

## What's News

### Business & Finance

**Power prices surged.** European currencies hit multidecade lows and governments worked to contain the economic hit after Russia cut its main natural-gas pipeline to the heart of Europe. **A1, A10**  
♦ **European stock indexes** and the euro fell after Nord Stream gas was cut. U.S. markets were closed for the Labor Day holiday. **B9**

♦ **VW said it would** list its sports-car maker Porsche in one of the biggest IPOs in years and a crucial test of investors' confidence as high inflation and the war in Ukraine put a damper on the global economy. **A1**

♦ **The Biden administration** has leased fewer acres for oil-and-gas drilling offshore and on federal land than any other administration in its early stages dating back to the end of World War II, a Wall Street Journal analysis found. **A1**

♦ **Ernst & Young's** leaders are expected this week to approve splitting its auditing and consulting businesses, according to people familiar with the matter. **B1**

♦ **The death of Bed Bath & Beyond's CFO** comes as the retailer has lost several executives and finance team members who could step into the role for the holiday season. **B1**

♦ **CVS's deal to acquire** Signify will add 10,000 contracted doctors and clinicians and give CVS a hand in coordinating medical care for millions of Americans. **B1**

### World-Wide

♦ **A federal judge** in Florida ordered the appointment of a special master to review documents seized from Trump's Mar-a-Lago property, a move that temporarily blocks the government from using the materials for a criminal investigation. **A1**

♦ **U.K. Foreign Secretary** Liz Truss won the race to lead the ruling Conservative Party and become Britain's next prime minister, taking the helm of a nation heading into an economic storm. **A1**

♦ **Tens of thousands** of migrants who crossed the border illegally in the past year are in limbo after the U.S. government failed to file the necessary paperwork in court. **A3**

♦ **Biden's plan** to cancel student debt and modify payments for millions of Americans could cost as much as \$1 trillion, according to budget analysts, challenging the administration's efforts to scale down the federal deficit. **A4**

♦ **Ukraine's energy** operator said a fire caused by Russian shelling had severed a power-transmission line and effectively disconnected the Zaporizhzhia nuclear-power plant from Ukraine's electricity grid. **A8**

♦ **Chile's leftist president** was laying the groundwork for a major political reset after voters overwhelmingly rejected a proposed constitution that his supporters had endorsed. **A18**

### JOURNAL REPORT

Personal Investing: The rush into dividend stocks. **R1-6**

**CONTENTS** Opinion..... A13-17  
A1's Focus..... A12 Personal Journal A12-13  
Business & Finance B2-6 Sports..... A14  
Business News..... B3 Technology..... B4  
Crossroads..... A15 U.S. News..... A23  
Heard on Street..... B10 World News A23  
Markets..... B9 World News AB30-38



Liz Truss, in London after being chosen prime minister Monday, will lead a nation facing high inflation and slow growth.

## Truss Is Picked to Lead U.K. As It Faces Economic Turmoil

By Max Colchester

LONDON—U.K. Foreign Secretary Liz Truss won the race to lead the ruling Conservative Party and become Britain's next prime minister, taking the helm of a nation heading into an economic storm.

Ms. Truss, 47, who succeeds Boris Johnson Tuesday as prime minister, will face the most daunting economic outlook for an incoming British leader since her political hero, Margaret Thatcher, became the U.K.'s first female prime

minister in 1979. Britain's slowing economy is poised to enter recession, inflation is at its highest rate in decades and households are facing crippling energy bills from the war in Ukraine.

Productivity growth has dropped to half the rate it was in the early 2000s, real wages have stagnated, the pound is nearing record lows and an aging population is placing a growing strain on public services, even as the government tries to rein in the public spending that soared during

the Covid-19 pandemic. Britain's exit from the European Union has hampered trade with the country's largest trading partner, and immigration restrictions have choked off access to inexpensive European labor. That has worsened a labor shortage of a scale not seen in the rest of Europe, driven by an unexpectedly high number of people leaving the workforce after the pandemic.

The energy crisis combined with a labor crunch is an inflationary double whammy.

"They have the worst of both worlds," said Mark Flanagan, who until recently led the U.K. team at the International Monetary Fund.

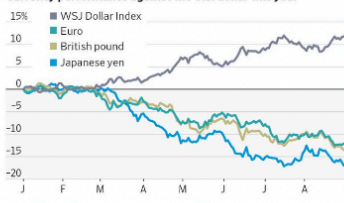
The country is on track to record the lowest economic growth and the highest inflation in the Group of Seven rich countries next year, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. The economic-policy

Please turn to page A10

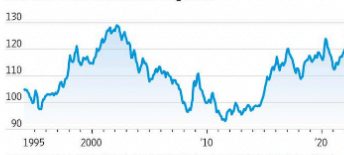
### Dollar Boosts Buying Power

In July, an index that considers inflation when measuring the dollar's strength topped its previous peak from 2002. **A2**

#### Currency performance against the U.S. dollar this year



#### U.S. real broad effective exchange rate



Sources: Dow Jones Market Data (indexes); Tullett Prebon (currencies); Bank for International Settlements, retrieved from Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis (exchange rate)

## VW Readies Big IPO For Porsche Brand

By William Boston

BERLIN—Volkswagen AG said Monday that it would list its sports-car maker Porsche AG in one of the biggest initial public offerings in years and a crucial test of investors' confidence as high inflation and the war in Ukraine put a damper on the global economy.

