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Mastercard A	MA	7.02%
Bank of America	BAC	4.48%
Wells Fargo	WFC	3.32%
S&P Global	SPGI	2.61%
Morgan Stanley	MS	2.57%
Goldman Sachs	GS	2.55%
BlackRock	BLK	2.20%

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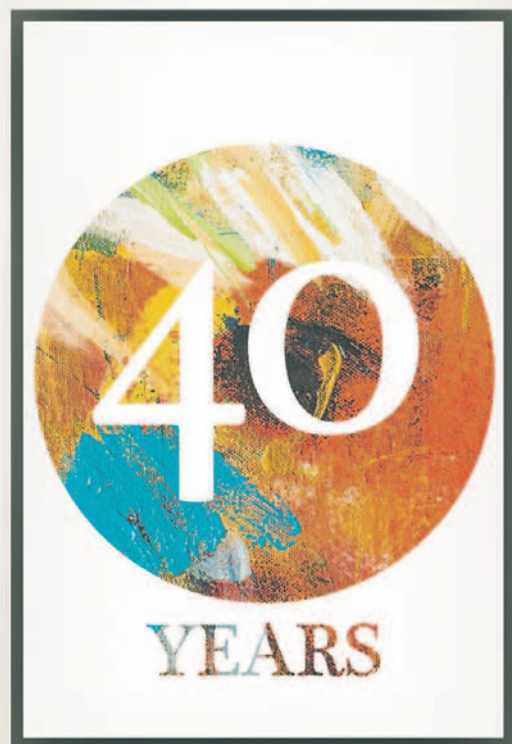
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UP & DOWN WALL STREET

Political polarization and, of course, the digital revolution have turned the media business into a game of 3-D chess with a 10-second timer.

Investing in Media Resembles a Very Big Booby Trap

With all the hand-wringing over banks, commercial real estate, and tech, it's

easy to overlook that the media business is no picnic either. Just how difficult is it to run or start a content-creation company these days?

"It's hard," Kevin Mayer, former TikTok CEO and onetime Disney C-suite whiz, told me at the Milken Conference in Los Angeles this past week. "A lot of these media companies [are] shingles that are hung out. They do one or two projects and kind of fade away. To create from scratch a successful media company—not many have done it."

Political polarization and, of course, the digital revolution have turned the media business—everything from movies and TV to theme parks to journalism and news—into a game of 3-D chess with a 10-second timer. To wit: ChatGPT gnawing into **Chegg's** (ticker: CHGG) education business, Fox News showing Tucker Carlson the door, **Walt Disney's** (DIS) forever war with Ron DeSantis, and BuzzFeed News being closed.

Broad-brush investing in the sector looks to be one big booby trap, too. Since its inception in June 2005, the **Invesco Dynamic Media** exchange-traded fund (PBS) has returned 151% compared with the S&P 500's total return of 382%.

None of this has dissuaded investors from pouring money into the business. Backed by \$2 billion from **Blackstone**

BY ANDY
SERWER

(BX), Mayer and former Disney running mate Tom Staggs founded Candle Media—"a next-generation media company" powered by a "content-community-commerce flywheel." Two years ago, Candle bought Reese Witherspoon's Hello Sunshine production company for \$900 million. If Witherspoon and private equity seem like an odd couple, know that both Mayer and a senior Blackstone executive told me they are seriously impressed by her business chops. They have 900 million reasons to be impressed.

Whether Candle burns brightly or melts is for a future column. In the news business, however, activity is more of the Judgment Day variety,

with BuzzFeed providing a stunning example. In November 2016, NBC-Universal invested \$200 million in the online news company at a \$1.7 billion valuation. (This was in addition to a prior \$200 million investment by NBCU.) BuzzFeed went public via a special purpose acquisition company, or SPAC, in December 2021, and today has a market capitalization of...wait for it...\$78 million. Essentially, a 95% decline in seven years.

I say "essentially" because, really, it's worse than that. In 2020, BuzzFeed bought (or absorbed, since its value was next to nil) HuffPost, a company worth \$315 million in 2011 when it was bought by AOL, and probably more when AOL was bought by **Verizon Communications** (VZ) for \$4.4 billion four years later. Also, BuzzFeed bought Complex Media for \$300 million in 2021. So BuzzFeed's de minimis valuation includes residual values of Complex and HuffPost, as well.

Wealth destruction at Vice Media, which specializes in ballsy video for male millennials, may be more acute. Here, too, another legacy media company—in this case, Disney—invested \$400 million. In this instance, peak valuation in 2017 was \$5.7 billion. Vice is now being shopped for "less

than \$1 billion," according to CNBC, a sadly amusing range that of course extends to \$0, and in theory even less, given liabilities. Varying tales of woe also can be told about the likes of Mic, Mashable, Gawker, and Vox.

Consider Warren Buffett's take on media (hardly a hot-button topic at this weekend's **Berkshire Hathaway** annual meeting). Decades ago, Buffett bought stock in ABC, which was bought by CapCities, which in turn was acquired by Disney. He later sold his Disney shares. As for newspapers, he famously invested in the Washington Post and others, calling them "bulletproof franchises." Buffett changed his mind over the years, telling me in a 2019 interview that the newspaper business "went from monopoly to franchise to competitive to...toast." Buffett does have a big media investment in **Paramount Global** (PARA), which has been a dog. The stock got killed this past week on poor earnings and is now down 45% over the past year.

I asked Mario Gabelli, who has been covering media since the mid-1970s, what he thinks of the business. "When I started out, they had silent movies," he yucks. Seriously, Gabelli says, "technology has obviously changed everything with these evolving platforms." As for the news business, "getting the search companies to pay you for it, that sucks."

It isn't just search that has made life miserable for the news business. It's also social media. Naive though it sounds now, a decade ago companies like BuzzFeed, Upworthy, and Breitbart based their business models on partnering with or gaming off **Alpha-Bet's** (GOOGL) Google, **Meta Platforms'** (FB) Facebook, etc. The strategy worked until the tech giants tired of the relationships—and sharing in the proceeds. Après that, the deluge.

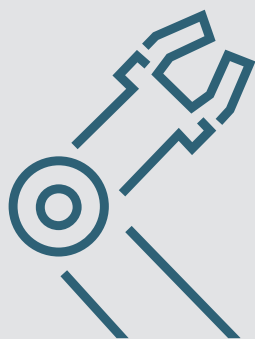
This still-reverberating narrative serves as the core of an absorbing new book, *Traffic: Genius, Rivalry, and Delusion in the Billion-Dollar Race to Go Viral*, by Ben Smith, former New York Times media critic and BuzzFeed editor in chief, and now editor in chief of, you guessed it, a news start-up—Semafor.

The rise and now mostly fall of the digital-media darlings is no small-beer



Paramount Global took a beating this week on poor earnings. It's down 45% over the past year.

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Up & Down Wall Street (continued)

story. These start-ups shook outfits like the New York Times and CNBC to their core and revolutionized how we receive and perceive media. Even more significantly, they helped elect first Barack Obama, then Donald Trump, and in the process had a significant hand in polarizing our country.

"It was fundamentally a time of tremendous social change and turmoil, in which media was a part [and] politics was a part," Smith tells me. (Disclosure: I'm friendly with Smith, and once inquired about working at Semafor. He politely demurred.)

Traffic is a story of rivals: Jonah Peretti, the inscrutable, California-cool founder/CEO of BuzzFeed and co-founder of the Huffington Post, and Nick Denton, the nervy British founder of Gawker. The two men held divergent views on how to build digital media (Denton=naughty, Peretti=nice), and wanted to upend not only legacy media, but each other as well.

Things didn't go as planned. Gawker was slammed to the mat, filing for bankruptcy in 2016 when it was ordered to pay pro wrestler Hulk Hogan \$140 million from a lawsuit he filed over invasion of privacy (a suit funded by billionaire investor Peter Thiel). As for BuzzFeed, besides its valuation being reduced to a call option, its listicles, quizzes, celebrity updates, and feel-good stories ring anachronistic.

Denton's epiphany—taking prurient journalism digital—may not have been particularly novel, but some thought Peretti had a kind of genius. I interviewed Peretti 10 years ago when he expounded on the false signals of the side-boob.

"It's dangerous to only follow the numbers....You see this sort of 'side boob' trap, where you put some picture of a celebrity whose dress lets you see the side of her boob on the front of your website, and you say, 'Wow! That gets a really high click-through rate.' If you were a slave to the numbers, you'd start putting more stuff like that and more stuff like that. And pretty soon you would have a site full of trashy, salacious garbage, and you would say, 'Oh, I'm just looking at the numbers,' but you would be hitting a local maximum, where lots of people would never want to read your site just because 10% of your readers are horny guys who can't resist clicking, or women who can't resist gawking at celebrities."

What Peretti opted for instead was viral cutesy content.

"So many of those companies were venture capital backed, and went for growth at any cost," says Vivek Shah, CEO of **Ziff Davis** (ZD), which owns websites including IGN (gaming and entertainment) and Every-

day Health. "In advertising today, you need a high-intent audience in a valuable category, or enormous scale with the ability to target ads. For subscriptions, your offering has to really be differentiated and valued."

Perhaps not all is lost for the media, though. Investors just need to pick their spots. Take **World Wrestling Entertainment** (WWE), where Hulk Hogan once worked. Its stock is up from \$11 to \$108 over the past decade. Last month, **Endeavor Group** (EDR) said it was buying WWE and combining it with mixed martial arts company Ultimate Fighting Championship. **IMAX** (IMAX), whose stock has climbed 40% this year, reported a record first-quarter box office, boosted by *Avatar: The Way of Water*. Eight out of 11 Wall Street analysts have a buy on its shares.

"The narrative to go right to streaming has been thrown away," says CEO Rich Gelfond. "That experiment just didn't work. It failed." An overstatement, to be sure, but movie theaters that deliver a premium experience could still work.

A few legacy companies belie the lumbering lummoX stereotype. The **New York Times** (NYT) was under extreme duress in 2008, when its stock sank to \$4.50 after coming under assault by the likes of, yes, BuzzFeed. The Gray Lady fought back, in part by co-opting some of the start-ups' methodologies. Its stock hit \$54 in 2021, though it has fallen back down to \$40.

Another, lower-profile winner, **Thomson Reuters** (TRI)—which owns the Westlaw legal database, Reuters news agency, and Checkpoint tax and accounting service—is up from the low \$40s in 2018 to \$120 today. Credit Suisse analyst Kevin McVeigh recently raised his price target from \$138 to \$150.

Getting back to Mayer's point, though, and as Ringo famously sang, "It don't come easy." I ask Smith if anyone has really created a successful news organization recently. "Politico," he says. A single example may prove the point. Bottom-line paradox: It's simple for a media company to succeed today. It just needs to create singular content. And that's really hard.

Speaking of Politico, I was finishing up breakfast in a restaurant in Los Angeles this past week when I spotted film producer Jeffrey Katzenberg and went over to say hello. Turns out he was dining with Mike Allen, former chief political writer at Politico and co-founder of Axios, recently sold to Cox Enterprises for \$500 million.

Mike Allen and Jeff Katzenberg? Could be one more odd couple, working on the next hard thing. **B**

Regional Banks Take a Licking. Why It's Time to Look, Not Buy.

There are undoubtedly bargains in banking. But given the tumultuous selloff, caution should be the byword.

BY BILL ALPERT

Avengeful market is wreaking havoc on regional bank stocks. Should bold investors start buying?

Not quite yet.

No one wants to buy bank stocks ahead of a recession, says UBS bank analyst Erika Najarian. But amid the past week's wrenching moves, she has seen some long-only investors and some hedge funds dipping back into the market.

Regional bank stocks had been under pressure since Silicon Valley Bank and Signature were seized by regulators. But selling surged again this past Monday after **JPMorgan Chase** (ticker: JPM) agreed to purchase First Republic Bank's assets from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., but not its stock. Beverly Hills, Calif.-based **PacWest Bancorp** (PACW) plunged 69% through Thursday before soaring nearly 82% on Friday. **Western Alliance Bancorp** (WAL) fell as much as 70%, before the Phoenix-based lender pulled out of its dive on the draft of a Friday upgrade to Overweight by J.P. Morgan. Saying that first-quarter results had been decent and deposit outflows had stabilized, J.P. Morgan bank analyst Steven Alexopoulos also raised **Comerica** (CMA) and **Zions Bancorp** (ZION) to Overweight.

In his upgrade note, Alexopoulos said that Western Alliance was trading at 2.3 times forward earnings, Comerica at 3.9 times forward earnings,

and Zions at 3.8 times forward earnings.

Through Thursday's bottom, the **SPDR S&P Regional Banking** exchange-traded fund (KRE) fell 18% from Monday, before recovering almost half of that on Friday.

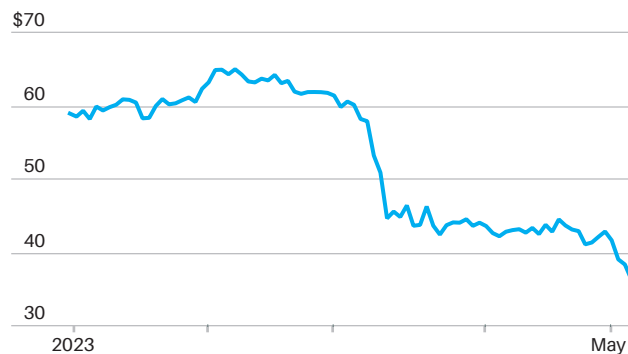
Bank valuations seem to be discounting a potential recession and long-term changes wrought by digital banking, UBS' Najarian tells *Barron's*. Large-cap banks are trading between 1.2 and 1.3 times tangible book value, including the noncash impact of bond portfolio losses. Back out those items, and the stocks are trading at close to one-times book, a level that has traditionally attracted buyers.

Najarian thinks that once banks get through the current storm, their stocks will trade at 10 times earnings and 1.5 times tangible book.

Into the Abyss

Shares of regional banks have been pounded repeatedly.

SPDR S&P Regional Banking ETF



Source: FactSet



Beverly Hills-based PacWest Bancorp saw its shares plunge after First Republic failed, only to soar on Friday.

Bearish rhetoric around the industry has distracted investors from the qualities of big banks like **Bank of America** (BAC), she says. While it's now down nearly to book value, BofA has a robust base of small depositors, more retail than commercial business, and solid levels of capital. At a time when investors worry about flighty deposits, BofA is attractively boring.

Bank of America is one of the lenders with a large portfolio of agency mortgage securities—a big investor concern after the collapse of SVB. Those unrealized losses stood at \$99 billion in March, after a year of interest-rate rises. The bank insists that its strengths will allow it to ride out the rate cycle before the bonds mature. Bank of America was down about 6% in a week when the S&P 500 slipped 0.8%.

Another bank whose share price Najarian believes has fallen to silly levels is **Citizens Financial Group** (CFG). The Rhode Island-based regional has lots of regulatory capital, yet trades at six times next year's earnings and under 0.9 times tangible book (including noncash accruals). Citizens Financial was down 12% on the week.

Many blame the downdraft in bank stocks on social-media rumormongers and short sellers, which can feed panic selling. The American Bankers Association has called on the Securities and Exchange Commission to investigate the shorts. Corporate lawyers at Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz

this past week urged the SEC to ban short sales of financial institutions for 15 days—along the lines of the short-selling ban imposed during the 2008 financial crisis.

A hedge fund trade group, the Managed Funds Association, says a shorting ban would only hurt the market. “Bans on short selling don't work and are counterproductive,” said the group's chief executive, Bryan Corbett. “They increase market volatility, hurt price discovery, and will delay the regional banks' recovery.”

SEC Chairman Gary Gensler told Reuters that his agency would pursue any misconduct it found in the week's frenzied trading.

For one bank investor, David Ellison, who manages two bank-stock mutual funds for Hennessy Funds, it has been a “brutal” year. Banks have been battered by rising short-term rates, commercial real estate worries, and tepid loan demand, he says. The industry has dealt with those issues before, but now it's also wrestling with the novel afflictions of deposit flight at the speed of light—blame online banking—and panic-sowing social media. “I'm just trying to stay out of the way,” he says. “This is a time to be paying attention and looking for stocks that are beaten down. But that doesn't mean it's time to buy.”

Ellison has maintained his holdings of favorite banks like Citizens Financial, but says he can't be sure what will be in his portfolio if the turmoil continues. “I can't be wed to anything right now,” he says.

The problem of evaporating deposits is harder to model than traditional loan-book issues, notes Abbott Cooper, who runs activist bank investment firm Driver Management.

“The risks in some of these bank stocks can't really be quantified,” Abbott says. “It takes a really strong stomach to wade into these waters.”

That said, he likes banks with balanced businesses that aren't dependent on a particular product or industry group. Among the small but solid banks in his portfolio are Oklahoma City's **BancFirst** (BANF), Reno-based **Plumas Bancorp** (PLBC), and **Codorus Valley Bancorp** (CVLY), a York, Pa., lender that settled a proxy fight with Cooper's firm last year.

“Whatever we're going through now is going to abate at some point,” Cooper says. “It can't be soon enough.” **B**

REVIEW

33,674.38

Dow Industrials: -423.78

495.23

Dow Global Index: -1.42

3.45%

10-year Treasury Note: unch.



WILL OPEC CUT AGAIN?

Oil Slides on Soft Demand

After the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and its allies said in early April that members would cut more than one million barrels per day of oil production, the path of prices looked clear. Supply was falling, demand was on the rise, and there was only one way for oil to go—up. The pattern held for about two weeks, but it has since reversed—and sharply, too.

International oil prices fell 9% in just three days this past week, trading down to \$72.33 per barrel, the lowest level since December 2021. The price of West Texas Intermediate, the U.S. benchmark, fell below \$70 for the first time since March, erasing all of the gains it had made since OPEC's announcement, and then some.

The problem is that global demand for oil hasn't rebounded as strongly as the bulls had expected. China's economy has improved, but with insufficient verve.

BP Chief Financial Officer Murray Auchincloss said this past week that Chinese fossil-fuel demand is up on the retail side, but "we haven't seen as much industrial demand." In addition, "demand is a little bit soft in northern Europe." Marathon Petroleum, a major refiner, said on Tuesday that gasoline and jet fuel have been strong, but there has been "sluggishness in demand" for diesel. Morgan Stanley reduced its third-quarter oil price expectation to \$77.50 from \$90.

What's next? Some think that OPEC might have to step in again. If prices don't improve, "we think OPEC would be prepared to take additional action to put in a price floor and scare off the [short sellers]," wrote RBC Capital Markets analyst Helima Croft. —Avi Salzman

THE NUMBERS

8.8%

The decline of the WSJ Dollar Index since the year began, worst start since 2018

30%

Percentage of investment dollars so far this year flowing into actively traded exchange-traded funds, up from 14% last year

80 K

Fentanyl deaths in the U.S. in 2021, tripling from 2016

35%

Percentage of single-family homes for sale in December that were newly built, a record going back to 1982

To get Numbers by Barron's daily, sign up wherever you listen to podcasts or at [Barrons.com/podcasts](https://www.barrons.com/podcasts)

Crisis Over? Not Yet

The week began with Morgan Stanley saying it would lay off 3,000 workers, 11,500 Hollywood writers going on strike, and news that the debt ceiling was closer than expected. And JPMorgan Chase bought First Republic Bank from regulators. After that, the banking crisis spread to regional banks PacWest, Western Alliance, and First Horizon, which saw shares hammered. Oil fell. Stocks slid again after the Federal Reserve rate hike, then rallied after a big jobs report. On the week, the Dow industrials fell 1.23%, to 33,678.53; the S&P 500 slipped 0.79%, to 4136.37; and the Nasdaq Composite crept up 0.07%, to 12,235.41.

Warning: The Earnings Beat

A grab bag of companies offered a variety of mixed messages. Uber beat on revenue. Starbucks beat but offered lackluster guidance; so did CVS Health, which warned on acquisition costs, and Advanced Micro Devices, which warned on slowing PC sales. Qualcomm met expectations but was gloomy, and Apple revenue fell, although iPhone sales were strong. And in a sign of the times: Edtech Chegg warned of the threat of artificial intelligence to its business.

A Hike and a Sort of Pause

As expected, the Fed rate-setting committee raised rates by 0.25%—No. 10 in this cycle. Fed Chairman Jerome Powell said the Fed may pause and watch the data, and warned of dire consequences of a debt default.

Hitting the Ceiling

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said the government might not be able to pay its bills by June 1, effectively a deadline for the debt-ceiling debate. With Congress out of session. President Joe Biden set a May 9 date for a meeting with House and Senate leadership. The Veterans Administration warned that the GOP budget proposal would create significant problems for veterans. The White House followed with default scenarios and costs.

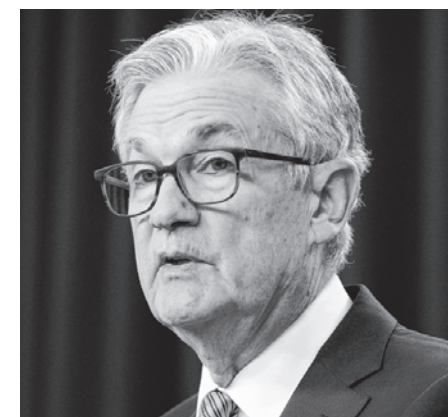
Ukraine: The Buildup

Yevgeny Prigozhin said he would with-

HE SAID:

"We shouldn't even be talking about a world in which the U.S. doesn't pay its bills. It shouldn't be a thing."

Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell, on a debt default



draw Wagner fighters from Bakhmut due to lack of military support, as Russian forces took defensive positions in expectation of a Ukraine counteroffensive. The White House estimated Russia suffered 20,000 dead and 80,000 wounded since December. The Kremlin was hit by two drones and blamed Ukraine and the U.S.

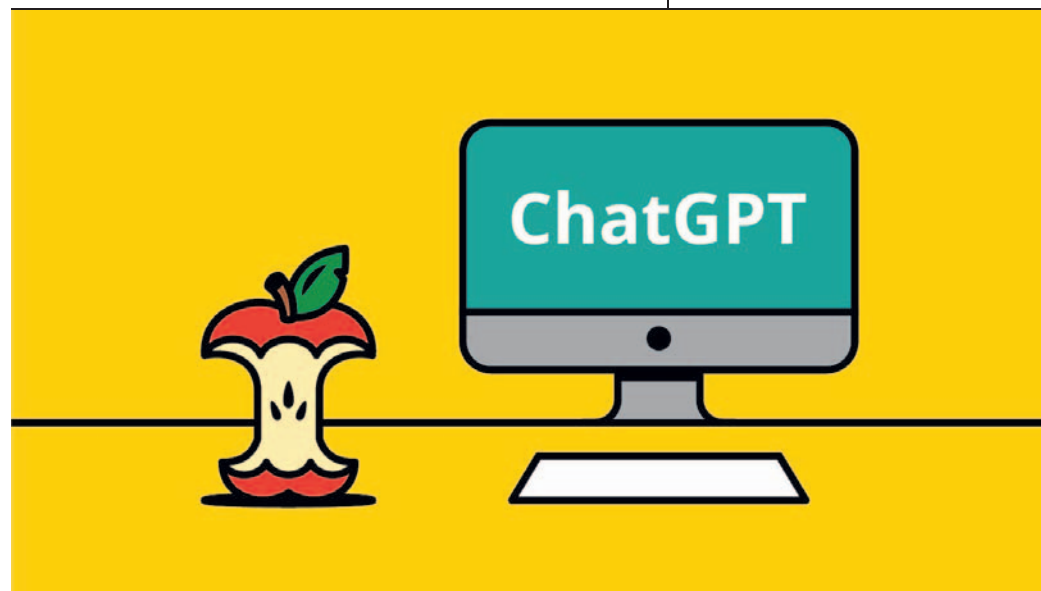
Annals of Deal Making

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. seized First Republic Bank and accepted a bid from JPMorgan Chase, which had led private efforts to rescue the bank. PNC and First Citizens also bid. JPMorgan took on First Republic's \$93.5 billion in deposits and \$173 billion in loan assets and paid the FDIC \$10.6 billion. JPMorgan and the FDIC have a five-year loss-sharing pact on unrealized loan losses... Japan's No. 2 drug company, Astellas Pharma, agreed to pay \$5.9 billion for Iveric Bio, a U.S. biotech that specializes in eye treatments...The Wall Street Journal said Vice Media is nearing a deal to sell to its lenders out of bankruptcy. The price: a lot less than the \$5.7 billion it was once valued at...Hindenburg Research put out a report arguing that Icahn Enterprises units are inflated. Carl Icahn denied it.

PREVIEW

Wednesday Walt Disney reports second-quarter fiscal-2023 results. Shares of the entertainment giant are up 16% this year, after plunging 44% in 2022, the worst performance since 1974. The company's brouhaha with Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis continues apace with a lawsuit and counterlawsuit filed.

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OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE

Profs, Beware. AIs Coming.

Since the release of ChatGPT, companies have scrambled to understand how generative artificial intelligence will affect jobs. This past week, **IBM** CEO Arvind Krishna said the company will pause hiring for roles that could be replaced by AI—affecting as much as 30% of back-office jobs over five years. And **Chegg**, which provides homework help and online tutoring, saw its stock lose half of its value after warning of slower growth as students turned to ChatGPT.

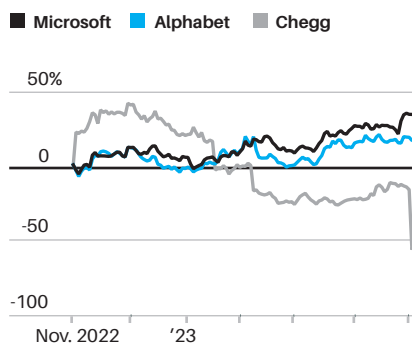
A recent study by a team of professors from Princeton University, the University of Pennsylvania, and New York University analyzed how generative AI relates to 52 human abilities. The researchers then calculated AI “exposure” for occupations. (Exposure doesn’t necessarily mean job loss.) Among high-exposure jobs, a few are obvious—telemarketers, HR specialists, loan officers, and law clerks. More surprising: Eight of the top 10 are humanities professors.

In a survey from customer-service software firm Tidio, 64% of respondents thought chatbots, robots, or AI can replace teachers, though many believe that empathy and listening skills may be tough to replicate. A survey from the Walton Family Foundation found that within two months of ChatGPT’s introduction, 51% of teachers tapped it for lesson planning and creative ideas. Some 40% said they used it at least once a week, compared with 22% of students.

AI isn’t just knocking on the door; it’s already inside. Language-learning app **Duolingo** has been using AI since 2020. Even **Chegg** unveiled an AI learning service called CheggMate using OpenAI’s GPT-4. Still, Morgan Stanley analyst Josh Baer wrote that it’s “highly unlikely” that CheggMate can insulate the company from AI. —**Evie Liu**

Market-Moving Tech

OpenAI introduced ChatGPT in November 2022, Microsoft debuted AI-powered Bing in February, and Chegg warned of AI this past week.



Source: FactSet

At Risk

A recent study analyzed occupational exposure to AI language modeling. Here are the top 10.

1	Telemarketers
2	English language and literature teachers, postsecondary
3	Foreign language and literature teachers, postsecondary
4	History teachers, postsecondary
5	Law teachers, postsecondary
6	Philosophy and religion teachers, postsecondary
7	Sociology teachers, postsecondary
8	Political science teachers, postsecondary
9	Criminal-justice and law-enforcement teachers, postsecondary
10	Sociologists

Source: “How Will Language Models Like ChatGPT Affect Occupations and Industries?”

Monday 5/8

Devon Energy, KKR, McKesson, PayPal Holdings, and Tyson Foods release earnings.

Tuesday 5/9

Airbnb, Air Products & Chemicals, Apollo Global Management, Duke Energy, Electronic Arts, Occidental Petroleum, and TransDigm Group report quarterly results.

The National Federation of Independent Business releases its Small Business Optimism Index for April. Consensus estimate is for a 90 reading, roughly even with the March figure. The index has had 15 consecutive readings below the 49-year average of 98 as inflation and a tight labor market remain top of mind for small-business owners.

Wednesday 5/10

Brookfield Asset Management, Roblox, Toyota Motor, and Trade Desk release earnings.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics releases the consumer price index for April. Economists forecast a 5% year-over-year increase, matching the March data. The core CPI, which excludes volatile food and energy prices, is expected to rise 5.4%, two-tenths of a percentage point less than previously. Both indexes are well below their peaks from last year but also much higher than the Federal Reserve’s 2% target.

Thursday 5/11

Honda Motor, JD.com, Perkin-Elmer, and Tapestry hold conference calls to discuss quarterly results.

Honeywell International hosts an investor day.

The Bank of England announces its monetary-policy decision. The central

bank is widely expected to raise its bank rate by a quarter of a percentage point, to 4.5%. The United Kingdom’s CPI rose 10.1% in March from the year prior, making it the only Western European country with a double-digit rate of inflation.

The Department of Labor reports initial jobless claims for the week ending on May 6. Claims averaged 239,250 in April, returning to historical averages after a prolonged period of being below trend, signaling a loosening of a very tight labor market.

The BLS releases the producer price index for April. The consensus call is for the PPI to increase 2.4% and the core PPI to rise 3.3%. This compares with gains of 2.7% and 3.4%, respectively, in March. The PPI and core PPI are at their lowest levels in about two years.

Friday 5/12

The University of Michigan releases its Consumer Sentiment Index for May. Economists forecast a dour 62.6 reading, about one point lower than in April. Consumers’ year-ahead inflation expectations surprisingly jumped by a percentage point in April to 4.6%.

Coming Earnings

	Consensus Estimate	Year ago
M		
Brighthouse Financial (Q1)	\$3.31	\$3.79
Cabot (Q2)	1.31	1.69
Devon Energy (Q1)	1.38	1.88
KKR (Q1)	0.74	1.10
McKesson (Q4)	7.18	5.83
PayPal (Q1)	1.10	0.88
Tyson Foods (Q2)	0.80	2.29
Western Digital (Q3)	-1.57	1.65
T		
Air Products & Chemicals (Q2)	2.65	2.38

More Earnings on Page 51.

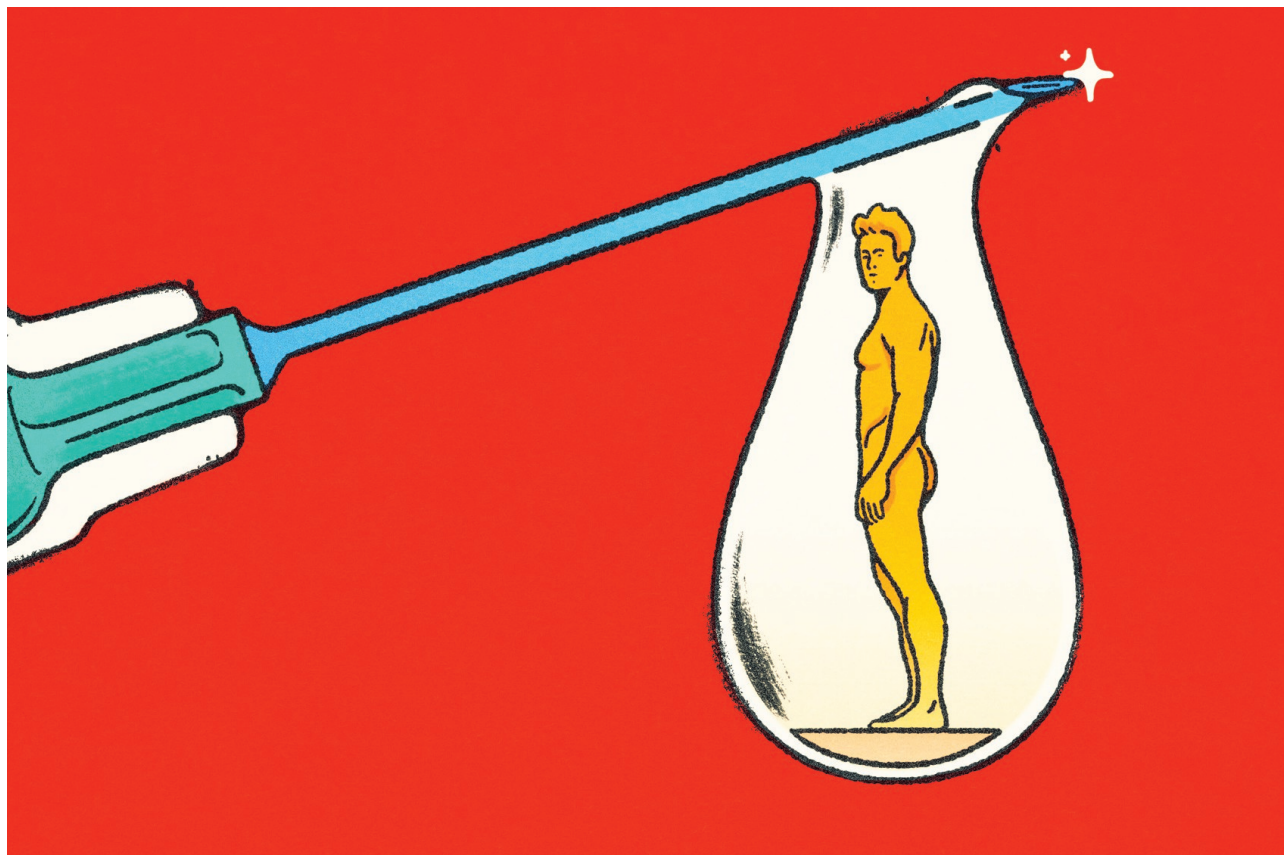
Consensus Estimate

Day		Consensus Est	Last Period
M	March Wholesale Inventories	0.10%	0.10%
W	April CPI	0.40%	0.10%
	April Treasury Budget	\$400.0 bil	-\$378.1 bil
TH	April PPI	0.30%	-0.50%
F	May Michigan Sentiment	62.3	63.5

Unless otherwise indicated, times are Eastern. a-Advanced; f-Final; p-Preliminary; r-Revised Source: FactSet

For more information about coming economic reports - and what they mean - go to Barron’s free Economic Calendar at www.barrons.com

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This Weight-Loss Drug Maker Could Be a Portfolio Winner

Everyone is talking about Eli Lilly's Mounjaro and Novo Nordisk's Ozempic. Both drugs are impressive, but for investors, Lilly looks to have the edge.

BY JOSH NATHAN-KAZIS

In the year since **Eli Lilly** announced trial results showing that tirzepatide—best known by the brand name Mounjaro—helped patients drop more than 20% of their weight, the drug has become the most talked about, and most hyped, pharmaceutical in recent memory.

In recent months, Lilly's (ticker: LLY) drug, and a similar one from **Novo Nordisk** (NVO), have joined the pantheon of culture-resaping pharmaceuticals that includes the birth-control pill, antidepressant Prozac, and erectile dysfunction drug Viagra. Lilly and Novo shares, meanwhile, have soared. Each company now has a market value of about \$400 billion, mak-

ing them the second- and third-largest in all of Big Pharma. That's a neat trick, given that their revenue is about 25% to 30% of that of industry leader **Johnson & Johnson** (JNJ), which has a market cap of \$425 billion.

There's little doubt that Lilly's tirzepatide and its Novo competitor, semaglutide, will be some of the best-selling drugs of the decade. For investors, however, it's time to separate the opportunity from the hype.

Big risks remain for the two companies, including questions of what health benefits they can prove for the medicines, who will pay for them, and which competitors might emerge. And for anyone looking at buying into the companies now, there's the matter of whether the sky-high expectations for the drugs are already reflected in the

companies' share prices, or if there's still room for upside.

Below, *Barron's* guide to navigating this new era of obesity medicine.

What's so revolutionary about these drugs?

The first thing to know is that we're talking about two drugs that are marketed under a variety of names and formulations, depending on the condition they are intended to treat.

Novo sells semaglutide as Ozempic, an injection for Type 2 diabetes; Wegovy, an injection for obesity; and Rybelsus, a pill for Type 2 diabetes.

For now, Lilly's tirzepatide is sold only as Mounjaro, an injection to treat Type 2 diabetes. But Lilly will probably have a new name to add to its marketing roster soon: In late April, it announced results of a Phase 3 trial finding that Type 2 diabetes patients using the drug lost 15.7% of their body weight when taking tirzepatide. Lilly says it will finalize its application for approval of the drug as an obesity treatment, and if all goes well, the Food and Drug Administration nod could come as soon as the end of this year.

Both drugs are significantly better at lowering blood sugar and promoting weight loss than previous medicines. They work by mimicking natural hor-

mones that trigger the body to produce more insulin and slow digestion, making people feel fuller for longer.

Weight loss, in particular, has been a struggle for drugmakers. Virtually all previous attempts have been ineffective and/or dangerous; the list of weight-loss drugs pulled from the market over safety concerns is a long one.

But Novo's and Lilly's drugs appear to be safe (though both have significant side effects), and their efficacy is remarkable. Patients on Lilly's tirzepatide lost 22.5% of their body weight on average in one trial, while patients on the Novo drug lost 14.9% in a separate trial. By comparison, an older Novo drug called Saxenda, which went on the market about a decade ago, cut patients' body weights by only 7.4%.

When will the drugs be available?

Lilly's Mounjaro and Novo's Ozempic, Wegovy, and Rybelsus are already on the market, though high demand has kept them in short supply. Both companies have said they are ramping up production. Novo said in April it had a new contract manufacturer ready to go, and Lilly has said it would double its capacity to make Mounjaro and similar drugs by the end of the year.

If Lilly's bid for approval to use tirzepatide for weight loss is approved by the FDA, the drug would probably be available immediately. (Meanwhile, there are widespread reports that Mounjaro is already being used for that purpose off-label.)

