

## Key Global Indices

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	Last Close	1D% Chg	5D% Chg	1M% Chg	1Y% Chg		Last Close	1D% Chg	5D% Chg	1M% Chg	1Y% Chg
FTSE 100	6,815.6	↑ 1.4%	-3.2%	-7.0%	-5.1%	S&P 500	3,130.1	↑ 4.2%	0.4%	-3.7%	12.2%
FTSE 250	19,742.8	↑ 0.3%	-4.3%	-6.7%	1.5%	DJIA	27,090.9	↑ 4.5%	0.5%	-4.6%	5.0%
DJSTOXX 50	3,173.7	↑ 2.0%	-3.9%	-5.8%	3.9%	Nasdaq	9,018.1	↑ 3.8%	0.4%	-2.8%	19.0%
FTSEurofirst 300	1,509.5	↑ 1.5%	-4.3%	-6.1%	2.2%	Nikkei 225*	21,290.4	↑ 0.9%	-5.9%	-8.1%	-2.9%
German DAX 30	12,127.7	↑ 1.2%	-5.1%	-7.0%	4.4%	Shanghai Composite*	3,053.9	↑ 1.4%	2.8%	9.7%	-1.4%
France CAC 40	5,464.9	↑ 1.3%	-3.9%	-6.3%	3.2%	DJIA at London close	26,436.9				*Time - GMT 4:30

## FTSE 100



## UK Market Snapshot

UK markets finished higher yesterday, led by gains in mining and healthcare sector stocks. Wizz Air Holdings advanced 3.0%, after the company announced its plans to reduce capacity by about 10% in the next quarter to counter the impact of the coronavirus. Rio Tinto gained 2.8%, following a rating upgrade on the stock to 'Buy' from 'Hold'. DS Smith added 1.1%, after the packaging firm forecasted a rise in its like-for-like corrugated box volume growth in the second half of current financial year. On the contrary, Intu Properties tanked 41.0%, after the company failed to secure a new equity funding, due to current uncertainty in the equity markets. Legal & General Group lost 1.4%. The insurance giant reported a rise in its operating profit for the full year. The FTSE 100 advanced 1.4%, to close at 6,815.6, while the FTSE 250 rose 0.3%, to end at 19,742.8.

## US Market Snapshot

US markets closed significantly higher yesterday, buoyed by gains in healthcare sector stocks, as former Vice President Joe Biden emerged as the frontrunner of the Democratic Party's Presidential election race. Campbell Soup surged 10.1%, after its second quarter revenue and earnings surpassed analysts' estimates and it raised its annual earnings outlook. Home Depot climbed 5.8%, after a top broker raised its target price on the stock to \$251.0 from \$240.0 and upgraded its rating to 'Buy' from 'Neutral'. On the flipside, Dollar Tree declined 3.6%, following lower than expected sales in the fourth quarter. Hewlett Packard Enterprise dropped 2.6%, after its first quarter revenue came in below market consensus, amid weaker corporate demand. Nordstrom lost 1.7%, after the retailer's fourth quarter revenue and earnings missed market expectations. The S&P 500 gained 4.2%, to settle at 3,130.1. The DJIA rose 4.5%, to settle at 27,090.9, while the NASDAQ added 3.8%, to close at 9,018.1.

## DJIA



## Europe Market Snapshot

European markets finished in positive territory yesterday, lifted by gains in automobile and healthcare sector stocks. HelloFresh surged 12.4%, after a top broker raised its target price on the stock to €28.0 from €25.0. Brenntag soared 8.8%, after the company posted a rise in its annual pretax profit and raised its final dividend. Evonik Industries climbed 8.0%, after its fourth quarter adjusted core profit surpassed market expectations. Eurofins Scientific advanced 5.2%, following a jump in its revenue and earnings for the full year. Dialog Semiconductor jumped 4.5%. The company reported a drop in its net profit for the fourth quarter. Roche Holding gained 3.1%, after the Chinese health authorities approved the use of the company's arthritis drug to treat some coronavirus patients. The FTSEurofirst 300 index gained 1.5%, to settle at 1,509.5. The German DAX Xetra rose 1.2%, to settle at 12,127.7, while the French CAC-40 added 1.3%, to close at 5,464.9.

