

Thursday, September 3, 2020

To: New York Community Banks

## FROM ICBA

### Regulator PPP Forgiveness Webinar Today

Federal regulators are scheduled to [hold a webinar](#) at 3 p.m. (Eastern time) today on the Paycheck Protection Program loan-forgiveness platform. The webinar was rescheduled from Aug. 27.

### Article: Being There For Customers In A Challenging Time

Although financial institutions were among the businesses deemed essential and allowed to remain open during the COVID-19 lockdown, banks have drastically changed how they do business. Sudden changes don't always tend to hit the target the first time but, according to customers, community banks are doing an excellent job at being there for them. ICBA [Preferred Service Provider](#) Avannis explains in a new article. [Read now.](#)

### Beige Book: Economic Activity Well Below Pre-Pandemic Levels

Economic activity increased modestly in recent weeks but remained well below levels prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the Federal Reserve's latest [Beige Book](#). According to the report, overall loan demand increased slightly, commercial construction was down widely, residential construction was a bright spot, consumer spending continued to pick up, manufacturing rose, low agricultural prices continued, and energy activity was subdued.

**(Note: In the New York region:** Growth in the regional economy has stalled in recent weeks, with activity still well below pre-pandemic levels. Retail activity and the single-family housing market have continued to improve. The labor market remains weak and hiring activity has slowed. Selling prices and wages have been mostly steady, on balance. *For more information about District economic conditions visit:* <https://www.newyorkfed.org/regional-economy>)

## FROM OTHER SOURCES

- Despite the Trump administration's push for a quick, targeted stimulus, Senate Majority Leader McConnell expressed doubts whether Congress can get a deal on another pandemic relief package upon returning to Washington after a month-long recess. "I don't know if there will be another package in the next few weeks or not," McConnell said.  
[https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-09-02/mcconnell-raises-doubts-on-congress-getting-new-stimulus-done?sref=GogtSAI4&mkt\\_tok=eyJpIjoiTm90aWZGZGxamN4WIRjMyIsInQiOiJGblCT2hzNFIUCUzk1OXorZTFIXC9sV0FsZm01WG5zbEMrMFwvc210cEc1QUpxOTZFMmVUYzJIRG9lVWpVY2FUQTJIM3NjMTdvYz0S1wvdGFEXQXVYTFUxVkpTRVNZcVdHVlhzYWl5USSttNIZFdW5lZzBwZUpGSDJLaEZnXC9mQkMzSHMifQ%3D%3D](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-09-02/mcconnell-raises-doubts-on-congress-getting-new-stimulus-done?sref=GogtSAI4&mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiTm90aWZGZGxamN4WIRjMyIsInQiOiJGblCT2hzNFIUCUzk1OXorZTFIXC9sV0FsZm01WG5zbEMrMFwvc210cEc1QUpxOTZFMmVUYzJIRG9lVWpVY2FUQTJIM3NjMTdvYz0S1wvdGFEXQXVYTFUxVkpTRVNZcVdHVlhzYWl5USSttNIZFdW5lZzBwZUpGSDJLaEZnXC9mQkMzSHMifQ%3D%3D)
- Democratic Leader Schumer wants another big, bipartisan coronavirus package, but Republicans believe they can only pass small, "targeted" Covid relief. These are irreconcilable views. [Read Marianne LeVine for more about the state of play ... The Schumer letter](#)
- The U.S. economy saw modest growth over the summer, as some industries including residential construction, real estate, auto sales and manufacturing experienced a rebound in demand, while others, especially commercial real estate, restaurants and tourism, did not, according to the Fed's Beige Book. Despite high unemployment, the Fed found signs of a growing labor shortage as uncertainty over the start of remote classes and a lack of childcare options has kept many at home and out of the workforce. ([The Wall Street Journal](#))
- U.S. businesses stepped up hiring in August after a dismal July, but the 428,000 added to private payrolls fell well short of analyst estimates and reflected ongoing lethargy in the labor market.

Hiring data reported Wednesday were less than half the 1.17 million projected, according to ADP.

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2020/09/02/adp-private-payrolls-jobs-august-2020/?mkt\\_tok=eyJpIjoiTmpOalpUZGxaamN4WIRjMyIsInQiOiJGblICT2hzNFICUzk1OXorZTFIXC9sV0FsZm01WG5zbEMrMFwvc210cEc1QUpxQTZFMmVUYzJIRG9lVWpVY2FUQTJlM3NjMTdvYz0S1wvdGFxQXVYTFUxVkpTRVNzcVdHVlhzYWl5USStNIZFdW5lZzBwZUpGSDJLaEZnXC9mQkMzSHMifQ%3D%3D](https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2020/09/02/adp-private-payrolls-jobs-august-2020/?mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiTmpOalpUZGxaamN4WIRjMyIsInQiOiJGblICT2hzNFICUzk1OXorZTFIXC9sV0FsZm01WG5zbEMrMFwvc210cEc1QUpxQTZFMmVUYzJIRG9lVWpVY2FUQTJlM3NjMTdvYz0S1wvdGFxQXVYTFUxVkpTRVNzcVdHVlhzYWl5USStNIZFdW5lZzBwZUpGSDJLaEZnXC9mQkMzSHMifQ%3D%3D)

- America’s brief spurt of progress in containing the coronavirus has stalled out, Axios' Sam Baker and Andrew Witherspoon [report](#). There was improvement over the past month or so, but cases are now holding steady at a rate that’s still far too high to consider the outbreak under control. While three populous states — Arizona, California and Texas — continued to improve, those gains were canceled out by rising caseloads in 18 states, including seven where daily infections were up by more than 50%. (Data: [The COVID Tracking Project](#), state health departments.)

### FROM NEW YORK

- Western New York once again became the New York region with the highest percentage of positive COVID-19 cases, and local officials worry that people who aren't taking the coronavirus seriously enough could prompt the state to reimpose restrictions, [The Buffalo News reports](#). The good news: New York's overall infection rate for the last 26 days in a row has barely budged after tens of thousands of test results, showing an infection rate of below 1% for weeks now. [Read More](#)
- The New York City metropolitan area lost 1.3 million jobs over the last year, according to a report from the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, marking the area’s lowest employment total since 2011, [State of Politics reports](#).
- Governor Cuomo provided an update on the status of COVID-19 in New York State: 0.80 Percent of Yesterday’s COVID-19 Tests were Positive; There were five COVID-19 Deaths yesterday; The SLA and State Police Task Force Visits 1,144 Establishments--three were not in compliance; 708 Additional coronavirus cases were confirmed, bringing the statewide total to 436,218; There were new cases found in 39 counties.

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**IBANYS will continue to provide updates as additional information becomes available. Thank you all for your continued participation and support.**

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