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Jobs report, Broadcom results pose next hurdles for Wall Street rally

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Europe's central bankers fear more turbulence in testy US relations

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Qatar, Pakistan look to strengthen private sector cooperation

QNA
Doha

Mohammed bin Ahmed al-Obaidli, board member of the Qatar Chamber, met with Mehmood Arshad, head of the Pakistani side of the Qatari-Pakistani Business Council, to discuss strengthening bilateral trade and investment.

The meeting focused on bolstering cooperation between the private sectors in Qatar and Pakistan, with an emphasis on key economic and commercial fields.

Al-Obaidli expressed the Qatar Chamber's eagerness to foster close ties between Qatari and Pakistani companies through genuine partnerships and mutual investments. He highlighted Qatar's robust economic potential, along with the incentives and facilities provided to attract foreign investment.

He pointed to promising sectors for business owners from both nations, including banking, real estate, trade, and technology, and invited Pakistani companies and investors to invest in Qatar, citing its standing as a key regional hub for logistics and food security backed by advanced infrastructure.

Arshad affirmed Pakistan's strong interest in leveraging available investment opportunities in Qatar and collaborating with Qatari firms on joint ventures that deliver mutual benefits to both economies.

Vodafone Qatar sets up subsidiary to support tower assets and infrastructure expansion

QNA
Doha

Vodafone Qatar has announced the establishment of Infinity Signal Services LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary, responsible for the management, operation, and development of the company's telecommunications tower assets and passive infrastructure.

Vodafone Qatar said in a statement that the establishment of Infinity Signal Services forms part of the company's strategy to strengthen its telecommunications infrastructure capabilities, support future network growth and expansion, enhance operational efficiency, and increase the value of its telecommunications infrastructure assets, contributing to the company's long-term strategic objectives and the creation of sustainable value for its shareholders.

Vodafone Qatar continues to work closely with the relevant regulatory and governmental authorities to support the company's activities and enable it to contribute to the development of Qatar's telecommunications infrastructure ecosystem in line with the applicable regulatory framework.

The establishment of Infinity Signal Services forms part of the company's strategy to strengthen its telecommunications infrastructure capabilities, support future network growth and expansion, enhance operational efficiency, and increase the value of its telecommunications infrastructure assets

Qatar bolsters global gaming partnerships at Gamescom '26

QNA
Doha

Invest Qatar, the Investment Promotion Agency of Qatar, and Media City Qatar have concluded a successful participation at Gamescom 2026 in Cologne, Germany, where a joint Qatar pavilion attracted strong interest from international gaming companies, developers, publishers and investors.

Held annually in Cologne, Gamescom is one of the world's leading gaming events, bringing together developers, publishers, investors and creators from across Europe and beyond.

Qatar's participation reflects its strategic focus on building a competitive, innovation-led ecosystem for gaming and interactive media.

Throughout the event, the Qatar pavilion served as a platform for business engagement, hosting a series of meetings and discussions with global industry stakeholders exploring opportunities across game development, publishing, localisation, esports and interactive media.

The pavilion also highlighted success stories from Media City Qatar's ecosystem through the participation of six Qatar-based companies operating across game development, esports, publishing and gaming innovation. Their presence showcased the growing depth and diversity of gaming activity in Qatar and the wider region.

Invest Qatar and Media City Qatar showcased the country's welcoming business ecosystem, offering streamlined market entry, competitive incentives and access to a network of partners across media, technology and innovation.

The participation also highlighted Qatar's continued investment in gaming culture, talent development, esports and community engagement.

Qatar's participation in Gamescom in Cologne reflects its strategic focus on building a competitive, innovation-led ecosystem for gaming and interactive media

Chamber explores private sector opportunities in food security and industry with Brazil

QNA
Brasilia

A delegation from the Qatar Chamber (QC) met with the heads and representatives of a number of economic and commercial institutions in Sao Paulo, Brazil. The meetings addressed ways to enhance cooperation and trade partnership relations between the Qatari private sector and its Brazilian counterpart, particularly in the food security sector. In addition, they explored opportunities available to the private sector in a number of sectors of common interest.

During its meetings with representatives of Brazilian economic and commercial institutions, the QC delegation emphasised the important role played by the private sector in promoting industrial, commercial and investment cooperation between the two countries.

