

It is amazing how quickly the kids learn to drive a car, yet are unable to understand the lawn mower, snowblower and vacuum cleaner. ~~Ben Berger



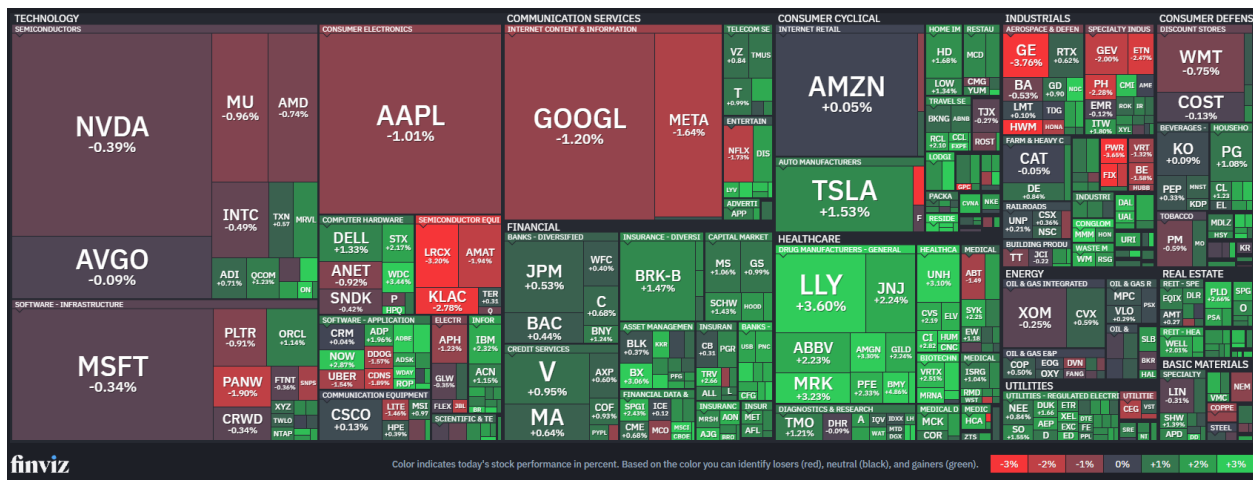
Good Tuesday evening,

U.S. stocks recovered from early weakness as oil prices and Treasury yields retreated, while strong corporate earnings supported a rotation into healthcare, industrials and smaller companies.

The Dow substantially outperformed the Nasdaq, signaling that investors are finding opportunities outside the crowded AI and mega-cap technology trade.

What drove today's market?

1. Oil retreats, reducing inflation pressure. Brent crude slipped to approximately \$108–\$109 after approaching \$112 earlier in the session. Reports of possible renewed U.S.-Iran diplomatic efforts helped sentiment, although no agreement has been confirmed.
2. Treasury yields ease. The 10-year Treasury yield declined toward 5.10%, providing some relief to equity valuations. Investors continue to assess whether the Federal Reserve will need to maintain restrictive policy for longer.
3. Healthcare leads the market. Eli Lilly and Moderna rallied, with healthcare outperforming the broader S&P 500. Real estate and utilities also advanced as investors diversified away from technology.
4. AI spending concerns persist. Technology stocks struggled to maintain their early gains. Investors remain skeptical about financing costs, data-center profitability and the pace at which AI investment will generate returns.
5. Housing data deteriorates. September pending home sales fell 7.3%, highlighting the impact of elevated mortgage rates. Housing starts also weakened, creating additional concerns for homebuilders and housing-related businesses.



How I feel when I say “let it rest” after microwaving 12 chicken nuggets...



Headlines from Tuesday, 20-Oct-26:

- [Dow jumps 500 points as earnings optimism steadies market](#)
- **US PENDING HOME SALES FALL 7.3% M/M TO RECORD-LOW LEVEL**

