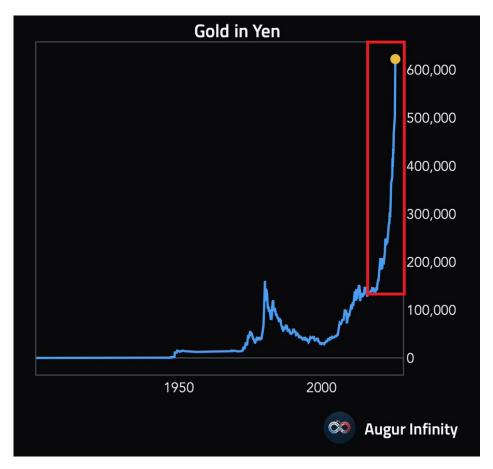
Chart of the week

A remarkable example of currency DEBASEMENT

♠ Gold prices in Japanese Yen have SKYROCKETED over 300% since the 2020 crisis. By comparison, in US Dollars the surge was ~190%. Gold prices in Yen have DOUBLED since 2024.





Source: Global Markets Investor on X

Equity market rally shows signs of fatigue

U.S. stocks rose for the week, recovering from the previous Friday's steep sell-off—the S&P 500's worst day since April. The rebound came amid easing U.S.-China trade tensions, dovish comments from Federal Reserve officials, and optimism from new deals in the artificial intelligence sector. The start of Q3 earnings season further boosted sentiment, as major banks like JPMorgan Chase, Citigroup, and Wells Fargo all beat expectations. By Friday, 12% of S&P 500 companies had reported, with 86% exceeding earnings forecasts, according to FactSet. However, gains were partly reversed on Thursday after two regional banks revealed loan issues linked to alleged fraud, reigniting concerns about credit risks and the health of smaller lenders. These worries, along with recent bankruptcies in the auto sector, pushed the CBOE Volatility Index to its highest level since April. Fed Chair Jerome Powell seemed to indicate that the central bank remains on track to cut short-term interest rates again this year. U.S. 10-year U.S. Treasury note yield hit its lowest level since October 2024 on Thursday, moving below 4%. The pan-European STOXX Europe 600 Index ended 0.37% higher. Nikkei 225 Index fell 1.05%. Chiba onshore benchmark CSI 300 slid 2.2%. The dollar suffered its worst week in two months, testing down to its 50- and 100-day moving average. Crude oil prices tumbled to their lowest in five months this week with WTI testing \$56. Gold rallied almost 5% on the week, hitting \$4,300. Cryptos were volatile.





#weekly #stats

INDEX	CLOSE	WEEK	YTD
Dow Jones Industrial Average	46,191	1.6%	8.6%
S&P 500 Index	6,664	1.7%	13.3%
NASDAQ	22,680	2.1%	17.4%
MSCI EAFE *	2,803	1.6%	23.9%
10-yr Treasury Yield	4.00%	-0.1%	0.1%
Oil (\$/bbl)	\$57.26	-2.8%	-20.2%
Bonds	\$100.96	0.5%	7.3%



Source: Edward Jones

Hand-curated selection of the best charts & news flow

OCTOBER 18, 2025



#weekly #summary

▲ US stocks finished higher this week despite declines on Wednesday and Thursday driven by tariff headlines and weakness in regional banks. Gold and silver sold-off massively on Friday but ended materially up for the week. Meanwhile, crypto markets have gone through some pain.



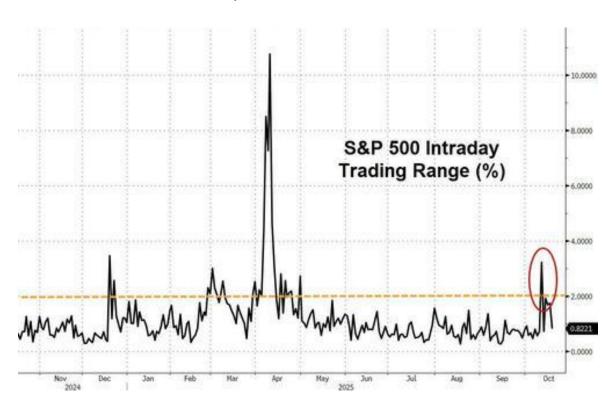


Source: Finviz



#us #equities #s&p500

This week the intraday band for the S&P 500 breached 2.0% for the first time since April.

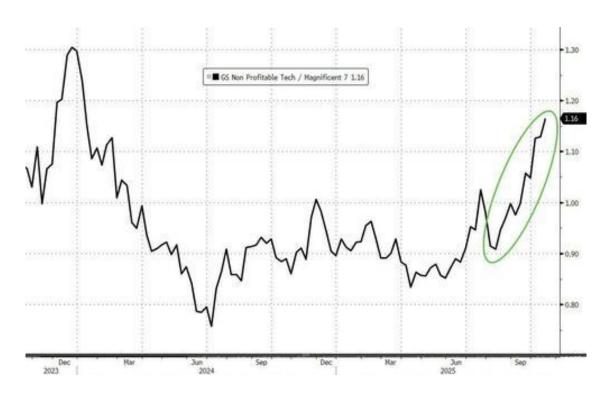






#mag7 #unprofitable-tech #relative-performance

▲ Unprofitable Tech stocks have been outperforming Mag7 stocks for the 8th week in the last 10...

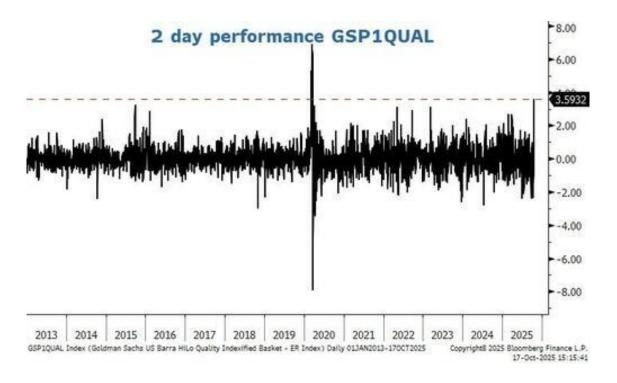






#us #equities #quality

▲ Interestingly - while the unprofitable tech names outperformed Mag7, we also saw a big surge in 'quality' stocks with the best 2-day rally since COVID!

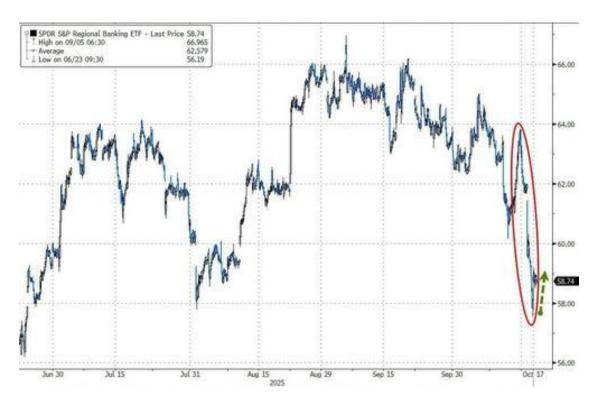






#us #regional-banks #index

K Regional bank shares rebounded modestly on Friday but it was still an ugly week overall...

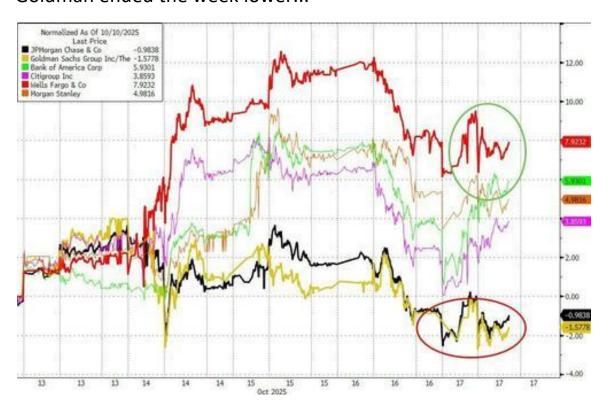






#us #banks

While Regionals were wrecked this week, big banks outperformed overall (led by Wells and BofA) but JPM and Goldman ended the week lower...

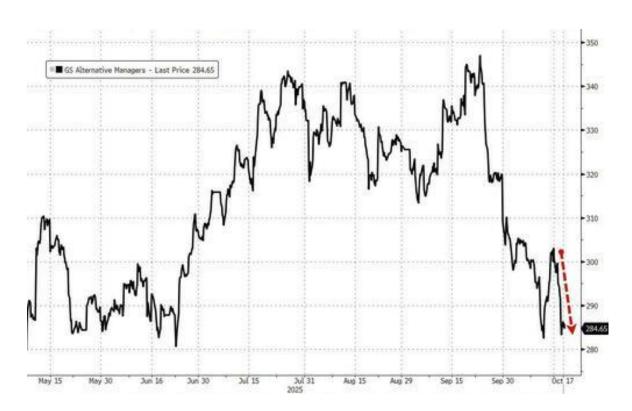






#alternative-managers #stocks

准 Alts saw no such bounce back ending near 4-month lows...







#us #equities #vix

The VIX volatility index, often referred to as the Wall Street fear gauge, has climbed above 20, after spending much of the last few months in the mid-teens. Meanwhile, we have seen a bid for safe-haven assets, with U.S. Treasury yields moving lower, reflecting in part the growing uncertainty in markets and the economic backdrop.



Source: Bloomberg

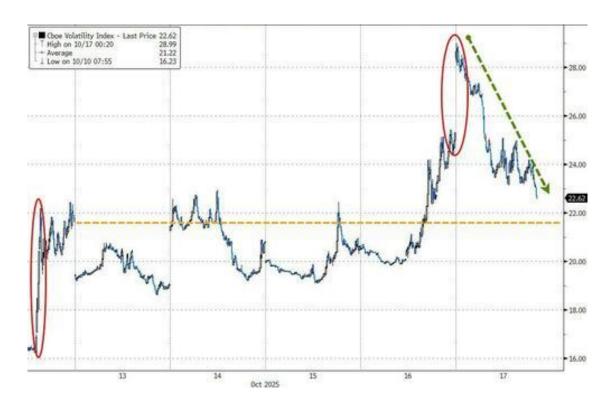


Source: Edward Jones



#us #equities #vix

▲ VIX spiked at the open on Friday (OpEx) just below 29 and then eased back all day - but ended marginally higher on the week...





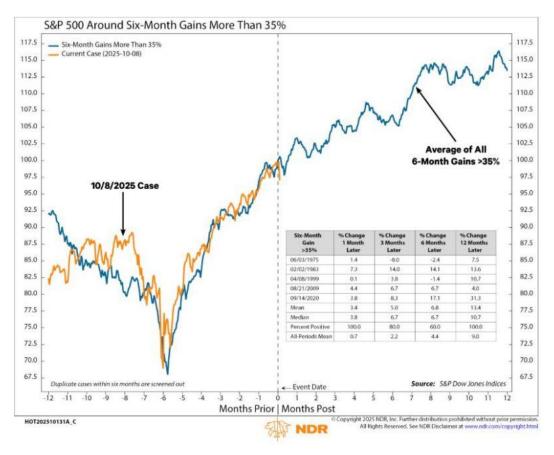


#us #equities #sp500 #liberation-day

"October 8 marked six months after the post-Liberation Day low (April 2). The S&P 500 jumped 35.5%, its biggest six-month gain since September 2020."

It's only the sixth time since WWII the S&P 500 rose more than 35% in six months.

And in all five prior cases, it kept rallying. Slower, but still above average.





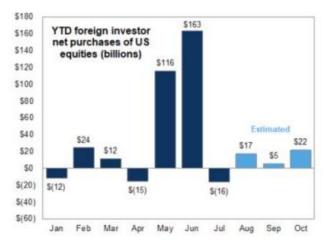
Source: Robert Karas, NDR



#us #equities #liberation-day #foreign #investors

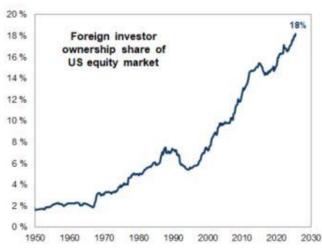
Remember "sell everything USA" after Liberation Day? Foreigners took the other side of the trade...

