



# INTELLIGENCE REPORT

Situational awareness for stakeholders and decision makers.



Report # 21-027

30 April 2021

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## 1. CURRENT SITUATION

This week was arguably the most anticipated week in terms of company's earnings releases. The following table submitted to a popular website Reddit outlines key companies that were expected to release their earnings report this week.

<b>EARNINGS WHISPERS</b> <b>Most Anticipated Earnings Releases</b> for the week beginning <b>April 26, 2021</b>									
Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday	
Before Open	After Close	Before Open	After Close	Before Open	After Close	Before Open	After Close	Before Open	
									
									
									
									
									
									
									
									
									
									
<a href="http://eps.sh/cal">http://eps.sh/cal</a>						© 2021 Earnings Whispers			

Investors and analysts were generally cautious in their predictions, while the actual earnings have blown past expectations.

Apple reported US \$89.6 billion in revenue for Q1, Facebook reported US \$26.2 billion, nearly doubling their revenue from the first quarter of 2020, Spotify reported a revenue of US \$2.6 billion for the first quarter, a 16% increase from Q1 last year, and GameStop reported a revenue of \$680 million. Canadian superstar Shopify has reported US \$988 million in revenue in Q1, which equates to a 110% increase from this time last year.

It was also a big week for cryptocurrency with Bitcoin rebounding from a 10% tumble that took place last week and Ethereum hit its all-time highs. Canadian dollar posted a 3 – year high, while the Bank of Canada signaled last week it could start hiking rates from their record lows in late 2022 and cut the pace of its bond purchases.

While the capital markets seem to have a very bullish outlook on the future, many Canadians are not seeing this optimism in their day-to-day lives. The Canadian Food Price Report for 2021 has some troubling forecasts, as overall food price is expecting an increase of 3 to 5%, meat at 4.5 to 6.5%, bakery at 3.5 to 5.5%, and vegetables at 4.5 to 6.5%. Fresh produce prices are nearly 9% up from this time last year already. Products like household appliances and furniture have seen price increases by over 5%.

Bank of Canada Governor, Tiff Macklem, said he remains committed to the central bank's 2% inflation target, even as price pressures are expected to temporarily overshoot that goal. Macklem, in parliamentary testimony on

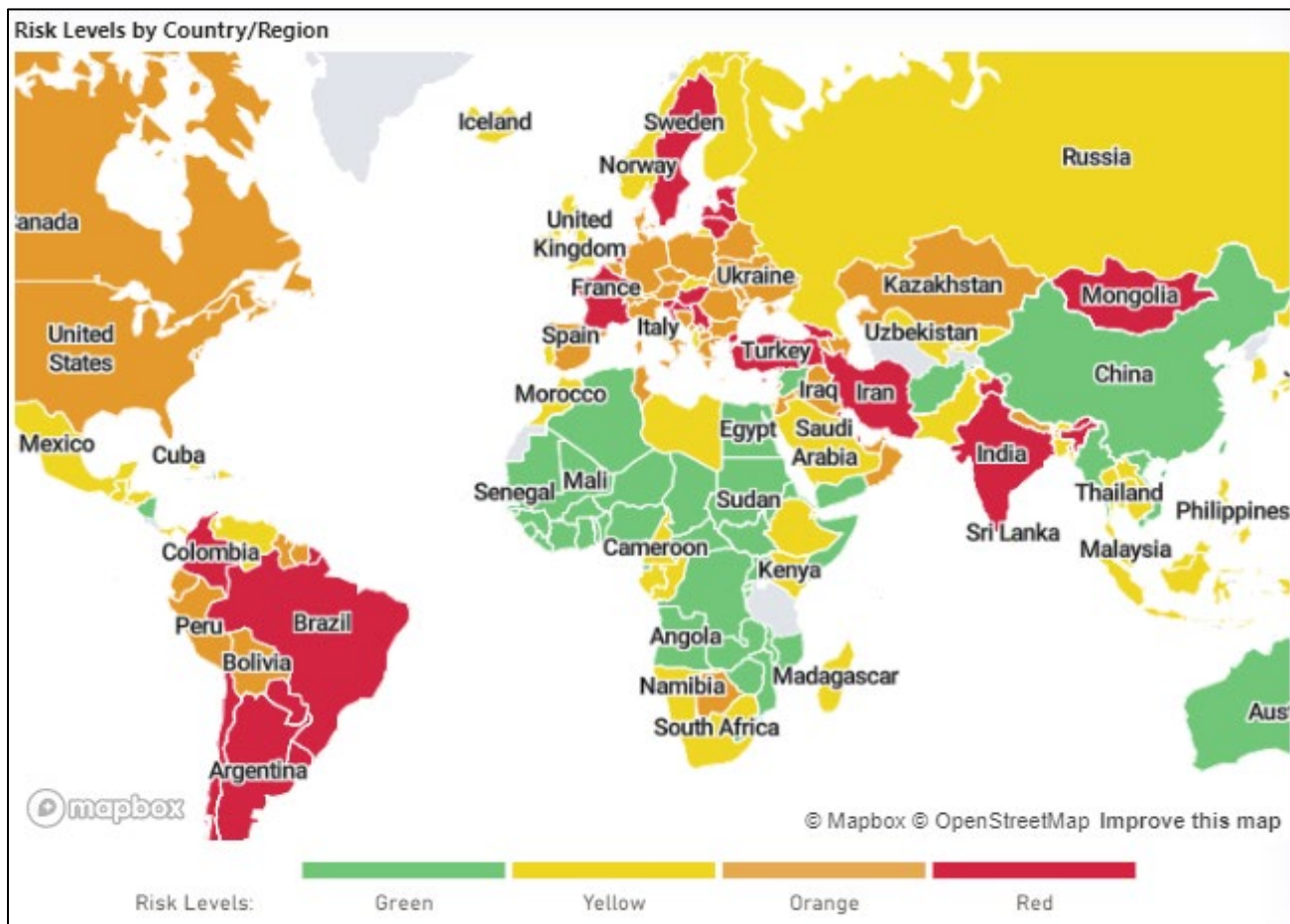
Tuesday, cited the central bank's long history of hitting that objective, and said he needs to worry about both upside and downside risks to its inflation outlook.

The comments came after the Bank of Canada released new forecasts on April 21 that show the biggest persistent overshoot of its 2% target in at least two decades.

