

COVID-19 economic data tracker

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Trend watch and what's new this week

U.S. virus trends in terms of new cases and the number of hospitalizations appear to be stabilizing nationally (slide 3). Meanwhile, there are several signs that the current wave is peaking, including cases (slide 7) and hospitalization rates (slide 8) in hotspot states.

However, the death rate is climbing, though is considerably below the prior wave (slide 3). Additionally, with schools restarting, we're growing concerned that children under age 12 are both increasingly getting infected and being hospitalized. While not huge numbers, and COVID-19 deaths for this age group are rare, this is problematic insofar as the supply of critical care beds for children is rather limited in the U.S.

The pace of U.S. vaccinations continues to climb, topping 900,000 per day for the first time since early July (slide 5). Over 60% of Americans older than 12 are fully vaccinated and more than 70% have gotten at least one dose.

This week, we revisit vaccine hesitancy (slide 9). In addition to the vaccination pace increasing, it appears that overall vaccine hesitancy has dwindled. Yet, the remaining unvaccinated appear quite adamant.

Also, we highlight new office data (slide 10). It shows roughly a third

of workers are back in the office with wide disparities regionally and by industry.

Lastly, two recent work surveys show that office workers want flexibility, but also don't want to completely ditch offices (slide 11). These considerations certainly complicate decisions regarding commercial real estate, while also reinforcing the reasons many companies view offices as a critical part of their operations.

Bottom line

The August employment data released earlier today showed job growth stepped lower due to a confluence of factors, including the seasonality and the delta variant. However, most of the traditional economic data remains quite strong, including consumer spending, housing figures, as well as several gauges of services and manufacturing.

