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Exxon Mobil posts \$8.4 billion profit, largely from new tax law



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Stock Market

Dow sheds 400 points as bond yields rise on strong jobs data

(Reuters) - The S&P and the Dow were headed for their worst week in two years on Friday, as robust U.S. jobs data pushed up bond yields further and boosted chances of more interest rate hikes this year.

Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) in New York, U.S., January 26, 2018. REUTERS/Brendan McDermid

The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped more than 400 points, with 10 of the 11 major S&P sectors in the red, led by the energy index's 3.49 percent fall.

Nonfarm payrolls rose by 200,000 jobs in January, the Labor Department said, beating expectation of 180,000. Average hourly earnings rose and boosted the year-on-year increase to 2.9 percent, the largest rise since June 2009. After the data, benchmark 10-year Treasury yields extended their rise to more than 2.8 percent, while traders boosted bets that the U.S. Federal Reserve will raise interest rates three times this year.

Fast-rising wages could prompt more aggressive action from the central bank to keep a lid on inflation pressure.

"The big picture concern is that wage growth will pick up and lead to more inflation," said Nicholas Colas, co-founder at DataTrek Research.

The rise in bond yields "is certainly beginning to concern the markets. It is certainly now an issue, where it wasn't for all of last year. Rates have risen fairly quickly this year and the speed of the advance is worrying."

At 12:30 p.m. ET (1730 GMT), the Dow Jones

Industrial Average was down 335.43 points, or 1.28 percent, at down 218.19 points, or 0.83 percent, at 25,851.28, the S&P 500 was down 26.65 points, or 0.94 percent, at 2,795.33.

The Nasdaq Composite was down 56.90 points, or 0.77 percent, at 7,328.97.

The CBOE Volatility Index, the most widely followed gauge measure of stock market volatility, rose to 14.99, after having fallen in the previous two sessions.

Adding to the pressure were disappointing earnings reports from major companies.

Shares of oil majors Exxon and Chevron were down 5.6 percent and 3.4 percent, respectively, after reporting lower-than-expected quarterly profits.

Google-parent Alphabet fell 5.3 percent after its profit also misses analysts' estimates.

Apple fell 2.9 percent as investors focused on the company's muted forecast rather than strong iPhone prices and its cash plans.

One bright spot was Amazon, which rose 5.4 percent after the online retailer reported a record profit of about \$2 billion due to strong sales and tax law changes.

Declining issues outnumbered advancers on the NYSE by 2,504 to 432. On the Nasdaq, 2,237 issues fell and 672 advanced.



Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange shortly after the opening bell in New York

The S&P 500 index showed 18 new 52-week highs and 18 new lows, while the Nasdaq recorded 42 new highs and 95 new lows. The Republican retreat, an opportunity for lawmakers to discuss legislation and politics in the run-up to November's congressional elections, was scheduled to run until midday Friday. President Donald Trump was due to

attend on Thursday. Vice President Mike Pence was scheduled on Wednesday. Trump told reporters at the White House he had spoken to Ryan and others, and that the accident had been "a pretty rough hit."

Worst week in more than a year for European

MILAN/LONDON (Reuters) - European shares suffered their biggest weekly loss in more than a year on Friday as investors' appetite for risk dried up and disappointing results from Deutsche Bank dragged the heavyweight banking sector down. The German share price index, DAX board, is seen at the stock exchange in Frankfurt, Germany, February 1, 2018. REUTERS/Staff/Remote

A more than five percent drop in shares of the German lender and losses across all sectors dragged the pan-European STOXX 600 index down 1.4 percent, suffering its fifth straight session of declines.

It was down 3.1 percent on the week, its worst weekly loss since November 2016. Germany's DAX .GDAXI was the worst-hit, tumbling 1.7 percent on Friday to seal its biggest weekly fall in two years.

European stocks have been pushed lower by rising bond yields on expectations of tighter monetary policy, partly erasing January's gains when investors piled into stocks on optimism over global growth.

"The stock market cannot always go up and multiples are very high. The least bit of dust can gum up the works. European equities are weighed down by extreme strength in the euro as the market prices in future changes to monetary policy," said Marco Vailati, head of research at Italy's Cassa Lombarda.

Vailati said European shares were more vulnerable than their U.S. peers to a possible pull back because earnings growth expectations were stable, whereas those for U.S. companies were being revised upwards thanks to measures there to cut taxes.

Bank of America Merrill-Lynch strategists said record equity inflows year-to-date had pushed their Bull & Bear indicator up to a 'sell' signal, predicting a downturn ahead for stocks.

On Friday the banking sector .SX7P, which benefited at the start of the year from a rotation into cyclical stocks, tumbled 1.1 percent. The index had its worst week in six months.

