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Houston airports maintain 4-star Skytrax rating



Inside C2

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Wall Street rallies on upbeat China, U.S. manufacturing data

NEW YORK (Reuters) - U.S. stocks rallied on Monday, starting off the second quarter on a strong note, as upbeat manufacturing numbers from China and the United States eased worries about slowing global growth.

The benchmark S&P 500 index, which is only 2.2 percent below its record closing high in September, triggered a "golden cross" pattern, in which its 50-day moving average crosses above its 200-day moving average. Many believe the technical signal could portend more gains for stocks in the short term.

Gains in global equities were spurred by data showing that China's manufacturing sector unexpectedly returned to growth in March for the first time in four months.

"The Chinese numbers bounced back, and people are taking more risk today because of it," said Michael O'Rourke, chief market strategist at Jones Trading in Greenwich, Connecticut.

U.S. manufacturing numbers for March were also better than expected, helping investors overlook soft retail sales data for February.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 329.74 points, or 1.27 percent, to 26,258.42, the S&P 500 gained 32.79 points, or 1.16 percent, to 2,867.19, and the Nasdaq Composite added 99.59 points, or 1.29 percent, to 7,828.91. Concerns about a global economic slowdown have dimmed sentiment since the Federal Reserve announced in late January that its monetary tightening would end earlier than expected, as it cited "cross currents" affecting the economy. The shift in Fed policy drove yields on 10-year Treasury notes below those of three-month bills last week for the first time in more than a decade.

Yields on 10-year notes have since risen back above three-month bill rates and on Monday hit a one-week high. Monday's rise in the 10-year Treasury yield helped lift financial shares, which provided the biggest boost to the S&P 500 among the index's 11 sectors. S&P 500 bank shares jumped 2.9 percent.

"Treasury yields had priced in a gloomy outlook, and now they're unwinding some of that negativity," said Keith Lerner, chief market strategist at SunTrust Advisory Services in Atlanta. "So we're seeing money moving back into cyclical areas, which is why financials are big leaders today."

Concerns about slowing momentum have not entirely dissipated. With the first-quarter corporate earnings reporting season about two weeks away, investors are bracing for what may be the first U.S. profit decline since 2016. Analysts expect quarterly earnings to fall 2 percent, according to Refinitiv data.

Still, on Monday, most S&P sectors rose. Only consumer staples, real estate and utilities shares, which tend to decline as 10-year Treasury yields rise, were in the red.

Auto shares rose after China's State Council said on Sunday that the country would continue to suspend additional tariffs on import of U.S. vehicles and auto parts after April 1.

General Motors Co shares added 1.8 percent and Ford Motor Co shares gained 2.3 percent.

Chipmakers, which draw much of their revenue from China, also rose. The Philadelphia Semiconductor index advanced 2.5 percent.

Shares of Wynn Resorts Ltd jumped 8.4 percent, the most among S&P 500 companies, as March gambling revenue from the Chinese territory of Macau rose from the previous month.

Lyft Inc shares tumbled 11.9 percent to end below their IPO price after brokerage Guggenheim Securities started coverage of the ride-hailing company's shares with a "neutral" rating. Lyft debuted on the Nasdaq on Friday. Advancing issues outnumbered declining ones on the NYSE by a 2.99-to-1 ratio; on Nasdaq, a 2.11-to-1 ratio favored advancers.

The S&P 500 posted 63 new 52-week highs and no new lows; the Nasdaq Composite recorded 68 new highs and 28 new lows.

Volume on U.S. exchanges was 7.11 billion shares, compared to the 7.47 billion average over the last 20 trading days.



Street signs for Broad St. and Wall St. are seen outside of the NYSE in New York



FILE PHOTO: Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) shortly after the opening bell in New York, U.S., March 26, 2019. REUTERS/Lucas Jackson/File Photo



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Houston airports maintain 4-star Skytrax rating

Bush Intercontinental and Hobby airports both maintained their 4-star rating from air transport rating company Skytrax, the organization announced this week.

