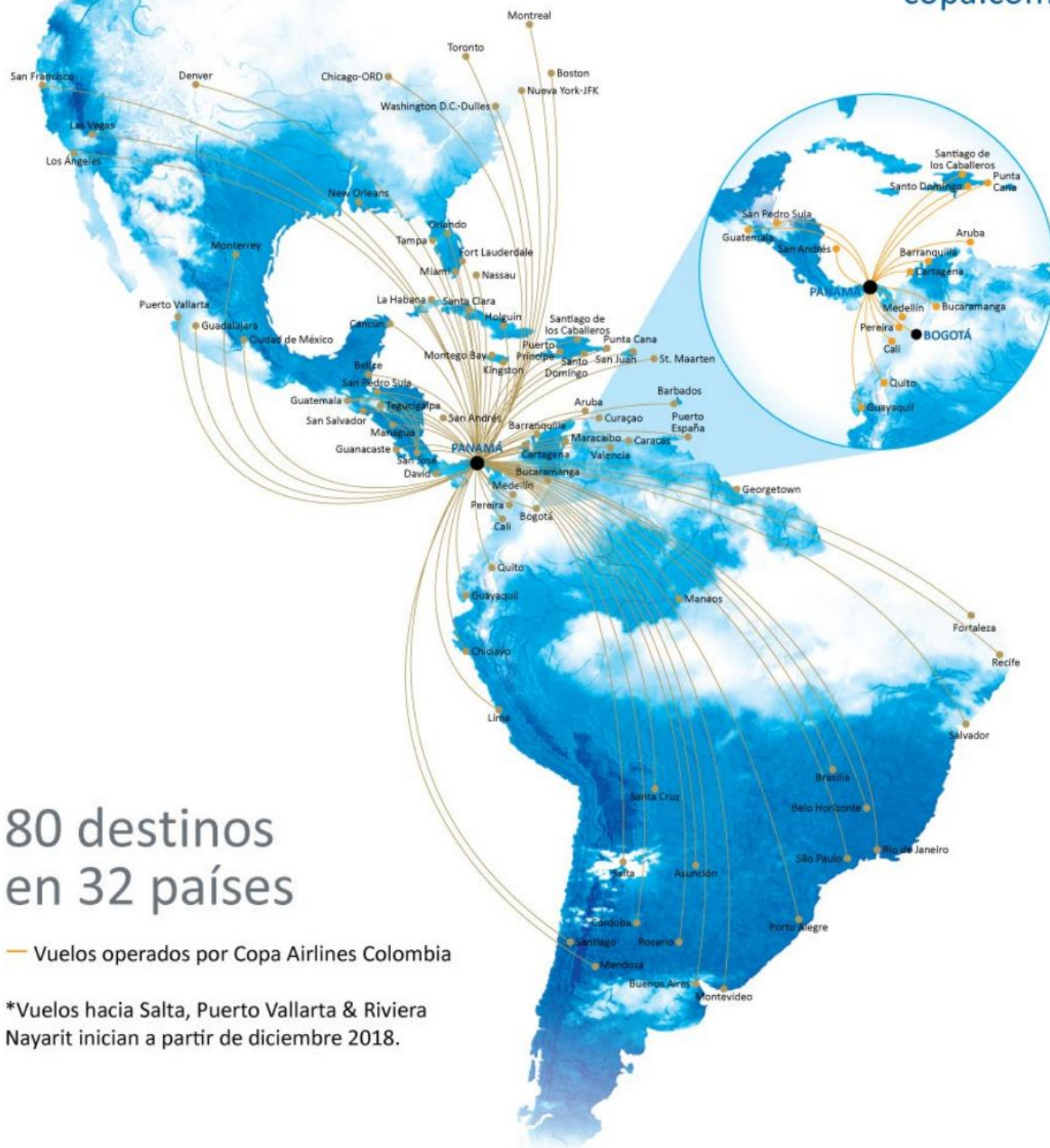




USA OUTLOOK

Weekly newsletter | November 19 to 22



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November 19, 2018

Wall Street sees red as tech shares plunge

Shares in some of the world's largest technology stocks plunged on Monday, dragging the Nasdaq down by 3% to drive a wider market sell-off.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed 1.5% lower while the S&P 500 index ended down 1.6%.

