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'Tis The Season For Rate Hikes

December 18, 2022 • Vol. 27



The Fed raised interest rates by 50 bps to their highest level in 15 years



Index Recap

The S&P 500 closed lower as the Fed's decision to raise rates by half a point intensified investor woes.

Our top 3 scoops this week

1. Fed speech spooks investors

This week the Fed raised interest rates by <u>50 basis points</u> to its highest level in 15 years, and projected raising rates to as much as <u>5.1%</u> through 2023, before the central bank finally ends its fight against inflation. Fed Chair Jerome Powell also maintained his position that other aspects of the economy must cool before policymakers can win the fight to tame inflation, despite reports from the Labor Department revealing that prices climbed less than anticipated in November. The



benchmark S&P 500 fell for a second consecutive week, reaching levels last seen in early November, as the news heightened concerns about rising rates.

Will the new year see the US finally claim victory against rising prices?

2. Bernard Arnault overtakes Elon Musk as the world's richest person

Musk's been knocked off his throne. The Tesla (Ticker: TSLA) CEO, once worth \$340B, <u>lost</u> his top spot to LVMH Chairman and CEO, Bernard Arnault. Musk's wealth, driven primarily by Tesla stock, surged rapidly when the carmaker's share price soared more than 1,000% in just two years. However, Tesla's shares have fallen 50% since April when the billionaire first announced his decision to acquire Twitter for \$44B. On the other hand, LVMH stock has held steady thanks to



strong sales in the US and Europe. Arnault's net worth sits comfortably at ~\$180B while Musk's net worth plummeted to ~\$170B.

Will Musk be able to reclaim his title of the world's richest person?

3. FTX CEO arrested in the Bahamas for embezzlement

Former FTX CEO Sam Bankman-Fried was <u>arrested</u> in the Bahamas on Monday night after US prosecutors filed criminal charges against him for the <u>collapse</u> of one of the biggest crypto firms in the industry. SBF was arrested mere hours after clarifying that he would not testify before a House Financial Services Committee hearing. The criminal charges filed against SBF include money laundering, securities fraud, wire fraud, and conspiracy to commit wire fraud. If he is convicted for all the charges, he risks facing life in prison.





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lf you're optimistic about Musk	You might want to have a look at <u>these</u> ETFs
If you want to bet against cryptos	<u>Proshare's</u> Short Bitcoin Strategy ETF might be the one for you

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This week's poll

What will SBF be charged with?

◯ Securities fraud	O Money laundering	
○ Wire fraud	○ All of the above	
Submit		
Winner of Last Week's Poll		
We asked — "What is the biggest driver of the oil price slide?"		
Lead response — "Dampening demand"		



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