended. Restaurant owners advise that although takeout and deliveries are allowed, they have to close at 7:30pm for takeout which will make a difference in profits. Deliveries and takeout only account of 30% of regular revenues, and the new curfew will only add difficulties to owners who were unable to open for dine in. Officials advise that individual outdoor sports can continue, such as jogging and skiing, in an effort to ensure the mental health of Quebecers does not deteriorate.

- [Mandatory COVID-19 testing for travellers](#)

Beginning on January 6, 2020, all air passengers arriving in Canada who are aged five or older are **required to show a negative COVID-19 test which was taken within 72** (or 96 hours for some destinations such as the Caribbean or South America) prior to boarding their flight to Canada. An exception is for those destinations that are temporarily exempted from this measure for the next few weeks, including those who are departing from Haiti or Saint Pierre et Miquelon. The tests must come from a PCR lab approved by the Canadian Government. Airlines are reporting difficulties in being able to be in charge of ensuring all passengers coming on their airlines have a negative COVID-19 test and have recommended that the government set up testing for passengers upon arrival to ensure no one is entering sick. The government will end the ban on UK flights, as the new measures are believed to be enough to stop the spread of the new virus. Despite the new testing, as the new strain is highly contagious and even those with a negative test may be in an incubation period, the government's plans may miss some individuals who may show symptoms later on, further spreading the transmission of the new COVID-19 variant.

- [Ford says Ontario will consider tougher lockdown measures as 3,266 new COVID-19 cases reported](#)
- [Why Canada's vaccine rollout is slower than other countries' — and what can be done to fix it](#)
- [Field hospitals and cancelled surgeries: health-care system under siege by rising COVID-19 cases](#)

3.3 Canada Awareness

- [Few will be exempted from new COVID-19 testing requirements for travellers, government says](#)

Canadian officials continue to recommend against non-essential travel on Wednesday; however, despite traveler numbers reducing, it is clear that people are still leaving the country for non essential purposes and coming back, possibly infected. The requirement for testing will ensure that those Canadians unwilling to follow the advisory, whether due to an emergency abroad like a sick family member, or just to bask in the sun, will not be as much of a threat to Canadians at home as they were previously. Despite the new COVID-19 variant coming from the UK, it has spread to other countries and can come to Canada via a third destination.

- [Conservatives slam vaccine rollout plan that prioritizes some federal prisoners](#)

The government's vaccine rollout plan has prioritized federal prisoners as one of the vulnerable groups getting COVID-19 vaccines. Conservative critics suggest that it is "outrageous" that incarcerated criminals will receive the vaccine before some seniors, front line healthcare workers, first responders or even correctional officers. Since COVID-19 may only enter prison via those who are able to exit it, it is likely more prudent to vaccinate correctional officers, similar to how the government advises that vaccinating healthcare providers in long term

care homes may provide extensive protection to non-vaccinated seniors living in those homes. Furthermore, prison outbreaks, as per government data, have been isolated and do not occur often, suggesting that it may not be the group of the most priority to be impacted by the virus. The government replied suggesting that it has a duty of care for those in federal institutions, especially those who are particularly at acute risk there.

- [New COVID-19 boarding rules for airlines will be tighter than expected, industry sources say](#)
- [Canada will not extend ban on flights from Britain when it expires Wednesday](#)
- [Canada's oil sands hit record high production - gov't data](#)
- [Canada condemns Hong Kong arrests as grave repression of pluralism](#)

3.4 Canada – Political Extremism, Civil Unrest and Activism



welund

During the week of 31 December 2020 - 7 January 2021, the majority of activist activity noted by Welund in Canada took place in the government sector (50%), followed by oil and gas (21%). Protests made up the majority of activity (25%), followed by critical commentary (21%),

and car caravans (14%).

Although Welund is projecting that activist activity will remain low in the coming week, there will likely be a steady increase in activity as activist groups begin their campaigns for the new year.

Protests: Anti-Trans Mountain (TMX) campaigns were some of the most active in Canada over the past week. Activists have claimed that 2021 will be an important year for opposition against the pipeline and have already held a series of organizing and direct-action events against construction sites, contractors, the RCMP, and the Canadian federal government since the start of the new year.

Canadian 'pro-Trump' protests were held in Toronto, Calgary, and Vancouver on 6 January in solidarity with the mass protest at the US Capital Building in Washington, DC to oppose the 2020 US Election results. The protests featured car caravans, marches, and rallies near US Consulates or in central downtown areas.

