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# BUSINESS FORECAST

JAN 31, 2025

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**Sam M. Walton**  
**College of Business**  
*Center for Business & Economic Research*

**Business Forecast 2025**  
**January 31, 2025**  
**11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**  
**Schedule of Events**

**Welcome**

**Charles Robinson**  
Chancellor  
University of Arkansas

**Special Remarks and  
2024 Contest Awards**

**Brent Williams**  
Dean, Sam M. Walton College of Business  
University of Arkansas

**Introduction of Moderator**

**Brent Williams**

**Introduction of Panelists**

**Rupal Poltack**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Walton Enterprises

**Global Forecaster**

**Dana Peterson**  
Chief Economist and Leader of the Economy, Strategy &  
Finance Center  
The Conference Board

**Domestic Forecaster**

**Sam Khater**  
Vice President and Chief Economist  
Freddie Mac

**Regional Forecaster**

**Mervin Jebaraj**  
Director, Center for Business and Economic Research  
Sam M. Walton College of Business  
University of Arkansas

**Panel Discussion**

**Rupal Poltack, Dana Peterson, Sam Khater,  
Mervin Jebaraj**

**Recognitions and Announcements**

**Brent Williams**

Business Forecast 2025 is in association with the National Association for Business Economics (NABE).  
**Please use Twitter hashtag #BFL2025 for this event.**



**Rupal Poltack** is the chief executive officer of Walton Enterprises. She oversees the Walton family office, Walton Family Foundation and Private Family Trust Company for a single, multi-generational family. Poltack previously served as senior vice president of Fidelity Family Office Services and Fidelity Enterprise Technology. She has over thirty years of financial services experience, including 16 years of working with family offices and seven years at PricewaterhouseCoopers L.L.P. Poltack serves on the Board of Regents and Council for Women at Boston College, where she advises the college trustees and faculty and mentors young adults to define their impact and own success. She also serves as a member of the Northwest Arkansas Executive Council in support of the region's long-term growth and development and on advisory boards for business families. Poltack holds an undergraduate degree in finance from her alma mater, Boston College.



**Dana Peterson** is the chief economist and leader of the Economy, Strategy & Finance Center at The Conference Board. Prior to that, she served as a global economist at Citi. Peterson has worked at the Federal Reserve Board in Washington, D.C., and her research has been featured by U.S. and international news outlets, including CNBC, FOX Business, Bloomberg, BBC, Thomson-Reuters, CNN Finance, Yahoo Finance, TD Ameritrade, Harvard Business Review, Barron's, the Financial Times and the Wall Street Journal. Dana is a member of the Board of Directors of NBER and the Global Interdependence Center, a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the New York Association for Business Economics, the National Business Economic Issues Council and the Forecasters Club. She received an undergraduate degree in economics from Wesleyan University and a master's degree in economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



**Sam Khater** is vice president and chief economist at Freddie Mac and is responsible for the research, analysis, and forecasts of the macroeconomy with a special focus on housing and mortgage markets. Previously, Khater served as vice president of research and deputy chief economist at CoreLogic. Before joining CoreLogic, Khater was a senior economist at Fannie Mae and an economist at the National Association of Realtors®. Khater holds a bachelor's degree in economics and finance from George Mason University and a master's degree in network economics from Georgetown University.



**Mervin Jebaraj** is the director of CBER and has been instrumental in creating and executing economic studies for clients such as the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, the Northwest Arkansas Council, the Walton Family Foundation, Arvest Bank, the University of Arkansas and many others. His work has been noted by the state's business media. Arkansas Business and the Northwest Arkansas Business Journal recognized Mervin in their 40 Under 40 lists and on the Arkansas 250 list. He is an exceptional source of business and economics-related expertise that journalists and business professionals alike rely on to understand how national and regional issues impact Northwest Arkansas and Arkansas as a whole. Jebaraj serves on the Board of Directors of the Northwest Arkansas National Airport and formerly served on the Community Development Advisory Council of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis and the Board of Directors of the National Association for Business Economics. He received his undergraduate degrees in economics and international relations, as well as his master's in public policy and administration, both from the University of Arkansas.

# Global Economic Outlook and Risks

University of Arkansas Business Forecast Luncheon  
31 January 2025

Dana M Peterson



# Global



# Global Economic Outlook & Risks

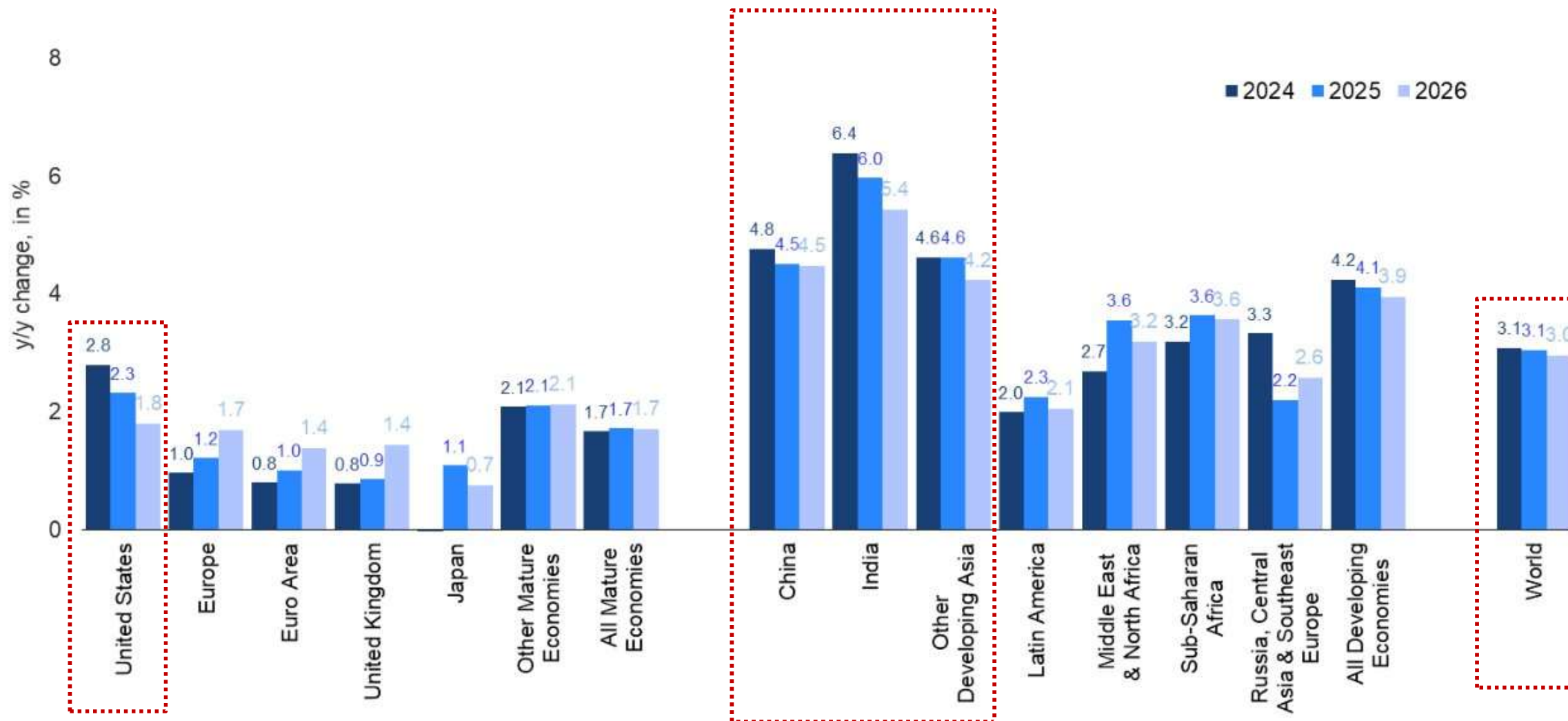
- ✓ Short-term Outlook
  - Drivers of growth
  - Inflation
  - Rates
  
- ✓ Long-term Outlook
  - Drivers of Growth
  
- ✓ Risks to the Global Outlook
  - Downsides
  - Upsides



# Short-Run

# Who Will Drive Global Growth?

## The Conference Board Real GDP Growth Forecasts 2024-26

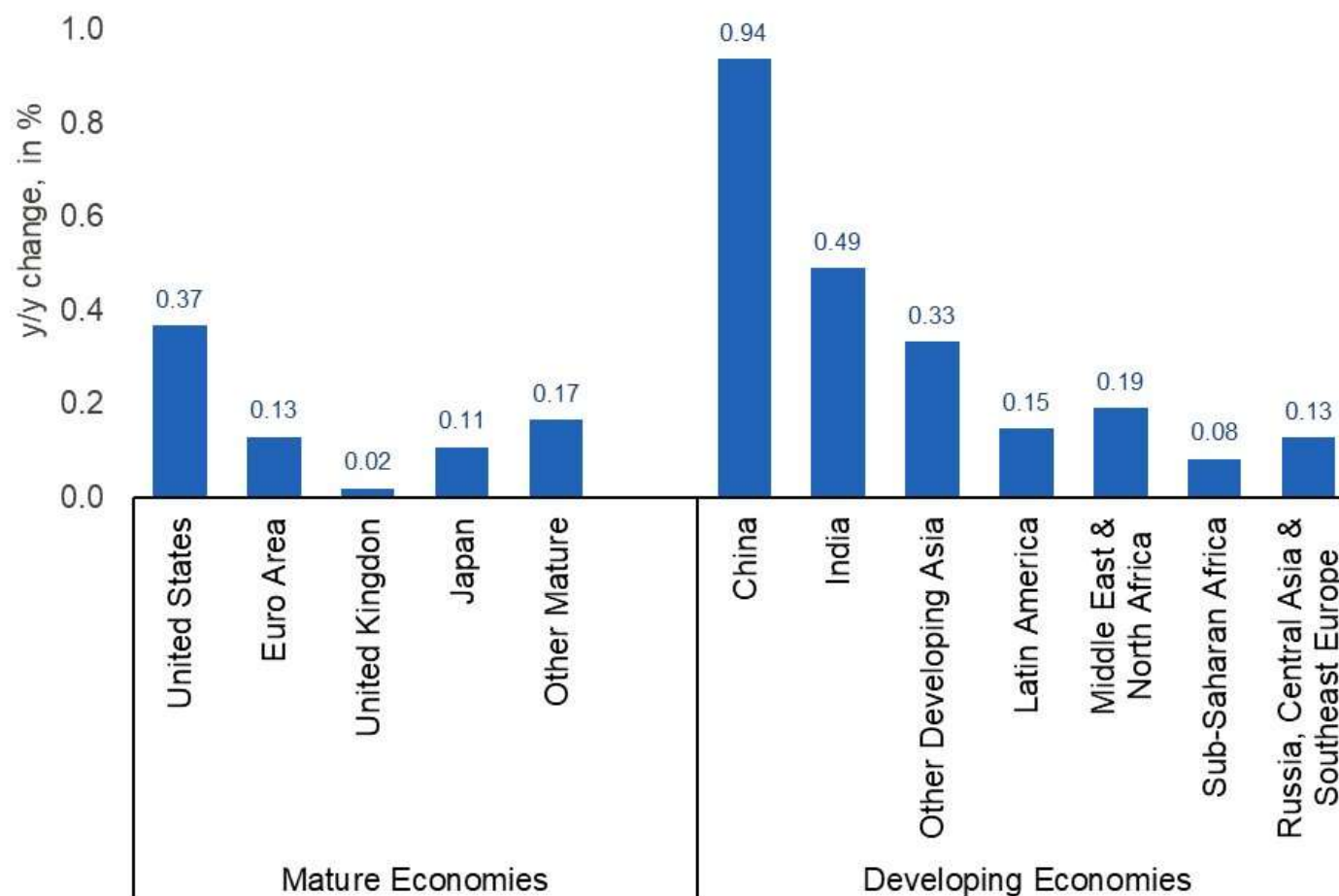


Note: Regional GDP growth rates are aggregated using shares in nominal PPP converted GDP. Source: [The Conference Board Global Economic Outlook](#)



# EM Asia and US to Contribute Most to Global GDP Growth

## Contributions to 2025 Annual Global Real GDP Growth of 3.1%



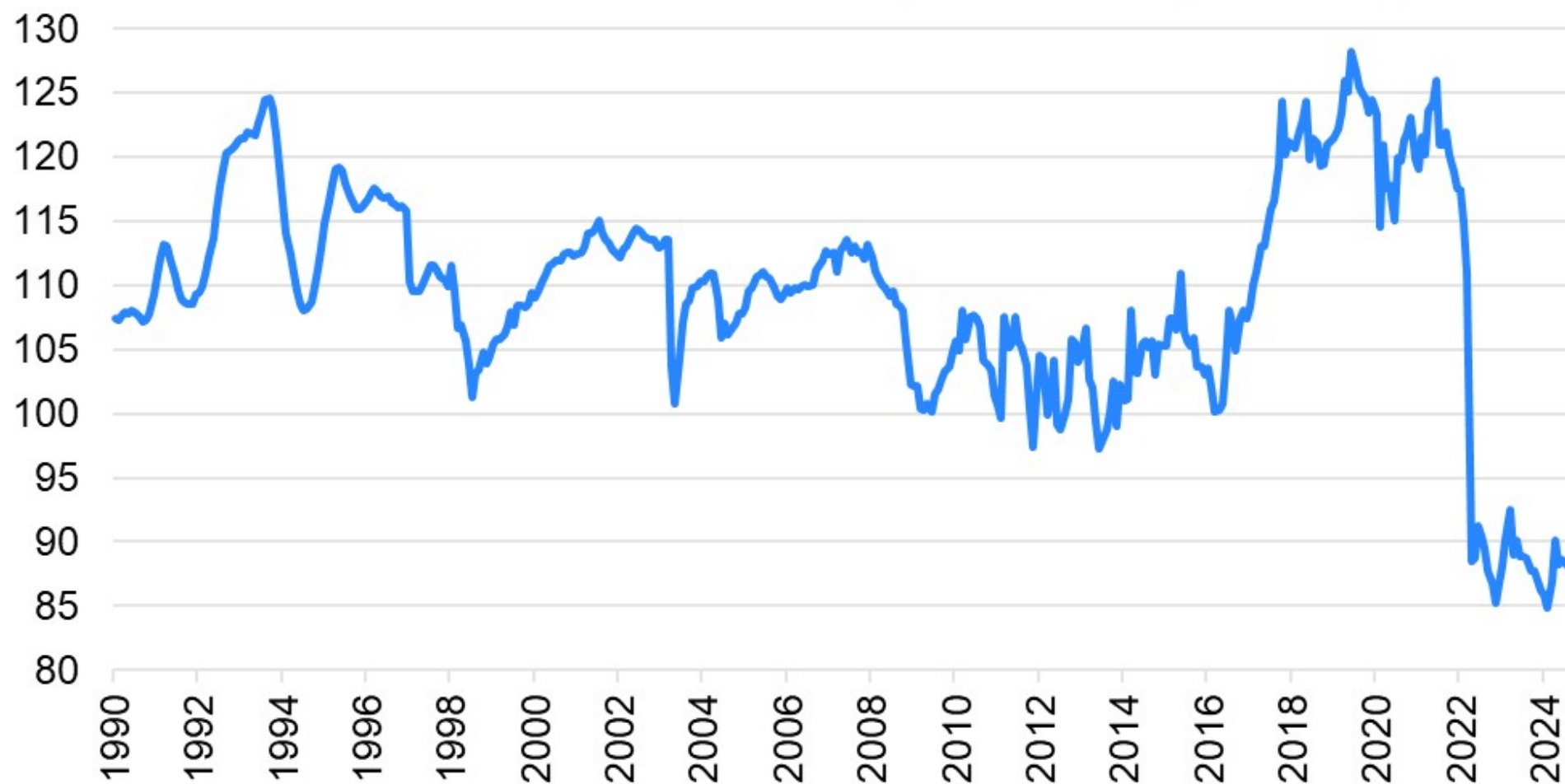
Note: Contributions may not add up due to rounding errors; Contributions are calculated using nominal GDP based on international dollars converted using Purchasing Power Parities; Other Mature include remaining European economies and other mature economies, such as Israel, Australia, Taiwan.

Source: The Conference Board Global Economic Outlook



## China's Consumption Depressed by Low Confidence Amid Housing Crisis

### China: Consumer Confidence (SA, 100+=Optimistic)

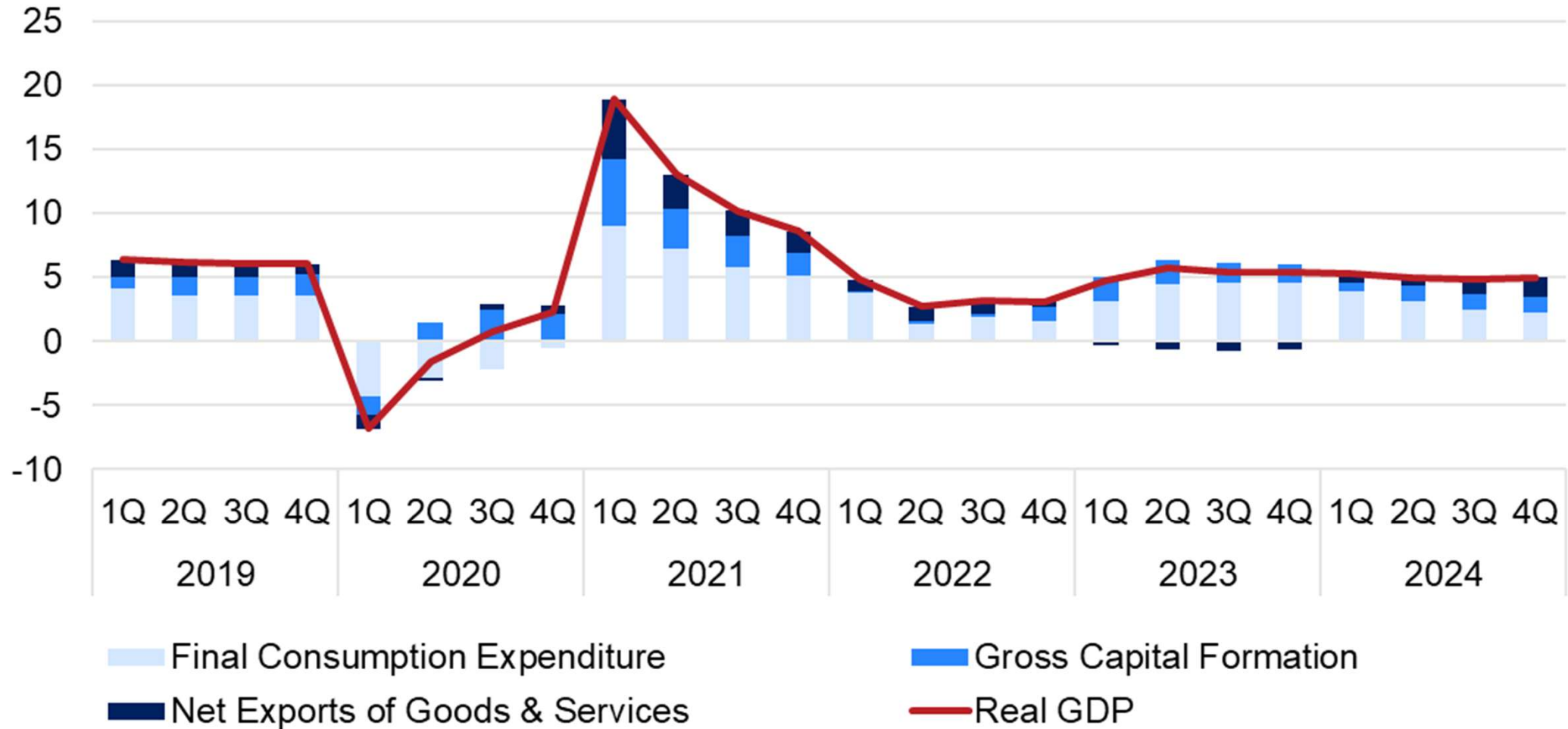


Source: China National Bureau of Statistics/Haver Analytics and The Conference Board



# China Investing in Green Manufacturing and Exports

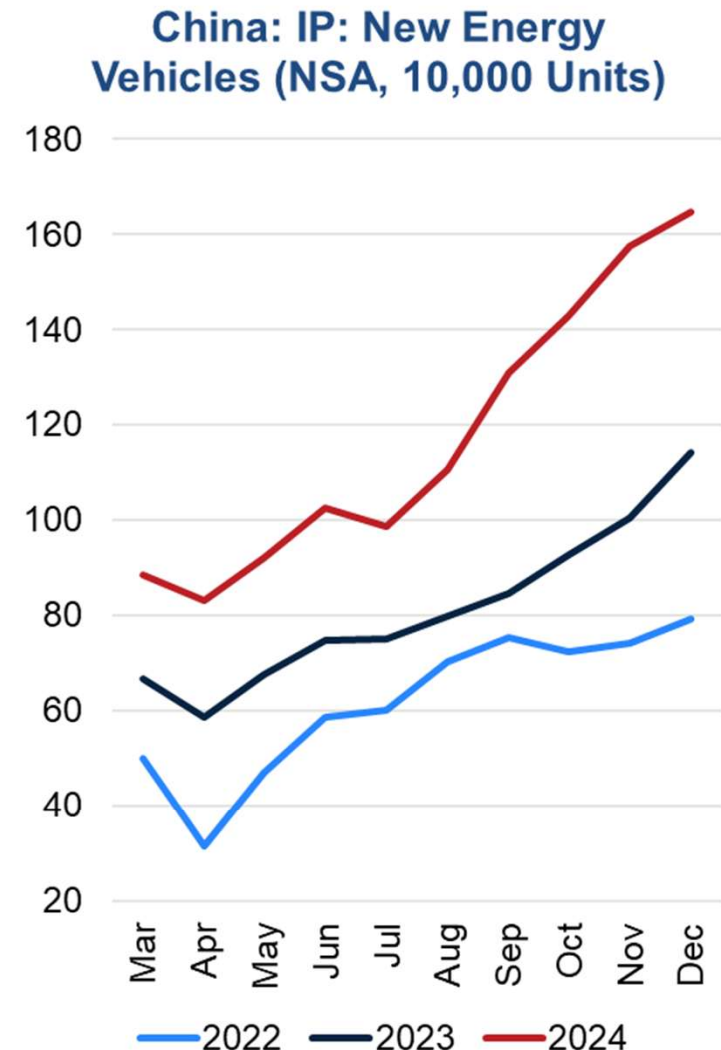
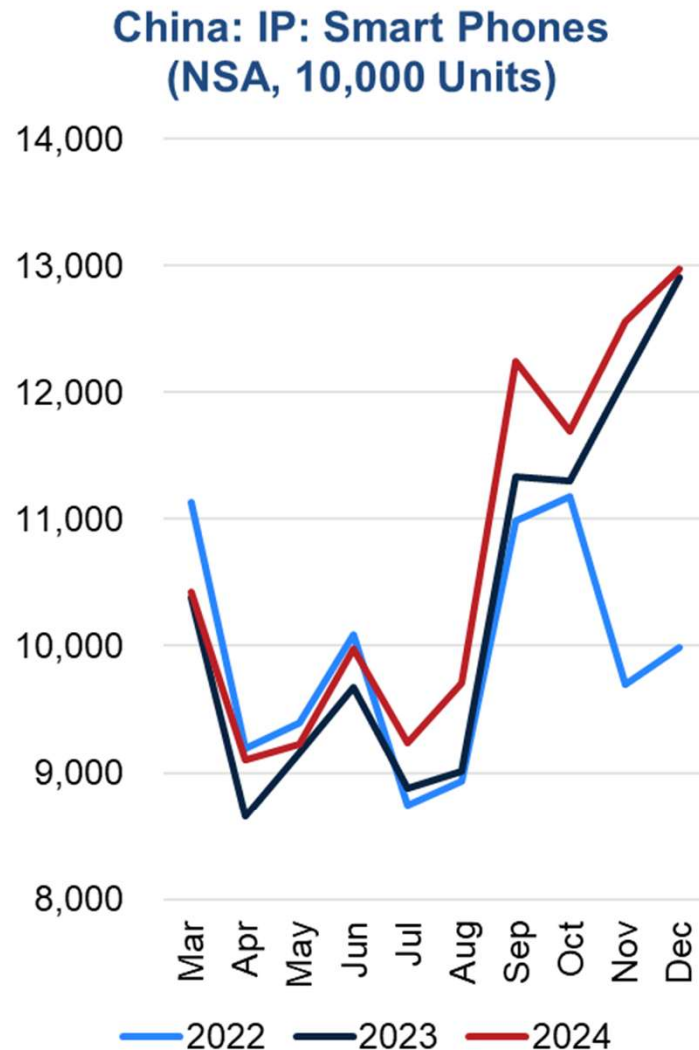
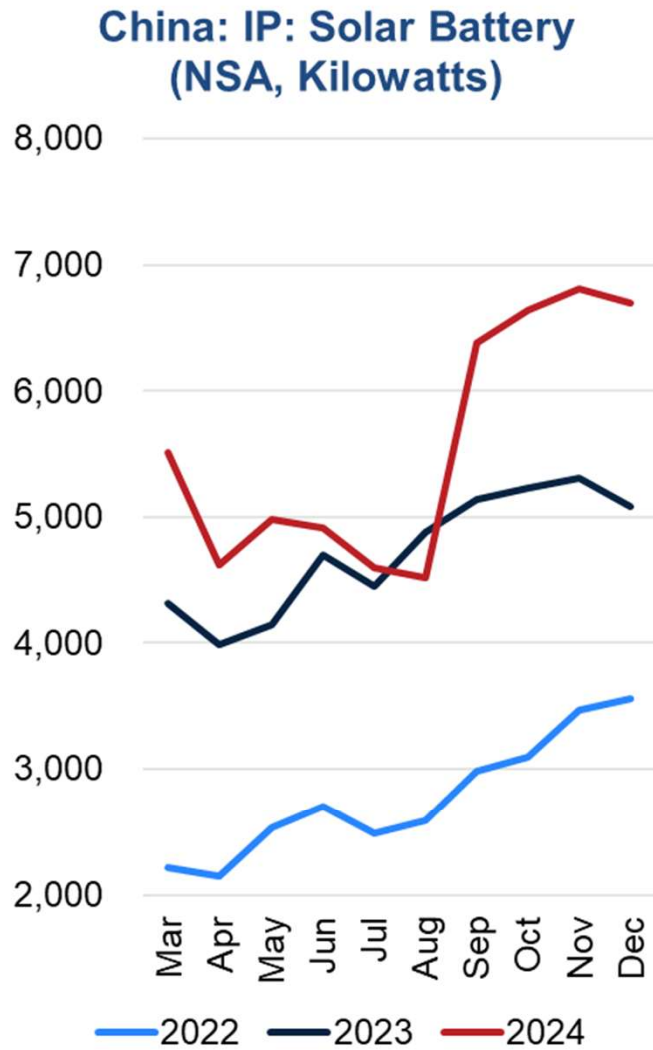
## China - Real GDP Growth (Contributions to YoY Percent Change)



Source: China National Bureau of Statistics/Haver Analytics and The Conference Board



# China Investing in Green Manufacturing and Exports

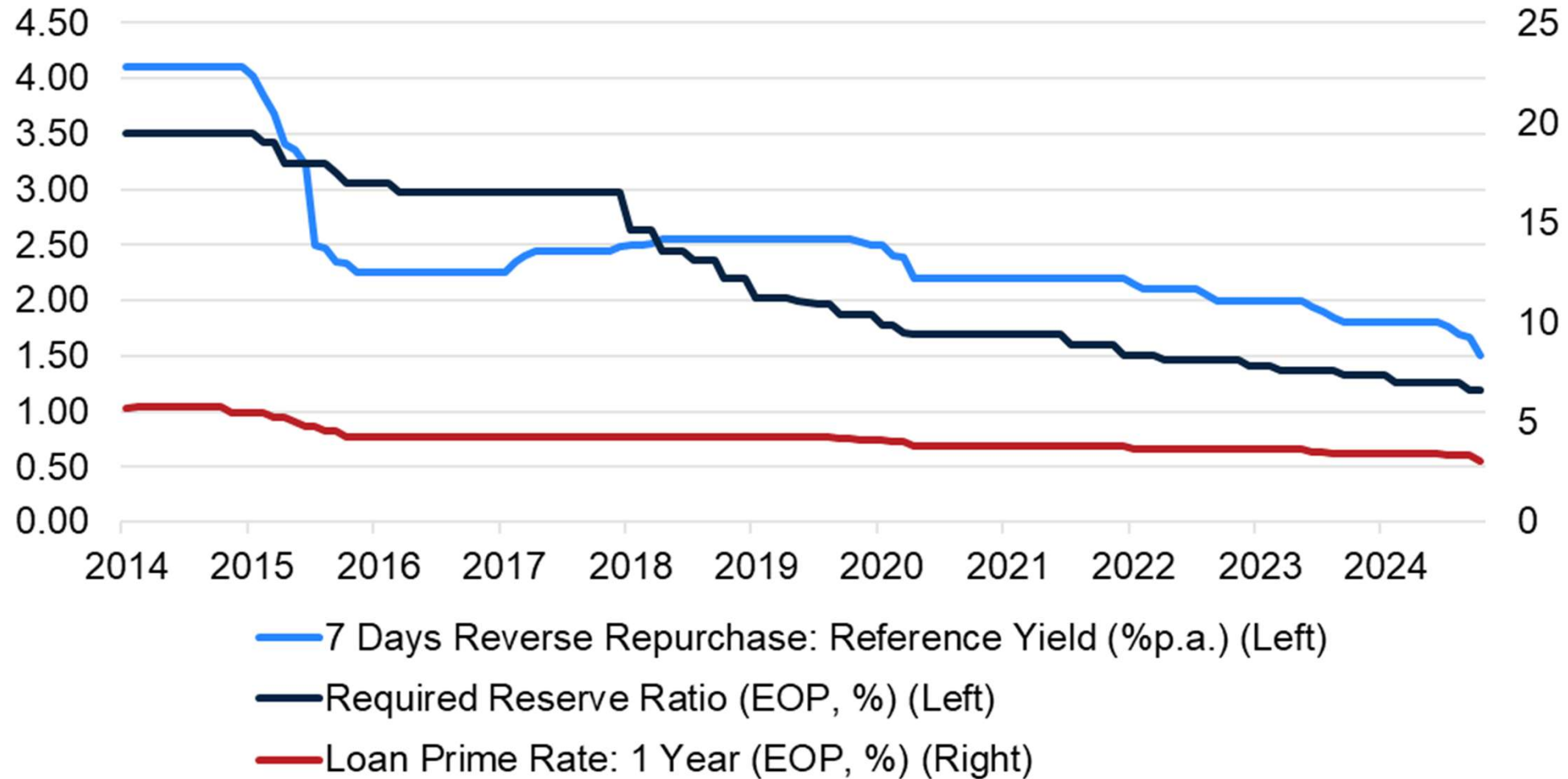


Source: China National Bureau of Statistics/Haver Analytics and The Conference Board



# China Deploying Easy Monetary and Fiscal Policy

## China - Monetary Policy Rates (%)



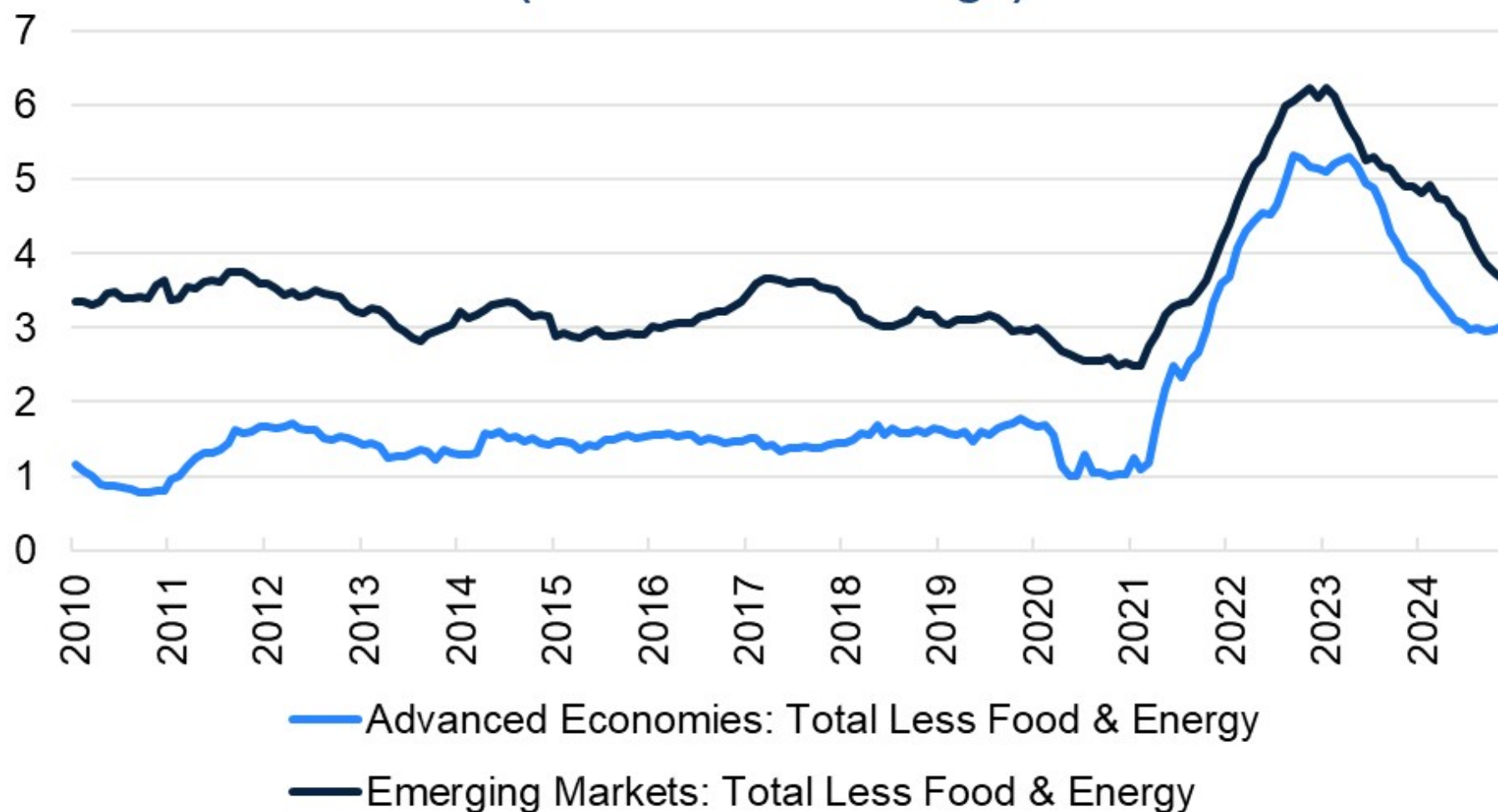
Source: People's Bank of China and The Conference Board





