

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

What's News

Business & Finance

- ◆ **The U.S. economy** is approaching what most economists had thought either unlikely or impossible: inflation returning to its prepandemic norm without a recession or even much economic weakness, a so-called soft landing. **A1**
- ◆ **Growing evidence** of a cooling economy again helped push stocks higher, lifting the S&P 500, Dow and Nasdaq by 0.2%, 0.5% and 0.1%, respectively. **B9**
- ◆ **Consumers cut their** spending at stores, dealerships and gas stations last month, tapping the brakes on economic growth ahead of the holiday shopping season. **A2**
- ◆ **Internet service providers** will have their business practices scrutinized for “digital discrimination” based on income or race under a regulation adopted by the FCC, raising legal risks for some of the most powerful U.S. companies. **A4**
- ◆ **Target’s earnings grew** 36% in the third quarter even as sales fell, with choosy shoppers reducing spending on some products and visiting stores less often. **B1**
- ◆ **Activist fund ValueAct** has accumulated a stake in Disney and initiated a dialogue with the entertainment giant’s board. **B1**
- ◆ **A majority of workers** at GM’s largest U.S. factory voted in favor of a tentative contract with the UAW, bolstering the deal’s chances for approval. **B1**
- ◆ **FDIC Chairman Gruenberg** recanted a denial made before a House panel that he had ever been investigated, saying he was interviewed in 2008. **A3**

World-Wide

- ◆ **Biden and Xi struck** a less contentious tone at their summit, with agreements to resume communications between their militaries and to cooperate on choking off fentanyl production. **A1**
- ◆ **Israel released footage** from Gaza’s largest hospital that it said proved the site was being used by Hamas after searching buildings in an operation that carries high stakes for both sides of the war. **A1, A6-7**
- ◆ **The Senate passed** a short-term funding bill, 87 to 11, that simply extends the status quo until early next year but averts a partial government shutdown. The bill now goes to President Biden for his signature. **A4**
- ◆ **The judge overseeing** the racketeering case against Trump and 14 remaining co-defendants said he would soon place new limits on how evidence should be handled, after a defense lawyer admitted to disclosing video clips of witness interviews to a media outlet. **A5**
- ◆ **The air-traffic-control** system faces increasing hazards from short staffing, outdated technology and chronic underfunding, according to a report that examined safety issues following a string of close calls at U.S. airports over the past year. **A3**
- ◆ **Hunter Biden is seeking** to subpoena Trump and former Attorney General Barr as he prepares to raise a defense that his prosecution on felony gun charges stems from an “unrelenting pressure campaign” by the former president and his Republican allies. **A5**

JOURNAL REPORT

Encore: The secret to finding love after 60. **R1-12**

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Chinese leader Xi Jinping and President Biden stroll through a garden after their meeting Wednesday outside San Francisco.

Biden, Xi Dial Back Rancor In Summit to Stabilize Ties

WOODSIDE, Calif.—President Biden and Chinese leader Xi Jinping struck a less contentious tone at their summit Wednesday, a reset that

By *Andrew Restuccia, Charles Hutzler and Lingling Wei*

will be quickly tested by deep U.S.-China disagreements. With relations between the two countries near a low point, Biden and Xi agreed to resume communications between their militaries, cooperate on choking off fentanyl production and begin a dia-

logue on the risks of artificial intelligence. Their four hours of talks at a secluded estate outside San Francisco included a walk in the wooded grounds. “We made real progress,” Biden said in a tweet. The talks, he later told reporters, were “some of the most constructive and productive conversations we’ve had.”

The outcome is likely to face pressure in coming months, with disagreements over an election in Taiwan and the Chinese navy’s harassment of ships from the Philippines, a U.S. ally. The U.S. and China have differed sharply

over the Israel-Hamas war. Biden, a Democrat who is running for re-election next year, also faces political risk at home from Republican politicians who argue he is going easy on Beijing.

Biden and his top aides spent months negotiating with top Chinese officials over the summit, hoping that face-to-face communication would prevent tensions between the two world powers from escalating. Xi too had an incentive to meet as he grapples with economic turbulence at home and seeks to stem the exodus of foreign capital.

But U.S. officials said the real success of the summit is less concrete: a rare opportunity for direct diplomacy with the authoritarian leader of the world’s second-largest economy.

The agreements reached Wednesday, though incremental, and the more positive tone contrast with the meetings of recent years and give Washington and Beijing more time to steady ties that have been on a downward pitch for years.