- **U.S. PRIVATE-SECTOR HIRING LOSES MOMENTUM**

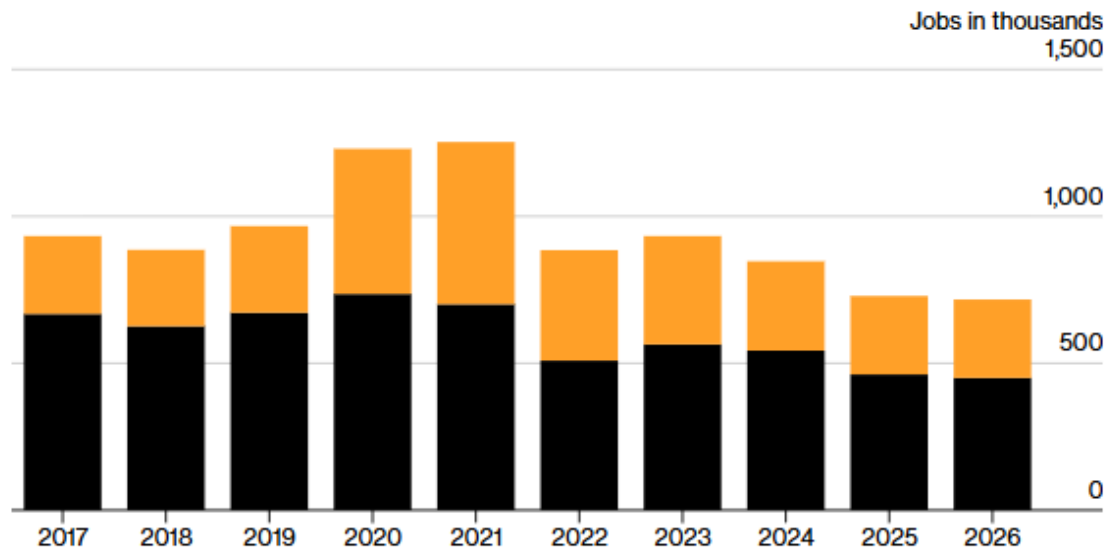
- ADP reports private employers added an average of 18,500 jobs per week over the four weeks ending October 3, down from 26,000 the previous week.
- That's a 29% slowdown in the four-week moving average, signaling softer hiring momentum heading into October.
- The 10 biggest AI stocks now make up a record 42% of the entire U.S. market: the Magnificent 7, plus Broadcom, AMD and Micron, per Bloomberg.
- The cost of hedging against default by the hyperscalers has hit an all-time high, per FT
- Goldman Sachs just raised its copper forecasts.
 - End of 2026: \$14,700 a ton, up from \$13,735
 - 2027 average: \$15,400, up from \$13,800
 - The bank expects a supply shortage outside the US of 950,000 tons this year and 220,000 tons in 2027.
- **\$QCOM CUTS JOBS GLOBALLY AFTER REVIEWS**
 - ♦ CEO Cristiano Amon memo calls it a “performance-focused reduction” to build stronger culture
 - ♦ Notifications start November; headcount ~52,000 as of last year
- Apple will partner with Perryman over the next three years and commit up to \$100 million.

According to Bloomberg, this is lowest holiday recruitment since 2008

Seasonal Hiring Forecast to Drop Slightly

Jobs added in the fourth quarter in retail, transportation and warehousing are predicted to drop again this year.

■ Retail Trade ■ Transportation and Warehousing



Note: 2026 figures are estimates

Source: Challenger, Gray & Christmas

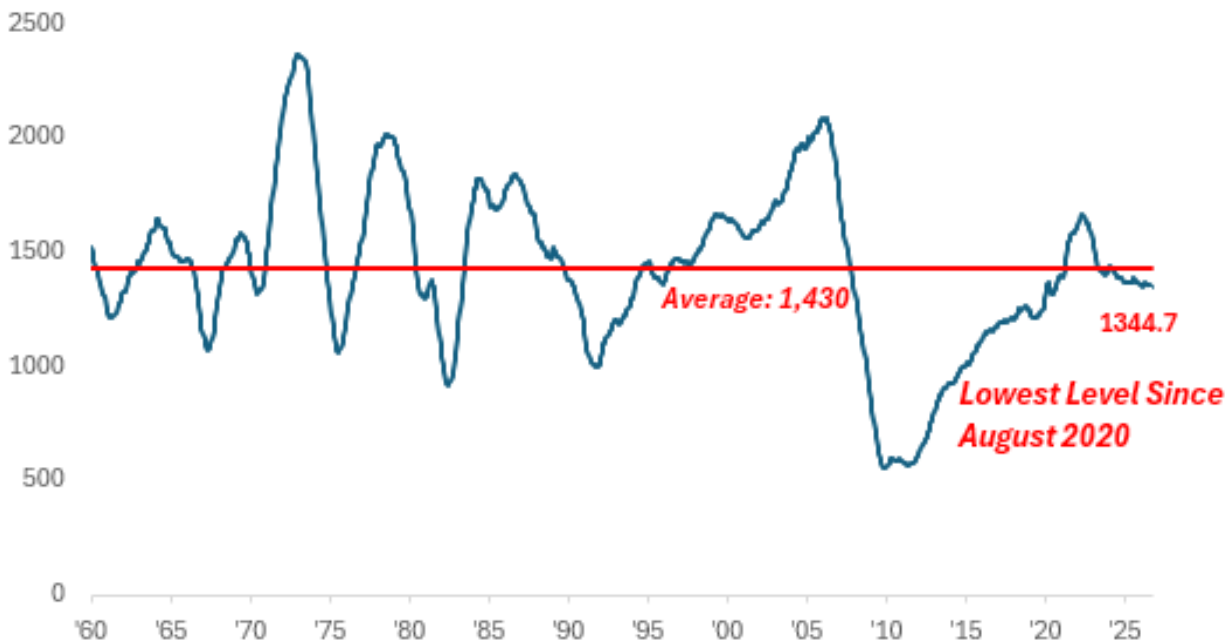
Housing Starts Collapse Near COVID Lows As Homebuilder Confidence Crashes - Zerohedge

