

# Gold and the World Economy

Presentation to  
**2012 Precious Metals Summit Colorado**

**Dr. Martin Murenbeeld**

September 5, 2012

Vail Valley, Colorado



# *Important Information*

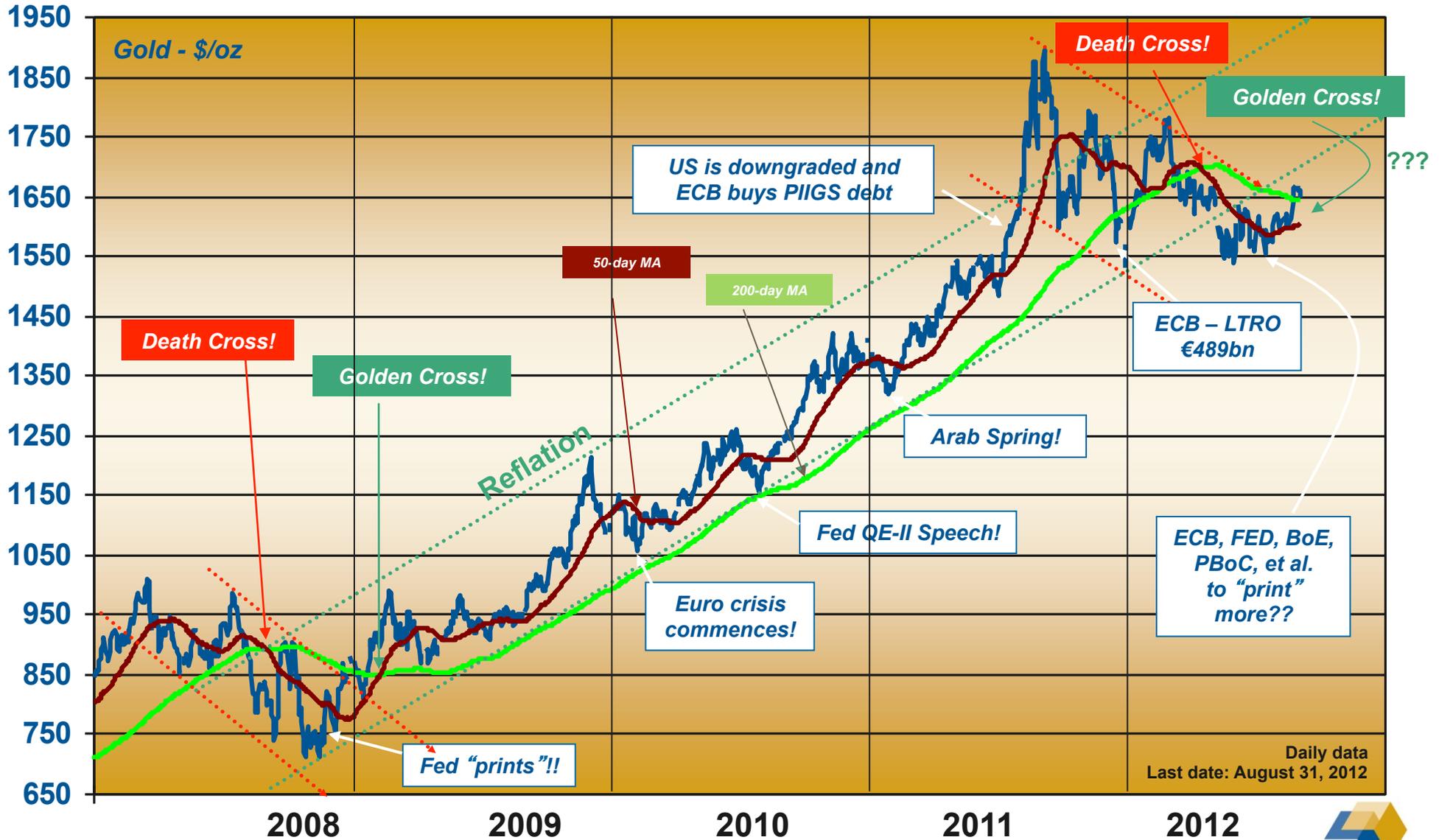
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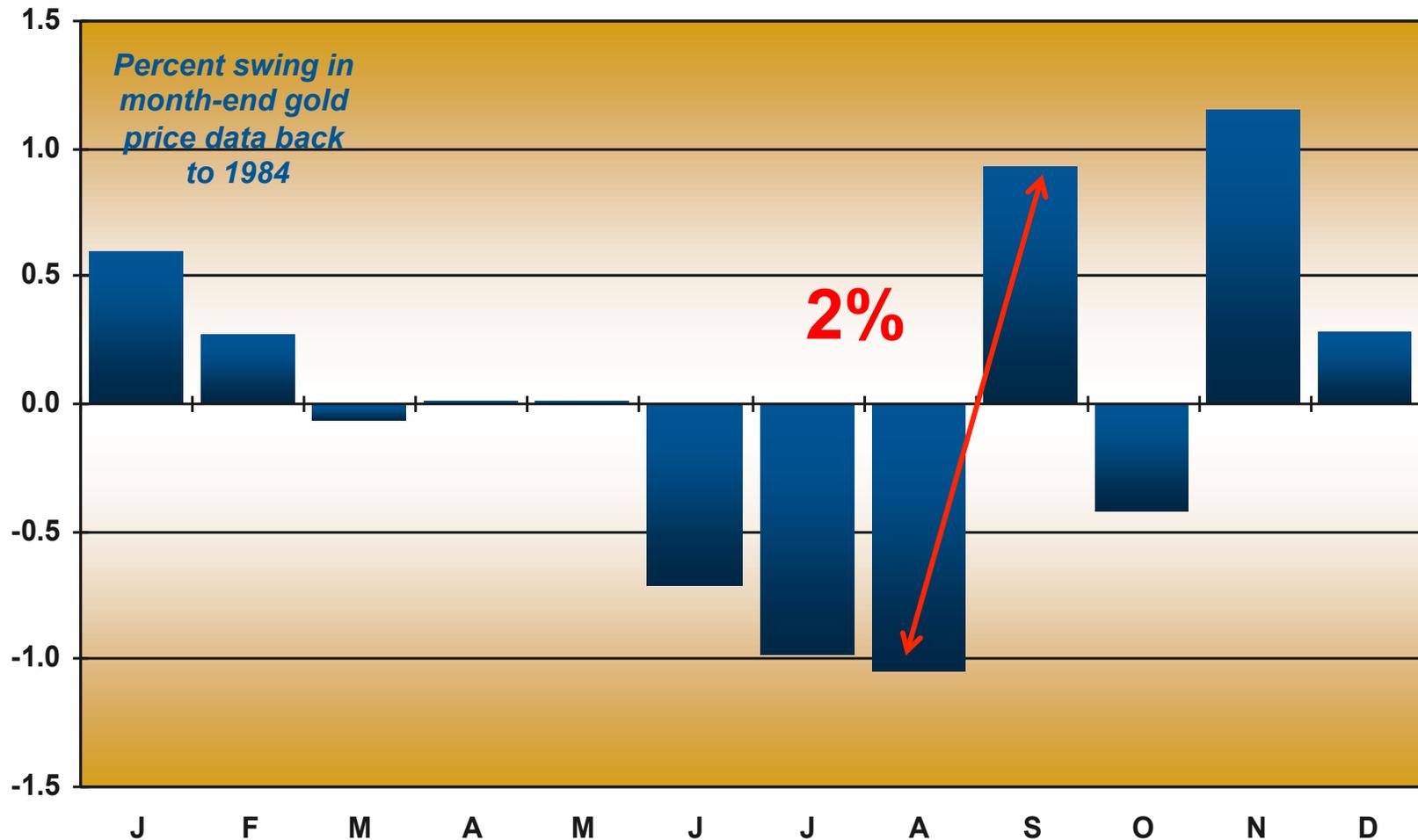
# Overview: Gold Price Corrections



# Overview: The Technical Picture



# Overview: The Seasonal Factors



## ***Eight Bullish Factors for Gold***

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- 1. Global debt crisis: more monetary reflation***
- 2. CB's buying gold: huge attitude change***
- 3. Investment demand: Asian market deregulation, ETF***
- 4. Gold not in a bubble: room to rise***
- 5. Commodity price cycle: many years to run (BRIC)***
- 6. Global imbalances: dollar needs to decline further***
- 7. Geopolitical environment: Iran?***
- 8. Mine supply up only modestly: gold costly to find***

# ***Bullish: (1) Global Debt Crisis***

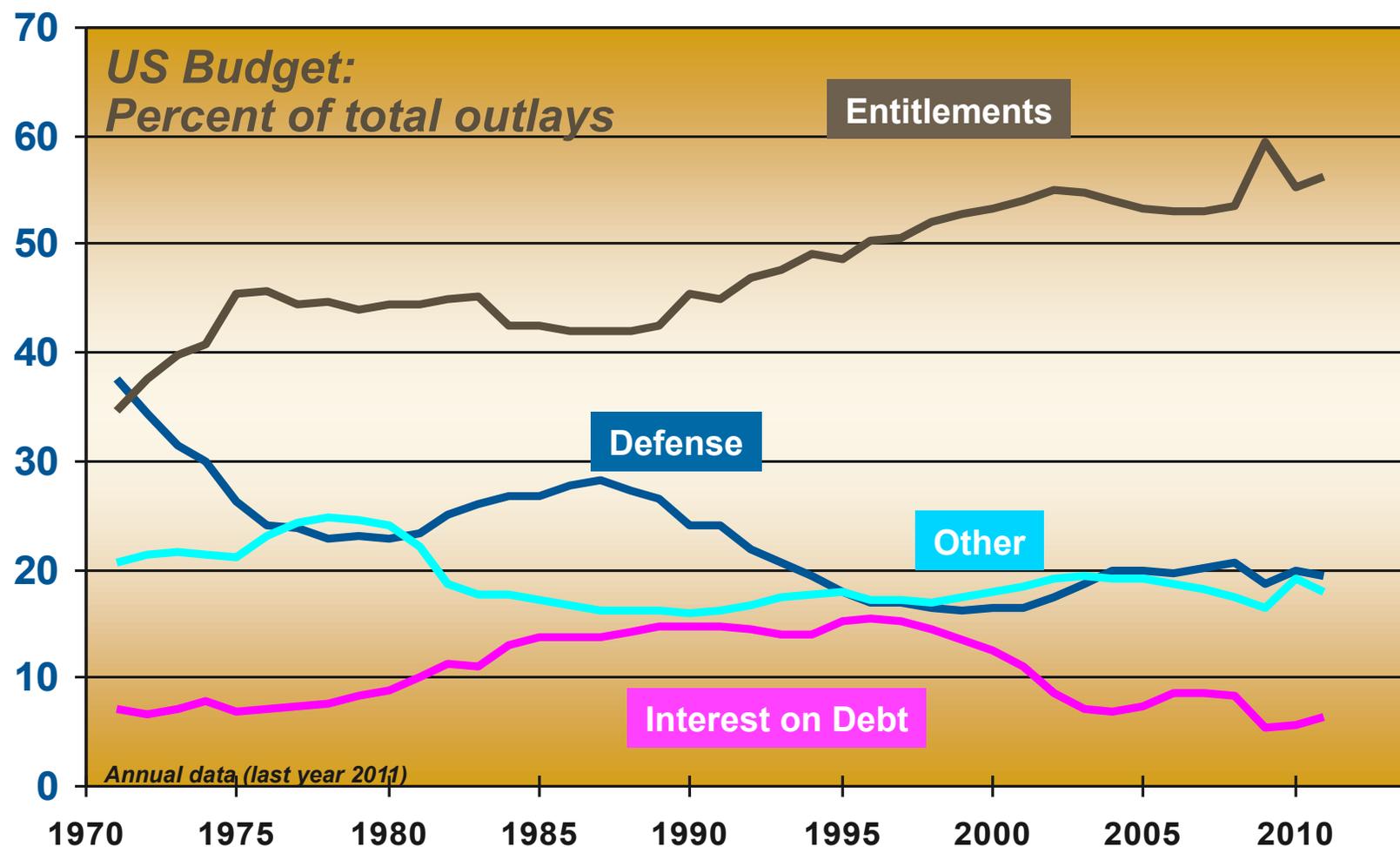
## ***Antecedents of the global debt crisis***

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- 1. 40-50 Years of Liberal-Democratic Social Policies:*** voters demanded more social welfare
- 2. Baby-Boomer Retirement:*** Creates huge fiscal costs going forward on account of over-promises by governments
- 3. The Great Recession:*** Pushed budgets into record deficit – just when early boomers were starting to retire
- 4. The Euro Common Currency:*** Membership in the Euro System allowed “undisciplined” governments to borrow (excessively) at German interest rate levels
- 5. Massive FX Reserves:*** high oil prices and undervalued currencies led to large FX reserves which were recycled to fund all the demands for funds by governments, home buyers, etc.

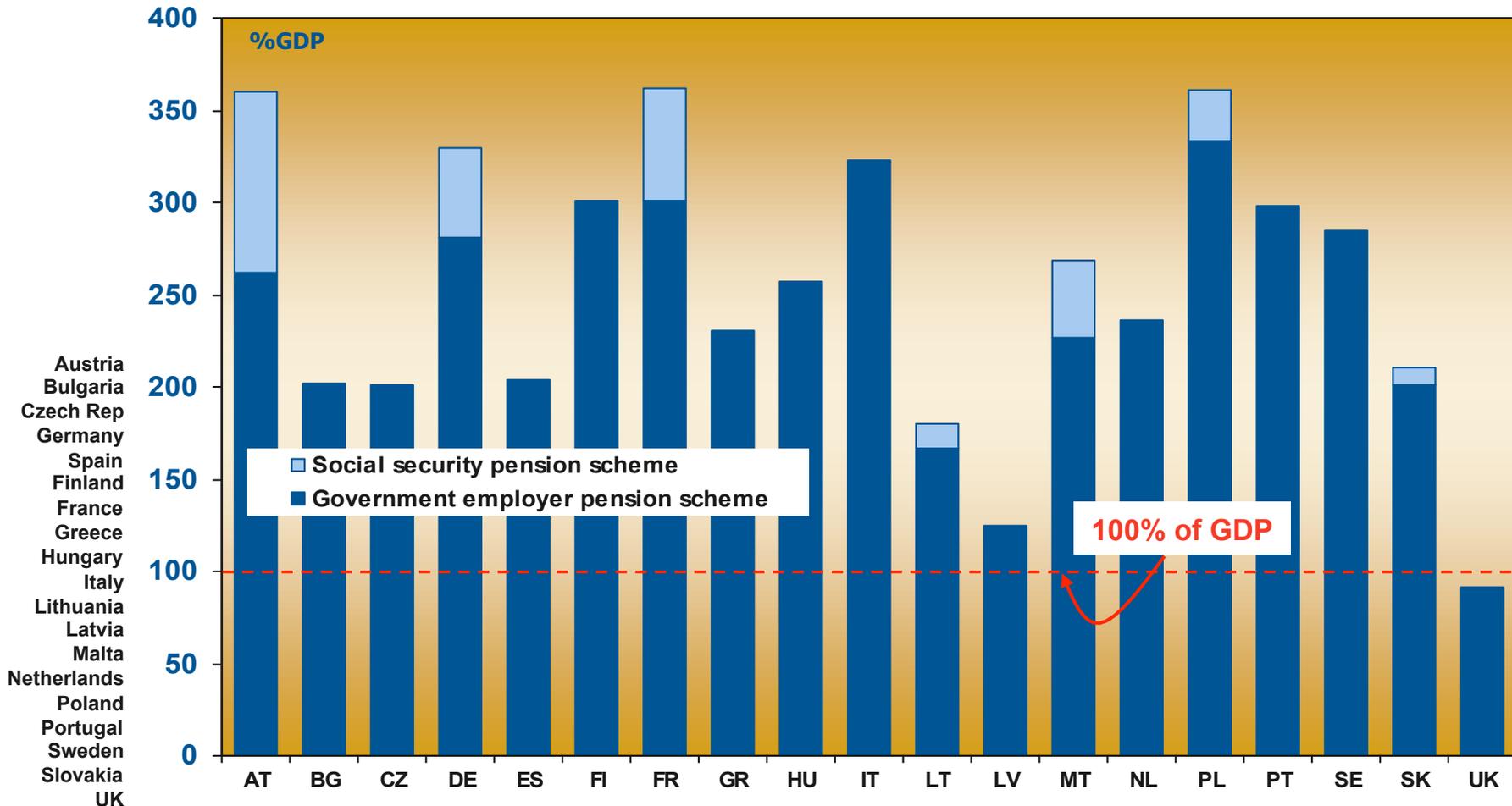
# Bullish: (1) Global Debt Crisis

Entitlements are killing Western economies



# Bullish: (1) Global Debt Crisis

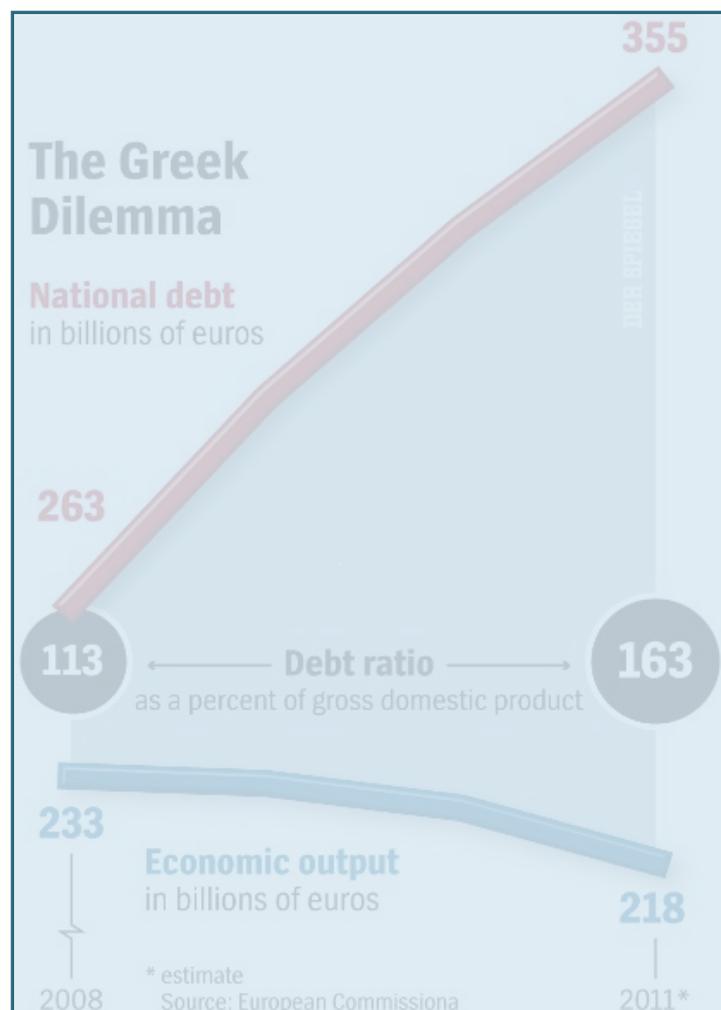
Europe's pension liabilities are massive, for example



Source: Research Center for Generational Contracts, January 2009  
NB - Future contributions are not taken into account

## **Bullish: (1) Global Debt Crisis**

**Is “Greece” in every country’s future??**



Source: *Der Spiegel*

**The Greek economy is in a depression!**

**When an economy is this weak government support for the economy automatically rises (because of “automatic stabilizers”: unemployment insurance and the welfare safety net, and because of new policy initiatives). Meanwhile, tax revenues contract.**

**Hence government debt levels rise!**

**Then markets become more reluctant to lend and interest rates rise, meaning debt servicing costs rise, and debt/GDP ratios rise further .... until default occurs ... and/or central banks print ...?**

# Bullish: (1) Global Debt Crisis

*It isn't easy to reduce debt/GDP levels!*

SCENARIO 2 -- ASSUME "GERMANY"											
NGDP	3%										
INTEREST RATE	2%										
PRIMARY SURPLUS	1%										
		YEAR									
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
DEBT	80	80.6	81.2	81.7	82.3	82.8	83.3	83.8	84.2	84.6	85.0
NGDP	100	103.0	106.1	109.3	112.6	115.9	119.4	123.0	126.7	130.5	134.4
DEBT/NGDP	80%	78%	77%	75%	73%	71%	70%	68%	66%	65%	63%

