

[Fed's Powell, in apparent dovish shift, says rates near neutral](#)

U.S. Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell injected investors with a strong dose of optimism on Wednesday, saying that the central bank's policy rate is now "just below" estimates of a level that neither brakes nor boosts a healthy U.S. economy.

[Dow surges 600 points, biggest rally in eight months, after Powell signals rates are near neutral](#)

The Dow surged on the news, finishing the day with a gain of 618 points after Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell said interest rates are close to neutral, posting its biggest one-day gain since 26 March. The S&P 500 and Nasdaq each rose more than 2% as well.

[Trump administration to examine tools to raise U.S. tariffs on Chinese autos](#)

U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer said that he was examining all available tools to raise U.S. tariffs on Chinese vehicles to the 40% duties that China is now charging on U.S.-produced vehicles.

[Trump studying new auto tariffs after GM restructuring](#)

U.S. President Donald Trump said new auto tariffs were "being studied now," asserting they could prevent job cuts such as the U.S. layoffs and plant closures that General Motors Co announced this week.

[US manufacturers say Trump tariffs will bring higher prices, not more jobs: Survey](#)

More than 800 companies said in a survey released Thursday by IHS Markit that the widening trade war will raise prices for U.S. consumers, but it won't bring back many manufacturing jobs that have moved overseas.

[Japan retail sales rise most in 10 months, signal economic rebound](#)

Japan's retail sales gained 3.5% annually in October from a year earlier, at the fastest annual gain in 10 months as consumers shelled out more on fuel, cars, medicines and cosmetics.

[BOJ's Masai stresses need to maintain ultra-loose policy](#)

The Bank of Japan's monetary policy board member Takako Masai said the bank must assess the costs and benefits of its policy from varying perspectives. BOJ must maintain an extremely easy monetary policy to ensure the positive momentum in prices is not disrupted.

#### [Oil prices climb, but oversupply concerns weigh; OPEC meeting in focus](#)

Oil prices climbed 1%, clawing back some ground from losses in the previous session, but an increase in U.S. crude inventories and uncertainty in the run to an OPEC meeting next week kept markets under pressure.

#### [U.S. and UK reach new post-Brexit deal on air services](#)

The United States and United Kingdom have agreed an "open skies" deal for post-Brexit flights. The arrangement means airlines would continue to fly from the U.K. to the U.S. after Brexit.

#### [Extreme Brexit could be worse than financial crisis for UK: BoE](#)

The Bank of England said Britain risks suffering an even bigger hit to its economy than during the global financial crisis 10 years ago if it leaves the European Union in a worst-case Brexit scenario in four months' time.

#### [Australian firms boost spending plans, third-quarter investment eases](#)

Australian companies have hiked spending plans for the coming year, with non-mining investment leading the way in a positive omen for the economy.

#### [Mood in UK services firms sours ahead of Brexit - CBI](#)

The CBI's quarterly survey showed business optimism fell to its lowest level in two years for business and professional services firms. Confidence at consumer-facing firms like hotels and restaurants also declined.

#### [UK government to face challenges to May's Brexit plan in parliament](#)

British Prime Minister Theresa May's bid to win approval for her Brexit deal will have to overcome attempts to block or change it by rival lawmakers on 11 December.

#### [Mexico central bank warns economy faces risk of 'loss of confidence'](#)

Mexico's central bank warned the economy could suffer long-lasting damage if new policies spark a "loss of confidence" in the country, and the bank's chief pleaded for "clarity" from the incoming leftist government.

[South Korea top court orders Japan's Mitsubishi to compensate former South Korean forced labourers](#)

South Korea's top court ruled on Thursday that Japan's Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd must compensate 11 South Koreans in two separate cases for their forced labour during World War Two.

[Microsoft wins \\$479.2 million contract from U.S. Army](#)

The U.S. Army said on Wednesday that it has awarded Microsoft Corp a \$479.2 million contract to supply prototypes for the Army's augmented reality systems helping soldiers in training and combat missions.

[Twitter suspends account it says impersonated Russia's Putin](#)

Twitter Inc said on Wednesday that it suspended an account for impersonating Russian President Vladimir Putin on the social media platform.

**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](mailto:info@mlb-financial.com)