Outlook: Anti-TMX and anti-Coastal GasLink activity will continue to be the focus of oil and gas and government sector activism as construction is scheduled to continue. These campaigns will also likely continue to target financial institutions, insurers, and investors who are funding and supporting the infrastructure projects. Covid-19 related activism will also likely continue as weekly anti-lockdown and anti-mask protests have resumed in cities such as Toronto, Edmonton, Calgary, Vancouver, and Montreal – all of which have historically been the location for regularly scheduled anti-lockdown protests in the past. Anti-vaccination campaigns may also increase in activity as the federal government continues to roll out its covid-19 inoculation plan. Some pro-Trump solidarity activity in Canada may also continue leading up to the inauguration of President-elect Joe Biden on 20 January.



Figure 1 Total activist activity in Canada as noted by Welund.

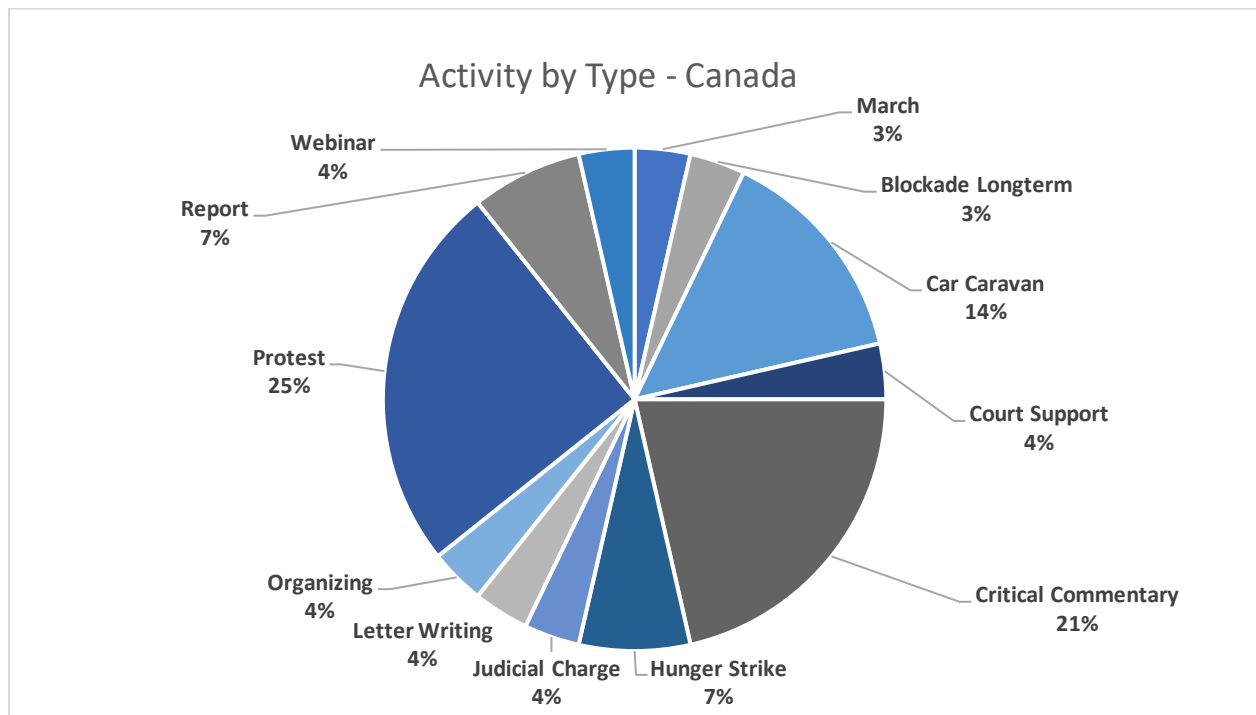


Figure 2 Activist activity in Canada by type as noted by Welund

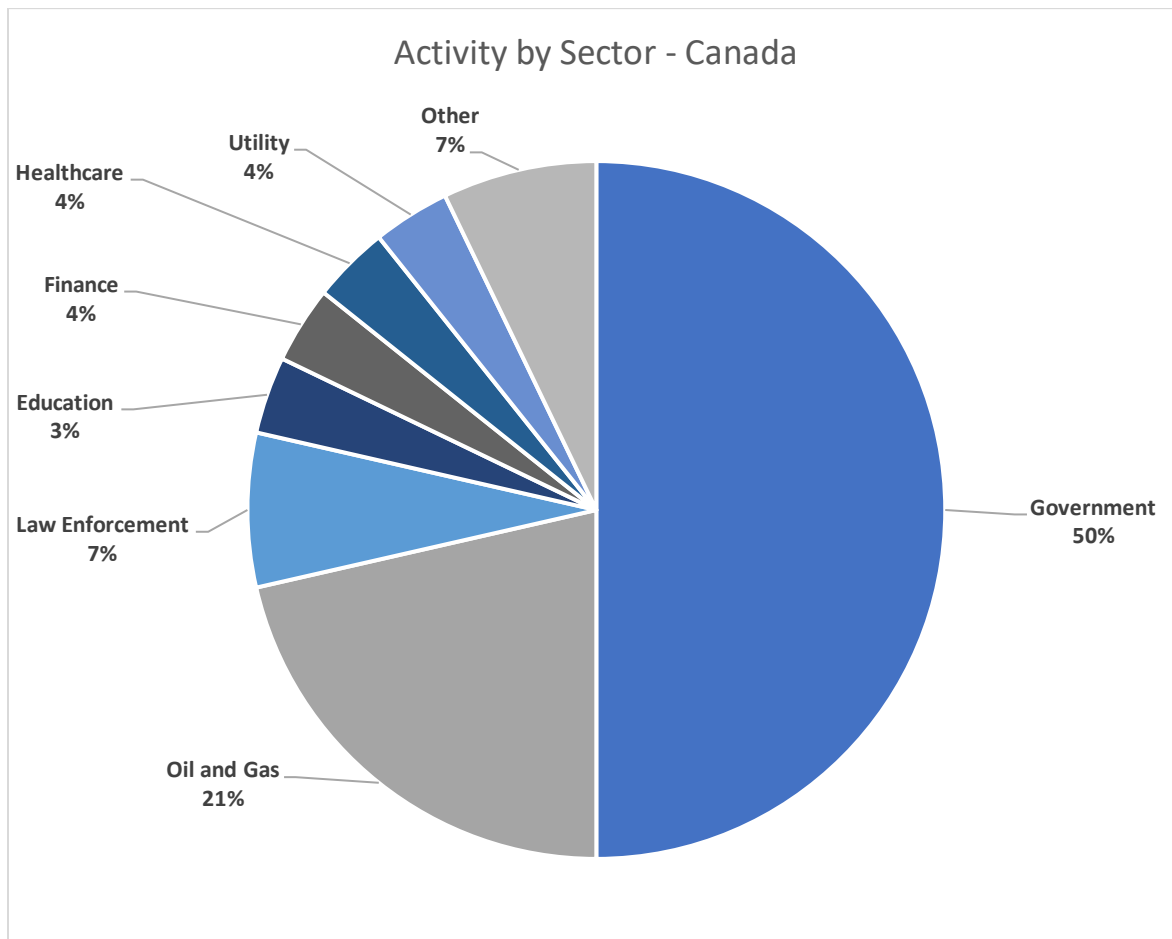
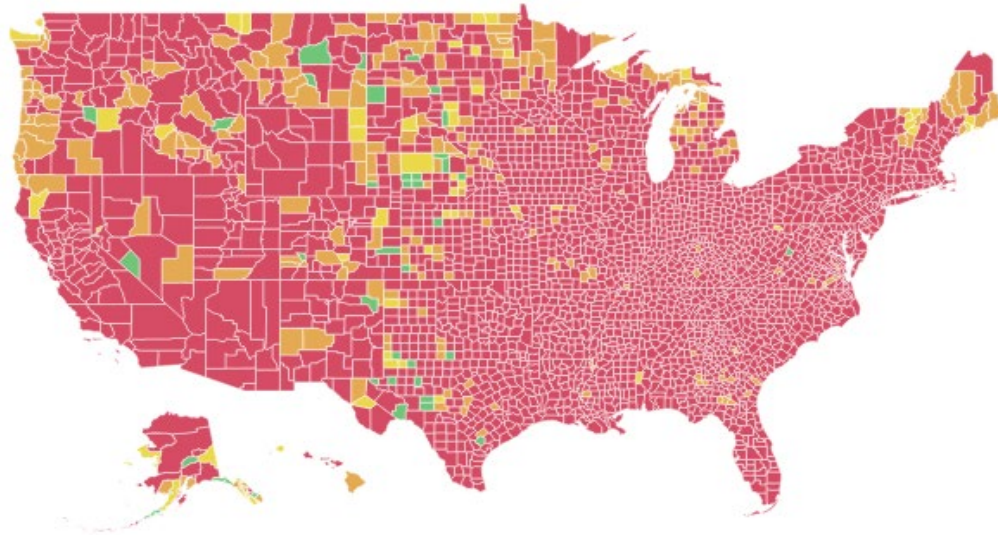


Figure 3 Activist activity in Canada by sector as noted by Welund.