The delegation proposed a vision for establishing a joint venture or investment company to develop an integrated logistics, storage and distribution center in Qatar, taking advantage of Brazil's large production capacities and Qatar's infrastructure, strategic location and network of relationships.

The proposal aims to meet the needs of the Qatari market and enhance strategic reserves and food security, in addition to using Qatar as a center for redistributing products to the markets of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and the region, and expanding in the future towards other markets in Africa and Central Asia.

During its meetings with representatives of Brazilian economic and commercial institutions, the Chamber delegation emphasised the important role played by the private sector in promoting industrial, commercial and investment cooperation between the two countries.

Ministry of Transport supports FIATA RAME 2026 as strategic partner

Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim bin Mohamed al-Thani, Chairman of Qatar Chamber.

QNA
Doha

The Ministry of Transport and Qatar Chamber have signed a strategic partnership agreement for the upcoming FIATA RAME 2026 Conference, taking place on November 9-10.

Under the agreement, the Ministry will serve as the Strategic Partner for the event, which is expected to attract widespread participation from local, regional, and international freight forwarding and logistics leaders.

The conference is organised by Qatar Chamber via the Qatar Association for Freight Forwarding and Logistics (QAFL), in cooperation with the Federation of GCC Chambers.

Chairman of Qatar Chamber, Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim bin Mohamed al-Thani, praised the MoT's support for the conference as a strategic partner. He said this partnership provides immense value to the event and underscores Qatar's dedicated efforts to advance the logistics sector and enhance the public-private partnership.

He noted that the conference comes at a particularly important time amid current regional and global developments. He added that its key themes, including sustainability, green transport, digital transformation, innovation, supply chains, and specialised logistics services, are aligned with global trends and Qatar's vision of building a diversified and sustainable economy.

Sheikh Khalifa expressed his appreciation to the MoT for its support, affirming that cooperation between Qatar Chamber, the Ministry, and key stakeholders exemplifies an effective public-private partnership model that elevates Qatar's standing as a global transport and logistics hub.

The conference sessions will address a range of key topics reflecting the rapid developments in the logistics sector, including sustainability and green transport, digital transformation, innovation, supply chains, specialised logistics services, e-commerce, air freight, insurance, and risk management in logistics projects.

The event will also feature a specialised logistics exhibition, providing Qatari, Gulf, and regional companies operating in the freight and logistics sector with an opportunity to showcase their services and solutions, engage with international participants and delegations, and establish new partnerships and alliances.

Europe central bankers fear more turbulence in testy US relations

Reuters
Jackson Hole, Wyoming

Europe's central bankers were leaving an annual getaway with their US counterparts far from reassured that long-standing norms in global cooperation remain intact and worried that more turmoil is ahead for an already testy relationship with Washington, sources familiar with the discussion said.

Federal Reserve policymakers went out of their way to ease their counterparts' concerns last week, promising to honor all of their commitments.

But, given the separation between the central bank and the administration, they could offer no guarantees against sudden policy shifts by President Donald Trump, more than half a dozen officials on the sidelines of the Kansas City Fed's annual Jackson Hole Economic Symposium said.

Recent US Treasury interventions to prop up the Japanese yen and to lower longer-term US borrowing costs were particularly concerning as they foreshadowed more intervention and breaks with norms, the officials, who asked not to be named, said.

After the August 1 yen transaction, US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent confirmed that the Treasury had sold euros for the Japanese currency and said he reassured central banks in the region that the move was "just a reallocation of resources."

On Friday, he said that the foreign exchange assets to buy yen came from the Treasury's Exchange Stabilization Fund.

But European officials were especially annoyed the US did not give them a customary heads-up that euro sales were part of the transaction, the sources said.

"That was infuriating," one of them said. "You always pick up the phone and give heads-up."

"The message to me is that the US does whatever it wants."

Others were more forgiving and said the transaction was so unusual that it may have been an honest oversight.

Spokespeople for the European Central Bank and the Federal Reserve declined to comment.

A US official said the US-Japan intervention was undertaken to counter disorderly movements in the yen and to support stability in global financial markets.

"It was not directed at anyone else," the official said. "Treasury maintains close and ongoing communication with our international counterparts, but we do not comment on the operational details of those discussions."