The recovery continues to plow forward, though it remains uneven depending on the region and industry. Indeed, as the delta variant demonstrated, COVID-19 is not fully behind us. However, the world is getting much better at managing COVID-19. More importantly, further COVID-19 variants and related outbreaks have not shutdown the global economy nor will they derail the recovery.

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U.S. COVID-19 economic data tracker matrix

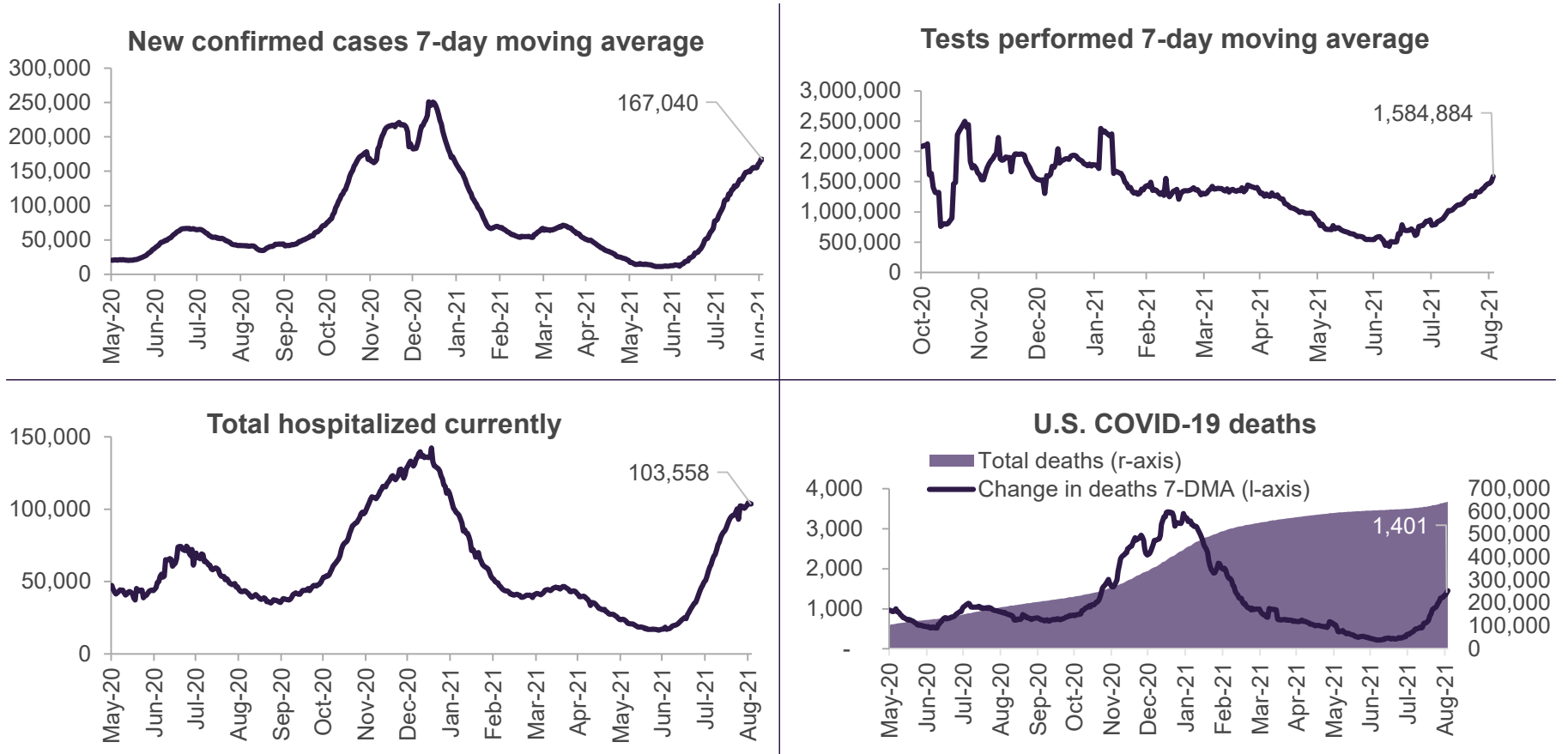
Indicator	Relative trend	What we're watching
U.S. state reopenings	▲	New cases and hospitalizations have stabilized nationally, but the death rate is increasing. But there are several signs that the current wave is peaking in hotspot states. August employment data stalled due to a confluence of factors, including the seasonality and the delta variant.
TSA air passenger throughput	▲	Weekly passengers fell 7.1% WoW to 11.5 million, the sixth weekly drop but August is seasonally weaker. Passenger counts are -29% below the 2019 weekly average of 16.1M and -26% vs. the same week in 2019.
OpenTable restaurant bookings	▲	Rose slightly to -8.6% as the top states/cities jumped. Top positive states were led by Florida (+60%) and Arizona (+27%); bottom are Pennsylvania (-49%) and NY (-49%). Miami (+115%) and Ft. Lauderdale (+76%) led the top cities; bottom are NYC (-67%), San Fran (-59%), and Philadelphia (-58%).
Google mobility	↔	Summer vacations for families are mostly finished. 7-day averages relative to 2020: Parks +31%, Grocery/Pharmacy +2%, Residential +5%, Workplaces -25%, Transit -21%, Retail/Restaurant/Recreation -6%.
Hotel occupancy	▲	Occupancy fell to 61.0%, but August is seasonally weak. The average daily rate was \$131.91, up 3.2% from the same week in 2019. Revenue per available room was \$80.53, down 5.5% from the same week in 2019.
Apartment rent payments	▲	Payments through Aug. 6 rose to 80.2%, nearly back to 81.2% July '20. Full month rents for July '21 were 94.9%, down from July '19 (96.6%) but above the post-pandemic average of 94.7%.
Freight	▲	Rail carloads rebounded, snapping a two-week slide, to the highest level in eight weeks. Container volumes at top 3 U.S. ports rose 3.8% MoM in July and were 11% above July 2019.
Staffing index	▲	It slipped to 97.5 from 98.1, which matched the highest reading since December 2018. The low for this cycle was 59.6 set in April 2020.

