



INTELLIGENCE REPORT

Situational awareness for stakeholders and decision makers.



Report # 21-025

16 April 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	5
2.4 Political Extremism, Civil Unrest and Activism	6
3. CANADA.....	6
3.1 COVID UPDATE.....	6
3.2 COVID-19 Canada News	8
3.3 Canada Awareness.....	9
3.4 Canada – Political Extremism, Civil Unrest and Activism	9
4. USA.....	12
4.1 COVID UPDATE.....	12
4.2 COVID-19 USA News.....	13
4.3 USA Awareness.....	14
4.4 USA – Political Extremism, Civil Unrest and Activism (Provided by Welund).....	15
5. PALADIN RISK SOLUTIONS - SERVICES	19

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.

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1. CURRENT SITUATION

Recently it was revealed that the personal data of over half a billion Facebook users is available online for free through a hacking forum. This data includes phone numbers which were not publicly provided by the users and were scraped in violation of the company's terms of service. It is believed that Facebook may have broken the law in its handling of the leak. Ireland's Data Protection Commission, who has been responsible for overseeing the privacy compliance of Facebook in the EU, is opening an investigation into the matter. If it finds that Facebook violated the data rules, Facebook may face a fine up to 4% of its \$86 billion global revenue.

A Facebook spokesperson stated that the company was fully cooperating with the investigation and that the matter is pertaining to a vulnerability which occurred and has been reported previously. This allowed someone to locate information about a Facebook user by entering their telephone number. It has reportedly been patched by Facebook since. When it was first reported in 2019, Facebook downplayed the issue but never addressed it fully until the data was released this year. Facebook is not planning to notify the specific users of the dump, as it is unclear who was affected, and users cannot resolve the issue as the data is already available online. The EU investigation will look into whether the company was legally obligated to notify its users as per the GDPR (Europe's data privacy law). However, the GDPR applies to data processed after 2018, and it is unclear when the leaked Facebook data was originally scraped.

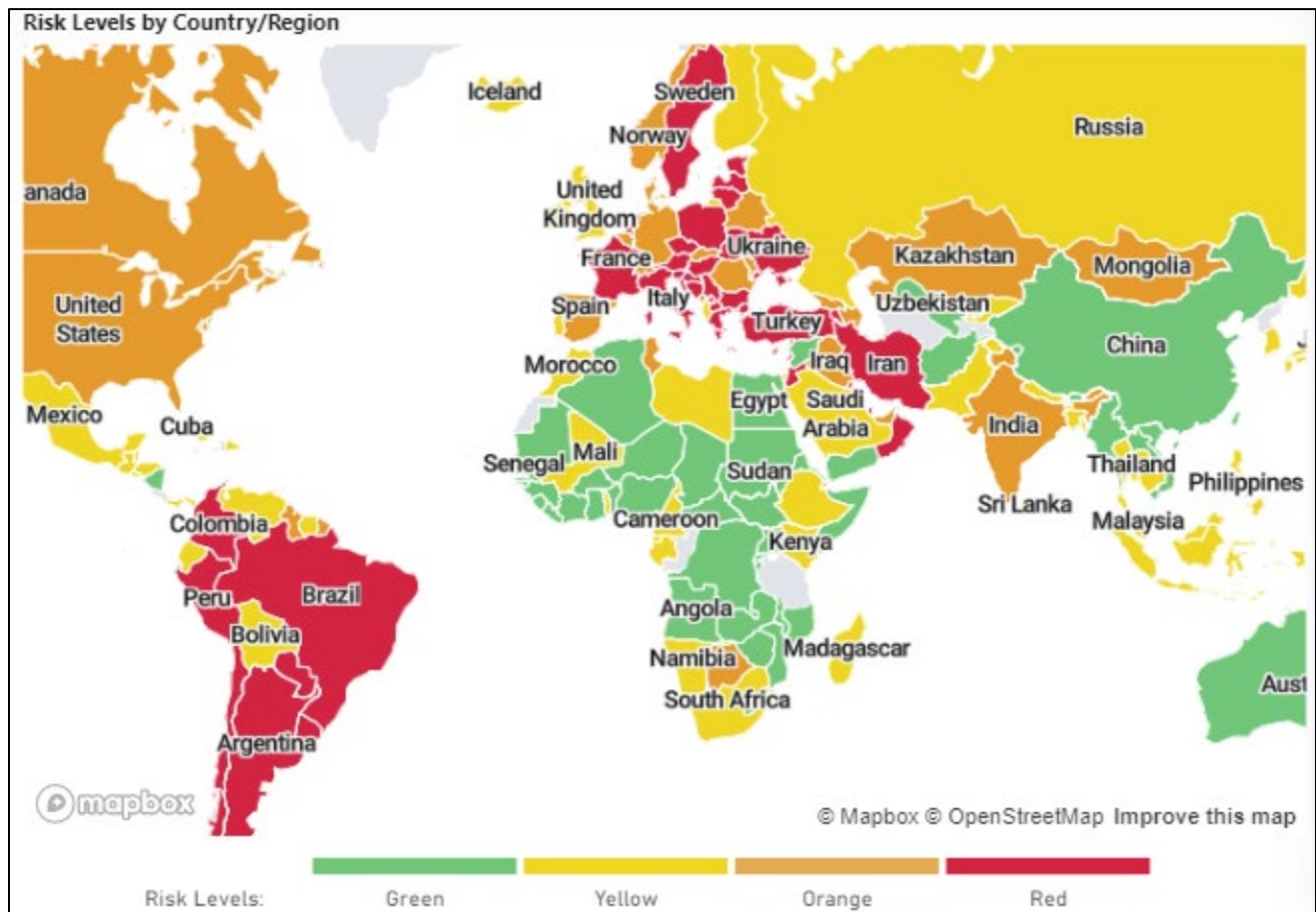
This showcases the lack of privacy and vulnerability of people who utilize internet services. There are services which an individual are not given a choice to opt out of and it is becoming more common for universities and high schools to use Facebook groups for collaboration which requires students to have an account so they can participate. Furthermore, Facebook and other websites or similar platforms keep information on users without their knowledge or consent. For example, the Facebook app will know a person's telephone number even if they did not enter it, prompting the app to attach it to the person's profile. Much information that is being kept by technology companies is not identified to end users and may not even be in the lengthy, and difficult to comprehend, terms of service. Facebook is currently being sued after Instagram iPhone users noticed that their green camera light was on when using the application. Facebook, who owns Instagram, first advised that it was a 'bug' and the app didn't use the camera; however, it was not the first time this occurred as the year prior users found the same happened with the Facebook app. Curiously, a video from 2016 showed that Facebook founder, Mark Zuckerberg, tapes over his own personal laptop's web camera.

Information which was obtained from this platform may still be perceived by some as open-source information and may be utilized for intelligence purposes or in an effort to gain a better understanding of a target or event. Moreover, the company's terms of service do not apply to cyber criminals, who exploit data and information regardless of government laws or corporate policies. Personal identifying information, or biographic data, should be kept as private as possible. Unfortunately, in today's connected internet world, where young people have never known a life without social media, this information is often posted without consideration by millions of users. Most people do not understand that giving one's contact information, including email address to every newsletter or company with a sales deal the person is interested in may provide criminals and others with the email address they use for logging into their bank account. It is not only information we are not aware is out there, but the information we ourselves disclose without thinking twice of the consequences. As such, better privacy protection laws are needed, specifically in North America, as well as a better understanding of the footprint people leave online. Paladin Risk Solutions can provide guidance on data privacy and protection, as well as on the collection of open-source information for intelligence purposes.

