

RESOURCE LOG – July 2019

Article Title	Detail	Publication	Date	Author
Bond Bull Sees Even Lower Floor for Rates	<p>At the beginning of the year, most economists and investors believed that bond yields were poised to finally climb out of their post-crisis funk. One exception: HSBC Holdings...</p> <p>...to-year yield – which helps set borrowing costs throughout the economy – down to 2%, its lowest quarterly finish since 2016.</p> <p>Among investors' concerns were signs of slowing growth and expectations the Federal Reserve will cut interest rates.</p>	The Wall Street Journal	07/01/2019	Daniel Kruger
Markets Soar, but Risks Mount	<p>Stocks are flirting with records again, but many investors are struggling to discern how much longer the bull market can continue.</p> <p>In a matter of weeks, the Federal Reserve will decide whether it will cut interest rates for the first time since the financial crisis. Should the Fed lower rates, many investors argue stocks would likely rise in the short term.</p> <p>One of the major short-term concerns for investors – fractious U.S. -China trade negotiations – was temporarily lifted this weekend as the two countries agreed to a cease-fire on trade. At the Group of 20 summit ...</p> <p>But it is still unclear whether the two countries will be able to iron out a long-term agreement...</p> <p>Companies will start to post second-quarter earnings in the next few weeks.</p> <p>In a June survey conducted by The Wall Street Journal, only 4.9% of economists expected the next recession to start this year.</p>	The Wall Street Journal	07/01/2019	Akane Otani
U.S., China Face Hurdles in Renewed Talks	<p>President Trump and President Xi Jinping of China managed to get trade talks back on track this past weekend, but an even tougher job lies ahead – appeasing hard-line factions within their own governments demanding they give no quarter.</p> <p>Mr. Trump said his move to let Huawei buy high-tech equipment from the U.S. – worked out on the sidelines of a meeting of the Group of 20 leading economies here – would only apply to parts that don't affect U.S. national security.</p>	The Wall Street Journal	07/01/2019	Bob Davis and Lingling Wei
Tech Rally Sends Stocks Higher	<p>U.S. stocks climbed to fresh highs after a thaw in trade relations between the U.S. and China sparked a rally in shares of technology companies.</p> <p>To many investors, the weekend's developments had helped them put aside some fears. The .S. and China had managed to avoid what many had described as a worst-case scenario – a collapse of trade talks and a fresh round of tariffs.</p> <p>The S&P 500 added 22.57 points, or 0.8%, to 2964.33 and claimed its sixth record close of the year...</p> <p>The Dow industrials rose 117.47 points, or 0.4%, to 26717.43.</p>	The Wall Street Journal	07/02/2019	Akane Otani and Paul J. Davies

Buyback Drop Threatens Stocks	<p>Some companies are easing up on share repurchases this year, potentially removing a pillar of support from the stock market as executives contend with the consequences of trade tensions and slowing economic growth.</p> <p>Buybacks have been one of the biggest sources of equity demand throughout much of the bull-market run, analysts say...</p> <p>Companies and investors often applaud share repurchases because they juice per-share earnings and can boost stock prices. But some skeptics contend buybacks add little value, only serving to prop up the stock market when valuations are relatively stretched and corporate earnings are weakening.</p>	The Wall Street Journal	07/03/2019	Michael Wursthorn
Auto Makers Slipped in First Half <i>Rising prices dulled new-car demand as U.S. buyers looked for deals at used-car lots.</i>	U.S. new-vehicle sales this year are likely to fall short of the 17 million mark for the first time since 2014, analysts predict. A protracted run of strong sales following the financial crisis has satisfied pent-up demand...	The Wall Street Journal	07/03/2019	Nora Naughton
What's News	◆ The U.S. trade gap widened sharply in May despite a new round of tariffs on Chinese goods that took effect in the first half of the month.	The Wall Street Journal	07/05/2019	
Stocks Power On, Feeding Off Rates	<p>U.S. stock markets continued to edge higher this week, hitting records and extending the more-than-a-decade-long bull market amid expectations central banks around the world will keep rates lower for longer.</p> <p>The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed Wednesday at a record in its fourth consecutive session of gains. The S&P 500 index rose to hit its eighth milestone for this year.</p>	The Wall Street Journal	07/05/2019	Lauren Almeida, Michael Wursthorn and Paul J. Davies
Yields Fall On Hopes for European Easing <i>Investors scoop up government debt after Lagarde is picked to succeed Draghi at ECB</i>	<p>Christine Lagarde's nomination to lead the European Central Bank sent investors scrambling to buy more government debt in a bet that she will oversee an easing of monetary policy to support the economy and markets.</p> <p>German 10-year bond yields fell to records on Wednesday and Thursday, reaching minus 0.408%, below eurozone interest-rate levels. French government bonds did the same, touching minus 0.136% Thursday, according to Tradeweb.</p>	The Wall Street Journal	07/05/2019	Paul J. Davies
Jobs Report Allays Fears of Slowdown	<p>Robust June hiring suggests a decade of domestic growth is powering ahead despite global headwinds.</p> <p>Fed policy makers are considering whether the benchmark interest rate is curbing economic growth more than expected and ought to be lowered.</p> <p>But there are several pillars of strength for the U.S. economy beyond historically low unemployment and a record 105 straight months of job gains. American household spending and incomes both rose at solid rates in May, consumer confidence remains relatively strong and the stock market touched a record high this week.</p>	The Wall Street Journal	07/06-07/2019	Eric Morath and Sarah Chaney

