

# Gold and the World Economy

Presentation to  
**2012 Precious Metals Summit Colorado**

**Dr. Martin Murenbeeld**

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Vail Valley, Colorado

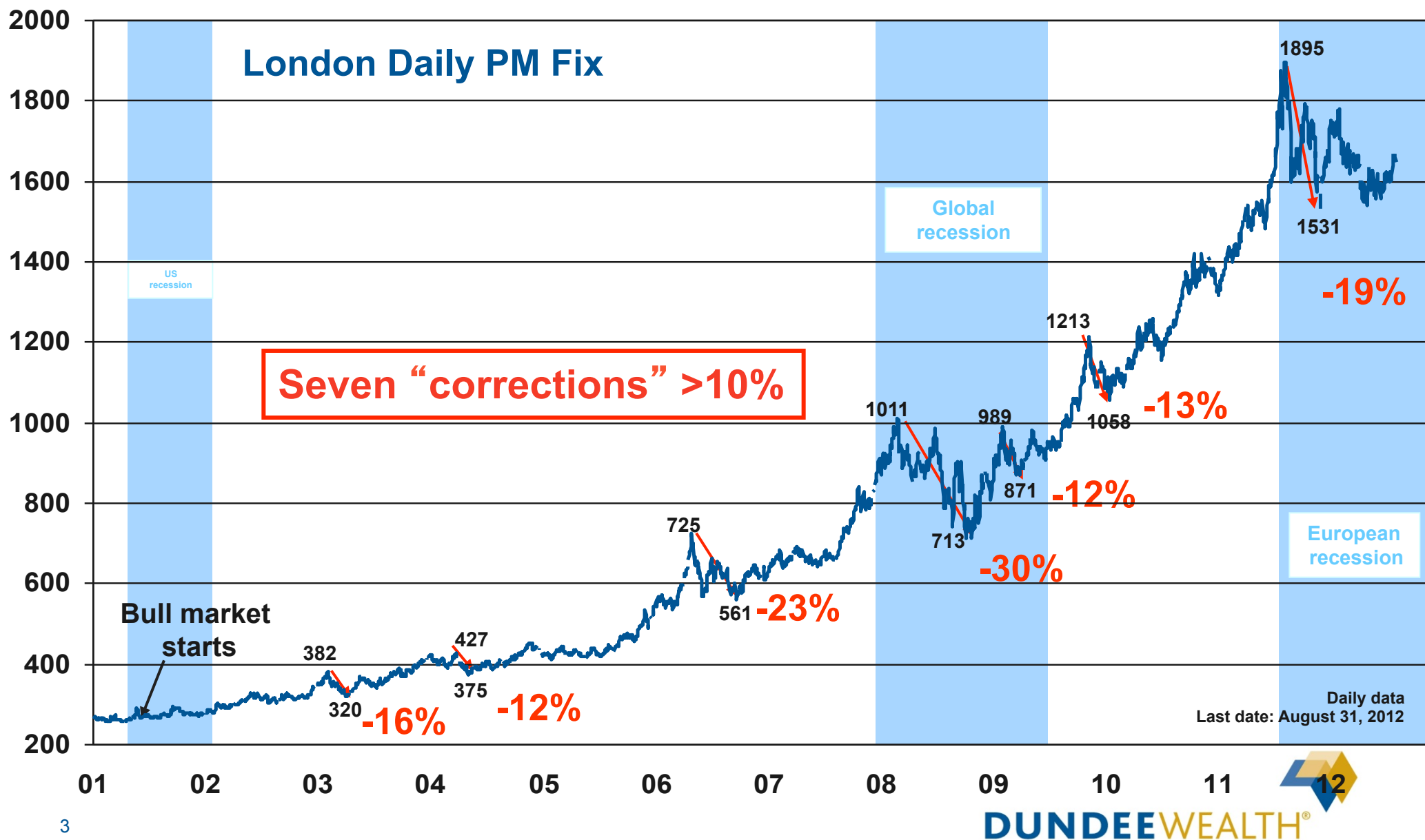


## *Important Information*

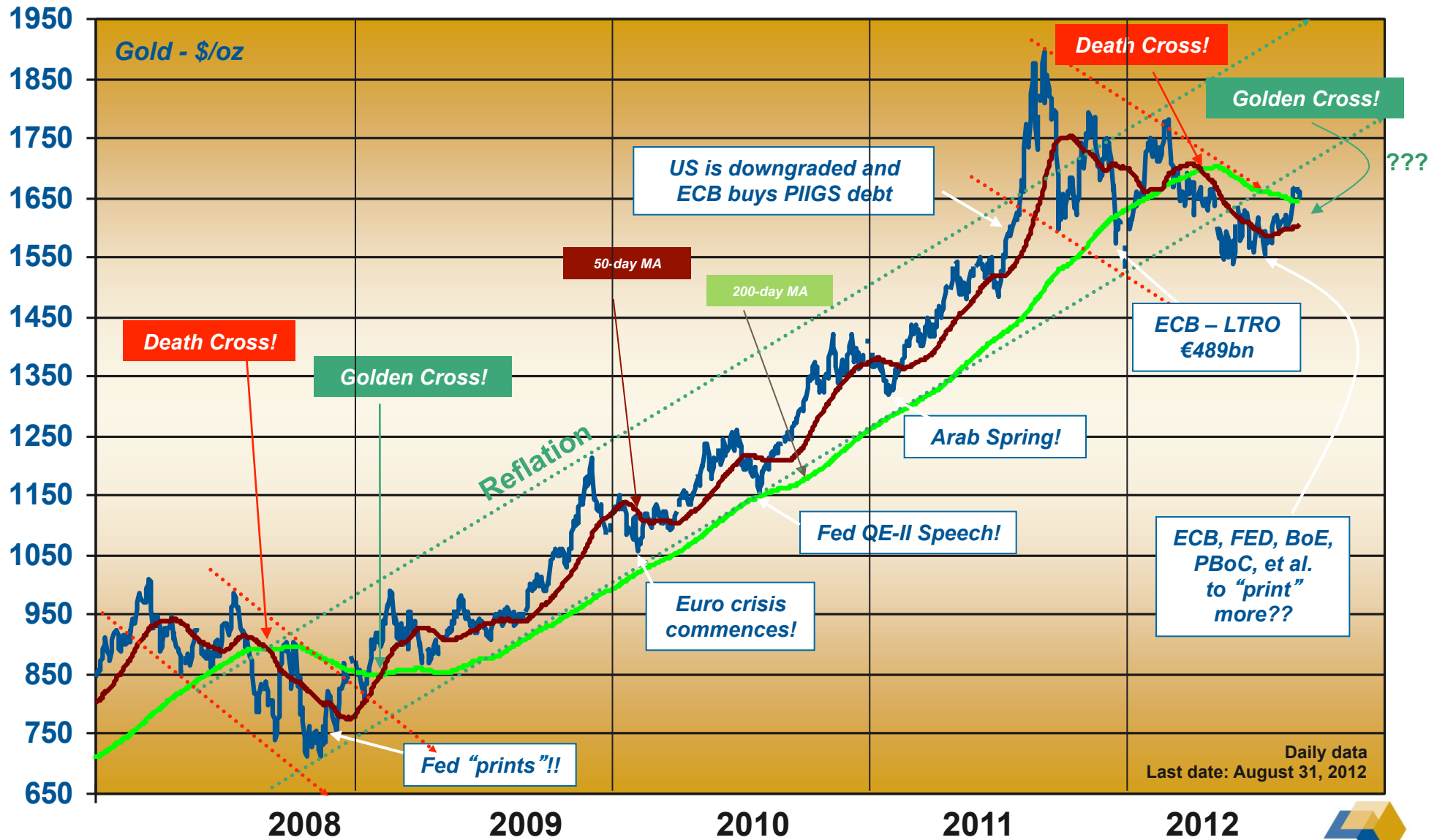
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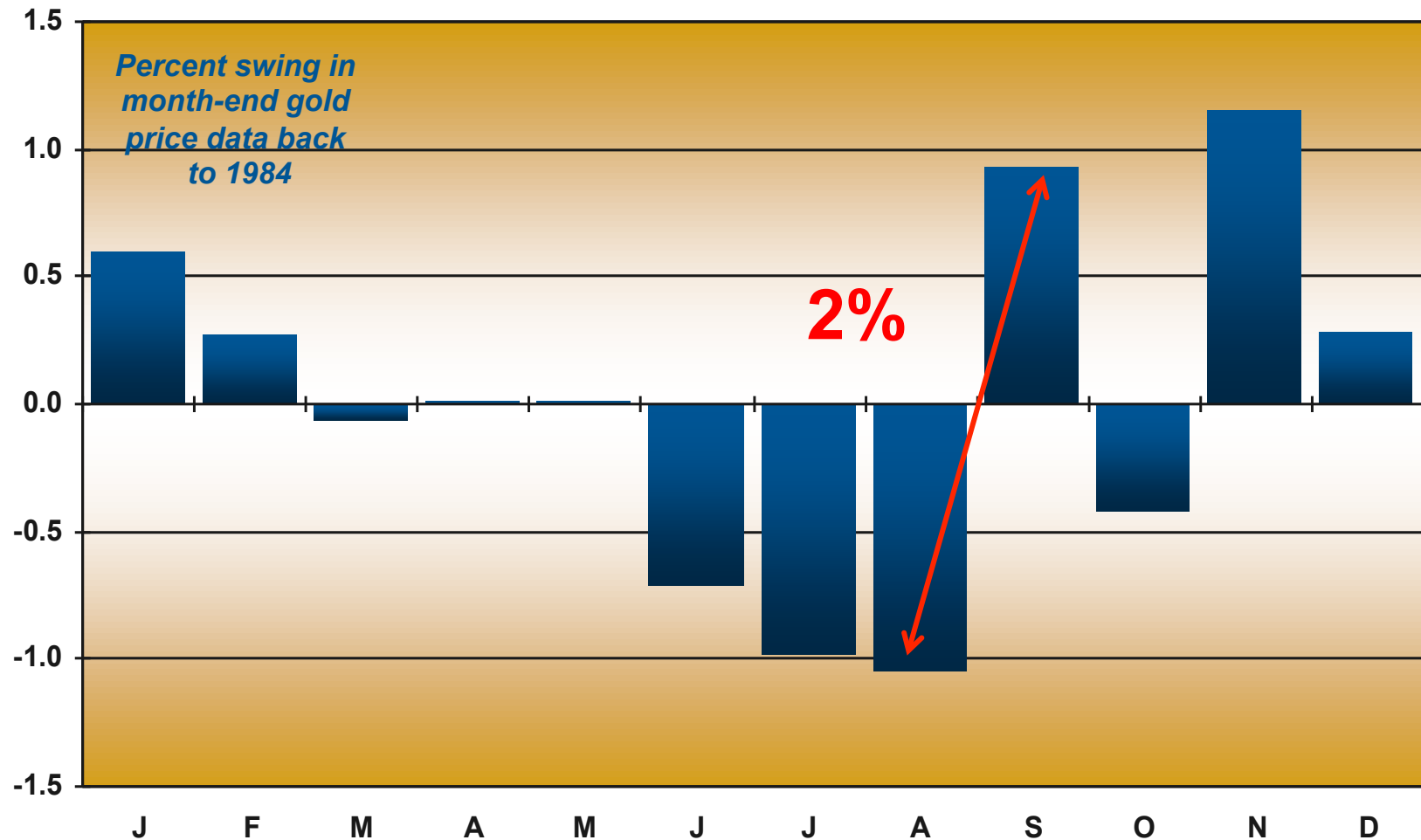
# Overview: Gold Price Corrections



# 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***

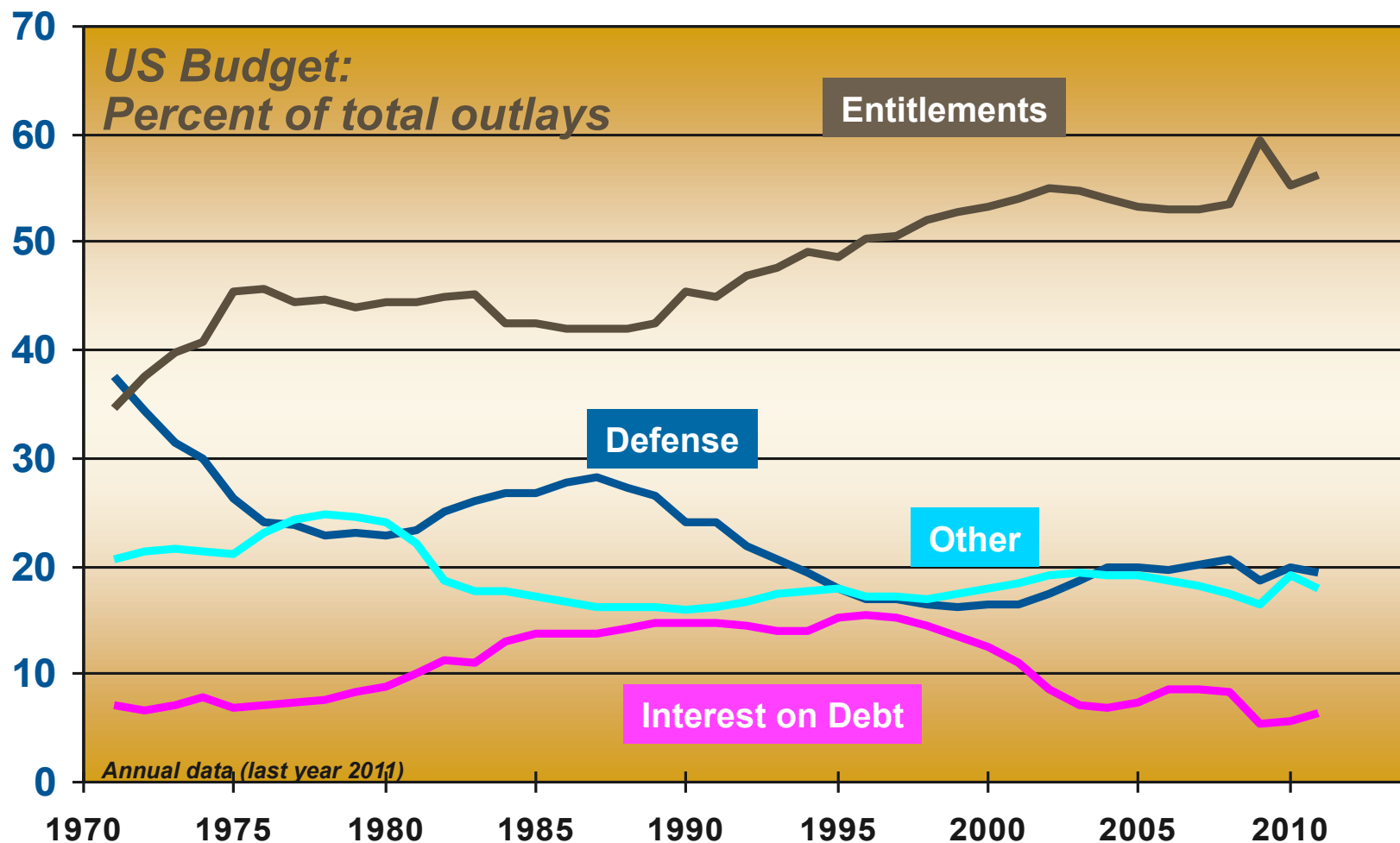
## ***Antecedents of the global debt crisis***

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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***

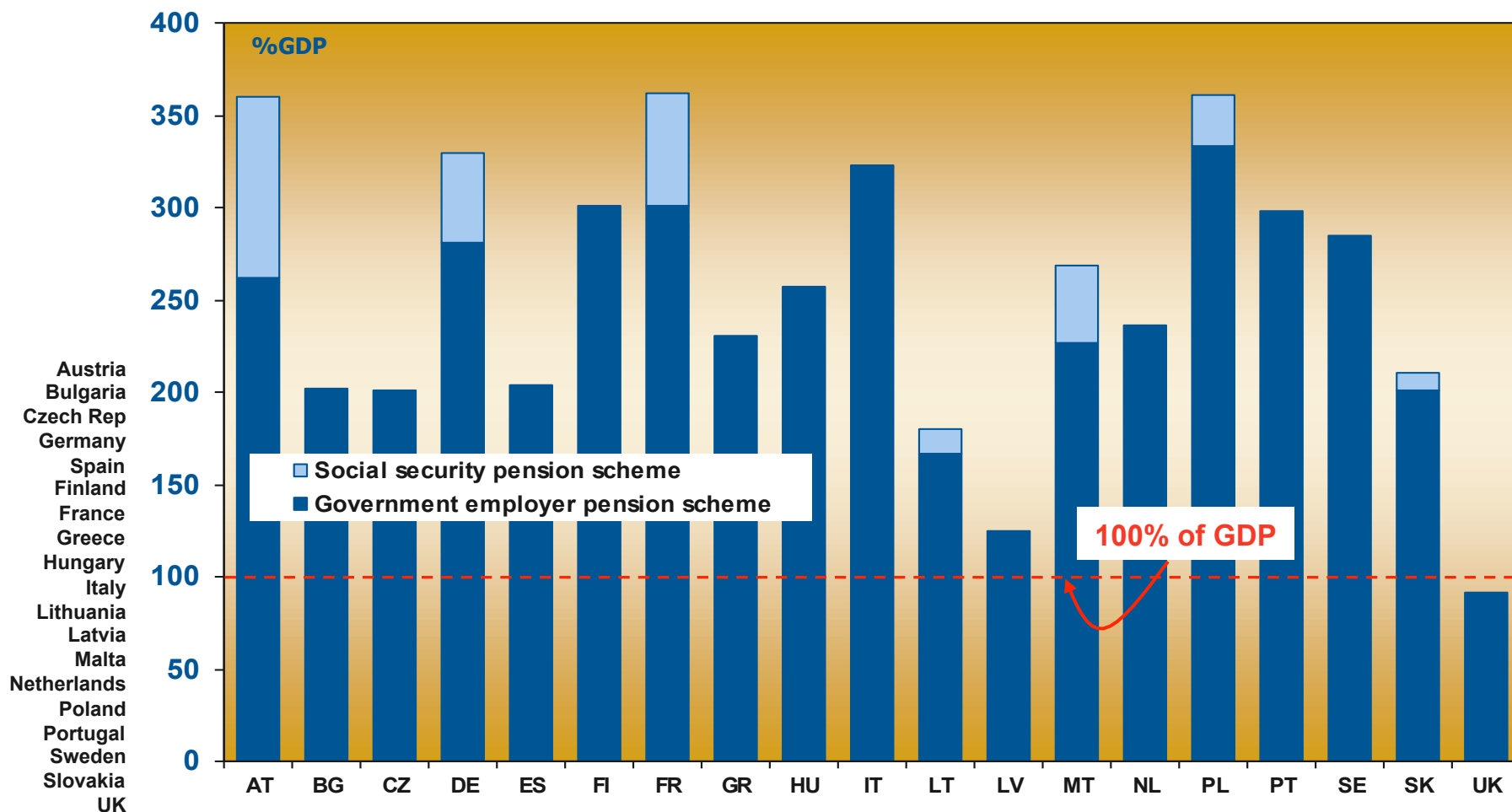
***Entitlements are killing Western economies***





