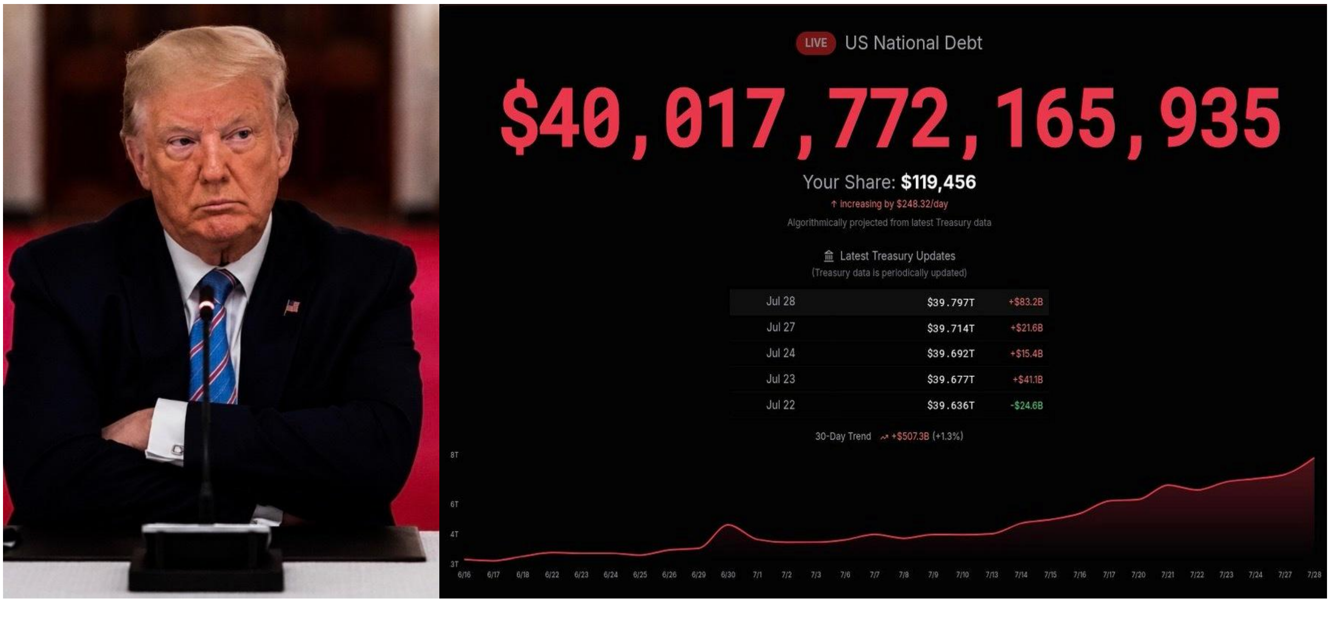
Chart of the week

US national debt has officially surpassed $40 TRILLION for the first time in history

Out of 45 U.S. presidents in history, President Trump is now solely responsible for 28.6% of the national debt.



Source: Bull Theory

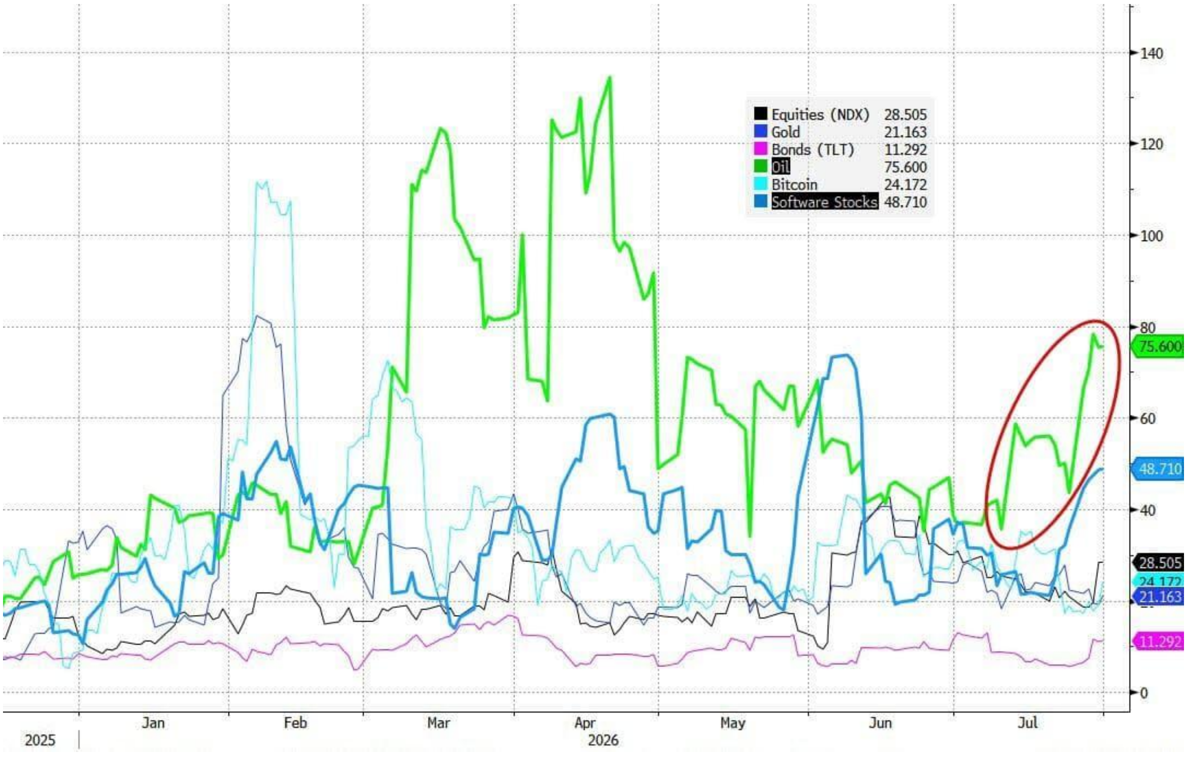
POWERED BY Syz CIO OFFICE & RESEARCH LAB

A mixed week for markets as Fed and BoJ stayed put

The Nasdaq, the Dow, and S&P 500 Index all advanced, while the Russell 2000 Index was little changed, in a week characterized by sharp swings tied to the Fed's policy meeting, the ongoing U.S.-Iran war, and volatility in AI-related shares. Consumer discretionary led the S&P 500 sectors—supported by a late-week rally in Amazon shares. Concerns about the sustainability of heavy AI investments continued early in the week, with many AI-related shares coming under pressure amid questions about elevated capex, circular financing, and rising competition. However, sentiment reversed sharply on Thursday after Microsoft reported stronger-than-expected growth in its Azure cloud business and issued an encouraging outlook, helping support a broad rebound in recently weak tech stocks. The Fed left the rate target range unchanged. However, three policymakers dissented, voting instead to raise rates. Meanwhile, Q2 US real GDP data showed that growth is slowing down while inflation is cooling. The US Treasury yield curve steepened as short-term yields declined while the yield on the 30-year rose above 5.2% for the 1st time since 2007. The STOXX Europe 600 Index ended the week up 0.73% as Eurozone economic growth surprises to the upside in Q2; inflation ticked higher in July. Japan's stock markets fell slightly over the week as BoJ keeps policy rate unchanged but leaves door open for September move. The dollar is down for the last six straight days, erasing all of the post-Warsh (first FOMC) gains, as interventions by the US and Japan boosted the yen.

#cross-assets #volatility

Geopolitical developments sparked a dramatic spike higher in oil market volatility during the month of July...



Source: www.zerohedge.com, Bloomberg

#markets

#equities #us #july #performance

July was the Nasdaq's worst month since March 2025, while The Dow literally went nowhere amid all that chaos, ending the month very modestly green...

Source: www.zerohedge.com, Bloomberg

#markets

#equities #us #nasdaq #july #performance

The S&P 500 suffered its worst July since 2014, Nasdaq's worst July since 2004...

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
29 Yr Avg	1.98	-.61	1.02	1.75	1.18	1.30	2.51	.14	-.94	2.70	2.79	1.00
2026	1.20	-2.32	-4.89	15.64	10.49	-.19	-6.98					
2025	2.22	-2.76	-7.69	1.52	9.04	6.27	2.38	.85	5.40	4.77	-1.64	-.73
2024	1.85	5.29	1.17	-4.46	6.28	6.18	-1.63	1.10	2.48	-.85	5.23	.39
2023	10.62	-.49	9.46	.49	7.61	6.49	3.81	-1.62	-5.07	-2.08	10.67	5.51
2022	-8.52	-4.64	4.22	-13.37	-1.65	-9.00	12.55	-5.22	-10.60	3.96	5.48	-9.06
2021	.29	-.12	1.41	5.88	-1.26	6.34	2.78	4.16	-5.73	7.90	1.80	1.14
2020	2.96	-5.89	-7.66	15.19	6.17	6.29	7.37	11.05	-5.72	-3.20	11.00	5.05
2019	9.11	2.76	3.96	5.46	-8.40	7.62	2.32	-2.01	.76	4.31	3.96	3.92
2018	8.65	-1.38	-3.99	.37	5.48	1.05	2.72	5.84	-.35	-8.66	-.26	-8.91
2017	5.20	4.17	1.99	2.71	3.68	-2.45	4.13	1.84	-.16	4.50	1.87	.48
2016	-6.84	-1.82	6.73	-3.18	4.21	-2.35	7.07	.86	2.19	-1.53	.20	1.10
2015	-2.07	7.04	-2.41	1.86	2.13	-2.47	4.37	-6.85	-2.19	11.19	.34	-1.53
2014	-1.95	4.95	-2.72	-.38	4.32	3.01	1.12	4.88	-.81	2.69	4.32	-2.34
2013	2.65	.26	2.93	2.44	3.27	-2.42	6.21	-.53	4.70	4.96	3.26	2.99
2012	8.35	6.29	5.04	-1.15	-7.30	3.60	1.02	4.91	.97	-5.40	1.13	-.63
2011	2.89	3.03	-.51	2.78	-1.31	-2.00	1.62	-5.15	-4.54	10.33	-2.75	-.76
2010	-6.41	4.46	7.68	2.16	-7.41	-6.11	7.18	-5.18	13.05	6.33	-.34	4.75
2009	-2.59	-5.36	10.74	12.72	2.96	2.90	8.54	1.36	5.77	-3.02	6.02	5.26
2008	-11.68	-5.22	2.10	7.62	5.99	-9.62	.66	1.26	-14.84	-16.30	-11.17	2.18
2007	2.01	-1.71	.61	5.38	3.24	.31	-.11	2.93	5.15	7.07	-6.69	-.20
2006	3.98	-2.35	1.98	-.17	-7.12	-.28	-4.18	4.66	4.71	4.74	3.39	-1.92
2005	-6.26	-.57	-1.89	-4.16	8.58	-3.18	7.47	-1.46	1.26	-1.40	5.91	-1.64
2004	1.71	-1.52	-2.17	-2.58	4.63	3.44	-7.66	-2.26	3.22	5.24	5.70	3.16
2003	-.13	2.72	.88	8.58	8.30	.32	6.26	5.03	-2.80	8.64	.55	3.07
2002	-1.70	-12.32	6.89	-12.10	-5.38	-12.99	-8.49	-2.05	-11.66	18.86	12.79	-11.80
2001	10.73	-26.40	-17.56	17.92	-2.98	1.68	-8.01	-12.71	-20.50	16.81	16.95	-1.19
2000	-3.72	19.52	3.07	-14.20	-11.90	13.23	-4.10	12.97	-12.43	-8.07	-23.63	-6.58
1999	15.86	-9.49	9.41	1.42	-2.19	9.91	-1.13	5.55	.46	9.53	12.48	24.98
1998	8.11	11.48	2.22	2.25	-4.49	12.19	2.99	-17.20	17.99	4.09	11.24	17.85
1997	12.20	-7.71	-6.28	9.75	9.62	-.16	15.64	-2.97	2.14	-7.07	3.03	-5.68

Source: www.zerohedge.com, Bloomberg

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#markets

#equities #us #sp500 #equal-weight #ath

Equal-weight S&P (and Ex-AI) hit new record highs.

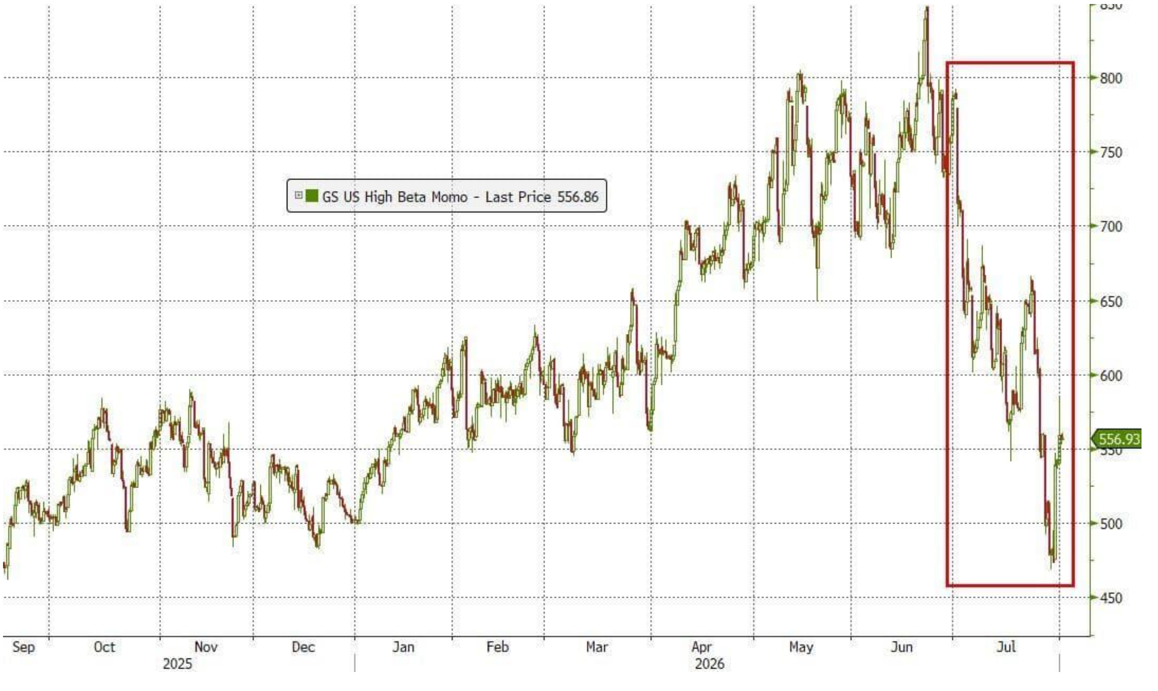
Source: www.zerohedge.com, Bloomberg

PRIVATE BANKING

#markets

#equities #us #momentum #performance #july

With a 17% bounce in the last two days putting some lipstick on this pig, Momentum crashed 25% in July, its worst month since May 2009...

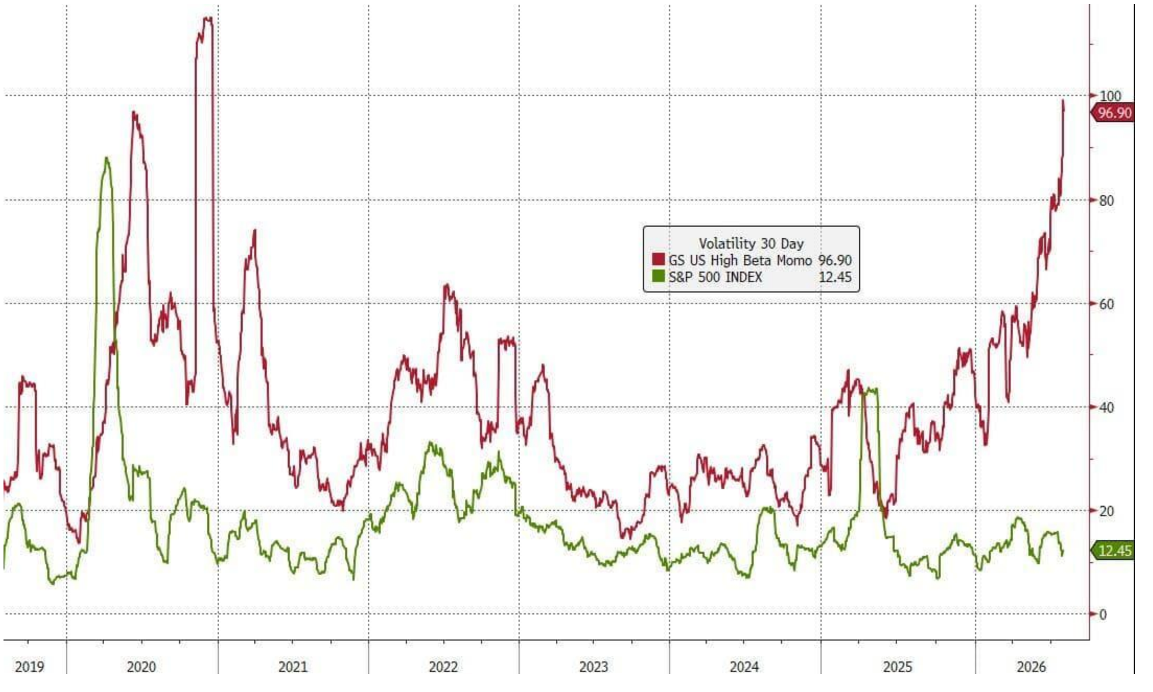


Source: www.zerohedge.com, Bloomberg

#markets

#equities #us #momentum #vol

Momentum vol remains extremely high, almost unprecedented...