Exhibit 21: Foreign investor demand for US equities YTD



Source: Treasury, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 20: Foreign investors hold 18% of the US equity market



Source: Federal Reserve, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

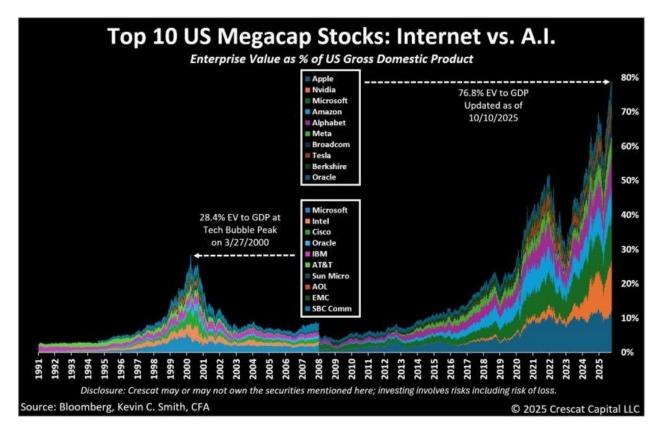


Source: Goldman, RBC



#equities #megacap #ai #dot-com #valuations

In terms of enterprise value relative to GDP, the top 10 US mega-cap stocks are now valued 270% higher than the 10 largest market cap tech and telecom stocks were at the peak of the 2000 bubble. See the chart below. Similarly, the Warren Buffett indicator, which uses the total US equity market cap to GDP, is at levels far exceeding the dot-com era.



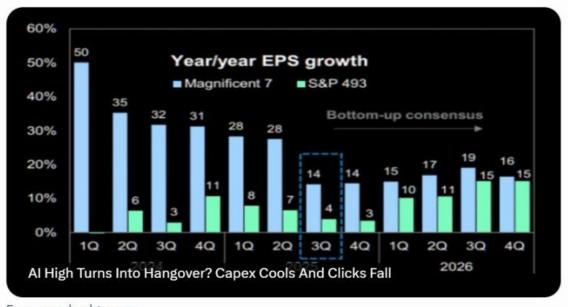


Source: Bloomberg, Kevin Smith



#us #equities #mag7 #earnings

Consensus by analysts now points to a sharp earnings slowdown for the Magnificent 7: +14% y/y in 3Q, roughly half of last quarter's pace and well below the ~30% average over the past four quarters.



From zerohedge.com

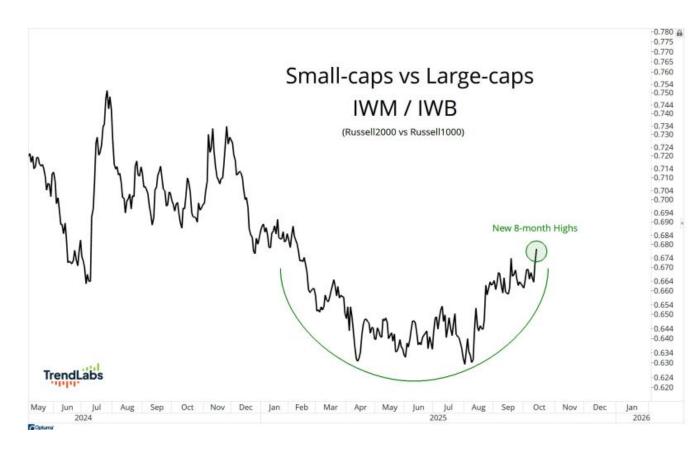


Source: zerohedge, The Market Ear @themarketear



#us #equities #small-caps

US small-caps yesterday hit the highest levels since February relative to Large-caps





Source: J-C Parets



#us #equities #baskets #performance

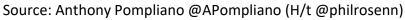
Goldman Sachs basket YTD performances:

1/ GS US Drones + 128.7%

2/ GS US Quantum Computing +124.7%

3/ GS Meme stocks +73.4%

Ticker	GS Basket Name	YTD	April 8th-to-date
GSXUDRON Index	GS US Drones	128.7%	366.8%
GSXUQNTM Index	GS US Quantum Computing	124.7%	315.5%
GSXUMEME Index	GS Memes Stocks	73.4%	123.5%
GSXUNPTC Index	GS Non Profitable Tech	53.4%	111.1%
GSCBMSAL Index	GS Most Short Rolling	38.4%	97.9%
GSXURFAV Index	Retail Favorites	44.8%	83.4%
GSXUMFMS Index	US Marquee Momentum Shrt	24.3%	77.0%
GSXUDEBT Index	GS HY Debt Sensitivity	26.2%	75.3%
GSXUCHSE Index	China Sales Exposure	34.2%	73.7%
GSXULIPO Index	GS Liquid IPO Basket	39.6%	72.7%
GSXUHBCY Index	GS High Beta Cyclicals	12.1%	61.5%
GSXUCOMO Index	GS US Commodity	32.1%	49.8%
GSXUMFVL Index	US Marquee Value Long	15.2%	46.3%
GSTHWBAL Index	GS Weak Balance Sheet	14.6%	42.1%
GSXUSGRO Index	GS Secular Growth	17.1%	40.4%
GSXUMFQL Index	US Quality Long Basket	11.5%	38.9%
SPX Index	S&P 500 Index	14.5%	35.2%
GSXUCYCL Index	GS US Cyclicals	9.5%	34.7%
GSTHSBAL Index	GS Strong Balance Sheet	11.0%	34.4%
GSXUPAND Index	GS US Global Health Risk	-1.8%	34.0%
GSXUOECY Index	GS Over-Earning Cyclical	7.2%	32.4%
GSXURETL Index	GS US Retail	-2.0%	32.2%
GSXUSHGM Index	High Stable Gross Margin	11.6%	30.1%
GSXU Index	MSCI World ex USA Selection	20.7%	26.8%
GSXUWAGE Index	GS US Wage Growth	7.7%	25.6%
GSXUGOOD Index	GS US Consumer Goods	-2.4%	23.7%
GSXUSFDV Index	GS Sustainable Dividend	9.8%	21.7%
GSXUCOND Index	GS US Consumer Disc.	0.0%	21.3%
GSXUCOMP Index	Defensive Compounder	6.0%	14.4%
GSXUOILX Index	Oilinputcost	-11.6%	13.8%
GSXUDEFS Index	GS US Defensives	4.5%	6.4%
GSXUCPIS Index	GS Inflation Underperform	-4.8%	5.8%
GSXUBOND Index	GS Bond Proxies	1.7%	2.9%
GSXUSTAP Index	GS US Consumer Staples	-0.1%	1.3%





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#equities #no-revenues

Billion-dollar companies with no revenues.

The Zero Dollar Club* Δ 52w High RGC Regencell Bioscience \$9.38 n/a+14330.77% -60.59% OMMM OMMM \$119.40 \$6.88 n/a n/a +9155.81% +1277.16% +2073.40% DGNX Diginex \$20.43 \$3.8B n/a +2073.40% -48.73% n/a TMC TMC the metals company \$9.61 -15,33% +742.98% +851.49% \$3.9B () OKLO Oklo \$171.56 \$25.3B +708.48% +1372.62% -11.49% TMQ Trilogy Metals \$8,46 \$2.0B +629.31% +1558.82% ASTS AST SpaceMobile \$95.69 \$34.6B +352.65% +879.43% -4.14% RGTI Rigetti Computing \$56.34 \$18.3B n/a +249.07% +6607.14% -3.11% QS QuantumScape \$17.85 \$10.1B n/a n/a +240.00% +225.14% -6.40% CRML Critical Metals \$22.72 \$2.4B +237.09% +231.20% -29.33% n/a LAC Lithium Americas \$9.44 \$2.3B +214.67% +253.56% -10.27% PPTA Perpetua Resources \$27.50 \$4.2B +154.39% -13.11% n/a MUSAR USA Rare Earth \$33.68 \$3.88 n/a n/a +142.83% +213.01% SKE Skeena Resources -4.24% profinite chil \$19.89 \$3.2B +123.73% +111.37% n/a n/a omy JOBY Joby Aviation \$17.60 \$15.5B +113.59% +224.72% #DIV/0! #DIV/0! n/a n/a NNE NNE NANO Nuclear Energy \$52.72 \$2.6B n/a n/a +109.21% +199.72% -13.39% NexGen Energy \$9.38 \$7.58 n/a +38.76% +29.02% -4.29% n/a ACHR Archer Aviation -10.88% \$13.03 \$8.48 n/a n/a +31.62% +323.05% CO QUBT Quantum Computing \$21.23 \$4.8B +27.20% +2808.22% -12.24% n/a n/a SERV Serve Robotics \$17.51 \$1.28 +23.75% +96.30% -28.09% n/a n/a By Lin @speculator_io * Billion dollar companies with \$0 or less than \$10M in revenues October 15, 2025



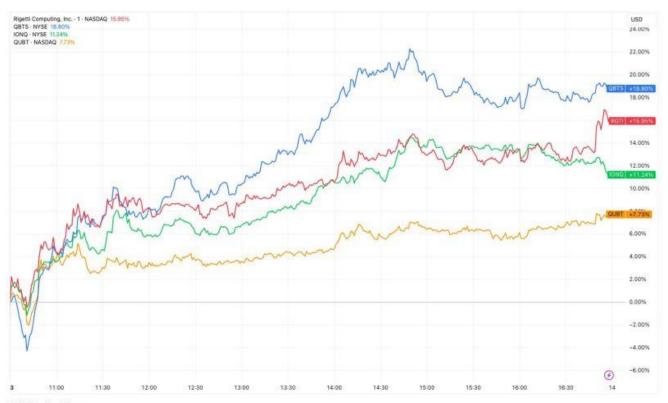
Source: Lin @Speculator_io



#equities #quantum-computing

Quantum stocks surged after @JPMorgan's \$10B strategic tech investment sparked institutional inflows.

Major movers like \$RGTI, \$QBTS, \$IONQ & \$QUBT are up today.



17 TradingView



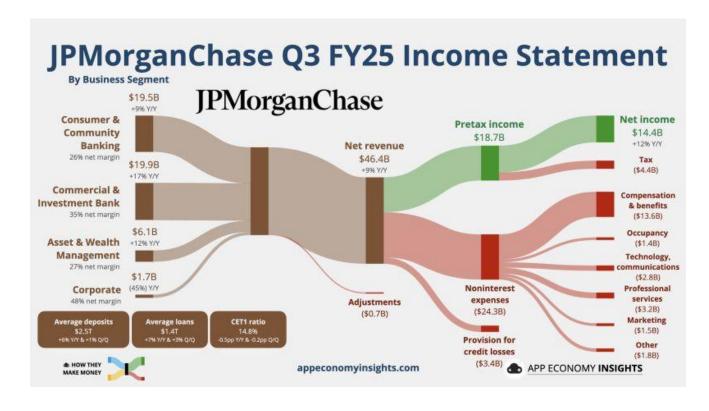
Source: Global Markets Investor @GlobalMktObserv

OCTOBER 18, 2025



#jpm #earnings

JPMorgan just beat Q3 2025 earnings with net income jumping 12% to \$14.4B (\$5.07/sh), vs estimates of \$4.85-\$4.87 per share Revenue climbed 9% year-over-year to \$46.4 billion, topping the \$45.3-\$45.5 billion Street expected.





Source: App Economy Insights @EconomyApp

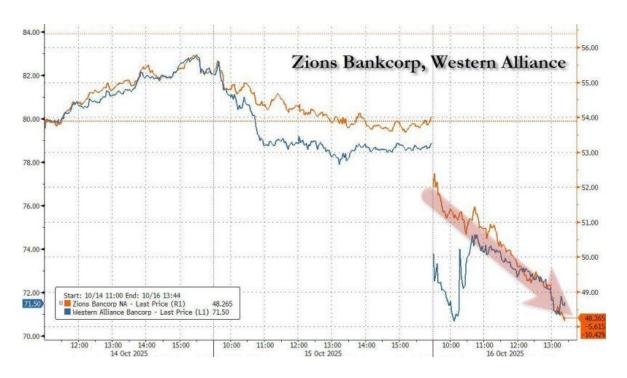
Perplexity Finance @PPLXfinance



#zions-bancorp #fraud #banks

Shares of Zions Bancorp plunged 10% after it disclosed a \$50 million charge-off for a loan underwritten by its wholly-owned subsidiary, California Bank & Trust, in San Diego. And Western Alliance Bancorp tumbled as much as 11% after it said it's dealing with a borrower that failed "to provide collateral loans in first position." i.e., there was fraud, just like in the First Brands case.

