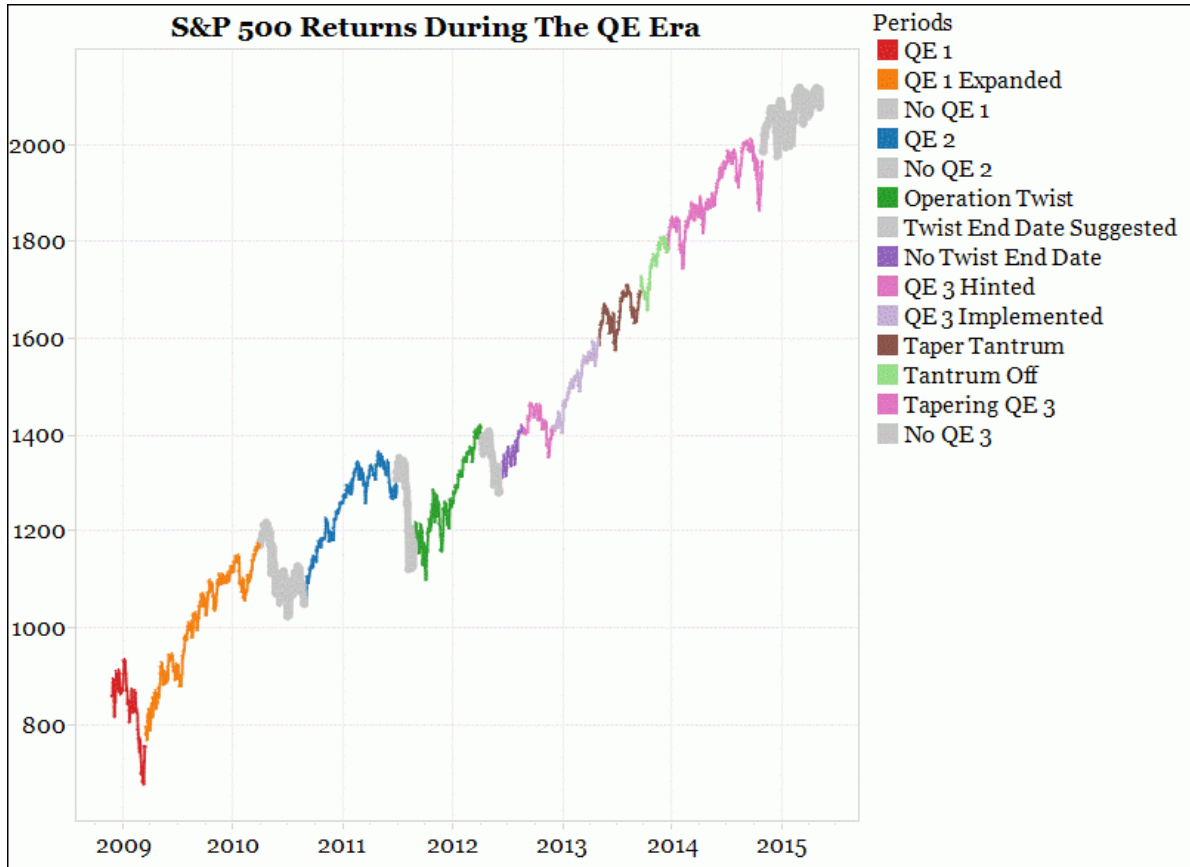


What QE hath wrought – negative returns without Fed help...



QE Return Table					
Periods	Beginning Date	End Date	Point Change	Return	
QE 1	11/25/2008	3/16/2009	-97.92	-11.50%	Red
QE 1 Expanded	3/17/2009	3/30/2010	419.38	55.63%	Orange
QE 2	8/27/2010	6/28/2011	249.45	23.82%	Blue
Operation Twist	8/26/2011	4/3/2012	254.11	21.92%	Green
No Twist End Date	6/6/2012	8/16/2012	130.01	10.11%	Purple
QE 3 Hinted	8/17/2012	11/28/2012	-5.58	-0.39%	Pink
QE 3 Implemented	11/29/2012	4/30/2013	187.64	13.31%	Light Purple
Taper Tantrum	5/1/2013	9/16/2013	100.03	6.26%	Brown
Tantrum Off	9/17/2013	12/16/2013	88.94	5.24%	Light Green
Tapering QE 3	12/17/2013	10/27/2014	175.09	9.80%	Dark Pink

Non QE Return Table					
Periods	Beginning Date	End Date	Point Change	Return	
No QE 1	3/31/2010	8/26/2010	-126.05	-10.74%	Grey
No QE 2	6/29/2011	8/25/2011	-137.40	-10.60%	Grey
Twist End Date Suggested	4/4/2012	6/5/2012	-127.88	-9.05%	Grey
No QE 3	10/28/2014	5/6/2015	112.57	5.74%	Grey

China's currency is plunging and markets are nervous...