It's the fourth year that Hobby has received this rating and the second year for Bush Intercontinental. The highest rating is 5 stars.

The audit report from Skytrax gave strong ratings to things including roadway signage, airport website, food and beverage options, vehicle parking and free WiFi at both airports.

Passengers also noted the Houston Airport

System's website, earning it the "Best Airport Website and Digital Services" award. This inaugural award was based on 34 million passenger surveys.

"We understand that, for today's savvy traveler, technology is not an option — it is a must," Mario Diaz, Houston Airport System director, said in the news release. "We are proud to boast two 4-star airports, and proud of receiving this inaugural award in recognizing these efforts. But, we know this is merely another step forward in achieving our ultimate goal, and we remain committed to getting to that 5-star level."



Travelers walk toward the baggage claim at William P. Hobby Airport, Monday, Jan. 29, 2018, in Houston. (Mark Mulligan / Houston Chronicle)

Houston priest removed from ministry amid sex abuse allegation in Colombia

A Houston Catholic priest has been removed from ministry after an allegation that he sexually abused minors, according to a news release from the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston.

Jesus Suarez, who most recently served as pastor of St. Philip of Jesus in northeast Houston, was accused of sexually abusing minors in Colombia, before he immigrated to the United States in 1994.

The abuse "may have resulted in the birth of children," the release read. The Archdiocese stated that it has not received any other allegations of sexual abuse of minors against Suarez.

A letter about the allegation was read at all churches where Suarez has previously

served, the Archdiocese said. The Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Conroe was one of the churches notified, making Suarez the second pastor accused of sexual abuse of minors to serve at the church.

In September, former Sacred Heart priest Manuel La Rosa-Lopez was arrested on charges that he allegedly molested two parishioners when they were teenagers. Suarez once served as Parochial Vicar of the Sacred Heart, according to a Facebook post written by the church's current pastor, Philip Wilhite.

Houston police have been notified of the allegation against Suarez, as well.



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美南報業電視傳媒集團王鑫生國際藝術中心于2018年7月正式成立。藝術中心設在美南國際貿易中心二樓, 主要為大休斯頓地區藝術愛好者提供教育和拓展平臺, 同時成列王鑫生老師在不同年代創作, 不同風格的國畫、油畫作品, 集創作、展覽、培訓、收藏、研究、交流為一體, 搭建東西方藝術交流平臺。王鑫生的大量作品被多個國家博物館、美術館、收藏家、企業家、名人收藏。

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Editor's Choice



German Football Museum opens Hall of Fame, a permanent exhibition honouring German soccer legends in Dortmund



Jedidiah Brown faces off with a Fraternal Order of Police supporter protesting the handling of the Jussie Smollett case by the State's Attorney Kim Foxx in Chicago



North Macedonia biggest opposition party VMRO-DPMNE supporters shout slogans in support of presidential candidate Gordana Siljanovska in Ohrid



North Macedonia opposition party VMRO-DPMNE presidential candidate Siljanovska greets her supporters in Ohrid



U.S. 2020 Democratic presidential candidate and Senator Bernie Sanders participates in a moderated discussion at the We the People Summit in Washington



Farmer Don Rief, talks with USDA Under Secretary Bill Northey about the flood damage to his farm in Crescent, Iowa



The contents of a grain silo which burst from flood damage is shown in Crescent, Iowa



The contents of grain silos which burst from flood damage are shown in Fremont County, Iowa

Philippine Consulate General Inaugurates New Office in Houston

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



HOUSTON 27 March 2019 – Ambassador to the United States Jose Manuel G. Romualdez and Consul General to Houston Jerril G. Santos led the inauguration of the new office of the Philippine Consulate General in Houston at 9990 Richmond Avenue, Suite 100N in Houston on 22 March 2019.

Philippine Consuls General to Chicago, Honolulu, Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco traveled to Houston to attend the inaugural ceremony. More than a hundred guests also graced the occasion, which included members of Houston consular corps and representatives of the governments of Houston and Texas state, business and civil society, and Filipino community leaders.