Deutsche Bank (DBKGn.DE) shares dropped 6.2 percent, having hit its lowest level since November earlier in the session.



It posted its third consecutive annual loss in 2017, taking a hit from challenging markets, a drop in investment bank revenue and a U.S. tax reform, after a difficult fourth quarter.

"Consensus is yet to fully reflect the earlier profit warning, let alone today's additional revenue miss and the disappointing cost guidance," said Citi analysts, adding they expect consensus earnings forecasts to reduce materially.



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WFC20180127C (01/18)

U.S. crude oil production hit a historic milestone, pulling more than 10 million barrels per day out of the ground last November for the first time since production peaked in 1970, at the start of a decades long decline, according to new monthly data released by the government on Wednesday.

The U.S. is the world's third largest oil producer, and its status is growing. Russia is the largest, with about 11 million barrels a day. The U.S. output rivals Saudi Arabia, which has had production of 10.6 million barrels a day, but currently has cut back due to the OPEC deal with Russia and others to keep supply off the market.



The U.S. Energy Information Administration reported Wednesday that crude production hit 10.038 million barrels per day, nearly beating the all-time record of 10.044 million barrels per day hit in November 1970.

It's good news for President Donald Trump's agenda, which promotes U.S. "energy dominance." Trump touted the impacts of his regulatory rollbacks in his first State of the Union address Tuesday night.

"We have ended the war on American Energy — and we have ended the war on clean coal," Trump said. "We are now an exporter of energy to the world."

Indeed, the Trump administration has rolled back regulations on energy production and offered up more parcels for drilling. However, almost all of the oil production gains came from hydraulic fracturing operations on private and state lands.

The U.S. production is expected to expand and could top 12 million barrels a day by the end of 2019, according to Dan Yergin, IHS Market Vice Chairman.

"Just a decade ago, our net imports were 60 percent of total demand. Now, they're 20 percent," economist Yergin told CNBC. "U.S. oil production, in fact, was half of what it is now a decade ago, during the financial crisis in 2008. But the high oil prices of 2008 were also the catalyst that propelled the U.S. shale industry, which has used evolving new technologies to extract oil from places once thought impossible."

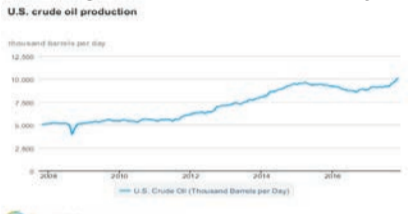
In just a few years, the U.S. is now poised to overtake Saudi Arabia as the world's second-largest oil producer. Analysts project that U.S. oil production could top 11 million barrels per day next year. Saudi production currently sits at 10.6 million barrels per day.

U.S. Oil Production Tops 10M Barrels Per Day For First Time Since 1970

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



While U.S. production has been rising as prices rose, the 10 million barrel mark is an important milestone that reinforces America's place in the energy big leagues and also its aspiration to use its new oil dominance in diplomacy. The U.S. last produced 10 million barrels a day in November, 1970, just when production peaked before a very long decline, according to U.S. Energy Department monthly data. Unlike 1970, U.S. oil production in 2018 is on an upswing, and U.S. shale and other producers are expected to add more than 1 million barrels a day this year alone for an average production rate government forecasts put at 10.3 million barrels a day.



"This is significant in market terms, and it's very significant psychologically. The U.S. is back big time as an oil producer and could be by next year the largest in the world. We're one of the big three now, and we could be number one," said Daniel Yergin, vice chairman IHS Markit. Saudi Arabia was producing 10.6 million barrels a day before it cut back production to steady the oil price by reducing new supply, and Russia has been drilling about 11 million barrels a day. The U.S. produced 10.038 million barrels a day in November, and produced 10.044 million in November, 1970. In weekly EIA data that will be revised, the U.S. produced 9.92 million barrels a day last week, up sharply from 8.9 million barrels a day a year ago. "Just a decade ago, our net imports were 60 percent of total demand. Now, they're 20 percent," said Yergin. U.S. oil production,

in fact, was half of what it is now a decade ago, during the financial crisis in 2008. But the high oil prices of 2008 were also the catalyst that propelled the U.S. shale industry, which has used evolving new technologies to extract oil from places once thought impossible.

U.S. oil production broke 10 million barrels a day for the first time in 48 years in November, according to new monthly data released by the government on Wednesday.



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"The U.S. could add upwards of 2 million barrels a day from where we are today by the end of 2019," said Yergin.

The U.S., still an importer of crude, imported an average 8 million barrels a day over the past several weeks. The U.S. exported 1.77 million barrels of crude a day last week, and another 4.8 million barrels of refined products including gasoline, diesel and jet fuel.

Harold Hamm, Continental Resources CEO, said on CNBC Wednesday that the U.S. could be a net exporter of oil by 2020.