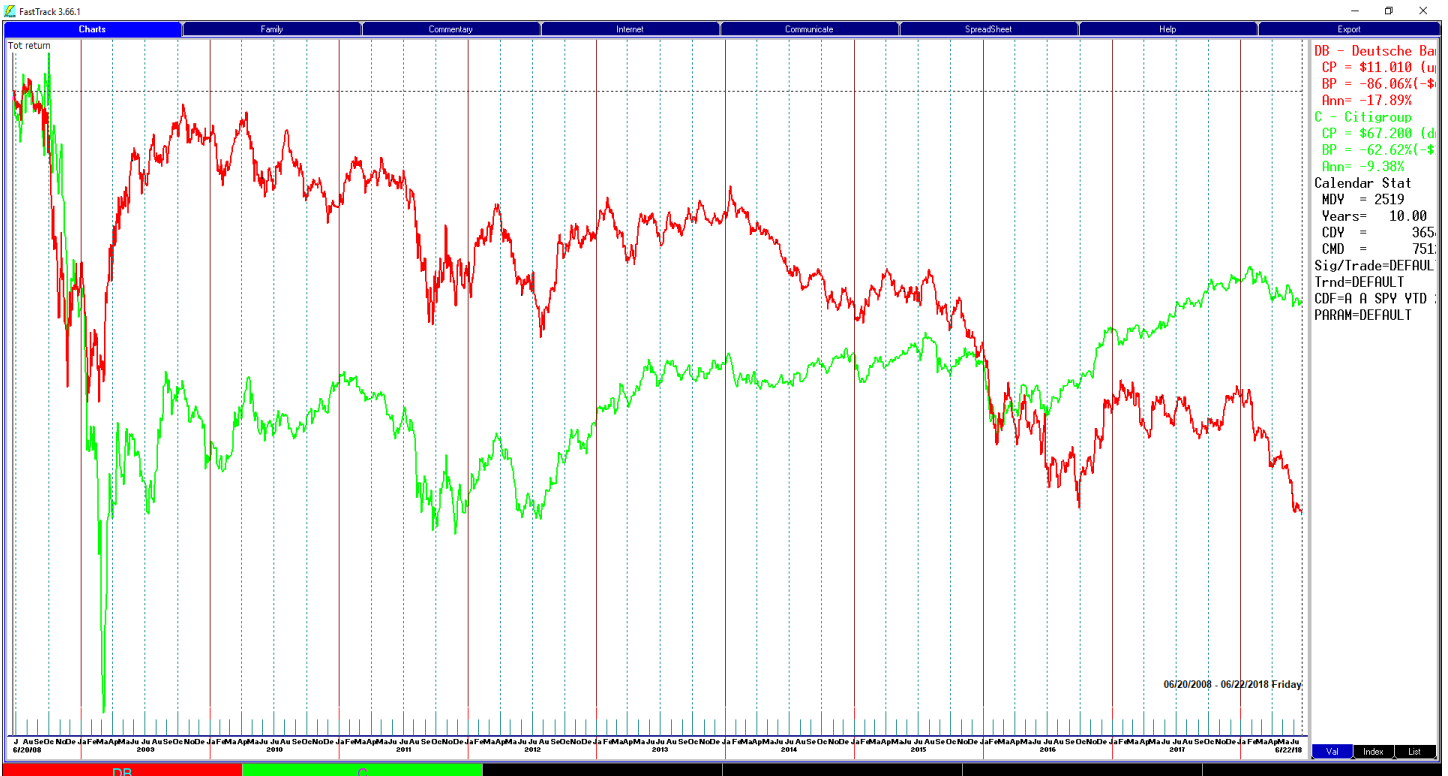
Remember 2015?

China's currency is plunging at the fastest pace since the devaluation

■ Yuan Spot



Banking Stress Is Ongoing



Chasing yield, ignoring risk?

Junk Bonds in La-La-Land

Yield Spread: Treasuries v. High Yield Corporates

ICE BofAML US High Yield Master II Option-Adjusted Spread

Spread in percentage points



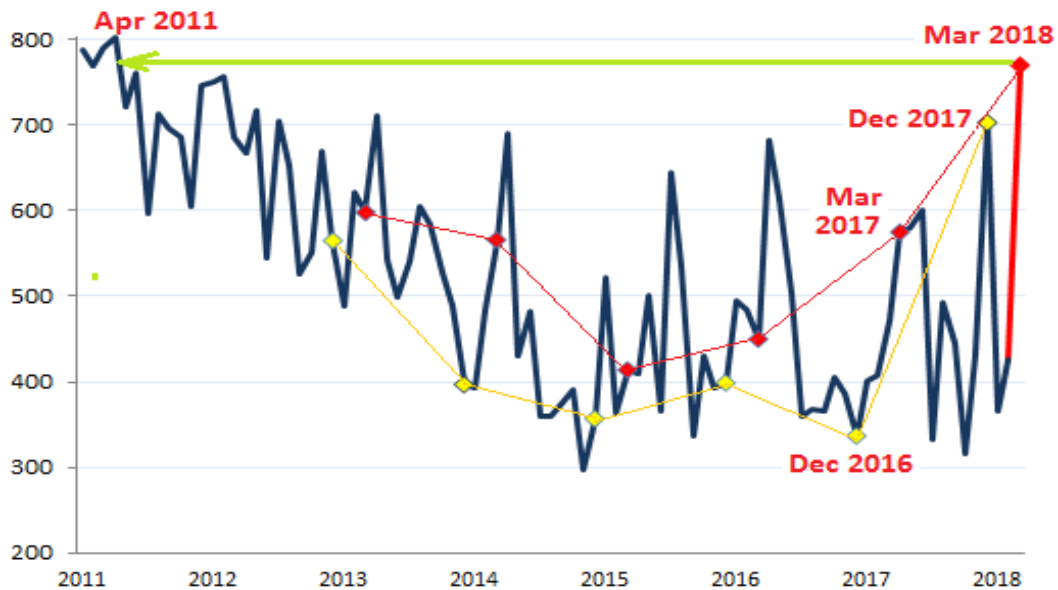
Source of data: ICE BofAML, St. Louis Fed

