

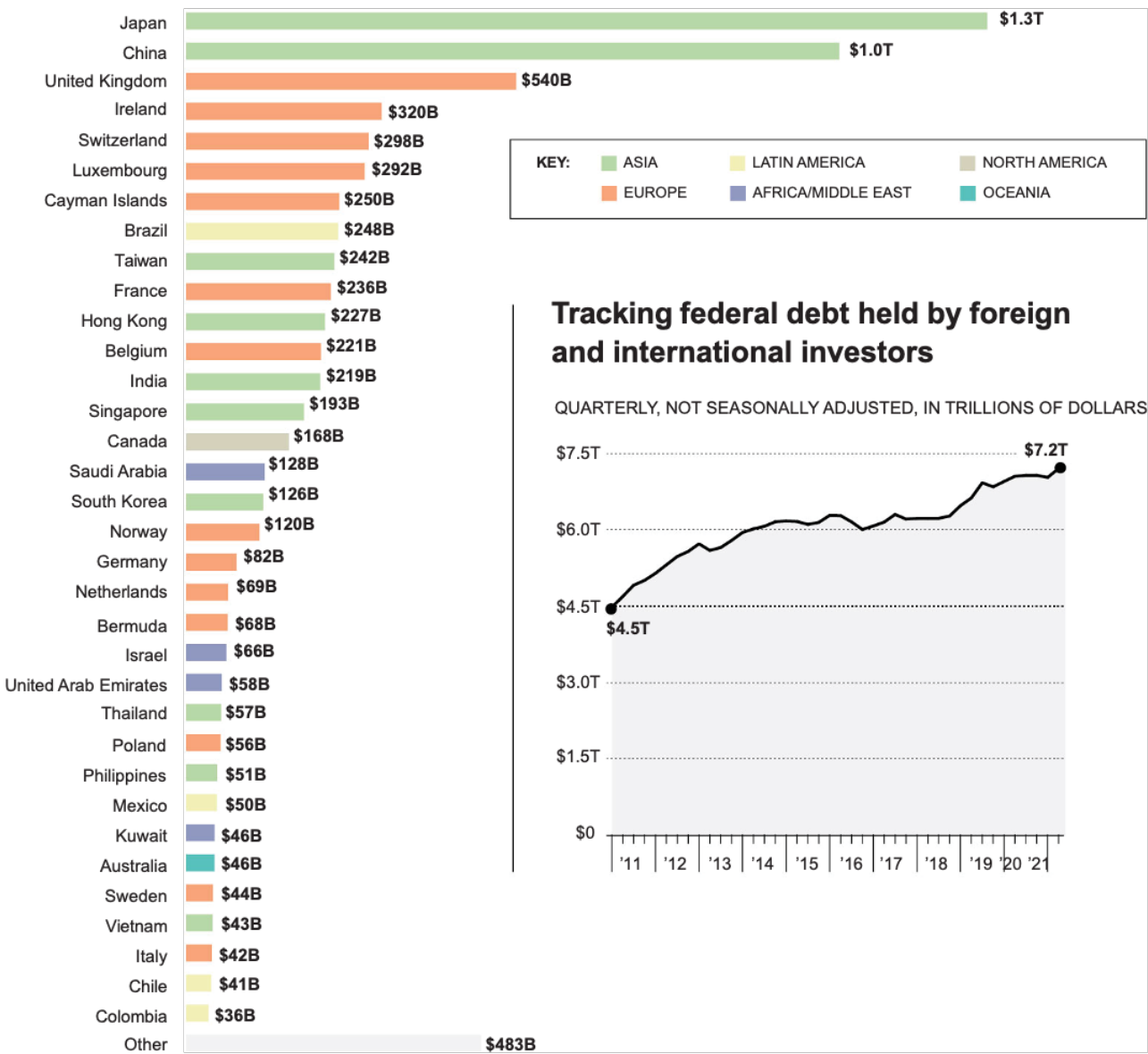


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# Japan, China lead foreign holders of U.S. federal debt

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen warned congressional leaders in a Sept. 28 letter that the U.S. government will likely hit the debt ceiling by Oct. 18. Congress is still at a standoff over raising the debt limit, the cap on how much the government can borrow to pay down the national debt. Seven-and-a-half trillion dollars, or 34%, is owned by major foreign holders of publicly held U.S. debt, according to Treasury Department data as of July 2021. Japan, China, and the United Kingdom were the estimated top foreign purchasers of U.S. Treasury securities.

## Foreign holders of U.S. debt JULY 2021



Sources: Treasury Department, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis