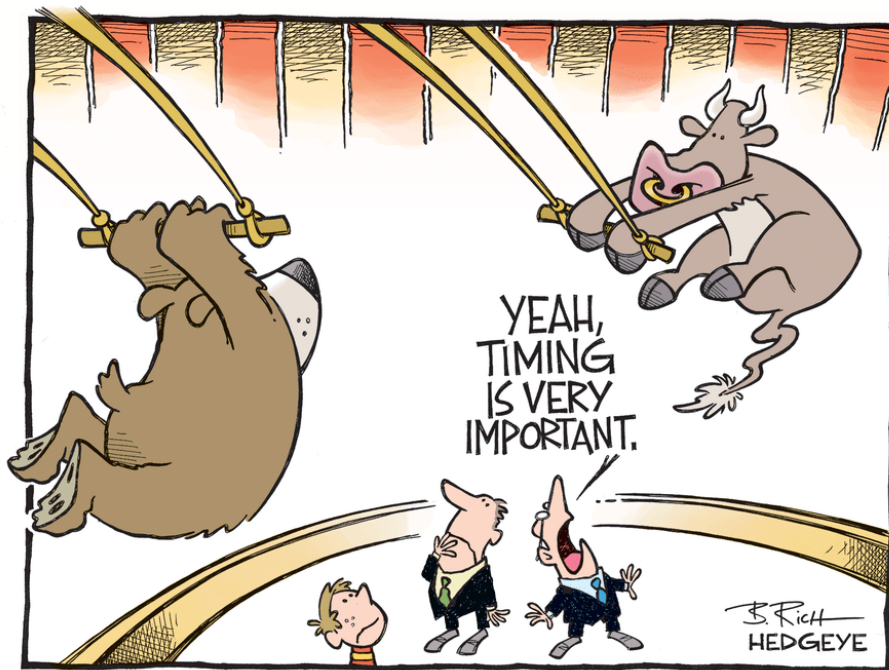
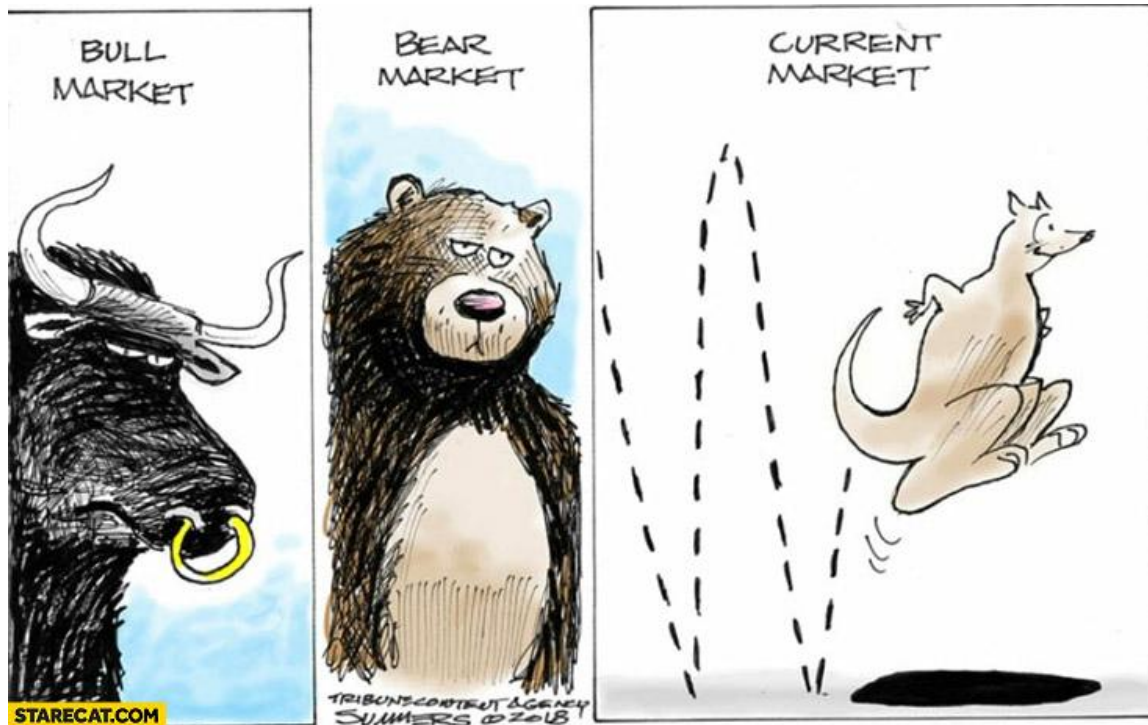


Newsletter for Week Ending 2/13/26

Youtube Channel





Disclaimer: I am not a financial advisor, and do not make any recommendations on what to buy or sell.

The information offered here is for educational purposes only and does not constitute financial, legal or professional advice. NO ONE, including me, has any idea what the market will do.

Each person must determine their own risk profile, trading/investing style and take responsibility for any trades they make. Always do your own research and due diligence before making any investment decisions.

Past performance does not guarantee future results!














Most of the charts shown in this newsletter are courtesy of StockCharts.com and can be found on the website shown at the top of the page. Here is a link to the StockCharts.com pricing and if you sign up, I would appreciate if you used my email as a referral (danbyrd@comcast.net)

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MARKET BIAS MATRIX				
Day over Day & Week over Week Trend				
% Bullish Across All Asset Classes				
{Overall, Short Term, Mid Term, Long Term}				
Date	Overall %	ST %	MT %	LT %
2/13/2026	65%	50%	65%	75%
2/12/2026	66%	58%	66%	75%
2/11/2026	66%	58%	67%	73%
2/10/2026	68%	62%	67%	73%
2/9/2026	68%	62%	68%	73%
2/8/2026	67%	58%	67%	75%
2/5/2026	67%	58%	67%	75%
2/4/2026	70%	63%	72%	76%
2/3/2026	73%	68%	73%	77%
2/2/2026	76%	75%	73%	78%
1/30/2026	76%	75%	75%	78%
1/29/2026	75%	75%	73%	77%
1/28/2026	76%	77%	75%	77%
1/27/2026	76%	76%	73%	78%
1/26/2026	76%	75%	73%	78%
1/23/2026	74%	70%	75%	78%
1/22/2026	74%	70%	75%	78%
1/21/2026	75%	70%	75%	80%
1/20/2026	73%	70%	75%	80%
1/16/2026	78%	76%	77%	81%
1/15/2026	83%	84%	81%	85%
1/14/2026	84%	84%	81%	86%
1/13/2026	86%	85%	79%	86%
1/12/2026	82%	84%	77%	86%
1/9/2026	82%	84%	77%	86%
1/8/2026	79%	79%	73%	86%
1/7/2026	79%	78%	73%	86%
1/6/2026	78%	77%	70%	86%
1/5/2026	78%	77%	70%	86%
1/2/2026	77%	77%	67%	86%
12/31/2025	75%	73%	66%	88%
12/30/2025	77%	75%	67%	88%
12/29/2025	76%	75%	66%	88%
12/26/2025	75%	75%	63%	86%
12/24/2025	74%	73%	62%	86%
12/23/2025	73%	70%	62%	88%
12/22/2025	71%	63%	63%	88%
12/19/2025	69%	56%	64%	88%
12/18/2025	68%	56%	66%	81%
12/17/2025	68%	56%	66%	84%
12/16/2025	73%	67%	68%	84%
12/15/2025	76%	74%	70%	84%
12/12/2025	78%	81%	70%	84%
12/11/2025	78%	82%	67%	84%
12/10/2025	78%	82%	68%	82%
12/9/2025	77%	82%	67%	82%
12/8/2025	74%	78%	63%	82%
12/5/2025	74%	78%	60%	82%
12/4/2025	71%	73%	59%	82%
12/3/2025	66%	64%	52%	82%
12/2/2025	65%	63%	49%	82%
12/1/2025	62%	60%	45%	81%
11/28/2025	61%	55%	45%	82%
11/26/2025	54%	41%	45%	82%
11/25/2025	54%	33%	45%	84%
11/24/2025	52%	27%	44%	84%
11/21/2025	55%	32%	49%	84%
11/20/2025	54%	32%	53%	84%
11/19/2025	58%	36%	53%	84%
11/18/2025	59%	36%	59%	84%
11/17/2025	63%	40%	64%	84%
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11/12/2025	72%	63%	68%	84%
11/11/2025	72%	62%	70%	84%
11/10/2025	71%	62%	67%	81%
11/7/2025	68%	53%	66%	84%
11/6/2025	70%	55%	70%	85%
11/5/2025	73%	62%	71%	85%
11/4/2025	74%	64%	73%	85%
11/3/2025	76%	73%	70%	85%
10/31/2025	76%	73%	71%	84%
10/30/2025	75%	70%	71%	84%
10/29/2025	75%	67%	74%	84%
10/28/2025	76%	71%	74%	84%
10/27/2025	76%	71%	74%	84%
10/24/2025	74%	66%	74%	84%



Economic Calendar for Last Week:

Time	Cur.	Event	Imp.	Actual	Forecast	Previous
Tuesday, February 10, 2026						
08:30	 USD	Retail Sales (MoM) (Dec)	★ ★ ★	0.0%	0.4%	0.6%
08:30	 USD	Core Retail Sales (MoM) (Dec)	★ ★ ★	0.0%	0.3%	0.4%
Wednesday, February 11, 2026						
08:30	 USD	Average Hourly Earnings (MoM) (Jan)	★ ★ ★	0.4%	0.3%	0.1%
08:30	 USD	Nonfarm Payrolls (Jan)	★ ★ ★	130K	66K	48K
08:30	 USD	Unemployment Rate (Jan)	★ ★ ★	4.3%	4.4%	4.4%
10:30	 USD	Crude Oil Inventories	★ ★ ★	8.530M	-0.200M	-3.455M
13:00	 USD	10-Year Note Auction	★ ★ ★	4.177%		4.173%
Thursday, February 12, 2026						
08:30	 USD	Initial Jobless Claims	★ ★ ★	227K	222K	232K
10:00	 USD	Existing Home Sales (Jan)	★ ★ ★	3.91M	4.16M	4.27M
13:00	 USD	30-Year Bond Auction	★ ★ ★	4.750%		4.825%
Friday, February 13, 2026						
08:30	 USD	CPI (MoM) (Jan)	★ ★ ★	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%
08:30	 USD	CPI (YoY) (Jan)	★ ★ ★	2.4%	2.5%	2.7%
08:30	 USD	Core CPI (MoM) (Jan)	★ ★ ★	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%

Economic Calendar for Next Week:

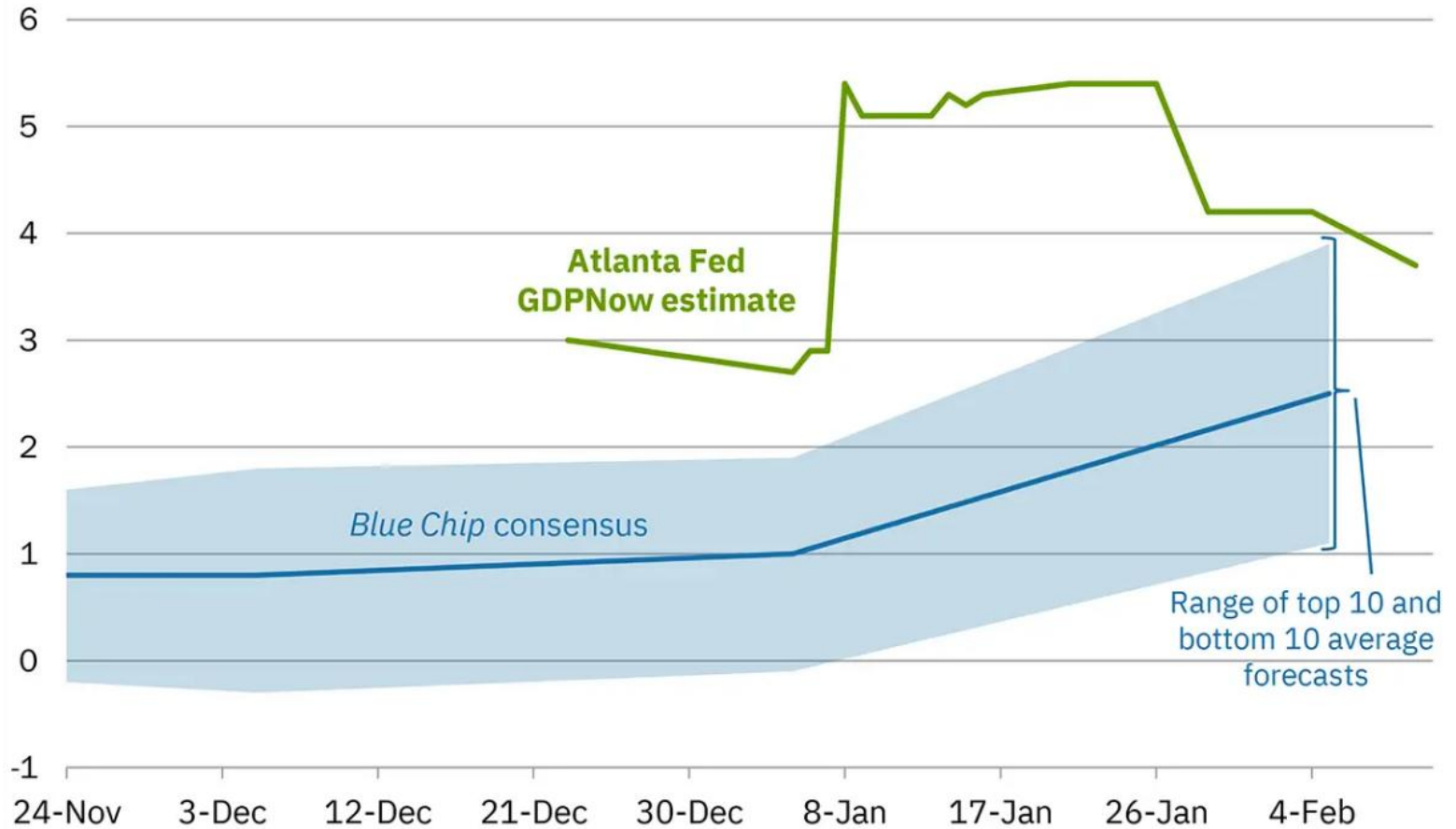
Monday, February 16, 2026						
All Day		United States - Washington's Birthday		Holiday		
Wednesday, February 18, 2026						
08:00	 USD	Durable Goods Orders (MoM) (Dec)	P	★ ★ ★	-1.8%	5.3%
14:00	 USD	FOMC Meeting Minutes 		★ ★ ★		
Thursday, February 19, 2026						
08:30	 USD	Philadelphia Fed Manufacturing Index (Feb)		★ ★ ★	7.8	12.6
08:30	 USD	Initial Jobless Claims		★ ★ ★	229K	227K
12:00	 USD	Crude Oil Inventories		★ ★ ★		8.530M
Friday, February 20, 2026						
08:30	 USD	Core PCE Price Index (MoM) (Dec)		★ ★ ★	0.3%	0.2%
08:30	 USD	GDP (QoQ) (Q4)	P	★ ★ ★	2.8%	4.4%
08:30	 USD	Core PCE Price Index (YoY) (Dec)		★ ★ ★	3.0%	2.8%
09:45	 USD	S&P Global Manufacturing PMI (Feb)	P	★ ★ ★	52.1	52.4
09:45	 USD	S&P Global Services PMI (Feb)	P	★ ★ ★	52.8	52.7
10:00	 USD	New Home Sales (Dec)		★ ★ ★	735K	737K