## DJ Euro STOXX50



## Asia Market Snapshot

Markets in Asia are trading higher this morning, after the International Monetary Fund announced a \$50.0 billion aid to combat the impact of the coronavirus. In Japan, Takeda Pharmaceutical has gained 3.4%, after announcing that it is developing a drug to treat COVID-19. Meanwhile, Fujitsu and Shimizu have dropped 1.9% and 2.1%, respectively. In Hong Kong, AAC Technologies Holdings and WH Group have advanced 4.6% and 5.1%, respectively. Meanwhile, China Overseas Land & Investment and CK Hutchison Holdings have fallen 0.4% and 0.5%, respectively. In South Korea, E-MART and Hanmi Science have added 4.0% and 5.5%, respectively. Meanwhile, Woori Financial Group and NCSOFT have declined 1.5% and 1.8%, respectively. The Nikkei 225 index is trading 0.9% higher at 21,290.4. The Hang Seng index is trading 1.2% up at 26,529.4, while the Kospi index is trading 0.7% higher at 2,074.4.

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## Key Corporate Releases Today

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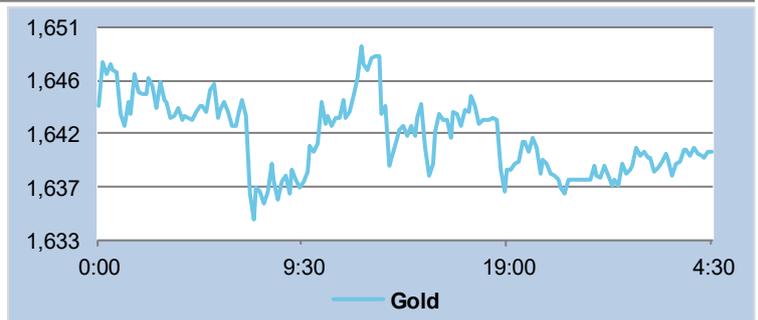
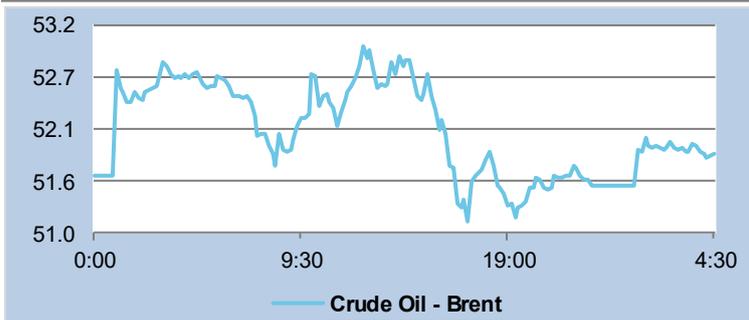
### UK

Company Name	Results	Currency	Full Year Consensus	
			Estimated EPS	Estimated Revenue (Mn)
Jardine Matheson Holdings Ltd.	Final	USD	4.55	41,809.20
Aviva Plc	Final	GBP	0.58	25,674.00
Melrose Industries Plc	Final	GBP	0.13	11,862.11
Dairy Farm International Holdings Ltd	Final	USD	0.25	11,313.00
Kier Group Plc	Interim	GBP	0.44	4,292.00
GVC Holdings	Final	GBP	0.64	3,609.46
ITV Plc	Final	GBP	0.13	3,251.82
Hongkong Land Holding Ltd.	Final	USD	0.45	2,194.10
Schroders Plc	Final	GBP	1.95	2,021.83
Pagegroup Plc	Final	GBP	0.32	1,616.60
Premier Oil Plc	Final	USD	0.16	1,598.50
Synthomer Plc	Final	GBP	0.26	1,494.91
Coats Group Plc	Final	USD	0.07	1,389.40
Origin Enterprises	Interim	EUR	0.43	1,379.50
Admiral Group Plc	Final	GBP	1.45	1,350.00
Staffline Group Plc	Final	GBP	0.02	1,100.00
Spire Healthcare Group Plc	Final	GBP	0.06	959.38
Headlam Group Plc	Final	GBP	0.38	716.25
Tyman Plc	Final	GBP	0.26	619.00
Domino's Pizza Group Plc	Final	GBP	0.15	531.00
Spirent Communications Plc	Final	USD	0.13	502.67
Intu Properties Plc	Final	GBP	0.10	483.33
CLS Holdings Plc	Final	GBP	0.13	110.00
Alfa Financial Software Holdings Plc	Final	GBP	0.03	63.00
IndigoVision Group Plc	Final	USD	0.29	52.20
Capital & Regional Plc	Final	GBP	0.38	50.00
Gresham House Plc	Final	GBP	0.28	28.70
Arcontech Group Plc	Interim	GBP	0.08	3.20
Mandarin Oriental International Ltd	Final	USD	0.04	-
Franchise Brands Plc	Final	GBP	-	-
Airea Plc	Final	GBP	-	-
Bluebird Merchant Ventures Ltd	Interim	USD	-	-
Thor Mining Plc	Interim	GBP	-	-