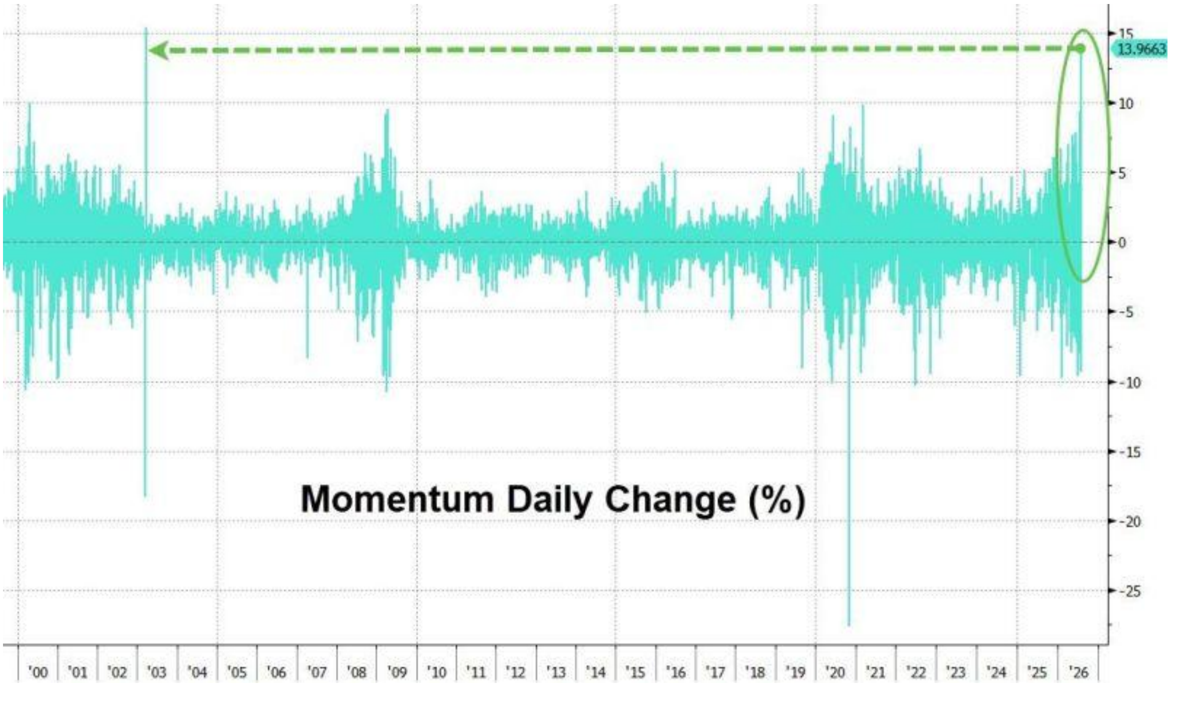


Source: www.zerohedge.com, Bloomberg

#markets

#equities #us #momentum #factor-rotation

Thursday saw Momentum's single-biggest daily gain since 2003...



Source: zerohedge

#markets

#equities #us #sp500 #sectors #performance #july

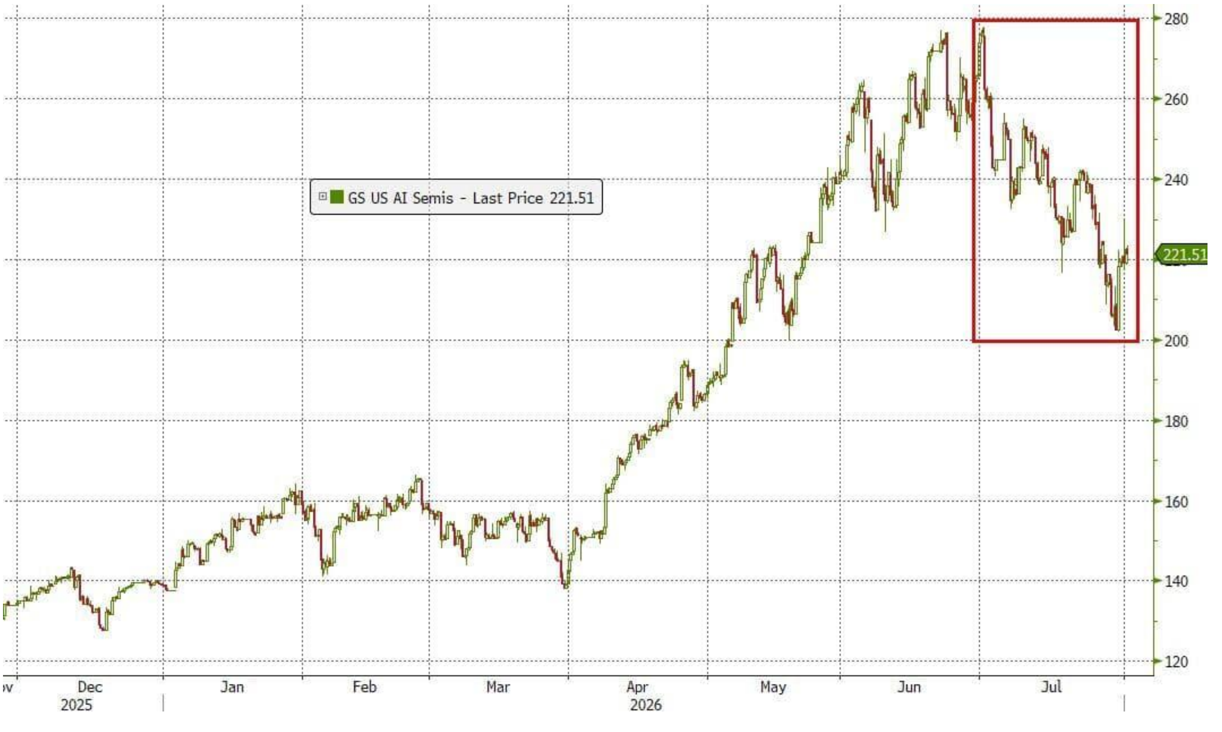
The Energy sector was the month's biggest gainer while Tech and Materials were laggards (along with rate-sensitive Utes and Real Estate)...

Source: www.zerohedge.com, Bloomberg

#markets

#equities #us #semiconductors #july

Semis were slammed, but remain higher YTD...



Source: www.zerohedge.com, Bloomberg

#equities #semis #global #ai

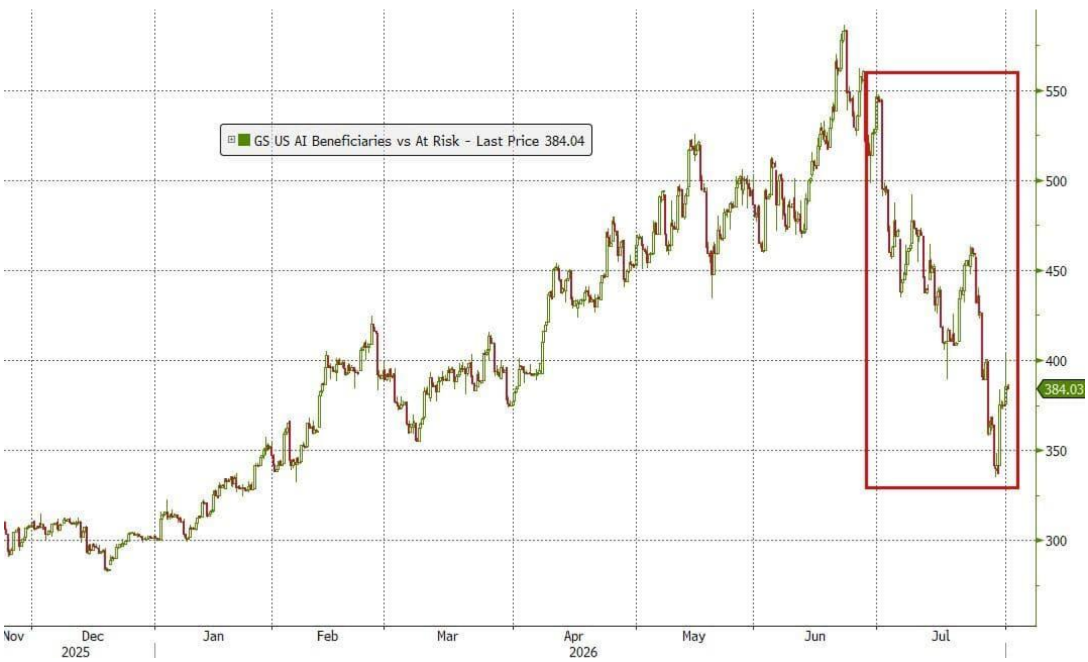
Global chip stocks are set for their worst month since 2022. The MSCI World Semiconductors index is on track for a monthly loss deeper than anything since the 2022 drawdown, with the current bar sitting just shy of the dashed line marking those lows. Bloomberg points to worries about valuations and AI spending.

Source: Bloomberg

#markets

#equities #us #ai #long-winners #short-losers #july

Goldman's AI Beneficiares vs At Risk pair plunged...

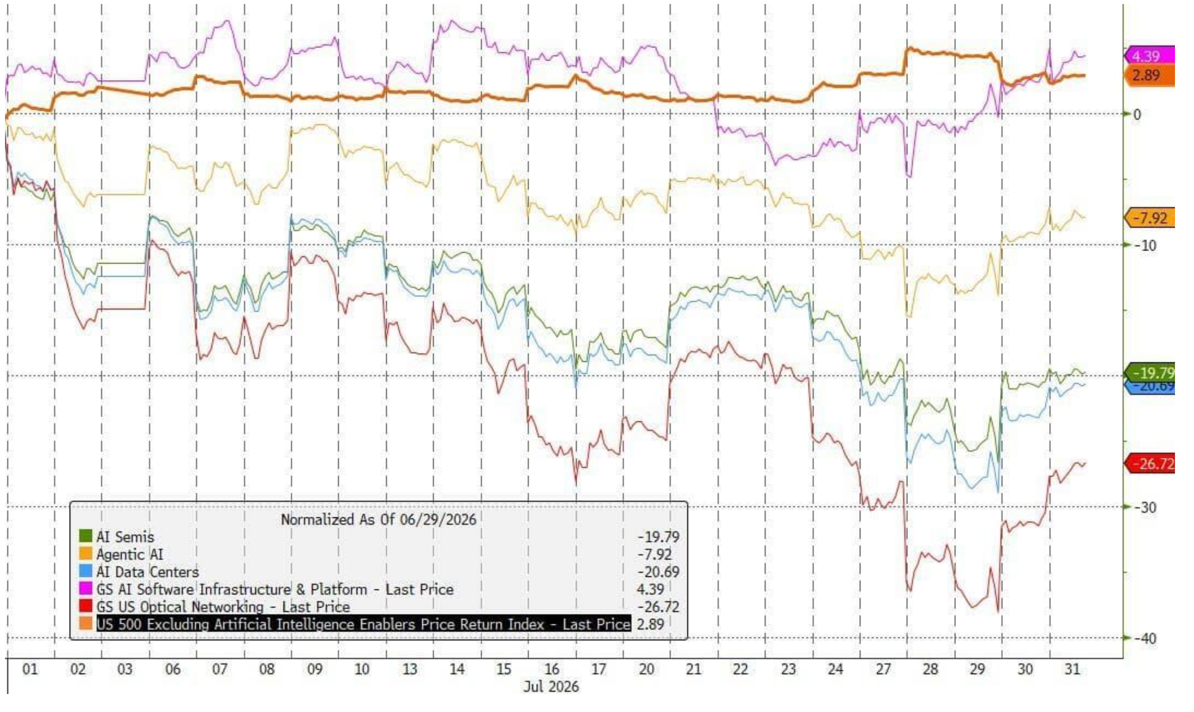


Source: www.zerohedge.com, Bloomberg

#markets

#equities #us #ai-leaders #july #performance

A mixed bag for the AI Leaders with Optical Networking and Data Centers worst in July while Software Infrastructure & Platforms managed gains...



Source: www.zerohedge.com, Bloomberg

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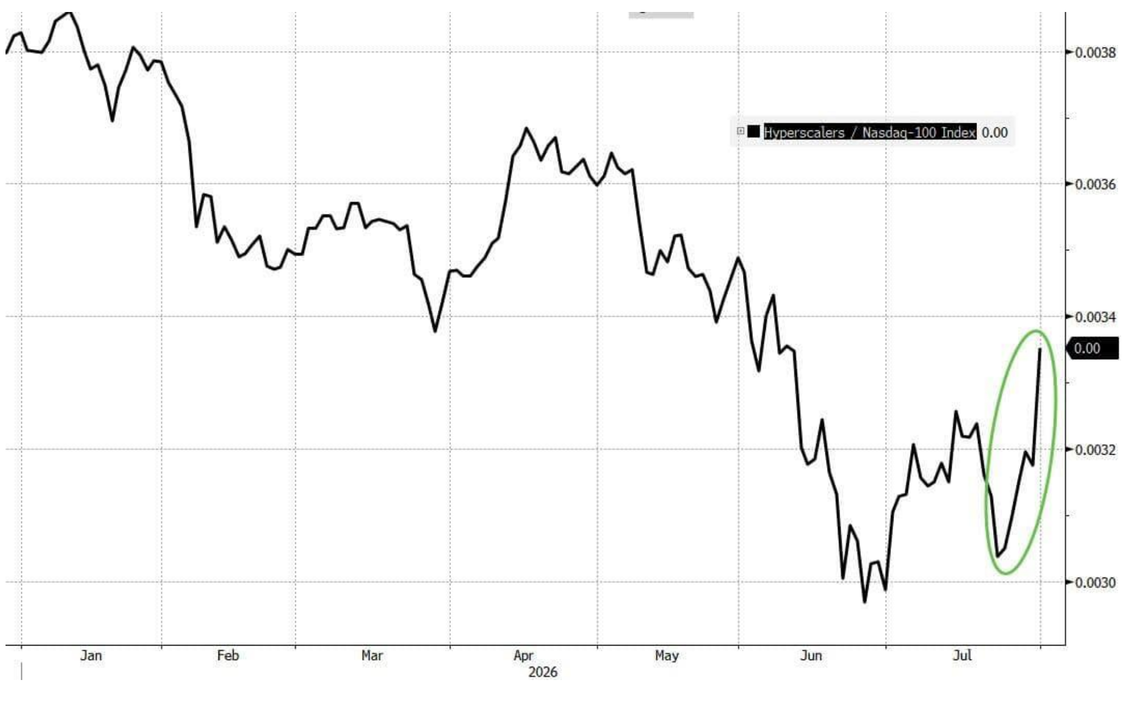
#markets

#equities #us #hyperscalers #performance

As Goldman noted, Hyperscalers posted the strongest weekly outperformance vs. NDX ever - coming into this week, 3-month hyperscaler vs. NDX relative performance was near 20-year lows. The snapback has been historic - hyperscalers are now outperforming NDX by the widest weekly margin on record, fueled by blowout cloud results from MSFT and AMZN...

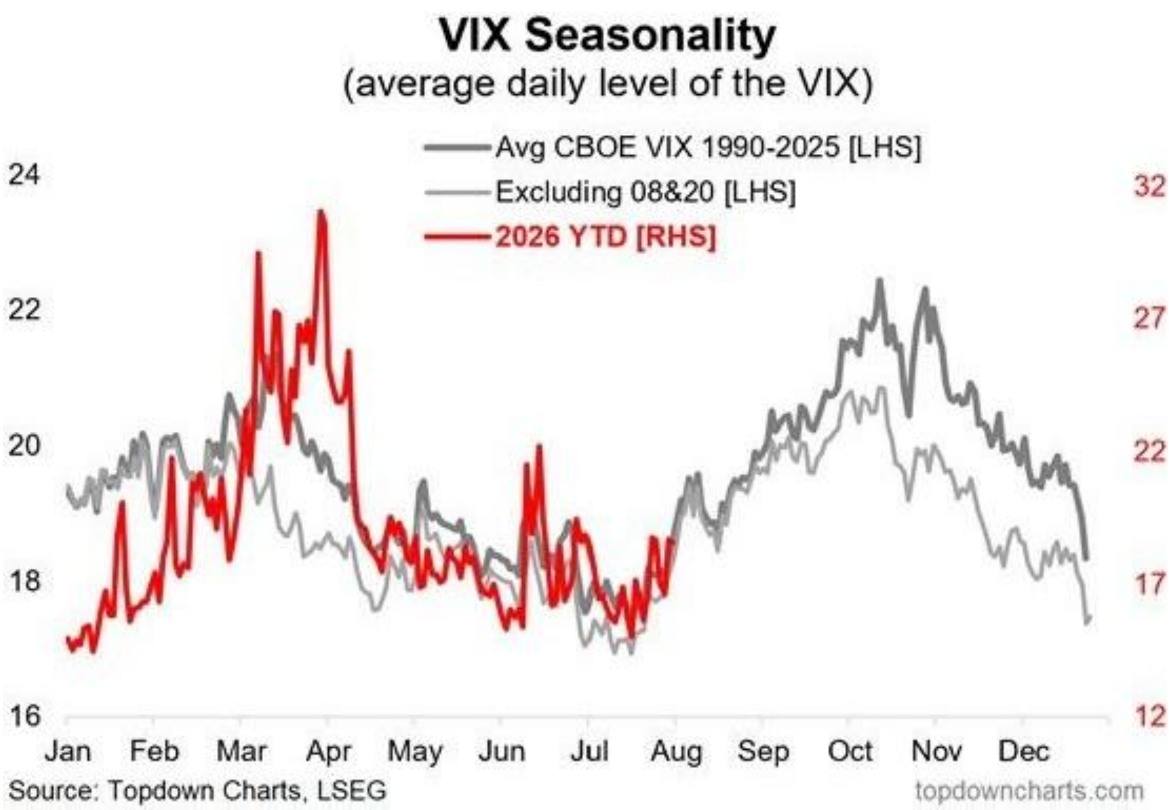


Source: www.zerohedge.com, Bloomberg

#markets

#equities #volatility #us #vix #seasonality

If history is any guide, it seems we are entering vol territory



Source: Topdown charts, LSEG

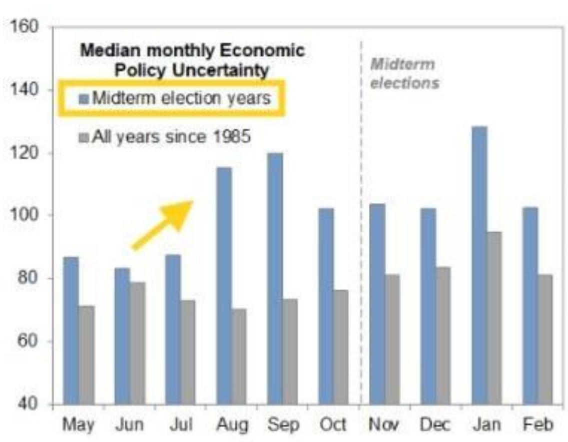
#markets

#equities #volatility #us #midterms #seasonality

Goldman: With the 2026 midterms three months away, investor focus is likely to turn increasingly to elections in coming weeks. Midterm elections will take place this year on November 3.

