

Ellermeyer Connect Forum

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Global Trends That Impact Our Lives And Businesses



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Recipient of the U.S. President's E Award and E Star Award for Export Service.



✦ 12TH ANNUAL ✦

ORANGE COUNTY WORLD TRADE WEEK FORUM



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2026 · IRVINE, CALIFORNIA

THURSDAY, MAY 7TH, 2026
4:00 PM – 8:30 PM PST

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FREE

**“Never waste the
opportunity offered by a
good crisis.”,**

Niccolò Machiavelli



Global Business Trends Update

- April 2026 GlobalVue™ Country Ranking
- Global GDP Growth Projections
- Global Gas Price Changes
- Middle East Oil Dependency
- Latin America Oil Production
- Buying And Selling Gold by Country
- China Goods Exports By Country
- Global Food Country Self-Sufficiency
- Global Car Powertrain Type



Sign up for my biweekly global business update newsletter: <https://Geowizard.substack.com>

The EGS GlobalVue™ - April 2026 - '1' Is Best, "4" Is Worst

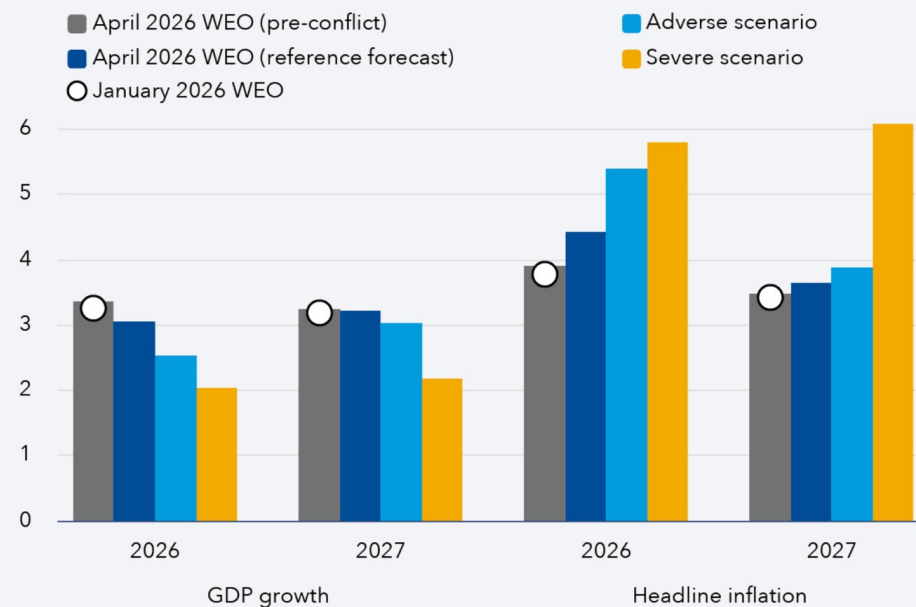
Countries	Projected 2026 GDP Growth	Market Size (Customers)	Legal Concerns For Intl. Brands	Overall Ease Of Doing Business	Ease Of International Brand Entry	Ease Of Starting A New Business	Corruption Index (Transparency International)	Political & Economic Stability	Ease Of Finding New Investors In 2026	Overall Country Ranking Average
USA	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	1.3
Spain	3	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	1.4
United Kingdom	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1.4
Japan	4	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	2	1.7
New Zealand	3	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1.7
Canada	3	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	3	1.8
United Arab Emirates	1	4	1	1	2	1	1	2	3	1.8
France	4	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	3	1.9
Indonesia	1	1	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	1.9
Israel	1	4	1	1	2	1	1	3	3	1.9
Poland	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	1	3	1.9
Australia	3	3	3	1	3	1	1	1	2	2.0
Chile	3	3	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	2.0
Germany	4	1	2	2	3	1	1	1	3	2.0
Philippines	1	2	2	2	1	2	3	2	3	2.0
Saudi Arabia	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2.0
Viet Nam	1	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2.0
India	1	1	2	3	3	2	3	2	2	2.1
Mexico	3	1	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2.1
Argentina	1	2	2	3	2	3	3	2	2	2.2
China	1	1	2	3	3	2	3	2	3	2.2
Hungary	3	3	2	2	2	2	3	1	2	2.2
Italy	4	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	3	2.2
Peru	2	3	2	2	2	2	3	2	3	2.3
Brazil	3	1	2	3	3	3	3	2	2	2.4
Colombia	3	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	2.4
South Korea	3	2	3	3	3	2	2	2	3	2.6

