

[U.S. second-quarter GDP growth raised to 4.2 percent](#)

Gross domestic product increased at a 4.2% annualized rate, slightly up from the 4.1% pace of expansion reported in July and was the fastest rate since the third quarter of 2014.

[Trump allows targeted relief on steel, aluminum quotas: Commerce Department](#)

U.S. Commerce Department said President Donald Trump has signed proclamations permitting targeted relief from steel and aluminum quotas from some countries.

[Don McGahn to Leave White House Counsel Job This Fall, Trump Says](#)

U.S. President Donald Trump has said White House counsel Donald McGahn will leave his post in the coming months. The president made the declaration on Twitter without first informing Mr. McGahn.

[Trump and Trudeau upbeat about prospects for NAFTA deal by Friday](#)

The leaders of the United States and Canada expressed optimism on Wednesday that they could reach new NAFTA deal by a Friday deadline as negotiators prepared to talk through the night

[Trudeau: Canada will aim to meet Nafta deadline but 'no deal is better than a bad deal'](#)

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said it is a “possibility” that Canada will negotiate a deal on the North American Free Trade Agreement. “No NAFTA deal is better than a bad NAFTA deal.”

[U.S. house prices to rise more than 6 percent this year, then slow: Reuters poll](#)

The S&P/Case Shiller composite index of U.S. home prices in 20 metropolitan areas was forecast to rise 6.1% this year and 4.7% in 2019, at the fastest pace since 2015.

[Argentina seeks emergency release of \\$50bn in IMF funds amid financial crisis](#)

Argentina's government has unexpectedly asked for the early release of a \$50 billion loan from the IMF amid a growing economic crisis. The IMF confirmed on Wednesday it was looking to strengthen the arrangement and changing its phasing.

[Stronger Japan retail sales point to consumer sector momentum](#)

Japan's retail sales rose 1.5% in July from a year earlier, more than a median market forecast for a 1.2% annual increase. July's retail sales were partly supported by rising gasoline prices.

[Japanese diplomat visits Beijing, says he is arranging Shinzo Abe's visit to China](#)

Japanese Vice-Foreign Minister Takeo Akiba said that he has made arrangements with officials in Beijing for Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's visit to China, possibly in October.

[Salmond resigns from SNP in Scotland](#)

Former Scottish first minister Alex Salmond said he has resigned from the Scottish National Party, which he led for two decades. Salmond has denied the allegations and taken legal action against the SNP administration he once ran over the way it has handled the complaints against him.

[Korea detente revives North Korean leader's bullet train dreams](#)

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is looking to capitalize on an easing in international tensions with his isolated regime to advance plans for a high-speed rail network to rival those in Europe and neighboring South Korea.

[French finance minister warns UK on post-Brexit arrangement](#)

French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire warned Britain should not expect to keep the full benefits of the EU. Michel Barnier, the EU's chief Brexit negotiator, said Europe is prepared to offer an unprecedented partnership to the U.K.

[EU's Barnier offers Britain close ties but 'no single market a la carte'](#)

Michel Barnier, the EU's chief Brexit negotiator, said the European Union is prepared to offer Britain an unprecedentedly close relationship after it quits the bloc but would not allow anything that weakened the body's single market.

[No-deal Brexit is only alternative to Chequers plan, says Lidington](#)

The Cabinet Office minister, David Lidington, appealed for compromise from the EU side on the basis of co-operation over trade but warned that relations between Britain and France are at "a fork in the road" – and the only alternative to the prime minister's Chequers plan is a no-deal Brexit.

[British car output drops annual 11 percent in July](#)

British car production dipped 11% year-on-year in July, hit by model changes, seasonal adjustments and preparations for tougher new emissions standards. Demand at home slumped 35%, compared with a drop in exports of 4.2%.

[ANZ warns the threat to activity 'is real' as business confidence stays in the doldrums](#)

ANZ business confidence survey shows a net 50% of businesses are pessimistic about the economy and sentiment has plummeted even further since the Prime Minister returned to office.

[India receives US warning over buying weapons from Russia](#)

Washington is alarmed at the prospect of India, an increasingly important US military ally and the world's top defence importer, buying new systems from Russia, including its S-400 long-range, surface-to-air missile system.

[France's CNP and Brazil's Caixa create new insurance joint venture - filing](#)

The insurance unit of Brazil's state-owned lender Caixa Economica Federal has agreed to create a new joint venture with France's CNP Assurances SA to sell life insurance products in the bank's more than 4,000 branches in the country.

[Hong Kong Housing Society looks to Singapore in waiving resale levy for elderly](#)

Hong Kong Housing Society chairman Marco Wu said the society is looking at following Singapore's lead to waive a resale levy for the city's elderly if they want to downsize their subsidised homes to save for retirement.

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