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Executive Insight Brief

January 20, 2023

Headlines - Aerospace & Defense - Budget & Approps - Advanced Tech - Military Installations & Communities -
Homeland Security - Transportation & Infrastructure - Biotech & Healthcare - Climate & Development

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Worth Reading: [CIA chief told Zelenskyy in secret meeting that vital aid fueling Ukraine's fight could become harder to obtain](#)

Aerospace & Defense

[Australia's First US UH-60 Black Hawk Helicopters to Arrive in 2023 \(Bloomberg\)](#)

The first helicopters in Australia's new fleet of US-designed Black Hawks will arrive by the end of the year, Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles said, further strengthening security

ties between Canberra and Washington. The purchase of 40 Black Hawk helicopters for about A\$3 billion (\$2.1 billion) was confirmed by Australia's Department of Defence on Wednesday. Marles, who is also the defense minister, said the new aircraft would replace Australia's Taipan choppers, which have seen repeated maintenance issues in recent years. Washington [approved the sale](#) in August 2022, with the US Defense Security Cooperation Agency saying at the time that the Australian purchase would support "the foreign policy and national security objectives of the US."

[Defense industry's business model transformed by war, says German contractor](#)

[Air Force, Marine Generals Seen as Top Picks for Joint Chiefs Job \(WSJ\)](#)

President Biden is considering two service chiefs and the head of the U.S. cyber defense command to be the next chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in what will be the president's biggest opportunity to date to shape U.S. military leadership. Air Force Gen. Charles "CQ" Brown, the Air Force chief of staff, and Gen. David Berger, the Marine Corps commandant, are leading candidates to succeed Army Gen. Mark Milley as the Pentagon's top officer when his four-year appointment ends Sept. 30. Army Gen. Paul Nakasone, who serves as both head of U.S. Cyber Command and the director of the National Security Agency, also is a contender, U.S. and defense officials said. The president is expected to announce his nominee in the spring. The candidate then would face a Senate confirmation hearing. The nomination of the chairman of the joint chiefs is one of the most consequential decisions a president makes on the U.S. military. While the chairman is the highest-ranking military officer, he has no troops under his command. Rather, he serves as the top military adviser to the president, and over time, the Joint Chiefs has gained deep influence over every part of U.S. security. During Gen. Milley's time in the job, the position also has shaped public opinion of the military.

[Turkey F-16 sale in congressional limbo amid Lockheed backlog](#)

[U.S. prepping major military package for Ukraine \(Politico\)](#)

The U.S. is gearing up to announce a major new weapons package for Ukraine on Friday, as top military leaders from around the world gather in Germany to discuss how to help Kyiv in its fight against Russia, according to three U.S. officials and another person familiar with the discussions. While the next tranche will include additional artillery, ammunition and armor — likely Stryker armored combat vehicles — the U.S. is not expected to sign off on American M1 Abrams tanks, said the people, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the talks ahead of an announcement. The reluctance is due to the logistical and maintenance challenges of the tanks, and not over concern that their transfer could

escalate the conflict, one of the U.S. officials said. This person noted that the U.S. has helped Ukraine obtain Soviet-era tanks and supports the British decision to send around a dozen of its Challenger 2 tanks. The package will likely include a number of Strykers, an eight-wheeled armored fighting vehicle built by General Dynamics Land Systems, as well as ground-launched Small Diameter Bombs, which have a range of roughly 100 miles, two of the people said.

Budget & Appropriations

[House cracking on with committee building \(Politico\)](#)

House committees are finally coming together, with key building blocks locked in. Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) and Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-N.Y.), agreed on ratios for the top tier, most coveted committees in the House. Compared to the switch in majority control, the ratio tweaks are tiny. Appropriations will have one more seat on each side of the aisle. Energy and Commerce will shrink by three seats on each side, while Financial Services will have one fewer. The Ways and Means panel will stay the same size. The House GOP steering committee gathered on Monday evening to finalize their recommendations for who should sit on which committees, focusing on Armed Services, Judiciary, Agriculture, and Transportation and Infrastructure.