Are competitors coming?

Probably. **Pfizer** (PFE) says it has a pill under development that works similarly to tirzepatide and semaglutide, while **Amgen** (AMGN) is testing a weight-loss drug that uses a different mechanism. Lilly also has a number of other weight-loss drugs in its pipeline, including a pill called orforglipron, which could launch in 2027; **SVB Securities** analyst David Risinger expects that it could reach \$9.9 billion in sales in 2030.

That said, drug development is an uncertain business. A reminder of that fact came this March, when shares of the biotech **Altimmune** (ALT) plunged after the company disclosed that a significant share of patients in a closely watched trial of its new weight-loss drug dropped out due to gastrointestinal issues.

Regardless, analysts say the weight-loss market is big enough to accommo-

date a number of drugs. In a note last year, Cowen analyst Michael Nedelcovych wrote that he expects obesity drug sales to hit \$30 billion by 2030—a number that doesn't include the Type 2 diabetes indication. "The market is going to be very significant, if indeed these companies can prove that there are substantial health benefits beyond just the weight loss," says Risinger.

Just how big could the overall market be?

At an investment conference early this year, Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla said that his company expects the combined obesity and Type 2 diabetes market for drugs in this category to hit \$90 billion globally by 2030. That kind of estimate is supported by the extremely widespread nature of the two conditions: According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 41.9% of American adults are obese, and about 1 in 10 have diabetes.

And because these medicines aren't curative, patients will probably need to take them for a long time, expanding the drugs' earnings potential. For example, analyst expectations for peak sales of Mounjaro—in both its diabetes and obesity formulations—include a heady \$100 billion a year (Geoff Meacham of BofA Securities) and a more modest, but still impressive, \$40 billion (Jefferies analyst Akash Tewari). For context: Even the smaller of those figures is nearly twice peak sales of the best-selling therapeutic in history, **AbbVie's** (ABBV) Humira.

How much do these drugs cost, and who will pay?

The drugs cost about \$1,000 a month, depending on indication and dosing. For patients prescribed the drugs to treat diabetes, payment works as it does for most medicines: Drugmakers negotiate insurance coverage with pharmacy benefit managers, and coverage builds slowly over time. Today, just under 60% of people on commercial insurance plans and Medicare have access to Mounjaro, says Lilly.

When the drugs are prescribed as obesity treatments, though, it's a different story. Lingering debates over whether obesity should be considered a disease mean that insurers often don't cover weight-loss drugs, and federal law bars Medicare's prescription drug benefit from paying for them.

Investors and analysts say they expect insurer coverage to expand in the face of patient demand. Still, private

The New Blockbusters

Lilly and Novo's latest weight-loss and diabetes drugs are expected to become massive moneymakers.

Drug	Manufacturer / Ticker	Indication	Generic Name	FDA Approval	2022 Sales (bil)	2029E Sales (bil)
Mounjaro	Eli Lilly / LLY	Type 2 diabetes	Tirzepatide injection	May 2022	\$0.5	\$15.8
N/A	Eli Lilly / LLY	Obesity	Tirzepatide injection	Not yet approved	N/A	14.6
Ozempic	Novo Nordisk / NVO	Type 2 diabetes	Semaglutide injection	December 2017	8.5	16.8
Wegovy	Novo Nordisk / NVO	Obesity	Semaglutide injection	June 2021	0.9	11.9
Rybelsus	Novo Nordisk / NVO	Type 2 diabetes	Semaglutide tablets	September 2019	1.6	7.1

N/A=not applicable; E=estimate

Sources: company reports; Bloomberg

insurers have signaled that even as they begin to cover Novo's drug for obesity (the company says that about 40 million Americans now have access to Wegovy through their insurance), not every overweight person will be eligible. "We need to really be clear about which patients really do benefit from these medicines, and make sure we properly understand how they're going to use those medicines," said Andrew Witt, CEO of **UnitedHealth Group** (UNH), one of the country's largest health insurers, on an investor call in April. Days later, an executive at health insurer **Elevance Health** (ELV) said it doesn't cover weight-loss drugs, except when required to by state law.

Lilly and Novo haven't yet gotten study results proving that their obesity drugs not only help nondiabetics lose weight, but also lower their risk of heart disease and stroke. Both are currently conducting trials to provide this data (Novo's is expected to produce results in the coming months; Lilly's is still years out). If the results are positive, it will be much harder for insurers to resist covering the drugs as obesity treatments.

Meanwhile, legislative efforts to roll back the law that stops Medicare from covering weight-loss medications have been ongoing. If they are successful, the program could be in for an enormous bill. A *New England Journal of Medicine* paper published in March found that if only 10% of eligible Medicare patients took Novo's drug, it would cost Medicare \$26.8 billion a year, equivalent to 18.5% of spending on Medicare's Part D prescription-drug benefit in 2019.

What could go wrong for Novo and Lilly?

The biggest risk for Novo and Lilly is that trials designed to prove that the drugs lower rates of stroke and heart attack in patients without diabetes fail. In that case, insurance coverage

Are Lilly and Novo shares a good bet?

Bulls see an enormous long-term opportunity in Lilly. "Can Mounjaro, plus the pipeline of products that Lilly is going to launch into the obesity market over the next five to 10 years, create a massive sales opportunity that is here to stay?" asks Debra Netschert, a managing director at Jennison Associates, who is one of the managers of the **PGIM Jennison Health Sciences** fund (PHLAX). "I believe it can."

Lilly shares doubled from the start of 2021 through the end of 2022, and the stock has continued to climb. This week saw Lilly shares hit an all-time high as the company reported positive results on a Phase 3 trial of its Alzheimer's disease therapy. Analysts are mixed on the full implications of the new data, and there are real safety issues with the drug, but Lilly avoided a worst-case scenario of the study failing, removing what had been a near-term worry for investors.

Novo shares have also more than doubled over the past two years, and the company says its Wegovy rollout is picking up steam as supply capacity increases.

For investors looking to make a bet on the obesity drugs, Lilly is the more promising of the two companies, despite the stock run-up. Analysts predict Lilly's earnings per share to grow by 23% on a compound annual basis from 2022 through 2027, according to FactSet—better than Novo's 17%, and well above expectations for the rest of the sector. Merck, by contrast, is expected to grow earnings by 8% over the same period.

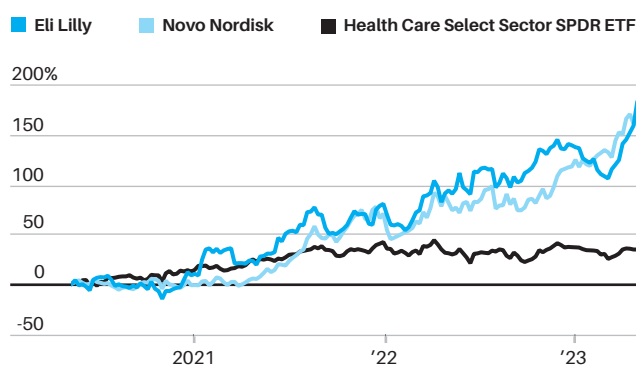
"We're talking about a company that has extraordinary growth potential, probably more than four times that of the pharmaceutical group overall," says SVB's Risinger.

And while both companies have robust drug pipelines, Lilly's has a slight edge. In addition to its obesity pill and retatrutide, another obesity injectable, the company has a host of potentially major drugs in the late stages of development, including the Alzheimer's drug donanemab, newly approved cancer drug Jaypirca, and dermatitis treatment lebrizikumab.

Combine those factors with the early data suggesting that Lilly's tirzepatide is a more effective weight-loss agent than Novo's Ozempic (a head-to-head trial in the works), and Lilly looks to be a winning bet on the obesity-drug boom. **B**

Heathy Returns

A new class of obesity and diabetes drugs has helped Lilly and Novo shares outperform.



Source: FactSet

in the obesity indications would remain limited. Yes, the drugs would still be megablockbusters, but not on the scale many are expecting.

There are other, less obvious threats. One is the impact of Medicare price negotiations, set to go into effect in 2026 for Medicare's prescription-drug program under last year's Inflation Reduction Act. Medicare currently covers both Novo and Lilly's drugs for diabetes, and Novo's Ozempic could be eligible for negotiation as early as 2027. No one really knows how the negotiations will play out, but it's possible that lower Medicare prices for Ozempic could also affect the prices that Lilly can fetch for its competitive drug.

(Lilly executives note, however, that a head-to-head trial comparing weight loss in nondiabetic obese and overweight patients on Novo's drug and Lilly's drug is slated to produce data by 2025. If Lilly were to win that face-off, it could help the company maintain higher prices.)

Then there are the threats from competitors. If the forthcoming Pfizer or Amgen drug were to match or outperform Novo and Lilly's products, those glowing analyst projections might come down to Earth.



Companies Are Under Siege In the Culture Wars. How They're Fighting Back.

Critics say companies are embracing too many progressive goals on everything from gender identity to climate change. What's at stake. **BY DAREN FONDA**

A Bud Light is no longer just something you grab when you feel like a beer. A conservative outcry over Bud's marketing campaign with a transgender activist has put the brand into the center of a culture war over so-

called corporate wokeism.

To many people, Bud was simply getting with the times by embracing activist Dylan Mulvaney, recognizing LGBTQ consumers, and following the lead of brands such as **Coca-Cola** (ticker: KO), **Nike** (NKE), and **Hershey** (HSY). But the conservative backlash against Bud Light produced

a 26% drop in beer sales in a week.

Companies from **BlackRock** (BLK) to **Walt Disney** (DIS) are under siege as political attacks on progressive corporate policies heat up ahead of the 2024 elections. Some companies are fighting back—notably Disney—and there is scant evidence of firms retreating from environmental, social,

and governance, or ESG, initiatives.

At the same time, conservative calls to boycott consumer brands and financial companies accused of corporate “wokeism” have gained momentum, and several Republican-led states have passed laws or rules penalizing companies they view as hostile to their economic or social interests.

The culture war puts companies in a bind. There are huge economic incentives for them not to back off ESG goals. Yet the more they speak out, the more they face reprisals, including loss of investment or sales from opponents of progressive policies, notably in large red states such as Texas and Florida.

“Republicans are using woke as a weapon in defining ESG and putting it under the woke banner,” says Ron Bonjean, a Republican co-founder of ROKK Solutions, a Washington, D.C.-based communications firm.

The kerfuffle over Bud Light illustrates the growing challenge for companies as they try to expand sales with new customers without alienating core consumers or political constituencies. Bud parent **Anheuser-Busch InBev** (BUD) put two executives who had come up with the marketing campaign involving Mulvaney on leave. That, in turn, prompted calls on the left to boycott the company's products.

While episodes like this blow over, they can have a chilling effect on companies' willingness to talk about social or environmental goals. A study released in October by South Pole, a climate consulting firm, found that 72% of the 1,200 private companies it surveyed had set emissions targets in line with global climate goals—but a quarter of those businesses don't plan to publicize their plans or achievements “beyond the bare minimum.” South Pole dubs this behavior greenhushing and says it makes climate targets “harder to scrutinize.”

CEOs are also hushing up. *Barron's* contacted all 30 companies in the Dow Jones Industrial Average to see if their chief executives would discuss ESG or “woke capitalism.” Not one agreed to talk, though **Cisco Systems** (CSCO) and **Honeywell International** (HON) offered senior executives.

The loudest voice for ESG on Wall Street, BlackRock CEO Larry Fink, has gone quiet. Fink placed less emphasis on ESG in BlackRock's latest annual letter to investors, after saying publicly that the attacks had become

“personal.” BlackRock didn’t mention ESG on its latest earnings call, a reversal from last year when the company cited it as a major growth driver. BlackRock declined an interview request with Fink and declined to comment.

While companies tiptoe around the issues, most are disclosing just as many sustainability reports as before the backlash. And despite attempts to demonize ESG, many companies are still pledging to meet ambitious targets in areas such as carbon emissions and workforce diversity.

“Every company is still doing everything they did before, they just don’t want to be political fodder in a campaign,” says Jeffrey Sonnenfeld, a Yale School of Management professor and critic of Republican policies. “Republicans are trying to create a villain and are using anti-woke sentiment as a *bête noire*.”

Companies that spoke to *Barron's* say they are staying the course. “There’s this undercurrent of push-back,” says Cisco Chief Financial Officer Scott Herren, referring to Cisco’s climate initiatives. Yet the company isn’t retreating, he adds, partly because it could cost Cisco business if it did. “You can disqualify yourself from a lot of opportunities if you don’t focus on driving this, not just in paragraphs that sound nice.”

Companies have also shown they can weather the storm. **Dick’s Sporting Goods** (DKS) was attacked by conservatives after the company started scaling back on gun sales in 2018. Yet while Dick’s initially took a

hit, revenue recovered and recently hit record highs.

Disney is taking the fight to its biggest critic, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis. Disney has been battling the Republican governor over the state’s ban on sexual-orientation lessons in schools, dubbed by critics as a “Don’t Say Gay” law. Chafing at Disney’s criticism, DeSantis pushed for legislation that eliminated some of the company’s long-held special privileges in the state.

Disney has now sued DeSantis, claiming his actions amounted to political retribution. A DeSantis-backed tourism board has countersued Disney, and the governor has said the suit against him is “political” and lacks merit.

How ESG Turned Toxic

While ESG has been around for decades, it started getting conflated with so-called wokeism more recently. An inflection point came with the rise of Donald Trump, triggering some companies to break with the GOP leadership on trade, immigration, and tech regulation. Nike waded into the culture war with a 2018 ad campaign involving the NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick, supporting his social justice protests. More businesses began taking stands on controversial issues, including pledges of support for North Carolina’s anti-LGBTQ bathroom bill and racial justice movements like Black Lives Matter after the Charlottesville, Va., and George Floyd protests.

“We started to see more pressure

on companies to stand up on fraught and divisive issues like abortion,” says Alison Taylor, associate professor at New York University, where she teaches classes on ESG and sustainability.

The anti-ESG rhetoric ramped up during the pandemic, partly in response to banks pulling back on loans to oil-and-gas companies in an effort to combat climate change. More fuel for the fire came when a small ESG activist fund, backed by BlackRock, Vanguard, and State Street, won three seats on **Exxon Mobil’s** (XOM) board in 2021, pressuring the company to cut its carbon footprint.

The battles aren’t entirely between the right and left, blurring lines on Wall Street and in Silicon Valley. Critics of corporate “wokeism” include **Tesla** (TSLA) CEO Elon Musk, hedge fund billionaire Bill Ackman, and Vivek Ramaswamy, an investor who wrote a book called *Woke Inc.* and is running for president. Ramaswamy’s financial backers include Ackman and Peter Thiel, the tech billionaire who has compared wokeism to Wahhabism, Saudi Arabia’s version of Islam.

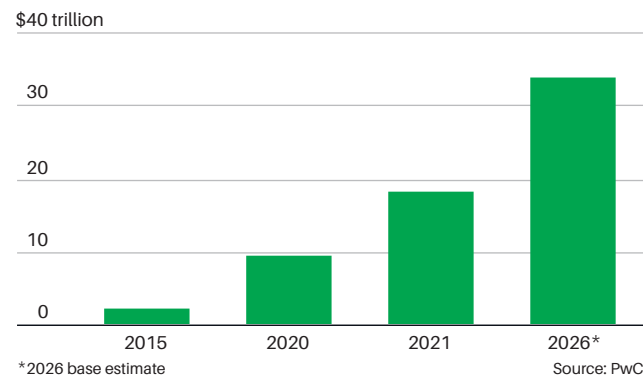
For both sides, the issues are likely to intensify as politicians turn ESG into a campaign theme. “Every time we come to an election year, we see this kind of language infiltrating political speech,” says Martha Carter, vice chairman of consultancy Teneo, where she advises CEOs and boards on ESG policy. “The term ESG has moved from investment to politics.”

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R., Cal.) recently chastised the Biden

Growing Sway

The amount of ESG assets under management is growing rapidly.

Global ESG assets



administration for promoting what he called “woke investment regulation” through a rule that preserves the right of 401(k)s and other pension plans to offer ESG funds. When Silicon Valley Bank collapsed and depositors received a bailout from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., Republicans claimed the bank failed in part due to its ESG policies and got a bailout because it was “too woke to fail,” in the words of Sen. Josh Hawley (R., Mo.).

Walking the ‘Woke’ Tightrope

Despite the backlash, huge forces and financial incentives are aligned to promote progressive corporate policies in areas like climate change and diversity, along with investment in ESG-related funds. Governments worldwide have set targets to cut greenhouse-gas emissions, pressuring companies to

Disney has faced protests on the left and right over its stance on a Florida education law.



produce more-sustainable products and disclose progress. The Inflation Reduction Act and other initiatives supported by the Biden administration, including a big push for electric vehicles and cleaner power, also open up vast revenue opportunities.

The financial industry has latched onto sustainable investing, and ESG fund managers globally are expected to increase ESG-related assets under management to \$33.9 trillion by 2026, from \$18.4 trillion in 2021, according to consultancy PwC.

Companies want high ESG scores to attract capital from institutional sources like pension plans—including funds controlling hundreds of billions of dollars in states such as California and New York. Governments and companies are also playing a role through capital markets, issuing debt such as green bonds that incentivize sustainable projects, emissions cuts, and biodiversity.

There are also steep opportunity costs for staying on the sidelines. Tackling climate change will require \$35 trillion of investment by 2030, according to the International Renewable Energy Agency. For companies like Cisco, there is profit to be had in selling ethernet-based equipment for managing electricity as part of a broader drive to cut power consumption. “There’s a cost for doing this, but not doing it is going to preclude our ability to compete for a lot of business,” Cisco CFO Herren says. “There’s a bigger upside on the top line.”

Yet as more money flows into ESG, and companies seek to reach young, progressive consumers, they face growing reprisals on the right. “Executives are getting nervous about the anti-ESG backlash from the Republican party,” says NYU’s Taylor. “This year is looking more fraught, polarized, and risky.”

Led by DeSantis, a coalition of 19 Republican-led states pledged in March to oppose the use of ESG factors in state pensions and other types of investments. The proliferation of ESG “is a direct threat to the American economy...putting investment decisions in the hands of the woke mob,” the governors said in an open letter.

Texas is also at the forefront of the anti-ESG movement. Banks with policies against fossil fuels and firearms were banned from underwriting municipal bonds in 2021. Texas also required public pensions to divest from

financial companies that the state determined were “boycotting” fossil fuels.

Banks such as **JPMorgan Chase** (JPM) and asset managers such as BlackRock have lost business in Republican-led states, which have blacklisted financial firms because of their opposition to some fossil-fuel projects and firearms policies.

As of March, at least seven states had passed laws or regulations against ESG when investing state resources, according to a report by the Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance. Some pro-ESG initiatives are also passing, but out of 109 proposals at the state level, 86 oppose ESG this year, up from 14 in 2022, according to law firm Morgan Lewis.

Critics say ESG brought some of the backlash upon itself, opening itself to attack through overcommercialization, combined with fluffy metrics and targets set so far in the future that they are meaningless. Even advocates say it needs an overhaul, including far stricter standards to effectively blunt the criticism that it’s a front for corporate “virtue signaling” and asset growth.

While ESG is often criticized for promoting a progressive agenda, it wasn’t designed as a tool to save the planet. Rather, it is a risk-disclosure system for companies and investors—an effort to quantify risks to revenue and profits from things like climate change or poor governance.

More Bark Than Bite

As the backlash grows, so do the economic incentives for ESG and progressive policies. Far more proxy proposals in favor of ESG receive support from shareholders than those against it—the anti side is averaging just 1% this proxy season, according to RBC Capital Markets.

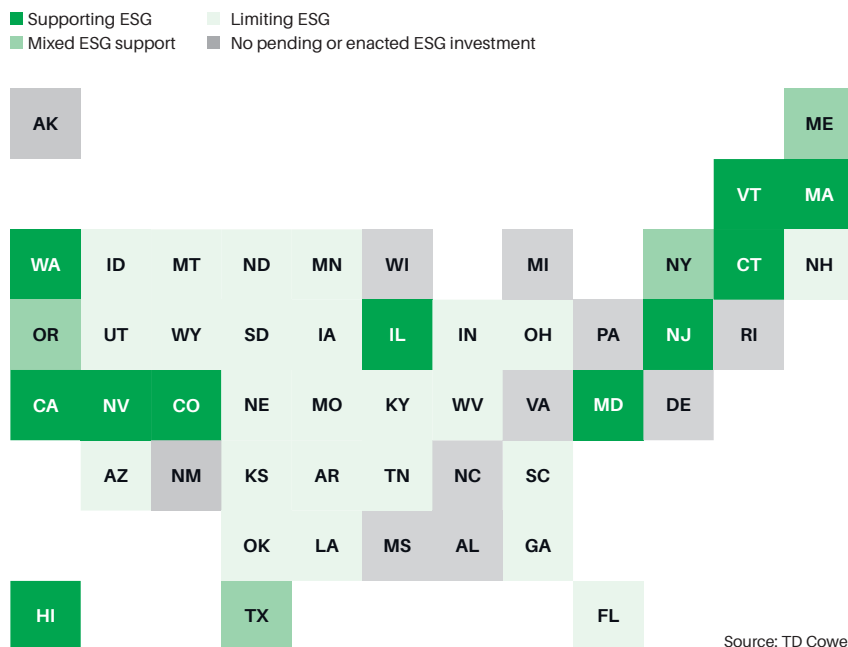
BlackRock, which has come under fire over its advocacy for ESG, says it lost \$4 billion in assets from anti-ESG states in 2022, while \$230 billion of U.S. assets flowed in amid \$400 billion globally, according to Fink. “They’re trying to demonize issues,” he said at the Davos economic forum in January, adding that if “you do not have a lens towards decarbonization, you’re not going to win one euro of business.”

State antiwoke initiatives can cost taxpayers. In Texas, municipal bond issuers incurred \$300 million to \$500 million in additional interest on nearly

ESG’s Political Divide

Many Republican-led states oppose ESG investments, while those led by Democrats generally support the practice.

States with active legislative efforts to restrict or support ESG investing with state assets



Source: TD Cowen

\$32 billion borrowed in the first eight months after the 2021 laws eliminating banks with policies against fossil fuels or firearms were passed, according to a paper co-authored by economist Daniel Garrett of the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School. Borrowing costs increased by up to 0.41 percentage point for issuers that had previously sold most of their bonds through the underwriters that quit the market.

“Lots of states are looking at what happened in Texas and want to take a stance, saying we prefer banks to be friendly to our important industries,” says Garrett. He adds that the newer anti-ESG initiatives carve out exceptions for local districts to avoid the higher costs associated with blacklisting big banks.

ESG’s very success may be fueling the backlash too, says Jason Jay, director of the Sustainability Initiative at the MIT Sloan School of Management. He points out that “climate-aligned” capitalism is advancing, such as a recent accord by 550 financial companies to reach net-zero emissions by 2050. “The movement has gained so much momentum that it’s really started to worry fossil-fuel companies and politicians in fossil-fuel producing states,” he says.

Another reason the criticism may

only go so far is that voters don’t appear that comfortable with the backlash. A survey of 1,261 registered voters in the fall, conducted by ROKK and Penn State University, found that 52% believe attacks on “corporate wokeism” have gone too far. Moreover, 70% of voters, including 53% of Republicans, say companies should address environmental issues, and 57% of voters overall say companies have a right to openly criticize legislation.

Many investors remain interested in social goals. Thirty percent of institutional investors plan to increase ESG exposure over the next 12 months, 19% aim to keep it unchanged, and just 1.6% plan to cut, according to a recent survey conducted by JPMorgan.

The companies that continue to speak out sound equally resolute. Evan van Hook, chief sustainability officer at Honeywell, says the company’s commitments to sustainability aren’t changing because “someone decides that, ‘Oh, now we’re going to call that woke.’” Honeywell has pledged to be carbon neutral by 2035. “Even if we didn’t talk about it, the targets are out there,” van Hook says, “and we’re not going to stop because someone’s calling them names.” **B**

Lauren Foster and Evie Liu contributed to this article.



Carrier Bets on the Heat-Pump Future

The HVAC supplier does a deal that should make it look a lot like its rival, Wall Street darling Trane Technologies. Investors so far aren't impressed.

BY AL ROOT

If you can't beat 'em, copy 'em—and that's exactly what **Carrier Global**, the maker of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning products, is doing.

Carrier (ticker: CARR), based in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., has grown earnings at a more-than-respectable 19.4% a year on average over the past three years. The stock has returned 6.1%, including reinvested dividends, over the past 12 months, 10 percentage points more than the S&P 500 index, and fetches less than 16 times 12-month forward earnings, well below the S&P 500's 18 times.

What Carrier hasn't been able to do is keep up with a Wall Street darling,

Trane Technologies (TT), at least when it comes to HVAC stocks. Carrier is growing fast, but Trane is growing even faster—its earnings increased at a 28.5% clip over the past three years, and the stock returned 26.8% over the past 12 months. Trane also fetches 20.4 times 12-month forward earnings, a sign of just how much more investors seem to value it relative to Carrier.

Carrier stock might now be poised to close that gap. On April 25, the company announced the acquisition of Viessmann Climate Solutions, a leading German maker of heat pumps and other climate-control products, for 12 billion euros, or about \$13.2 billion, in cash and stock. Carrier also plans to exit most of its refrigeration, fire, and

security businesses, leaving it looking like a closer facsimile of Trane when all is said and done.

Investors didn't seem to like the deal, even though it should boost sales growth by at least a percentage point, to about a 5% annual average from 4% in coming years, while boosting profit margins by one to two percentage points. Carrier stock dropped 10% from April 24, when the deal was first reported, through April 26, after it was confirmed. The big issue is likely that Carrier expects to make less money on a per-share basis in 2024 than it would have if it had not done the deal.

RBC Capital Markets analyst Deane Dray thinks the concerns are overblown. He estimates the deal will reduce earnings by only five cents a share or so—from \$2.80 to \$2.75—or about 2% of predeal estimated earnings due to the increased share count. "Overall, we are fans of Carrier's decision to transition to an HVAC pure-play with an attractive energy transition turbocharger," he wrote in a recent research report.

Heat pumps are that turbocharger. A heat pump is like an air conditioner, but more efficient, and can both cool and heat using electricity. They are the electric vehicles of HVAC and will go a long way to reducing carbon-dioxide emissions. All told, replacing all HVAC systems in U.S. single-family homes with heat pumps would cut roughly as much carbon as putting 60 million Teslas on the road. Carrier's HVAC business is expected to hit \$15.1 billion in 2023, up from \$13.4 billion in 2022.

If Carrier is overpaying for Viessmann, it isn't by much. The deal values the latter at about 17 times 2023's

Heat pumps are the electric vehicles of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning.

expected earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization, or Ebitda. Include the expected cost synergies, and the multiple drops to about 13 times, a touch above Carrier's own 11 times. "This looks like an attractive deal, especially in how it accelerates Carrier's pure-play HVAC transformation," wrote Dray.

The success of the deal could come down to how well CEO David Gitlin and Chief Financial Officer Patrick Goris execute. It will be their job to integrate Viessmann and manage the new debt load, which will be around 3.5 times Ebitda. If all goes as planned, Carrier should be generating more than \$22 billion in annual revenue and about \$3.7 billion in Ebitda, against \$13 billion in debt. With \$4 billion of free cash flow over the next two years, Carrier's balance sheet should look similar to Trane's by 2025.

If the market sees the same thing, Carrier shares could be worth \$57 trading at a Trane-like multiple, up 35% from a recent \$42.38. Dray, who rates Carrier Outperform, has a more conservative price target of \$48 a share, up 13%. Dray's price works out to about 17 times his estimated 2024 earnings, putting his target multiple between Carrier's existing price/earnings ratio and Trane's.

Either way, Carrier looks better positioned today than it was a week ago. Investors just haven't bothered to pay attention yet. **B**

Carrier XCT8 variable refrigerant units with heat pumps.

Playing Catch-Up

Carrier is making big changes to close the gap with Trane.

■ Carrier Global / CARR

Recent Price: \$41.10

52-Week Change: 4.3%

2024E EPS: \$2.81

2024E P/E: 14.7

EPS Growth*: 19.4%

Sales Growth*: 8.2%

Operating Margin** : 16.3%

■ Trane Technologies / TT

Recent Price: \$176.00

52-Week Change: 24.6%

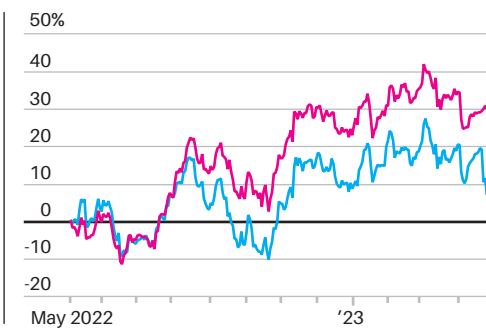
2024E EPS: \$9.21

2024E P/E: 19.1

EPS Growth*: 28.5%

Sales Growth*: 13.4%

Operating Margin** : 13.9%



E=estimate; *Three-year trailing annualized; **Three-year trailing average

Sources: Bloomberg; FactSet

Biofuel Stocks Are Sputtering. They Could Soon Reignite.

The market for renewable energy based on cooking grease, animal manure, and other waste is in upheaval. It may yet live up to its promise.

BY AVI SALZMAN

Billions of gallons of fuel refined from cooking oil, french-fries grease, landfills, and farm byproducts are being pumped into the engines of American vehicles every year. As long as people keep planting corn and eating fast food, there's no imminent shortage of oil to pump into tanks. But there has been a shortage of cash to pay for it lately, stalling the industry's growth and raising questions about its future.

Following a selloff in the industry that has pushed several stocks down more than 20% in the past year, some analysts now see buying opportunities. Among the names that are receiving positive buzz are **Darling Ingredients** (ticker: DAR) and **Opal Fuels** (OPAL).

The industry's problems stem from upheaval in the market for carbon credits. California's Low Carbon Fuel Standard, or LCFS, which went into effect in 2011, has been a key growth driver for the industry. It is designed to lower the overall carbon intensity of transportation fuels used in the state by establishing a credit and debit system for fuels. To comply, carbon emitters such as refiners need to produce cleaner fuels or buy enough credits from renewable-fuel producers to offset their greenhouse gases. It's so important to the biofuels industry—paying out an average of \$4.3 billion annually over the past three years—that nearly all of the renewable diesel produced in the country gets shipped to California to take advantage of it. But the value of the credits has fallen steadily since 2020—credits are paying out 63% less per ton than they did at

their peak because of an oversupply. With more credits being produced than carbon-emitters need to buy, the value of each credit has declined.

The federal government has been running its own clean-fuels program since 2005, requiring that refiners blend certain renewable fuels into gasoline and diesel or pay for credits. But the Environmental Protection Agency's latest clean fuel volume mandates are lower than some producers had hoped, and credit prices have slipped for products such as biogas.

Renewable natural gas, captured from things such as animal manure, can be piped around the country like traditional gas. Below, a Clean Energy Fuels facility.

The industry's future will depend in part on whether the state and federal credit values rise, and which fuels are prioritized. The fate of at least a dozen companies—and major investments in the industry by companies like **BP** (BP) and **Chevron** (CVX)—hangs in the balance.

The price crash has “put everybody on ice,” says Eric McAfee, the CEO of biofuels company **Aemetis** (AMTX), whose stock is down 78% in the past year. “The impact is a lack of investment,” he says. “When something is not happening, it's much harder for people to see the pain.” The result is that you're “stuck with the same amount of high-pollution, high-cost imported crude oils you had last year.”

The industry's stagnation isn't just a problem for the companies. The International Energy Agency says biofuels production will have to quadruple from 2021 levels by 2030 and make up 15% of global transportation fuel—up from 3.6%—to limit harsh climate-change impacts. Biofuels are considered the best near-term solution to decarbonize heavy equipment because electric-vehicle batteries are simply too heavy to support trucks right now, and the technology to electrify airplanes is decades away from being used at scale.

Most biofuels still cost considerably

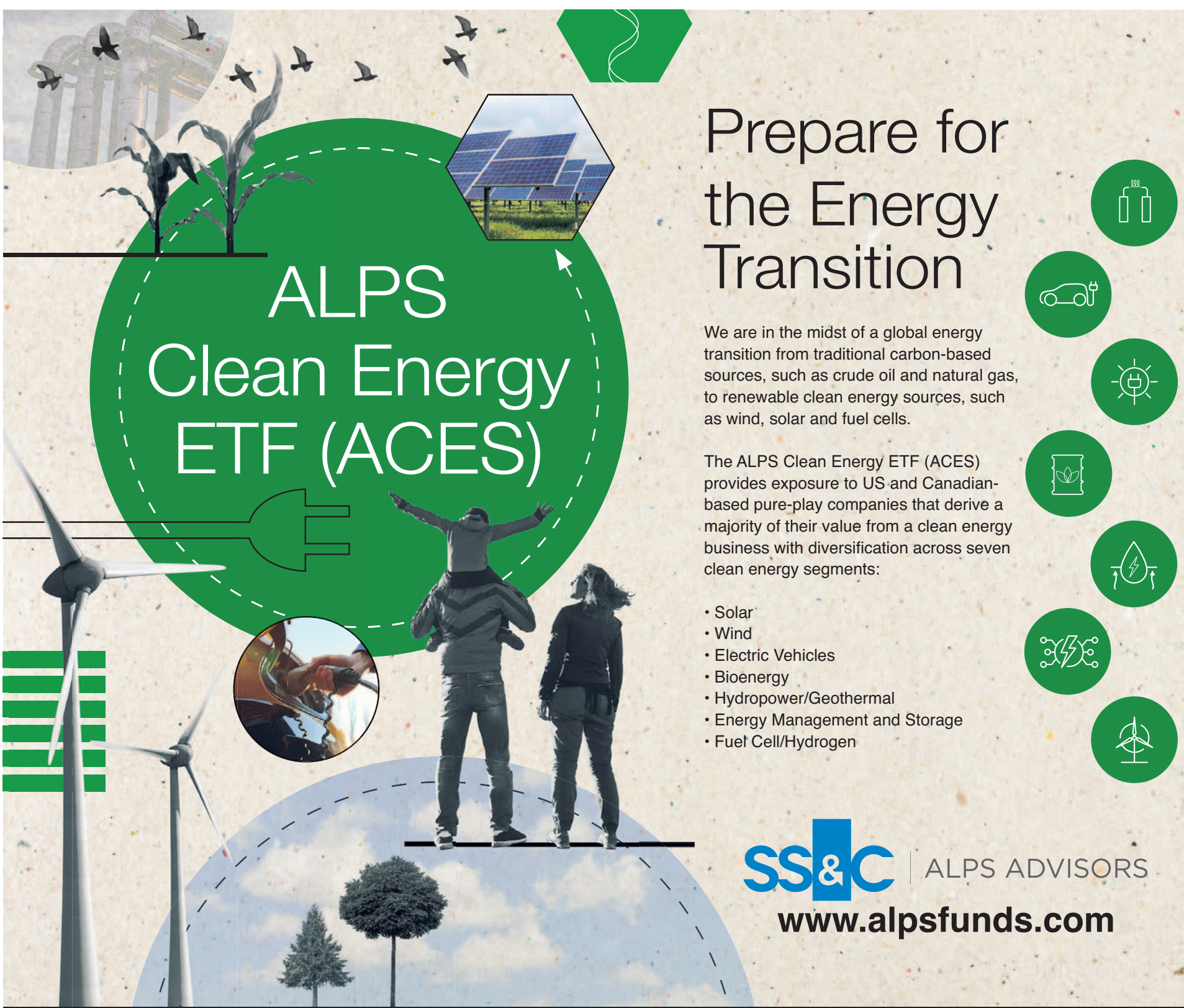
more than fossil fuels to make, so government policies play a key role in bridging the gap. There are companies like **Amazon.com** (AMZN) that buy cleaner fuels to reach a self-imposed net-zero goal, but they remain outliers. In the fourth quarter of last year, the value of credits tied to federal and state policies amounted to more than 100% of the adjusted earnings for **Clean Energy Fuels** (CLNE), a Southern California company that makes renewable natural gas for use in transportation, according to Raymond James. As a result, the company's stock has taken a big hit as the value of credits has fallen; the stock is down 28% over the past year. **Darling Ingredients**, a renewable diesel producer, is down 22%. **Opal Fuels**, another gas producer, is down 26%.

The drops come despite the fact that several kinds of renewable fuels are showing they can be viable replacements for fossil fuels. Biofuels are nothing new, but the market has expanded dramatically in the past few years. The best-known biofuel is ethanol, which is mostly made from corn and has been blended with gasoline for decades; it still makes up about 70% of the biofuels market.

But other kinds of fuels are quickly making their way into fuel tanks



Courtesy Clean Energy Fuels



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An investment in the Fund involves risk, including loss of principal.

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around the country, thanks to government support and technological advances. About 5% of U.S. diesel fuel is now made up of biodiesel or renewable diesel, two forms of carbon-friendly fuel with somewhat different chemical compositions. Renewable diesel can be used as a direct replacement for traditional diesel, whereas biodiesel must be blended at a lower percentage rate. That has helped spur quick adoption, with renewable diesel capacity quadrupling in the past four years. By 2025, renewable diesel is likely to account for the majority of diesel fuel used on the West Coast, according to the Energy Information Administration.

Major refining companies—including **Valero (VLO)**, **Marathon Petroleum (MPC)**, and **CVR Energy (CVI)**—are all investing in expanding capacity for renewable diesel. Chevron is also expanding capacity, after buying renewable diesel and biodiesel producer Renewable Energy Group in 2022.