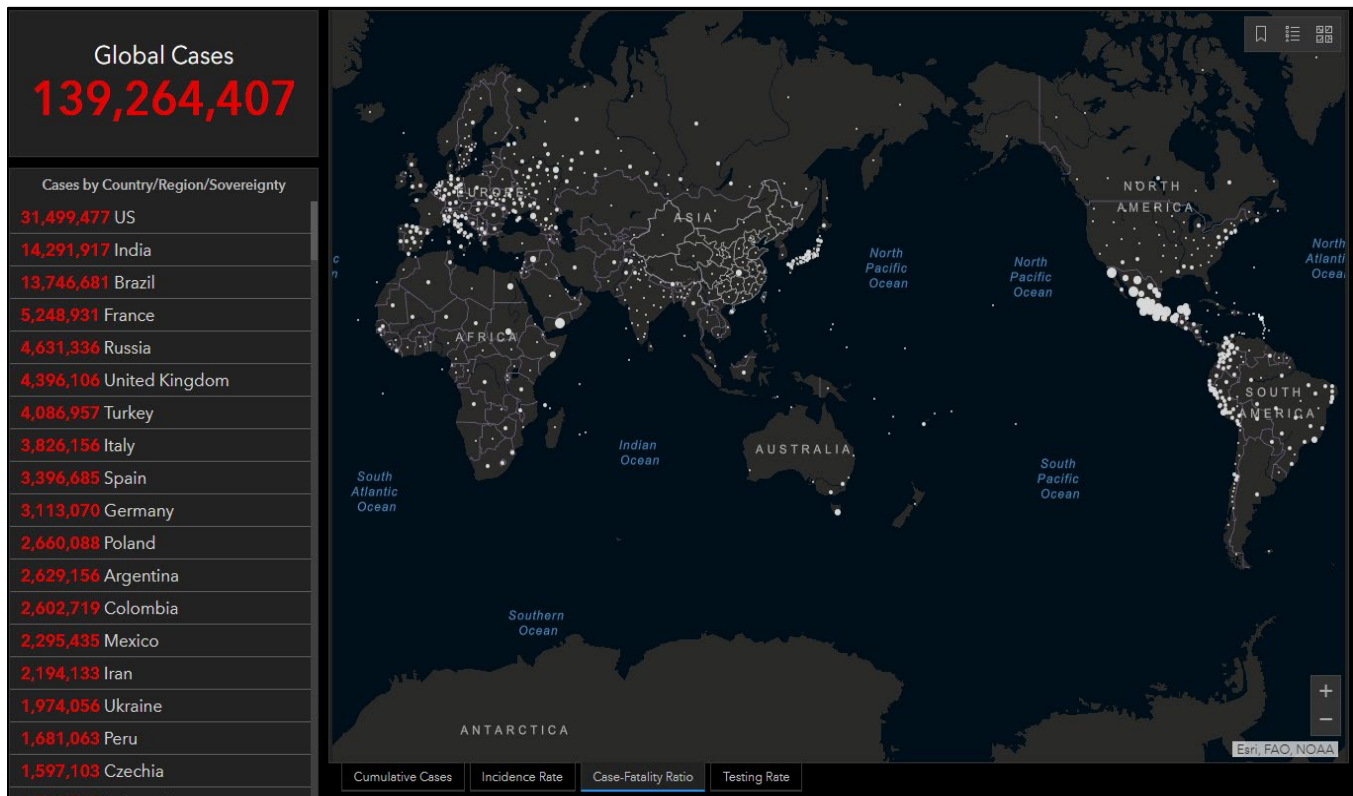
2. GLOBAL

2.1 COVID UPDATE

Country/Region	United States	Country/Region	Canada
Daily new cases per 100k people (7d moving avg.)	22.0	Daily new cases per 100k people (7d moving avg.)	21.8
Risk level	Orange	Risk level	Orange
Total cases	31,444,501	Total cases	1,078,562
Total deaths	563,937	Total deaths	23,392



#	Country, Other	Total Cases	New Cases	Total Deaths	New Deaths	Total Recovered	Active Cases	Serious, Critical	Tot Cases/1M pop	Deaths/1M pop	Total Tests	Tests/1M pop	Population
	World	139,977,051	+302,272	3,003,563	+4,659	118,949,622	18,023,866	106,879	17,958	385.3			
1	USA	32,228,968	+4,829	579,039	+46	24,771,421	6,878,508	9,765	96,920	1,741	424,961,395	1,277,956	332,532,050
2	India	14,382,582	+94,842	174,699	+364	12,575,330	1,632,553	8,944	10,342	126	263,476,625	189,459	1,390,679,153
3	Brazil	13,758,093		365,954		12,236,295	1,155,844	8,318	64,366	1,712	28,600,000	133,802	213,749,436
4	France	5,187,879		100,073		4,008,035	1,079,771	5,924	79,341	1,530	71,017,438	1,086,102	65,387,466
5	Turkey	4,086,957		35,031		3,535,040	516,886	3,080	48,052	412	42,828,122	503,547	85,052,838
6	Italy	3,826,156		115,937		3,200,196	510,023	3,417	63,356	1,920	54,204,890	897,557	60,391,595
7	Ukraine	1,921,244	+17,479	39,096	+438	1,465,820	416,328	177	44,140	898	8,869,518	203,776	43,525,906
8	Iran	2,194,133	+25,261	66,008	+328	1,761,497	366,628	4,652	25,863	778	14,165,771	166,975	84,837,813
9	Poland	2,660,088	+17,847	61,208	+595	2,255,232	343,648	3,425	70,347	1,619	13,335,088	352,651	37,813,871
10	Germany	3,109,266	+14,250	80,326	+185	2,752,000	276,940	4,662	37,017	956	52,737,238	627,860	83,995,236
11	Hungary	742,198	+5,216	24,762	+241	445,920	271,516	1,117	76,984	2,568	5,065,759	525,441	9,640,967
12	Argentina	2,629,156		58,925		2,300,232	269,999	3,900	57,756	1,294	9,903,405	217,551	45,522,155
13	Russia	4,684,148	+8,995	104,795	+397	4,310,557	268,796	2,300	32,087	718	125,100,000	856,944	145,983,862
14	Mexico	2,295,435	+4,189	211,213	+401	1,820,959	263,263	4,798	17,657	1,625	6,355,381	48,888	129,998,266
15	Netherlands	1,387,043	+8,898	16,873	+12	1,156,626	213,544	775	80,807	983	11,292,587	657,893	17,164,784



Global Case to Fatality Ratios

2.2 COVID-19 World News

- [Pfizer's COVID-19 shot less effective against South African variant: study](#)
Pfizer has released its clinical trials for the study in which it saw the effectiveness of the vaccine on the South African variant. The study was conducted in Israel, in which 400 people who have tested positive for COVID-19 fourteen or more days after they received one or two doses of the vaccine. These were compared against the same number of unvaccinated individuals, while matching participant characteristics. The study, which has not been peer reviewed and may not be fully accurate as Israel has a low prevalence of the South African variant, found that the South African variant can “breakthrough” the vaccine. The comparison was against the UK variant, which Israel has found now comprises most of the infections in the country. For those who have received two doses of the vaccine, the variant rate was eight times (5.4%) more prevalent than in those who have not been vaccinated (0.7%). The study has also looked at those that tested positive for COVID-19, and not the overall infection rates for the strain. Pfizer’s recent study from South Africa found that the shot still provided robust defense against the strain, although did not provide the same protection as the original strain. An interesting finding of the study suggests that the South African variant is not as common and suggesting that the British variant may be “blocking” the spread of the strain from South Africa.
- [India records 200,739 COVID-19 cases, 1,038 deaths in a day, highest-ever single-day spike](#)
India has reported over 200,000 new cases in one day, a global record and the highest spike in cases to date. It has now over 14 million COVID-19 cases total, with a case fatality rate of 1.23%. Daily deaths have hit over 1,000, still a surprisingly small number when compared to the USA death rate and numbers at its highest. At the beginning of the pandemic, the case fatality rate (CFR) of the country was at about 3%, while the doctors were still learning about the virus. It then improved to 1.6% in September and dropped to 1% during the second wave. For months, the CFR stayed the same, but is now slowly climbing by percentage points every few weeks. This suggests that it is possible the variants are also beginning to flourish in India and are causing more individuals to die as they are more severe.
- [Blood clots from COVID-19 up to 10 times more likely than vaccines: researchers](#)
- [Some COVID-19 long-haulers reporting improved symptoms after being vaccinated](#)
- [Covid-19 deaths in London ‘hit zero’ on several days this month](#)
- [Death rate from COVID-19 variants 60 per cent higher: epidemiologist](#)
- [Moderna hopes to have Covid booster shot for its vaccine ready by the fall, CEO says](#)