[Right-Wing Trump Allies Win Seats on Oversight, Reflecting G.O.P. Priorities](#)

[Fed's Beige Book Says Businesses Expect Weak Growth in Months Ahead \(WSJ\)](#)

U.S. economic activity was relatively flat at the start of the year and businesses are pessimistic about growth in the months ahead, the Federal Reserve said in a Wednesday report. Half of the Fed's 12 regional banks reported no change or slight declines in economic activity in their districts, with several others reporting slight or modest growth and one saying it had a significant decline. Some retailers "noted that high inflation continued to reduce consumers' purchasing power, particularly among low and moderate-income households," according to the central bank's latest compilation of economic anecdotes from around the country, known as the Beige Book. The Fed said most regions benefited from a slight increase in consumer spending during the holiday season. Many business contacts said it had become more difficult to pass higher costs to consumers, "suggesting greater price sensitivity on the part of consumers."

[At Wartime Davos Forum, Calls for European Unity Are Eased by Relief](#)

[Dominion to Depose Rupert Murdoch in Defamation Case Against Fox News - WSJ](#)

Dominion Voting Systems is scheduled to depose Fox Corp. Chairman Rupert Murdoch on Thursday ahead of an expected April trial over allegations that Fox News amplified false claims that the voting-machine company manipulated the 2020 presidential election results against Donald Trump. Dominion, which sued Fox News for defamation in March 2021 and is seeking \$1.6 billion in damages, is continuing to gather evidence through the discovery process and is scheduled to depose Mr. Murdoch over two days. Mr. Murdoch is the latest in a series of top officials from the network to be called in by Dominion attorneys for sworn testimony. Others who have appeared include on-air Fox commentators Sean Hannity, Tucker Carlson and Jeanine Pirro. Top executives were also called in, including Fox News Chief Executive Suzanne Scott and parent Fox Corp. Chief Executive Lachlan Murdoch. The litigation—and the potential liability it carries—comes amid efforts by Rupert Murdoch, the executive chairman of News Corp, to reunite Fox and News Corp into a single company.

Advanced Technologies

[Little-Known Surveillance Program Captures Money Transfers Between U.S. and More Than 20 Countries \(WSJ\)](#)

Hundreds of federal, state and local U.S. law-enforcement agencies have access without court oversight to a database of more than 150 million money transfers between people in the U.S. and in more than 20 countries, according to internal program documents and an investigation by Sen. Ron Wyden. The database, housed at a little-known nonprofit called the Transaction Record Analysis Center, or TRAC, was set up by the Arizona state attorney general's office in 2014 as part of a settlement reached with Western Union to combat cross-border trafficking of drugs and people from Mexico. It has since expanded to allow officials of more than 600 law-enforcement entities—from federal agencies such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement to small-town police departments in nearly every state—to monitor the flow of funds through money services between the U.S. and countries around the world. TRAC's data includes the full names of the sender and recipient as well as the transaction amount. Rich Lebel, TRAC's director, said the program has directly resulted in hundreds of leads and busts involving drug cartels and other criminals seeking to launder money, and has revealed patterns of money flow that help law-enforcement agencies get a broader grasp on smuggling networks.

[Taiwan fines Foxconn for unauthorized China investment](#)

[Microsoft is laying off 10,000 employees, joining Amazon and other tech companies in job](#)

[cuts \(CNN\)](#)

Microsoft plans to lay off 10,000 employees as part of broader cost-cutting measures, the company said in a securities filing on Wednesday, making it the latest tech company to reduce staff because of growing economic uncertainty. Speaking before the layoff announcement at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Switzerland, on Wednesday, Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella said that the company was not immune to a weaker global economy. In a memo to staffers Wednesday, Nadella also cited changing demand years for digital services years into the pandemic as well as looming recession fears. Microsoft had approximately 221,000 full-time employees globally as of June 30, 2022, according to a US Securities and Exchange Commission filing, with some 122,000 of those staffers based in the United States. Nadella said the job cuts represent less than 5% of the company's total workforce and the reductions will be complete by the end of its fiscal third quarter this year, which ends in March.

