

Chart of the week

THE YEN CARRY TRADE IS BACK

It looks like the Carry Trade – that blew up markets 2 weeks ago – is attracting Hedge Funds again. Japan’s currency has weakened more than 5% against the dollar since Aug. 5. Yen shorts have risen ~30-40% in the past week. Meanwhile, the “Mag 7” have rebounded strongly. The \$/Yen and Mega-caps tech continue to move together.



Source: HolgerZ, Bloomberg

Stocks continue to recover from August 5 sell-off

US equities recorded their best week since 2023, led by a 5%-plus surge in the Nasdaq (which is up 12% from last Monday's lows). Investors appeared to celebrate positive news on both the inflation and growth fronts, which are bolstering hopes that the economy might achieve a "soft landing." AI chip giant NVIDIA was especially strong, gaining 19% over the week. Growth stocks handily outpaced value shares. Small Caps were lifted by an ongoing short-squeeze. Official economic data suggested that the consumer was holding strong in the face of the cooling labor market. On Thursday, the Commerce Department reported that retail sales surged 1.0% in July, their best showing in 18 months. Consumer price index (CPI) inflation, reported Wednesday, was in line with expectations but also seemed to reassure investors, as the yoy increase in CPI fell below 3.0% for the first time in three years. The US 10-year Treasury yield decreased through most of the week on the benign inflation data but jumped on Thursday following the strong retail sales data. Credit markets rallied hard this week, adjusting back from "hard landing" to "soft landing" scenarios. The dollar plunged to 5-month lows and gold soared to a record high, topping \$2500 for the first time. In Europe, the STOXX Europe 600 Index ended 2.5% higher. Japan's Nikkei 225 Index gained 8.7% as the yen weakened to the high-JPY 148 range against the dollar. Cryptos were volatile but Friday saw Bitcoin surging back up to \$60,000 to end the week unchanged.

#GLOBALMARKETS WEEKLY WRAP-UP

Hand-curated selection of the best charts & news flow

17 AUGUST 2024

#markets

#weekly #stats

INDEX	CLOSE	WEEK	YTD
Dow Jones Industrial Average	40,660	2.9%	7.9%
S&P 500 Index	5,554	3.9%	16.4%
NASDAQ	17,632	5.3%	17.5%
MSCI EAFE*	2,346	2.7%	4.9%
10-yr Treasury Yield	3.88%	-0.1%	0.0%
Oil (\$/bbl)	\$75.65	-1.5%	5.6%
Bonds	\$100.08	0.5%	2.7%

Source: FactSet, 8/16/2024. Bonds represented by the iShares Core U.S. Aggregate Bond ETF. Past performance does not guarantee future results.

Source: Edward Jones



#GLOBALMARKETS WEEKLY WRAP-UP

Hand-curated selection of the best charts & news flow

17 AUGUST 2024



#spy #qqq

🔔 \$SPY and \$QQQ just had their best week since October 2023...

Week performance:

- \$QQQ +5.5%
- \$SPY +4%
- \$DIA +3%
- \$IWM +3%



Source: Stocktwits



#GLOBALMARKETS WEEKLY WRAP-UP

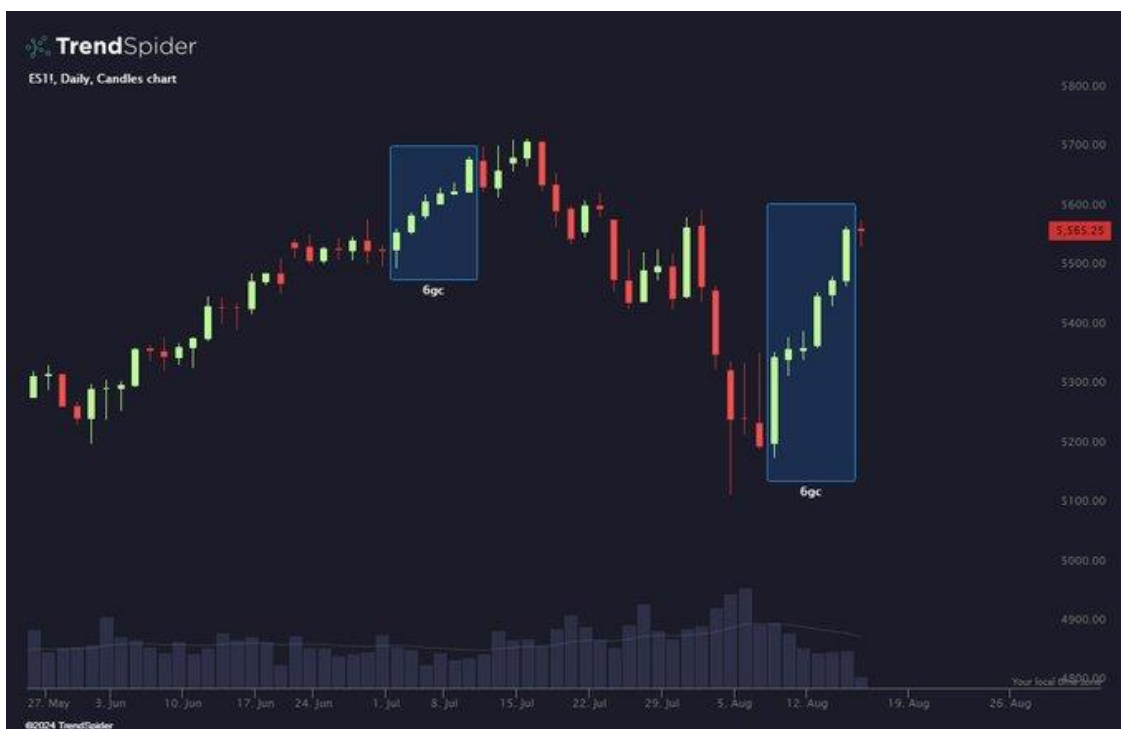
Hand-curated selection of the best charts & news flow

17 AUGUST 2024



#sp500 #weekly

S&P 500 bulls made it SEVEN green candles in a row. 
This is the first time since December 2023.



Source: Trend Spider





#sp500 #comparison

Updated look at the S&P's path in 2023 versus 2024.



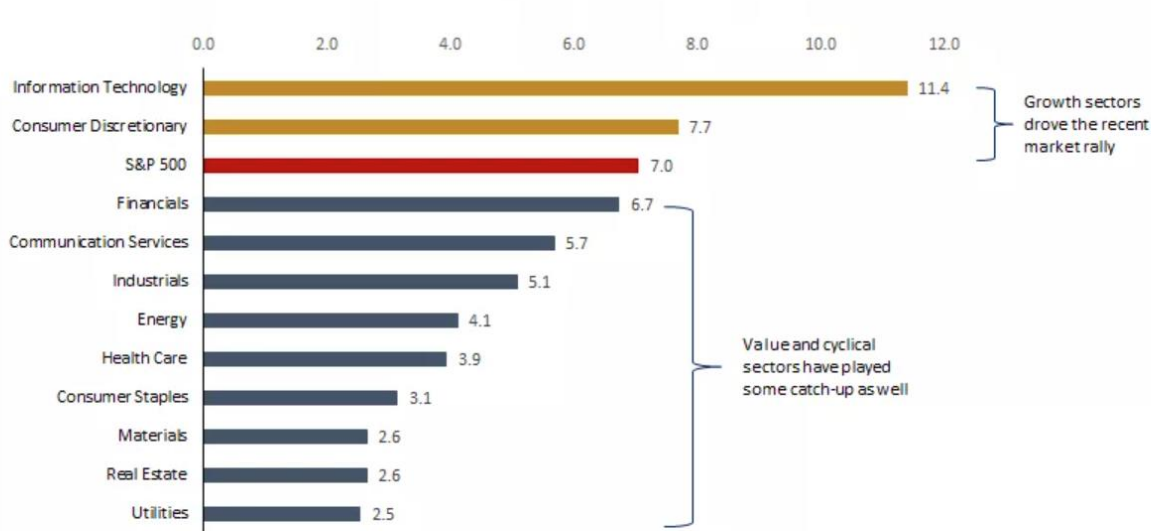
Source: Bespoke



#sp500 #sectors #leadership

Financial markets have rallied from the August 5 sell-off, with the S&P 500 rebounding by over 6.5%. The recent recovery in the stock market has once again been led by the technology and growth sectors, which had also been down the most during the recent pullback. As we get closer to a period of Fed rate cuts, and as inflation continues to moderate and earnings growth broadens to sectors beyond growth and technology, we believe a broadening of market leadership could emerge again as well.

S&P 500 returns have been positive across sectors since the August 5th sell-off, led once again by technology and growth (%)



Source: FactSet. The S&P 500 is an unmanaged index and cannot be invested in directly. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results.



Source: Edward Jones



#qqq #50-day-moving-average

The last two times \$QQQ reclaimed that 50-Day SMA, it's been off to the races. 📈



Source: Trend Spider



#markets

#nvidia #weekly

\$NVDA jumped 19% this week, its best week since May 2023
It added around \$500 BILLION in market cap
Jefferies said they expect Nvidia to smash Q2 earnings, only 12 days away

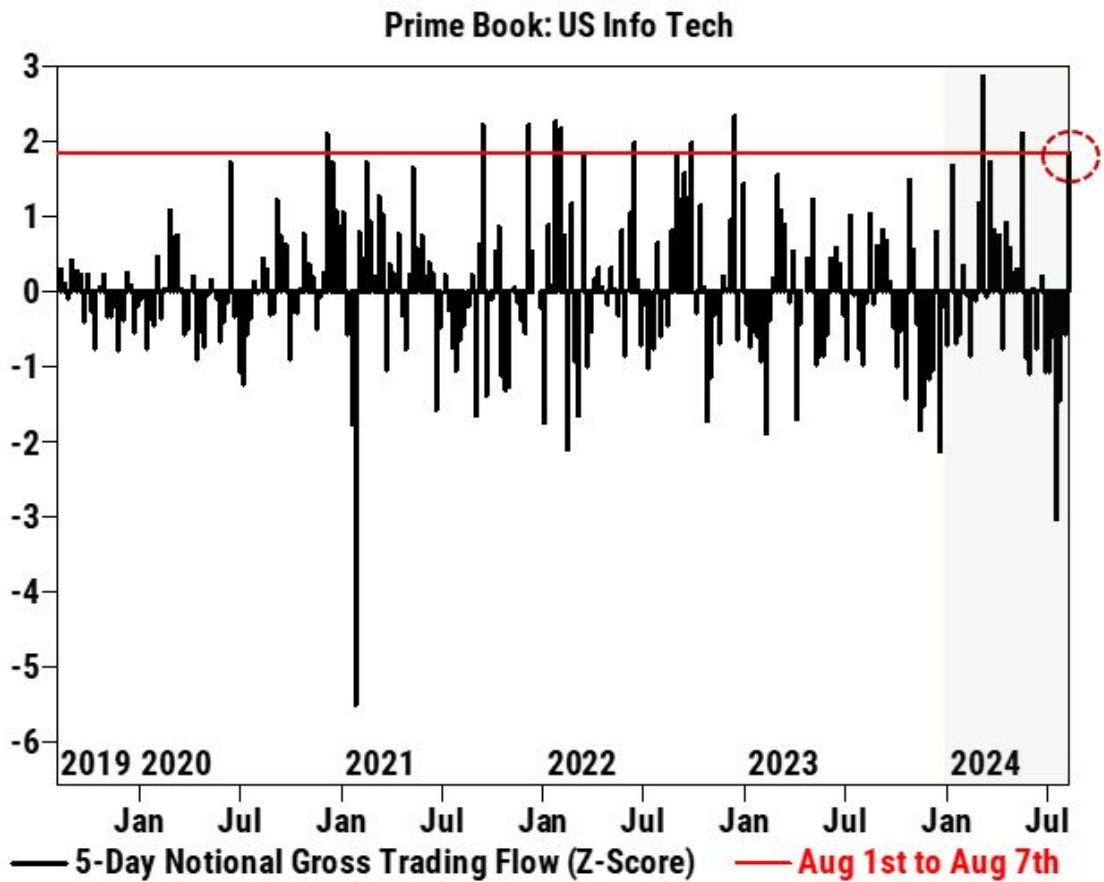


Source: Stocktwits



#us #hedgefunds #tech

Hedgefunds are buying the dip in tech, per Goldman.



Source: Goldman Sachs, Markets & Mayhem





#sp500 #btd

As the S&P 500 was plunging earlier this month, retail investors were buying the dip 🤔 🎉



Retail net flow saw a big spike in early August (data as of Aug. 13).

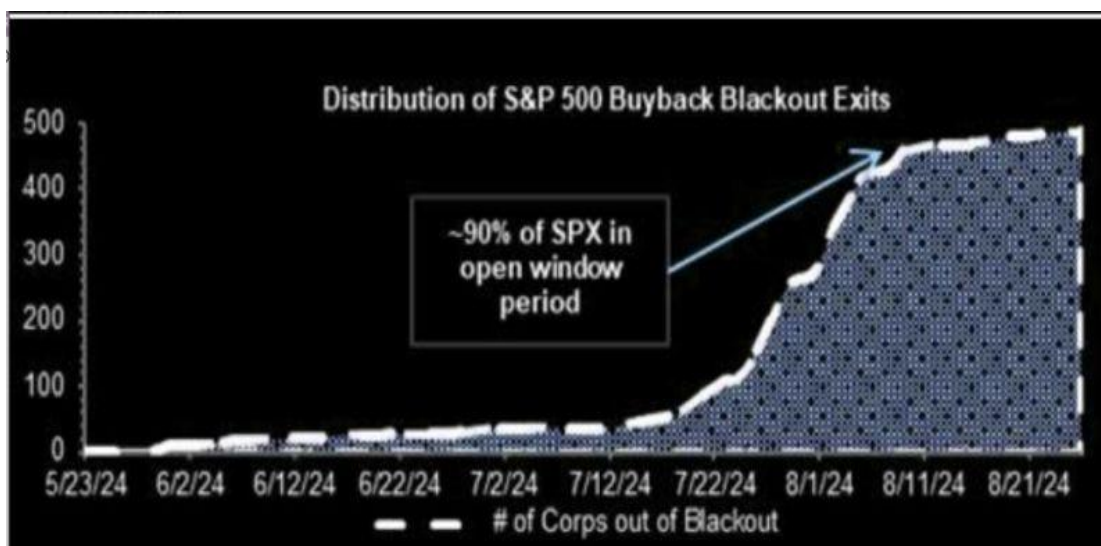
PHOTO: VANDA RESEARCH

Source: Barchart, Vamda Research



#sp500 #buyback

The majority of S&P 500 companies are now out of their buyback blackout period.

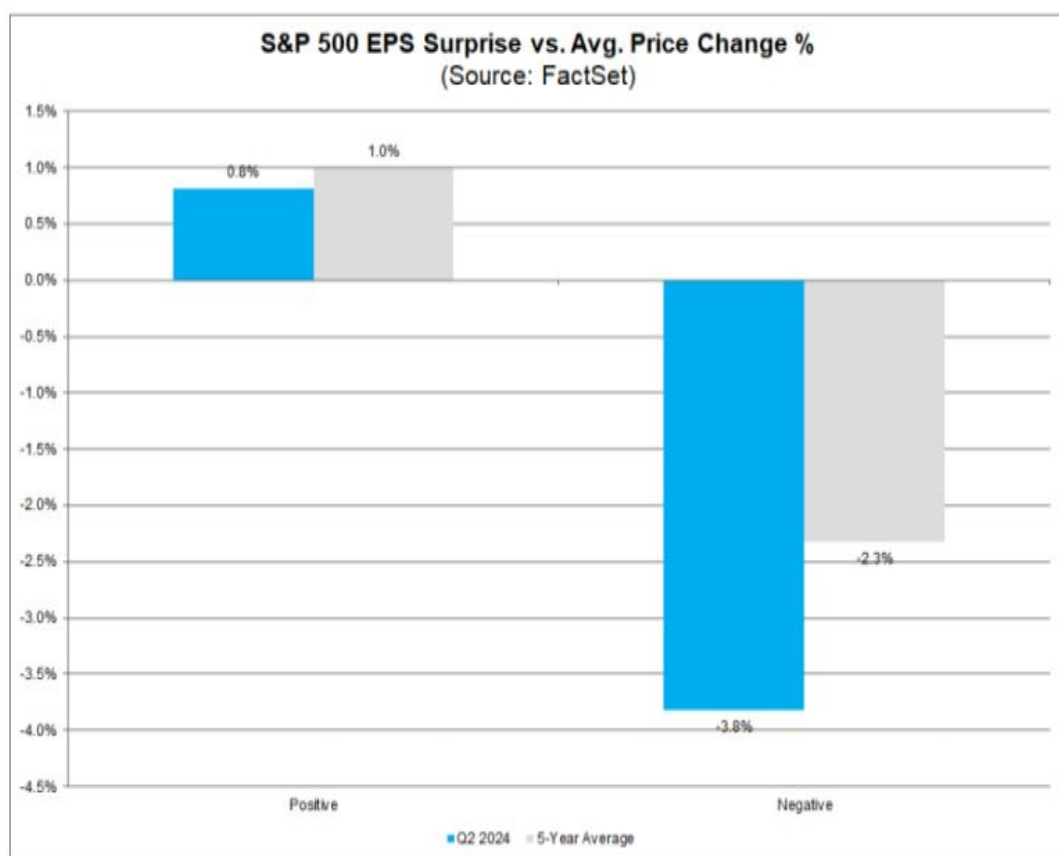


Source: GS, Markets&Mayhem



#sp500 #eps

Market Is Punishing Negative EPS Surprises More Than Average for Q2.



Source: Factset, Mike Z



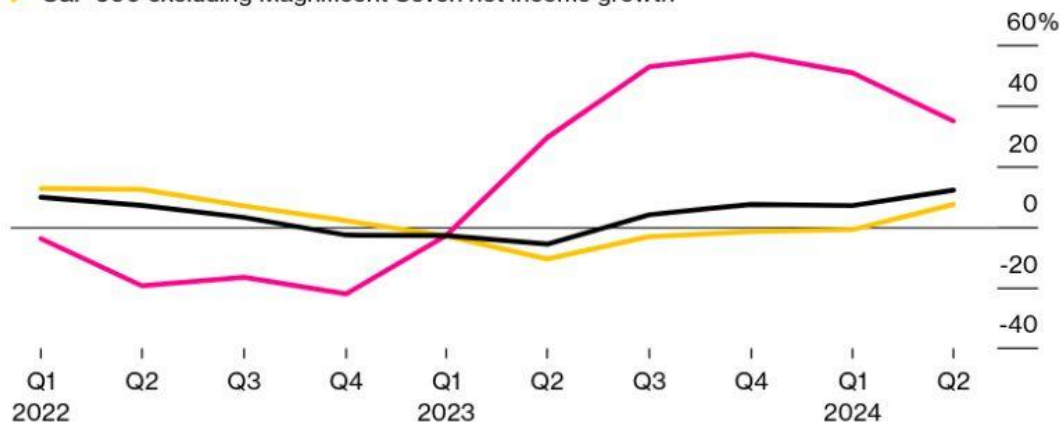
#sp500 #mag7 #earnings #growth

As the Mag 7 slow the rest of the SP500 is showing signs of improving growth.

Gap Between Mega-Cap Tech and Others Are Shrinking

Profit growth for `Magnificent Seven' starts slowing, rest of S&P hits a stride

- S&P 500 quarterly net income growth year-over-year
- Magnificent Seven net income growth
- S&P 500 excluding Magnificent Seven net income growth



Source: Bloomberg Intelligence

Source: Bloomberg intelligence, Markets & Mayhem



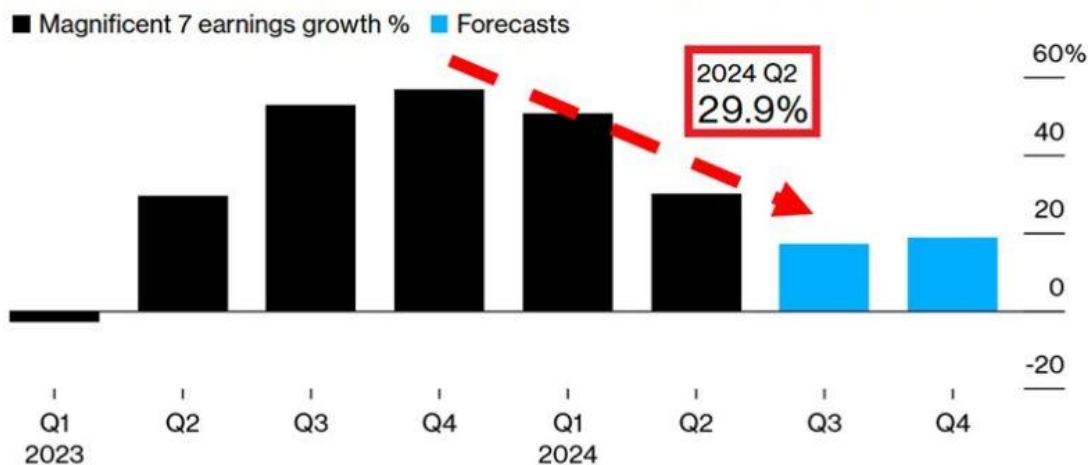


#mag7 #earnings #growth

Has the Magnificent 7's earnings growth peaked? In Q2 2024, the Magnificent 7' net income, excluding Nvidia, \$NVDA, rose by 30% year-over-year, the slowest growth since Q2 2023. This is down from 51% in Q1 2024 and below the record 57% seen in Q4 2023. It is estimated that the growth rate will decelerate further to ~17% in Q3 2024.

