

Business

1. Broadcom just reported a 48% jump in revenues and a 143% surge in AI chip sales. Yet its share price fell more than 12% in after-hours trading. Why did investors punish such a strong set of results?
 - a. The CEO resigned unexpectedly mid-call
 - b. The company didn't raise its long-term sales target
 - c. Regulators blocked its biggest AI contract
2. The OECD recently warned that the global steel industry is in deepening crisis. Which country's state-backed production is most responsible for the oversupply flooding world markets?
 - a. India
 - b. Russia
 - c. China
3. Google recently signed one of the most eye-watering computing deals in tech history, committing to lease AI supercomputer power through June 2029 from a company it doesn't own. What is the monthly price tag on that deal?
 - a. \$290 million a month
 - b. \$920 million a month
 - c. \$1.4 billion a month
4. Starbucks recently triggered a mass boycott in South Korea after a tumbler promotion went badly wrong. What exactly did they do to cause such fury?
 - a. They accidentally priced a drink in Japanese yen during a trade dispute
 - b. They launched the promotion on the anniversary of a pro-democracy massacre
 - c. They misspelled the Korean word for freedom on 10,000 cups

Economics

5. The US labour market added 172,000 jobs in May, continuing a solid run of hiring. But one measure of worker wellbeing is still going in the wrong direction. What is it?
 - a. The unemployment rate (share of workers without jobs) is rising
 - b. Wage growth (pay rises) is not keeping up with inflation (rising prices)
 - c. Part-time work has overtaken full-time employment for the first time

6. New EU rules requiring companies to publish salary information — to help close the gender pay gap — were supposed to take effect across member states by 7 June. What actually happened at the deadline?
 - a. All 27 member states implemented the rules on time
 - b. Most member states missed the deadline and haven't passed the rules into national law
 - c. The European Court of Justice suspended the rules pending a legal challenge
7. Azerbaijan's state energy company SOCAR just locked in a long-term gas supply deal involving TotalEnergies and Abu Dhabi's XRG, with exports due to begin in 2029. Which energy route does this deal reinforce, and why does Europe care?
 - a. The Northern Sea Route, as Arctic shipping opens up with climate change
 - b. The Southern Gas Corridor, a pipeline network Europe has leaned on to reduce Russian gas dependency
 - c. The Trans-Saharan Pipeline, a proposed link from Nigeria to the Mediterranean
8. According to the Capgemini World Wealth Report, the number of millionaires (people with investable assets over \$1 million) around the world grew sharply last year, driven largely by soaring stock markets. How many millionaires now exist globally?
 - a. Around 14 million
 - b. Around 19 million
 - c. Around 25 million

General Knowledge

9. Which country is the world's largest producer of lithium — the metal that sits inside almost every electric vehicle battery and smartphone on the planet?
 - a. Chile
 - b. Australia
 - c. Argentina
10. Which economist, born in 1723, argued in his most famous book that the wealth of nations comes not from stockpiling gold but from productive labour and free trade — effectively founding modern economics?
 - a. David Ricardo
 - b. Adam Smith
 - c. Thomas Malthus

Business

1. Broadcom just reported a 48% jump in revenues and a 143% surge in AI chip sales. Yet its share price fell more than 12% in after-hours trading. Why did investors punish such a strong set of results?

b. Broadcom left its long-term sales target unchanged, and that was enough to disappoint. When expectations are sky-high, merely beating today's numbers isn't enough — investors need to see the ceiling raised too. It's a reminder that in markets, sentiment about the future often matters more than the present scorecard.

2. The OECD recently warned that the global steel industry is in deepening crisis. Which country's state-backed production is most responsible for the oversupply flooding world markets?

c. China is the dominant force behind the steel glut. Heavily subsidised Chinese mills keep producing even when global prices fall, because the state absorbs losses that a private firm couldn't. This undercuts steelmakers in Europe and elsewhere who have to actually turn a profit — and it's why the OECD is sounding the alarm now.

3. Google recently signed one of the most eye-watering computing deals in tech history, committing to lease AI supercomputer power through June 2029 from a company it doesn't own. What is the monthly price tag on that deal?

b. Google is paying \$920 million per month — roughly \$30 billion over the life of the contract — to lease computing power from SpaceX, which acquired the AI firm xAI in early 2026 and gained massive data centres in the process. At that rate, Google is spending more on rented compute each month than most countries spend on their entire technology budgets.

4. Starbucks recently triggered a mass boycott in South Korea after a tumbler promotion went badly wrong. What exactly did they do to cause such fury?

b. Starbucks ran a tumbler giveaway that landed on the anniversary of a pro-democracy massacre — a catastrophically tone-deaf scheduling error in a country where that date carries enormous historical weight. Customers smashed branded merchandise, deleted loyalty apps and cashed out prepaid balances. It's a masterclass in why local cultural calendars matter in global marketing.

Economics

5. The US labour market added 172,000 jobs in May, continuing a solid run of hiring. But one measure of worker wellbeing is still going in the wrong direction. What is it?

b. More Americans are in work, but their pay packets aren't stretching as far. Wage growth is being outpaced by inflation, meaning workers are effectively getting poorer in real terms even as the headline jobs number looks healthy. This is why consumer sentiment — how confident people feel about their finances — remains pessimistic despite the strong hiring figures.

6. New EU rules requiring companies to publish salary information — to help close the gender pay gap — were supposed to take effect across member states by 7 June. What actually happened at the deadline?

b. Most EU member states failed to transpose the pay transparency rules into national law by the June 7 deadline. Transposing an EU directive means each country must pass its own matching legislation — and that process often slips. The gender pay gap across the EU currently sits around 13%, which is part of what made these rules feel urgent in the first place.

7. Azerbaijan's state energy company SOCAR just locked in a long-term gas supply deal involving TotalEnergies and Abu Dhabi's XRG, with exports due to begin in 2029. Which energy route does this deal reinforce, and why does Europe care?

b. The Southern Gas Corridor is a network of pipelines running from the Caspian Sea through Turkey and into southern Europe — and it has become strategically vital since Europe began cutting its dependence on Russian gas after 2022. Locking in Azerbaijani supply from the Absheron offshore field from 2029 gives European importers a longer-term alternative to Russian energy.

8. According to the Capgemini World Wealth Report, the number of millionaires (people with investable assets over \$1 million) around the world grew sharply last year, driven largely by soaring stock markets. How many millionaires now exist globally?

c. There are now 25.3 million millionaires worldwide, up 7.9% in a single year — that's roughly 2 million new millionaires created in 2025 alone. To put that in context, 25 million is larger than the entire population of Australia. The surge is almost entirely explained by equity markets: when stock prices rise, so do the portfolios that push people over the million-dollar threshold.

General Knowledge

9. Which country is the world's largest producer of lithium — the metal that sits inside almost every electric vehicle battery and smartphone on the planet?

b. Australia is the world's largest lithium producer, accounting for roughly half of global mine output. Chile holds the largest known reserves and is the second-biggest producer, while Argentina is a fast-growing third. The three countries together — sometimes called the Lithium Triangle plus Australia — control the vast majority of the world's supply of a metal that is central to the energy transition.

10. Which economist, born in 1723, argued in his most famous book that the wealth of nations comes not from stockpiling gold but from productive labour and free trade — effectively founding modern economics?

*b. Adam Smith published *The Wealth of Nations* in 1776 — the same year as American independence — and it remains one of the most influential books ever written. His idea that markets, guided by what he called the 'invisible hand', allocate resources more efficiently than governments could is still the starting point for almost every economics course in the world today.*