

World news

- The Federal Reserve signalled that it will be patient with any further rate increases.
- China's factory activity contracted for a second month straight in January, the Purchasing Managers Index showed. The index was 49.5, remaining below the 50-point level of no change however, the index has averaged 50.7 over the last five years.
- The Eurozone grew by 0.2% in Q3 2018 expanding only by 1.2% compared with Q4 2017, the weakest growth in four years.
- Deutsche Bank's fourth-quarter results are expected to be poor and some analysts expect a government-brokered merger to be in place by the middle of the year.
- Berlin slashed Germany's economic growth forecast to 1% for 2019, the weakest pace in six years. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) estimates that the German economy expanded by 1.5% last year and predicts growth will slow to 1.3% in 2019.
- Italy fell into its third technical recession in a decade. Being the Eurozone's third largest economy, concerns have been raised over the bloc's prospects for growth. The news adds further pressure on the coalition government.
- The US announced new sanctions on Venezuela including oil exports which accounts for 90% of the government's revenue.
- GDP in France rose by 0.3% in Q4 2018, contributing to an annual growth of 1.5%. The IMF predicts that growth will remain steady at similar levels in 2019.

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Friday to Friday

	Price / index	Week % change	Annual % change
FTSE 100	7,020.22	3.10	-5.69
FTSE 250	18,811.37	0.90	-5.77
Nikkei	20,788.39	0.07	-10.68
CSI 300	3,247.4	1.98	-23.97
S&P 500	2,706.53	1.57	-2.01
Nasdaq	7,263.87	1.38	0.32
CAC 40	5,019.26	1.90	-6.44
Dax	11,180.66	-0.90	-12.55
\$ per £	1.3089	-0.62	-7.36
€ per £	1.1408	-1.18	0.52
Gold £/oz	1,006.64	1.79	6.62
Brent Oil	62.75	1.80	-8.50

UK economic news

- UK car plant investment decreased by 46.5% in 2018 to £588m, from £1.1bn in 2017, as production fell to a five-year low.
- Barclays was granted approval from the High Court to move €190bn of assets to its Irish subsidiary.
- Nissan cancelled plans to build its X-Trail at its Sunderland plant despite Brexit assurances given to the car manufacturer in 2016.
- 79% of financial executives were pessimistic about future prospects in Q3 2018, with companies scaling back spending and hiring plans amid Brexit uncertainty, the latest Deloitte finance chiefs survey showed.
- The pay for millennials who entered the job market during the financial crisis are still 7% below the pre-crisis peak, according to a study by the Resolution Foundation.

Construction and Property

- UK Construction PMI was 50.6 in January, down from 52.8 in December. The move represents the slowest rise in business activity for ten months with commercial work being the weakest performing area.
- UK house price growth fell to a six-year low in January, Nationwide House Price Index showed. House prices in January were 0.1% higher year-on-year, down from the 0.5% increase in December.
- The number of companies in 'significant financial distress' in the UK property industry increased 7% in Q4 2018 and 9% year-on-year, the latest Red Flag Alert research from Begbies Traynor showed. Almost 47,000 firms are now in difficulty.

Stocks, Commodities, Currencies

- The S&P 500 Index, a market capitalization weighted index of the 500 largest U.S. publicly traded companies by market value, posted its best January since 1987, increasing more than 15% from its December low as strong results from key companies buoyed stock prices and investors reacted to news from the Federal Reserve.
- Iron ore miner, Vale, announced plans to cut 40m tonnes of production (10% of its annual output) as it looks to decommission dams similar to the one that recently burst, killing 84 people. Chinese iron ore futures rose to their highest in more than a year following the news.
- Central banks buying of gold reached its highest levels for almost half a century last year as Russia, Turkey and Kazakhstan boosted purchases to shift their reserves away from the US dollar. 2018 saw a 74% increase year on year with Russia having the highest purchases on record, according to the World Gold Council.
- According to commentators, the crypto boom is over, with the top ten crypto assets down 80% over the last year.