Magnificent Seven Earnings Growth Slowing

All members of the group have reported quarterly results except Nvidia



Source: Bloomberg

POSTED BY @KOBESSILETTER

Source: The Kobeissi Letter





#mag7 #AI

An important observation on the Mag 7 / AI names: Relative EPS hasn't rolled like stock prices have. Bottom-line: Equity portfolios should be more diversified but there is no reason to panic on big Tech at this stage. It is a highly crowded trade and valuations are lofty. But fundamentals stay strong.



Source: TME, RBC, GS



#us #regional #banks #crisis

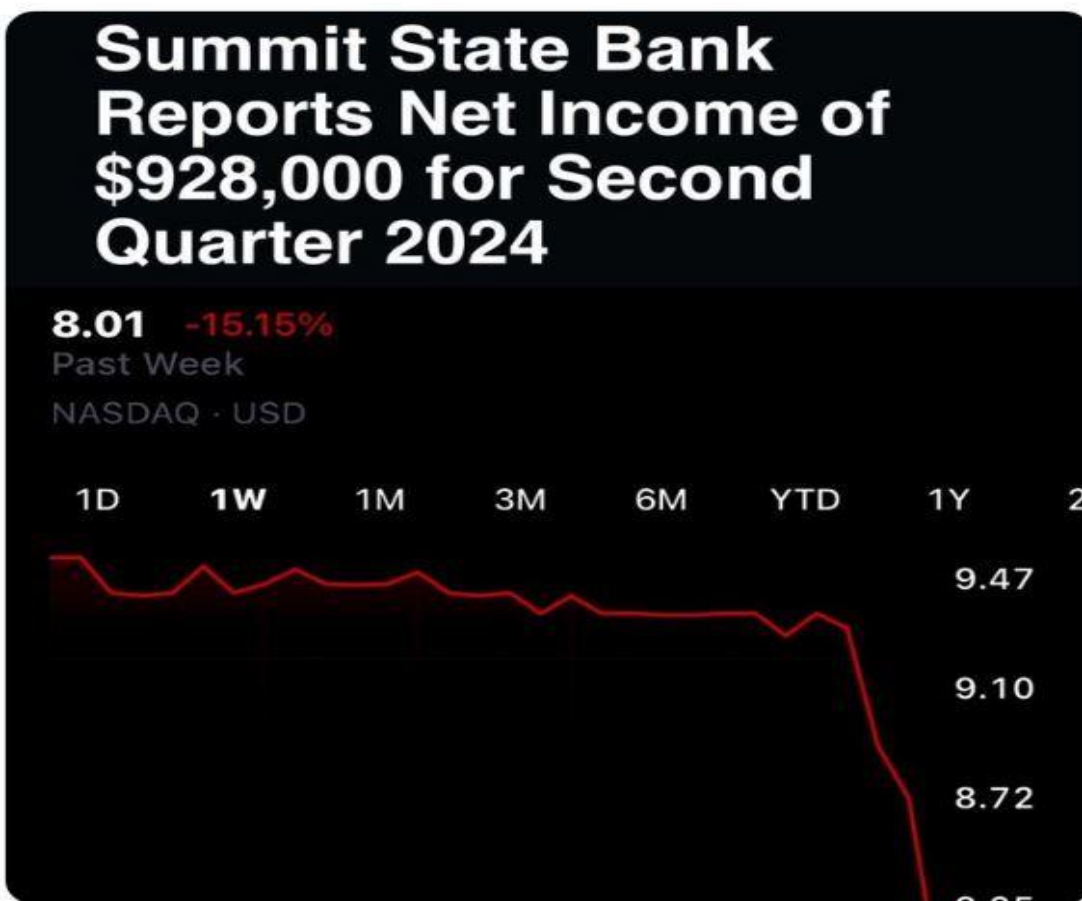
** Is the U.S. regional bank crisis worsening? **

Summit State Bank's Q2 Earnings Plummet**

Q2 2024 Net Income:

\$928,000 Drops -67% from Q2 2023 Net Income \$2,985,000

Earnings Decline: 69%



Source: The Coastal Journal





#us #banks #bonds #losses

U.S. banks are facing \$517 Billion of Unrealized Losses 🚨 - nobody wants interest rate cuts more than them.



Source: Barchart, BofA



#GLOBALMARKETS WEEKLY WRAP-UP

Hand-curated selection of the best charts & news flow

17 AUGUST 2024



#lmt #stock

Lockheed Martin \$LMT hits highest closing price in history.



Source: Barchart





#sp500 #peak

Since the S&P 500 peaked on July 16th, higher dividend paying stocks have been outperforming stocks that pay no dividends. As shown below, there are exactly 100 stocks in the S&P that pay no dividend, and those stocks were down 5.6% on average from 7/16 through last Friday's close. Conversely, the 100 stocks in the index with the highest dividend yields were actually up slightly over the same time frame.



Source: Bespoke





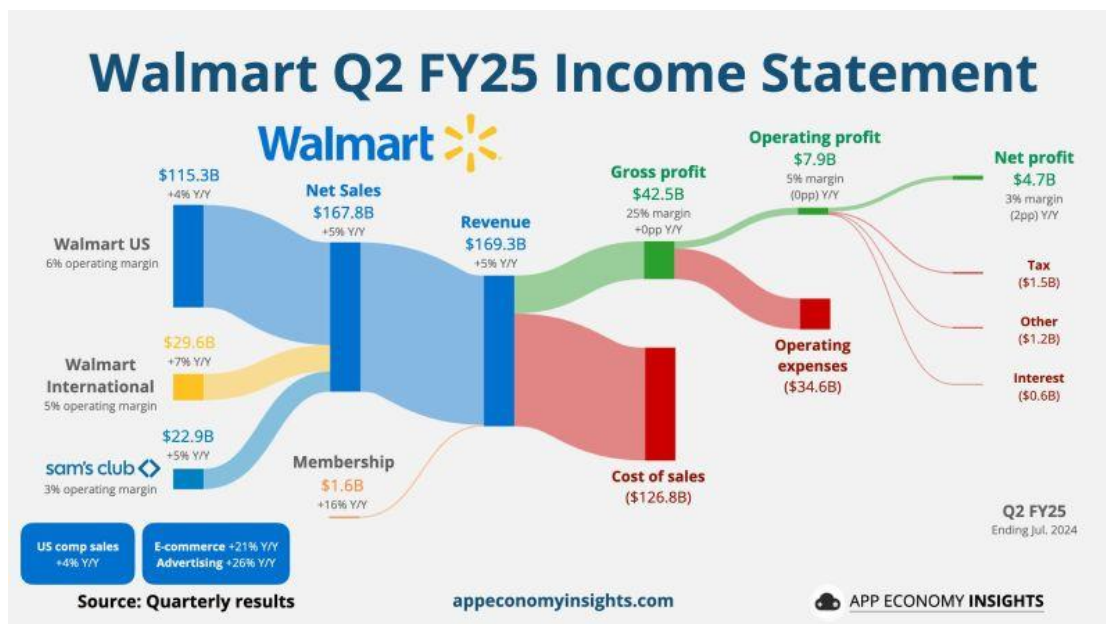
#walmart #income-statement

\$WMT Walmart Q2 FY25 (ending in July):

- Revenue +5% Y/Y to \$169.3B (\$1.9B beat).
- Non-GAAP EPS \$0.67 (\$0.02 beat).
- Walmart US comp sales +4%.
- E-commerce +21% Y/Y.
- Advertising +26% Y/Y.

FY25 Guidance:

- Net sales +3.75% to 4.75% Y/Y (0.75% raise).



Source: App Economy Insights



#walmart #AI #generativeAI

Walmart CEO on using AI: "We've used multiple LLMs to accurately create or improve over 850,000,000 pieces of data in the catalog. Without the use of generative AI, this work would have required nearly 100X the current headcount to complete in the same amount of time"

\$WMT

On Using AI Q2 FY 25 Earnings Call

We're finding tangible ways to leverage generative AI to improve the customer, member, and associate experience. We're leveraging data and large language models from others and building our own. One example is that we've used generative AI to improve our product catalog. The quality of the data in our catalog affects nearly everything we do—from helping customers find and buy what they're looking for, to how we store inventory in the network, to delivering orders. We've used multiple large language models to accurately create or improve over 850 million pieces of data in the catalog. Without the use of generative AI, this work would have required nearly 100 times the current headcount to complete in the same amount of time. For associates picking online orders, showing them high-quality images of product packaging helps them quickly find what they're looking for. Customers and members are already enjoying AI-powered search on our app and site, and now they'll have even more help with a new shopping assistant that provides advice and ideas, answering questions like "Which TV is best for watching sports?" Looking ahead, the assistant will be able to respond with more specific follow-up questions, like "How's the lighting in the room where you'll place the TV?" Helping our sellers on our marketplace is also an area where we see opportunities to be better using generative AI. As we work to do all we can to help our sellers grow their businesses, we're testing a new experience for select U.S.-based sellers that allows them to ask us anything. We want our sellers focused on selling, so the more we can make it a seamless experience, the better. The new assistant will quickly summarize and provide the seller with succinct answers without them having to sort through long articles or other materials. The use cases for this technology are wide-ranging and affect nearly all parts of our business, and we'll continue to experiment and deploy AI and generative AI applications globally.

Walmart CEO Doug McMillan

For more quotes like these visit thetranscript.substack.com

Source: The Transcript



#markets

#starbucks #chipotle

\$SBUX Starbucks replaces CEO Laxman Narasimhan with \$CMG
Chipotle CEO Brian Niccol

\$CMG Chipotle's stock is up 773% since Brian Niccol became
CEO in March 2018

Just 9 S&P 500 stocks have performed better than \$CMG since
March 2018

\$SBUX must have paid him the star bucks...



Source: Stocktwits

#GLOBALMARKETS WEEKLY WRAP-UP

Hand-curated selection of the best charts & news flow

17 AUGUST 2024



#ulta #buffett

Ulta Beauty \$ULTA exploding higher in after-hours after Warren Buffett discloses a new position of 690,000 shares.



Source: Barchart





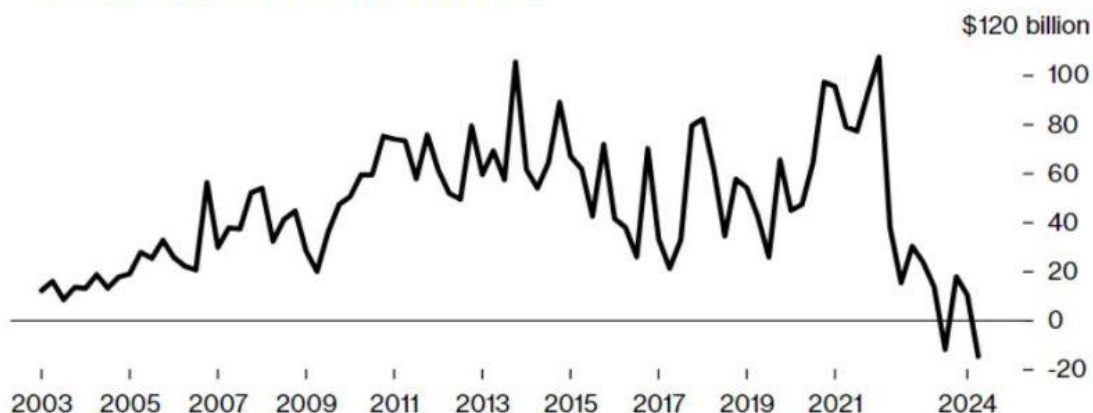
#china #foreigninvestors

Foreign investors pulled a record amount of money from China last quarter. China's direct investment liabilities in its balance of payments dropped almost \$15 billion in the April-June period, marking only the second time this figure has turned negative, according to data from China's SAFE released Friday. It was down about \$5 billion for the first six months.

Foreigners Pull Record Funds From China

Investment drops by almost \$15 billion in the second quarter

✓ Inbound foreign direct investment (liabilities)



Source: China's State Administration of Foreign Exchange

Source: Bloomberg



#burry #china #stocks

Michael Burry has made Chinese Internet Stocks his biggest holdings. His #1 holding is Alibaba which was worth \$11.2 million at the end of the last quarter.

Michael Burry of 'The Big Short' fame made Chinese internet companies his top bets last quarter

PUBLISHED WED, AUG 14 2024, 3:09 PM EDT



SHARE f X in



Michael Burry attends the New York premiere of "The Big Short" at the Ziegfeld Theater in New York City, Nov. 23, 2015. (For Spillman) / WireImage / Getty Images

Scion Asset Management's top 10 holdings
As of the end of June

Company	Ticker	Value (\$ million)	% change in shares owned
Alibaba	BABA	\$11.2	24%
Shift4 Payments	FOUR	\$7.3	New
Molina Healthcare	MOH	\$7.3	New
Baidu	BIDU	\$6.5	88%
JD.com	JD	\$6.5	-31%
Hudson Pacific Properties	HPP	\$5.5	New
The RealReal	REAL	\$3.2	-29%
American Coastal Insurance Corp	ACIC	\$2.7	UNCH
Olaplex	OLPX	\$1.5	New
BioAtla	BCAB	\$0.9	New

Source: SEC filings, InsiderScore



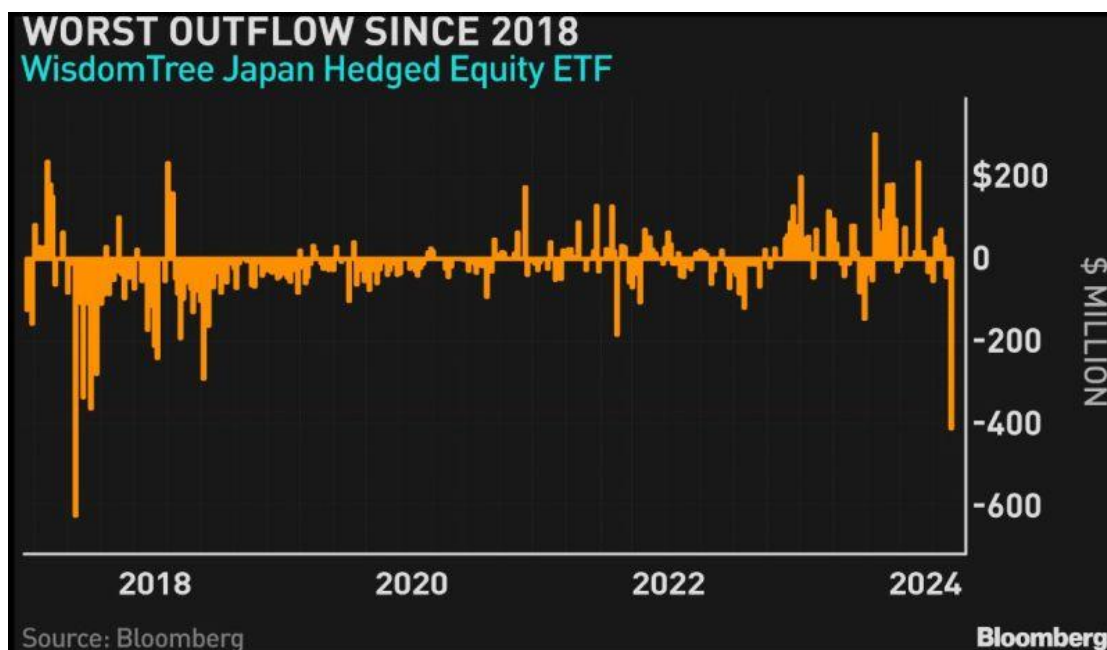
Source: Barchart, CNBC





#yen #etfs #japan

WisdomTree’s yen-hedged ETF saw an outflow of more than \$400 million last week, the most since 2018. At the same time, short interest as a percentage of shares outstanding on the ETF rose to the highest since May.



Source: Bloomberg

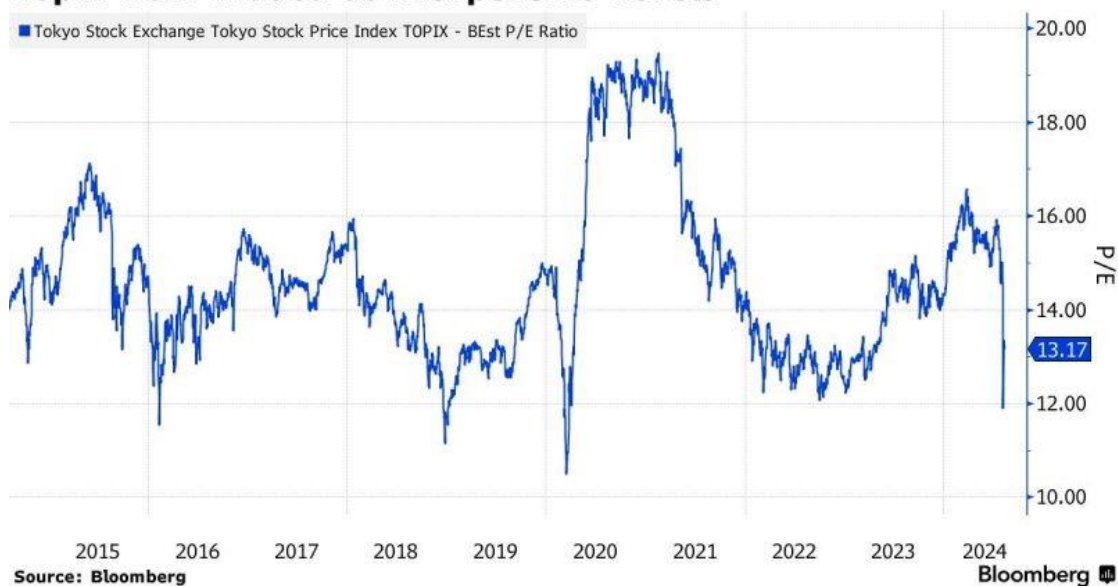




#japan #stocks #valuation

Japanese stocks are trading at a reasonably low PE of 13.17 after the recent drawdown.

Topix Now Traded at Inexpensive Levels



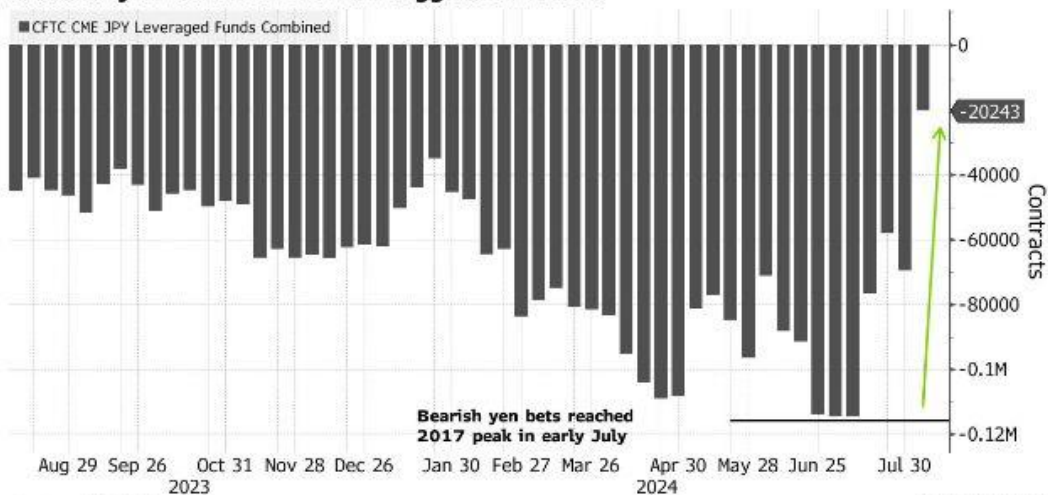
Source: Bloomberg, Markets & Mayhem



#yen #hedge-funds #positioning

Hedge Funds reduced their bearish Japanese Yen bets by the 5th largest amount in history (week ended August 6) 🚨

Traders Slash Yen Shorts Amid Carry Trade Unwind Boost to yen sentiment is fifth-biggest on record



Source: Bloomberg





#yen #japan #carrytrade

The Japanese currency weakened more than 5% against the dollar since Aug. 5. Nomura International is seeing investors are starting to borrow yen again to invest elsewhere in higher-yielding assets. AFX Global Markets witnessed around a 30% to 40% rise in yen shorts in the past week. One of the key questions for investors still sitting on the carry-trade sidelines is whether the Bank of Japan will hike rates again this year.