Note: All Estimates are for Full Year

**Commodity, Currency and Bitcoin**

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**Commodity**

- At 0430GMT today, Brent crude oil one-month futures contract is trading 1.39% or \$0.71 higher at \$51.84 per barrel, amid expectations over further output cuts by the OPEC and its allies to support the market. Yesterday, the contract declined 1.41% or \$0.73, to settle at \$51.13 per barrel, after the Energy Information Administration reported that the US crude oil inventories rose by 785,000 barrels in the week ended 28 February 2020.
- At 0430GMT today, Gold futures contract is trading 0.18% or \$2.90 lower at \$1640.10 per ounce. Yesterday, the contract declined 0.09% or \$1.40, to settle at \$1643.00 per ounce, as a stronger greenback and gains in the global equity markets dented the demand for the safe-haven asset.



**Currency**

- At 0430GMT today, the EUR is trading marginally higher against the USD at \$1.1137. Investors await the US factory orders data for January, scheduled to be released later today. Yesterday, the EUR weakened 0.33% versus the USD, to close at \$1.1136, after the Euro-zone services PMI dropped in February. On the contrary, the Euro-zone retail sales advanced in January, while the German retail sales rose more than expected in January. In other economic news, the US non-manufacturing PMI unexpectedly rose in February.
- At 0430GMT today, the GBP is trading marginally lower against the USD at \$1.2871, ahead of the UK mortgage approvals data for January, due in a few hours. Yesterday, the GBP strengthened 0.48% versus the USD, to close at \$1.2872. On the data front, the UK services PMI declined in February.



**Bitcoin**

- At 0430GMT today, BTC is trading 2.00% higher against the USD at \$8906.89. Yesterday, BTC declined 0.07% against the USD to close at \$8732.24. In major news, the Canadian NEO Exchange announced that neuro-pharmaceutical company, Mind Medicine, will make its global public market debut under the symbol "MMED". In a key development, Chile's cryptocurrency trading platform, CryptoMarket, has received a license issued by the Estonian Financial Intelligence Unit, to provide services for the purchase and sale of cryptocurrency assets.

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## FTSE All Share Index- Performance

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### UK Top Sector Performers

Sector	Current Price	1D Change	1D (%) Change	1M (%) Change	1Y (%) Change
Mobile Telecommunications	3162.15	135.73	4.5%	-5.2%	7.4%
Automobiles & Parts	3858.90	154.71	4.2%	-21.7%	-39.3%
Electricity	9363.28	347.09	3.8%	3.8%	28.9%
Pharmaceuticals & Biotechnology	17138.83	614.38	3.7%	-3.2%	15.2%
Gas, Water & Multiutilities	5830.12	194.56	3.5%	2.1%	17.0%

### UK Worst Sector Performers

Sector	Current Price	1D Change	1D (%) Change	1M (%) Change	1Y (%) Change
Travel & Leisure	8388.02	-162.17	-1.9%	-16.4%	-7.9%
Industrial Transportation	1988.75	-37.29	-1.8%	-12.6%	-16.8%
Aerospace & Defence	4754.52	-39.67	-0.8%	-9.7%	0.9%
Health Care Equipment & Services	7714.66	-57.50	-0.7%	-6.1%	11.4%
Industrial Metals	3110.84	-22.49	-0.7%	-15.2%	-44.4%

## Key Economic News

### UK services PMI dropped in February

In the UK, the final services PMI fell to a level of 53.20 in February, compared to market expectations to a level of 53.30. The services PMI had recorded a reading of 53.30 in the prior month.

### Euro-zone services PMI rose in February

In the Euro-zone, the final services PMI rose to a level of 52.60 in February, compared to market expectations to a level of 52.80. Services PMI had recorded a reading of 52.80 in the previous month.

