

# NEWS SUMMARY 19 March 2018

Prepared	l by:	Bess	Chau
----------	-------	------	------

Economic Calendar					
19-Mar	20-Mar	21-Mar	22-Mar	23-Mar	
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	
Market Focus	FOMC Meeting	MBA Mortgage	Weekly Bill	Raphael Bostic	
	Begins	Applications	Settlement	Speaks	
Raphael Bostic	Redbook	Current Account	Jobless Claims	Durable Goods	
Speaks				Orders	
4-Week Bill	4-Week Bill	Existing Home	FHFA House	New Home Sales	
Announcement	Auction	Sales	Price Index		
3-Month Bill		EIA Petroleum	PMI Composite	Neel Kashkari	
Auction		Status Report	Flash	Speaks	
6-Month Bill		FOMC Meeting	Bloomberg	Baker-Hughes	
Auction		Announcement	Consumer	Rig Count	
			Comfort Index		
		FOMC Forecasts	Leading		
			Indicators		
		Fed Chair Press	EIA Natural Gas		
		Conference	Report		
			Kansas City Fed		
			Manufacturing		
			Index		
			3-Month Bill		
			Announcement		
			6-Month Bill		
			Announcement		
			52-Week Bill		
			Announcement		
			10-Yr TIPS		
			Auction		
			Fed Balance		
			Sheet		
			Money Supply		

https://www.bloomberg.com/markets/economic-calendar

## Putin easily wins another six-year term, firms grip on Russia

Russian President Vladimir Putin won a landslide re-election victory Sunday for six more years. According to the official preliminary results after nearly 30% of the votes had been counted, Putin got 73.1% of votes.

# Li Keqiang endorsed as China's premier, while military commission chiefs consolidate power

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, was re-elected for a second five-year tenure by China's rubber-stamp parliament, a day after Xi Jinping was re-appointed as the president.

# China President Xi's key economic adviser Liu He nominated as a vice premier

Liu He, a key economic adviser of China's President Xi Jinping, was nominated to be a vice premier. While Liu Kun was nominated to be the new finance minister.

## China's Yi Gang nominated as new central bank governor, officials say

China has picked an American-trained economist Yi Gang to become the People's Bank of China's governor and replace Zhou Xiaochuan as the head of the Chinese central bank.

# China's 'silver fox' foreign minister promoted

China's foreign minister Wang Yi has been promoted to a state councilor, while Wang will keep his foreign minister title in a list of government appointments endorsed by the National People's Congress

# China nominates Lu Hao to run new Ministry of Natural Resources

Lu Hao, the governor of China's northern Heilongjiang province, was nominated to run the planned new Ministry of Natural Resources, while the current ministers for agriculture and environmental protection were nominated to run their expanded ministries.

## China's home prices rise 0.2 percent in February from January

New home prices in China's 70 major cities rose 0.2% in February from the previous month, while home prices added 5.2% in February versus a year earlier.

## Trump launches tirade at Robert Mueller and 'biased' Russia inquiry

U.S. President Donald Trump has attacked special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian interference in the US presidential election he won in 2016.

## White House officials made to sign non-disclosure agreements, report says

U.S. President Donald Trump ordered senior staff after they joined the White House to sign non-disclosure agreements following several leaks in the early months of his administration.

## US trade groups urge Trump to avoid tariffs against China

Forty-five US trade associations representing some of the largest companies in the country are urging President Donald Trump not to impose tariffs on China.

## Kim Jong-un has committed to denuclearisation, says South Korea

South Korea's foreign minister said North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un has "given his word" he is committed to denuclearization.

# BOJ members say bank should stick with QE, worried about yen

The BOJ summary showed policymakers' view to stick with quantitative easing with inflation still well below its 2% price target. One Bank of Japan board member said further yen strength and stock declines could curb capital expenditure and consumer spending.

### Japan's Exports Expand for 15th Month Despite Holidays in Asia

Japan's exports increased 1.8% in February from a year earlier, while the February trade balance was a surplus of 3.4 billion yen (\$\$42 million).

# Abe's Popularity Plummets to Record Low in Two Japan Polls

A Kyodo poll showed public backing for Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe plunged to its lowest level since he took office in 2012 as Abe comes under mounting pressure over the scandal.

### Australia PM meets Myanmar leader Suu Kyi, to raise human rights concerns

Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi wiil meet a military honour guard and Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, who has said he will raise human rights issues during her visit.

# UK households report fastest income growth since 2016 - IHS Markit

IHS Markit said households income from work grew at the fastest rate since July 2016, supported by an upcoming increase in the minimum wage, increasing the chance the Bank of England will soon raise interest rates again.

# Merkel to push for EU unity on delicate Poland trip

German Chancellor Angela Merkel will highlight bilateral ties and the need for European unity when she meets with top Polish officials. Merkel will meet with Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki and President Andrzej Duda on Monday.

# Oil prices fall as increased U.S. drilling activity points to higher output

Oil prices dropped as U.S. drillers added four oil rigs in the week to March 16, bringing the total count to 800, raising concerns about a return of oversupply.

## Facebook confirms Cambridge Analytica stole its data; it's a plot claims former director

Facebook announced that the Russian-linked Cambridge Analytica scammed 50 million US Facebook users for their data. The Conservative MP Damian Collins said he would call the heads of both companies.

### Disclaimer

The information contained within this document ('information') is believed to be reliable but MLB Financial Group does not warrant its completeness nor accuracy. Opinions and estimates contained herein constitute our judgment and are subject to change without notice. MLB Financial Group shall not be liable for any errors, omissions nor opinions contained within this document. This material is not intended as an offer or solicitation for the purchase or sale of any financial instrument. For the avoidance of doubt, any information contained within this document will not form an agreement between parties. Additional information is available on request.

### About Us

MLB Financial Group manages a substantial amount of assets for a broad range of institutional and private clients including funds and family offices. We offer comprehensive finance, asset management, and wealth management solutions to achieve the unique goals of every client. Our team of over 30 financial experts spot the best investment opportunities by leveraging on our insight, experience, and global presence.

### Contact

Tel: (852) 2117 3482 Fax: (852) 2117 3486 Email: info@mlb-financial.com