

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL WEEKEND



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What's News

Business & Finance

- ◆ American consumers and businesses remained on solid financial footing last year, propelling earnings for the biggest banks yet again. A1
- ♦ China is sinking deeper into its worst deflation in years, as consumer prices fell for a third straight month in December. A1
- ◆ The Federal Reserve ran an operating loss of \$114.3 billion last year, its largest operating loss ever. A2
- ◆ The S&P 500 ended Friday less than 0.1% higher. The Nasdaq added less than 0.1% and the Dow lost 0.3%. B11
- ◆ Citigroup plans to eliminate some 20,000 jobs by the end of 2026 as part of its restructuring plan. B9
- ♦ Morgan Stanley agreed to pay \$249 million to settle probes into allegations that some employees improperly shared information about clients' stock sales. B9
- ◆ BlackRock has agreed to buy Global Infrastructure Partners for roughly \$12.5 billion in cash and stock. B10
- ◆ Tesla plans to halt production at its only large factory in Europe for two weeks because of a lack of parts. B10

World-Wide

- ◆ The U.S. carried out a new round of strikes in Yemen, a day after U.S.-led forces launched naval and air attacks on at least 28 targets controlled by the Houthi rebels, who have vowed to retaliate. A1
- **♦ State officials in Texas** are blocking federal Border Patrol agents from accessing a busy section of the U.S.-Mexico border, the federal government has alleged. A3
- ◆ House Speaker Johnson said that he was sticking for now with a budget deal he struck with Schumer. A4
- ◆ The judge in Trump's criminal case in Georgia said that early February was likely the soonest he could schedule a hearing to consider removing Willis. A4
- ♦ The FAA said it would ramp up inspections of Boeing's manufacturing facilities after grounding roughly 170 of the company's jets. A2
- ◆ The DOJ will seek the death penalty against the white supremacist who killed 10 Black people at a Buffalo supermarket in 2022. A3
- ♦ The U.S. and its partners are exploring ways to use frozen Russian funds to back loans to Ukraine. A7

NOTICE TO READERS

WSJ.com and WSJ mobile apps will publish throughout the weekend and on Martin Luther King Jr. Dav. The Wall Street Journal print edition won't be published on Monday.

NOONAN

The voters finally get their say A13

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Crowds in San'a, Yemen, protested Friday against U.S.-led strikes, which targeted Houthi military targets and were carried out in response to the group's attacks on Red Sea shipping lanes. The rebels warned they would retaliate against international targets.

U.S. Launches a New Strike, Defiant Houthis Vow Revenge

By Thomas Grove AND STEPHEN KALIN

The U.S. carried out a new round of strikes in Yemen, a after U.S.-led forces launched naval and air attacks on at least 28 targets con-

trolled by the Houthi rebels. On Saturday morning Yemen time, the U.S. struck a Houthi-controlled radar site Houthis' ability to attack maritime vessels, including com-

mercial vessels" in the Red Sea, said U.S. Central Command, which oversees U.S. military operations in the Middle East.

The Houthis responded defiantly to U.S.-led strikes against them Friday, saying that the attacks had failed to cause significant damage and that they remained undeterred from launching more actions "designed to degrade the on U.S. and international tar-

gets in the region. strikes—and fresh The

promises of retaliation—are the latest signs that conflict stemming from the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza is widening across the Middle East, with the Red Sea as a new flashpoint between Washington and the various Iran-backed groups arrayed across the region.

"All American and British interests have become legitimate targets for the Yemeni armed forces in response to the aggression," said a statement from the Supreme Politi-

cal Council of the Houthis, which controls the capital San'a and swaths of territory.

Houthi spokesman Mohammed Abdul Salam said more attacks in the Red Sea were imminent: "This isn't going to deter us." The attacks, primarily on shipping lanes, would continue Please turn to page A6

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Strong **Economy** Boosts Banks' Results

Consumers and businesses drive rise in earnings at the largest U.S. firms

American consumers and businesses remained on surprisingly solid financial footing last year, propelling earnings for the biggest banks yet

> By Ben Eisen, David Benoit and Gina Heeb

JPMorgan Chase said it made \$50 billion in 2023, a record, as many firms reported fourth-quarter and full-year results Friday. JPMorgan, Bank of America, Wells Fargo and Citigroup together earned \$104 billion in 2023, up 11% from the year earlier.

The economy has remained stronger than executives and economists predicted when the Fed started its aggressive rate increases. Sky-high inflation has come down without the U.S. falling into a recession. The U.S. has continued to grow despite multiple wars abroad and a regional-banking crisis.

"The consumer still has plenty of firepower," said Alastair Borthwick, chief financial officer of Bank of

At the same time, consumer sentiment about the economy remains decidedly downbeat. Inflation is still above normal Please turn to page A2

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- 20,000 positions.. ♦ Morgan Stanley settles
- block-trading probes...... B9
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Trump's Hold on Rural America Is Key to His Success

Outsize support in places like Iowa's Hancock County help propel the former president past legal woes and challengers

By John McCormick

GARNER, Iowa-Republican voters in Hancock County largely rejected Donald Trump eight years ago, giving him less than a fifth of the vote in the GOP caucuses. As recently as a year ago, some party faithful here and elsewhere in Iowa seemed eager to move on, saying they were tired of the former president's chaos and liabilities

Now Trump appears poised to win this county Monday and claim victory in Iowa's caucuses, powered largely by his overwhelming support among rural voters who see him as the best candidate to advance a populist conservative agenda. That pattern has played out in similar places across the country, helping explain why Trump has a hold over the Republican Party and is the nomination

Trump arrives at the caucuses that kick off 2024 nominating contests with baggage that would likely stop any other politician. He faces

Please turn to page A10



A man leaves a campaign event in Ankeny, Iowa, on Friday. Heavy snow, then bitter cold, threaten turnout for Monday's GOP caucuses, the first presidential-nominating contest.

New York Professor Wages Battle Against Rats Attacking His Car

From hot sauce to hiding, desperate auto owners try everything to keep out critters

By GINGER ADAMS OTIS

Tom Marion, a theater professor at the City University of New York, is a sur-

vivor of roughly four rodent invasions of his car, which he parks in a city that is home to an estimated two million rats.

It can feel like he's tried as many tricks to defend his ride.

The 62-year-old Manhattanite has wrapped his igni-

tion wires in minty tape,

doused garlic-scented potion on his engine, and he purposely parks in a different spot each night, trying to stay a whisker ahead of

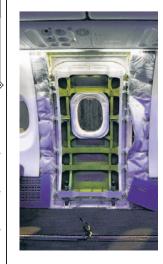
> the enemy. It is as if his car made out of

"They will find you," he says, of rats. "And they all know each other and they talk to

each other." Rodents have long ravaged automobiles, and anecdotal reports of critter-

Please turn to page A9

EXCHANGE



INSIDE VIEW Boeing's manufacturing

mess **B1**

Wary World Watches As Prices Fall in China

By Stella Yifan Xie

HONG KONG-China is sinking deeper into its worst deflation in years as demand falters, spelling trouble for the

With many Chinese worried about the economic outlook and unwilling to spend, consumer prices fell for a third straight month in December, official data showed Friday. Prices charged by manufacturers dropped for the 15th

month in a row. Economists at Morgan Stanley described the situation as the "longest and deepest" deflation in China since the Asian financial crisis in 1998, when countries across

the region overheated and entered recessions that took vears to recover from.

Until recently, many Western economists welcomed some deflation in China, because it lowered the cost of imported Chinese goods, helping to ease inflationary pressures elsewhere.

Inflation in the U.S. cooled through most of 2023, though it edged up in December.

But as inflation worries have eased in the West, China's deflation has become a bigger source of concern. It signals continuing economic Please turn to page A8

♦ IPO plan puts Shein in

tricky spot.....

U.S. NEWS

Fed Saw Record Operating Loss in 2023 FAA Will

By NICK TIMIRAOS

The Federal Reserve ran an operating loss of \$114.3 billion last year, its largest ever, a consequence of its campaign to aggressively support the economy in 2020 and 2021, then jacking up interest rates to combat high inflation.

The losses added to already large federal deficits that have required bigger auctions of Treasury debt. The central bank's losses could continue for as long as short-term interest rates remain near current levels. That has the potential to fuel new political attacks on the Fed, though there have been no signs of that so far.

The U.S. central bank announced preliminary, unaudited results of its 2023 financial statements on Friday.

The central bank paid more to financial institutions on interest-bearing deposits and securities than it earned from securities that it bought when interest rates were lower. That's a result of it raising its benchmark short-term interest rate to a two-decade high, above 5%, last year.

The losses don't affect the Fed's day-to-day operations

and won't require the central bank to ask for an infusion from the Treasury Department. Unlike federal agencies, the Fed doesn't have to go to Congress hat in hand to cover operating losses. Instead, the Fed created an IOU in 2022 that it calls a "deferred asset."

The Fed has almost always turned a profit and is required by law to send its earnings, minus operating expenses, to the Treasury. Those gains turned to losses in 2022, meaning the federal deficit has been a bit larger than it would otherwise have been. During the first nine

months of 2022, the Fed transferred \$76 billion in earnings to the Treasury. In September of that year, it began running a loss, and it ended the year recording a \$16.6 billion deferred asset. Until 2022, the Fed had never in its 109-year history suspended remittances to the Treasury for a meaningful period due to operating The Fed's deferred asset

grew by \$116.4 billion last year, bringing its cumulative total to \$133 billion. When the Fed is no longer running losses, it will pay itself back first and Federal Reserve net income \$100 billion



Note: Amounts for 2000-2021 reflect transfers made to U.S. government; 2022 shows transfer Source: Federal Reserve

extinguish the deferred asset before resuming remittances to the Treasury.

When the Fed returns to profitability depends on when it lowers interest rates in the years ahead. The Fed sets rates at levels designed to keep inflation low and stable while boosting employment. It doesn't focus on profits.

Fed losses are a side effect of its efforts to support the economy during the Covid-19 pandemic by purchasing large amounts of Treasury and mortgage-backed securities. The market value of those securities dropped after the central bank began raising rates aggressively in 2022 to combat inflation, but the Fed doesn't book losses on them because they are held to maturity.

Instead, the Fed is running losses because it is paying more in interest than it earns on those securities. Beginning in September 2022, the overnight rates the Fed pays to banks on their deposits held at the Fed, called reserves, and on other securities transactions it conducts to manage interest rates, exceeded the income it collects on its \$7.1 trillion in security holdings.

Those holdings consist primarily of Treasury and mortgage-backed securities that it accumulated during bond-buying stimulus programs between 2009 and 2014 and again between 2020 and 2022.

The Fed is likely to continue running accounting losses for as long as it holds interest rates above around 3.5% and shrinks its asset portfolio, a process that began in 2022. The Fed raised rates last year to a range between 5.25% and

Fed officials last decade expressed unease in private over the potential political blowback should it be forced to raise rates rapidly and incur losses on its securities holdings, according to transcripts of their policy meetings. While that is essentially what occurred over the last year and a half, elected officials in Washington have said

The central bank maintained a relatively small portfolio until the 2007-09 financial crisis, after which its holdings of Treasurys and mortgage bonds swelled and it revamped how it manages interest rates. Before that crisis, the Fed's annual transfers to the Treasury ranged between \$20 billion and \$30 billion, or less than 1.5% of all federal receipts.

After that, the Fed's net income soared as it held shortterm rates at low levels while owning higher-yielding longterm securities. Between 2012 and 2021, remittances as a share of federal receipts nearly doubled. The Fed sent more than \$870 billion to the Treasury over those 10 years, including \$109 billion in 2021.

Boost Its Oversight Of Boeing

By Andrew Tangel

Federal air-safety regulators said they would ramp up oversight of **Boeing**'s manufacturing facilities after grounding roughly 170 Boeing jets in the wake of an emergency landing last week.

The Federal Aviation Administration, which has said it was investigating the aircraft maker after the Jan. 5 accident involving the Alaska Airlines jet, said it would conduct an audit of the 737 MAX 9 production line and its suppliers. "It is time to re-examine the delegation of authority and assess any associated safety risks," FAA Administrator Mike Whitaker said.

Boeing has said it was cooperating with investigators and would work to ensure all aircraft meet safety requirements before they return to service.

The FAA, which certifies each Boeing plane that leaves its factory, has also been under scrutiny over the incident. Congressional leaders questioned the FAA and Boeing about manufacturing lapses related to the Alaska blowout.

The FAA said it would also assess safety risks related to what it delegates to Boeing in the oversight of manufacturing quality.

Federal investigators are trying to figure out what caused an emergency-door plug to detach from the Alaska Airlines jet at 16,000 feet, leaving the MAX 9 flying with a gaping hole.

The investigations, by the National Transportation Safety Board and FAA, have focused their initial efforts on the door plug itself and the bolts and other components that attach it to the fuselage. Alaska Airlines and United Airlines say they found loose hardware on other MAX 9 jets they checked, suggesting that problems go beyond

Separately, a group of passengers on the Alaska flight filed a lawsuit in Seattle Thursday against Boeing, alleging the company failed to safely build the aircraft. They are seeking class-action status and damages

from Boeing. Boeing declined to comment

—Alvssa Lukpat contributed to this article.

NOTICE TO READERS

The Numbers' column will return in future editions.

CORRECTIONS ぎ **AMPLIFICATIONS**

The full value chain of emissions for a cut and polished 1carat lab-grown diamond has a carbon footprint of roughly 9.2 kilograms, less than a 10th of the carbon emissions from mining and production of a natural diamond, according to Danish jeweler Pandora. A Business & Finance article on Thursday about lab-grown diamonds compared the emissions but didn't explain that the comparison was between the full value chain of emissions and emissions from mining and production.

Readers can alert The Wall Street Journal to any errors in news articles by emailing **wsjcontact@wsj.com** or by calling 888-410-2667.

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SPACE FOR HISTORY: The retired Space Shuttle Endeavour's external tank was moved into place at Samuel Oschin Air and Space Center in Los Angeles on Friday. When completed, the 20-story exhibit will be the only full shuttle stack on display.

U.S. WATCH

MIDWEST, EAST

Regions Face Blizzards, Flooding A major winter storm swept

across large parts of the U.S. Friday, with blizzards pounding the Midwest and serious flooding expected in Eastern states already reeling from a week of extreme weather.

The powerful blast of Arctic cold is expected to last through the weekend and into next week, the National Weather Service said Friday. On the East Coast, where

recent flooding turned roads into rivers, residents were being warned to expect another deluge. Forecasters said that wet ground, swollen rivers and deep snowpacks created by back-to-back storms could exacerbate the severity of this weekend's weather.

-Gareth Vipers

OREGON

High Court Keeps Trump on Ballot Oregon's Supreme Court on

Friday kept former President Donald Trump on the state's primary ballot, declining to wade into the legal chaos over whether he is disqualified to be president until the U.S. Supreme Court rules on a similar case out of Colorado.

Oregon was one of several states where liberal groups sued to remove Trump from the ballot under Section 3 of the 14th Amendment, a Civil War-era provision that prohibits those who "engaged in insurrection" from holding of fice. Only one of those lawsuits has been successful so far-in Colorado.

That ruling is on hold until the U.S. Supreme Court hears an appeal by Trump.

-Associated Press

WHITE HOUSE Some Student Debt

Canceled Early The Biden administration

will start canceling student loans for some borrowers in February as part of a new re payment plan that is taking effect nearly six months ahead of schedule. Loan forgiveness was orig-

inally set to begin in July under the new SAVE repayment plan, but it is being accelerated to provide faster relief to borrowers, President Biden said Friday. Borrowers will be eligible

for cancellation if they are enrolled in the new SAVE plan, if they originally borrowed \$12,000 or less to attend college, and if they have made at least 10 years of payments.

-Associated Press

MICHIGAN

Man Freed by DNA **Test Compensated** Michigan will pay \$1.75 mil-

lion to an innocent man who spent 35 years in prison after being wrongly convicted of sexual assault.

Louis Wright was released in November after authorities said DNA tests ruled him out as the perpetrator in an attack on an 11-year-old girl in Albion. a small town in Michigan, in 1988. People who are exonerated based on new evidence are eligible for \$50,000 for each year spent in a Michigan prison.

"Nothing can make up for 35 years in a Michigan prison for something he did not do," Wright's attorney, Wolf Mueller said "This is a first step toward getting Louis' life back at the age of 65."

-Associated Press

Big Banks Report **Earnings**

Continued from Page One levels, and the stimulus checks and student-loan pauses that households once enjoyed are over. High home prices have turned many Americans into long-term renters.

Each of the four banks posted one-time charges, dragging down quarterly profits. They collectively set aside almost \$9 billion to pay a special Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. fee related to the failures of Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank. Citigroup swung to a \$1.8

billion loss in the fourth quarter. The bank, which is trying to streamline its sprawling operations, also announced Friday it would cut 20,000 jobs. Wells Fargo shares fell 3.3%

Friday, and Bank of America dropped 1.1%. JPMorgan slid

0.7%, while Citigroup rose 1%. The four banks charged off \$6.6 billion in loans in the fourth quarter, twice as much as in the same period a year earlier. Loan losses had been particularly low during the height of the pandemic but have recently been climbing.

Loans tied to the struggling commercial real-estate sector are a particular sore spot. Bank of America said it charged off more than \$100 million tied to eight office buildings. Wells Fargo said it charged off \$377 million in commercial real-estate loans. The banks had previously set aside money to cover those losses. "It's a long movie," Wells

Fargo CFO Mike Santomassimo said. "We're past the opening credits but we're still in the beginning of the movie, and so it's going to take some time for this to play out." Executives cautioned that

rising loan losses were to be expected as the pandemic stimulus fades into the rearview mirror, though they said the losses don't look particularly worrisome. The way we see it, the

consumer is fine," JPMorgan finance chief Jeremy Barnum

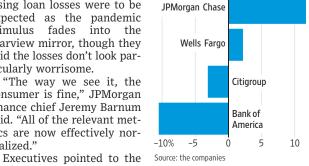
said. "All of the relevant metrics are now effectively normalized.'

labor market as the key to consumer strength. Wage gains outpaced inflation this past summer for the first time in two years. But there are signs that

high costs have started to leave more consumers overstretched. Higher interest rates are stinging consumers who need to borrow now. Households that built up savings during the pandemic are spending that money down. The "modest deterioration"

Wells Fargo has seen in credit is in line with its expectations, said CEO Charlie Scharf, and average deposit balances per customer remain above prepandemic levels. Change from a year earlier in

fourth quarter 2023 revenue



"The financial health of consumers remains strong, Scharf said. "Having said that, there are cohorts of customers that are more stressed." The banks' results showed

that consumers are borrowing more on their credit cards, carrying over higher balances and falling behind on their payments in greater numbers. Americans have also in-

creasingly struggled to keep up with monthly car payments, which have jumped in size. Car prices shot up during the pandemic, and higher interest rates made monthly payments more expensive. Auto delinquencies rose further above prepandemic levels at JPMorgan and Wells Fargo in the fourth quarter. Uncertainty about rates and

the economy has also kept corporate chieftains from making any big moves for almost two years. But investment-banking revenue showed signs of picking up in the fourth quarter, and fees rose at JPMorgan, Citigroup and Bank of America. Debt underwriting powered the gains, and executives projected optimism about deals in the new year. Loans to businesses were up in the

quarter at JPMorgan, Bank of

America and Citigroup.

JPMorgan Chief Executive Jamie Dimon, who has been persistently dour in the face of the enduring strong economy, again reiterated he sees uncertainty and warned inflation could be more stubborn than prognosticators sav. More than 100 banks are

expected to pay the FDIC's special charges, to replenish a fund the government used to make uninsured depositors whole after SVB and Signature collapsed. The charges to JP-Morgan, Bank of America, Wells Fargo and Citigroup alone account for about half of the \$16.3 billion in estimated costs to the fund. The massive scale and di-

versity of the megabanks helps them navigate through highs and lows in the economy. But regional bank results, which begin next week, are expected to portend a more difficult road ahead for the rest of the industry. Midsize and smaller banks are particularly reliant on interest income, making it tougher for them to absorb tighter regulations and potential losses.

> -Justin Baer and Charley Grant contributed to this

U.S. NEWS

U.S.-Texas Tensions Rise At the Border

Washington says the state is blocking federal patrols from migrant crossing

By Elizabeth Findell

EAGLE PASS, Texas—State officials here are blocking federal Border Patrol agents from accessing a busy section of the U.S.-Mexico border, a move that represents a dramatic escalation of a standoff between Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, a Republican, and the Biden administration over authority over the U.S.-Mexico border.

The development comes after state law-enforcement officials in the border town of Eagle Pass took control of the Shelby against the wishes of the city, Mayor Rolando Salinas said on social media Wednesday. The riverside park, near downtown, is a popular site for city gatherings and recreation. It has also become a hot spot for migrants crossing the Rio Grande from neighboring Piedras Negras, Mexico.

After state authorities barricaded the park, they began preventing Border Patrol agents from accessing the boat ramp the agency uses to launch patrols of the river, prompting an emergency court

filing from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security early Friday.

The filing, to the U.S. Supreme Court, says Texas is also preventing agents from accessing the staging area where they evaluate apprehended migrants, and from several places where they previously conducted surveillance.

'Border Patrol's ability to view this portion of the border is now limited to a narrow sliver from a single surveillance camera located outside of the newly fenced area," the filing says.

Abbott said Friday that the state had taken over the park to "maintain operational control" in the area.

"Texas has the authority to control ingress and egress into any geographic location in the state," he said during an unrelated news conference.

The park was quiet Friday, with National Guardsmen deployed by the state and troopers monitoring the fenced perimeter of the vast, empty park and launching their own state patrol boats from the ramp Border Patrol complained of wanting to use. Countless coils of razor wire line a barrier of shipping containers along the river, while fencing across city street access points blocks the public. Access remained to golfers, who played in 65-de-

gree sunshine on the part of the park that holds a municipal golf course. Abbott has consistently ac-

cused the Biden administration of not doing enough to prevent illegal border crossings and said the state is trying to show force. Thursday, Abbott told radio host Dana Loesch that the reason the state isn't shooting people at the border is "because of course the Biden administration would charge us with murder."

After facing criticism for rhetoric many Democrats said was extreme and violent, Abbott said Friday he was responding to a question about where the state draws a line with regard to legal authority. "I pointed out what would

be illegal to do—it's that simple," Abbott said.

A video Salinas posted on Facebook showed Texas blocking all entries to the park with fencing and military vehicles. The state had previously swathed the riverbank there with multiple layers of the razor wire to block migrants from reaching the banks.

Texas National Guard troops control who travels through Shelby Park at the U.S.-Mexico border in Eagle Pass, Texas.

Friday's court filing came as part of a case in which Texas has accused federal authorities of cutting through razor wire that the state has placed on miles-long stretches of the border. Border Patrol officials have said they occasionally need to cut through the wire to make arrests or rescue migrants drowning in the river. The administration is asking the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn an injunction by an appeals court stopping agents from doing that.

Since 2021, Texas has spent or allocated more than \$11 bilinclude the deployment of thousands of state troopers and National Guard soldiers to South Texas. Much of the effort has been aimed at arresting migrants for trespassing on private property, a misde-Still, Texas' actions repre-

on the border. As of July, state migrant arrests in the Eagle Pass area of the border amounted to about 1% of Border Patrol encounters with migrants there in the same time frame. Abbott last month signed a

sent a fraction of the total

law-enforcement operations

new law giving state officials the ability to arrest and deport migrants crossing into the state from Mexico outside of designated ports of entry. The Biden administration has sued lion on border operations that the state, saying the law is an

unconstitutional violation of the federal government's sole authority over national borders and immigration. The law is scheduled to go into effect in March.

Salinas, the Eagle Pass mayor, previously gave the state permission to use Shelby Park as a staging area for operations, and to charge migrants found crossing there with trespassing. But the city faced backlash from residents who lost their beloved park. On Wednesday, state police fenced off the park completely, blocking Salinas and other locals from entering.

"The state of Texas, coming from the governor, they are taking full control, custody of Shelby Park," the mayor said. "That is not a decision we agreed to. This is not something we wanted."



By SADIE GURMAN

The Justice Department will seek the death penalty against the white supremacist who killed 10 Black people at a Buffalo, N.Y., supermarket in 2022, federal prosecutors said in court papers Friday, opening a capital case for the first time since President Biden took office.

Payton Gendron, 20 years old, was already sentenced last year to life in prison after pleading guilty to state charges. But the Biden administration, eager to underscore both its hostility to hate crimes and its renewed emphasis on fighting violent crime, said it would pursue death, despite the president's personal oppo-

Before the May 2022 rampage, Gendron, who is white, posted a 180-page document online filled with racist rants and details of his plans to target Black people in Buffalo be-

sition to capital punishment.



A memorial for 10 Black people killed at the store in May 2022.

fore livestreaming himself opening fire. The attack left 10 dead and three wounded. All but two of his 13 victims were Black. They included an 86-year-old woman, a retired Buffalo police lieutenant and a church deacon.

The Justice Department charged Gendron the following month with 26 counts of hate crimes and a firearms offense, paving the way for federal prosecutors to seek the death penalty.

The push for Gendron's

death comes even after Attorney General Merrick Garland in July 2021 put a moratorium on federal executions while officials reviewed procedures, a process officials said Friday is ongoing. The Trump administration reactivated the federal death chamber after a 16-year hiatus, putting 13 inmates to death in its final months, the highest rate of federal executions in over a century.

The decision, which came after conversations with victims' families and civil-rights leaders, highlights the nuanced approach Garland has taken to the death penalty, authorizing prosecutors to continue pursuing it in some pre-existing cases while taking it off the table in many others. In each case, people familiar with the process have said, Garland drilled down on the circumstances before making the final call.

Garland met with the Buffalo victims' families shortly after the attack, telling them that bringing the killer to justice was of top importance. Only some of them wanted to see Gendron executed, their lawyers have said.

Under Garland, officials have sought to reserve death for crimes they believe caused the greatest harm to the federal interest, such as hate crimes and terrorism.

While the Buffalo case is the first time prosecutors have made a new request for the death penalty, Garland has allowed previous death penalty cases to proceed during sentencing.

Federal prosecutors said the massacre at the Tops Friendly Markets met the threshold for death, in part, because it was racially motivated and came after substantial planning and premeditation, noting that Gendron chose the supermarket to enact his violence "in order to maximize the number of

Black victims of the offense." Gendron "expressed bias,

hatred, and contempt toward Black persons and his animus toward Black persons played a role in the killings," prosecutors said in their Friday filing.

The decision whether someone should die for his or her crimes is particularly weighty for Garland. He was part of the Justice Department team that successfully sought the death penalty for Timothy McVeigh for blowing up the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City in 1995 and killing 168 people.

In contrast to the Buffalo case, Garland decided not to pursue capital punishment in the case of Patrick Crusius, who killed 23 people in a racist massacre at an El Paso. Texas, Walmart in 2019.

In doing so, people familiar with the matter said, Garland rejected the recommendation of prosecutors who suggested seeking execution, noting concerns about Crusius's mental illness



Sense. Modular sofas, armchair and ottomans, designed by Studio Roche Bobois

In-store interior design & 3D modeling services. (1) Quick Ship program available. (2)

rochebobois

Biden Faces Political Dilemma as LNG Surges Johnson

By Benoît Morenne

The U.S. has become the world's top exporter of liquefied natural gas. President Biden is finding that this superpower status comes with its own set of headaches.

A4 | Saturday/Sunday, January 13 - 14, 2024

In the past two years, hundreds of cargoes loaded with supercooled gas departed the U.S. Gulf Coast as foreign buvers turned to America for energy supplies. Developers of export terminals have seized the momentum to advance plans to build new plants and crank out even more LNG.

Now, climate activists and Democratic lawmakers are exhorting the Biden administration to halt this expansion. They argue that the federal government, which has to approve LNG projects, is failing to account for the harmful effects of gas exports on the climate. the U.S. economy and local communities.

In December, Greenpeace projected images of flares burning excess gas and other images onto government buildings around Washington, D.C. "President Biden, STOP THE GAS BOOM," read one projection.

And on Tuesday, national environmental leaders called for a three day sit-in at the Energy Department in February to pressure the Biden administration to pause the approval of new LNG facilities.

The mounting opposition comes as Biden heads into a presidential election in which fossil-fuel supplies will be a key issue. The candidate has to corral young, climate-concerned voters, some of whom view his track record on the environment as mixed after his administration approved several fossil-fuel projects. He must also reassure foreign allies that the U.S. will remain a reliable provider of the fossil fuels on which they depend.

A White House spokesman said, "President Biden has led



A liquefaction facility in Louisiana. LNG exports are expected to more than double from current levels by the end of the decade.

and delivered on the most ambitious climate agenda in history." He pointed to Biden's signature climate bill and a recent Environmental Protection Agency rule to reduce methane emissions from oil and gas operations, among other mea-

Former President Donald Trump on the campaign trail has pledged to expand U.S. fossil-fuel supplies from day one of his presidency.

Biden said during his previous candidacy that he would transition the U.S. away from the oil industry. But he has largely spared natural-gas exporters from regulatory roadblocks, and after the Ukraine war broke out he pledged to provide steady supplies of LNG to the European Union to replace Russian natural gas. It is unlikely that the Biden

administration will curtail existing natural-gas exports, policy analysts and former regulators said. But the president's stance on proposed projects is unclear. That creates uncertainty for developers and foreign consumers, said Bernard McNamee, a former commissioner of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

The shale boom turned the U.S. into a natural-gas powerhouse. By fracking for subterranean gas, drillers were able to meet American consumers' needs for the fuel virtually

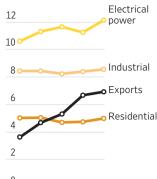
overnight. This prompted developers to build multibilliondollar plants to refrigerate and load excess gas onto tankers for export. Seven such facilities currently operate in the mainland U.S.-mostly on the Gulf Coast.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine kicked U.S. ex-

ports into over-Since drive. March 2022. U.S. developers have signed 57 supply agreements representing about 73 million metric tons of LNG annually, according to S&P

Global Commodity Insights more than four times the number of contracts they signed between 2020 and 2021. Many of these contracts run

for 20 years and underpin the construction of terminals that have yet to be built. LNG exports are expected to more than double from current levels by the end of this decade, according to the Energy DepartNatural gas use in the U.S. 14 trillion cubic feet



Source: Energy Department

2018 '19 '20 '21 '22

Energy startup Venture Global LNG alone has signed 16 contracts since the Ukraine war began, half for volumes out of Calcasieu Pass 2, a plant the company wants to erect next to an existing facility in southern Louisiana. When the facility, known as CP2, enters full commercial operations in 2026, Venture Global expects it to churn out up to 28 million

metric tons of LNG yearly.

Climate activists

are pressing the

administration

to put a halt to

LNG expansion.

"What we're doing is lowering the cost of energy for the developing world, which saves lives for people, poor and we're trying to compete with coal to emislower sions," Venture

Global Chief Executive Michael Sabel said in November.

But CP2 needs approval from FERC, as well as a license for most exports by the Energy Department. For that reason, it has become a test case for supporters and opponents of the LNG buildup. Greenpeace urged Biden to stop CP2 in its projections onto buildings in Washington last month.

In recent weeks, Venture

Global customers EnBW Energie Baden-Wuerttemberg, a German utility, and Japanese power company JERA pressed FERC to greenlight the facility. JERA said U.S. LNG contributed to stable energy security in Japan and globally.

Meanwhile, more than 230 climate groups and others urged Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm in a December letter to reject CP2, arguing that emissions linked to LNG produced there would equate to 20 times the annual emissions of ConocoPhillips' Willow oil project in Alaska. They raised concerns about methane leaks during the production of gas and when LNG is shipped on boats.

The administration approved the Willow drilling venture last year in a decision decried by climate groups. Now, they say, Biden has a chance to prove his climate bona fides.

"If Biden pauses new per mits for LNG, the scale of their planned expansion is so great that I think he has a legitimate claim on having done more to undercut dirty energy than any one of his predecessors," said climate activist and author Bill McKibben.

Critics also say exports push so much gas outside of the U.S. that American consumers will eventually have to pay more for the fuel and point to concerns about emissions from communities living near LNG facilities. In November, 65 Democratic

senators and House members sent a letter to Granholm, demanding that her agency update how it accounts for LNG projects' impact on climate, environmental justice and domestic energy prices.

An Energy Department spokeswoman said that the agency was continuously considering evolving energy security and economic, environmental and other factors in evaluating applications for natural gas exports.

Rebuffs **Hard Liners** On Budget

By Siobhan Hughes

WASHINGTON-House Speaker Mike Johnson (R., La.) said that he was sticking for now with a budget deal he struck with Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D., N.Y.) setting top-line fiscal 2024 spending levels at \$1.66 trillion, siding with the faction of the GOP conference that favors more robust military spending over a hard-line group pushing for deeper cuts.

The decision comes as Johnson has faced criticism from the small but outspoken bloc of GOP conservatives over the deal. Any changes by Johnson would have risked derailing efforts with Democrats to keep the government funded past the coming deadlines of Jan. 19 for some parts of the government and Feb. 2 for the rest.

Following the final vote of the week, Johnson addressed reporters. He said he had spoken with many GOP lawmakers and that "our top-line agreement remains. We are getting our next steps together, and we are working towards a robust appropriations process. So stay tuned for all of that.'

His comments increased the chances that the House speaker would put on the floor another stopgap measure to avoid a partial government shutdown. But it also opens up the possibility of ripple effects within the House Republican conference, where some of the same lawmakers who pushed out House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R., Calif.) over the spending bills he put on the floor are now suggesting that Johnson himself could be on

Johnson has spent the past two days meeting with antispending conservatives and pro-military Republican hawks behind closed doors, essentially forcing the group supporting deeper cuts to confront the reality of broad support within the Republican conference for more military spend-

Under an approach favored by the spending hawks, the speaker would put on the floor a measure to continue funding the government in fiscal 2024 at the same levels and on the same priorities.

Doing a full-year continuing resolution would trigger a pro-/ision of the Fiscal Responsibility Act, last year's debt-ceiling deal, for across-the-board cuts in discretionary spending. Military spending for fiscal 2024 would total \$850 billion, well below the \$886 billion specified by the top-line agreement that Johnson and Schumer reached earlier this week. It would also mandate deep cuts in nonmilitary spending, which Democrats op-

While some lawmakers had questioned whether Johnson should remain speaker if he is unable to force through more GOP priorities, others played down the notion. Rep. Bob Good (R., Va.), chairman of the hard-line House Freedom Caucus, told CNN he continued to 'vehemently" oppose the current deal but said it was a "ridiculous supposition" that Johnson's job be in danger over

Some Republicans were determined not to let Johnson's statement be the final word on the matter, and lawmakers began pitching him on new plans within minutes after Johnson outlined his path forward. In particular, some Republicans have begun shifting their fight for border-security provisions to the government spending bill, concluding that the threat of shutting down the government will give them the greatest leverage in their quest to stanch the flow of migrants at the border.

"We're going to put a strategy forward that puts us in the driver's seat rather than accepting whatever the Senate does," said Rep. Kat Cammack (R., Fla.), who is proposing that the House put together a package containing border-security measures. "We're going to secure the damn border because that is what the Ameri-

can people expect.' Democrats and the White House said they assume Johnson will stick to the deal.

King Honored With Recitation of His Historic 'Dream' Speech



rights leader delivered it on Aug. 28, 1963. For two decades, the National Park Service has hosted the event in honor of King's birthday, which is on Monday.

Georgia Judge in Trump Case Weighs Hearing on Willis

By Cameron McWhirter And Jan Wolfe

certainty could hang over Donald Trump's criminal case in Georgia for several more weeks.

ATLANTA—A cloud of un-

Fulton County Superior Court Judge Scott McAfee said Friday that early February was likely the soonest he could schedule a hearing to consider removing Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis from the criminal case she brought against the former president and others. McAfee said he was awaiting a response from Willis

to claims that she hired her al-

leged romantic partner, Atlanta

lawyer Nathan Wade, to the

and that they both benefited from the arrangement finan-The judge said he wanted to

case as a special prosecutor-

give defense lawyers a chance to investigate the allegations, but also that he didn't want them lingering over the case for too long. "What I'm trying to avoid is dragging it out because

other parties want to piggyback and do their own separate investigation, if you will," he said. planning to file a response, but

"I don't know when the state is at some point we will have to set it for a hearing," he added. Willis's office previously said

she would respond in a court

filing. As of Friday afternoon,

allegations. Willis wasn't present at the hearing Friday. Wade attended and briefly argued for the prosecution on other matters. He didn't address the alle-The hearing Friday was the

she hadn't commented on the

gations. first since the motion to dismiss the case, and disqualify Willis, was filed Monday by attorney Ashleigh B. Merchant, a lawyer for Trump co-defendant Mike Roman. Merchant's filing didn't provide proof of a romantic relationship between Willis and Wade, but she said

sealed records from Wade's di-

vorce proceeding from his wife

would substantiate her allega-

tions. She has asked a judge to

make those records public. Willis has been subpoenaed to testify in that divorce case as a witness. Defense lawyers have been

reviewing the allegations to de-

cide whether to join in the mo-Trump attorney Steve Sadow mentioned the allegations in court Friday, saying they were "salacious and scandalous in nature." He said he wanted to see a response from prosecu-

tors before deciding to join Roman's motion. "I'm leery of moving to adopt motions that make such allegations, without having a better understanding or substantiation of the allega-

tions," Sadow said.

Last year, Willis, a Democrat, announced an indictment against Trump and 18 others, alleging a criminal enterprise to overturn Trump's 2020 defeat in Georgia, the first loss in the state by a Republican presidential candidate since 1992. The indictment alleges a wideranging conspiracy to reverse Trump's loss, including pressuring state elected officials, tampering with voting machines and putting forth a slate

of self-proclaimed "electors" to declare Trump had won in Georgia, when he had lost. Trump and his co-defendants pleaded not guilty,

though some later cut plea

deals with Willis.

U.S. NEWS

Kindergartners Arrive Less Ready for School Than Before Pandemic

By Matt Barnum

America's youngest students entered school this year with weaker math and reading skills than before the pandemic, according to new data that is surprising some educators.

Kindergartners tested in 2023 were about 2 percentage points less likely to begin school at grade level in both math and reading than 2019, data compiled by the testing company Curriculum Associates show. Scores remained below prepandemic levels in the first and second grades.

The decline is concerning, say researchers who reviewed the results. Schools are already struggling to

help older students who fell behind since the pandemic. "We are still seeing sizable

"We are still seeing sizable gaps in school readiness, in school performance for kids who weren't even in school

at the time of the pandemic," said Emily Oster, a Brown University researcher who has studied pandemic-era learning.

The analysis looks at test scores of over a million students who took a test called i-Ready last fall. It asks them to complete tasks such as matching a sound to a letter or identifying which picture of a shape—a circle, triangle or square—has four sides.

Researchers at Curriculum Associates compiled nationally representative sets of students in kindergarten through second grade and compared scores in recent years to those in 2019, before the pandemic.

Scores were lower almost across the board. Second-graders in 2021 and 2022 showed the worst declines. This year's second-graders were still behind, but had recovered some-

what in reading.

When Columbus, Ohio, firstgrade teacher Meagan Erwin reviewed her students' starting scores with colleagues this year, she was vexed to see they were lower than before the pandemic. "We were like, 'Why? These kids weren't in school. This shouldn't be affecting them,' "she said. One potential cause is lower

One potential cause is lower participation in early-childhood education. Preschool enrollment dropped steeply during the pandemic, but had recovered by the fall of 2022, according to an analysis by the National Institute for Early Education Research.

Another theory is that the

The decline is

concerning, say

researchers

who reviewed

the results.

pandemic destabilized young children's lives. Millions of Americans lost jobs and lost loved ones. Some children lost parents or caregivers. Family routines, such as reading

to children or playing outside, might have been disrupted.

A final explanation is a statistical one: Shifts in student enrollment or exam participation might have artificially lowered scores if more advantaged students were less likely to take the test. Researchers made efforts to account for this possibility, but don't have student-level family income data.

Erwin says that her students are making solid growth, but need more support to catch up. She would love smaller classes—she has 27 students—and more staff for one-on-one help. "It's always about more people, more hands," she said.

But schools in many parts of the country are bracing for budget cuts as federal pandemic-relief funding runs out and some states reckon with projected budget shortfalls.

At Stake in This Year's Elections: A \$6 Trillion Difference in Taxes

Biden, Republicans offer vastly varying plans for cuts set to lapse after 2025

By RICHARD RUBIN

WASHINGTON—There isn't a dime's worth of a difference between the political parties. The chasm is more like \$6 trillion.

The winners of November's presidential and congressional elections will quickly face decisions on tax cuts scheduled to expire after 2025. President Biden and Republicans support starkly different plans.

Republicans generally want to extend all expiring tax cuts from the 2017 law former President Donald Trump signed. The price tag: \$4 trillion over a decade.

Biden proposed extending the cuts for households making under \$400,000 annually but said the rest should expire. He would raise taxes further on top earners and corporations. That plan, including increases not yet fully detailed, would generate more than \$2 trillion beyond current forecasts.

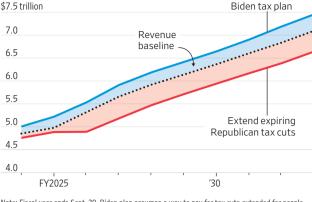
"It's just striking both how clear and how large the gap is between these two approaches," said Brian Deese, Biden's former National Economic Council director, in an interview arranged by the president's campaign.

Stephen Moore, a Heritage Foundation fellow who has advised Trump on taxes, agreed.

"That's probably as far from where Trump wants to go as you could possibly get," he said of Biden's plan.

With the White House, Senate and House up for grabs, one party could impose much of its fiscal vision. More likely, however, they will be limited by intraparty fights. If neither party wins full control, a divided government would likely force compromise.

Projected revenue under tax-plan proposals



Note: Fiscal year ends Sept. 30. Biden plan assumes a way to pay for tax cuts extended for people making under \$400,000. Also assumes long-term extension of expanded child tax credit. Sources: Tax Foundation, CBO and WSJ analysis

Here is why the tax fight looms in 2025.

In 2017, Republicans cut corporate and individual tax rates and curtailed tax breaks. They made the corporate cut permanent but scheduled most individual tax changes to lapse, a common strategy to lower the headline cost. They bet that future Congresses wouldn't let taxes rise on most households.

If Congress does nothing, the standard deduction would shrink, marginal rates would climb and a deduction for closely held businesses would vanish.

That is considered the baseline scenario by nonpartisan budget forecasters. The Congressional Budget Office projects that the U.S. will collect \$60 trillion in revenue from 2024 through 2033. Biden would aim above that; Republicans, below.

Keep the cuts...

Republicans see the 2017 law as a success that boosted the prepandemic economy.

GOP presidential candidates haven't fully specified tax plans. Trump, who leads in polls, hasn't articulated a second-term tax policy besides a 10% across-the-board tariff.

"It's clear that he will want to make his tax law permanent. But beyond that, frankly, I don't know where he's

headed," Moore said.

Extending tax cuts—particularly immediate deductions for capital expenses—would spur growth, said Kevin Hassett, Trump's former chief White House economist, to whom the campaign referred a request for comment. The benefits of extending individual tax cuts would be more muted.

Still, even if Republicans won Congress and the presidency, extending the 2017 law might not be simple. They can't stop fighting over a provision limiting deductions for state and local taxes, and they may disagree about repealing Biden's clean-energy tax breaks.

Republicans will again confront the link between taxes and budget deficits. They generally say spending drives deficits and that the government should reduce outlays rather than raise taxes. But the price of a tax-cut extension could raise concerns.

"I don't detect a lot of squeamishness from Republicans on extending it and the impact on the deficit," said Don Schneider, a former House GOP aide now at Piper Sandler. "But I don't think

they're seeing into the whites of the eyes of the deficit increase."

