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Zillow: Dallas tops Houston for home price gains

Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

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## China warns U.S. it will defend own trade interests

BEIJING (Reuters) - The United States has flouted trade rules with an inquiry into intellectual property and China will defend its interests, Vice Premier Liu He told U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin in a telephone call on Saturday, Chinese state media reported. The call between Mnuchin and Liu, a confidante of President Xi Jinping, was the highest-level contact between the two governments since U.S. President Donald Trump announced plans for tariffs on up to \$60 billion of Chinese goods on Thursday.

The deepening rift has sent a chill through financial markets and the corporate world as investors predicted dire consequences for the global economy should trade barriers start going up. Several U.S. chief executives attending a high-profile forum in Beijing on Saturday, including BlackRock Inc's Larry Fink and Apple Inc's Tim Cook, urged restraint.

In his call with Mnuchin, Liu, a Harvard-trained economist, said China still hoped both sides would remain "rational" and work together to keep trade relations stable, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

U.S. officials say an eight-month probe under the 1974 U.S. Trade Act has found that China engages in unfair trade practices by forcing American investors to turn over key technologies to Chinese firms. However, Liu said the investigation report "violates international trade rules and is beneficial to neither Chinese interests, U.S. interests nor global interests", Xinhua cited him as saying.

In a statement on its website, the office of the U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer said it had filed a request - at the direction of Trump - for consultations with China at the World Trade Organization to address "discriminatory technology licensing agreements". China's commerce ministry expressed regret at the filing on Saturday, and said China had taken strong measures to protect the legal rights and interests of both domestic and foreign owners of intellectual property.

During a visit to Washington in early March, Liu had requested Washington

set up a new economic dialogue mechanism, identify a point person on China issues, and deliver a list of demands.

The Trump administration responded by telling China to immediately shave \$100 billion off its record \$375 billion trade surplus with the United States. Beijing told Washington that U.S. export restrictions on some high-tech products are to blame.

"China has already prepared, and has the strength, to defend its national interests," Liu said on Saturday.

According to an editorial by China's state-run Global Times, it was Mnuchin who called Liu.

Firing off a warning shot, China on Friday declared plans to levy additional duties on up to \$3 billion of U.S. imports in response to U.S. tariffs on steel and aluminum, imposed after a separate U.S. probe.

Zhang Zhaoxiang, senior vice president of China Minmetals Corp [CHMIN.UL], said that while the state-owned mining group's steel exports to the U.S. are tiny, the impact could come indirectly.



Steel pipes waiting to be loaded and transferred to the port are seen at a steel mill in Cangzhou

products will be targeted," the widely-read tabloid said in a Saturday editorial.

Wei Jianguo, vice chairman of Beijing-based think tank China Centre for International Economic Exchanges, told China Daily that Beijing could impose tariffs on more U.S. products, and is considering a second and even third list of targets. Possible items include aircraft and chips, Wei, a former vice commerce minister, told the newspaper, adding that tourism could be a possible target. The commerce ministry's response had so far been "relatively weak", respected former Chinese finance minister Lou Jiwei said at the forum.

"If I were in the government, I would probably hit soybeans first, then hit autos and airplanes," said Lou, currently chairman of the National Council for Social Security Fund.

U.S. farm groups have long feared that China, which imports more than third of all U.S. soybeans, could slow purchases of agricultural products, heaping more pain on the struggling U.S. farm sector.

U.S. agricultural exports to China stood at \$19.6 billion last year, with soybean shipments accounting for \$12.4 billion. Chinese penalties on U.S. soybeans will especially hurt Iowa, a state that backed Trump in the 2016 presidential elections. Boeing jets have also been often cited as a potential target by China.

China and the U.S. had benefited by globalization, Blackrock's Larry Fink said at the forum.

"I believe that a dialogue - and maybe some

adjustments in trade and trade policy - can be in order. It does not need to be done publicly; it can be done privately," he said.

Apple's Tim Cook called for "calm heads" amid the dispute.

The sparring has cast a spotlight on hardware makers such as Apple, which assemble the majority of their products in China for export to other countries. Electrical goods and tech are the largest U.S. import item from China.

Some economists say higher U.S. tariffs will lead to higher costs and ultimately hurt U.S. consumers, while restrictions on Chinese investments could take away jobs in America.

"I don't think local governments in the United States and President Trump hope to see U.S. workers losing their jobs," Sun Yongcai, general manager at Chinese railway firm CRRS Corp, which has two U.S. production plants, said at the forum.



Imported sulphur is seen at a port in Nantong, Jiangsu

"China's direct exports to the U.S. are not big. But there will be some impact due to our exports via the United States or indirect exports," Zhang told reporters on the sidelines of the China Development Forum in Beijing on Saturday.

