

BUSINESS ACUITIES



MARCH 2019

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

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INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

Trade tensions between the United States and China: The trade dispute between the two largest economies dominated headlines in March 2019. Negotiations and discussions regarding tariffs and trade imbalances were ongoing, with both countries imposing tariffs on each other's goods.



Brexit developments: The United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union (Brexit) continued to be a major topic of discussion in March 2019. Negotiations between the UK and the EU were ongoing, and the UK Parliament faced challenges in reaching a consensus on a withdrawal agreement.

Boeing 737 Max grounding: In March 2019, following two fatal crashes involving Boeing 737 Max aircraft, many countries and airlines grounded the aircraft model. This had significant implications for Boeing's business and raised concerns about aviation safety.

Economic slowdown concerns: There were growing concerns about a global economic slowdown in March 2019. Some indicators, such as slowing manufacturing activity in China and Europe, fueled worries about the health

of the global economy.

Tech and data privacy issues: Data privacy and regulatory issues surrounding technology companies were prominent in March 2019. Discussions revolved around data breaches, privacy regulations, and the role of major tech companies in society.

Ongoing U.S.-EU trade talks: The United States and the European Union were engaged in negotiations to improve trade relations and address various trade issues. Discussions focused on reducing trade barriers and potential tariffs on goods.

Energy markets: Developments in the energy sector, such as oil prices and renewable energy initiatives, continued to impact the global business landscape. Shifts in oil prices, OPEC decisions, and investments in clean energy were relevant topics.



Please note that the specific news events and details from March 2019 may vary, and it's always a good idea to refer to trusted news sources for the most accurate and up-to-date information.

DOMESTIC ECONOMY

United States:

U.S. jobs report: The U.S. Labor Department released the monthly jobs report, which indicated that the economy added 20,000 jobs in February 2019, a much lower number than expected. This raised concerns about the pace of economic growth.

Federal Reserve's monetary policy: The Federal Reserve signaled a dovish stance in its monetary policy, suggesting that interest rate hikes would be put on hold. This move aimed to support economic growth and stabilize financial markets.



Trade negotiations with China: The United States continued trade talks with China in an effort to resolve the ongoing trade dispute. Discussions focused on issues such as intellectual property protection, market access, and trade imbalances.

United Kingdom:

Brexit uncertainty: The month of March was crucial for the United Kingdom's Brexit process. The UK Parliament held

multiple votes on the withdrawal agreement negotiated by Prime Minister Theresa May, which faced significant challenges in gaining approval.

Economic impact assessments: Various reports and studies were released, highlighting the potential economic consequences of different Brexit scenarios. These assessments projected potential impacts on trade, investment, and economic growth.

European Union:

Eurozone economic data: Economic data for the Eurozone in March 2019 indicated slowing growth. Manufacturing activity showed signs of contraction, raising concerns about the health of the European economy.

European Central Bank (ECB) policy: The ECB maintained its accommodative monetary policy stance in response to the economic slowdown. The central bank announced measures to stimulate lending and support economic activity.



China:

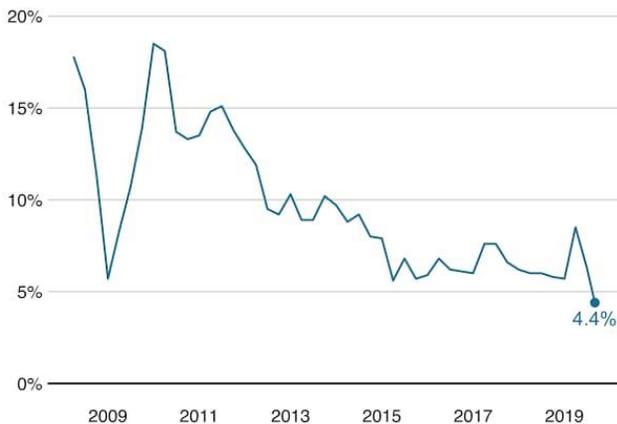
Economic slowdown concerns: China faced concerns about its economic growth trajectory. Data indicated a

slowdown in manufacturing activity, leading to discussions about the potential need for further stimulus measures.

Trade negotiations with the United States: China continued its trade talks with the United States, seeking to find a resolution to the ongoing trade dispute. The negotiations aimed to address trade imbalances, intellectual property issues, and market access.

The decline of Chinese industry

% change of industrial output, year-on-year



Source: Chinese National Statistics Office



These are just a few examples of the domestic economic news that took place in various countries in March 2019. Remember that economic news can be highly dynamic, and it's always a good idea to refer to trusted news sources for the most accurate and up-to-date information.

INDUSTRIAL RELATION

United States:

Teacher strikes: In several states across the United States, including California and West Virginia, teachers went on

strike to demand better pay, improved working conditions, and increased education funding. These strikes drew attention to issues facing the education sector.



Auto industry negotiations: The United Auto Workers (UAW) union engaged in negotiations with major automakers, including General Motors (GM), Ford, and Fiat Chrysler, to secure better wages, benefits, and job security for their members.

United Kingdom:

University staff strikes: Members of the University and College Union (UCU) in the UK went on strike at multiple universities. The strikes were related to disputes over pensions, pay, and working conditions within the higher education sector.

