The Economist

OCTOBER 7TH-13TH 2017

Gun laws after Las Vegas

Stand-off in Catalonia

Goldman: vampire squid to damp squib

Are women underpaid?

The bull market in everything

Are asset prices too high?



Australia	A\$120nc.GST
Bangladesh	TX55
Cambodia	
China	



On the cover

Prices are high across a range of assets. Is it time to worry? Leader, page 11. Low interest rates have made more or less all investments expensive, page 21. Crypto-coin mania illustrates the crazy and not-so-crazy sides of bubbles: Free exchange, page 74. After a rocky few years, emerging markets have become more mature and resilient, says Simon Cox. But along with the drama, some of their dynamism has gone. See our special report, after page 44

The Economist online

Daily analysis and opinion to supplement the print edition, plus audio and video, and a daily chart Economist.com

E-mail: newsletters and mobile edition Economist.com/email

Print edition: available online by 7pm London time each Thursday Economist.com/print

Audio edition: available online to download each Friday Economist.com/audioedition

The Economist

Volume 425 Number 9061

Published since September 1843

to take part in "a severe contest between intelligence, which presses forward, and an unworthy, timid ignorance abstructing our progress."

Editorial offices in London and also:

Berjing, Bertin, Brussels, Cairo, Chicago, Madrid, Mexico City, Moscow, Mumbai, Nairobi, New Delhi, New York, Paris, San Francisco, São Paulo, Seoul, Shanghai, Singapore, Tokyo, Washington DE 8 The world this week

Leaders

- 11 Asset prices The bull market in everything
- 12 Guns in America Deathly silence
- 12 Liberia The legacy of Ma Ellen
- 14 Families and work Having it all
- 16 Separatism in Catalonia How to save spain

Letters

18 On cancer, Syria, China, Brazil, corn, spies, free speech

Briefing

21 Asset prices The bubble without any fizz

Asia

- 25 Indonesian politics Jokowi at bay
- 26 Japan's election Mannequins cast no ballots
- 28 Radio in North Korea Making waves
- 28 Economic policy in India Fifth columnists
- 29 Immigration to Australia Almost one in three
- 30 Banyan Homage to Formosa

China

- 33 Ageing in Hong Kong Wrangling over pensions
- 34 Chiang Kai-shek Reassuring the late dictator

United States

- 35 Guns What happened in Vegas
- 36 Mainland Puerto Ricans Nuyorican souls

- 37 Hurricane Maria A real catastrophe
- 38 Diplomacy Tillerson's torment
- 39 Gerrymandering Choosing voters
- 40 Lexington Magical thinking

The Americas

- 41 Crime in Brazil Rio's post-Olympic blues
- 42 Bello Deciphering Trump
- 44 Canada Meet Jagmeet Singh
- 44 Tropical ice Death of a glacier

Special report: Emerging markets

Out of the traps After page 44

Middle East and Africa

- 45 Liberia's election Into a vague future
- 46 Ethnic tension in Ethiopia Unity v diversity
- 46 Chinese aid in Africa No place like home
- 47 Palestinian politics Hamas extends a hand
- 48 Lebanon's railway Back on track?
- 48 Jalal Talabani A lamented Kurd

Europe

- 49 Spain Outrage in Catalonia
- 50 Ukraine and Russia Back to the table
- 52 The EU's Eastern Partnership Disappointed suitors
- 52 German theatre Who owns the stage?
- 53 Poland Saving the trees
- 54 Charlemagne The EU and Japan



Las Vegas Do not despair, change is possible: leader, page 12. The shooting has reinvigorated calls for gun control and highlighted its limitations, page 35.

