CITY A.M.

BUSINESS WITH PERSONALITY

DOOM-MONGERS OR REALISTS? WHITEHALL'S LATEST NO-DEAL BREXIT WARNINGS **DEBATE P15**

SAM TORRANCE ON GOLF'S NEW AND IMPROVED FINALE **P20**

TUESDAY 20 AUGUST 2019 | ISSUE 3,439 CITYAM.COM FREE

KING KA-SHING'S £2.7BN PUB CRAWL

ANNA MENIN

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INVESTORS raised a glass to Greene King after the pub and brewery group agreed to be taken over by Hong Kong's richest man in a £2.7bn deal.

Shares shot up more than 50 per cent yesterday following the announcement that a subsidiary of CK Asset Holdings (CKA) will buy the entirety of Greene King's shares at 850p per share, in one of this year's biggest deals.

The deal values Greene King, Britain's largest pub retailer and brewer, at £4.6bn including net debt, making it the second-biggest UK-inbound deal of the year after Blackstone and the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board made a £6bn move for Alton Towers owner Merlin Entertainments.

The all-cash offer represents a 51 per cent premium on Friday's closing price of 563p per share.

CKA was founded by 91-year-old Hong Kong tycoon Li Ka-shing and is run by his son, Victor Li Tzar-kuoi. Li revealed plans to retire last year, but remains a senior adviser at CKA.

Greene King operates 2,900 pubs, restaurants and hotels across the UK, meaning that the £2.7bn deal equates to just under £1m per site.

Citigroup and Rothschild are advising Greene King on the deal, with HSBC acting for the Hong Kong-based conglomerate.

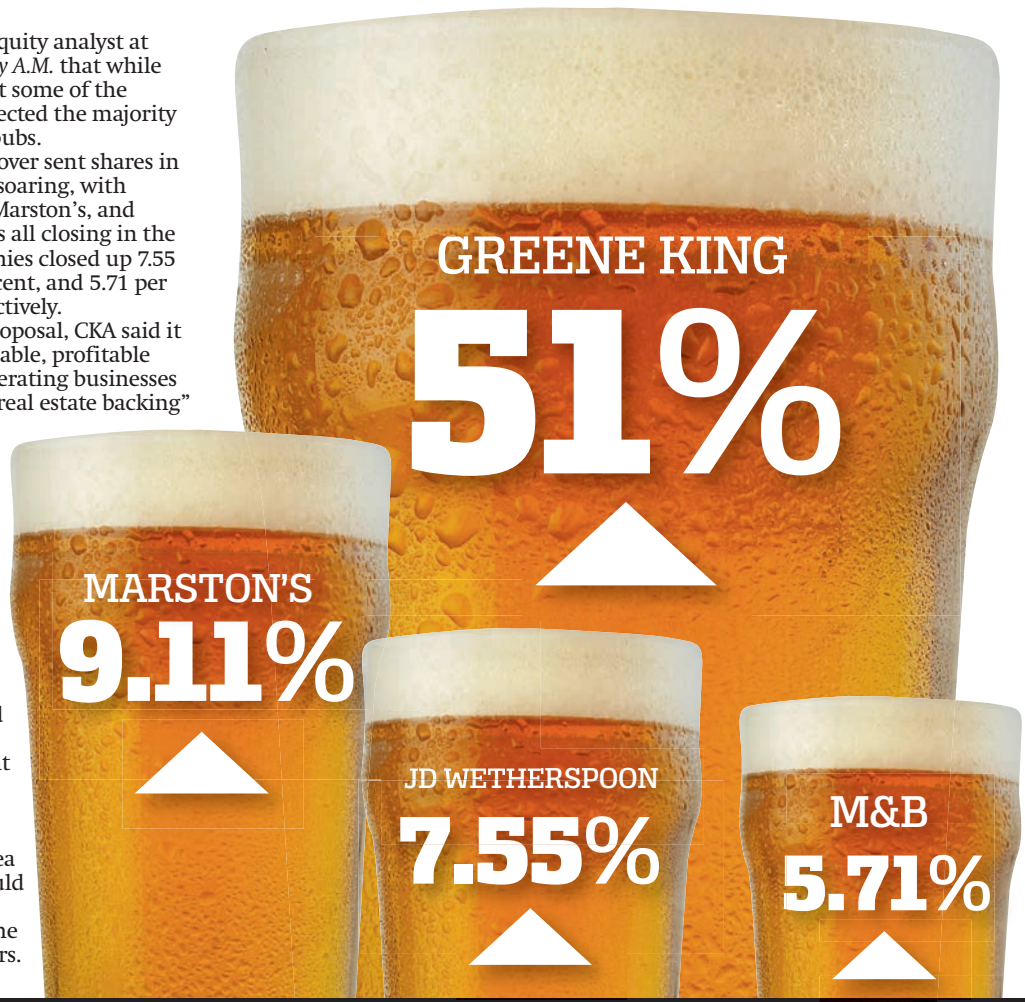
Paul Ruddy, an equity analyst at Goodbody, told *City A.M.* that while CKA might convert some of the properties, he expected the majority would remain as pubs.

News of the takeover sent shares in other pub groups soaring, with JD Wetherspoon, Marston's, and Mitchells & Butlers all closing in the green. The companies closed up 7.55 per cent, 9.11 per cent, and 5.71 per cent higher, respectively.

In its takeover proposal, CKA said it was focused on "stable, profitable and cash flow generating businesses that benefit from real estate backing" and believed the pub sector "shares these characteristics".

"The specific attractions of Greene King include its: established position in the UK pub and brewing market; freehold and long leasehold backed property estate; and resilient financial profile," CKA added.

Greene King chairman Philip Yea said the board would be "unanimously recommending" the deal to shareholders.



Twitter bans China trolls targeting Hong Kong

EMILY NICOLLE

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FACEBOOK and Twitter have taken down a wide-ranging network of social media accounts and profiles linked to a Chinese state operation to create division among and about the Hong Kong protests.

Twitter said last night more than 900 accounts were discovered as part of a "significant state-backed information operation" to sow political discord in Hong Kong, "including undermining the legitimacy and political positions of the protest movement on the ground".

Facebook's head of cyber-security policy Nathaniel Gleicher said it had removed 15 Facebook profiles and groups involved in "coordinated inauthentic behaviour as part of a small network that originated in China and focused on Hong Kong".

Both firms said they had secured reliable evidence to suggest these accounts were part of a state-sponsored strategy, with accounts joining together to amplify messages related to the protests and containing links to individuals associated with the Chinese government.

The social networks are both blocked in mainland China, but can be easily accessed using virtual proxy networks.

FTSE 100 ▲ 7,189.65 +72.50 **FTSE 250** ▲ 19,097.97 +276.16 **DOW** ▲ 26,135.79 +249.78 **NASDAQ** ▲ 8,002.81 +106.82 **£/$** ▼ 1.212 -0.002 **£/€** 1.094 unc. **€/$** ▼ 1.108 -0.001

CITY A.M.

THE CITY VIEW

Patel's free movement shift will hurt business

PRITI Patel, fresh from last week's Home Office brainwave to print anti-knife messages on the packaging of products from chicken restaurants, has a new plan. The home secretary has revealed her intention to end freedom of movement from the EU overnight on 31 October in the event of a no-deal Brexit, a policy confirmed by Number 10 yesterday. Ending free movement after Brexit has been government policy for several years, but the abruptness of this cut-off point has sparked panic. The government, under Theresa May and now under Boris Johnson, has made repeated assurances about the rights of the 3m EU citizens already here, who should not be affected by ending free movement. These citizens have been invited to apply for "settled status" to protect their rights. However, the reality is more complex. Since 29 March, the Home Office has processed only 1m settled status applications, while there have been numerous reports of applications being delayed or incorrectly rejected. That leaves more than 2m EU nationals still unprotected, with 72 days to go. After the Brexit deadline, those without settled status will have no evidence of their legal right to live and work in the UK. Under the "hostile environment" policy implemented when May was home secretary, businesses and landlords will face fines for employing or renting to anyone who cannot prove their status. In addition to the substantial personal cost to these individuals, employers face the unenviable task of having to police the new policy, potentially by firing staff whose status is in doubt. The British Chamber of Commerce warned of skills shortages, while London First said the move "piles further pressure on businesses" and accused the government of "continually moving the goal posts". Number 10 yesterday urged EU nationals to apply and promised some kind of safety net for those with pending applications, but did not make clear what this would be, or how it would impact employers. Given the Home Office's mismanagement of the Windrush saga, it is dubious how much faith individuals and businesses can place in the government's assurances. The Prime Minister has pledged to guarantee the rights of the 3m EU citizens, while Patel has promised to restore "integrity" to Britain's immigration system. It is difficult to see how a policy that potentially discriminates against legal EU residents as a result of government error and places additional burdens on businesses to enforce this fulfils either of these commitments.

Follow us on Twitter @cityam

Windy conditions around the City's tallest buildings are dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists

City Corp knocking wind out of skyscrapers' sails

ALEXANDRA ROGERS

@city_amrogers

THE SQUARE Mile may be famed for its financial clout and history, but in recent years it has also been known for other elements: extreme wind.

The City of London Corporation has become so concerned about pedestrians and cyclists being toppled over in the street by the skyscrapers which adorn its skyline that it is cracking down on any potential new-builds that may cause exceptionally windy conditions at street level.

Under new guidelines, launched today, developers will be asked to test the wind impact of their new designs at the earliest possible stage, to avoid the need to retrofit wind mitigation measures, as well as carry out assessments of wind directions in wind tunnel testing.

What was considered acceptable "business walking conditions" has now also been reclassified as "uncomfortable", in the hope that developers will be more considerate to City workers and cyclists.

"Wind can, in extreme cases, destabilise or push cyclists into the path of vehicles," the Corporation said. "By testing roadways as well as pavements through wind tunnel studies or computer simulations, it is expected that the more robust assessment will lead to a safer and more comfortable urban environment for all."

Workers near Fenchurch Street, the home of the Walkie Talkie, told *City A.M.* that the iconic skyscraper was one of the main culprits of the windy conditions there.

David Barry, an insurance broker at Lloyd's, said he would support the Corporation's new measures, but added: "It's a bit late now."

"It is incredibly windy around here, especially outside the Walkie Talkie and Cheesegrater," he said. "There's almost a microclimate down there. Although, in the summer, it is quite nice to have a breeze."

Alex Halford, an insurance underwriter who works for Liberty, said: "I'd absolutely support these measures. The wind here is ridiculous – the trees outside the Walkie Talkie fell over and had to be replaced. But it's probably worse for the ladies trying to keep hold of their skirts."

Alastair Moss, chair of the planning and transportation committee, said: "With the number of tall buildings in the Square Mile growing, it is important that the knock-on effects of new developments on wind at street-level are properly considered. These guidelines mark another significant step that the Corporation is taking to put cyclists and pedestrians at the heart of planning in the Square Mile."

WHAT THE OTHER PAPERS SAY THIS MORNING

FINANCIAL TIMES

ROYAL MAIL DEAL WITH WORKERS UNDER THREAT

A fragile peace between Royal Mail and its workforce is in danger of unravelling after a trade union accused the company of not honouring the "spirit and intent" of an agreement that ended strike threats last year. The Communication Workers Union has alleged that a wide-ranging deal that resolved a bitter dispute sparked by changes to pensions, is "under threat" from management.

US CORPORATE EARNINGS OUTSTRIP EXPECTATIONS

Corporate America is bucking Wall Street's recent angst that an economic recession may be looming. Earnings season in the US has gone better than analysts anticipated. Despite early forecasts for dismal second-quarter results, earnings for S&P 500 constituents are down just 0.4 per cent.

THE TIMES

NORWEGIAN OFFLOADS LENDING DIVISION

Norwegian Air has buttressed its balance sheet before the usually quiet winter season by offloading its remaining stake in its consumer lending division. The low-cost carrier has pocketed $247m (£203m) after selling its 17.5 per cent holding in Bank Norwegian.

SAUDI ARABIA GAVE £74M TO TOPPLED SUDAN LEADER

Sudan's toppled military ruler Omar al-Bashir received £74m from Saudi royalty, a court was told at the start of a corruption trial. He is charged with the illicit possession of foreign currency and accepting gifts in an unofficial manner.

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

BRITISH ROVER TO SEARCH FOR LIFE BURIED ON MARS

A British-built river is to drill deep into the surface of Mars looking for alien habitation. Engineers at Airbus in Hertfordshire are this week installing cameras on the European Space Agency's ExoMars vehicle before it is tested in France.

BRITISH STEEL UNIT DEAL HINGES ON LENDER'S OK

TSP Projects, the engineering arm of British Steel, is awaiting approval from a key lender to secure its sale to French rail giant Systra. The lender is thought to be Citibank. The Official Receiver cannot sanction the sale to Systra without the release of a floating charge.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

CHINA GIANT BAIDU REPORTS 62 PER CENT PROFIT DROP

China's economic downturn and tighter control over internet content drove search engine giant Baidu's weakest quarterly revenue growth in over two years and a 62 per cent profit drop. Still results beat forecasts, with shares up more than nine per cent after-hours.

LAW CHIEFS TO LAUNCH ANTITRUST BIG TECH PROBE

A group of state attorneys general is preparing to move forward with a joint antitrust investigation of big tech firms, according to people familiar with the matter, adding another layer of scrutiny to an industry already under a federal spotlight.

Johnson to visit Ireland in bid to avoid a no-deal

JAMES BOOTH AND CATHERINE NEILAN

@Jamesdbooth1 @CatNeilan

PRIME Minister Boris Johnson is set to meet his Irish counterpart in Dublin in early September as he tries to break the Brexit deadlock around the backstop.

In a letter to European Council president Donald Tusk last night, Johnson insisted "the backstop cannot form part of an agreed Withdrawal Agreement", yet signalled a willingness to find a way of avoiding a no-deal Brexit on 31 October.

The PM proposed replacing the backstop with a commitment to put in place an alternative arrangement before the end of the transition period.

He said the UK would agree to not put in place infrastructure, checks and controls at the border between Northern Ireland and Ireland and would be willing to accept a legally binding commitment to that effect.

He acknowledged concerns about what would happen if an agreement on the border issue was not in place by the end of the transition period, and said the UK was willing to "look constructively and flexibly at what commitments might help".

Earlier yesterday evening, Johnson spoke to Irish Taoiseach Leo Varadkar for nearly an hour by phone, with both re-emphasising their opposing positions on the backstop.

According to a Downing Street spokesperson, Johnson said the Withdrawal Agreement would need to be altered to get it through the House of Commons.

Varadkar reiterated the EU position that the Withdrawal Agreement cannot be reopened and emphasised the importance of a legal guarantee to ensure no hard border and continued free trade on the island of Ireland.

Separately, *City A.M.* understands Michael Gove, chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, will give parliament regular updates on the preparations for a no-deal Brexit, starting on the first day back on 3 September.

A government source said Gove will speak as often as weekly to ensure scrutiny of no-deal planning.

Trump administration delays trade ban on Huawei for another 90 days

JAMES WARRINGTON

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THE US has delayed its trade ban on Huawei by a further 90 days, despite President Donald Trump's insistence that American companies will be blocked from trading with the Chinese tech giant.

US commerce secretary Wilbur Ross said his department will extend a temporary measure that allows American companies to do business with Huawei. The proposed ban was due to come into force yesterday.

Ross also announced that the US has added more than 46 Huawei subsidiaries to its trade blacklist. Since May, the US Commerce Department has added more than 100 individuals and organisations to the list in connection with Huawei.

"As we continue to urge consumers to transition away from Huawei's products, we recognise that more time is necessary to prevent any disruption," Ross said in a statement.

The move comes despite Trump's insistence that he did not want the US to do business with Huawei due to national security concerns.

Earlier this year, Trump said the US will block trade with Huawei over fears its equipment could be used for spying by Beijing.

OUT OF FASHION Monsoon Accessorize boss Paul Allen quits after six years at firm

MONSOON Accessorize's boss Paul Allen (inset) has thrown in the towel after a troubled few months at the retailer which culminated in a wide-ranging restructuring. Allen announced yesterday he will quit the fashion retailer after six years at the firm.

Juul and Philip Morris sued over claims they marketed to teens

JAMES BOOTH

@Jamesdbooth1

E-CIGARETTE maker Juul and tobacco giant Philip Morris were sued yesterday for allegedly illegally marketing vapes to children and downplaying their health risks.

A Chicago law firm launched the US class action lawsuit over claims of teen addiction and injuries allegedly caused by nicotine ingestion.

Injury firm the Moll Law Group cited a recent warning by the US Food & Drug Administration related to the association between seizures and e-cigarettes.

The law firm said Juul's makers "prey on youth for financial gain" by mimicking big tobacco's past marketing practices.

It said that since Philip Morris has partnered with Juul, "progress in nicotine cessation stands to erode".

Separately yesterday, Juul raised $325m (£268m) in an equity and debt offering as it looked to fast track its global expansion.

Juul and Philip Morris did not respond to requests for comment.

Finance industry bodies begin talks to cut stock market trading hours

ANNA MENIN

@annafmenin

BANKING and investment groups are working on proposals that could see stock market trading hours shortened across Europe.

The Investment Association (IA) and the Association for Financial Markets in Europe (AFME) are planning to consult members on plans to cut trading hours, according to Financial News.

Opening equity markets an hour later and closing them an hour earlier is reported to be among the proposals being considered.

AFME chief executive Simon Lewis said the group was discussing "compressed market opening times" with members.

"Work is at an early stage but we are supportive, in principle, of proposals that would encourage more flexible working practices in the European equities trading market and that could help to promote increased diversity in the sector."

A spokesperson for the IA said it "is taking a strong interest in culture across the investment management industry".

Neil Wilson, a Markets.com analyst, said cutting trading hours "makes perfect sense" for "modern working parents", and would not make any difference to markets' functioning.