If that wasn't enough, Western Alliance said it also has exposure to the collapse of auto-parts supplier First Brands Group.





Source: CNBC, zerohedge

OCTOBER 18, 2025



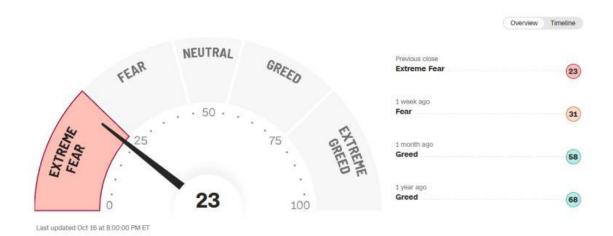
#fear-and-greed #sentiment

Extreme Fear is back!

For the first time in 6 months, market sentiment turns red.

Fear & Greed Index

What emotion is driving the market now? Learn more about the index



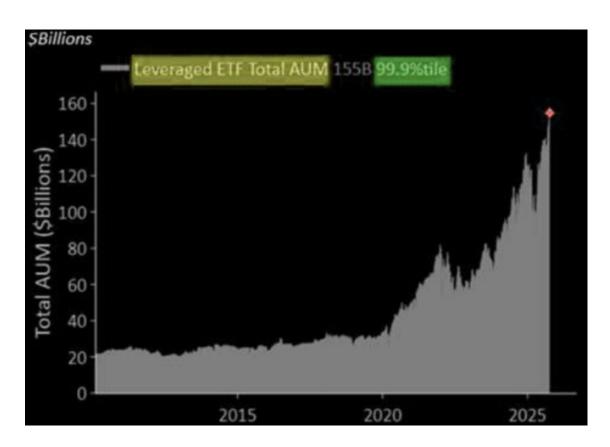


Source: cnnsentiment



#leveraged #etfs #aum

Leveraged ETFs now have almost \$160 Billion in assets, a new all-time high \slash





Source: Barchart

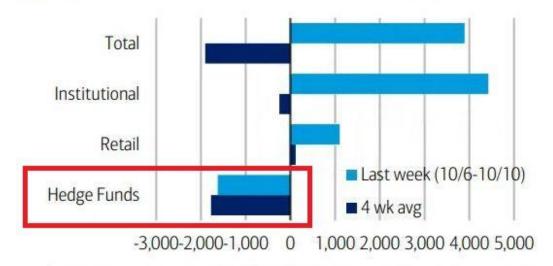


#us #equities #hedge-funds

Hedge funds are SELLING massive amount of US equities: Hedge funds sold \$1.7 BILLION last week and \$2.1 billion in the prior week, marking their 5th STRAIGHT week of selling. Retail and institutional investors turned to buyers. Nevertheless, the total 4-week selling was \$1.9 billion.

Exhibit 12: By client, institutional/retail clients were net buyers last week while hedge fund clients were net sellers

BofA client net buying (selling) by client group (\$ mn), stocks+equity ETFs



Note: For 4-week avg: prior to week of 8/18/25, "Equity ETFs" and Totals by client group included all ETFs (equity and non-equity).

Source: BofA Securities

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

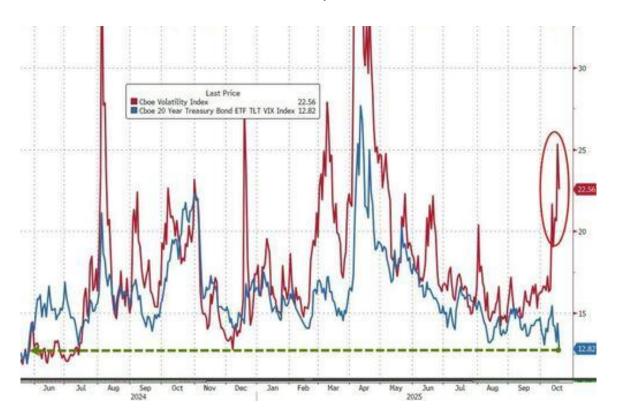


Source: BofA, Global Markets Investor



#us #treasuries volatility

▲ While equity volatlity remains dramatically elevated, bond vol tumbled to its lowest since May 2024!...

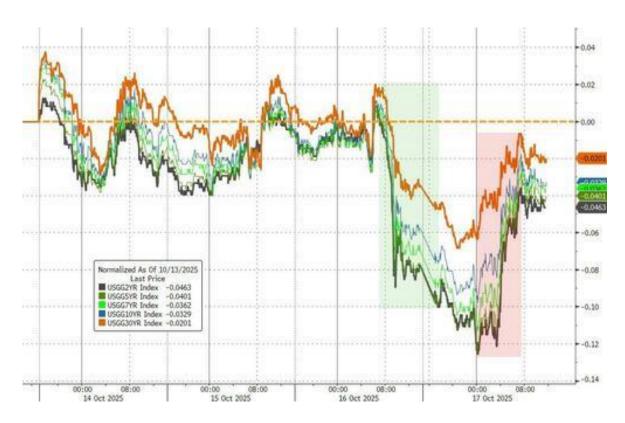






#us #treasuries #weekly

Treasury yields ended the week lower (despite rising on Friday) with the short-end outperforming

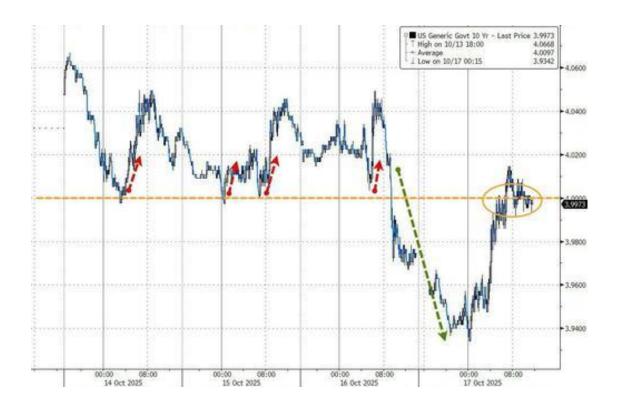






#us #treasuries #10y #weekly

Friday's bounce in yields dragged the US 10Y back up to 4.00% where it battled for much of Fridays' afternoon...

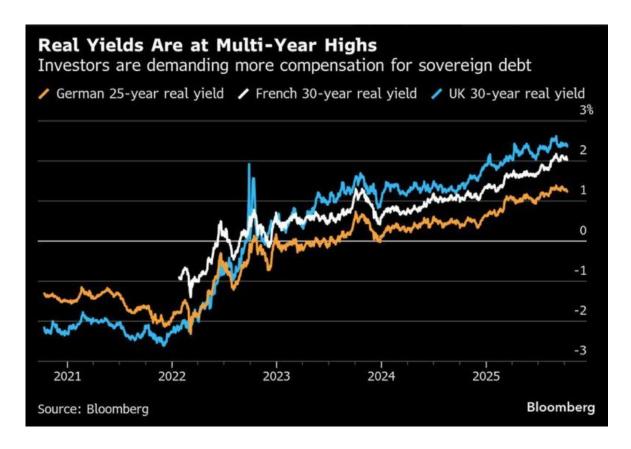






#bonds #government-debt #developed-markets

From Bloomberg: "Bond holders want an ever-higher premium to hold the debt of developed-nation governments as turmoil in France and Japan underscores how politics is eclipsing central bank policy globally as a key market driver."





Source: Mohamed A. El-Erian @elerianm

OCTOBER 18, 2025



#us #bonds #treasuries #spreads

Negative spread for corporates vs. US Treasuries can indeed happen.

New Benchmark?

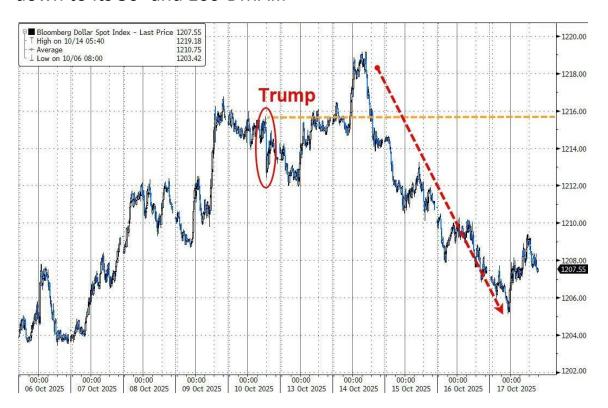
If current trends continue, spreads on the safest corporate debt – such as bonds from Microsoft Corp. – are at risk of turning negative, Mikkelsen said. This happens in emerging markets when solid firms are judged to be safer than their own country's sovereign debt.





#dollar #weekly

The dollar suffered its worst week in two months, testing down to its 50- and 100-DMA...

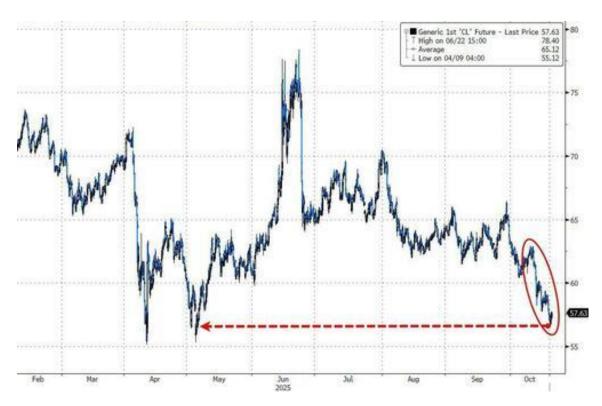






#oil #weekly

☑ Crude oil prices tumbled to their lowest in five months this week with WTI testing a \$56 handle intraday at its lows amid Midlle East peace, easing of trade talk rhetoric with China, mixed reactions to India buying Russian oil claims, and a big inventory build along with record US crude production...

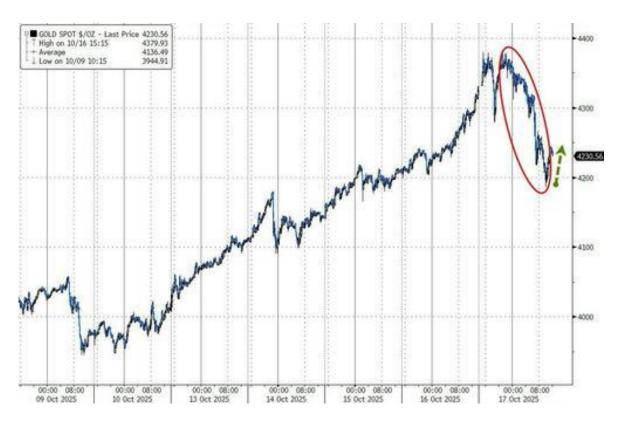






#gold #weekly

▲ Gold puked on Friday, its biggest single-day drop since Thanksgiving 2024, after rising for 9 of the last 10 days. However, even with Friday's tumble, gold rallied almost 5% on the week - its 10th straight weekly gain and best week since May - and bounced higher after testing \$4200...







#silver #weekly

is Silver suffered its biggest single-day drop since the Liberation Day carnage on Friday, but ended higher on the week (its 9th straight weekly gain)..







