



# 95 Billion a Month of Liquidity Drainage Starts Today

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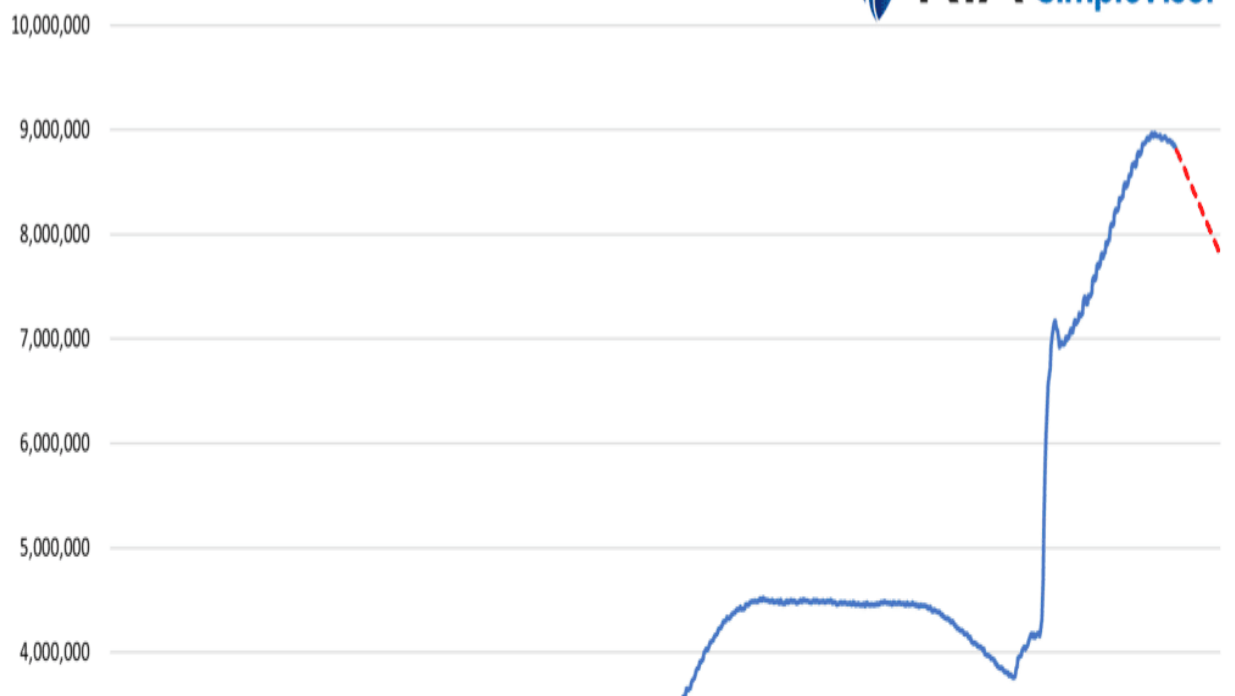
The Federal Reserve's balance sheet unwind, aka Quantitative Tightening (QT), ramps up today to 95 billion a month. The plan is to allow 60 billion in U.S. Treasury bonds and 35 billion of mortgages to mature monthly. The Fed may let additional Treasury Bills mature to reach their 95 billion goal, if there are not enough mortgages maturing or paying down in a given month. With the step up in QT comes reduced liquidity for the banking system and financial markets.

The 2018 episode of QT taught us that liquidity dries up over time, and the effects take a while to be felt. The more illiquid markets and market participants that heavily rely on leverage will feel the impact first. Given the 95 billion monthly pace of QT is almost double the rate of 2018, the adverse liquidity effects may occur sooner this time. Below we provide a summary of an important white paper on QT presented at the Jackson Hole Conference.

## Fed's Balance Sheet



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## What To Watch Today

### Economy

- 7:00 a.m. ET: **MBA Mortgage Applications**, the week ended August 26 (-1.2% prior)
- 8:15 a.m. ET: **ADP Employment Change**, August (300,000 expected)
- 9:45 a.m. ET: **MNI Chicago PMI**, August (52.5 expected, 52.1 prior)

