

UK economic news

- UK wages rose 3.3% in Q3 up from 3.1% in Q2, marking the quickest pace of growth in a decade, ONS data showed. This suggest that Britain's job market remains tight despite any Brexit headwinds and wage growth is stronger than at any time since the 2008 financial crisis.
- The value of re-mortgaged loans was £9.2bn in October, the highest monthly total since November 2008, according to UK Finance. The increase is due to homeowners' eagerness to lock into low-rate loans amid Brexit uncertainty.
- Jaguar Land Rover is expected to announce plans to save £2.5bn, on the back of the £90m loss experienced in the three months to September, due to lower demand for diesel cars, poor sales in China, and the costs of preparing for Brexit.
- New legislation for those working on zero-hour contracts were introduced in an attempt to protect the "gig economy". The new rules ensures more transparency and fairer payment.

UK Property

- RICS analysis indicated that the UK property market fell to a six year low in November as sellers and buyers are postponing decisions due to Brexit uncertainly. The price balance slipped to -11% in November from -10% in October, the lowest reading since September 2012.
- The share of new lettings accounted for by overseas landlords fell to 5.8% in the first 11 months of 2018, from 14.4% in 2010. It is the lowest proportion recorded by estate agent Hamptons International since it began gathering the data eight years ago.

Friday to Friday

	Price / index	Week % change	Annual % change
FTSE 100	6,845.17	0.99	-8.62
FTSE 250	17,666.91	-0.99	-11.88
Nikkei	21,374.83	-1.40	-5.22
S&P 500	2,599.95	-1.26	-2.84
Nasdaq	6,910.66	-0.84	-0.37
CAC 40	4,853.7	0.84	-9.26
Dax	10,865.77	0.72	-17.08
\$ per £	1.2569	-1.39	-5.60
€ per £	1.1122	-0.59	-1.60
Gold £/oz	982.3	0.05	4.20
Brent Oil	60.28	-2.25	-4.67

Stocks, Commodities, Currencies

- The pound oscillated following more uncertainty in the UK political scene, yet it steadied as Theresa May survived the vote of no-confidence and headed to Brussels for further negotiations. This marks a new 20-month low against the dollar.
- Interserve's share price fell by around 75% as the company announced year-end net debt of up to £650m. A deleveraging plan to restructure the balance sheet followed.

World news

- Russia's budget surplus this year is expected to be close to 3% of GDP. The surplus comes despite more than four years of western sanctions against Moscow. The economy is expected to grow between 1.6-1.8% this year. President Putin's strategy was to encourage large business groups to support large infrastructure investments rather than increase state spending.
- Italy's Prime Minister Giuseppe Conti proposed a lower government deficit of 2.04%, instead of the 2.4%, to avoid sanctions from Brussels for breaching EU budget rules. Italian bonds increased after the announcement.
- Chinese retail sales grew at the slowest pace in 15 years in November and factory output was the weakest in nearly three years. This is worrying as consumption is the main driver of Chinese economic growth, contributing 78% of GDP through the first nine months of 2018.
- US industrial production, a measure of output at factories, mines and utilities, rose 0.6% in November, the biggest increase since August, according to data from the Federal Reserve. The change is seen as especially positive as it followed a 0.2% decline in the previous month.
- US retail sales increased by 0.9%, the most in a year in November as falling petrol prices enabled American consumers to spend elsewhere.
- Brazil kept its interest rates unchanged at 6.5% as inflation eased to 4.05%, a low figure by historical standards, in the year ending to November 2018. Even though the economy grew at its fastest pace in 18 months, unemployment is still around 12% and the budget deficit is running at 7% of GDP, official figures showed.



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