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MARKETS & FINANCE | STOCKS

American Companies Are Buying Their Own Stocks at a Record Pace

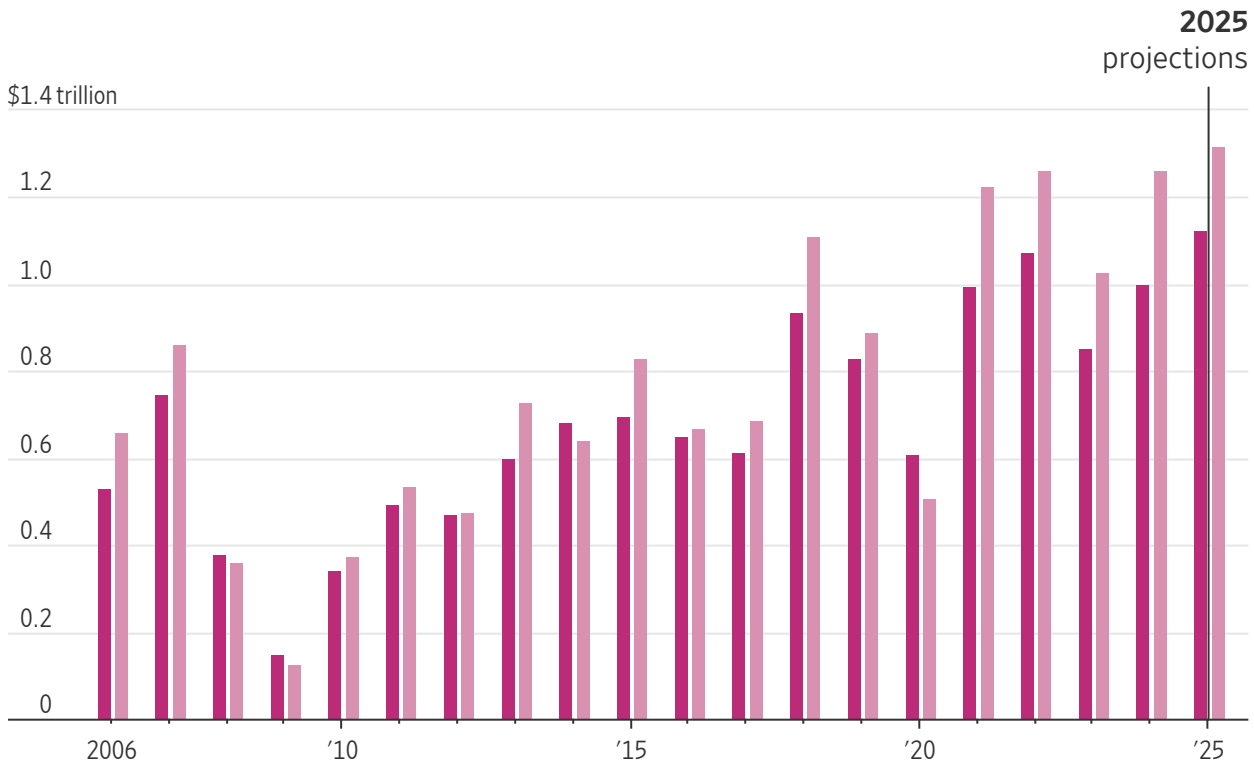
Buybacks are expected to top \$1.1 trillion in 2025, led by big banks and tech firms

By [Krystal Hur](#) [Follow](#)

Updated Aug. 11, 2025 3:17 pm ET

U.S. stock buybacks, yearly

Completed Announced



Note: As of Thursday
Source: Birinyi Associates



Quick Summary



- American companies are on pace to repurchase over \$1.1 trillion of their shares in 2025, an all-time high.

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American companies are repurchasing their shares at a record pace, boosting their balance sheets and fueling the U.S. stock rally.

U.S. companies have announced \$983.6 billion worth of stock buybacks so far this year, the best start to a year on record, according to Birinyi Associates data going back to 1982. They are projected to purchase more than \$1.1 trillion worth overall in 2025, which would mark an all-time high.

The biggest repurchasers include tech giants [Apple](#) and Google parent [Alphabet](#). Big banks such as [JPMorgan Chase](#), [Bank of America](#) and [Morgan Stanley](#) also are leading the charge.

Strong earnings growth and tax cuts have helped fill corporate coffers, while powering stocks out of their tariff-driven April rout and lifting the S&P 500 and Nasdaq composite to fresh records. At the same time, the confusion around trade has stalled many [businesses' investment plans](#), making buybacks a more appealing use of incoming cash.

“Things are better than everyone makes them seem,” said Jeffrey Yale Rubin, president of Birinyi Associates. “Companies are flush with cash. They were in healthy shape even before the better earnings.”

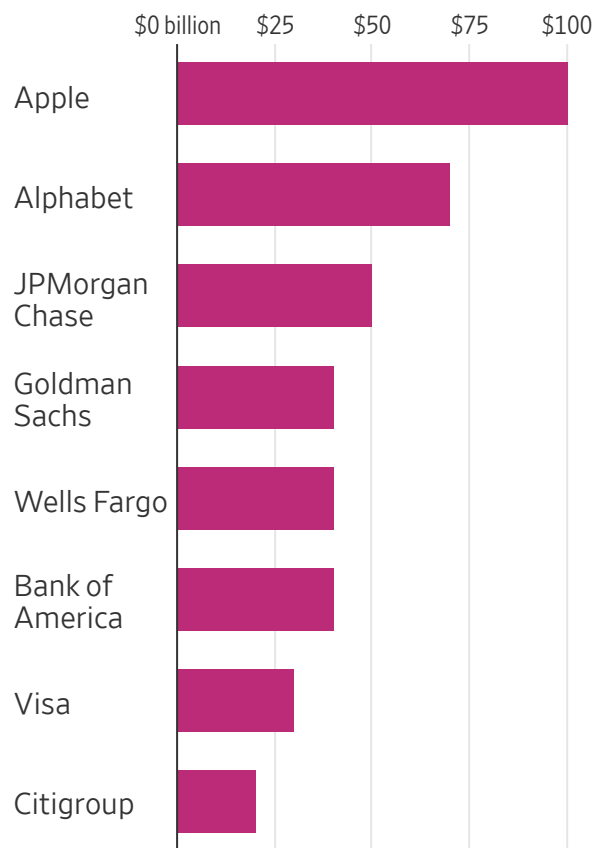
Both companies and investors often applaud buybacks because the practice reduces the number of shares available to trade, driving up earnings per share and [often boosting stock prices](#).

