

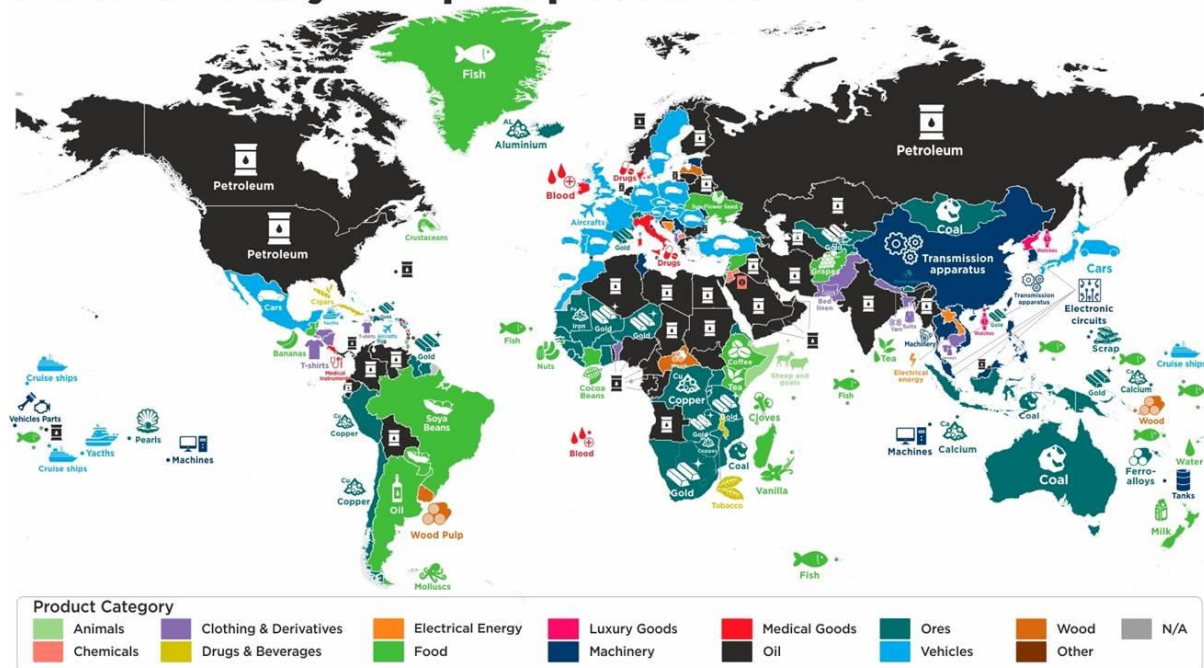
The Arab borrowing binge is toxic. Tourists may not have returned to Egypt's beaches and pyramids, but debt investors are back! Since May, foreigners have snapped up more than \$10bn in local currency debt, reversing a sell-off from the early days of the pandemic. There is similar enthusiasm across the region -- the 6 members of the GCC issued a record \$100bn in public and corporate debt in the first 10 months of 2020. Even before Covid-19 arrived, many ME nations were taking on fresh debt to cope with low oil prices and sluggish economies, with the pandemic only increasing their needs. And here's the worst part, big borrowing to cope with the pandemic has not translated into big stimulus. More than 70% of Kuwait's latest budget is earmarked for public sector salaries! Arab nations are taking on debt not to fund reforms, but to sustain a bloated bureaucracy. Now that is toxic debt!



The Economist

Petroleum is the most common top export around the world, spanning the ME, North America, Africa and Russia. Cars and aeroplanes dominate European exports. Asian nations specialise in high-end electronics. The single biggest takeaway for Africa is how the continent relies almost entirely on raw materials for its top exports. There isn't a single African country specialising in high-end industries like medicine, with the exception of St. Helena, which is a tiny island nation. Morocco is the only African country supplying finished products as its top export in automobiles. Ireland has the most unusual top export in blood.

