



# INTELLIGENCE REPORT

Situational awareness for stakeholders and decision makers.



Report # 20-010

22 January 2021

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## 1. CURRENT SITUATION

With President Joe Biden taking on the USA presidency with little disruption, it appears that pro Trump supporters did not show up in DC. Despite mainstream media focusing on the possibilities of what former President Trump could have done in his last days, he left the White House without the anticipated drama, and without pardoning himself or his family. Trump did not attend the inauguration of President Biden, and Melania Trump did not take the new First Lady, Jill Biden, to the traditional tea and tour. For all accounts, the inauguration went well, and a message of unity was presented to the public. President Biden's work now focuses on the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as unifying the country and mending the divide America is experiencing. It may also be time for American mainstream media to take part in these endeavors, and not further build rifts between both sides. Biden chose not to inflame tempers but rather ease them. He also promised to undo many of Trump's decisions, which he has already begun to do.

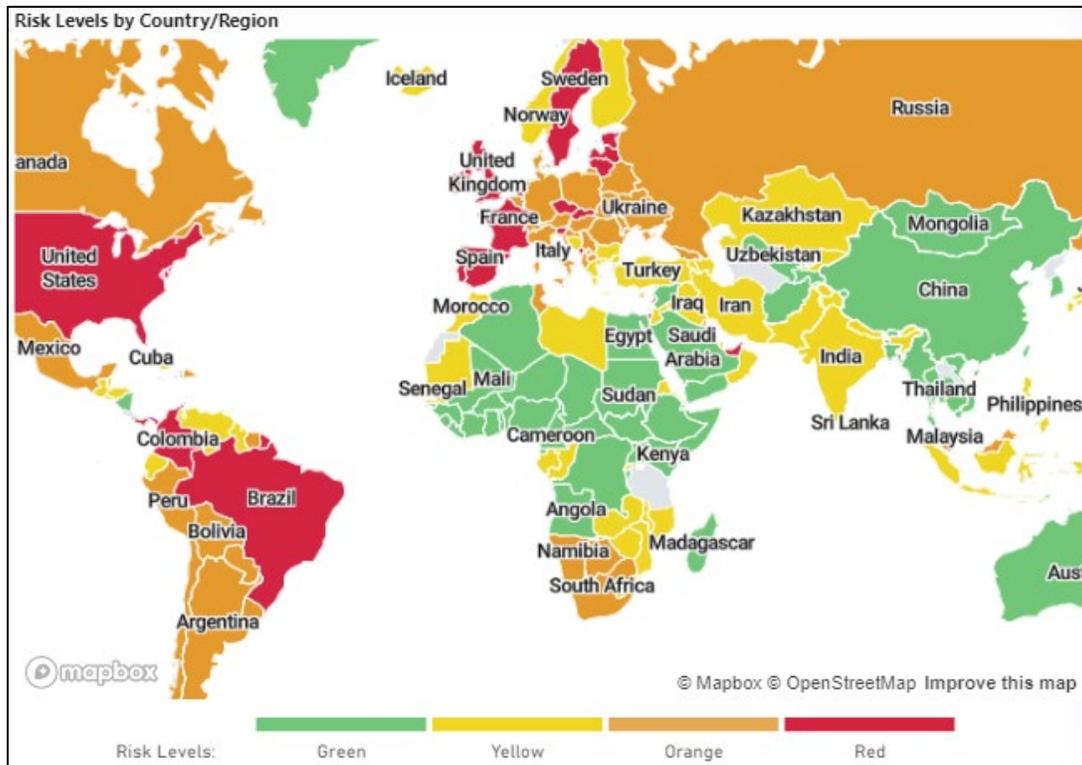
To continue painting any side in a negative light will not bring unity but cause further splits. As President Biden stated during his inauguration speech, being able to put oneself in another's shoes will be the only road to unity. To continue having black and white reasoning without understanding or looking at the complexities of each event or phenomena will not assist in uniting a divided nation. A large and important influence to the unity of the country will belong to mainstream media and how they paint each side. Should the mainstream media continue to paint many of Trump's supporters as "white supremacists", "nationalists", or other types of mostly incorrect and negative labels will only continue causing further division between the "two sides"; the blue and red, or left and right. Similarly, if alternative right-wing media will continue to paint all Democrats as, "Communists looking to impose a new political system in the USA", or any other fallacious labels, the division in the USA will continue.

In the past few days, mainstream media focused on possible disruption to the transition of the presidency. Despite the FBI's fear of protests across all states, most state Capitols saw small protests or none at all. Far right podcaster Nicholas Fuentes advised his followers to not go "anywhere near DC" for the inauguration, suggesting that the right is currently under a microscope, with others desperate to make an example out of somebody. He further advised that although he thinks there was some election fraud, it was not enough to change the outcome of the election, and further stating that "we lost big time". Such information should be highlighted more in the opposing media, in an effort to make the differing side understand that concessions were made and that maybe the other side "isn't as bad as its painted". Similarly, all media platforms should highlight positives of those who they may see as enemies, in an effort to unite both sides in understanding that Americans have more in common than that which divides them.

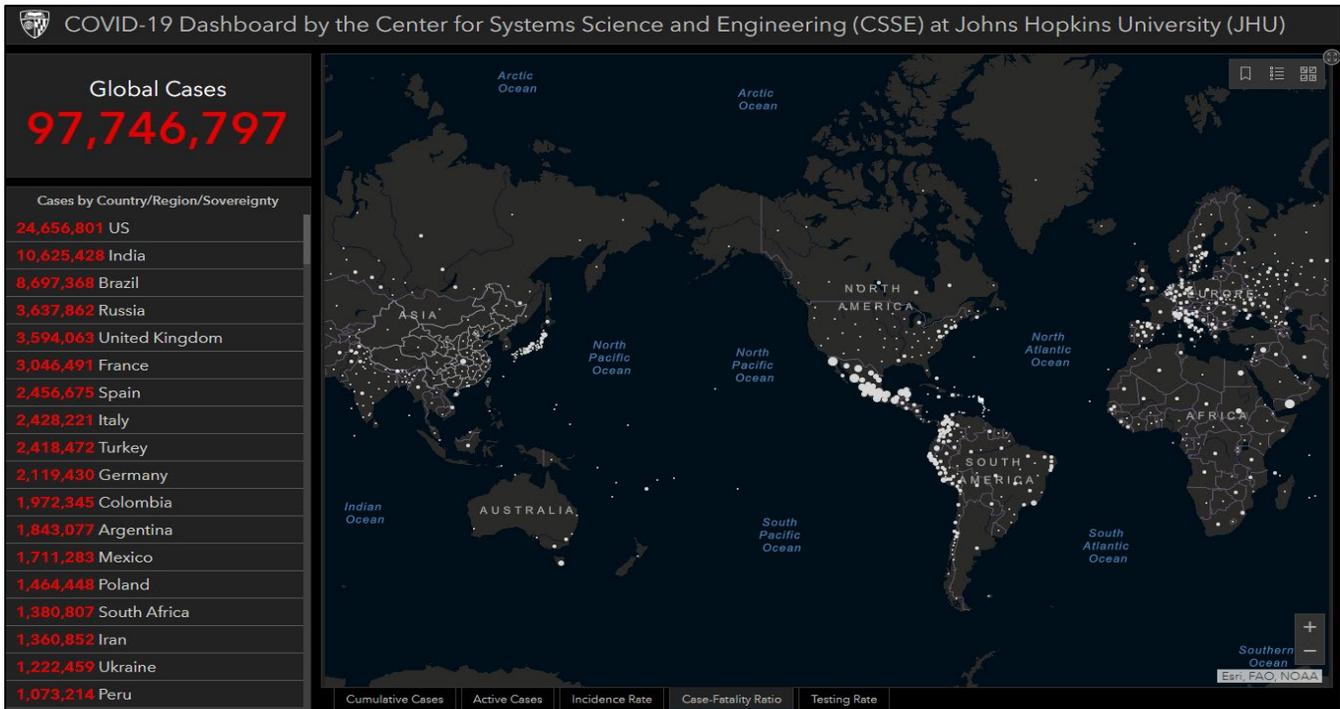
Unfortunately, differing interests will continue to divide the USA as the country's population grows larger and more diverse. Diverse in the sense that traditional ideologies will be splintered and taken to the extreme. These ideologies are as varied as the ever evolving music we listen to and with deeper divides than rap, heavy metal, and country western. President Biden will have to take care that in trying to satisfy one side, he is not at the same time discrediting the views of the other. Such a careful balancing act will certainly be difficult for Biden's administration, who promises to return the country to where it was prior to the Trump presidency.