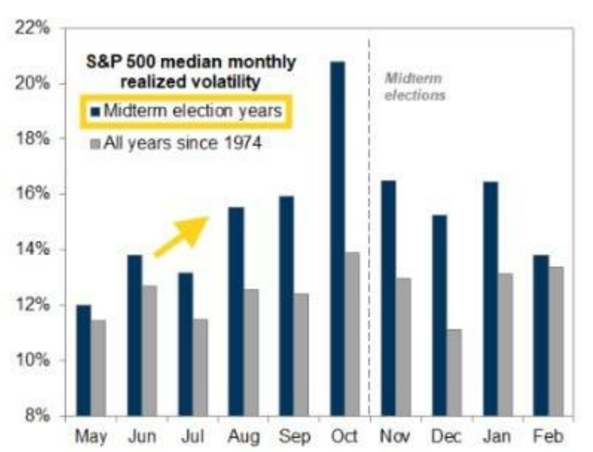
During the last few decades, economic policy uncertainty and equity market volatility have typically begun to rise in the late summer ahead of midterm elections. Our economists have found the same pattern after adjusting for the economic cycle as measured by the unemployment rate.

Exhibit 1: Policy uncertainty typically rises ahead of midterm elections



Source: Policyuncertainty.com, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 2: S&P 500 volatility usually rises ahead of midterm elections



Source: Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Source: Goldman Sachs, Neil Sethi on X

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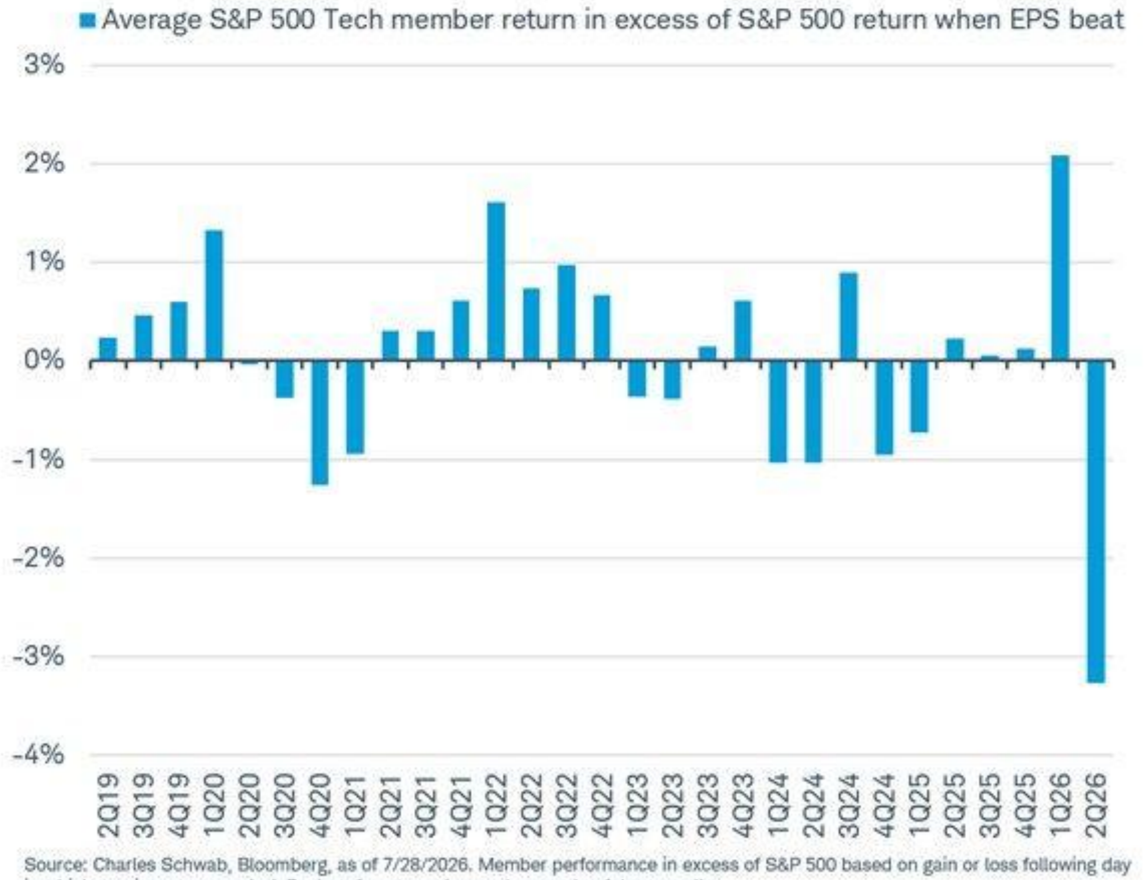
#markets

#equities #us #tech #earnings #stock #reaction

Per Charles Schwab: "Weird times for the Tech sector. On average (so far) this earnings season, a Tech stock that beats EPS estimates is underperforming the S&P 500 by 3.3% the day of/after reporting".



Source: Charles Schwab, Bloomberg, as of 7/28/2026. Member performance in excess of S&P 500 based on gain or loss following day in which earnings are reported. Past performance does not guarantee future results.

Source: Charles Schwab, RBC

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#equities #us #earnings #big-tech

In case you missed it... earnings are out $MSFT +8pct after-hours $META -8pct after-hours

Microsoft beat on the top line and saw a gain from its Anthropic stake. The software company's Azure cloud business now exceeds $100 billion. Customers other than large model builders helped to expand Microsoft's backlog. Meta shares dropped after the company reported second-quarter earnings that missed on earnings per share. The company's revenue forecast also came in light. Meta narrowed its guidance for capital expenditures, keeping the top end of the range.

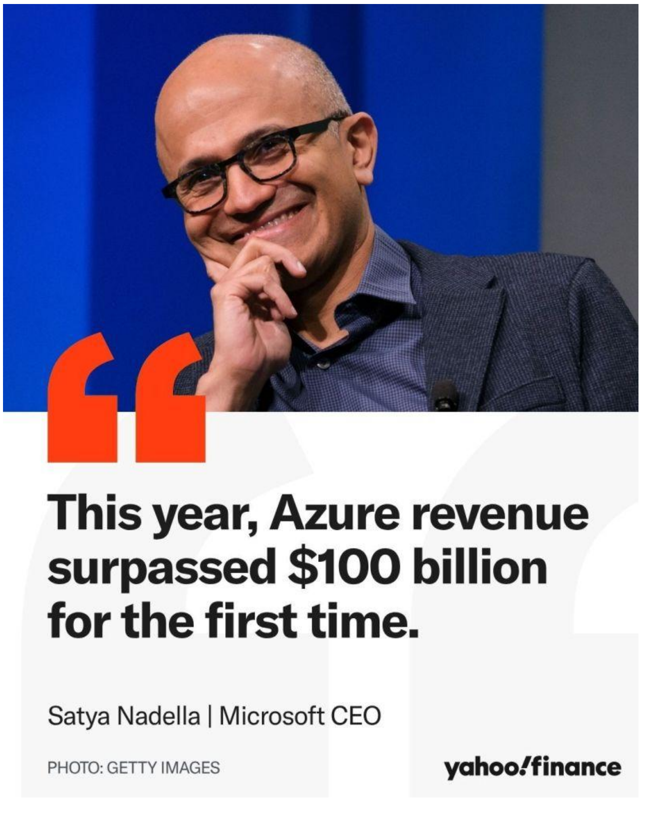
Source: Stocktwits

#markets

#equities #us #microsoft #azure #earnings

Microsoft $MSFT is up +15%, on pace to record its largest single-day percentage gain since March 2020.

Microsoft is one of the few businesses for which AI monetization is tangible. They were early in AI, invested into it and they are monetizing it. It was indeed a record year for $MSFT's cloud business.



Source: Yahoo Finance, App Economy Insights

#equities #us #microsoft #market-cap

On Thursday, $MSFT just made history. The company just set a new record for the largest single-day-market-value increase in history.

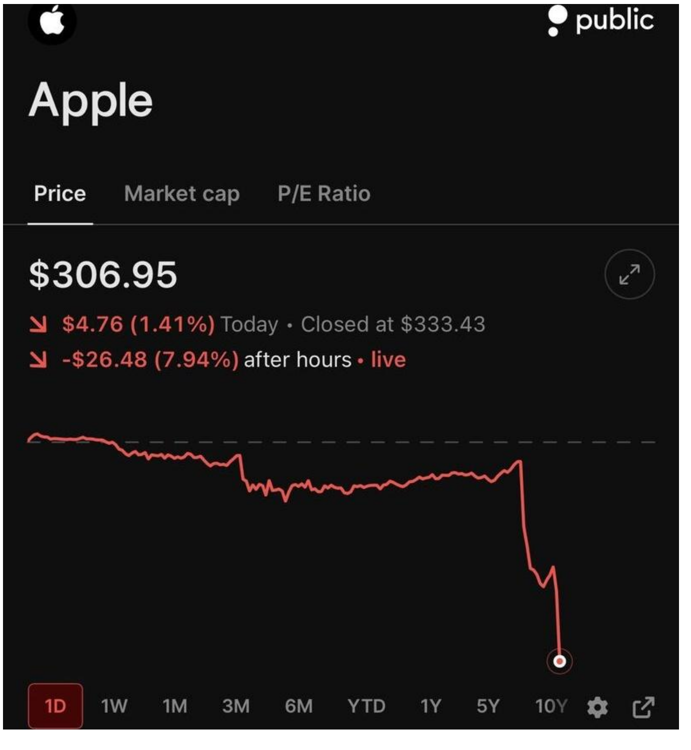
Source: Yahoo Finance

#markets

#equities #us #apple #earnings #valuation

Apple's quarter itself was strong: Revenue: $109.42B, beating expectations of $108.65b EPS: $2.02, beating expectations of $1.89 iPhone revenue: +22% Y/Y, its best growth in years

The guidance may be what sold off: September quarter revenue guided to 9%-11% growth, a slowdown from Q3's 16% Gross margin guided down to 47%-48% from the 50.1% just reported Services missed expectations, and Greater China came in below estimates Apple came into the print at 35x forward earnings, well above its 5-year average of 28, and up 22% YTD.

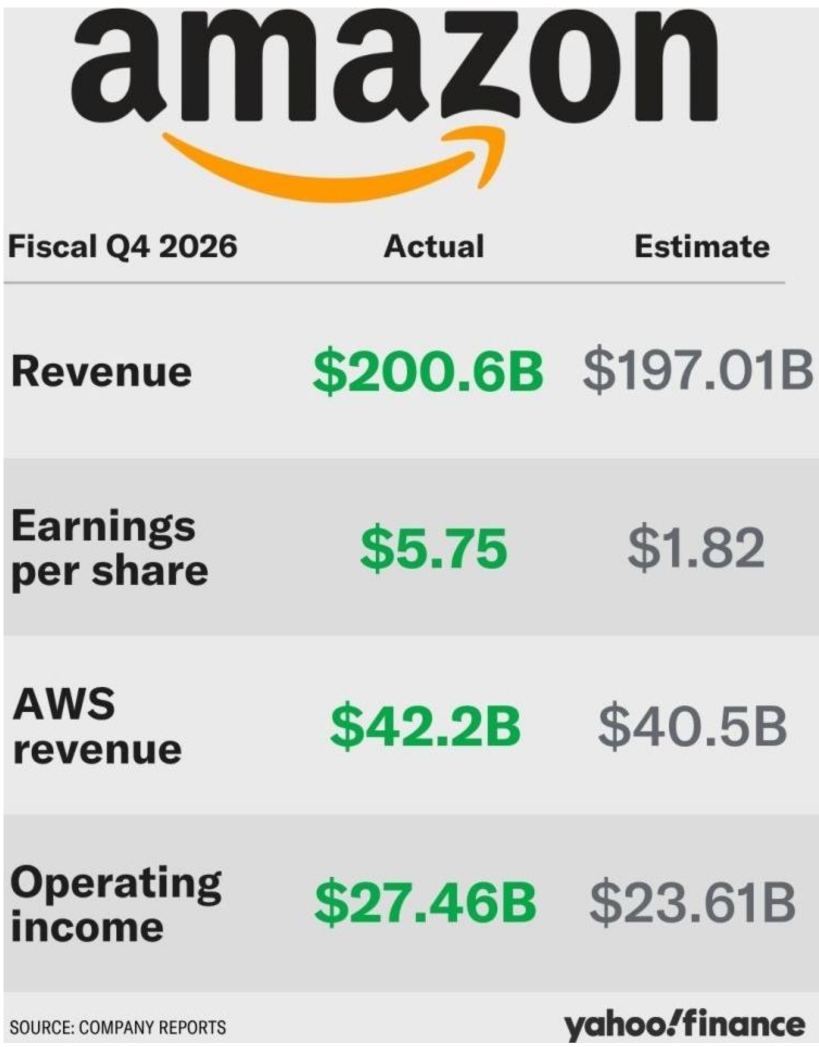


Source: WOLF

#markets

#equities #us #amazon #earnings

$AMZN Q2 earnings blew past Wall Street's expectations with strong AWS revenue. Stock is up nearly +10% after-hours



Fiscal Q4 2026	Actual	Estimate
Revenue	$200.6B	$197.01B
Earnings per share	$5.75	$1.82
AWS revenue	$42.2B	$40.5B
Operating income	$27.46B	$23.61B

SOURCE: COMPANY REPORTS yahoo!finance

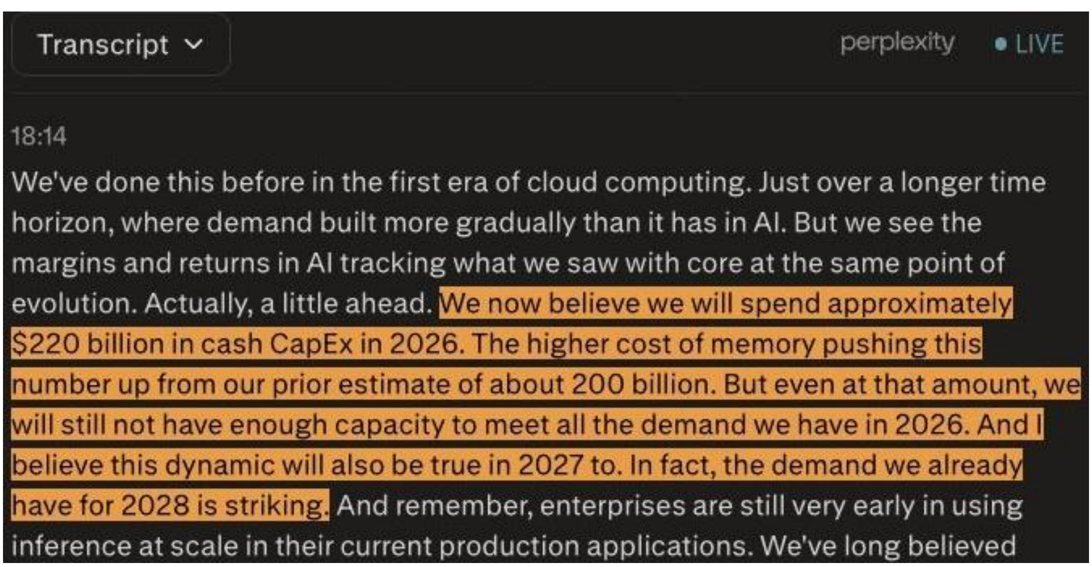
Source: Yahoo Finance

#markets

#equities #us #amazon #ai-capex

Amazon $AMZN on raising 2026 cash CapEx to $220B:

“The higher cost of memory is pushing this number up from our prior estimate of about $200 billion.” “Even at that amount, we will still not have enough capacity to meet all the demand we have in 2026. I believe this dynamic will also be true in 2027.” “The demand we already have for 2028 is striking.” “We typically purchase servers and networking equipment a few months before putting them into service, so we have strong visibility into customer demand before we trigger the spend.” “If the demand isn’t there, we won’t spend the capital for servers and networking equipment.”