[Drone Boats: Inside the U.S. Navy's Latest Unmanned AI Tech](#)

[U.S. says Russian national ran crypto exchange widely used by cybercriminals \(NBC News\)](#)

The U.S. has arrested a Russian national and founder of a cryptocurrency exchange on charges of allegedly laundering more than \$700 million, the Department of Justice said Wednesday. Anatoly Legkodymov, the founder of Bitzlato, a Hong Kong-registered cryptocurrency exchange that touted its lax approach to verifying customers' identity, was arrested in Miami Tuesday night. According to court documents, Legkodymov knew his company was helping criminals launder money, telling one staffer that his customers were "known to be crooks." While many cryptocurrency exchanges take pains to verify users' identities so that they don't violate financial regulations (generally known as "know your customer" or KYC laws), Bitzlato's website claimed it only required users to provide an email address to register. As of last year, Chainalysis found that Bitzlato had laundered more than \$206 million from darknet markets, \$224 million from other scams and \$9 million from ransomware attacks.

Military Installations & Communities

[Senator, Navy Secretary Say Sailors Need More Mental Health Help \(Military.com\)](#)

Navy leaders as well as congressional representatives are vowing to address the service's persistent mental health problems, which have been punctuated by a recent suicide crisis, after a tour of a facility where four sailors died by suicide in just over a month. Lawmakers are pointing to a 2021 law that was meant to provide help and asking why it hasn't been fully put into effect by the Pentagon. Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., and Congressman Bobby Scott, D-Va., visited the Naval Maintenance Center in Norfolk, Virginia, along with

Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro on Tuesday in an effort to better understand why the unit experienced a rash of suicides in November 2022. Kaine, speaking to reporters after the tour, said that Del Toro acknowledged that more needs to be done for sailors.

[The Airman Who Created the Super Soaker Is Rightfully in the Inventors Hall of Fame](#)

[Army May Consider Buying Weapons Parts in Advance to Avoid Delays \(Defense One\)](#)

The Army should consider stockpiling critical weapons parts to avoid replenishment delays in the event of a conflict, the service's top uniformed leader said Wednesday. Since Russia invaded Ukraine last February, the United States has pledged some \$24.9 billion worth of weapons to Kyiv, from 155mm howitzer rounds to missiles, which, coupled with supply chain problems, has raised concerns about defense companies' ability to restore stocks before the next conflict. The Army could consider buying weapons "in a nonlinear way" from their "supply network" ahead of a potential conflict, Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville said during an Association of the United States Army event in Arlington, Virginia. An example would be purchasing in advance — and stockpiling — parts that take longer to get and cause delays. Congress has been providing funding to help the Army ink contracts with defense companies to replenish their stock piles; however, that will take years. But McConville believes defense companies will respond to the increased demand.

[Navy officially stops booting and disciplining COVID vaccine refusers](#)

[The Corps is shelling out up to \\$9K in bonuses to keep recruiters \(Military Times\)](#)

Amid military-wide recruiting challenges, Marine recruiters are set to receive up to hundreds of dollars in monthly bonuses — if they choose to stay in their often-grueling jobs for half a year or more. Canvassing recruiters and the staff noncommissioned officers in charge of recruiting substations will receive the additional bonus pay if they extend three-year tours by six, nine or 12 months, according to a Marine administrative message Tuesday. The volunteer supplemental incentive, or VSI, pay will come on top of the other pay recruiters get, like the special duty assignment pay, according to the message. Recruiters who extend for six months will receive \$500 in monthly VSI pay, the MARADMIN said. Those who extend for nine months will get \$625. And those who sign on for another full year of recruiting duty will earn \$750, for a total of \$9,000.

Homeland Security

[Countries along migrant route to U.S. experiencing 'enforcement fatigue,' DHS documents show \(Yahoo News\)](#)

The increasing influx of migrants to the U.S. border with Mexico is causing “enforcement fatigue” in Central and South American transit countries, according to Department of Homeland Security and Customs and Border Patrol documents obtained by Yahoo News, and almost all will not be able to handle an expected surge should Title 42 restrictions be lifted in the coming months. “Multiple countries in Central and South America reported having limited resources and are requesting assistance from the United States as well as international partners to support migrants already in country, stating they are unable to provide migrants with basic social service requirements,” states a December DHS assessment. It is based largely on State Department communiqués from countries that migrants pass through on their way to the U.S., where they camp as they await policy changes, or where they are removed to if they are denied entry into the U.S. Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica and Panama are facing limitations on capacity at migrant shelters, with some countries having to shutter shelters due to lack of funding, the DHS report states. The assessment notes that these countries are unable to handle the increase of migrants heading to the U.S. that is expected if and when Title 42 restrictions are lifted.