But the practice is controversial in some quarters, [with skeptics contending](#) that repurchases serve to prop up the market at a time of already stretched valuations. Some analysts worry that the preference for buybacks over longer-term commitments such as investing in factories or offering dividends suggests President Trump's trade war stands to weigh on growth over time.

Skeptics also say companies tend to repurchase shares when they are rising rather than when they are relatively cheap, making buybacks an inefficient use of extra cash.

Buyback announcements ramped up in July, when strong corporate earnings, a [wave of trade deals](#) and signs of economic resilience powered stocks to fresh all-time highs. U.S. companies announced \$165.6 billion worth of buying last month, above the previous July record of \$87.7 billion in 2006, according to Birinyi.

Companies did also buy when markets were weaker earlier in 2025. S&P 500 firms [bought \\$293.5 billion worth of their stock](#) during the first three months of this year, a

Largest authorized stock buybacks, 2025

Note: As of Thursday
Source: Birinyi Associates

quarterly record and up 21% from the end of 2024, according S&P Dow Jones Indices data.

Buybacks have been particularly concentrated at the top, with the 20 largest companies accounting for almost half of repurchases. This year's largest buyback authorizations are from big tech firms, the beneficiaries of the boom in artificial-intelligence stocks, whose balance sheets have ballooned even as their market values have soared.

In May, Apple pledged to funnel up to \$100 billion into buying its own shares while warning that tariffs could add millions of dollars to the iPhone maker's costs. The company has \$36.3 billion in cash and cash equivalents, according to quarterly results reported

in July.

Alphabet announced a \$70 billion stock buyback program earlier this year and reported having about \$21 billion in cash and equivalents.

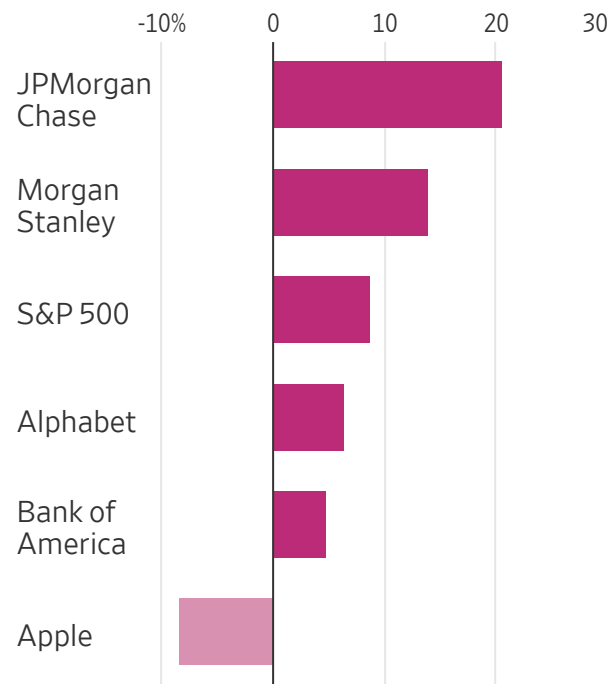
America's largest banks are also at the forefront of the surge. JPMorgan said in July that the company will buy back \$50 billion worth of stock. Bank of America announced a share-repurchase program of \$40 billion, and Morgan Stanley reauthorized up to \$20 billion in buybacks.

Some analysts view the banks' recent shopping spree as a sign that a cooling economy hasn't hit Americans' ability to keep spending and borrowing.

"The buybacks would suggest that the consumer is in pretty good financial health at the moment," said Bill Fitzpatrick, managing director at Logan Capital Management.

Others question whether companies are using buybacks to boost share prices and paper over the hit from Trump's tariffs on their balance sheets. Some note companies could also put off buybacks if tariffs strain their profits.

[Warren Buffett](#) isn't among those buying. [Berkshire Hathaway](#) revealed earlier this month that it [refrained from repurchasing](#) any shares during the April-to-June

Performance, year to date

Source: FactSet

period, marking the fourth consecutive quarter that it hasn't bought its stock. Berkshire's cash pile swelled to a record \$344 billion, including equivalents, at the end of June.

[BlackRock's](#) Larry Fink has warned against buybacks in his annual letter to chief executives, saying that they can offer quick returns but should be balanced with longer-term growth investments.

But many analysts say they expect the buying binge to boost indexes, already lifted by solid corporate earnings, and fuel the stock rally for now. Of the 91% of companies in the S&P 500 index that

have reported second-quarter results, about 82% have beaten estimates, according to FactSet.

"That bodes well for the broader market," said Fitzpatrick.

Write to Krystal Hur at krystal.hur@wsj.com

Appeared in the August 11, 2025, print edition as 'Record Buybacks Led by Banks, Tech Fuel Rally in Stocks'.

Further Reading

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