#debasement-trade #gold #bitcoin

The "debasement trade", the decline in the purchasing power of USD, in one chart since 2020:

Bitcoin: +1400%

Silver: +182%

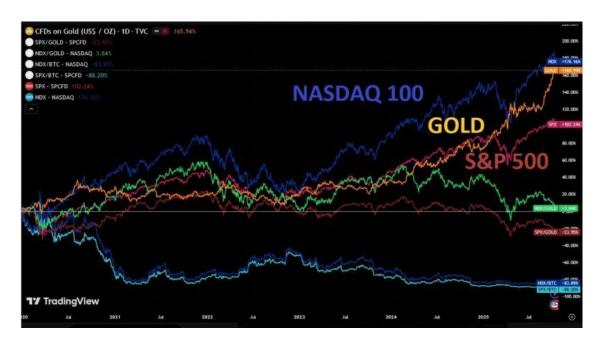
Nasdaq 100: +176%

Gold: +166%

S&P 500: +102%

In gold: NDX +4%, SPX -24%

In Bitcoin: NDX -84%, SPX -89%





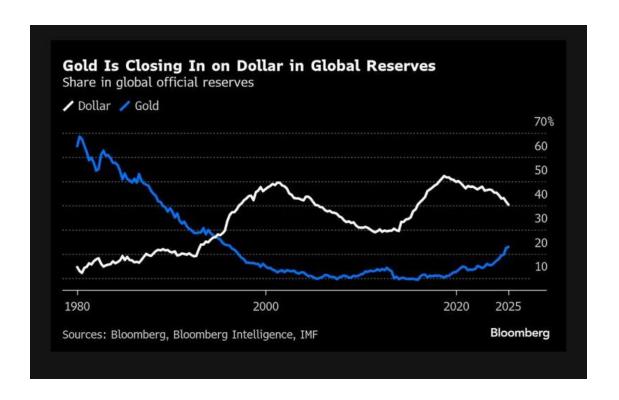
Source: Global Markets Investor @GlobalMktObserv



#debasement-trade #gold

From Bloomberg: "Investors are seeking to protect themselves from threats posed by runaway budget deficits through a phenomenon known as the "debasement trade", pulling away from sovereign debt and currencies."

I'd just add that several factors are driving the so-called debasement trade, not deficits alone.



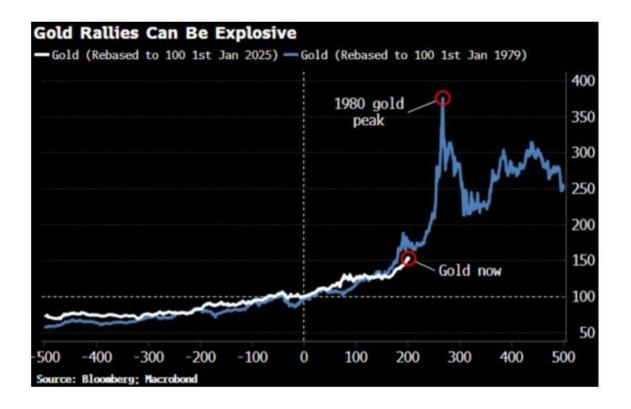


Source: Bloomberg



#gold #store-of-value

Will gold rally be as explosive as the one in the 80s ???





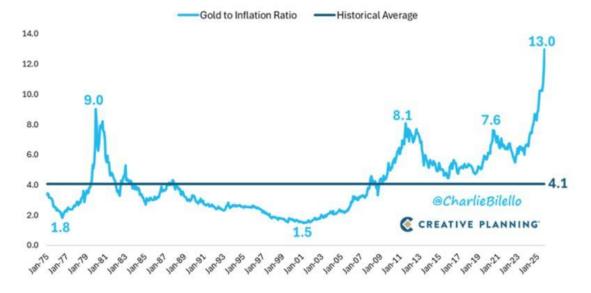
Source: Macrobond, Bloomberg, Incrementum AG



#gold #inflation-adjusted

Relative to inflation, Gold has never been higher than it is today. 13x vs. 9x at the peak in 1980.

Gold vs. US Inflation (CPI) Ratio
(Data via YCharts: January 1975 - October 2025 - as of 10/15/25)





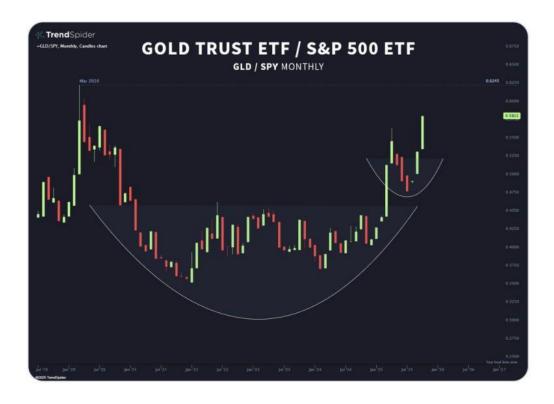
Source: Charlie Bilello



#gold #sp500 #relative #chart

\$GLD Gold Trust ETFD just broke out of a 5-year cup & handle vs \$SPY S&P 500 index ETF.

COVID highs are now in sight.





Source: Trend Spider



#gold #overbought

Gold reaches most overbought level in history after hitting 91.8 on the monthly RSI



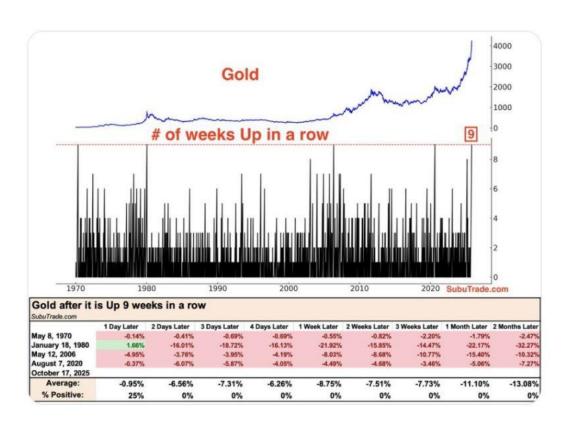


Source: Barchart



#gold #performance #streak

Gold is Up 9 weeks in a row.
Gold has never gone up 10 weeks in a row before.





Source: Subu Trade on X



#gold #demand #etf

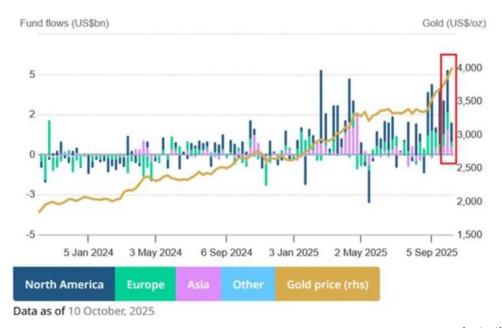
Gold demand is breaking records again \leftrightarrow Global gold ETFs attracted +\$2.1 billion in net inflows last week, their 7th consecutive week of gains. That follows the record +\$5.3 billion seen the prior week.

Year-to-date: +\$68 billion in inflows — the highest ever, equal to 645 tonnes, second only to the 892 tonnes of 2020.

- AUM: Global gold ETFs now total a record \$494 billion, double their level since July 2024.

Demand for gold has never been stronger.

Gold ETF flows by region





source: Kobeissiletter



#gold #historical #bull #performances

Here's a look at historical gold bull and bear markets since 1975.

Average bull: +100.1% over 718 days Median bull: +76.7% over 643 days Current bull: +159.7% over 1,115 days

Biggest bull: +334.6% from 11/29/78-1/21/80 Longest bull: 1,865 days from 4/2/01-5/11/06

Start	End	Start Price	End Price	% Chg	Days
8/30/1976	10/30/1978	102.40	247.80	142.0%	791
11/29/1978	1/21/1980	191.90	834.00	334.6%	418
3/27/1980	9/22/1980	463.00	715.20	54.5%	179
6/22/1982	2/2/1983	301.50	515.00	70.8%	225
2/25/1985	12/11/1987	284.10	502.00	76.7%	1,019
3/10/1993	2/2/1996	326.90	417.70	27.8%	1,059
8/25/1999	10/5/1999	253.70	326.00	28.5%	41
4/2/2001	5/11/2006	256.60	721.50	181.2%	1,865
6/14/2006	3/18/2008	566.50	1004.30	77.3%	643
9/11/2008	10/8/2008	742.10	906.50	22.2%	27
11/13/2008	8/22/2011	705.00	1889.70	168.0%	1,012
12/17/2015	8/6/2020	1049.60	2058.40	96.1%	1,694
3/8/2021	3/8/2022	1678.00	2043.30	21.8%	365
9/26/2022	10/15/2025	1623.60	4216.50	159.7%	1,115
			Average	100.1%	718
			Median	76.7%	643



source: Bespoke

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#gold #shortage #japan

Physical gold shortage in japan ???

Interesting colour from Bloomberg on gold demand in Japan at present...

(Bloomberg) -- Japan's largest gold retailer suspended sales of small bullion bars for at least a month, unable to meet frenzied buying interest spurred by the metal's surge to record highs.

Tanaka Precious Metal Group Co. said Thursday it has paused sales of 5- to 50-gram gold bars and platinum bars of 5 to 10 grams as demand outstrips capacity. It aims to resume in late November and will continue in the meantime to offer gold and platinum bars weighing over 100 grams.



Source: Bloomberg, Krishan Gopaul on X

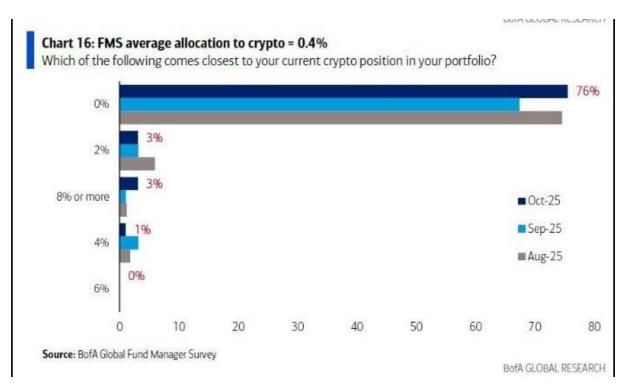
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#gold #allocation

Wall Street average allocation to gold: 2.4%



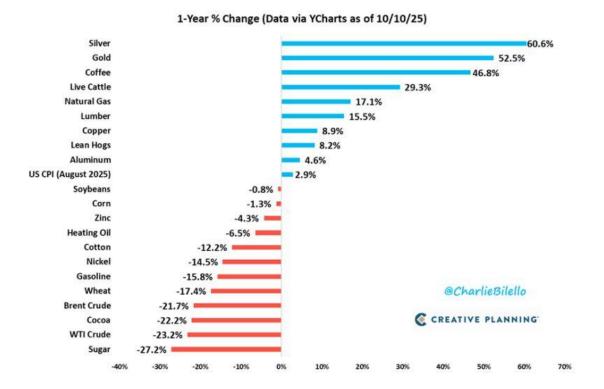


Source BofA Fund Manager Survey, zerohedge



#commodities #gold #silver

The best performing commodities over the past year: Silver (+61%) and Gold (+53%).





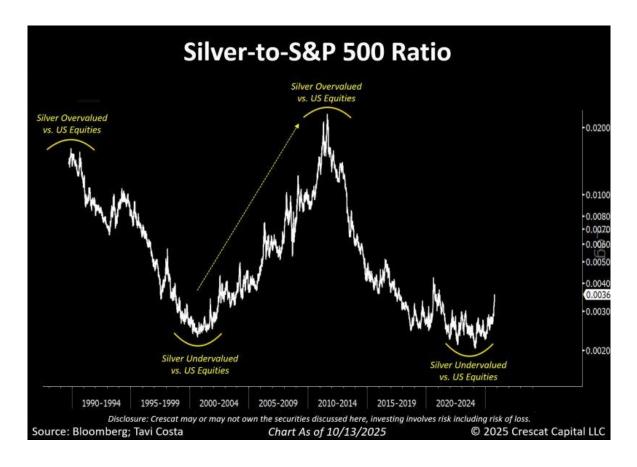
Source: Charlie Bilello



#commodities #silver #sp500

Are we still in the early stages of a major cycle where silver outperforms U.S. equities?

This chart by Otavio (Tavi) Costa highlights just how early we might be in a broader trend of capital rotating into hard assets.





