

# Truist COVID-19 Economic Data Tracker - Week 45, 2020

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*In addition to tracking the impact of COVID-19, we have turned to a wider set of activity-based economic data series from private firms, many of which were previously unavailable. We caution that while these new data series provide valuable insight, many do not provide enough historical data to draw meaningful conclusions individually. Still, these new data are now supplementing tried-and-true existing data and helping provide a more complete mosaic to inform our economic outlook.*

## Trend Watch and New This Week

On the data tracker matrix (slide 2), we downgraded hotel occupancy and OpenTable Restaurant Bookings, which have slumped of late.

More importantly, we are increasingly concerned about the surge in COVID-19 infections throughout the US. New cases hit 100,000 this past Wednesday, which has pushed the 7-day average to nearly 90,000 per day and is well above the July peak (slide 3). As we have noted, a sizable chunk of the new cases are on college campuses, with nearly 38,000 in the past two weeks. Hospitalizations, which lag new cases by roughly 10-14 days, have also turned higher. We highlight states with the fastest pace of new hospitalizations (slide 5). Death rates, though, have ticked up modestly, which is likely the result of quicker identification (testing) along with better treatment and therapeutics.

We highlight public transit, which remains greatly impacted (slide 6). However, ridership spiked during October in Dallas, which hosted part of the Major League Baseball playoffs and World Series. This suggests that public transit may remain impacted due to work-from-home and the a lack of large-scale events, such as sporting events and concerts, which typically drive ridership. Air passenger throughput also remains

impacted and has been erratic in the past few months (slide 7).

Lastly, we continue to monitor the number of new business applications (slide 8), which we previously had on the data tracker matrix. Requests during the third quarter 2020 soared 82% compared to 2019.

## Bottom Line

The surge in infections both in the US and abroad are problematic. Several European countries and the United Kingdom have reinstated lockdowns following huge spikes in cases and hospitalizations. While we do not expect similar widespread lockdowns in the US based on current trends, the backtracking of virus trends will likely push back further reopenings.

Additionally, as we anticipated, Hurricane Zeta is cycling through some of the weekly activity-based data, particularly in the Gulf Coast and southeastern US. While this is temporary, it obscures an already cloudy view for decision makers.

We maintain our general optimism about the US recovery path. The US economic recovery remains in the early innings. Still, within the US, the recovery will continue to be uneven—both by industry and region.

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# US COVID-19 Economic Data Tracker Matrix

INDICATOR	RELATIVE TREND	WHAT WE'RE WATCHING
US State Reopenings	↔	Trends are deteriorating as infections and hospitalizations have rapidly increased in recent weeks. Most states have paused further reopenings. Schools and colleges, which struggling with distancing and limited testing, remain the biggest challenge.
TSA Air Passenger Throughput	▼	Weekly passenger counts fell 8% week-over-week to 5.4 million. Passenger throughput is -64.8% year-over-year, marked improvement from -67% in September.
OpenTable Restaurant Bookings	▼	The weekly average fell to -49% YoY from -41%. Regional differences persist and are lagging the broader US, especially for many of the largest metros including New York City and San Francisco, which are -80% YoY.
Apple Mobility	▼	Seasonally cooler autumn weather has curtailed activity. Driving 7-day average skidded to 117, walking held fairly steady at 118, while transit fell a few more ticks to 52.
Google Mobility	↔	Another big downward move by parks, which fell to 1% from two weeks ago 30% and +45% for much of the summer, but sizable uptick by residential. 7-day average relative to the Jan-Feb 2020 baseline: Retail (& restaurants) & recreation -17%, Grocery/Pharmacy -6%, Transit -31%, Workplaces -25%, Residential +8%.
Hotel Occupancy	▼	Occupancy fell sharply to 44.0% from above 50% two weeks ago; the YoY slipped to -29%. The top 25 markets also declined, to 41%, while average daily rate fell to \$96.91 from above \$101 per night two weeks ago.
Freight	▲	Rail freight and intermodal carloads slipped slightly in late October, though remain in-line with seasonal trends. Container traffic at the top five ports rose modestly in September from a strong August.
Staffing Index	▲	Climbed to 85.78, the highest level since March, and has increased in 24 of past 26 weeks since the April reading of 59.6, which was the low for this cycle.

