



# INTELLIGENCE REPORT

Situational awareness for stakeholders and decision makers.



Report # 21-026

23 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 .....	10
4. USA .....	13
4.1 COVID UPDATE .....	13
4.2 COVID-19 USA News .....	14
4.3 USA Awareness .....	14
4.4 USA – Political Extremism, Civil Unrest and Activism (Provided by Welund).....	15
5. PALADIN RISK SOLUTIONS - SERVICES .....	18

**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

As vaccinations are ramping up, businesses may soon be allowed to request proof of vaccinations for participation, and Canadian authorities are requesting proof of a negative COVID-19 test for travel, more individuals are wanting or even required to get their hands on such documentation. On hacking forums and the darknet, organized crime groups are selling fraudulent COVID-19 vaccines, forged negative COVID-19 tests and fake vaccine certificates.

Fake vaccination sales sites have been found operating from Mexico and Poland, from where frantic individuals to buy fake Pfizer vaccines. The fake vaccines found in Poland had anti-wrinkle treatment inside, while the ones in Mexico were given to over 80 people at a clinic, which were likely harmless but did not provide any protection against the virus. Organized crime often exploits desperate desire and takes advantage of the money which can be made off the longing for a vaccine. Vaccination-for-sale ads show prices often start at \$500, while a vaccine passport may be purchased for about \$250 and a negative COVID-19 result may be purchased in as little as \$25.

It is unclear how fake the products look and whether fake vaccination passports or COVID-19 tests would pass in countries which have set up procedures and proper documentation for such products. Reportedly, individuals who are interested in these are often older family members who may have not have reached the age threshold for vaccination, and are impatient and eager to travel.

According to the Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA), thirty (twenty via land and ten via air) suspected fraudulent COVID-19 tests. The agency is working with its domestic and international partners in detecting and intercepting these documents as soon as possible, and together with Transport Canada in ensuring that documentation is caught by the airline before it has landed on Canadian soil. This is a global problem, with a group of people arrested in a Paris airport for selling falsified digital certificates proving negative COVID-19 tests. A group of Brazilian travelers has also been accused of falsifying their own fake tests results when flying on a private jet. It is likely that globally fraudulent test results are being used by people daily as most countries do not have the resources to ensure that the provided tests are legitimate.

In March, the USA Food and Drug Administration (FDA) warned in March of fraudulent COVID-19 treatments which are marketed as effective or as a cure against the virus. The concern included Americans delay or stop the required medical treatment due to alternative or fraudulent medicines, possibly causing a more severe outcome for the disease. Fraudulent COVID-19 tests sold online may make people believe that they do not have COVID-19 and therefore unknowingly spread COVID-19 or receive appropriate treatment.

It is believed that various groups including organized crime groups and small-time hackers are involved in such scams where payments may be provided but no product is given or users may be tricked into clicking on links which may open their computers and cell phone to malware, compromising the systems of the individual. People should be getting vaccinated from trusted and credible sources provided by governmental agencies, and avoid buying any type of pandemic related products on the darknet. Similarly, any treatments and tests marketed for COVID-19 and sold online are likely fraudulent. These should not be ordered as money will only go into criminal organization's hands and undermine the efforts of health authorities to properly monitor and quantify the number of vaccinated persons in a given region.