The offering could value Porsche at between €60 billion and €85 billion, according to analysts' estimates, which is the equivalent of \$59.8 billion and \$84.7 billion. It would inject fresh cash into VW's coffers that executives say will help the company bankroll its transition to electric vehicles and self-driving cars. At the maximum valuation, Porsche's IPO could total as much as

€10.6 billion. "The listing of Porsche AG will give fresh tailwind to Volkswagen's transformation," VW Chief Finance Officer Arno Antlitz said.

Oliver Blume, who is chief executive of both Porsche and the entire Volkswagen company, welcomed the decision by VW's supervisory board to move forward with the planned listing, saying it would grant Porsche greater independence.

"This is a historic moment for Porsche," Mr. Blume said. Confirming past comments about the planned offering, VW said that in preparation for the listing, Porsche's stock has been split into 50% ordinary shares and 50% nonvoting shares. Please turn to page A2

## Energy Prices Jump in Europe After Russia Shuts Pipeline

By Joe Wallace and Kim Mackrael

Power prices surged. European currencies hit multidecade lows and governments worked to contain the economic hit after Russia cut its main natural-gas pipeline to Europe.

The cutoff, which the Kremlin blamed Monday on Western sanctions and said would be long-lasting, realizes the worst-case scenario Europe had been girding for since Russia invaded

Ukraine in February. Europe is at the front lines of the economic war between Russia and the West that runs parallel to the battlefield war in Ukraine. Soaring electricity prices and a shortage of natural gas have hammered the European economy and raised concerns about blackouts and shortages this winter.

Natural-gas and electricity prices initially leapt by a third before settling up more than 10% on Monday in response to

## Judge Orders Review Of Trump Records

Special master to be appointed as DOJ must pause using materials for any criminal probe

By Jess Bravin and Aruna Viswanatha

WASHINGTON—A federal judge in Florida ordered the appointment of a special master to review documents seized from Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago property, a move that temporarily blocks the government from using the materials for a criminal investigation.

Mr. Trump asked the court to appoint the independent attorney to review materials federal agents seized on Aug. 8 from a storage room and the former president's office. The search came after months of discussions between Trump representatives and the government failed to satisfy authorities that all national-security documents had been transferred to the National Archives.

In a particular blow to the Justice Department, the order said that Mr. Trump could assert claims not only of attorney-client privilege, which are available to any suspect, but also executive privilege—that is, a president's ability to shield internal conversations with his aides. The government had argued that a former president couldn't raise executive-privilege claims against the very executive branch whose processes the privilege sought to protect.

The Labor Day order permitted intelligence officials to continue their examination of possible. Please turn to page A4

## U.S. Oil Leasing Slows Under Biden

By Timothy Puko and Anthony DeBarros

WASHINGTON—The Biden administration has leased fewer acres for oil-and-gas drilling offshore and on federal land than any other administration in its early stages dating back to the end of World War II, according to a Wall Street Journal analysis.

President Biden's Interior Department leased 126,228

acres for drilling through Aug. 20, his first 19 months in office, the analysis found. No other president since Richard Nixon in 1969-70 leased out fewer than 4.4 million acres at this stage in his first term.

Harry Truman was the last president to lease out fewer acres—65,658—in 1945-46, when offshore drilling was just beginning and the federal government didn't yet control the deep-water leases that have

the shutdown of the Nord Stream pipeline to Germany, announced by state-controlled Gazprom PJSC after markets closed last week. As traders braced for an expected recession in the eurozone, the euro briefly slid to its lowest level in 20 years. Stocks fell in Germany. Please turn to page A8

♦ European stocks and euro decline..... B9  
♦ Heard on the Street: OPEC sends a warning shot..... B10

### Sheep Are the Solar Industry's Lawn Mowers of Choice

The tough job of clearing grass around panels has shepherds in high demand

By Amrith Ramkumar

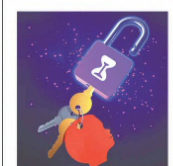
DEPORT, Texas—A team clearing grass from a field of solar panels on a recent day worked without complaint, despite the summer heat.

The panels blanket nearly 1,500 acres of a solar farm in Depert, a town near the Oklahoma border. Ely Valdez, the boss, makes sure prairie

grasses don't block sunshine from the panels. His sheep do most of the work.

Jobs clearing local flora under and around stretches of solar panels have triggered an unexpected boom for Mr. Valdez and other shepherders working the new photovoltaic fields blooming across America. Centuries after breakout roles in boss, makes sure prairie Please turn to page A6

### INSIDE



**PERSONAL JOURNAL**  
Parents can take extra steps to keep control of children's screen time. **A11**