



# STIFEL *Bits*

April 8, 2026

## The Appetizer

*“I don’t have any ability to predict what stocks will do next week or next month, and I will buy them if they’re cheap. I’ll buy a whole lot of them if they’re cheap, and I think I really understand the business ... ”*

– Famed investor Warren Buffett during a recent CNBC interview.

***Now, on to the numbers. Drum roll, please ...***

- **\$9.46:** The average price per pound of **ground roast coffee** in February 2026, a record high.
- **\$1:** The approximate minimum **price hike** Netflix is implementing for its subscription tiers, its first since January 2025.
- **413,793:** The number of **KitKat bars stolen** in Italy. The chocolaty haul totaled roughly 12 tons.
- **6:** The number of days astronauts taking part in NASA’s Artemis II mission could **survive** in their Orion spacesuits.
- **7,214:** The average amount owed on **car trade-ins with negative equity** in the fourth quarter of 2025, an all-time high.

# Dig In

## The Human Element

When it comes to artificial intelligence and the job market, headlines tend to swing between “The Robots Are Coming” and “Everything Is Fine.” In reality, the picture is much more nuanced and a lot more human. While technology is changing how we work, it isn’t hitting every industry at the same speed.

Current data shows a remarkably steady **labor market**. Historically, major tech shifts have felt like a slow simmer rather than a flash fry, and AI is no exception. The real story is where the demand is flowing. **Healthcare** continues to be the “jobs engine” of the modern economy; in fact, nursing has become a cornerstone of middle-class stability. In these roles, AI acts as a high-tech assistant for paperwork, leaving the actual care to humans.

Interestingly, “experience” is having a major moment. Many companies are leaning on **seasoned pros** to help integrate these new tools and provide the one thing AI lacks: judgment. While entry-level hiring in tech-heavy roles has softened, the “human element” remains the most valuable asset on the balance sheet.

The takeaway? AI **isn’t replacing the workforce**; it’s reshaping it. Experience still matters, people still matter, and adaptation looks incremental rather than abrupt.

## Weekly Specials

The internet really tried to cancel a **190-year-old tortoise**. Jonathan, the world’s oldest land animal, was rumored dead, but plot twist: he’s alive and vibing. Finally, I can sleep at night! Imagine surviving centuries ... only to almost be taken out by Twitter.

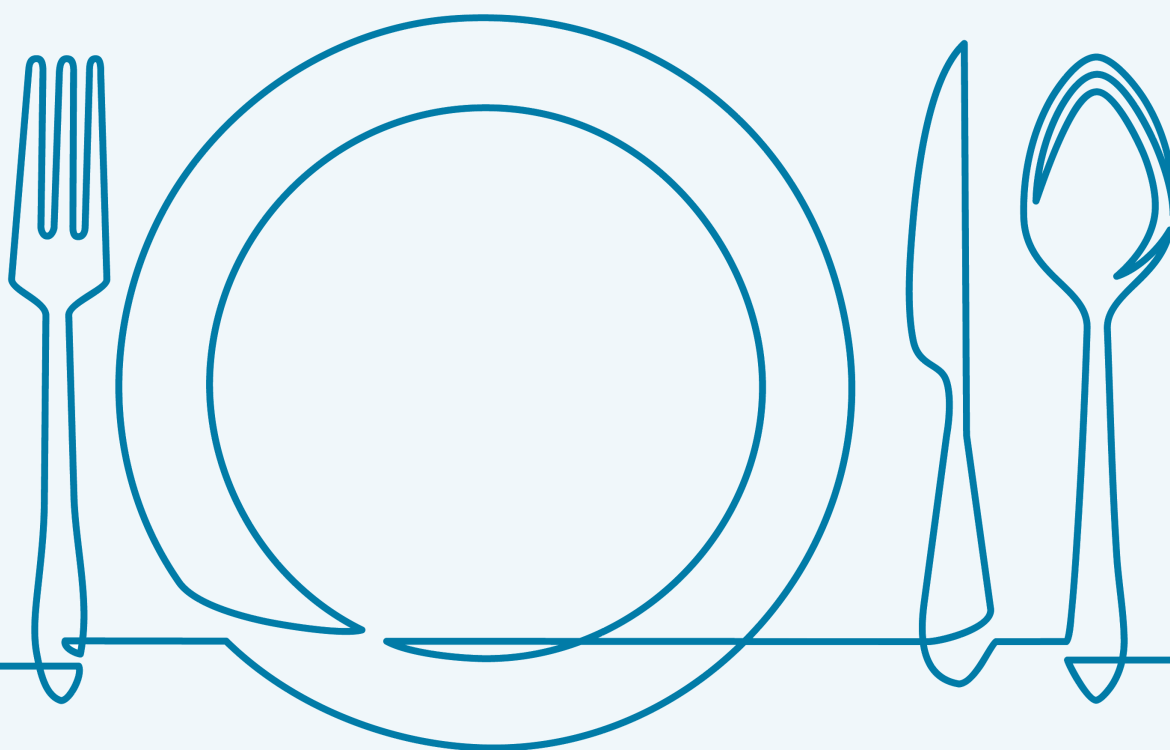
Everyone remembers the great Florida migration. Post-COVID, it was all sunshine and loose mask rules. But **people are now heading to the Midwest**. Yep, those 12 states in the upper middle of the U.S. are heating up. Turns out affordable living is the new beachfront ... minus the hurricanes.

Going to a Michelin-star restaurant is something most foodies dream about. But one guy asked, “Why not all of them?” – hitting **28 Michelin-star spots in New York City** in just 24 hours. From caviar to dumplings to pasta, he basically speedran fine dining. Honestly? I get full just reading the menu.

**Archaeologists uncovered** what’s basically an early rapid-fire weapon used during the Pompeii eruption. So, while we think of togas and wine, they were apparently also bringing serious heat. History just got way more intense.

# Corporate Lunch

- **McCormick** is reportedly **considering acquiring Unilever’s food business** to build a global flavor empire. The question is whether they can execute, or if this ends up like most food megamergers: a recipe that looked great on paper but somehow still comes out bland.
- **SpaceX** files for a **potential \$1.75 trillion IPO** – historic, sure – but I had two dinners last night. In this economy, that’s the real moonshot.
- **Google’s** TurboQuant is **tackling one of AI’s biggest bottlenecks** – memory usage – sending ripples through chip stocks and adding to a growing list of AI names that sound less like products and more like something you’d hear right before the machines take over.
- **Delta** and **Amazon’s** Project Kuiper (aka Leo) **are teaming up to upgrade in-flight connectivity**. So yeah, if you’re flying Delta, “Sorry, my WiFi is out” is no longer a valid excuse for missing that post-landing email ...
- **Visa** rolls out **AI tools for disputes**, promising a smoother back-end process. Now just waiting for the front-end upgrade where “representative” works on the first try instead of the tenth.



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