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Inside C2

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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Wall Street ends green as inflation cools, bank jitters ebb

NEW YORK, March 14 (Reuters) - U.S. stocks rebounded on Tuesday as largely on-target inflation data and easing jitters over contagion in the banking sector cooled expectations regarding the size of the rate hike at the Federal Reserve's policy meeting next week.

All three major U.S. stock indexes closed in positive territory, after several sessions of risk-off turmoil driven by the implosion of Silicon Valley Bank and Signature bank, and worries over contagion.

Financial stocks clawed back some losses, with the S&P 500 Banks index (.SPXBK) coming back from its steepest one-day sell-off since June 2020.

Bank contagion fears were allayed on Tuesday as reassurances by U.S. President Joe Biden and other global policymakers vowed the crisis would be contained.

"The market is having an opportunity to digest some of the news over the last couple of days," said Matthew Keator, managing partner in the Keator Group, a wealth management firm in Lenox, Massachusetts. "(Investors) are seeing a coordinated effort with various government agencies, and with hindsight, they're feeling as if things have contained themselves a bit."

Argentina inflation tops 100% for first time since 1991
Argentina inflation shoots past 100% for first time since 1991
How Silicon Valley Bank's collapse ripped through global tech
Europe's banks unlikely to get hit by bond portfolio losses - Moody's
The Labor Department's CPI report showed consumer prices cooled in February, largely in line with market expectations, with headline and core measures notching welcome annual declines.

Even so, inflation has a considerable way to go before approaching the central bank's average annual 2% target.



But signs of economic softness, combined with the regional banking scare, have increased the odds that the Federal Reserve will implement a modest, 25 basis-point hike to its key interest rate at the conclusion of its two-day policy meeting on March 22.

Traders work on the floor of the NYSE in New York

Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) in New York City, U.S., March 14, 2023. REUTERS/Brendan McDermi

"Part of the stabilization today is folks feeling as if the Fed might back off from some of the hawkish expectations that followed Chairman Powell's comments last week," Keator added.

"If the Fed isn't careful, they could create some unintended shocks to the system," he said.

Shock waves following the closure of Silicon Valley Bank and Signature bank, which prompted Biden to vow he would contain the crisis and ensure the safety of the U.S. banking system, continued to reverberate throughout the sector.

The S&P 500 banking index (.SPXBK) reclaimed territory lost to Monday's plunge, its biggest one-day drop since June 2020.

According to preliminary data, the S&P 500 (.SPX) gained 64.26 points, or 1.67%, to end at 3,920.02 points, while the Nasdaq Composite (.IXIC) gained 239.71 points, or 2.14%, to 11,428.55. The Dow Jones Industrial Average (.DJI) rose 326.66 points, or 1.03%, to 32,145.80.

Shares of First Republic Bank (FRC.N) surged.

Meta Platforms Inc (META.O) announced 10,000 job cuts in its second round of layoffs, sending its stock higher.

Ride-hailing app rivals Uber Technologies Inc (UBER.N) and Lyft Inc (LYFT.O) jumped following a California state court decision that revived a ballot measure allowing the companies to treat drivers as independent contractors rather than employees.

United Airlines Holdings Inc (UAL.O) fell after the commercial carrier unexpectedly forecast a current quarter loss.

AMC Entertainment Holdings (AMC.N) plummeted between multiple trading halts in the wake of its shareholders voting in favor of converting preferred stock into common shares.

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WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

03/13/2023

We Are United With All Ethnic Communities



Last Saturday, hundreds of political, business and religious leaders got together at Stanford Centre. To the sounds of "America The Beautiful," we were singing and holding hand-in-hand for the first time in our Chinese Asian community history.

Led by U.S. Congressman Al Green and Congresswoman Judy Chu, a huge response was aroused and could be heard in the loud cheers of the large number of supporters.

Congressman Al Green enthusiastically expressed his determination to oppose the Bill 147 in the Texas Senate. Congresswoman Judy Chu talked about how we can fight for our future. Pastor Nixon recalled how the Chinese American baker helped him to start a church.

I also pointed out that the Asian business community will be severely hurt if this bill passes and many may need to close the doors of their businesses.