Christine Lagarde is due to take over at the European Central Bank in October

Weak inflation boosts chance of Europe stimulus

HARRY ROBERTSON

@henrygrobertson

PRICES in the Eurozone rose just one per cent in July, official figures showed yesterday, far below the European Central Bank's (ECB) inflation target, making it increasingly likely the Bank will relaunch its giant bond-buying programme next month.

The one per cent annual rate of inflation for July was down from 1.3 per cent in June and below an initial estimate of 1.1 per cent. It comes despite the ECB's record-low interest rates that have aimed to boost price growth to around two per cent.

Inflation was just 0.3 per cent in Italy. Portugal recorded the lowest annual inflation rate with minus 0.7 per cent. In Germany, Europe's biggest economy, inflation fell to 1.1 per cent in July from 1.5 per cent in June.

The service sector made the highest contribution to inflation in another sign that consumers are propping up the bloc's economy while its manufacturers struggle.

Rosie Colthorpe, European economist at consultancy Oxford Economics, predicted the ECB would deliver "quite a comprehensive stimulus package" and relaunch its bond-buying activities known as quantitative easing (QE) next month, as well as cutting interest rates further into negative territory.

QE is a monetary policy where a central bank buys up corporate and government debt to lower borrowing costs and provide firms with cheap cash. With the EU economy faltering and inflation rates stubbornly low, the ECB has dropped strong hints that more QE is returning.

European shares ended higher yesterday on signs that such measures may soon be adopted to prop up growth in the currency bloc.

"Wages are going up quite a lot in the Eurozone... but that doesn't seem to be passing through to inflation," said Colthorpe. "We've seen lots of firms compressing their margins instead of passing through wages to prices."

Analysts at JP Morgan doubted how effective more bond-buying would be as bond yields are already in negative territory across Europe, suggesting demand cannot get much higher.

"It is hard to see further asset purchases providing much incremental stimulus," they said in a note.

German central bank: Economy could already be in a recession

HARRY ROBERTSON

@henrygrobertson

GERMANY'S central bank warned yesterday that the country's economy could already be in recession as the malaise in its industrial sector continues.

The German economy, Europe's biggest, contracted in the second quarter due to falling exports and industrial production induced by a global slowdown and trade tensions.

The Bundesbank said yesterday that "economic performance could again decline slightly".

It said that growth in employment which has propped up the economy, were showing signs of weakening.

But the central bank made clear that "the main reason" for Germany's poor performance "is the continuing downturn in industry", which is in recession.

Berlin has signalled it will spend more to counter the next economic crisis "with full force," its finance minister said, suggesting it could make available up to €50bn (£45.6bn) of extra spending.

Tech giants hit back at France's digital tax plan

EMILY NICOLLE

@emilyjnicolle

SILICON Valley leaders yesterday said plans for a French digital tax were discriminatory against US firms, but urged President Donald Trump to avoid retaliating with tariffs.

In evidence submitted to a hearing by the US Trade Representative's Office (USTR) yesterday, representatives for Facebook and Amazon said the levy would hurt revenues, harm local businesses and be unfairly weighted towards US companies.

France signed the tax into law earlier this year, making way for a three per cent tax on digital companies with global revenues of more than €750m (£685m). Former chancellor Philip Hammond made similar plans for the UK in last year's autumn Budget, proposing a two per cent levy on revenues of more than £500m.

Approximately 30 companies have been identified as eligible for the French tax, which the US said were overwhelmingly American in origin.

The USTR inquiry, known as Section 301, could issue new tariffs on French goods or other trade restrictions after the public comment period closes next Monday.

Jennifer McCloskey, vice president for policy at Silicon Valley's largest lobby group the Information Technology Industry Council, said yesterday: "We support the US government's efforts to investigate these complex trade issues but urge it to pursue the 301 investigation in a spirit of international co-operation and without using tariffs as a remedy."

Amazon's international tax policy director Peter Hiltz said the cost of the levy would be passed on to sellers on its online marketplace.

Starting 1 October, more than 10,000 French-based businesses will face an increase of three per cent on certain fees for all sales made on Amazon.fr.

Chinese millennials are helping Estee Lauder's profits rise above analyst forecasts

Estee Lauder forecasts a robust 2020 on rising skincare demand

ADITI SEBASTIAN

ESTEE Lauder yesterday forecast full-year revenue and profit above Wall Street expectations, putting to rest concerns of slowing demand in China due to trade tensions and Hong Kong protests as sales of its luxury skin care products soared.

Cosmetics companies such as Estee Lauder and L'Oreal are experiencing boom in their business in the Asia-Pacific region, mainly in China, as affluent millennials spend more at beauty retailers.

It said sales in the Asia-Pacific region grew 18 per cent in the fourth quarter. It expects adjusted profit to be between $5.90 and $5.98 per share in fiscal 2020. Analysts forecast sales growth of 6.87 per cent and profit of $5.81 per share. *Reuters*

Senior bosses drop investors as a top priority

SEBASTIAN MCCARTHY

@SebMcCarthy

THE AGE-OLD principle that shareholders come first has been ditched by an influential lobbying group representing some of the world's most senior business leaders.

Maximising profits for investors should no longer be the main priority for firms, an organisation called the Business Roundtable concluded yesterday, as it signalled a major corporate shift towards achieving wider customer and community targets.

In a letter signed by 181 US chief executives, the group called on corporate leaders to take into account "all stakeholders", including employees, customers and the wider society, rather than just shareholders.

JP Morgan boss Jamie Dimon, who is chairman of the Roundtable, said that he hoped that the declaration "will help to set a new standard for corporate leadership".

Amazon founder Jeff Bezos and Apple boss Tim Cook were among the executives who signed their names to the letter.

Mark Carney: Negative interest rate 'not an option' for Bank of England

HARRY ROBERTSON

@henrygrobertson

BANK of England governor Mark Carney has said his institution will not pursue negative interest rates, a monetary policy device employed by the European Central Bank and Bank of Japan, among others.

"At this stage, we do not see negative rates as an option here. I am not criticising others that have used them, but we don't see it as an option," he told Central Banking magazine earlier this month, in an interview published yesterday.

Negative interest rates seek to encourage banks to spend their spare money by penalising them for keeping it in their country's central bank.

The BoE has kept the main interest rate – which determines the cost of lending in the economy – at 0.75 per cent, citing high employment and inflation close to its two per cent target.

Carney told Central Banking that negative interest rates can be "counter-productive". He said the Bank's view "is that the effective lower bound is close to zero, but positive – just above zero."

He also said he thought changing the Bank's inflation target of two per cent would be a bad idea.

Mark Carney is due to leave his post as BoE governor in January

Uncertainty hits UK economy as purchases wane

SEBASTIAN MCCARTHY

@SebMcCarthy

CONSUMER appetite for major purchases fell at the second-fastest rate in almost two years during August, as Brexit uncertainty and fears of an economic slowdown held back spending.

IHS Markit's monthly household finance index fell to a three-month low after reporting the second-sharpest drop in demand for major purchases since September 2017.

The headline index from the survey – which measures households' overall perceptions of financial wellbeing – recorded 43.7 in August, falling from July's 44.3 and "signalling a stronger degree of pessimism towards current finances by UK households," the report said yesterday.

Having been in positive territory during June and July, UK households signalled a negative outlook towards their financial health for the year ahead in August.

Pessimism over job security remained, with UK households posting the strongest degree of negativity since March.

Income from employment continued to rise. However, the expansion slowed to a modest pace which was the weakest in five months.

"Latest survey data continued to highlight a fragile state among UK households towards their financial wellbeing," according to Joe Hayes, an economist at IHS Markit.

Hayes said: "The Brexit haze, uncertainty over the political environment and the increased possibility of the UK entering recession appear to have dented expectations, which dipped into negative territory following positive readings in both June and July."

He added: "A sharp decline in appetite for major purchases was also signalled, while pessimism towards job security also intensified during August, explaining why UK households have withdrawn into a more risk-averse approach and subsequently tapered their expectations for the coming year."

More than two-thirds (68 per cent) of UK households expect the Bank of England will raise interest rates within the next two years. This was down from around 74 per cent in July.

Saudi Aramco asking banks to pitch for roles in planned float

HADEEL AL SAYEGH

SAUDI Aramco has formally asked major banks to submit proposals for potential roles in its planned initial public offering (IPO), two sources with direct knowledge of the matter said.

Aramco's planned flotation, which could potentially raise $100bn (£82.4bn), is the centrepiece of Saudi Arabia's economic transformation drive to attract foreign investment and diversify away from oil.

Requests for proposals were sent to banks few days ago, they said. Saudi Aramco declined to comment.

The formal IPO process begins after Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman had said in June the government remained fully committed to the IPO, expecting it to take place between 2020 and early 2021.

Work on an original planned float was halted in 2018 when the Saudi Arabian oil giant began a process to acquire a 70 per cent stake in petrochemicals maker Saudi Basic Industries.

Reuters

Abellio: Railway franchise model should continue

ALEXANDRA ROGERS

@city_amrogers

THE BOSS of Abellio has said he is "confident" the rail franchise model will not be scrapped just a day after his firm took over one of the leading contracts in the UK.

Dominic Booth, the managing director of Abellio, which officially took over the East Midlands franchise from Stagecoach, said he thought the model would be "significantly altered" but not abandoned altogether as a result of the Williams rail review.

The review is being led by former British Airways chief executive Keith Williams, who has said he thinks the franchise model has "had its day".

Booth told *City A.M*: "I think we're pretty confident that successive governments over many years have seen the value of that public/private partnership and what Williams wants to do is bring that up to date and iron out some of the wrinkles in it, but not abandon it.

He added: "We would expect that to continue."

He added: "I think the franchise model will be significantly altered... but I think the concept of having government-controlled contracts that are privately provided can and should survive."

The ongoing review is understood to have played a role in the government's recent decision to cancel the competition for the Southeastern franchise, which Abellio also bid for.

However, last week the Department for Transport (DfT) awarded the West Coast Partnership to First Group and Italian firm Trenitalia, which the government said was designed to fit with the direction of the review.

A DfT spokesperson said: "We have total confidence in the franchise competition process and will robustly defend decisions that were taken fairly following a thorough and impartial evaluation process."

Life's a beach: League leader Matteo Salvini has called time on the ruling coalition

Italy's League party says deficit rise could accompany tax cuts

HARRY ROBERTSON

@henrygrobertson

ITALY's League Party – the far-right partner in the governing coalition – yesterday set up another clash with the EU over budget rules, saying it wants to cut taxes and raise its deficit by a small margin.

League economics chief Claudio Borghi told TV channel RAI: "We need to pursue a tax cut and it is obvious that a small proportion will be funded with the deficit."

The statement of intent comes with Italy in political crisis after the League said its coalition government with the anti-establishment 5-Star Movement was no longer workable.

Yesterday, 5-Star said Matteo Salvini, the leader of the League, is "no longer a credible interlocutor". The government is deadlocked, with no consensus on how to move forwards.

Raising the budget deficit would anger the EU, however. Italy is in breach of the bloc's public debt rules, with government debt at over 130 per cent of GDP.

Gold drops as banks assuage recession fears

ALEX DANIEL

@alexmdaniel

GOLD prices fell yesterday as the US dollar strengthened and equities recovered, as hints from major global central banks that they may provide more economic stimulus eased worries about a recession.

Spot gold fell one per cent to $1,498.90 per ounce by mid-evening. US gold futures settled down 0.8 per cent at $1,511.60.

"The dollar is getting stronger, and given that gold had a very good rally over the last few weeks, we are just seeing some profit-taking coming in," said Oanda analyst Jeffrey Halley.

US President Donald Trump said on Sunday he was "not ready to make a [trade] deal yet" with China, hinting that the White House would like Beijing to resolve ongoing protests in Hong Kong.

"The precious metal, though easing up on bullish gains from US dollar vigour, will remain supported over subdued global growth and accommodative monetary policy by global central banks," Phillip Futures analyst Benjamin Lu said.

UK pilots' union hits out Ryanair's 'time wasting' bid to block strike

ALEX DANIEL

@alexmdaniel

BRITAIN's airline pilot union has blasted Ryanair for seeking a High Court injunction to block strike action by its pilots this week.

The British Airline Pilots' Association (Balpa) said the budget flyer had "wasted time" by trying to use "legal technicalities" to persuade the High Court to block a strike due to take place on Thursday and Friday.

"Balpa invited Ryanair to join them at talks this week but the airline refused," the union said.

General secretary Brian Strutton said: "Ryanair pilots in the UK have a serious dispute with their company which will not be resolved by raising legal technicalities in the High Court.

"[Ryanair's] attempt to block lawful strike action is just another demonstration of the bullying tactics the airline appears to favour.

"It means all the time that could have been used to try to find a resolution will now be spent preparing for the court action."

A Ryanair spokesperson said: "Balpa, who represent a small number of highly paid UK pilots, should not be disrupting the return holiday flights of UK families later this week when Ryanair captains already earn £180,000 per annum and are now seeking unjustified pay increases of between 65 per cent to 121 per cent."

Strikes are also planned for a second round of dates in September.

ROLLING SEAS Cruise captain orders a boat-load of Greggs food for luxury liner

THE CAPTAIN of luxury cruise ship Azamara Journey made an unusual order from Greggs when his ship dropped anchor at the Port of Tyne yesterday – Greggs sausage rolls, vegan sausage rolls and the northern favourite Stottie Cake – for 700 people.

Apple boss Cook cautions Trump over tech tariffs

ANNA MENIN

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US PRESIDENT Donald Trump said he has spoken with Apple chief executive Tim Cook about the impact of US tariffs on Chinese imports, and that the tech giant's boss "made a good case" that the levies could hurt Apple.

According to Trump, the pair spoke about competition between Apple and South Korean rival Samsung, with Cook arguing that tariffs would be detrimental to his company as Samsung products would not be subject to them.

"I thought he made a very compelling argument, so I'm thinking about it," Trump told reporters on Sunday night.

"It's tough for Apple to pay tariffs if it's competing with a very good company that's not," he added.

The US President had said last Friday he would be having dinner with Cook while at his New Jersey golf club, tweeting: "Having dinner tonight with Tim Cook of Apple. They will be spending vast sums of money in the US. Great!" Trump has previously criticised Apple for not manufacturing more of its products in the US.

After tariffs on Chinese imports were first announced, Trump said on Twitter that they could make Apple products more expensive.

He added: "Make your products in the United States instead of China. Start building new plants now. Exciting!"

Tariffs on $300bn (£247bn) of Chinese goods, including consumer electronics, are set to be implemented in two stages on 1 September and 15 December. The US and South Korea struck a trade deal last year.

Apple products, including Airpods, Apple Watches, and Homepods, will be subject to tariffs from 1 September, while its Macbooks and iPhones will face the levies from 15 December.

Apple did not respond to a request for comment.

Cook met Trump at a New Jersey golf club

Jaguar Land Rover wants to build a 3m sq ft site for spare parts distribution

Jaguar Land Rover plans a huge East Midlands logistics campus

JAMES BOOTH

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JAGUAR Land Rover has submitted plans for a nearly 3m sq ft logistics site in the Leicestershire countryside.

The car giant wants to build the 2.94m site as a centre for spare parts distribution.

The proposed site is near Junction 11 of the M242 at Appleby Magna in Leicestershire.

The Tata-owned car firm is undergoing a massive cost-cutting programme after posting huge losses on a slump in demand from China and a slowdown in diesel sales.

The facility would gather spare JLR parts from UK and overseas suppliers and then ship them to garages and dealers in 80 countries.

It would consolidate 10 smaller facilities JLR has in the UK to one site.

JLR is working with property management firm IM Properties on plans for the site, which have been submitted to North West Leicestershire District Council.

JLR hopes to complete the facility by 2023.

Safestore goes Dutch in joint Holland swoop

AUGUST GRAHAM

@AugustGraham

SAFESTORE has joined forces with private equity giant Carlyle to buy a Dutch self-storage chain, while also making a £6.5m Heathrow acquisition by itself.

The business will take a 20 per cent stake in M3 Self Storage for around €5m (£4.6m) when the deal is completed at the end of August.

The deal, which is expected to produce eight per cent returns for the first year before transaction-related costs, will give Safestore and Carlyle a company through which to make further acquisitions for expansion in the region.

"The acquisition of M3 represents an excellent platform for entry into the attractive Dutch self storage market and we expect that our joint venture with Carlyle will enable us to target additional selected development and acquisition opportunities," said chief executive Frederic Vecchioli.

M3 operates six storage units in Amsterdam and Haarlem in the Netherlands.

The deal came as Safestore also announced it had bought Heathrow-based Ready Steady Store for £6.5m in cash. It expects the initial yield to reach 5.5 per cent in the first year at the 34,000 square foot site. It will rebrand the site.

Shares in Safestore rose 2.81 per cent to 639.50p yesterday.

Social media conspiracy theories have been blamed for the decline in vaccinations

Social media firms urged to crack down on measles misinformation

JAMES WARRINGTON

@j_a_warrington

SOCIAL media firms must do more to tackle online misinformation about vaccines amid a spike in measles cases in the UK, a health minister has warned.

Jo Churchill said the government must work with tech companies such as Facebook and Google to ensure parents are not misled by false information spread by so-called anti-vaxxers.

A steady decline in vaccination rates for the measles, mumps and rubella jab has led to the UK losing its measles-free status, just three years after the virus was eliminated.

Speaking on the BBC's Today programme, Churchill said social media firms must ensure "misinformation is taken down, and that we give people the correct information that they can help keep their children safe".

Prime Minister Boris Johnson has announced plans for a summit of tech giants to discuss "how they can play their part in promoting accurate information about vaccination".

In a report published last month, Facebook fact-checking firm Full Fact said the majority of its interventions were related to untrue health claims.

PARTNER CONTENT

ACCOUNTING CASHFLOWS AND THE QUIRK OF "FACTORING"

CFA INSTITUTE TALK

Kazim Razvi discusses the difference between creditor factoring and bad reverse factoring

CFA Institute

A common factor in the recent demise of Carillion in the United Kingdom was creditor factoring used to bridge liquidity shortfalls. Creditor factoring generally delays payments to creditors to fund a company's operations. Such arrangements may help companies in smoothing reported cash flows in the near term but creates an obligation to pay in the future. However, if the liquidity problem aggravates in the near term, it turns the clock ticking down against potential opportunities that could arise in the future.