WOLFSTREET.com

Chapter 11 bankruptcies spike 63% from one year ago

US Chapter 11 Bankruptcies

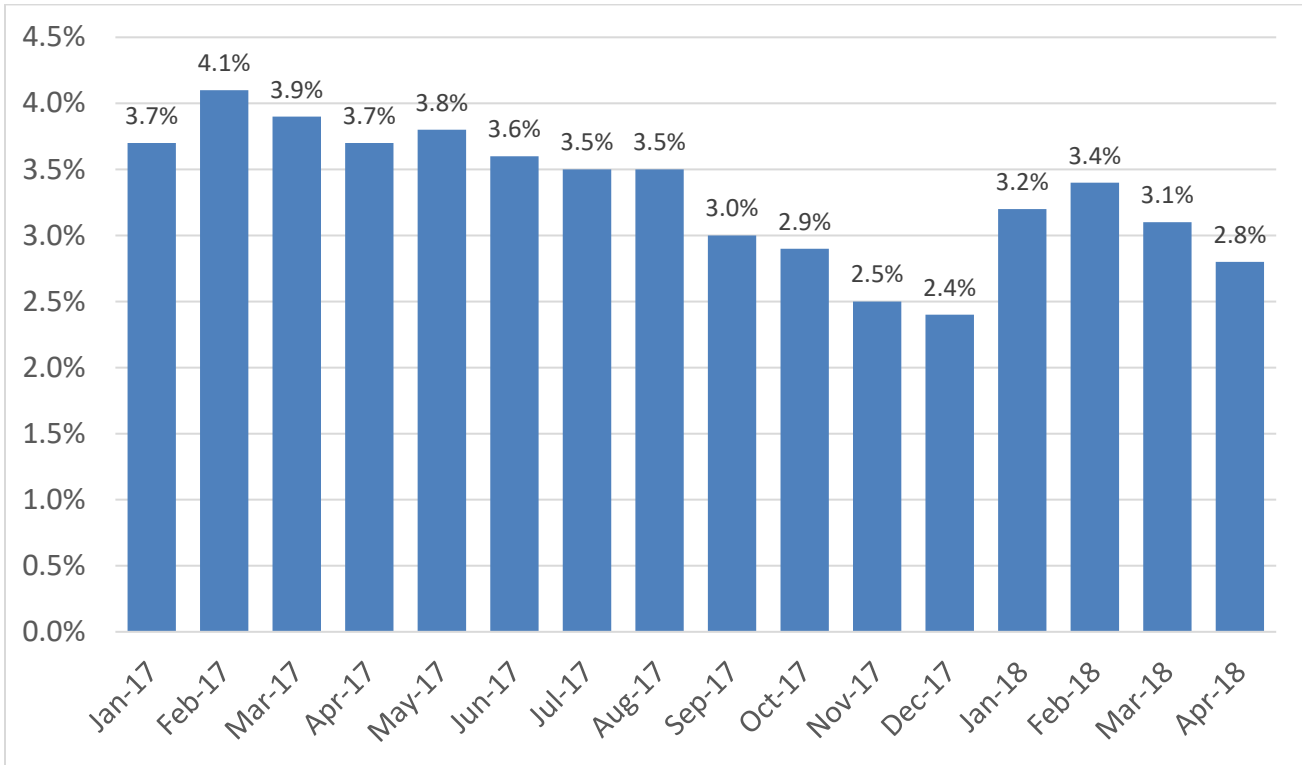
Number of filings, monthly



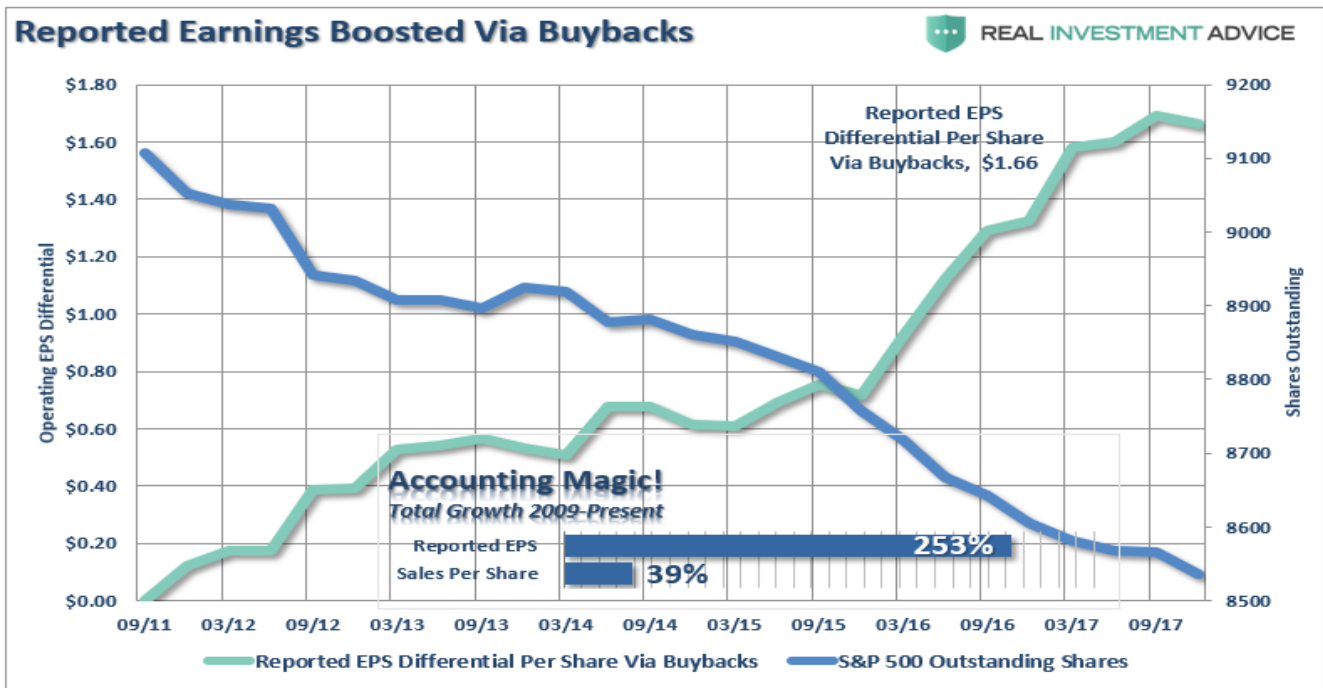
Source: American Bankruptcy Institute

WOLFSTREET.com

