





Challenges and Opportunities in 2025–2026–2027

Presented by ITR Economics
Economist & Senior
Consulting Speaker
Michael Feuz

2024 Forecast Results

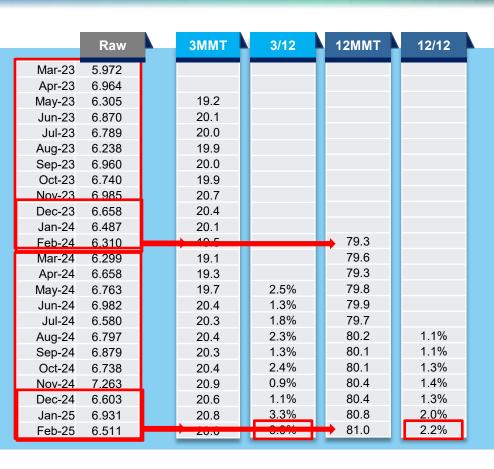


	Duration	Accuracy
US GDP	12	98.6%
US Ind. Production	19	96.5%
Europe Ind. Production	20	99.1%
Canada Ind. Production	10	99.6%
China Ind. Production	25	96.3%
Retail Sales	26	95.6%
Housing - Single Family	11	99.7%
Employment-Private Sector	11	99.7%

ITR Economics provides the best economic intelligence to reduce risk and drive practical and profitable business decisions.

A Powerful Management Tool • Rates-of-Change





3/12

Based on data from a consecutive 3-month period compared to one year earlier.

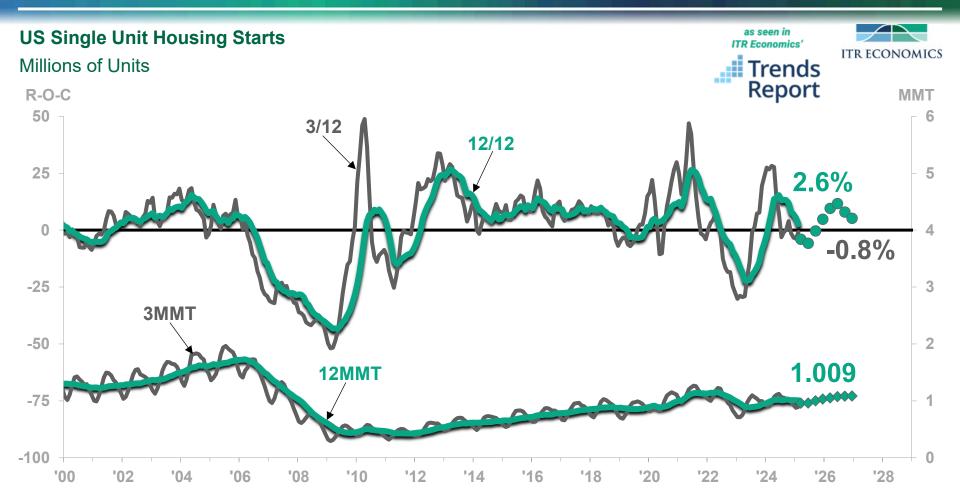
Anticipates shifts in business cycle trends.

12/12

Based on data from a consecutive 12-month period compared to one year earlier.

Defines the business cycle.

Expect Mild Rise Through 2025

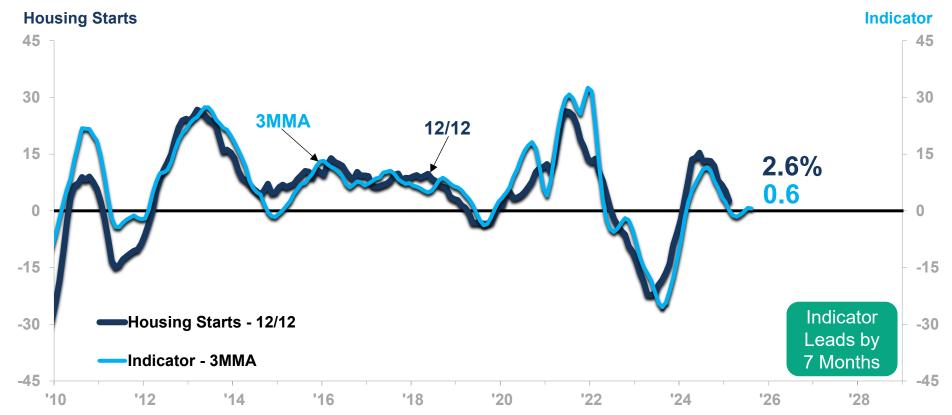


Housing Starts Rise to be Muted by Affordability Constraints

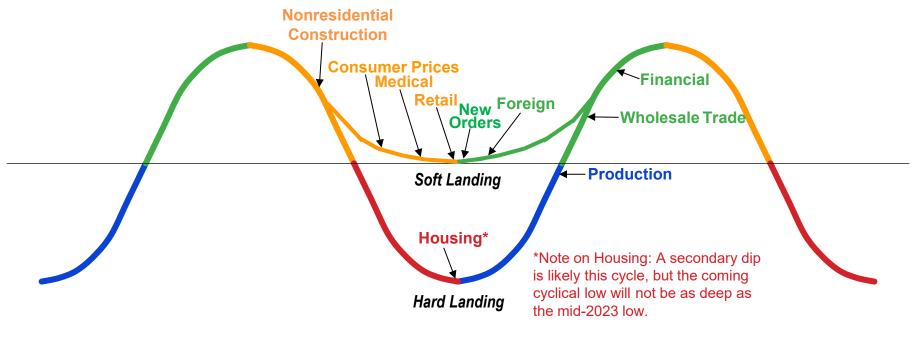
US Single-Unit Housing Starts to ITR Single-Unit Housing Starts Leading Indicator