	Markets, however, slipped Friday morning because investors viewed the solid jobs report as making it less likely the Fed will cut its benchmark interest rate by a half-percentage point...			
At Mid-Year	The S&P 500 was up +18.5% YTD (total return) through 6/30/19, the index's best performance at the half-way point of the year since 1997 (22 years ago) when the stock index was up +20.6% YTD (total return) as of June 30 th . (Source: BTN Research)	By the Numbers	07/08/2019	
Longest in History	The US economic expansion began its 11 th year (i.e., 121 st month) a week ago today on 7/01/19, making it the longest-running expansion in our nation's history based upon government data that has been maintained since 1854 or for 165 years. (Source: National Bureau of Economic Research)	By the Numbers	07/08/2019	
U.S. Gas Boom Hits Pipeline Snag <i>Aging infrastructure hasn't kept up with production, leading to uneven distribution</i>	<p>U.S. gas production rose to a record of more than 37 trillion cubic feet last year, up 44% from a decade earlier. Yet the infrastructure needed to move gas around the country hasn't kept up. Pipelines aren't in the right places, and when they are, they're usually decades old and often too small.</p> <p>The result, despite natural-gas prices that look low on commodities exchanges, is energy feast and famine.</p> <p>This spring, the price of natural gas at a trading hub near Midland, Texas, dropped as low as negative \$9 per million British thermal units – meaning that producers were paying people to take it off their hands.</p> <p>Elsewhere, prices soared due to bouts of cold weather coupled with supply disruptions, including an explosion along a British Columbian pipeline.</p> <p>With U.S. homes, power plants and factories using more natural gas than ever, the uneven distribution of the shale boom's bounty means that consumers can end up paying more or even become starved for fuel...</p>	The Wall Street Journal	07/08/2019	Stephanie Yang and Ryan Dezember
Manufacturing-Reliant Copper Weakens	<p>A retreat in copper prices is signaling continued investor concern for the global economy, even after a cease-fire in the U.S.-China trade fight boosted stocks and other risky assets recently.</p> <p>Copper, which is critical to construction and manufacturing, fell 1.7% last week, paring some of its rally from late June and bringing its decline from an April high to 11%. Prices have fallen in eight of the past 10 weeks. Investors often watch prices of the industrial metal to gauge momentum in the global economy.</p>	The Wall Street Journal	07/08/2019	Amrith Ramkumar
Investors Bet Rate Cut Will Further Fuel Rally	<p>Stocks from New York to Brazil are racing to new highs. A key reason? Many believe the Federal Reserve is pivoting from raising interest rates to lowering them once again. Investors say that by lowering the cost of borrowing for consumers and businesses, rate cuts will spur spending and potentially prolong the longest bull market in history.</p> <p>That is not a sure thing.</p> <p>The Fed has raised interest rates nine times since December 2015, but they still remain well below precise levels. The possible change of course comes as other global central banks are shifting toward easing monetary policy...</p>	The Wall Street Journal	07/08/2019	Amrith Ramkumar and Akane Otani

