

This photo shows the mobile phone app logos for, from left, Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp in New York, Oct 5, 2021. WhatsApp is adding more details to its privacy policy and flagging the information for European users. (AP)



WhatsApp pushes privacy update to comply with Irish ruling

WhatsApp is adding more details to its privacy policy and flagging that information for European users, after Irish regulators slapped the chat service with a record fine for breaching strict EU data privacy rules. Starting Monday, WhatsApp's privacy policy will be reorganized to provide more information on the data it collects and how it's used. The company said it's also explaining in more detail how it protects data shared across borders for its global service and the legal foundations for processing the data. WhatsApp is owned by Facebook, now

renamed Meta Platforms. With the update, users in Europe will see a banner notification at the top of their chat list that will take them to the new information. WhatsApp is taking the action after getting hit with a record 225 million euro (\$267 million) fine in September from Ireland's data privacy watchdog for violating stringent European Union data protection rules on transparency about sharing people's data with other Facebook companies. The chat service said it disagreed with the decision, but it has to comply by updating its

policy while it appeals. The update doesn't affect how data is handled, and users won't have to agree to anything new or take any other action. Ireland's Data Privacy Commission is the lead privacy regulator for WhatsApp under European Union rules because its regional headquarters is in Dublin. WhatsApp was embroiled in a separate privacy controversy earlier this year when it botched a different update to its privacy policy that raised concerns users were being forced to agree to share more of their data with Facebook. (AP)

Market Movements

22-11-2021

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts		
JAPAN	- Nikkei	+28.24	29,774.11	SAUDI	- Tadawul	-314.18	11,171.76
UK	- FTSE 100	+41.84	7,265.41	EUROPE	- Euro Stoxx 50	-6.10	4,350.63
EGYPT	- EGX 30	+85.92	11,359.03	UAE	- DFM	-86.14	3,171.65
PHILIPPINES	- PSEI	+2.10	7,282.67	INDIA	- Sensex	-1,170.12	58,465.89
SINGAPORE	- Straits Times STI	+4.74	3,237.08	PAKISTAN	- KSE 100	-744.41	45,745.00

Business

Biden to nominate Powell as Fed chair

Lael Brainard gets vice chair

WASHINGTON, Nov 22, (AP) President Joe Biden announced Monday that he's nominating Jerome Powell for a second four-year term as Federal Reserve chair, endorsing Powell's stewardship of the economy through a brutal pandemic recession in which the Fed's ultra-low rate policies helped bolster confidence and revitalize the job market.

Biden also said he would nominate Lael Brainard, the lone Democrat on the Fed's Board of Governors and the preferred alternative to Powell among many progressives, as vice chair, the No. 2 slot.

A separate position of vice chair for supervision, a bank regulatory post, remains vacant, along with two other slots on the Fed's board. Those positions will be filled in early December, the president said.

Biden's decision, reached after extensive consideration, strikes a note of continuity and bipartisanship at a time when surging inflation is burdening households and raising risks to the economy's recovery. In backing Powell, a Republican who was first elevated to his post by President Donald Trump, Biden brushed aside complaints from progressives that the Fed has weakened bank regulation and has been slow to take account of climate change in its supervision of banks.

Success

"If we want to continue to build on the economic success of this year, we need stability and independence at the Federal Reserve - and I have full confidence after their trial by fire over the last 20 months that Chair Powell and Dr. Brainard will provide the strong leadership our country needs," Biden said in a statement.

In a second term, to begin in February, Powell would face a difficult and high-risk balancing act: Rising inflation is causing hardships for millions of families, clouding the economic recovery and undercutting the Fed's mandate to keep prices stable. But with the economy still 4 million-plus jobs shy of its pre-pandemic level, the Fed has yet to meet its other mandate of maximizing employment.

Next year, the Fed is widely ex-



Federal Reserve Governors Jerome Powell, (from left), Daniel Tarullo and Lael Brainard, talk before the start of a Federal Reserve System Board of Governors open meeting in Washington, Friday, June 3, 2016. President Joe Biden announced Monday, Nov. 22, 2021, that he's nominating Powell for a second term as Federal Reserve chair. Biden also said he would nominate Brainard, the lone Democrat on the Fed's Board of Governors and the preferred alternative to Powell for many progressives, as vice chair. (AP)

pected to begin raising rates, at least once if not more. If the Fed moves too slowly to raise rates, inflation may accelerate further and force the central bank to take more draconian steps later to rein it in, potentially causing a recession. Yet if the Fed hikes rates too quickly, it could choke off hiring and the economic recovery.

Powell's re-nomination must be approved in a vote by the Senate Banking Committee and then confirmed by the full Senate, which is considered very likely.

If confirmed, Powell would remain one of the most powerful economic officials in the world. By either raising or lowering its benchmark interest rate, the Fed seeks to either cool or stimulate growth and hiring, and to keep prices stable. Its efforts to direct the U.S. economy, the largest in the world, typically have global consequences.

