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POSS: Pandemics and Globalization: Economics, Culture and Policy

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Pandemics and Globalization: Economics, Culture and Policy

by Icecream Paragon

Abstract

In this paper, we show the learning and research results from this summer at Pioneer.

It is clear that the epidemic poses a huge challenge for 2020. This article provides an in-depth description of the economic, cultural, and policy implications of the Covid-19 for the United States and the world.

Keywords

Pandemic, Covid-19, Impact, cultural change, policy, economy, education, vaccination, herd immunity, business

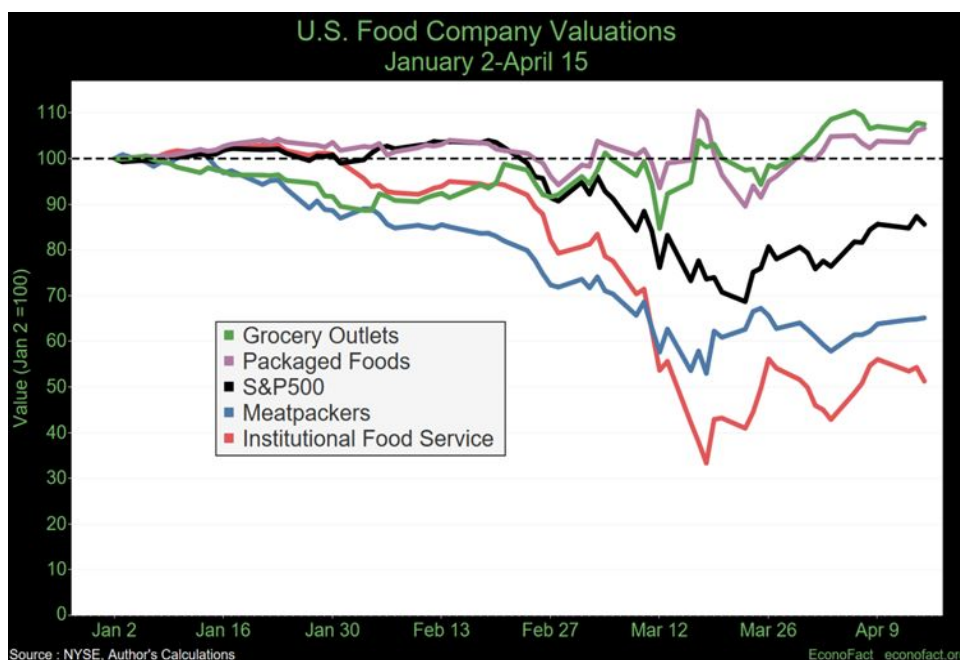
1. Introduction

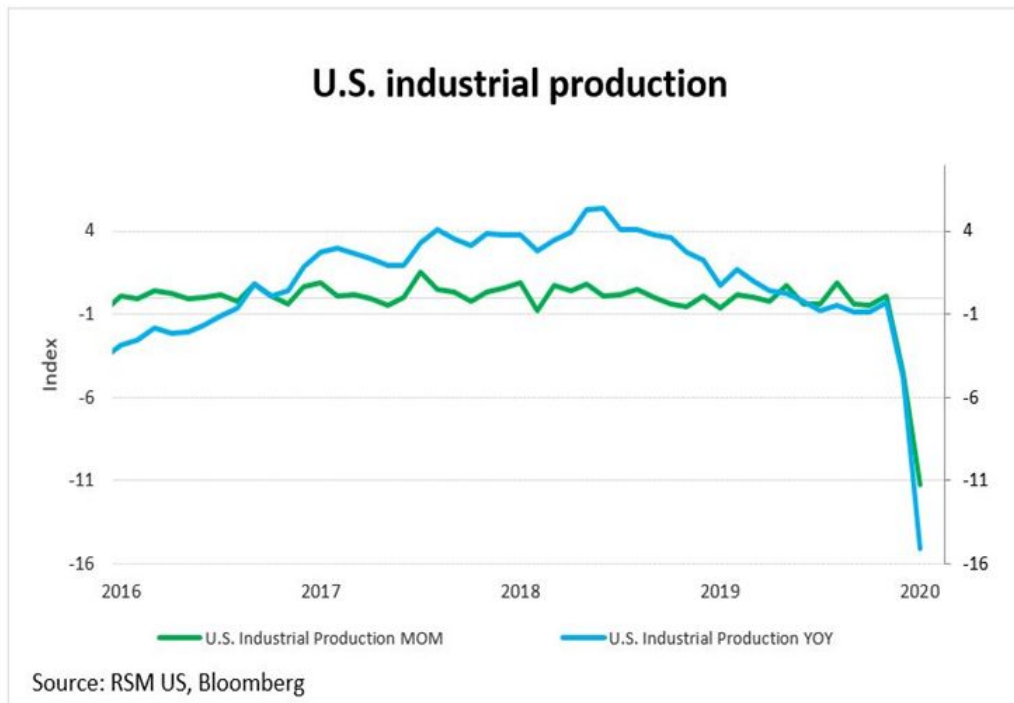
The coronavirus, or the Covid-19, is highly infective. Up to August 30th, 2020, the WHO (World Health Organization) has received 24, 854, 140 cases with 838, 924 cumulative deaths.

