

*A Publication for the clients & friends of Shawn Hass & Dustin Leniuk*

**Hass Wealth**



**Wealth Management  
Dominion Securities**

# The Chart Mixer

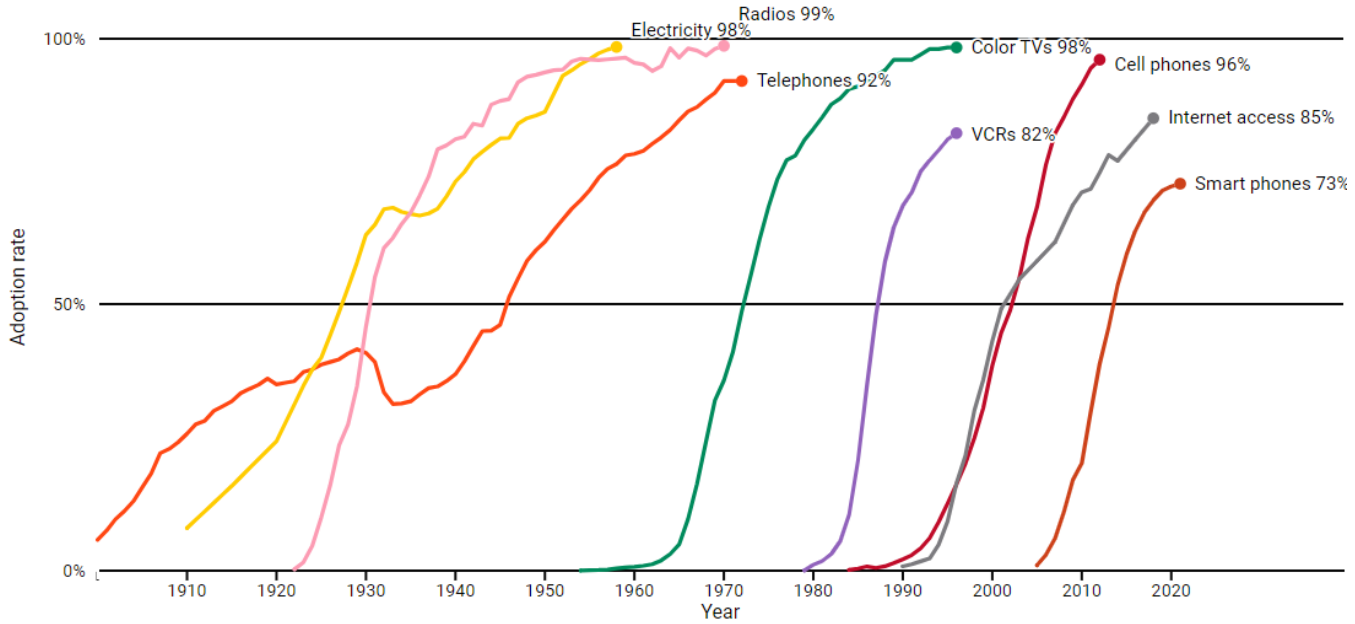


A collection of interesting market, economic and entertaining data shared through charts and graphs.



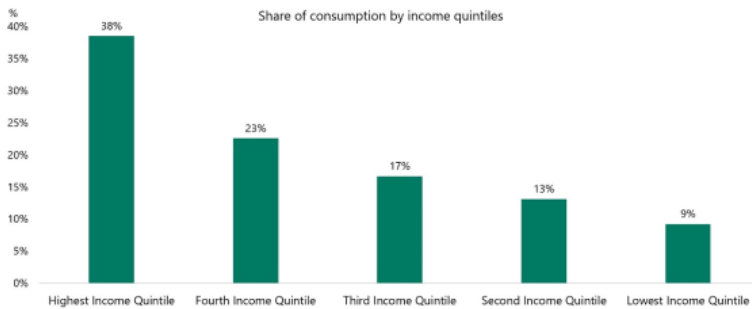
**U.S. technology adoption** (see chart below from **BlackRock**): “The key to harnessing mega forces and their potential is to first identify the catalysts that can supercharge them and how they interact with each other. **Rapid adoption of technology can change the path of transitions. Markets can underappreciate the speed of transitions, creating investment opportunities. Conversely, exuberance over their potential can also cause temporary price spikes.** AI has been turbocharged by the roll-out of ChatGPT and other consumer-friendly tools. We think markets are still assessing the potential effects as AI applications could disrupt entire industries.”

