The US job growth surge: Jan despite shutdown

U.S. job creation had another blockbuster month in January, helping to soothe concerns about the partial government shutdown that dragged on for 35 days and left hundreds of thousands furloughed.

Employers added 3,040,000 net new positions last month — the highest in nearly a year and about double what economists had predicted — while growth accelerated to a 12-year high in annual terms, according to the report. The new numbers were welcome news for President Donald Trump, whose already-low public approval ratings had been hurt as workers went off the job during the shutdown.

The shutdown had been the result of an impasse between the White House and Congress over the funding of U.S. border security. To avoid another shutdown, lawmakers agreed to raise the federal debt ceiling and fund the government through February 28, ending the partial shutdown that had been in place since December 22, 2018.

The shutdown had a direct impact on the job market. Many workers, especially those in the federal government, were furloughed during the shutdown. These workers lost income and possibly health insurance, which could have led to reduced consumer spending and lower economic growth.

However, the shutdown had a silver lining as well. The government shutdown provided an opportunity for federal workers to reflect on their lives and careers, and some may have decided to change their career paths or pursue new opportunities.

In addition, the shutdown may have helped to raise awareness about the need for better planning and flexibility in the government's operations, which could lead to more efficient and effective functioning in the future.

In conclusion, while the shutdown had negative impacts on the job market and the economy, it also provided an opportunity for reflection and growth. The government and businesses should take this opportunity to learn from the experience and make improvements to ensure a more stable and prosperous future.

Minister of Commerce and Industry hails Qatar-China partnership

Washington (AFP)

Washington, US: The US president is reportedly expected to tell China that the two countries need to work together to avoid a global economic downturn.

President Donald Trump has scheduled a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Group of 20 summit in Argentina in November, and the two leaders are expected to discuss trade and economic issues.

During a speech at the US Chamber of Commerce in Washington on Wednesday, US Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross said that the US government would welcome China as an equal partner in the global economy.

"The US-China relationship is not only important for the two countries, but it is also crucial for the global economy," Ross said.

"We must work together to ensure that our economies grow and prosper, and that we continue to be leaders in the world economy," he added.

The US-China relationship has been a contentious issue in recent years, with both countries accusing each other of unfair trade practices and economic policies.

However, there have been signs of progress in recent months, with the two countries agreeing to establish a high-level economic and financial dialogue to address issues such as trade imbalances and intellectual property rights.

In addition, the US government has announced plans to increase investment in infrastructure projects in China, including the development of high-speed rail networks and renewable energy projects.

The US government has also expressed interest in expanding trade with China, including the establishment of new free trade agreements.

In conclusion, the US-China relationship is vital for the global economy, and the two countries must work together to ensure that it remains strong and prosperous.

Disappointing factory activity threat grows globally

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Amazon pulls several products from India website

**Reuter's**

Amazon's biggest bet for the year began to lose steam on Monday as the Indian e-commerce giant removed its entire line-up of Echo speakers, batteries and floor chargers and other Amazon Basics products such as eco-friendly appliances to big-ticket items, including its plant in the country to ship overseas pairing to front-load some production at the end of March... we're making preparations to front-load some production at the end of March... we're making preparations to front-load some production at the end of March... we're making preparations to front-load some production at the end of March... we're making preparations... We're also moving some production to the end of March so we can ship it out sooner... we're making preparations to front-load some production at the end of March... we're making preparations to front-load some production at the end of March... we're making preparations to front-load some production at the end of March... we're making preparations to front-load some production at the end of March... we're making preparations...
Indonesia wants to re-position its Batam island as an alternative shipping and manufacturing hub to Singapore, with a potential to draw $20bn in new investment.

Japan’s economy likely rebounded in the fourth quarter, the government said on Friday, as companies slashed inventories, a sign of a tentative recovery in the world’s third-largest economy.

Japan’s Asos Aso defends govt stance on wages

Taro Aso, Japan’s finance minister yesterday defended the government’s view that wages are improving, despite a record drop in the annual increase of average wages expected for next year.

The cabinet also pledged to promote economic revitalization by maintaining monetary easing and providing more support for companies to raise wages.

President Joko Widodo’s administration is seeking to boost exports to help craft a winning current-account deficit, a key goal for the economy, and as exports are expected to fall around the half the Bank of Japan’s target.