The Fed's short-term rate, which has been pegged near zero since the pandemic hammered the economy in March 2020, influences a wide range of consumer and business borrowing costs, including for mortgages and credit cards. The Fed also oversees the nation's largest banks.

The chair of the Senate Banking panel, Sherrod Brown, an Ohio Democrat, and the committee's senior Republican, Pat Toomey, both immediately endorsed Powell on Monday.

Prosperity

"I look forward to working with Powell to stand up to Wall Street and stand up for workers, so that they share in the prosperity they create," Brown said.

Toomey said that while he has disagreed with Powell's continuation of the Fed's ultra-low-rates policies, "his recent comments give me confidence that he recognizes the risks of

higher and more persistent inflation and is willing to act accordingly to control it."

Powell, a 68-year-old lawyer by training, was nominated for the Fed's Board of Governors in 2011 by President Barack Obama after having built a lucrative career in private equity and having served in a number of federal government roles.

Unlike his three immediate predecessors, Powell lacks a Ph.D. in economics. Yet he has earned generally high marks for managing perhaps the most important financial position in the world, especially in his response to the coronavirus-induced recession.

The subsequent spike in inflation has forced the Powell Fed to dial back its economic stimulus sooner than it had envisioned. At its latest meeting in early November, the central bank said it would start reducing its monthly bond purchases and likely end them by mid-2022.

Those purchases have been intended to keep longer-term borrowing costs low to spur borrowing and spending.

Powell has avoided much of the blame, at least on Capitol Hill, for the jump in inflation to a three-decade high, even though one of the Fed's mandates is to maintain stable prices through its control of interest rates. Republicans in Congress have instead pointed to President Joe Biden's economic policies as the main culprit.

Transitory

For months, Powell characterized inflation as "transitory" and said it mainly reflected unusual supply-chain bottlenecks stemming from the pandemic and from a surge in demand for goods such as autos, furniture, electronics, and appliances.

More recently, the Fed chair conceded that higher prices have persisted longer than he had expected and have broadened to such categories as

rents and medical care that aren't directly related to supply shortages. At a news conference this month, Powell acknowledged that high inflation could last into late summer 2022.

Brainard's elevation to the Fed's No. 2 position follows the key role she played in the Fed's emergency response to the pandemic recession. She is part of a "troika" of top policymakers that includes Powell and Richard Clarida, whose term as vice chair will end in January.

Brainard was also an architect of the Fed's new policy framework, adopted in August 2020, under which it said it would no longer raise rates simply because the unemployment rate had fallen to a low level that could spur inflation. Instead, the Fed said it would await actual evidence that prices are rising. That reflects a view among some Fed officials that low unemployment and even rising wages no longer necessarily accelerate inflation.

Yet that new policy approach, which was crafted in an atmosphere of persistently low inflation, has come under heavy pressure this year as inflation has surged.

Maximum

Brainard also played a key role in the Fed's re-definition of its maximum employment goal as "broad and inclusive." That means it now takes into account such measures as the unemployment rate for African Americans, and not just for Americans as a whole, in its policy decisions.

But her most far-reaching role was helping Powell direct the Fed's response to the brutal pandemic recession. In the spring of 2020, as businesses shut down and 22 million Americans were laid off, the Powell Fed slashed its key short-term rate to zero. To restore confidence in the banking system, the Fed unleashed a suite of emergency lending programs.

It also bought corporate bonds for the first time, as well as municipal bonds, to steady financial markets. And the central bank purchased \$4.2 trillion in Treasury and mortgage-backed bonds to keep longer-term interest rates low.

Still, the Fed also took steps that loosened financial regulations put in place after the 2008-2009 financial crisis and recession, prompting Sen. Elizabeth Warren, a Massachusetts Democrat, to call Powell "a dangerous man" to lead the Fed.

Target to keep its stores 'closed' on Thanksgiving

NEW YORK, Nov 22, (AP) Target will no longer open its stores on Thanksgiving Day, making permanent a shift to the unofficial start of the holiday season that was suspended during the pandemic.

To limit crowds in stores, retailers last year were forced to turn what had become a weekend shopping blitz into an extended event, with holiday sales beginning as early as October.

That forced shift appears to have been fortuitous.

U.S. holiday sales last November and December rose 8.2% in 2020 from the previous year, according to The National Retail Federation, the nation's largest retail trade group. The trade group predicts 2021 could shatter that record, growing between 8.5% and 10.5%.

Americans, able to get the same offers over a broader timespan relieving some of the stresses that go hand in hand with the holidays, appeared to embrace the change.

Temporary

"What started as a temporary measure driven by the pandemic is now our new standard - one that recognizes our ability to deliver on our guests' holiday wishes both within and well beyond store hours," Target CEO Brian Cornell wrote in a note to employees.

The new standard at Target, on top very healthy sales last

year, could push other retailers to follow in its path.

Distribution and call centers will have some staff on Thanksgiving, Target said Monday, but stores will remain closed.