2.3 Global Awareness

- [Putin to decide on counter sanctions against Washington, says Kremlin](#)
After US President Biden put sanctions on the USA this week for interfering with the USA election, spreading disinformation and for hacking into recent government and corporate systems. The sanctions included expulsion of Russian diplomats the USA believes are intelligence officers working under diplomatic cover. Additionally, the USA placed sanctions on 32 Russia related individuals and companies which are believed to have been part of the activities the USA is sanctioning for. The USA additionally banned all USA financial institutions from buying bonds from the Russian central bank, Finance Ministry, and national wealth fund. The Russian government spokesperson advised that Putin and President saw “eye to eye” in the need to de-escalate the tensions between the two countries, but also added that Russia thought the sanctions were unacceptable. Should tensions continue between the USA and Russia, as they are expected as the USA will

continue to respond to Russia’s covert operations, which Russia always vehemently denies, otherwise the Kremlin will see the USA as a weak power who Russia can play with.

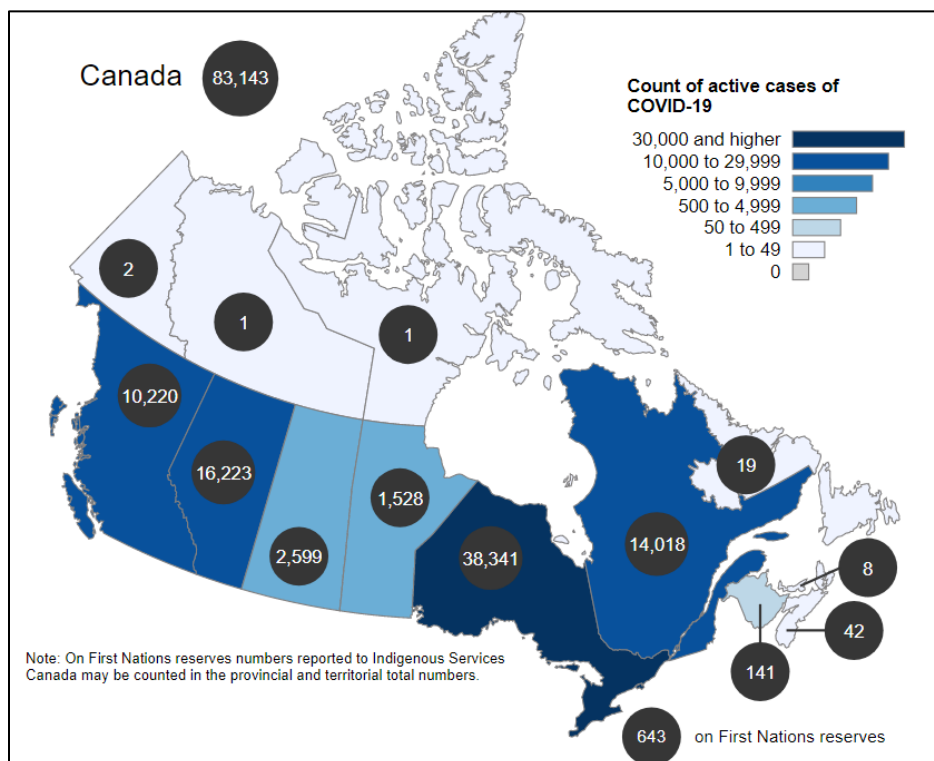
- [Iran, world powers resume nuclear talks amid strains over enrichment, Natanz attack](#)
Iran began enriching uranium to its highest level ever, allowing it to come close to have weapons grade level despite pressure from talk which are attempting to restore the nuclear deal. It also sustained an attack on its main atomic site. The talks are in an effort to allow the USA to rejoin the agreement and remove the tough economic sanctions on Iran, which have been causing difficulty to its economy. The enrichment may also give the country a way to de-escalate the situation by stopping it. Iran advised it needed the enriched uranium for its nuclear-powered ships although its navy does not currently have any on its roster.
- [Facebook Data Leak: EU Regulator Opens Investigation Into Facebook](#)
- [European Parliament gives initial backing to UK trade deal](#)
- [Turkish foreign minister briefs Afghan counterpart on NATO talks](#)


2.4 Political Extremism, Civil Unrest and Activism

- [Indian farmers vow to carry on months-long protest despite concerns over coronavirus](#)
- [USA has ability to keep eye on any resurgence of al Qaeda in Afghanistan -White House](#)
- [Clashes break out at student protest in northern Greek city](#)
- [Myanmar security forces fire on protesting medical workers, causing some casualties](#)

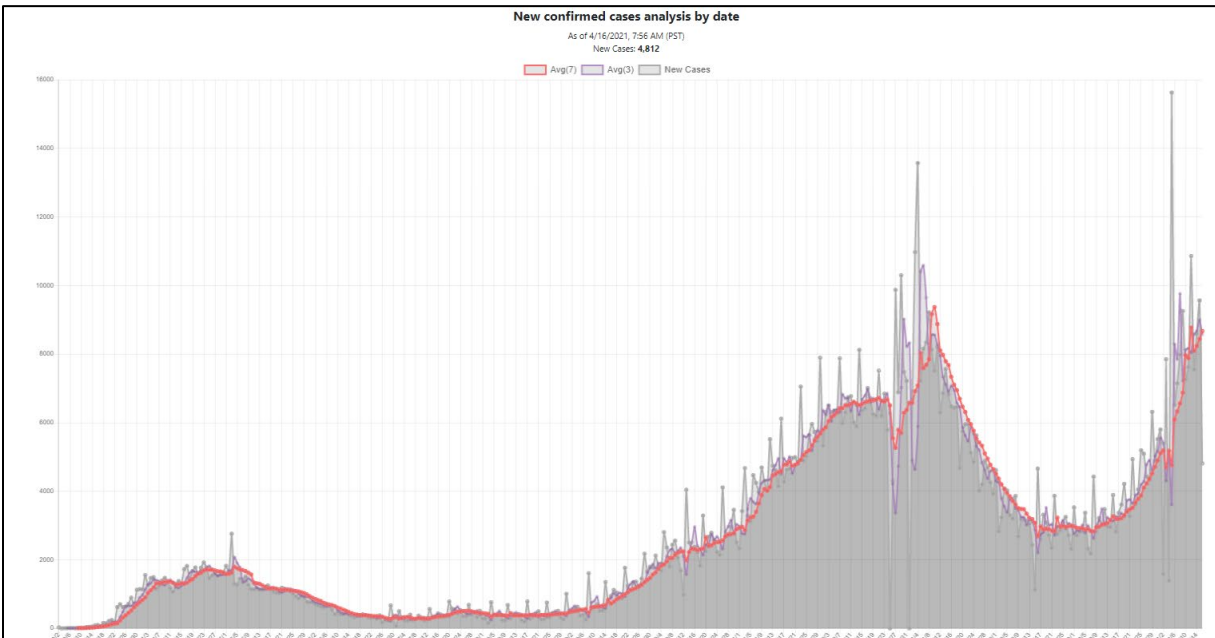
3. CANADA

3.1 COVID UPDATE



Prov.	Total Confirmed	Total Deaths	Total Recovered	Total Active
Total	1,101,534 (↑4,812)	23,525 (↑25)	993,231 (↑3,151)	84,778 (↑1,636)
BC	116,075	1,524	104,331	10,220
ON	408,383 (↑4,812)	7,664 (↑25)	360,742 (↑3,151)	39,977 (↑1,636)
QC	332,544	10,778	307,748	14,018
AB	166,177	2,034	147,920	16,223
MB	35,688	955	33,205	1,528
NB	1,760	33	1,586	141
SK	37,384	460	34,325	2,599
PEI	167	0	160	7
NL	1,036	6	1,011	19
NS	1,786	66	1,678	42
YT	76	1	73	2
NT	49	0	48	1
NU	396	4	391	1
	13	0	13	0
Rate of change	↑ 0.4%	↑ 0.1%	↑ 0.3%	↑ 2.0%

