

Market Commentary

- **China GDP Grows Faster Than Expected:** The Chinese economy grew at a faster-than-expected rate during the first quarter of this year, after Trump last month backed down from a threat to escalate his trade war with Beijing and government stimulus measures began to take hold. Beijing said its economy expanded by 6.4% year-on-year in the first quarter of 2019, topping the expected figure. China's economy grew by 6.4% year-on-year in the fourth quarter of last year, and 6.8% in the first quarter of 2018.
- **US Homebuilder Sentiment Hits Six-month High:** Homebuilders are feeling more confident in the US housing market amid lower mortgage rates and robust demand for new homes. The National Association of Home Builders said its index measuring builder sentiment gained a point to a reading of 63 in April, matching economists' expectations and notching its highest level since October 2018.
- **US Industrial Production Falls:** US industrial output unexpectedly fell in March as the manufacturing sector failed to record a gain for a third straight month amid ongoing concerns over the outlook for the global economy. Industrial production fell 0.1% month-on-month in March, the Federal Reserve said.
- **White House in Talks with Candidates:** President Donald Trump's top economic advisor, Larry Kudlow, says that the White House is "talking to a number of candidates" to fill two open seats on the Federal Reserve Board of Governors.
- **Japan Exports Dragged Down:** Japan's exports fell for a fourth straight month in March as China-bound shipments slumped again, reinforcing growing anxiety that weak external demand may have knocked the economy into contraction in the first quarter. Ministry of Finance data showed exports fell 2.4% in March from a year earlier, compared with a 2.7% drop predicted by economists in a Reuters poll, and followed a 1.2% decline in February.
- **U.K. Jobs Growth:** The U.K. labor market continued its impressive performance in the three months through February as employment jumped and wage growth far outpaced inflation. The number of people in work rose by 179,000 to a record high, keeping unemployment at 3.9%, the lowest rate since 1975. The growth in employment was driven mainly women, who accounted for more than 140,000 of the increase.
- **Gold Hits Lowest Level:** Gold dropped 1% to its lowest level of 2019, as a string of robust economic data boosted demand for riskier assets like equities while bullion was further weighed down by gains in the U.S. dollar. Gold was down 0.88% to \$1,276.25.
- **Aramco's Acquisition Talks:** Aramco is in "serious discussions" to buy as much as 25% of the petrochemicals and refining businesses of Reliance Industries. Talks gained momentum when MBS met RIL Chairman Mukesh Ambani during the Saudi crown prince's visit to India in February. A valuation agreement could be reached by June.

Source: Bloomberg, Reuters

Currencies	
EUR/USD	1.1310
GBP/USD	1.3089
USD/JPY	111.89
AUD/USD	0.7149
NZD/USD	0.6758
USD/CHF	1.0040
USD/CAD	1.3399

Interbank Rates						
	USD	GBP	EUR	AED	SAR	BHD
1WK	2.41175	0.69125	-0.4393	2.3500	2.6688	2.817
1MO	2.47738	0.73025	-0.41229	2.5713	2.72625	3.217
2MO	2.54263	0.77825	-0.3786	-	-	3.367
3MO	2.601	0.82888	-0.36043	2.8163	2.85625	3.617
6MO	2.63775	0.94163	-0.3113	3.0405	2.9525	3.783
12MO	2.74838	1.09363	-0.20371	3.1365	3.12375	4.283

Commodities	
Brent Crude	70.96
WTI	63.32
Gold	1286.69
Aluminum	1837.75
Copper	6480
Silver	15.01
Platinum	889.9
Palladium	1340.9

Indices	
DJIA	26,384.8
S&P 500	2,905.6
DAX	12,020.3
NIKKEI 225	22,221.7
CAC 40	5,508.7
FTSE 100	7,436.9
DFM	2,811.4
TASI	9,088.1

Treasuries	
US2Y	2.3897
US10Y	2.5489
EU2Y	-0.5640
EU10Y	0.0560
GB2Y	0.7880
GB10Y	1.2160
SAR2Y	2.8535
SAR10Y	3.5800

Main Economic Indicators

Relevance	Country	Indicator	Consensus	Previous
	US	Wholesale Inventories MoM (Feb)	0.3%	1.2%
	US	Trade Balance (Feb)	-\$53.4b	-\$51.1b
	EC	CPI MoM (Mar)	1.0%	0.3%
	EC	CPI YoY (Mar) - Final	1.4%	1.4%

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