	Some analysts warn lower rates won't support stocks and other risky investments if the economy slows markedly, as many investors expect, or morphs into a recession.			
Powell's Support Inside congress Is Deep <i>Lawmakers on both sides say they would oppose any bid to oust the Fed chairman</i>	President Trump's relentless public criticism of the man he picked to run the Federal Reserve, Jerome Powell, isn't broadly shred by lawmakers who confirmed the central bank leader to his post last year. Mr. Trump is angry Mr. Powell hasn't reduced rates to prevent the dollar from gaining strength against other currencies. The law says Fed officials can only be removed from the board for cause...	The Wall Street Journal	07/10/2019	Nick Timiraos
China Auto Rup Poses Global Risks	Major car makers are struggling in China as a slowing economy depresses sales of new vehicles and prolongs a yearlong downturn in the world's largest auto market after three decades of growth. U.S. auto makers Ford Motor Co., General Motors Co. and Fiat Chrysler Automotive NV's Jeep division are among those struggling the most... Auto sales in June fell 9.6% from a year earlier. But the market, which accounts for one-third of all vehicle sales globally, has rapidly gone from the industry's most bankable source of growth to a more challenging prospect as demand for new cars levels off.	The Wall Street Journal	07/11/2019	Trefor Moss
Powell Sets Stage for a Rate Cut <i>Fed chairman cites uncertainties about global economy, trade; S&P 500 touches 3000</i>	Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell signaled the central bank is ready to cut interest rates this month to cushion the U.S. economy against the risks of slower global growth and trade-policy uncertainty. Mr. Powell also warned of risks that weak inflation could prove more persistent than previously anticipated... Stock indexes rose, reflecting growing expectations of a Fed rate cut. The Nasdaq composite climbed 0.75% to close at a record 8202.53. The S&P 500 briefly eclipsed the 3000 level for the first time before ending the day at 2993.07, 0.5% higher. The Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 0.3% to 26860.20 The yield on 10-year U.S. Treasurys rose to 2.062% from 2.058% Tuesday.	The Wall Street Journal	07/11/2019	Nick Timiraos
What's News	◆ The Dow rose 0.8% to a record, closing above 27000 for the first time. The S&P 500 also notched a record, while the Nasdaq slipped.	The Wall Street Journal	07/12/2019	
What's News	◆ U.S. stocks climbed to records. The S&P 500 rose 0.05% to close above the 3000 level for the first time. The Dow gained 0.9% and the Nasdaq added 0.6%.	The Wall Street Journal	07/13-14/2019	
Edgy Investors Sell Riskiest Junk Bonds <i>Rising concerns over risks of a recession at</i>	As anxiety over an economic downturn creeps higher, investors have been avoiding one of the riskiest markets for corporate debt. The amount of extra yield, or spread, investors demand to hold company bonds rather than safe government debt has jumped since March by 0.64 percentage point for triple-	The Wall Street Journal	07/13-14/2019	Daniel Kruger