Federal Reserve Chairman Kevin Warsh (***centre***) talks with Tiff Macklem (***left***) Governor of the Bank of Canada, and Andrew Bailey, Governor of the Bank of England, at the Jackson Hole Economic Symposium in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Fed policymakers went out of their way to ease their counterparts' concerns last week, promising to honour all of their commitments.

The sources also said that Bessent's plan to increase buybacks of longer-dated bonds — transactions that may need to be financed by issuance of more shorter-term maturities — was also a concern to European central bankers because, like the yen purchase, it indicates the administration was willing to take unusual measures to cap borrowing costs.

"These interventions normally offer just temporary relief," a second source said. "But they are clearly worried. So what is next? Will they put pressure on the Fed to start buying bonds on the market?"

While the Fed is the sole US monetary policymaking body, independent in that mission by design from the elected administration, the sources said Trump has shown he is willing to go to extraordinary lengths to get his will across.

Their concern was that this could then set off upheaval in markets that would go far beyond the US

The US official responded by repeating earlier statements that the increased long-end bond buybacks were aimed at providing greater liquidity in longer-dated sectors where Treasury gets high-quality buyback offers.

"They are not monetary policy or an effort to impose a cap on interest rates," the official said.

On Thursday, however, a US Treasury official had told reporters the Treasury was "really focused on bringing those long-end yields lower" because they had risen above what the department viewed as "fair value."

Another of the Europeans' worries was that political meddling could eventually involve the dollar liquidity backstops provided by the Fed to the world's biggest central banks, considered a cornerstone of global financial stability, some of the sources said.

These swap lines ensure that commercial banks around the world retain their access to US dollars, especially in moments of financial stress.

The Fed renews this facility year after year on the premise that it actually safeguards US interests and markets, since overseas banks in moments of global market upheaval could otherwise be forced to dump US bonds.

"But rationality doesn't always prevail with this administration," a third source said. "When they run retaliatory trade policies with their closest allies, Trump could just say, 'Hey, they're ripping us off' and the swap lines could be gone overnight."

The sources said there had not been even a hint that these backstops are in danger, and they still expected them to remain unchanged. The swap lines are authorized by the Federal Open Market Committee itself and operated exclusively by the Fed, not the administration.

OpenAI to cut off AI models for Cursor owned by SpaceX, escalating the feud with Musk

Reuters
New York

OpenAI has said that it plans to stop providing AI models to Cursor, the coding-tool company now owned by Elon Musk's SpaceX, marking a further escalation in the bitter rivalry between OpenAI CEO Sam Altman and Musk.

Musk and Altman have been at odds for years, a feud that culminated earlier this year in a trial over Musk's $150bn lawsuit against OpenAI. During the trial, Musk's lawyer said that Musk and other witnesses had testified that Altman was a liar, while OpenAI argued that Musk had sought control of the company.

"We are making this choice because we cannot be confident that SpaceX will use our technology within our terms of service, based on our experience with Elon Musk's companies violating contracts," OpenAI said in a blog post.

Musk responded early on Saturday in an X post, writing, "I couldn't care less."

He accused Altman and OpenAI President Greg Brockman of being "untrustworthy," while repeating his assertion that they "stole an open source nonprofit."

Musk, the world's richest person, had sued OpenAI and Altman for "stealing a charity" by betraying the company's original nonprofit mission for their own enrichment. A federal jury ruled against Musk earlier this year, finding that he had filed the case too late.

However, Michael Truell, a co-founder of Cursor and now an executive at SpaceX, said on X that the company was speaking with the OpenAI team to resolve this issue.

Hours after OpenAI's announcement, Anthropic, which rivals both firms but has an ongoing partnership with SpaceX, said it planned to increase compute to support Claude models in Cursor, according to Tom Brown, one of the co-founders of the firm.

In its blog post, OpenAI said that X, formerly known as Twitter and now part of SpaceX, had breached the terms of its contract with OpenAI after Musk acquired the platform.

"To work with a large partner like SpaceX, we typically rely on custom contracts to ensure compliance with our terms of service and that the integration provides for safety at scale," the AI company added.

The ChatGPT-maker said it proposed a shutoff date of November 12, 2026, adding that its agreement with Cursor gave it a limited time window to cancel the contract following "a change of control."

SpaceX announced a deal to buy Anysphere, the startup behind Cursor, for $60bn in an all-stock deal in June, and completed the acquisition earlier this month.