4. USA

4.1 COVID UPDATE

Risk Levels by County



Risk Levels: ■ Green ■ Yellow ■ Orange ■ Red

#	USA State	Total Cases	Total Deaths	Total Recovered	Active Cases	Tot Cases/ 1M pop	Deaths/ 1M pop	Total Tests	Tests/ 1M pop	Population
	USA Total	22,152,595	374,391	13,147,747	8,630,457	66,926	1,131	265,521,160	802,172	
1	California	2,577,458	28,511	1,088,423	1,460,524	65,232	722	34,760,355	879,737	39,512,223
2	Florida	1,429,722	22,491	758,758	648,473	66,568	1,047	16,451,278	765,969	21,477,737
3	New York	1,116,929	39,149	487,698	590,082	57,415	2,012	26,572,232	1,365,932	19,453,561
4	Arizona	584,593	9,741	82,155	492,697	80,315	1,338	3,384,395	464,971	7,278,717
5	Georgia	723,630	11,230	353,342	359,058	68,155	1,058	5,979,704	563,197	10,617,423
6	Virginia	387,917	5,312	32,368	350,237	45,447	622	5,440,271	637,369	8,535,519
7	Texas	1,916,872	29,724	1,550,400	336,748	66,108	1,025	16,566,000	571,323	28,995,881
8	Missouri	445,074	6,411	141,496	297,167	72,518	1,045	4,240,702	690,958	6,137,428
9	Maryland	295,874	6,173	9,404	280,297	48,940	1,021	5,972,432	987,884	6,045,680
10	Colorado	352,923	5,102	74,401	273,420	61,285	886	2,207,688	383,363	5,758,736
11	New Jersey	564,798	19,748	280,160	264,890	63,588	2,223	8,060,903	907,536	8,882,190
12	Kentucky	291,430	2,843	38,173	250,414	65,231	636	3,565,044	797,964	4,467,673
13	Illinois	1,008,045	18,941	753,882	235,222	79,550	1,495	13,803,946	1,089,342	12,671,821
14	Pennsylvania	699,045	17,272	499,022	182,751	54,604	1,349	7,761,244	606,253	12,801,989
15	Michigan	555,747	13,873	363,611	178,263	55,648	1,389	8,946,658	895,843	9,986,857
16	Indiana	546,499	8,823	360,087	177,589	81,177	1,311	5,950,922	883,947	6,732,219
17	Alabama	394,287	5,191	211,684	177,412	80,414	1,059	2,035,708	415,181	4,903,185
18	South Carolina	338,112	5,661	159,700	172,751	65,669	1,099	3,895,919	756,678	5,148,714
19	Washington	267,779	3,762	111,883	152,134	35,165	494	3,987,138	523,597	7,614,893