CME FEDWATCH TOOL - AGGREGATED MEETING PROBABILITIES

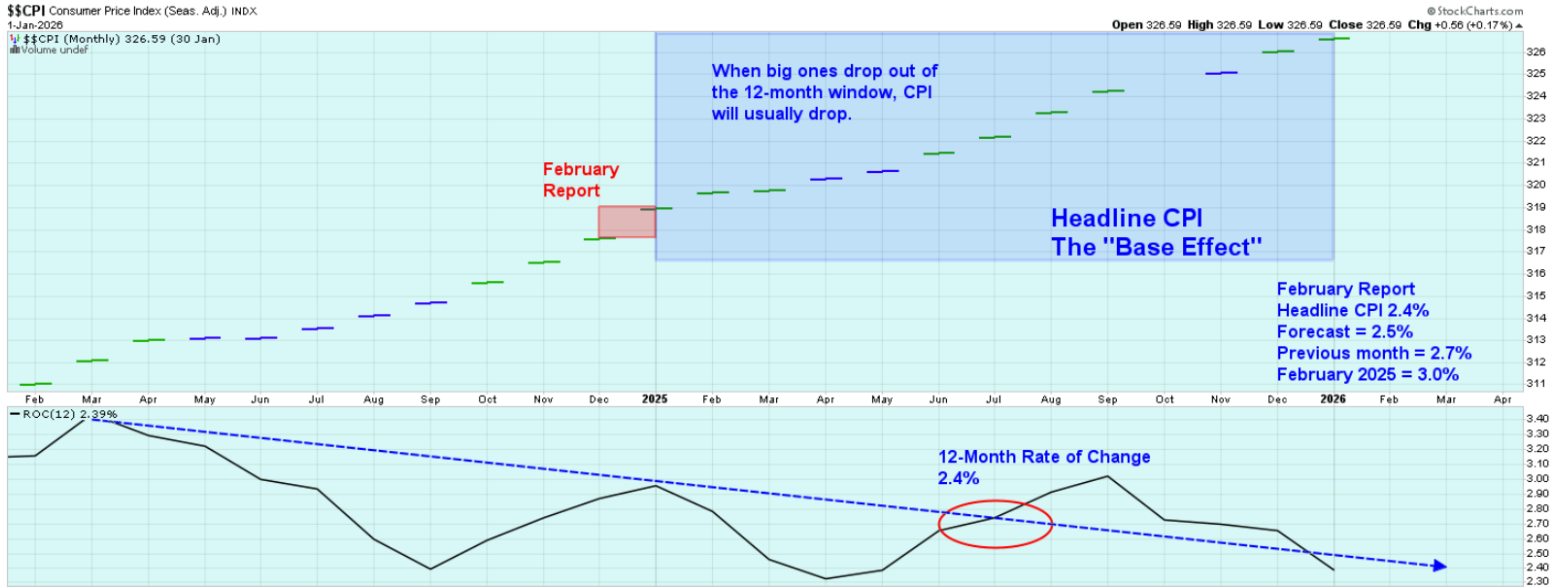
MEETING DATE	275-300	300-325	325-350	350-375
3/18/2026	0.00 %	0.00 %	9.24 %	90.76 %
4/29/2026	0.00 %	0.00 %	32.00 %	68.00 %
6/17/2026	0.00 %	0.00 %	87.24 %	12.76 %
7/29/2026	0.00 %	30.00 %	70.00 %	0.00 %
9/16/2026	0.00 %	86.57 %	13.43 %	0.00 %
10/28/2026	22.00 %	78.00 %	0.00 %	0.00 %
12/9/2026	54.52 %	45.48 %	0.00 %	0.00 %
1/27/2027	66.00 %	34.00 %	0.00 %	0.00 %
3/17/2027	74.14 %	25.86 %	0.00 %	0.00 %
4/28/2027	72.00 %	28.00 %	0.00 %	0.00 %
6/9/2027	72.64 %	27.36 %	0.00 %	0.00 %
7/28/2027	66.00 %	34.00 %	0.00 %	0.00 %
9/15/2027	63.19 %	36.81 %	0.00 %	0.00 %
10/27/2027	54.00 %	46.00 %	0.00 %	0.00 %
12/8/2027	75.57 %	24.43 %	0.00 %	0.00 %

Evolution of Atlanta Fed GDPNow real GDP estimate for 2025: Q4

Quarterly percent change (SAAR)



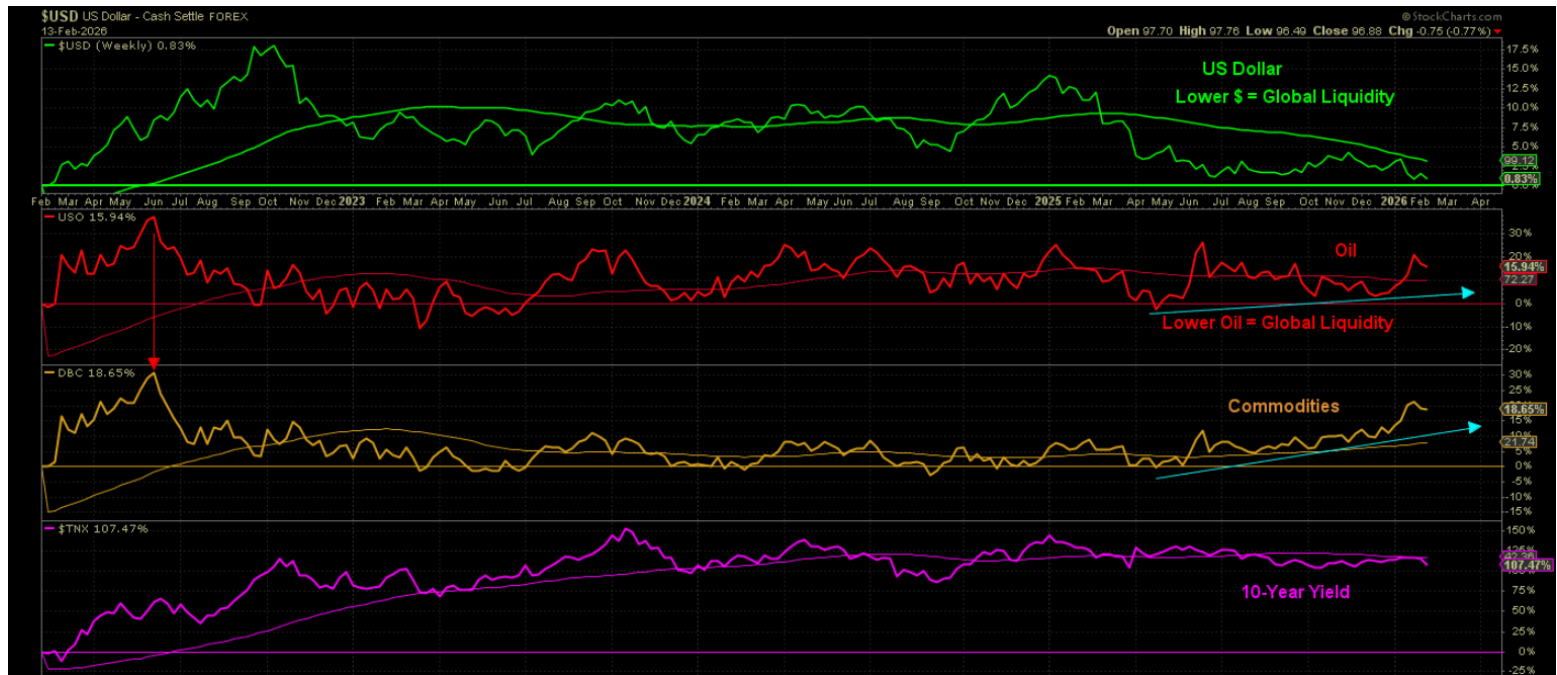
Inflation came in lower than expected last week, which had a dramatic effect on the 10-Year yield. Here is the “Base Effect”, which is a 12-month rolling average of CPI. When a large one drops out of the average, like this month, CPI goes down. Notice what happens after April this year when big ones start dropping out for the last 6 months of the year. CPI (inflation) will look like it’s dropping off a cliff and the conversations then will be about DEFLATION!



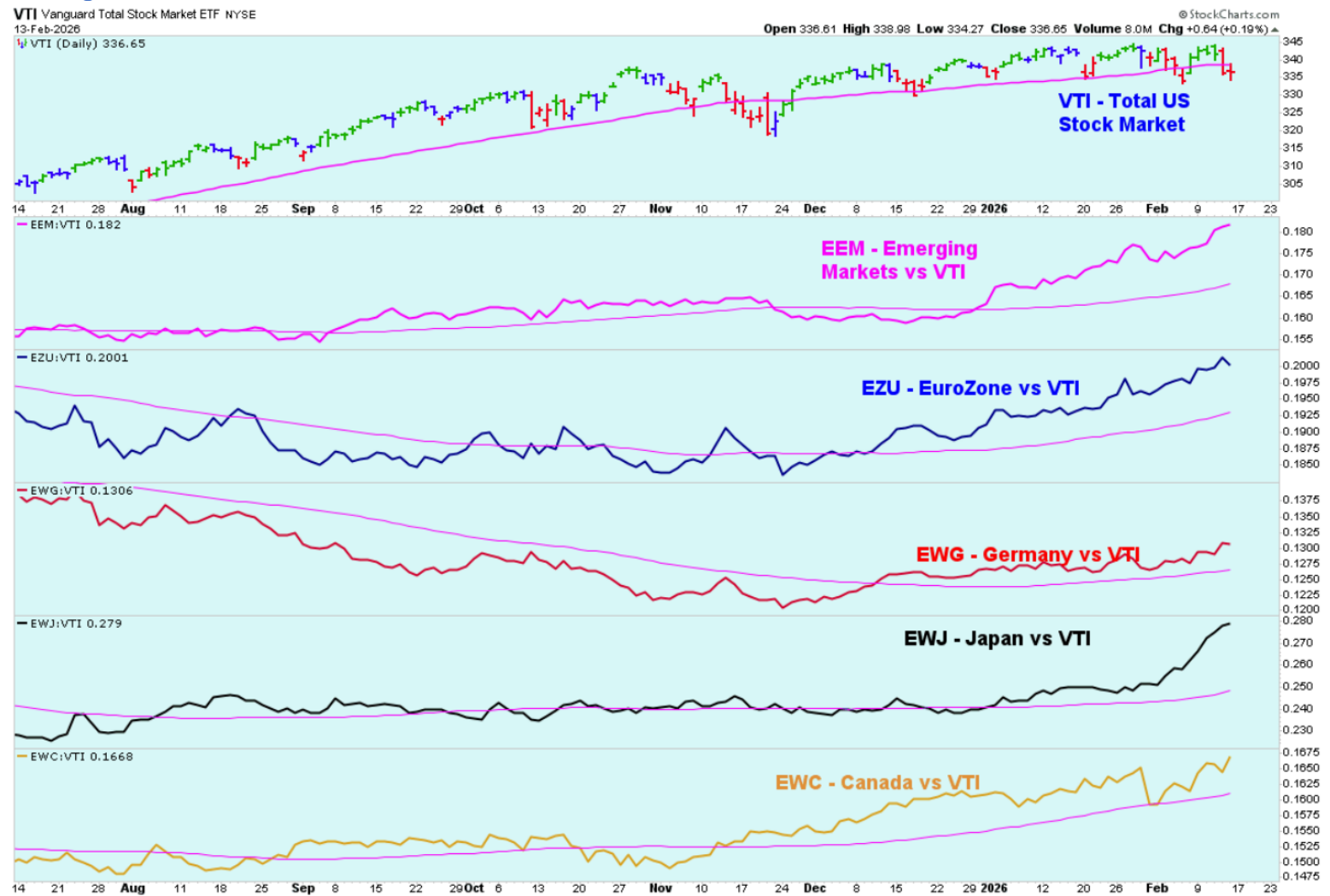
Here is the 10-Year:



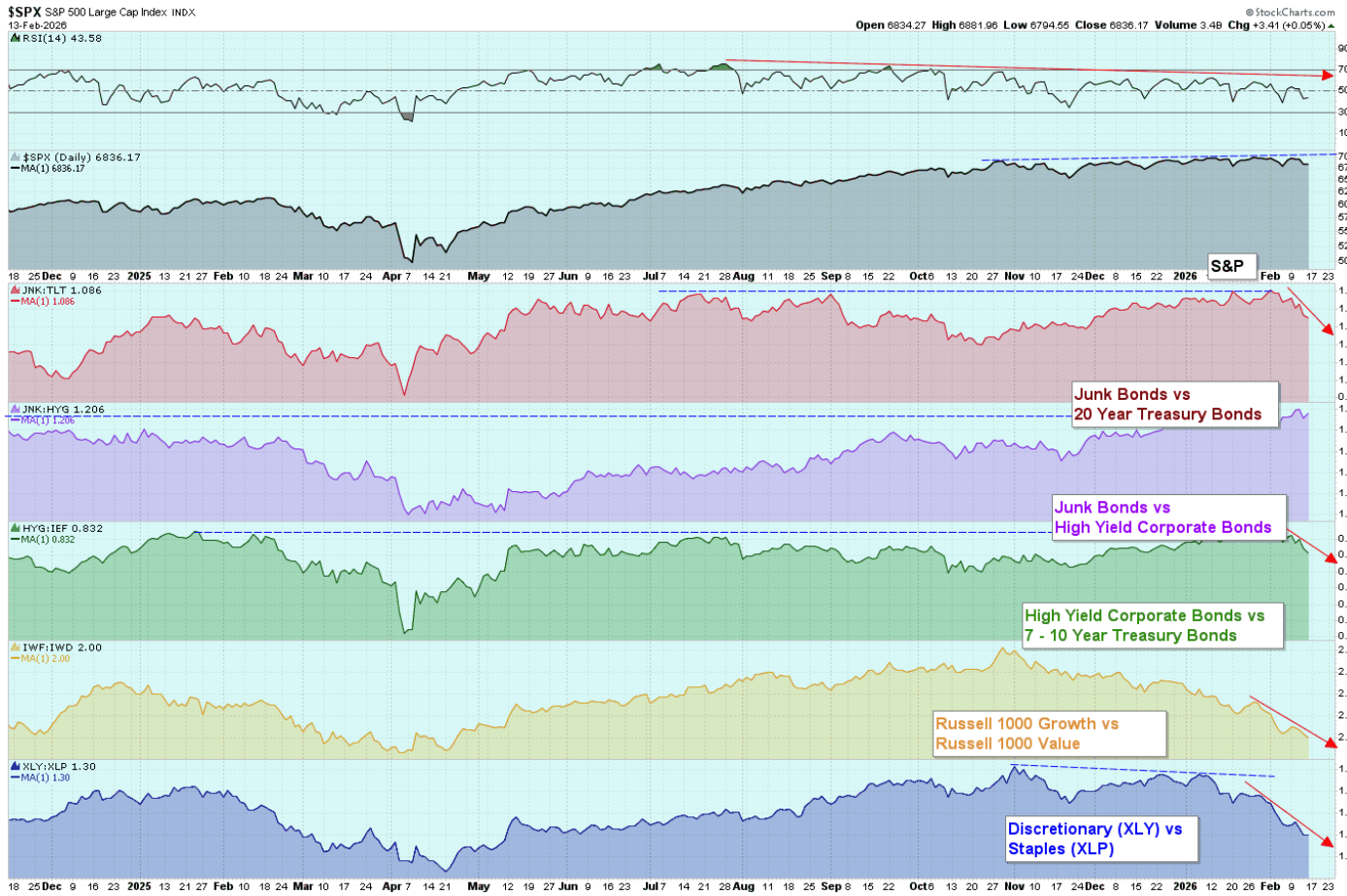
Improving global liquidity would have these all going lower.



Foreign Markets vs US Total Market:



Risk Off steepens!




















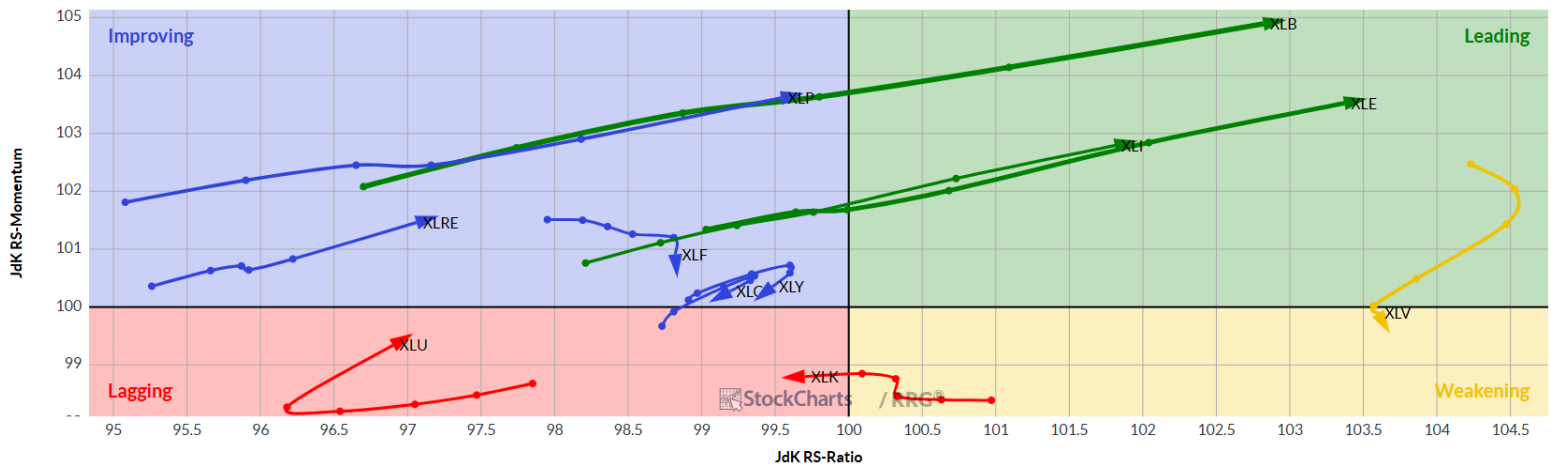


Columns

☐ Send Weekly Report

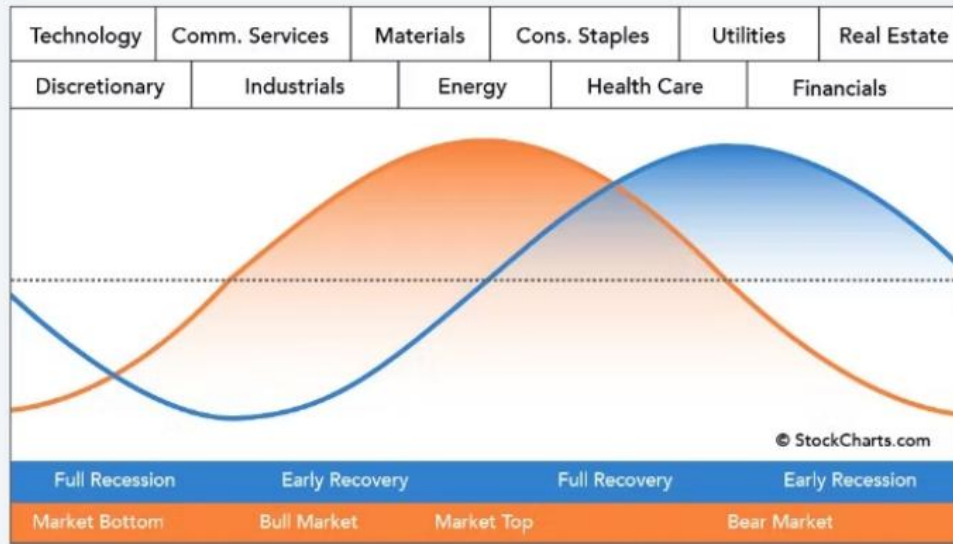
 Search Table

	NAME	LAST	CHG	% CHG	+/-	DATE
	XLU - Utilities Select Sector SPDR Fund	46.50	+3.15	+7.27%	<div><div></div></div>	02-13, 16:00
	XLRE - Real Estate Select Sector SPDR Fund	43.50	+1.51	+3.60%	<div><div></div></div>	02-13, 16:00
	XLB - Materials Select Sector SPDR Fund	53.31	+1.80	+3.49%	<div><div></div></div>	02-13, 16:00
	XLE - Energy Select Sector SPDR Fund	54.35	+1.10	+2.07%	<div><div></div></div>	02-13, 16:00
	XLP - Consumer Staples Select Sector SPDR Fund	89.51	+1.57	+1.79%	<div><div></div></div>	02-13, 16:00
	\$GOLD - Gold - Continuous Contract (EOD)	5,039.00	+70.44	+1.42%	<div><div></div></div>	02-13, 14:30
	XLI - Industrial Select Sector SPDR Fund	174.17	+0.99	+0.57%	<div><div></div></div>	02-13, 16:00
	XLV - Health Care Select Sector SPDR Fund	157.67	-0.04	-0.03%	<div><div></div></div>	02-13, 16:00
	IWM - iShares Russell 2000 ETF	262.96	-2.06	-0.78%	<div><div></div></div>	02-13, 16:00
	XLC - Communication Services Select Sector SPDR Fund	114.58	-1.18	-1.02%	<div><div></div></div>	02-13, 16:00
	XLK - Technology Select Sector SPDR Fund	139.56	-1.57	-1.11%	<div><div></div></div>	02-13, 16:00
	\$NDX - Nasdaq 100 Index	24,732.73	-343.04	-1.37%	<div><div></div></div>	02-13, 16:59
	\$SPX - S&P 500 Large Cap Index	6,836.17	-96.13	-1.39%	<div><div></div></div>	02-13, 16:49
	XLY - Consumer Discretionary Select Sector SPDR Fund	116.18	-1.81	-1.53%	<div><div></div></div>	02-13, 16:00
	\$BTCUSD - Bitcoin to US Dollar	68,844.01	-1,691.75	-2.40%	<div><div></div></div>	02-13, 22:05
	XLF - Financial Select Sector SPDR Fund	51.65	-2.61	-4.81%	<div><div></div></div>	02-13, 16:00



Compare the above 2 charts with the historical view of markets. Notice the Sectors that are near market tops!

Sector Rotation Model



Legend: Market Cycle | Economic Cycle

This theoretical model is based on Sam Stovall's **S&P's Guide to Sector Rotation** and states that different sectors are stronger at different points in the economic cycle. The graph above shows these relationships and the order in which the various sectors should get a boost from the economy. The Market Cycle precedes the Economic Cycle because investors try to anticipate economic effects. The PerfChart at the top of this page tries to help you see this effect.

10-Minute Charts for the Week: (notice the round trip on Friday!)

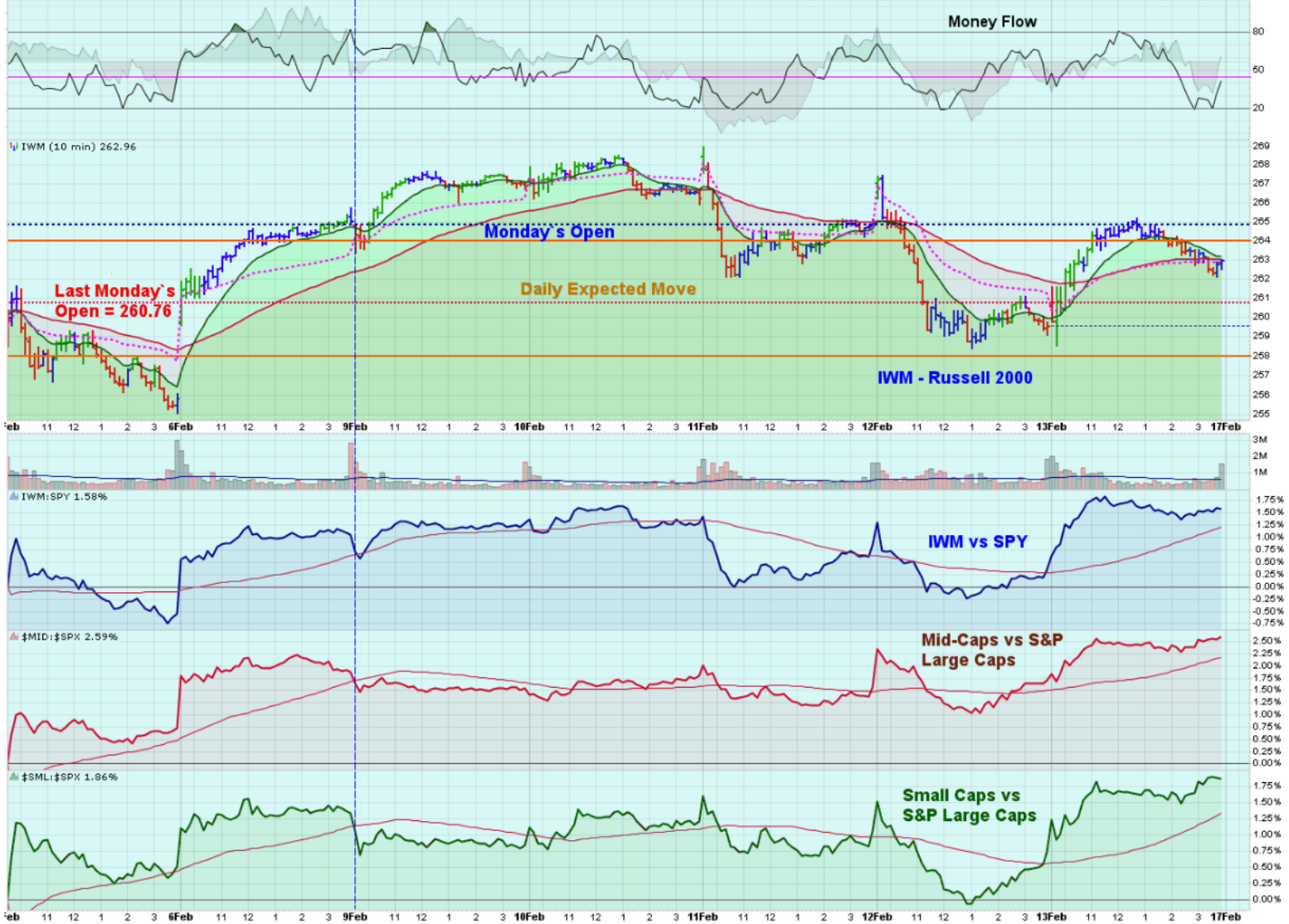




IWM iShares Russell 2000 ETF NYSE
13-Feb-2026

Open 260.80 High 265.17 Low 259.51 Close 262.96 Volume 45.3M Chg +3.42 (+1.32%)

© StockCharts.com



Top 10 Best & Worst Large Caps for the Week:

NAME	SECTOR	INDUSTRY	LAST	CHG	% CHG1W	+/-	SCTR	U
AMT - American Tower Corp.	Real Estate	Specialty REITs	192.10	+20.83	+12.16%		37.7	lrg
ORCL - Oracle Corp.	Technology	Software	160.14	+17.32	+12.13%		6.5	lrg
TMUS - T-Mobile US, Inc.	Comm. Services	Mobile Telecommunications	219.50	+22.11	+11.20%		35.6	lrg
LIN - Linde plc	Materials	Commodity Chemicals	481.00	+32.76	+7.31%		45.6	lrg
CAT - Caterpillar, Inc.	Industrial	Commercial Vehicles	774.20	+48.00	+6.61%		96.5	lrg
NOW - ServiceNow, Inc.	Technology	Software	107.08	+6.34	+6.29%		3.8	lrg
DUK - Duke Energy Corp.	Utilities	Multiutilities	128.20	+7.37	+6.10%		51.5	lrg
UNH - Unitedhealth Group, Inc.	Health Care	Health Care Providers	293.19	+16.54	+5.98%		19.6	lrg
VZ - Verizon Communications	Comm. Services	Fixed Telecommunications	49.01	+2.70	+5.83%		73.4	lrg
T - AT&T, Inc.	Comm. Services	Fixed Telecommunications	28.69	+1.56	+5.75%		57.9	lrg