## 2. GLOBAL

### 2.1 COVID UPDATE



#	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	98,263,945	+199,509	2,104,109	+5,489	70,635,247	25,524,589	111,411	12,606	269.9			
1	<a href="#">USA</a>	25,211,649	+15,563	420,719	+434	15,102,060	9,688,870	27,653	75,919	1,267	293,633,949	884,207	332,087,410
2	<a href="#">France</a>	2,987,965		71,998		214,538	2,701,429	2,876	45,719	1,102	40,885,502	625,597	65,354,413
3	<a href="#">UK</a>	3,543,646		94,580		1,586,707	1,862,359	3,953	52,047	1,389	66,546,047	977,391	68,085,383
4	<a href="#">Brazil</a>	8,699,814		214,228		7,580,741	904,845	8,318	40,767	1,004	28,600,000	134,019	213,403,188
5	<a href="#">Belgium</a>	686,827	+2,571	20,620	+48	47,675	618,532	337	59,118	1,775	7,773,240	669,078	11,617,838
6	<a href="#">Russia</a>	3,677,352	+21,513	68,412	+580	3,081,536	527,404	2,300	25,193	469	98,500,000	674,798	145,969,549
7	<a href="#">Italy</a>	2,428,221		84,202		1,827,451	516,568	2,418	40,194	1,394	30,166,765	499,351	60,411,919
8	<a href="#">Serbia</a>	380,802	+1,709	3,849	+19	31,536	345,417	161	43,682	442	2,527,514	289,933	8,717,586
9	<a href="#">Mexico</a>	1,711,283	+22,339	146,174	+1,803	1,277,978	287,131	5,652	13,195	1,127	4,299,224	33,151	129,687,564
10	<a href="#">Germany</a>	2,111,613	+2,718	51,292	+141	1,780,200	280,121	4,787	25,158	611	37,449,922	446,183	83,933,910
11	<a href="#">Ukraine</a>	1,182,969	+5,348	21,662	+163	928,969	232,338	177	27,141	497	6,057,828	138,986	43,585,890
12	<a href="#">Poland</a>	1,464,448	+6,640	34,908	+346	1,215,732	213,808	1,489	38,718	923	8,238,988	217,828	37,823,348
13	<a href="#">India</a>	10,634,414	+8,214	153,104	+37	10,291,077	190,233	8,944	7,664	110	190,148,024	137,037	1,387,567,768
14	<a href="#">Switzerland</a>	509,279	+2,156	9,012	+41	317,600	182,667	310	58,605	1,037	4,135,714	475,919	8,689,962
15	<a href="#">Argentina</a>	1,843,077		46,355		1,625,755	170,967	3,616	40,572	1,020	5,751,173	126,602	45,427,065



## 2.2 COVID-19 World News

- [A Troubling New Pattern Among the Coronavirus Variants](#)

Reportedly in 2020, COVID-19 has been mutating at a rate of two or so mutations per month, which for the most part did not have any significant effects. Nevertheless, three versions of the virus have seen comparable mutations, despite transforming in different areas of the world (UK, South Africa and Brazil). Mutations cause genetic changes while a variant is a type of the virus that has a specific set of mutations. As all three of these variants have taken on very similar mutations, it is likely that they give evolutionary advantage to the virus, making it more transmissible. The three variants contain a mutation in the N501Y spike protein, the part of the virus that assists it in binding to human cells. The mutation makes the spike protein stickier, which allows it to more easily bind to the cell. Findings from the South Africa and Brazil variants appear to have an additional mutation which may make it better at evading antibodies found in the plasma of those who recovered from COVID-19. This might mean that the mutation may make the virus better at reinfecting people or infecting those who are vaccinated. A reduction in antibodies does not render the vaccine useless, it only reduces its efficacy. Additionally, as with the flu vaccine, it is reported that adjustments to the COVID-19 vaccine can be made in a few weeks to include the new mutations. A study published this week suggested that the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine appears to work just as well on the newly spreading UK variant. However, recent information from South Africa suggests that its variant, about 50% more infectious, appears to defeat the efficacious plasma treatment. The South African variant has now spread to over 20 countries.
- [Russia mulls 'Covid passports' to let people with some immunity travel more easily](#)

Russia has reported that they are considering the issuing of COVID-19 certificates to those who are either vaccinated or have enough antibodies through having had COVID-19. This means that those who were vaccinated or had COVID-19 would have much stronger liberties than those who do not have the vaccine or the antibodies. The idea has been brought up by the European Union and some private companies. Opponents of

the protocol fear that such a system would limit the rights of those who have been careful to not get COVID-19, as well as those who cannot or are unwilling to get the vaccine. Such a system will likely not occur in more democratic and Western countries, and if it did come to fruition, it must first provide proof that the vaccination stops people from spreading the virus. To date, the WHO has advised that it is not clear that the vaccine actually stop the vaccinated individual from spreading the virus, and only appears to stop an infection in the vaccinated individual. More knowledge about the vaccine would be required prior to even planning such a system. Additionally, it is likely that an immense public outrage by possibly a small group of individuals, but also by those who may not be able to get vaccinated due to medical reasons.

- [EU aims to vaccinate 70% of adults by June](#)

The European Union is aiming to inoculate 70 percent of its adult population against the coronavirus by July. The bloc started vaccinations three weeks ago and has so far approved two vaccines, from BioNTech/Pfizer and from Moderna, with others soon expected to follow. If all the vaccines the EU has secured in advance are authorized, the bloc would have more than two billion doses on hand. The excess doses would be provided to lower-income countries outside the EU through a joint WHO facility.

- [Could a Smell Test Screen People for Covid?](#)

Currently, many businesses and organizations are conducting fever checks of patrons and employees to better monitor for a possible COVID-19 infection. However, only a minority of people with COVID-19 develop a fever, and those that do may not have the fever last as long as the most common symptom and indicator of COVID-19; anosmia, also known as a change or loss of sense of smell. This symptom is capable of identifying an infection in people who don't display any other symptoms. Sniff based tests; however, if properly administered, may assist in detecting the virus and reducing transmission. Such a test would be very cheap, at about 50 cents per card, which people would be required to scratch and sniff its scents. People then pick which smells they believe they had been exposed to, which then checks to see whether they have a change in their sense of smell.

- [Bolsonaro Talked Vaccines Down. Now Brazil has Too Few Doses](#)

- Due to Brazil's lax approach on ordering vaccinations, it is now seeing a very small number of vaccines on hand. Currently the country has six million doses of a vaccine, in a country of 213 million people. Brazil is seeing a surge in cases likely related to the new variant discovered, with some areas running out of oxygen after a sharp increase in patients requiring it.

- ['No evidence of decline' in COVID-19 rates in England's third lockdown](#)

## 2.3 Global Awareness

- [Mexico's president singles out Twitter employee for past opposition party work](#)

Mexico's President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador has suggested that a local employee of Twitter who has connections to a Mexican opposition party may impact the company's bias. Specifically, the President has also criticized Twitter for banning Former President Trump and advised that it was a "bad sign" that private companies are able to censor opinion. He further stated that it is important to know who works for such companies because "neutrality is very difficult". Twitter released a statement suggesting that the responsibility of censorship lies with the compliance team and not one individual at Twitter. However, we have recently seen a lot of individuals losing their professional jobs over their personal opinions, which at times bear no weight on their ability to do their work. With companies such as Twitter having unparalleled global reach, and mostly young and liberal employees, they may not be neutral or reflective of the public's

opinion. Often public opinion is measured through social media, a platform which does not include many individuals such as seniors. Many younger people also do not have Twitter or other social media profiles. Furthermore, it is sometimes impossible to tell real social media profiles from fake ones, even for the platform administrators. As such, view of public opinion may be swayed by online propaganda campaigns which can come from any corner of the world, and without any knowledge of the actual source. As such, gauging public opinion from online sources should be taken with a grain of salt, as it contains a specific selection bias of those who chose to speak their minds on the internet, being far from reflecting the true overall public opinion.

- [China revives conspiracy theory of US army link to Covid](#)

The Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson this week continued the rhetoric that the USA army has a biological warfare program and that it should open its biological lab in Fort Detrick to monitoring, as well as provide transparency to Americas reported “200 plus overseas bio labs”. Furthermore, the Chinese officials expressed interest in WHO attending the USA to conduct origin tracing for COVID-19, as well as “respond to concerns from the international community”. China’s push to try to delegitimize the USA both in terms of the origin of the virus, as well as attempts to reduce the perception of efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccine suggests they are pushing to reach global standards by attempting to invalidate the West; however, it does not appear to be reaching its goals as more and more countries, including Australia, Canada and the USA, are paying extra scrutiny to Chinese statements.

- [First big suicide attack in Baghdad for 3 years kills at least 32](#)

- [Russia rounds up allies of Kremlin foe Navalny in protest warning](#)

## 2.4 Political Extremism, Civil Unrest and Activism

- [Brexit: Fishing firms hold London protest over disruption](#)

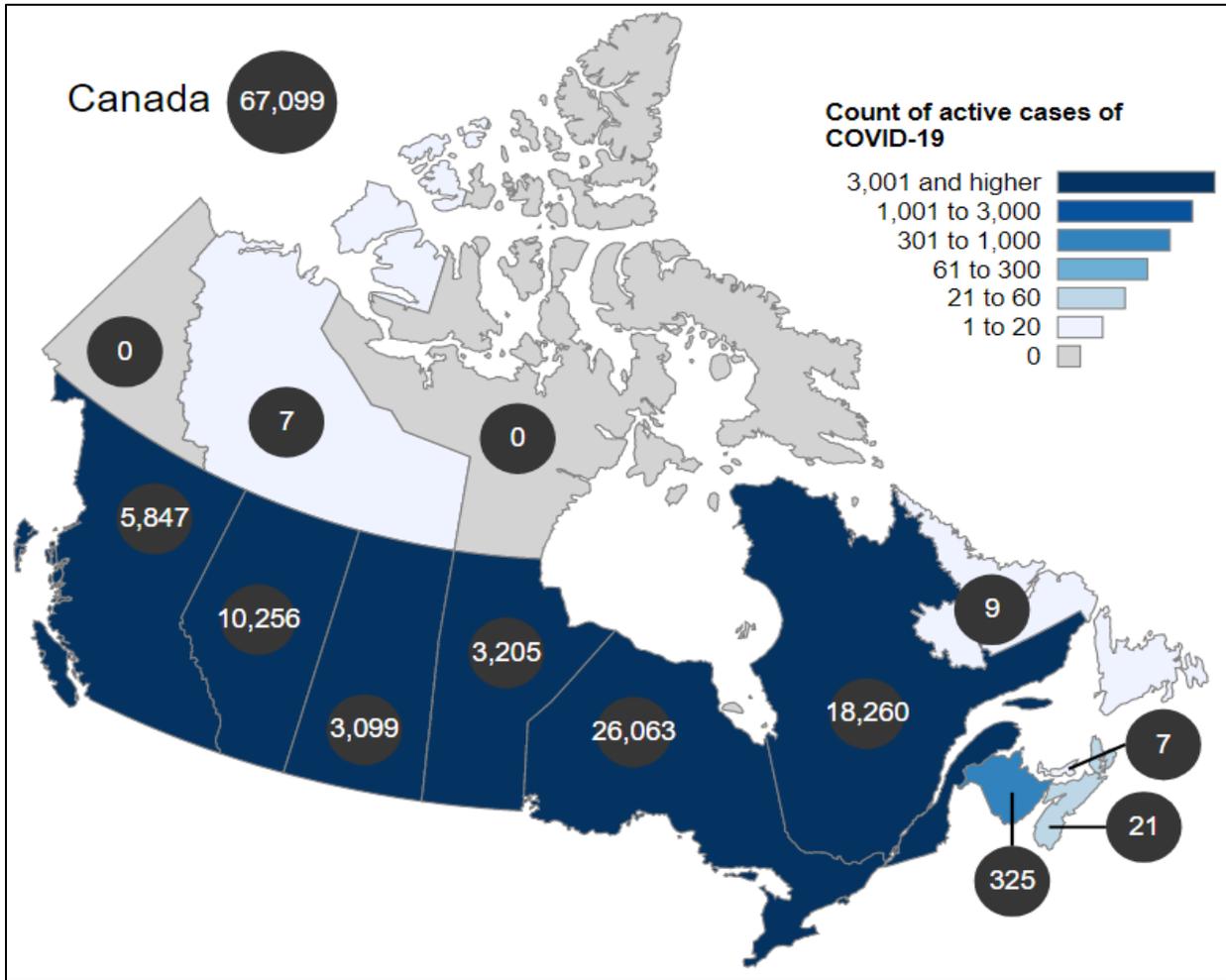
Demonstrations took place outside government departments in central London by exporters who are warning their livelihoods are under threat. Exports of fresh fish and seafood have been severely disrupted by new border controls since the UK's transition period ended earlier this month. The Prime Minister said firms would be compensated for delays that were not their fault. Industry associations have complained that extra paperwork has made it difficult to deliver fresh produce to mainland Europe before it goes off. They have warned that if the situation continues, jobs could soon be at risk.

- [Govt ready to suspend India’s new agricultural laws for 18 months](#)

India’s government has stated that it is willing to put a hold for 18 months on the new agricultural laws after months long protestors by farmer. Farmers are afraid the new laws would allow large corporations to take advantage of them and allow companies to pay a low price for agricultural goods. Previously, the government set a minimum price for crops.