The declines were driven by Apple and Facebook.

Investors dumped stock on fears of a slowdown in iPhone sales as well as continuing tensions over trade between the US and China.

Apple's share price closed down nearly 4%.

The Wall Street Journal reported that lower demand for Apple's new iPhones had impacted on the firms that make the handsets and components after the US company reduced its production orders.

Facebook, which is grappling with continued controversy over its handling of user data and the crisis over Russian election interference, saw its shares fall 5.7%.

Apple shares are now down about 20% from their peak in October, while Facebook shares are hovering at their lowest levels in more than 18 months.

Trade tensions

The two companies are part of a cohort of popular technology stocks, which also includes Netflix, Amazon, and Google's parent company, Alphabet, that have helped propel US markets to new records over the last two years.

Fuente: <https://www.bbc.com/news/business-46268412>

November 21, 2018

Thanksgiving in Paradise after deadly California fires shows #humansaregood

Like so many holidays, Thanksgiving easily risks taking on a numbingly commercial tone. Sponsored parades. Morning show turkey recipes. Black Friday specials.

But if you want to find the real spirit of this quintessentially American tradition, come with us to the hellish landscape of Paradise, California.

On the surface, there would appear to be little for which to be thankful. Flames killed more than 80 people, leveled the entire town of 27,000 residents and charred 150,000 bucolic acres. Now rains are coming, and possible mud slides.

But look closer and you see that Paradise has become Thanksgiving U.S.A. Just ask Denise Scott.

Her roots run so deep in town that when she was born in 1963 there was no hospital, so a doctor delivered her at a onetime nursing home called the Aloha Hawaii Rest Home. Now she has 48 relatives in Paradise, or what little remains of it. Everyone lost everything.

Still, she and her clan are grateful. To be alive. To have each other. And, thanks to an anonymous stranger, to be able to gather in a rented hall in neighboring Chico Thursday to break bread and pass the cranberry sauce.

"It's quite a blessing that someone would do this for us," she says, fighting back tears.

Scott's friend Kelly Laflamme says the lone silver lining of this historic fire is the extraordinary human kindness flooding in from neighboring cities and around the world. Clothing. Money. Food.

Laflamme plans to help serve her neighbors at Thanksgiving Together, an ambitious project spearheaded by chef Jose Andres' World Central Kitchen that aims to serve upwards of 15,000 meals to those displaced by the fire. When a sign-in sheet went up for hundreds of volunteers, 75 percent of the slots were filled in a day.

"The whole pay it forward thing, that's where we're all at," says Laflamme. "It's the right thing to do."

Joining Laflamme at Thanksgiving Together will be celebrity TV chefs Guy Fieri and Tyler Florence. Florence is bringing his wife and children to Chico for the holiday. He says he wouldn't want to celebrate anywhere else.

"It's about letting these folks know that somebody loves them, that someone's more than willing to take a little time out to make them a delicious meal," says Florence, who lives a few counties south of the devastated areas. "We'll have all the hits, the turkey, the mashed potatoes. It's the least we can do."



Fuente: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2018/11/21/thanksgiving-paradise-after-california-fires-shows-humansaregood/2082052002/>



Foto: Shopping

November 22, 2018

Put down the turkey and head to the mall: The holiday shopping season has officially begun

Forget dessert. Millions of Americans are abandoning the Thanksgiving dinner table to head to the mall.

While in years past, shoppers had to line up before dawn on Black Friday to get first dibs on holiday deals, a number of retailers are now flinging their doors open before the dishes have been cleared from the holiday feast. And many are more than willing to skip football to shop until they drop. Of the more than 164 million planning to shop over the Thanksgiving weekend, 21 percent, or 34 million, say they intend to shop on Thanksgiving Day, according to the National Retail Federation, an industry trade group.