Rate-of-Change to Quarterly Data Trend



















The World Economy, Global Trade & Tariffs



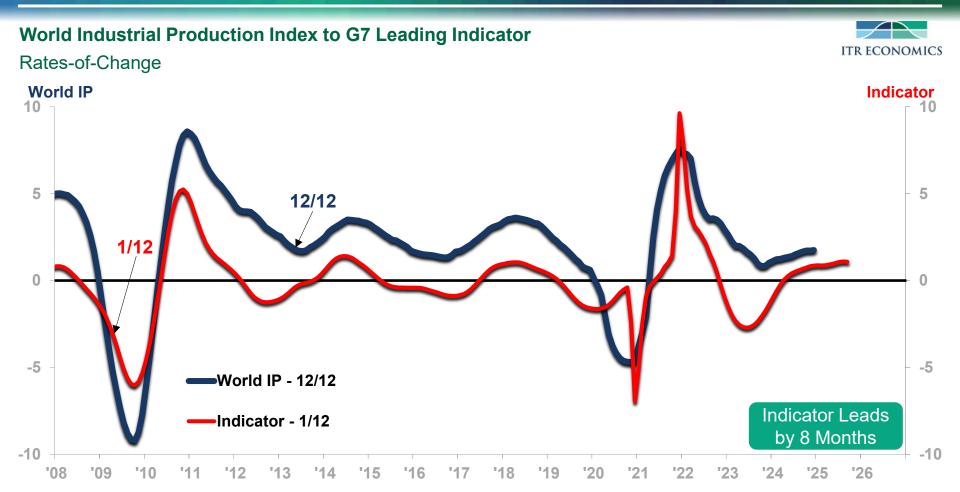
The Global Economy At-a-Glance



Source: ITR Economics Trends Report™	Historical 12/12	Historical 12MMA	Current 12/12	2025	2026	2027
Canada Industrial Production	~	1	0.1	2.3	1.7	1.0
Mexico Industrial Production Index	~	Y	0.2	0.4	0.7	0.9
Brazil Manufacturing and Mining Industrial Production Index	~~~		3.1	-2.2	2.7	1.7
Western Europe Industrial Production Index	~		-1.7	2.1	0.8	1.3
Eastern Europe Industrial Production Index	~~		-0.8	2.9	1.6	1.0
India Industrial Production Index	~~~		4.3	5.3	3.3	3.7
China Industrial Production Index	√		5.6	3.4	4.5	4.3

Note: Forecast color represents what Phase the market will be in at the end of the year. Ukraine data has been removed from Eastern Europe Industrial Production as it is unavailable due to the war. We have added Hungary Industrial Production data to the series.

Indication of Ongoing Rise in 2025

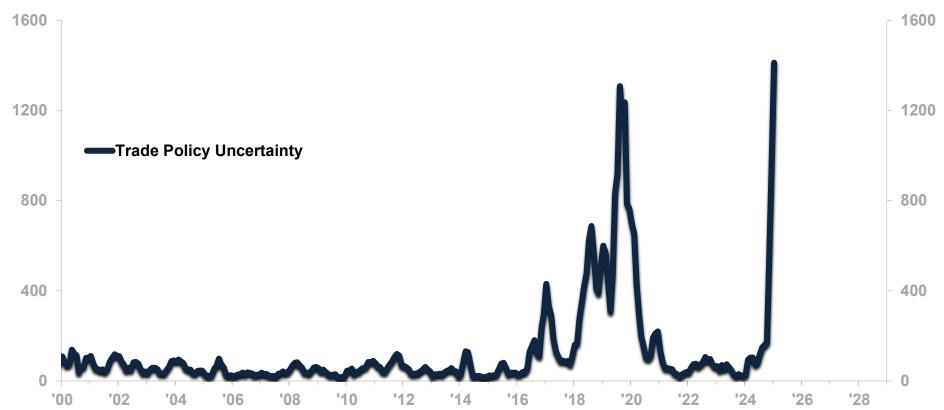


Uncertainty Abounds

US Trade Policy Uncertainty Index

Quarterly Data Trend: Index





US Top Trading Partners

US Top Trading Partners Through December 2024

Billions of Dollars



Top 15 Countries US Trades With through December 2024 (Billions of Dollars)

1. Mexico	\$ 839.9	6. South Korea	\$197.1	11. Netherlands	\$ 123.8
2. Canada	\$ 761.2	7. Taiwan	\$158.6	12. Ireland	\$ 119.8
3. China	\$ 582.5	8. Vietnam	\$149.7	13. Italy	\$ 108.8
4. Germany	\$ 236.0	9. United Kingdom	\$148.0	14. France	\$103.4
5. Japan	\$ 227.9	10. India	\$129.2	15. Brazil	\$92.0

Tariff Impact on Lumber Pricing Likely to Be Minimal



Wood Imports from Canada (2023)

Canadian Wood Imports By Year

- "The lumber used to frame a new home makes up a significant portion of the overall cost to build. In fact, the average new home built in the U.S. has a rough lumber package cost in the range of 6.5% to 8% of the total cost to build the home." https://ownerbuilderclass.com/blog/f/lumber-prices-for-new-homes
- A 25% Tariff on Canadian Lumber would roughly have a \$3,000 to \$5,000 price increase on a home costing \$400,000 to build if the tariff is fully passed through and if the builder uses Canadian Lumber.