### Euro-zone retail sales rose as expected in January

In Euro-zone, retail sales rose 0.60% on a MoM basis in January, compared to a fall of 1.60% in previous month. Markets were expecting the seasonally adjusted retail sales to rise 0.60%.

### US non-manufacturing PMI unexpectedly rose in February

In the US, non-manufacturing PMI unexpectedly advanced to a level of 57.30 in February. In the previous month, the non-manufacturing PMI had recorded a reading of 55.50.

### BoC cuts its key interest rate to combat coronavirus slowdown

The Bank of Canada (BoC), in a surprise move, cut its interest rate by 50 basis points to a target range of 1.25%, its biggest record cut since 2009, in response to the growing concerns over the coronavirus outbreak. The central bank stated that before the coronavirus outbreak, the global economy was showing signs of stabilizing. However, it represents a significant health threat to people in a growing number of countries. Further, the central bank also signalled the potential for additional rate cuts to mitigate the "material negative shock" that COVID-19 poses to the economy.

### Fed's Beige Book: US economy growing at a 'modest to moderate pace'

According to the US Federal Reserve (Fed) latest Beige Book report, the US economy grew at a "modest to moderate" pace in majority of the Fed districts. The report indicated that the coronavirus was negatively affected the travel and tourism in the US, with growth in tourism described as flat to modest. On the outlook front, the Beige Book indicated that the coronavirus and the upcoming presidential elections pose risks to the country's economic outlook.

## Share Tips, Bids and Rumours

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- [The Times \(Tempus share tips\)](#): “Buy” Legal & General; “Avoid” General Electric.
- [The Daily Telegraph \(Questor share tips\)](#): The coronavirus has infected Questor’s portfolio – but it has also created bargains.
- [The Times](#): Alibaba has taken a minority stake in Klarna, the rapidly growing “buy now, pay later” business.
- [The Times \(Comment\)](#): This is no time for trade barriers or falling out with the neighbours.

## Newspaper Summary

## The Times

**Intu at risk as it ditches fundraising:** Shareholders in Intu Properties face being wiped out after the owner of some of Britain’s biggest shopping centres was forced to scrap a £1.5 billion emergency fundraising.

**Barclay family feud escalates over sale price of Ritz hotel:** A public war of words has broken out between members of the Barclay family over the value of The Ritz hotel.

**Chinese services hit by worst month ever:** China’s service industries endured their worst month on record in February, highlighting how hard coronavirus has hit the world’s second largest economy.

**Measures to protect small firms from virus threat:** “How will a higher equity market help small businesses?” David Owen, Chief European economist at Jefferies, asked. Others pondered the same question after the U.S. Federal Reserve’s emergency half-point rate cut, the first since the 2008 financial crisis and with the Bank of England teeing up the U.K. for an early move, too.

**Supply problems take toll on nation of shopkeepers:** Almost a quarter of retailers have suffered a significant impact on their business because supplies have been disrupted by the spread of coronavirus.

**Indian drugs body warns of Europe panic over shortage:** Drugs companies in Europe were said to be “panicking” after India introduced limits on the export of medicines.

**Investment body calls for climate risk clarity:** Companies face pressure from a trade body to start shedding light on the risks that climate change poses to their businesses.

**Mountain of debt threatens to bury Intu:** Intu Properties is in serious trouble and it

didn’t see it coming. Only a year ago, when the shopping centre owner was still a member of the FTSE 250 index, it talked of a healthy outlook for retail property, estimating in its annual report that by 2022 valuations would have recovered to 90% of their peak values.

**Bankers and lawyers make Sirius money:** Bankers and other advisers working on Anglo American’s takeover of Sirius Minerals are set to earn £23 million in fees after the deal which left thousands of retail investors nursing heavy losses was voted through.

**Paul Singer is doing Twitter a favour: part-time Head Jack Dorsey must be shown the door:** Paul Singer must be a student of trench warfare. The Founder of Elliott Management spent 15 years fighting Argentina over its 2001 debt default. After chasing Buenos Aires through the international courts — he once, famously, induced Ghana to seize an Argentinian naval vessel — the pugnacious American hedge fund billionaire walked away with a \$2 billion profit.

**Lord Grade’s Gate Ventures ‘misled court’ about loan to Duchess of York:** A troubled entertainment company chaired by Lord Grade of Yarmouth has been accused of “deliberately and consciously” misleading the High Court over loans written to Sarah, Duchess of York.

**Amigo Founder sparks bid talk after quitting board:** The Founder of Amigo Holdings has abruptly stepped down from the board of the troubled guarantor lender little more than a month after putting the business up for sale.

**Alibaba pays now to buy stake in Klarna:** Alibaba has taken a minority stake in Klarna, the rapidly growing “buy now, pay later” business, in a move that will further boost the Swedish company’s £4.3 billion valuation.

**Improbable makes real-world losses after its hiring spree:** A British virtual reality startup lost more than £1 million a week last year in a further blow to Softbank, its main backer.

**Facebook eases back plans for libra digital currency:** Plans by Facebook to offer its 2.9 billion users a global digital currency that would allow them to transfer money around the world at almost no cost is being scaled back.

**Higher gold prices push up profits at Polymetal:** Stronger gold and silver prices have pushed profits at Polymetal International to a record high.

**Manchester’s ‘innovation capital’ attracts Temasek:** Singapore’s state investment fund is on a shortlist of bidders hoping to build a £1.5 billion innovation district in Manchester after two Chinese companies pulled out of the competition.

**Lego empire strikes back with profits:** Sales of Star Wars-themed Lego sets and classic ranges helped the Danish toymaker to increase revenues and profits last year.

**Nanoco fails to lure buyer with Samsung package:** It had all looked so promising. Last November, Nanoco put itself up for sale and within weeks was updating the market with news that it was discussions with “multiple interested parties” and had allowed them to further inspect its books. Hopes of a takeover of the Manchester-based technology company seemed to evaporate after it warned that it was had yet to receive a concrete offer and was struggling to find a buyer.

**L&G shares are starting to look cheap:** Nigel Wilson, Chief Executive of Legal & General, thinks it distasteful to talk about, but a death-dealing plague would — in one way — be rather good for Britain’s biggest domestic insurer. In pure actuarial terms, every casualty would be one less promised pension to pay out.

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## The Independent

**Barclays cuts jobs as overhaul affects 1,000 employees across U.K.:** Barclays is to cut 250 jobs across a number of U.K. sites and shut down a large office in Leeds as part of an overhaul that will affect around 1,000 staff.

**Google cancels its biggest event of the year over coronavirus fears:** Google has cancelled I/O, its biggest event of the year. The conference usually serves as the company's launch for its new products and services and sets the tone for the rest of the year. But this year the "physical" part of the event – which was due to be held at the Shoreline Amphitheatre in May – has been cancelled, amid fears about the coronavirus.

## Financial Times

**Energy groups urged to step up as net zero champions:** Oil and gas companies should lead investment in clean energy technologies rather than waiting for government subsidies if they want to survive in a world of net zero emissions, according to the U.K.'s Chief Climate Adviser.

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**Elliott and Bank of East Asia hit pause in battle for control:** U.S. hedge fund Elliott Management and Bank of East Asia are hitting pause in their six-year battle for control of the lender, to allow for a strategic review that could result in the sale of large parts of Hong Kong's last large family-owned bank.

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**Coronavirus pushes aviation sector into 'crisis zone':** Airbus is reviewing its 2020 delivery targets, issued barely three weeks ago, as the global spread of coronavirus in recent days through Europe and into the U.S. pushes the aviation industry into crisis mode.

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**Kirkland & Ellis poaches top Cfius adviser from rival Skadden Arps:** The law firm Kirkland & Ellis has poached a leading Washington adviser to companies navigating secretive U.S. foreign investment reviews, in the latest sign of intense demand for such dealmaking specialists.

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**Lego shines light in global toy market with record sales:** Lego bucked the gloomy trend in the toy industry as the Danish maker of bright plastic bricks reported record sales and a rise in profits.

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**H&M opens up global supply chain to rivals in green push:** Hennes & Mauritz is opening up its global supply chain to other clothing brands as the world's second-largest fashion retailer tries to push more sustainable ways of making garments.

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**India solar groups weigh force majeure to cope with coronavirus:** India's solar companies are banking on government support if a prolonged coronavirus shutdown of businesses in China, their top component supplier, makes it necessary to declare force majeure.

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**Michael Sherwood joins Revolut board:** Michael Sherwood, the former European co-Head of Goldman Sachs, has joined the board of Revolut, a week after it completed one of the continent's largest fintech fundraisings.

