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Morning Briefing

Americas Edition

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Good morning. A government shutdown just became more likely. Gisèle Pelicot's exhusband gets the maximum sentence in France's mass rape trial. And why Americans are living longer. <u>Listen to the day's top stories</u>.

Markets Snapshot		
S&P 500 Futures	5,968.5	+0.48%
Nasdaq 100 Futures	21,573.25	+0.33%
Bloomberg Dollar Spot Index	1,300.86	-0.02%
Bitcoin	102,382.25	+1.42%

Market data may be delayed depending on provider agreements.

A stopgap funding deal looks to have fallen apart following opposition from Donald Trump and Elon Musk, increasing the likelihood of a government shutdown this week. The president-elect said he wanted lawmakers to include an increase to the debt ceiling in the package, which needs to happen before the summer to avoid a default. Why? So it would be raised under Joe Biden's watch.

Markets and central banks: Futures rebounded and Treasuries steadied after the Federal Reserve's <u>hawkish pivot</u> caused the S&P 500 to suffer its biggest decision-day loss since 2001. The yen sank more than 1% as the Bank of Japan <u>cast doubt</u> on the prospect of a January rate hike.



Gisele Pelicot outside court in Avignon, France, on Dec. 19. *Photographer: Miguel Medina/Getty Images*

Gisèle Pelicot's ex-husband was sentenced to the maximum 20 years in prison in the <u>historic mass rape trial</u> that shocked France. In other legal news, Segantii and its founder Simon Sadler <u>pleaded not guilty</u> to insider trading in Hong Kong. In the

Archegos case, a judge will decide <u>whether to shorten</u> Bill Hwang's 18-year prison term and grant him home confinement.

Brazil's congress watered down President Lula da Silva's fiscal plan again, after the real hit a record low on rising concern about the nation's finances. Hoping to stem the slide, the central bank plans to sell \$3 billion in a new spot auction today—its fourth intervention this week. Meanwhile, Lula's top economic aides are feeling increasingly powerless to curb the market panic. As one money manager put it, "the government lacks credibility."



Elliott Hill. Source: Nike

Nike's new CEO Elliott Hill is about to face his first earnings call since taking the job in September, and <u>Wall Street has many questions</u>. More corporate action: Micron tumbled premarket after its revenue forecast <u>missed projections</u>. IPhone-maker Foxconn is <u>reportedly in talks</u> with Renault to buy the French carmaker's Nissan shares. And remember Blackberry? It's one of several companies that spent billions on a <u>poorly timed acquisition</u> and is now regretting it.

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Canada's Trudeau Faces Growing Calls to Resign



Howard Lutnick's Son Takes CEO Role at Cantor SPAC



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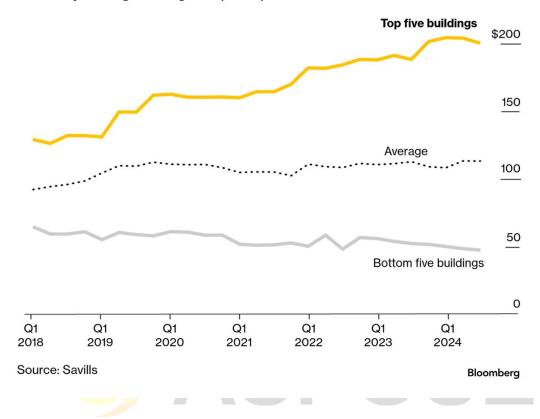
The Spiral in Hudson Yards, New York City. *Photographer: Laurian Ghinitoiu/Bjarke Ingels Group/Cover Images*

There's rarely been a better time to own a top-quality office building in Manhattan.

- **The richest financial companies** are <u>battling for space</u>, bidding each other out and driving rents into the stratosphere at the best of the best towers.
- **Many of the most in-demand** buildings are on Park Avenue in Midtown, where Ken Griffin's Citadel has <u>staked a claim</u> to thousands of square feet of offices and JPMorgan is finishing up <u>its new headquarters skyscraper</u>.
- It's surprising given Manhattan as a whole is saddled with vacancies, and scores of buildings some just steps away from the trophy towers hover on the verge of obsolescence. Across the US, 2025 is shaping up to be the "year of reckoning" for office real estate.

Rents Booming for Top Buildings but Slumping at the Bottom

Quarterly average asking rent per square foot in NYC's Plaza District



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The Economic Time Bomb in Empty Office Buildings

The Big Take



The Big Take

Stranded in Mexico: Trump's Looming Crackdown Scares Migrants

Families from all over the world are trapped in Mexico, trying to figure out what the Trump administration's immigration plan means for their futures.

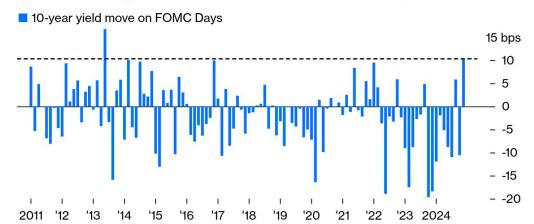
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Opinion

The Fed just dropped a lump of coal into the market's Christmas stocking, John Authers writes. The <u>biggest disappointment</u> was the "dot plot," which showed an increase in expected inflation and projected growth, and a scaling back in projections for rate cuts.

Biggest Yield Jump on FOMC Day Since 2013

Not since the Taper Tantrum have bonds received such a jolt



Source: Bloomberg Opinion

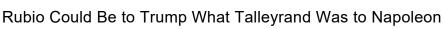
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Marc Champion

Trump's 'Max Pressure' Policy on Iran Might Finally Work





Before You Go

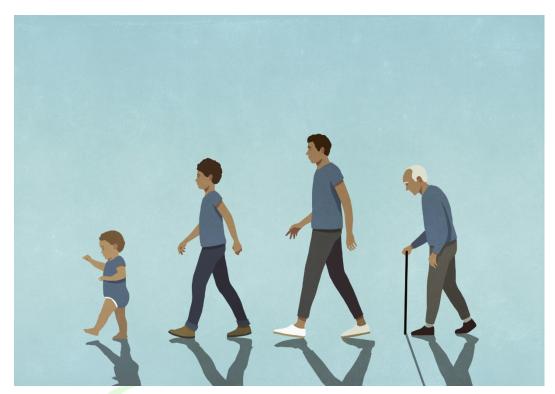


Illustration: Malte Mueller/fStop/Getty Images

US life expectancy at birth increased to its highest level since the Covid-19 pandemic, bolstered by <u>a decrease in drug overdose deaths</u>. The 4% drop last year "is one of the largest single-year decreases in overdose deaths we've seen since <u>the modern overdose crisis</u> in the 1990s," said Brown University researcher Brandon Marshall.

A Couple More



Four Places That Reminded Me Why Travel Matters



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