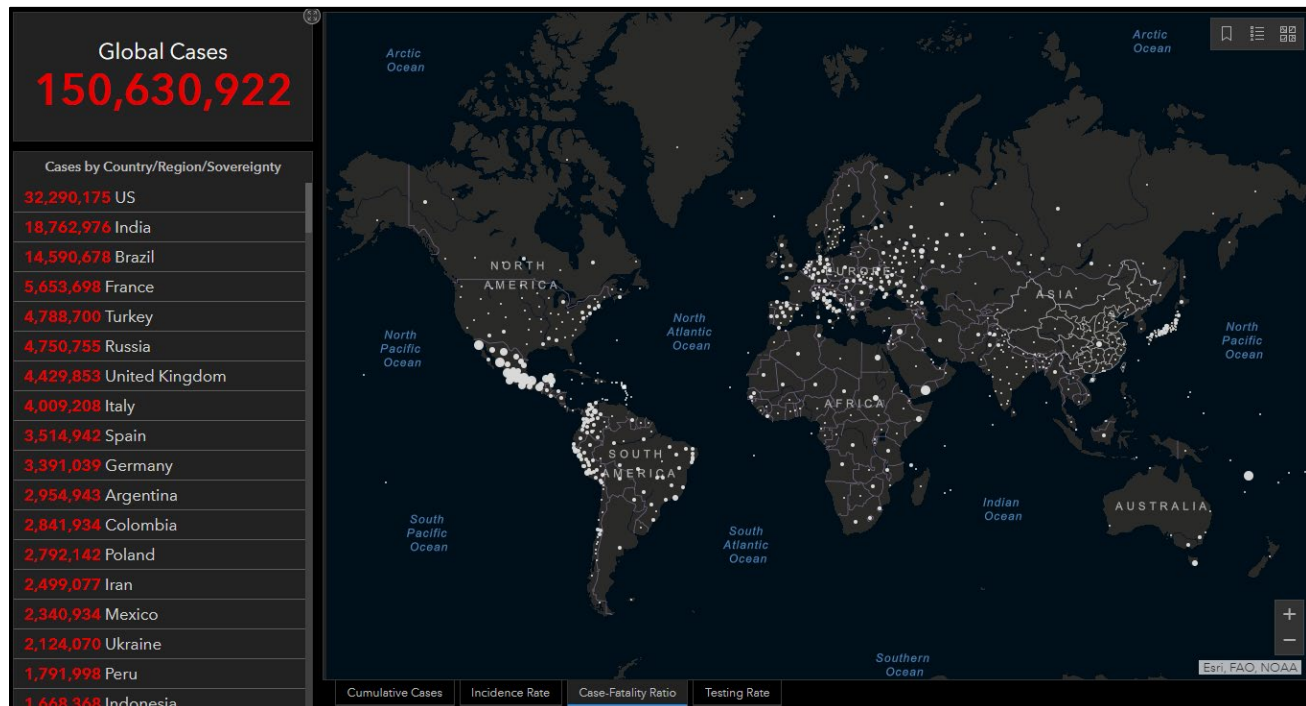
## 2. GLOBAL

### 2.1 COVID UPDATE

Country/Region	United States	Country/Region	Canada
Daily new cases per 100k people (7d moving avg.)	16.7	Daily new cases per 100k people (7d moving avg.)	21.2
Risk level	Orange	Risk level	Orange
Total cases	32,259,757	Total cases	1,194,989
Total deaths	574,925	Total deaths	24,065



#	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	151,726,543	+600,246	3,186,785	+7,939	129,603,319	18,936,439	111,579	19,465	408.8			
1	<a href="#">USA</a>	33,051,270	+7,202	589,285	+78	25,642,392	6,819,593	9,753	99,371	1,772	445,218,434	1,338,575	332,606,157
2	<a href="#">India</a>	19,107,611	+352,627	211,058	+2,745	15,629,306	3,267,247	8,944	13,735	152	286,392,086	205,860	1,391,197,718
3	<a href="#">Brazil</a>	14,592,886		401,417		13,152,118	1,039,351	8,318	68,253	1,877	43,818,216	204,943	213,807,144
4	<a href="#">France</a>	5,592,390		104,224		4,498,292	989,874	5,804	85,520	1,594	75,604,728	1,156,160	65,392,975
5	<a href="#">Iran</a>	2,499,077	+19,272	71,758	+407	1,954,321	472,998	5,398	29,443	845	15,830,271	186,504	84,878,935
6	<a href="#">Turkey</a>	4,820,591	+31,891	40,131	+394	4,323,897	456,563	3,534	56,654	472	47,261,999	555,452	85,087,533
7	<a href="#">Italy</a>	4,022,653	+13,446	120,807	+263	3,465,676	436,170	2,583	66,613	2,001	58,579,752	970,053	60,388,208
8	<a href="#">Ukraine</a>	2,069,537	+10,072	44,085	+307	1,655,525	369,927	177	47,558	1,013	9,418,779	216,444	43,515,909
9	<a href="#">Germany</a>	3,392,232	+12,845	83,542	+204	2,995,200	313,490	5,049	40,381	994	55,490,413	660,557	84,005,456
10	<a href="#">Argentina</a>	2,954,943		63,508		2,608,077	283,358	5,317	64,890	1,395	11,064,135	242,965	45,538,004
11	<a href="#">Russia</a>	4,805,288	+8,731	110,128	+397	4,427,946	267,214	2,300	32,916	754	129,100,000	884,330	145,986,248
12	<a href="#">Mexico</a>	2,340,934	+3,990	216,447	+529	1,861,861	262,626	4,798	18,000	1,664	6,612,450	50,845	130,050,050
13	<a href="#">Hungary</a>	779,348	+2,365	27,540	+182	510,379	241,429	677	80,845	2,857	5,373,540	557,419	9,640,033
14	<a href="#">Spain</a>	3,524,077	+9,135	78,216	+136	3,206,273	239,588	2,308	75,349	1,672	46,199,597	987,809	46,769,765
15	<a href="#">Poland</a>	2,792,142	+6,796	67,502	+429	2,496,810	227,830	2,831	73,842	1,785	14,321,250	378,746	37,812,291
16	<a href="#">Netherlands</a>	1,496,352	+7,758	17,148	+22	1,255,490	223,714	811	87,168	999	12,274,847	715,058	17,166,230
17	<a href="#">Sweden</a>	973,604		14,048	+33	799,710	159,846	392	95,909	1,384	8,482,276	835,587	10,151,283
18	<a href="#">Honduras</a>	211,076	+1,586	5,261	+38	78,517	127,298	566	21,035	524	621,659	61,954	10,034,279
19	<a href="#">Colombia</a>	2,841,934		73,230		2,650,643	118,061	6,006	55,366	1,427	14,715,576	286,685	51,330,193
20	<a href="#">Belgium</a>	986,622	+3,663	24,185	+45	848,796	113,641	886	84,825	2,079	12,475,193	1,072,552	11,631,313



### Global Case to Fatality Ratios



## 2.2 COVID-19 World News

- [Pfizer is testing a pill that, if successful, could become first-ever home cure for COVID-19](#)
- [India COVID death toll tops 200,000 as essential supplies run out](#)
- [Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro Under Senate Investigation for Politicizing Pandemic, Failing to Obtain Vaccines](#)  
An investigation into the Brazilian government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic was launched by its Senate on Tuesday and could potentially lead to charges and impact Bolsonaro's chances of re-election in October 2022.  
"This inquiry will not punish anyone criminally; that's for the attorney general. But the negative exposure will be strong, every day," said political scientist Beatriz Ray, who specializes in Brazil, according to AP. UOL reported that an internal investigation document anticipated 23 potential avenues of investigation.
- [Botswana Could Be First African Country to Vaccinate Entire Adult Population](#)
- [Japan's nurses protest against request to deploy them to Tokyo Olympic Games](#)  
Media reports on Monday, a day after the third state of emergency was declared in parts of the country, said that Tokyo 2020 organizers had asked the Japanese Nursing Association to deploy 500 nurses to the once-delayed sporting event, which will flag off in less than three months on July 23. The Tokyo Women's Medical University has reportedly had at least 400 nurses and 100 doctors quit over the past year.
- [Brazil nears 400,000 COVID-19 deaths with surge to remain near peak for months](#)
- [EU pivots to Pfizer with world's biggest Covid-19 vaccine deal as it sues AstraZeneca](#)

## 2.3 Global Awareness

- [Australian governments spend \\$19,000 a minute subsidizing fossil fuels, report finds](#)  
Former resources minister Matt Canavan has been vocal in his support of the fossil fuel industry. He doesn't believe infrastructure spending, or the federal fuel tax credit scheme should be seen as fossil fuel subsidies. "I fundamentally disagree with the assumptions. The absence of a tax is not a subsidy and the mining industry builds its own roads, they don't use public ones," Senator Canavan said, even though he conceded the fuel excise tax is not directly linked to spending on roads.
- [Russia's 'extermination' of Alexei Navalny's opposition group - 13,000 arrests and a terrorist designation](#)
- [Pope's anti-corruption decree for Vatican limits gifts to 40 euros](#)
- [New Zealand Parliament may debate whether China is committing acts of genocide against the Uighur people in Xinjiang](#)
- [China set to report first population decline since 1949](#)
- [World will lose 10% of glacier ice even if it hits climate targets](#)
- [Human Rights Watch: Israel commits crime of apartheid, UN must apply sanctions](#)  
"Human Rights Watch does not draw a direct comparison with the notorious South African regime that segregated and subjugated people according to their skin color. Instead, it cites international laws that define apartheid as a crime against humanity in which one racial group dominates another through intentional, systematic and inhumane acts of oppression. Race is interpreted broadly to apply to ethnic groups. While Human Rights Watch argues that these policies persist, to varying degrees, across the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and within the state of Israel itself, it points to the occupied West Bank as exhibit A. There, the group says, Israel has created a two-tier system with some Palestinians living under military rule and Israeli

settlers under a civil legal system with greater freedoms, an inequity that H.R.W. said “amounts to the systematic oppression required for apartheid.”