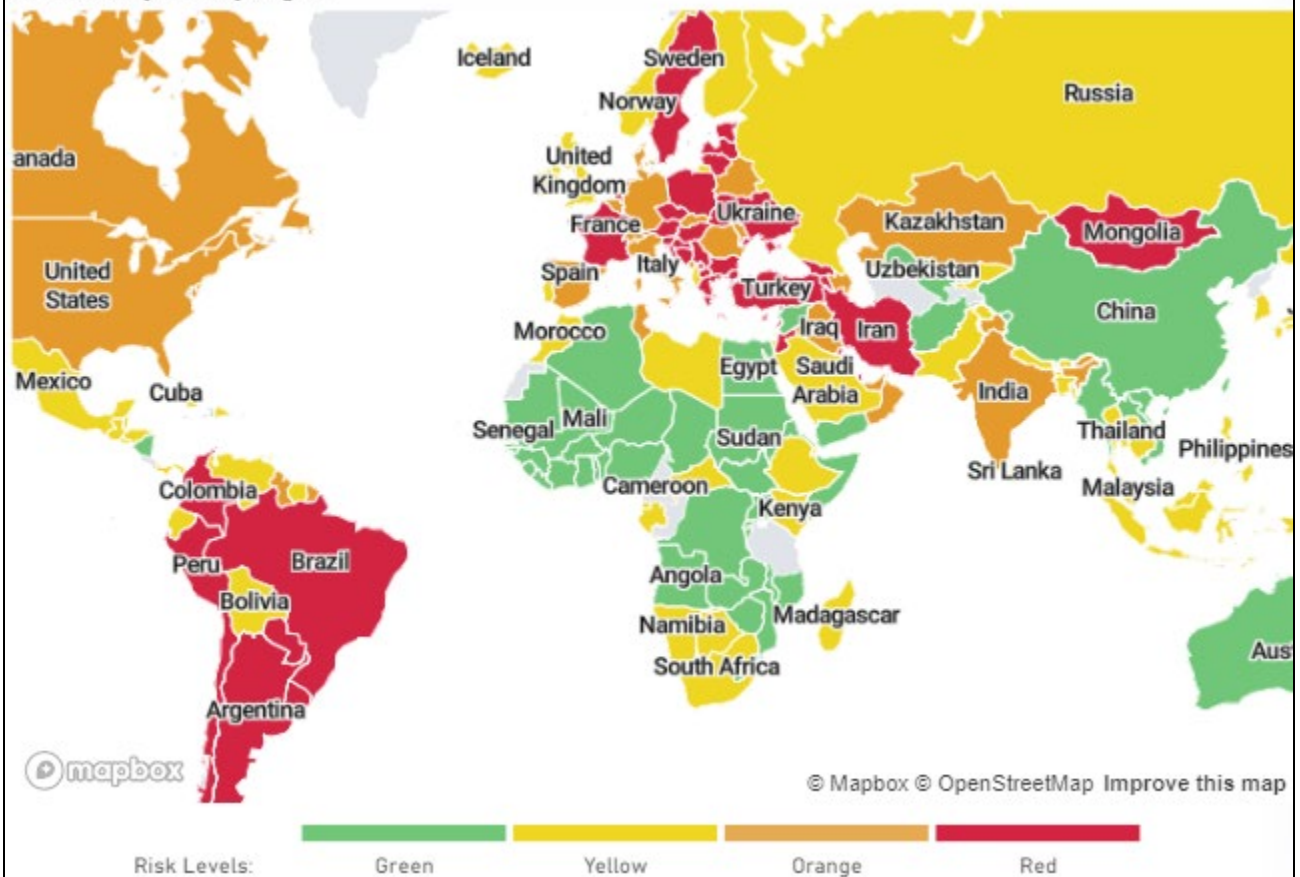
## 2. GLOBAL

### 2.1 COVID UPDATE

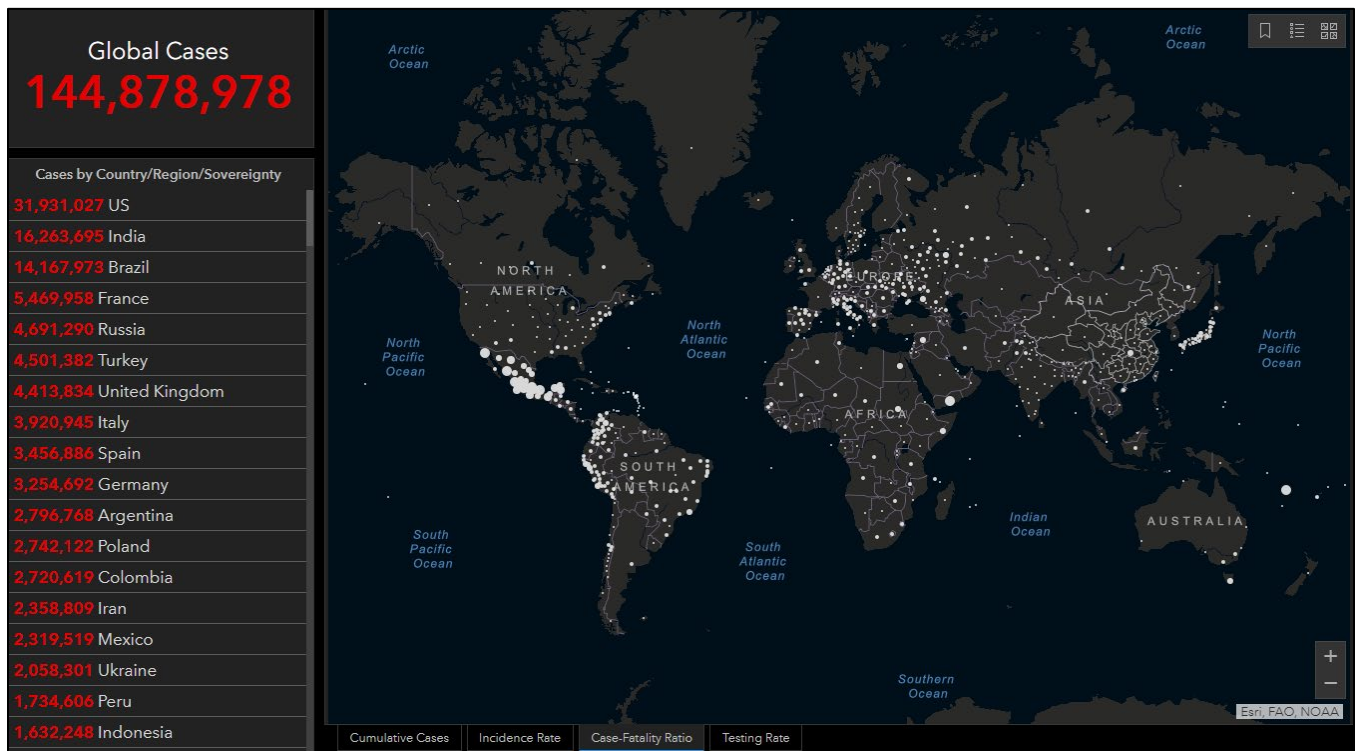
Country/Region	United States
Daily new cases per 100k people (7d moving avg.)	19.5
Risk level	Orange
Total cases	31,952,662
Total deaths	571,846

Country/Region	Canada
Daily new cases per 100k people (7d moving avg.)	22.9
Risk level	Orange
Total cases	1,139,043
Total deaths	23,713

Risk Levels by Country/Region



#	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
	World	145,631,634	+306,983	3,089,271	+4,643	123,838,918	18,703,445	110,174	18,683	396.3		
1	<a href="#">USA</a>	32,671,180	+2,059	584,255	+29	25,236,927	6,849,998	9,951	98,239	1,757	435,490,343	1,309,473
2	<a href="#">India</a>	16,378,571	+121,262	187,390	+462	13,692,182	2,498,999	8,944	11,775	135	274,445,653	197,310
3	<a href="#">Brazil</a>	14,172,139		383,757		12,673,785	1,114,597	8,318	66,294	1,795	28,600,000	133,783
4	<a href="#">France</a>	5,408,606		102,164		4,242,893	1,063,549	5,981	82,713	1,562	73,468,365	1,123,538
5	<a href="#">Turkey</a>	4,501,382		37,329		3,909,935	554,118	3,463	52,914	439	45,040,704	529,453
6	<a href="#">Italy</a>	3,920,945		118,357		3,330,392	472,196	3,021	64,927	1,960	56,250,055	931,448
7	<a href="#">Iran</a>	2,358,809	+22,904	68,746	+380	1,850,791	439,272	5,107	27,797	810	14,966,149	176,366
8	<a href="#">Ukraine</a>	2,004,630	+14,277	41,700	+434	1,552,267	410,663	177	46,061	958	9,089,301	208,849
9	<a href="#">Germany</a>	3,249,663	+11,609	81,794	+101	2,865,000	302,869	5,049	38,686	974	54,061,332	643,585
10	<a href="#">Argentina</a>	2,796,768		60,620		2,449,793	286,355	4,791	61,427	1,331	10,521,258	231,084
11	<a href="#">Poland</a>	2,742,122	+10,858	64,707	+539	2,401,457	275,958	3,223	72,518	1,711	13,901,801	367,645
12	<a href="#">Russia</a>	4,744,961	+8,840	107,501	+398	4,371,214	266,246	2,300	32,503	736	127,100,000	870,637
13	<a href="#">Hungary</a>	764,394	+3,427	26,208	+207	474,147	264,039	844	79,290	2,719	5,233,530	542,869
14	<a href="#">Mexico</a>	2,319,519	+3,708	214,095	+498	1,841,964	263,460	4,798	17,839	1,647	6,487,007	49,891
15	<a href="#">Netherlands</a>	1,445,064	+9,210	17,016	+14	1,203,943	224,105	836	84,184	991	11,781,337	686,338



### Global Case to Fatality Ratios

## 2.2 COVID-19 World News

- [Masks, Distancing Can Be Relaxed If You Are Vaccinated, EU Says](#)  
The European Union has come out with guidelines for the fully vaccinated, relaxing some COVID-19 measures including mask requirements and social distancing rules. This can only occur for those who are fully vaccinated when meeting other fully vaccinated individuals, or other individuals who may have not received the vaccine but are not at a higher risk for severe disease. As more individuals get vaccinated, it is likely that further relaxation of measures will occur. Additionally, those who have been vaccinated will likely not be required to undergo testing or quarantine when travelling, or when being tested at the workplace.
- [‘The system has collapsed’: India’s descent into Covid hell](#)  
In the last two days, India has reported global record numbers of new cases of over 300,000 a day. Deaths soared to more than 2,000 a day, also a record in a country that seemed to have a lower death rate considering its infection rate. Empty beds are difficult to find, with ambulances driving from hospital to hospital to locate one. A 51 one year old tried six hospitals to find an open bed but by the time she was admitted she had already passed away. Almost all ventilators are in use and the hospitals are understaff and overflowing with patients, some of whom cannot receive proper treatment due to lack of oxygen or ambulances. The government hospitals in Delhi advised they would run out of oxygen within 24 hours while the private hospitals had a few hours’ worth only. Oxygen replenishments are not expected to be enough for those who need it. India is also running out of COVID-19 tests, expected to worsen the problem as possibly sick people are not isolating due to lack of testing results. The health demand caught people off guard, as it is three times the size of last year’s demand. It is believed that the Indian double mutant variant may be at fault for the surge in cases, which has been slowly spreading to other countries. It is unclear whether the variant is more transmissible or deadly, and scientists are currently trying to understand the variant. It is yet to be labelled a variant of concern but may be labelled as such after further understanding of it.
- [New UK challenge trial studies if people can catch coronavirus again](#)  
A first of its kind study conducted in the UK will expose previously recovered COVID-19 patients to the virus deliberately, in an effort to evaluate their immune response and see whether they can be reinfected. This will not include vaccinated individuals and participants will have to be quarantined for at least 17 days while they undergo tests and scans. The researchers will look for the lowest dose of COVID-19 that is required in order for it to be replicated in 50% of the participants while producing little to no symptoms, while the second phase will infect volunteers with that standard dose. The infected participants will be treated with the Regeneron monoclonal antibody treatment. The work will assist in understanding the immune response against reinfection and assist in designing better treatments for the virus.
- [COVID vaccines and blood clots: five key questions](#)
- [India’s Covaxin Neutralizes Double Mutant Strain, Says Research Body ICMR](#)
- [How long does protection from COVID-19 vaccines last?](#)
- [EU regulator backs use of Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine despite finding possible link to blood clots](#)

## 2.3 Global Awareness

- [Xi calls for new world order as he warns against economic decoupling](#)  
During the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference, China’s leader Xi Jinping has launched an attack into the USA and its “bossing” of international affairs. Although Jinping did not specifically name the country, it did mention the country’s attempt to decouple supply chains and ban the sale of American semi-conductors and



other high-tech goods which are critical to Chinese companies such as Huawei. He further stated that “unilateralism of individual countries should not give the whole world a rhythm”. The comments were made a few days after USA President Joe Biden and Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga had committed to collaboration in opposing the recent Chinese coercion in the South and East China seas, including around Taiwan and Philippines. The USA has also been critical of China’s crackdown on Hong Kong and human rights abuses of the Uyghurs in China. Despite the tensions, economically, USA businesses are enthusiastic about business with China, which has seen enormous economic growth in the first quarter of 2021.