**U.S. technology adoption, 1900-2021**



Source: BlackRock Investment Institute, with data from Federal Communications Commission, U.S. Census Bureau, World Bank and Statista, 2021. Note: Adoption rates are based on household ownership except for cell phone and smart phones which are ownership per capita.

Share of US total consumer spending, by income

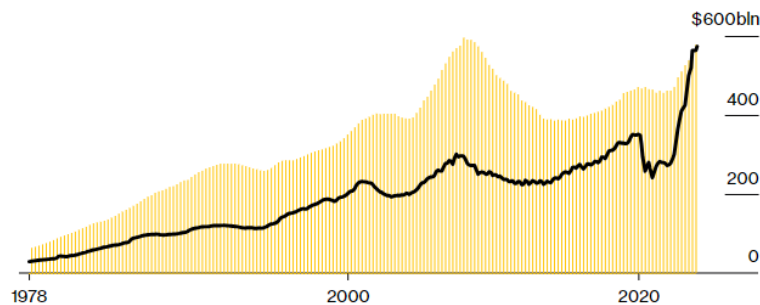


**U.S. consumer spending by income cohort** (see chart to the left from **Apollo Academy**): “The top 20% of incomes account for almost 40% of consumer spending.”

**Interest Payments by US Households**

Seasonally adjusted annual rate

Non-mortgage Mortgage



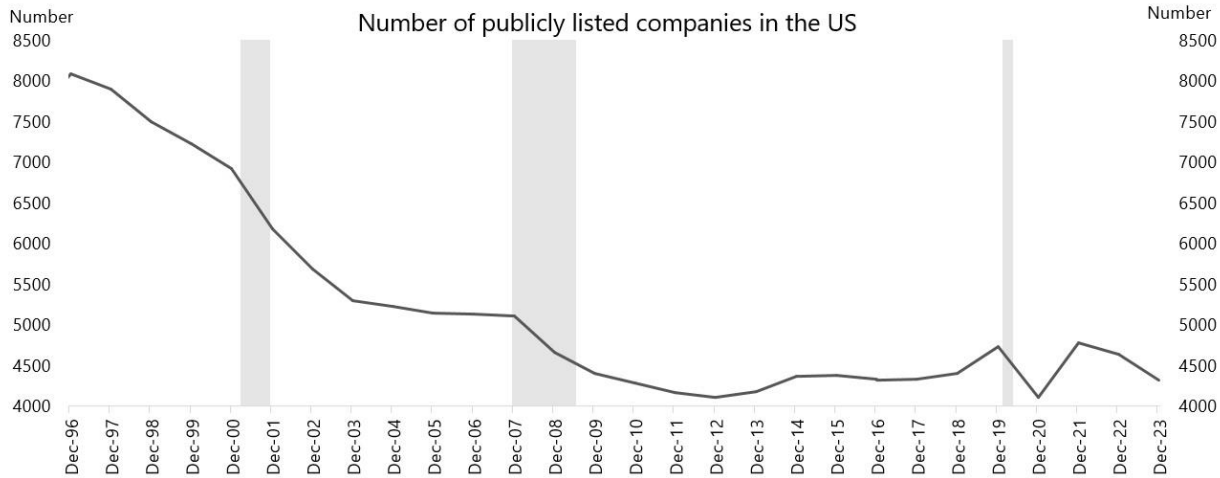
**Americans now pay as much interest on other debt as on mortgages** (see chart to the left from **Bloomberg**): “Non-mortgage interest payments climbed to an annual rate of \$573.4 billion in January. That’s the highest on record even after adjusting for inflation—and within a hair’s breadth of the \$578.3 billion in annual mortgage interest that households were shelling out as of the last quarter of 2023.”

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

**Decline of U.S. public companies** (see chart below from **Apollo Academy**): “The number of publicly listed companies has declined 50% since the mid-1990s.”