Trend relative to whether it is favorable for economic growth:

▲ Positive ▼ Negative ↔ Neutral / Mixed

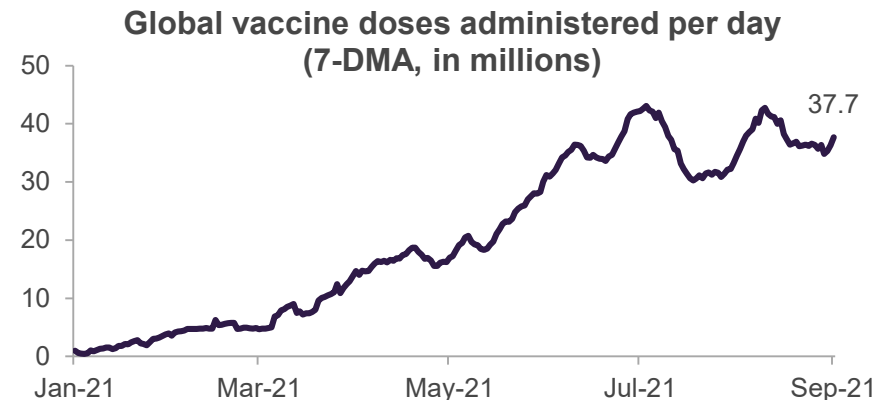
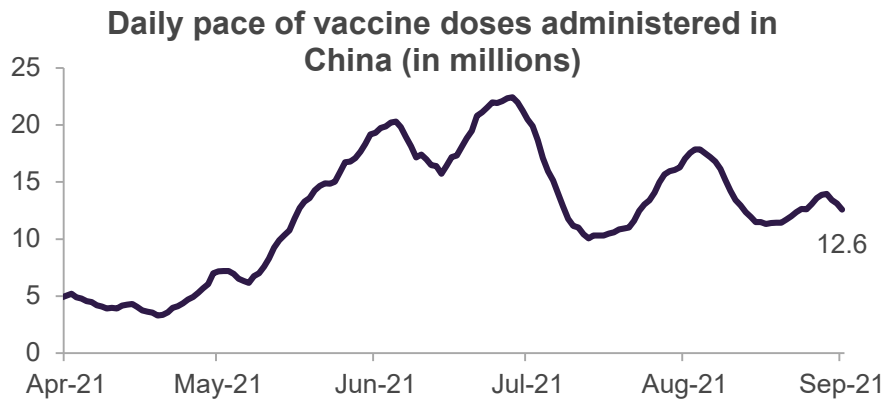
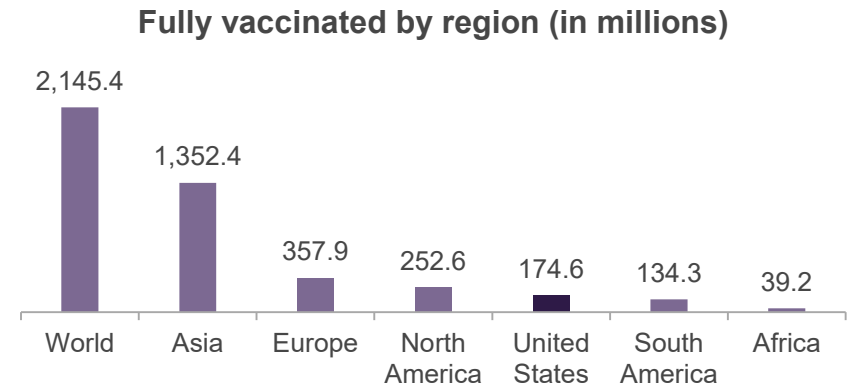
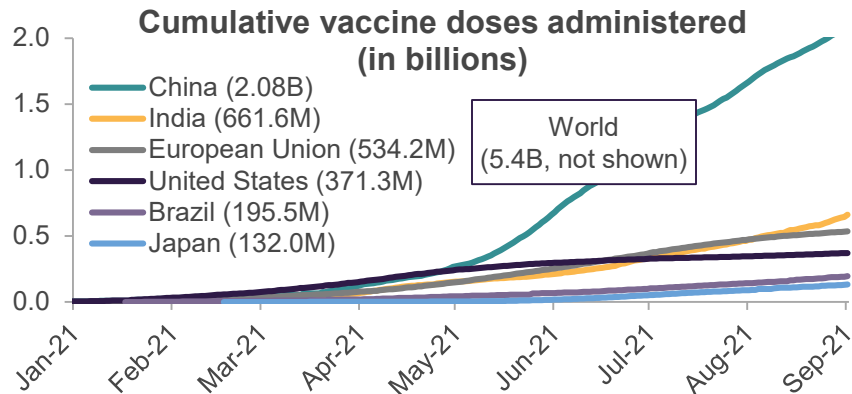
Data Sources: Truist IAG, Bloomberg, Our World in Data, Transportation Security Administration, OpenTable, Google COVID-19 Community Mobility Report, STR/CoStar, National Multifamily Housing Council Rent Payment Tracker, American Staffing Association. Week-over-week and year-over-year change are abbreviated as WoW and YoY, respectively.

U.S. cases and hospitalizations up, death rate also rising



Data Sources: Truist IAG, Bloomberg, Johns Hopkins University through September 2, 2021. Data for 50 U.S. states plus American Samoa, Washington D.C., Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands. 7-day moving average (DMA).

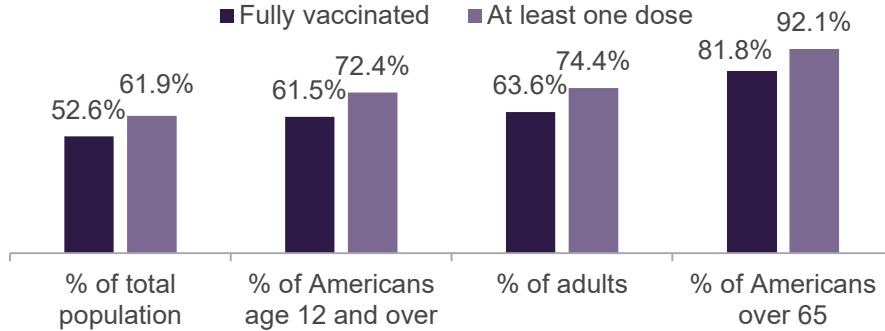
Global vaccinations climbing, rest of the world catching up to U.S.



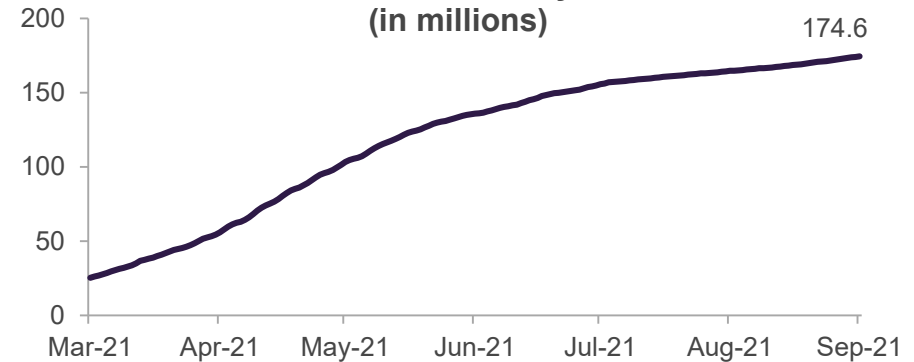
Data Sources: Truist IAG, Our World in Data, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), through September 1, 2021. U.S. figures includes all 50 states plus Washington D.C., U.S. military installations and territories. Figures for the United Kingdom are not included in the European Union. 7-day moving average (DMA).