# Inflation Unlikely to Quickly Return to Central Bank Targets

## Global - Core Consumer Price Indexes (YoY Percent Change)

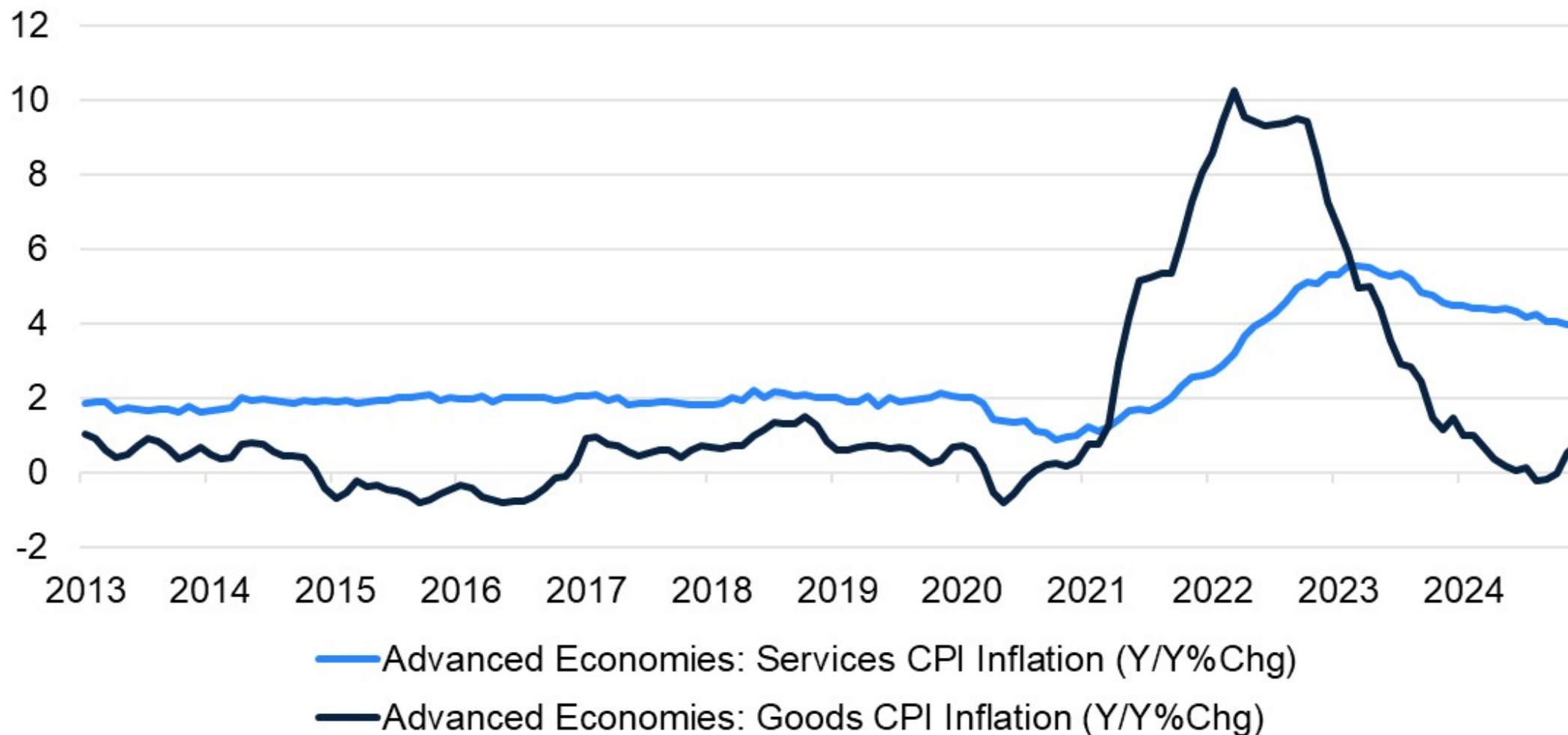


Sources: Haver Analytics, Federal Reserve Board, and The Conference Board



# Services Costs May Remain Sticky

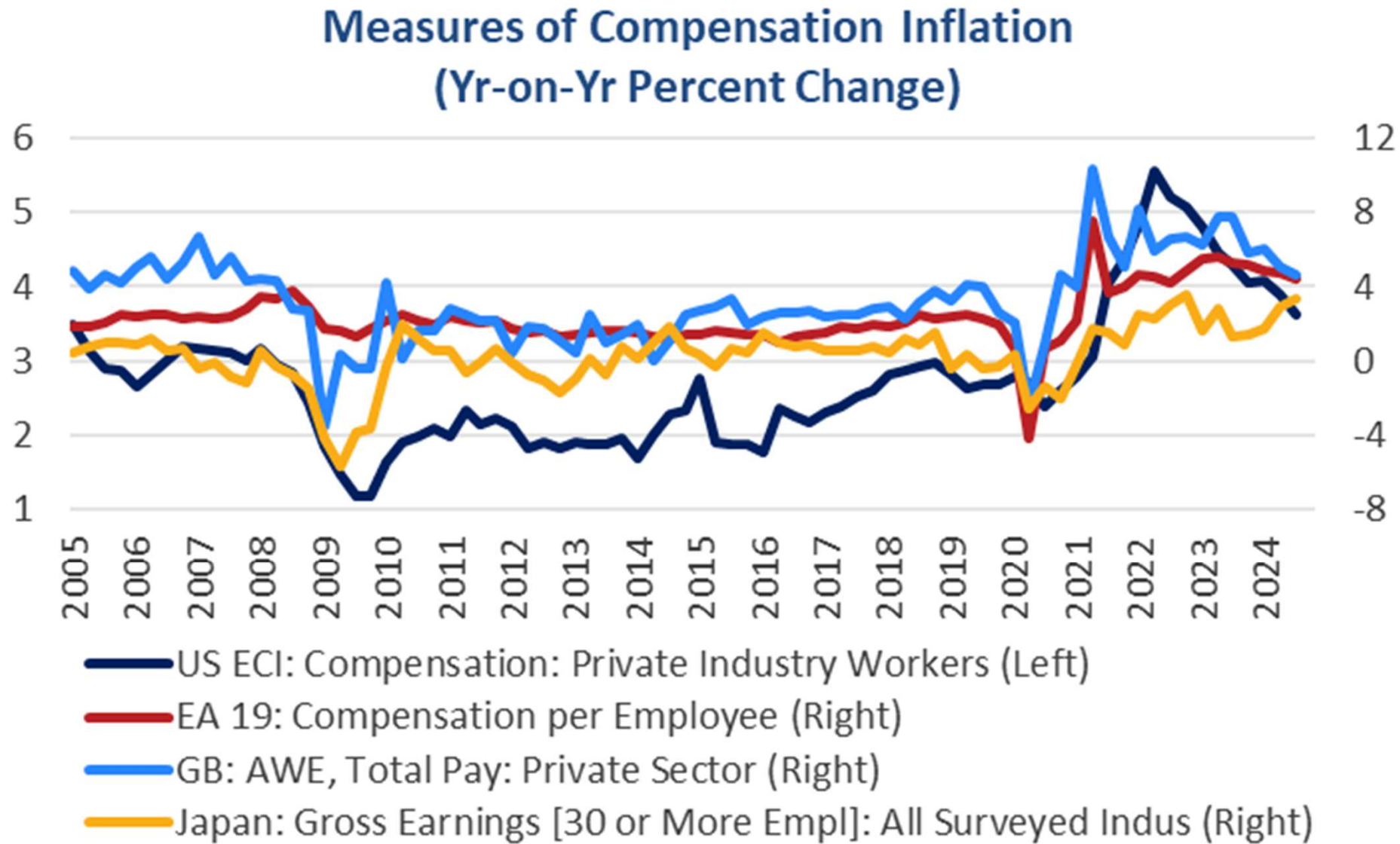
## Advanced Economies: Goods vs. Services Inflation



Sources: Haver Analytics and The Conference Board



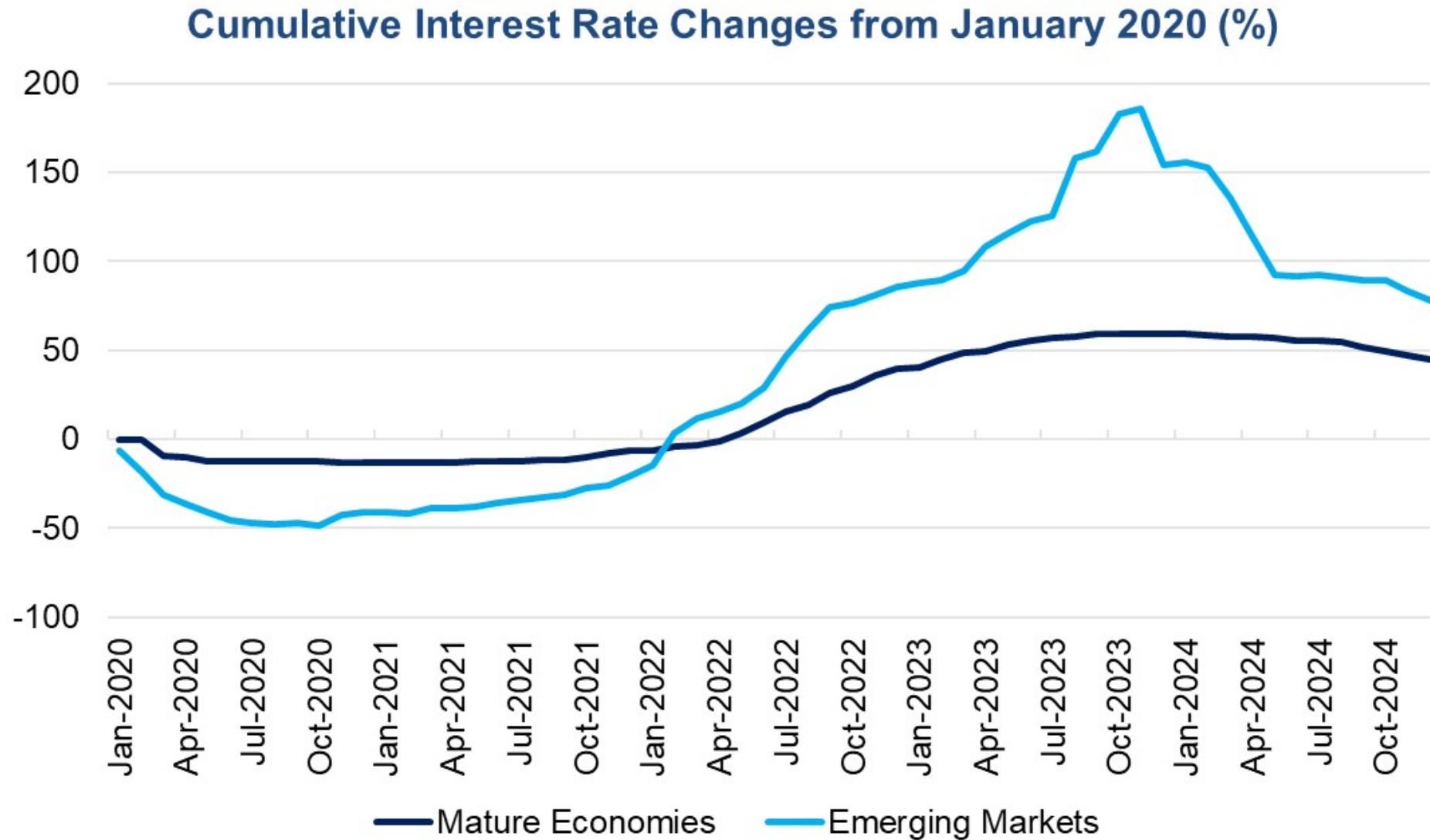
# Labor Shortages to Contribute to Inflation



Sources: Haver Analytics and The Conference Board



# Central Bank Policy Rates Likely to Be Higher Than Pre-pandemic Norms

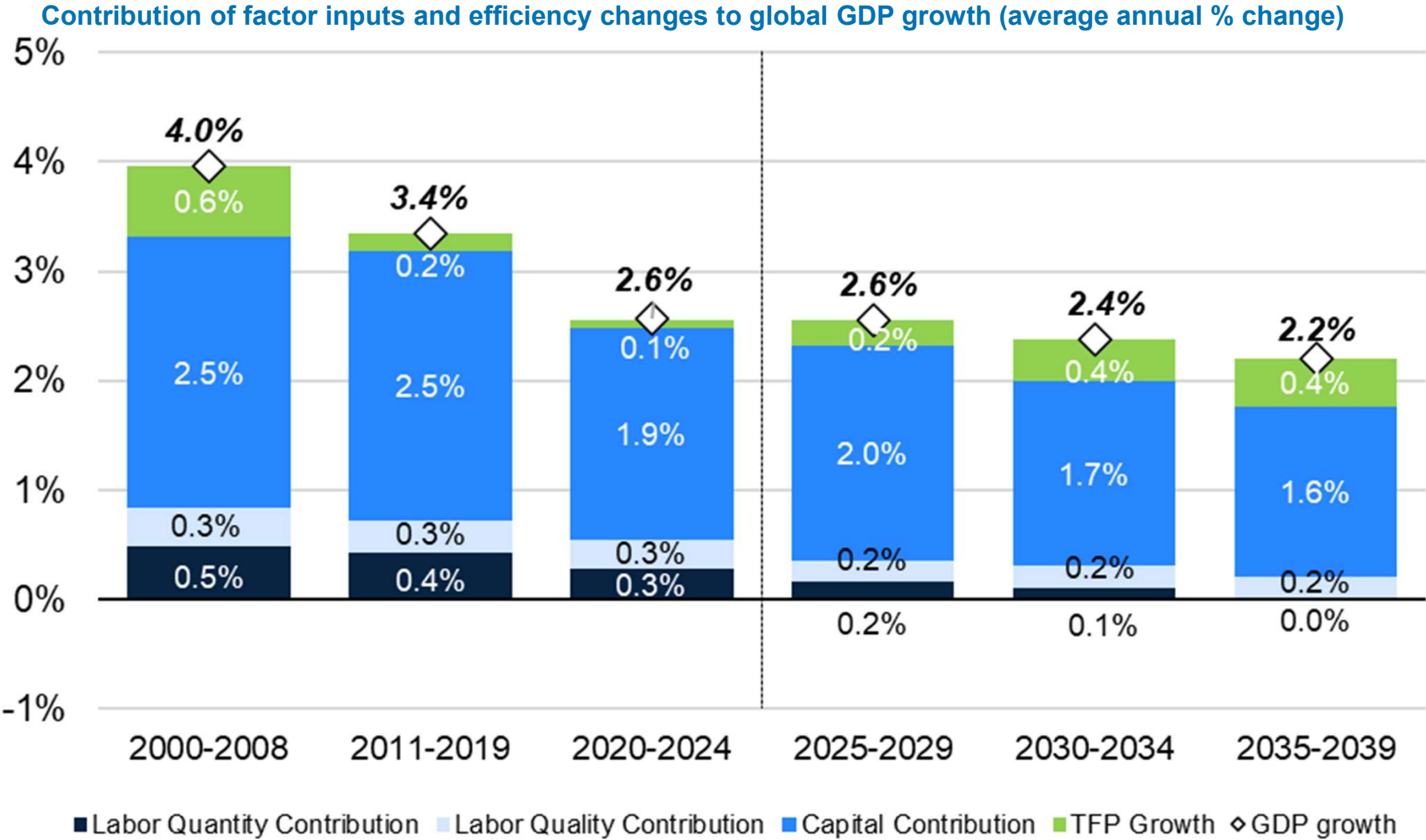


Sources: Haver Analytics, Federal Reserve Board, and The Conference Board



# Long-Run

# Slower Global Growth Ahead

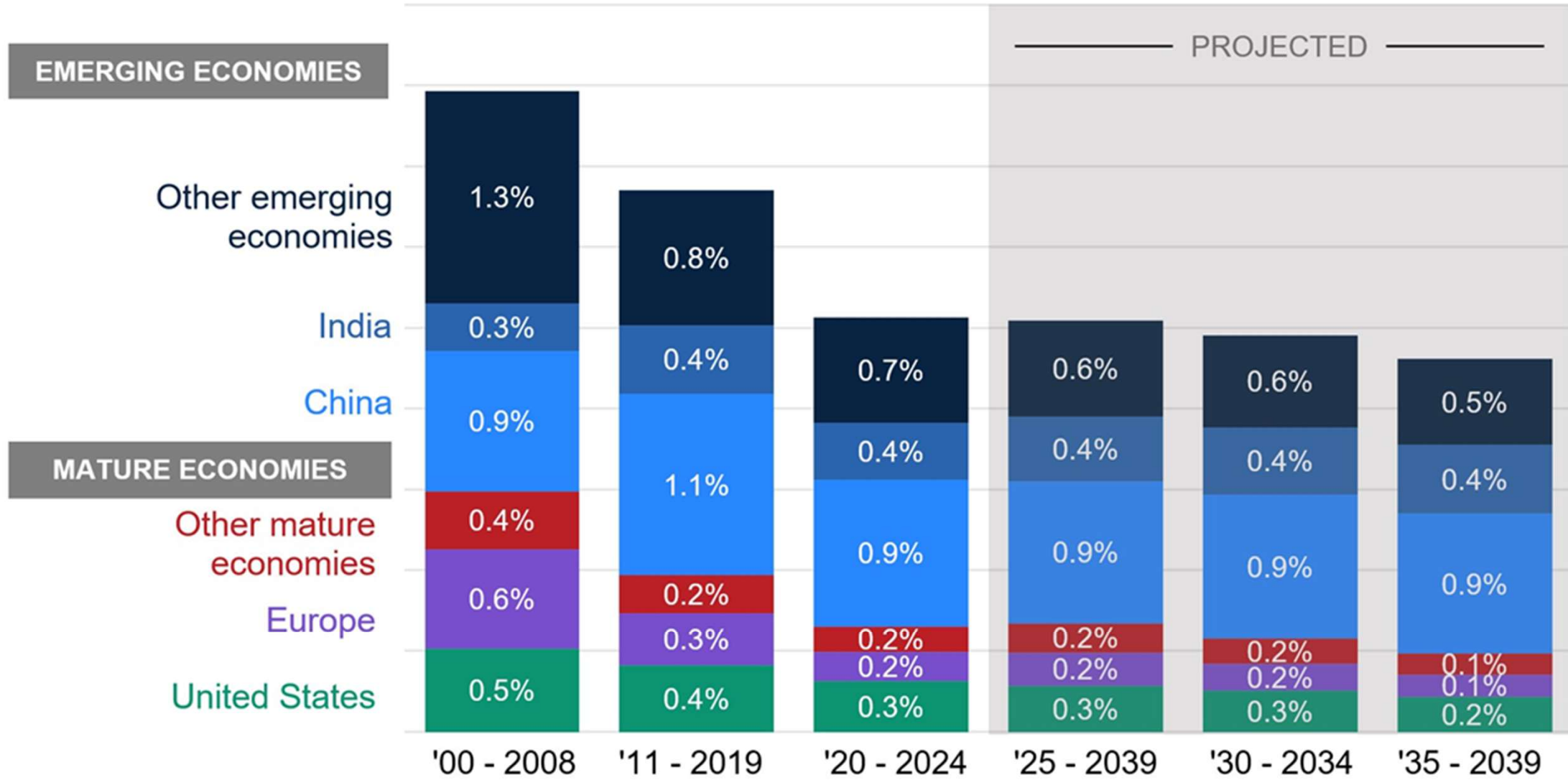


Note: TFP, or total factor productivity, is the sum total of past and ongoing investments in capital infrastructure, human capital, the adoption of existing technologies, and the advent of new technologies that allow economies to become more productive.

Sources: Regional sources and The Conference Board™ Global Economic Outlook.



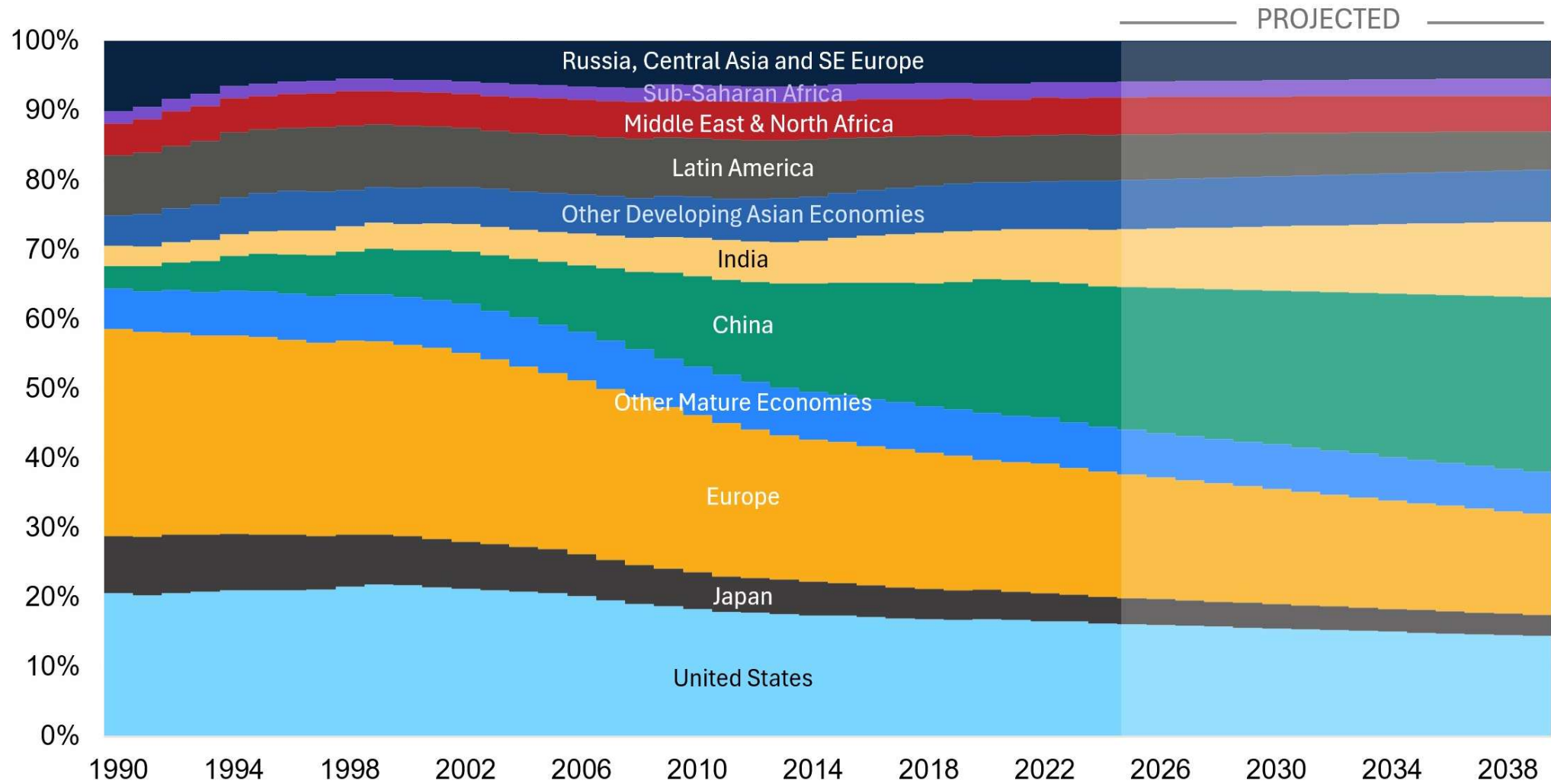
# Asia to Drive Global Growth Ahead



Source: The Conference Board, 2024



# Emerging Market's Share of Global GDP to Rise Further



Source: The Conference Board, 2024





# Risks to the Outlook

## Downside Risks

- ✓ Recession in some regions
- ✓ Upward inflation pressures; higher interest rates compared to past
  - ✓ Labor Shortages
  - ✓ Deglobalization/Trade wars
  - ✓ Energy transition
  - ✓ Insufficient Housing supply
- ✓ Financial crises (Outsized sovereign debt, CRE)
- ✓ Geopolitical uncertainties (Hot and Cold Wars)
- ✓ Natural disasters and climate events
- ✓ Immigration/Migration



# Deglobalization

## Deglobalization Underway: Catalysts Intensifying Trade War Threats

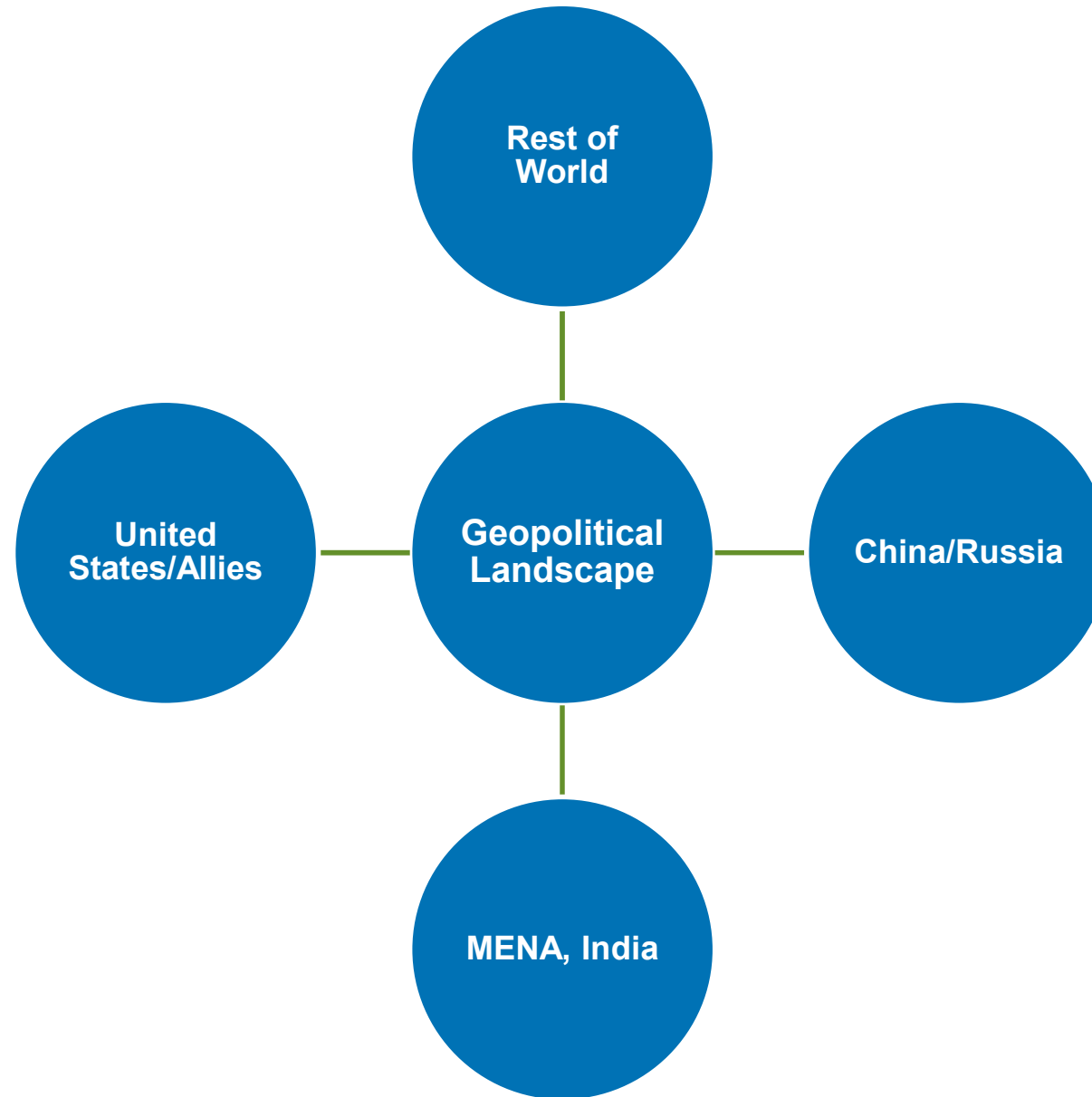
- Protectionism
  - ✓ Trade
  - ✓ Supply chains
  - ✓ Borders and people mobility
  - ✓ Industrial policies
- US – China Competitive Relationship
  - ✓ Tech wars (5G, AI, batteries, chips)
  - ✓ Trade wars (goods, IP)
  - ✓ Investment wars (capital, R&D)
  - ✓ Military conflict (hard power)
  - ✓ Global influence (soft power)
  - ✓ Causing multi-polar world



Sources: The Conference Board.



# China-US Competition Generating Multipolar World



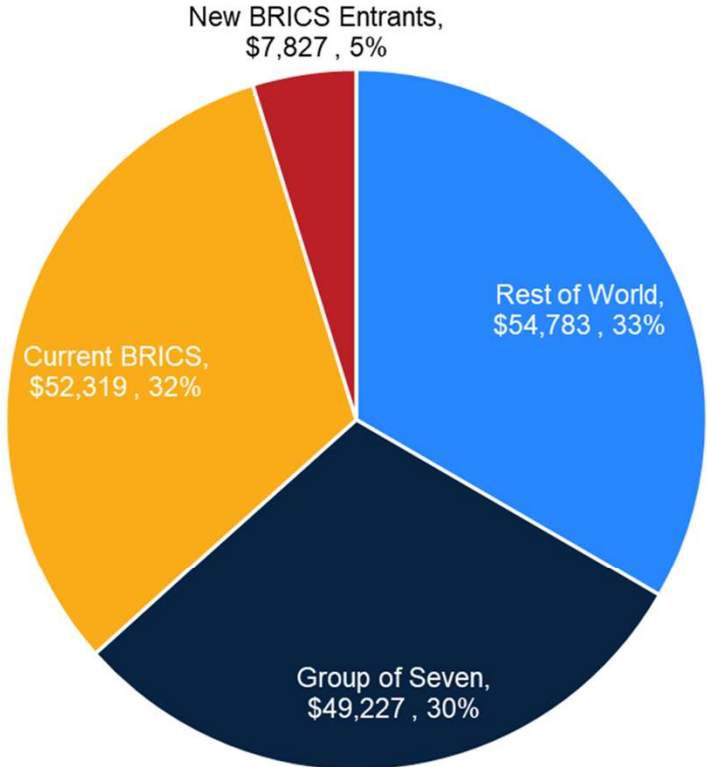
Sources: The Conference Board.