- [Putin warns West of harsh response if it crosses Russia’s ‘red lines’](#)

On Wednesday, Russian President Vladimir Putin warned the west to not cross any of Russia’s “red lines”, lest it would respond quickly and harshly to any provocation, adding that the responsible parties would “regret” the act. Russia has amassed troops around Ukraine, although on Thursday ordered most back to base, and is keeping the nation’s opposition leader Alexei Navalny in jail, where he is on a hunger strike. Putin continued that he wishes for “good relations” with the West and does not want to “burn bridges”, but cautioned that should a red line be crossed, Russia would respond “asymmetrically”. Putin accused countries of picking on Russia for no reason, almost as a sport, in a known tactic by Russia where it acts as both a victim and a bully of the West. It is believed Russia will continue to see the West’s sanctions and other actions as retaliatory. Furthermore, it is likely to impose its own retaliatory actions on any countries whose actions are perceived as aggressive, or can be spun as such.

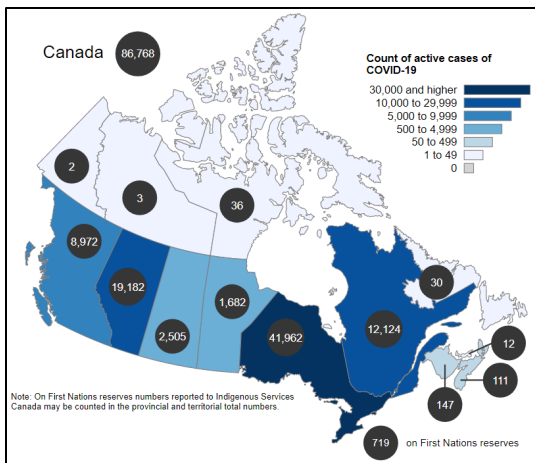
- [COVID pushes criminals away from cash and into digital banking](#)
- [Europeans see progress in Iran talks, major hurdles remain](#)
- [EU warns “spark” could set off escalation at Ukraine borders](#)
- [Australia cancels Belt and Road deals; China warns of further damage to ties](#)


## 2.4 Political Extremism, Civil Unrest and Activism

- [Russia arrests over 450 at rallies for hunger-striking Navalny](#)
- [German police clash with anti-lockdown protesters](#)

## 3. CANADA

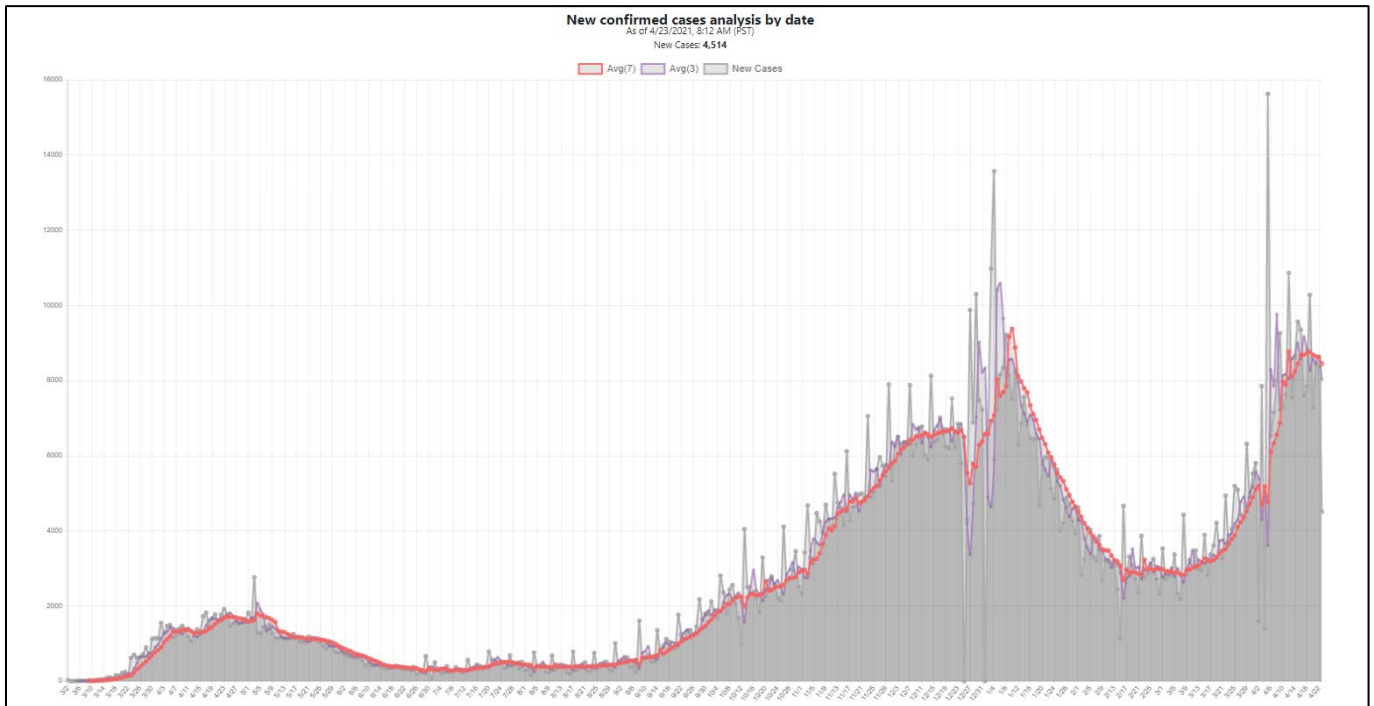
### 3.1 COVID UPDATE



Prov.	Total Confirmed	Total Deaths	Total Recovered	Total Active
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,160,356</b> (↑4,514)	<b>23,856</b> (↑34)	<b>1,049,954</b> (↑4,706)	<b>86,303</b> (-226)
BC	122,757	1,550	112,235	8,733
ON	437,310 (↑4,505)	7,863 (↑34)	387,712 (↑4,696)	41,735 (-227)
QC	341,645	10,845	318,676	12,124
AB	177,087	2,054	155,851	19,182
MB	36,890	962	34,246	1,682
NB	1,823	34	1,642	147
SK	39,137	470	36,162	2,505
PEI	175	0	161	14
NL	1,052	6	1,016	26
NS	1,894	67	1,716	111
YT	80	1	75	4
NT	52	0	49	3
NU	441 (↑9)	4	400 (↑8)	37 (↑1)
	13	0	13	0
Rate of change	↑ 0.4%	↑ 0.1%	↑ 0.5%	-0.3%

Prov.	Total Test	Total Waiting	Total Hosp	Total ICU
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,987,019</b> (+56,329)	-	-	-
BC	2,434,815	-	502	161
ON	13,778,955 (+56,206)	31,363 (-1964)	2287 (-63)	818 (+12)
QC	8,319,113	-	711	174
AB	4,016,838	-	518	116
MB	633,974	-	76	21
NB	280,010	-	15	5
SK	741,278	-	177	49
PEI	132,476	-	-	-
NL	130,909	-	1	0
NS	481,536	-	3	0
YT	8,758	23	-	-
NT	17,398	126	0	0
NU	10,959 (+123)	254	0	0
Rate of change	↑ 0.2%	-	-	-





