

President Biden will take his first overseas trip as President, participating in a series of summits and meeting a number of world leaders, culminating in a sit down with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Geneva. After promising a framework on global vaccine distribution for months, the Biden administration released its strategy and announced the destination for the first tranche of dose donations. Finance Ministers from the Group of Seven (G-7) secured a landmark international tax agreement. Talks between the White House and Congress on an infrastructure package continue—but both sides are still far apart. The President submitted his Fiscal Year 2022 budget to Congress. Speculation over the origin of COVID-19 continues to grow. The administration has completed its 100-day review of critical supply chains. The Senate released its first report on the January 6 insurrection while efforts to establish a bipartisan commission have stalled.

President Biden Heads Overseas

President Biden's first foreign trip as President will take place from [June 9-16](#). On June 10, the President will meet with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, before participating in the G-7 summit in Cornwall, England where he will ["join with his fellow leaders to lay out a plan to end the COVID-19 pandemic with further specific commitments towards that end."](#) Following the G-7 summit, Biden will meet with Queen Elizabeth at Windsor Castle on June 13. The President will then travel to Brussels for the NATO summit on June 14 where he will meet with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, among others. On June 15, he will attend the U.S.-EU summit where the President and European Union leaders are expected to focus on aligning approaches to trade and technology ["so that democracies and not anyone else — not China or other autocracies — are writing the rules for trade and technology for the 21st century."](#) After nearly a week of consultations and meetings with dozens of leaders from allies and democratic partners, Biden will meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Geneva on June 16. Writing in the [Washington Post](#), President Biden said the defining question of our time is whether democracies can come together to deliver results in a rapidly changing world. At a press briefing on June 7, National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said ["The trip, at its core, will advance the fundamental thrust of Joe Biden's foreign policy to rally the world's democracies to tackle the greatest challenges of our time."](#)

White House Releases Global Vaccine Distribution Strategy

In early June, the administration unveiled its [strategy on global vaccine distribution](#). The United States plans to share 80 million vaccine doses by the end of June and unveiled the allocation for the first tranche of 25 million doses. In announcing the strategy, President Biden said that the U.S. will donate 75% of its unused COVID-19 vaccines to the U.N.-backed COVAX global vaccine sharing program and the remainder will be shared directly with countries in need, those experiencing surges, immediate neighbors, and other countries that have requested immediate U.S. assistance. The White House says the initial 25 million doses will be shipped from the existing production of Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccine stocks. Biden has committed to providing other nations with all 60 million domestically produced doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine—those doses will be available to ship as soon as they clear a safety review by the Food and Drug Administration.

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G-7 Global Minimum Tax Deal

Finance Ministers from the G-7 (U.S., UK, France, Germany, Canada, Italy and Japan), meeting in London earlier this month, agreed on an overhaul of international tax laws. The ministers unveiled a [broad agreement](#) that aims to stop large multinational companies from seeking out tax havens and force them to pay more of their income to governments. Negotiated over many years, the agreement includes a new global minimum tax rate of at least 15 percent that companies would have to pay regardless of where they locate their headquarters. The group also agreed to seek a new tax on large businesses aimed at avoiding dozens of digital taxes around the world. At the unveiling of the agreement, U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said the [“significant, unprecedented commitment”](#) would end what she called a race to the bottom on global taxation. The commitment by the G-7 to a global minimum tax is only the first step in what will be a long process for enactment. The concept still needs support from the Group of 20 leading industrial nations in coming months, as well as a broader group of countries negotiating for global standards. And Congress would still need to pass any implementing changes to U.S. tax law—several [Republicans in the Senate](#) have already expressed opposition, casting doubt on the agreement’s future.