The lack of transparency in reporting for such arrangements distort cash flow statements which a lot of investors use as a starting point. Unlike economic deterioration in liquidity and use of additional borrowing to firefight the current crisis – financial reporting paints a rosy picture of improving operating cash flows instead of reporting an increase in borrowing.

For investors, the key issue is to identify at what point in time a trade creditor (included in working capital changes; i.e., operating cash flows) becomes a financing liability (included in leverage calculations; i.e., financing cash flows). Current accounting practice does not specifically cover creditor factoring, and company management can use it without any specific disclosure requirements. This, however, is vitally important information for investors to identify in a timely fashion and to adjust in performance and leverage ratios. An omission to make a timely adjustment would overstate operating cash flows and understate leverage ratios.

A simple way to understand creditor factoring is considering an example of a cable tv provider. A customer asks to cancel his monthly subscription of £100 as he will be temporarily out of job. The service provider, who does not wish to lose a customer, offers to delay the payment term from paying each month to paying after 6 months. The customer agrees to the extended term and thus improves his monthly net cashflows by saving £100 each month. Until the new payment cycle kicks in, the customer has saved £500 (£600 for 6 months service – £100 payment at the end of 6th month).

However, this in effect is a debt. When the subscription arrangement eventually ends, the customer will have to pay £500 to his service provider.

Following this example, let's assume that a company with strong bargaining power forces a weak supplier to accept longer credit terms. This scenario, could create liquidity problems for the supplier. So, the company uses its banking relationship to offer its supplier a factoring facility that could be cheaper and more effective than the supplier's own factoring arrangements. This is an example of "bad reverse factoring" which will not show up anywhere in accounts, except in a lagging bloated account balance of "trade and other creditors."

Now let's assume that the supplier has a stronger bargaining power instead of the company. In this case, the supplier will not agree to an extension of the payment period or alternatively could force shorter payment periods. Here, the company will involve its bank to pay off the supplier on time and will pay back its bank over a longer period. This is called "confirming." Like bad reverse factoring, this also receives a poor disclosure.

Unlike bad reverse factoring, we believe confirming should be reflected more clearly in the balance sheet and cash flow statement. For bad reverse factoring, it could be argued that economically there is no debt (from an accounting perspective), just an extension of the supplier payment period. In the case of confirming, there is both legally and economically a significant change. This often is classified in trade or other creditors and in operating cash flows instead of timely moving it to debt and financing cash flows.

CFA Institute believes that bad reverse factoring and confirming are economically similar. Therefore, we have advocated for an "outstanding number of days" disclosure for suppliers. In regard to confirming specifically, we have advocated for creditor balance and bank balance movements to be separately included in operating and financing activity of cash flows statement, respectively.

If you liked this post, don't forget to subscribe to Market Integrity Insights.

Kazim Razvi is a director of financial reporting policy at CFA Institute

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cityam.com/cfa-institute

Shareholders anticipate dividends in BHP results

AUGUST GRAHAM
@AugustGraham

INVESTORS will flock straight to the dividend page this morning after miner BHP was set to release its annual results overnight, expected to reveal the highest annual dividend in the company's history.

Analysts had expected the dividend to reach around $2.36 for the full year 2019, up from $1.18 the year before, according to a consensus compiled by Vuma.

The dividend includes a $1.02 special payout from January.

It marks a rebound for the company's payout to shareholders, which was slashed by around a quarter in 2016 after the bottom fell out of the metals market.

Iron ore prices, one of BHP's key products along with copper and coal, ticked up earlier this year after 300 people died or went missing in a Brazilian mining accident.

BHP's share price rose after the disaster, hitting 2,049p in early July, up from 1,569p when the dam burst in January. Yesterday, BHP shares closed up 1.49 per cent at 1781.40p.

The dividend was boosted by a special payout after the company sold its shale assets in the US Permian Basin to BP for $10.5bn (£8.7bn) last year.

Later, the company promised to return $10.4bn to investors, split equally between a special dividend and a share buyback.

"Some analysts are looking for the potential of another special dividend," said Graham Spooner at the Share Centre, a retail stockbroker.

But the company is also operating with activist investor Elliott as an owner, and global headwinds could flare, said Russ Mould at AJ Bell, an investment platform. "It feels that the global macro isn't as helpful as it once was," he said.

Nigeria could appeal against $9bn handed to Irish natural gas firm P&ID by a British court

AUGUST GRAHAM
@AugustGraham

NIGERIA has grounds to appeal against a decision to grant an Irish natural gas firm $9bn (£7.4bn) in damages after a deal with the government fell through, the head of the country's central bank has said.

Godwin Emefiele said Nigeria would be able to appeal against the decision handed down by the British Commercial Court, a subdivision of the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court of Justice, on Friday.

The ruling, which gives Irish firm P&ID authorisation to seize one-fifth of Nigeria's foreign assets, is also having an impact on the country's monetary policy.

"We know that the implication of that judgment has some impact on monetary policy and that is why the central bank is going to step forward and… defend the reserves," Emefiele said.

However, responding to Emefiele's remarks, a source close to P&ID said that following Friday's judgment "the cost of settlement has gone up".

P&ID also successfully argued that the judge should add $2.4bn in interest payments to the original $6.6bn award.

"

SPORT
It's an excellent idea. There is no longer any need for complex maths

SAM TORRANCE ON THE WINNING NEW FEDEX CUP FINALE FORMAT

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CITY A.M.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF LONDON

THE PLANNING ACTS AND THE ORDERS AND REGULATIONS MADE THEREUNDER

This notice gives details of applications registered by the Department of The Built Environment

Code: FULL/FULMAJ/FULEIA/FULLR3 – Planning Permission; LBC – Listed Building Consent; TPO – Tree Preservation Order; OUTL – Outline Planning Permission

29 Speed House, Speed Highwalk, Barbican, London, EC2Y 8AT
19/00766/LBC
Removal of partition wall between kitchen and hallway. Alterations to kitchen and bathroom.

1-5 London Wall Buildings, London, EC2M 5PD
19/00803/FULL
Refurbishment of part ground and first floor level including alterations to London Wall Buildings 2 and 3 entrances (ancillary to Class B1 use) comprising replacement lighting; part facade cleaning; refurbishment of entrance doors, windows, steps and handrails; replacement planting and mattwells; and other associated works.

1-5 London Wall Buildings, London, EC2M 5PD
19/00804/LBC
Refurbishment of part ground floor and first floor level including reconfiguration and refurbishment comprising: the removal of internal partitions; installation of new marble finishes within the foyer; restoring original floor finishes in the stair core where possible; installation of new internal finishes throughout; removal of existing ramp at first floor level; installation of lighting; installation of secondary glazing; installation of new flooring to allow level access. External alterations to London Wall facade including replacement lighting; part facade cleaning; refurbishment of entrance doors, windows, steps and handrails; replacement planting and mattwells; and other associated works.

2 Devonshire Square, London, EC2M 4UJ
19/00810/FULL
Installation of new front railings adjacent to the existing entrance.

103 Cromwell Tower, Barbican, London, EC2Y 8DD
19/00811/LBC
Removal and installation of several internal walls and doors. New full height doors and suspended ceilings throughout.

The Baltic Exchange, 38 St Mary Axe, London, EC3A 8BH
19/00829/FULL
Replacement of five existing antennas with six new antennas at roof level and ancillary development thereto.

201 Cromwell Tower, Barbican, London, EC2Y 8DD
19/00832/LBC
Relocation of master bedroom door; removal of a small section of non-structural wall and installation of a shallow false ceiling in the shower/WC.

Applications can be viewed at www.planning2.cityoflondon.gov.uk or at the Department of the Built Environment, North Wing, Guildhall, Basinghall Street, London EC2, between 09.30 and 16.30. Representations must be made within 21 days of the date of this newspaper online or in writing to PLNComments@cityoflondon.gov.uk or the Chief Planning Officer, PO Box 270, Guildhall, London, EC2P 2EJ. In the event that an appeal against a decision of the Council proceeds by way of the expedited procedure, any representations made about the application will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.

CITY OF LONDON

Car owners fork out up to £3,000 extra on claims

ALEX DANIEL
@alexmdaniel

EXTRA costs that come with making a car insurance claim have skyrocketed in recent years, according to research published yesterday, with some drivers forking out up to £3,000 to claim money back after a fire or theft.

Since 2012, the average extra charge for making a claim for fire, theft and accidental damage – known as compulsory excesses – has risen by a quarter. These costs come on top of a basic car insurance premium.

Average excesses for accidental damage claims have risen 26 per cent to £166 since 2012, while theft excesses have risen 25 per cent and the cost of fire-related claims has risen 24 per cent, according to research by Go Compare.

These all come in well above inflation, which was 17.1 per cent between 2012 and 2017, based on the Consumer Prices Index.

Go Compare boss Lee Griffin said: "Policy excesses are a hidden cost for drivers and they have gone up significantly in recent years. There's also a massive difference in the cost of excesses between insurers."

The range of compulsory excesses has also jumped in the past seven years, from between £50 and £475 in 2012, to between £50 and £3,000 this year.

Nearly two-thirds of drivers surveyed said they would have to dip into savings or take out a loan to cover the cost of making a claim.

Last month, experts warned car insurance premiums were going to climb further, after a 3.5 per cent price hike last quarter.

The average charge for making a claim has risen by a quarter since 2012

A survey earlier this year, also by Go Compare, suggested that 50 per cent of motorists think it should be illegal for insurers to charge existing customers more than new customers for the same cover. The research revealed that 61 per cent of participants felt insurers treat existing customers less favourably by charging those who renew their cover higher prices than new customers.

The Competition and Markets Authority and Financial Conduct Authority have both probed the sector, looking at the "loyalty penalty" charged to long-standing customers.

Click and forget: Customers fail to pick up £228m of goods each year

ANNA MENIN
@annafmenin

CLICK and collect services have been touted as a potential way of reviving ailing high streets, but customers are failing to collect £228m of ordered goods per year, new research has found.

One in seven shoppers surveyed admitted to not collecting items they had ordered online, according to research published today by Barclaycard, which also found that 71 per cent of UK adults now use the in-store delivery option. Almost one in three (30 per cent) of those who had failed to pick up their orders said the hassle of the click and collect process was to blame.

Long waiting times and poorly-staffed collection points were also common complaints, with each given as the reason for not collecting an order by a quarter of those surveyed.

Despite these customer grievances, well-run click and collect services do benefit the high street, with 89 per cent of retailers surveyed saying that offering the service had led to increased footfall over the past two years. Almost all retailers (97 per cent) had benefited from additional revenue as a result of offering click and collect.

CITY DASHBOARD YOUR ONE-STOP SHOP FOR BROKER VIEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

LONDON REPORT

Oil majors lead FTSE as Greene King bubbles up

OIL MAJORS and Asia-exposed banks that rose yesterday on moves by China to keep business interest rates low, while pub operator **Greene King** helped mid-caps outshine after agreeing to be bought out.

The FTSE 100 added one per cent, to 7,189.65 points, its biggest one-day rise in more than 10 days. However, a 50 per cent surge in **Greene King** shares helped the FTSE 250 index outperform with a 1.5 per cent rise to 19,097.97.

Shell and **BP** jumped roughly two per cent, tracking a surge in crude prices following a drone attack by Yemen's Houthi group on an oilfield in eastern Saudi Arabia, which caused a fire at a gas plant.

Miners and Asia-focused stocks, led by **HSBC**, also rose after China's central bank announced reforms to help lower borrowing costs for firms and support an economy bruised by the trade war with the US.

Meanwhile, **Lloyds** and **Barclays** advanced after a report in Der Spiegel last week that Germany would be prepared to take on new debt to counter a possible recession.

Ocado added 4.5 per cent, topping the blue-chip index, after JP Morgan hiked its price target and said the online grocer operates "a superior economic model" compared with its store-based rivals.

Greene King, the brewer of Old Speckled Hen and Abbot Ale, surged to a more than three-year high to match a 850p a share offer from CK Asset Holdings, which was founded by Hong Kong's richest man Li Ka-Shing.

The deal, which values Greene King at £2.7bn, lifted shares in rivals **JD Wetherspoon** and **Marston's** by 7.55 per cent and 9.11 per cent, respectively.

Ocado was described as having "a superior economic model"

FTSE 100 constituent and Premier Inn owner **Whitbread** also gained 2.88 per cent.

CYBG added 5.3 per cent after UBS upgraded the stock and said the lender's net interest margin is set to rise from here even in the current rates environment.

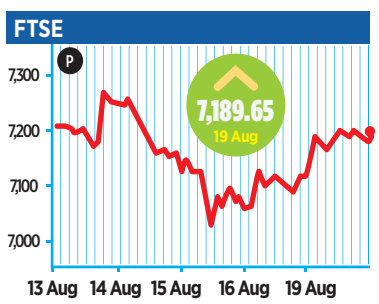
However, despite the rise, the FTSE 100 is still on course for its steepest monthly fall in four years.

TOP RISERS

1. **Ocado** Up 4.60 per cent
2. **Tui** Up 4.10 per cent
3. **Glencore** Up 3.81 per cent

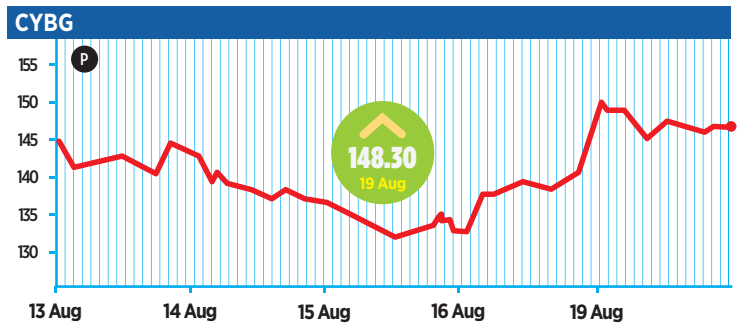
TOP FALLERS

1. **Fresnillo** Down 1.75 per cent
2. **Prudential** Down 1.11 per cent
3. **Sage** Down 0.49 per cent

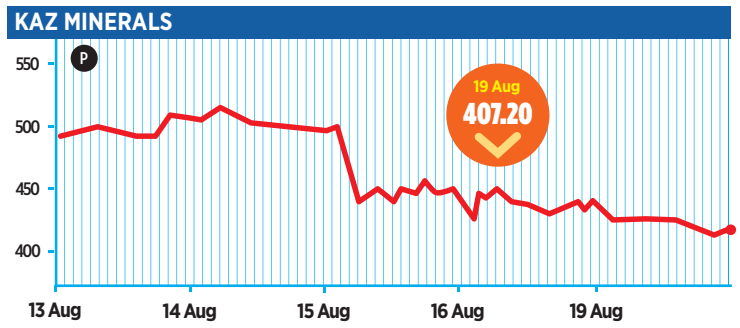


BEST OF THE BROKERS

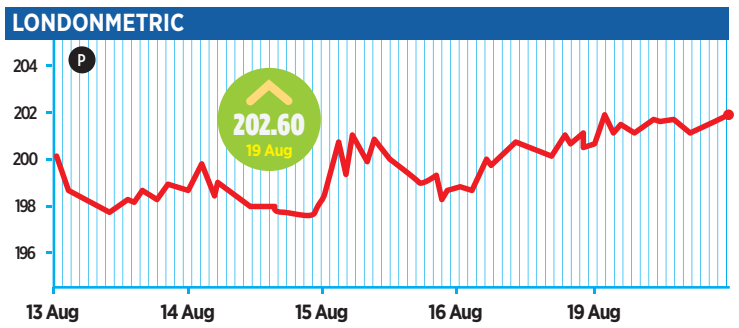
To appear in Best of the Brokers, email your research to notes@cityam.com



Virgin Money-owner CYBG disappointed investors with its results at the end of last month after it said its net interest margins were likely to be at the lower end of its estimates. Shares have fallen 19 per cent so far this year. But analysts at UBS said it was "set to rise from here even in current rates environment". They added: "Stark [private equity] discount to UK peers suggests that Brexit doesn't explain the sharp price fall. The market assumes [net interest margin] to fall further – unlikely we think." They gave it a "Buy" rating and a 170p target price.



Like many mining companies, Kaz Minerals is often at the mercy of geopolitical tension. That was true last week, when it cautioned on the short-term outlook of copper prices amid US-China tensions. Shares have fallen 44 per cent since April. But Peel Hunt analysts said: "We think balance sheet concerns are overdone; management has a track record of securing funding as required." They added: "With copper projects strategically located to supply into the Chinese market, we see this as an opportunity." They gave it a "Buy" rating and a target price of 745p.



Londonmetric yesterday agreed to buy a new distribution warehouse for £24m. The firm said it would improve the quality of its portfolio. Liberum analysts said: "Strong asset management capability drives substantially full occupancy and is complemented by short-cycle development opportunities. The recent acquisition of Mucklow also adds a well-located portfolio which enhances the outlook." They added: "However, we believe the shares are fairly valued." They gave it a "Hold" rating and a 180p target price.

NEW YORK REPORT

Wall St rallies as slowdown fears calmed

REPORTS of stimulus efforts in China and Germany calmed fears of a severe downturn in the global economy, sending US stocks higher yesterday.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 249.78 points, or 0.96 per cent, to 26,135.79, the S&P 500 gained 34.97 points, or 1.21 per cent, to 2,923.65 and the Nasdaq Composite added 106.82 points, or 1.35 per cent, to 8,002.81.

China's central bank unveiled a key interest rate reform on Saturday to help steer borrowing costs lower for companies. On Sunday, German finance minister Olaf Scholz suggested that Berlin could make available up to €50bn (£45.6bn) of extra spending.