In response to this, governments have released different policies, including temporary closure of schools, usage of face masks and travel bans. Citizens' lives have been greatly influenced and meanwhile, some cultural changes are gradually ongoing.

2. Economic Impact

The economic crisis can be seen in multiple industries in the U.S. and around the world. In the agricultural industry, the U.S. food company valuations of institutional food service drops from 100 to as low as 30 in this year. U.S. industrial production index falls from -1 to lower than -11. The global retail decreases about 40% to 60% in different regions during March. (Liam O'Connell)





The unemployment has been raised drastically and many families were not able to afford the fee for the hospital in the beginning of the pandemic.

On the other hand, the economy has become more resistant nowadays compared to decades ago. No obvious inflation has happened in most countries. The banks are equipped with policies that prevent the fluctuation in the currency market. This achievement leads to the stability of society and the market.

3. Cultural Impact

The pandemic has a negative effect on globalization in the cultural aspect. Borderline closures together with travel bans and reductions of international flights brought physical isolation between people, groups, and cultures. Thousands of cultural live events were canceled, for example, concerts and speeches. The exchange of information, ideas, and culture moved online.

In the virtual world, while individual communication mostly stays effective, a larger communication between different groups in our society fails to achieve. Feelings of frustration, fear, and anger gradually shifted from the disaster itself to other people. Blaming, instead of cooperating, became the trend on the Internet.

Such a split within the society was further escalated by modern technology and algorithms. Data analysis combined with artificial intelligence precisely breaks down our interests and opinions and accordingly feeds us biased information that meets our expectations. The echo chamber phenomenon appears more and more in online communities like Reddit. People's opinions are reconfirmed instead of diversified, and the voice of the unprivileged and the moderate is unheard. This again contributed to the growth of isolationism and conservatism and the decline of globalism and multiculturalism.

Speaking of education, the pandemic has brought about revolutionary changes in the global education patterns. Taking the United States as an instance, most schools, from

kindergarten to college, have gradually shifted to an online teaching model since March as each state issued a stay-at-home order.

However, not every family can provide their children with a stable Internet connection and available devices, especially in impoverished areas. According to a nationality survey conducted by Educators for excellence. Among 600 public school teachers, 32% of the teachers responded that less than half of their students participate in their distance-learning program on a daily basis. Only 24 percent of public school teachers reported that all of their students had access to a computer or tablet to use for schoolwork. A developed country like the United States was still facing such a dilemma, not to mention how this problem can be solved in less developed countries.

At the same time, the educational problems of international students are also worth mentioning. For students who are about to begin studying abroad, the epidemic has forced the cancellation of many large standardized tests. Although many schools have eliminated this aspect of their requirements in response, it still made the outcome of this year's school applications more unpredictable than ever.

For international students who have already studied in another country, they have to face an even greater struggle for the year: managing student visa status, travel restrictions between countries, impact on future employment-based visa and international relationships are all what students are concerned about. All in all, various education sectors have been greatly impacted by the pandemic.

4. Policies

Countries with different cultural backgrounds and social structures have come up with many policies.

Among these policies, people can generalize most of them by using two models.

One model has been applied in most Western countries, including countries in Europe and North America. Those countries reopen their economy before the pandemic to be officially ended.

The immediate advantage to this policy is the economy will reopen in a gradual and also stable pace. Along with the bank's policy to simulate consumption from sending money directly to each family, many small and middle businesses can be saved.

However, social distancing has been proved to be effective now according to the CDC. (CDC Social Distancing) The reopening can create problems that many people will get infected with.

What's more, people are expecting herd immunity to end the Covid.

On the other hand, the other model has been employed by mostly Asian countries. These countries lockdown their cities temporarily. This policy has been proved extremely effective with sudden drops in the number of people who get infected.

However, the shutdown leads to great economic impacts in smaller and middle business. In addition, the potential danger of locking down the city when several cases appear again may lead to the bankruptcy of many companies because they can not endure another closure.

The solution these countries are looking for might be the invention of the vaccination so that new cases will not come out.

Nevertheless, these two different policy models may not work according to a recent finding. Scientists in Hong Kong and Great Britain found out about a man who got infected with the Covid twice in four months. (BBC Coronavirus immunity: Can you catch it twice?) Does this piece of news mean that the herd immunity and invention of the vaccination might not work?

The answer is unclear but human beings might experience a longer pandemic than we previously expected.

5. Conclusion

The Covid has changed everyone's life drastically. People are not used to these changes and like any times in history, it triggers rebellion to changes in lives. People panic a lot.

However, the impact of the pandemic might become a part of our culture. Just like professor Irene Finel-Honigman mentioned in her lecture: people may get used to their face masks like their seat belt. There have been pains to change people's habits but the change may be proved essential in this pandemic.

The impact of the pandemic may be with us for a longer time and people will experience a period of time for economic recovery and the process of finding the treatments for the Covid.

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