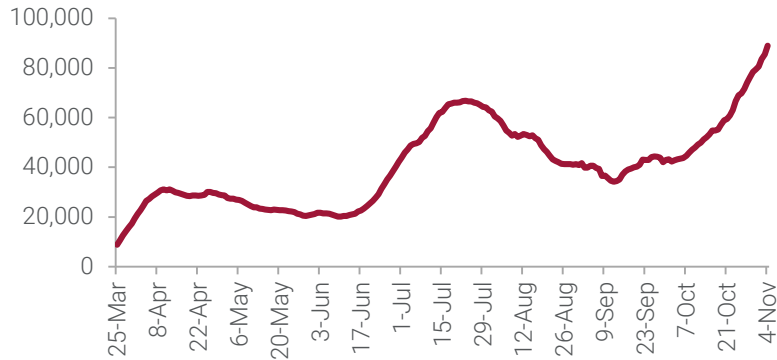
Trend relative to whether it is favorable for economic growth:

▲Positive ▼Negative ↔Neutral / Mixed

Data Sources: SunTrust IAG, NY Times, State Governor Websites, The Covid Tracking Project, Bloomberg, Transportation Security Administration, Apple Mobility Trends, Google COVID-19 Community Mobility Report, STR/CoStar, American Staffing Association.

# Cases & Hospitalizations Rising, But Deaths Falling

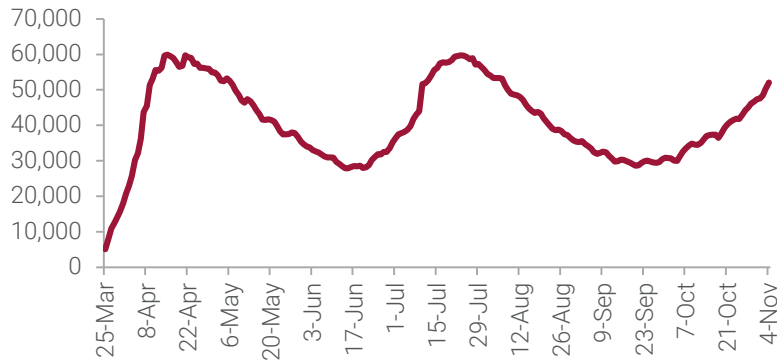
New Confirmed Cases 7-Day Moving Average