4.2 COVID-19 USA News

- [Ambulance crews told not to transport patients who have little chance of survival](#)
Officials have instructed paramedics to cut back on their use of oxygen and to not transport patients which are not believed to survive, focusing instead on those with a greater chance of beating the disease. Most hospitals are overwhelmed and in crisis, having to make difficult decisions regarding patient care. Patients wait for hours in ambulances outside the hospital before a bed opens up, stopping ambulances from being able to pick up new patients. Patients with heart attacks or injuries which require ICU space and personnel are unable to find spaces and do not get the best care they usually would. Hospitals are still seeing and assisting patients from Thanksgiving, and are just starting to see patients from the Christmas holiday. Most of these individuals will likely take some time before their condition deteriorates and requires hospitalizations. Some patients spend weeks on ventilators, with less space for new patients, and patients who are mostly recovered are being discharged sooner than they usually would, getting less continued care in an effort to make space for new patients. Support for in home oxygen usage is increasing and the state is looking into various oxygen delivery systems both to hospitals and individuals. COVID-19 numbers will continue to increase, with holiday season cases likely soon being seen, the hospitalizations and especially fatalities of which will not be seen for months while people fight for their lives in the ICU.
- [Houston hospital offers workers \\$500 to get COVID-19 vaccine](#)
A hospital in Houston sent a holiday message to its employees, informing they may receive a \$500 bonus as a thank you for the difficult work they have done in 2020. The criteria to be eligible for the bonus included receiving a vaccination. This was not the only holiday bonus received by the employees, showcasing the persuasion techniques utilized to have encourage individuals to take the vaccine without it appearing as coaxing. Currently, the vaccinations are not mandatory but may be in the future for most workers, a right provided to employers via a federal employment policy which was recently passed. Furthermore, it is likely cost effective for the hospital to spend \$500 per employee who received the vaccine over health concerns to their employees and patients.
- [29 serious adverse events reported in U.S. after coronavirus vaccinations](#)
Since the beginning of the USA vaccination campaign, approximately 29 serious reactions occurred after receiving it. Those who had serious reactions are urged to not get a second dose. The USA CDC advised that the rate of allergic reactions to the virus is occurring at a rate of 11.1 per one million vaccinations. In comparison, the flu vaccine has only caused about ten times less.
- [Here's Why Distribution of the Vaccine Is Taking Longer Than Expected](#)
- ['This is about total collapse of the health care system if we have another spike' of Covid-19](#)
- [US sees record COVID hospitalizations as vaccinations lag](#)
- [Blood Plasma Reduces Risk of Severe Covid-19 if Given Early](#)

4.3 USA Awareness

- [Facebook Bars Trump Through End of His Term](#)
Facebook on Thursday said it will block President Trump on its platforms at least until the end of his term on Jan. 20, as the mainstream online world moved forcefully to limit the president after years of inaction. Mark Zuckerberg, Facebook's chief executive, said in a post that the social network decided to cut off Mr. Trump

because a riot by pro-Trump supporters in the nation's capital a day earlier, which was urged on by the president, showed that he "intends to use his remaining time in office to undermine the peaceful and lawful transition of power to his elected successor, Joe Biden."

- [Here's the full transcript and audio of the call between Trump and Raffensperger](#)

President Trump this week continued his rhetoric of election fraud, with a recording released this week of him speaking with the state of Georgia's election chief to "find" votes for him to win the state's election results. President Trump's attempts to reverse the outcome of this fair election have never been seen by a President in the USA, with him trying to pressure the election official to call Trump the winner by finding just under 12,000 votes, the number of votes by which Trump lost to Biden. Furthermore, President Trump also threatened the officials in the call, suggesting that it is a criminal offence to destroy ballots, an allegation which is yet to be proven.

- [Global economy faces fears of a 'lost decade' as COVID-19 cases surge](#)
- [Trump Is Said to Have Discussed Pardoning Himself](#)
- [Facing calls for his removal, Trump reverses positions on election loss, rioters and Covid](#)
- [Capitol rioter in horned hat gloats as feds work to identify suspects](#)
- [U.S. Capitol police officer dies after engaging rioters](#)

4.4 USA – Political Extremism, Civil Unrest and Activism (Provided by Welund)



Overview: During the week of 30 December 2020 – 7 January 2021, the majority of activist activity in the US noted by Welund took place in the government sector (82%), followed by oil and gas (8%). Protests made up the majority of activity (57%), followed by marches (6%) and direct

actions (6%). Overall activity has remained depressed through the holiday period, but is expected to increase throughout January, especially following the occupation of the US Capitol and in advance of Inauguration Day.

Activist campaigns have continued to promote end of year fundraising efforts. In addition to calls for donations, campaigns have been listing 2020 successes and goals for 2021.

Protests: Despite the pandemic, activists continue to organize in-person protests to broadcast their campaigns and demands. Many organizers have incorporated physical distancing and mask-wearing adaptations to limit the risk of gathering for protests. California, New York, and Minnesota saw the most protests this week.

On 5 January, the Kenosha County District Attorney announced that the police officer who shot Jacob Blake in August 2020 will not be charged. Activists criticized and expressed outrage over the decision. The shooting of Blake set off protests and looting in Kenosha, and other solidarity protests. There is the potential for protests near Kenosha and solidarity protest to oppose the decision.

On 6 January, thousands of far-right and pro-Trump protesters stormed the US Capitol building as Congress began to ceremonially certify the Electoral College victory of President-elect Joe Biden. The protest reportedly resulted in four deaths. Left-wing activists, particularly those affiliated with the Black Lives Matter (BLM) campaign, have criticized the differences in how the police responded to the Pro-Trump protesters and BLM protesters after George Floyd's death.