Pound And Aussie Dollar Rebound Versus Yen



Source: Bloomberg

Bloomberg

Source: Bloomberg





#dollar-index

The dollar plunged to 5-month lows...

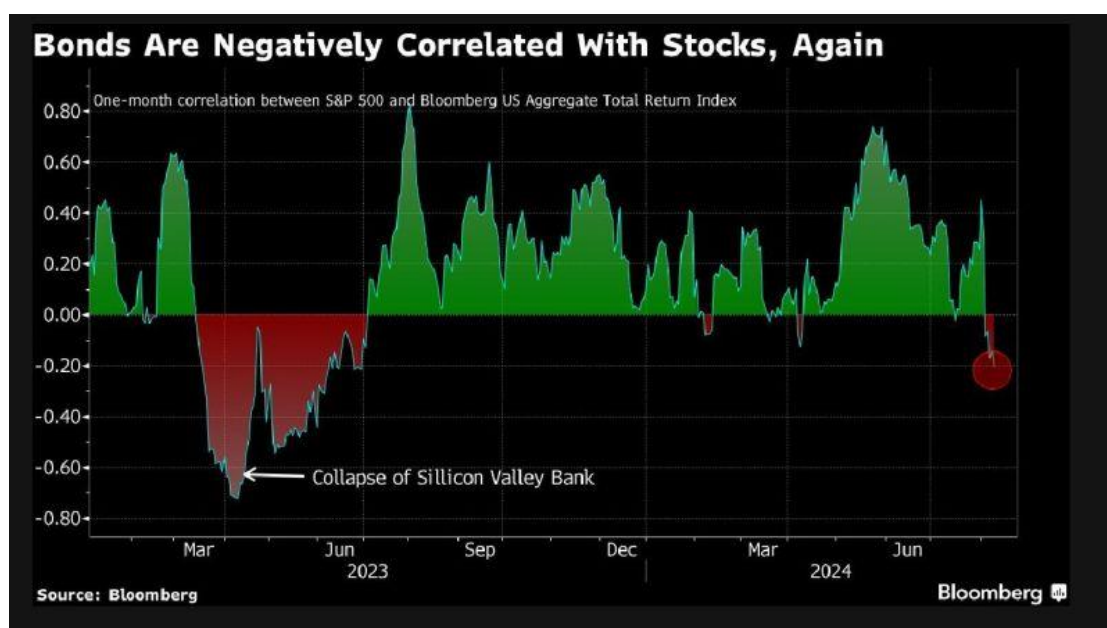


Source: www.zerohedge.com, Bloomberg

#markets

#bonds #stocks #correlation

An important development for portfolio construction: bonds and equities are negatively correlated again.



Source: Bloomberg, Alessio Urban



#us #fixed-income #weekly

A hawkish drop in rate-cut expectations - back to pre-payrolls levels (less than 200bps of cuts to end-2025) prompted weakness at the short-end (+1bps) of the Treasury curve on the week (but the long-end ended 7bps lower on the week). The obvious shift was the bearish rise in yields after CPI...



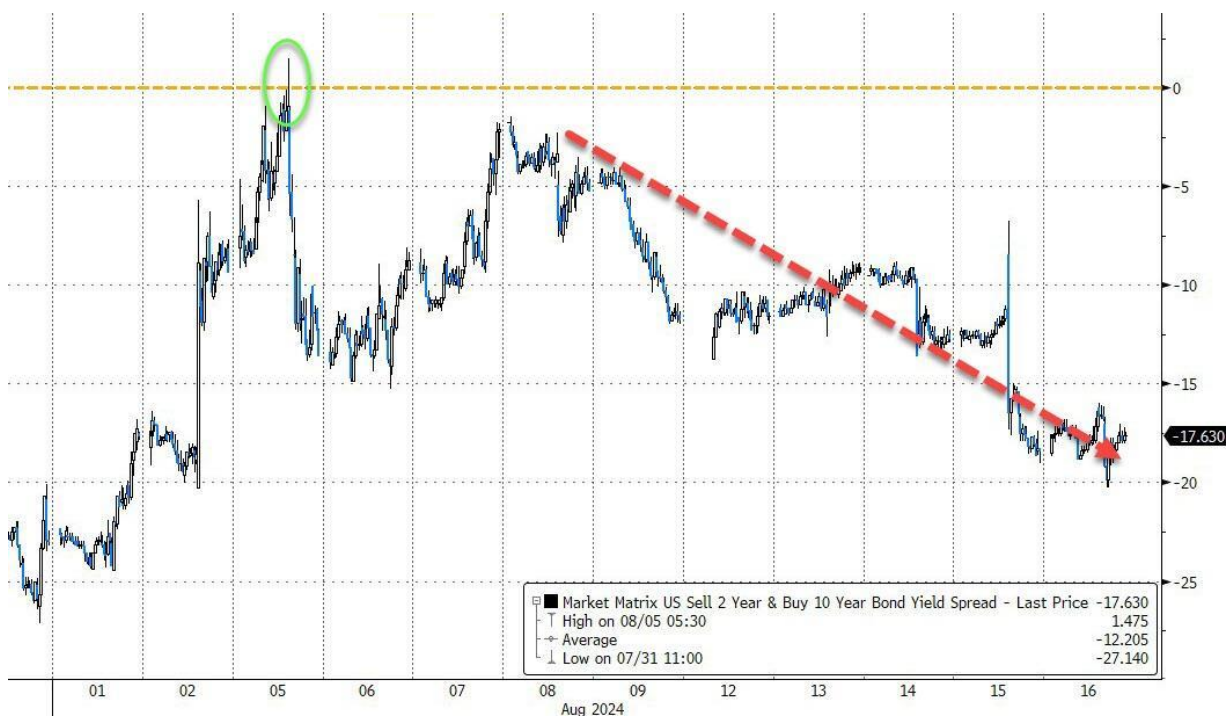
Source: www.zerohedge.com, Bloomberg





#us #fixed-income #yield-curve

The US yield curve flattened significantly on the week, with 2s10s re-inverting...



Source: www.zerohedge.com, Bloomberg





#us #credit #vix

Credit markets rallied hard this week, adjust back from "hard landing" to "soft landing" scenarios...



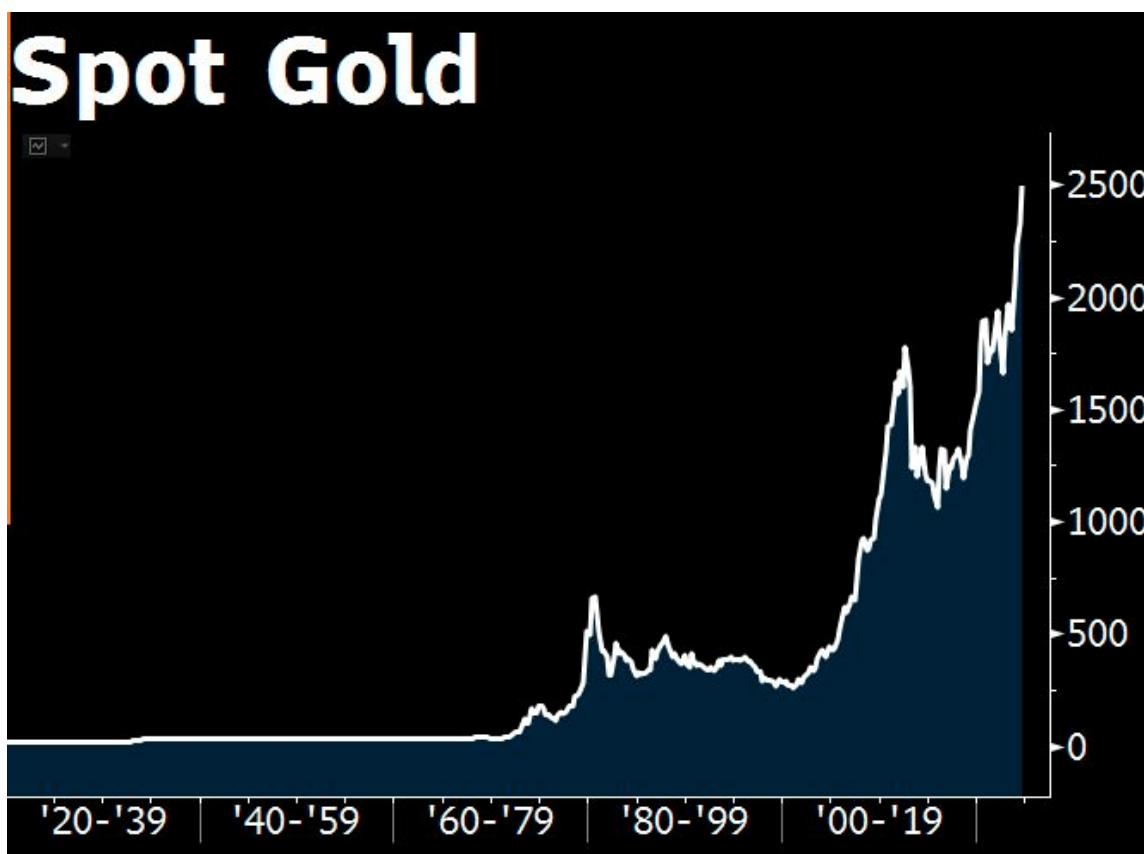
Source: www.zerohedge.com, Bloomberg





#commodities #gold #ath

Gold prices hit ATH of \$2,500 fueled by lower Dollar and lower US Treasury yields. Year-to-date, Gold is up 20.7%, setting the stage for its strongest annual performance since 2020 when it gained 25.1%



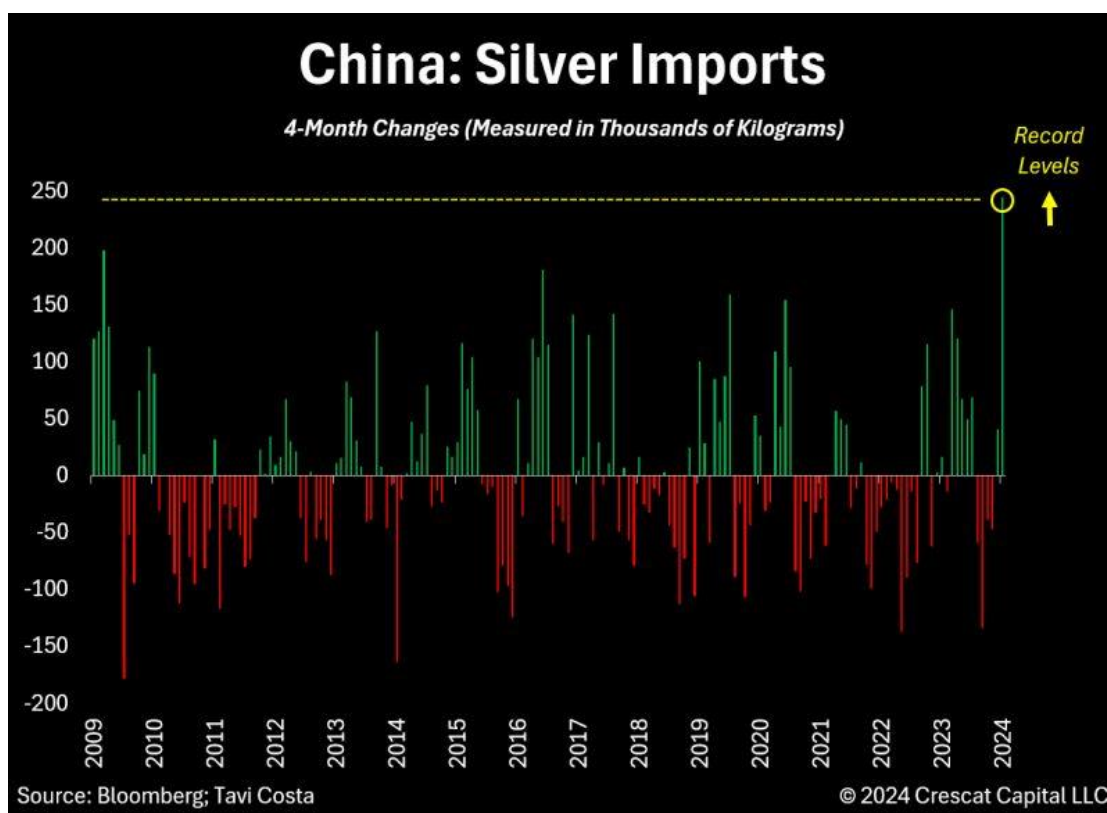
Source: www.zerohedge.com, Bloomberg





#commodities #silver #china #imports

China reported record levels of silver imports.



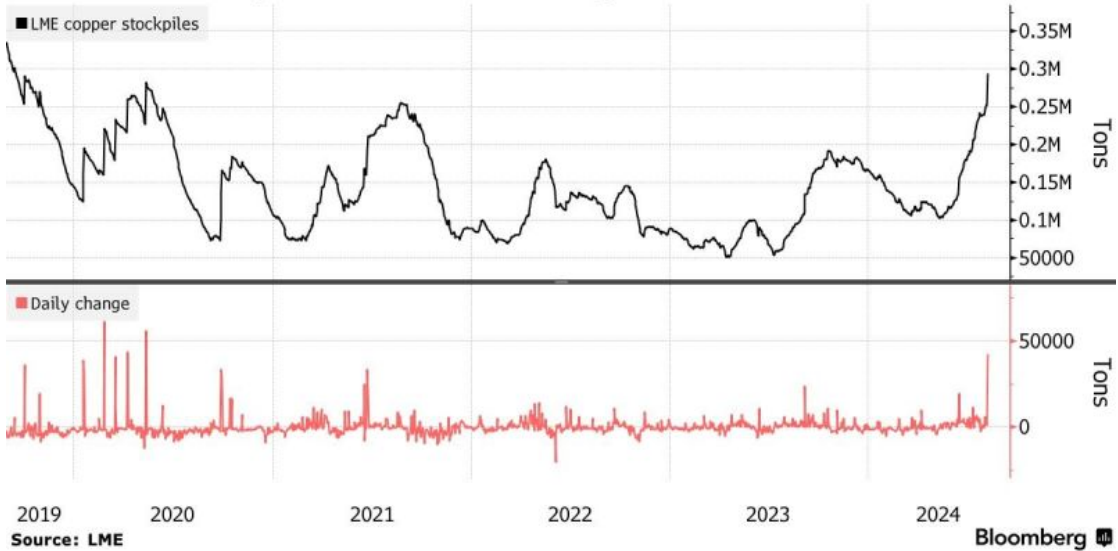
Source: Tavi Costa, Crescat Capital, Bloomberg



#commodities #copper

Copper Inventories have jumped to the highest level in more than 4 years signaling weak demand in Asia!

Copper Stockpiles Surge by the Most in Four Years Inflows in Asian depots take inventories to highest since 2019



Source: Bloomberg, Barchart



#commodities #oil #weekly

Oil prices were flat on the week after some volatile days...



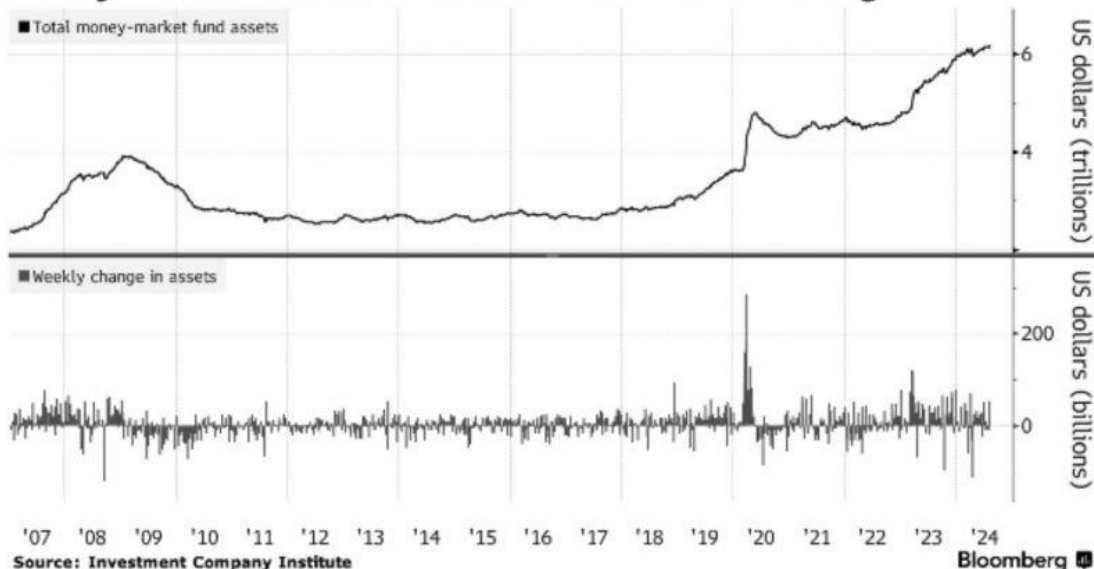
Source: www.zerohedge.com, Bloomberg



#moneymarket #inflow #investing

Money Market Funds Hit All-Time High of \$6.19 Trillion. About \$52.7 billion flowed into US money-market funds in the week through Aug. 7, the largest weekly inflows since the period ended April 3, according to Investment Company Institute data. Total assets rose to \$6.19 trillion from \$6.135 trillion in the prior week.

Money-Market Assets Rise to a Fresh All-Time High

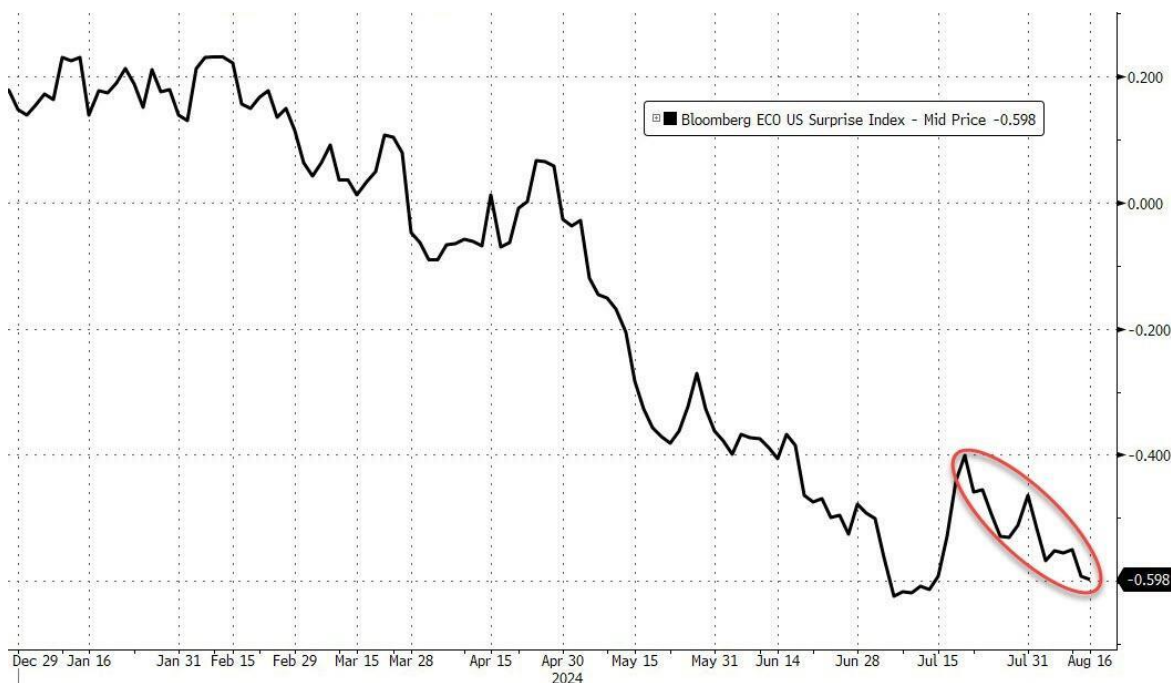


Source: Bloomberg



#us #macro #surprises

Despite all the focus on jobless claims, CPI, and retail sales, this week was actually a 'weak' one for US macro surprises...