Superstition helps explain why many Republicans think loose gun laws keep them safe: Lexington, page 40



Britain's Conservatives

The party has lost faith in its leader but not yet found an alternative, page 55. One of the great puzzles of politics is how Boris Johnson keeps his job, page 56. The Tories need to promote the next generation of leaders—and fast: Bagehot, page 57



Careering towards crisis

Catalonia is on the brink of declaring independence, but it is not too late to step back from calamity: leader, page 16. The government mishandles Catalan defiance, page 49



Women and work The gender gap that still needs to be closed: leader, page 14. Women still earn a lot less than men, despite decades of equal-pay laws. Why? Page 58. Pensions have a gender gap, too, page 71



Uber The new chief executive is off to a strong start but he still has miles to go, page 61



Goldman Sachs Unusually, the famous investment bank has more of a business problem than an image problem: Schumpeter, page 68

Britain

- 55 The Conservatives Spluttering
- 56 Monarch's collapse Crash-landing
- 56 The cabinet All about Boris
- 57 Bagehot The new Tory torchbearers

International

- 58 Men, women and work The gender gap
- 59 Sharing chores at home Divided perceptions

Business

- 61 Tech's toughest job From Uber to kinder
- 62 Tax avoidance Raining on Amazon
- 63 Fixing Ford Waiting for parts
- 63 Internet infrastructure Pipe dreams
- 64 Indian telecoms Jioseismic
- 66 Pernod Ricard and Danone Be a sinner, be a saint
- 68 Schumpeter Goldman Sags

Finance and economics

- 69 Pensions in America The big squeeze
- 70 Buttonwood The trouble with mergers
- 71 Women's pensions The gender gap
- 72 American shipping The Jones Act
- 72 Food and taxation Fat is a fiscal-policy issue
- 73 Tax havens Buried treasure
- 73 Chinese acquisitions Freezers to finance
- 74 Free exchange Manias, panics and ICOs

Science and technology

- 75 The 2017 Nobel prizes Jet lagged in Stockholm
- 76 The virtue of uprightness Atten-shun!
- 77 Scientific productivity
 Open borders, better
 science
- 77 Animal behaviour J'y suis. J'y reste
- 78 Meteorology Brimstone and fire

Books and arts

- 79 Ulysses S. Grant History has its eyes on him
- 80 Victorian Britain A hard-won century
- 80 Peak Britannia Beneath the surface
- 81 Hong Kong The resistance
- 81 Architecture Crooked timber
- 82 Johnson Give evolution time
- 84 Economic and financial indicators

Statistics on 42 economies, plus our monthly poll of forecasters

Obituary

86 Hugh Hefner Living the dream



Nobel prizes This year's science awards are for body clocks, gravitational waves and a cool way to study protein structure, page 75

Subscription service

For our full range of subscription offers, including digital only or print and digital combined visit

connected com/offers

You can subscribe or renew your subscription by mail, telephone or fax at the details below:

Telephone: +65 6534 5166
facsimile: +65 6534 5066
Web: Economist.com/offers
E-mail: Asia@subscriptions.economist.com
Post: The Economist

The Economist Subscription Centre, Tamjong Pagar Post Office PO Box 671 Singapore 910817

Subscription for 1 year (51 issues) Print only Australia A\$465 China CNY 2,300

China Hong Kong & Macau HK\$2,300 India ₹10,000 Japan Korea Yen 44,300 Malaysia New Zealand RM 780 NZ\$530 Singapore & Brunel 5\$425 NT\$9,000 Taiwan. U5\$300 Other countries Contact us as above

Principal commercial offices:

The Adelphi Building, 1-11 John Adam Street, London wc2n 6H1 Tel: +44 (0) 20 7830 7000

Rue de l'Athénée 32 1206 Geneva, Switzerland Tel: +41 22 566 2470

750 3rd Avenue, 5th Floor, New York, NY 10017 Tel: +1 212 541 0500

1301 Cityplaza Four, 12 Taikoo Wan Road, Taikoo Shing, Hong Kong Tel: +852 2585 3888

Other commercial offices:

Chicago, Dubai, Frankfurt, Los Angeles, Paris, San Francisco and Singapore



PEFC certified

This copy of The Economist is printed on paper sourced from sustainably managed forests certified by PEFC www.pefc.org