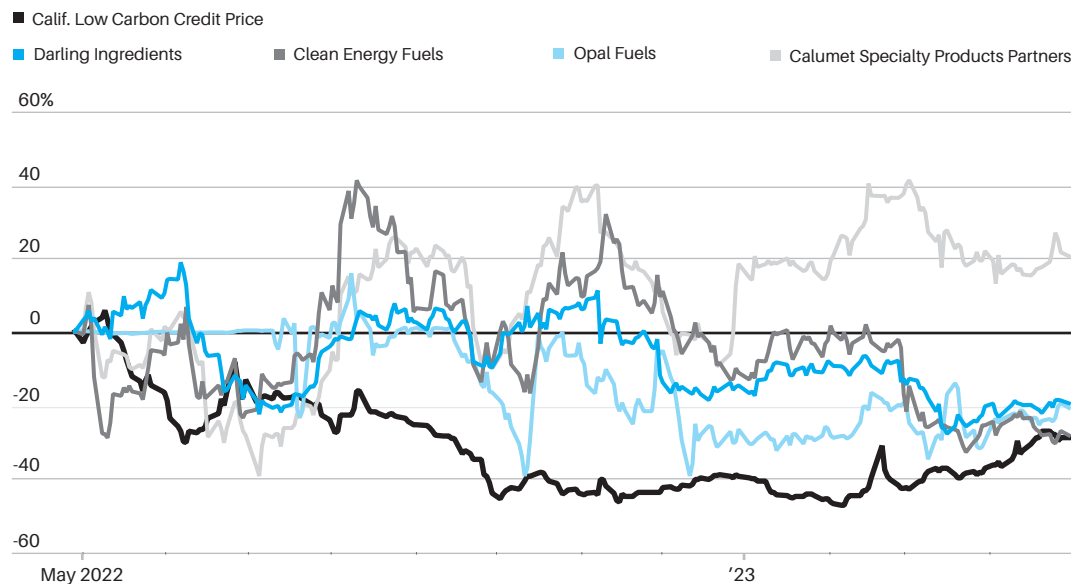
But all of that added capacity has begun to overwhelm the California market, resulting in an excess of low-carbon credits. The accumulated bank of excess credits, which can be used in future years, could cover at least half a year's worth of carbon emissions without a single ounce of biofuel being sold in the state. That oversupply has caused the credits to crash.

Andy Walz, who heads up oil products for Chevron in the Americas, including its expanding portfolio of renewable fuels, says in an interview that the decline isn't going to stop the company's investments. "Policies do move around, and prices like this move around, and we're prepared to weather through it and continue our strategy," he says.

The impact has been harder on renewable natural gas, which is more dependent than diesel on the credits. RNG, which is mostly made of methane, is captured from landfills, sewage, and animal manure and can be piped around the country like the traditional product. There are 281 RNG facilities operating in North America, but the industry makes up less than 1% of U.S. natural-gas production. BP bought landfill-gas producer Archaea Energy last year, with plans to quintuple its capacity. While big companies are expected to continue their expansion projects, some smaller producers say that low credit prices in California have slowed their development.

Out of Fuel

As prices for clean-fuel credits have dropped, so have many stocks in the industry.



Sources: OPIS; S&P Global Platts; Bloomberg

Normally, one oversaturated market wouldn't sink an industry. But biofuels producers have limited options. Oregon and Washington recently started up their own low-carbon programs, and British Columbia has one, too, but none are as substantial as California's. Federal renewable credits have been helpful but on their own can't support the industry, analysts say.

To help bridge the gap, some senators have discussed the possibility of a national low-carbon standard. Sen. Tom Carper (D., Del.) said at a February hearing that a federal standard "can provide certainty, predictability, and flexibility for all stakeholders while also spurring innovation." But Republicans disagreed, with Sen. Shelley Capito (R., W.Va.) warning that a federal standard could cause gasoline and diesel prices to rise. Analysts say that the extra compliance costs for refiners can end up trickling down to consumers, and are one reason California's gasoline prices are higher than elsewhere.

"I doubt that my state and many others, particularly in rural America, will want to import the West Coast's policies," Capito said.

Given the disagreement, and growing concerns about inflation, analysts doubt that a low-carbon standard could pass at the federal level. "I don't see how the U.S. government is going to develop a national LCFS," says Megan Boutwell, president of transportation fuels consulting firm Stillwater

Associates. But she does expect state proposals to do better. New York, New Mexico, Illinois, and other states are considering low-carbon standards to meet their own net-zero goals. A patchwork of state benefits could support the industry's expansion goals.

New state programs are just one reason analysts are becoming more optimistic about the industry. "I would say that the industry is going through a much-needed reckoning," says Matthew Blair, an analyst at Tudor, Pickering, Holt who covers biofuels. The days of "growth at all costs" are over, Blair says. "The companies are behaving more as regular businesses."

The California Air Resources Board is planning to tighten standards by next year. Analysts expect credit prices to rise considerably—if not back to their 2020 highs above \$200, then at least to well above \$100. Since the board held a meeting on the program in February, prices are already up, from \$62 to a recent \$82. The EPA is also expected to shift its rules in a way that boosts the value of credits known as renewable identification numbers, or RINs, said Opal Fuels co-CEO Jon Maurer in a recent interview.

Maurer thinks the best sign that the industry will bounce back is that bigger players have moved in. Both BP and **Shell (SHEL)** have announced multi-billion-dollar acquisitions of RNG companies in the past year. "This is a big groundswell of support in our industry," he says.

Blair thinks Opal itself could be an "attractive takeover candidate," which is one reason he rates it at Buy. He also likes Darling Ingredients.

Another source of optimism on biofuels is the emergence of a new market for cleaner aviation fuel. Oils from beef, soybeans, and other sources can be refined in such a way as to make them viable replacements for jet fuel, a market that's a major contributor to climate change. The biggest U.S. airlines have committed to use much more of the cleaner stuff, known as sustainable aviation fuel, over the next decade, with United Airlines and others even pledging \$100 million to projects that can jump-start the industry.

The Inflation Reduction Act also included extra subsidies for the air fuel, as have states including Illinois. **Calumet Specialty Products Partners (CLMT)**, the biggest U.S. producer of the fuel, just started making 1,000 barrels a day at a repurposed Montana refinery it owns. That's a minuscule portion of the seven million barrels of jet fuel used around the world every day, but it's expected to ramp quickly. "We're at the infantile stage of what we think is going to be an explosive growth story," says Calumet CEO Todd Borgmann. The Montana site gives Calumet access to cheap feedstocks and end markets, including Canada and California, that are willing to pay up for clean jet fuel. After a decade of losses, analysts expect Calumet to swing to a profit this year, and quadruple earnings by 2026.

Raymond James analyst Pavel Molchanov thinks it's worth buying Clean Energy Fuels on expectations that credits will rise, though he also issued a warning to investors. "This stock's always-volatile attributes—it is emphatically not a buy-and-hold name—make it essential to be tactical, and that means short-term trading calls," he wrote.

McAfee, the Aemetis CEO, says the industry may not appeal to fearful investors. "This is a time for sophisticated investors to make an amazing amount of money, because the market's just simply wrong," he says.

For now, a bet on these companies is dependent on supportive political policy and tech advancements coming together at the same time. If those two forces do meet, the stocks could rise like jets, regardless of what's powering the engine. **B**



TIAA and its Brazilian partner Cosan own hundreds of farms across the country, putting them among Brazil's largest farmland investors.

TIAA's Brush With Brazilian 'Land Grabbers'

The institutional manager prides itself on using "financial services for the greater good." Some of its deals for Brazilian farmland raise questions.

BY BILL ALPERT

Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America found itself in a rough neighborhood when it started buying Brazilian farmland.

On a summer morning in 2014, money lender Genivaldo Dos Santos Souza was shot eight times in a Brazilian farm town's square. Not long before, public records show, he had

warned Bahia State authorities of a scheme to win land disputes by bribing a judge. His suspected killer, a cop with a side hustle, was then killed in what prosecutors say was a coverup of a farm property corruption scheme now being prosecuted.

These shots might not have echoed beyond Brazil, except that some of that farmland was sold four years earlier to the world's biggest institutional manager of farm assets: Teachers Insurance and Annuity Associa-

tion of America. TIAA sought cheap farmland, and when it started buying Bahia soy farms a decade ago, they were one-tenth the price of those in Illinois. Brazil became the biggest part of TIAA's agricultural portfolio—more than a million acres of farms and timber. And the bet paid. Over the past decade, Brazil farm prices have increased at six times the rate of U.S. land.

One reason Bahia farm holdings were cheap could be the way they became available. As Brazil developed from subsistence farms to big-time agribusiness, the process has been plagued by "land grabbers"—speculators who often use violence, fraud, and government corruption to assemble property that they can flip to big buyers, according to government officials.

TIAA and other foreign institutions have benefited by "outsourcing" land expropriation to land-grabbers, concluded a September 2017 Bahia fact-finding mission by Brazil's Justice Ministry. "TIAA and its affiliates may not be directly involved in land-grabbing and ecocide," said the Justice

Ministry report. "Perhaps because others do the 'dirty work' for them."

TIAA hasn't been accused of wrongdoing in either criminal or civil complaints in Brazil. "We don't engage in improper business practices," says TIAA spokeswoman Monica Orbe. "We follow the laws and regulations of every country in which we operate."

Details of TIAA's dealings with land sellers appear in 100 gigabytes of files and emails leaked from **Cosan** (ticker: CSAN), the NYSE-listed Brazilian agribusiness that is TIAA's farm investing partner. The files surfaced at the nonprofit hosting site Distributed Denial of Secrets and were examined by *Barron's* and a not-for-profit journalism group, the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project.

Those investment and accounting records, legal memos, and tax analyses show that TIAA and Cosan bought dozens of farmland titles from sellers that Brazilian officials have called land-grabbers. One of these sellers, who has since died, was accused of using fraud, arson, and murder to drive local farmers from their homes.

Others are now at the center of the Bahia land corruption prosecution known as Operation Far West that started with the slain whistleblower Dos Santos Souza and has yet to go to trial in the national capital of Brasília.

"We take these allegations very seriously," says Orbe. "We also expect the government to investigate and prosecute instances of land-grabbing wherever it occurs." The TIAA spokeswoman says all TIAA's farm purchases met industry standards for legal and commercial due diligence at the time of purchase. Cosan didn't respond to repeated emails and phone calls from *Barron's*.

In the century since it started as a teacher's pension fund, TIAA has grown to the nation's largest nonprofit retirement manager. It's as proud of its ethics as its returns. One way the \$1.2 trillion manager found to pursue its mission of "financial services for the greater good" is to buy farmland—an asset that feeds the world and is largely uncorrelated with financial market moves. A recent study by TIAA's investment management unit, Nuveen, said U.S. farmland prices rose nearly 7% a year since 2001. Brazil's increased at a 13% rate, with steepening gains since 2008, when TIAA started buying.

Laws in Brazil restrict foreign ownership of farmland, so TIAA formed a partnership with Cosan, a holding company controlled by one of Brazil's richest men, Rubens Ometto. Starting with a venture called Radar, TIAA/Cosan partnerships bought over 1,000 land titles in Brazil from 2008 to 2018—the Cosan records show—with about a third of them acquired in related party deals from Ometto's family office. TIAA has put in the most money and been entitled to most of the economic returns.

TIAA says the purchases were made at arm's length with independent validation of their value. Ometto didn't respond to requests for comment.

TIAA also invited other pension managers to join Brazil farmland partnerships, including government retirement funds for New York state, New Mexico, British Columbia, Quebec, Britain, Korea, and Sweden. None of these funds responded to questions from *Barron's*.

From 2010 to 2015, the TIAA/Cosan partnerships bought more than 30 titles from Euclides de Carli, whose land-consolidation practices had already gained him a reputation as a

"grileiro"—the Brazilian name for land-grabber. In 2011, a legislator on the floor of the Maranhão state assembly accused de Carli of illegally grabbing 400,000 acres of land by hiring thugs who used arson to oust farmers and killed two people who resisted.

While TIAA's Orbe says all properties were acquired from de Carli legally, she says the publicity prompted the fund manager to improve its due diligence in 2016 and 2017 with added litigation and background checks. "Only in cases where we are satisfied with these checks on the seller, will we move forward with the land purchase," she says.

Land-fraud findings against de Carli were issued in 2016 and 2017 by Brazilian state judges and federal prosecutors. He died in 2019, but a spokesman for his De Carli Group told *Barron's* that all de Carli's land acquisitions had been legitimate, that he had never fomented violence, and that he was never charged with a crime.

If TIAA thought its land controversies in Brazil were resolved in 2015 when it stopped buying land from de Carli, it was mistaken.

In a western region of Bahia that farmers called "the new frontier," the TIAA/Cosan Radar partnership had bought a 17,000-acre farm called Parceiros in 2010. The farm fell within a larger area—bigger than the nation of Luxembourg—that had been disputed between two landowning groups since 1980.



Cosan owner Rubens Ometto, above, is one of Brazil's richest men. TIAA and partner Cosan bought farms in western Bahia, below, that had been hotly disputed between two landowning groups since 1980.

TIAA says it was aware of the longstanding dispute. So it secured the property by making separate deals with each contending party. TIAA executives bragged about this solution in internal emails and in marketing presentations to outside investors.

The Bahia land rivals continued to battle in court, and in 2016 each side was accusing the other of being a land-grabber.

In internal emails, TIAA executives expressed concern. "The immediate risk here is that the land-grabbing

accusations have appeared in a São Paulo newspaper and it may only be a matter of time before Radar's name appears in that newspaper," wrote Nuveen lawyer Duane Nelson in a December 2016 email.

"I know the group is aware of the sensitivity around 'land grabbing,'" wrote Justin Ourso, who at the time was Nuveen's head of real assets investing. "TIAA cannot be surprised regarding these accusations again."

TIAA declined to make either Nelson or Ourso available to *Barron's* for questions. Both still work at the firm.

In December 2019, a 140-page federal indictment, filed in Brasília, charged José Valter Dias, who had sold two farms to TIAA, and his son with bribing judges to win land-title disputes. (TIAA's name didn't appear in charging documents.) The murders of Dos Santos Souza and his suspected killer were coverups of the conspiracy, said prosecutors.

A defense attorney for Dias and his son says they had no relationship with the arrested judges and that the evidence demonstrates their innocence. Regarding the murders mentioned in the indictment, the lawyer says he was unaware of any suspicion falling on either Dias.

Asked for comment, TIAA said that "legitimate titles were acquired for both of those properties."

Over three years, the Far West investigators have continued gathering evidence ahead of a trial. Prosecutors have filed charges against additional judges—and then against Valter Dias' rivals in the 40-year long Bahia farmland dispute. All the alleged land-grabbers have denied the charges.

On April 12, a Bahia judge invalidated the land claims of both Dias and his rivals—that is, everyone that TIAA had purchased from.

That no longer matters to TIAA. In 2021, the TIAA partnerships sold the farms it had bought from Valter Dias to a local farmer. Spokeswoman Orbe says that leases for farming the properties had expired, and that allowed TIAA to fetch a better price. TIAA continues to own more than one million acres of farm and timber in Brazil.

"Our investment thesis is to own farmland for the long term, make investments to improve it, and benefit from income returns generated and capital growth," says the TIAA spokeswoman. **B**



FUNDS

Environmental Activists Come After Vanguard

BY LEWIS BRAHAM

At first it seems like a typical financial-services TV ad. A little girl in braids is planting seeds in a flower box with her smiling grandparents. "Investing with Vanguard helped us seed our retirement dreams, but now we're reaping what they've sown," the grandmother's voice intones. Suddenly, the plants in the flower box are wilted and we see smoke in the distance: "I'm so sorry, little one. Climate change is crushing those dreams. I hope it's not too late." Then a baritone pitchman's voice adds, "When you save with Vanguard, you're an owner of a catastrophic climate future. If it's bad for the environment, it's bad for your retirement."

The ad—the work of an environmental activist campaign called Vanguard S.O.S.—is currently airing on CNBC in Chester County, Pa., the home of Vanguard Group, which manages \$7.2 trillion.

As part of Vanguard S.O.S.' April 2022 launch, 107 environmental groups—including the Sierra Club in the U.S. and the Sunrise Project in Australia—representing some six million people sent an open letter to Vanguard CEO Tim Buckley, asking that the firm "tackle its climate problem comprehensively" by focusing on four goals: improving its proxy voting on environmental-related shareholder proposals, committing to the Paris climate agreement's goal to reduce emissions enough to limit global warming to 1.5° Celsius, shifting investment policy to manage climate risk, and integrating "climate justice" into business decisions.

Although Vanguard has long claimed that it engages with companies privately, it has a poor public record relative to peers such as BlackRock, State Street, and Fidelity of supporting ESG-related shareholder proposals. That, plus the fact that it withdrew from the widely supported Net Zero Asset Managers initiative to cut emissions in December, means that the negative

advertising will probably continue.

The firm says it's aware of the importance of its role. In a 2022 Q&A it posted online, John Galloway, its head of investment stewardship, stated, "Through... direct engagements with company management teams and boards of directors, and proxy voting, we work to ensure that portfolio companies are taking the appropriate steps to address the risks that climate change poses to long-term investors."

Vanguard declined to comment on the S.O.S. campaign, citing previous statements and reports on climate change. In one Vanguard economic impact study, the company states, "Climate change will have a negative estimated net impact on the global economy. We calculate a drag of between 2% and 4% of GDP by 2050 for small temperature rises...[and] closer to 10% of GDP for temperature increases above three degrees Celsius."

That analysis matters because it means that climate change will have a material financial impact on businesses Vanguard invests in worldwide. Moreover, the worse the temperature change is, the greater the impact. One persistent claim by opponents of environmental, social, and governance, or ESG, investing is that money managers are fiduciaries and therefore must prioritize profit maximization over environmental concerns. But the science that Vanguard acknowledges indicates that climate change will hurt bottom lines.

The problem is weighing the short-term risks of missing out on, say, an oil-stock boom versus the long-term risks of a decimated fossil-fuel industry. "Fiduciary duty means you have to consider the folks you have to pay out in 20 years with the same level of responsiveness as the folks you do now," says Jessye Waxman of the Sierra Club's Fossil-Free Finance campaign. "This matters for long-term investors like Vanguard, which have many clients who are saving for retirement, including people looking to retire much closer to midcentury." **B**

Scoreboard: Banks Sank

Financial-services funds took a beating as turmoil picked up again in regional banking. Reassuring words from the Federal Reserve did little to help.

	One Week	Year-to-Date
U.S. STOCK FUNDS	-1.86%	2.65%
TOP SECTOR / Precious Metals Equity Funds	4.34	19.11
BOTTOM SECTOR / Financial Services Funds	-6.58	-15.08
S&P 500	-1.79	5.77
U.S. BOND FUNDS	0.36	3.20
Bloomberg Barclays AGG Bond	0.89	3.82

The Week's Top 25

Fund Investment	Objective	One Week	Year-to-Date
Victory Prec Met&Min Fund / USAGX	Precious Metals Eq	5.23%	23.2%
Amer Cent Gl Gold Inv / BGEIX	Precious Metals Eq	5.20%	22.5%
VanEck Intl Gold Y / INIYX	Precious Metals Eq	5.15	22.1
OCM Gold Atl / OCMAX	Precious Metals Eq	5.09	20.6
Allspring Prec Met A / EKWAX	Precious Metals Eq	5.06	24.4
Gabelli Gold I / GLDIX	Precious Metals Eq	5.01	20.7
Rydex Precious Metls Inv / RYPMX	Precious Metals Eq	5.00	18.1
Sprott Gold Equity Inv / SGDLX	Precious Metals Eq	4.97	18.5
Fidelity Adv Biotech I / FBTX	Health/Biotech	4.72	1.6
Midas Fund / MDSX	Precious Metals Eq	4.72	18.8
EuroPac Gold A / EPGFX	Precious Metals Eq	4.61	22.2
Franklin Gld&Pr Mt A / FKRCX	Precious Metals Eq	4.47	16.6
Fidelity Sel Gold / FSAGX	Precious Metals Eq	4.30	19.4
Fidelity Sel Bio Tech / FBIOX	Health/Biotech	3.79	2.7
First Eagle Gold I / FEGIX	Precious Metals Eq	3.56	17.8
US Gbl Gold&PM / USERX	Precious Metals Eq	3.55	10.8
Princeton Lng/Sht Trs I / PTAIX	Alt Mgd Futures	3.18	3.7
Fidelity Sel Pharm / FPHAX	GL Health/Biotech	3.16	8.0
Ashmore EM Sht Dur Inst / ESFIX	Emg Mkts HC Debt	3.13	5.4
Gold Bullion Strat Inv / QGLDX	Precious Metals Eq	3.11	11.5
AlphaCentric LS HC I / LYFIX	Health/Biotech	2.74	12.0
WA SMASH Series M / LMSMX	Global Income	2.70	7.2
Dscpld Growth Invest I / DGIFX	Mix Tgt All Gro	2.64	8.2
Invesco Gold & SM A / OPGSX	Precious Metals Eq	2.63	17.0
Needham Aggr Growth Inst / NEAIX	Small-Cap Growth	2.62	3.4

The Week's Bottom 10

Fund Investment	Objective	One Week	Year-to-Date
J Hancock Reg Bank A / FRBAX	Financial Services	-11.42	-32.6
Hennessy Sm Cp Finl Inv / HSFNX	Financial Services	-11.01%	-30.3%
Rydex Banking A / RYBIX	Financial Services	-9.93	-25.5
Fidelity Sel Banking / FSRBX	Financial Services	-9.83	-25.3
Firsthand Tech Opptys / TEFQX	Science & Tech	-9.61	-11.6
Emerald Fin&Bnk Invv Ins / HSSIX	Financial Services	-9.16	-21.4
RMB Inv Fnl Svc I / RMBLX	Financial Services	-8.62	-28.0
Hennessy Lg Cap Finl Inv / HLFNX	Financial Services	-7.21	-20.2
Fidelity Sel Energy / FSENX	Natural Resources	-6.94	-10.9
Fidelity Adv Energy I / FANIX	Natural Resources	-6.90	-10.8

The Largest 25

Fund Investment	Assets (billions)	Objective	3-Year ^o Return	1-Week Return	YTD Return
American Funds Gro A / AGTHX	\$104.5	Large-Cap Growth	8.8%	-1.16%	9.7%
American Funds Bal A / ABALX	\$92.5	Mix Tgt All Gro	6.7%	-0.74%	2.7%
Vanguard Wellington Adm / VWENX	91.1	Mix Tgt All Gro	8.0	-0.98	3.8
Fidelity Contrafund / FCNTX	89.4	Large-Cap Core	10.4	-1.76	12.5
Vanguard Tgt Ret2030 Inv / VTHRXX	80.8	Mix-Asst Targ 2030	6.8	-0.51	5.6
Vanguard Tgt Ret2035 Inv / VTTHX	80.3	Mixed-Asset Target 2035	8.0	-0.68	5.7
American Funds Inc A / AMECX	75.3	Mix Tgt All Mod	9.1	-1.27	0.6
Vanguard Tgt Ret2025 Inv / VTTVX	74.4	Mixed-Asset Target 2025	5.8	-0.34	5.3
Fidelity SA US Tot Stk / FCTDX	72.0	Multi-Cap Core	14.0	-1.64	6.2
American Funds Wash A / AWSHX	70.8	Large-Cap Value	13.3	-1.62	0.6
PIMCO Income Inst / PIMIX	70.3	Multi-Sector Inc	3.2	0.70	3.6
Vanguard Tgt Ret2040 Inv / VFORX	70.0	Mixed-Asset Target 2040	9.1	-0.83	5.9
American Funds EuPc R6 / RERGX	69.3	Intl Large-Cap Growth	8.9	-0.70	9.8
American Funds ICA A / AIVSX	68.2	Large-Cap Core	12.3	-1.56	6.2
Vanguard Tgt Ret2045 Inv / VTIVX	65.9	Mixed-Asset Target 2045	10.2	-1.02	6.1
Dodge & Cox Stck I / DODGX	63.9	Multi-Cap Value	17.0	-2.85	-1.0
Fidelity SA Core Inc / FIWGX	63.2	General Bond	-1.4	0.72	4.0
American Funds CIB A / CAIBX	61.0	Global Equity Income	8.1	-1.14	2.2
Vanguard PRIMECAP Adm / VPMAX	58.9	Large-Cap Core	14.1	-0.11	6.8
American Funds Flnv A / ANCFX	57.8	Large-Cap Core	11.7	-1.68	5.1
Dodge & Cox Income I / DODIX	56.0	Core Bond	-0.7	0.40	3.6
Vanguard Tgt Ret2050 Inv / VFIIX	53.6	Mix-Asst Targ 2050	10.3	-1.11	6.1
Vanguard Div Gro Inv / VDIGX	52.3	Equity Income	14.0	-1.06	0.4
American Funds NPer A / ANWPX	51.6	Global Large-Cap Growth	11.8	-0.82	9.7
Fidelity Str Adv Cre Inc / FPCIX	50.5	General Bond	-1.9	0.85	4.2

*Annualized 04/30/2020 to 05/04/2023. Through Thursday.

Source: Lipper

INCOME INVESTING

Dividends and Growth? Big Pharma Has Both

BY LAWRENCE C. STRAUSS

Healthcare stock dividends look stingy at an average 1.7%, below sectors like utilities at 3.2% or real estate at 3.7%. But some Big Pharma stocks yield 3% to 4% and could be good defensive bets in a sluggish economy.

"The case for owning them is 4%-ish yields and you don't need to worry about the economy," says Jenny Harrington, CEO and portfolio manager at Gilman Hill Asset Management.

Pharmaceutical stocks are tough to handicap. Even when a blockbuster drug is flourishing, patent expirations always loom, making it difficult to forecast sales more than a few years out. Future value lies in pipelines of drugs in various stages of development. And companies tend to make huge acquisitions to rebuild sales, sometimes buying rights to drugs that have yet to be proven winners.

A dividend isn't going to be the driving force in a pharma stock's success, but it can serve as a bulwark and support returns. **Pfizer** (ticker: PFE) has a 10-year annualized return of 7.5%, including dividends, well below the S&P 500 index's 12.3%. Without the dividends, its annual price gain is 3.7%. **Bristol Myers Squibb** (BMY) has a 10-year return of 8.7%, versus 5.6% for the share price alone.

Iain Clayton, a senior portfolio manager of the **Schwab Health Care** fund (SWHFX), doesn't initially seek out dividends. But "when you focus on quality and stability, that leads you toward larger companies that aren't as risky and, in the pharma space, have good yields," he says. For such stocks, he argues, pipelines, patent expirations, and current sales are "paramount" to valuations. But the safety of the dividend "does provide some degree of security as you wait."

One of his holdings is **Gilead Sciences** (GILD), which yields 3.7%. The company is a strong player in HIV drugs

and is expanding in oncology treatments, which should be "an important growth driver," according to a recent J.P. Morgan note.

One of Gilead's promising drugs is **Trodelvy**, which is used to treat breast cancer and could be expanded to other types of tumors. It is patent-protected in the U.S. through 2028, according to Gilead. The drug's sales totaled \$680 million in 2022, up from \$380 million the prior year. Gilead also has 22 drugs in late-stage development, makes an antiviral drug for Covid, and is working on another Covid treatment.

Gilead's profits are expected to dip 6% to \$6.82 a share this year and then rise modestly in 2024 and 2025, reaching \$7 to \$8 a share. The dividend looks well-covered, and shares, at a recent \$81, trade at just 11 times estimated 2024 earnings.

Another of Clayton's holdings is **Merck** (MRK). Sales of its blockbuster cancer drug, **Keytruda**, grew 22% last year to nearly \$21 billion. Its sales are expected to jump to \$24 billion this year, or 41% of Merck's \$58.7 billion total, according to consensus estimates. Its U.S. patent expires in 2028.

Merck will need to rebuild sales when **Keytruda** goes off patent, and its ability to do so remains an overhang on the stock. The company recently announced a \$10.8 billion deal for **Prometheus Biosciences**, a biotech with a late-stage drug that could be used for conditions such as ulcerative colitis, Crohn's disease, and other autoimmune conditions. Merck is also working with **Moderna** (MRNA) to develop a cancer vaccine. "There is risk out there, but there seems to be enough going on in the pipeline," says Clayton.

At a recent \$118, Merck stock is up 6% this year, pushing past its 52-week highs. It's also at a premium to its historic valuation, at about 14 times estimated 2024 earnings. Investors can pocket a 2.5% yield while they wait to see if Merck's pipeline and deal making will pay off. **B**

TECH TRADER

Even as Tech Struggles, Apple Manages to Thrive

BY TAE KIM

Apple is special. For weeks now, we've seen data pointing to continued struggles for all kinds of technology hardware. PC demand is tumbling. Smartphones are struggling to grow. It was a tough setup for Apple. And yet the company delivered.

On Thursday evening, Apple reported March-quarter results above expectations. Revenue fell by 3% year over year, but iPhone sales were actually up.

The stock surged 5% on the earnings and revenue beats.

Overall demand for computers and smartphones has been in free fall, following a large pull forward in spending during the pandemic. Last month, IDC said worldwide shipments of PCs fell 29% in the first quarter from a year earlier. Similarly, **Intel** (INTC)—the largest supplier of PC processors—recently reported a 36% decline in revenue for the March quarter.

The mobile phone market isn't much better. Research firm **Canalys** said first-quarter worldwide shipments for mobile phones fell 13% year over year due to difficult economic conditions. On Wednesday, **Qualcomm** (QCOM), the leading maker of mobile processors and 5G wireless chipsets, posted a 17% revenue decline in the March quarter, while giving a markedly worse-than-expected forecast, citing softening demand for smartphones.

Through it all, Apple still managed to deliver growth in year-over-year iPhone sales.

In a world where most technology products are commodities, Apple's customers are less likely to be swayed by discounts. It has a stellar brand, high customer satisfaction, and incredible loyalty.

Consumers are willing to spend a few hundred dollars more to get a better ex-

perience on a device they use for hours every day. Warren Buffett, one of Apple's largest shareholders, figured it out years ago when he saw his grandchildren glued to their iPhones.

The sticky nature of Apple's ecosystem plays a big part, as well. Earlier this year, the company said its install base surpassed two billion active devices. During the earnings call on Thursday, management said paid subscriptions across its platform—including Apple Music, Apple TV+, and iCloud—have reached 975 million, double the level from three years ago.

Then there are the attractive shareholder returns. What sometimes gets overlooked is the sheer magnitude of Apple's financial prowess. This past week, Apple authorized an additional \$90 billion stock buyback and increased its dividend for the 11th consecutive year, while vowing more annual increases going forward. There is room to do so, given that Apple generated about \$100 billion in net income during its last fiscal year.

"Few things in the market are as certain as Apple's cash-generating abilities, product resilience, and remarkably high consumer sentiment," Jefferies analyst Andrew Uerkwitz wrote in a note to clients after earnings.

Apple shares aren't cheap. Its stock trades for roughly 28 times projected earnings for the next 12 months, a high price to pay for a technology company that is barely growing. If we are headed into a broad-based consumer recession, Apple won't be immune to economic pressures.

But Apple may be a relative haven compared with other big technology stocks. Investors are more likely to look past short-term bumps because of confidence in the iPhone franchise. And consumers are likely to keep upgrading and sticking with Apple's devices years into the future.

Apple deserves a premium because there aren't many companies with that kind of loyalty. **B**

THE ECONOMY

As the latest job numbers indicate, past monetary-policy tightening has yet to produce an easing in tight labor markets.

Who You Gonna Believe on Rates, Powell or the Market?

This past week's economic narrative went something like this: The Federal Reserve's interest-rate increases have set off a crisis among regional banks that will produce a crippling credit crunch and send the economy spiraling into an imminent recession.

By Thursday, regional-bank stocks were in a free fall again, just days after the rescue of First Republic Bank by **JPMorgan Chase** (ticker: JPM) supposedly had staved off a widening crisis. The Federal Reserve had just raised interest rates for the tenth time the day before, and the markets were pricing in rate reductions by the central bank as soon as July to counter the anticipated economic fallout from the apparent bank crisis.

But a day later, new numbers contradicted the negative narrative. The data, moreover, underscored that the real economic problem—inflation—remains. If anything, the Fed has more room to raise interest rates than to cut them, presuming it follows the numbers.

April's employment report showed a 253,000 increase in nonfarm payrolls, roughly a third more than the consensus of economists' forecasts. The unemployment rate dipped by one-tenth of a percentage point, to 3.4%, the lowest since May 1969, rather than ticking up by that much, as economists had guessed. And with the lower jobless rates, average hourly earnings were up more than



BY RANDALL W. FORSYTH

expected, by 0.5% in the latest month and 4.4% from a year ago.

As always, there were nits to be picked out of the latest jobs report. April's payrolls gain was offset by downward revisions totaling 149,000 in the two preceding months. Part of the latest rise in payrolls was due to the Department of Labor's so-called birth/death adjustment to reflect assumed net business formations. And the separate survey of households showed a slight dip in the labor force, which flatters the jobless rate.

The bottom line, as neatly summed up by Jefferies economist Thomas Simons, is that demand for labor is easing but its supply is increasingly scarce. That means wage growth has to slow substantially before the Fed's

2% inflation target is reached.

To cool inflation in past economic cycles, the Fed has historically lifted its federal-funds target above the rate of increase of average hourly earnings for nonsupervisory workers (the bosses' pay being less cyclical). The exception was during the long, slow recovery following the 2008-09 financial crisis, when the struggle for central bankers was to lift inflation to their 2% target.

"Based on the current wage data, history says the tightening cycle has yet to reach its peak rate, and the duration of the higher official rate cycle could extend much further than the markets expect," writes Joseph Carson, former chief economist for AllianceBernstein, on his blog, whence came the nearby chart.

The real interest rate is what's left after taking away inflation from the nominal rate. At his news conference this past Wednesday following the central bank's policy meeting, at which it set the new 5%-to-5.25% fed-funds rate, Fed Chairman Jerome Powell posited that the real rate was about 2%, after subtracting what he said was a "reasonable estimate" of 3% for inflation over the next 12 months.

That would be in line with the Fed's most recent Summary of Economic Projections, compiled for its

March 22 meeting, which had the core personal-consumption expenditures deflator increasing at a 3.6% annual rate at the end of 2023 and at 2.6% at the end of 2024. Given that the core PCE deflator rose at a 4.9% annual rate in the first quarter, with no sign of slowing from preceding quarters, 3% inflation for now is a forecast from Washington, D.C.'s favorite economist, Rosie Scenario.

The price shocks resulting from the pandemic are becoming embedded in inflation psychology, however, according to a research note from JPMorgan chief economist Bruce Kasman. As the latest job numbers indicate, past monetary-policy tightening has yet to produce an easing in tight labor markets.

Central banks are embracing "disinflation gradualism" to bring inflation back to target over a two- to three-year period, he says. That aims to avoid scuttling the postpandemic recovery, and now, worsening the financial-sector turmoil.

"However, if central banks are successful in navigating the expansion through this turbulence, they are likely to reinforce the underlying shift in the inflation process now underway and will be under pressure to restart the tightening process," says Kasman.

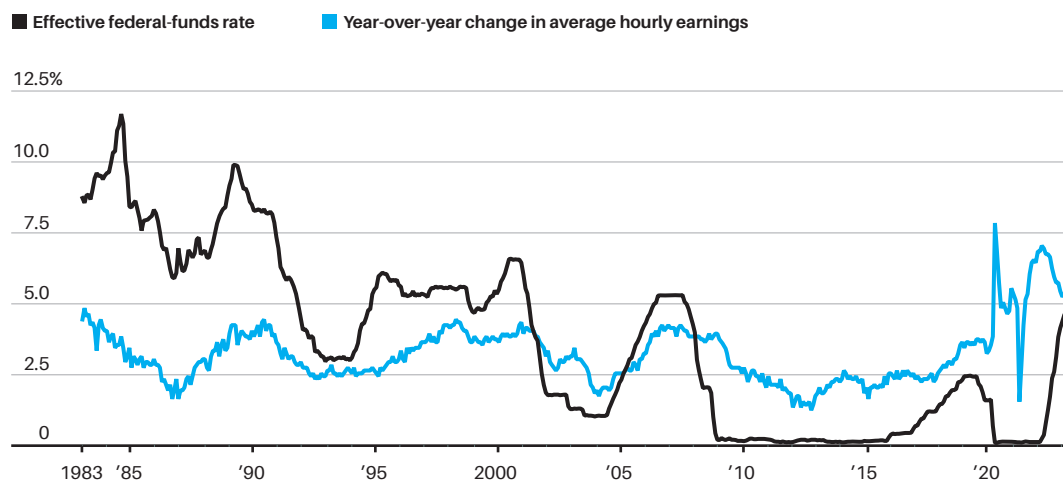
Even after Friday's solid jobs report, interest-rate futures markets remain convinced that the Fed will have to begin to take back its rate hikes starting with its Sept. 19-20 meeting, according to the CME FedWatch tool. By year end, fed futures still had three one-quarter-point cuts priced in by Friday's settlement.

The March Fed SEP projects a 5.1% year-end funds rate, roughly the midpoint of the present target range. Powell underscored that at his news conference following the May 2-3 Federal Open Market Committee meeting, saying that if the Fed's forecast is "broadly right, it would not be appropriate to cut rates, and we won't cut rates."

After all, rates are only now getting real. **E**

Rates Getting Real, Finally

To curb inflation, the Federal Reserve historically has pushed the federal-funds rate above wage growth for nonsupervisory workers, except after the 2008-09 financial crisis. It's just about there now.



Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics; Federal Reserve; St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank

Q&A

Coal, Copper, And Other Contarian Picks

BY LAUREN FOSTER

Matthew Fine was just out of college when he got the best advice of his life: If you want to be an investor, go work for Marty Whitman, the legendary value investor who founded Third Avenue Management in 1986.

And so he did, starting “about one step above the mailroom” in 2000 and climbing the ladder to portfolio manager of the firm’s flagship strategy, the \$900 million **Third Avenue Value** fund (ticker: TAVFX), which he has overseen since late 2017.

Last year, the fund returned 17.5%, including reinvested dividends, while the S&P 500 index returned a negative 18.1%. That performance placed Third Avenue Value in the first percentile of its category, according to Morningstar, meaning that it delivered better returns than 99% of its peers. The fund is in the top quartile over three and five years, with annualized total returns of 37.5% and 7.9%, respectively. That’s quite a comeback, considering that Third Avenue struggled when growth took off and value fell out of favor, leading to management turnover and poor performance.

Whitman, who died in 2018, stepped back from managing the value fund in 2012. In 2017, the firm made a series of changes that set it on the course it’s on today. “We made a commitment to reinvigorating the

investment culture of this firm, and that meant, ironically, turning back the clock on Third Avenue to its earliest and most successful days,” says Fine. “We were eager to take it back to this traditional, fundamental, deep-value, contrarian approach that Marty built.”

Fine spoke with *Barron's* on April 24 about Third Avenue’s transformation, his investment style, and stocks he’s excited about. An edited version of the conversation follows.

Barron's: The Third Avenue Value fund was in the bottom quartile in 2017-19 and top quartile in 2020-22. What changed?

Matthew Fine: When the portfolio-management team changed in 2017, statistically speaking, the portfolio became much cheaper, much more global in orientation, less U.S.-focused, smaller in market capitalization, and more contrarian and opportunistic.

How do you choose investments?

We are looking for businesses that have fallen on some sort of difficult, but resolvable, set of circumstances. The circumstances could be macroeconomic, or at an industry level where the industry is going through a cycle or a depression, or it could be at the company level, where a company has tripped up in some way. We’re trying to find areas where the pessimism has become excessive or irrational, and buy

Photograph by COLE WILSON

An Interview With **Matthew Fine** Portfolio Manager, Third Avenue Management



securities at a substantial discount to what we believe to be conservative estimates of a company’s net asset value.

What does the portfolio look like overall?

We tend to hold about 30 positions. The largest 10 typically constitute about 50% of the portfolio. By U.S. mutual fund standards, that’s a highly concentrated portfolio. We do that across market capitalizations, geographies, and industries. And we are benchmark-agnostic, which means

I don’t know what the composition of the benchmark is, and I don’t structure

a portfolio based on the benchmark.

Which stocks stand out?

Our biggest holding is **Tidewater** [TDW], which operates a fleet of platform supply vessels supplying oil and gas platforms. An important part of our investment process is searching for companies emerging from the bankruptcy process, as Tidewater did.

The beauty of that is twofold: One is that companies coming out of bankruptcy have usually cleaned up their balance sheets. Tidewater exited bankruptcy with essentially a net-cash balance sheet. And two, we got

“There is no metal or natural resource more critical to renewable energy than copper. It is critical to the basic functioning of modern society.” **Matthew Fine**

investment in maintaining existing oil production globally is going to result in shortfalls of oil production. And the roughly 25%-plus of global oil production that takes place offshore is essential. There is an accelerating mismatch between the demand for supply vessels and the supply. The fleets today are far smaller than a decade ago, so if demand continues to increase, that could be a powerful recipe for upside.

What is another stock you like?

Bank of Ireland [BKRIY] is one of my highest-conviction investments. When we bought the stock in 2019, we took the view that the unprecedented interest-rate environment—in Europe, that meant negative interest rates from a policy perspective—created about the worst banking environment from a rate perspective that has ever existed. It put pressure on the interest income and interest margin earned by banks, and thus, return on equity.

However, price is what matters. Bank of Ireland got down to 40% of book value, even though it was earning only about a 5% return on equity in 2019, which is terrible from a banking perspective. But if you’re paying only 40% of book value, you’re getting a double-digit earnings yield. We thought that when the pendulum had swung so far from an interest-rate perspective, the probabilities were in favor of improvement. That played out to our benefit.

In Ireland, the regulatory environment is extremely strict, and the banking industry has consolidated in the past 24 months from five banks to three banks, of which Bank of Ireland is one of the two largest. The increased scale, improved competitive environment, and improved interest-rate environment are all working in favor of far better returns.

Today, Bank of Ireland is valued at about 90% of stated book value. It just reported 2022 return on equity north of 10%, so it is still valued at a single-digit multiple of earnings and double-digit earnings yield. However, the consolidation of the Irish banking market has only happened recently and Bank of Ireland management is credibly forecasting that the bank can reach a 15% return on equity by 2025. On that

Does Tidewater have more upside?
I see a lot of upside. The dearth of

basis, the earnings multiple would shrink to a mid-single digit multiple.

The fund has owned Warrior Met Coal [HCC] since 2017. Why did you buy the stock—and hold on?

This is another position we bought post-bankruptcy. Warrior’s two mines were part of the former Walter Energy. The company had a terrible balance sheet and was controlled by private equity and its creditors. After the bankruptcy process, it came out with a net-cash balance sheet and the two crown-jewel assets of Walter—two metallurgical coal mines in Alabama. The company is developing a third mine, Blue Creek.

The company has about \$200 million worth of excess coal inventories on its balance sheet. It also has \$500 million of net cash, so that’s \$700 million. And the Blue Creek project has a net present value—at long-term normal coal prices—of about \$1 billion. So, you have \$1.7 billion of value on a \$1.9 billion market cap. There is only \$200 million left attributed to the two operating mines, which generated close to a \$1 billion of Ebitda [earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization] in 2022.

Coal is reviled because of its carbon content. But you can’t make steel without iron ore and metallurgical coal. Warrior is trading today at less than three times trailing earnings per share.

I suppose it could stay incredibly cheap at a low-single digit multiple of operating cash flows. But the one thing that really attracts us to Warrior is that the company has been distributing, in large special dividends, all of its excess unencumbered cash flow. Another bit of icing on the cake from the bankruptcy process was that Warrior came out with a huge net-operating-loss carryforward, so it wouldn’t pay material taxes for a long time. That is still the case. It isn’t paying any cash taxes on all of this cash flow. Cash will pile up and eventually be distributed to shareholders again. Since emerging from bankruptcy, Warrior has distributed almost the equivalent of its market capitalization today in special dividends.

One of your largest investments is

Capstone Copper [CSCCF]. Why?

We have gone through a period where all kinds of natural-resource production has been viewed as antiquated. It isn’t reviled to the extent that coal is, but mining in general has been frowned on from a capital-markets and an environmental perspective.

There is no metal or natural resource more critical to renewable energy than copper. It is critical to the basic functioning of modern society but also incredibly scarce. We’ve done a terrible job of finding more copper resources. Part of the reason is because capital markets have frowned on mining, and capital has been expensive and hard to come by. Copper demand is increasing, and there will be a shortage because it is hard to find more at a reasonable cost.

Renewable energy will also drive demand, whether it is electric vehicles, wind energy, or solar. Those technologies, and facilitating their connection to the grid, have the potential to be a demand accelerant for copper.

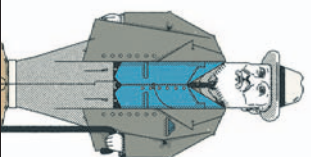
Capstone is copper-focused and a mid-cap company—far cheaper than the mining majors. Its assets are in politically safe mining jurisdictions, and it has one of the best production-growth profiles in the industry. By the end of 2023, we expect the company to be producing at a rate that would translate to roughly \$1.1 billion of annual Ebitda at today’s copper prices. With an enterprise value of \$4.1 billion, that would translate to a multiple of about four times. However, copper prices are far more likely to rise than fall over the medium term, and Capstone’s cash flows are leveraged to copper prices.

Do you have a favorite Marty story?

Possibly my favorite Marty quote is, “The next time someone walks into this room with a perfect investment will be the first time.” He said it a number of times while presiding over investment-team meetings. He would go on to explain that there was something wrong with every investment, and if you don’t know what was wrong with an investment, you didn’t fully understand it.

Thanks, Matt. ■

MARKET WEEK



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S&P 500
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Nasdaq Composite
12,235.41

SPDR S&P Regional Bank ETF
\$38.35

52-wk: +2.36% YTD: +1.59% WKly: -1.24%

52-wk: +0.31% YTD: +7.73% WKly: -0.80%

52-wk: +0.75% YTD: +16.90% WKly: +0.07%

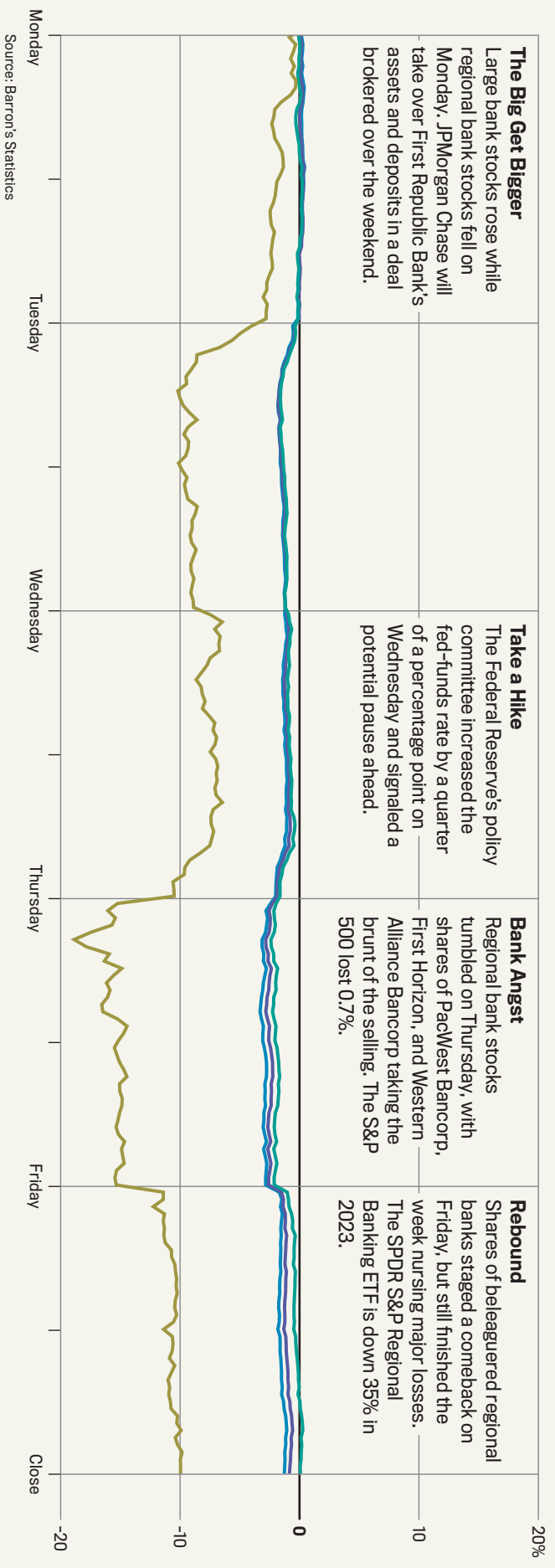
52-wk: -38.35% YTD: -34.71% WKly: -10.10%

The Big Get Bigger
 Large bank stocks rose while regional bank stocks fell on Monday. JPMorgan Chase will take over First Republic Bank's assets and deposits in a deal brokered over the weekend.

Take a Hike
 The Federal Reserve's policy committee increased the fed-funds rate by a quarter of a percentage point on Wednesday and signaled a potential pause ahead.

Bank Angst
 Regional bank stocks tumbled on Thursday, with shares of PacWest Bancorp, First Horizon, and Western Alliance Bancorp taking the brunt of the selling. The S&P 500 lost 0.7%.

Rebound
 Shares of beleaguered regional banks staged a comeback on Friday, but still finished the week nursing major losses. The SPDR S&P Regional Banking ETF is down 35% in 2023.



THE TRADER

For Banks, A 'Hawkish Pause' Is Hardly a Pause at All

Considering the way this year has gone, one would expect the Federal Reserve's likely pause in interest-rate hikes to send the stock market higher. That's not what happened—and for good reason.

The S&P 500 index had gained 7.7% this year, partially on hopes that the Fed will take a break. Economic growth has been slowing, dragging down inflation with it, providing Fed Chairman Jerome Powell with a reason to stop tightening monetary policy, if he so chooses. That's a relief to the market, which struggled last year with some of the fastest rate hikes in history. Yet the stock market dropped when



BY JACOB SORNENSHINE

the Fed raised rates by a quarter-point but indicated that a pause is, indeed, on the way. The S&P 500 fell 0.8%, while the Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 1.2%. Only the Nasdaq Composite, up 0.1%, finished higher. We can easily dash off a few reasons for this past week's decline. A market expecting a pause isn't a market that rallies when it gets what it wants. And while the Fed did signal the end of rate hikes, it didn't signal the beginning of rate cuts, leading some observers to refer to Powell's action as a "hawkish pause." But the biggest reason might be the continued collapse of bank stocks.

The **SPDR S&P Bank** exchange-traded fund (ticker: KBE) dropped 8.1%

public Bank to **JPMorgan Chase** (JPM), which was supposed to end the crisis but seems to have accelerated it instead. High rates, remember, are one of the main reasons that banks are under pressure in the first place, as depositors leave for higher-yielding alternatives. Another increase—and a plan to stay high—won't do much to help the situation.

"The Fed is not really thinking about what can go wrong with the banking system," says Rhys Williams, chief investment officer at Spouting Rock Asset Management.

Powell also played down the possibility that the Fed could—or should—do anything about the debt ceiling.

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen has

month away. Financial markets are worried, even if the stock market isn't. The cost of protecting against a U.S. default with credit default swaps has risen tenfold since the end of 2022, while Thursday's auction of one-month Treasury bills saw yields hit a record high of 5.84%. Add it to the list of things the Fed is not really thinking about.

Of course, a stronger-than-expected jobs report did a lot to calm nerves about an imminent recession. But despite a big Friday gain, the S&P 500 was unable to get back to 4200, a key level that has acted as a ceiling on the index. And the longer the index remains unable to break through, the more likely it is that the next move will be lower. Evercore strategist Julian Emanuel puts the next support level at roughly 3800, down 8.1% from Friday's close of 4136.25, and then a drop to its bear-market low of just under 3600.

"There are going to be much better risk/reward opportunities to add to stocks than there are now," Emanuel says.

As the cliché goes: Patience, sometimes, is a virtue.

The Case for Starbucks Stock

Haters of Starbucks coffee are everywhere. Haters of its stock, though less common, were out in force Wednesday, despite an earnings report that showed everything going the company's way. It's a chance to buy the stock on the dip.

There was a lot to like in Starbucks' (SBUX) earnings report. Sales grew about 14% year over year to \$8.72 billion, better than forecasts for \$8.41 billion. Driving the result: The company gained millions of new Starbucks Rewards members, and both store traffic and total spend per store visit increased. Even the beginnings of the recovery in China, still not fully reopened, drove a moderate sales gain in the region. Profit margins beat estimates as increases in the cost of food and wages moderated.

That drove earnings up 25% to 74 cents a share, better than the expected 59 cents.

It wasn't enough. Management only reaffirmed its fiscal 2023 same-store-sales guidance for 8% growth, but didn't raise its forecast. That raised concerns about what management saw that spooked it enough to leave its outlook unchanged. Starbucks stock had fallen 8.5% to \$104.72 on Wednesday afternoon, on pace for its biggest drop since March 2020.

There's a good chance, though, that guidance is conservative. Many analysts expect comparable sales to grow just over management's forecast, with total revenue for the calendar year growing almost 12% to \$37.17 billion, according to FactSet. Overall, "2023 guidance reiteration is likely prudent, we think implied second-half targets...could prove conservative," writes UBS analyst Dennis Geiger.

If that's true, the bottom line should grow briskly this year. Sales growth will aid margin expansion, especially as wage growth and recent increases in employee-related investments subside throughout the year, which the company said it expects to happen. If all goes well, earnings for the calendar year should grow about 17% to \$3.59 per share, according to FactSet. That's a big reason why some analysts are recommending investors use the drop to pick up shares on the cheap.

"We view any pullback in the stock as a buying opportunity of a best-in-class, high-quality growth company," writes Credit Suisse analyst Lauren Silberman, who has a \$128 price target, about a 23% upside.

Even Starbucks' valuation, though not cheap, looks reasonable. The stock trades at about 27 times forward earnings, less than two times the company's expected earnings-per-share growth rate. That looks reasonable, given that the S&P 500's price/earnings ratio of about 18 times is just under two times its expected EPS growth rate.

We happen to agree. We recommended

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Vital Signs

	Friday's Close	Week's Change	Week's % Chg.
DJ Industrials	33674.38	-423.78	-1.24
DJ Transportation	14123.13	+101.26	+0.72
DJ Utilities	962.27	+2.66	+0.28
DJ 65 Stocks	11212.97	-57.50	-0.51
DJ US Market	1006.80	-7.90	-0.78
NYSE Comp.	15380.87	-165.00	-1.06
NYSE Amer Comp.	4023.65	-175.85	-4.19
S&P 500	4136.25	-33.23	-0.80
S&P MidCap	2461.10	-29.30	-1.18
S&P SmallCap	1138.97	-9.20	-0.80
Nasdaq	12235.41	+8.83	+0.07
ValueLine (arith.)	8816.42	-106.34	-1.19
Russell 2000	1759.88	-9.11	-0.51
DJ US TSM Float	41193.76	-317.90	-0.77

	Friday's Close	Week's Change	Week's % Chg.
Barron's Future Focus	868.90	-3.03	-0.35
Barron's Next 50	2354.76	+15.55	+0.66
Barron's 400	903.58	-13.86	-1.51
	Last Week	Week Earlier	
NYSE Advances	1,110	1,591	
Declines	2,042	1,568	
Unchanged	54	67	
New Highs	187	158	
New Lows	358	178	
Av Daily Vol (mil)	4,232.1	3,789.0	
Dollar (Finex spot index)	101.28	101.66	
T-Bond (CBT nearby futures)	130-31	131-21	
Crude Oil (NYM light sweet crude)	71.34	76.78	
Inflation KR-CRB (Futures Price Index)	261.60	268.16	
Gold (CMX nearby futures)	2017.40	1990.10	

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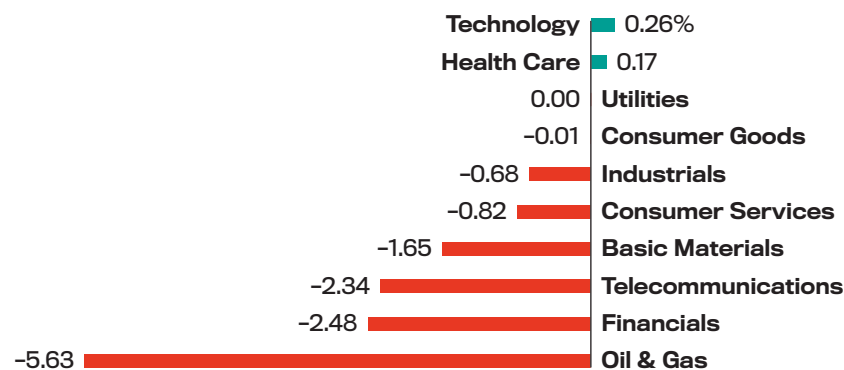


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Industry Action

Performance of the Dow Jones U.S. Industrials, ranked by weekly percent change.*



Source: S&P Dow Jones Indices

the stock in June 2022, and it has now gained over 45%. We think its growth story, driven by its rewards program and improvements in China, will continue to shine. That makes the stock look fairly appealing, and we'd be buying more as the stock slips.

Even if we avoid the coffee.

Stocks to Play the Pause

The market hopes the Federal Reserve's long-awaited pause will be the one that refreshes. It may, instead, be the one that depresses—and healthcare and consumer staples stocks should benefit.

The S&P 500 has already gained about 7% this year, and the overarching driver has been expectations that the Fed is nearing the end of its interest-rate hikes. Few will argue that the end is near. The rate of inflation has been falling, economic growth has already started to weaken, and regional-bank stocks continue to signal weakness in the financial system. The idea is that, after a few bumps in the near term, the economy should stabilize and go on its merry way—and the stock market will rise with it.

Perhaps. But there's another way to read the rally—that it has been spurred by investors front-running the end of the Fed's tightening who will be motivated to sell stocks once the pause becomes a reality. "Fed Chair Powell on Wednesday will signal the Pause 'news' whose 'rumor' markets began to anticipate aggressively at the March S&P 500 trough," writes Evercore ISI strategist Julian Emanuel. "We expect a 'sell the news' reaction as soon as that rumor turns out to be true."

If that's the case, defensive sectors like healthcare and staples could perform the best. They've been largely left out of this year's rally, which has been led by **Meta Platforms** (META) and the rest of Big Tech. The **Health Care Select Sector**

SPDR ETF (XLV) is down 0.6% in 2023, while the **Consumer Staples Select Sector SPDR** ETF (XLP) is up 4.1%.

Emanuel, though, doesn't recommend just buying the sectors outright. Instead, he screened for healthcare and staples stocks in the Russell 1000 index that have underperformed the median stock in their sectors for the year even though their earnings per share are expected to grow faster than their sector's. The stocks that made the list include **Bristol Myers Squibb** (BMY), **Johnson & Johnson** (JNJ), **Keurig Dr Pepper** (KDP), and **J.M. Smucker** (SJM).

Two stand out. **UnitedHealth Group** (UNH) is down just over 6% this year, even though analysts expect it to grow EPS at just over 12% this year to \$24.98. That's in contrast to the 3% gain for the median healthcare stock, and a slight drop in expected EPS for the Health Care Select Sector SPDR's aggregate earnings. To accomplish that growth, analysts see UnitedHealth's sales increasing just over 12% to about \$364 billion this year, as the company signs up millions of new Medicare Advantage members and expands its Optum segment, which provides healthcare and medicine to its customers, among other services.

Conagra Brands (CAG), which sells food under the Bird's Eye, Hunt's, and Swiss Miss brands, among others, also made the list. The stock has fallen 0.7% this year, lagging behind the Consumer Staples ETF's 0.2% decline, though analysts expect Conagra's earnings to grow 8.5% this year to \$2.81, more than double the sector's growth rate, as it raises prices to boost sales growth. Gross margin is also expected to expand to around 27% from 26% last year, as input costs decline.

Growing earnings and a lower price? What's not to like? **B**

INTERNATIONAL TRADER

Finally, the Sun Is Shining On the European Banks

BY CRAIG MELLOW

It has been a long time since investors were bullish on European bank stocks.

The **iShares MSCI Europe Financials** exchange-traded fund (ticker: EUFN) has lost 10% over the past 10 years, while shares of U.S. peers doubled. European banks trade at an average of 0.8 times tangible book value, says Elias Chrysostomou, an analyst covering the sector for T. Rowe Price. The U.S. ratio is 1.2.

Tables may be turning. As the U.S. wraps up its third big bank rescue in seven weeks with **JPMorgan Chase's** (JPM) absorption of First Republic Bank, the European Union and the United Kingdom have remained relatively undisturbed. The continent's one financial implosion, Swiss-based Credit Suisse, had been building for years and could safely be called idiosyncratic.

Markets have noticed. European bank shares are nearly back where they were before Silicon Valley Bank collapsed in early March. U.S. financials are down 10%.

More gains are ahead as the European Central Bank and Bank of England end a decade of near-zero interest rates, allowing banks to earn more spread on their core lending businesses, says Johann Scholtz, sector equity analyst at Morningstar. "We see a structural increase in profitability. We're quite optimistic on a number of names."

European banks' deposits are stickier than those across the Atlantic, Scholtz says, not least because national barriers limit depositors' options. In the Netherlands, for instance, three banks control virtually the whole nation's savings. That protects them from the runs that undermined SVB, First Republic Bank, and Signature Bank in the U.S.

European and U.K. regulators also require all banks to regularly mark to market their securities holdings. This arcane nuance has become critical, as the U.S. exempted banks with less than \$250

billion in assets from the requirement in 2019. The three banks that went under took paper losses on bonds they bought at lower interest rates, until their sudden revelation spurred panic.

One of Scholtz's top picks is Dutch champion **ING Groep** (ING), because "70% of its earnings are geared to interest rates." He also likes Spanish-based **Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria** (BBVA), though mostly for its dominant franchise in Mexico. His U.K. favorite is **Lloyds Banking Group** (LYG.UK) and in Scandinavia, Sweden's **Svenska Handelsbanken** (SHBA.Sweden), for their standout operational efficiency.

Not everyone is so keen. Rising interest rates may give to the banks in the form of wider lending margins. But they can also take away by slowing the economy and spreading distress among borrowers. Current share prices "imply a mild recession" in Europe, Chrysostomou says. That may be too optimistic. "I would prefer that prices reflect a deeper recession to embed a margin of comfort," he says.

Bank stocks are largely a proxy for their underlying economies, argues Manish Singh, chief investment officer at Crossbridge Capital Group. It makes little long-term sense to bet on slow-growth European economies instead of a more vigorous U.S. "European banks can probably outperform over the next three to six months, but not the next three to five years," he says.

Singh does own one industry stock, **BNP Paribas** (BNP.France), which has a "strong franchise" and too-big-to-fail status in its native France. He "might feel comfortable" with U.K.-based **HSBC** (HSBA.UK).

Governments care less about bank profits than systemic stability for depositors and the national treasury. It's likely that Washington will look closely at Europe's tighter regulation in the wake of the recent debacles. Investors may want to look, too, for a change. **B**

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THE STRIKING PRICE

Let Everyone Else Panic. Sell Put Options Instead.

BY STEVEN M. SEARS

The volatility opera has begun. Rather than panicking that the U.S. government may run out of money in early June, do something more than watch TV and complain about America's poisoned politics.

Long-term investors could monetize these increasingly widespread fears that America might default on its debts for the first time ever by using options to enhance positions in blue-chip stocks.

The cash-secured put strategy, as it is called, enables investors to position to ultimately buy stocks at lower prices while collecting premiums. It entails depositing money into a brokerage account, which is then used to securitize the sale of put options, which give holders the right to sell an underlying asset at a set price within a specific period.

When equities decline—especially in response to events beyond the market's control—investors usually overpay to hedge their stocks. Puts increase in value when stock prices decline, which makes them popular in panics. The fear of a debt default should make many investors eager to buy protection insensitive to put prices.

If Congress fails to raise the debt ceiling and prompts a debt default, stock prices will almost certainly collapse. The U.S. government is the nation's largest employer, and a failure to pay employees could spark a recession.

Because there are so many moving parts to the debt-ceiling crisis, picking a jumping-in point is tricky. Investors should use the Cboe Volatility Index, or VIX, to time their moves. The so-called fear gauge was recently around 18. During the past 52 weeks, the VIX has ranged from 15.53 to 35.48.

Be prepared to sell puts that expire in less than three months at different strike prices should VIX spike to various levels, such as 25, 30, 35, and so forth. The goal is to incrementally buy blue-chip stocks at lower prices, while taking advantage of the

waves of fear that should hit the market if Congress seems unable to agree on permitting the government to borrow more money.

Consider using the **ProShares S&P 500 Dividend Aristocrats** exchange-traded fund (ticker: NOBL) as a blue-chip proxy. With the ETF around \$92, the July \$85 put is around 65 cents. Selling the put positions investors to buy the ETF at an effective price of \$84.35. The ETF has ranged from \$79.09 to \$95.70 during the past 52 weeks.

Only use this approach if you can afford to warehouse the ETFs, and collect the dividends, for at least three to five years. Why the long holding period? All crises ultimately end—even recessions.

The tension in the market is provocative. If a major stock seller emerges, the Street will likely freak out that someone has good information on the Washington negotiations, and that, too, could spark a big decline.

But any stock decline will almost certainly be a temporary reaction. Stocks may even benefit from a default as investors regain their senses and realize U.S. stocks are among the world's best stores of value.

This thesis isn't as outlandish as it seems. America's political scene is arguably the most acrimonious since the Civil War era. In comparison, corporate America offers a generally sane counterbalance.

Consider the gravitas of, say, Warren Buffett or Jamie Dimon, as opposed to many Democratic and Republican leaders. Who is trusted more to make sound decisions?

Of course, equities are arguably riskier than U.S. Treasury bonds, which are the world's reserve currency, but equity risk can be hedged away with options. That could create a feedback loop that makes puts even more expensive. **E**

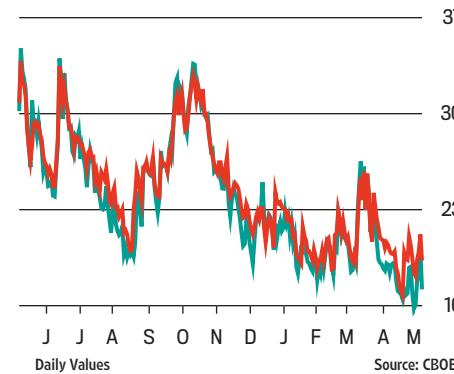
Steven M. Sears is the president and chief operating officer of Options Solutions, a specialized asset-management firm. Neither he nor the firm has a position in the options or underlying securities mentioned in this column.

Any debt-ceiling-related stock decline will almost certainly be temporary. Stocks may even benefit from a default as investors regain their senses.

Equity Options

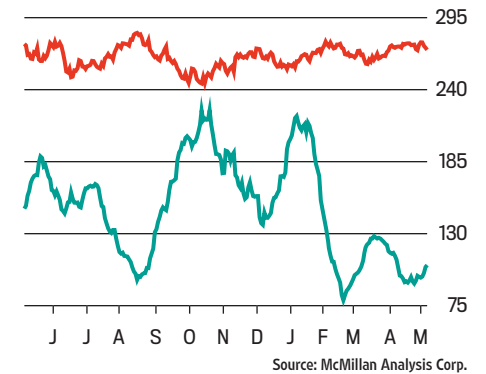
CBOE Volatility Index

● VIX Close ● VIX Futures



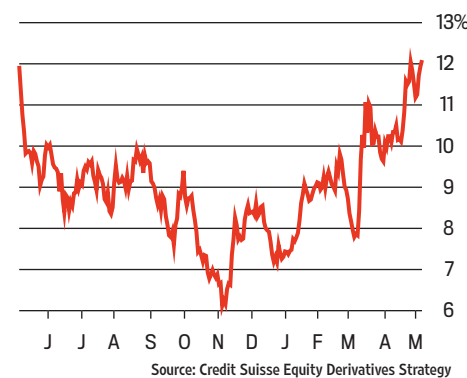
The Equity-Only Put-Call Ratio

● Put-Call Ratio ● S&P 500 Index



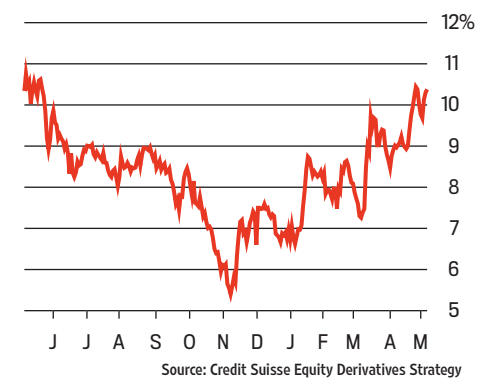
SPX Skew

Implied volatility %



NDX Skew

Implied volatility %



Skew indicates whether the options market expects a stock-market advance or decline. It measures the difference between the implied volatility of puts and calls that are 10% out of the money and expire in three months. Higher readings are bearish.

Week's Most Active

Company	Symbol	Tot Vol	Calls	Puts	Avg Tot Vol	IV %ile	Ratio
Homestreet	HMST	4456	29	4427	124	93	35.9
Nano-X Imaging	NNOX	86611	69613	16998	2488	88	34.8
Icahn Enterprises	IEP	228117	99834	128283	8248	100	27.7
Chegg	CHGG	180737	91519	89218	7104	83	25.4
Ruth's Hospitality	RUTH	10108	5276	4832	516	4	19.6
Prospect Capital	PSEC	45685	2642	43043	2536	97	18.0
Triplepoint Venture Growth	TPVG	7146	832	6314	448	99	16.0
Host Hotels & Resorts	HST	17593	2432	15161	1480	53	11.9
Zynex	ZYXI	9615	991	8624	808	92	11.9
MPLX	MPLX	120860	115743	5117	11840	15	10.2
Victoria's Secret	VSCO	45541	4500	41041	4452	61	10.2
Estee Lauder	EL	86636	36947	49689	9668	48	9.0
PacWest Bancorp	PACW	934855	264793	670062	121356	100	7.7
VICI Properties	VICI	18045	16539	1506	2512	10	7.2
TripAdvisor	TRIP	56394	10289	46105	7928	15	7.1
CEMEX	CX	19618	19136	482	2792	6	7.0
Upwork	UPWK	20767	12260	8507	3028	37	6.9
First Horizon National	FHN	266887	100783	166104	43888	100	6.1
Immunogen	IMGN	114533	62472	52061	22112	60	5.2
Uber Technologies	UBER	1661925	1060237	601688	332424	6	5

This table of the most active options this week, as compared to average weekly activity—not just raw volume. The idea is that the unusually heavy trading in these options might be a predictor of corporate activity—takeovers, earnings surprises, earnings pre-announcements, biotech FDA hearings or drug trial result announcements, and so forth. Dividend arbitrage has been eliminated. In short, this list attempts to identify where heavy speculation is taking place. These options are likely to be expensive in comparison to their usual pricing levels. Furthermore, many of these situations may be rumor-driven. Most rumors do not prove to be true, so one should be aware of these increased risks if trading in these names. Ratio is the Tot Vol divided by Avg Tot Vol. IV %ile is how expensive the options are on a scale from 0 to 100. Source: McMillan Analysis

INSIDE SCOOP

Cleveland-Cliffs CEO Buys The Slumping Stock

BY ED LIN

Shares of **Cleveland-Cliffs**, the largest flat-rolled steel producer in North America, have slid in recent weeks, and Chairman, President, and CEO Lourenco Goncalves bought a large block of shares.

Cleveland-Cliffs stock (ticker: CLF) had started the year strong. In February, the company reported a fourth-quarter loss that was less than analysts' estimates, although sales came in light. On March 3, Goncalves hailed a preliminary vote by the International Trade Commission, viewing it as progress "to remedy surging imports of dumped and subsidized tin mill products in the U.S. market."

Soon after that preliminary vote, however, Cleveland-Cliffs stock began to slip. Shares still ended the first

quarter with a 14% gain, but so far in the second quarter they are down 20%. Strong first-quarter earnings, reported at the end of April, helped to halt the slide, but shares have essentially been trading water since.

Goncalves paid \$1.5 million on April 27 for 100,000 shares, an average price of \$14.96 each. He now owns 2.5 million shares in a personal account and another three million shares in a trust, according to a form he filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Cleveland-Cliffs didn't respond to a request to make Goncalves available for comment on his stock purchase.

Goncalves, who has been heading the company since August 2014, last bought Cleveland-Cliffs stock on the open market in December 2021, when he paid \$988,250 for 50,000 shares, an average price of \$19.77 each. **B**

Cleveland-Cliffs stock has been slipping since early March. CEO Lourenco Goncalves bought \$1.5 million of shares of the steel firm on the open market.

board without a shareholder vote "subsequent to April 20, 2023...and up to and including the date of the 2023 annual meeting." In March, Politan, along with the California State Teachers' Retirement System, or Calstrs, filed a complaint against Masimo in the Delaware Court of Chancery alleging, among other things, that Masimo's employment contract with CEO Joe Kiani "improperly stripped" the board of its authority, "entrenched" the CEO, and "impeded stockholders' exercise of their voting rights."

Increases in Holdings

Tilly's (TLYS)

Fund 1 Investments raised its position in the apparel retailer to 5,554,466 shares. From April 13 through April 28, Fund 1 purchased 390,114 Tilly's shares at prices ranging from \$7.10 to \$7.76 each. Following the fresh buys, Fund 1 now owns 24.6% of the retailer's outstanding stock, up from 22.9%. Fund 1 remains the largest holder of Tilly's, and is the managing member of New York-based investment management firm **Pleasant Lake Partners**. Tilly's stock has tumbled 16% so far in 2023. The company beat estimates when it reported fiscal fourth-quarter number in early March. Tilly's reports its first quarter on June 1.

Twin Disc (TWIN)

Gamco Investors (GBL) raised its holding in the maker of power-transmission equipment to 2,089,056 shares. Through a combination of buys and sales from March 17 through April 28, Gamco added a net 56,467 Twin Disc shares at prices ranging from \$9.10 to \$11.51 apiece. Gamco now has a 15.1% interest in Twin Disc. Gamco remains the company's second-largest shareholder, behind CEO John Batten, who had an overall ownership of 2.7 million shares as of Twin Disc's latest proxy from September. The shares are having a boffo 2023. Twin Disc stock has gained more than 20% so far this year.

These disclosures are from 13Ds filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. 13Ds are filed within 10 days of an entity's attaining more than 5% in any class of a company's securities. Subsequent changes in holdings or intentions must be reported in amended filings. This material is from April 27 through May 3, 2023. Source: **VerityData (verityplatform.com)**

POWER PLAY

Deutsche's Bet on an M&A Revival

BY ROBERT TEITELMAN

After years of losses and regulatory woes, **Deutsche Bank** has cut costs, cleaned up, and gone on an M&A hiring spree.