Global Times said Beijing was only just beginning to look at means to retaliate.

"We believe it is only part of China's counter-measures, and soybeans and other U.S. farm



Woman uses her phone next to a Gofun electric car in Yangzhou

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Zillow: Dallas tops Houston for home price gains

By Katherine Feser

Homes in the Dallas-Fort Worth region gained most among Texas cities over the last year, outpacing both the nation and Houston in February, a new report shows.

The median home in the north Texas metros gained 8.8 percent to \$221,800 last month, Zillow's February Real Estate Market Report shows. The report tracks trends of all properties in a market and not just those that sold.

The nation's homes gained 7.6 percent year-over-year to a median of \$210,200 in February.

Houston-area homes appreciated by 7.4 percent to \$188,000, while Austin homes gained 6.1 percent to \$281,600. San Antonio homes added 7.8 percent to \$170,500.

Values shot up most in San Jose, Calif., rising 26.4 percent to more than \$1.25 million, Zillow said. Las Vegas and Seattle also registered big gains.

Rents rose at their fastest pace in nearly two years nationally, up 2.8 percent to \$1,445, Zillow said. The median Houston rent rose 0.7 percent to \$1,554. Dallas rents went up 2.6 percent to \$1,606, San Antonio gained 1.7 percent to \$1,345, and

Austin dipped to \$1,686.

Inventories continued to tighten, with 2.2 percent fewer homes on the market in the Houston region than a year ago, Zillow said. Nationally, inventory dropped 10.3 percent.

"For-sale inventory is tight, and with home prices continuing their rapid climb, it's becoming more and more difficult for renters to become owners, forcing them to rent longer than they otherwise would have," Zillow senior economist Aaron Terrazas said in the report.

"Searching for the 'right' home has become a drawn out affair and rising prices require more savings for a down payment. Were it not for strong new apartment construction over the past half-decade, rental appreciation would be even stronger than it is now."

In a separate report Thursday, Dallas showed stronger price gains than Houston based on sales of new houses.

New home prices in Dallas rose to \$354,117 for March, up from \$351,539 in February, according to the HomesUSA.com New Home Sales index, which tracks 12-month rolling averages.

Prices in Houston were flat, with the average new home price up slightly to \$357,321 in March.



KLM to stop flying 747 aircraft to Houston

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines is swapping the iconic Boeing 747 for the newer, more efficient Boeing 787 Dreamliner on its Houston-Amsterdam route.

With the departure of that final 747 Combi, which carries people and cargo, Houston will no longer have a passenger airline regularly flying the 747.

KLM is just one of many airlines phasing out the double-decker plane. The 747 introduced travelers to wide-body airplanes and helped make flying affordable, but it has lost ground to more fuel-efficient aircraft that can travel farther distances.

Australia resident Brenden Schonfelder captured video of a Boeing 747 Passenger plane swaying due to heavy winds as it landed at Melbourne Airport on February 10. Flight number 747-438 ER VH-OEG was operated by Qantas Airways.

Schonfelder frequently captures aviation videos and shares them on his YouTube page for fellow aircraft lovers. Credit: Schony747 via Storyful

In a statement, the Dutch airline said it has 12 passenger and Combi 747s in its fleet. These will be phased out in the coming years, and most will be replaced with Dreamliners.

"The Boeing 787 creates less ambient

noise, consumes less fuel, and gives off fewer carbon dioxide emissions," the company said in a statement. "It brings us ever closer to our aim to reduce CO2 emissions by 20% in 2020 compared to 2011. It also offers numerous advantages in terms of passenger comfort."

The final 747 flight from Bush Intercontinental Airport is scheduled to depart Friday at 4:35 p.m., according to FlightAware. KLM will fly a Boeing 777 for one day before switching to the Dreamliner.

There are still 747 cargo flights calling on Bush Intercontinental, and Lufthansa will sometimes fly a 747



when it doesn't have an Airbus A380 available. But for the most part, this is the final passenger flight

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A Snapshot Of The World



Mirand and Platt performs during the “March for Our Lives” rally demand- ing gun control in Washington



Singer Cyrus performs during the “March for Our Lives” rally demanding gun control in Washington



Police walk outside former President Kuczynski’s home, during a raid by the prosecution investigat- ing money laundering, linked to the Odebrecht company in Lima



A protester holds a gun control sign during a “March For Our Lives” demonstration de- manding gun control in New York City



Soccer - International Friendly - Sweden vs Chile



Students and young people participate in the “March for Our Lives” rally demanding gun control in Washington



Students hold signs during the “March for Our Lives”, an or- ganized demonstration to end gun violence, in downtown Los Angeles, California



Attendees are seen before students and gun control advocates hold the “March for Our Lives” event demanding gun control after recent school shootings at a rally in Washington



Singer Lovato performs during the “March for Our Lives” rally demanding gun control in Washington





International Leadership of Texas, the nation's first trilingual teaching school, with graduation requirements of language proficiency in English, Chinese and Spanish, has held two more groundbreaking ceremonies in November. The school now will have four campuses in the Houston area. These openings represent the school's 16th campus in Texas.