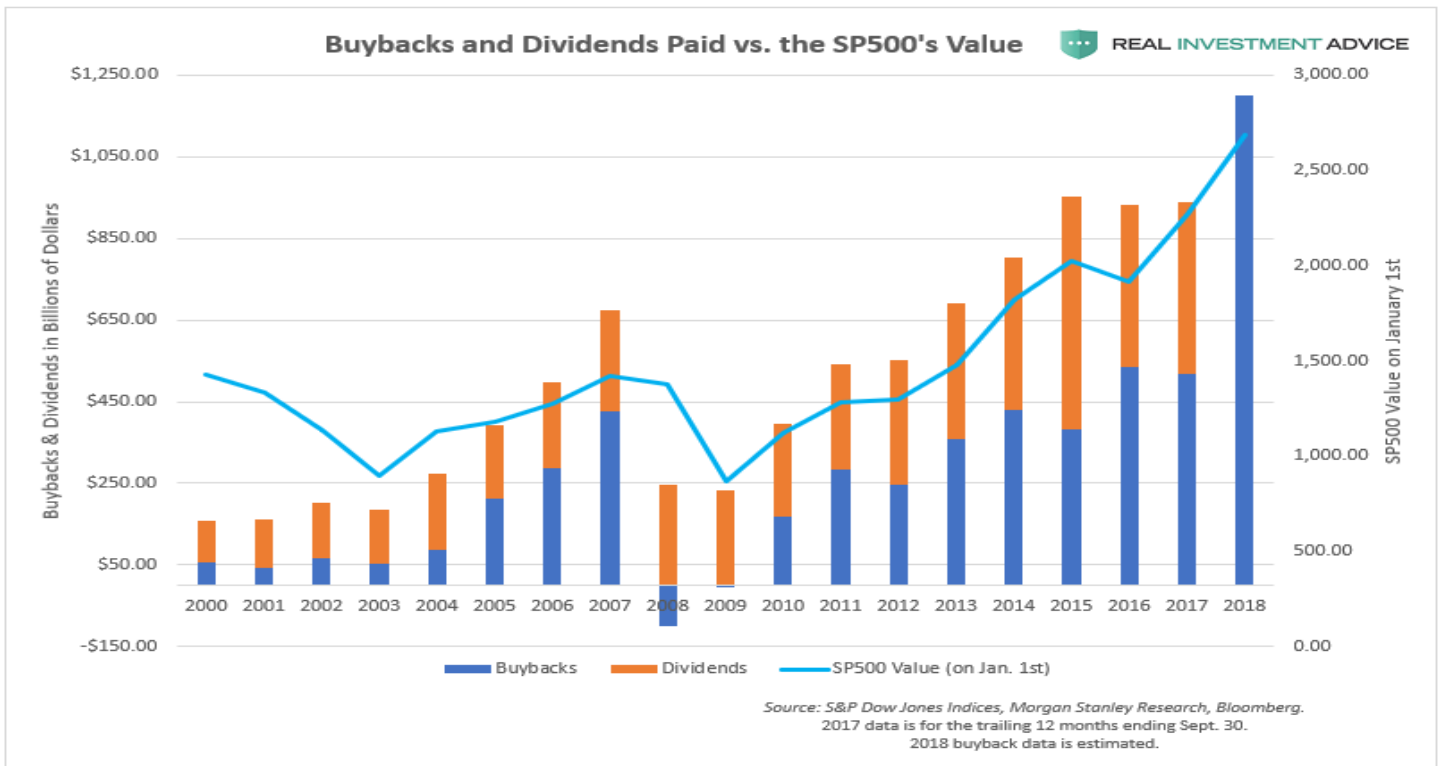
U.S. Personal Savings Rate



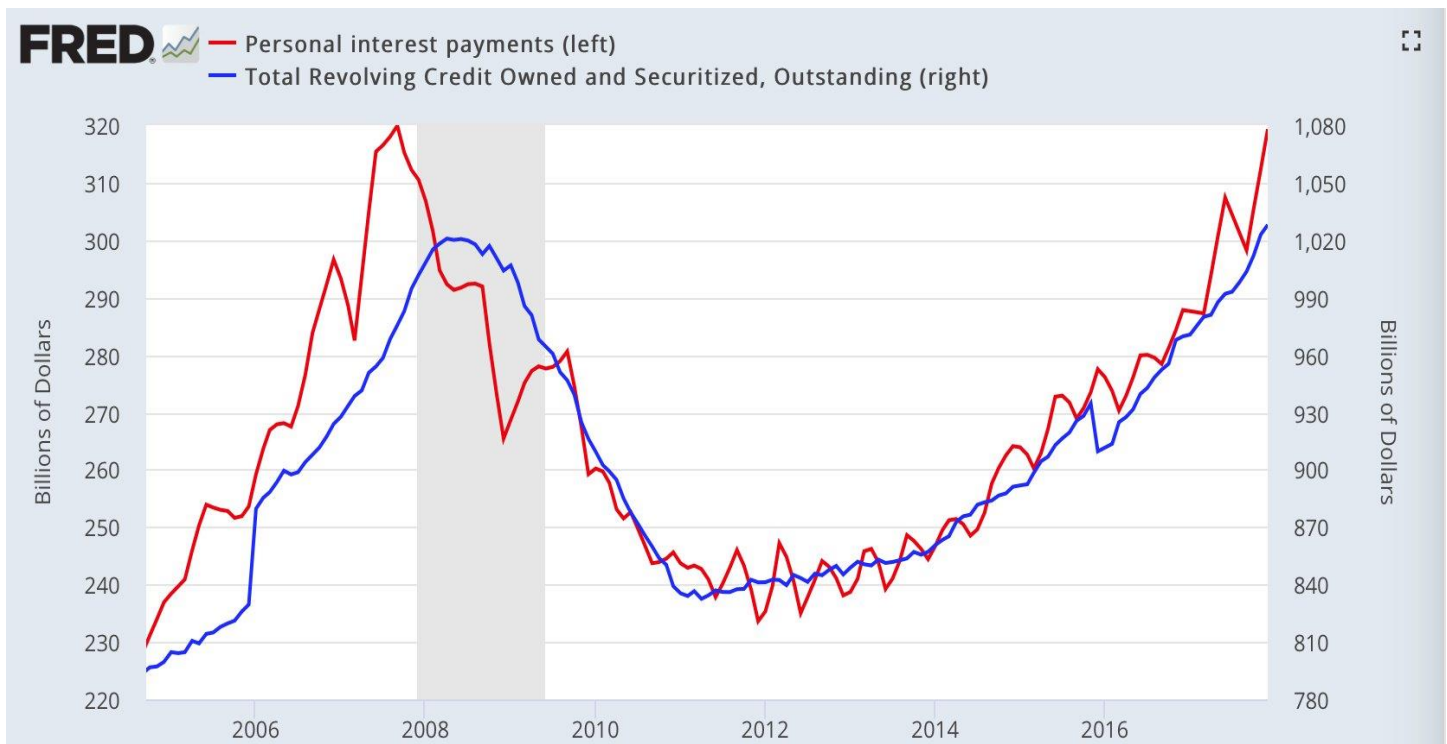
Since 2009, the **TOTAL** growth in sales per share has only been 39% or roughly 3.9% a year and yet earnings grew at 253% or roughly 25.3% a year. The 21.4% differential has been heavily driven by the reduction in shares outstanding.



While a few large companies are paying out bonuses, the primary beneficiaries of the tax plan will be the corporations that are already starting to use their tax savings and repatriated cash to buy back their own stock...

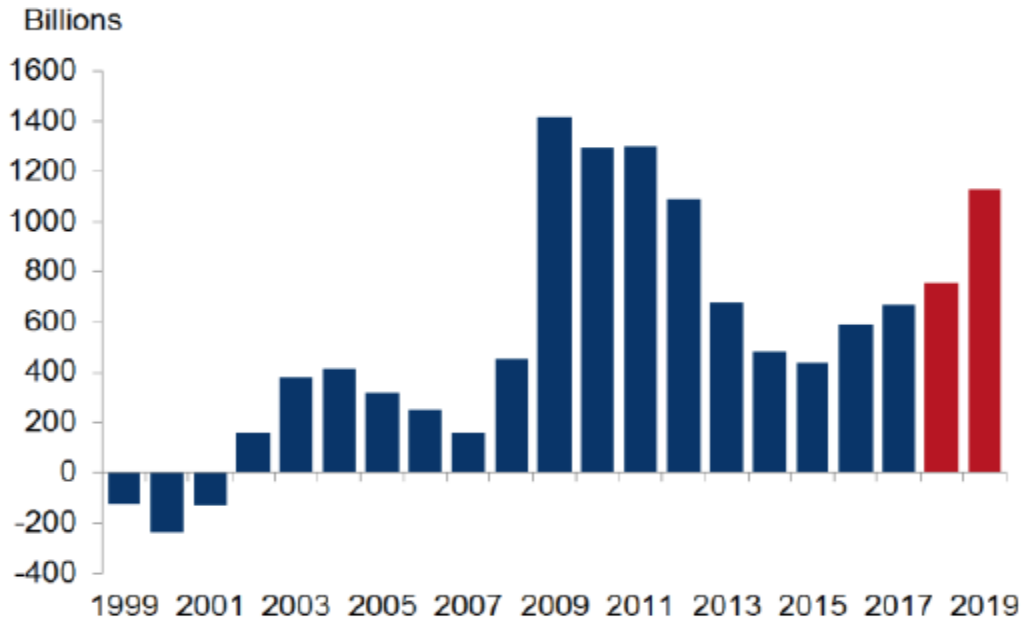


"Don't see buildup of leverage among households." – Fed's Powell



Since when does increasing debt equate to conservative spending?

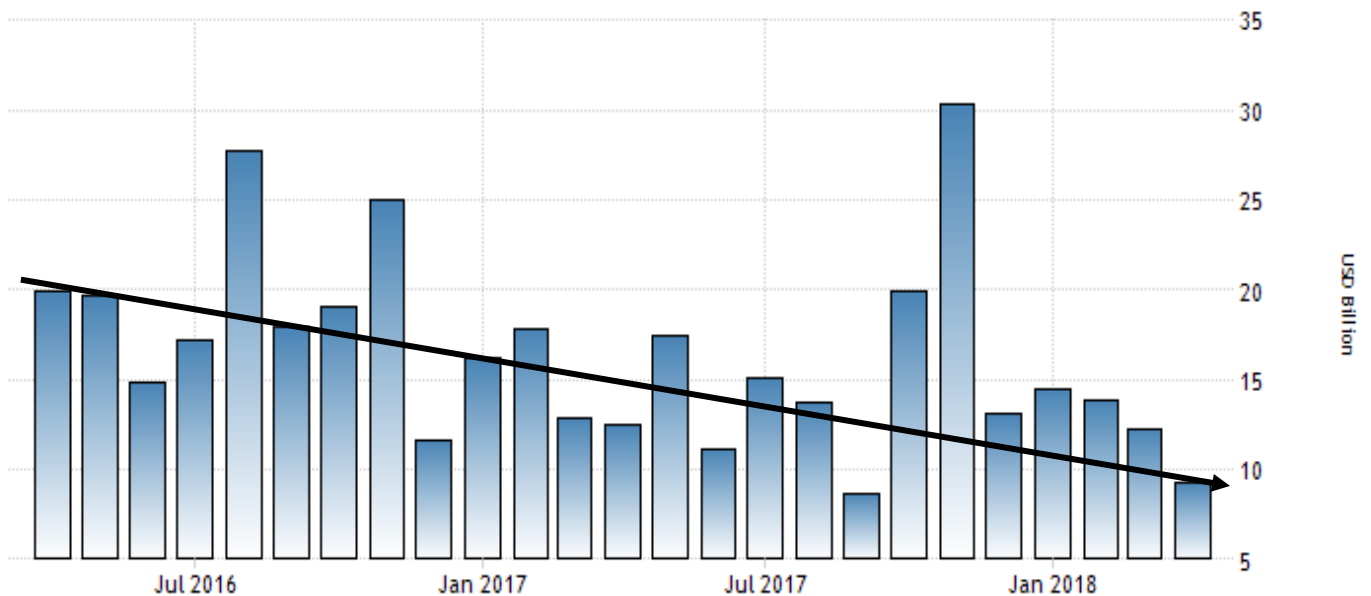
US: Annual budget deficit/surplus(-)



