

A bank is a place that will lend you money if you can prove that you don't need it.
~~Bob Hope



Good Thursday morning,

The S&P 500 ended a three-day losing run on Wednesday as bond yields fell following the Treasury Department's announcement of an increased buyback operation for longer-term debt. Also weighing on equities Thursday was a pullback in Walmart shares. The retail giant dropped more than 6% after its adjusted earnings forecast for both the third quarter and the full year missed analyst expectations. That's even after the company hiked its full-year outlook. It also reported better-than-expected revenue for the second-quarter. -CNBC

Those annoying folks who tell you "I sure LOVE this suffocating heat".



Headlines for Thursday morning, 20-Aug-26:

- The National Debt has now more than doubled over the last decade
 - U.S. TOTAL PUBLIC DEBT OUTSTANDING TOPPED \$40 TRLN FOR THE FIRST TIME ON TUESDAY, THE U.S. TREASURY SAYS, HAVING DOUBLED SINCE 2017, WITH \$11.6 TRLN ADDED DURING PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP'S TWO TERMS AND \$8.4 TRLN ADDED DURING FORMER PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN'S TERM
- The Trump administration's surprise move to ramp up buybacks of long-dated Treasuries is drawing parallels with the Fed's "Operation Twist," a strategy that was last deployed in 2011 to pull down bond yields
 - After US 30-year bond yields hit their highest levels since the financial crisis, the Treasury announced an increase in buy-backs.
- ABOUT 7% OF SPACEX \$SPCX BECOMES SELLABLE TODAY

- Manhattan studios now average \$4,088 per month, up 8% year over year, while one-bedrooms average \$5,486, a 7% increase
- Hedge funds are rapidly unwinding their bullish Korea positioning:
 - Hedge fund net exposure to South Korea has HALVED since the July peak to ~4%, the lowest in a few months.
- Retail giant Amazon will expand drone delivery to nearly 500 cities and towns in the United States -- a sixfold increase from its current footprint -- by the end of 2026, the company announced on Wednesday.

US National Debt as % of GDP

- 1976: 34%
- 1986: 48%
- 1996: 64%
- 2006: 62%
- 2016: 105%
- 2026: 124%
- 2036: ?

US National Debt Milestones (1981 - 2026)			
National Debt (Trillions \$)	% Change Between Milestone	# Days Between Milestone	Date
40	2.6%	154	8/18/2026
39	2.6%	147	3/17/2026
38	2.7%	71	10/21/2025
37	2.8%	263	8/11/2025
36	2.9%	118	11/21/2024
35	2.9%	210	7/26/2024
34	3.0%	105	12/29/2023
33	3.1%	92	9/15/2023
32	3.2%	255	6/15/2023
31	3.3%	245	10/3/2022
30	3.4%	46	1/31/2022
29	3.6%	290	12/16/2021
28	3.7%	151	3/1/2021
27	3.8%	114	10/1/2020
26	4.0%	35	6/9/2020
25	4.2%	28	5/5/2020
24	4.3%	159	4/7/2020
23	4.5%	262	10/31/2019
22	4.8%	333	2/11/2019
21	5.0%	188	3/15/2018
20	5.3%	588	9/8/2017
19	5.6%	427	1/29/2016
18	5.9%	407	11/28/2014
17	6.3%	412	10/17/2013
16	6.7%	290	8/31/2012
15	7.1%	319	11/15/2011
14	7.7%	213	12/31/2010
13	8.3%	197	6/1/2010
12	9.1%	245	11/16/2009
11	10.0%	167	3/16/2009
10	11.1%	396	9/30/2008
9	12.5%	682	8/31/2007
8	14.3%	642	10/18/2005
7	16.7%	688	1/15/2004
6	20.0%	2,195	2/26/2002
5	25.0%	1,241	2/23/1996
4	33.3%	914	9/30/1992
3	50.0%	1,370	3/31/1990
2	100.0%	1,642	6/30/1986
1			12/31/1981