APOLLO

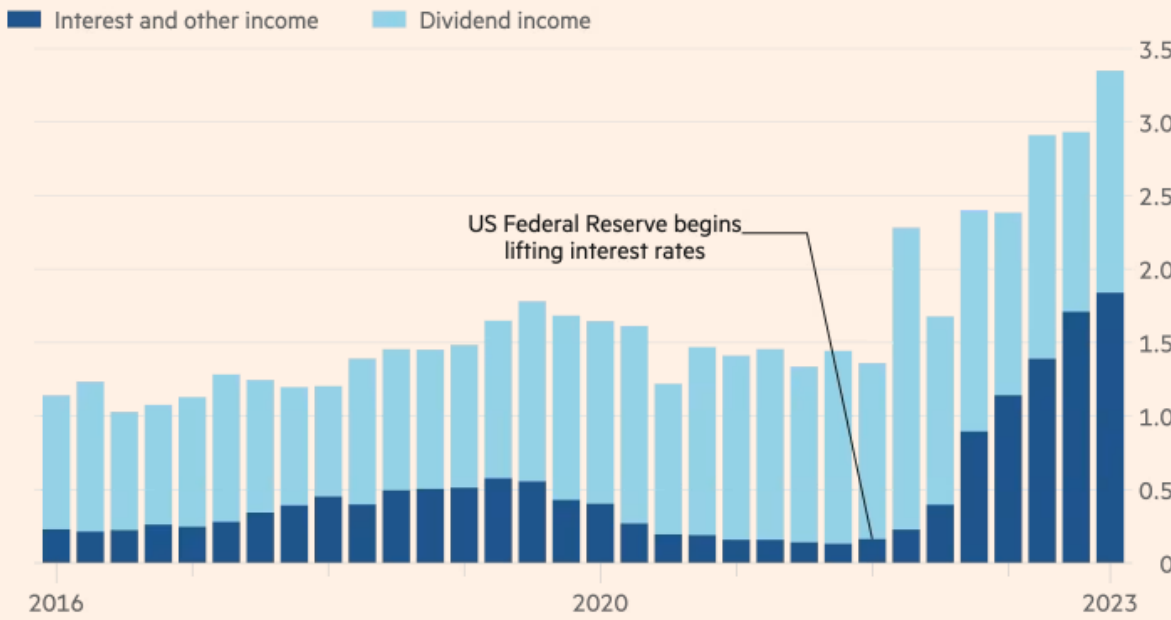
US: Significant decline in the number of publicly listed companies



**Berkshire and cash** (see chart below from the **Financial Times**): “Berkshire’s cash pile continues to climb, hitting a record \$167.6bn at the end of 2023, up \$39bn over the course of the year. **The company’s short-term Treasury portfolio and cash generated north of \$115mn in interest income for Berkshire’s insurance unit every week last year—or some \$6.1bn—eclipsing the \$5.5bn it earned in dividends on stocks.**”

### Higher interest rates have been a boon to Berkshire Hathaway

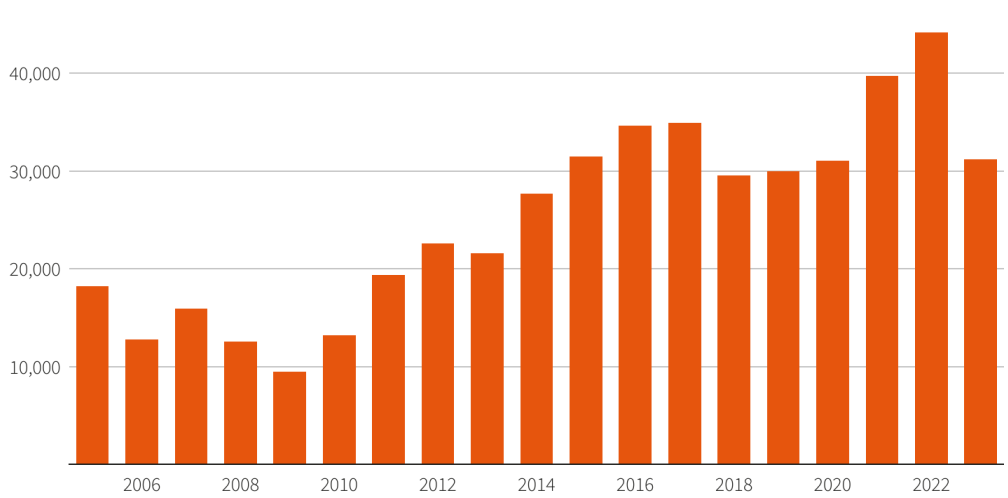
Quarterly investment income generated by Berkshire's insurance unit (\$bn)



**Robot invasion hit a bump in 2023** (see chart to the right below **Reuters**): “North American companies ordered about a third fewer robots last year as worries about a slowing economy and higher interest rates made it harder to justify buying the advanced machines, the first hiccup in five years in what has been a steady progression of the robot invasion of the region’s workforce. **Companies bought 31,159 robots in 2023, a decrease of 30% over the year before, the largest drop in percentage terms since 2006 and largest drop ever in net units.** The pullback occurred in automotive-related industries—which made up about half of the market last year—as well as other sectors such as food and metals manufacturing.”

