
- **UK factory output drops unexpectedly in February for 1st time in nearly a year**

Tens British manufacturing output fell unexpectedly in February, its first drop in almost a year, according to official figures that added to signs the economy may have slowed in the first quarter. The data, released on Wednesday along with figures for overseas trade, also showed another sharp drop in construction output, defying expectations for a small rebound after a severe downturn in January.

Source: The Economics Times April 11, 2018

- **Japan's big brands are trying to shake up its taxi industry**

Tokyo has some of the best taxi services in the world. They're widely praised for spotless cars, polite drivers and a culture of no tipping. Their high quality is one reason that ride-hailing services haven't taken off in the city. But that could soon change as major Japanese companies and their partners enter the field ahead of the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo.

Source: CNBC April 3, 2018

- **Tesco profits rebound as turnaround continues**

Profits at Tesco have soared as the UK's biggest supermarket continues its revival under boss Dave Lewis. The group reported pre-tax profits of £1.3bn for the year to 24 February, up from £145m for the previous year, as UK like-for-like sales rose 2.2%. The jump follows years of disappointing results for Tesco after an accounting scandal and overambitious expansion. The retailer said the grocery market remained challenging due to ongoing pressure on costs. Shares rose nearly 6% to 222.4p, valuing the company at £21.7bn.

Source: BBC April 11, 2018

- **Iran sets single foreign exchange rate to rescue currency**

Iran's currency, the rial, lost some 20% against the US dollar in two weeks as Iranians rushed to hedge against depreciation of their assets. Some fear an imminent collapse of the nuclear deal and return of economic sanctions. In the foreign exchange market it has been more of a sandstorm for the past few weeks. The Iranian currency, the rial, lost 8% against the dollar in one day this week. On Monday night the government stepped in, removing the discrepancy between the exchange rate used by traders - 60,000 rials to the dollar - and the official rate - previously 37,000.

Source: BBC News April 10, 2018

- **Zuckerberg apologizes for data scrape**

Facebook chief executive Mark Zuckerberg clashed with a second panel of congressional lawmakers on Wednesday over the social network's failures to protect its users' privacy and Zuckerberg acknowledged his own information had been taken.

Source: The Washington Post April 11, 2018

For more information contact or visit:

Dr. Suman Niranjana

Director of G-LIBER Center
niranjans@savannahstate.edu

Phone: 912.358.3424

<https://www.savannahstate.edu/coba/GLIBER>

Contributor: Leila Rastegar