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**PARENTS USE THIS TIME
WISELY. TELL YOUR KIDS THE
ELF ON THE SHELF DIDN'T
SURVIVE THE PANDEMIC.
YOU'RE WELCOME.**



1. Florida task force makes recom- mendations.

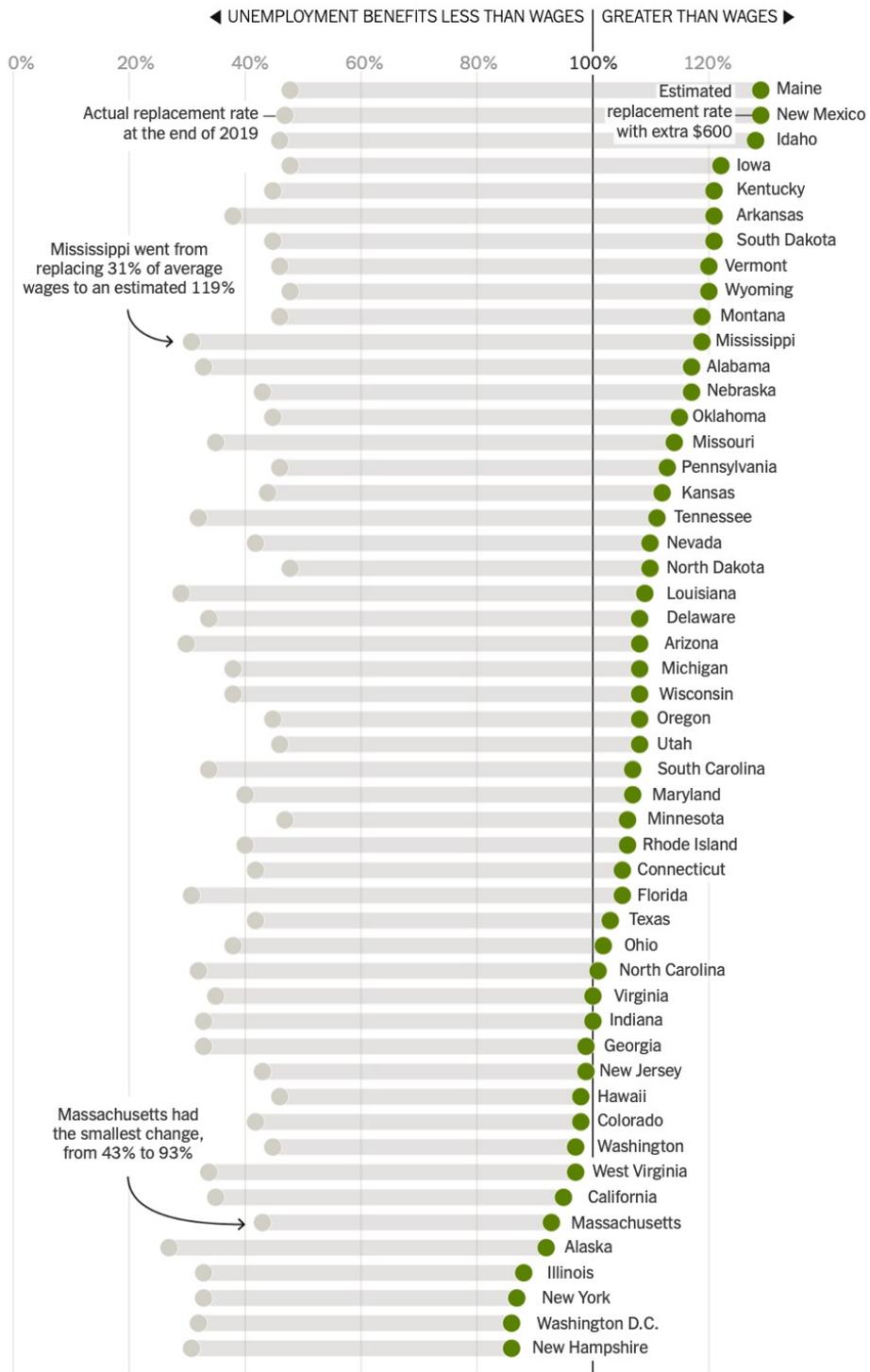
The Re-Open Florida Task Force Executive Committee concluded its meetings today accepting feedback from the three working groups charged with tackling how we safely return to normalcy. The Governor stressed he's not focused on a specific date for reopening at this time but rather, what the guidelines, processes and safeguards should be in order for us to do so. He acknowledged he would not be surprised if the end result was differing plans by region considering the impacts of the disease and the infrastructure in place vary greatly throughout the state. Florida testing volume continues to climb and the positives for Covid-19 among those tests is holding steady at 6-7%. DeSantis did highlight one factor previously unreported: the state Department of Health is counting every single test in its reporting results, including those tests that are being conducted multiple times on the same person, in order to finally declare them healthy. DOH has been directed to correct this discrepancy so as not to mistakenly inflate the number of cases. The Governor also announced he'll be directing the state Surgeon General to expand testing capacity via Executive Order which will allow licensed pharmacists to administer Covid-19 tests moving forward. Finally, the third stimulus installment from the federal government was signed into law today which will be added to the \$4.6 billion deposited in the state's bank account today according to Senate President Bill Galvano. His office provided additional context to the Sunshine State's budget picture [via memo](#) this afternoon.

