

GLEANINGS II - 715
Thursday June 22nd, 2017

Argentina on Monday sold US\$2.7BN 7.125% “century” bonds (maturing in 2117)¹ - The issue was “hotly received” despite both S&P & Fitch rating it single B, i.e. non-investment grade, albeit “with a stable outlook”. (supposedly since “investors like the market-friendly reforms of *the right-of-centre* President Macri”² - *a motivation relevant in the case of a two-, or maybe even a five-, year issue, but is nonsensical for a century one*) as witnessed by the fact that, while the pre-sale ‘price talk’ had been for a yield to maturity in the 8.125% range, it was priced at 90 to yield 7.92% to maturity.- *Institutional investors who bought this paper with other people’s money jettisoned their fiduciary responsibilities, and were yield-obsessed & driven by ‘short-term gain, long term pain’-, & ‘by the time the chickens will come home to roost-, I’ll be long gone’-, considerations.*

Ben Sasse, the Junior Senator for Nebraska³ since 2010 (age 45) - His recent book, The Vanishing American Adult - Our Coming-of Age Crisis And How to Rebuild A Culture Of Self-Reliance quickly made the best seller lists. Its basic thesis is that “In an era of safe spaces and trigger warnings ... the country’s youth is in crisis ... Raised by well-meaning but overly protective (& *over-indulgent*) parents⁴ and coddled by well-meaning but misbegotten government programs, America’s youth is ill-equipped to survive in our highly competitive global economy.” - *A better summary may be ‘America has become a nation of delayed adolescents loath to take responsibility (incl. that for having children) & to work hard, and are dedicated instant gratification aficionados & see government as a sort of super-sized Santa Claus/Easter Bunny-like cornucopia of things one doesn’t have to pay for. While there is much truth in what he says, he, a die-hard Republican, may be seeing “the speck of sawdust in thy brother’s eye, but considererest not the beam that is thine own” (Matthew 7:3); for he shares his party’s view that taxes are too high, while decades of serial government deficits in good times & bad strongly suggest that taxpayers have long been getting more & better services from government than they were paying for with their taxes.*

¹ Only one year after finally settling a protracted legal dispute over an earlier US\$95BN default.

² He was elected in 2015 for a four-year term & may be around a while longer; but at age 58, he is, even under the best of circumstances not going to be that much longer after that, if at all.

³ Someone who may be, quality-wise, a cut above the typical politician [& not just because he has a degree from Harvard, spent a year at Oxford & has three degrees (in American history) from Yale (the final one a Ph.D.) but because his CV, among others, includes (*albeit often brief*) stints at the Boston Consulting Group, as Chief of Staff of the Legal Policy Group of the Department of Justice, as Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation to the Secretary for Health and Human Services , as a professor at the University of Texas and, at age 37, as President of Midland University (that at the time was in deep doo-doo), thereby becoming one of the youngest university chief executives in the country (which thought enough of him to retain him as President ‘on unpaid leave’ when he decided to run for the Senate).

⁴ Several university professors have told me in recent years about of family delegations of up to six assorted parents, grandparents and aunts & uncles (but never the student him/herself) coming to complain “Johnny didn’t get an A”, with the basis of their complaint being that, *even if his/her work had not been of A grade quality*, “he or she “deserved an A” because they had “worked hard”.

Canadian housing market - In 2006 the US housing market entered a six year downward trajectory during in which prices declined 27% (& while they have recovered 19% since, they are still 13% off their 2006 peak⁵). But in Canada, despite a brief period of price weakness, nationwide house prices are now 56% **above** their 2006 level (albeit contorted by utterly crazy housing markets in Vancouver & more recently, Toronto). But the end may be nigh (prompted by government action?) : for in Toronto the average selling price in April was \$920,791, in May \$863,910 (i.e. down 6.2%) & in the first two weeks of this month \$808,847 (i.e. down 6.4% in just two weeks) &, even worse, the number of houses sold was down 50% MoM.