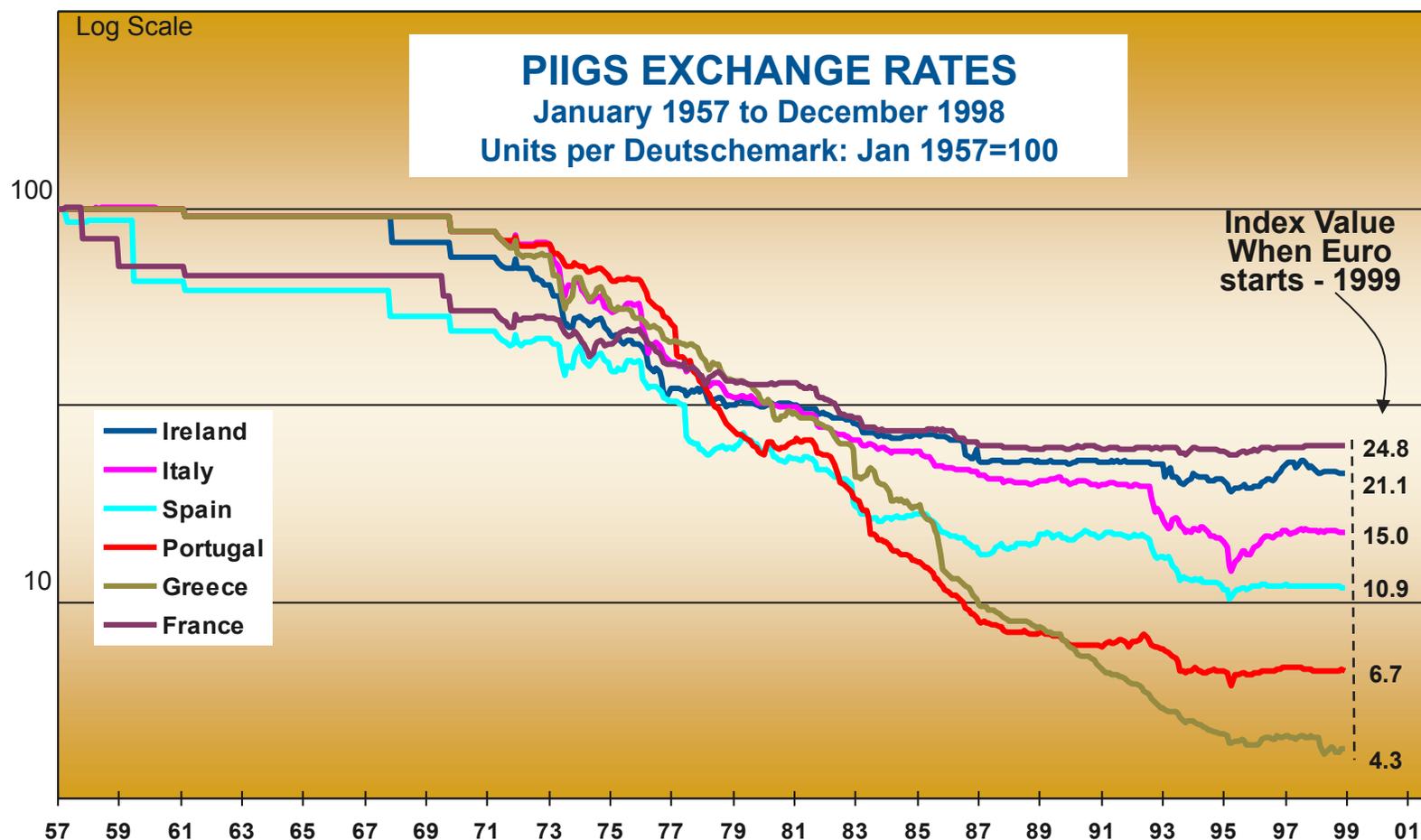
*The growth of nominal GDP plus the primary surplus must exceed interest rates on the debt.*

SCENARIO 3 -- ASSUME "SPAIN"											
NOMINAL GDP	1%										
INTEREST RATE	6%										
PRIMARY DEFICIT	-4%										
		YEAR									
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
DEBT	85	94.1	103.8	114.1	125.1	136.7	149.1	162.3	176.4	191.3	207.1
NGDP	100	101.0	102.0	103.0	104.1	105.1	106.2	107.2	108.3	109.4	110.5
DEBT/NGDP	85%	93%	102%	111%	120%	130%	140%	151%	163%	175%	188%

*If NGDP is 1% and the interest rate is 6% then the primary surplus must be 5% or greater for debt/GDP decline.*

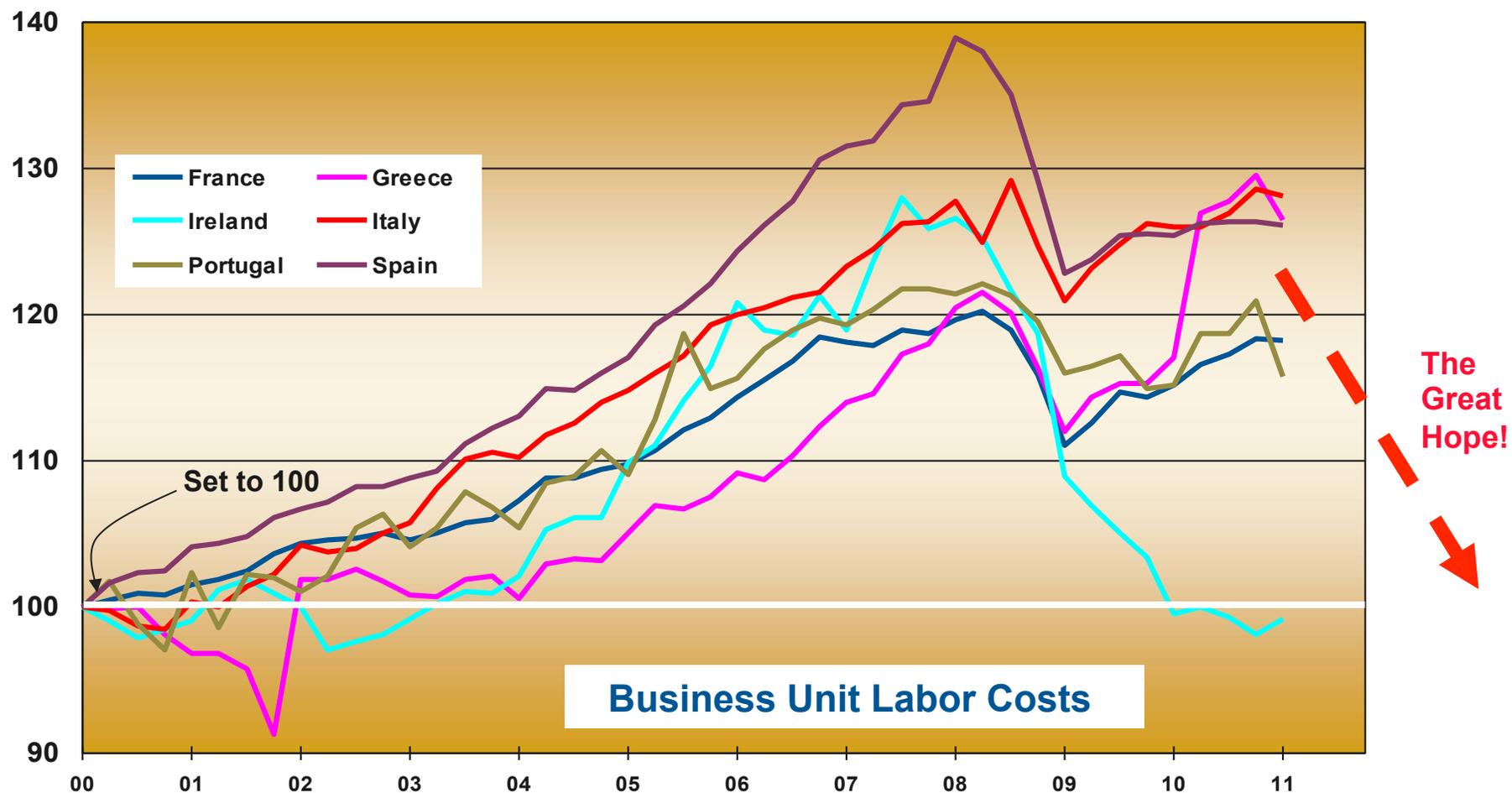
# ***Bullish: (1) Global Debt Crisis***

## ***Before euro: PIIGS regularly devalued***



# Bullish: (1) Global Debt Crisis

After euro: labor costs continued to widen



## ***Bullish: (1) Global Debt Crisis***

***Some “currencies” are seriously overvalued***

<b>ESTIMATES OF CURRENCY REALIGNMENT</b>				
	<b>Against Euro*</b>	<b>Against DM*</b>	<b>Against US\$**</b>	<b>Murenbeeld Against US\$</b>
<b>Germany</b>	<b>1.3%</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5.0%</b>	<b>10.0%</b>
<b>Finland</b>	<b>-6.7%</b>	<b>92.0</b>		<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Austria</b>	<b>-6.8%</b>	<b>91.9</b>		<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Netherlands</b>	<b>-7.1%</b>	<b>91.6</b>	<b>5.0%</b>	<b>5.0%</b>
<b>France</b>	<b>-9.4%</b>	<b>89.3</b>	<b>-7.0%</b>	<b>-10.0%</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	<b>-23.9%</b>	<b>74.8</b>		<b>-15.0%</b>
<b>Italy</b>	<b>-27.3%</b>	<b>71.4</b>	<b>-12.0%</b>	<b>-25.0%</b>
<b>Ireland</b>	<b>-28.6%</b>	<b>70.1</b>	<b>7.0%</b>	<b>-5.0%</b>
<b>Spain</b>	<b>-35.5%</b>	<b>63.2</b>	<b>-20.0%</b>	<b>-30.0%</b>
<b>Portugal</b>	<b>-47.2%</b>	<b>51.5</b>	<b>-15.0%</b>	<b>-45.0%</b>
<b>Greece</b>	<b>-57.6%</b>	<b>41.1</b>		<b>-50.0%</b>

\* Source: Nomura  
\*\* Source: Bank of America

***Ideally a  
number of  
euro-  
currencies  
should be  
devalued!***

## ***Bullish: (1) Global Debt Crisis***

***If Spain and Italy lost access to financial markets ...***

### **SPAIN and ITALY: What if?**

*Re-financing Needs in €billion*

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
ITALY	427	230	201	194	139
SPAIN	161	132	107	99	102
Total	588	362	308	293	241
Cumulative	588	951	1,259	1,552	1,793

***The EFSF/ESM  
etc. would  
have to kick in  
€1800 billion  
over the next  
few years!***

*Source: Italian Treasury, Spanish Treasury, IMF and authors' calculation.*

*CEPS Commentary: How High the Firewall , March 30, 2012*

# ***Bullish: (1) Global Debt Crisis***

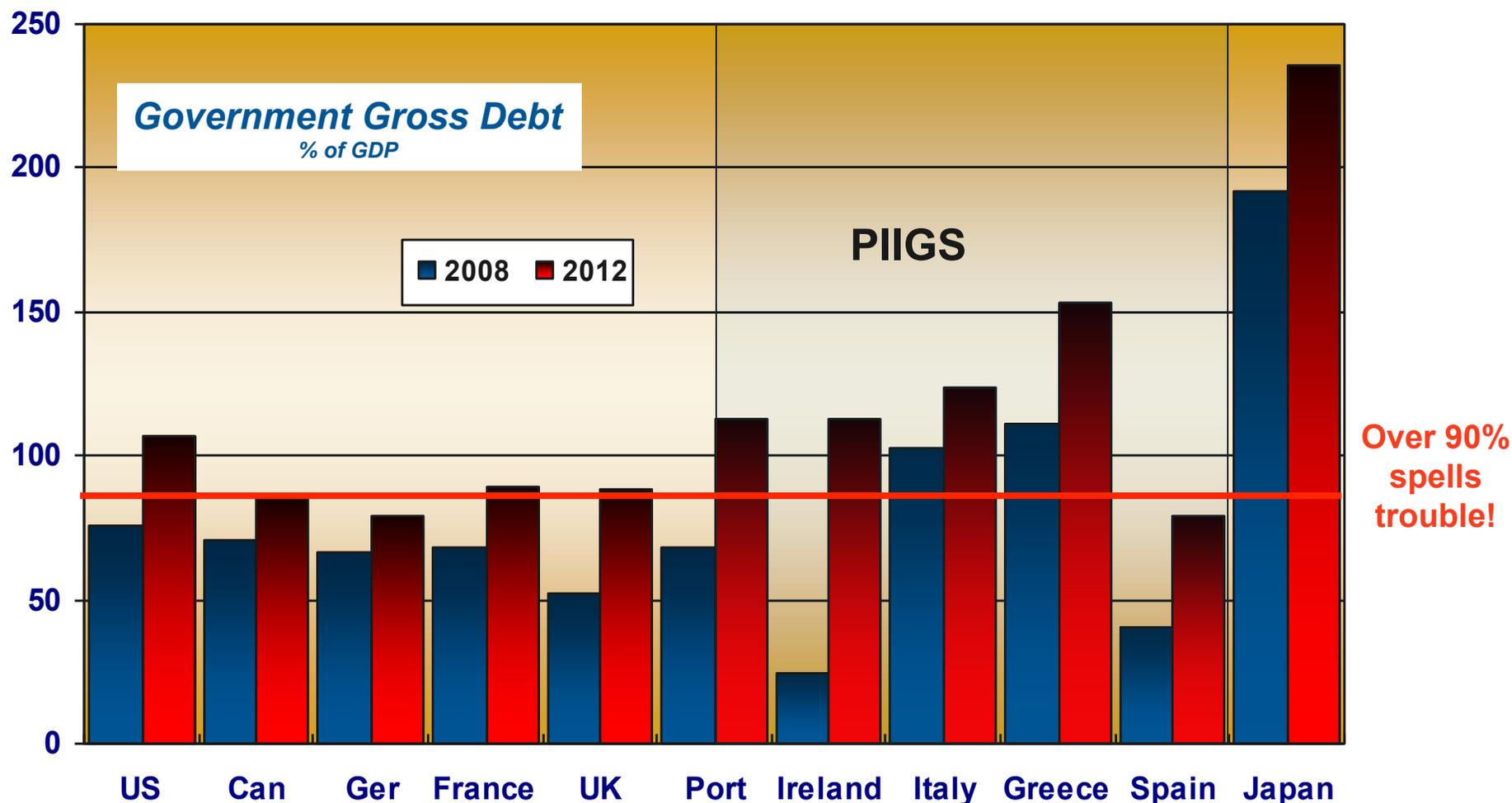
## ***Will Germany pay ...?***



***It can all work  
provided  
there are  
never-ending  
transfer  
payments  
from North to  
South ...***

# Bullish: (1) Global Debt Crisis

Bottom Line: most countries have excessive debts ...



Source: IMF Fiscal Monitor, April 2012 and IMF World Economic Outlook, April 2012

## ***Bullish: (1) Global Debt Crisis***

***So how will governments deal with their debts?***

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### ***Government Choices:***

***Reneg on promises***

***Cut other services***

***Raise taxes***

***Print more money***

## ***Bullish: (1) Global Debt Crisis***

***Print more money?***

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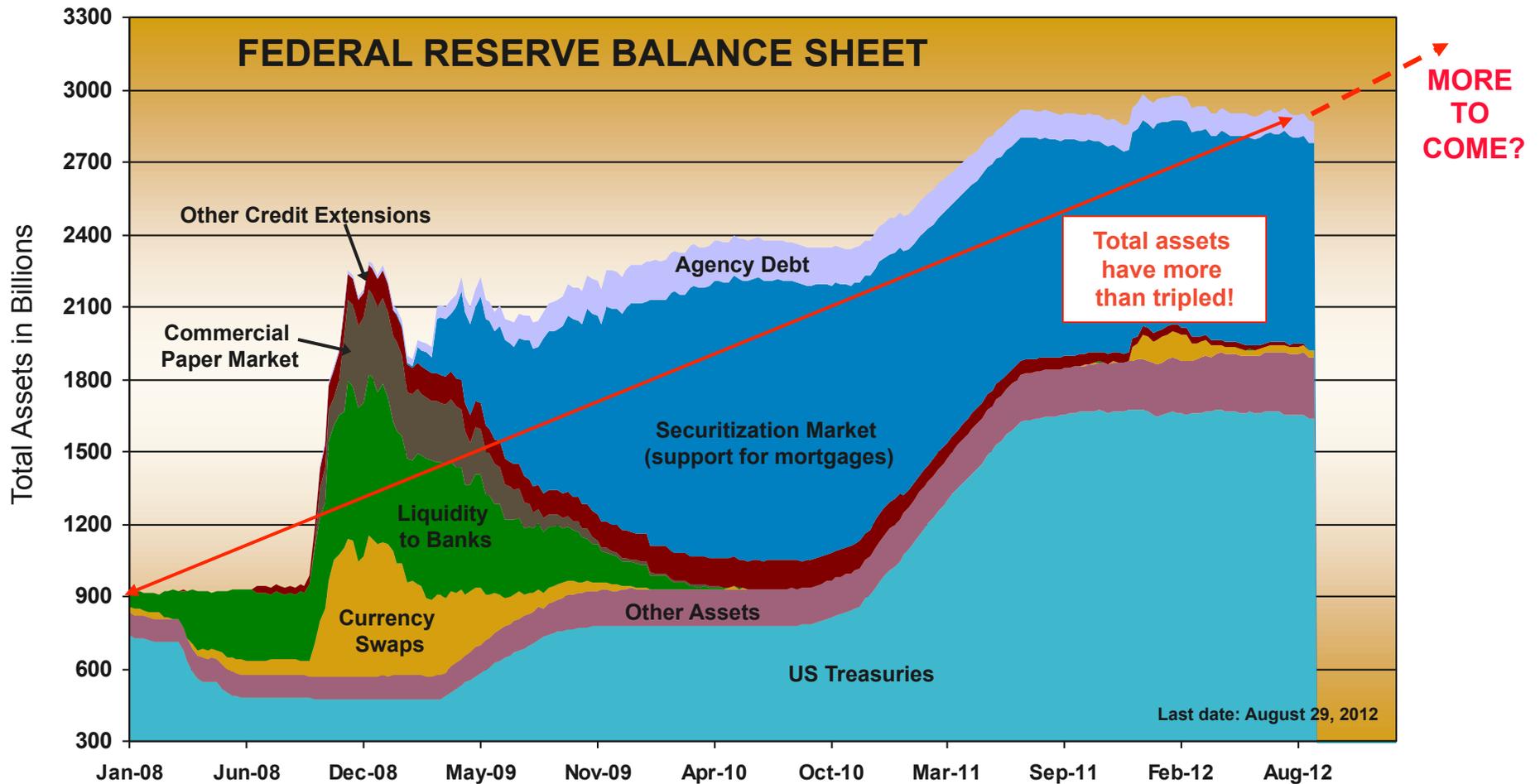
***“Throughout history, feckless governments have dodged their fiscal responsibility by turning to their monetary authority to devalue the currency, monetize debt and inflate their way out of structural deficits”***

***Richard Fisher:***

***President and CEO of the FRB of Dallas  
March 10, 2011***

# Bullish: (1) Global Debt Crisis

The Fed balance sheet has blown up ...



