

## Will Japan Dump U.S. Treasury Securities?

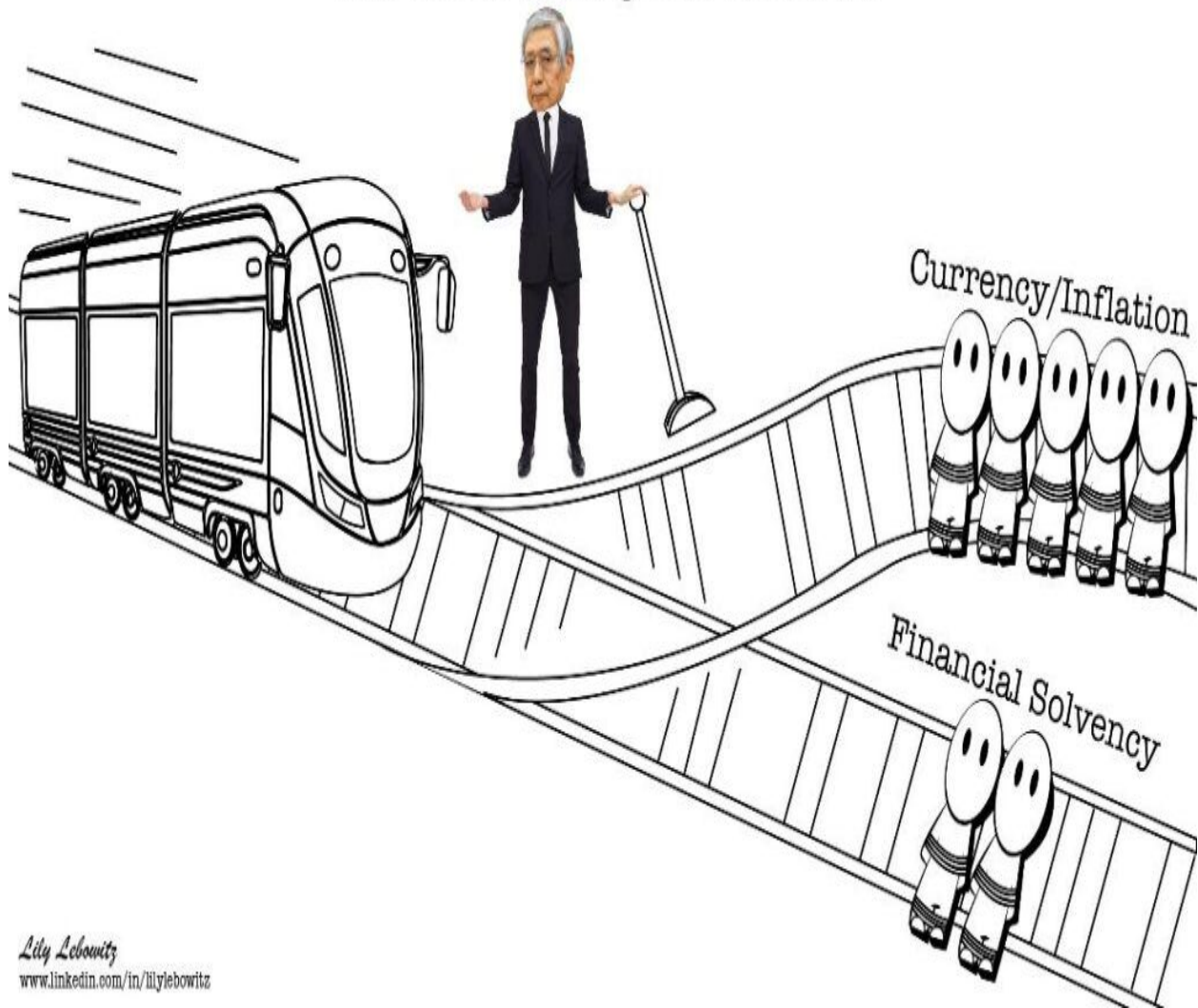
Japan holds \$1.150 trillion of U.S. Treasury securities, well above the next major foreign holder, China, which has \$770 billion. Therefore, given Japan holds 3.3% of all Treasury debt, it is worth appreciating the recent news that Japan is selling bonds. First, to dispel some fear, Nornichukin Bank, not the Bank of Japan or the Japanese government, is selling U.S. Treasury bonds. Their goal is to sell \$63 billion of U.S. and European government bonds by March 2025. Importantly, this is not a government policy decision but one the bank is making to fortify its deteriorating balance sheet. According to SIFMA, \$879.8 billion Treasuries trade daily on average. With 262 days to sell less than \$63 billion, their actions should have zero impact on Treasury yields.