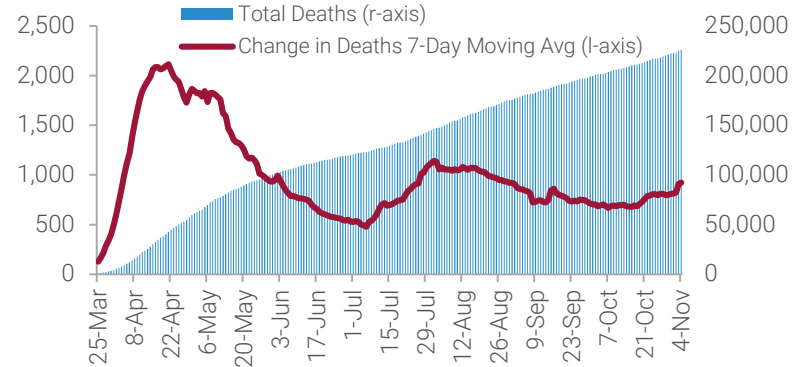
Tests Performed 7-Day Moving Average



Total Hospitalized Currently



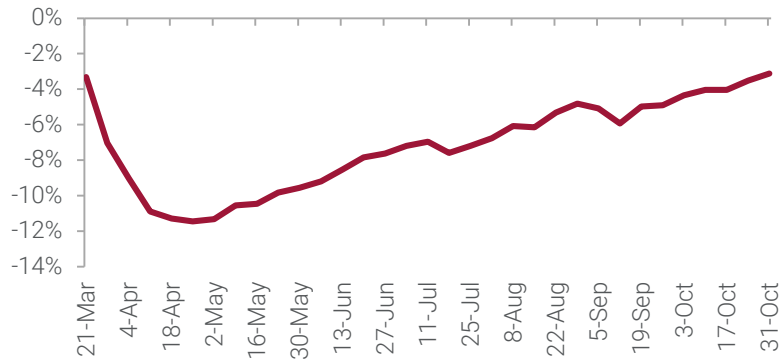
US COVID-19 Deaths



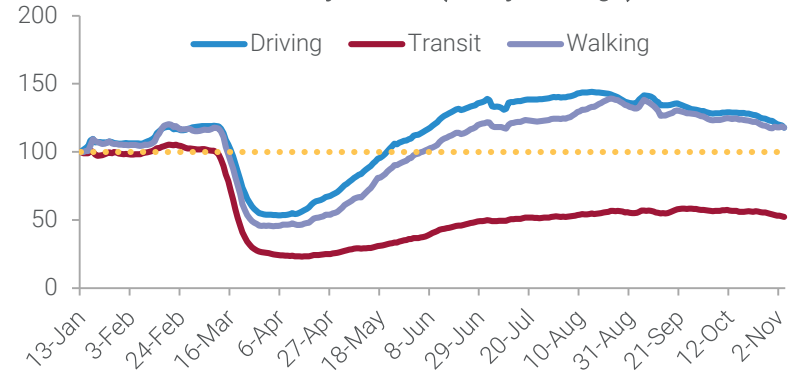
Data Sources: SunTrust IAG, The Covid Tracking Project through November 4, 2020. Data for 50 US states plus American Samoa, Washington D.C., Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and US Virgin Islands.

# US Economy: Reopening Progressing But Uneven

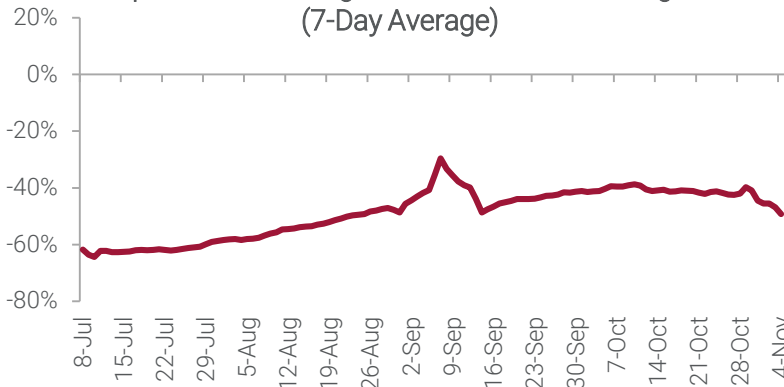
NY Fed Weekly Economic Index



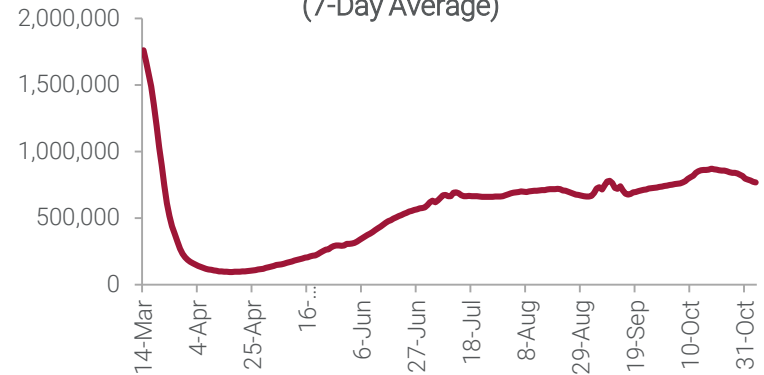
US Mobility Trends (7-Day Average)



OpenTable Bookings Year-over-Year % Change (7-Day Average)



TSA Checkpoint Traveler Throughput (7-Day Average)



Sources: SunTrust IAG and the following additional sources respectively: Top left: Bloomberg, NY Federal Reserve Weekly Economic Index through October 31, 2020. Top right: (US Mobility Trends) Apple Mobility 7-Day Average through November 4. Bottom left: Bloomberg, OpenTable 7-Day Average through November 4. Bottom right: Bloomberg, Transportation Security Administration 7-Day Average through November 4.

