

[French President Emmanuel Macron decries nationalism in speech to U.S. Congress](#)

French President Emmanuel Macron used his speech to the United States to denounce nationalism and isolationism. Macron also raised differences on global trade, Iran and the environment.

[Trump, top aides talk trade with Apple CEO Cook at White House](#)

U.S. President Donald Trump and two top aides talked about trade issues with Apple CEO as he engages in negotiations around the globe.

[Nasdaq is open to becoming cryptocurrency exchange, CEO says](#)

Nasdaq CEO Adena Friedman said Nasdaq would consider becoming a cryptocurrency exchange in a regulated market. She also stated that digital currencies will continue to persist.

[Moody's affirms United States' top-notch credit rating](#)

Moody's affirms the United States' Aaa rating and keeps its stable outlook on the economy. Moody's said it expects U.S. federal budget deficits to widen over the medium term but the strong economy and strong institutions would counterbalance lower fiscal strength.

[Canada sees progress on NAFTA auto rules; steel tariffs loom](#)

Canadian Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland said that good progress has been made at the NAFTA trade talks on the key issue of auto rules. The ministers are expected to meet again on Thursday.

[Bank of Canada says economy 'finally positive', rates to rise](#)

Bank of Canada Governor Stephen Poloz described that the economy is more like finally positive terms. Poloz reiterated that while higher interest rates would likely be warranted over time and some policy accommodation would require to keep inflation on track.

[Chinese rental apartment firms issue REITs, but some may struggle to make payouts](#)

China unveiled fresh measures to support the rental housing market, making it easier for real estate companies to raise money and paving way for retail investors to buy into securities such as Real Estate Investment Trusts.

### [China's financial watchdog begins inspections of banks' risky lending: sources](#)

The China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission launched a nationwide inspection of banks' risky business practices, focusing on various forms of consumer lending. The inspection includes credit cards and loans backed by homes and the credit is being illicitly used to pay down mortgages.

### [South Korea GDP Jumps 1.1% In Q1](#)

South Korea's GDP expanded 1.1% in the first three months of this year from the previous quarter. The economy expanded 2.8% from a year earlier. Exports measured by volume increased 4.4%, while infrastructure investment was up 5.2%.

### [ECB to play down soft data, keep door open to ending bond buys](#)

The European Central Bank is set to keep policy unchanged, playing down worries over recent softness in the euro zone economy and leaving the door open to ending its lavish bond purchase scheme by the close of the year.

### [EU readies more sanctions against Myanmar](#)

The European Union will extend its arms embargo on Myanmar for another year before that deadline expires. It will also be expanded to cover already limited training for the Myanmar military.

### [May dealt new Brexit defeat in upper house of parliament](#)

Prime Minister Theresa May was dealt a new defeat by the House of Lords over her Brexit plans to adopt wide-ranging powers to amend laws.

### [UK rents fall for first time since 2012 - report](#)

The average rent has fallen in the UK for the first time in six years. The average UK monthly rent were 0.5% lower than in the last three months of 2017. The UK will experience its first annual rental decrease since Q4 2009 if rents remain unchanged.

### [UK car output falls by more than 6 percent in first quarter](#)

U.K. car output slumps by 13.3% in March as both domestic and overseas demand for vehicles declined. The SMMT said that cars made for the UK fell by 17.7%, while exports dropped by 11.9%.

### [North Korea nuclear test site has collapsed and may be out of action – China study](#)

A study by Chinese geologists showed North Korea's main nuclear test site at Punggye-ri has partially collapsed, potentially rendering it unusable.

### [Japan's Abe says he's not considering calling a snap election](#)

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said that he was “not considering at all” calling a general election now, while pledging to do the utmost to clarify facts over scandals.

### [FxWirePro: Aussie strengthens against major peers after export-import price index data](#)

Australia Export Price Index came in at 4.9% in the first quarter, the import Price Index came out at 2.1% compared to the expected 1.3%. The Aussie is catching a slight boost the indexes.

### [Facebook's rise in profits, users shows resilience after scandals](#)

Facebook reported a surprisingly strong 63% rise in profit and an increase in users. The company said monthly active users increased 13% from a year earlier in the first quarter to 2.2 billion.

### [A.I. could lead to a nuclear war by 2040, think tank warns](#)

RAND Corporation said that advances leading to Domsday AI could allow world leaders to take their chances with the world’s nuclear arsenals and it could bring about an exchange as soon as 2040.

### [Hong Kong will defend its interests amid US-China trade war, minister vows](#)

The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Edward Yau Tang-wah, said Hong Kong would speak up to protect business partners and its interests and continue to be a free and open place to do business.

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