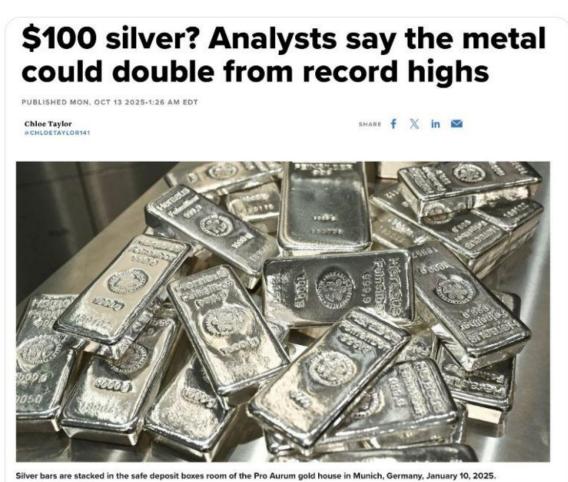
Source: Crescat, Tavi Costa, Bloomberg

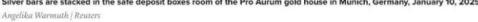
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#silver #\$100

Silver to hit \$100 by the end of 2026 says BNP Paribas and Solomon Global







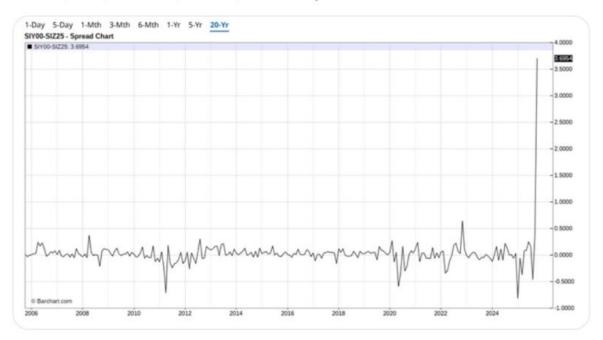
Source: Barchart



#silver #futures #short-squeeze

Silver short squeeze in one chart: Silver (cash) - Silver (Dec'25) futures spread. Huge Backwardation as PAPER SCRAMBLES TO FIND METAL! The spot/future basis on Silver is going crazy because the London market has little metal available for delivery.

Silver (cash) - Silver (Dec'25) futures spread.





Source: zerohedge, Honza Černý @honzacern1



#commodities #silver

Silver continues leaving COMEX, another 4.56 million ounces withdrawn in a single day.

That means traders are actually taking physical delivery instead of just trading paper contracts.

It's happening because the London silver price is higher than New York's, so traders are pulling real metal from U.S. vaults to sell it where it's worth more. Each withdrawal tightens supply further and shows how physical demand is outpacing what's left on paper.

	OCME (,		
	COMMODITY EX	CHANGE, INC.		
	METAL DEPOSITO	RY STATISTICS		
SILVER Trov Ounce			Report Date: 10/14/2025 Activity Date: 10/13/2025	
DEPOSITORY	PREV TOTAL	WITHDRAWN	NET CHANGE	TOTAL TODAY
TOTAL REGISTERED	183,043,585.733	0.000	0.000	173,918,800.051
TOTAL ELIGIBLE	337,148,758.224	4,559,793.482	-4,559,793.482	341,713,750.424
COMBINED TOTAL	520,192,343.957	4,559,793.482	-4,559,793.482	515,632,550.475
The information in this report is tal the Commodity Exchange. Inc. disc This report is produced for informa	laims all liability whatsoever with r		or completeness.	

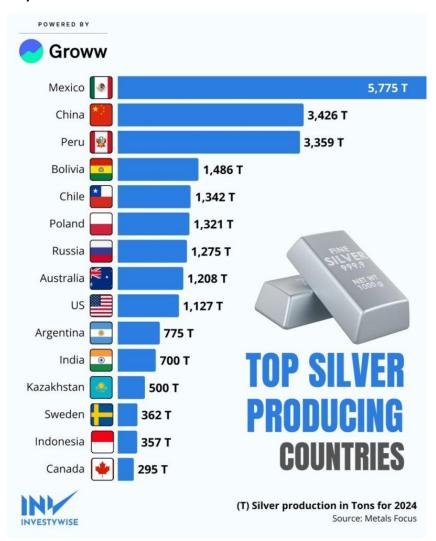


Source: StockMarket.news



#silver #mine #producers #mexico

Mexico tops the list as the largest Silver Mine producer in 2024, followed by China and Peru.





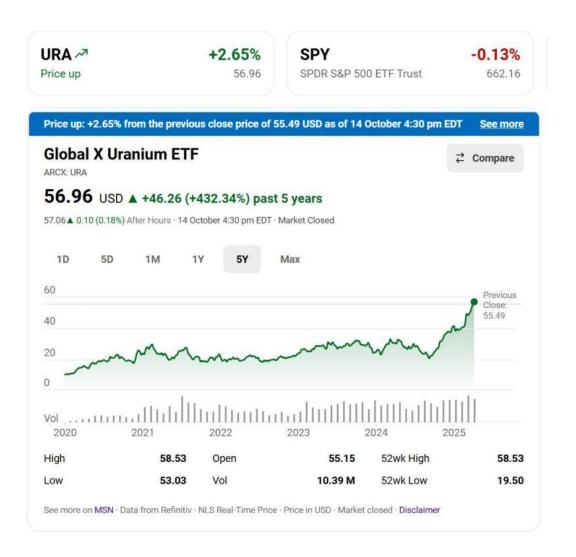
Source: InvestyWise @Investywise

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#commodities #uranium #nuclear-energy #etf

\$URA Global X Uranium miners ETF was up another +2.7% yesterday. It is up +432.34% over the past 5 years





Source: MSN data from Refinitiv

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#commodities #demand

Exploding commodity demand (2025-2050)



Canada's Role in the Coming Resource Boom



4. Key Metals and Simplified Growth Projections

Here's a summary of the projected demand growth for each metal using 2024 as the baseline and estimating the growth by 2050.

- Cobalt 100%
- Copper 50-80%
- Graphite 250-300%
- Lithium 600% plus
- Nickel 100%
- Rare Earths 200%
- Silver 100%
- Uranium 200%

5. Conclusion

In essence, advancements in AI, digitization, electric vehicles, robotics, and other technologies such as cryptocurrencies will fuel an extraordinary surge in energy needs, necessitating a diverse blend of oil and gas (LNG), renewable sources, nuclear power, and hydrogen. Urgent grid overhauls, valued in the trillions, are essential, coupled with a massive increase in the demand for key metals such as lithium, nickel, silver, and copper. As thousands of new data centers emerge, targeted investments in supply chains and cutting-edge innovations are vital to secure a sustainable path forward.



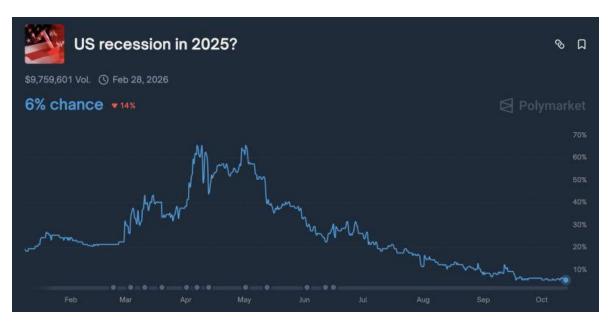
Source: Willem Middelkoop @wmiddelkoop on X

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#us #economy #recession #in-the-past

US recession odds have cratered from over 65% earlier this year to only 6% today.



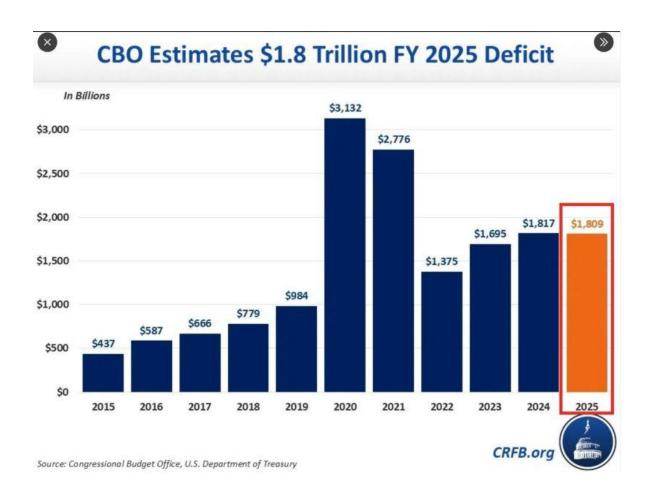


Source: Anthony Pompliano @APompliano



#us #fiscal #deficit

The US government posted a \$1.8 TRILLION (6% of GDP) budget deficit in Fiscal Year 2025, which ended in September. This matches the 3rd-largest budget gap in HISTORY. Revenues hit \$5.2 trillion while spending \$7.0 trillion.





Source: Global Markets Investor



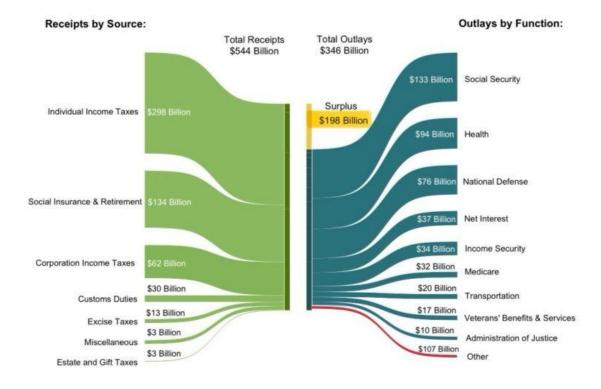
#us #fiscal #surplus

The US just posted a massive surplus of +\$198 Billion for the

month of September. Total Receipts: \$544B Total Outlays: \$346B

\$30 Billion in tariffs collected.

Figure 1. Receipts, Outlays, and Surplus/Deficit for September 2025



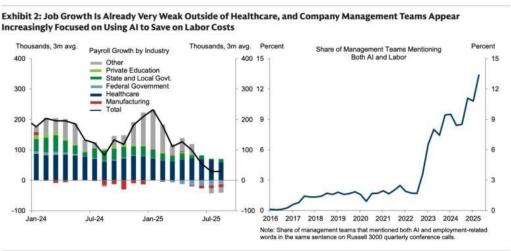


Source: Geiger Capital



#us #growth #jobs

Goldman Sachs economists are warning about "jobless growth" becoming the new normal, where GDP expands while hiring stagnates outside healthcare. This "low-hire, low-fire" environment validates concerns about Al's immediate impact on labor markets while GDP growth masks underlying weakness. When productivity gains come primarily from workforce reduction rather than output expansion, it suggests an economy becoming more efficient at excluding people rather than creating value. The comparison to the 2001 jobless recovery after the dot-com crash is particularly relevant given current Al bubble dynamics. We may be witnessing the early stages of structural employment changes that won't fully manifest until the next recession forces companies to complete their Al-driven restructuring.



Source: Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research, US Bureau of Labor Statistics, GS Dataworks

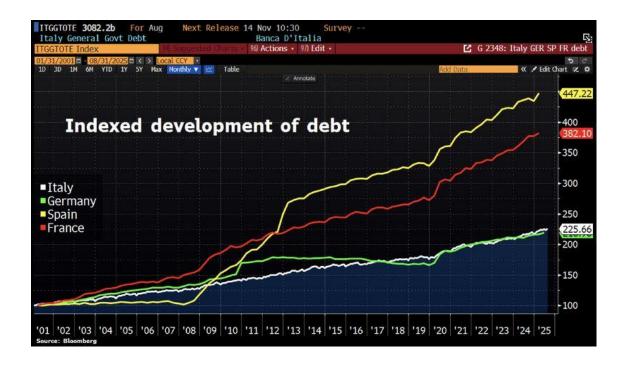


Source: Hedgie on X 🤗 , Goldman Sachs



#eurozone #germany #debt

In Germany, where public debt has hit a fresh record high. Since the turn of the millennium, Germany's debt has grown just as fast as Italy's, even though Italy's overall debt level is much higher. Compared w/France or Spain, though, Germany still looks relatively solid.