"Those are positive stories, and it's fostered a risk-on environment that has persisted throughout the day," said Michael O'Rourke, chief market strategist at JonesTrading in Greenwich, Connecticut. "Investors are glad to see that countries are recognising the risks out there."

Stocks also received a boost as Washington extended by 90 days the window during which China's Huawei, blacklisted by the US government in May, can buy components from American companies to supply existing customers.

Shares of **Apple** provided the biggest boost to the three main Wall Street indexes, rising 1.86 per cent.

US President Donald Trump said on Sunday that he had spoken with Apple boss Tim Cook, who "made a good case" that tariffs could hurt the tech giant.

"You're really seeing some of the trade-sensitive names doing better," said Chris Zaccarelli, chief investment officer of Independent Advisor Alliance in Charlotte, North Carolina. "It's put a boost under risk assets today."

Shares of **Estee Lauder** jumped 12.5 per cent to a record high as the beauty company forecast full-year revenue and profit above estimates, bolstered by booming demand for its premium skincare products in the Asia-Pacific region.

CITY MOVES WHO'S SWITCHING JOBS

MORGAN LEWIS

Morgan Lewis has appointed corporate lawyer Ayesha Waheed, who focuses on international energy and infrastructure transactions, as a partner resident in London. Ayesha has significant experience throughout Europe and in emerging markets in Africa and Asia, particularly south east Asia. She arrives from Latham & Watkins. Ayesha, an England and Wales and New York qualified lawyer, has represented developers and lenders in oil and gas, power generation, and infrastructure projects around the world. She advises on all aspects of structuring, negotiating, and drafting finance and commercial documents in connection with international project financings and privatisations. Ayesha's appointment follows the recent hires of a project finance partner in Boston and corporate partners in London with experience throughout central and eastern Europe and Africa. Earlier this year, Ayesha was recognised for her work by Euromoney LMG in its annual Europe Women in Business Law Awards as Best in Project Finance. She is also ranked as highly regarded by the International Financial Law Review 1000 in three categories: banking; project development; and project finance, and she is recognised for projects by Chambers UK.

SARANAC PARTNERS

Saranac Partners, the private office focused on ultra-high net-worth individuals and families, has appointed of Marc Vowell as client adviser. Marc joins from JP Morgan, where he was an executive director. His career spans over 17 years in banking, starting at Coutts before joining Barclays Wealth. At Saranac, Marc will be working primarily with technology focused clients, offering investment management and broader advisory services. Marc's appointment follows a series of high-profile hires in the client adviser team, with the appointments of Benedicte Perrier-Dordain, Katherine Rees-Oliviere, Salah Alrawi and Yannick Koffigan, all from ACPI.

SATIVA

CBD Wellness and medicinal cannabis Group Sativa has appointed Henry Lees-Buckley as chief executive officer and a director of the company with immediate effect. Henry was previously chief executive of Uni-Select, a Canadian quoted company, with operations in the UK, Canada and the US. Prior to that he was a senior global executive and officer in the US and Canada for WW Grainger, a $15bn (£12.4bn) Fortune 500 company. Henry, who holds dual UK and Canadian citizenship, has held numerous executive level positions both in North America and also Britain. He holds an MBA from Queens University, Kingston, Ontario, has moved to the UK, and from now will operate from Sativa's Somerset headquarters.

To appear in CITYMOVES please email your career updates and pictures to citymoves@cityam.com

FTSE 100	FTSE 250	FTSE ALL SHARE	DOW JONES	NASDAQ	S&P 500
7189.65	19097.97	3936.29	26135.79	8002.81	2923.65
↑ 72.50	↑ 276.12	↑ 42.63	↑ 249.78	↑ 106.82	↑ 34.97

£					
/€	1.0945	↓ 0.0005	€/$	1.1080	↓ 0.0010
/$	1.2126	↓ 0.0019	€/£	0.9133	↑ 0.0006
/¥	129.27	↑ 0.0412	€/¥	118.09	↑ 0.1201

GILTS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Tsy 3.750 19	100.15	-0.03	103.2	100.2
Tsy 2.000 20	101.31	-0.05	102.5	101.3
Tsy 4.750 20	102.28	-0.05	106.3	102.3
Tsy 3.750 20	103.36	-0.06	106.2	103.4
Tsy 2.500 20	355.45	-0.03	361.4	355.2
Tsy 8.000 21	113.56	-0.13	120.2	113.2
Tsy 4.000 22	109.10	-0.16	111.2	109.0
Tsy 0.500 22	100.32	-0.15	100.5	97.7
Tsy 1.875 22	116.75	-0.15	118.3	115.5
Tsy 2.250 23	107.47	-0.22	107.9	104.7
Tsy 2.500 24	375.71	-0.12	377.1	358.7
Tsy 0.125 24	115.11	-0.14	115.6	110.9
Tsy 5.000 25	125.32	-0.30	125.9	122.1
Tsy 4.250 27	131.48	-0.38	132.2	122.6
Tsy 1.250 27	139.91	-0.14	140.1	128.4
Tsy 6.000 28	150.65	-0.37	151.4	140.5
Tsy 0.125 29	133.18	-0.13	133.3	118.8
Tsy 4.750 30	145.87	-0.47	147.0	132.1
Tsy 4.125 30	399.64	-0.13	400.2	355.2
Tsy 4.250 32	143.77	-0.55	145.3	128.5
Tsy 1.250 32	164.74	-0.19	165.3	144.1
Tsy 0.125 36	159.12	-0.13	159.7	133.4
Tsy 4.250 36	152.52	-0.63	154.5	133.1
Tsy 4.750 38	167.77	-0.77	170.4	144.9
Tsy 0.625 40	181.12	-0.25	182.3	152.8
Tsy 4.500 42	172.10	-0.86	175.2	145.9
Tsy 3.500 45	154.46	-0.90	157.5	128.0
Tsy 4.250 46	175.57	-0.94	179.2	145.7
Tsy 4.025 49	182.76	-0.98	186.8	150.0
Tsy 0.500 50	215.50	-0.39	217.4	173.7
Tsy 0.250 52	213.15	-0.36	214.9	168.8

AEROSPACE & DEFENCE

	Price	Chg	High	Low
BAE Systems	552.4	3.4	636.2	443.9
Cobham	162.6	-0.2	168.3	96.8
Meggitt	614.6	5.6	615.4	458.0
QinetiQ Group	274.0	2.0	312.4	267.0
Rolls-Royce Holdi	762.8	8.8	1029.5	730.0
Senior	196.8	-2.6	327.8	185.4
Ultra Electronics	2188.0	34.0	2194.0	1232.0

BANKS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Bank of Georgia G	1332.0	4.0	1878.8	1310.0
Barclays	140.6	0.8	185.2	137.2
Close Brothers Gr	1268.0	11.0	1660.0	1227.0
CYBG	148.3	6.7	348.4	132.7
HSBC Holdings	603.7	6.5	697.1	591.3
Lloyds Banking Gr	49.9	0.3	66.6	48.6
Metro Bank	281.4	6.4	3050.0	269.6
Royal Bank of Sco	184.7	2.5	270.4	177.7
Standard Chartere	618.4	6.0	736.8	519.8
TBC Bank Group	1330.0	30.0	1728.0	1242.0

BEVERAGES

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Barr (A.G.)	619.0	3.0	975.0	610.0
Britvic	866.5	9.0	956.0	745.0
Coca-Cola HBC AG	2715.0	-1.0	3074.0	2244.0
Diageo	3446.0	-6.0	3526.0	2523.5

CHEMICALS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Croda Internation	4688.0	8.0	5447.7	4576.0
Elementis	141.4	3.6	247.8	129.8
Johnson Matthey	2830.0	37.0	3673.0	2620.0
Sirius Minerals	9.0	-0.1	37.0	8.1
Synthomer	298.0	-1.2	532.1	279.8
Victrex plc	1900.0	27.0	3408.0	1844.0

CONSTRUCTION & MATERIALS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Balfour Beatty	226.0	6.6	296.5	194.2
CRH	2650.0	11.0	2735.0	1971.5
Galliford Try	571.0	17.0	1104.0	512.0
Ibstock	209.8	0.2	262.0	193.1
Marshalls	645.5	-9.0	690.0	412.2
Polypipe Group	380.0	6.0	453.8	307.8

ELECTRICITY

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Contour Global	170.0	-2.8	235.2	150.1
Drax Group	270.6	1.8	427.2	260.2
SSE	1113.0	6.0	1268.5	1008.0

ELECTRONIC & ELECTRICAL EQ.

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Halma	1960.0	23.5	2094.0	1237.0
Morgan Advanced M	245.4	3.4	354.0	237.0
Oxford Instrument	1296.0	-16.0	1424.0	842.0
Renishaw	3580.0	68.0	5520.0	3460.0
Spectris	2311.0	52.0	2898.0	1966.5

EQUITY INVESTMENT INSTRUM.

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Aberforth Smaller	1124.0	-2.0	1362.0	1114.0
Alliance Trust	803.0	11.0	838.0	672.0
Apax Global Alpha	158.0	5.0	160.0	127.0
AVI Global Trust	738.0	3.0	781.0	660.0
Baillie Gifford J	790.0	8.0	866.0	663.0
Bankers Inv Trust	935.0	10.0	970.0	766.0
BBGI SICAV S.A. (	155.0	1.0	168.0	142.5
BlackRock Smaller	1356.0	44.0	1490.0	1160.0
BMO Global Smalle	1362.0	12.0	1495.0	1220.0
Caledonia Investm	3040.0	10.0	3110.0	2650.0
City of London In	407.0	5.5	431.5	376.0
Edinburgh Inv Tru	545.0	4.0	695.0	535.0
F&C Investment Tr	706.0	7.0	737.0	616.0
Fidelity China Sp	218.0	4.5	250.0	182.4
Fidelity European	247.0	1.5	257.5	202.0
Fidelity Special	248.5	3.5	277.0	220.0
Finsbury Growth &	929.0	6.0	956.0	740.0
GCP Infrastructur	126.2	0.2	130.8	122.4
Genesis Emerging	759.0	8.0	783.0	615.0
Greencoat UK Wind	138.2	0.8	143.2	123.6
HarbourVest Globa	1700.0	0.0	1726.0	1326.0
Herald Investment	1280.0	10.0	1364.0	1055.0
HGCapital Trust	206.0	3.0	220.0	175.0
HICL Infrastructu	165.6	1.6	170.1	149.9
International Pub	162.0	1.4	163.4	146.8
JPMorgan American	481.5	9.0	494.5	386.5
JPMorgan Emerging	1010.0	10.0	1066.0	759.0
JPMorgan Indian I	723.0	5.0	790.0	566.0
JPMorgan Japanese	450.0	0.0	465.0	367.0
Jupiter European	830.0	16.0	895.0	666.0
Law Debenture Cor	572.0	8.0	624.0	534.0
Mercantile Invest	193.2	1.6	219.0	168.0
Monks Inv Trust	926.0	13.0	964.0	710.0
Murray Internatio	1158.0	18.0	1208.0	1056.0
NB Global Floatin	89.6	0.2	93.0	87.6
NextEnergy Solar	121.0	0.5	124.5	108.0
Pantheon Internat	2275.0	-5.0	2330.0	1955.0
Perpetual Income	290.0	4.0	364.5	284.5
Pershing Square H	1472.0	14.0	1484.0	990.0
Personal Assets T	43100.0	150.0	43100.0	38900.0
Polar Capital Tec	1414.0	24.0	1500.0	1066.0
RIT Capital Partn	2125.0	40.0	2150.0	1892.0
Riverstone Energy	635.0	-10.0	1282.0	630.0
Schroder Asia Pac	448.0	6.0	469.5	379.0
Scottish Inv Trus	810.0	10.0	888.0	748.0
Scottish Mortgage	530.0	10.5	568.5	441.4
Sequoia Economic	117.2	1.6	117.2	106.0
Smithson Investme	1248.0	14.0	1278.0	1000.2
Syncona Limited N	234.0	-1.0	302.5	213.5
Temple Bar Inv Tr	1186.0	12.0	1366.0	1116.0
Templeton Emergin	779.0	13.0	829.0	649.0
The Renewables In	128.2	2.0	133.2	109.3
TR Property Inv T	418.0	2.5	430.5	353.5
Vietnam Enterpris	480.0	0.0	481.0	421.5
VinaCapital Vietn	352.0	-4.5	356.5	318.0
Witan Inv Trust	213.5	2.5	226.4	189.6
Woodford Patient	43.9	-0.3	91.0	40.1
Worldwide Healthc	2800.0	30.0	2915.0	2325.0

FINANCIAL SERVICES

	Price	Chg	High	Low
3i Group	1082.0	12.0	1164.5	756.2
3i Infrastructure	288.5	4.5	303.0	235.5
AJ Bell	383.5	0.5	477.0	220.0
Allied Minds	60.8	4.2	84.2	37.3
Amigo Holdings	147.2	1.8	297.5	140.4
Arrow Global Grou	201.4	8.1	273.0	167.2
ASA International	362.0	-3.0	510.0	320.0
Ashmore Group	477.8	-3.6	542.5	341.2
Brewin Dolphin Ho	299.6	3.0	366.0	287.6
Charter Court Fin	277.0	9.0	375.0	228.8
City of London In	405.0	0.0	440.0	360.0
CMC Markets	87.1	3.7	191.0	77.4
Coats Group	73.5	2.3	91.3	69.8
Georgia Capital	1036.0	6.0	1260.0	941.0
Hargreaves Lansdo	1915.5	17.5	2433.0	1633.0
IG Group Holdings	556.6	4.4	915.0	474.8
IntegraFin Holdin	378.5	-2.5	406.1	269.0
Intermediate Capi	1334.0	13.0	1429.0	899.0
International Per	94.9	0.5	240.2	91.6
Investec	411.9	4.0	561.0	400.7
IP Group	61.6	-0.4	131.2	59.2
John Laing Group	385.2	2.6	402.0	286.0
JTC	360.0	9.0	440.0	287.0
Jupiter Fund Mana	345.0	4.2	432.0	287.6
Liontrust Asset M	738.0	-2.0	816.0	532.0
LMS Capital	52.5	-1.5	54.0	44.0
London Finance &	38.5	0.0	43.5	37.5
London Stock Exch	6928.0	76.0	7058.0	3867.0
Man Group	162.7	-0.5	183.0	126.8
OneSavings Bank	338.0	8.4	447.4	326.6
Paragon Banking G	407.2	9.8	490.0	379.2
Plus500 Ltd (DI)	714.0	8.4	1830.0	495.0
Provident Financi	373.9	3.1	692.6	356.0
Quilter	126.8	-0.3	156.6	110.6
Rathbone Brothers	2205.0	35.0	2634.0	2085.0
Real Estate Credi	169.0	2.0	175.5	163.0
Record	31.4	0.2	42.1	27.3
River and Mercant	260.0	5.0	330.0	212.0
S&U	2070.0	30.0	2605.0	1767.5
Sanne Group	537.0	-14.0	752.0	450.0
Schroders	2725.0	14.0	3210.0	2334.0
Standard Life Abe	242.3	0.5	376.7	224.9
TP ICAP	294.5	5.4	324.5	267.2
Walker Crips Grou	25.0	0.0	39.0	23.3
XPS Pensions Grou	115.0	4.5	180.0	95.0

FIXED LINE TELECOMS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
BT Group	167.4	3.4	264.7	164.0
TalkTalk Telecom	102.4	1.8	137.0	96.6
Telecom Plus	1236.0	-2.0	1528.0	1010.0

FOOD & DRUG RETAILERS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Greggs	2022.0	8.0	2476.0	1006.0
Morrison (Wm) Sup	182.0	1.0	269.4	176.9
Ocado Group	1204.0	53.0	1435.0	749.8
Sainsbury (J)	188.4	5.9	341.5	177.1
SSP Group	709.0	10.0	744.4	615.1
Tesco	219.7	3.6	258.2	189.6
UDG Healthcare Pu	821.0	25.5	822.0	551.0

FOOD PRODUCERS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Associated Britis	2299.0	-4.0	2638.0	2041.0
Bakkavor Group	100.4	-2.2	189.6	93.3
Cranswick	2578.0	2.0	3454.0	2472.0
Greencore Group	205.5	1.5	230.0	162.9
Hilton Food Group	954.0	13.0	1088.0	884.0
Tate & Lyle	705.0	4.8	800.4	633.4
Unilever	5091.0	80.0	5100.0	3931.0

FORESTRY & PAPER

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Mondi	1562.5	25.5	2200.0	1510.5

GAS, WATER & MULTIUTILITIES

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Centrica	66.3	0.9	155.6	64.8
National Grid	867.9	10.2	889.2	748.7
Pennon Group	732.0	14.0	792.8	684.2
Severn Trent	2042.0	35.0	2153.0	1770.0
United Utilities	797.4	15.8	873.6	682.4

GENERAL INDUSTRIALS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Smith (DS)	324.8	11.0	510.6	292.2
Smiths Group	1572.0	18.0	1666.0	1279.5
Smurfit Kappa Gro	2446.0	12.0	3292.0	1934.0
Vesuvius	463.2	6.0	662.0	456.4

GENERAL RETAILERS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Auto Trader Group	524.4	-0.8	606.0	388.5
B&M European Valu	348.0	8.1	426.3	278.6
Card Factory	154.7	0.7	209.0	151.6
Dixons Carphone	108.7	2.4	178.6	104.9
Dunelm Group	865.5	19.5	981.0	482.8
Inchcape	558.5	11.5	703.0	486.6
JD Sports Fashion	601.4	5.4	649.8	318.5
Just Eat	782.2	7.6	812.0	533.8
Kingfisher	194.2	0.8	280.0	191.9
Marks & Spencer G	185.8	4.5	299.1	180.4
Next	5706.0	84.0	6064.0	3991.0
Pets at Home Grou	229.4	7.4	231.8	110.0
Sports Direct Int	240.0	10.2	389.1	214.0
Ted Baker	914.0	12.5	2378.0	800.0
Vivo Energy	119.6	-0.4	148.6	96.0
WH Smith	1950.0	29.0	2186.0	1697.0

HEALTH CARE EQUIPMETN & S.

