

## Macro Roundup Article

**Headline:** [China Isn't Selling Treasuries](#)

**Article Link:** [https://twitter.com/Brad\\_Setser/status/1603524418902302721](https://twitter.com/Brad_Setser/status/1603524418902302721)

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**Tweet:** China's visible holdings of US bonds have stayed constant over the past 5 years at ~ \$1.6T, according to an analysis by @Brad\_Setser. However, he notes that Japan's holdings have dropped by \$226B since December 2021.

**Summary:** The most important thing to know about the US data on foreign holdings of US Treasury securities is that the US doesn't really know who holds US Treasuries. US Treasury holders, in rank order, Japan, China, the UK, Belgium, the Caymans, Luxembourg, Switzerland, and Ireland Only Japan and China (and, to a degree Switzerland) are real holders; the rest are financial and custodial centers. The second most important thing to know -- apart from the continued (apparent) purchases of Treasuries from private investors abroad (even if the buyers are the Caymans and the UK in the transactional data) -- is that China isn't selling. It is, in fact, rather remarkable that after adjusting for the Belgian holdings (a euroclear account used by the PBOC it seems), China's visible holdings of US bonds have stayed constant for the last 5ys (at ~ \$1.6 trillion).

**Primary Topic:** Savings Glut/Trade Deficit

**Topics:** Factoid, GDP, Graph, Op-Ed/Blog Post, Savings Glut/Trade Deficit

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