French elections - In its June 18th second round Parliamentary elections President Emmanuel Macron's République En Marche movement did well, albeit nowhere near as well as the 400-450 seat tally in the 577 seat Parliament the pollsters talked about after he had gotten 31.9% voter support in the first round one week earlier (vs. the right- of-centre Republican's 18.9%). For he now controls 350 seats (308 directly & 42 from its associated Modem Party), while only 289 are required for a majority in Parliament. Most of the rest of the seats went to Les Republican's (137), the Socialist Party 44 (29 of them directly, which its leader called a "debacle"), the far Left (27) & the National Front a skimpy 12 (short of the 15 threshold needed to qualify as a 'parliamentary 'group' in Parliament) - He is now talking about moving ahead post haste over the summer with drastically reforming labour laws; this would be the smart thing to do since he has a five year "window" to do so **and** making drastic pension arrangement changes. And the sooner he does so, the greater the likelihood that five years hence voter sentiments be based more on the resultant improvements in the economy than on the memory of their initial pain - *The pleadings of other party leaders for their supporters to vote in the second round for anyone but En Marche obviously fell on deaf ears; for the turnout was a post-1958 low 42.6% (down from 48.7% in the first round one week earlier), a continuation of a two decade trend that has seen the first & second round turnouts tumble from 67.9% & 70.0% in 1997 to 60%-60% in 2007. He has already encountered his first challenge, the launching of corruption allegations against four of his newly-appointed Ministers (which he met by promptly firing them all, a choice made easy by the fact that at least three of them were members of Modem (incl. its leader) which now has lost all three of its ministerial posts (which may complicate his task a bit over the longer term if this resulted in making that party's support in Parliament less axiomatic (although he does not need it to have a majority in Parliament)*

Going solar - A friend owns a property in Mexico. With power costs going up, he's 'going solar', expecting a 3 year payback period (*enough to make any business man drool!*) - *But its economics in Mexico must be better than in places with fewer hours of sunlight per annum : thus Phoenix has 3872 hrs, Perth, Australia 3212, Denver 3107, Capetown 3103, Mexico City 2805, Athens 2771, New York 2656, Barcelona, Spain 2524, Calgary 2396, Hobart, Australia 2263, Toronto 2066, Vancouver 1938, London, ON 1793, Berlin 1625 & Glasgow 1203⁶.*

Good reason for Brexit? - According to the Rt. Hon. David Davis, "the Minister for Exiting the European Union" (aka. 'the Brexit Secretary'), 90% of the growth in global trade in the next decade will be "outside Europe" - *if so, staying in could be just as short-sighted as Ottawa was*

⁵ It never ceases to amaze me how many people don't realize that an x% decline needs an x+++% gain to recover to its starting point.

⁶ This line-up does't include either Beijing or New Delhi since, while both have an above average number of hours of sunshine (2,750), the air there tends to be so polluted that solar panels would not likely work at anywhere near capacity.

35 years ago when it chose to prioritize closer trade ties with the 250MM people economy next door that was growing at 3% annually, rather with the more remote, and linguistically-, culturally-, legalistically-, & time zone-wise 5+BN people global economy growing at 5%.

NAFTA renegotiations - US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said this week there are “lots of reasons” to complete the process this year (*if only because of next year’s elections in Mexico in July⁷ & the US mid-terms in November*) & that “we are certainly mindful of the calendar and the fact that the calendar is fundamentally not our friend.” - *on the other hand, the US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer told the Senate Finance Committee on June 20th that the administration’s top priority is to “lock down” the best deal possible for the US so that he has no (yearend) target for their completion - This is a bureaucrat- & not a politician-, speaking & if he really believes this, he may be in for a rude awakening (for the Trump administration desperately needs to score success in one of the President’s campaign promises (and politics is less about action than about creating the impression of action?).*

New way to haul bitumen? - CN Rail is working with InnoTech Alberta (*its latest “catalyst for innovation” & diversification of the provincial economy*) to develop new ways to get oilsands’ bitumen to market and, in the context thereof, has filed a patent application for “CanaPux” (that would turn bitumen into pellets that don’t explode, leak or sink & can be hauled on rail cars.

Upending Obamacare - Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R.-KY) is determined to get a bill to do so through the Senate before Congress adjourns for the week of July 3rd. But even if he were to succeed, that would not be the end of this saga. For there is no hope in hell the House will accept the Senate version as is especially since insiders say it will be radically different from the House version. Then a ‘reconciliation process’ must arrive at a single version to send to the President for signature. And such reconciliation can take one of two forms :