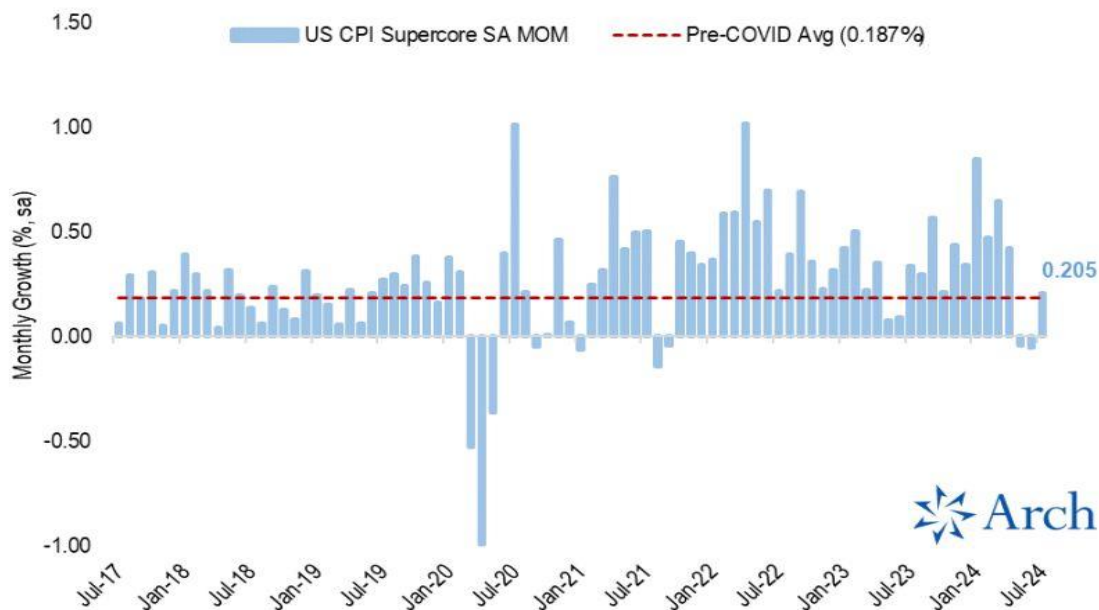


Source: www.zerohedge.com, Bloomberg



#us #cpi #dinsinflation

July US CPI fell to 2.9%, below expectations of 3.0%. Core CPI inflation fell to 3.2%, in-line with expectations of 3.2%. This marks the first month with CPI inflation below 3.0% since March 2021. However, Supercore inflation snapped back to just above the pre-COVID average after two months of outright declines. Shelter inflation also surged back to a 0.38% m/m gain after an unusual decline to 0.17% in June. This is not the perfect report the Fed would be looking for. However, there is nothing overly concerning from what we've seen thus far. The first rate cut since 2020 is probably coming next month.



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Arch Global Economics

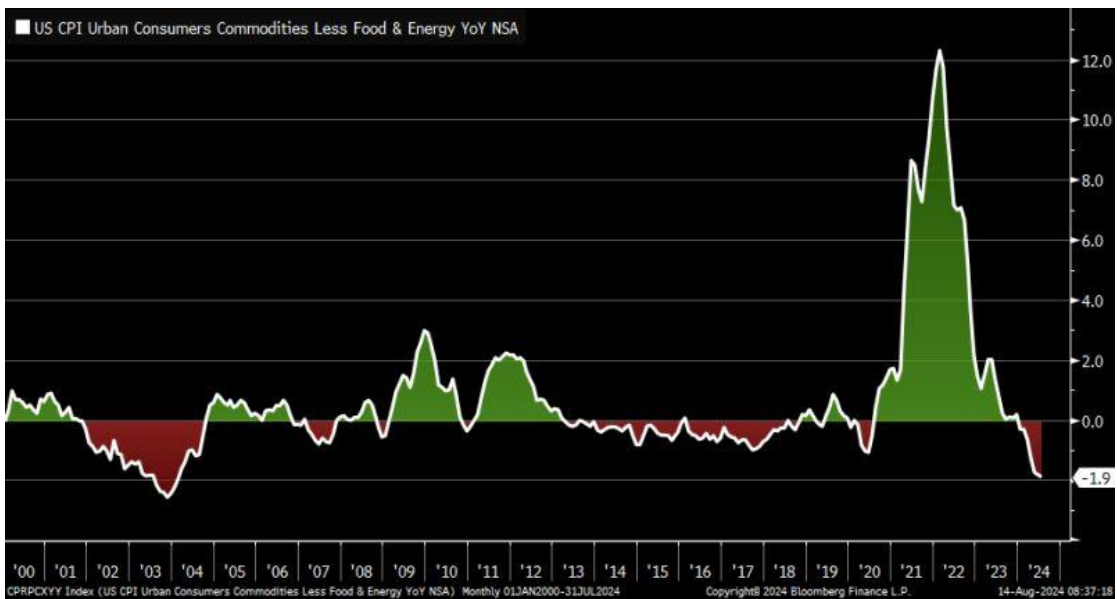
Source: Parker Ross @Econ_Parker, Arch Global Economics



#macro

#us #goods #cpi #deflation

Core goods CPI plunged further into deflation territory in July ... -1.9% year/year.



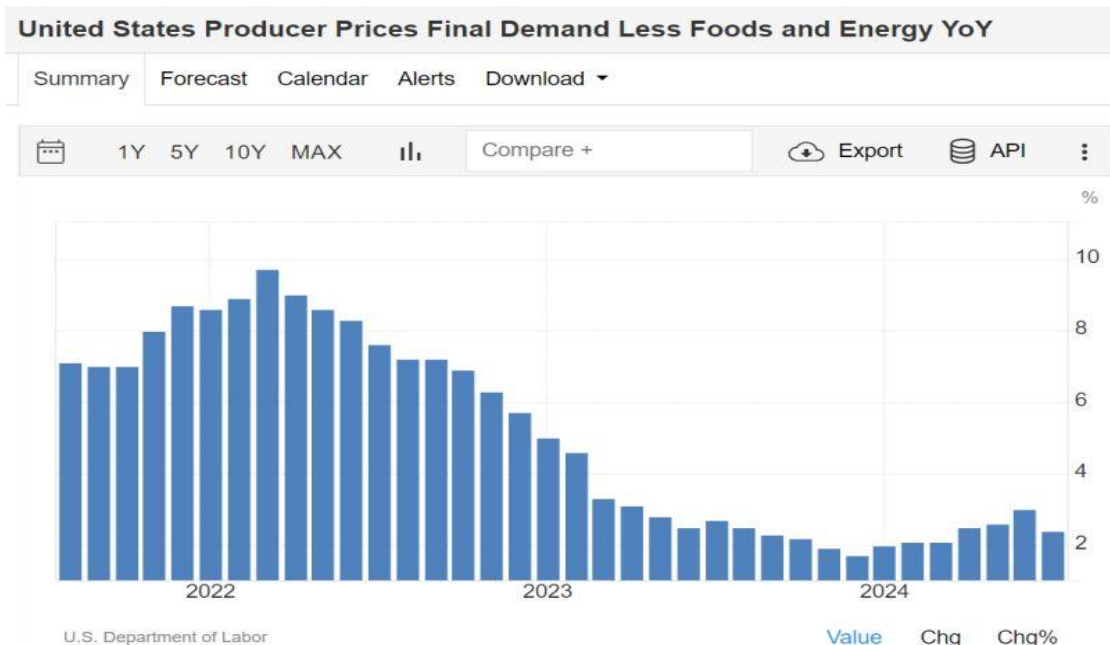


#us #ppi #inflation

BREAKING: US July PPI inflation falls to 2.2%, below expectations of 2.3%. Core PPI inflation falls to 2.4%, below expectations of 2.7%. This is the first drop in Core PPI YoY since December last year... In another constructive sign, PPI inflation is now at its lowest level since March 2024. A September fed rate cut seems to be on its way.

PPI numbers in a nutshell:

- PPI 0.1% MoM, Exp. 0.2%
- PPI Core 0.0% MoM, Exp. 0.2%
- PPI 2.2% YoY, Exp. 2.3%
- PPI Core 2.4% YoY, Exp. 2.6%



Source: The Kobeissi Letter, US Department of Labor, Mike Z.



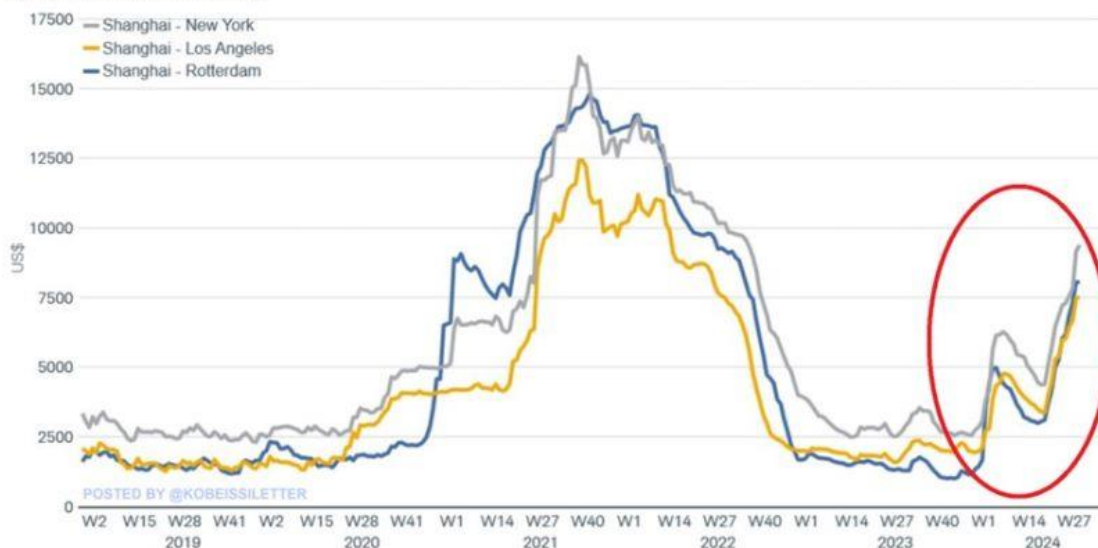


#global #shipping #costs #inflation

BREAKING: Container shipping costs from China have spiked to their highest levels since 2022. Since the beginning of 2024, shipping rates have more than TRIPLED. It now costs ~\$9,000 to ship a 40-foot container from Shanghai to New York and ~\$8,000 to Los Angeles. This has been driven by a sharp drop in Suez Canal transit volume, disruptions at some ports in Asia, and demand increase due to inventory restocking. Rising shipping costs should be considered as an upside risk to inflation.

Container shipping rates hit new highs for 2024

Rates for 40-foot container (Drewry)



Source: Charles Schwab, Macrobond, Drewry Shipping Consultants Ltd as of 7/16/2024

Source: The Kobeissi Letter



#us #retail-sales

U.S. Retail Sales increased 2.6% over the last year and this number is taken positively by markets. Retail sales came in better than expecting indicating that consumers are still strong. Retail Sales month-over-month is the best number since January 2023.

There are few caveats though:

- 1) After adjusting for higher prices they were down 0.4%.
- 2) Both of these numbers are well below the historical averages of +4.6% nominal and +2.0% real.
- 3) Previous numbers were revised downward



CREATIVE PLANNING @CharlieBilello

Aug 15, 2024, 8:49 AM EDT Powered by YCHARTS

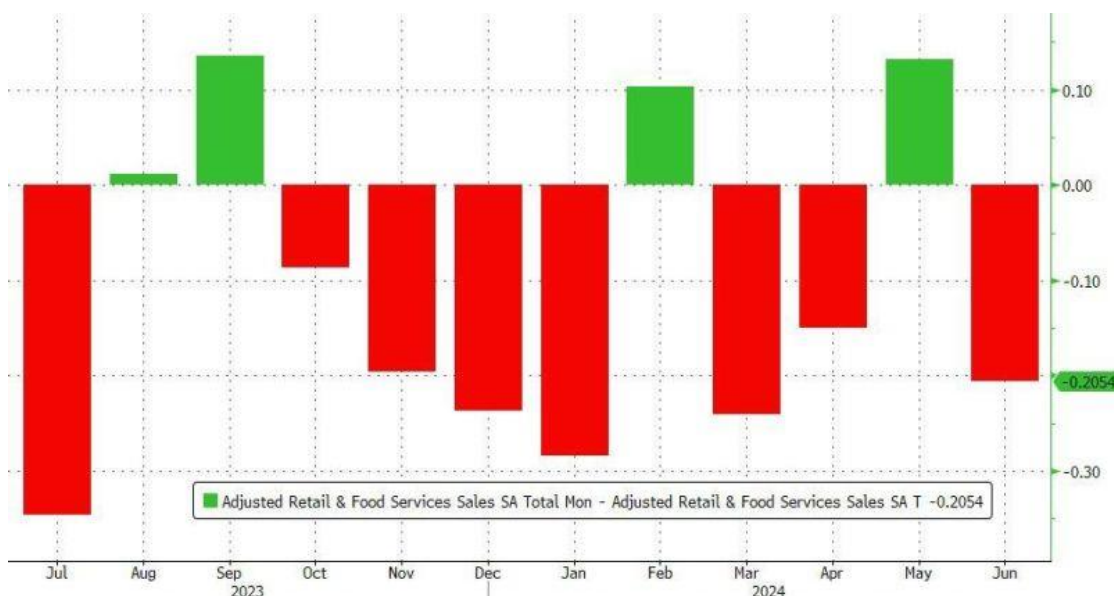
Source: Charlie Bilello





#us #retailsales

U.S. retail sales prior month revisions: red means down... Indeed, for the eighth month in the last year, the previous month's data was revised lower... thus making the current month 'beat' more impressive.

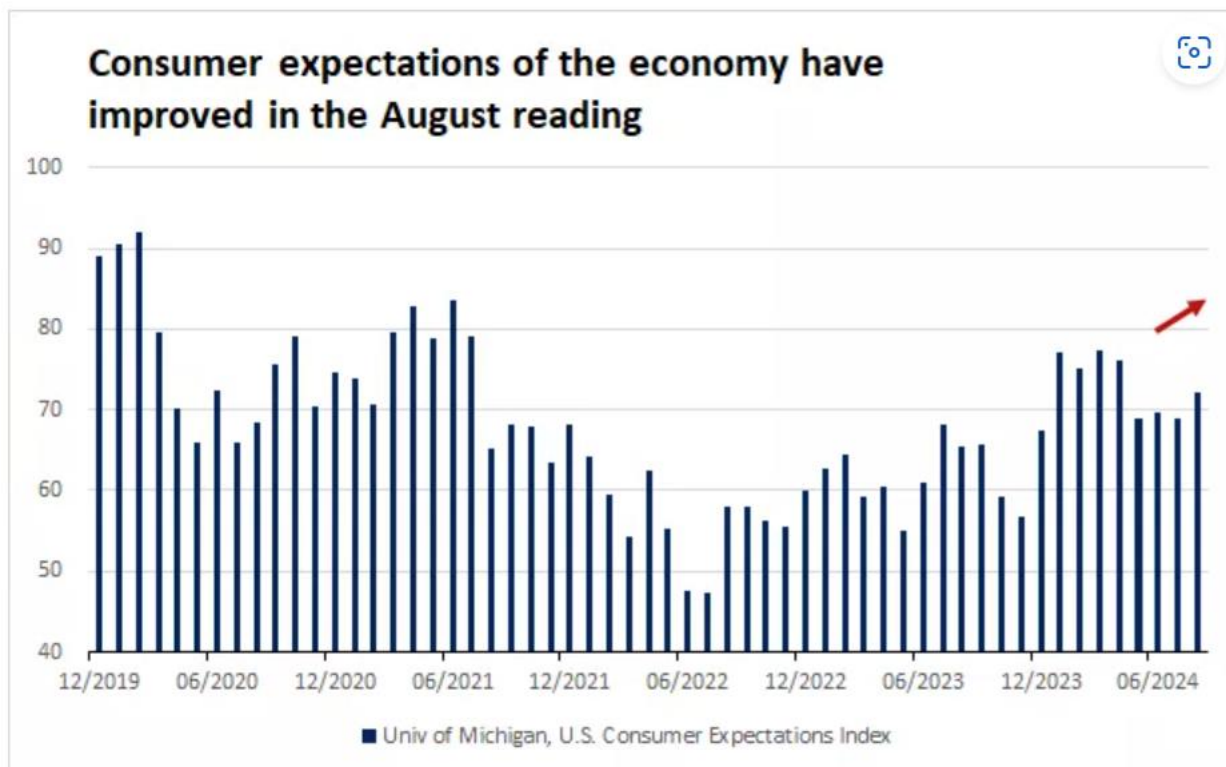


Source: www.zerohedge.com



#us #consumer #expectations

Better than expected retail sales data were accompanied later in the week by a strong University of Michigan consumer expectations figure, which came in at 72.1, versus forecasts of 68.51. Both sets of data point to a U.S. consumer that is still spending and remains relatively optimistic about the future.



Source: Bloomberg

Source: Edward Jones, Bloomberg



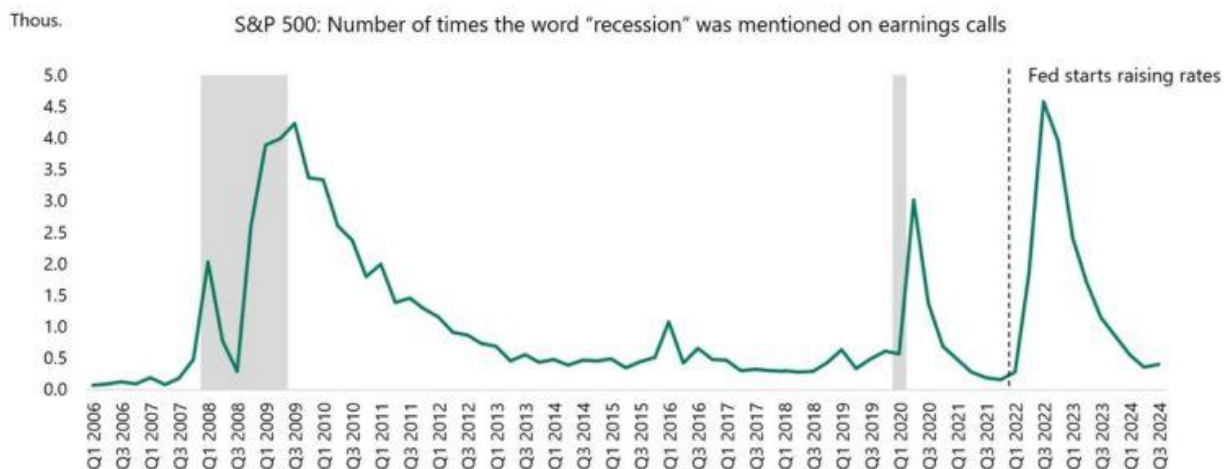


#us #recession #talks #companies

Torsten from Apollo: the reality is that firms on earnings calls talk less and less about recession.

APOLLO

Companies talk less and less about recession on earnings calls





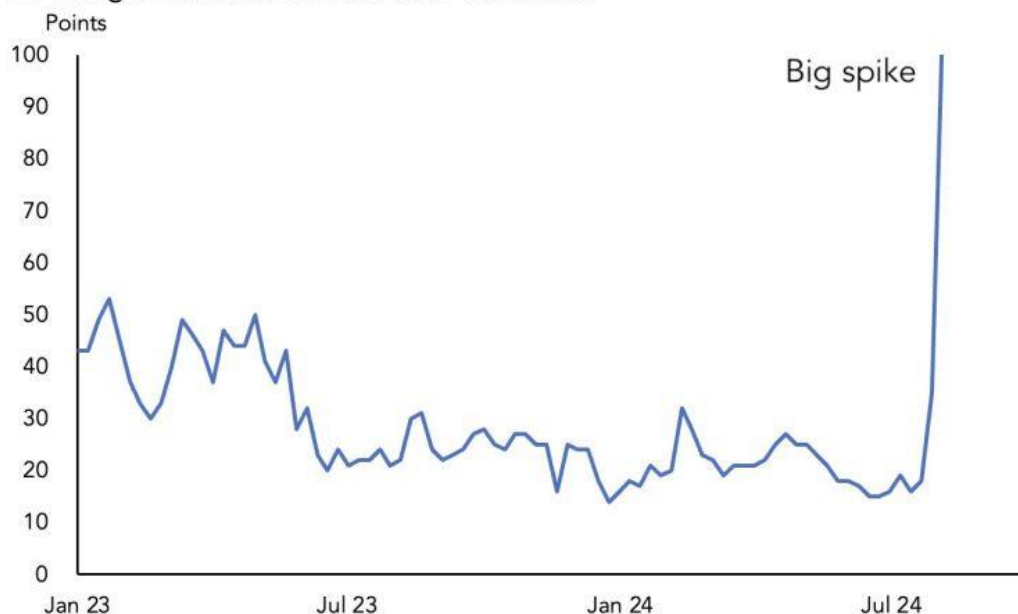
#us #recession #talks #google-searches

Recession is the talk of the town again. In just 1 week, recession searches have hit record levels.

"Recession" Searches Have Spiked



US Google Searches for the Term "Recession"



Dates: 2023 Through 11th August 2024.
Source: Google Trends, Game of Trades.