However, persistent rumors have been circulating for years that the Japanese government and/or BOJ will sell bonds to prop up its currency. The yen has been in a free fall recently. On Wednesday morning, it traded at levels last seen in 1986! To appreciate Japan's dilemma of selling Treasuries, providing it with dollars in which to buy the yen, consider a quote we wrote two years ago ([LINK](#)):

*?However, as the BOJ tries to stop rates from rising, they weaken the yen. **Japan is in a trap. They can protect interest rates or the yen, but not both.** Further, its actions are circular. As the yen depreciates, inflation increases, and the Japanese central bank must do even more QE to keep interest rates capped.?*

The cartoon below helps answer our question. Selling Treasuries in large quantities to support the yen risks increasing interest rates, which can increase the odds of insolvency.

# The BOJ's Trolley Car Problem








































## What To Watch Today























































### Earnings

Time	Symbol	Company Name	Market Cap ▼	Fiscal Quarter Ending	Consensus EPS* Forecast	# Of Ests	Last Year's Report Date	Last Year's EPS*
☺	NKE	Nike, Inc.	\$143,011,746,963	May/2024	\$0.85	14	6/29/2023	\$0.66
☀	MKC.V	McCormick & Company, Incorporated	\$18,408,897,483	May/2024		9	N/A	\$0.60
☀	MKC	McCormick & Company, Incorporated	\$18,397,006,800	May/2024	\$0.59	6	6/29/2023	\$0.60
☀	WBA	Walgreens Boots Alliance, Inc.	\$13,544,599,846	May/2024	\$0.68	8	6/27/2023	\$1
☀	AYI	Acuity Brands, Inc.	\$7,315,418,536	May/2024	\$3.92	4	6/29/2023	\$3.50
☀	SMPL	The Simply Good Foods Company	\$3,701,591,521	May/2024	\$0.45	5	6/29/2023	\$0.40
☹	PSNY	Polestar Automotive Holding UK Limited	\$1,434,971,554	Mar/2024	(\$0.13)	1	5/11/2023	(\$0.01)