# Bullish: (1) Global Debt Crisis

The ECB balance sheet has blown up



## **Bullish: (1) Global Debt Crisis**

**The ECB and Fed have suggested “more to come”!**

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**On July 26 Draghi said:**

**“Within our mandate, the ECB is ready to do whatever it takes to preserve the euro. And believe me, it will be enough”**

**On August 22 FOMC minutes\* revealed that:**

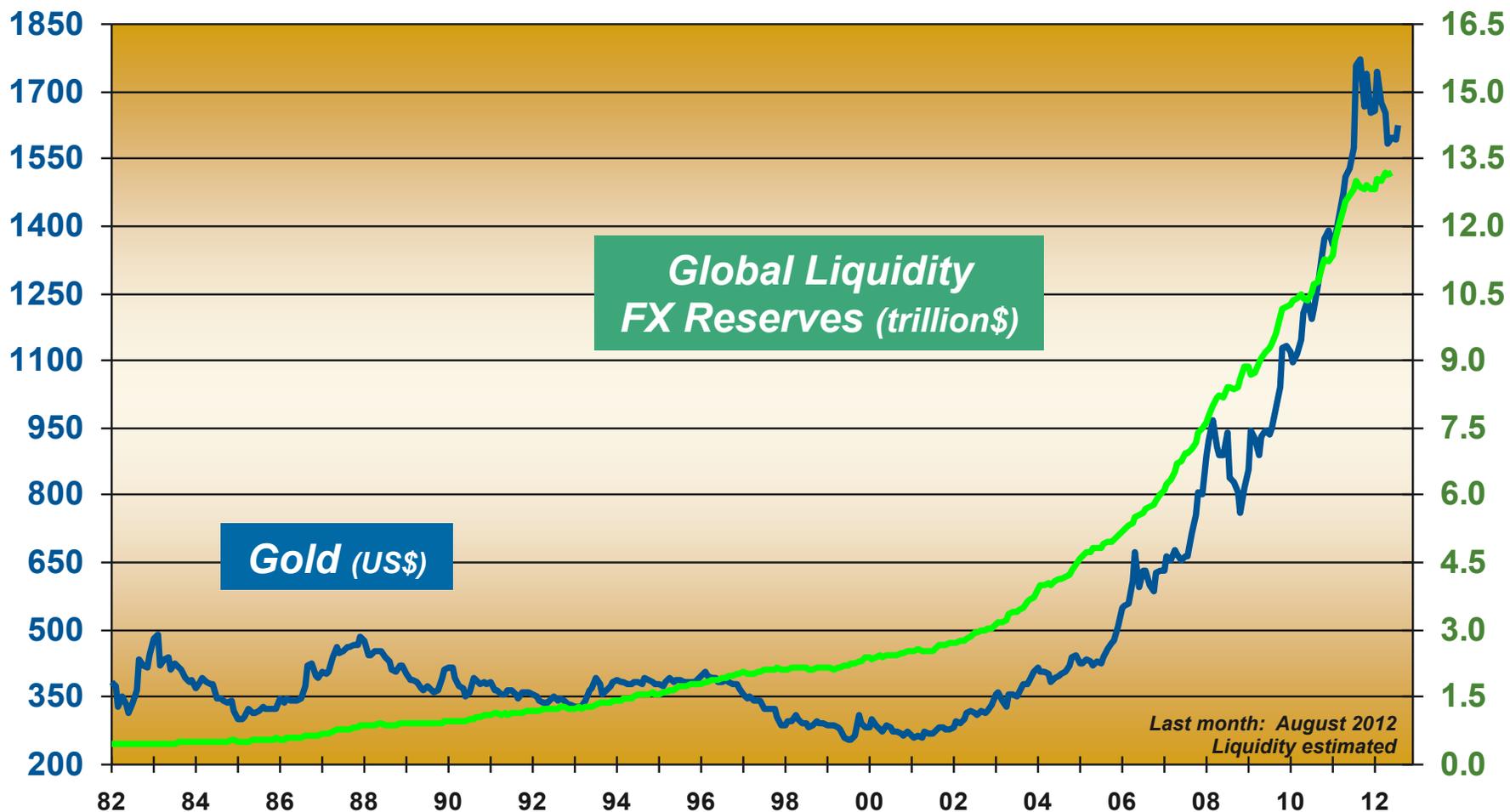
**“Many members expected that at the end of 2014, the unemployment rate would still be well above their estimates of its longer-term normal rate and that inflation would be at or below the Committee’s longer-run objective of 2 percent ...**

**Many members judged that additional monetary accommodation would likely be warranted fairly soon unless incoming information pointed to a substantial and sustainable strengthening in the pace of the economic recovery.”**

*\*(meeting Jul 31-Aug 1)*

# Bullish: (1) Global Debt Crisis

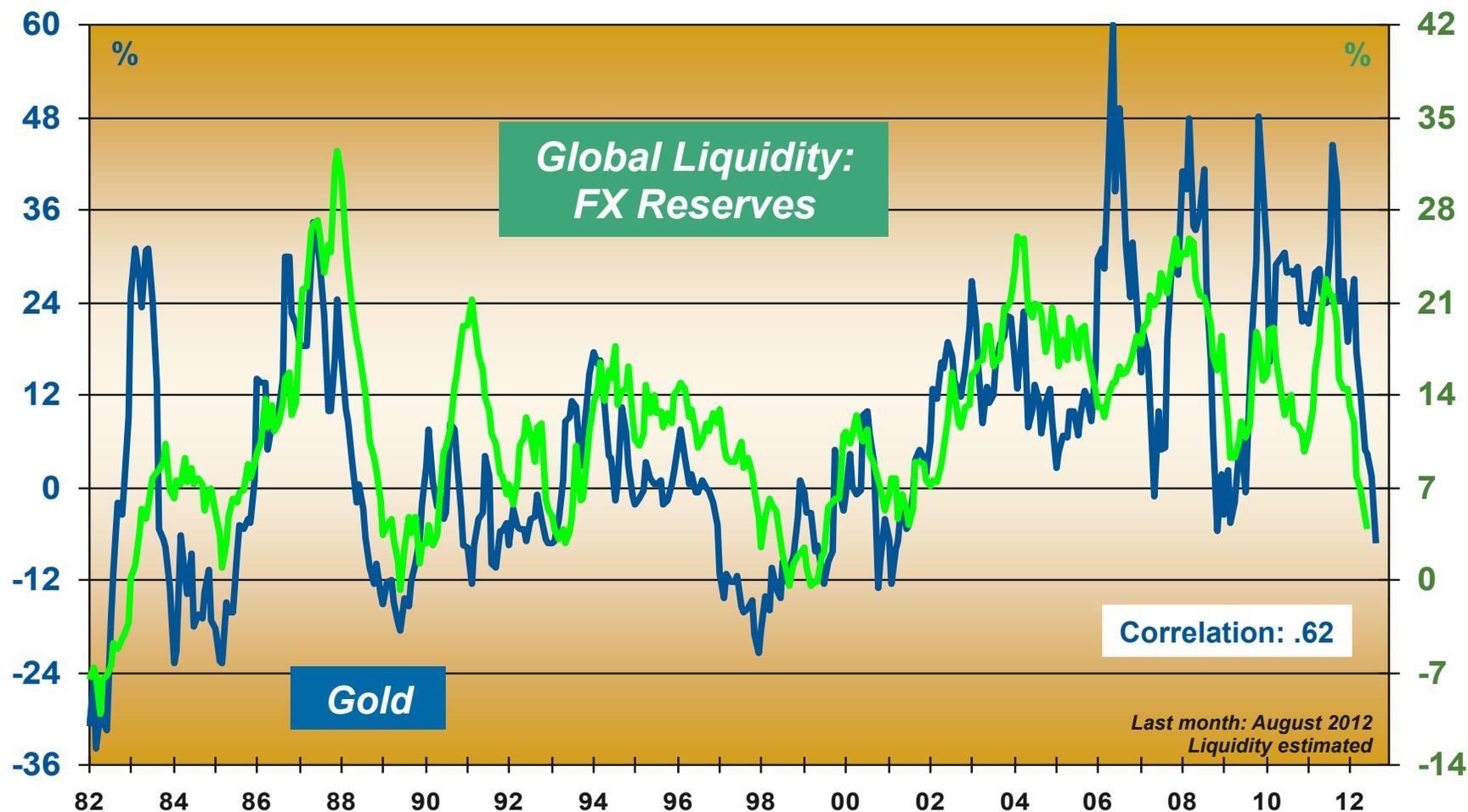
Money drives gold ...



Global Liquidity: FX Reserves + US MBase  
Source: IMF, Federal Reserve

# Bullish: (1) Global Debt Crisis

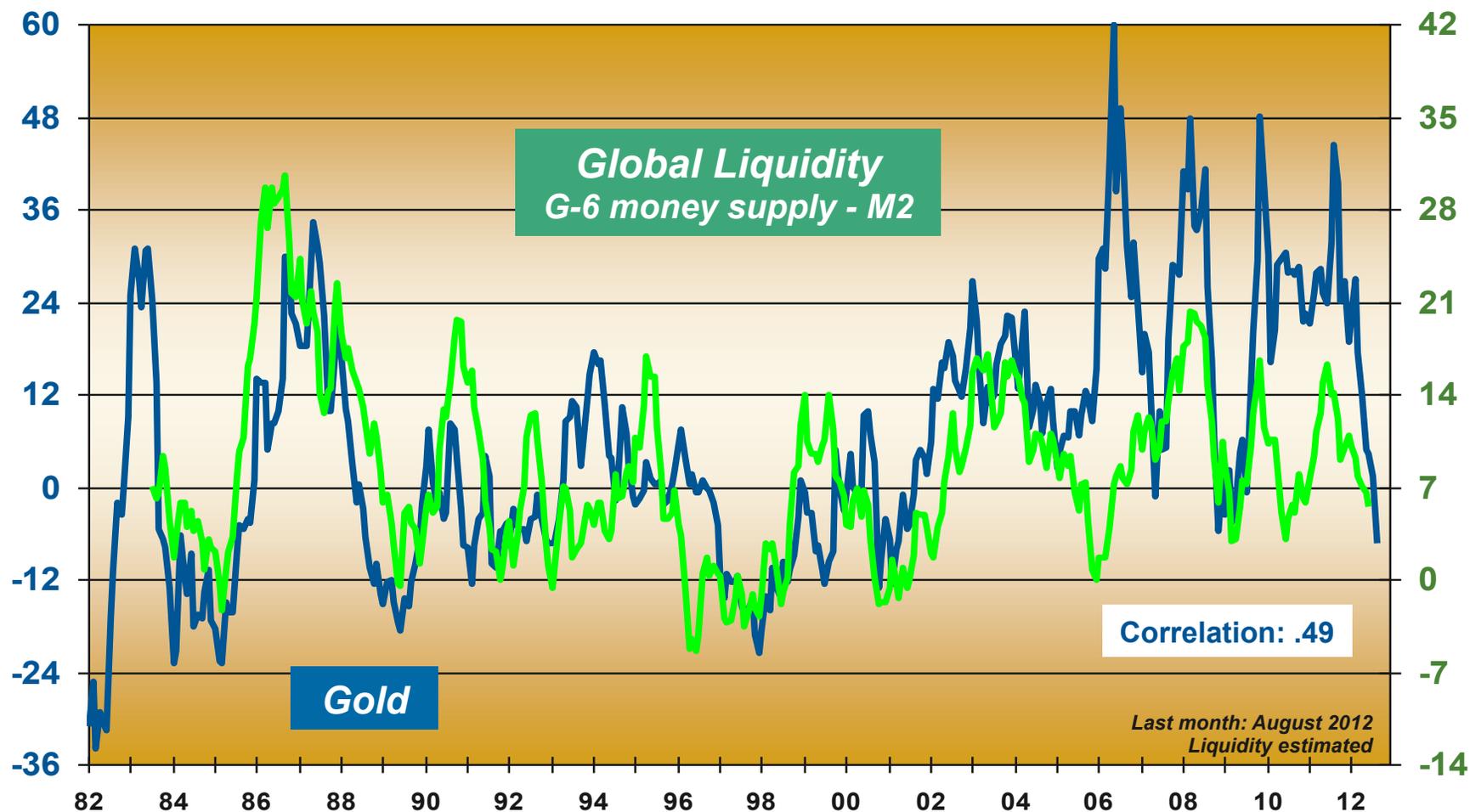
## Gold rises and falls with FX liquidity



Global Liquidity: FX Reserves + US MBase  
Source: IMF, Federal Reserve

# Bullish: (1) Global Debt Crisis

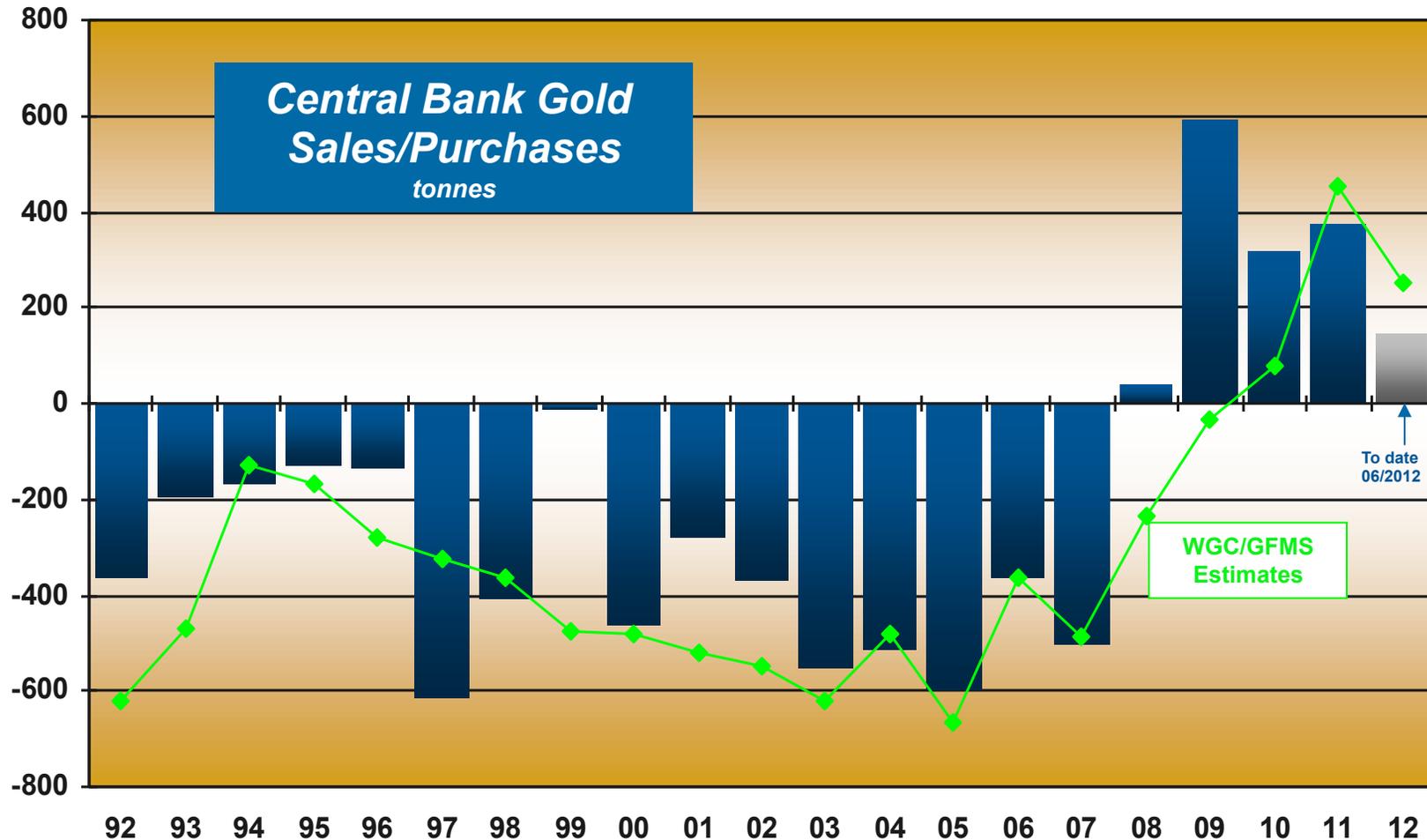
Gold also rises and falls with M2 liquidity



G-6 M2 Money Supply: US, China, EU, Japan, UK, Canada  
Source: IMF, Federal Reserve

# Bullish: (2) CB's Buying Gold

Central banks were selling – now buying



Source: IMF: All countries plus official institutions  
IMF data do not necessarily agree with WGC/GFMS date because some countries (Saudi Arabia and China) only report long after the fact

## ***Bullish: (2) CB's Buying Gold***

### ***Global reserves are excessive ...***

<b>Foreign Exchange Reserves (countries over \$100 bn)</b>			
	<b>bn\$</b>		<b>bn\$</b>
<b>China</b>	<b>3290.1</b>	<b>Korea</b>	<b>303.8</b>
<b>Japan</b>	<b>1196.2</b>	<b>Hong Kong</b>	<b>294.4</b>
<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	<b>600.4</b>	<b>India</b>	<b>256.2</b>
<b>Russia</b>	<b>448.2</b>	<b>Algeria</b>	<b>187.8</b>
<b>Taiwan</b>	<b>391.1</b>	<b>Thailand</b>	<b>165.0</b>
<b>Switzerland</b>	<b>383.9</b>	<b>Mexico</b>	<b>152.5</b>
<b>Brazil</b>	<b>368.9</b>	<b>Malaysia</b>	<b>129.6</b>
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8168.0</b>

***Addendum: Fuel Exporters \$1645 bn***

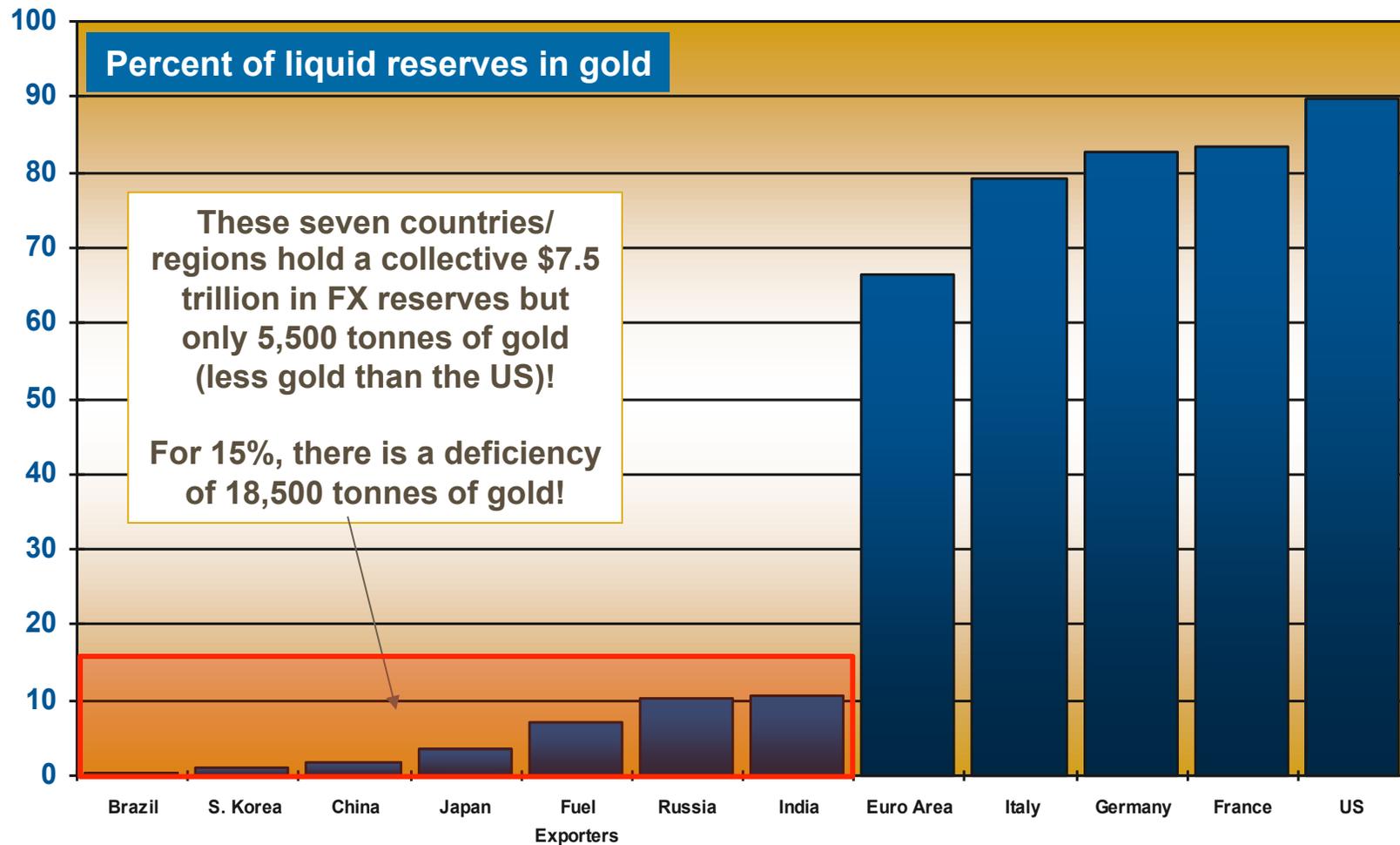
***Central banks are rediscovering that gold is not another central bank's liability!***