Transcript

perplexity • LIVE

18:14

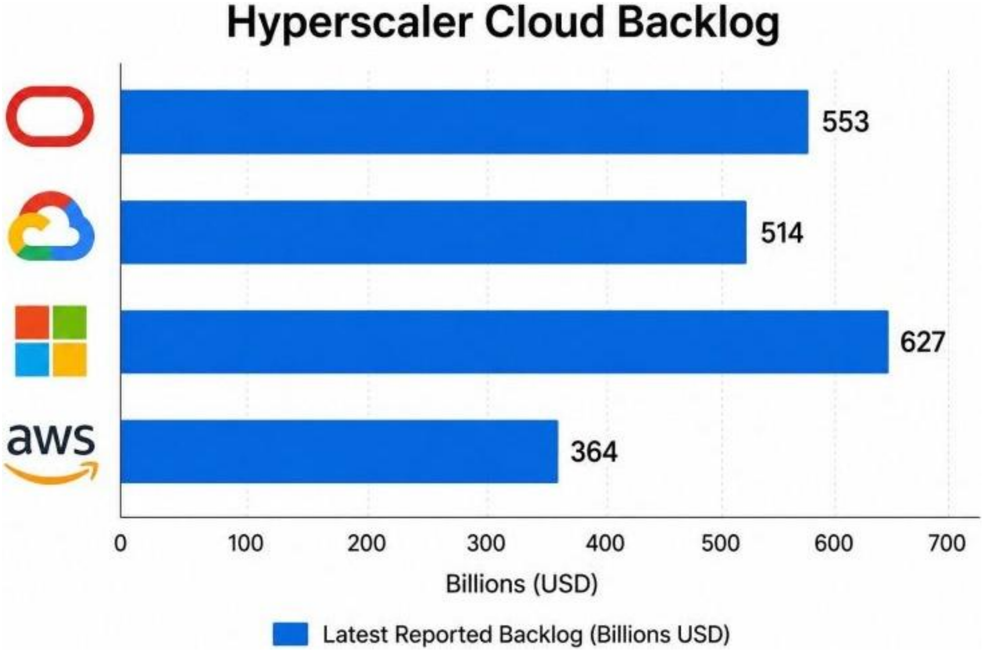
We've done this before in the first era of cloud computing. Just over a longer time horizon, where demand built more gradually than it has in AI. But we see the margins and returns in AI tracking what we saw with core at the same point of evolution. Actually, a little ahead. We now believe we will spend approximately $220 billion in cash CapEx in 2026. The higher cost of memory pushing this number up from our prior estimate of about 200 billion. But even at that amount, we will still not have enough capacity to meet all the demand we have in 2026. And I believe this dynamic will also be true in 2027 to. In fact, the demand we already have for 2028 is striking. And remember, enterprises are still very early in using inference at scale in their current production applications. We've long believed

Source: Wall ST Engine

#equities #ai #us #hyperscalers #cloud

Hyperscaler earnings could accelerate dramatically after 2028.

Their combined backlog has now reached roughly $2 trillion. Nearly half of that backlog is expected to convert into revenue over the next 12–24 months. A powerful combination of higher pricing, rising volumes, moderating capex, and expanding margins could drive an inflection point in free cash flow, making the post-2028 earnings outlook far stronger than many investors currently expect.

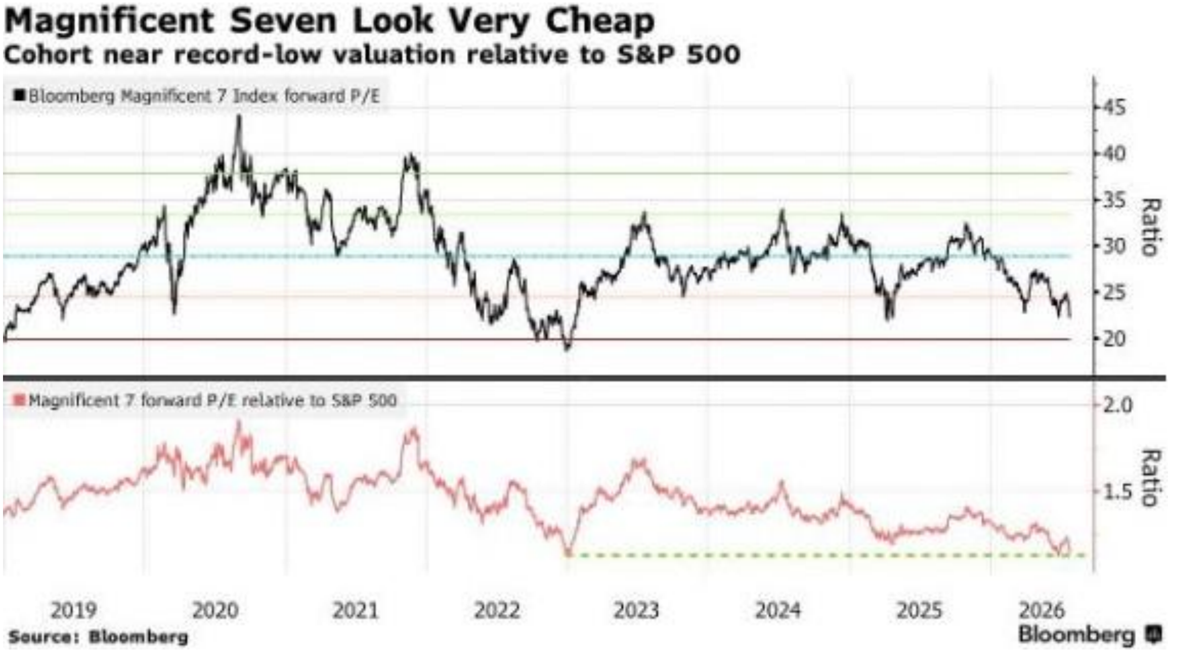


Source: Oguz Erkan

#markets

#equities #us #mag7 #valuation

Mag 7 stocks are now trading near their cheapest valuation in history relative to the S&P 500



Source: Barchart, Bloomberg

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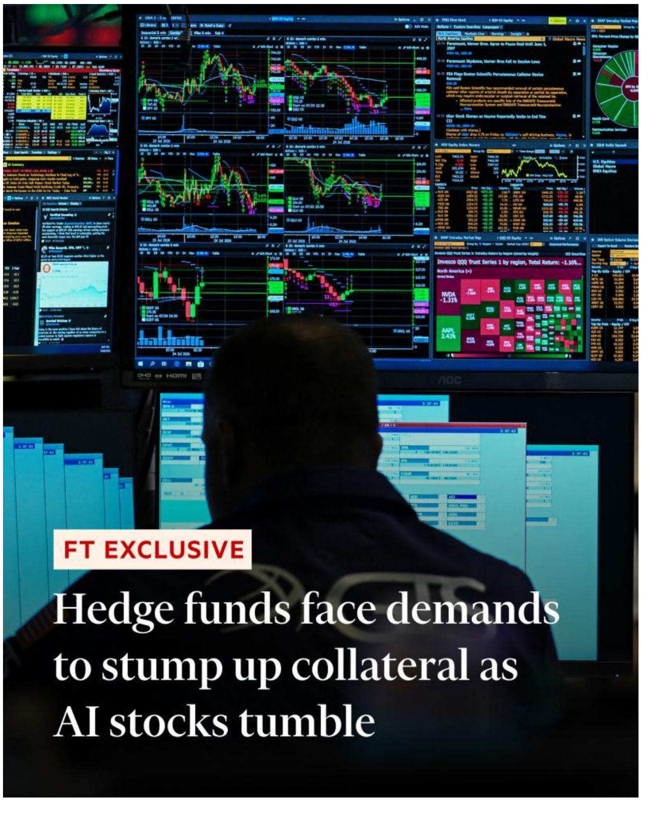
#equities #us #hedge-funds #ai

Wall Street banks have demanded more collateral from hedge funds in recent weeks as a rout in AI stocks accelerates and triggers heavy losses across several popular strategies. The collateral demands highlight the mounting fears on Wall Street about the scale and speed of the sell-off in AI stocks over the past fortnight, which has upended a rally in a sector favoured by many funds.

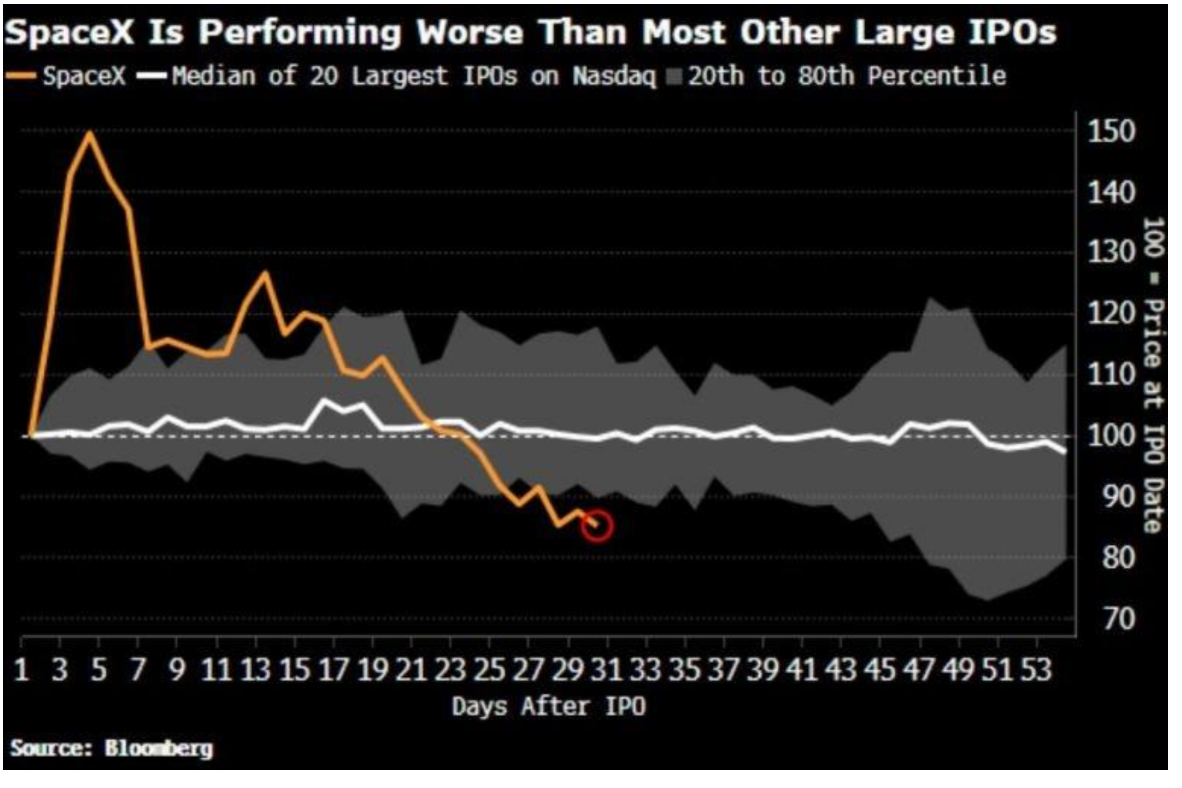


Source: Financial Times

#markets

#equities #us #spacex #ipo

SpaceX, $SPCX, is down -50% from its peak. Indexed to 100 at the IPO date, the stock spiked near 150 by day five and has fallen to roughly 85 by day 30, below the median of the 20 largest Nasdaq IPOs, which sits near its issue price, and at the bottom of their 20th-to-80th percentile range.



Source: Hedgeye, @Hedgeye

#equities #south-korea #kospi #drawdown

South Korea's Stock Market has plunged more than 33% this month, on track for its worst month in history, surpassing the October 1997 IMF Crisis (-27%) and the October 2008 Global Financial Crisis (-23%)

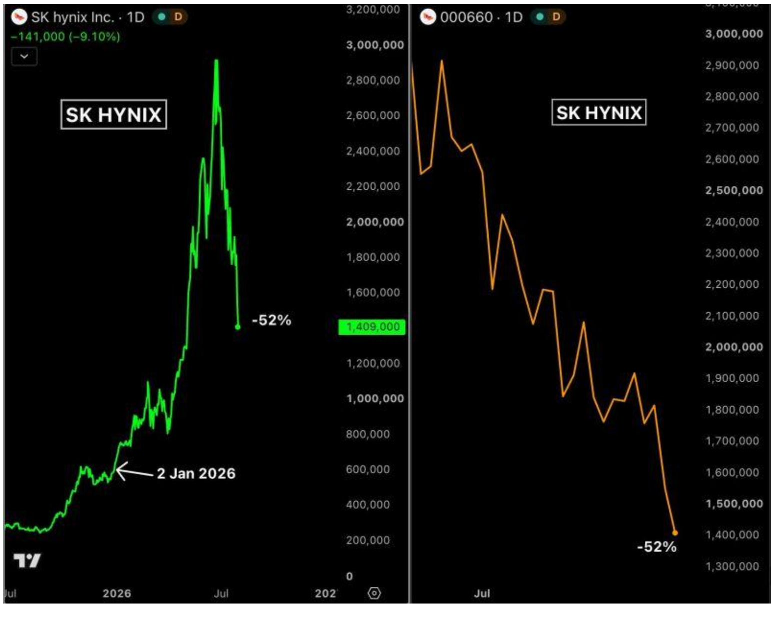
Source: Barchart

#markets

#equities #south-korea #semis #earnings

SK Hynix posted record Q2 earnings but still missed expectations.

Revenue: ₩79.3T vs ₩80.9T (+257% YoY) Operating profit: ₩60.5T vs ₩64.0T (+557% YoY) Net profit: ₩93.9T (+1,242% YoY) Record revenue was driven by strong AI memory demand and higher DRAM and NAND prices. A large portion of net profit came from ₩63.3 trillion in investment-related gains, including gains on investment assets, rather than from its core semiconductor business. SK Hynix crashed -10% after the results and is now down -53% from its all-time high.



Source: Bull Theory

#markets

#equities #south-korea #kospi #leverage

Korea's stock market became a substitute for homeownership.

Unable to afford soaring Seoul property prices, many young Koreans turned to leveraged stock investing instead. Margin debt hit a record ₩38.6 trillion as retail investors piled into 2x semiconductor ETFs, treating short-term trading products as long-term wealth builders. When the market reversed, forced liquidations of around 360,000 accounts accelerated the selloff, with 62% of wiped-out investors under 35.

Korean Retail Investors Suffer 2.15 Trillion Won in Leverage Losses

In the past month, South Korean retail investors have incurred losses of up to 2.15 trillion won (approximately $14.5 billion) due to leveraged trading, with individuals aged 20-30 making up 62% of the accounts that were liquidated; on July 13 alone, over 320,000 accounts were forcibly closed.

To prevent a financial crisis from evolving into a social crisis, the South Korean government will launch a nationwide unified debt consultation hotline at 1375 in October this year; a new round of restrictions on leveraged products is expected to be announced soon, as the current low entry threshold for leverage has led to a large influx of young investors.

#markets

#equities #south-korea #kospi #rebound

Korean stocks just staged one of the biggest rebounds in market history. After a brutal 3-day, 17% selloff, the KOSPI soared as much as 18% on Friday, its largest single-day gain on record. South Korea unveiled a major stabilization package, including ~$13.9 billion for strategic AI investments and tighter leverage rules for ETFs to reduce forced liquidations. At the same time, SK Hynix hit its 30% daily limit, helped by SK Group Chairman Chey Tae-won's first-ever open-market purchase of the company's shares, while Samsung surged as much as 27%.

Source: Bloomberg, Global Markets Investor

#markets

#equities #china #semis #ipo

CXMT is the largest Chinese maker of memory chips. Its shares surged +472% in its trading debut.

CXMT opened at ¥49.50 vs its IPO price of ¥8.66. The company raised ¥57.92 billion ($8.6B) in Asia's largest IPO of 2026. CXMT is now larger than Intel $INTC and is reportedly now the largest Chinese public company, overtaking ICBC. The listing comes at a time when CXMT has seen increased attention, following reports earlier this month that Apple has begun testing the Chinese chipmaker's DRAM for devices sold in China.

Rank		Name		Market Cap	Price	Today
▲11064	24	cxmt	CXMT 688825.SS	$512.74 B	$7.24	▲465.82%
▼1	25		Tencent TCEHY	$500.31 B	$55.58	▲0.40%
▼1	26		Mastercard MA	$476.83 B	$539.66	▲1.77%
▼1	27	intel	Intel INTC	$465.66 B	$92.32	▼7.89%

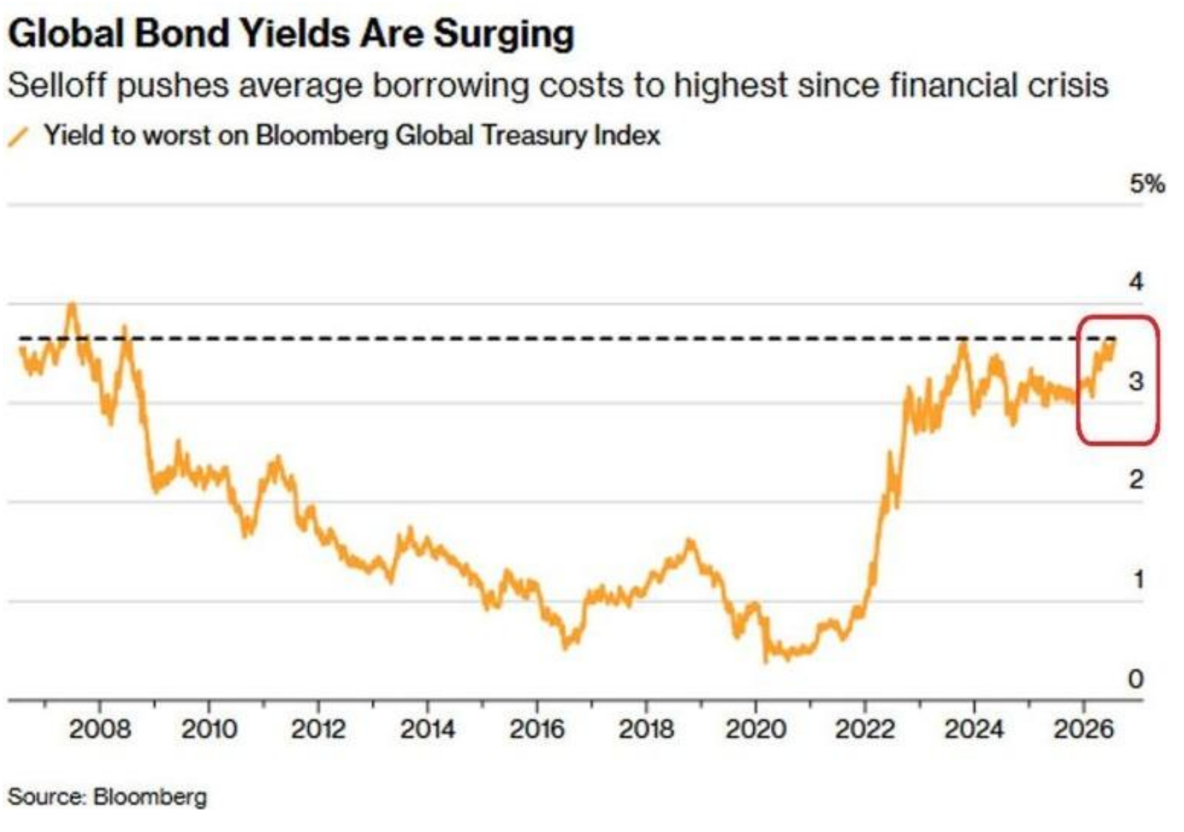
Source: Bull Theory, Evan on X, CNBC

PRIVATE BANKING

#markets

#fixed-income #global #bond-yields

Global bond yields hit highest level since 2008. The yield to worst on the Bloomberg Global Treasury Index has spiked back above 3%, taking out the dashed line that marks the 2008 high and leaving average sovereign borrowing costs at their most expensive since the financial crisis. The 2020 low near zero is a distant memory.