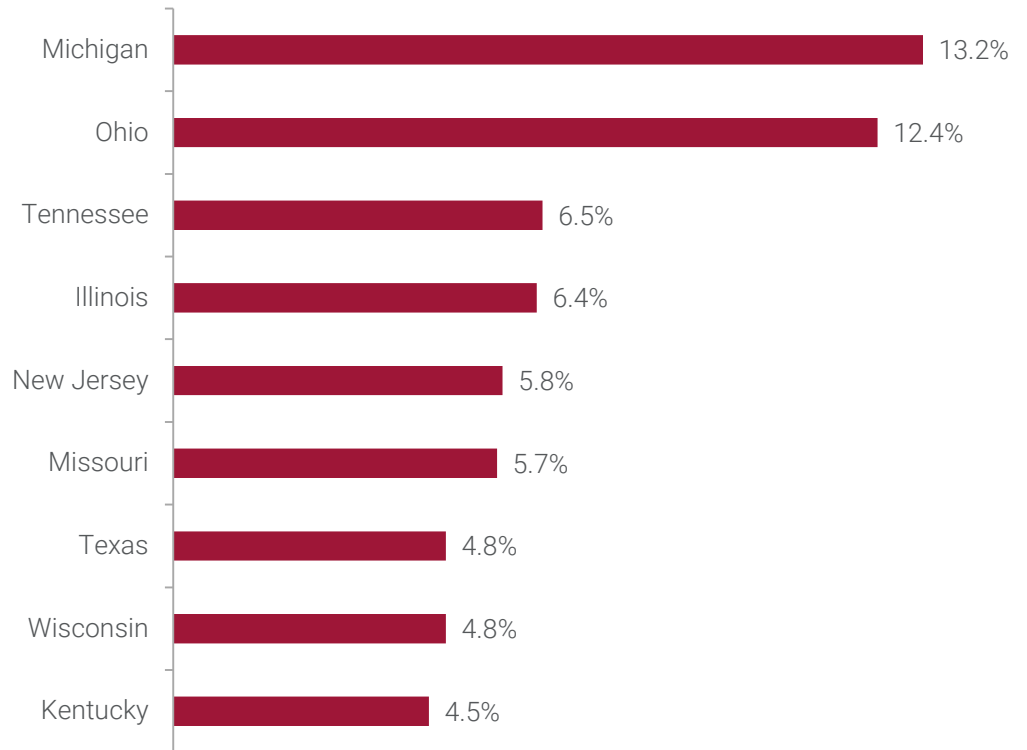
# Hospitalizations Have Quickly Jumped Recently

US hospitalizations have increased 8.3% since the end of October following the recent surge in COVID-19 cases.

The Great Lakes region has been hit particularly hard, especially Michigan and Ohio, along with Illinois and Wisconsin. Adjacent states have also seen a rapid increase in hospitalizations, including Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri.

In Ohio, law enforcement has begun to cite bars and restaurants that are ignoring pandemic-related social distancing and capacity rules.

Change in COVID-19 Hospitalizations Since October 30



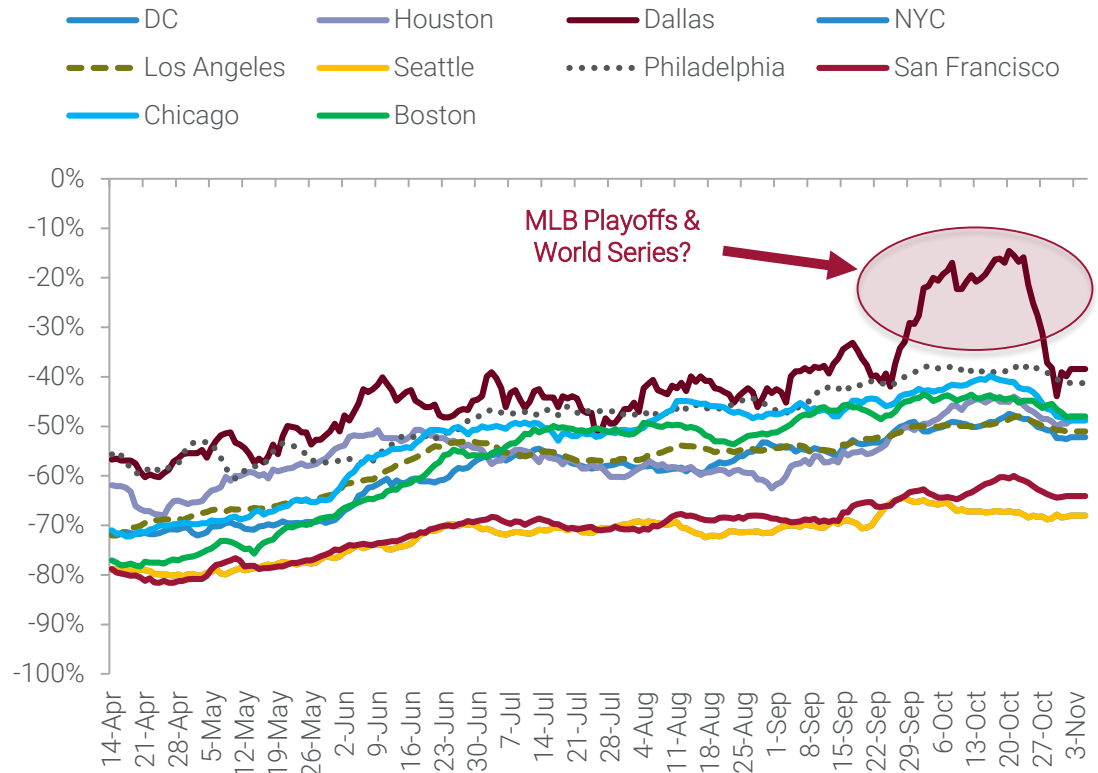
# Public Transit Usage Remains Greatly Impacted; Perhaps It's Because There's No Where to Go