...Or tax the rich?

Democrats say the 2017 law's benefits for high-income households were unfair and didn't boost the economy. Still, Biden would extend the cuts for households making under \$400,000, affecting about 98% of people at about two-thirds the cost of a full extension. Biden says he would pay for continuing those cuts but hasn't said how.

Companies and high-income households would face tax increases under his plan, many beyond what existed before 2017. The corporate tax rate would go to 28% from 21%. The top individual rate would go to 39.6% from 37%, with new taxes atop that for many business owners.

That might be hard to pull off. In 2021 and 2022, when they controlled the House and Senate, Democrats enacted many Biden tax policies, including a new minimum tax on corporations and clean-energy tax breaks. But they fell short of his desired tax increases.

If Democrats hold a 2025 majority, it would likely be more progressive on taxes than their 2021 majority, said Kimberly Clausing, a former Treasury official under Biden. That could let them enact some tax increases. But Democrats also disagree on capital gains, estate taxes and the state and local tax deduction.

The likeliest outcome lies between Republican and Democratic proposals, particularly if government control is divided. In 2012, after President Barack Obama won re-election, then-Vice President Biden brokered a bipartisan deal extending cuts for more high-income people than Obama had proposed. Lawmakers could find themselves making similar compromises in 2025.

Justices Will Weigh Cities' Policies on Homeless Camps

By Laura Kusisto And Jess Bravin

The Supreme Court agreed Friday to decide whether it is constitutional for municipalities to prohibit homeless people from camping in public spaces when they have nowhere else to go, an issue that has galvanized officials across the political spectrum as they look to address the growing problem of encampments.

The case involves civil ordinances in the small Oregon city of Grants Pass, which prohibited homeless individuals from sleeping in public with rudimentary protections from the elements, such as blankets.

In a 2-to-1 ruling, the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals found the measure violated the Eighth Amendment's prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment. The decision largely relied upon a 2018 decision from the same court that said the city of Boise, Idaho, couldn't prosecute people for sleeping on public property when there aren't

sufficient shelter beds.

The cases have loomed over homelessness policy in western cities, where government officials say courts have interpreted the rulings to prevent them from clearing homeless encampments even when they have become dangerous or unsanitary. The Ninth Circuit has jurisdiction over nine western states and U.S. possessions in the Pacific.

"These decisions are legally wrong and have tied the hands of local governments as they work to address the urgent homelessness crisis," said Theane Evangelis, a lawyer for Grants Pass. "The tragedy is that these decisions are actually harming the very people they purport to protect."

Ed Johnson, litigation director at the Oregon Law Center that represents the homeless people saw it differently

less people, saw it differently.
"The issue before the court is whether cities can punish ployed—that is, because of



Los Angeles city employees cleaned up an encampment as homeless people moved into temporary housing in October.

homeless residents simply for existing without access to shelter," he said. "Some politicians and others are cynically and falsely blaming the judiciary for the homelessness crisis to distract the public and deflect blame for years of failed policies."

The Supreme Court received more than two dozen briefs urging it to hear Grants Pass's appeal, with submissions coming from leading officials in red and blue states. Cities from Phoenix to San Francisco asked the court to resolve the issue, as did a group of Republican state attorneys general and California Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom.

Court decisions "have paralyzed communities and blunted the force of even the most common-sense and good-faith laws to limit the impact of encampments," Newsom said in his brief.

The high court could hear oral arguments as soon as April.

April.

Local authorities once had broad power to clear people they considered undesirable from public property through vagrancy and loitering laws. Over the 20th century, however, the Supreme Court turned a critical eye toward measures that appeared to punish individuals because they were homeless or unem-

their status rather than conduct.

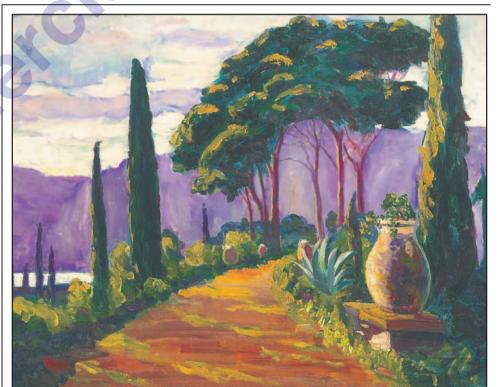
In 1972, the court struck down vagrancy laws as too vague to be constitutional, effectively giving police too much discretion to decide who was lawfully standing on a street corner and who was illegally prowling, loitering or, as a Jacksonville, Fla., ordinance put it, "nightwalking."

The court took four other cases on Friday, including a labor dispute between Starbucks and workers seeking to organize at a Memphis, Tenn., coffee shop.

In 2022, Starbucks fired seven employees who helped stage an after-hours media event at the store. Federal courts ordered the company to reinstate the employees while the National Labor Relations Board weighed an unfair labor practice charge against the coffee retailer.

The Sixth Circuit, in Cincinnati, found that by firing leaders of the organizing drive, Starbucks interfered with employees' unionization rights, leading other workers to fear retaliation if they supported the effort. On appeal to the Supreme Court, Starbucks argues that courts must consider additional factors before issuing such temporary orders

ders.
The employees ultimately voted 11-3 in favor of unioniz-



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WORLD NEWS

Israel Rebuts Accusations of Genocide

Lawyer tells world court actions in Gaza aren't like Nazis' killing of Jews

Israel denounced South Africa's claim that it is committing genocide against Palestinians, telling the International Court of Justice that it is outra-

> By Jess Bravin, Chao **Deng** and Anat Peled

geous to liken the Jewish state's military response to Hamas attacks launched from Gaza to Nazi Germany's systematic extermination of six million Jews during the Holocaust.

Friday's argument ended two days of hearings the world court scheduled on South Africa's petition, filed under the 1948 Genocide Convention. The petition seeks an order for an immediate cease-fire in Gaza as legal proceedings, which could take years, unfold over the genocide claim.

On Thursday, South Africa argued that Israel's military operations after the Oct. 7 attacks, which claimed more than 1,200 lives, were part of a campaign to dispossess Palestinians that began with Israel's establishment in 1948.

Tal Becker, chief lawyer of Israel's Foreign Ministry, said South Africa's recitation of the destruction in Gaza, which local health authorities say has claimed more than 23,000 lives, ignored the facts that Hamas provoked the war, continues to attack Israel and locates its personnel and armaments in civilian facilities.

South Africa "seeks to thwart Israel's inherent right to defend itself—to let Hamas not just get away with its murder, literally, but render Israel defenseless as Hamas continues to commit it," he said.

"The absurd upshot of South Africa's argument is this: Under the guise of the allegation against Israel of genocide, this court is asked



A displaced Palestinian man plays with his children in the rubble of a house where they sheltered in Rafah in southern Gaza.

to call for an end to operations against the ongoing attacks of an organization that pursues an actual genocidal he said, citing Hamas's dedication to killing Jews and eliminating Israel.

Any country can bring a claim against any other before the ICJ, a United Nations tribunal in The Hague. Although South Africa filed the claim, officials from the Palestinian Authority's Foreign Ministry serve as advisers to its legal team.

Arguing against Israel on Thursday, the South African justice minister, Ronald Lamola, condemned the targeting of civilians on Oct. 7 by Hamas and other armed groups.

Nonetheless, "no armed attack on a state territory, no matter how serious, even an attack involving atrocity crimes, can provide any justification for or defense to breaches to the convention,"

he said. "Israel's response to the 7th of October 2023 attack has crossed this line."

On Friday, Israel's Becker said, "The civilian suffering in this war, like in all wars, is tragic. It is heartbreaking." Israel, he said, recognizes its obligation to conduct military operations in line with international humanitarian law, which requires efforts to minimize civilian casualties.

"Israel seeks neither to permanently occupy Gaza or to displace its civilian population. It wants to create a better future for Israelis and Palestinians alike...where the Palestinian people have all the power to govern themselves, but not the capacity threaten Israel," he said.

Israel's outrage at the genocide charge received support from the one other nation singularly connected to the Holocaust: Germany.

"We know that different countries assess Israel's operation in the Gaza Strip differently," Berlin said Friday. "However, the German government firmly and explicitly rejects the accusation of genocide that has now been brought against Israel...This accusation is completely unfounded." In Israel, many Israelis see

perpetrator, negating the Holocaust and the atrocities committed against them on Oct. 7. 'For Israel the whole idea that it is blamed for carrying out genocide, [under] a convention...which derived from

South Africa's accusation as an

effort to turn the victim into the

what was done to Jews is so outrageous," said Pnina Sharvit Baruch, a researcher at the Institute for National Security Studies in Israel. Israel was populated by Ho-

locaust survivors, and the term "genocide" was coined to describe the Nazi effort to eradicate the Jewish people. Some in Israel worried that the court case would distract

global attention from atroci-

ties committed in the Hamasled attack. Many Israelis argue that the assault required Israel to use force to defend itself, prevent

such an attack from recurring and ensure the nation's survival. "We don't want war," said Jack Zohar, a 76-year-old retiree from the northern Israeli

city of Haifa. Civilian deaths in Gaza were a result of Hamas putting its fighters in civilian facilities, he said. Zohar and his wife, Aliza Zohar, had driven to central Tel Aviv to visit a public tribute to Israelis still held hostage in Gaza. Aliza Zohar said

Israel wasn't committing genocide but were forced to fight a war. "We didn't begin this," she said.

Some Israelis noted that the case at the U.N. court risks provoking hatred toward Israel and could damage the country's efforts to sustain global support for its campaign in Gaza, where it aims to destroy Hamas and recover the rest of the hostages.

South Africa is asking the court to order a cease-fire in Gaza while court proceedings move forward. Proceedings on the genocide claim would likely take years, but a decision on provisional measures could come within weeks.

Israel says it won't quit until Hamas is defeated, and the court would have no means of enforcing any order that it do so. But even a provisional order for a cease-fire could place Israel's allies in a bind.

Both the U.S. and the European Union have designated Hamas as a terrorist group. Many in Israel expressed

skepticism about any international process to scrutinize the country's military actions in Gaza. Sally Abed, a Palestinian

citizen of Israel who helps run an Arab-Jewish grassroots movement, said the debate about the label "genocide" overlooks the killing of innocent people in Gaza and risks dehumanizing the issue.

'[The case] reduces the experience of Israelis and Palestinians to mere international definitions," she said.

Hila Zaksenberg, a librarian, said she was disheartened that the international community chose to focus on Israel's military campaign, instead of on how Hamas still has yet to return hostages to Israel. "The responsibility shouldn't only be on Israel" in reining in Hamas, she said.

At the same time, Zaksenberg said the hearing showed how civilian deaths in Gaza would be something future Israeli generations must grapple with. "This is going to be part of our legacy," she said, "the historical environment that our children will grow up in."



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Houthis Vow to Retaliate

Continued from Page One in solidarity with Gaza following Israel's invasion, he added.

By Friday evening, a Pan-

ama-flagged ship said a missile had splashed into the Gulf of Aden about 400 to 500 yards from its location, about 90 miles southeast of Aden, a port city in southern Yemen. The ship also reported seeing three small boats pursuing it. A Houthi official said he couldn't confirm the missile but said his group had begun its response to the American-British strikes.

The strikes, conducted by U.S. and British forces and supported by Australia, Bahrain, Canada and the Netherlands, targeted radar and air-defense systems as well as storage and launch sites for the Houthis' cruise and ballistic missiles, according to Centcom. The Houthis have used their arsenal, with the assistance of Irasuccessive at-

tacks on Red shipping Sea lanes. The U.S. and

U.K. launched 150 munitions, Army Lt. Gen. Douglas Sims, the director of operations for the Joint Staff, Friday. said

Since the U.S.-led coalition attack, the Houthis have fired one antiship ballistic missile but didn't hit anything, Sims said. The strikes hit 28 loca-

tions, officials said. "My guess is that the Houthis are trying to figure things out on the ground and

trying to determine what capabilities still exist for them," Sims said. "I would expect that they will attempt some sort of retaliation.' A battlefield assessment by the U.S. will likely take days, as the U.S. doesn't have troops

or assets in Yemen as it does

in Iraq and Syria. "The assess-

ment is ongoing but initial in-

dications are that our strikes



Note: Areas of control as of Nov. 27. Explosions as of early Friday local time Carl Churchill and Emma Brown/THE WALL STREET JOURNAL Source: ACAPS

Force Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder, a Pentagon spokesman. The Houthis said the U.S.-

led forces had conducted 73 strikes that killed five and injured six militants, but that damage to their infrastructure was limited.

On Friday, tens of thousands of Yemenis filled San'a's Sabeen Square to protest the strikes.

The strikes came after months of Houthi attacks on international sea lanes, which forced global shippers to renian intelligence, to launch route around Africa to avoid

'This isn't going

to deter us,'

a Houthi

spokesman said

of U.S. strikes.

passing through the Suez Canal. One of the largest strikes came on Tuesday during Secretary of State Antony Blinken's trip to the Middle East and after a warning by the U.S. that continued attacks would carry consequences.

While the Houthis have

said they were targeting any Israeli-affiliated ship, many of the targeted ships have no clear connection to Israel or the war. Iran supports them

with arms, munitions and intelligence, but says it doesn't control their actions. On Friday, President Biden said, "We will make sure we respond to the Houthis if they continue this outrageous behavior." Asked if he had a

message for Iran, Biden said, "I've already delivered the message to Iran." The economic effects of the

Houthi attacks are slowly grow-

ing and, for now, mainly affect-

had good effects," said Air ing Europe. Danish shipper A.P. Moller-Maersk has already rerouted its ships and Tesla said Friday it would halt production at its Berlin factory for two weeks as the Red Sea violence has hit its supply chains.

The strikes Friday "highlighted that the area is still far from providing a safe passage for international shipping," said Peter Sand, chief analyst at Norwegian shipping pricing company Xeneta. He said he expected diversions and extra costs to remain throughout January at least. "It will get worse before it gets better. But I think it's also fair to say that the endgame has begun," Sand said. The Houthis' aggression has

brought them to the forefront of a number of groups backed by Tehran, which have been increasingly active against Israeli and U.S. targets since Israel's invasion of Gaza. Some 23,700 Palestinians, mostly women and children, have been killed in Gaza since hostilities began, according to Palestinian health authorities. The figures don't distinguish between civilians and combatants. The conflict was sparked by a Hamas-led Oct. 7 attack on southern Israel, in which Israeli officials say militants killed 1,200 people, mostly civilians. -Benoit Faucon,

Saleh al-Batati and Nancy A. Youssef contributed to this article.

Watch a Video



Scan this code for a video on Yemen protests after strikes on 📭 Houthi targets.

WORLD NEWS

U.K. Boosts Military Assistance to Ukraine

Europe has increased support as additional American funding is held up in Congress

By Max Colchester AND ISABEL COLES

LONDON-The U.K. government pledged nearly \$3 billion in fresh military support for Ukraine on Friday, the latest example of Europe bolstering aid for the war-torn country as additional U.S. funding hangs in the balance amid deadlock in Congress.

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak announced the £2.5 billion package, which is £200 million more than the U.K. pledged last year, during a trip to Kyiv. Britain also said it would sign a long-term secu-rity-cooperation agreement with Ukraine guaranteeing "swift and sustained" assistance to the country should it be attacked by Russia again. "I am here today with one

message: The U.K. will also not falter," said Sunak. "We will stand with Ukraine, in their darkest hours."

The agreement is a boost for Kyiv, which has struggled maintain momentum among Western donors as the war approaches a third year with no obvious sign of quick resolution. After repelling Moscow's assault on Kyiv and seizing back swaths of territory in 2022, Ukraine failed to score decisive victories on the battlefield last year. International attention has shifted to Israel's war in Gaza and strikes in Yemen. Military and financial-aid packages worth over \$100 billion are blocked in the U.S. and the European Union amid political disputes.

The announcement from the U.K. is welcome but it's never going to be enough to replace the flows of assistance from the U.S.," said Keir Giles, a senior-consulting fellow covering Russia and Eurasia at Chatham House, a London-based think tank. "It's only a minor uplift on what the U.K. was already providing."

National Security Council spokesman John Kirby recently said Washington had issued the last drawdown package it had the funding to support. "The assistance that we provided has now ground to a halt," he said Thursday. Democratic and Republican

lawmakers have less than two weeks to craft a new spending deal to avoid a partial government shutdown, while trying to approve more funds. Republican lawmakers are blocking more support to Ukraine, demanding changes to U.S. border policy. Individual European governments are trying to step up as fears grow that cuts in

field. Germany, for instance, has doubled its military assistance for 2024 to €8 billion, the equivalent of \$8.78 billion. Europe now provides more military assistance to Ukraine than the U.S., but the loss of

American aid, and its intelli-

funding could allow Russia to

gain momentum on the battle-

gence capability, would be a

serious blow to Kyiv's ability

to battle Moscow, analysts say.

Europe provides some of Ukraine's most successful military assistance including longrange missiles from the U.K. and France and various air-defense systems. But the size and breadth of U.S. support underpins the West's efforts.

The U.S. accounted for about 44% of all foreign aid to Ukraine at the end of the third quarter in 2023, according to Germanbased researchers at the Kiel In-

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky traveled to Baltic allies Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia this past week, warning that President Vladimir Putin could be emboldened by

wavering support for the war

effort. "He won't finish this

until we all finish him to-

gether," Zelensky said. Amid deadlock in Congress, the Pentagon's inspector general released a report Thursday saying the U.S. military hadn't

properly tracked about \$1 bil-

Oversight has improved since the start of Russia's invasion nearly two years ago, but "significant personnel limitations and accountability challenges remain," the report said. EU assistance to Ukraine has

lion in weapons sent to Ukraine.

also hit political troubles. Hungary's Kremlin-friendly prime minister, Viktor Orban, blocked the latest EU package for Ukraine in December, worth more than \$50 billion, although EU leaders will meet on Feb. 1 to try to approve the aid.



U.K. Prime Minister Sunak, left, and Ukraine's President Zelensky headed to a Kyiv news briefing. stitute for the World Economy.

West Explores Seizing Russian Assets to Help Kyiv

are exploring ways to use some of the \$300 billion in frozen Russian central-bank reserves to back loans to

> By Andrew Duehren, Laurence Norman and Max Colchester

Ukraine, one of a series of ideas that Western officials are considering as they struggle to agree on a method to seize Russian funds without spooking international investors.

With Congress blocking funding for Ukraine, there is renewed impetus in Washington to find other sources of longterm financial support. After

The U.S. and its partners the outbreak of war in 2022, billions of dollars in Russian foreign-currency reserves, gold and government bonds were frozen across the U.S., Europe and Japan to ensure they weren't used to fund its illegal invasion.

Pressed by the Biden administration, the Group of Seven democracies is exploring several ways to confiscate the frozen Russian funds to give to Ukraine, a move that would represent a significant escalation against the Kremlin and that is fraught with legal difficulties.

G-7 officials hope to present options in time for the second anniversary of the invasion in February. But it could take at least another

year before anything actually happens, some officials say. While the U.S. and the U.K. back the idea, other European partners, in particular Germany, worry that seizing Russian sovereign assets would dissuade countries from storing their wealth in the West for fear it might get taken.

Nonetheless, the political imperative of using Russian assets to help pay the massive costs of supporting Ukraine and helping it rebuild have become compelling, say European and U.S. officials. G-7 leaders have said Russia must pay for the cost of the war.

Ideas under discussion range from taxing the interest payments the frozen assets generate to seizing the funds outright and transferring them to Ukraine, according to people familiar with the talks.

Another idea is using Russian government reserves as collateral for loans to Ukraine. Under this idea, which is still at an embryonic stage, lenders would receive the Russian assets if Ukraine defaults on the loan, potentially issued by an international financial institution such as the World Bank. That could create a financial incentive for Russia to avoid destroying Ukraine's economy and its ability to pay back its debts, the thinking goes.

Washington's push on con-

fiscating assets has caused tensions with Europe, including concern about the legality of the move, the precedent it sets and how it would work practically. Europe holds the vast bulk of the frozen Russian assets, roughly 180 billion euros, about \$197 billion, of them in Belgian clearinghouse Euroclear.

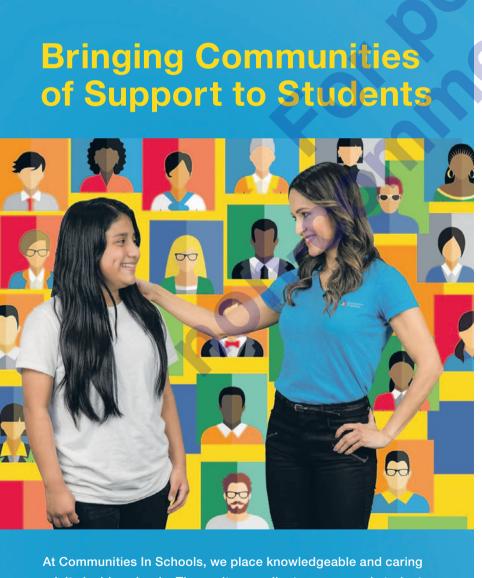
A point of contention is whether the West can seize Russian assets under international law. U.S. officials believe it would be legal, pointing to principles that allow those affected by a nation's violation of key international norms to breach the protection that central-bank assets typically are guaranteed.

Some senior European offi-

cials say they are skeptical. The U.S. and its allies aren't at war with Russia, and Moscow didn't amass its wealth through illicit means but mostly by selling oil and gas.

British Foreign Secretary David Cameron said recently that the legal arguments behind confiscating Russian assets are solid. "I am pushing hard on this. The world has changed. The arguments against are not as strong as people said, and there is a legal route," he added.

In late December, the Kremlin said it has a list of U.S. and European assets in the country it would seize in a countermeasure.



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WORLD NEWS

World's Smallest League Keeps on Kicking



The Woolpack Wanderers, in black, and the Garrison Gunners, in red, pose for an Isles of Scilly Football League 2023-24 photo.

By Gareth Vipers

On a wild and windy cluster of remote islands on the edge of the Atlantic Ocean, the world's most closely contested soccer competition is heating up. In the Isles of Scilly Football League, it's either first or last place. Nothing in between.

Just 28 miles off the western tip of England, this small archipelago, officially part of the U.K., has a population of about 2,200 and boasts the smallest soccer league in the world. Each year the red team and the black team face off 20 times a season, battling it out for the league trophy.

"I'm a black this year," said Liam Kirkby, a part-time firefighter and part-time decorator who has lived on the Isles of Scilly his whole life and has been playing in the league since he was 16.

'There's always a good rivalry between the teams but also a great atmosphere up there on a Sunday morning," he said.

The big money names of Premier League giants Manchester City and Liverpool might be hundreds of miles away, but the passion for the game here runs deep. It takes a special kind of soccer fan to turn out on a potholed pitch in the middle of nowhere to play the same team for yet another grueling game week in, week out.

The Woolpack Wanderers (black) and the Garrison Gunners (red) fight it out on Garrison Field every Sunday. Waterlogged pitches often can lead to games being called off, says Will Lethbridge, who was born on St. Mary's, the largest of the five inhabited Scilly Isles, and moved back seven years ago after attending university on the mainland.

'There's a pitch inspection before each game, but the referees are pretty lenient," he said. "We're very lucky to have a former semiprofessional ref. Paul, who runs the games for us. And the local schoolteacher Alan chips in too."

Amenable match officials aside, organizers have found it increasingly difficult to field the two teams of 11 players.

"It's not uncommon for one of us to get in the car and rally around to drag people out of bed to make a team, especially if they've had a few beers the night before," Lethbridge said.

A lack of players threatened to postpone a game in November. "Most of the lads are off on a boys' holiday in Tenerife," Lethbridge said. He ended up drafting some local schoolboys and the game went ahead.

Each year two team captains pick their squads for the season. Just like on the school sports field, players are picked in turn until there are none left. But instead of the schoolyard, this ceremonial process is usually conducted in the local pub over pints.

Players will switch from red to black for any given season depending on which captain picks them, and teams often have close ties. The Greenlaw family has been a regular fixture over the years, with brothers and cousins facing off against each other. The 2023-24 season has three of the four Greenlaw brothers running out for the red team.

Organized soccer on the islands dates to around 1920, when there were several teams in the league, but demographics on the islands are changing. Heavily reliant on tourists, the islands have few opportunities for younger residents, says Lethbridge, who runs a holiday rental and works with the local tourist

"There's no provision for education post-16 on the islands, and because of the employment opportunities and careers a lot of people move

on to do bigger and better things in Cornwall and further a field," he said.

The population of Scilly has decreased during the past decade, according to the U.K.'s Office for National Statistics. Between 2011 and 2021, the last period for which data is available, the population declined 6.8%, while the average age of a Scillonian resident reached 50, compared with about 40 for the country. While older players aren't unheard of at the amateur level, the oldest player to ever run out in the Premier League was 43.

"It would be great to expand, but there just aren't enough people on Scilly over the winter to make it work," Lethbridge said.

The population on the islands explodes during the summer months, where tourism accounts for some 85% of the local economy. Any given Sunday can see chefs, bakers and hotel workers lining up against coast guard crew and fishermen on the soccer pitch.

The world's smallest league has still been known to draw more than its fair share of support. "We can get maybe 100 spectators some weeks," Lethbridge said.

Despite being recognized by the Guinness World Records, things haven't gone to their heads.

"We don't take ourselves too seriously," said Lethbridge. "It is very much Sunday league pub football. The local Scillonian Club always put on a platter of chips and sausages and we go and have a few pints after the match. Some have more than a few, but it's just a really lovely way to spend a Sunday."

Deflation In China Stirs Fears

Continued from Page One distress in China, which could mean weaker sales for Western

brands that do business there. It also augurs more efforts by Chinese companies to unload excess goods elsewhere, competing with Western companies and exacerbating trade tensions, which already are high.

The European Union last fall accused China of flooding the market with cheap electric vehicles and launched an investigation into the role of state subsidies from China. Companies in other industries, including solar power, have

raised similar concerns. "Persistent deflation or very low inflation in China could contribute to a higher trade surplus and more trade frictions with the rest of the world," said Adam Wolfe, emerging-markets economist

at Absolute Strategy Research. All of that is adding urgency for Beijing to increase efforts to reverse falling prices and revive growth. One concern is that without more forceful stimulus, China's economy could fall into a debt-deflation spiral like

Japan did in the 1990s, when falling prices prompted companies to cut wages and consumers to hold off on purchases, creating a vicious cycle of even weaker demand and more deflation. The size and speed of

stimulus policy matters" in China, said Robin Xing, chief China economist at Morgan Stanley. "The longer the deflation stays, the bigger the stimulus measures it requires.' The latest trade data, re-

leased by China's customs authority on Friday, underscored some of the risks. While the country's exports picked up some momentum in December, gaining 2.3% from a year earlier, imports were weak, a sign that Chinese consumers remain wary of spending.

The data also showed just how bad 2023 was during the entire year, with Chinese exports falling 4.6% from a year earlier, down for the first time in seven vears.

Direct shipments to the U.S. fell for the first time since 2019, a reflection of weakened demand as the Federal Reserve raised interest rates, and more U.S. buyers sought other sources for Chinese products.

China offset some of its lost trade by deepening ties with Russia, which is under sanctions from the West. Two-way trade with Russia hit a record of \$240 billion last year.

Goods shipped from China Russia, including large numbers of gas-powered cars, surged 46.9% in 2023 from a year earlier, while China's imports from the country grew

However, "as Chinese companies establish themselves within Russian markets, this elevated pace is unlikely to sustain through 2024," wrote economists from Nomura.

Overall, China's trade surplus was \$823 billion for the year, down slightly from a record of \$878 billion in 2022.

While analysts expect exports to become less of a drag on China's economy in 2024, as demand in other parts of the world stabilizes, they also don't expect them to serve as a pillar of growth as they did during the pandemic, and in earlier periods of China's

Global growth remains somewhat weak and geopolitical tensions are pushing Western companies to continue looking for alternatives to Chinese suppliers.

"Gone is the era when China can count on exports to solve its economic problems,' said Xing from Morgan Stanley. Policymakers need to find other ways to drive growth, Xing said, abandoning fiscal austerity and rebalancing the economy toward more consumption.

Chinese leaders have been struggling to reignite domes-

China's price indexes, change from a year earlier



Source: Haver Analytics

Feb. 2022

tic demand for months, after a hoped-for rebound in economic activity following the lifting of Covid controls fizzled. Instead, Chinese consumers, spooked by a weak property market and high youth unemployment, are spending less and saving more.

Nevertheless, China's central bank signaled last year that it believes deflation in the country is transitory.

Despite repeated calls from economists for more aggressive steps to boost growth, Chinese policymakers have refrained from handing out cash or other forms of direct support for households that could increase consumer demand.

Friday's data showed that the consumer-price index

dropped 0.3% last month from a year earlier, narrowing from a 0.5% drop in November, the country's national statistics bureau said. Stripping out volatile en-

ergy and food prices, core inflation was 0.6% last month. Many economists say they

believe deflationary pressures will be hard to reverse. Wei Yao, chief Asia econo-

mist at Société Générale, predicted that while China's consumer inflation likely would rebound to 1% by the end of 2024, downward pressure on prices won't ease quickly. "In our view, deflationary

pressure in China as a result of weak domestic demand could persist for quite some time," she said.

For the full calendar year, consumer inflation reached 0.2% in 2023, far below the target of around 3% set by Beijing, and confounding predictions by some from a year ago that inflation would surge in China after senior leaders abandoned Covid-19 restrictions in late 2022.

Producer prices, a gauge of wholesale prices charged at factory gates, dropped 2.7% on-year in December, compared with a 3% decline in November. The index has stayed in negative territory for 15 months in a row since October 2022.

Lower oil prices and insufficient demand for some industrial products weighed on

producer prices, according to China's statistics bureau.

Chinese officials have taken some steps to revive growth, such as trimming interest rates and extending tax breaks for private business owners. China in October issued an additional \$137 billion in sovereign debt to fund infrastructure projects.

Despite those measures, recent data have suggested the economy has lost steam after a pickup in growth in the third quarter. Surveys have pointed to a contraction in activity at factories and in services, and new home sales have remained weak.

Forecasts by global investment banks point to a growth rate ranging from 4% to 4.9% for China's economy this year—relatively high by global standards but a marked slowdown from earlier years.

Many economists expect Beijing to maintain a slightly higher target of around 5%. which could signal more stim-

ulus will be on the way. In a note to clients last month, Citi economists said China likely would cut policy rates from the second quarter this year because of deflation

concerns "There is no time for policy hesitation to prevent a potential vicious loop between deflation, confidence and activities," they wrote.

–Xiao Xiao in Beijing contributed to this article.

TAIWAN

Voters Cast Ballots For New President

Taiwanese voters headed to the polls on Saturday to choose a new president in a three-way race being closely watched in Washington and

President Tsai Ing-wen, a frequent target of Beijing's ire, is due to step down in May due to term limits after eight years in power.

More than 19 million were eligible to cast their ballots. Final results weren't expected until Saturday evening at the earliest.

The ruling party's candidate, Vice President Lai Ching-te, was facing two opposition challengers, both favoring a friendlier approach to China. Hou Yu-ih, a former top cop and incumbent mayor of New Taipei City, Taiwan's most populous city, led the Nationalist Party's presidential ticket. Ko Wen-je, a former doctor and former mayor of the capital. Taipei, rose as a serious challenger and a third-party candidate with his upstart Taiwan People's Party. -Joyu Wang :

BELARUS

Journalist on Trial For Protest Reports

A Belarusian journalist went on trial Friday on charges linked to his professional work covering protests, the latest move in a relentless government crackdown Photojournalist Alyaksandr

Zvankou faces up to six years in prison if convicted on charges of "participation in an extremist group" at Minsk City Court. Such accusations have been widely used by authorities to target opposition members, civil society activists and independent journalists. Zyankou has been in cus-

tody since his arrest in June. and his health has deteriorated behind bars, according to the independent Belarusian Association of Journalists. A total of 33 Belarusian journalists are currently in

prison. More than 1,400 political prisoners remain behind bars, including leaders of opposition parties and renowned human rights advocate and 2022 Nobel Peace Prize winner Ales Bialiatski. -Associated Press WORLD WATCH



GEARS IN THE SAND: Team Audi's driver Carlos Sainz and co-driver Lucas Cruz, both Spaniards, sped across the vast dunes in Saudi Arabia on Friday during a segment of the Dakar Rally 2024.

OBITUARIES

NAOMI FEIL | 1932–2023

Gerontologist Transformed Dementia Care

By James R. Hagerty

Caregivers, struggling to help people with dementia, often see their role as offering scraps of reality-reminding people what year it is, for instance, or who is in the White House.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Naomi Feil had a different strategy. As a social worker in nursing homes, she resisted the impulse to yank disoriented people back to her reality. Instead, she sought to enter their realities and affirm their emotions. Rather than offering a cup of tea or chirping that everything would be fine, she helped her charges express their anger and sorrow-and found they often were more at ease afterward.

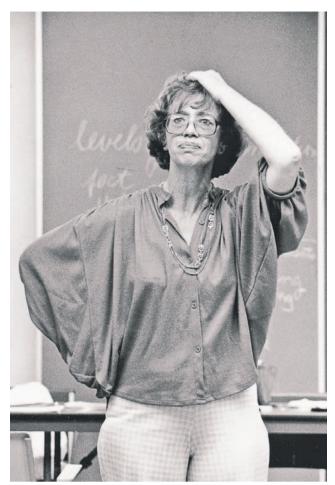
Feil died Dec. 24 at her home in Jasper, Ore. She was 91.

In the 1960s and 1970s, Feil devised what she called the validation method for dementia care. She wrote books, led workshops and established 24 validation-training centers in 14 countries.

Feil's ideas have become fundamental to what is now called person-centered dementia care, which focuses on discovering individual needs and preserving dignity rather than following standard routines, said Sam Fazio, a senior director of the Alzheimer's Association. In such care, he said, "You're meeting them in their reality versus expecting them to meet us in our reality when they are no longer able to do that."

Fleeing the Nazis

Much of Feil's insight reflected her own history. When she was 4 years old, her Jewish family fled Nazi Germany. They eventually settled in Cleveland, where her father was the adminis-



trator of a nursing home, which doubled as living quarters for her family. Some of her earliest friends were very old people.

As a social worker in the 1960s and 1970s, she developed her methods through trial and error. While working at the home managed by her father, she met a retired lawyer who was always angry and claimed that Feil's father tortured him in the home's attic. Feil took the man up to the attic to show him it was no torture chamber. This reality check failed to calm the lawyer's rage. Later, she learned from a family member that, as a

boy, he had been locked in an attic by his own father as a punishment. One day she joined him in

cursing the shortcomings of fathers. It helped that she resented her own father's authoritarian ways. After venting, they both felt better.

Another resident was always telling people to shut up. Feil decided to give him the role he seemed to crave. At the end of group therapy meetings, he was asked to close the proceedings by ordering everyone to shut up.

Odd or disruptive behavior, she found, often reflected repressed and unresolved anger or other



Naomi Feil said she disliked the word dementia. Pictured left at a workshop in 1979 and above in 2015.

emotions. "I grew up in a home, so I know how mean old people can be," Feil said during a 1993 workshop described by the Cleveland Plain Dealer. "The old lady isn't really yelling at you; you remind her of someone from long ago. She's trying to resolve some unfinished business from the past at this final stage in her life."

No lies

She opposed the idea of telling comforting lies. Lies could be detected, even by those who seemed most deluded, and that would destroy trust. When an old woman said she needed to see her mother right away, Feil wouldn't point out that her mother was dead. Nor would she promise that the mother would visit soon. Init: "You really need to see your mother! What would you like to tell her?" "You don't argue, vou

stead, she would talk about

don't lie," she said in a TEDx talk. "You listen with empathy and you rephrase.' She disliked the word de-

mentia, implying that people were out of their minds. "To say they have lost their minds is really looking down on people," she said. Gisela Noemi Weil, later

known as Naomi, was born on July 22, 1932, in Munich.

Her father left Germany first. When she, her sister and her mother were preparing to join him in the U.S.. she recalled, Roman Catholic nuns helped by letting them hide in a basement until they could arrange to escape on a night train. After several years in the Bronx, the

After high school, she studied briefly at Oberlin College, traveled in Europe and moved to New York, where she earned a master's degree in social work at Columbia University. An early marriage, which ended in divorce, produced two daughters. Feil took acting classes, performed in off-Broadway productions and aspired to a

Weils moved to Cleveland.

run by her father. Her work was with the troublemakers other staff members avoided. "These were the blamers, the martvrs, the moaners, the wanderers, the yellers, the pacers, the pounders whom nobody wanted," she wrote in one of her books, "The Validation Breakthrough."

career in the theater. She

gave that up in 1962 to move

back to Cleveland, where she

worked in the nursing home

Sometimes nursing assistants tied people to their chairs so they wouldn't wander off and make trouble. When she tried to engage with these misfits, a nursing assistant scolded her.

Feil persisted and gradually learned from her encounters. "I learned not to contradict, patronize, argue, or try to use logic or give insight," she wrote. Instead, she made clear she was listening. If a person imagined the nurses were stealing her jewelry, Feil might say, "You loved that necklace, didn't you. Who gave it to you?' She could share the emotion

and then explore deeper. In 1963, she married Edward Feil, a maker of documentary films. They had two sons. Naomi Feil appeared in many of her husband's films, including "The Inner World of Aphasia." He died in 2021.

More stories at WSJ.com/obituaries

FROM PAGE ONE

In Man vs. Rat, Rats Often Win

Continued from Page One on-car B & Es rose in the pandemic, which reduced driving, a pattern that persisted.

But skyrocketing now is the wild world of remedies being touted to confounded drivers, especially now in wintry weather when your stationary sedan can become a flop house for va-

grant varmints. "Help. I have rats in my car

and they are destroying everything," said December Reddit post, one of many like it, that drew more than 150 replies, in-

Irish Spring soap in the cabin, center console and trunk; "pee next to the car"; spray ammonia near the wheels: place dryer sheets under the hood and seats, or just give up and take the nuclear option:

"In a few weeks your best option will likely be to set the car on fire and claim insurance," said one suggestion.

Arizona photographic artist

Steve Love suspects a chipmunk snacked through about \$700 of wiring in his dad's Ford Explorer in November.

Before that, a rabbit, he suspects, nearly chomped through battery cables and some blinker wiring on the same car. Love, 59, investigated purported deterrents, including a motion-sensor strobe light, but instead he settled on a simpler fix.

He props the vehicle hood open every night and secures it with a bungee cord to keep the wind from closing it.

The idea? Deprive critters a cozy getaway.

"That way," he reasons, "the rodent won't feel safe in the engine In cold weather, compartment.' your stationary The insurance industry is car can become estimated to have paid out a flop house for in more than rowdy varmints. 91,700 damage claims

caused by ro-

dents, squirrels. cluding tips to stick bars of and rabbits nationally between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023, according to a recent analysis by State Farm.

After a recent relaxing night on a Hawaii beach, Davarus Shores jumped into his 2003 gold Infiniti to return home to Honolulu-only to have the car quickly die.

Shores, who is 31 and works in the medical profession, got it towed roughly 40

miles, and mechanics handed him a \$2,000 bill and a dead rat. The rodent had entered his engine and nibbled through wiring.

Poor little rat was just trying to find somewhere to chill that night," Shores figures.

To prevent incursions, car owners also slather on hot sauce so thick it drips from car wires, or wrap aluminum toil around the bottom of vehicles, under the theory it's too slippery for rats to scale.

One can buy shields and pastes that promise to make rodents turn tail and run, or invest in ultrasonic pest alarms. An online car forum mentions witchcraft: "Burn rodent bones and chant Druid expulsion alms."

Will any of it work? Well. in the classic "Tom and Jerry" cartoons, Jerry the mouse usually outwitted Tom.

If rats take a liking to your car, you are Tom.

Spraying engines with peppermint might deter some rodents, at least temporarily. Or it might not faze them, according to Jason Munshi-South, an evolutionary biologist and professor of biology at Fordham University.

Garlic oil? White Pepper? Pine-Sol? Sorry. Same thing, he says. The word rodent evolved from the Latin rodere, to gnaw.

"And so they're constantly gnawing on things, and that's the reason they gnaw car

wires," the professor explains. In some cases, the idea that certain smells or flavors are

turnoffs stems from lab tests.

Given a choice, rats in captivity might avoid scented objects, says Munshi-South, but that doesn't necessarily mean rodents in real-world situations will do so.

Love, the Arizona artist, suspects there is some truth to the unproven but popular theory that rodents nosh on cars more as automakers switch to soy-based products to insulate wires.

In legal cases, automakers have argued rodent behavior is essentially an act of God.

AAA has suggested rodents might find modern vehicles appealing because of all the wiring from sensors, computers and increased technology.

In New York, Marion's first rat attack came in late 2022,



Tom Marion, a New York theater professor, with his car in East Harlem this month.

when he was parking his 2015 Toyota Prius C in an open-air lot in his East Harlem neighborhood. After rats chewed through wires, the car had to be towed to a garage.

Marion's insurance footed the roughly \$1,000 bill.

He chalked it up to bad luck, but when it happened again soon after, he started dousing the car nightly with garlic-scented rodent repellent and "really smelly" pepper-

After each drive, he covered his engine with stainless steel wool, yet another rumored rodent barrier.

A few weeks later, his car died again, and Marion discovered a rat, unharmed and squeaking angrily, under the hood. He had to chase it off.

Next, Marion ditched the parking lot for open spots on the street, sometimes as far as a mile away.

He still diligently applied rodent repellents nightly. But two weeks later, his car died as he crossed a bridge into Queens.

It cost his insurance company another \$1,200.

In a remove-the-cheese strategy, he sold his Prius and bought a hybrid Ford Escape. Coincidence or not, he says he hasn't had an incident since.

But he can't relax. He avoids parking near trash cans and never parks in consecutive spots.

A rat might case his car, plotting for a break-in, but "by the time they come back, I'm gone," he says. "I'm never in the same place. I am all





A rat scampers across a sidewalk in the snow in Manhattan

FROM PAGE ONE

Where Haley, DeSantis Can Find Support

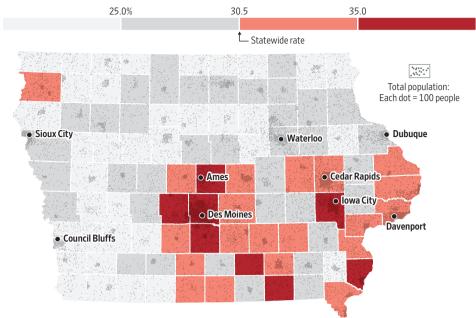
Trump is polling far ahead of GOP rivals in the Iowa caucuses, but pockets of possible strength await Republican challengers

By Max Rust and Paul Overberg

With the Iowa caucuses days away, Republican presidential hopefuls are making their closing arguments in the state, where former President Donald Trump is polling at roughly 50%, according to the FiveThirtyEight average.

That puts him well ahead of Florida Gov. : Ron DeSantis and former United Nations Ambassador Nikki Haley in the contest, in which likely less than half of all Iowa Republicans will participate. Despite Trump's lead, his rivals could find pockets of support from voters across the Hawkeye State.

Estimated turnout in the 2016 Republican caucuses as a percentage of registered Republicans



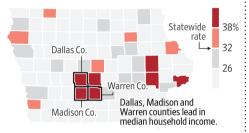
Note: Demographic data based on registered Republican voters. Some data are estimates modeled on other known characteristics. Sources: L2, a nonpartisan voter file vendor; Dave Leip's Atlas of U.S. Presidential Elections (2016 turnout); lowa secretary of state (voter registration); Association of Religion Data Archives (evangelicals)

Wealthier Republicans

A WSJ poll in December of Republican voters nationwide showed Haley performing best among households earning more than \$100,000 compared with lower-income voters. With Trump enjoying his biggest support among lower-income voters, according to polls, Haley or DeSantis could make inroads in more-affluent places in and around the Des Moines metro area.