U.S. Department of State Associate Regional Director Robert Hopkins and Dean of Consular Corps of Houston Juan Sosa of Panama welcomed the opening of the Philippine Consulate General in the city.



Ambassador to the United States Jose Manuel G. Romualdez (left) and Consul General to Houston Jerril G. Santos (right) unveil the Coat of Arms of the Philippine Consulate General in Houston. (Houston PCG photo)

Read during the ceremony were the congratulatory message of Senate Committees on Foreign Relations and Finance chairperson Senator Loren Legarda, and the certificates recognizing the inaugural ceremony issued by Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner and Texas Governor Greg Abbott.

Twenty-five years after it closed in September 1993, the Consulate General reopened its doors on 24 September 2018 in a temporary workplace

while the new office was being built. Also exhibited during the occasion are paintings by some Filipino-American artists based in Houston and dresses using Philippine fabrics such as tinalak, Mindanao silk and piña, with two gowns created by known Filipino designer Mimi Pimentel.

A string trio viola and violin composed of Filipino-American students rendered a mix of Filipino and foreign classics.



Ambassador to the United States Jose Manuel G. Romualdez offered toast together with the Philippine Consuls General in the U.S. (Houston PCG photo)

Read during the ceremony were the congratulatory message of Senate Committees on Foreign Relations and

Finance chairperson Senator Loren Legarda, and the certificates recognizing the inaugural ceremony issued by Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner and Texas Governor Greg Abbott.

Twenty-five years after it closed in September 1993, the Consulate General reopened its doors on 24 September 2018 in a temporary workplace while the new office was being built.



Ambassador to the United States Jose Manuel G. Romualdez (center),

Consul General Jerril G. Santos (third from right), Consul Gilbert Segarra (second from left), and Vice Consul Marco Angelo Felix Lopez (second from right) with the staff of the Philippine Consulate General in Houston. (Houston PCG photo)

Also exhibited during the occasion were paintings by some Filipino-American artists based in Houston and dresses using Philippine fabrics such as tinalak, Mindanao silk and piña, with two gowns created by known Filipino designer Mimi Pimentel.

A string trio viola and violin composed of Filipino-American students rendered a mix of Filipino and foreign classics. (Courtesy <https://dfa.gov.ph/dfa-news/>)

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ALIEF • MAY 19 • 12-4PM
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EL PASO – Under a bridge connecting the U.S. with Mexico, dozens of migrant families cram into a makeshift camp set up by U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

Seven hundred miles east, busload after busload of weary, bedraggled migrants crowd into the Catholic Charities Humanitarian Respite Center in McAllen, Texas.

“It’s staggering,” McAllen City Manager Roy Rodriguez said. “Really, we’ve never seen anything like this before.”

Along the Texas border with Mexico – from El Paso to Eagle Pass to the Rio Grande Valley – masses of migrants have been crossing the border in unprecedented numbers, overwhelming federal holding facilities and sending local leaders and volunteers scrambling to deal with the relentless waves of people.



Migrants Being Housed U.S. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Kevin McAleenan said Wednesday

during a visit to El Paso that the border had hit its “breaking point” and urged Congress to come up with legislative solutions to the problem.

Border Patrol officials were on pace in March for more than 100,000 apprehensions and encounters with migrants – the highest monthly tally in over a decade, he said. Around 90 percent of those – or 90,000 – crossed the border between legal ports of entry.

The vast majority of those crossing between ports of entry turn themselves into Border Patrol agents, seeking asylum.

“The surge numbers are just overwhelming the entire system,” McAleenan said.

President Donald Trump recently declared a national emergency at the border to secure funding for a proposed wall, despite Congressional opposition. On Friday, the president in a tweet threatened to close the U.S.-Mexico border if Mexico didn’t stop undocumented migrants from coming.

But not even Trump’s proposed wall could stop the wave of migrants overflowing shelters in the Rio Grande Valley, where the vast majority are turning themselves in to apply for asylum, McAllen Mayor Jim Darling said.