Saturday's rally helped us fully understand that our civil rights need to be respected and fought for. We must remain united as a group and show our strength.



CONGRESSMAN
AL GREEN
WORKING FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE 9TH DISTRICT OF TEXAS
with special guests
CONGRESSWOMAN JUDY CHU, CA-28

Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia, TX-29
Texas State Senator John Whitmire
Texas State Representative Gene Wu
Texas State Representative Ron Reynolds
Fort Bend County Judge KP George
Fort Bend County Commissioner Grady Prestage
Fort Bend County Commissioner Dexter McCoy
Harris County Commissioner Rodney Ellis
Mayor Cecil Willis, Stafford
Mayor Robin Elackatt, Missouri City
Stafford City Councilwoman Alice Chen
Bishop James Dixon, NAACP - Houston Branch
Wea Lee, International Management District
Hugo Mojica, LULAC
Dawn Lin, Attorney at Law
Kenneth Li, Southwest Management District
Chi-Mei Lin, Chinese Community Center
Yichuan Fang, Chinese Civic Center
Haipai Shue, United Chinese Americans

cordially invites you to a listening session on
**DISCRIMINATORY
LAND OWNERSHIP BILL**
at the
Stafford Center Auditorium
10505 Cash Road, Stafford, Texas 77477

**SATURDAY
MARCH 11, 2023
10:30 am**

RSVP: <https://AlGreen-land-foreign-ownership.eventbrite.com>
For more information, please contact the Office of Congressman Al Green: 713-383-9234



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Southern DAILY Make Today Different

Editor's Choice



Daniel Kwan, Daniel Scheinert and Jonathan Wang pose with the Oscar for Best Picture for "Everything Everywhere All at Once" along with cast Jamie Lee Curtis, Ke Huy Quan, Michelle Yeoh, Stephanie Hsu and James Hong in the photo room. REUTERS/Mike Blake



Best Actress Michelle Yeoh poses with her Oscar in the photo room. REUTERS/Mike Blake



A woman takes bread out of the rubble of her house, in the aftermath of a deadly earthquake in Kahramanmaraş, Turkey. REUTERS/Nir Elias



Ukrainian servicemen of the 80th Air Assault Brigade fire an M119 Howitzer artillery weapon towards Russian troops, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, near Bahmut, Donetsk region, Ukraine. REUTERS/Marko Djurica



A woman walks on a playground after an apartment block was heavily damaged by a missile strike, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Pokrovsk, Donetsk region, Ukraine. REUTERS/Marko Djurica



Best Supporting Actor Ke Huy Quan poses with his Oscar in the photo room. REUTERS/Mike Blake

Overview

California has the highest percentage of non-English speakers with 44 percent.

In Los Angeles, 59 percent of the population does not speak English at home.

The fewest is in West Virginia where the number is less than two percent.

A record 67 million people living in the United States do not speak English at home, a new study has revealed, accounting for just over a fifth of the population.

The study was carried out by **The Center of Immigration Studies** and was released on Wednesday. It is based on the newly released Census Bureau Data for 2017.

California has by far the highest number of non-English speakers per state, with 16.5million people (44 percent of its population) favoring other tongues.

Texas, where the number of 36 percent, has the second highest percentage, followed by New Mexico, New Jersey, and Nevada.

In the country’s five major cities, the numbers are especially high.

Nearly half of the residents in the nation’s five biggest cities do not speak English at home, choosing instead their native language, according to the latest Census Bureau data that details the impact of a decade of soft immigration policies.

Overall, a record 67 million do not speak English at home, said the bureau. That is nearly double in 27 years.



In its just-released analysis of the Census data, the Center for Immigration Studies said, “As a share of the population, 21.8 percent of U.S. residents speak a foreign language at home — roughly double the

Includes Half Of Houston And New York City, Per Study

67 MILLION People Living In U.S. Do Not Speak English At Home

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



11 percent in 1980.”

The Center added, “In America’s five largest cities, 48 percent of residents now speak a language other than English at home. In New York City and Houston it is 49 percent; in Los Angeles it is 59 percent; in Chicago it is 36 percent; and in Phoenix it is 38 percent.”