Nearly a third of registered Republicans live in the seven counties with the largest shares of Republicans whose household incomes top \$100,000, making them fertile ground for Trump's rivals.

Republicans with income higher than \$100,000 as a share of all registered Republicans

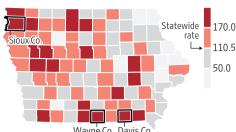


Evangelical Protestants

With polls pointing to a close race for second place, DeSantis is betting heavily on a strong performance in Iowa to preserve his viability. A bright spot for him in the December Des Moines Register/NBC News/Mediacom Iowa Poll was his somewhat stronger support among evangelicals: 26% compared with 19% among all likely caucus-goers. If he is to build support with those voters, it could come from places such as Sioux County, which has the state's second-highest share of evangelical Protestants, according to the 2020 U.S. Religion Census from the Association of Religion

Trump underperformed in Sioux County in the 2016 caucuses. DeSantis might also perform well in smaller evangelical strongholds on the state's southern border, including Davis the state.

Evangelical Protestants per 1,000 people



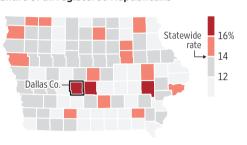
and Wayne counties, where the evangelical-adherence rate has increased significantly during the past decade compared with other parts of

College-educated women

Trump has support among 39% of collegeeducated Republicans in the state, but 30% of white women with a college degree, according to the December Iowa Poll.

That could give Haley an opening in places such as Dallas County, where 19% of all Republicans are women with a college degree, the highest rate in Iowa. Overall, college-educated women as a share of women aged 25 and older in this growing suburban county have increased by more than 10 percentage points in a decade—the second-highest rate of increase among Iowa's 99 counties.

Republican women with a college degree as a share of all registered Republicans



Independents

Haley also appears to be relatively popular with independent voters, 23% of whom say she is their first choice, compared with 16% of likely caucus-goers who say so, according to the Iowa

Registered independent voters can't participate in the Republican caucuses but may register as Republicans on caucus day. If party-switching is to have an impact, Haley might look to the east, specifically the Davenport area of Scott County, where Trump had one of his weaker performances in the 2016 caucuses and where he lost in both the 2016 and 2020 general election.

Registered nonpartisan voters as a percentage of all registered voters



Rural Vote Is Key For Trump

Continued from Page One 91 criminal charges related to everything from his handling of classified documents to efforts

to overturn the 2020 presidential election. And he led his party to election losses in 2018, 2020 and 2022. In Hancock County, none of

that matters to many GOP voters. The fact that so many damning allegations against Trump have been aired is a strength, they say, because it suggests he's unlikely to be derailed by a new tarnishing revelation. Many GOP voters here think Trump is most likely to achieve their ultimate goal—defeating President Biden-because he is a proven commodity and ties or beats the incumbent in general election polls.

The Coke effect

"His track record speaks for itself and I think we need him back to get the economy fixed," said Osmund "Bud" Jermeland, a 65-year-old farm equipment sales manager who is the county's GOP chairman. "There's going to be a pretty strong Trump turnout in this county.'

Picking Trump, in Jermeland's view, is like drinking Coca-Cola. You might give another soda a try, in the way voters early last year showed interest in Florida Gov. Ron De-Santis after his 2022 landslide re-election victory. But at the end of the day, if you like Coke, you stick with Coke.

Jermeland, whose leadership role calls for him to remain neutral in the contest, said DeSantis and former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley are considered "members of the Republican establishment" and not as trusted as Trump to govern as an outsider.

The most recent Wall Street Journal poll showed Trump had the support of 71% of rural Republican primary voters, well above his backing of 59% among all GOP primary voters. One reason is that rural America has a higher concentration of non-college-educated white voters, a demographic that Trump helped pull into the Republican Party when he first sought the presidency in 2016. Rural areas are also aging faster than the rest of the U.S., and Trump outperformed his last two Democratic

opponents among Americans

age 65 and older.

Trump won in 2016 despite garnering nearly 3 million fewer votes than Hillary Clinton, in part because he won less-populous states that the Electoral College gives a disproportionate say to in presidential elections. He secured close to two-thirds of the rural vote nationwide—about a fifth of the electorate—that year and in his 2020 election loss.

His hold on rural voters could help decide who wins the general election and margins could matter. If Democrats keep Trump from racking up the gains he had in rural America in 2016 and 2020, it could undermine his ability to carry battlegrounds like Wisconsin. Michigan and Pennsylvania.

His strength with rural voters hasn't been replicated

among the centrist suburban voters who decide general elections, which is why Haley still makes the case she'd be the better candidate in November and why Democrats still have hope Biden can win another term despite poor poll numbers. Hancock

County, a northcentral Iowa enclave where grain elevators are the tallest structures on the horizon, voters were once

skeptical of Trump, a thricemarried Manhattanite with virtually no rural life experience. Eight years ago, Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas scored his largest vote share in Hancock among the state's 99 counties, while also recording the biggest gap between his share and Trump's, 45% to 19%.

Business appeal

Trump went on to win 71% of the county's general election vote in 2020. Residents say farmers and small-business owners strongly relate to Trump's business background. They also think the former president's wealth allows him to fight the establishment and Washington better than his ri-

"We respond to Trump because he has had to make payroll and build businesses," said John Golnick, a 70-year-old

resident who has worked as a truck driver and in other jobs. "It takes risks, a lot of nerve and a lot of work."

Golnick, who plans to back

Trump at the caucuses, said he

thinks all of the investigations the former president faces are fake. "He's been investigated in so many different ways, if there was something damaging they would have found it four or five years ago," he said.

Republican Damon Quandt, a 31-year-old bank lending officer, had initially planned to back someone other than Trump in the caucuses—perhaps DeSantis—because there are aspects of Trump's personality he doesn't like. He now expects to vote for

Trump, in part because at some point, he said, DeSantis stopped looking like he could win. "I can like enough of him to

get on board to help make sure the next president can be a Republican," he said. Unlike many Republicans in-

terviewed in the county, Quandt thinks Trump lost the 2020 election. But he doesn't believe polls that show Haley is the strongest GOP candidate against Biden because he thinks potential Democratic attacks against her have yet to surface. "Everything about Trump is already out there and he's still leading," Quandt said. Hancock County hasn't

backed a Democrat in a presidential election since Bill Clinton in 1996. Republicans outnumber Democrats more than three to one, state data shows. The county is less educated than Iowa as a whole, with census data showing just one in five of those age 25 and older

having a bachelor's degree or higher, compared with about one in three for the state overall and 38% nationally. Its median age is 44, compared with 39 for both Iowa and the nation. Roughly nine in 10 residents are non-Hispanic white.

The evangelical vote Most of those interviewed in the county, which has a higher share of evangelicals than the statewide average, said they don't like Trump's personality and proclivity for name calling. But they also talk about Christian forgiveness when asked

munity are upset and frustrated

about his mistakes before and after he was president.

greenhouse gas would be sequestered underground.

Alan Bush, a 64-year-old loan officer for a local bank, said he thinks Ramaswamy will pick up some support in the county because he's expressed vocal opposition to the pipeline, unlike other candidates in the race. Bush, however, plans to caucus for Trump.

"He doesn't owe anyone favors and he's proven himself," he said. "I believe the man absolutely loves this country and wants to do right by it."

Likely participants in the state's GOP caucuses view Trump as the best Republican candidate to handle the economy, with more than twothirds saying in an Iowa Poll in

> December that he would do the best job on that key topic.

Florence "Sis" Greiman, a 60-year-old farmer and county commissioner, said she is leaning toward supporting Trump. "He did a lot of good things for farmers and rural people," Greiman said, highlighting Trump's actions on trade, his efforts to push for deregulation and lower agricultural input costs during his tenure.

Other business leaders see a president

whose economic policies had unintended consequences. Dave Zrostlik, the president of a company that builds service trucks, said Trump's tariffs immediately jacked up the cost of the raw steel his company relies on and made it harder to compete with European firms.

Zrostlik, whose company employs more than 500 people in the county, said he is leaning toward supporting Haley instead of Trump because he's "not a big fan of the person that he has become."

Cindy Wacker, a 51-year-old who has home-schooled her four children and lives south of Garner, said she didn't trust Trump enough to support him in 2016 but gave him her vote in 2020. She wouldn't be disappointed if Trump won the nomination, based on his border policies and appointment of conservative justices who helped overturn Roe v. Wade, ending the constitutional right to an abortion.

Still, she said she can't bring herself to back Trump and would prefer to see DeSantis as the nominee. "DeSantis does a lot of the things Trump talks about, but without all the drama," she said. "Trump has plenty of support, so I figure I will vote for my favorite.'

Hancock County officials, top. Damon Quandt, above, and Florence Greiman, left, expect to vote for Trump.

with some of Trump's personal choices, either in his speech or in his lifestyle choices," said Brian Lund, a 42-year-old pastor at the Zion Evangelical & Reformed Church. "Others are willing to overlook those." Lund, who declined to say

whom he will support in the caucuses, said he thinks Trump has such strength in the area because people think the former president's wealth allows him to take on the establishment and Washington.

Some of Trump's challengers have tried to win over voters here by championing local issues. Vivek Ramaswamy, the biotech entrepreneur who has campaigned extensively in Iowa

as part of his long-shot bid, has been to Hancock County at least

In a late December visit, Ramaswamy opposed the use of eminent domain for a proposed pipeline that would cross the county, a project that's unpopular with many farmers. It would transport carbon-dioxide emissions from ethanol and "Many Christians in the comother plants, liquefied under

pressure, to sites where the

THE WEEKEND INTERVIEW with Steve Stalinsky and Yigal Carmon | By Elliot Kaufman

When Terrorists Talk, They Listen

igal Carmon is one of the few Israelis who can claim to have predicted this war. His Aug. 31 article "Signs of Possible War in September-October" cited provocations by Hezbollah, escalating violence in the West Bank and threats from Hamas as evidence of regional coordination for something big. "Israel will likely be compelled to undertake a largescale response," he wrote, "even at the cost of an all-out war."

Some details were off, but Mr. Carmon says anyone paying attention would have seen the writing on the wall. "They said it all. They said everything," Mr. Carmon, a former Israeli intelligence officer and counterterrorism adviser to two prime ministers, says in a phone interview from Jerusalem. As president and a co-founder of Memri, the Middle East Media Research Institute, he had publicized Hamas's videos advertising its drills for an invasion of Israel, as well as its claims that total war was coming.

But Hamas is always threatening war, and most of the time it comes to naught. "If they publish it many times, then you can ignore it?" he asks in response to the point. "I say just the opposite. If they publish it many times, it suggests they mean it and you cannot ignore it. You must take it seriously."

The Middle East Media Research Institute fights Hamas by telling the world what its leaders are saying.

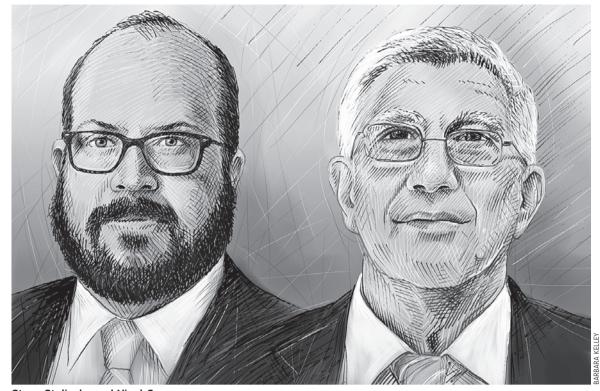
Unfortunately, the tendency of sophisticated observers is to play down what terrorists say they believe. In a phone interview from Washington, Steve Stalinsky, Memri's executive director, points out that in all the coverage of the war, "we have heard almost nothing about the Hamas ideology. Yeah, sure, sometimes you hear about the Hamas Covenant"—the group's charter, which spells out its genocidal intentions—"but that's it, and no one even prints it."

Memri prints it, and publishes video compilations of Hamas leaders stating their movement's goal: to build an Islamic caliphate stretching from Palestine across the region and the world. That sounds more like international jihad than Palestinian nationalism.

Headquartered in Washington, Memri monitors and translates TV broadcasts, newspapers, sermons, social-media posts, textbooks and official statements in Arabic, Farsi and several other languages. The work may be drudgery, but it yields a steady stream of articles and viral video clips that condemn the region's tyrants, terrorists and two-faced intellectuals with their own words.

Memri also documents Gazans' indoctrination from childhood into a religious ideology that puts them on a war footing. "Their textbooks are our life," Mr. Carmon says, "but no one paid attention." Instead, Israeli leaders were convinced that Qatari money and past beatings would deter Hamas.

Mr. Carmon directs me to a recent article in which he writes, "Any Arab who hears American officials say that Qatar is America's ally would burst into laughter—



Steve Stalinsky and Yigal Carmon

those clueless Americans, who don't even know that Qatar is spitting in their face with wild anti-U.S. incitement 24/7 . . . because they only watch the deceptive Al-Jazeera TV in English." On the Arabic-language channel, he says, Qatari-owned Al Jazeera "is the megaphone of Hamas like it was the megaphone of al Qaeda. Every speech, every statement—everything is aired several times until everybody gets it."

The article faults the Biden administration for "pleading with Qatar" instead of threatening it: "Just one comment by the U.S. administration that it is considering relocating Al Udeid Air Base from Qatar (without which Qatar will cease to exist within a week) to the UAE will set the Qataris running to bring all the American hostages back home." Instead, while hostage negotiations stall, the U.S. has quietly agreed to extend its presence at the Qatari base for another decade, according to a Jan. 2 CNN report. Mr. Carmon seems mystified by U.S. weakness. "Since when do experienced American officials conduct negotiations without power pressure on the side?"

On so many issues, Mr. Stalinsky is surprised simply that policy makers have been surprised. "We translate the Houthis too," he says. The Iran-backed Yemeni rebels "have been promising, in case a war ever happened, to do exactly what they're doing now"—attack Israel, U.S. forces and international shipping. Yet the Biden administration took months to formulate a response, even as most global shipping has been forced to avoid the Suez Canal.

With some 70 employees and a clunky website, Memri has had an outsize influence on the post-Oct. 7 conversation. Take the trendy calls for a cease-fire, which is the key to a Hamas victory. Memri's translations have furnished supporters of Israel with a knockdown reply: What good is a cease-fire when Hamas pledges to repeat its Oct. 7 massacre "again and again"?

That quote is from Ghazi Hamad, a Hamas politburo member, in an Oct. 24 appearance on Lebanese television. We know about it because Memri was watching. "We will do this again and again," Mr. Hamad says in Arabic. "The Al Aqsa Flood"—Hamas's name for the Oct. 7 operation—"is just the first time, and there will be a second, a third, a fourth."

Hamas terrorists are open about their intentions, Mr. Stalinsky says, "but they aren't broadcasting it to the West." When he wants, Mr. Hamad poses as a humanitarian, lately praising Canada, Australia and New Zealand in English for supporting a cease-fire. Messrs. Carmon and Stalinsky try to "bridge the language gap" to inform the West.

Every so often, it works.

Memri's translation of Mr.

Hamad's remarks has been quoted repeatedly by Secretary of State
Antony Blinken, National Security
Council spokesman John Kirby and other senior U.S. officials under pressure from the left to give
Hamas what it wants.

The message has staying power. In a Dec. 26 op-ed in these pages, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu cited the Hamas bigwig's remarks as his first proof of why Hamas must be destroyed. Israel then played the video clip of Mr. Hamad—with Memri logo intact—during its opening statement rebutting false allegations at the International Court of Justice on Friday. Even Sen. Bernie Sanders has resisted calls for a full cease-fire on grounds that Hamas wants "permanent war."

nything that reminds the West of Hamas's aims is good for Israel, but Memri doesn't see its job as doing public relations for the Jewish state. "The PR efforts to show Israel in a positive way have mostly been a failure," Mr. Stalinsky says, regarding the younger generation. Perhaps there's a role for celebrating Israel's progressive features, or for TikTok videos of dancing female soldiers, but Memri doesn't bother with any of that. It does research to expose Israel's enemies for what they are.

An Oct. 8 Memri TV clip shows Hamas leader Ali Baraka explaining how Israel was fooled: "We made them think that Hamas was busy with governing Gaza, and that it wanted to focus on the 2.5 million Palestinians." An Oct. 19 clip has Hamas leader

Khaled Mashal shrugging off the suffering Hamas has brought on Gazan civilians. "Nations are not easily liberated," he says. "The Algerian people sacrificed six million martyrs." Hamas would gladly follow that example.

In an Oct. 30 video, Mousa Abu Marzouk, another senior Hamas leader, says unabashedly that Hamas's tunnels are for protecting its fighters, not Gazan civilians: "It is the responsibility of the United Nations to protect them."

Most recently, Memri has Hamas politburo chief Ismail Haniyeh declaring on Jan. 9, in a speech aired on Al Jazeera: "We should hold on to the victory that took place on Oct. 7 and build upon it." To the West, Mr. Haniyeh demands an end to the war and even gestures at a two-state solution, but to the Arab masses he says "the time has come for the jihad of the swords." To these videos, Memri adds only captioned translations, so that viewers draw conclusions for themselves.

One of Memri's earliest successes came with Yasser Arafat. By 2002 the Palestinian terrorist leader was used to being feted as a statesman. In a "60 Minutes" interview, however, Arafat was flummoxed when Mike Wallace quoted Memri's translations of his Arabic speeches: "'Millions of holy warriors are on their way to Jerusalem. Jihad! Jihad! Jihad!'... What does that mean?"

Arafat "got Memri'd," as Mr.

Stalinsky puts it. "People still get Memri'd to this day," he says-including Arafat's successor. A month before the war, Memri published a video of Mahmoud Abbas, president of the Palestinian Authority. Lecturing in Arabic to his Fatah Revolutionary Council, Mr. Abbas spouts a remarkable variety of conspiracy theories about the Jews, culminating in a denial that Hitler was antisemitic, "At least once a year we catch him saying stuff like that," Mr. Stalinsky says, but this time the moment was ripe. The video made international headlines, elicited a U.S. condemnation and dashed at last Mr. Abbas's reputation as a moderate.

Now, when the issue of the "day after" Hamas is on the lips of U.S. leaders, it is taken for granted that the Palestinian Authority is unfit to take over in its present configuration. Mr. Netanyahu says that he won't allow Gaza to go from "Hamas-stan" to "Fatah-stan," and the Biden administration has be-

come willing to meet him halfway. Mr. Blinken calls for a "revitalized" Palestinian Authority. U.S. officials are quoted looking for "new blood."

If the administration tries to hoist one of Mr. Abbas's Fatah colleagues as the man to run Gaza, expect a clip from Memri's archive, 11,000-strong, to alter the debate. "The others are extremists too," Mr. Stalinsky says. "They're totally antisemitic and often supportive of jihad."

That isn't even the main prob-

as a body is corrupt to its toes. No one respects them," he says. "Abbas says, 'I won't come to Gaza on the back of an Israeli tank,' and that's a good line. But Fatah won't come anyway because they would be slaughtered." Hamas, their fellow Palestinians, would kill them.

Memri's work also looks at

lem, Mr. Carmon argues. "The PA

Memri's work also looks at America, where Mr. Stalinsky says "something has changed." Speaking in Arabic, many American Muslim radicals are "openly supportive of Hamas and the Oct. 7 attack. They're bolder about it now."

Most of Memri's American translations are of imams and scholars who are obscure to the larger public. But one that shook the White House was of Nihad Awad, executive director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, which styles itself a mainstream, well-connected Muslim advocacy group. Mr. Awad was caught celebrating the Oct. 7 attack as an act of Gazan liberation and "self-defense." President Biden had to remove CAIR as a partner in the White House's Strategy to Counter Antisemitism.

"Awad wasn't expecting that anyone would be paying attention to his video outside the intended audience," Mr. Stalinksy says. He was speaking at a convention of American Muslims for Palestine, an organizer of anti-Israel rallies across America with its own record of extremism. Nobody objected to Mr. Awad's remarks until Memri exposed them two weeks later.

The video revealed how the anti-Israel movement talks to itself. But lately it isn't so subtle, with pro-Hamas protests in U.S. streets. "There is an element of trying to intimidate the Jewish community," Mr. Stalinsky observes, "going to kosher restaurants, community centers, Hanukkah celebrations, harassing Jewish students." Efforts to disrupt Thanksgiving and Christmas celebrations, and to block roads, bridges and tunnels, also suggest a new willingness to push around the American majority.

all of this is escalating with a backdrop of rising danger from terrorist groups, Mr. Stalinsky says. "Hamas has all of a sudden become the king of the jihadis around the world," who are energized and looking to "jump on the bandwagon," he says. "We've monitored it since the beginning of jihadis going online, and there have never been so many open threats to the U.S.—explicit threats."

Mr. Stalinsky worries we're at the start of another cycle: "People pay attention, then they don't want to pay attention, and then they have to pay attention" when something terrible happens. "Because it always comes back to the Middle East."

Mr. Kaufman is the Journal's letters editor.

Why No One Goes Out to Eat in D.C. Anymore



CROSS COUNTRY By Michael Saltsman and Rebekah Paxton Washington
The restaurant
scene in the District
of Columbia is dying, and public policy is to blame. As
recently as 2016, the
nation's capital received its first Michelin Guide and accolades from the
country's top food
magazines. In 2018
the editor of Bon

Appétit declared that Washington was "having a moment," with some restaurants so popular that patrons would wait an hour to get a bite. But that was then. Rising crime and last year's mandated increase in tipped wages have restaurateurs lining up to leave town.

In a December social-media post announcing the closing of Pursuit, a 10-year-old wine bar and restaurant, owner Adam Kelinsky said doing business in the city "is no longer sustainable." Aaron McGovern and Arturas Vorobjovas shuttered both Washington locations of their seafood restaurant Brine in November, saying that the combined effects of

the pandemic, the sputtering economy and "the spike in violent crime" had made it "impossible to survive." Others focus on the second-order consequences of crime: With homicides in Washington up 35% in 2023 and car thefts up 82%, restaurant operators report that people are choosing to eat elsewhere.

Perhaps the sharpest blow was the December announcement that two of Washington's major-league sports teams—the Wizards of the National Basketball Association and the Capitals of the National Hockey League plan to leave for a more businessfriendly environment in Alexandria, Va. The teams currently play at the Capital One Arena in Chinatown, where a once-vibrant restaurant scene catered to sports fans and concertgoers. The area has been plagued in recent years by robberies and shootings. Things got so bad that Ted Leonsis, owner of both teams, was

shootings. Things got so bad that Ted Leonsis, owner of both teams, was forced to hire off-duty police to keep visitors to the arena safe. Falling foot traffic would be bad enough on its own, but Washington's restaurants have simultaneously

faced a sharp rise in labor costs. In

November 2022 the city's liberal

voter base overwhelmingly approved Initiative 82, a ballot measure to more than triple the base wage for tipped restaurant workers. Tipped workers in most states can be paid a lower base wage, with their tips bringing them up to minimum wage or more—often two to three times the required minimum. Initiative 82,

Misguided public policy has led to fear on the streets and surcharges on restaurant bills.

which eliminated this system, was opposed by tipped workers who worried that it would destroy an industry that worked well for them

worried that it would destroy an industry that worked well for them.
It looks as if they were right. According to Federal Reserve data, full-service restaurant employment in Washington grew roughly 17% in the year before the tipping changes took

effect. Since Initiative 82 came into

force in May 2023, employment has

fallen 4%. This is just the start: The

tipped wage will continue to rise for

the next three years, when it meets the regular minimum wage that is increased every year for inflation. An April survey published by the Employment Policies Institute of more than 100 local restaurants in D.C. found that most planned to lay off workers. Half planned to expand into lower-cost states such as Maryland or Virginia, and nearly 1 in 3 planned to close locations.

To offset costs, hundreds of restaurants have opted to add fees or other surcharges to customer checks. Diners are responding the way you'd expect: A National Restaurant Association poll of nearly 1,000 D.C.-area adults found more than half are dining out less because of higher prices. Some said they're choosing to patronize restaurants in Maryland or Virginia instead

higher prices. Some said they're choosing to patronize restaurants in Maryland or Virginia instead.

Customers paying sharply higher prices or mandatory surcharges are understandably reluctant to leave an additional tip for their server. Cornell economist Michael Lynn has found that gratuities are lower for

workers in states with higher tipped

wages. This seems to be what's hap-

pening in Washington: Local news

outlet DCist reports that some serv-

ers are earning less in take-home pay despite the higher base wage. Still, there is modest reason for

optimism. Washington's Mayor Muriel Bowser, a Democrat, this week endorsed an aggressive package of safety laws that would increase the penalties for certain crimes and offer grants to improve safety in commercial areas. One of the district's softon-crime council members is facing a primary challenge from a law-and-order Democrat: another is the subject of a recall campaign. And unlike other localities that are hamstrung by ballot measures, the D.C. Council has the power to modify voter-approved measures such as Initiative 82. All this could help, though it's sadly too late to save businesses that have already closed their doors. Voters in Ohio, Arizona and Mas-

sachusetts may be asked to eliminate tipped wages this fall. They should take note: Washington's experiment with lax crime enforcement and high labor costs has caused a dining disaster.

Mr. Saltsman is executive director of the Employment Policies Institute, where Ms. Paxton is research director.

OPINION

REVIEW & OUTLOOK

Hitting the Houthis, at Last

It may take more than

one military strike to

restore U.S. deterrence.

he press is reporting that Thursday's U.S.-British strikes against the Houthis

conflict in the Middle East. That's the wrong way to think about it. The conflict was already escalating. The question has been whether the U.S. and its allies would respond to Houthi efforts, backed by Iran,

to hijack commercial shipping and shoot at the

President Biden's patience, and his own fear of escalation, ran out Thursday night as U.S. and British forces hit more than 60 targets across 16 locations with more than 100 precisionguided munitions. The Houthis have been using these weapons depots, radars and launch sites to "endanger freedom of navigation in one of the world's most vital waterways," as the White House said in a statement.

The U.S. strikes finally put some muscle and above all credibility behind warnings by American officials that the Houthis would face "consequences" if they kept up their piracy. Several denunciations and even a U.S.-led international naval coalition to protect shipping didn't dis-

The Houthis responded Tuesday to the Biden Administration's last cease and desist letter by sending 20 or so drones, and cruise and ballistic missiles at a cluster of U.S. and British ships and an American-flagged commercial vessel. The terrorists have launched some 27 attacks in the Red Sea since November.

Mr. Biden had to respond if he wanted his warnings to have any force. The Houthis have now paid a price for their piracy, and they say five of their own died in the attacks. Now we'll see whether the U.S. strikes will restore America's vanishing deterrence in the region. The strategy of warnings without military followthrough had failed.

The Houthis responded Thursday with defiance and a vow to keep launching attacks. A senior Administration official said "we would not be surprised to see some sort of response" after the strikes. The Houthis also have far more military capacity than Thursday's strikes destroyed. That's why the U.S. message should be

that another Houthi attack would be met with even harsher punishment. The worst message in Yemen risk escalating the current is to suggest that this is a one-time response.

> As ever, the party behind the Middle East violence is Iran. Tehran arms the Houthis and provides real-time targeting intelligence against shipping in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. This week Iran

joined the piracy by seizing an oil tanker off the coast of Oman.

The goal is to sow chaos, and neither Iran nor its allies in the Kremlin care if the price of oil pops, as it has. As oil exporters, they benefit. The White House is at pains to say it wants no military engagement with Iran, but Iran through its proxy militias sure seems to want one with the U.S. One misguided criticism of Mr. Biden's use

of force is the claim from the Congressional backbenches that he's violated the Constitution. "The President needs to come to Congress before launching a strike against the Houthis in Yemen and involving us in another middle east conflict," Rep. Ro Khanna tweeted, to take one example.

He's wrong. Presidents have used force to combat threats to American commerce and citizens since Thomas Jefferson sent Marines to fight the Barbary pirates. The Houthis have endangered U.S. sailors and ships—as have other Iran proxies some 130 times across the

The Constitution gives the Commander in Chief broad authority to respond to such attacks without having to get permission from Mr. Khanna. If Congress wants to contribute to restoring global order, it would pass a resolution supporting Mr. Biden's strikes and increase the defense budget.

Any use of force carries the risk of escalation, but the Houthis and Iran started this exchange, and the failure of Mr. Biden to respond for weeks has produced its own escalation. Tehran is testing America's will, and on Thursday they were met with strength. Americans, and anyone who wants a more tranquil world, should hope this is the beginning of new resolve by the Biden Administration.

Is There a Constitutional Right to Vagrancy?

The Supreme Court will

consider if cities can

enforce public order.

ood news for West Coast denizens. The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to hear an appeal challenging a judicial blocking the city from clearing homeless camps.

ruling that established a de facto constitutional right to vagrancy. Wouldn't it be rich if conservative Justices rescue progressive cities from themselves? (City of Grants Pass v.

A panel of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in 2022 blocked the Oregon town of Grants Pass from enforcing "anti-camping" laws on public property. The judges said the Eighth Amendment's ban on cruel and unusual punishment prohibits cities from arresting or imposing penalties on homeless people for squatting on pubис property и there aren't enough shelter beds for every vagrant.

Progressives have used the ruling to sue to stop cities across the West from enforcing similar laws. Under the appellate court's precedent, a police officer in, say, San Francisco can't cite a homeless person who has set up a tent inside a public playground even if he has been offered temporary housing.

Many homeless reject temporary shelter because they'd rather live on the streets where they can freely use drugs. The Ninth Circuit decision has made it harder for local officials to use the threat of penalties to force vagrants to accept treatment for mental illness and drug addiction, which has contributed to the increasing disorder in West Coast cities.

San Francisco Mayor London Breed last sum-

mer held a rally in front of the Ninth Circuit courthouse to protest a lower-court injunction

The judges weren't moved. On Thursday a 2-1 majority of a three-judge panel upheld the lower-court ruling.

In a fiery dissent, Judge Patrick Bumatay explained that nothing in "the text, history and tradition" of the Eighth Amendment

"comes close to prohibiting enforcement of commonplace anti-vagrancy laws." The court's 'sweeping injunction has no basis in the Constitution or our precedent," he added. "San Francisco should not be treated as an experiment for judicial tinkering."

Our decision is cruel because it leaves the citizens of San Francisco powerless to enforce their own health and safety laws without the permission of a federal judge," Judge Bumatay wrote. "And it's unusual because no other court in the country has interpreted the Constitution in this way." This may be one reason the High Court agreed to hear the Grants Pass appeal.

Local governments in the Ninth Circuit's jurisdiction, including Los Angeles, San Francisco and Phoenix, also urged Justices to hear the case. That includes California Gov. Gavin Newsom, who argued in a friend-of-court brief that "courts are not well-suited to micromanage such nuanced policy issues based on ill-defined rules." We look forward to Mr. Newsom's constitutional communion with Justice Clarence

Georgia's School-Choice Mulligan

year a 2024 priority.

eorgia has entered the second year of strongly in favor, and House Speaker Jon that means second chances. Namely,

lawmakers have an opportunity to pass school-choice legislation that failed last year. A good sign is that Republican Gov. Brian Kemp is backing the effort early and with apparent conviction.

"I firmly believe we can take an all-of-theabove approach to education, whether it's public, private, homeschooling, charter, or otherwise," Gov. Kemp said in his State of the State address on Thursday. "It's time for all parties to get around a table and agree on the best

path forward to provide our kids the best educational opportunities." That's a wiser way to start than last year. The Governor was late to come out in full support for a bill providing education savings ac-

counts (ESAs) of \$6,500 to students in Georgia's worst-performing K-12 district schools. The ESAs passed the Senate, but 16 Republicans joined Democrats to kill them in the House. Many of the opponents represent rural areas and claim school choice hurts public schools in areas that have few private school options. But

district schools that perform well shouldn't have to fear losing students. The bill went back to committee, where it can be taken up again and doesn't need an-

other Senate vote. Lt. Gov. Burt Jones is

its biennial legislative session, and Burns has given some support but could do The bill received 85 votes

Gov. Kemp is making an last year of the 91 needed to pass. A vacant Republican seat ESA bill that failed last means one more vote might be needed. Some of the 16 "nos" are still putting up public resistance. Reps. Gerald Greene,

> J. Collins, Danny Mathis and Beth Camp told the Associated Press this month that they're still opposed or have reservations.

> They might consider the response to an advisory question on the May 2022 Republican primary ballot, which asked voters if dollars should "follow the student to the school that best fits their need." Nearly 80% said yes, and the issue won in rural counties too.

> They also might consider the electoral fate of opponents in other states. All Georgia legislative seats are up for election this year, and primaries begin in May. Gov. Kemp can emulate what Gov. Kim Reynolds did successfully in Iowa, and what Gov. Greg Abbott is doing now in Texas—endorsing challengers to lawmakers

who didn't vote for school choice. Gov. Kemp had it right in his remarks that "at the end of the day, our first and foremost consideration should be the future of that student." The bill isn't meant to pit some schools against others but to give parents better

choices to educate their children.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Tokyo Crash and the American Character

In "What America Can Learn From the Tokyo Crash" (Declarations, Jan. 6), Peggy Noonan offers that we "need to work on our national style." She wonders, "What if that had been a Delta flight at JFK full of Americans revelers home from holiday?" But it wasn't. It was a U.S. Airways flight out of LaGuardia headed to Charlotte, N.C. It landed in the Hudson River on a cold January afternoon in 2009.

My uncle, like all 155 passengers, was surprised he was alive when they hit the water. Almost everyone on board expected they would sink quickly while trapped in the plane. At best, they would drown in the frigid Hudson. The men aboard, of all generations, insisted on evacuating 'women and children first."

Andrew Bazarian Wilbraham, Mass.

I was a Delta captain for over 40 vears, and I have flown wide-body iets to Japan hundreds of times. My crew and I noticed that Japanese passengers generally deplane faster than any other group. Individuals seemed to pride themselves on being organized and cooperative so they could smoothly enter the flow of deplaning passengers. It was enjoyable to watch.

Rather than merely praise the Japanese, however, Ms. Noonan suggests that Americans would inhibit an evacuation because we are more individualistic. But that Americans may fumble around a bit on our way out. after a safe airline flight is parked at the gate, says nothing about how we respond during a true emergency.

American values were on display on

9/11 when hundreds of citizens ran into the burning and falling World Trade Center buildings to save people they didn't know. I have had a few inflight emergencies, and I was always impressed by how calm and cooperative Americans are when they understand the danger. That we have rowdy political battles doesn't mean we don't come together when it really matters.

RONALD P. CARLSON Boise, Idaho

Ms. Noonan's take on the Tokyo plane crash may be premature. By most accounts, it took 18 minutes to evacuate the plane. A common target of plane evacuations is 90 seconds. It is telling that while the plane was on fire, the passengers had to ask the crew and the cockpit to open the emergency exits. If it weren't for the slowness of the fire's spread, the passengers may have gone politely to their deaths.

> DAVID M. BEKUS Skillman, N.J.

Ask any active crew member of any major U.S. carrier if they really think they can evacuate an airliner in 90 seconds. I am a retired airline captain, and I can tell you that it's impossible. The Federal Aviation Administration test is a sham and they know it. The FAA needs a rewrite of the rules on this and other outdated specifications. A more realistic approach would be refreshing and enhance safety for the flying public. The tragic accident in Japan was a wakeup call. Let's hope the FAA heard it.

CLYDE ROMERO

Henry Wallace and the Game of 'What ifs'

Having finished Benn Steil's book "The World That Wasn't" (reviewed by Michael Barone, Jan. 6), I find his portrait of my grandfather, Henry Wallace, so skewed as to be nearly unrecognizable. Mr. Steil's purpose seems to be less to depict a person accurately than to attack claims by historians that a Wallace presidency might have avoided the Cold War. He summons up instead a different counterfactual history of appeasement leading to spreading Communist domination. To frame such a specter, he skims over Wallace's accomplishments and vacuums up negative reports and errors in judgment.

The problem for Mr. Steil, as he speculates darkly over what Wallace might have done, is that Wallace's actual decisions in office usually proved quite beneficial to the nation. He may

have been the best U.S. agriculture secretary but, as Michael Barone notes, the book allocates 17 pages to that tenure versus 61 pages to a planthunting fiasco by a Russian mystic. On the eve of the 1944 Democratic

convention, 64% of Democratic voters wanted Wallace on the ticket again (Gallup polled Harry Truman at 2%), and Franklin Roosevelt publicly stated his preference that Wallace be renominated. Being replaced by Truman had less to do with FDR "dumping" him than conservative Democratic bosses ensuring that Wallace's progressive vision would be truncated.

I've appreciated Mr. Steil's writing on Bretton Woods, but "The World That Wasn't" would be better titled "The Henry Wallace That Wasn't."

DAVID WALLACE DOUGLAS Santa Fe, N.M.

U.S. Universities Had a Reason to Spend Big

Many buildings at STEM schools are required to adhere to federal guidelines that make it cheaper to build new than to retrofit an existing building. One example is the science lab. There are myriad and expensive rules for these labs concerning ventilation, wastewater disposal, fire containment, chemical storage, security, first aid and more.

No Political Orthodoxy Will Leave the Sciences Alone

Lawrence Krauss and his Yale physics colleagues atop "science hill" thought they were safe from the "postmodernism and deconstructionism" that had captured the humanities until it all came for the physicists and mathematicians too ("Alan Sokal's Joke Is on Us as Postmodernism Comes to Science," op-ed, Jan. 6). Chillingly, Natan Sharansky, the former Soviet dissident, has described how he, too, pursued a career in the "sanctuary of science" until Andrei Sakharov's 1968 manifesto confronted him with the reality that Soviet ideological censorship would handicap his advancement there as surely as it would in any other field.

Meanwhile, here in Canada the national framework for enhancing physician training is hoping to "decentralize medical expertise" in its foundational model for medical education, replacing it with "anti-oppression, anti-racism and social justice." DEENA AGES, M.D.

Sinwar and His Predecessor

Regarding Judith Miller's op-ed "Ehud Olmert's Missed Shot at Hamas" (Jan. 10): The best outcome for all the suffering in Israel and Gaza would be for Hamas's Yahya Sinwar to end his life in the bunker where he is hiding, as did his predecessor in Berlin 78 years ago. RICHARD S. LAUB

number. All letters are subject to

editing, and unpublished letters cannot

be acknowledged.

Buffalo, N.Y.

Letters intended for publication should be emailed to wsj.ltrs@wsj.com. Please include your city, state and telephone

During the period examined in "Breaking Down the Spending at One of America's Priciest Public Colleges" (Page One, Dec. 30), interest rates were historically low. If I were a college president and had to build a new building, I would plan to build when interest rates were low. That we have seen increased construction activity only stands to reason. These are prudent business decisions, not the actions of luxury-loving berserkers.

The old-style dorms where all the residents on a floor share a communal bathroom aren't in high demand today. It is smart to build dorms that lower the number of people sharing living and bathing quarters. And if you can do this with low interest rates, so much the better.

> MARTHA McDonald Clemson, S.C.

The Real Contempt Precedent

It isn't true that "The Contempt of Hunter Biden" (by William McGurn, Main Street, Jan. 9) could render congressional investigations toothless. As the nonprosecution of Lois Lerner and the prosecutions of Steve Bannon and Peter Navarro for contempt demonstrate, Republican congressional investigations are rendered toothless when a Democrat is attorney general.

MICHAEL J. GALASSI Hurst, Texas

Pepper ... **And Salt**

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL



"I was okay with the no sugar thing, and then the lunchtime yoga, but I am not doing a thirty day lunge challenge."

OPINION

Both Sides **Threaten** Democracy

By Tom McClintock

resident Biden marked the third anniversary of the Jan. 6 Capitol riot by calling it a "day that we nearly lost America" and asked: "Is democracy still America's sacred cause?

That's an important question, and what happened on Jan. 6 was a national disgrace. A riotous mob disrupted Congress in its constitutional responsibility to observe the counting of the votes of the Electoral College. But to conclude that "we nearly lost America" to a lunatic wearing buffalo horns is hysterical hyperbole to say the least. Once these yahoos were kicked out of the building, Congress calmly affirmed Mr. Biden's election.

Mr. Biden is right to raise concerns about the growing threats to our democracy. He's right that democracy requires the loser of an election to accept its outcome as legitimate. Many Democrats refused to do that in 2016 and many Republicans in 2020. But why do so many voters distrust the integrity of our

The Jan. 6 riot was a national disgrace, but Biden should push his own party to respect norms.

For centuries, we cast our votes in secret, looked our neighbors in the eye as they handed in their ballots, and watched as they were placed in a locked container. We had our say during the campaign and waited until the debate was over to make our decision on Election Day. It was hard to

In recent years, Democrats have rigged election laws to extend voting over an entire month, accept ballots after Election Day, allow political operatives to harvest ballots, use mailin ballots with no chain of custody. and prevent observers from unobstructed views of ballot counting.

Freedom of speech is the heart of democracy, yet left-leaning bureaucracies colluded to influence elections by intimidating political opponents, starting with the tea party. They promoted false narratives like the Russia-collusion hoax. Federal trial and appellate courts have found that the government violated the First Amendment by pressuring social-media platforms to censor political dialogue. Mr. Biden attempted to establish a "disinformation czar" to decide what information could reach

Other basic institutions are under growing attack. The left has been clear that it intends to pack the Supreme Court by creating new seats and the Senate by admitting the District of Columbia as a state. Less than two years ago, leftist mobs descended on the homes of justices to pressure and intimidate them. Mr. Biden's Justice Department refused to enforce the law that protects jurists from such bullying.

The president has opened the border and produced an illegal mass migration unprecedented in our history, while members of his party have pushed to permit foreign nationals to vote in local elections.

How does Mr. Biden explain the unprecedented acts of his agents seeking to ban challengers from the ballot? It isn't only the brazen and unconstitutional attempt to bar Mr. Trump, Democrats have aggressively worked to ban challengers from their own primaries. They seized from Democratic voters in Iowa and New Hampshire the right to have a meaningful say in the nomination, in part for fear they wouldn't vote for him in sufficient numbers.

Our democracy is under attack from the fringes of both parties. The president makes matters worse by treating the threat as if it comes only from the other side

Mr. McClintock, a Republican, represents California's Fifth Congressional District.

The Voters Finally Get Their Say



DECLARATIONS By Peggy Noonan

inally we vote. Iowa is Monday, New Hampshire a week from Tuesday. I refuse to see the story as over. "Nothing is written." Both big parties look set on making a mistake, but there's time to turn it

Democrats on the ground are making a mistake in not rebelling against the inevitability of Joe Biden. He's no longer up to the job, the vice president never was, and this doesn't go under the heading National Security Secret Number 379, everybody knows. The problem isn't the Biden cam-

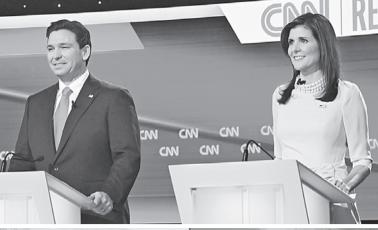
paign, however lame it may or may not be. It isn't that the president's most important advisers are in the White House, not the campaign. It's him, and it's not only his age. His speeches are boring, he never seems sincere, he seems propped up. He doesn't have a tropism toward intellectual content and likes things airy; his subject matter isn't life as most people are experiencing it but something many steps removed. He often seems like he just met the text.

His advisers would think, "Then we'll do more interviews," but he's not good there either-hesitant, lacking the confidence you must have to express your own thoughts as they arrive in your head. This means we have a president who, in an election year, has no way of communicating effectively, in person, with the American people. He hasn't provided the sentence that makes the case for his being kept in office, and he hasn't painted what a second term might look like, what its Great Intention might be.