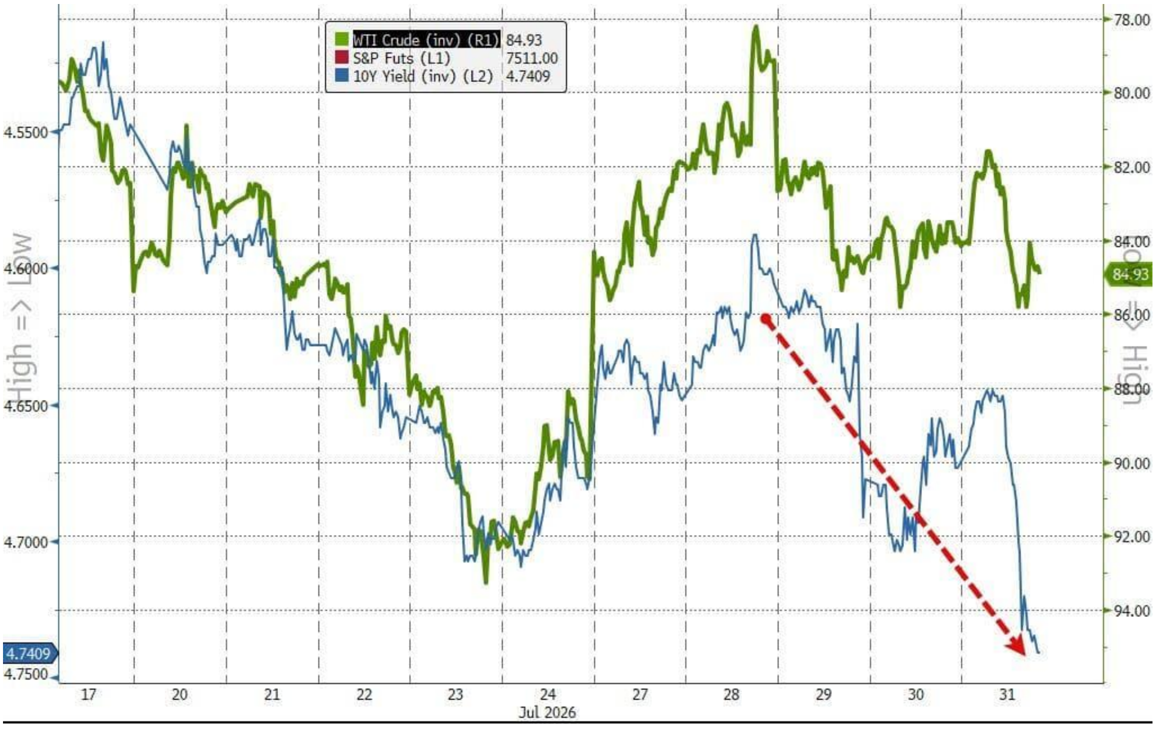


Source: Hedgeye, Bloomberg

#markets

#fixed-income #us-treasuries #oil #correlation

The correlation between higher oil prices and higher bond yields has been very strong in July (as the energy shock lifted term premia and caused US Treasury yields to rise meaningfully), with the latter decoupling even higher in the last few days since Warsh dropped the hammer on those seeking forward guidance (with 3 dissenting officials advocating for an immediate hike, citing persistent inflation risks).



Source: www.zerohedge.com, Bloomberg

#markets

#fixed-income #us #treasuries #july

Despite cooler than expected CPI and PPI (and lower inflation expectations data), it was oil prices that smashed Treasury yields higher in July, with the long-end up over 30bps.

Source: www.zerohedge.com, Bloomberg

Syz PRIVATE BANKING

#fixed-income #us #yields #fed

I agree with Jim Bianco. The market might force the Fed to act if it thinks the Fed is behind the curve

Jim Bianco
@biancoresearch

The 30-year is up 12 basis points to 5.21%, a new 19-year high.

The market is worried about inflation and wants the Fed to act. If it does not, the market will.

Bond traders will stop panicking (chart below) when the Fed starts panicking.

The Fed/Warsh did not panic today.

#markets

#fixed-income #us #treasuries #30y

us US 30Y bond yield has reached 5.27% on Friday.

Last time it was this high, the US economy entered a recession and the stock market crashed 57%.

Source: Ted on X

#commodities #gold #july

After a weak June, and despite a weak dollar, gold still went nowhere in July...

Source: www.zerohedge.com, Bloomberg

#markets

#commodities #oil #july

Crude prices jumped over 20% in July as the Iran war reignited, the biggest monthly rise since the start of the war and the biggest July rise in at least 30 years.

Source: www.zerohedge.com, Bloomberg

PRIVATE BANKING

#markets

#commodities #oil #iran #volatility

After the US and Israel launched military strikes on Iran in late February, Brent crude surged above $140 as Iran disrupted the Strait of Hormuz, triggering one of the largest oil supply shocks in history. As ceasefire hopes emerged, prices collapsed back below pre-war levels, erasing the entire rally within four months. After Iran's latest missile strike on a US base in Jordan, oil has rebounded again. The market is no longer pricing lasting peace, it's pricing the next escalation.

Source: Bull Theory

#alternatives #us #hedge-funds #ai-selloff

Citadel has acquired a majority of The public assets from Leopold Aschenbrenner's situational awareness fund.

On Tuesday, markets were rattled by fears of a surprise Fed rate hike. By Wednesday, panic selling had spread across high-beta AI and semiconductor stocks, with many names down 50-70% from recent highs. Leopold Aschenbrenner's fund, reportedly managing around $45 billion and using significant leverage, was unable to withstand the drawdown and was forced to liquidate positions. Wall Street can be ruthless.

2 DAYS AGO

Citadel Securities Sees Warsh Delivering Surprise Fed Rate Hike

Kevin Warsh Photographer: Daniel Heuer/Bloomberg

By Ye Xie
July 27, 2026 at 4:42 PM CDT

TODAY

Reuters World Business Markets Sustainability Legal More

Citadel buys most of Situational's stock holdings after AI share rout, sources say

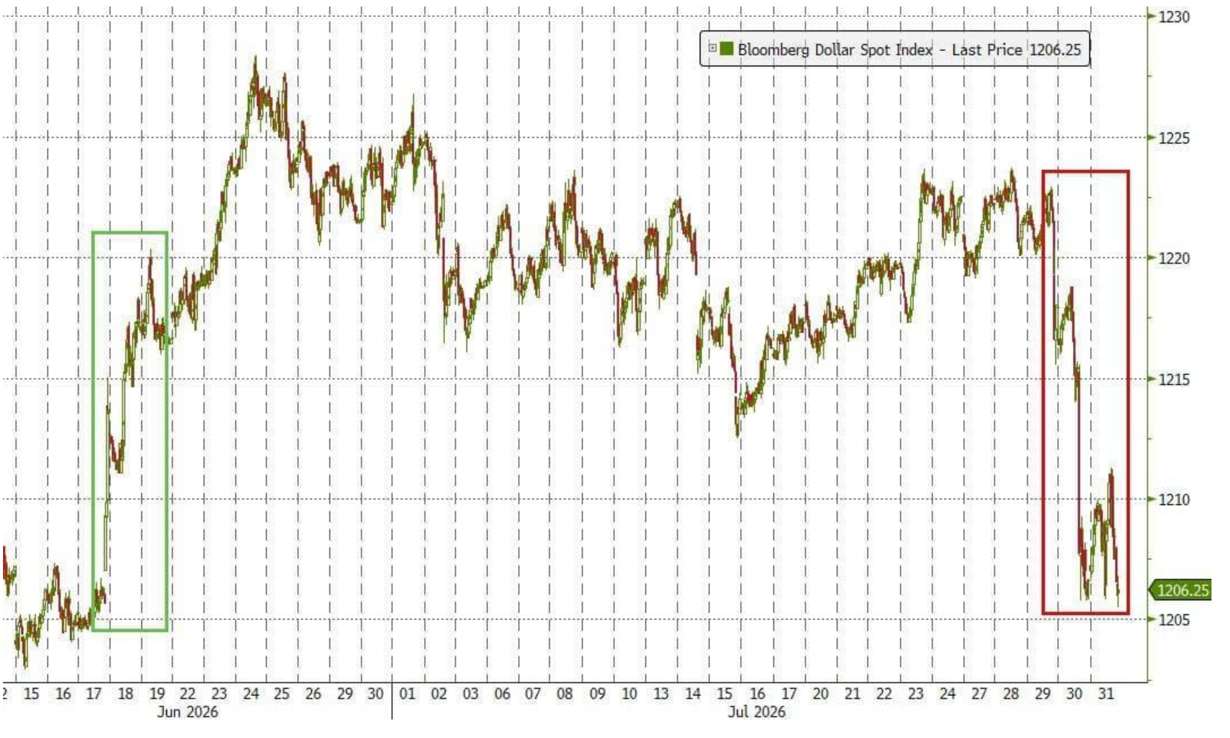
By Anirban Sen and Manya Saini
July 30, 2026 8:04 PM GMT+2 · Updated 3 hours ago

Source: Bull Theory

#markets

#forex #dollar #weekly

The dollar is down for the last six straight days, erasing all of the post-Warsh (first FOMC) gains...

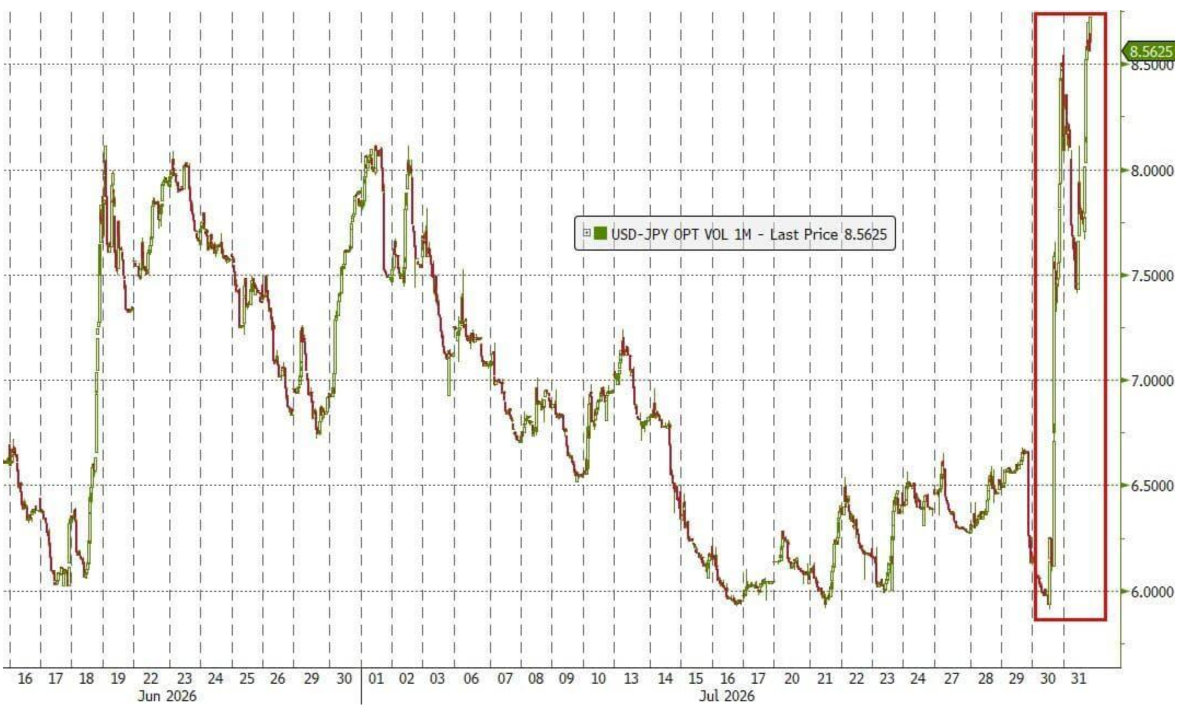


Source: www.zerohedge.com, Bloomberg

#markets

#forex #yen

The Japanese Yen emerged as a critical volatility driver...

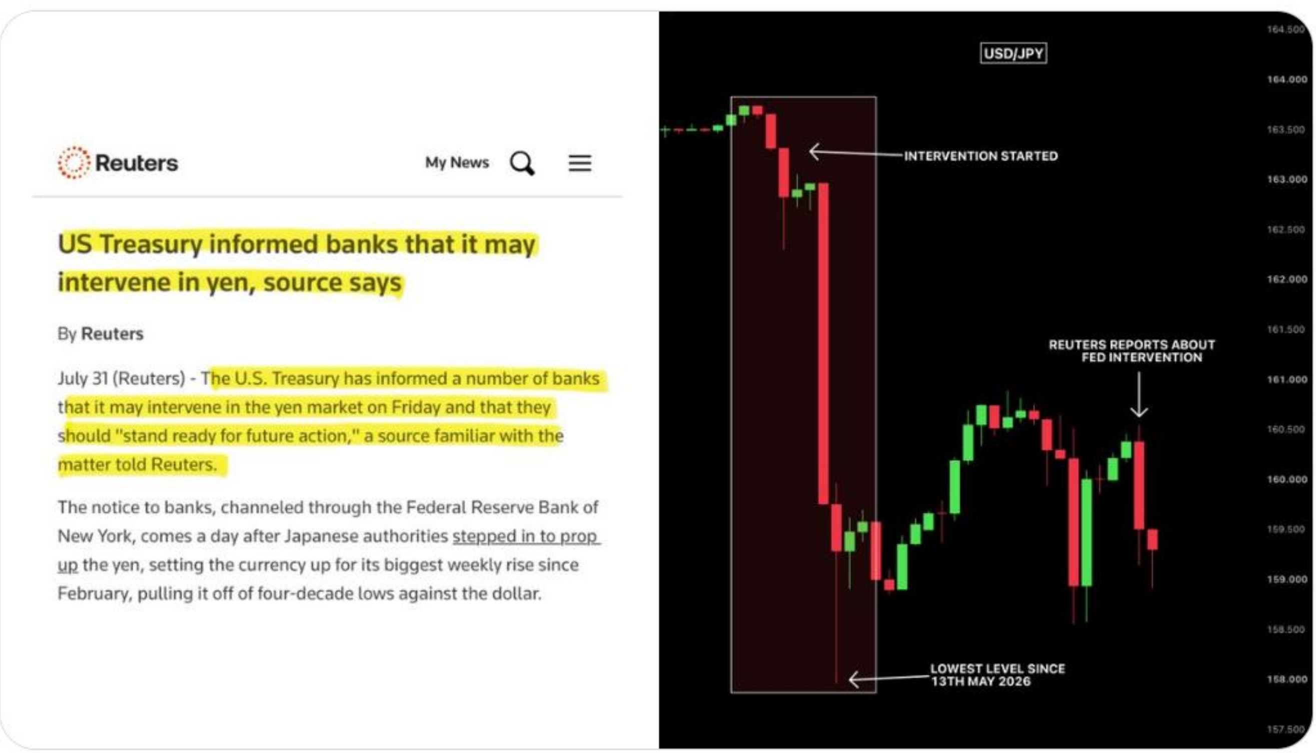


Source: www.zerohedge.com, Bloomberg

#markets

#forex #yen #intervention #carry-trade

The US Treasury has told banks it may intervene in the yen market on Friday, and to "stand ready for future action." The message went through the New York Fed. This would be the first US intervention in the yen since 2011. It comes one day after Japan spent an estimated $53 billion in a single day, its largest currency operation ever, pulling the yen off four-decade lows. The yen is just recorded for its biggest weekly gain since February.



Reuters My News

US Treasury informed banks that it may intervene in yen, source says

By Reuters

July 31 (Reuters) - The U.S. Treasury has informed a number of banks that it may intervene in the yen market on Friday and that they should "stand ready for future action," a source familiar with the matter told Reuters.