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

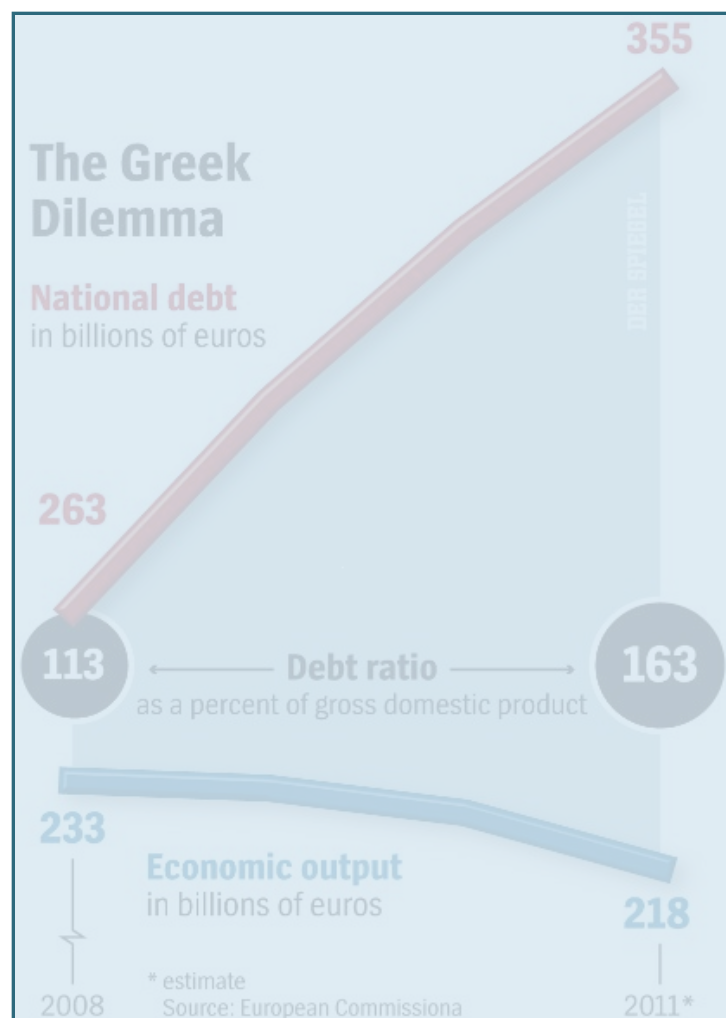
*Europe's pension liabilities are massive, for example*



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%

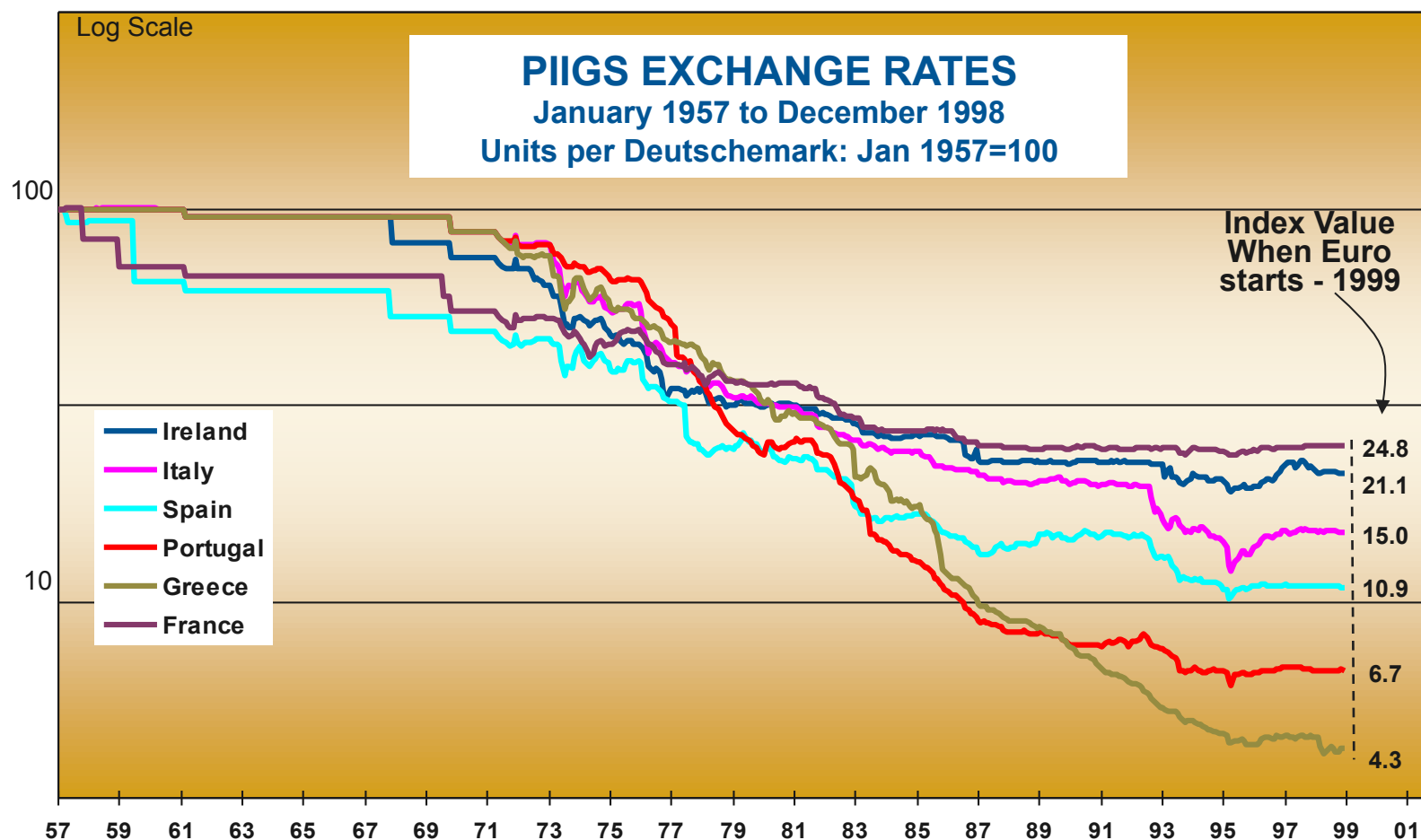
*The growth of nominal GDP plus the primary surplus must exceed interest rates on the debt.*

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.*

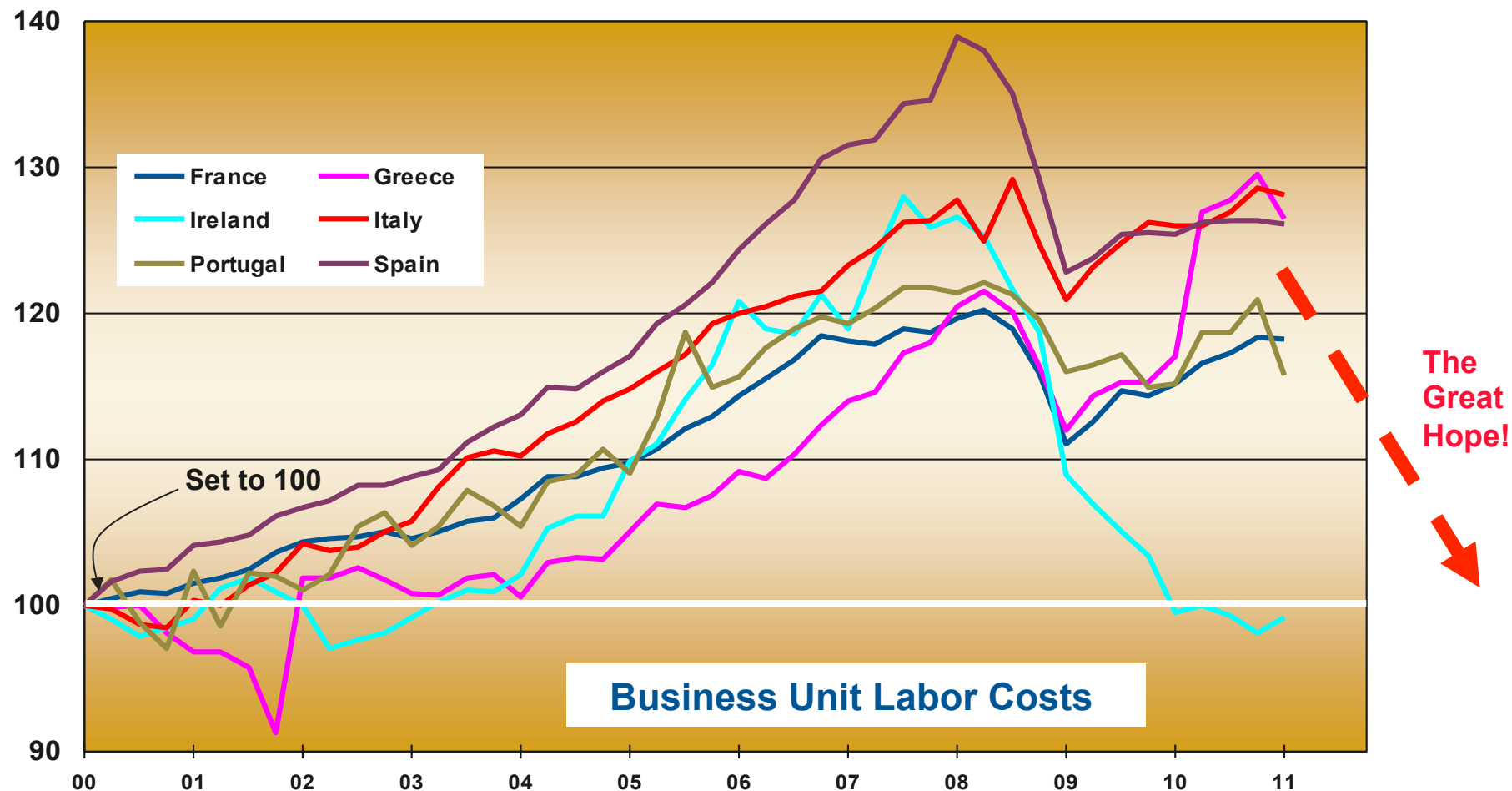
# ***Bullish: (1) Global Debt Crisis***

## ***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***

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

\* 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 ...***

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### **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

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

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

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



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

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

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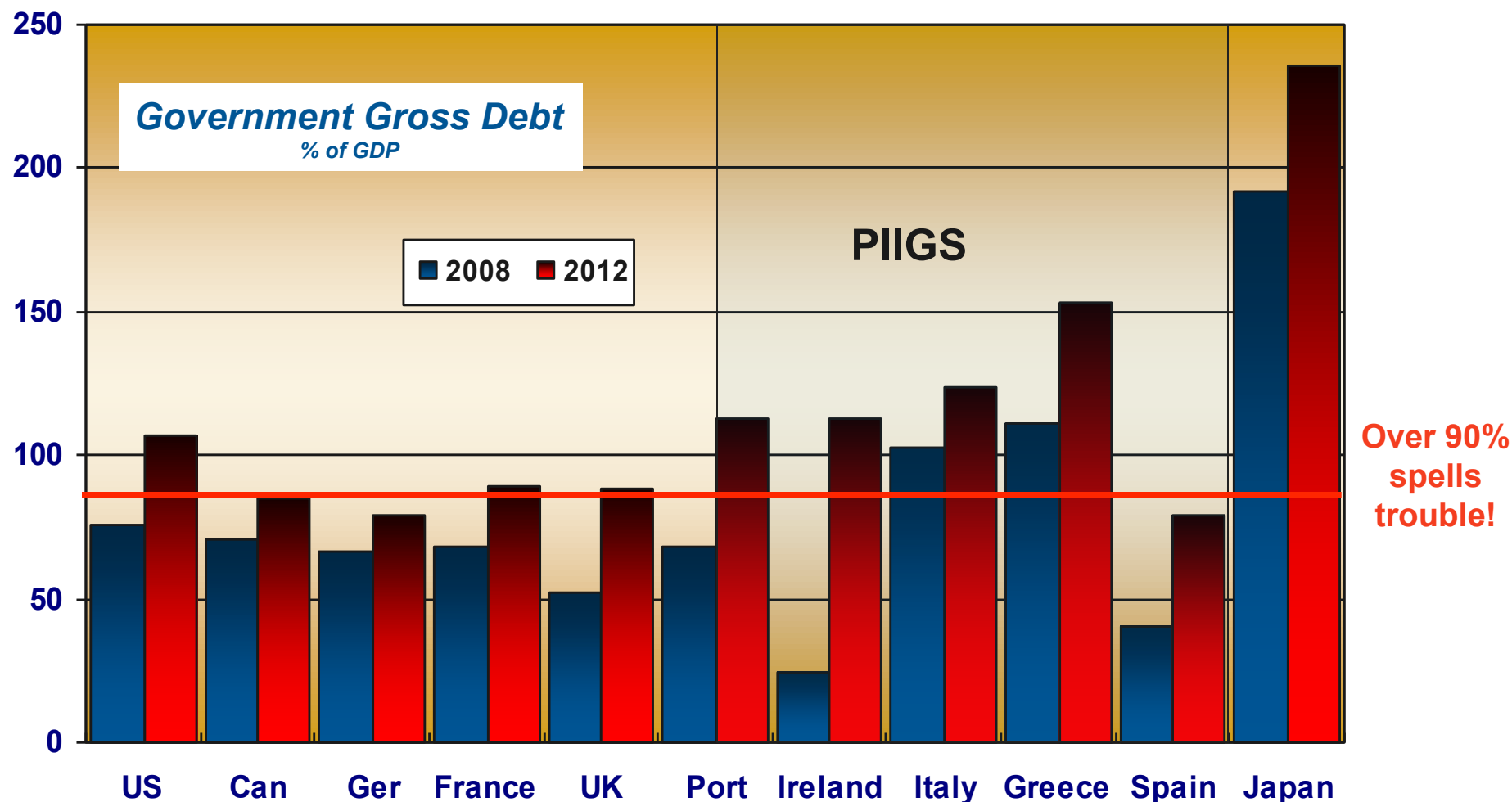


***It can all work  
provided  
there are  
never-ending  
transfer  
payments  
from North to  
South ...***



# 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:***

***Renegue on promises***

***Cut other services***

***Raise taxes***

***Print more money***

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

***Print more money?***

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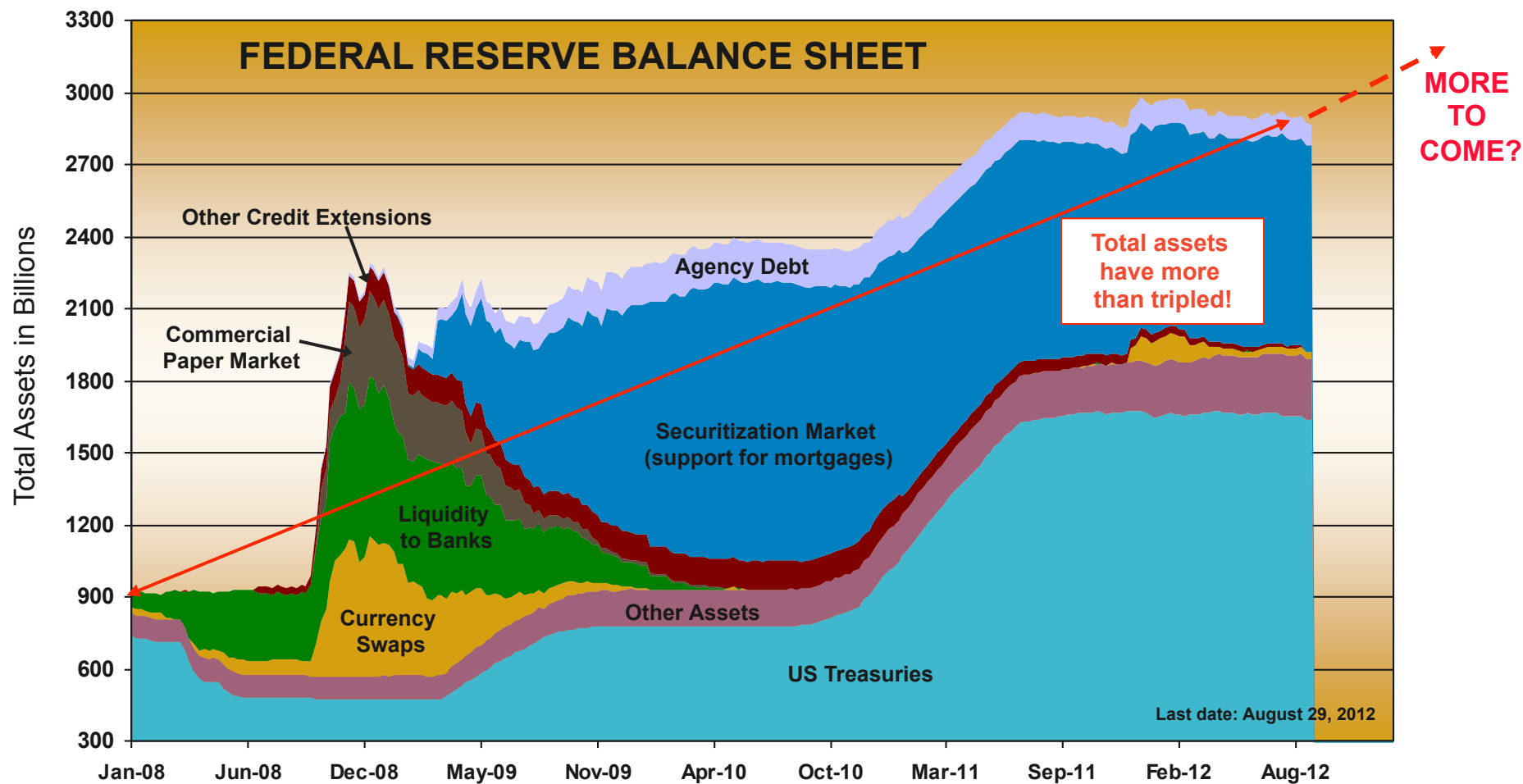
***“Throughout history, feckless governments have dodged their fiscal responsibility by turning to their monetary authority to devalue the currency, monetize debt and inflate their way out of structural deficits”***

