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Oil set for biggest weekly gain since 2016 on Saudi supply cut



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# Southern DAILY

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## Government shutdown breaks record, with no end in sight

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - A partial U.S. government shutdown over President Donald Trump's demand for \$5.7 billion to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border entered its 22nd day on Saturday, making it the longest shuttering of federal agencies in U.S. history, with no end in sight.

"We will be out for a long time unless the Democrats come back from their 'vacations' and get back to work," he tweeted.

Democrats say Trump shut the government in a "temper tantrum" by refusing to sign bipartisan funding legislation last year that did not include money for his wall.

The closure, which began on Dec. 22, broke a decades-old record by a 1995-1996 shutdown under former President Bill Clinton that lasted 21 days.

Federal workers affected missed their first paychecks on Friday, heightening concerns about mounting financial pressures on employees, including air traffic controllers and airport security officials who continue to work without pay.

Roughly 800,000 federal workers did not receive paychecks that would have gone out on Friday. Some have resorted to selling their possessions or posting appeals on online fundraising sites to help pay their bills.

Miami International Airport said it will close one of its terminals early over the next several days due to a possible shortage of security screeners, who have been calling in sick at twice the normal rate.

A union that represents thousands of air traffic controllers sued the Federal Aviation Administration on Friday, saying it had violated federal wage law by failing to pay workers. It is at least the third lawsuit filed by unions on behalf of unpaid workers. The head of the U.S. Secret Service, which is responsible for protecting Trump, has warned employees that financial stress can lead to depression and anxiety. "Keep an eye out for warning signs of trouble," Director R.D. "Tex" Alles wrote in a memo seen by Reuters.

The Transportation Security Administration, responsible for airport security screening, said its rate of unscheduled absences rose to 5.6 percent on Saturday from 3.3 percent a year ago but that security standards have not been compromised.

The Federal Aviation Administration, which oversees air traffic controllers, said on Saturday it had seen no unusual rates of sick leave among its air traffic controllers and no disruptions to air traffic control operations.

To support its workforce, TSA said it was processing pay for employees who worked on the first day of the shutdown and announced \$500 bonuses for uniformed screening officers. Trump is considering a possible national emergency declaration that would end the shutdown and allow him to obtain his wall funding by circumventing Congress. But on Friday, he said he would not take such a step "right now".

"Democrats should come back to Washington and work to end the Shutdown, while at the same time ending the horrible humanitarian crisis at our Southern Border. I am in the White House waiting for you!" he tweeted.

Trump also urged his 57.2 million Twitter followers to contact Democratic lawmakers and "Tell them to get it done!"

Democrats, who call a wall an ineffective, outdated answer to a complex problem, have passed several bills in the House of Representatives to reopen the government without funding for Trump's barrier. But the legislation has been ignored by the Republican-controlled Senate.



A man walks near gates blocking the road leading to Haynes Point in East Potomac Park on the 22nd day of a partial government shutdown in Washington

### Democrat Julian Castro launches 2020 U.S. presidential bid

SAN ANTONIO, Texas/WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Texas Democrat Julian Castro, a former San Antonio mayor and top U.S. housing official, formally launched his White House bid on Saturday, entering as a dark horse candidate in a likely crowded field vying to challenge President Donald Trump in the November 2020 election. Castro, 44, the grandson of a Mexican immigrant who would be the first Hispanic elected president, served as secretary of Housing and Urban Development under former President Barack Obama and has long been viewed as a rising star in the party. He will seek to position himself as a political outsider with liberal credentials.

"I'm running for president because it's time for new leadership. Because it's time for new energy," Castro said, launching his campaign. "And it's time for a new commitment to make sure that the opportunities I've had are available for every American."

One of Castro's first stops as a candidate will take place on Monday in Puerto Rico, where he will attend an event hosted by the liberal Latino Victory Fund.

He made his announcement at Plaza Guadalupe, a landmark in San Antonio's sprawling west side Mexican-American barrio, a neighborhood of

neat, brightly painted wood framed homes, many on tiny lots and festooned with white plaster Catholic statues.