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

### 3.2 COVID-19 Canada News

- ['You will not be able to do it': Former solicitor general doubts B.C. can enforce travel restriction](#)

BC released information on Monday that as of Friday, an order banning travel between health authorities will be enacted. Details are scarce, and some information was already confusing to residents who are wondering how this order would be enforced. During the news conference, BC Premier John Horgan stated that roadblocks will be set up to stop vehicles and question people on where they are living and what they are travelling for. Horgan advised it was similar to the random checks conducted for Counter Attack during Christmas time for impaired driving. Similar plans in Ontario, which gave police extra powers, were quickly changed due to public backlash and a lack of agreement with policing agencies for enforcement. On Thursday, Ontario Premier Doug Ford broke down on camera and advised he overreached his powers. Similarly, in BC, former Solicitor General and Police Chief, Kash Heed, expressed his opinion that police agencies will not enforce the order. Heed also advised that Counter Attack programs are very expensive as they are usually done on officer overtime hours, which is double their normal pay. The BC Civil Liberties Association is also expressing concern about the definition of essential travel, whether the rules would apply to people on transit, cyclists and pedestrians, and is worried about these checks being more likely to occur against people of color.
- [Biden talks with Trudeau about sending more COVID-19 vaccine doses to Canada](#)

The USA advised about a month ago that it will be providing Canada with about 1.5 million of the AstraZeneca vaccine, while Mexico was loaned 2.5 million doses. Additionally, on Wednesday USA President Joe Biden hinted at more doses coming to Canada, which are reportedly being negotiated. The USA has administered over 250 million doses, with 50% of its eligible population getting the first shot of the vaccine. It is reportedly also looking to assist Central America with vaccine doses.

- [Top Canadian WHO adviser under fire after downplaying airborne threat of COVID-19](#)

A Canadian doctor who is a top adviser to the World Health Organizations (WHO) is denying that aerosol transmission of COVID-19 may be the primary method of transmission, despite international experts finding more and more evidence for such. Dr. John Conly, a professor at the University of Calgary and an infectious disease physician, has added that N95 masks could even cause harm. During a panel discussion about airborne transmission in Calgary, he advised that masks can cause acne, eczema, conjunctivitis, CO2 retention and decreased O2 Concentrations in pregnant women. Most of this information is incorrect as studies from as early as 2014 have found no difference in levels of pregnant women wearing N95 masks. He noted that airborne settings may be situational but did not believe that it was the primary means of transmission. Should the WHO change its position that aerosol transmission is the main mode of transmission, it would cause major implications as employers will need to increase air ventilation and provide more appropriate personal protective equipment. Last year, 239 scientists signed a letter to WHO to update its risk level of airborne transmission. A recent paper indicated that there is strong evidence of airborne transmission, specifically due to superspreading events, long-range infections, the higher likelihood of indoor transmission, and detection of virus particles in the air.

- [Ottawa consulting on stricter border measures, won't stop flights from India](#)

- [U.S. the biggest source of COVID-19 brought into Canada, study finds](#)

- [Doug Ford confirms paid sick leave program for workers coming, apologizes for backtracking](#)

### 3.3 Canada Awareness

- [As Canada's federal and provincial budgets swell, sales-tax increases may follow](#)

Canada has released its first budget since COVID-19 has started, with a number of new measures including a national childcare system, overhauling the Employment Insurance program, increasing Old Age Security benefits. The government appears to be increasing transfers to older individuals and lower income workers, which means permanent higher spending and are above assisting the country through the last months of the pandemic and restarting the economy. The federal deficit was at \$354 billion for 2020-2021, and is expected to be at \$155 billion for 2021-22, with over \$50 billion for the next two years after. Federal debt will continue to be at 50% of GDP until at least 2025-26, which may mean higher taxes. An increase in the GST rate, which since 2008 has been at 5%, would increase revenues for the government. The reason why GST increases are preferred are that they do not discourage people from working like personal income taxes do. Discouraging people from working only reduces economic growth, which then stops input into the government's ability to assist those who cannot work. Sales tax is also less discouraging than corporate taxes, as it is more of a broad and robust tax. Other experts believe that the budget may not increase permanent spending that would put Canada on a path of its expenses growing faster than its GDP.

- ['Practically impossible' to keep COVID-19 variants out, officials say, as flights from hotspots continue](#)

Canada's top pandemic doctors warned that it is "practically impossible" to keep mutations of COVID-19 out of the country. Instead, they referenced the need to ensure our own efforts and response when they do inevitably get inside the country. Testing and contact tracing are cited as important ongoing measures to ensure reduction of transmission, instead of focusing on border solutions. Since April 6, 2021, more than 100 international flights arrived with at least one positive COVID-19 case, but the government is insisting that since

the variants of concerns have emerged it has tightened its border measures and is sequencing all positive cases arriving at the border. India is seeing a record number of new cases, and the Ontario government has reportedly been “pleading” with federal authorities to ban flights from India and other hot spots, as many other countries have done. The government is also reluctant to advise a country specific flight ban because many variants are already outside of the country they emerged in, and can be found between 40 and 50 other countries. However, on Thursday, the federal government put a ban on flights from India and Pakistan for 30 days. For most Canadians, even some form of reduction of transmission is seen as positive, whether it is 100% effective or not, especially as vaccinations continue to be lower than required to balance the variant’s risk.

- [Three confidence votes to determine fate of minority Liberal government](#)
- [5 things in the Trudeau government's budget that have nothing to do with spending](#)
- [Canada's annual inflation jumped in March due to plunge in prices last year](#)
- [Trudeau increases Canada’s 2030 emissions target to 40-45%](#)

### 3.4 Canada – Political Extremism, Civil Unrest and Activism



welund

During the week of 15-22 April 2021, the majority of activity in Canada noted by Welund focused on the government sector (62%), followed by oil and gas (8%). Protests made up the majority of activity (34%), followed by critical commentary (14%).

Covid-19 restrictions continue to have a polarizing effect on activist activity in Canada, especially in provinces that have implemented the strictest mandates to combat rising infection rates. Overall, activist activity has been constrained by the restrictions, forcing most campaign groups to resort to online actions. However, in-person activity related to anti-lockdown, anti-mask, and anti-curfew protests has risen over the past week.

**Protests:** In Calgary, anti-lockdown protesters held a ‘Freedom Rally’ on 18 April that hosted prominent Toronto-based anti-lockdown organizer Chris Sky as a speaker. The rally attracted counter-protesters, who the anti-lockdown organizers claimed were members of ‘Antifa’ attempting to disrupt the event. Despite the groups being in close proximity, no physical confrontations were reported. The protest was held one day after the Alberta-wide anti-lockdown ‘Super Rally’, which saw protests across the province.

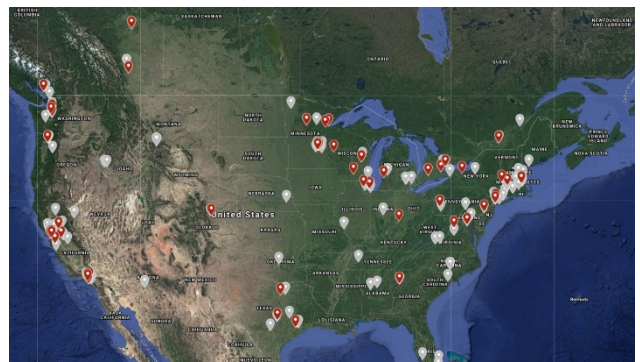


Figure 1: Past and upcoming protest activity as noted by Welund between 14-28 April 2021

In a separate incident, anti-mask protesters in Calgary targeted the downtown location of the Co-Op grocery chain to protest against its recently announced ‘zero tolerance’ mask policy.

The Line Canada held a large anti-lockdown march through southwestern Toronto to oppose increased restrictions and the extension of the mandatory ‘stay-at-home’ order by the Ontario provincial government. During the march, protesters dropped a banner and held signs from a pedestrian bridge over the Gardiner Expressway before attending a rally at Trinity Bellwoods Park.