Discount seekers who don't feel like braving the cold don't have to leave the house at all; they can shop for sales by clicking on a keyboard. Consultancy PwC forecasts that over 70 percent of shoppers plan to start ticking off their holiday lists on Thanksgiving Day and 55 percent are expected to shop online, up from 45 percent last year.

Thanksgiving won't be the biggest online shopping day of the weekend, however. Cyber Monday is expected to be the winner, with spending forecast to grow 17.6 percent to \$7.8 billion, according to software company Adobe Analytics. That's followed by Black Friday, with a projected uptick of 17.2 percent to \$5.9 billion. Online sales on Thanksgiving are expected to rise 16.5 percent to \$3.3 billion.

While the Thanksgiving weekend officially kicks off the holiday shopping season, Walmart, Amazon and J.C. Penney are among the retailers who began rolling out deals days or even weeks earlier in the race to win shoppers.

Retail spending this holiday season is expected to rise between 4.3 and 4.8 percent as compared to 2017, totaling roughly \$717 to \$721 billion, according to the National Retail Federation.

Roughly 20 customers trickled into the Cabela's in Gainesville, Virginia, Thursday morning as "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" played lightly in the background. The outdoors gear and hunting store opened its doors at 8 a.m. nationwide on Thanksgiving, promising customers deals for holiday shopping.

However, as with many other stores, Cabela's is saving its heaviest artillery for Black Friday. At the Northern Virginia location, a whole section in the middle of the store is covered by plastic wrap, with signs that say "Just like Mom said, No Peeking!"

November 22, 2018

Gas prices fall before Thanksgiving -- but there's a catch

Gas prices fell holiday travelers ahead of Thanksgiving weekend, but the outlook may not be as rosy as the data suggests, according to a report from GasBuddy.

The average price of gas per gallon has fallen by more than 25 cents since October and sat at about \$2.60 as of Wednesday, according to AAA. Prices are projected to sink even further to an average of \$2.57 per gallon by Thanksgiving on Thursday.

However, prices are actually at their highest level for Thanksgiving weekend since 2014, when customers paid an average of \$2.79 per gallon at the pump. The increase in price compared to recent years should dissuade some drivers from making holiday trips.

"While gas prices have dropped in the last month, we'll be paying nearly \$80 million more over the travel period as a country than we did last year. Conversely, we'll be spending \$1.7 billion less than what we spent at the pump during the 2012 Thanksgiving travel period," said Patrick DeHaan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. "With gas prices decreasing in nearly every city every day since mid-October, travelers should be shopping around to find the stations that have passed along the big savings."



Foto: Fox Business

Fuente: <https://www.foxbusiness.com/retail/gas-prices-fall-before-thanksgiving-but-heres-a-catch>

Fuente: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2018/11/22/shoppers-head-online-and-mall-holiday-shopping-season-begins/2055180002/>

Weekly newsletter



Foto: Fox Business

November 22, 2018

Can investors expect a Thanksgiving rally?

Trading can be quiet the week of Thanksgiving, with many traders absent from their desk, while it is a shorter week than usual, with U.S. markets closed on Thursday and having an abbreviated session on Friday.

Despite thinner volumes and a shortened week, overall the week of Thanksgiving has been a good one for equities. According to Dow Jones market data, the broad-based S&P 500 has been up every week of Thanksgiving since 2012 and the S&P 500 has finished every Wednesday-Friday higher since 2012.

The week after Thanksgiving will be the last trading week of November, with all eyes checking to see if markets were able to rebound after a dismal October. Overall, October was the worst month for U.S. markets in years, with all three major indexes closing with sharp losses to post their steepest drop in years.

The tech sector was dinged in October with Amazon, Netflix, Google and Microsoft all posting losses. Tech weakness continued in November, with Apple being particularly hard hit. The iPhone maker was near bear market territory on Monday.

There were a few factors driving stocks over the month including trade concerns, and worries about the health of the housing sector amid a seemingly constant stream of negative data.

Fuente: <https://www.foxbusiness.com/economy/can-investors-expect-a-thanksgiving-rally>