"We are making this choice because we cannot be confident that SpaceX will use our technology within our terms of service, based on our experience with Elon Musk's companies violating contracts," OpenAI said in a blog post

UK gilt yields may be poised for a storm after the calm

UK fiscal worries have put 10-year gilt yields in the spotlight this year, but the relative serenity in that market in recent sessions may just be the calm before the next storm — potentially in the autumn if not sooner — if key levels watched by technical analysts come under threat, reports Reuters.

Ten-year gilt yields surged this year after the US-Iran war sent oil prices higher, stoking inflation fears. Because rising yields mean higher borrowing costs for the government, the move quickly put the UK's fiscal position back under the microscope — a particularly sensitive issue given vivid memories of the market chaos triggered by the 2022 "mini-budget" under former Prime Minister Liz Truss.

From a low of 4.23% just before the war began, yields climbed to about 5.20% in May, their highest since mid-2008, according to data supplied by LSEG. Technical analysts pay close attention to such prior highs and lows, since they often act as levels where a market move can stall — or accelerate.

A break above 5.20% would open the door to the next target, the relatively close 2008 high of 5.28%. Beyond that lie two older peaks, 5.62% from 2007 and 5.88% from 1999. What might trigger a move to these levels is unclear, but it would likely reflect a loss of confidence in UK fiscal policy. One potential catalyst looming as a major fiscal event is the autumn budget in October.

And, if yields surpass those highs, technically this could set up a stair-step climb toward levels above 7%, 8%, even 9% last seen in 1994.

Conversely, a drop below the February low of 4.23% would suggest the market's fiscal alarm has eased.

The battle to build a global defence bank with plans to raise $116bn

Reuters
London

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney has thrown his weight behind a new global defence bank intended to help allies rearm, but other major economies have yet to commit just weeks before prospective members are due to sign up.

The Defence, Security and Resilience Bank (DSRB) has been seeking to raise around €100bn ($116bn) and use the money to lend at low cost to governments and contractors for defence projects. It will also offer guarantees for lenders financing smaller firms seen as riskier borrowers.

Alongside Canada, where the DSRB will be based, Albania, Belgium, Greece, Latvia, Luxembourg, Romania, Turkiye and Ukraine have pledged their support.

Two officials from countries involved in the project said the DSRB had secured about €5bn in commitments by August. It is aiming for around €20bn in paid-in capital and a further €80bn it can tap when needed, one of them said. But Germany, Britain and other G7 countries have so far declined to join, raising questions over whether the DSRB can achieve the triple-A credit rating it wants to help secure the lowest funding costs.

"To make a good impression on the ratings agencies, they would need to have several other substantial governments participating," said William Perraudin, managing director at Risk Control, an analytics firm specialising in multilateral institutions.

Reuters spoke to eight people with knowledge of the discussions to join the bank. Some said that whether the DSRB can offer cheaper financing than highly rated national governments was a stumbling block for some potential members.

The amount of capital countries would need to commit while public finances are strained, the bank's governance, and overlaps with existing initiatives were also cited as factors. Canada says it is talking with many countries ahead of a charter signing that its lead negotiator for the DSRB, Isabelle Hudon, said on the sidelines of July's Farnborough Airshow was planned for the autumn.

"We are proceeding at pace, developing Articles of Agreement and working with allies and partners alike to form a group of founding nations," said John Fragos, press secretary for Canada's finance minister.

Speaking at Farnborough on a panel dedicated to defence investment, DSRB founder Rob Murray said the lender would help countries rearm to counter mounting security threats.

"We need 10 of them, frankly," the former British Army officer and Nato innovation chief said. European countries are increasing defence spending after the Trump administration demanded they take on more of NATO's burden, although few are close to meeting the alliance's latest targets. Carney earlier this year called for an alliance of "middle powers" to respond to what he sees as the fracturing of the U.S.-led world order.

Alongside Canada, where the DSRB will be based, Albania, Belgium, Greece, Latvia, Luxembourg, Romania, Turkiye and Ukraine have pledged their support

The DSRB will "ensure that Canada and our Allies have the capacity to meet the challenges of a more dangerous and divided world together", he said in July.