Critics of U.S. shale say the production is front-loaded with the biggest gains coming when wells are initially drilled, but the industry has continued to make itself more and more efficient, lowering its costs at the same time. Hamm said the Bakken, in North Dakota, still has a ways to run and its only the "third inning" in terms of development.

"The Bakken's demise was over exaggerated. The Bakken is back stronger than ever. The technology works better there than anywhere else," Hamm said.

America's energy potential grew under the Obama administration, and the U.S. became a net exporter of natural gas, but the Trump administration has embraced energy as an economic force and has declared that the U.S. will be dominant, unlocking new sources of oil domestically.

The Trump administration opened the door to more drilling, including offshore both coasts of the U.S. and Congress approved drilling in the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge as part of the tax package. It has also found the increase in U.S. oil prominence as a way to help its stated course of oil dominance.



"What's going to be very interesting is psychological when you hit that 10 million number, I think we've gone from energy dependence to self-sufficiency to dominance," said Helima Croft, head of commodities strategy at RBC. "When you think of yourself as dominant, that gives you the impetus for an even more active foreign policy."

For instance, the U.S. could have more leverage in dealing with problematic countries.

"It gives them a freer hand to take a tougher line to deal with Venezuela...If we didn't have this abundant U.S. resource we'd be worried about the energy implications of a Venezuela default," Croft said.

Croft said when the U.S. was attacked by terrorists on Sept. 11, 2001, the worry was that oil disruptions from even minor producers could impact the U.S. supply and oil price.

"Just from a foreign policy perspective, so much of the discussion after 9/11 was we're supposed to be depending on this source of oil and what kind of bargains do we need to make with these producing countries," she said. "Diversification in the post 9/11 period was about diversification of suppliers." Now, it's about where else can the U.S. find oil in America.

"Just a decade ago, our net imports were 60 percent of total demand. Now, they're 20 percent," economist Daniel Yergin told CNBC. "U.S. oil production, in fact, was half of what it is now a decade ago, during the financial crisis in 2008. But the high oil prices of 2008 were also the catalyst that propelled the U.S. shale industry, which has used evolving new technologies to extract oil from places once thought impossible."

In just a few years, the U.S. is now poised to overtake Saudi Arabia as the world's second-largest oil producer. Analysts project that U.S. oil production could top 11 million barrels per day next year. Saudi production currently sits at 10.6 million barrels per day. "The U.S. could add upwards of 2 million barrels a day from where we are today by the end of 2019," Yergin said. (Courtesy daily-caller.com)

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A Snapshot Of The World



Presentation of a new 2 Euro commemorative coin which bears former German Chancellor Schmidt



Immigration activist Ravi Ragbir leads a protest outside of a federal building in New York



Michigan State University student Isabella Ndlbe stops to look at “The Rock” painted with the names of assault victims of Larry Nassar, a former team USA Gymnastics doctor who pleaded guilty in November 2017 to sexual assault, in East Lansing, Michigan



combination picture shows soccer balls inside a cellblock at the U.S. Naval Base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, June 3, 2017 (L) and a boy running with a ball during a soccer game in the city of Guantanamo, Cuba, December 6, 2017. REUTERS/Carlos Barria



Deutsche Bank CEO John Cryan and James von Moltke during the bank’s annual news conference in Frankfurt, Germany, February 2, 2018.



British Prime Minister Theresa May speaks at the China-UK business forum in ShanBritain’s Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union David Davis arrives in Downing Street, London



Robot inspects power equipment at an electrical substation in Chuzhou



Villagers prepare a meal after slaughtering pigs, during a celebration ahead of the Lunar Chinese New Year, in Anshun



China Railway High-speed Harmony bullet trains are seen at a high-speed train maintenance base, as the Spring Festival travel rush begins, in Wuhan

Women Know About The Increased Cancer Risk Of Oral Contraceptives. This New Study Shows That The Using Birth Control Pills May Protect Against Certain Cancers For At Least 30 Years

Birth Control Pills May Protect Against Some Cancers For Decades

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



After an analysis of more than 46,000 women, researchers from the University of Aberdeen in the United Kingdom found that women who had ever used oral contraceptive pills were at lower risk of colorectal, ovarian, and endometrial cancers, compared with women who had never used the pill.