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## Economy

Time	Event	Impact	Actual	Dev 	Consensus	Previous	
THURSDAY, JUNE 27							
12:30	 <b>USD</b> Continuing Jobless Claims(Jun 14)	<div><div></div></div>	-	-	1.82M	1.828M	
12:30	 <b>USD</b> Core Personal Consumption Expenditures (QoQ)(Q1)	<div><div></div></div>	-	-	3.6%	3.6%	
12:30	 <b>USD</b> Durable Goods Orders(May)	<div><div></div></div>	-	-	-0.1%	0.6% 	
12:30	 <b>USD</b> Durable Goods Orders ex Defense(May)	<div><div></div></div>	-	-	-	0%	
12:30	 <b>USD</b> Durable Goods Orders ex Transportation(May)	<div><div></div></div>	-	-	0.2%	0.4%	
12:30	 <b>USD</b> Goods Trade Balance(May) PREL	<div><div></div></div>	-	-	\$-96B	\$-99.2B	
12:30	 <b>USD</b> Gross Domestic Product Annualized(Q1)	<div><div></div></div>	-	-	1.4%	1.3%	
12:30	 <b>USD</b> Gross Domestic Product Price Index(Q1)	<div><div></div></div>	-	-	3.1%	3.1%	
12:30	 <b>USD</b> Initial Jobless Claims(Jun 21)	<div><div></div></div>	-	-	236K	238K	
12:30	 <b>USD</b> Initial Jobless Claims 4-week average(Jun 21)	<div><div></div></div>	-	-	- 232.75K		
12:30	 <b>USD</b> Nondefense Capital Goods Orders ex Aircraft(May)	<div><div></div></div>	-	-	- 0.2% 		
12:30	 <b>USD</b> Personal Consumption Expenditures Prices (QoQ)(Q1)	<div><div></div></div>	-	-	3.3%	3.3%	
12:30	 <b>USD</b> Wholesale Inventories(May) PREL	<div><div></div></div>	-	-	0.1%	0.1%	
14:00	 <b>USD</b> Pending Home Sales (MoM)(May)	<div><div></div></div>	-	-	2.5%	-7.7%	
14:00	 <b>USD</b> Pending Home Sales (YoY)(May)	<div><div></div></div>	-	-	2.5%	-7.4%	
14:30	 <b>USD</b> EIA Natural Gas Storage Change(Jun 21)	<div><div></div></div>	-	-	53B	71B	
15:00	 <b>USD</b> Kansas Fed Manufacturing Activity(Jun)	<div><div></div></div>	-	-	-	-1	

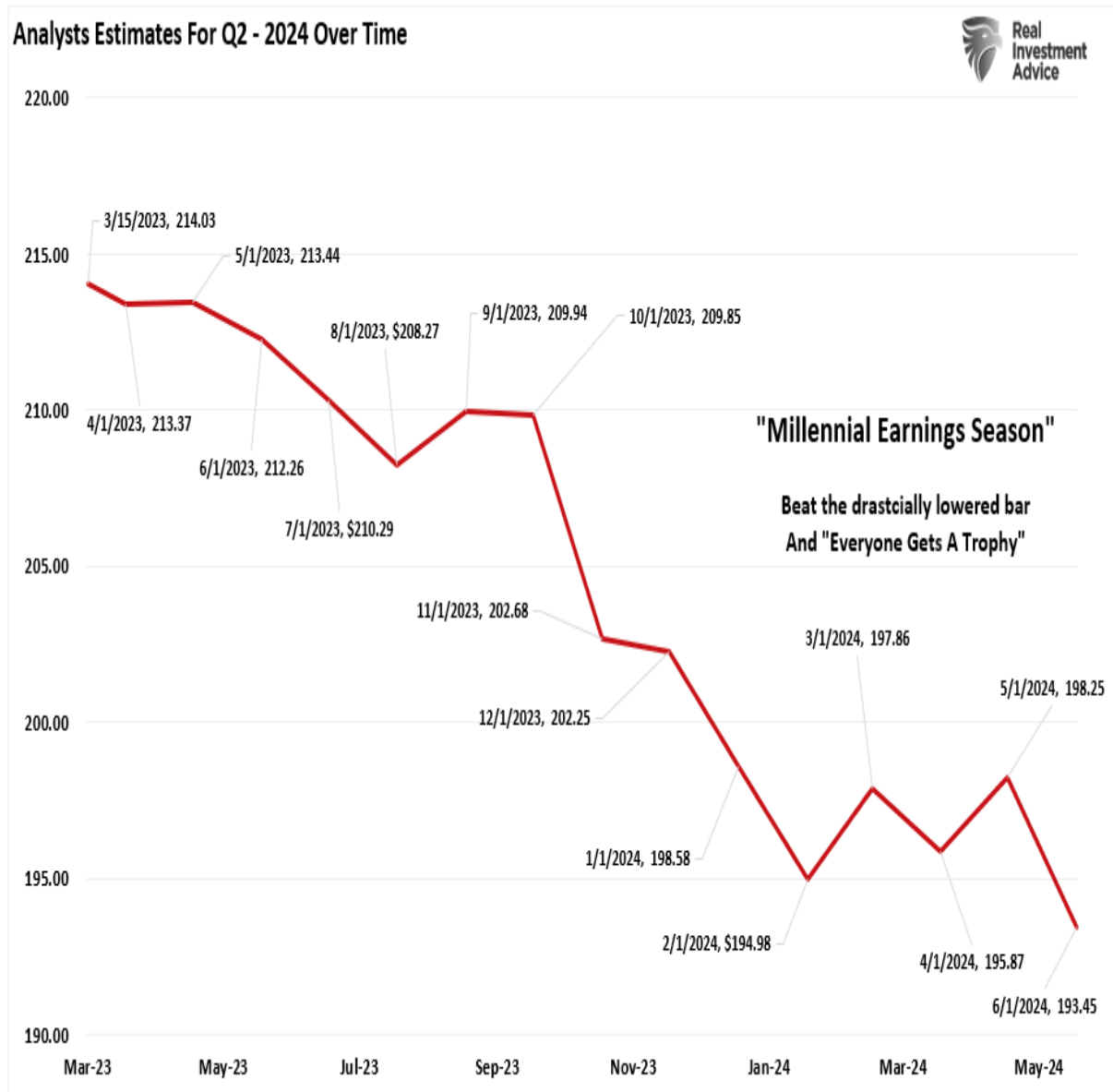
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## Market Trading Update

