

# C02 Emissions Reach All-Time High Despite Recent COVID Emissions Drop

At the start of the pandemic, scientists were widely talking about a silver lining in a shut down of the economy: the massive drop in emissions. Emission decreases peaked in early April, showing a 17% decline in global greenhouse gas emissions.

China Nantong Energy's coal-fired power station in Jiangsu Province, China /BARCROFT MEDIA VIA GETTY IMAGES

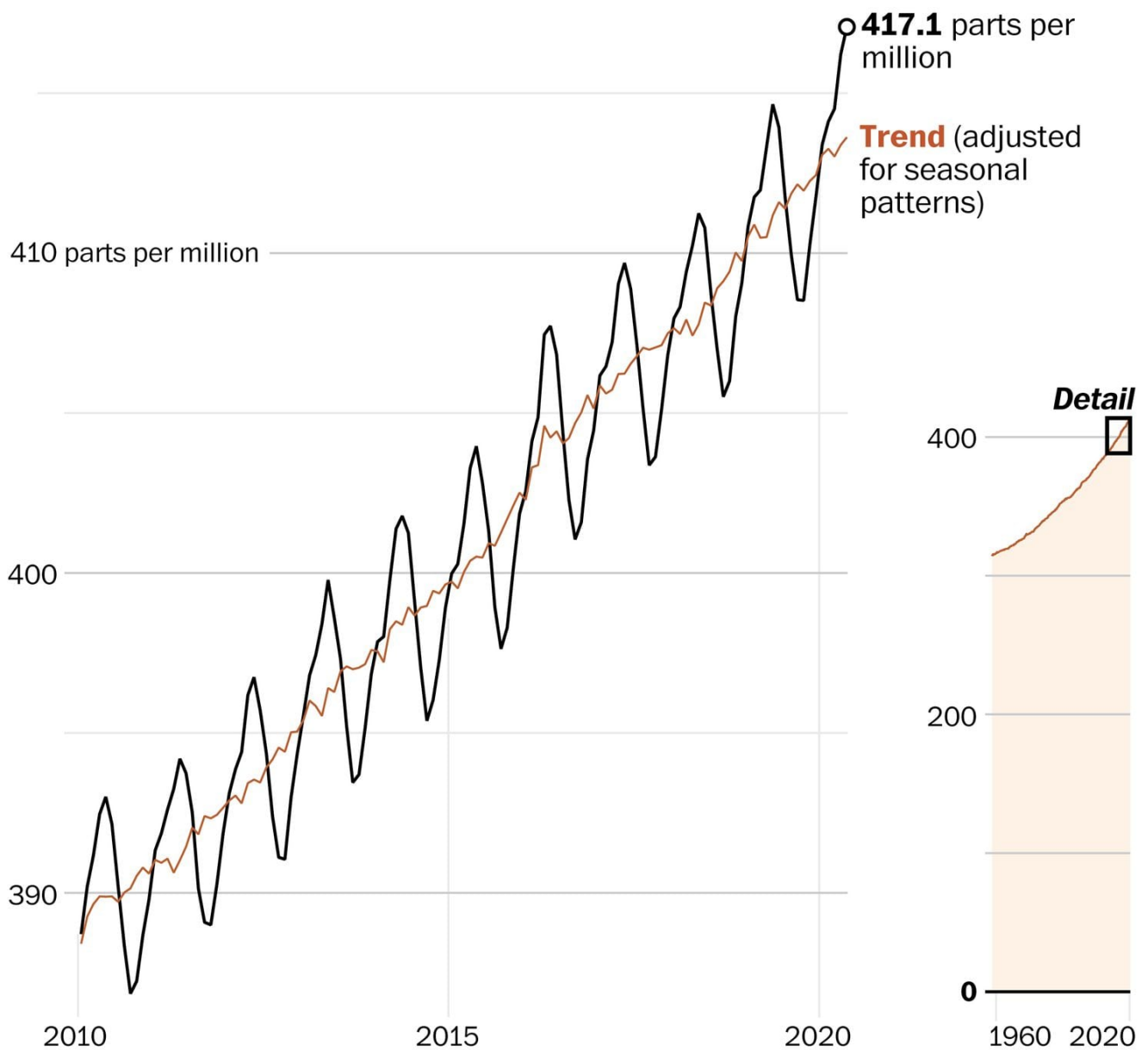
*The continuing rise in CO2 concentrations in the atmosphere may sound surprising in light of recent findings that the pandemic, and the associated lockdowns, had led to a steep drop in global greenhouse gas emissions, peaking at a 17 percent decline in early April.*

*Earth's carbon dioxide levels hit record high, despite coronavirus-related emissions drop*

Despite the drop in emissions, CO2 levels are the highest they've ever been in human history. Until we reach zero emissions CO2 levels will continue to rise. Our annual growth of greenhouse gas levels was around 0.8ppm per year in the 1960s. The growth rate doubled in the 1980s and has reached 2.4ppm within the last decade'

# Carbon dioxide in atmosphere at record level

Mauna Loa Observatory measured a record monthly average atmospheric **carbon dioxide concentration** in May, typically the peak of the year.



Source: NOAA Global Monitoring Laboratory

JOHN MUYSKENS/THE WASHINGTON POST

*“The buildup of CO<sub>2</sub> is a bit like trash in a landfill. As we keep emitting, it keeps piling up,” said Ralph Keeling, who directs Scripps’s carbon dioxide monitoring program, and whose late father, Charles David Keeling, began measurements at the Mauna Loa Observatory in Hawaii in 1958.*

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