

### THE SUNDAY TIMES

**Outcry as Fraud Office drops bribery inquiries into Rolls-Royce and Glaxo:** The Serious Fraud Office has abandoned two of its largest investigations, in a decision called “extraordinary” by one City lawyer.

**Merlin Entertainments sells ski resorts for £95 million:** Merlin Entertainments has got out of the skiing business after selling its two ski resorts in Australia for £95 million.

**Dyson seeks £150 million damages from Brussels:** Sir James Dyson, the multibillionaire businessman and Brexit supporter, has launched a £150 million claim for damages against the European Commission in his long-running dispute with Brussels and German engineering rivals.

**Advertisers take a Brexit break from ITV:** ITV is set to sound the alert about advertising revenues for the second time in six months as the prospect of a chaotic Brexit forces companies to cut marketing budgets.

**‘Negligent’ Grant Thornton to pay Assetco extra £5 million:** Grant Thornton has been told to pay £5 million in legal costs to its former client after a judge found that it had committed negligence “of the utmost gravity”.

**Lord Barker of Battle quits Lords to run Oleg Deripaska’s energy group En+:** Lord Barker of Battle, the former Energy Minister, has taken a leave of absence from the House of Lords to run an aluminium and energy group owned by Oleg Deripaska, the Russian oligarch, with revenues of \$12 billion.

**Galliard Group woos buy-to-let investors with workspaces:** One of London’s largest privately owned developers is launching an affordable workspace business targeting buy-to-let investors who have been hit by additional taxes on homes.

**Institute of Directors hits out at fresh Brexit vote delay:** Businesses have lost faith in the political process, the Institute of Directors warned as research revealed that confidence in the service sector is sinking at its fastest pace since the financial crisis.

### INDICES THIS MORNING

	Current Value	(%) Change*	1W% Change
FTSE 100	7,194.5	0.2%	-0.8%
DAX 30	11,498.6	0.4%	1.4%
CAC 40	5,233.6	0.3%	1.2%
DJIA**	26,031.8	-	0.6%
S&P 500**	2,792.7	-	0.6%
NASDAQ Comp.**	7,527.5	-	0.7%
Nikkei 225	21,528.2	0.5%	2.5%
Hang Seng 40	28,959.3	0.5%	3.3%
Shanghai Comp	2,961.3	5.6%	4.5%
Kospi	2,232.6	0.1%	1.6%
BSE Sensex	36,208.1	0.9%	0.2%
S&P/ASX 200	6,186.3	0.3%	1.7%

Current Values as at 11:15 BST, \*%Chg from Friday Close, \*\* As on Friday Close

### ABOUT GOODMAN MASSON

With bases in London and Düsseldorf, we are a Finance and Technology recruitment company who hold annual revenues exceeding £42 million. It's not all about profits however and boasting one of the highest staff retention rates in the city, we've been voted Best Workplace Environment, Best Employee Benefits Programme and Best UK Workplace.

### CONTACT US

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**Hammerson shakes up board and plans £500 million sell-off:** Hammerson has announced a boardroom shake-up and accelerated asset disposal programme after coming under pressure from an American activist investor.

**Non-Standard Finance blocks £7 million windfall for founders in Provident Financial bid battle:** Non-Standard Finance's pay committee has stepped in to head off a probable row over an instant £7 million windfall for its founders should the sub-prime lender land its £1.3 billion hostile bid for its bigger rival, Provident Financial.

## THE FINANCIAL TIMES

**Kraft Heinz write-down hits Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway results:** Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway was dragged to one of its largest quarterly losses in history as the sprawling conglomerate took a multibillion-dollar write-down on its stake in Kraft Heinz and its mammoth stock portfolio slid in value in the final three months of the year.

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**Fired Barclays trader wins nearly £1 million in compensation:** A former top foreign exchange trader at Barclays has won nearly £1 million in compensation after a judgment in late January drew a line under a long legal battle with his old employer.

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**Porsche accelerates race for electric market share:** Porsche is electrifying the Macan, its most popular combustion engine model, as the sports car maker steps up the battle in the battery-powered market.

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**All eyes on Jupiter as more investors short stock:** Hedge funds have ramped up their bets against Jupiter as the retail-focused UK fund manager prepares to unveil its financial results for a troublesome 2018.