Prov.	Total Test	Total Waiting	Total Hosp	Total ICU
Total	30,102,255 (+64,304)	-	-	-
BC	2,361,928	-	409	125
ON	13,422,529 (+64,304)	38,815 (-867)	1955 (+23)	701 (+42)
QC	8,055,958	-	661	159
AB	3,906,400	-	416	86
MB	613,701	-	62	16
NB	271,811	-	18	12
SK	717,486	-	188	41
PEI	128,447	-	-	-
NL	128,432	-	0	0
NS	459,994	-	4	0
YT	8,657	40	-	-
NT	16,822	34	0	0
NU	10,090	148	0	0
Rate of change	↑ 0.2%	-	-	-



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

3.2 COVID-19 Canada News

- [Ontario reports record-breaking 4,736 new COVID-19 cases as total count surpasses 400,000](#)

On Thursday, Ontario reported 4,736 new COVID-19 cases, a new all-time record. Five of the past seven days clocked over 4,000 daily cases and the most recent 100,000 cases of the total to date 400,000 cases have come from the recent six weeks. Furthermore, the death toll saw 29 deaths in one day, which was the largest increase since the middle of February and since the third wave has begun. Almost 2,000 people are in hospital again, with 55 more people requiring hospitalization in the previous day. Over 440 of these are currently on a ventilator, and 659 people are in the ICU. The test positivity rate has also increased from last week by about two percent. In response, Ontario recently cancelled non-elective surgeries and will be having children remote learning once they come back from Spring Break. The British variant has now been the dominant variant, accounting for almost half of the previous day's new case numbers. The variants have been exploding in Canada, causing record breaking numbers and putting more strain on the healthcare system. It is likely that these will continue to flourish in Canada without additional intervention; however, with warmer weather approaching and COVID-19 fatigue and non-compliance are at their highest, it is likely that Canada will be struggling with the variants for far longer than anticipated originally.
- [Shut down travel between provinces to control spread of variants, experts say](#)

BC is seeing an increase in the Brazilian variant, which caused the shutdown on Whistler ski resort. Experts are calling on both the provincial and federal government to shut down both interprovincial travel as well as curb international travel to reduce the spread of the variants of concern. The BC CDC is expressing concerns the Brazilian P1 variant will soon be out of control in the province by the end of April, and in Alberta where less than 150 cases of the variant have been found is also starting to see it quickly spreading. The variant is believed to be two and a half times more transmissible than the original strain and may be able to re-infect individuals who have already had COVID-19. The variant is mostly spreading due to travel, and calls are

growing for the federal government to limit domestic travel. Canada's current border rules are not consistent, as those who arrived by land do not need to quarantine in a hotel for 3 days, while those who arrive by plane do. Stronger control, at least while more vaccinations are occurring, may be of benefit as they may be better than the virus getting out of control and therefore having to implement shutdowns to ensure the medical system can handle the load.

- [A million vaccines in freezers: Ontario defends 'buffer' as thousands of appointments cancelled](#)
- [Canada just had its worst week ever for new COVID-19 cases](#)
- [B.C. in 'danger zone' as experts warn hospitals could be overwhelmed in May](#)
- [First case of P1 coronavirus variant identified as Manitoba announces 153 new COVID-19 cases](#)

3.3 Canada Awareness

- [Industry groups call on Freeland to abandon \\$100B stimulus plan in light of improved jobs market](#)
Industry representatives including economists and executives are calling on Canada to remove the \$100 Billion stimulant plan due to a faster than expected economic outlook. They are further stating that the plans are not only obsolete but are also harming long term growth. The plan will only put the public debt to levels never seen before, on top of the deficit the country is already in due to the pandemic measures, some of which went to individuals or groups which may have not required it. The stimulus would not be required if there are no employment issues, which the country has been seeing improve. Furthermore, many Canadians have been able to save large amounts of money due to not experiencing employment loss during the pandemic, and unable to spend the money they have made due to travel and other restrictions. Should these individuals spend their money, and the stimulus plan is enacted, a fear of inflation will occur. Many Canadians are fearful that Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland, who has recently said that the pandemic is a political opportunity, is looking to implement changes to the Canadian economy and using the pandemic as a reasoning for these changes. Chrystia Freeland was appointed Finance Minister by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau after Finance Minister Bill Morneau resigned following the WE scandal. She does not have a practical economic background and instead comes from a journalism background for a financial news media. Freeland's book "Plutocrats: The Rise of the New Global Super-Rich and the Fall of Everyone Else" focuses on economic and taxation policies to make society more equitable, a concept debated by economists regarding its success at providing an overall positive economic outlook.
- [Average price of Canadian home rising at fastest annual pace ever, now up to \\$716,828](#)
- [Canada negotiating contracts to secure COVID-19 booster shots for next year: Anand](#)
- ['We want you to stay': Canada opens door to permanent residence for 90,000 international graduates and temporary workers with one-time program](#)

3.4 Canada – Political Extremism, Civil Unrest and Activism



welund

During the week of 8-15 April 2021, the majority of activity in Canada noted by Welund focused on the government sector (66%), followed by law enforcement (8%). Protests made up the majority of activity (51%), followed by organizing (10%).

The reimplementation of increased covid-19 restrictions in several provinces had two simultaneous effects on activist activity over the past week. Anti-lockdown protests and related actions increased across Canada, especially in provinces experiencing the sharpest increases in covid-19 cases. Alternatively, other groups were largely constrained by the restrictions, resulting in lower activity among non-lockdown-related campaigns.

The increase in activity in the law enforcement sector can be attributed to a series of anti-lockdown protests against the closure of GraceLife Church in Alberta and opposition against a report by the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) in Toronto absolving officers who were involved in the death of Ejaz Choudhry. While the death of Daunte Wright in the US has sparked a new series of anti-police and anti-racism protests, solidarity actions in Canada have been limited.

Protests: In Alberta, the mandatory closure of GraceLife Church due to its breach of province-wide health restrictions resulted in a series of anti-lockdown protests against the RCMP and Alberta Health Services (AHS), as well as an online campaign against the fencing company that blocked access to the Church. AHS has reported that its staff members, especially in rural and remote areas, have been harassed and their vehicles have been the target of vandalism.

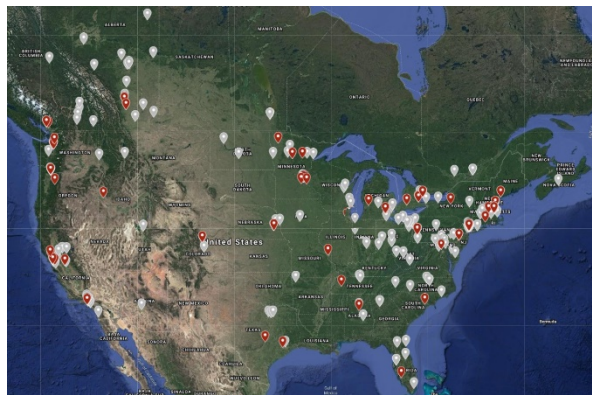


Figure 1: Past and upcoming protest activity as noted by Welund between 8-21 April 2021

Anti-lockdown protesters in Montreal held three protests in as many nights opposing the curfew and stay-at-home order issued by the provincial government. At each protest, a small sub-group of protesters vandalized stores and started fires in the street. Over the three nights, approximately 16 arrests were made and over 300 tickets were issued to participants.

In Toronto, a protest against a recent SIU report justifying the shooting of Ejaz Choudhry in Toronto resulted in several arrests, as protesters confronted police near the site where Choudhry was shot. The group then protested outside the Peel Police headquarters to demand the release and dropped charges against all seven arrested individuals.