[Addressing the Homeland Security Threat from China](#)

[The West braces for a renewed Russian offensive \(The Hill\)](#)

After facing a string of setbacks nearly a year into its war on Ukraine, Russia is planning another major offensive to make up for its losses on the ground and justify its heavy human cost at home. We'll share what intelligence analysts and researchers think will happen and when, plus more on the grim outlook coming out of the World Economic Forum's meeting in Switzerland and the details of a Navy plane crash in Alabama that forced two pilots to eject. Intelligence analysts and researchers largely agree there is a major offensive brewing in Russia, likely to be launched in Ukraine sometime in the winter or early spring. Still, there is no clear picture of what that will look like and whether Moscow has any real hope of retaking the momentum given Ukraine's determined resistance and Western backing. “We have no doubt that the current masters of Russia will throw everything they have left and everyone they can muster to try to turn the tide of the war and at least postpone their defeat,” Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said in an address earlier this month.

[These US airports had the most guns confiscated from passengers](#)

[Former Homeland Security official weighs in on Biden classified document probe \(ABC News\)](#)

As more questions arise from the discoveries of government documents found in President

Joe Biden's offices and home, elected officials and government watchdog groups are expressing concerns about the security of important documents. The latest news comes months after it was revealed that former President Donald Trump had several boxes of top-secret government documents at his Mar-a-Lago ranch last summer. John Cohen, an ABC News contributor and former acting undersecretary for intelligence and analysis at the Department of Homeland Security, spoke with "Start Here" about the probe and how government documents are handled. "I worked in the Clinton administration, the Bush administration, the Obama administration, and, as you pointed out, the Biden administration, and I had security clearances. I had broad access to classified information. In fact, during some of that time, I also was in charge of offices that conducted security investigations or worked to safeguard classified information. And unless you are working in an organization like the CIA or another intelligence community organization, where all you're working with is classified information, and these types of security violations are not really that uncommon when you are working with large quantities of documents and you are co-mingling classified reports with unclassified documents" - John Cohen.

Transportation & Infrastructure

[DOT Unveils Strategic Safety Plan \(Transportation Topics\)](#)

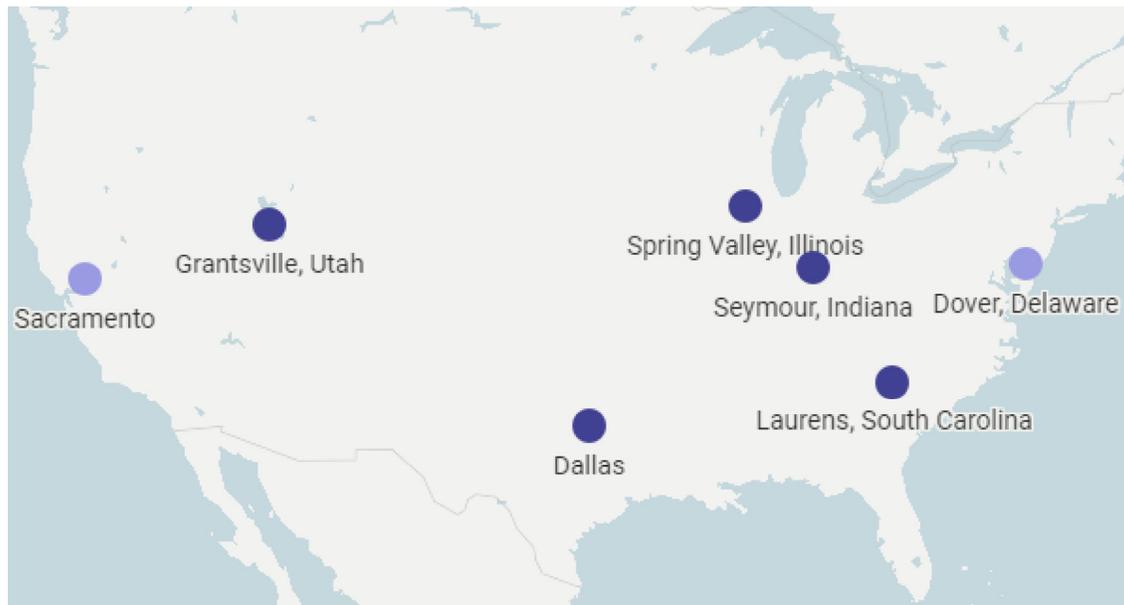
Evaluating existing technologies and supporting emerging technologies will facilitate the adoption of safety programs for the country's mobility corridors, a new strategic plan from the Department of Transportation determined. In its "Research, Development and Technology Strategic Plan" specific through 2026, DOT officials proposed devoting further attention to safety strategies associated with human factors, cybersecurity and data-driven systems for road users. DOT's aim is to minimize and, potentially, eradicate fatalities throughout the nation's transportation system. Specific to data, the plan proposed action that would "develop new methods and tools for safety data collection, management, analysis and evaluation." On design matters, it proposed, "Evaluate the safety performance of infrastructure design and develop and promote the use of effective safety countermeasures." And, on technology matters, officials should "leverage innovative technologies to monitor, predict and plan ways to reduce injuries and fatalities among the transportation workforce and traveling public."