Use of public transit of all types—including buses, light rail, metro/subway trains, as well as local bicycle services, ride-hailing (Uber, Lyft), scooters, and car-sharing—remains greatly impacted by the pandemic. Usage has slowly climbed back near -50% for the 11 of the top US public transit cities.

Interestingly, ridership during early to mid October spiked in Dallas, where Major League Baseball hosted part of their playoffs and the World Series.

Accordingly, public transit may remain impacted due to work-from-home and the a lack of large-scale events, such as sporting events and concerts, which typically drive ridership.

Public Transit % Change from Pre-Pandemic Level

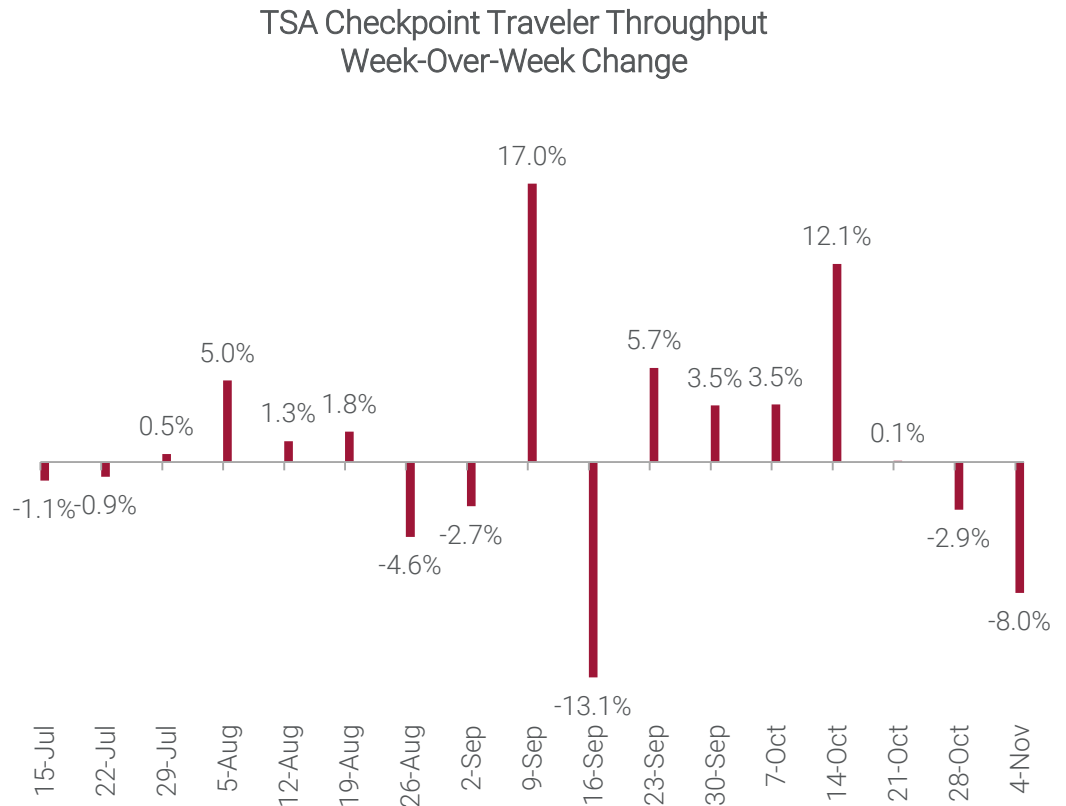


Data Sources: SunTrust IAG, Bloomberg, Moovit. Percent change in Moovit app usage of the previous 7 days in each city compared to the week prior to January 15, 2020.

