

## Today's economic highlights...

### Dollar on back foot vs safe-haven peers as Delta virus spreads

- TOKYO (Reuters) - The dollar was on the back foot against the safe-haven yen and Swiss franc on Tuesday after soft U.S. manufacturing data and rising concerns about the coronavirus Delta variant prompted traders to wind back bets on a strong economic recovery.
- The dollar traded at 109.34 yen, near its July 19 low of 109.07, which was its lowest level since late May. Against the Swiss franc, the dollar traded at 0.9054 franc, having hit a 1-1/2-month low of 0.9038 in the previous session.
- The euro was subdued at \$1.1873, having lost a bit of momentum after hitting a one-month high of \$1.1909 on Friday while sterling slipped to \$1.3889 from Friday's one-month high of \$1.39835. [Read more...](#)

### Oil prices slip, rebound runs out of steam on demand worries

- SINGAPORE (Reuters) - Crude oil prices reversed course after an early bounce on Tuesday, as concerns over coronavirus curbs combined with slowing factory activity in key markets weighed on sentiment.
- [Brent crude oil](#) futures shed 5 cents, or 0.1%, to \$72.84 a barrel, as of 0309 GMT. U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude was down 8 cents, or 0.1%, at \$71.18 a barrel.
- Both markets dropped more than 3% on Monday. [Read more...](#)

### Delta variant surges across U.S. South; political leaders clamp down again

- Aug 2 (Reuters) - The U.S. states of Florida and Louisiana were at or near their highest hospitalization numbers of the coronavirus pandemic on Monday, driven by the still-spreading Delta variant, as one doctor warned of the "darkest days" yet.
- More than 10,000 patients were hospitalized in Florida as of Sunday, surpassing that state's record. Louisiana was expected to break its record within 24 hours, prompting Governor John Bel Edwards, a Democrat, to order residents to wear masks again indoors.
- "These are the darkest days of this pandemic," Dr. Catherine O'Neal, chief medical officer of Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, said at a news conference with Edwards. "We are no longer giving adequate care to patients." [Read more...](#)