P

7.36%

US Capacity Utilization Can Absorb Some Canadian Production

US Wood Products Capacity Utilization Rate to US Sawmills and Wood Preservation Production Index



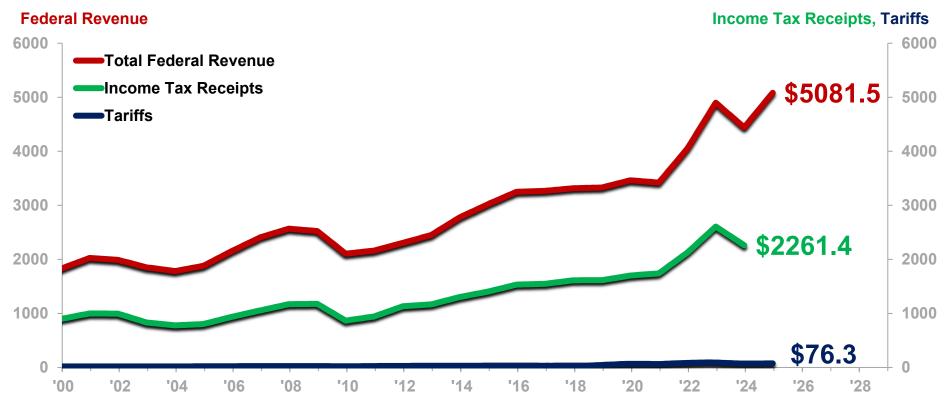


Tariffs Account for Less than 1% of Total Federal Revenue

US Total Federal Revenue to US Current Federal Government Tax Receipts from Personal Income Tax to US Value of Tariffs Collected on Imported Goods



Annual Data Trends: Billions of Dollars



Tariffs & Trade Takeaways









Next Steps

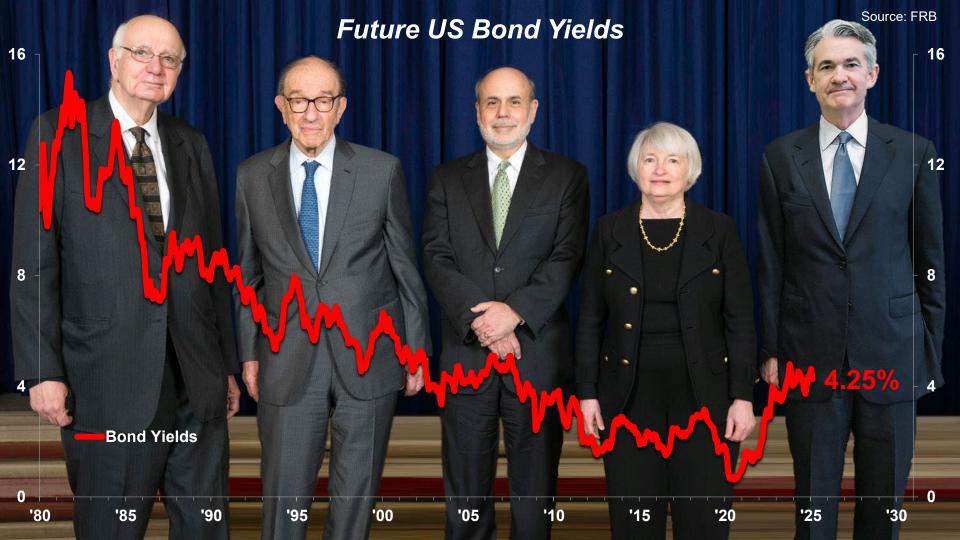
- Develop your tariff playbook.
- Cut costs relentlessly that do not impact your long-term strategy.
- Raise prices aggressively.





Inflation & Interest Rates

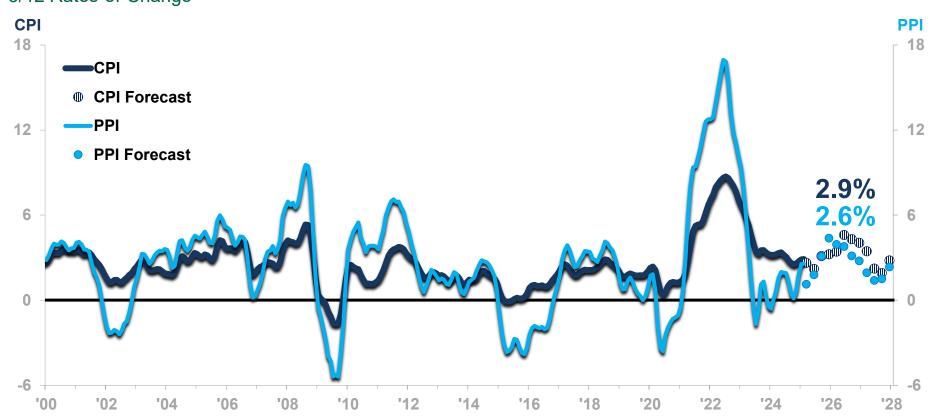




US Consumer Price Index to US Producer Price Index

ITR ECONOMICS



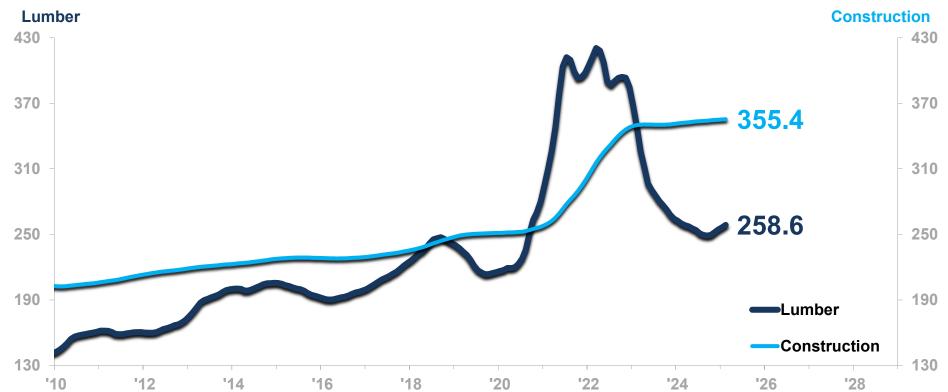


Prices to Rise 2H25 Amid Residential Construction Expansion





Annual Data Trends: 1982 = 100



Inflation Summary





Meaningful interest rate decline is not probable for 2025.



Lock in fixed rates for 5–7 years if you are going to use leverage.



Use the next 12–18 months to develop a prolonged inflation strategy.