***Japan and China alone would need to buy 12000 tonnes to bring gold reserves to 15% of liquid reserves!***

Source: IMF, IFS July 2012

# Bullish: (2) CB's Buying Gold

## Percent of liquid reserves in gold



Source: IMF, DundeeWealth Economics calculations

## ***Bullish: (3) Investment Demand***

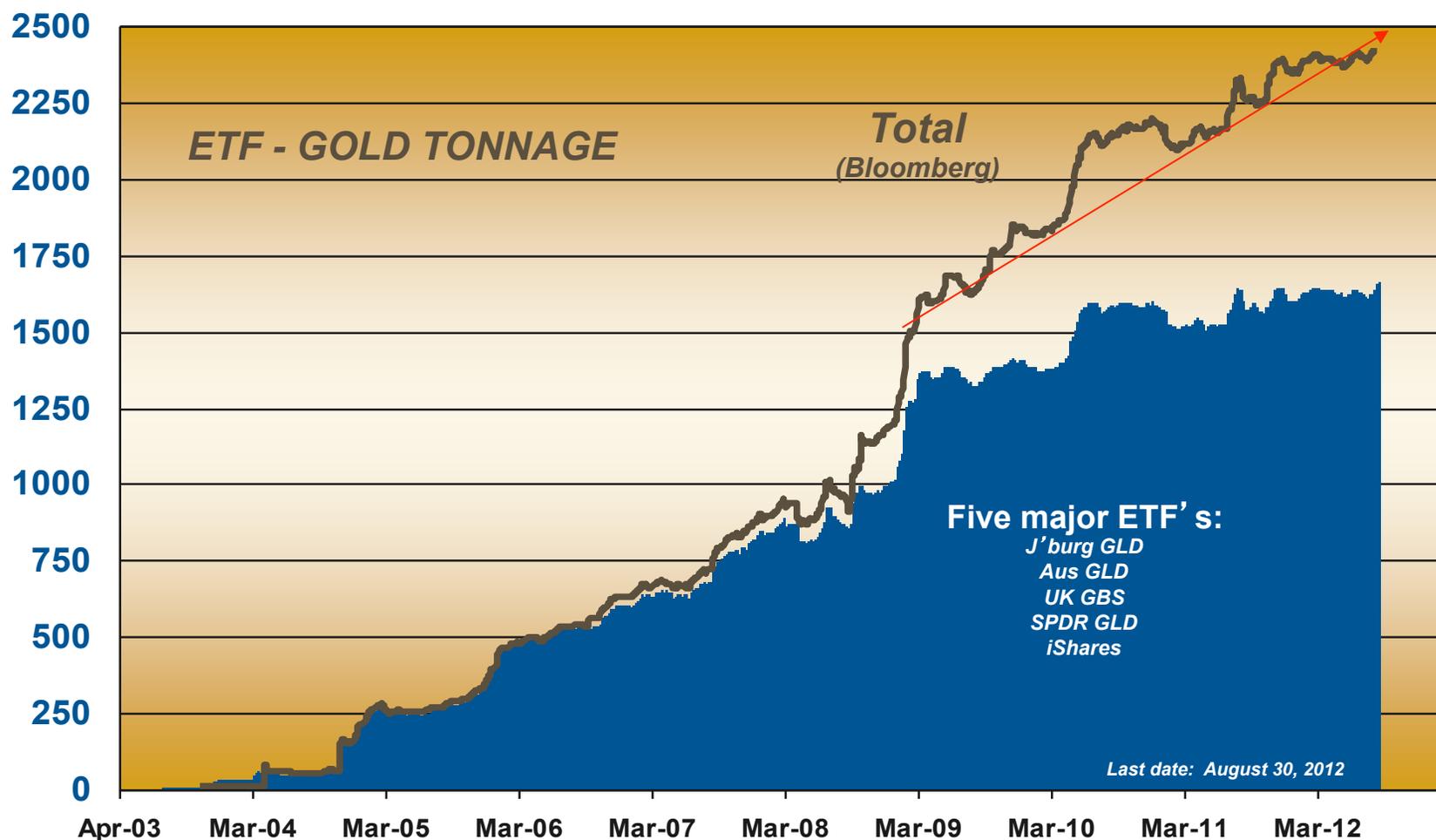
***Investment demand should continue to grow***

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- 1. The private sector is increasingly worried about currency debasement***
- 2. The private sector is discovering that gold has attractive portfolio characteristics (improves the “efficient frontier”)***
- 3. Commodities and gold are morphing into an “investment asset class”***
- 4. Private investment and central bank monetary demand was historically dominant, not jewelry demand***
- 5. Deregulation of Asian gold markets encourages local gold demand***

# Bullish: (3) Investment Demand

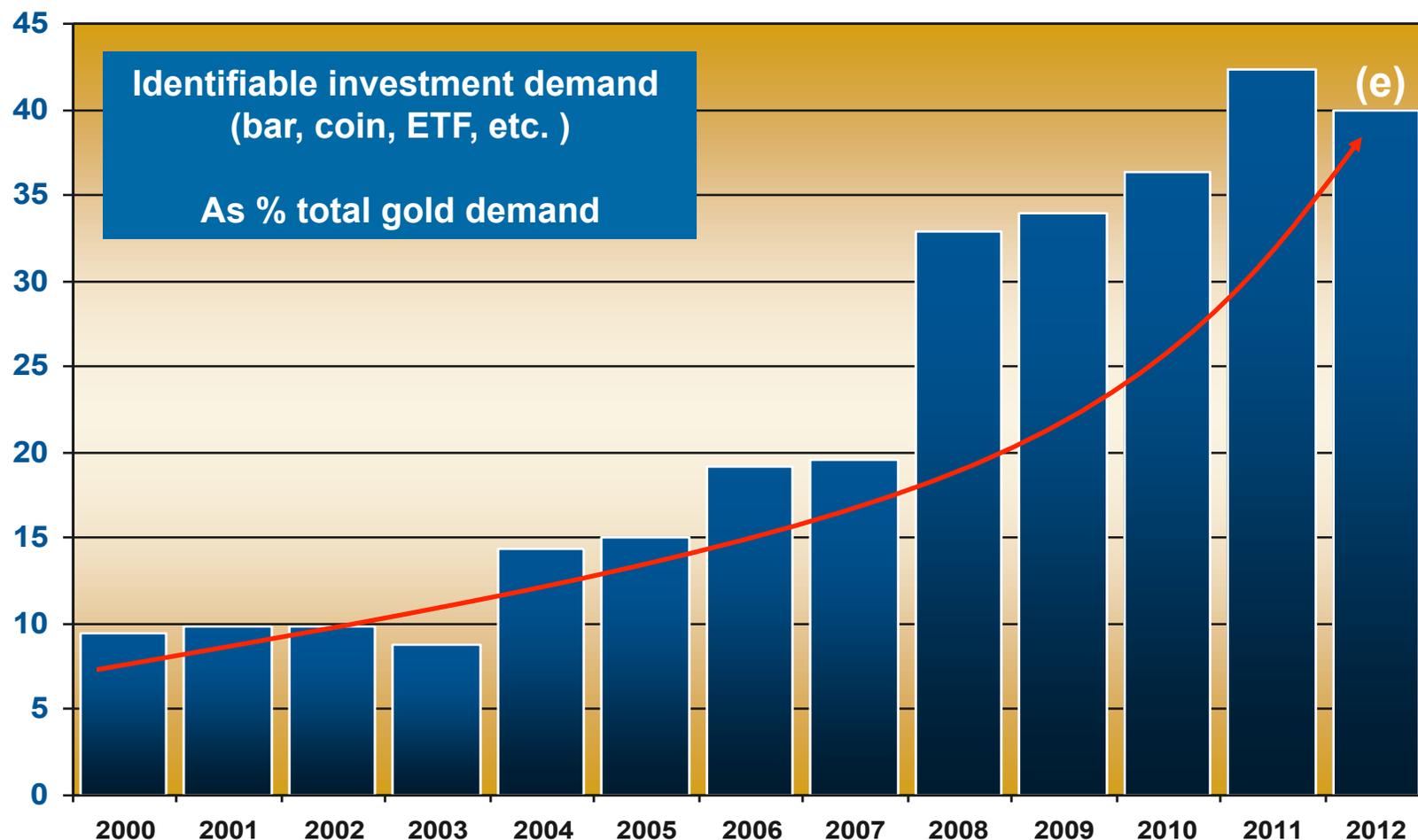
## Gold ETF demand strong since introduction



Source: ExchangeTradedGold.com; Bloomberg

## ***Bullish: (3) Investment Demand***

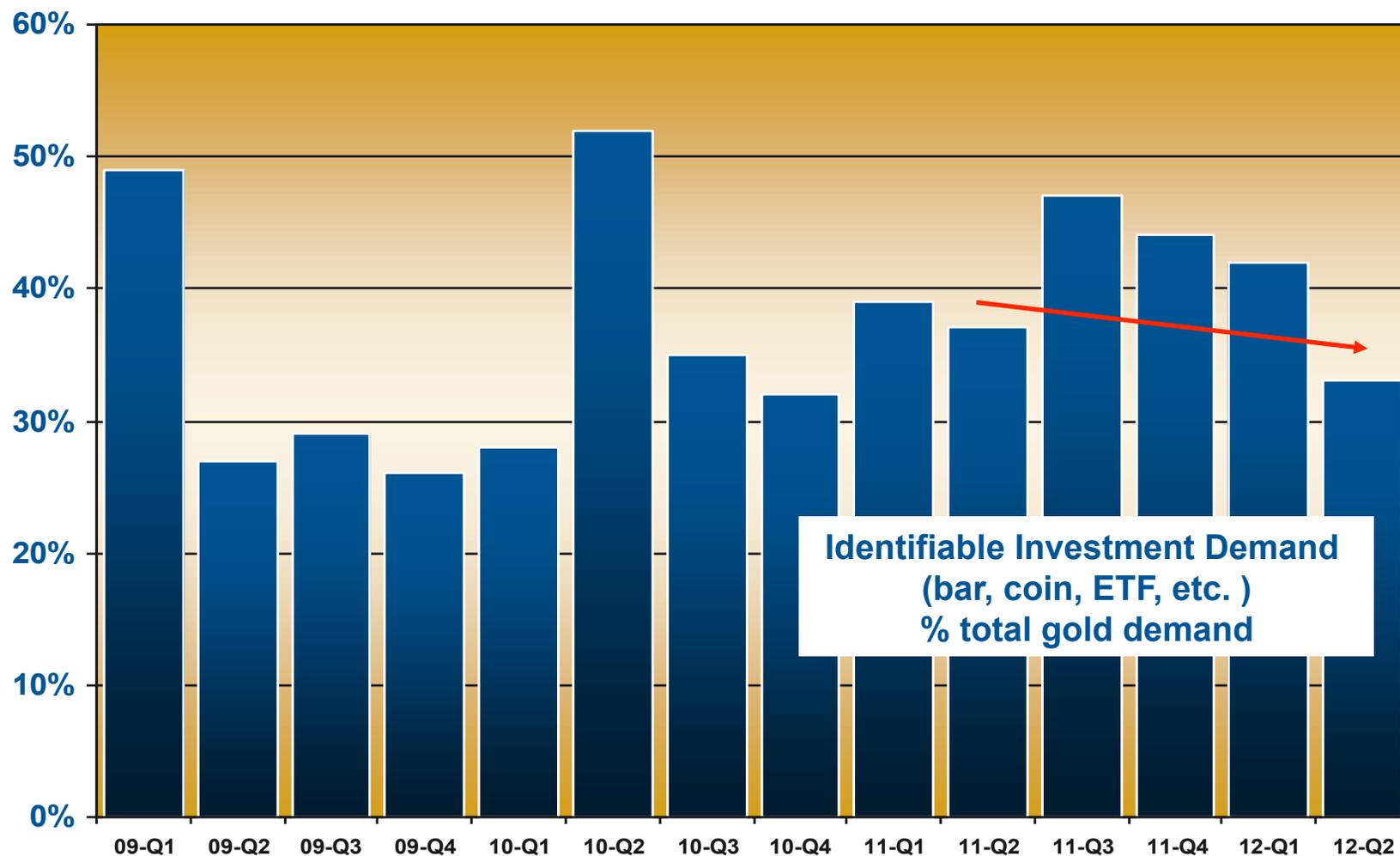
***Identifiable investment demand is growing ...***



Source: World Gold Council "Gold Demand Trends 2012-Q2"  
data tabulated by Thompson Reuters GFMS  
Estimate for 2012 by DundeeWealth Economics

## ***Bullish: (3) Investment Demand***

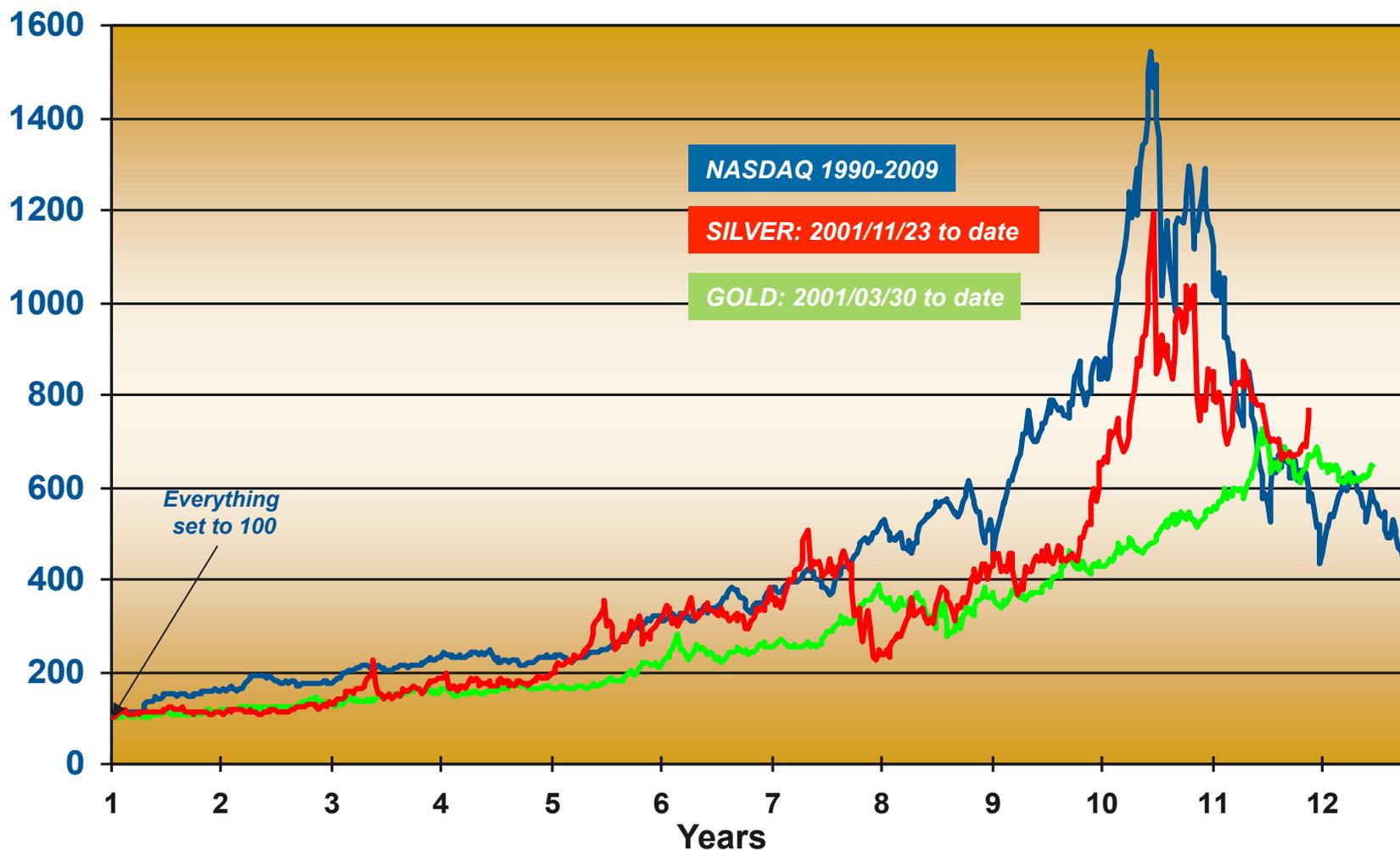
***... although recessions have an impact ...***



Source: World Gold Council "Gold Demand Trends 2012-Q2"  
data tabulated by Thompson Reuters GFMS

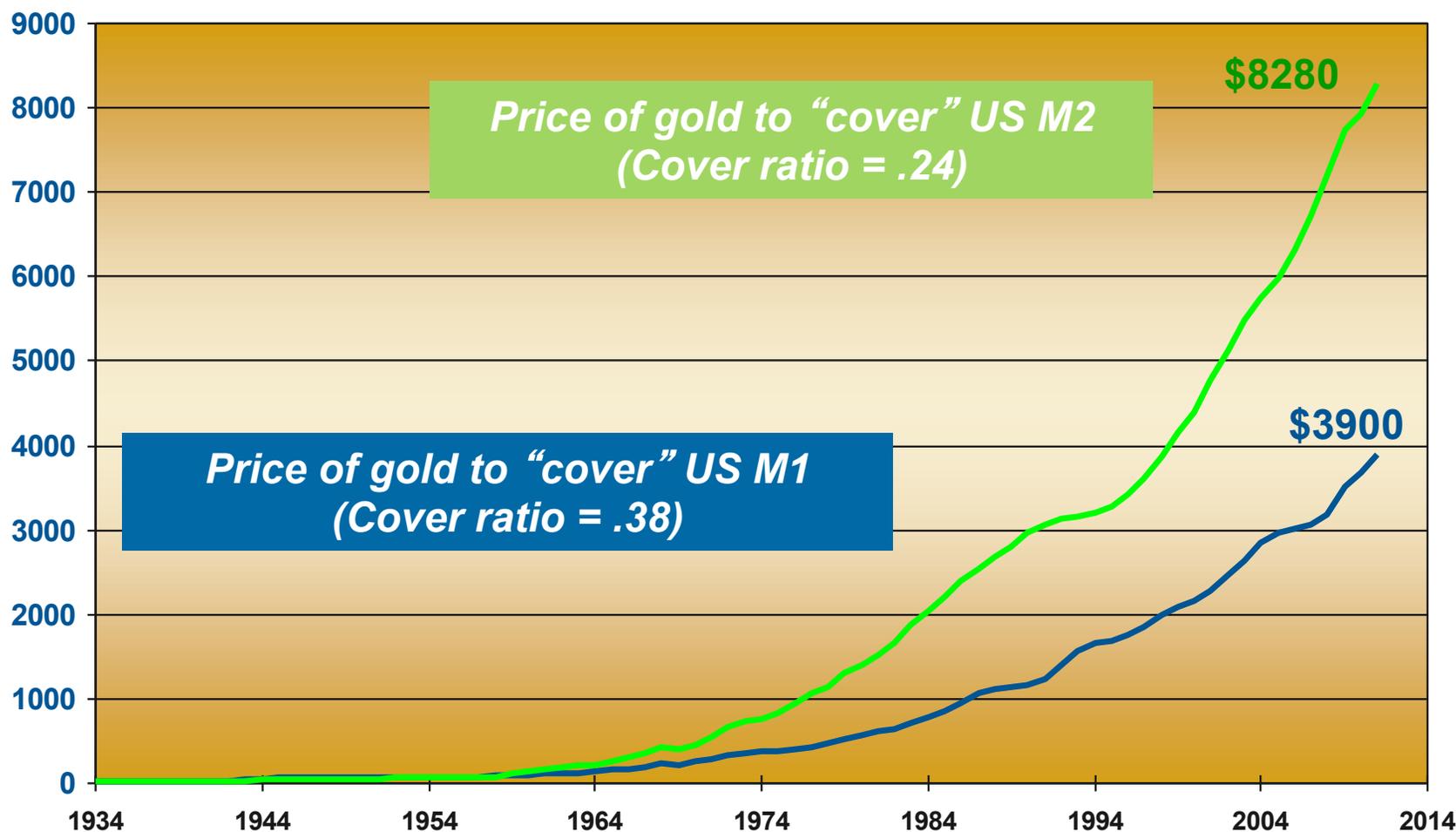
# ***Bullish: (4) Gold Not in a Bubble***