<p><i>odds with widespread hunt for yield</i></p>	<p>C-rated company bonds versus a 0.09 percentage point decrease for junk debt with higher double-B ratings. Bond yields rise when prices fall.</p> <p>The trend is concerning because it contrasts with the fresh records in stock prices and the widespread hunt for yield that fueled a world-wide rally in bonds.</p> <p>Investors watch the dispersion between yields on short- and longer-term Treasuries, known as the yield curve, because shorter-term yields tend to exceed longer-term ones before recessions . That phenomenon is known as an inverted yield curve.</p>			
<p>Earnings Challenge Soaring Stocks <i>Second-quarter results will offer look at how companies cope with trade dispute's impact</i></p>	<p>The next test for the high-flying stock market begins this week as companies kick off reporting what could be their biggest quarterly profit contraction in three years.</p> <p>Analysts tend to be conservative with their earnings estimates, making it easier for companies to beat lowered expectations. This happened in the first quarter, with earnings contracting just 0.3% rather than the 4% analysts predicted at the end of March.</p> <p>3% Expected decline in companies' quarterly profits</p>	The Wall Street Journal	07/15/ 2019	Michael Wursthorn and Corrie Driebusch
<p>More Junk Bonds In Europe Offer Negative Yields</p>	<p>In the latest sign of financial markets going into uncharted territory, more than a dozen junk bonds, which usually carry high yields, now trade in Europe with a negative yield.</p> <p>It is a stark illustration of how ultraloose monetary policies have turned debt investing into a choice about how to lose the least amount of money.</p> <p>There are about 14 companies with junk bonds worth more than €3 billion (\$3.38 billion) that are trading with negative yields, according to Bank of America Merrill Lynch.</p>	The Wall Street Journal	07/15/2019	Paul J. Davies
<p>Tariffs Drive Companies Out of China <i>U.S. executives move production to other countries amid the ongoing trade conflict</i></p>	<p>U.S. manufacturers are shifting production to countries outside of China as trade tensions between the world's two biggest economies stretch into a second year.</p> <p>Companies that make Crocs shoes, Yeti beer coolers, Roomba vacuums and GoPro cameras are producing goods in other countries to avoid U.S. tariffs of as much as 25% on some \$250 billion of imports from China. Apple Inc. also is considering shifting final assembly of some of its devices out of China to avoid U.S. tariffs.</p>	The Wall Street Journal	07/15/2019	Austen Hufford and Bob Tita
<p>Because of American Shale</p>	<p>The 15 nations that make up OPEC are the source of just 29.8% of the world's daily production of oil as of July 2019, its lowest total by percentage in almost 29 years, i.e., since September 1990. OPEC generated 39.5% of the world's oil in April 1998. (Source: International Energy Agency)</p>	Source: International Energy Agency	07/15/2019	
<p>Stocks Continue to Break Records <i>Traders are betting Fed will lower interest rates to light a fire under economy</i></p>	<p>Major indexes have climbed to highs over the past month, thanks to bets that the Federal Reserve will lower interest rates and in turn buoy the economy as the pace of growth slows.</p> <p>The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 27.13 points, or 0.1%, to 27359.16, posting its fourth record close of 2019.</p>	The Wall Street Journal	07/16/2019	Avantika Chilkoti and Akane Otani

	The S&P 500 added 0.53 points, or less than 0.1%, to 3014.30, notching its fifth straight session of gains and a record. The Nasdaq Composite added 14.04 points, or 0.2%, to 8258.19, claiming its eighth record close of the year.			
Energy Stocks Trip Up S&P, Dow	U.S. stocks retreated from records, dragged down by shares of energy companies. The S&P 500 fell 10.26 points, or 0.3%, to 3004.04. The Dow Jones Industrial Average lost 23.53 points, or 0.1%, to 27335.63. The Nasdaq Composite slipped 35.39 points, or 0.4%, to 8222.80.	The Wall Street Journal	07/17/2019	Gunjan Banerji
Record Natural-Gas Production Presses Prices	Natural-gas prices declined for the second straight day on signs that producers will continue to push output to records. In addition, demand is threatened by forecasts that the current heat wave in parts of the U.S. will dissipate. Futures lost 1.8% on Monday and are down about 17% since this time last year. Prices haven't been so low in July since 1999. In the Permian Basin, for example, the Energy Information Administration estimates that gas output will be 21% higher than it was last August as producers drill more because of higher oil prices.	The Wall Street Journal	07/17/2019	Ryan Dezember
Stocks Fall In Earnings Worries <i>Executives catch investors' attention with warnings about slower growth</i>	U.S. stocks fell as the start of earnings season exposed weaknesses in the growth outlook for some companies. Major indexes declined for a second straight day. The S&P 500 slid 0.7% to 2984.42, the Dow Jones Industrial Average slipped 0.4% to 27219.85 and the Nasdaq Composite retreated 0.5% to 8185.21. Executives reporting earnings have voiced concern about their growth prospects as they face a muddly economic picture and a high-profile trade dispute between the U.S. and China.	The Wall Street Journal	07/18/2019	Asjylun Loder and Lauren Almeida
China's State-Led Growth is Stalling	New data showing the toll trade tensions are taking on China's economy are merely a symptom of a more serious malaise: The country's state-led growth model is running out of gas. A recession or crisis may not be imminent, but the long-run implications are just as serious. Absent a change in direction, China may never become rich. The economy's growth slowed to 6.2% in the second quarter, a near-three- decade low. That's still pretty good for a middle-income country with per capita gross domestic product of \$14,000 to \$18,000 a year, depending on how Chinese data are adjusted for inflation, exchange rates and purchasing power. Another difference is China's reliance on debt, which is, as a share of GDP, two to four times that of its east Asian peers at similar stages of development, according to Andrew Tilton, Economist at Goldman Sachs.	The Wall Street Journal	07/18/2019	Greg Ip
What's News	♦ U.S. stocks fell as earnings reports exposed weakness in some firms' growth outlook. The S&P dropped 0.7% and the Dow was off 0.4%.	The Wall Street Journal	07/18/2019	
What's News	♦ Progress toward a U.S.-China trade deal has stalled while the Trump administration determines how to address Beijing's demands that it eases restrictions on Huawei.	The Wall Street Journal	07/18/2019	