Projected Country Rankings As Places To Do Business in April 2026: 1 is best, 2.5 is fair, 4 is worst - Sorted on Overall Country Ranking

The full 40 country GlobalVue™ chart is downloadable at this link: <https://edwardsglobal.com/globalvue/>

The duration and scale of the conflict will shape the global outlook

Percent



Sources: IMF, April 2026 World Economic Outlook; and IMF staff calculations.

IMF

International Monetary Fund, April 16, 2026

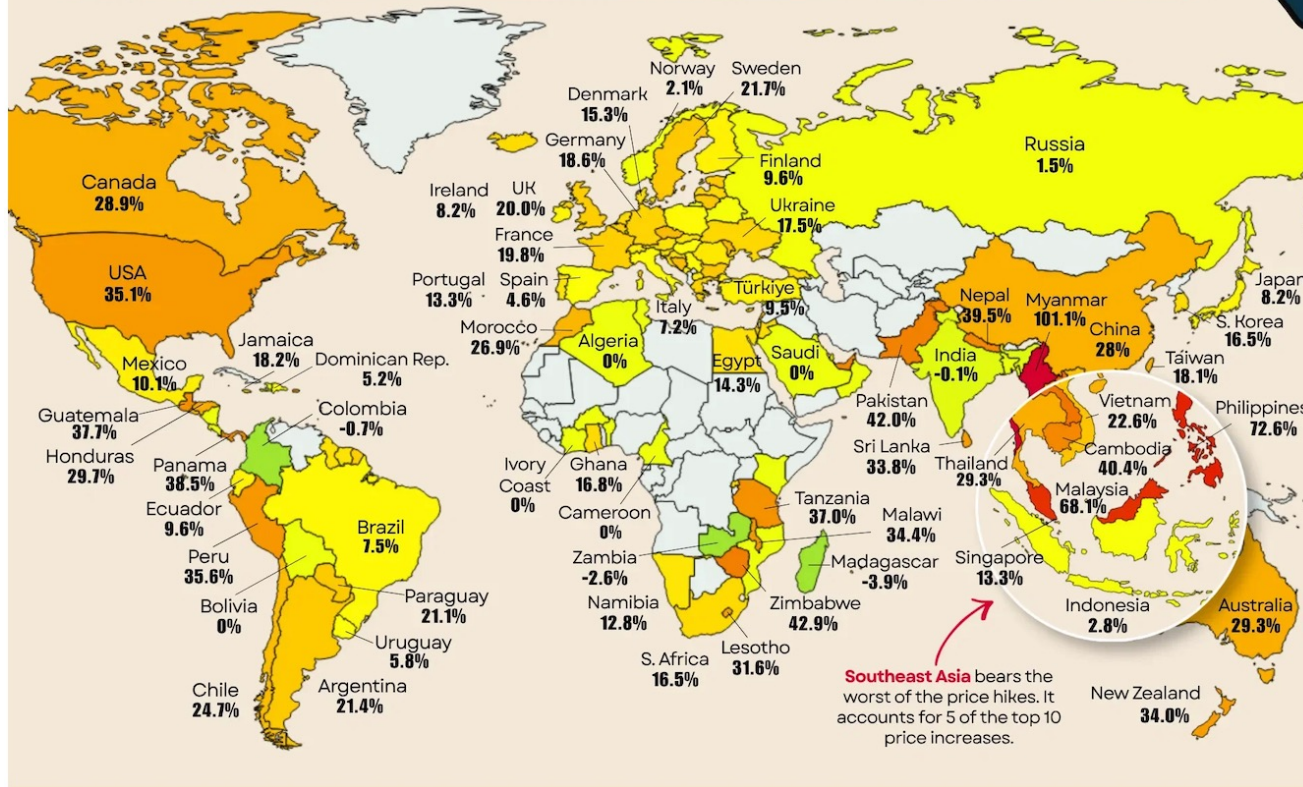
GDP Annual Growth Projections

3.1% Short-lived
2.5% End 2026
1.8% Into 2027

Gasoline Price Changes

Since the Start of the Iran War

February 23 - April 13 2026



Globalpetrol
prices.com,
April 13,
2026

Country / Region	ME Oil Dependency	Risk Tier
Japan	~95%	Critical