***The NASDAQ was a real bubble ...***



## ***Bullish: (4) Gold Not in a Bubble***

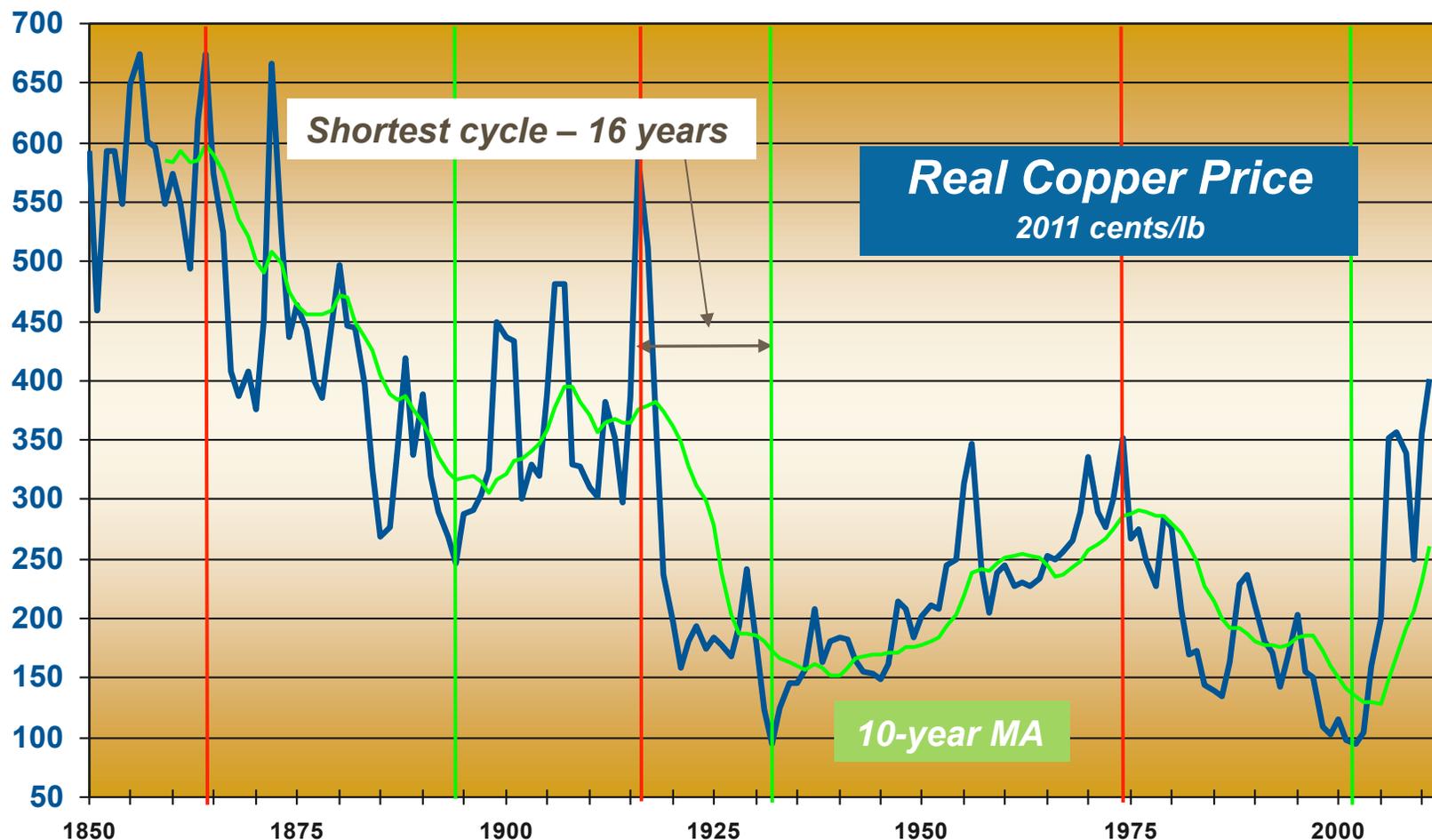
***To back US money supply higher prices needed***



"Cover ratio" as determined in 1934 when gold was revalued to \$35

## ***Bullish: (5) Commodity Cycle***

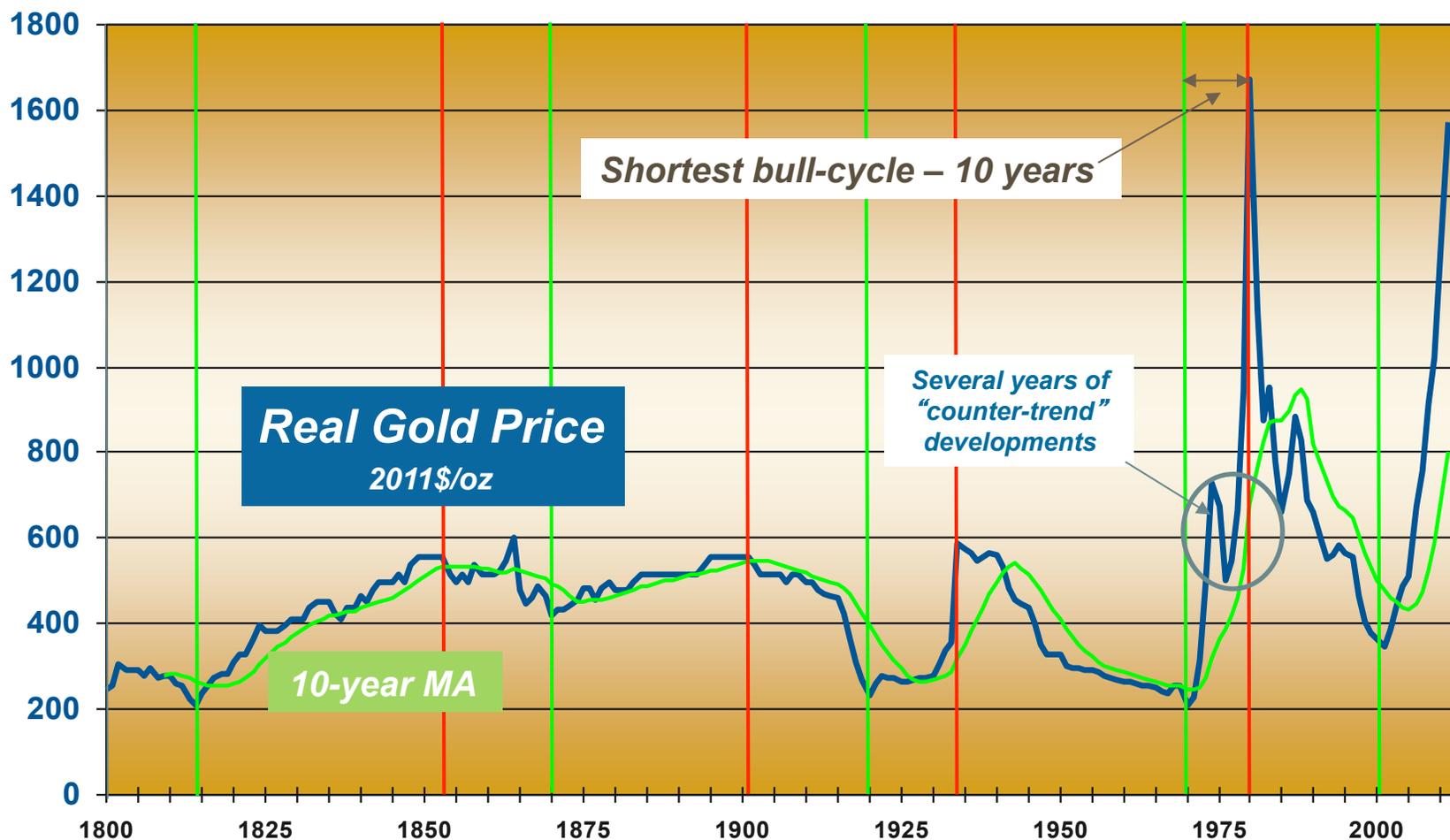
***The shortest copper cycle lasted 16 years\****



***\*despite reversals – which are common in all cycles***

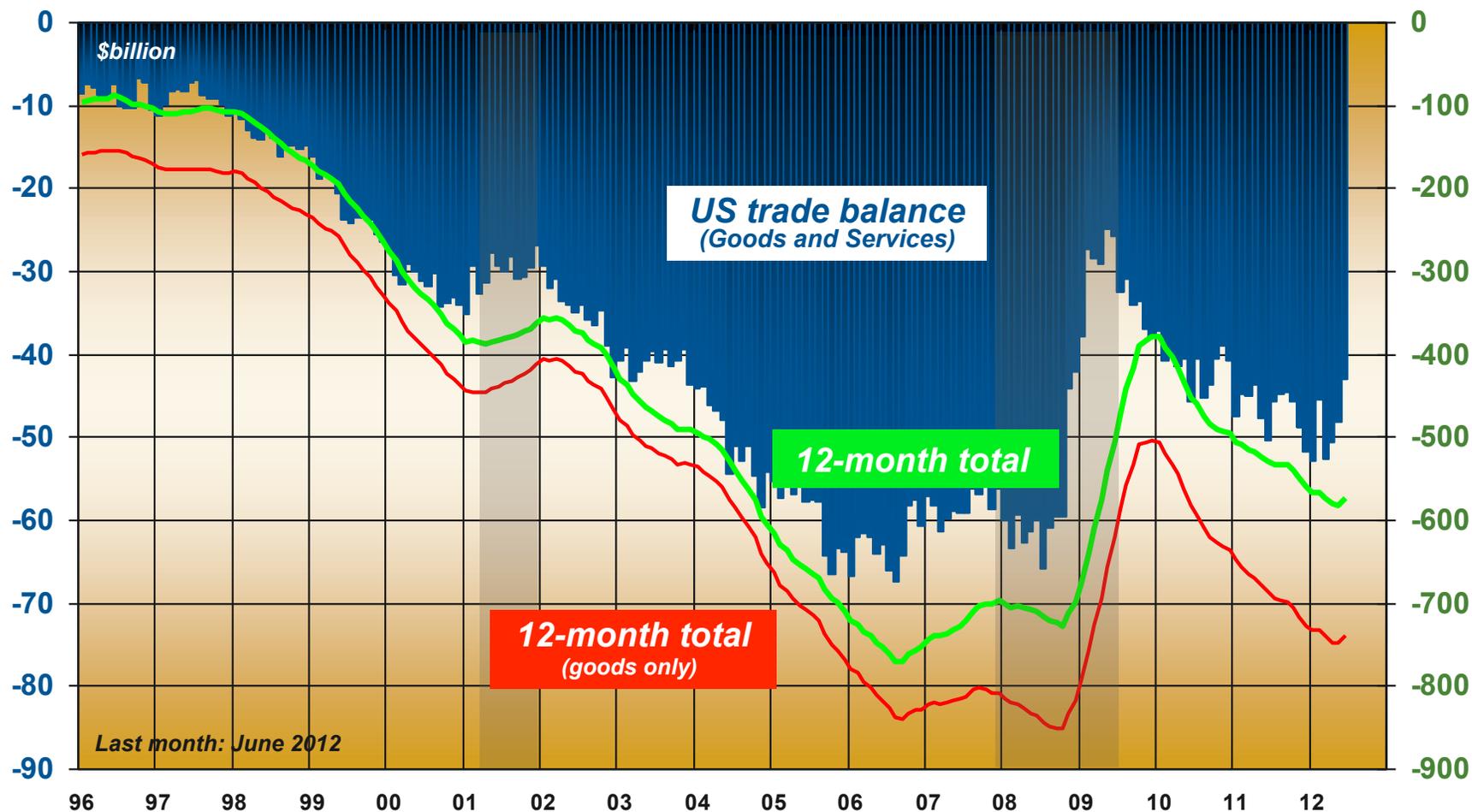
# Bullish: (5) Commodity Cycle

The shortest gold cycle lasted 10 years



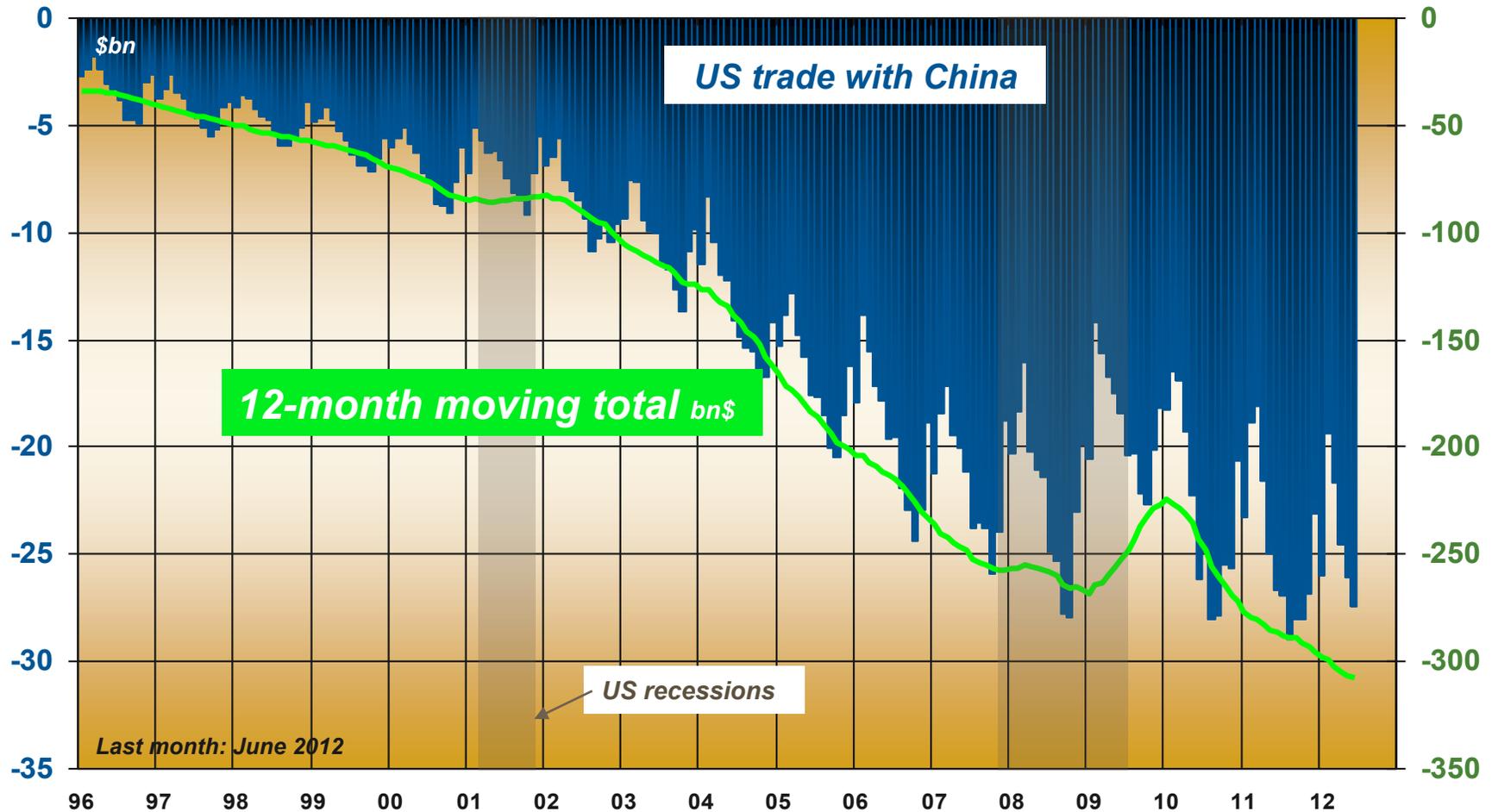
# Bullish: (6) Global Imbalances

## US trade balance remains in serious deficit



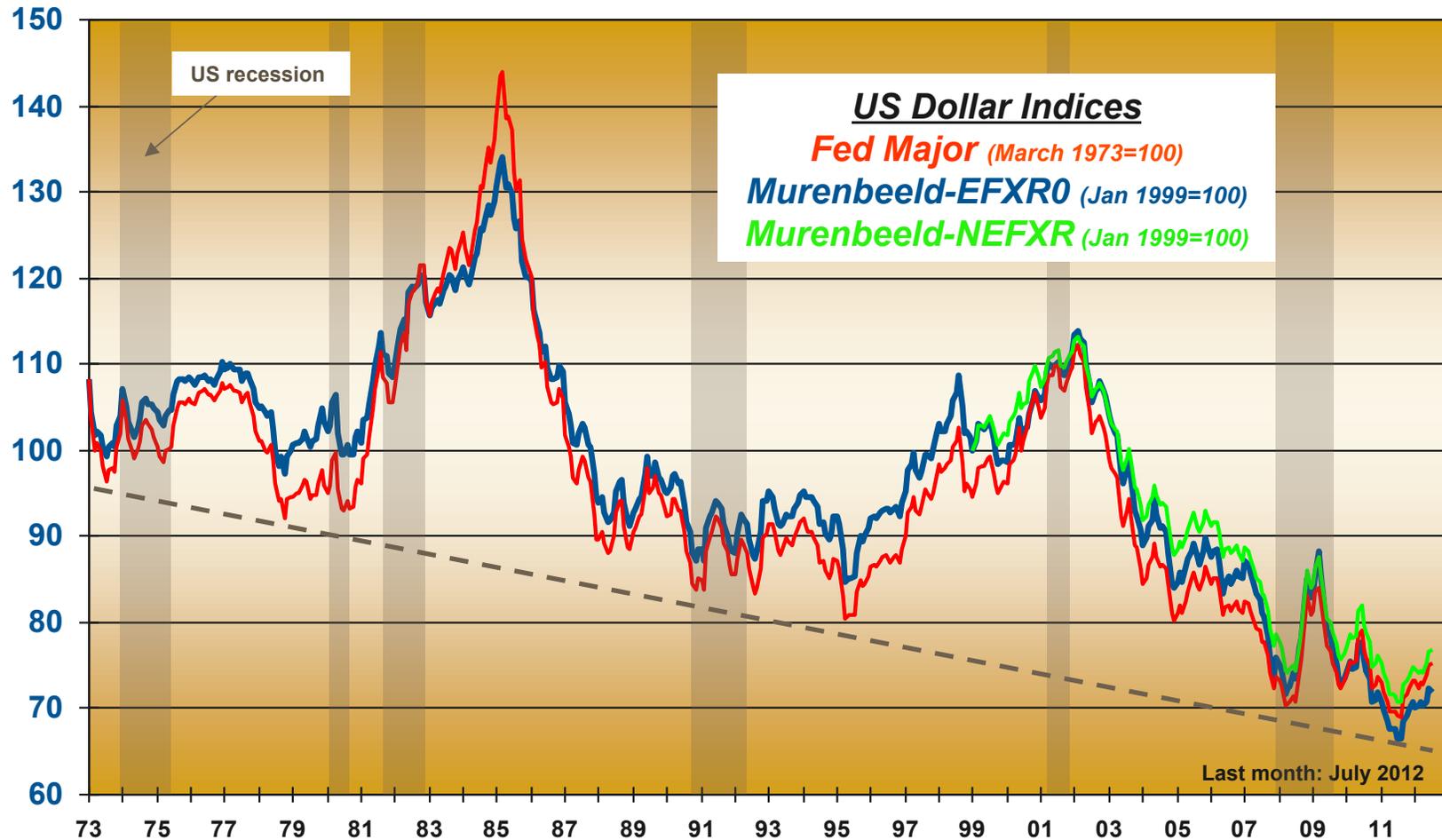
# Bullish: (6) Global Imbalances

The US trade deficit with China is unsustainable



# Bullish: (6) Global Imbalances

US dollar overvaluation being corrected ...but slowly



# ***Bullish: (6) Global Imbalances***

## ***Currencies are generally misaligned***

### **Estimated overvaluations as of late October 2011**

Country	Effective overvaluation	Overvaluation against the dollar <sup>(b)</sup>			
Argentina	5.4	-1.7	Korea	0.0	-12.5
Australia	15.5	4.8	Malaysia	-14.7	-31.0
Brazil	5.2	-1.5	Mexico	-12.9	-13.5
Canada	-3.5	-5.5	New Zealand	21.0	14.9
Chile	-0.2	-8.0	Philippines	2.5	-10.9
China	-10.6	-23.5	Poland	-4.1	-11.1
Columbia	0.3	-4.4	Singapore	-21.5	-37.4
Czech Republic	-0.4	-8.6	South Africa	5.5	-3.8
Euro area	1.6	-6.9	Sweden	-8.0	-15.0
Hong Kong	-15.4	-29.7	Switzerland	-6.1	-11.8
Hungary	-8.0	-15.6	Taiwan	-17.7	-32.2
India	-2.4	-15.3	Thailand	-0.6	-13.1
Indonesia	1.0	-15.5	Turkey	21.7	12.7
Israel	-2.7	-9.3	United Kingdom	2.8	-5.1
Japan	9.0	-2.7	United States	9.3	0.0