The findings come as more and more reports emerge about both Americans and foreigners getting into heated debates over speaking English.

In one case in New York last May, a man threatened to call immigration police if employees and customers didn’t stop speaking English in a restaurant. Last week, in Florida, a Taco Bell patron was turned away because a worker said nobody spoke English and couldn’t take the order.

Among the top findings from the Center for Immigration Studies report:

- In 2017, a record 66.6 million U.S. residents (native-born, legal immigrants, and illegal immigrants) ages five and older spoke a language other than English at home. The number has more than

doubled since 1990, and almost tripled since 1980.

- As a share of the population, 21.8 percent of U.S. residents speak a foreign language at home — roughly double the 11 percent in 1980.

- In America’s five largest cities, 48 percent of residents now speak a language other than English at home. In New York City and Houston it is 49 percent; in Los Angeles it is 59 percent; in Chicago it is 36 percent; and in Phoenix it is 38 percent.



Houston, Texas skyline.

- In 2017, there were 85 cities and Census Designated Places (CDP) in which a majority of residents spoke a

foreign language at home. These include Hialeah, Fla. (95 percent); Laredo, Texas (92 percent); and East Los Angeles, Calif. (90 percent). Perhaps more surprisingly, it also includes places like Elizabeth, N.J. (76 percent); Skokie, Ill. (56 percent); and Germantown, Md., and Bridgeport, Conn. (each 51 percent).

- Nearly one in five U.S. residents now lives in a city or CDP in which one-third of the population speaks a foreign language at home. This includes Dale City, Va. (43 percent); Norwalk, Conn., and New Rochelle, N.Y. (each 42 percent); and Aurora, Colo., and Troy, Mich. (each 35 percent).

- In contrast to many of the nation’s cities, in rural areas outside of metropolitan areas just 8 percent speak a language other than English at home.

- The data released thus far indicates that nationally nearly one in four public school students now speaks a language other than English at home.3 In California, 44 percent of school-age (5-17) children speak a foreign language at home, and it’s roughly one-third in Texas, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, and Florida.

- Of school-age children (5-17) who speak a foreign language at home, 85 percent were born in the United States. Even among adults 18 and older, more than one-third of those who speak a foreign language at home are U.S.-born.

- Of those who speak a foreign language at home, 25.9 million (39 percent) told the Census Bureau that they speak English less than very well. This figure is entirely based on the opinion of the respondent; the Census Bureau does not measure language skills.

In New York City and Houston, the figure is 49 percent. In Los Angeles, it is 59 percent, it is 36 percent in Chicago and 38 percent in Phoenix.

The highest percentage per city of anywhere in the country is in Hialeah, Flori-

da, where 95 percent of the population do not speak English.



New York City skyline.

MOST POPULAR LANGUAGES

- 1) Spanish
- 2) Chinese
- 3) Tagalog
- 4) Vietnamese
- 5) Arabic
- 6) French
- 7) Korean
- 8) Russian
- 9) German
- 10) Haitian

For the most part, the non-native English speakers are instead conversing in Spanish which is spoken by 40million of the 67million listed.

The next most popular languages are Chinese (3.5million), the Filipino language Tagalog (1.7million), Vietnamese (1.5million), Arabic (1.2million), French (1.2million) and Korean (1million).

Only 20 states across the country have a population of non-native English speakers that is lower than 10 percent.

The lowest is in West Virginia, where only 2 percent do not speak it at home.

The increase since 1980 is startling. Then, only 11 percent of the country (23million people) did not speak English at home.

Nevada has seen the sharpest increase over the last 37 years.

In 2010, the number was 718,000. Now, it is 875,000.

Washington DC saw the highest increase between 2010 and 2017 with a rise of 36 percent. (Courtesy dailymail.co.uk)

The Free Press Is In Decline, Even In Strongest Democracies



Illustration/Axios

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

The corruption indictments issued for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu last week include charges that he sought to manipulate the media to secure more favorable coverage.

Why it matters: Such interventions have become more prevalent around the world, including in democracies. As we’ve seen in places like Russia and Turkey, one of the surest signs democracy is being eroded is a crackdown on independent media.