Over 60% of Americans older than 12 are fully vaccinated, pace climbing

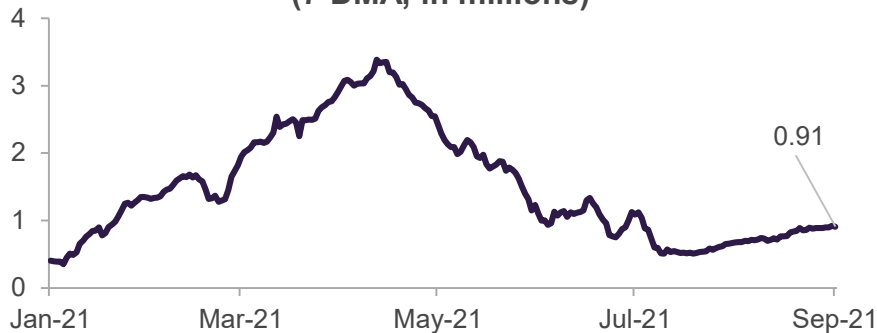
U.S. vaccinations (percentage of population)



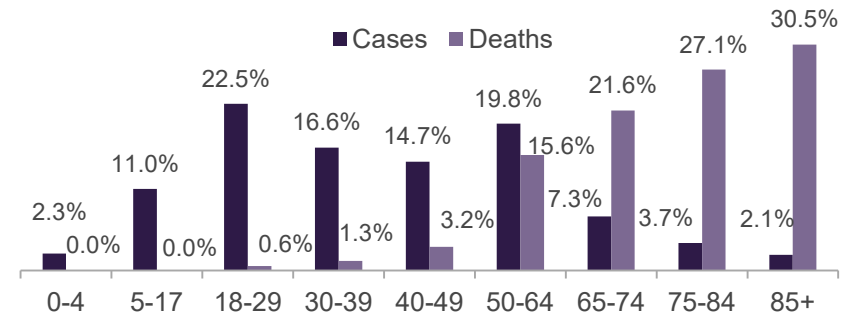
Number of Americans fully vaccinated (in millions)



U.S. vaccine doses administered per day (7-DMA, in millions)



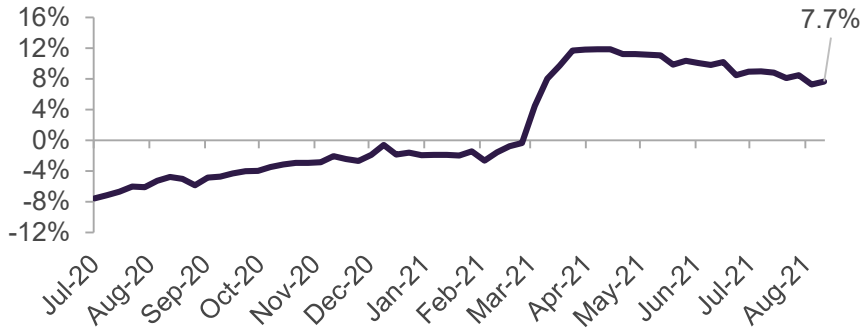
U.S. COVID-19 percentage of cases and deaths by age



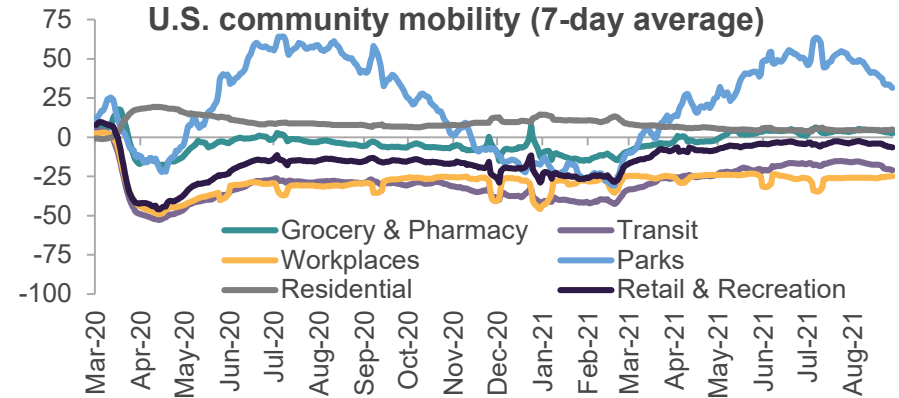
Data Sources: Truist IAG and the following additional sources respectively: Top left, bottom right: Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), through September 1, 2021. Top right: Our World in Data, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), through September 1, 2021. U.S. figures includes all 50 states plus Washington D.C., U.S. military installations and territories. Bottom left: Bloomberg, CDC, through September 2, 2021. 7-day moving average (DMA). Totals may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Activity-based trends have ebbed, but likely seasonal rather than delta strain