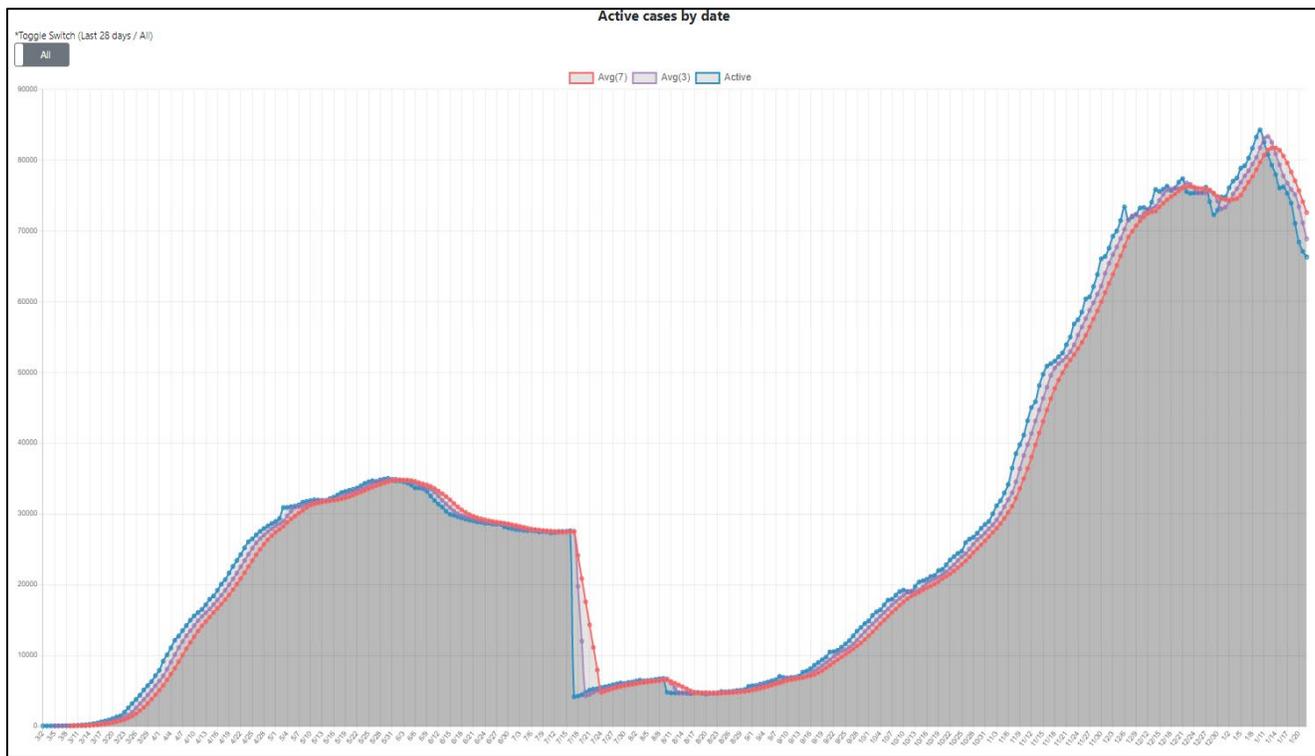
### 3. CANADA

#### 3.1 COVID UPDATE



Prov.	Total Confirmed	Total Deaths	Total Recovered	Total Active
<b>Total</b>	<b>734,112</b> (↑2,662)	<b>18,709</b> (↑87)	<b>649,104</b> (↑3,375)	<b>66,299</b> (-800)
BC	62,976	1,119	56,010	5,847
ON	250,226 (↑2,662)	5,701 (↑87)	219,262 (↑3,375)	25,263 (-800)
QC	248,860	9,273	221,327	18,260
AB	119,114	1,500	107,358	10,256
MB	28,089	793	24,091	3,205
NB	1,057	13	719	325
SK	21,338	239	18,000	3,099
PEI	110	0	103	7
NL	397	4	384	9
NS	1,565	65	1,479	21
YT	70	1	69	0
NT	31	0	24	7
NU	266	1	265	0
	13	0	13	0
Rate of change	↑ 0.4%	↑ 0.5%	↑ 0.5%	-1.2%

Prov.	Total Test	Total Waiting	Total Hosp	Total ICU
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,000,990</b> (+71,750)	-	-	-
BC	1,627,001	-	309	68
ON	9,196,591 (+71,750)	41,819 (-11052)	1512 (-21)	383 (-5)
QC	5,533,972	-	1453	216
AB	3,066,222	-	726	119
MB	459,134	-	125	23
NB	179,582	-	3	2
SK	481,856	-	197	31
PEI	84,787	-	-	-
NL	77,273	-	1	0
NS	270,763	-	0	0
YT	6,210	12	-	-
NT	11,454	152	0	0
NU	6,145	321	0	0
Rate of change	↑ 0.3%	-	-	-



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

### 3.2 COVID-19 Canada News

- [Pfizer tells Canada it will not receive any Covid-19 vaccine doses next week](#)

Due to disruptions to its manufacturing facility in Belgium, which is withholding production during an expansion of the facility to extensively increase its output, Canada will not see any vaccine shipments next week. Canada has to receive the Pfizer vaccine from Europe as the USA facilities were blocked by Trump from exporting any vaccines to outside the USA. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau advised that Canadians need not worry and that Canada will soon receive more shipments, leaving it on track for to vaccinate any willing Canadian by September. Ontario Premier Doug Ford instead made a plea to President Biden to give Canada a million vaccines from the USA manufacturing facilities. However, it is believed that this plea will not be heard as the USA is itself unsure of the number of vaccines available for its own citizens. The impact of this reduction in shipments amounts to approximately 50% reduction in the amount of vaccines Canada is administering.
- [Some schools to return to in-person learning as Ontario sees 2,655 new COVID-19 cases](#)

Ontario has opened schools in seven public health units around Southern Ontario to in person learning while the rest remain on online learning. The province is also continuing COVID-19 inspections and enforcement, including in places such as farming operations and other places employing temporary foreign workers. Last week, over 240 big box stores around Toronto were inspected and about 69% were found to follow COVID-19 measures. Those who received infractions were found to not wear masks, not have a safety plan or a screening procedure for employees.

- [Declining case numbers show Alberta restrictions working, Dr. Deena Hinshaw says](#)

Alberta's COVID-19 restrictions implemented beginning in November were making an impact, with both case numbers and the case positivity rate are declining since the peak seen in December. Alberta seen an average of 1,500 admission for the flu every year, while this year over 5,000 people required hospitalization from COVID-19. Of those, 816 required ICU. Just over 1% of everyone who was infected died and 85% of those who died have been over 70 years old. Alberta has vaccinated almost 100,000 people to date. Overall, Alberta is seeing a decrease in cases, but the hospitalizations are still high. Alberta provides the following breakdown of hospitalizations by age in recorded cases to date.

Under one, 644 cases, 34 hospitalized, 10 in ICU. **(Hospitalization rate, 5.3 per cent)**  
 one to four, 3,671 cases, 14 hospitalized, two in ICU. **(Hospitalization rate, 0.4 per cent)**  
 five to nine, 5,094 cases, eight hospitalized, two in ICU. **(Hospitalization rate, 0.2 per cent)**  
 10 to 19, 13,606 cases, 68 hospitalized, nine in ICU. **(Hospitalization rate, 0.5 per cent)**  
 20 to 29, 22,025 cases, 241 hospitalized, 25 in ICU. **(Hospitalization rate, 1.1 per cent)**  
 30 to 39, 22,470 cases, 388 hospitalized, 40 in ICU. **(Hospitalization rate, 1.7 per cent)**  
 40 to 49, 18,678 cases, 489 hospitalized, 92 in ICU. **(Hospitalization rate, 2.6 per cent)**  
 50 to 59, 14,075 cases, 721 hospitalized, 164 in ICU. **(Hospitalization rate, 5.1 per cent)**  
 60 to 69, 8,788 cases, 879 hospitalized, 239 in ICU. **(Hospitalization rate, 10.0 per cent)**  
 70 to 79, 4,370 cases, 952 hospitalized, 172 in ICU. **(Hospitalization rate, 21.8 per cent)**  
 80+, 4,977 cases, 1,291 hospitalized, 60 in ICU. **(Hospitalization rate, 25.9 per cent)**

- [False positive COVID-19 test delays passengers for hours at Iqaluit airport after flight from Ottawa](#)

A flight from Ottawa to Iqaluit was delayed after passengers were informed about a positive COVID-19 test for a passenger that was only reported after the flight had taken off. When tested again after being taken to the hospital for isolation, the passenger returned a negative test twice, suggesting it was a false positive. The individual who was tested was taking part in the “expedited medical travel program” which allows people to fly south from Nunavut for medical appointments without requiring to isolate. It is unclear how the positive result was not reported prior to the departure of the flight, and this should be investigated and ensured that does not occur again as it will negatively impact all other passengers on it, and render the program useless at that instance.