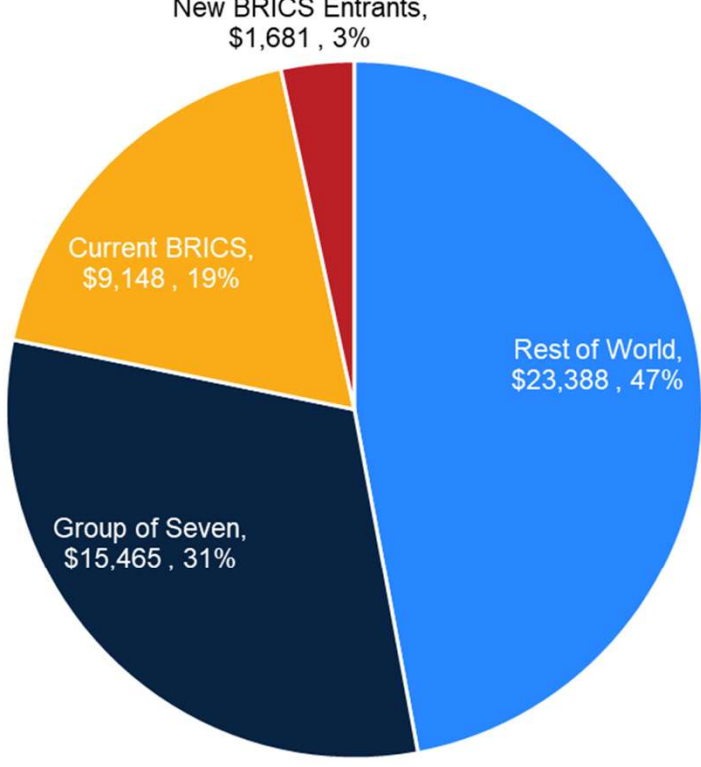
# BRICS Expansion to Rival G-7 in GDP and Trade; Challenge USD Dominance

## BRICS expansion would increase the bloc's share of global GDP and trade

Nominal PPP Weighted GDP (Bil. \$, Percent of World): 2022



Total Nominal Trade (Bil. \$, Percent of World): 2022

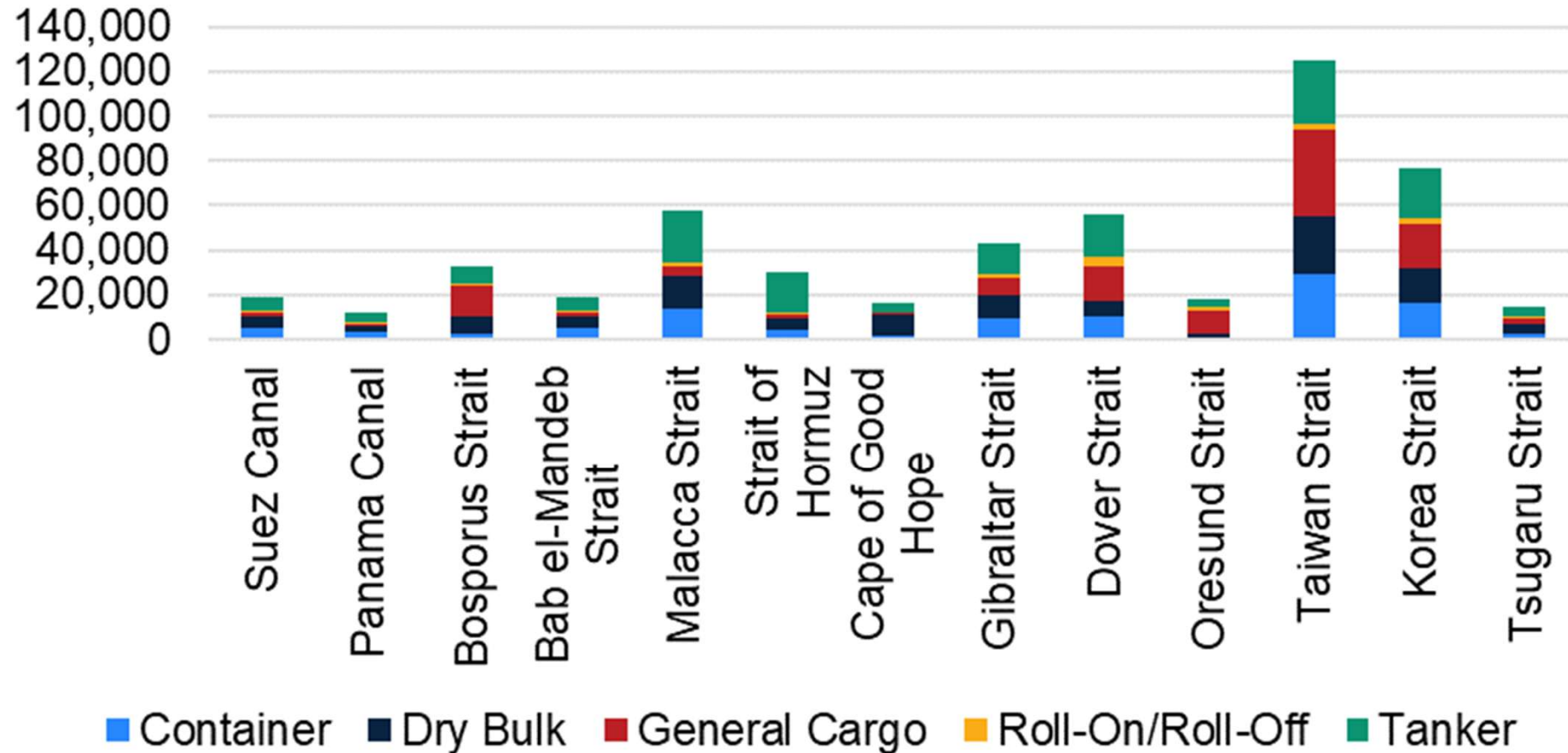


Sources: World Bank, International Monetary Fund, and The Conference Board



# New Supply Chain Disruptions

## Global Freight Vessels by Chokepoint (Annual number of vessels and type)



Source: [IMF Port Watch in Partnership with Oxford University](#) and The Conference Board, 2023

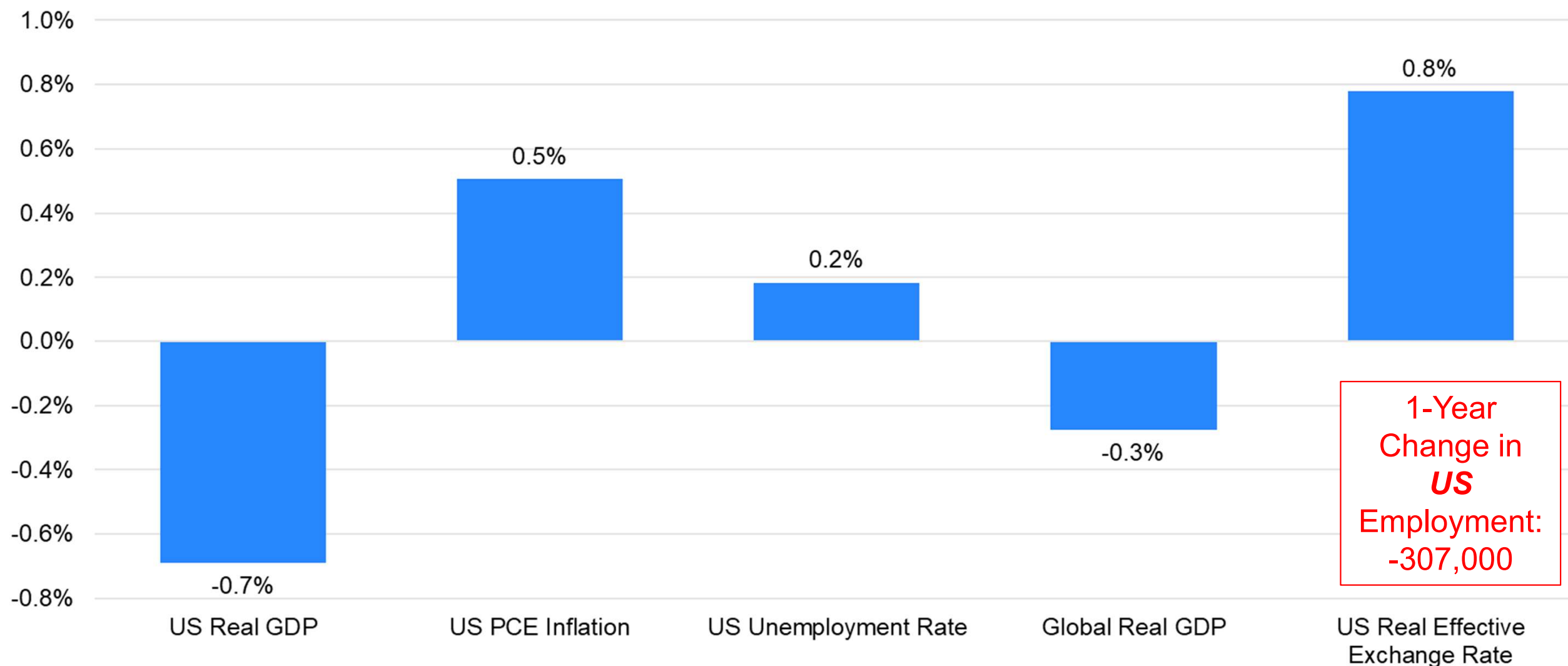


# Trade Wars 2.0



# Tariff Scenario: US 10% Tariffs on All Economies

US 10% Tariff on All Imports (Difference from Base case, Y/Y% Changes)

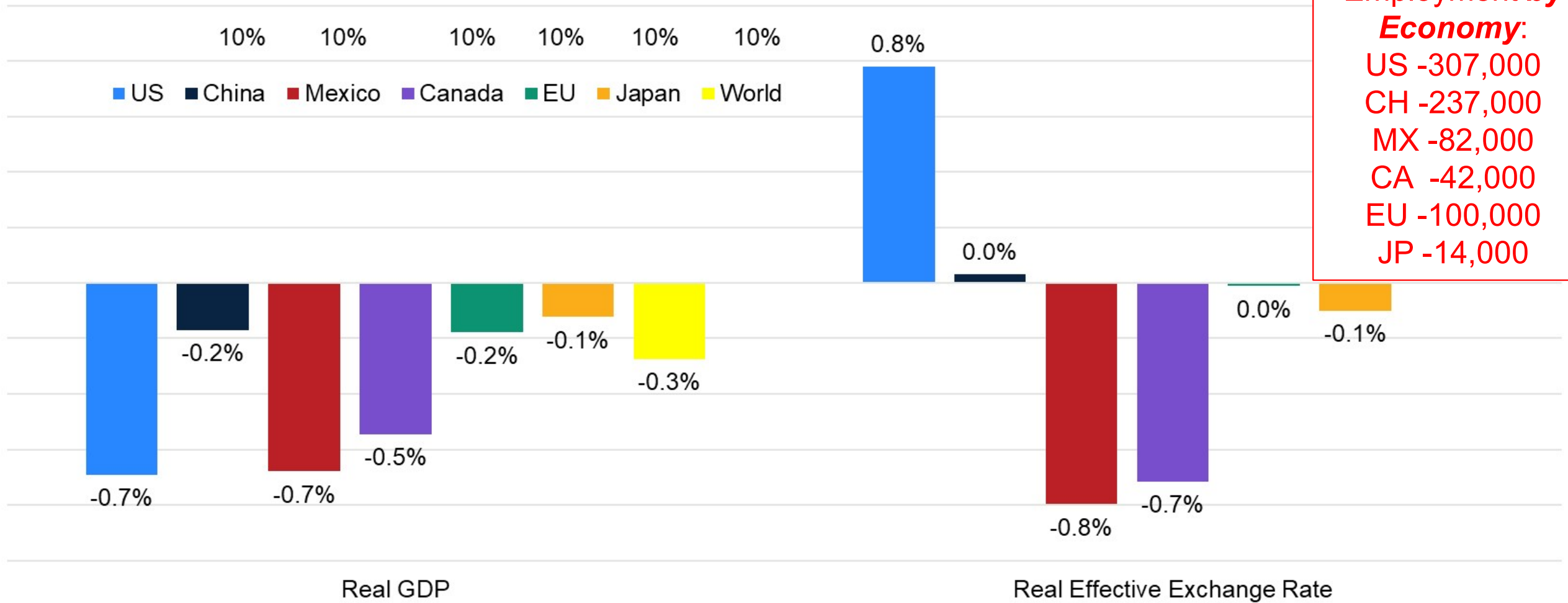


Note: Scenarios do not include retaliatory actions by targeted economy. Source: Oxford Economics Model and The Conference Board estimates.



# Tariff Scenario: US 10% Tariffs on All Economies

Effects of 10% US Tariff on All Imports (Difference from Base case, Y/Y Percent Changes)



1-Year Change in Employment *by Economy*:

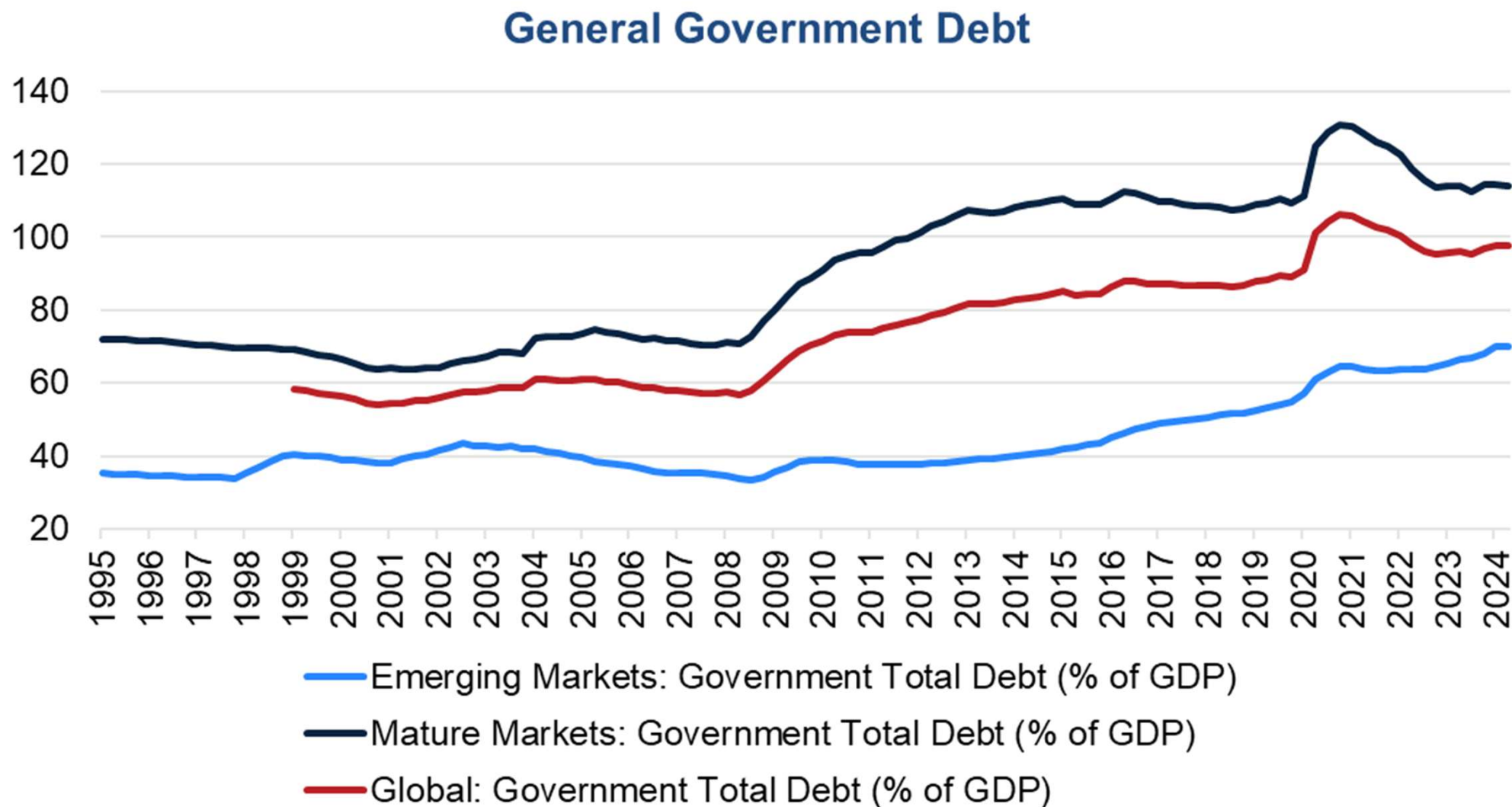
- US -307,000
- CH -237,000
- MX -82,000
- CA -42,000
- EU -100,000
- JP -14,000

Note: Scenarios do not include retaliatory actions by targeted economy. Source: Oxford Economics Model and The Conference Board estimates.



# Fiscal Crises

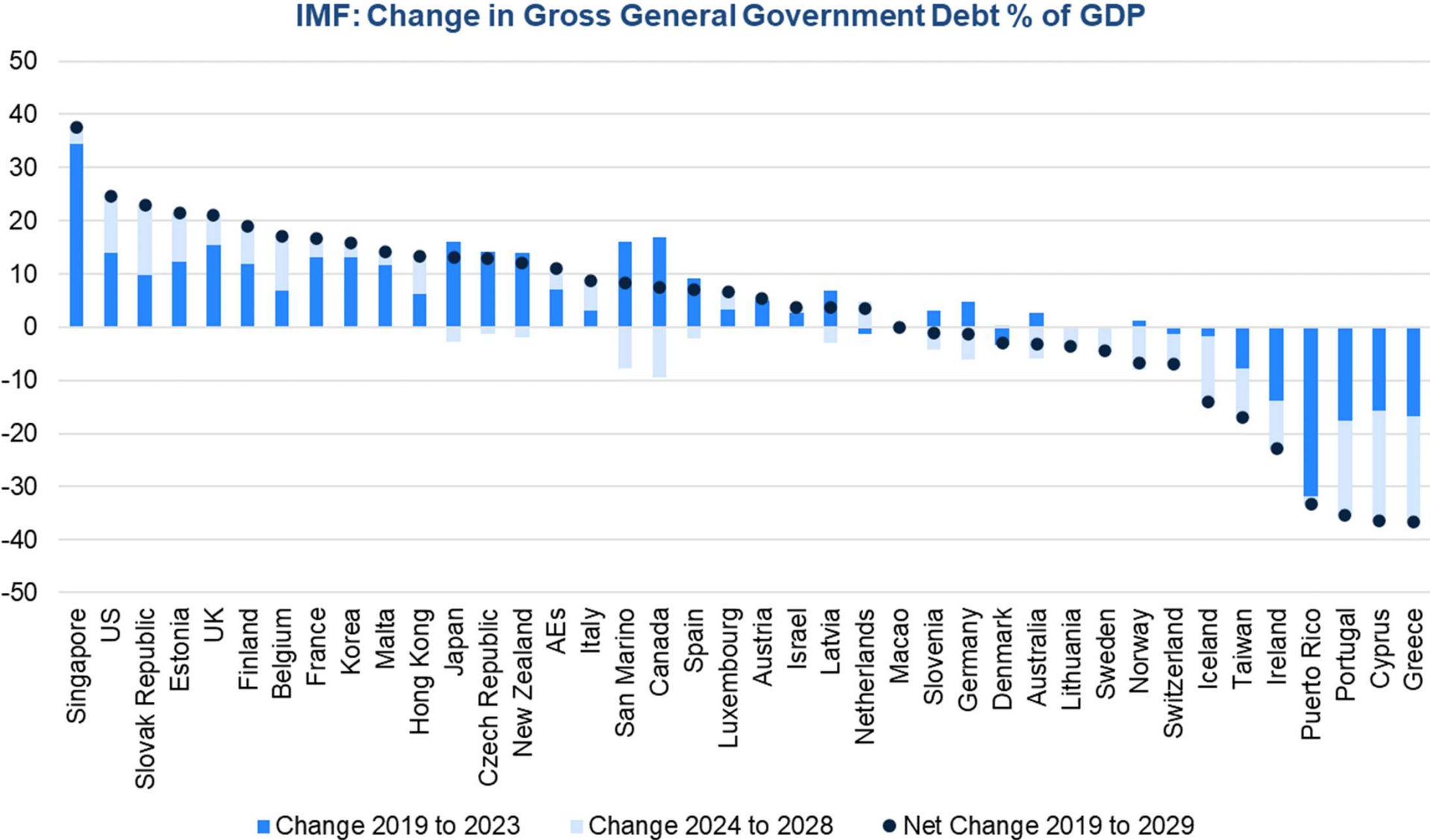
# Global Debt as a Share of GDP is Elevated



Sources: Institute for International Finance and The Conference Board.



# Debt and Deficits to Expand for Many Economies Ahead

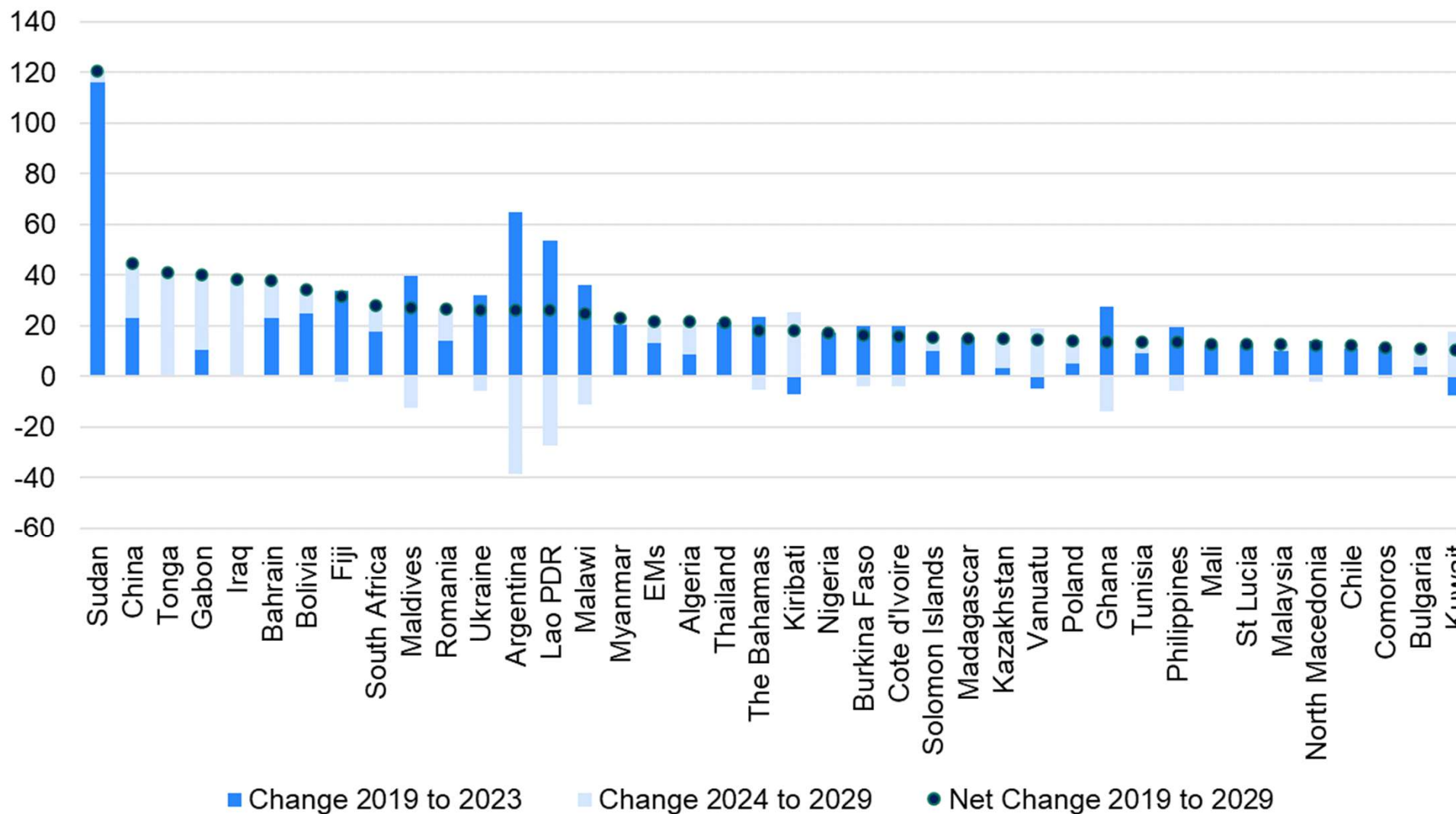


Source: International Monetary Fund and The Conference Board.



# Debt and Deficits to Expand for Many Economies Ahead

IMF: Change in Gross General Government Debt % of GDP



Source: International Monetary Fund and The Conference Board.



# Labor Shortages

# Fertility rates are below replacement rate of 2.1 for many large economies

Fertility rate (total number of births per woman), 2023



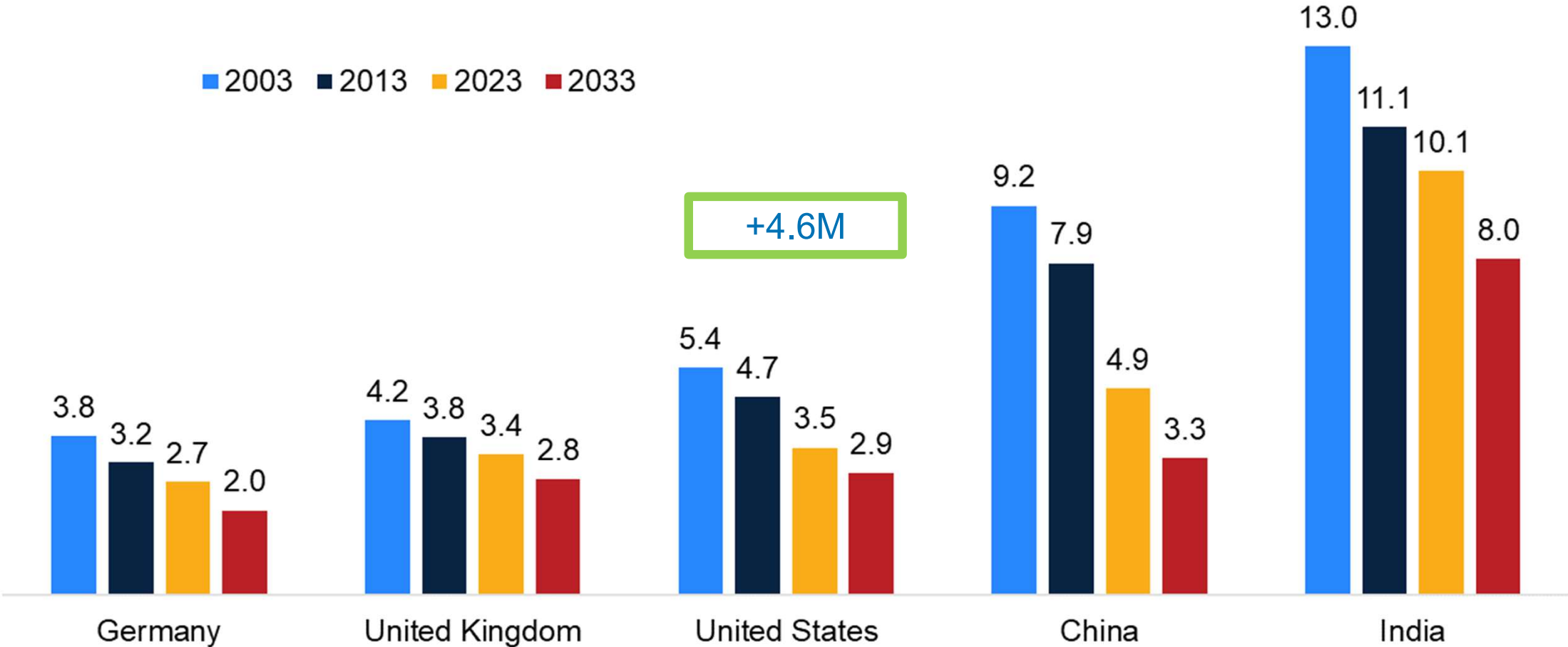
Sources: Census Bureau and The Conference Board





# US Suffering From Shrinking Working-Age Population

### Potential Workforce: Number of People Ages 16 to 64 per Person Age 65+



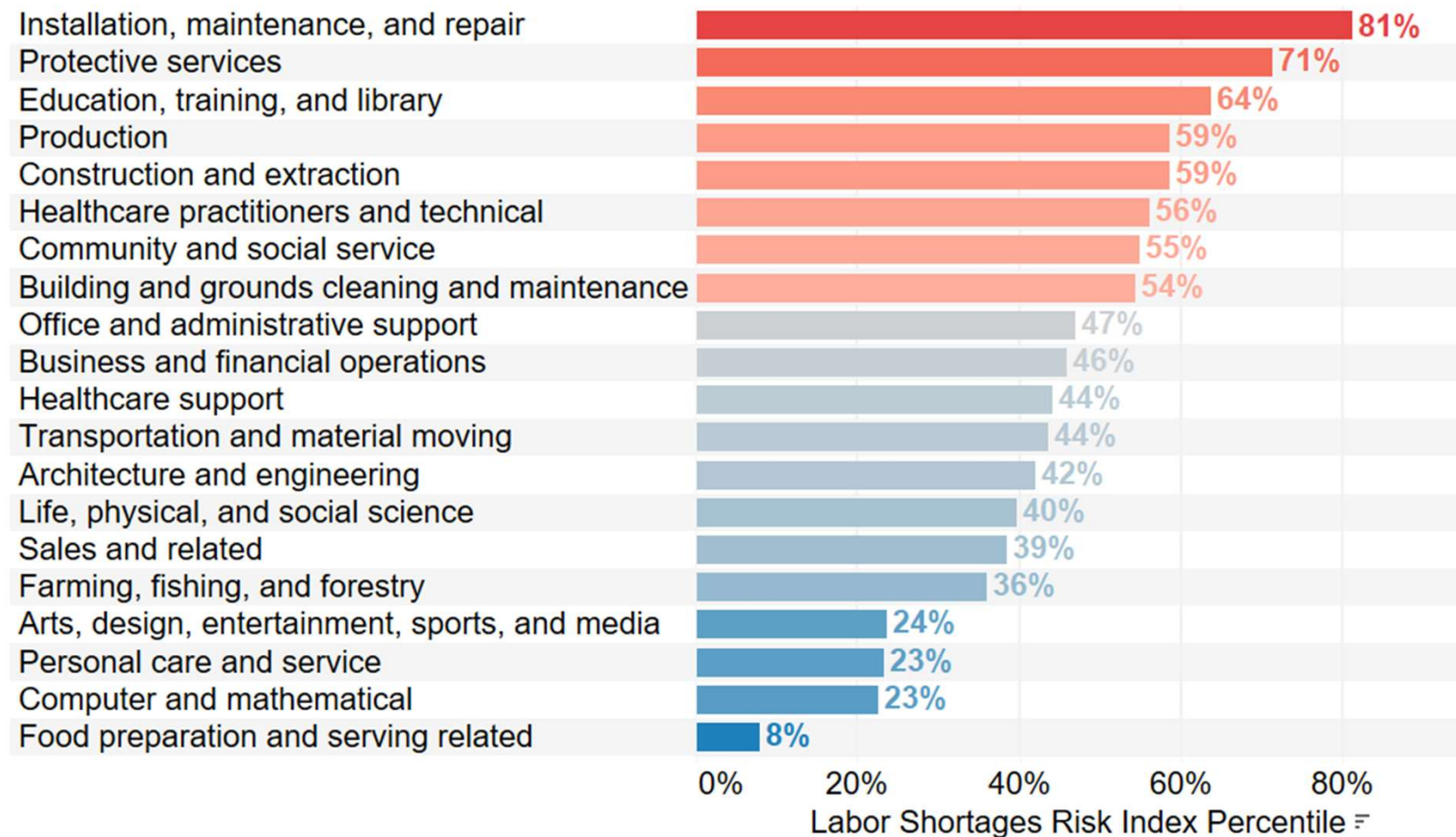
Source: Census Bureau and The Conference Board.



# Which Jobs Are At Most Risk of Labor Shortages Over Next Decade?

Future Occupational Labor Shortages Risk Index, aggregated to 2-digit SOC level by employment-weighted percentile

Front-line/  
In-Person  
Workers

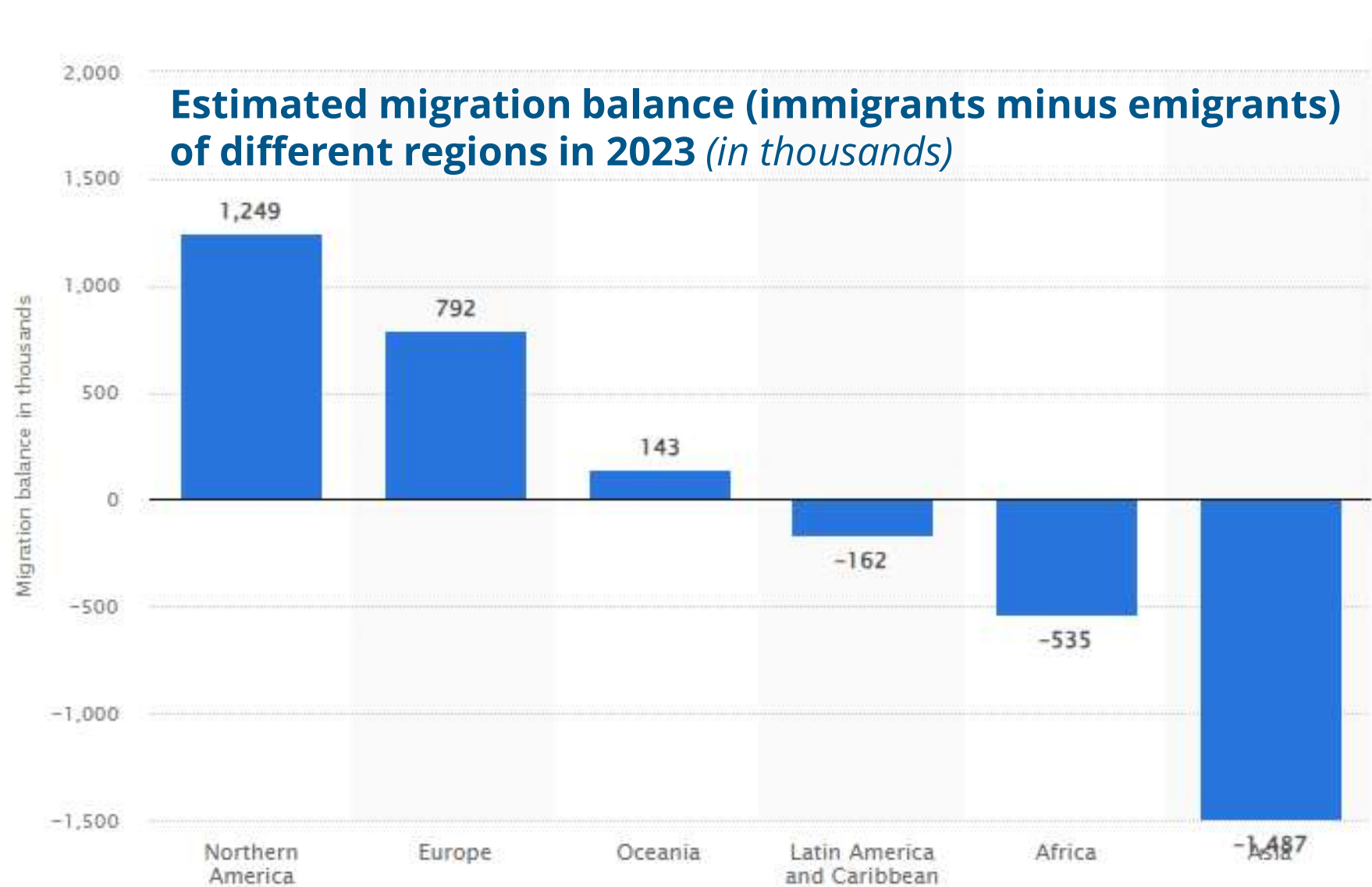


Source: [The Conference Board Future Occupational Labor Shortages Risk Index, 2024.](#)



# Migration

# Poverty, Conflict, Climate Events Contributing to Migration Flows



Sources: Statista: <https://www.statista.com/statistics/273000/estimated-migration-balance-by-continent/>

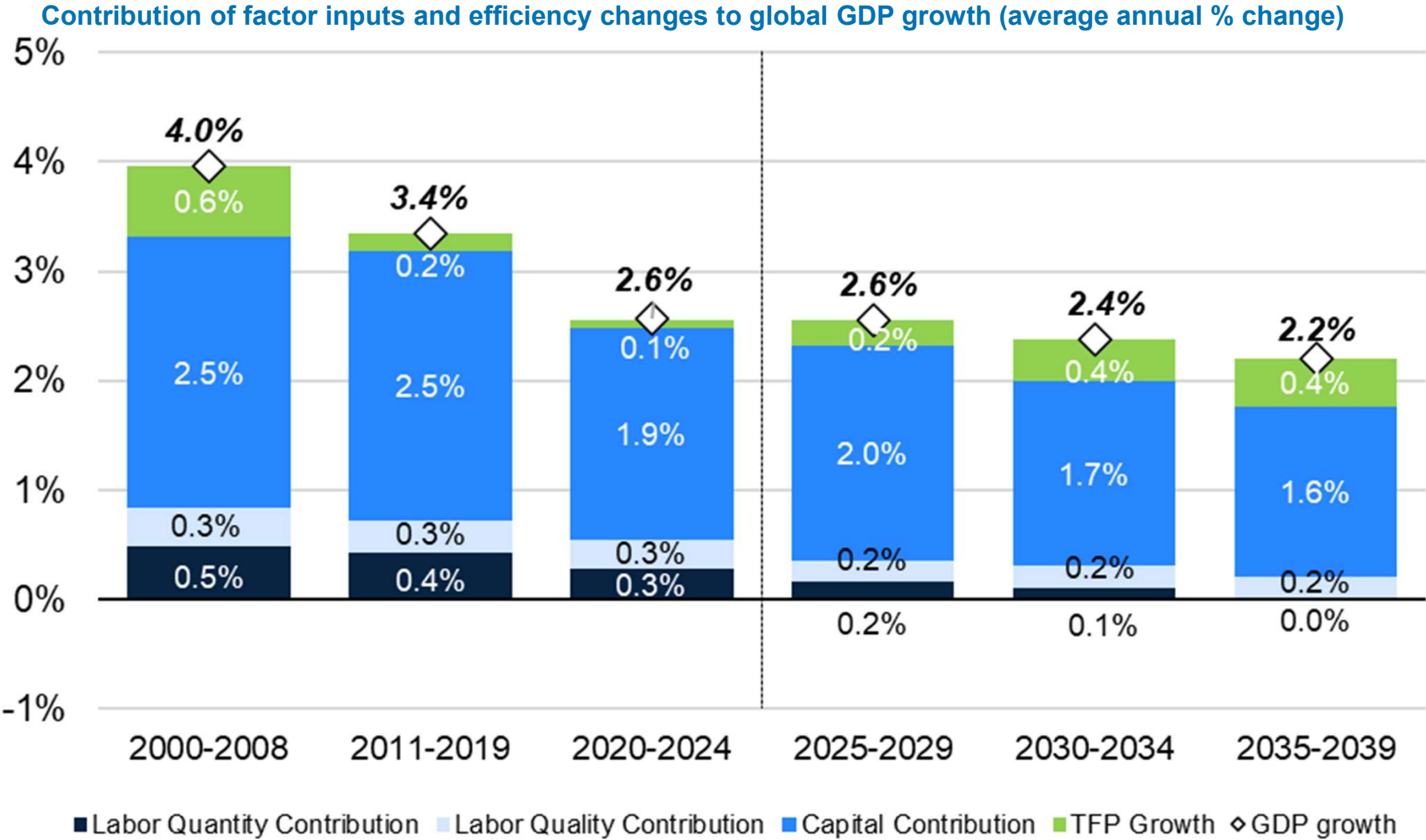


## Upside Risks

- ✓ Peaceful end of hot wars
- ✓ Significant productivity gains from past investments in R&D, automation (including AI), infrastructure, digital transformation, and human capital
- ✓ Potential breakthroughs in technological advancements that enhance production, profits, and livelihoods
- ✓ Lower inflation due to slower global growth but also technological advancements, completion of global energy transition
- ✓ Expanding EM middle classes
- ✓ More pro-industrial policy initiatives



# Productivity Could Be an Upside to Global Growth



Note: TFP, or total factor productivity, is the sum total of past and ongoing investments in capital infrastructure, human capital, the adoption of existing technologies, and the advent of new technologies that allow economies to become more productive.