Next Steps

- Stay with us via our weekly Fed Watch YouTube free broadcasts.
- youtube.com/@ITREconomics

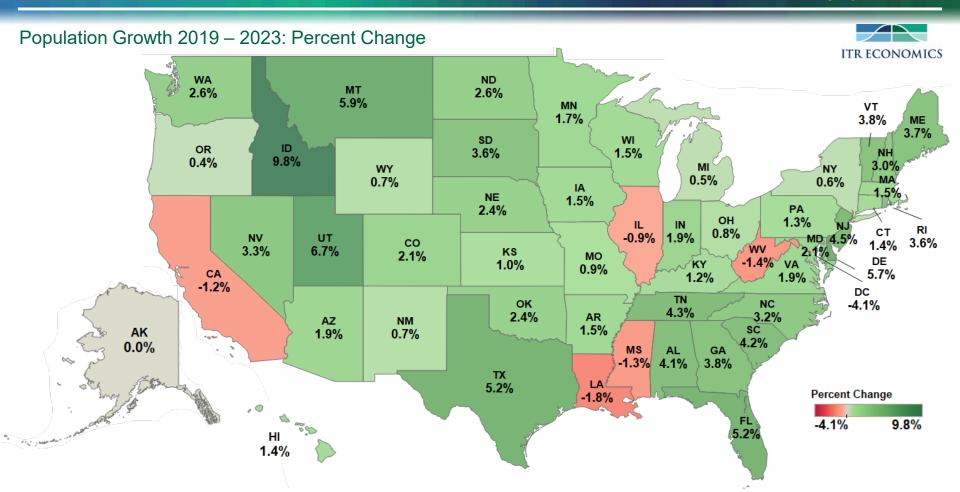




People



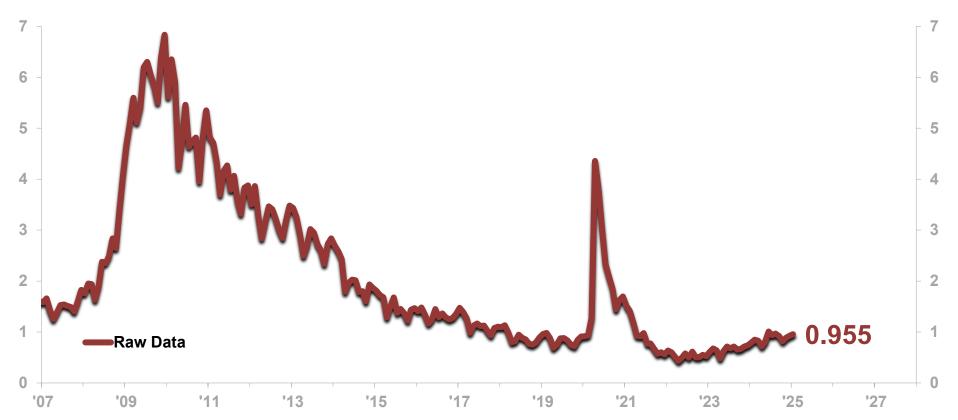
Population Changes 2019 to 2023



US Number of Unemployed Persons per Job Opening

ITR ECONOMICS

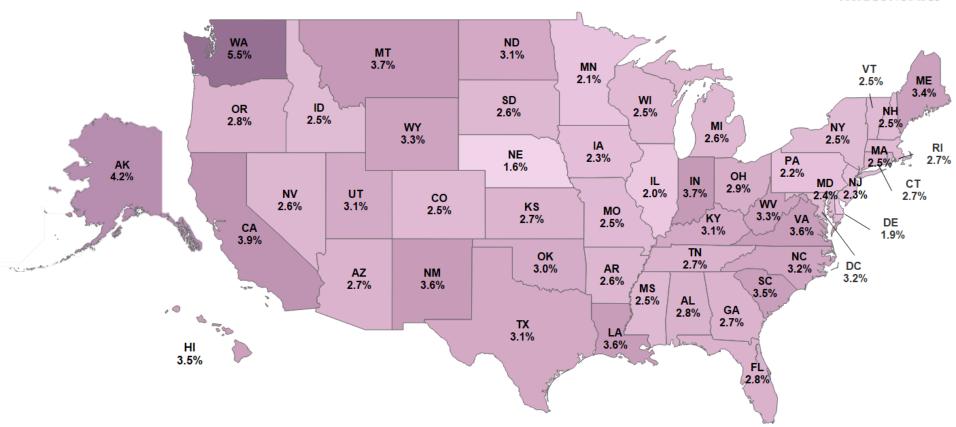
Raw Data: Number of Persons



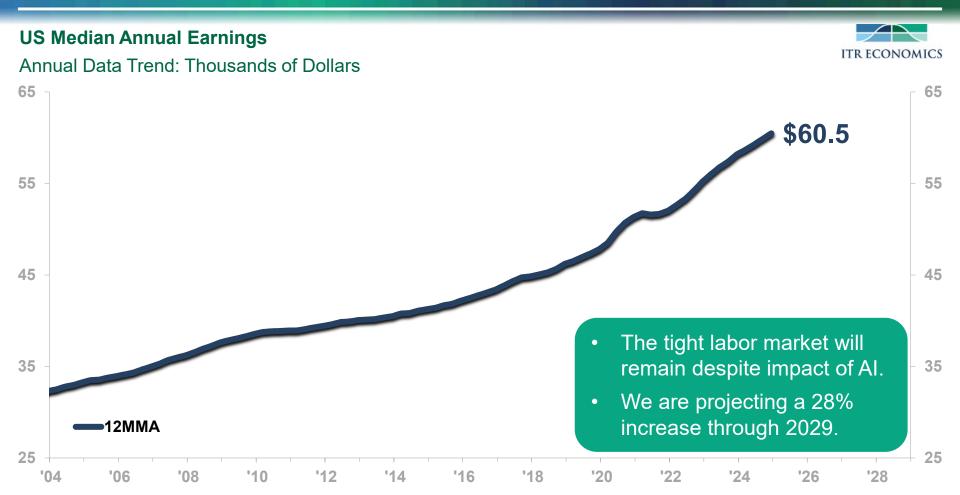
US Wage Inflation by State

12/12 Rates-of-Change





Expect Labor Costs to Move Higher to 2030



Labor Summary









Next Steps

- Baby Boomers are leaving.
- Prepare the next generation.