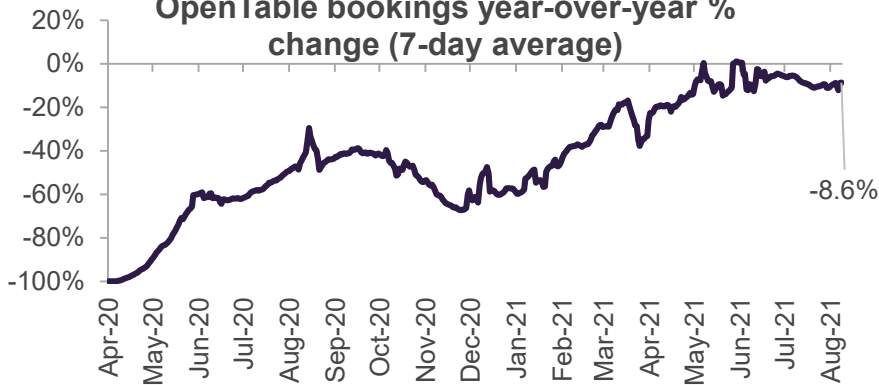
NY Fed weekly economic index



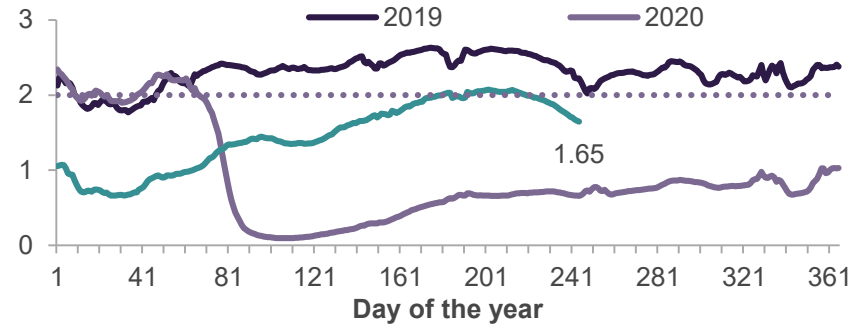
U.S. community mobility (7-day average)



OpenTable bookings year-over-year % change (7-day average)



TSA checkpoint traveler throughput (7-day average, in millions)

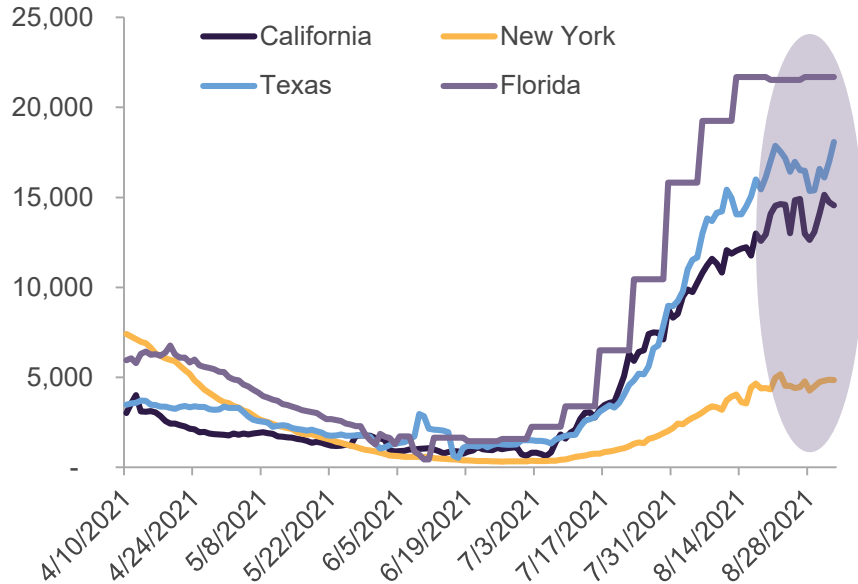


Data Sources: Truist IAG and the following additional sources respectively: Top left: Bloomberg, NY Federal Reserve Weekly Economic Index through August 28, 2021. Top right: (U.S. Community Mobility) Google COVID-19 Community Mobility Reports 7-day average through August 28. Bottom left: Bloomberg, OpenTable 7-day average through September 1. Bottom right: Bloomberg, Transportation Security Administration (TSA) 7-day average through September 1.

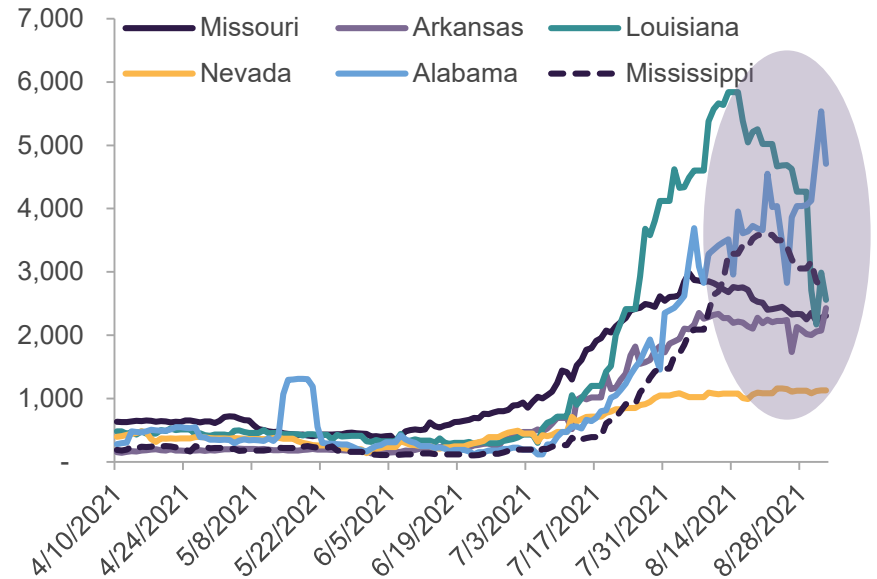
U.S. regional hotspots appear to be stabilizing in most, declining in some