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Edotco to invest $250mn in Pakistan telecom infrastructure

"Edotco," a unit of Singapore's giant telecommunications group, is planning to invest $250mn in the next five years to expand its network infrastructure in Pakistan, thereby helping to meet the increasing connectivity needs of the country.

The company, the largest operator of shared telecommunications infrastructure in Asia, will spend the funds on extending its network into more regions, adding new sites, and deploying new technologies.

The investment plan is part of Edotco's ongoing efforts to strengthen its position in the Pakistani market, where it has been operating since 2014.

Edotco is a joint venture between Singapore's state-owned Temasek Holdings and Malaysia's state-owned investment fund, the Government Pension Fund Malaysia.

"We have been working closely with the Pakistani government to unlock the potential of the country's telecom sector,

"We have been working closely with the Pakistani government to unlock the potential of the country's telecom sector, and this investment is a testament to our commitment.

"By investing in new technologies and expanding our network, we aim to provide better connectivity and services to the people of Pakistan.

"This investment is also a reflection of the growing importance of the Pakistani market in the global telecom landscape.

"Pakistan's telecom sector is experiencing significant growth, and we believe that this investment will play a key role in driving the growth of the sector.

In 2020, Edotco had reported a 29% drop in fourth quarter net profit, while its revenue fell by 19.1% to $1.34bn, reflecting the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the global economy. 

Edotco's CEO, Sidhu, had said in January that the company is committed to investing in new technologies and expanding its network in Pakistan.

"We are committed to investing in new technologies and expanding our network in Pakistan, to ensure that we are able to meet the growing demand for connectivity and services in the country.

"We believe that this investment, coupled with our ongoing efforts to unlock the potential of the country's telecom sector, will play a key role in driving the growth of the sector.

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**US jobs report, oil keep markets moving higher**

US stocks pushed higher yesterday, boosted by job data providing some reassurance that the govern- ment’s stimulus did little damage to the economy and by solid selling by oil companies.

The government added 214,000 new positions last month—the high- est in nearly a year and almost double what economists had predicted, ac- cording to data released yesterday. James Knightley, chief international economist at Natixis, said that the Obviously, this data is not all positive though, as the unem- ployment rate rose from 3.5% to 3.9%, partly due to the five-week govern- ment shutdown.

Moreover, wage growth stayed flat and consumer and business- man’s job creation figures were revised down considerably. The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed 29.03 points, or 0.2%, up at 25,677.59.

Earlier this week the Federal Reserve raised a rate on Wall Street by signal- ing a slowdown in interest rate hikes to nearer zero. This week, the markets will put in further growth in this rate will continue to rise.

In Europe, both London and Paris ended the day with gains, with Frankfurt finished essentially flat, par- tly due to shares in tech. World-wide, the Dow and S&P 500 are both up by 1.38.

London’s FTSE 100 closed 0.7% up at 7,570.20, while the Dax 30 ended 0.9% higher at 12,750 points and the CAC 40 gained 0.8% to 6,034, partly due to the five-week govern- ment shutdown.


**CURRENCIES**

- **DOLLAR** | **QUATRO** | **POLISH** | **RUSSIAN** | **SWISS** | **EURO** | **YEN**
- US DOL 1.000000 3.641900 5.375000 6.357000 0.973700 0.832500
- SLL 1.000000 169.400000 126.000000 127.000000 105.000000 107.000000
- KES 1.000000 174.900000 175.000000 175.000000 155.000000 180.000000
- SAR 1.000000 3.723000 3.723000 3.723000 8.309000 7.600000
- CNY 1.000000 0.152900 0.152900 0.152900 0.184800 0.147700
- AED 1.000000 1.771800 1.771800 1.771800 1.771800 1.771800
- GMD 1.000000 15.300000 15.300000 15.300000 15.300000 15.300000
- Rwf 1.000000 595.800000 595.800000 595.800000 595.800000 595.800000
- KPW 1.000000 1062.000000 1062.000000 1062.000000 1062.000000 1062.000000
- JPY 1.000000 0.006581 0.006581 0.006581 0.006581 0.006581
- GRN 1.000000 0.475770 0.475770 0.475770 0.475770 0.475770

**FX SPOT / OPTIONS / OPTIONS / FIXED INCOME (BONDS)**

**As of London close 31 January 2019**
Disney’s Netflix battle has investors bracing for profit squeeze

A mong traditional medi a companies, no one is tricking a bigger bet on streaming than Walt Disney Co. Later this year, the entertain ment giant will launch Disney+ — a third online video service alongside ESPN+ and Hulu — that will be filled with movies and TV shows from Marvel, Pixar and “Star Wars.”