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Assura	68.0	1.0	68.4	52.4
Convatec Group	185.1	2.2	239.0	118.6
Mediclinic Intern	308.2	3.8	498.7	293.4
NMC Health	1900.0	49.0	4120.0	1796.0
Smith & Nephew	1916.5	19.0	1924.5	1258.0

HHOLD GDS & HOME CONSTR.

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Barratt Developme	626.2	6.6	663.0	434.0
Bellway	2850.0	49.0	3226.0	2419.0
Berkeley Group Ho	3876.0	47.0	3981.0	3226.0
Bovis Homes Group	1038.0	10.0	1177.0	828.0
Countryside Prope	289.6	7.2	353.2	270.0
Crest Nicholson H	340.6	5.8	404.8	296.4
McCarthy & Stone	136.0	0.4	142.7	109.8
Persimmon	1862.0	21.0	2489.0	1836.0
Reckitt Benckiser	6193.0	23.0	7155.0	5593.0
Redrow	556.0	13.0	674.6	460.8
Taylor Wimpey	146.2	2.6	192.3	129.3

INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Bodycote	674.0	7.5	1017.0	654.0
Hill & Smith Hold	1135.0	3.0	1306.0	902.5
IMI	934.2	8.6	1227.0	870.0
Melrose Industrie	167.4	3.4	233.9	146.3
RHI Magnesita N.V	4250.0	26.0	5000.0	3318.0
Rotork	301.5	5.9	342.8	235.7
Spirax-Sarco Engi	7815.0	30.0	9400.0	5900.0
Weir Group	1318.0	41.0	1920.0	1240.0

INDUSTRIAL METALS & MINING

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Evraz	503.0	7.0	709.4	442.1
Ferrexpo	219.0	7.9	301.3	143.5

INDUSTRIAL TRANSPORTATION

	Price	Chg	High	Low
BBA Aviation	308.0	3.2	324.8	207.0
Clarkson	2550.0	115.0	2900.0	1878.0
Fisher (James) &	2090.0	20.0	2260.0	1600.0
Royal Mail	199.8	7.1	489.0	188.4

NON LIFE INSURANCE

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Admiral Group	2175.0	25.0	2300.0	1932.5
Beazley	587.5	-5.0	599.0	492.6
Direct Line Insur	299.0	1.1	366.5	292.6
Hastings Group Ho	180.7	0.4	274.2	174.0
Hiscox Limited (D	1598.0	-3.0	1777.0	1418.0
Lancashire Holdin	705.0	-5.5	725.5	530.0
RSA Insurance Gro	528.0	7.0	641.0	496.6
Sabre Insurance G	266.0	2.5	294.0	249.0

LIFE INSURANCE

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Aviva	363.5	2.8	497.0	357.6
Legal & General G	227.2	0.6	291.2	222.0
Phoenix Group Hol	671.8	15.2	724.8	544.0
Prudential	1399.0	-16.5	1814.5	1340.0
St James's Place	937.0	-3.0	1164.5	914.0

MEDIA

	Price	Chg	High	Low
4Imprint Group	2900.0	50.0	2940.0	1800.0
Ascential	377.0	3.2	434.8	337.2
Bloomsbury Publis	225.0	0.0	243.0	190.5
Centaur Media	37.9	0.8	56.5	34.7
Entertainment One	400.2	1.8	483.4	336.4
Euromoney Institu	1314.0	4.0	1412.0	1132.0
Future	1044.0	40.0	1248.0	399.0
Goco Group	81.0	1.0	113.4	64.6
Haynes Publishing	220.0	-1.0	227.0	160.0
Huntsworth	95.4	-0.6	125.0	81.0
Informa	850.2	5.0	892.0	605.8
ITE Group	71.8	-0.6	83.7	56.3
ITV	109.8	2.9	167.5	103.6
Moneysupermarket.	357.6	0.6	417.7	264.0
Pearson	823.2	8.8	1027.5	769.2
Reach	93.7	0.7	96.5	54.6
Relx plc	1947.5	22.0	1978.0	1491.5
Rightmove	524.0	7.0	585.1	420.9
STV Group	384.0	24.0	423.5	318.0
WPP	959.2	6.6	1301.0	800.4

MINING

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Acacia Mining	251.0	1.6	256.6	96.1
Anglo American	1739.6	41.2	2266.0	1464.6
Antofagasta	815.4	24.2	1022.5	727.2
BHP Group	1781.4	26.2	2049.0	1490.6
Centamin (DI)	136.5	-2.2	141.6	79.8
Fresnillo	652.0	-11.6	1027.5	601.0
Glencore	233.0	8.6	341.5	222.2
Hochschild Mining	201.8	-8.0	226.0	149.1
Kaz Minerals	407.2	-27.3	738.4	407.2
Polymetal Interna	1079.5	-5.0	1091.0	597.2
Rio Tinto	4065.0	60.0	4976.5	3486.0

MOBILE TELECOMS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Inmarsat	579.0	4.2	585.8	362.8
Vodafone Group	150.3	-0.5	176.6	123.3

OIL & GAS PRODUCERS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
BP	500.1	9.9	598.3	485.9
Cairn Energy	163.3	7.5	244.0	140.0
Energean Oil & Ga	1026.0	6.0	1082.0	510.0
Premier Oil	70.9	3.9	143.6	55.6
Royal Dutch Shell	2315.0	42.0	2666.0	2213.0
Royal Dutch Shell	2304.5	39.0	2705.5	2227.0
Tullow Oil	209.8	7.3	266.3	165.2

OIL EQUIPMENT & SERVICES

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Hunting	444.2	15.8	849.0	414.2
Petrofac Ltd.	400.8	8.5	663.4	381.5
Wood Group (John)	450.8	17.8	796.4	389.9

PERSONAL GOODS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Burberry Group	2117.0	15.0	2345.0	1623.5
PZ Cussons	202.0	-0.5	244.0	178.6

PHARMACEUTICALS & BIOTECH

	Price	Chg	High	Low
AstraZeneca	7281.0	25.0	7354.0	5325.0
Dechra Pharmaceut	2906.0	12.0	3144.0	2014.0
Genus	2562.0	30.0	2884.0	2098.0
GlaxoSmithKline	1664.6	6.6	1730.0	1418.0
Hikma Pharmaceuti	2035.0	34.0	2035.0	1510.5
PureTech Health	290.0	4.0	294.0	154.8

REAL ESTATE INVEST. & SERV.

	Price	Chg	High	Low
BMO Commercial Pr	109.2	-0.8	149.4	106.0
Capital & Countie	189.6	1.1	279.5	184.9
CLS Holdings	233.5	9.0	255.0	195.4
Daejan Holdings	5550.0	40.0	6190.0	5410.0
Grainger	235.4	4.2	278.5	205.8
NewRiver REIT	154.4	6.8	265.5	147.4
Safestore Holding	639.5	17.5	658.5	499.4
Savills	839.0	12.5	957.0	678.5
St. Modwen Proper	390.0	5.0	441.5	365.0
UK Commercial Pro	83.4	-0.1	92.7	80.2

REAL ESTATE INVEST. TRUSTS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Big Yellow Group	983.5	8.5	1062.0	852.5
British Land Comp	485.2	7.4	641.8	468.3
Derwent London	3078.0	34.0	3328.0	2761.0
Great Portland Es	675.8	7.8	773.6	649.4
Hammerson	209.5	2.9	492.4	203.9
Intu Properties	36.4	-0.2	201.5	34.4
Land Securities G	751.4	7.8	939.5	735.4
LondonMetric Prop	202.6	1.0	215.2	172.7
Primary Health Pr	131.2	0.2	139.0	106.4
SEGRO	757.4	13.0	789.0	585.2
Shaftesbury	770.0	13.0	928.5	739.5
Tritax Big Box Re	144.3	0.5	159.7	129.0
Unite Group	1043.0	-1.0	1076.0	797.5
Workspace Group	822.0	8.5	1075.0	789.5

SOFTWARE & COMPUTER SERV.

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Avast	362.4	-6.6	372.5	229.6
Aveva Group	3794.0	20.0	4170.0	2284.0
Computacenter	1403.0	-6.0	1546.0	952.0
FDM Group (Holdin	760.0	-7.0	1000.0	734.0
Funding Circle Ho	123.2	6.2	440.0	99.0
Kainos Group	497.0	-2.0	676.0	354.0
Micro Focus Inter	1597.6	-0.2	2491.6	1434.4
Playtech	380.0	6.5	532.0	361.8
Sage Group	695.6	-3.4	820.4	525.6
Softcat	949.0	6.5	993.5	565.0
Sophos Group	381.6	-13.9	539.5	298.2

SUPPORT SERVICES

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Aggreko	796.8	7.0	882.0	691.8
Ashtead Group	2124.0	33.0	2438.0	1586.5
BCA Marketplace	241.6	-0.2	247.0	178.5
Bunzl	2037.0	5.0	2551.0	2022.0
Capita	123.1	1.7	150.2	99.9
DCC	6636.0	70.0	7390.0	5555.0
Diploma	1455.0	14.0	1634.0	1150.0
Electrocomponents	567.4	14.6	761.6	480.0
Equiniti Group	199.8	4.8	266.0	186.2
Essentra	407.4	1.4	473.8	325.4
Experian	2534.0	16.0	2558.0	1728.5
Ferguson	6030.0	64.0	6556.0	4749.0
G4S	171.7	1.2	252.4	167.4
Grafton Group Uni	695.0	24.5	937.0	630.0
Hays	146.9	1.2	212.0	135.7
Homeserve	1108.0	19.0	1263.0	849.0
Howden Joinery Gr	531.6	13.2	573.4	416.4
Intertek Group	5522.0	52.0	5962.0	4387.0
Network Internati	592.0	19.0	628.0	500.0
Pagegroup	440.8	-2.6	623.5	415.0
PayPoint	916.0	15.0	1118.0	748.0
Rentokil Initial	458.6	4.2	459.2	284.8
Robert Walters	558.0	6.0	475.0	814.0
Serco Group	141.2	-0.7	147.4	84.1
SIG	120.7	3.9	153.0	102.2
Travis Perkins	1212.5	31.5	1465.0	970.0

TOBACCO

	Price	Chg	High	Low
British American	3036.5	7.5	4222.5	2375.0
Imperial Brands	2111.5	22.5	2987.5	1846.8

TRAVEL & LEISURE

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Carnival	3592.0	68.0	5000.0	3412.0
Cineworld Group	228.1	5.7	323.6	212.0
Compass Group	2058.0	20.0	2110.0	1483.0
Domino's Pizza Gr	226.3	5.1	297.2	218.9
EI Group	283.4	2.4	285.2	155.8
FirstGroup	124.7	1.6	125.6	79.3
Flutter Entertain	6488.0	-22.0	7290.0	5525.0
Go-Ahead Group	2086.0	96.0	2200.0	1480.0
Greene King	850.0	287.0	865.8	472.8
GVC Holdings	579.6	13.0	1110.0	507.5
InterContinental	5185.0	64.0	5738.0	3958.4
International Con	423.9	2.1	711.4	413.5
Marston's	115.0	9.6	124.7	89.9
Merlin Entertainm	453.3	1.3	453.9	307.1
Millennium & Copt	680.0	-5.0	685.0	436.0
Mitchells & Butle	324.0	17.5	327.5	238.0
National Express	426.6	3.0	438.4	361.4
PPHE Hotel Group	1790.0	-10.0	1990.0	1495.0
Rank Group	152.8	-1.8	183.6	135.0
Restaurant Group	145.5	7.9	221.9	111.9
Stagecoach Group	129.4	1.4	177.0	115.5
TUI AG Reg Shs (D	777.4	30.6	1475.5	698.0
Wetherspoon (J.D.	1582.0	111.0	1594.0	1066.0
Whitbread	4215.0	118.0	5114.0	3969.0
William Hill	159.3	6.9	265.5	132.3
Wizz Air Holdings	3438.0	19.0	3769.0	2329.0

AIM 50

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Abcam	1208.0	1.0	1539.0	1017.0
Advanced Medical	313.0	11.5	359.0	260.0
Alliance Pharma	69.6	-2.4	95.0	60.0
ASOS	2331.0	81.0	6192.0	2107.0
Blue Prism Group	950.0	30.5	2575.0	888.8
Camellia	9900.0	-200.0	11750.0	9100.0
CareTech Holding	365.0	-3.0	406.0	325.0
Central Asia Meta	185.8	5.8	266.5	178.9
Clinigen Group	904.0	-6.5	1069.0	721.0
CVS Group	873.5	5.5	1023.0	395.0
Dart Group	736.0	14.5	1017.0	709.5
Diversified Gas &	97.2	0.2	134.0	96.6
Draper Esprit	469.0	-16.0	635.0	458.0
Eland Oil & Gas	122.8	3.2	134.0	97.0
EMIS Group	1116.0	0.0	1242.0	864.0
Fevertree Drinks	2222.0	73.0	3956.0	2070.0
First Derivatives	2370.0	135.0	4330.0	2050.0
Frontier Developm	898.0	-2.0	1385.0	740.0
Gamma Communicati	1055.0	5.0	1195.0	688.0
GB Group	562.0	-1.0	631.0	410.5
Gooch & Housego	1040.0	-5.0	1880.0	954.0
Hurricane Energy	41.0	2.1	60.8	38.5
Impax Asset Manag	230.5	0.5	295.0	184.0
Iomart Group	327.5	5.5	475.0	308.0
IQE	56.8	0.8	104.0	51.6
James Halstead	492.0	-16.0	532.0	367.0
Johnson Service G	169.0	0.0	176.0	113.6
Keywords Studios	1505.0	12.0	2065.0	900.0
Learning Technolo	117.4	3.8	166.5	62.2
M&C Saatchi	217.0	-12.0	394.0	216.0
M. P. Evans Group	682.0	1.0	800.0	637.0
Midwich Group	510.0	20.0	685.0	490.0
Mortgage Advice B	600.0	34.0	720.0	490.0
Naked Wines	265.0	-1.5	420.5	219.0
Next Fifteen Comm	584.0	4.0	658.0	469.0
Nichols	1750.0	-20.0	1880.0	1240.0
Numis Corporation	226.5	1.5	422.0	221.5
Polar Capital Hol	526.0	2.0	644.0	448.0
Purplebricks Grou	122.0	-2.8	300.0	90.0
Redde	112.0	-0.8	196.0	90.0
Renew Holdings	395.0	0.0	436.5	333.0
RWS Holdings	587.0	6.0	652.0	415.5
Scapa Group	222.0	5.0	473.4	157.0
Secure Income Rei	433.0	7.0	435.0	371.0
Serica Energy	105.4	0.8	142.0	74.9
Smart Metering Sy	454.6	-1.0	665.0	451.0
Telford Homes	348.0	-0.5	430.0	267.0
Thorpe (F.W.)	327.0	2.0	340.0	248.0
Watkin Jones	217.0	-1.0	232.5	192.2
Young & Co's Brew	1610.0	-30.0	1885.0	1322.5
Young & Co's Brew	1130.0	0.0	1275.0	1030.0

MAIN CHANGES UK 350

Risers ↑		%
Greene King	850.0	51.0
Marston's	115.0	9.1
Wetherspoon (J.D.)	1582.0	7.6
Premier Oil	70.9	5.8
Restaurant Group	145.5	5.7
Mitchells & Butler	324.0	5.7
Funding Circle Hol	123.2	5.3
Go-Ahead Group	2086.0	4.8
Cairn Energy	163.3	4.8
Clarkson	2550.0	4.7

Fallers ↓		%
Kaz Minerals	407.2	-6.3
Hochschild Mining	201.8	-3.8
Sophos Group	381.6	-3.5
Sanne Group	537.0	-2.5
Bakkavor Group	100.4	-2.1
Avast	362.4	-1.8
Fresnillo	652.0	-1.8
Contour Global	170.0	-1.6
Centamin (DI)	136.5	-1.6
Riverstone Energy	635.0	-1.6

EU SHARES

	Price	Chg	High	Low
AB INBEV	86.57	0.94	92.71	56.32
ADIDAS N	260.05	2.45	297.95	178.30
AIR LIQUIDE	123.45	0.25	127.20	101.85
AIRBUS BR	124.78	1.76	133.86	77.50
ALLIANZ	201.65	2.97	218.70	170.50
AMADEUS IT GRP BR-A	68.28	1.04	82.20	58.06
ASML HLDG	195.08	3.66	211.50	130.12
AXA	21.72	0.20	23.99	18.40
BANCO SANTANDER	3.55	-0.04	4.68	3.42
BASF N	58.22	1.22	81.73	55.72
BAYER N	66.27	1.78	84.35	52.00
BBVA	4.27	-0.10	5.79	4.19
BMW	60.45	0.81	86.71	58.10
BNP PARIBAS A	40.80	0.19	55.34	38.14
CRH PLC	29.03	0.12	34.87	26.53
DAIMLER N	42.00	0.83	59.90	40.35
DANONE	80.54	0.44	80.54	59.72
DEUTSCHE POST N	28.89	0.44	32.20	23.43
DEUTSCHE TELEKOM N	15.02	0.09	15.88	13.36
ENEL N	6.36	0.07	6.62	4.22
ENGIE	13.63	0.17	14.39	11.31
ENI N	13.27	0.23	16.67	12.92
ESSILORLUXOTT	128.55	1.30	131.80	95.50
FRESENIUS	43.62	1.11	69.76	38.50
IBERDROLA	9.30	0.05	9.36	5.68
INDITEX	26.61	0.62	28.86	21.85
ING GROUP	8.49	-0.09	12.14	8.20
INTESA SANPAOLO N	1.91	0.03	2.47	1.80
KERING	437.95	5.65	539.80	351.70
KON AH DEL BR	20.84	-0.15	24.01	18.60
L'OREAL	237.60	4.30	257.80	182.00
LINDE	170.25	1.20	0.00	0.00
LVMH	356.85	8.40	392.65	242.30
MUENCHENER RUECKV N	220.00	3.70	228.70	180.50
NOKIA	4.70	0.08	5.76	4.17
ORANGE	13.60	0.14	15.25	13.08
ROY.PHILIPS	42.00	0.35	43.67	29.05
SAFRAN	126.95	0.65	137.20	99.98
SANOFI	77.24	1.25	80.44	71.74
SAP I	107.84	0.64	125.00	84.02
SCHNEIDER EL	73.06	0.42	81.36	57.54
SIEMENS N	87.41	1.42	114.10	84.72
SOCIETE GENERALE	22.38	0.31	35.01	20.81
TELEFONICA	6.11	0.10	8.06	5.86
TOTAL	44.15	0.92	55.39	42.65
UNILEVER	54.35	1.01	55.40	45.30
VINCI	97.46	1.98	97.46	69.98
VIVENDI	25.67	0.20	26.69	20.80
VOLKSWAGEN VZ I	142.60	2.26	163.70	131.02