Source: Peterson Institute for International Economics, Nov 2011

## Bullish: (7) Geopolitical

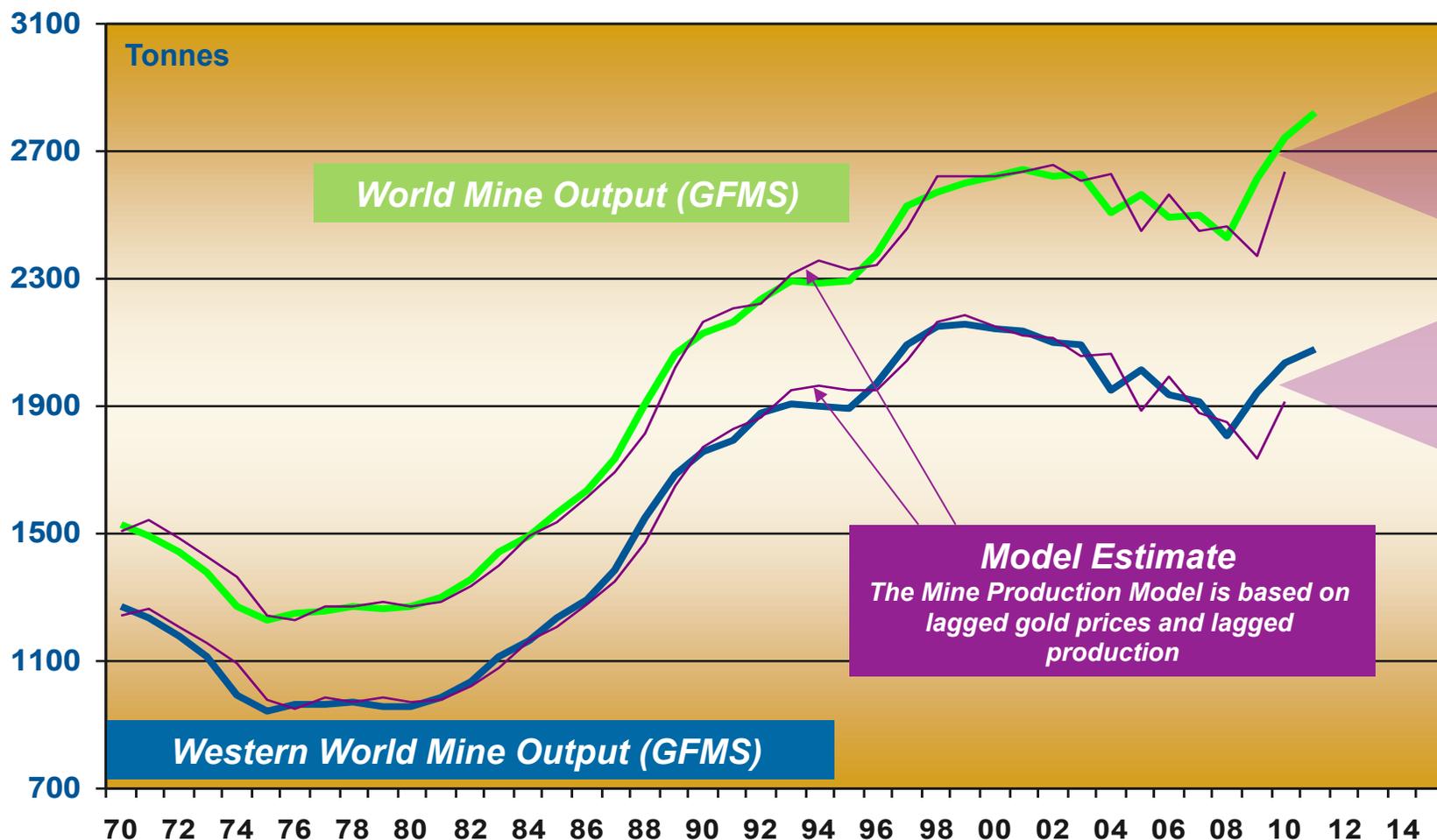
The biggest geopolitical crisis to date ...





# Bullish: (8) Gold Supply

Models suggests mine output constrained



Source: Reuters GFMS, Murenbeeld

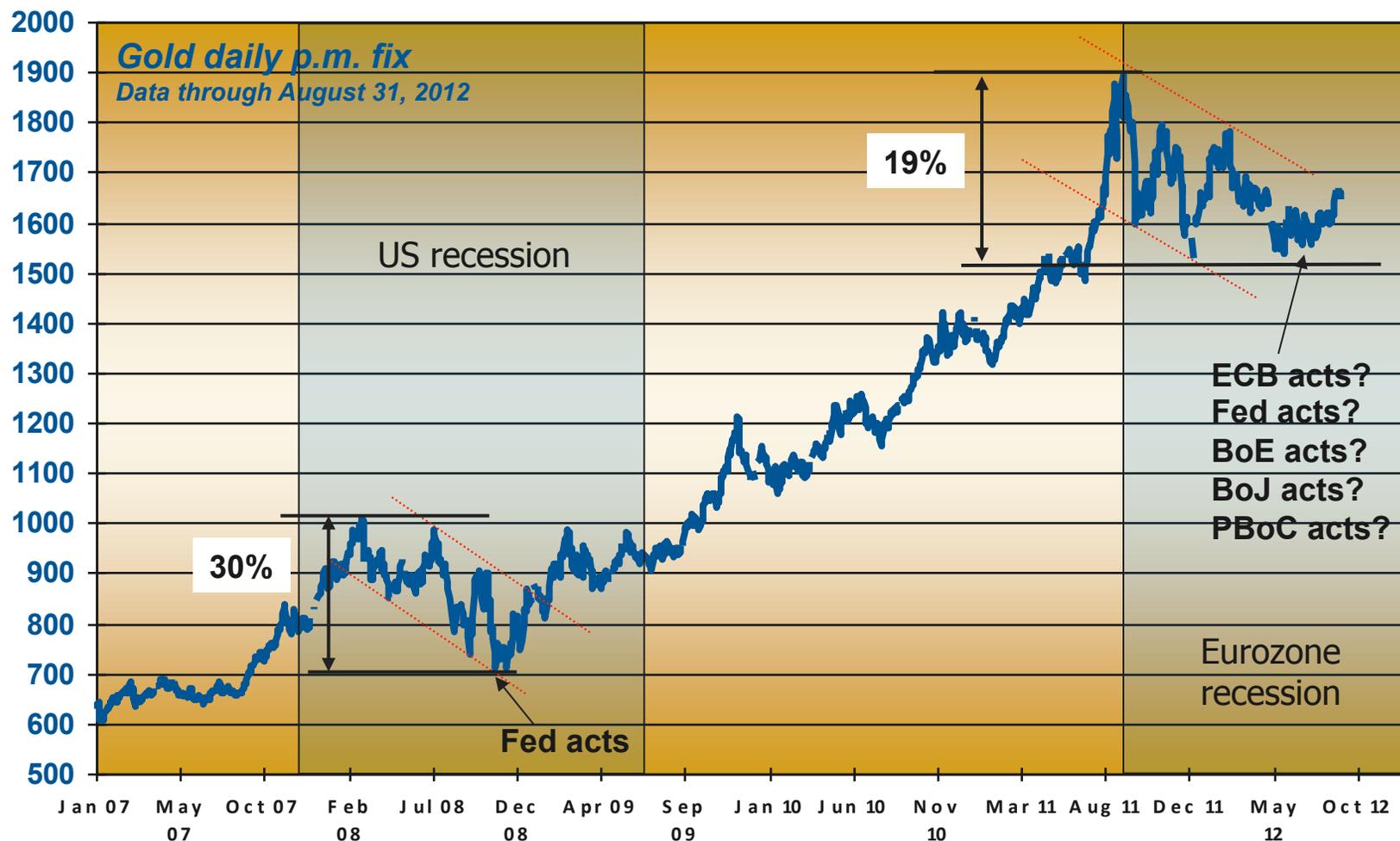
## ***Seven Bearish Factors for Gold***

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- 1. EU Recession: fiscal retrenchment, deflation***
- 2. Asia slowdown: commodity demand weakens***
- 3. Strong dollar: against the euro ... flight to safety***
- 4. Liquidity of last resort: for Greece, Italy ... investors***
- 5. Equity market confidence improves: investment interest in gold wanes***
- 6. Dehedging finished: hedging recommences***
- 7. Policy “exit strategies” : rising real interest rates***

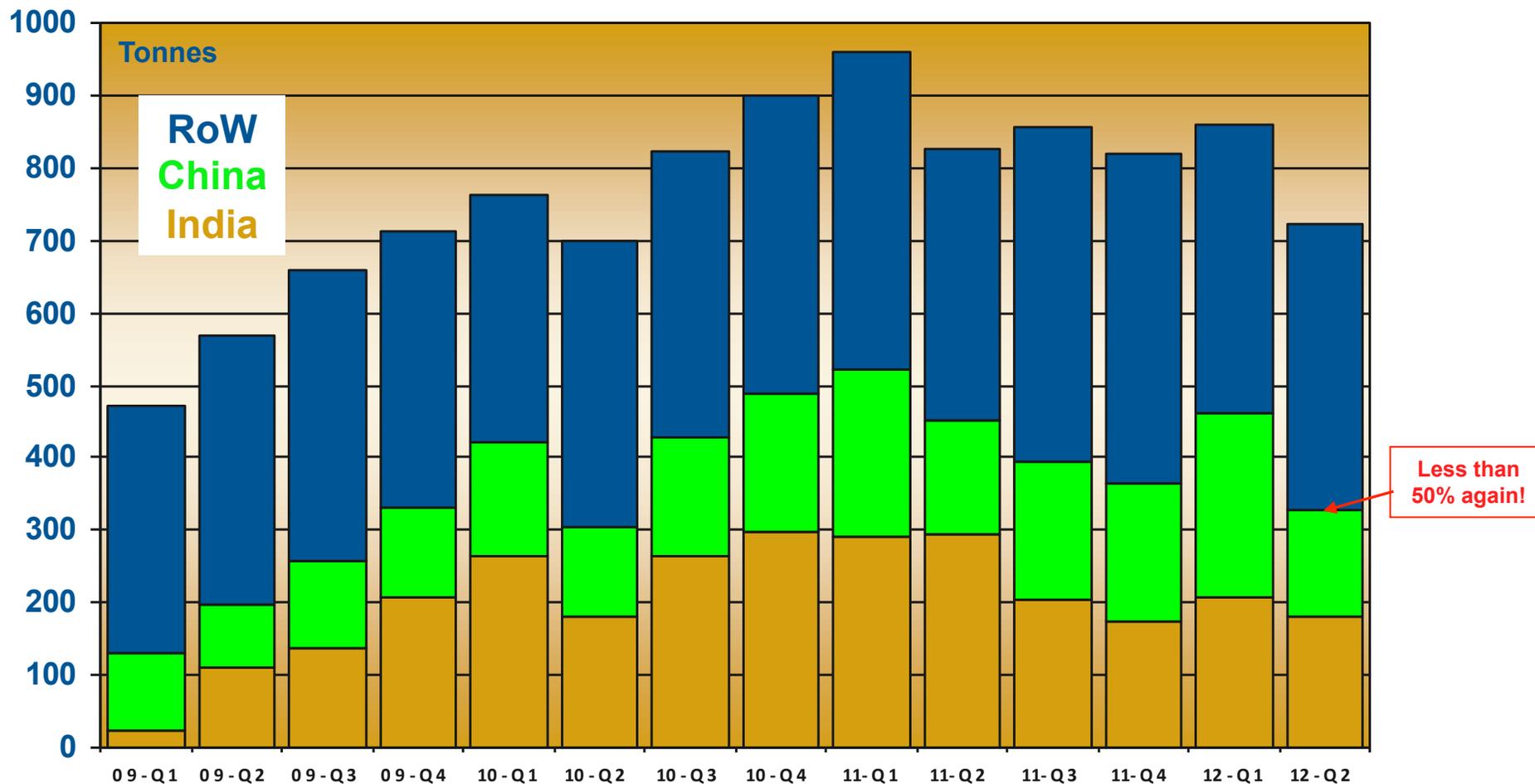
# Bearish: (1) EU Recession

## Gold declines in recessions - before stimulus



## Bearish: (2) Asia Slowdown

Weaker growth in India/China not demand positive



Source: World Gold Council "Gold Demand Trends 2012-Q2"  
data tabulated by Thompson Reuters GFMS

## ***Bullish: (2) Asia Slowdown***

### ***Lower income growth not positive for gold demand***

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#### ***If China has a “hard landing” ...***

- *China’s growth rate will drop below 6%*
- *Investment will cool - money will leave China*
- *World equity markets will sell off – some very sharply*
- *A flight to safety will almost certainly favor US Treasuries*
- ***Chinese gold demand will suffer***

#### ***But policy will respond ...***

- *The PBoC will “print money” and fiscal policy will turn aggressively expansionary (China, too, will learn about non-performing loans)*
- *Other Asian central banks will want to insulate their economies, and print/devalue*
- *Which could eventually see gold demand rise to new highs*

# Bearish: (3) Dollar Strengthens

A firm dollar is not usually good for gold ...



# Bearish: (3) Dollar Strengthens

But the positive correlation with euro is overrated



## ***Bearish: (4) Liquidity of Last Resort***

### ***Europe needs liquidity ....***

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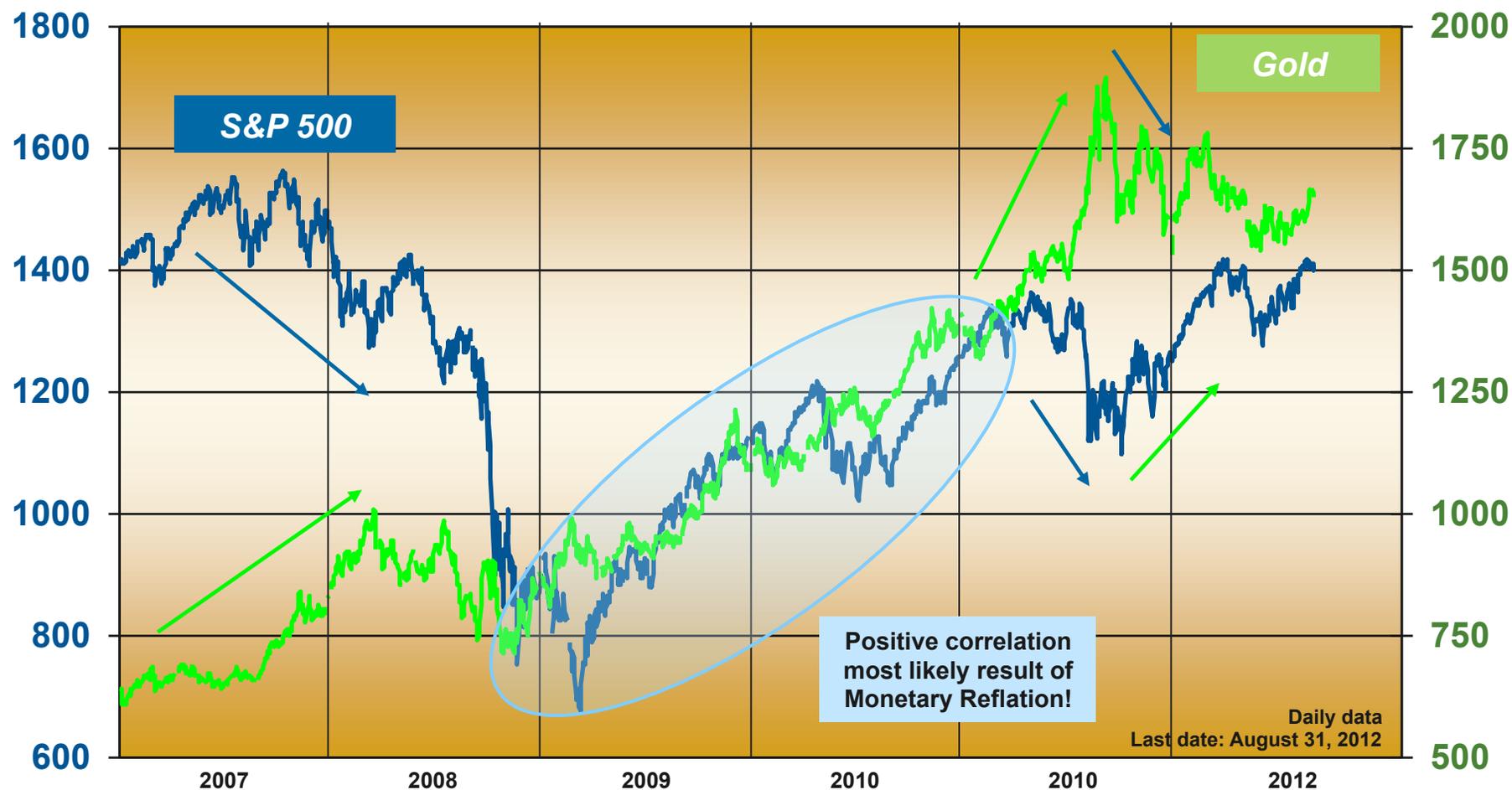
- ***The PIIGS hold over 3000 tonnes of gold***
- ***We have been concerned about Italy for years***
- ***Europe collectively has more gold than the US***
- ***There are reports of “hardship” gold sales throughout Europe***

***(“Italy’s hottest retail slogan: ‘I buy gold’”, G&M 08/21.)***

Gold Reserves	
	tonnes
Portugal	382
Ireland	6
Italy	2452
Greece	111
Spain	282
Total	3233
Europe	11260
US	8133