NAME	SECTOR	INDUSTRY	LAST	CHG	% CHG1W	+/-	SCTR	U
IBM - International Business Machines	Technology	Computer Services	262.38	-34.86	-11.73%		26.2	lrg
SCHW - Charles Schwab Corp.	Financial	Investment Services	93.72	-11.01	-10.51%		25.0	lrg
INTU - Intuit, Inc.	Technology	Software	399.40	-44.37	-10.00%		2.1	lrg
C - Citigroup, Inc.	Financial	Banks	110.86	-11.83	-9.64%		48.4	lrg
CSCO - Cisco Systems, Inc.	Technology	Telecom Equipment	76.85	-7.97	-9.40%		45.4	lrg
AAPL - Apple, Inc.	Technology	Computer Hardware	255.78	-22.08	-7.95%		36.6	lrg
INTC - Intel Corp.	Technology	Semiconductors	46.79	-3.80	-7.51%		93.8	lrg
WFC - Wells Fargo & Co.	Financial	Banks	86.98	-6.99	-7.44%		39.9	lrg
BKNG - Booking Holdings Inc.	Discretionary	Travel & Tourism	4,140.60	-316.57	-7.10%		7.8	lrg
BAC - Bank Of America Corp.	Financial	Banks	52.55	-3.98	-7.04%		40.5	lrg

DAILY VIEW



DAILY VIEW

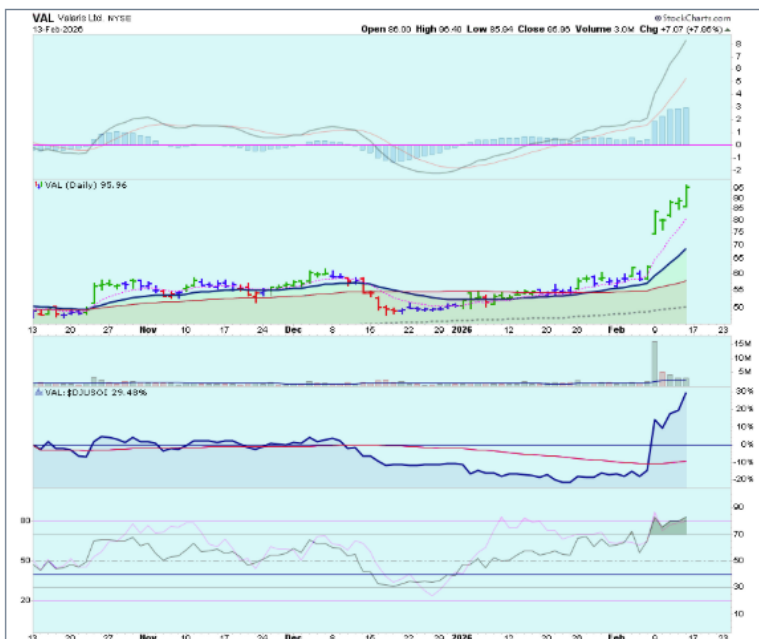


Top 10 Best & Worst Small/Mid-Caps for the Week:

NAME	SECTOR	INDUSTRY	LAST	CHG	% CHG	+/-	SCTR	U
VAL - Valaris Ltd.	Energy	Oil Equipment & Services	95.96	+33.55	+53.76%		98.4	mid
ICHR - Ichor Holdings, Ltd.	Technology	Semiconductors	46.77	+14.62	+45.47%		98.7	sml
IPGP - IPG Photonics Corp.	Technology	Electronic Equipment	153.91	+44.30	+40.42%		98.6	mid
CGNX - Cognex Corp.	Technology	Electronic Equipment	58.79	+16.42	+38.75%		93.1	mid
CRSR - Corsair Gaming Inc.	Technology	Computer Hardware	6.79	+1.62	+31.33%		45.8	sml
TPH - Tri Pointe Homes Inc.	Discretionary	Home Construction	46.37	+10.91	+30.77%		89.5	mid
ACHC - Acadia Healthcare Company, Inc.	Health Care	Health Care Providers	16.77	+3.40	+25.43%		43.2	sml
TDC - Teradata Corp.	Technology	Computer Services	33.56	+6.09	+22.17%		86.3	mid
SOLS - Solstice Advanced Materials Inc.	Materials	Specialty Chemicals	78.22	+13.43	+20.73%		83.3	mid
BWA - BorgWarner, Inc.	Discretionary	Auto Parts	62.80	+10.57	+20.24%		91.8	mid

NAME	SECTOR	INDUSTRY	LAST	CHG	% CHG	+/-	SCTR	U
KD - Kyndryl Holdings Inc.	Technology	Computer Services	12.24	-11.25	-47.89%			mid
NSP - Insperty, Inc.	Discretionary	Business Training Agencies	25.68	-13.24	-34.02%		8.1	sml
FTRE - Fortrea Holdings Inc.	Health Care	Biotechnology	9.79	-4.86	-33.17%		29.7	sml
ANGI - Angie's List Inc.	Discretionary	Special Consumer Services	8.10	-3.75	-31.65%		8.2	sml
UPWK - Upwork Inc.	Comm. Services	Internet	13.22	-5.71	-30.14%		9.5	mid
CLF - Cleveland-Cliffs Inc	Materials	Steel	10.38	-4.35	-29.53%		14.7	mid
HIMS - Hims & Hers Health, Inc.	Health Care	Health Care Providers	16.30	-6.72	-29.19%			mid
GSHD - Goosehead Insurance, Inc.	Financial	Insurance Brokers	48.69	-17.48	-26.42%		12.6	sml
TRIP - TripAdvisor, Inc.	Comm. Services	Internet	9.61	-3.16	-24.75%		11.3	sml
CNXC - Concentrix Corp.	Technology	Software	30.39	-9.54	-23.90%		4.2	mid

DAILY VIEW



DAILY VIEW



From Real Investment Advice:

Financial Nihilism & The Trap Young Investors Are Walking Into - RIA

Excerpt:

The article from the *Wall Street Journal* titled *“Why My Generation Is Turning to Financial Nihilism”* by Kyla Scanlon argues that Gen Z is embracing high-risk financial behavior out of despair and detachment. Of course, it is essential to recognize that Kyla, although well-intentioned, is a young twenty-something influencer with limited real-life experience, and sees things for *“her generation”* through a very narrow lens of *“recency bias.”*

Let's start with understanding that *“Financial Nihilism”* is a term used to describe an attitude where people believe financial decisions are meaningless because the system is rigged, the future is hopeless, or traditional paths to wealth are broken. The term *“Financial Nihilism”* was first coined in 2020 by Demetri Kofinas, a podcaster, who used it to describe his belief that speculative assets lack intrinsic value, driven by a loss of faith in traditional economic systems.

However, while this phrase has gained popularity in recent years, particularly following the GameStop short squeeze, crypto mania, and the rise of meme trading, it disappeared when all of that collapsed in 2022. However, after three years of unprecedented market gains in every asset class, from stocks to cryptocurrencies to precious metals, ***“Financial Nihilism” has resurfaced to rationalize “speculative excess” and justify abandoning long-term investment strategies that have withstood the “sands of time.”***

While Kyla produced a bombastic article to gain social media exposure by suggesting that Gen Z and Millennials no longer believe in saving, investing, or following traditional financial paths, the data shows something very different.

- ***Over half of Gen Z holds investments in traditional financial products, according to FINRA and the CFA Institute.***
- ***A 2023 Vanguard report showed Gen Z participants in retirement plans were increasing contributions, not fleeing traditional investing.***
- ***Charles Schwab's Modern Investor Study found Gen Z prefers low-cost ETFs and index funds, strategies built around long-term returns.***
- ***Pew Research data shows that Gen Z and Millennials are investing at earlier ages than previous generations.***

None of these behaviors is nihilistic. They are practical and reflect economic constraints, not philosophical despair.

Yes, there is undoubtedly a pool of young investors throwing “*caution to the wind*” and aggressively investing in speculative assets to “*get rich quick.*” But even my children, at the ripe old age of 22, think they are unique and different and that no one understands their challenges. We parents, of course, have “*no idea*” about their situation. Of course, this is the problem with our youth who have no real-world experience or a sense of history. We, the “*old people,*” were the ones speculating on Dot.com investments in the late 90s, just before it all went bust. As I wrote in “*Retail Investors Flood The Market,*”

“Is it 1999 or 2007? Retail investors flood the market as speculation grows rampant with a palpable exuberance and belief of no downside risk. What could go wrong?”

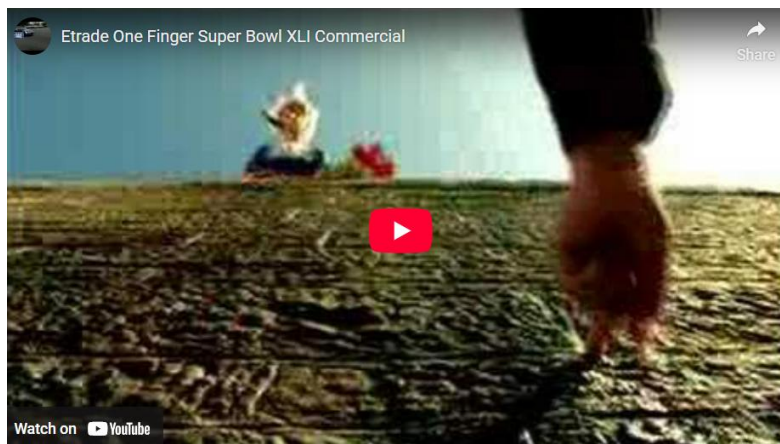
Do you remember this commercial?



That commercial aired just 2 months shy of the beginning of the “Dot.com” bust. We “youngsters” at the time thought Warren Buffett was an idiot for avoiding technology stocks because “*he didn’t get it.*”

Turns out he was right.

But that wasn’t the first time that we youngsters had to learn the risks of chasing “hot investments,” and why “this time is NEVER different.” The following E*Trade commercial aired during Super Bowl XLI in 2007. The following year, the financial crisis set in, markets plunged, and once again, investors lost 50% or more of their wealth by refusing to listen to the warnings.



Why this trip down memory lane? (*Other than the fact that the commercials are hilarious to watch.*) **Because what is happening today is NOT “Financial Nihilism,” it is the typical outcome of exuberance seen during strongly trending bull market cycles.**

While young people, like Kyla, may think that *“this time is different,”* they lack the historical experience to support such a conclusion. Ask anyone who has lived through two “*real*” bear markets, and the imagery of people trying to “*daytrade*” their way to riches is all too familiar. **The recent surge in speculative excess, leverage, and greed is not a new phenomenon.**



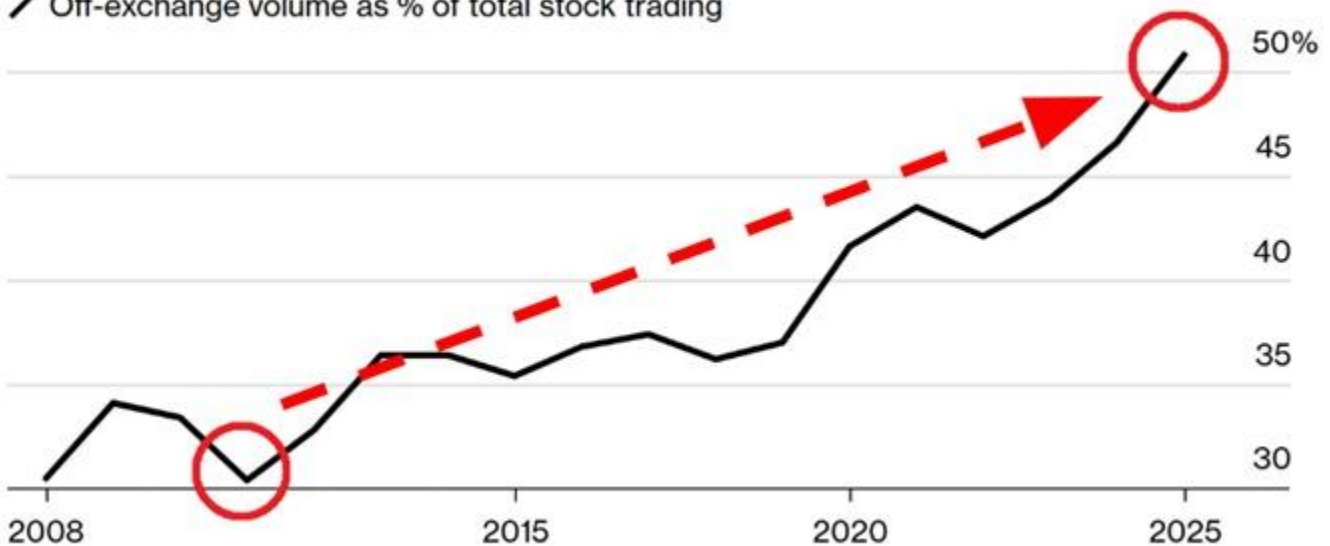
With that said, let's examine the issues with Kyla's article and why “Financial Nihilism” is a myth.

Since 2016, the volume recorded at platforms that match orders from brokerages, a proxy for retail activity, has posted its third consecutive annual increase, rising by 15%. Meanwhile, the average daily volume of US-listed stocks has been ~12.0 billion shares since 2019, which is ~75% above the levels seen over the prior six years. Most notably, just over the last 12 months, daily volume has averaged a massive 16.7 billion shares.