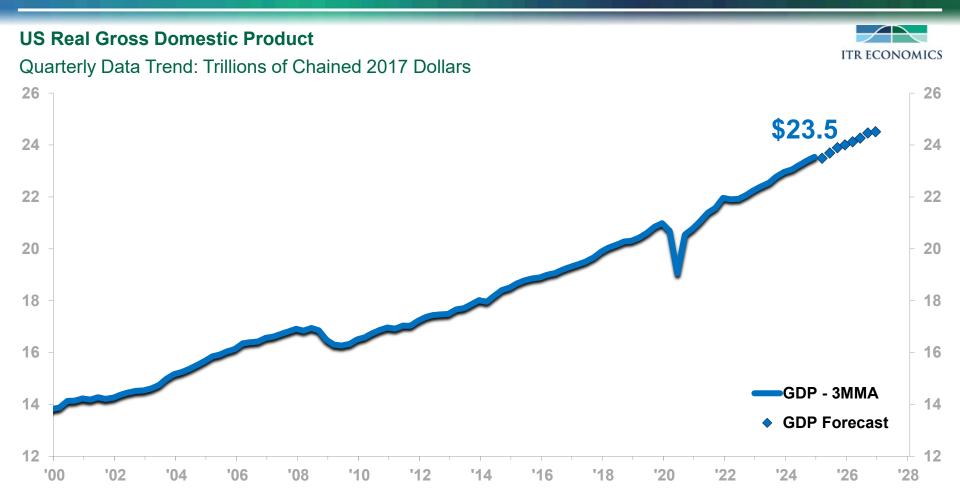




Macroeconomic Trends



Growth Expected to Characterize 2025 & 2026

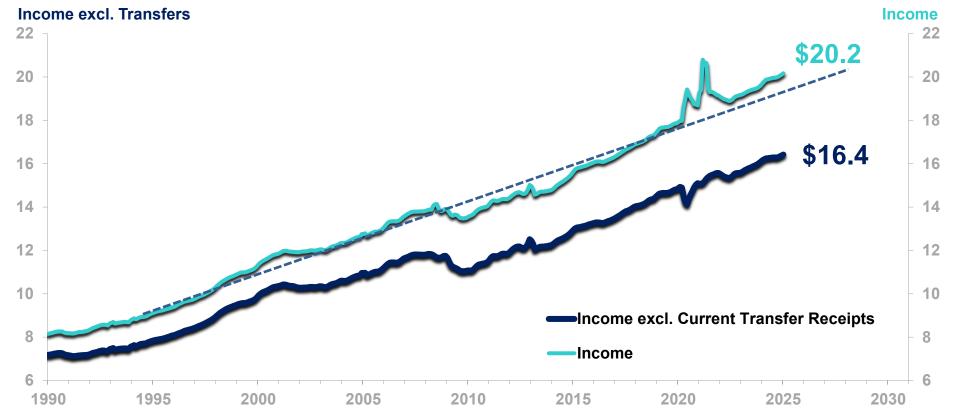


Inflation-Adjusted Wages Are Rising

US Real Personal Income (excluding current transfer receipts) to US Real Personal Income



Quarterly Data Trends in Trillions of Chained 2017 Dollars



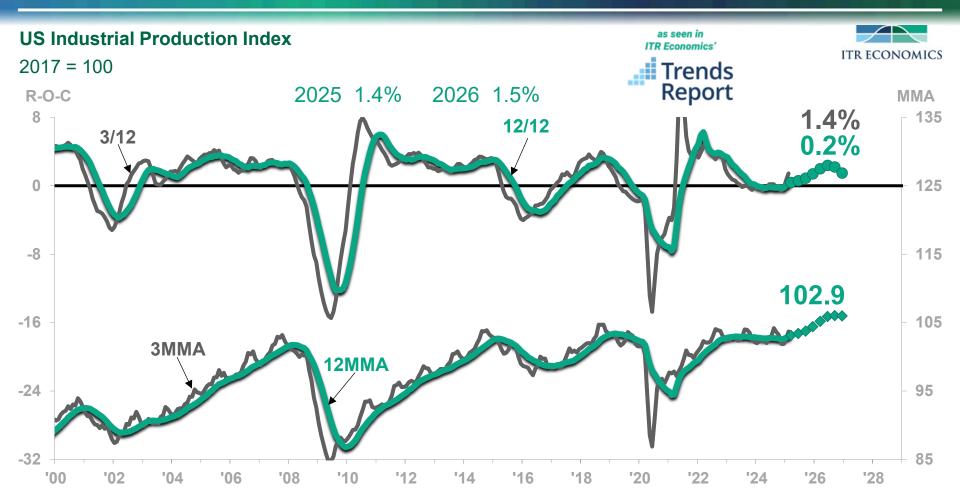
Mixed Results on the Financial Dashboard

US Profits and Delinquency Rates



	Monthly	Notes
Auto Loan Delinquency	4.83%	Post GR avg* 4.1%; Elevated & a concern
Credit Card Delinquency	3.18%	Back on trend; Pre-Covid 10-yr avg 2.76%
Residential Delinquency (>90 days)	1.82%	Not an issue; up only 2 bps since Apr '24 Low
Domestic Nonfinancial Corp Profits (Trillions of Dollars)	\$2.77	Record high but +5.6% gain is below avg

Rise Begins Now



US Leading Indicators

Leading Indicators to US Industrial Production



Indicator	1Q25	2Q25	3Q25	Lead Time
ITR Leading Indicator				8
ITR Retail Sales Leading Indicator				8
US OECD Leading Indicator				9
US ISM PMI				12
US Total Capacity Utilization Rate			N/A	7

Coloring denotes the business cycle phase at year-end. **Annual growth rate (12/12)

