

[Trump administration announces list of tariffs on \\$200 billion in Chinese goods](#)

The Trump administration has ramped up its trade war with China, listing \$200 billion worth of additional products it plans to place tariffs on as soon as September. The list names more than 6,000 items including food products, minerals and consumer goods such as handbags.

[U.S. job quits rate hits 17-year high; labor market tightening](#)

The U.S. job openings rate was 4.3% in May, while hires rate was 3.9%. The number of workers leaving jobs of their own free will increased 212,000 to 3.3 million. That lifted the quits rate one-tenth of a percentage point to 2.4 percent, the highest since April 2001.

[Trump officials again slash funding for ObamaCare outreach groups](#)

The Trump administration is cutting most of the funds previously provided to groups that help people get health insurance under the Affordable Care Act. The reduction will shrink from \$36.8 million to \$10 million for the enrollment period that starts in November.

[Trump pushes NATO allies to increase spending as US share of funding slows](#)

President Donald Trump called for all 28 other NATO countries to stop cutting defense budgets, gradually increase spending. Currently, the United States, Greece, Estonia, the United Kingdom and Latvia meet the 2% NATO guideline.

[Japan May core machinery orders fall 3.7 pct mth/mth - govt](#)

Japan's core machinery orders fell 3.7% month-on-month in May, smaller than economists' median estimate of a 5.5% drop. The Cabinet Office kept its assessment of machinery orders unchanged to say they are picking up.

[Japan June wholesale prices rise 2.8 percent year-on-year](#)

Japanese wholesale prices grew 2.8% in the year to June. Overall final goods prices added 0.6% from a year earlier, while domestic final goods prices rose 0.7% from a year earlier.

[Offshore yuan falls more than 0.5 pct after U.S. announces new tariffs](#)

Offshore yuan fell the most in over a week on Wednesday after Washington announced a plan to slap tariffs on \$200 billion of imports from China. Offshore yuan dropped 0.55% to 6.6870 per US dollar, the biggest daily drop in a week and approaching the 11-month low of 6.7332.

[May presses on with Brexit plan after high-profile resignations](#)

British Prime Minister Theresa May won the support of senior ministers and an endorsement from Europe's most powerful leader, Angela Merkel, surviving the explosive resignations of two top Cabinet members in protest at her Brexit plans.

[UK economy brightens as Bank of England nears rate decision](#)

The UK economy picked up by 0.3% in May from April, leaning on the services sector for growth as output in manufacturing disappointed. In annual terms, the economy was 1.5% bigger than in May last year.

[Britain to almost double troops in Afghanistan after U.S. request](#)

Britain is planning to almost double its number of troops in Afghanistan after a request from Donald Trump for reinforcements to tackle the fragile security situation. Theresa May announced Britain will send an extra 440 soldiers, bringing the total to around 1,100.

[EU president warns Donald Trump: 'Appreciate your allies, you don't have many after all'](#)

European Council President Donald Tusk warned U.S. President Donald Trump that he should appreciate his allies, following sustained criticism of Europe by the U.S. president. Tusk added that the EU spent more than Russia on defence, and as much as China.

[Facebook Faces U.K. Fine Over Cambridge Analytica Inquiry](#)

The U.K. Information Commissioner's Office plans to fine Facebook Inc. 500,000 pounds (\$664,000) over the Cambridge Analytica scandal. The regulator said it intended to bring a criminal action against Cambridge Analytica's defunct parent company SCL Elections.

[Oil falls after U.S. softens stance on Iranian sanction waivers](#)

Oil prices fell on Wednesday as after the United States said it would consider requests for waivers from sanctions due to snap back into place on Iranian crude exports. U.S. crude inventories fell last week by 6.8 million barrels, causing crude futures to gain in post-settlement trading.

[Australia consumer confidence jumps to highest since 2013-survey](#)

A Melbourne Institute and Westpac Bank survey of 1,200 people published on Wednesday showed its index of consumer sentiment climbed 3.9% in July from June, suggesting growing optimism on the economic outlook and on the prospect of future promised tax cuts.

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