Sources: Regional sources and The Conference Board™ Global Economic Outlook.



# Industrial Policies

## Why Do Economies Engage in Industrial Policies

- Reasons for Industrial Policies?
  - ✓ Competition
  - ✓ Threats to national security
  - ✓ Economic disruption
  - ✓ Denied access to tech, rare earths
  - ✓ Subsidies, predatory pricing
  - ✓ Public health threats
- Target Areas for US Industrial Policies:
  - ✓ Defense industrial base
  - ✓ Public health and biological preparedness
  - ✓ Information and communications sector
  - ✓ Energy sector

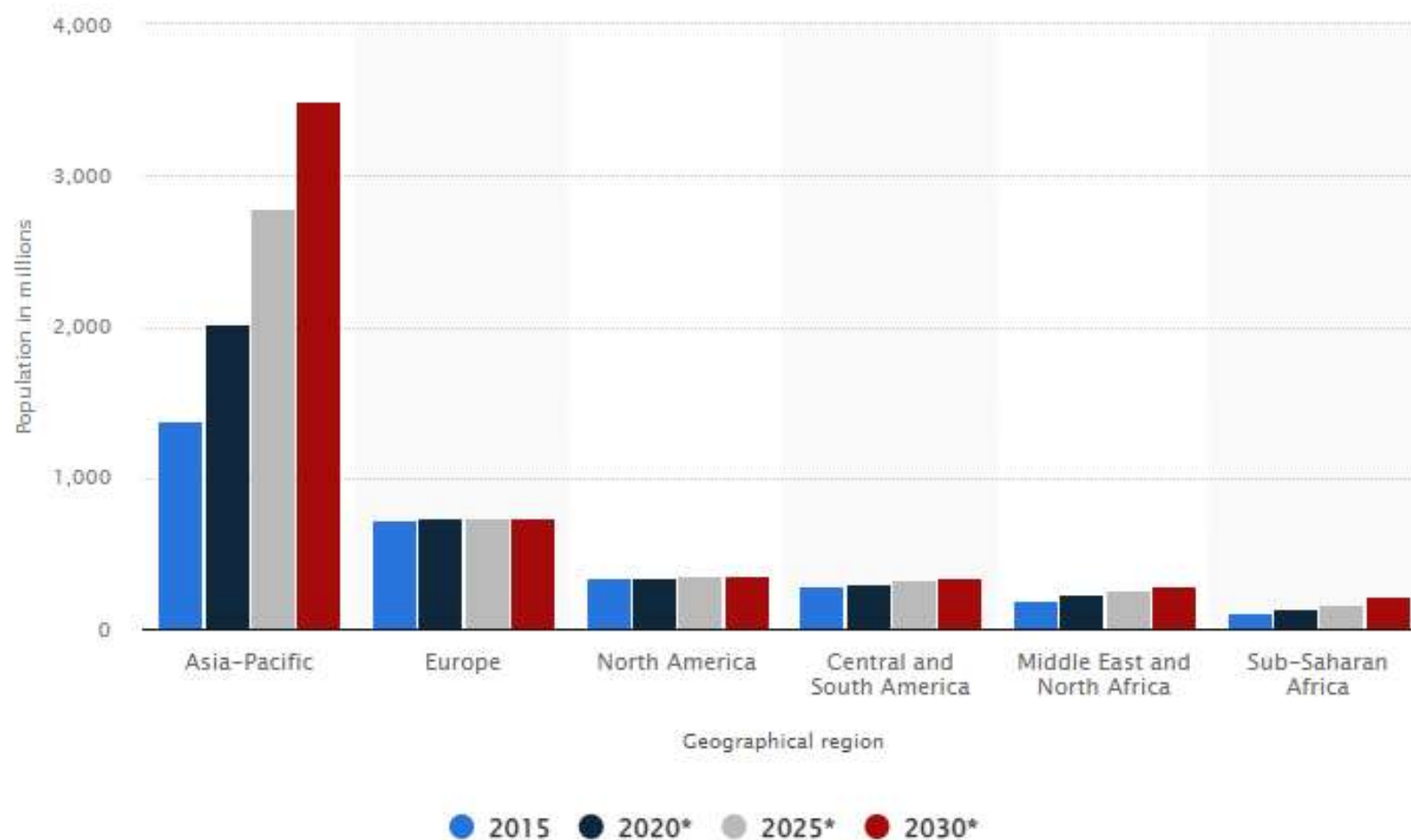




# Middle Classes

# Expanding Global Middle Class

## Forecast of Global Middle-Class Population



Sources: Statista: <https://www.statista.com/statistics/255591/forecast-on-the-worldwide-middle-class-population-by-region/> .



# Energy Transition

## Greening of the Global Economy

- Downsides (Short-term)
  - ✓ Higher fossil fuel prices amid divestment
    - ✓ Transportation
    - ✓ Buildings
  - ✓ Costs to transition energy modes
  - ✓ Obsolescence of machinery & equipment
  - ✓ Regulatory compliance
    - ✓ Retrofitting
    - ✓ Carbon taxes
  - ✓ Environmental impact
  - ✓ Geopolitical concerns
  - ✓ Job losses in obsolete sectors



Sources: The Conference Board.



# Greening of the Global Economy



- Upsides (Long-term)
  - ✓ Reduced environmental impact
  - ✓ Carbon capture and repurposing
  - ✓ Smart Cities
  - ✓ Investments in renewables, batteries, tech
  - ✓ Green infrastructure
  - ✓ Potentially fewer bad weather events that have insurance and infrastructure losses
  - ✓ Greater coordination of policies (counter to deglobalization)
  - ✓ New jobs in these areas

Sources: The Conference Board.



# Thank you

# The Conference Board



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Economy, Strategy & Finance



Environment, Social & Governance



Human Capital



Marketing & Communications



## Economy, Strategy & Finance (ESF) Center



**Dana M Peterson**  
Center Leader, EVP &  
Global Chief Economist  
[dana.peterson@conference-board.org](mailto:dana.peterson@conference-board.org)  
+1 212 339 0352



**Regine Medor**  
Member Engagement  
Director  
[Regine.Medor@conference-board.org](mailto:Regine.Medor@conference-board.org)  
+1 737 249 0688



**Jannik Shulz**  
Member Engagement  
Associate  
[Jannik.shulz@conference-board.org](mailto:Jannik.shulz@conference-board.org)



# Economic and Housing Update

Sam Khater

Chief Economist







## Economy:

- The U.S. economy continues to grow rapidly, and the economy's resilience is being driven by consumer spending on goods and services.
- Household income growth remains firm and large wealth gains are supporting consumer spending.
- The inflation rate continues to decelerate, but going forward inflation is likely to be structurally higher than prior to COVID.

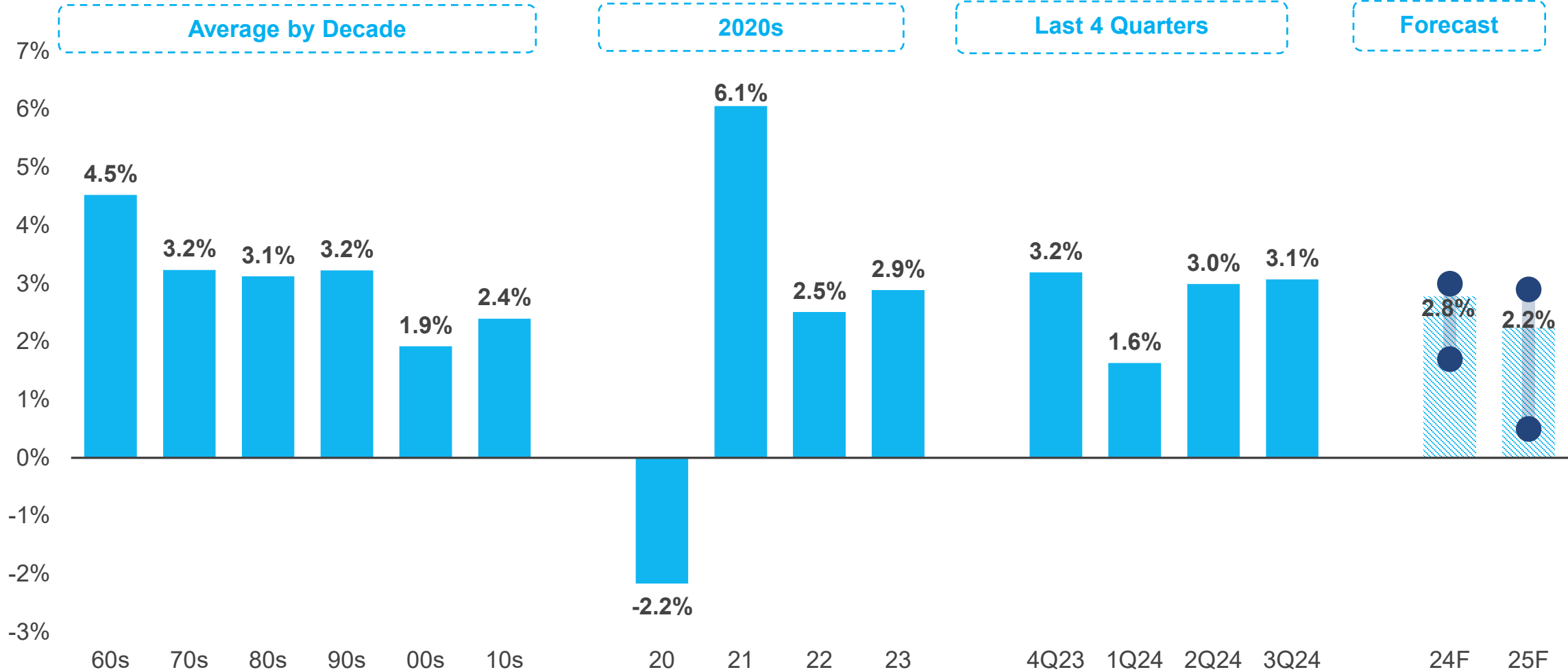
## Housing Market:

- The housing market remains very unaffordable. Home sales activity remains low, and inventory is rising modestly from record lows during the last few years.
- Pipeline demand for entry-level homeownership remains elevated with many renters reaching their prime first-time homebuying years.
- The decline in affordability in coastal markets has led to an increase in homebuyer migration to smaller and more affordable locations.

# The Economy Continues to Expand at a Solid Pace, But Growth is Expected to Slow



Economic Growth  
Seasonally Adjusted Annualized Rate

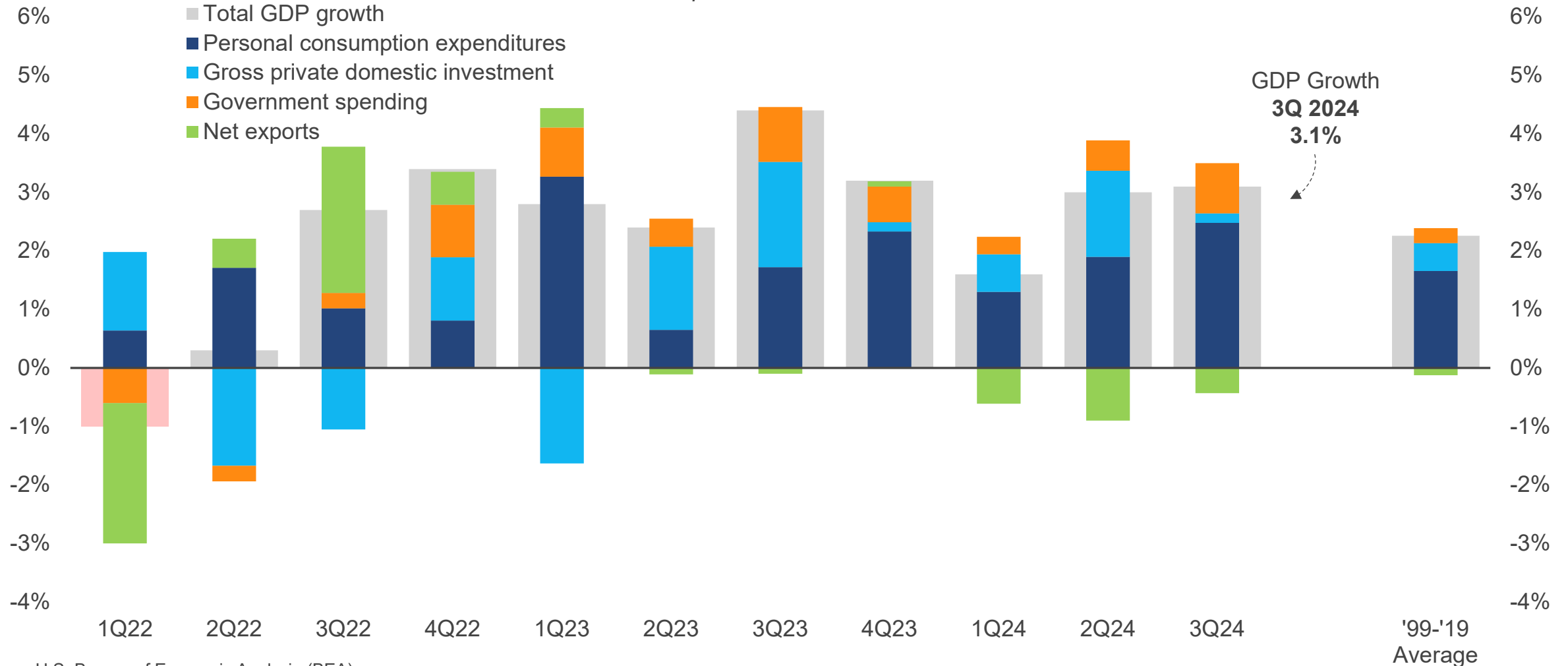


Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Moody's Baseline (December 2024), Bloomberg Economic Forecasts (as of January 7, 2025)

# GDP Increased at an Annual Rate of 3.1% in Q3 2024; Growth Driven by Consumer Spending



Contributions to U.S. GDP Growth  
Quarter-over-quarter Annualized Growth Rate

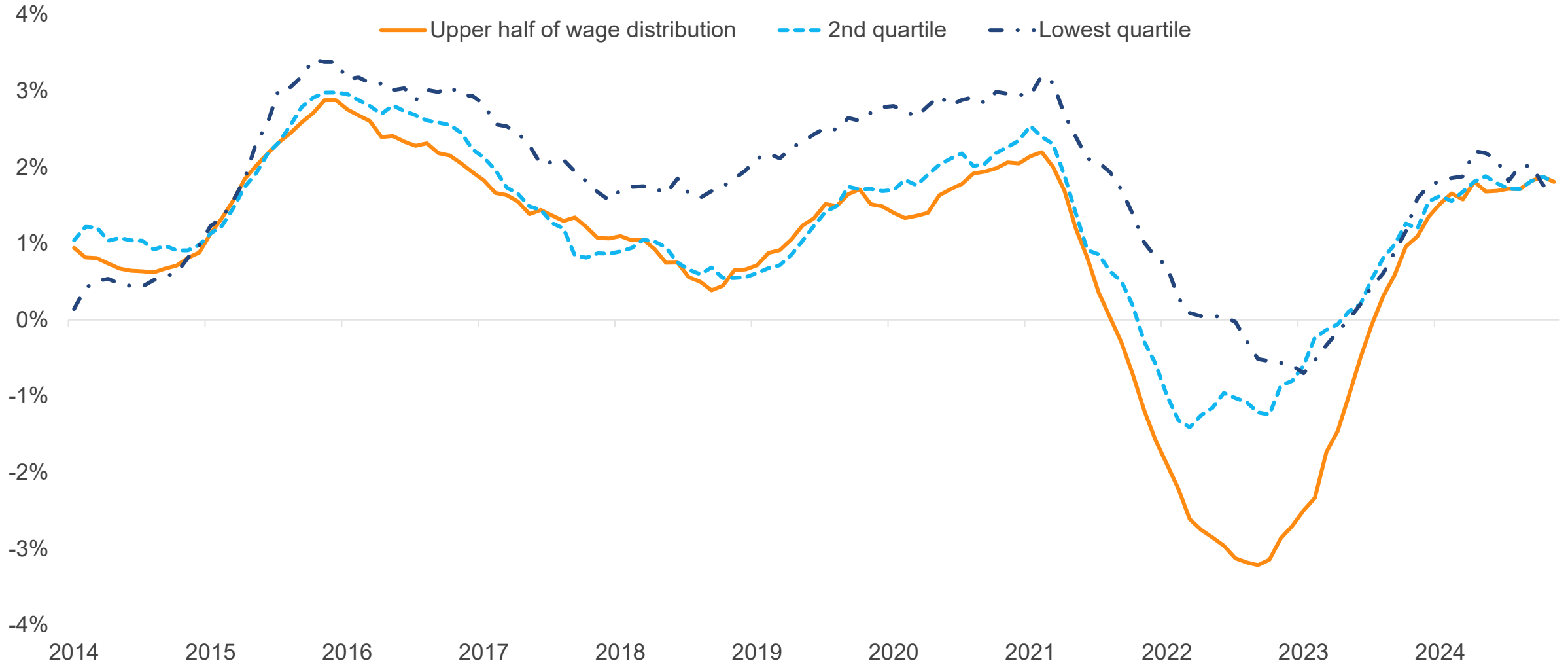


Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA)  
Note: Data through Q3 2024

# Consumer Spending Remains Firm Due to Solid Income Growth



Annual Percent Real Wage Growth by Wage Quartile  
12-month moving average, hourly data



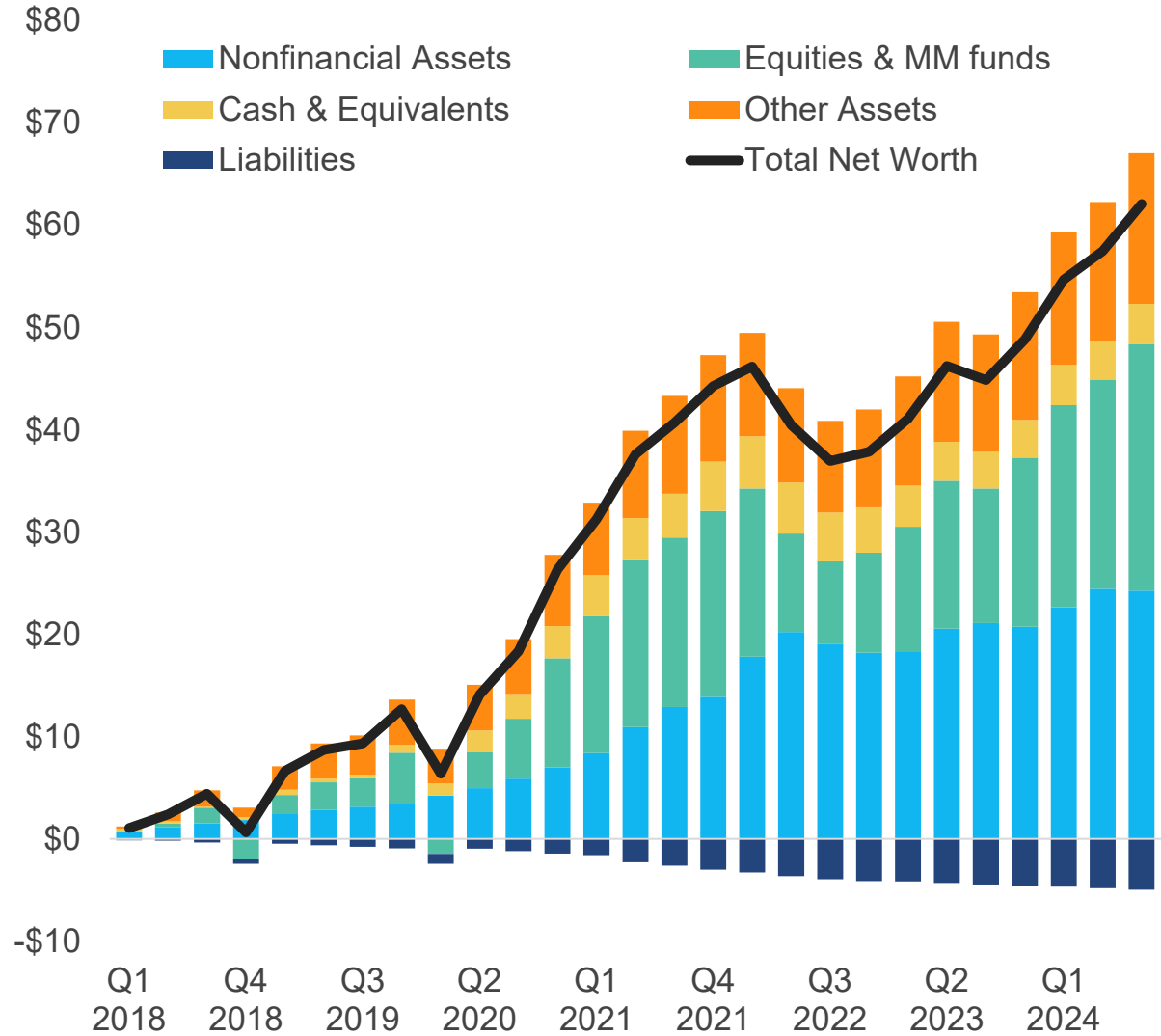
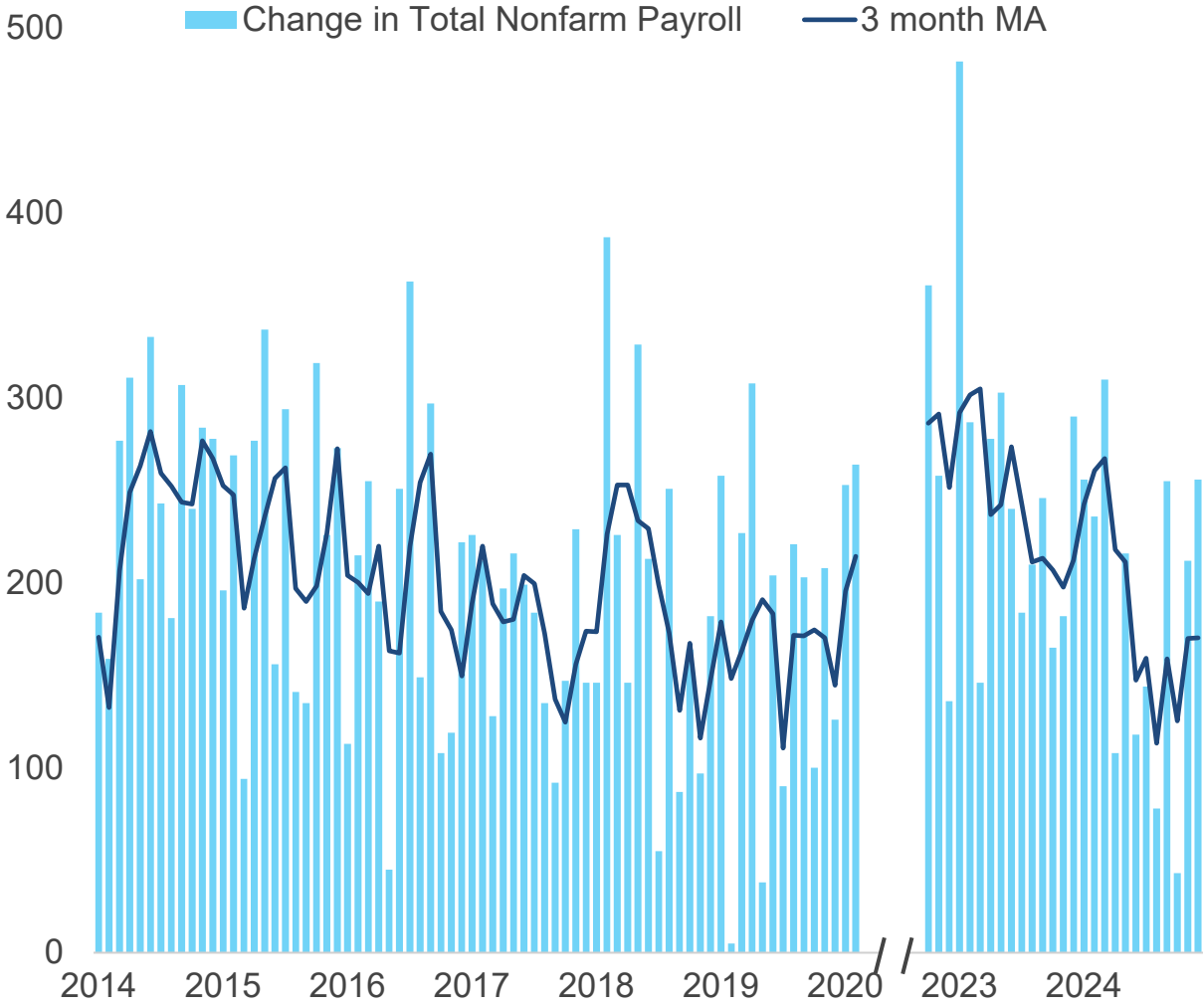
Source: Atlanta Fed Wage Tracker