- The gap between current mortgage rates (7.5%) and the average mortgage across all of American homeowners (4.33%) is extreme to say the least, **trapping sellers and buyers...**



The 12-month average of Housing Starts is at its lowest level since August 2020.

Housing Starts ('000s, SAAR): Twelve Month Average



The Shiller PE ratio is at its second highest level EVER

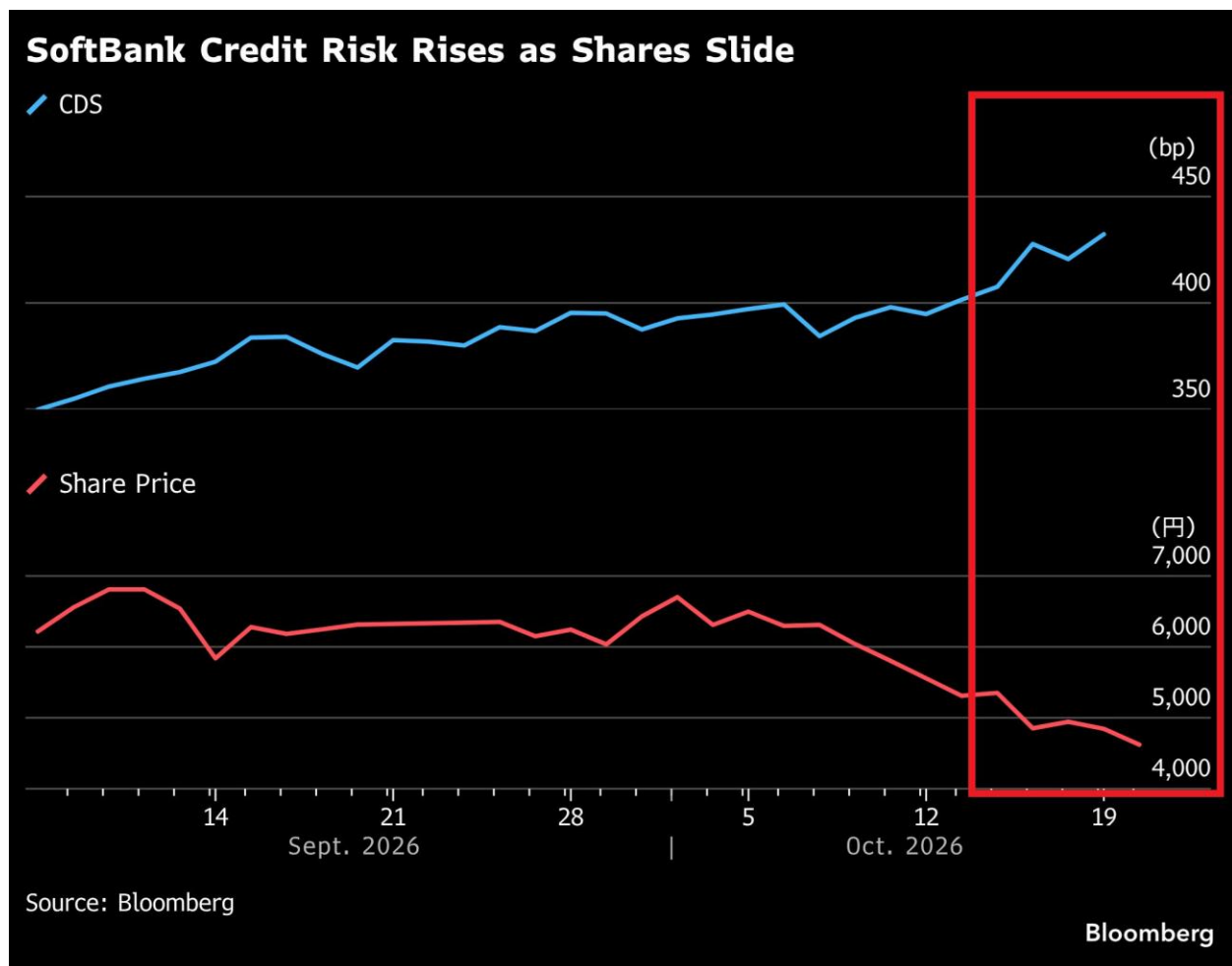
Shiller PE Ratio



SoftBank's credit risk is *SURGING* amid AI funding concerns:

- SoftBank's 5-year credit default swap (CDS) spread is up to 432 basis points, its highest level since November 2022.
- This figure has risen over +80 basis points since early September, and more than +30 bps over the last week.
- Furthermore, the company's shares have cratered -50% from their June peak.
- This comes as investors grow increasingly concerned about debt-fueled AI investments, rising financing costs, and SoftBank's potential acquisition of Allied Universal.