[Joint venture to invest \\$400M into equitable electrification of heavy-duty port transit](#)

[Walmart offers driver training to workers in 400-plus stores, distribution centers \(Transport Dive\)](#)

The Associate-to-Driver program — an initiative proposed by employees — is part of Walmart's broader strategy to recruit for its 13,000-driver fleet in a tough labor market. The company is among many who have used "earn-to-learn" training, apprenticeships and

other creative strategies to staff their trucking operations. The retail giant hopes to recruit 400 to 800 drivers for its private fleet from within its existing employee base, Walmart Senior Vice President of Transportation Fernando Cortes told Transport Dive in November. If they're interested in driving a truck, the salaried, six-figure jobs offered through the program represent an attractive opportunity for the retailer's hourly workers. On average, supply chain workers make more than \$20 an hour, and store associates make about \$16.40 per hour, CFO Brett Biggs said during the 2022 UBS Global Consumer & Retail Conference. Cortes described the internal driver recruitment campaign as a win-win in a company blog post. "The program is a win for associates, who can take the next step in their career journey without leaving the company," he wrote. "It's a win for Walmart, as we can continue to invest in our talented team of associates."



[Graves Welcomes Republican T&I Committee Members Recommended by Steering Committee for the 118th Congress](#)

[MARAD Announces Nearly \\$20 Million in Funding Available for Small Shipyard Grants \(DOT\)](#)

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration (MARAD) announced the availability of nearly \$20 million in Federal Fiscal Year 2023 funding to help modernize small U.S. shipyards and train the workforce in this critical sector. MARAD's Small Shipyard Grant Program strengthens the economic competitiveness of shipyards by providing grants that can be used to purchase equipment or provide employee training. In addition, these grants can support the purchase of American-made manufacturing equipment that support a wide range of jobs throughout our nation's manufacturing base.