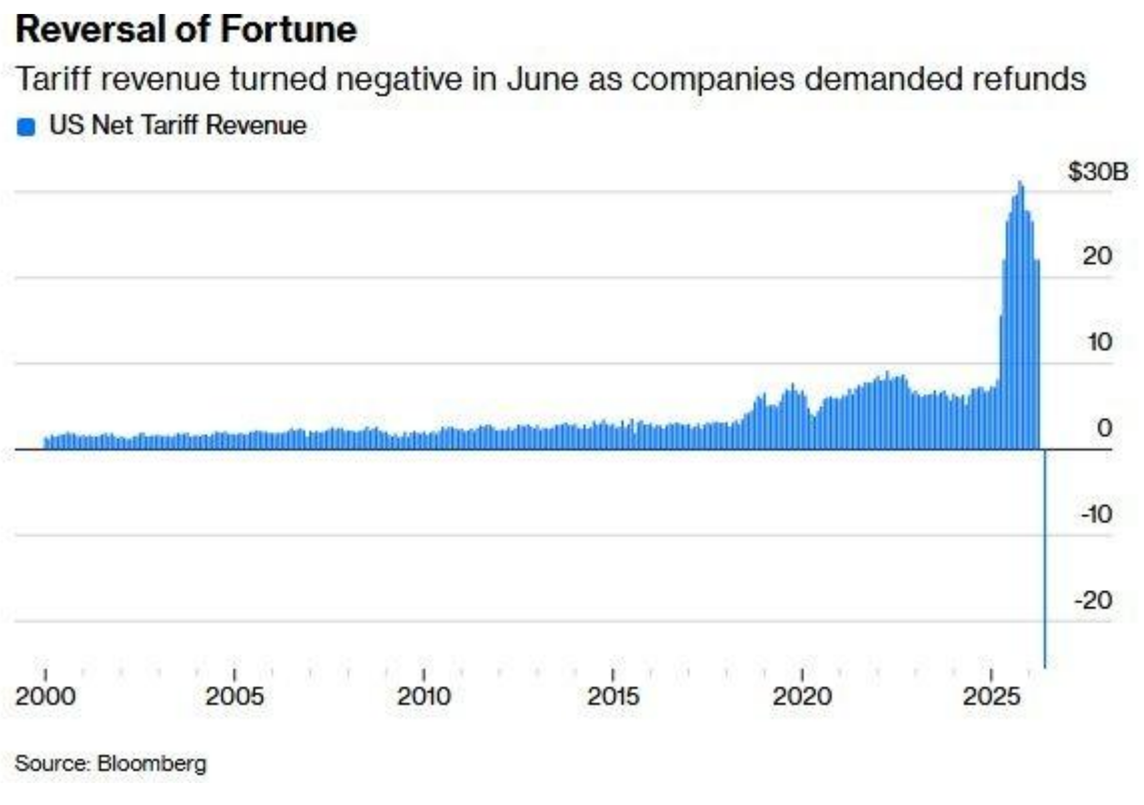
The notice to banks, channeled through the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, comes a day after Japanese authorities stepped in to prop up the yen, setting the currency up for its biggest weekly rise since February, pulling it off of four-decade lows against the dollar.

Source: Bull Theory

#macro

#tariffs #us #trade #fiscal

U.S. Tariff Revenue turned negative last month for the first time in history



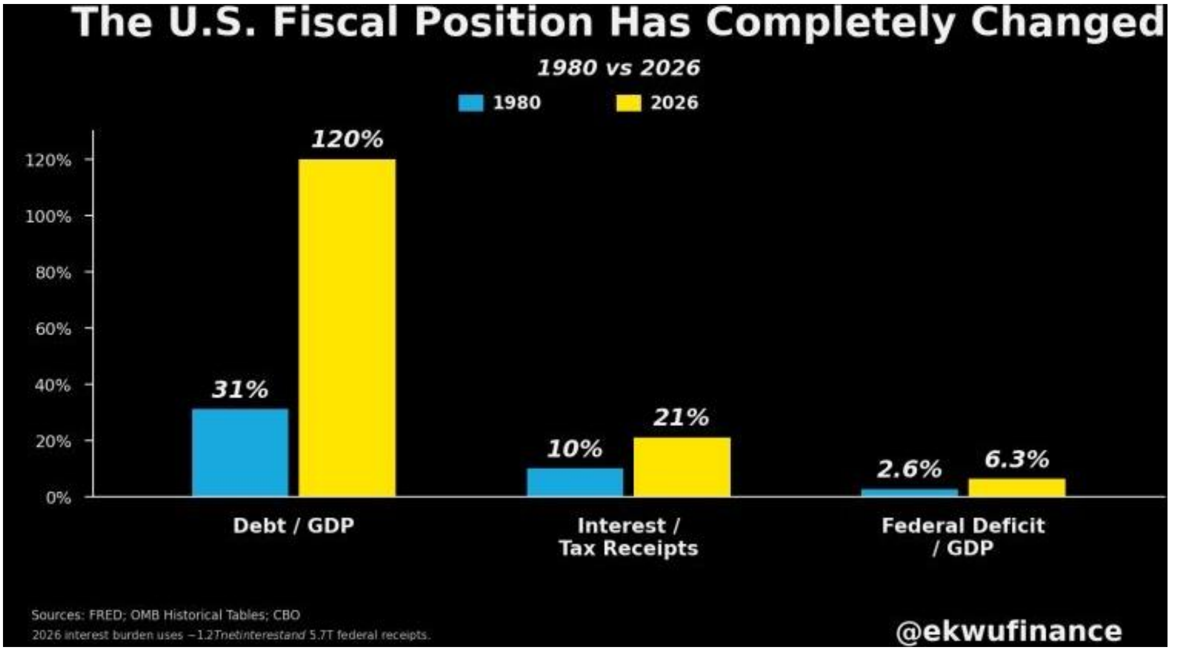
Source: Barchart

#macro

#debt #us #deficit #fed

Stephen Warsh can sound like Volcker. The US fiscal position means he can't easily govern like Volcker.

Raise rates aggressively to crush inflation, and you risk destabilising the Treasury market and sharply increasing government financing costs. Prioritise financial stability instead, and inflation remains higher for longer, putting continued pressure on the US dollar. Today's debt burden makes every rate decision far more consequential.



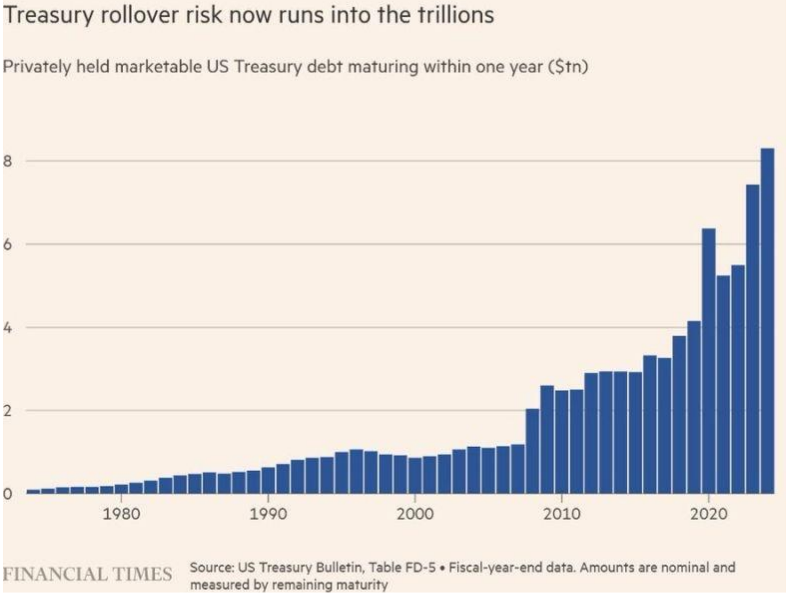
Source: Lukas Ekwueme, @ekwufinance

#macro

#debt #us #treasuries #rates

The US can't afford much higher interest rates.*

Around $8 trillion of US Treasuries must be refinanced over the next 12 months. The 2-year Treasury yield is now around 4.3%. Refinancing $8 trillion at today's rates would add roughly $80 billion in annual interest costs before accounting for the financing needs of an ongoing $2 trillion annual deficit. This is why today's environment is fundamentally different from the Volcker era. The sequence matters: inflate the debt away first, then raise rates to bring inflation under control.



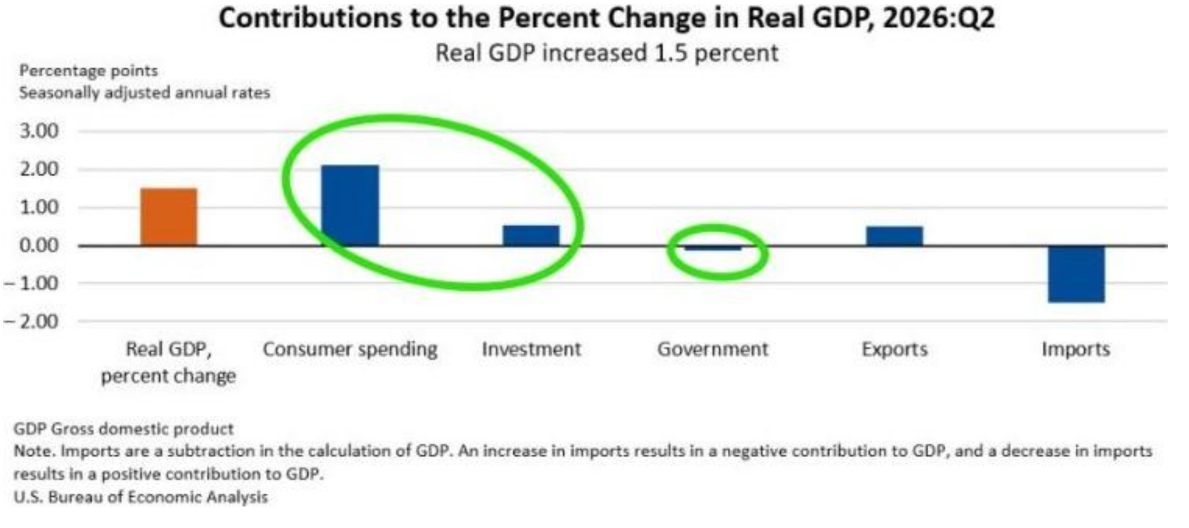
Source: Lukas Ekwueme, FT

#macro

#gdp #us #consumer-spending #growth

In case you missed it... US Q2 GDP came in at +1.5% vs. expectations of +2.1%

While it looks as a miss, let's keep in mind that underlying private domestic demand was strong, with real final sales to private domestic purchasers rising 3.9 percent in Q2 from 1.7 percent in Q1, showing solid private-sector momentum despite the "softer" headline GDP. More importantly, government spending fell.



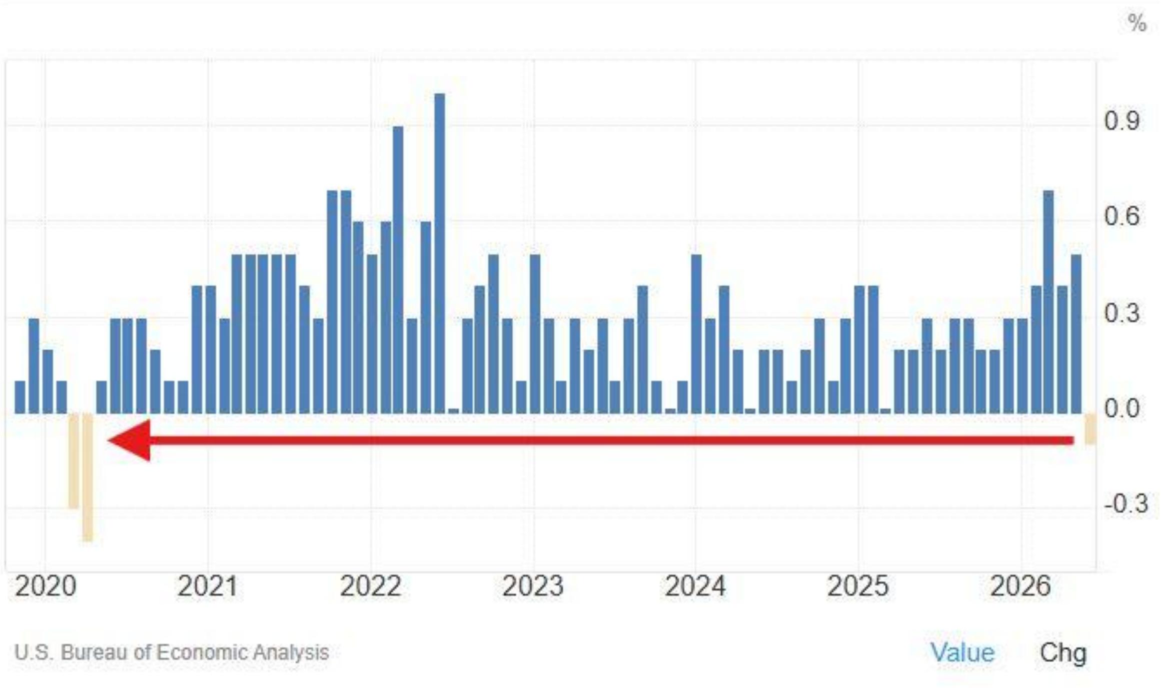
Source: Daniel Lacalle, @dlacalle_IA

#macro

#inflation #us #pce #fed

The Fed's preferred inflation gauge, the PCE price index, fell -0.1% MoM in June.

The first monthly decline since 2020.



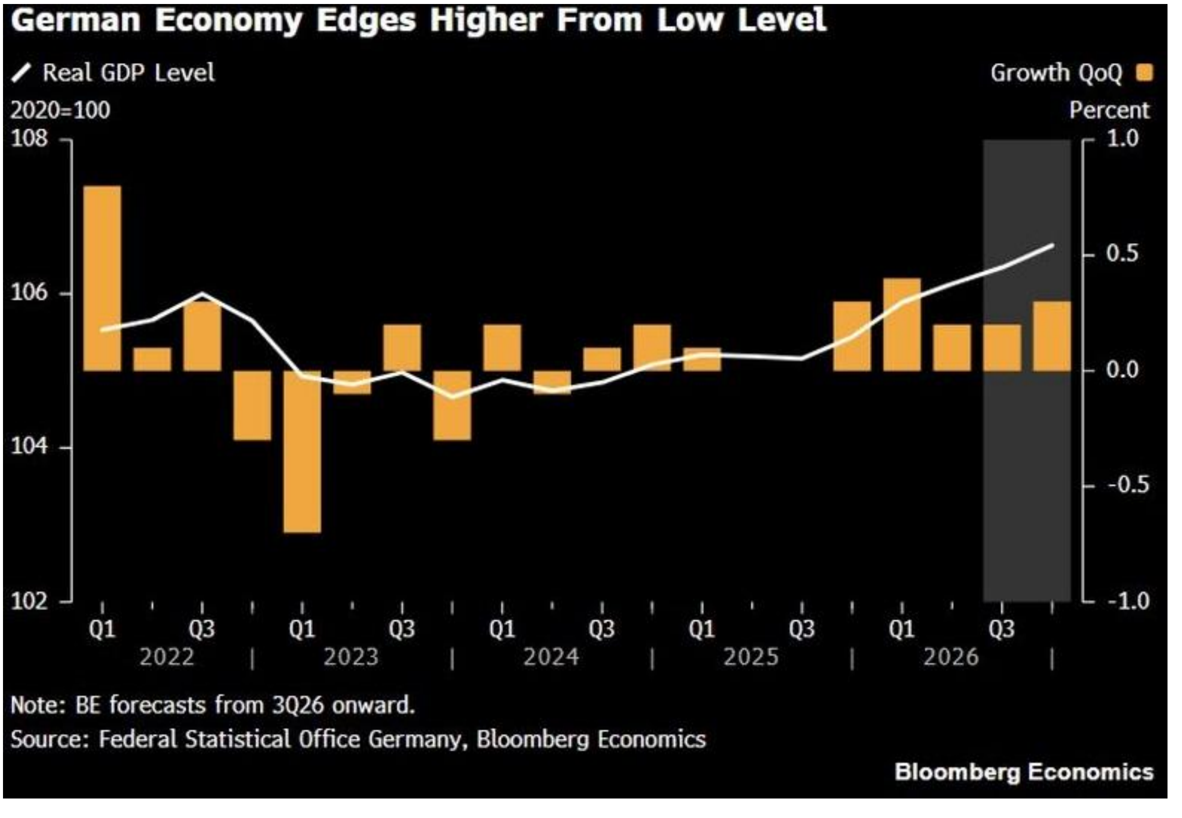
Source: Hedgeye

#macro

#gdp #germany #eurozone #growth

In case you missed it: the German economy is finally doing better than its reputation. GDP rose 0.2% QoQ in Q2, beating estimates, after Q1 was revised up to 0.4%.

Exports drove growth, investment fell. Yet output is still near its 2022 level: recovery, yes! Boom, no!



Source: HolgerZ, Bloomberg

#fed #us #rates #fomc

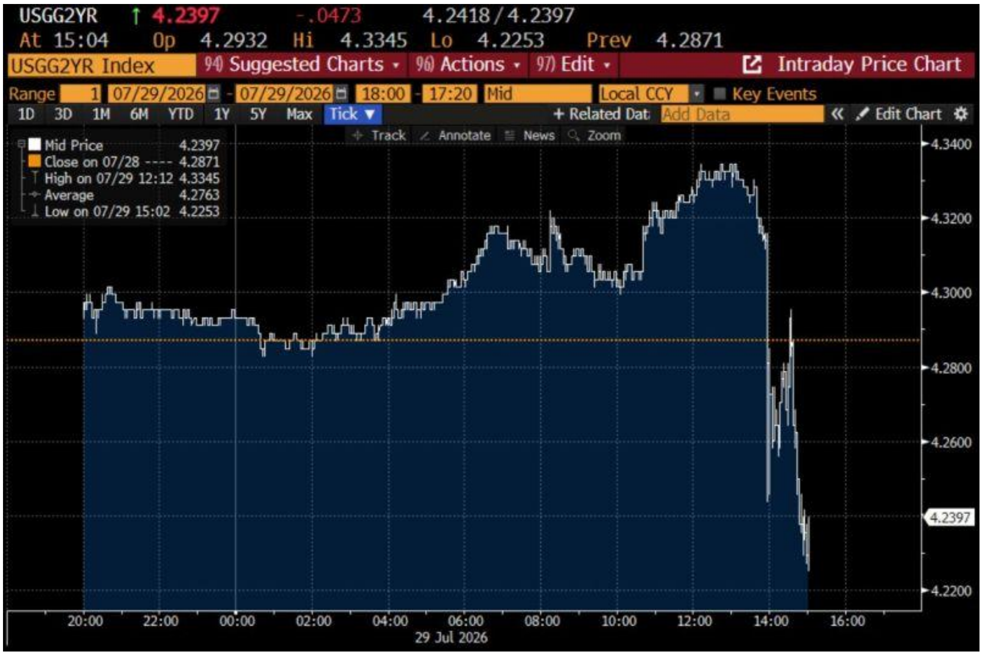
The Fed keeps interest rates unchanged at 3.50% to 3.75%.