Each Country's Top Export in World



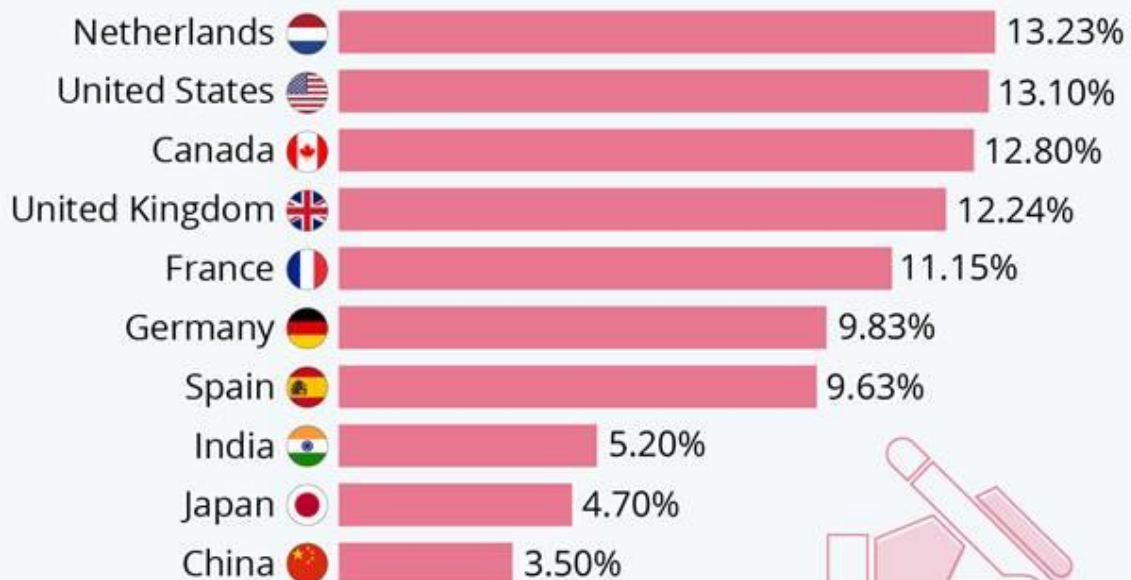
Article & Sources:
<https://howmuch.net/articles/top-export-around-the-world>
 UN Comtrade Database 2018 - <https://comtrade.un.org>
 CEPII - BACI - <http://www.cepii.fr/CEPII/>

howmuch.net

How common are lefties? Negative attitudes towards left-handedness is one of the primary reasons why people attempt to mainly use their right hand. In many countries, left handed children are often bullied, harassed and labelled abnormal.

The Countries With The Most Left-Handed People

Rate of left-handedness in selected countries*



* Data comes from numerous studies over several years compiled by leftyfretz - e.g. European data is from 2009.
Source: Leftyfretz.com

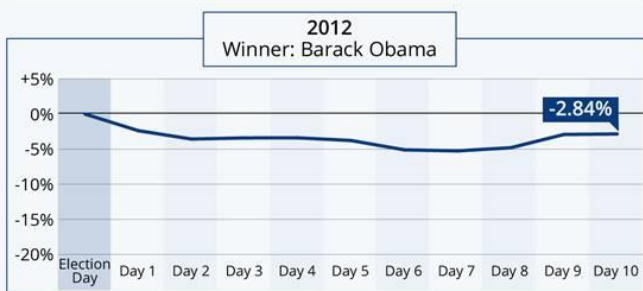
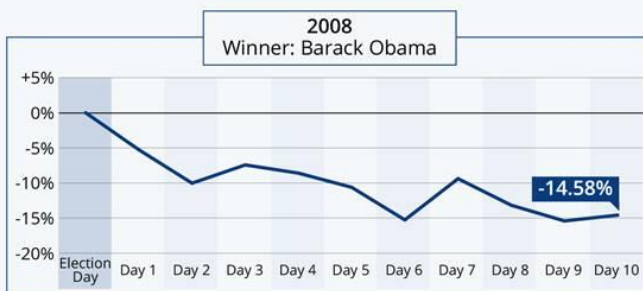
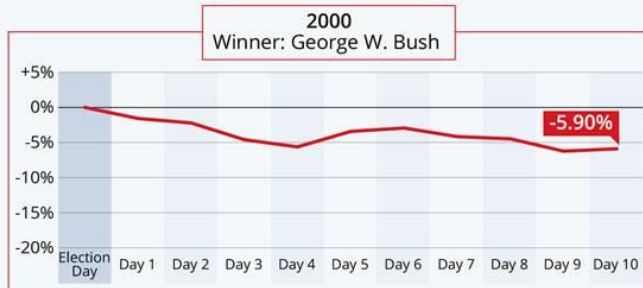


statista

As the world is eagerly awaiting the outcome of this year's US presidential race, investors are faced with a high degree of uncertainty. The US election outcome will define the next 4 years and it will be interesting to observe the market's initial reaction to the result. As the chart below illustrates, the past 5 presidential elections didn't evoke extreme market reactions, except for Barack Obama's first triumph in 2008. The S&P 500 dropped 10% the first 2 days after that election, although it needs to be noted that said election took place in the middle of the global financial crisis. Meanwhile, the world's largest IPO -- Ant Financial was due to list tomorrow -- has been suspended by Chinese regulators.