Philippines	~90–96%	Critical
Vietnam	~87–88%	Critical
South Korea	~72–75%	High
Malaysia	~69%	High
Taiwan	~69%	High
Thailand	~60–74%	High
China	~54%	High
Singapore	~52–70%+	High
India	~46–60%	High
Poland	~52%	Moderate
Greece / Lithuania	~42%	Moderate
Indonesia	~20–25%	Moderate
EU Average	~12–15%	Low
Australia	~15% direct / ~50% indirect	Low/Indirect
USA	~8%	Low

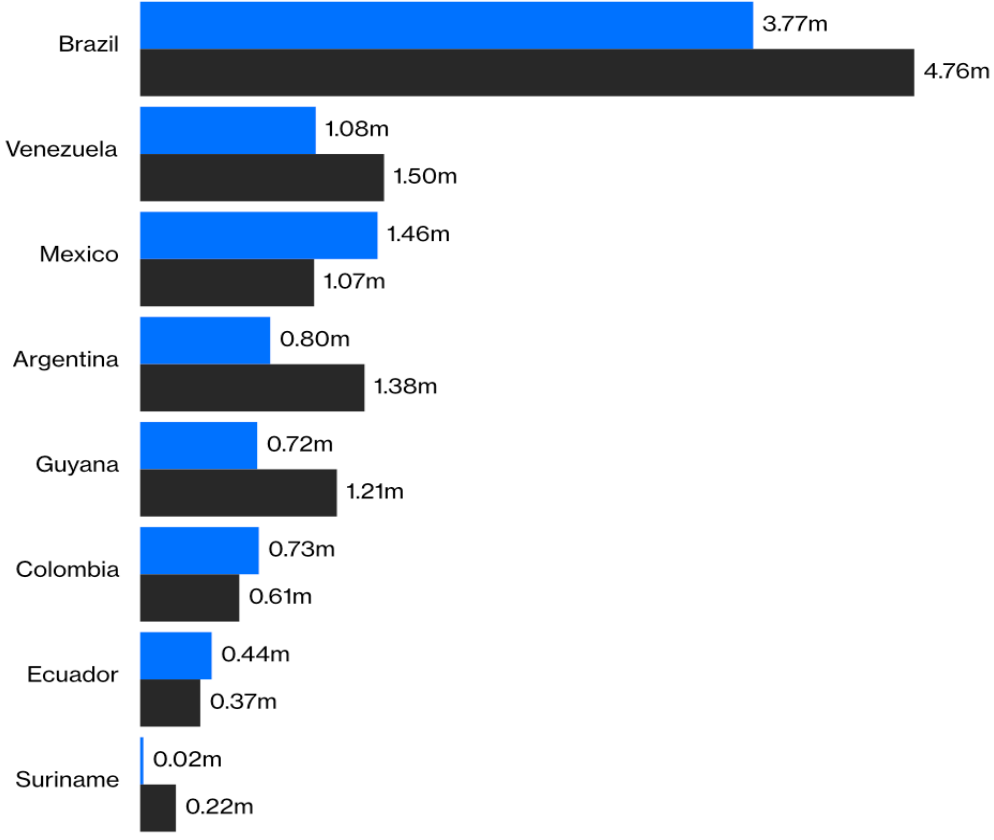
Sources: U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA); Maybank Investment Bank; Reuters; The Diplomat; Carnegie Endowment for International Peace — April 2026

Note: Australia's direct crude import exposure to the Middle East is low (~15%), but approximately 50% of its diesel imports depend on Strait of Hormuz transit through Asian refinery supply chains.