- [Inside a Windsor ICU, exhausted staff fight 2nd COVID wave knowing worse still ahead](#)
- [B.C. records 500 new cases of COVID-19 and 14 more deaths](#)

### 3.3 Canada Awareness

- [Alberta premier suggests Canada impose trade sanctions if U.S. refuses to discuss Keystone XL decision](#)

After President Biden revoked the permit for the Keystone XL Pipeline, Alberta Premier Jason Kenney advised that it is a direct attack on the trade relationship between the countries. Kenney asked Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to meet with Biden's administration and if that efforts to restore the pipeline are refused, that Canada should impose trade and economic sanctions on the USA. Both Trudeau and the Canadian Ambassador to the USA stated that although they are disappointed with the decision, they are not going to dispute it. The

pipeline is reportedly not inline with the Biden's administration focus on climate change or reduction of carbon footprint. This blow to the Alberta economy, already hard hit by COVID-19 and other difficulties, may cause a layoff of thousands of workers. The pipelines would have likely generated as many as 60,000 direct and indirect jobs on both countries, and was approved by Trump after the Obama administration rejected it in 2015. At the time, TC Energy was to file a multi billion-dollar lawsuit against the US government through the North American Free Trade Agreement as it has spent billions of dollars on various filings. It is believed to be going down that route again with the Biden administration.

- [Canadian annual inflation rate slows in December amid renewed COVID-19 restrictions](#)  
Canada's annual inflation rate slowed to 0.7% in December from 1.0% the previous month amid a new round of COVID-19 lockdowns and declining costs of airplane tickets, clothing and footwear, Statistics Canada said on Wednesday. The Bank of Canada left its benchmark interest rate unchanged at 0.25% on Wednesday and reiterated it did not expect inflation to return sustainably to its 2% target until 2023. However, the central bank said COVID-19 vaccines had helped brighten the outlook.
- [PM warns Canada could impose new COVID-19 travel restrictions without notice](#)  
Prime Minister Trudeau cautioned that Canada may implement immediate travel restrictions due to the fear or various COVID-19 variants. He requested that anyone who booked trips cancels them. Many companies are still offering heavily discounted trip packages through daily flights. Despite having the legal ability to travel, the requirement of a negative COVID-19 test and 14-day quarantine, Canadians are urged not to travel to reduce transmission.
- [Fake COVID notification apps and websites aim to steal money and personal data](#)  
Thousands of fake Canadian government websites, emails and apps that take advantage of the pandemic to try to mine personal data or steal money have been taken down in the last few months, according to the Canadian Centre for Cyber Security. The centre leads the federal government's response to cyber-security events, defends Ottawa's cyber assets and provides advice to Canadian industries, businesses and citizens about how to protect themselves online. Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre, a separate federal organization, said between March 2020, and January 2021, there were 8,583 Canadian victims of a wide range of COVID-19 fraud. Those included everything from people buying fake vaccines and COVID test kits, to identity theft and ransomware attacks. In total, COVID-19 fraud has cost Canadians \$7 million.
- [Derek Sloan ejected from Conservative caucus over 'pattern of destructive behaviour'](#)

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



During the week of 14-21 January 2021, the majority of activist activity noted by Welund in Canada took place in the government sector (59%), followed by oil and gas (17%). Protests made up the majority of activity (38%), followed critical commentary (23%) and letter writing (9%).

Climate change, conservation, and environmental justice groups across North America welcomed executive actions from newly inaugurated President Joe Biden on the Keystone XL pipeline and on issues related to climate change on his first day in office.

After significant campaigning by local residents, environmental groups, and Alberta celebrities, the Alberta government reversed a decision to issue coal leases in the province on category 2 lands. The government noted that its decision was a direct result of "concerns raised in recent days" by campaigners. Despite the decision, opponents continue to raise concerns, calling the change "too little, too late." Although the province's announcement has addressed some activist concerns, critical commentary and a continuation of protest against coal mining is expected.

Anti-lockdown and anti-mask protests continued this week, as provincial governments either continued or implemented new lockdown restrictions amid rising covid-19 infection and hospitalization rates. On 14 January, anti-lockdown protesters marched to the personal residence of Toronto Mayor John Tory to demand an end to lockdown measures and the reopening of businesses in the city. On 16 January, We Are All Essential and Hugs Over Masks held a 'mega freedom rally' in support of small businesses and an end to covid-19 lockdowns and other public health restrictions in Toronto.

Anti-Trans Mountain expansion (TMX) opposition campaigns also continued over the past week. On 29 January, Extinction Rebellion Vancouver will hold a "march and direct action" against the TMX project in Vancouver.

On 29 January, Climate Pledge Collective (CPC), For Our Kids Toronto, (FOKTO), and Toronto 350 will hold a Dear Banks: Stop Funding Fossil Fuels day of action to demand the end of fossil fuel funding by all major Canadian banks. CPC called on participants to visit their local major Canadian bank branch to demand that the bank end all fossil fuel funding.

The decision by most provincial governments to continue, increase, or implement new lockdown restrictions will likely further exacerbate anti-lockdown campaigns. Activists have called for larger weekly in-person protests, marches, and car-caravans to protest against their respective provincial and municipal governments. There is a potential for large-scale protests across the country on 20 February.

Groups opposing the TMX project will likely remain active in their campaigns while construction is currently halted due to recent safety incidents and the risk of covid-19 infection at construction sites.

There will also be continued opposition to TC Energy's Coastal GasLink pipeline (CGL) project. Unist'ot'en Camp has re-started cabin construction at its campsite in opposition to the CGL.



