



## Resilience in U.S. lifts the global economy

World Bank forecasts stronger growth but warns that risks remain

BY DAVID J. LYNCH

The global economy is in better shape than it was at the start of the year, thanks largely to the performance of the United States, the World Bank said in its latest forecast Tuesday. But the sunnier outlook could cloud over if major central banks — including the Federal Reserve — keep interest rates at elevated levels.

Global growth is expected to reach an annual rate of 2.6 percent this year, up from a January forecast of 2.4 percent, the bank said. The global economy is drawing closer to a “soft landing” after recent price spikes, with average inflation dropping to a three-year low amid continuing growth, bank economists said.

While Americans’ unhappiness with high prices remains a key vulnerability for President Biden’s reelection bid, the World Bank now expects the U.S. economy to grow at an annual rate of 2.5 percent, nearly a full percentage point higher than it predicted in January. The United States is the only advanced economy growing significantly faster than the bank anticipated at the start of the year.

“Globally, overall things are better today than they were just four or five months ago,” said Indermit Gill, the World Bank’s chief economist. “A big part of this has to do with the resilience of the U.S. economy.”

The bank’s assessment will come as news to many Americans who remain preoccupied by the cost of living. Even as the U.S. economy outpaces Europe and Japan, and hiring stays steady,

SEE ECONOMY ON A13

**Retail price cuts:** Markdowns come after shoppers cut back. **A18**

## Hunter Biden found guilty in federal gun trial



JIM LO SCALZO/EPA-EFE/SHUTTERSTOCK

First lady Jill Biden, Hunter Biden and Melissa Cohen-Biden, his wife, leave the courthouse in Wilmington, Del., after a jury found him guilty of felony gun charges. Many Biden family members attended the trial, which showcased years of internal Biden family drama.

### For the president, a personal toll if not a political one

BY MATT VISER AND YASMEEN ABUTALEB

Hunter Biden’s guilty verdict Tuesday, coupled with a trial that resurfaced dark moments in the Biden family history, could weigh heavily on the president in the final months of a grueling reelection campaign, many of the president’s allies privately worry.

The political impact is less clear, and even some Republicans on Tuesday dismissed Hunter’s offense — lying on a gun purchase form six years ago — as relatively minor. GOP leaders still hope the verdict paints the Bidens as lawbreakers and off-sets Donald Trump’s own criminal conviction. Democratic strategists argued, meanwhile, that voters are unlikely to hold the president accountable for his son’s behavior.

But the personal toll on a president who has already suffered the deaths of two children and grappled for years with his son’s addiction could be far more severe.

“What normal human being would not be torn apart to see his family’s anguish played out in a courtroom in front of the world?” said David Axelrod, a former senior adviser to President Barack Obama. “And to see people you love having to testify, not just your son, but your daughters-in-

law and your granddaughter, all reliving the most painful moments of their lives — who wouldn’t be shattered by that?”

Axelrod added: “I don’t think voters are going to hold Biden accountable for his son’s addiction or his son’s misbehavior. But I think the real question is the toll it takes on him and his family.”

The dramatic and often sordid trial, in which prosecutors argued that Hunter was abusing illegal drugs in 2018 despite declaring on the form that he was not, played out in Biden’s hometown of Wilmington, Del., a few blocks from Biden reelection headquarters. Two of President

Biden’s former daughters-in-law — Kathleen Buhle, Hunter’s ex-wife, and Hallie Biden, Beau Biden’s widow — testified for the prosecution. Naomi Biden, Hunter’s daughter and Biden’s granddaughter, testified for the defense.

The president released a statement Tuesday in support of his son, shortly before speaking at a gun-control event.

“As I said last week, I am the

SEE POLITICS ON A4

**The Critique:** A unifying sadness defined the trial and verdict. **A2**

**FAQ:** Answers about what comes next for the president’s son. **A5**

### CASE EXPOSED DARK PERIODS OF HIS PAST

President’s son ‘grateful’ for family’s support

BY PERRY STEIN, DAVID NAKAMURA AND DEVLIN BARRETT

WILMINGTON, DEL. — Hunter Biden was found guilty of felony gun charges in federal court Tuesday, ending a trial that exposed some of the ugliest moments in the life of the president’s son and put on national display the first family’s pain, heartache and regrets.

The jury concluded that Hunter Biden, 54, lied about his drug use when he filled out a form to purchase a gun in October 2018 and then illegally owned that weapon as a drug user for 11 days.

The jury deliberated for a little more than three hours before finding him guilty on all three counts. Biden nodded, but otherwise showed little emotion when the verdict was read. He then hugged each member of his legal team and said thank you.

Biden walked out past the defendant’s table, hugged and kissed his wife, Melissa Cohen-Biden, and left the courtroom, shaking the hands of friends and family along the way.

In a written statement after he left the courthouse, Biden said he was “more grateful today for the love and support I experienced this last week from Melissa, my family, my friends, and my community than I am disappointed by the outcome. Recovery is possible by the grace of God, and I am blessed to experience that gift one day at a time.”