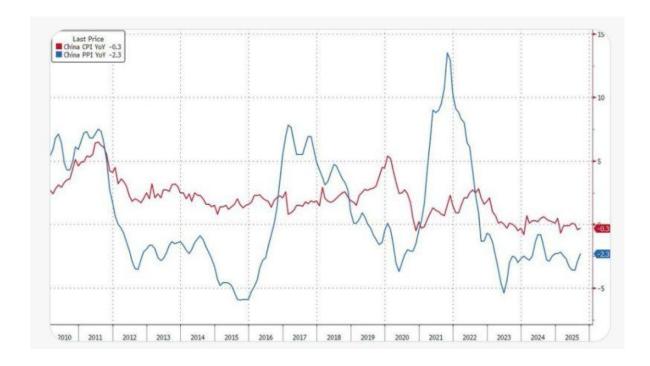
Source: HolgerZ, Bloomberg



#china #consumer-prices #deflation

China's deflationary vortex is getting worse:

- *CHINA SEPT. CONSUMER PRICES FALL 0.3% Y/Y; EST. -0.2%
- *CHINA SEPT. PRODUCER PRICES FALL 2.3% Y/Y; EST. -2.3%





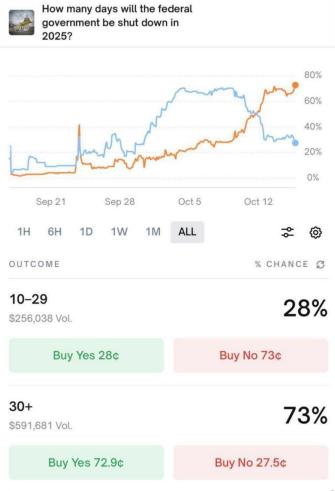
Source: Bloomberg

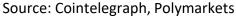


#us #government #shutdown

The U.S. government shutdown is now in its third week after the Senate again rejected a temporary funding bill.

Polymarket odds now show a 73% chance the shutdown lasts over a month.









#us #china #tariffs

For now, China–U.S. trade tensions continue to escalate ahead of the scheduled October 29 meeting between President Trump and President Xi.

US warns world will 'decouple' from China if it imposes new export controls

Scott Bessent says Washington will retaliate if Beijing proceeds with policy on rare earths and critical minerals



Source: Financial Times

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#trump #china #soybeans

President Trump statement on China: "I believe that China purposefully not buying our Soybeans, and causing difficulty for our Soybean Farmers, is an Economically Hostile Act. We are considering terminating business with China having to do with Cooking Oil, and other elements of Trade, as retribution. As an example, we can easily produce Cooking Oil ourselves, we don't need to purchase it from China."



I believe that China purposefully not buying our Soybeans, and causing difficulty for our Soybean Farmers, is an Economically Hostile Act. We are considering terminating business with China having to do with Cooking Oil, and other elements of Trade, as retribution. As an example, we can easily produce Cooking Oil ourselves, we don't need to purchase it from China.

119 ReTruths **505** Likes Oct 14, 2025, 3:37 PM



Source: Donald Trump on X



#us #china #export-control

Not really a signal of appeasement...

US Treasury secretary Scott Bessent has accused China of trying to hurt the world's economy after Beijing imposed sweeping export controls on rare earths and critical minerals, hitting global supply chains.

Bessent told the FT that China's introduction of the controls — three weeks before US President Donald Trump is expected to meet his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping in South Korea — reflected problems in its own economy.

"This is a sign of how weak their economy is, and they want to pull everybody else down with them," Bessent said on Monday.



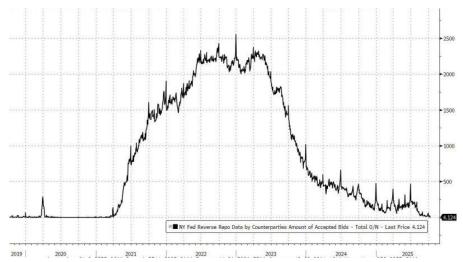




#fed #qt

Powell: The Fed could end QT in the coming months. Nick Timiraos >>> Powell's speech on the balance sheet does a few things:

- 1) It marks to market the current outlook for QT given recent signs of firming in various overnight lending rates
- 2) It pushes back against recent criticism (see Bessent et al) that the 2020 pandemic support represented an outrageous policy foray. Powell concedes (as he has before) that stopping QE sooner would have looked smarter but wouldn't have made a meaningful macroeconomic difference given how quickly and sharply the Fed reversed course in 2022.
- 3) It also defends against efforts by populist senators in both parties to strip the Fed of the ability to pay IOR by warning that revoking the policy tool could be far more disruptive to markets.



Source: zerohedge, @NickTimiraos

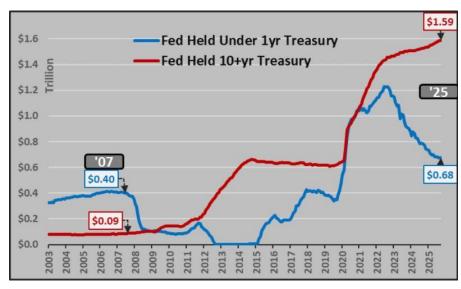


#fed #qt #treasuries

Really important chart from @Econimica

QT NEVER happened in 10+yr USTs post-2022. The Fed still holds a large amount of long-term debt. The QT mainly took place through short-term Treasuries (the blue line).

As explained by StockMarket.news, over the last few years, the Fed has been draining some money out of the system but doing it in a very controlled way. It's avoiding a big sell-off in long-term bonds because that could cause interest rates to spike and hurt the economy. So while it looks like the Fed is being tough with QT, the reality is softer the real tightening is happening with short-term bonds, while the long-term side still has a safety net. It's a reminder that even when the Fed says it's tightening, it's still making sure the markets don't fall apart.







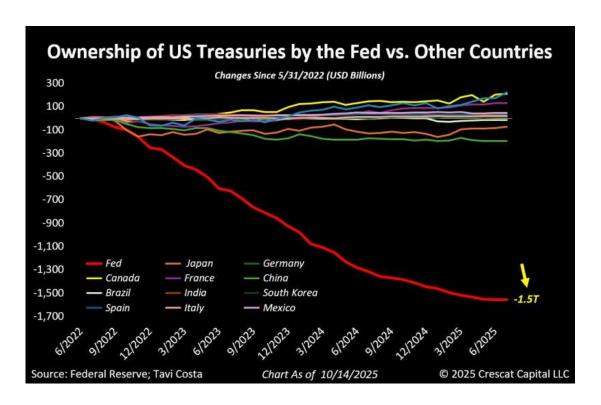
#fed #qt #treasuries

As highlighted by Tavi Costa, no single country or institution has reduced its Treasury holdings more significantly than the Fed in the past three years.

Eventually, the Fed, or another arm of the U.S. government, will need to step back in as the dominant buyer of Treasuries.

Ending QT does not itself overhaul Treasury demand structurally, but it's a necessary part of moving toward that scenario.

Full financial repression ahead?

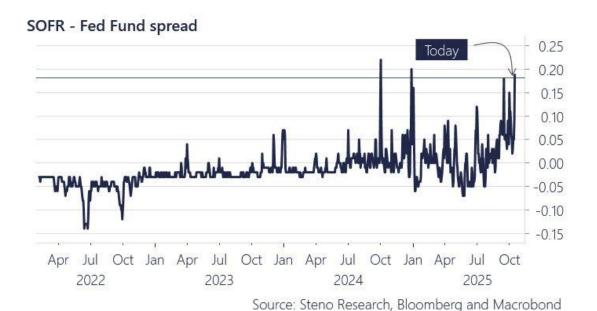




Source: Tavi Costa, Bloomberg, Crescat Capital

#fed #qt #sofr

Interesting comment by @Andreas Steno on X about a worrying development that took place yesterday. As financials and regionals are getting hammered with signs of stress in USD money market, the SOFR - Fed funds spread keeps widening... Maybe the Fed will be involved earlier than they think on the QT ending stuff...





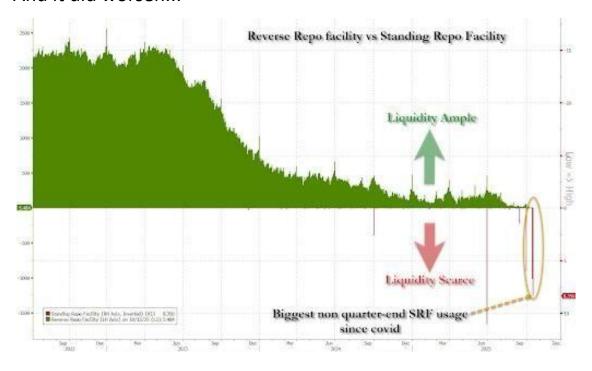


#us #sofr #liquidity

US funding market stress >>> Surging SOFR rates signaling a liquidity shortage

The most important indicator, as always, remains the SOFR rate: should the recent drift higher continue, the self-fulfilling cascade of a liquidity shortage will almost certainly be activated.

And it did worsen...





Source: zerohedge

OCTOBER 4, 2025



#us #srf #liquidity

Liquidity back to normal? Standing Repo facility (SRF) usage from \$8.35BN to \$0

Note however that SRF dropping to zero doesn't mean liquidity is back to normal. It just means no one tapped it today.

The stress can still be there, just shifted elsewhere.

Time will tell

Results	10/17/2025								
Operation Type									
Repo									
	AMOUNT (\$Billions)		RATE (%)						
Security Type	Submitted	Accepted	Minimum Bid	Stop- Out ¹	Weighted Average ²	High	Low		
Treasury	0.000	0.000	4.25	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		
Agency	0.000	0.000	4.25	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		
Mortgage-Backed	0.000	0.000	4.25	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		
Total	0.000	0.000							
Operation Date:		Friday, October 17, 2025							
Settlement Date:		Friday, October 17, 2025							
Maturity Date:		Monday, October 20, 2025							
Operation Method:		Multiple Price							
Operation Limit (\$Billions): 50		500							
Settlement:		Same Day							
Term:		Overnight							
Term - Calendar Days:		3							
Release Time:		08:15 AM							
Close Time:		08:30 AM							
Note:		Today's afternoon SRF operation will have an aggregate operation limit of \$500.000 billion, which is \$500 billion less the amount of total accepted propositions in this morning's SRF operation.							

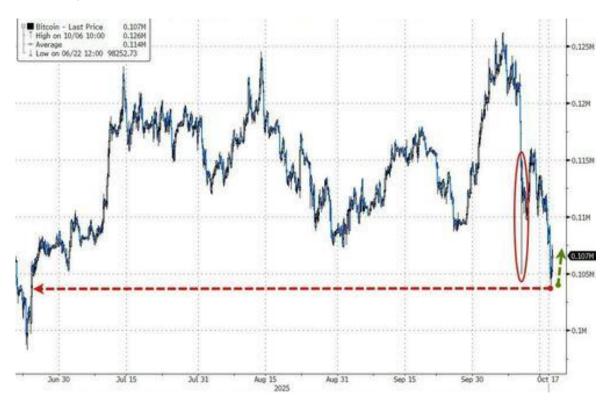


Source: zerohedge @zerohedge



#bitcoin #weekly

While gold was hit on Friday, crypto rebounded from an ugly week which saw bitcoin trade down to a \$104k handle (below Friday's record liquidation day lows) before bouncing back today above \$107k...



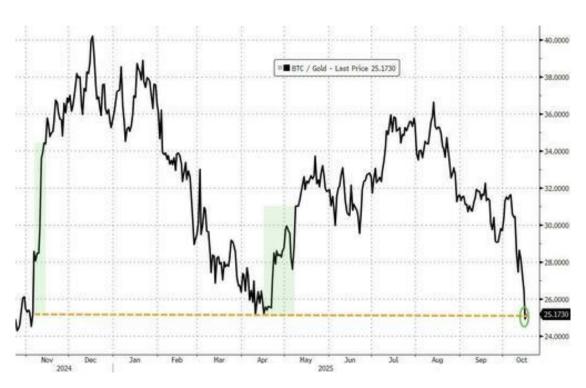


Source: <u>www.zerohedge.com</u>, Bloomberg



#itcoin-to-gold #ratio

The BTC/Gold ratio found support once again.





Source: www.zerohedge.com, Bloomberg



#bitcoin #custody #citi

Wall Street giant Citi bank to launch Bitcoin and crypto custody services in 2026

Citi : is aiming to launch a service for the custody of crypto assets in 2026, an executive at the bank told CNBC, as Wall Street giants expand their footprint in the digital currency space.

Biswarup Chatterjee, global head of partnerships and innovation in the services business at Citi said the bank has been developing a crypto custody service for the last two-to-three years and is making progress.

"We have various kinds of explorations ... and we're hoping that in the next few quarters, we can come to market with a credible custody solution that we can offer to our asset managers and other clients," Chatterjee said.