How the Stock Market Reacted to Past Election Results

Performance of the S&P 500 on the 10 days following U.S. presidential elections (indexed to closing prices on election day)



Source: Yahoo! Finance



The Biggest IPOs of All Time

Global IPOs with most money raised (in billion U.S. dollars)



Includes money raised by expanding IPO after launch

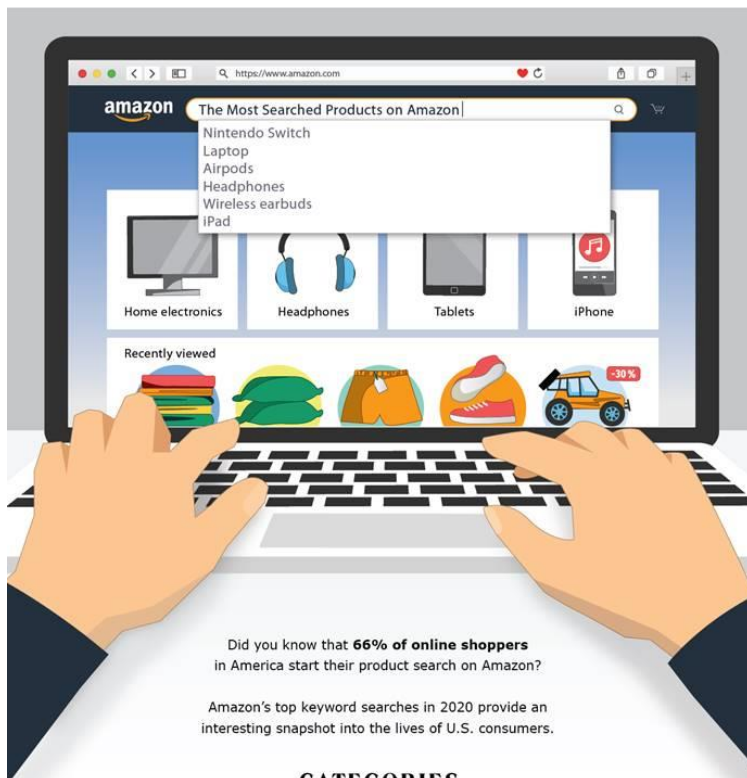
* expected

Source: Media reports



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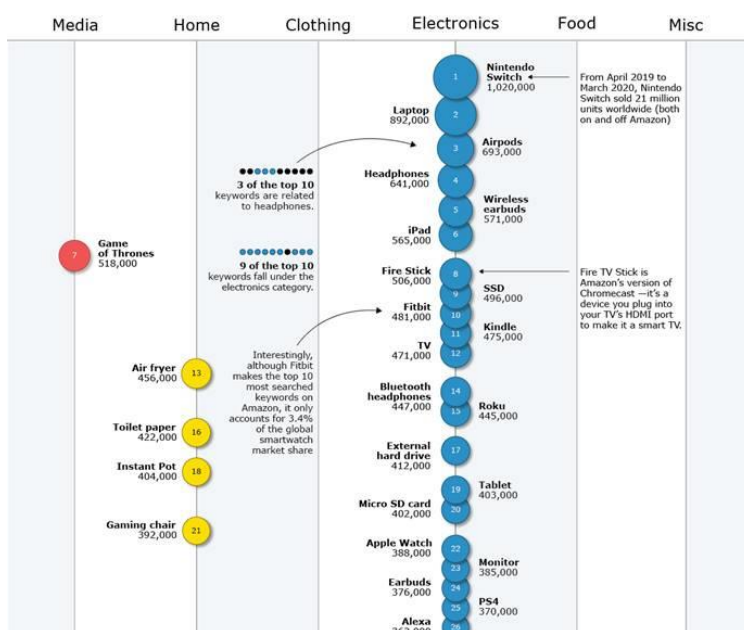
The top 100 product searches on Amazon. When it comes to searching for products online, 66% of US shoppers go directly to Amazon. Thanks to this widespread use, product searches on Amazon provide interesting insights into current consumer behaviour, including what shoppers have been focusing on in 2020.