Border Patrol Agent: “We’ve Never Seen Anything Like This.” As Trump Threatens To Close Border, Migrants Overwhelm Texas Cities

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



Hundreds of migrants are being held beneath the Paso Del Norte International Bridge in El Paso as U.S. Customs and Border Protection has run out of space to process the asylum seekers. Above, two boys look out from the fence at the bridge as protestors demand their release.

OVERVIEW

President Trump’s appearance in El Paso on Wednesday, March 27, 2019, came as a temporary satellite processing center was set up under the Paso Del Norte International Bridge. Border Patrol agents expect to see more than 100,000 apprehensions and encounters with migrants in March, the highest monthly total in over a decade.

Vast majority of those crossing between ports of entry turn themselves into Border Patrol agents, seeking asylum. On Friday, Trump threatened to close the U.S.-Mexico border if Mexico didn’t stop undocumented migrants from coming.



A wall would go up on levees about a mile from the winding Rio Grande, which is the U.S.-Mexico border. Migrants will just have to cross the river to be in U.S. territory and seek asylum, he said. “That’s not a solution for asylum-seekers,”

Darling said.

Once in the U.S., the migrants – mostly families from Central America – are crowding into facilities designed to hold single adult men, said Theresa Brown, director of immigration and cross-border policy at the Washington-based Bipartisan Policy Center and a former CBP policy adviser for Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama. CBP Commissioner Kevin McAleenan says border region is at “breaking point” because of influx of migrants from Central America. Mark R. Lambie, El Paso Times

Increasingly, smugglers are bringing larger numbers of families together and delivering them across the Rio Grande, knowing they’ll overrun facilities and be released until their immigration court date, she said. Under U.S. law, Border Patrol is not supposed to hold any migrant for longer than 72 hours.

Usually, Border Patrol hands them over to Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which can detain families for up to 20 days. But all of those facilities are overcrowded, Brown said, leading Border Patrol to skip the transfer to ICE and release migrants to shelters en masse.

“This is a system-wide collapse,” she said. On Wednesday, more than 850 migrants were released to local shelters, marking a new high for El Paso. The numbers are expected to keep rising, according to Ruben Garcia, executive director of Annunciation House, a nonprofit that provides services to migrants released by federal authorities.

“It’s going to be very, very challenging,” he said.



In McAllen, migrants deemed to have credible asylum cases are released to the Catholic Charities respite center, where they’re allowed to shower, given medical attention and helped with getting a bus or airplane ticket to their final U.S. destination.

Sister Norma Pimentel, who oversees the shelter, said she received a phone call two weekends ago from a Border Patrol offi-

cial warning that the numbers were about to skyrocket. The next day, around 800 migrants showed up to the shelter, she said.

On Wednesday, clusters of migrants crowded the halls of the center. Lines stretched down long halls, as migrants waited to use the shower or pick up diapers. Teams of volunteers called migrants’ relatives to get bus tickets. Every 20 minutes or so, a new tour bus would drive up and deliver another 50 migrants into the shelter.



Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump

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Despite the crush, Pimentel said she will continue taking in the migrants. “If you drop them off on the street, they’re not going to know what to do,” she said. “We’re going to have chaos. We’re going to have a terrible problem.”

As the respite center started to overflow last week, city officials got involved, opening new shelters and contracting buses to take the migrants directly to shelters rather than have them cluster around the bus station downtown.



Rodriguez, the city manager, said he’s dedicated several city officials to spearhead the problem and the city’s spending thousands of taxpayer dollars a day on the buses and other services.

He’s lobbied the federal government for reimbursement, but he’s not overly hopeful. In 2014, when a similar crush of Central American migrants strained city resources, local officials applied for \$600,000 in federal disaster funds. After years of wrangling, they got just \$140,000, he said.

“This is very similar to what we saw then,” Rodriguez said. “It’s real people and real time and real money.” (Courtesy usatoday.com)

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