- **informal** - The more common way is for the two Houses to solve their differences by exchanging amendments to each other’s bills until agreement is finally reached on a single, unified version for the President to sign; or
- **by “conference”** - The task of ironing out the two bills’ differences would be delegated to two groups of members from both houses who will haggle until they come up with a ‘report’ outlining the basis for a new bill that after having been approved by both houses goes to the President to sign - *This can-, often is-, & in this case will be-, a time-consuming process which in this case may be made even lengthier by the various peripheral distractions & the strong feelings of lawmakers in both parties on the issue (and Trump being Trump, one cannot entirely rule out the possibility that when the final result lands on his desk & he takes a dislike to it, he may refuse to sign it).*

Weird, weirder, weirdest - On Wednesday June 14th the Washington Post reported, based on anonymous sources in five federal agencies, that President Trump was now under investigation by the Special Counsel for possible obstruction of justice. On Friday June 16th, Trump, who has long gone to great lengths to deny that he was under investigation, tweeted⁸ “I am being

⁷ For 500 members of the Chamber of Deputies, 128 members of the Senate & a President (for a five-year term (with the incumbent Enrique Peña Nieto constitutionally prohibited from running again.

⁸ A misrepresentation of facts; for the person supposedly doing the investigating is not Deputy Attorney-General Rod Rosenstein who purportedly originated the memo that the FBI Director be fired (albeit on White House-, not Department of Justice -, letterhead) but Robert Mueller, a former FBI Director who on May 17th was retained by Rosenstein (without giving the White House a ‘heads-up’) to “investigate Russian interference in the 2016 US elections & related matters.”

investigated for firing the FBI Director by the man who told me to fire the FBI Director! Witch Hunt". Then on Sunday June 18th Trump's lawyer Jay Sekulow told CNN's *State of the Union*, Trump was not under investigation & that his tweet two days earlier had been "in response to a Washington Post story that ran with five unnamed sources", and that any misunderstanding was due to Twitter's 140 word character limit since the President was "very effective" in using the social media.

In the meantime, Trump is doing his utmost to slag Robert Mueller, the DoJ's Special Counsel, off [in the (faint?) hope this will undermine the credibility of whatever his findings may be.

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CRUDE OIL SLIDES INTO BEAR MARKET (Seeking Alpha, Yoel Minkoff)

- WTI did so on June 20th when it declined another 2.2% to a nine months' low US\$43.23. The fear gripping the industry now is that, despite the OPEC output restraint deal, the world continues to have too much oil and that the *already* existing glut could be deepened if the US shale producers were to keep ramping up their production^{9 10}.

After the OPEC production restraint deal, Brent Crude started 2017 in the US\$59 range, only to ease off to US\$55.61 by April 12th & US\$53.87 by May 25th, and to US\$ 45.82 by June 21st.

BOND MARKET FLASHING WORRY ON ECONOMY (Reuters, Karen Brettell)

- On Wednesday June 21st, *in the wake of last week's Fed decision to bump up its Fed Fund rate another 0.25%*, the yield spread between 5-year UST notes & 30-year UST bonds flattened to a post-December 2007 95 basis point (*i.e. 0.95%*) low (but it is not yet 'inverse", when long rates are lower than short ones, *which in the past has almost inevitably led to a recession in fairly short order*). This UST yield curve flattening is flashing warning signs on the economy at the very time Fed officials are adopting a more aggressive tone in raising interest rates. This prompted Aaron Kohli, an interest rate strategist at BMO Capital Markets in New York to observe "The presumption of weak economic growth is fairly firmly rooted and you can see that in the long end of the curve" & Dallas Fed President Robert Kaplan said on June 20th that the yield curve showed that the market expects sluggish growth ahead, whereas according to New York Fed President & FOMC Vice Chairman William Dudley (*historically one of its more 'dovish' members*) the flattening yield curve *merely* reflects low overseas inflation but not a weakening US economy. And more generally speaking, there still appears to be no widespread alarm of the risk of a recession, with Deutsche Bank economist *in New York* saying that the chances of a US recession within the next twelve months are "remote" and Gennady Goldberg, an interest rate strategist at TD Securities in New York saying "The market is starved for yield ... (*and*)we are still one of the highest-yielding bond markets on the planet."

⁹ Last December (the month OPEC crafted its output restraint deal) US shale output was 4.6MM bbl. while the EIA expects it to hit 5.4MM bbl. this month, up 122,000 bbl. MoM. And on June 6th the US drilling rig count was 933 (up 9 WoW & 509 YoY) & Canada's 159 - 27 & 90).

¹⁰ The EIA expects the Permian Basin's current 2.34MM bbl oil output to go to 4MM bbl. by 2020.