- SoftBank faces at least -\$6 billion in projected cash outflows in the Fiscal Year ending March 2027, with additional AI investments and a potential acquisition increasing its funding needs.
- The company's loan-to-value (LTV) ratio could also approach its self-imposed 25% ceiling, potentially forcing it to raise fresh capital to finance the deal.
- SoftBank's CDS spread is now the highest among major Japanese companies, exceeding Nissan's by more than 130 bps.
- SoftBank's growing financial strain also highlights the cost of its aggressive AI strategy, including its \$64.6 billion cumulative investment in OpenAI, representing a ~13% ownership stake, and the sale of its entire Nvidia stake to free up capital.
- One of the largest investors in the global AI ecosystem is facing severe pressure.



The chef you THINK is making your food vs. the chef that ACTUALLY makes your food;



Economic

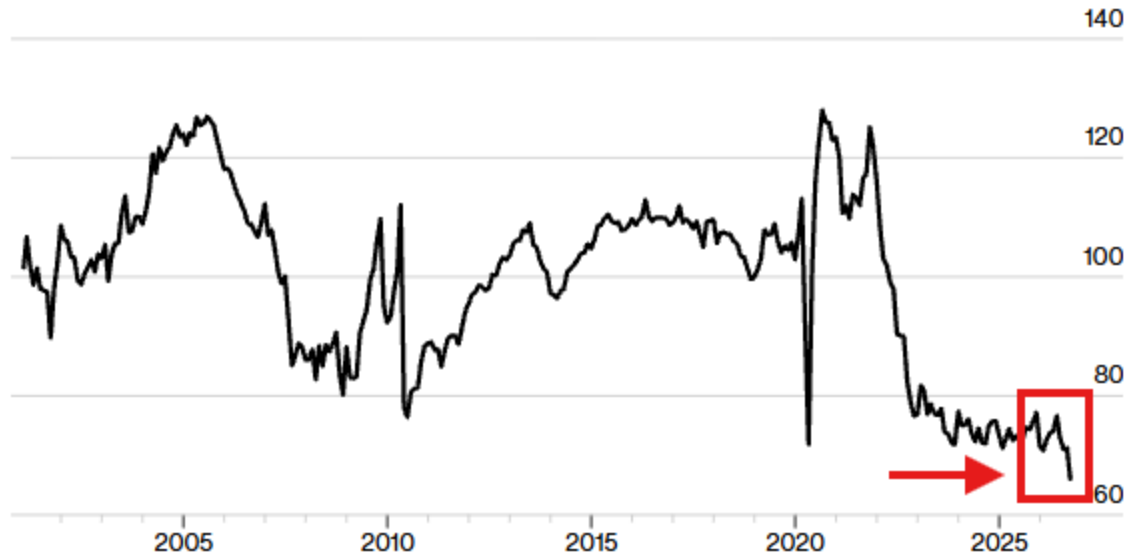
- US SEPTEMBER HOUSING DATA
 - ◆ Building permits 1.40M | -0.2% MoM vs -1.3% expected | prior -2.1%
 - ◆ Housing starts 1.221M | -5.2% MoM vs +1.9% expected
 - ◆ August starts revised to -5.9% from -2.6%
- US PENDING HOME SALES FALL 7.3% M/M TO RECORD-LOW LEVEL
 - ◆ Index 66 | -7.3% MoM vs -0.5% expected | prior +0.3%
 - ◆ Not seasonally adjusted -12.6% YoY vs -3.9% expected | prior -4.9%

- US ADP Weekly Employment Change Oct 3rd: 18.500K (prev 24.750K; prevR 26.000K)
- US PHILADELPHIA FED NON-MANUFACTURING ACTIVITY INDEX: -22.6 (PREV -22.0)
- US REDBOOK YOY ACTUAL 9.0% (FORECAST -, PREVIOUS 10.4%)