### Earnings

Company		Time	Estimate		Growth Show only confirmed?	Surprise		
GEF	Greif, Inc.	4:15 PM ET	\$1.98	\$1.60 B	7.3%	+	=	-
✓ BF.B	Brown-Forman Corpo...	8:00 AM ET	\$0.47	-	-	+	=	-
✓ DBI	Designer Brands Inc.	6:45 AM ET	\$0.51	\$838.69 M	2.6%	+	=	-
✓ DCI	Donaldson Company,...	6:00 AM ET	\$0.84	\$880.24 M	13.9%	+	=	-
COO	CooperCompanies, Inc.	4:15 PM ET	\$3.20	\$832.68 M	9.1%	+	=	-
✓ FIVE	Five Below, Inc.	4:00 PM ET	\$0.78	\$682.74 M	5.6%	+	=	-
✓ PSTG	Pure Storage, Inc.	4:00 PM ET	\$0.22	\$634.26 M	27.7%	+	=	-
✓ CHS	Chico's FAS, Inc.	7:00 AM ET	\$0.25	\$543.90 M	15.2%	+	=	-
✓ EXPR	Express, Inc.	6:45 AM ET	\$0.09	\$479.62 M	4.8%	+	=	-
✓ VEEV	Veeva Systems Inc.	4:05 PM ET	\$1.01	\$530.61 M	16.5%	+	=	-
✓ NTNX	Nutanix, Inc.	4:00 PM ET	(\$0.38)	\$350.40 M	-10.3%	+	=	-
✓ OKTA	Okta, Inc.	4:00 PM ET	(\$0.30)	\$429.83 M	36.2%	+	=	-

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## Market Trading Update

While the market tried to rally out of the gate yesterday morning, the JOLTS report sent sellers into panic mode as the strong report gives more room for the Federal Reserve to continue its aggressive rate hiking campaign. Unfortunately, as noted recently, the market needed to hold the 50-dma to avoid retesting the lows. Such was not to be with the market breaking that critical support.

With that break, the market completed a 50% retracement of the advance. However, with the MACD sell signal becoming more entrenched, it is unlikely that much will stop the market from retesting lows soon. Such doesn't mean we won't have some rally attempts. We will, and those rallies should be sold into and risk rebalanced in portfolios accordingly.



TradingView



## Getting Wonky on QT

As the Fed increases QT to 95 billion a month, it's worth getting a little wonky, so we can better appreciate how QT can negatively impact liquidity. To help us, we share a [58-page Fed white paper by Viral V. Acharya](#) on the topic of QT and liquidity presented at the recent Jackson Hole Conference. [Cross Border Capital](#) does a great job of highlighting a few of the paper's key points. We summarize and simplify them below the graphic.

“During **quantitative tightening**, the banking sector may not shrink the claims it has written on liquidity at the same pace that the central bank withdraws reserves. **This may lead to tightened liquidity conditions and the greater possibility of episodes of systemic liquidity stress ....**” *[non-linearity/ asymmetry from QE/ QT policies]*

“Another possibility ... is the incentive of banks to **hoard liquidity** for non-supervisory reasons.” *[i.e. 'liquidity' is not fungible in crises for precautionary reasons]*

“Liquidity dependence resulting from QE and the **poor reallocation of liquidity** within the system in times of stress can also have implications for market-making by banks in **systemically important markets such as the Treasuries**. This can affect the orderly functioning of **shadow banks**, as seen at the time of the COVID outbreak.” *[extends broadly to embrace shadow banks]*

*[banks' liabilities become more short-term when QE expands reserves]* “... the maturity-shortening of banking sector liabilities when the stock of reserves rises is evidenced not just at the aggregate level in time-series data but also at an individual bank level in the cross-section. Banks also originate more corporate lines of credit. We observe little reversal of all this during quantitative tightening. We argue that this **asymmetric behaviour** can explain **tightening liquidity conditions and occasional stress episodes when quantitative tightening is underway**, despite the central bank balance-sheet being large relative to historical standards. Furthermore, **such behaviour can make the banking system dependent on the central bank for ever larger liquidity infusions during stress.**” *[local and systemic balance sheet mis-matches are important crisis triggers]*

Acharya et al. (2022)



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- **Point 1?** Banks may use the excess liquidity during QE to make loans, including those like margin debt used for speculative purposes. During QT, however, they may not reduce their loan book, thus effectively reducing net liquidity available to others.
- **Point 2?** Banks, understanding that liquidity is declining, may hoard excess liquidity. Such actions reduce system-wide liquidity.
- **Point 3?** Liquidity is allocated poorly during QE. When removed, it can have unequal stress on Treasury markets, where banks rely heavily on liquidity to maintain balanced two-way flows.
- **Point 4?** During QE, banks tend to loan money for shorter time periods. This can be for speculative purposes and short-term loans. In many cases, the short loans need to roll over once they mature. With QT draining liquidity, stress can occur as the borrowers may struggle to borrow to pay off the original loans. Such can result in the forced liquidation of assets to repay the original loan.