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**Pearson posts falling sales but rising profits during restructuring:** Pearson reported a slide in sales — but profits rose at the educational publishing group as it promised to stabilise the company this year amid a painful restructuring.

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**Scor sues Barclays over botched takeover deal documents:** French reinsurer Scor has sued Barclays, demanding that the bank hand over hundreds of pages of confidential documents relating to a botched takeover bid it was working on.

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**BMW-Daimler ride hailing unit plans 'tenfold' expansion:** Free Now, the ride-hailing division that forms part of the \$1 billion "urban mobility" joint venture between German carmakers BMW and Daimler, plans to launch in nearly 90 cities this year as it aims to expand "tenfold" in the next three years.

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**Exxon seeks to block vote on investor proposal on emissions:** ExxonMobil, the world's largest listed oil company, is trying to prevent an investor proposal on setting targets for greenhouse gas emissions from coming up for a vote at its annual meeting in May.

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**KKR circles Asda after Sainsbury's deal setback:** Private equity group KKR is exploring a bid for U.K. supermarket chain Asda after a planned £7.3 billion takeover of the U.K.'s third-biggest grocer by its larger rival J Sainsbury looks set to collapse.

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**New Chief Executive defends Intel spending binge:** Intel's new Chief Executive has promised closer attention to operations and a sharpening of the U.S. chipmaker's investment focus, as he issued a robust defence of expensive bets by the company that have rattled investors.

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**Gigaclear Founder launches new U.K. telecoms company:** The Founder of rural broadband company Gigaclear has launched a new telecoms company looking to target suburbs and smaller cities with full-fibre networks.

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**Huawei v U.S. in 'Battle of Barcelona' at Mobile World Congress:** Mobile World Congress, will draw 100,000 people from across the telecoms industry to Barcelona as it opens, is the biggest event in the annual calendar for the Chinese company Huawei.

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## THE MAIL ON SUNDAY

**Software giant Micro Focus is sued by investors over its £6.5 billion botched merger with Hewlett Packard:** Software giant Micro Focus and its Executives are being sued by investors in America over their botched £6.5 billion takeover of assets from Hewlett Packard Enterprise.

**Same-day courier firm CitySprint is set to be sold for £250 million:** One of Britain's largest same-day courier companies is set to be sold for up to £250 million by an investment company backed by Lloyds Banking Group.

**Mark Carney comes under fire as it revealed the Bank of England's gender pay gap has grown to 24.2%:** The Bank, led by Canadian Governor Mark Carney, last week filed data to the Government showing that its male staff are paid an average of 24.6% more than their female colleagues. The median disparity is up from 24.2% in the previous financial year, when UK organisations were first required to publish their gender pay gap figures.

**Sainsbury's workers suffered a £76.9 million loss on shares after supermarket's proposed merger with Asda was halted by regulator:** Sainsbury's workers suffered a £76.9 million paper loss on their shares last week after the supermarket's proposed merger with Asda faced a major setback.

**Nick Candy's £600,000 sweetener to help podcast platform Audioboom sign up stars:** Nick Candy – the spouse of pop singer Holly Valance – has hit repeat on his investment in podcast platform Audioboom.

**Same-day courier firm CitySprint is set to be sold for £250 million just two years after investment company bought it:** One of Britain's largest same-day courier companies is set to be sold for up to £250 million by an investment company backed by Lloyds Banking Group.

**BA fury after Heathrow's shareholders land £500 million while the airport continues heaping costs on customers:** The owner of British Airways suggested the dividend payments – now totalling £3.5 billion since 2012 – make Heathrow more costly for fliers.

**Chairman of troubled fashion and home retailer Laura Ashley denies bid rumours as a quarter of stores close:** The Chairman of struggling fashion and home retailer Laura Ashley has lashed out at reports that it could be taken into private ownership in an audacious takeover bid.

**Chinese telecoms giant Huawei steps up efforts to poach customers from Apple with new laptops and phones:** Chinese telecoms giant Huawei is stepping up efforts to poach customers from Apple with a series of new laptops and phones.

## THE INDEPENDENT

**Energy provider Solarplicity banned from taking on new customers:** Energy provider Solarplicity has been banned from taking on new customers due to its poor switching process and customer service.

**Royal Mail hikes price of first class and second class stamps by 3p from March:** Royal Mail will hike the price of first class stamps by 3p to 70p from next month while second class will go up by 3p to 61p, the privatised postal company.