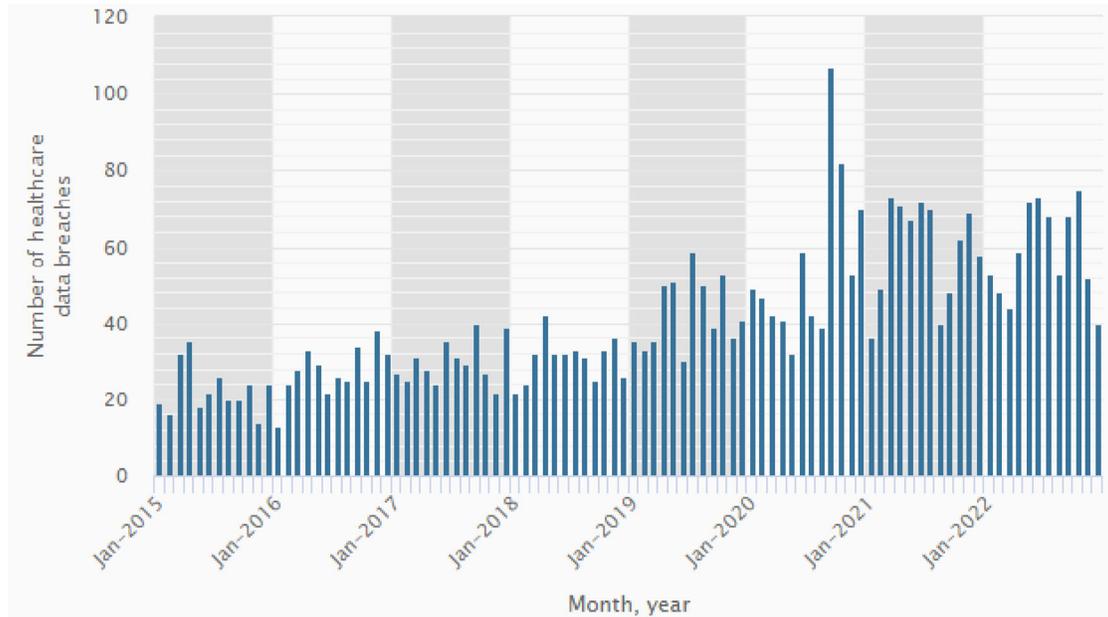
“Small shipyards play vital roles in their local economies and our national economy,” said U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg. “With these funds, we are helping small shipyards across the country train their workers, modernize their equipment, and improve their operations.” MARAD’s Small Shipyard Grant Program has awarded 323 grants totaling approximately \$282 million since the program was first funded in 2008. Small Shipyard Grants are available to U.S. shipyards with fewer than 1,200 production employees. In July 2022, DOT announced \$19.6 million in grant awards to 24 small shipyards in 19 states through the Program.

Biotechnology & Healthcare

[California Joins Other States in Suing Companies Over Insulin Prices \(NYT\)](#)

Many Americans with diabetes still struggle to pay for their insulin, even though Medicare placed a cap on co-payments this month. With a population of 39 million, California has now become the largest state to sue the major companies on the insulin market, accusing them of illegally inflating the price of the treatment and spawning a financial and public health crisis. Rob Bonta, the state’s attorney general, said in announcing the lawsuit late last week that the companies had engaged in “unlawful, unfair and deceptive practices” in violation of California’s laws on competition. Characterizing the U.S. insulin market as “an oligopoly,” Mr. Bonta took aim in the state’s lawsuit at three pharmaceutical companies, Eli Lilly, Novo Nordisk and Sanofi, which control 90 percent of the global insulin supply, and the pharmacy benefit managers, CVS Health, Express Scripts and OptumRx, which manage 80 percent of the U.S. insulin market. Nearly 38 million Americans have diabetes, roughly 11 percent of the U.S. population. And about eight million people — including all of those with Type 1 diabetes and many with Type 2 — need insulin treatments. Well-insured patients owe nothing or a co-pay of \$20 to \$35 a month for insulin, while those without insurance or high deductible plans can be charged hundreds of dollars a month.

[Healthcare data breaches](#)



[Cleveland Clinic expects \\$200M-plus operating loss in 2022 \(Healthcare Dive\)](#)

More than half of all hospitals lost money last year, Mihaljevic said, noting in the address that Cleveland Clinic is working to reduce its expenses to manage the disruption. The 6,500-bed system is putting some administrative hiring on hold, reducing discretionary expenses and looking to pare down travel and consultancy fees. It's also hiring a "record number of caregivers" to help with labor shortfalls, Mihaljevic said. Costs rose last year for many hospitals, but facilities aren't always able to pass costs onto patients. For example, Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement is fixed. Cleveland Clinic has looked for other ways to recoup costs. In November, the operator announced it would begin billing patients' insurance for portal messages that take providers five or more minutes to answer. The policy, which could run payers as much as \$50 per message, stoked controversy, though Mihaljevic said Wednesday in a news conference following his address that it is a logical way to compensate providers for their time, according to [Cleveland.com](#). Despite the pressures, the CEO said Cleveland Clinic will continue to expand through organic growth at existing locations, dealmaking and virtual care. The nonprofit is in the middle of various building projects, including the opening of Mentor Hospital in July, the expansion of the Cole Eye Building on the main campus and breaking ground for the Neurological Building in May.