2. You're fired. Now, here's your raise.

As checks started trickling out to the unemployed, many may have been surprised to see they got a raise thanks to that additional \$600 per week booster shot in the federal stimulus package. Prior to the Covid-19, Floridians received around 30% of their previous salaries when they filed for benefits; one of the lowest averages in the country. Now, for some, that number is north of 100% of their previous salaries, particularly if they made less than the average weekly salary in their state. States vary also by duration of unemployment benefits, Florida and North Carolina being at the bottom with a maximum of 12 weeks. The CARES Act authorized an additional 13 weeks of benefits, up to a maximum of 39 weeks (about 10 months). The additional \$600 per week payment is only through July, unless Congress votes to extend. But when will they get those checks? Since March 15, and after a rocky start, the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity has processed 31% of all filed claims, but only 22% have received payment. So, some unemployed may be getting a raise, but so far just a portion are feeling it in their wallets.

The New York Times

Workers in more than half of states will receive, on average, more in unemployment benefits than their normal salaries



Note: Estimates use average weekly unemployment benefit and average weekly wages from the last quarter of 2019 and add \$600 to the average weekly benefit. Sources: Department of Labor; Ernie Tedeschi, Evercore ISI Research

3. Georgia reopens and everything's not super peachy.

On Tuesday, Georgia's Governor Brian Kemp announced his state would begin reopening this week, and today if you want to get a haircut in Georgia before heading to the bowling alley, you're in luck. On Monday, you can show up for a sit-down meal at your favorite restaurant, albeit with some social distancing measures in place. Earlier in the week President Trump said he "disagreed strongly" with Kemp's approach, but this did nothing to slow the easing of lockdown restrictions. The data suggests that Georgia is not well positioned to begin easing restrictions. It has one of the lowest testing rates in the nation, the number of Covid-19 cases is currently increasing, and the state has a high rate of co-morbid conditions like diabetes, obesity, and heart and lung diseases. Georgia also has a history of exporting its Covid cases to Florida, so lax measures in Georgia unfortunately have negative implications for the adjacent Sunshine State.

4. Virtually exhausted.

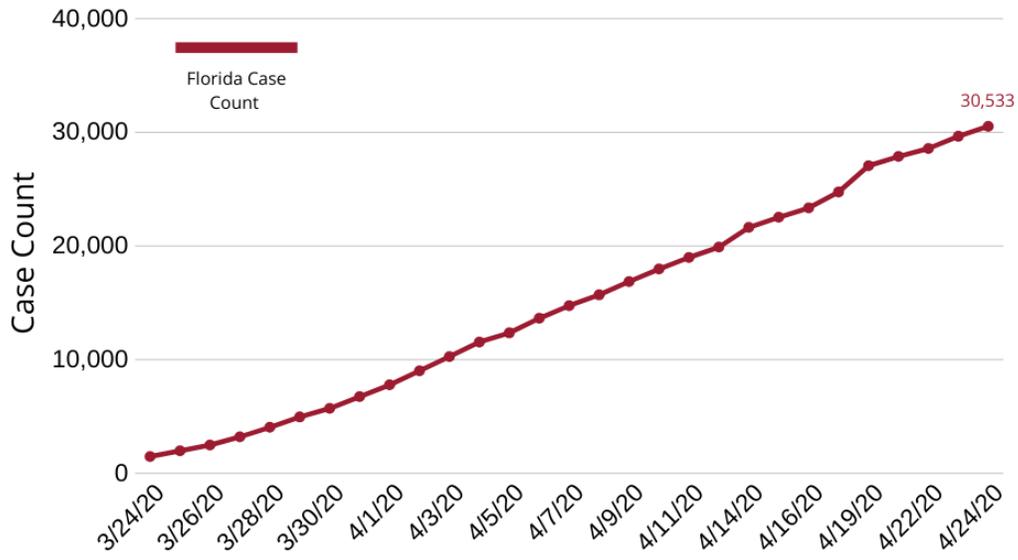
The latest victim of Covid-19: your work/life balance. With no commutes, meetings or social calendars, employees feel trapped at home, and that they must be [constantly available](#). A study found that the average workday has increased by almost 40% in the US — an extra three hours — which has Americans working 11-hour days. It's the largest increase in working hours in the world, according to NordVPN, which

compiled the data since mid-March. The UK, France, Spain, and Canada added two more hours a day to their workdays. By early April, about 45% of workers said they were burned out. Some employers are attempting to help people cope. Goldman-Sachs gave staff an extra 10 days of family leave; Microsoft is offering its workers an additional 12 weeks parental leave. At The Southern Group, we've eschewed remote yoga sessions and mindfulness training but have embraced the approach of extending happy hours into happy days.