Target began opening its stores on Thanksgiving a decade ago, joining other retailers in kicking off Black Friday sales a day early and creating a holiday rush after the turkey feast. Many did so to compete with Amazon.com and other rising online threats.

Shift

But the shift seemed to merely cannibalize Black Friday sales. And big retailers suffered some blowback from critics who said thousands of people were forced to work, rather than being with family during the holiday.

Some stores and malls like the Mall of America in Minnesota, ended the practice and remained closed on Thanksgiving. Some, like Costco and Nordstrom, never opened their doors during the holiday, saying they wanted to respect the holiday.

Thanksgiving had historically not been a big sales day overall, not one of the top 10, because stores usually opened their doors around 5 p.m. However, it's been a big online sales day. Last year, the holiday trailed only Cyber Monday and Black Friday in online sales, according to the Adobe Digital Economy Index.

Technology has limitations

3 times you need money advice from a human

By Liz Weston
NerdWallet

You can now manage most aspects of your money without ever consulting another human being. You can budget, borrow, save, invest, buy insurance, prepare your tax return and create a will - among many other tasks - by using apps, websites and software.

But technology still has limitations, especially when you're facing a money situation that's complex or involves judgment calls. Consider consulting a human expert in the following situations:

1. You're creating an estate plan

Insurers typically can't cancel a policy after 60 days unless you fail to pay premiums, commit fraud or make serious misrepresentations on your application, according to the Insurance Information Institute, a trade group. However, insurers can decide not to renew your policy when it expires.

With auto insurance, you often have many options after such a "non-renewal." Even if you've had accidents or multiple claims, you typically can find coverage with companies that specialize in higher-risk drivers.

If a homeowners insurance company dumps you, however, you may have trouble finding coverage, says insurance consumer advocate Amy Bach. That's especially true if you were dropped because you made too many claims, or your area is considered high risk because of wildfires, extreme weather or crime, for example.

How would other companies know? Insurers share such information in databases, and application



This undated file photo provided by NerdWallet shows Liz Weston, a columnist for personal finance website NerdWallet.com. (AP)

forms typically ask if you've been "non-renewed" by another insurer, Bach says.

Bach's nonprofit organization, United Policyholders, recommends seeking out an independent agent or broker who has relationships with several insurance companies. The agent or broker should know which insurers may be more receptive to your application and can put in a good word for you, Bach says. While most underwriting decisions are made by computers, there are still ways for human beings to override the algorithms.

"It will make a difference if (the agent or broker) can call an underwriter that they know and vouch for

you as a good bet," Bach says.

If your area has been labeled high risk, ask your neighbors for referrals to agents or brokers who helped them find coverage. Otherwise, you can ask an accountant, attorney or financial planner if they have recommendations. Friends and family may be able to provide leads as well.

2. You're creating an estate plan

Most IRS audits are conducted through the mail and are relatively routine. The IRS sends a letter requesting additional documentation to support a deduction or other tax break you've taken. If you mail back sufficient evidence, your case will be closed with no taxes owed. Otherwise, the IRS will mail you a bill.

However, if the IRS wants to meet with you, the stakes get much higher. In fiscal year 2020, the average amount of additional taxes recommended in face-to-face audits was nearly 10 times larger than the average for a correspondence audit: \$72,210 versus \$7,658, according to IRS statistics.

Even tax pros hire someone to represent them in face-to-face audits, says Leonard Wright, a San Diego certified public accountant and financial planner. Wright has plenty of experience: He was chief financial officer of a company that was audited, and his personal tax returns have been audited four times. In each case, he hired another CPA to represent him.

It's all too easy to say something you shouldn't when you're under scrutiny, Wright says. You could volunteer information that might not be helpful to your case, or get defensive or confrontational.

"You don't want it to become per-

sonal, and you don't want to ruffle the feathers of the auditor," Wright says.

If you used a tax preparer, you may assume that person can represent you in an audit, but that's not always the case. Typically CPAs, attorneys and enrolled agents can represent clients in IRS audits, but other tax pros usually can't. Your tax preparer may be able to refer you to someone who can represent you, or you can get referrals from friends, family or financial advisors.

3. You're creating an estate plan

Will-making software and estate-planning sites can help you create essential legal documents if money is tight. Otherwise, you should probably consult an attorney, says Betsy Hannibal, senior legal editor for self-help legal site Nolo.

"Why not get personalized advice that's tailored to your situation, if you can?" Hannibal says.

Getting help is particularly important if you need or want to do something complicated with your estate like putting conditions on a bequest, providing for someone with special needs or creating a trust, she says. You'll also want an attorney's help if you have a lot of debt, because there may be ways to protect your assets from creditors. Finally, consult an attorney if you think someone might contest your will. A lawyer can put additional protections into place and serve as a professional witness that you knew what you were doing, Bach says.

"If someone doesn't think you were in your right mind, going through an attorney can help make sure that (a legal challenge) can't go forward," she says. (AP)