### Annual North American robot orders

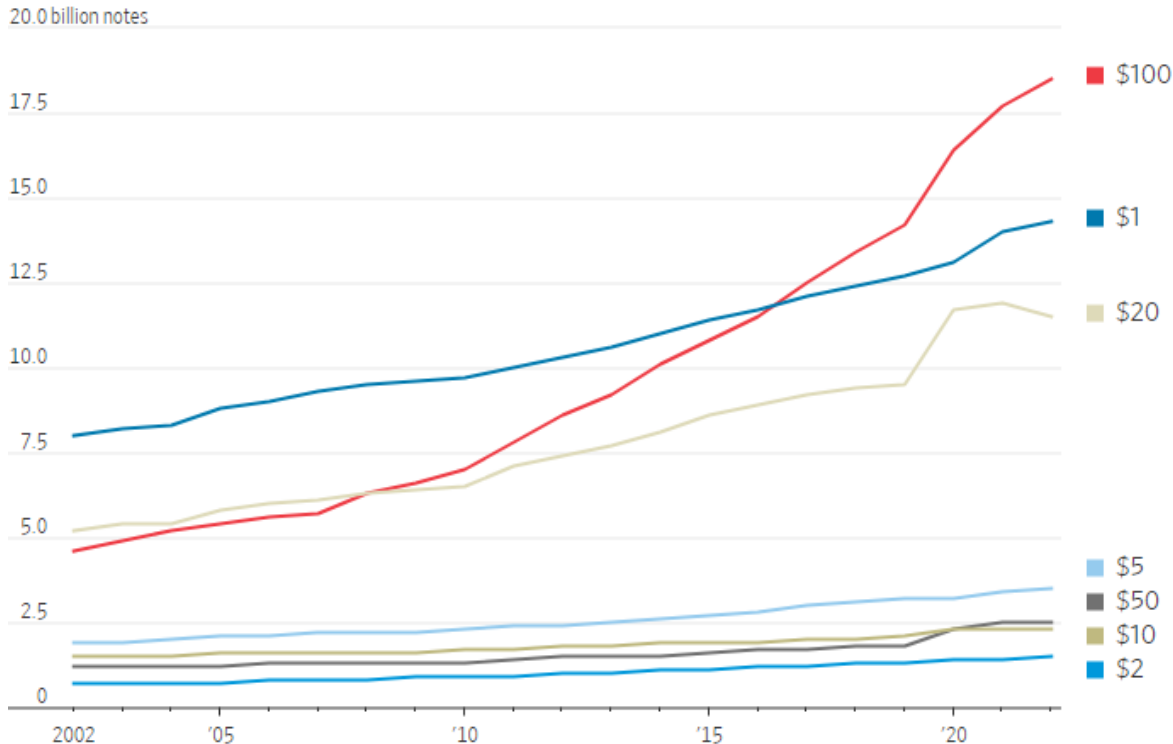
Robot orders fell in 2023 for the first time since 2017



Note: Annual net unit orders  
Source: Association for Advancing Automation

**\$100 bills reign supreme** (see chart below from the **Wall Street Journal**): “The \$100 bill is far and away the most common U.S. paper currency, dwarfing even the \$1 bill. **The number of bills bearing Benjamin Franklin’s mug more than doubled between 2012 and 2022, faster growth than any other denomination.**”

### Currency in circulation by type of bill



Source: Federal Reserve

**Cybercrime expected to skyrocket in coming years** (see chart below from **Statista**): “As more and more people turn online, whether for work or in their personal lives, there are more potential opportunities for cyber criminals to exploit. At the same time, attacker techniques are becoming more advanced, with more tools available to help scammers. **The global cost of cybercrime is expected to surge in the next four years, rising from \$9.22 trillion in 2024 to \$13.82 trillion by 2028.**”



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