# Labor Market Remains Firm and Household Wealth Has Soared



Change in Total Nonfarm Payroll  
*Ths, Seasonally Adjusted*

Household Net Worth Change Since Q4 2017  
*\$ Trillion*

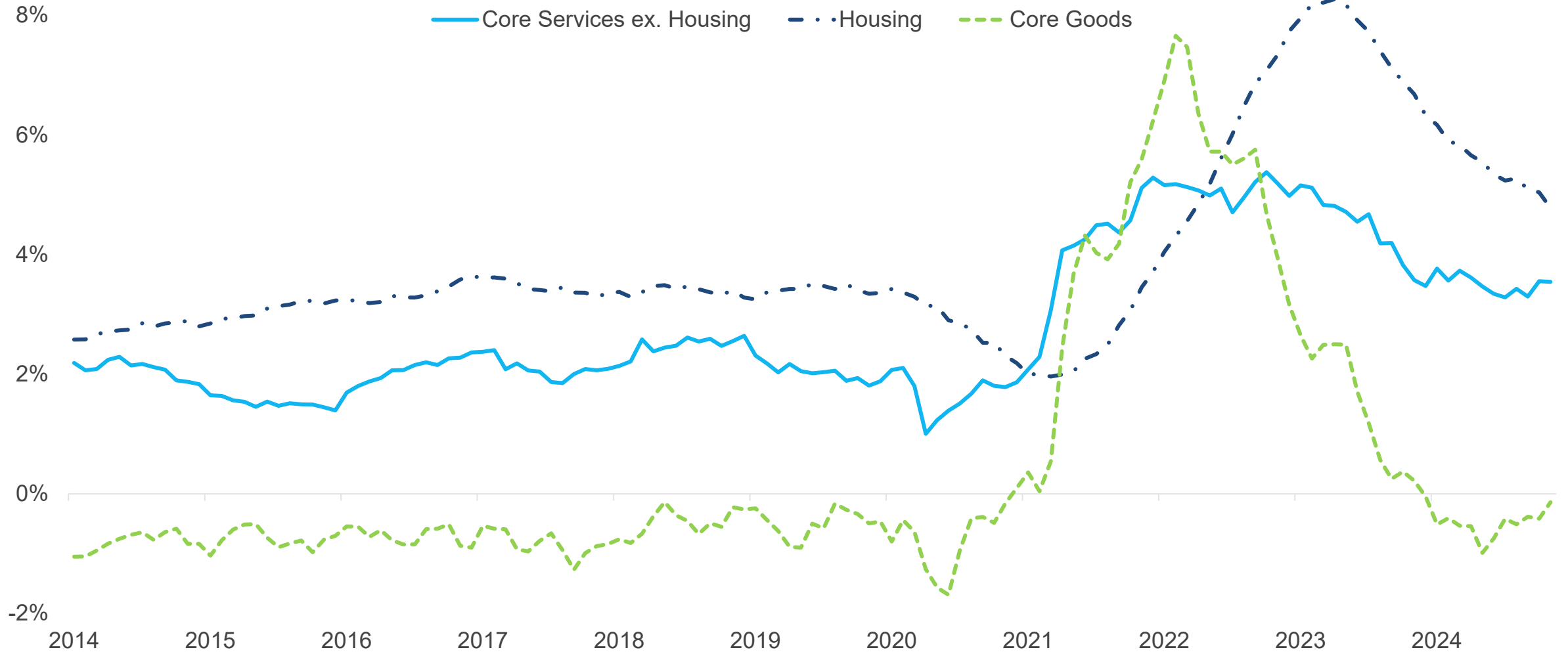


Source: BLS; Federal Reserve

# Strong Economy Means There is Inflationary Persistence in Large Segments of the Economy

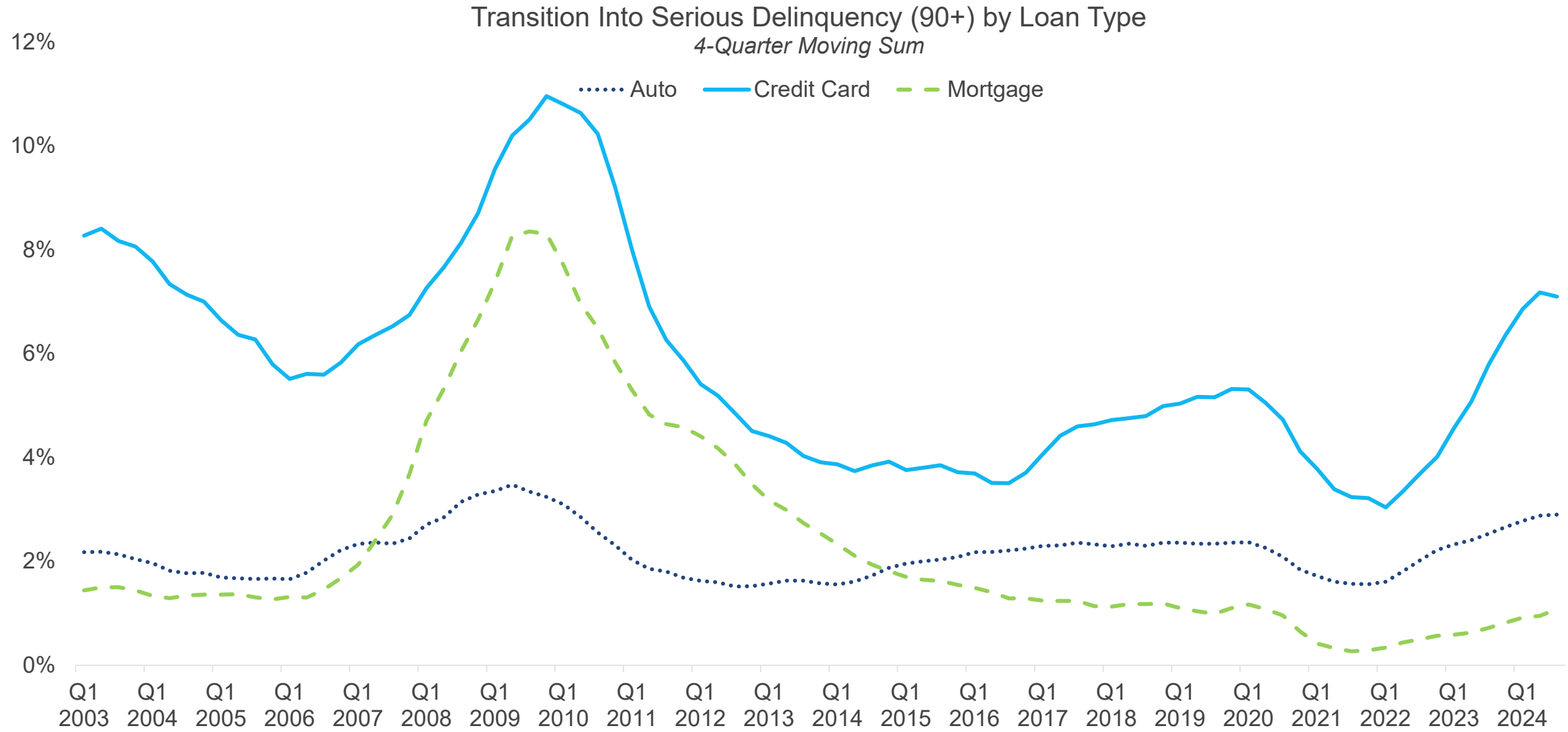


PCE Price Index for Select Groups  
Percent Change from Year Ago



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

# Serious Delinquency Rate for Credit Cards and Autos Continue to Increase, But Mortgage Performance Remains Solid

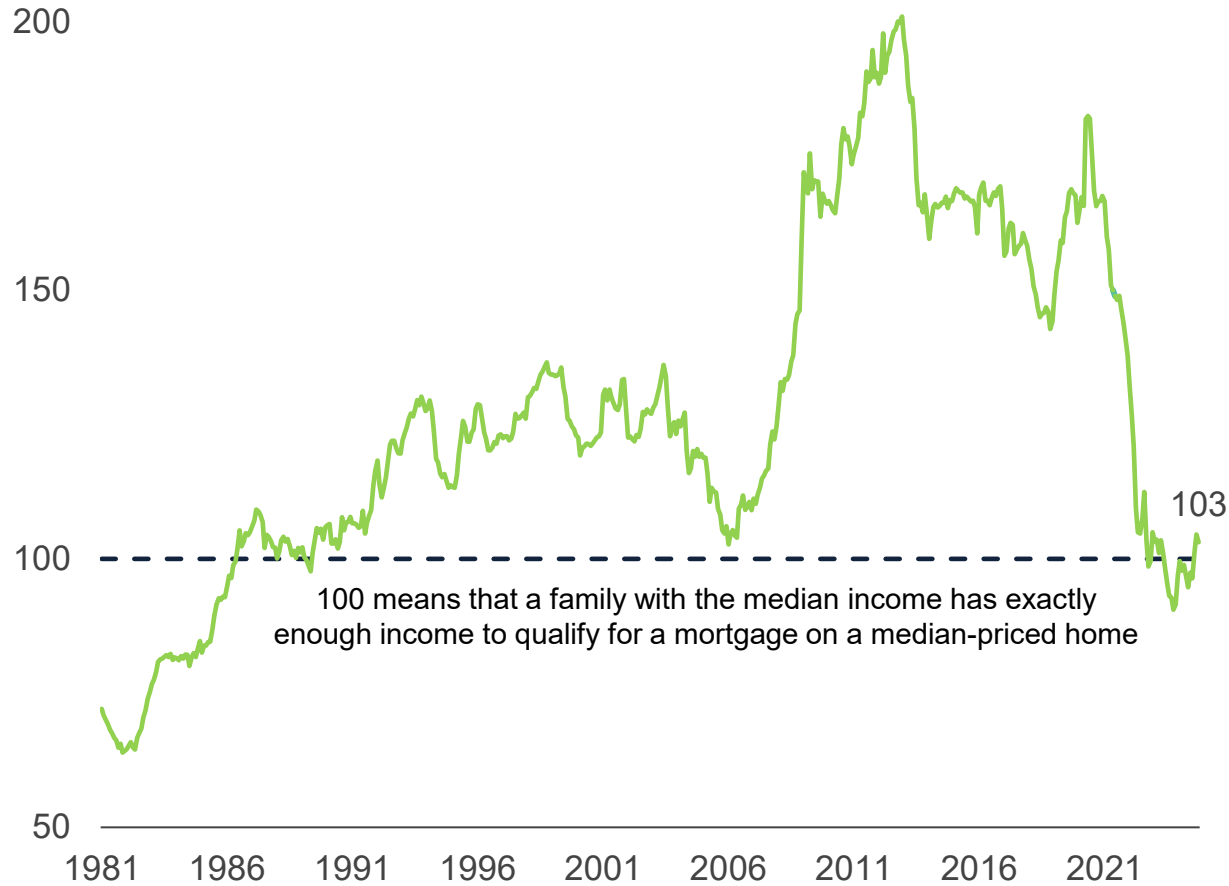


Source: New York Fed Consumer Credit Panel/Equifax.

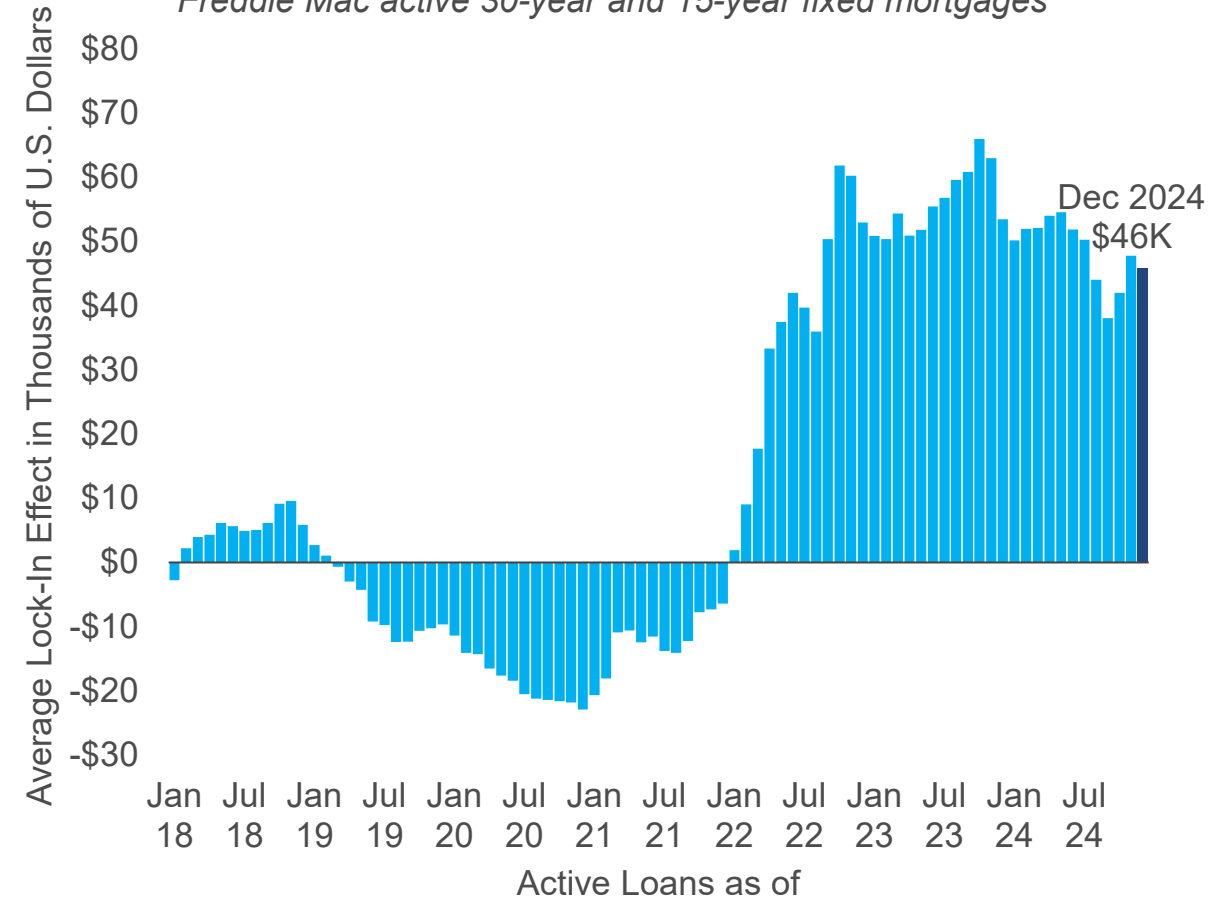
# Housing Affordability Remains Very Low and 'Mortgage Lock-In' Are Causing Homeowners to Stay Put



Housing Affordability Index



Average Mortgage Rate Lock-In Effect  
Freddie Mac active 30-year and 15-year fixed mortgages



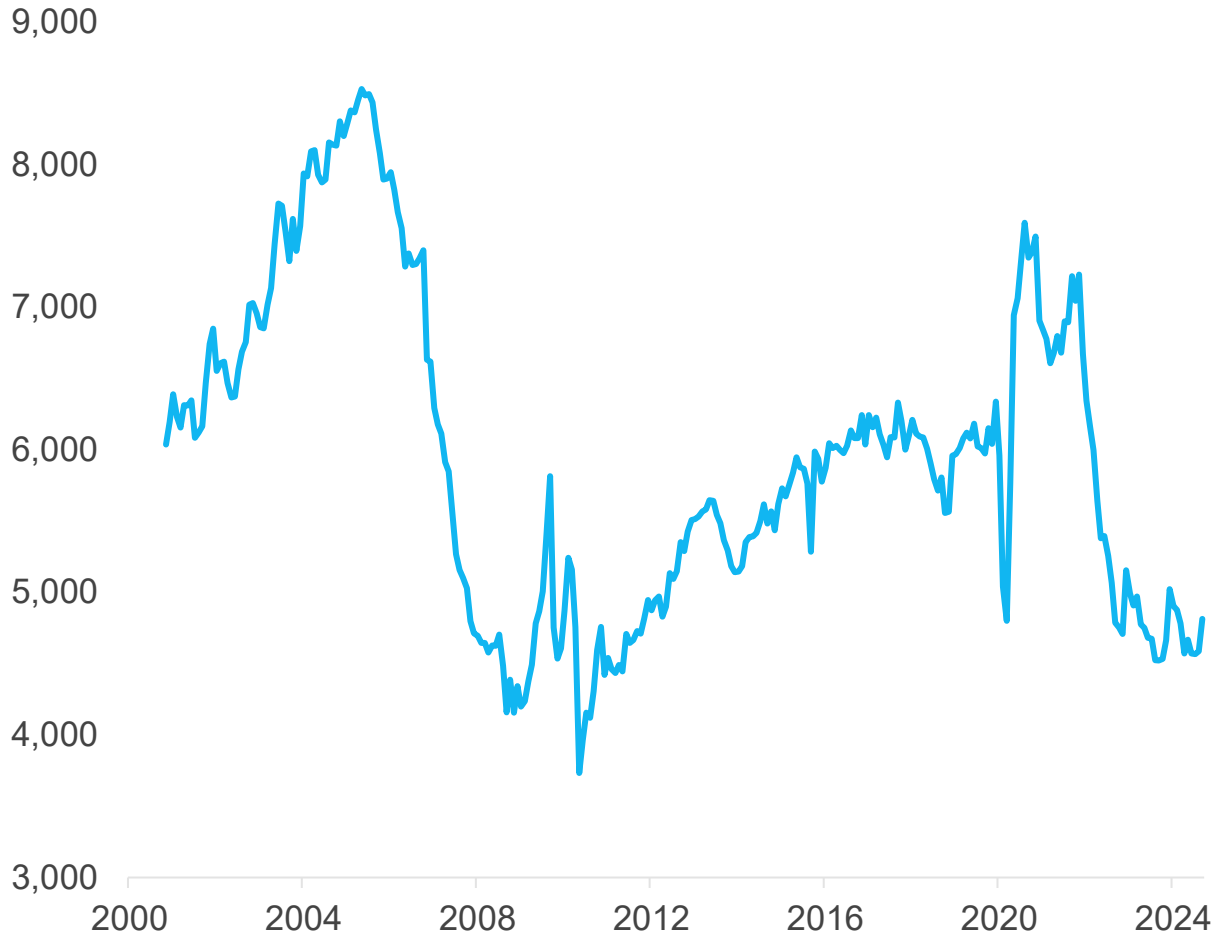
Lock-in computed by the formula  $V = B - \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{P}{(1+r)^i} - \frac{F}{(1+r)^n}$  where B is the current outstanding mortgage balance, P is the monthly principal and interest payment, r is the current prevailing 30-year/15-year mortgage rate in the PMMS, n is the remaining months left on the mortgage and F is any partial payment due after n periods due to curtailment. Last data point December 2024.



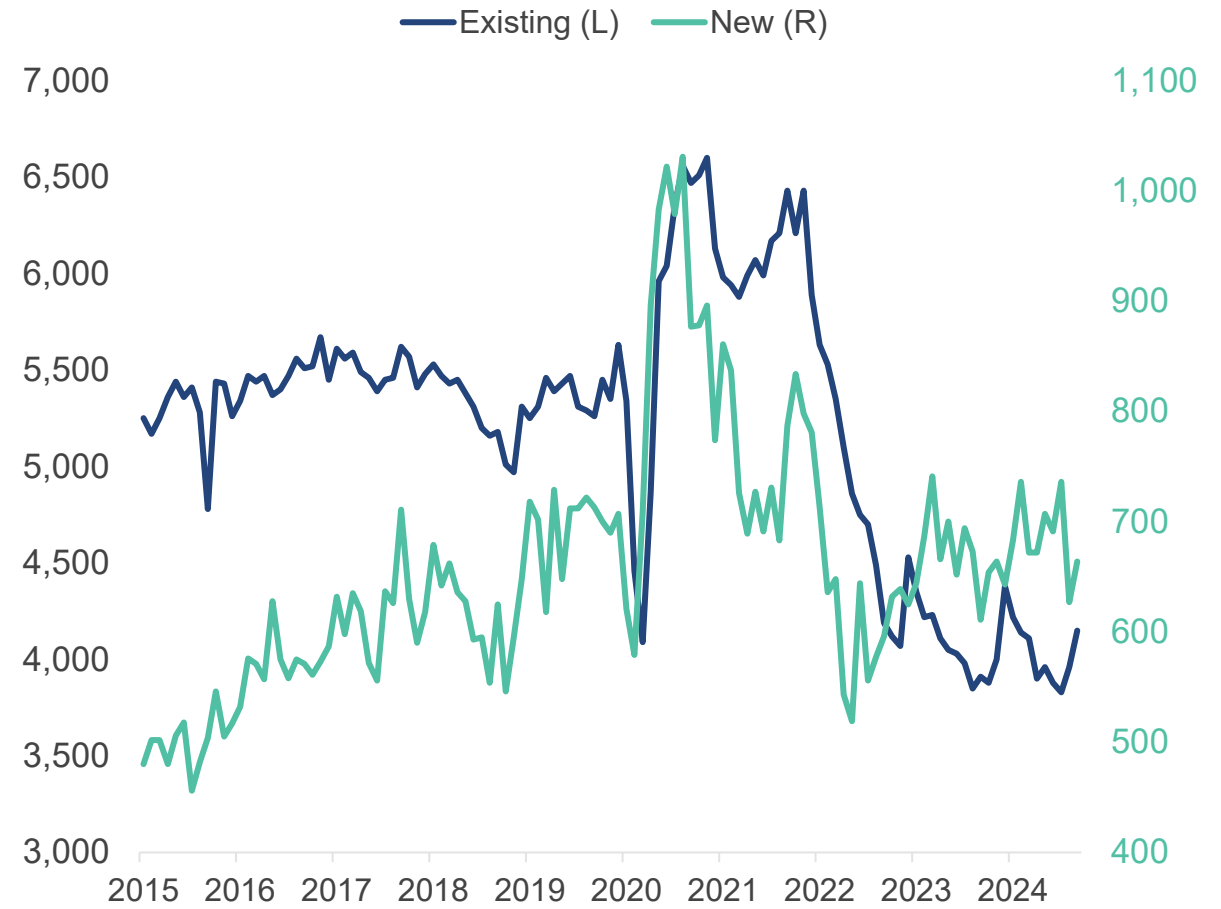
# Home Sales Remain at Multi-Decade Lows, But Existing Home Sales are Rebounding Because of More Marginal New Home Inventory



Total Home Sales  
Ths. #, SAAR



New Home Sales vs Existing Home Sales  
Ths. #, SAAR

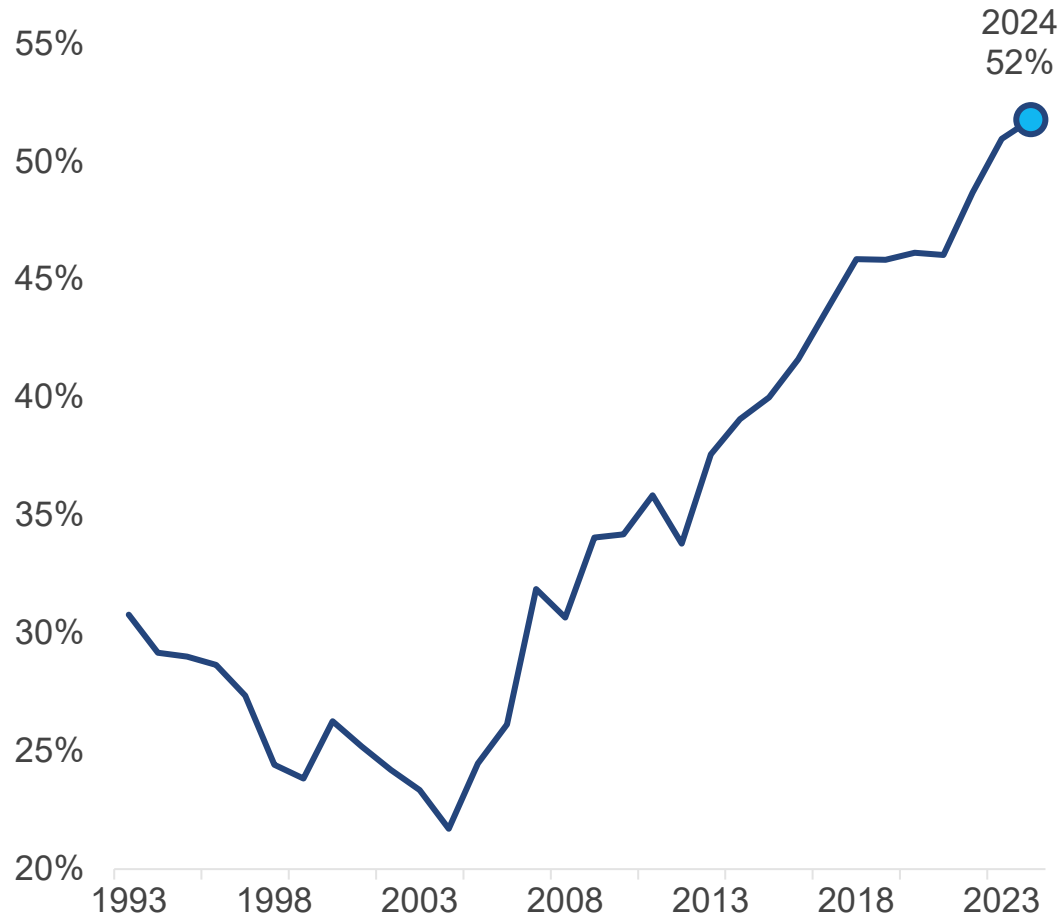


Source: National Association of Realtors (NAR); U.S. Census Bureau

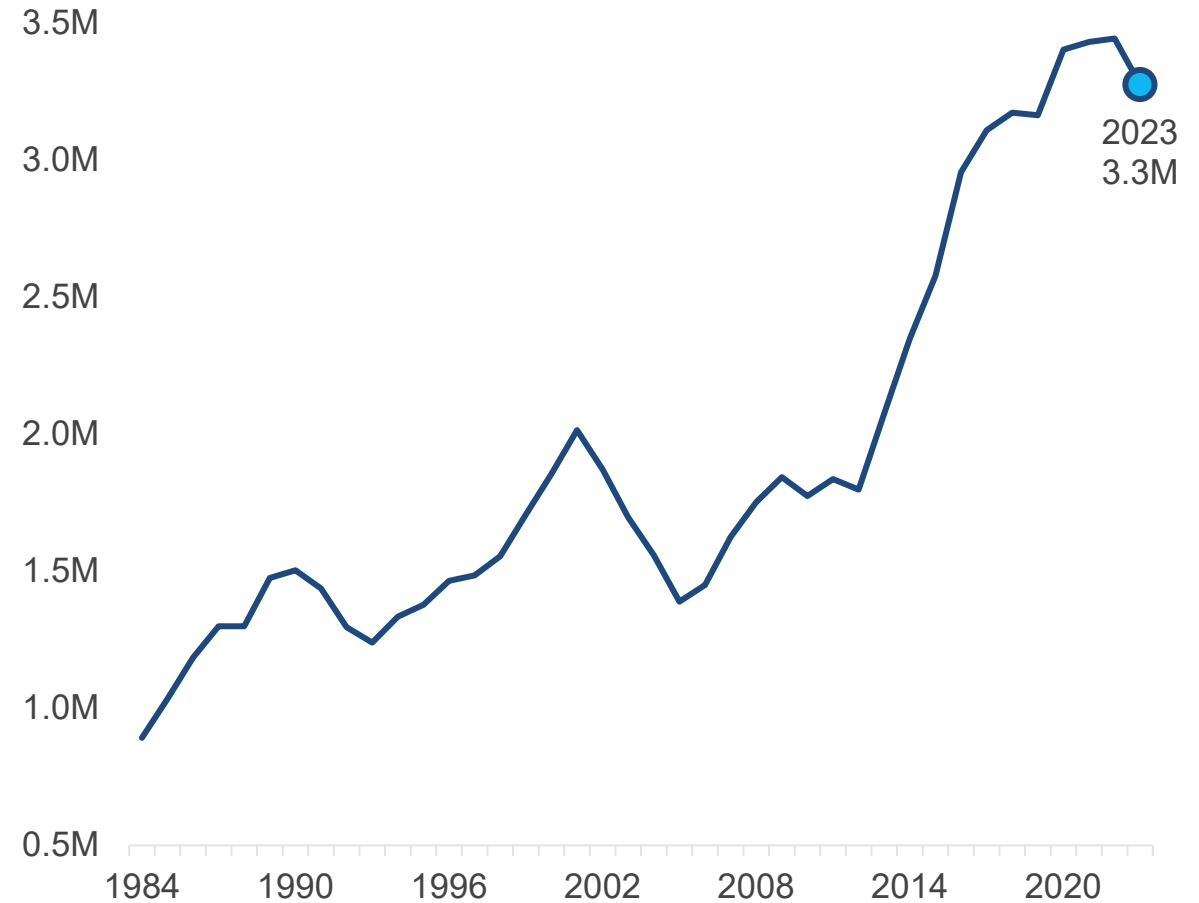
# While Home Sales Are Low, Pipeline 'Entry-Level' Demand Remains High



### Freddie Mac Share of First-Time Homebuyers



### Renter Households Between 25 and 44 Years of Age Earning At Least \$75,000 *Inflation-Adjusted*

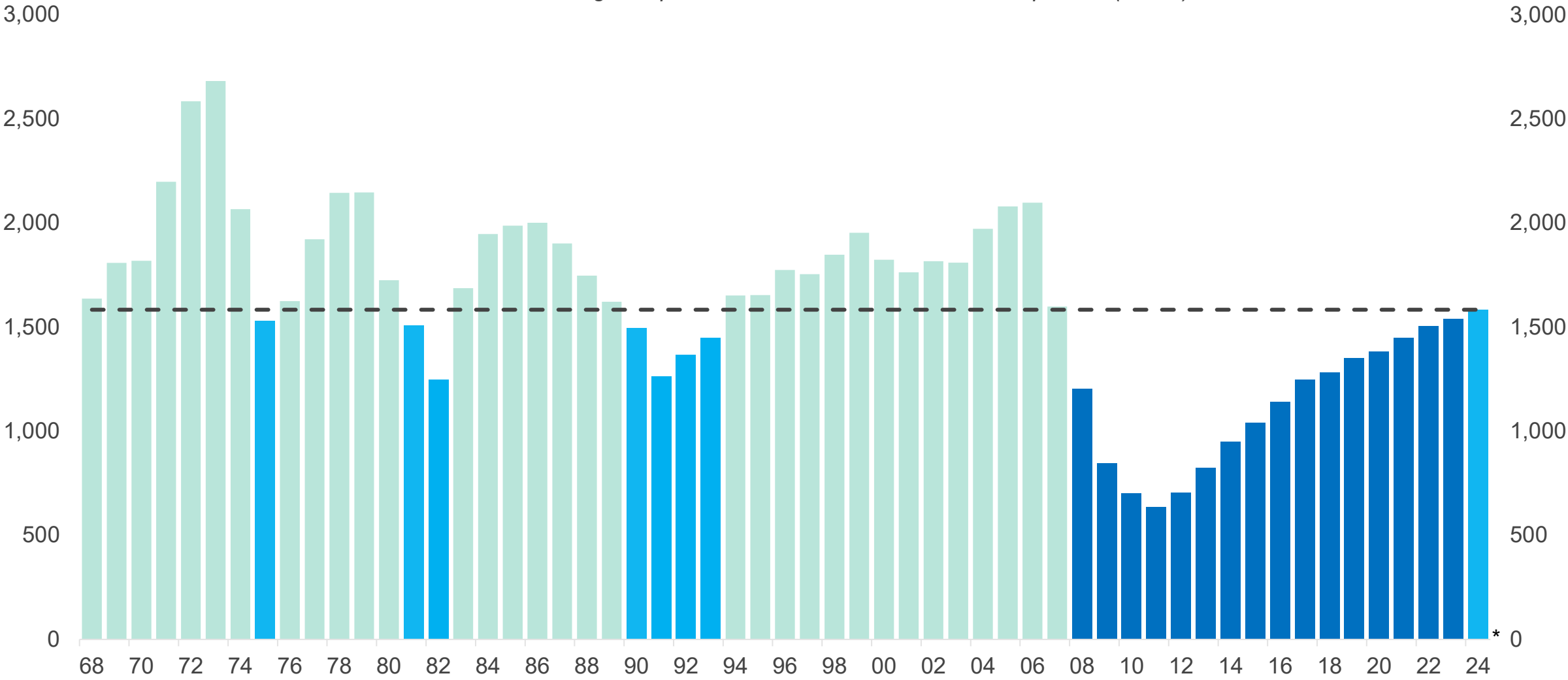


Source: National Association of Realtors (NAR); U.S. Census Bureau

# New Housing Completions Improved in 2024, But Still Below Pre-GFC Levels



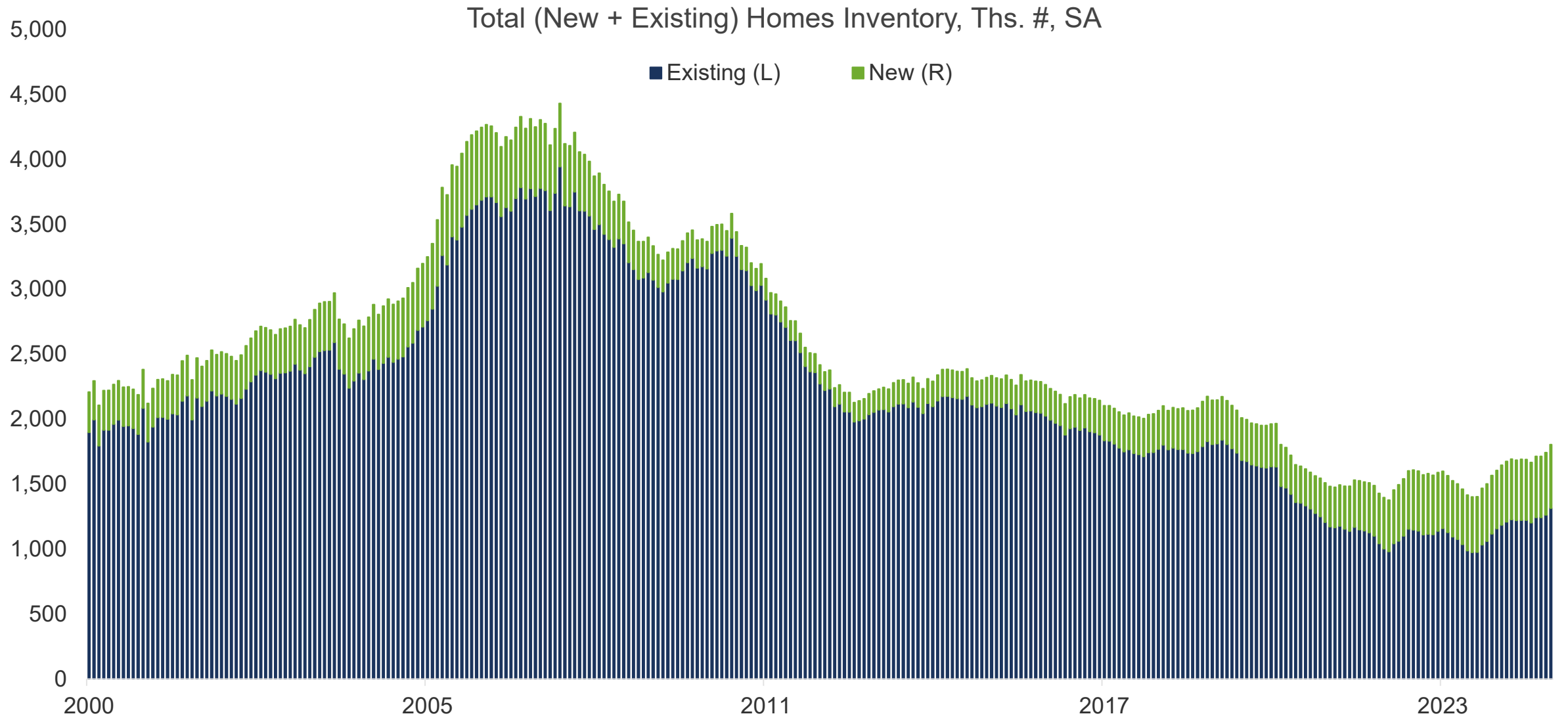
U.S. New Housing Supply Low Relative to History  
*U.S. Annual Housing Completions and Manufactured Home Shipments (1000s)*



Source: U.S. Census Bureau and Department of Housing and Urban Development, Institute for Building Technology & Safety

Note: 2024 data is through November and light blue bars indicate recession years.