US Pending Home Sales Index Falls to Record Low

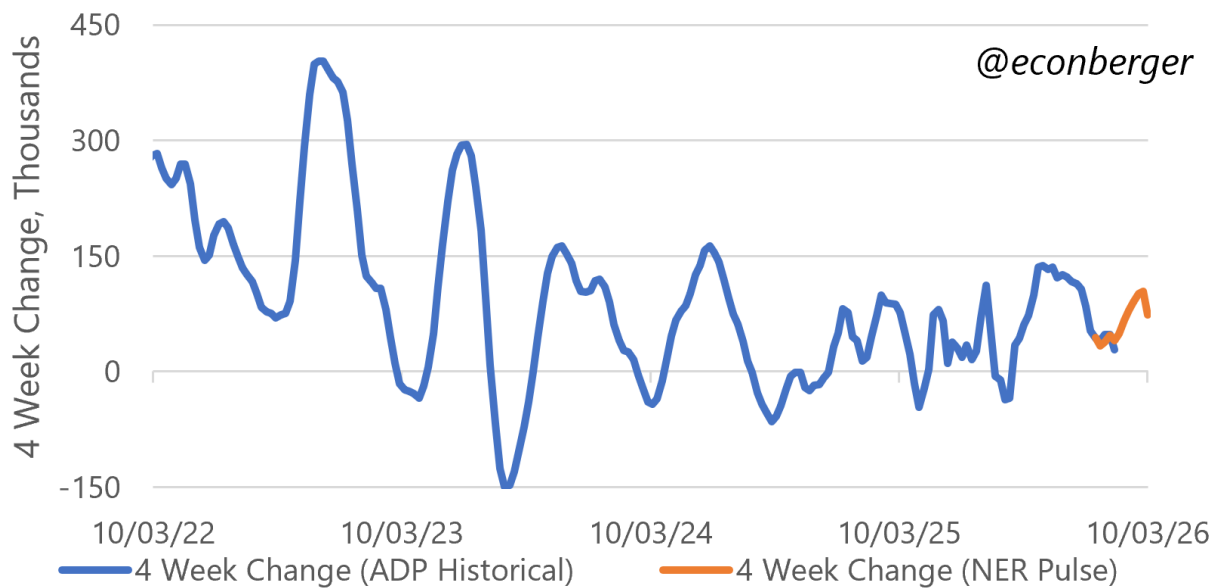
The index of contract signings tumbled 7.3% last month

／ Pending Home Sales Index



Source: National Association of Realtors

Private Sector Employment Growth



Source: ADP

New cook: "I have 10 years of experience."



Cryptocurrency

- Switzerland officially approves its first spot Bitcoin ETF for retail investors.
- "JP Morgan recommended Bitcoin because they know BTC holders also have money everywhere else. It's all about growing their asset management business." — Andrew Parish
- OPENZEPELIN, WHICH S&P GLOBAL AGREED TO ACQUIRE, EMBEDS CHAINLINK \$LINK CCIP AND ACE NATIVELY ACROSS ITS SMART CONTRACT TOOLING
 - OPENZEPELIN'S TOOLING STANDARD IS USED BY BLACKROCK, WISDOMTREE AND FRANKLIN TEMPLETON

ETF buyers came back in size yesterday.

- US spot \$BTC ETFs took in \$663M, the most in a day since September, and all of it went into BlackRock's IBIT.
- That single day erased the funds' net outflows for October. Follow-through would confirm the demand is back.

US Spot Bitcoin ETFs Took In \$663M, the Most in a Day Since September

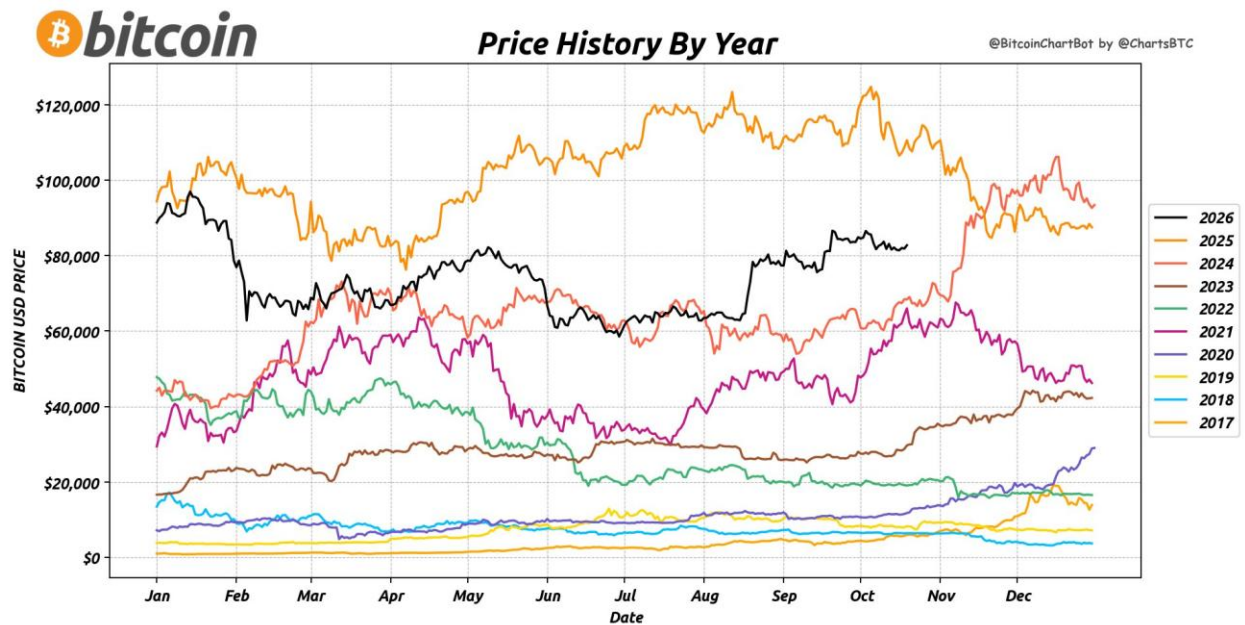
Daily net flows into US spot Bitcoin ETFs