What's News	◆ Stocks wavered in the past week and fell Friday. The Dow, S&P 500 and Nasdaq lost 0.3%, 0.6% and 0.7%, respectively on the day.	The Wall Street Journal	07/20-21/2019	
Fed Set To Lower Rates by Quarter Point	Federal Reserve officials signaled they are ready to lower interest rates by a quarter-percentage point later this month, while indicating the potential for additional reductions, despite the recent surge in market expectations of a half-point cut. Officials aren't prepared for bolder action now, according to the officials' recent public statements and interviews, as they weight concerns about a slowdown in global growth, an increase in trade-policy uncertainty and a pullback in inflation.	The Wall Street Journal	07/20-21/2019	Nick Timiraos
Traders Await Fresh U.S. Growth Numbers	Recent data on retail sales, the labor market and industrial production over the past few weeks have been unexpectedly strong. Economic data have looked sufficiently solid to make some investors believe that the U.S. expansion will be stable enough to continue without an immediate rate cut. The S&P 500 has advanced 18.7% so far in 2019, its biggest such gain since 1998...	The Wall Street Journal	07/22/2019	Jessica Menton
Big-Tech Stocks Underpin Market's Ascent <i>Fears trade tensions will show global growth have led investors to Silicon Valley giants</i>	The biggest technology companies are propelling major U.S. indexes' record run, highlighting investor enthusiasm for the hottest stock sector as economic growth softens. Together, Microsoft Corp., Apple Inc., Amazon.com Inc. and Facebook Inc. have accounted for about one-fifth of the S&P 500's total return this year, ... Giant asset managers including Vanguard Group, State Street Corp. and T. Rowe Price Associates Inc. generally increased their stakes in these firms as well as Alphabet Inc. and Netflix Inc. in the first quarter of this year, FactSet data show.	The Wall Street Journal	07/22/2019	Amrith Ramkumar
The Month of August	The worst performing month for the S&P 500 since 1994 has been August. The stock index has suffered an average loss of 0.6% (total return) during August over the last 25 years (1994-2018) (Source: BTN Research).	By the Numbers	07/22/2019	
Shifting Away From China	U.S. manufacturers have moved some of their supply chains away from China in 2019, increasing imports from Taiwan (up +22% YTD through 05/31/2019), from India (up +12% YTD) and from South Korea (up +12% YTD) (Source: Commerce Department).	By the Numbers	07/22/2019	
Economic Fears Weigh on Shares Of Smaller Firms	While the most closely watched U.S. stock market gauges have hit records this year, shares in smaller U.S. companies have taken a beating. The Russell 2000 index, a gauge that tracks companies with smaller stock-market capitalizations, has lost 9% over the past year, while the S&P 500 index tracking the biggest U.S. corporations has rallied about 6% on hopes of rate cuts from the U.S. Federal Reserve.	The Wall Street Journal	07/23/2019	Avantika Chilkoti
President, Congress Reach Budget Accord <i>Deal defuses debt-limit issue for two</i>	Congressional and White House negotiators reached a deal to increase federal spending and raise the government's borrowing limit, securing a bipartisan compromise to avoid a looming fiscal crisis and pushing the next budget debate past the 2020 election.	The Wall Street Journal	07/23/2019	Andrew Duehren, Kate Davidson and Catherine Lucey