Earth Day on 22 April also saw a series of campaigns by climate change, environmental, and divestment groups, focused on the oil and gas sector, fossil fuel divestment, and the federal government’s commitment to climate change policies. The majority of these actions were virtual due to covid-19 restrictions.

**Outlook:** Anti-lockdown activity will continue to be a focus in Canada as activists have organized a series of upcoming protests in multiple cities across the country. Anti-curfew protesters in Montreal have announced additional protests on 23 April and 1 May. Organizers have called for ‘anarchist-style’ actions as part of the 1 May protest, which could result in acts of vandalism and arson similar to what was seen last week. Chris Sky has also called for a cross-Canada ‘Freedom Convoy’ anti-lockdown event, in which protesters would drive from Vancouver and stop in multiple cities before arriving at an undisclosed location in Eastern Canada. Additionally, cities across Canada have also started to organize for a second ‘Worldwide Rally for Freedom’ on 15 May.

Labour and worker rights groups have also begun organizing events for May Day on 1 May. Anti-fascist groups have called for an anti-capitalist protest in Montreal in support of worker rights. Labour groups have also organized a similar event to support worker unions in Toronto.

Extinction Rebellion Vancouver’s ‘spring rebellion’ has events planned for 1-3 May and is expected to announce additional events on 4-5 May in the coming weeks. Actions will focus on a protest at Vancouver City Hall, highlighted during the group’s recent Cambie Bridge occupation.

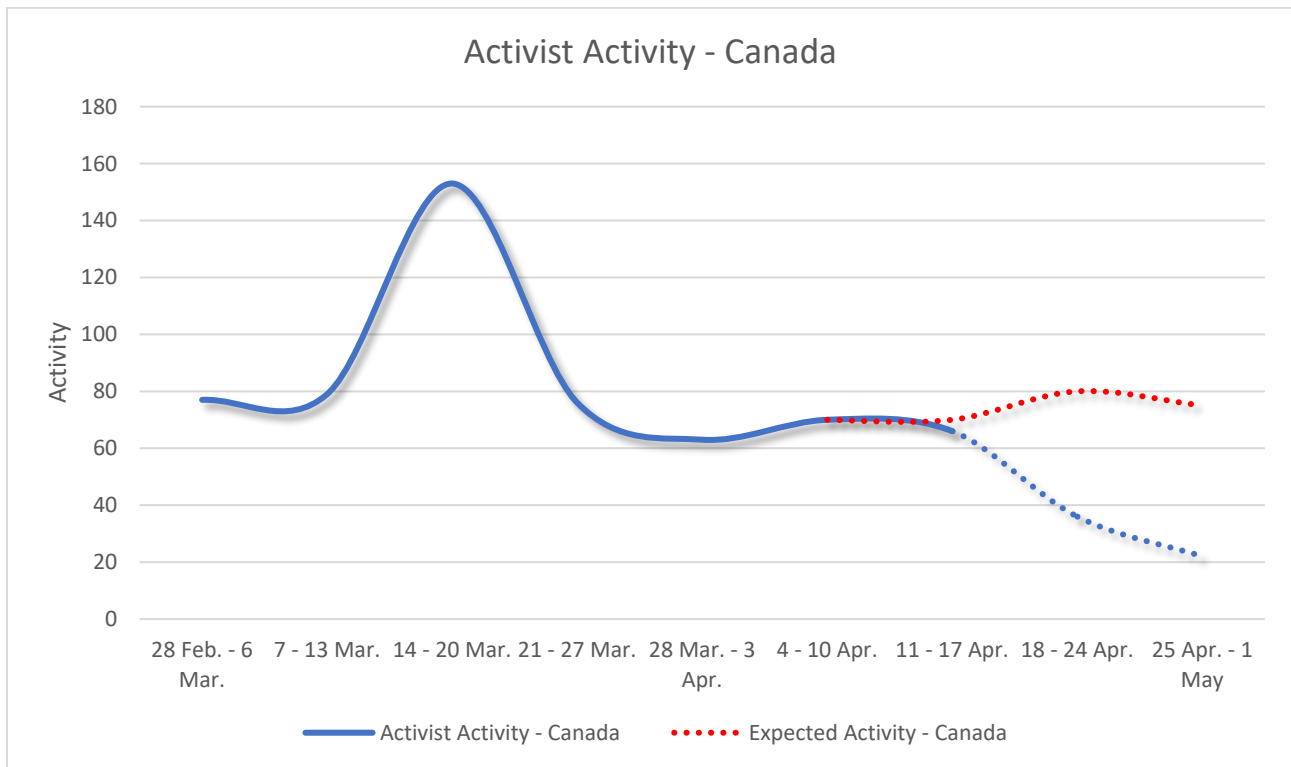


Figure 2 Total activist activity in Canada as noted by Welund.