Driving the news: Netanyahu was indicted for an arrangement he allegedly brokered with a telecom magnate, in which the prime minister offered favorable business regulations in return for positive coverage of him and his wife Sara.

•The deal was with Shaul Elovitz, who was formerly the majority shareholder of telecom group Bezeq. Bezeq owns a popular Israeli news website called Walla.

•Netanyahu was also indicted on charges that he struck another deal with a Tel-Aviv-based daily newspaper called Yedioth Ahronoth to limit the circulation of its competitor in exchange for less critical coverage.

Be smart: Israel still has a vibrant media ecosystem, but such attempts to delegitimize negative coverage and control the press are not limited to Israel. They can

range from subtle to brutal.

•**In Hungary,** Prime Minister Viktor Orbán and his allies have “systematically taken control of roughly 90% of the country’s media outlets,” per NPR, consolidating dozens of print, radio and TV outlets into one giant conglomerate that Orbán has exempted from Hungarian media or competition rules. There have also been reports that Orbán has “systematically starved” independent outlets of state advertising money if they do not provide favorable coverage of his administration.

•**In Turkey,** President Erdogan’s allies in the business community have bought up a handful of mainstream-media outlets that have subsequently adopted a pro-government stance. According to The Atlantic, the government has in many cases enabled those sales. That consolidation has occurred in conjunction with an increase in free press penalties, including fines and jail time, that have grown more severe as Erdogan’s reign has become more autocratic.

•**In the Philippines,** President Rodrigo Duterte’s government has used an aggressive “cyber libel” law to lodge several cases against independent media site Rappler and its CEO Maria Ressa, per Poynter. Earlier this year, the government revoked Rappler’s news registration in a move that press freedom groups

called politically-motivated.

•**In Venezuela,** U.S. journalists were arrested and detained by the country’s military counter-intelligence agency earlier this year at the command of President Nicolás Maduro. Maduro’s crackdown on journalists comes after years of autocratic actions that have eroded the country’s democracy.

Zoom out: In fully autocratic countries, the simple act of reporting can be dangerous. Just this past week:

•**In Egypt,** security forces raided the offices of the last major independent media company and temporarily detained three of its top editors, per the New York Times.



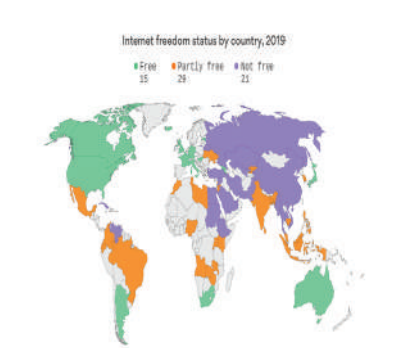
Murdered Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi

•**In Saudi Arabia,** the government detained “at least eight people, mostly intellectuals and writers ... amid a two-year crackdown on free expression in the kingdom,” per Reuters. The move follows the one-year anniversary of the murder of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi, which U.S. intelligence officials say was ordered by the Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman himself.

The big picture: Internet freedom is in decline around the world, with governments using social media to monitor their citizens and spread disinformation at home and overseas, according to an annual Freedom House report. Even in the U.S., President Trump has been accused of attempting to punish outlets whose coverage he objects to. •Last year, activist group PEN America filed a federal lawsuit against the president for having “directed his threats and retaliatory actions at specific outlets whose content and viewpoints he views as hostile.”

•In April, The Justice Department filed a motion asking a district court to dismiss the lawsuit.

Related Internet freedom declines in U.S. and around the world



Reproduced from a Freedom House map; Note: Score based on obstacles to access, limits on content and violation of user rights; Map: Axios Visuals

Rising levels of political disinformation and government surveillance are making the internet less free in the U.S., according to a new report by Freedom House, a democracy and human rights research group.

The big picture: Internet freedom is in decline around the world, according to the report, as governments increasingly use social media to monitor their citizens and spread disinformation at home and overseas.

•The U.S. has long been a bastion of internet freedom and still ranks sixth out of 65 countries assessed, but its status has fallen each of the past three years.