<i>years and pushes debate past presidential election.</i>				
Boeing's Woes Trickle Into Broader Economy	<p>The prolonged grounding of Boeing Co.'s 737 MAX aircraft is rippling through the U.S. economy , hurting the nation's trade balance...</p> <p>Boeing is the largest U.S. manufacturing exporter and one of the nation's top private employers.</p>	The Wall Street Journal	07/23/2019	Doug Cameron and Alison Sider
Strong Earnings Propel Stocks	<p>U.S. stocks climbed, lifted by better-than-expected earnings from companies ranging from Coca-Cola to United Technologies.</p> <p>More than 100 components of the S&P 500 are set to report second quarter results this week. So far, earnings have largely proved to be better than investors had feared, helping stocks drift higher.</p>	The Wall Street Journal	07/24/2019	Anna Isaac and Akane Otani
What's News	♦ A sharp deceleration of trade is slowing the global economy more than earlier projections, the IMF said.	The Wall Street Journal	07/24/2019	
What's News	♦ U.S. stocks climbed on better-than-expected earnings reports. The Dow and S&P 500 both rose 0.7%.	The Wall Street Journal	07/24/2019	
ECB Signals Rate Cut, Relaunch of Stimulus	<p>The European Central Bank signaled that it is preparing to cut short-term interest rates for the first time since 2016 and restart a giant bond-buying program, marking a significant policy shift that aims to insulate the wobbling eurozone economy from global headwinds ranging from trade tensions to Brexit.</p> <p>While it stopped short of immediate action, the ECB's clear signal of intent raises the pressure on other major central banks, including the Fed, to follow suit with interest-rate cuts.</p>	The Wall Street Journal	07/26/2019	Tom Fairless
Investors Buy Bonds Even as Shares Rally	<p>Investors are piling into the safety of bonds at a record pace, a sign that caution remains despite stocks pushing toward records.</p> <p>Being long U.S. Treasuries remained the "most crowded trade" – one held by a swath of market participants...</p> <p>Investors are parsing mixed signals on where the economy is headed. Dimmer expectations for global growth have pushed S&P 500 companies to cut their forecasts...</p>	The Wall Street Journal	07/26/2019	Jessica Menton
President Denounces Both WTO And China	<p>President Trump ramped up his attacks on China and the world trading system, threatening Friday to have the U.S. unilaterally revoke the special breaks that global rules grant to nations that call themselves developing countries.</p> <p>The move, coming on the eve of a new round of U.S.-China trade talks in Shanghai, appears aimed at pressuring Beijing to commit to new specific measures to buy more U.S. goods and further liberalize its market for foreign companies.</p>	The Wall Street Journal	07/27-28/2019	Jacob M. Schlesinger and Alex Leary