Meanwhile, out there in the real world, inflation is retreating from the Fed's target and retail sales' & housing data are weakening. And any economic slowdown, never mind a recession may erode Trump's credibility with his base who took at face value his campaign promises that his policies would result in 4% GDP growth.

GLOBAL INVESTORS SEEING FRESH WORRIES IN AN OLD PROBLEM : CHINA **(NYT, Michael Schuman)**

- Two years ago China set off investor alarm bells worldwide when its stock market crashed, its currency slumped & credit levels rose *from their already very high levels*. But now, says Kevin Smith, Founder & CEO of Denver-based *US\$150MM AUM, five employee, but by Morningstar 5 Star-rated*, Crescat Capital, "The vast majority of consensus opinion (???) is that 'China is fine' ". And while MSCI¹¹, a compiler of widely-followed stock indices¹² has now added Chinese A shares to a *widely-used* benchmark global stock index¹³, & three months ago Goldman Sachs recommended investors should buy more Chinese stocks¹⁴, citing its improving economic growth, stable policies & other positives, last month, BAML named China "the biggest potential source for an unpleasant surprise for global markets", while Moody's has cut China's credit rating for the first time in almost three decades (By two steps from Aa1 to Aa3) *although changing its outlook from NEGATIVE to STABLE (and at the same time it confirmed the rating of 3 of its banks & 2 leasing companies but cut those of 1 other bank, (and more importantly?) of 3 'policy banks',¹⁵ & of 1 leasing company*. And according to the BIS total debt in its economy¹⁶ last December 31st hit 257% of GDP, slightly higher than the US' 237% but much higher than the global average (181%) & that of the emerging market economies as a whole (184.3%). But what is most worrisome is the rate at which it has been increasing (for a decade ago it was just 157%)¹⁷.

¹¹ Once known as Morgan Stanley International it was split off from it in 2009 & now is a free-standing New York-based investment advisory firm with 3,300 employees & US\$3+BN in assets

¹² Its indices are used to "benchmark" the performance of US\$10TR of actively-, & passively-, managed funds, 20% of them involving emerging economy securities.

¹³ That is expected to give rise to a flow of US\$18BN of foreign capital into the Chinese stock market.

¹⁴ That, given its track record, cynics might have taken this as a sign not to, especially where China is concerned where it has long had closer business ties than most major banks.

¹⁵ The Agricultural Development Bank, the China Development Bank & the Export-Import Bank, all of which were established in 1994 to "take over the government-directed functions of the state-owned commercial banks."

¹⁶ Not included that of banks; i.e. public sector direct & indirect debt and in the private sector individual-, & the non-bank corporate-, sector debt.

¹⁷ And even more worrisome is how the growth in the debt outstanding has been accelerating; for in the first half of the past decade it grew at a 3% annual rate and in the last five years was more like 10%; in other words, while during the former period it grew at a rate well **below** that of GDP, in the more recent period it has grown at a rate much **faster** than that of GDP.

And possibly the potentially most worrisome global aspect is that in recent months the PBOC, China's central bank, has been tightening its monetary policy¹⁸, at the time that the Fed is doing likewise & that pressures on other central banks (incl. the EU, UK, Australia & Canada) are growing to do so as well as inflation appears to be moving outside their target ranges (and borrowers in many countries, incl. China & Canada), have a limited ability to absorb higher borrowing costs).

US REBUKES SAUDI ARABIA OVER QATAR EMBARGO IN A REVERSAL OF TRUMP'S COMMENTS (The Guardian, Julian Borger)

- In a sharp about-turn from Donald Trump's wholehearted support for it (& of his accusations of terrorist funding by Qatar), the State Department on June 19th issued a stinging rebuke to Saudi Arabia & its allies for failing to come up with a justification for the Qatar embargo, with its spokeswoman Heather Nauert saying "more (???) than two weeks since the embargo started, we are *still* mystified that the Gulf States have not released to the Qataris, nor to the public, the details about the claim they are making towards the Qataris ... The more that time goes by, the more doubt is raised about the actions taken by Saudi Arabia and the UAE ... At this point we are left with one single question : were their actions really about their concerns regarding Qatar's alleged support for terrorism? Or were they about the long-simmering grievances between and among the GCC (*Gulf Cooperation Council*) countries". But she denied this means that Secretary of State Tillerson was taking a position that contradicted the initial stance taken by Trump (who in a June 6th tweet had claimed credit for the embargo, saying that his trip to Riyadh was "paying off" and followed that up, three days later, in the Rose Garden with "The nation of Qatar has been a funder of terrorism at a very high level ... We have to stop the funding of terrorism"), since "both want to see this resolved. They want results." (& they wanted them sooner, not later).