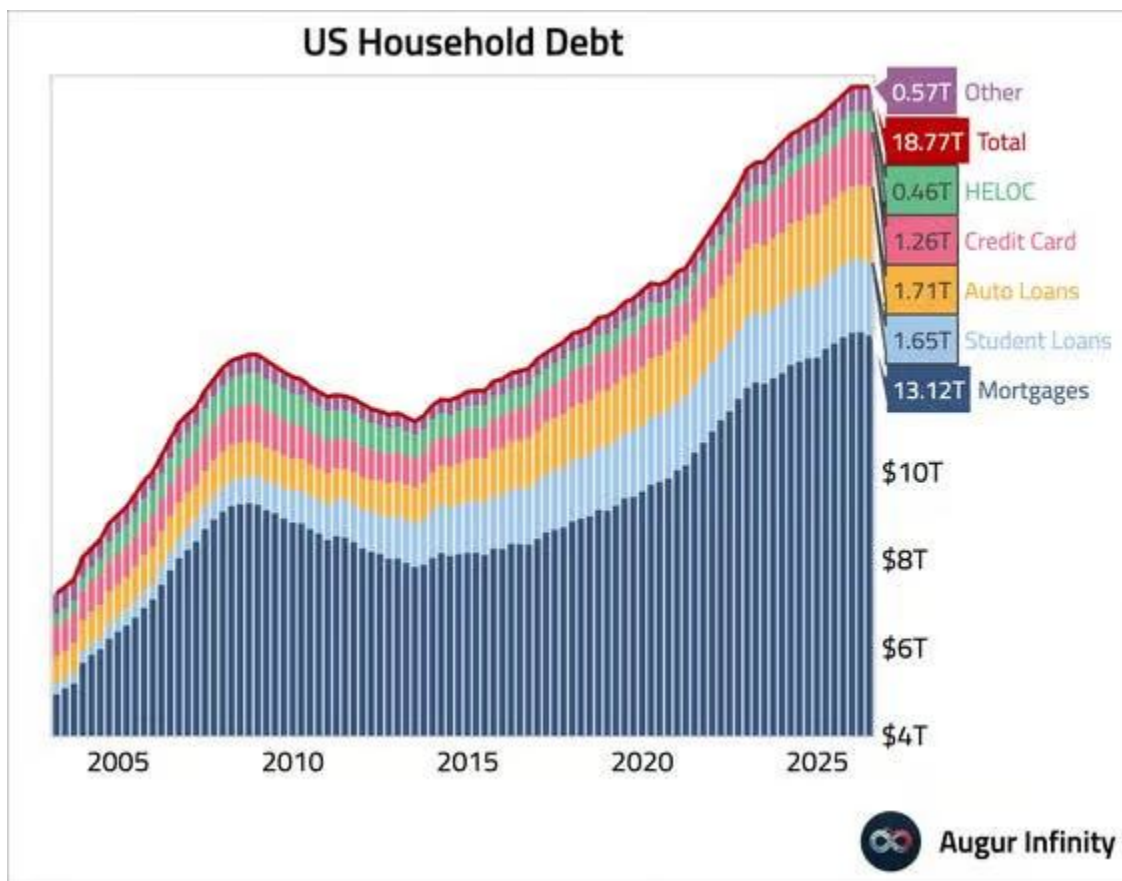
CREATIVE PLANNING

@CharlieBilello

What is happening with US consumers?

- US household debt declined -\$13 billion in Q2 2026 to \$18.77 trillion, the first quarterly decline since Q2 2020.

- The decline was driven by mortgage debt, which fell -\$74 billion to \$13.12 trillion.
- Student loan balances also declined -\$7 billion to \$1.65 trillion, the lowest since Q2 2025.
- Historically, aggregate household debt has rarely declined outside periods of major financial or economic stress, making this contraction unusual given that risk assets were surging in Q2.
- However, the headline decline masks a more concerning trend: non-housing debt rose +\$48 billion in Q2.
- That was led by a +\$28 billion jump in auto loans to an all-time high of \$1.71 trillion, and a +\$21 billion rise in credit card debt to \$1.26 trillion, the 2nd-highest on record.
- In other words, the consumer may look less leveraged on paper, but the underlying credit data tell a very different story.