Workers' rights and Brexit: Discussions and debates about workers' rights and protections were prominent in the context of Brexit. Concerns were raised about potential changes to labor laws and regulations following the UK's withdrawal from the European Union.



France:

Yellow Vest protests: The Yellow Vest movement, which started in late 2018, continued to gather momentum in March 2019. The protests initially focused on fuel prices but expanded to encompass broader concerns about income inequality, living standards, and labor rights.



Airline strikes: Various airline workers, including pilots and cabin crew, staged strikes in France to protest against changes in working conditions and wage disputes. These strikes led to flight cancellations and disruptions.

Australia:

Construction industry disputes: The Australian construction sector witnessed industrial disputes, with unions and

workers raising concerns about wages, safety, and job security. Strikes and protests took place at various construction sites across the country.

Retail worker rights: Discussions surrounding the rights of retail workers, including issues such as low wages and insecure employment, gained attention in Australia. Advocacy groups called for improved conditions and protections for retail employees.



These examples provide a snapshot of industrial relations news in March 2019. It's important to note that labor-related news is subject to change and may vary across different countries and industries. For the most accurate and up-to-date information, referring to reputable news sources and labor-related organizations is recommended.

SHARE MARKET

U.S.-China trade negotiations: The progress and updates on the trade negotiations between the United States and China had a significant impact on stock markets worldwide. Positive news or signs of progress in the talks often led to market rallies, while negative developments caused fluctuations and

uncertainty.

Federal Reserve policy: The U.S. Federal Reserve's monetary policy decisions and statements had a notable impact on share markets. In March 2019, the Fed indicated a more dovish stance, suggesting a pause in interest rate hikes, which boosted investor confidence and supported stock markets.



Brexit uncertainty: The ongoing uncertainty surrounding Brexit negotiations between the United Kingdom and the European Union affected global markets, particularly those with close economic ties to the UK. News related to the progress or lack thereof in the negotiations had an impact on stock markets.

Tech stocks: Technology companies, particularly the FAANG stocks (Facebook, Apple, Amazon, Netflix, Google), continued to be closely watched. Any news related to these companies, such as earnings reports, regulatory concerns, or new product announcements, often influenced broader market sentiment.

Economic indicators: Various economic indicators and data releases provided insights into the health of economies and

influenced stock market movements. Key reports, such as GDP growth, manufacturing data, and employment figures, were closely monitored by investors.

Corporate earnings season: March is typically a period when many companies release their quarterly earnings reports. Positive earnings surprises or disappointing results from major companies had the potential to impact their stock prices and broader market sentiment.

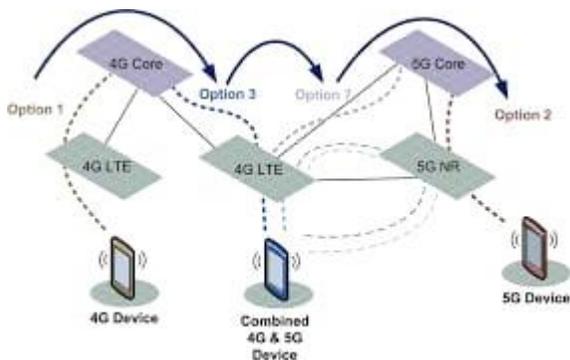
Oil prices: Fluctuations in oil prices influenced energy stocks and had wider implications for the stock markets. Any news related to oil production, OPEC decisions, or geopolitical tensions affecting oil supply often impacted share markets.

These are just a few examples of share market news that made headlines in March 2019. It's important to note that stock market dynamics can change rapidly, and it's advisable to refer to reputable financial news sources for the most up-to-date and accurate information.

TECHNOLOGY

5G deployments and advancements: March 2019 saw continued progress in the deployment of 5G networks worldwide. Major telecommunications companies announced plans for 5G rollouts, and discussions surrounding the potential impact of this new technology on various industries, such as

autonomous vehicles and IoT, were prominent.



Tech regulation and privacy concerns: Data privacy and regulatory issues surrounding technology companies were key topics in March 2019. Discussions revolved around the need for stricter data protection regulations, the role of tech giants in handling user data, and potential consequences for privacy violations.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) advancements: AI continued to make headlines in March 2019, with discussions focusing on its potential applications, advancements, and ethical considerations. Developments in areas such as machine learning, natural language processing, and computer vision showcased the growing impact of AI across industries.

Tech industry acquisitions: There were notable acquisitions and mergers in the tech industry during this period. Companies made strategic moves to expand their capabilities or gain access to new markets. High-profile deals included acquisitions in areas such as cloud computing, software, and digital media.



Autonomous vehicles and mobility: The development of autonomous vehicles and the future of mobility were hot topics in March 2019. Discussions centered on advancements in self-driving technology, regulatory frameworks, and the potential impact on transportation systems.

Cryptocurrency and blockchain: The cryptocurrency market and blockchain technology continued to attract attention in March 2019. Discussions focused on the adoption of cryptocurrencies, regulatory challenges, and developments in blockchain applications beyond digital currencies.



Tech company announcements and product launches: Various tech companies made significant announcements and launched new products during this period. These included new smartphones, tablets, and other consumer electronics, as well as software and service updates.

Please note that the specific news events and details from March 2019 may vary, and it's always a good idea to refer to trusted news sources for the most accurate and up-to-date information on technology news.