Brazil Leads Latin America's Oil Resurgence

Crude oil production estimates, 2025-2030

■ 2025 ■ 2030

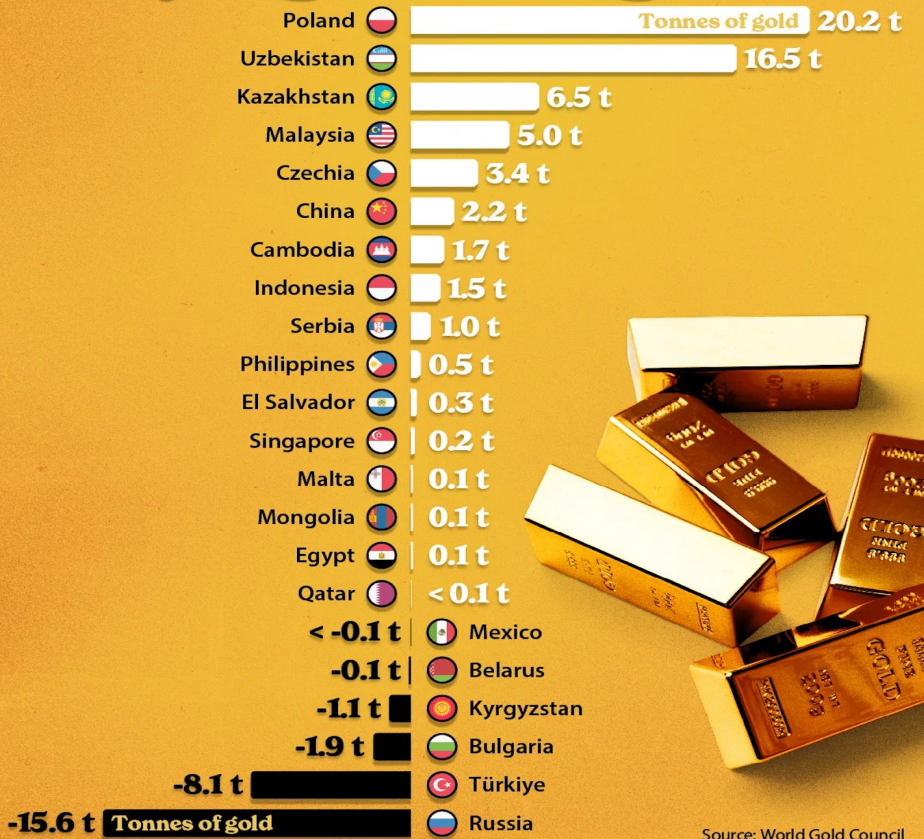


Rystad Energy
Ucube, April 2026

CENTRAL BANKS IN 2026

Buying & Selling Gold

E



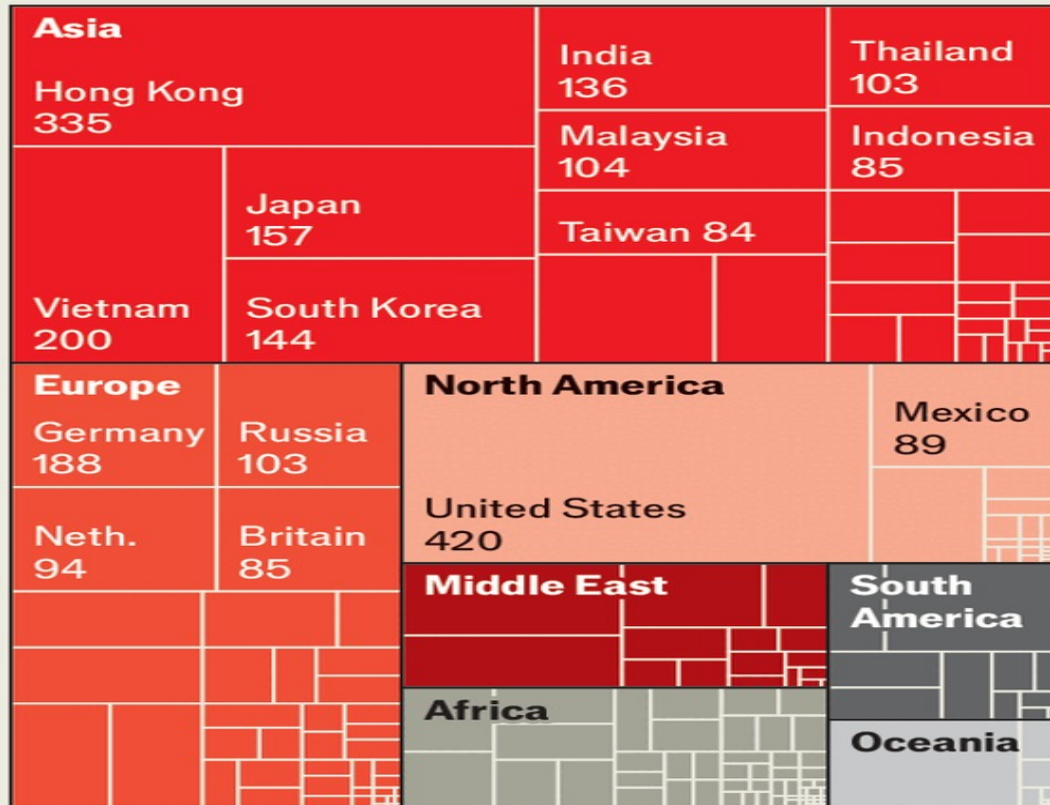
World Gold Council, April 2026

Source: World Gold Council
 Change as of end of February 2026