Democrats on the ground should raise a ruckus, issue a mighty roar. They can do better than this. To win, I think, they must.

Republicans similarly shouldn't accept the inevitability of Donald Trump. On the debate stage Wednesday Nikki Haley and Ron DeSantis were the Bickersons, and seemed smaller. On Fox, in a counterprogramming coup, the former president was Big Daddy with a sinister side, and seemed big. He's riding high. He thinks he's got this thing.

In just the past seven days we learned that he refused to sign Illinois's traditional candidate's vow not to attempt to overthrow the U.S. government. Everybody signs it and always has. He warned of "bedlam" if he's convicted in court and he loses the election. A few days before, Rep. Elise Stefanik, major MAGA mover, refused to say, on "Meet the Press," that she would accept the





Ron DeSantis and Nikki Haley debate; Donald Trump and Joe Biden.

outcome of the election. Is that all stubbornness and rhetorical posturing, or is it something more, something hiding in plain sight? If there is ever another day like Jan. 6, 2021, it will be led by people who were there the first time and are now better at it. Last time we didn't wind up in full constitutional crisis, because systems held. Will they next time? Do we really want to find out?

Each party seems set to make a big mistake, but a Trump-Biden rematch isn't yet inevitable.

Mr. Trump will say anything for attention; he wants the cameras on him. He says-again, confining ourselves to the past week—the Civil War could have been negotiated and avoided. Heroic figures in Congress for decades attempted precisely that, trying to thwart and limit the spread of slavery while keeping the nation together. Mr. Trump implied Lincoln wanted war: "If he negotiated it, you probably wouldn't even know who Abraham Lincoln was." Yes, Lincoln was a cynical, self-aggrandizing pol,

not a genius deal maker like Mr. Trump. What an idiot he is.

What is behind a Republican voters' decision to stick with him?

Hope—he'll be better than Mr. Biden, he was good until the pandemic and 1/6, but he's learned.

Pride—you took a lot of guff for past support, you're not gonna back off now. Identification-he's a nonelite. Anger—he's a living rebuke of the system that has produced disorder. Cold calculation—"In a world full of animals, he's our animal." Mischief, sheer humor—his antics

make you laugh, and it isn't a bad feeling to subvert things when you feel what you're subverting is deca-

Some other things, I think. Americans have long used political debate as a distraction from their real lives. Once Mr. Trump is in office again you have a job again. When he's in power he dominates the stage, the national conversation. Everyone is forced to argue about Trump. Your job the next four years is to defend him. It's a full-time job so you get to ignore your life and what needs fixing in it. These tend to be the hard parts—lost kids, loneliness, job problems. You can't fix them, you're too busy saving the nation! You have to

The left does this too, maybe more so. But it all got turbocharged in the Trump era.

More seriously—most seriously deep down a lot of hard-core Trump supporters, and many not so hardcore, think it's all over. They love America truly and deeply but think the glue that held us together is gone. Religion and Main Street are shrinking into the past, and in the Rite Aid everything's locked up. School shootings, mass shootings, nobody's safe, men in the girls' locker room, race obsessions, a national debt we'll never control. China, Russia, nukes and cooked-up plagues. If they decide to do a mass cyberattack and take out our electricity for six months we'll never get through it. Once we would.

I am always struck by how many jolly, kind, cheerful, constructive Americans hold this sense of impending doom in their hearts and go cheerfully through each day anyway.

But they figure if we're at the end times, he's the perfect end-times president, a guy who goes boom.

Some feel our problems are so deep that a democratic republic is maybe at this point just another form of governance, one of a variety, including various forms of autocracy, that might be adopted. Ours is the preferred one, to be sure. But different eras demand different governmental forms, and we don't exist to serve the form, the form exists to serve us. An odd variation on this is an overconfidence about our democratic republic-we've had it since the Constitution was ratified in 1788, we'll always have it, so stop manipulating people with "Democracy is on the ballot"; nobody's threatening it, we can never lose it.

But of course we can't know that. It has to be kept healthy and operating, which means at this of all times we have to be careful. We have to navigate in a sound and prudent way, we have to steer clear of the rocks.

A practical argument would be that whatever the nature or flavor of your conservatism, you surely want to make progress, urgently, with the next Congress. Ron DeSantis or Nikki Haley would come in with the whoosh of the new, aim at conservative legislation, know how to use the levers of power, and get things done. Mr. Trump would come in a lame duck (provided he accepts Constitutional proscriptions), do his crazyman antics, say his crazy-man things, and proceed with a mad blunderer's

imitation of sophistication. If your intention is to stand and fight and make things better he'd be the least effective choice.

Ms. Haley is a steely, orderly lady, Mr. DeSantis a bull, Mr. Trump a malign screaming meemie.

The voting begins now. May Iowa prove the heartland of a sound and hopeful nation.

The FCC vs. the News in Your Neighborhood



WORLD By Holman W. Jenkins, Jr.

You probably have family member who, seeing a rake left lying in the driveway, doesn't pick it up and put it safely out of the

way. Official Washington has Jessica Rosenworcel, the Federal Communi-

cations Commission chief. Last seen restarting a needless fight over net neutrality, over the holidays she committed more bureaucracy. The courts pressured her to complete her agency's absurdly delayed 2018 "quadrennial review" of its extensive media ownership regulations. Of course she found these regulations more urgent than ever despite the internet having obliterated the ostensible electromagnetic scarcity on which they were premised.

In 1996, amid the coming digital plenty, Congress required the FCC every four years to consider getting rid of the rules. But for Ms. Rosenworcel they will never be obsolete, whatever the pleas of broadcasters trying to survive in a digital world the rules never contemplated.

A Republican dissenter on her commission, Brendan Carr, tried to list the new players in the video market, from YouTube to SlingTV. He ran out of space. Every radio and TV station on the planet now can compete for audience everywhere thanks to the web. Podcasts, blogs, social media and every news outlet's website reaches every smartphone on earth. Most importantly, advertising fortresses of the sort once enjoyed by local broadcasters and newspapers are kaput because any web operator can now target ads geographically.

Local TV and radio stations still have one business-model strategy going for them: assembling sufficiently valuable local audiences that can be enticed indirectly to pay for the production and distribution of local news.

Ms. Rosenworcel thinks so too. and pretends to be helping by restricting consolidation. She's doing the opposite of helping, as manifested in the plummeting value of TV stations and steady shrinkage of their audiences.

The FCC's ancient prohibition against ownership of TV stations and newspapers in the same market has already helped put thousands of newspapers out of business. If she's looking for fire-sale liquidations of TV stations and a loss of news reporting across large swaths of America, she's on the right track. Station owners at least comfort themselves that their incumbency on the pub-

The notion that junior staffers in

such coveted jobs would dare cross

the principal—even anonymously-

ico. Jan. 10:

their heads.

licly owned airwaves can be their golden parachute. They and their lobbyists should think again. Congress will likely grab for itself any windfalls from redeploying spectrum to wireless broadband if digital penury means broadcasters by then have given up their local news audiences and thus leverage over pols.

Local broadcasting might have a future if the agency's ownership rules would get out of the way.

Ironically, with entertainment and sports programming fleeing to national streaming operators, stations are already filling more airtime with local news, just as Ms. Rosenworcel claims to want. She makes herself an obstacle. Especially in small and midsize markets, stations spend resources covering the same car crashes and fires when they could eliminate this duplication and free up resources for more challenging

But the FCC clings to the power granted by its ownership restrictions because it's a power. It makes the agency important. It sustains hundreds of lawyers, lobbyists and activ-

ists whose stock in trade is making it harder for Americans to go about their business. Witness their sabotage of a proposed purchase of the Tegna station group by fellow operator Standard General, killed by FCC foot-dragging. The thwarted seller promptly disclosed that funds that could have been invested in expanding news coverage would be used for

share buybacks instead. Witness in the Detroit market, thanks to the FCC's failure to pick up the phone for station WADL, which has been waiting eight months for a sale approval, the chaos and lawsuits now roiling its planned shift to become an affiliate of the CW network.

"Lead, follow or get out the way" was the unofficial motto of the thousands who came to Washington in the 1930s first to deliver relief to the unemployed and then to rearm the democracies against fascism. A complete overhaul of D.C. psychology is needed today to put patriotism rather than parasitism back at the top of the agenda. Ms. Rosenworcel and the FCC aren't even the most urgent example. That distinction belongs to the Pentagon-cum-Beltway bandit bureaucracy whose weapons development and procurement need radical revamping if the U.S. is to deter the enemies apparently eager to re-create the global chaos of the

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Notable & Quotable: The Culture Has Changed Eugene Daniels reporting for Politwould have been inconceivable not long ago, they sav.

'There's this whole, 'You're not Since the Oct. 7 Hamas attacks on the boss of me' attitude now. 'I might Israel, President Joe Biden's consiswork for you but I have my own tent support of Prime Minister Benjaviews,' " said longtime Democratic strategist James Carville, who min Netanyahu's response has prompted a series of anonymous letters from staffers within the White

worked for former President Bill Clinton as a top campaign strategist.... House, the State Department and the The bargain a staffer strikes has Biden campaign—letters that have always been this: You get to influence left politicos of a certain age shaking the decisions of the most powerful government in the history of the

world," said Paul Begala, who worked

alongside Carville in the Clinton White

House. "In exchange for that influ-

ence, you agree to back the final decision even if it goes against your advice. If confronted with a decision that crosses one's ethical, moral, social, political lines, the choice is clear: Shut up and support it, or resign."

Things have changed more recently. In the Trump presidency, unauthorized leaks became a form of political currency, with anonymous officials writing op-eds, and wild bits of drama routinely finding their way into the news.

Inside the current White House, there's a feeling that the culture has now irrevocably changed.

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The Coach With 5 Playoff Teams

Mike Shanahan hasn't coached in the NFL since 2013. His influence has never been stronger.

By Andrew Beaton

t was a head-spinning week that saw football coaching greats Bill Belichick, Nick Saban and Pete Carroll all exit their jobs after decades roaming the sidelines. But there's one venerable NFL head coach in his early 70s who still has a team in the Actually, he has five of them.

Today, Mike Shanahan is mainly known as the architect of back-toback Super Bowl titles with the Denver Broncos, but his outsize influence on the chase for this year's championship can actually be traced through his time with a different franchise. Five playoff teams this season have head coaches or coordinators who were assistants under Shanahan during his time in Washington from 2010 to 2013.

Back then, they were the littleknown grunts operating in the shadow of one of the best to ever do it. The most prominent among them was Kyle Shanahan, Mike's son, who was the offensive coordinator. He now leads the No. 1seeded San Francisco 49ers. The staff also included three other current head coaches in lesser roles: the Los Angeles Rams' Sean McVay, the Green Bay Packers'

Matt LaFleur and the Miami Dolphins' Mike McDaniel. Bobby Slowik, the coordinator of the Houston Texans' resurgent offense, also got his first NFL job alongside them.

Their collective success this season means the elder Shanahan's role in shaping the modern NFL is more unmistakable than ever. While Belichick's disciples have generally fizzled in head coaching jobs, Shanahan's are among the most innovative offensive schemers in the game—which is precisely what he was looking for when he first hired them.

'That's why I think these guys have been so good," Mike Shanahan says. "They understand that if you don't keep up on the game, it's going to pass you by because every year things change.'

What's curious about all the coaching firepower packed onto that Washington staff is that the team back then wasn't particularly successful. The franchise then known as the Redskins made the playoffs once during Shanahan's four seasons as coach. The stint was far less successful than when he won 62% of his games over 14 years in Denver, where he won two Super Bowls with John Elway under center.

Yet those years in Washington were a preview of how some of the offensive concepts that were taking over the college game would soon infiltrate the pros.

That's precisely what Shanahan, now 71 years old, was looking for when arrived in Washington in 2010. He had seen his share of coaches in their 50s and 60s tire out and fall behind the times, and that was precisely what he wanted to avoid. He started by including two Super hiring his son, who **Bowl titles, by Mike** was just 30 years old but coming off Shanahan as a head back-to-back seasons calling plays for topfive offenses with the Houston Texans, as his

new offensive coordinator.

Then he sought to fill out his staff with other babyfaces. It didn't matter if he had never worked with them before, Shanahan wanted assistants who were young, motivated and had a finger on the pulse of the game's strategic evolutions.

"I said, 'What you guys gotta be doing is you guys got to be on top of everything that's new in football," Shanahan said. "'You guys are young enough to under-

stand what we're doing now will be outdated in time."

LaFleur had worked beneath Kyle Shanahan in Houston. McVay, whose grandfather John helped run the San Francisco 49ers when Mike Shanahan was a coordinator there, had just spent a season working for the Florida Tuskers in something called the

United Football League. McDaniel, who was a coaching intern un-der Mike with the Broncos after graduating from Yale, had been coaching for a different UFL team and had also spent some time in Houston.

One thing that united them was that they had all played football, and Shanahan respected their education in the sport. McVay, for instance, may have not been a household name at that time, but he had spent time learning under Jon Gruden in Tampa Bay on a highly regarded staff that included numerous future head coaches on both sides of the ball. Even when Shanahan didn't have a full-time role for McVay, he brought him aboard as an offensive assistant before proMike McDaniel, Matt LaFleur, Kyle Shanahan and Sean McVay worked for Mike Shanahan in Washington.

moting him to tight ends coach. Shanahan wasn't sure what all of this would be like—even working with his own son. "I was never with him in a meeting," Mike says, "so I didn't know how he was going to handle that." That's why he did something beyond grinding tape of draft prospects and opponents. He studied film of his own assistants watching film.

"I wanted to be able to not intrude but be able to evaluate what kind of coaches I had," Shanahan

Within a couple of seasons, it was impossible to miss that he had assembled a football think tank that was running an offense that looked unlike anything else in the NFL. But it looked familiar to anvone who had been watching the college game.

Ahead of the 2012 season, Washington had used the No. 2 pick in the draft on Robert Griffin III, who had played on a Baylor team that was at the vanguard of the spread offenses gaining popularity in the sport. Those ideas were the precise ones Shanahan's staff had been studying, so instead of trying to force Griffin to adapt to a traditional pro-style offense, Washington altered its playbook to accommodate Griffin.

Washington's offense began running what's known as zoneread concepts, where a quarterback has the choice to hand the ball off, keep it himself or throw it on any given play, depending on how the defense attacks. The team won its final seven games of the season, finished fourth in the league in scoring and reached the playoffs-when Griffin suffered a serious knee injury from which he never fully recovered. Shanahan's coaching career ended after the following season.

Kyle Shanahan and McVay were hired as head coaches in 2017 and have been divisional rivals ever since. LaFleur eventually went from McVay's staff in Los Angeles to Green Bay, where he has reached the playoffs in four of five seasons. McDaniels climbed the ranks with Shanahan in San Francisco and has made back-to-back postseason runs in Miami.

Mike Shanahan says he always roots for all of his former assistants, which will keep him busy on the opening weekend of this year's playoffs. At least none of them are

playing against each other yet. He adds that one of the reasons $\frac{\mathbb{H}}{2}$ he never got back into coaching after his time in Washington is that he would never want to compete against Kyle. His wife would be rooting for their son over him, he says. Besides, Kyle still appreciates having his father's counsel.

"Having him as an asset," Kyle Shanahan said in 2018, "is unbelievable."

McAfee Show" that late-night host

Jimmy Kimmel would appear on a list of Jeffrey Epstein's contacts, drawing a sharp rebuke from an

Love has been everything Rod-

Matt Wells, who coached Love

at Utah State, remembers when the talented underclassman

started his college career sitting

Love developed a routine of arriv-

"He'd have questions ready to

ask," Wells said. "He didn't have

quietly went about his business.'

to announce that he was doing extra work, say, 'Look at me.' He just

Love is only the most visible

member of his team's youth move-

ment. The Packers have the youn-

since 1970, according to Stats Per-

form. Four top receivers—Jayden

Doubs and Dontayvion Wicks—are

in their first or second years. The

team's entire receiving corps made

just \$7.5 million this year—or \$4.5

million less than former Green Bay

Reed, Christian Watson, Romeo

gest roster of any playoff team

behind the incumbent starter.

ing early for the quarterback meetings, finding a dark office and watching film of the player whose

gers isn't: young, healthy and fo-

cused on football. His dedication to studying the game, in the years when he hardly played it on Sun-

ESPN executive.

days, is apparent.

job he was chasing.

The Quarterback Who Made Green Bay Forget About Aaron Rodgers

By Robert O'Connell

FOR THE GREEN BAY PACKERS, simply making the NFL playoffs isn't usually something to cele-

brate. The franchise is so synonymous with titles that the league's championship prize is named after their former head coach.

This year's Packers team, with a 9-8 record and a roster as green as its uniforms, isn't likely to claim the Lombardi trophy. Yet these are happy times for the cheeseheads.

Aaron Rodgers, the 40-year-old quarterback who left the Packers in a drawn-out divorce last spring. spent the first moments of his season tearing an Achilles tendon and the rest rehabilitating it. Jordan Love, his 25-year-old replacement, steered Green Bay to three consecutive must-have victories to end the regular season and qualify the team for a wild-card game against the Dallas Cowboys on Sunday.

In the latest chapter of what has become a proud tradition at the Frozen Tundra, Green Bay let a Hall-of-Fame passer leave—and were quickly proven justified in doing so.

"It means everything," Love said after a 17-9 win over the Chicago Bears last Sunday secured a postseason slot. "This is the opportunity that we work for all season long.'

Love has been working, and waiting, for much longer than that. From the start, the Love-Rodgers dynamic echoed the last transfer of power in Green Bay, when Rodgers replaced Brett

Favre in 2008. Rodgers, a first-

round draft pick in 2005, rode the bench during the final three years of Favre's Packers career before assuming the starting job. Love, a first-round pick in 2020, likewise wore a headset over his first three pro seasons while Rodgers padded out his historic résumé. In both cases, Green Bay's ap-

proach reflected a rare patience highly drafted quarterbacks almost always take over the starting iob in less than a season's timeand a tolerance for awkwardness. Rodgers chafed at backup duties at the start of his Packers career; by the end of it, he vocally opposed the team spending resources on his eventual replacement instead of on players who could line up alongside him.

"They want to move on, and now so do I," Rodgers said last March, when he announced his intention to go to the New York Jets.

With Rodgers out of the way, Love opened Green Bay's season as a certain starter but no sure thing. His strong arm and eye for unconventional angles had convinced the Packers to trade up to draft him, but three intervening seasons had dampened the fan base's excitement. The first weeks were rocky: a 38-20 win over the division-rival Bears (a day before Rodgers ruptured his tendon), a run of four straight losses that spanned October.

Over the season's last two months, though, Love has flourished, throwing 18 touchdowns and just one interception during a stretch in which Green Bay won six of its last eight games. Where Rodgers sometimes bucked against coach Matt LaFleur's read-and-re-



coach in the NFL

Over the season's last two months, Jordan Love has flourished.

act system, Love has executed it nimbly, even when the pressure is highest.

In the closing minutes of last weekend's contest against the Bears, Love feathered a pass between layers of the Chicago defense for one first down and slung a sidearm dart for another. The drive iced the game and punched the Packers' postseason ticketsomething neither Favre or Rodgers managed in their first seasons as starters.

afterward. "I know it's not always

easy when you're a first-round

"I'm super happy for him," Packers coach Matt LaFleur said pick and you have to sit there and watch and wait your turn."

For some Green Bay fans, Love's early success unfolding against the backdrop of a tumultuous year for Rodgers has only made it sweeter. Like Favre before him, Rodgers spent his final years in Wisconsin unhappily, voicing frustrations with the front office and coaching staff and hinting at a desire to retire or relocate.

In New York, Rodgers has carried on the sideshow. He suggested he could return from his

Achilles injury in record time, then

didn't. He has sniped at team em-

ployees who he sees as insuffi-

receiver Allen Lazard earned after joining the Jets to re-team with Rodgers. If this year's squad has humbler goals than those led by Rodgers—which went to five conference championship games and won a Super Bowl after the 2010 season—it also derives more joy from smaller accomplishments.

"It was awesome," Love said on 🖺 Sunday, when he was asked about LaFleur embracing him after the clock ran out. "That's a moment I'll never forget, right there."

ciently dedicated to winning, saying the Jets "need to get the bulls —t out of the building." Last week, he falsely insinuated on "The Pat



20,000 Citigroup CEO plans big job cuts to streamline **B9**

Red Sea Ripple Tesla to hit pause at its only large factory in Europe **B10**



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THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Saturday/Sunday, January 13 - 14, 2024

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10-YR.TREAS. ▲ 7/32, yield 3.949% **GOLD** \$2,046.70 **\(\)** \$32.40 **DJIA** 37592.98 ▼ 118.04 0.31% NASDAO 14972.76 ▲ 0.02% **EURO** \$1.0951 **STOXX 600** 476.76 ▲ 0.8% **OIL** \$72.68 ▲ \$0.66



Outsourcing worried engineers and sparked battles over quality before a door plug fell out in midair

> BY SHARON TERLEP AND Andrew Tangel

ong before the harrowing Alaska Airlines blowout on Jan. 5, there were concerns within Boeing about the way the aerospace giant was building its planes. Boeing, like so many other American manufacturers, was outsourcing more and more of the components that went into its complex machines.

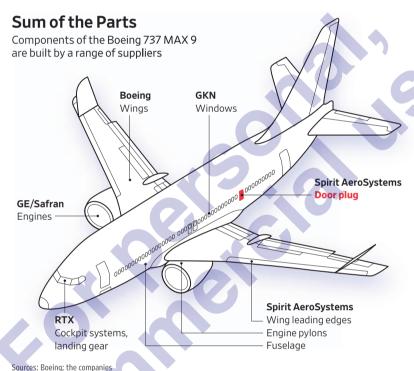
A Boeing aerospace engineer presented a controversial white paper in 2001 at an internal technical symposium. The engineer, John Hart-Smith, warned colleagues of the risks of the subcontracting strategy, especially if Boeing outsourced too much work and didn't provide sufficient on-site quality and technical support to its suppliers.

"The performance of the prime manufacturer can never exceed the capabilities of the *least* proficient of the suppliers," Hart-Smith wrote. "These costs do not vanish merely because the work itself is out-of-sight.'

The paper became a sensation within Boeing. It was passed among engineers. Posted on factory walls. Hart-Smith, after he later retired from Boeing, said of his warning of excessive outsourcing: "It's common sense."

Two decades later, Boeing is reckoning with the fallout from its out-

sourcing strategy. The Alaska accident is the latest in a string of quality problems at Boeing. The company's reputation has suffered





from a pair of fatal 737 MAX 8 crashes in 2018 and 2019 that grounded hundreds of jets for nearly two years. More recently, Boeing has been dogged by issues with various models—misdrilled holes, loose rudder bolts, and this month's MAX 9 doorplug blowout—lapses the company failed to catch.

Many of the problems with Boeing jets since the deadly crashes can be traced back to a production system adopted by Boeing and its aerospace rivals before Hart-Smith's paper. Dozens of factories build key pieces of 737 and 787 jets before they are assembled by Boeing. One of them is a sprawling fuselage plant in Wichita, Kan., that Boeing owned until 2005.

At the time, then-Boeing executive Alan Mulally said selling the factory to a private-equity firm would let Boeing focus on final assembly, where it could add the most value to its airplanes.

The factory is now run by a public company called Spirit AeroSystems and it has been plagued by production problems and quality lapses since Boeing ceded so much responsibility for its work.

Spirit is the sole supplier of the fuselages used in different Alaska many Boeing jets, including Airlines Boeing the Alaska plane that made 737 MAX awaits the emergency landing. It is inspection this heavily dependent on Boepast week. ing for revenue, and the two companies have battled for years over costs and quality issues. The earlier MAX grounding and Covid-19 pandemic sapped Spirit's finances, and the company slashed thousands of jobs, leaving it short-

handed when demand bounced back. Some Spirit employees said production problems were common and internal complaints about quality

Please turn to page B4

A door plug on a

New Gucci **CEO Wants** Older, Richer **Customers**

By NICK Kostov

WHEN GUCCI'S flagship store here reopened last month, the space was missing the baroque flourishes and jewel-toned colors that have defined the brand in recent years.

Instead the look is decidedly less maximalist—all clean lines and understated tones.

The restrained renovation is part of a dramatic makeover by the once-florid brand aimed at reaching older and more conservative customers. Or, to put it another way, richer ones.

After several years of slowing growth, Gucci is trying a reset. In an effort to close the gap with its luxury rivals, the brand that long strived to be at the cutting edge of

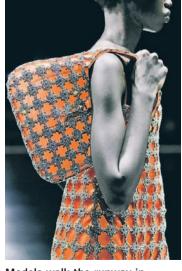


fashion is trying to go more upmarket. The shifts mean Gucci could risk becoming just another

expensive brand that has lost

touch with the attributes that

made it great. If the plan works,



Models walk the runway in Milan in September wearing looks from Gucci designer Sabato De Sarno at his first show for the fashion house.

Gucci will join the small group of megabrands that seem to mint money whatever the ups and

downs of the world economy. "Gucci had come to the end of a Please turn to page B3

Remote Workers Are Losing Out on Promotions

New data shows whose careers are stalling, particularly women; 'I feel a little lost'

By TE-PING CHEN

FOR A WHILE, remote workers seemed to have it all: elastic waistbands, no commute, better concentration and the ability to pop in laundry loads between

calls. New data, though, shows fully remote workers are falling behind in one of the most-prized and important aspects of a ca-

reer: getting promoted. Over the past year, remote workers were promoted 31% less frequently than people who

worked in an office, either full-

time or on a hybrid basis, accord-

ing to an analysis of two million

white-collar workers by employ-

ment-data provider Live Data

Technologies. Remote workers

also get less mentorship, a gap that's especially pronounced for women, research shows. Of employees working full time

in an office or on a hybrid basis, 5.6% received promotions at their organization in 2023, according to Live Data Technologies, versus 3.9% of those who worked remotely.

"There's some proximity bias going on," says Nick Bloom, an economist at Stanford University who studies remote work and management practices, of the challenges facing remote workers.

"I literally call it discrimination." In the four years since the Covid-19 pandemic upended the way Americans work, forcing companies and employees alike to

Please turn to page B5

If you're finding it

hard to remember

the pandemic, you're

in good company: In-

vestors have already

consigned the Covid

Someone who put \$1,000 in the

S&P 500 in December 2019—when

the first infections occurred in

Wuhan, China—and reinvested

\$1,299 by the end of last year.

That return is bang in line with

the annualized return investors

have received in the stock market

Gross domestic product is ex-

pected to have finished last year

forecasts made in 2019, despite

the virtual shutdown of the econ-

omy. Someone who slept through

it all would be shocked only that

economists got something right,

This all feels wrong. Surely the economy can't just be closed down

There's a positive spin: Perhaps

the stock gains were just a natural

catch-up from the shutdowns, a

reversion to normal returns. Over

long periods, stocks have tended

to return 6.5% to 7% a year after

inflation, including dividends but

his popular book "Stocks for the

Long Run." Hold for long enough,

been assured—with long enough

being a bit under 20 years. Just

buy and hold, pandemics be

damned.

and gains above inflation have

without any repercussions for

growth or share prices? Surely

more than a million American

dead can't be irrelevant to fi-

all but identical to the official

dividends would have made 6.8%

annualized after inflation and had

chaos to history.

since 1802.

for a change.

Bitcoin ETFs Dent Coinbase, Banks Take Hits

COINBASE GLOBAL

Wednesday approved the first exchange-traded funds to hold bitcoin. Known as spot bitcoin ETFs, these funds allow mainstream investors to buy and sell bitcoin more easily and cheaply than trading on crypto exchanges like Coinbase or Binance. On Thursday, funds from Fidelity Investments, Invesco and others got a roaring start on their first day of trading. BlackRock's spot bitcoin ETF had one of the highest-volume days on record for a brand-new ETF.

U.S. regulators on

Coinbase shares lost 6.7% Thursday.

Approximate worth of spot bitcoin ETF shares that changed hands Thursday

CHESAPEAKE ENERGY

Chesapeake and South-CHK

western Energy are merging. If the deal goes through, the \$7.4 billion all-stock transaction will create the largest naturalgas producer in the U.S. The tie-up, at \$6.69 a share, values Southwestern at a 2.9% discount to its closing market value of about \$7.6 billion on Wednesday. The merger is the latest in a flurry of energy deals, including Exxon Mobil's \$60 billion purchase of Pioneer Natural Resources and Chevron's \$53 billion acquisition of Hess. Chesapeake shares gained 3.2% Thursday.

Value of Chesapeake's allstock purchase of Southwestern



PepsiCo stopped supplying goods to Carrefour's European stores.

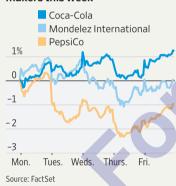
PEPSICO

PEP 1.1%

PepsiCo on Monday said it initiated its split with the international supermarket giant Carrefour. On Jan. 4, Carrefour announced that it would stop selling Pepsi,

Doritos, and other products in European countries like France and Italy because of PepsiCo's "unacceptable" price increases. PepsiCo said it decided to stop supplying Carrefour's European stores because the two hadn't agreed on a new contract. PepsiCo shares fell 1.1% Tuesday.

Performance of soda and snack makers this week



HERTZ GLOBAL



Hertz said in a filing Thursday that it will sell about a third of its global EV fleet due to weaker demand for electric rentals. Hertz will use part of the pro-

ceeds from selling about 20,000 EVs in the U.S. to purchase internalcombustion-engine vehicles. The sales are a reversal of its recent investment in EVs, after Hertz in 2021 ordered 100,000-vehicles from Tesla. Hertz shares declined 4.3% Thursday, and Tesla shares decreased 2.9%.

BANK OF AMERICA



1.1% Friday.

giants in the latest quarter. Big banks took charges to cover a special government fee related to the failures \$3.14 billion, down 56% from a year earlier, and Citigroup swung to a loss. JPMorgan Chase's fourth-quarter

—Francesca Fontana

The regional banking crisis

of 2023 cost Wall Street of Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank. The payments will replenish the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.'s deposit-insurance fund. Bank of America on Friday posted a profit of

profit fell 15%. Bank of America lost

There are a few flaws in the argument. First of all, even the strongest supporters of Siegel wouldn't expect four-year returns to match long-run averages except by chance, because there can be wild swings over such short periods.

Second, it takes the returns from the peak, or close to the peak (U.S. stocks actually reached their pre-Covid high in February 2020). The idea that when you buy doesn't matter is obviously wrong, and even more wrong for short periods; buy just before a huge fall, and it can take a really long time just to get back to the average re-

Stores in New York that went out of business in 2020 during the pandemic.

STREETWISE | JAMES MACKINTOSH

Stocks Are Forever. That Doesn't

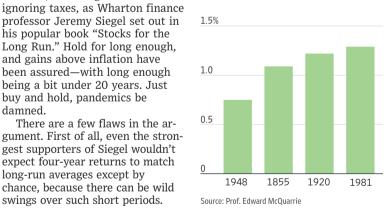
Mean Now Is the Time to Buy.

Data going back to 1802 hold lessons about the remarkable recovery investors have seen since Covid upended the global economy

> An investor who bought U.S. stocks in January 1973, before the Arab oil embargo knocked half the value off the S&P 500, has made 6.6% a year in the half-century since, again after inflation and including dividends, fractionally below the super-long-term average. One who bought in the autumn of 1974, when stocks reached their low, has made a whopping 8.5% a year—a difference that compounds to turning \$1,000 into \$54,347, rather than only \$25,545.

Third, the 19th-century data used by Siegel was incomplete. Edward McQuarrie, a retired business professor at Santa Clara University, found that when missing stocks, dividends and other data were added in, the U.S. return wasn't much changed—although bond returns were changed significantly, and bonds beat stocks over the 19th century as a whole.

Worst 20-year U.S. stock annualized real total return



Even his revised data still exclude Confederate stocks and the collapse and recapitalization of the New York insurance sector after the great fire of 1835, so it's plausible that investors could have lost money over more than 20 years.

London academics Elroy Dimson, Paul Marsh and Mike Staunton say that from 1900 on, 16 years was enough to guarantee positive real returns—but only in the U.S. Coming back to the short term,

it's safe to say that the past four years were highly unusual. The gains from the pre-Covid peak were the best for any four-year period in the past half-century from a pre-bear market peak, and the past four years included two bear markets.

Some of the unusually rapid return to form this time is thanks to the rapid recovery of the economy from lockdowns, which was itself in part because of pent-up demand.

But much of the rebound in both economy and markets was thanks to massive government deficit spending, which isn't sustainable. Some of the rest is because stocks are even more highly valued than at the prepandemic peak. The S&P 500 reached 19.1 times the estimate of forward 12-month earnings in February 2020, the highest since the dotcom bubble of 2000. The multiple is now slightly higher, at 19.3 times, suggesting investors expect earnings to grow even faster than they thought back then.

For real returns to commune the historic levels from here, the econprofit without so much government help, or valuations will have to rise even higher—both big asks.

This doesn't mean stock prices are sure to fall, or that the U.S. will break its long-term record of no real losses over two decades. But even bulls should plan for lower returns ahead.

WSJ COMIC | DALE HRABI & KAGAN MCLEOD

A Piece of Work | The Harvard Grad's Dark Secret











EXCHANGE

KEYWORDS | CHRISTOPHER MIMS

If Gadgets Never Needed to Be Charged

Indoor solar power technology is finally becoming available; works just like plants



After decades of trying, consumer electronics companies are rolling out a solar technology that mimics photosynthesis in plants.

It lets devices charge indoors and, in some cases, can eliminate batteries entirely.

This new light-harvesting tech is fundamentally different from the crystalline silicon-based panels on rooftops and in solar farms, and also from the amorphous silicon cells on the kind of solar-powered calculators that were once ubiquitous. This new tech is based on principles first explored by chemists in the 1960s and turned into workable solar cells in the 1980s. It's taken until now for versions of these cells tough enough for consumer applications to be manufactured on the scale required for mainstream adoption.

Now, companies including Ambient Photonics and Exeger are offering solar cells of this kind, known as a "dye-sensitized solar cell." They are lightweight, bendable, made from common materials, and can be manufactured cheaply, in a type of printing process. Sharp is also working on dye-sensitized solar cells, although its version is rigid, and made with the same equipment used to make LCD panels.

At this year's CES, the world's largest trade show, in Las Vegas, these thin and often flexible cells are showing up on headphones, earbud cases, walkie talkie-style headsets, keyboards, mice, and TV remote controls. In the future, these solar cells are likely to appear in a number of applications, including door locks, electronic shelf labels, and eventually millions or even billions of internetdeconnected sensors, as part of the definition of Things."



These new, dye-sensitized solar cells capture energy in a way that's similar to how plants do it, and as a result, they can use light that falls on them from almost any angle. For indoor light, Marina Freitag, a professor of chemistry at Newcastle University in the UK, has achieved up to 38% conversion efficiency with these cells, a record for the technology.

Per square inch, such cells are harvesting more than 10 times as much energy as what was possible with the original silicon cells on pocket calculators.

Even in not-so-brightly-lit rooms, dye-sensitized solar cells can capture and convert an amount of energy that is unprecedented among energy-harvesting technologies. These competing, and in some cases complementary, technologies include systems that try to sponge energy from radio waves, vibrations and slight temperature differences in order to power sensors and other devices.

Another key to this new generation of solar-powered gadgets is that engineers are getting better at making consumer electronics more efficient in their use of power. The result is that, for example, headphones you never have to charge from a wall outlet are now possible.

Take the second generation of the "Los Angeles" headphones and "Phoenix" earbuds from Stockholm-based Urbanista. Shipping later this year, these devices can all top up using light captured both indoors and outdoors, using Powerfoyle solar cells from Exeger. Depending on how much they use the devices, some people report never having to charge these devices from a wall outlet at all.

Getting to this point required squeezing efficiencies out of every part of these devices, says Urbanista product director Mårten Sahlén. One area that was ripe for improvement was power losses between the solar panel on the

earbud case and the earbuds themselves. (In every electrical system, some energy is lost as electrons are shuttled about.)

Urbanista's gear—and similar offerings from 3M, which is rolling out a walkie talkie-type headset that also uses Exeger's solar cells—still contains rechargeable batteries. But for some devices, adding this new generation of solar cells means the end of batteries altogether.

Ambient Photonics also recently announced a partnership with Google to produce a device in 2024. A remote would be a logical first offering.

Given how often they disappear into couch cushions, and the often dim lighting of the rooms they inhabit, a remote might seem like the last gadget you'd want to be solar powered. That was certainly true with older solar-cell technology, but the newer kind harvests so much more power that a remote can go from completely dead to usable after just a few seconds of exposure, says Kjetil Meisal. chief executive of ONiO, which makes low-power chips for Internet of Things and other devices. Key to this development, he adds, is using an ultra low-power chip like ONiO's.

Meisal's company is teaming up with Exeger to make remotes, and other devices, which will compete with those made with solar cells from Ambient Photonics. Electronics giant Sharp is also showing off its solar-powered remotes at CES this year, and a spokesman for the company says they could eventually show up in a slew of other

Unfortunately, the one thing that leaps to mind when people hear about solar-powered electronics—powering our phones in this way—just isn't realistic. Phones are essentially power-hungry supercomputers in our pockets, communicating wirelessly with at least a half dozen different protocols, with displays so bright they can be seen in full sunlight. Even with this new technology, powering your average smartphone with nothing but indoor light would require a solar panel the size of a desk.

The really transformative use of high-efficiency indoor solar cells is likely to be in devices that we don't use now, because powering them is burdensome.

One of the big barriers to adopting more smart home devices, along with other sensors and actuators, is that they all need direct power or batteries that need replacing.

So, imagine this scenario: You want to add a new light switch to a room. In the past, you would likely hire an electrician to put holes in your wall, run new wiring to a switch box and install the switch itself. In the future, a solar-powered switch compatible with the new wireless communication standards coming to connected devices could go anywhere you like, in any room of your house, and attach to the wall with little more than some removable adhesive. Multiply that scenario by every

possible combination of sensors and switches that could be used in every industrial and commercial setting you can imagine, and you start to get an idea of just how much potential a humble indoor solar cell could unlock.

Gucci CEO Remakes The Brand

Continued from page B1 chapter, and was about to open a new one. We decided to really open a completely fresh one," said the brand's new CEO Jean-Francois Palus. "It's about taking this opportunity to do new things. A fresh eye. A new mindset. A new approach. New leadership.'

Palus embodies the severity of the changes: A Frenchman at the head of a company that is as Italian as Chianti, he isn't yet fluent in the native language, nor does he have a creative background.

Palus, 62 years old, was chosen by François-Henri Pinault, the CEO and chairman of the brand's parent company, Kering, to reinvent Gucci as a steadier, more dependable brand less vulnerable to shifts in the fashion cycle. It is an approach that aims to bring its strategy closer to some of its biggest rivals, including Louis Vuitton, Chanel and Hermès.

By comparison, sales at these brands are heavily driven by a small number of staples, which remain on store shelves well beyond abbreviated fashion seasons. While they employ influential creative directors for their collections-nota-







Kate Moss in Tom Ford for Gucci on the runway in the mid-1990s.

bly, the superstar music producer Pharrell Williams at Louis Vuitton—they don't center their entire creative vision around a single person. No matter what goes down the runway, shoppers can find their stalwart handbag styles and luxury essentials in its stores.

Gucci is similarly striving to make itself a little less available, reducing its overall product range by 20% in recent months and cutting its distribution network.

Perhaps nothing reflects the reset for the 102-year-old brand more than the elevation of Palus to the role of CEO in July. He began his career as an auditor and financial adviser with Arthur Andersen. He then ran the books for the timber division of the conglomerate that would go on to become Kering, which today includes brands like Saint Laurent and Balenciaga as well as Gucci.

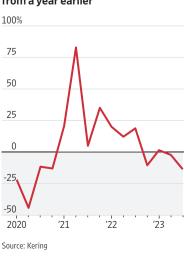
Palus was originally put in the job for a transitional period. Executives have since said he is likely to stay on for at least two or three

To bolster his Italian, the Frenchman is taking language lessons twice a week, as well as reading local children's books.

The perks of his new job have also taken some getting used to. When Palus's assistant tries to make a reservation at Milanese restaurants for him, she sometimes gets turned down because maitre d's don't know the name. When she points out that Palus is the CEO of Gucci, tables instantly open up.

As part of the reset, Palus has redirected much of its marketing spending away from digital and toward glossy magazines and outdoor billboards—a radical shift af-

Gucci's quarterly revenue, change from a year earlier



ter its growth in previous years was fueled by social media. On Instagram, the brand now posts meticulously curated photos six or seven times a week, whereas it would previously post several times a day.

"It's more about thinking about the next 20 years, rather than mourning the five last years," Palus said.

Palus has taken the reins as Gucci pilots itself through a complete creative overhaul. Just before the regime change, Sabato De Sarno, a little-known designer hired away from Valentino, took control of Gucci's creative team. He is the brand's first external hire for the role in Gucci history.

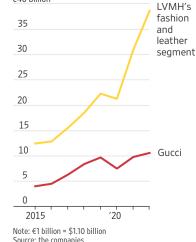
"Gucci thrives when over the top," said Bernstein analyst Luca Solca. The "shift to classic makes the collection potentially more commercial. but it also pitches Gucci against more credible incumbents" such as Chanel and

The conditions for Gucci's transformation are precarious, as people have pared back their spending on luxury goods over the past year amid economic uncertainty and higher inflation. Younger consumers, who have traditionally made up a large chunk of Gucci's sales, have pulled back the most.

In 2022, LVMH, Gucci's weightiest competitor, saw sales in its fashion and leather goods division, which includes brands like Louis Vuitton and Christian Dior, soar to 74% above 2019's figures.

In the same window, Gucci's sales only ticked up by 9%. In the

Annual sales €40 billion





third quarter of this year, Gucci's sales dropped 14%.

Gucci first embraced cuttingedge styles in the 1990s, when designs like its slim-cut tuxedos in luxurious fabrics made the brand a darling to critics. But the strategy exposed the brand to the fickle tastes of the fashion crowd, and it was thin on trend-agnostic pieces that consumers could reliably buy season after season.

Sales soared under American designer Tom Ford in the 1990s and early 2000s. But by 2014, Gucci's shine had dulled to such an extent that U.S. department store Bergdorf Goodman no longer wanted to stock it.

Gucci roared back under Italian designer Alessandro Michele after he was promoted to the top creative role in 2015. More recently, as shoppers have grown weary of Michele's gender-blurring, rococo vision, Gucci has dragged down the fortunes of Kering, where it makes up more than half of sales and two-thirds of core profit. The conglomerate is trading today at a 25% discount to many of its peers as a multiple of expected earnings.

While it continues to court younger buyers with ornate pieces, the brand is also trying to better reach other clients who want to buy clothes or accessories that are more timeless. Gucci has traditionally done well in handbags priced between \$1.500 and \$2,500, but is now working to improve its offerings in higher price

In its newly reopened boutique, Gucci is highlighting its recently released Jackie Notte handbag, a product inspired by the classic Jackie bag. The Jackie Notte leather is more sophisticated. The lining fabric is more luxurious. There is more gold. The stitching is thinner and less noticeable.

In ready to wear, Gucci is focusing more on evening dresses. Superstar Taylor Swift on Sunday attended the Golden Globes in a floor-length, green Gucci gown.

On Friday, for De Sarno's second show—and his debut men's collection—models took to the runway wearing a mélange of tailored suits, lengthy overcoats and chunky black loafers. There was a clear focus on commercially friendly accessories such as bulky gold jewelry and the brand's market-tested Jackie handbag, seen here in burgundy and lime green. The color palette was somber.

Just like his first show, the collection drew mixed reactions. Palus said the reset would take time. "Everything that we are doing right now, we are building for the long term," he said.