Earnings Push Stocks To Records	<p>The Nasdaq Composite and the S&P 500 hit record highs Friday as strong earnings and healthy growth in gross domestic product buoyed stocks across the board.</p> <p>Data released early Friday showed that gross domestic product grew at a 2.1% annual rate in the second quarter...</p> <p>The figure was boosted by U.S. shoppers, as consumer spending, which makes up more than two-thirds of the economy, posted the strongest pace of growth since late 2017.</p> <p>On Friday, the S&P 500 rose 22.19 points, or 0.7% to 3025.86, notching its 13th record of the year. The tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite gained 91.67 points, or 1.1%, to 8330.21, its 10th record of 2019. And the Dow Jones Industrial Average edged up 51.47 points, or 0.2%, to 27192.45.</p> <p>As market volatility recedes and stocks continue their ascent, some analysts and investors say they expect greater gains for equities.</p>	The Wall Street Journal	07/27-28/2019	Gunjan Banerji and Corrie Driebusch
What's News	<p>◆ Bond yields around the world have fallen so much that global investors are shifting their attention to Chinese junk bonds.</p>	The Wall Street Journal	07/29/2019	
Chinese High-Yield Debt is Bright Spot	<p>Bon yields around the world have fallen so much that global investors are shifting their attention to Chinese junk bonds.</p> <p>U.S. dollar-denominated junk bonds from Asian companies are one of the few investment products with average yields of more than 7%, as low interest rates and Treasury yields have dragged down prospective returns on a range of debt. Most of the Asian high-yield bonds are from Chinese companies, and the country's heavily indebted property developers are collectively the biggest issuer.</p>	The Wall Street Journal	07/29/2019	Frances Yoon
Federal Borrowing Soars as Deficit Fear Fades <i>Treasury expects to sell over \$1 trillion in debt; issue has little traction in 2020 race</i>	<p>Borrowing by the federal government is set to top \$1 trillion for the second year in a row as higher spending outpaces revenue growth and concern about budget deficits wanes in Washington and on Wall Street.</p> <p>The budget gap for the fiscal year that ends Sept. 30 is on course to exceed \$1 trillion, following the 2017 tax cuts that constrained federal revenue and a previous two-year budget deal that raised spending nearly \$300 billion above spending caps Congress enacted in 2011.</p>	The Wall Street Journal	07/30/2019	Kate Davidson
Strong Earnings Allay Fears About Growth	<p>Of the 225 S&P 500 companies that have reported earnings through Monday, 1779 have surprised investors with better-than-expected results, according to FactSet.</p> <p>Earnings among S&P 500 companies that have reported are up 0.5% on average from a year earlier, according to FactSet.</p> <p>Still, money managers say the latest round of results quelled some of their concerns that corporate profits were rapidly shrinking amid a faltering U.S. economy.</p> <p>The S&P 500 has risen 2.7% so far in July, extending its gain this year to nearly 21%, largely driven by the expectation of an interest-rate cut from the Federal Reserve.</p>	The Wall Street Journal	07/30/2019	Michael Wursthorn
U.K. Leader Pushes Risky Brexit Gambit	<p>Prime Minister Boris Johnson refuses to hold face-to-face meeting with European Union leaders unless they agree to change key aspects to Britain's divorce deal with</p>	The Wall Street Journal	07/30/2019	Max Colchester

	<p>the bloc, something the other 27 member states have rejected, a stance that jolted the British currency.</p> <p>The prime minister's position – and the possibility it could spark a chaotic split with the EU along with a fresh U.K. election – sent the pound down 1.3% to its lowest level against the euro since September 2017.</p> <p>The Confederation of British Business Monday warned that neither the U.K. nor the EU is prepared for no deal.</p>			
What's News	<p>◆ Consumers spent at a healthy clip in June and inflation remained soft, data likely to reinforce the Fed's expected decision to lower rates.</p>	The Wall Street Journal	07/31/2019	
What's News	<p>◆ U.S stocks slipped amid jitters over China trade talks. The S&P 500 fell 0.3%.</p>	The Wall Street Journal	07/31/2019	
What's News	<p>◆ U.S.-China trade talks resumed as negotiators in Shanghai took tentative steps to overcome mistrust and limited political appetite for a breakthrough accord.</p>	The Wall Street Journal	07/31/2019	
	<p>DJIA 27198.02 ▼ 23.33 0.1% NASDAQ 8273.61 ▼ 0.2% STOXX 600 385.12 ▼ 1.5% 10-YR. TREAS. ▼ 2/32, yield 2.063% OIL \$58.05 ▲ \$1.18 GOLD \$1,429.70 ▲ \$9.30</p>			
Investors In Stocks Bet on Low Volatility	<p>Markets are enjoying an exceptional period of calm, one that some investors are betting will persist.</p> <p>The S&P 500 hasn't had a 1% move in either direction for 36 trading days, the longest such streak since June to October 2018 when it went 74 days without a 1% move. One yardstick of stock swings, the Cboe Volatility Index, or VIX, has fallen 45.2% this year, on pace for its biggest annual decline ever, according to Dow Jones Market Data. The gauge measures expectations for volatility over the next month and tends to rise when investors are wagering on big moves in the S&P 500 through options.</p>	The Wall Street Journal	07/31/2019	Gunjan Banerji

"If you want peace, don't talk to your friends, talk to your enemies." -Desmond Tutu

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