The vote was 9-3, and all three dissenters wanted a hike. Cleveland's Hammack, Minneapolis's Kashkari, and Dallas's Logan each dissented in favor of a 25 basis point increase. The hold was largely expected, so the market reaction will depend on the Fed's tone. A hawkish outlook could pressure stocks and other risk assets, while signs that further hikes are unlikely could trigger a relief rally. The pressure inside the room is for higher, not lower.

#fed #us #rates #yields

Overall, I would characterize today's FOMC meeting and Chair Warsh's press conference as hawkish, but LESS hawkish than some investors had feared. Hence the drop in 2 year yield - see chart below (+ the steepening of the curve).

He did not open the door to rate cuts, instead stressing that policy will remain data-dependent and that hikes remain possible if inflation worsens. No dovish pivot. No indication that cuts are approaching. Hikes remain a realistic possibility if inflation or oil prices reaccelerate.



Source: Bloomberg

#centralbanks

#fed #rates #expectations

2026 rate-hike expectations actually fell, erasing about half of the expectation spike post Warsh's first FOMC meeting.

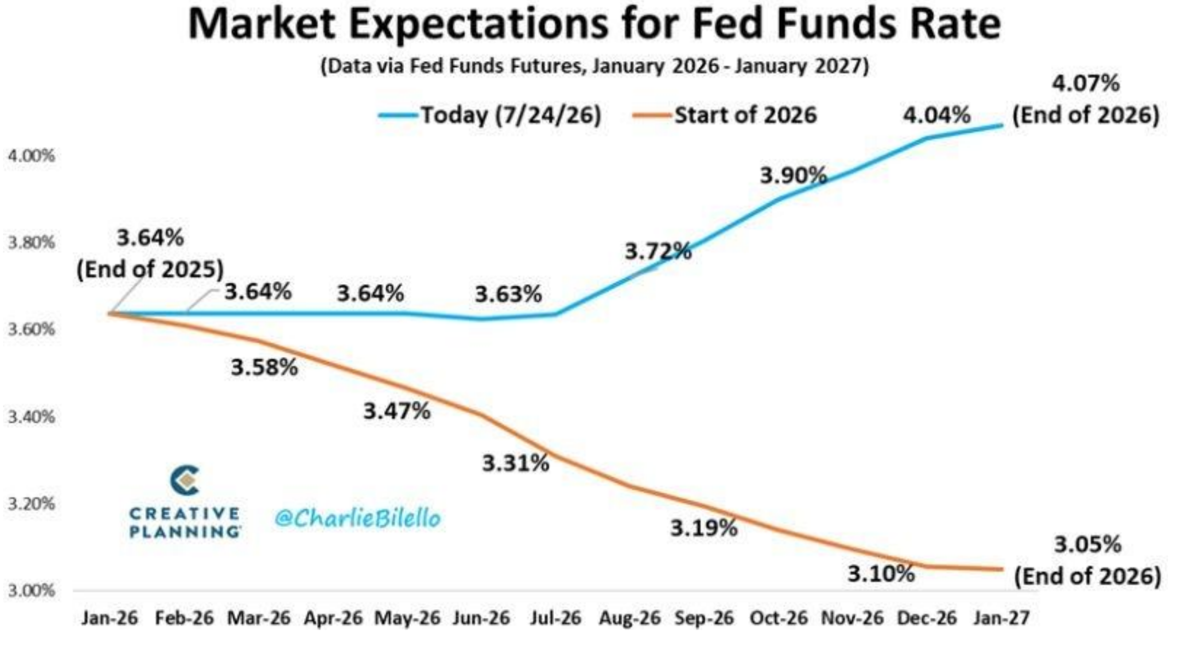
Source: www.zerohedge.com, Bloomberg

#centralbanks

#fixed-income #fed #us #rate-hikes

At the start of the year, the bond market was pricing in 2 Fed rate CUTS.

Today it's pricing in 1 to 2 Fed rate HIKES. That's a 1% swing in expectations.

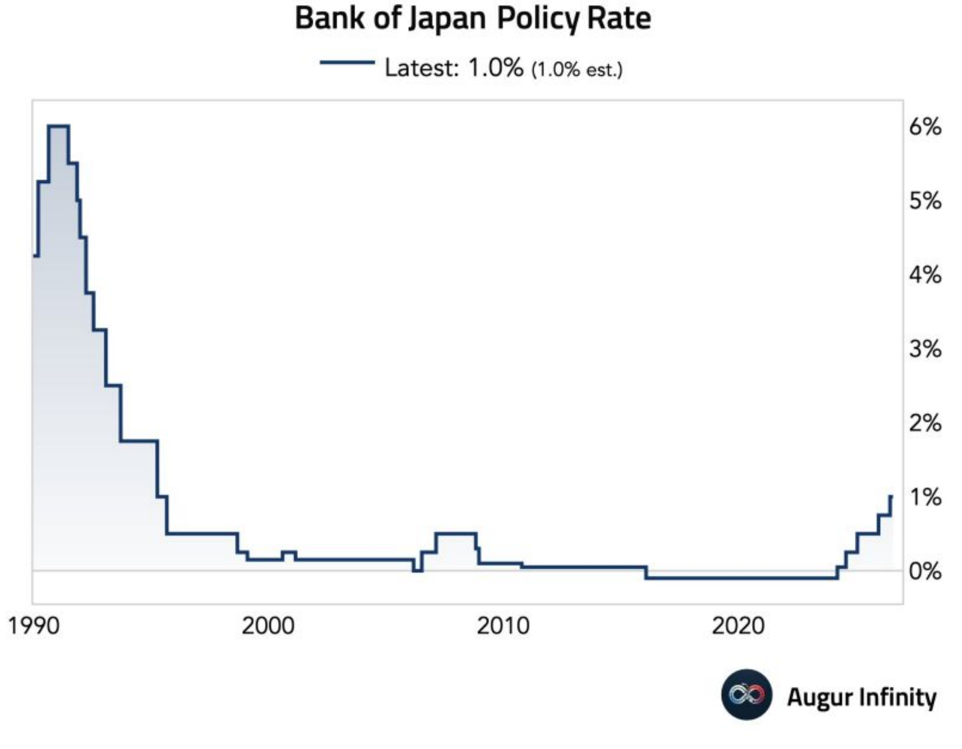


Source: Charlie Bilello

#centralbanks

#boj #japan #interest-rates #inflation

Bank Of Japan (BoJ) keeps rates unchanged at 1% However, it warned that core inflation was likely to exceed its 2% target from September. In its outlook, the BOJ said that core inflation was likely to accelerate to a level "clearly above" 2% from the second half of its 2026 fiscal year, which runs from September to March. Japan's core inflation for July came in at 1.6%, and has been below 2% for most of 2026.



Source: Augur Infinity

#geopolitics

#oil #saudi-arabia #hormuz #shipping

Saudi Aramco has built an alternative route that bypasses both the Strait of Hormuz and the Red Sea.

The catch? That "safer" route now costs about $5 per barrel more once freight, insurance, and pipeline fees are included. On a typical cargo, that's roughly $10 million in additional costs. The impact is now so significant that Aramco is developing a separate pricing formula for these shipments because its standard Asia Official Selling Price (OSP) no longer reflects the true economics.

Source: Jack Prandelli on X

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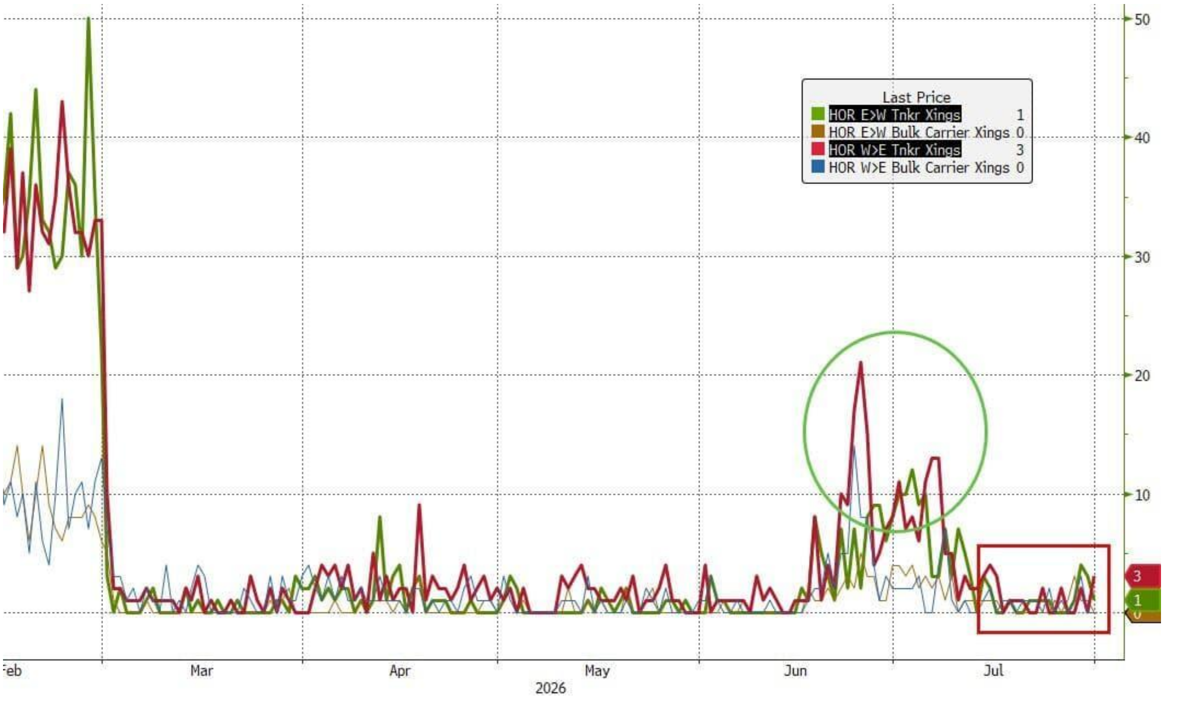
#geopolitics

#straight-of-hormuz #choke-point

shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, a critical chokepoint for global energy trade, faced severe disruptions and intermittent closures.

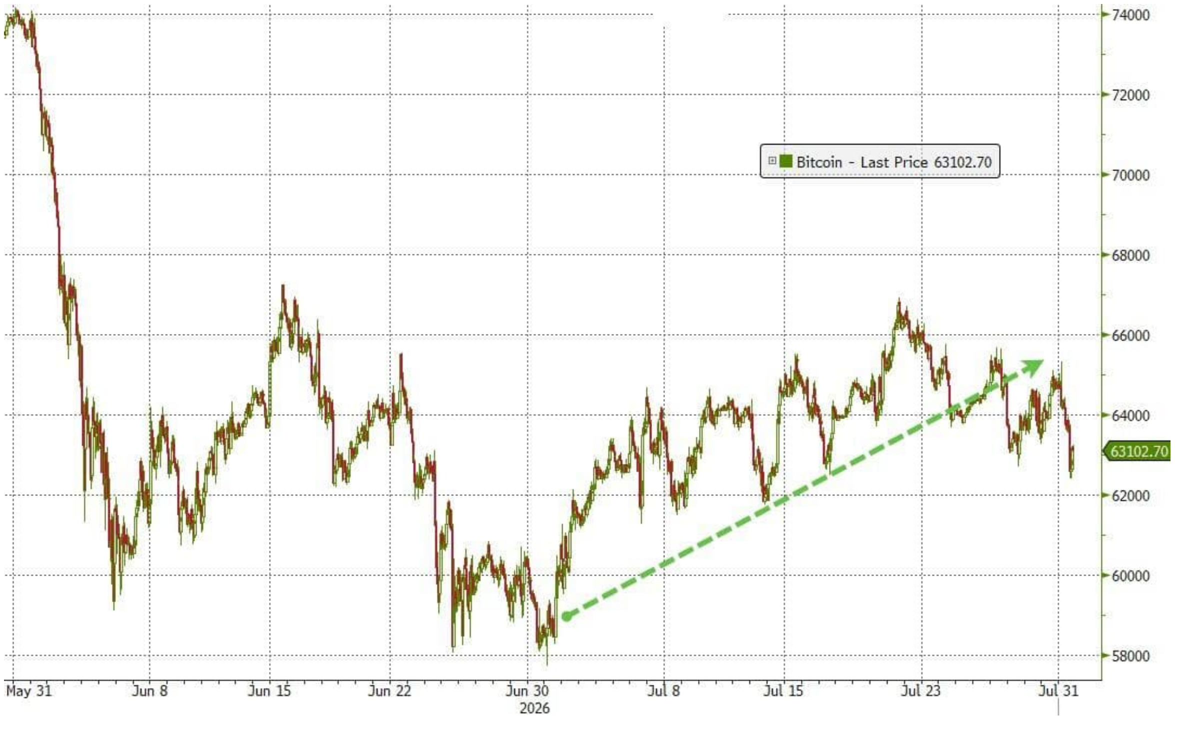


Source: www.zerohedge.com, Bloomberg

#cryptos

#bitcoin #july

Bitcoin trended higher in July, breaking above $66,000 intramonth...



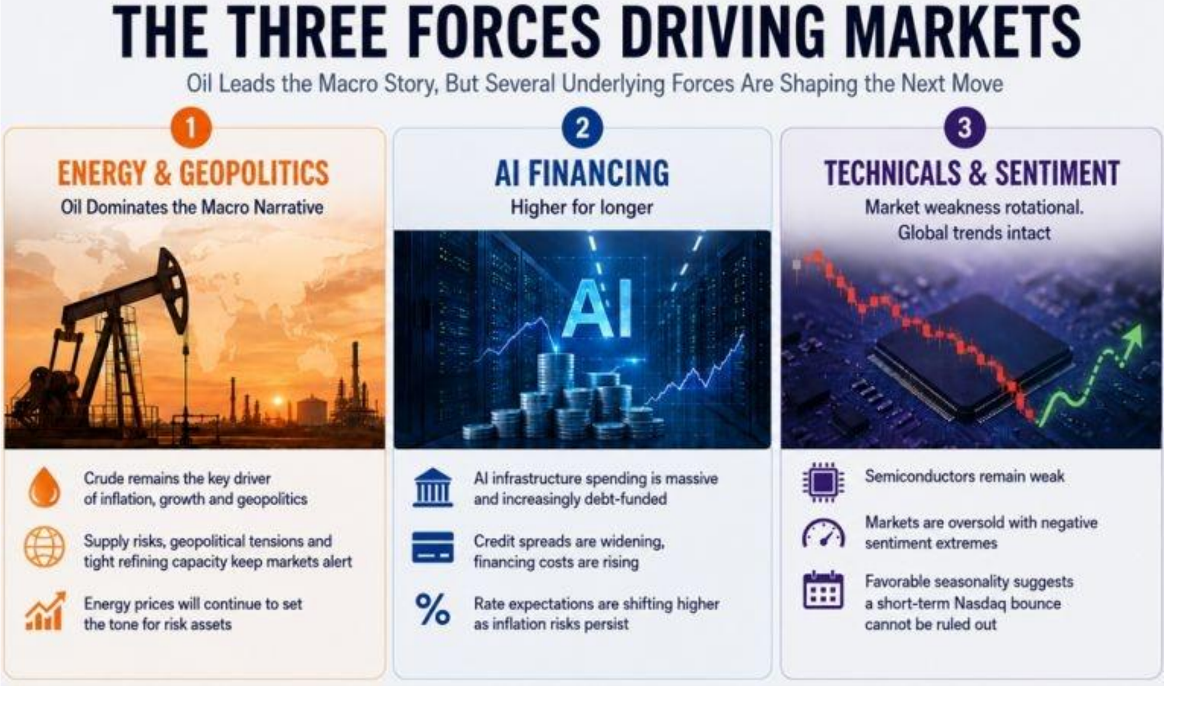
Source: www.zerohedge.com, Bloomberg

#food-for-thought

#outlook #us #oil #ai

The three forces driving the market

Oil continues to dominate the macro narrative, but beneath the surface several other themes are gaining importance. AI financing is becoming a growing concern for credit markets, rate expectations are shifting higher, technicals across semiconductors continue to weaken, while an oversold setup and favorable seasonality suggest a short-term bounce in Nasdaq cannot be ruled out.



Source: TME

#food-for-thought

#tech #global #market-cap #2030

A little over one year ago, Coatue released a 100-page keynote presentation on the evolving technology landscape across public & private companies.