An upcoming protest of interest will take place on 20 January 2021. Far-right groups will hold a 'Million Militia March' in Washington, DC to protest against the inauguration of President-elect Joe Biden.

Outlook: The lead up to the presidential inauguration in January has the potential to see tensions between the left and right spark protest activity between now and Inauguration Day on 20 January. The 6 January incident at the Capitol is likely to fuel even further conflicts. Rising covid-19 cases across the US may see some states reimpose restrictions not seen since the spring. Should this happen, the right-wing, anti-lockdown movement may organize protests and demonstrations similar to those that attracted nationwide media attention in April and May. The rollout of the coronavirus vaccine has resulted in increased activity from anti-vaccine groups. Welund has observed an increased focus on equitable access to the covid-19 vaccine.

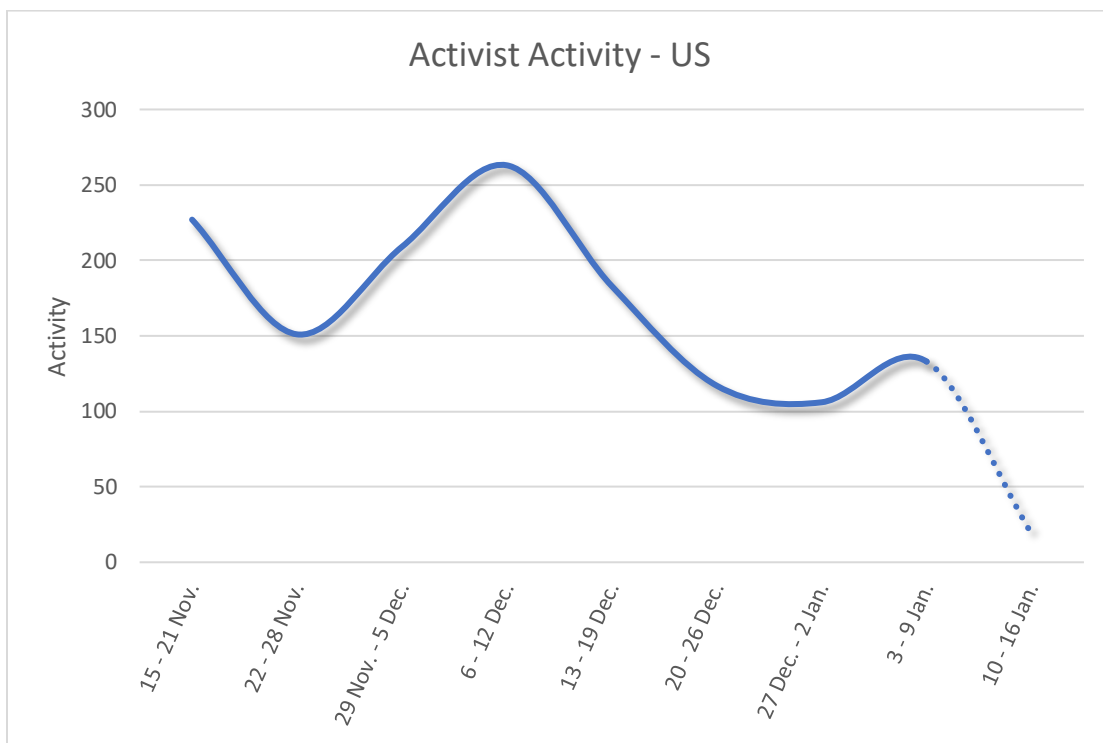


Figure 4 Total activist activity in the US as noted by Welund North America.

