



WASHINGTON WATCH



May 2019

U.S., China Trade War Deepens as Beijing Retaliates with Higher Tariffs

The U.S. and China escalated their trade fight as Beijing moved to raise tariffs on nearly \$60 billion worth of American goods in retaliation for President Trump's decision to punish China with higher tariffs on a slew of imports.

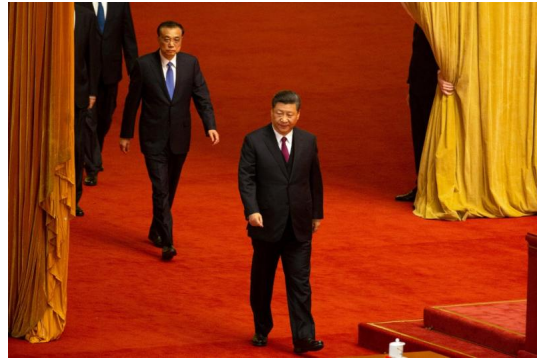
Read more [here](#).



Sources Report China Backtracked on Almost All Aspects of U.S. Trade Deal

U.S. government and private sector sources reported that China backtracked on almost all aspects of the proposed U.S. trade deal with systematic edits to a nearly 150-page draft trade agreement.

Read more [here](#).



U.S. Job Openings Surge, Point to Tightening Labor Market

U.S. job openings rebounded sharply in March, while the pace of hiring was little changed, pointing to a growing worker shortage that could slow employment growth this year.

Read more [here](#).



CNBC Survey Finds Small Business Confidence Remains High

Small business confidence ticked up and

remains at a high level, according to the latest CNBC/SurveyMonkey Small Business Survey for the second quarter.

Read more [here](#).



Public Citizen: Trump Adopted NAM Regulatory Reform Recommendations

Public Citizen released a new report showing that the Trump Administration has acted on a majority of NAM's recommendations for deregulatory actions by federal agencies.

Read more [here](#).



Trump To Nominate Patrick Shanahan as Defense Secretary

President Trump intends to nominate acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan and former Boeing executive to be his permanent pick to replace James Mattis at the Pentagon.

Read more [here](#).



Business Groups Take Victory Lap on Export-Import Bank

Business groups are hailing the return of the Export-Import Bank to full strength, even as they prepare for the next fight over the future of the credit export agency.

Read more [here](#).



U.S. Producer Prices Rose Moderately in April

U.S. producer prices rose moderately in April, but underlying inflation pressures appear to be picking up.

Read more [here](#).



White House Launches New Bid To

Overhaul Legal Immigration System

Reviving a deeply contentious issue that has stymied both Congress and the administration, the White House has launched a new bid to overhaul the legal immigration system.

Read more [here](#).



NERC To Analyze First Potential Cyberattack on U.S. Grid

North American Electric Reliability Corporation will conduct a root cause analysis to determine the cause of a March 5 cyber event, resulting in electrical system interruptions in several states.

Read more [here](#).



U.S. Lifts Crude Oil Production Growth Forecasts for 2019, 2020

The Energy Information Administration is predicting U.S. crude oil production will increase to 12.45 million barrels per day in 2019. 2020 output is expected to climb to 13.38 million bpd.

Read more [here](#).



European Union Cuts Economic Forecasts Over Trade Uncertainty

The European Union has trimmed its forecasts for eurozone economic growth this year and next as uncertainty over trade conflicts and weakness in the auto industry hold back output.

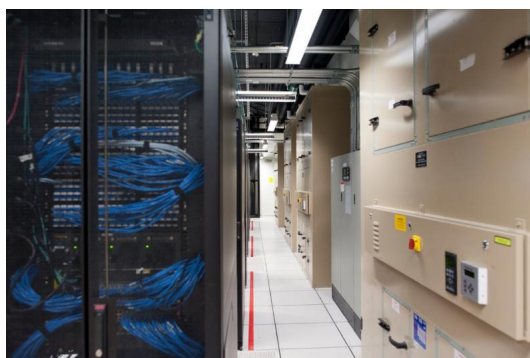
Read more [here](#).



Chinese Spies Acquired N.S.A.'s Hacking Tools and Used Them for Attacks

Chinese intelligence agents acquired National Security Agency hacking tools and repurposed them to attack American allies and private companies in Europe and Asia.

Read more [here](#).



U.S. To Finalize Keystone XL Review Regardless of Court Decision



The Trump Administration is planning to complete a new environmental review of the Keystone XL crude oil pipeline, even if a lawsuit blocking the project is tossed.

Read more [here](#).

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