***Richard Fisher:***

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

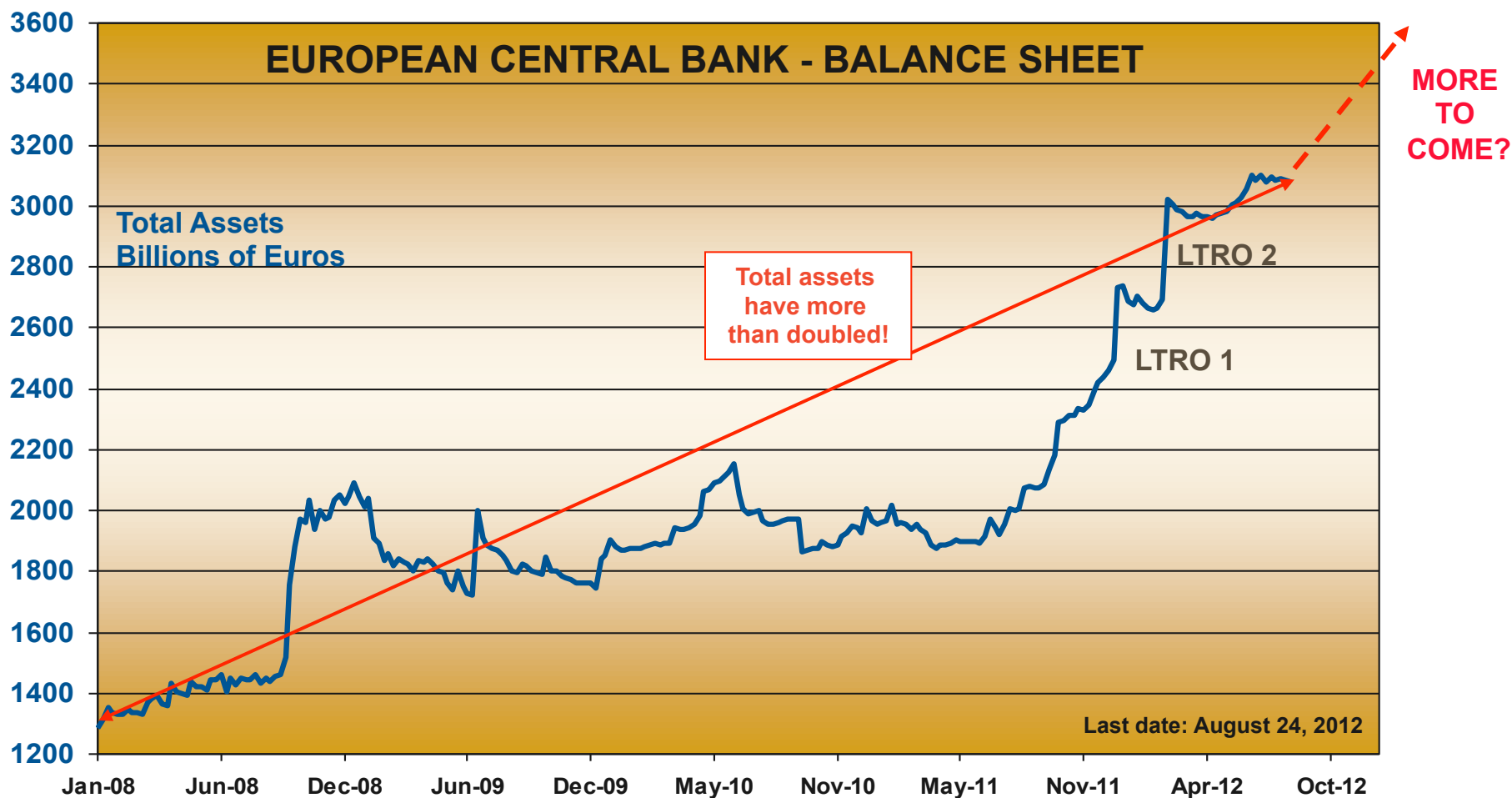
# ***Bullish: (1) Global Debt Crisis***

***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:***

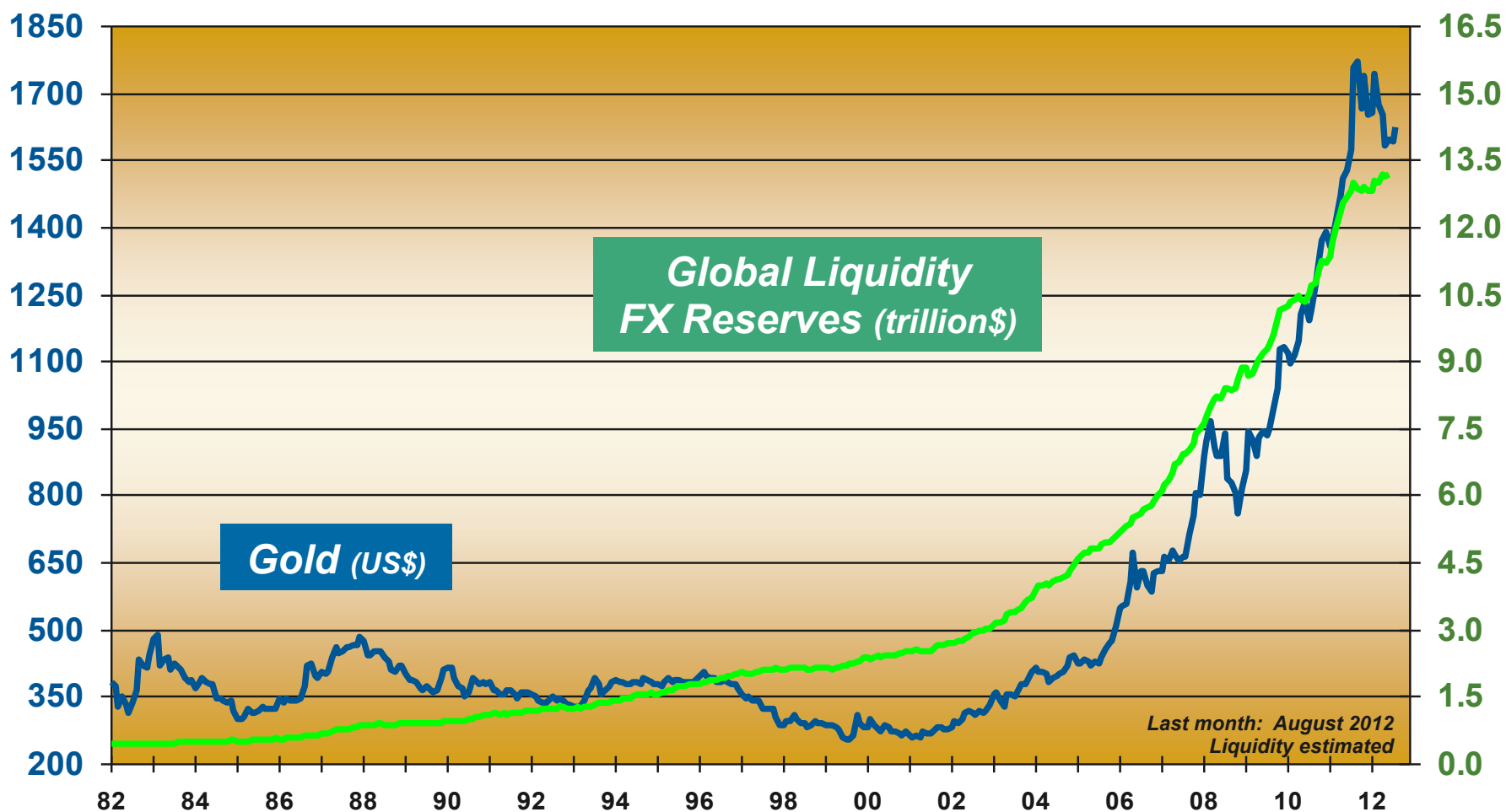
***“Many members expected that at the end of 2014, the unemployment rate would still be well above their estimates of its longer-term normal rate and that inflation would be at or below the Committee’s longer-run objective of 2 percent ...***

***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***

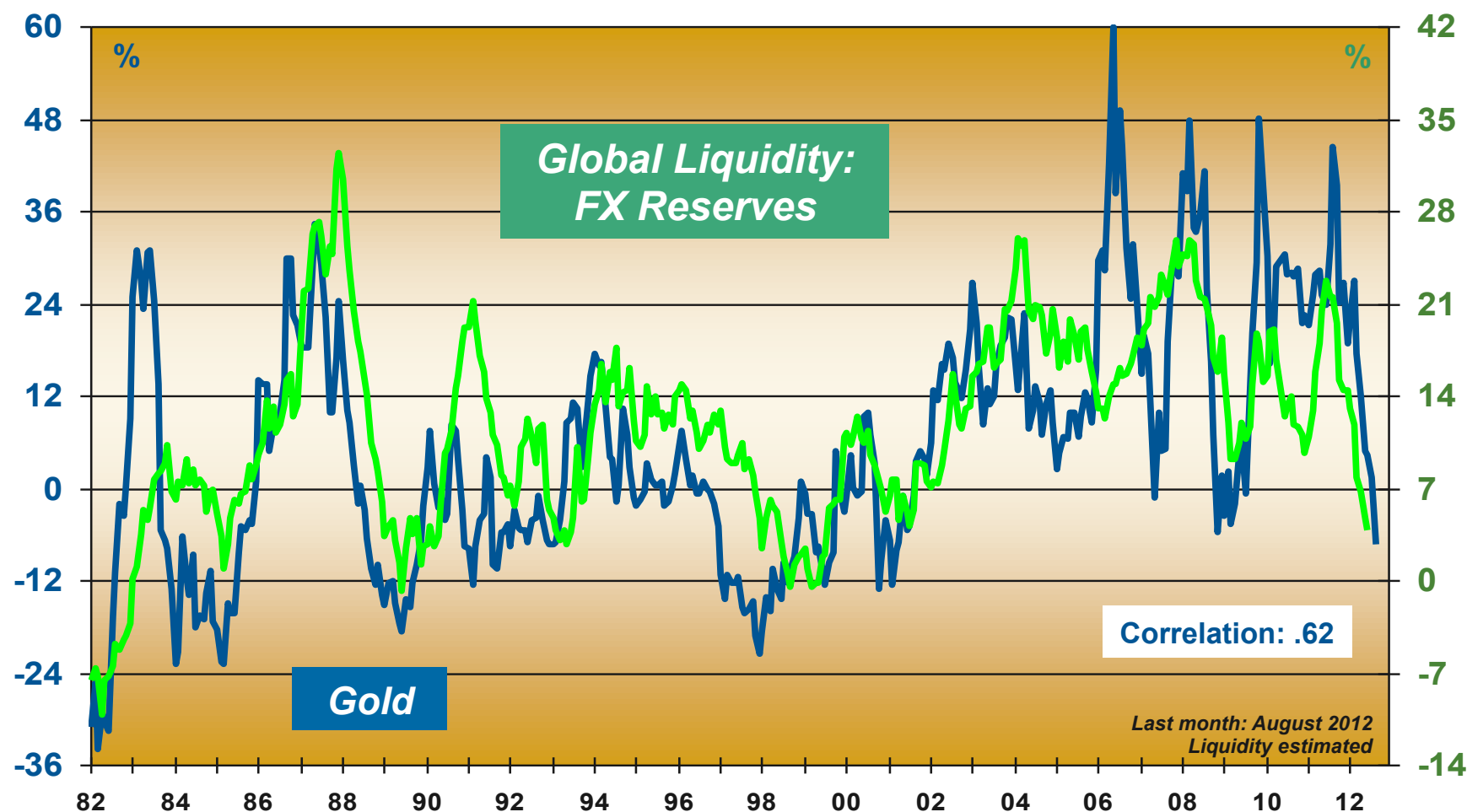
***Money drives gold ...***



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

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

## ***Gold rises and falls with FX liquidity***

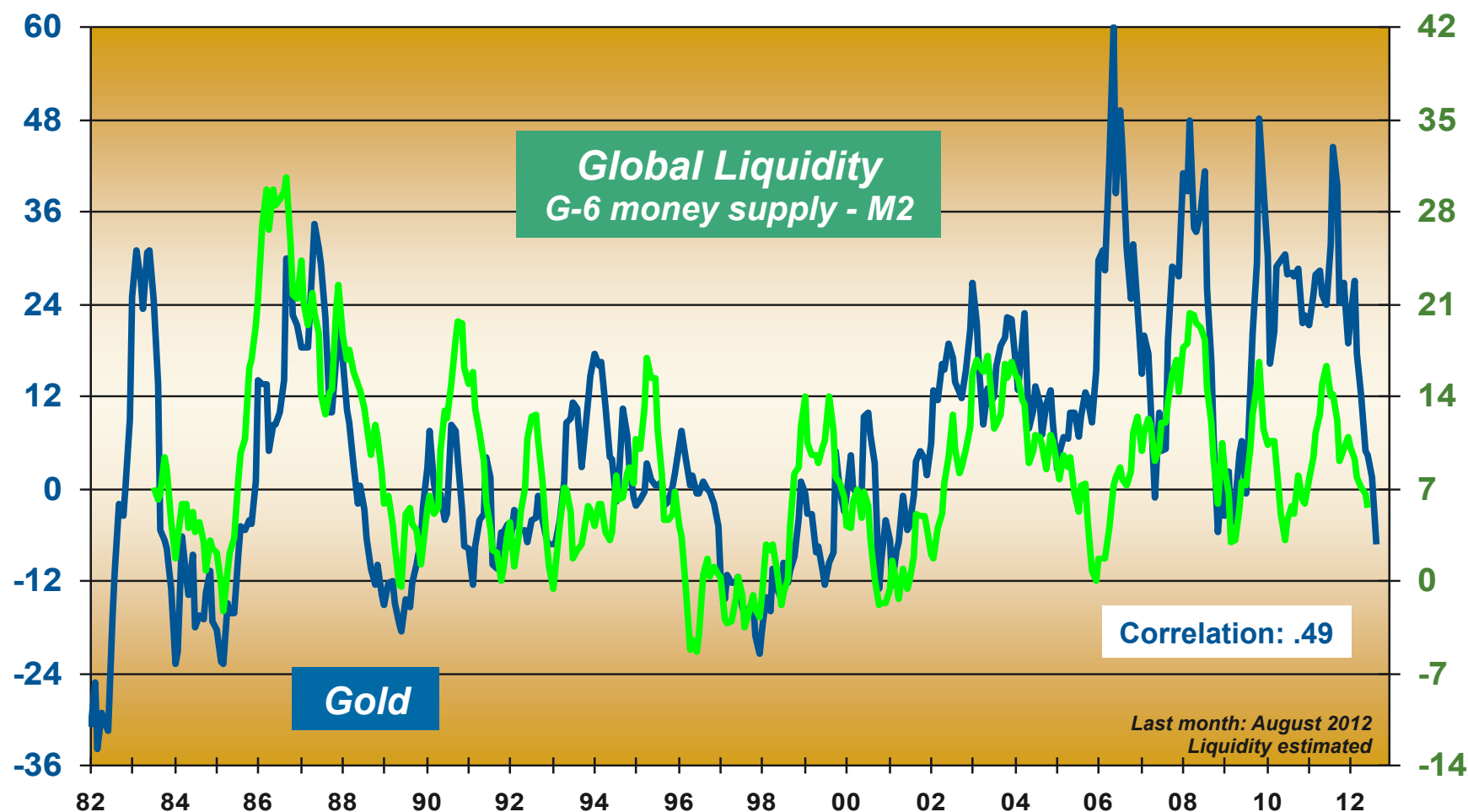


Global Liquidity: FX Reserves + US MBase  
Source: IMF, Federal Reserve



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

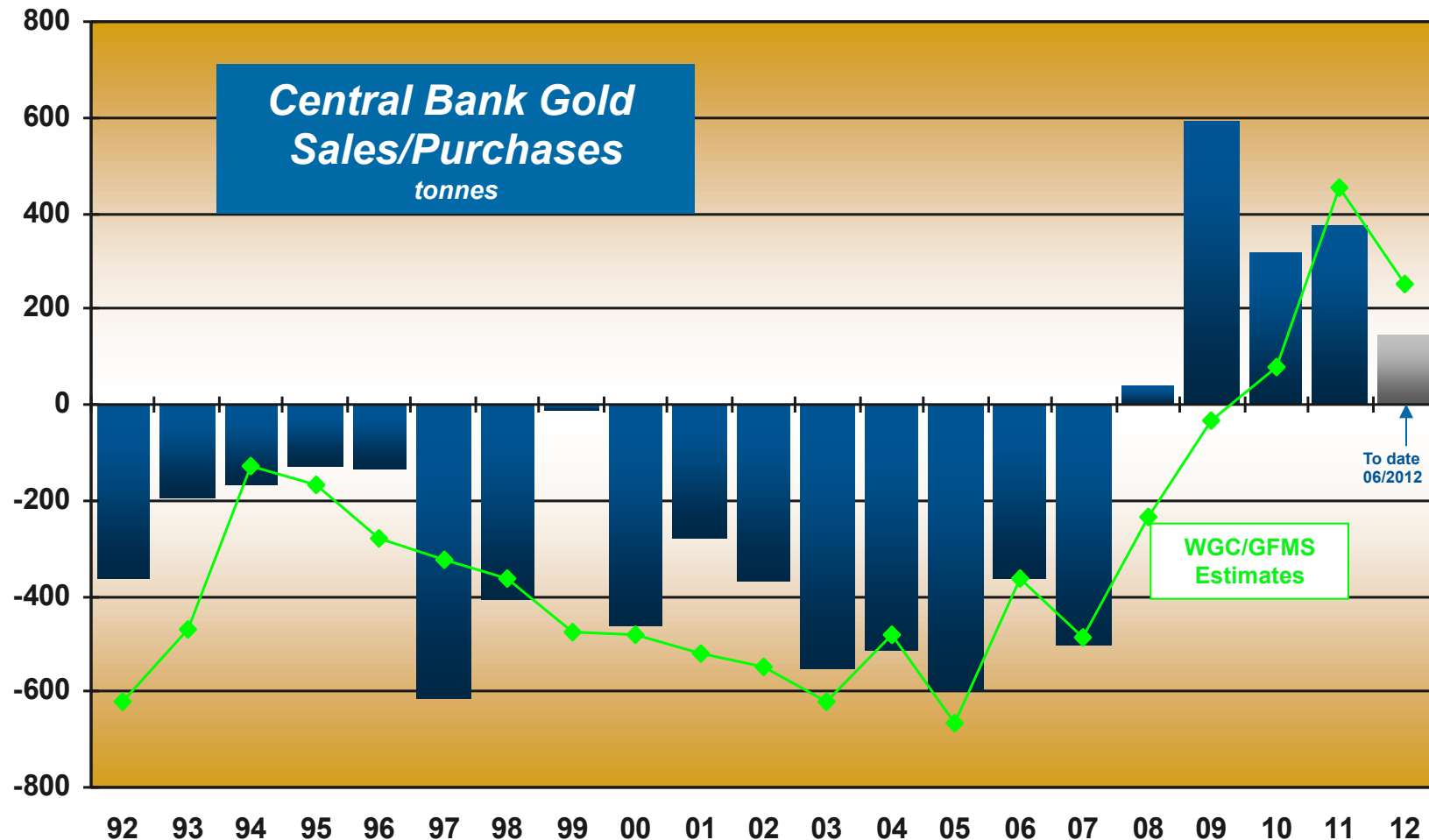
***Gold also rises and falls with M2 liquidity***



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 ...***

### **Foreign Exchange Reserves (countries over \$100 bn)**

bn\$		bn\$	
China	3290.1	Korea	303.8
Japan	1196.2	Hong Kong	294.4
Saudi Arabia	600.4	India	256.2
Russia	448.2	Algeria	187.8
Taiwan	391.1	Thailand	165.0
Switzerland	383.9	Mexico	152.5
Brazil	368.9	Malaysia	129.6
TOTAL		8168.0	

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

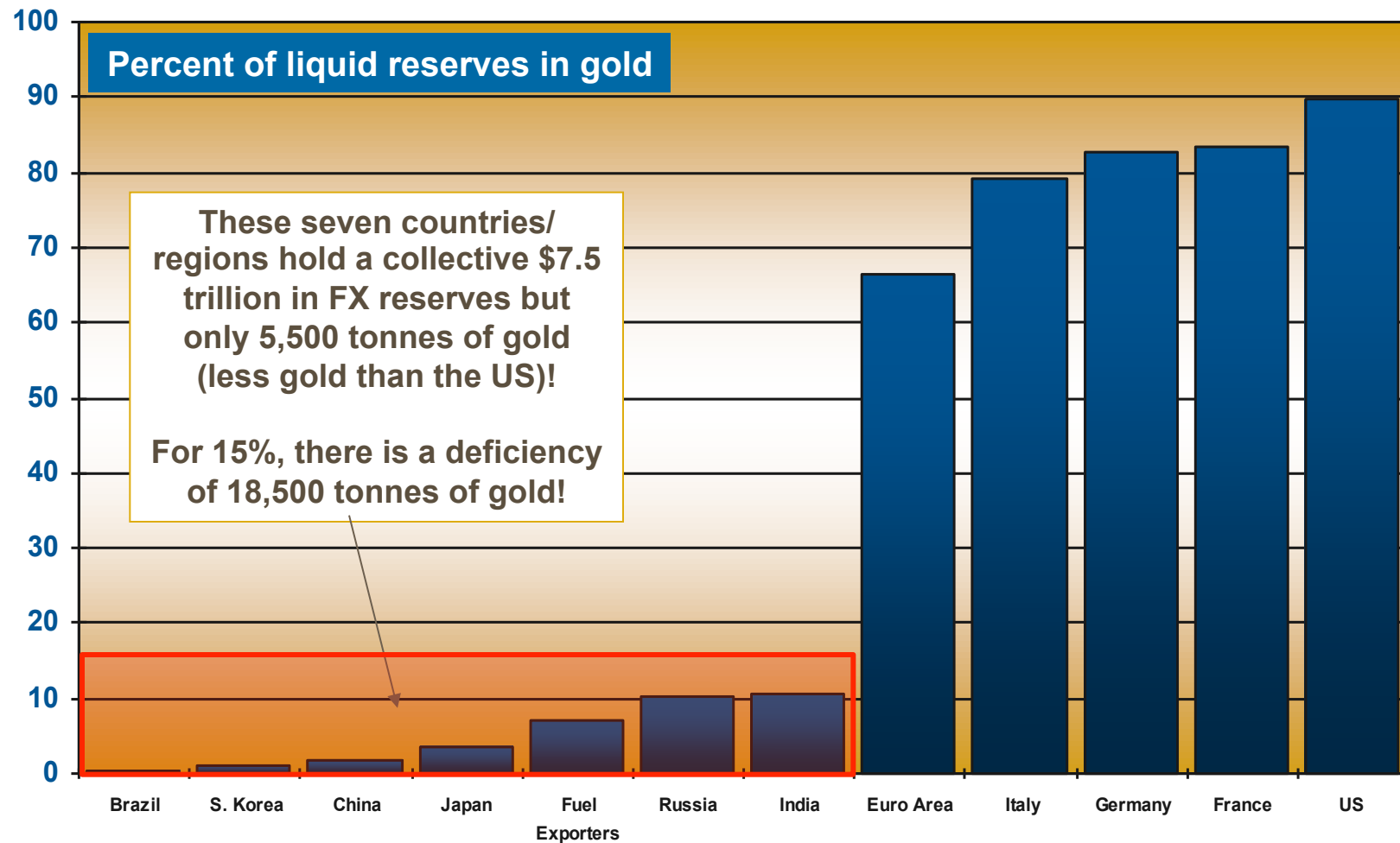
***Central banks are  
rediscovering that  
gold is not another  
central bank's  
liability!***