The gun trial, which lasted just over a week, showcased years of internal behind-the-scenes drama in the Biden family, with relatives taking the witness stand. The proceedings also played out against the backdrop of President Biden’s reelection campaign, with Republicans seizing on Hunter Biden’s legal troubles to try to portray the entire Biden family as corrupt.

The trial also showed the

SEE BIDEN ON A4

### THE DROWNING SOUTH



RAY WHITEHOUSE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

## This coastal town floods repeatedly. The Post installed cameras to capture it.

Two days in Carolina Beach, N.C. — the first clear and calm, the second marked by rain — show why fixing the deepening problems of sea rise is such a daunting task. **Story, A6**

## Legacy of ISIS war looms over Gaza

BY MISSY RYAN

When Charles Q. Brown Jr. took command of U.S. air forces in the Middle East, the campaign against the Islamic State was moving slowly. It was 2015, and millions of people remained trapped in the militant group’s brutal grip as U.S. and partner forces struggled to chip away at its vast pseudo-state.

Brown, then a three-star general, thought it was time to refocus away from the war’s front lines, where scattered airstrikes were picking off only small numbers of militants. Instead, he wanted to

### Its lessons inform how Joint Chiefs chairman sees Israel’s use of force

prioritize targets deep within the so-called caliphate, where oil sales and taxation fueled the extremists’ reign.

“If you want us to be more effective, here’s what we’ve got to be able to do,” he recalled telling the Army general commanding the campaign.

Military commanders saw the

shift as a turning point, one that led to the liberation of the Islamic State’s twin capitals, Mosul in Iraq and Raqqa in neighboring Syria. Yet it also coincided with a push by U.S. and partner forces into crowded cities, resulting in a soaring number of civilian deaths and revealing a stark reality about the limitations of precision weapons and military safeguards.

Now, as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff — the nation’s highest-ranking military officer —

SEE ISRAEL ON A10

**Cease-fire plan:** Hamas seeks a timeline for an end to the war. **A11**

## Bracing for war on Lebanon’s border

BY STEVE HENDRIX AND MOHAMAD EL CHAMAA

HURFEISH, ISRAEL — The mountain villages and rolling valleys along Israel’s border with Lebanon already feel like a war zone.

The booms of intercepted rockets and drones regularly shake the air. Plumes of smoke rise from hillside explosions as firefighters race to keep blazes from engulfing residential neighborhoods. The pace of Hezbollah and Israeli strikes has grown from daily to almost hourly, according to the civilians, local

### Pressure on Israel to halt Hezbollah rockets, allow civilians to return home

officials and soldiers who remain in the area.

“Each week it’s becoming more frequent and more intense,” said Liron, the deputy commander of an army squad that was crowded into a shelter during an air raid alert Thursday. He spoke on the condition that he be identified by

his first name because he was not authorized to talk to the media.

They were sheltering less than 3,000 yards from the Lebanese border, in an encampment they had used for months, on what had been the town’s soccer field.

Their location was no secret. A day before, a pair of pinpoint strikes by Hezbollah drones had destroyed one of their three canvas barracks, killing one soldier and wounding a dozen others. The walls of one bomb shelter were still spattered with blood where the unit’s medic had

SEE LEBANON ON A11

### IN THE NEWS

**Wooing young voters** In key swing states, Democratic donors are hoping to shore up turnout with events offering free beer, contraceptive pills and help with rent. **A3**

**Operation Ride Right** The use of mopeds has skyrocketed in D.C., as have complaints about reckless driving. Police are cracking down. **B1**

**THE NATION**  
**Sen. Bob Menendez’s** team grilled the prosecution’s star witness. **A5**  
**The Biden** administration proposed a ban on the use of medical debt in credit reports and loan decisions. **A8**

**THE WORLD**  
**Many Ukrainians** view the war with Russia as a stalemate but remain hopeful, a poll found. **A9**  
**About 800** caged pets were killed as a fire ripped through a famous market in Bangkok. **A14**

**THE ECONOMY**  
**A federal turf war** and congressional inaction could leave voters unprotected from AI misuse on the campaign trail this year. **A17**  
**Raytheon** faces a lawsuit claiming that it illegally favors recent college graduates over older workers in its hiring. **A18**

**THE REGION**  
**The Virginia NAACP** is suing a school board that voted to restore the names of two schools previously named for Confederate leaders. **B1**  
**Teachers and staff** members in Fairfax County overwhelmingly voted in favor of collective bargaining. **B1**

**SPORTS**  
**In exploring** the friction that plagues sports, it would be dishonest to omit media complicity, Jerry Brewer writes. **D1**  
**FOOD**  
**For 47 years**, a lesbian-owned restaurant in coastal Connecticut has served up politics and vegetarian fare. **E1**

BUSINESS NEWS.....A17  
COMICS.....C6  
OBITUARIES.....B4  
OPINION PAGES.....A19  
TELEVISION.....C3  
WORLD NEWS.....A9

CONTENT © 2024  
The Washington Post  
Year 147, No. 53880