More evidence of the Trump administration's disfunctionality; as is the word that the supposed White House search for a Janet Yellen replacement for when her term officially ends on January 31st was instigated by White House staffers, not the President himself; for according to Bloomberg "Trump likes Yellen & feels no sense of urgency to explore that matter."?

SAUDI KING'S SON MOHAMMED BIN SALMAN IS THE NEW CROWN PRINCE (BBCNews)

- It was announced on June 21st that Crown Prince Mohammed bin Nayef (age 57), a nephew of King Salman, had been removed from his post as Crown Prince (*that he has held since January 2015 after the then Crown Prince was sacked*) & stripped of his long-held post of head of domestic security (*as part of which he took a strong stance against jihadists - which must have upset the Wahhabi crowd*) & replaced as Crown Prince by the King's favourite son, & since January 2015 Deputy Crown Prince, the 31 year-old Prince Mohammed bin Salman (*who will also keep his current positions of Minister of Defense, Deputy Prime Minister & Chairman of the Council for Economic and Development Affairs*), and that the former Crown Prince had pledged his allegiance to his successor.

¹⁸

Although while in March the PBOC was quick to fall in behind the Fed in raising rates, last week, when the Fed did so for the second time in three months, the PBOC 'sat on its hands (*possibly out of concern that not doing so may force some of its overleveraged companies into bankruptcy?*).

*While his appointment was approved by a vote of 31-3 in the Allegiance Council [of senior members of the Royal family set up by the late King Abdullah to elect the King & the Crown Prince in the future], albeit with a (meaningless?) proviso that he could not appoint one of his sons to succeed him, the jihadists celebrated this move in the social media celebrated in the belief it will lead to intra-family strife that in turn would lead to the fall of the House of Saud (they may well be proven right in their first prognostication, albeit not necessarily so in their second). For, while his meteoric rise in 2½ years from being “just a lawyer” & a lower level civil servant to **the** power broker behind the throne of his 81 year-old father (about whom there have been rumours he’s going ‘dotty’) has been welcomed by the younger generation since he has been instrumental in the easing of some of the country’s most restrictive social laws, especially as they affect women, & in getting some, mostly Western-educated - which he isn’t, he went to a local law school - young people appointed to senior positions to replace older, supposedly ineffective, “time servers”), he has ruffled many feathers, both inside the family & beyond. And what is worse, nothing he’s been involved in since he rose to greater prominence has been very successful : the war in Yemen is a military & public relations disaster & his economic diversification exercise so far is not worth the paper it is written on, while the attempt to drive US shale producers out of the market has backfired, as may the Qatar blockade initiative, while the shortfall in the price of oil from the regime’s US\$60 target will further strain the regime’s stability. And it wasn’t a sign of strength that he appeared on state TV, kneeling before his predecessor, kissing his ring & declaring “We will not give up taking your guidance and advice”, with bin Nayef saying “I am content” (with what?).*

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LAST WOMAN STANDING IN ITALY’S RURAL EXODUS (Daily Telegraph, Nick Squires)

- Paolina Grassi (age 90) is the sole inhabitant of Casali Socraggio, a village near the Swiss border that once bustled with life, with a restaurant, a shop, a bakery & an elementary school (when she attended it 80+years ago, there were 36 children in her class) & where, “when I was born, three families had 10 kids each” (*her own had six, all girls*). But she loves its solitude, telling the La Stampa newspaper “The silence is wonderful, especially at night ... You don’t hear ... a car ... up above the sky is scattered with thousands of stars.”
- A 2016 report, compiled with help of the National Association of Italian Councils, found the one-third of Italian villages face depopulation & that 2,500 of them are at risk of turning into ‘ghost communities’. With one inhabitant in seven having left in the past 25 years, a disproportionate number of them young, the number of elderly inhabitants now remaining has risen by 83 percent. And exacerbating the problem has been the fact that Italy has one of the lowest birth rates in Europe and that, according to the national statistics office, in 2016 Italians had only 473,000 babies, down from 577,000 in 2008¹⁹.