Source : Oxford Economics/US Treasury

U.S. Consumer Credit Change

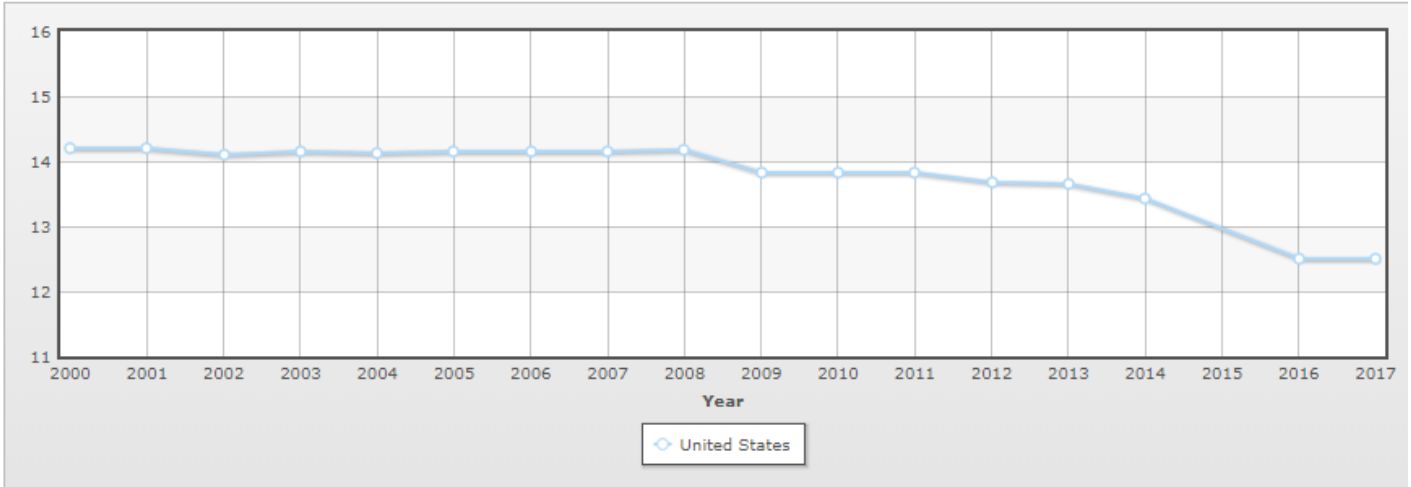
US CONSUMER CREDIT CHANGE



SOURCE: TRADINGECONOMICS.COM | FEDERAL RESERVE

A 12% Decline in U.S. Birth Rate since 2000. Why?

Birth rate (births/1,000 population)