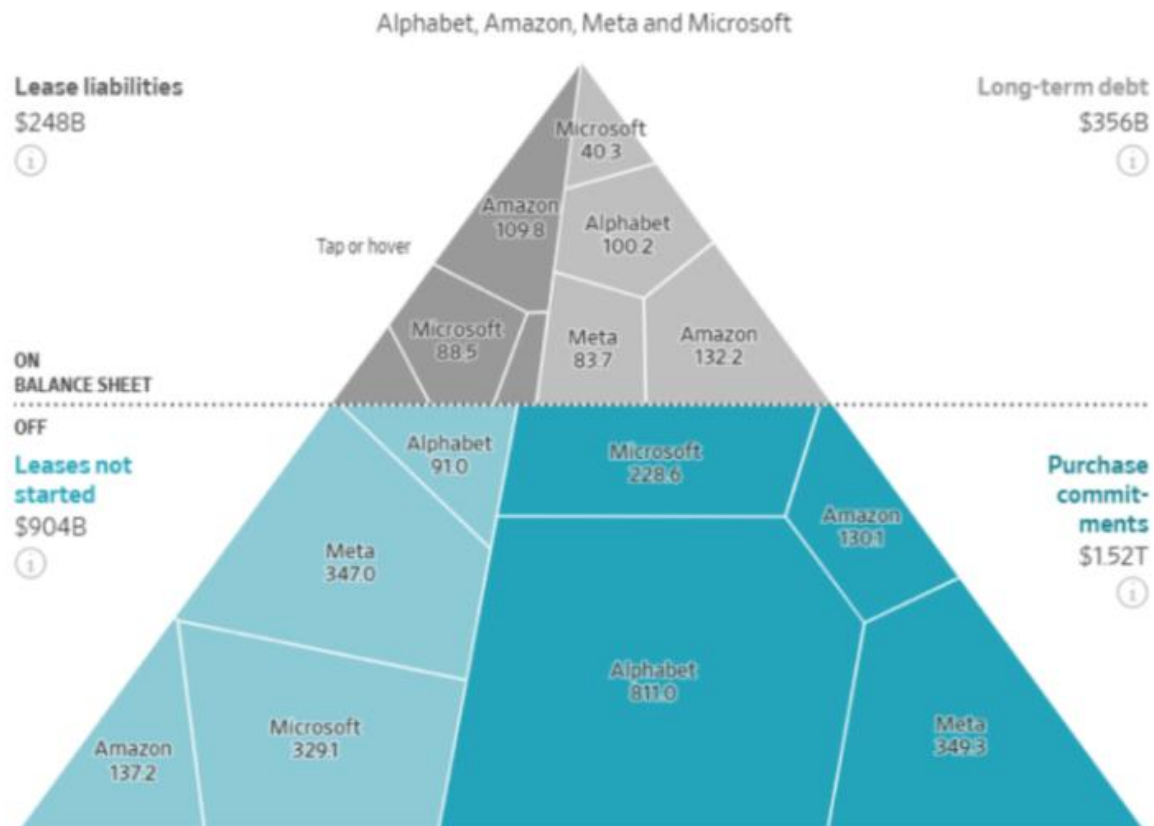
Is the leverage bubble in the US bursting?

- US margin debt plunged -\$85 BILLION in July, to \$1.42 trillion, the largest drop EVER.