[The Biggest, Buzziest Conference for Health Care Investors Convenes Amid Fears the Bubble Will Burst](#)

[Nearly 40% of Americans skipped medical care in 2022 because of cost concerns, poll finds \(CBS News\)](#)

A growing number of Americans are delaying important medical care because of the high cost of treatment, a new survey shows. In 2022, 38% of Americans said they or a family member skipped or delayed medical care, amid the highest rate of inflation in more than 40 years, according to an annual health care poll from Gallup. The jump reflects an increase of 12 percentage points compared to 2021 and marks the highest year-to-year increase in Americans delaying health care, including evaluations, treatments and procedures, since Gallup began conducting the poll in 2001. The previous high was 33% of Americans in both 2014 and 2019 who said they avoided medical care because of cost. Over the previous two years, 26% of Americans — the lowest share since 2004 — said they delayed seeking care for either themselves or a family member. Worryingly, 27% of respondents said the treatments they skipped were for "very" or "somewhat" serious conditions or illnesses. Eleven percent said they neglected to pursue care for non-serious illnesses. Foregoing essential medical care carries serious consequences and can compound costs of treatment down the road. "It's really important to understand that [when] there is a health concern that's ongoing, particularly when you think it might be serious, it's very unlikely that it's going to go away," pediatric airway surgeon Dr. Susannah Hills told CBS News.

Climate & Development

[Renewables Projected to Soon Be One-Fourth of US Electricity Generation. Really Soon \(Inside Climate News\)](#)

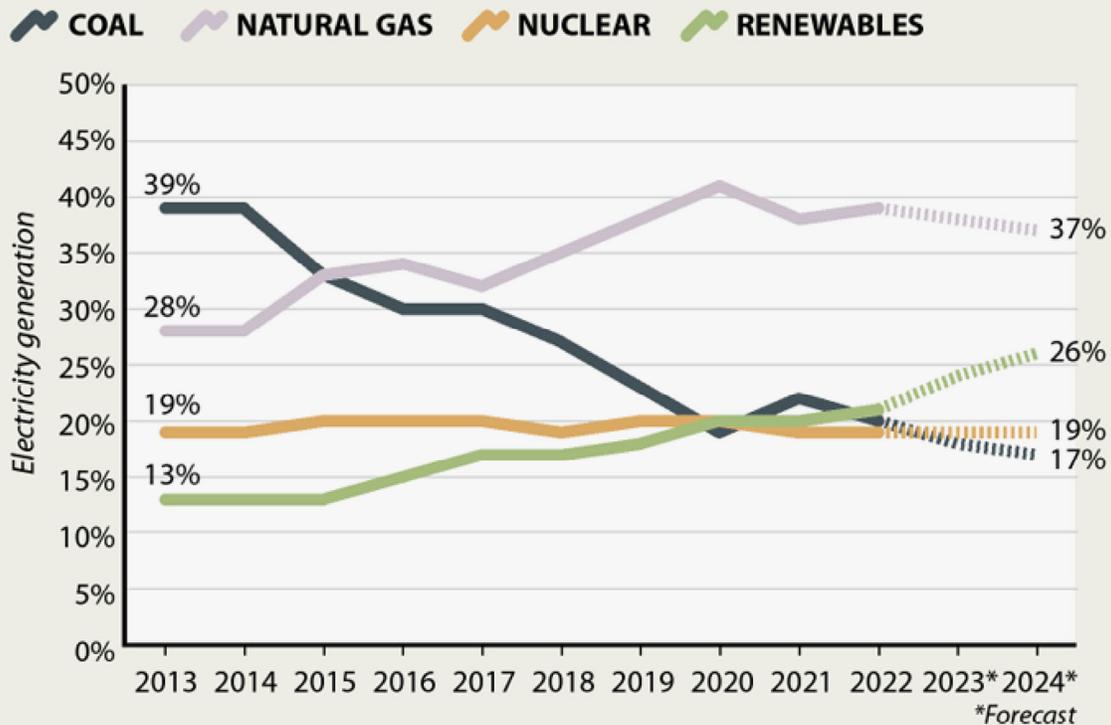
Renewable energy is poised to reach a milestone as a new government report projects that wind, solar and other renewable sources will exceed one-fourth of the country's electricity generation for the first time, in 2024. This is one of the many takeaways from the federal government's Short Term Energy Outlook, a monthly report whose new edition is the first to include a forecast for 2024. The report's authors in the Energy Information Administration are expecting renewables to increase in market share, while natural gas and coal would both decrease. From 2023 to 2024, renewables would rise from 24 percent to 26 percent of U.S. electricity generation; coal's share would drop from 18 percent to 17 percent; gas would remain the leader but drop from 38 percent to 37 percent; and nuclear would be unchanged at 19 percent. It was a big deal in 2020 when generation from renewables passed coal for the first time for a full year. Coal made a comeback in 2021 and then retreated again in 2022. The ups and downs were largely the result of fluctuations in electricity demand during and then after the Covid-19 pandemic.