The delta variant caused regional hotspots, including in Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Arkansas, and Nevada. Texas and Alabama had hiccups this past week, but subsequently dropped. (Florida is reporting COVID-19 data weekly.) The delta variant complicates further reopening, including for schools, while also illustrating the necessity of vaccines.

COVID-19 new cases – largest states (7-day moving average)



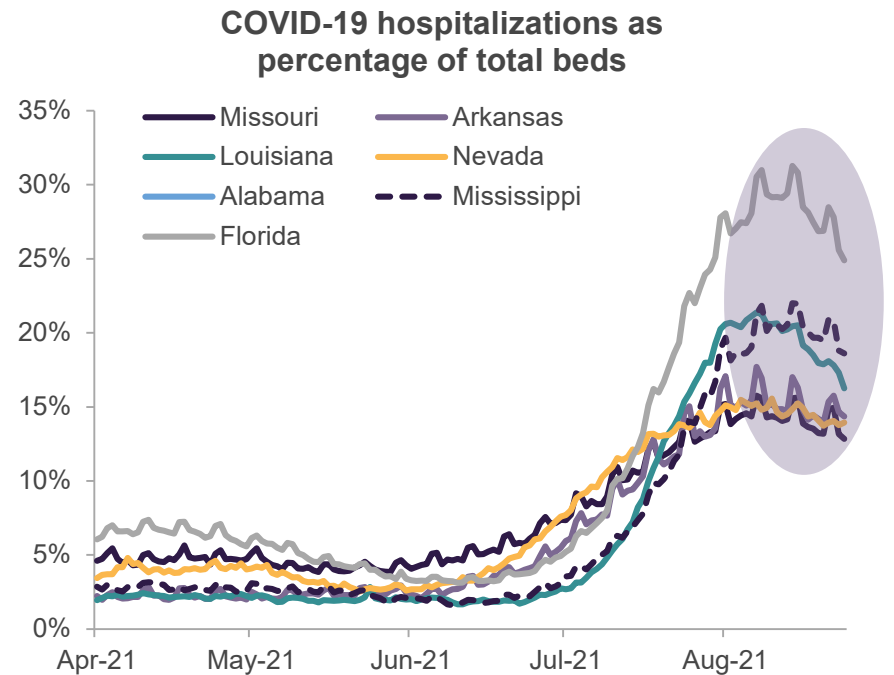
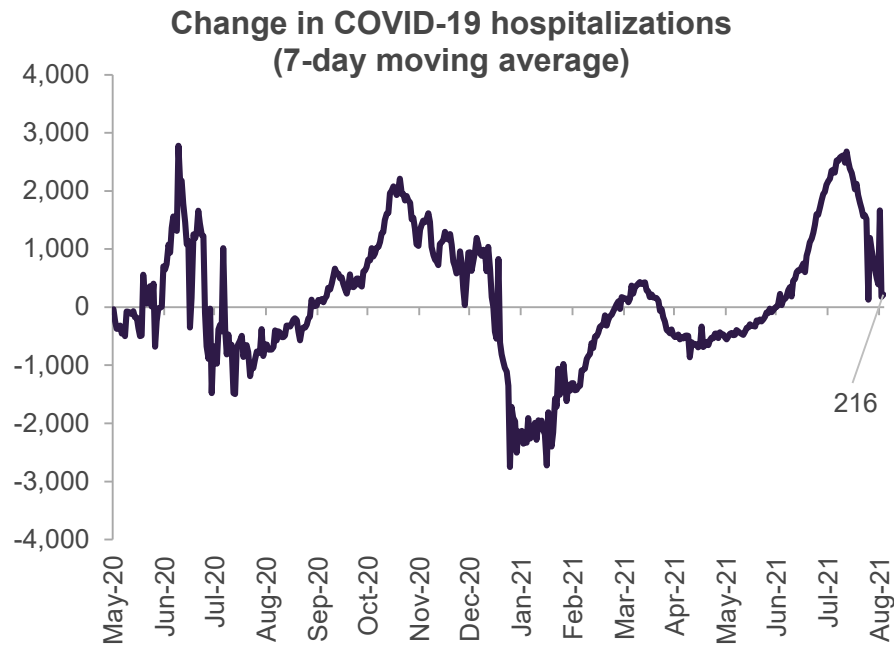
COVID-19 new cases – biggest percentage change (7-day moving average)



Data Source: Truist IAG, Bloomberg, Johns Hopkins University, data through September 2, 2021.

More signs delta strain is peaking

The rate of COVID-19 hospitalizations nationally for the past seven days has crested. Similarly, the state-level percentage of COVID-19 hospitalizations has stabilized in all of the hotspot states and appears to have peaked in Florida and Louisiana.