In summarizing his political positions, Castro endorsed "Medicare for all," which would in effect create a national healthcare plan by allowing anyone to join the public healthcare system. That policy point is likely to divide Democrats in the primary, with more moderate candidates favoring a less drastic approach.

He used his launch to repeat support of the Black Lives Matter movement. He spoke about the need to address climate change.

Castro, whose grandmother was born in Mexico, has sought to use his family's personal story to criticize Trump's border policies - including criticizing the president by name in his launch speech. "Yes, we must have border security, but there is a smart and humane way to do it. And there is no way in hell that caging children is keeping us safe," Castro said.

Castro is the second candidate to formally launch a campaign. Former U.S. Representative John Delaney has been running for more than a year. U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts has formed an exploratory committee and Representative Tulsi Gabbard said Friday that she will run for president.

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## Oil set for biggest weekly gain since 2016 on Saudi supply cut

Brent crude headed for its biggest weekly gain since December 2016 as Saudi Arabia's production cuts outweighed concerns over the health of the global economy.

The global benchmark is on track for an 9.4 percent advance this week, ending three consecutive weeks of losses. Prices rallied as Saudi Arabia reduced output even before OPEC's cuts deal went into effect this month. Yet fears over global oil demand persisted ahead of further trade negotiations between the U.S. and China, where the central bank lowered reserve requirements for lenders on Friday to support growth.

"Underpinning this wave of buying is mounting evidence that Saudi Arabia has taken an axe to its oil production," said Stephen Brennock, an analyst at PVM Oil Associates Ltd.

Oil's positive start to 2019 follows its worst quarter in four years and a 20 percent annual loss driven by panic over a growing glut of crude. While OPEC's output plunged by the most in almost two years last month and producers have pledged to curb supplies through the first half of 2019, concerns about oversupply prevail as stockpiles at America's main storage hub show signs of swelling.

Brent for March settlement rose as much as \$1.33, or 2.4 percent, to \$57.28 a barrel on the ICE Futures Europe exchange, after earlier falling as much as 1.1 percent. The benchmark crude was at \$57.14 a barrel at 10:40 a.m. in London.

West Texas Intermediate for February delivery rose 95 cents, or 2 percent, to \$48.04 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Prices are up 5.9 percent this week, the most since June. The March contract traded at a discount of \$8.77 to Brent.

From HoustonChronicle.com: Mexico ripe for transportation revolution

Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest crude exporter, trimmed production last month, bringing overall output in the

Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries down 530,000 barrels a day to 32.6 million a day, according to a Bloomberg survey of officials, analysts and ship-tracking data. That's the sharpest pullback since January 2017 when OPEC started on its strategy to clear a glut created by surging supplies from shale producers.

Oil has risen for five days, shaking off concern over global growth that's hammered stock markets this week. Optimism that the U.S. and China are working toward a thaw in trade tensions has helped bolster prices.

China said a U.S. delegation will visit next week for trade talks, confirming the two sides will have their first face-to-face negotiation since President Donald Trump and his counterpart Xi Jinping agreed to a 90-day truce in their trade war last month.

Dallas Fed: Texas energy sector fell flat in fourth quarter

In the U.S., the American Petroleum Institute was said to report oil inventories at the storage hub in Cushing, Oklahoma, have risen by 483,000 barrels last week. While gasoline stockpiles jumped 8 million barrels, the nationwide crude hoard fell 4.46 million barrels, according to the API.

Weekly U.S. government data on oil inventories will be released on Friday, two days later than normal because of the New Year holiday. It would be a sixth consecutive weekly increase at Cushing, if confirmed by government data on Friday.

--With assistance from Tsuyoshi Inajima and Sharon Cho.