***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***

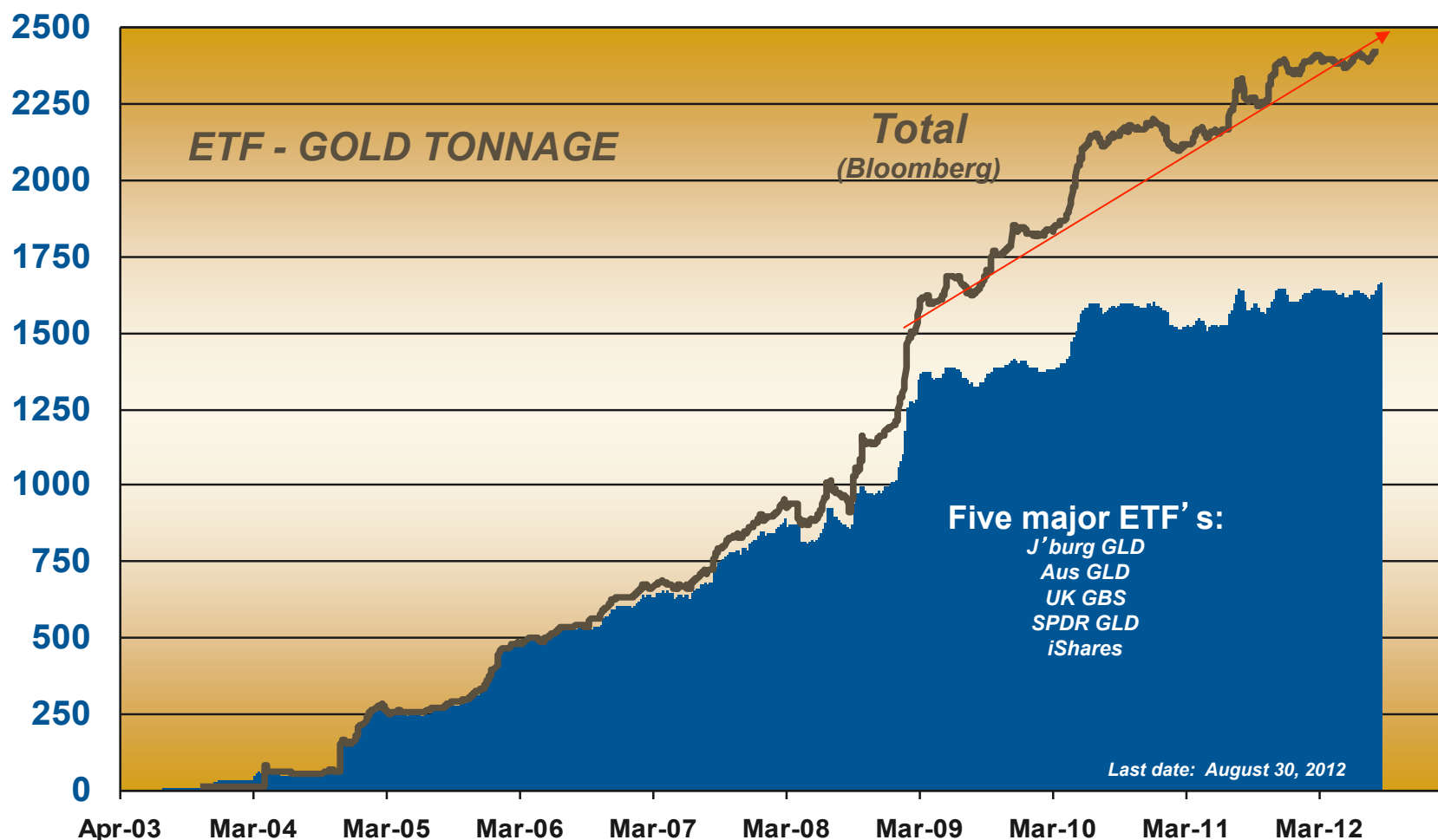
***Investment demand should continue to grow***

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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***

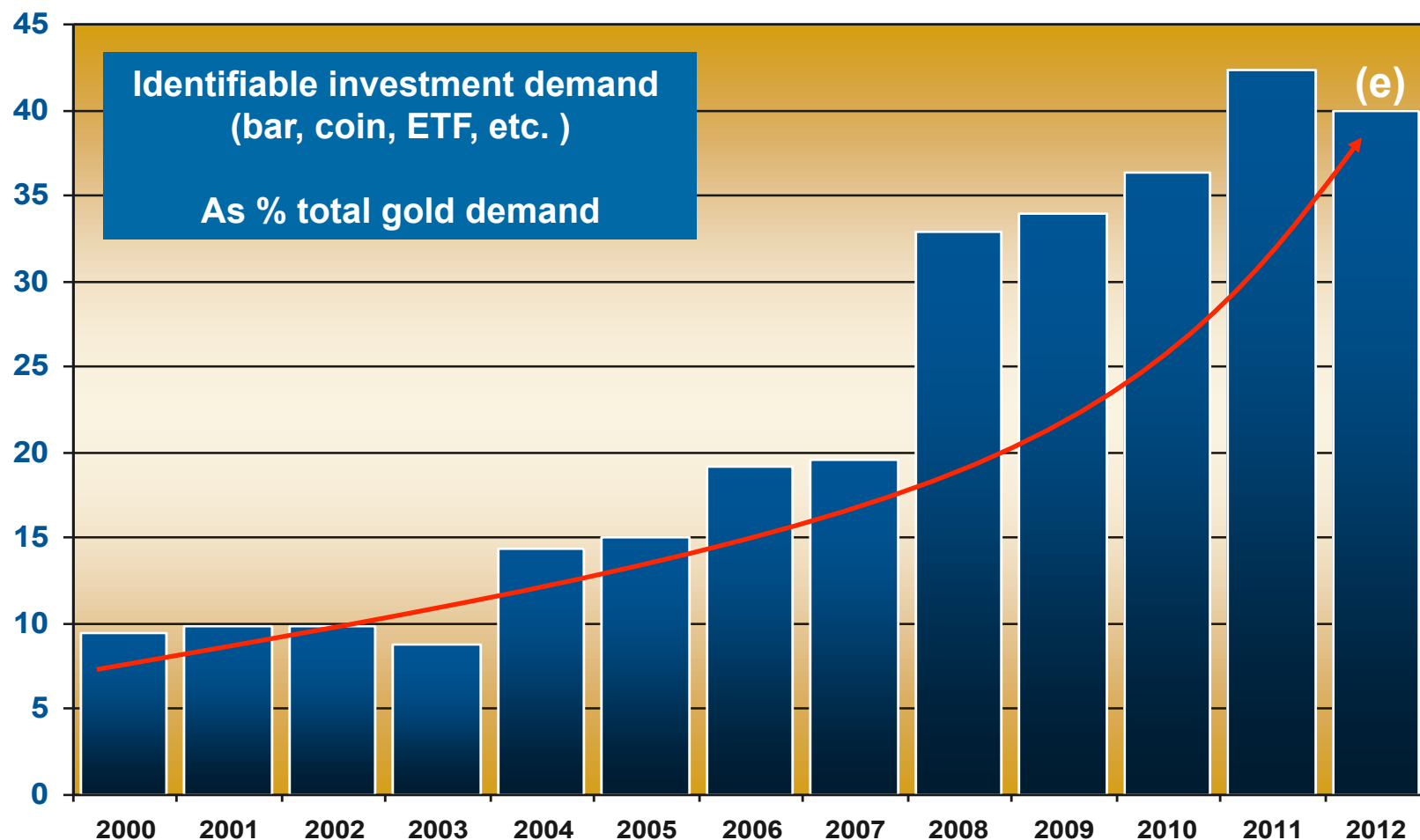
***Gold ETF demand strong since introduction***



Source: *ExchangeTradedGold.com; Bloomberg*

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

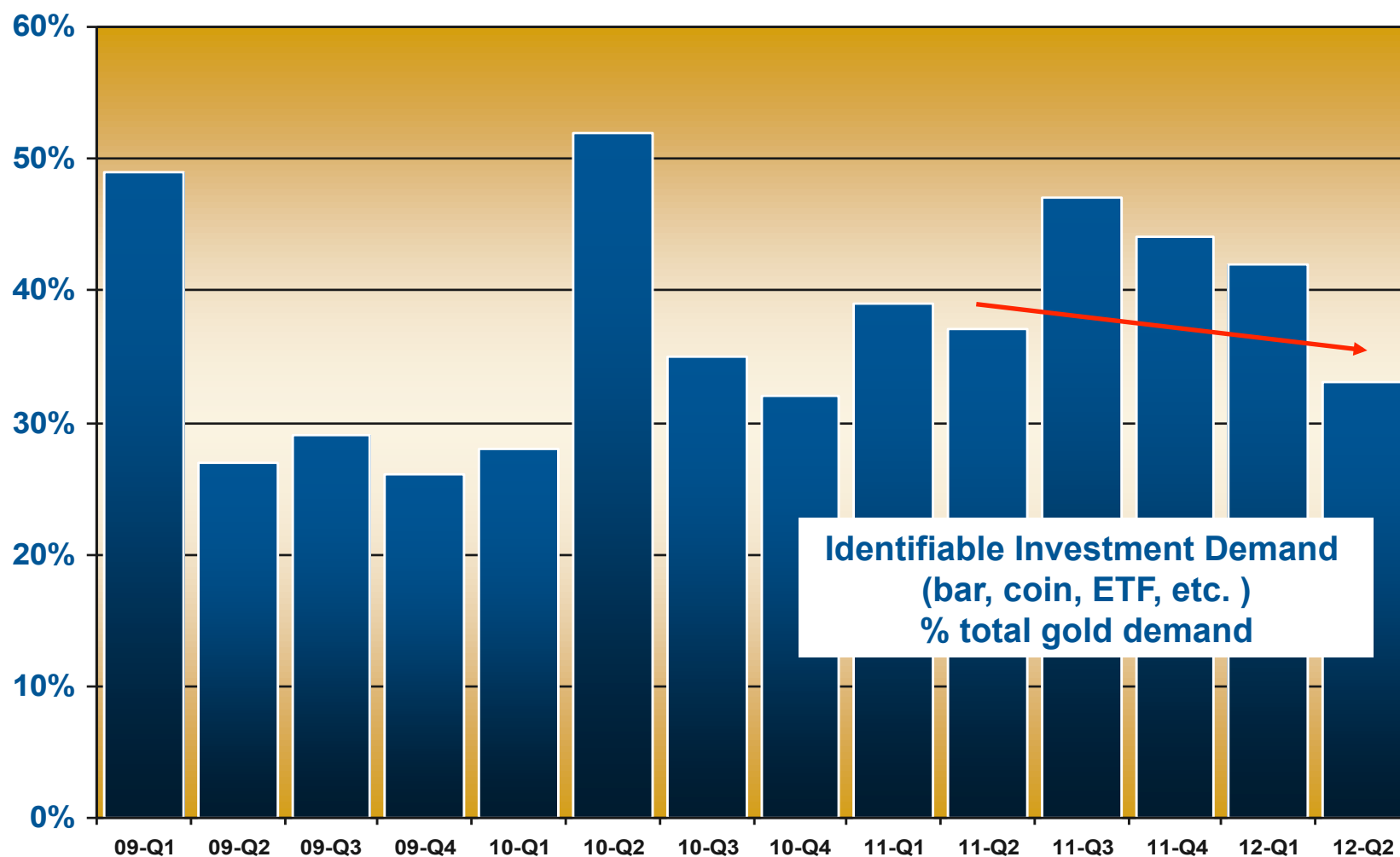
***Identifiable investment demand is growing ...***



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 ...***

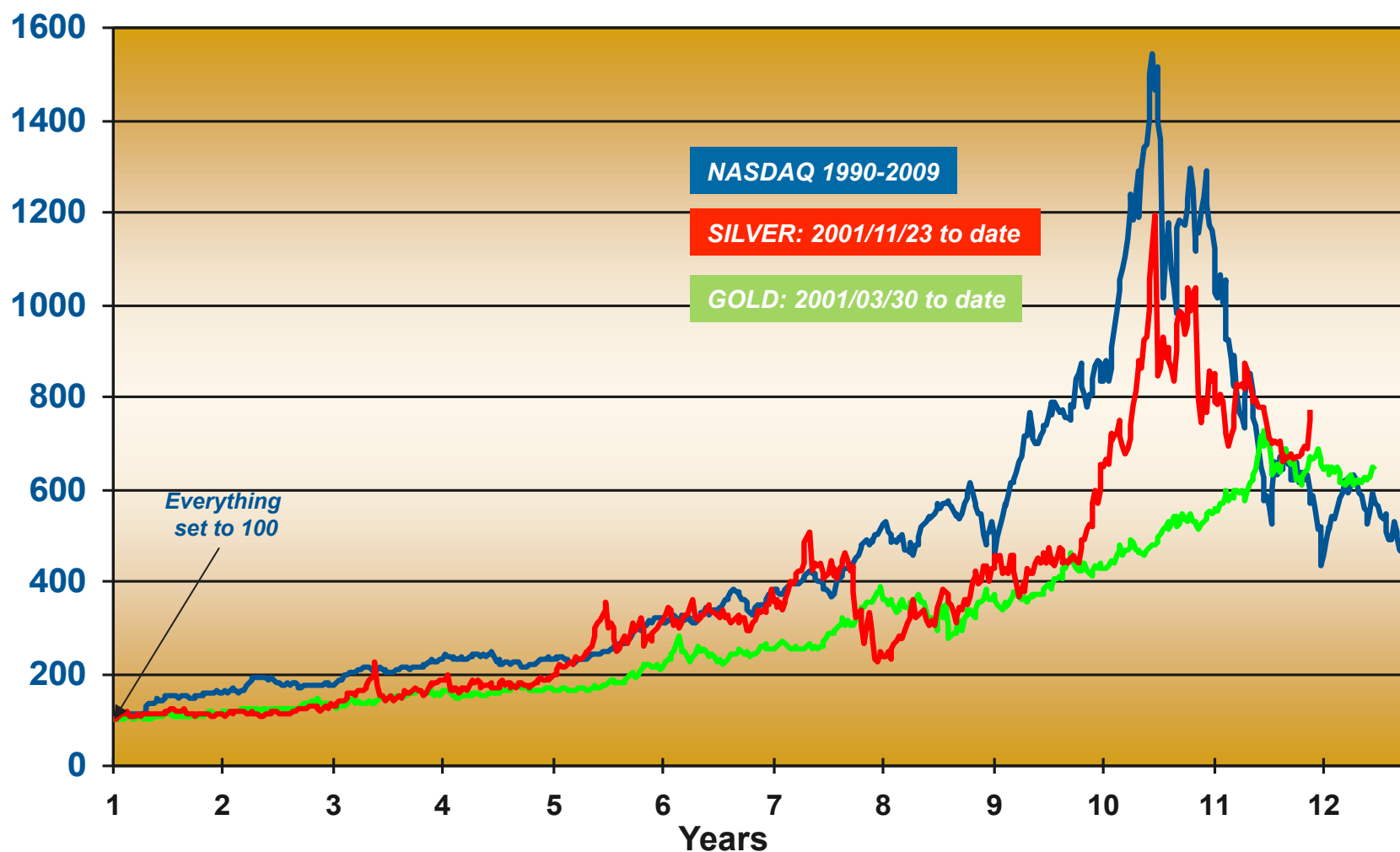


Source: World Gold Council "Gold Demand Trends 2012-Q2"  
data tabulated by Thompson Reuters GFMS



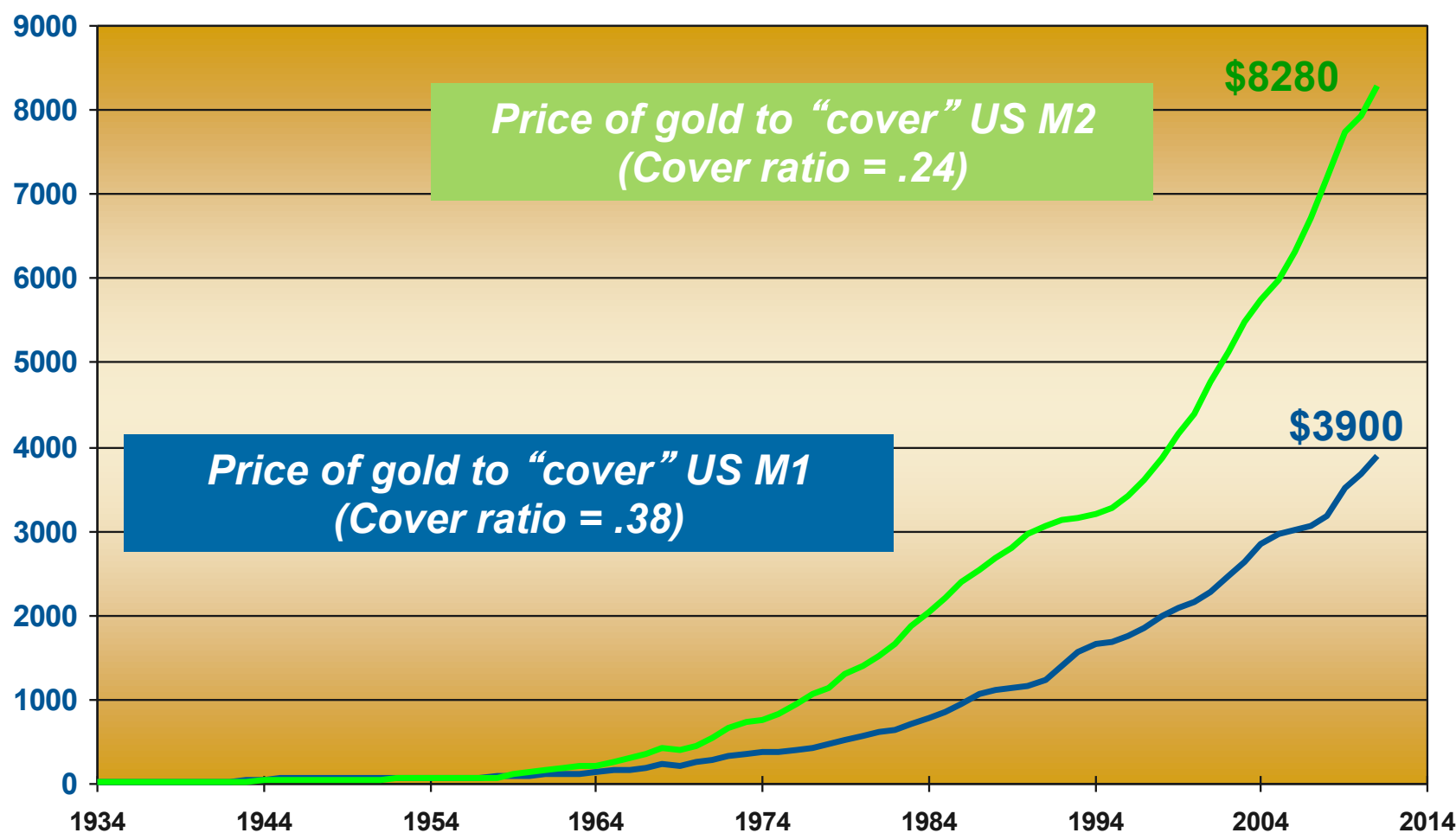
## ***Bullish: (4) Gold Not in a Bubble***