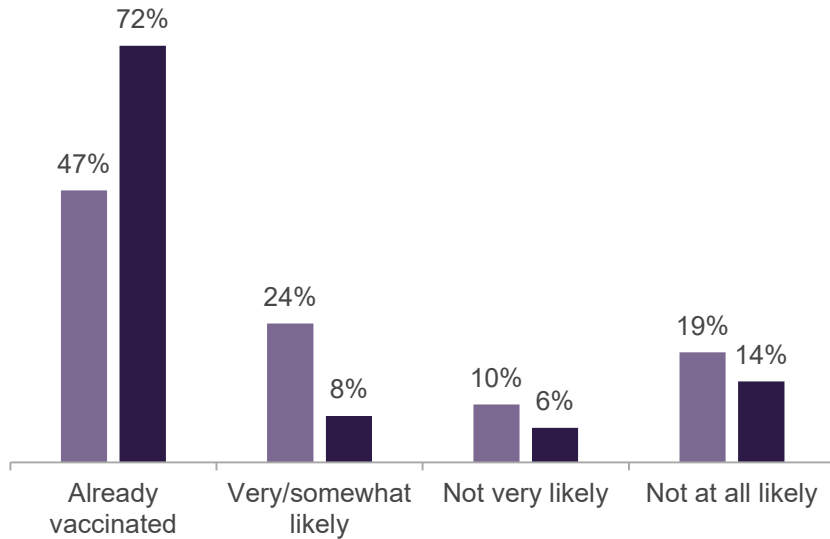
Data sources: Truist IAG, Bloomberg, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, data through September 2, 2021. 7-day moving average (DMA).

Overall vaccine hesitancy dwindles, but remainder appear adamant

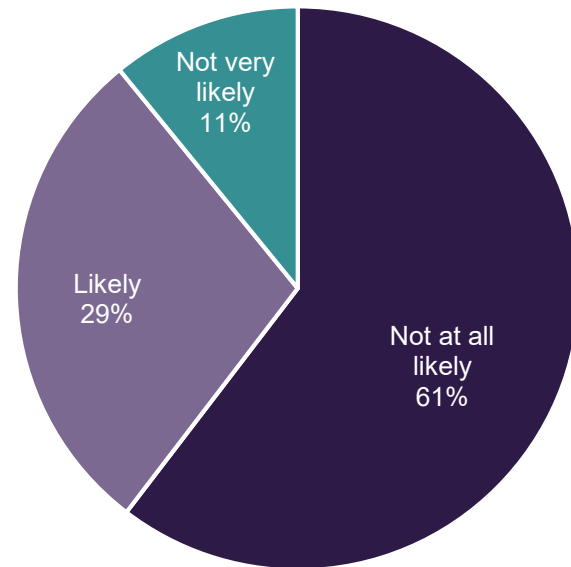
Vaccine hesitancy has dramatically declined since the spring due to several factors, including the surge caused by the delta variant, increasing vaccine mandates, and full approval by the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) for the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for people age 16 and older. Yet, full FDA approval doesn't appear to be enough to sway the majority of unvaccinated adults.

Likelihood of getting COVID-19 vaccine

■ April 2-5 ■ Aug 27-30



Likelihood of vaccination in next 30 days given full approval by FDA

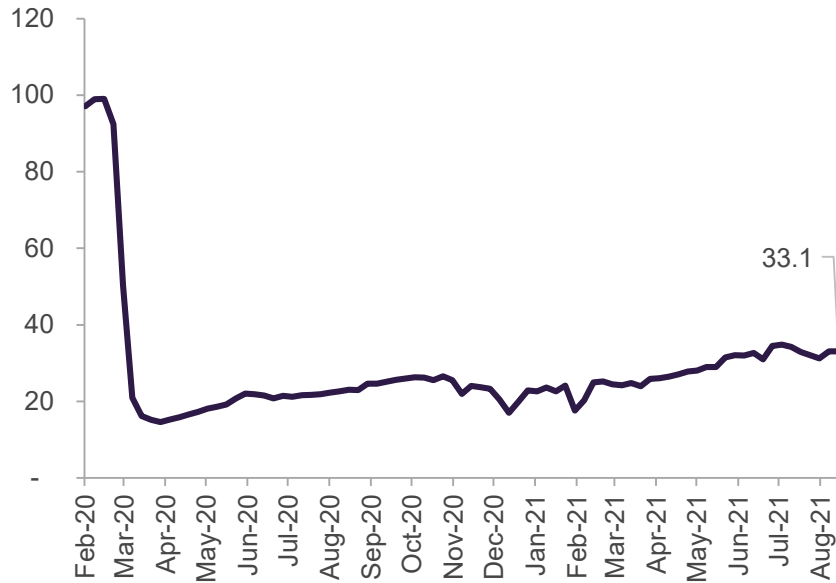


Sources: left chart: Truist IAG, Axios-Ipsos Coronavirus Index, survey conducted April 2-5, 2021 compared to August 27-30, 2021. Right chart: Truist IAG, Morning Consult, poll of unvaccinated adults conducted August 24-29, 2021, with a margin of error +/-4%. Figures may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

