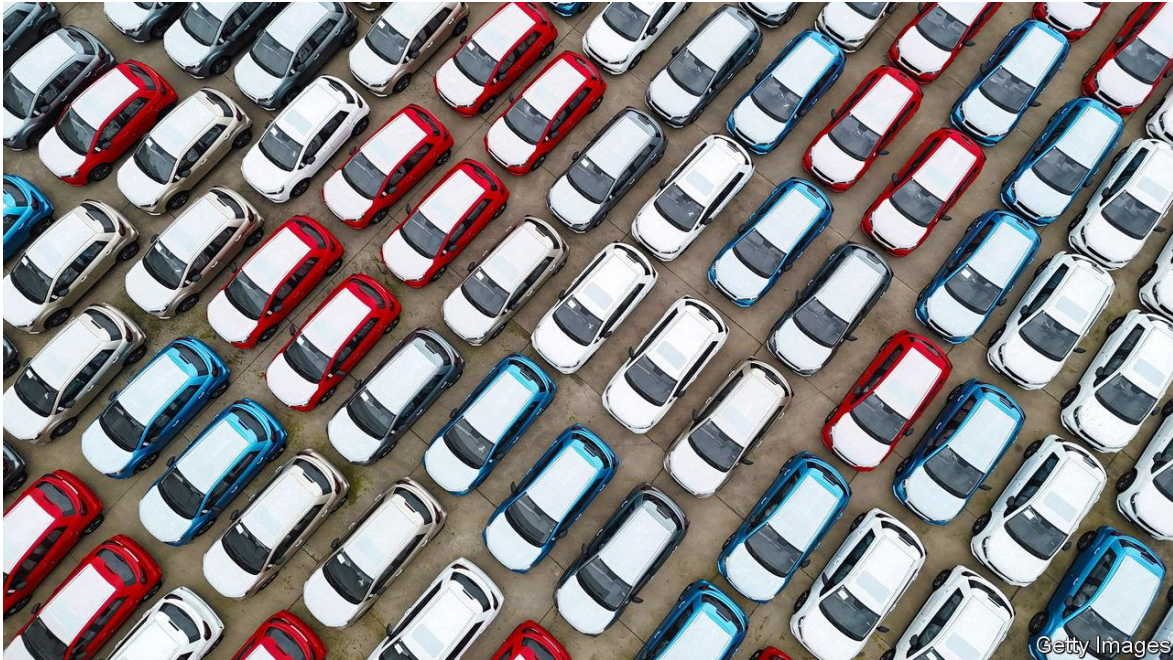


The world this week

Business

Jan 11th 2024



China became the [world's biggest exporter of vehicles](#) in 2023, according to the China Passenger Car Association. The association thinks that China exported nearly 5.3m vehicles last year, accelerating it past Japan, which is thought to have sold 4.3m vehicles abroad. Petrol-powered vehicles accounted for the bulk of the exports (notably to Russia), but electric vehicles are taking a growing share of China's overseas market. The CPCA reckons that 6.1m full-electric vehicles were sold in China last year, up by 22% from 2022.

Backseat driver

大众，下文VW同（大众的车标就是VW）

As Chinese carmakers move into top gear, [Volkswagen](#) finds itself falling behind in China, which was once a source of ambitious growth for the German company. VW's sales in China rose by just 1.6% in 2023 (the overall domestic market grew by 5.6%), though the country still accounts for a third of its global market. VW is also struggling to keep up with demand for [EVs](#). It delivered 394,000 fully electric vehicles worldwide in 2023, far behind the 1.6m that were sold by [BYD](#), China's biggest electric-car maker.

Electric Vehicles 的缩写

比亚迪

波音

脱落

航空

起飞

Boeing's chief executive, Dave Calhoun, promised that the aerospace company would be completely transparent in helping an investigation into an incident in which a panel came off a 737 Max 9 passenger jet that had just taken off from Portland. Nobody was injured on the Alaska Airlines flight, which returned to the airport with a gaping hole in its side. The Federal Aviation Administration grounded some 737 Max 9s while inspections were carried out. The investigation's initial focus is on the bolts that secured the panel, which fell into a teacher's garden in Portland.

提起诉讼

新兴公司

OpenAI responded in detail to a lawsuit lodged by the *New York Times* that claims the startup used the newspaper's content to create and train its **chatbot**, ChatGPT. In a blog post OpenAI said the lawsuit was "without merit", and that the *Times* was "not telling the full story".

Meanwhile, the European Union announced an initial probe into whether **Microsoft's** huge investment in OpenAI falls foul of its law on mergers. Britain's antitrust regulator opened a similar review in December.

反垄断监管机构, anti trust adj. 反垄断的, 前几天的阅读出现过, 以后不注释啦

America's Securities and Exchange Commission approved applications from some of the world's biggest financial companies, such as BlackRock, to start offering **exchange-traded funds** tied to bitcoin for the first time, a huge boost for advocates of cryptocurrencies. The day before the announcement the X account of the SEC was **hacked** by an attacker who posted a fake announcement that the regulator had already approved the ETFs, causing bitcoin's price to rise briefly by more than \$1,000.

Hewlett Packard Enterprise agreed to buy **Juniper Networks** in a deal valued at \$14bn. The acquisition will double HPE's computer-networking business, and it also obtains Juniper's artificial-intelligence unit, Mist AI, which uses machine learning to improve user access to wireless systems.



The Economist

Stockmarkets in most countries may have had a patchy start to the year—with China's CSI 300 index falling to a five-year low—but not in **Japan**. The Nikkei and the Topix indices hit their highest levels since early 1990, boosted by investor cheer that the weaker yen is helping exports.

[Bill Ackman](#) became embroiled in a spat with ***Business Insider***, a news website, after it claimed that his wife, Neri Oxman, had plagiarised some work in her doctoral dissertation at MIT in 2010 (Ms Oxman apologised for errors in four instances). Mr Ackman, one of America's best-known activist investors, was a vocal critic of Claudine Gay, who resigned as Harvard's president amid claims of plagiarism. Axel Springer, the website's publisher, took the rare step of ordering a review into the "motivation and the process" behind the piece.

Overall losses from **natural disasters** around the world came to \$250bn in 2023, about the same as 2022, according to Munich Re. An absence of mega-disasters in industrialised countries kept the figure down. The earthquakes in Turkey and Syria were the costliest disasters (\$50bn in losses) followed by Typhoon Doksuri, which hit China (\$25bn). Munich Re noted that 74,000 people died in natural disasters, far above the five-year average of 10,000.

The great British bake off

Greggs, a purveyor of cheap and cheerful sandwiches and snacks in Britain, registered a 20% rise in sales in 2023 as it opened lots of new stores. The downmarket chain is often contrasted with the mid-market Pret a Manger, which operates in swankier areas. Academics from Sheffield Hallam University have even gone so far as to create a Greggs-Pret index using machine learning (what else) to assess if the number of Greggs shops in a town are a good measure of its “Northern-ness”.

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