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# Editor's Choice



A Venezuelan citizen living in Argentina protests against Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro's second term, in Buenos Aires, Argentina January 12, 2019. REUTERS/Martin Acosta TEMPLATE OUT



A driver recharges the battery of his Tesla car at a Tesla Super Charging station in a petrol station on the highway in Saily-Flibeacourt, France, January 12, 2019. REUTERS/Pascal Rossignol



Jan 5, 2019; San Jose, CA, USA; An overall view of the arena during the College Football Playoff Championship Media Day at SAP Center. Mandatory Credit: Kyle Terada-USA TODAY Sports



Potential 2020 Democratic presidential candidate U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) speaks at an Organizing Event in Manchester, New Hampshire, U.S., January 12, 2019. REUTERS/Brian Snyder



FILE PHOTO: Traffic moved through the town center after a major winter storm dropped around 8 inches of snow in Taos, New Mexico, U.S., January 11, 2019. REUTERS/Andrew Hay - RC1AA1E72E10/File Photo



IHF Handball World Championship - Germany & Denmark 2019 - Group C - Denmark v Tunisia - Jyske Bank Boxen, Herning, Denmark - January 12, 2019. Denmark fans warm up before the match. Ritzau Scanpix/Henning Bagger via REUTERS ATTENTION EDITORS - THIS IMAGE WAS PROVIDED BY A THIRD PARTY. DENMARK



Furloughed government workers, contractors and their families attended a free community dinner donated from families and community organization during the partial U.S. government shutdown in Silver Spring, Maryland



People cool off in a fountain in Sao Paulo, Brazil, January 12, 2019. REUTERS/Nacho Doce

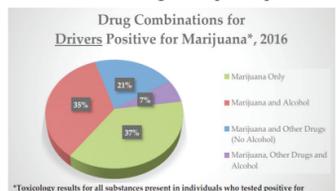
As more states legalize marijuana for medical or recreational use, concern is rising about the risk of people getting behind the wheel while high.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration survey, conducted in 2013 and 2014, found that the number of drivers with marijuana in their systems grew by nearly 50 percent since 2007.

Overall, 22 percent of drivers tested positive for some kind of drug that could affect safety. That includes illegal drugs as well as prescription and over-the-counter medications.

While drug-impaired driving was on the rise, NHTSA said the number of drivers on the road with alcohol in their systems has declined by nearly one-third since 2007.

The anonymous surveys gather data in dozens of locations across the country from drivers who agree to participate.



"The rising prevalence of marijuana and other drugs is a challenge to everyone who is dedicated to saving lives and reducing crashes," NHTSA head Mark Rosekind warned.

The report cited "evidence that marijuana use impairs psychomotor skills, divided attention, lane tracking, and cognitive functions" -- all essential skills for safe driving.

But a separate survey, the largest of its kind, offered another take on the issue -- highlighting the fact that driving under the influence of marijuana may not be nearly as hazardous as the impairment caused by alcohol.

Is It As Risky As Drinking And Driving? Cannabis Smokers Behind The Wheel Are On The Rise

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



The study assessing the comparative risk of drunk and drugged driving was conducted in Virginia Beach, Virginia, over a 20-month period; it involved the collection of data from more than 3,000 drivers involved in a crash, and more than 6,000 crash-free drivers for comparison.



"Drivers should never get behind the wheel impaired, and we know that marijuana impairs judgment, reaction times and awareness," said Jeff Michael, the agency's associate administrator for re-

search and program development. One complication to assessing crash risk by drivers who have used marijuana is that it can be detected in the human body for hours and sometimes days after the high from smoking has dissipated.

But unlike with alcohol, drivers high on pot tend to be aware that they are impaired and try to compensate by driving slowly, avoiding risky actions such as passing other cars, and allowing extra room between vehicles. On the other hand, combining marijuana with alcohol appears to eliminate the pot smoker's exaggerated caution and to increase driving impairment beyond the effects of either substance alone.

the first survey in 1973. (Courtesy www.cbsnews.com)

Related

How Long Should You Wait to Drive After Using Recreational Marijuana?



It's recommended that you should let at least four hours pass between the time you smoke marijuana and the time you drive a car. The window for taking marijuana orally is six hours.

The Trouble With Guidelines

However, it's difficult to set hard parameters for safe time passed between smoking marijuana and getting behind the wheel because the effects of marijuana vary widely according to potency and tolerance. They are, in short, dose-dependent.

Don't Be High

No one should drive while high. If you're "a little high," as measured by how strong your buzz is, you shouldn't get behind the wheel. Many of us think we can drive with a slight high.