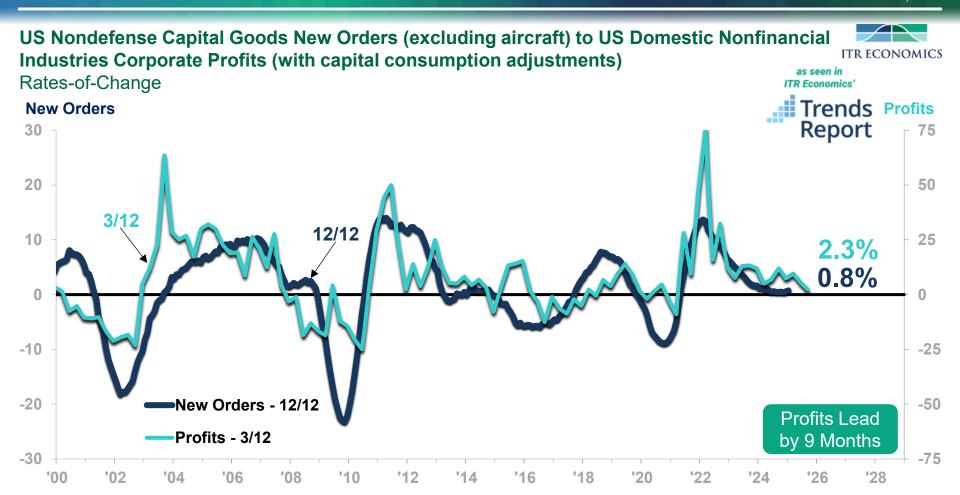








Profits Signaling Mild Rise in Capital Expenditures



Macroeconomic Trends Summary





Real incomes are rising but discretionary income is getting squeezed.



Expect the pressure of making choices to ease until inflation comes back in earnest.



Expect the second half of 2025 to be stronger than the first half of the year.

Next Steps

- Competitive advantages must be compelling.
- Set more aggressive goals for the next several years.
- Gaining market share through 2029 will set you up well for the 2030s.





Construction



Permits Signal Potential for Rise for Housing Starts



Housing Starts - 12/12

'06

'08

Permits - 3/12

'02

-30

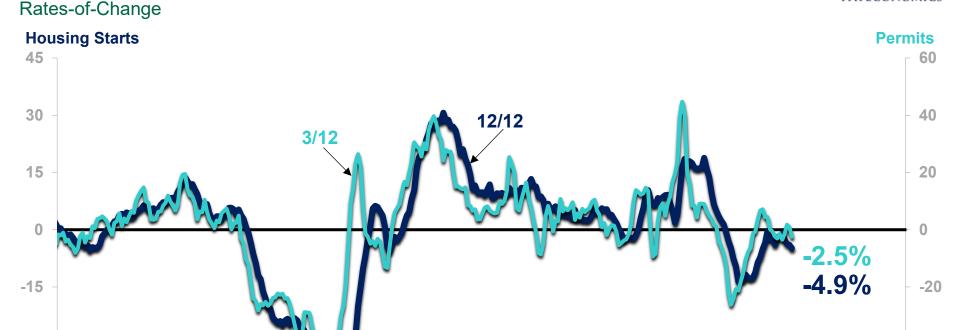
-45



-40

-60

'28



'16

'18

'20

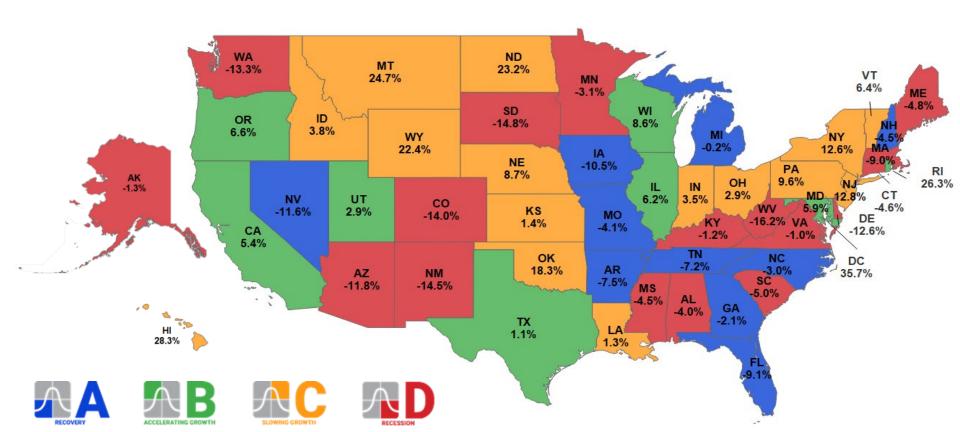
'24

'26

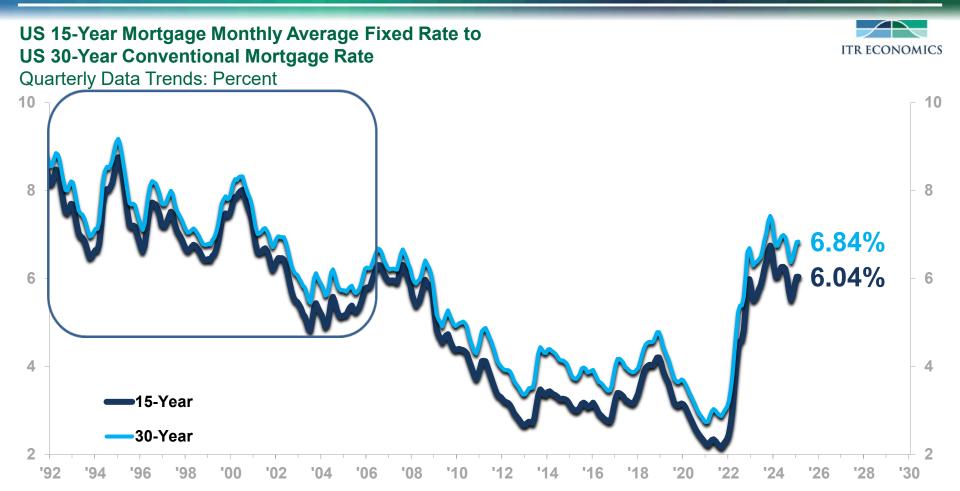
US Single-Family Housing Unit Permits by State