Biden said he and Xi agreed that if there is “any concern

Economy Closes In On a Soft Landing

Inflation eases with no sign of recession, though consumers are pulling back

By *DAVID HARRISON AND JEFFREY SPARSHOTT*

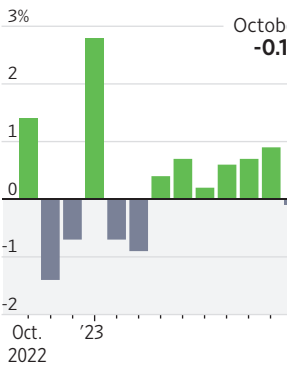
The U.S. economy is approaching what most economists had thought either unlikely or impossible: inflation returning to its prepandemic norm without a recession or even much economic weakness, a so-called soft landing.

“What we are expecting now is a soft landing,” said Nancy Vanden Houten, lead U.S. economist at Oxford Economics. “We expect the economy to weaken quite a bit, but it does look like we’ll avoid an outright contraction” in gross domestic product.

Six months ago, the consensus among economists surveyed by The Wall Street Journal was that the economy would enter a recession over the next 12

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U.S. retail sales, change from a month earlier



Note: Seasonally adjusted
Source: Commerce Department

◆ **Retail sales decline for first time since March.... A2**

INSIDE



PERSONAL JOURNAL
Phoenix tops the list in this year’s WSJ ranking of airports across the U.S. **A11**



JOANNA STERN
A test of EV chargers in Los Angeles finds out-of-order signs and payment errors. **A12**

Israel Says It Found Evidence Of Hamas Activity in Hospital

By *DOV LIEBER AND CHAO DENG*

Israel released footage from Gaza’s largest hospital on Wednesday that it said proved the site was being used by Hamas militants, after searching buildings in an operation that carries high stakes for both sides in the war.

The footage showed the MRI wing of the sprawling Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City, where Israel said it found AK-47s, grenades, military uniforms and a battle vest with the insignia of Hamas’s military wing. In a video, an

Israeli military spokesman pointed to a laptop, a handheld tactical radio and a set of discs as evidence of a Hamas command center in the hospital, although the laptop screen was blurred and he didn’t specify what was found on it.

The Israeli military didn’t show evidence Wednesday of underground complexes or prove its allegations of a Hamas tunnel network connecting to the hospital, but said it was still in the process of combing through the medical complex.

The Israeli offensive has faced international criticism

for the killing of civilians and destruction of infrastructure in the Gaza Strip. Israel contends the hospital compound sits atop underground complexes and a command center used by militants, a claim backed by the U.S.

Hamas has denied using the hospital for any militant activities, which would be considered a war crime. Hamas said it invited interna-

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- ◆ **Tolerance is tested in a Chicago suburb..... A3**
- ◆ **U.S. presses for release of hostages..... A6**

Some Spotify Tattoos Strike A Sour Note

* * *
Ink that plays your favorite song may not last

By *MEGAN GRAHAM*

Mary Haley has the perfect party trick: a barcode-like tattoo of nearly two dozen fine lines that, when scanned with a Spotify music app, prompts a phone to play “Mambo No. 5” by Lou Bega.

Haley, who is 33 and runs a marketing agency in Skowhegan, Maine, got the Spotify tattoo in early 2022. When she moonlights as a waitress at a local snowmobiler bar, guests will sometimes ask her what song it plays. She often tells them, “You have to scan it.” If they do, they are rewarded with lyrics that include the line, “A

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Mortgage King Wants The NBA Crown, Too

Phoenix Suns owner Mat Ishbia charts a risky path in both business and sports

By *BEN EISEN AND ROBERT O’CONNELL*

When the Phoenix Suns played the Detroit Pistons early this month, Mat Ishbia’s fingerprints were everywhere.

He bought the Suns in February, tapping into the fortune he made in the mortgage business. And his lending company, UWM Holdings, sponsors the Pistons, with its logo appearing on their jerseys.

The fast-talking 43-year-old billionaire, who sat courtside at the game in Michigan, is betting that he can win at both high-risk endeavors, becoming the king of mortgages and basketball alike.

His mortgage lender is already the largest in the U.S. and is barreling ahead with plans to get even bigger, the housing slump be damned. He has brought that same swagger to the NBA, where his goal is just as audacious. “I’m trying to win a championship this year,” he said in a recent interview. “And then next year, we’re trying to win a championship.”

Ishbia, a basketball fanatic who was a third-string point guard on Michigan State University’s 2000 NCAA championship team, has a bad case of what some fans call “new owner syndrome.”

Within days of his buying

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Salesforce.

#1 CRM.

Ranked #1 for CRM Applications based on IDC 2023H1 Revenue Market Share Worldwide.



Source: IDC, Worldwide Semiannual Software Tracker, October 2023.



salesforce.com/number1CRM