

18 December

European Union Chief Negotiator Michel Barnier set out a hardline negotiating position just as U.K. Prime Minister Theresa May's key ministers were starting to unite behind a Brexit policy that may soothe rifts in her Cabinet.

The European Union aimed for a "deterrent effect" on Google and other technology giants when it ordered the internet search provider to pay 2.4 billion euros (\$2.8 billion) for breaching antitrust law over how it displays shopping ads.

Barclays Plc is in talks with the U.K. Serious Fraud Office over a possible deal to avoid new charges against one of its main operating units linked to a 12 billion-pound (\$16.1 billion) fundraising at the height of the financial crisis, according to a person with knowledge of the situation.

As newly launched derivatives contracts draw pros into the bitcoin market, a short seller still sees a massive inefficiency -- and a chance to profit off naïve traders.

19 December

Ryanair Holdings Plc's Irish pilots gave the company less than two days to come up with an agreement to recognize their labor union.

Italian President Sergio Mattarella signaled he would soon pave the way for national elections early next year, telling political leaders that the parliamentary term was drawing to an end.

For investors who watched austerity measures pummel growth over the past two years, Saudi Arabia's 2018 budget is a relief.

Having subdued Australia's housing market frenzy, Governor Philip Lowe now has to steer his way through the hangover.

20 December

Fresh from sacking her trusted deputy, U.K. Prime Minister Theresa May heads to Poland on Thursday to attempt to get close -- but not too close -- to its new government.

President Donald Trump declared that Republicans had passed the largest tax cut in U.S. history and said corporations would no longer relocate their headquarters overseas after the House sent the legislation to his desk on Wednesday.



Bitcoin has yet to redefine the global payments system. But it could raise questions about how to define a bear market.

New Zealand's rejection of HNA Group Co.'s proposed acquisition of Australia & New Zealand Banking Group Ltd.'s asset-finance business marks a third deal in six months the debt-strapped conglomerate has failed to complete.

21 December

Pro-independence parties won back control of Catalonia in Thursday's regional election as Spanish efforts to contain the separatist movement earned Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy a historic defeat.

Abu Dhabi plans to start selling treasury bills for the first time next year, according to people with knowledge of the matter, as the OPEC producer seeks to develop its local-currency debt market.

Bitcoin fell as much as 15 percent on Friday, extending its loss from its intraday high this week to more than 30 percent.

Investors rejoicing over the Philippine peso's rally to a six-month high should beware: the currency is predicted to be Asia's worst performer next year.

05 January

Former Uber Technologies Inc. Chief Executive Officer Travis Kalanick, who has long boasted that he's never sold any shares in the company he co-founded, plans to sell about 29 percent of his stake in the ride-hailing company, people with knowledge of the matter said.

Credit Suisse Group AG plans to vacate one of its offices in London's Canary Wharf financial district following staff cuts and a program to reduce costs, according to two people with knowledge of the matter.

The strongest manufacturing activity since the aftermath of the global financial crisis is slowly draining commodities surpluses, sending prices to a 3-year high as investors pour money into everything from oil to copper.

Hong Kong's home prices are at unreasonable levels that can't be sustained, according to SC Capital Partners, a \$2.6 billion real estate private equity firm.