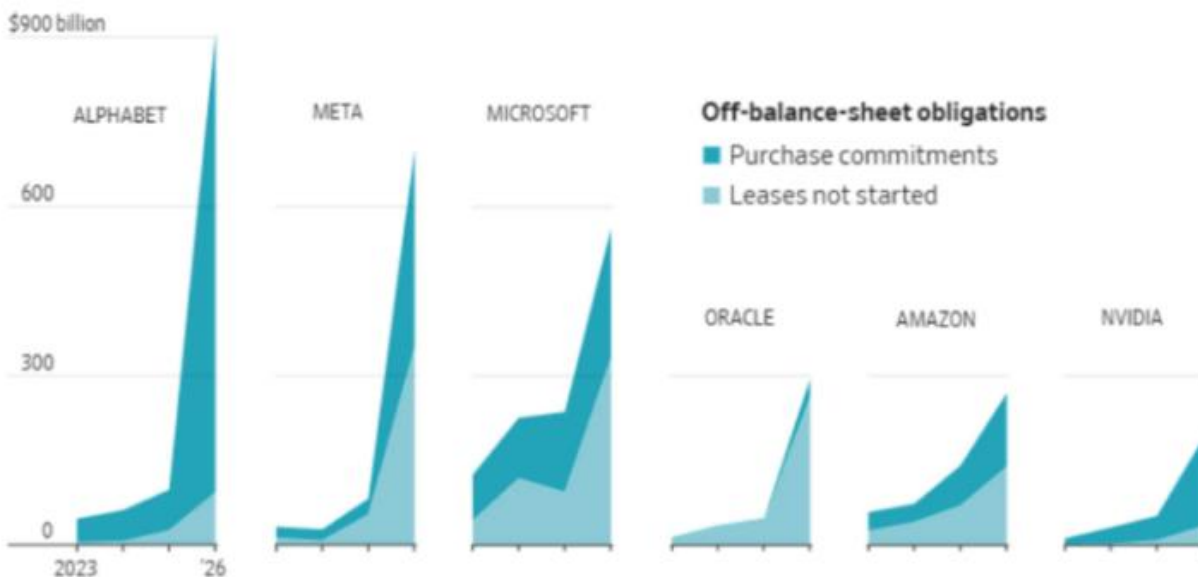
- That is especially notable after margin debt surged +\$198 billion in May and June, the largest 2-month surge on record, suggesting a sharp reversal in leveraged positioning.
- To put this into context, the 2nd-biggest monthly drop was -\$80 billion in January 2022, just as US equities entered their 2022 downturn.
- The S&P 500 went on to fall -25% from its January peak to its October 2022 low.
- One month does not prove a bear market has begun, but a record unwind immediately after a record borrowing binge is a major warning sign.
- The bigger risk is a feedback loop where falling asset prices trigger more margin calls, forced selling and further deleveraging.



“Select” commitment ON-balance sheet and OFF-balance sheet



Note: Data are as of each company's most recent quarterly filing and in billions, except where noted.
Source: WSJ analysis of company filings



Note: Data are as of June, except Meta, which are as of July, and Nvidia, which are as of April.
Source: WSJ analysis of company filings

U.S. Dollar 15-Year Trendline –Now or Never?

U.S. Dollar Index (\$DXY)

98.83 -0.81 (-0.81%) 08/19/26 [ICE/US]

CHART for Wed, Aug 19th, 2026

Full Screen Chart ↗
Notes 📝 My Charts ➕ Alerts 📢 Watch ⭐ Actions ▾ Help ?



When it's 7am and already 88 degrees...



Cryptocurrency

- TRUMP: US HAS DISCUSSED PLANS TO ACCUMULATE “SIZABLE” AMOUNTS OF BITCOIN AND OTHER CRYPTOCURRENCIES
- Bitwise Bitcoin ETF bought 550 Bitcoin Wednesday (\$36 million)

RECORD SHORT LIQUIDATION IN BITCOIN FUTURES

- A record volume of short positions in Bitcoin futures was liquidated on the market Wednesday.
- The event is described as the largest such liquidation in the history of observations. Historically, major short liquidations have often been recorded during market reversal phases.