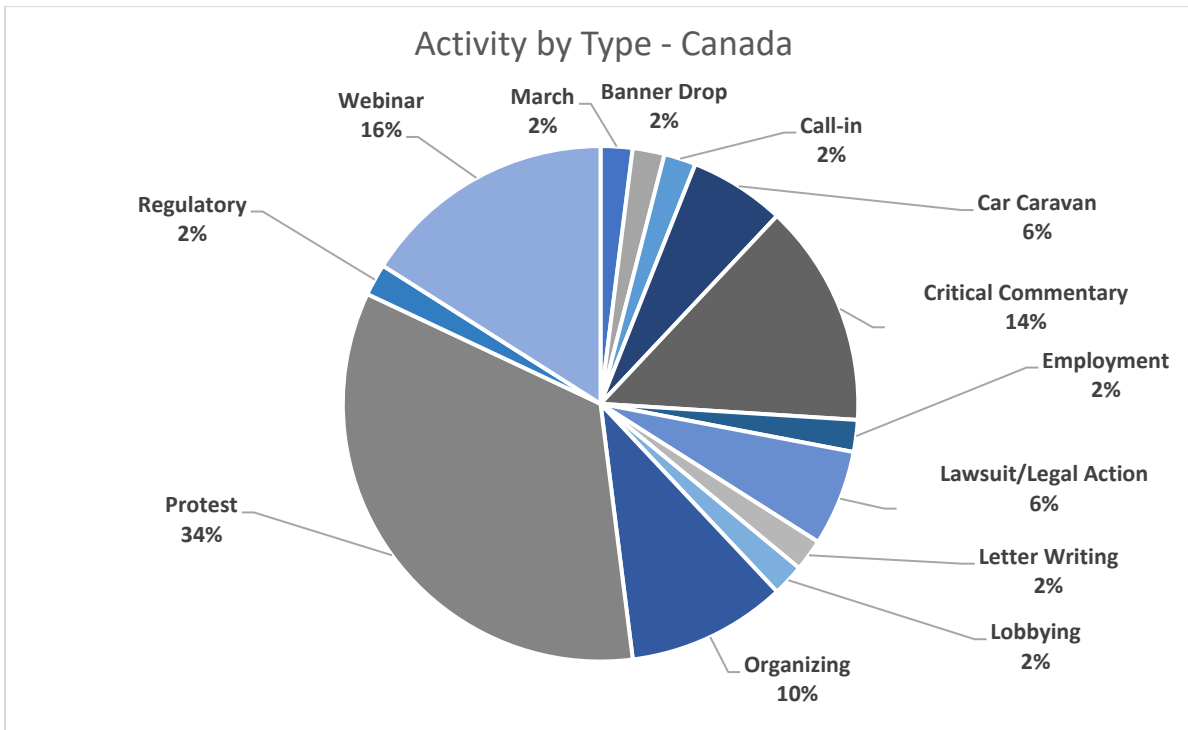


Figure 3 Activist activity in Canada by type as noted by Welund

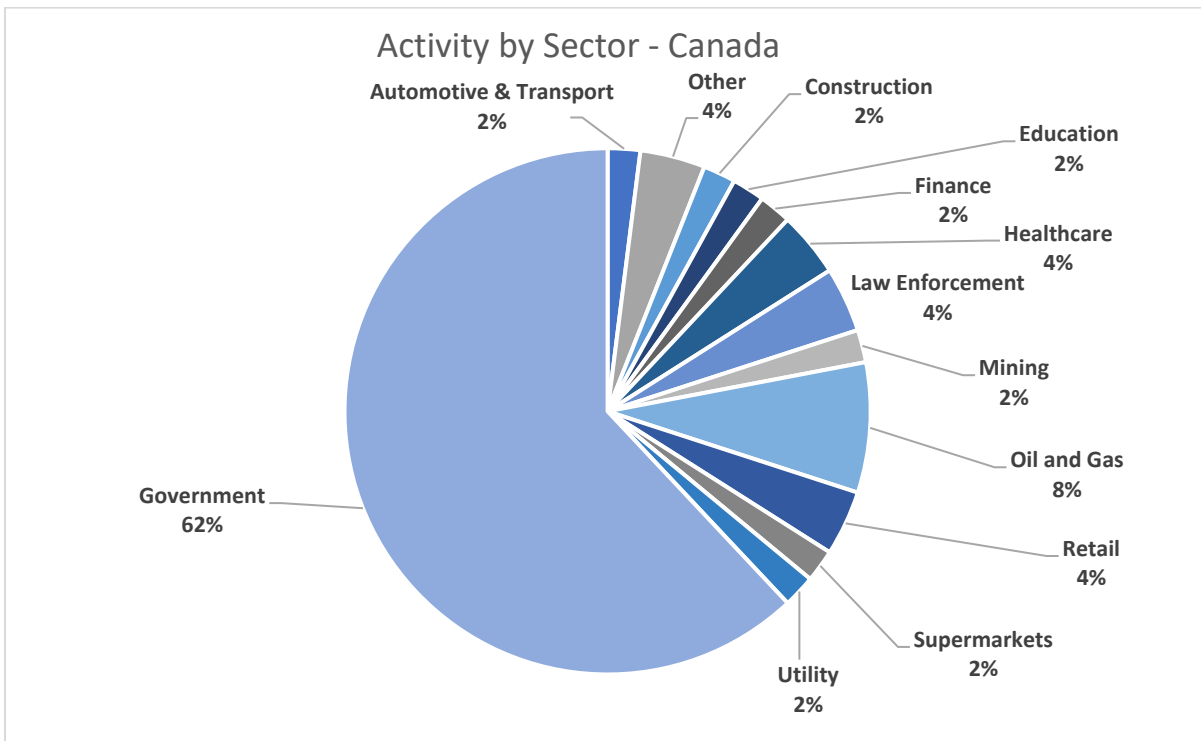
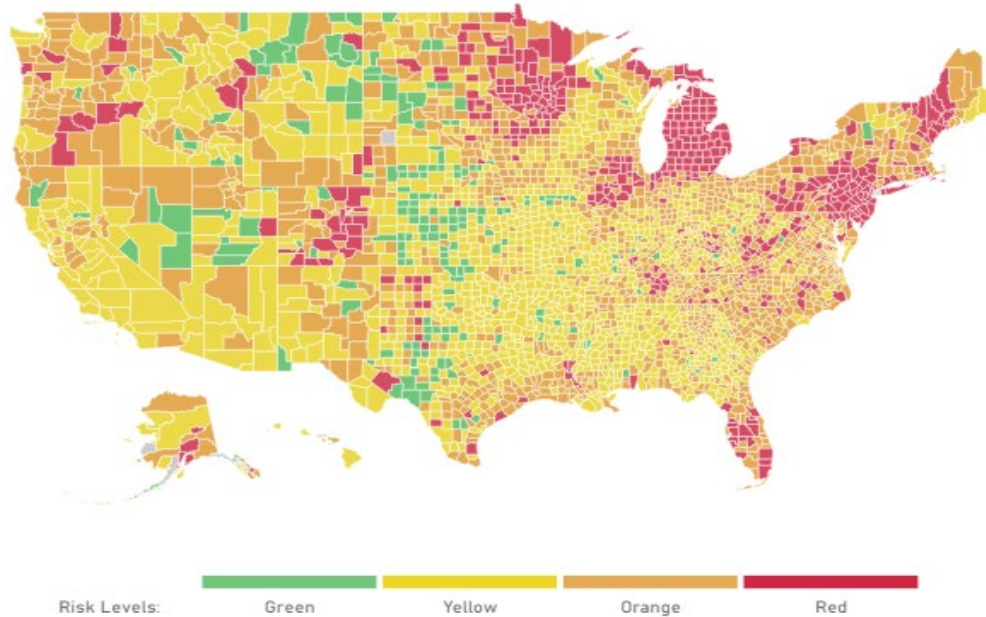


Figure 4 Activist activity in Canada by sector as noted by Welund.

## 4. USA

### 4.1 COVID UPDATE

Risk Levels by County



#	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	32,671,180	+2,059	584,255	+29	25,236,927	6,849,998	98,704	1,765	435,490,343	1,315,670	
1	<a href="#">California</a>	3,728,396		61,308		1,980,810	1,686,278	94,361	1,552	58,457,133	1,479,470	39,512,223
2	<a href="#">New York</a>	2,063,812		52,090		1,418,475	593,247	106,089	2,678	49,669,127	2,553,215	19,453,561
3	<a href="#">Virginia</a>	650,981		10,653		54,066	586,262	76,267	1,248	9,020,378	1,056,805	8,535,519
4	<a href="#">Maryland</a>	441,155	+1,163	8,633	+8	10,139	422,383	72,970	1,428	9,471,114	1,566,592	6,045,680
5	<a href="#">Florida</a>	2,191,038		34,712		1,740,619	415,707	102,014	1,616	27,096,043	1,261,587	21,477,737
6	<a href="#">Kentucky</a>	439,551		6,381		50,979	382,191	98,385	1,428	5,382,662	1,204,802	4,467,673
7	<a href="#">Michigan</a>	900,956		18,251		603,094	279,611	90,214	1,828	13,106,564	1,312,381	9,986,857
8	<a href="#">New Jersey</a>	990,580		25,301		758,444	206,835	111,524	2,849	13,096,152	1,474,428	8,882,190
9	<a href="#">Georgia</a>	1,089,497		19,875		869,332	200,290	102,614	1,872	8,676,272	817,173	10,617,423
10	<a href="#">Washington</a>	393,926		5,476		188,471	199,979	51,731	719	6,369,809	836,494	7,614,893
11	<a href="#">Alabama</a>	525,477	+428	10,840	+16	331,915	182,722	107,171	2,211	2,612,607	532,839	4,903,185
12	<a href="#">Rhode Island</a>	146,028		2,660		8,772	134,596	137,845	2,511	3,895,275	3,677,004	1,059,361
13	<a href="#">Colorado</a>	496,882		6,368		377,287	113,227	86,283	1,106	2,862,393	497,052	5,758,736
14	<a href="#">Pennsylvania</a>	1,128,145		25,989		999,169	102,987	88,123	2,030	12,674,665	990,054	12,801,989
15	<a href="#">Illinois</a>	1,312,722		24,056		1,194,844	93,822	103,594	1,898	22,008,695	1,736,822	12,671,821