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



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

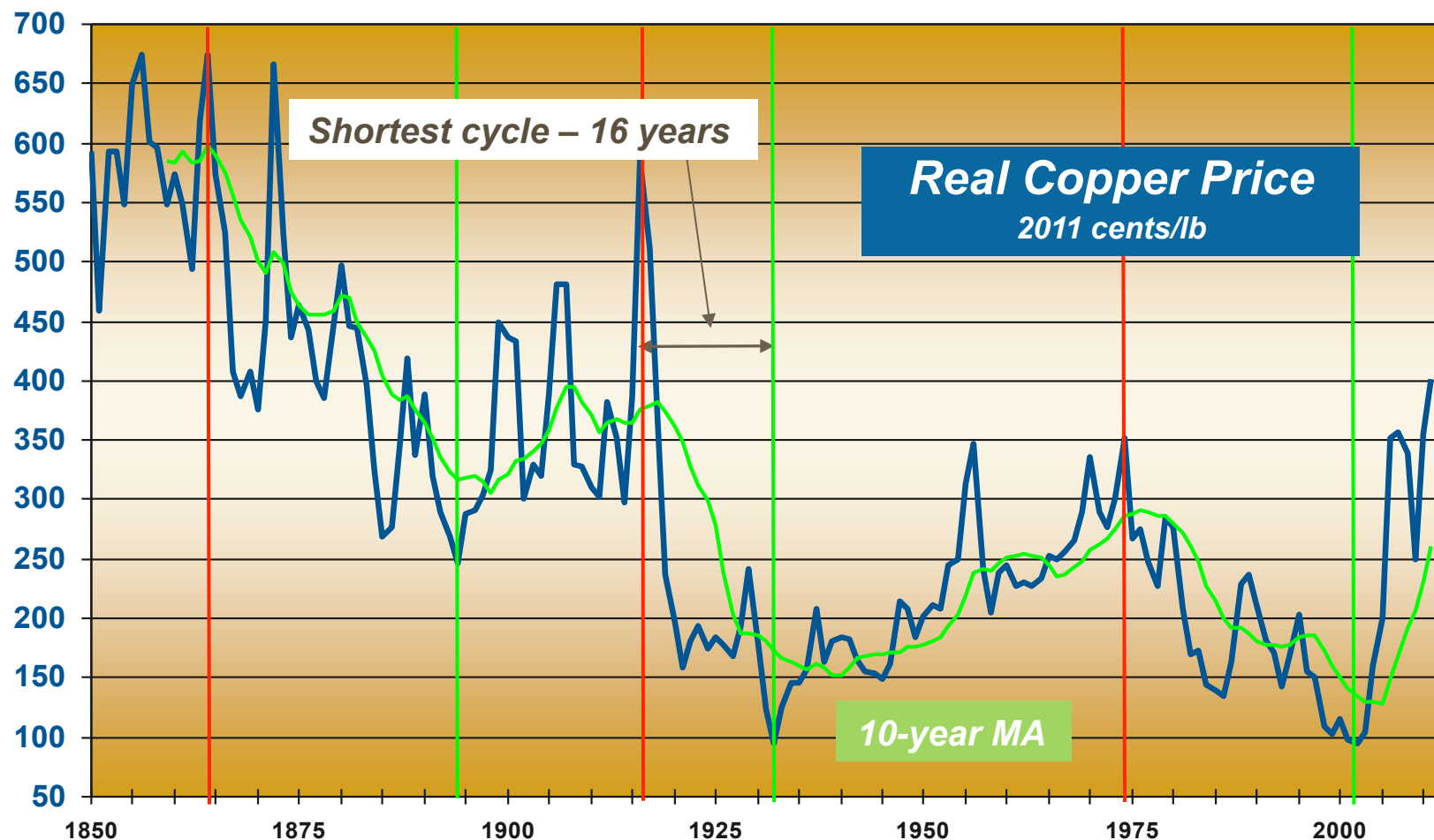
***To back US money supply higher prices needed***



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

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

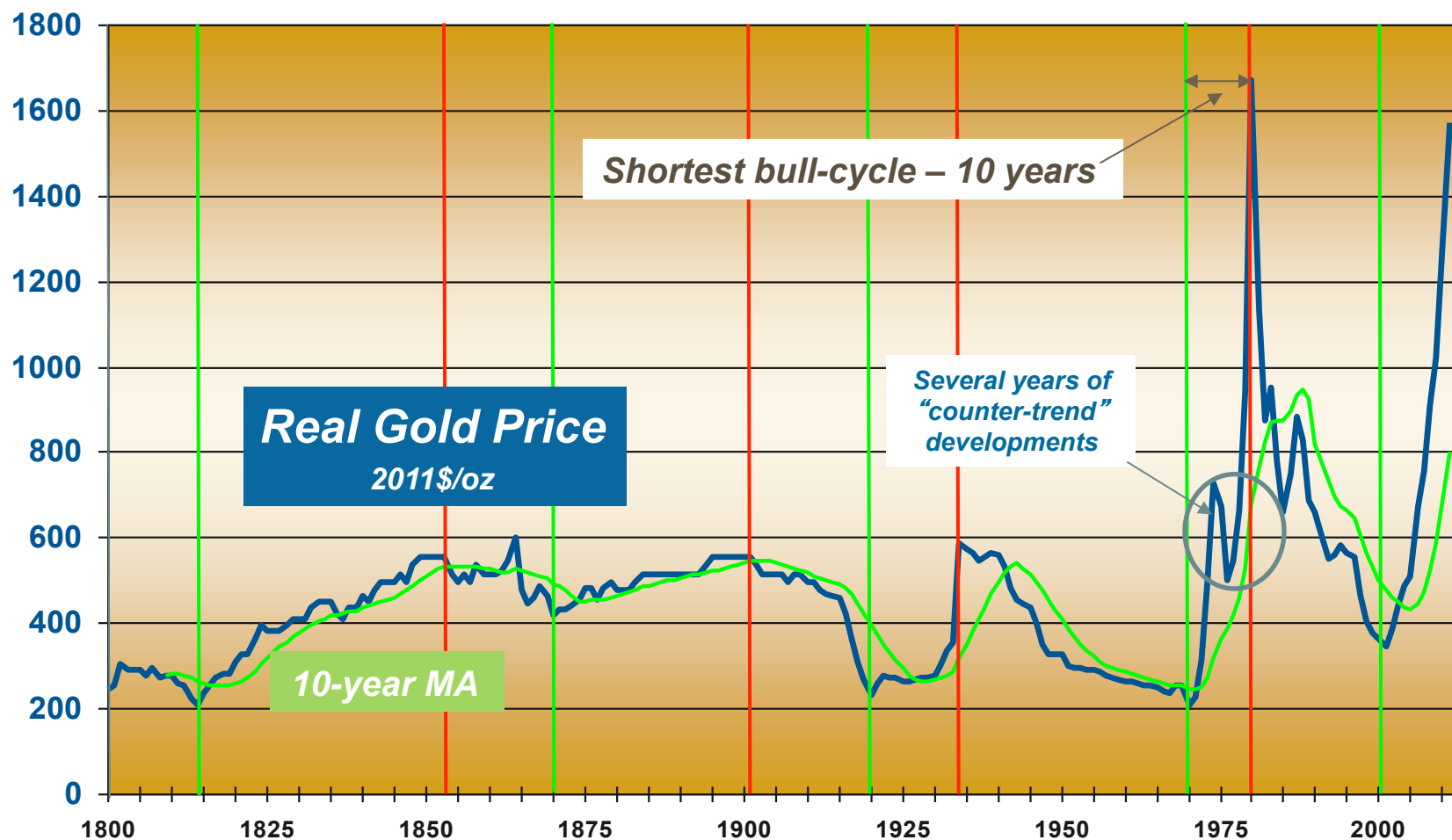
***The shortest copper cycle lasted 16 years\****