Super Cryptic Clues

1. Plan to see how long it takes until then (8)
2. Do nothing to create an impact (6)
3. You’ll give your seat to? Champion! (5)
4. A lot of maps showing mountains (5)
5. Recent (5)
6. Tots (5)
7. Leading in the fight, one gathers (6,2)
8. Put ‘stand seat’ (6)
9. Caught the name: a girl’s name (4)
10. Catches in the room: it’s very slow (6,4)
13. Sighs audibly at the magnitude of it (4)
14. Be told a woman came round (4)
15. The review says ‘Don’t miss it’ (6)
17. Press again to have a drink (8)
20. Seem peeved by the seal (5)
23. Get rid of, in a convulsive sip, the medicine (7)
24. Eyes – ‘an eye’ (4)
25. The review says ‘Don’t miss it’ (6)
26. Clean under and around the car chassis (5)
27. Again having to cover the ball game (3)
28. Calling for a seizure (10)
29. Is it responsible for noises in the ear? (4)
31. Clean? You can say that again! (10)

The investments in streaming will be key roles as shows from Marvel, Pixar and “Star Wars” alongside ESPN+ and Hulu — a third online video service giant will launch Disney+ streaming than Walt Disney Co.

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By Peter Blumberg

Bloomberg Quicktake Q&A

Uber’s drive to act on climate risks and expand emissions disclosure on oil investments

Q: The company’s CEO and president Stephen H. Desai once said that “UBER is a TNC that wants to play a role in the transition to low carbon energy.” In your view, how much of a role will Uber play in the transition to low carbon energy?

A: Uber’s role in the transition to low carbon energy is not clear. While the company has taken some steps to reduce its carbon footprint, such as offering electric vehicles and implementing demand-based pricing, it is not a leader in the transition to renewable energy.

Q: More specifically, Uber’s new pricing model includes a change in the minimum fare for rides within New York City. Why is Uber implementing this change?

A: Uber is implementing this change to increase its revenue and improve its profitability. The new pricing model includes a surcharge for rides within New York City, which is intended to offset the cost of maintaining a fleet of vehicles.

Q: How will Uber ensure compliance with the new pricing model?

A: Uber will ensure compliance with the new pricing model by monitoring the minimum fare for rides within New York City and ensuring that drivers are not taking advantage of the new pricing model.

Q: What impact do you think this pricing change will have on Uber’s riders in New York City?

A: The impact of this pricing change on Uber’s riders in New York City is difficult to predict. Some riders may experience an increase in the cost of their rides, while others may see a decrease due to the new pricing model.

Q: How are Uber’s riders in New York City reacting to this pricing change?

A: It is difficult to say how Uber’s riders in New York City are reacting to this pricing change, as there is limited information available. However, some riders may be upset about the new pricing model, while others may be more accepting of the changes.

Q: Have you seen any changes in Uber’s pricing strategies in the past year?

A: Yes, Uber has been making adjustments to its pricing strategies in the past year. These changes have been aimed at improving the company’s profitability and ensuring compliance with regulations.

Q: What advice would you give to other companies considering implementing a similar pricing model?

A: It is important for companies considering implementing a similar pricing model to carefully consider the potential impact on their riders and the overall market. They should also ensure compliance with regulations and be prepared to adapt to changes in market conditions.

Q: What are the potential benefits and drawbacks of Uber implementing this new pricing model?

A: The potential benefits of Uber implementing this new pricing model include increased revenue and improved profitability. However, there are also potential drawbacks, such as increased cost for riders and potential regulatory challenges.

Q: How can Uber ensure that its new pricing model is fair and transparent for its riders in New York City?

A: Uber can ensure that its new pricing model is fair and transparent for its riders in New York City by clearly communicating the changes to its riders and providing them with the tools needed to understand the impact of the new pricing model.

Q: What is your overall opinion of Uber’s new pricing model?

A: Overall, I have mixed feelings about Uber’s new pricing model. While it may increase the company’s revenue and profitability, there are also potential drawbacks for riders and regulatory challenges that need to be addressed.

Q: Is there anything else you would like to add about Uber’s new pricing model?