## 4.2 COVID-19 USA News

- [U.S. vaccination pace holds above 3 million shots per day for two weeks straight](#)  
As of Thursday, over 40% of USA citizens have received at least one shot, with one in four people fully vaccinated. An average of 63,800 infections are reported daily, but the USA is still making strong headway with the vaccine, administering over 3 million shots every day for the past two weeks. Recently the Johnson and Johnson vaccine rollout was suspended after six women developed rare blood clots, but the USA stated that it would still have enough Pfizer and Moderna vaccine to ensure enough vaccinations for all.
- [Is it still necessary to wear masks outdoors? CDC 'looking at' revising mask guidance](#)  
With so many Americans vaccinated, experts wonder whether outdoor masks mandates are still needed. This week, the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention stated that the agency is looking at changing its outdoor mask guidance. Several states are already looking to loosen the restrictions, including North Carolina, New York City and Connecticut. For large events where people are close together for a lengthy period of time, including rallies or sports events in areas, may still require masks, but going for a run without a mask is of a low risk of transmission. Should the CDC decide to remove outdoor masks mandates, it should provide guidelines to regarding what outdoor situations would be considered of a higher risk than others.
- [Simple oral hygiene could help reduce COVID-19 severity - study](#)
- [California's coronavirus case rate now the lowest in the continental U.S.](#)
- [Scientist who helped develop Pfizer-BioNTech Covid vaccine agrees third shot is needed as immunity wanes](#)

## 4.3 USA Awareness

- [Biden summit draws climate vows from sparring global leaders](#)  
On Thursday, USA President Joe Biden had some of the world's most important leaders to together to try to find partners for his global efforts against climate change. Despite the problems the USA has faced with China and Russia, their leaders agreed to cooperate with the USA on climate change issues. Biden's promise was to cut USA fossil fuel emissions up to 52% by 2030, and his vision includes clean energy, electrical power grids and batteries as fuels, and workers capping old oil, gas and coal sites. During the summer, Japan announced a target of 46% emissions, and China, although did not commit to a number, advised that it would work together with the USA in cutting emissions. Russia also did not promise a specific emission cut either, but expressed its genuine interest in looking for effective solutions to climate change. Both Russia and China, who are some of the fossil fuel polluters in the world, made no mention of previous conflicts with the West, and all states appeared to come together to each do their part on this global issue. The USA also returned to the Paris Climate Accord after the previous administration opted out of it.
- [US jobless claims fall to 547,000, another pandemic low](#)  
Encouraging job numbers are a sign that the job market is improving, with the USA posting only 547,000 new unemployment claims last week, a record low since the pandemic started. Work opportunities will continue to rise as more than 135 million Americans have received at least one dose of a vaccine, and more and more economies and states are opening up. There are still 17 million Americans who received unemployment benefits, declining about 2.3 million from early March. People are likely being rehired but there are some individuals who have likely exhausted their long-term unemployment benefits. Overall, the numbers are looking good and the USA has added almost one million jobs last month, the most since last summer and the

unemployment rate fell to 6%, a number that at its peak was almost 15%. However, employers are still finding it difficult to find workers despite high unemployment, factors which can be due to people being sick with the virus, child care responsibilities and the unemployment supplement of 300\$ provided by the federal government in addition to state aid. Some low-income workers may be receiving more income from these benefits compared to their former job's salary.

- [Organized crime groups are selling fake COVID-19 vaccines and forged negative tests, expert says](#)
- [Pelosi faces backlash after thanking George Floyd for 'sacrificing your life for justice'](#)
- [Countering Biden, GOP pitches \\$568B for infrastructure](#)
- [Sell-off intensifies with the Dow dropping 400 points on fears of higher capital gains taxes](#)
- [China behind another hack as U.S. cybersecurity issues mount](#)

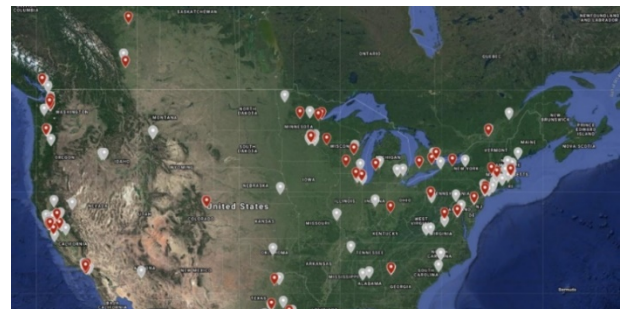
#### 4.4 USA – Political Extremism, Civil Unrest and Activism (Provided by Welund)



welund

During the week of 15-22 April, the majority of activist activity in the US noted by Welund took place in the government sector (65%), followed by law enforcement (13%) and oil and gas (7%). Protests made up most activity (62%), followed by marches (8%), and webinars (7%).

The majority of activist activity this week was focused on the Derek Chauvin trial and guilty verdicts. On 20 April, social and racial justice activists in the US welcomed the guilty verdict in the trial of former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin over the killing of George Floyd in May 2020. The verdict was not met with major protests, but calls for police reform. Anti-police protests over the deaths of Daunte Wright and Adam Toledo escalated over the past weekend. Campaigners have continued to pressure the Biden administration to take action on climate change. This week, Gulf Coast campaigners sent a letter to the Biden administration to demand a ban on fossil fuel exports and an end to approvals for infrastructure related to export facilities, such as pipelines.



*Past (grey) and upcoming (red) protest activity as noted by Welund between 14-28 April.*

**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. After the verdict was announced in the Chauvin trial, social and racial justice activists encouraged supporters to attend protests in cities across the country. This built on organizing over the previous week, where 'placeholder' protests identified the time and location of protests, but not the date. On 22 April there were several Earth Day related events and protests. Events were planned in Seattle, Minneapolis, San Francisco and Denver among others. Climate First called on supporters to mark Earth Day by holding protests against JPMorgan Chase, demanding the company "move away from funding fossil fuel projects."

**Outlook:** Welund expected to see continued Black Lives Matter-related activism in the wake of the guilty verdict in the Chauvin trial. Campaigners stressed that activists still had to press for reforms to policing, or the complete abolition of police forces. Early narratives sought to connect Chauvin's actions to US policing in general. Welund is monitoring upcoming events for protest organizing for 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.

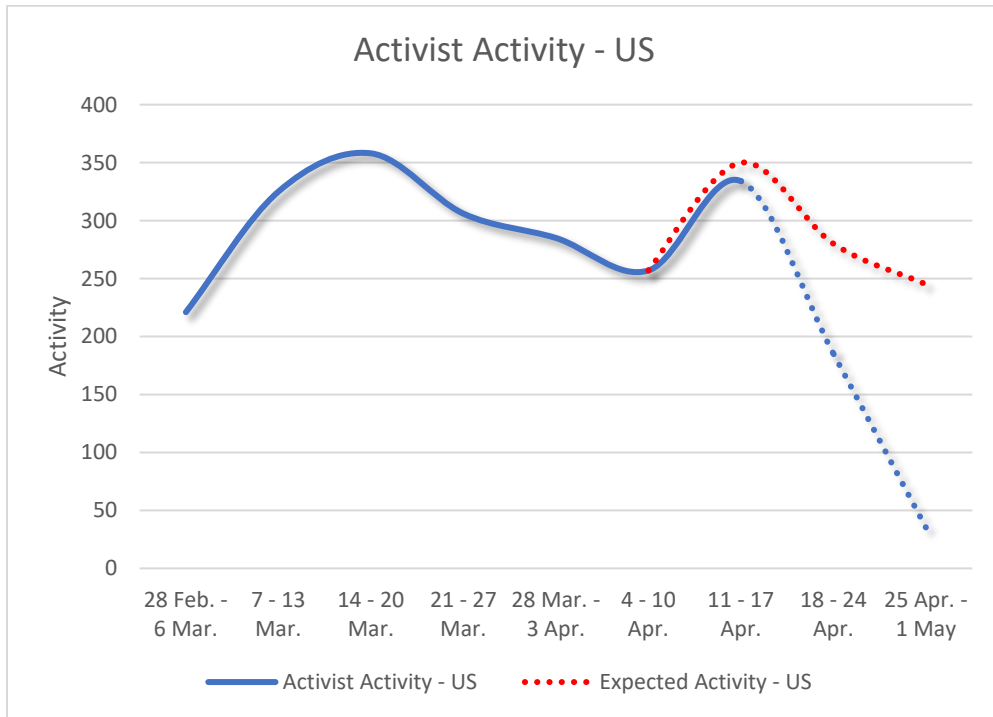


Figure 5 Total activist activity in the US as noted by Welund.