 Latest data available as of April 2026

Trade blocks

2

China, goods exports, 2025, \$bn



Source: China Customs

Total value \$3.8trn

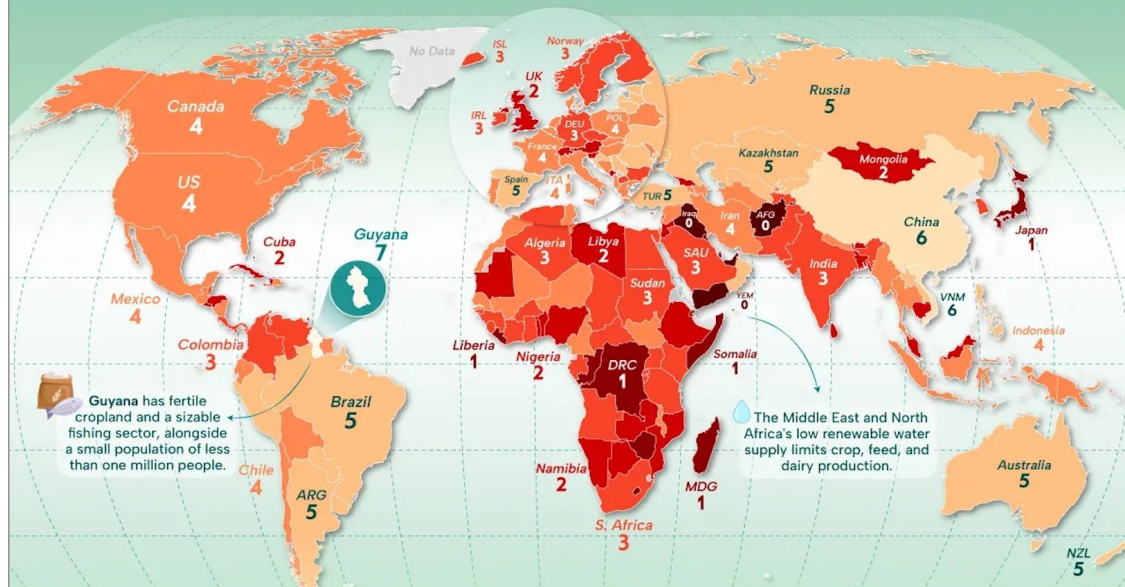
Economist,

Food Self-Sufficiency BY COUNTRY



Food Groups Covered

- Meat • Dairy • Fish • Starchy Staples
- Legumes, Nuts, Seeds • Fruit • Vegetables