Israel fully governs over 60 percent of the West Bank, and uses checkpoints and a permit system to regulate Palestinian movement between areas of nominal Palestinian self-rule and to Israel. H.R.W. also cites “the forcible transfer of thousands of Palestinians out of their homes, denial of residency rights to hundreds of thousands of Palestinians and their relatives, and the suspension of basic civil rights to millions of Palestinians” as policies that meet the definition of apartheid.”

- [Chinese businessman admits smuggling U.S. marine tech to China](#)
- [Facebook claims it mistakenly hid posts calling for India’s prime minister to resign](#)
- [Hong Kong has passed a new immigration law that includes powers to stop people entering or leaving the city, raising fears of Chinese mainland-style “exit bans” in the international business hub](#)

## 2.4 Political Extremism, Civil Unrest and Activism

- [Attackers kill at least 20 in attack in Ethiopia's Oromiya region, says official](#)
- [Chadian army battles rebels in northern town](#)
- [Two Myanmar airbases attacked amid anti-coup protests: Reports](#)

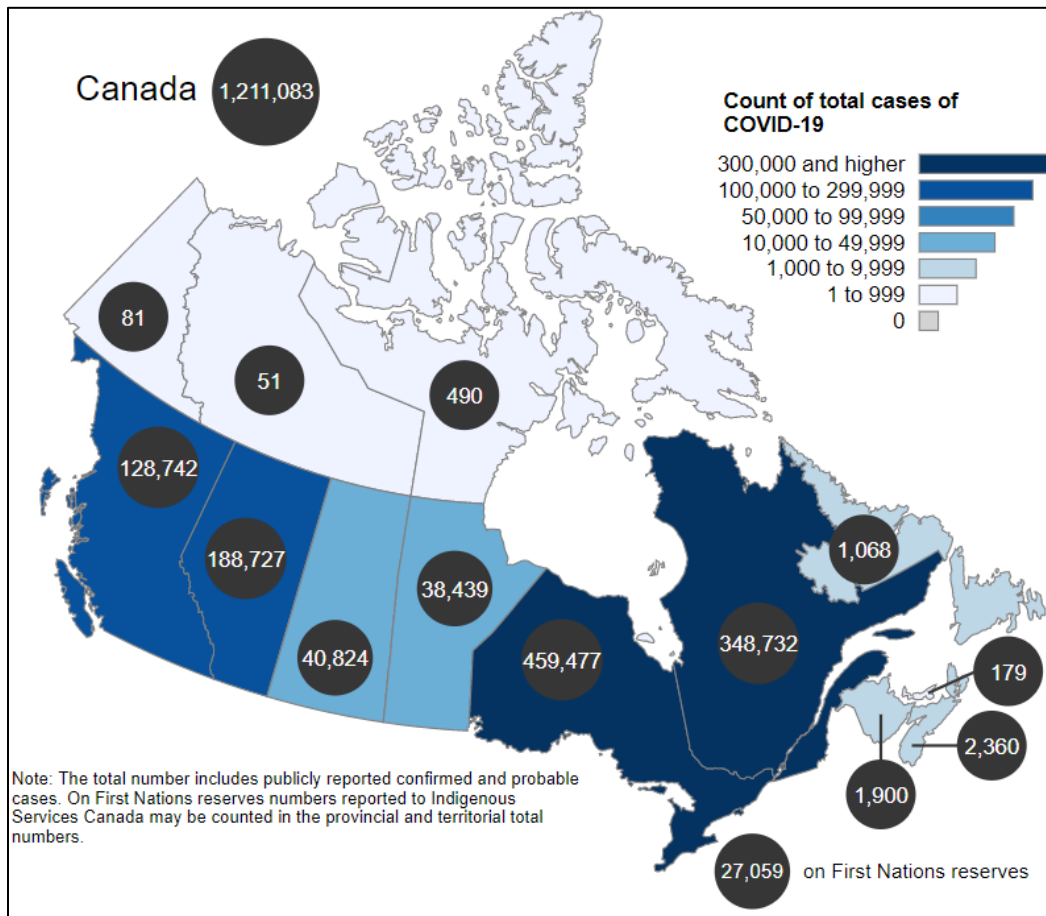
Myanmar citizens continue to protest after weeks of violence against them by the state. Myanmar's healthcare system has been one of the worst-affected sectors in the aftermath of a coup on 1 February which saw the military seize control of the country, sparking widespread protests.


Thousands of doctors have joined the country's civil disobedience movement which has seen public employees and other state officials refusing to work under the new military regime. Myanmar's public healthcare system accounts for around 80% of all hospitals and clinics and provides heavily subsidised care to the country's 54 million people.

- [As Somalia's unrest continues, US says it's 'prepared to consider all available tools'](#)