Eight anti-Trans Mountain pipeline protesters were arrested during a lock-on direct action at the offices of Liberty Mutual and Chubb Insurance in Vancouver. The youth protesters blockaded the entrances to the offices to demand the companies stop insuring the pipeline project.

Outlook: Anti-lockdown protests are likely to continue with high levels of activity in the coming weeks. Activists have planned a ‘super rally’ and a ‘freedom’ protest in Calgary over the 17-18 April weekend, which will be attended by well-known anti-lockdown activist Chris Sky (previously banned from Toronto for his role in anti-lockdown protests in the city). Campaigners in cities across Canada have also started to organize for a second ‘Worldwide Rally for Freedom’ on 15 May.

Extinction Rebellion Vancouver has released additional information regarding its ‘spring rebellion’ event. The group has released event details for 1-3 May, and is expected to release details for 4-5 May events in the coming weeks. A potential protest at city hall was highlighted during its recent Cambie Bridge occupation. To advertise the rebellion, the group will march from Vancouver to Victoria on 16-19 April. Welund expects participation in this

march to be limited, with the majority of activists only participating in certain sections, rather than the entire length.

Fossil fuel divestment and environmental groups have called for a series of actions leading up to, and on, Earth Day (22 April). Historically, Earth Day has been a focus for environmental and climate change campaigns. Welund expects an increase in activism in these sectors leading up to and on 22 April.

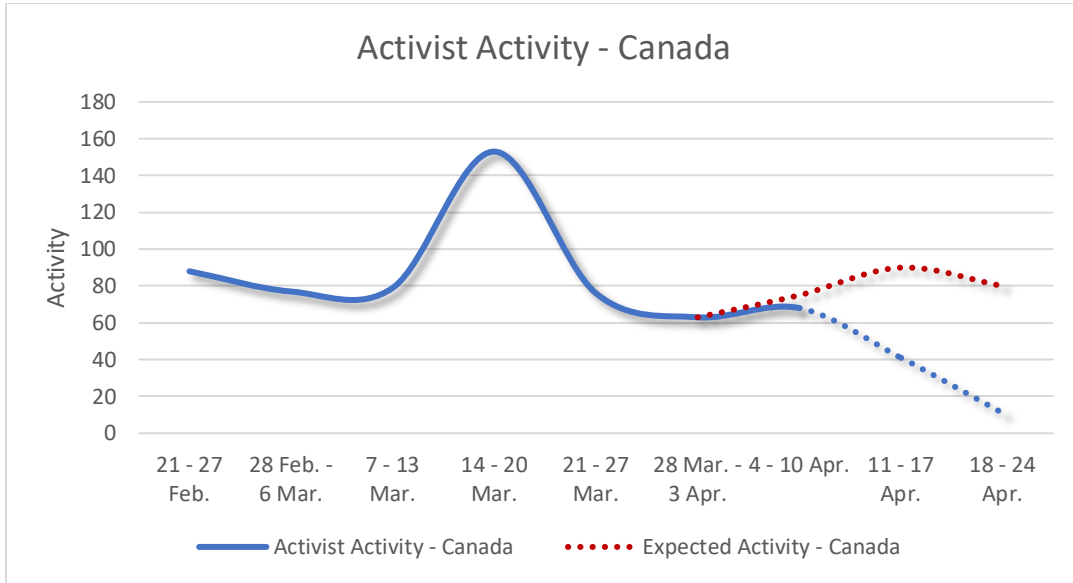


Figure 2 Total activist activity in Canada as noted by Welund.