Groundbreaking ceremonies were held in early November at the campus in College Station. The groundbreaking ceremony was led by IL founder Eddie Conger. The campus is expected to open in August 2018, becoming another addition to the existing campuses in the Houston area outside the Dallas metropolitan area International Leadership campuses. Invited guests include Karl Mooney, Mayor of College Station, Zhou Hong, Chinese Dean of Confucius Institute at Texas A & M University, Mr. Eddie Conger, Founding President of Texas International Leadership School, Tony Palagonia, Brian Huffaker, CEO, Texas A & M University, and Director of Student Athlete Development Berry Davis, Former Texas SBOE Chairman and Member Dr. Don McLeRoy, District Director from Congressman Bill Flores' Office James Edge, Texas State Leadership Schools Dr. Gigi Do, Manya Leach, Jesse Shetlar, and many other educators in Houston.



**Dr. Gigi Do (left), head of Houston International Leadership School, Texas, and Eddie Conger (right), founder of International Leadership of Texas, with Houston campus educators.**

Starting in 2012, ILTexas has been recognized for its innovative educational philosophy, growing from 2,500 students in 2013 to 16,000 in 2017. The growth rate of the school has been phenomenal. Founder Eddie Conger went to Houston last week to celebrate the 5th anniversary with teachers and students and to preside over the groundbreaking ceremony. The International Leadership of Texas philosophy is to educate students from a global perspective. The prevailing focus of the school is to make

## Groundbreaking Ceremony Reflects School's Rapid Growth Texas International Leadership School Breaks Ground For Two More Campuses In November

By Winnie Yu, Southern Daily Reporter

the IL schools different from other schools. The effort is to focus is to cultivate the abilities of the students, whether from the perspective of language, communication and all other conditions necessary for success. The overriding goal is to educate students to become future leaders.

**2. Message from the founder Mr. Conger Welcome to all honored guests, from left to right: College Station Mayor Karl Mooney, District Director from Congressman Bill Flores' Office James Edge, ILTexas Chief Academic Officer Laura Carrasco, Chinese Visiting Director from the Texas A & M Confucius Institute Zhou Hong, Dr. Gigi Do, Senior Associate Director of the Texas A & M Band Lt. Col Jay Brewer, Director of Texas A & M Student Athlete Development Berry Davis.**



**3. College Station Mayor Karl Mooney delivered a speech, welcomes Texas International Leadership School to this school 4. Officially broke the ceremony to create a larger pattern.**



For more information, visit [iltexas.org](http://iltexas.org).

### Related

**Texas Charter Schools See Infusion Of Both Capital And Kids**



**The exterior of International Leadership of Texas Keller-Saginaw High School, a free Dallas-based public charter school that opened on Aug. 17, in Fort Worth, Texas. (Photo/Dallas Morning News via AP)**

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Millions in new federal funding is adding major firepower to the charter school invasion sweeping

through Texas, and now some traditional public school districts are looking to partner with the independent educators they once saw as their sworn enemy.

Charter growth has been booming across Texas since the Legislature first authorized the use of state funds for them two decades ago. Enrollment is skyrocketing. In 2010, there were 119,600 students in charter schools. Last year, there were 272,700.

Just this week, International Leadership of Texas, one of the state's largest operators, held a ribbon-cutting for its eighth campus in Tarrant County. And it plans to open 10 more campuses across the state next year.

Last week, IDEA Public Schools won \$67 million in federal grant money for charter expansion that will help it build numerous campuses across Tarrant County over the next five years.

The state also was awarded about \$60 million in federal grants for charter school expansion — including for those run out of traditional districts.



**Eddie Conger, founder of the International Leadership of Texas schools, poses for a portrait at the Keller-Saginaw High School in Saginaw, Texas. (David Woo/The Dallas Morning News via AP)**

The Texas Charter Schools Association estimates about 130,000 students are on waiting lists for such campuses. IDEA founder Tom Torkelson said at his schools, there were 50,000 applications this year for 10,000 open seats.

"We're not able to build schools fast enough," Torkelson told The Dallas Morning News.