### 3. CANADA

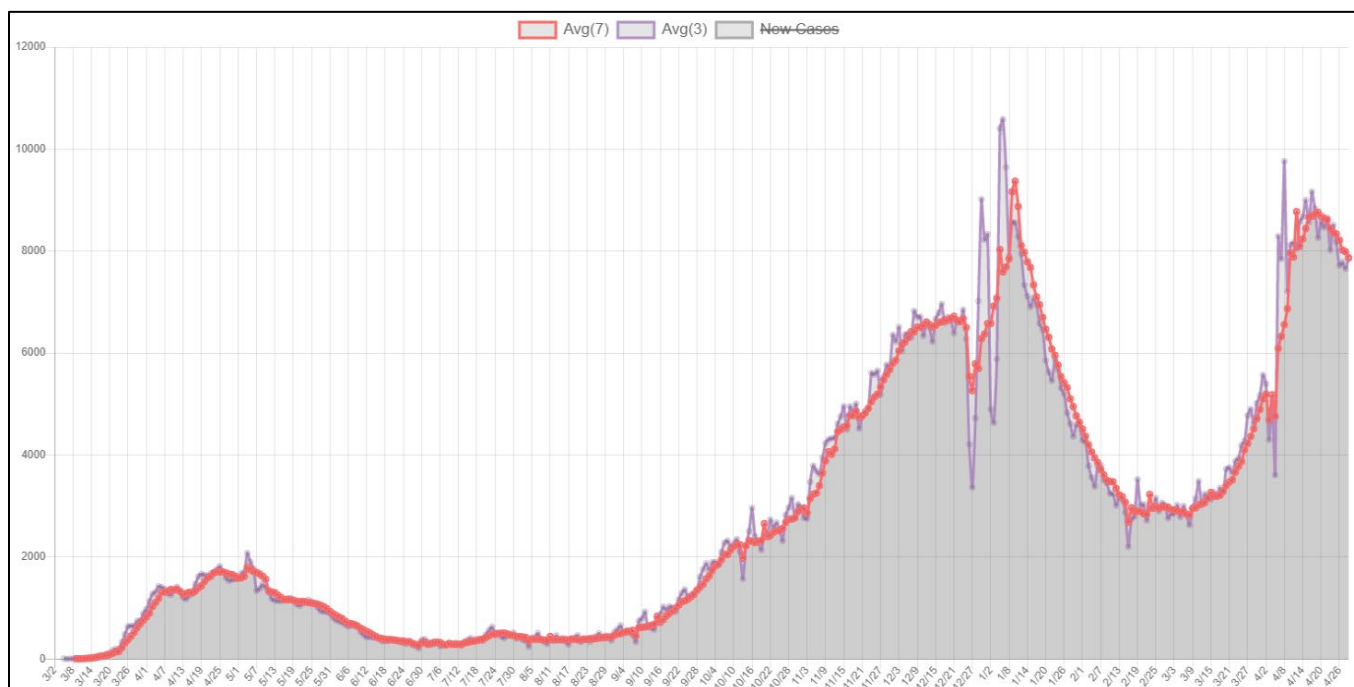
#### 3.1 COVID UPDATE



Prov.	Total Confirmed	Total Deaths	Total Recovered	Total Active
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,211,089</b>	<b>24,169</b>	<b>1,103,468</b>	<b>83,195</b>
BC	128,742	1,577	118,937	7,975
ON	459,477	8,029	413,010	38,438
QC	348,732	10,913	327,865	9,954
AB	188,727	2,075	165,267	21,385
MB	38,439	973	35,203	2,263
NB	1,900	36	1,745	119
SK	40,824	487	37,929	2,408
PEI	179	0	168	11
NL	1,068	6	1,031	27
NS	2,360	67	1,745	548
YT	81	2	79	0
NT	57	0	51	6
NU	490	4	425	61
 Rate of change	↑ 0.0%	↑ 0.0%	↑ 0.0%	0.0%



Prov.	Total Test	Total Waiting	Total Hosp	Total ICU
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,825,469</b>	-	-	-
BC	2,508,449	-	503	178
ON	14,052,764	31,914	2248	884
QC	8,582,636	-	623	165
AB	4,137,568	-	632	151
MB	656,519	-	80	28
NB	288,141	-	4	2
SK	765,871	-	186	38
PEI	137,345	-	-	-
NL	132,822	-	2	0
NS	524,220	-	14	3
YT	8,884	81	-	-
NT	18,349	54	0	0
NU	11,901	504	0	0
Rate of change	↑ 0.0%	-	-	-



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

### 3.2 COVID-19 Canada News

- [Ontario to expand COVID-19 vaccine eligibility to all adults by end of May](#)  
 Ontario plans to substantially expand eligibility for COVID-19 vaccines in May, officials said Thursday, with shipments to the province expected to ramp up in the coming weeks. With millions of doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines anticipated to begin arriving in Ontario, the province's vaccine task force says it can accelerate its timeline so all adults will be able to register for a first dose by the end of May.
- [Alberta edges closer to COVID-19 records as pandemic's third wave keeps rising](#)

- [People line up for hours to get AstraZeneca vaccine as B.C. drops age eligibility to 30](#)
- [Military to provide medical personnel to help Ontario's health-care system](#)
- The federal government will announce this afternoon the provision of military medical personnel to help Ontario's beleaguered health-care system with a third wave of COVID-19. A senior government official, granted anonymity to discuss matters not yet public, confirmed to The Canadian Press the military will help the struggling province. The plan involves providing teams of nurses and medical technicians to hospitals and other facilities struggling to keep up with a spike of new infections.
- [B.C. cancels West Vancouver country club's clinic offering AstraZeneca vaccine to members](#)
- [13-year-old Brampton girl dies after testing positive for COVID-19](#)  
A 13-year-old Brampton girl has died after testing positive for COVID-19, becoming one of the youngest victims of the virus in Ontario. Ontario Health Minister Christine Elliott called the loss a "tragedy" at Queen's Park on Monday. Premier Doug Ford issued a statement shortly after, "My heart absolutely breaks for this family. I can't imagine the unbearable pain and sorrow they are feeling right now ...," Ford said. Elected officials in the House of Commons and the Ontario legislature held moments of silence in honour of Emily.
- [Federal Court judge dismisses bid to halt hotel quarantines](#)
- [Canada to get 1.9M vaccine doses this week, including first Johnson & Johnson shots](#)

### 3.3 Canada Awareness

- [Man seriously injured in stabbing in downtown Toronto](#)
- [Vancouver police alarmed by social-media posts after teen fatally stabbed](#)  
Days after a teen was fatally stabbed at a Vancouver park, local police are warning conversations happening online could increase tension in the city. The boy died in hospital on Sunday, and a 14-year-old is facing a charge in connection to the incident. Dan McLaughlin with the B.C. Prosecution Service told CTV News the suspect was released from custody Monday afternoon. His next court appearance is scheduled for May 27. As a minor, the suspect cannot be identified under the Youth Criminal Justice Act. "Tensions and emotions are running high, and we're very worried this could lead to more conflict amongst youth," Addison said. "We're pleading with teens to take a deep breath and to stay calm, and we ask parents to speak to their kids about what they're posting on social media so we can avoid any other serious incidents."
- [Transat deal for \\$700M government bailout includes cash for customer refunds](#)
- [Barrie police officer charged with assault following violent arrest](#)
- [Antidepressant use among youth is skyrocketing across Canada. Prescribing doctors say they have little choice as teens 'can't wait nine months' for therapy](#)  
Since COVID-19, fewer Canadians report having excellent or very good mental health – 55% (July 2020) down from 68% (2019). Prior to COVID-19, youth aged 15-24 were the least likely to report excellent or very good mental health. They report the greatest declines - 20 percentage point reduction from 60% (pre-COVID) to 40% (July 2020) Seniors aged 65 and older are the only group to date who have not experienced declines in mental health since the pandemic began. Women continue to report lower levels of mental health compared with men – 52% vs 58%. Visible minority groups were more likely than Whites to report poor mental health (27.8% vs. 22.9%) and symptoms consistent with "moderate" or "severe" generalized anxiety disorder (30.0% vs. 24.2%).
- [Ottawa's move to regulate video posts on YouTube and social media called 'assault' on free speech](#)

- [Ottawa targets tax evaders with public registry of corporate owners](#)

Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland committed in last week's budget to do something anti-corruption crusaders and experts on white-collar crime have been urging for years: create a publicly accessible database of the "beneficial" owners of companies. "To ensure our system is fair, this budget will invest in the fight against tax evasion, shine a light on beneficial ownership arrangements, and ensure that multinational corporations pay their fair share of tax in Canada," Freeland said in French in the House of Commons. The budget also sets out an additional \$304.1 million over five years to beef up the Canada Revenue Agency's ability to sniff out tax evasion. That includes "enhancing capacity" to identify tax evasion involving trusts.

- [Netflix chooses Toronto as location for its corporate office in Canada](#)

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



welund

During the week of 22-29 April 2021, the majority of activity in Canada noted by Welund focused on the government sector (51%), followed by healthcare (11%). Protests made up the majority of activity (38%), followed by webinars and car caravans (13%).

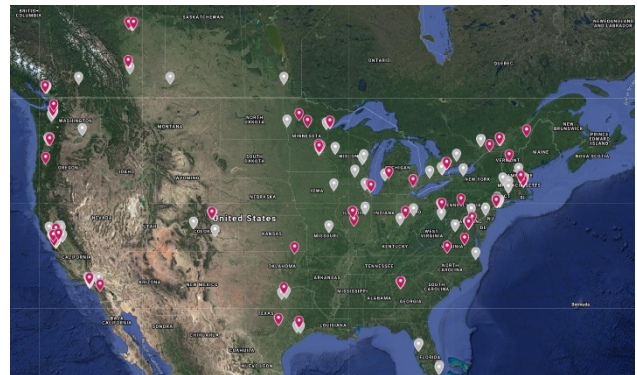
Anti-lockdown and covid-19 related campaigns continued to be the focus of activist activity over the past week. The regularity and popularity of anti-lockdown protests has increased, with more municipalities experiencing some type of protest, demonstration, or rally. Campaigns in solidarity with essential workers have also increased this past week. The growth in webinar and car caravan usage could be attributed to campaigners adapting to the constraints of covid-19 restrictions.