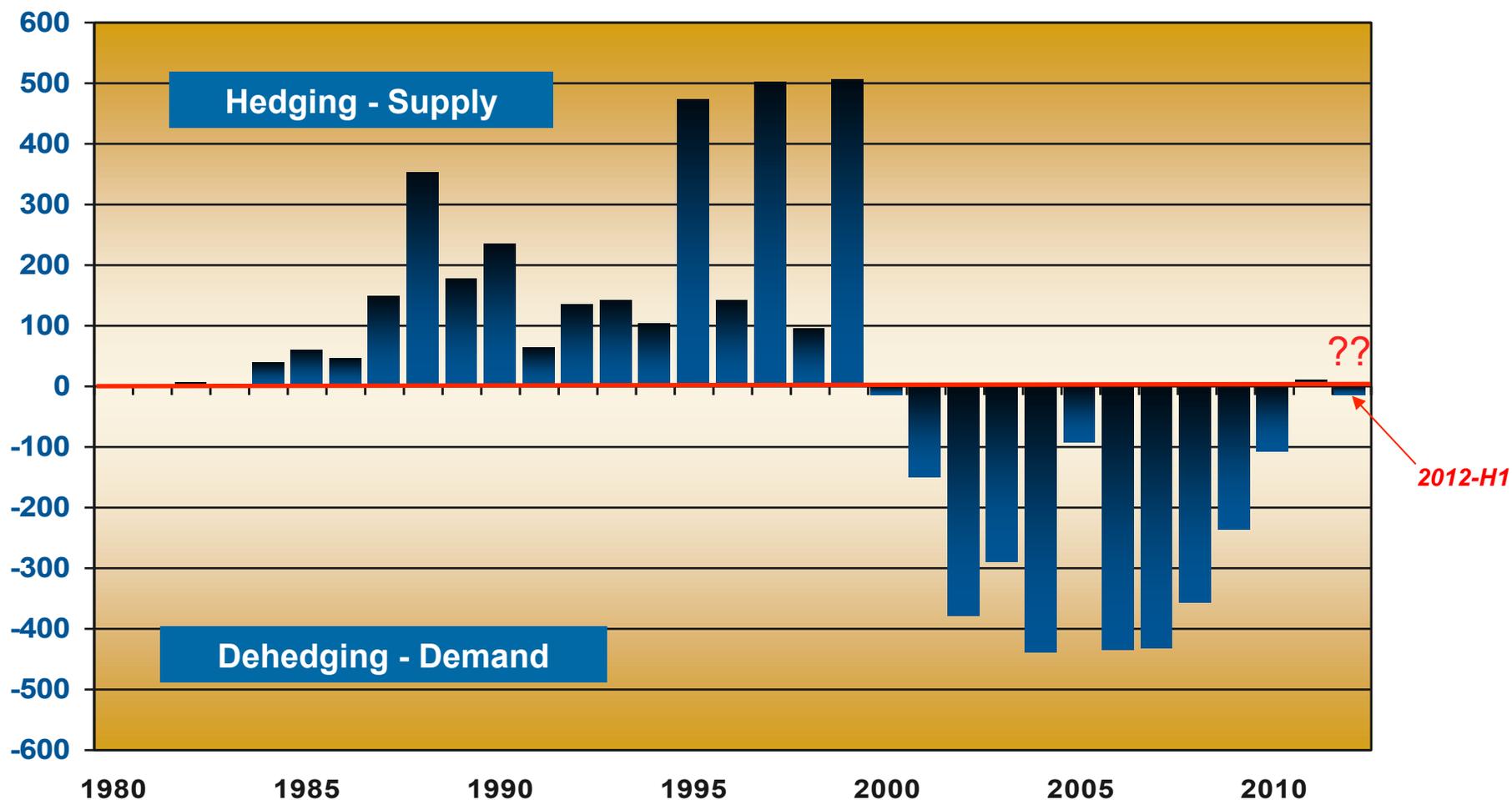
# Bearish: (5) Equity Market Improves

Gold-equity correlation is most often zero-negative



# Bullish: (6) Dehedging Finished

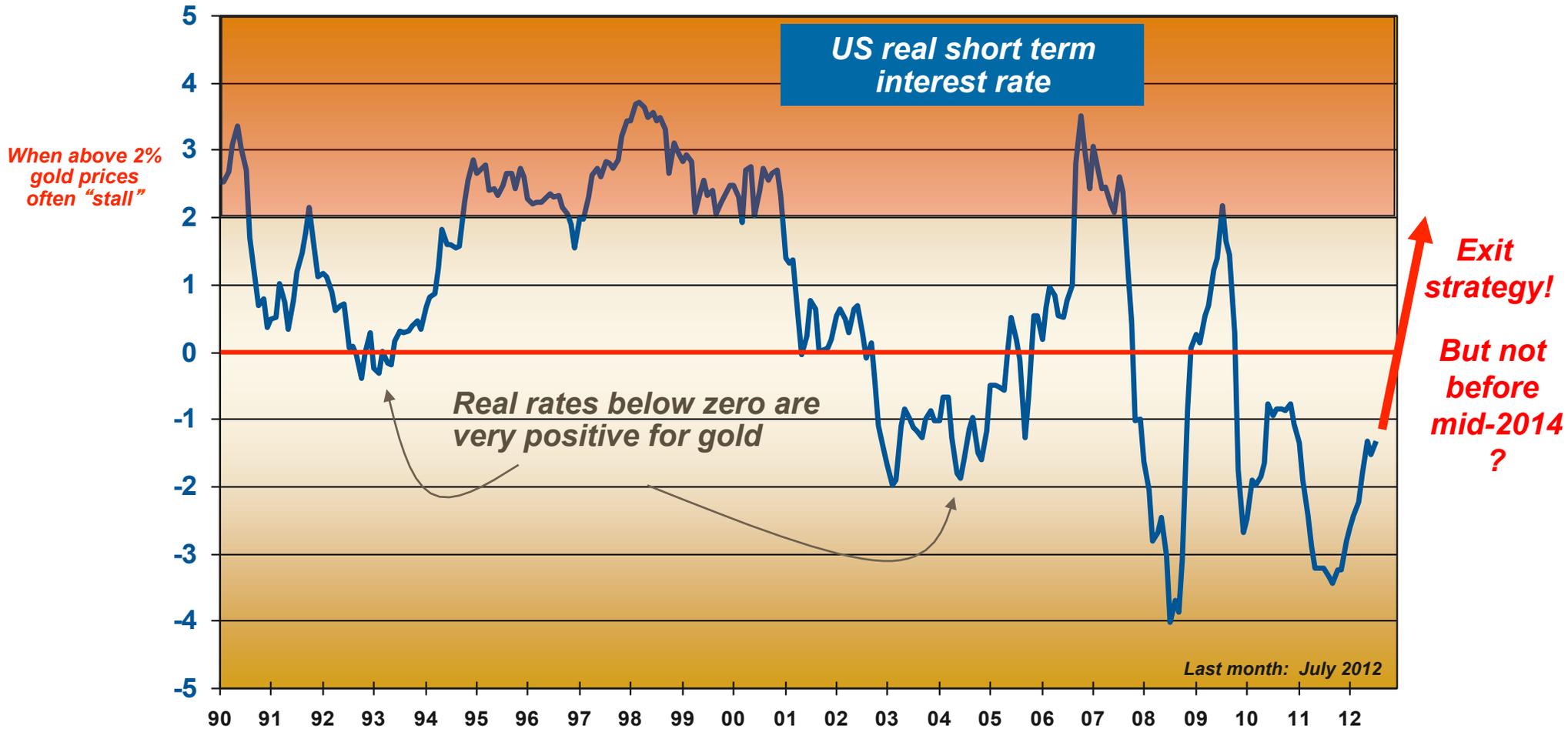
## Hedging to recommence ...?



Source: Thompson Reuters GFMS, WGC "Demand Trends 2012-Q2"

# Bearish: (7) Exit Strategies

US real rates will rise ... eventually



## ***Bearish: (7) Exit Strategies***

***With restrictive fiscal and monetary policies:***

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- 1. Will be a drag on economic growth***
- 2. Will keep a lid on inflation***
- 3. Will cause the threat of deflation to linger***
- 4. Will improve confidence in monetary policy***
- 5. Which will weigh heavily on the gold price***

## ***The Latest Forecast***

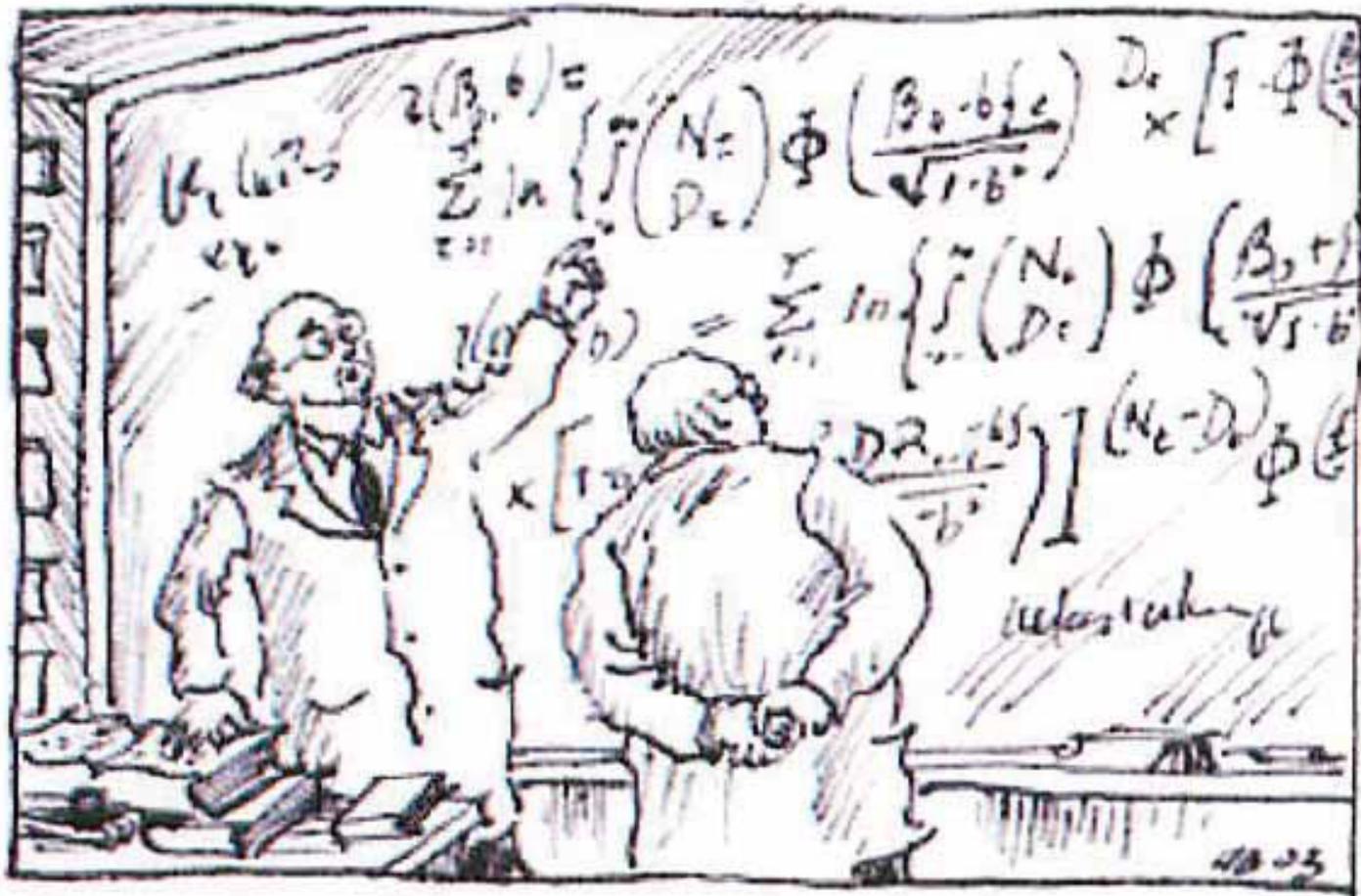
***The scenarios make no allowance for geopolitics!!***

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# **Gold Price Scenarios**

	<u>2012-avg</u>	<u>2012-end</u>	<u>2013-avg</u>
<b>Scenario A:</b> $p = 15-20\%$	<b>\$1582</b>	<b>\$1465</b>	<b>\$1417</b>
<b>Scenario B:</b> $p = 40-50\%$	<b>\$1677</b>	<b>\$1710</b>	<b>\$1786</b>
<b>Scenario C:</b> $p = 35\%$	<b>\$1748</b>	<b>\$1900</b>	<b>\$2158</b>
<b><i>Weighted:</i></b>	<b>\$1681</b>	<b>\$1728</b>	<b>\$1928</b>

- Based on July 6, 2012 projections
- Next update September-end



*“Agreed, then—buy gold.”*

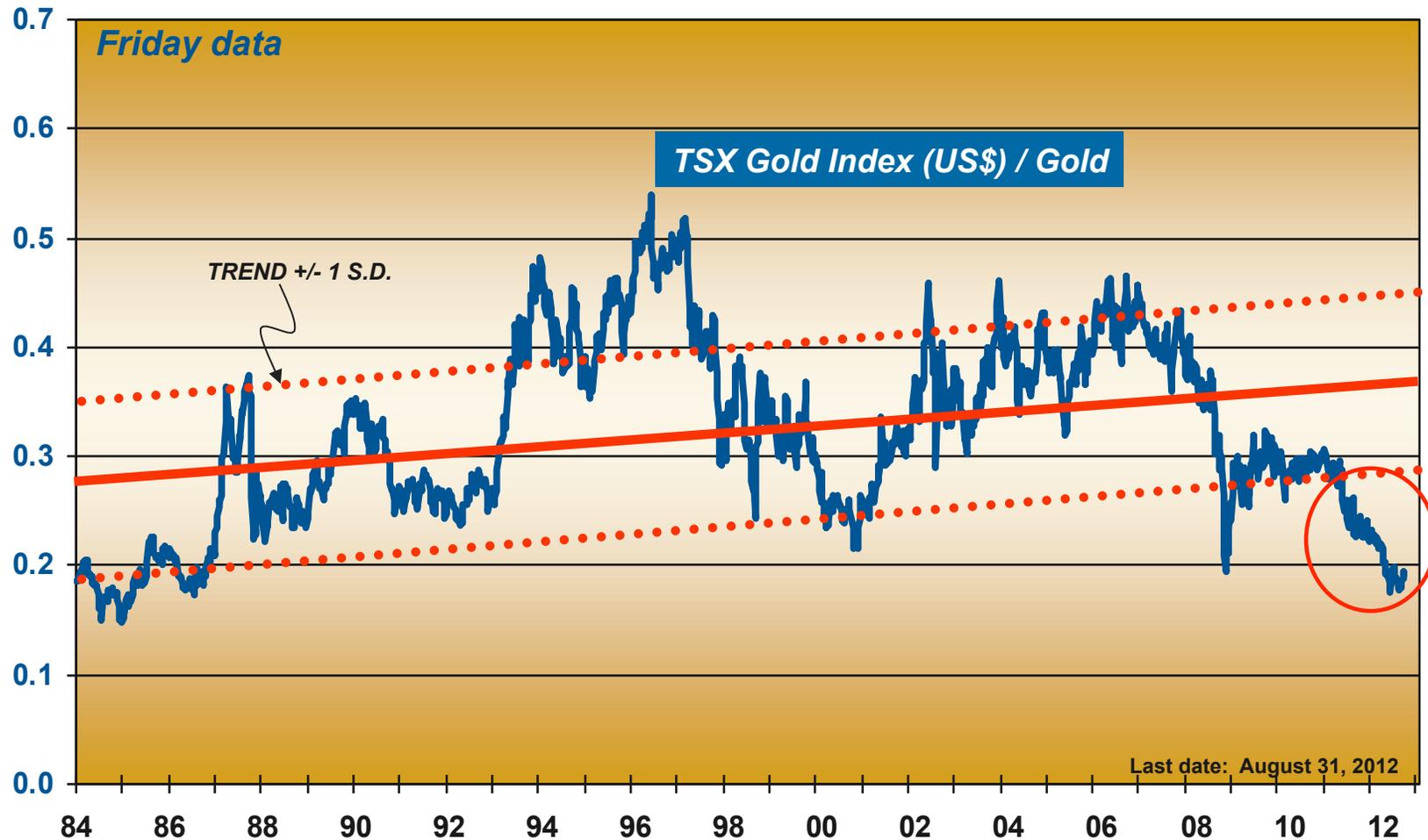
*Thank you for your attention!*

**DUNDEE**WEALTH ECONOMICS



# Appendix: TSX Gold/Gold (in US\$)

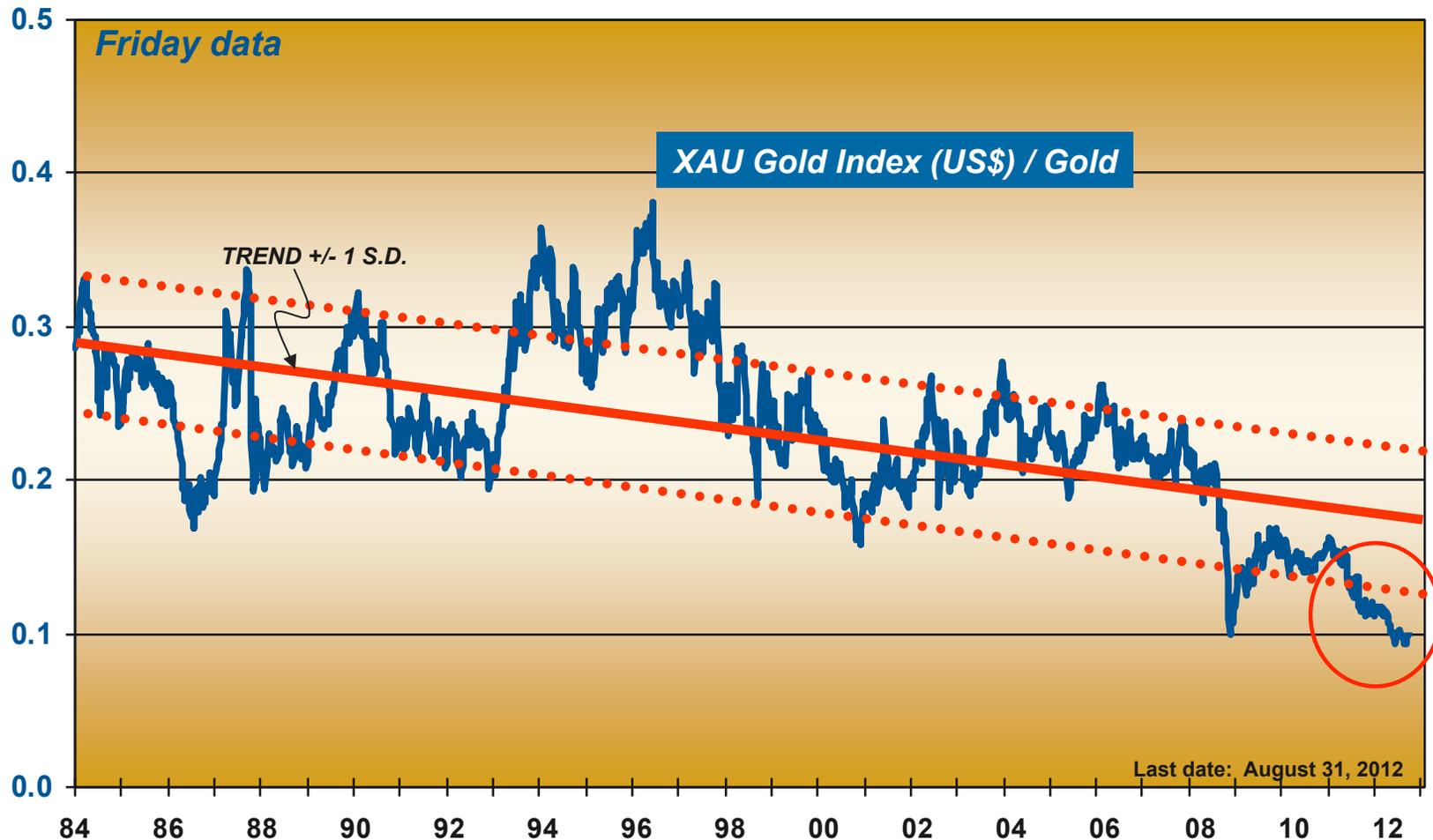
## TSX Gold Index depressed relative to bullion ...



TREND: Based on calculation from January 6, 1984 through August 31, 2012

# Appendix: XAU/Gold

... As is the XAU Gold Index ...