Perraudin said the DSRB could use financial leverage separate from the balance sheets of already indebted nations to boost defence investment. To become a significant player, however, it would need additional sovereign backing beyond current commitments, he said.

While big European economies can already borrow cheaply, membership would ensure their domestic contractors can access the DSRB funding, said Linus Terhorst of the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) think tank.

Five of the people with knowledge of the talks about DSRB membership cited potential overlap with other financing efforts, including the EU's SAFE programme and Britain's proposed Multilateral Defence Mechanism. The European Union launched its €150bn SAFE (Security Action for Europe) defence financing programme in 2025, while Britain is developing a Multilateral Defence Mechanism (MDM) with the Netherlands, Finland and Poland focused on joint procurement.

One official also cited concerns about the upfront capital required from governments, as well as uncertainty over how projects would be selected. Larger countries have been asked to put forward around €1bn, two people with knowledge of the plans said.

In emailed comments to Reuters, Murray said this could be paid over three years and would in time return profits through dividends, while the DSRB would provide a more permanent institution for financing defence than SAFE and could work with any procurement method.

"If we do this properly, higher defence expenditure can generate technology, factories, skilled jobs, stronger supply chains and economic growth while simultaneously strengthening deterrence," Murray said.

Canada hopes Britain could reconsider under new Prime Minister Andy Burnham, whose defence minister Wes Streeting described the DSRB at Farnborough as a "really interesting and innovative mechanism". He also said he did not see the proposed defence bank and MDM as being in competition.

Britain previously declined to join, citing concerns over value for money. According to his Downing Street office, Burnham discussed the DSRB alongside the MDM scheme with Carney in July and with Luxembourg Prime Minister Luc Frieden during an August visit to Kyiv.

"The UK joining would create pressure from German industry on the German government to join," said RUSI's Terhorst.

A German finance ministry spokesperson said its position on the DSRB had not changed since July, when it told Reuters it had taken part in DSRB talks as an observer and was reviewing the outcome. Japan's foreign ministry told Reuters no decision had been made about participating.

Venezuela interim president says US energy deal will last 25 years

Reuters
Caracas

Venezuelan interim President Delcy Rodriguez said on Saturday that an energy agreement with the US would remain in force for 25 years, target an increase in crude output to 1.5mn barrels per day (bpd) and preserve the country's sovereignty over its natural resources.
Rodriguez hailed the accord in a late-night address as a "historic" deal that would help revive the economy and boost government revenue, saying it would help shape the country's future.
"This 25-year bilateral project envisages the development of 17 strategic oilfields with a production target of more than 1.5mn barrels per day," Rodriguez said on state broadcaster VTV.
"That figure relates solely to the bilateral agreement between Venezuela and the US."
Rodriguez added that the agreement's target of 1.5mn bpd was only an initial goal and that the broader plan also included the development of eight greenfield oil blocks as part of a wider expansion of the country's energy sector.
President Donald Trump on Friday announced new plans for the US to take partial control of Venezuela's vast oil reserves, betting that American companies can help revive the South American nation's battered energy industry while providing a new source of crude to help lower US fuel prices.

Trump: US to refill Strategic Petroleum Reserve using Venezuelan oil

US President Donald Trump said on Sunday that oil from a recently struck deal with Venezuela will be used to replenish the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, which has been drawn down sharply in recent years to respond to global supply disruptions and high fuel prices, reports Reuters.
Trump said in a social media post that the "topping out" process will begin shortly, describing the Venezuelan oil as a "Gift from Venezuela to the People of the US."
It is unclear how quickly the Venezuela deal could provide oil for the reserve or deliver any near-term benefit to US motorists. The agreement Trump announced on Friday is aimed at reviving Venezuela's battered oil industry, but it will require significant investment and infrastructure work before production can rise substantially.
The reserve held about 290mn barrels as of August 21, near a 44-year low, after the US drew down its stockpile under both the Biden and Trump administrations in response to global supply disruptions, including Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the conflict with Iran.