#### Protests:

A series of anti-lockdown protests were executed across the country. In Alberta, anti-lockdown activists held 11 protests in cities throughout the province to oppose ongoing public health restrictions. Calgary and Edmonton hosted the largest events. The Calgary event was highlighted by the presence of well-known anti-lockdown organizer Chris Sky. For these larger events, counter-protesters were present, however no direct confrontations between the groups were reported.

Chris Sky, who is originally from Toronto, was in western Canada as part of a 'freedom convoy' week of action on 22-25 April. Sky organized a series of protests at each of the major destinations along the route. The convoy started in BC and was scheduled to end in Toronto. Sky was arrested at a rally in Thunder Bay.

Over the past week, multiple anti-lockdown protests were held in Ontario. Organizers claimed that an event in Toronto was attended by over a thousand participants who marched through the city. Other events in Ottawa and Stratford were supported by government representatives such as MPP Randy Hillier and People's Party of Canada leader Maxime Bernier. Well-known right-leaning personality Paul Fromm supported and was in attendance at the Ottawa Rally.



*Figure 1: Past and upcoming protest activity as noted by Welund between 21 April-5 May 2021*

Despite lower activity against the project – likely due to pandemic related restrictions – anti-Trans Mountain activists held a protest outside of the Trans Mountain terminal in Burnaby.

#### Outlook:

Anti-lockdown protests will be the focus of many upcoming actions in Canada. On 1 May, Montreal could host the largest coordinated march and rally to date, with attendance potentially reaching over 10,000 individuals. ‘May Day’ anti-capitalist and anti-curfew actions have also been planned for the city on the same day, which could exacerbate the large number of protesters and elevate potential risk. Some organizers for these additional events have called for ‘anarchist-style’ actions as part of the 1 May protests. A second ‘Worldwide Rally for Freedom’ on 15 May has seen solidarity protests organized in multiple cities across Canada.

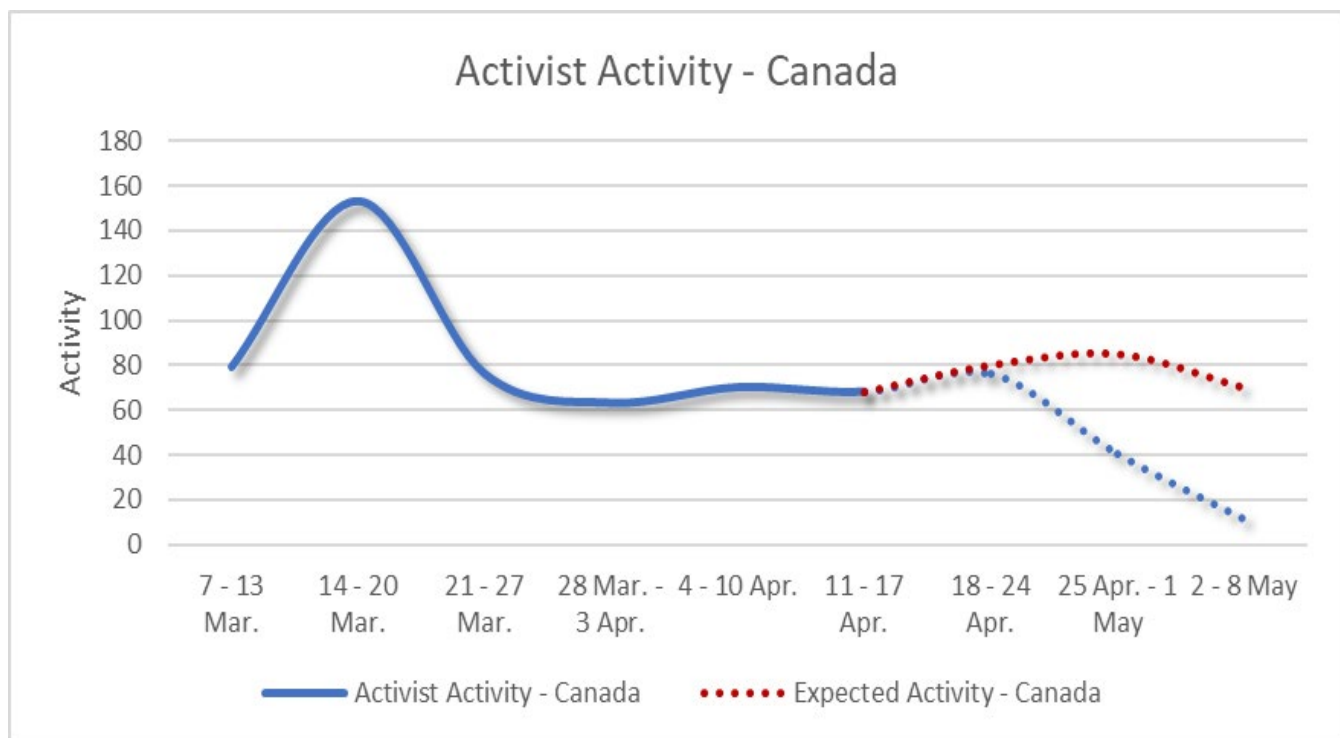


Figure 2 Total activist activity in Canada as noted by Welund.