◆ The booming business of secondhand luxury goods...... B12

The Fateful Decision Behind the Mess Boeing Is In

Continued from page B1 were ignored. In a given month, at a production rate of two fuselages a day, there are 10 million holes that need to be filled with some combination of bolts, fasteners and rivets.

"We have planes all over the world that have issues that nobody has found because of the pressure Spirit has put on employees to get the job done so fast," said Cornell Beard, president of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers chapter representing workers at Spirit's Wichita factory.

Spirit said that it remains "focused on the quality of each aircraft that leaves our facilities." Boeing said it would work to reassure officials that "every airplane that Boeing has its name on that's in the sky is in fact safe.'

Federal probes

Spirit

sends

bv rail

from its Wichita,

factory to

fuselages

Federal investigators are still trying to figure out what specifically caused an emergency-door plug to detach from the Alaska Airlines jet at 16,000 feet, leaving the MAX 9 flying with a gaping hole. Airlines are frustrated. Travelers are

The investigations could take

self and the bolts and other compo-

nents that attach it to the fuselage.

they have found loose hardware on

other MAX 9 jets they have checked.

suggesting that problems go beyond

months, though officials have focused

their initial efforts on the door plug it-

Alaska Airlines and United Airlines say

Both Boeing and Spirit say their staff

are cooperating with investigators and

ensuring all aircraft meet safety require-

On Friday, the Federal Aviation Ad-

ments before they return to service.

ministration said it would increase

oversight of Boeing's manufacturing.

including an audit of MAX 9 produc-

an interview that an initial examina

FAA chief Mike Whitaker, who was

confirmed to his job in October, said in

tion of MAX 9 problems would extend

to other aircraft—and how the agency

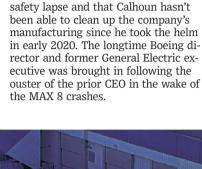
regulates Boeing production.

"Whatever's happened over the previous years—because this has been going on for years—has not worked," he said. "All indications are it's manufacturing" that led to the Alaska accident, he added, not a design flaw.

A few days after the near-catastrophe, Boeing Chief Executive David Calhoun told staff at the Renton, Wash., plant that assembles 737s that they were fortunate that the Alaska pilots were able to save the passengers and the company needed to take responsibility for "our mistake."

He didn't specify what he meant but made clear that whether the problem originated with work done by Spirit or Boeing, Boeing ultimately is responsible for checking planes that leave its plants.

It was the first admission that Boeing saw itself as being at fault for the



At the Boeing all-hands meeting,

Calhoun, 66 years old, said he had

kids, I've got grandkids and so do

ery detail matters."

Outsourced parts

worried about the Alaska passengers

in the seats next to the hole. "I've got

you," he said. "This stuff matters. Ev-

Much modern manufacturing has be-

iPhones, machines are built in small

pieces by different companies, then

delivered to another factory for final

assembly. The system has sliced costs

from the process by letting production

lines maximize output and eliminate

waste. But the strategy also stretches

oversight and adds risks, since the fi-

whether to move production of major

Boeing executives regularly evaluate

nal product is only as good as the

come atomized. From hot tubs to

Spirit itself was hard hit. The company, which had 15,900 workers in four U.S. factories at the end of 2019, laid off thousands of people in Wichita at the height of the pandemic. When it needed to ramp back up, not only did Spirit have fewer people on site, the company had lost years of expertise. There were fewer experienced mechanics, but also fewer experts who could inspect the quality of their work. Spirit CEO Pat Shanahan said the

components, including fuselages, back

in-house. They opted to build the aft

section of the 787 at the company's

Boeing doubled down on the out-

sourcing approach in the 2000s with

first jet in its history that was heavily

the 787 Dreamliner, which was the

designed by suppliers. The strategy

model but resulted in production de

lays and billions in unplanned costs.

In 2011, former Boeing executive Jim Albaugh said that the approach

had backfired. "In hindsight, we spent

a lot more money in trying to recover

than we ever would have spent if we

tried to keep many of the key technol-

ogies closer to Boeing," he said in an

The MAX is not a brand-new jet de-

address at Seattle University. "The

sign. It is the latest major version of

the 737, a single-aisle workhorse that

than 11,000 737s have been delivered

to airlines over the decades. The MAX

The distributed manufacturing sys-

first entered service in 1968. More

had new engines that promised to

tem was tested during the pandemic.

when factories were short-handed, de

was tangled. Those disruptions were

enough to meet resurgent travel.

mand was distorted and transportation

acute in the aerospace business. Then,

the industry struggled to restart quickly

boost fuel savings and range.

pendulum swung too far."

sped up development of the new

South Carolina factory.

quick production ramp-up and the earlier MAX grounding left the company short of experienced workers. "When you have disruption, you have instabilty," he said in an interview last fall.

Spirit struggles

For more than a decade, Spirit and Boeing battled over costs, quality and the pace of production. Boeing's demands for lower prices left Spirit strapped for cash as managers panicked over meeting increasingly demanding deadlines. Boeing routinely had employees on the ground in Wichita and conducted audits of the supplier.

The result, some current and former employees say: a factory where workers rush to meet unrealistic quotas and where pointing out problems is discouraged if not punished. Increasingly, they say, planes have been leaving Wichita with so-called escapements, or undetected defects.

"It is known at Spirit that if you make too much noise and cause too much trouble, you will be moved," said Joshua Dean, a former Spirit quality auditor who says he was fired after misdrilled holes in fuselages "It doesn't mean you completely disregard stuff, but they don't want you to

CEO David Calhoun told workers that Boeing needs to take responsibility for 'our mistake.'

find everything and write it up." His account is included in a shareholder lawsuit filed in December against Spirit that alleges the company failed to disclose costly defects.

A Spirit spokesman said the company strongly disagrees with the assertions and intends to defend against the suit. After being laid off during the pandemic shutdown, Dean returned to Spirit in May 2021. By then, he said, the company had lost many of its most experienced mechanics and auditors.

Spirit already was under more intense scrutiny from Boeing. The jet maker placed Spirit on a so-called probation, in which the company more closely scrutinized the supplier's work. To get off probation, Spirit needed to reduce the number of defects on the line.

At one point, Dean said, the com-

pany threw a pizza party for employ ees to celebrate a drop in the number of defects reported. Chatter at the party turned to how everyone knew that the defect numbers were down only because people were reporting fewer problems. On the Spirit factory floor, some

machinists building planes say their

concerns about quality rarely get conveyed to more senior managers, and that quality inspectors fear retaliation if they point out too many problems. Union representatives complained to leaders last fall that the company removed inspectors from line jobs and replaced them with contract workers after they flagged multiple defects.

"This is leaving them with great quality and safety concerns," one of the representatives wrote in an email to union officials. "Also feeling retaliated against for doing their jobs." The union also has clashed with

Spirit over whether machinists should ever be responsible for checking their own work. Workers say having separate inspectors sign off on individual work is critical for quality control; Spirit and Boeing executives say that technological advances have reduced the need for separate inspectors in some cases.

Regulatory runaround

Car

Boeing's latest manufacturing mess first came to light after the two MAX 8 jets crashed five years ago. Crash investigators blamed the accidents. which took 346 lives, in large part on a faulty flight-control system designed by Boeing—not production problems Soon thereafter, the Federal Aviation Administration launched a probe of

A Spirit

above,

emplovee.

works on

interior of

fuselage at

company's

factory in

Wichita.

5-year moving

per million

departures

average of fatal

aviation accidents

a Boeing

Boeing's factory quality and tightened its oversight by revoking the company's ability to perform final safety checks on newly produced airplanes on regulators' behalf. Delegating certain FAA authorities is common in aviation.

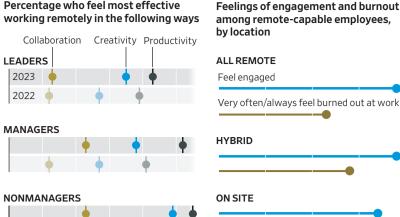
In the years since, manufacturing problems have emerged not only in the 737 but at other factories where Boeing makes its 787 Dreamliner, a U.S. military refueling tanker and Air Force One replacement jets, as well as at some of its key suppliers.

As some problems on both the 787 and 737 were traced back to Spirit, Boeing executives said in 2023 that the plane maker would be ratcheting up

oversight of the supplier it once owned Stan Deal, head of Boeing's commercial airline business, said the company would bolster training and inspections with more boots on the ground with suppliers, because that "always becomes an area of risk."

Percentage who feel most effective

EXCHANGE



Saturday, January 13, 2024 | **B5**

tendance in several of its offices, and

mile radius of its offices to come in three days a week. The company says

workers are assigned to offices, with

build a company by playing to the

lowest common denominator," says

Vineet Jain, Egnyte's chief executive.

"If you don't show up and work with

the rest of your colleagues, it's show ing a lack of connectivity and a lack

Egnyte's chief people officer, Dean

Chabrier, says the company works to

ensure fully remote employees have

If a substantial number of employees

at your company work remotely some

or all of the time long term, the culture

Source: Gallup poll of 9,821 full-time U.S. remote-capable

ployees conducted May 11-25, 2023, margin of error:

the same access to advancement op-

leaders: +/- 5 pct. pts.; managers +/- 4 pct. pts.;

igers +/- 2 pct. pts.

of your company will be:

"People may not like it, but I can't

has asked employees within a 50-

that 46% of its more than 1,000

the rest remote

of ownership.

LEADERS

MANAGERS

NONMANAGERS

Source: Gallup poll of 9,821 full-time U.S. remote-capable employees conducted May 11-25, 2023, margin of error: leaders: +/-7 pct. pts.; managers +/-6 pct. pts.; nonmanagers +/-3 pct. pts.; exclusively remote: +/-3 pct. pts.; hybrid +/-2 pct. pts.; on-site+-4 pct. pts.

Remote Workers Are Losing Out on Promotions

Continued from page B1 grapple with what it means to collaborate, leaders and rank-and-file employees have engaged in a tug of war over return-to-office efforts. While many workplaces have adopted hybrid policies or reverted to a fully inperson approach, nearly 20% of all employees with college degrees or higher still work on a fully remote basis, according to December data from the Census Bureau and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Nearly 90% of chief executives who were surveyed said that when it comes to favorable assignments, raises or promotions, they are more likely to reward employees who make an effort to come to the office. In the online survey of 1,325 CEOs of large companies in 11 countries, conducted last year by professional-services firm KPMG, almost two-thirds of respondents said they expect most employees will be working in offices full-time in another three years.

Erin Villela, 26, moved last year to Tampa, Fla., to work on a fully remote basis and be closer to her family. Since then, Villela, who works for a staffing company based near Charlotte, N.C., says she hasn't been copied in on as many emails and has had trouble staying abreast of company news. When she was up for a promotion, she says she was passed over after being told the company wanted leadership to be in the office.

"I feel a little lost," she says. During one recent tricky call with a client, she missed not having a coworker nearby to discreetly coach her through the conversation.

"I just didn't realize the impact of not being able to grow as much, being hands-on in the office," she adds.

Remote work can be especially costly for young women trying to build their skills, says Emma Harrington, an assistant economics professor at the University of Virginia. She recently co-wrote a paper that tound software engineers at a For tune 500 company who worked in the same building as their teammates

code than engineers who didn't share an office with their col-

leagues. The drop in feedback—delivered in the form of online comments—was more conspicuous for women. Harrington says. Female engineers who worked in the same building as their teams got 40% more comments on their code than women engineers who weren't on the premises. By contrast, men working in the

their teams got 18%

more feedback than

men at other locations

aren't required to do

their jobs on site say

they are opting for the

office anyway, mindful

of the impact on their

riguez lives in Sacra-

careers. Marylynn Rod-

mento, Calif., 130 miles

from her company's Sil-

icon Valley headquar-

ters, but she still goes

week. She leaves home

around 4 a.m. to beat the traffic and

"Because I'm a little earlier on in

my career, I feel like it does benefit

me to show up," says Rodriguez, 30,

a technical accounting manager at

Mountain View, Calif., adding that

face. "I definitely have a lot more

face time with leadership this way."

tightened, more company leaders

have been vocal about the need to

employers such as Meta Platforms

the office several days a week.

and Google calling workers back to

Egnyte is using badges to track at-

show up in person, with high-profile

As the white-collar job market has

she also enjoys collaborating face-to-

Egnyte, a software company in

gets to the office 2½ hours later.

in at least twice a

Some workers who

working remotely is worth the tradeoffs. same building with



Vineet Jain says being

in the office helps

colleagues connect. inclined to put their hands up for opportunities that require more of an office presence, Bloom notes

Some fully remote workers are

"If I can make enough money to pay my bills and have a balanced life for me and my kid, I'm fine doing that," she says. Tabors now works remotely for a financial-services com-

SCIENCE OF SUCCESS | BEN COHEN

Flying in America Has **Actually Never Been Safer**

U.S. airlines have gone nearly 15 years without a fatal crash. It's not just luck.



scariest part: the phones and teddy bears dropping from the sky, the shirt getting ripped off a eenager's body or the nassive hole in the side The harrowing story of the Alaska

It's hard to pick the

Airlines flight that narrowly avoided disaster at 16,000 feet is petrifying enough to make you never set foot on a plane again But there's another way to look at

one of the most dangerous aviation events in recent American history: How did hurtling through the sky in a giant metal tube become this safe? The biggest U.S. commercial airlines have now gone nearly 15 years without

a fatal crash, which is something of a miracle itself, as there have been more than 100 million flights and 10 billion passengers since then. These days, we barely think about

safety when we board a plane. Instead we think about whether the Wi-Fi will gbe good enough to check our email. And that's because flying across the sky is safer than walking across the street. Airplanes produce fewer deaths Eper mile than cars, ferries, trains, subways or buses—and the chances of dying in a crash are roughly the same as getting struck by lightning while read-

ing this sentence The country's safety record would have sounded not just incredible or inconceivable 15 years ago, but completely insane.

"I never would've believed it," said William Voss, the former head of the Flight Safety Foundation, a nonprofit advocacy group.

This revolution in the sky that has saved countless lives began nearly three decades ago with a surprisingly innovative strategy for improving air safety. It depended on pilots, flight attendants and dispatchers voluntarily reporting safety issues and admitting their own errors. But first it demanded the entire industry agree to a profound shift in risk tolerance

The old system explained accidents after they happened. This new system was designed to prevent those accidents from ever happening. And it worked. The Federal Aviation

Administration's self-reporting programs that encourage airline operators to come forward without fear of retribution helped slash the rate of fatal accidents on U.S. airlines by such large percentages that the industry had to figure out new ways to measure safety.

The U.S. aviation system has become so amazingly, unexpectedly safe that other industries in the business of fatal risk, from healthcare to artificial intelligence, are hoping to bring lessons of the sky back to hospitals and research labs on the ground.

It still might not seem that way when you can't stop looking at photos of a brand-new airplane with a blownout door plug. Or when you read about how passengers escaped a blazing fireball after a runway collision in Japan. Or when the world's most valuable aircraft manufacturer is such a mess that you hear Boeing's CEO admit to boneshaking mistakes.

It's also worrisome that aviation officials are warning about the untenable stress and pressures on the nation's air-traffic-control system. The last fatal accident involving a

U.S. carrier was in February 2009, when a Colgan Air commuter flight crashed outside Buffalo and killed all 49 people on board. The close calls suggest it's only a matter of time before our luck runs out and there's an-

But these nearly catastrophic failures also happen to be a reminder that air safety has been a remarkable Amer-

"It's something I think the traveling public does not fully recognize and appreciate," said Kenneth Quinn, a former senior U.S. aviation regulator and partner at the law firm Clyde & Co. The anomalies are chilling. They

should also be oddly comforting. Since that crash 15 years ago next month, large U.S. airlines have suffered two fatal accidents that killed two people. Not two fatal accidents a year, like the 2000s, or two per million flights, like the 1960s. Just two.

Of course, the planes themselves have gotten better, at least when their bolts aren't loose and their door plugs aren't landing in backyards. But this tale of progress isn't merely about jet engines and cockpit technology. The other reason that flying has

never been safer is that an industry built around technology and engineering made the audacious decision a few decades ago to dramatically alter human behavior The reckoning began after a series

of accidents in the 1990s, when avia-

If accident

traffic

continued

rates remained

and passenger

growing, there

least one major

week by 2015,

would be at

jet crash a

projections

1990s

showed.

Train Passenger deaths per billion miles, 0.24 by vehicle. 2000-09 Bus 0.11 0.07 Plane

major jet crash a week by 2015." This was such a terrifying possibility that it couldn't become reality. One major jet crash a week was not just unimaginable. With each one amounting

That's when regulators and industry

tarily admitting when they get things wrong. Pilots weren't exactly in the habit of disclosing errors that didn't lead to accidents or serious incidents. In fact, they had an incentive to conceal trivial

nobody could be punished for them. It's clear in retrospect that the only way to make the self-reporting program work was to make it nonpunitive. But that idea was both counterintui-

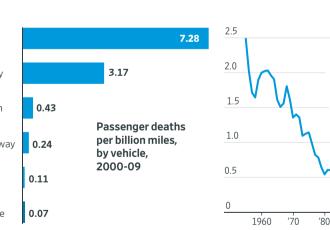
tive and controversial at the time Trust didn't come easily to people accustomed to confrontation, not cooperation. Randy Babbitt was president of the world's largest pilots union in 1995, when he worked with the head of the FAA on this collaborative program. Babbitt, who would later run the FAA himself, told me it was a tough sell.

that they're going to be able to rat themselves out and not be in troubleand you think they're going to buy that?" he said. Well, yes. So he did. And they did.

The fatal accident rate of U.S. commercial aviation would drop by 83% over the next decade alone and make the American system a model for the rest of the world. Soon the industry would combine its

qualitative data with quantitative data by measuring basically anything that can be captured on a plane. Once again, airlines had to be persuaded to share proprietary data and pool sensitive information. Once again, it made us

Which is worth remembering the next time a pilot tells you to sit back, relax and enjoy your flight. But maybe keep that seat belt fastened. Just in



Source: Ian Savage analysis of U.S. government data

tion officials found themselves staring at disturbing math. This is how my former colleague Andy Pasztor described it: "If accident rates remained the same while global passenger traffic continued growing at projected rates," he wrote in an essential 2021 article, "on average there would be at least one

to roughly \$1 billion in losses, it was unaffordable

officials set about designing a system so radically different that it sounded a bit like asking pilots to fly blindfolded. It relied on everybody doing something that nobody wants to do: volun-

mistakes: If nobody knew about them,

"You want me to tell 50,000 pilots

portunities as those living near its offices, with senior leaders making a point to meet with remote workers in other regions. At this time, attendance will not affect employees' career prospects or development, she adds. For Americans who are still fond of working from home, one piece of good news is that data shows no difreceived 22% more feedback on their

ference in promotion rates between hybrid workers and those who come to the office five days a week, says Bloom, the Stanford economist, who co-wrote a related 2023

National Bureau of Economic Research paper. Bloom's research has found that fully remote

workers are more productive than their fully on-site peers, but because remote workers miss out on casual in person conversations around the office, relationships suffer, and their promotion prospects tend to take a hit. **Christy Tabors says** Remote work tends to be a better fit for peo ple who are already more established in their careers and have the skills and relation-

ships to help them win promotions. Bloom and other researchers who study workplaces say. Particularly when

promotions mean an el evation into management, where in-person meetings have long been the norm, remote employees can face disadvantages. At the same time, those happy with their all-remote status may also be dis-

comfortable with the professional trade-offs. Christy Tabors, 35, says she worked remotely from Van Alstyne, a small town outside Dallas, as a contractor for Meta in user experience until she was laid off last spring. She says staying close to her family matters more than the ability

Trailing P/E ratio 26.61 22.11

Dow Jones Industrial Average

37592.98

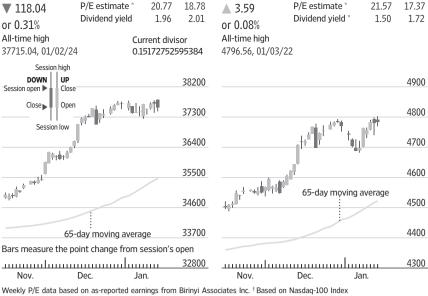
MARKETS DIGEST

14972.76

Last Year ago

21.82

19.15



S&P 500 Index

Trailing P/E ratio *

4783.83



Nasdaq Composite Index

Trailing P/E ratio ** 30.11

Year ago

24.75

13900

65-day moving average 13600

Major U.S. Stock-Market Indexes

•			Latest					52-Week —		0/	chg —
	High	Low	Close	Net chg	% ch	ng	High	Low	% chg		3-yr. ann.
Dow Jones											
Industrial Average	37825.27	37470.19	37592.98	-118.04	-0.31		37715.04	31819.14	9.6	-0.3	6.6
Transportation Avg	15591.43	15395.16	15470.53	-64.37	-0.41		16695.32	13444.01	7.7	-2.7	5.8
Utility Average	887.72	881.71	885.49	5.79		0.66	988.60	783.08	-10.4	0.4	1.8
Total Stock Market	47979.84	47595.80	47729.97	13.02		0.03	47987.24	38697.55	18.5	-0.1	6.0
Barron's 400	1064.09	1049.95	1053.69	-0.89	-0.08		1084.21	881.58	7.9	-1.7	5.4
Nasdaq Stock Marke	et										
Nasdaq Composite	15047.25	14931.88	14972.76	2.57		0.02	15099.18	10852.27	35.1	-0.3	4.6
Nasdaq-100	16900.37	16776.92	16832.92	12.02		0.07	16906.80	11295.67	45.8	0.04	9.3
S&P											
500 Index	4802.40	4768.98	4783.83	3.59		0.08	4783.83	3855.76	19.6	0.3	8.0
MidCap 400	2760.14	2720.61	2728.63	-1.96	-0.07		2809.23	2326.82	5.7	-1.9	3.7
SmallCap 600	1289.48	1266.07	1269.90	-2.79	-0.22		1339.63	1068.80	2.5	-3.7	1.5
Other Indexes											
Russell 2000	1983.81	1947.50	1950.96	-4.49	-0.23		2066.21	1636.94	3.4	-3.8	-2.9
NYSE Composite	16909.17	16764.59	16799.54	18.42		0.11	16898.34	14599.05	5.5	-0.3	3.8
Value Line	584.96	576.56	577.57	-1.48	-0.26		606.49	498.09	0.4	-2.7	-1.4
NYSE Arca Biotech	5394.45	5299.15	5305.34	-30.22	-0.57		5644.50	4544.40	-4.0	-2.1	-4.0
NYSE Arca Pharma	959.86	954.97	958.91	3.94		0.41	959.06	791.91	10.7	5.4	11.1
KBW Bank	96.00	93.56	94.11	-1.00	-1.05		115.10	71.71	-12.6	-2.0	-4.8
PHLX [§] Gold/Silver	122.72	120.08	120.64	3.20		2.73	144.37	103.31	-11.7	-4.0	-5.9
PHLX [§] Oil Service	80.12	78.52	79.39	1.12		1.4	3 98.76	69.29	-13.3	-5.4	13.9
$PHLX^{\S}Semiconductor$	4089.33	4031.01	4052.42	-15.48	-0.38		4214.59	2710.44	44.7	-2.9	10.7
Cboe Volatility	13.08	12.47	12.70	0.26		2.09	26.52	12.07	-30.8	2.0	-18.3

Trading Diary Volume, Advancers, Decliners

	NYSE	NYSE Amer.
Total volume* 79	92,313,100	18,804,451
Adv. volume* 37	72,488,880	13,121,494
Decl. volume* 41	12,857,779	5,667,265
Issues traded	2,911	307
Advances	1,543	162
Declines	1,262	132
Unchanged	106	13
New highs	107	5
New lows	23	12
Closing Arms†	1.44	0.44
Block trades*	3,819	248
	Nasdaq	NYSE Arca
Total volume*4,9	58,948,665	294,890,529
Adv. volume*2,20	03,177,110	177,208,300
Decl. volume*2,72	21,998,453	110,324,365
Issues traded	4,371	1,884
Advances	2,002	1,255
Declines	2,192	604
Unchanged	177	25
New highs	141	206

* Primary market NYSE, NYSE American NYSE Arca only (TRIN) A comparison of the number of advancing and declining issues with the volume of shares rising and falling. An Arms of less than 1 indicates buying demand; above 1 indicates selling pressure.

87

1.13

52-Week

39,307

24

1.41

New lows

Closing Arms

Block trades*

§ Nasdag PHLX

IIILEIIIa	tional Stock	illuex	(es		
Region/Country	y Index	Close	Net chg	— Latest ——— % chg	 YTD % chg
World	MSCIACWI	724.77	2.37	0.33	-0.3
	MSCI ACWI ex-USA	313.04	2.35	0.76	-1.1
	MSCI World	3168.31	10.99	0.35	-0.03
	MSCI Emerging Markets	996.30	1.55	0.16	-2.7
Americas	MSCI AC Americas	1815.11	1.92	0.11	0.1
Canada	S&P/TSX Comp	20990.22	71.82	0.34	0.2
Latin Amer.	MSCI EM Latin America	2599.32	20.19	0.78	-2.4
Brazil	Bovespa	130987.67	338.92	0.26	-2.4
Chile	S&P IPSA	3335.12	-33.76	-1.00	-3.8
Mexico	S&P/BMV IPC	55607.07	168.32	0.30	-3.1
EMEA	STOXX Europe 600	476.76	3.99	0.84	-0.5
Eurozone	Euro STOXX	470.70	3.91	0.84	-0.7
Belgium	Bel-20	3684.03	24.59	0.67	-0.6
Denmark	OMX Copenhagen 20	2362.85	4.53	0.19	3.5
France	CAC 40	7465.14	77.52	1.05	-1.0
Germany	DAX	16704.56	157.53	0.95	-0.3
Israel	Tel Aviv	1862.01		Closed	-0.2
Italy	FTSE MIB	30470.55	221.40	0.73	0.4
Netherlands	AEX	781.86	7.32	0.94	-0.6
Norway	Oslo Bors All-Share	1513.32	13.86	0.92	-0.4
South Africa	FTSE/JSE All-Share	74240.76	406.48	0.55	-3.4
Spain	IBEX 35	10094.80	89.90	0.90	-0.1
Sweden	OMX Stockholm	886.52	10.22	1.17	-1.8
Switzerland	Swiss Market	11226.40	72.78	0.65	0.8
Turkey	BIST 100	7986.47	90.51	1.15	6.9
U.K.	FTSE 100	7624.93	48.34	0.64	-1.4
U.K.	FTSE 250	19197.62	89.69	0.47	-2.5
Asia-Pacific	MSCI AC Asia Pacific	167.54	0.99	0.59	-1.1
Australia	S&P/ASX 200	7498.30	-7.73	-0.10	-1.2
China	Shanghai Composite	2881.98	-4.67	-0.16	-3.1
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	16244.5 8	-57.46	-0.35	-4.7
India	S&P BSE Sensex	72568.45	847.27	1.18	0.5
Japan	NIKKEI 225	35577.11	527.25	1.5	0 6.3
Singapore	Straits Times	3191.72	-9.69	-0.30 ■	-1.5
South Korea	KOSPI	2525.05	-15.22	-0.60	-4.9

Percentage Gainers...

Sources: FactSet; Dow Jones Market Data

Company	Symbol	Close	Net cng	% cng	High	Low	% cng
Applied UV	AUVI	3.81	1.53	67.11	242.50	1.46	-97.4
SYLA Technologies ADR	SYT	5.58	1.41	33.82	8.74	2.80	
Nubia Brand Intl CI A	NUBI	9.62	2.41	33.40	13.85	4.55	-6.2
Elevation Oncology	ELEV	2.74	0.62	29.25	5.89	0.36	176.5
Flexsteel Industries	FLXS	23.28	5.26	29.19	24.96	15.67	32.0
ProMIS Neurosciences	PMN	2.58	0.58	29.00	8.95	0.95	-50.4
Y-mAbs Therapeutics	YMAB	9.65	2.12	28.15	10.95	2.70	102.3
CompX IntlA	CIX	29.60	6.35	27.31	30.50	16.25	60.4
Captivision	CAPT	4.64	0.83	21.78	12.00	1.15	-54. 8
AdvisorShares MSOS 2x Dly	MSOX	4.80	0.82	20.60	8.11	2.02	-20.1
QuantaSing Group ADR	QSG	2.65	0.41	18.30	28.99	1.41	
17 Educ & Tech ADR	YQ	3.50	0.54	18.2 4	9.88	1.41	-61.3
Gritstone bio	GRTS	2.82	0.43	17.99	3.55	1.14	-16.6
Essa Pharma	EPIX	9.94	1.45	17.0 8	9.99	2.50	257.6
Wipro ADR	WIT	6.28	0.91	16.95	6.39	4.32	31.1
Dercentage Loss	rc						

Percentage Losers

		a	test Sess	ion —		52-Wee	-k —
Company	Symbol	Close	Net chg	% chg	High	Low	% chg
SEALSQ	LAES	2.26	-0.91	-28.71	28.50	0.91	
Nukkleus	NUKK	1.56	-0.59	-27.44	10.99	1.55	-79.6
Minim	MINM	2.97	-1.10	-27.03	14.00	0.60	-40.5
VivoPower International	VVPR	1.70	-0.48	-21.94	11.70	1.52	-40.6
Swvl Holdings	SWVL	4.89	-1.36	-21.76	6.50	0.62	-18.5
Argo Blockchain ADR	ARBK	2.04	-0.50	-19.69	4.45	0.92	38.8
Mega Matrix	MPU	2.28	-0.55	-19.43	3.80	0.55	31.0
Sphere 3D	ANY	1.93	-0.46	-19.25	4.09	0.57	-35.1
Greenidge Generation	GREE	4.58	-1.03	-18.36	13.90	1.55	-56. 8
Spectaire Holdings	SPEC	2.39	-0.53	-18.15	15.40	1.29	-77.8
Bit Brother CI A	BETS	4.31	-0.93	-17.75	11400.00	3.80	-100.0
Avalo Therapeutics	AVTX	5.72	-1.15	-16.74	1296.00	5.64	-99.5
Bitcoin Depot	BTM	2.20	-0.44	-16.67	11.15	1.99	-78.4
DatChat	DATS	2.10	-0.42	-16.53	8.49	1.60	-66.1
Ekso Bionics Holdings	EKSO	1.67	-0.33	-16.50	3.13	0.62	-5.6

Most Active Stocks

Company	Symbol	Volume (000)	% chg from - 65-day avg	Latest S Close	Session % chg	52-We High	ek
Charge Enterprises	CRGE	455,302	38933.2	0.23	179.56	1.60	0.08
Marathon Digital	MARA	135,889	119.2	18.98	-15.27	31.30	5.13
Volcon	VLCN	133,962	1820.9	0.10	4.65	10.00	0.07
Inpixon	INPX	132,520	1068.1	0.05	7.81	1.65	0.04
Atreca CI A	BCEL	125,769	1958.4	0.36	52.63	2.05	0.10
* Common stocks priced at \$.			ın average v	olume ov	er 65 tradi	ing days of a	t least

Forex Race

Consumer Rates and Returns to Investor

-2.3

-0.2

Selected rates U.S. consumer rates A consumer rate against its

17512.83

1413.53

Federal-funds	6.00%
target rate	
	5.00
	4.00
Five-year CD yields	
	3.00
	2.00
	12.00

FMAMJJASONDJ

TAIEX

Sources: FactSet: Dow Jones Market Data

benchmark over the past year

SET

Taiwan

Thailand

Bankrate.com avg†:	2.84%
America First FCU	4.20%
Riverdale, UT	801-627-0900
Quontic Bank	4,30%
New York, NY	800-908-6600
Popular Direct	4.40%
Miami Lakes, FL	800-274-5696
First Internet Bank of Indiana	4.59%
Indianapolis, IN	888-873-3424
First National Bank of America	4.65%
East Lansing, MI	800-968-3626

-0.19

-32.49

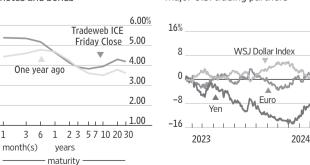
5.29

2023				,			
Interestrate		Rate (%) -) Week ago	— 52 Low (Range 4 6	(%) 8 High	3-yr chg (pct pts)
Federal-funds rate target	5.25-5.50	5.25-5.50	4.25			5.50	5.25
Prime rate*	8.50	8.50	7.50			● 8.50	5.25
SOFR	5.31	5.32	4.30			5.40	5.22
Money market, annual yield	0.48	0.51	0.35	•		0.64	0.38
Five-year CD, annual yield	2.84	2.87	2.71	•		2.87	2.29
30-year mortgage, fixed [†]	7.15	7.24	6.36			8.28	4.20
15-year mortgage, fixed [†]	6.48	6.48	5.54			7.42	4.09
Jumbo mortgages, \$766,550-plus	7.19	7.29	6.35			8.33	4.19
Five-year adi mortgage (APM)	6.//	6./12	5 22			7 16	2 20

7.70 7.69 7.69 6.54 New-car loan, 48-month Bankrate.com rates based on survey of over 4,800 online banks. *Base rate posted by 70% of the nation's largest banks.† Excludes closing costs. Sources: FactSet; Dow Jones Market Data; Bankrate.com

Treasury yield curve Yield to maturity of current bills,

Yen, euro vs. dollar; dollar vs. notes and bonds major U.S. trading partners



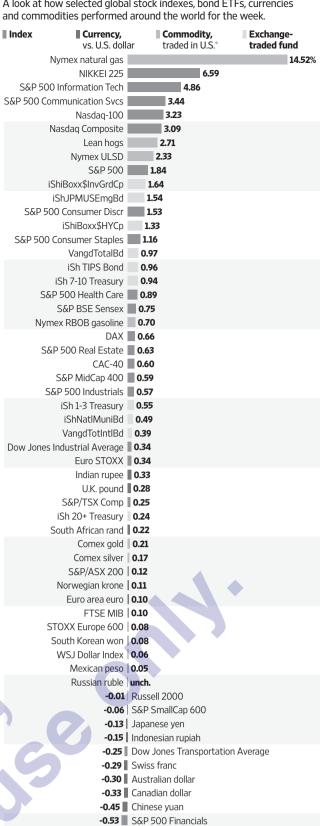
 $Sources: Tradeweb \ ICE \ U.S. \ Treasury \ Close; Tullett \ Prebon; Dow \ Jones \ Market \ Data$

rowin	g Ra	ites a	and Y	field	S
Close			─ 52-W High	/eek — Low	Total Return (%) 52-wk 3-yr
2168.970	4.070	4.230	5.120	3.610	1.008 -3.509
g 3176.930	4.290	4.320	5.280	3.630	-5.773 -10.794
2055.650	4.550	4.720	5.740	4.180	2.064 -3.063
g 2032.1 80	4.740	4.890	6.050	4.140	1.326 -2.884
3537.794	7.207	7.534	9.101	7.022	9.195 2.124
587.408	3.119	3.060	4.311	2.757	3.263 -0.451
840.682	7.411	7.537	8.842	7.102	6.796 -2.845
	Close 2168.970 g 3176.930 2055.650 g 2032.180 3537.794 587.408	Yield Close Last 2168.970 4.070 g 3176.930 4.290 2055.650 4.550 g 2032.180 4.740 3537.794 7.207 587.408 3.119	Yield (%) Close Last Week ago 2168.970 4.070 4.230 g 3176.930 4.290 4.320 2055.650 4.550 4.720 g 2032.180 4.740 4.890 3537.794 7.207 7.534 587.408 3.119 3.060	Tyleid (%) — 52-W Last Week ago High 2168.970 4.070 4.230 5.120 93176.930 4.290 4.320 5.280 2055.650 4.550 4.720 5.740 9.2032.180 4.740 4.890 6.050 3537.794 7.207 7.534 9.101 587.408 3.119 3.060 4.311	2168.970

Sources: J.P. Morgan; Bloomberg Fixed Income Indices; ICE Data Services

Track the Markets: Winners and Losers

A look at how selected global stock indexes, bond ETFs, currencies



*Continuous front-month contracts Sources: FactSet (indexes, bond ETFs, commodities), Tullett Prebon (currencies).

-0.68 Bloomberg Commodity Index

-0.69 IBEX 35 -0.78 Bovespa Index -0.84 FTSE 100 **-1.04** S&P 500 Materials -1.04 S&P/BMV IPC -1.44 Comex copper -1.53 Nymex crude -1.61 Shanghai Composite -1.76 Hang Seng **-1.87** S&P 500 Utilities -2.06 KOSPI Composite S&P 500 Energy

-2.39 -2.98

-3.25

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Methodology

Corn

Wheat Soybeans

Performance reflects price change (except DAX, Bovespa, and Tel Aviv 35, which reflect total returns). Commodities are represented by the continuous front-month futures contract. Bond exchange-traded fund performance may diverge from that of their underlying index. Bond categories are represented by the following ETFs: U.S. Bonds Total Market: Vanguard Total Bond Market; 1-3 Yr U.S. Treasurys: IShares 1-3 Year Treasury; U.S. 7-10 Yr Treasurys: IShares 7-10 Year Treasury; 20+ Yr U.S. Treasurys: IShares 20+ Year Treasury; Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities (TIPS): iShares TIPS; Investment Grade Corporate Bonds: iShares iBoxx \$ Investment Grade Corporate; High Yield Corporate Bonds: IShares IBoxx \$ High Yield Corporate; Municipal Bonds: iShares National Muni; International Bonds: Vanguard Total International; Emerging Market Bonds: iShares J.P. Morgan USD Emerging Markets.