COMMODITIES

Gold	1515.25	-0.40
Silver	17.16	-0.13
Brent Crude	58.64	0.41
Krugerrand	1539.15	-1.05
Palladium	1447.00	16.00
Platinum	834.00	-6.00
Tin Cash Official	16925.00	-125.00
Lead Cash Official	2045.00	1.00
Zinc Cash Official	2262.00	1.00

Copper Cash Official	5695.50	14.50
Aluminium Cash Official	1742.50	12.00
Nickel Cash Official	15990.00	90.00
Aluminium Alloy Cash Official	1250.00	14.00
Cocoa Futures	2113.00	-26.00
Coffee 'C' Futures	95.13	-1.22
Feed Wheat Futures	137.00	-0.60
Soybeans Futures Continuation Contract	853.60	-13.40

CREDIT & RATES

BoE IR Overnight	0.750	0.00
BoE IR 7 days	0.750	0.00
BoE IR 1 month	0.750	0.00
BoE IR 3 months	0.750	0.00
BoE IR 6 months	0.750	0.00
LIBOR Euro - overnight	-0.468	0.00
LIBOR Euro - 12 months	-0.428	0.00
LIBOR USD - overnight	2.099	0.00
LIBOR USD - 12 months	1.945	0.00
Halifax mortgage rate	3.990	0.00

Euro Base Rate	0.000	0.00
Finance house base rate	1.000	0.00
US Fed funds	2.50	0.00
US long bond yield	2.08	0.07
Euro Euribor	-0.403	0.00
The vix index	16.88	-1.59
The baltic dry index	2088.00	41.00
Markit iBoxx EUR	249.38	-0.84
Markit iBoxx GBP	357.75	-1.58
Markit iBoxx USD	263.39	-0.01

WORLD INDICES

	Price	Chg	%chg
FTSE 100	7189.65	72.50	1.02
FTSE 250	19097.97	276.12	1.47
FTSE All-Share	3936.29	42.63	1.09
FTSE AIM All-Share	864.41	4.43	0.52
S&P 500	2923.65	34.97	1.21
Dow Jones I.A.	26135.79	249.78	0.96
Nasdaq Composite	8002.81	106.82	1.35
Xetra DAX	11715.37	152.63	1.32
CAC 40	5371.56	70.77	1.34
Swiss Market Index	9825.59	97.20	1.00
ISEQ Overall Index	5813.52	40.25	0.70
FTSEurofirst 300	1471.93	15.79	1.08
Hang Seng	26291.84	557.62	2.17
Shanghai Composite	2883.10	59.27	2.10
STI Index	3127.38	12.73	0.41
ASX All Ordinaries	6550.50	64.60	1.00

US SHARES

	Price	Chg	High	Low
3M	162.95	1.45	219.75	155.63
ABBOTT LABORATOR	85.56	0.78	88.76	64.03
ADOBE	287.97	0.52	313.11	204.95
ALPHAB RG-C-NV	1198.45	20.85	1289.27	970.11
ALPHABET-A	1200.44	21.23	1296.98	977.66
AMAZON.COM	1816.12	23.55	2050.50	1307.00
AMERICAN EXPRESS	124.40	-0.23	129.34	89.05
APPLE	210.35	3.85	233.47	142.00
AT&T	35.38	0.41	35.44	26.80
BANK OF AMERICA	27.27	0.24	31.49	22.66
BERKSHIRE HATH RG-B	200.94	1.22	224.07	186.10
BOEING CO	333.78	3.33	446.01	292.47
CATERPILLAR	117.36	0.93	159.37	112.06
CHEVRON	117.31	1.50	127.60	100.22
CISCO SYSTEMS	48.50	1.54	58.26	40.25
CITIGROUP	64.31	0.83	75.24	48.42
COCA-COLA CO	54.69	0.28	54.82	44.25
COMCAST-A	44.00	0.82	45.30	32.61
DOW	45.60	1.09	0.00	0.00
EXXON MOBIL	69.45	1.15	87.36	64.65
FACEBOOK-A	186.17	2.47	208.66	123.02
GOLDMAN SACHS GR	202.20	2.78	245.08	151.70
HOME DEPOT	207.95	4.30	219.30	158.09
IBM	135.04	1.28	154.36	105.94
INTEL	47.23	0.73	59.59	42.36
JOHNSON & JOHNSO	132.25	0.89	148.99	121.00
JPMORGAN CHASE	108.69	0.97	119.24	91.11
MASTERCARD RG-A	278.07	3.71	283.33	171.89
MCDONALD'S	218.78	0.31	221.93	156.56
MEDTRONIC	104.18	1.42	104.43	81.66
MERCK	86.19	1.13	87.07	66.10
MICROSOFT	138.41	2.28	141.68	93.96
NETFLIX	309.38	6.58	386.80	231.23
NIKE -B-	81.13	0.85	90.00	66.53
ORACLE	53.87	0.28	60.50	42.40
PAYPAL HOLDINGS	107.67	1.51	121.48	74.66
PEPSICO	132.57	0.81	135.24	104.53
PEPSICO	118.61	0.56	119.74	101.06
PFIZER	35.18	0.53	46.47	33.97
PHILIP MRRS INT	85.01	0.10	92.74	64.67
PROCTER&GAMBLE	120.24	1.06	121.76	78.49
TRAVELERS COS	147.58	0.77	155.09	111.08
TWITTER	41.70	1.12	43.48	26.19
UNITEDHEALTH GRO	244.71	-0.98	287.94	208.07
UTD TECHS	126.64	1.59	144.40	100.48
VERIZON COMM	57.00	0.35	61.58	52.28
VISA RG-A	179.74	1.51	184.07	121.60
WALGREENS BOOTS	51.16	0.68	86.31	49.12
WALMART	113.81	0.82	115.49	85.78
WALT DISNEY	135.29	0.09	147.15	100.35
WELLS FARGO	45.25	0.86	59.53	43.02

FORUM

EDITED BY RACHEL CUNLIFFE

Give Corbyn the credit he is due as a key Brexit architect

Robert Colvile

WHEN the history books are written, Boris Johnson may well be remembered as the man who delivered Brexit. But there is someone else who would deserve almost as much credit for Britain's departure from the EU: Jeremy Bernard Corbyn.

Admittedly, Corbyn's current role in enabling Brexit is mostly involuntary. It turns out that he is so galactically unpopular with his fellow parliamentarians, with the prospect of him becoming Prime Minister (even on a time-limited basis) so monumentally unthinkable, that the forces of Remain can barely envisage rallying behind him. Hence the desperate and probably doomed casting round for a potential alternative that we continue to see.

But the truth is that, throughout the Brexit process, Jezza is one of the politicians who has most consistently delivered the goods for the Leave side.

Let's start with the referendum itself. Tim Shipman's book about the campaign, All Out War, devotes an entire chapter to the many and varied ways in which Corbyn and his team sabotaged the Remain effort.

Alan Johnson, who headed the Labour In campaign, found himself effectively blanked by his leader. Leaflets were printed and never sent. Press releases were delayed. Seamus Milne, Corbyn's consigliere, made sure to remove phrases like "Labour are united behind Remain".

Days in the Remain campaign's grid were allocated to Labour, but never used. When Corbyn did make speeches, they were mostly rambling complaints about the EU's flaws, with a grudging "but vote for it anyway" at the end.

This shouldn't be surprising. Like his mentor Tony Benn, Corbyn is an old-fashioned hard-left anti-European. He is one of the few people in Britain who believes that the real problem with the EU is that it is too friendly to Anglo-Saxon capitalism.

He voted against the Maastricht treaty. His shadow chancellor, John McDonnell, produced a "manifesto for 21st-century socialism" which included "opposition to an undemocratic EU dominated by corporate interests" as one of its central planks.

On bumping into Labour's few eurosceptics during the campaign, Corbyn wished them good luck.

The impact was clear. Throughout the referendum campaign, staggering numbers of Labour voters did not realise which side their party was actually on. Days after the vote, Labour MPs voted 172-40 that they had no confidence in Corbyn's leadership – because he had so obviously tanked the campaign.

Despite this, some Corbyn fanatics will insist that their man really did do his best. The truth is that Corbyn approached campaigning for Remain in the same way that my toddler approaches bedtime – he knows it has to happen, but he's damned if he's going to make it easy for anyone.

In the wake of the vote, Labour spent years attempting to keep both Remain and Leave voters happy – an increasingly impossible task. Corbyn kept trying to ride both horses even as they were galloping in opposite directions.

> He approached campaigning for Remain like my toddler approaches bedtime – he knows it has to happen, but he's damned if he's going to make it easy for anyone

Gradually, grudgingly, the weight of pressure from Labour's supporters, MPs and affiliates pushed him and his team in the Remain direction. But like the famous paradox of Zeno's arrow, Corbyn always seemed to be in the process of moving towards the people's vote position without ever actually getting there.

Even when Labour was shellacked at the European elections – losing swathes of voters to the Liberal Democrats with their "Bollocks to Brexit" platform – the Corbyn team still insisted that their priority was to get their man into Number 10, then negotiate their own deal (which would magically please both Leavers and Remainers alike by simultaneously offering all the benefits of membership and of withdrawal).

As for the next few crucial weeks, it does appear that the prospect of Corbyn as PM – to many MPs – outweighs even the threat of no-deal.

And they've got a point.

Even the Bank of England's worst-case Brexit scenario – designed as a truly apocalyptic stress-test of the banking system in which the authorities were lunatic enough to tighten monetary policy in the middle of a no-deal departure – is still positively rosy compared to the experience of those countries whose hard-left governments Corbyn and his clique have explicitly held up as economic role models (Venezuela, Cuba and Bolivia being the most obvious).

That's without mentioning Corbyn's foreign policy positions, in particular his long history of associating with and championing this nation's enemies.

No one can know exactly what will happen over the next two months. It may still be that a Remain coalition will assemble behind Corbyn. But it will nonetheless be true that, both as head of the Leave campaign and now as head of a Leave government, Boris Johnson has not been just lucky in his enemy, but positively blessed.

Robert Colvile is a political commentator.

Only Connect: Bureaucratic boroughs risk holding London back in the 5G race

Russ Shaw

DESPITE the hype around the latest handsets and a commitment from the new cabinet to prioritise connectivity, London risks losing out on the 5G opportunity.

Much has been made of the country's struggles to keep up with international competitors in the race to deliver world-class connectivity, while our imminent departure from the EU places greater onus on putting the UK at the forefront of network innovation – crucial to its appeal as a global business hub.

Before sizing up international rivals, however, London must address some fundamental issues that could not only see it fall behind globally, but to challengers within its own borders.

Unlike areas such as fintech, where the Square Mile's financial heritage provided the foundation for excellence, the capital does not have the same advantage for 5G. To the contrary, London has a unique set of challenges that make it less capable of delivering the network than other UK cities.

First, the financial restrictions of the boroughs mean that most do not have the capacity to deliver 5G strategies. A shortage of public funding is not unique to London, but the varying financial situations in each area bring different timelines and deals with telecoms companies. This makes a cohesive roll-out a far more difficult proposition.

Second, consider the practicalities of co-ordinating conversations with an array of stakeholders – including businesses, land owners, and network operators. Although a challenge in any city, doing so across 33 different boroughs presents a unique logistical task.

This plurality particularly impacts the relationship with network operators, with many deterred by the need to negotiate the same deal with every borough.

In contrast, one meeting with the right stakeholders in a city like Manchester could result in a 5G agreement and citywide roll-out.

London may well be committed to making 5G a reality, but with bureaucratic obstacles and high costs putting off network operators from investing, it won't get far. In a few years' time, London could actually be one of the worst cities in the UK for 5G coverage – an unacceptable scenario when the capital's global future is already under question.

To avoid this, City Hall must align the boroughs under the same policy, proactively encourage investment, and foster collaboration between the complex blend of stakeholders.

This must start with network operators – the key ally in London's 5G mission. The under-resourcing of the boroughs makes their support vital, from providing street furniture to strategic support. This means encouraging them to invest by highlighting the value of 5G as a means to expand their businesses, for example by giving providers access to internet of things technologies that enable better customer service.

Despite being the premier tech hub in the UK, the nuances in infrastructure and policy that characterise London could risk it falling behind. The importance of connectivity to London's ambitions means that it can't afford to lose the domestic 5G race.

City Hall must urgently smooth the path to a cohesive roll-out by bringing the necessary stakeholders to the table, to cement London's status at the helm of UK innovation and give the city a chance to thrive internationally after Brexit.

Russ Shaw is founder of Tech London Advocates and Global Tech Advocates.

LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR

Lingua Angla?

[Re: The English way hurts our chances of success]

National trends, which show a decline in modern language study, should be of great concern to us all for more than just economic reasons. More than ever before, young Britons need to demonstrate their openness to the world, and the study of modern languages reflects a cultural ambition that will be vital in a post-Brexit Britain – whatever it looks like.

The young generations of today are increasingly likely to be competing for jobs in a global market. Positions are being competed for by non-native speakers of English from across the globe, who have other languages to boot. We often assume that by speaking a world language (English) we have an in-built advantage against them – this is not the case.

There are clearly a number of reasons for a wider UK fall in modern language studies. The difficulty of learning a language, the fact that modern languages are no longer compulsory at GCSE in many schools, and the belief that most people speak English – all have had their impact. Now there's also the added uncertainty about whether study abroad programmes will still be possible after Brexit, which undoubtedly will have made some future university students question choosing such courses.

These must be addressed: now is the time to embrace a global Britain, not to retreat within our shores.

Adam Pettitt, head, Highgate School, London

BEST OF TWITTER

EU citz & fam members with "settled status" (indefinite leave to remain, ILR) or "pre-settled" (limited leave to remain, LLTR) don't *need* EU rights of FMoPeople to come & go from UK. That's because their ILR/LLTR gives them the right under UK law to come & go from UK.
@SimonFRCox

Home Office factsheet commendably aims to reassure resident EU citizens – but simply ignores key Q of how employers, NHS etc distinguish between pre and post Brexit arrivals. Presumably because they haven't got a clue.
@jdportes

Thought Home Office had learned from the unfortunate incident where a minister's remarks had to be rapidly clarified after causing panic about their interpretation in practice. Symbolic virtue-signalling about ending FoM doesn't help w/calm planning + prep
@AllieRenison

The Government are going to spend a lot of taxpayers' money telling the public their own no-deal planning document is a lie. That'll work.
@joswinson

The government's great No Deal wheeze,
As Op Yellowhammer foresees,
Means shortages, riots
And limited diets –
A little bit of bread and no cheese.
@itwitmericks

WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR VIEWS E: theforum@cityam.com **COMMENT AT:** cityam.com/forum : @cityam

Business must come together to reform and save the WTO

Chris Southworth

THE WORLD Trade Organisation (WTO) – the linchpin of the global trading system – is far from secure in the current political climate. The challenges are myriad – and not just because of President Donald Trump's hostility to the organisation.

Besides the well-publicised loss of confidence in the WTO's dispute settlement function, there are a host of countries which should not still be trading on preferential terms, state-owned enterprises skewing global markets, and a small number of developing nations stalling progress by exercising their power to veto.

Marry this with rapid advancements in technology and changes in consumer behaviour, and it's no wonder we are left with widespread frustration, increasing unilateral action, protectionism, and a largely defunct Appellate Body (the trade dispute settlement system within the WTO).

The world has moved on since 1995 – when the WTO was created – and the system needs modernising.

The US under Trump has been the most vocal in raising concerns, as well as the most aggressive in action. But it is far from alone in its belief that the WTO needs reform.

Governments from developed and developing markets alike accept the need for change, as do the major international institutions. Sadly, despite constructive dialogue by countries such as Canada and Japan, the organisation's future remains uncertain.

Fledgling reforms are underway. The WTO is beginning to pursue more pragmatic, flexible approaches to negotiations – such as the plurilateral workstreams on digital trade, SMEs, domestic regulation and investment facilitation. These can unlock progress for those that want it, while leaving the door open for others to participate when ready. The WTO is also working to respond to the legitimate needs of developing countries to integrate the trade and development agendas.

Reforms can be lengthy, however, and time is running out. By December this year, the dispute settlement system will cease to function – as, with the US continually blocking appointments to the Appellate Body, there will be insufficient judges in place to provide a decision.

And all eyes are on the digital trade negotiations to see if they deliver a comprehensive result by mid-2020. If this initiative does not succeed, it could foreshadow future conflict over other important global matters such as trade in services – which constitutes 80 per cent of the UK economy.

But here is where business community can make a difference. The WTO is a member-led organisation, which means that if business leaders lobby hard for action in their respective countries, they can help shape national government priorities and ensure the survival of the organisation.

Unfortunately, many businesses have been largely disengaged from the WTO, and have no knowledge of the option to reform the system. Few understand how the reform workstreams connect to one another or what the timeframes are. This needs to change.

The US is unlikely to return to the fold anytime soon, but if we want to maintain a credible trading system, it is important to maintain engagement across the world. And that requires business leaders to make the case for their respective governments to participate in the WTO.