Infrastructure’s Multiple Paths Yet Uncertain Future

Discussions between the White House and various members of Congress on infrastructure legislation continue in an attempt to find bipartisan agreement and the administration sees [several paths forward](#). President Biden has had several rounds of direct talks with Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), the leader of a group of Republican senators who have been negotiating with the president on an infrastructure bill, but they are still billions of dollars apart on cost and they cannot agree on how to pay for the investments (recent reports are that the talks are likely to be abandoned). Adding to the infrastructure dynamics, a [bipartisan working group](#) outside of the Biden-Capito negotiations is preparing a blueprint of their own. The group of roughly six senators, including Senators Joe Manchin (D-WV), Rob Portman (R-OH), Mitt Romney (R-UT), and Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ) are expected to release their own \$880 billion proposal soon—this is less than the top-line figure being discussed by the Capito-led group and well below the White House’s proposal. An additional path would be for the administration to throw its weight behind the [INVEST in America Act](#), legislation currently under consideration before the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee that has significant overlap with the [American Jobs Plan](#). Despite these various paths, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki has said that “the time is not unlimited here...nor is the president’s willingness to compromise.”

Biden Sends FY22 Budget to the Hill

President Biden transmitted his [fiscal year 2022 budget](#) request to Congress in late May—the proposal put forward a dramatic increase in federal spending that reflects an economic agenda that seeks to transform the American economy. The budget includes roughly \$5 trillion in new spending and targeted tax breaks over the decade that mirrors Biden’s American Jobs Plan (\$2.6 trillion), American Families Plan (\$1.7 trillion) and discretionary spending increases (\$600 billion). Spending would increase from \$4.4 trillion in 2019 (the last year of spending pre-COVID) to \$6 trillion next

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year. As a share of the economy, it would grow from 21 percent of GDP in 2019, to 25.6 percent next year and to an average of 24.5 percent over the decade. The budget serves more as a marker of administration priorities than a policy blueprint destined to be signed into law and begins the budget process on Capitol Hill. That said, the budget request sets the stage for a contentious battle over appropriations and tax policy on Capitol Hill that won't be resolved for months.

Debate Over COVID-19 Origins

The debate over the origins of the coronavirus pandemic has reignited in the United States and the theory about a possible lab accident is gaining traction. Driving this renewed focus on the lab-leak hypothesis is a previously undisclosed U.S. intelligence report noting that three researchers from China's Wuhan Institute of Virology became sick in autumn 2019 "with symptoms consistent with both Covid-19 and common seasonal illness" and sought hospital care. The classified report was prepared by the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California in May 2020 and helped inform the [State Department's inquiry](#) into the pandemic's origins. The matter is attracting [fresh interest](#) in [Congress](#) and President Biden has [ordered](#) the U.S. intelligence community to report to him within 90 days on whether the coronavirus came from human contact with an infected animal or from a laboratory accident. In a [recent interview](#), Secretary of State Antony Blinken said that the U.S. needs to get to the bottom of what happened to prevent or mitigate the effects of future pandemics and that the Chinese government hasn't provided sufficient access or information to advance international probes into Covid-19 origins. A [report released in March](#) from a team of scientists assembled by the World Health Organization (WHO) and China left unresolved the question of where the coronavirus originated and has been subsequently criticized for its lack of independence and restrictions placed on researchers by Chinese authorities. This criticism also helped spark a renewed interest in the lab-leak theory. While many at the WHO are calling for an additional, independent investigation the body cannot compel China to divulge more data on Covid-19's origin.

Review of Critical Supply Chains Completed

On February 24, 2021, Biden signed [Executive Order \(E.O.\) 14017](#), directing a comprehensive review of the vulnerabilities in, and the resilience of, critical supply chains. The review covered four areas: semiconductors; large-capacity batteries used in electric vehicles; pharmaceuticals and rare-earth elements. Pursuant to that E.O., [the administration released its findings](#) on June 8 and outlined new measures to address widespread supply-chain issues. The Secretaries of Commerce, Transportation and Agriculture will make up a new supply-chain task force focused on strengthening sectors that have experienced supply disruptions and demand issues. To address vulnerabilities in the supply chains of the four critical products covered in the review, the administration will also undertake a variety of measures to support domestic production of critical medicines, invest in sustainable production and processing of key minerals, and work with industry and partners to address semiconductor shortages. The administration will also establish a "trade strike force" that will propose enforcement actions against unfair foreign-trade practices, such as government subsidies, that have eroded critical supply chains and shore up cooperation with allies.