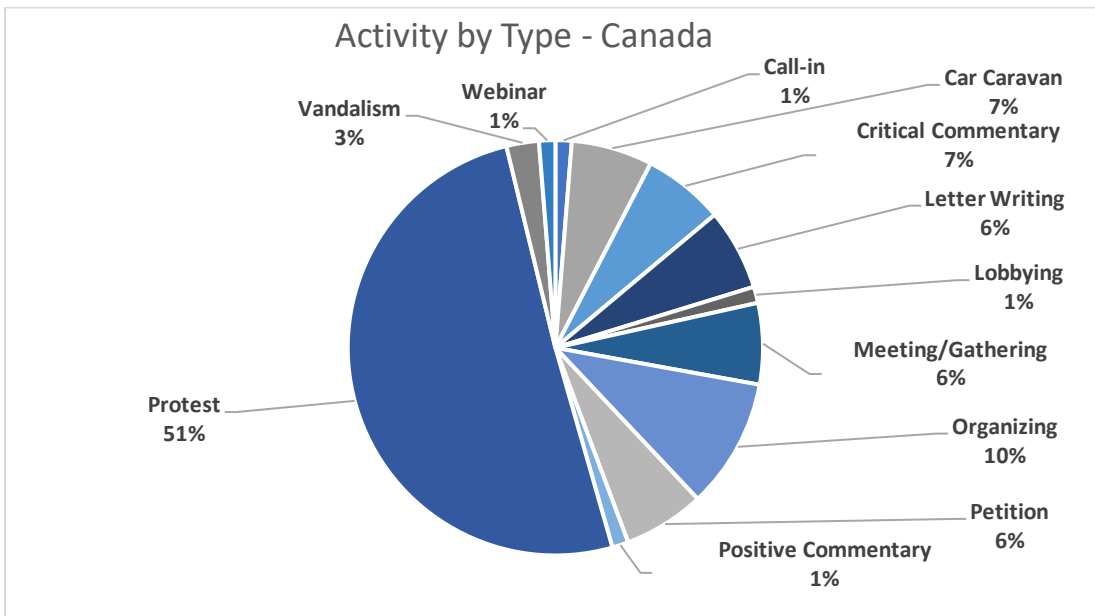


Figure 3 Activist activity in Canada by type as noted by Welund

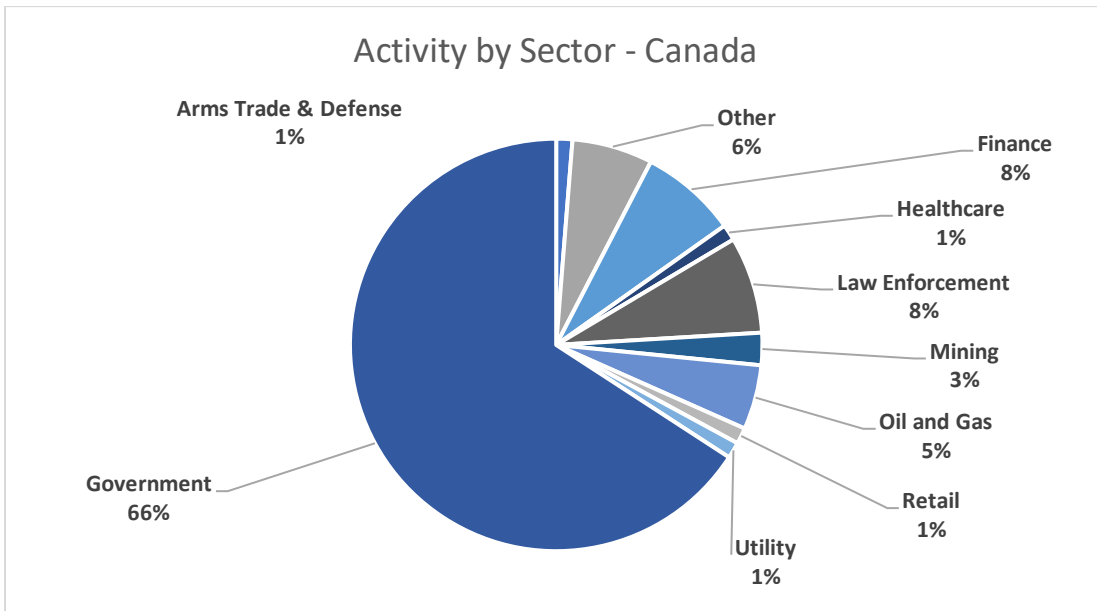
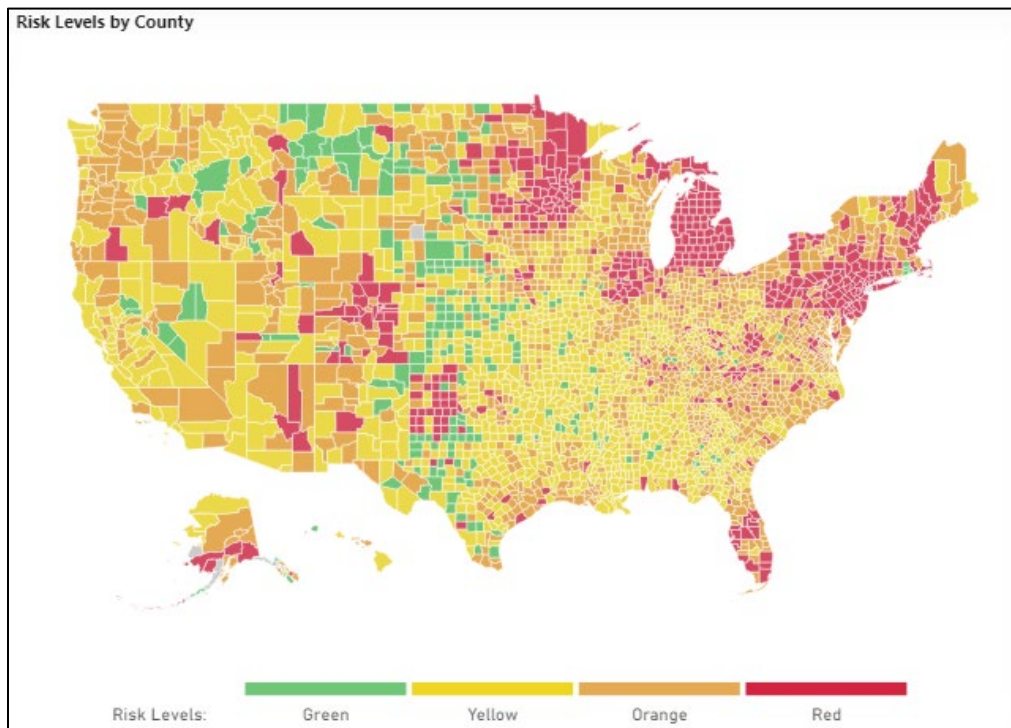


Figure 4 Activist activity in Canada by sector as noted by Welund.

4. USA

4.1 COVID UPDATE



#	USA State	Total Cases	New Cases	Total Deaths	New Deaths	Total Recovered	Active Cases	Tot Cases/ 1M pop	Deaths/ 1M pop	Total Tests	Tests/ 1M pop	Population
	USA Total	32,228,968	+4,829	579,039	+46	24,771,421	6,878,508	97,368	1,749	424,961,395	1,283,861	
1	California	3,712,203		60,808		1,970,019	1,681,376	93,951	1,539	56,997,332	1,442,524	39,512,223
2	New York	2,024,251		51,665		1,337,861	634,725	104,056	2,656	48,187,889	2,477,073	19,453,561
3	Virginia	641,626		10,529		52,886	578,211	75,171	1,234	8,829,721	1,034,468	8,535,519
4	Florida	2,148,448		34,245		1,683,776	430,427	100,031	1,594	26,546,147	1,235,984	21,477,737
5	Maryland	433,359	+1,564	8,528	+16	10,072	414,759	71,681	1,411	9,265,525	1,532,586	6,045,680
6	Kentucky	435,743		6,302		50,642	378,799	97,532	1,411	5,226,260	1,169,795	4,467,673
7	Michigan	857,774		17,817		587,283	252,674	85,890	1,784	12,763,915	1,278,071	9,986,857
8	Georgia	1,079,979		19,662		821,228	239,089	101,718	1,852	8,558,515	806,082	10,617,423
9	New Jersey	967,401		25,053		737,324	205,024	108,915	2,821	12,749,610	1,435,413	8,882,190
10	Washington	384,301		5,415		185,001	193,885	50,467	711	6,210,182	815,531	7,614,893
11	Alabama	521,623	+422	10,739	+3	328,752	182,132	106,385	2,190	2,588,129	527,846	4,903,185
12	Rhode Island	143,740		2,646		8,619	132,475	135,686	2,498	3,785,096	3,572,999	1,059,361
13	Colorado	485,318		6,319		365,842	113,157	84,275	1,097	2,817,722	489,295	5,758,736
14	Pennsylvania	1,098,619		25,679		972,638	100,302	85,816	2,006	12,352,665	964,902	12,801,989
15	Missouri	586,636		9,213		483,088	94,335	95,583	1,501	6,570,117	1,070,500	6,137,428

4.2 COVID-19 USA News

- [So far, 5,800 fully vaccinated people have caught Covid anyway in US, CDC says](#)
 Despite administering almost 200 million doses, with over 77 million people fully vaccinated, the USA is reporting almost 5,800 cases in people who have received full vaccination. Of those, at least 7% required hospitalization, with 74 who have died. Experts are attempting to locate patterns on who may be at risk of getting COVID-19 despite a vaccine, currently they have no unexpected patterns which have been identified. 40% of those who were infected yet vaccinated were over the age of 60, with 65% being female and 29% being asymptomatic. These cases are expected, especially as the variants continue to increase and it is unknown exactly how effective the vaccine is against them. Additionally, as the vaccine trial did not find vaccines to be 100% effective, and as more people are getting vaccinated, it is likely that these types of cases will continue to be reported. Real life data has found that the vaccine was at least 91% effective for six months at reducing symptomatic disease, in comparison to the 95% efficacy found in clinical trials.
- [More COVID state shutdowns unlikely, despite CDC suggestion](#)
 The USA CDC has recently suggested that the spring spike of COVID-19 cases could “shut things down”, it is not likely that such measures will occur. As the USA is conducting vaccinations at some of the fastest speed in the world, together with the warm weather which may reduce the likelihood of catching COVID-19 outside in the sunshine, it is believed that compliance would be an issue should orders be put into action. Reimplementing shutdown will likely lead to political backlash and will likely be psychologically impactful for those who have been enjoying their new freedoms after a year of measures.
- [U.S. administers 194.8 mln doses of COVID-19 vaccines - CDC](#)

- [Nearly 7 million Americans might not get a COVID-19 vaccine because they don't know it's free](#)
- [Covid cases are rising in more than half of U.S. states, despite ramp-up in vaccinations](#)
- [U.S. parents begin to ask: Should my child get a COVID-19 shot?](#)

4.3 USA Awareness

- [Biden strikes international deal in bid to stop migrants reaching US border](#)

Record numbers of migrants and unaccompanied children have been trying to reach the USA border since Biden came into office. Since March, the USA saw a record number of migrants on the Southern Border, almost 170,000. The Biden administration has come to an agreement with Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras which will temporarily increase their border security to attempt to stop migrants from reaching the USA border. The purpose is to make the journey to the USA more difficult, including crossing various borders. The crisis at the border is fueled by a number of factors in Latin America, including corruption, organized crime, and hunger caused by climate change. Since Biden took office the number of migrants soared, as Biden removed a number of his predecessor's policies including the one which had asylum seekers wait in Mexico for a USA court hearing. The Biden administration also stopped border officials from being allowed to speak to the media. It is likely that unless policies are implemented which stop migrants from coming, the USA will continue to be inundated with illegal migrants attempting to claim asylum. The largest number of individuals have come from Mexico, almost all of whom were single adults arriving in the USA. It is unclear what type of treatment or conditions they are escaping; however, those from Guatemala and Honduras are more likely to be part of a family, or children travelling alone. Although it is understandable that some people may flee horrible conditions, it is not possible for the USA to take in all those that require assistance. Reports from migrant facilities suggest that children are being held for longer than the legally allowed 72 hours to be processed, in holding facilities which do not allow for social distancing.

