



VICTORY PARTNERS

MIDDLE MARKET INSIGHT

What Business Owners Need To Know

9 MILLION

COURSES OF MERCK TREATMENT SOLD WORLDWIDE

FRANCE

FIRST COUNTRY TO CANCEL ITS ORDER OF MERCK

IN THE E.U.

BOTH PFIZER AND MERCK TREATMENTS ARE UNDER REVIEW

THE WORLD

BANK EXPECTS ECONOMIC GROWTH TO SLOWDOWN IN 2022

EXPECTED

TO SLOWDOWN TO 4.1% THIS FROM 5.5% IN 2021

15-9 IN FAVOR

8,000 STORES

ARE OWNED BY STARBUCKS

LAST MONTH

WE SAW THE FIRST STARBUCKS STORE UNIONIZE

Experimental Antiviral COVID-19 Pill Craze

- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) last week authorized Merck's antiviral COVID-19 pill for high-risk adult patients, a day after giving a broader go-ahead to a similar but more effective treatment from Pfizer
- "In the last week, Japan and India have also recommended approval of Merck's experimental pill - which has already been approved in Britain, Denmark and the Philippines, among others - while South Korea on Monday authorized Pfizer's treatment for emergency use."
- Both treatments are being evaluated by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) in the European Union, though the authority has stated that they can be used in adults prior to any wider recommendation.

Pandemic to Slow Economic Growth

- The World Bank predicted that global economic growth would decelerate in 2022 as new waves of the epidemic collide with rising prices and clogged supply chains, dampening the momentum of the previous year.
- According to the World Bank, wealth inequality is expanding both within and across countries, and it might become entrenched if education systems are disrupted and countries' ability to sustain their low-income populations are hindered by high national debt. Higher interest rates and the removal of fiscal support could have a negative impact on low-income countries, which are already vulnerable.
- The World Bank is pushing support for policies that will strengthen impoverished nations' financial institutions and develop local infrastructure in ways that will drive growth, as well as enhance debt reduction initiatives. It will be critical to reduce global supply chain bottlenecks, notably for Covid vaccination doses.

Second Starbucks to Unionize

- Last month's union victory sparked a surge of interest in unionization at additional Starbucks outlets. Individual locations in Massachusetts, Arizona, Oregon, Illinois, Colorado, Tennessee, and Seattle, Starbucks' hometown, have filed union election petitions with the labor board. Three more stores in Buffalo are also looking to join the union.
- Starbucks is considering its options and may file an appeal, according to a company representative. The employer has ten days to appeal to the full labor board. If the appeal is denied, the company will have to negotiate with the union.
- "Lexi Rizzo, an shift supervisor at the Cheektowaga store, said it was an emotional day for workers who backed the union. 'Finally, the partners feel we have a voice at our workplace,' she said in a statement distributed by Workers United."

Sources: www.reuters.com | www.nytimes.com | www.apnews.com