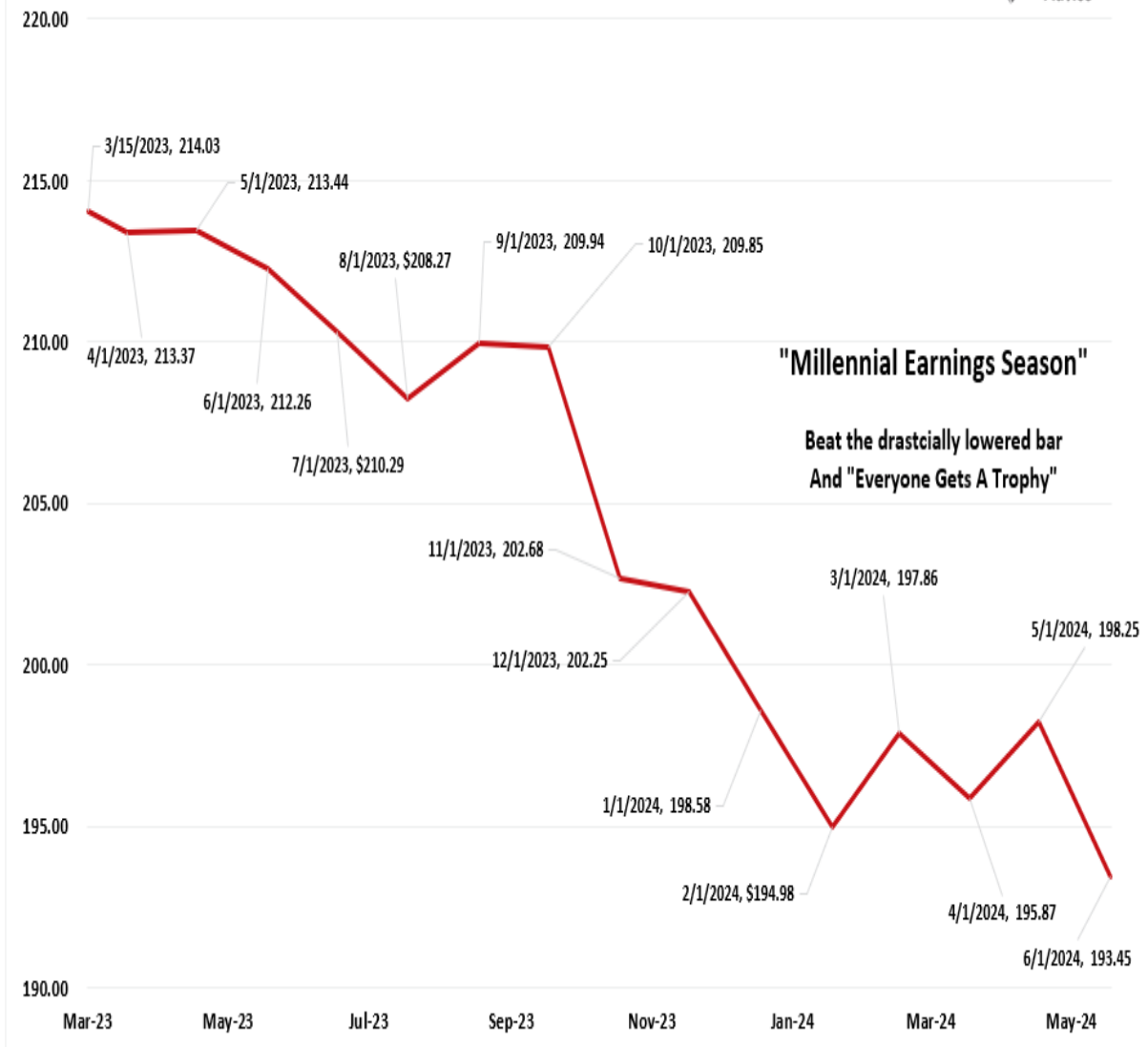
[As discussed yesterday](#), the market was under pressure recently due to the decline in Nvidia (\$NVDA). However, that sell-off seems to have abated for now, and there has been little other data to move the market as we head into the month's end. Since this is the second quarter's end, portfolio managers must rebalance their holdings by Friday. Furthermore, next week is shortened by the July 4th holiday, so trading will be light. Today and tomorrow are full of economic data that will be eyed closely for further clues to the upcoming Federal Reserve meeting in July. Furthermore, next week starts the beginning of the Q2 earnings season.