- [The FBI might have gone ahead and fixed your Microsoft email server](#)

An FBI operation with an authorized court warrant has allowed the organization to access hundreds of USA computers that have been hacked through the Microsoft Exchange email program in an effort to delete code that was put in by hackers. Although the FBI has been known to hack into computers of suspects, it is a first for the FBI to actively hack into computers of citizens to remove malicious code simply to help them and not to investigate them. Microsoft stated last month that Chinese government hackers have been exploiting flaws in the code of the Microsoft Exchange. The code left on the Exchange would allow hackers to remotely control the system, and despite Microsoft and the USA Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security releasing information about patching and remedying of the systems, many have not taken the steps to do so. For this reason, the FBI requested a warrant allowing it to hack into the computers of those still affected, "in order to level the playing field" and "be much more active, defensively". Those whose computer will be accessed will be notified but not until later in May. In the process, it is possible that FBI experts could accidentally destruct or possibly misuse data, but it is believed the end goal is extremely important to ensure national security. China has been frequently active with digital attempts to infiltrate USA government and personal citizen information, and it is believed that state actors can use the internet and the systems it controls to inflict major havoc on American infrastructure or important organizations.

- [US troop withdrawal invites 'significant risk' of terrorism resurgence in Afghanistan, CIA director warns](#)
- [Leaked footage of 'pyramid-shaped' UFOs is real, Pentagon says](#)
- [U.S. retail sales post largest gain in 10 months; weekly jobless claims fall](#)
- [Republican lawmakers revive efforts to ban TikTok on government devices](#)
- [U.S. sanctions Russia for 2020 election interference, SolarWinds hack](#)

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



welund

During the week of 8-15 April, the majority of activist activity in the US noted by Welund took place in the government sector (62%), followed by oil and gas (11%) and law enforcement (8%). Protests made up most activity (55%), followed by critical commentary (8%), meetings/gatherings (6%) and webinars (6%).

The majority of activist activity this week was focused on the police shooting death of Duante Wright in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota.

The Build Back Fossil Free (BBFF) campaign wrapped up a 'week of action' to "escalate the demand for President Joe Biden to be a real Climate President." Relatedly, an activist group in the DMV held events on 4-11 April to "hold banks accountable through personal divestment." Supporters were encouraged to "ditch Main Street banks like Chase, Wells Fargo, Bank of America or Citi, and open accounts in credit unions that align with our values."

Protests: As US vaccinations against covid-19 increase, organizers continue to emphasize physical distancing and mask-wearing adaptations to protests. California, New York, and Minnesota saw the most protests this week.

On 9 April, hundreds demonstrated outside the headquarters of Wells Fargo and BlackRock to protest against the two companies' roles in financing an oil pipeline project in Minnesota. Activists painted a large street mural outside Wells Fargo headquarters on Montgomery Street before staging a rally.

On 11 April 2021, activists held a day of action to protest against Amazon. Socialist Alternative and its chapters organized the day of action to criticize Amazon over allegations of 'union busting' during the vote to unionize at its fulfillment center in Bessemer, Alabama.

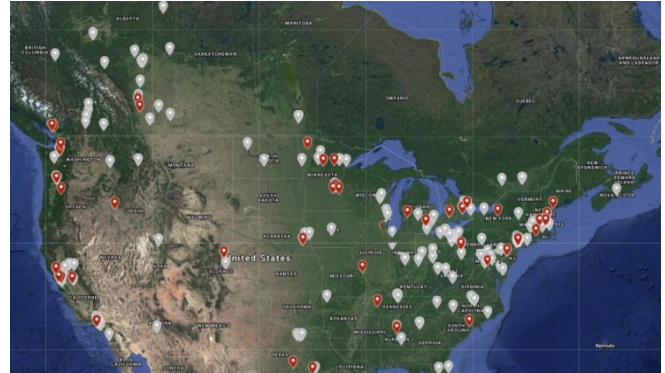
On 11 April, far-right activists held rallies in dozens of US cities to promote their movements and spread their ideologies to larger audiences. Despite the hype that the 'White Lives Matters' (WLM) events would make "the whole world tremble," the events were scarcely attended. The inability of the WLM movement to hold its day-of-action is indicative of the level of disorder among white nationalist, white supremacist, and far-right groups after the US Capitol riot.

Major protests calling for justice for Daunte Wright have largely been confined to the Minneapolis suburb of Brooklyn Center. These have featured clashes between police and protesters, centered around the Brooklyn Center police department. Portland, Oregon has also seen clashes between protesters and law enforcement.

Outlook: In the aftermath of the shooting of Daunte Wright, Welund expects continued protests near Brooklyn Center and solidarity protests in major cities in the US. Nightly protests are expected in Brooklyn Center, Minneapolis, and St. Paul. Upcoming major protests will take place in Los Angeles on 14 April and Oakland on 16 April.

Welund is monitoring three upcoming events for protest organizing: the trial of Derek Chauvin and related protest activity; Earth Day on 22 April; and May Day on 1 May.

Shareholder season has continued to attract attention from activists organizing anti-corporate campaigns. Events have been organized to prepare for upcoming shareholder meetings.



Past (grey) and upcoming (red) protest activity as noted by Welund between 8-21 April.

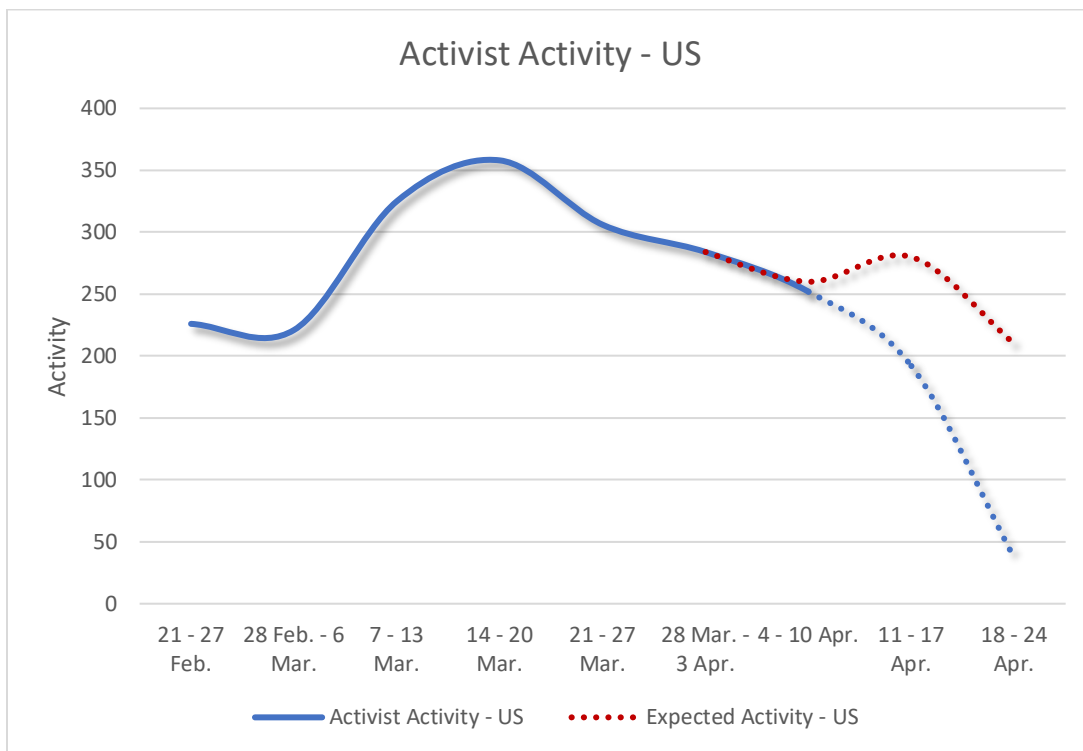


Figure 5 Total activist activity in the US as noted by Welund.