Sign of Retail Froth

Off-exchange volume is exploding in stock market

／ Off-exchange volume as % of total stock trading

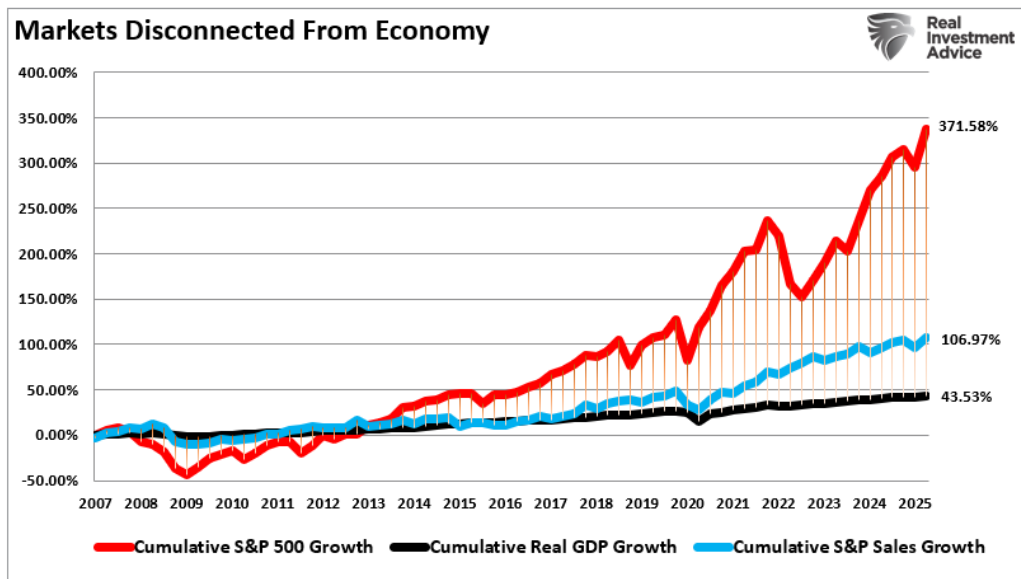


Source: Bloomberg

Yes, retail investors are piling into the market. But why wouldn't they after watching 15 years of market returns that are 50% above historical norms, and seeming “no risk” for speculative activities?

Kyla suggests that existential dread leads young people to treat the market like a casino. **The idea is that if nothing matters, risk doesn't either.** This is the article's weakest argument. While social and economic pressures are real, they are not driving widespread self-destruction. They are driving innovation in how people build and manage their wealth.

The idea behind this line is that young people, facing what feels like a bleak financial future, are throwing caution to the wind to gamble on crypto, options, and meme stocks to build wealth fast, rather than creating “lasting wealth.” This is where the term “YOLO trading” comes in, making aggressive bets with the mindset that there's nothing to lose. However, as noted above, there is certain logic to that mindset, given that over the last 15 years, every market downturn has been met by either fiscal or monetary interventions. Repeated bailouts of bad investment decisions have created a “moral hazard” in the marketplace.



There's truth here, but only part of it.

Yes, a subset of young investors is engaging in reckless speculation. They take on excessive risk, invest in volatile assets, and often trade on hype rather than fundamentals. Many borrow money to do it. This group exists, and their outcomes won't be good. Some will lose money, and likely most will wipe themselves out entirely. The market is unforgiving when paired with leverage, inexperience, and emotional trading.

Here is a great example of the "YOLO" trading fallacy. Since the end of the "*Meme Stock*" craze in 2021, retail investors on Robinhood have made no money, even after accounting for the \$4-5 billion wipeout in the January rout. That's 5 years of their investing time horizon gone, whereas just investing in the S&P 500 index would have produced far superior results.



But this behavior doesn't define the generation. It represents the tail end of the distribution—the loudest, not the largest.

What's left out of Kyla's article is what happens after the eventual realization that *"trading"* is a losing exercise over the long term. Early losses are the price of financial education, and, hopefully, if they survive financially, they will change their approach and revert to more traditional principles that have endured over the decades. **In other words, they grow up and learn from the experience just as every great investor in history has.**

The future is not doomed. But it is fragile for those who ignore risk. Financial outcomes depend on staying in the game long enough to benefit from compounding. If you blow yourself up in your 20s, you lose that opportunity.

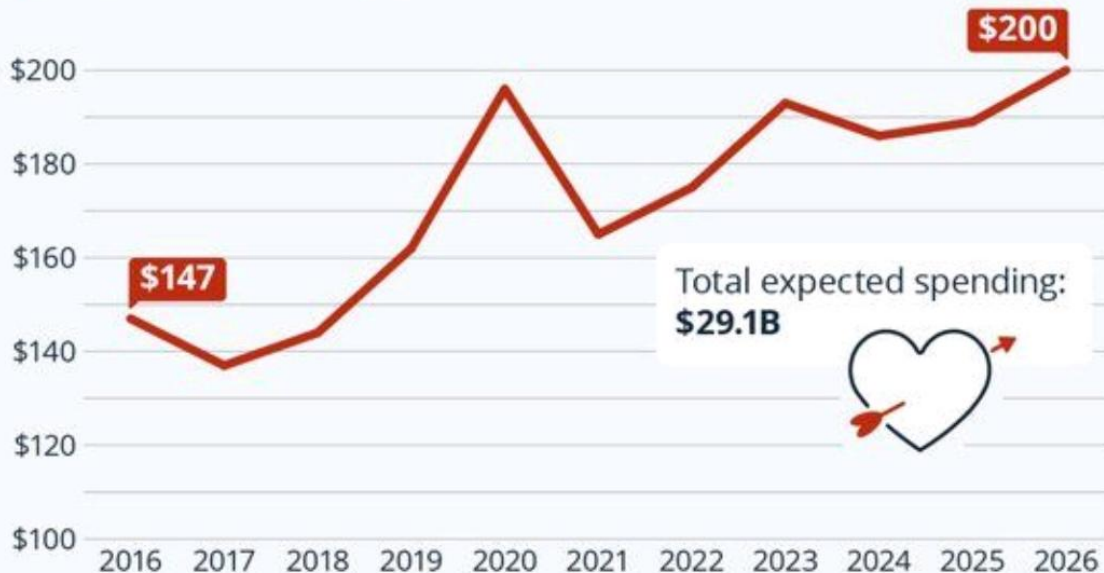
The lesson is simple. Speculation is fun while you are winning, but that is not *"Financial Nihilism."* It is simply greed masquerading as investing. However, the people who win in the long term are not gamblers. They're grinders. They keep costs low, automate savings, and make decisions that allow them to survive market cycles. That's not as flashy as YOLO trading, but that is how wealth is built.

Good luck trading...

Cupid's Arrow Hits Wallets Harder Than Ever in 2026

Posted on
The Daily Shot
11-Feb-2026
@SoberLook

Evolution of planned per-person spending
for Valentine's Day in the United States



2026 estimates based on a survey of 7,800 U.S. consumers (aged 18+) conducted in Jan. 2026; historical data based on similar surveys conducted in the respective year.

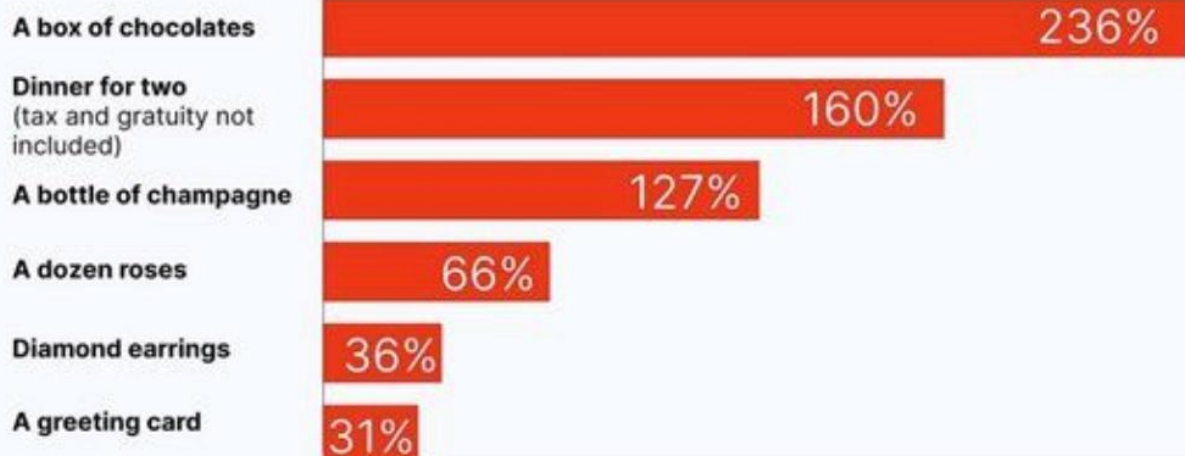
Source: National Retail Federation



statista

The Valentine's Day inflation: which gifts got most expensive between 2016–2026

Posted on
The Daily Shot
06-Feb-2026
@SoberLook



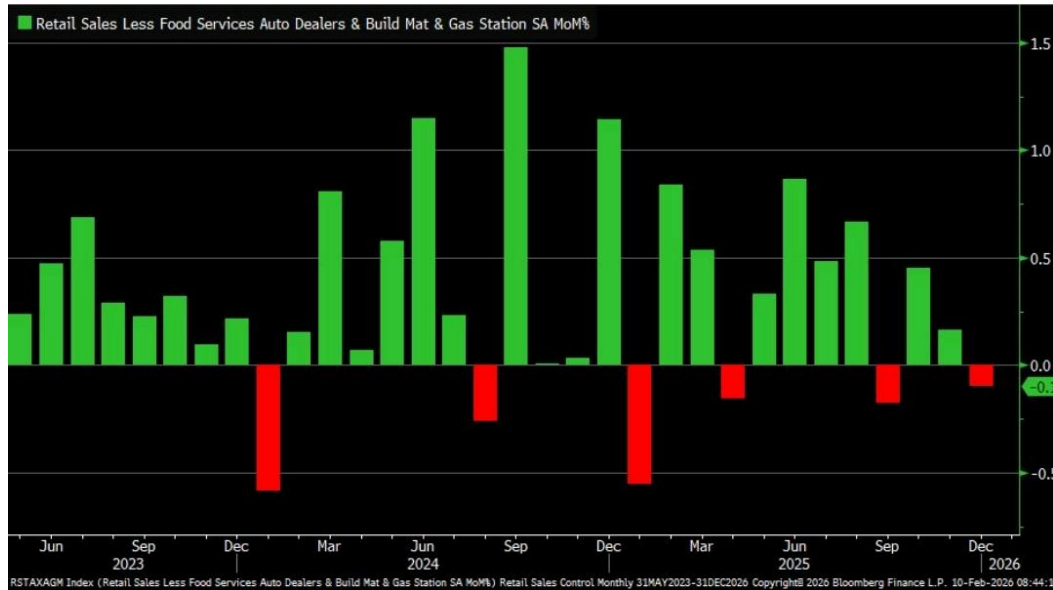
Year/year growth in existing home sales reversed sharply in January ... back in negative territory and down to -4.4%



Home price growth remains relatively firm ... median price of existing single-family home increased by 1.68% y/y in January (slower pace relative to last year)



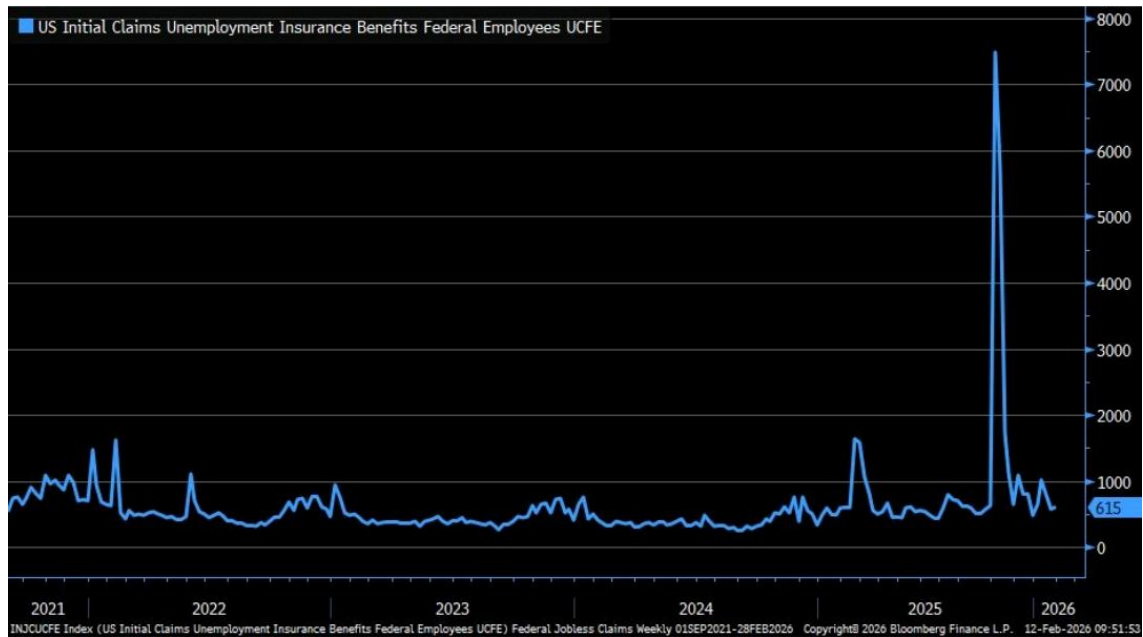
Retail sales control group saw decline of 0.1% in December ... activity decelerated sharply throughout quarter given a relatively strong start of nearly +0.5% in October



Quarter-to-date, Energy sector is outpacing S&P 500 by nearly 19% ... best since first quarter of 2022 and one of best performance spreads (as of now) since 2000
[Past performance is no guarantee of future results]



Federal initial jobless claims have come back towards more normal levels ... a bit elevated relative to history but still far from peak seen last year



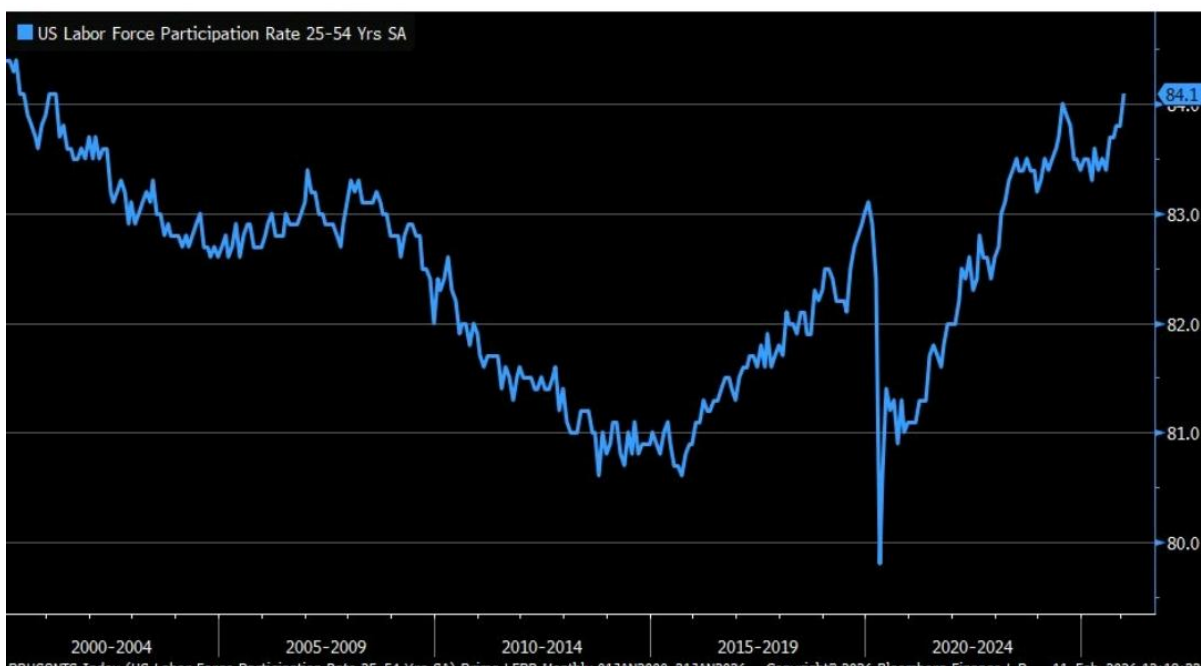
Since right before pandemic, foreign-born labor force (orange) has grown by 18.2%, while native-born labor force (blue) has grown by just 1.4%