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**GM to boost electric car investment after battery breakthrough:** General Motors will raise its spending on electric and autonomous vehicles to \$20.00 billion by 2025 after claiming a battery breakthrough that it says will give its cars longer range and faster recharging as well as making its new wave of vehicles profitable.

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**Four groups swoop for British Steel's French factory:** British Steel's factory in France has received four takeover offers, according to the country's Finance Minister, a development that will complicate efforts by a Chinese investor to buy out the whole of the troubled company.

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**Oyo to halve China workforce as coronavirus takes toll:** Oyo Hotels, the Indian hospitality start-up backed by SoftBank, will slash its workforce in China as problems with its business model are compounded by the country's coronavirus outbreak.

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**Tesco takes on the discounters at their own pricing game:** Tesco is to price-match Aldi on hundreds of branded and own-label goods in a sign of growing confidence in its ability to win back customers from the German-owned discounters.

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**Losses soar at SoftBank-backed Improbable Worlds:** Operating losses at Improbable Worlds, the ambitious SoftBank-backed simulation technology company, jumped almost two-thirds in its latest financial year to £63.7 million, on revenues of just £1.2 million.

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**China's Ant Financial takes stake in Sweden's Klarna:** Chinese mobile payments company Ant Financial has taken a small stake in Swedish fintech Klarna, pushing further into western markets despite a recent escalation in tensions between Beijing and Stockholm.

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**Virgin Atlantic cuts Chief's pay to help offset hit from coronavirus:** Virgin Atlantic is cutting the pay of its Chief Executive by 20% for four months as it becomes the latest airline to take emergency measures to protect profitability as the coronavirus continues to hit passenger demand.

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**Qantas rebuked over coronavirus exposure risks:** Australian health and safety authorities have sharply criticised airline Qantas for potentially exposing workers and passengers to coronavirus.

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**Lex:**

**GE/Jack Welch: an unwieldy legacy:** Group shares are down 80% for their 2000 peak

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**Rate cuts/profits: no silver bullets:** Corporate finances damaged by the coronavirus cannot be revived by cheaper money

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**Metro AG/Sysco: has cash, could carry:** German retail group would help U.S. food distributor broaden footprint in Europe

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[Click here to open an account](#)**Lombard:**

**Intu the breach, dear lenders:** Intu speeds towards covenant limits; Bailey drops catches; Sirius clodhoppers

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**The Daily Telegraph**

**Peace in cyberspace is still possible, let's make it an international priority:** The number of threats facing the digital landscape are increasing, placing the industry at a crossroads.

**Flybe on the verge of collapse after government pulls £100 million loan:** Ailing airline Flybe is poised to become the first major British firm to collapse due to coronavirus, as a government rescue bid falls apart.

**Lindt warns of chocolate price rises as Easter approaches:** Shoppers could be stung with higher chocolate prices ahead of Easter because the world's largest cocoa growers have hiked their costs, the Head of Lindt has warned.

**Daily Mail**

**Departing BA Head Willie Walsh saw his pay jump to £3.2 million last year despite tumbling profits:** The annual report showed Walsh had a 5.5% rise, up from £3 million in 2018, with an £883,000 bonus and £1.2 million in shares. He stands to get 1.1 million shares worth £5.2 million under long-term bonus schemes.

**'Poorer people are not living as long as we expect': Legal & General Head says life expectancy shortfall poses a 'societal problem' - but helps its profits:** Nigel Wilson, Legal & General's Head, told BBC Radio 4's Today Programme that people were 'not living as long as we expected them to, and we've taken a release as a consequence of that'.

**Hedge fund tycoon Crispin Odey bets on Sirius bidding war as shareholders approve £405 million Anglo American takeover:** Crispin Odey's hedge fund Odey Asset Management - which has a 1.4% stake in Sirius and like many retail shareholders opposed the Anglo deal - has not given up hope of a better offer.

**Waitrose begins series of proposed cuts by closing two stores putting hundreds of jobs at risk:** Staff at least two Waitrose branches in Waterlooville, Hampshire, and

Helensburgh, Argyll, were told this week that their stores would be shutting, putting hundreds of full and part-time jobs at risk.

**Glaxo Head Emma Walmsley handed a £2.5 million pay rise after a bumper year of sales:** The 50-year-old Head saw her package rise to £8.4 million in 2019, up from £5.9 million in 2018. It included her £1.1 million salary, £422,000 in pension contributions and benefits, a £1.8 million bonus and £5.1 million in bonuses.