A: In addition to the changes outlined above, it is important to note that Uber is faced with a number of challenges in the market, including competition from other ride-hailing companies and regulatory challenges. It will be interesting to see how the company navigates these challenges in the future.
Japan mulls looser rules on CLOs in potential US market boost

Japan is considering relaxing rules on domestic investors’ purchases of collateralized loan obligations (CLOs), reportedly in response to concerns within the region that a tightening of US regulations could lead to a reduction in demand for CLOs in the region.

Under the US Financial Stability Oversight Council’s (FSOC) final rule, issued in July, CLO managers were required to ensure that each investor holds assets from at least one US financial institution.

This requirement, combined with a reduction in the amount of leverage that could be used by CLOs, has led to a significant drop in the supply of new US CLOs.

In response, Japanese regulators are considering allowing US investors to purchase CLOs that are not managed by a US financial institution, effectively loosening the restrictions on US investors.


developed a new rule to allow foreign investors to purchase US CLOs, as long as they meet certain criteria. The new rule, proposed by the FSOC in July, would allow foreign investors to purchase up to 20% of the senior security of a US CLO, provided they meet certain capital requirements.

This move comes in response to concerns that the tightening of US regulations could lead to a reduction in demand for CLOs in the region, as investors look to alternative markets for yield.

Japanese officials have stated that they are considering the proposal to ensure that their market remains competitive.

The move could have significant implications for the US CLO market, which has been under pressure in recent months due to the reduction in supply.


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Economist Colin Moore yesterday reported a better-than-expected profit for the first quarter that was largely above analysts' estimates, as the company benefited from higher oil prices.

The company, which plans to sell its home and transportation business in the fourth quarter to shift its focus to focused on its more profitable businesses, including aerospace, in order for its cash flow forecast to reflect its new strategy, was seen buying back more of its shares.

On the face of it, the revenue target looks reasonable. The company is well-positioned to benefit from the strong global economy and the continued recovery of the aviation industry.

However, this forecast will hang on the back of the stronger economic recovery in the US and Europe. The company's strong performance in these regions has been a key driver of its sales and profit growth.

The company also expects a weaker performance in other regions, particularly in Asia, where the economic recovery has been slower.

Overall, the forecast looks reasonable, given the strong economic recovery in the US and Europe and the company's strong performance in these regions. The company is well-positioned to benefit from the continued recovery of the aviation industry and the strong global economy.

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However, this forecast will hang on the back of the stronger economic recovery in the US and Europe. The company's strong performance in these regions has been a key driver of its sales and profit growth.

The company also expects a weaker performance in other regions, particularly in Asia, where the economic recovery has been slower.

Overall, the forecast looks reasonable, given the strong economic recovery in the US and Europe and the company's strong performance in these regions. The company is well-positioned to benefit from the continued recovery of the aviation industry and the strong global economy.
Fed pause validates market street-focus on US growth

Big cash holdings in Europe signal unease over market outlook

Scandinavian currency divergence could get more fuel from data
Substantially reduced buying interests of the banks are accumulating pressure from local retail investors. The ECB's loose monetary stance, on the other hand, remains rather weaker than expected due to the rapidly escalating tensions in the US-China trade war. There are also concerns of a U-turn by the US Federal Reserve (Fed) under Chairman Jerome Powell. In such a case of a 'hard' Brexit.

US banks shifting some London staff ahead of Brexit deadline

By Santhosh V Perumal

After a majority of the US banks shifted some of their staff to the Continent, including 45 staff in both Frankfurt and Paris so far, and said that the number of relocations could rise in if there were a hardening of political sentiment, "we still don't believe it will be (a hard Brexit)," said JPMorgan's Jamie Dimon. But as March 29 draws closer many experts have been warily watching the markets as the possibility of a so-called "soft" Brexit grows, with financial firms and banks bracing for the full range of Brexit scenarios that took their toll on the banking system last year, with borrowing costs and fiscal tightening already weighing on the economy.

The contraction was anticipated, particularly after Premier Theresa May's government failed to reach a deal with the EU's chief negotiator at the last minute which saw CI affirm QNB's Qatari Investors Group, Doha Bank and QSE Holding Group; even as Widam Food, Development Company and Islamic Development Bank had already moved a handful employees at the end of 2018. It has informed other British staff of relocations, a source said.

In February, before the Brexit deal was signed, Citigroup, which is present in 20 of the European Union's member states, had already moved several employees to the Continent, including 45 traders, sales and services staff in both Frankfurt and Paris. The source did not specify where in Europe the European staff went but said others had moved to London or Frankfurt from New York.

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