Don't Be Overconfident

Smokers who drive can underestimate the time they need by forgetting these factors: There is a period during which you might not be feeling the "high" -- you're no longer recreating with marijuana -- but your senses and reflexes aren't yet what you'd like them to be for getting

behind the wheel. There are levels of being "straight" after smoking that are appropriate to normal driving conditions but not for emergencies. Skidding on black ice or having to swerve away from a pedestrian stepping into the street from between two parked cars, for example.



Notice that there's a certain inconsistency between that recommendation and the one listed further above (that you shouldn't drive for four hours after smoking).

When recommendations clash, it's better to go with the more conservative option and decide that you shouldn't drive for eight hours after smoking marijuana.

A smoker might handle his or her vehicle faultlessly but still be in legal trouble if something goes wrong completely beyond your control.

Marijuana, Driving, and the Law

Don't make the mistake of thinking that because marijuana might now be legal in your state it's legal to drive while high. Even if there hasn't been an accident, if you're pulled over while driving high you'll be cited for Driving Under the Influence, just as though you had had a martini.

Laws vary from state to state. Some have a zero-tolerance policy, together with broad interpretive powers granted to the police officer who has pulled you over. Don't be surprised if the mere presence of weed paraphernalia in your vehicle is enough for a judge to decide in favor of the officer even though you hadn't smoked in several days.

Conclusion

Marijuana is criticized for leading to a sedentary lifestyle. When it comes to driving, let this criticism become sound advice. The safest place to be high is still on your couch. (Courtesy https://euflora-colorado.com)

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Advertisement for 百樂公寓 (Bellaire Silk Apartments), featuring a large image of the building and contact information.

Advertisement for 美聯混凝土 (Meilian Concrete), featuring a concrete mixer truck and contact information.

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Government Shutdown Curtails F.D.A. Food Inspections

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

WASHINGTON — The Food and Drug Administration has stopped routine food safety inspections of seafood, fruits, vegetables and many other foods at high risk of contamination because of the federal government's shutdown, Dr. Scott Gottlieb, the agency's commissioner, said on Wednesday.

F.D.A. inspectors normally examine operations at about 160 domestic manufacturing and food processing plants each week. Nearly one-third of them are considered to be at high risk of causing food-borne illnesses. Food-borne diseases in the United States send about 128,000 people to the hospital each year, and kill 3,000, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Domestic meat and poultry are still being inspected by staff at the Agriculture Department, but they are going without pay. The F.D.A. oversees about 80 percent of the nation's food supply, as well as most overseas imports.

In a series of tweets, Dr. Gottlieb said he was taking steps to restore food safety surveillance inspections and to cover more of the high-risk sites as the shutdown continued. He said he hoped to bring back about 150 inspectors who had been furloughed during the shutdown, perhaps as early as next week.

Dr. Gottlieb said he was still trying to figure out how that could be achieved. "These are people who are now furloughed and can collect unemployment insurance or take a second job," he said. "If we pull them in and tell them they have to work, they can't collect. I have to make sure I'm not imposing an undue hardship."

Food safety advocates said they were worried that outbreaks would not be prevented without inspections, or would not be caught at the earliest warning signs.

Calendar of events: December 26 (FEMA tells contractors to stop work), December 27 (S.E.C. slows reviews of stock offerings), December 28 (F.D.A. stops routine inspections), January 2 (Smithsonian museums close), January 3 (F.C.C. suspends most operations), January 4 (T.S.A. workers call in sick).

"These are inspections where they catch issues before people get sick," said Sarah Sorscher, deputy director of regulatory affairs at the Center for Science in the Public Interest, an advocacy group. "The announcement that they are going to try to start up high-risk inspections is a positive step. But, we've had outbreaks from foods



The F.D.A. has cut back inspections at manufacturing and processing plants for fruits, vegetables, seafood and other foods during the federal government shutdown. (Photo/The New York Times)

that are not high risk — from flour, from packaged foods. So I think that the fact that two-thirds of establishments are not going to be inspected is still a problem."

The F.D.A. inspects food companies for bugs, rodents, mishandled food, improper preparation and other hazards.

Dr. Gottlieb said that inspections of overseas products have continued, despite the furloughs. He also said that the agency has maintained surveillance of some domestic producers who have had a history of problems or pose risks for other reasons.