# Inventory is Improving Very Modestly, but Remains Low Relative to Last Decade

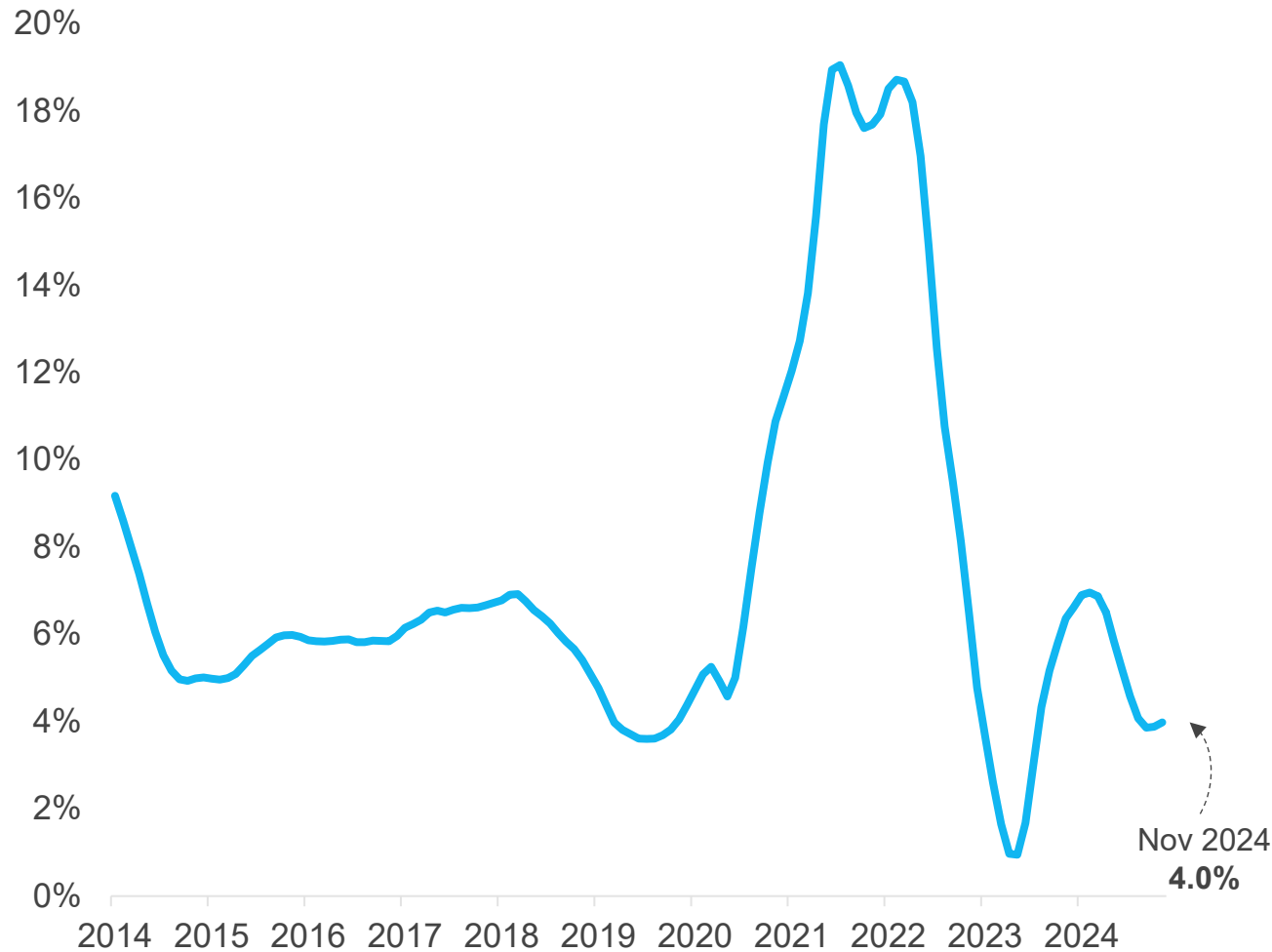


Source: National Association of Realtors (NAR); U.S. Census Bureau

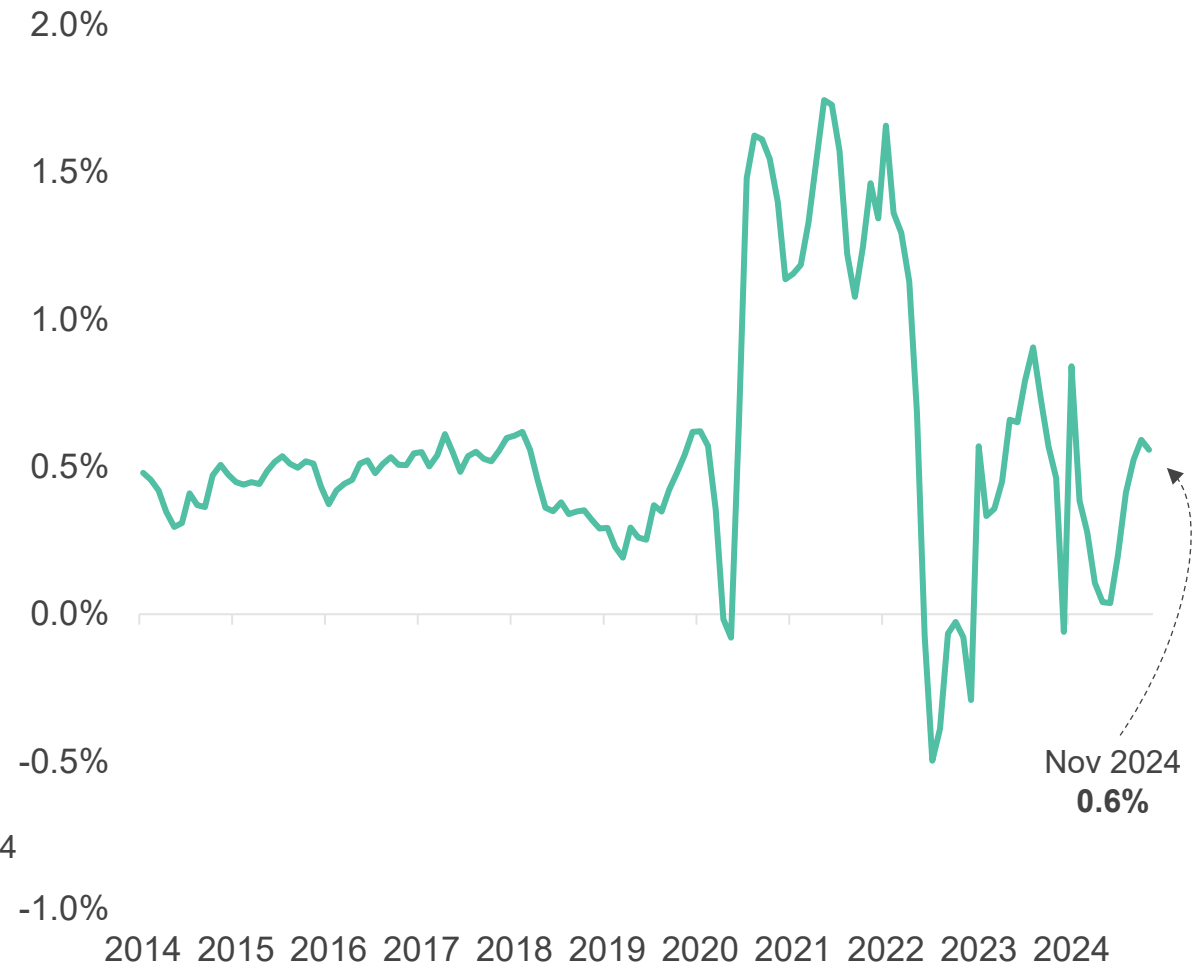
# Home Price Growth is Rising Although at a Slower Pace; Home Price Growth Expected to Remain Slow in 2025



Freddie Mac House Price Index  
Percent Change from Year Ago



Freddie Mac House Price Index  
Percent Change from Month Ago

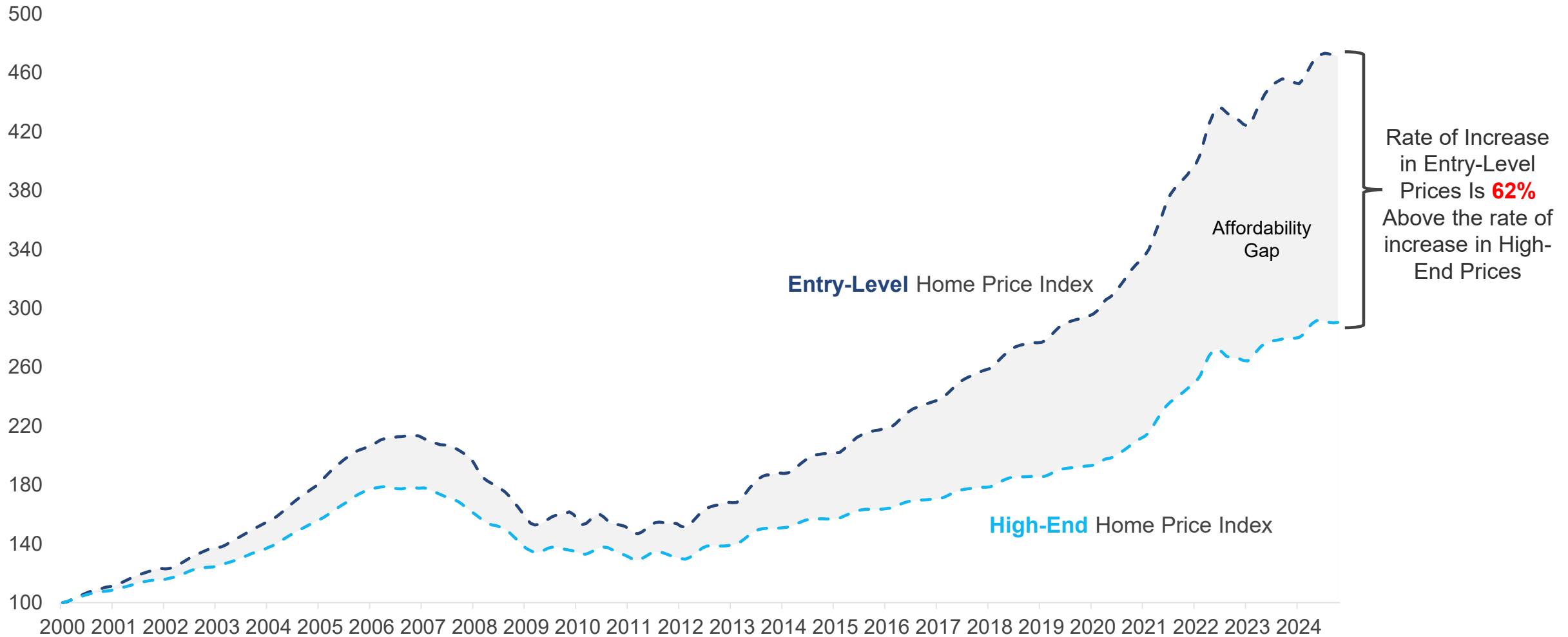


Source: Freddie Mac

# Strong Demand from First-Time Homebuyers and Low Supply Led to a Surge in Entry-Level Home Prices



Cumulative Gap Between Entry Level and High End Home Prices – Home Price Index Level



Rate of Increase in Entry-Level Prices Is **62%** Above the rate of increase in High-End Prices

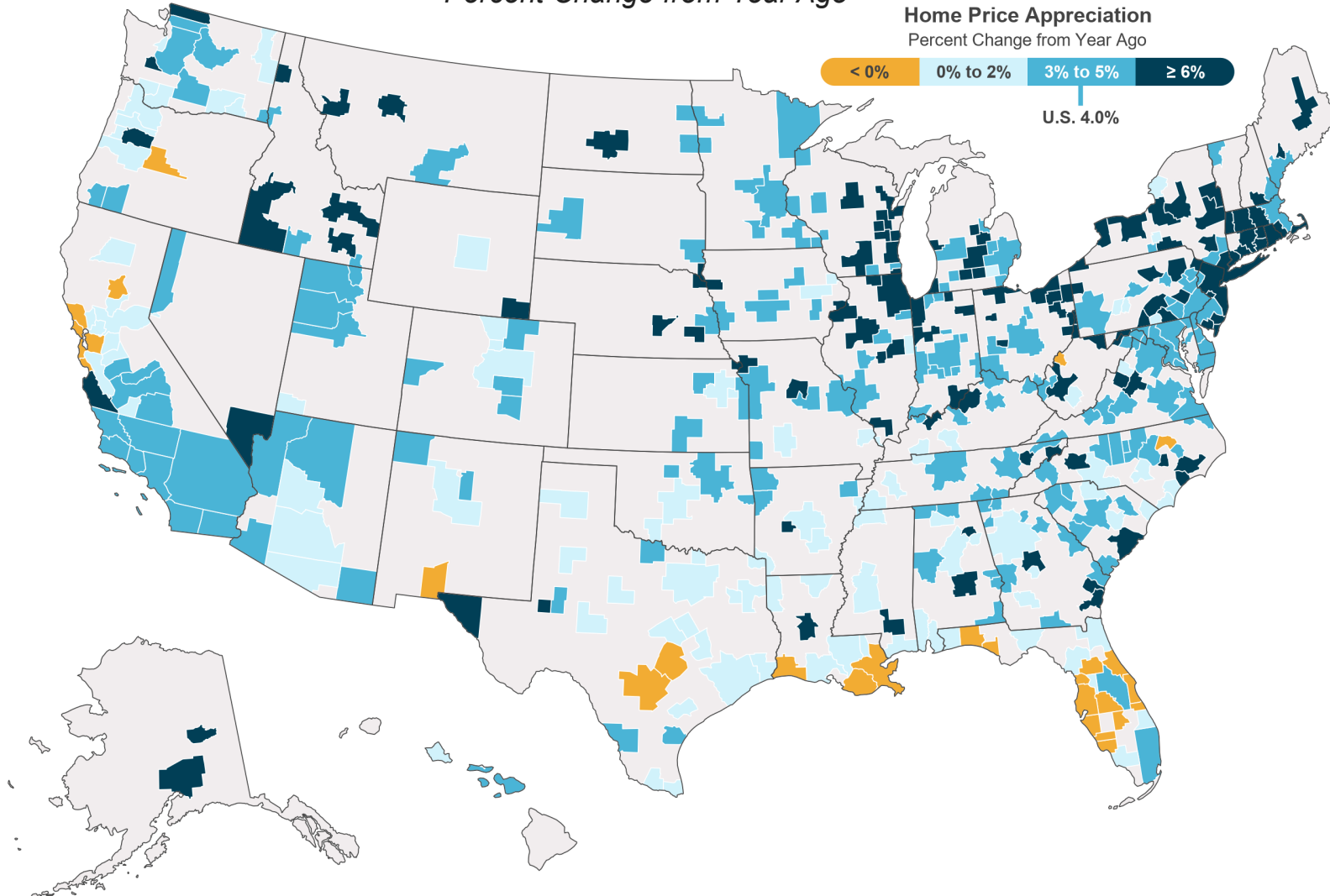
Source: CoreLogic

Note: Entry level home prices are homes that sell at 75% of the median or below. High end home prices sell at 125% of the median or higher.

# Home Price Growth Continues to Rise the Most in the Northeast and Midwest



November 2024 Freddie Mac House Price Index  
Percent Change from Year Ago

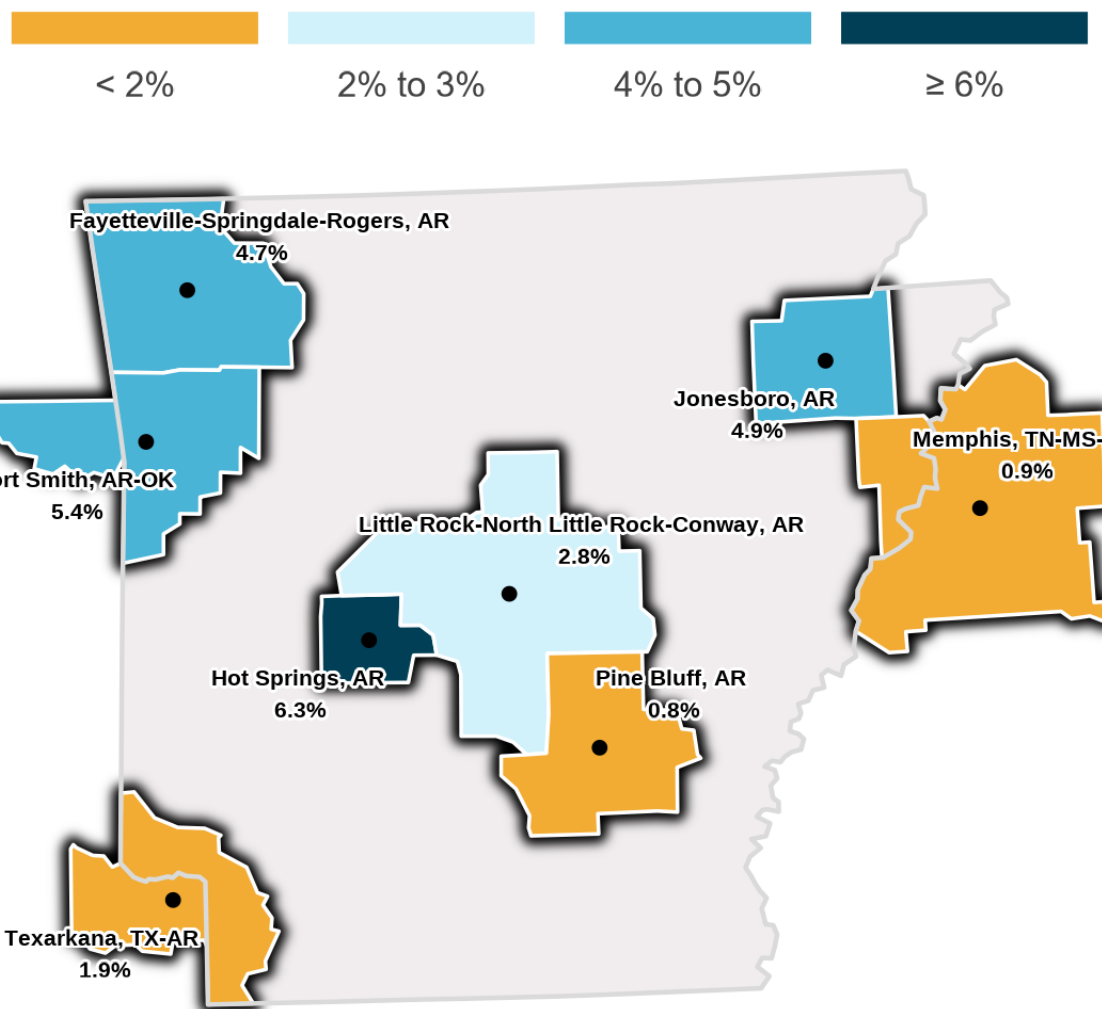


Source: Freddie Mac

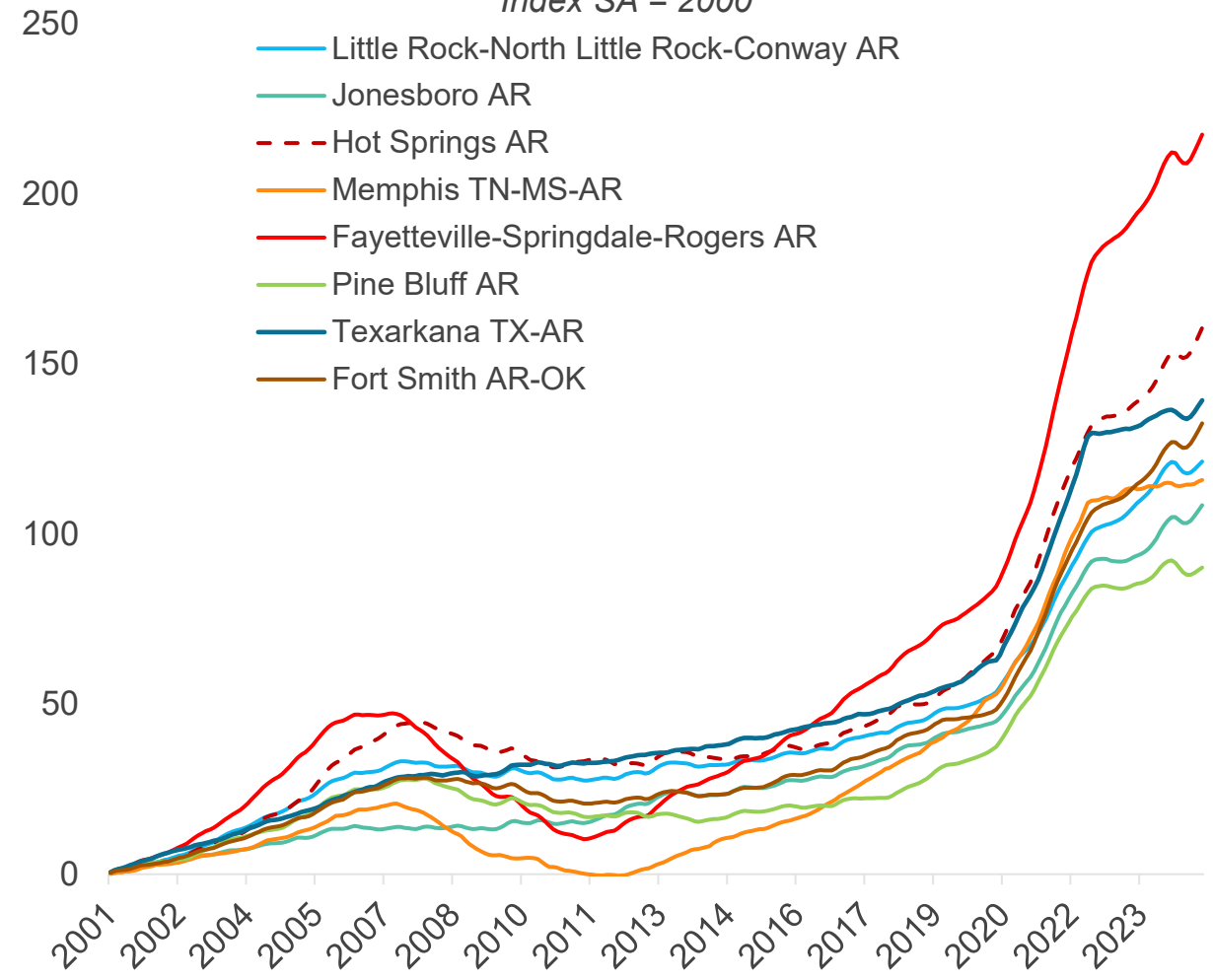
# Arkansas Metropolitan Areas Home Price Appreciation



November 2024 Freddie Mac House Price Index  
Percent Change from Year Ago



Cumulative % Change in Arkansas Metro House Prices  
Index SA = 2000



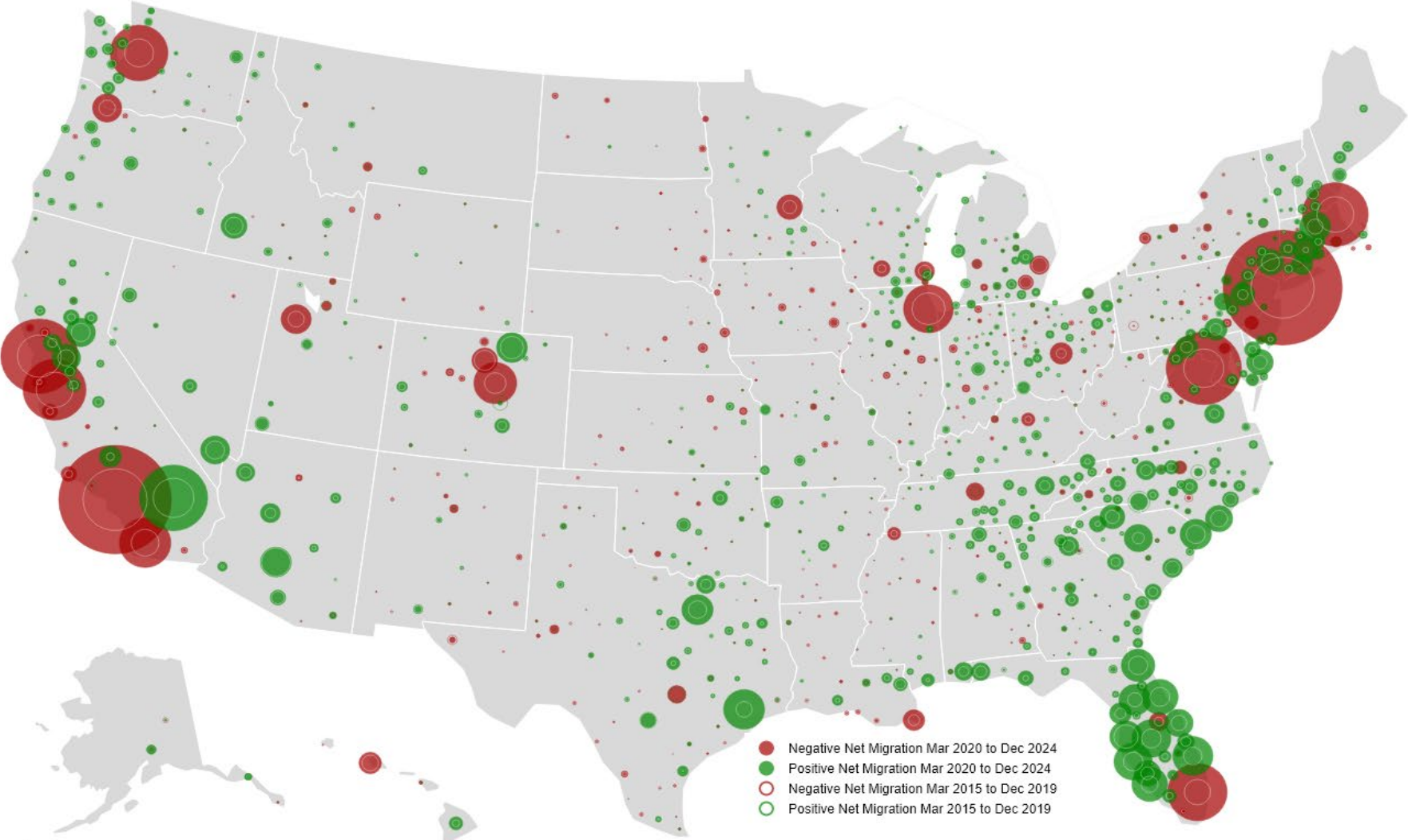
Source: Freddie Mac



# Homebuyers Continue to Migrate to South and Southwest; Recently More Are Moving to Small and Medium Sized Midwestern, Northeastern and Southwest Central Markets



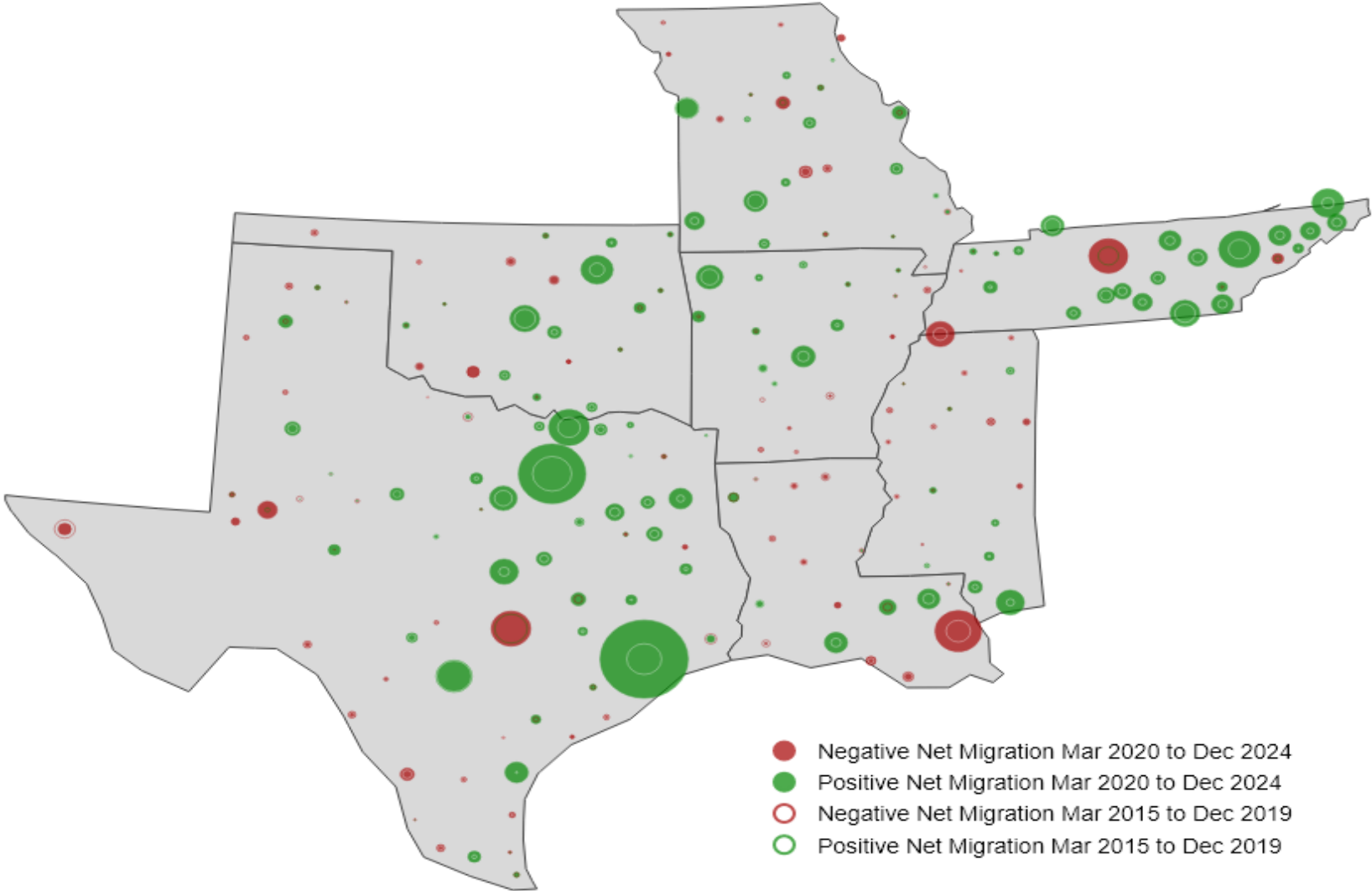
### Net Migration by Metro and Micro Area



- Negative Net Migration Mar 2020 to Dec 2024
- Positive Net Migration Mar 2020 to Dec 2024
- Negative Net Migration Mar 2015 to Dec 2019
- Positive Net Migration Mar 2015 to Dec 2019

Source: Freddie Mac LPA®

# Homebuyer Migration Continues into Texas and Tennessee and More Recently Into Northwest Arkansas, Eastern Oklahoma and Southwest Missouri



Source: Freddie Mac LPA®

# Closing Thoughts



- The U.S. economy continues to perform remarkably well and is growing faster than the last two decades.
- Household income growth remains firm and large wealth gains are supporting consumer spending.
- Demographics are supportive of strong entry level demand for housing for the next decade.
- While entry level demand will remain elevated, supply remains low leading to a market that will remain unaffordable likely for the rest of the decade.
- The extreme lack of affordability in coastal markets has led to an increase in homebuyer migration to smaller and more affordable locations.
- The ‘migration arbitrage’ will be beneficial to the Northwest Arkansas region, especially markets that strike a nice balance of strong local economies while remaining affordable.



# The End!

<https://www.freddiemac.com/research>

@TheSamKhater

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# The Arkansas Economy in 2025

Mervin Jebaraj, Director  
Center for Business and Economic Research

Twitter: #BFL2025  
@uawaltoncollege @MervinJebaraj



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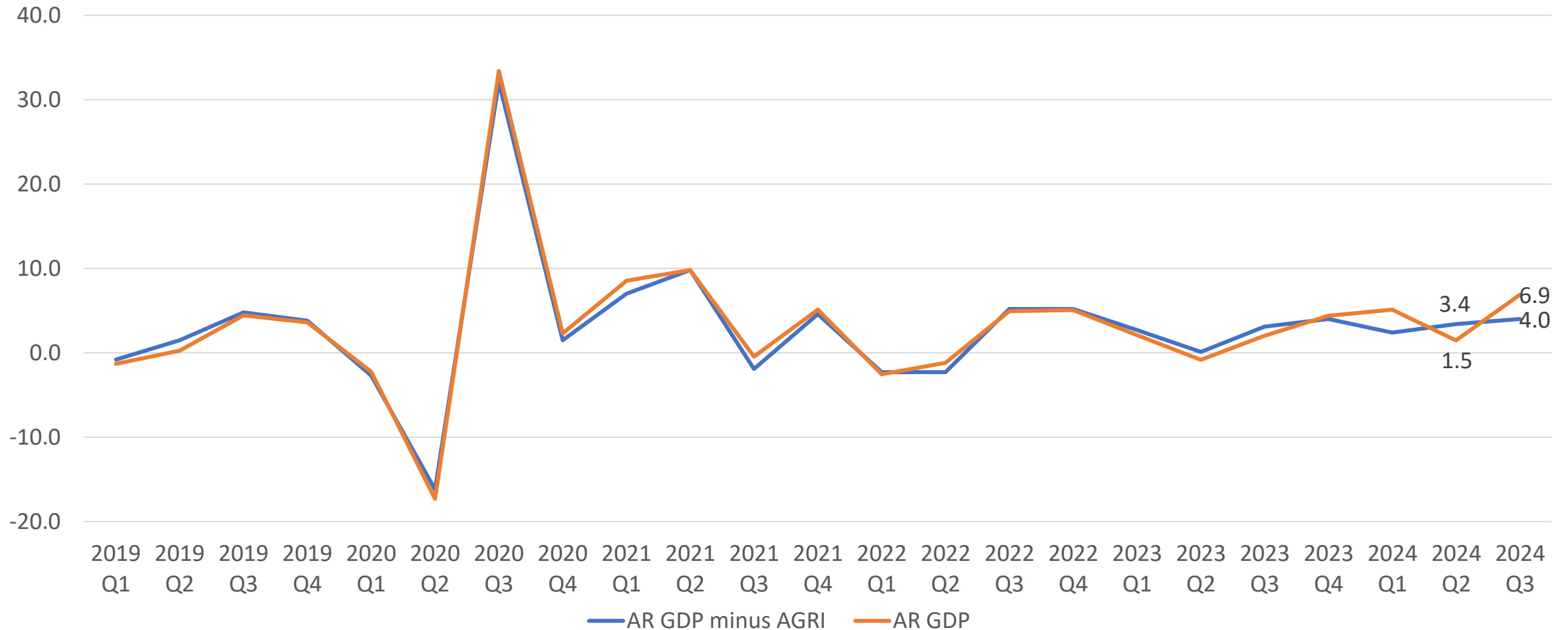
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## Arkansas State GDP Growth



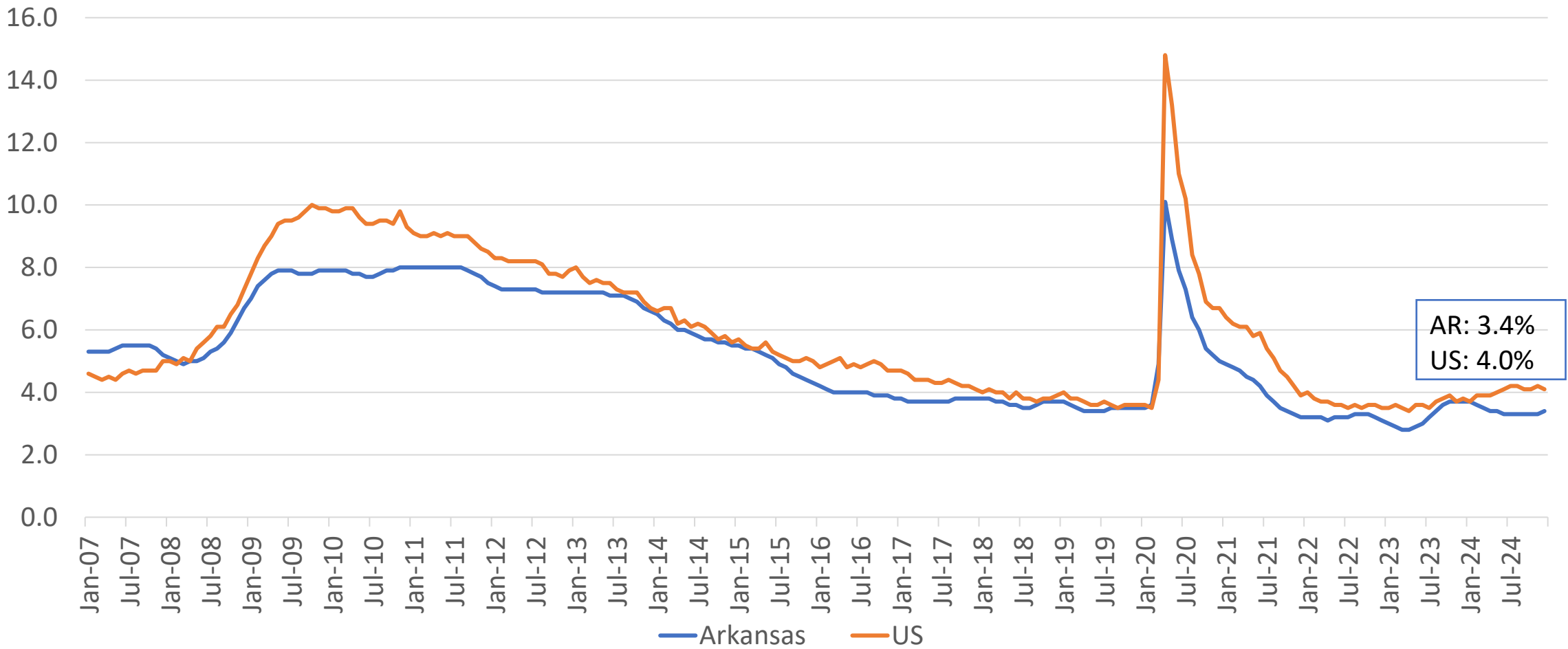
Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, CBER calculations