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

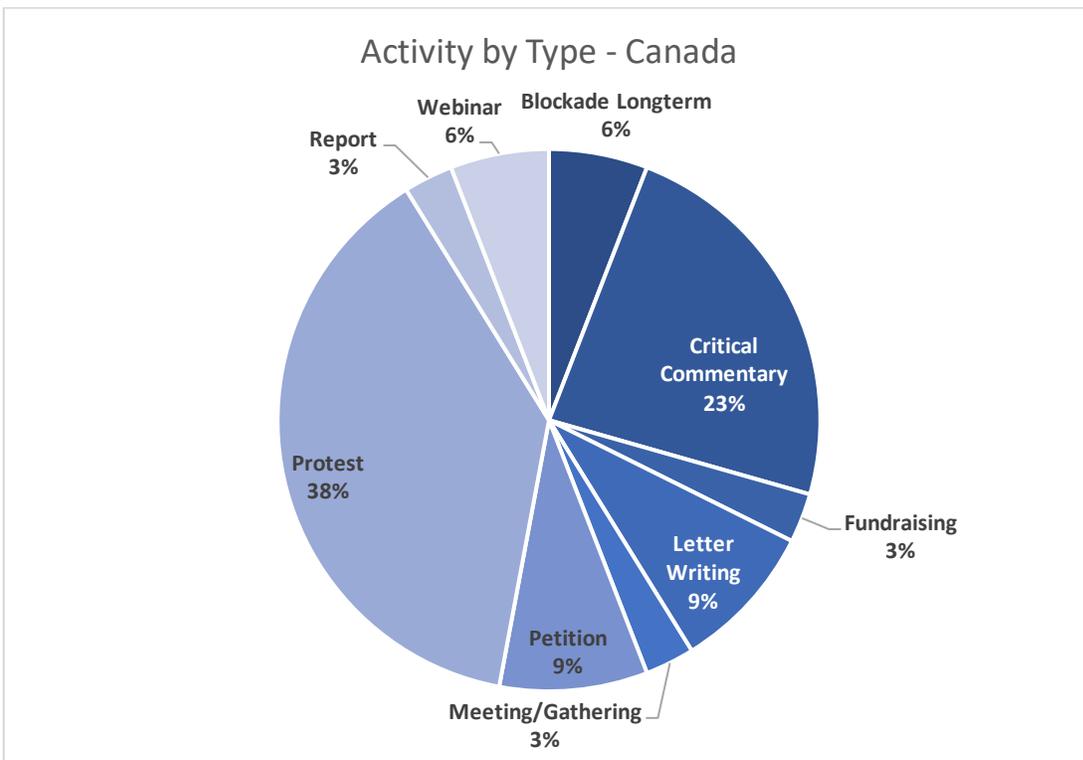


Figure 2 Activist activity in Canada by type as noted by Welund

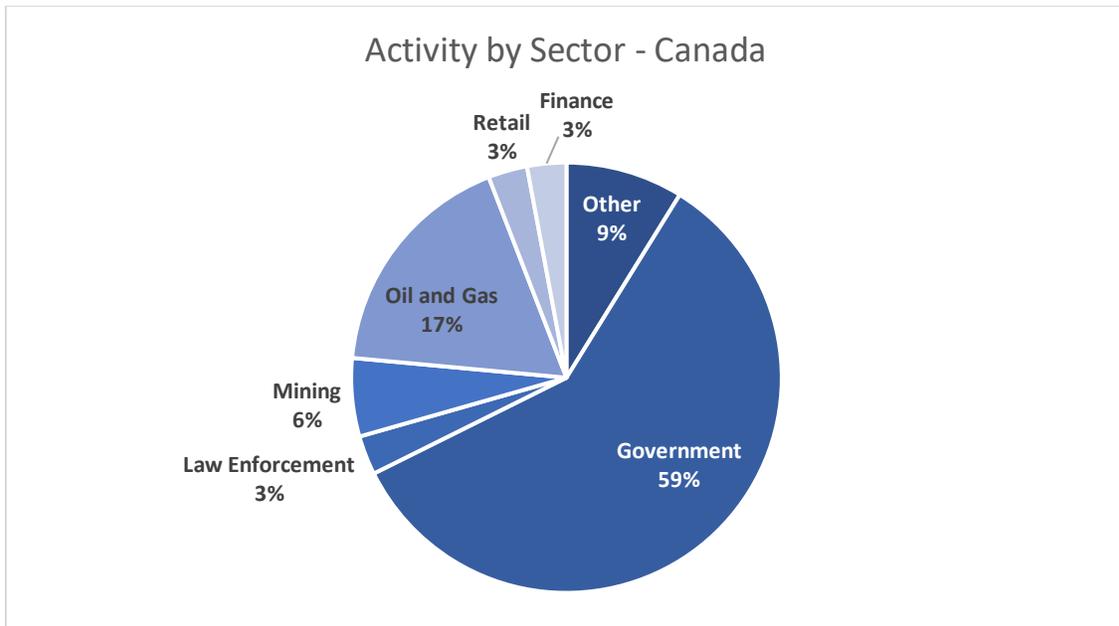
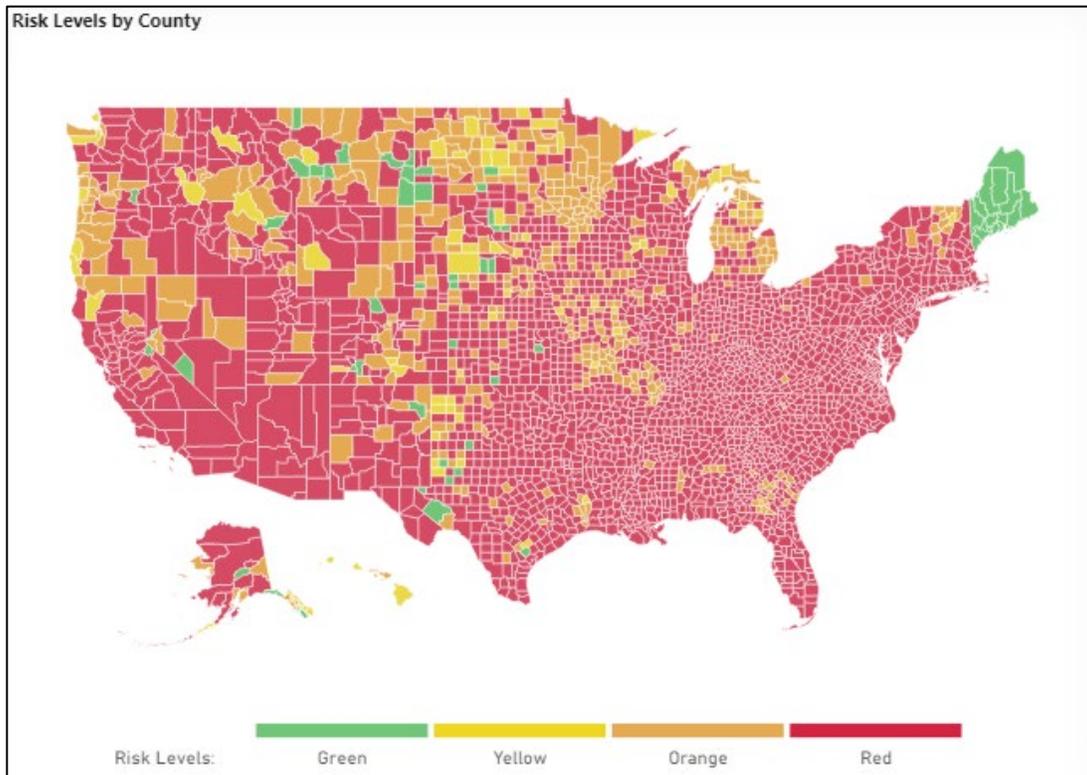


Figure 3 Activist activity in Canada by sector as noted by Welund.

## 4. USA

### 4.1 COVID UPDATE



#	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
1	<a href="#">California</a>	3,103,836		35,766		1,373,151	1,694,919	78,554	905	39,512,756	1,000,013	39,512,223
2	<a href="#">New York</a>	1,328,973		41,848		514,217	772,908	68,315	2,151	29,762,950	1,529,949	19,453,561
3	<a href="#">Florida</a>	1,613,884		24,739		818,636	770,509	75,142	1,152	18,042,225	840,043	21,477,737
4	<a href="#">Arizona</a>	699,942		11,772		95,230	592,940	96,163	1,617	3,695,111	507,660	7,278,717
5	<a href="#">Georgia</a>	844,799		12,889		374,886	457,024	79,567	1,214	6,502,033	612,393	10,617,423
6	<a href="#">Virginia</a>	463,751	+4,147	6,002	+62	36,379	421,370	54,332	703	6,087,688	713,218	8,535,519
7	<a href="#">Texas</a>	2,214,767		34,165		1,799,514	381,088	76,382	1,178	18,648,388	643,139	28,995,881
8	<a href="#">Maryland</a>	336,915	+2,396	6,792	+57	9,469	320,654	55,728	1,123	6,630,564	1,096,744	6,045,680
9	<a href="#">Missouri</a>	481,014		7,089		167,561	306,364	78,374	1,155	4,665,957	760,246	6,137,428
10	<a href="#">Kentucky</a>	338,034		3,301		41,469	293,264	75,662	739	3,836,544	858,734	4,467,673
11	<a href="#">Colorado</a>	381,210		5,440		89,183	286,587	66,197	945	2,325,573	403,834	5,758,736
12	<a href="#">New Jersey</a>	646,189		20,766		342,432	282,991	72,751	2,338	8,887,397	1,000,586	8,882,190
13	<a href="#">South Carolina</a>	404,492		6,377		181,322	216,793	78,562	1,239	4,508,762	875,706	5,148,714
14	<a href="#">Indiana</a>	601,937		9,593		387,324	205,020	89,411	1,425	6,600,039	980,366	6,732,219
15	<a href="#">Illinois</a>	1,086,333		20,423		868,632	197,278	85,728	1,612	15,083,685	1,190,333	12,671,821