That case is a strong one. Since the WTO's creation, economic growth has quadrupled and poverty almost halved. Global supply chains rely on the certainty that the rules-based trading system provides. A trading system without the WTO would be like allowing the road network to run without traffic control infrastructure. Uncertainty, disruption, deferred investment and a corresponding drop in economic activity would undoubtedly follow.

Businesses across the world face a host of concerns, but reforming and championing the WTO must be a priority. The dangers of allowing it to collapse are real. It is down to business leaders to speak out if we want the WTO – an institution that has delivered benefit to so many – to survive.

Since its creation, economic growth has quadrupled and poverty almost halved

Chris Southworth is secretary general of the International Chamber of Commerce UK.

DEBATE

Are the Operation Yellowhammer warnings about no-deal likely to be exaggerated?

YES

RUTH LEA

The Yellowhammer warnings have a weary familiarity to them. As with Project Fear Mark 1, prior to the 2016 referendum, any possible negativities have been ramped up out of all proportion. In 2016, the Treasury told us that a Leave vote would throw the economy into recession, and unemployment would rise by 500,000. We are now being told that a no-deal Brexit will lead to chaos and mayhem.

Well, wrong then and wrong now.

This specific document was, apparently, prepared for Theresa May's administration, notable for its alleged "deal" or "no Brexit" entrapment strategy. So it is less than surprising that it painted a gloomy picture.

Since then, UK no-deal preparations have been stepped up, while the EU has also developed its contingency plans. Moreover, trade will continue, under the WTO rules. There will be bumps in the road – and we must prepare for them. But apart from assorted Remainers and anti-no-dealers, I suspect that few people were impressed by Yellowhammer's warnings.

Ruth Lea is economic adviser to the Arbuthnot Banking Group.

NO

TOM BRAKE

The media has been full of stories about Operation Yellowhammer, the leaked Cabinet Office document which reveals that if our "do or die" Prime Minister chooses to die, in other words crash out of the EU on 31 October, the UK could face fuel, food and medicines shortages – and if that wasn't bad enough, the risk of a hard border between Northern Ireland and the Republic as well.

The leak triggered a war of words between journalists and Michael Gove over Yellowhammer's accuracy. If parliament were recalled, as over 100 MPs are demanding, Gove could be dragged kicking and screaming to answer for its validity. Until then, we'll need to rely on the evidence made available from various sectors.

That evidence is conclusive. The UK is not ready for a no-deal Brexit.

Whether it is food or ferries, fuel or pharmaceuticals, there are major gaps in our preparations. These would become painfully obvious after a crash-out Brexit, which Boris Johnson and his unelected adviser Dominic Cummings would be entirely responsible for.

Tom Brake MP is the Liberal Democrat spokesperson on exiting the EU.

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CRYPTO A.M.

Our series on AI, Blockchain, Cryptoassets, DLT and Tokenisation

PARTNER CONTENT

CITY A.M.'S CRYPTO INSIDER

JAMES BOWATER

Greetings from Nice where I am on annual leave! It's the right time to be away as the summer holidays give way to a hectic last quarter! The strong message is that U.K. AI, Blockchain & Digital industries are fully energised with a plethora of very exciting projects which have survived the pains of Crypto Winter standing them in very good stead for the future.

In the crypto market at the time of writing, Bitcoin (BTC) is down from last week at US$10,768.50; Ethereum (ETH) is at US$202.19; Ripple (XRP) is at US$0.2866; Binance (BNB) is at US$29.15 and Cardano (ADA) is at US$0.05061. Overall Market Cap is at US$280.1bn (data source: www.CryptoCompare.com)

Yesterday Binance, the world's largest Cryptocurrency Exchange, announced its plans to initiate an open blockchain project, Venus, an initiative to develop localized stablecoins and digital assets pegged to fiat currencies across the globe. Binance is looking to create new alliances and partnerships with governments, corporations, technology companies, and other cryptocurrency companies and projects involved in the larger blockchain ecosystem, to empower developed and developing countries to spur new currencies.

Yi He, Binance Co-founder, said "We believe that in the near and long term, stablecoins will progressively replace traditional fiat currencies in countries around the world, and bring a new and balanced standard of the digital economy. We hope to achieve a vision, that is, to reshape the world financial system, allow countries to have more tangible financial services and infrastructures, protect their financial security and increase the economic efficiency of countries." She echoed this in her tweet "We have a vision to achieve a borderless financial system. It's not just to the moon. To #venus"

One of the most intense times for any young company is the capital raising roadshow where of course entrepreneurs expose themselves to great scrutiny and equally, put their cash on the line if the exercise fails. One example is the Craft Coin Company. I caught up with its founders, Florian Bollen and Florian Krüger, to find out more:

"Although the UK is great for start-ups, it's crucial to venture further afield, especially within the borderless Blockchain space. We put aside £30k to do a tour across China and added a last-minute decision to stop off at Futurist in Toronto. Money well spent as far as we're concerned!

We gained a huge interest from international investors, partners who are looking to offer our Craft Beer Coin as payment in regular retail stores and signed up a number of new global breweries. CBC is only the second token to be live and underwritten by a real-life commodity, a pint of beer, which gained us multiple mentions on and off stage and we've been asked to present at Las Vegas Blockchain week as an addition our touring schedule which includes De:days in Mallorca, followed by Hong Kong, Japan and Singapore." To find out more do email them at enquiries@craftcoin.company

SELF-SOVEREIGN WEALTH SHOULD BE EVERYONE'S GOAL

Designed by Phill Snelling, Bowater Media

Through decades of financial change, regulation, inflation, war, political and economic changes we've been told that the hard "earned" money in our pocket is ours to spend as we please. However, the notion that we are in control of our own money and have financial freedom to make our own financial decisions on our is a fallacy and an ideal that we're falsely lead to believe.

Your hard-earned income should be a pathway to financial freedom and to provide for your family and invest towards a higher standard of living.

The harder we work, the more we earn and the payoff for that work should be greater than before, but that's not always the case.

Over the years the value of the money we get back from our work is eroded by the inflation of fiat currencies such as the Great British Pound (GBP) and the almighty US Dollar (USD).

A question to ask yourself is "what is a Pound worth these days?" What could a pound have bought you 10 years ago? If you had the same job, with the same pay, over 10 years, would you be better or worse off? Taking the job security aspect out of the equation, you'll always be worse off with a fiat currency-based economy (which is all of them).

Fiat currency-based economies came about in 1944 from the Bretton woods Agreement where delegates from 44 nations came together to build a new global financial system. This financial system pegged each nation's currency against the US Dollar, which was in turn pegged to a gold price at $35 an ounce. In 1971 this system collapsed when President Nixon declared that there was not enough Gold to back all the US Dollars in circulation and that the system built on the Bretton Woods act would unpeg the US Dollar from the gold standard. The buying power of the US Dollar has since plummeted by over 80% of its buying power since 1971 when the Bretton Woods financial system's key component, the ability to convert Gold into US Dollars, was frozen.

This inflationary fiat-based economy which means working harder and saving for retirement ends up being a never-ending hamster wheel where the average middle-class working family cannot get ahead to get out of crippling debt, provide for their families or lead more comfortable lives. Our schooling and education systems are currently ill equipped to properly educate the next generation of income generating workers how to properly financially educate themselves.

How do we effectively sidestep government issued and central bank backed fiat currency systems to protect our financial freedom? How do we ensure our own financial wealth preservation isn't branded as illegal and money laundering?

"WHAT IS SELF-SOVEREIGN WEALTH AND HOW DO WE ACHIEVE IT?"

Whenever you hear the word crypto or blockchain, you immediately think Bitcoin, volatility, gambling and scams. You don't think financial sovereignty or wealth preservation, because

Crypto A.M. shines its Spotlight on Monolith

Monolith (formerly TokenCard) is a decentralised banking alternative, powered by Ethereum.

The platform allows you to securely store Ethereum-based tokens in your own decentralised Monolith Contract Wallet. You can then exchange them to fiat and load them onto your Monolith Card, the world's first non-custodial Visa Debit Card, allowing users total ownership and control over their funds.

Founded in 2016 by tech entrepreneurs Mel Gelderman and David Hoggard and based in London, the company launched its Ethereum-powered banking alternative on the UK and European iOS App Store in April, with an Android release planned for the near future.

Both founders have always been driven by exponential technologies that have the power to change the world for the better. Gelderman himself has previously traveled the world exclusively using crypto assets, validating his vision of being able to live life on Ethereum.

Now, the Monolith team is announcing its rebrand from TokenCard and partnering with DeFi projects MakerDAO and Digix to bring their tokens to the app.

Mel Gelderman, Chief Executive of Monolith, said MakerDAO and Digix represent best-of-breed Ethereum decentralised finance projects and are the first in a long set of milestones on Monolith's roadmap.

"We're thrilled to have had a fantastic response from our beta users and are now ramping up for growth. Rebranding to Monolith helps us achieve our mission of democratising finance and bringing the Token economy to everyone while providing a unique service to our customers."

> "Rebranding to Monolith helps us achieve our mission of democratising finance.

David Hoggard (left) and Mel Gelderman (right), co-founders of Monolith

"MakerDAO and Digix are some of the most well-recognised and earliest Ethereum-based projects. For TKN holders, these partnerships mean that DAI, DGD and DGX are now eligible for usage with the Monolith Visa debit card. We're thrilled to offer them on Monolith, and see this as the start of bringing many more quality tokens into the Monolith ecosystem. Watch this space." he added.

Before bringing its product to the market, the company joined the United Kingdom's Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) Regulatory Sandbox in its fourth cohort. The regulatory sandbox allows cutting-edge businesses to perform limited tests of innovative products, services, business models and delivery mechanisms in the real market, with real consumers.

The practicality of bringing the crypto community closer than ever to 'real world' finance creates opportunities where none existed previously. By bridging this gap and reducing barriers to the applicability of decentralised finance, Monolith empowers a whole subsection of users in and around the crypto and finance spaces.

Indeed, the Monolith team are not just talking about change, they are putting change into action; the company recently published a blog post on how they are paying employee salaries in ETH directly to their Monolith Contract Wallets.

The Monolith Visa Debit Card is accepted globally and currently available for EEA residents (that's 31 countries within Europe).

Find out more at https://monolith.xyz

E: CryptoInsider@cityam.com @CityAm_Crypto In association with CryptoCompare

the space is still so young and immature... but a new age of finance is coming where everyone can be involved.

In the current financial system when you want to make an investment to make some interest on your capital, you could issue a loan to someone. But how do you ensure they pay back what they say they will, on-time and in full? You can't. Humans and fiat currency are impossible to hold to account and actions aren't transparent to a wider group of validators to keep them accountable.

On the Ethereum blockchain and beyond, a new breed of finance is being developed and already delivering steady, secure and reliable returns for investors with the nickname "DeFi". Short for decentralised finance which is a smart-contract power economy where lenders and borrowers enter into a digital contract together where all actions are held to account.

If you are a lender you can issue a loan on a smart contract using a cryptocurrency or token such as Ethereum (ETH) or DAI (DAI). Once this submission to a contract occurs your principle is issued to a pool of funds available for borrowers to use for trading, investing and many other activities.

In order to access any of this pooled liquidity, a borrower must put up a digital asset up as collateral to borrow your funds and guarantee you an interest rate in return. These systems and platforms are becoming more sophisticated by the day and in the future could be the main use case that brings the financial world into the blockchain space.

> A new age of finance is coming where everyone can be involved.

Imagine a world where no investment was reserved for the super-rich and exclusive but available at a crowd-funded level where everyone can contribute and are equally held to account. Imagine a world where your hard-earned income can be put towards generating an additional income for you and your family to start a decentralised portfolio of investments that cannot be influenced by any central government or bank.

That's a world I want to live in, a "DeFI" world of equal financial opportunities and financial sovereignty for all.

Jeff Hancock, Founder & CEO of getFIFO, in conversation with James Bowater. For more information visit https://getfifo.io or email Jeff@getFIFO.io or http://linkedin.com/in/jeffreyrthancock

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CRYPTOCOMPARE MARKET VIEW

ICE-backed Bitcoin Futures Platform Set to Launch in September

Last week saw the news that following several delays, the Bakkt Bitcoin futures platform will be launched on 23rd September. Backed by the InterContinental Group (ICE), the parent company of the New York Stock Exchange, it will offer investors the opportunity to trade a daily bitcoin futures contract, and importantly those trading on the platform will be required to take delivery in the underlying asset, bitcoin (BTC), potentially fuelling greater demand for the asset. Bakkt will also offer institutional-grade infrastructure including a secure and regulated custody solution to support the futures contracts, which will likely be attractive to institutions that have been restricted from buying the asset previously due to compliance requirements.

Despite the bullish nature of the announcement, the impact on BTC's price was underwhelming. The asset gained 4% following the announcement, rising to $10,500 before dropping back to $10,000 the next day. The price action suggests the news was already priced into the market.

Bitcoin is currently sitting at $10,700 down 5.80% on the week. Ethereum (ETH) is down 5.7% vs USD over the past week, trading at $200.87 at the time of writing. The asset is trading at a similar level in BTC terms to where it started the week (0.0187), despite having hit a high of 0.0197 and a low of 0.0176. The combined market cap of altcoins hit a yearly low vs BTC at $73 billion, before recovering to its current level of $81 billion. Standout performers this past week include Dusk Network (DUSK) at 120%, Bread (BRD) at 24.94% and Metal (MTL) at 18.42%.

This week keep a close eye on how the majors perform against BTC for signs of a medium to long-term recovery. Assets that have reclaimed lost ground on high volume in recent days include ETH and XRP.

CRYPTO A.M. INDUSTRY VOICES

Why Quantitative Easing May Meet Its Demise

What may the Federal Reserve and other central banks do when the next recession begins? Interest rates remain at historical lows while monetary policy's interest rate reductions have had marginal effect rendering more QE impotent. The interplay between the socialist left and the outer non-capitalist right, both part of populism, both authoritarian in nature and devoid of liberty, has reverted to turmoil unseen since the late 1920s and 1930s. The animosity around Trump's election and Brexit has been substantial. Conflicts between the haves and have-nots further escalate once a deep recession gets underway. Meanwhile, the leading global superpower began to defend liberty against Communist China, albeit haphazardly and inconsistently with an overdue trade conflict.

Too much stimulus wrecks financial systems. Since QE began a decade ago, new sovereign debt-based liquidity was used to buy shares and assets, bolster private equity, and finance real estate. Low interest rates led to record levels of stock buybacks and acquisitions. Monetary tightening created "taper tantrums"; stock markets corrected by as much as -20% forcing the Fed's hand to continue to print. Nevertheless, QE efficacy is limited as interest rates cannot go much lower. Prices of hard assets continue to rise as fiat further devalues. Store-of-value assets such as gold and bitcoin are boosted. Lower rates move capital into hard assets which offer better upside. The fear trade of global crises including trade conflicts escalate this.

Various excessive entitlements and liabilities including pension and healthcare may no longer be serviced. This moves the first world closer to an outright devaluation of fiat much as happened in the 1930s via the readjustment of the price of gold from $20.67 to $35. It would stoke the fires of populist revolt. Meanwhile, conflicts between the U.S. and China on how to grab a larger piece of the economic pie will intensify as a teetering Communist China pursues world dominance.

By this point, the risk in holding cash and bonds will have pushed substantial capital into hard assets including SoV vehicles such as bitcoin, gold, silver, and selected minerals.

Numerous metrics are at tipping points. Bank valuations in the EU are close to breaking down to levels not seen since the year 2000. The dollar's 17-year high forces other central banks to outbid the Fed. Our charts show that various currencies, banks, and yields are assuming a brace position.

A primary driver of the Great Depression was Congress' Smoot-Hawley tariff with its 50% tax on imports, stalling trade. Is the current conflict with China a reincarnation of Smoot-Hawley? Trump has shown that he can force the Fed to lower rates should the stock market wobble. While too much QE resembles pouring gasoline onto a fire, it has to burn-out eventually.

Nevertheless, lower taxes together with exponential technologies (ExpoTech) can reverse this trend. Further, Trump's pro-business policies rule the day, not FDR's disastrous New Deal. Fascinating, but dangerous if authoritarianism wins.

Projected returns of $15 trillion in bonds are negative, below the projected returns of cash. This impedes effective growth of credit and other capital, causing some already faltering global economies to lag further.

Expected returns and risk premiums of non-cash assets are approximating cash returns, so why buy them? It becomes difficult to push prices of non-cash assets higher. Bond yields can only go so low.

Central banks' further easing and buying of assets produces more negative real and nominal returns leading investors to increasingly prefer alternative forms of money (bitcoin, gold, silver) or other stores of wealth/value (real estate, defensive stocks). A price rise in all of these vehicles is no coincidence. Expect the trend to continue.

Dr. Chris Kacher https://t.me/HanseCoin www.hansecoin.com www.selfishinvesting.com

BLOCKCHAIN ROOKIES

BLOCKCHAIN AND THE ROLE OF INDUSTRY BODIES

Jon Walsh, Associate Partner Blockchain Rookies

In a previous column, we described how the only way to create value with enterprise Blockchain was via an industry consortia that has come together to solve a common problem where trust is low. That may be easier said than done when companies in an industry are competing against each other or buying and selling to one another, and constantly trying to outflank and outwit each other to gain a commercial advantage. However, there will always be industry challenges that are common to many of the participants where all would benefit by coming together to help solve…

So where to start? The suggestion for today's column is for industry bodies to lead the way.

One of the first things required to have a successful Blockchain project is for the participants to agree common standards. Without common standards, how can anyone agree on the actuality of the data recorded on the Blockchain? Industry bodies must lead the way by playing mediator and facilitator to pull together a consortia and create consensus on standards and governance.

The purpose of industry bodies is to play a critical role in establishing best practices, education, industry leadership or the technical standards for which an industry adheres. And if Blockchain, as a base layer database that can be trusted, can help improve trust both internally and externally in any given industry, then surely that is in the interest of a governing or trade body.