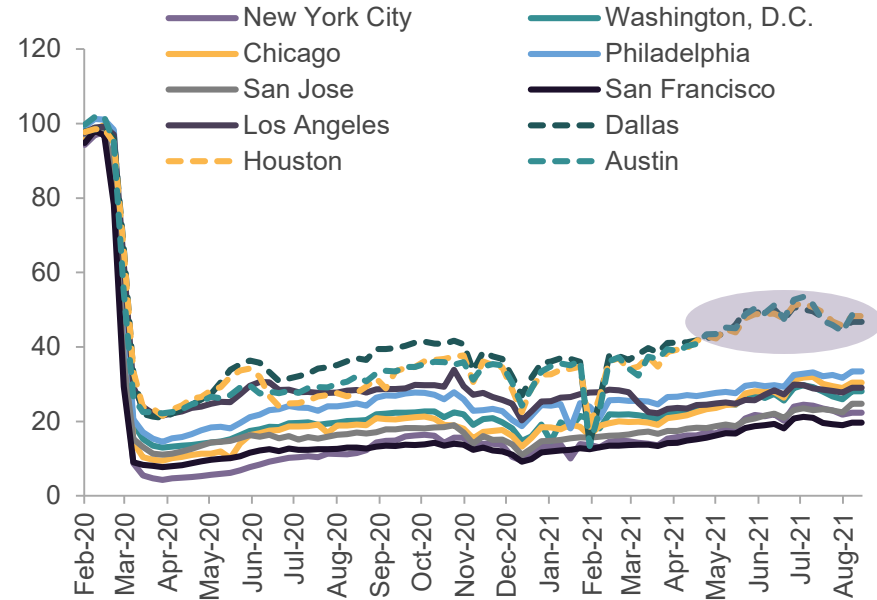
Back to office remains impacted with wide disparities regionally and by industry

Roughly two-thirds of office workers are working from home 18 months later. There large differences regionally, as San Francisco is at 19%, while all three of the Texas markets—Dallas, Austin, Houston—are above 46%. There's also a dramatic contrasts by industry, as law firms are 47% compared to just 33.1% for all industries.

U.S. back to work barometer index (10-city average, all industries)



U.S. back to work barometer index by city

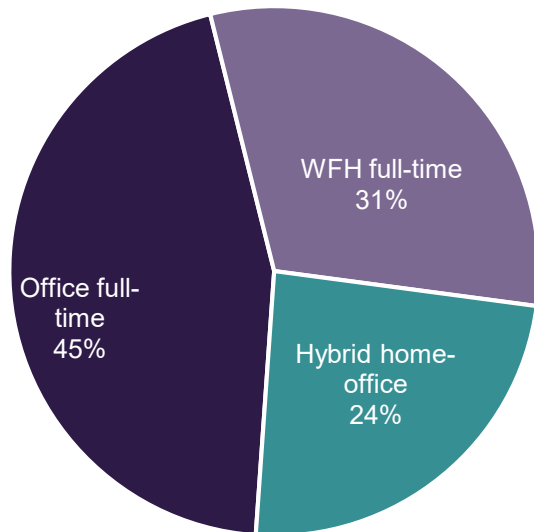


Data sources: Truist IAG, Bloomberg, Kastle Systems based on building access control systems data relative to a pre-COVID baseline, averaged weekly; data through August 25, 2021.

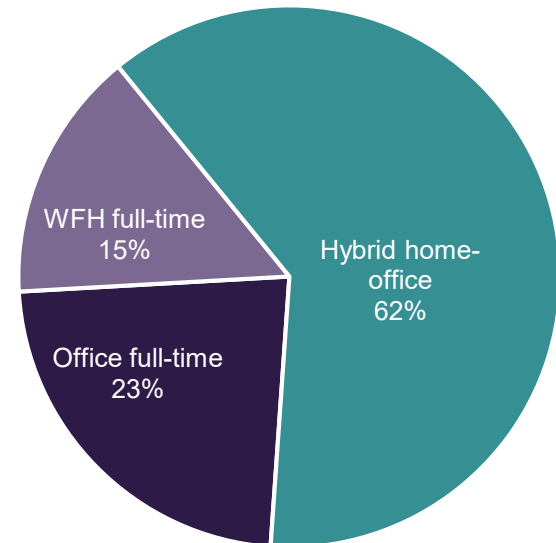
Workers want flexibility, but also don't want to completely ditch offices

When workers return to the office might be up for debate due to the delta variant, but two recent surveys show that workers clearly want workplace flexibility. While the results are mixed, the majority of office-workers prefer work-from-home (WFH) or hybrid approaches with a combination of days in the office and others WFH. Conversely, less than a third of respondents in either survey want to WFH on a full-time basis.

Workplace preference
Morning Consult/NY Times survey



Workplace preference
Eden/Wakefield survey



Data Sources: left chart: Truist IAG, Morning Consult for the New York Times; national survey of 950 workers, conducted in mid-August 2021. Right chart: Truist IAG, Wakefield Research for Eden; U.S. survey of 1,000 workers who recently returned to the office, conducted between July 21 and July 27, 2021.

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