

[U.S. consumer spending accelerating; labor market robust](#)

US retail sales jumped 0.8% in May, more than expected and the biggest advance since November 2017. Meanwhile, new applications for unemployment benefits unexpectedly falling last week and the number of Americans on jobless rolls declining to a near 44-1/2-year low.

[Trump ready to impose tariffs on about \\$50 billion in Chinese goods: official](#)

U.S. President Trump has approved a plan to impose punishing tariffs on about \$50 billion in Chinese goods. The size of the approved tariffs matches the scale of duties proposed in April.

[New York sues Trump and his charity over 'self-dealing'](#)

The New York state attorney general sued U.S. President Donald Trump, three of his children and his foundation. Barbara Underwood said the charitable foundation had engaged in "unlawful political coordination" designed to influence the 2016 election.

[Canada says agreed with U.S. to keep NAFTA alive, no talks set](#)

Canadian Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland said Canada agreed with the United States on Thursday that slow-moving talks to update NAFTA should continue although they did not set a date for the next round.

[EU nations back retaliating against U.S. steel tariffs](#)

The European Commission unanimously backed a plan setting 25% duties on 2.8 billion euros (\$3.3 billion) worth of U.S. goods after Washington hit EU steel and aluminum with tariffs at the start of June.

[Pompeo says North Korea sanctions to remain until complete denuclearisation](#)

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said tough sanctions will remain on North Korea until its complete denuclearization, dismissing claims from Pyongyang that the U.S. had offered to drop some sanctions during the process.

[U.S. agency asks judge to rule virtual currency is commodity](#)

The U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission urged a federal judge to conclude that an obscure virtual currency called My Big Coin is a commodity subject to its oversight, saying it is no different than precious metals like gold.

[China's May house prices rise 0.7 pct m/m](#)

China's new home prices rose 0.7% in May from a month earlier, the highest growth since June 2017. On an annual basis, average new home prices in China's 70 major cities rose 4.7% in May. Sales growth also hit a near one-year high.

[ECB says its massive bond-buying program will likely end in December](#)

The European Central Bank's plan to spur the economy with a massive bond-buying program will come to a halt in December as it decided on Thursday to keep interest rates flat through next summer.

[May's Brexit compromise hits snag, wrangling to continue](#)

British Prime Minister Theresa May failed on Thursday to win around pro-EU lawmakers in her party over parliament's role in the Brexit process, raising the risk of defeat in lower house votes next week.

[S.Korea fin min says May jobs data 'shocking,' recovery seen slow](#)

South Korea's finance minister said data showing job growth at the weakest pace in more than 8 years is "very shocking, as the government has been making a lot of efforts to add jobs. South Korea added 72,000 jobs in May from a year earlier, well below the 123,000 jobs created in April over a year earlier.

[Abe seeks September summit with Kim Jong Un](#)

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is considering meeting with Kim Jong Un in September after Kim showed his readiness during his meeting with U.S. President Donald Trump this week.

[Japan's SoftBank to invest up to \\$100 billion in India solar power project: NHK](#)

NHK reported that SoftBank Group Corp has decided to invest \$60 billion-\$100 billion in a solar power project in India. SoftBank and the Indian government are expected to make an announcement soon after final arrangements are made.

[New Zealand announces tourist tax to fund straining infrastructure](#)

From late next year, international visitors heading to New Zealand will pay between NZ\$25 and NZ\$35 (\$23 and \$33) to get into the country. However, Australian citizens and permanent residents, people from Pacific Islands Forum countries and children under two will be exempt.

[Merkel - Germany should not tackle illegal migration alone](#)

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Thursday that it was important to reduce and control illegal migration, but stressed that Germany should not act alone.

[Greece passes fast-track reform package to unlock bailout cash](#)

Greek Parliament has passed a multi-bill with the prior actions required by the country's creditors to conclude the final review of its third bailout program. The bill includes a raft of reforms on issues ranging from pension cuts to health care and tax reforms.

[China regulators approve Qualcomm-NXP Semiconductors merger deal - SCMP](#)

China's Ministry of Commerce have approved U.S. chipmaker Qualcomm Inc's proposed \$44 billion merger deal with NXP Semiconductors, SCMP reported.

[Hong Kong's controversial China rail checkpoint bill finally passed by lawmakers amid protests, delays and expulsions](#)

Hong Kong's legislature has passed a bill that will allow Chinese authorities to enforce their own laws within a portion of the semi-autonomous territory. Independent lawmakers believe the bill governing the Hong Kong terminus of the rail link from the Chinese city of Guangzhou contravenes the Basic Law,

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