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Bitcoin Price History By Year as of 10/20/2026



Me, after cooking ONE half-decent dinner for the family...

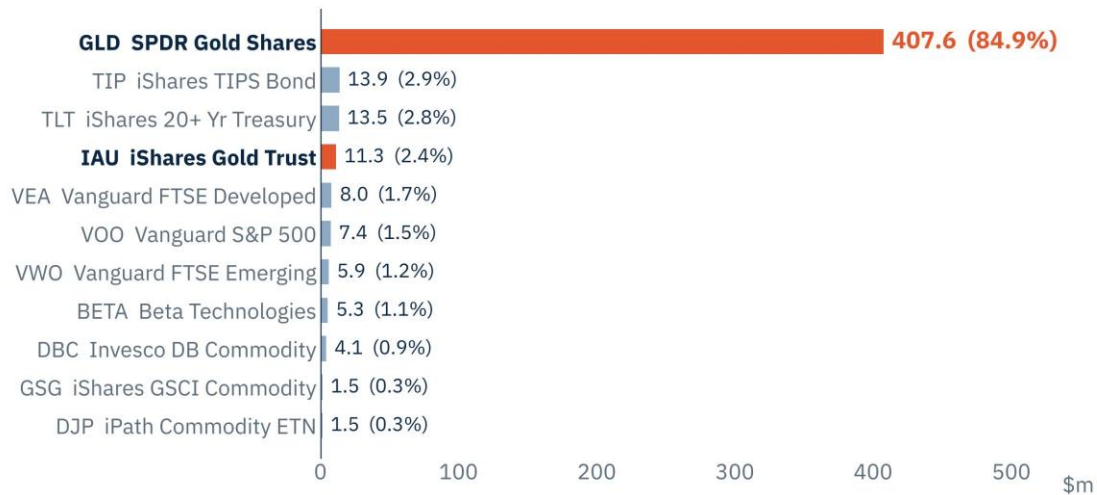


Ray Dalio's family office sticks to what he believes and says in interviews - the decline of fiat currencies.

- Hence, he holds 87% in Gold ETFs.

Gold ETFs are 87% of Dalio's disclosed US portfolio

Dalio family office 13F holdings at 30 Jun 2026, market value in \$m



Source: SEC EDGAR, 13F-HR filings of Marino Management, LLC (CIK 1845680), Dalio family office, Westport CT
Total \$479.9m in 11 positions; gold = SPDR Gold Shares + iShares Gold Trust

SERVERS when they make a mistake vs CHEFS when they make a mistake



S&P 500's forward P/E has compressed considerably from its October 2025 peak and is now trading slightly below its 10-year average -Liz Ann Sonders