Uptick in average weekly hours worked in January kept series in its relatively tight range over past couple years (below average seen in cycle leading up to pandemic)



Prime-age labor force participation rate rose to 84.1% in January ... highest since March 2001



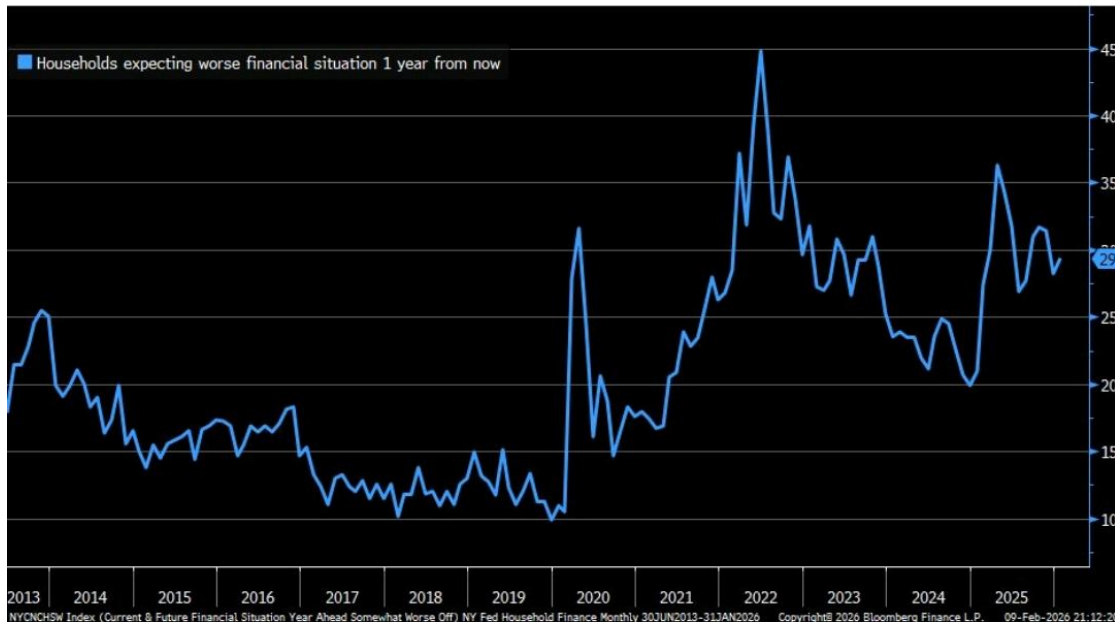
Per NY Fed survey as of January, consumers' median 1y inflation expectations ticked down sharply to 3.09%



Consumers still showing concerns over labor market, with average of 41.89% seeing higher unemployment in next year per January NY Fed survey



Share of households expecting to be in a worse financial situation a year from now ticked up in January and has been elevated over past year per NY Fed



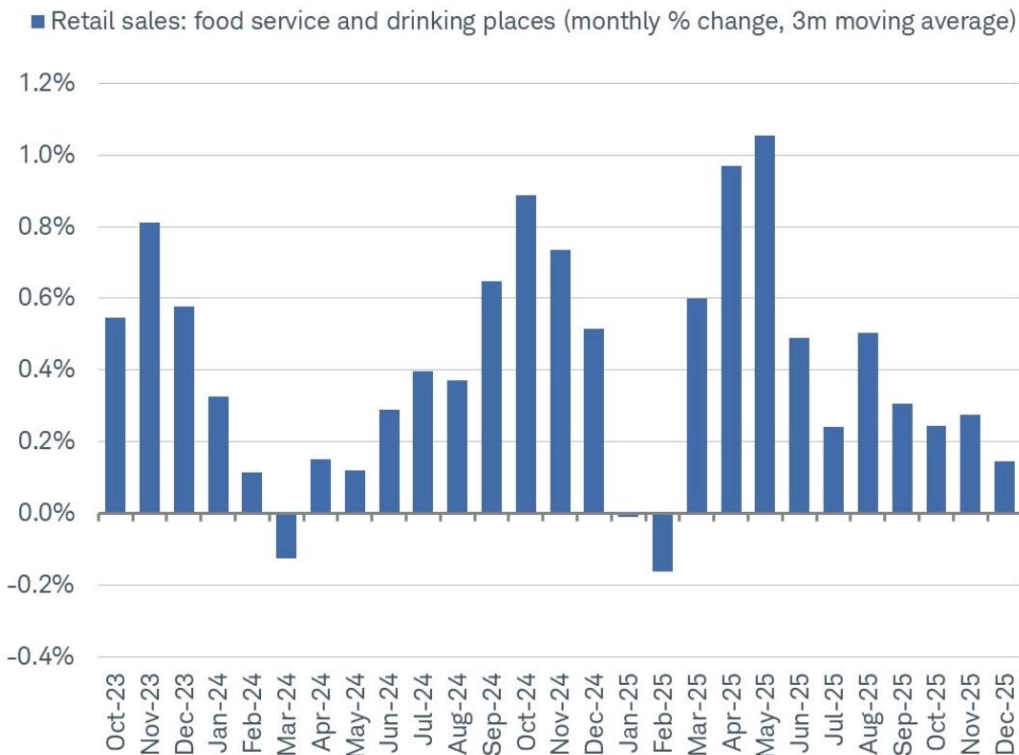
3m annualized change in average hourly earnings remained firm at +3.5% in January ... above longer-term average but down considerably from highs in post-pandemic cycle



One blemish in January jobs report was lack of meaningful decline in median duration of unemployment



Restaurant and bar spending continued to soften in December ... 3m moving average of growth in retail sales for sector decelerated and fell below 0.2%



Source: Charles Schwab, Bloomberg, as of 12/31/2025.

AI spending as a percentage of GDP is bigger than the railroad expansion of the 1850s, the Apollo space program in the 1960s, and the decades-long build-out of the interstate highway system.

Spending as percentage of GDP, annual average

Louisiana Purchase (1803)

Posted on
The Daily Shot
09-Feb-2026

3.0%

Projected capital spending for Meta, Amazon, Microsoft and Alphabet in 2025

@roberlook

2.1%

U.S. railroads (1850-59)

2.0%

U.S. interstate highway system (1955-70)*

0.4%

Apollo space program (1960-73)

0.2%

*Federal highway spending

Sources: National Archives and Measuring Worth (Louisiana Purchase); the companies (Tech capital spending); Visible Alpha (projected Microsoft capital spending) Louis P. Cain (U.S. Railroads); Robert Gordon (U.S. interstate highway system); Planetary Society (Apollo); Wall Street Journal calculations (all ratios)



ChatGPT

Best for: Creative content, coding, and versatile problem-solving across any domain.

USE CASE

- Creative content generation and brainstorming unconventional solutions
- Complex coding projects, debugging, and algorithm optimization
- Memory-enhanced tasks requiring context from previous conversations

STRENGTHS

- Industry-leading multimodal capabilities (text, image, voice)
- Extensive plugin ecosystem and custom GPT marketplace
- Adaptable to virtually any domain with natural, engaging writing style

PRO TIP

Create custom GPTs with specific instructions and knowledge bases to match your recurring workflows



Gemini

Best for: Google Workspace integration and real-time information.

USE CASE

- Working within Gmail, Docs, Sheets, or Slides with AI assistance
- Tasks requiring live internet access and current information
- Collaborative projects across Google Workspace tools

STRENGTHS

- Unmatched integration with Google's entire service ecosystem
- Native access to your Gmail, Drive, and Calendar data
- Real-time web search capabilities for up-to-date information

PRO TIP

Maximize productivity by using Gemini directly within Gmail, Docs, and Sheets



Claude

Best for: Deep analysis of lengthy, technical, or sensitive documents.

USE CASE

- Legal documents, academic research, or policy analysis requiring precision
- Processing extensive content (100K+ tokens) in a single conversation
- Tasks demanding high defensibility, factual accuracy, and ethical considerations

STRENGTHS

- Exceptional handling of long-form content and extended context
- Superior performance on technical and legal reasoning tasks
- Strong ethical guardrails with natural, articulate, human-like writing

PRO TIP

Use Claude to carefully analyze and simplify highly complex documents



Grok

Best for: Real-time social media insights and trending conversations.

USE CASE

- Monitoring breaking news and trending topics as they unfold on X/Twitter
- Tracking brand mentions, competitor activity, and social sentiment in real-time
- Quick, conversational answers with humor about current events

STRENGTHS

- Direct access to real-time X (Twitter) data and trends
- Fast, responsive, and conversationally engaging with authentic personality
- Excellent for social listening and trend identification

PRO TIP

Use Grok to quickly generate viral-ready posts and stay ahead of real-time trends



Perplexity

Best for: Research with cited sources and fact-checked answers.

USE CASE

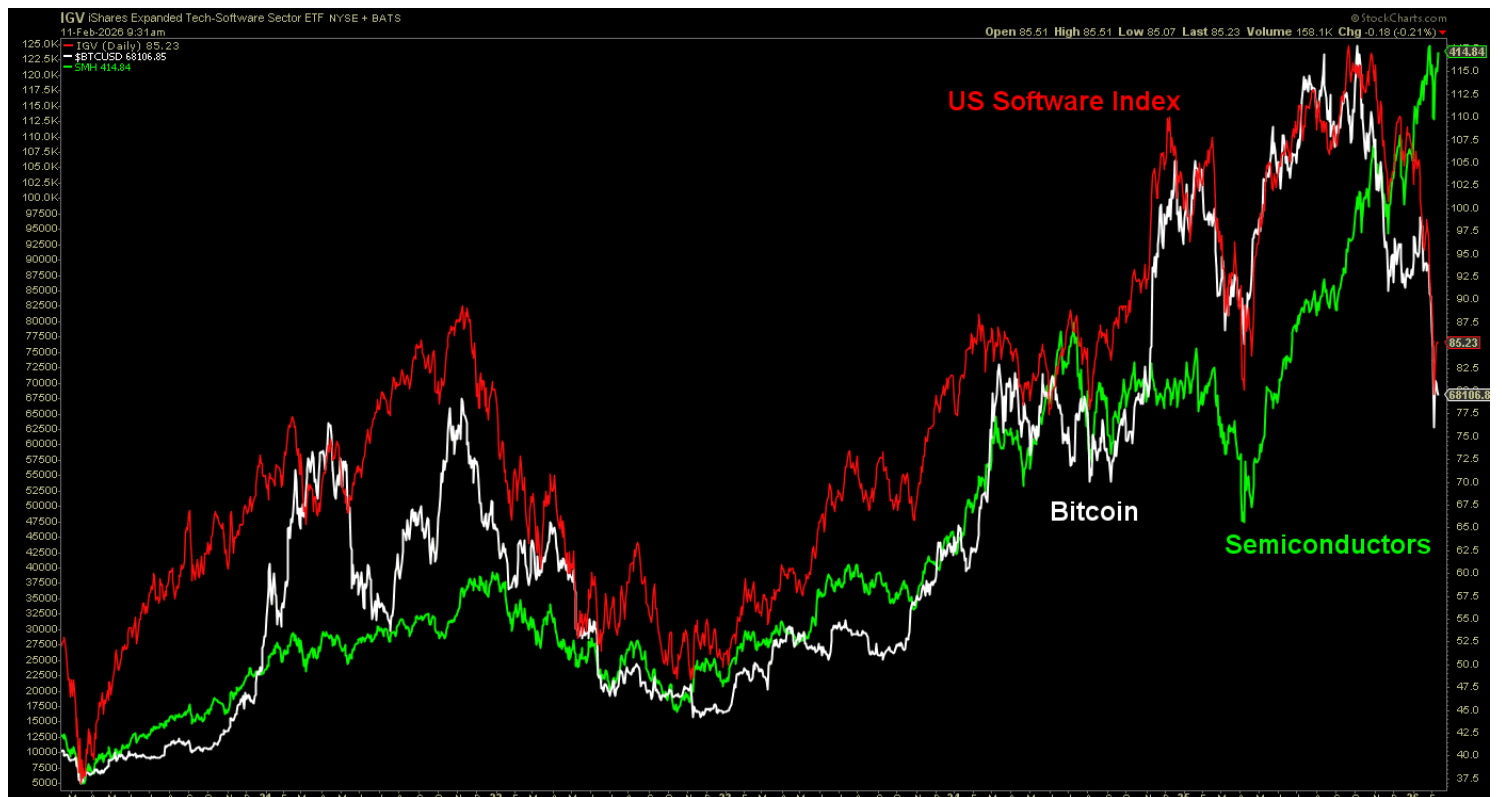
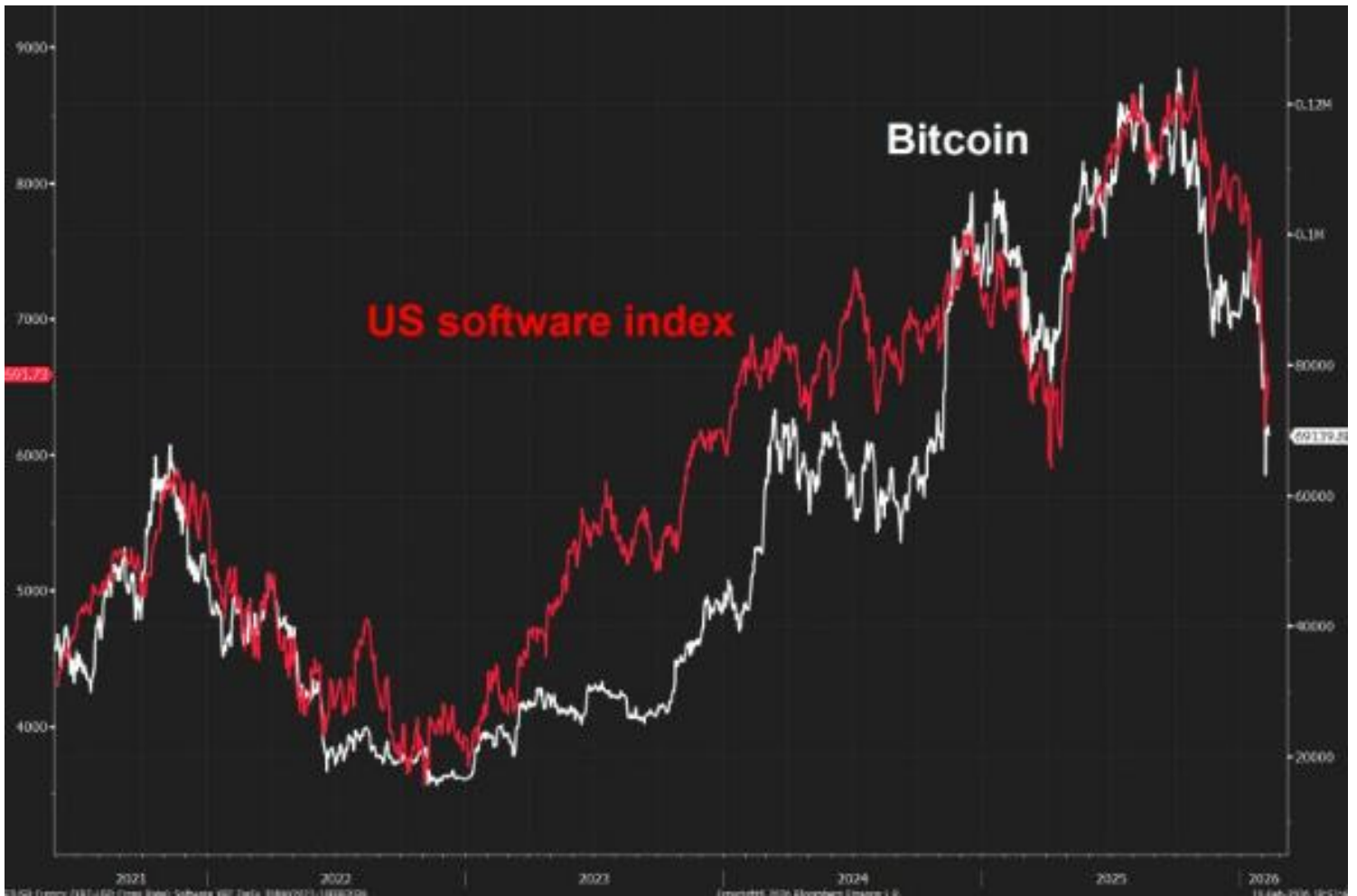
- Research requiring credible sources, citations, and fact-checking
- Exploring complex topics that demand comprehensive understanding
- Quick, accurate answers without wading through traditional search results