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

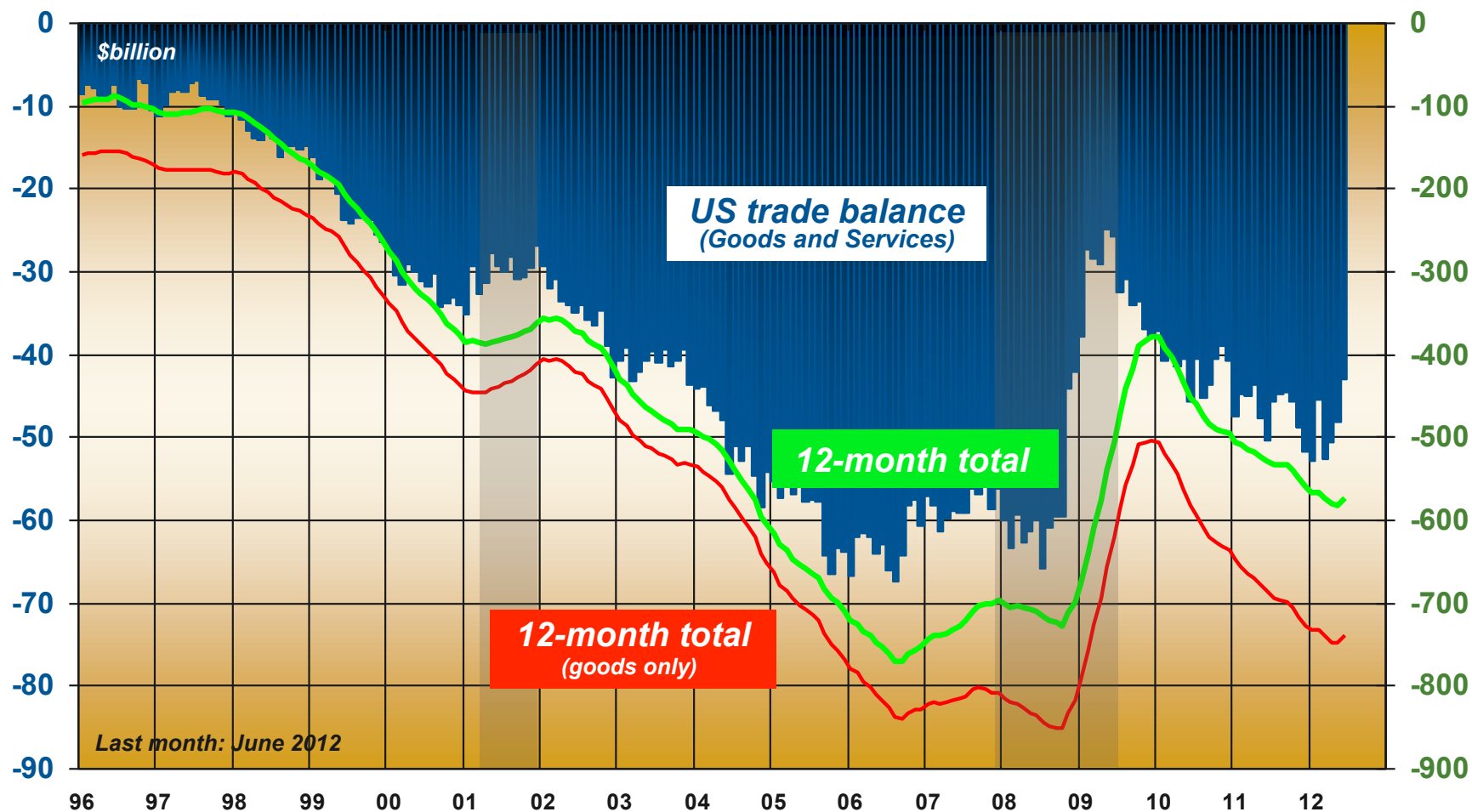
# ***Bullish: (5) Commodity Cycle***

***The shortest gold cycle lasted 10 years***



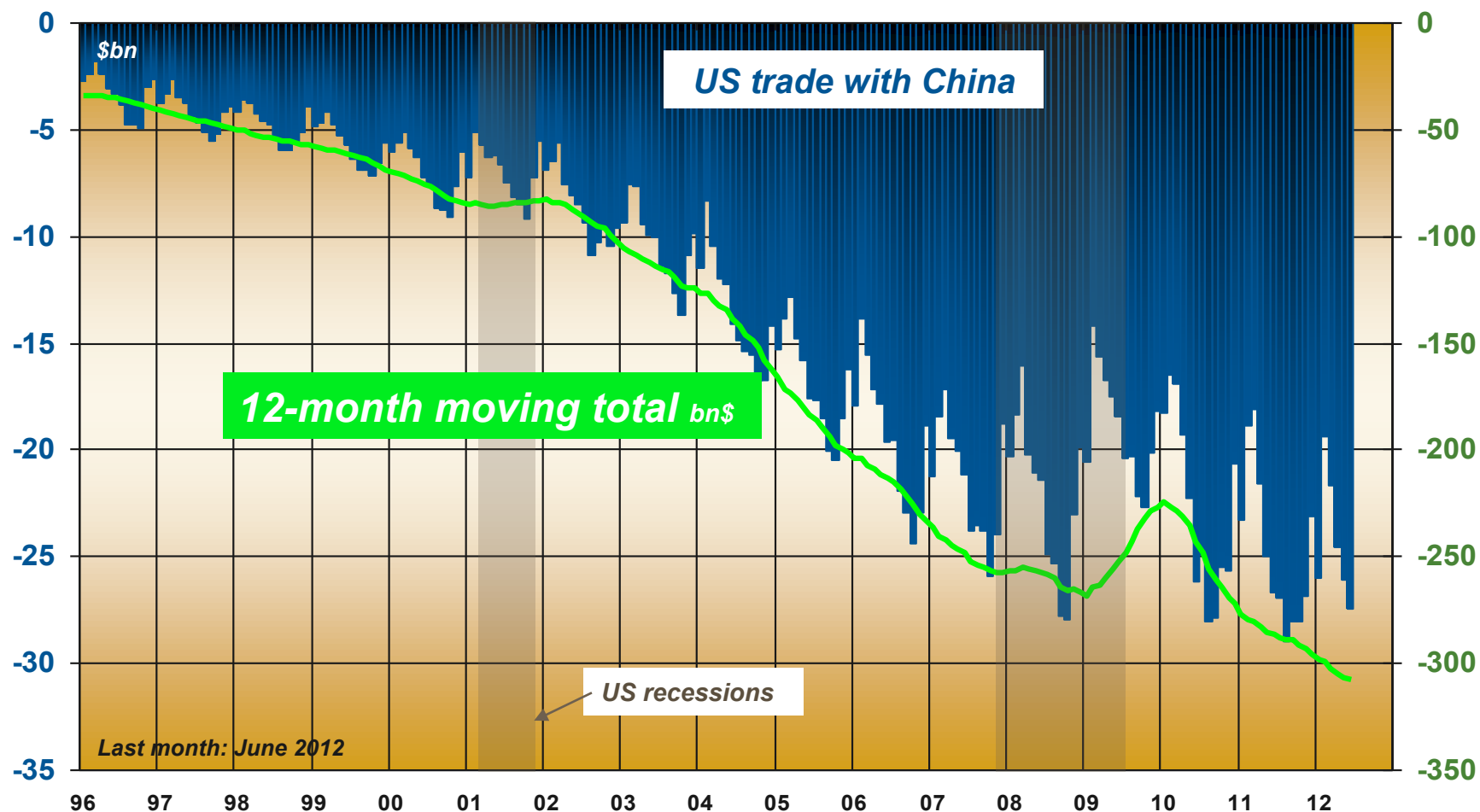
## ***Bullish: (6) Global Imbalances***

***US trade balance remains in serious deficit***



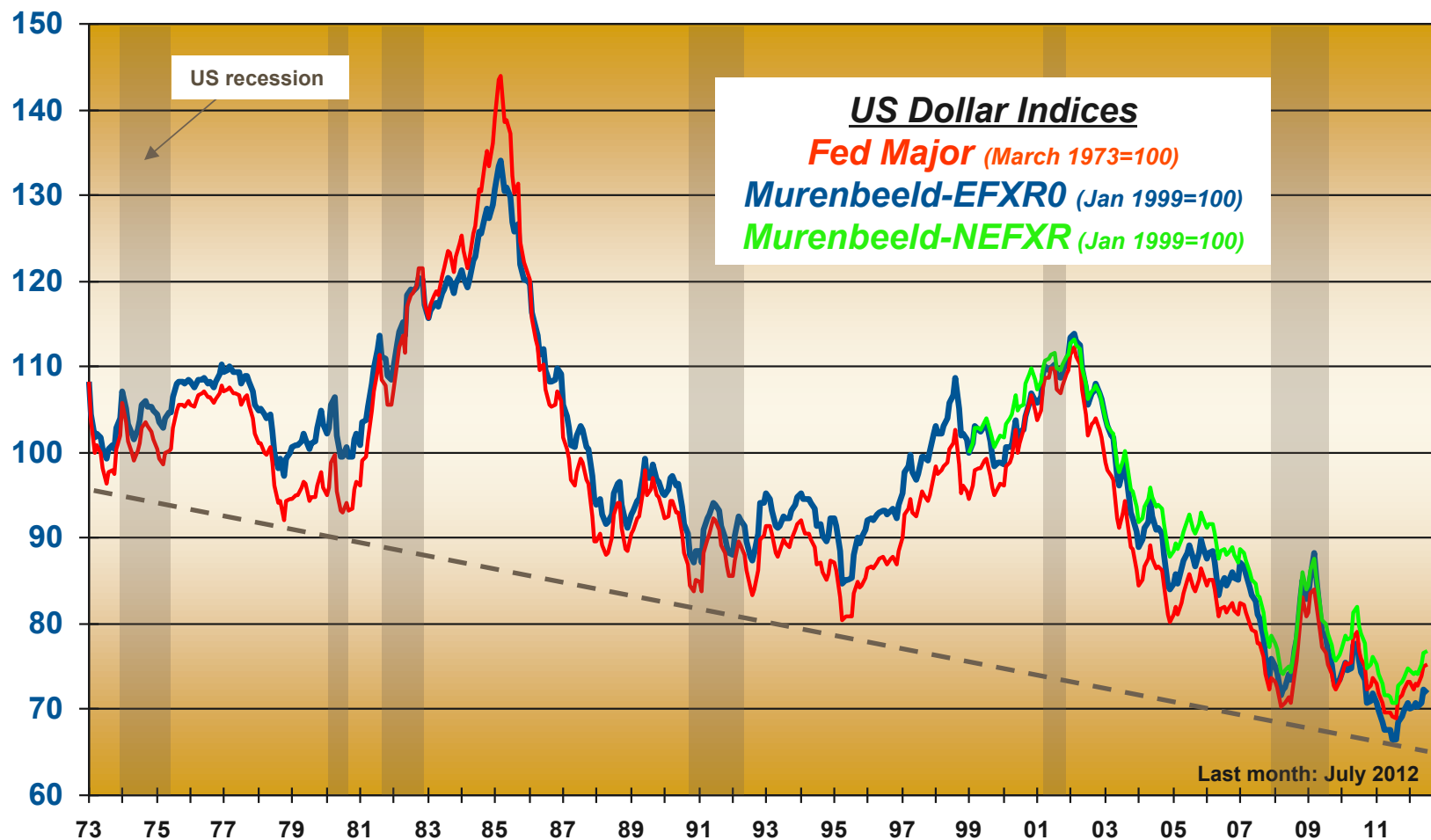
## ***Bullish: (6) Global Imbalances***

***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

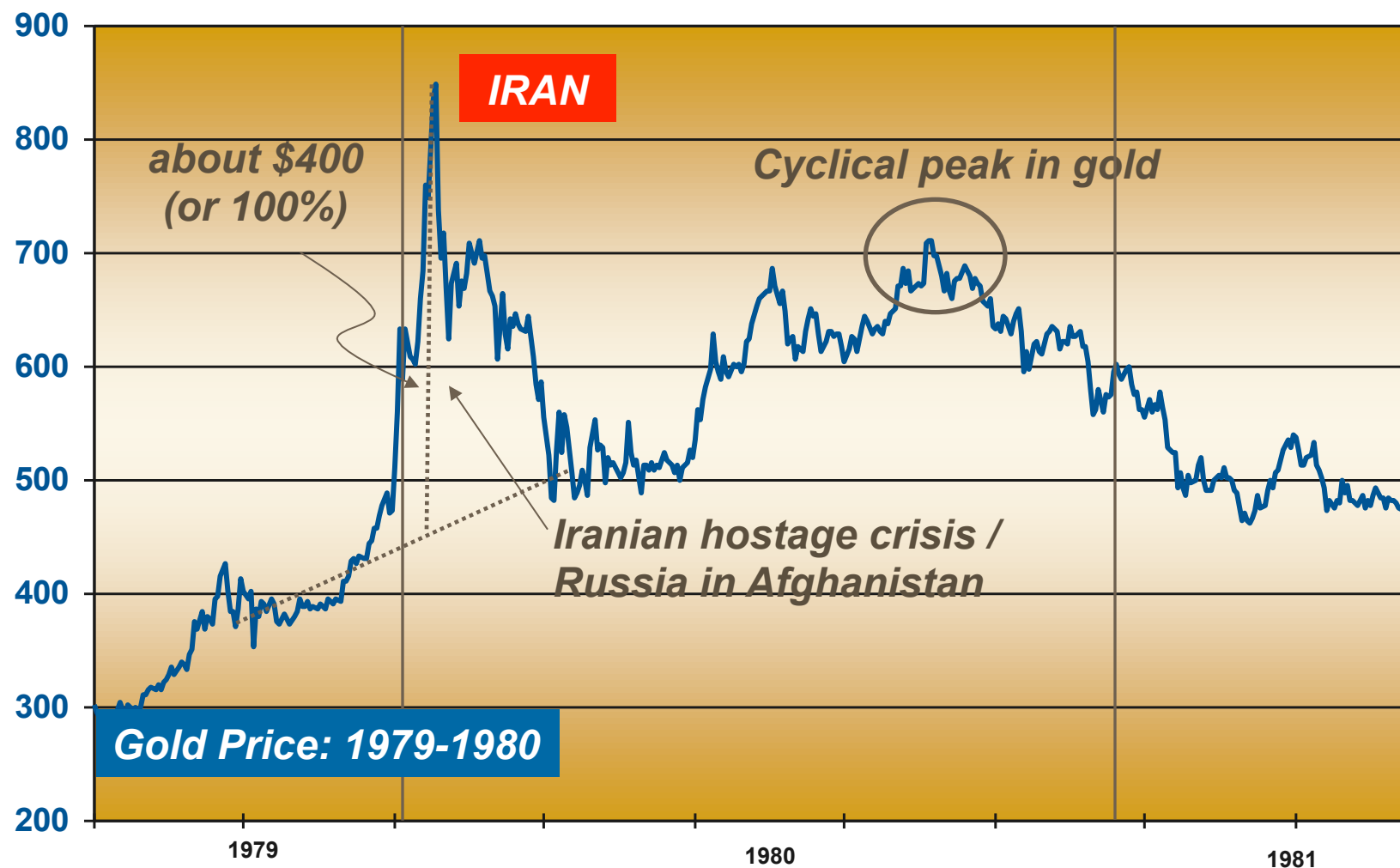
Country	Effective overvaluation	Overvaluation against the dollar <sup>(b)</sup>			
Argentina	5.4	-1.7	Korea	0.0	-12.5
Australia	15.5	4.8	Malaysia	-14.7	-31.0
Brazil	5.2	-1.5	Mexico	-12.9	-13.5
Canada	-3.5	-5.5	New Zealand	21.0	14.9
Chile	-0.2	-8.0	Philippines	2.5	-10.9
China	-10.6	-23.5	Poland	-4.1	-11.1
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



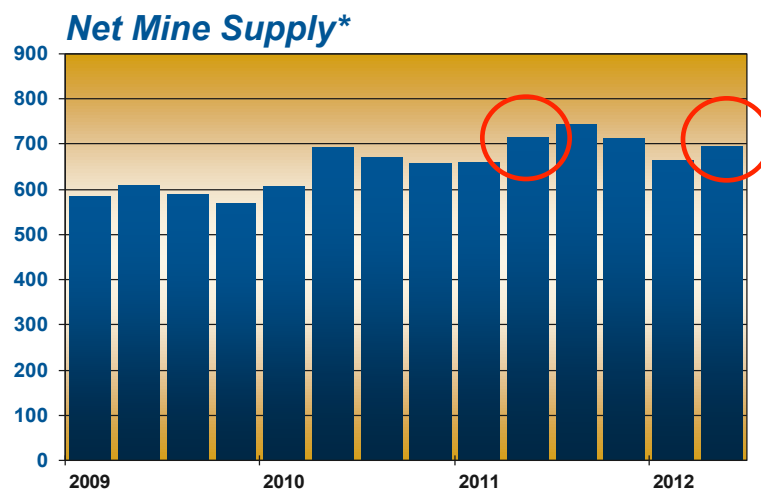
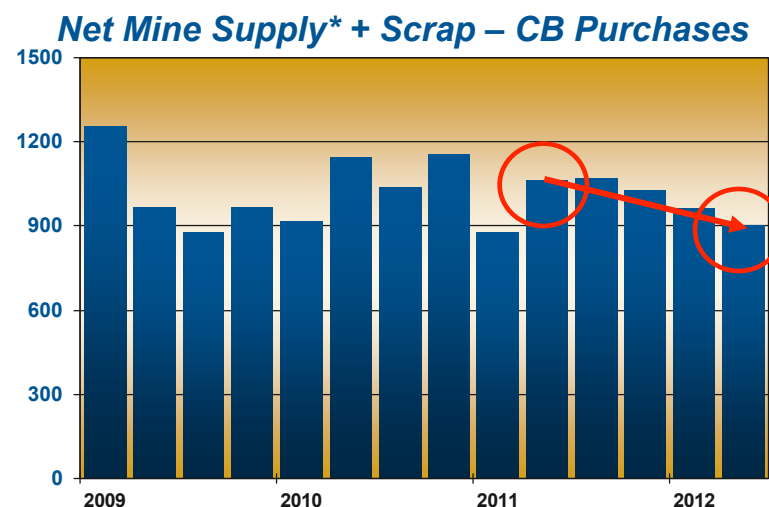
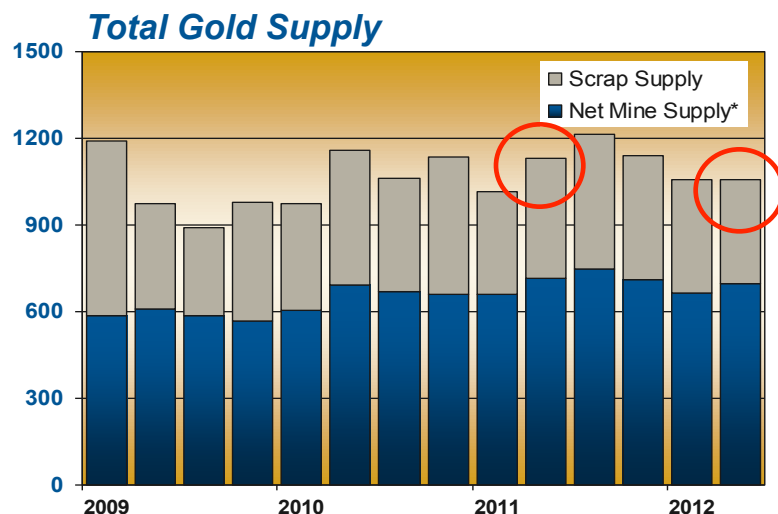
## ***Bullish: (7) Geopolitical***

***The biggest geopolitical crisis to date ...***



# ***Bullish: (8) Gold Supply***

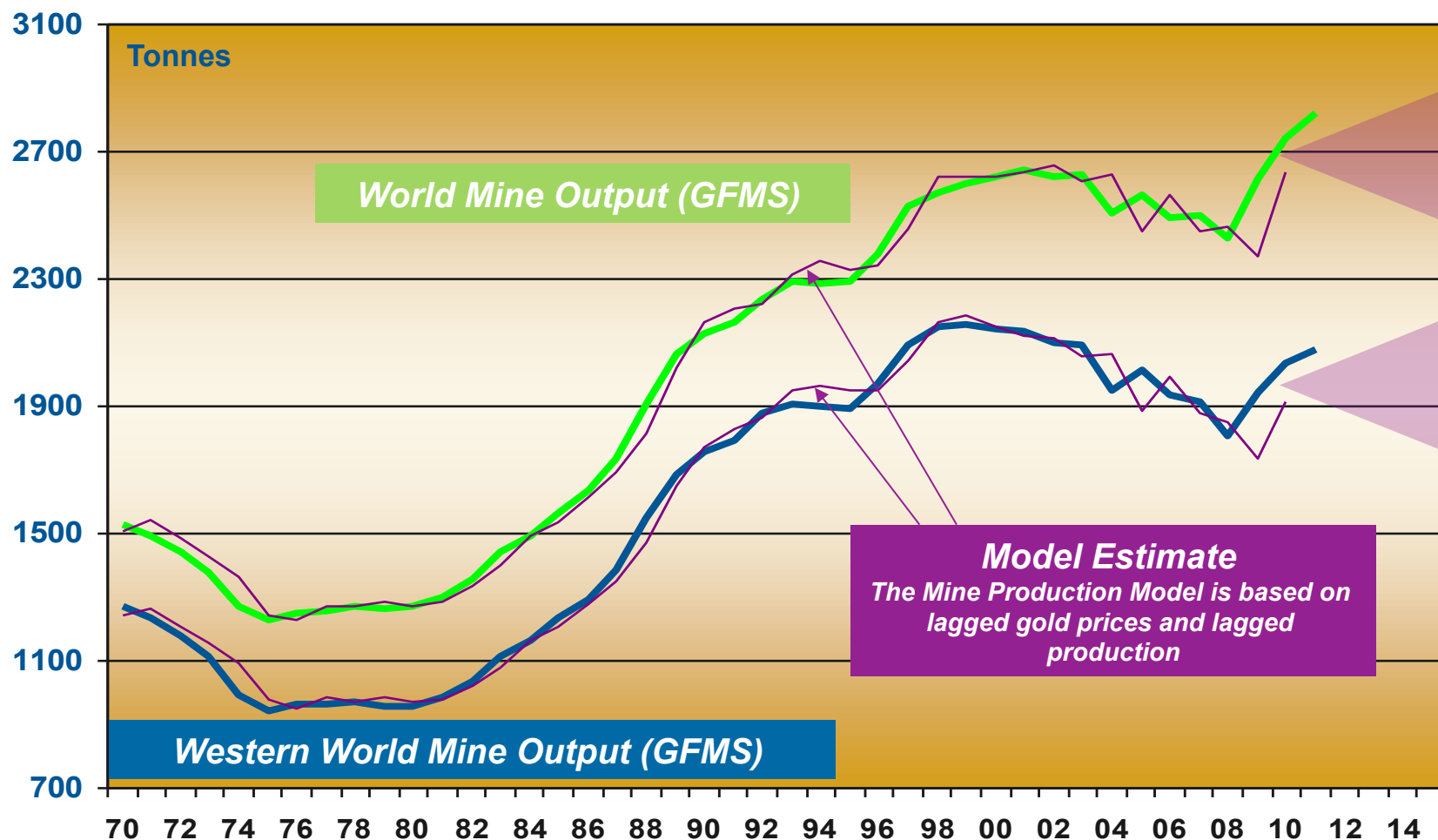
***Declines in supply limit demand and raise prices***



***REMEMBER: demand cannot rise when supply does not rise ... and prices must rise to ration demand to the available supply!!***

## ***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***

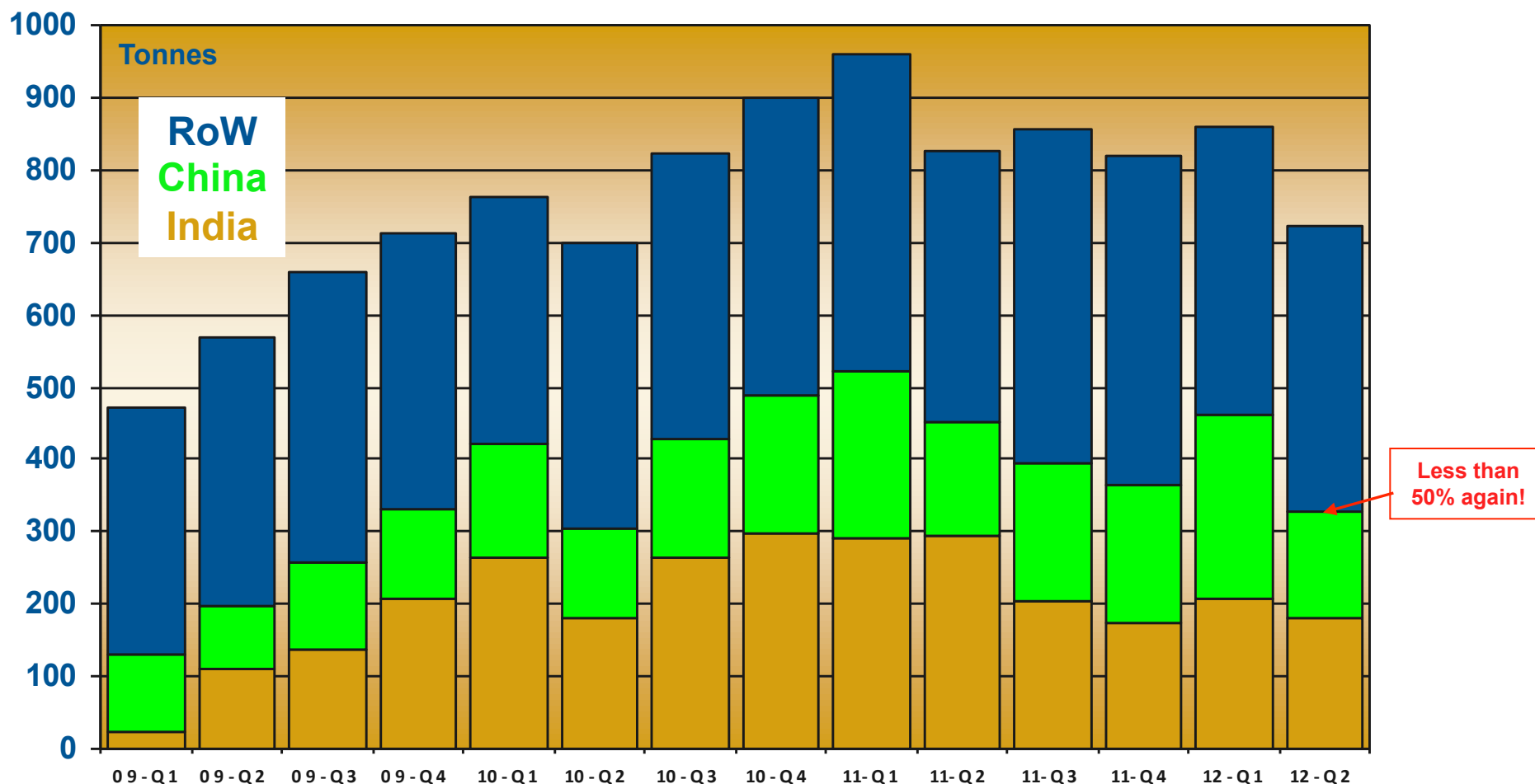
# Bearish: (1) EU Recession

*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” ...***

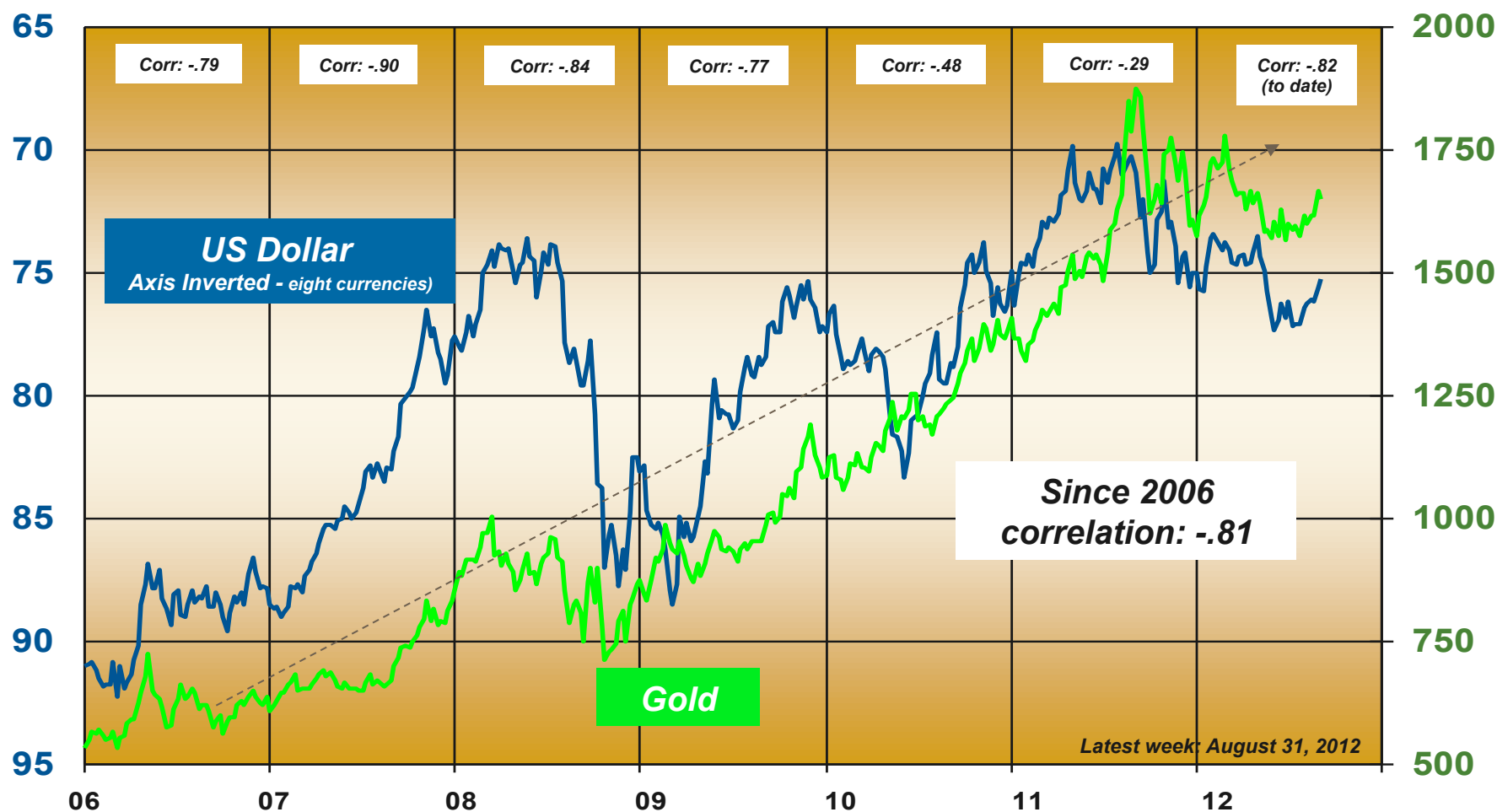
- *China's growth rate will drop below 6%*
- *Investment will cool - money will leave China*
- *World equity markets will sell off – some very sharply*
- *A flight to safety will almost certainly favor US Treasuries*
- ***Chinese gold demand will suffer***