Deutsche (ticker: DB) is returning to an old playbook, most dramatically embodied by its 1990 acquisition of the London outpost of the old House of Morgan, Morgan Grenfell, which had gotten mired in the 1980s Guinness share-trading scandal. Now, the bank is reloading—26 new managing directors and counting—many from Credit Suisse, after its own scandals and absorption by **UBS** (UBS). It's an opportunistic, if contrarian, play. Over the past decade, top banks, from **Morgan Stanley** (MS) to UBS, scaled back deal making and built up wealth management as a stable source of profits. This past week, Morgan Stanley announced 3,000 job cuts—not including wealth advisors.

Deutsche's main focus is London, where it's buying U.K. corporate broker **Numis** (NUM.UK) for over \$500 million, in an effort to regain lost corporate-finance market share. Is there enough M&A to justify the cost? According to the Institute of International Mergers, Acquisitions & Alliances, global M&A peaked at \$5.2 trillion dollars in 2021, then fell to \$3.4 trillion in 2022 as rates and inflation rose. Deals this year skidded to their lowest level in a decade.

Deutsche thinks now is the time. Talent is available, prices are low. The risk is how long it will take for deal markets, buffeted by uncertainty, to revive; Deutsche says it "hoped" for a second-half recovery. The past two M&A cycles peaked in 2007 and 2015 and didn't hit new highs for six and five years, respectively. Paying talent to sit and wait can get expensive. **B**

Activist Holdings

Natural Gas Services Group (NGS)

Mill Road Capital and the maker of gas-compression equipment enacted a cooperation agreement on April 28. Per the agreement, Natural Gas Services appointed two Mill Road representatives, including Managing Director Justin Jacobs, to its board on April 28. They and current Natural Gas Services CEO Steven Taylor will also be nominated for re-election at the 2023 annual shareholders meeting. As part of the pact, Mill Road will

abide by customary standstill agreements and vote its 912,408 Natural Gas Services shares, 7.3% of the outstanding stock, in support of board nominations.

Masimo (MASI)

Politan Capital disclosed a stake in the monitoring-technology firm of 4,713,518 shares, 9% of the tradable stock. On May 1, Politan notified Masimo that it intends to nominate two directors for election at the upcoming 2023 annual shareholders meeting. Along with the nominations, Politan will also propose to repeal provisions and amendments to corporate bylaws adopted by Masimo's

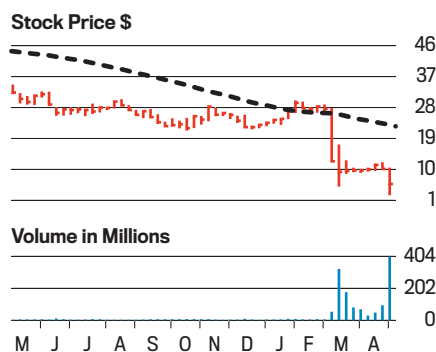
CHARTING THE MARKET

A graphic look at selected stock activity
for the week ended May 5, 2023
Edited by Bill Alpert

PacWest Bancorp

PACW (NASDAQ) • \$5.76 • -4.39

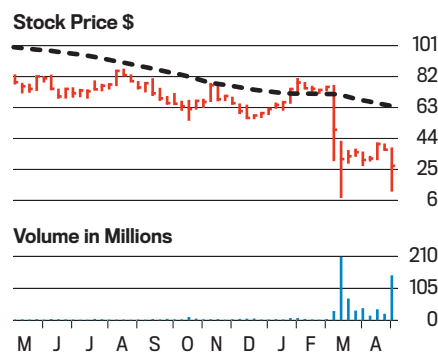
The Beverly Hills lender and other regional banks were whipped around in the market, after First Republic's assets were acquired, but not its stock.



Western Alliance Bancorp.

WAL (NYSE) • \$27.16 • -9.96

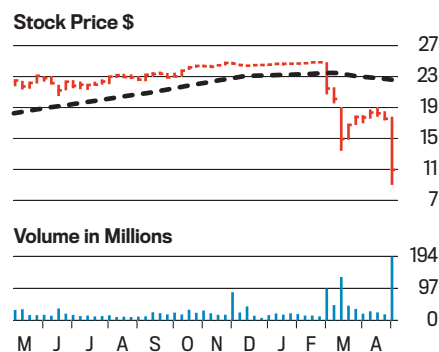
After tumbling with its sector, the Phoenix bank caught a Friday upgrade to Overweight from J.P. Morgan, as did Comerica and Zions Bancorp.



First Horizon

FHN (NYSE) • \$10.94 • -6.61

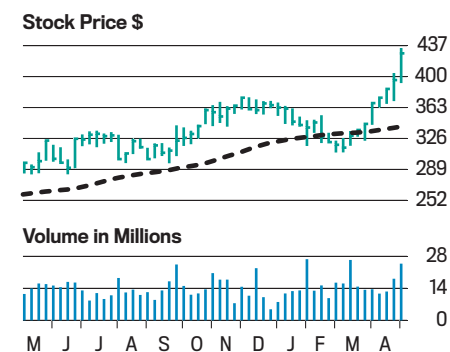
Bank stocks received another jolt when TD scrapped its \$13 billion deal to buy the Tennessee-based lender, blaming regulatory objections.



Eli Lilly

LLY (NYSE) • \$427.81 • 31.95

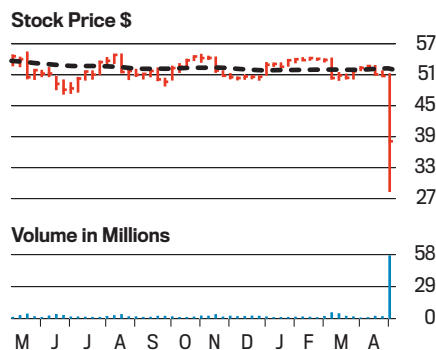
Lilly's experimental drug slowed the cognitive decline of Alzheimer's patients by a third. Three of the 1,182 patients in the trial died from side effects.



Icahn Enterprises

IEP (NASDAQ) • \$38.13 • -12.67

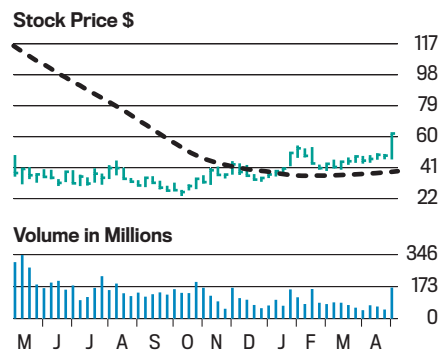
Short-selling activist Hindenburg Research knocked asset valuations and dividend practices at investor Carl Icahn's firm. Icahn pointed to his performance.



Shopify

SHOP (NYSE) • \$62.03 • 13.58

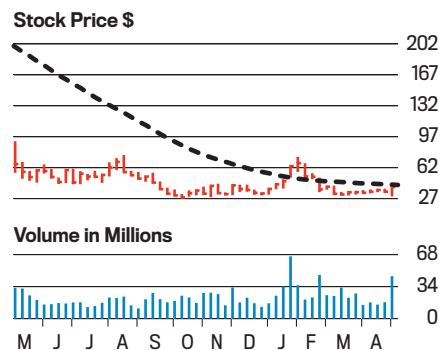
The e-commerce platform cheered investors with a penny a share profit on a 25% jump in March-quarter revenue. It will cut 20% of its staff.



Wayfair

W (NYSE) • \$40.19 • 5.36

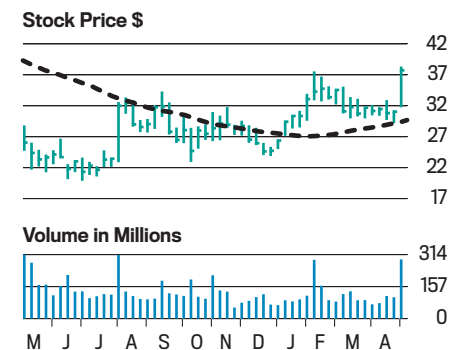
After cost cuts, the online furniture seller reported a March-quarter loss of \$1.13 a share, but neared cash flow break-even. It sees positive cash flow for June.



Uber Technologies

UBER (NYSE) • \$37.75 • 6.70

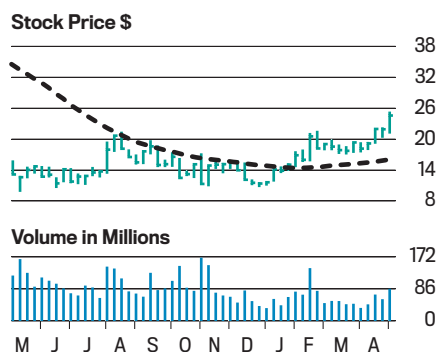
Revenue rose 33% in the ride-hailer's March quarter, for a loss of eight cents a share. Ignoring noncash costs, profit was 38 cents.



DraftKings

DKNG (NASDAQ) • \$24.58 • 2.67

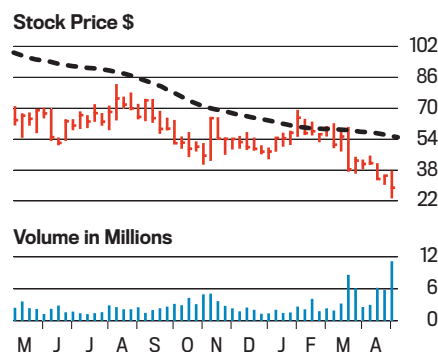
Revenue jumped 84%, to \$770 million, in the sports betting site's March quarter, with an 87 cents a share loss. It raised 2023 revenue guidance 30%.



Trupanion

TRUP (NASDAQ) • \$28.88 • -6.23

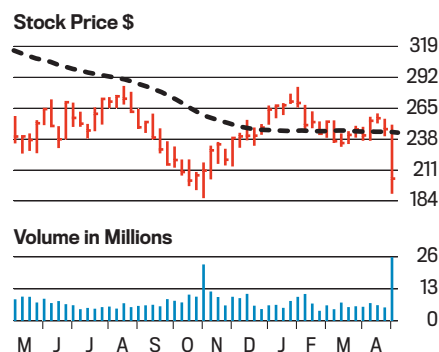
The medical insurer for pets blamed veterinary cost inflation for its March-quarter loss of 60 cents a share, compared with a year-ago 22 cent loss.



Estee Lauder

EL (NYSE) • \$203.54 • -43.18

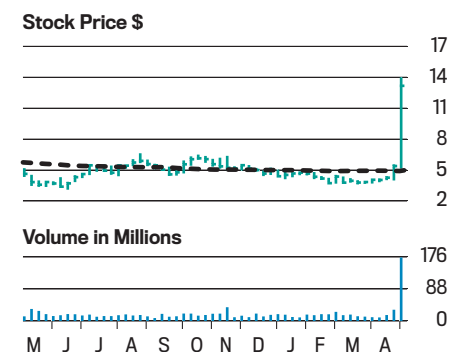
While reporting 47 cents a share in March-quarter earnings, the makeup seller warned that a weak recovery in China would hurt June-quarter results.



Immunogen

IMGN (NASDAQ) • \$13.17 • 7.78

The biotech's experimental treatment reduced deaths among patients with ovarian cancer by 33%. It will seek approval later this year.



WINNERS & LOSERS

Saturday Inbox: Sign up for the Market Lab Newsletter every Saturday at Barrons.com/newsletters

NYSE Biggest % Movers

Winners

Name (Sym)	Volume	Close	Change	%Chg.
XinyuanRealEst(XIN)	6992	5.11	+1.68	+49.2
MoneyLion(ML)	321	13.14	+3.84	+41.3
Lemonade(LMND)	16991	14.64	+3.80	+35.1
Harsco(HSC)	5614	9.15	+2.28	+33.2
Carvana(CVNA)	125037	8.96	+2.02	+29.1
GreenBrickPtrs(GRBK)	3039	48.08	+10.81	+29.0
Shopify(SHOP)	168285	62.03	+13.58	+28.0
Unisys(UIS)	6660	3.96	+0.75	+23.4

Losers

Name (Sym)	Volume	Close	Change	%Chg.
Enviva(EVA)	28038	9.01	-12.49	-58.1
Chegg(CHGG)	111827	10.14	-7.84	-43.6
CommunityHlthSys(CYH)	18722	3.66	-2.68	-42.3
FirstHorizon(FHN)	193433	10.94	-6.61	-37.7
NerdyA(NRDY)	6756	2.85	-1.12	-28.2
MetropolitanBk(MCB)	8022	23.08	-9.01	-28.1
Ranpak(PACK)	4654	2.94	-1.14	-27.9
WestAllianceBcp(WAL)	147792	27.16	-9.96	-26.8

NYSE American Biggest % Movers

Winners

Name (Sym)	Volume	Close	Change	%Chg.
RegionalHealth(RHE)	566	4.12	+0.97	+30.8
ProtalixBio(PLX)	18948	3.27	+0.49	+17.6
DakotaGold(DC)	1110	3.81	+0.52	+15.8
MaiaBiotech(MAIA)	394	2.84	+0.38	+15.4
Cel-Sci(CVM)	940	2.43	+0.32	+15.2
EquinoxGold(EQX)	13052	5.68	+0.70	+14.1
EllomayCapital(ELLO)	2	15.45	+1.65	+12.0
NewFoundGold(NFGC)	1366	5.05	+0.48	+10.5

Losers

Name (Sym)	Volume	Close	Change	%Chg.
MultiWays(MWG)	20829	0.93	-1.08	-53.9
cbdMD(YCBD)	1176	2.00	-1.28	-39.0
GranTierraEner(GTE)	2295	6.23	-1.78	-22.3
BlueRidgeBkshs(BRBS)	219	7.53	-2.14	-22.1
Cryo-Cell(CCEL)	59	4.87	-1.38	-22.1
AmbiparEmergency(AMBI)	130	5.90	-1.31	-18.2
EvansBancorp(EVBN)	82	25.81	-5.04	-16.3
EmpirePetrol(EP)	185	9.16	-1.69	-15.6

Nasdaq Biggest % Movers

Winners

Name (Sym)	Volume	Close	Change	%Chg.
Nanobiotix(NBTX)	39645	6.68	+4.54	+212.1
NanoXImaging(NNOX)	60755	15.23	+9.12	+149.3
Immunogen(IMGN)	174656	13.17	+7.78	+144.3
Aptorum(APM)	18707	5.35	+2.82	+111.5
ImmunityBio(IBRX)	42885	5.54	+2.74	+97.9
MersanaTherap(MRSN)	28885	7.18	+2.80	+63.9
QurateRetailB(QRTEB)	1211	5.90	+2.08	+54.5
ElevationOnc(ELEV)	1163	3.95	+1.32	+50.2

Losers

Name (Sym)	Volume	Close	Change	%Chg.
ZappEV(ZAPP)	1562	4.56	-4.19	-47.9
PacWestBancorp(PACW)	403080	5.76	-4.39	-43.3
FARO Tech(FARO)	2760	13.75	-9.60	-41.1
2U(TWOU)	9952	3.50	-2.04	-36.8
HomeStreet(HMST)	5695	6.34	-3.42	-35.0
NerdWallet(NRDS)	8162	9.02	-4.55	-33.5
TerritorialBncp(TBNK)	520	11.30	-5.45	-32.5
FirstInternetBncp(INBK)	894	10.54	-4.17	-28.3

NYSE Most Active

Volume Percentage Leaders

Name (Sym)	Volume	%Chg.	Close	Change
Perfect(PERF)	646	1659.1	4.45	-0.55
HH&L Acqn(HHLA)	1508	750.9	10.40	+0.02
Enviva(EVA)	28038	646.5	9.01	-12.49
IntegratedRailA(IRRX)	349	640.6	10.59	+0.01
Chegg(CHGG)	111827	636.3	10.14	-7.84
Arconic(ARNC)	45667	628.0	29.05	+4.30
BeardEnerA(BRD)	1180	547.4	10.41	+0.02
AfterNextA(AFTR)	934	513.4	10.27	-0.01
FirstHorizon(FHN)	193433	390.2	10.94	-6.61
PhyrophyteAcqn(PHYT)	2122	381.0	10.55	-0.03
IntegratedWellIA(WEL)	612	334.3	10.62	+0.04
EG Acqn A(EGGF)	1342	304.9	10.22	+0.01
WestAllianceBcp(WAL)	147792	300.2	27.16	-9.96
ST Ener I A(STET)	4001	293.2	10.44	+0.00
MediaAlpha(MAX)	4229	287.4	5.99	-1.41
RigelResourceA(RRAC)	2112	279.0	10.52	+0.03
EsteeLauder(EL)	25966	270.7	203.54	-43.18
MetropolitanBk(MCB)	8022	257.0	23.08	-9.01
Braskem(BAK)	12407	256.5	9.17	+1.31
Alteryx(AYX)	21986	225.9	35.97	-5.16

By Share Volume

Name (Sym)	Volume	Close	Change	%Chg.
FordMotor(F)	388875	11.99	+0.11	+0.9
Uber(UBER)	290925	37.75	+6.70	+21.6
BankofAmerica(BAC)	288026	27.71	-1.57	-5.4
NIO(NIO)	218418	8.15	+0.28	+3.6
Carnival(CCL)	210241	10.01	+0.80	+8.7
FirstHorizon(FHN)	193433	10.94	-6.61	-37.7
KeyCorp(KEY)	192420	9.83	-1.43	-12.7
Snap(SNAP)	183243	8.23	-0.48	-5.5
WellsFargo(WFC)	168289	37.94	-1.81	-4.6
Shopify(SHOP)	168285	62.03	+13.58	+28.0
AT&T(T)	158231	17.13	-0.54	-3.1
PalantirTech(PLTR)	156978	7.41	-0.34	-4.4
US Bancorp(USB)	148158	30.74	-3.54	-10.3
WestAllianceBcp(WAL)	147792	27.16	-9.96	-26.8
CreditSuisse(CS)	147261	0.87	-0.03	-2.8
Pfizer(PFE)	133360	38.49	-0.40	-1.0
SouthwesternEner(SWN)	129646	4.74	-0.45	-8.7
Carvana(CVNA)	125037	8.96	+2.02	+29.1
ItauUnibanco(ITUB)	120753	5.22	+0.07	+1.4
NorwegCruise(NCLH)	117504	14.13	+0.78	+5.8

By Dollar Volume

Name (Sym)	\$ Volume	Close	Change	%Chg.
BerkHathwy A(BRKA)	14497278491840.00	11040.00	-2.2	-2.2
Uber(UBER)	10454257	37.75	+6.70	+21.6
JPMorganChase(JPM)	10443621	136.74	-1.50	-1.1
EliLilly(LLY)	10398369	427.81	+31.95	+8.1
ExxonMobil(XOM)	9805008	108.68	-9.66	-8.2
Shopify(SHOP)	9468964	62.03	+13.58	+28.0
BankofAmerica(BAC)	7982381	27.71	-1.57	-5.4
Alibaba(BABA)	7449393	83.22	-1.47	-1.7
WellsFargo(WFC)	6439031	37.94	-1.81	-4.6
Chevron(CVX)	5958720	160.21	-8.37	-5.0
Visa(V)	5895352	231.78	-0.95	-0.4
EsteeLauder(EL)	5370449	203.54	-43.18	-17.5
UnitedHealth(UNH)	5355245	494.28	+2.19	+0.4
Pfizer(PFE)	5158626	38.49	-0.40	-1.0
HomeDepot(HD)	5057470	289.62	-10.92	-3.6
BerkHathwy B(BRK.B)	5037350	323.88	-4.67	-1.4
SchwabC(SCHW)	5002386	49.24	-3.00	-5.7
J&J(JNJ)	4681579	162.68	-1.02	-0.6
Boeing(BA)	4610112	198.34	-8.44	-4.1
AristaNetworks(ANET)	4589523	137.98	-22.18	-13.8

NYSE American Most Active

Volume Percentage Leaders

Name (Sym)	Volume	%Chg.	Close	Change
RileyExpln(REPX)	542	112.1	41.69	-0.32
BiteAcqn(BITE)	53	99.0	10.39	+0.08
BarHarborBkshs(BHB)	267	97.1	23.12	-1.68
EmpirePetrol(EP)	185	92.4	9.16	-1.69
ImperialOil(IMO)	3667	70.8	46.63	-4.30
ParkNational(PRK)	412	65.4	105.71	-2.61
AditEdTechA(ADEX)	44	61.2	10.44	+0.12
GranTierraEner(GTE)	2295	60.6	6.23	-1.78
BlueRidgeBkshs(BRBS)	219	54.1	7.53	-2.14
CompX Intl(CIX)	54	49.8	18.90	+0.80
IdahoStratRscs(IDR)	105	40.9	5.98	-0.28
EvansBancorp(EVBN)	82	36.2	25.81	-5.04
MastechDigital(MHH)	289	23.6	9.19	+0.36
Cryo-Cell(CCEL)	59	23.1	4.87	-1.38
LoopMedia(LPTV)	228	15.9	4.55	-0.64
CheniereEnergy(LNG)	9457	11.0	148.19	-4.81
RadianLogistics(RLGT)	866	10.6	6.39	-0.21
CoreMoldingTech(CMT)	333	5.2	19.30	+0.55
TompkinsFin(TMP)	265	2.5	55.02	-3.60
BK Tech(BKTI)	26	0.4	13.60	-0.02

By Share Volume

Name (Sym)	Volume	Close	Change	%Chg.
DunxinFin(DXF)	70896	0.26	-0.11	-29.2
B2Gold(BTG)	50508	4.12	+0.18	+4.6
Tellurian(TELL)	40003	1.31	-0.11	-7.7
NewGold(NGD)	27746	1.39	+0.11	+8.6
Globalstar(GSAT)	27158	1.00	+0.09	+10.2
GeniusGroup(GNS)	27156	1.12	+0.28	+33.3
UraniumEner(UEC)	23938	2.68	+0.07	+2.7
MultiWays(MWG)	20829	0.93	-1.08	-53.9
ProtalixBio(PLX)	18948	3.27	+0.49	+17.6
AultAlliance(AULT)	18790	0.09	+0.00	+0.8
Zomedica(ZOM)	15603	0.21	+0.01	+4.3
EquinoxGold(EQX)	13052	5.68	+0.70	+14.1
UniqueFabricating(UFAB)	12798	0.17	+0.01	+3.9
Senseonics(SENS)	12518	0.61	+0.02	+3.2
DenisonMines(DNN)	11599	1.06	-0.04	-3.6
RingEnergy(REI)	11194	1.91	+0.10	+5.5
AlmadenMinerals(AAU)	9760	0.13	+0.01	+8.3
CheniereEnergy(LNG)	9457	148.19	-4.81	-3.1
WestwaterRscs(WWR)	8972	0.99	+0.18	+22.2
NorthernDynasty(NAK)	8557	0.22	+0.01	+4.6

By Dollar Volume

Name (Sym)	\$ Volume	Close	Change	%Chg.
CheniereEnergy(LNG)	1402297	148.19	-4.81	-3.1
B2Gold(BTG)	204560	4.12	+0.18	+4.6
ImperialOil(IMO)	171597	46.63	-4.30	-8.4
EquinoxGold(EQX)	69948	5.68	+0.70	+14.1
UraniumEner(UEC)	59438	2.68	+0.07	+2.7
ProtalixBio(PLX)	56734	3.27	+0.49	+17.6
Tellurian(TELL)	52601	1.31	-0.11	-7.7
EnergyFuels(UUUU)	46339	5.96	+0.25	+4.4
ParkNational(PRK)	42541	105.71	-2.61	-2.4
NewGold(NGD)	38290	1.39	+0.11	+8.6
MAG Silver(MAG)	36275	13.34	+0.36	+2.8
CheniereEnerPtrs(CQP)	35989	45.75	+0.14	+0.3
SilverCrestMetals(SILV)	29699	6.93	+0.39	+6.0
GeniusGroup(GNS)	29335	1.12	+0.28	+33.3
NovusGoldRscs(NG)	28365	5.62	+0.18	+3.3
Globalstar(GSAT)	25060	1.00	+0.09	+10.2
MultiWays(MWG)	23938	0.93	-1.08	-53.9
RileyExpln(REPX)	22389	41.69	-0.32	-0.8
IvanhoeElectric(IE)	21308	12.14	+0.23	+1.9
DunxinFin(DXF)	21215	0.26	-0.11	-29.2

Nasdaq Most Active

Volume Percentage Leaders

Name (Sym)	Volume	%Chg
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RESEARCH REPORTS

How Analysts Size Up Companies

These reports, excerpted and edited by *Barron's*, were issued recently by investment and research firms. The reports are a sampling of analysts' thinking; they should not be considered the views or recommendations of *Barron's*. Some of the reports' issuers have provided, or hope to provide, investment-banking or other services to the companies being analyzed.

Uber Technologies UBER-NYSE

Outperform · Price \$36.52 on May 3
by AB Bernstein

We walk away from first-quarter 2023 earnings with more conviction on Uber, which remains our top pick in the group. Fiscal-year 2023 Street numbers should move higher on the back of second-quarter guidance, in our view (ours have). We believe that Uber is a good business, and the company continues to prove that out, with market share gains and healthy incremental margins. Importantly, the second-quarter adjusted Ebitda guidance shrugged off concerns around rising insurance costs and competitive dynamics in U.S. rideshare, while also pointing to better-than-expected trends in Mobility growth. We believe this is the right time for longer-duration investors to take a closer look at the name, as well, with GAAP profitability, excess capital return, and possibly S&P inclusion on the table, particularly as we look to 2024. Price target: \$45.

Chewy CHWY-NYSE

Outperform · Price \$31.10 on May 10
by Raymond James

We assume coverage on Chewy [the online pet-food retailer] and upgrade to Outperform with a \$36 price target. What we like: 1) The drag on active customer growth from the churn of "Covid cohorts" is lessening (Sensor Tower mobile app checks indicate improving trends), and we see a positive inflection in customers in the second half of 2023; 2) increasing loyalty drives higher net sales per active customer and we see it as a strong and sustainable tailwind; 3) expansion of total addressable market remains a big focus (healthcare now; international soon), which should benefit new customer growth and net sales per active customer; 4) 73% of revenue (and rising) comes from Autoship/subscription programs (high visibility despite macro uncertainty); 5) Ebitda guidance for 2023 already embeds headwinds from investments and

some conservatism, leaving room for upside; and 6) net cash and improving free cash flow differentiate Chewy from others in digital commerce.

Diamondback Energy FANG-Nasdaq

Buy · Price \$141.93 on May 1
by UBS

It was a quiet quarter with first-quarter 2023 cash flow per share and crude oil volumes in line with Street expectations and the fiscal-year 2023 guide reiterated, but we see the update as positive on the financial outlook. Key, in our view, is a path for fiscal-year 2023 capital expenditure to come in at the low end of the range and a shift in free cash flow allocation from the dividend to buybacks that shows Diamondback's ability to improve its ratio of free cash flow to barrels of oil equivalent and create shareholder value during periods of market volatility. Additionally, Diamondback remains on track to show balance sheet deleveraging through FCF generation and divestitures, which will continue to support them returning 75% of FCF to shareholders. Price target: \$177.

Verisk Analytics VRSK-Nasdaq

Buy · Price \$203.97 on May 4
by BofA Global Research

We upgrade Verisk Analytics [a data analytics and risk assessment firm] to Buy from Underperform. We think the shares look attractive here due to Verisk's 1) defensive business model in an uncertain environment; 2) accelerating sales growth, which drives our higher earnings-per-share outlook; and 3) a more focused management and potential for higher returns following recent businesses exits. We raise our 2023/24 EPS to \$5.53/6.55 from \$5.45/6.41 prior and above the \$5.45/6.37 consensus. We lift our price objective to \$243 from \$167 on higher EPS and valuation multiple (37 times 2024 estimated price/earnings ratio), given its higher organic sales and potential for EPS upside.

Insider Transactions

Purchases

Company	Symbol	Insiders	Shares	\$ Val (000's)
American Assets Trust	AAT	1	320,000	5,691
Kinnate Biopharma	KNTE	1	1,405,168	3,674
Texas Capital Bancshares	TCBI	3	56,000	2,842
Vivani Medical	VANI	1	2,040,494	2,196
Zions Bancorporation	ZION	3	77,000	2,047
Impinj	PI	1	23,500	1,998
Cleveland-Cliffs	CLF	5	125,300	1,876
Lakeland Financial	LKFN	2	20,000	1,026
Us Bancorp	USB	1	30,438	1,000
Unity Bancorp	UNTY	3	40,150	912
Fb Financial	FBK	2	27,370	802
Wolfspeed	WOLF	2	16,016	753
Farmers National Banc	FMNB	2	55,000	639
Enphase Energy	ENPH	1	3,500	549
German American Bancorp	GABC	1	18,000	503
Simmons First National	SFNC	4	30,000	493
Five Star Bancorp	FSBC	8	17,848	368
Central Valley Community Bancorp	CVCY	7	23,735	355
Kkr Real Estate Finance Trust	KREF	2	33,000	352
First Financial Bankshares	FFIN	3	11,700	336

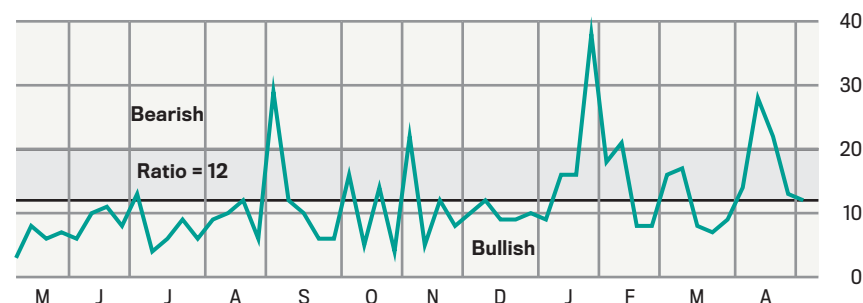
For a look back at more analyst research and reports, go online to [Barrons.com/researchreports](https://www.barrons.com/researchreports)

Sales

Company	Symbol	Insiders	Shares	\$ Val (000's)
Airbnb	ABNB	1	350,000	39,747
Merck & Co	MRK	3	292,437	33,712
Apollo Global Management	APO	1	511,984	32,421
Visa	V	4	135,699	31,467
Church & Dwight	CHD	6	323,003	31,291
Costar	CSGP	1	360,530	27,678
Rounderway Plc	LIN	2	59,957	22,313
Coca-Cola	KO	2	235,906	15,145
PulteGroup	PHM	3	228,102	15,101
Taylor Morrison Home	TMHC	1	332,000	13,778
Graco	GGG	4	147,261	11,722
Mongodb	MDB	2	42,000	9,645
Verona Pharma Plc	VRNA	1	455,528	9,439
Microsoft	MSFT	1	30,000	9,183
M/I Homes	MHO	3	127,649	8,534
Netflix	NFLX	1	26,278	8,513
NetScout Systems	PTC	3	66,865	8,393
West Pharmaceutical Services	WST	3	22,244	8,135
Brucker	BRKR	1	100,770	7,858
Procter & Gamble	PG	3	49,549	7,725

An insider is any officer, director or owner of 10% or more of a class of a company's securities. In most cases, an insider must report any trade to the SEC within two business days. The tables highlight companies that filed with the SEC through last Wednesday. The tables do not include pension-plan or employee stock-option activity, trades by beneficial owners of 10% or more, trades under \$2 per share or trades under 100 shares. The "Purchases" column includes only open-market and private purchases; the "Sales" column includes only open-market and private sales, and excludes trades preceded by option exercise in the 12 months prior to the reported event. Source: Thomson Reuters

Insider Transactions Ratio



Ratio of Insiders Sales to Buys. Readings under 12:1 are Bullish. Those over 20:1 are Bearish. The total top 20 sales and buys are 351,798,092 and 28,409,501 respectively; Source: Thomson Reuters

MetLife MET-NYSE

Overweight · Price \$58.71 on May 3
by J.P. Morgan

MetLife's earnings were pressured by poor variable investment income, but underlying business fundamentals were healthy. We remain bullish on MetLife, given an upbeat outlook for business trends. Our Overweight rating reflects a positive outlook for business trends, the company's high capital flexibility, and steady execution. Also, valuation is compelling following the stock's pullback....We forecast MetLife to report strong margins in the group insurance division, improving spreads in retirement and income solutions, and healthy sales in the international business. Also, MetLife has ample capital to supplement organic growth with steady share repur-

chases. On a cautious note, MetLife Holdings should remain a drag on overall returns. Furthermore, a weak labor market could suppress group insurance results. Price target: \$80.

Molson Coors Beverage TAP-NYSE

Neutral · Price \$65.08 on May 3
by Wedbush

In light of strong [first-quarter results] and current market tailwinds, we are raising our price target to \$60, which reflects a 13.6 times target multiple on 2024 EPS. While we are certainly encouraged by Molson's strong start to the year, with more potential tailwinds on the come, most of this looks to be priced into the shares, which have appreciated by over 25% since the beginning of April.

DATA

Statistics from May 1-5, 2023

Table with 2 columns: Index Name and Value. Includes Barron's 50-Stock Average (51), Dow Jones Per Share Values (50), Mutual Funds (47), etc.

Table with 2 columns: Index Name and Value. Includes N.Y. Stock Exchange (37), Nasdaq National Market (41), New Corporate Listings (53), etc.

Table with 2 columns: Index Name and Value. Includes Week In Stocks (50), Weekly Bond Statistics (52), Winners & Losers Stocks (35), etc.

Contact Us
For queries, email us at
memberservices@dwjones.com

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE COMPOSITE LIST - NEW HIGHS - NEW LOWS

Main table listing stock prices, changes, and volume. Columns include -52-Week High/Low, Name, Tick, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt., and Div.

Five-Day Dow Composite

Too Much: The Dow fell 1.2%, its second decline in three weeks, amid continued bank turmoil and a Federal Reserve rate hike. Apple gained 2.3% after reporting earnings, while Walgreens dropped 8.7%.

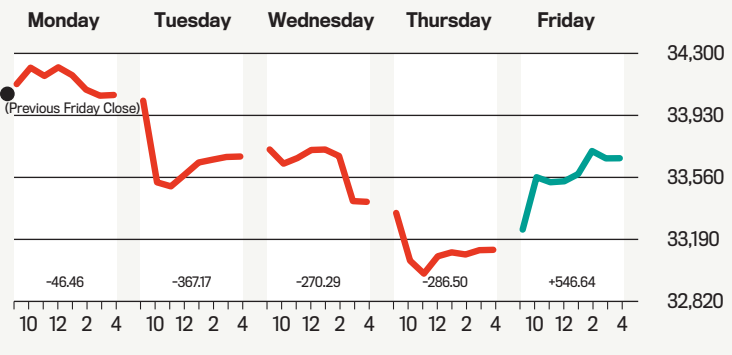


Table listing new highs and new lows for various stocks. Columns include Name, Price, and Change.

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NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE COMPOSITE LIST

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Main table containing stock listings with columns for -52-Week High/Low, Ticker, Name, Price, P/E, Div, and various financial metrics. Includes sections for D, E, F, and G.

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NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE COMPOSITE LIST

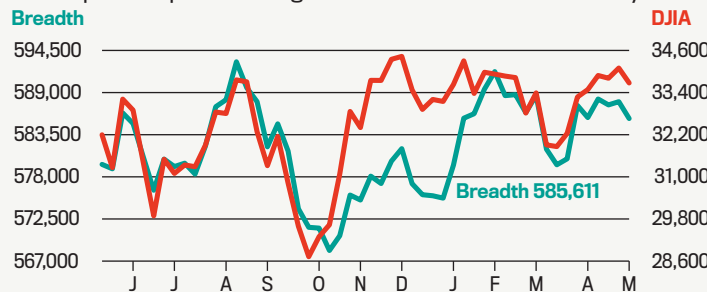
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Table with columns: -52-Week-High, Low, Name, Ticker, Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like GranitePointMtg, GraniteRidge, GraphicPkg, etc.

Table with columns: H, Name, Ticker, Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like HCA Healthcare, HCL Group, HDFC Bank, etc.

NYSE Cumulative Daily Breadth vs DJIA

In Between Days: NYSE Composite breadth fell. The S&P 500 fell 0.8% after the Federal Reserve raised interest rates a quarter point and signaled a possible pause. Losing NYSE stocks crowded winners by 2 to 1.



In generating this chart, we subtract each day's NYSE composite declines from that day's advances. The resultant total is added to the next day's total, and so on. When all five days' numbers are added together, this produces the weekly figure we plot. Dec. 31, 1985=1000.

Table with columns: -52-Week-High, Low, Name, Ticker, Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like HysterValeMatis, ICICI Bank, ICL Group, etc.

Table with columns: J, Name, Ticker, Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like JBG Smith Prop, JELD-WEN, JLL, etc.

Table with columns: -52-Week-High, Low, Name, Ticker, Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like JobyAviation, JohnBeanTech, J&J, etc.

Table with columns: K, Name, Ticker, Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like KAR Auction, KB Financial, KB Home, etc.

Table with columns: L, Name, Ticker, Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like LCI Inds, LG Display, LFL Flooring, etc.

Table with columns: L, Name, Ticker, Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like LCI Inds, LG Display, LFL Flooring, etc.

Table with columns: -52-Week-High, Low, Name, Ticker, Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like Lazard, Lear, LearnCWInvta, etc.

Table with columns: M, Name, Ticker, Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like M&T Bank, MBIA, MDC Holdings, etc.

Table with columns: -52-Week-High, Low, Name, Ticker, Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like Maximus, MayvilleEngg, McCormickVtg, etc.