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Understanding the Events of January 6

A [report](#) released on June 8 by the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee and the Senate Rules Committee offers the most comprehensive and detailed account to date on the January 6 insurrection at the United States Capitol and the associated, and interconnected, intelligence, communications and policing failures. The 127-page report, a product of more than three months of hearings and interviews and reviews of thousands of pages of documents, outlines large-scale failures that contributed to the deadly assault. Law enforcement officials did not take seriously threats of violence. A dysfunctional police force at the Capitol lacked the capacity to respond effectively. Intelligence warning of a violent assault on the Capitol by right-wing extremist groups and supporters of former President Donald J. Trump, collected as early as mid-December, was not widely circulated. There were also bureaucratic issues that hindered the much-needed National Guard response, and many more failures. The Senate's report is the product of bipartisan collaboration among Democratic Senators Gary Peters of Michigan and Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota, chairs of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee and the Rules Committee, respectively, and Republican Senators Rob Portman of Ohio and Roy Blunt of Missouri, the ranking members of those committees. While offering the most authoritative account to date of the January 6th insurrection, this report is limited in its scope and jurisdiction and some requests for information from the Departments of Defense, Homeland Security, and Justice were not fulfilled, nor does the report address the critical questions of President Trump's actions on January 6. The report's findings, and limitations, are likely to fuel renewed calls for an independent commission similar to the one created after the attacks of September 11th, comprised of experts and armed with subpoena power to investigate what happened and why. [Senate Republicans blocked](#) the creation of such a commission late last month, arguing, in part, that it would duplicate work already underway.

Personnel Updates

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid – **Chiquita Brooks-LaSure** was confirmed as administrator.

Department of Commerce - **Don Graves** has been confirmed as deputy secretary. **Arun Venkataraman** has been nominated for director general of the U.S. and Foreign Commercial Services and assistant secretary for global markets. **Ronnie Chatterji** is chief economist.

Department of Defense – **Christine Wormuth** was confirmed as secretary of the Army. **Michael McCord** was confirmed as undersecretary/comptroller, **Kathleen Miller** is the nominee for deputy undersecretary/comptroller. **Ronald S. Moultrie** was confirmed as undersecretary for intelligence and security.

Department of Justice – **Kristen M. Clarke** was confirmed as assistant attorney general for the civil rights division. **Matt Olsen** is the nominee for assistant attorney general for national security. **Susan Hennessy** will be the division's senior counsel.

Department of Labor – **Thea Lee** is deputy undersecretary for international labor affairs.

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Department of State – **Richard Norland** is special envoy for Libya.

Department of the Treasury – **Heidi Crebo-Rediker** is the nominee for undersecretary for international affairs. **Brian Nelson** is the nominee for undersecretary for terrorism and financial intelligence. **John Morton** is the climate counselor.

International Development Finance Corporation – **Jake Levine** is the chief climate officer and **Aparna Shrivastava** is the deputy chief climate officer.

Office of Science and Technology Policy – **Eric S. Lander** was confirmed as director.

United States Trade Representative - **Josh Kagan** is the acting USTR for labor. **Marta Prado** is the acting USTR for Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

White House - **Michael Kuperberg** has been reinstated as executive director of the U.S. Global Change Research Program. **Neera Tanden** is a senior advisor focused on health care and government digital matters. **Audrey Schaffer** has joined the National Security Council as director for space policy. **Tara Schwetz** is assistant director for biomedical science initiatives in the Office of Science and Technology Policy.