Speaking of earnings season, analysts have slashed estimates over the last 30 days. Despite ratcheting their views on the market outlook, with [Goldman Sachs leading the way at 6300](#) by year-end, **analysts reduced estimates from \$198.25 to \$193.45. That is the lowest estimate for this quarter since last year, when they started at \$214.03.**

As noted, this is why we call it *Millennial Earnings Season*, as analysts keep lowering the bar until *everyone gets a trophy*.



## Analysts Estimates For Q2 - 2024 Over Time



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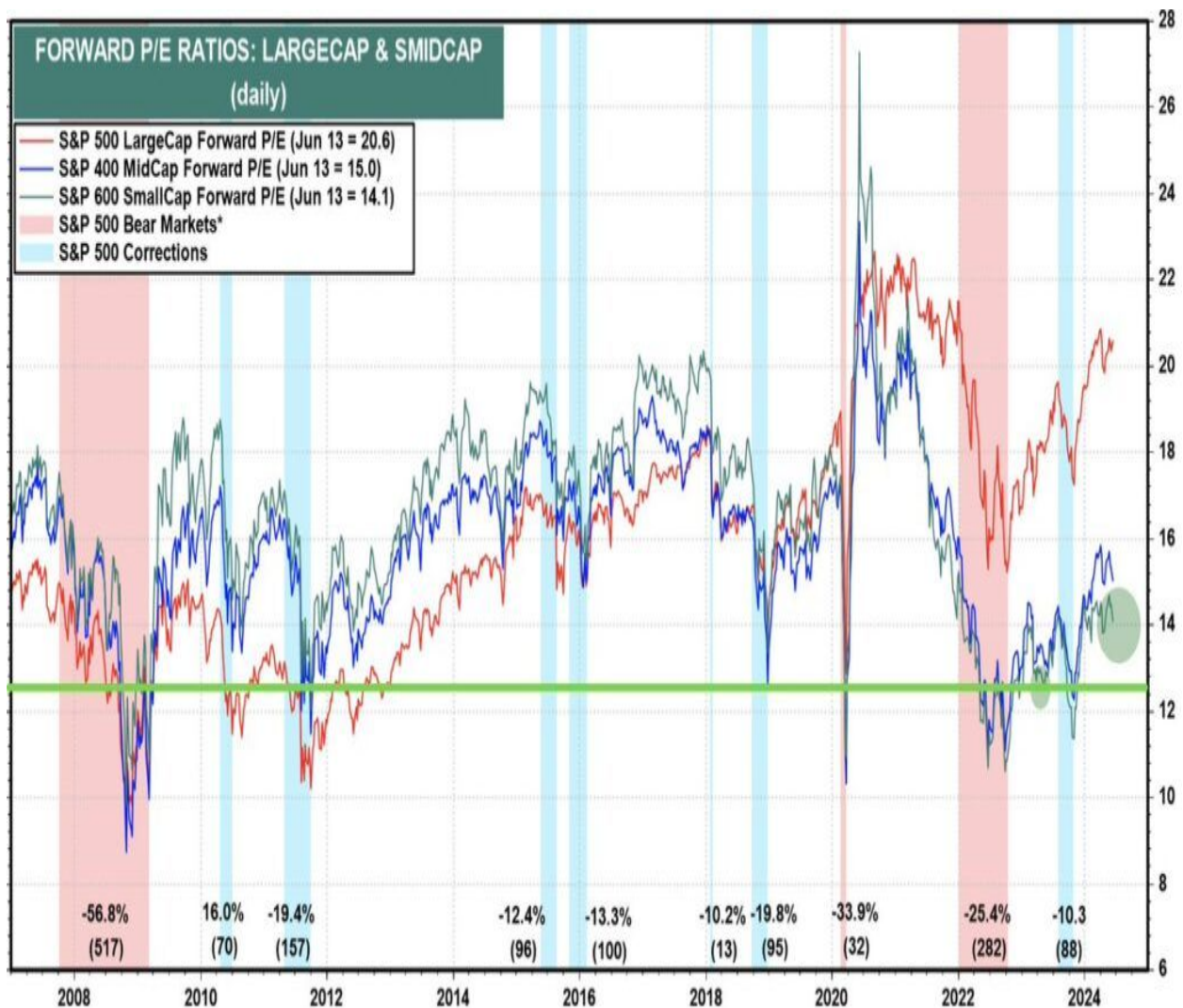
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## Small Cap Stocks Are Relatively Cheap