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Currencies

		Fri —	US\$vs, YTD cha			Fri —	US:
Country/currency	in US\$	per US\$		Country/currency	in US\$	per US\$	
Americas				Vietnam dong	.00004081	24505	1.
Argentina peso	.00128	316.0500	0.9	Europe			
Brazil real	.2060	4.8543	0.04	Czech Rep. koruna	.04444	22.502	0.
Canada dollar	.7457	1.3410	1.2	Denmark krone	.1468	6.8101	0
Chile peso	.001099	909.63	4.0	Euro area euro	1.0951	.9132	0
Colombiapeso	.000255	3914.72	1.0	Hungary forint	.002888	346.25	-0
Ecuador US dollar	1	1	unch	Iceland krona	.007316	136.69	0
Mexico peso	.0593	16.8698	-0.6	Norway krone	.0972	10.2899	1
Uruguay peso	.02543	39.3283	0.7	Poland zloty	.2513	3.9798	1
Asia-Pacific				Russia ruble	.01100	90.930	1
Australia dollar	.6686	1.4957	1.9	Sweden krona	.0974	10.2669	1
China vuan	.1396	7.1621	0.7	Switzerland franc	1.1729	.8526	1
Hong Kong dollar	.1279	7.8211	0.7	Turkey lira	.0332	30.0998	2
India rupee		82.863		Ukraine hryvnia	.0264	37.8500	-0
Indonesia rupiah	.0000644		1.0	UK pound	1.2753	.7841	-0
Japan yen		144.82	2.7	Middle East/Afri	ca		
Kazakhstan tenge	.000707			Bahrain dinar	2.6529	.3770	III
Macau pataca	.1241			Egypt pound		30.9023	
Malaysia ringgit		4.6470	1.1	Israel shekel		3.7321	_
New Zealand dollar	.6241	1.6023	1.2	Kuwait dinar	3.2542		_
Pakistan rupee		280.445		Oman sul rial	2.5974		
Philippines peso		55.935	1.0	Oatar rial	.2742		0.0
Singapore dollar	.7509		0.9	Saudi Arabia riyal			-
South Korea won	.0007615		1.4	South Africa rand		18.6243	1
Sri Lanka rupee	.0031042				.0221		-
Taiwan dollar		31.091	1.3		Close Net C	hg % Chg	YTD%
Thailand baht		34.910	1.5	WSJ Dollar Index	96.90 0.0	01 0.01	1.1

Sources: Tullett Prebon, Dow Jones Market Data

Commodities

	Close	Fric Net chg	lay ——— % Chg	High	52-Week - Low	% Chg	YTD % chg
DJ Commodity	949.49	0.47	0.05	1058.44	930.59	-9.42	-0.87
Refinitiv/CC CRB Index	264.38	0.28	0.11	290.29	253.85	-4.18	0.21
Crude oil, \$ per barrel	72.68	0.66	0.92	93.68	66.74	-8.99	1.44
Natural gas, \$/MMBtu	3.313	0.216	6.97	3.586	1.991	-3.10	31.78
Gold, \$ per troy oz.	2046.70	32.40	1.61	2081.90	1808.80	6.69	-0.76

BIGGEST 1,000 STOCKS

Prices are composite quotations that include primary m (formerly Boston), Chicago Stock Exchange, Cboe, NYSE	E National and Nasdaq ISE. on market capitalization. <u>Underlined quotations</u> are those	-2.38 79.90 62.70 Fortive 2.29 80.33 54.10 FortuneBrands 4.95 37.26 28.66 FoxA FOXA	1.7 15 31.14 0.24 6.12 92.02 68.8 1.8 14 28.75 0.13 6.12 92.02 68.8	Stock Sym % PE Last Chg 75 McKesson Medpace 14 Medtronic Mercadolibre MCK 0.5 19 485.32 -3.52 MEDP 34 286.73 1.43 Mercadolibre MELI 87.42 0.33 Mercadolibre MELI 85 1658.58 66.90	YTD 52-Week YId Net % Chg Hi Lo Stock Sym % PE Last Chg -3.04 68.74 52.47 Shell SHEI 3.9 8 63.80 0.60 -3.01 31.41.4 205.43 SherwinWilliams SHW 0.8 32 302.51 5.09 -9.06 36.64 24.99 ShinhanFin ShE 5.2 5 27.99 -0.54 13.43 315.95 157 ShockwaveMed SWAV 34 216.16 1.59 4 49 83.19 35.67 Shonify ShOPD dd 81.40 0.10
highlight those issues whose price changed by 5% or m Footnotes: I-New 52-week high. I-New 52-week low. dd-Indicates loss in the most recent four quarters. Fundaments.	nore if their previous closing price was \$2 or higher. - continued listing - v-Trading halted on primary market. - vj-In bankruptcy or receivership or being reorganized under the	-3.83 46.73 32.83 FreeportMcM FCX -3.55 27.71 16.37 FreseniusMedCare FMS	1.5 28 40.94 -0.09 4.08 73.28 48.9 2.1 19 20.09 -0.16 -2.53 1615.97 928.5 29 6.94 0.15 -3.46 87.87 52.7 3.31 390.68 230.6	60 Mettler-Toledo MTD 30 1182.28 -4.28 MCHP 2.1 19 85.41 -0.29 MU 0.6 dd 82.39 -1.00	2.79 146.91 100.17 SimonProperty SPG 5.2 22 146.62 2.24 -7.98 202.14 95 SimpsonMfg SSD 0.6 22 182.19 -2.03 -4.75 7.95 3.32 SimusXM SIRI 2.0 16 5.21 -0.03 -3.47 176.16 116.81 SiteOneLandscape SITE 41 156.86 -0.97 1.38 64 41.56 SkechersUSA SKX 19 63.20 -0.42 -8.84 123.69 85.06 Skyworks SKX 2.7 17 102.48 -0.61 -1.61 82.77 57 45 SmithAO AOS 1.6 41 81.11 0.45 0.37 33.09 21.52 SmithKoRephew SMN 2.7 54 27.38 0.13
FD-First day of trading. t-NYSE bankrupto	and changes in the closing prices from 4 p.m. the previous day. YTD 52-Week Yld Net %Chg Hi Lo Stock Sym % PE Last Chg	-5.44 67.57 43.57 GXOLogistics GXO 4.41 254 174.44 Gallagher AJG -4.90 55.13 43.54 Gaming&Leisure GLP -3.20 22.08 7.22 Gap GPS J -3.65 129.32 93.22 Garmin GRMM	0.2 00 32.03 - 0.00 -5.06 162.02 109.9 3.4 11 40.10 0.46 1.97 9.04 5.0 34 57.83 -1.55 2.03 3.70 2.7 0.9 45 234.80 2.80 -30.59 48.11 28.1 6.2 17 46.93 0.04 -6.54 207.51 6.25 3.019 20.24 -0.72 5.31 38.633 255.1 2.2 4 23 123.85 0.67 3.25 70.90 48.4	MIDD	2.47 159.92 107.33 Smucker SJM 3.3 dd 129.50 2.32 2.95 1.79 0.7.86 Snap SMP dd 1.6.43 -0.66 1.70 297.25 226.68 Snap-On SNA 2.6 15 283.92 -0.20 3.89 202.83 128.56 Snowflake 192.1 98.66 443.65 SOQUIMICH 20.70 11.70 4.45 SoFITech SOPI dd 7.89 -0.28 5.34 100.94 79.62 Sony SONY 0.4 20 99.75 2.44
**Chg Hi Lo Stock Sym % PE Last Chg A B C -2.08 94.01 74.40 AECOM -4.21 28.18 11.43 AES -0.29 84.64 60.20 Affac ACM 0.8236 90.51 0.9 AES 3.6 dd 18.44 0.44 AES 3.6 dd 18.274 0.09	9 -19,19 62.59 6.04 Carvana CVNA dd 42.78 -3.2t 1 4.65 299.68 20.213 6.3esysGenStores CASY 0.6 22 287.52 0.4t 9,79 74.49 31.45 Catalent CTLT dd 49.33 -0.7t -1.78 299.20 204.04 Caterpillar CAT 18. 16 290.41 -1.65 15 -51.5 159.06 97.12 Celanese CE 1.9 8 147.37 -0.01 10.69 68.95 26.75 Celsius-Hildg CELH123 60.35 1.25 15 1.29 8.46 4.72 Cemex CX 25 7.85 0.00 15 -7.85 0.00 16 -7.85 0.00 17 -7.85 0.00 18 -7.85 0.0	L18 23.74 L5.45 GenUpital GENN -4.44 L56.95 79.86 Generac GNR -1.87 261.39 202.35 GeneralDynamics GD -1.88 261.39 202.35 GeneralMills GIS -2.69 90.89 60.33 GeneralMills GIS -1.84 43.63 26.30 GeneralMotors GM	2.2 10 23.09 0.06 0.95 78.59 60.7 2.1 21 254.81 4.87 2.2 12 12 12 154.81 4.87 2.5 0.44 2.5 0.47 23.7 15 63.39 0.33 2.76 39.09 12.73 2.76 39.09 12.73 2.76 39.09 12.73 2.76 39.09 12.73 2.76 39.09 12.73 2.76 39.09 12.73 2.76 39.09 12.73 2.76 39.09 12.73 2.76 39.09 12.73 2.76 39.09 12.73 2.76 39.09 12.73 2.76 39.09 12.73 2.76 39.09 12.73 2.76 39.09 12.73 2.76 2.76 39.09 12.73 2.76 2.76 2.76 2.76 2.76 2.76 2.76 2.76	15 Mondelez MDLZ 2.3 2.7 3.1 0.34 20 MongoDB MDB dd 39.159 -1.01 3.0 MonolithicPower MPWR 0.7 63 578.76 -9.67 3.3 MonsterBev MNST 40 59.05 0.42 23 Moody's MCO 0.8 46 379.79 2.99 24 MorganStanley MS 3.8 16 89.70 -0.81	1.85 75.80 61.56 Southern SCO 3.9 26 71.42 0.84 -3.40 8.40 64.66 SoCopper SCCO 4.8 22 83.14 0.10 -1.07 39.53 21.91 SouthwestAir LUV 2.5 39 28.57 -1.27 7.02 7.69 4.57 SouthwesternEner SWN 2 7.01 0.29 0.20 153.30 82.19 Spluth 3.24 152.65 -0.08 8 1.00 2.00 3.00 2.21 2.65 1.04.21 73.12 2.10 2.00 2.5 1.04 1.31 2.10 2.00 3.05 1.04 1.31 2.00 2.00 4.00 1.00 1.00 2.00 2.00 5.00 1.00 1.00 2.00 2.00 6.00 1.00 2.00 2.00 2.00 7.00 1.00 2.00 2.00 2.00 8.00 1.00 2.00 2.00 2.00 9.00 1.00 2.00 2.00 2.00 1.00 1.00 2.00 2.00 2.00 1.00 1.00 2.00 2.00 2.00
-3.15 145 53 109 81 AGCO AGCO 1.0 8 117.59 -1.74.52 364.31 248 Ansys APA 3.1 7 32.54 0.0 -7.01 9.55 6.70 ASET Ech ASX 4.9 16 8.75 -0.01.79 21.53 13.43 AT&T T 6.7 dd 16.48 0.2 -1.79 21.53 13.49 ABV 1.39 31 13.92 ABV 1.39 31 31.39 ABV 1.39 31 31 31 31 31 31 31 31 31 31 31 31 31	11 -6.25 21.37 14.97 CenovusEnergy CVE 2.1 10 15.61 -0.28 86 6.20 79.83 60.83 Centene CNC18 78.81 -0.64 22 31.47 25.42 CenterPointEner CNP 2.8 23 28.57 0.22 11 i 3.02 8.99 5.67 CentralsiElBras EBR 0.53 2.888 0.01 55 0.71 42.87 19.59 CerevelTherap CERE dd 42.70 0.06 22 -2.70 79.66 55.62 CerdidanHCM CDAY899 65.31 0.42	1.41 34.33 25.77 Gentex GNT 0.22 181.37 126.35 GenuineParts GPC 9.07 6.34 4.20 Gerdau GGB 6.63 87.82 72.87 GileadSciences GIL 6.22 67.55 26.24 Gittab GIL 6.25 138.07 94.05 GlobalFoyments GPS -5.30 72.50 48.12 GlobalFoundries GFS	1.5 19 32.20 -0.31 -8.26 -73.46 31.4 2.7 16 138.8 0 0.37 1.03 29.82 251 0.6 5 4.41 0.04 1.03 29.83 251 0.5 19 86.38 0.99 4.28 231.54 149.9 0.8 39 130.27 -1.72 0.70 47.95 343 0.23 57.39 0.44 1.48 248.3 144	4 Mosaic MOS 2.6 8 32.78 -0.59 MotorolaSol MSI 1.2 32 316.31 2.03 MSA 0.4 16 377.61 -0.17 MICE 42 208.04 -4.53 MICE 42 208.04 -4.53 MICE 42 208.04 -7.17 -0.23 MINN 5.2 20 43.40 0.25	-0.57 81.22 50.56 Stantéc STN 0.7 36 79.73 -0.35 -4.20 115.48 89.21 Starbucks SBUX 2.5 26 91.98 -0.96 -1.23 94.73 62.78 StateStreet STT 3.6 11 76.51 0.25 -4.13 136.46 90.55 SteelDynamics STLD 1.5 7 113.22 0.10 -4.37 23.66 14.98 Stellantis STLD 1.5 7 113.22 0.10 -4.37 23.61 1.36.30 1.25 Stevanato STW 0.2 46 27.62 -0.33 SFF 0.22 70.65 53.48 StifelFinancial SFF 2.1 1.6 69.30 -0.40
4.79 166.20 130.96 AbbVie ABBV 3.8 44 162.40 0.1 10.42 86.37 66.49 Acadialealthraar ACK dd 85.86 1.1 1.54 357.65 242.80 Accenture ACK 1.4 33 356.33 8.3 0.01 633.89 313.60 Adobe ABE 50 956.54 -0.9 8.85 145.68 75.02 AdvDrainageSys WMS 0.4 22 128.19 5.0 4.0 0.53 15.10 6 72.7 AdvMicroDevices AMD 1154 164.56 -1.4 0.35 5.83 4.02 Aegon AEG 4.1 dd 5.78 0.0 0.09 75.48 49.58 Aegon AEG 4.1 dd 5.78 0.0	7.7 - 6.12 4\$8.30 315.02 CharterComms	o -0,73 250.39 135.41 Globant GLOD -1.25 125.02 102.23 Globellife GL 5 550 80.04 43.38 GlobusMedical GMEI -1.38 107.82 67.44 GoDaddy GDD -8.37 17.78 8.89 GoldFields -2.08 389.47 289.36 GoldmanSachs -4.75 4.03 2.65 Grab GRAI	66 236.24 8.10 -1.90 52.42 30.2 0.7 13 120.20 0.31 2.98 7267.02 4873. 45 104.70 0.16 -2.08 63.90 46.5 2.5 18 13.25 0.76 -2.79 68.10 36.5 0.6 d 3.21 -0.04 3.02 7.79 4.2	15 NRG Energy NRG 3.0 dd 50.72 0.21 NVR 15 7208.90 -33.34 NXPI 1.9 19 209.11 -2.38 NASdag NADAO 1.5 26 56.93 0.39	-13.11 55.85 37.21 STMicroelec STM 0.5 9 43.56 -0.68 1 44.9 317.52 648.80 Stryker SVK 1.0 46 312.90 3.91 1.34 10.58 7.53 SumitomoMits SMFG 3.0 12 9.81 -0.04 0.78 163.83 102.74 SunComms SUI 2.87 4 134.69 0.80 1.70 53.21 43.53 SunLifeFinancial SLF 4,5 12 50.98 -0.01 2.31 35.51 27.59 SuncorEnergy SU 4,9 7 32.78 0.10 19.45 357 9.6 0.02 SuperMicroform SMCI 31.39 56 -3.75
-14.96 52.48 8.80 AffirmHIdgs AFRM dd 41.79 -1.06.11 19959 96.80 AglientTechs A 0.73 11.3054 0.8 -4.16 6.1.15 43.22 AgnicoEagleMines AEM 3.0 10 52.57 0.9 -3.53 32.09 0.156 AirProducts APD 2.72 62.64.13 0.73 154.99 9.742 Airhoh ABB 17 137.14 -2.3 -0.21 120.61 70.65 AkamaiTech AKAM 36 118.10 0.8 -12.76 293.01 112 Albemarle ALB 1.3 4 12.605 -2.66	12	1.62 844.52 544.95 Grainger GWN 4.26 27.56 20.07 GraphicPkg GPK -8.89 200.85 107.25 GpoAeroportuar PAC -4.65 314.48 165 GpoAeroportSur ASR 3.47 112.82 67.48 Guidewire GWRI 4.25 304.86 215.96 HCA Healthcare HCA	0.9 23 842.12 5.05 -2.25 118.89 76.8 1.6 12 25.70 -0.05 1.08 503.41 285.3 4.8 16 159.65 -1.06 0.20 134.93 89.0 1.8 15 280.58 -3.07 -5.09 42.17 25.0 0.0 dd 112.82 1.61 6.03 83.73 33.9 0.9 14 282.19 -0.34 -2.25 14.22 5.8	33 NetApp MTAP 2.3 27 86.67 -0.28 15 NetEase NTES 1.9 16 91.06 0.64 33 Netflix MFLX 49 492.16 -0.07 40 Neurocrine NBIX 71 132.03 1.45 16 NewFortressEner NFE 1.1 19 35.81 0.33 88 NewOrientalEduc EDU 47 77.70 0.78 11 NY CmntyBep NYCB 6.8 3 10 -0.15	2-99 11.60 7.46 Suzano SUZ 1.6 4 11.02 -0.07 17.76 64.1 13.01 Symbotic SWF 2.7 7 36.73 -1.24 3.98 573.77 327.56 Synopsys SYF 2.7 7 36.73 -1.24 SNPS 62 494.40 -4.06 SYY 2.6 21 75.75 0.30 TU V
-1.26 23.88 19.14 Albertsons ACI 2.1 10 22.71 - 0.1: 2.47 86.20 63.78 Alcon	36 3.78 130.66 95.01 CincinnatiFinl CINE 2.8 10 107.37 -0.94 48 -1.60 607.79 423.06 Cintas CTAS 0.9 43 59.3 4.75 44 -0.36 58.19 45.55 CiscoSystems CSCO 3.1 15 50.34 -0.14 0.32 0.54 42 2.29 54.75 38.17 Citigroup C 4.0 8 52.62 0.54 0.57 49 -4.53 44.82 22.77 CitizensFin CFG 5.3 8 31.64 -0.97 0.97 49 -4.64 179.49 117 CleanHarbors CLH 25 166.42 -0.25	5 -1.30 62.20 37.12 HF Sinclair DINC 5 -0.93 33.90 25.22 HP HPQ 6 -2.86 42.47 32.41 HSBC HSBC 1 -1.26 53.52 31.14 HWorld HTHI 7 4.98 9.05 7.49 Haleon HLN 6 -4.62 43.85 27.84 Halliburton HALN 1 -3.12 -3.23 64.35 Exartox HBLN	3.3 5 54.85 1.63 -9.06 55.41 33.5 3.7 9 29.81 -0.19 -1.26 24.81 15.5 6.7 6 39.38 -0.04 -1.48 26 15.7 1.8 24 33.02 -0.18 0.49 86.47 47.1 1.2 30 8.64 -0.03 -3.23 131.31 88.4 1.9 12 34.48 0.29 0.72 28.95 22.8	9 Newmont NEM 4.3 dd 37.64 0.12 NWSA 0.8101 24.24 0.02 31 NewsCorp B NWS 0.8105 25.34 -0.03 NextEraEnergy NEE 3.1 16 61.04 0.32 NKE 1.4 31 105.06 -0.84	-4.12 13.48 5.08 TAL Education O.97 45.18 32.57 TC Energy TRP 6.9 dd 35.47 0.10 15.61 11.57 86.30 TD Synnex SNX 1.5 15 103.73 -0.61 -0.10 146.59 115 TE Connectivity TEL 1.8 22 131.93 -0.17 1.85 21.82 15.4.7 Telus TE Connectivity TEL 1.82 213.193 -0.17 1.85 21.85 (1.84 15.15 16.16 1
7.89 152 10.057 Allstate ALL 2.4 dd 151.03 0.6. 6.6 5.41 35.78 21.59 AllyFinancial ALLY 3.6 9 33.03 -0.5 1.03 242.39 148.10 AllnylamPharm ALNY dd 193.39 -1.6 0.23 146.66 8.88 64 Jhabet C GOOG 22 142.65 0.5 2.48 48.11 39.06 Altria MO 9.5 8 41.34 -0.2 1.76 157.17 88.12 Amazon.com AMZN 81 154.62 -0.5 1.07 3.23 2.40 Ambey AMZN 81 154.62 -0.5 1.07 3.23 2.40 AmzN 81 154.62 -0.5 1.07 3.23 2.40 Ambey AMZN 81 154.62 -0.5 1.07 3.23 2.40 AmzN 81 154.62 -0.5 1	55 0.50 178.21 114.69 Clorox CLX 3.3208 143.30 0.55 99 - 4.67 86.91 3.990 Cloudflare NET dd 79.37 -1.47 67 - 2.48 64.99 51.55 Coca-Colac NO 3.0 24 60.39 0.55 67 - 2.01 19.61 19.14 428 Coca-Colac OC OKE 0.2 19.90,72 -1.24 68 1 0.73 67.73 53.53 Coca-ColaEuro CKE 0.2 19.76 72.3 1.66 61 3.23 29.42 56.45 Complexat Took CTSN 1.5 10. 77.97 3.06 CTSN 1.5 10. 77.97 3.06	5.25 28.43 15.24 HealthpeakProp PEAR -3.36 191 153.63 Heico HEI -4.47 150.42 121.43 Heico A HEI, -2.58 89.72 60.01 HenrySchein HSIG 2.25 276.88 178.82 Hershey HSY -1.66 167.75 113.82 Hess HES	5.8 49 20.84 0.55 1 5.54 4.80 3.3 0.1 59 172.86 0.39 - 4.75 265.99 202.5 0.1 47 136.08 - 0.25 - 2.90 260.20 183.0 22 73.76 - 0.19 - 0.68 100.25 62.4 2.5 21 190.64 0.23 2.76 496.89 41.4 1.2 27 141.77 1.98 - 16.42 22.75 12.1 7.7 16 32.25 0.67 1 6.42 107.89 75.6	8 Nomura MMR 2.5 1.6 4.76 0.0.1 7 Nordson NDSN 1.1 30 251.6 2 1.01 9 NorfolkSouthern NSC 2.4 25 229.53 2.93 4 NorthrenTrust NTRS 3.6 1.6 83.81 0.37 5 NorwegCruise NCLH dd 16.75 -0.76 8 Novartis NVS 2.1 29 10.74 5 -0.15	-3.41 18.94 10.20 TIM TIMB 4.2 19 17.84 0.35 1.30 95.65 72.92 TJNS IIV. 1.42 79 95.03 -0.22 1.38 164.50 124.92 T-MobileU TAMES 1.62 5162.54 0.37 84.55 4.64 24.74 TPG CFG 3.5 dd 39.52 -0.34 0.36 132.76 87.43 T.Roweprice TROW 4.4 16 110.49 1.23 1.26 164.85 101.77 TakeTwoSoftware TTWO dd 161.68 0.14 5.40 17.15 13.19 Takedapharm TAMES 3.63 44 15.50 4 0.11
1.14 12.31 8.45 Amcor AMCR 5.1 15 9.75 -0.00 3.95 99.75 78.38 Amdocs DX 19.20 9.136 0.44 0.20 71 15.99 AmericaMovil 3.86 19.08 10.86 Ameralrilines AL 9.0 6 13.21 -1.3 4.23 9.0.5 14.09 14	151 82.09 67.62 ColgatePalm	1.82 87.88 64.02 Hologic HOL 1.64 361 274.26 HomeDepot HD 4.01 36.82 23.43 HondaMotor HON 4.11 217.02 174.88 Honeywell HON 1.093 46.88 30.12 HormelFoods HRL 1.28 156 78 89.05 DP Motors HRL	0.3 37 182.16 0.01 11.16 9.27 3.5	66 NuHoldings NU124 9.26 0.19 9 Nucor NUE 1.3 9 168.89 0.70 44 Nutanix NTNX dd 50.31 1.20 12 Nutrien NTR 4.1 12 51.23 -1.65 13 nVentElectric NTT 1.4 20 56.26 -0.32	2-40 17.13 15.19 Takedarharii TRR 3.9 9 36.34 -1.33 3-15.09 17.00 17.12 87.48 25.99 Tapestry TRR 3.9 9 36.34 -1.33 3-15.00 17.00 18.75 19.144 64.85 TargaResources TRGP 2.4 22 83.82 0.59 17.00 18.75 19.14 19.14 11.14 18.88 0.22 9.98 49.34 32.48 TeckResources B TECK 10.12 38.05 -0.55 1.31 448.71 364.98 Teledyne Tech TDY 2.7 440.46 0.23 0.08 276.31 77.63 Teleflex TFX 0.5 29.249.15 0.81
-0.05 143.15 105.22 AmericanFin AFG 2.4 12 118.83 -0.66 -0.58 37.97 28.79 AmHones4Rent AMH 2.5 34 35.75 -0.0 -0.37 69.76 45.66 AIG -1.99 235.57 154.58 AmerTowerREIT AMT 3.1137 209.43 1.77 -0.17 162.59 114.25 AmerWaterWorks AWK 2.1 27 132.21 0.6 -1.92 33.90 2.43 I AmericoldRealty COLD 3.0 dd 29.69 -0.0 -0.90 386.33 275.09 Ameriprise AMP 1.4 15 376.40 -1.8 -0.88 165.52 131.52 Ametek AME 0.63 016.34 -0.44	44	144 20.39 14.51 HostHotels HST -454 12.55 18.39.2 HoulhanLokey HU 1 2.62 55.90 38.17 HowmetAerospace HWN -0.40 340.06 21.77 Hubbell -3.31 593.53 299.72 Hubspot -4.17 541.21 423.29 Human -8.83 20.92.1 13.56.6 JBHunt JBH1	4.1 19 19.75 - 0.10 19. 29 11.47 0.24 0.4 36 55.54 0.03 1.5 26 327.63 - 0.06 - 12.04 111.35 61.4 dd 561.35 - 8.98 0.31 1005.96 767.2 0.8 18 438.71 - 16.28 - 2.76 67.93 551. 0.9 26 192.08 0.97 - 7.45 92.38 64.6	77 ON Semi ON 15 73.47 -0.96 77 OReilly Auto ORLY 25 953.06 8.45 2. Occidental Petrol OXY 1.2 13 58.06 0.93 OKTA dd 83.79 0.01	-1.11 6.36 4.33 Ericsson
6.42 311.05 211.71 Amgen AMGN 2.9 22 30.65.11 3.4 4 17.58 AmkorTech APH 0.9 31 96.50 0.00 4.51.2 6.265 99.93 7.2 Amphenol APH 0.9 31 96.50 0.00 4.51.2 0.27 14.91 AngloGolddAsh 0.70 67.09 51.66 AB InBev BUD 0.9 21 65.07 -0.00 1.39 24.43 14.52 AnnalyCap ML 132.09 14.91 AngloGold APH 1.31 24.91 14.91 AngloGold APH 1.31 24.91 14.91	11 -3.78 65.21 43.22 Corteva CTVA 1.4 35 14.1 0.0 42 2.55 17.50 10.13 Cosan CSAN 2.0 dd 16.06 0.2 48 -4.57 92.36 65.12 CoSta CSGP 84 83.40 1.2 02 0.20 29.88 22.25 CoterraEnergy CTRA 3.1 9 25.57 0.33 78 3.46 19.99 12.66 Coupang CPNG 70 16.75 0.22	1-19/15/62 9-15 HuntingtonBests HBM 1-19/12/61/42/188.51 Huntinglingalis 1-19/2/13/62/62/77 HyattHotels H 1-19/2/13/62/62/62/77 HyattHotels H 1-19/2/13/62/62/62/62/62/62/62/62/62/62/62/62/62/	2.0 19 254.68	10 MegaHealthcare OHI 8.7 32 30.64 0.13 0 Omnicom OMC 3.2 13 88.76 -0.39 90 OnHolding ONON 101 28.02 -0.68 10 OntoInnovation ONTO 45 144.23 1.80 16 OpenText OTEX 24 32 41.55 -0.61	7.37 85.40 49.6.1 TenetHealthcare THC 18 81.14 0.36 1.34 119.29 81.08 Teradyne TR 0.4 3d 10.481 0.29 1.191 299.29 115.60 Tesla TSLA 70 218.89 8.33 0.27 1732.7131.19 TetraTech TEVA dd 11.32 0.08 8.32 1818.21 394.8 TexaSnstruments TWA dd 11.32 0.08 8.32 1818.21 394.8 TexaSnstruments TWA 22 16.487 0.73 2.62 2151.6 1266.21 TexaSPacLand TPL 0.8 30 1531.22 22.80 4.46 1240.2 91.06 TexaSpacdadous TWR 11.9 27 116.78 1.97
3.17 347.37 280.89 Aon 17.32 94.75 19.83 ApellisPharm APLS	10.98 290.33 96.13 CrowdStrike	1.50 121.19 75.82 ITT	1.0 22 117.53 0.20 3.24 13.08 10.2 35.1 dd 17.11 -0.01 2.69 101.56 79.6 1.41 255 -0.20 3.64 91.33 73.3 1.2 25 206.91 -1.67 -5.33 52.47 32.2 25 253.63 -0.34 0.67 155.19 86.3 0.61 d138.04 -2.97 1.59 152.99 59.6 1.69 125.99 59.6 1.69 125.99 59.6 1.69 125.99 59.6 1.69 125.99 59.6 1.69 125.99 59.6 1.69 125.99 59.6 1.69 125.99 59.6 1.69 125.99 59.6 1.69 125.99 59.6 1.69 125.99 59.6 1.69 125.99 59.6 1.69 125.99 59.6 1.69 125.99 59.6 1.69 125.99 59.6 1.69 125.99 59.6 1.69 125.99 12	11. Orange (RRN 4 9 19 11.80 0.23 40 rix IX 27 11 95.90 -0.23 20 USWorldwide OFF (14.50 0.45 1.45 0.45 0.45 1.45 0.45 0.45 0.45 0.45 0.45 0.45 0.45 0	-1.29 81.59 61.27 Textron TXT 0.1 17 79.38 1.30 2.55 60.95 814.560 ThermoFisher TRI 1.3 30 145.46 1.27 -1.10 129.90 85.34 SM
-9.85 124.88 71.01 Aptiv APTV 0.0 10 80.88 -2.7. 2.35 33.01 23.55 Aramark -6.13 32.48 21.30 ArcelorMittal 46.0 90.65 60.70 ArchCapital -3.68 89.31 69.01 ADM ADM 2.6 10 69.56 0.0 0.70 120.99 71.36 AresMgmt ADM 2.6 10 69.56 0.0 0.0 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10	22 2.53 110.25 25.98 Cytokinetics	-0.08 86.29 50.27 incyte INC -0.08 86.29 50.27 incyte INC 2.40 30.13 13.29 informatica INFA 6.64 20.06 14.71 infosys INFY 3 0.10 78.17 51.84 ingersollRand IR 5 1.23 113.46 89.54 ingredion INGF 5 -7.60 335.91 125.82 insulet PODD	2.2 9 58.12 -0.17 -3.83 167.12 1094 3.33 62.74 -0.37 -1.044 133.0 958. 3.36 62.0 10.44 133.0 958. 3.36 62.0 12.2 88 19.60 -0.78 0.07 3.08 2.0.1 12.2 81 19.86 -0.63 -1.77 122.31 19.86 -0.63 -1.77 122.31 62	75 POSCO PKX 1.7 27 85.18 0.16 33 PPG Ind PPG 1.8 24 145.55 -0.84 10 PPL PPL 3.5 26 27.08 0.06 14 PTC PTC 84 172.17 0.10 77 PVH PVH 0.1 14 119.96 -3.11	-6.71 117.17 78.35 Toro TC 1.6 29 89.55 0.12 -7.07 70.67 54.69 TorontoDomBk TD 4.8 14 60.05 -0.25 -1.56 69.63 54.94 TotalEnergies 6.71 196.48 132.35 ToyotaMotor TM 2.0 10 195.68 0.73 13.97 251.17 135 TractorSupply -6.95 91.85 44.08 TradeDesk TD 2.21 66.96 -1.12 53 97.18 64.83 Tradeweb TW 4.56 95.91 0.86 15.09 247.6 162.04 TraneTech TT 1.2 29 246.15 0.16
-1.78 550.76 327.73 argenx ARGX dd 373.67 -7.61 7.01 2547.3111 AristaNetworks ARET 42 252.03 0.22 -6.85 78.66 46.50 Arm ARM 70 0.2 4.19 140 64.33 AscendisPharma ASMD dd 1312.23 -42.4 -8.92 247.96 161.32 AspenTech AZPN dd 200.52 2.2 -2.29 173.60 104.49 Assurant AIZ 1.71 71 64.64 1.9 -0.30 255 61.73 Astrazeneca AZPN 20.37 6.942 0.2 -0.36 249.08 128.02 Atlassian TEAM dd 237 -50.00 125.28 101 Attmosftnergy ATD 2.8 19 115.79 0.4	1.33 124.69 62.60 Datadog DDOG dd 123 2.12 0.414 116.97 71.51 DaVIta DVA 17 109.10 -0.84 0.44 5.72 723.42 395.90 DeckersOutdoor DECK 30 706.68 2.98 0.45 1.367 8.027 35.96 Dell'echC DELL 22 79.31 -3.71 0.46 -3.74 49.81 30.60 DeltaAlr DAL 1.0 5 38.47 -3.75 0.47 1.0 5 38.47 -3.75 0.48 1.0 5 38.4	6.59 95.59 70.83 InteractiveBrkrs IBKF -1.14 129.16 94.16 ICE 1 1.90 93.90 63.12 InterContinenti IHG 1.38 166.34 120.55 IBM -0.89 118.34 62.11 IntIFlayors IFF 4.20 41.89 29 IntIPaper IP	0.5 16 88.36 0.52 -2.39 21.85 6.6 1.3 29 12.69 6.19 1.0.30 330.40 134.5 1.5 26 92.91 0.62 -9.87 25.93 10.5 4.0.22 165.80 3.64 7.63 29.51 1.34 0.4046 80.25 0.47 4.9 17 37.67 -0.15 0.51 129.70 104.3 1.39 13 31.97 -0.53	7 Palantir Tech PLTR 259 16.76 0.08 4 PaloAltoNtks AMW 184 325.24 1.75 5 ParamountB PARA 1.5 dd 13.33 -0.02 6 ParkerHannifin PH 1.3 26 460.32 -2.32 7 PaycomSoftware PAYC 0.3 34 19.75 -2.72 7 PaycomSoftware PAYC 0.3 34 19.75 -2.72 8 PaycomSoftware PAYC 0.3 34 19.75 -2.72 8 PaycomSoftware PAYC 0.3 34 19.75 -2.72 9 Paych PAYC 0.08 34 19.75 -2.72 9 Paych PAYC 0.08 34 19.75 -2.72 1 ParamountB PAYC 0.08 -2.72 1 ParamountB 0.08 0.08 -2.72 2 PAYC 0.08 0.08 -2.72 3 PAYC 0.08 0.08 -2.72 4 PAYC 0.08 0.08 -2.72 5 PAYC 0.08 0.08 -2.72 6 PAYC 0.08 0.08 -2.72 7 PAYC 0.08 0.08 -2.72 8 PAYC 0.08 0.08 -2.72 9 PAYC 0.08 0.08 9 PAYC 0.08 0.08 0.08 9 PAYC 0.08 9 PAYC 0.08 0.08 9 PAYC 0.08	1 2.10 1033.81 659.59 TransDigm TDG 0.0 47 1032.83 13.01 -0.31 82.75 42.09 TransUnion 1 2.66 196.41 157.33 Travelers 1.05 84.67 44.90 Trex 1-3.65 62.01 39.57 Trimble 1 3.42 43.59 30.70 Trip.com 1 2.65 2.65 67.65 2.65 67.65 10.65 10.69 10.49 51.26 2.556 TruistFini TFC 5.7 9 36.74 -0.60 10.65 10
-0.43 245.88 188.38 Authodesk Alv 26.21 104.21 -0.9 -1.28 256.8 20.146 ADD -0.64 2750 227.38 AuthoZone AZO 19 2569.1 23.59 5.0.6 -2.50 198.66 153.07 Avalonbay AIV 26.2 130.42 -0.2 -2.50 198.66 153.07 Avalonbay AGR 5.4 24 32.83 -0.2 -2.55 25 16.63 Avantor AVTR 41 22.01 -0.3	07 0.7 0.8 0.7 0.8 0.7 0.8 0.7 0.8 0.8 0.7 0.8	1 -2.12 631.07 378.22 Intuit ISR 1 -7.81 366.86 22.26.5 IntuitiveSurgical ISR 2 -0.91 36.53 28.49 InvitatHomes INV 3 -3.93 70.66 48.94 IronMountain IRM -1.44 7.05 4.24 ItauUnibanco ITUE	0.6 67 611.80 3.09 -6.21 235 139.4 86 363.71 1.40 -0.67 88.62 50.2 3 3 62 33 80 -0.06 0.81 12.51 9.2	99 Pearson PSO 2.2 25 12.39 0.02 50 PembinaPipeline PBA 5.9 21 34.47 0.16 11 PenskeAuto PAG 1.9 9 149.17 -2.33 10 Pentair PRN 1.3 23 70.77 -0.74 13 Penumbra PEN249 258.39 0.24	351 79.70 45.02 Twilio TWILO dd 73.21 1.40 12.60 430.42 301.69 TylerTech T
-2.49 203.69 158.93 AveryDennison AVY 1.6 33 197.12 0 -4 -0.0 34.47 5.250 A xxilatCoating AVT 4 31 32.94 -0.0 -2.96 260.69 168.30 AxonEnterprise AXON 128 250.69 1.1 -3.38 48.33 36.15 BCE -7.39 71.55 54.28 BHP Group 8.08 139.75 51.49 BH, 5.3 12 63.26 -0.2 4.1 -1.55 78.88 60.33 BJ*SWholesale 1.55 41.33 33.62 BP 4.3 4 34.38 0.2 BP 4.3 4 34.38 0.2	55 0.07 118.18 78.73 Disney DIS 0.7 70 90.35 0.90 6.90 6.945 38.11 DocuSign DOCU255 6.355 2.22 10.50 91.02 75.18 DolbyLab DIS 1.4 42 85.75 0.10 10.50 91.02 75.18 DolbyLab DIS 1.4 42 85.75 0.10 10.50 91.03 10.03	1-14.50 65.41 24.01 JD.com JD. 1-0.62 176.31 123.11 JPMorganChase JPM 0.58 141.38 74.16 Jabil JBL 2.56 184.19 136.57 JackHenry JKH 3.10 141.16 109 JacobsSolns J 3.30 149.12 JamesHardle JHX	2.4 12 24.70 -0.69 2.5 10 169.05 -1.25 0.2 22 128.14 -1.08 1.2 34 167.59 0.32 0.8 25 133.83 148 1.26 105.62 872 0.0 34 37.46 0.20 -0.20 138.06 89.7	22 PerformanceFood PFGC 26 70.33 -0.32 44 PermianRscs PR 15 13.36 0.92 45 PetroleoBrasil PBR 17.4 4 16.34 0.09 45 PetroleoBrasil PBR 18.0 4 15.74 0.13 46 Pfizer PFE 5.9 16 28.70 0.30 33 PhilipMorris PFE 5.9 16 28.70 0.30 47 PetroleoBrasil PFE 5.9 16 28.70 0.30 47 PetroleoBrasil PFE 5.9 16 28.70 0.30 48 PetroleoBrasil PFE 5.9 16 28.70 0.30 48 PetroleoBrasil PFE 5.9 16 28.70 0.30 49 PetroleoBrasil PFE 5.9 16 28.70 0.30 49 PetroleoBrasil PFE 5.9 16 28.70 0.30 40 PetroleoBrasil PFE 5.9 16 28.70	1.41 47.10 33.96 US Foods USFD 26 46.05 -0.40 1.78 7.43 3.83 UWM WF 6.1 dd 6.59 0.03 1.2.65 64.92 .28.34 Uber UBER127 6.3.20 -0.27 -8.10 303.75 103 Ubiquiti
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-6.77 55.37 36.59 BentleySystems BSY 0.4 90 48.65 MRB 0.6 15 75.55 55.50 Berkley MRB 0.6 15 72.81 -0.0 1.95 373.34 292.42 BerkHathwy B BRKB 10 363.62 0.2 1.95 66570 442363 BerkHathwy B BRKB 10 363.62 0.2 1.3 32 69.94 53.83 BerryGlobal BERY 1.7 13 65.15 -1.1 BERY 5.0 13 73.86 -0.7 6.47 89.91 51.79 Blo-Techne TECH 0.4 47 7.21.7 -0.9	1. 0.54 244.27 150.86 Eaton ETN 1.4 32 242.11 -1.31 FEAY 2.4 8 4.1.21 -0.64 82	2.34 8.42 5.92 KoreaElecPwr KEP 1.89 42.62 30.68 KraftHeinz KHC 2.0.70 50.36 42.09 Kroger KR 4.157 59.38 41.49 LKQ 1.45 257.64 179 LPL Financial LPLA 1.34 219.31 160.25 L3Harris Tech LHC 1.168 234.09 179.58 LabCorpofAmerica LH	0.0 dd 7.08 0.03	RS S 8. RBC Bearings 75 RELX RBC 48 272.58 -0.02 RBA 1.7 76 64.25 -1.57 RELX RBC LT. 73 7 41.15 0.81	2.28 42 30.14 Verizon
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-0.40 15.26 9.70 BlueOwlCapital OWL 3.8181 14.84 0.0 -16.48 26.75 41.76.25 Boeling BA 0.0 dd 21.770 -4.9 -1.26 3580.62 2222.16 Booking BKNG 24 3502.40 -9.48 -0.56 131.28 87.99 BoozAllen BAH 1.5 11 32.79 -1.2 BWA 1.5 11 32.79 -1.2 BWA 1.5 11 32.79 -1.2 BWA 1.5 11 32.79 -1.2 BWA 1.5 17 3.79 9.94 0.3	66 -6.70 122.58 69.37 Entegris ENT6 0.4 84 111.79 -0.25 81 1.92 111.90 87.10 Entergy ETR 4.4 15 103.13 0.66 81 1.92 11.90 87.10 Entergy ETR 4.4 15 103.13 0.66 82 1.43 252.60 159.95 Equifax EQX 0.6 58 243.76 0.93 83 1.20 824.86 661.66 Equinix EQX 21.88 815.02 13.98 83 3 -3.54 34.73 25.23 Equinor EQNR 2.9 6 30.52 0.48	182 156.01 94.11 Lennar A LEN 1 391 114.14 78.53 Lennar B LEN 1 391 141.44 78.53 Lennar B LEN 1 391 141.44 78.53 Lennar B LEN 1 315 141.44 78.53 Lennar B LEN 1 51.9 96.88 70.36 LibertyBroadband LBRDY 1 56.3 97.05 70.01 LibertyBroadband LBRDY 1 58.05 Lennar B LEN 1 58.05 Lennar	1.3 11 151.75 - 3.45 - 4.37 68.56 54.7 (14.10 139.29 - 2.08 6.25 935.37 684.8 (1.0 28 430.73 - 11.00 - 5.68 24.33 13.7 (1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 (1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 (1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 (1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 (1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 (1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 (1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 (1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 (1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 (1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 (1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 (1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 (1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 (1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 (1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 (1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 (1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 (1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 (1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 (1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 (1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 (1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 (1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 (1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 (1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 (1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 (1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 (1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 (1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 (1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 (1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 (1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 (1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 (1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 (1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 - 1.37 (1.37 - 1.37 -	22 RejencyCtrs REG 4.2 30 64.07 -0.11 30 RegenPhar REGN 2.7 932.0 1/2.23 41 RegionsFinl RE 5.3 8 18.28 -0.29 90 ReinScript RG 2.0 12 16.579 0.79 42 RelianceSteel RS 1.4 12 28.197 1.15 42 Repair RS 1.6 37 26.96 -0.33 42 Repair RS 1.6 37 26.96 -0.33	3.95 84.13 50.28 W.P.Carey WPC 5.1 19 67.37 0.79 c.25 64.07 41.13 WPP WP 5.3 16 46.50 -0.53 c.25 64.08 128.48 91.89 Wabtec WAB 0.5 30 128.02 1.03 c.23 169.94 136.09 Walmart WMT 1.4 27 161.32 0.21 w.6.41 16.34 9.27 WarnerBrosA WBD dd 10.65 0.11 v.6.67 37.75 23.62 WannerMusic WMG 1.9 43 35.55 0.89
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4.74 76.25 52.82 Brown&Brown BRO 0.7 28 74.48 1.6 -2.60 72.65 53.52 Brown-Forman B BF.A 1.5 36 58.04 0.3 -2.31 71.27 52.59 Brown-Forman B BF.B 1.6 34 55.78 0.2 73.05 84.84 53.79 Bruker 0.27 171.03 67.60 Bulders First 6.00 116.59 87.86 BungeGlobal BLOR 14 167.39 0.13 67.60 Buldington Str. 8 BLOR 14 167.39 0.13 61.40 123 94 115.66 Burlington Str. 8 BLOR 17 167.39 0.13 61.40 123 94 115.66 Burlington Str. 8 BLOR 17 167.39 0.13 61.40 123 94 115.66 Burlington Str. 8 BLOR 17 167.39 0.13 61.40 123 94 115.66 Burlington Str. 8 BLOR 17 167.39 0.13 61.40 123 94 115.66 Burlington Str. 8 BLOR 17 167.39 0.13 61.40 123 94 115.66 Burlington Str. 8 BLOR 17 167.39 0.13 61.40 123 94 115.66 Burlington Str. 8 BLOR 17 167.39 0.13 61.40 123 61.	11 3.16 63.93 46.92 Evergy Evers 4.8 18 53.89 0.50.77 - 7.84 8.50.85 0.50.25 EversourceEner ES 4.7 15 75.88 0.70.25 EversourceEx 4.8 18 0.70.25 EversourceEx 4.8 18 0.70.25 EversourceEx 4.8 18 0.70.25 EversourceEx 5.7 18 0	-2.30 221.14 152.19 LincoinElectric LECC -0.44 434.21 318.88 Linde LIN -1.3.22 331.96 203.65 LithialMotors LAD -3.14 101.74 64.25 LiveNationEnt LYV -4.60 2.63 1.88 LloydsBanking LYV -2.19 508.10 393.77 LockheedMartin LMT	1.3 25 212.45 2.04 -8.22 89.78 64.6 1.2 34 408.92 2.96 -13.50 13.51 7.9 0.7 8 285.76 -9.64 -10.50 47.65 24.8 63 90.66 -0.62 15.19 15.19 7.1	Name Name 10 Robinhood H000 dd 11.02 -0.69 18 Roblox RBLX dd 40.92 -1.52 2.7 RocketCos. RKT 0.0 dd 12.28 -0.18 1.9 Rockwell ROK 1.6 25 30.45 -0.51 15 RogersCommB RCI 3.1 32 47.36 0.04 18 RoivantSciences ROIV dd 11.06 0.07	0.33 91.44 64.11 WestFraserTimber WFG 1.4 dd 85.86 -0.37 -1.52 415.73 245.63 WestPharmSvcs WST 0.2 47 34.677 -7.86 -5.47 81.17 -7.46 WestAllianceBcp WAL 2.4 8 62.19 -1.70 -4.25 53.21 31.97 WesternBigliat WDC 0.0 dd 50.01 -0.59 -2.26 30.20 23.79 WesternMidstrm WES 8.0 11 28.60 0.34 -2.26 30.21 31.07 44 WestFalso WW 15.15 14.1343 1.0.43
2.65 359.33 275.79 CACI Intt 4.41 94.27 64.63 GBRE Group 3.60 229.42 160.66 CDW 2.91 91.23 60.08 CF Industries 0.35 109.18 84.25 CGI A 0.56 108.05 78.69 CH Robinson 6.20 223.80 171.93 CME Group 0.05 64.67 49.87 CMS Energy CMS 2.24 24197.54 10.48	101 -5.00 170.30 101.19 ExtraSpaceSt EXR 4.3 28 152.32 1.55 301 -0.03 120.70 97.48 ExxonMobil 301 -0.03 120.70 97.48 ExxonMobil 302 -7.58 180.70 127.05 F5 303 -7.68 133.37 49.49 FMC 304 123.21 5 154.60 FTI Consulting 305 -7.68 123.10 154.60 FTI Consulting 306 123.21 5 154.60 FTI Consulting 307 -7.68 123.10 154.60	1 0.95 96.65 50.26 Logitechinti LOG -1.64 237.21 181.85 Lowe's LOW 1 -28.62 17.81 2.97 Lucid LCID -6.13 516.39 286.57 Iululemon LULL -0.68 102.05 81.24 LyondellBasell LYB	dd 3 -0.26 -2.01 551.91 416.7 -1.31 139.32 99 -5.54 -5.53 14 94.43 -0.28 -6.39 130.97 79.3	7 RoperTech ROP 0.6 45 534.19 1.79 RossStores ROST 1.0 27 136.58 -0.19 ROYAL ALL 13 98.56 -0.99 RCI 0.0 38 121 21 -2 21	0.41 43.58 26.44 WestRock WRK 2.9 dd 41.69 0.15 -3.28 36 27.65 Weyerhaeuser WY 2.3 39 33.63 -0.22 -1.68 52.76 38.37 WheatonPrecMet WPM 1.2 41 48.51 0.76 0.26 37.45 27.80 Williams WMB 5.1 16 34.92 0.14 1.08 20.92 71.09.44 Williams-Sonoma WM 1.8 14 02.39.36 1.62 2.99 258.93 195.29 Williams-Sonoma WTW 1.4 26 248.40 1.33 -38.2 53.46 34.40 Williscottlobells WCS 29 42.80 -0.43 1 1.83 264.55 134.53 Wingstop WING 0.3114 26.12.7 -1.30 112.75 6.39 4.32 Williams 1.275 6.39
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-0.07 127.60 82.81 CamdenProperty CPT 4.0 48 99.22 15.82 51.22 23.69 Cameco CCI 20.110 49.92 3.2 0.44 56.04 37.94 CampbellSoup CPB 3.4 16 43.42 -0.0 4.45 40 48.91 34.35 CIBC CM 5.5 12 46.02 -0.2 0.46 127.14 103.96 CanNtRIWy CNI 1.9 23 126.21 1.7. 0.49 68.74 48.81 CanadianNatRscs CNQ 4.5 14 65.20 0.1 -2.07 85.40 68.92 CdnPacKC CP 0.8 22 77.74 0.36 -2.61 134.26 83.93 CaptallOne COF 1.9 10 127.70 -0.6	19 1.12 55.51 40.44 FirstIndRIty FR 2.4 26 53.26 0.51 10 -6.87 232 129.22 FirstSolar FSLR 36 160.44 0.15 17 4.66 43.31 32.18 FirstEnergy FE 4.3 42 38.37 0.33 16 1 3.07 137.15 101.29 Fisery FI 29 136.92 0.53	29 - 3.15 29.85 20.57 MarathonOil MRC 6.13 16.23 11.043.2 MarathonPetrol MPC 1.070 1560 1186.56 Markel MKL 8.15 399.78 200.01 MarketAxess MKL 6.25 Marathon	1.8 9 23.40 0.46 -1.76 39.61 31.0 21.6 157.46 2.07 0.37 461.92 227.3 10 1429.84 7.87 1 3.34 275.24 143.1 1.1 41 268.98 -1.24 -0.63 36.91 11.2 0.9 24 225.50 -1.48 4.99 57.82 42.6 14. 28 195.94 3.08 21.12 159.89 55.2 64.20 46.20 46.20 6.20 6.20 1.45 4.02 6.21 4.72	11 STAG Indl STAG 3.8 38 38.57 0.24 13 Saia Saia Saia Saia Saia Saia Saia Sai	1.29 90.84 29.02 XPO
4.95 108.85 68.57 CardinalHealth CAH 1.0174 105.79 0.0 3.33 138.74 203.66 CardinalHealth CAH 1.0174 105.79 0.0 3.27 42.48 25.20 Carlyle CG 3.6 69 39.36 0.0 9.32 87.50 55.77 Cardmax CMX 22 69.59 -2.2 8.52 19.74 8.37 Carnival CUK 0.0 dd 16.96 -0.5 8.96 17.95 7.65 Carnival CUK 0.0 dd 15.35 -0.4 2.28 60.04 40.28 CarrierGlobal CARR 1.4 40 56.14 -0.7	166 0.49 285.20 185.03 FleetCorTech	L 8,90 67,99 36,64 MarvellTech MRV NAS 0,45 69,66 46,69 Masco MA 0,61 431,79 340,21 Mastercard MA 0, 1,04 54,60 27,85 MatchGroup MCC 1,04 54,60 27,85 MatchGroup MKC 1,30 94,39 59,13 McCormick MKC	1.7 18 67.28 -0.84 -11.38 88.84 34.8 0.6 37 429.10 2.38 -3.03 87.93 54.3	SchwabC SCHW 1.5 22 65.23 -0.03 17 Sea SE 32 35.89 -1.22 22 Seagate STX 3.4 dd 82.78 1.04 55 Sempra SRE 3.2 17 75.41 0.57 33 SentinelOne S dd 25.33 1.03 95 ServiceIntl SCI 1.7 21 68.23 1.21	-8.95 351.74 194.95 ZebraTech ZBRA 28 248.87 -6.16 -7.54 596 33.80 Zillow Z G dd 55.350.69 -8.04 58.82 33.23 Zillow A ZGB dd 52.16 -0.80 1.13 149.2 5102 ZimmerBlomet ZBB 0.85 51.32,07 0.69 0.80 201.92 151.03 Zoetis ZBB 0.85 51.03 25.00 25.0
Mutual Funds D Top 250 mutual-funds listings for Nasdaq-published shall	re classes by net assets. Edgewood Growth Instituti	t Fund NAV Chg %Ret Fund Idx2050InsPre 23.08 +0.04 -0.5 FrankTem Growth A	p/Franklin A LSGrowthY 23.39 122.86 +0.19 0.2 Northern Funds	VANGUARD ADMIRAL	TotBdAdml 9.67 +0.02 -0.3 IdxIntl 18.41 +0.06 -1.1 TotIntBdldxAdm 19.64 +0.03 -0.5 MdCpGrAdml 92.88 -0.18 -1.7
e-Ex-distribution. F-Previous day's quotation. g-Footnotes and s apply. k-Recalculated by Lipper, using updated data 12b-1. r-Redemption charge may apply. s-Stock split or d apply. v-Footnotes x and e apply. x-Ex-dividend. z-Footno available due to incomplete price, performance or cost data under review. NN-Fund not tracked. NS-Fund didn't	s x and s apply. J-Footnotes e ca. p-Distribution costs apply, dividend. t-Footnotes p and r ote x, e and s apply. NA-Not ata. NE-Not released by Lipper; exist at start of period.	A Balanc 27.01 + 0.03 0.3 RisDv A BluCh 175.23 - 0.40 1.1 Guggenhe BluChpGr K6 27.08 - 0.06 0.9 ToRKtheldric Contra 16.42 + 0.04 2.0 CapApins 0 Cpinc 9.64 + 0.01 Harding L Harding L Goroco 32.29 - 0.03 1.2 Intitle	88.14 + 0.17 - 0.4 Stkldx 49.14 Inst NA 0.1 LrgCpStr 17.36 nds Parmassus Fds 1 97.51 - 0.01 1.1. PGIM Funds CI Z 25.56 + 0.11 - 1.5 TotalRetumBond NA	+0.04 0.3 500Adml 441.49 +0.37 0.3 BalAdml 44.52 +0.04 -0.1 0.1 0.4 0.	TothtlAdmidx r 30.80 +0.11 -1.1 MdCpVIAdmi 74.30 -0.15 -1.0 TotStAdmi 115.43 +0.05 -0.1 SmValAdmi 75.47 -0.22 -2.4 TXMCapAdmi247.33 +0.12 0.1 TotBd2 9.55 +0.02 -0.3 TXMIn r 15.26 +0.05 -0.9 Tothtlinstldx r123.15 +0.43 -1.1 USGroAdmi 58.28 +0.01 TotSt 115.41 +0.05 -0.1 WAGEUIAdmi 75.75 -0.03 -0.4 VANGUARD INSTL FDS
Friday, January 12, 2024 Net YTD Net YT Fund NAV Chg %Ret Fund NAV Chg %R	FidSerToMarket 15.68 +0.01 -0. GrowthCompanyK6 22.73 -0.03 1. Net YTD Net Control of the Cont	1 InvGrBd 10.07 +0.02 -0.2 Invesco Fi 2 LowP 43.47 -0.04 -1.4 EqincA 5 Magin 12.42 +0.04 0.9 Invesco Fi 8 NASDAQ 189.70 +0.03 -0.2 DevMktY	10.050.3 AllAsset 10.98 TotRt 8.64 37.50 +0.08 -2.9 PIMCO Funds A	+0.03 NA ExplrAdml 101.07 -0.09 -2.1 ExtndAdml 121.41 -0.33 -2.6 GNMAAdml 9.31 +0.03 -0.3 GroincAdml 90.80 +0.06 0.6 (+0.03 0.3 GroincAdml 161.01 +0.23 0.6 (+0.04 0.6 0.6 0.6 0.6 (+0.03 0.3 GroincAdml 161.01 +0.23 0.6 (+0.04 0.6 0.6 0.6 (+0.03 0.3 GroincAdml 161.01 +0.23 0.6 (+0.03 0.6 0.6 0.6 (+0.03 0.6 0.6 0.6 0.6 (+0.03 0.6 0.6 0.6 0.6 0.6 (+0.03 0.6 0.6 0.6 0.6 0.6 0.6 (+0.03 0.6 0.6 0.6 0.6 0.6 0.6 0.6 (+0.03 0.6 0.6 0.6 0.6 0.6 0.6 0.6 (+0.03 0.6 0.6 0.6 0.6 0.6 0.6 0.6 0.6 0.6 0.6	WellsIAdml 60.23 +0.09 -0.3 Ballnst 44.55 +0.05 -0.1 WelltnAdml 71.46 +0.07 0.1 DevMktsIndinst 15.28 +0.05 -1.0 DevMktsInxlnst 23.89 +0.09 -0.9