Jim Cramer inadvertently saved the blockchain;



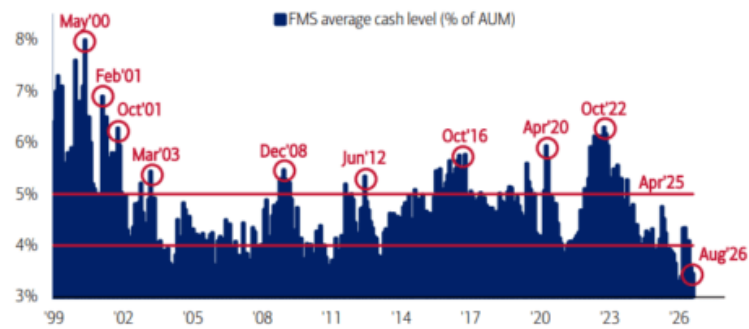
When you're out shopping in this heat and duck into ANY over-air-conditioned store...



Global fund manager cash allocations declined another -0.1 percentage point in August, to 3.5%, the 6th-lowest level since 1998, according to a BofA survey of 180 participants overseeing a combined \$525 billion in assets.

Chart 2: FMS cash level falls to 3.5%, the 6th lowest level since 1998

BofA FMS average cash level (% of AUM)



Source: BofA Global Fund Manager Survey

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

BofA FMS cash level fell further from uber-low 3.6% of AUM in July to 3.5% in August, the lowest level since Feb'26 and 6th lowest level in FMS history (since '98).

BofA Global FMS Cash Rule "sell" signal is still triggered ("sell" when cash is at or below 4.0%).

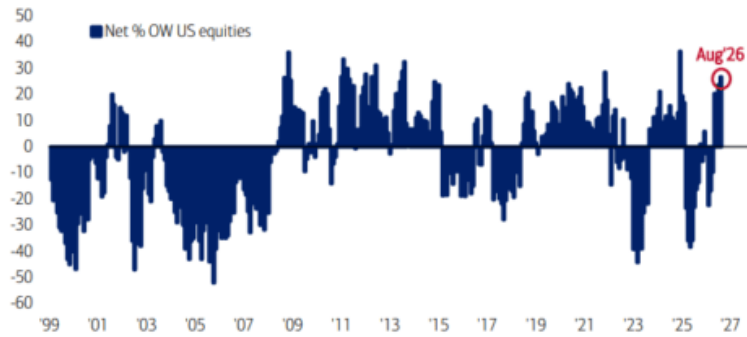
When the sun makes you mad and sweaty instead of sunkissed and happy...



Meanwhile, 56% of surveyed fund managers are overweight equities, the highest proportion since November 2021. d

- This also marks the 14th consecutive month of net overweight positioning.

Chart 3: FMS equity allocation rises to highest since Nov'21
Net % FMS overweight equities



Source: BofA Global Fund Manager Survey

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

FMS allocation to global equities rose to net 56% overweight, the highest since Nov'21.

FMS investors have been OW equities for 14 consecutive months.

VIP Pricing

	LAST	CHANGE	% CHG
.DJI	53,463.05 USD	+119.65	+0.22%
.IXIC	26,331.09 USD	+41.379	+0.16%
.SPX	7,707.98 USD	+16.22	+0.21%
@SP.1	7,696.50 USD	-32.50	-0.42%
.VIX	15.97 USD	+1.08	+7.25%
@CL.1	88.67 USD	+2.84	+3.31%
@GC.1	4,513.10 USD	-32.20	-0.71%
@SI.1	65.93 USD	+0.105	+0.16%
@TY.1	108.4531 USD	-0.3281	-0.30%
US10Y	4.702%	+0.049	+1.0531%
US30YFRM	6.72 USD	-0.03	-0.44%
BTC.CM=	71,765.74 USD	+3,428.29	+5.02%
ETC.BF=	6.73 USD	+0.39	+6.17%
CAD=	1.3768	-0.0038	-0.2752%
EUR=	1.1684	+0.0007	+0.0599%
GBP=	1.3634	+0.0031	+0.23%
JPY=	158.70	+0.54	+0.34%
AAPL	318.04 USD	+1.21	+0.38%
AMZN	263.00 USD	-2.84	-1.07%
BRK.B	500.08 USD	+0.46	+0.09%
DEFT	0.49 USD	+0.0084	+1.7442%
TSLA	345.97 USD	-5.15	-1.47%
META	545.43 USD	-0.60	-0.11%
MSFT	482.40 USD	-1.00	-0.21%
GOOGL	341.25 USD	-3.47	-1.01%
NVDA	216.66 USD	-0.90	-0.41%
QQQ	710.23 USD	-5.85	-0.82%
NFLX	80.84 USD	+0.62	+0.77%
UVXY	20.05 USD	+0.46	+2.35%
XOM	167.50 USD	+2.73	+1.66%