Source: Game of Trades

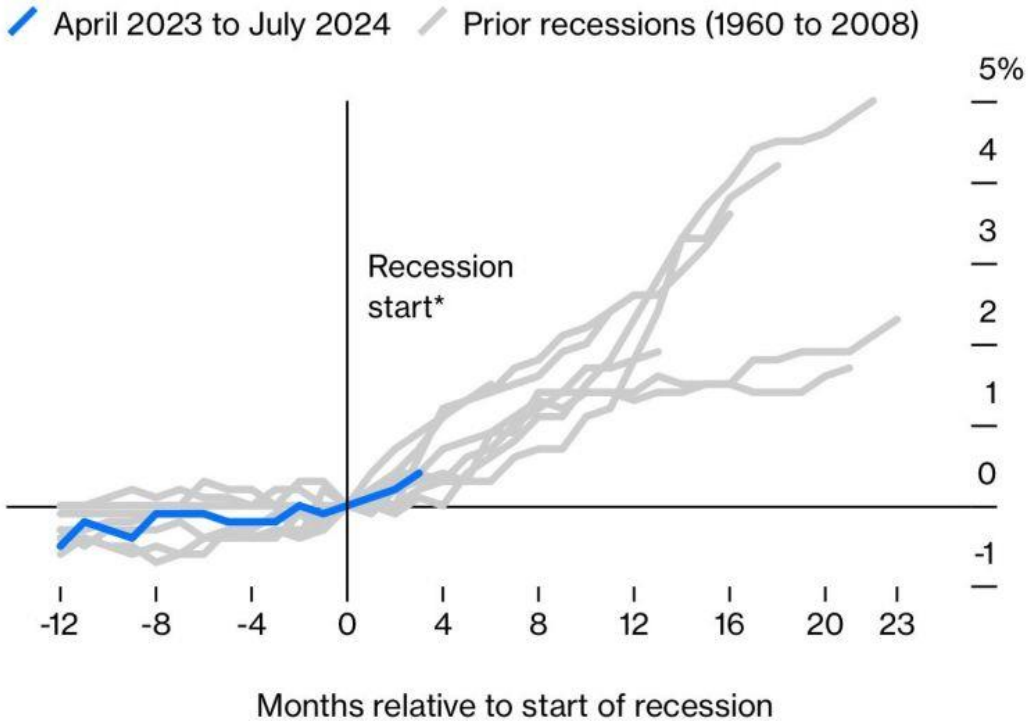


#macro

#unemployment #recession

Unemployment Rises Gradually, Then Suddenly

The increase in the unemployment rate tends to be smaller at the start of a recession, but it gets large quickly

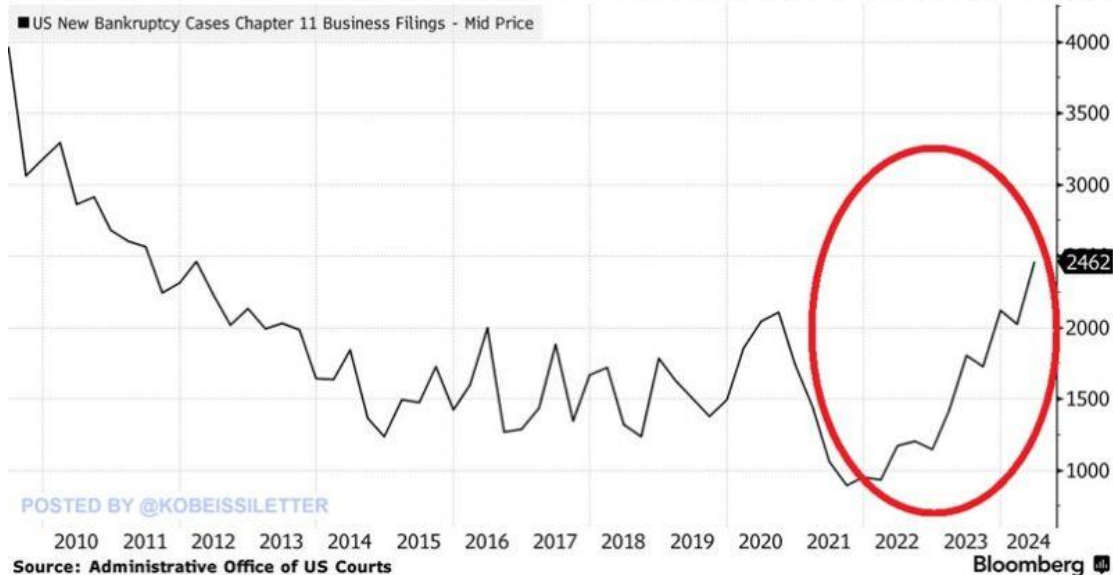




#us #bankruptcies #chapter11

BREAKING: The number of U.S. bankruptcies currently under Chapter 11 jumps to 2,462, the highest count in 13 years. A Chapter 11 filing involves court-supervised reorganization and allows a company to stay in business and restructure its finances and operations. These bankruptcies have more than DOUBLED in just 2 years. This comes after many companies have struggled to make their debt payments as the Fed raised interest rates to the highest level in 23 years.

Chapter 11 Filings Reach Highest Level in More Than a Decade

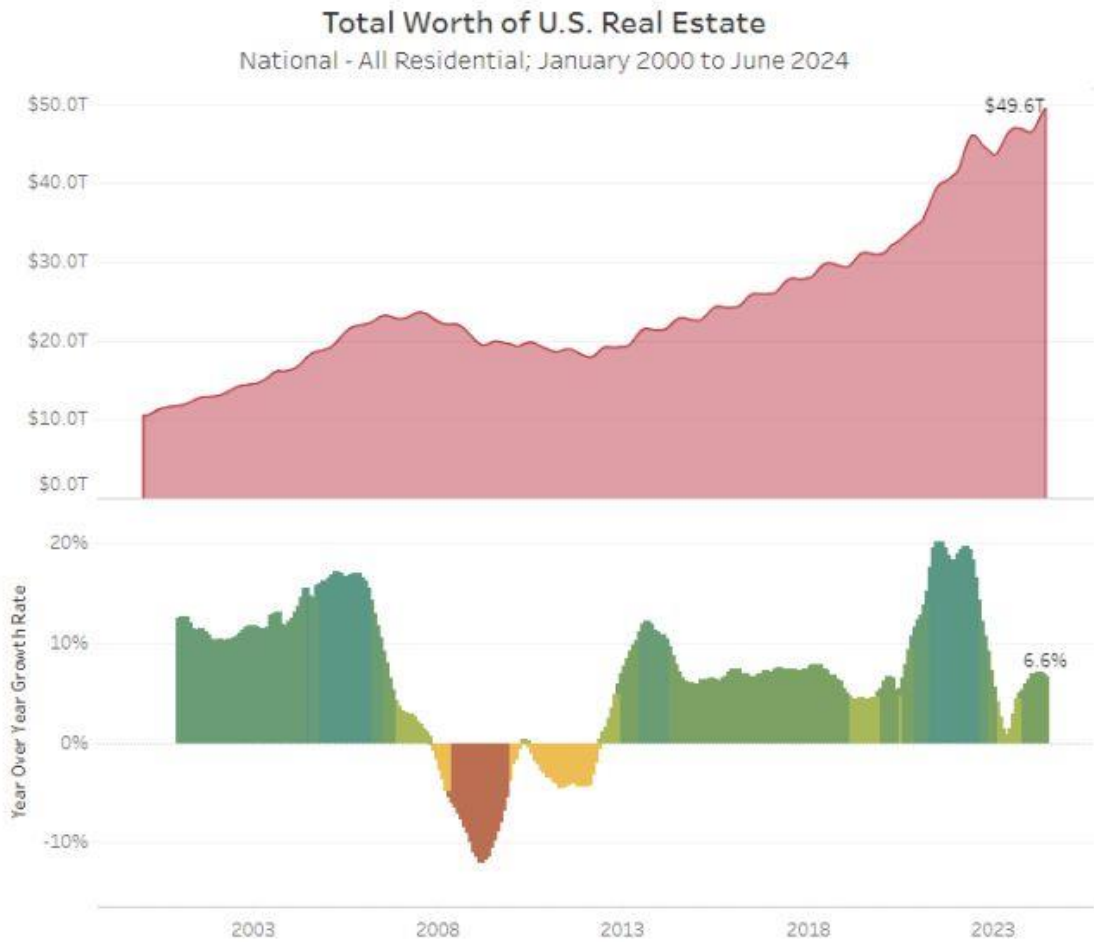


Source: Bloomberg, The Kobeissi Letter



#us #housing

Value of U.S. Housing Market hits all-time high of \$49.6 Trillion



Source: Redfin Home Value Estimates across more than 90 million properties;

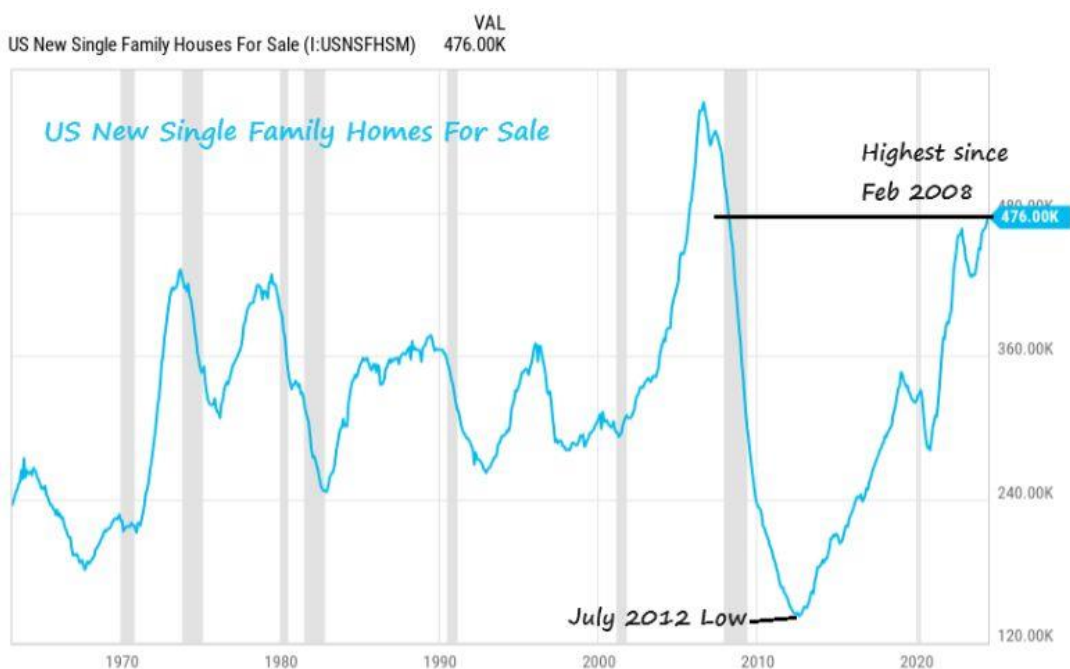
Source: Barchart





#us #housing

There are now 476,000 new homes for sale in the US, the highest inventory since February 2008.



CREATIVE PLANNING @CharlieBilello

Aug 15, 2024, 11:16 PM EDT Powered by YCHARTS

Source: Charlie Bilello

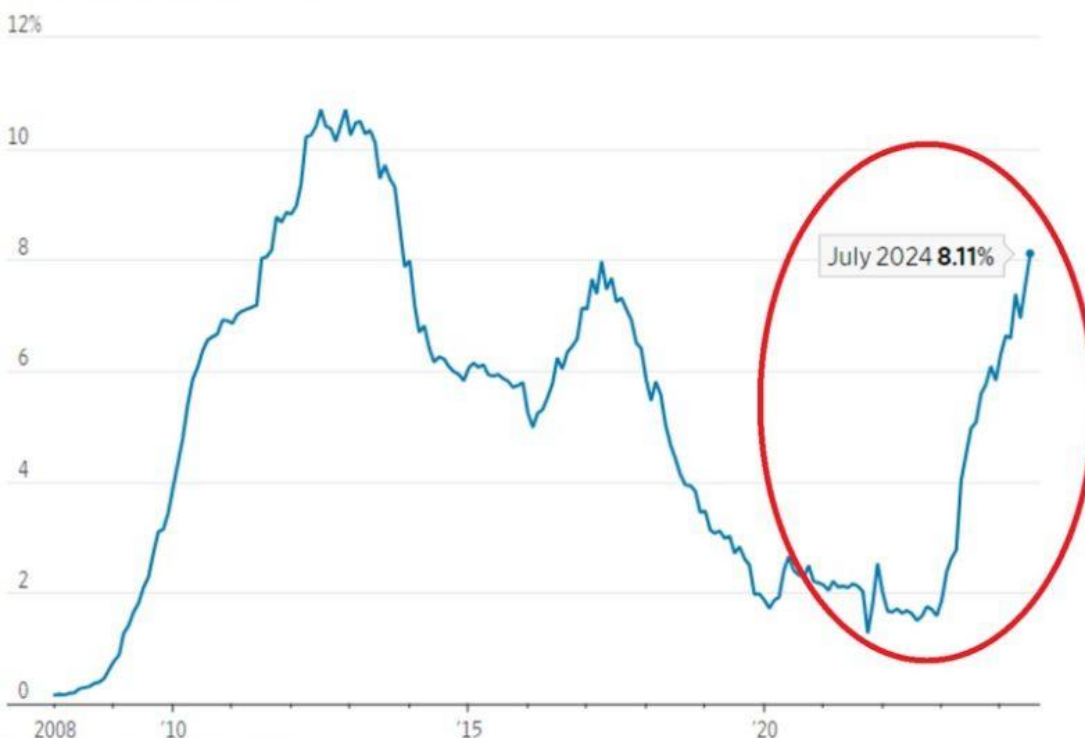




#cmbs #loans

The delinquency rate on commercial mortgage-backed securities (CMBS) for offices spiked to 8.1% in July, the highest in 11 years. The delinquency rate of office CMBS loans has QUADRUPLED in 1.5 years. Delinquencies are currently rising at a faster pace than during the 2008 Financial Crisis. A top AAA-rated CMBS experienced a \$40 million loss in May for the first time since the 2008 Financial Crisis.

Delinquency rate of Office CMBS loans



POSTED BY @KOBESSILETTER
Source: Trepp

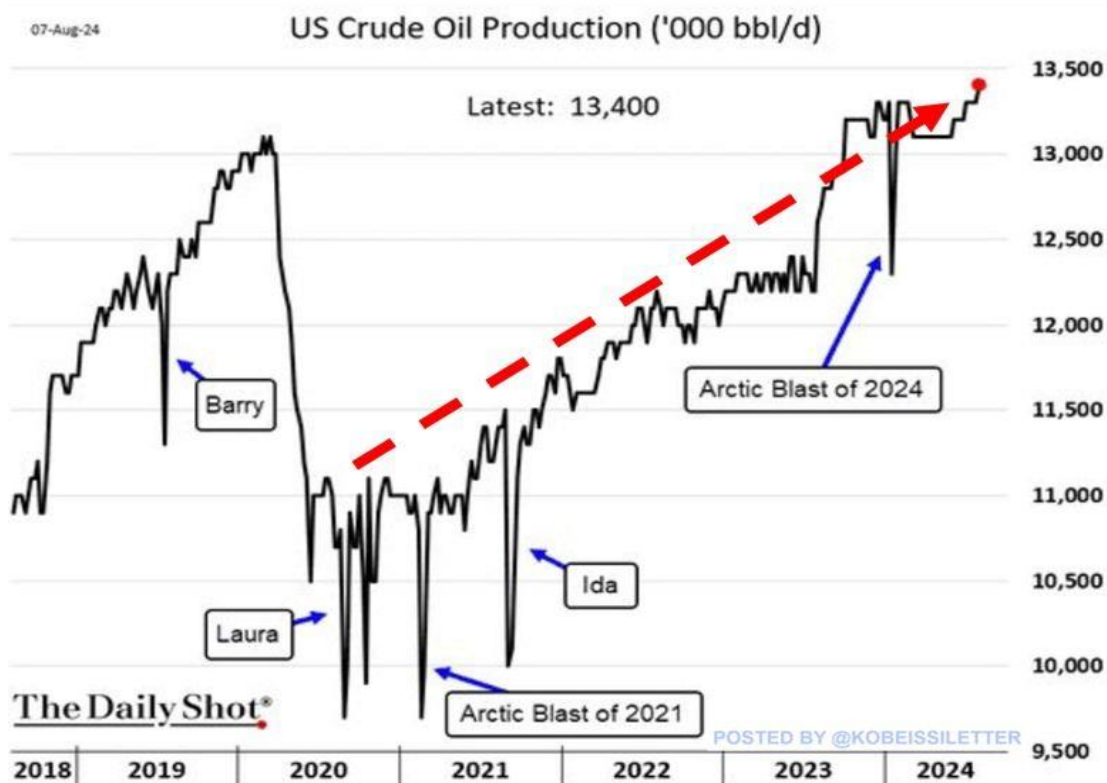
Source: The Kobeissi Letter





#us #oil

BREAKING: U.S. crude oil production has officially hit a record 13.4 million barrels per day. Daily oil production has increased by 22% over the last 4 years. Since 2008, production has skyrocketed 350% from ~3.8 million barrels per day. The US is now the world's largest oil producer, exceeding Russia's output by ~35% and Saudi Arabia by ~38%. The US is dominating global oil production.



Source: The Kobeissi Letter, The Daily Shot

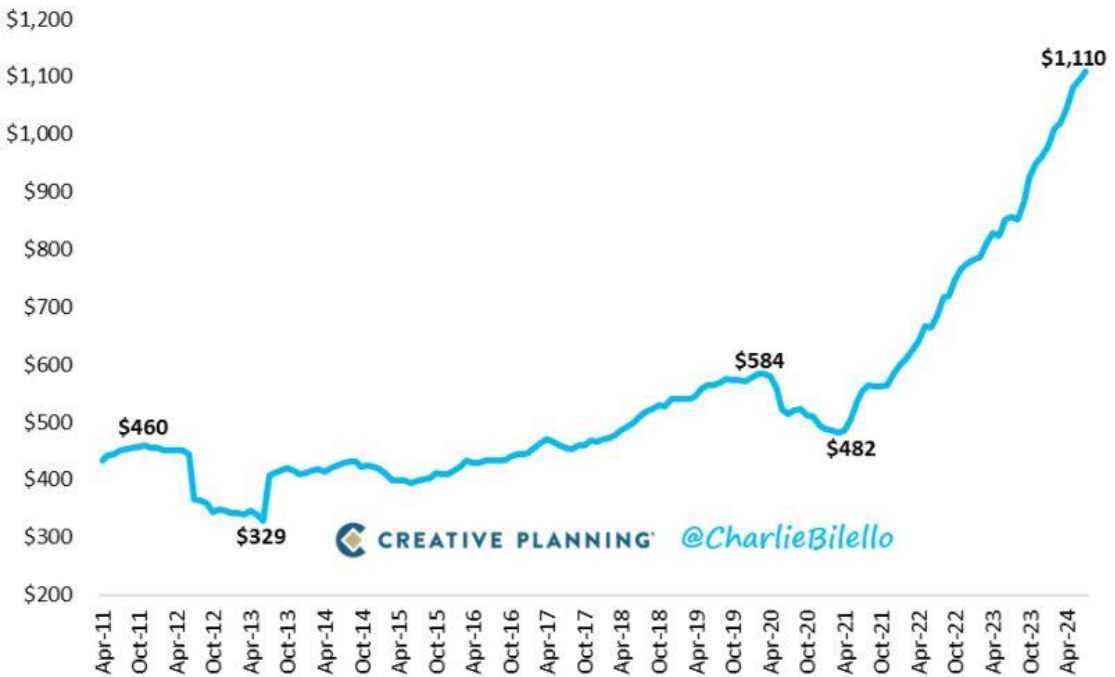




#us #debt

The Interest Expense on US Public Debt rose to a record \$1.11 trillion over the last 12 months, more than doubling over the past two years. At the current pace it will soon be the largest line item in the Federal budget, surpassing Social Security.

Interest Expense on US Public Debt Outstanding
(\$Billions, Trailing 12 Months, Through July 2024)



CREATIVE PLANNING @CharlieBilello

Source: Charlie Bilello



#macro

#china #housing

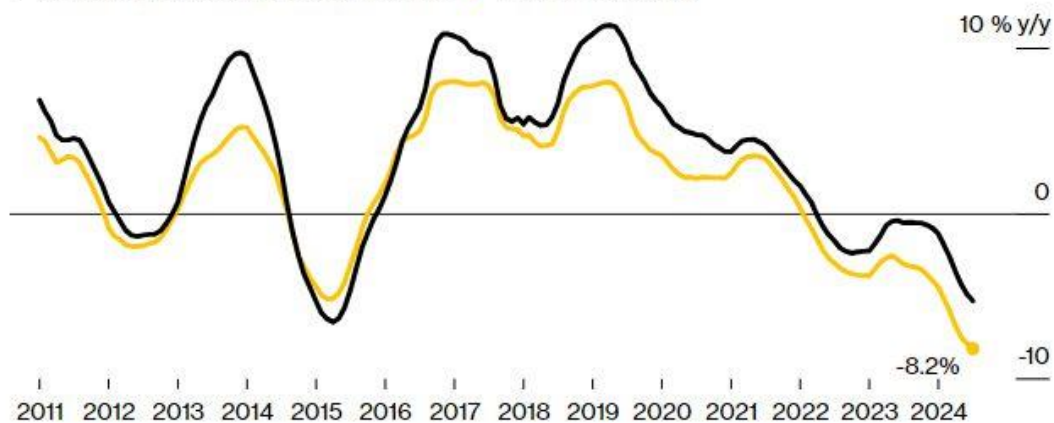
BREAKING 🚨 : China

Chinese Home Prices declined by the largest amount in history last month

Fall in Chinese Home Prices Got Worse in July

Secondhand homes prices fell record amount, dropped in all 70 surveyed cities

📄 Average prices of newly-built housing 📄 2nd-hand housing



Source: National Bureau of Statistics

Source: Barchart

#macro

#china #gdp #m1

The scariest China chart.