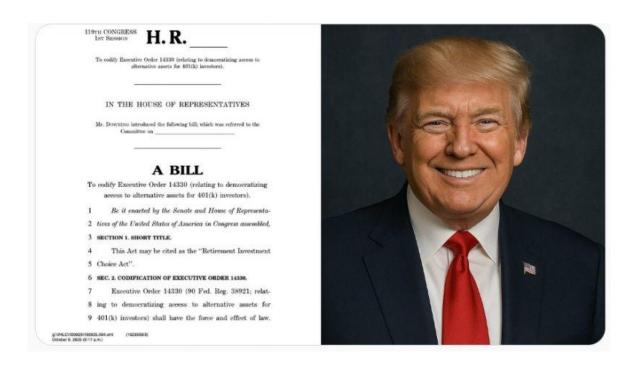
Source: CNBC

OCTOBER 18, 2025



#retirement-accounts #401(k) #crypto #aleternatives

Congressman Troy Downing introduces bill to codify Trump's executive order allowing cryptocurrencies and alternative assets to be included in 401(k) retirement accounts.



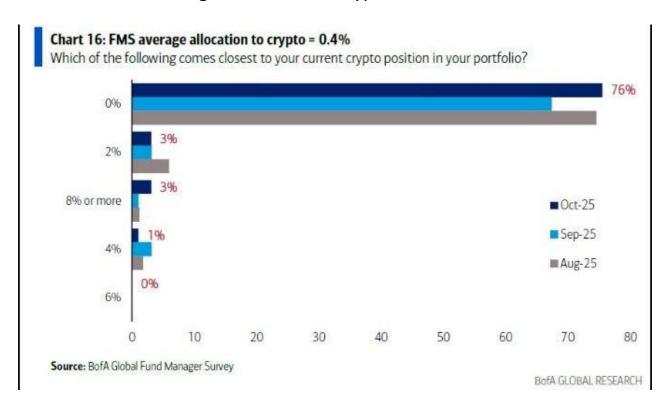


Source: cointelegraph



#crypto #allocation

Wall Street average allocation to crypto: 0.4%





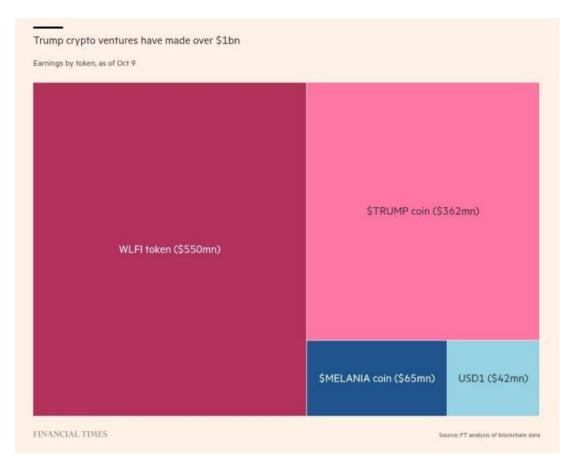
Source BofA Fund Manager Survey, zerohedge



#trump #wlfi #tokens

FT investigation: "How the Trump companies made \$1bn from crypto" >>> https://lnkd.in/eSXMsMra

The president and his family have built a rapidly growing digital assets empire which has been fuelled by the administration's industry-friendly policies.



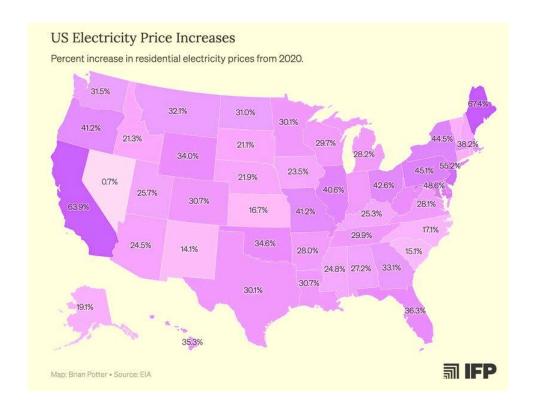


Source: FT



#us #electricity #prices

Electricity prices in the US have exploded since 2020. Across the U.S., residential power costs are up more than 40% in many states and over 60% in places like California and Maine. Should be see this as the early stage of an energy crisis?





Source: StockMarket.news

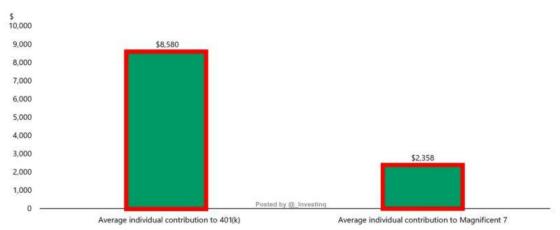
#us #equities #investing #401(k)

Most American workers invest about \$8,500 a year in their 401(k), with about 71% going into stocks. Because index funds invest based on market capitalization, nearly \$2,300 per person flows automatically into the "Magnificent Seven" (Apple, Microsoft, Nvidia, Alphabet, Amazon, Meta, and Tesla).

This creates a feedback loop: as these large companies grow, index funds buy even more of them, further inflating their influence. The result is a highly concentrated market, where the broader economy and people's retirement savings depend heavily on the performance of just a few companies—a dynamic that can boost returns in good times but magnifies risk when these giants falter.

APOLLO

Every person with a 401(k) account puts on average \$2,358 into the Magnificent 7 stocks every year

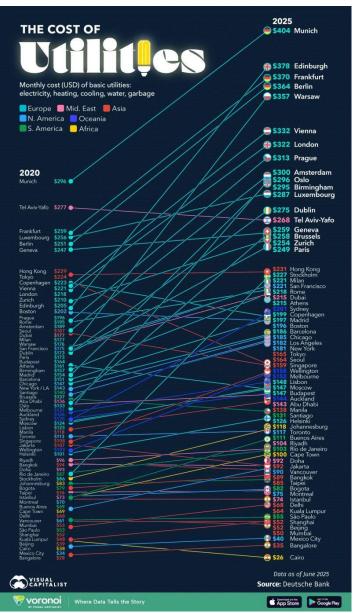


Source: StockMarket.news, Apollo, @ investing



#cost #utilities

The Cost of Utilities Around the World





source : Visualcapitalist

#switzerland #credit-suisse #at1 #bondholder

A Swiss court has ruled that regulators' decision to wipe out SFr16.5bn (£15.5bn) of Credit Suisse bonds as part of a government-orchestrated rescue was unlawful but stopped short of ruling whether investors should be repaid. The case was brought by about 3,000 investors across 360 cases after Swiss financial regulator Finma ordered the bank's Additional Tier 1 (AT1) bonds be written off in March 2023, as part of Credit Suisse's emergency rescue by UBS. The Swiss Federal Administrative Court said that Finma had no clear legal basis for the move. The court found that the regulator's decree had been invalid but did not rule on whether the bonds should be reinstated or repaid.





Source: FT

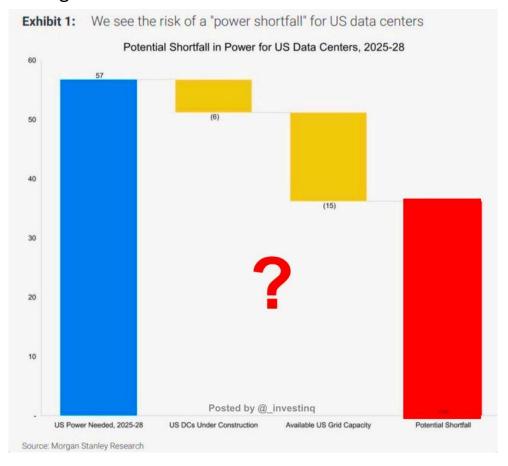


#power #ai

One of the biggest threats to the entire AI boom is power.

Morgan Stanley projects nearly 57 gigawatts of U.S. data center demand through 2028, yet only 18–21 GW of capacity exists or is under construction, leaving a 36 GW shortfall.

Without massive energy investment, the AI revolution could hit a hard ceiling.





Source: StockMarket.news

#power #electricity-bill

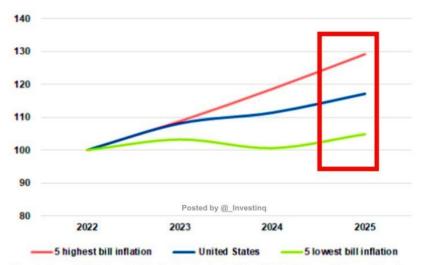
Power Bills Surge in Deregulated States:

Over the past three years, residents in Maryland, Connecticut, Delaware, D.C., and California have seen electricity bills jump 29%, about 20 percentage points higher than overall inflation and well above the national average.

By contrast, regulated states like Michigan, North Dakota, Arkansas, South Dakota, and Louisiana experienced only about a 5% rise in power costs

Exhibit 1: The five states with the highest bill inflation increased by 29% in the past 3yrs, 12pp above the US average, while the five states with the lowest inflation saw bills increase by 5%

Average accumulated inflation of the 5 states with highest bill inflation and 5 states with the lowest bill inflation over the past three years



Five states with highest bill inflation include MD, CT, DE, DC and CA and the five states with lowest bill inflation include MI, ND, AR, SD and LA.

Source: EIA



Source: StockMarket.News @_Investing

#ai #openai #tech #data-centers

OpenAI is Signing A LOT of Deals...

Here are some of the massive partnerships announced recently via Bloomberg:

- Broadcom (\$AVGO): collaboration on custom AI chips
- AMD (\$AMD): OpenAI to deploy billions worth of AMD processors
- Nvidia (\$NVDA): investing up to \$100 billion for OpenAI data centers
- CoreWeave (\$CRWV): OpenAI to pay as much as \$22.4 billion for cloud services
- Oracle (\$ORCL): \$300 billion cloud infrastructure deal Who's next to join OpenAl's orbit?

Company	Deal Description
Broadcom	OpenAl signs deal with Broadcom to collaborate on custom chips.
AMD	OpenAl agrees to deploy billions of dollars worth of AMD chips.
Nvidia	Nvidia agrees to invest up to \$100 billion for OpenAl data centers.
CoreWeave	OpenAl to pay CoreWeave as much as \$22.4 billion for cloud services.
Oracle	OpenAl inks a \$300 billion cloud deal with Oracle.



source bloomberg, evan

OCTOBER 18, 2025

#food-for-thought

#ai #capex

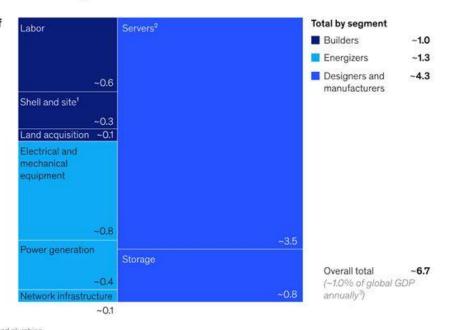
Quotes from Barron's & chart from McKinsey on Al Capex...

OpenAI has committed to building 16 gigawatts of data centers through its deals with Nvidia and Advanced Micro Devices. The last two nuclear reactors built in the U.S., Georgia's Vogtle 3 and Vogtle 4, each generate 1.1 gigawatts. The reactors were originally budgeted at \$14 billion over eight years. The final tally exceeded \$30 billion, and they took 15 years to build. It would require 15 of these reactors to power OpenAI's ambitions.

McKinsey

\$6.7 trillion of capital expenditure will be cumulatively deployed for data center infrastructure through 2030.

Global distribution of capital investments across data center value chain, by segment, 2025–30, \$ trillion



Includes mechanical, electrical, and plumbing. Including graphics processing units and central processing units.



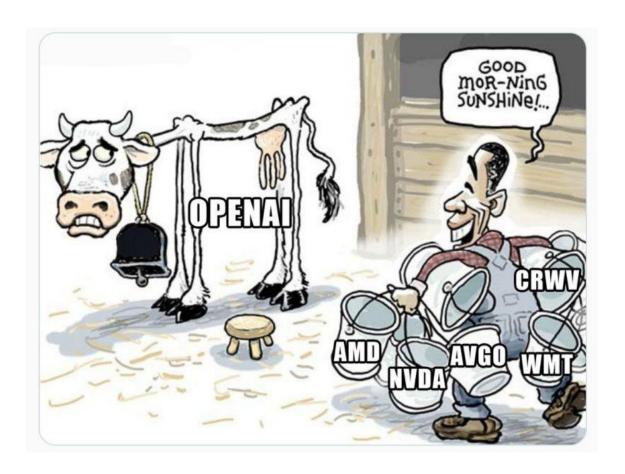
Source: Bloomberg, McKinsey, RBC

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#food-for-thought

#ai #openai #meme

A picture is worth 10,000 words...





Source: Trend Spider

#ai #openai #meme

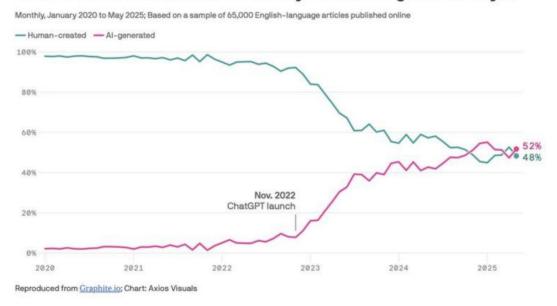
According to Oxford Researchers, the share of articles that are written by AI is now larger than the share of articles which are human created.

Al content went from ~5% in 2020 to 52% by May 2025. Projections say 90%+ by next year.

Why? All articles cost <\$0.01. Human writers cost \$10-100.

The issue is the following: when AI trains on AI-generated content, quality degrades. Rare ideas disappear.

Share of articles that were written by humans or generated by Al





Source: Ask Perplexity

#food-for-thought

#ford #china #robots

"If we lose this, we do not have a future at Ford," says Jim Farley, CEO at Ford. China added 295,000 industrial robots last year. The US? 34,000. The UK? 2,500.

Western executives who visit China are coming back terrified

Robotics has catapulted Beijing into a dominant position in many industries





Pictured: ZEEKR's Intelligent Factory in Ningbo, China. The country is now viewed as a leader in advanced robotics

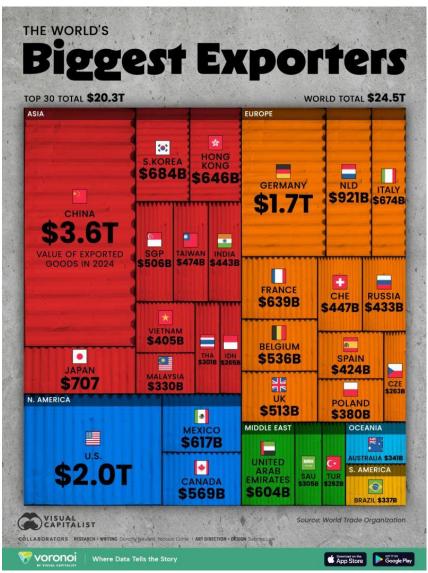


Source: Zane Hengsperger

#food-for-thought

#china #trade #exports

China accounted for 14.6% of global exports of goods in 2024, its highest share ever.





source: visualcapitalist

#food-for-thought

#gold #storage #cost

"I'm not a gold buyer — it costs 4% to own it," Dimon said Tuesday at Fortune's Most Powerful Women conference in Washington, referring to storage costs for billionaires who have to store several hundreds gold bars worth billions, and clearly not referring to 99% of actual gold buyers who own a little gold at home and which costs them 0% to own it.

That said, Dimon admitted that gold "could easily go to \$5,000, \$10,000 in environments like this. This is one of the few times in my life it's semi-rational to have some in your portfolio."

Jamie Dimon Says Gold Can "Easily Go To \$5,000 Or \$10,000"



From zerohedge.com

Fresh from reporting a solid set of numbers for the third quarter, JPMorgan CEO Jamie Dimon said he sees "some logic" in owning gold, while declining to say whether he thinks the precious metal is overvalued after its record run-up (perhaps smart, considering his catastrophic attempts to assign value to bitcoin over the past decade). "I'm not a gold buyer — it costs 4% to own it," Dimon said Tuesday at Fortune's Most Powerful Women conference in Washington, referring to storage costs for billionaires who have to store several hundreds gold bars worth billions, and clearly not referring to 99% of actual ... (full story)



Source: zerohedge, metals mine

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#food-for-thought

#commodities #gold

As always...





Source: bashara on X

#jpm #critical-industries

JPMorgan is launching a \$1.5 Trillion initiative to boost critical industries in America: "It has become painfully clear that the United States has allowed itself to become too reliant on unreliable sources of critical minerals, products and manufacturing." -Jamie Dimon

JPMorganChase Launches \$1.5 Trillion Security and Resiliency Initiative to Boost Critical Industries

The firm will make direct equity investments of up to \$10 billion as part of the \$1.5 trillion initiative to address pressing needs in key sectors from critical minerals to frontier technologies

- Supply Chain and Advanced
 Manufacturing, including critical minerals, pharmaceutical precursors and robotics
- Defense and Aerospace, including defense technology, autonomous systems, drones, next-gen connectivity and secure communications
- Energy Independence and Resilience, including battery storage, grid resilience and distributed energy
- Frontier and Strategic Technologies, including AI, cybersecurity and quantum computing



Source: Geiger Capital

#us #branding #food #consumers

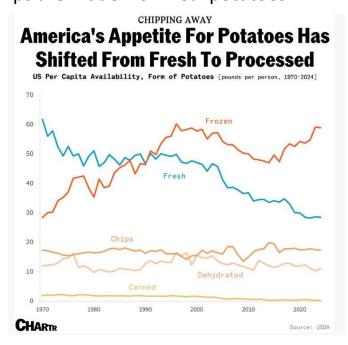
42% Awareness Gap

Lay's is going back to its roots, literally!

PepsiCo just unveiled the largest brand redesign in Lay's nearly 100-year history:

- -Matte packaging instead of shiny foil
- -A bold "MADE WITH REAL POTATOES" stamp
- -Removal of artificial flavors and colors
- -New oils like olive and avocado for some products Why the makeover?

Because PepsiCo's research found that 42% of consumers didn't know Lay's chips are made from real potatoes.





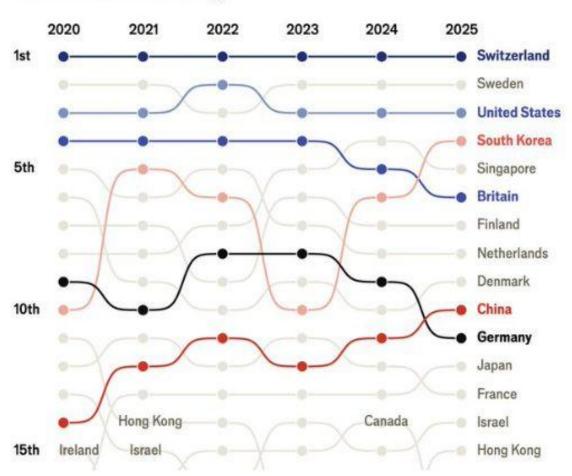
source: yahoo!finance, chartr

#world #innovation #leader

Global Innovation Leaders 2025

A bump in the road

Global Innovation Index rankings



Source: Global Innovation Index, WIPO

Source: Global innovation index, WIPO

#etf #trading #volatility

The First-Ever 5X Leveraged ETF in the U.S.

Volatility Shares just filed to launch 27 ultra-leveraged ETFs, including the first 5x ETF ever proposed — aiming to quintuple the daily return of a single stock.

(3x and 5x single stock ETFs)

Among them:

- AMD | AMZN | NVDA | TSLA | GOOGL | MSTR | PLTR |
 COIN
- Plus crypto ETFs on Bitcoin, Ether, Solana, XRP & even the
 VIX

🧰 Effective date: Dec 29, 2025

\$ Tickers & fees: tba

Are 5x ETFs the next frontier... or the next warning sign?



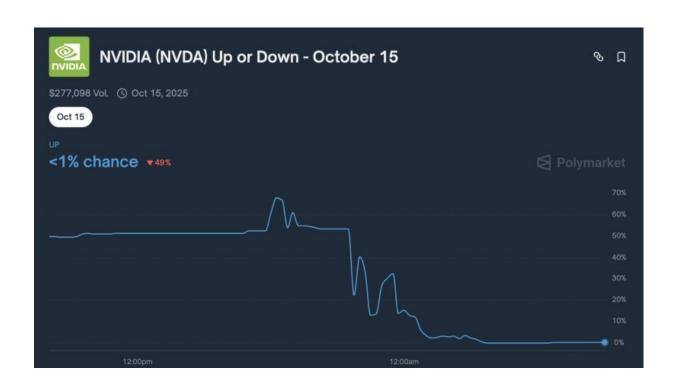




#food-for-thought

#polymarket #betting-market #stock-market

Polymarket launches up/down equity markets, letting users bet on stock price movements with Wall Street Journal and Nasdaq as resolution sources.





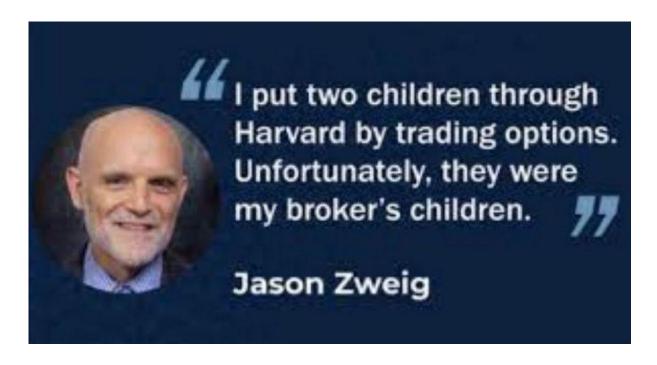
Source: Cointelegraph @Cointelegraph

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#food-for-thought

#trading #options #fees

Still valid...





Source: Barchart

#negotiation #fbi #business #communication





2. Call It Out

Rule: Name the emotions you notice ("It seems like this worries you").

The Power: Lowers tension, shows empathy, and opens the door to dialogue.

Use when: You sense frustration, resistance, or hidden irritation.



3. Tactical Empathy

Rule: Voice the other side's feelings and perspective—even if you disagree.

The Power: Diffuses aggression, builds trust, and sets the stage for problem-solving.

Use when: Negotiations hit a deadlock or accusations come your way.



4. "That's Right" Trigger

Rule: Summarize their view until they say: "That's right."

The Power: Signals true agreement—after this, people are ready to hear your terms.

Use when: You need to shift from resistance to constructive dialogue.



5. Control Illusion

Rule: Ask "How?" and "What?" instead of "Why?".

The Power: Lets them feel in control, while moving in your direction.

Use when: You face pushback and want to turn it into collaboration.

6. Ackerman Method

Use when: The other side is vague or avoids giving specifics.

Rule: Structure your offers in precise steps: 65% → 85% → 95% → 100%.

The Power: Creates the illusion of concessions and keeps bargaining structured.

Use when: Negotiating price or conditions to land on your target number.



Source: Saheed @mrgroowth



OCTOBER 18, 2025

#food-for-thought

#success #compound-effect

Over and over again.

"Success lies in relentless execution of the basics."

- Leonardo da Vinci

@readswithravi

Source: Peter Mallouk



#success #steve-jobs #turn-ideas-into-action

Steve Jobs literally explains why most people never succeed in life

Most people never pick up the phone, most people never ask. And that's what separates, sometimes, the people that do things from the people that just dream about them. You gotta act. And you gotta be willing to fail.

-Steve Jobs

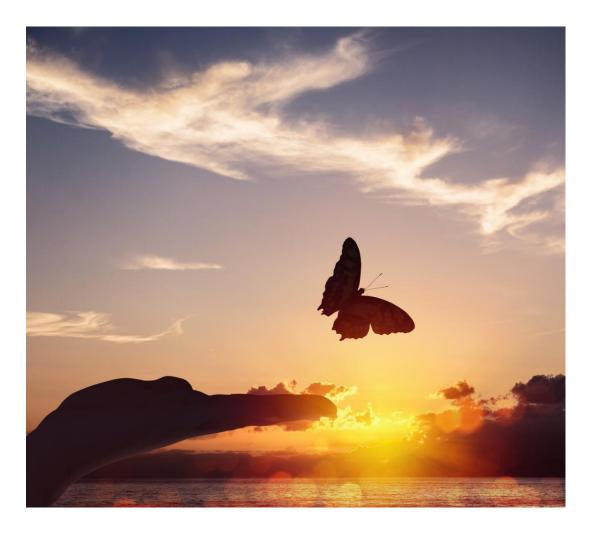


Source: Peter Mallouk

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