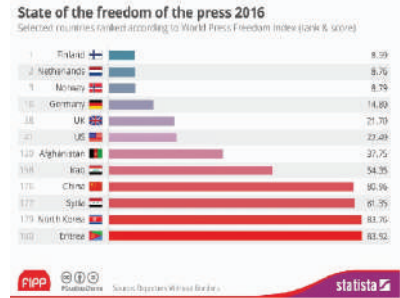
Details: The authors cite monitoring of social media platforms by immigration and law enforcement agencies as a particular concern in the U.S., along with political disinformation that has been “at times exacerbated by top government officials and political leaders.”

•**Most free:** Iceland, Estonia, Canada, Germany, Australia.

•**Least free:** China is “the world’s worst abuser of internet freedom,” followed by Iran, Syria, Cuba and Vietnam.

•**Of China,** the authors write: “Censorship and surveillance were pushed to unprecedented extremes as the govern-

ment enhanced its information controls, including in the lead-up to the 30th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre and in response to persistent antigovernment protests in Hong Kong.”



Countries in decline:

•Sudan saw social media blocked during mass protests against now-former President Omar al-Bashir, and harsh repression during a lengthy state of emergency.

•Kazakhstan’s government “temporarily disrupted internet connectivity, blocked ... news websites, and restricted access to social media platforms” during its stage-managed presidential transition.

•Brazil saw a rise of cyberattacks and “social media manipulation,” mostly from supporters of President Jair Bolsonaro — who then hired consultants accused of “spearheading the sophisticated disinformation campaign.”

•Bangladesh’s government, in response to protests over road safety and electoral irregularities, “resorted to blocking independent news websites, restricting mobile networks, and arresting journalists and ordinary users alike.”

•Zimbabwe became a more difficult place to access the internet, both because of economic chaos and crackdowns from the government.

The other side: Ethiopia was one of the few countries in which internet restrictions were loosened this year, under reform-minded Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed. Improvements were also seen in Malaysia and Armenia.

The bottom line: “What was once a liberating technology has become a conduit for surveillance and electoral manipulation,” the authors write about social media. (Courtesy axios.com)

美南國際電視 15.3 《生活故事會》 只用一個中學數學公式，他中了14次彩票頭獎！

（本報記者黃梅子）歡迎收看生活故事會，我是講故事的人黃梅子，今天給您講一個人只用一個中學數學公式，他就中了14次彩票頭獎的故事。

買彩票中頭獎的機率至少在百萬分之一，這個機率比被閃電擊中還要小的多，但在20世紀60年代到90年代間，羅馬尼亞人斯蒂文 Mandel 卻曾經14次中得彩票頭獎。在他背後，人們發現了一個彩票史上最奇怪、最不可能的事——一個包含了上千投資者、複雜的計算機系統，以及充滿了驚險與意外的故事。

十幾個監管機構曾經對他進行過調查，卻未發現違法之處。澳大利亞、美國的彩票管理規定不得因此做出調整，以避免更多人的模仿。在 Stefan Mandel 看來，他之所以能贏得14次頭獎，只是利用了一個簡單的高中數學公式。

他的第一次嘗試是在20世紀60年代，年輕的 Stefan Mandel 是羅馬尼亞礦業集團的會計，每月份的工資只有88美元，這不足以支他與妻子、兩個孩子的生活。為了快速賺到一筆錢，他想到了買彩票。

也許這是一個很多人在腦中幻想過千百次的想法，但很少有人真的認為這個大餡餅能砸到自己頭上。畢竟，能中得彩票頭獎的機率比被閃電擊中的概率還要小。

不過，Mandel 天生就喜歡數字，所有的空餘時間，他都用來分析由13世紀意大利數學家斐波那契（Leonardo Fibonacci）撰寫的論文。經過幾年的研究，他寫了一個“數字挑選算法”。當他接受羅馬尼亞一家雜誌的採訪時，他說道：“我是一個週末數學家，是一個沒有受過太多教育的會計。但是正確應用數學確實可以帶來財富。”