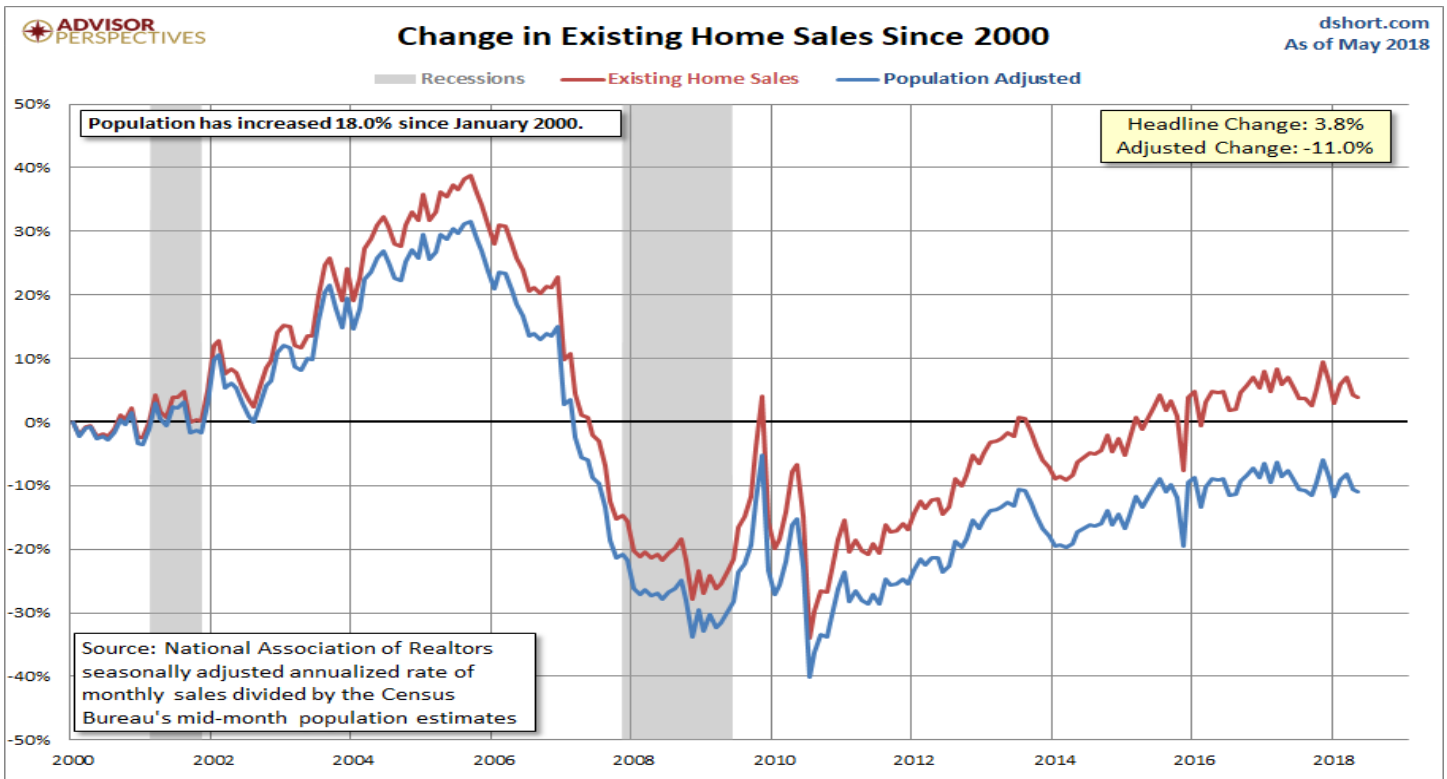


Country	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2016	2017
United States	14.2	14.2	14.1	14.14	14.13	14.14	14.14	14.16	14.18	13.82	13.83	13.83	13.68	13.66	13.42	12.5	12.5

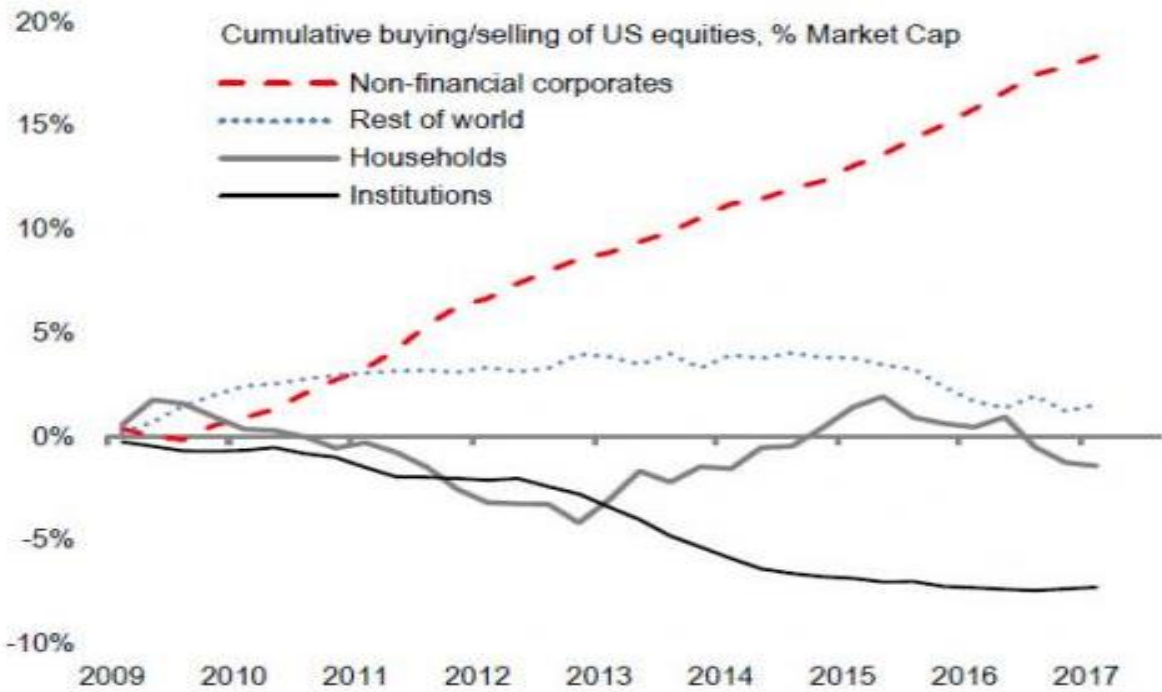
Definition of Birth rate: This entry gives the average annual number of births during a year per 1,000 persons in the population at midyear; also known as crude birth rate. The birth rate is usually the dominant factor in determining the rate of population growth. It depends on both the level of fertility and the age structure of the population.

*If new homes were being built at the same rate they were in 1971,
2018 would see new home sales of approximately 1,035,316.
Why the slowdown? And why are pundits partying?*

Period	U.S. New Homes Sales (in thousands)	U.S. Population (in millions)
1971	656	207.7
1976	646	218.0
1982	412	231.7
1988	676	244.5
1994	670	263.1
2000	877	282.2
2006	1,051	298.4
2012	368	314.0
2018	694	327.2
% Change 1971 to 2018	5.79%	57.52%



The Corporate Sector Has Been the Main Buyer of U.S. Stocks since the Low



Source: Thomson Reuters, Credit Suisse

CONFIDENCE SOARS

Is it the best time to buy stocks? *Historically – NO!*