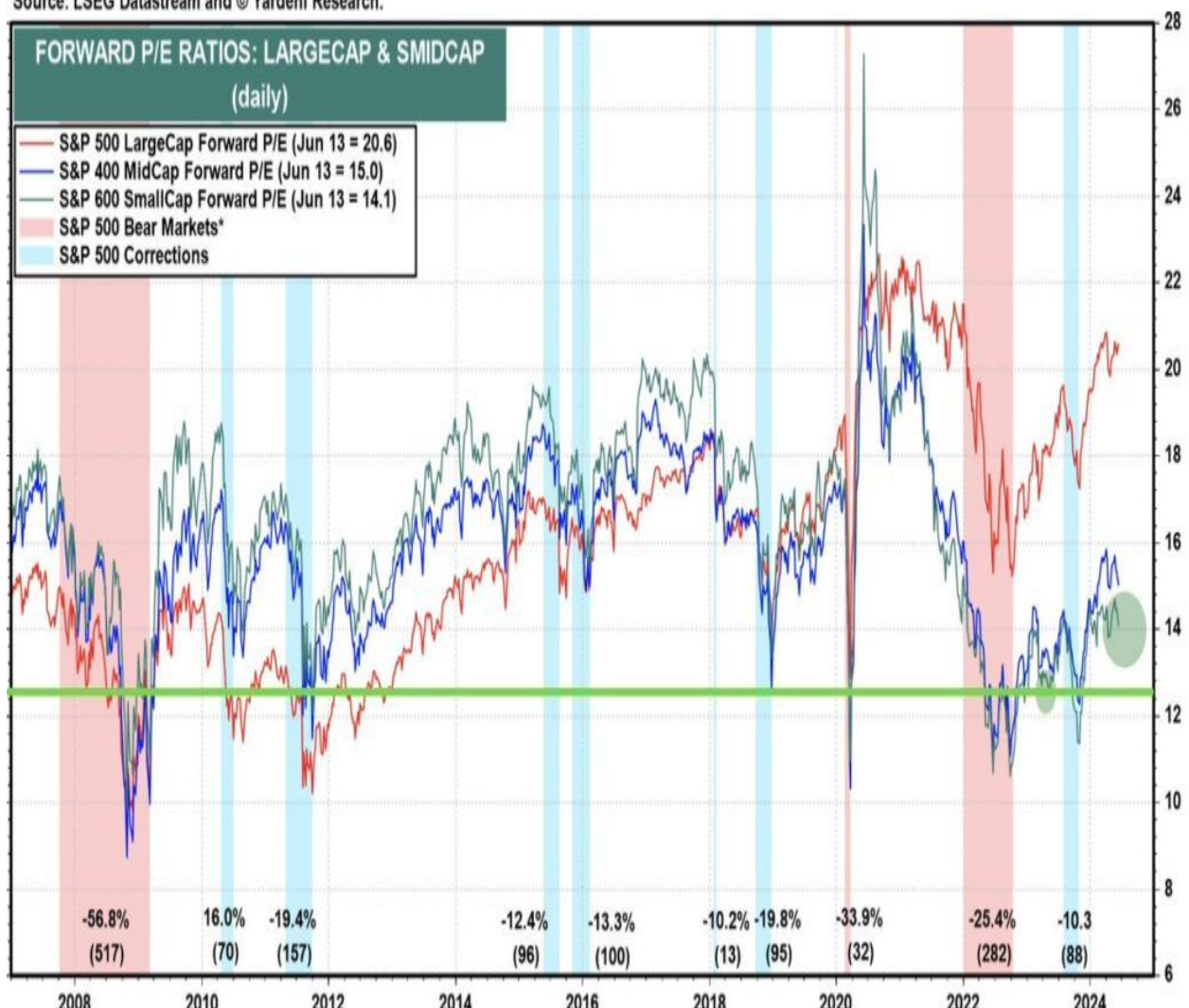
Much of the recent market conversation revolves around the strength of large-cap stocks and the relative weakness of most other stocks. What is not often heard is how the performance is affecting valuations. The graph below, courtesy of Yardeni Research, shows that the forward P/E ratio for large-cap stocks is near the highest level since the dot com bust. Yet, the forward P/E for small and mid-cap stocks has been lingering at their lowest levels in over ten years. More importantly, the current valuation has been the lowest since 2008, excluding periods when the market was in a

correction. The gap between large and small-cap stocks will likely converge at some point. However, it can get more dislocated before such a normalization occurs.





Source: LSEG Datastream and © Yardeni Research.



## Office Carnage Continues

The price decline of some office properties in many major cities is startling. We follow @TripleNetInvest on X/Twitter to keep us updated on commercial real estate fire sales. On Wednesday, he posted the following:

*An office tower (pictured below) in San Francisco's Mid Market area shockingly sold for 90% LESS than what it last traded for.*

*The previous owner paid \$62M in 2018 for the 90k SF building.*

*It was recently acquired by a Starwood affiliate for \$6.5M (\$72 per SF)*

Despite the post-Covid normalization across most economic sectors, vacancy rates around the country are not falling. San Francisco has the highest vacancy rate of big cities, at 37%. For context, it was 7% in 2019. Furthermore, it has an occupancy rate of 44%. Per [Optimize Reality](#):

*As those drastically under-occupied leases come due, they will exaggerate an already market clogged by empty office space. The over-saturation will become far worse indicated already by dropping rents and hundreds of thousands of square feet hitting the sublease market.*





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\*\* SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT RECENT RAPID WEAKNESS IN YEN

\*\* WILL TAKE NECESSARY ACTION IN EXCESSIVE MOVES

\*\*ALWAYS PREPARED TO RESPOND

\*\*DON'T HAVE SPECIFIC LEVELS IN MIND

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