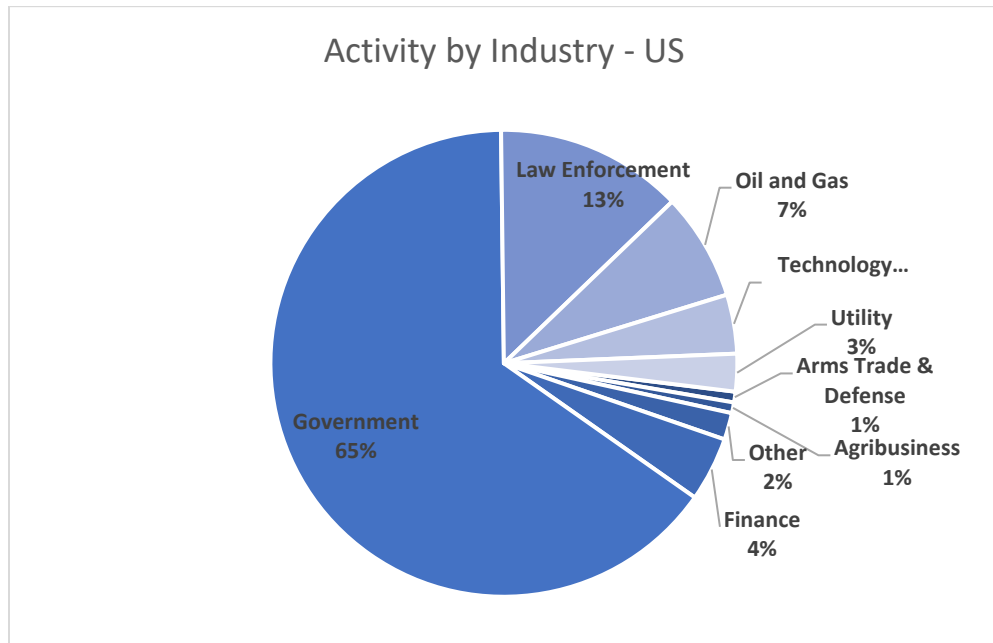


Figure 6 Activist activity in the US by industry as noted by Welund

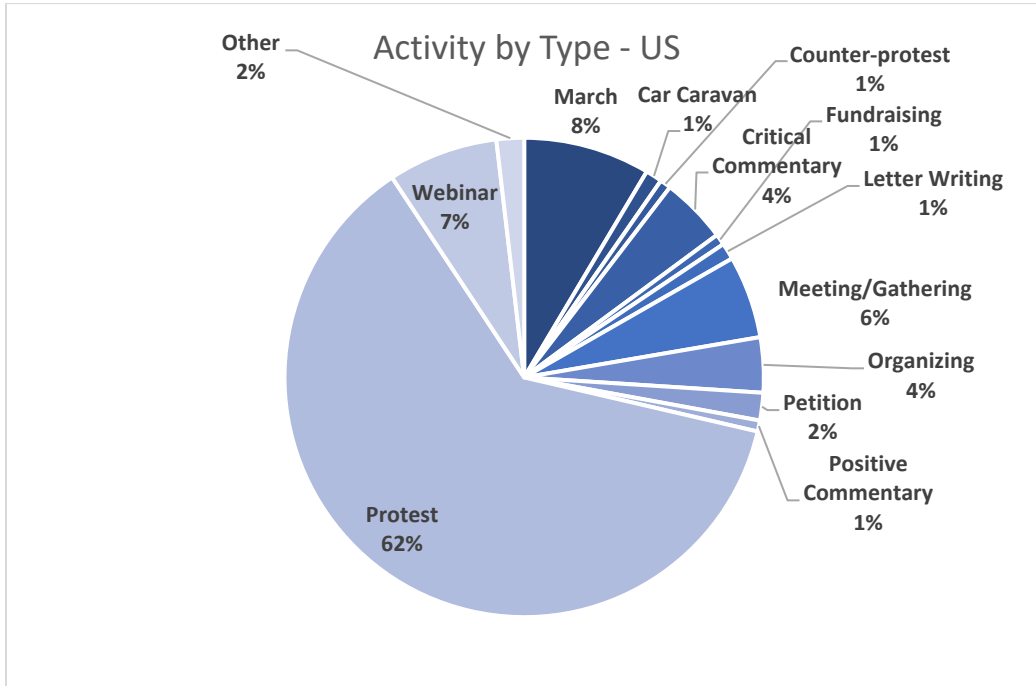



Figure 7 Activist activity in the US by type as noted by Welund.

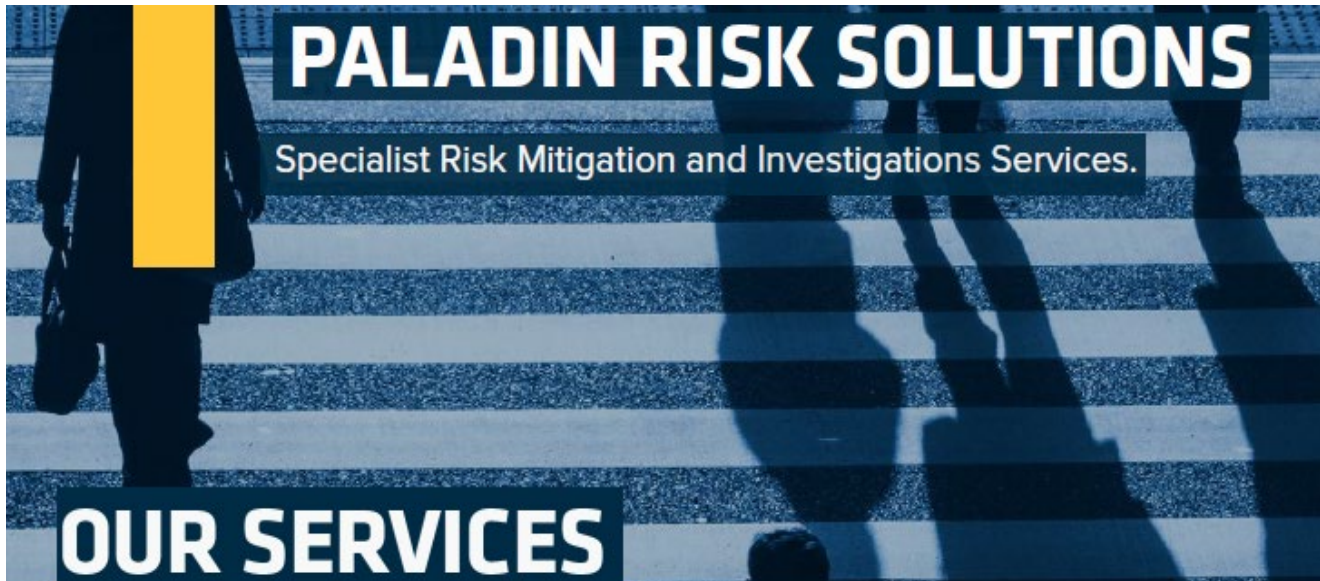
## End Report

Please submit feedback to:

 <p><i>Local Experts. Global Experience.</i></p>	<p><b>Scott McGregor</b> <i>Head of Intelligence</i> <b>Paladin Risk Solutions Inc</b></p>	<p>Mobile: <a href="tel:604-910-7781">604-910-7781</a> Email: <a href="mailto:smcgregor@paladinrisksolutions.com">smcgregor@paladinrisksolutions.com</a> Website: <a href="http://paladinrisksolutions.com">paladinrisksolutions.com</a></p>
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------



## 5. PALADIN RISK SOLUTIONS - SERVICES



# PALADIN RISK SOLUTIONS

Specialist Risk Mitigation and Investigations Services.

## OUR 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](http://www.paladinrisksolutions.com)

Waterloo  
CANADA'S  
MOST  
ADMIRED  
CORPORATE  
CULTURES

CANADA  
**BEST  
MANAGED  
COMPANIES**

Platinum member