Electricity Sources Changing

Renewables are set to rise a lot while coal and gas are set to drop according to the latest short-term outlook from the Energy Information Administration. The following shows percentage shares of the different electricity sources.

U.S. NET ELECTRICITY GENERATION BY PERCENT

For all sectors, 2013-2022, plus forecast



[Climate change: Invest in technology that removes CO2 - report](#)

[Shell to spend \\$450m on carbon offsetting as fears grow that credits may be worthless \(Guardian\)](#)

The fossil fuel firm Shell has set aside more than \$450m to invest in carbon offsetting projects, and plans to buy the equivalent of half the current market for nature offsets every year, the Guardian can reveal. But a joint investigation by the Guardian, Die Zeit and Source Material into Verra, the world's leading carbon standard for the rapidly growing \$2bn voluntary offsets market, has found, based on analysis of a significant percentage of the projects, that more than 90% of their rainforest offset credits – among the most commonly used by companies – are likely to be “phantom credits” and do not represent genuine carbon reductions. Shell, one of the five largest oil companies in the world, has

said it plans to ramp up spending on measures to counterbalance its polluting activities in an effort to decarbonize. Its strategy is to have a “philosophy of avoid, reduce and only then mitigate”, in theory putting nature-based carbon credits at the back of the queue in its efforts to decarbonize. But it appears that the company has, in fact, put offsetting at the heart of its climate strategy. The scale of Shell’s plans is striking, with a target of using nature-based solutions (NBS) – its term for carbon offsetting projects – to “mitigate emissions of around 120m metric tons of CO2 equivalent (MtCO2e) per year by 2030”. That figure is roughly half the size of the current entire annual market for nature offsets, which is about 227.7m MtCO2e.

[Biden tours storm-ravaged California coast Thursday](#)

[E.U. outlines plan for clean tech future boosted by subsidies \(NBC News\)](#)

The European Union pushed forward on Tuesday with a major clean tech industrial plan which not only should keep the continent in the vanguard of plotting a greener future but also guarantee its economic survival as it faces challenges from China and the United States. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen presented the outlines for her “Green Deal Industrial Plan” that will make it much easier to push through subsidies for green industries and pool E.U.-wide projects that are boosted with major funding as the E.U. pursues the goal of being climate neutral by 2050. “We know that we have a small window to invest in clean tech and innovation to gain leadership before the fossil fuel economy becomes obsolete,” von der Leyen said. Von der Leyen used a speech at the World Economic Forum in Davos to say that on top of feeding its own industry, the 27-nation bloc will become much more forceful in countering unfair trading practices, if they come from Washington, or more importantly, Beijing. “We see aggressive attempts to attract our industrial capacities away to China and elsewhere,” she said.

Next Week’s Hearings

Armed Service Committees

House: None Listed

Senate: None Listed

Appropriation Committees

House: None Listed

Senate: None Listed

Homeland Security Committees

House: None Listed

Senate: None Listed

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