STRENGTHS

- Always provides citations and sources for transparency
- Real-time web search delivers current, accurate information
- Excellent at synthesizing complex topics from multiple sources

PRO TIP

Use Perplexity when accuracy and source verification matter most



Investing \$10,000: Strategic vs Non-Strategic

The same money, completely different outcomes.

STRATEGIC INVESTING ✓ SMART STRATEGY

Diversified Portfolio

- 40% S&P 500 Index → \$4,000
- 30% Bonds → \$3,000
- 20% Growth Stocks → \$2,000
- 10% Cash Reserve → \$1,000

Expected Results (10 years):

- Portfolio value: **\$25,000**
- Total return: **+150%**
- Average annual return: **9.6%**

✓ **Risk Level:** Low to Medium

✓ **Emotional Stress:** Minimal

✓ **Sleep Quality:** Good 👍

After 20 years:

- Estimated value: **\$67,000+**

NON-STRATEGIC INVESTING ✗ RISKY APPROACH

All-In Gamble

- 100% in Single Stock → \$10,000
- OR 100% in Meme Coin
- OR 100% in "Hot Tip"
- Zero Diversification

Expected Results (10 years):

- Portfolio value: **\$3,000 – \$15,000**
- Total return: **-70% to +50%**
- **Extreme Volatility**

✗ **Risk Level:** VERY HIGH

✗ **Emotional Stress:** Constant

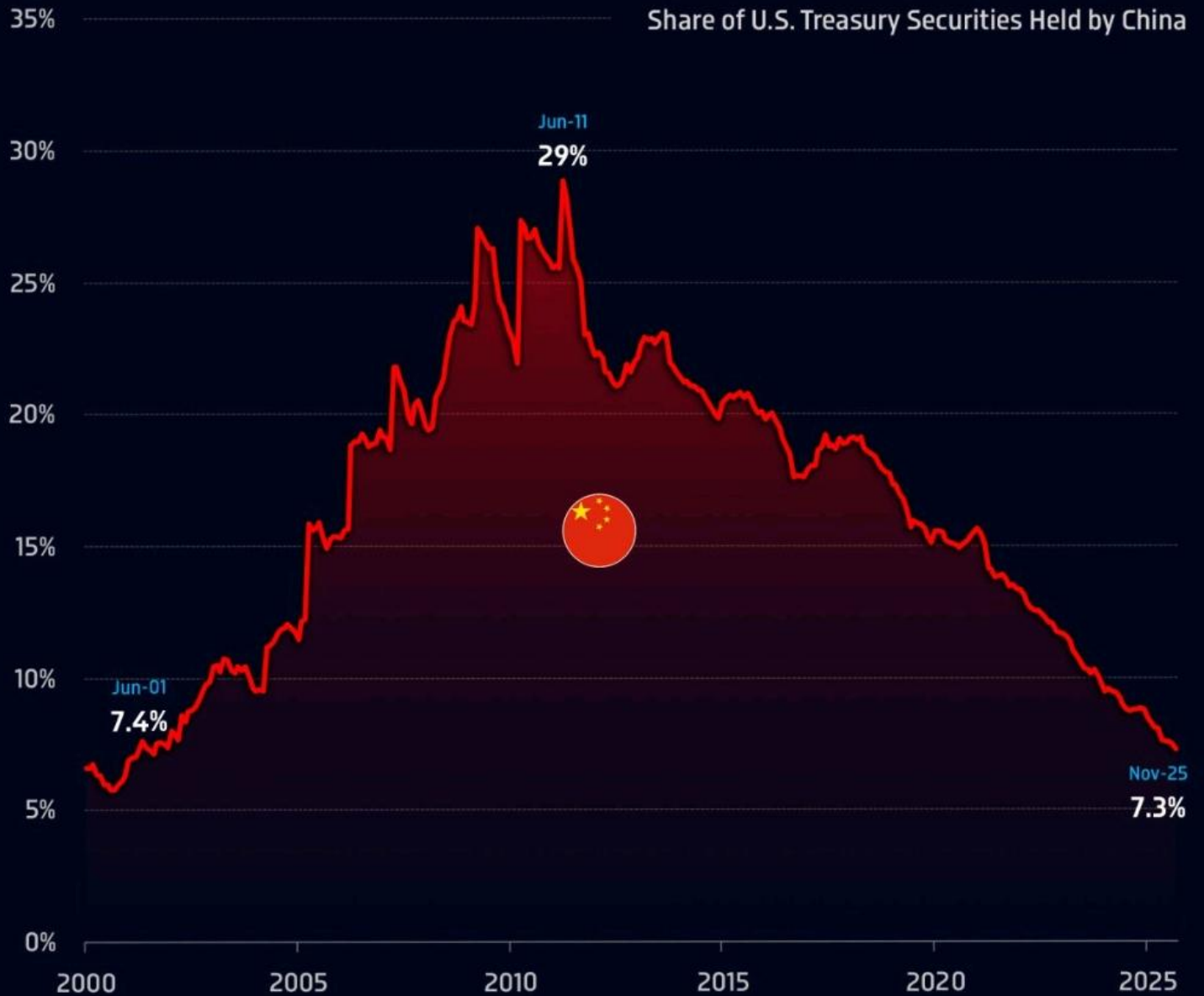
✗ **Sleep Quality:** Poor 👎

After 20 years:

- Possible Total Loss: **\$0**

CHINA'S SHARE OF U.S. TREASURIES FALLS TO LOWEST LEVEL SINCE 2001

Total Holding
November 2025
\$683 Billion



Source: U.S. Department of the Treasury

www.econovis.net

 @econovisuals



U.S. Construction Labor Shortage



501,000 NEW
WORKERS NEEDED BY **2026**



41%
RETIRING
BY **2031**



\$10.8
BILLION
ANNUAL LOSS
IN HOUSING SECTOR

92%

FIRMS CAN'T
FIND QUALIFIED
WORKERS



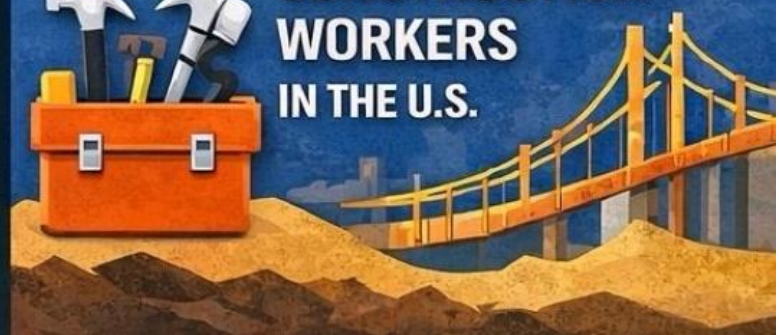
45-66%

PROJECT DELAYS
DUE TO **LABOR**
SHORTAGES



7.9 MILLION

CONSTRUCTION
WORKERS
IN THE U.S.