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## Arkansas Unemployment Rate



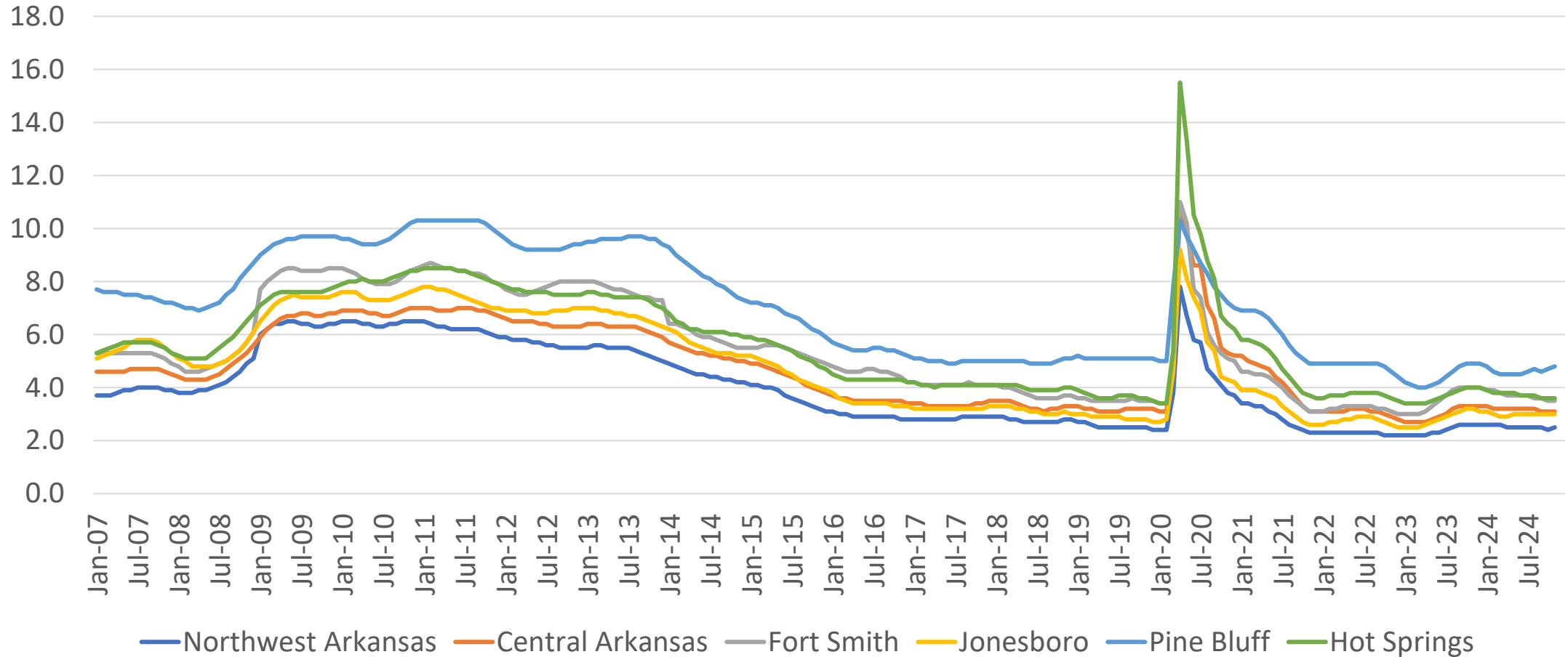
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

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## Arkansas MSA Unemployment Rate



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

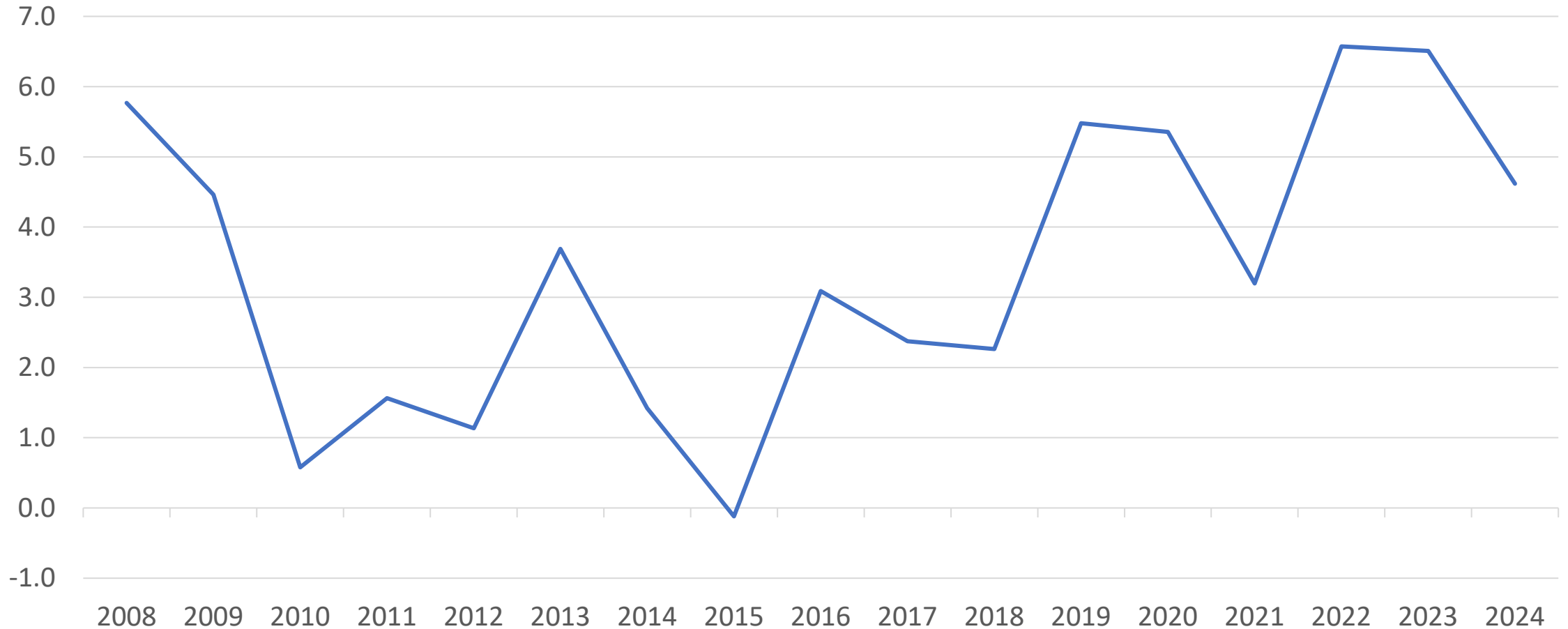


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## Arkansas Annual Wage Growth



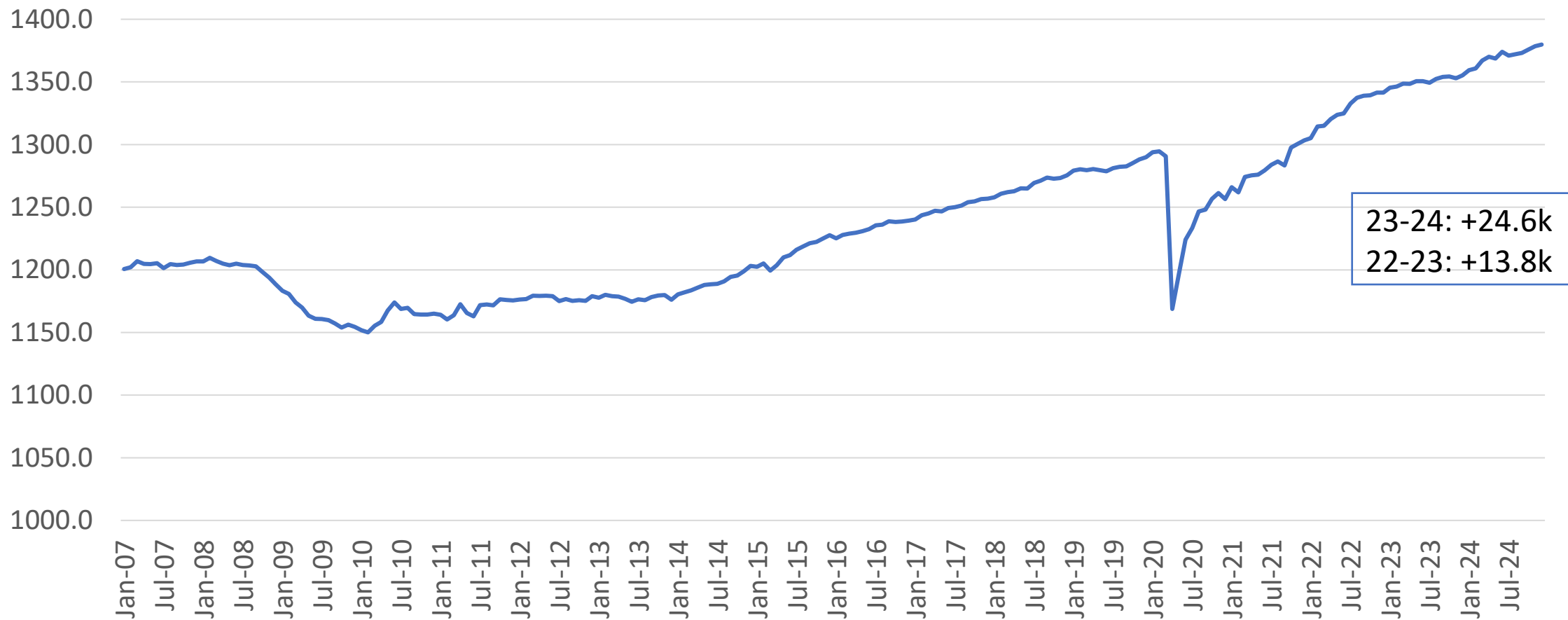
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

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## Arkansas Non-Farm Employment



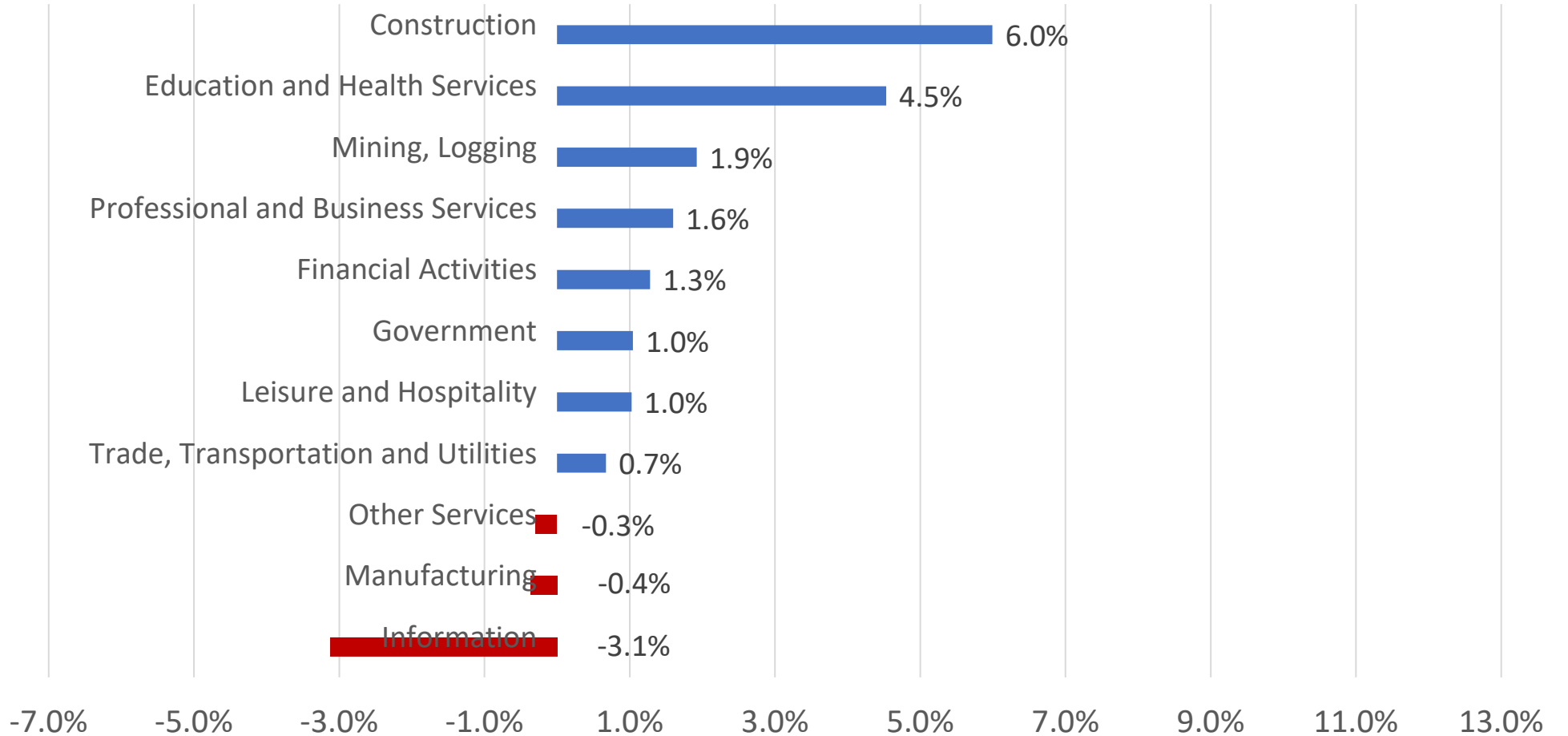
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

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## Arkansas Change in Employment by Sector, 2023-24



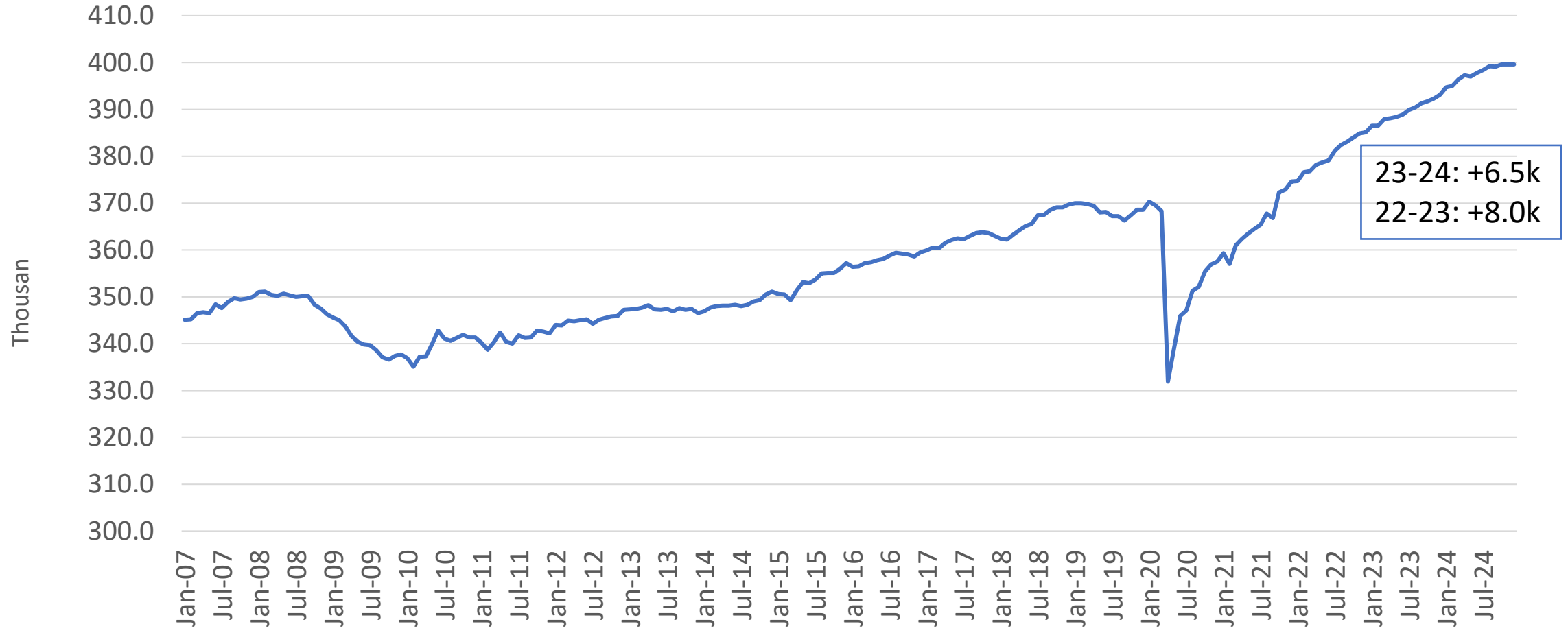
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

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## Central Arkansas Non-Farm Employment



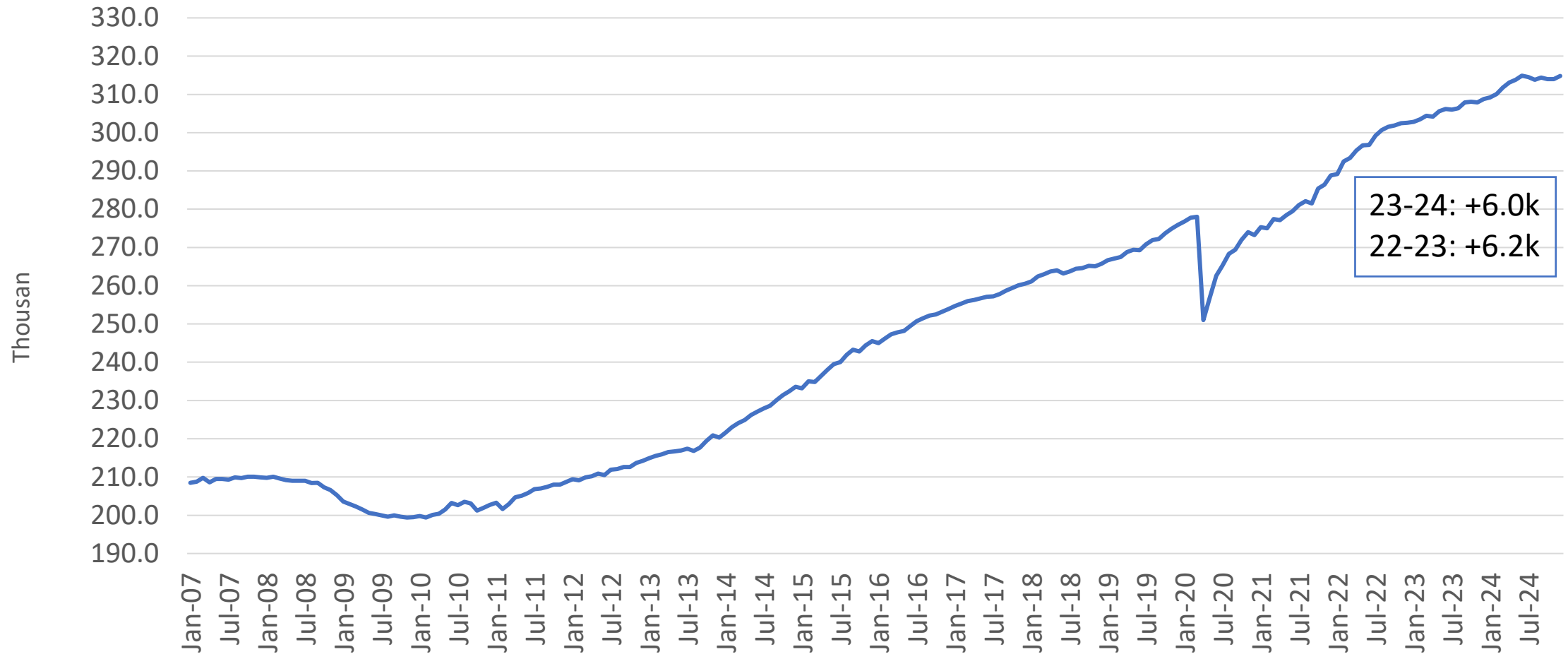
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

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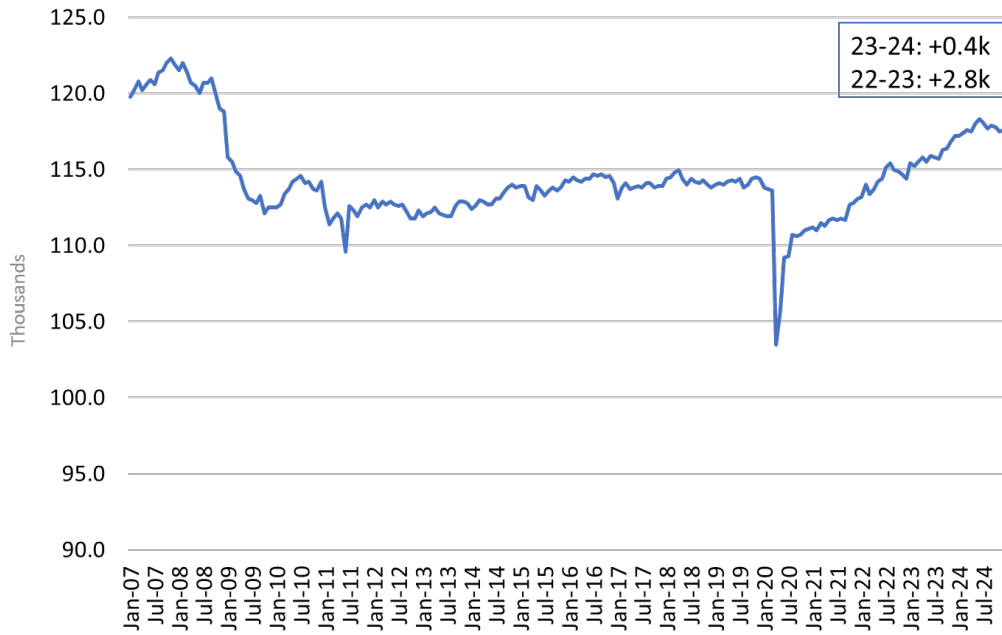


## Northwest Arkansas Non-Farm Employment

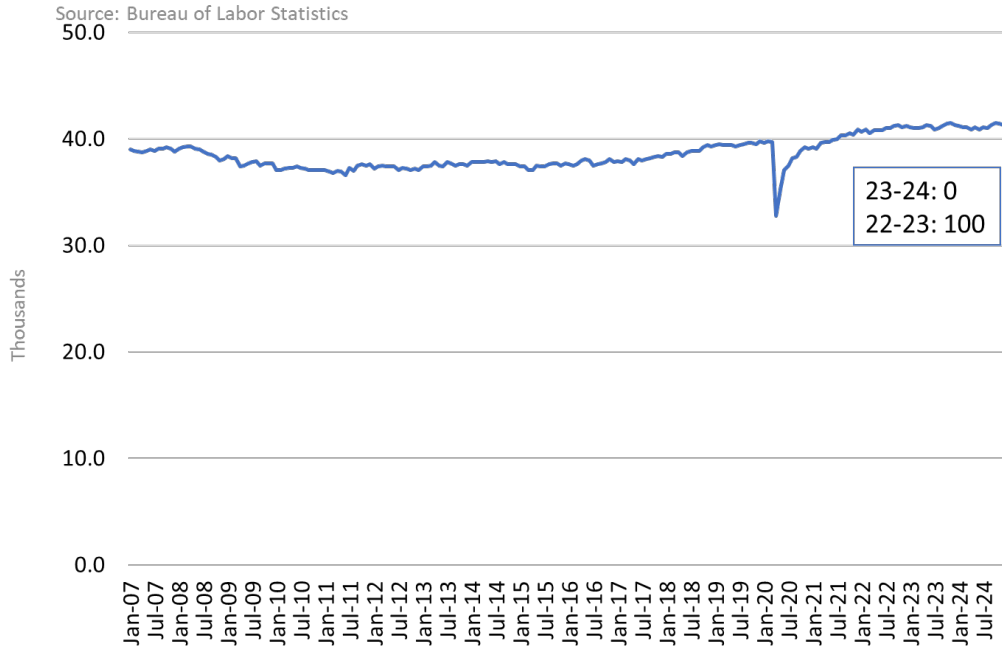


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

### Fort Smith Non-Farm Employment

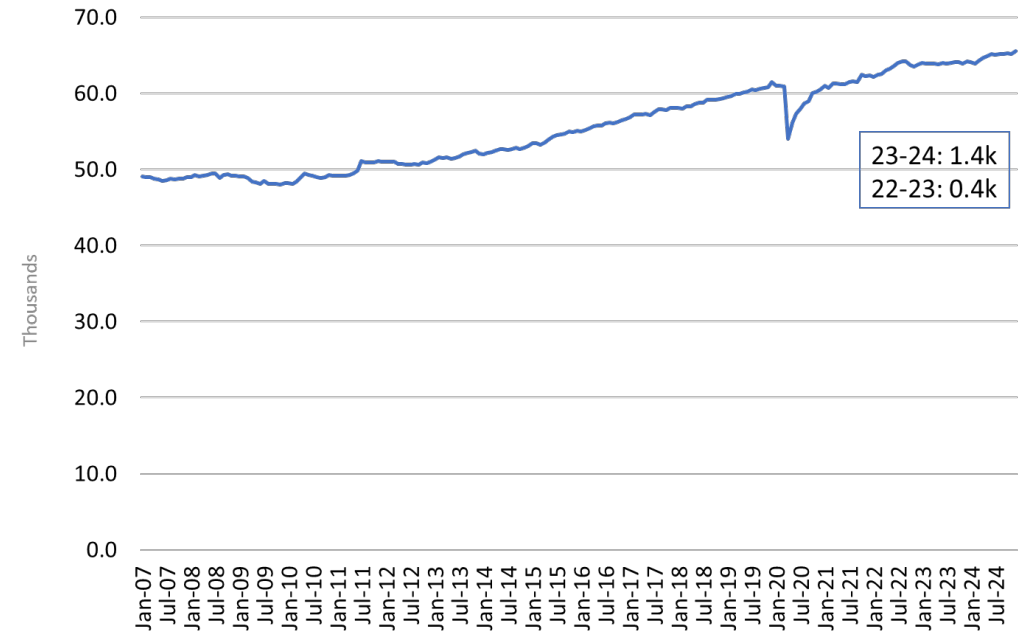


### Hot Springs Non-Farm Employment

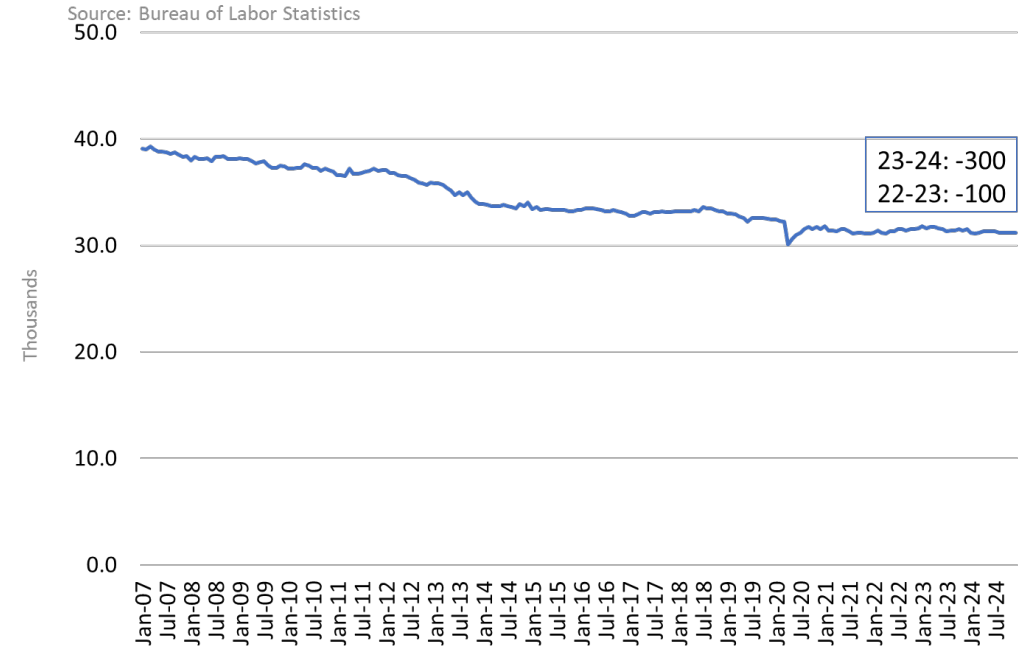


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

### Jonesboro Non-Farm Employment



### Pine Bluff Non-Farm Employment



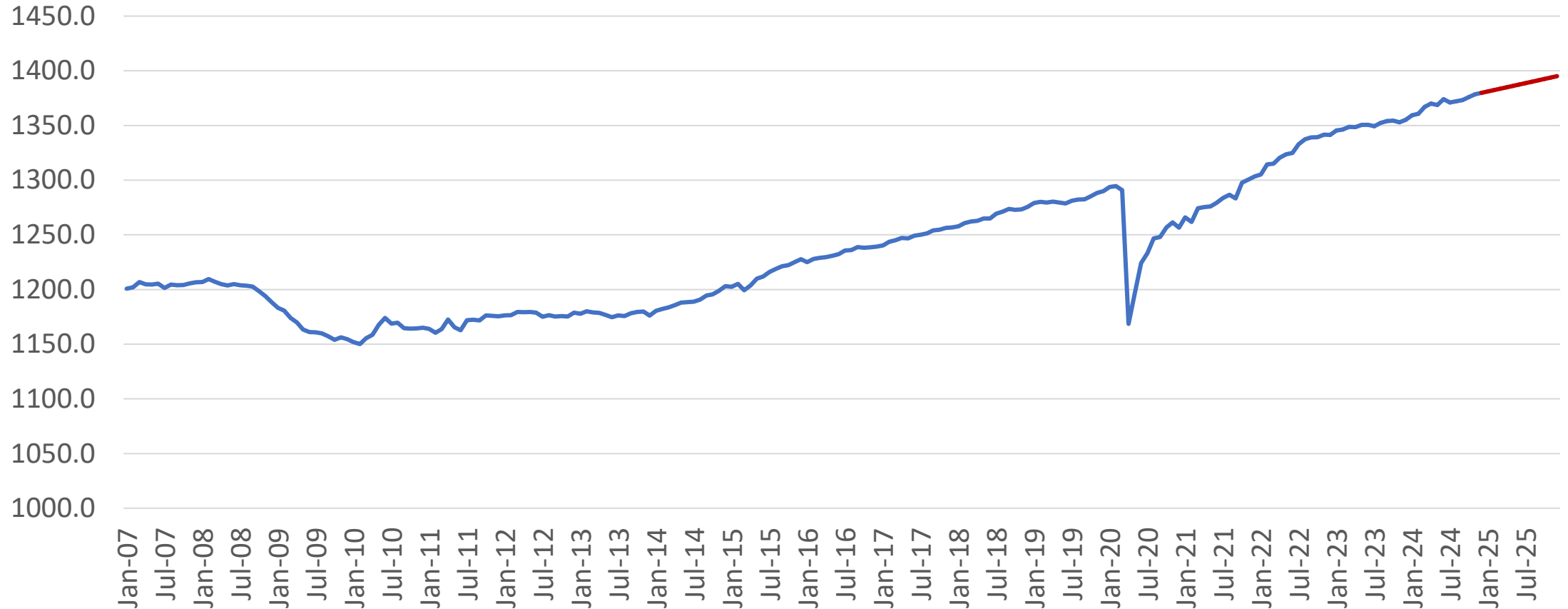
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

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## Arkansas Non-Farm Employment Forecast



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

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## 2025 Challenges and Opportunities

- Trade and Foreign Policy Impacts on Manufacturing Jobs:
  - Steel Industry v Steel Consumers
- Agriculture and Food Processing
- Affordable Housing & Growth in NWA