**Metro Bank and Starling get millions from RBS fund to boost banking competition:** Metro Bank, Starling and ClearBank have all been given multi-million pound grants from an RBS fund aimed at boosting competition in the business banking sector.

**SSE hikes energy bills by £117 for millions of customers:** SSE has joined the rest of the "Big Six" in raising its standard variable energy tariff to meet Ofgem's latest price cap.

**House-building giant, Persimmon, faces loss of contract amid government concerns over Help to Buy scheme:** Housebuilder Persimmon right to sell Help to Buy homes is under scrutiny amid government concerns over the company's behaviour.

**Austerity has cut U.K. GDP growth by almost £100 billion, new report says:** A decade of austerity has hit GDP growth by a total of just over £3,600 per household, a new report has claimed.

## THE GUARDIAN

**Royal Mail to donate £60,000 to charity after breaking stamp price cap:** Royal Mail is to donate £60,000 to charity after it was found by regulator Ofcom to have increased the price of second-class stamps beyond the permitted level of 60p.

**Doorstep lender Provident Financial receives £1.3 billion takeover bid:** Provident Financial, the doorstep lender that charges interest rates of 535%, has received a surprise £1.3 billion takeover bid from a smaller rival led by its former Chief Executive.

**Interserve lenders line up EY as administrator if shareholder talks fail:** Lenders to the outsourcing firm Interserve have lined up EY to manage its administration if they cannot reach agreement with shareholders on the terms of a financial restructuring plan.

**Donald Trump delays tariff hike on Chinese goods, sending stock markets soaring:** Shares in Asia have soared after Donald Trump said he would delay an increase in tariffs on Chinese goods, citing "substantial progress" in trade talks with China over the weekend.

**Ban Ki-moon tells Britain: stop investing in fossil fuels overseas:** Ban Ki-moon has urged Britain to stop funding fossil fuel projects overseas, in what he said would mark a test of Theresa May's commitment to act on climate change.

**Aston Martin to publish first full-year figures since float:** The luxury car firm Aston Martin Lagonda is gearing up for its first set of financial results since a disappointing stock market float.

**Agency tried to charge care homes £2,700 a shift for workers:** One of the country's biggest providers of agency health workers has been accused of "profiteering" after trying to charge care homes up to £2,700 to supply a staff member for a single shift.

## THE WEEK AHEAD

### Key Economy Releases

### Key Corporate Releases

Monday,  
25 February 2019

**UK:** BoE's Governor Carney speech  
**US:** Retail Sales Ex Auto & Gas, Retail Sales "Control Group" (MoM), Chicago Fed National Activity Index, Wholesale Inventories (MoM), Dallas Fed Manufacturing Business Index

**Final Results:** Ascential, Associated British Foods, Base Resources Ltd, Bunzl, Centamin (DI), Dechra Pharmaceuticals, Dialight, Finsbury Food Group, Hammerson, Hiscox Limited (DI), Kosmos Energy (DI), Quartix Holdings, Reach, RTC Group, Tekcapital

**Interim Results:** Base Resources Ltd, Dechra Pharmaceuticals, Finsbury Food Group, Tristel

**Trading Announcements:** Associated British Foods

Tuesday ,  
26 February 2019

**US:** Building Permits (MoM), Housing Starts (MoM), S&P/Case-Shiller Composite-20 (YoY), S&P/Case-Shiller Home Price Index, S&P/Case-Shiller Composite-20 City Home Price Index (YoY), S&P/Case-Shiller 20 City s.a. (MoM), Housing Price Index (MoM), House Price Purchase Index (QoQ), New Home Sales, New Home Sales (MoM), Powell Testifies Before Senate Banking Panel, Consumer Confidence, Richmond Fed Manufacturing Index

**Final Results:** Augean, Babcock International Group, Bluefield Solar Income Fund Limited, Croda International, Dalata Hotel Group, Derwent London, Devro, Drax Group, Fisher (James) & Sons, Fresnillo, Green REIT, Hotel Chocolat Group, Lighthouse Group, Meggitt, Morgan Advanced Materials, Persimmon, PJSC MNC Norilsk Nickel ADR, Standard Chartered, Synectics, Town Centre Securities, Travis Perkins, Verona Pharma