Table with columns: N, Name, Ticker, Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like NACCO Inds, N-able, NCR, etc.

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NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE COMPOSITE LIST

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Table with columns: High, Low, Name, Tck, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like 32.08 23.78 NISource, 21.98 11.78 NoahHoldings, etc.

Table with columns: High, Low, Name, Tck, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like 21.49 12.35 Paragon28, 9.45 3.90 ParamGroup, etc.

Table with columns: High, Low, Name, Tck, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like 12.94 82.23 RalphLauren, 37.44 22.61 RangeResources, etc.

Table with columns: High, Low, Name, Tck, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like 4.17 1.86 SequansComms, 14.52 4.90 SeritageGrowth, etc.

Table with columns: High, Low, Name, Tck, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like 10.12 2.57 SuperGroup, 7.38 2.88 SuperIndrIntnl, etc.

Table with columns: High, Low, Name, Tck, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like 30.52 22.34 OFGBancorp, 42.91 33.28 OGE Energy, etc.

Table with columns: High, Low, Name, Tck, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like 43.90 30.78 Perrigo, 16.32 8.88 PetroleoBrasil, etc.

Table with columns: High, Low, Name, Tck, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like 110.95 82.85 Pfizer, 109.81 82.85 PhilipMorris, etc.

Table with columns: High, Low, Name, Tck, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like 115.71 1.10 SilvergateCapital, 12.00 4.37 Similarweb, etc.

Table with columns: High, Low, Name, Tck, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like 10.45 2.81 TAL Education, 59.38 36.79 TC Energy, etc.

Table with columns: High, Low, Name, Tck, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like 30.52 22.34 OFGBancorp, 42.91 33.28 OGE Energy, etc.

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Table with columns: High, Low, Name, Tck, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like 49.00 24.63 PBF Energy, 17.46 9.64 P&G, etc.

Table with columns: High, Low, Name, Tck, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like 264.94 152.90 RBC Bearings, 10.79 9.90 RCF Acq A, etc.

Table with columns: High, Low, Name, Tck, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like 137.32 78.22 SAP, 395.80 279.32 S&P Global, etc.

Table with columns: High, Low, Name, Tck, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like 9.87 4.57 SouthwesternEnergy, 91.26 38.93 SpectrumBrands, etc.

Table with columns: High, Low, Name, Tck, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like 27.05 14.26 ThermoFisher, 61.85 37.26 Thermo, etc.

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DATA NYSE NASDAQ ISSUES BARRONS.COM/DATA

Table with columns: -52-Week-High, Low, Name, Ticker, Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like TriplePtVent, TristarAcqnl, TritonIntl, etc.

Table with columns: -52-Week-High, Low, Name, Ticker, Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like Vishay, VistaEnergy, VistaOutdoor, etc.

Table with columns: -52-Week-High, Low, Name, Ticker, Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like UBS Group, UDR, UGI, etc.

Table with columns: -52-Week-High, Low, Name, Ticker, Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like W&T Offshore, WEC, WEX, etc.

Table with columns: -52-Week-High, Low, Name, Ticker, Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like VF, ViaOptronics, ViciPro, etc.

Table with columns: -52-Week-High, Low, Name, Ticker, Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like XYZ, XFinancial, XPO, etc.

Table with columns: 52-Week-High, Low, Name, Ticker, Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like AAON, AcadiaPharm, ACELRIN, etc.

Table with columns: 52-Week-High, Low, Name, Ticker, Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like Abcam, AbCelleraBio, Absci, etc.

Table with columns: 52-Week-High, Low, Name, Ticker, Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like AcharVentures, AchillesTherap, AcordaTherap, etc.

Five-Day Nasdaq Composite

Overflying the Banks: PacWest and other regional banks had a wrenching week. Lyft sank. The Nasdaq Composite Index ended Friday at 12,235—up a bare 0.1% for the week.

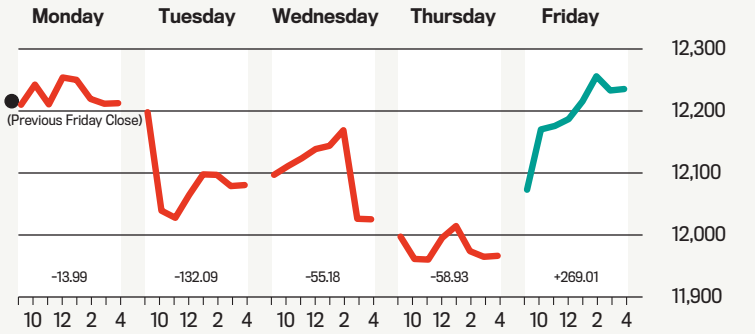


Table with columns: 52-Week-High, Low, Name, Ticker, Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like Arcimoto, ArcoPlatform, ArcturusTherap, etc.

Nasdaq Issues includes stocks traded on the Nasdaq Global Select and Nasdaq Global Market tiers. They are eligible for inclusion on the basis of SEC-approved market value of publicly-held shares, trading volume, price and number of market-makers.

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NASDAQ ISSUES

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Main table containing NASDAQ stock issues with columns for 52-Week High/Low, Name, Ticker, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt., and various stock symbols like BJSRestaurants, BOKF, BKRF, etc.

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DATA NASDAQ ISSUES

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Main table containing NASDAQ stock issues with columns for 52-Week High/Low, Name, Ticker, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg, Div, and Amt. Includes sub-sections N, P, Q, R, S, and T.

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DATA

NASDAQ ISSUES

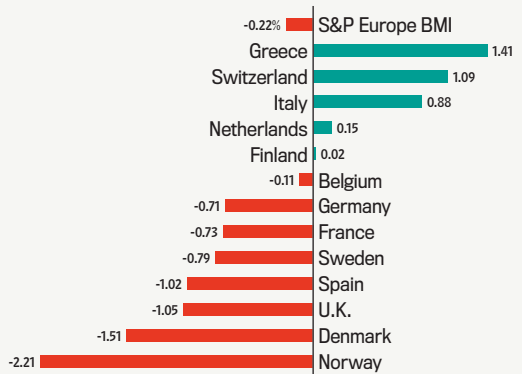
Table of NASDAQ issues with columns for 52-Week High/Low, Name, Ticker, and Dividend. Includes sub-sections U, V, and W.

FOREIGN MARKETS

Table of foreign market indices and stock prices, including sections for Europe, Asia, and Key Foreign Stock Market Indexes.

Europe

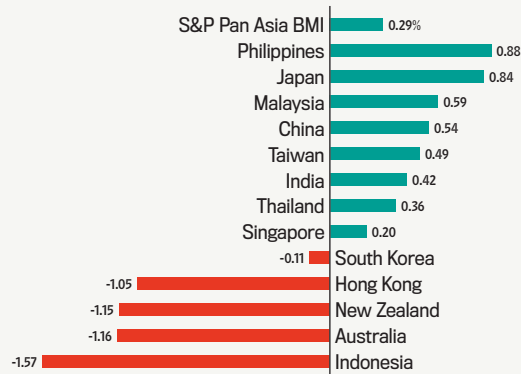
Arm Twist: After chipmaker Arm decided to list in the U.S., regulators in the U.K. promised to make London listing easier.



Indexes based on S&P Global Broad Market Indices

Asia

Unsteady Footing: China's stocks edged up, on mixed results for corporate earnings and the economy's recovery.



Source: S&P DJ Indices

Key Foreign Stock Market Indexes

Table of key foreign stock market indexes with columns for Most Recent Close, Week's % Chg., Year-to-Date % Chg., and index name.

Indexes are based on local currencies. Because of various holidays and other market closings, the most recent close is not necessarily that of the week of publication.

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DATA

TOP 500 EXCHANGE-TRADED PORTFOLIOS

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NOTICE TO READERS: Listed are the top 500 ETFs based on weekly volume.

Table with columns: Name, Tck Sym, Yld, Last, Chg, Div Amt. Lists various ETFs like ARKGenomicRev, BIKRUSMaturityBd, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Tck Sym, Yld, Last, Chg, Div Amt. Lists various ETFs under NASDAQ, including AXSL25XNVDBARdly, AXSSInnovDly, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Tck Sym, Yld, Last, Chg, Div Amt. Lists various ETFs like iShGblInfr, iShHbdsDec25Trea, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Tck Sym, Yld, Last, Chg, Div Amt. Lists various ETFs under NYSE ARCA, including ARKUSMktNeut, ARK Innovation, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Tck Sym, Yld, Last, Chg, Div Amt. Lists various ETFs like DirexS&P500Br3, DirexS&P100Br3, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Tck Sym, Yld, Last, Chg, Div Amt. Lists various ETFs like DirexS&P500Br3, DirexS&P100Br3, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Tck Sym, Yld, Last, Chg, Div Amt. Lists various ETFs like InvsctDynOil&GasV, InvsctEMovDebt, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Tck Sym, Yld, Last, Chg, Div Amt. Lists various ETFs like InvsctDynOil&GasV, InvsctEMovDebt, etc.

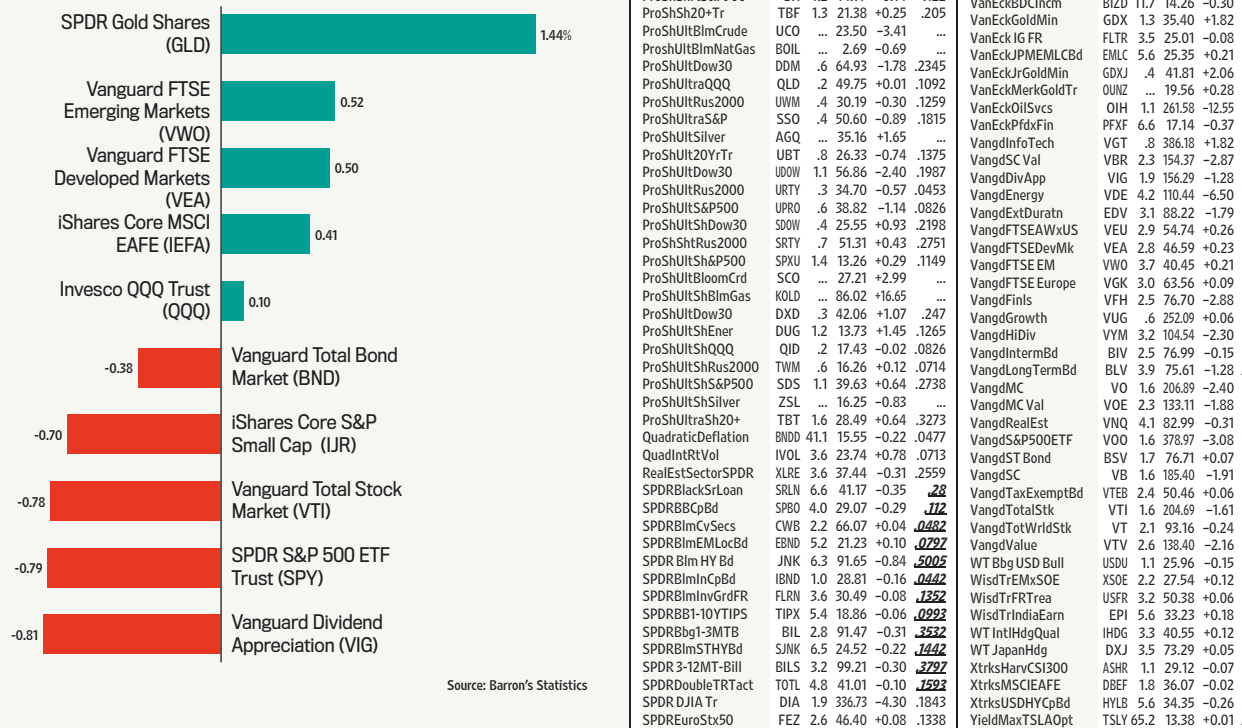
Table with columns: Name, Tck Sym, Yld, Last, Chg, Div Amt. Lists various ETFs like iShMSCIPacxJpn, iShMSCISaudiArabia, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Tck Sym, Yld, Last, Chg, Div Amt. Lists various ETFs like iShMSCIPacxJpn, iShMSCISaudiArabia, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Tck Sym, Yld, Last, Chg, Div Amt. Lists various ETFs like SPDRGoldMini, SPDR Gold, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Tck Sym, Yld, Last, Chg, Div Amt. Lists various ETFs like SPDRGoldMini, SPDR Gold, etc.

Selected ETF Leaders



Source: Barron's Statistics

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MUTUAL FUNDS

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About Our Funds
The listings include the top 1250 open-end funds by assets. These funds value their portfolios daily and report net asset values (the dollar amount of their holdings divided by the number of shares outstanding) to the National Association of Securities Dealers. Total returns reflect both price changes and dividends; these figures assume that all distributions are reinvested in the fund. Because Lipper is constantly updating its database, these returns may differ from those previously published or calculated by others. 3 year returns are cumulative. The NAV is the last reported closing price for the week. Footnotes: NA: not available, NE: performance excluded by Lipper editor, NN: fund not tracked, NS: fund not in existence for whole period, e: ex capital gains distributions, f: previous day's quote, n: no front- or back-end sales charge, p: fund assets are used to pay marketing and distribution costs (12b-1 fees), r: fund levies redemption fee or back-end load, s: stock dividend or split of 25% or more, t: fund charges 12b-1 fees (for marketing and distribution) and a back-end load, v: capital-gains distribution may be a return of capital, x: ex cash dividend.

NOTICE TO READERS: Closed End Fund listings have moved to barrons.com/cefund. They will no longer appear in print. The Herzfeld chart has moved to the Market Lab Newsletter. To sign up for the newsletter, go to barrons.com/newletters.

Table with columns: Fund Name, NAV Chg., YTD % Ret., 3-Yr. % Ret. Includes funds like LdtTEBDA, N PerA, NECoA, NwWrldA, SmCPa, STBFA, STTxBdA, TECAA, TXExA, WShA.

Table with columns: Fund Name, NAV Chg., YTD % Ret., 3-Yr. % Ret. Includes funds like CoreBond, CorePlusBond, IntlEq, LargeCapGrowth, LargeCapValue, MunicipalBond, S/MCAGrowth, S/MCpVal, Brown Advisory Funds, GrwthEquityInst.

Table with columns: Fund Name, NAV Chg., YTD % Ret., 3-Yr. % Ret. Includes funds like Calamos Funds, MktNeutl, PrefSecIn, Calvert Investments, Eq A, Carillon Reams, CorePIB I, Carillon Scout, MidCap I, Causeway Inst, CausewayInst, CIBC Atlas, DispEq Inst, ClearBridge, AggressGrowth, AllCapValue, Appreciation, DividendStrat, DividendStratA, LargeCapGrowthA, LargeCapGrowthB, SmallCapGrowth, SmallCapGrowthS.

Table with columns: Fund Name, NAV Chg., YTD % Ret., 3-Yr. % Ret. Includes funds like GblAll60 40Inst, GIEqInst, GIRESec, InfProtSec, IntGvFxdln, IntCoreEq, IntREst, IntlSustCore1, IntlVal, IntlVectorEq, IntlSmCo, IntlSmVa, IntlTermMuni, IntlValII, ITExQual, LgCo, LgCplnt, SdCRqInst, SdCQual, STGow, STMuniBd, US CoreEq1, US CoreEq2, US Micro, US Small, US SmpCpVal, US TgdVal, USLCPGr, USLgVa, USLgVall, USSoCoreEq2, USSustCore1, USVSecorEq, Dodge & Cox, Balanced n, Dodge & Cox n, GblStock n, Income n, IntlStock n, IntlVal n, DoubleLine Funds, CoreFxdIncmI, LowDurBd, ShillerEnHCAPEI, TotRetBdI, TotRetBdN.

Table with columns: Fund Name, NAV Chg., YTD % Ret., 3-Yr. % Ret. Includes funds like A, AAM: B&GInGroCl, AB Funds: CapFInC, CapGov, InttStrEqPz, InttStrEqPz, MunIncmShares, AB Funds - A: LgCPGrA, RelatValA, AB Funds - ADV: GIBbd, HIncmAdv, InttStrEqPADV, LgCPGrAdv, SelectUSLgShr, SmlMdcPVal.

Table with columns: Fund Name, NAV Chg., YTD % Ret., 3-Yr. % Ret. Includes funds like AMG Managers Funds: YachtmanFocFdl, YachtFocFdn, YachtmanFdl, Angel Oak Funds Trst: AglOkMtlFAClin, AQR Funds: LgCapDeFStyle, Ariel Investments: Ariel Inv n, Artisan Funds: GblOppInst, IntlInv n, IntlInst, IntlValInst, IntlValInv n, MidCapInv n, MidCapInv n.

Table with columns: Fund Name, NAV Chg., YTD % Ret., 3-Yr. % Ret. Includes funds like Baird Funds: AggBdInst, CorBdInst, IntlBdInst, SHTBdInst, Baron Funds: Asset n, Growth n, Partners n, Baron Instl Shares: AssetInst, EmergingMktsInst, GrowthInst, PartnersInst, SmallCapInst, Bernstein Fds: DivrMunin, IntlMurrn, NYMun n, BlackRock Funds: CoreBdInst, HlVbId, HlVbIdBdInst, IntlPurBdInst, LowDurInst, BlackRock Funds A: AdvLgCapCore, CapAppr, EqtyDivd, GblAlloC, HlHsScp, MdCpGrA, MultiAstIncm, NatlMuni, SctechOppA, TotRet, BlackRock Funds II: iShS&P500iKdx8531, iShUSAggBdI, BlackRock Funds C: AdvLgCapCore, CAlInsMun, EmgMkts, EqtyDivd, FloRateIncp, GblAlloC, HlEqIn, HlHsScp, MdCpGrEq, MultiAstIncm, NatlMuni, SctechOppInst, StratIncpOptlyns, StratMuniOppl, TotRet, BNY Mellon Funds: Aprec n, Dr500Inn, Dreyfn, GrefMidr Inv n, GflXncd, InstS&PStkI, InstStkI, IntlStkI, SmlMidCpGr, StrgVAl, BNY Mellon Funds Tru: MCMultiStrM, NtlIntMuni, Bridge Builder Trust:

Table with columns: Fund Name, NAV Chg., YTD % Ret., 3-Yr. % Ret. Includes funds like Balanced n, Dodge & Cox n, GblStock n, Income n, IntlStock n, IntlVal n, DoubleLine Funds, CoreFxdIncmI, LowDurBd, ShillerEnHCAPEI, TotRetBdI, TotRetBdN.

Table with columns: Fund Name, NAV Chg., YTD % Ret., 3-Yr. % Ret. Includes funds like Aberdeen Fds: EmMktEqtyInst, Advisers Inv Trst: Balanced n, Growth n, Akre Funds: AkreFocusInst, AkreFocusRtl, AmanGroth, AmanGrothInst, Amer Beacon Inst: SmpCplnst, American Century G: GIBond, SustainEquity, American Century I: EqIn, Growth, IntlTF, MdCapVal, SmpCapVal, American Century Inv: DisCoreVal, EqIn, GIBond, Growth, Heritag, MdCapVal, OneChModn, Select n, Ultra n, American Century R6: MdCapVal, SmpCapVal, American Funds CIA: 2020TarRetA, 2025TarRetA, 2030TarRetA, 2040TarRetA, 2045TarRetA, 2050TarRetA, AmpcA, AMutIA, BondA, BalA, CapIBA, CapWA, CapWGrA, EupacA, FdInvA, GBlAl, GovtA, GwthA, HlTrA, HlMunIA, ICA, InCoA, IntlA, IntlGrnCA.

Table with columns: Fund Name, NAV Chg., YTD % Ret., 3-Yr. % Ret. Includes funds like Baird Funds: AggBdInst, CorBdInst, IntlBdInst, SHTBdInst, Baron Funds: Asset n, Growth n, Partners n, Baron Instl Shares: AssetInst, EmergingMktsInst, GrowthInst, PartnersInst, SmallCapInst, Bernstein Fds: DivrMunin, IntlMurrn, NYMun n, BlackRock Funds: CoreBdInst, HlVbId, HlVbIdBdInst, IntlPurBdInst, LowDurInst, BlackRock Funds A: AdvLgCapCore, CapAppr, EqtyDivd, GblAlloC, HlHsScp, MdCpGrA, MultiAstIncm, NatlMuni, SctechOppA, TotRet, BlackRock Funds II: iShS&P500iKdx8531, iShUSAggBdI, BlackRock Funds C: AdvLgCapCore, CAlInsMun, EmgMkts, EqtyDivd, FloRateIncp, GblAlloC, HlEqIn, HlHsScp, MdCpGrEq, MultiAstIncm, NatlMuni, SctechOppInst, StratIncpOptlyns, StratMuniOppl, TotRet, BNY Mellon Funds: Aprec n, Dr500Inn, Dreyfn, GrefMidr Inv n, GflXncd, InstS&PStkI, InstStkI, IntlStkI, SmlMidCpGr, StrgVAl, BNY Mellon Funds Tru: MCMultiStrM, NtlIntMuni, Bridge Builder Trust:

Table with columns: Fund Name, NAV Chg., YTD % Ret., 3-Yr. % Ret. Includes funds like Eaton Vance Class A: TMG1.1, Eaton Vance Class I: AATCpSMID, FltGr, GblMacABR, IncBos, NatlMunInc, Edgewood Growth Instituti: EdgewoodGrInst, F: FAM Value: FAMValue n, Federated Hermes A: StrValDivA, Federated Hermes Inst: InSHYld, TIRnRbd, Federated Hermes IS: KaufmnsC, StrValDivIS, UltraShort, Federated Hermes R: Kaufmnr, Federated Hermes R6: FedInstHYBond, StrVal, TIRnRbd, Fidelity: 500IIdxInstPrem, BalancedK6, ContraFundK6, EmgMktIdxInstPrem, ExtMktIdxInstPrem, FidAdAsset, FidAddEm, FidAI, FidAIEmerg, FidSer5, FidSer5-0, FidSerEmgMkt, FidSerInst, FidSerMarket, FidS&PStkI, FidZroCtMktIn, FidZroLgCpIn, Flex500 Index, FlexIntIdx, EmgMktVa, EmgMktVa, EmMktCorEq, EmMktMcp, Fixd.

Table with columns: Fund Name, NAV Chg., YTD % Ret., 3-Yr. % Ret. Includes funds like Fidelity: 500IIdxInstPrem, BalancedK6, ContraFundK6, EmgMktIdxInstPrem, ExtMktIdxInstPrem, FidAdAsset, FidAddEm, FidAI, FidAIEmerg, FidSer5, FidSer5-0, FidSerEmgMkt, FidSerInst, FidSerMarket, FidS&PStkI, FidZroCtMktIn, FidZroLgCpIn, Flex500 Index, FlexIntIdx, EmgMktVa, EmgMktVa, EmMktCorEq, EmMktMcp, Fixd.

Table with columns: Fund Name, NAV Chg., YTD % Ret., 3-Yr. % Ret. Includes funds like Fidelity: 2020TarRetA, 2025TarRetA, 2030TarRetA, 2040TarRetA, 2045TarRetA, 2050TarRetA, AmpcA, AMutIA, BondA, BalA, CapIBA, CapWA, CapWGrA, EupacA, FdInvA, GBlAl, GovtA, GwthA, HlTrA, HlMunIA, ICA, InCoA, IntlA, IntlGrnCA.

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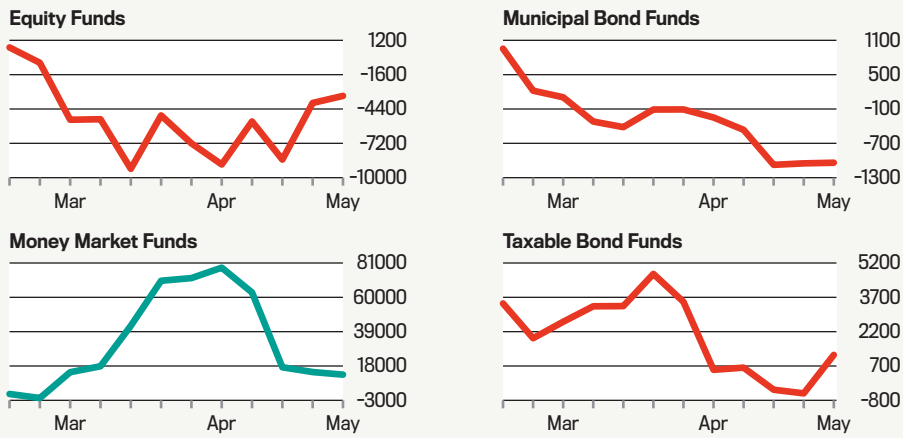
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Cash Track

Money Moves: Cash inflows to money-market funds eased again, to average \$12.7 billion a week, in the last month. Some cash may have gone instead to equity funds, where the average weekly outflow narrowed to \$3.3 billion. Taxable-bond fund flows went from negative to a positive \$1.2 billion weekly average, while muni-bond fund outflows stayed roughly even, at \$1 billion.



A red chart indicates a lower value than the starting period. Green means it's higher than the starting period. The charts above show four-week moving averages of net cash flow in millions of dollars.

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Table with columns: Fund Name, NAV Chg., YTD % Ret., 3-Yr. % Ret. Includes funds like Fidelity: 2020TarRetA, 2025TarRetA, 2030TarRetA, 2040TarRetA, 2045TarRetA, 2050TarRetA, AmpcA, AMutIA, BondA, BalA, CapIBA, CapWA, CapWGrA, EupacA, FdInvA, GBlAl, GovtA, GwthA, HlTrA, HlMunIA, ICA, InCoA, IntlA, IntlGrnCA.

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DATA MUTUAL FUNDS

DATA PROVIDED BY LIPPER

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Table with columns: Fund Name, NAV Chg., YTD %Ret., 3-Yr. %Ret. Includes Growth Adv, Income Adv, RiskDv Adv, etc.

Table with columns: Fund Name, NAV Chg., YTD %Ret., 3-Yr. %Ret. Includes DevMktA, DiscFDaP, RiskDv Adv, etc.

Table with columns: Fund Name, NAV Chg., YTD %Ret., 3-Yr. %Ret. Includes ValiAdv, JPMorgan L Class, JPMorgan R Class, etc.

Table with columns: Fund Name, NAV Chg., YTD %Ret., 3-Yr. %Ret. Includes InvGradeBdY, LSGrowthY, Neuberger Berman Fds, etc.

Table with columns: Fund Name, NAV Chg., YTD %Ret., 3-Yr. %Ret. Includes LowDurlnc, ShtTm, TotRt, PIMCO Funds Instnt, etc.

Table with columns: Fund Name, NAV Chg., YTD %Ret., 3-Yr. %Ret. Includes Royce Funds, Russell Funds, Schwab Funds, etc.

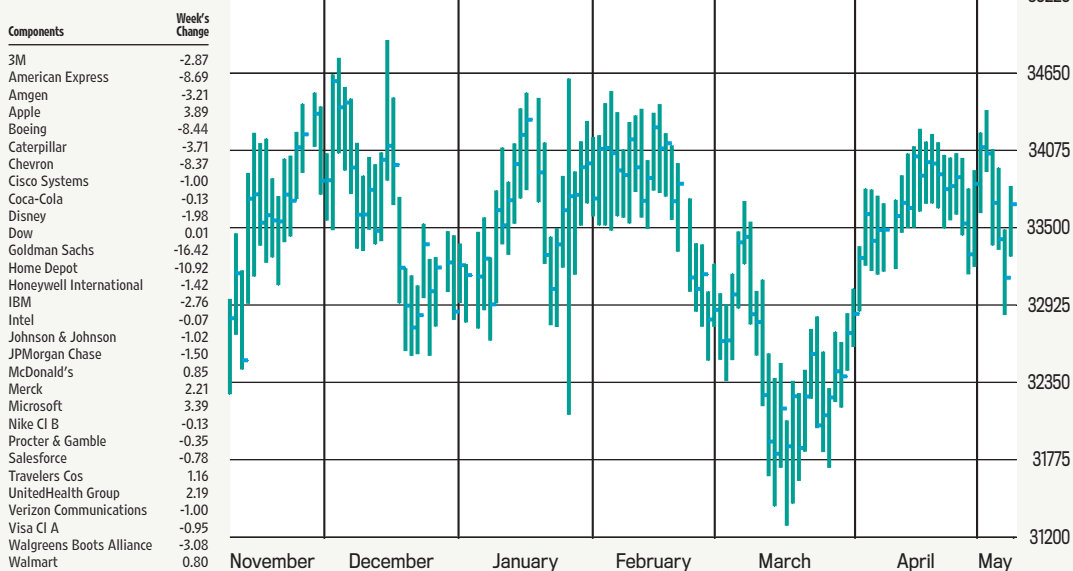
Table with columns: Fund Name, NAV Chg., YTD %Ret., 3-Yr. %Ret. Includes 500Admln, BalAdmln, CAITAdmln, etc.

Table with columns: Fund Name, NAV Chg., YTD %Ret., 3-Yr. %Ret. Includes TgtRetInc, USGro, Wellis, etc.

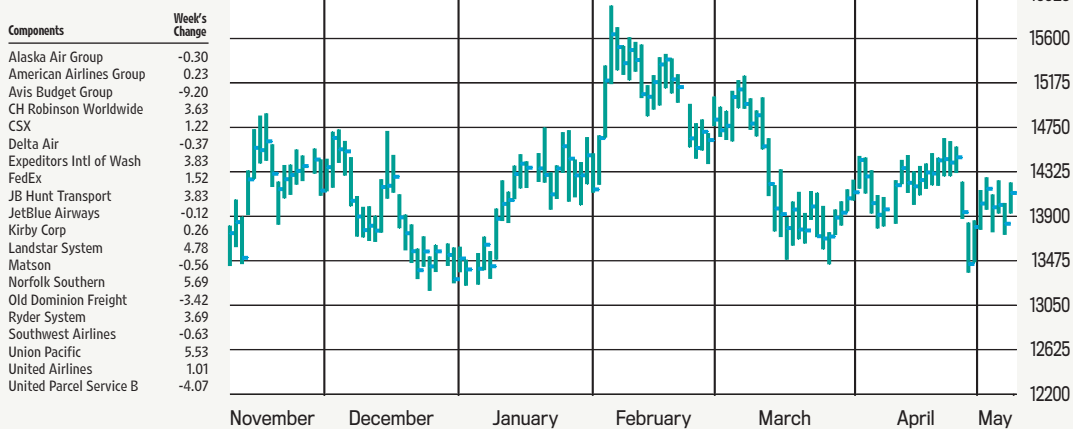
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The Dow Jones Averages

Industrials



Transportation



Utilities



Note: Theoretical highs and lows are shown. A red chart indicates a lower price than the starting period. Green means it's higher than the starting period.

DJ Half-Hourly Averages

Dow Jones 30 Industrial (divisor: 0.15172752595384)

Daily	May 1	2	3	4	5
Open (t)	34126.50	33995.35	33719.26	33331.99	33418.66
Open (a)	34116.81	34017.62	33726.64	33347.78	33248.55
10:00	34152.57	33899.33	33722.72	33169.13	33555.19
10:30	34166.52	33654.60	33687.35	33024.34	33576.25
11:00	34215.58	33529.41	33646.56	33066.31	33562.10
11:30	34150.67	33480.79	33618.19	33059.45	33565.52
12:00	34163.94	33516.94	33675.16	32988.02	33528.72
12:30	34197.24	33549.33	33695.22	33067.47	33524.80
1:00	34217.11	33575.05	33725.36	33093.26	33538.21
1:30	34171.09	33606.27	33746.78	33154.60	33561.77
2:00	34168.05	33650.40	33724.84	33114.28	33582.28
2:30	34134.94	33614.11	33733.87	33068.94	33639.41
3:00	34088.75	33666.13	33687.18	33103.39	33719.10
3:30	34068.65	33700.67	33447.49	33111.47	33696.41
Close	34051.70	33684.53	33414.24	33127.74	33674.38
High (t)	34374.45	34084.16	33945.09	33486.74	33810.18
Low (t)	33913.89	33368.40	33335.22	32850.27	33284.96
High (a)	34257.83	34017.75	33811.84	33354.86	33748.43
Low (a)	34030.14	33436.66	33396.05	32937.50	33248.55
Change	-46.46	-367.17	-270.29	-286.50	+546.64

Theoretical (t): High 34374.45 Low 32850.27
Actual (a): High 34257.83 Low 32937.50

Dow Jones 20 Transport (divisor: 0.16343894576034)

Daily	May 1	2	3	4	5
Open (t)	14036.13	14059.62	14015.20	13938.48	13976.78
Open (a)	14016.30	14100.25	14000.43	13976.69	13918.35
10:00	14119.69	13965.41	14050.35	13868.89	14097.87
10:30	14141.09	13835.26	14101.49	13854.50	14039.34
11:00	14103.33	13852.76	14104.44	13799.62	14003.01
11:30	14081.82	13827.20	14095.54	13849.24	14037.46
12:00	14100.21	13900.40	14113.99	13832.61	14047.66
12:30	14137.20	13866.65	14103.56	13769.18	14061.35
1:00	14193.33	13883.36	14105.77	13822.15	14065.10
1:30	14187.40	13931.59	14125.06	13848.06	14087.49
2:00	14162.61	13976.49	14125.95	13860.70	14105.51
2:30	14162.80	13943.82	14145.33	13873.74	14118.34
3:00	14178.01	13951.66	14164.46	13834.40	14162.51
3:30	14164.57	14013.88	14086.70	13845.45	14172.75
Close	14162.90	13986.32	14008.81	13828.59	14123.13
High (t)	14273.40	14109.55	14244.34	14027.75	14224.21
Low (t)	13962.06	13746.57	13926.18	13722.28	13926.24
High (a)	14200.83	14100.25	14218.03	13998.07	14199.16
Low (a)	14016.30	13794.05	14000.43	13761.66	13918.35
Change	+141.03	-176.58	+22.49	-180.22	+294.54

Theoretical (t): High 14273.40 Low 13722.28
Actual (a): High 14218.03 Low 13761.66

Dow Jones 15 Utilities (divisor: 1.2792496167720)

Daily	May 1	2	3	4	5
Open (t)	958.10	960.99	954.97	949.31	952.89
Open (a)	958.52	960.09	954.49	947.25	953.68
10:00	958.83	958.00	951.56	944.25	959.42
10:30	961.21	957.51	947.87	947.32	959.86
11:00	962.58	953.34	946.77	952.54	960.48
11:30	967.68	947.61	947.62	953.97	958.10
12:00	970.59	947.61	950.86	951.17	957.19
12:30	968.06	947.07	953.20	952.79	958.95
1:00	969.34	949.18	954.08	954.89	956.38
1:30	968.86	948.08	957.88	957.89	957.99
2:00	967.62	946.33	958.85	956.91	960.31
2:30	968.85	944.14	955.95	956.94	960.26
3:00	964.67	948.39	955.11	954.29	961.29
3:30	963.27	952.05	951.02	955.44	960.75
Close	960.77	948.54	945.73	955.82	962.27
High (t)	971.64	964.20	960.86	961.28	966.42
Low (t)	954.95	942.20	943.79	940.29	950.11
High (a)	970.64	962.11	958.89	959.86	963.41
Low (a)	957.06	942.60	944.91	941.85	952.04
Change	+1.16	-12.23	-2.81	+10.09	+6.45

Theoretical (t): High 971.64 Low 940.29
Actual (a): High 970.64 Low 941.85

Dow Jones 65 Composite (divisor: 0.77130165331605)

Daily	May 1	2	3	4	5
Open (t)	11276.56	11260.52	11186.83	11085.00	11116.09
Open (a)	11271.15	11272.02	11184.35	11092.79	11073.41
10:00	11300.88	11209.48	11199.69	11030.65	11174.78
10:30	11309.62	11132.08	11198.51	10993.37	11167.11
11:00	11324.99	11107.66	11180.16	11007.31	11161.15
11:30	11306.98	11085.77	11177.56	11012.67	11167.19
12:00	11316.76	11108.48	11194.44	10991.33	11164.19
12:30	11335.35	11114.73	11198.49	11022.14	11167.44
1:00	11342.90	11125.14	11215.55	11032.45	11166.53
1:30	11327.35	11137.33	11226.25	11048.67	11181.13
2:00	11333.97	11157.61	11214.92	11037.75	11186.32
2:30	11322.22	11140.23	11223.21	11021.16	11207.82
3:00	11307.84	11163.25	11216.41	11031.82	11233.57
3:30	11300.68	11176.87	11131.22	11029.12	11222.14
Close	11293.14	11163.21	11110.15	11032.32	11212.97
High (t)	11398.07	11293.90	11289.57	11154.21	11267.99
Low (t)	11213.82	11039.70	11073.86	10929.45	11074.48
High (a)	11354.24	11272.02	11251.37	11093.86	11243.78
Low (a)	11271.15	11071.56	11105.30	10975.73	11073.41
Change	+22.67	-129.93	-53.06	-77.83	+180.65

Theoretical (t): High 11398.07 Low 10929.45
Actual (a): High 11354.24 Low 10975.73

Trading Diary

Market Advance/Decline Volumes

Daily	May 1	2	3	4	5
NY Up	352,122	146,444	341,208	340,816	827,963
NY Off	433,674	817,926	644,144	724,704	91,824
NY Up - Comp.	1,483,166	739,997	1,476,745	1,617,486	3,710,308
NY Off - Comp.	1,808,304	3,717,546	2,714,997	3,280,174	449,425
NYSE Amer Up	2,786	3,099	7,154	4,705	6,730
NYSE Amer Off	5,394	5,611	3,694	3,899	1,914
NASD Up	2,459,008	1,893,178	2,314,719	2,092,882	3,680,590
NASD Off	2,684,727	3,515,736	3,407,381	2,608,712	866,200
NYSE Arca Up	63,831	85,521	117,305	140,430	210,531
NYSE Arca Off	170,570	257,105	204,531	223,181	60,116
% (QCHA)	-12	-1.62	-32	-1.37	+2.07
% (QACH)	-32	+38	+4	-29	+1.88
% (QCHAQ)	+53	-1.34	+51	-47	+1.91