Soon after the shutdown began, the F.D.A. gave inspectors access to a central expense account so they could continue traveling while avoiding large personal credit card bills without knowing when the government would reimburse them.

The agency, part of the Department of Health and Human Services, is not dependent on federal funding for all of its activities. It receives much of its support from

user fees imposed on the pharmaceutical, medical device, generic drug and other industries it regulates.

Although about 41 percent of the staff is now furloughed because the agency had not received its federal appropriations before the shutdown, those in jobs supported by user fees have remained at work. But even those departments have taken a hit, as the F.D.A. has had to shift priorities for some duties.



In the pharmaceutical section, for example, some officials who generally consider pending drug applications are now work-

effects of drugs or other problems.

"We have a deep concern about those employees who were furloughed, their inability to fulfill their public health functions, and the tremendous personal impact that it has on them," said Ladd Wiley, executive director of the Alliance for a Stronger F.D.A., a nonprofit advocacy group. "We are also grateful to the roughly 10,000 employees who are retained and working."

But, Mr. Wiley added, his organization also was concerned about nonemergency functions that the F.D.A. has had to put aside. Among the important work being delayed right now, he noted, are manufacturing inspections, technical assistance and advice to the produce industry — especially guidance for preventing contamination — and activity related to food additives.

ried about the impact of the shutdown on inspection of fish. Andrew Rosenberg, director of the Center for Science and Democracy at the Union of Concerned Scientists, said he was concerned about contaminated shellfish ending up on store shelves during the shutdown.

In particular, he said, consumers should watch out for clams, mussels, oysters and other bivalves that may come from contaminated water. "It can be very nasty stuff," said Dr. Rosenberg, a former official with the seafood inspection program run by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. "It can be anything from E. coli to Vibrio. It is important for people to look for an inspection certificate."



The F.D.A. has cut back inspections at manufacturing and processing plants for fruits, vegetables, seafood and other foods during the federal government shutdown. (Photo/The New York Times)

He noted that the NOAA website says the inspectors are working without pay; so are meat and poultry inspectors, according to the Department of Agriculture. Michael Halpern, deputy director of the science and democracy center, thinks that's a problem not just for the workers but for consumers if the furloughed inspectors turn to temporary jobs to support themselves, creating a shortage. "We have food outbreaks even during normal times, and if the agency is stretched even thinner, it can't cover much ground," he said.

One of the most prominent food-borne illness outbreaks recently involved romaine lettuce. In an odd bit of timing, the C.D.C. issued a statement on Wednesday noting that the latest spate of problems from contaminated romaine began in October, sickening 62 people in 16 states and the District of Columbia.

The C.D.C. and the F.D.A. traced some of the contamination back to Adam Brothers Farming in Santa Barbara County, Calif., citing E. coli traced to an agricultural reservoir there. The F.D.A. issued a separate statement saying that it would continue to investigate the source, even though the C.D.C. has declared the outbreak to be over. (Courtesy the New York Times)

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## 《勁歌》為樂壇成績表收尾

# 張敬軒膺年度最終大贏家

總結2018年樂壇派發的成績表，張敬軒於中文金曲奪4獎、叱咤奪3獎、新城勁爆奪3獎及勁歌金曲奪5.5獎共獲15.5獎，成為年度最終大贏家，沒出席勁歌的謝安琪於中文金曲奪3獎、叱咤奪3.5獎、新城勁爆奪2獎共8.5獎也有不俗的成績，同樣缺席的容祖兒今年退下火線，僅獲勁歌半首廣告歌，連同中文金曲、叱咤頒發2個獎項共得2.5獎。

### 連詩雅自封「連姐」

頒獎禮大會司儀有麥美恩、區永權、許文軒，頒獎及表演嘉賓則有胡楓、薛家燕、王祖藍、John Laudon、連詩雅、王梓軒及dR.X。連詩雅去年底轉會星夢，她很高興首次可以參與勁歌，因舊唱片公司有版稅問題令她未曾出席過勁歌，所以12日晚好開心見到同門。