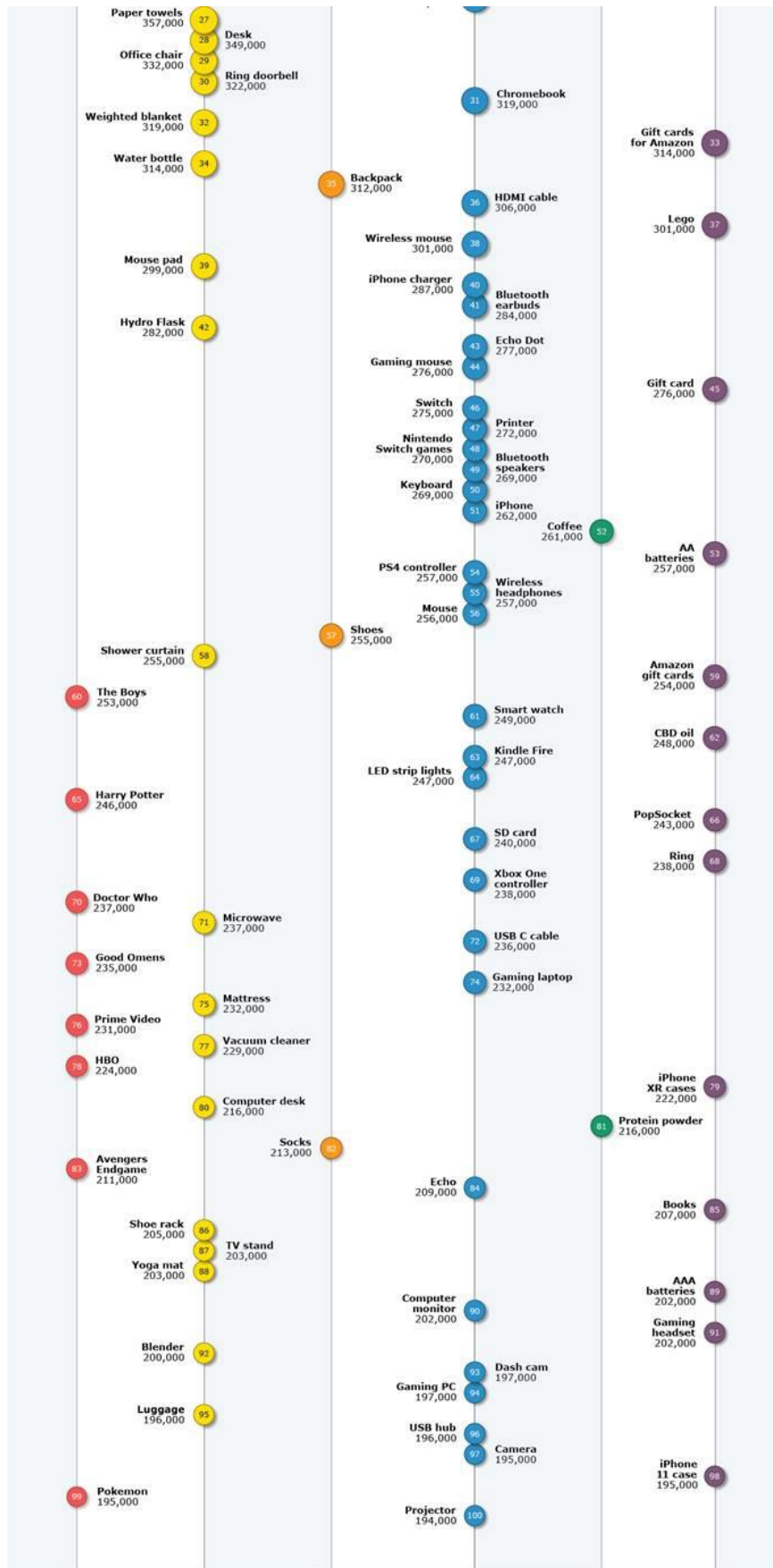


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RANKINGS





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Source: Business Insider, Ahrefs



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