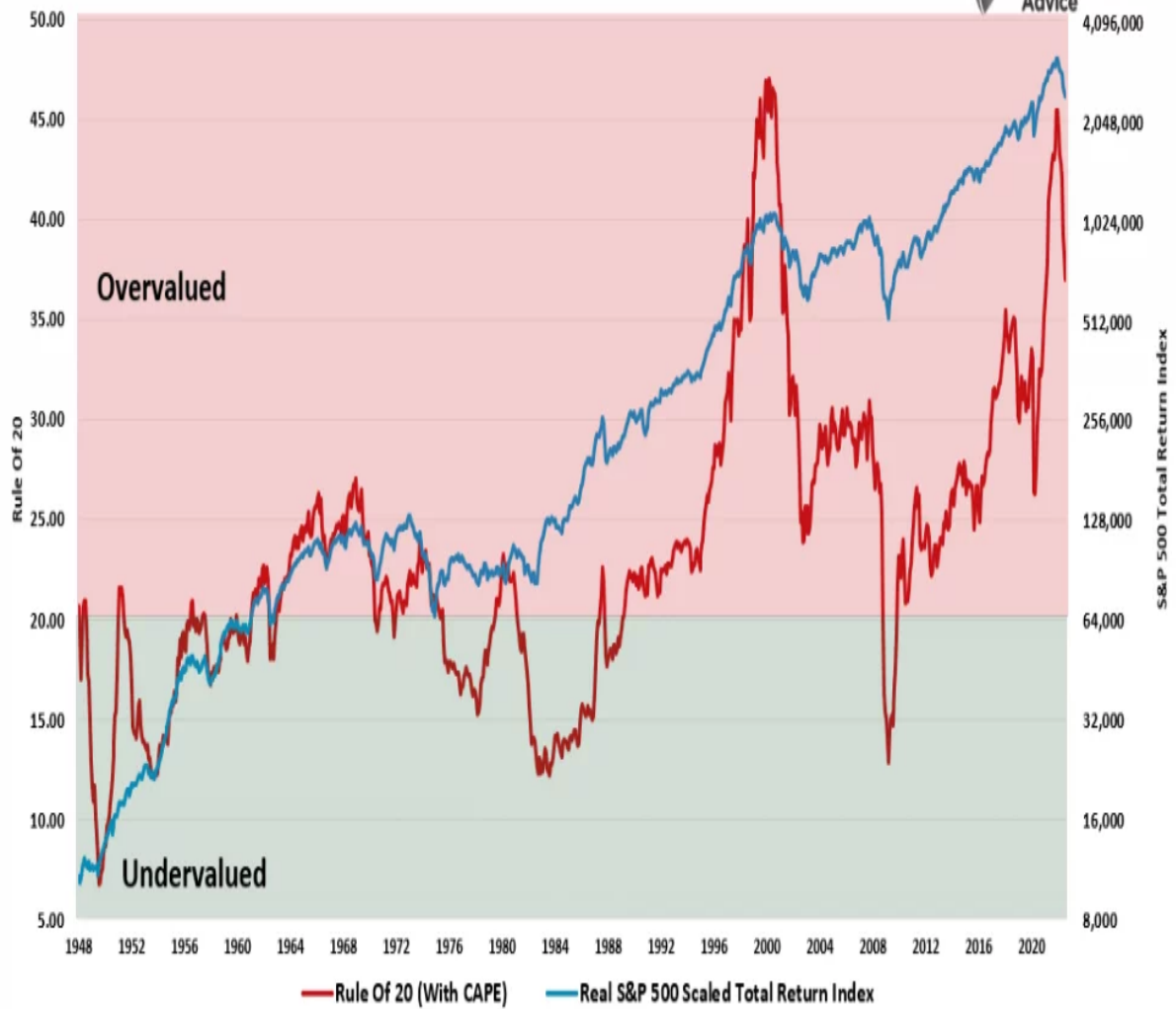
## The 'Rule of 20' Argues the Bear Is Not Yet Hibernating

Lance Roberts wrote [The Rule of 20 and Why the Bear Market Remains](#) yesterday. In the article, he explains that one 'fair value' measure for the S&P 500 is attained when the P/E ratio and inflation rate equal 20. The graph below shows this valuation tool currently sits around 35, or a 75% premium to 'fair value.' The measure is still about 20% overvalued even if inflation drops to zero. Lance suggests the market is more than 'fully priced.' To wit:

*The rule peaked at the 2nd highest level in history earlier this year. Such levels suggest the market is more than fully priced. Regardless of what definition you choose to use.*