3/12 Rates-of-Change





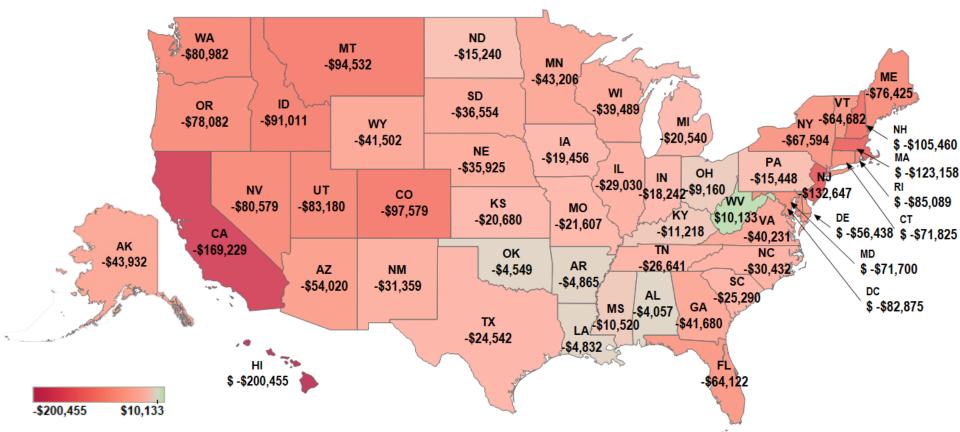
Mortgage Rates Trending into the "New Normal"



Housing Affordability Varies Considerably

Average Household Income Surplus or Deficit to Income Needed to Afford an Average Priced Home