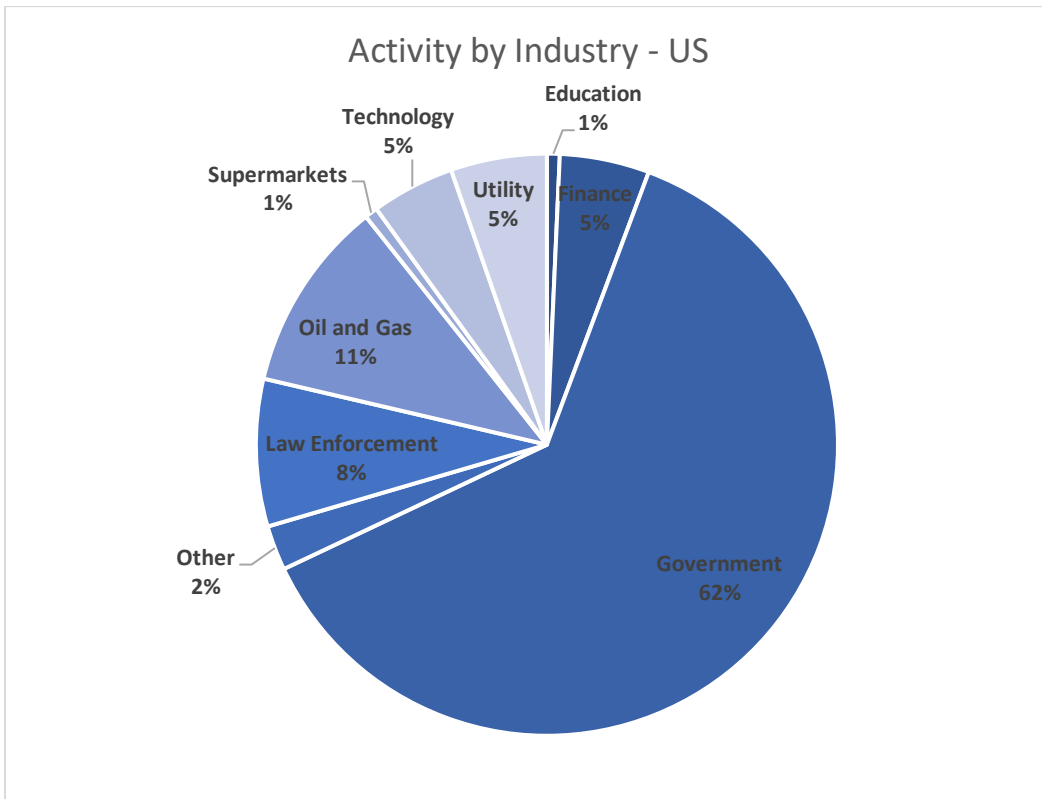


Figure 6 Activist activity in the US by industry as noted by Welund

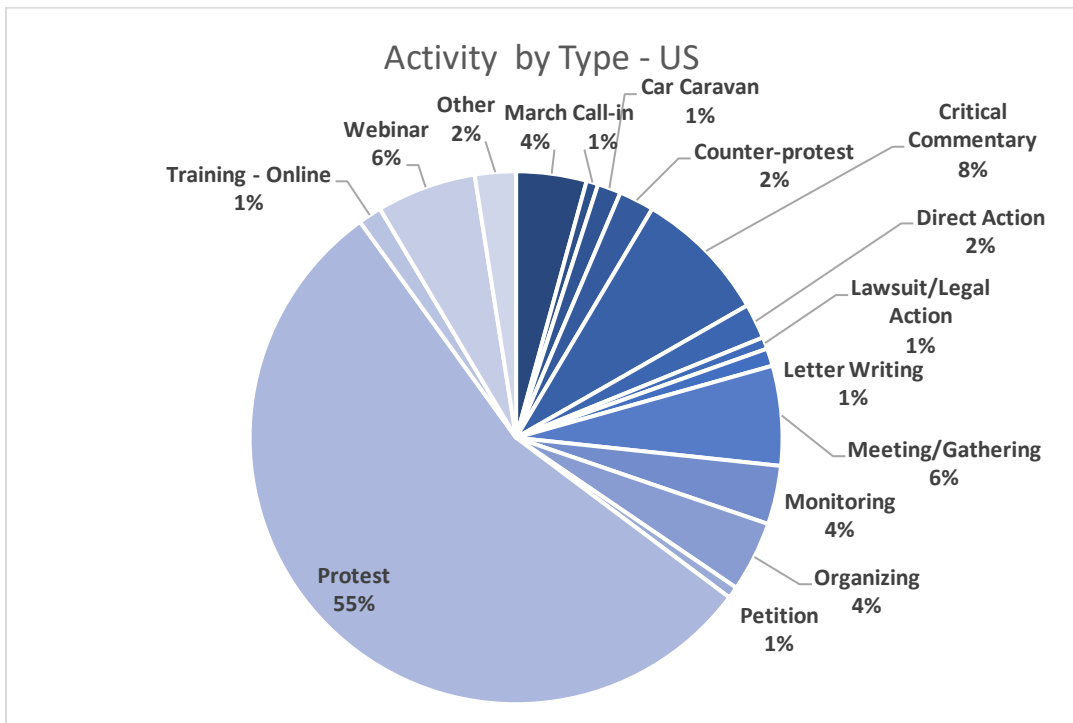


Figure 7 Activist activity in the US by type as noted by Welund.

End Report

Please submit feedback to:



*Local Experts.
Global Experience.*

Scott McGregor
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Paladin Risk Solutions Inc

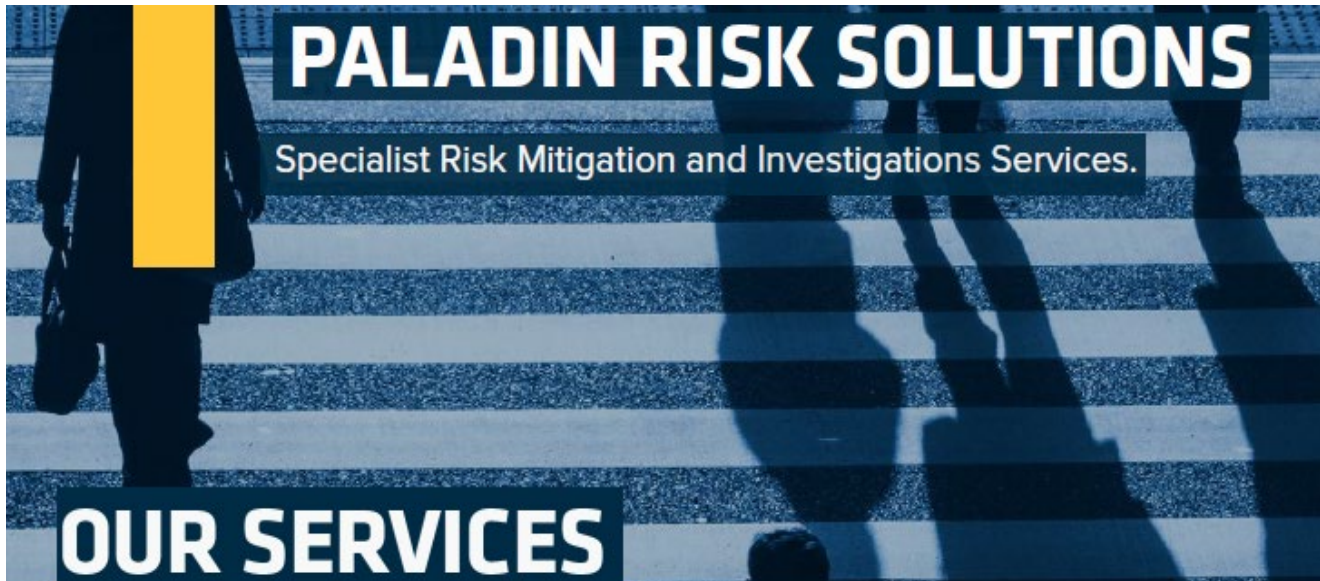
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5. PALADIN RISK SOLUTIONS - SERVICES



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- Risk assessments for extractive industries, airports, seaports, pipelines, water, buildings and assets
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