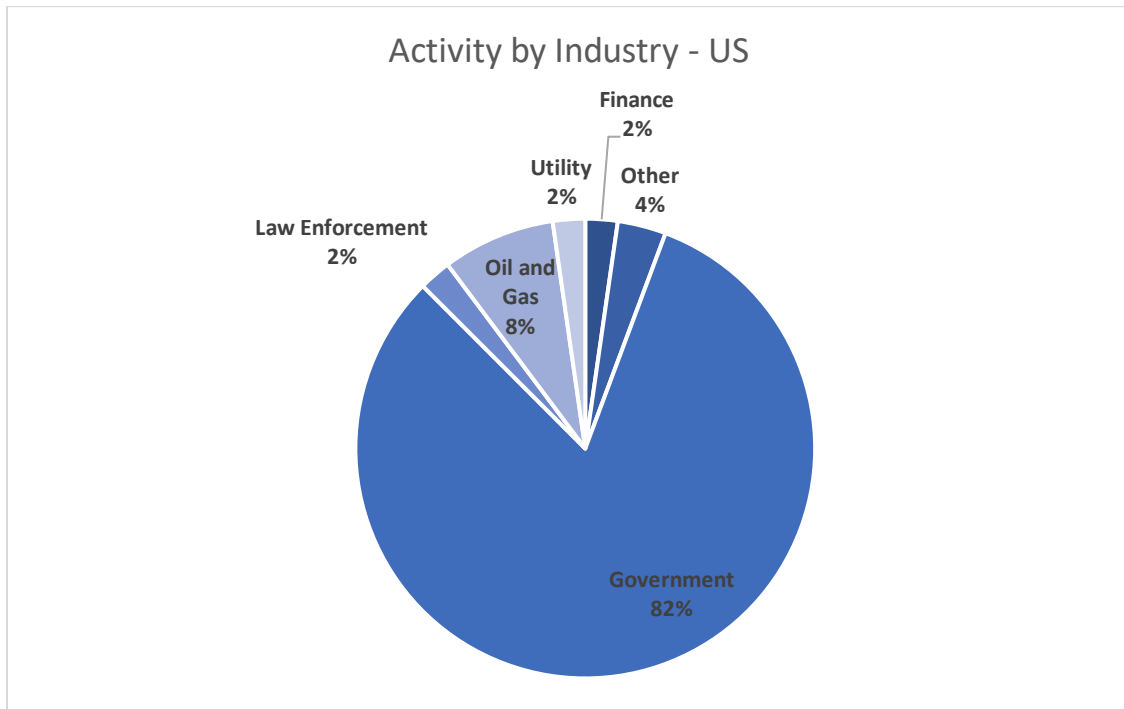


Figure 5 Activist activity in the US by industry as noted by Welund

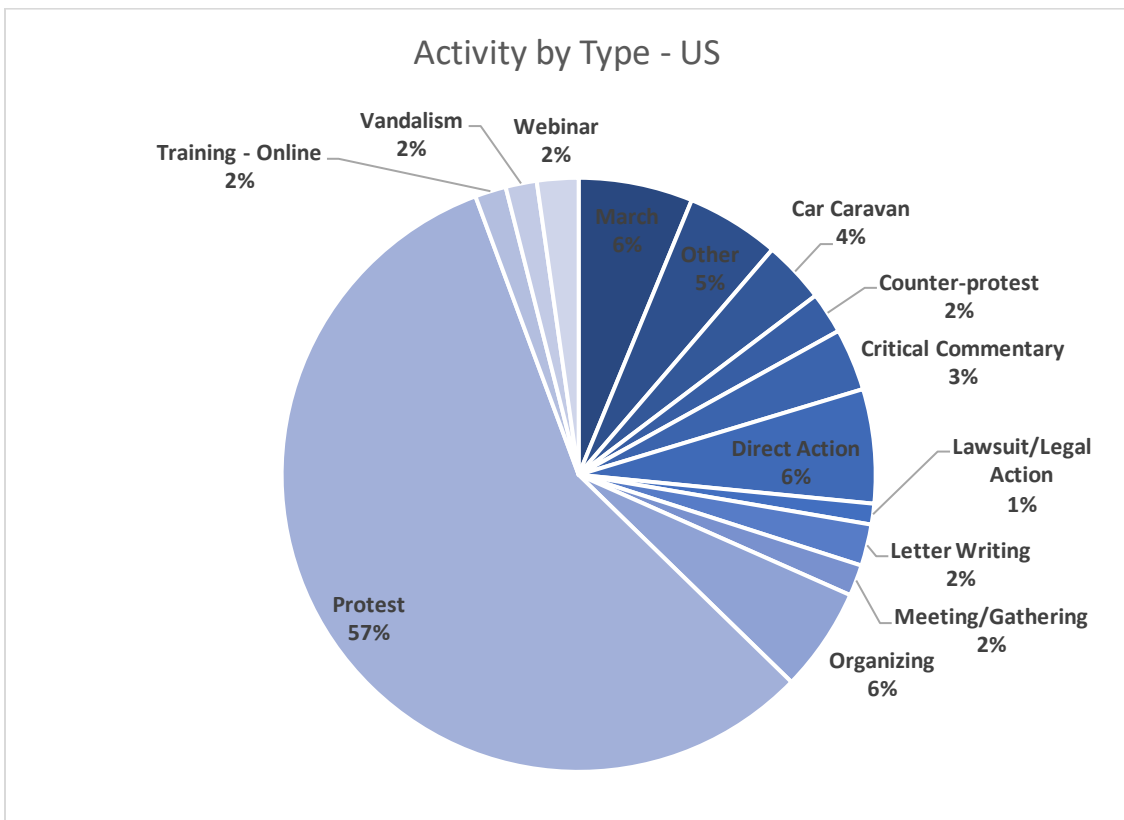


Figure 6 Activist activity in the US by type as noted by Welund North America.