Trump provided few details on the agreement, saying only that the US had secured majority control of more than 65bn barrels of Venezuela's proven oil reserves through a partnership with private business.
Venezuela has the world's largest proven oil reserves, but it produces only about 1.25mn bpd — far below its potential — after years of underinvestment, mismanagement and sanctions.
Rodriguez said the agreement could generate about $209bn in revenue for the Venezuelan state, based on a benchmark oil price of $65 per barrel, though she acknowledged crude prices could fluctuate. She said roughly $19 from each barrel produced and sold under the arrangement would flow directly to Venezuela, providing a significant boost to government revenue.
She said that the country retained "ownership of and sovereignty" over its natural resources, "while leveraging capital, technology and operational expertise to support the recovery of a strategic industry that has been severely affected by sanctions."
Rodriguez welcomed the agreement following Trump's announcement, saying it would bolster economic growth and increase government revenue.

Jobs report, Broadcom results pose next hurdles for Wall Street rally

Reuters
New York

A fresh look at the US labour market in the coming week along with quarterly results from semiconductor company Broadcom will test a market rally that has lifted stocks near record highs.

The S&P 500 was on track for a weekly gain as of Thursday, putting the benchmark index within 1% of its August 13 all-time high. A blowout quarterly report on Wednesday from AI bellwether and market behemoth Nvidia boosted sentiment for stocks, which had been dented earlier in the month by rising Treasury yields.

Investors were focused on the monthly US employment report, due on September 4, and on whether the jobs data would offer hints about the US Federal Reserve's plans for interest rates in coming months. Worries that the Fed may raise rates to tame high inflation have kept markets on edge.

"As we're starting to get closer to that September (Fed) meeting, each data print is going to be under the microscope as it may inform what the Fed ultimately does," said Michael Reynolds, vice president of investment strategy at Glenmede.

With August coming to a close, the S&P 500 was last up about 13% for the year. Strong corporate profit growth driven by massive spending on the AI infrastructure buildout is fueling the nearly four-year-old bull run in US equities.

Markets have been relatively calm as summer ends in the US The Cboe Volatility Index hovered near its low point for the year on Thursday, and daily market trading volume this week was well below its 2026 average.

Several upcoming events could shake assets, including the jobs data. Employment for August was expected to have climbed by 45,000 jobs, with the unemployment rate at 4.2%, according to a Reuters poll. The July report showed a surprise labour-market weakening, with employment declining by 23,000 jobs.

"The last jobs report gave the market and investors a little bit of pause," said Amanda Agati, chief investment officer of PNC Asset Management Group.

However, Agati said she doubted there was a breakdown in the labour market, adding she would be looking for "either confirmation of that trend that we saw in the last report, or maybe a bounce back to prior months."

The jobs data could also indicate whether the Fed is likely to raise interest rates. Data this week showed inflation continued to run well above the US central bank's 2% annual target.

Rate hikes pose several challenges for equity performance, including by raising borrowing costs for consumers and companies.

Fed funds futures on Thursday suggested a 35% chance of a hike at the next meeting in September, but investors were wary that a hot jobs report showing a big jump in employment and sharp wage growth could increase such bets.

"What the stock market wants to see is a continued number that gives the Fed the ability to remain on hold," said Matt Stucky, chief portfolio manager, equities, at Northwestern Mutual Wealth Management.

Other economic data in the coming week included reports on manufacturing and services sector activity. The prior monthly reading from the Institute for Supply Management showed US manufacturing activity increased to the highest level in more than four years.

"Continuing that momentum into September we think is something that's really noteworthy to watch," Stucky said.

Wednesday's earnings report from Broadcom, whose market value was last over $1.7tn, will also be in focus, after rival semiconductor company Nvidia's results lifted equity indexes.

Nvidia forecast a whopping 70% jump in revenue for its next fiscal year. It was a rare disclosure for the AI bellwether, which typically does not issue such projections.

"We're just wondering whether or not Broadcom offers the same type of visibility," Stucky said.

Other reports are due next week from tech companies Dell Technologies and Palo Alto Networks. With the vast majority of companies having already reported, S&P 500 second-quarter earnings are on pace to have climbed 33.5% from a year earlier on an adjusted basis, according to LSEG IBES data as of August 21. The reporting season has demonstrated "really robust core earnings power," Reynolds said.

"If we continue to see that with the last few reports in the next week, I think that's really constructive for what the rest of the year looks like," Reynolds said.

A trader works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Investors are focused on the monthly US employment report, due on September 4, and on whether the jobs data would offer hints about the Federal Reserve's plans for interest rates in coming months.