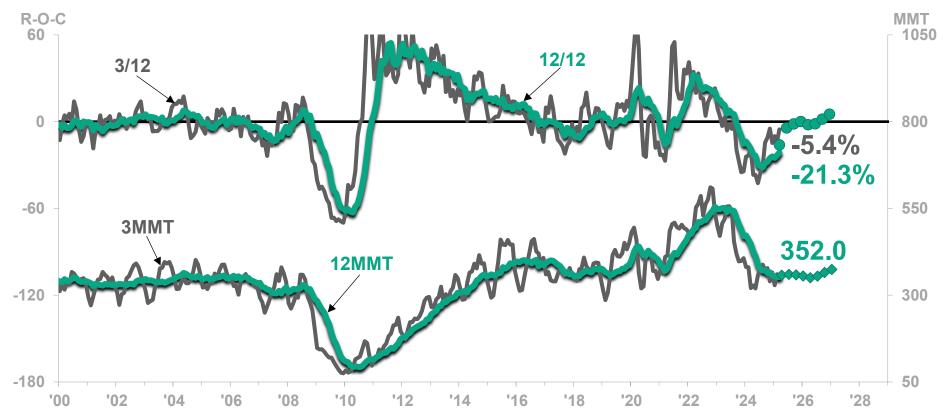


General Rise Through 2026; Remain Below 2022-23 Levels





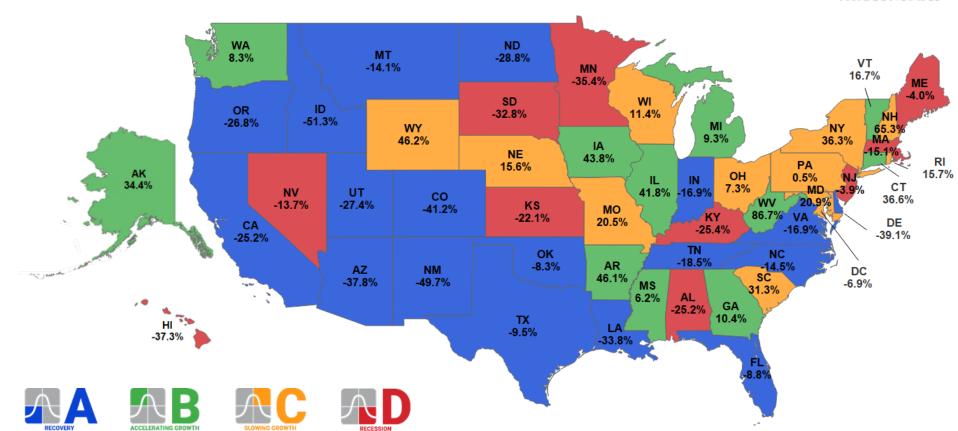




US Multi-Family Housing Unit Building Permits

12/12 Rates-of-Change



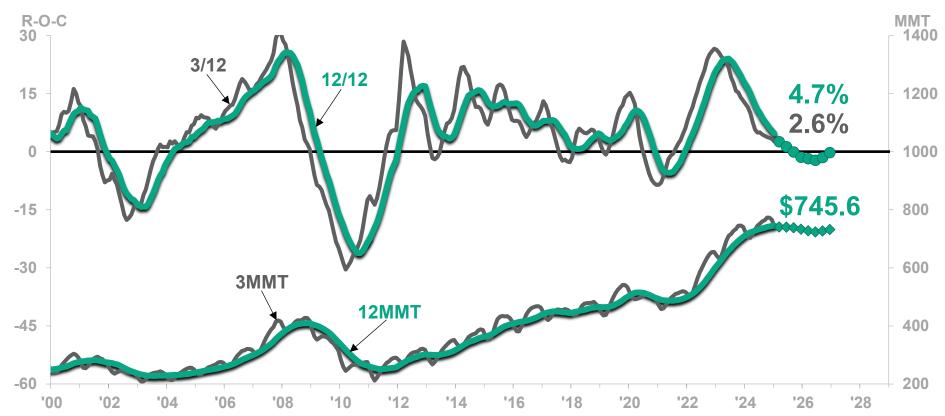


Nonres Construction to Generally Decline into Early 2026







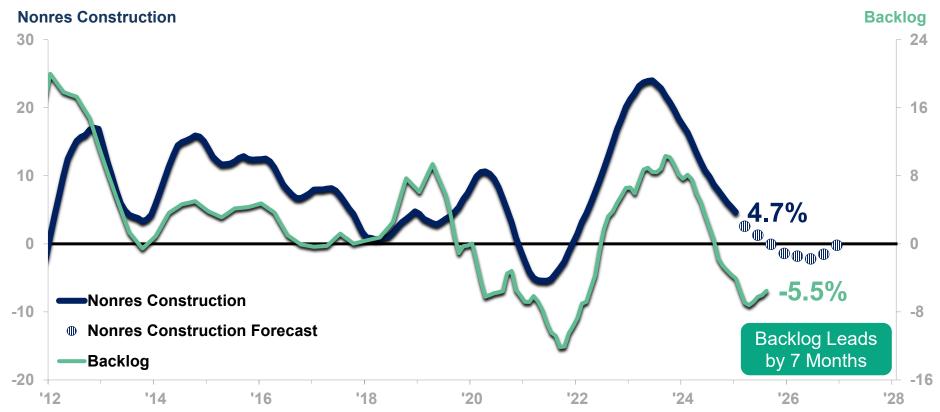


Backlogs Signal Further Construction Cyclical Decline





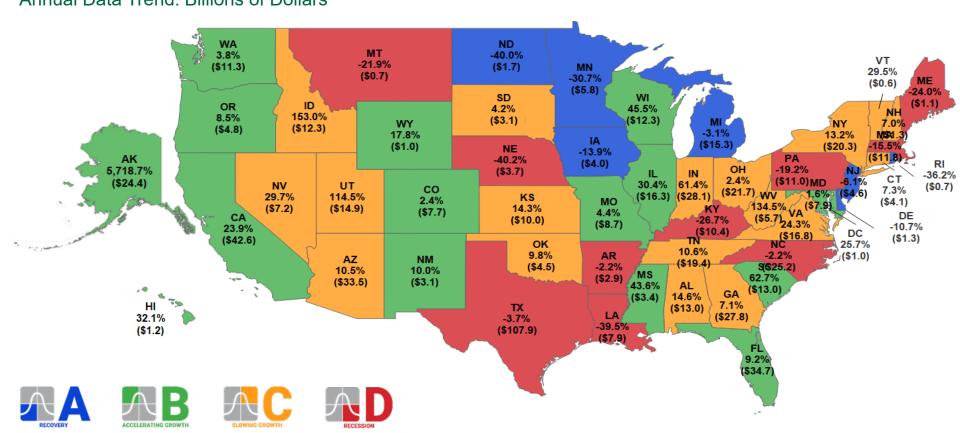




US New Nonresidential Construction

12/12 Rates-of-Change Annual Data Trend: Billions of Dollars





The US Construction Economy At-a-Glance

	Historical 12/12	Historical 12MMT	Current 12/12	2025	2026	2027	Highlights ITR ECONOMICS	
US Single-Unit Housing Starts	~ √		5.2	4.8	5.2	5.1	Starts will rise from mid-2025 through at least 2027. Rise may be muted and choppy due in part to affordability headwinds.	
US Multi-Unit Housing Starts	~~		-23.1	0.2	5.3	-0.7	Market conditions are relatively weak. The 12MMT will vacillate between 345 and 377 thousand units in the coming three years.	
US Private Office Construction	M		-14.8	-3.6	8.2	3.0	The 12MMT will decline for much of 2025 due to unfavorable industry conditions. The 12MMT will then rise through at least 2027.	
US Total Education Construction	─ ✓		8.4	-2.0	2.2	6.1	Prior decline in housing starts signals a weaker year for Construction. Expect decline from the near term into early 2026.	
US Total Hospital Construction	~~		10.1	2.4	5.6	2.8	Construction will rise through 2027, although growth will slow this year. An aging US population will keep demand relatively high.	
US Private Manufacturing Construction	\sim		20.3	-1.3	-12.8	-4.2	Receding government incentives and the impact of elevated interest rates will temper Construction. Onshoring is an upside.	
US Private Multi-Tenant Retail Construction	\sim		-7.2	-2.3	7.3	-2.1	Expected stronger consumer signals will drive recovery and rise in this market. Low vacancy poses an upside risk to our forecast.	
US Private Warehouse Construction	~~		-18.6	6.0	9.0	1.2	A rising trend will kick off early this year as economic activity gains momentum. Interest rates remain an obstacle.	
US Public Water & Sewer Facilities Construction	~~		13.2	2.3	-2.0	-0.5	Prior housing and utilities trends suggest downside pressures. The 12MMT will peak around mid-2025, then decline into late 2027.	

Note: Forecast color represents what Phase the market will be in at the end of the year.









Looking Ahead



- Do not expect meaningful interest rate change in 2025.
- Wages, rents, power, and nationalism will lead to higher prices.
- Build out an inflation strategy.

- Margin pressures mean having an effective cost management and inflation savvy plans imperative.
- Be USA-centric in your thinking regarding the future.

- Digitize and use AI.
- Maximize competitive advantages.
- Think about expanding the asset classes you are invested in and plan to pivot hard in 2028 – 2032.



Any questions?



Is your business facing these questions and concerns as we move toward the 2030s?

- Interest rate sensitivity
- Price sensitivity
- Dependence upon a demand-pull market dynamic that will be hard hit in the 2030s
- Worth of your business positively correlated to the financial markets
- Reliant upon market activity that is largely non-discretionary

Financial Resilience: Your Blueprint to the 2030s

Extended forecast and custom roadmap

LEARN MORE