## 4.2 COVID-19 USA News

- [USA surpasses 400,000 COVID deaths](#)  
 To commemorate the 400,000 COVID-19 deaths in the USA, President Biden led the nation in mourning on the eve of his inauguration. 400 lights, each representing 1,000 deaths, were lit along the perimeter of Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool.
- [CDC says 15.7 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines administered in United States](#)  
 As of Tuesday, the American CDC has stated that 15.7 million doses of the Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines have been given in the USA. 31 million doses were distributed and approximately 2 million people have received both doses. Almost 2 million of the doses were administered in long term care homes.
- [San Diego scientists hustle to find out if 'California' strain of coronavirus poses big threat](#)
- [Biden says total deaths will probably top 500,000 next month, after U.S. sets new daily death toll record](#)
- [Biden Inherits a Vaccine Supply Unlikely to Grow Before April](#)
- [Fauci says new vaccines could be ready for possible approval within weeks, not months](#)

## 4.3 USA Awareness

- [As Trump exits Washington, he tells modest crowd, 'We will be back in some form'](#)  
 On Wednesday, Former President Trump left the White House for the last time, he stated in his speech that "we will be back in some form". Trump arrived at his Palm Beach residence at the Mar-a-Lago Club, where he is set to live. Next month, the USA senate is expected to begin Trump's trial, attempting to get a conviction as well as stop him from running for office again.

- [Joe Biden rejoins Paris Agreement, requires masks on federal property in swift Day 1 directives](#)  
President Biden signed 17 executive orders on his first day as President, including a mask mandate for federal property and workers, signing the USA back onto the Paris Climate Accords and WHO, from whom Trump withdrew during his term. He further stopped the construction of the USA-Mexican border wall, and reversed the travel ban from countries that are predominantly Muslim. President Biden also canceled the Keystone XL Pipeline permit, and paused student loan payments and federal restrictions on evictions and foreclosures, amongst others. Biden's administration is trying to return the USA to where it was previous to the Trump's presidency.
- [Anti-fascist protesters vandalize buildings in Portland and Seattle](#)  
Anti-government and anti-fascist protesters in Portland and Seattle vandalized a Democratic Party office and other buildings and scuffled with police on Wednesday, protesting against President Joe Biden's inauguration. Portland has been the scene of unrest for months, with civil rights, anarchist and anti-fascist protesters scuffling with police and occasionally with right-wing militias and Trump supporters. The protests began in the summer as part of nationwide demonstrations against racism and police brutality following the death of George Floyd.
- [Big U.S. oil drillers have federal permits to mute effect of any Biden ban](#)  
Although President Biden has banned permitting for new oil and gas drilling on lands belonging to the federal government, many company executives have reportedly stockpiled permits which cannot be taken back, some of which extends at least four years. Smaller and independent driller that do not have the resources of large companies will be hard hit. Federal lands account for only about 10% of the USA oil and gas supply, which reportedly specifically contribute to 25% of the USA greenhouse gas emissions. Additionally, oil and gas companies issued statement that they are able to easily shift drilling from federal land to private or state land.
- [Zoom funerals, outdoor classes: Jails are evolving amid Covid, but what happens afterward?](#)
- [Joe Biden is sworn in as the 46th president, pleads for unity in inaugural address to a divided nation](#)

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



welund

During the week of 14-21 January 2021, the majority of activist activity in the US noted by Welund took place in the government sector (72%), followed by oil and gas (13%). Protests made up the majority of activity (45%), followed by organizing (8%) and critical commentary (7%).

Overall activity has increased in recent weeks, especially following the occupation of the US Capitol. This uptick in activity continued in advance of Inauguration Day.

Campaigners in both the US and Canada have welcomed the Biden's 'day one' actions on the Keystone XL (KXL) pipeline and climate. They have used the decision to call on Biden to cancel other pipelines, like the Dakota Access Pipeline and Line 3 pipeline.

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, Minnesota and Washington saw the most protests this week.

There has been continued opposition, direct actions, and protests against Enbridge’s Line 3 in Minnesota. On 18 January 2021, an anti-Line 3 activist was arrested after she locked on to equipment in a pipeline trench near Cloquet.

On 19 January, Build Back Fossil Free (BBFF) held a day of action to demand the Biden administration takes action to address climate change. The campaign recommended three actions: banner photos, a ‘Twitterstorm’, and signing a petition.

There were no mass protests or activist disruptions on Inauguration Day. Small gatherings took place in a handful of cities including Austin, Phoenix, Salem and Lansing. Most other statehouses were quiet, amid a ramping up of security across US legislatures.

Welund continues to monitor covid-19 cases across the US for indications that additional lockdown measures may inspire protests and demonstrations, similar to those that attracted nationwide media attention in April and May 2020 and those taking place in Canada.

There is likely to be continued tensions between the far-right and far-left following the inauguration. Left-wing activists will continue to press the Biden administration to implement preferred policies. On 21 January 2021, Sunrise Movement will hold a ‘day of action’ in the US to demand the Biden administration implement policies to address covid-19, the pandemic’s impacts, and address climate change.

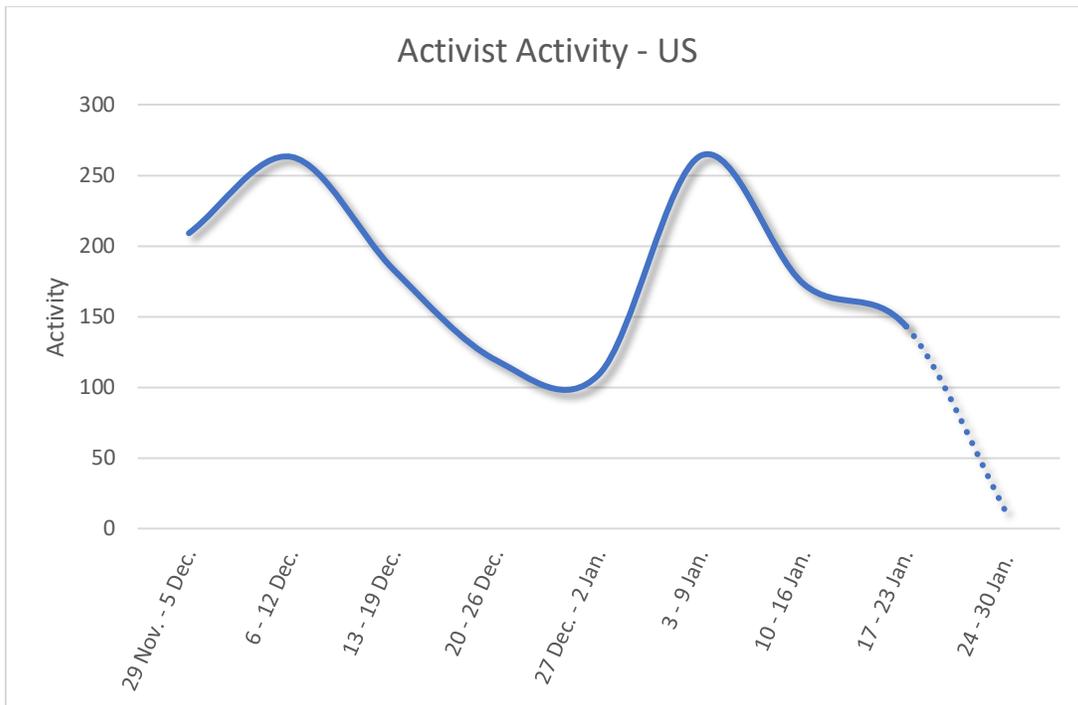


Figure 4 Total activist activity in the US as noted by Welund North America.