**Interim Results:** Bluefield Solar Income Fund Limited, Green REIT, Hotel Chocolat Group, Town Centre Securities

**Trading Announcements:** Babcock International Group

Wednesday,  
27 February 2019

**US:** MBA Mortgage Applications, Durable Goods Orders, Durable Goods Orders ex Transportation, Advance Goods Trade Balance, Pending Home Sales (YoY), Factory Orders, Factory Orders (MoM), Powell to deliver Semi-Annual Testimony to House Panel  
**EU:** M3 Money Supply (YoY), Business Climate Indicator, Consumer Confidence, Services Sentiment Indicator, ECB Balance sheet, Economic Sentiment Indicator, Industrial Confidence

**Final Results:** Capital & Counties Properties, FBD Holdings, Green Energy Technology Inc. GDR (Reg S), International Personal Finance, ITV, Law Debenture Corp., Metro Bank, Nichols, Pacific Horizon Inv Trust, Provident Financial, Rio Tinto, Riverstone Energy Limited, St James's Place, Tarsus Group, Taylor Wimpey, Unite Group, Weir Group

**Interim Results:** Avingtrans, Clinigen Group, Pantheon International, Redde

## THE WEEK AHEAD

### Key Economy Releases

### Key Corporate Releases

Thursday,  
28 February 2019

**US:** Wholesale Inventories (MoM), Fed's Clarida Remarks at Economic Policy Conference, Gross Domestic Purchases Price Index (QoQ), Gross Domestic Product Annualised (QoQ), Continuing Jobless Claims, Initial Jobless Claims, Personal Consumption (QoQ), Personal Consumption Expenditure Core (QoQ), Advance Goods Trade Balance, Personal Consumption (QoQ), Personal Consumption Expenditure Core (QoQ), BEA Releasing Initial 4Q Gross Domestic Product (Combining Initial/Second), Fed's Bostic Speaks on the Economic and Housing Landscape, Chicago PMI, EIA Natural Gas Storage Change, Kansas City Fed Manufacturing Activity, Fed's Harker Discusses Economic Outlook

**EU:** Private Loans (YoY)

**Final Results:** Amigo Holdings, Arrow Global Group, Aston Martin Lagonda Global Holdings, Bakkavor Group, Bovis Homes Group, British American Tobacco, CRH, Dairy Farm International Holdings Ltd. (Singapore), Diversified Gas & Oil, Evraz, Foxtons Group, Gocompare.com Group, Grafton Group Units, Greencoat UK Wind, Hastings Group Holdings, Hongkong Land Holding Ltd. (Sing.Reg), Howden Joinery Group, Hunting, Inchcape, International Consolidated Airlines Group SA (CDI), Jardine Matheson Holdings Ltd (Singapore Reg), Jardine Strategic Holdings Ltd. (Singapore), Mandarin Oriental International (Singapore), Merlin Entertainments, Mondi, Petrofac Ltd., PPHE Hotel Group Ltd, Rentokil Initial, Rolls-Royce Holdings, RSA Insurance Group, Spire Healthcare Group, STV Group

**Interim Results:** Genus, Management Resources Solutions, Ricardo, Town Centre Securities

**Trading Announcements:** Amigo Holdings

**Quarterly Results:** Arrow Global Group

Friday,  
01 March 2019

**US:** Personal Spending, Personal Consumption Expenditure Core (YoY), Personal Consumption Expenditure Deflator (YoY), Personal Spending, Personal Consumption Expenditure Core (YoY), Personal Consumption Expenditure Deflator (YoY), Personal Income (MoM), BEA to Release Dec. income/spending & Jan income, Markit Manufacturing PMI, Construction Spending (MoM), ISM Employment, ISM Manufacturing PMI, Reuters/Michigan Consumer Sentiment Index, Fed's Bostic Remarks at Luncheon at Economic Policy Conference, Fed's Bostic Speaks on the Economic Outlook, Monetary Policy

**EU:** Markit Manufacturing PMI, Unemployment Rate, Consumer Price Index - Core (YoY), Consumer Price Index (YoY)

**Final Results:** Jupiter Fund Management, London Stock Exchange Group, Mail.ru Group Ltd GDR (Reg S), Robert Walters, William Hill, WPP

**Interim Results:** Revolution Bars Group

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