UAE, Egyptian central banks 'coordinating on Banque Misr' after US Treasury notice

Reuters, AFP
Washington/Cairo

The United Arab Emirates and Egyptian central banks are coordinating with regard to Banque Misr, they said on Sunday, after the US Treasury said it was cutting off all the bank's UAE branches from dollar transactions over its dealings with Iran.

Banque Misr will take all necessary measures to conduct its business as usual, the central banks said in their joint statement.

US government's proposed punishment is expected to come into effect in less than 30 days after a public comment period.

Only UAE branches of Egypt's second-largest bank would be unable to carry out transactions in dollars.

Banque Misr said on Saturday it was reviewing the Treasury notice, while the UAE central bank said it had launched an urgent examination of the branches following the US action.

The US imposed Iran-related sanctions on an Egyptian bank comes as part of Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent's campaign to increase economic pressure to try to break a stalemate six months into Washington's war with Iran.

Banque Misr said its branch in the UAE continues to provide banking services to its customers in accordance with the applicable rules and procedures.

The UAE central bank said later on Saturday it had decided to conduct a "special and urgent examination" of Banque Misr's branches in the country, including "a forensic/in-depth lookback covering the period referred to in the statement issued by the US authorities".

"The Central Bank expects banks licensed in the UAE not to expose the UAE's financial system to reputational risks, to respect the laws and regulations of the countries whose financial institutions are used in conducting transactions, and not to misuse the advanced financial infrastructure of the UAE," it added in a statement.

The US imposed Iran-related sanctions on the Egyptian bank on Friday.

In a statement, the Treasury said its Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) proposed a rule that would revoke Banque Misr UAE's correspondent banking access to US financial institutions.

The action, teased by Bessent as a "major announcement" of a secondary sanction on an international bank, was first reported by the *Financial Times*.

"Treasury promised to sever every economic lifeline Tehran has left and finally end the threat of the Iranian regime," Bessent said in a statement. "We also warned that Iran's enablers cannot continue to enjoy access to the US dollar and the global financial system. Banque Misr UAE decided to find out the hard way, and today, we are taking the first step in holding it accountable for its continued, egregious support of the Iranian regime."

Egypt's central bank said on Friday that the US action only affected Banque Misr's UAE branches and did not extend to any other Egyptian banks. The Central Bank of Egypt said in a statement that it and Egypt's Ministry of Foreign Affairs were in contact with the US authorities about the measures.

Meanwhile, Bessent will step up efforts to isolate Iran economically as he hosts G20 counterparts this week, a US official said last week, in a gathering clouded by war and trade tensions.