The political environment to boost charters is ripe.

The Trump administration made school choice options a top education priority. And this year, Texas lawmakers gave charters extra help to expand by passing legislation providing incentives to traditional districts that collaborate with charters. And, for the first time, they gave charters access to state funds for operating school facilities. This

means millions more in taxpayer dollars will be funneled into charter schools.

Urban districts long battled against charter expansion, saying they're bleeding students. They tend to have more campuses with poor academic ratings and more competition with charter schools than other areas. District leaders often complain that charters steal the most involved families from neighborhood campuses, leaving behind struggling students.



**Qiongyu Hu, right, teaches Chinese to her students at International Leadership of Texas Keller-Saginaw High School in Saginaw, Texas. (Photo/The Dallas Morning News via AP)**

In the area covered by Fort Worth ISD there are about 6,800 students living in the district but attending charters. The public school district may lose thousands more students amid the charter boom. But FWISD Superintendent Kent Scribner not only welcomes high-quality charters into the area, he wants to partner with them, too.

"I don't think the charter expansion is something we should fear, but learn more about," Scribner said. "I view this as an opportunity to change, build a handful of district-charter hybrids to grow our own portfolio of offerings."

Charter schools are public schools that operate free from the bureaucracy of traditional districts. They don't have to adhere to as many state regulations, which advocates say frees them up to do things differently. Many brag about stellar academic performance compared to neighborhood schools.



**In this Monday, Oct. 2, 2017 photo, students exercise during gym class at the International Leadership of Texas Keller-Saginaw High School, in Fort Worth, Texas. (Photo/The Dallas Morning News via AP)**

For example, International Leadership of Texas' big draw for many parents is its focus on getting students to speak both Spanish and Chinese.

That's what enticed high school junior

Devonte Jones to leave Keller this year to attend IL Texas' new Fort Worth campus.

"If you put on your resume that you speak Chinese, that just opens doors for you," Devonte said. "And it's a small school, so you really get more of a connection with your teachers."

IL Texas, founded by former Dallas principal Eddie Conger, is quickly making its mark with 15 campuses across the state. Next year, it will open another 10 schools and add about 34,000 more students to its rolls.



**Confucius Institute has announced three new Confucius Classrooms at International Leadership of Texas.**

Conger said he's been "naive" and surprised by the aggressive push-back charters have gotten from many traditional school districts which have fought their expansion.

He isn't concerned as other charters move into the area and traditional districts amp up their choice programs to attract families back to their schools. IL Texas looks for ways to partner with others, he said. For example, Conger uses half the money donated for his students' annual trip to China to take along students from Dallas' Thomas Jefferson High School, where he was once principal.

"I'm not worried about the competition," Conger said. "Any time it becomes about adults and adult issues, the kids lose."

### About International Leadership of Texas

At International Leadership of Texas (IL-Texas) our mission is to prepare students for exceptional leadership roles in the international community by emphasizing servant leadership, mastering the English, Spanish and Chinese languages, and strengthening the body, mind and character. ILTexas teaches students from a global perspective with the opportunity to become trilingual, graduate with an associate's degree and study abroad. Founded in 2012 by retired Marine Corps Infantry Officer and former Dallas Independent School District high school principal Eddie Conger, ILTexas opened its first school in 2013 with over 2,500 students, making it the largest first-year charter in the history of Texas. ILTexas now serves more than 17,000 students with 15 locations spanning across the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex and Houston. For more information, visit [iltexas.org](http://iltexas.org). (Courtesy Jim Crosswell, Communications Coordinator ILTexas District Office)

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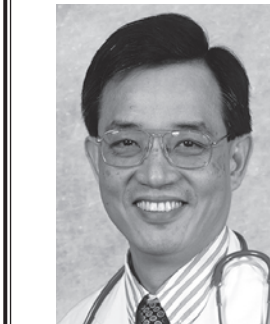
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Dr. Hwang is certified by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology. He earned his undergraduate and medical degree from the National Taiwan University College of Medicine in Taipei. He completed residency programs at National Taiwan University Hospital and St. Luke's Hospital, Bethlehem, Penn. In addition, he earned a postgraduate degree of Master of Public Health in maternal and child health from the prestigious Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health in Baltimore, Md. He is a member of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Texas Medical Association and Harris County Medical Society.

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Sept. 18 (UPI) -- More than half of the world's population still does not have access to internet, with Asia and Africa having the lowest rates of access, according to a United Nation report.

Of the 7.6 billion people in the world, 3.58 billion, or 48 percent, are using the internet. But that's a significant jump from 2016, when 3.4 billion people or 45.9 percent of the world's population were estimated to be online, the U.N. report stated.