End Report

Please submit feedback to:



*Local Experts.
Global Experience.*

Scott McGregor
Head of Intelligence
Paladin Risk Solutions Inc

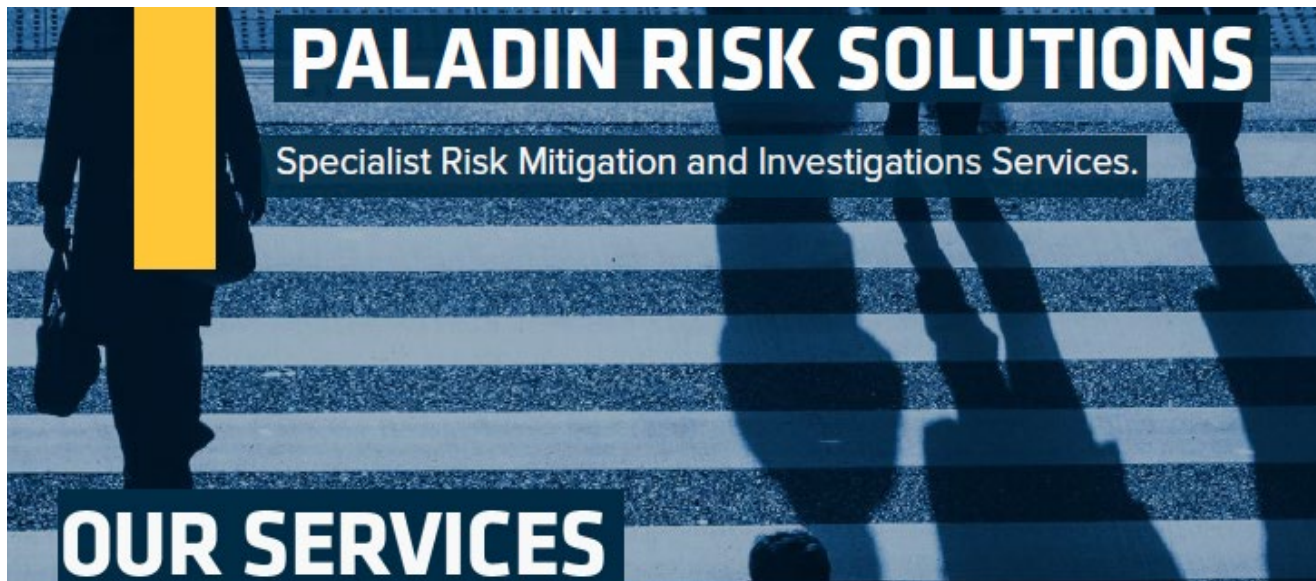
Mobile: 604-910-7781

Email:

smcgregor@paladinrisksolutions.com

Website: paladinrisksolutions.com

5. PALADIN RISK SOLUTIONS - SERVICES



Paladin Risk Solutions is one of the largest, full-service risk mitigation and investigation providers in Canada. We are an industry leader in identifying and mitigating client risk by delivering consulting, intelligence, investigations, due diligence, cybercrime, OSINT and training solutions.

- Complete intelligence and advisory, from a local, national and international lens
- Risk assessments for extractive industries, airports, seaports, pipelines, water, buildings and assets
- Complete Security consulting and audits, technology audits, project oversight and commissioning
- Emergency management and business continuity programs, consulting and training
- Cybercrime and Digital Investigation, Data Privacy and Protection, Cyber Security Issues
- Executive Protection, threat management, and violence in the workplace
- Due diligence, AML, and Asset Tracing, on an international scale
- Background investigations and open source intelligence (OSINT)
- Surveillance and undercover operations
- Various training options as well as general investigative services

**Paladin
Risk Solutions**www.paladinrisksolutions.com

WATERLOO
CANADA'S
MOST
ADMIRABLE
CORPORATE
CULTURES

CANADA
BEST
MANAGED
COMPANIES

Platinum member