談到新公司已有的菊梓喬和吳若希兩位一姐，她即笑說：“我是連姐，負責倒茶遞水。”不過她坦言轉了新公司有很多新挑戰，最近就與黃翠如及林文龍合作拍劇，像新人有新開心，但今年她會專注唱歌方面，希望與兩位一姐合唱一些講女生心事的歌曲。

吳業坤即將於四月舉行一場紅館演唱會，他希望憑此答謝歌迷的支持，不過他坦言擔心門票情況，因之前也有多位歌手開騷，但仍希望歌迷拆利是（紅包）來支持他。提到他近來頻頻擲肌，坤哥笑言的確也想在演唱會上秀肌肉，因上次他只穿假肌肉衣服，今次希望自己三點可以露兩點給大家看。另談到許廷鏗笑言在個唱不穿內褲，坤哥即大反應笑說：“這麼大尺度？我對他真要另眼相看！到時也參考他一下，現先用我兩點去較量他。”不過他覺得表演服最重要是穿得好看和舒服。

### 吳若希答謝台下老公

田蕊妮獲頒傑出表現獎金獎，她上台領獎時也表現驚訝說：“很surprise，好開心，但我的表現不傑出，只是宣傳同事傑出，我是最少出力，我要更加努力，希望明年可以再來。”銅獎得主石詠莉則在台上多謝老公鄧健泓，於15年鼓勵她再做歌手。

吳若希獲兩首金曲獎講感受時表示自己休息了一輪再出席勁歌，她於多謝唱片公司班底時，司儀麥美恩指着坐在觀眾席來支持她的老公，才笑笑口說：“多謝何兆鴻先生！”

王梓軒及dR.X引領18年新人rap歌大合唱，眾歌手為此演出排練兩個星期。之後到胡楓和薛家燕rap歌再頒新人獎，謝文欣哭着講感受。全晚共頒發46個獎項，今年新增設人氣王大獎、最受歡迎網絡歌星、年度最佳進步獎及勁歌金曲唱片銷量大獎四項獎項。

田蕊妮獲頒傑出表現獎金獎。



被傳不和的吳若希（前排右二）與菊梓喬（前排中）並排而站。



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奪新人獎的謝文欣哭成淚人。



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王梓軒引領18年新人夫合唱。

## 2018年度勁歌金曲頒獎典禮得獎名單

勁歌金曲獎	
《烏托邦》周柏豪	《遙不可及》胡鴻鈞
《男人背後》周柏豪	《太難開始》胡鴻鈞
《你帶着我的青春離去》JW 王灝兒	《有了你》譚嘉儀
《騎馬馬》泳兒	《無悔無愧》胡定欣
《飛機撲火》菊梓喬	《神不守舍》吳業坤
《只想與你再一起》菊梓喬	《無畏的肩膊》鄭俊弘
《缺》張敬軒	《忍》林欣彤
《天才兒童1985》張敬軒	《獻醜》洪卓立
《無常春秋》吳若希	《但願人長久》菊梓喬
《別再記起》吳若希	《百年樹木》張敬軒
勁歌金曲金獎	《百年樹木》張敬軒
最受歡迎女歌星	菊梓喬
最受歡迎男歌星	張敬軒
最佳演繹女歌星	吳若希
最佳演繹男歌星	胡鴻鈞
最受歡迎網絡歌星	菊梓喬
人氣王大獎	周柏豪
最受歡迎新人獎	戴祖儀、曾樂彤、謝文欣
傑出表現獎	(金)田蕊妮(銀)譚嘉儀(銅)Sukie S石詠莉
年度最佳進步獎	(金)許靖韻(銀)伍富橋(銅)鄭世豪
最佳樂隊金獎	Supper Moment
最佳跳唱組合金獎	Super Girls
最佳舞台演繹歌曲金獎	《開心節》鍾舒漫
最佳廣告歌曲金獎	《5 Make a Beat》容祖兒、張敬軒
最佳合唱歌曲金獎	《背後女人》楊千嬅、周柏豪
勁歌金曲唱片銷量大獎	《忘記我自己》菊梓喬、《到此一遊》胡鴻鈞、《C AGAIN》鄺美雲、《15 FIFTEEN》陳潔麗、《THE HAT TRICK》Sukie S石詠莉

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