If an industry body isn't already doing this then the suggestion would be to attempt to create your own industry working group, and then invite the industry body later to help ratify the governance and give it a seal of approval.

Blockchain is most definitely a team sport, and all sporting games require a governing body to help set rules and then ensure they're adhered to.

Get in touch with us info@blockchainrookies.com / Twitter @igetblockchain

OFFICE POLITICS

Stop your staff skiving off this summer

Fed up with your workers pulling a sickie because the sun's out? Here's some advice

WE'VE heard it all before: "my cat is having kittens", "I've hurt my back", "I've got food poisoning", "my bathtub fell through my ceiling", or "my car broke down". When the sun is out, employees might feel inclined to use one of these excuses in order to skip work and do something a little more fun.

If you're a manager, instead of wondering if your employee is sacking off work in order to watch the cricket, why not address the issue head-on?

With presenteeism growing as a problem, and the summertime statistically being a period when productivity falls across the board, there are some easy ways that employers can encourage their staff to enjoy the summer. This would help them to achieve a better work-life balance and be fully present and productive when they're actually in the office.

SUMMER HOURS

Research shows that 63 per cent of workers confess to leaving the office early to enjoy some sun, so why not offer shorter or flexible working hours to boost your team's productivity and motivation?

An earlier finish can work wonders in the summer, as it enables employees to spend time with their families, pursue leisure activities, or enjoy some more socialising.

Letting employees start and finish an hour earlier in summer shows a willingness to accommodate their personal lives, and yet actually changes very little of the working day structure. Any important meetings or tasks can still happen during core hours, so it's a win-win for everyone.

THE KIDS ARE ALRIGHT

The average cost for one week of childcare is £138 per child. That adds up to £828 over the six-week summer break.

While some parents can schedule in a big chunk of holiday during the summer months, others have to fork out the cash for childcare or beg grandparents to look after the kids.

On top of that, the cost of keeping children entertained can leave parents with a hole in their bank account too. With all this, it's easy to see how the summer can become more of a dread than a delight.

Research shows that 63 per cent of workers confess to leaving the office early to enjoy some sun

The good news is that employers can implement some easy benefits to help staff out. This can include easy access to childcare facilities on-site or work-from-home days.

Employers can also help reduce the cost burden that parents face by offering discounts on family days out, or even cinema vouchers, allowing families to enjoy time together without worrying about the money.

These may seem like small gestures, but companies that have introduced family-friendly measures often report significant reductions in absenteeism.

TIME TO CELEBRATE

Everyone looks forward to the Christmas party, so why not plan a summer party too? Just think how much the team will enjoy wearing shorts or flip-flops and eating some delicious food provided by the company.

The chance to relax outside, unwind with colleagues, and feel rewarded for a job well done is the perfect way to enjoy the summer as a team.

If a big party is out of the question, why not invite the team for a picnic outside, or an outdoor sporting activity after work? These can help to bring staff together and encourage them to take a break from the screen.

Summertime doesn't have to be marred by distracted workers or questionable sick days; employers can do many things to help employees thrive both inside and outside of work.

By encouraging employees to work flexibly in the summer months, assisting parents with childcare during school holidays, and celebrating together in the sunshine, businesses can inspire loyalty and investment from their employees all year round.

Jamie Mackenzie is director at Sodexo Engage.

BBC WEATHER

CHECK THE FORECAST

BBC Weather
Free

The sun is shining and the temperature is high. Time to email the boss with a flimsy excuse and then get some serious tanning done. But wait, there's no point skipping work if the rain is going to start pouring by noon. Check the weather forecast first using this BBC app before you take a cheeky day off.

COFFEE BREAK

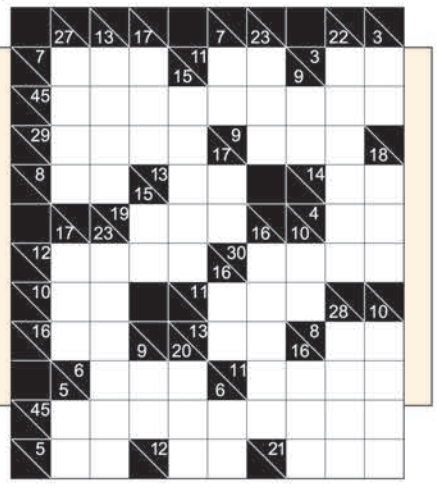
SUDOKU

Place the numbers from 1 to 9 in each empty cell so that each row, each column and each 3x3 block contains all the numbers from 1 to 9 to solve this tricky Sudoku puzzle.

3		5		4				
6				8				
1	4					8		6
		8						
9			2				7	1
	7		1	9				
					9			7
				2			9	
2				3			5	4

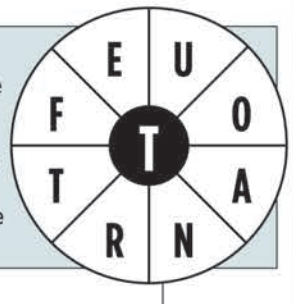
KAKURO

Fill the grid so that each block adds up to the total in the box above or to the left of it.
You can only use the digits 1-9 and you must not use the same digit twice in a block. The same digit may occur more than once in a row or column, but it must be in a separate block.

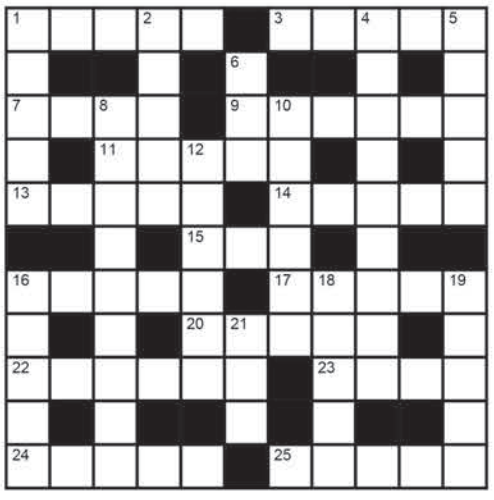


WORDWHEEL

Using only the letters in the Wordwheel, you have ten minutes to find as many words as possible, none of which may be plurals, foreign words or proper nouns. Each word must be of three letters or more, all must contain the central letter and letters can only be used once in every word. There is at least one nine-letter word in the wheel.



QUICK CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1 Damp (5)
3 Capital of Tibet (5)
7 Information (4)
9 Spanish word for 'tomorrow' (6)
11 Love affair (5)
13 More certain (5)
14 Name of a book (5)
15 Chopping tool (3)
16 Sceptic (5)
17 ___ *Without a Cause*, 1955 film starring James Dean (5)
20 Faithful (5)
22 Stirred up, excited (6)
23 Tackle (4)
24 Makes a sketch (5)
25 Last Commandment (5)

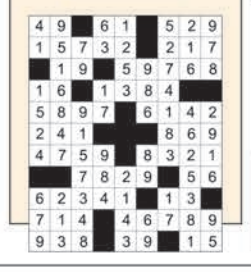
DOWN

1 King with a golden touch (5)
2 Ignominy (5)
4 Convertible, pliant (9)
5 Plant used in the making of tequila (5)
6 Flightless bird (3)
8 Large hairy tropical spider (9)
10 Blood vessel leading from the heart (6)
12 Source of wisdom or prophecy (6)
16 Felt concern or interest (5)
18 Bird of prey (5)
19 Walk as if unable to control one's movements (5)
21 Uneven (3)

LAST ISSUE'S SOLUTIONS

QUICK CROSSWORD

KAKURO



SUDOKU

6	3	4	8	5	9	2	7	1
5	9	1	4	7	2	8	6	3
2	7	8	6	3	1	9	4	5
8	6	7	3	9	4	1	5	2
4	5	2	1	8	7	3	9	6
3	1	9	2	6	5	4	8	7
9	2	6	5	1	8	7	3	4
7	4	5	9	2	3	6	1	8
1	8	3	7	4	6	5	2	9

WORDWHEEL

The nine-letter word was **HEADSTAND**

PERSONAL FINANCE

FOR RICHER FOR POORER

Katherine Denham says we should be worried that many women are reliant on their partners' pensions

WE MAY have come a long way since the days when women were the property of men, but we still face some huge challenges when it comes to addressing financial gender inequality.

According to a new report from Fidelity, 12 per cent of married women plan to rely on their partner's pension in retirement, while 17 per cent of women have no pension of their own at all.

In some ways this is unsurprising. Women are more likely to take time off to care for children, meaning that they tend to have lower earnings and a smaller pension pot in retirement compared to their husbands. But it's a worrying statistic nonetheless.

It means that a large proportion of our population could be dependent on their significant others throughout most of their lives – even though that relationship could break down. In fact, as many as 101,669 opposite-sex couples divorced in England and Wales in 2017, according to the Office for National Statistics.

"Much as these men have turned to their wives for support throughout life to raise their children, so it makes sense for married women to turn to their partners for financial support in retirement," says Romi Savova, chief executive of PensionBee. "However, relying solely on their spouse's pension could turn out to be a costly mistake."

And while this is more common for straight women, it can of course apply to men and same-sex couples too.

Assets are typically split during a divorce, meaning one partner is entitled to a percentage of their spouse's pension, which is transferred as credit. Pension sharing was introduced in 2000 to ensure that unemployed partners – who may have taken time out of work to care for their children – have some sort of pension entitlement.

But even with this law, divorced women still tend to be far worse off in retirement than women who remain married. The average divorced woman over the age of 50 will have a pension worth £131,000, compared to £454,000 for the average married couple, according to figures from the Wealth and Assets survey published earlier this year.

Now consider that Royal London estimates that your pension pot should be around £260,000 to retire comfortably and the predicament of divorced women is obvious.

Part of the problem is that calculating the true value of pension assets can be very complicated (particularly if the spouse has a final salary pension) and harder to assess than assets like property.

Savova says: "If the marriage breaks down and leads to divorce, it may be possible to obtain a share of a partner's savings via a pension sharing order, but this will be at the discretion of a judge." She warns that there's no guarantee that the partner's pension will be included in a financial settlement, as sometimes pensions can be missed, especially when they are not all in one place.

"That means that there's a very real risk that the woman could be left with no pension provision at all, or may need to start working when she's not expecting it."

Savova also notes that "it's really important that women make alternative plans for their retirement income to avoid a shortfall in later life" – a crucial point, given that the full state pension is currently £8,767.20 a year, which is not enough for a comfortable retirement.

Emma-Lou Montgomery from Fidelity agrees that the situation is complex: "It's no surprise that in the midst of dividing up assets and agreeing custody arrangements, deciding what happens to your pensions so often falls to the bottom of the to-do list." She therefore suggests that couples should have plans in place for their pension ahead of any relationship breakdown, so that no one is left without a comfortable income in retirement.

Of course, every marriage is going to end in death or divorce, so it is also important to consider what pension benefits would be available to a spouse if their partner dies.

Indeed, Jo Douglas from Brewin Dolphin warns that schemes differ hugely in terms of generosity for spouses. "Also, when individuals retire and purchase an annuity, it may be that they do not include a spouse's pension at all, meaning the pension will effectively die with them."

She also points out that the state pension is not inheritable, meaning both partners – even if one is out of work – need to build up National Insurance contributions individually to secure future entitlement.

That's not to say that there aren't ways that spouses can protect themselves financially later in life.

As the Fidelity report points out, overcoming the barriers to closing the gender pension gap doesn't need to be complex.

> "It's no surprise that in the midst of dividing up assets, pensions fall to the bottom of the to-do list

In fact, the investment company says a 30-year-old who contributes an extra £35 a month in their pension – which is equal to one per cent of the average annual salary – over 39 years could close the gender gap.

Helen Morrissey, pension specialist at Royal London, says early action on pension saving is vital. "Women should take steps to safeguard their financial future by starting to save into a pension as early as possible in their career, so they can take full advantage of employer contributions, tax relief, and investment growth to build up a retirement pot."

If you save small, frequent amounts over the years, this can make a huge difference to what your pension could be worth when you retire.

Also find out what your employer's policy is for parental leave, as some businesses will continue to contribute, which goes some way to closing the gap. If your employer isn't so generous, consider trying to make up your contributions when you go back to work, or see if your partner will contribute into your pension on your behalf, so that you don't miss out on valuable investment growth.

For high-earning families, there can be merit in using both individual annual allowances, and therefore avoid being slapped with a tax penalty if you go over the threshold.

There are also ways that financial services companies can try to alleviate the issues.

"As women, we're often taught that talking about money is taboo, and as a result our financial systems continue to be set up in a way that systematically disadvantages women," says Savova. "On top of that, pensions are often thought of as complicated and boring, so there are a few barriers that we need to overcome."

The asset management industry therefore needs to be more transparent about the costs of investing and overhaul its jargon-riddled literature to encourage everyone – men and women alike – to engage with their money.

Indeed, Savova says that the more we understand about pensions and the tax advantages, the easier it will become to see the benefits of saving for our futures.

"It's never too late to start saving, and the more women can positively engage with their finances and take control of their money, the more they can improve their quality of life, both now and in retirement."

SPORT

UNITED HELD Pogba has penalty saved by Patricio as Wolves claim a draw at Molineux

Paul Pogba had a penalty saved as Wolverhampton Wanderers held Manchester United to a 1-1 draw at Molineux last night. Wolves goalkeeper Rui Patricio kept out Pogba's attempt after he was tripped by Conor Coady in the penalty area, and his fourth miss from the penalty spot in the last year proved costly as United dropped two points. Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's team had earlier taken the lead midway through the first half when Anthony Martial fired into the roof of the net from Marcus Rashford's through ball. But Ruben Neves hammered in off the underside of the crossbar from the edge of the area after a clever corner routine to equalise before Patricio (pictured) secured Wolves a draw.

SPORT DIGEST

ENGLAND UNCHANGED AS AUSTRALIA WAIT ON SMITH

England have named an unchanged 12-man squad for the third Ashes Test match, which starts at Headingley on Thursday. Jimmy Anderson is "making progress" after suffering a calf injury but has not been included and will instead start a three-day game for Lancashire's second XI today in a bid to prove his fitness. Sam Curran is included alongside the squad who drew at Lord's. Australia, who lead the series 1-0, are waiting on Steve Smith, who was withdrawn from the second Test with concussion after being struck on the neck by Jofra Archer.

BAYERN SIGN COUTINHO ON LOAN FROM BARCA

Barcelona midfielder Philippe Coutinho has joined Bayern Munich on a season-long loan deal. The German champions have paid Barca €8.5m and will pay his wages for the 2019-20 campaign, while they also have an option to buy the 27-year-old for €120m. "In Barcelona a lot of things did not turn out as we had imagined," said Coutinho, who joined Barca from Liverpool in January 2018. "But this is now history. I hope to stay here a long time and win many titles."

NEW SLOW PLAY RULES TO COME IN NEXT SEASON

The European Tour has announced new plans to crack down on slow play. The Tour will implement a four-point plan next season which includes firmer penalties, increased fines, smaller field sizes and new technology. Under the new measures players will receive an immediate one-stroke penalty if they incur two bad times in a round. "I believe the plan we are implementing for the 2020 season will bring about meaningful change that will make golf even more enjoyable for the players and our fans," said European Tourchief executive Keith Pelley.

FEDEX FORMAT'S A WINNER

GOLF COMMENT

Sam Torrance

THIS week's Tour Championship, the finale to the PGA Tour's FedEx Cup, sees the debut of a unique new format which I wholeheartedly believe is an excellent idea for players and fans alike.

Players will start the week on a score determined by their place in the FedEx Cup standings, so current leader Justin Thomas will have a 10-shot head start on the lowest ranked player in the 30-man field.

The best way to think of it is as a five-round event in which they have already played one round.

Whoever finishes top of the Tour Championship leaderboard on Sunday evening will scoop the $15m first prize and I think this format simplifies the process.

For viewers, there is no longer any need for complicated calculations. And for the players, a potential 10-shot advantage represents a meaningful reward for having had a good season.

Thomas will rightly start the week as the favourite for the huge windfall having played fantastically well to win the BMW Championship at Medinah over the last few days.

On Saturday he shot an extraordinary 61 to beat a course record that had only been set by Hideki Matsuyama 24 hours earlier and in the end the American's three-shot victory was comfortable.

NOT OVER YET

Brooks Koepka has had more success at Majors and that is why he is the world No1, but No5 Thomas – who has been the leading money winner on the PGA Tour for the last two years – is hugely consisent. That said, it is difficult for anyone to play as well as he did at the BMW Championship for a second week in a row, which means the FedEx Cup is not over in any way, shape or form.

While Thomas will start on 10 under par when he tees off on Thursday, Koepka – third in the standings – will begin on seven under and firmly in with a chance.

Rory McIlroy, at five under, and Jon Rahm, another shot back, will also feel they have a shout, but any further and it's a tall order.

Seven shots is a big head start in a golf tournament – if you give Usain Bolt an extra couple of yards he could stop for a shave and still canter home.

It's sad that Tiger Woods hasn't qualified to defend his Tour Championship crown, but it has been a great year which has seen him return to Major-winning ways so let's look forward to next season.

Thomas will start the Tour Championship with a head start on his rivals

PIETERS ON UP

Thomas Pieters showed wisdom beyond his 27 years to win his first European Tour event since 2016 at the Czech Masters on Sunday.

The key moment came at the 15th hole, where he found heavy rough and, instead of trying to hit it, chose to take an unplayable lie. Pieters dropped his ball onto a tractor track, hit a beautiful wedge and saved par.

It was a very clever play and probably decisive given that he won by just one shot.

For someone with so much talent, Pieters can lack self belief and that can make an already gruelling tour even harder.

But this was a really encouraging performance, more like the Pieters who was Europe's top scorer on his Ryder Cup debut at Hazeltine three years ago, and I'd love to see him be this player more in future.

Finally, congratulations to Paul Lawrie on his Scottish Senior Open win – his first on the circuit. It's great to see Paul back from injury and in the winners' circle where he belongs.

Sam Torrance OBE is a multiple Ryder Cup-winning golfer and media commentator. Follow him @torrancesam