Mandel 自己聲稱，利用這個算法可

以準確預測六個中獎號碼中的5個，將彩票中的數字組合數量從數百萬減少到幾千個。他召集了他身邊的朋友，冒著巨大的風險，依據他所設計的公式，選擇了最有可能的組合，購買了大量彩票。神奇的是，他中了頭獎，他獲得了78783羅馬尼拉列伊（羅馬尼亞官方貨幣），相當於19300美金，相當於他當時18年的工資總和。除去成本，他個人賺得了4000美金。

在接受媒體採訪的時候，他沒有披露自己的算法，“可口可樂也不會公開他的配方。” Stefan Mandel 說。

當然，考慮到彩票的中獎號碼理論上應該是完全隨機的，Mandel 所謂的“數字挑選算法”究竟有沒有起到作用，還是很值得懷疑的。Mandel 只中過這一次大獎，之後他就拋棄了此種算法，可能他自己也發覺那一次的中獎也許只是因為幸運。

後來，Mandel 在澳大利亞定居了，他開始用新的方式來買彩票。在一種典型的彩票玩法中，人們可以在一定的數字範圍內隨機選擇數字（比如，1-40），如果公佈的數字與你選擇的完全一致，就會贏得頭獎，若頭獎無人中，獎金將進入下期並可一直滾存，在獎池中積累，直到有人中獎為止。用一個簡單的數學公式就可以算出，比如，一種從1-40中選擇6個數字的彩票，總共會有3838380種可能的數字組合。

如果獎池中累計的獎金達到1000萬美金，那麼，從理論上來看，Mandel 可以以每個組合1美元的價格，買下所有組合的彩票，這樣就能保證百分之百中頭獎。交了稅之後，依然會獲得可觀的利潤。“這是一個只要學過高中數學的人都可以計算出來的組合。” Mandel 稱。

但是，問題來了，怎樣將一個一個數字填寫進幾百萬張彩票中？購買這麼大量彩票的第一桶金從何而來？

這難不倒 Mandel，他說服了上百個投資者，建立了一個資金池，專門用於購買彩票。接下來，他開發了一個自動化系統：放滿整間屋子的打印機和運行算

法的電腦，不停地打印每一種數字組合。電腦解放了 Mandel 的雙手，如果靠手寫這上百萬個數字組合，那麼任何一個錯誤都可能毀掉將近8個月的工作。

在20世紀80年代，Mandel 做的最多的事情就是等待，等待時機出現，只要獎池中積累的頭獎金額高於購買所有組合的成本，他就會出手。在澳大利亞，他一共贏得了12次頭獎。“每個人都跟我說：你這樣做是行不通的，” Mandel 那時候在接受羅馬尼亞報紙的採訪時說，“現在，那些說我是做白日夢的人都安靜了。”

但是，沒過多久，Mandel 就碰壁了。澳大利亞彩票管理機構注意到了他，並對規則進行了修改——禁止用計算機打印彩票，禁止個人批量購買彩票。中了12次頭獎之後，Mandel 在澳大利亞已沒有彩票投資的空間，這使得 Mandel 不得不將眼光轉向其他國家。

隨後，Mandel 開始在美國尋找機會，他希望能有這樣的機會存在：彩票頭獎累積的金額至少是購買所有組合的成本的三倍。他考慮過馬薩諸塞州，在那裡頭獎獎金一度達到3700萬美金，彩票的所有組合有900萬。亞利桑那州他也計算過，1100萬美金的獎金，510萬種組合。不過，最終他選擇了弗吉尼亞州。

對於 Mandel 來說，弗吉尼亞州有很多優勢，它允許不限量購買彩票，可以在家中打印彩票，最重要的是，它的數字是1-44，其他州大部分都是1-54。這意味著，在弗吉尼亞州，從44個數字中選出6個數字，只有7059052種可能的組合，而在其他州，所有的組合數量高達2500萬以上。