The scariest China chart



Sources: Bloomberg, GlobalData TS Lombard.



#euro #greece #wages

Before the euro, Greece, Italy, Spain were adjusting for their lower productivity via currency devaluations each year. Within the European currency union the only avenue left is adjusting via real wages pushing many people into poverty.



#geopolitics

#2024election #trump #harris

BREAKING: Prediction markets are now showing a 53% chance of Kamala Harris winning the 2024 election, according to Polymarket. These markets are different than polls in that the probabilities are based on real money wagers. In 2016, polls put odds of Hillary Clinton beating Trump at 70%, with some as high as 98%. Trump's victory in 2016 ended up resulting in one of the largest polling and election forecaster failures in history. Will prediction markets prove to be more or less accurate?

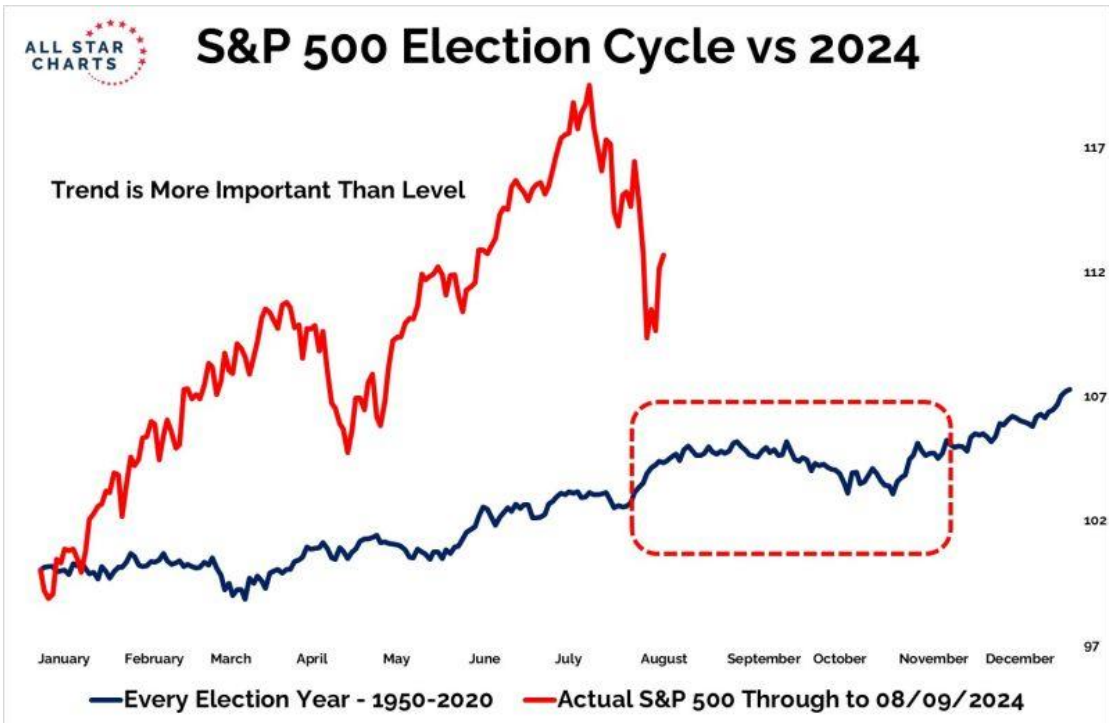


Source: The Kobeissi Letter

#geopolitics

#us #equities #sp500

On average with the 4-year cycle... the next few months are sideways at best...

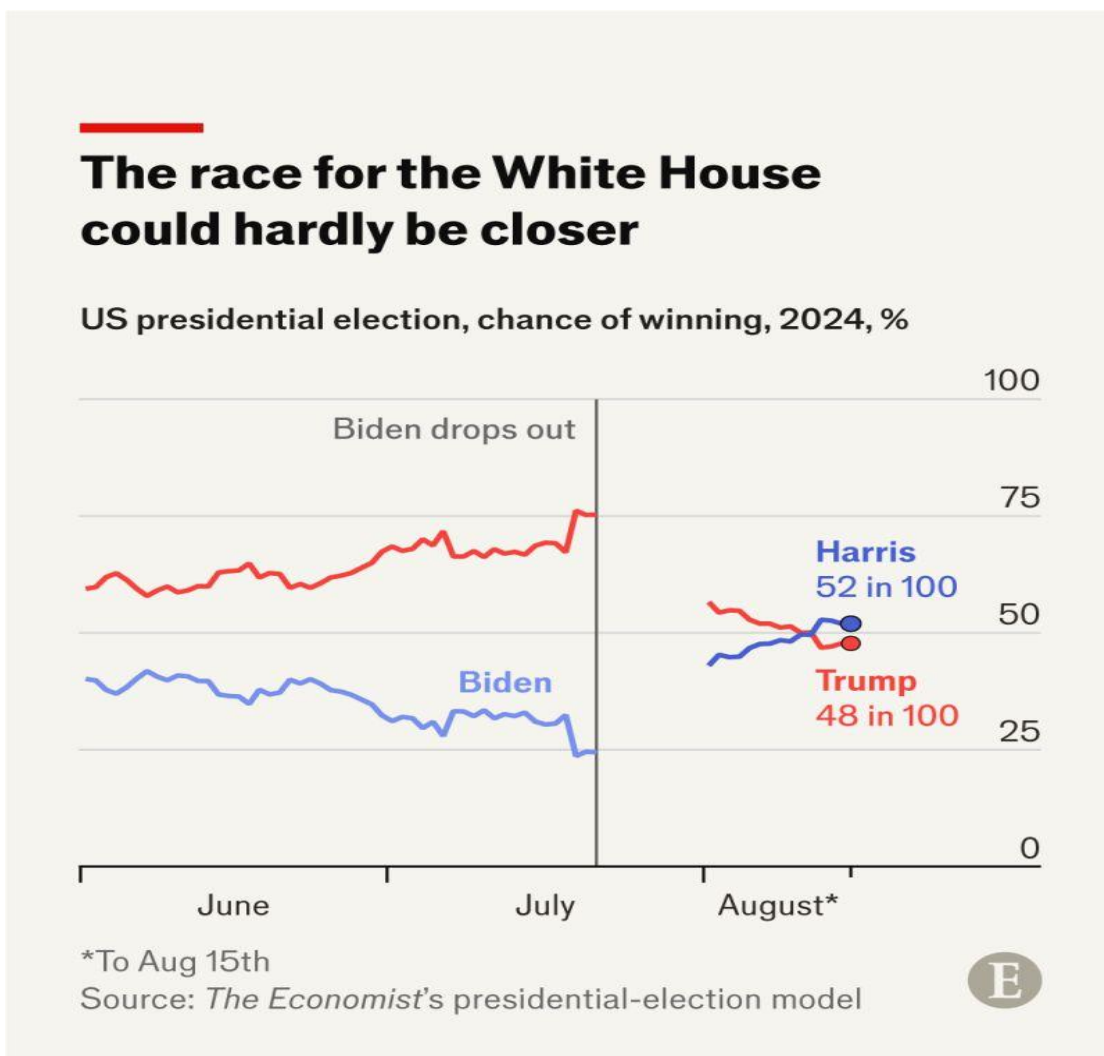


Source: Grant Hawkrige

#geopolitics

#2024election #trump #harris

The Economist revised forecast shows the presidential election between Kamala Harris and Donald Trump is, in effect, a toss-up.



Source: The Economist

#musk #trump #censoring

BREAKING: Elon Musk will interview Donald Trump at 8pm ET tonight on X. Ahead of the interview, the European Commission issued a letter to Elon Musk demanding that he CENSOR Donald Trump in their upcoming interview.



Source: www.zerohedge.com

#geopolitics

#elonmusk #eu #trump

The European Commission has denied that its internal market commissioner had approval from Ursula von der Leyen to send the letter, with one EU official saying, 'Thierry has his own mind and way of working and thinking'.

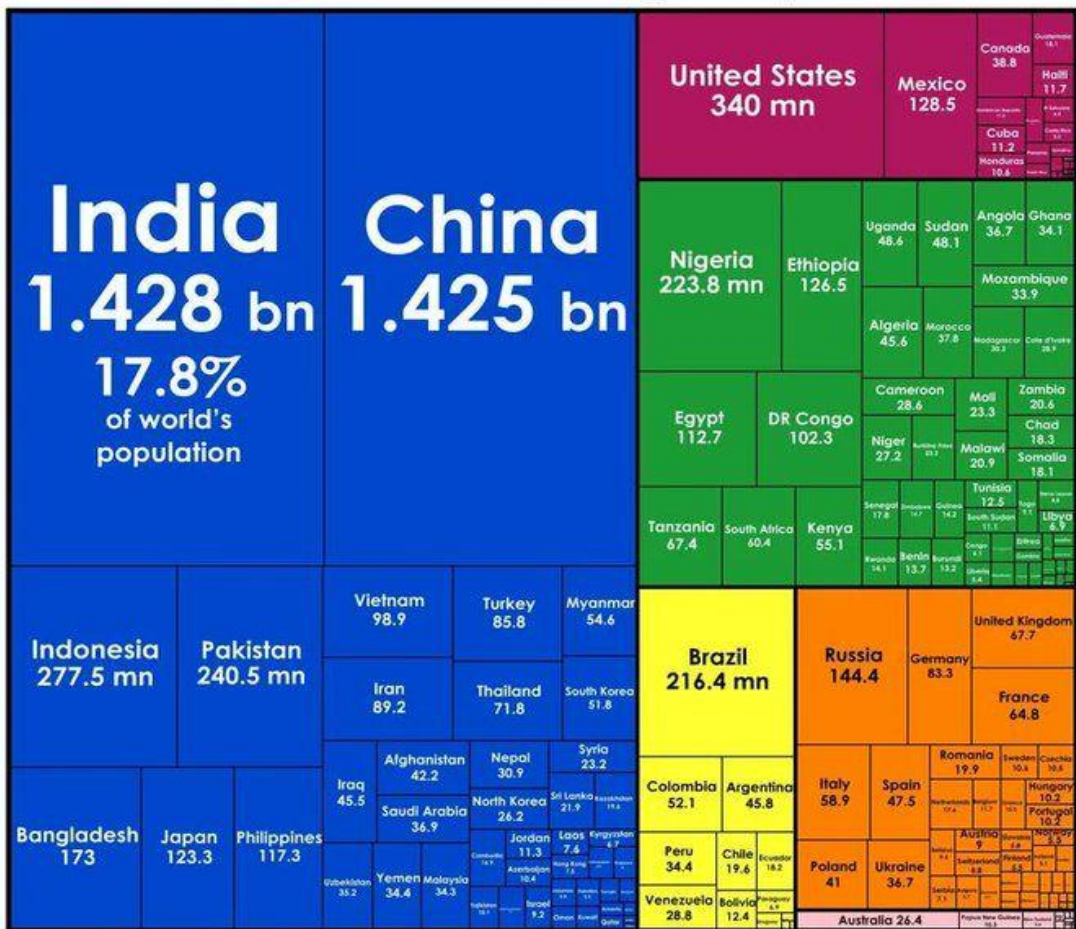


Source: FT

#geopolitics

#india #china #demography

Where do 8 billion people live?



Source: UN FPA, 2023

Asia Africa Europe North America South America Oceania

statsofindia.in

Source: statsofindia.in





#fed #rates #expectations

Better than expected US retail sales and jobless claims data sparked a hawkish drop in rate-cut expectations - back to pre-payrolls levels (less than 200bps of cuts to end-2025)...

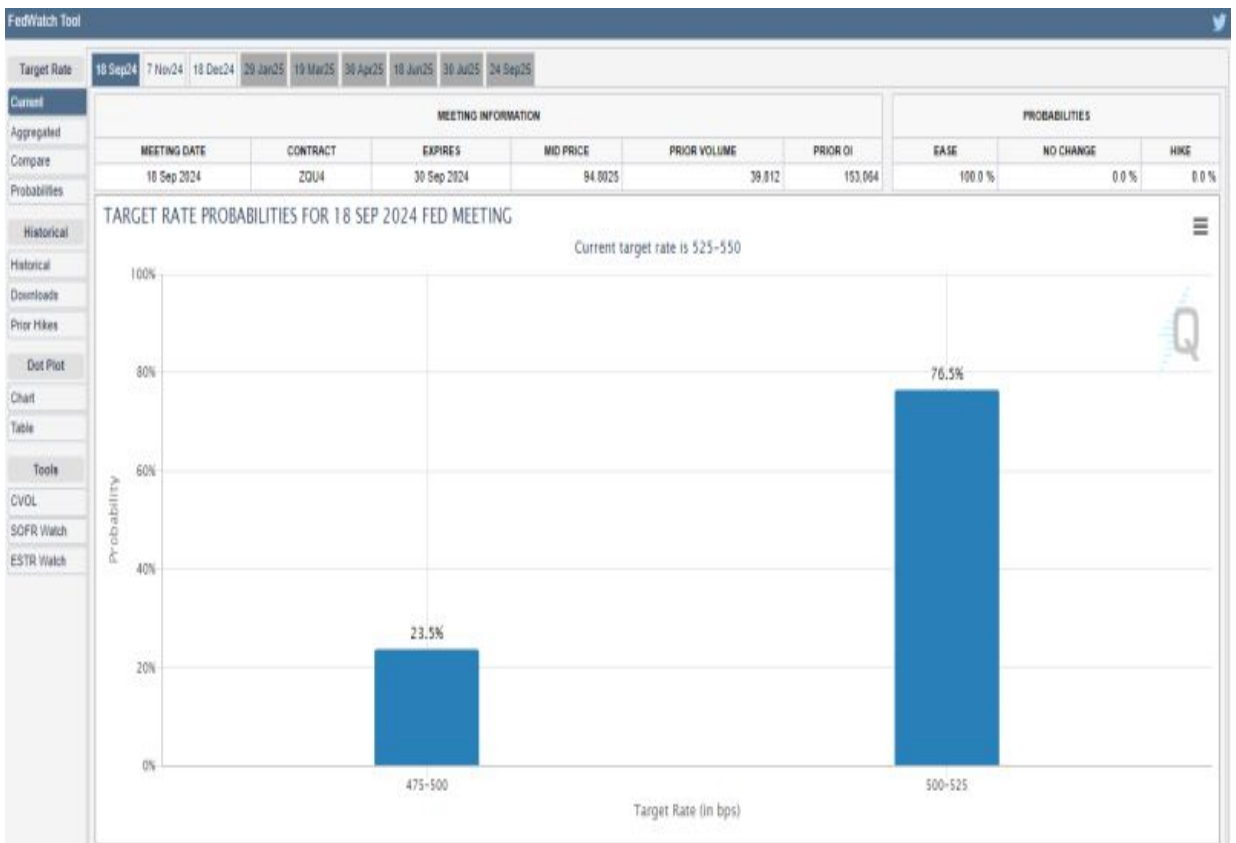


Source: www.zerohedge.com, Bloomberg



#fed #rates #expectations

JUST IN 🚨 : Odds of a 50 bps interest rate in September has plummeted to less than 25%.



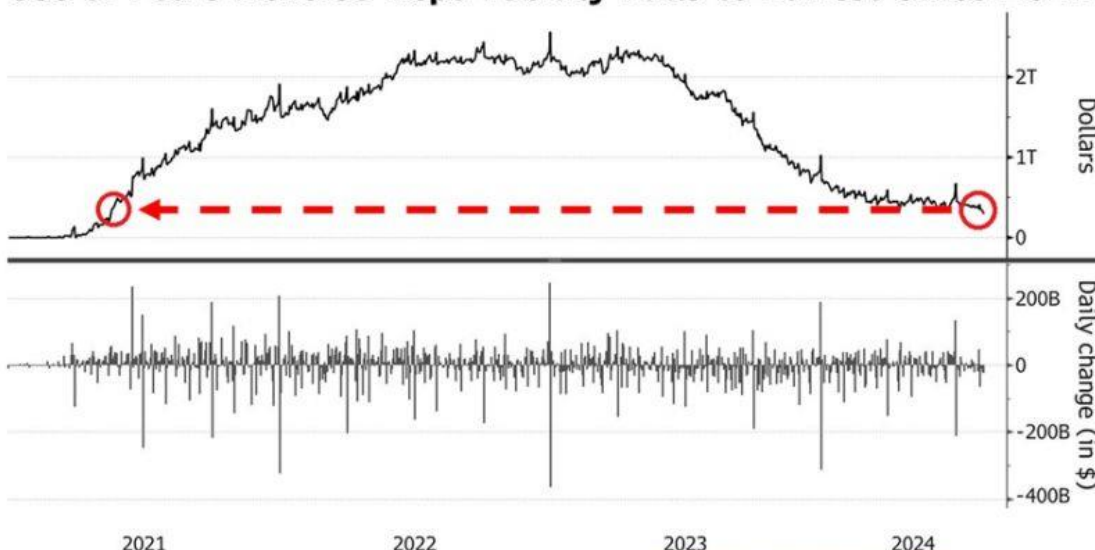
Source: Barchart

#centralbanks

#fed #reverse #repo

BREAKING: The Fed's Reverse Repo (RRP) facility has dropped below \$300 billion for the first time since 2021. The RRP is one of the financial system's excess liquidity metrics and is widely watched by investors. Large banks, government-sponsored enterprises, and money-market funds put their extra cash into the facility to earn interest on it. RRP usage has plummeted by \$2.3 TRILLION since December 2022. Over the last several months, however, the decline has stabilized and the facility usage has been oscillating around \$300-\$400 billion.