Market Advance/Decline Totals

Weekly Comp.	NYSE	NYSE Amer	Nasdaq	NYSE Arca
Total Issues	3,206	343	5,055	1,977
Advances	1,110	172	2,286	729
Declines	2,042	161	2,633	1,214
Unchanged	54	10	136	34
New Highs	187	14	276	146
New Lows	358	36	784	96

Week ended last Friday compared to previous Friday

NYSE Composite Daily Breadth

Daily	May 1	2	3	4	5
Issues Traded	3,096	3,094	3,095	3,065	3,073
Advances	1,212	603	1,130	868	2,549
Declines	1,776	2,398	1,841	2,108	438
Unchanged	108	93	124	89	86
New Highs	83	41	79	38	48
New Lows	35	152	104	259	49
Blocks - primary	3,934	4,515	4,349	4,793	4,727
Total (000) - primary	792,214	969,771	996,297	1,070,277	925,736
Total (000)	3,321,377	4,486,131	4,246,517	4,920,099	4,186,270

NYSE American Composite

Daily	May 1	2	3	4	5
Issues Traded	308	315	319	313	320
Advances	120	131	134	152	211
Declines	166	164	170	142	89
Unchanged	22	20	15	19	20
New Highs	3	2	7	3	8
New Lows	6	19	14	17	4
Blocks - primary	82	90	119	110	98
Total (000) - primary	8,938	9,241	11,240	8,885	9,102
Total (000)	119,385	135,638	175,583	133,918	104,719

Nasdaq

Daily	May 1	2	3	4	5
Issues Traded	4,596	4,624	4,566	4,601	4,583
Advances	2,048	1,281	2,18		

The Week In Stocks For the Major Indexes

12-Month		Weekly		Friday		Weekly		12-Month		Change From	
High	Low	High	Low	Close	Chg.	% Chg.	Chg.	% Chg.	12/30	% Chg.	
Dow Jones Indexes											
34589.77	28725.51	30 Indus	34051.70	33127.74	33674.38	-423.78	-1.24	775.01	2.36	527.13	1.59
15640.70	11999.40	20 Transp	14162.90	13828.59	14123.13	101.26	0.72	-777.72	-5.22	731.22	5.46
10617.77	838.99	15 Utilities	962.27	945.73	962.27	2.66	0.28	-44.89	-4.46	-5.13	-0.53
11689.14	9679.49	65 Comp	11293.14	11032.32	11212.97	-57.50	-0.51	-86.80	-0.77	250.14	2.28
Dow Jones Indexes											
43441.80	36056.21	US TSM Float	41501.73	40425.87	41193.76	-317.90	-0.77	-239.46	-0.58	2673.16	6.94
1056.61	876.95	US Market	1014.41	988.31	1006.80	-7.90	-0.78	-2.47	-0.25	68.97	7.35
709.84	528.30	Internet	644.54	627.77	637.71	-10.72	-1.65	-31.42	-4.70	76.98	13.73
New York Stock Exchange											
16122.58	13472.18	Comp-z	15535.89	15117.67	15380.87	-165.00	-1.06	-185.68	-1.19	196.56	1.29
9504.73	7655.99	Financial-z	8664.17	8321.68	8524.64	-175.18	-2.01	-515.09	-5.70	-144.13	-1.66
23941.25	20936.55	Health Care-z	23539.48	23260.37	23455.60	59.88	0.26	569.53	2.49	15.76	0.07
14030.84	10452.57	Energy-z	12753.53	11973.42	12349.95	-545.33	-4.23	-404.21	-3.17	-701.94	-5.38
NYSE American Stock Exchange											
4688.00	3582.25	NYSE Amer Comp	4173.10	3914.13	4023.65	-175.85	-4.19	-260.47	-6.08	-111.69	-2.70
3142.38	2510.61	Major Mkt	3138.46	3049.86	3094.13	-48.24	-1.54	153.64	5.22	156.10	5.31
Standard & Poor's Indexes											
1966.75	1615.09	100 Index	1912.23	1866.02	1902.38	-10.74	-0.56	24.24	1.29	193.21	11.30
4305.20	3577.03	500 Index	4167.87	4061.22	4136.25	-33.23	-0.80	12.91	0.31	296.75	7.73
5998.87	4996.32	Indus	5900.02	5763.64	5867.79	-32.96	-0.56	132.26	2.31	555.48	10.46
2726.61	2200.75	MidCap	2490.11	2410.22	2461.10	-29.30	-1.18	-19.85	-0.80	30.72	1.26
1315.82	1064.45	SmallCap	1147.14	1112.45	1138.97	-9.20	-0.80	-69.78	-5.77	-18.56	-1.60
Nasdaq Stock Market											
13128.05	10213.29	Comp	12235.41	11966.40	12235.41	8.83	0.07	90.75	0.75	1768.93	16.90
13667.18	10679.34	100 Index	13259.13	12982.48	13259.13	13.14	0.10	565.60	4.46	2319.37	21.20
9741.81	7178.71	Indus	8178.41	8013.30	8178.41	-16.30	-0.20	-531.25	-6.10	830.74	11.31
12643.69	9622.71	Insur	11686.65	11328.08	11541.98	-66.16	-0.57	929.27	8.76	-99.91	-0.86
4613.89	2658.90	Banks	2937.58	2658.90	2781.34	-218.77	-7.29	-1501.55	-35.06	-1263.61	-31.24
10064.25	7416.59	Computer	9962.40	9720.38	9962.40	46.12	0.47	493.23	5.21	2155.44	27.61
417.06	329.24	Telecom	392.30	380.39	384.15	-8.09	-2.06	-18.00	-4.48	12.69	3.42
Russell Indexes											
2371.04	1969.25	1000	2278.51	2219.93	2261.25	-17.91	-0.79	-3.89	-0.17	155.35	7.38
2021.35	1649.84	2000	1769.21	1718.81	1759.88	-9.11	-0.51	-79.69	-4.33	-1.37	-0.08
2499.11	2076.07	3000	2388.68	2326.89	2370.88	-18.42	-0.77	-9.69	-0.41	153.74	6.93
1592.73	1339.62	Value-v	1523.13	1473.47	1497.49	-26.40	-1.73	-53.09	-3.42	0.38	0.03
2588.53	2082.30	Growth-v	2487.43	2436.81	2487.43	2.76	0.11	74.79	3.10	329.24	15.26
3001.83	2481.47	MidCap	2781.81	2699.57	2748.30	-33.58	-1.21	-100.38	-3.52	47.63	1.76
Others											
9697.62	7679.59	Value Line-a	8924.80	8633.12	8816.42	-106.34	-1.19	51.98	0.59	286.39	3.36
606.49	491.56	Value Line-g	550.29	531.35	542.36	-7.88	-1.43	-35.51	-6.14	6.01	1.12
13782.03	11195.10	DJ US Small TSM	12237.61	11856.44	12134.91	-103.49	-0.85	-499.67	-3.95	83.80	0.70
933.75	760.10	Barron's Future Focus	873.10	852.41	868.90	-3.03	-0.35	1.14	0.13	56.73	6.99
1023.20	825.73	Barron's 400	917.12	881.58	903.58	-13.86	-1.51	-49.16	-5.16	-16.81	-1.83

High/Low's are based upon the daily closing index. a-Arithmetic Index. G-Geometric Index. V-Value 1000 and Growth 1000 y-Dec. 31,1965=50 z-Dec. 31,2002=5000

Indexes' P/Es & Yields

DJ latest 52-week earnings and dividends adjusted by Dow Divisors at Friday's close. S&P Dec. 4-quarter's GAAP earnings as reported and indicated dividends based on Friday close. S&P 500 P/E ratios based on GAAP earnings as reported. For additional earnings series, please refer to www.spglobal.com. DJ latest available book values for FY 2021 and 2020, and S&P latest for 2022 and 2021. Revised data

	Last Week	Prev. Week	Last Year
DJ Ind Avg	33674.38	34098.16	32899.37
P/E Ratio	22.08	22.36	18.84
Earnings Yield %	4.53	4.47	5.31
Earns \$	1525.04	1525.04	1746.57
Divs Yield %	2.08	2.06	1.97
Divs \$	700.37	701.89	647.31
Mkt to Book	4.53	4.58	5.03
Book Value \$	7439.45	7439.45	6543.35
DJ Trans Avg	14123.13	14021.87	14900.85
P/E Ratio	11.47	10.86	14.83
Earnings Yield %	8.72	9.21	6.74
Earns \$	1231.22	1291.61	1004.96
Divs Yield %	1.43	1.43	1.11
Divs \$	201.36	201.05	165.38
Mkt to Book	4.39	4.36	5.04
Book Value \$	3214.72	3214.72	2957.33
DJ Utility Avg	962.27	959.61	1007.16
P/E Ratio	23.29	25.78	29.47
Earnings Yield %	4.29	3.88	3.39
Earns \$	41.32	37.22	34.17
Divs Yield %	3.11	3.12	2.84
Divs \$	29.90	29.90	28.64
Mkt to Book	2.21	2.20	2.57
Book Value \$	435.47	435.47	392.45
S&P 500 Index	4136.25	4169.48	4123.34
P/E Ratio	23.94	24.14	20.84
Earnings Yield %	4.18	4.14	4.80
Earns \$	172.75	172.75	197.87
Divs Yield %	1.68	1.67	1.55
Divs \$	69.49	69.63	63.91
Mkt to Book	4.04	4.07	4.09
Book Value \$	1024.56	1024.56	1008.02
S&P Ind Index	5867.79	5900.75	5735.53
P/E Ratio	25.27	25.41	23.87
Earnings Yield %	3.96	3.93	4.19
Earns \$	232.18	232.18	240.29
Divs Yield %	1.51	1.50	1.39
Divs \$	88.60	88.51	79.72
Mkt to Book	5.35	5.38	5.50
Book Value \$	1095.83	1095.83	1042.07

Stock Volume

	Last Week	Prev. Week	Year Ago	YOY % Chg	
NYSE(a)	4,754,295	4,314,727	5,321,741	-10.66	
30 Dow Inds (b)	1,448,604	1,594,062	2,096,741	-30.91	
20 Dow Trans (b)	421,926	542,091	548,852	-23.13	
15 Dow Utilis (b)	269,981	217,025	293,902	-8.14	
65 Dow Stks (b)	2,140,512	2,353,178	2,939,495	-27.18	
NYSE American (a)	47,406	55,720	81,143	-41.58	
Nasdaq(d)	25,772,588	25,527,141	25,480,179	1.15	
NYSE 15 Most Active					
Average Price	20.53	15.22	21.47	-4.38	
% Tot Vol	14.46	16.43	14.32	0.98	
Stock Offerings \$(z,v)	5,122,700	r240,400	1,296,000	295.27	
Daily Stock Volume					
	5/1	5/2	5/3	5/4	5/5
NYSE(a)	792,214	969,771	996,297	1,070,277	925,736
30 Inds (b)	244,196.5	275,727.6	292,784.4	317,322.8	318,573.1
20 Trans (b)	89,227.7	83,908.6	83,966.3	90,613.4	74,210.0
15 Utilis (b)	56,834.7	61,219.2	49,257.7	53,768.0	48,905.7
65 Stks (b)	390,258.9	420,855.5	426,004.5	461,704.1	441,688.8
NYSE Amer(a)	8,938	9,241	11,240	8,885	9,102
Nasdaq(d)	5,168,439	5,501,415	5,782,162	4,745,781	4,574,791
NYSE 15 Most Active					
Avg. Price	17.49	15.63	15.38	22.71	15.69
% Tot Vol	15.40	16.37	14.41	18.50	16.00

Numbers in thousands save price and percentages. (a) Primary volume. (b) Composite volume. (d) as of 4:10 pm. (r) Revised. (v) W/E Thursday. (z) Source: Refinitiv.

NYSE HALF-HOURLY VOLUME

Daily	5/01	5/02	5/03	5/04	5/05
9:30-10:00	85,194	101,969	94,985	127,996	119,541
10:00-10:30	34,001	62,411	41,057	65,781	52,324
10:30-11:00	28,085	55,089	37,589	66,853	43,340
11:00-11:30	33,292	48,680	33,081	48,014	38,375
11:30-12:00	24,013	44,326	31,124	41,569	32,328
12:00-12:30	20,985	33,724	23,363	39,603	29,960
12:30-1:00	23,313	29,374	21,656	53,042	29,367
1:00-1:30	22,932	27,908	23,868	37,449	26,144
1:30-2:00	22,632	29,091	28,564	36,622	27,418
2:00-2:30	22,931	29,618	38,966	34,578	28,733
2:30-3:00	27,588	30,674	64,159	35,322	33,764
3:00-3:30	30,492	39,412	64,894	43,126	36,261
3:30-4:00	416,757	437,497	492,989	440,322	428,180

Selected IPOs

Ticker	Initial Offer Price	IPO Date	Recent Price	%Chg	
ACELYRIN	SLRN	18.00	5/5	23.50	30.6%
Kenvue	KVUE	22.00	5/4	26.50	20.5%

Investor Sentiment Readings

High bullish readings in the Consensus stock index or in the Market Vane stock index usually are signs of Market tops; low ones, market bottoms.

	Last Week	2 Weeks Ago	3 Weeks Ago
Consensus Index			
Consensus Bullish Sentiment	59%	58%	59%
AAll Index			
Bullish	24.1%	24.1%	27.2%
Bearish	44.9	38.5	35.1
Neutral	31.0	37.4	37.7
Market Vane			
Bullish Consensus	39%	38%	40%
TIM Group Market Sentiment			
Indicator	45.5%	48.7%	43.9%

Sources: Consensus Inc.; American Association of Individual Investors; Market Vane; TIM Group

DATA

MARKET LABORATORY

BARRONS.COM/DATA

Dow Jones U.S. Total Market Industry Groups

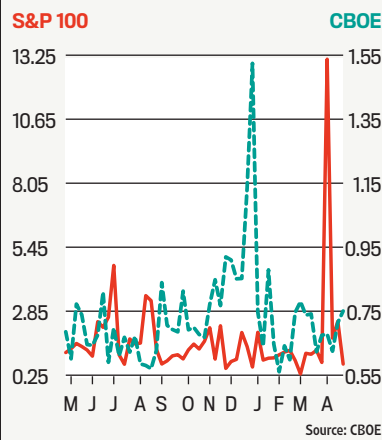
Top 20 Weekly Ranked	IG-Sym	Close	Net Change		% Change and Ranking						52 Week		
			Wkly	YTD	Week	Rank	Yr Ago	Rank	YTD	Rank	3 Yr	High	Low
Hotel & Lodging REITs	DJUSHL	93.33	+8.36	8.99	+9.83	[1]	-8.93	[102]	+10.65	[26]	+21.63	109.79	78.09
Recreational Svcs	DJUSRQ	75.21	+4.95	14.54	+7.04	[2]	-13.83	[120]	+23.96	[9]	+11.71	84.19	54.07
Brewers	DJUSDB	658.14	+41.30	101.50	+6.70	[3]	+12.78	[10]	+18.23	[14]	+9.50	660.11	519.86
Gold Mining	DJUSPM	116.71	+4.01	7.55	+3.56	[4]	-27.46	[132]	+6.91	[43]	-7.16	161.52	86.97
Travel & Tourism	DJUSST	693.80	+22.79	171.00	+3.40	[5]	+6.90	[26]	+32.71	[1]	+13.43	717.13	468.89
Mining	DJUSMG	105.86	+3.30	5.88	+3.22	[6]	-28.73	[133]	+5.88	[46]	-7.82	148.76	81.56
Railroads	DJUSRR	2917.01	+88.92	-127.34	+3.14	[7]	-12.97	[119]	-4.18	[114]	+10.71	3,426.58	2,672.25
Automobiles	DJUSAU	633.72	+18.05	138.00	+2.93	[8]	-38.96	[137]	+27.84	[7]	+40.44	1,102.17	449.86
Computer Hardware	DJUSCR	8557.48	+180.95	2,055.33	+2.16	[9]	+8.87	[18]	+31.61	[2]	+31.62	8,673.31	6,275.02
Pharmaceuticals	DJUSPR	820.42	+16.93	-20.37	+2.11	[10]	+3.69	[42]	-2.42	[103]	+10.11	862.09	737.75
Automobiles & Parts	DJUSAP	756.31	+14.61	145.54	+1.97	[11]	-35.47	[135]	+23.83	[11]	+34.20	1,247.99	562.89
Bldg Materials & Fixtures	DJUSBD	1467.32	+25.42	104.69	+1.76	[12]	+2.66	[45]	+16.88	[37]	+21.48	1,519.91	1,206.46
Hotels	DJUSLG	2734.99	+46.82	320.63	+1.74	[13]	-2.29	[71]	+13.28	[18]	+25.33	2,883.92	2,146.14
Trucking	DJUSJK	1458.74	+21.13	174.98	+1.47	[14]	+9.72	[16]	+13.63	[17]	+19.29	1,575.56	1,143.64
Construction & Materials	DJUSCN	1180.11	+17.00	80.89	+1.46	[15]	+6.28	[28]	+7.36	[42]	+23.91	1,213.30	951.66
Soft Drinks	DJUSSD	996.83	+13.11	42.21	+1.33	[16]	+7.49	[25]	+4.42	[59]	+13.46	996.83	843.99
Technology Hardware & Equip	DJUSTQ	4026.81	+51.92	882.79	+1.31	[17]	+7.52	[24]	+28.08	[6]	+25.73	4,044.02	2,996.31
Beverages	DJUSBV	1053.29	+12.35	41.60	+1.19	[18]	+6.21	[29]	+4.11	[60]	+12.97	1,053.29	902.29
Industrial & Office REITs	DJUSIO	108.59	+1.26	3.00	+1.17	[19]	-19.38	[128]	+2.84	[71]	+3.74	131.97	95.41
Industrial Transportation	DJUSIT	1506.98	+17.33	52.13	+1.16	[20]	-4.35	[85]	+3.58	[67]	+16.18	1,682.96	1,303.18

Top 20 Yr Ago Ranked	IG-Sym	Close	Net Change		% Change and Ranking						52 Week		
			Wkly	YTD	Week	Rank	Yr Ago	Rank	YTD	Rank	3 Yr	High	Low
Home Construction	DJUSHB	1704.01	-11.03	370.64	-.64	[60]	+42.04	[1]	+27.80	[8]	+29.74	1,718.32	1,003.88
Heavy Construction	DJUSHV	994.71	-.70	53.78	-.07	[41]	+29.69	[2]	+5.72	[51]	+40.52	1,046.87	701.03
Restaurants & Bars	DJUSRU	2730.02	-53.67	303.15	-1.93	[96]	+25.02	[3]	+12.49	[20]	+17.85	2,794.64	2,020.05
Gambling	DJUSCA	683.38	-7.16	155.17	-1.04	[77]	+23.20	[4]	+29.38	[4]	+7.91	705.13	420.78
Specialty Retailers	DJUSRS	2268.52	-12.61	124.95	-.55	[56]	+18.42	[5]	+5.83	[48]	+7.07	2,386.17	1,688.44
Specialized Consumer Svcs	DJUSCS	2041.13	-50.98	196.40	-2.44	[105]	+16.31	[6]	+10.65	[25]	+10.03	2,092.11	1,605.48
Industrial Machinery	DJUSFE	935.34	+3.61	66.07	+3.39	[28]	+15.21	[7]	+7.60	[38]	+18.35	970.33	713.06
Industrial Suppliers	DJUSDS	575.59	-3.22	77.84	-.56	[57]	+15.01	[8]	+15.64	[16]	+22.66	590.97	442.88
Aerospace	DJUSAS	1627.34	-39.33	47.35	-2.36	[101]	+14.50	[9]	+3.00	[70]	+20.28	1,715.44	1,217.62
Brewers	DJUSDB	658.14	+41.30	101.50	+6.70	[3]	+12.78	[10]	+18.23	[14]	+9.50	660.11	519.86
Footwear	DJUSFT	2377.66	-9.73	204.85	-.41	[52]	+12.66	[11]	+9.43	[29]	+14.94	2,413.52	1,550.01
Insurance Brokers	DJUSIB	624.94	-.16	37.14	-.02	[39]	+11.64	[12]	+6.32	[44]	+18.63	633.88	494.81
Medical Supplies	DJUSMS	1386.07	-9.80	132.67	-.70	[64]	+10.41	[13]	+10.58	[27]	+17.58	1,431.07	1,121.27
Travel & Leisure	DJUSCG	1364.64	+3.90	206.92	+2.39	[34]	+10.16	[14]	+17.87	[15]	+15.47	1,385.61	1,021.84
Industrial Engineering	DJUSIE	3026.79	-10.92	-1.70	-.36	[51]	+9.74	[15]	-.06	[93]	+22.19	3,305.30	2,352.13
Trucking	DJUSJK	1458.74	+21.13	174.98	+1.47	[14]	+9.72	[16]	+13.63	[17]	+19.29	1,575.56	1,143.64
Apparel Retailers	DJUSRA	1118.48	-18.13	-59.90	-1.60	[92]	+9.42	[17]	-5.08	[118]	+13.76	1,246.78	814.48
Computer Hardware	DJUSCR	8557.48	+180.95	2,055.33	+2.16	[9]	+8.87	[18]	+31.61	[2]	+31.62	8,673.31	6,275.02
Waste & Disposal Svcs	DJUSPC	484.21	+3.60	35.95	+7.75	[24]	+8.83	[19]	+8.02	[35]	+20.49	497.83	399.04
Integrated Oil & Gas	DJUSOL	749.38	-53.34	-41.14	-6.64	[137]	+8.83	[20]	-5.20	[119]	+29.14	837.28	603.64

Groups are weighted by capitalization. 52-week highs and lows are based on daily closes. Dec. 31, 1991=100. In the U.S. listings, % vol chg column shows the change from previous 65-day moving average. Volume figures do not reflect extended trading hours.

CBOE Put / Call Ratio vs. S&P 100

Readings in the CBOE equity put-call ratio of 60:100 and in the S&P 100 of 125:100 are considered bullish, for instance. Bearish signals flash when the equity put-call level reaches the vicinity of 30:100 and the index ratio hits 75:100.



Coming Earnings

Day	Consensus Estimate	Year Ago
Continued from page 11.		
T		
Akamai Technologies (Q1)	1.32	1.39
Apollo Global Management (Q1)	1.46	1.52
Celanese (Q1)	1.64	5.54
Duke Energy (Q1)	1.26	1.30
Electronic Arts (Q4)	1.34	1.32
Fox (Q3)	0.87	0.81
H & R Block (Q3)	4.47	4.11
Under Armour (Q4)	0.15	-0.01
Waters (Q1)	2.62	2.80

W		
Beyond Meat (Q1)	-1.01	-1.58
Cheesecake Factory (Q1)	0.59	0.47
GoodRx (Q1)	0.06	0.10
Groupon (Q1)	-0.94	-0.80
Robinhood Markets (Q1)	-0.62	-0.45
Sonos (Q2)	-0.24	0.06
The New York Times (Q1)	0.17	0.19
Walt Disney (Q2)	0.95	1.08
Wendy's (Q1)	0.20	0.17

TH		
Kelly Services (Q1)	0.30	0.46
Krispy Kreme (Q1)	0.07	0.08
UTZ Brands (Q1)	0.10	0.11
Yeti (Q1)	0.15	0.33

(Earnings are diluted and report dates are tentative. All forecasts and historical numbers exclude extraordinary items by accounting definitions.) Source: FactSet

Barron's 50-Stock Average

This index is a weighted average of 50 leading issues. Useful in security valuation. Source: Barron's Stats

	May 4 2023	Apr 27 2023	May 2022	Yr-to-Yr % Chg
S&P 500 Index	4061.22	4135.35	4008.90	1.31
Barron's 50 Index	11176.09	11373.54	11006	1.55
Projected quarterly earn	166.65	178.64	139.67	19.32
Annualized projected earn	666.60	714.55	558.68	19.32
Annualized projected P/E	16.77	15.92	19.7	-14.91
Five-year average earn	486.93	486.93	435.99	11.69
Five-year average P/E	22.95	23.36	25.2	-9.08
Year-end earn	619.08	619.08	563.98	9.77
Year-end P/E	18.05	18.37	19.5	-7.49
Year-end earnings yield, %	5.54	5.44	5.1	8.03
Best grade bond yields, %	4.60	4.54	3.51	30.96
Bond yields/stock ylds, %	0.83	0.83	0.69	21.10
Actual year-end divs	243.13	242.75	227.10	7.06
Actual yr-end divs yld, %	2.18	2.13	2.06	5.36

Yearly High/Lows Barron's 400 Index

The yearly Barron's 400 Index price, with a high/low range based on the daily close.

Year	High	Date	Low	Date
2023	1023.20	Feb 02	881.58	May 04
2021	1127.20	Nov 16	842.50	Jan 04
2020	852.20	Dec 28	455.11	Mar 23
2019	735.71	Dec 26	602.68	Jan 03
2018	786.73	Aug 29	571.68	Dec 24

Foreign Exchange

Country	Foreign Currency in U.S.\$ Fri.	Foreign Currency in U.S.\$ Last Fri.	U.S.\$ in Foreign Currency Fri.	U.S.\$ in Foreign Currency Last Fri.
Argentina (Peso)-y	.0044	.0045	226.2712	222.6248
Australia (Dollar)	.6749	.6615	1.4817	1.5117
Bahrain (Dinar)	2.6529	2.6518	3.769	3.771
Brazil (Real)	.2019	.2005	4.9519	4.9882
Bulgaria (Lev)	.5627	.5633	1.7770	1.7752
Canada (Dollar)	.7476	.7381	1.3376	1.3548
Chile (Peso)	.001259	.001239	794.03	807.00
China (Renminbi)	.1447	.1447	6.9106	6.9122
Colombia (Peso)	.0002208	.0002127	4528.00	4700.50
Czech Rep. (Koruna)	.....	.....	.....	.....
Commercial rate	.04712	.04683	21.223	21.353
Denmark (Krone)	.1479	.1478	6.7624	6.7654
Ecuador/US Dollar	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
Egypt (Pound)-y	.0323	.0324	30.9531	30.9024
Hong Kong (Dollar)	.1274	.1274	7.8481	7.8498
Hungary (Forint)	.002962	.002953	337.63	338.66
Iceland (Krona)	.007341	.007359	136.23	135.89
India (Rupee)	.01224	.01223	81.726	81.735
Indonesia (Rupiah)	.0000681	.0000682	146.75	146.72
Israel (Shekel)	.2750	.2754	3.6366	3.6310
Japan (Yen)	.007415	.007336	134.85	136.31
Kazakhstan (Tenge)	.002255	.002212	443.55	452.16
Kuwait (Dinar)	3.2644	3.2628	3.063	3.065
Macau (Pataca)	.1236	.1236	8.0890	8.0890
Malaysia (Ringgit)-b	.2254	.2242	4.4370	4.4605
Mexico (Peso)	.....	.....	.....	.....
Floating rate	.0563	.0556	17.7604	17.9958
New Zealand (Dollar)	.6292	.6171	1.5893	1.6205
Norway (Krone)	.0946	.0938	10.5710	10.6646
Oman (Rial)	2.5975	2.5973	3.850	3.850
Pakistan (Rupee)	.00352	.00352	283.850	283.700
Philippines (Peso)	.01808	.01806	55.325	55.360
Poland (Zloty)	.2409	.2403	4.1514	4.1617
Qatar (Rial)	.2746	.2743	3.6417	3.6457
Russia (Ruble)-a	.01285	.01		

DATA

MARKET LABORATORY

BARRONS.COM/DATA

Barron's Gold Mining Index

12-Month High	Low	5/4	4/27	Year Ago	Week % Chg.	
1041.55	684.61	Gold mining	904.72	891.42	1041.55	+1.49

Gold & Silver Prices

Handy & Harman	5/5	4/28	Year Ago
Gold, troy ounce	2000.95	1982.55	1882.35
Silver, troy ounce	25.62	25.07	22.47

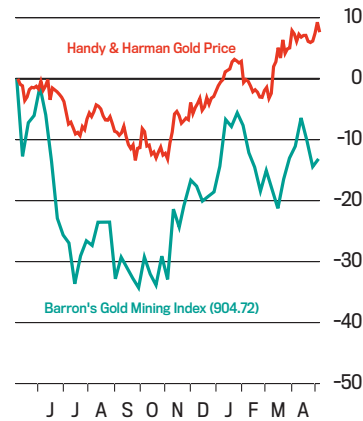
Base for pricing gold and silver contents of shipments and for making refining settlement.

Coins	Price	Premium \$	Premium %
Kruggerand	2097.68	80.68	4.00
Maple Leaf	2117.85	100.85	5.00
Mexican Peso	2439.90	8.00	0.33
Austria Crown	1980.06	3.00	0.15
Austria Phil	2117.85	100.85	5.00
U.S. Eagles	2117.85	100.85	5.00

Premium is the amount over the value of the gold content in the coin. Source: Mantra, Tordella & Brookes, Inc. Bullion spot gold price 2017

Gold Performance

Yellow Light: A potential Fed pause lifted gold 0.9% on the week, to \$2,001 an ounce.



Federal Reserve Data Bank

One week ended May 3:

Member Bank	Latest	Prev. Week	Year Ago	
Reserve Chgs. (Mil. \$)				
U.S. Gov't securities:				
Bought outright	7,825,548	-27,243	-656,463	
Federal agency secur:				
Bought outright	2,347	....	....
Reserve bank credit:				
Primary Credit	50,699	-20,344	+47,631	
Secondary Credit	....	....	....
Seasonal Credit	3	-1	-2	
Floater	-478	-308	-150	
Other F.R. Assets	44,253	-339	+2,175	
Total Fed Credit #	8,503,589	-34,986	-400,181	
Gold stock	11,041	....	....
SDR Certif. Accounts	5,200	....	....
Treas. Curr. Outst.	51,709	+14	+728	
Total	8,590,377	-34,997	-399,160	
Currency in circ	2,324,887	+2,906	+53,897	
Treas. Cash Hldgs	187	+23	+107	
Treas. Fed Deposits	269,216	-22,486	-676,262	
Foreign Fed Deposits	9,685	+1	+2,155	
Other Fed Deposits	205,086	+428	-61,159	
Other FR liab/cap	-2,080	+1,188	-2,080	
Total factors	5,500,671	+10,953	-192,781	
Reserves F.R. banks	3,089,706	-45,949	-206,379	
Fgn hold U.S. debt	3,372,842	+2,056	-52,641	
Reserve Aggr (Mil. \$)	Latest	Prev. Month	Month % Chg.	Year Ago
Month Ended March:				
Total Reserves:	3,258,400	3,021,800	7.83	3,874,700
Nonborrowed Res	3,043,100	3,006,200	1.23	3,848,500
Borrowed Reserves	215,338	15,606	1279.84	26,206
Monetary Base	5,571,000	5,321,000	4.70	6,134,400

Weekly Bond Statistics

New Offerings, (mil \$) (v)	Last Week	Prev. Week	Yr Ago
Corporate (z)	27,016	r16,764	17,531
Municipal (z)	4,764	r8,394	7,934

Best Grade Bonds-y

(Barron's index of 10 high-grade corporate bonds.)	4.60	4.54	3.68
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Interim-Grade Bonds-y

(Barron's index of 10 medium-grade corporate bonds.)	4.84	4.86	4.38
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Confidence Index

(High-grade index divided by intermediate-grade index; decline in latter vs. former generally indicates rising confidence, pointing to higher stocks.)	94.9	93.4	84.0
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Other Confidence Indicators:

Bloomberg Barclays US Long Treasury*	3339.12	3373.29	3484.14
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(This index measures the performance of fixed-rate, nominal US Treasuries with at least 10 years to maturity, Jan. 1, 1973-100.)

Bloomberg Barclays US Credit	2939.86	2929.17	2903.99
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(This index includes all publicly issued, fixed-rate, non-convertible, investment-grade, dollar-denominated, SEC-registered corporate debt.)

Ryan Labs Treasury Index

(Index of total return from active Treasury notes and bonds. Dec. 31, 1996=100.)

	274.90	272.39	281.18
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Bond Buyer 20 Bond Index

(Index of yields of 20 general obligation municipal bonds.)	3.53	3.53	3.27
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Bond Buyer Municipal Bond Index

(Index of 40 actively-traded tax-exempt bonds; component issues are changed regularly to keep the index a current picture of the market. Source: The Bond Buyer)

	4.42	4.43	4.34
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Stock/Bond Yield Gap-s

(Difference between yield on highest-grade corporate bonds and yield on stocks on the DJIA.)	-2.52	-2.48	-1.71
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Yield on DJ Equal Weight US Corp Bond Id:

Corp Bonds, (y)	5.19	5.26	4.50
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*Week ended Thursday. y-Yield to maturity, week ended Thursday. z-Source: Refinitiv. *Barclays T-Bond Index discontinued by firm.

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Member Bank	Latest	Prev. Week	Year Ago	
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Secondary Credit	
Seasonal Credit	3	-1	-2	
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Other F.R. Assets	44,253	-339	+2,175	
Total Fed Credit #	8,503,589	-34,986	-400,181	
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Month Ended March:				
Total Reserves:	3,258,400	3,021,800	7.83	3,874,700
Nonborrowed Res	3,043,100	3,006,200	1.23	3,848,500
Borrowed Reserves	215,338	15,606	1279.84	26,206
Monetary Base	5,571,000	5,321,000	4.70	6,134,400

Week's Dividend Payment

Week's Dividend Payment

This list includes payouts on common stocks.