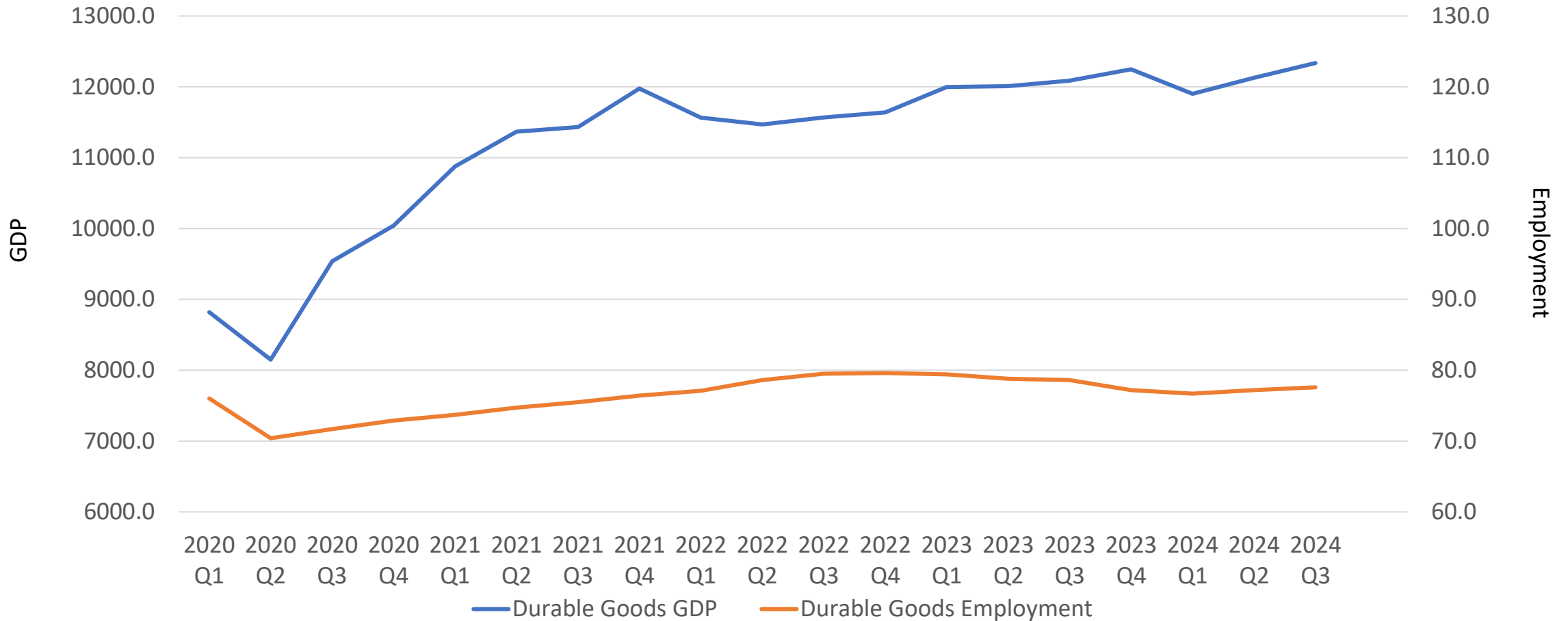


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## Arkansas Durable Goods Manufacturing Output v Jobs



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, CBER calculations

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## Arkansas

**exports \$2.7 billion**  
in goods to Canada annually



**Goods exports by industry**

- Agriculture (21%)
- Equipment & machinery (48%)
- Minerals & metals (5%)
- Transportation (18%)
- Other (8%)

## Arkansas exports \$217 million in services to Canada, including

Travel (including for education).....	\$67 million
Business services.....	\$53 million
Financial services.....	\$38 million
Charges for the use of intellectual property.....	\$20 million
Telecommunications & information services.....	\$16 million

## Top Arkansas goods exports to Canada

■ Iron & steel tubes, pipes & sheets.....	\$175 million
■ Plastics & plastic articles.....	\$98 million
■ Cereals.....	\$94 million
■ Aircraft & parts.....	\$77 million
■ Heating, cooling & refrigeration equipment...	\$73 million
■ Motor vehicle parts.....	\$69 million
■ Perfumes, essential oils & toiletries.....	\$61 million
■ Firearms & ammunition.....	\$59 million
■ Iron & steel alloys & semi-finished products...	\$47 million
■ Electric motors & generators.....	\$46 million

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## Arkansas

# imports \$2.6 billion in goods from Canada annually



**Goods Imports by Industry**

Agriculture	(12%)
Chemicals	(4%)
Energy	(7%)
Equipment & machinery	(29%)
Forest products	(9%)
Minerals & metals	(6%)
Plastics & rubbers	(5%)
Transportation	(9%)
Other	(19%)

## Top Arkansas goods imports from Canada

Softwood lumber.....	\$147 million
Electricity.....	\$136 million
Optical, medical & precision instruments.....	\$120 million
Plastics & plastic articles.....	\$112 million
Pasta, breads & cereal preparations.....	\$102 million
Hoists, derricks & lifting equipment.....	\$83 million
Furniture & bedding.....	\$77 million
Engines & turbines.....	\$69 million
Motor vehicle parts.....	\$58 million
Aircraft & parts.....	\$53 million

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\$2.0 billion

EXPORTS  
\$1.1 billion

IMPORTS  
\$913.0 million

## Arkansas' exports to Mexico

## Arkansas' imports from Mexico

■ Meat Products

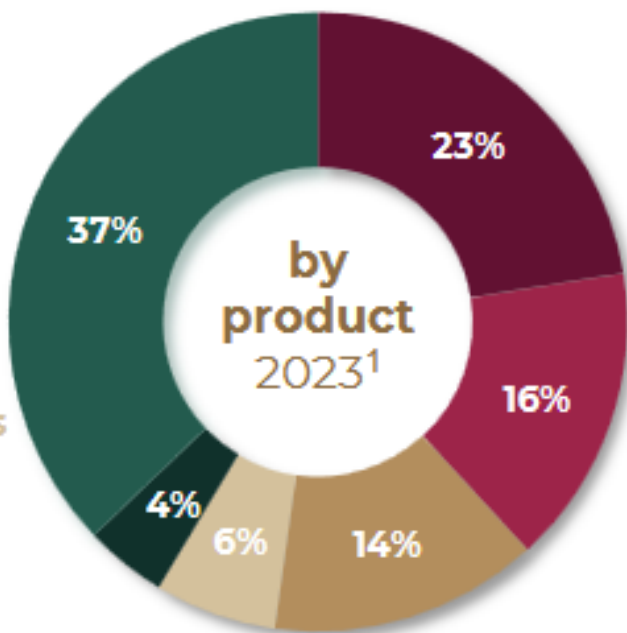
■ Iron & Steel

■ Poultry & Eggs

■ Pulp, Paper & Paperboard Mill Products

■ Agriculture & Construction & Machinery

■ Other



■ Motor Vehicles

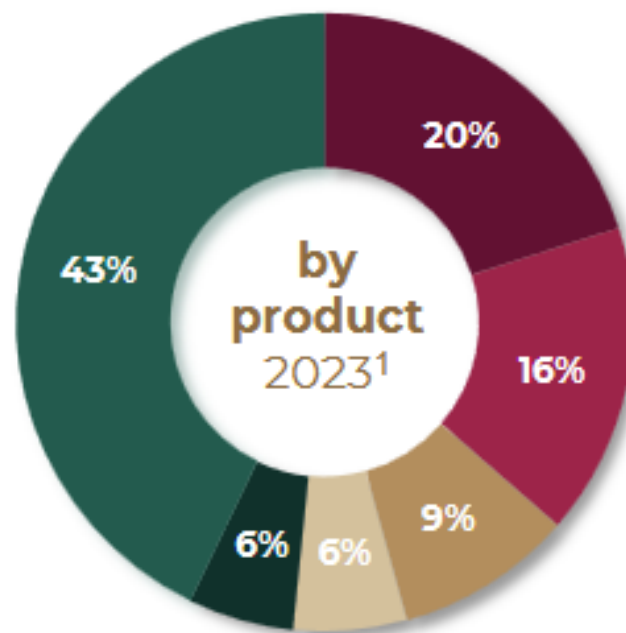
■ Electrical Equipment & Components

■ Agriculture & Construction Machinery

■ Motor Vehicle Parts

■ Beverages

■ Other

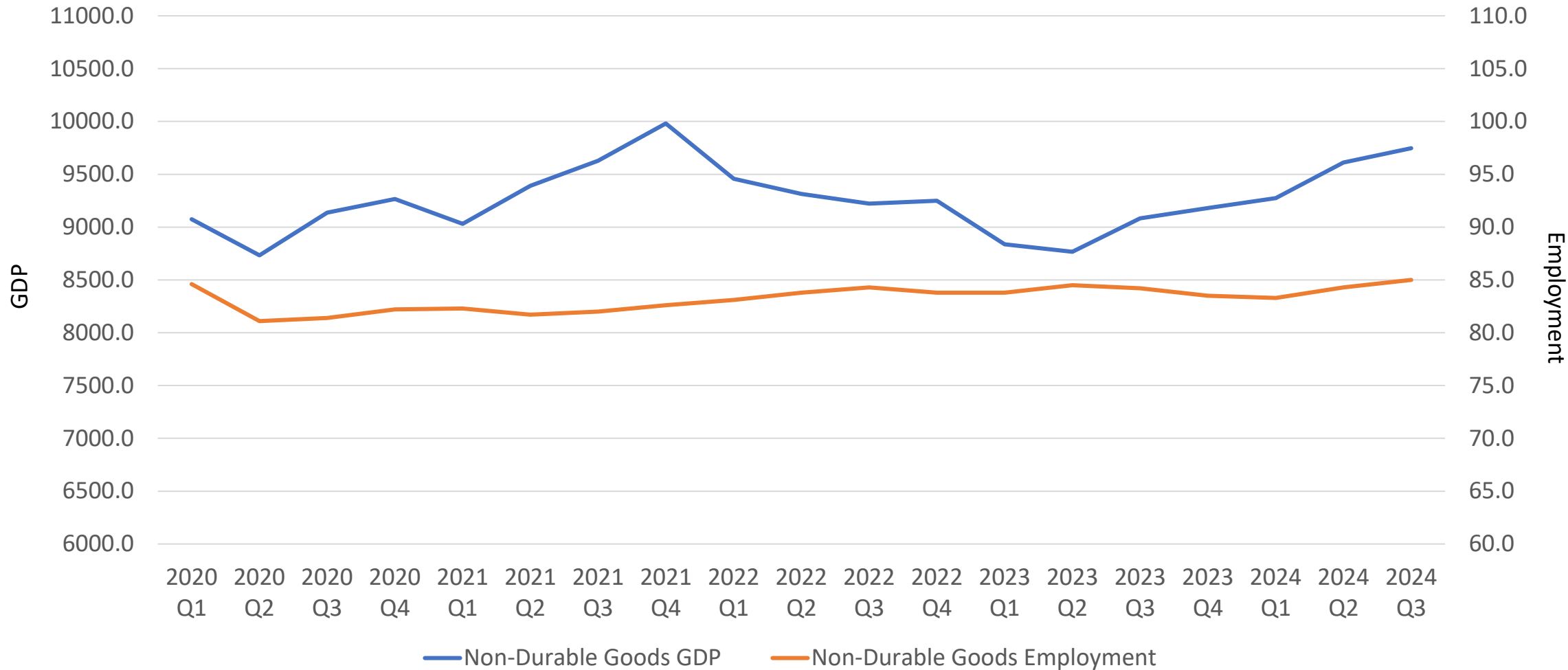


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## Arkansas Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing Output v Jobs



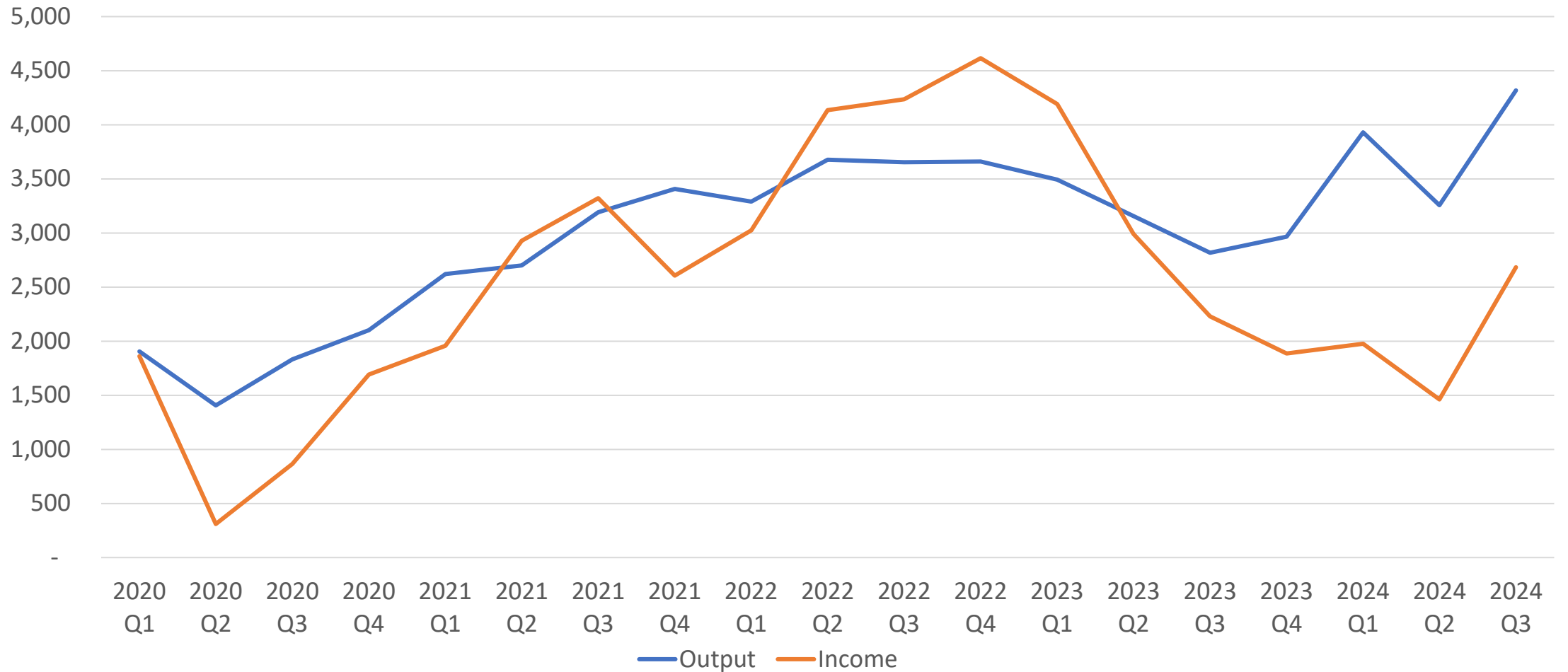
Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, CBER calculations

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## Arkansas Agriculture & Forestry Output v Income



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, CBER calculations

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Choose variable

All Flocks

Choose time period

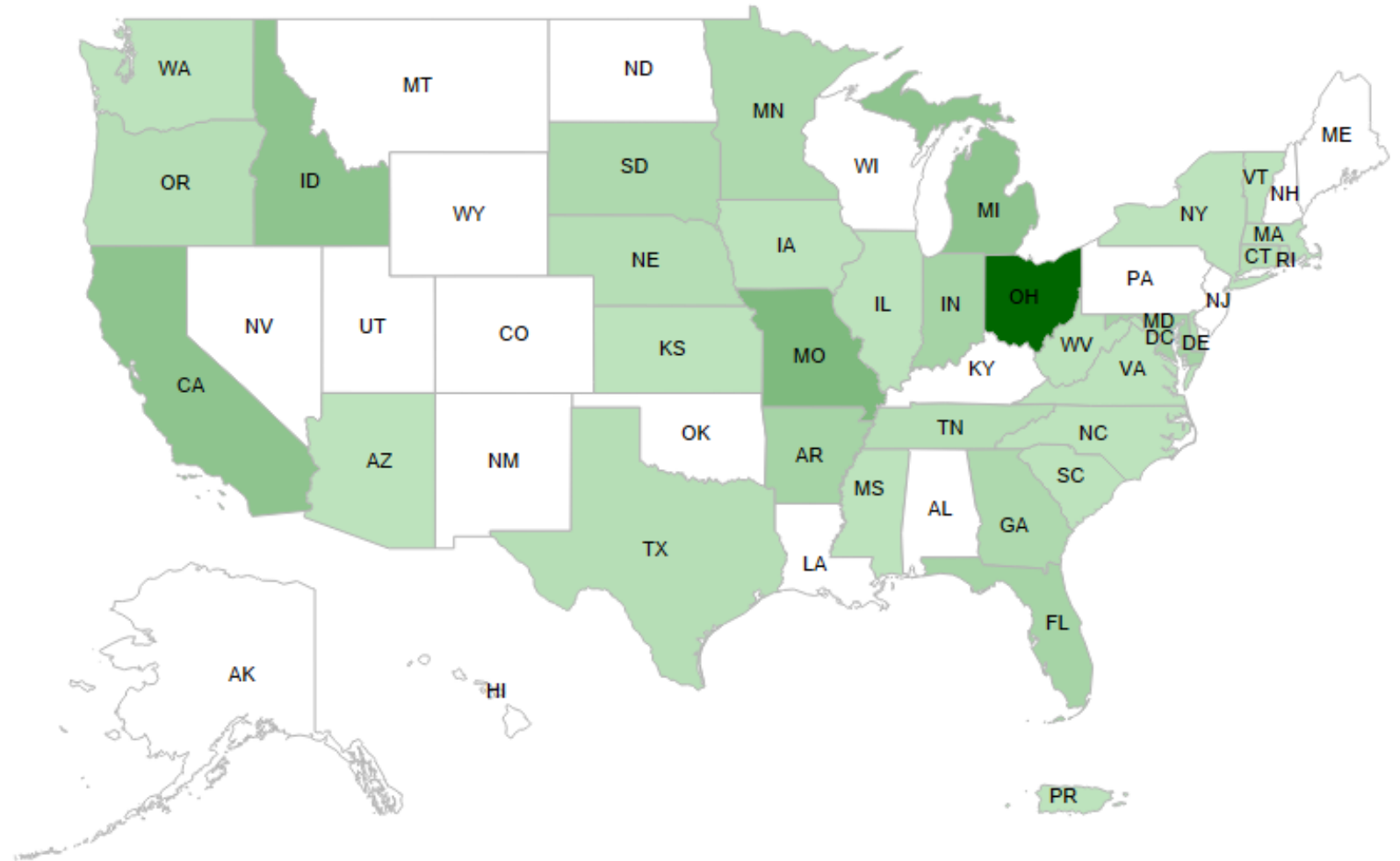
Last 30 Days

## All Flocks by State

Legend 0  25

[Click For International Exports](#)

Confirmed HPAI Detections in the Last 30 Days

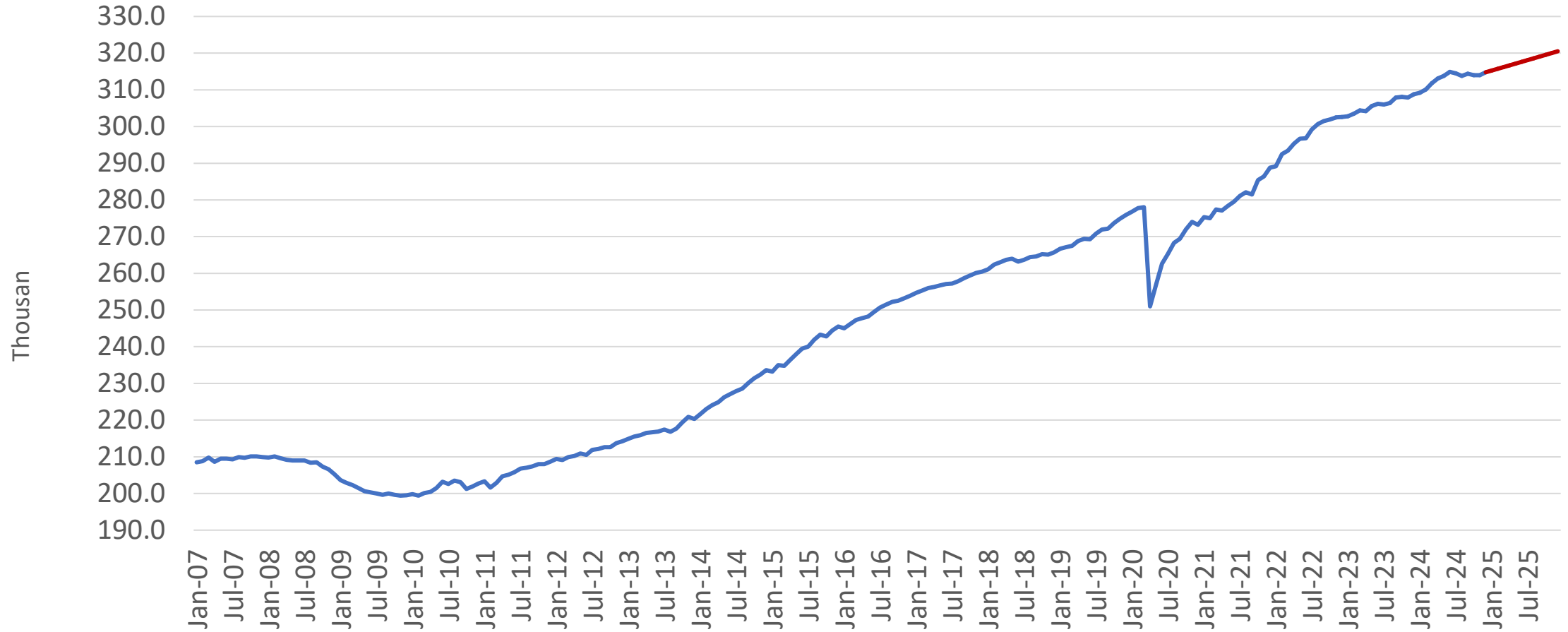


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## Northwest Arkansas Non-Farm Employment Forecast



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

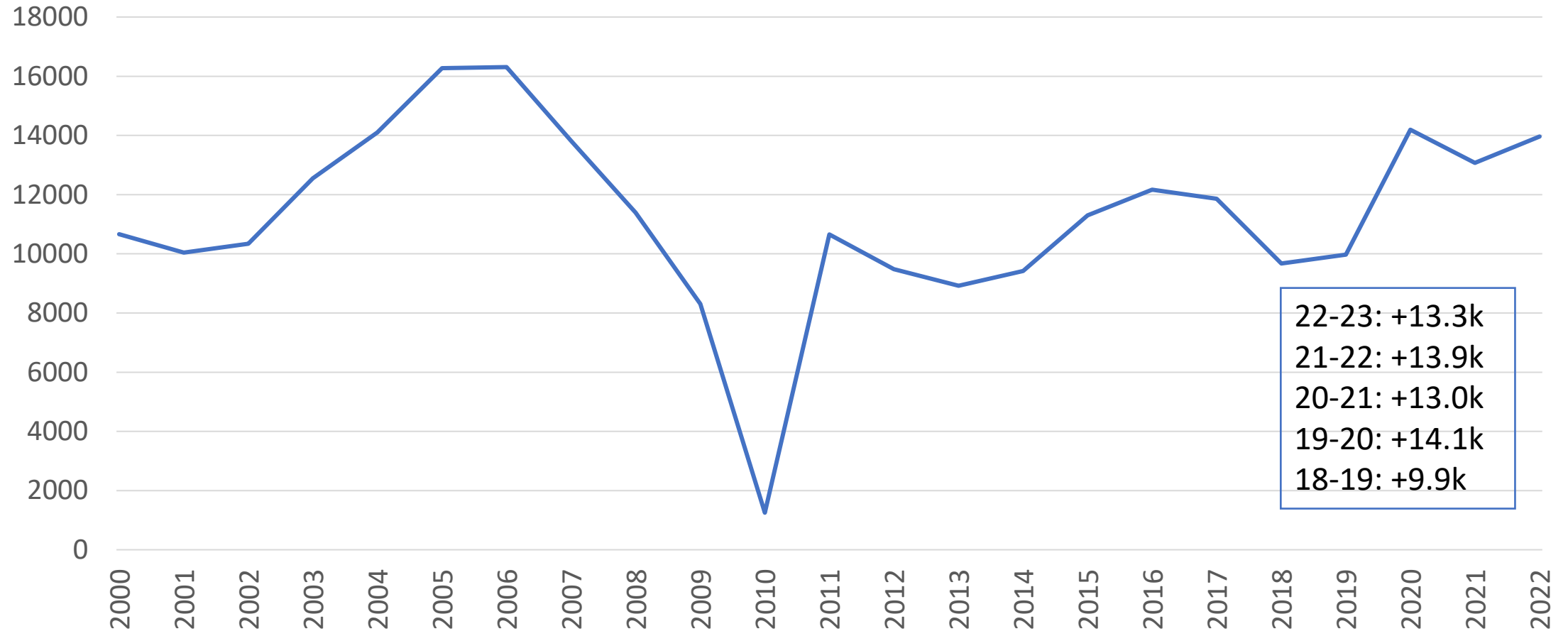


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## Northwest Arkansas Population Growth



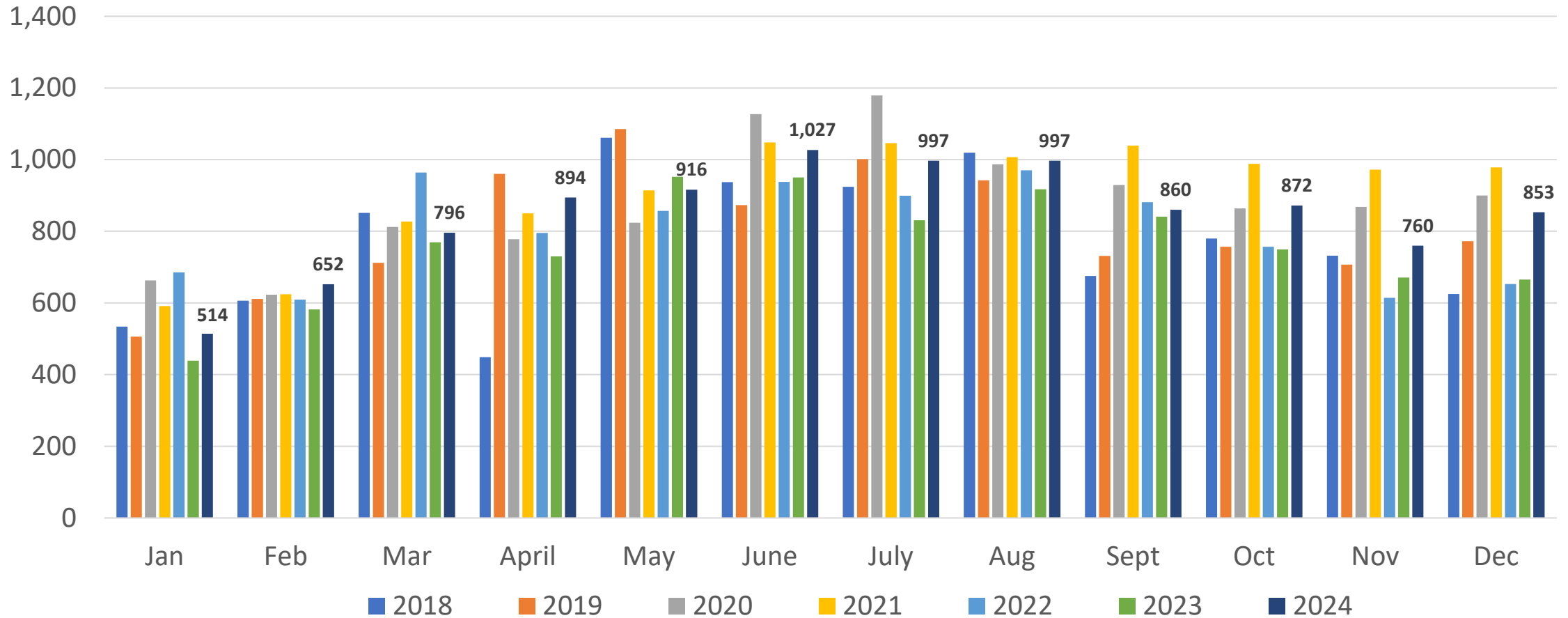
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

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NWA Number of Houses Sold



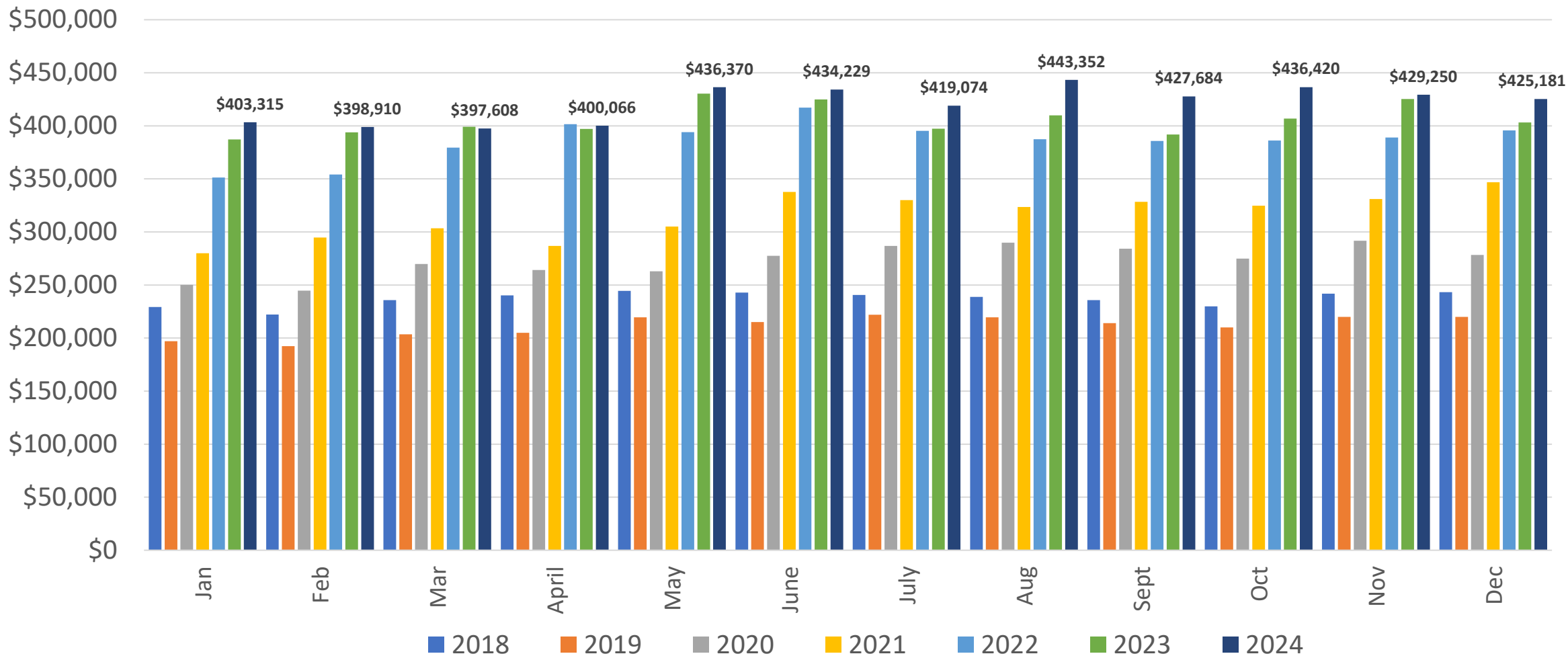
Source: Skyline Report, MLS Database

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## NWA Average Price of Houses Sold



Source: Skyline Report, MLS Database

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## \$3 Billion: University of Arkansas' Annual Economic Impact to the Natural State

■ Expanding economic opportunity across Arkansas is part of the land-grant mission of the University of Arkansas.

The U of A delivers a staggering \$3 billion economic impact to the state via workforce development, applied research and innovation, student expenditures, visitor spending, construction and operations.

The U of A further enhances the state's economy by fulfilling its land-grant mission of preparing its graduates for successful careers, growing ideas and applying innovations to support industries and small businesses alike. And as impressive as the numbers are, they only hint at the positive impact the U of A makes in the lives of its students, the businesses the university supports and the graduates who better our state and world.





# U of A Workforce Impact

■ The university's graduates are making a positive difference in every county in Arkansas and contributing mightily to the state's economy. And with record enrollment, more students are on the road to joining the Arkansas workforce.



The U of A's more than 87,000 alumni in Arkansas earned \$3.4 billion in wages, or 7.4 percent of the state's total wages in 2023. They paid \$192.2 million in taxes in the State of Arkansas.



More than 33,600 students are enrolled at the U of A this year, including a new high for the number of Arkansans enrolled, both setting records for the fourth year in a row.



More than 6,000 students graduated in the class of 2023.



The graduating class of 2023 had a career placement rate of 93%. Their average starting salary was \$60,457.\*



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# Record Research & Innovation

U of A research drives innovation and delivers life-changing discoveries to Arkansans. The university is conducting research at a record rate, investing in applied research infrastructure at an unprecedented level and transferring U of A technology to the marketplace.



Research expenditures were a record \$221.5 million in 2023, up 20.3 percent from 2022 and 34.7 percent from 2021.



The university received more than \$136.8 million in research awards in 2023.



University researchers disclosed 93 inventions, filed 47 new patent applications and were granted 18 patents.



The university invested more than \$136 million of its own resources into applied research facilities since 2021.

# Supporting our Land-Grant Mission and Growing the Arkansas Economy



The university's economic impact of over \$3 billion includes \$2.5 billion in recurring operational impacts and \$522.4 million in one-time construction impacts.



These efforts supported almost 19,000 jobs in 2023.



The university had direct Arkansas expenditures of \$1.1 billion.

The operations of the university and associated economic activities contributed more than \$126.2 million in state and local taxes in the form of income taxes, business taxes, property taxes, sales taxes and other taxes.

# Driving Arkansas Business

■ U of A economic development programs and initiatives contribute to the state in ways that go far beyond our direct \$3 billion impact. The university helped create and expand businesses throughout Arkansas that generated \$733.8 million dollars of economic impact. Those businesses paid \$25.9 million in taxes to the State of Arkansas.



U of A students and alumni have started 107 active businesses since 2019. These businesses support more than 300 jobs and generate an ongoing economic impact of \$52.1 million and tax collections of \$2.4 million.



Arkansas businesses supported by the U of A's World Trade Center increased or generated new exports worth \$191.5 million since 2020. The economic impact of the increased exports from Arkansas businesses was \$550.0 million and supported more than 5,000 jobs, while more than \$19.3 million in state and local taxes were generated by these activities.



54 new businesses were created with the consulting services of the U of A Arkansas Small Business and Technology Development Center in 2023. They generated an economic impact of \$131.8 million and state and local taxes amounting to \$4.2 million, in addition to supporting over 570 jobs.



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<https://www.uark.edu/economic-impact/>



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