	LAST	CHANGE	% CHG
SLV	59.62 USD	-0.39	-0.65%
PSLV	21.50 USD	-0.12	-0.56%
AG	20.26 USD	-0.59	-2.83%
SPCX	136.82 USD	-2.83	-2.03%
LOFD	7.73 USD	-0.04	-0.56%
LOFF	14.36 USD	-0.65	-4.33%
SKHY	159.60 USD	+3.44	+2.20%
MU	925.50 USD	-11.61	-1.24%
SNDK	1,550.00 USD	-18.87	-1.20%
BITO	9.69 USD	+0.44	+4.78%
AA	50.53 USD	-1.01	-1.96%
UNH	388.05 USD	-0.56	-0.14%
AI	10.35 USD	-0.03	-0.29%
LLY	1,268.06 USD	-12.28	-0.96%
RH	169.97 USD	-1.08	-0.63%
COIN	169.27 USD	+9.07	+5.66%
CRK	13.50 USD	-0.04	-0.30%
CVX	208.37 USD	+2.61	+1.27%
GLW	149.81 USD	-2.65	-1.74%
SBUX	105.12 USD	+0.14	+0.13%
MNTN	12.82 USD	+0.32	+2.56%
HIMS	30.29 USD	-0.80	-2.57%
RIOT	19.70 USD	+0.32	+1.65%
DEFI			
XRPI	6.45 USD	+0.62	+10.63%
ASTS	65.30 USD	-1.13	-1.70%
BRZE	30.65 USD	+1.53	+5.25%
DJT	8.43 USD	+0.08	+0.96%
GME	18.04 USD	+0.01	+0.06%
BA	220.96 USD	-1.24	-0.56%

Coin		Price	1h	24h	7d	24h Volume	Market Cap	Last 7 Days
 Bitcoin BTC	Buy	\$71,773.75	▲ 0.0%	▲ 11.6%	▲ 13.0%	\$65,721,922,951	\$1,440,516,851,210	
 Ethereum ETH	Buy	\$2,275.02	▲ 0.7%	▲ 19.7%	▲ 22.0%	\$37,558,576,631	\$274,578,747,150	
 Tether USDT		\$0.9994	▲ 0.0%	▲ 0.0%	▲ 0.0%	\$106,703,584,125	\$182,992,371,269	
 BNB BNB	Buy	\$642.41	▲ 0.4%	▲ 7.3%	▲ 5.8%	\$1,828,470,726	\$85,550,890,606	
 XRP XRP	Buy	\$1.18	▲ 2.3%	▲ 17.9%	▲ 17.6%	\$4,310,905,706	\$74,022,500,149	
 USDC USDC		\$0.9996	▲ 0.0%	▲ 0.0%	▲ 0.0%	\$27,173,973,005	\$72,268,864,157	
 Solana SOL	Buy	\$86.84	▲ 0.1%	▲ 13.0%	▲ 15.5%	\$5,784,085,414	\$50,633,733,367	
 TRON TRX	Buy	\$0.3368	▲ 0.2%	▲ 1.4%	▲ 1.1%	\$543,771,162	\$31,972,205,205	
 Figure Heloc FIGR_HELOC	Buy	\$1.04	▲ 0.0%	▲ 3.8%	▲ 0.3%	\$50,619,675	\$22,493,949,860	
 Hyperliquid HYPE	Buy	\$71.47	▼ 0.7%	▲ 22.8%	▲ 25.2%	\$1,740,054,609	\$15,896,317,386	