Use of Fed's Reverse Repo Facility Falls to Lowest Since 2021



Source: Federal Reserve Bank of New York

POSTED BY @KOBESSILETTER Bloomberg

Source: www.zerohedge.com, Bloomberg



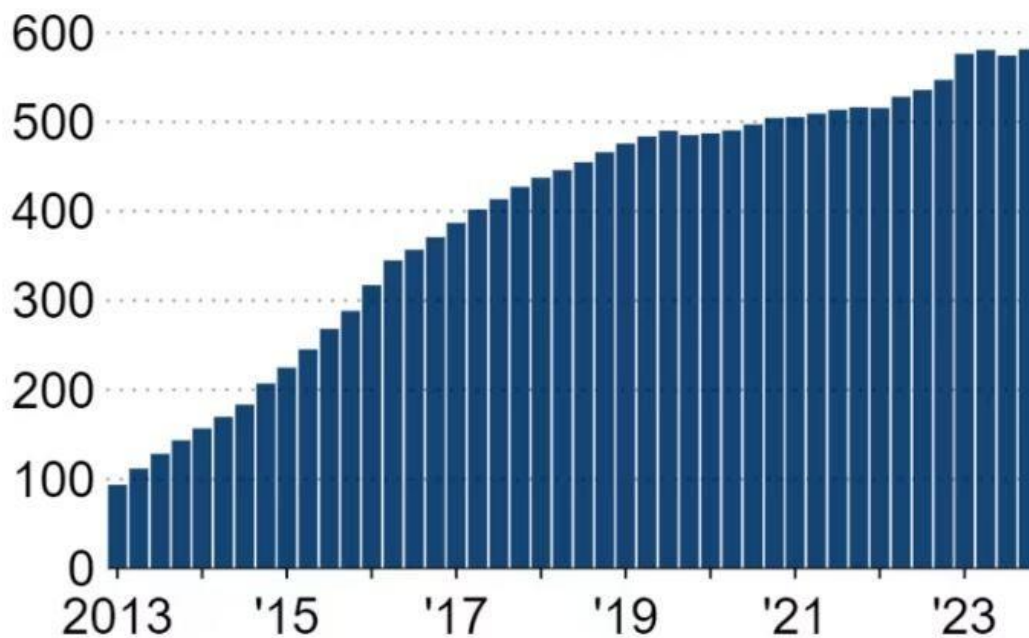
#centralbanks

#japan #boj

Bank of Japan owns ~80% of the country's ETFs and 7% of the entire Japanese stock market, according to Morningstar and the Tokyo Stock Exchange data. Moreover, the BoJ holds ~55% of the Japanese government bonds. Huge distortions 🙄

The BOJ's mountain of bonds

(JGB holdings, trillions of yen)



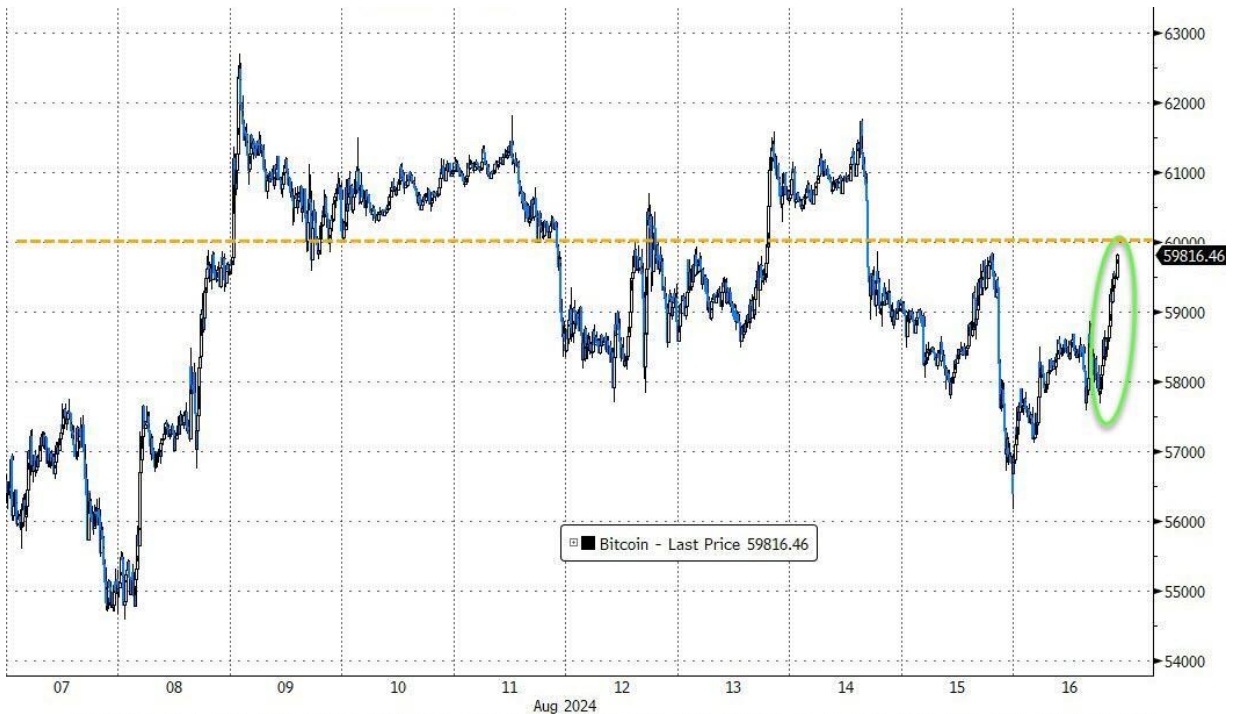
Source: Bank of Japan

Source: Global Markets Investor



#bitcoin #weekly

It has been another choppy week for crypto but Friday saw Bitcoin surging back up to \$60,000 to end the week unchanged.



Source: Ecoinometrics



#bitcoin #post-halving

Bitcoin has dipped below its historical post-halving growth trajectory range. If it returns to this range before year-end, we're looking at a high likelihood of a six-figure value for one BTC.

Bitcoin's growth trajectory after the 4th halving

What if Bitcoin's growth after the 4th halving follows the same pattern as the previous cycles?

Well assuming the same growth rate as the past three cycles we would expect one BTC to be worth anywhere between \$140,000 and \$4,500,000 per coin starting from \$63,000.

With the recent correction Bitcoin has dipped below the historical range.



Notes: updated August 10, 2024
Source: Coinmetrics
By: @ecoinometrics, ecoinometrics.substack.com

Ecoinometrics

Source: Ecoinometrics



#bitcoin #top #holders

Bitcoin ETFs on track to surpass the Satoshi stack by the end of 2024 🤖

List Of Top 11 Bitcoin Holders In The World		
1)		Satoshi Nakamoto 1.1 million
2)		Binance Exchange 550,133
3)		Blackrock (IBIT) 347,767
4)		Grayscale (Total *1) 263,801
5)		Microstrategy 226,500
6)		Bitfinex Exchange 221,315
7)		US Government 213,246
8)		Chinese Government 190,000
9)		Fidelity (FBTC) 176,626
10)		Block One 164,000
11)		Robinhood 139,144
US ETFs Combined (excluding Grayscale)		909,700 (645,899)

Source: Bitcoin news

#cryptos

#metamask #mastercard #debit

MetaMask Debit Mastercard Lets Crypto Users Spend From Self-Custody Wallets. MetaMask has partnered with Mastercard to launch a new debit card that connects directly to users' self-custody wallets, allowing them to make crypto payments anywhere Mastercard is accepted. The MetaMask Card will initially be available in a limited pilot program for users in the EU and UK, with plans to expand to additional regions in the future. Users can convert their crypto to fiat currency at the moment of transaction to complete purchases.



Source: Decrypt

#cryptos

#MSTX #bitcoin-proxy #etfs

Wall Street Just Got Its Most Volatile ETF as Risky Bets Boom. Defiance, a \$1.4 billion asset manager, on Thursday launched the Defiance Daily Target 1.75X Long MSTR ETF under the ticker MSTX. The fund looks to offer daily leveraged returns on MicroStrategy Inc. The stock, which has been seen as a Bitcoin proxy because of the company's holdings of the digital token, has a 90-day volatility of about 97%. That would likely make the new ETF the most volatile in the US, according to Bloomberg Intelligence. Defiance ETFs warns that the fund is riskier and requires active monitoring and management.



Source: Bloomberg

#food-for-thought

#buffett #emotions

“Until you can manage your emotions, don’t expect to manage money.”

-Warren Buffett



Source: Matt Allen @investmattallen on X

#food-for-thought

#norway #wealth-fund

Norway’s massive sovereign wealth fund on Wednesday posted first-half profit of 1.48 trillion kroner (\$138 billion), primarily driven by robust returns on its investments in technology stocks. The so-called Government Pension Fund Global — the world’s largest sovereign wealth fund — said it had a value of 17.75 trillion kroner at the end of June. The fund’s overall return for the six-month period was 8.6%, which was 0.04 percentage points lower than the return on its benchmark index.

World’s largest sovereign wealth fund posts \$138 billion in first-half profit as AI demand boosts tech

PUBLISHED WED, AUG 14 2024 4:31 AM EDT

Sam Meredith
@SAMUELMEREDITH
@SMEREDITHS

SHARE f X in

KEY POINTS

- Nicolai Tangen, CEO of Norges Bank Investment Management, said on Wednesday that equity investments gave a “very strong” return in the first half of the year.
- “The result was mainly driven by the technology stocks, due to increased demand for new solutions in artificial intelligence,” Tangen said in a statement.



The Norges Bank, Norway’s central bank, in Oslo, Norway, on Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2023. Bloomberg / Bloomberg / Getty Images

Source: CNBC

#food-for-thought

#norway #wealth-fund

Norway's \$1.7 trillion sovereign wealth fund pared its stakes in Meta Platforms, Novo Nordisk and ASML — all among its top 10 holdings — during the first half of the year. Norges Bank Investment Management has traditionally given an annual update on the contents of its portfolio, but will do so twice a year going forward. Apple, Microsoft and Nvidia were its three biggest equity investments at the end of June.

Markets

Norway's \$1.7 Trillion Fund Trims Meta, Novo and ASML Stakes

- Sovereign wealth fund releases updated list of equity holdings
- Apple, Microsoft and Nvidia are now its top three investments

Source: Bloomberg

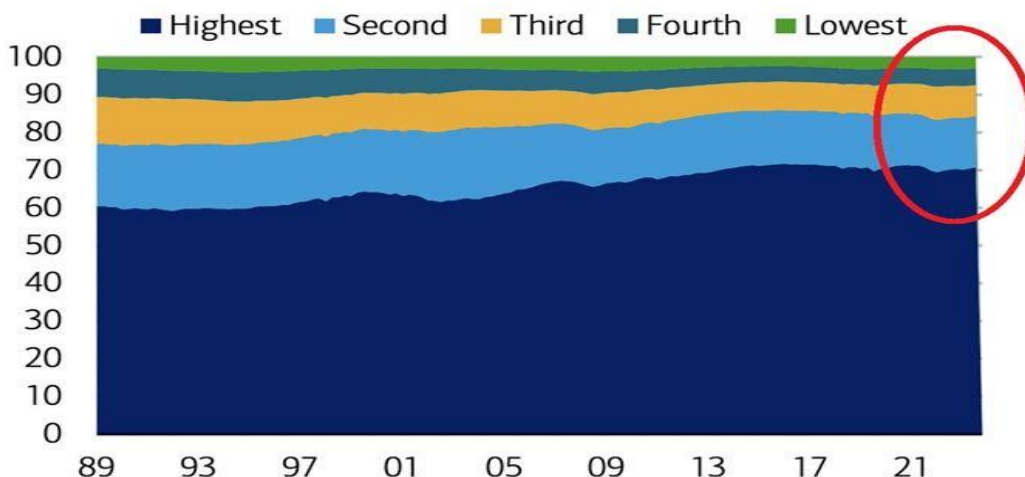
#food-for-thought

#us #wealth

The rich are getting richer faster than ever before: The top 40% of US income earners hold 83% of the total net worth, near an all-time record. The top 20% account for 71% of the total net worth, up 10 percentage points over the last 2 decades. On the other hand, the bottom 40% of income households hold only 8% of the wealth. Moreover, the bottom 20% of earners reflect just 3% of total US wealth. Over the last few years, the rich have gotten a lot richer. Most consumers are struggling.

Exhibit 11: The top quintile of income earners held 71% of net wealth s of 1Q 24

Share of net wealth by income quintile



Source: FRB, BofA Global Research


POSTED BY @KOBESSILETTER
BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

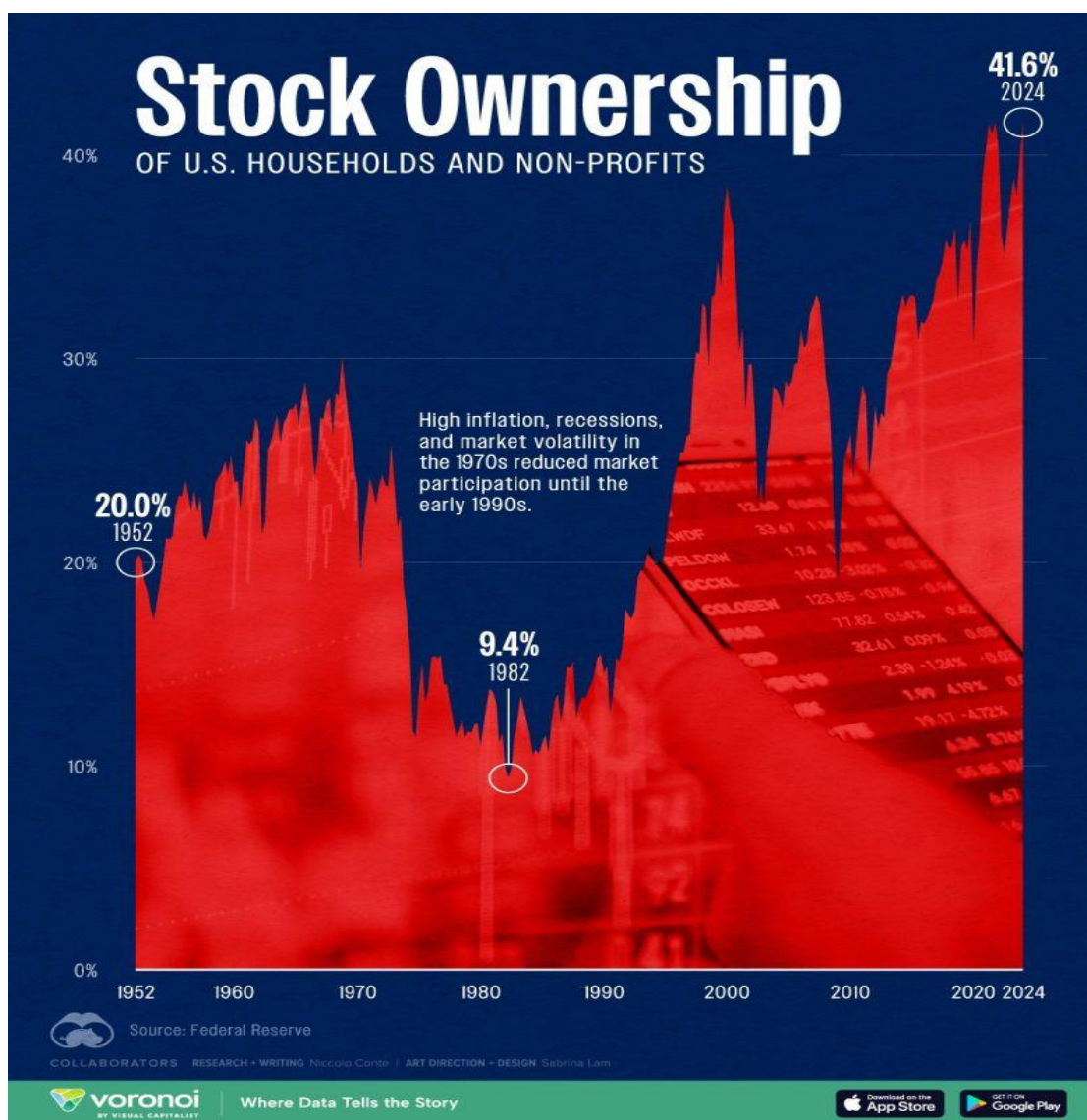
Source: The Kobeissi Letter, BofA



#food-for-thought

#us #stocks

American stock ownership is back at all-time highs 



Source: Markets & Mayhem, Visual Capitalist

#food-for-thought

#monetary #assets

Top monetary assets worldwide

Rank	Top money	USD value
+ 1	Gold	\$14.81 trillion
+ 2	United States	\$5.88 trillion
+ 3	Eurozone	\$5.74 trillion
+ 4	China	\$5.17 trillion
+ 5	Japan	\$4.65 trillion
+ 6	Bitcoin	\$1.19 trillion
+ 7	United Kingdom	\$1.13 trillion
+ 8	Silver	\$0.85 trillion
+ 9	Switzerland	\$0.62 trillion
+ 10	India	\$0.56 trillion
+ 11	Australia	\$0.29 trillion
+ 12	Russia	\$0.29 trillion
+ 13	Hong Kong	\$0.25 trillion

Source: Porkopolis Economics

#food-for-thought

#history #stockmarkets

The World's Largest Stock Markets (1900 vs. 2023).

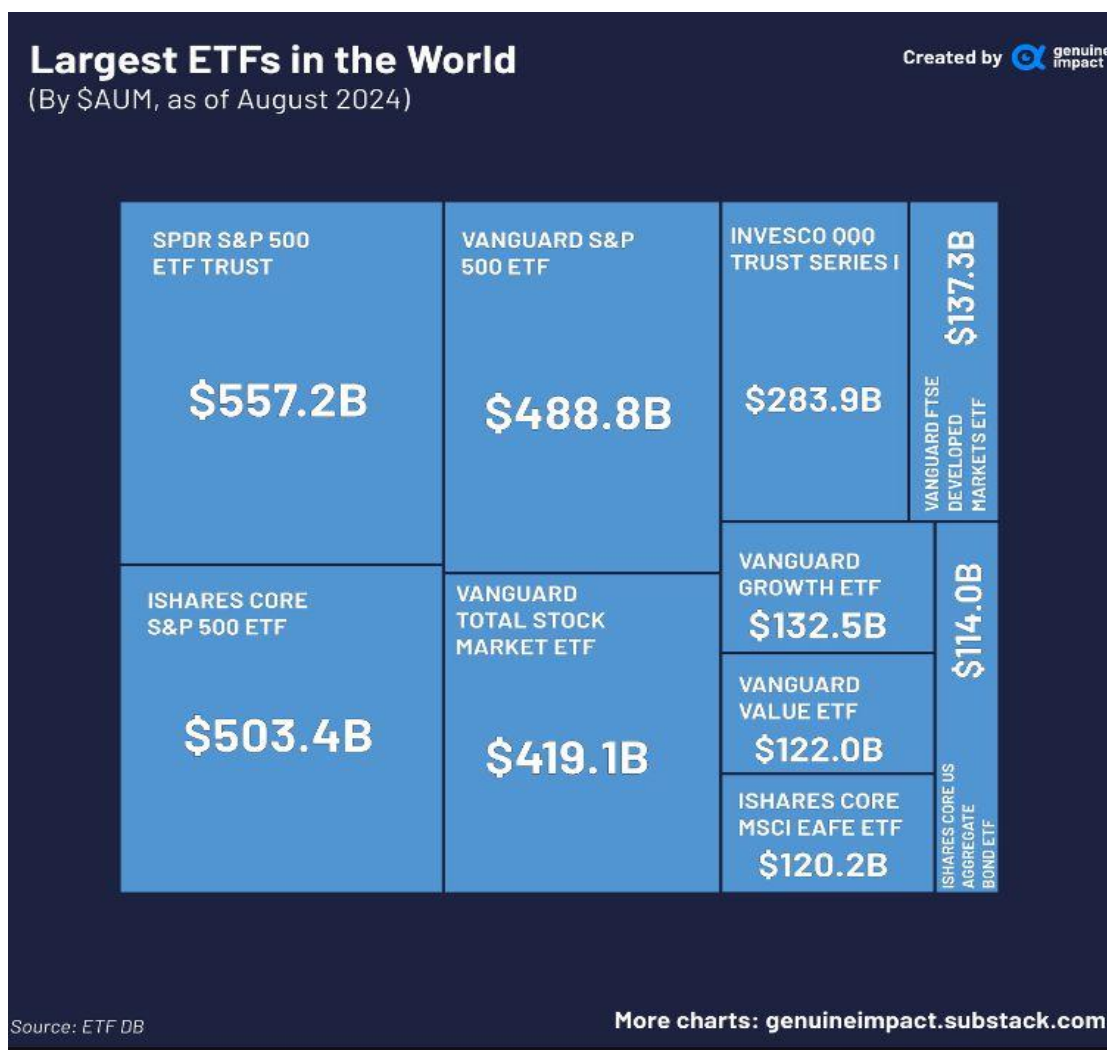


Source: Visual Capitalist

#food-for-thought

#sp500 #etfs

Top ETFs by Assets Under Management (AUM). These ETFs are not just large; they represent a significant portion of global equity markets.



Source: Genuine Impact

#food-for-thought

#AI #google #workfromhome

Eric Schmidt, ex-CEO at Google \$GOOGL, said his former company is losing the AI race and remote work is to blame – WSJ. “Google decided that work-life balance and going home early and working from home was more important than winning”.