VIP Pricing

	LAST	CHANGE	% CHG		LAST	CHANGE	% CHG
.DJI	52,495.88 USD	+529.85	+1.02%	SLV	52.12 USD	+0.58	+1.13%
.IXIC	26,424.817 USD	-6.069	-0.02%	PSLV	18.66 USD	+0.18	+0.97%
.SPX	7,712.57 USD	+21.84	+0.28%	AG	15.99 USD	+0.01	+0.06%
@SP.1	7,754.50 USD	+20.00	+0.26%	SPCX	147.79 USD	-0.17	-0.11%
.VIX	17.36 USD	-1.08	-5.86%	LOFD	6.30 USD	+0.02	+0.32%
@CL.1	101.09 USD	-2.57	-2.48%	LOFF	15.89 USD	+0.03	+0.19%
@GC.1	4,138.80 USD	-21.30	-0.51%	SKHY	139.79 USD	-3.08	-2.16%
@SI.1	57.90 USD	+0.627	+1.09%	MU	896.07 USD	-8.83	-0.98%
@TY.1	105.3281 USD	+0.0781	+0.07%	SNDK	1,365.38 USD	-5.74	-0.42%
US10Y	5.115%	-0.021	-0.4089%	BITO	11.01 USD	+0.09	+0.82%
US30YFRM	7.40 USD	-0.03	-0.40%	AA	40.79 USD	-0.88	-2.11%
BTC.CM=	82,484.41 USD	+656.97	+0.80%	UNH	419.26 USD	+12.38	+3.04%
ETC.BF=	7.88 USD	+0.17	+2.22%	AI	11.69 USD	+0.41	+3.63%
CAD=	1.4056	-0.0054	-0.3827%	LLY	1,283.66 USD	+43.32	+3.49%
EUR=	1.1235	+0.0025	+0.223%	RH	119.74 USD	+5.71	+5.01%
GBP=	1.3379	+0.0077	+0.58%	COIN	170.85 USD	+2.40	+1.42%
JPY=	158.22	-0.26	-0.1641%	CRK	14.12 USD	-0.12	-0.84%
AAPL	339.50 USD	-3.44	-1.00%	CVX	225.71 USD	+1.34	+0.60%
AMZN	262.63 USD	+0.18	+0.07%	GLW	132.26 USD	-0.48	-0.36%
AVGO	334.37 USD	-0.22	-0.07%	SBUX	99.37 USD	+1.50	+1.53%
NFLX	68.69 USD	-1.16	-1.66%	MNTN	10.47 USD	+0.54	+5.44%
DEFT	0.4231 USD	+0.0074	+1.7801%	HIMS	29.21 USD	+1.06	+3.77%
TSLA	373.71 USD	+5.65	+1.54%	RIOT	13.77 USD	-0.20	-1.43%
META	693.94 USD	-11.50	-1.63%	XRPI	7.13 USD	+0.15	+2.15%
MSFT	531.87 USD	-1.65	-0.31%	ASTS	41.13 USD	-0.74	-1.77%
GOOGL	340.28 USD	-3.91	-1.13%	BRZE	45.57 USD	+15.53	+51.70%
NVDA	216.47 USD	-0.62	-0.29%	DJT	6.47 USD	+0.04	+0.62%
QQQ	717.63 USD	-0.73	-0.10%	GME	26.47 USD	+0.03	+0.11%
BRK.B	539.82 USD	+7.59	+1.43%	BA	190.47 USD	-0.95	-0.50%
UVXY	17.18 USD	-0.20	-1.15%	DKS	143.08 USD	-0.69	-0.48%

NODLive

RECAP 10/20 Unusual Puts:

\$FXI Dec 34 P

\$GOOGL Nov13 295 P

\$HTZ Jun 1 P

\$JBLU Jun-28 2 P

\$JBLU Jan-28 2 P

\$NFLX Nov 65 P

\$JBLU Dec-28 3 P

\$MRK Jan 130 P

\$SPCX Jan 110 P

\$OUT Dec 30 P

\$SLG Dec 42.5 P

\$BMJ Oct30 57 P

RECAP 10/20 Unusual Calls:

\$RVMD Nov 220 C

\$IBIT Oct30 49 C

\$MSFT Dec 675 C

\$FRMI Jan 3.5 C

\$NOK Jan 11 C

\$FLR Nov 50/55 C Spd

\$SOUN Nov06 6.5 C

\$RKT Oct23 11.5 C

\$SNAP Jan 7 C

\$NVDA Nov 230 C

\$UPS Dec 110 C

\$PCG Dec 17 C

\$EWZ Jan 47 C

\$SOUN Apr 10 C

RECAP 10/20 Chatter:

\$BAX - FDA facility warn

\$QGEN+ EQT

\$LION + Legendary

\$DVA \$FMS \$TMDX - WH new kidney care plan

RECAP 10/20 +Pos Comments:

\$MYGN + Piper

 1 3:09 PM

Coin		Price	1h	24h	7d	24h Volume	Market Cap	Last 7 Days
 Bitcoin BTC	Buy	\$82,519.24	▲ 0.1%	▲ 0.8%	▼ 0.7%	\$27,180,789,047	\$1,658,541,160,841	
 Ethereum ETH	Buy	\$2,436.22	▲ 0.1%	▲ 1.6%	▼ 2.8%	\$10,824,486,204	\$297,586,876,165	
 Tether USDT		\$0.9991	▲ 0.0%	▲ 0.0%	▲ 0.0%	\$50,875,580,856	\$183,010,733,996	
 BNB BNB	Buy	\$738.47	▲ 0.2%	▲ 1.6%	▼ 0.3%	\$683,775,755	\$97,117,698,615	
 XRP XRP	Buy	\$1.33	▲ 0.5%	▲ 2.0%	▼ 3.1%	\$1,451,395,951	\$83,911,536,797	
 USDC USDC		\$0.9998	▲ 0.0%	▲ 0.0%	▲ 0.0%	\$16,170,317,585	\$72,124,842,699	
 Solana SOL	Buy	\$106.08	▲ 0.2%	▲ 2.1%	▼ 1.6%	\$2,736,735,255	\$62,507,989,362	
 TRON TRX	Buy	\$0.331	▲ 0.0%	▲ 0.0%	▲ 0.8%	\$328,796,970	\$31,450,848,787	
 Figure Heloc FIGR_HELOC	Buy	\$1.05	▲ 0.0%	▲ 3.1%	▲ 0.4%	\$57,793,408	\$25,420,693,828	
 Zcash ZEC	Buy	\$1,211.16	▲ 0.5%	▲ 7.2%	▼ 0.4%	\$835,496,085	\$20,579,420,254	