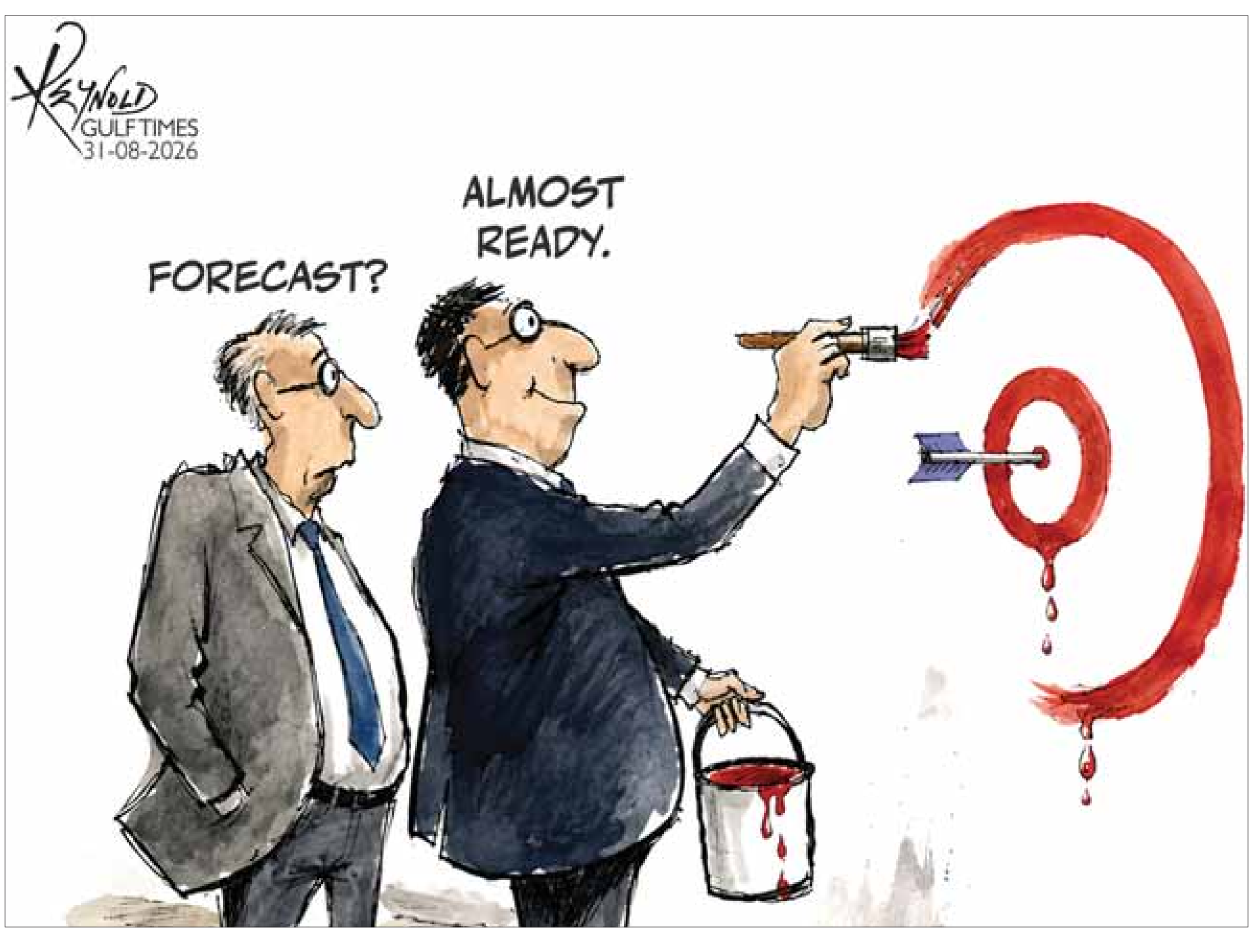
Finance ministers and central bank governors from the Group of 20 major economies are due to convene in mountainous Asheville, North Carolina, this Monday and Tuesday.

Their talks are the first of several key ministerial meetings this year, setting the stage for a G20 leaders' summit President Donald Trump will host in December in Florida.

In Asheville, US officials will stress to G20 members the importance of complying with its sanctions on Iran, as it ramps up pressure on Tehran amid war in the Middle East, a Treasury official told reporters.

The official signaled Bessent will make direct appeals to counterparts in bilateral meetings. But they stopped short of sharing who he had scheduled talks with and whether they include China.

The G20 comprises 19 nations plus the European Union and the African Union. It was established in the wake of the 1997-1998 Asian financial crisis to boost global economic and financial stability.



Google changes spam policy in EU to avert antitrust fine

Reuters
Brussels

Alphabet's Google has said it had changed its spam policy in Europe to address EU concerns that could have resulted in an antitrust fine.
The US tech giant found itself in EU regulators' crosshairs after publishers complained about its site reputation abuse policy.
It targets the practice of publishing third-party pages on a site in an attempt to abuse search rankings by taking advantage of the host site's ranking signals, commonly referred to as parasite SEO.
The EU said that its monitoring showed that Google's spam policy demoted news media and other publishers' websites and content in Google search results, when those websites include content from commercial partners.
Google said that from August 30 any manual actions taken to demote sites would not apply to users in the 27 EU nations, Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein (the European Economic Area).
The policy would not change outside the European Economic Area, it added.
"We welcome the repeal of this policy, which unfairly penalised publishers and other business users of Google Search," EU Commission spokesman Thomas Regnier said.

The EU said that its monitoring showed that Google's spam policy demoted news media and other publishers' websites and content in Google search results, when those websites include content from commercial partners

Concerns about the policy had prompted the European Commission, which acts as the EU competition enforcer, to open an investigation under the Digital Markets Act, which aims to rein in the power of Big Tech.
"Thanks to the DMA, Google Search will no longer demote press publications solely for hosting third-party content," Regnier said.
"The Commission will now monitor the application of the new policy to ensure it is compliant with the DMA."
DMA breaches can cost companies fines of up to 10% of their global annual turnover.