TREND: Based on calculation from January 6, 1984 through August 31, 2012

# Appendix: TSX Gold/TSX

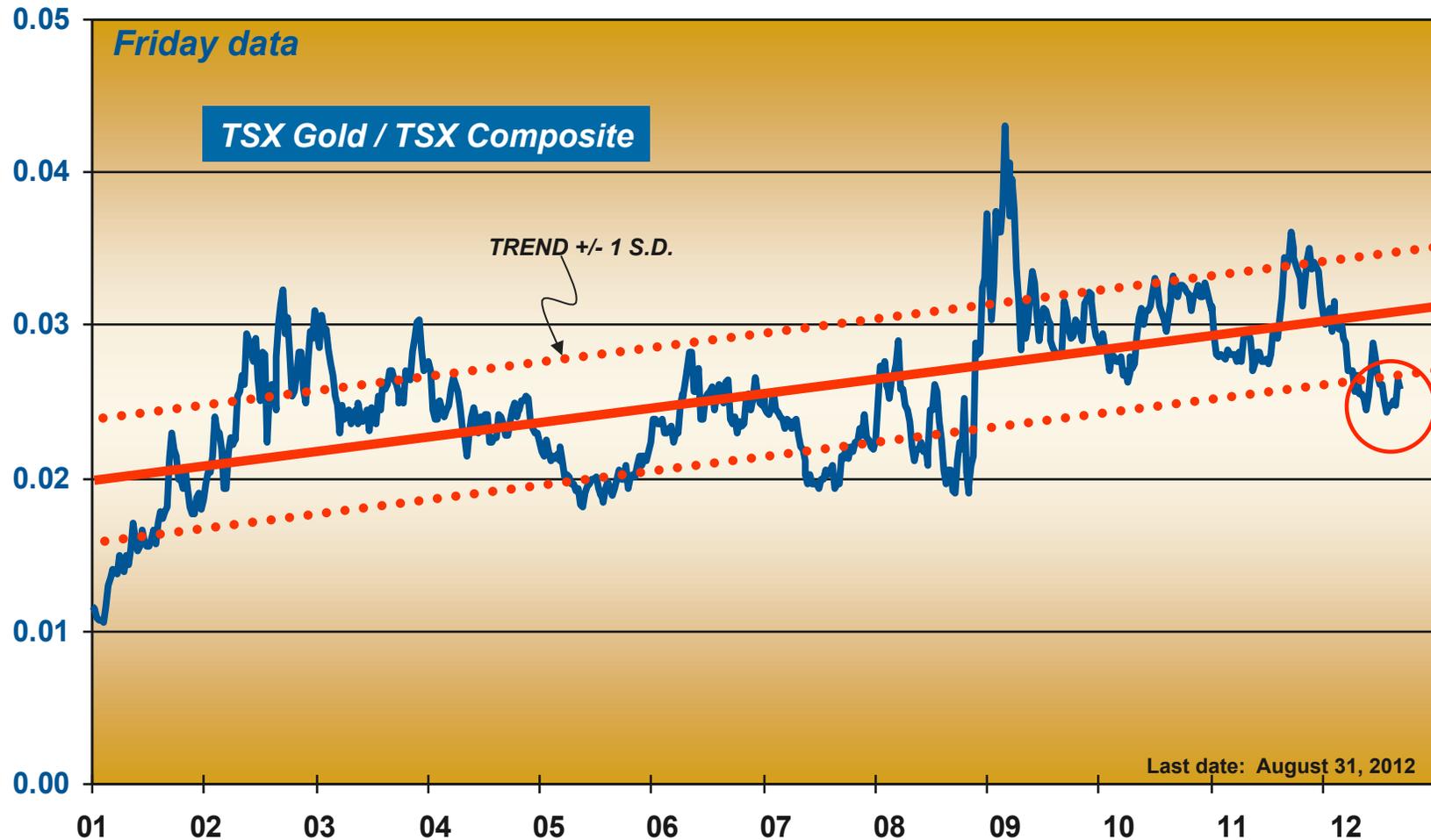
## Gold Index “high-normal” relative S&P/TSX Index ...



TREND: Based on calculation from January 6, 1984 through August 31, 2012

# Appendix: TSX Gold/TSX

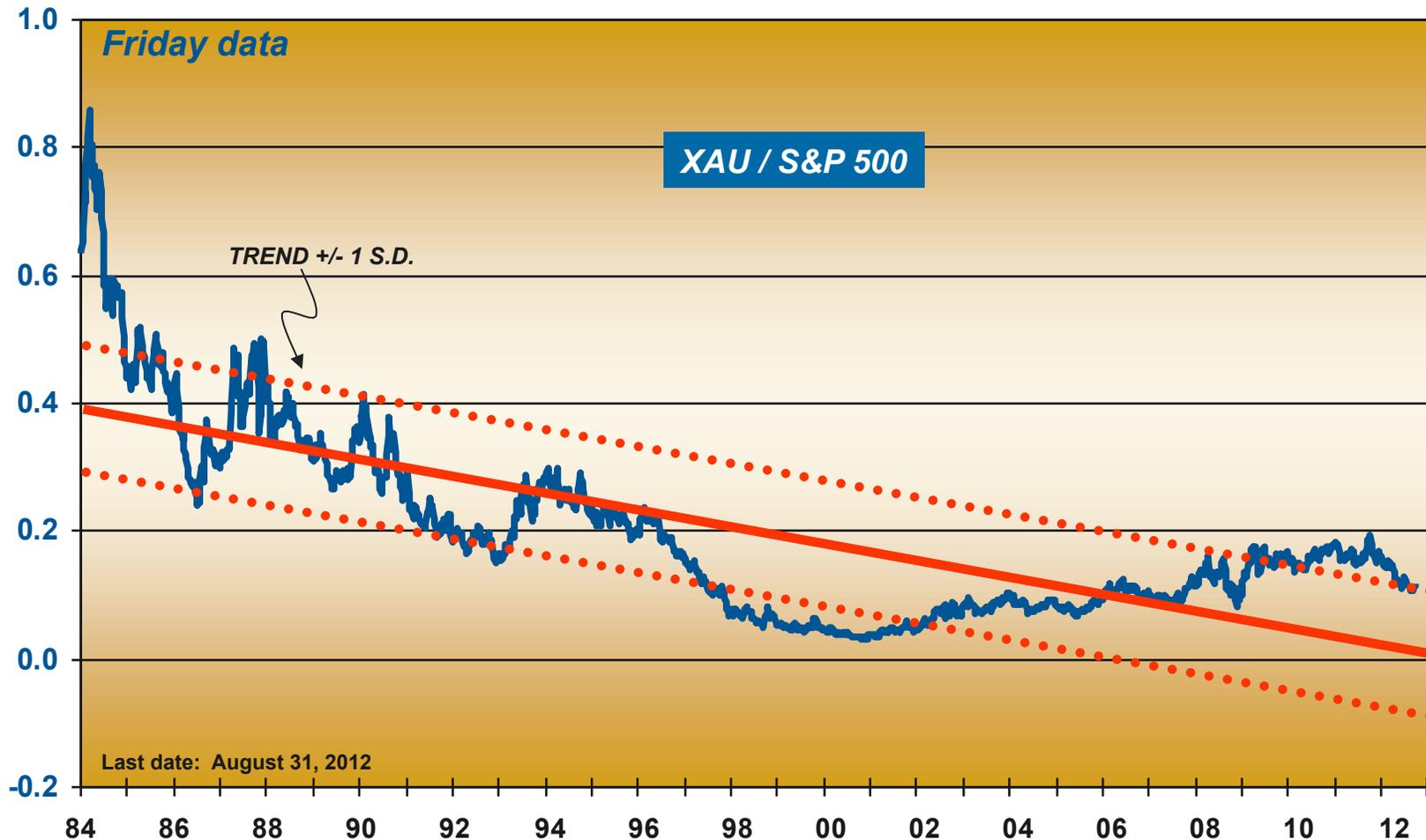
... But down when trend shortened to 2000



TREND: Based on calculation from January 6, 1984 through August 31, 2012

# Appendix: XAU/S&P500

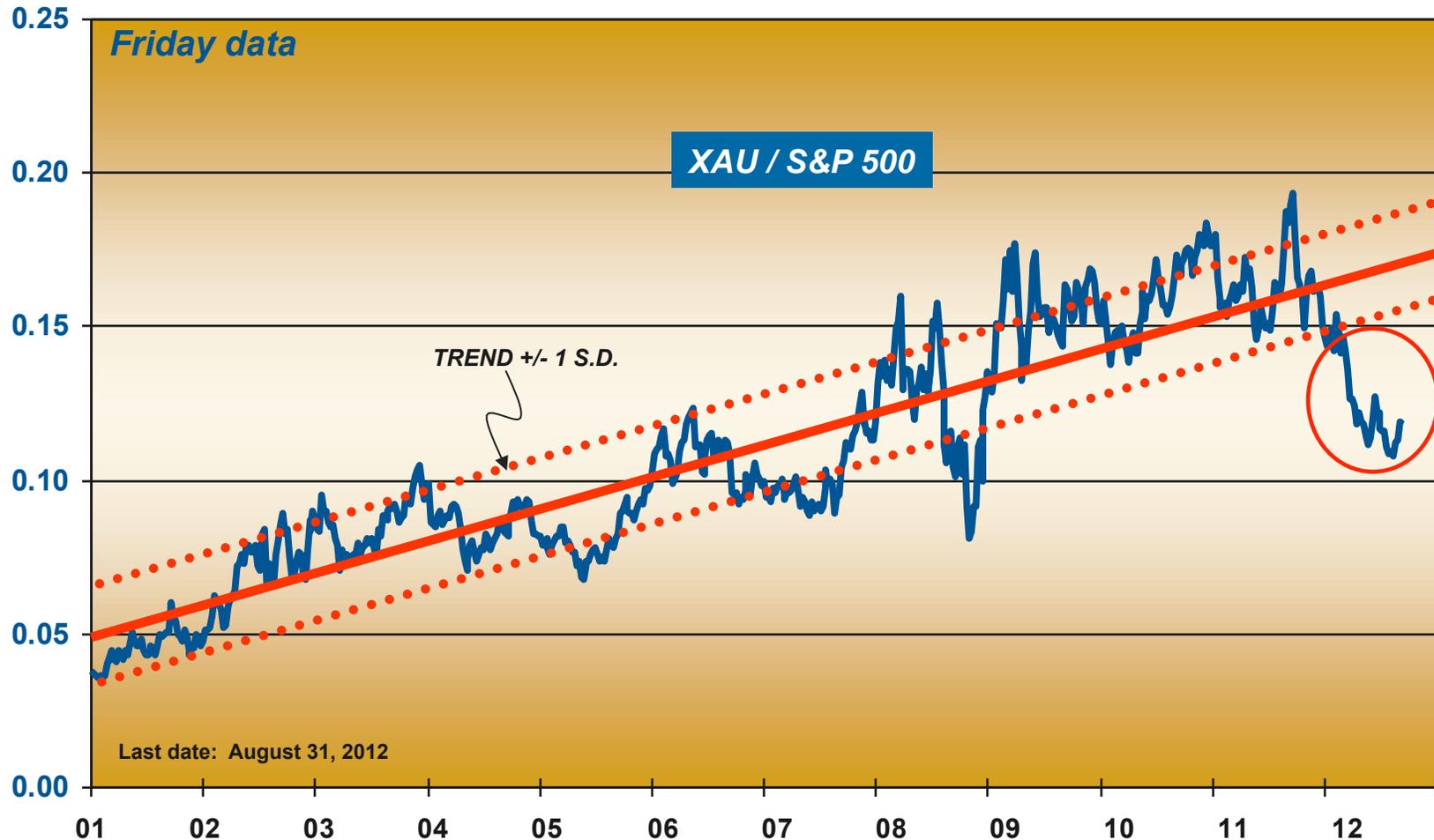
XAU “high-normal” relative to S&P500 ...



TREND: Based on calculation from January 6, 1984 through August 31, 2012

# Appendix: XAU/S&P500

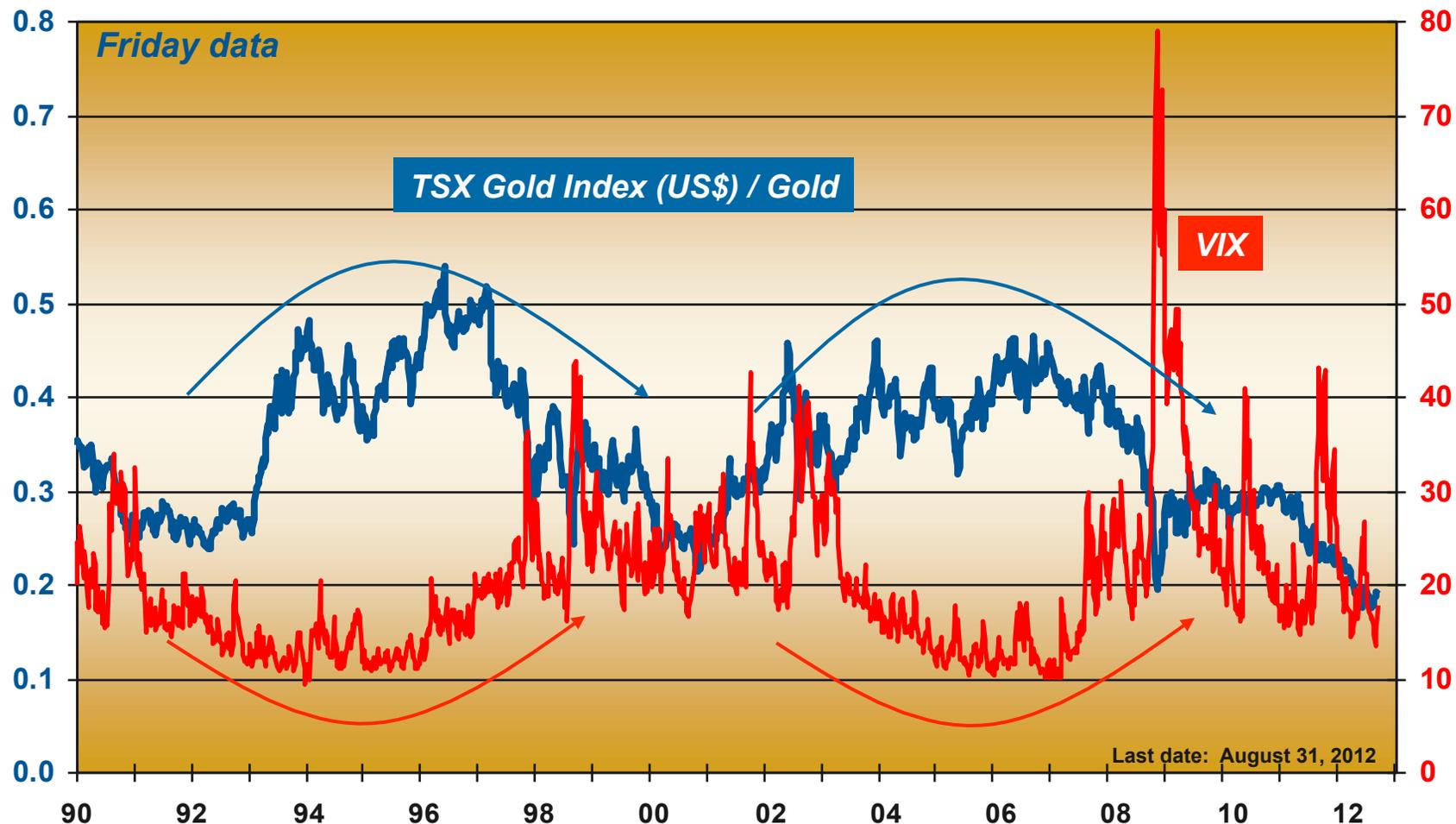
... But also down when trend shortened to 2000



TREND: Based on calculation from January 6, 1984 through August 17, 2012

# Appendix: TSX Gold/Gold (in US\$)

*High VIX\* often equates with weak gold equities!*

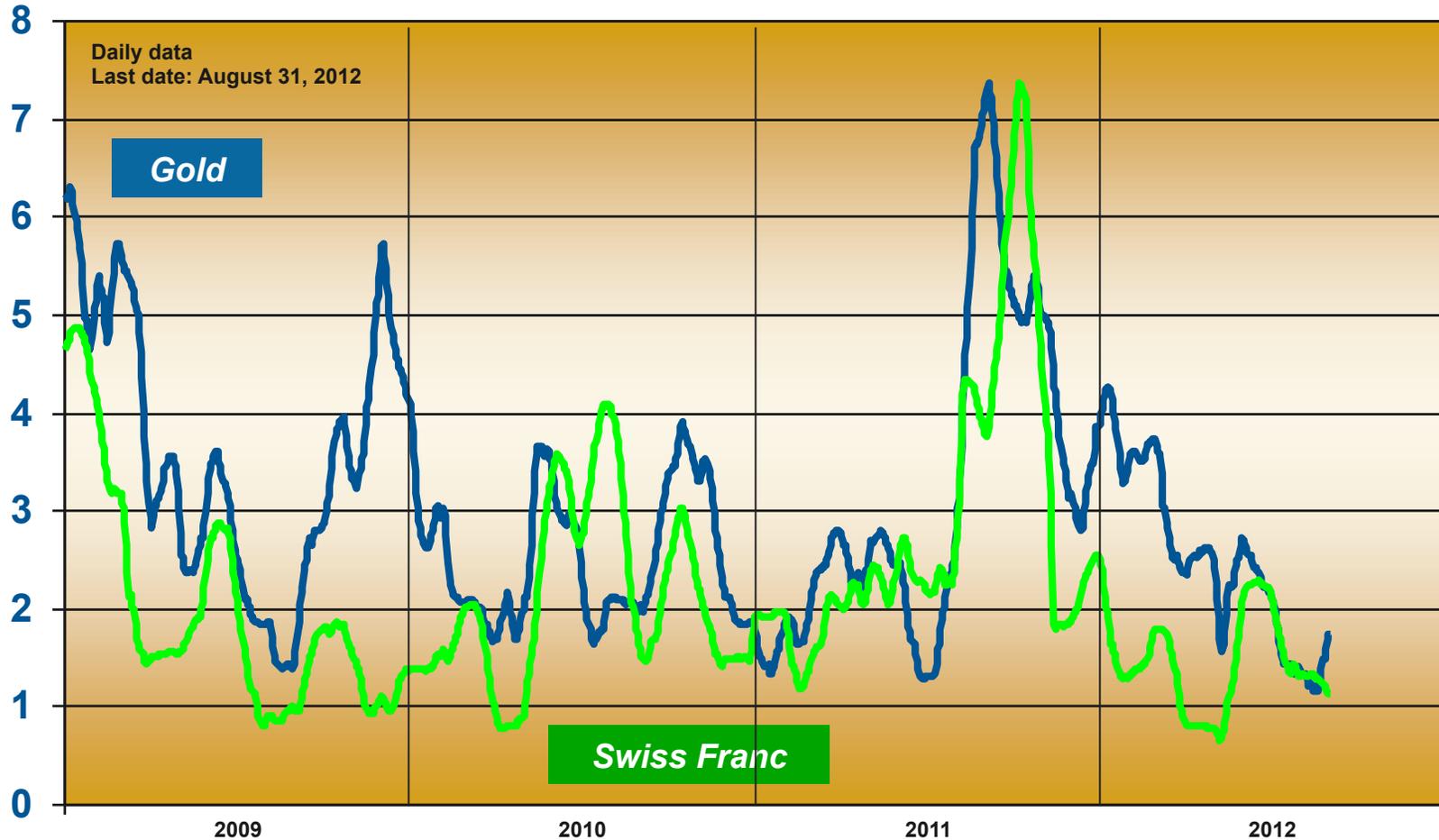


\*VIX is a trademark symbol for the CBOE Market Volatility Index: a popular measure of implied volatility of the S&P500. It represents one measure of the market's expectation of stock market volatility over the next 30 day period.

Source: Chicago Board Options Exchange, Wikipedia

# Appendix: Gold Volatility

**Gold is no more volatile than some key currencies!**



Volatility = S.D. as % of 50-day MA

# Appendix: Commitments of Traders

The “specs” could return to gold ...