# US Airline Passenger Counts Remain Erratic

Airline passenger counts have bounced around over the past few months. Throughput slumped to 5.4 million in the past week, down 8% from the prior week, after spending two weeks above 6 million passengers. Some of the decline was due to Hurricane Zeta, which socked the Gulf Coast and southeastern US.

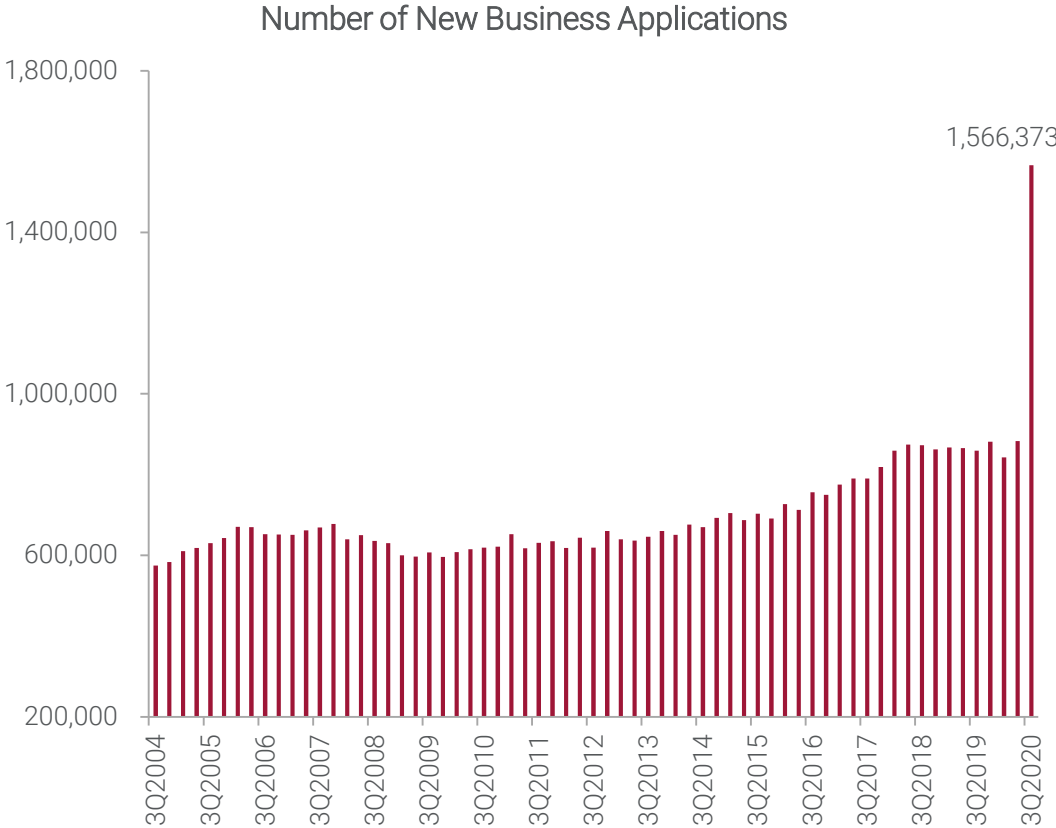
Air travel remains one of the most impacted activities since the pandemic and is down roughly 65% from a year ago.



# Surge in New Businesses

The number of new business applications has soared to roughly 1.6 million during the third quarter 2020, which marks an 82% increase compared to the third quarter 2019.

We believe this shows the resilience of Americans to attempt a new venture following job losses that were caused by the pandemic.



Data Sources: SunTrust IAG, US Census Bureau; quarterly data through third quarter 2020.





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