Europe has the world's highest rate of connectivity, with nearly 80 percent of people online, while Africa had the lowest percentage of internet user penetration, with only 21.8 percent of the population having internet access. But Asia had the highest percentage of people without access, making up 62 percent of all people in the world not online.

"Large gaps in connectivity persist, mainly due to the lack of infrastructure, affordability, lack of skills or lack of relevant content" are some of the reasons for low connectivity rates, the report said.

However, although Asia has most of the world's offline population, China is the world's largest internet market with more than 700 million people. And India is second, with more than 355 million internet users.

## United Nations: Majority Of World's Population Lacks Internet Access



Information, or data, is the new “gold” in the world.



**A Chinese man talks on his phone outside an internet cafe in Beijing on January 20, 2016. China has the world's largest internet market with more than 700 million people online, but Asia accounts for more than 60 percent of the world's population without internet access, according to a U.N. report. (File Photo)**

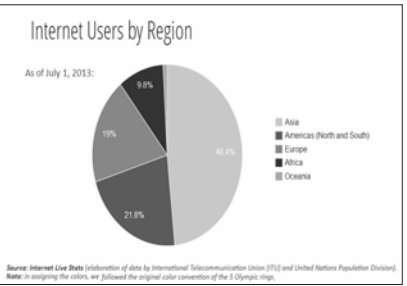
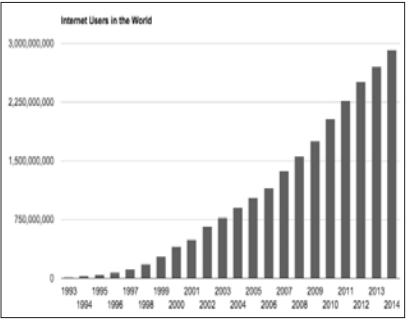
With developing countries are far behind developed nations in internet access, there is additional gender gap that demonstrates inequality when it comes to the internet.

"Disparities in gender access are largest in developing countries, especially in Africa," the report states. "The Economist Intelligence Unit Index reveals that only 11.6 percent of women access the Internet in Africa, while 88 percent of them access the internet in Europe." (Courtesy <https://www.upi.com/>)

### Related

#### Internet Users Worldwide Today

Around 40% of the world population has an internet connection today. In 1995, it was less than 1%. The number of internet users has increased tenfold from 1999 to 2013.



The first billion was reached in 2005. The second billion in 2010. The third billion in 2014.

The chart and table below show the number of global internet users per year since 1993:

### Definitions

#### User

An individual who has access to the Internet at home. This indicator does not record use, or frequency of use, but only access. In order to have access, the hardware equipment must be in working conditions, the Internet subscription service must be active, and the individual household member must have access to it at any time

(there must be no barriers preventing the individual from using the Internet). The hardware equipment may or may not be owned by the household. There are no age limits (minimum or maximum), so an Internet user can be of any age. There can be multiple devices and services within the household. The data is collected through annual household surveys administered by individual countries based on ITU guidelines.[1] The United Nations Statistics Division has recommended collection of data on households accessing the Internet also outside of home [2], but this is not a Core ICT Indicator. [3] An "Internet User" is therefore defined as an individual who can access the Internet, via computer or mobile device, within the home where the individual lives.

### Internet

A world-wide computer network that can be accessed via a computer, mobile telephone, PDA, games machine, digital TV, etc. The Internet access service can be provided through a fixed (wired) or mobile network: analogue dial-up modem via standard telephone line, ISDN (Integrated

Services Digital Network), DSL (Digital Subscriber Line) or ADSL, Cable modem, High speed leased lines, Fiber, Powerline, Satellite broadband network, WiMAX, Fixed CDMA, Mobile broadband network (3G, e.g. UMTS) via a handset or card, Integrated SIM card in a computer, or USB modem. (More information here: <http://www.internetlivestats.com/internet-users/>)

### Related

#### The Incredible Growth Of The Internet Over The Past Five Years



Internet users have grown by 82%, or almost 1.7 billion people, since January 2012. That translates to almost 1 million new users each day, or more than 10 new users every second; More than 1.3 billion people started using social media – that's a rise of 88% in just five years, and equates to more than 8 new users every second; The number of mobile connections in use grew by a whopping 2.2 billion, meaning that operators activated a net average of almost 14 new subscriptions every second to deliver growth of 37%;



We've only been publishing mobile social media user numbers since January 2015, but users have grown by more than 50% in those two years alone. More than 864 million people have started using social platforms via a mobile device in the past 24 months, at a rate of almost 14 new users every second. (Courtesy <https://thenextweb.com/>)

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