## Rule Of 20 vs S&P 500 Total Return Index



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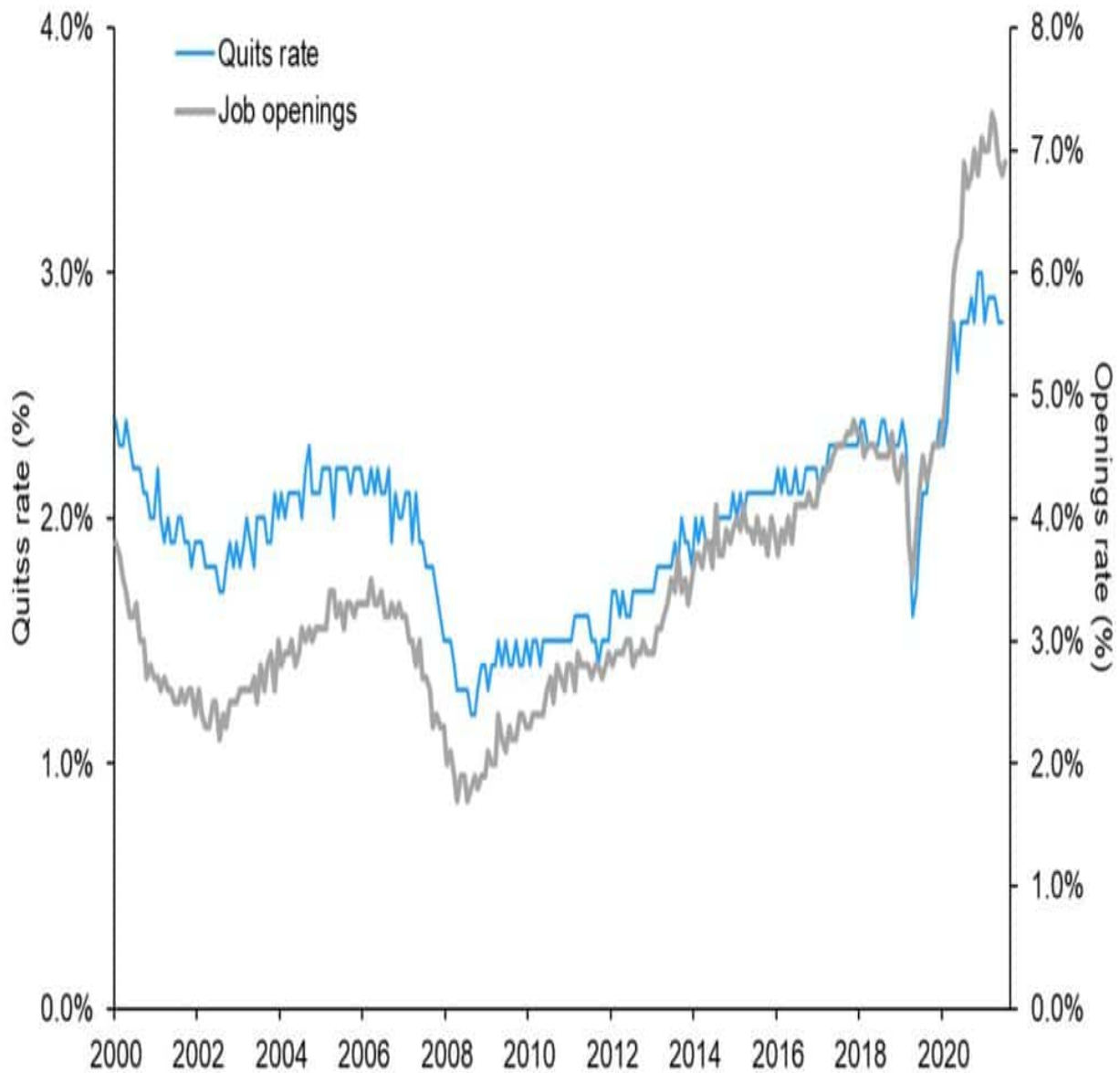


## **JOLTS Points to Continued Tightness in the Labor Markets**

The JOLTS index of job openings unexpectedly rose to 11.24 million from 11 million last month, and estimates of 10.4 million. The report suggests the labor market remains hot. Powell made it clear the Fed is concerned about a price-wage spiral. Strong labor markets will certainly encourage employees to ask for raises or quit their jobs to seek higher-paying jobs. The graph below shows job openings, and the quits rate remains well above historical norms.

### JOLTS<sup>1</sup> openings rate vs quits rate

December 2000 - July 2022



Source: BLS; EY-Parthenon

### JOLTS<sup>1</sup> openings rate vs quits rate

December 2000 - July 2022



**Tweet of the Day**



Mohamed A. El-Erian ✓

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...

From Bloomberg @Markets

This type of statement would need to be repeated by other #Fed officials, including Chair Powell, if the aim is to convince markets that the “Greenspan/Bernanke/Yellen/Powell “put” is now sustainably way out of the money. And even then...

#markets #economy

## Neel Kashkari ‘Happy’ to See the Stock Market’s Reaction to Jackson Hole

Monday, August 29, 2022 02:43 PM

By Joe Weisenthal, Tracy Alloway and Jonnelle Marte

(Bloomberg) -- Sharp stock-market losses show investors have got the message that Jerome Powell and his colleagues are serious about tackling inflation, said Minneapolis Fed President Neel Kashkari.



Mohamed A. El-Erian ✓

@elerianm

...

From Bloomberg @Markets

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#markets #economy

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