| Process | Proc | Net YTD | IntilidinatsPrem 47.13 of 1.2 | Low | 43.47 - 0.04 - 1.4 | Eqlinical | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1 Net YTD NAV Chg %Ret Fund DEVINKISHIRISE 2.5.9 + 0.0.9 - 0.7 - 0.0 - 0.3 - 2.6 |
Extradinst 121.40 - 0.33 - 2.6 |
Grwthinst 161.02 + 0.23 - 0.6 |
InPTSeln 9.40 + 0.04 - 0.2 |
Instldx 394.83 + 0.33 - 0.3 |
InstPlus 394.82 + 0.33 - 0.3 |
InstTStPlus 82.30 + 0.03 - 0.1 |
MidColort 42.37 - 0.1 - 1.4 LgCpGwld InstPre 29.75 +0.03 0.8 NASDAQ 189.70 +0.03 0.2 MldCplmknstPrem 29.75 +0.03 0.8 OTC 18.40 +0.03 0.6 SAIUSLgCplmksf 19.80 +0.02 0.4 Puritn 23.88 +0.03 0.3 SeriesBondFd 9.05 +0.02 -0.1 SAIUSCQtpldx 19.68 +0.08 1.7 SeriesOverseas 12.89 +0.10 -0.6 SFrSEmrgMkt 16.95 +0.01 -2.2 SrsGlobal 13.70 +0.05 -1.1 SmCpldknstPrem 24.11 +0.06 -3.7 SrsGroCoRetail 19.70 -0.02 1.2 TMklddknstPrem 13.16 6 +0.05 -0.1 SrsInttVal 1.62 +0.08 +0.13 -0.9 TotalMarketIndex 16.61 ... -0.1 SrsInttVal 11.62 +0.08 -0.4 TItlnttdxInstPr 13.00 +0.04 -1.1 TotalBond 9.56 +0.02 -0.2 VSGldknstPrem 10.40 +0.02 -0.2 Fidelity Advisor I Total Bd 9.05 +0.02 -0.1 Fidelity Freedom Fund 74.58 +0.35 -0.6 Dimensional Fds 5GlbFxdInc 9.98 ... 0.2 EmgMktVa 28.78+0.08 -2.2 AB Funds NwWrldA MunilncmShares 11.14 +0.02 0.2 SmCpA 64.76 ... 12.46 +0.01 -2.2 AB Funds - ADV TxExA EmaMktVa ABY LINUS - ABY LIGCPGRAdv 94.52 +0.05 1.9 American Century Inv Ultra 74.87 -0.01 0.5 American Funds CI A EmMktCorEq 21.97 +0.06 -2.0 IntlCoreEq 15.18 +0.05 -0.9 IntSmCo 19.07 +0.06 -1.2 IntSmVa 21.05 +0.06 -0.8 LgCo 31.73 +0.03 0.3 WshA 57.16 +0.07 -0.1 | JPMorgan | 10.29 + 0.02 | 0.1 | Price Funds | CoreBond | 10.29 + 0.02 | 0.1 | Price Funds | Eqlnc | 22.84 + 0.01 | -0.6 | BlChip | 151.29 + 0.05 | 1.3 | ITIGradeAdml | 8.65 + 0.02 | LgCpGbwth | 61.16 + 0.16 | 1.0 | DivGro | 70.67 + 0.14 | -0.2 | LarCapAd | 110.64 + 0.10 | Growth | 87.59 + 0.09 | 1.2 | LGCapGow | 66.80 + 0.07 | 1.6 | MidCpAdml | 284.13 - 0.57 | CorePlusBd | 7.26 + 0.02 | MidCap | 99.39 + 0.04 | -0.6 | MuHYAdml | 10.71 + 0.02 | MulrtAdml | 13.74 + 0.01 | MulrtAdml | 10.98 | ... | R2025 | 23.84 + 0.04 | -0.4 | MultTAdml | 10.98 | ... | R2030 | 23.84 + 0.04 | -0.4 | MultAdml | 15.76 + 0.01 | Mu IntiVal Inst Baird Funds AggBdInst CorBdInst 45.93 +0.17 -0.1 PrmcpCor STAR 26.71 +0.02 -0.5 26.79 +0.05 -0.3 18.31 +0.03 -0.4 MidcpistPl 399.55 -0.62 SmCapInst 99.41 -0.28 SmCapIstPl 286.94 -0.81 STIGradeInst 10.25 +0.02 STIPSIxins 23.92 +0.07 TotBdInst 9.67 +0.02 -2.7 -2.7 0.3 0.4 TgtRe2020 AmcpA AMutlA 38.11 51.16 +0.12 0.3 TgtRe2025 TgtRe2030 BalA BondA 32.00 +0.06 ... 11.47 +0.03 -0.1 66.14 +0.24 -0.1 60.02 +0.25 -0.2 BlackRock Funds
HiYldBd Inst 7.03+0.01
BlackRock Funds III
iShS&P500ldxK560.74+0.46 35.33 +0.06 -0.4 TgtRe2035 22.03 +0.04 -0.4 9.67 +0.02 -0.3 9.55 +0.02 -0.3 9.67 +0.02 -0.3 39.13 +0.06 -0.4 26.55 +0.05 -0.4 44.24 +0.07 -0.5 CapIBA TotBdInst2 CapWGrA TotBdInstPl TgtRe2050 EupacA TotIntBdldxInst 29.47 +0.04 -0.4 TotStInst 115.44 +0.04 -0.1

ValueInst 58.27

WCM Focus Funds

WCMFocIntiGrwins 22.72 +0.16 -0.2 FdInvA TRBdPlan 8.59 +0.02 NA TatRe2060 45.48 +0.07 -0.5 GwthA HI TrA ICAA IncoA TatRet2055 49.37 +0.08 -0.4 TgtRetInc Welltn Wndsrll 12.98 +0.02 -0.3 WCM Focus Fun 41.39 +0.05 0.1 WCMFocIntlGrwins 22. 42.71 -0.02 -0.4 Western Asset 32.71 +0.18 -0.7 IIE 32.71 +0.18 -0.7

MFS Funds Class I

Growthl 174.59 +0.60 NA

Valuel 47.52 +0.10 -0.2 NA 0.3 VANGUARD INDEX FDS N PerA 47.52 +0.10 -0.2 EqldxInst CoreBondl ... Divlncom I 30.41 +0.08 -0 4 Natixis Funds IntlEqIdxInst 21.77 +0.10 -0.4 STIPSIxAdm 23.91 +0.07 0.4 ExtndlstPl 299.59 -0.81 -2.6 CorePlusBdl

-1.4 -1.4

0pen

Contract

MARKET DATA

Futures Contracts										
Metal & Petroleum Futures										
		Co	ntrac	t			Open			
	Open	High	hi lo	Low	Settle	Chg	interest			
Coppe	r-High (CI	MX) -25,0	00 lbs	s.; \$ per lb.						
Jan	3.7870	3.7925	$- \mathbb{V}$	3.7400	3.7400	-0.0365	1,206			
March	3.7910	3.8190	$\overline{\mathbb{V}}$	3.7350	3.7405	-0.0360	124,787			
Gold (c	MX) -100 tr	oy oz.;\$p	er tro	y oz.						
Jan	2031.10	2057.00		2031.10	2046.70	32.40	152			
Feb	2033.20	2067.30		2033.10	2051.60	32.40	253,201			
March	2045.00	2075.80	A	2044.20	2061.10	32.20	333			
April	2053.20	2086.80		2052.90	2071.40	32.40	164,397			
June	2075.50	2105.20		2073.50	2090.60	32.30	25,744			
Aug	2090.20	2121.20		2090.10	2107.20	32.00	17,454			
	ium (NYM) - 50 troy	oz.;\$	per troy o						
Jan					972.40	-1.90	2			
March	993.00	1006.00		972.50	978.50	-4.50	17,706			
	ım (NYM)	-50 troy o	z.; \$ p	er troy oz.						
Jan					910.10	1.10	86			
April	924.40	946.60		914.00	921.10	1.50	67,286			
	(CMX) -5,00		;\$per							
Jan	22.825	23.380		22.825	23.162	0.625	393			
March	22.920	23.720		22.915	23.329	0.624	105,034			
	Oil, Light						470 407			
Feb	73.01	75.25		72.36	72.68	0.66	170,127			
March	73.16	75.28		72.48	72.79	0.70	286,575			
April	73.33	75.26		72.59	72.88	0.71	109,958			
May	73.19	75.20		72.62	72.93	0.72	79,925			
June	72.92 70.99	75.02		72.56	72.87	0.73	145,320			
Dec		72.92		70.88	71.10	0.70	160,091			
	rbor ULS					0045	(1 (04			
Feb	2.6942	2.7864 2.7198		2.6663	2.6693	0045	61,694			
March	2.6324 ne-NY RE			2.6126	2.6155	.0011	63,788			
Feb	2.1390	2.1977		2,000 gai.; 2.1155	рег даі. 2.1203	.0060	69,740			
March	2.1590	2.2191		2.1199	2.1203	.0074	83,114			
	al Gas (NY					.0074	05,114			
Feb	3.118	3.377	U IVIIV	льти., э рег 3.102	3.313	.216	124,452			
March	2.557	2.647		2.543	2.617	.077	324,387			
April	2.530	2.599		2.543	2.577	.065	132,060			
Mav	2.550	2.650		2.568	2.631	.051	116,001			
July	2.591	2.050		2.839	2.898	.043	76,880			
Oct	2.867	3.003		2.839	2.898	.043	87,516			
oct	2.900	5.005		2.705	2.772	.044	07,510			
Agriculture Futures										
Corn (C	:BT) -5,000									
March	457.00	460.00	₩	441.00	447.00	-10.75	647,650			
July	478.50	480.25		463.00	468.25	-10.75	232,894			
	PT)-5.000						,,			

			ontrac				0000
	Open	High h		Low	Settle	Chg	Open interest
March	1237.00	1246.75		1203.00	1224.25	-12.25	297,261
	an Meal (
Jan	361.80	361.80	\blacksquare	351.30	351.30		34
March	362.20	365.00		353.40	362.10	10	196,676
	an Oil (CB) lbs.;				
Jan	47.92	48.13		47.86	47.75	62	10
March	48.84	49.65		47.70	48.25	47	214,733
Rough	Rice (CB1		wt.;\$	per cwt.			
Jan	17.17	17.22		17.17	17.24	.07	90
March	17.56	17.71		17.50	17.67	.15	9,390
Wheat	(CBT)-5,0	00 bu.; cen	ts pe	rbu.			
March	604.00	611.75	$\overline{\mathbb{V}}$	587.25	596.00	-7.75	180,912
July	625.00	632.00	\mathbb{V}	610.00	618.50	-6.25	85,279
Wheat	(KC)-5,00	0 bu.; cents	s per l	ou.			
March	616.75	622.50		607.00	615.25	75	111,471
July	625.00	631.75		616.25	623.25	-2.25	38,821
Cattle-	Feeder (000		oer lb.		,
Jan	226,250			225.200	226,575	.300	5,805
March	227,200	229,600		225.675	227,700	.300	23,764
	Live (CM						
Feb	171.800		103., 0	171.050	171.375	425	71,842
April	174.525	175.275		173.600	174.175	400	86,149
	ean (cm		lhe · c			400	00,147
Feb	71.925	72,600	103., 0	71.275	71,900	700	53,885
April	78.500	78.925		77.825	78.625	425	69,092
	76.500 er (CME)-2		+ ¢ n.			423	07,072
Luiiibe Jan	525.50	528.00	τ., ⊅ Þι ■	523.00	528.00	2.00	281
	929.90 ME) -200,0				220.00	2.00	201
Jan	15.14	15.22	its pe	15.14	15.15	04	5,087
Jan Feb	15.14	16.00		15.14	15.15	04	
					15.90	.05	7,839
	(ICE-US)-10				4 222	40	124 (72
March	4,290	4,358		4,285	4,323	49	134,672
May	4,240	4,304		4,240	4,279	50	68,477
	(ICE-US)-						
March	183.50	186.85		179.00	180.00	-4.05	100,018
May	180.80	183.60		176.70	177.35	-3.65	61,950
	World (10		2,000				
March	21.89	21.95		21.56	21.61	15	303,038
May	21.29	21.38		21.03	21.08	15	157,033
	Domesti	C (ICE-US) -112	,000 lbs.;			
March					39.21	.61	2,216
May					39.21	.46	2,580
Cotton	(ICE-US)-			ts per lb.			
March	81.36	82.22		81.06	81.31	05	91,014
May	82.33	83.03	\blacktriangle	82.00	82.29	04	45,062
Orange	e Juice (10	E-US) -15,	000	bs.; cents	per lb.		
March	305.05	309.90		302.05	304.70	90	6,156
May	304.00	308.00		301.40	303.70	90	1,393
							-,- ,-
		Intere	st R	ate Eu	itures		
	reasury		CBT)				
March	130-000	130-160		129-000	129-180	-9.0	1,680,824

Exchange-Traded

Largest 100 exchange-traded funds, latest session

Friday, January 12, 2024

XLC 73.81 173.96 0.49 -1.20 1.6 -2.7

DFAC 28.97 XLE 82.68 XLF 37.60 XLV 140.52 QQQM 168.60

409.56 156.05 53.94 70.03

Symbol Price (%) (%)

1.13 -0.19 -0.25

0.04 0.05 -0.22 0.26 0.41

0.39 0.37 0.09 -0.03 -0.21 0.04

0.24 0.18 0.48 0.24 0.99 0.10 0.22

0.18 0.14 0.21

0.41 0.36 0.25 0.02 0.22 0.21

-0.18 0.02 0.11 -0.04 -0.17 0.09

-0.20 0.20 0.01 0.27 0.08

-0.04 -0.4

0.12 -0.7

0.02

0.32

0.36 0.47 0.28 0.08 -0.25

0.13

0.30 0.30 0.25 0.02 0.14

-0.17 0.22 0.60 0.09 0.05

0.23 0.23 0.19 -0.29 -0.14 0.20

0.35 0.02 0.16 0.02

-0.02 0.2

-0.9

-0.7

0.6 2.6

-0.1 -0.0 -0.1 0.2 0.4 0.8 -1.4

-0.2 -1.5 0.8 0.3

0.3 0.3 0.3 -2.8 -0.2

-0.1

-0.5

-0.1

75.70 173.33

116.41 96.23 110.34 107.79

46.50 -0.02 -0.3

56.08 65.59 476.68 36.71 55.62

76.27

56.52 83.58

498.09 124.44

192.24

481.68 175.61 159.98 170.48

40.41 63.62 312.77 257.20

VYM 111.49

BIV 76.37 VCIT 81.18 VGIT 59.41 VV 219.06 MGK 261.46 VO 229.43

VMBS 46.29 VNQ 87.07 VONG 78.64 VOO 437.99

VB VTEB

BND BNDX

BNDX 49.10 VXUS 57.40 VTI 237.11 VT 102.47 VTV 149.38

USFR 50.34

77.24 77.64 58.52 207.39 50.93 73.45

TIP 107.79
TLT 96.52
GOVT 22.99
SGOV 100.49
JEPI 55.30
JPST 50.37
COWZ 51.77
TQQQ 50.34

DIA GLD 375.91 189.71 33.80

SPYV SPLG SPYG SPY SCHF

SCHB SCHD

XLK VGT VBR VXF VIG

VEU VEA 55.63 47.57 0.3 0.4

3.0 0.0 0.0 -1.1 0.2 -0.5 -2.2 -1.0 0.3 -1.8 -3.6 -0.1 -0.1 -0.2 1.0 0.8 -0.7 0.4 -0.2 -0.6 -0.1

Citigroup

Portfolios

ETF

CommSvsSPDR

InvscQQQI InvscS&P500EW iShCoreDivGrowth iShCoreMSCIEAFE

iShCoreMSCIEM

iShCoreMSCITotInt IShCoreMSCITotint IShCoreS&P500 IShCoreS&P MC IShCoreS&PTotUS IShCoreTotUSDBd

iShCoreUSAggBd iShEdgeMSCIMinUSA iShEdgeMSCIUSAQual iShGoldTr

iShiBoxx\$HYCpBd

iShiBoxx\$IGCpBd iShJPMUSDEmBd iShMBS iShMSCIACWI

ISHMSCIEAFE

iSh MSCI EM iShMSCIEAFEValue iShNatlMuniBd iSh1-5YIGCpBd iSh1-3YTreaBd

iShRussMC iShRuss1000 iShRuss1000Grw iShRuss1000Val iShRuss2000

iShS&P500Grw iShS&P500Value

iShSelectDiv iSh7-10YTreaBd iShShortTreaBd

iSh20+YTreaBd

iShUSTreasurvBd iShO-3MTreaBd JPM EqPrem JPM UltShIncm PacerUSCashCows

ProShUltPrQQQ

SPDRBba1-3MTB

SPDRPtfDevxUS SPDRS&P500Value

SPDRPtfS&P500 SPDRS&P500Gro SPDR S&P 500 SchwabIntEquity SchwabUS BrdMkt

SchwabUS Div

SPDR S&P Div

TechSelectSector

VangdInfoTech VangdSC Val VangdExtMkt VangdDivApp VangdFTSEAWxUS

VangdFTSEDevMk VangdFTSEEW VangdFTSEEurope

VangdGrowth VangdHlthCr

VangdIntermBd VangdIntrCorpBd VangdIntermTrea VangdLC

VangdMegaGrwth VangdMegaGrwth VangdMC VangdMBS VangdRealEst VangdRuss1000Grw VangdS&P500ETF

VangdST Bond

VangdTotalBd

WTFRTrea

VangdTotIntlBd

VangdTotIntIStk VangdTotalStk VangdTotWrldStk

VangdSTEDHU VangdSTCpBd VangdShortTrea VangdSC VangdTaxExemptBd

VangdHiDiv

SchwabUS LC SchwabUS LC Grw SPDR S&PMdCpTr

SPDR DJIA Tr SPDR Gold

CnsmrDiscSel CnsmrDiscSel
DimenUSCoreEq2
EnSelSectorSPDR
FinSelSectorSPDR
HealthCrSelSect
InvscNasd100

			acc			Open			COII				Open
	Open	High hilo	Low	Settle	Chg	interest		0pen	High hilo	Low	Settle	Chg	interest
Treasu	ırv Bond	S (CBT) -\$100	.000: pts 32	2nds of 100	1%		Austra	alian Dol	lar (CME)-A	UD 100.000	:\$perAUD		
March		123-130	122-090	122-280		1,445,782	Jan	.6690	.6729	.6679	.6724	.0036	235
June	122-260	123-120	122-120	122-290	5.0	598	March	.6701	.6742	.6691	.6701		156,060
Treasu	ırv Notes	(CBT)-\$100	000: pts 32	nds of 100	%		Mexic	an Peso (CME)-MXN	500,000; \$ p	er MXN		
March		112-265	112-030			4,716,097	Jan				.05928	.00021	21
June		113-160	112-260	113-085	7.5	2,708	March	.05851	.05881	.05849	.05867	.00019	272,751
		Notes (CBT)				2,700	Euro (,000;\$per€				
March		108-290	108-107			5,833,640	Jan	1.0981	1.0987	1.0937		.0004	1,580
June		109-085	109-030	109-062	9.0	3	March	1.1000	1.1016	1.0965	1.0985	0026	712,968
		Notes (CBT)				,							
March		103-050		, pts 321105 103-037		3.823.179			Inde	ex Futur	'es		
						-,,							
June		103-241	103-145		7.9	85			rial Avera				
-		Funds (CB			, ,		March	37900	38031	37651			100,419
Jan		94.6725 🛦		94.6725	.0025	,	June	38285	38387	38025	38157	-136	371
Feb	,	94.6900	94.6800	94.6850	.0050	511,071			CME) -\$50 x i				
		OFR (CME)			y avg.		March		4836.50	4791.50			2,177,649
Oct	94.6400	94.6400 🛦	94.6400	94.6400		4,829	June		4888.50	4844.50		0.25	15,430
Dec	94.6400	94.6425 🛦	94.6375	94.6400	.0025	1,204,484			ap 400 (cN				
							March	2745.30	2780.30	2737.30		-2.60	41,501
		Currer	ıcy Futı	ures			June				2766.60	-2.60	n.a.
)O (CME)-\$2				
		CME)-¥12,50					March	16957.75			16969.25	3.00	276,276
Jan	.6892	.6928	.6871	.6926	.0051	590	June		17250.00		17177.25	2.25	1,107
March	.6953	.6999	.6940	.6973	.0030	210,286			00 (CME)-				
Canad		r (CME)-CAD					March		2003.30	1957.30		-5.20	489,358
Jan	.7483	.7494	.7457	.7460	0005	991	June		2023.00	1978.60	1984.10	-5.60	776
March	.7471	.7501	.7463	.7467	0005	165,522			00 (CME)-\$				
		CME) -£62,50					March		2655.80 🛦			80	7,040
Jan	1.2766	1.2785	1.2721	1.2783	.0020	525			X (ICE-US)				
March	1.2767	1.2791	1.2724	1.2753	0015	164,783	March	102.04	102.32	101.82		.13	24,178
		1E) -CHF 125,0					June	101.93	101.93	101.93	101.83	.13	387
March	1.1817	1.1861	1.1774	1.1808	0003	50,185							
June	1.1928	1.1971	1.1885	1.1916	0005	394						Sourc	e: FactSet

* * * *

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Contract

Bonds | wsj.com/market-data/bonds/benchmarks

Global Government Bonds: Mapping Yields

Yields and spreads over or under U.S. Treasurys on benchmark two-year and 10-year government bonds in selected other countries; arrows indicate whether the yield rose (\blacktriangle) or fell (\blacktriangledown) in the latest session

		Country/							(%) —			Spread Under/Over U.S	. Treasurys, in basis	
	Coupon (%)	Maturity, in years	Latest(●)-1	0	1	2 3	3 4	4	5 Previous	Month ago	Year ago	Latest	Prev	Year ago
	4.250	U.S. 2	4.136 ▼				-		4.258	4.729	4.138			
	4.500	10	3.949 ▼				•)	3.974	4.205	3.446			
	0.250	Australia 2	3.816 ▼				•		3.867	4.044	3.182	-33.2	-39.1	-95.0
	3.000	10	4.084 ▼				•	•	4.120	4.336	3.608	13.6	14.9	16.2
.	0.000	France 2	2.650 ▼			•			3.180	3.175	2.667	-149	-107.8	-146.5
	3.500	10	2.675 ▼			•			2.749	2.780	2.617	-127.3	-122.3	-83.0
	3.100	Germany 2	2.516 ▼			•			2.632	2.719	2.564	-163	-162.6	-156.9
	2.200	10	2.206			•			2.206	2.229		-174 .	-176.6	
1	3.600	Italy 2	3.044 ▼			•	•		3.198	3.341	2.940	-110.4	-106.0	-119.2
	4.200	10	3.724 ▼				•		3.821	3.998	3.989	-22.5	-15.1	54.3
	0.100	Japan 2	0.001 ▼	•					0.017	0.058	0.049	-414.8	-424.1	-408.3
	0.600	10	0.591 ▼	•)				0.606	0.738	0.505	-335.8	-336.6	-294.1
	0.000	Spain 2	3.047 ▼			•)		3.140	3.149	2.815	-110.2	-111.8	-131.7
	3.550	10	3.101 ▼			•	•		3.146	3.232	3.145	-84.7	-82.6	-30.1
	3.500	U.K. 2	4.160 ▼					•	4.255	4.494	3.419	1.1	-0.3	-71.4
	4.250	10	3,799 ▼				•		3.842	3.974	3,334	-14.9	-12.9	-11.3

Source: Tullett Prebon, Tradeweb ICE U.S. Treasury Close

Current

103

187

Spread*, in basis points

One-day change

Bond Price as % of face value

-0.06

-10

-9

Last week

118

205

Corporate Debt

Kinder Morgan Energy Partners

Prices of firms' bonds reflect factors including investors' economic, sectoral and company-specific

4.450

6.950

4.97

5.83

Sept. 29, '27

Jan. 15, '38

Investment-grade spreads that tightened the most... Symbol Coupon (%) Yield (%) Maturity

Lincoln National	LNC	7.000	5.61	June 15, '40	134	-8	n.a.
Procter & Gamble	PG	4.050	4.07	Jan. 26, '33	13	-8	18
Vodafone	VOD	6.150	5.23	Feb. 27, '37	126	-8	143
Barclays	BACR	4.950	5.47	Jan. 10, '47	119	-7	136
Bank of Nova Scotia	BNS	1.300	4.77	Sept. 15, '26	61	-7	n.a.
Caterpillar Financial Services		4.500	4.26	Jan. 8, '27	30	-7	n.a.
And spreads that widen	ed the m	ost					
Bank of Nova Scotia	BNS	4.850	4.88	Feb. 1, '30	104	75	107
Metropolitan Life Global Funding I		4.850	4.76	Jan. 8, '29	91	57	n.a.
KeyCorp	KEY	4.900	6.51	Aug. 8, '32	256	31	295
Tapestry	TPR	7.000	5.60	Nov. 27, '26	144	10	145
Hyundai Capital America	HYNMTR	5.250	5.11	Jan. 8, '27	116	8	119
Citigroup	c	4.600	5.08	March 9, '26	93	5	98
John Deere Capital		4.700	4.47	June 10, '30	62	5	58
${\bf Mercedes\hbox{-}BenzFinanceNorthAmerica}$	MBGGR	8.500	4.40	Jan. 18, '31	45	5	44
The standard of the same of the standard of th	L						

might-yield issues with the	piggest b	orice increases	
lection	Symbol	Coupon (%) Viold (%)	

Symbol	Coupon (%)	Yield (%)	Maturity	Current	One-day change	Last week
RIG	6.800	9.37	March 15, '38	80.069	1.07	n.a.
LINTA	8.250	24.03	Feb. 1, '30	51.000	1.00	43.500
OXY	6.200	5.98	March 15, '40	102.270	0.94	100.804
BHCCN	11.000	20.00	Sept. 30, '28	73.290	0.81	71.500
TITIM	7.200	7.18	July 18, '36	100.169	0.79	n.a.
e decre	eases					
	5.875	18.02	Nov. 15, '24	91.000	-1.25	93.813
CSCHLD	5.250	11.48	June 1, '24	97.750	-0.82	97.750
	5.250	10.65	Aug. 1, '26	88.250	-0.25	87.690
BBWI	6.694	6.13	Jan. 15, '27	101.510	-0.24	n.a.
	4.100	6.91	Oct. 1, '46	68.030	-0.22	66.875
NACAVI	4.750	8.31	June 30, '26	92.250	-0.13	n.a.
	RIG LINTA OXY BHCCN TITIM CE decre	RIG 6.800 LINTA 8.250 OXY 6.200 BHCCN 11.000 TITIM 7.200 E decreases 5.875 CSCHLD 5.250 5.250 BBWI 6.694 4.100	RIG 6.800 9.37 LINTA 8.250 24.03 OXY 6.200 5.98 BHCCN 11.000 20.00 TITIM 7.200 7.18 E decreases 5.875 18.02 CSCHLD 5.250 11.48 5.250 10.65 BBWI 6.694 6.13 4.100 6.91	RIG 6.800 9.37 March 15, ′38 LINTA 8.250 24.03 Feb. 1, ′30 OXY 6.200 5.98 March 15, ′40 BHCN 11.000 20.00 Sept. 30, ′28 TITIM 7.200 7.18 July 18, ′36 Eedecreases 5.875 18.02 Nov. 15, ′24 CSCHLD 5.250 11.48 June 1, ′24 5.250 10.65 Aug. 1, ′26 BBWI 6.694 6.13 Jan. 15, ′27 4.100 6.91 Oct. 1, ′46	RIG 6.800 9.37 March 15, '38 80.069 LINTA 8.250 24.03 Feb. 1, '30 51.000 OXY 6.200 5.98 March 15, '40 102.270 BHCCN 11.000 20.00 Sept. 30, '28 73.290 TITIM 7.200 7.18 July 18, '36 100.169 E decreases 5.875 18.02 Nov. 15, '24 91.000 CSCHLD 5.250 11.48 June 1, '24 97.750 5.250 10.65 Aug. 1, '26 88.250 BBWI 6.694 6.13 Jan. 15, '27 101.510 4.100 6.91 Oct. 1, '46 68.030	RIG 6.800 9.37 March 15, '38 80.069 1.07 LINTA 8.250 24.03 Feb. 1, '30 51.000 1.00 OXY 6.200 5.98 March 15, '40 102.270 0.94 BHCN 11.000 20.00 Sept. 30, '28 73.290 0.81 TITIM 7.200 7.18 July 18, '36 100.169 0.79 CE decreases 5.875 18.02 Nov. 15, '24 91.000 -1.25 CSCHLD 5.250 11.48 June 1, '24 97.750 -0.82 5.250 10.65 Aug. 1, '26 88.250 -0.25 BBWI 6.694 6.13 Jan. 15, '27 101.510 -0.24 4.100 6.91 Oct. 1, '46 68.030 -0.22

*Estimated spread over 2-year, 3-year, 5-year, 10-year or 30-year hot-run Treasury; 100 basis points=one percentage pt.; change in spread shown is for Z-spread. Note: Data are for the most active issue of bonds with maturities of two years or more Source: MarketAxess

April 29, '25

4.750

Dividend Changes

ZF North America Capital

KEY: A: annual; M: monthly; Q: quarterly; r: revised; SA: semiannual; S2:1: stock split and ratio; SO: spin-off.

ZFFNGR

Company	Symbol	Yld %	Amount New/Old	Frq	Payable / Record	Company	Symbol	Yld %	Amount New/Old	Frq	Payable / Record
Increased						Foreign					
Apogee Enterprises STAG Industrial	APOG	1.9 3.8	/	Q	Feb14/Jan30 Feb15/Jan31	Algonquin Pwr & Util Un	AQNU	17.2	.96875	Q	Mar15/Mar0
	STAG	5.8	.1233/.1225	IVI	Feb15/Jan31	Argo Group 6.5% Nts 2042	ARGD	7.0	.40625	Q	Mar15/Mar0
Reduced Office Properties Incm	OPI	11	.01/.25	•	Feb15/Jan22	Brookfield Fin 4.5% Nts	BNJ	6.9	.28125	Q	Feb26/Feb09
Office Properties inciti		1.1	.01/.25	Q	Feb15/Janzz	Maiden Hldgs Nts 2043	MHNC	10.2	.48438	Q	Mar01/Feb15
Stocks						Maiden Holdings Nts 2046	MHLA	9.7	.41406	Q	Mar14/Feb28
TransCode Therapeutics	RNAZ		1:40		/Jan16		S	ources:	FactSet: D	ow Jo	nes Market Data

A Week in the Life of the DJIA

367.00

s per bu. 1230.50

385.75 380.50

Oats (CBT)-5,000 bu.; cents p

381.75 380.50

Soybeans (CBT)-5,000 bu; co **Jan** 1239.75 1240.25

The Week's Action —

March

A look at how the Dow Jones Industrial Average component stocks did in the past week and how much each moved the index. The DJIA gained 126.87 points, or 0.34%, on the week. A \$1 change in the price of any DJIA stock = 6.59-point change in the average. To date, a \$1,000 investment on Dec. 31 in each current DJIA stock component would have returned \$29,880, or a loss of 0.40%, on the \$30,000 investment, including reinvested dividends.

365.75 -14.75

1205.75 -25.50

99

ii ena z	1,000 Invested(yea \$1,000		Symbol	e* Company	_	Stock price change	
\$1,03		\$271.93		Salesforce	137.15	20.81	3.29
1,03		388.47	MSFT	Microsoft	136.56	20.72	5.63
1,01		165.80	IBM	IBM	43.76	6.64	4.17
1,02		355.71	HD	Home Depot	84.16	12.77	3.72
1,02		161.32	WMT	Walmart	30.38	4.61	2.94
96		105.06	NKE	Nike	19.64	2.98	2.92
96		185.92	AAPL	Apple	31.24	4.74	2.62
1,02		150.60	PG	Procter & Gamble	20.96	3.18	2.16
1,01		264.17	V	Visa	29.53	4.48	.73
99		293.47	MCD	McDonald's	29.53	4.48	L.55
1,02		195.56	TRV	Travelers	16.41	2.49	29
1,02		60.39	KO	Coca-Cola	4.75	0.72	L.21
1,08		118.63	MRK	Merck	9.29	1.41	20
1,06		306.51	AMGN	Amgen	23.13	3.51	L.16
1,03		162.39	TNT	Johnson & Johnson	8.30	1.26).78
98		290.41	CAT	Caterpillar	9.75	1.48).51
1,00		50.34	CSCO	Cisco	1.65	0.25).50
93		47.12	INTC	Intel	1.52	0.23).49
98		108.12	MMM	3M	-3.10	-0.47	0.43
1,00		90.35	DIS	Walt Disney	-3.62	-0.55	0.61
95		201.10	HON	Honeywell	-16.02	-2.43	1.19
1,00		169.05	JPM	JPMorgan Chase	-21.22	-3.22	1.87
98		147.27	CVX	Chevron	-20.63	-3.13	2.08
97		377.75	GS	Goldman Sachs	-57.27	-8.69	2.25
97		53.37	DOW	Dow	-9.56	-1.45	2.65
99		521.51	UNH	UnitedHealth Group	-104.60	-15.87	2.95
97		182.04	AXP	American Express	-46.27	-7.02	3.71
1,04		38.56	VZ	Verizon	-10.81	-1.64	4.08
89		23.27	WBA	Walgreens	-11.47	-1.74	6.96
83		217.70	ВА	Boeing	-206.29	-31.30	L2.57

Source: Dow Jones Market Data; FactSet.

Borrowing Benchmarks | wsJ.com/bonds

Money Rates

January 12, 2024

Key annual interest rates paid to borrow or lend money in U.S. and international markets. Rates below are a guide to general levels but don't always represent actual transactions.