They predicted these 40 companies will be the largest by market cap in 2030. Note the absence of alphabet $GOOG $GOOGL

The next tech order: Coatue Fantastic 40

Privates / Crypto

Company	2030 Market Cap ($B)	Rank
Microsoft	5,713	1
NVIDIA	5,623	2
	5,188	3
amazon	3,645	4
Meta	2,805	5
tsmc	2,748	6
TESLA	2,568	7
BROADCOM	1,915	8
OpenAI	1,613	9
ORACLE	1,481	10
Tencent 腾讯	962	11
SPACEX	871	12
NETFLIX	834	13
arm	787	14
	763	15
ByteDance	746	16
Palantir	528	17
servicenow	511	18
stripe	511	19
ASML	488	20

Company	2030 Market Cap ($B)	Rank
INTUITIVE	461	21
Alibaba	437	22
xiaomi	425	23
	404	24
Spotify	360	25
shopify	344	26
INTUIT	342	27
databricks	333	28
ANTHROPIC	331	29
GE VERNOVA	328	30
APPLOVIN	314	31
CROWDSTRIKE	300	32
mercado libre	300	34
Uber	287	34
	281	35
	281	36
S&P Global	255	37
CATL	253	38
BINANCE	249	39
Revolut	242	40

COATUE 101

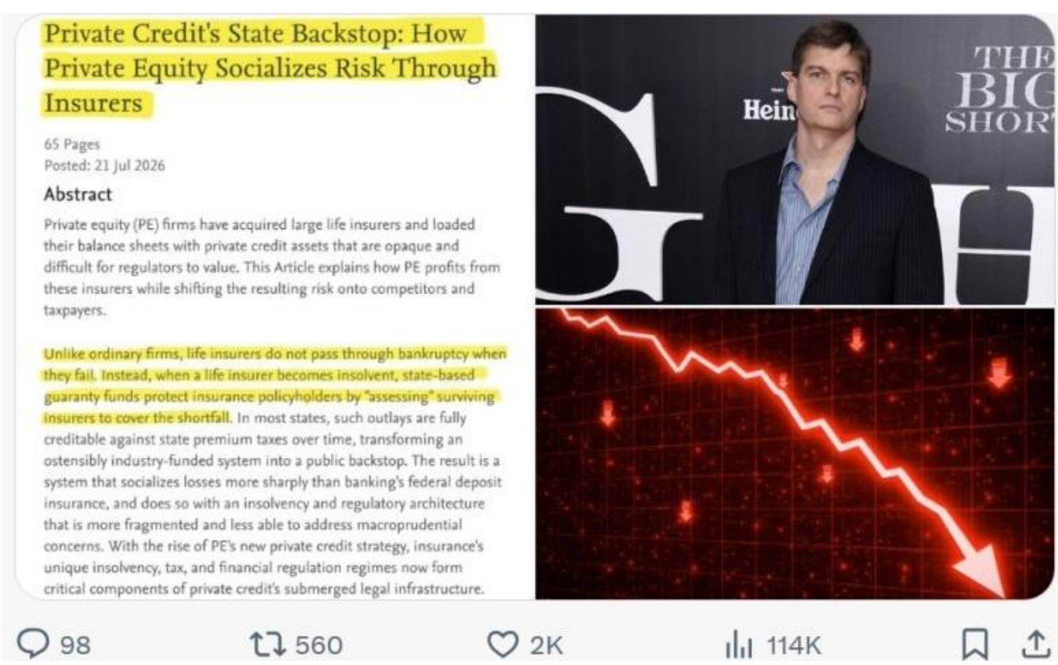
Source: Koyfin, @KoyfinCharts

#food-for-thought

#private-credit #private-equity #us #insurance

Michael Burry is warning that private equity may have found a way to shift losses onto the public.

Apollo, KKR and Blackstone have acquired life insurers and loaded them with $849 billion of hard-to-value private credit, more than double the 2014 level. If an insurer fails, state guaranty systems protect policyholders. The cost is initially borne by other insurers, but they can offset those payments against state taxes, ultimately reducing public tax revenue.


Private Credit's State Backstop: How Private Equity Socializes Risk Through Insurers

65 Pages
Posted: 21 Jul 2026

Abstract

Private equity (PE) firms have acquired large life insurers and loaded their balance sheets with private credit assets that are opaque and difficult for regulators to value. This Article explains how PE profits from these insurers while shifting the resulting risk onto competitors and taxpayers.

Unlike ordinary firms, life insurers do not pass through bankruptcy when they fail. Instead, when a life insurer becomes insolvent, state-based guaranty funds protect insurance policyholders by "assessing" surviving insurers to cover the shortfall. In most states, such outlays are fully creditable against state premium taxes over time, transforming an ostensibly industry-funded system into a public backstop. The result is a system that socializes losses more sharply than banking's federal deposit insurance, and does so with an insolvency and regulatory architecture that is more fragmented and less able to address macroprudential concerns. With the rise of PE's new private credit strategy, insurance's unique insolvency, tax, and financial regulation regimes now form critical components of private credit's submerged legal infrastructure.

Source: Bull Theory

#food-for-thought

#big-tech #us #alphabet #spacex

Alphabet's disclosed equity stakes, ranked by approximate ownership: Planet Labs at 9.9%, Freshworks at 5.9%, SpaceX at roughly 4.2% of the total company, then AST SpaceMobile at 2.3%, Revolution Medicines, UiPath, CME Group, Tempus AI and Arm Holdings at 0.18%. Alongside the controlled bets: Waymo, majority-owned, plus subsidiaries Verily and Calico.

Source: Patient Investor, @patientinvestor

#food-for-thought

#ai #us #jobs #automation

Narrative violation. WSJ yesterday.

Big Companies Are Starting to Hire Again, Defying Predictions of AI Wipeout

After a year of holding back on new hires, companies from tech and transportation to defense now say they need more people to work alongside AI

Source: David Sacks, @DavidSacks

#food-for-thought

#equities #us #jpmorgan #sentiment

Jamie Dimon last week: "Do not buy stocks" J.P. Morgan today: "Stocks set to rally"

JPMorgan Sees S&P 500 Set to Rally as a Buy Signal Flashes

The JPMorgan Chase & Co. headquarters in New York. Photographer: Michael Nagle/Bloomberg

By Felice Maranz

July 27, 2026 at 12:35 PM CDT

Updated on July 27, 2026 at 3:50 PM CDT

Jamie Dimon says markets underestimate risks and he wouldn't buy stocks or Treasurys at current prices

Jamie Dimon, chief executive officer of JPMorgan Chase & Co., speaks during the 2025 Institute of International Finance annual membership meeting in Washington, Oct. 16, 2025.

Source: Barchart

#food-for-thought

#consumer #us #apple #bnpl

Apple customers in the U.S. will soon be able to lease an iPhone for up to two years at a price starting at $17.99 per month, the company announced on Tuesday.

After passing a soft credit check, customers will be offered a one- or two-year lease on an iPhone.

Source: CNBC

#food-for-thought

#ai #us #nvidia #data-centers

The guarantees from Nvidia would help the ChatGPT maker lease a 10-gigawatt project that SoftBank's energy subsidiary is developing in southern Ohio, people familiar with the matter said. In total, the project could cost more than $500 billion, including the chips that would go inside the data centers. It would be the largest data-center project announced to date".

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Nvidia in Talks With OpenAI to Guarantee $250 Billion Financing for Data Center

Project would be one of the largest AI computing hubs and involve power controlled by the U.S. government

By Anissa Gardizy, Amrith Ramkumar and Corrie Driebusch
July 26, 2026 7:19 pm ET

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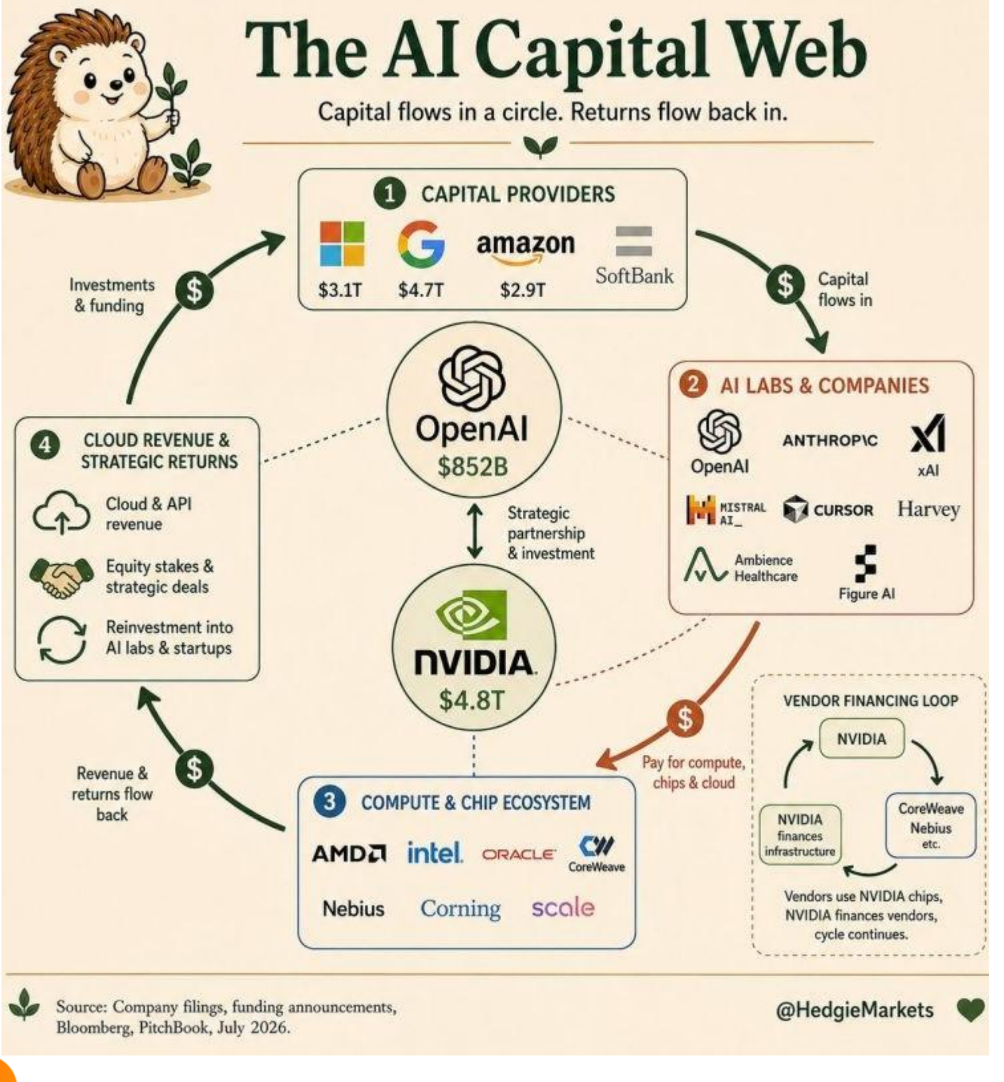
#food-for-thought

#ai #us #nvidia #openai

Nvidia is stacking up more than $750 billion in AI deals at once, and Bloomberg says the way they're wired is spooking even people who own the stock.



Source: hedgie

#food-for-thought

#fed #us #rates #citadel

Just in : Fed will deliver surprise rate hike this week, says Citadel

Citadel Securities Sees Warsh Delivering Surprise Fed Rate Hike

Kevin Warsh *Photographer: Daniel Heuer/Bloomberg*

By Ye Xie

July 27, 2026 at 4:42 PM CDT

Source: Barchart

#food-for-thought

#hedge-funds #us #ai #liquidity

Leopold Aschenbrenner's $20 billion AI hedge fund may be facing its first real stress test. He launched Situational Awareness LP in late 2024 with $225 million. Within two years, assets reportedly surged to ~$20 billion, fueled by massive gains in AI stocks. Now the trade is reversing. The fund is reportedly offering some investors the opportunity to purchase assets directly from its portfolio. Rather than selling into a weak market and pushing prices even lower, it may be seeking liquidity through private transfers.

FINANCIAL TIMES

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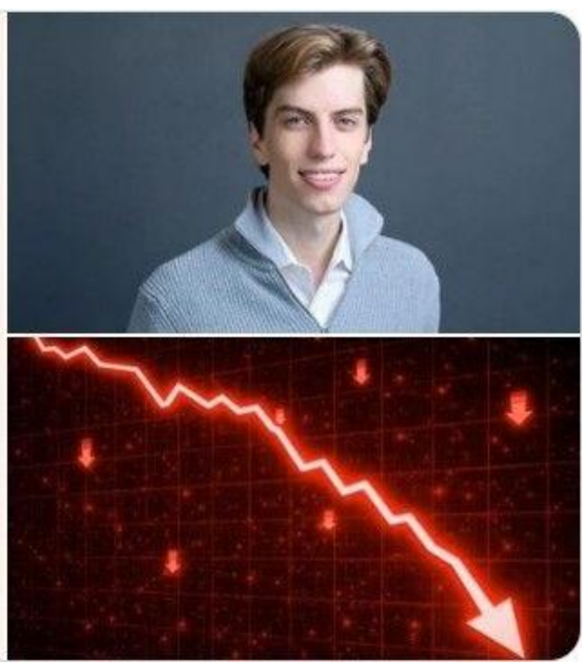
Leopold Aschenbrenner's Situational Awareness seeks to raise capital after AI rout

Situational Awareness, the $20bn hedge fund founded by former OpenAI employee Leopold Aschenbrenner, has sought to raise fresh capital from investors after suffering heavy losses during the recent rout in AI stocks.

The fund held discussions with existing investors and lenders in recent days seeking to raise new capital, according to people briefed on the matter. The fund had also offered some investors the option to buy assets in its portfolio, the people added. One of the people briefed on the talks described them as ad hoc, rather than a co-ordinated effort.



Source: FT, Bull Theory

#food-for-thought

#private-equity #europe #fintech #retail

(Bloomberg) — Revolut Ltd. will offer European customers access to funds spanning private equity, credit and infrastructure, one of the most high-profile examples of alternative asset managers teaming up with platforms to attract retail investors. Customers can start with as little as €1 ($1.14) in the funds The partnership with Revolut, which has more than 75 million users, marks the latest push by private capital giants to tap individual investors in an effort to seek new sources of funding.

Revolut to Offer Clients Apollo, Ares Funds for as Little as €1

Summary by Bloomberg AI

- Revolut Ltd. will offer European customers access to funds spanning private equity, credit and infrastructure, teaming up with platforms to attract retail investors.
- Clients can invest in funds from companies including Apollo Global Management Inc. and Partners Group Holding AG, with a minimum investment of as little as €1.
- Revolut isn't charging clients any extra platform or transaction commissions on top of the funds' individual fees, and fund managers don't pay Revolut placement fees to be featured on the platform.

By Leonard Kehnscherper and Aisha S Gani
07/27/2026 12:55:00 [BN]

Revolut

APOLLO

ARES

Hamilton Lane

Partners Group

Source: Bloomberg, Reuters

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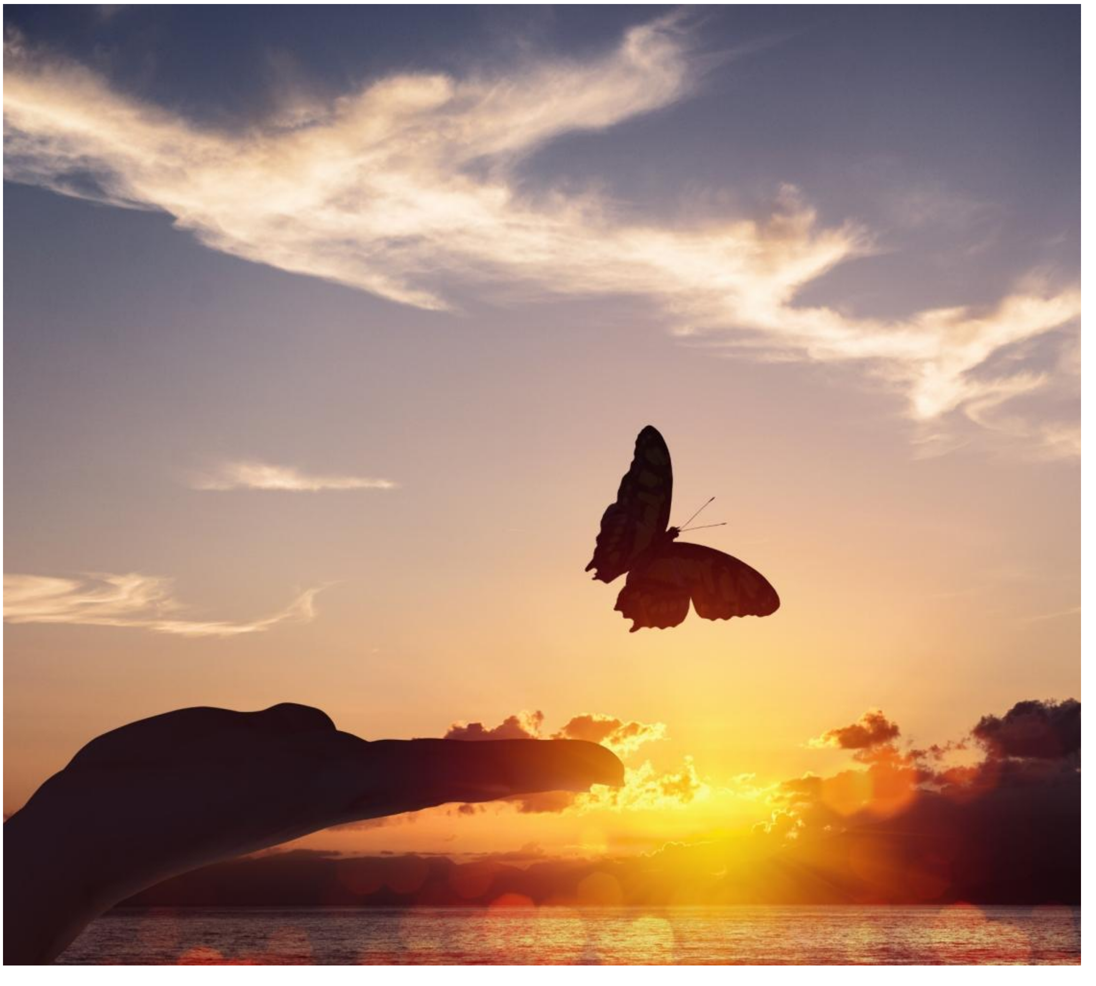

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