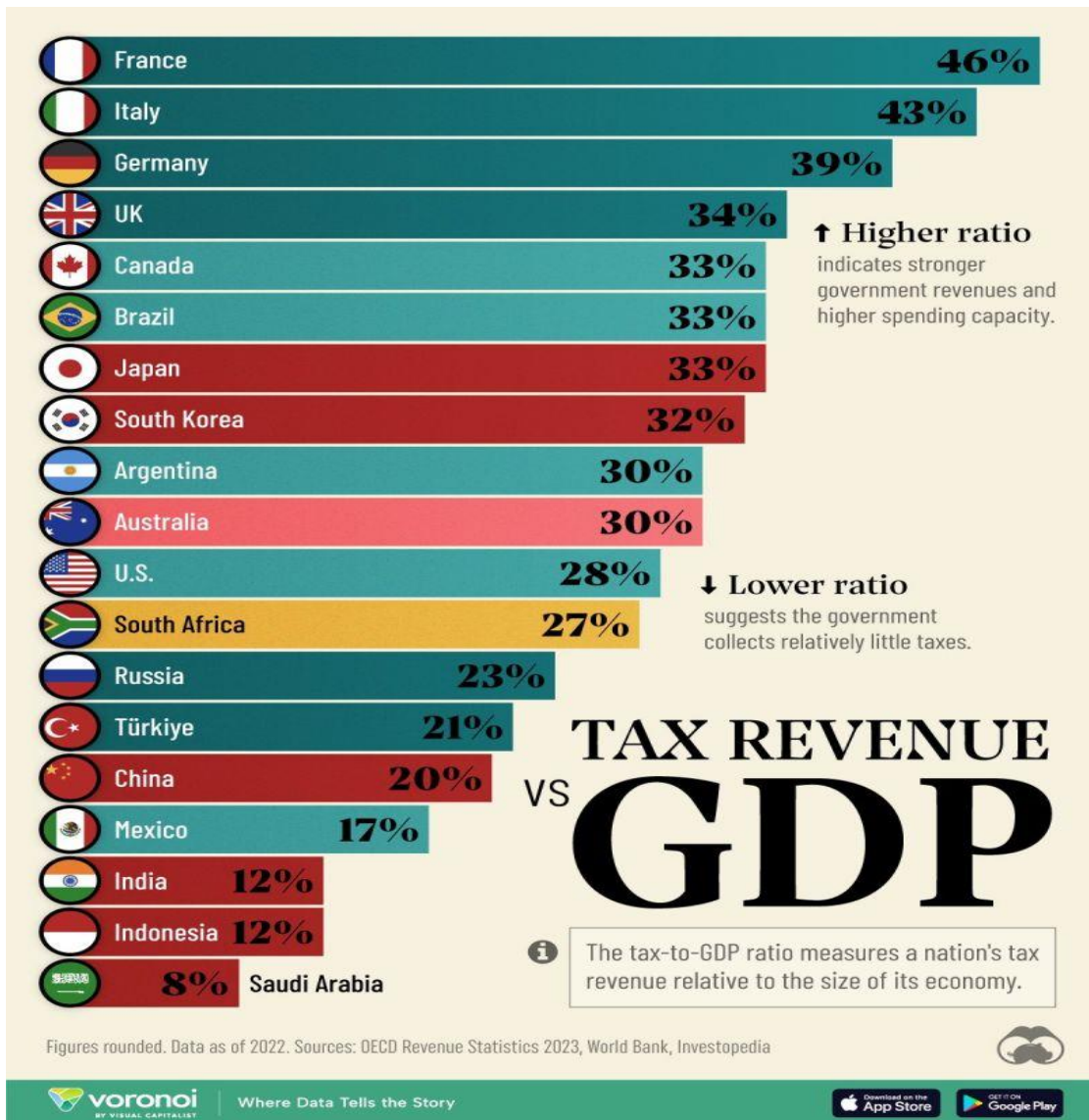


Source: Evan

#food-for-thought

#tax-to-gdp #ranking

Tax Revenue vs. GDP for Major Countries.



#food-for-thought

#gold #production

Visualizing Global Gold Production in 2023.



Source: Elements

#food-for-thought

#cobalt #production

Cobalt is a critical mineral used in numerous commercial, industrial, and military applications. In recent years, it has gained attention as it is also necessary for batteries used in cell phones, laptops, and electric vehicles (EVs). The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) accounts for 74% of the world's cobalt output. Of the 11,000,000 metric tons of worldwide reserves, it is estimated that 6,000,000 metric tons are located in the DRC.



#food-for-thought

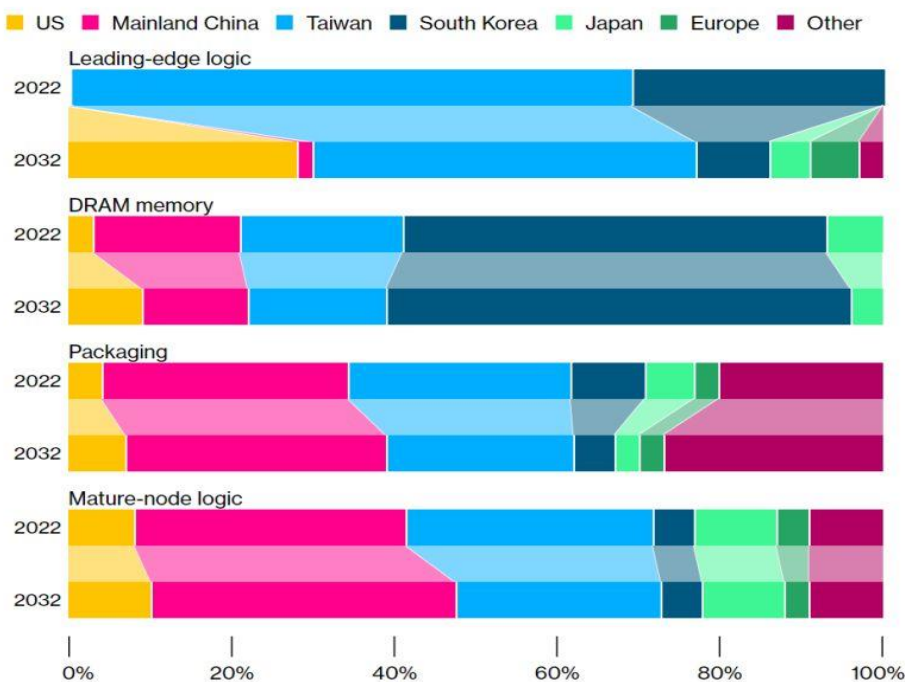
#us #semiconductors #chips #reshoring

🤖 – U.S. Chips Act is reshaping global semiconductor landscape

- America looks set to produce around one-third of global supply for leading-edge chips by 2032
- U.S. rise will come at expense of South Korea, which could become minor player for top-notch chips

US Gains Ground in Global Chip Market

Its share of worldwide fab capacity is projected to reach 14% by 2032, up from 10% today. It would have slid to 8% without the Chips Act.



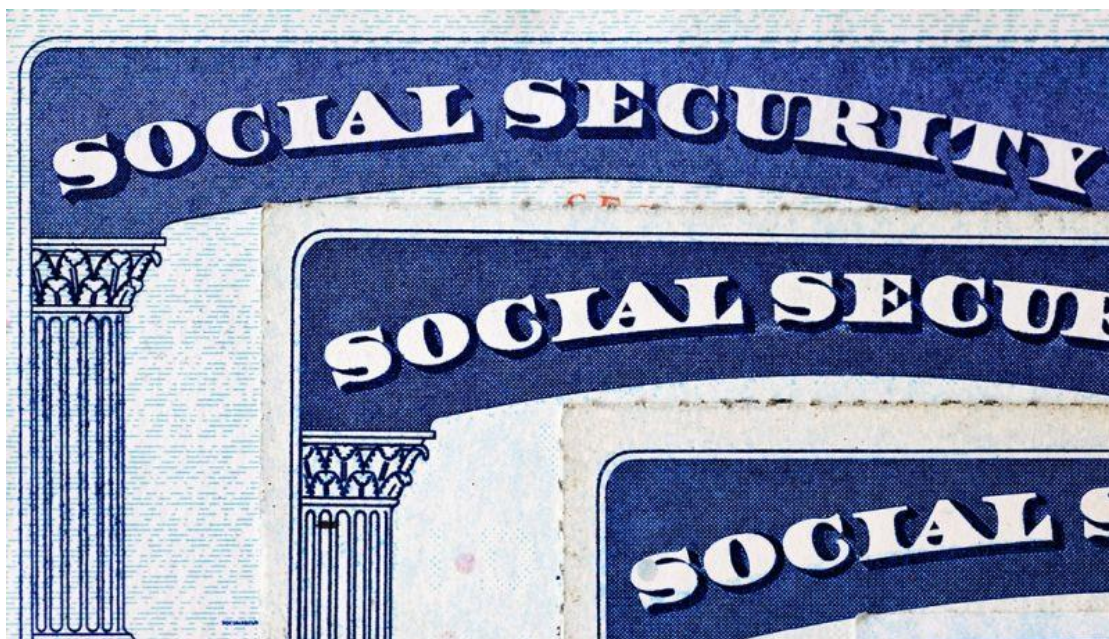
Sources: Semiconductor Industry Association, Boston Consulting Group
 Note: 2032 data represents SIA forecasts. Leading-edge logic is defined as below 10 nanometers; mature-node logic is defined as 28 nm or above. US production plans include other technologies not represented here.

Source: Agathe Demarais

#food-for-thought

#us #hackers

BREAKING >>> Hackers have reportedly stolen Social Security numbers of EVERY American from National Public Data, according to the Los Angeles Times. 2.9 billion people's data was reportedly stolen.



Source: Stocktwits

#food-for-thought

#socialmedia #regulations #FTC

FTC bans fake online reviews, inflated social media influence; rule takes effect in October. The Federal Trade Commission voted unanimously to ban marketers from using fake reviews, such as those generated with AI technology, and other misleading advertising practices. The ban also forbids marketers from exaggerating their own influence by, for example, paying for bots to inflate their follower count. With the concurrent rise of e-commerce, influencer marketing and generative AI, more advertisers are turning to automated chatbots such as ChatGPT to quickly generate user reviews for products sold online.



Source: NBC

#food-for-thought

#airlines #wizzair

A new fee model airlines? WIZZ AIR LAUNCHES \$550 'ALL YOU CAN FLY' ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION PASS. Travelers in Europe can now take unlimited flights for 499 euros (\$550) a year, under a new travel subscription service from budget carrier Wizz Air. The introductory fee will be available until Aug. 16 before the price rises to 599 euros.

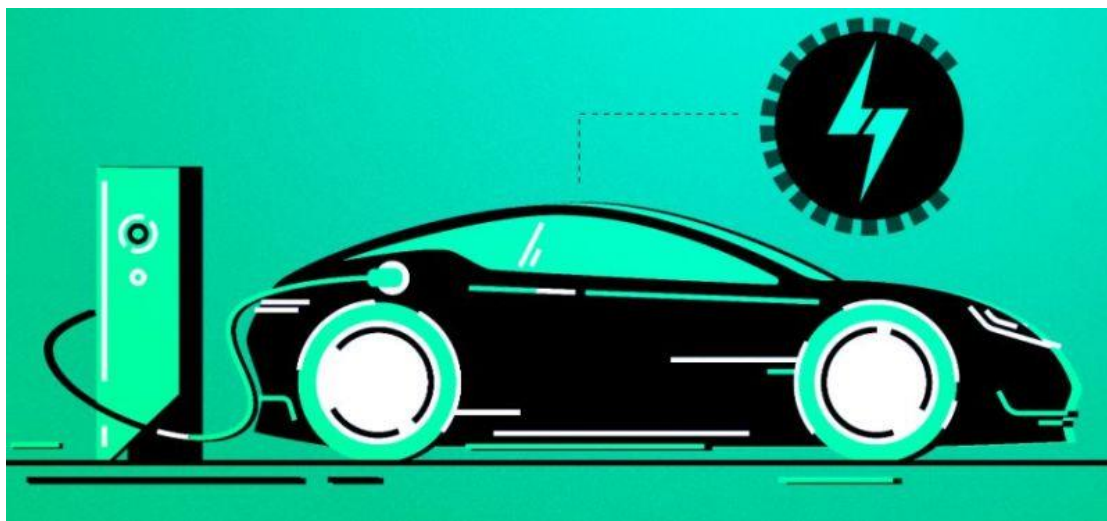


Source: Source CNBC, Evan on X

#food-for-thought

#china #hybrid #cars

More than half of new cars sold in China are now electric or hybrid. For the first time in China, new energy vehicles have outsold traditional fuel-powered passenger cars on a monthly basis, according to China Passenger Car Association data for July. New energy vehicles include battery-only and hybrid-powered cars. The category accounted for 51% of new passenger cars sold in China last month, according to a release late Thursday. That's up from a penetration rate of 36% exactly a year ago, and a dip below one-third in January, according to CNBC calculations of passenger car association data.



#food-for-thought

#olympics2024

Athletes from four California universities won 89 Olympic medals. (The United States won 126 total). Athletes from Stanford University alone won more medals than all but seven countries in the world.



data via fansided

Source: Erik Brynjolfsson

#food-for-thought

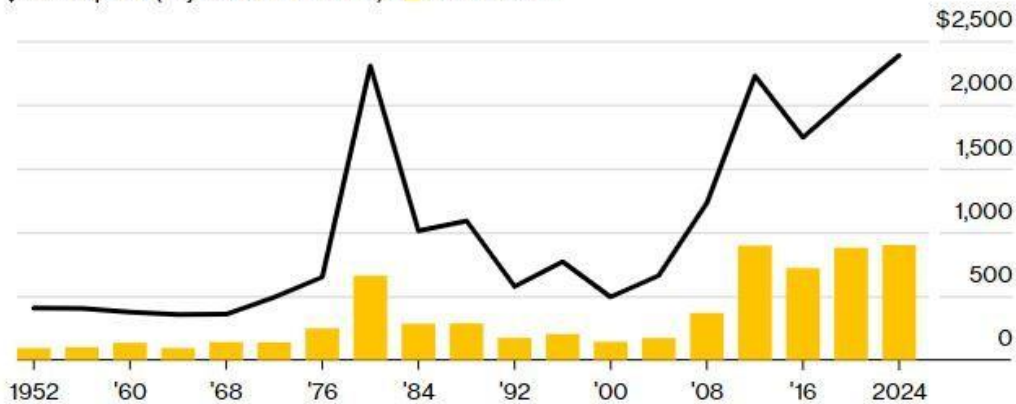
#olympics2024 #gold

Olympic Gold Medals Are Worth More Than Ever. Olympic gold medals are worth more than ever at this year's Paris games, with the raw materials that go into them having the potential to fetch about \$900 each. The medals contain six grams of gold. Prices are also substantially higher this year for silver, which makes up at least 92.5% of the weight of gold medals.

Paris Olympic Gold Medals Are Worth \$900

Olympians are benefiting from rising metal prices and heavier medals

Gold price (adjusted for inflation) Medal value




Source: Bloomberg, International Olympic Committee
Note: Estimates assume steady composition of 6g gold and 92.5% silver, in line with International Olympic Committee regulations. Closing prices on date of opening ceremonies.

Source: Bloomberg

#food-for-thought

#productivity #rules

Elon Musk's 6 Rules of Productivity



- 1. Avoid Large Meetings**


Large meetings waste time and decrease engagement. Limit meetings to small, focused groups.

Only invite those who can contribute.


- 2. Ditch Frequent Meetings**


Frequent meetings can disrupt workflows. Use meetings for urgent issues and critical discussions.

Use emails & chat messages to resolve minor issues and for routine updates.


- 3. Leave If You're Not Contributing**


Your presence is needed only if you add value. Leave meetings that don't require your input.

Respect others' time, and yours, by only attending if necessary.


- 4. Forget the Chain of Command**


Cut out middlemen to speed up decision-making. Talk directly to colleagues instead of going through layers of management.

Faster communication = faster decisions = stronger competitive advantage.


- 5. Be Clear, Not Clever**

Use simple language to ensure clarity and efficiency.



Being efficient > Sounding smart. Lose the jargon.


- 6. Use Common Sense**

Not all rules fit every situation, use your judgment.

Ask if a rule makes sense in the context before using it. If it doesn't contribute to progress, discard it.



If you found this helpful, follow me for more  Eric Partaker 

Source: Eric Partaker on X

#food-for-thought

#writing

How To Write, by David Ogilvy

- Write the way you talk. Naturally.
- Use short words, short sentences, and short paragraphs.
- Never use jargon words.

A memo drafted by David Ogilvy for the management to circulate as they saw fit:

September 7, 1982

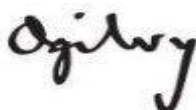
How To Write

The better you write, the higher you will go in Ogilvy & Mather.
People who *think* well, *write* well.

Good writing is not a natural gift. You have to *learn* to write well.
Here are 10 hints:

- (1) Read the Roman-Raphaelson book on writing.* Read it three times.
- (2) Write the way you talk. Naturally.
- (3) Use short words, short sentences and short paragraphs
- (4) Never use jargon words like *reconceptualize*, *demassification*, *attitudinally*, *judgmentally*. They are hallmarks of a pretentious ass.
- (5) Never write more than two pages on any subject.
- (6) Check your quotations.
- (7) Never send a letter or a memo on the day you write it. Read it aloud the next morning—and then edit it.
- (8) If it is something important, get a colleague to improve it.
- (9) Before you send your letter or memo, make sure it is crystal clear what you want the recipient to do.
- (10) If you want ACTION, *don't write*. Go and tell the guy what you want.

David



*Writing That Works, Harper & Row, 1981

Facebook.com/Ogilvy

Source: marketplunger1 (@Brandon Beylo) on X

#food-for-thought

#efficiency #drucker



There is nothing quite so useless as doing with great efficiency something that should not be done at all.”

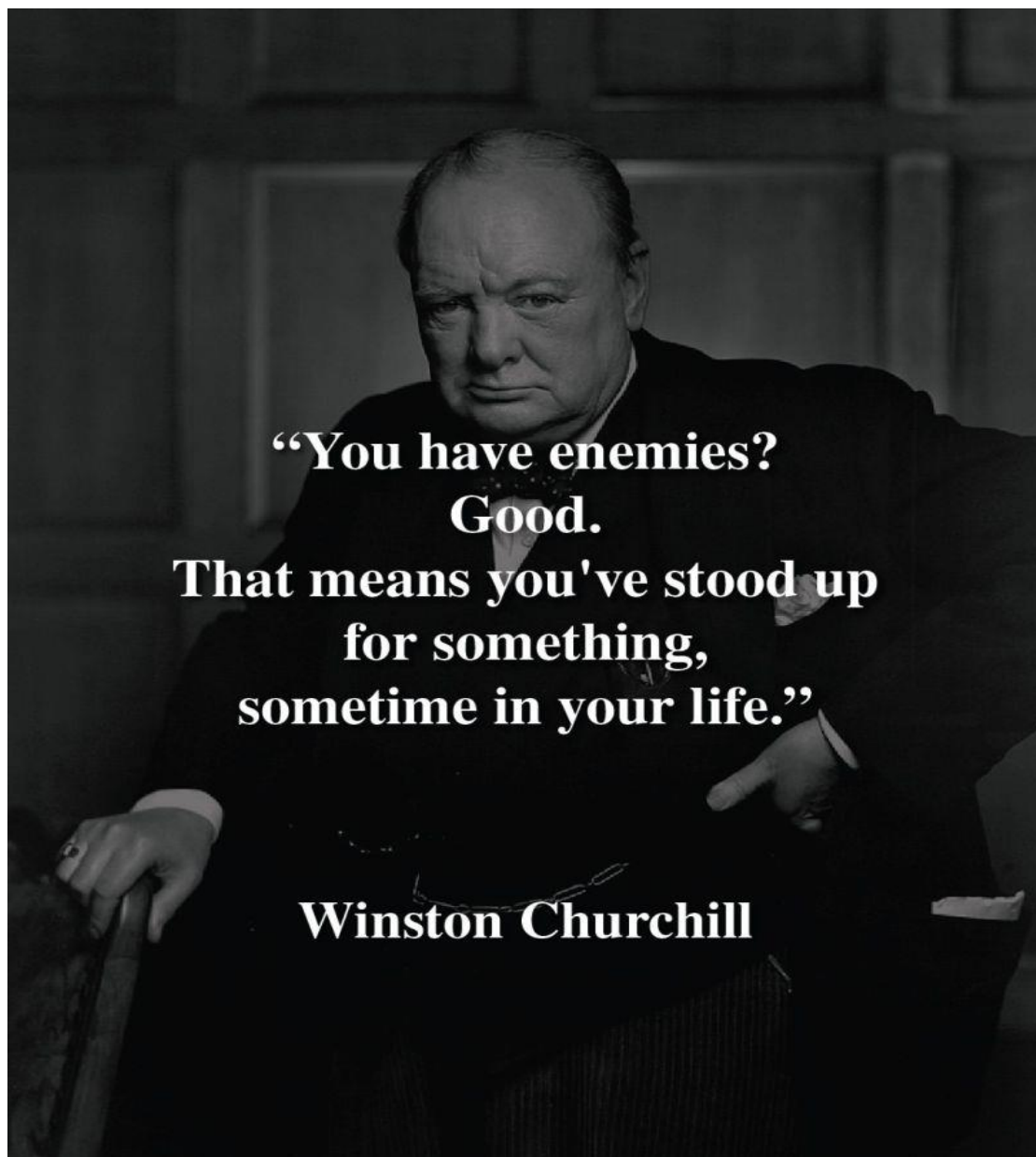
Peter Drucker
AUTHOR AND MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT

Forbes

Source: ValaAfshar

#food-for-thought

#enemies #churchill



Source: Learning Machine

#food-for-thought

#happiness #ravikant

Naval Ravikant Happiness Theory.

“

Happiness is being satisfied
with what you have.

THE ALMANACK OF NAVAL RAVIKANT

artofpoets.com

Source: artofpoets.com

Subscribe to the newsletter

syzgroup.com/newsletter



This marketing communication has been issued by the Syz Group. It is not intended for distribution to, publication, provision or use by individuals or legal entities that are citizens of or reside in a state, country or jurisdiction in which applicable laws and regulations prohibit its distribution, publication, provision or use. It is not directed to any person or entity to whom it would be illegal to send such marketing material. This document is intended for informational purposes only and should not be construed as an offer or solicitation for the subscription, purchase, sale or keeping of any security or financial instrument, or as a contractual document. The information contained herein does not constitute any legal, tax or accounting advice and may not be suitable for all investors. The market valuations, terms and calculations contained herein are estimates only and may change without notice. The information provided comes from sources deemed reliable, but the Syz Group does not guarantee its completeness or accuracy. Past performance gives no indication of future results.

For the future...