	Inflatio	n		
	Dec. index level	Chg Fro Nov. '23		Switzerland
U.S. consu	mer price in	dex		Britain Australia
All items Core	306.746 311.907	-0.10 0.10	3.4 3.9	Se
	ernationa		2.7	Fannie Ma

International rates						
	V Latest	Veek ago	– 52-V High			
rime rates						
l.S.	8.50	8.50	8.50	7.50		
anada	7.20	7.20	7.20	6.45		

Prime rates				
U.S.	8.50	8.50	8.50	7.50
Canada	7.20	7.20	7.20	6.45
Japan	1.475	1.475	1.475	1.475
Policy Rates				
Euro zone	4.50	4.50	4.50	2.50

50 20 75	8.50 7.20 1.475	8.50 7.20 1.475	7.50 6.45 1.475	U.S. pr loans p U.S. ba prime practio
50	4.50	4.50	2.50	Money Friday Source

	Latest	vveek ago	High	Low			
Switzerland Britain Australia	2.25 5.25 4.35	2.25 5.25 4.35	2.25 5.25 4.35	1.50 3.50 3.10			
Secondary market							
Fannie Mae							
30-year mortga	ige yields						
30 days			7.495				
6.035 6.167 7.554 5.250 Notes on data:							
U.S. prime rate is the base rate on corporate loans posted by at least 70% of the 10 largest U.S. banks, and is effective July 27, 2023. Other prime rates aren't directly comparable; lending practices vary widely by location. Complete Money Rates table appears Monday through							

nie Mae	1					
ar morto	jage yields					
ys vs		6.160 6.167				
on data:		0.107	7.774	7.270		
rime rate is the base rate on corporate posted by at least 70% of the 10 largest anks, and is effective July 27, 2023. Other rates aren't directly comparable; lending ces vary widely by location. Complete y Rates table appears Monday through . es: Bureau of Labor Statistics; FactSet						
				Stock		

New Highs and Lows	52-Wk % Stock Sym Hi/Lo Chg Stock	52-Wk % Sym Hi/Lo Chg Stock	52-Wk % Sym Hi/Lo Chg Stock	52-Wk % Sym Hi/Lo Chg Stock Sym	52-Wk % Hi/Lo Chg Stock Syr	52-Wk % n Hi/Lo Chg Stock Sym Hi/Lo Chg
The following explanations apply to the New York Stock Exchange, NYSE Arca, NYSE American and Nasdaq Stock Market stocks that hit a new 52-week intraday high or low in the latest session. % CHG -Daily percentage change from the previous trading session.	Fairlsaac FICO 1231.50 1.3 MPLX Fiserv FI 137.15 0.4 Macrogenic FlameAcqnWt FLME.WS 2.50 6.6 McKesson Frontline FRO 23.00 3.4 MegaMatri	MCK 489.73 -0.7 Shift4Paymts ix MPU 3.80 -19.4 Shopify	CRM 275.24 0.2 VertexPharm SEVN 14.00 0.7 Vertiv FOUR 78.97 -0.3 Vontier SHOP 83.19 0.1 WasteMgt	VRTX 434.85 0.8 CheerHolding CHR VRT 50.25 -1.0 ChickenSoupNts CSSE VNT 35.42 -1.1 ClearmindMed CMN WM 181.58 1.2 CollectiveAudience CAUI	D 1.30 -18.6 JaguarHealth JAG	8.73 0.6 PolestarAuto PSNY 1.66 -8.7
Friday, January 12, 2024 52-Wk %		arma MREO 3.08 4.6 SmithDouglas orms META 377.06 1.3 SolenoTherap	SKX 64.00 -0.7 Wingstop SDHC 25.13 -0.3 Wipro SLNO 44.46 -1.0 Wix.com SPKL 10.20 0.1 Workday	WING 264,55 -0.5 ComputerPrograms CPSI WIT 6.39 16.9 CycloTherapWt CYTH WIX 127,65 0.1 DanimerScientific DNM WDAY 283.34 1.5 DragonflyEnergy DFLI		N 1.13 -1.7 PureCycleTech PCT 2.38 -2.0
Highs AtlCoastal II A ACAB 11.40 1.8 CorebridgeFin CRB6 24.28 0.2 ACI Worldwide ACIW 31.12 -2.0 BankofAmPfdI BMILg 21.96 -1.4 CorowdStrike CRWD 290.33 -1.4 CVberArkSoftware CVBR 225.95 5 -1.4 CVberArkSoftware CVBR 225.95 -1.4 CVberArkSoftware -1.4	8 Guidewire GWRE 112.82 1.4 NVR 4 HartfordFinl HIG 83.38 -0.8 NaturalRes 4 HowmetAerospace HWM 55.90 0.1 NewAmstPhar 1 IDEAYA Bio IDYA 40.14 7.6 NexGenEne	maWt NAMSW 6.50 7.3 Spotify	SPOT 204.03 1.1 SWTX 42.90 0.1	ZS 233.81 1.0 DrillingToolsIntl DTI EaglePharm EGRY ElectraVehicles SOLG ElectriqPower ELIQ	2.85 -1.3 MBIA MB 4.34 0.7 MagnumOpusWt 0PA 0.21 -13.0 Marcus MC	5.38 RileyExpln REPX 23.05 0.3 WS 0.01 -27.8 Rumble RUM 3.33 -8.6 S 13.62 -0.1 RumbleWt RUMBW 0.62 -12.3
ACM Research ACMR 22.24 6.4 BankofAmPfdL BMLpL 22.15 0.2 DellTechC DELL 80.27 - AGNC InvtPfdE AGNC 2.274 0.8 BankNY Mellon BK 22.26 4.0 DellTechC DEN 1.90.27 - AGNC InvtPfdE AGNC 24.15 1.0 BaylviewAcqn BAYAU 10.42 2.2 DigitalBrdpfdH DBRopH 23.80 - C	5.5 Immunocore IMCR 74.77 -3.0 Nomura 0.0 Immunome IMNM 13.24 10.1 Novartis 1.2 Infosys INFY 20.06 4.1 NuHoldings 1.2 IngersollRand IR 78.17 -0.3 Nutanix	NMR 4.80 0.2 SproutsFarme NVS 107.89 -0.1 StepStone	rs SFM 50.17 1.3 AMC Ent STEP 32.49 0.5 AdamsRscs SYK 317.26 1.3 AehrTestSys	AMC 4.47 -3.0 ENGlobal ENG AE 23.69 2.1 Enservco ENSI AEHR 17.28 -4.2 EosEnergyWt EOSE AGL 7.31 -7.1 EosEnergy EOSE	1.63 -2.2 1.63 -2.2 1.63 -2.2 1.64 MeihuaIntlMed MH 1.65 MeihuaIntlMed MH 1.65 MeihuaIntlMed MH 1.66 MeihuaIntlMed MH 1.67 MeihuaIntlMed MH 1.68 MeihuaIntlMed MH 1.68 MeihuaIntlMed MH 1.68 MeihuaIntlMed MH	Sadot SDOT 0.35 1.6 JA 0.97 -4.0 Silynxcom SYNX 3.26 -9.8 SolarisOilfield SOI 6.98 SolarisOilfield Soi 6.98
AP Acqn A APCA 11.29 BostonSci BSX 60.64 0.6 Dropbox DBX 31.66 1 Abercromble&Fitch ANF 99.49 -1.7 AcadiaRealty AKR 17.53 -0.5 CSW Industrials CSW 215.18 1.2 elfBeauty ELF 161.06 -(6.6 IntegerHoldings ITGR 103.72 1.3 OneMain 2.2 InterContinent1 IHG 93.90 0.7 OptimumB. 9.9 IntuitiveSurgical ISRG 366.86 0.4 OscarHealt 5.5 IonisPharm IONS 54.44 PaloAltoNti	omf 50.02 -3.1 TJX ank OPHC 4.92 TalkspaceWt b OSCR 12.12 2.6 TatTechnologie	TJX 95.65 -0.2 AltisourcePortf TALKW 0.29 -3.4 AmOncology	f ASPS 2.70 -2.8 EsportsEnt GMB AONC 5.00 -11.0 Estrellalmmuno ESLA	2.81 -7.7 MomentusWt MNT 0.92 21.8 MomentusWt MNT 0.88 -7.5 NWTN NW	T 1.53 -8.5 StandardLithium SLI 1.51 -5.6 SW 0.01 -1.1 StryveFoods SNAX 2.10 2.6 SupPower SPWR 3.23 -9.2 SupPower SPWR 3.23 -9.2 SupPower SPWR 3.29 -9.2 SupPower SPWR 3.29 -9.2 SupPower SPWR 3.29 -9.2 SupPower SPWR 0.95 -3.0
Acushnet GOLF 64.98 1.6 cmeco CCJ 51.22 7.0 EdifyAcqnA EAC 1.133 Adagene ADAG 3.17 2.6 Caseys/GenStores CASY 289.68 0.1 Empire/StateReal60 OGCP 10.04 AdvantageSolns ADV 4.13 -1.8 (assaw3GencesWt SANAW 9.48 12.5 Empire/StateRealfy ESRT 10.25	2. JPMorganChase JPM 176.31 -0.7 ParkerHanr 3. JacksonFinlPfdA JXNpA 26.39 2.1 Parsons 9. Jewett-Cameron JCTCF 6.12 1.5 Performance 9. JuniperNetworks JNPR 38.04 -0.6 Potbelly	nifin PH 465.83 -0.5 TeekayTankers PSN 65.27 2.7 TencentMusic	TNK 57.28 4.2 AshfordHosp	AHT 1.50 -3.8 GRI Bio GRI AVTX 5.64 -16.7 GSE Systems GVP BYU 1.25 -5.9 GamerPakistan GPAI BKYI 1.82 -1.9 GeniusGroup GNS	0.28 -1.9 1.29 4.5 NanoStringTech NST NoEuroOil NRT	G 0.38 -9.1 Taitron TAIT 3.07 5.58 -2.9 ThermoGenesis THMO 0.43 -4.3 TonixPharm TNXP 0.28 5.0
AlkamiTech ALKT 25.65 -0.8 CentraisElBras EBR 8.99 0.1 EnerTransferPfdl ETpl 10.98 : AlmacenesExito EXTO 7.25 0.1 CentraisElBras Pf EBR.8 10.05 0.9 EnerTransferPfdl ETpl 25.41 (AlphaStarRt ALSAR 0.15 14.2 Ceragon CRNT 2.89 EnsignGroup ENSG 117.57 1	3 3 3 3 4 5 5 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6	A PMGM 11.05 0.4 TransDigm	TDG 1033.81 1.3 BiomX TRV 196.41 0.4 BluejayDiag TYL 430.42 0.9 BukitJalilGlb1R: UBER 64.92 -0.4 BurgerFilntl	PHGE 0.21 -4.2 GlblMofyMetaverse GMN BJDX 1.00 -5.6 Gogo GOG	3.15 -7.4 Nutrien NTF 0 8.74 -0.7 OceanTechl OTE W 0.15 OnfolioWt ONF	CU 10.03 -9.9 VerbTech VERB 0.13 -2.8 VertexEnergy VTNR 2.04 -1.0
AnnalyCapPfdl NLYpl 24.82 0.6 Coca-ColaEuro CCEP 67.73 2.6 Erielndemnity ERIE 342.54 2 ApogeeTherap APGE 33.78 0.3 CognizantTech CTSH 78.42 4.1 EssaPharma EPIX 9.99 1.7 APXAcqnl A APXI 11.24 0.1 SABESP SBS 15.96 1.3 FTAI Aviation FTAI 49.16 -6	.0 Control C	RELX 41.18 2.0 UltraparPart age REAX 2.24 7.7 UniversalHealth m REGN 935.37 1.9 Ur-Energy	UGP 5.81 2.5 CanoHealth	CANO 3.20 -10.1 GuardforceAl GFAI GOEV 0.20 -3.5 ICL Group ICL CARA 0.56 -5.0 IHS Holding IHS CMAX 0.32 13.1 ITTechPkg ITP	2.61 -7.0 Orgenesis OR(4.56 -2.7 PEDEVCO PED 4.07 -1.2 PNM Resources PNI 0.22 -7.6 PhioPharm PHI	is 0.27 -0.7 WindtreeTherap WINT 0.52 -6.2 0.71 -3.6 XWELL XWEL 1.38 -6.8 37.09 -2.0 YumChina YUMC 37.22 -1.7
ArmadaHofflerPfA AHHpA 24.26 -0.4 Core&Main CNM 41.52 0.2 FTAIAviationPfdD FTAIM 25.48 (SYT 8.74 33.8 VaronisSystem		CZOO 4.27 -14.6 IndependenceContr ICD	2.06 1.0 PiedmontLith PLL	22.52 -1.0 ZuraBio ZURA 3.62 -2.5

Saturday/Sunday, January 13 - 14, 2024 | **B9**

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Shein IPO Caught in the Crosshairs

Success of a listing hinges on company navigating China-U.S. tensions

The initial public offering of fashion giant Shein could be one of biggest in years—if the company successfully navigates a minefield of U.S.-China ten-

> By Shen Lu, Corrie Driebusch and Rebecca Feng

China-founded Shein, now based in Singapore, has quickly become one of the world's largest fast-fashion retailers, valued at around \$66 billion in its most recent fundraising round last vear.

Now its IPO depends on its ability to satisfy authorities on both sides of the Pacific.

Two months after Shein confidentially filed for an IPO, the Securities and Exchange Commission has yet to respond in writing to its filing, according to people familiar with the matter. The delay is highly unusual, capital-market attorneys and bankers say.

The reasons for the SEC's silence aren't clear. People close to the company and in Washington say it could reflect the agency's reluctance to take on a hot-button issue with potential political implications.

Shein has taken steps over the years to distance itself from its Chinese roots, including by moving its headquarters to Singapore. It sells its wares in more than 150 countries but doesn't have customers in China. But with the bulk of its supply chain and back offices in China, it is still necessary for Shein to secure Beijing's blessing on its U.S. listing, lawyers,



Shein has taken steps over the years to distance itself from its Chinese roots.

bankers and analysts say.

The company has filed the paperwork for its U.S. application with the China Securities Regulatory Commission and is in continuing discussions with the regulator, according to people familiar with the matter.

Shein's conundrum shows how U.S.-China tensions increasingly pose challenges beyond conventional business practices for multinationals. Its application represents the first big test of how Washington and Beijing will view a U.S. listing of a high-profile company with roots in China since the ill-fated IPO by ride-hailing giant Didi Global in 2021.

Didi decided to go ahead with its listing despite suggestions from Chinese authorities to delay it, The Wall Street Journal reported. Chinese authorities promptly launched a probe into Didi's data infrastructure, ordered it to stop registering new users and

forced some of its popular apps to be taken down. Valued at \$68.4 billion the day of its debut, Didi's shares plummeted and the company delisted from the New York Stock Exchange in less than a year.

In March, the China Securities Regulatory Commission rolled out new guidelines that require Chinese companies planning to go public outside mainland China to submit their listing documents to the regulator and obtain its formal approval. The guidelines lay out a number of factors to determine what should be considered a Chinese company, including whether a company has more than half of its assets or most of its business activities in the mainland.

Shein is incorporated in Singapore and doesn't have any revenue from China. It relies mostly on third-party contractors there for production. But Beijing may nonetheless treat it as a Chinese company and add complications for Shein if the company is perceived to go against Beijing's agenda, including by ordering domestic manufacturers to stop working with the company.

"The balancing act of operating supply chains in one country while generating sales in another is becoming an increasingly complex challenge, potentially presenting difficulties on both fronts," said Jing Qian, managing director of the Asia Society's Center for China Analysis. "Navigating and resolving these multifaceted complexities is crucial for their continued survival.'

A central tenet of Shein's predicament is how to address concerns over the cotton it uses in its clothing. Shein has in recent years come under allegations that it has sourced cotton from China's Xinjiang region. A 2022 U.S. law largely bans the import of goods tied to that region, where the U.S. has accused Chinese authorities of committing genocide and of using forced labor in its repression of mostly Muslim Uyghurs. Beijing has denied the allegations.

The company has said it has "zero tolerance" for forced labor and complies with laws in the markets where it operates.

Still, some U.S. lawmakers see Shein as a company with close ties to the Communist Party that has potentially violated U.S. law. They have urged the SEC to halt Shein's IPO until the company shows sufficient transparency about its supply

Companies viewed in China as bowing to Western criticism of Beijing's practices in Xinjiang have faced swift retaliation. Shein's European competitor H&M Group, for instance, was wiped from China's mobile apps after it said it would stop sourcing products from Xinjiang, effectively erasing its ecommerce presence in China. H&M has since returned to some apps.

Shein's rival Temu has also faced allegations it uses Xinjiang cotton. Temu, backed by Chinese e-commerce giant PDD Holdings, has said the allegations are "completely ungrounded."

Shein has been carefully navigating escalating geopolitical tensions between China and the U.S. as it has sought to establish itself as a global company. It has beefed up its compliance system. It has also ramped up its federal lobbying efforts in the past year and half, with its lobbying expenses totaling nearly \$1.8 million, according to OpenSecrets, a Washingtonbased nonprofit organization that tracks data on campaign finance and lobbying. –Paul Kiernan

contributed to this article.

Citigroup Plans to Eliminate 20,000 **Positions**

By JUSTIN BAER

Citigroup plans to eliminate some 20,000 jobs by the end of 2026, marking the next phase of the bank's most dramatic restructuring plan in decades.

The cuts will trim about 10% of Citi's head count, which totaled 200,000 in December excluding the staff employed by a Mexico business that is being spun off. Citi detailed its costcutting plans on Friday, when it also announced a fourthquarter loss.

Citi Chief Executive Jane Fraser took over the bank in 2021 with a mandate to streamline and simplify what was once the world's largest financial-services firm. Its supermarket of financial products and far-flung international operations, once hailed as the hallmarks of a unique franchise, now add up to a bank worth significantly less than many of its closest peers.

"Every bank is a function of what they've become over the past 30 to 40 years—it doesn't change overnight," said Ken Usdin, a Jefferies analyst. "They're in the midst of a multiyear plan to streamline the strategy, focus on strengths, take out layers of excess staff, and directionally improve." He added, "We're at the halfway point. Let's see what the market's reaction is.'

Since taking over, Fraser has shed some of Citi's international consumer-banking businesses and sharpened the bank's focus on corporate clients in the U.S. and abroad. In September she announced she was simplifying Citi's organizational structure, eliminating management layers. The bank began layoffs in November. At the time, employees speculated Citi would ultimately cut 10% of its workforce.

They were spot on, executives confirmed Friday. In trimming 20,000 jobs, Citi expects to reduce its annual expenses to between \$51 billion and \$53 billion over the next several years. Costs totaled \$56.4 billion last year, including the effects of several divestitures and a special fee the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. imposed on banks after a string of bank

failures last vear. "It's not lost on me that there have been many attempts in the past to change this firm," Fraser said during a conference call with analysts. "I and the management are fully committed to transforming this

company for the long term." The third-biggest U.S. bank threw a kitchen sink of charges and expenses into its final 2023 earnings report, previewing them in a late Wednesday regulatory filing. The items, including some that exceeded what Citi had forecast as recently as last month, clouded underlying results that showed improvements in several key

businesses. Overall, Citi reported a net loss of \$1.8 billion, or \$1.16 a share, compared with net income of \$2.51 billion, or \$1.16 a share, in the same period a vear earlier. Revenue fell 3% to \$17.4 billion from \$18 billion. Citi said the recent devaluation of the Argentine peso had wiped out \$880 million of the

Citi's services business, which provides a range of backoffice functions for companies and investment managers, had revenue of \$4.5 billion, up 6%.

most-recent quarter's revenue.

Total trading revenue fell 19% to \$3.4 billion. Trading on bonds and other fixed-income securities tumbled 25%. Revenue from Citi's stock-trading desks rose 9%.

In banking, which includes merger advice, stock-and-debt underwriting and corporate loans, revenue rose 22% to \$949 million.

Revenue from the U.S. consumer-banking arm rose 12% to \$4.9 billion on gains from both credit cards and branch banking. Citi's wealth-management business reported revenue of \$1.7 billion, down 3% from a year ago.

For the year, Citi reported net of \$9.2 billion, or \$4.04 a share, down 38% from \$14.8 billion, or \$7 a share, in 2022.

Morgan Stanley Settles Block-Trading Probes

Morgan Stanley agreed Friday to pay \$249 million to settle criminal and regulatory investigations into allegations that some employees improperly shared information about clients' stock sales, the Manhattan U.S. attorney's office said.

> By Dave Michaels, AnnaMaria Andriotis and Corrie Driebusch

The resolution ends a longrunning probe into how the bank sold large blocks of stock for institutional investors. Morgan Stanley obtained a nonprosecution agreement, a form of leniency that means it won't face criminal charges as long as it cooperates with ongoing requests from prosecutors for three years and doesn't violate its settlement agreement.

The bank's total settlement includes an agreement to pay fines of about \$112 million to the Securities and Exchange

Commission. "We are pleased to resolve these investigations and are confident in the enhancements we have made to our controls around block trading," the bank said Friday in a statement.

A former executive in charge of block trading, Pawan Passi, admitted that he misled clients from 2018 to 2021 about how he would handle their trades. He agreed to a one-year bar from the securities industry and to pay a \$250,000 fine to the SEC.

Passi received a probationary deal known as a deferred prosecution agreement, which typically is reserved for lowlevel offenders without a criminal history. His separate deal with the SEC allows Passi to seek readmission to the brokerage industry after his one-year bar expires.

Block trades occur when a large shareholder, such as a private-equity firm, wants to sell a swath of stock at once. A bank such as Morgan Stanley offers to buy the block at a discount to the day's closing price and then sells the shares at a slight markup from what it paid. In the years leading up to the

in block trading. Prosecutors said Passi promised some selling shareholders that he would keep their po-tential sales confidential but knew he would talk to investors

and that they

dominant bank

would use the information to trade in advance of the block

Potential buyers of block shares, such as hedge funds, sometimes short the stock once they hear about the sales. That can drive down the price that

The settlement

includes fines of

about \$112

million to the

SEC.

includes \$64 million in restitution, which would go to compensate sellers harmed by the information leakage. The bank's civil fraud settlement with the probe, Morgan Stanley was the SEC says Passi's communications with in-

the selling shareholder receives.

Morgan Stanley's settlement

vestors reduced Morgan Stanley's risk in purchasing block

investigation complicated by queswhether the potential stock

sales were material nonpublic information. In some cases, block trades involve shares that sophisticated investors know are coming because the sellers are executives whose stockholdings are publicly disclosed and who are only able to sell

after a defined period. Defense attornevs also

pointed out that regulators decades ago had approved of banks' disclosing block orders so they could find the best price for a seller. The SEC in 1979 issued guidance that said brokers could "search and negotiate for a matching interest" to sell a block for a customer.

A 2022 Wall Street Journal analysis of nearly 400 block trades over three years indicated that information about the sales routinely leaks out ahead of time. Morgan Stanley put Passi on leave in November 2021 and discharged him the following year, according to Financial Industry Regulatory Authority records. Charles Leisure, another senior executive who worked with Passi on block trades at the bank, was also discharged in 2022, according to Finra records. Prosecutors didn't charge Leisure with wrongdoing.

Companies Are Still Cutting White-Collar Jobs

By CHIP CUTTER And Natasha Khan

After a year of right-sizing, employers are looking in the mirror and concluding there is still fat to lose.

Companies including Amazon, Citigroup, Xerox, Google and BlackRock this month have announced plans to trim their workforces. Some of the companies now cutting jobs conducted larger-scale layoffs over the past year or so.

In messages announcing the many executives stressed the need for companies to be smaller. "I know many of you are wondering why this is happening," Dan Clancy, chief executive of streaming platform Twitch, wrote in a memo to staff, noting previous work to reduce costs at the company. "Unfortunately, despite these efforts, it has become clear that our organization is still meaningfully larger than it needs to be given the size of our business.'

Amazon, which owns Twitch, said this month that it was eliminating hundreds of iobs across its film and television studio and the streaming platform to rein in costs. Audible, an audiobook platform Amazon owns, is also laying off 5%



of its staff, according to an internal memo.

Citigroup on Friday said it plans to cut 20,000 jobs from its workforce by the end of 2026 as the bank continues a

multiyear restructuring. Executives and analysts say that beyond the budget-tightening that often happens at the beginning of the calendar year, there is a growing sense that the work of slimming down isn't over. The emergence of artificial intelligence is accelerat-

ing that push because AI can

perform more of the tasks han-

dled by white-collar workers

and because companies are di-

verting resources to develop the technology. Corporate roles are also being newly scrutinized following massive hiring sprees earlier in the pandemic.

"It seems like the layoffs we saw last year were the beginning of a process," said Nick Bunker, director of North

American economic research at the jobs platform Indeed. By several measures, the labor market is strong. The U.S. economy is still producing jobs at a faster pace than it was just before the pandemic, and un-

employment is low. Many com-

panies also are reluctant to get

rid of workers after struggling

so long to find and keep them. Still, the climate for job seekers is cooling. The Federal Reserve's campaign of interestrate increases raised borrowing costs, prompting businesses to scale back expansion plans. Employers have slowed hiring and handed out smaller raises. The job-hopping that reached a frenzied pace early in the pandemic has quieted.

"It's a buyer's market for talent right now," said Aaron Terrazas, chief economist at emreview plovee website Glassdoor. The big tech companies can recognize the talent market has radically shifted from a year ago, and they aren't going to struggle for talent, he As companies make invest-

ments in AI, they are looking for efficiencies elsewhere. Terrazas added. High interest rates have made taking risks more expensive, he said, so part of the cuts is about reallocating resources in a more targeted

Companies kicked off the new year with a string of layoff

announcements. Xerox Holdings said it would reduce its workforce by 15%. The printer maker had 20,500

employees at the end of 2022, a

reduction of about 12% com-

pared with the previous year, according to regulatory filings. Unity Software, a San Fran-

cisco-based maker of tools for creating videogames and other applications, said it plans to lay off about 25% of its workforce, or about 1,800 employees. Google laid off hundreds of

employees across multiple divisions on Wednesday, as it works to reduce costs and direct resources toward developments in AI. Universal Music Group plans

to lay off around 100 to 300 employees globally this year, according to a person familiar with the matter. Others hinted at new technologies on the horizon, poised

to reshape companies. When BlackRock CEO Larry Fink and President Rob Kapito wrote a message to staff this week, noting the firm would cut 3% of its roles, the executives said "new technologies are poised to transform our industry-and every other industry."

"We are going to see more layoffs this year, but there will also be a spike in hiring," said Martha Heller, who runs a techfocused executive-search firm. Heller Search Associates.

-Sarah E. Needleman and Sebastian Herrera contributed to this article.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Bitcoin ETFs Are Live. Cue The Fee War.

By Jack Pitcher

The fierce competition for new bitcoin fund assets means that trading the cryptocurrency just got a lot cheaper.

Ten nearly identical bitcoin exchange-traded funds began trading Thursday, and the first days and weeks will be crucial in determining winners and losers. Institutional investors will favor funds with the most assets and volumes big enough to ensure that large trades don't move prices too much.

Cue the fee war. Leading up to launch, asset managers disclosed proposed fees and introductory waiver offers through regulatory filings. Several refiled with lower fees after seeing competitor pricing.

At least six of the funds will charge investors no fee for an initial introductory period—a rarity. Combined with the nocommision trading offered by most major brokerages, trading cryptocurrency through ETFs is likely to be much cheaper than buying directly through crypto exchanges.

world's **BlackRock**, the largest asset manager and leading provider of ETFs, first unveiled a 0.3% annual fee on assets, lower than many analysts expected. After several smaller asset managers undercut it, BlackRock lowered the fee to 0.25% Wednesday.

The cheapest S&P 500 index funds charge less than 0.1% in fees, but more exotic or actively managed funds often charge much more.

"It's like a year's worth of normal fee war happened in a couple hours," said Eric Balchunas, senior ETF analyst at Bloomberg's research arm.

To be profitable with fees below 0.3%, funds will need to gather substantial assets, into the tens of billions of dollars, Balchunas said. He sees Black-Rock playing the long game by using its scale and ability to subsidize losses.

"BlackRock is going for the jugular here, looking to crush the others before they are even born," Balchunas said.

BlackRock's **iShares Bitcoin** Trust, known by the ticker IBIT, was the biggest winner on the first day, with volumes of more than \$1 billion. Fidelity's

Wise Origin Bitcoin Fund followed with more than \$700 million. The fund from Cathie Wood's ARK Investment Management had just under \$300 million, leading the way among the smaller asset managers.

Although asset managers are likely to be disappointed by slim profits in such a competitive environment, investors should be able to trade and hold bitcoin for cheap. An investor would pay \$2.50 of fees annually on a \$1,000 investment at a 0.25% expense ratio.

'If you look at the fees on bitcoin ETFs, those are lower than all of your possible entry points, whether it's via retail apps or closed-end or trust structured funds," said Steve Kurz, global head of asset management at Galaxy Digital, the digital-asset firm joining with Invesco on the Invesco Galaxy Bitcoin ETF.

One notable outlier in the fee wars: Grayscale Investments, which sued the Securities and Exchange Commission—and won—over the denial of its application to convert its bitcoin trust fund into an ETF. That helped pave the path for the ultimate approval of the funds.

For years, Grayscale's trust, known as GBTC, was the only SEC-registered vehicle for gaining exposure to bitcoin. But the fund's structure led to its shares trading for a significant premium or discount to its underlying assets, an issue that should be resolved now that it has converted to an ETF and can continuously meet investor redemption requests.

The fund had nearly \$29 billion in assets as of Tuesday and charged a lucrative 2% management fee—cut only as far as 1.5% upon Thursday's conversion to an ETF. Grayscale's fund had more trading volume than any other spot bitcoin ETF on Thursday, at more than \$2.3 billion.

Grayscale appears to be betting it can hold on to its existing assets and extract higher fees. Some analysts note that investors using taxable accounts would likely need to pay capital-gains taxes if they sell their Grayscale shares, negating the benefit of shifting to a lower-fee fund.



BlackRock says the new business will have more than \$150 billion in assets under management.

BlackRock Makes \$12.5 Billion Deal For Global Infrastructure Partners

Blackrock's assets

under management

at the end of the

fourth quarter

By Jack Pitcher

BlackRock has agreed to buy private-equity firm Global Infrastructure Partners for roughly \$12.5 billion in cash and stock, a significant push into private-market investments for the world's largest asset manager.

New York-based GIP owns and operates energy, transportation, and water and waste companies, including a stake in London's Gatwick Airport. The acquisition would be Black-Rock's largest since it bought Barclays's asset management business in 2009.

BlackRock separately reported its assets under management topped \$10 trillion at the end of the fourth quarter for just the second time in its

To acquire GIP, BlackRock will pay \$3 billion in cash and 12 million of its own shares, worth about \$9.5 billion based on Thursday's closing price. GIP is majority owned by its six founding partners, who will collectively become among the largest shareholders of Black-Rock by acquiring about 8% of the shares outstanding, according to a person familiar with the deal.

Five of the six founding partners, including Chief Exec-

utive Bayo Ogunlesi, are joining BlackRock. Ogunlesi will sit on BlackRock's board and resign as lead director of Goldman Sachs. He will lead Black-Rock's new infrastructure group.

"Infrastructure is one of the most exciting long-term investment opportunities, as a number of structural shifts reshape the global economy,"

BlackRock Chief **Executive Larry** Fink said in a statement. "Policymakers are only just beginning to implement once-in-ageneration financial incentives for new infrastructure technologies and projects."

BlackRock has been pushing to expand its private-market operations, an area that is faster growing and potentially more lucrative than its core business of selling low-cost passive investment products such as exchange-traded funds. The deal will boost BlackRock's private assets by about 30% and roughly double its privatemarket base management fees.

In GIP, BlackRock is buying an infrastructure fund manunder management and \$80 billion of combined revenue from its portfolio companies.

ager with about \$100 billion

The deal is expected to close in the second or third quarter, after which BlackRock will create a distinct Global Infrastructure Partners business that combines the acquired firm with existing BlackRock infrastructure teams. BlackRock

says the new business will be the second-largest private infrastructure manager globally with more than \$150 billion in assets under management, trailing only Brookfield Asset Management.

Growing government deficits are increasing the need for private financing of major infrastructure projects, and subsidies can make the investments attractive, BlackRock Chief Financial Officer Martin Small said.

BlackRock favored acquiring GIP over a more-traditional private equity buyout firm in part due to the belief that private equity's best returns from the zero-interest rate era are

behind it, Small said.

For GIP, coming under the BlackRock umbrella should enhance scale and access to boardrooms and governments, said Raj Rao, president of GIP.

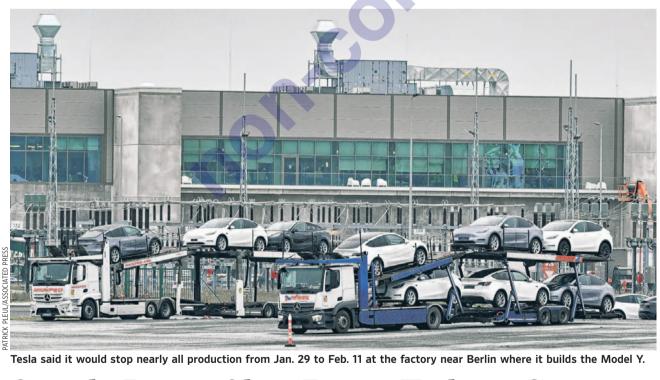
In a memo to employees, BlackRock concurrently announced a reorganization it calls its "biggest transformation in 15 years." BlackRock will create a new global product services business that works across all of the firm's investment strategies and fund structures, including the mammoth iShares ETF business. The division will aim to connect clients with all of Black-Rock's offerings, including public and private investments, and help "drive the next phase of growth for iShares," the

memo said. Salim Ramji, the current global head of iShares, is leaving the firm "to pursue a new career path," the memo announced.

BlackRock on Tuesday said it was laying off about 600 people, or 3% of global employ-

ees, to "reallocate resources." The company's fourth-quarter earnings, also announced Friday, largely beat Wall

Street's expectations. Net income climbed 9% from the same period a year ago, and quarterly revenue rose 7%.



Supply Issues Shut Down Tesla in Germany

BERLIN—**Tesla** plans to routed containerships on lonhalt production at its only large factory in Europe for two weeks because of a lack of parts, as the fallout from re-

Bv William Boston, Costas Paris and Benoit Faucon

cent attacks on ships in the Red Sea starts to ripple through the global economy. Yemen-based, Iran-backed

Houthi fighters have launched attacks on commercial ships navigating the crucial trade route in recent months, disrupting flows of goods between Asia and Europe.

In response, a U.S.-led coalition late on Thursday launched more than a dozen strikes on

Houthi rebel targets in Yemen. To avoid the conflict area,

shipping companies have

ger voyages around the Horn of Africa, leading to higher costs and weekslong delays—a disruption that shipping analysts say will likely continue for weeks to come. Tesla said Friday it would

stop nearly all production from Jan. 29 to Feb. 11 at the factory near Berlin where it builds the Model Y because of a lack of components.

"The considerably longer transportation times are creating a gap in the supply chains," Tesla said.

Separately Friday, Volvo Cars, the Chinese-Swedish automaker, said that it would halt production for three days at a plant in Ghent, Belgium, citing "adjusted sea routes that have resulted in a delivery delay of gearboxes."

And German industrial con-

glomerate **Siemens** said it was experiencing some restrictions in its supply chains, and was working with its suppliers on alternative ways to cope with potential bottlenecks.

Other companies, including furniture retailer IKEA, have warned in recent weeks that the disruption to shipping could impact their operations.

If the production stoppages herald a broader wave of disruption for European manufacturing, it would be bad news for a region that has struggled to rebound from the pandemic and Russia's war in Ukraine. The Houthis said Friday that

the strikes had left their infrastructure mostly intact and warned they would retaliate. "It will get worse before it

gets better," said Peter Sand,

chief analyst at Xeneta, a

Norwegian shipping-pricing

A total of 23 ships have reversed course or stopped since the U.S.-led strikes, but more than 90 are still active in the waterway, according to Llovd's List Intelligence data. Despite the big impact on

shipping companies, not all of Europe's manufacturers have been affected by the Houthi attacks. Volkswagen was hit hard by

the pandemic-related semiconductor shortage and disruption of supply chains in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. For now, though, it doesn't expect any significant production restrictions from the situation in the Red Sea.

French carmaker Renault and German luxury automaker BMW said they are monitoring

the situation but so far had no

production problems.

Delta Sees Strong Travel Demand, Warns on Costs

By Alison Sider

Delta Air Lines forecast another strong year of travel after the airline posted double-digit revenue growth for the fourth quarter. Shares, though, tumbled Fri-

day as the Atlanta-based company trimmed its profit outlook for the current year, citing higher costs from wages, inflation and supply-chain snarls.

Delta now expects per-share profit this year between \$6 and \$7, below the more than \$7 a share it had previously predicted for 2024. Chief Executive Ed Bastian said Delta could pull off profits above the upper end of the new guidance range, but he felt more caution was warranted. "The level of volatility that

we see is what causes us to be a bit cautious and prudent," Bastian said during an investor call, pointing to geopolitical tensions, the U.S. elections, and energy prices. Above all, he said, supply-chain constraints and resulting cost increases appear set to continue. Airlines including Delta have

struck new contracts with massive pay increases for pilots, and Delta said it also expects higher maintenance costs. Shares of Delta fell 9% Fri-

day to \$38.47. Also weighing on the stock was a jump in oil prices after U.S.-led strikes against rebel Houthi targets in Yemen stoked concerns about escalating conflict in the Middle

The combination of news dragged down shares of rivals American Airlines and United

Airlines Holdings, which each

were down by a greater per-

centage than Delta.

Bastian said consumers remain eager to travel. "Demand for air travel remains strong. and our customer base is in a healthy financial position," he

One sign of consumers' financial health: The airline said its revenue from premium seat tickets grew 15% in the fourth quarter from a year earlier, outpacing growth in coach, as a record number of people paid to fill those seats rather than getting free upgrades.

Though last year's surge in international travel was "one of a kind," Bastian said he is optimistic that Americans will continue to take trips abroad, bolstering fares. "I think the fares will stabi-

lize internationally this summer, but they'll stabilize still at a meaningfully higher level than they were prepandemic, which is very much in line with our higher cost of production," he said.

Glen Hauenstein, Delta's president, said the company expects travelers' use of credit to normalize in the current quarter, and said Delta won't get the same benefits from operational challenges at rivals as it did in

Meanwhile, "choppiness" in the U.S. market is starting to ease as some airlines cut back on flying plans, Bastian said. Last year U.S. travelers flocked to Europe and other international destinations, leaving some carriers with too many seats on domestic flights, and fares took a tumble. Budget carriers that focus on leisure travelers in the U.S. were particularly hard hit.

-Will Feuer contributed to this article.

S&P 500 Misses Record Despite Weekly Gain

Index is within 0.3% of a record high that has stood for more than two years

By Ryan Dezember

The S&P 50F0 overcame big declines in airline stocks and shares of companies that rely on discretionary spending Friday to inch closer to a new alltime high.

The benchmark stock in-**MARKETS** dex ended Fri-

day less than 0.1% higher, within 0.3% of a record high that has stood for more than two years. The techheavy Nasdaq Composite also added less than 0.1%. The Dow Jones Industrial Average declined 0.3%, or 118 points.

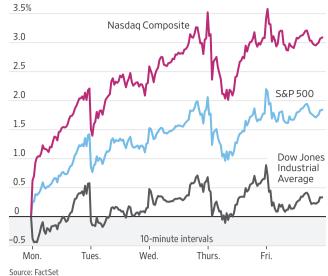
Each index ended the week higher, after declining in the first week of January. Many analysts believe the market's January performance sets the tone for the rest of the year.

So far, the mood among investors is ho-hum despite stocks' march toward new highs. "Our concern is with market valuations, especially right at record highs, when the economy is not as strong as it was," said Jerry Braakman, chief investment officer at First American Trust.

He said the Santa Ana, Calif. firm has trimmed its exposure to the technology stocks that drove last year's rally for fear that they have become too expensive relative to their forecast profits. It has built up positions in healthcare firms. "That's a pretty defensive

stance," Braakman said. Cindy Beaulieu, chief invest-

ment officer for North America at money manager Conning, said markets became too ebullient after Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell sigIndex performance this past week



naled in December that the central bank was finished raising interest rates. Interest-rate futures indicate

that investors believe that the

Fed is likely to cut rates at its March meeting, according to CME Group. Events this week have led some to question whether that might be too soon

for the central bank to reverse course.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury note ended at 3.949%, down from 3.974% on Thursday and a recent peak of 5% in Oc-

Labor Department data released Thursday hinted that inflation might not be cooling quite as quickly as some investors hoped. On Friday, traders woke up to news that a U.S.-led coalition launched strikes on Houthi rebel targets in Yemen in retaliation for the rebels' attacks on commercial ships in the Red Sea. Oil prices spiked in early trading, suggesting that the calm in energy markets that has helped ease inflation over the past year may not last.

Investors dumped airline stocks Friday after Delta Air Lines reduced its outlook for this year's bottom line. Chief Executive Ed Bastian cited geopolitical uncertainties, ongoing supply chain issues and volatile energy prices.

"To be prudent, we should set expectations a little bit lower and hope to overachieve," Bastian told investors on a conference call.

Delta shares fell 9% despite beating Wall Street's fourthquarter sales and profit expectations. Only rivals United Airlines and American Airlines fared worse among S&P 500 constituents, losing 11% and 9.5% respectively. Southwest Airlines shed 4.3%.

Energy, communications, real estate and utilities were the top gaining segments of the S&P 500 on Friday.

Bank shares also had a mostly down day following earnings reports from four of the country's biggest lenders.

Overseas, stocks were mixed. Japan's Nikkei 225 rose for the fifth straight session, adding 1.5%, while major indexes in China, Hong Kong and Korea declined.

Oil Jumps After Airstrikes On Houthi Rebels in Yemen

By Adrian Kerr

Crude-oil prices jumped af-

oil futures rose nearly 2% im-

prices also rose, with benchmark Dutch TTF up 4% to

climb, with gains across all major European bourses. The FTSE 100 was rose 0.6%, with France's CAC 40 and Germany's DAX both up about 1%.

Shares in Danish shipping

\$90 a barrel



in Cosco Shipping Holdings

wanese peers Evergreen Marine and Yang Ming Marine Transport gained 5% and 5.1%, respectively.

from Yemen have repeatedly

U.S.-led coalition Red Sea shipping.

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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES



Crude-oil futures price closed 3.15% higher, while Tai-

a U.S.-led coalition launched airstrikes against rebel Houthi targets in Yemen, raising concerns of a further escalation of conflict in the Middle East that could disrupt oil and gas supply. Front-month Brent crude

mediately after the U.S. and U.K. launched the strikes, and settled Friday up 1% at \$78.29 a barrel in Europe. U.S. benchmark WTI futures rose about 1% to \$72.68 a barrel. natural-gas European

EUR31.99 a megawatt hour. Still, equities continued to

Nov. 2023 Dec. giant A.P. Moller-Maersk fell 0.4%, having earlier risen as much as 3.9%, while Germany's Hapag-Lloyd was down 2%, having climbed more than 4% earlier in the session. In Asia, Hong Kong-listed shares Iran-backed Houthi rebels

targeted commercial ships transiting through the Red Sea, in retaliation for Israeli actions in Gaza. As a result, shipping traffic has fallen significantly, hurting trade and crimping supply chains.

launched more than a dozen strikes late Thursday, officials said, two days after the Yemeni rebel force defied an ultimatum to halt its attacks on

flation data, which points to a bumpy last leg of disinflation, Saxo Markets analysts said. That in turn could see central banks acting more slowly to cut interest rates.

The luxury sector has been hit as inflation and high interest rates squeeze consumer spending.

Burberry Cuts Guidance After **Demand Slows for Luxury Items**

By MICHAEL SUSIN

Burberry cut its guidance after global luxury demand continued to slow during December's key trading period. The British luxury-goods

company said Friday that it expects fiscal 2024 adjusted operating profit-the company's preferred metric, which strips out exceptional and other one-off items—for year ending March 30 to be in the range of 410 million to 460 million pounds (\$523.2 million-\$587.1 million).

The company previously expected to achieve the lower end of the market's expected range of GBP552 million to GBP668 million.

"We remain confident in our strategy to realize Burberry's potential and we are

than Akeroyd said.

committed to achieving our GBP4 billion revenue ambition," Chief Executive Jona-The luxury sector has been hit by a slowdown in sales growth, with inflation and high interest rates squeezing consumer spending. In No-

vember, Burberry warned that

deterioration in luxury de-

mand had been hurting its

performance and that it was

unlikely to achieve its guid-

ance if the trend continued.

Retail revenue for the 13week period ended Dec. 30, known in the sector as the "golden quarter" because it encompasses the key Christmas period, dropped to GBP706 million from GBP756 million a year earlier, with sales on a like-for-like basis falling 4%.

Burberry said it also expects a currency headwind of around GBP120 million on revenue and around GBP60 million in adjusted operating

profit. The company's up update was brought forward one week. It had originally been

expected on Jan. 19.