Furthermore, the study found no link

between the use of oral contraceptives during reproductive years and increased risk of new cancers in later life. The study was led by Dr. Lisa Iversen, of the Institute of Applied Health Sciences at Aberdeen, and the findings were recently published in the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

According to the Centers for Disease Con-

trol and Prevention (CDC), around 16 percent of women in the United States aged between 15 and 44 years are currently using oral contraceptive pills as a method of birth control. The “combined pill” is the most common form of oral contraceptive used. This contains synthetic versions of the hormones estrogen and progesterone. Since naturally occurring estrogen and progesterone have been associated with cancer development, numerous studies have investigated whether oral contraceptives might play a role in cancer risk. Assessing the long-term effects of oral contraceptives While some studies have uncovered a



link between oral contraceptive use and increased risk of breast cancer, others have associated the pill with a reduced risk of certain cancer types, including endometrial and colorectal cancers. The aim of the new study was to assess the long-term cancer benefits or risks of oral contraceptive use. To reach their findings, Dr. Iversen and colleagues analyzed the data of 46,022 women who were part of the U.K. Royal College of General Practitioners’ Oral Contraception Study from 1968 to 1969.

Participants were monitored for up to 44 years, and the researchers assessed the development of all cancer types during this time. “Because the study has been going for such a long time we are able to look at the very long-term effects, if there are any, associated with the pill,” notes Dr. Iversen. Findings are “reassuring” Compared with women who had never used oral contraceptive pills, those who had used the pills were found to be at lower risk of colorectal, endometrial, and ovarian cancers. “So the protective benefits from using the pill during their reproductive years are lasting for at least 30 years after women have stopped using the pill,” says Dr. Iversen. The team did identify a greater risk of

breast and cervical cancers with oral contraceptive use, but they found that this risk appeared to diminish within 5 years of ceasing use. Additionally, the researchers found no evidence of increased risk of new cancer development in later life among women who had used oral contraceptives. The team says that the findings should offer some peace of mind to women who use oral contraceptives. “These results from the longest-running study in the world into oral contraceptive use are reassuring. Specifically, pill users don’t have an overall increased risk of cancer over their lifetime and that the protective effects of some specific cancers last for at least 30 years.” (Courtesy https://www.medicalnewstoday.com)



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Exxon Mobil posts \$8.4 billion profit, largely from new tax law

By Jordan Blum

Exxon Mobil's fourth-quarter profits more than quadrupled from the previous year, boosted by tax changes and higher oil prices. The nation's largest energy company said it earned an \$8.4 billion in the last three months of the year, up from \$1.7 billion during the same period in 2016. Revenues jumped 18 percent from the previous years to \$66.5 billion. Exxon Mobil received nearly \$6 billion in tax benefits for the quarter which were offset by the \$1.3 billion write-down in the value of older dry gas assets that lacked potential. Excluding those items, Exxon Mobil's would have earned \$3.7 billion profit actually would have dipped 2 percent versus the fourth quarter of 2016. The biggest boost in that non-tax profit came from oil production revenues benefiting from rising crude prices. For the full year 2017, Exxon reported profits of \$19.7 billion compared to \$7.8 billion in

2016. From an oil and gas standpoint, Exxon Mobil said its oil-equivalent production was down 3 percent versus the fourth quarter of 2016. The earnings news comes the same week Exxon said it plans to invest \$50 billion in the U.S. during the next five years and triple its oil and gas production in West Texas' booming Permian Basin. "The impact of tax reform on our earnings reflects the magnitude of our historic investment in the U.S. and strengthens our commitment to further grow our business here," said Exxon Mobil Chairman and CEO Darren Woods.

aerial of Exxon Mobil Houston Campus, Tuesday, May 17, 2016, in The Woodlands, Texas. (Gary Coronado / Houston Chronicle)



Houston nurse accused of creating fake Craigslist sex ads for husband's alleged mistress in court

By Brian Rogers

A Houston nurse on Friday was ordered not to contact her estranged husband or his alleged mistress after being accused of pretending to be the alleged mistress in order to post fake Craigslist ads requesting sex from married men. Tamartha Johnson, 47, is charged with felony online impersonation, accused of cre-

ating the Craigslist ad on July 14, court records show. She is free on \$5,000 bail and appeared before state District Judge Jan Krockner, who issued a no-contact order prohibiting Johnson from contacting her estranged husband and the victim. She is also barred from using drugs or alcohol or accessing the internet without court-ordered internet monitoring software. The monitoring software allows

court personnel to see what she is doing online. Johnson and her attorney refused to stop for questions from reporters as they left the courtroom. The victim allegedly received "about 100 inquiries to her personal cell phone about a Craigslist ad requesting sex from married men that she did not post," the arrest affidavit states. "Complainant received several unwanted naked pictures from unknown men due to this ad."

A Houston nurse on Friday was ordered not to contact her estranged husband or his alleged mistress after being accused of pretending to be the alleged mistress in order to post fake Craigslist ads requesting sex from married men. Tamartha Johnson, 47, is charged with felony online impersonation, accused of creating the Craigslist ad on July 14, court records show. She is free on \$5,000 bail and appeared before state District Judge Jan Krockner, who issued a no-contact order prohibiting Johnson from contacting her estranged husband and the victim.



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