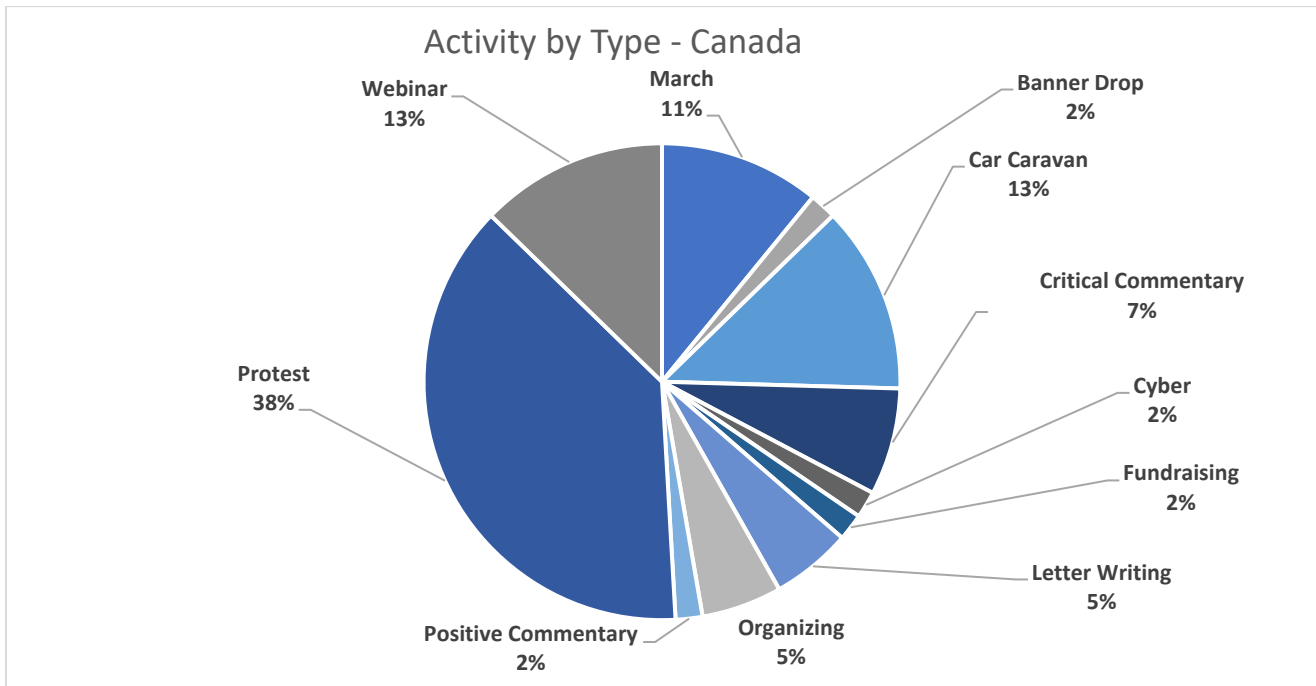


Figure 3 Activist activity in Canada by type as noted by Welund

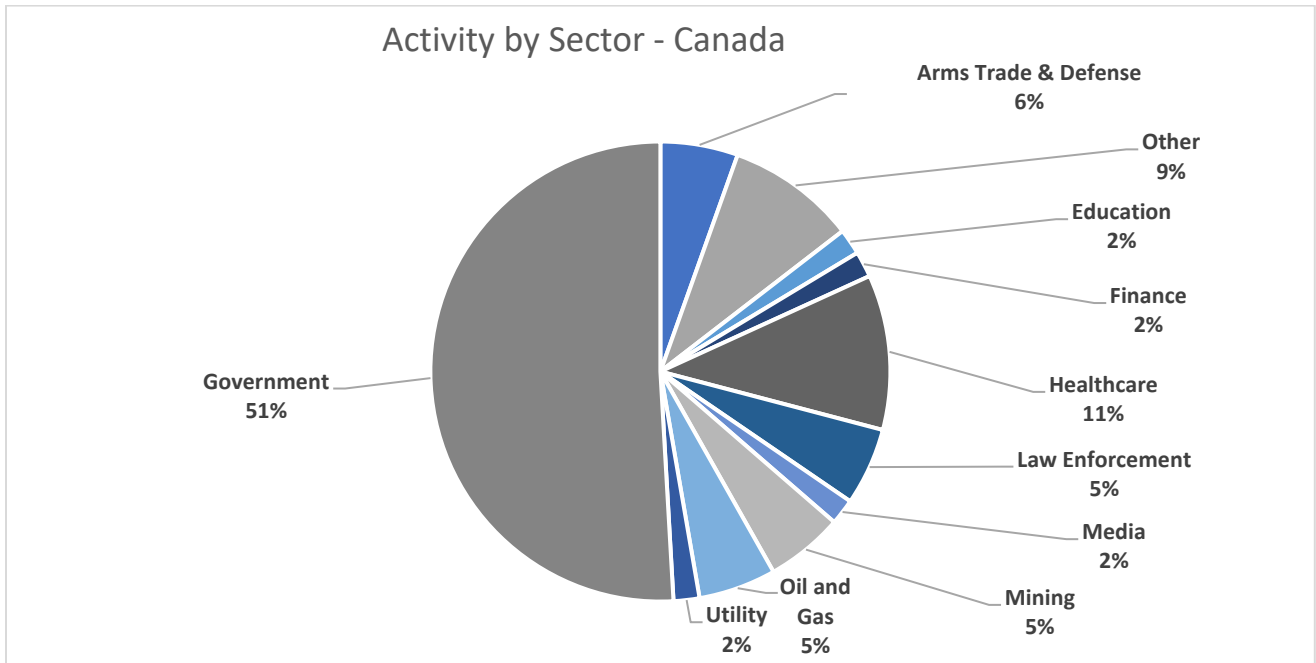
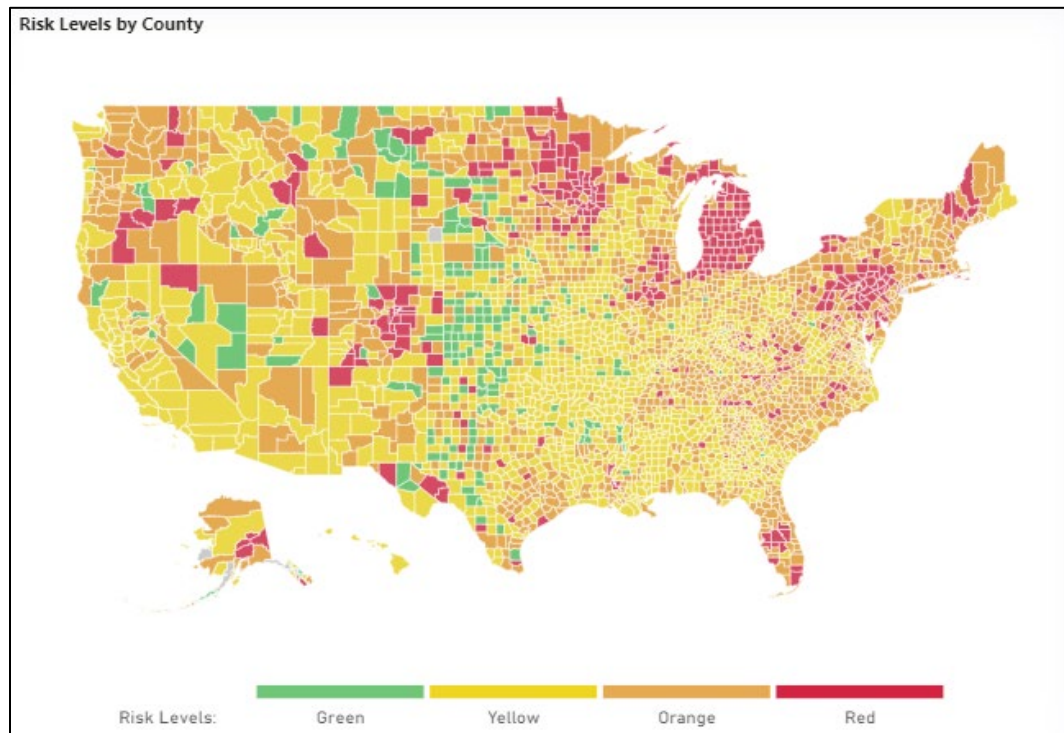


Figure 4 Activist activity in Canada by sector as noted by Welund.



## 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	33,044,068		589,207		25,641,574	6,813,287	99,830	1,780	445,132,683	1,344,801	
1	<a href="#">California</a>	3,740,544		61,671		1,990,804	1,688,069	94,668	1,561	59,795,197	1,513,334	39,512,223
2	<a href="#">Virginia</a>	658,341		10,751		54,563	593,027	77,130	1,260	9,199,905	1,077,838	8,535,519
3	<a href="#">New York</a>	2,091,523		52,482		1,478,457	560,584	107,514	2,698	50,991,319	2,621,182	19,453,561
4	<a href="#">Maryland</a>	446,459		8,718		10,194	427,547	73,848	1,442	9,653,465	1,596,754	6,045,680
5	<a href="#">Florida</a>	2,228,212		35,096		1,790,319	402,797	103,745	1,634	27,439,747	1,277,590	21,477,737
6	<a href="#">Kentucky</a>	443,408		6,497		51,363	385,548	99,248	1,454	5,534,750	1,238,844	4,467,673
7	<a href="#">Michigan</a>	932,604		18,716		626,254	287,634	93,383	1,874	13,413,625	1,343,128	9,986,857
8	<a href="#">Washington</a>	403,971		5,539		191,199	207,233	53,050	727	6,508,152	854,661	7,614,893
9	<a href="#">New Jersey</a>	995,365		25,529		773,194	196,642	112,063	2,874	13,431,125	1,512,141	8,882,190
10	<a href="#">Alabama</a>	527,513		10,887		335,669	180,957	107,586	2,220	2,632,388	536,873	4,903,185
11	<a href="#">Georgia</a>	1,098,723		20,158		905,300	173,265	103,483	1,899	8,812,009	829,957	10,617,423
12	<a href="#">Rhode Island</a>	147,897		2,669		8,888	136,340	139,610	2,519	4,000,741	3,776,561	1,059,361
13	<a href="#">Pennsylvania</a>	1,151,784		26,291		1,008,830	116,663	89,969	2,054	12,983,087	1,014,146	12,801,989
14	<a href="#">Colorado</a>	509,194		6,443		387,607	115,144	88,421	1,119	2,903,219	504,142	5,758,736
15	<a href="#">Illinois</a>	1,331,848		24,252		1,209,138	98,458	105,103	1,914	22,558,270	1,780,192	12,671,821