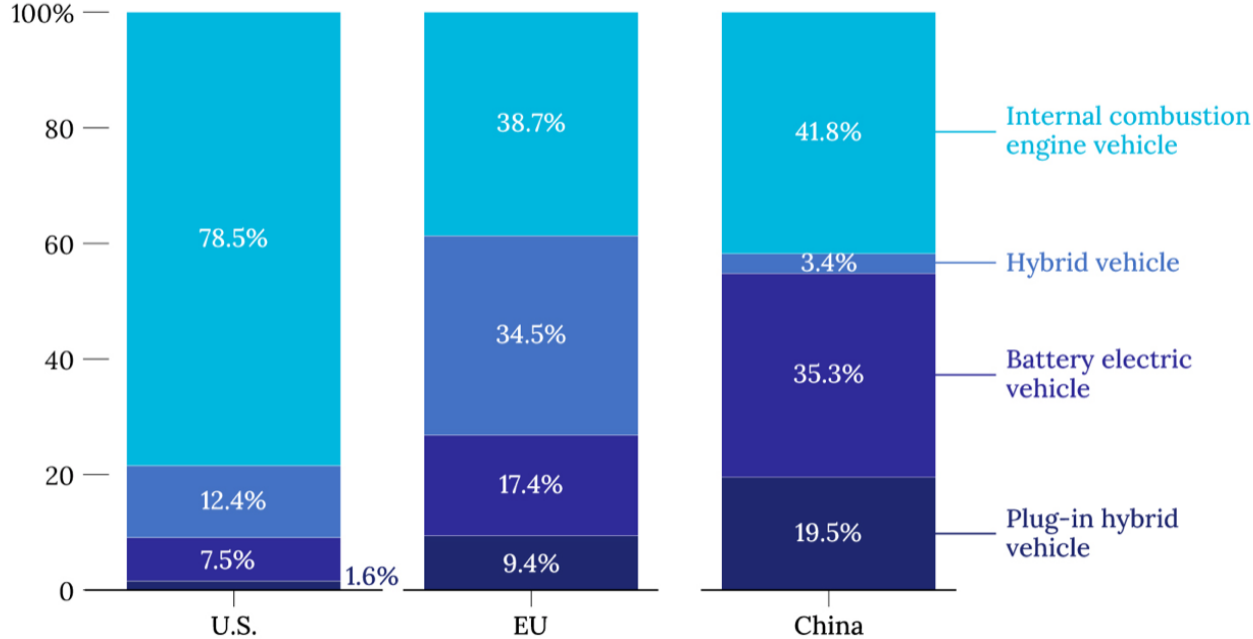


**Only One
Country Can
Feed Itself Fully
– Guyana**

**Nature Food
Study, May 2025**

U.S., EU and China Diverge in Auto Powertrain Systems

Market share by technology

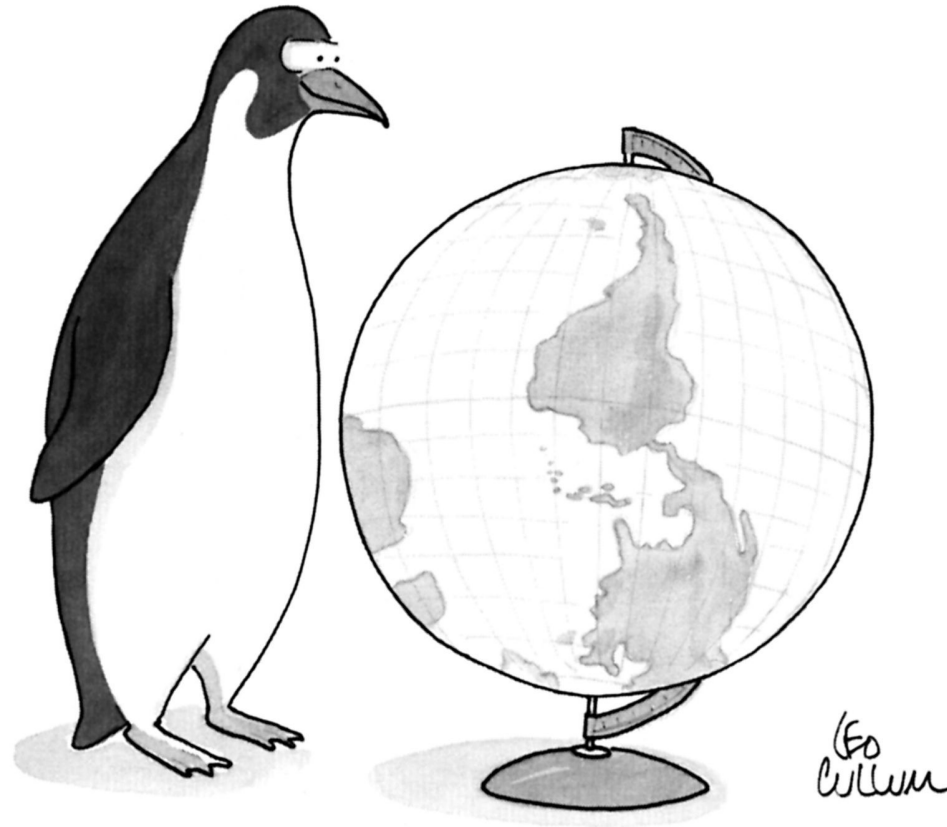


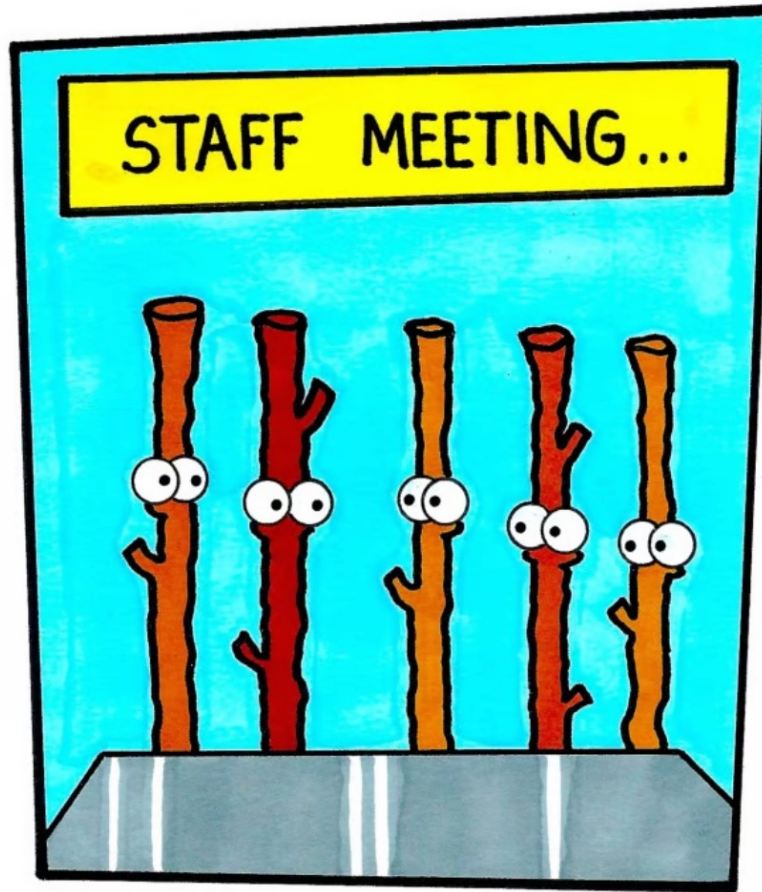
**Caixin Global,
April 17, 2026**

Sources: Argonne National Laboratory, European Automobile Manufacturers' Association and China Association of Automobile Manufacturers



It All Depends On Your Perspective!!!





White

CartoonStock.com



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Bill Edwards is a global expansion advisor with more than five decades of experience helping companies enter and scale in international markets. Through Edwards Global Services, Inc., he has guided over 50 brands across multiple sectors into more than 35 countries, with a focus on identifying high-ROI markets and structuring successful country expansion strategies.

His experience includes living and working in China, the Czech Republic, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Iran and Turkey, and leading projects across more than 50 countries worldwide.

Bill currently serves as Chairman of the District Export Council of Southern California and Chairman of the World Affairs Council of Orange County.

He is also the publisher of the Geowizard Biweekly Global Business Update newsletter on Substack and creator of the GlobalVue™ Country Ranking System, widely used by global business leaders to evaluate international market opportunities.

<https://edwardsglobal.com/geowizard/>
<https://edwardsglobal.com/globalvue/>



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30-minute call with Bill**



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