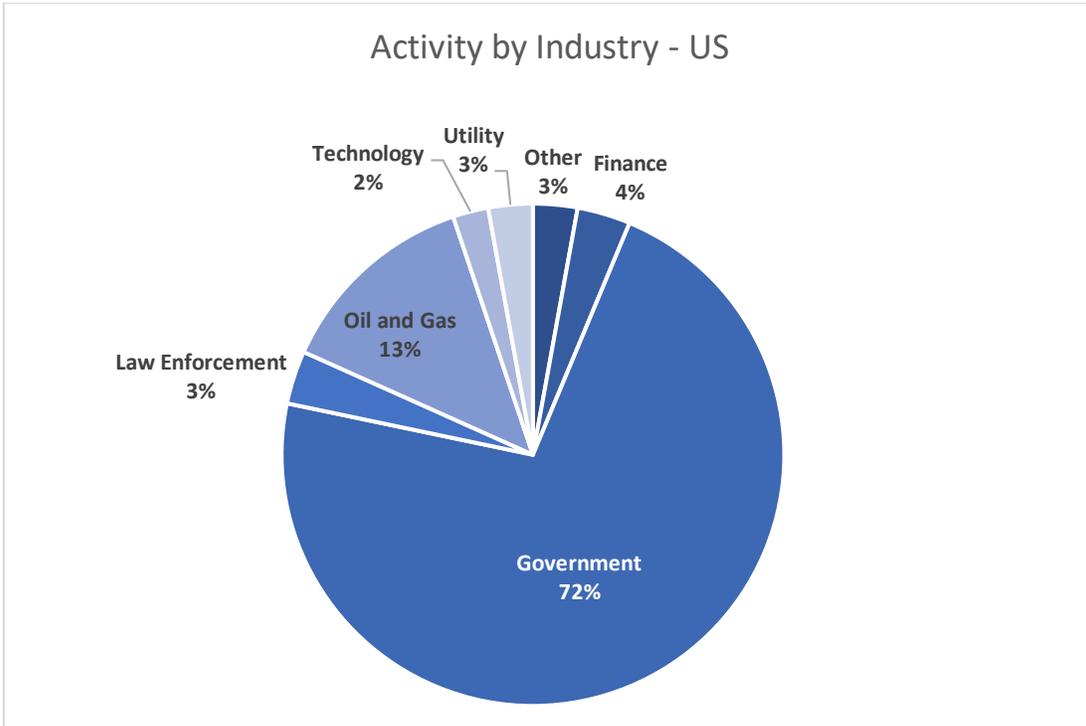


Figure 5 Activist activity in the US by industry as noted by Welund

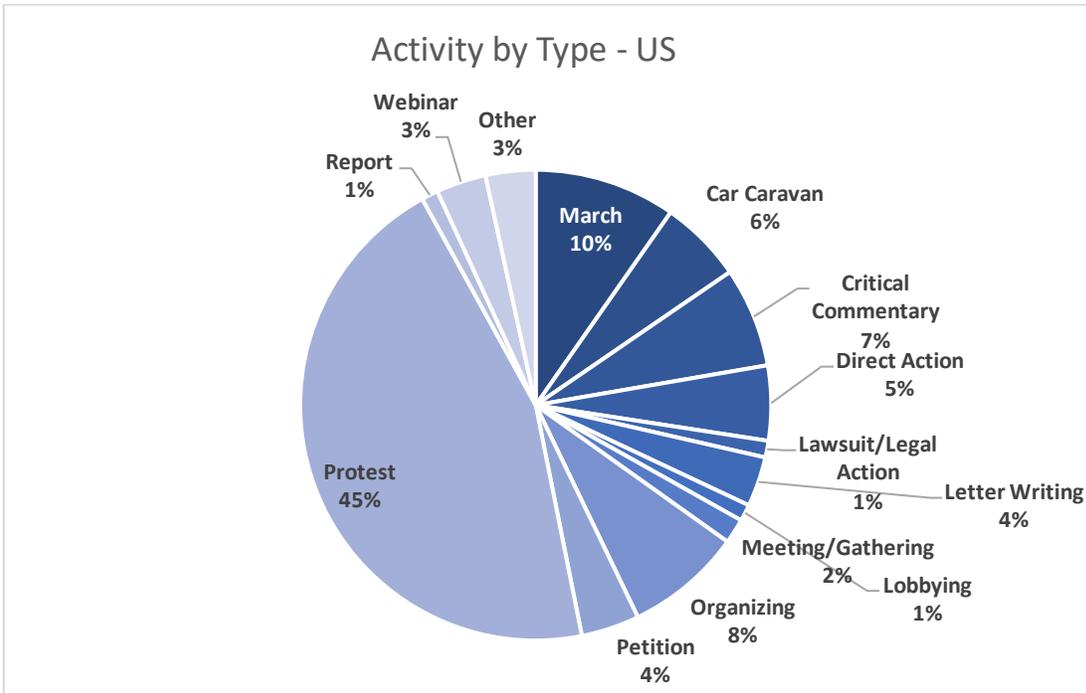


Figure 6 Activist activity in the US by type as noted by Welund North America.

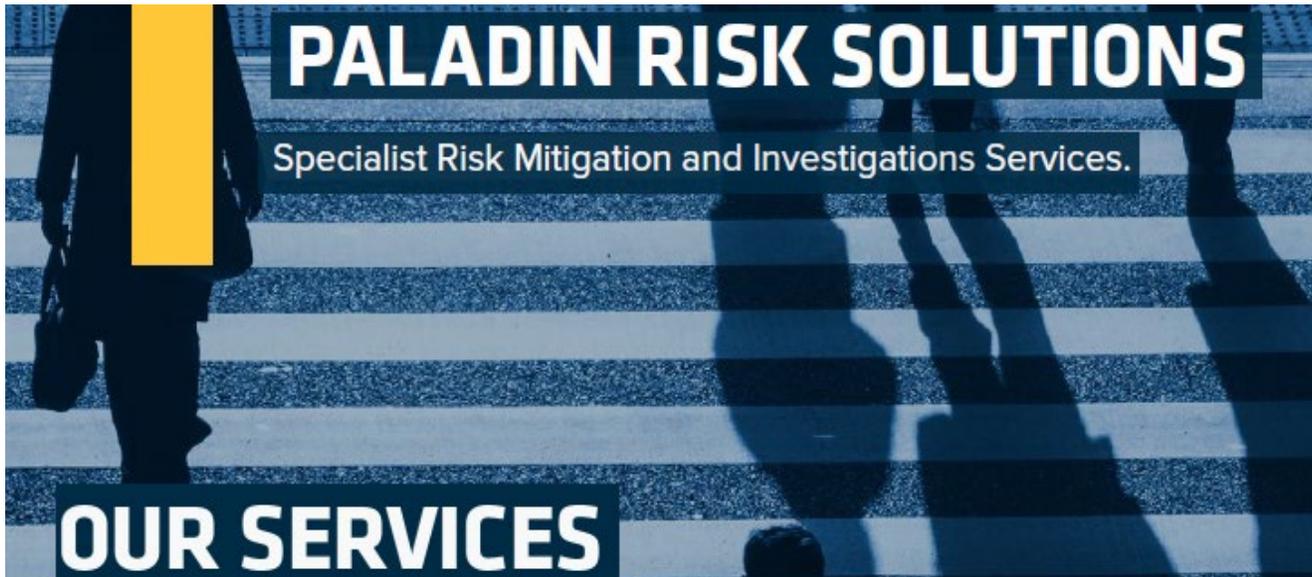
## End Report

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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>
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## 5. PALADIN RISK SOLUTIONS - SERVICES



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