為此，他創辦了一家公司，建立了一個“國際彩票基金”，吸引了2000餘名投資者，每名投資者至少投入數千美金，募集的資金足以購買所有彩票組合，並支付其他費用。

在澳大利亞的一個倉庫中，Mandel 放置了30台電腦、12台激光打印機，並僱傭了16名全職僱員，開始打印已經計算好的700多萬張彩票，僅這一過程就花費了3個月的時間。接著，他花了6萬美金，將這超過一噸重的紙運到了美國。然後，就是等待。等待獎池中的頭獎積累到令人滿意的額度。

1992年2月12日，弗吉尼亞彩票頭獎到達了2700萬美金，Mandel 給出了一個簡單的指令：Go。他們籌劃的是三天

後的開獎，這三天，對於 Mandel 和他的美國合作者而言，可以用三個詞來描述：夜不能寐、驚險和幸運。

在這72小時中，他們需要將打印好的彩票運到便利店、加油站等可以購買彩票的站點，站點的工作人員需要一張一張彩票進行處理，從早到晚，所有人馬不停蹄的來往彩票站。到了最後關頭，意外卻發生了，幾家便利店的彩票用光了，很快，所有的便利店都停止了彩票銷售。

準備了幾個月，花費了巨大成本的努力可能將功虧於簣：還剩下超過100萬個數字組合尚未購買。在現實面前，完美的理論顯得那麼脆弱。Mandel 的希望只能寄託在幸運之神的降臨，已經花費了600餘萬購買彩票，再加上運輸費、人工費、倉儲費等等，一旦失敗，不僅 Mandel 將傾家蕩產，而且跟隨他的投資者也將血本無歸。

在美國彩票史上曾經有過幾次批量購買彩票的投資者，但是沒有人獲得過成功：1990年，一個人買了3萬張彩票，卻連一個小獎都沒中。還有一個計算機工程師，購買了8萬個組合但是只獲得了幾個末等獎。而且，即使 Mandel 真的被頭獎“砸”中，他也不一定能收回成本——一旦有其他中獎者存在，頭獎獎金也將被稀釋。

Mandel 忐忑不安，如坐針氈，等待著開獎的那一刻。

2月15日晚上11點20分，終於開獎了。好消息傳來：他們贏了。

在澳大利亞的家中，Mandel 給他的2524名投資者發了一條短信：“我們的一個彩票中了頭獎，我們贏了。”2700萬美元的頭獎以及幾個二等獎、三等獎和末等獎，扣除稅費之後，獎金應該按照20年，每年103萬美元，分期支付給他們。

雖然 Mandel 的中獎並沒有違反美國和弗吉尼亞州的法律，但是他們的這種作法被認為是“欺騙”了傳統彩票體系。



弗吉尼亞彩票管理部門說：“我們應當記得總統關於彩票的觀點，彩票應當是給普通人一個機會，給他們帶來花一小筆錢獲得更高獎金的可能性。”管理部門認為，雖然他們沒有違反法律，但是他們的這種行為會讓普通人對自己獲獎的機率產生懷疑。所以，彩票管理機構提出限制彩票購買的規定。

自此，弗吉尼亞要求彩票站不得向個人大規模出售彩票。在之後的四年時間中，14個國際組織對 Mandel 展開了調查，包括 CIA、FBI、澳大利亞證券委員會……最後，什麼都沒有查出來。Mandel 和他的基金並沒做錯什麼。

解決了法律問題，投資者們是不是該獲得巨額回報了？2000多名彩票投資參與者都在翹首以待。他們沒想到，最終他們的回報是這樣的：每4000美金的投資，給予1400美金的回報。如此算來，投資回報率只有35%，回報週期包括了接受調查的四年以及運籌帷幄的一年。

對於 Mandel 來說，回報是很可觀的，他首先一次性付給了自己170萬美元的顧問費，扣除付出的各項成本，Mandel 把剩餘的獎金全部收入囊中。

這是 Mandel 第一次在美國投資彩票，也是最後一次。

美國經營彩票的各州相繼頒布法律，禁止類似於 Mandel 這樣的購買彩票行為。這使得 Mandel 成為美國彩票史上唯一一個，通過購買所有數字組合贏得大獎的人。

好了，今天的故事就講到這兒了，感謝您的收看，再會。

美南國際電視15.3每週一晚上7和周六晚上7:30播出《生活故事會》，歡迎收看。

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