## 4.2 COVID-19 USA News

- [U.S. tells American citizens to leave India as soon as possible](#)  
The U.S. government told its citizens to leave India as soon as possible because of the country's escalating COVID-19 crisis. In a Level 4 travel advisory - the highest issued by the Department of State - U.S. citizens were told "not to travel to India or to leave as soon as it is safe to do so." There are 14 direct daily flights between India and the U.S. and other services that connect through Europe, the department said. Australia earlier this week banned all flights from India to relieve pressure on the nation's system of mainly quarantining returned residents from overseas in inner-city hotels, after a jump in infections. Canada is also banning all flights from India and Pakistan for 30 days due to the growing wave of COVID-19 cases in that region.
- [U.S. to send more than \\$100 million in Covid supplies to India](#)
- [Fauci says U.S. should see a turning point in the pandemic 'within a few weeks'](#)
- [U.S. administers 237.4 mln doses of COVID-19 vaccines – CDC](#)
- [U.S. to share 60M AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine doses with world](#)  
The U.S. will begin sharing its entire pipeline of vaccines from AstraZeneca once the COVID-19 vaccine meets federal safety requirements, White House press secretary Jen Psaki said Monday. Speaking to reporters on Monday, she said as many as 60 million doses are expected to become available for export within the next two months. The move greatly expands on the Biden administration's action last month to share about 4 million doses of the vaccine with Canada and Mexico. However, the number of AstraZeneca doses each country will now be allotted is unclear, as is the expected delivery date.
- [COVID-19 hospitalizations in U.S. down over 70% among seniors](#)

## 4.3 USA Awareness

- [FDA to propose ban on menthol-flavored cigarettes, with industry likely to challenge](#)  
The Food and Drug Administration announced Thursday that it will propose a ban on menthol-flavored cigarettes in the United States, which would be a huge blow to future tobacco sales. Menthol is the last allowable flavor for cigarettes. According to the FDA, menthol cigarettes have been disproportionately used by youth, people of color and low-income communities. The vast majority of Black smokers favor menthol cigarette brands, and Black men currently have the highest rates of lung cancer in the country. Jefferies analyst Owen Bennett said this proposal would take years to reach a conclusion as there would need to be sufficient evidence from both sides, which could be difficult. "For menthol, if we do see a proposed rule, it could take years to final rule, due to a watertight evidence package that would need to be put together ... the FDA itself saying in the past there has not been enough evidence," he said in a report, adding that major tobacco companies could fight back in response, which would add more time.
- [Alabama governor signs bill to remove anti-gay language from sex education curriculum](#)
- [U.S recovery from pandemic recession is showing momentum](#)
- [California wildfire that killed 2 was started to cover up murder, officials say](#)
- [U.S. indicts 3 on hate crime charges in death of Georgia man](#)
- [Over the past 14 months over 200 Seattle police officers quit amid national protests](#)

- [F.B.I. Searches Giuliani's Home and Office, Seizing Phones and Computers](#)

Federal investigators executed search warrants Wednesday morning at the Manhattan home and office of Rudy Giuliani, former President Donald Trump's attorney, a law enforcement official told The Associated Press. The former New York City mayor has been under investigation for several years over his business dealings in Ukraine. Details of the searches were not immediately available, but it comes as the Justice Department continues its investigation into the former New York City mayor and staunch Trump ally.

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



welund

During the week of 22-29 April, the majority of activist activity in the US noted by Welund took place in the government sector (69%), followed by oil and gas (7%), law enforcement (6%) finance (6%). Protests made up most activity (52%), followed by meetings/gatherings (13%), and marches (6%).

The majority of activist activity this week was focused on Earth Day/Week events and the organizing of upcoming May Day events. Campaigners continued calls for police reform in the wake the guilty verdict in the Derek Chauvin trial. Anti-police protests over the deaths of Daunte Wright and Ma'Khia Bryant continued over the weekend.

##### Protests:

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

On 22 April saw several Earth Day related events and protests. Youth organizers hand delivered a series of 'Youth Climate Demands' during President Biden's Leaders Summit on Climate.

On 29 April, there was a notable protest against vaccine passports at the Michigan State Capitol.

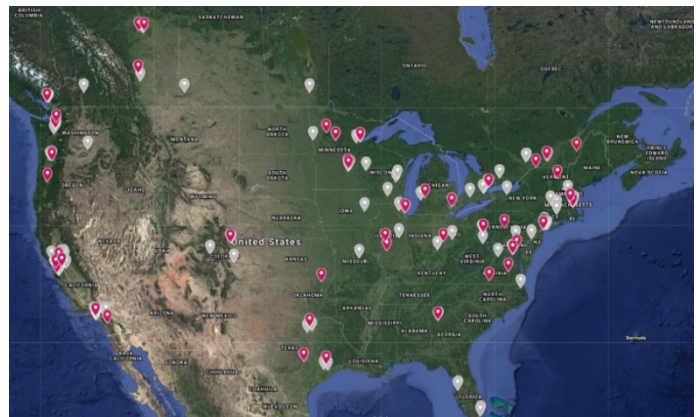


Figure 1: Past (grey) and upcoming (red) protest activity as noted by Welund between 21 April – 5 May.

##### Outlook:

Welund expects to see continued Black Lives Matter-related activism leading up to the anniversary of George Floyd's death on 25 May and Chauvin's sentencing in June. Campaigners stressed that activists still had to press for reforms to policing, or the complete abolition of police forces.

Welund is monitoring upcoming events for protest organizing for May Day on 1 May. Welund has identified nearly 30 upcoming protests. Large protests have been organized in several major US cities, including Washington, DC, Portland, New York City, Duluth, Pittsburgh, Eugene and Minneapolis.

On 7 May, Stop the Money Pipeline (STMP) will stage a 'global' day of action against the banks financing Enbridge's Line 3 oil pipeline. It claimed "activists around the world will organize actions and protests at branches, offices and headquarters of the banks funding Line 3."