Average Hourly Wage

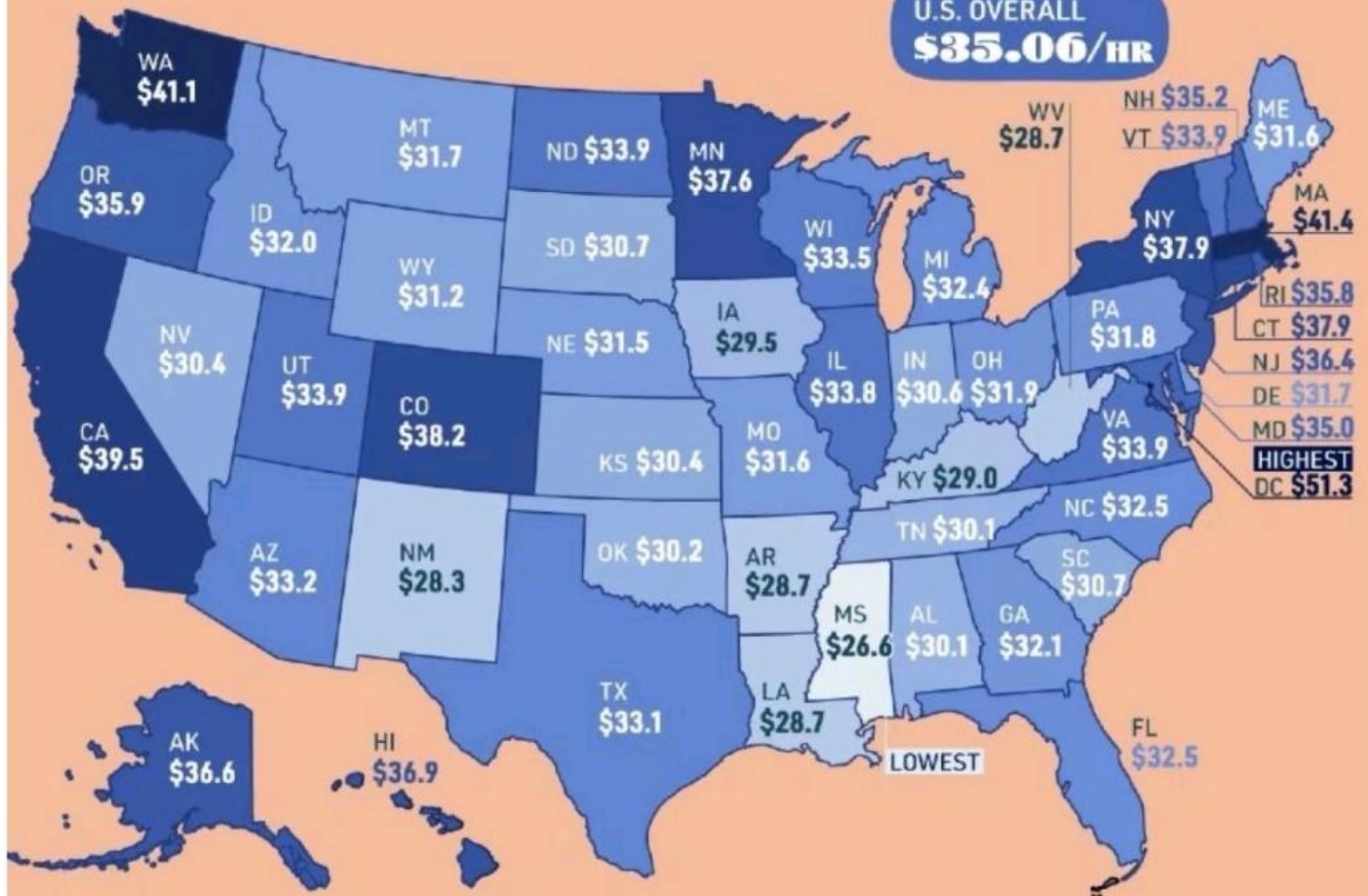
BY STATE

HOURLY WAGE

\$25 \$30 \$35 \$40

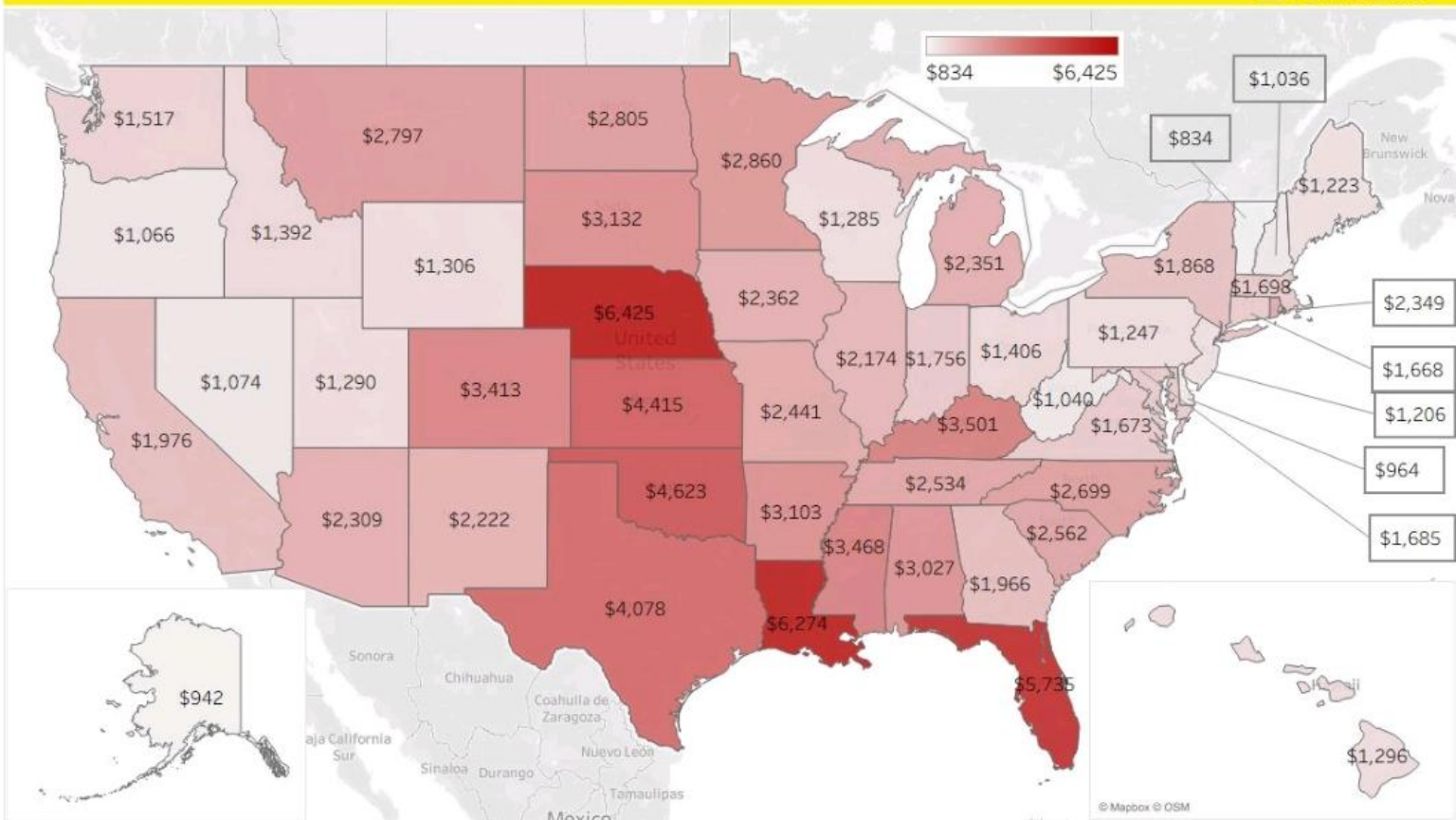


U.S. OVERALL
\$35.06/hr



As of 2025, states with highest average annual premium for homeowners' insurance were Nebraska, Louisiana, and Florida (all > \$5,500)

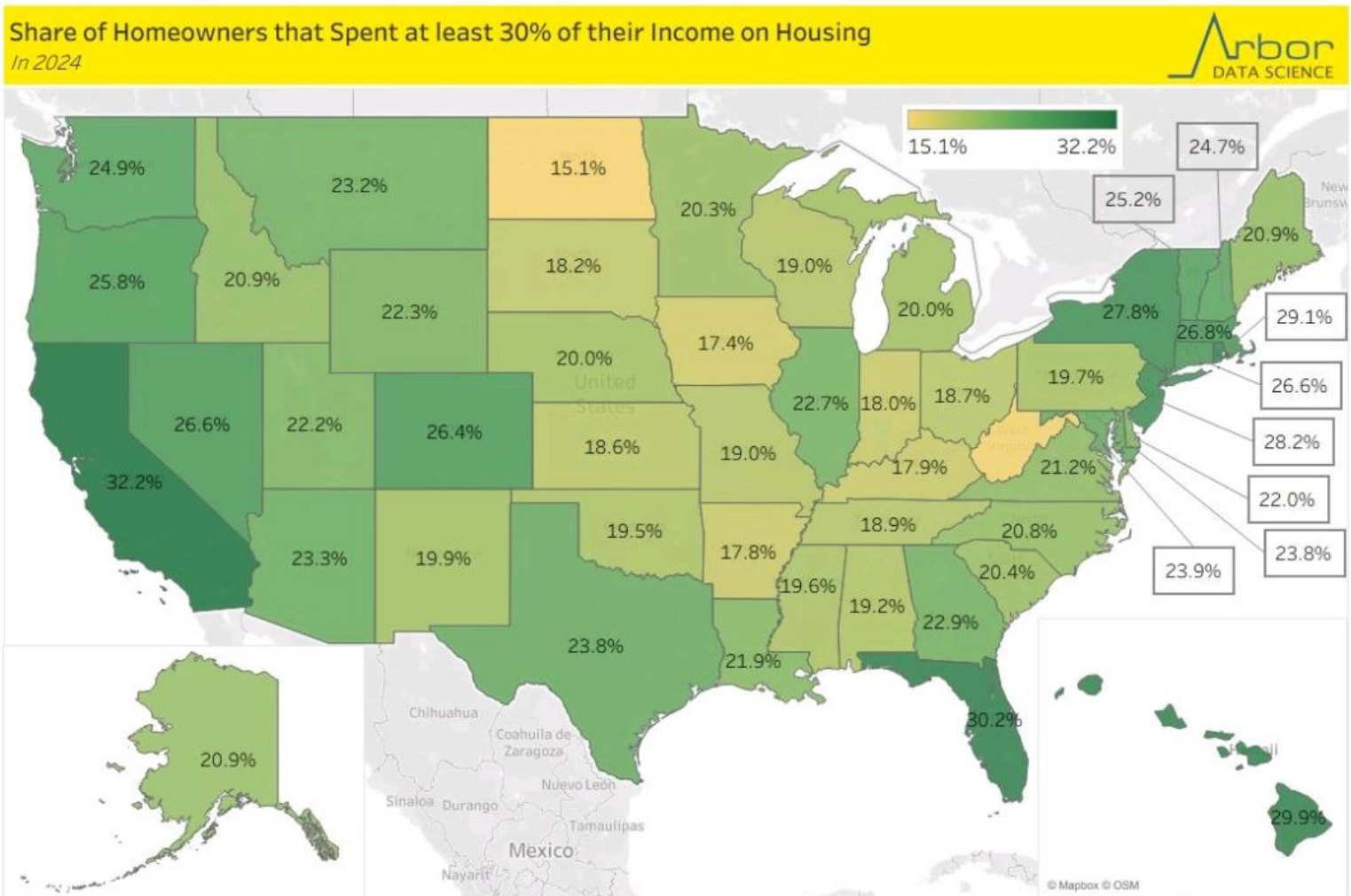
Average Annual Premium for Homeowners Insurance
In 2025



Data Source: Bankrate
Note: For a \$300K in dwelling coverage

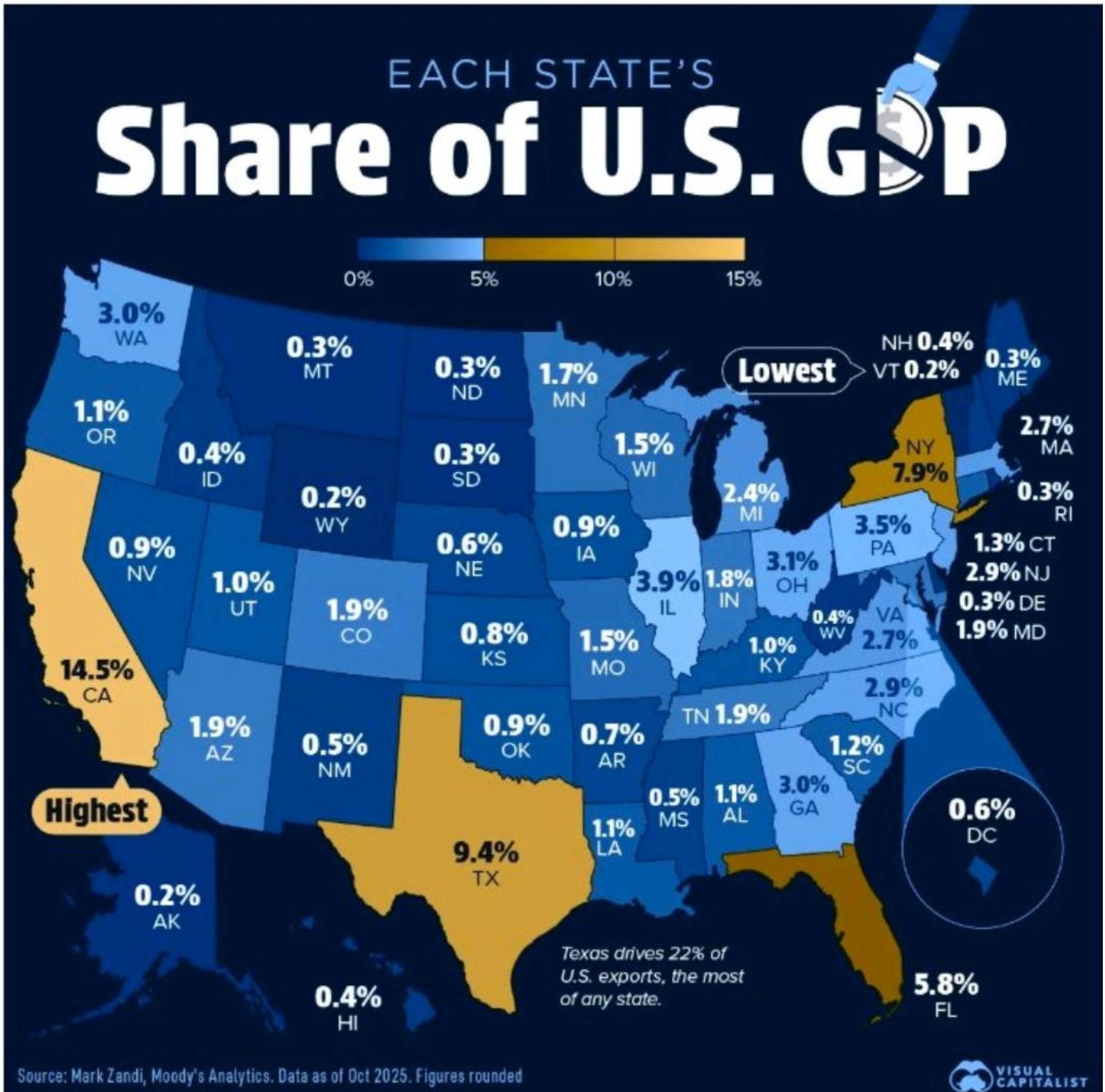
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datascience.arborresearch.com

There are two states (California and Florida) where homeowners are spending at least 30% of their income on housing ... North Dakota is on the opposite end with a share of 15.1%



Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, USAFacts

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datascience.arborresearch.com






⚡ Energy Power Is Concentrated in Just 2 Countries... more

TOP ENERGY PRODUCERS

Annual share of production/generation of the most important energy resources

COAL

- 1  **China: 51.7%**
- 2  **India: 11.7%**
- 3  **Indonesia: 9.1%**

CRUDE OIL

- 1  **USA: 20.8%**
- 2  **S. Arabia: 11.2%**
- 3  **Russia: 11.1%**

NATURAL GAS

- 1  **USA: 25.1%**
- 2  **Russia: 15.3%**
- 3  **Iran: 6.4%**




NUCLEAR

- 1  **USA: 29.7%**
- 2  **China: 16.3%**
- 3  **France: 13.7%**

BIOFUELS

- 1  **USA: 37.4%**
- 2  **Brazil: 22.3%**
- 3  **Indonesia: 9.0%**

HYDRO

- 1  **China: 30.4%**
- 2  **Brazil: 9.3%**
- 3  **Canada: 7.7%**

SOLAR

- 1  **China: 39.1%**
- 2  **USA: 14.2%**
- 3  **India: 6.3%**

WIND

- 1  **China: 39.8%**
- 2  **USA: 18.2%**
- 3  **Germany: 5.3%**

Price Changes of Consumer Goods & Services

Inflation doesn't affect everything in the same way, as essential services have seen the biggest price increases since 2000.



Elon Musk is the first person to reach a **\$700B** net worth, driven by Musk's **\$366B** estimated stake in SpaceX.

Elon Musk **\$714B**



The Daily Shot



\$258B Larry Page

Google cofounder Larry Page climbed to second place after Alphabet shares gained **63%** in 2025.

@SoberLook



\$251B Jeff Bezos



\$243B Larry Ellison



\$238B Sergey Brin



\$227B Mark Zuckerberg



\$194B Bernard Arnault & family



\$163B Jensen Huang



\$148B Warren Buffett



\$147B Amancio Ortega



\$146B Steve Ballmer



\$138B Michael Dell



\$134B Rob Walton & family



\$131B Jim Walton & family



\$122B Alice Walton



\$109B Michael Bloomberg



\$108B Mukesh Ambani



\$104B Bill Gates



\$101B Carlos Slim Helu & family



\$90B Françoise Bettencourt Meyers & family



THE Richest People IN THE WORLD 2026

The combined wealth of the world's 20 richest people totals **\$3.8T**, exceeding the GDP of France.

Data as of January 6

Source: Forbes



VISUAL CAPITALIST

12 LIFE LESSONS FROM A 90 YEAR OLD MONK:

1. **Never chase people** - the right ones walk with you, not away from you.
2. **You become what you tolerate** - raise your standards, or stay stuck.
3. **The quieter you become, the more you hear** - silence sharpens your inner voice.
4. **Heal so deeply** that even your triggers get bored.
5. **If it costs your peace, it's too expensive** - walk away.
6. **Time is your true currency** - spend it like it's running out.
7. **Most people don't listen to understand**, they listen to reply don't be one of them.
8. **Never argue with fools** - spectators can't tell the difference.
9. **Your ego screams, but your soul whispers** - follow the whisper.
10. **Let go, or be dragged** - suffering often begins with attachment.
11. **Rest is not laziness** - even the moon disappears for a night.
12. **You don't find yourself** - you remember who you were before the world changed you.

We'll probably never meet again. Unless you follow us.

the.mindspire

Follow