Symbol	Price~	Exp Date	Type	Strike	Moneyess	Bid	Latest	Ask	Volume	Open Int	Vol/OI~	Imp Vol	IV	Delta	Last Trade
MRK	152.20	11/20/26 (93)	Put	135.00	-11.30%	3.50	3.75	4.00	10,918	101	108.10	34.70%	35.73%	-0.2181	08/19/26
PSKY	10.60	12/18/26 (121)	Call	12.00	-13.21%	0.86	0.87	0.88	42,167	404	104.37	45.52%	56.01%	0.4169	08/19/26
AS	34.02	12/18/26 (121)	Call	45.00	-32.28%	0.85	0.90	1.00	11,902	129	92.26	42.91%	47.56%	0.2010	08/19/26
NXPI	226.02	01/15/27 (149)	Call	350.00	-54.85%	1.90	3.20	3.60	20,066	281	71.41	42.69%	46.58%	0.0974	08/19/26
MBI	4.82	11/20/26 (93)	Put	4.00	-17.01%	0.15	0.15	0.45	6,348	120	52.90	66.97%	63.00%	-0.2646	08/19/26
KEEL	3.25	09/25/26 (37)	Call	4.50	-38.46%	0.13	0.14	0.16	12,097	233	51.92	116.11%	115.16%	0.2438	08/19/26
CBRS	215.69	09/18/26 (30)	Call	260.00	-20.54%	10.70	11.11	11.50	16,543	329	50.28	95.53%	102.15%	0.3152	08/19/26
PURR	9.39	08/21/26 (2)	Call	8.50	+9.48%	1.05	1.11	1.15	5,664	116	48.83	125.48%	205.31%	0.7681	08/19/26
MDT	94.13	10/16/26 (58)	Call	105.00	-11.55%	0.92	0.97	1.01	41,105	871	47.19	29.65%	27.91%	0.1788	08/19/26
TEM	61.25	12/18/26 (121)	Call	75.00	-22.45%	6.10	6.25	6.50	10,105	217	46.57	72.51%	75.42%	0.4130	08/19/26
HAL	35.02	08/21/26 (2)	Put	34.50	-1.48%	0.10	0.19	0.24	6,283	135	46.54	32.74%	36.53%	-0.2843	08/19/26
NVAX	8.79	08/28/26 (9)	Call	9.00	-2.39%	0.36	0.36	0.37	11,779	295	39.93	71.99%	82.46%	0.4559	08/19/26
NXPI	226.02	01/15/27 (149)	Call	300.00	-32.73%	7.10	7.90	8.20	10,026	257	39.01	42.69%	47.34%	0.2229	08/19/26
CLF	11.17	09/04/26 (16)	Put	11.50	+2.95%	0.72	0.79	0.84	5,126	141	36.35	58.90%	63.99%	-0.5579	08/19/26
TSLA	351.12	08/21/26 (2)	Put	347.50	-1.03%	3.20	3.25	3.30	24,041	668	35.99	41.57%	47.23%	-0.3749	08/19/26
PFE	28.24	08/21/26 (2)	Call	28.50	-0.92%	0.13	0.15	0.15	20,322	579	35.10	23.47%	29.83%	0.3412	08/19/26
CLF	11.17	08/28/26 (9)	Call	10.50	+6.00%	0.72	0.78	0.90	4,063	120	33.86	58.90%	56.44%	0.7719	08/19/26
BTDR	9.63	10/16/26 (58)	Put	9.00	-6.54%	1.05	1.12	1.15	4,053	124	32.69	96.42%	96.22%	-0.3519	08/19/26
CLF	11.17	08/28/26 (9)	Put	10.50	-6.00%	0.13	0.20	0.20	5,902	187	31.56	58.90%	61.70%	-0.2449	08/19/26
MSTR	104.25	08/21/26 (2)	Put	101.00	-3.12%	1.24	1.32	1.41	8,537	271	31.50	72.99%	87.28%	-0.2997	08/19/26

Cheers,

-NOD-

Nathaniel Orr-Depner

<https://www.stickytrades.com/nodlive/>