



Issue: 143 Date: 19th May 2019

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Key Global and Regional Developments over the Past Week

Bloomberg: U.S. Readies New Tariffs as Trump Says He'll Meet China's Xi

The U.S. prepared to hit China with new tariffs even as President Donald Trump said he'll meet his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, at next month's G-20 summit, an encounter that could prove pivotal in a deepening clash over trade. The U.S. Trade Representative's office Monday released a list of about \$300 billion worth of Chinese goods including children's clothing, toys, mobile phones and laptops that Trump has threatened to hit with a 25% tariff.

(Read Full Article)

Bloomberg: Past Peak, But East European Growth Resilient Amid Euro-Area Dip

The European Union's ex-communist contingent probably weathered a lackluster economic performance by the euro area last quarter. While a boom in the continent's east has passed its peak, data due Wednesday are likely to reflect resilience in the face of Brexit upheaval and manufacturing weakness in Germany, a key destination for exports.

(Read Full Article)

Female unemployment rate lowest since 1971

Britain's female unemployment rate in the first three months of the year has fallen to 3.7%, the lowest since comparable records began in 1971. The Office for National Statistics included the figure in data showing the overall unemployment rate in the three-month period stood at 3.8%, the lowest rate since late 1974. For men the rate was 3.9%, the lowest since mid 1975.

(Read Full Article)

BBC: UK economy rebounds in first quarter

The UK economy picked up in the first three months of the year after manufacturers' stockpiling ahead of Brexit helped to boost growth. Growth was 0.5% in the quarter, up from 0.2% in the previous three months, the Office for National Statistics said.

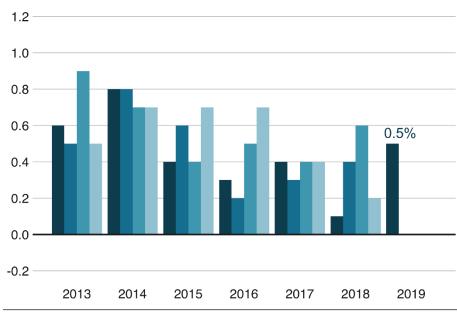


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UK economic growth rebounds

GDP percentage change on previous quarter



Source: Office for National Statistics

ВВС

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Special Analysis: Gallup - Gallup 2019 Global Emotions Report

Representing the views of citizens from more than 140 countries and areas, this study measures life's intangibles -- feelings and emotions -- that traditional economic indicators such as GDP were never intended to capture.

Gallup's Positive Experience Index questions are:

Did you feel well-rested yesterday?

Were you treated with respect all day yesterday?

Did you smile or laugh a lot yesterday?

Did you learn or do something interesting yesterday?

Did you experience the following feelings during a lot of the day yesterday? How about enjoyment?

Gallup's Negative Experience Index questions are:

Did you experience the following feelings during a lot of the day yesterday? How about physical pain?

Did you experience the following feelings during a lot of the day yesterday? How about worry?

Did you experience the following feelings during a lot of the day yesterday? How about sadness?

Did you experience the following feelings during a lot of the day yesterday? How about stress?

Did you experience the following feelings during a lot of the day yesterday? How about anger?

Each index equips global leaders with insights into the health of their societies that they cannot gather from economic measures alone. For example, even as the U.S. economy was growing, more Americans were stressed, angry and worried.

(Read The Full Report)





Recent Developments in Financial and Commodity Markets

Reuters: Oil prices jump on drone attack on Saudi Aramco facilities

Brent crude futures were at \$70.79 a barrel at 1035 GMT, up 56 cents or 0.80%. U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures were at \$61.35 per barrel, up 31 cents or 0.51%. The Saudi state news agency quoted Energy Minister Khalid al-Falih as saying that Aramco had halted pumping on the East-West pipeline until the damage was evaluated, but that production and exports were continuing without disruptions.

(Read Full Article)

Record level of funds hedge against stocks fall: BAML survey

Global investors' equity allocations fell 6 percentage points in May and over a third of fund managers have taken out protection against sharp stock market falls in coming months, Bank of America Merrill Lynch's latest monthly survey found on Tuesday. The proportion of investors preparing for equity falls is the highest in the survey's history, BAML said, noting that trade war was seen as the main risk by 37% of participants, followed by a Chinese slowdown which was picked by 16%.

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