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

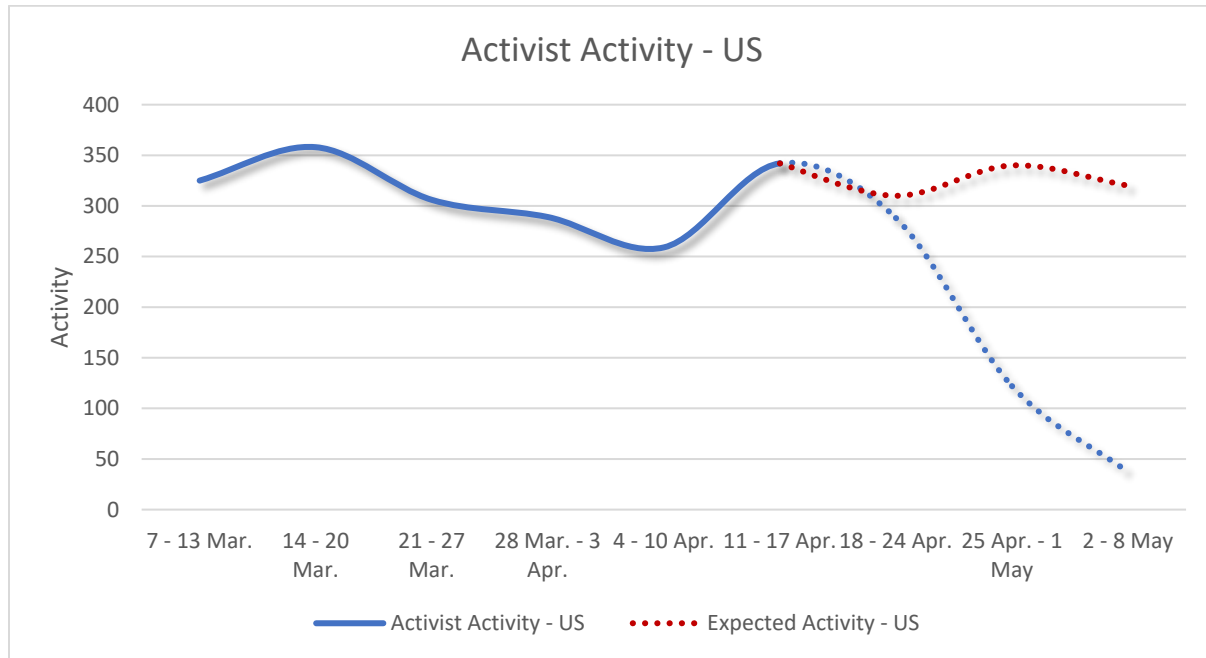


Figure 5 Total activist activity in the US as noted by Welund.

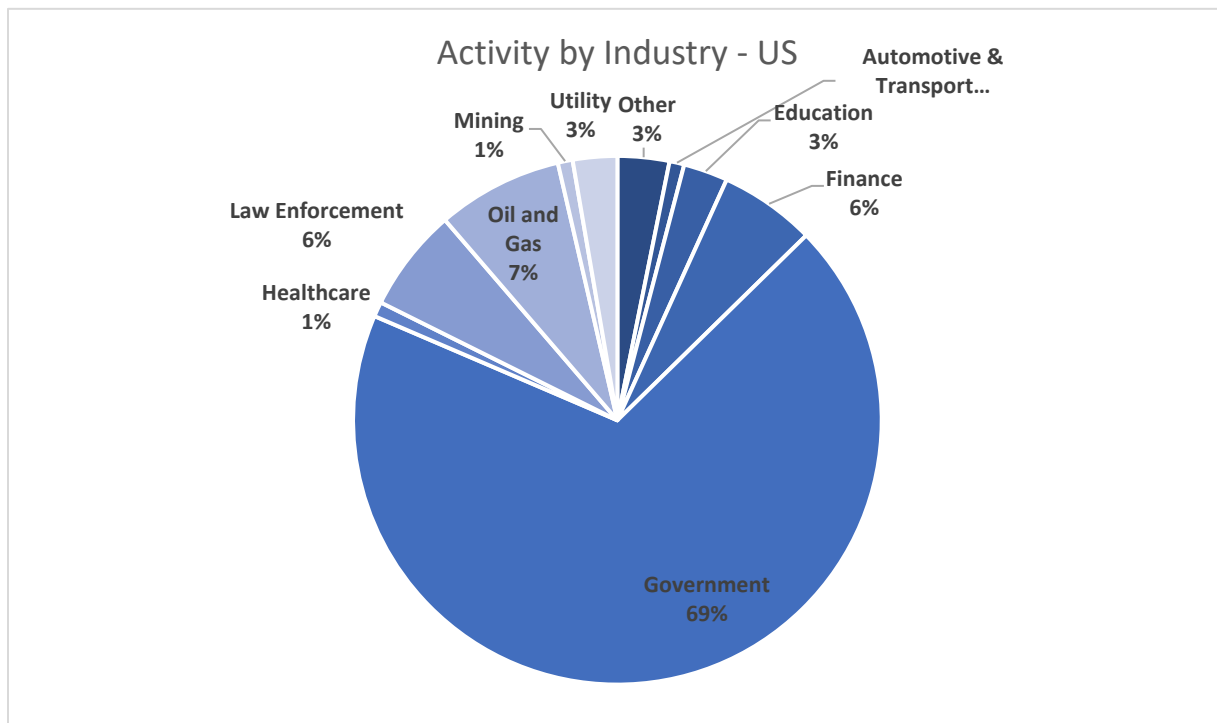


Figure 6 Activist activity in the US by industry as noted by Welund

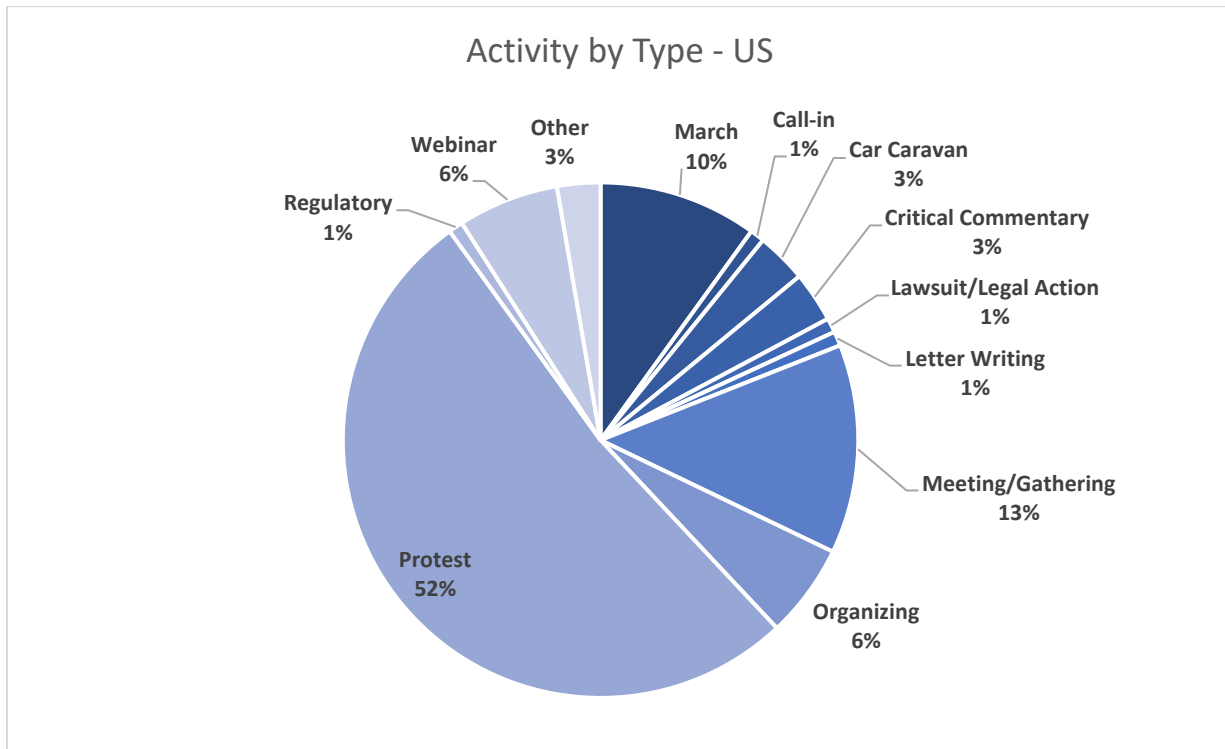



Figure 4 Activist activity in the US by type as noted by Welund

## End Report

Please submit feedback to:

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## 5. PALADIN RISK SOLUTIONS - SERVICES



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