### ***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

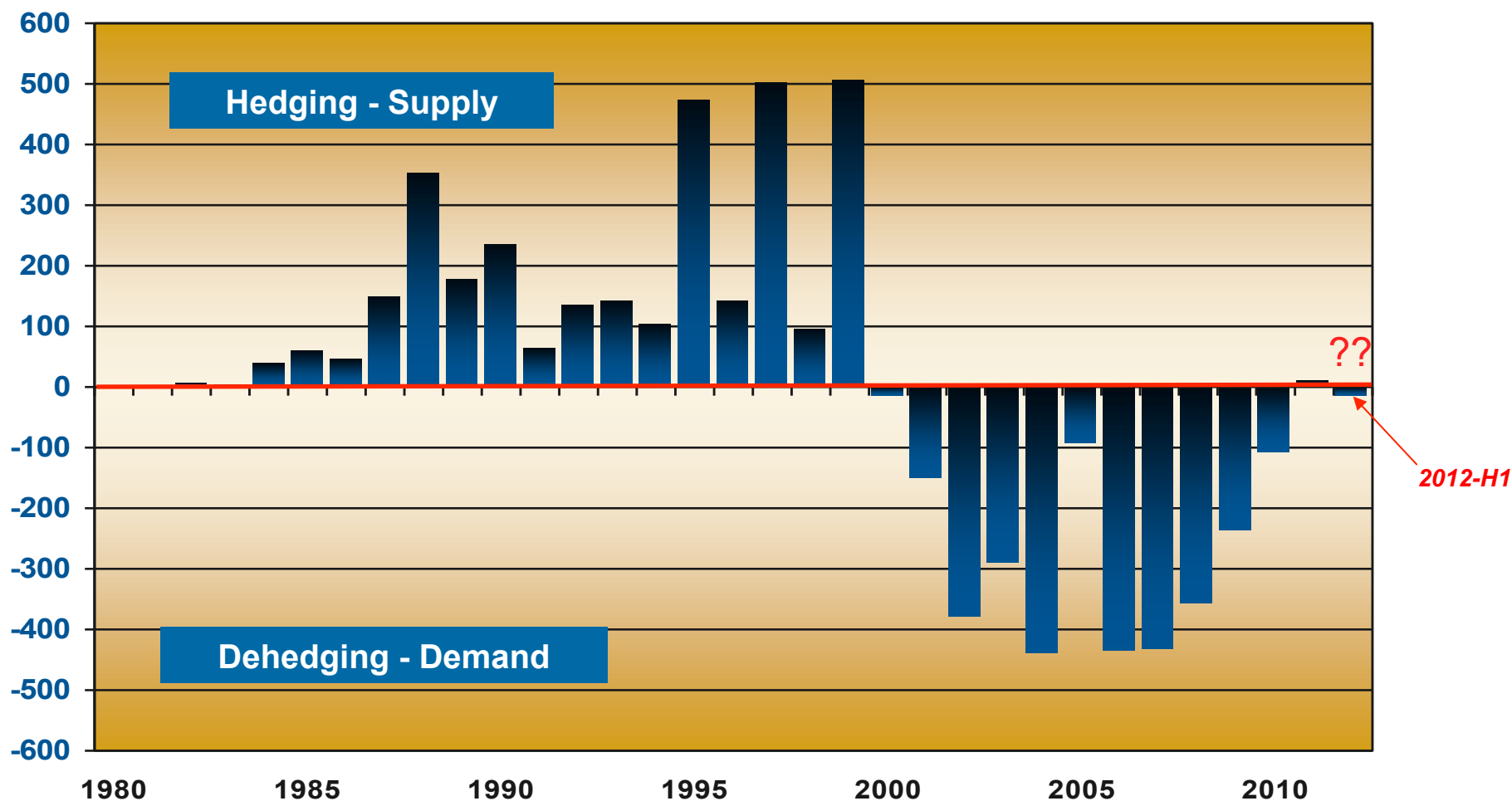
## ***Bearish: (5) Equity Market Improves***

***Gold-equity correlation is most often zero-negative***



## ***Bullish: (6) Dehedging Finished***

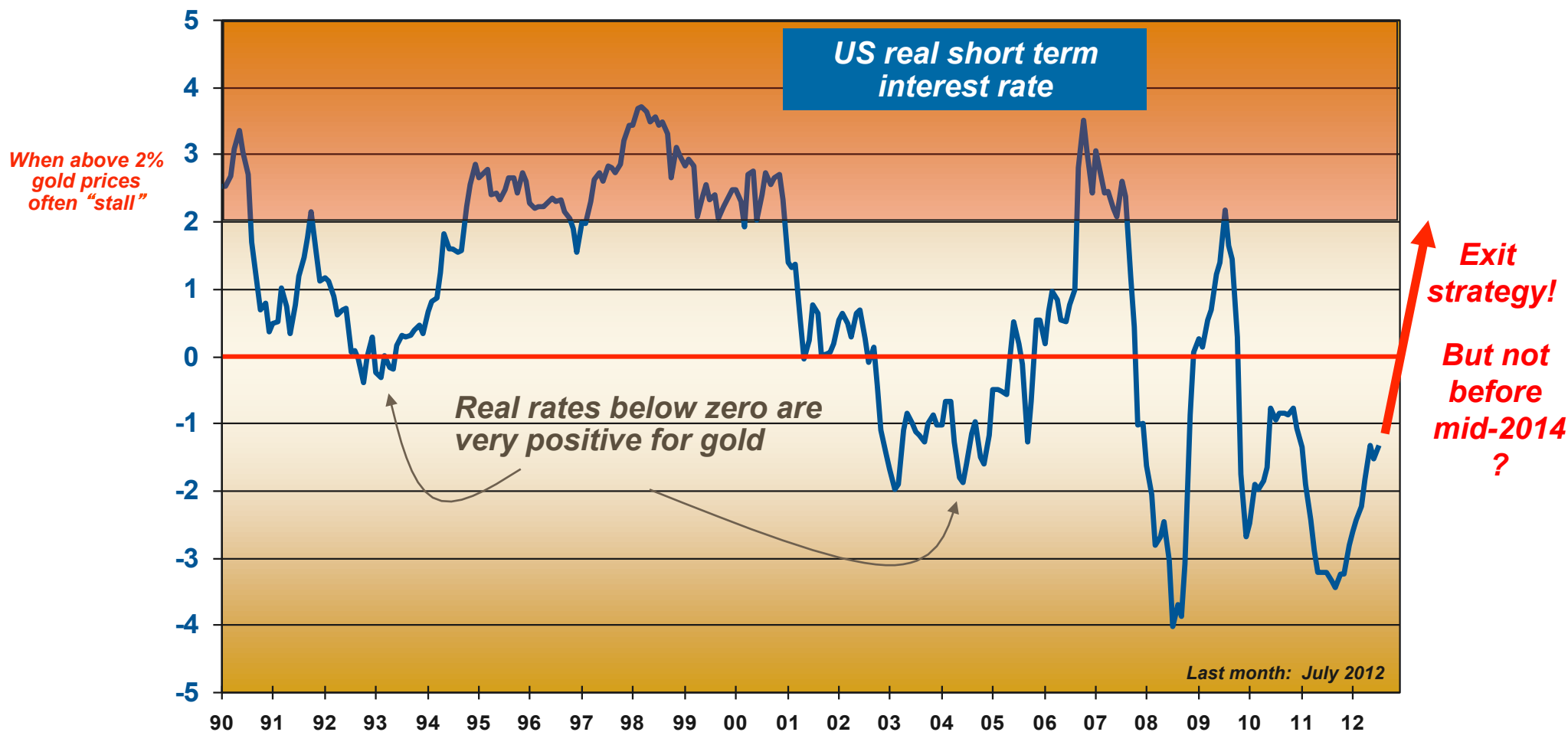
### ***Hedging to recommence ...?***



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***

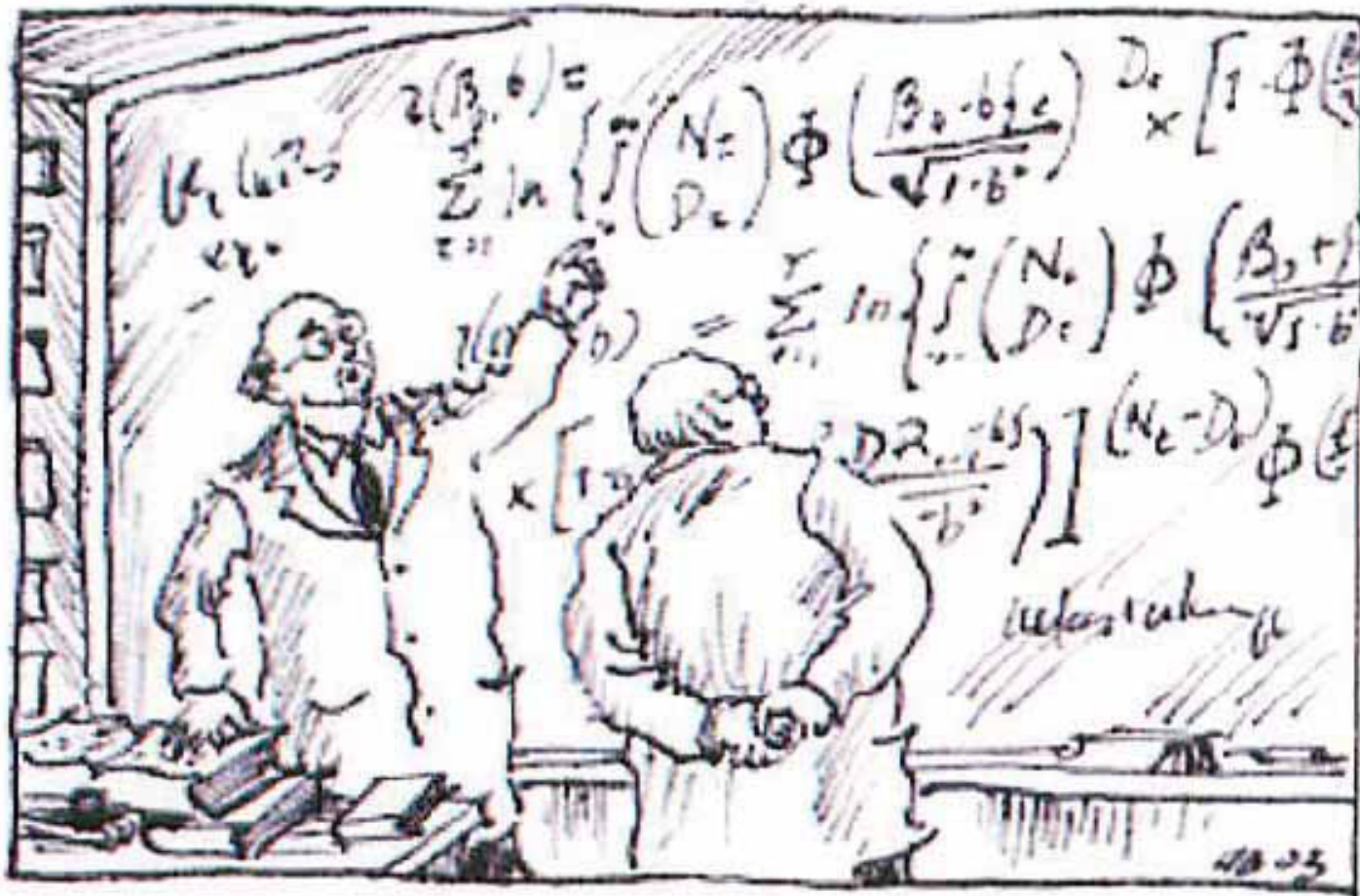
***The scenarios make no allowance for geopolitics!!***

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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>
<hr/>			
<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.”*



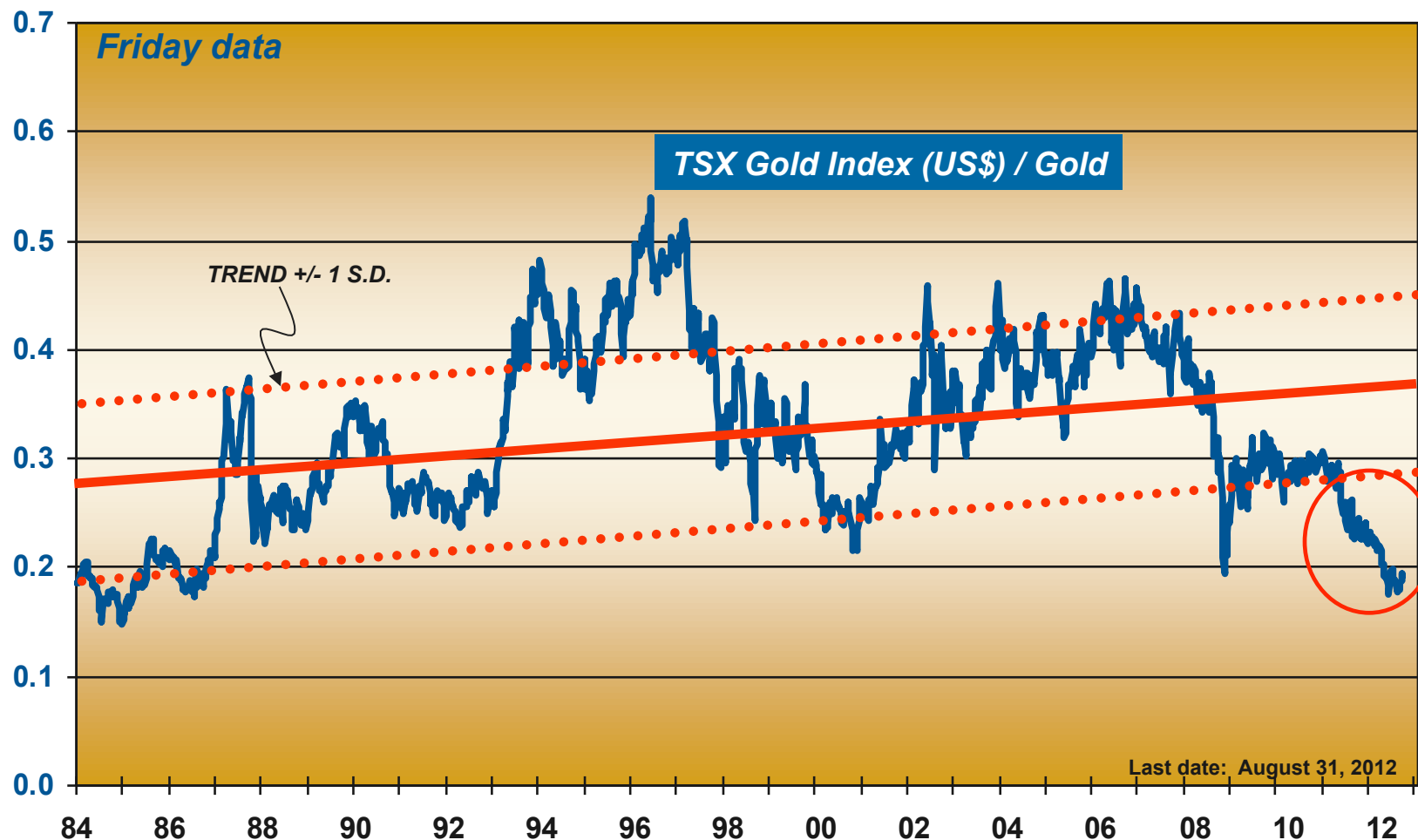
***Thank you for your attention!***

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

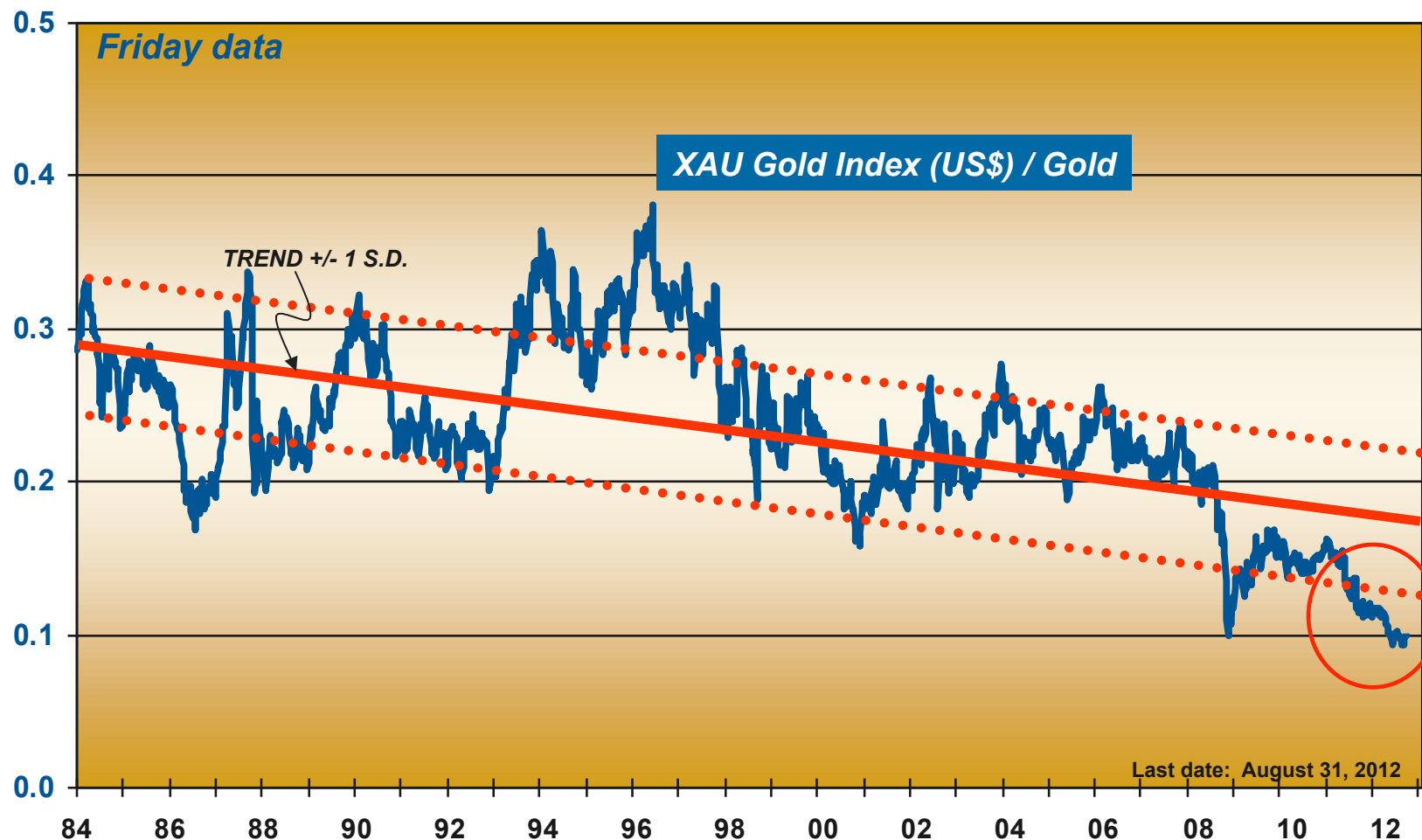
*TSX Gold Index depressed relative to bullion ...*



