



Markets

DJIA	22,775.39	113.75	▲	0.50%
S&P 500	2,552.07	14.33	▲	0.56%
NASDAQ	6,585.36	50.73	▲	0.78%
FTSE 100	7,507.99	40.41	▲	0.54%
DAX	12,968.05	-2.47	▼	-0.02%
CAC 40	5,379.21	15.98	▲	0.30%
IBEX	10,214.70	249.8	▲	2.51%
NIKKEI 225	20,670.67	42.11	▲	0.20%
HANG SENG	28,462.07	82.89	▲	0.29%

Currencies

EUR-USD	1.1711	0	▲	0.00%
USD-JPY	112.84	0.02	▲	0.02%
GBP-USD	1.3101	-0.0018	▼	-0.14%
AUD-USD	0.7785	-0.001	▼	-0.13%
USD-CAD	1.2568	0.0003	▲	0.02%
USD-CHF	0.9787	0.0004	▲	0.04%
EUR-GBP	0.8939	0.0012	▲	0.13%
USD-HKD	7.8076	-0.0019	▼	-0.02%
EUR-CHF	1.1461	0.0004	▲	0.04%

Catalan Separatists Squeezed Further as Spain Tightens Its Grip

Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy convenes his cabinet on Friday as the financial and political squeeze on the separatist government in Catalonia tightens.

After a week of political drama that rocked financial markets, Rajoy will meet with his ministers in Madrid as events 600 kilometers (370 miles) to the northeast in the Catalan capital Barcelona threaten to spiral still further out of control.

The region's president, Carles Puigdemont, risks economic damage and European isolation if he pushes ahead with plans to declare Catalan independence based on a referendum that breached Spain's constitution. CaixaBank SA, the symbol of the region's financial strength, may follow Banc Sabadell SA in abandoning Catalonia when its board meets Friday.

Trump Administration Asks High Court to Drop Travel-Ban Case

President Donald Trump's administration told the U.S. Supreme Court Thursday it should dismiss its pending case over the president's travel ban, an action that would let lower courts take the first look at the most recent version.

In a letter filed at the court's request, the administration said two appeals it filed earlier this year will be legally moot in a matter of weeks as an earlier ban expires.

Two sets of challengers, however, urged the high court to decide the case, even while saying the justices may prefer to let lower courts hear arguments on the new order. The high court has already dropped the travel-ban argument it had scheduled for Oct. 10 but hasn't decided what to do with the underlying case.

Google's \$400 Million Bet Is Starting to Pay Off

New hardware launches from Alphabet Inc's Google on Wednesday showed how the acquisition of London-based artificial intelligence company DeepMind might start to generate revenue rather than just research papers.

Alphabet bought DeepMind for a reported \$400 million in 2014. The firm has produced a steady stream of machine learning research – from teaching software to play the strategy game Go better than any human on the planet to creating artificial intelligence that mimicked the human brain's ability to dream and even imagine future actions. Most of these breakthroughs, however, have seemed academic, with potential commercial uses seemingly years or even decades away. In the first year Alphabet owned the company, DeepMind reported zero revenue.

But when Google showcased its new digital assistant Wednesday in its flagship Pixel phone, laptop computer, and Google Home devices, the company noted how much more natural its computer-generated voice had become. That more human-sounding speech, at least when the assistant speaks in English and Japanese, is thanks to an algorithm DeepMind invented last year and which it took from research to full-scale commercial application inside twelve months.

Sydney Homeowners Cash Out for Surfers Paradise

Sydneysiders are cashing out of their million-dollar homes in favor of cheaper houses in the tropical north, says Macquarie Bank Ltd.

The emerging exodus is part of Australia's latest wave of interstate migration to Queensland, where house prices are half Sydney's and job creation is on the rise. When similar factors were at play in the mid-1980s and mid-2000s, an average 134,000 people made the trek north over a three-year period. They were mainly from New South Wales, Macquarie said.

"People have been leaving New South Wales at a faster pace over the past couple of years and movement into the traditional destination of Queensland is picking up," Macquarie's wealth management unit said in a note. "When the cycle turns, the acceleration occurs rapidly based on the experience of past cycles."