



Markets

DJIA	25,283.00	-12.87	▼	-0.05%
S&P 500	2,747.71	4.56	▲	0.17%
NASDAQ	7,157.39	20.83	▲	0.29%
FTSE 100	7,696.51	-27.71	▼	-0.36%
DAX	13,367.78	48.14	▲	0.36%
CAC 40	5,487.42	16.67	▲	0.30%
IBEX	10,398.40	-13	▼	-0.12%
NIKKEI 225	23,813.89	99.36	▲	0.42%
HANG SENG	30,954.68	55.15	▲	0.18%

Currencies

EUR-USD	1.1971	0.0004	▲	0.03%
USD-JPY	112.6	-0.49	▼	-0.43%
GBP-USD	1.3577	0.0009	▲	0.07%
AUD-USD	0.7858	0.0016	▲	0.20%
USD-CAD	1.2409	-0.0012	▼	-0.10%
USD-CHF	0.9769	-0.0003	▼	-0.03%
EUR-GBP	0.8816	-0.0005	▼	-0.06%
USD-HKD	7.8218	0.0009	▲	0.01%
EUR-CHF	1.1693	-0.0001	▼	-0.01%

Aston Martin Seeks \$6.8 Billion Value in Potential IPO

Aston Martin is targeting a valuation of as much as 5 billion pounds (\$6.8 billion) in a potential initial public offering of the British sports car maker, according to people familiar with the matter.

The manufacturer has held preliminary talks with advisers about a valuation including debt that would put it on par with Ferrari NV, said the people, who asked not to be named discussing private deliberations. Investors' interest in an IPO this year could be bolstered by the planned expansion into the lucrative sport-utility vehicle segment starting in 2019, the people said.

An Aston Martin share sale in London later this year would cement the iconic brand's comeback and mark a significant test of investor appetite for English companies ahead of the U.K.'s March 2019 break with the European Union. The company, famous for its connection to movie spy James Bond, surpassed 5,000 deliveries last year for the first time since 2008, and expects to exceed its 2017 guidance of at least 180 million pounds in adjusted Ebitda on more than 840 million pounds of revenue.

Jeff Bezos Is Now Worth More Than Bill Gates Ever Was

Jeff Bezos's net worth reached \$105.1 billion Monday on the Bloomberg Billionaires Index as Amazon.com Inc. shares added to a 12-month surge that's lifted the online shopping giant's market value by almost 57 percent.

Amazon shares have risen 6.6 percent this year, with a report showing the Seattle-based company captured 89 percent of online spending among dominant holiday retailers in the five-week period beginning the day after Thanksgiving in the U.S.

The latest jump has pushed Bezos's fortune definitively above the high reached by Microsoft Corp's Bill Gates in 1999. The Amazon founder passed Gates in October with a net worth of \$93.8 billion and his fortune crossed \$100 billion for the first time a month later when the holiday shopping season kicked off on Black Friday.

Billion-Dollar Valuation Gives Australia Its Only Tech Unicorn

Canva, an Australian-based graphic design app, has raised \$40 million to become the country's only privately backed technology startup to be valued at \$1 billion.

Sequoia Capital took part in the fundraising alongside existing investors Blackbird Ventures and Felicis Ventures. Co-founder Melanie Perkins said the Sydney-based company was profitable and didn't need the money but was offered terms too good to refuse. The startup, whose apps help advertisers and companies create banners, logos and presentations, plans to double its workforce of 250 staff over the next year, she added.

"It'd be crazy not to take it," she said. "We can grow our team as rapidly as we can and know that we've got the financial backing to make those decisions very easily."

Jack Ma's Debt Giant Grinds to Halt as China Curbs Micro-Loans

After selling billions of dollars of debt backed by consumer loans last year, Chinese billionaire Jack Ma's Ant Financial is pausing such fundraising as the government steps up curbs on micro lending.

The company hasn't sold any asset-backed securities since early December, according to data compiled by Bloomberg and China Securitization Analytics. That marks an abrupt shift after Ant Financial issued a record 238 billion yuan (\$37 billion) in 2017 of such securities backed by consumer loans. It comes after authorities announced on Dec. 1 they were requiring micro lenders to consolidate ABS into their balance sheets.

"Without the new rules, Ant Financial's consumer loans would balloon with no limit because it can move most loans off its balance sheet by packaging them into ABS," said Shanghai-based Yang Junmin, an analyst at Internet finance research firm Shanghai Yingxun Technology Co. "Now they would be very cautious about selling new ABS. Ant Financial's new consumer loans may have an obvious slowdown this year."