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

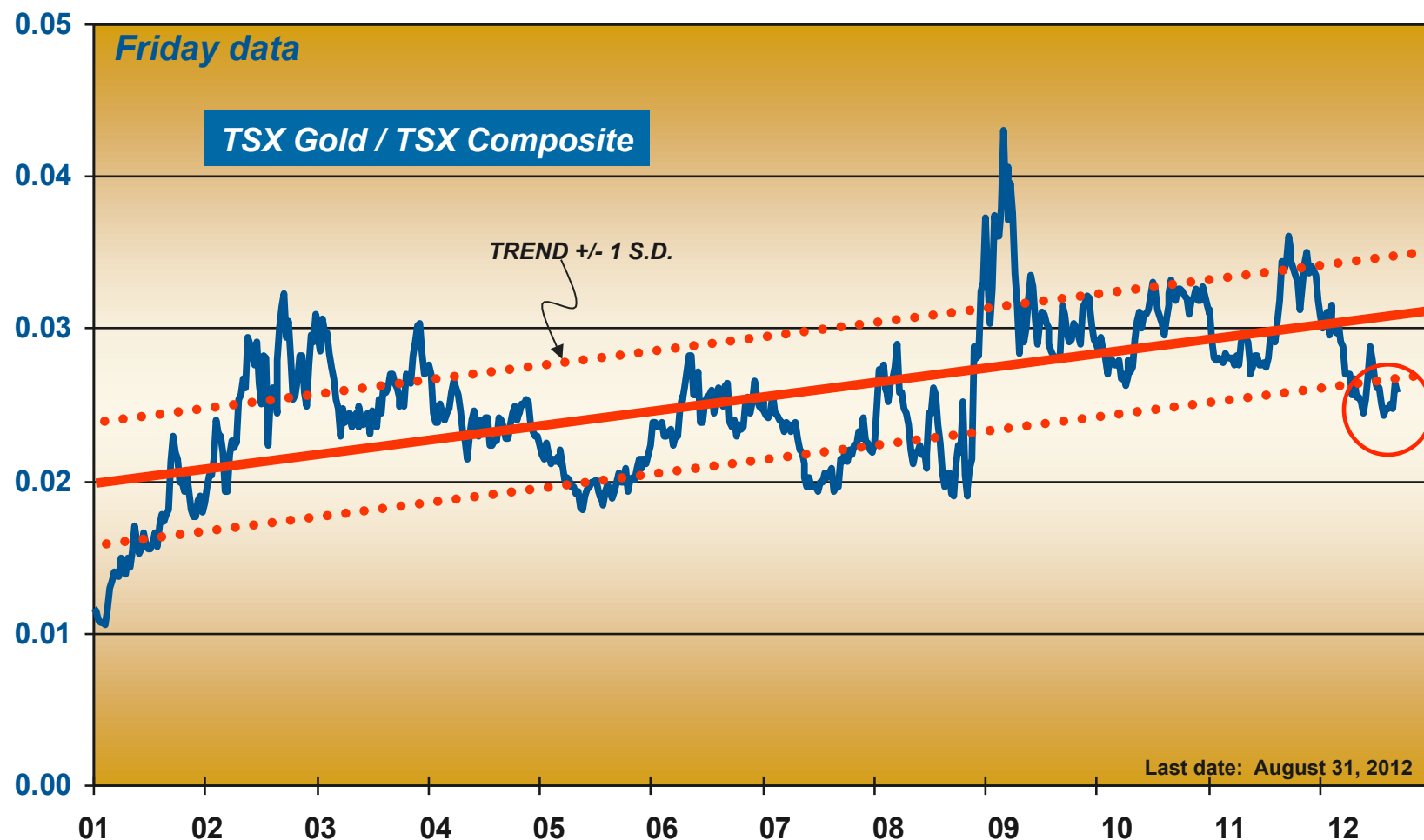
Gold Index “high-normal” relative S&P/TSX Index ...



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

## Appendix: TSX Gold/TSX

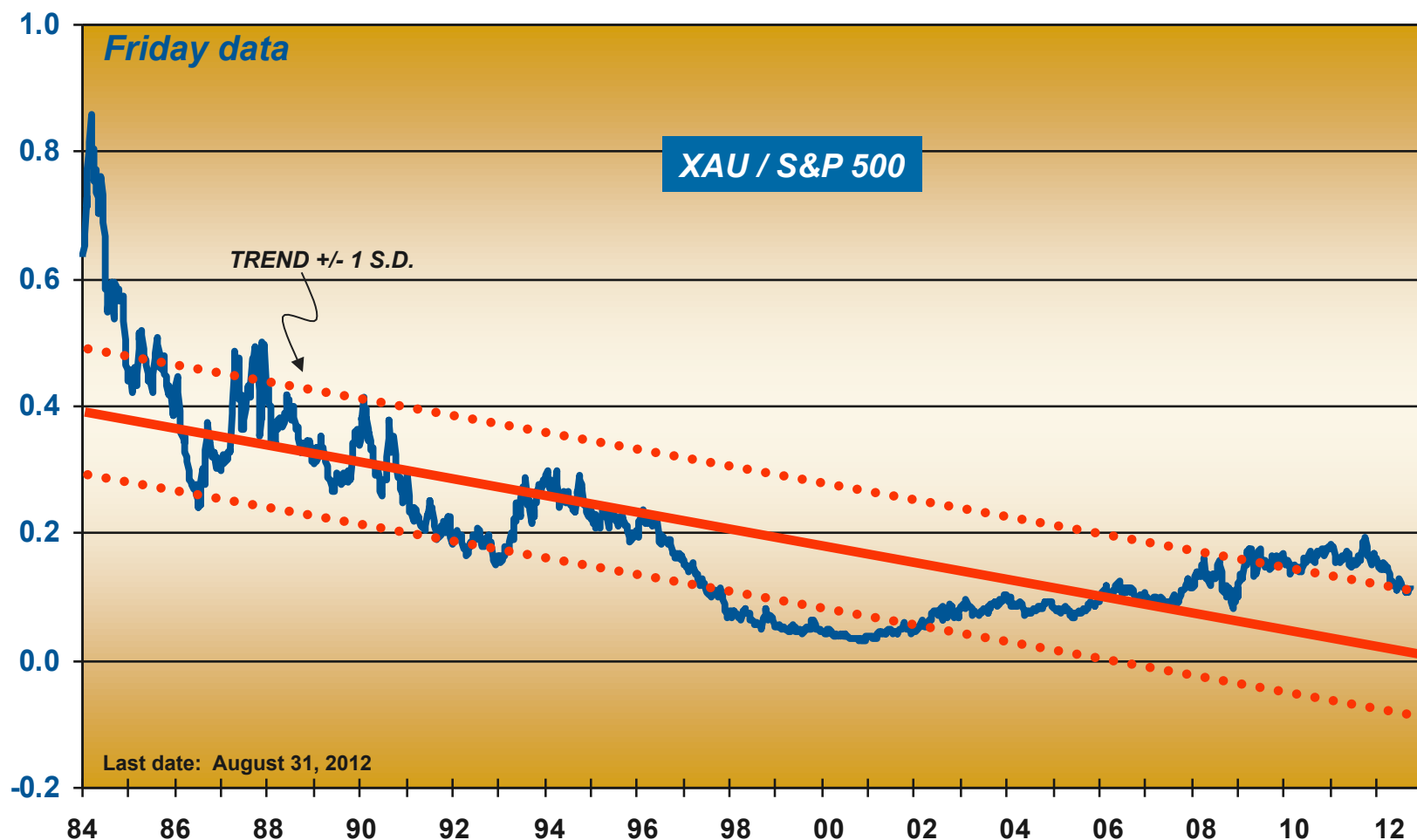
... But down when trend shortened to 2000



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

## Appendix: XAU/S&P500

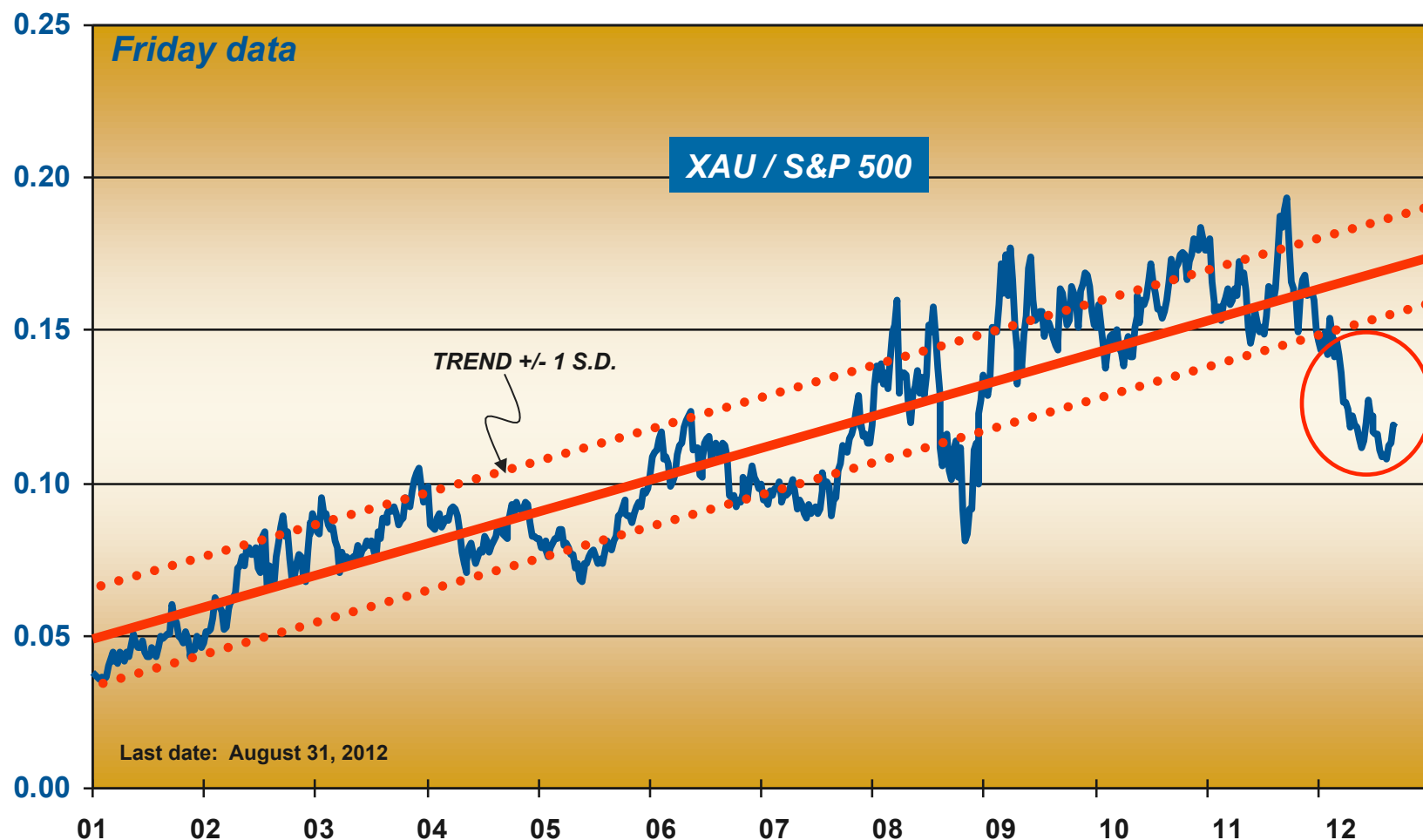
XAU “high-normal” relative to S&P500 ...



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

## Appendix: XAU/S&P500

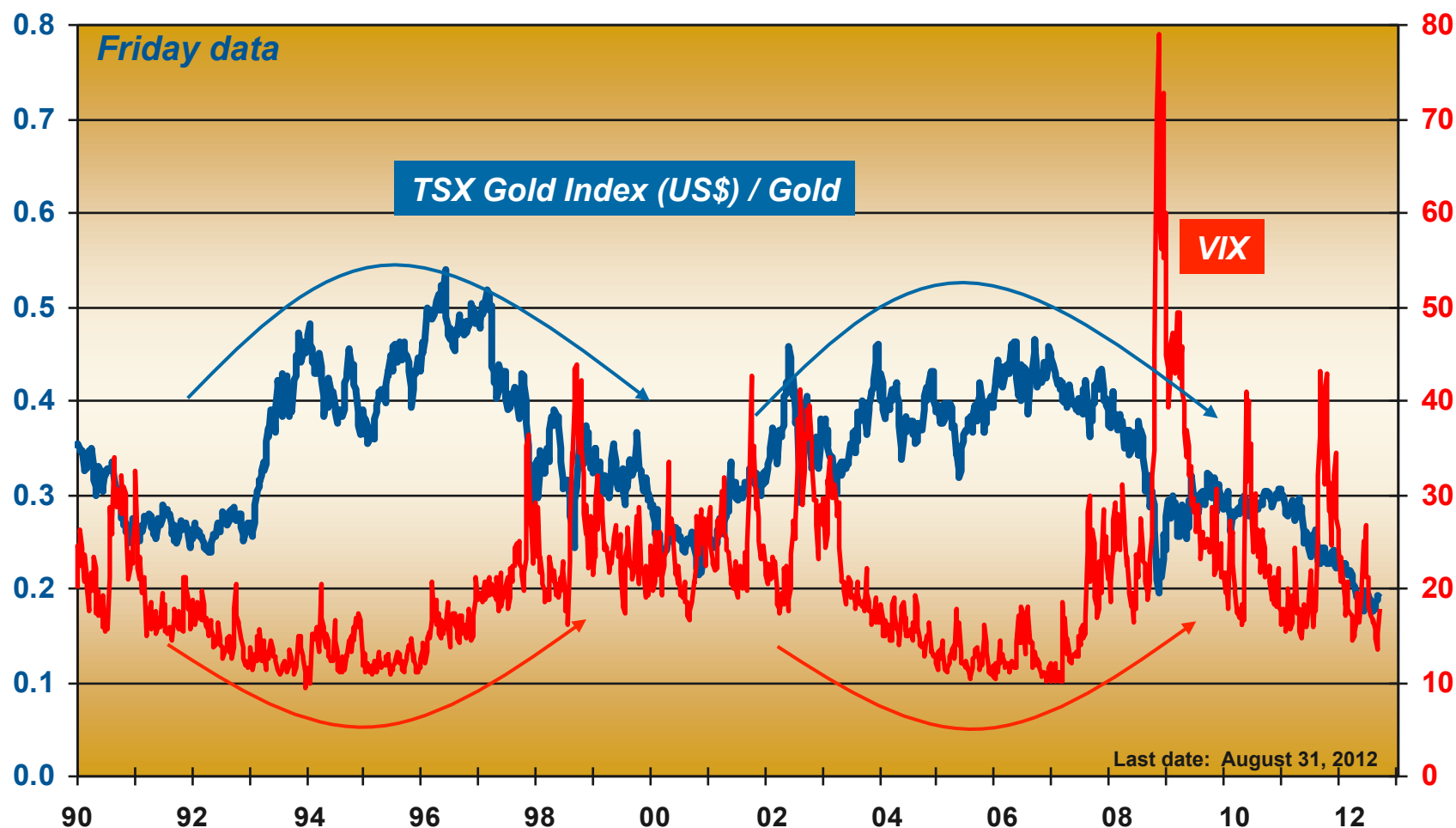
... But also down when trend shortened to 2000



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!*



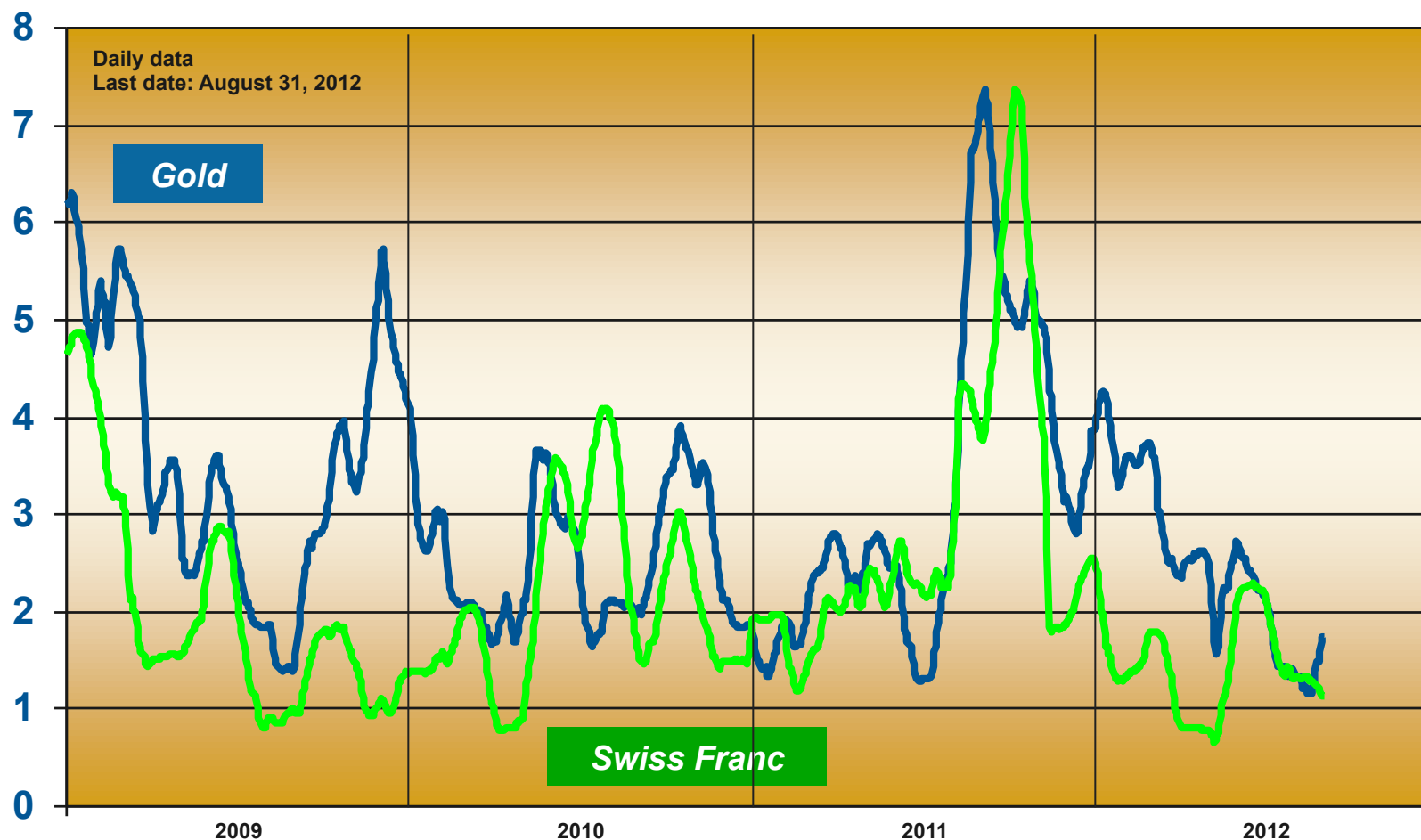
\*VIX is a trademark symbol for the CBOE Market Volatility Index: a popular measure of implied volatility of the S&P500. It represents one measure of the market's expectation of stock market volatility over the next 30 day period.

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 ...*