Symbol	Price	Exp Date	Type	Strike	Moneyness	Bid	Latest	Ask	Volume	Open Int	Vol/OI	Imp Vol	IV	Delta
PFE	30.17	10/23/26 (3)	Put	30.00	-0.60%	0.22	0.25	0.25	29,762	190	156.64	28.12%	27.37%	-0.4232
XP	31.32	10/30/26 (10)	Call	36.00	-14.69%	0.95	1.20	1.20	12,082	178	67.88	98.04%	127.27%	0.2891
VZ	44.44	11/06/26 (17)	Put	42.00	-5.55%	0.35	0.38	0.43	12,607	253	49.83	28.47%	32.67%	-0.2120
FLR	45.44	11/20/26 (31)	Call	50.00	-9.96%	1.55	1.63	1.70	10,089	232	43.49	62.35%	61.56%	0.3323
AAPL	339.47	10/21/26 (1)	Call	342.50	-0.80%	0.67	0.68	0.69	62,945	1,569	40.12	27.41%	26.31%	0.2467
AMD	539.22	10/21/26 (1)	Call	542.50	-0.59%	5.35	5.64	5.50	5,699	143	39.85	61.14%	65.68%	0.4135
NET	292.55	10/23/26 (3)	Call	305.00	-4.10%	3.00	3.15	3.30	9,404	238	39.51	78.81%	73.97%	0.2714
SPCE	2.37	01/19/29 (822)	Call	1.00	+57.98%	1.62	1.67	1.70	4,609	117	39.39	86.69%	77.45%	0.9226
AAPL	339.47	10/21/26 (1)	Call	340.00	-0.06%	1.53	1.55	1.55	24,642	631	39.05	27.41%	26.65%	0.4401
MU	903.91	10/21/26 (1)	Call	905.00	+0.03%	10.15	10.15	10.25	11,974	332	36.07	51.66%	61.42%	0.4668
CRWV	62.46	11/20/26 (31)	Put	30.00	-51.79%	0.20	0.21	0.22	42,052	1,242	33.86	100.97%	135.28%	-0.0203
PBF	83.28	11/20/26 (31)	Put	67.50	-18.69%	1.60	1.67	1.75	3,305	109	30.32	78.94%	79.12%	-0.1511
XP	31.32	11/20/26 (31)	Call	38.00	-21.06%	1.00	1.17	1.30	20,024	679	29.49	98.04%	87.96%	0.2662
GPRO	1.1128	01/21/28 (458)	Put	1.5000	+34.53%	0.2000	0.4300	0.7000	10,000	345	28.99	70.61%	45.19%	-0.6290
MU	903.91	10/21/26 (1)	Put	905.00	-0.03%	13.20	13.28	13.30	12,428	437	28.44	51.66%	62.26%	-0.5328
MU	903.91	10/21/26 (1)	Call	915.00	-1.08%	6.20	6.20	6.25	20,346	746	27.27	51.66%	60.84%	0.3338
GM	76.91	10/23/26 (3)	Call	80.00	-4.63%	0.17	0.19	0.20	2,888	107	26.99	31.71%	41.28%	0.1307
HWM	210.16	10/30/26 (10)	Call	235.00	-11.73%	0.95	1.12	1.30	3,198	120	26.65	42.72%	55.08%	0.1232
CORT	116.80	01/15/27 (87)	Call	160.00	-38.15%	3.10	3.55	4.20	2,566	100	25.66	63.22%	64.68%	0.2043
NVDA	216.58	10/21/26 (1)	Call	215.00	+0.82%	2.70	2.70	2.73	57,891	2,274	25.46	40.67%	41.51%	0.6297
AMD	539.22	10/21/26 (1)	Call	537.50	+0.34%	7.60	7.85	7.80	2,910	115	25.30	61.14%	65.77%	0.5203

Cheers,

-NOD-

Nathaniel Orr-Depner

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