**Metro Bank's risk Head Grahame McGirr is ousted just days before he was due to take up his responsibilities:** A source close to the bank said McGirr was 'not a good cultural fit' but declined to give any further details. Current risk Officer Aileen Gillan has been asked to stay until the end of March.

**Wizz Air starts axing flights, halting recruitment and reining in spending as it battles against dwindling demand:** The airline said it plans to start axing flights, particularly those departing from and arriving in Italy, between 11 March and 2 April.

**The Scottish Herald**

**Official Scottish visitor guide warns 'eco-tourists' not to visit Edinburgh Castle:** A new VisitScotland tourism guide recommends skipping Edinburgh Castle altogether and warns against the dangers of 'social media trends' such as stone-stacking and love locks.

**Aggreko shares surge as power giant forges ahead with Tokyo plans amid coronavirus threat:** Shares in Aggreko surged by more than 5% after the Glasgow-based firm generated a big rise in profits and declared it was forging ahead with preparations to provide power to the Olympic Games in Japan this summer.

**Scotch duo to build mainland's most-northerly whisky distillery:** Plans are in place for a new 32,670 sq ft facility that is set to displace Old Pulteney as Scotland's most northerly mainland whisky distillery.

**Incentives for firms to move from RBS to other banks increased:** Incentives to encourage small and medium sized enterprise customers of RBS to switch to other banks have been increased amid concerns the programme is not having enough impact.

**A high-tech welcome for iconic Bass Rock gannets:** It's the time of year that sees the arrival of thousands of Britain's largest sea birds - and these ones are bucking the trend of declining numbers.

**Edinburgh firm to open first public hydrogen refuelling station in central belt:** An Edinburgh-based hydrogen technology firm is to open the first public hydrogen refuelling station for vehicles in Scotland's central belt.

**Demand still rising for hotels in Glasgow:** Glasgow's booming hotel sector is set for a further decade of strong performance as the tourism, commercial and conference markets feed demand for accommodation.

**Edinburgh software company Craneware increases new sales in U.S. market by a third:** Craneware, the Scottish software company targeting the U.S. healthcare sector, has unveiled a modest rise in first-half profits to \$9.6 million and hailed a lift in new sales of almost a third.

**Luxury care company has new owner:** Kingsacre Luxury Suites, one of Scotland's luxury care providers, has been acquired by family-led operator the Care Concern Group.

**The Scotsman**

**Highland oil terminal under new leadership to boost port capabilities:** The Highland oil terminal jetty, previously under the control of Repsol Sinopec Resources, will be operated as an extension to the Port of Nigg - an established deep-water port servicing oil and gas, offshore renewables and the wider energy markets.

**Boeing Scotland Alliance to create 200 jobs and add 'tens of millions of pounds' to economy:** The plane-making giant, which is the world's biggest aerospace company and the largest manufacturing exporter in the US, is aiming to double its supply chain in Scotland as a result of the Boeing Scotland Alliance, a new collaboration with Scottish Enterprise.

**London Ritz owner confirms bids to buy hotel reach more than £1 billion:** Sir Frederick, who bought the London landmark with his twin brother Sir David in 1995, also said any move to sell the establishment for "below the proper value would give rise to further litigation".

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**Edinburgh's Taste Communications to lead food and drink campaign for 'floating hotel' Fingal:** The communications firm - which says it is Scotland's first dedicated food, drink and hospitality agency - has been signed up by Leith-based Fingal to help develop its reputation as a "world-class foodie destination" on Edinburgh's waterfront.

## Risk Warning & Disclaimer

### CFD and Spread betting Risk Warning

All trading involves risk. Spread bets and CFDs are complex instruments and come with a high risk of losing money rapidly due to leverage. **68% of retail investor accounts lose money when trading spread bets and CFDs with this provider.** You should consider whether you understand how spread bets and CFDs work, and whether you can afford to take the high risk of losing your money. Professional clients can lose more than they deposit.

### Shares Risk Warning

The value of stocks and shares, and the income from them, can fall as well as rise and you may not get back the full amount you originally invested. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance.

**If you are unsure about dealing in shares and other equity investments, you should contact your financial adviser as these types of investments may not be suitable for everyone.**

### Disclaimer

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