¹⁹ Italy is tied for 179th place in the World Bank 200 nation birthrate ‘League Table’, with a 1.4 fertility rate, along with Liechtenstein, Cyprus, Austria Mauritius, Serbia, Japan, Romania, Malta & Hungary; and while these eleven are well behind the global average (2.5), the replacement rate (2.1), France (No. 122 @ 2.0), the UK -(No. 138@ 1.8), & Russia (No. 154@ 1.7), they are marginally ahead of the EU average (@1.5). And it is interesting to note that of the top 41 countries on the fertility rate league table, all but four (Timor-Leste @ 5.1, Afghanistan @ 4.8, Iraq @ 4.6 and Gaza & the West Bank @4.0) are among the 57 sub-Saharan countries (small wonder that demographers predict that over half the 3BN increase in the world’s population increase over the next 30 years will be accounted for the sub-Sahara region.

The 2,500 number may be an (intentional?) low ball number; for in 2015 the Daily Mail published an article by an Italian journalist headlined The Abandoned Beauty of Italy's 20,000 Ghost Towns.

The following were among the more noteworthy of a couple hundred or so sets of statistics dug up by Quartz (qz.com)²⁰ that I happened to stumble on :

Capital cities' share of national GDP (a selection only) :

Oslo (Norway)	86.79%	
Copenhagen (Denmark)	75.34%	
Dublin (Ireland)	49.02%	
Seoul (South Korea)	46.95%	
Helsinki (Finland)	41.71%	
Paris (France)	41.65%	
Stockholm (Sweden)	40.00%	
Tokyo (Japan)	38.14%	
Prague (Czech Republic)	37.12%	
London (UK)	36.32%	
Amsterdam (Netherlands) ²¹	19.50%	
Warsaw (Poland)	18.51%	
Mexico City (Mexico)	17.87%	
Washington, DC	4.72%)	Other source. For bench-
Ottawa, Ont.	2.65%)	marking purposes only.

China steel production (non-Quartz source) :

		% of global total
1999	123MM tons	15.4%
2006	419MM tons	36.7%
2011	683MM tons	47.7%
2016	808MM tons	49.9%

Chinese steel exports :

2009	2MM tonnes
2015	100MMtonnes

G-7 First Quarter 2017 annualized GDP growth rates :

Canada	3.7%
Germany	2.4%

²⁰ A website founded in 2012 by Boeing, Chevron, Cadillac & Cedit Suisse to "equip opinion leaders with breakthrough ideas and original thoughts." It is now owned by Atlantic Media Co. (In turn owned by David G. Bradley who, according to the Daily Beast is one of fourteen billionaires who constitute "Washington's Richest Power Players"). Headquartered in New York it has offices in London, India, Hongkong, Thailand, LA & Washington, operates in 115 countries & can operate in 19 languages. While most of its original staff were former employees of several leading news organizations, incl. Bloomberg, the Wall Street Journal, the Economist & the New York Times, its 'team' is now led by Kevin Delaney, a former WSJ Managing Director, Zach Seward, a former WSJ social media editor & Gideon Lich field, a former Economist global news editor.

²¹ Is sort-of capital in name only, since the seat of the Dutch government is in The Hague.

Japan	2.2%
Italy	1.8%
France	1.7%
US	1.2%
UK	0.7%

Number of Americans in receipt of food stamps in 2015 :

Children	19.9MM (approx. 28% of total age cohort)
Non-elderly adults	20.5MM (“ 10% “ ” “ ”)
> age 60	4.8MM (“ 8% “ ” “ ”)

Number of CEOs fired for ethical lapses : 2007-2011 2012-2016

North America	2	4
Western Europe	4	6
BRICS	4	9

Number of US auto workers :

2000	1.35MM
2010	0.65MM
2016	0.95MM

Passively-managed assets in US (as % of total AUM) :

2000	13%
2016	36%

US electricity production by fuel type :

	1950	2014
Coal	46.3%	38.6%
Natural gas	13.3%	27.5%
Nuclear	-	19.5%
Hydro	30.2%	6.3%
Wind	-	4.4%
Petroleum	10.7%	0.7%
Solar	-	0.4%
Geothermal	-	0.4%

US poverty in the suburbs (% of total) :

	1989	1998	2011
Urban	10	10	13
Suburban	9	10	17

US subprime auto loans :

2008	US\$250BN (30%)
2016	US\$290BN (26%)

US delinquent auto loans :

2007	US\$23BN
2012	US\$10BN
2016	US\$23BN