

U.K.'s Hammond Tells EU to Decide What It Wants From Brexit Deal

Goldman Sachs Group Inc., JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Morgan Stanley are on a hiring drive in Frankfurt as global investment banks race to establish new headquarters inside the European Union in time for Brexit.

The biggest Wall Street firms have recently started advertising for scores of staff ranging from risk managers to compliance officers and information-technology specialists, according to internet listings. They need their offices to be up and running by April 2019, headhunters and people familiar with their firm's hiring plans said.

Banks want to fill as many positions as they can locally to limit the disruption caused by relocating London-based employees and their families, said the people, who asked not to be identified as the plans aren't public. With only about 14 months to go until Britain formally departs the EU, banks have reached what one executive called the point of no return, and have decided they need to trigger their contingency plans.

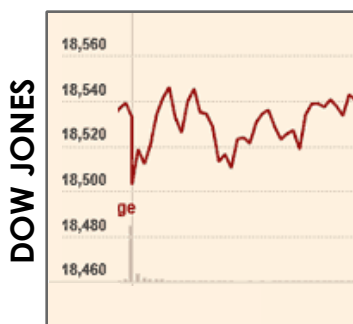


Hottest Home Market in Euro Area Has Irish Lawmaker Feeling Pain

Irish lawmaker Noel Rock has a very direct interest in the nation's new house price surge -- he's trying to buy a home in the euro-zone's hottest market.

For about two years, Rock, 30, has joined dozens of others trudging around open houses in Dublin, in scenes reminiscent of those before Ireland's 2008 real estate bust. Prices in November rose 1.1 percent, three times the monthly increase in October, figures on Thursday showed.

"Everything is very competitive and you get used to the idea of prices going up," Rock, who won a seat in parliament in 2016, said. "I have heard of houses with an asking price of 350,000 euros (\$420,000). Then the owner takes them off the market and later re-lists them for 380,000 euros."



Budding Israel-India Romance Tested by Modi's Balancing Act

Before setting off for New Delhi this weekend, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu received an unwelcome reminder of the maneuvering Indian counterpart Narendra Modi must perform as their countries deepen ties.

In early January, Israel confirmed that India called off a \$500 million missile deal. In December, New Delhi backed a United Nations resolution condemning President Donald Trump's new Israel-friendly policy on Jerusalem.

While Israel is charging headlong into warmer ties with New Delhi, India is engaged in a balancing act, in deference to its historical support for the Palestinians and alliances with Israeli rivals, including Iran.



Oil Reaches \$70 a Barrel for First Time in Three Years

Oil topped \$70 a barrel in London for the first time in three years as production cuts by OPEC and rising demand whittle away a global surplus.

Brent crude futures, used in the pricing of more than half the world's oil, rose as much as 1.2 percent to the highest since Dec. 4, 2014. Prices rallied after the longest stretch of declines in U.S. inventories during winter in a decade.

Oil's rally shows that the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and its allies are succeeding in clearing the glut triggered by the growth of U.S. shale oil. Prices have also been supported by concerns that supply disruptions could stem from rising political tensions in OPEC members Iran and Venezuela.

MARKETS	Value	Change	%Change
DJIA	25,574.73	205.60	0.81%
S&P 500	2,767.56	19.33	0.70%
NASDAQ	7,211.78	58.21	0.81%
FTSE 100	7,762.94	14.43	0.19%
DAX	13,202.90	-78.44	-0.59%
CAC 40	5,488.55	-16.13	-0.29%
IBEX	10,435.20	6.9	0.07%
NIKKEI 225	23,696.95	-13.48	-0.06%
HANG SENG	31,288.48	168.09	0.54%

CURRENCIES	Value	Change	%Change
EUR-USD	1.2049	0.0017	0.14%
USD-JPY	111.27	0.01	0.01%
GBP-USD	1.355	0.0012	0.09%
AUD-USD	0.789	-0.0002	-0.03%
USD-CAD	1.2518	-0.0001	-0.01%
USD-CHF	0.9759	0.0001	0.01%
EUR-GBP	0.8892	0.0005	0.05%
USD-HKD	7.8235	0.0005	0.01%
EUR-CHF	1.1759	0.0018	0.15%