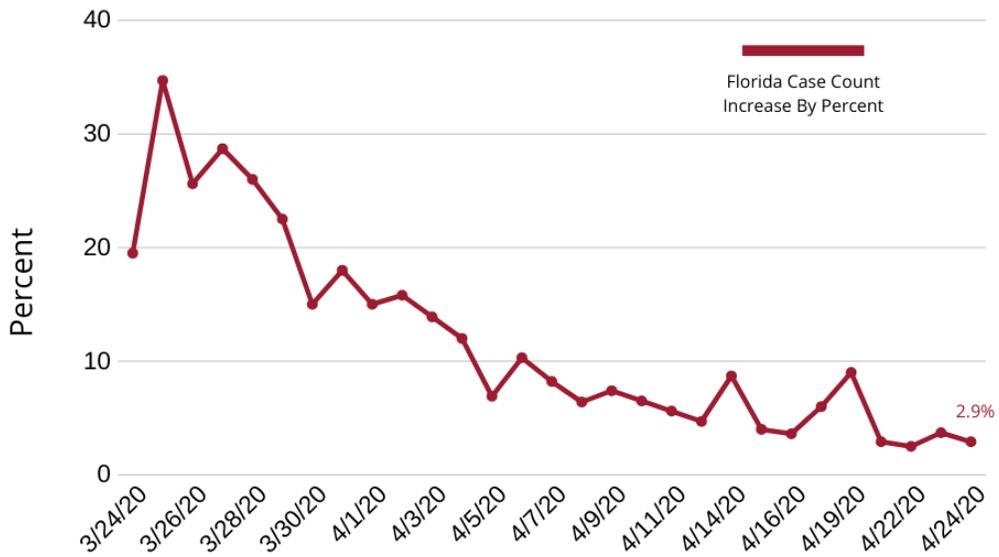
5. Fandemic.

The *New York Times* is calling it Fauci Fever, and if you go to eBay you can pick up a Fauci for President coffee mug or a life-size cardboard cutout of our improbable new cultural icon. Maybe it's his approachable, straightforward style or his everyman Brooklyn accent, but there's something about our nation's favorite epidemiologist that is immensely reassuring in these anxious times. You can now find Dr. Fauci's images emblazoned on t-shirts, hats, craft beer, cupcakes, and even prayer candles. He's also achieved the ultimate status symbol in the halls of pop culturefandom: his own [bobblehead](#). His Facebook fan club has about 100,000 members, and megastars like Stephen Curry are lining up to [interview him](#) for his practical advice and insight into complex science. Suddenly, he's cool AF – that is, Anthony Fauci.

APRIL 24TH: COVID-19 DAILY CASE COUNT



APRIL 24: COVID-19 DAILY CASE PERCENTAGE INCREASE



30,553

FL Case Count

3% GROWTH SINCE 4/23

1,046 DEATHS

as reported by FL DOH



890,524

US Case Count

3% GROWTH SINCE 4/23

51,017 DEATHS

as reported by Johns Hopkins



2,790,986

Global Case Count

3.4% GROWTH SINCE 4/23

195,920 DEATHS

as reported by Johns Hopkins

FLORIDA HEADLINES



FLORIDA POLITICS: Does Thursday's Coronavirus Spike Reset The Clock On Gov. DeSantis' Plan To Reopen The Economy?

MIAMI HERALD: Florida May Experience Coronavirus Resurgence If Reopened Before Mid-June, Data Shows

[MIAMI HERALD](#): Miami-Dade Has Tens Of Thousands Of Missed Coronavirus Infections, UM Survey Finds

[TAMPA BAY TIMES](#): Florida's Unemployment Site Is Down Until Monday. Workers Protest Online.

[ASSOCIATED PRESS](#): Florida Surpasses 1,000 Coronavirus Deaths, 30,000 Cases

[FLORIDA POLITICS](#): State Agrees To Some 'Retroactive Eligibility' For Unemployment Benefits

NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE



[FOX NEWS](#): Trump Signs \$484B Small Business Coronavirus Relief Bill Into Law

[POLITICO](#): After an Unprecedented, Bipartisan Rescue Effort, the Next Relief Bill will be Much Harder to Pass.

[CNN](#): This is Where all 50 States Stand on Reopening

[NPR](#): 9 Ways Schools Will Look Different When (And If) They Reopen

[USA TODAY](#): Nearly One-Third of Americans Believe a Coronavirus Vaccine Exists and is Being Withheld, Survey Finds

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE



[THE WALL STREET JOURNAL](#): Virus-Plagued Brexit Talks Fail To Progress Much As Negotiation Round Ends On Acrimonious Note

[THE NEW YORK TIMES](#): Vanquish The Virus? Australia And New Zealand Aim To Show The Way

[BBC NEWS](#): Coronavirus: Czechs Free To Move Again

[REUTERS](#): Britain Nears Grim Milestone Of 20,000 Coronavirus Hospital Deaths



Tallahassee

Coronavirus relief: Tallahassee City Commission approved temporary electric bill discount
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Jacksonville

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Tampa Bay

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Miami

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