NASDAQ

Monday (May 8)	0.05	0.188
Old Second Bancorp	0.05	
Schnitzer Steel Inds	0.188	

Tuesday (May 9)

Codorus Valley Bancorp <td>0.16</td> <td></td>	0.16	
Concentrix	0.275	
Cracker Barrel	1.30	

Wednesday (May 10)

ASML Holding <td>1.839</td> <td></td>	1.839	
Hingham Institution Savs	0.63	
Krispy Kreme	0.035	
Ohio Valley Banc	0.22	

Thursday (May 11)

Cal-Maine Foods <td>2.20</td> <td></td>	2.20	
Dorchester Minerals	0.99	
TriMas Corp	0.04	

Friday (May 12)

1st Source <td>0.32</td> <td></td>	0.32	
Banner	0.48	
Capital Product Partners	0.15	
Coca-Cola Consolidated	0.50	
CSW Industrials	0.19	
Green Plains Partners	0.455	
Home Bancorp	0.25	
MetroCity Bankshares	0.18	
Premier Financial	0.31	
RBB Bancorp	0.16	
Sierra Bancorp	0.23	

Saturday (May 13)

NONE		
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Sunday (May 14)

NONE		
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Dividend Payment Boosts

Company Name-Ticker Symbol (Exchange)	Adjusted Yield	Period	To	From	Increase	%	Record Date	Ex-Div Date	Payment Date
Adecoagro-AGRO (NYSE)	3.7	S	.1626	.160201	1.5%	5-09	5-08	5-24	
Allied Motion Techs-AMOT (Nasdaq)	0.3	Q	.03	.025	20.0	5-18	5-17	6-01	
American Intl Group-AIG (NYSE)	2.4	Q	.36	.32	12.5	6-16	6-15	6-30	
Blue Owl Capital-OWL (NYSE)	5.1	Q	.14	.13	7.7	5-19	5-18	5-31	
Carlyle Group-CG (Nasdaq)	5.1	Q	.35	.325	7.7	5-16	5-15	5-23	
Chesapeake Utilities-CPK (NYSE)	1.7	Q	.59	.535	10.3	6-15	6-14	7-05	
Civista Bancshares-CIVB (NCM)	3.8	Q	.15	.14	7.1	5-09	5-08	5-24	
ConnectOne Bancorp-CNOB (Nasdaq)	4.7	Q	.17	.155	9.7	5-15	5-12	6-01	
Customers Bncp Pfd. E-CUBiPE (NYSE)	12.7	Q	.639291	.619313	3.2	5-31	5-30	6-15	
Delek US Hldgs-DK (NYSE)	4.2	Q	.23	.22	4.5	5-15	5-12	5-22	
Enerflex-EFXT (NYSE)	1.2	Q	.0183	.018115	1.0	5-18	5-17	7-06	
Esquire Fin Hldgs-ESQ (NCM)	1.1	Q	.125	.10	25.0	5-15	5-12	6-01	
Expeditors Intl of Wash-EXPD (Nasdaq)	1.1	S	.69	.67	3.0	6-01	5-31	6-15	
FactSet Research Systems-FDS (NYSE)	1.0	Q	.98	.89	10.1	5-31	5-30	6-15	
First Majestic Silver-AG (NYSE)	0.3	Q	.0057	.0054	5.6	5-18	5-17	6-09	
Fresh Del Monte Produce-FDP (NYSE)	2.3	Q	.20	.15	33.3	5-17	5-16	6-09	
Griffon-GFF (NYSE)	1.3	Q	.125	.10	25.0	5-25	5-24	6-15	
Imperial Oil-IMO (NYSE AMER)	2.8	Q	.3674	.323458	13.6	6-02	6-01	7-01	
Imnospec-IOSP (Nasdaq)	1.3	S	.69	.65	6.2	5-22	5-19	5-31	
Loggett & Platt-LEG (NYSE)	5.4	Q	.46	.44	4.5	6-15	6-14	7-14	
NSA Safety-MSA (NYSE)	1.4	Q	.47	.46	2.2	5-16	5-15	6-10	
National Healthcare-NHC (NYSE AMER)	4.1	Q	.59	.57	3.5	6-30	6-29	7-31	
NewMarket-NEU (NYSE)	2.3	Q	2.25	2.10	7.1	6-15	6-14	7-03	
North Eur Oil Royalty Tr-NRT (NYSE)	22.3	Q	1.05	1.00	5.0	5-19	5-18	5-31	
Northern Oil & Gas-NOG (NYSE)	4.3	Q	.37	.34	8.8	6-29	6-28	7-31	
Parker Hannifin-PH (NYSE)	1.8	Q	1.48	1.33	11.3	5-12	5-11	6-02	
Paychex-PAYX (Nasdaq)	3.3	Q	.89	.79	12.7	5-11	5-10	5-25	
PCB Bancorp-PCB (Nasdaq)	5.2	Q	.18	.15	20.0	5-12	5-11	5-19	
PepsiCo-PEP (Nasdaq)	2.4	Q	1.265	1.15	10.0	6-02	6-01	6-30	
RLI Corp-RLI (NYSE)	0.8	Q	.27	.26	3.8	5-31	5-30	6-20	
Ryerson Holding-RYI (NYSE)	1.9	Q	.18	.17	5.9	6-01	5-31	6-15	
Ryman Hospitality Prop-RHP (NYSE)	1.6	Q	1.00	.75	33.3	6-09	6-08	7-06	
Scorpio Tankers-STNG (NYSE)	1.7	Q	.25	.20	25.0	6-13	6-12	6-30	
Simon Property Group-SPG (NYSE)	6.6	Q	1.85	1.80	2.8	6-09	6-08	6-30	
Summit Hotel Properties-INN (NYSE)	3.6	Q	.06	.04	50.0	5-17	5-16	5-31	
TELUS Corp.-TU (NYSE)	4.9	Q	.267589	.258447	3.5	6-09	6-08	7-04	
UGI-UGI (NYSE)	4.7	Q	.375	.36	4.2	6-15	6-14	7-01	
Vistra-VST (NYSE)	3.4	Q	.204	.1975	3.3	6-21	6-20	6-30	
Watts Water Tech-WTS (NYSE)	0.7	Q	.36	.30	20.0	6-01	5-31	6-15	
Wayco Group-WEYS (Nasdaq)	3.7	Q	.25	.24	4.2	5-26	5-25	6-30	

Dividend Payment Reductions

Company Name-Ticker Symbol (Exchange)	Adjusted Yield	Period
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DATA

MARKET LABORATORY

BARRONS.COM/DATA

Week's New Highs and Lows

NYSE
187 **358**
 New Highs New Lows

Nasdaq
276 **784**
 New Highs New Lows

NYSE American
14 **36**
 New Highs New Lows

Only includes COMMON and REIT stocks

NYSE American

NEW HIGHS

- AultDisruptive
- Birks
- BlueRiverA
- CatchainvTA
- Chase
- CoreMoldingTech
- GalianoGold
- HNR Acqn
- NewGold
- NorthernStrIIA
- ProtalixBio
- Servotronics
- TRX Gold

NEW LOWS

- AlmadenMinerals
- AmbowEduc
- AmpioPharm
- BarHarborBkshs
- BattalionOil
- BlueRidgeBkshs
- cbdMD
- ChicagoRivet
- EmpirePetrol
- EvansBancorp
- FranklinStProp
- Globalstar
- GranTierraEner
- HoustonAmEner
- InnSuitesHosp
- MultiWays
- NightHawkBio
- NovaBayPharm
- Nuburu
- Oragenics
- PalatinTech
- ParkNational
- PolymetMining
- PowerREIT
- RaMedicalSys
- RetractableTechs
- Southland
- TompkinsFin
- UraniumEner

Nasdaq

NEW HIGHS

- 10xGenomics
- 26CapAcqnA
- 7GC A
- A SPAC II
- AAON
- Abcam
- AcadiaPharm
- Accuray
- ACELYRIN
- AchieveLifeSci
- ACV Auctions
- AGM
- AlphaStarAcqn
- AlphaTimeAcqn
- ApellisPharm
- AppliedTherap

- AquestiveTherap
- Arcellx
- ArchCapital
- AtlasLithium
- Augmedix
- AuraFatProjectsA
- AvadelPharm
- AvitaMedical
- AxonEnterprise
- AxonPrimeInfrA
- BaoshengMedia
- Belfuse A
- Belfuse B
- BellevueLifeSci
- BetterWorld
- Biogen
- BioPlusAcqnA
- BitDigital
- Blackbaud
- BookingHldgs
- Bruker
- CabalettaBio
- CaliditasTherap
- CarrolsRestr
- CarticaAcqnA
- CasellaWaste
- ChainBridgeIA
- ChengheAcqnA
- ChurchillDowns
- Coca-ColaEuro
- CocaColaCon
- CodaOctopus
- CogentComm
- CommVehicle
- Copart
- Corvel
- CovenantLogist
- CresceraCapA
- CrineticsPharm
- CueBioPharma
- Cvent
- CymaBayTherap
- DataKnightsA
- DentsplySirona
- DiscMedicine
- DPcapAcqnIA
- DraftKings
- Enstar
- Ent4.0TechAcqnA
- Escalade
- Eyenovia
- FifthWallIII A
- FinStrategiesA
- FirstCash
- FirstService
- GaleraTherap
- GardinerHlthcr
- GD Culture
- GrandCanyonEduc
- GreencityAcqn
- HarrowHealth
- HarvardBioSci
- HitekGlobal
- Hologic
- ApellisPharm
- AppliedTherap

- HuizeHolding
- HuronConsulting
- IES Holdings
- IkenaOncology
- Immunogen
- Immunovant
- Insulet
- IntegralAd
- InterDigital
- Intra-Cellular
- IntuitiveSurgical
- iRadimed
- Itron
- IVERICbio
- JackintheBox
- Jiayin
- LancasterColony
- Lantheus
- LeMaitreVascular
- LeonardDRS
- LexiconPharm
- LibertyBraves C
- LigandPharm
- LiveOne
- LongboardPharm
- lululemon
- MadrigalPharm
- MamaMancini's
- MaquiaCapital
- MarinusPharm
- Marriott
- MatthewsIntl
- MeritMedical
- MetaPlatforms
- Microsoft
- MidwestHolding
- MiMedx
- MonsterBev
- MoonLakeImm
- Morphic
- Mountain A
- MYR Group
- Nanobiotix
- NatlInstrments
- NewcourAcqnA
- Nexters
- NVE
- NVIDIA
- OlemaPharm
- OneSpaWorld
- OpenText
- OReillyAuto
- OSI Systems
- OSI Systems
- OSI Systems
- PapayaGrowth A
- PepsiCo
- PerpetuaRscs
- PlayaHotels
- PowellIndustries
- PreformedLine
- PrometheusBio
- ProtagonistTherap
- Prothena
- PTC Therap
- PulseBiosciences
- QuadroAcqnOneA
- RadNet
- ReataPharm
- RedRockResorts
- RemitlyGlobal
- RevivaPharm
- RoyalGold
- RuthsHospitality
- RxSight
- Sanfilippo
- scPharm
- Selectivels
- Sentage
- ShuaaPrsrl A
- SI-BONE
- SignalHillA
- SilverspacA
- SovosBrands
- SpokHoldings
- SproutsFarmers
- Starbucks
- SterlingInfr
- StoneBridgeA
- StoneCo
- SuperMicroComp
- TactileSystems
- TargetGlbI A
- TaylorDevices
- TesscoTech
- TexasRoadhouse
- TG Therap
- TGVentureAcqn
- TianRuixiang

NEW LOWS

- 1895Bancorp
- 1stdibs.com
- 1stSource
- 2U
- 8x8
- 908Devices
- 9MetersBiopharma
- Abcsi
- AcelRxPharm
- ACELYRIN
- ACNB
- ActelisNtwks
- AccurPharm
- Adamis
- AdaptHealth
- ADDvantage
- Adtran
- AdvEmissions
- AdventTech
- AdvHlthInt
- Aemetis
- AerwinsTech
- AEye
- AFC Gamma
- AffinityBncshs
- AgileTherap
- AgileThought
- Agriforce
- AirTransportSvcs
- Alarm.com
- AlerusFinancial
- Alico
- AllarityTherap
- Alpha&Omega
- AlphaTeknova
- Alpine4
- AltamiraTherap
- AITIGlobal
- Altongred
- AmalgamFin
- AMC Networks
- AmerantBncpA
- AmericanRscs
- AmerisBancorp
- AmesNational
- AmnTUBsch
- AN2 Therap
- Anghami
- Apexigen
- AppliedMolecular
- AppliedUV
- ApraTherap
- Crexendo
- CrossFirstBkshs
- CSG Systems
- CtznCmntyBcp
- CueHealth
- CumberlandPharm
- CumulusMedia
- CuriosityStream
- CVB Fin
- CyclacelPharm
- CyclerionTherap
- CyteraGroup
- DarioHealth
- AviatNetworks
- Avinger
- AXT

- AytuBioPharma
- BallardPower
- BancFirst
- BankFinancial
- BankFirst
- BankJaysFinl
- BankofMarinBncp
- BankofSC
- BankOZK
- BankwellFin
- Banner
- BaudaxBio
- BayCom
- BayFirstFinancial
- BCB Bancorp
- BeamGlobal
- Berry(bry)
- Big5SportingGds
- BigCommerce
- Biolase
- BionanoGenom
- BioNTech
- BitNileMetaverse
- BladeAir
- BlueStarFoods
- BogotaFinl
- BonNaturalLife
- Brainsway
- BridgewaterBcshs
- Brightcove
- BrooklineBcp
- BurgerFilntI
- BusFirstBcshs
- CalAmp
- CaliforniaBncp
- CambridgeBncp
- CamdenNational
- CanopyGrowth
- CapitolFedFin
- CapStarFin
- CarterBkshrs
- CatalystBncp
- CathayGenBncp
- CB FinSvcs
- CBK Energy
- CBInternational
- Celularity
- CentralGarden
- Cerus
- CF Bankshares
- CFSB Bancorp
- ChainBridgeIA
- ChargeEnt
- ChemungFinl
- ChickenSoupA
- Children'sPlace
- AgileTherap
- Cinedigm
- Citizens&Northern
- CivistaBcshrs
- Clearfield
- CleverLeaves
- CmntyTrBcp
- CNB FinPA
- Co-Diagnostics
- Codexis
- CodorusValleyBncp
- Alpine4
- AltamiraTherap
- AITIGlobal
- Altongred
- AmalgamFin
- AMC Networks
- AmerantBncpA
- AmericanRscs
- AmerisBancorp
- AmesNational
- AmnTUBsch
- AN2 Therap
- Anghami
- Apexigen
- AppliedMolecular
- AppliedUV
- ApraTherap
- Crexendo
- CrossFirstBkshs
- CSG Systems
- CtznCmntyBcp
- CueHealth
- CumberlandPharm
- CumulusMedia
- CuriosityStream
- CVB Fin
- CyclacelPharm
- CyclerionTherap
- CyteraGroup
- GI Biopharma
- HallofFameResort
- HalozymeTherap
- HancockWhitney
- HamfiFinancial
- HarborOneBncp

- DigitalBrands
- DimeCommBcshs
- DISH Network
- DixieGroup
- DuluthHoldings
- Dynatronics
- E-HomeHousehold
- EagleBancorp
- EagleBncpMT
- EasternBankshares
- EastsideDistilling
- EBET
- ECB Bancorp
- Edgio
- EdibleGarden
- EducDev
- EncoreCapital
- EnterpriseBncp
- EnterpriseFinSvcs
- EQRx
- Equillum
- EquityBcshs
- ESSA Bancorp
- ESSA Bancorp
- Everbridge
- Evogene
- ExelaTech
- EzFill
- FaradayFuture
- FarmerBros
- FarmersBancp
- ImperialPetrol
- IndepBankMI
- IndependentBank
- IndependentBank
- InnovizTech
- Inspirato
- IntelligentBio
- InteractStrength
- IntuitiveMachinesA
- Investar
- IturanLocation
- JayudGlbLLogistics
- JE Cleantech
- Jewett-Cameron
- JinMedicalIntl
- JohnMarshallBncp
- JupiterWellnessA
- KearnyFinancial
- KeurigDrPepper
- Knightscope
- KodiakSciences
- LakelandBcp
- LakelandFin
- LandmarkBncp
- Largo
- Lavoro
- LCNB
- LeeEnterprises
- LegalZoom
- LendingTree
- Leslie's
- LexariaBioscience
- Lifevantage
- Lightbridge
- Lilium
- LINKBANCORP
- Lipocine
- LordstownMotors
- LutherBurbank
- MagyarBancorp
- MainStreetBcshs
- ManhattanBridge
- Mannatech
- MarinSoftware
- Marpai
- MatchGroup
- Matterport
- GMedInnov
- GoPro
- GorillaTech
- GreatSouthernBncp
- GreeneCnty
- GreenlandTech
- GreenLightBio
- GridDynamics
- GromSocialEnts
- Groupm
- GT Biopharma
- HallofFameResort
- HalozymeTherap
- HancockWhitney
- MidPennBancorp
- MidSouthBncp

- HarpoonTherap
- Harte-Hanks
- HawthornBcsh
- HealthEquity
- HeartlandFinUSA
- HeliusMedical
- Hempacco
- HeritageCommerce
- HeritageFin
- HF Foods
- HighPeakEner
- HinghamSvg
- Histogen
- HMN Fin
- HomeBancorp
- HomeStreet
- HomeTrustBcshs
- Honest
- Hongli
- HopeBancorp
- HorizonBancorp
- HubCyberSecurity
- HuntingtonBcshs
- Hurco
- Hydrofarm
- IcahnEnterprises
- Identiv
- iHeartMedia
- IM Cannabis
- iMediaBrands
- ImperialPetrol
- IndepBankMI
- IndependentBank
- IndependentBank
- InnovizTech
- Inspirato
- IntelligentBio
- InteractStrength
- IntuitiveMachinesA
- Investar
- isun
- IturanLocation
- JayudGlbLLogistics
- JE Cleantech
- Jewett-Cameron
- JinMedicalIntl
- JohnMarshallBncp
- JupiterWellnessA
- KearnyFinancial
- KeurigDrPepper
- Knightscope
- KodiakSciences
- LakelandBcp
- LakelandFin
- LandmarkBncp
- Largo
- Lavoro
- LCNB
- LeeEnterprises
- LegalZoom
- LendingTree
- Leslie's
- LexariaBioscience
- Lifevantage
- Lightbridge
- Lilium
- LINKBANCORP
- Lipocine
- LordstownMotors
- LutherBurbank
- MagyarBancorp
- MainStreetBcshs
- ManhattanBridge
- Mannatech
- MarinSoftware
- Marpai
- MatchGroup
- Matterport
- GMedInnov
- GoPro
- GorillaTech
- GreatSouthernBncp
- GreeneCnty
- GreenlandTech
- GreenLightBio
- GridDynamics
- GromSocialEnts
- Groupm
- GT Biopharma
- HallofFameResort
- HalozymeTherap
- HancockWhitney
- MidPennBancorp
- MidSouthBncp

- MidWestOneFin
- MillerKnoll
- Minim
- MINK Therap
- MiomatrixMed
- Missfresh
- MobileGIBEsports
- ModivCare
- Momentum
- MoneyGram
- MonoparTherap
- MontaukRenew
- MotorcarParts
- MSP Recovery
- MullenAuto
- MySize
- Nanobiotix
- NatlBankshares
- NauticusRobot
- Nayax
- NBT Bancorp
- NCS Multistage
- NecessityRetail
- NeoVolta
- NetScout
- NeuroMetrix
- NewellBrands
- Newmark
- NewtekOne
- NFTGaming
- NI
- NicholasFin
- Nogin
- NortechSystems
- NorthernTrust
- Inforbid
- NorthfieldBanc
- NorthwestBcshs
- NSTS Bancorp
- NutexHealth
- NV5Global
- OceanFirstFin
- OceanPal
- Ocugen
- OfficeProplnncm
- Olaplex
- Old2ndBcp
- OldNatlBncp
- OldPointFinl
- OncologyInst
- OncoSecMed
- OP Bancorp
- OPgen
- OptionCare
- OrangeCityBncp
- OrbitalInfr
- OrganiGram
- Orgenesis
- OriginBancorp
- OrstownFinSvcs
- PacificPremBncp
- PacificWestBncp
- PAM Transport
- ParkeBancorp
- PartnersBancorp
- PassheaTherap
- PathfinderBncp
- PatriotNatBncp
- PattersonUTIEE
- PaxMedica
- PBX Bankshares
- PCB Bancorp
- PeapackGladFinl
- PeoplesBncpNC
- PeoplesBncpOH
- PeoplesFinSvcs
- Peraso
- PetMedExpress
- PinnacleFinPtrs
- PioneerBancorp
- PolarPower
- PolyPid
- Poncfinl
- PopCulture
- PorchGroup
- PowerbridgeTech
- PreferredBankLA
- Premier
- PremierFinl
- PresidioProperty
- PrimsFinl
- PrincetonBncp
- PriorityTech
- ProFrac
- ProvidentBncp
- ProvidentFin
- PubMatic
- QCR Holdings
- Quantum-Si

- QuantumComp
- QuickStreet
- RackspaceTech
- RamacoRscs
- RapidMicro
- RBB Bancorp
- RealGoodFood
- RealReal
- Recruiter.com
- RecursionPharm
- RedHillBio
- RedRiverBcshs
- RelayTherap
- Renasant
- RepublicBcpKYA
- RepublicFirstBncp
- ResearchFrontiers
- ResourcesConnect
- RetailOppor
- Nayax
- ReWalkRobotics
- RF Industries
- RGC Resources
- RhinebeckBncp
- RichmondMutBncp
- RigettiComp
- RiminiStreet
- RiverviewBncp
- RMR Group
- RVL Pharm
- S&T Bancorp
- Sabre
- SafetyInsurance
- SalisburyBancorp
- SandySpringBncp
- SangamoTherap
- SaverOne2014
- SB Financial
- ScrippsEW
- SCWorx
- SeacoastBkgFL
- SelinaHosp
- SenecaFoods B
- SensusHealthcare
- ShiftPixy
- Shineco
- ShoreBankshares
- SierraBancorp
- SimmonsFirstNat
- SingingMachine
- SingularGenomics
- SiNtXTech
- SleepNumber
- SmartFinancial
- SmartforLife
- SocketMobile
- Soligenix
- SoMo Bancorp
- SonnetBio
- SoundFirstBncp
- SouthernFinBcsh
- SouthernStBcsh
- SouthPlainsFin
- SouthsideBcshs
- SouthState
- SPAR Group
- SpartanNash
- SproutSocial
- Staffing360
- StarEquity
- StarWi
- SteelConnect
- StellarBancorp
- StepStone
- StockYardsBncp
- Strattec
- SummitFin
- SunPower
- SunRun
- SunshineBio
- Sunworks
- SuperCom
- Synaptics
- T Stamp
- T2Biosystems
- TandemDiabetes
- TangoTherap
- TaskUs
- TCBioPharm
- TD Holdings
- TD Target
- Telos
- TempoAutomation
- TenaxTherap
- TerritorialBncp
- TexasCapBcshs
- TexasCommBcshs

- TFS Fin
- ThirdCoastBcshs
- TimberlandBncp
- TivicHealth
- TMT Acqn
- ToughBuiltInds
- TowneBank
- TravereTherap
- Trevena
- TricoBankshares
- Trimble
- TripAdvisor
- Trupanion
- TrustcoBank
- Trustmark
- TTEC
- TTM Tech
- TuSimple
- TwinVee
- TwistBiosci
- UcommuneIntl
- Udemy
- UMB Fin
- UnionBankshares
- UnitedBkshrsWV
- UnitedHomes
- UnitedSecBcshrs
- UnityBancorp
- UnivElectro
- UnvestFin
- UPFintech
- Upstart
- Upwork
- UraniumRoyalty
- USCB Financial
- UtdCmtyBks
- ValleyNatlBncp
- Valveva
- VandaPharm
- Vandermaxing
- Veradigm
- VerbTech
- Veritex
- Semtech
- VersaBank
- ViaRenewables
- ViaviSolutions
- View
- ViewRay
- VinciPartners
- ViractaTherap
- ViraxBiobals
- VisliskTech
- Vitru
- voxeljet
- Vroom
- VyantBio
- WashingtonFederal
- WashTrBcp
- WaterstoneFinl
- Wejo
- WesBanco
- WestAmericaBncp
- WestBancorp
- WestNewEngBncp
- WestportFuelSys
- WeTrade
- WheelerREIT
- WilliamPennBncp
- WindtreeTherap
- Workhorse
- WFSF Financial
- XcelBrands
- Xometry
- XWELL
- YanFuGangIntl
- ZappEV
- Zenia
- ZeroFox
- ZiffDavis
- ZionsBancorp
- ZoomInfoTech
- Zscaler
- Zumiez
- Zurabio
- ZynerbaPharm

- AresAcqnA
- AresMgmt
- AthenaTechIIA
- BWX Tech
- BadgerMeter
- BeazerHomes
- BellRing
- BerkHathwy A
- BerkHathwy B
- BiglariB
- BiglariA
- BostonSci
- BoydGaming
- BuildersFirst
- BurfordCapital
- CGI
- CardinalHealth
- CarpenTerTech
- Cemex
- CenturyComm
- Chipotle
- ChurchillVI A
- ChurchillVII A
- CleanHarbors
- Clorox
- Coca-Cola FemsA
- ComfortSystems
- EngGr-Cmg C
- CervecerasUnid
- ComputeHlthA
- ConcordAcqnIIA
- ConcordAcqnIII A
- Core&Main
- CorpAmAirports
- DeltaCapital
- EnelChile
- EroCopper
- EveMobilityA
- EverestConsolA
- EquovaWater
- FairIsaac
- Ferrari
- Flowserve
- FomentoEconMex
- Forestar
- Franco-Nevada
- FreedomI A
- FusionAcqnIIA
- GFLEnvironmental
- Gallagher
- GatesIndustrial
- GeneralElec
- GeneralMills
- GoldFields
- Graco
- GraphicPkg
- GreenBrickPtrs
- HarmonyGold
- Harsco
- Hershey
- Hexcel
- Hims&HersHealth
- DR Horton
- HowmetAerospace
- Hubbell
- HubSpot
- HysterYaleMatls
- IamGold
- Ingredion
- KB Home
- KBR
- Kenvue
- KinrossGold
- LambWeston
- LasVegasSands
- LejuHoldings
- Lennar A
- Lennar B
- LennoxIntl
- LifeTime
- ElLilly
- Linde
- MDC Holdings
- MGM Resorts
- MI Homes
- MSC Industrial
- MSG Sports
- MarineProducts
- Marsh&MLen
- MartinMarietta
- Materion
- MauiLand

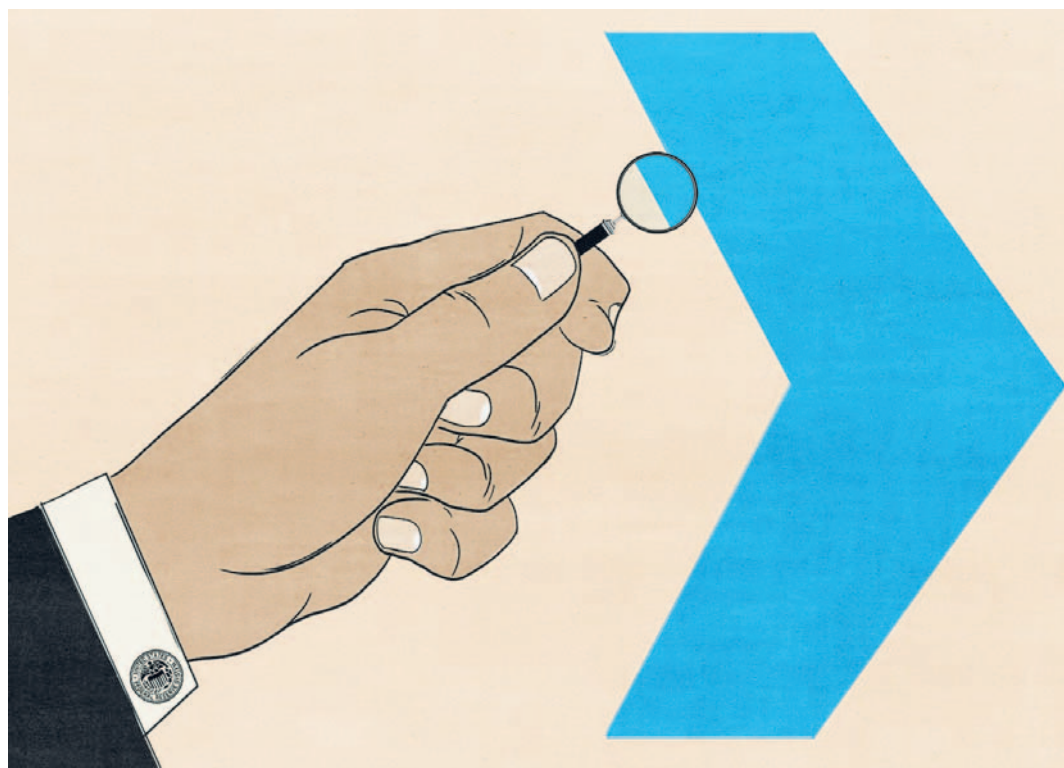
- McDonald's
- Merck
- MolsonCoorsB
- MotorolaSol
- MuellerWater
- NaborsEnerA
- NewMarket
- NorthAmConstr
- OnHoldng
- Oracle
- OsiskoGold
- OwensCorning
- PG&E
- ProofAcqnIA
- Penumbra
- PerformanceFood
- PulteGroup
- QuantaServices
- RCF Acqn A
- RadianGroup
- RentokIllint
- RestaurantBrands
- RoperTech
- SAP
- SelectMedical
- ShakeShack
- Shopyfy
- SilverBoxIIIA
- SimpsonMfg
- SkchersUSA
- SkylineChamp
- Snap-On
- SoloBrands
- StandExnt
- DRDGOLD
- DrReddy'sLab
- EagleMaterials
- Ecolab
- EdisonIntl
- EldoradoGold
- EnelChile
- EroCopper
- EveMobilityA
- EverestConsolA
- EquovaWater
- FairIsaac
- Ferrari
- Flowserve
- FomentoEconMex
- Forestar
- Franco-Nevada
- FreedomI A
- FusionAcqnIIA
- GFLEnvironmental
- Gallagher
- GatesIndustrial
- GeneralElec
- GeneralMills
- GoldFields
- Graco
- GraphicPkg
- GreenBrickPtrs
- HarmonyGold
- Harsco
- Hershey
- Hexcel
- Hims&HersHealth
- DR Horton
- HowmetAerospace
- Hubbell
- HubSpot
- HysterYaleMatls
- IamGold
- Ingredion
- KB Home
- KBR
- Kenvue
- KinrossGold
- LambWeston
- LasVegasSands
- LejuHoldings
- Lennar A
- Lennar B
- LennoxIntl
- LifeTime
- ElLilly
- Linde
- MDC Holdings
- MGM Resorts
- MI Homes
- MSC Industrial
- MSG Sports
- MarineProducts
- Marsh&MLen
- MartinMarietta
- Materion
- MauiLand

- BylineBancorp
- CIGT
- CS Disco
- CVR Energy
- CVS Health
- CadenceBank
- CapitalOne
- Cato
- BiglariB
- OsiskoGold
- OwensCorning
- PG&E
- ProofAcqnIA
- Penumbra
- PerformanceFood
- PulteGroup
- QuantaServices
- RCF Acqn A
- RadianGroup
- RentokIllint
- RestaurantBrands
- RoperTech
- SAP
- SelectMedical
- ShakeShack
- Shopyfy
- SilverBoxIIIA
- SimpsonMfg
- SkchersUSA
- SkylineChamp
- Snap-On
- SoloBrands
- StandExnt
- DRDGOLD
- DrReddy'sLab
- EagleMaterials
- Ecolab
- EdisonIntl
- EldoradoGold
- EnelChile
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- MartinMarietta
- Materion
- MauiLand

- Merck
- MolsonCoorsB
- MotorolaSol
- MuellerWater
- NaborsEnerA
- NewMarket
- NorthAmConstr
- OnHoldng
- Oracle
- OsiskoGold
- OwensCorning
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- PulteGroup
- QuantaServices
- RCF Acqn A
- RadianGroup
- RentokIllint
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- RoperTech
- SAP
- SelectMedical
- ShakeShack

OTHER VOICES

The Federal Reserve's review of the Silicon Valley Bank failure is revealing for what it omits. It may not be ready for the fallout if more banks fail.



Will the Fed Be Ready If More Banks Fail?

The Federal Reserve's report on Silicon Valley Bank is a revealing document, both for what it says and for what it omits. A careful reading of the report suggests that the banking industry is headed for further difficulty, and that the Federal Reserve's supervision needs to improve if it expects to handle it successfully.

The report was prepared by Michael Barr, the Fed Board of Governor's vice chair for supervision, and released at the end of April. The report presents a deep chronology of events leading to Silicon Valley Bank's ultimate failure. It confirms

BY THOMAS HOENIG

Hoenig is a former vice chairman of the FDIC, former president and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, and a distinguished senior fellow with the Mercatus Center at George Mason University.

what the world already suspected: Silicon Valley Bank was poorly managed and supervised. Management was careless, disregarding fundamental principles of banking. Its business model was highly concentrated in both its assets and liabilities. The bank paid too little attention to its liquidity and asset-liability-management practices.

The report notes that the bank appeared adequately capitalized under risk-weighted capital requirements. However, the report missed an important point about the securities that suffered a nearly \$2 billion loss, triggering depositors' initial concerns: Under current capital rules, those securities required little investor capital to fund

them. As losses mounted, capital was quickly depleted and Silicon Valley Bank's solvency brought into question. As you would expect, uninsured depositors pulled their deposits from the bank, assuring its failure.

The report also confirmed that the Fed's supervision of Silicon Valley Bank was woefully inadequate. Supervisors identified management weaknesses starting in 2017 but did too little to force management to improve its practices right up to the time of failure. The examiners did their job in finding weaknesses within the bank. Letters were sent to management, warnings were given, and informal supervisory actions were discussed, although none were taken.

The Fed is organized so that different supervisors are responsible for different-size banks. This bureaucracy delayed critical actions to correct management weaknesses. The idea behind this process is to place larger institutions in more-experienced hands. The effect should have been to accelerate the supervisory actions. That did not happen.

The report also discussed the possibility that things would have gone better had Congress not weakened rules that would have required the Fed to apply more-stringent stress tests on banks of Silicon Valley Bank's size. But given how poorly the Fed performed with the vast powers it possesses, this seems a moot point.

While the report is deep in detail, there are significant aspects of the supervisory process that are begging for answers. For example, the report often refers to "the supervisors," but who are they? There was little discussion of the Fed's chain of command and how findings are reported and supervisory actions determined. The report discusses interviews with examiners, but what about those who make the final decisions?

Consensus-building seemed to be the theme of the report, but this raises the question of accountability for supervision. The report mentions a Feb. 14 briefing to the Board of Governors, but describes it as "informational in nature." It would be important to know what the head of

supervision at the San Francisco Federal Reserve Bank recommended to the director of supervision at the Board of Governors. How were their conclusions communicated to the vice chairman for supervision at the Board of Governors? And did conversations occur between the vice chairman and the chairman of the Fed and other members of the Board of Governors? Who ultimately is responsible? This is a critical aspect of supervisory oversight, and the Fed's report fails to address it.

The report provides documents showing that supervisors sent letters to the institution's board of directors, and that it appears they met with the board one time, but it doesn't discuss whether they held additional meetings to emphasize management's lack of response. The board of directors has ultimate responsibility for bank policies and management performance. Such meetings can have a major impact on how directors and management respond to supervisory findings.

Finally, a critical conclusion that can be drawn from the report is that circumstances around these supervisory weaknesses are probably systemic. The Fed has followed a course of easy money and encouraged greater risks within the industry for over a decade. The banking industry has responded by taking on a greater degree of credit and market risk, and supervisors have responded by accepting this trend. Now, the Fed is reversing policy, and the industry must follow.

Silicon Valley Bank was among the first to fall because its management apparently was the weakest among bank managers. But while that bank was poorly managed, its assets' risks are not all that different from those of other banks.

The industry holds trillions of dollars of securities and loans, the quality of which are being tested as interest rates rise, placing downward pressure on asset values and straining the repayment ability of borrowers. We can expect more trouble ahead, and the question that remains is whether the fallout can be managed. **B**

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Numbers by Barron's, which breaks down the markets, is available wherever you listen to podcasts.



No Good Options for The Fed?

To the Editor:

While your cover story is comprehensive and well written, I beg to differ with Megan Cassella's conclusion of there being "no good options" ("Fed on the Edge," April 28). Modest fiscal policy help (rather than hindrance) would improve the chances of taming inflation with less economic damage. Without some help on the fiscal side, the Federal Reserve will probably break something and end up with high interest rates and high inflation (stagflation).

H.P. Gates

On Barrons.com

To the Editor:

The Fed was still engaging in quantitative easing in March 2022. For all of the big talk about quantitative tightening, a mere \$350 billion has been reduced from the \$9 trillion of bonds it owns. James Grant reports that, as of last week, the Fed's balance sheet was about \$8.5 trillion.

Ray Noack

On Barrons.com

To the Editor:

Our present age, characterized by materialism, the need for instant gratification, and widespread self-delusion is coming to an end. Reality is setting in and demanding restitution for fiscal and monetary malpractice.

Everywhere, the world is overleveraged, and soon credit risk will be as important as duration risk. The inefficient and redundant will be winnowed out. There is too much dry kindling to burn through before the dead wood is cleared out.

Try as they might, no central bankers or hapless politicians can easily mitigate the coming firestorm.

For everyone else, it's time to reflect on the wisdom of the Greatest Generation, which endured a financial cataclysm and World War II: Shed debt; stay liquid, with assets of the highest quality; and trust yourself rather than banks or governments.

James Whitaker
On Barrons.com

Debt Crisis Analogy

To the Editor:

Here is an analogy for our so-called debt crisis. Suppose a couple has borrowed to their limit to have a nice house and other amenities. They have the income to support the debt and living expenses, but there is nothing left over. They want to go on an expensive vacation. They ask the bank for a loan, but since they are at the bank's loan limit, the bank refuses.

The couple has a choice—continue paying the debt as usual, forgoing the vacation, or halt payment on the debt and use that money for the vacation. Which option should the couple take?

The politicians are telling us that they intend to take the vacation and default on the debt if the debt limit can't be raised to cover the vacation.

Kenneth A. Kuhn
Vestavia Hills, Ala.

Threat of Default

To the Editor:

Treasuries are unquestionably a safe

investment, but has anyone considered what a default would do to the Treasury market? It has never happened before. Many investors have been building bond ladders where they roll over proceeds from a maturity into a new issue within days.

Is it possible that the Fed is counting on that same strategy to redeem maturing bonds? It would be catastrophic if there were default at that level. The thought has entered the professional market, as *Barron's* has reported a surge of funds going into maturities of one month. That is very short and ultracautious.

Bill Mueller
Laguna Woods, Calif.

Leveraged Bond CEFs

To the Editor:

The Funds column ("Closed-End Bond Funds Are Selling at Steep Discounts. Moves to Make Now," April 26) opines that "there are three separate ways to win *if* interest rates fall." However, that two-letter word swings well above its weight. What follows is a recommendation to buy leveraged closed-end bond funds, and that is based on the assumption that "*many* bond strategists now think we are close to peak interest rates." However, "*many*" is nebulous. Many analysts I read say that there is no sign in the market that an upper limit in yields is about to be reached.

If you want to be cautious, balance the plethora of conflicting recommendations, do your research, and come to your own conclusions.

Caveat emptor.

Harvey Rosen
Brooklyn, N.Y.

"Try as they might, no central bankers or hapless politicians can easily mitigate the coming firestorm."

James Whitaker, on Barrons.com

Trifecta

To the Editor:

Rather than cite the dreary old investment saw, "Sell in May, then go away," it would be appropriate to exclaim, "What a way to begin May!" In your May 1 issue, three *Barron's* writers combined to "hit for the cycle," an apt analogy during baseball season.

Brian Swint laced a solid leadoff single with his coverage of French bakery inflation ("Inflation and French Croissants: Why Europe's High Prices Are So Sticky," *The Economy*). As usual, veteran Warren Buffett expert Andrew Bary hit a double off the wall with his in-depth coverage of Berkshire Hathaway ("Buy Berkshire Stock Ahead of Its Annual Meeting. Warren Buffett Still Has What It Takes"). Bary also legged out a triple with his cogent insights into Johnson & Johnson's planned initial public offering of Kenvue ("Why J&J's Kenvue Spinoff Is Just What the IPO Doctor Ordered"). Lastly, Steven M. Sears hit it out of the park with his fascinating feature "The Roots of the Options Trading Revolution" (*The Striking Price*).

My wife and I make all of our investment decisions together, and we are truly appreciative of *Barron's* coverage over the past 20-plus years. Celgene (2001), Microsoft (2003), Johnson & Johnson and Caterpillar (2007), Berkshire Hathaway Class B (2010), Apple (2014), and Atlas Technical Consultants (2021) have all been purchased based upon your recommendations.

Buy and hold indeed.

T. William McMahon
Manasquan, N.J.



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