

# U.S. & CANADA ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

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**Presented at the 2025 Pacific Northwest  
Economic Conference**

May 20, 2025

Tony Stillo, Director of Canada Economics



# No one wins a trade war

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## Today's roadmap:



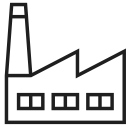
Our baseline tariff assumptions and the global outlook



US growth to weaken but avoid a recession



The trade war will push Canada into a recession



The impact of US tariffs on Canadian steel, aluminum & autos



Trade war scenarios



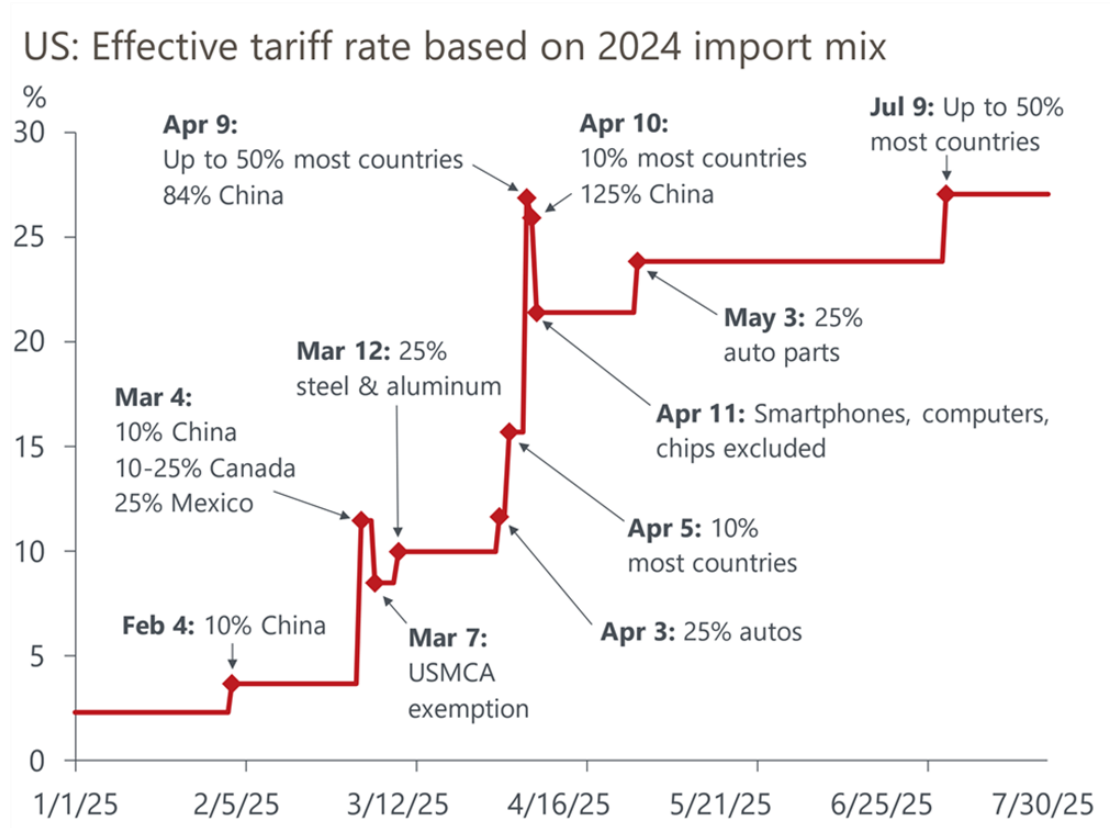
Questions?

## Our baseline tariff assumptions and the global outlook

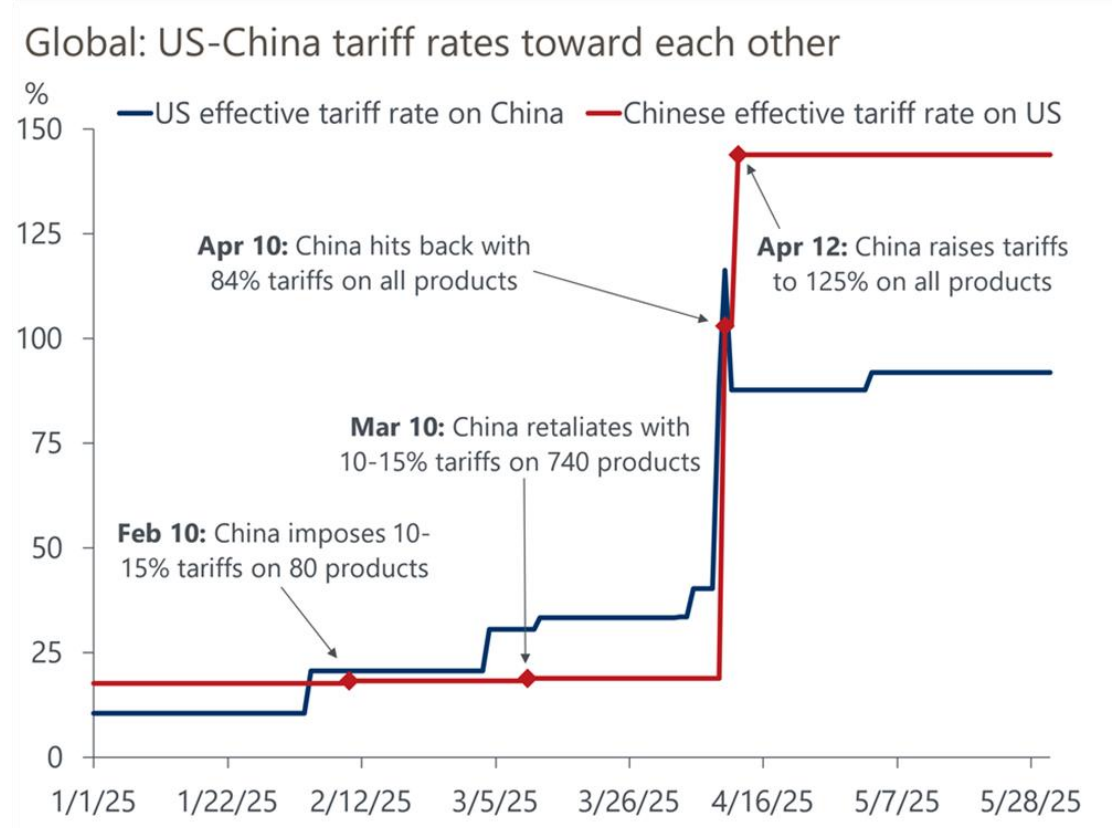
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# The tariff roller coaster ride continues

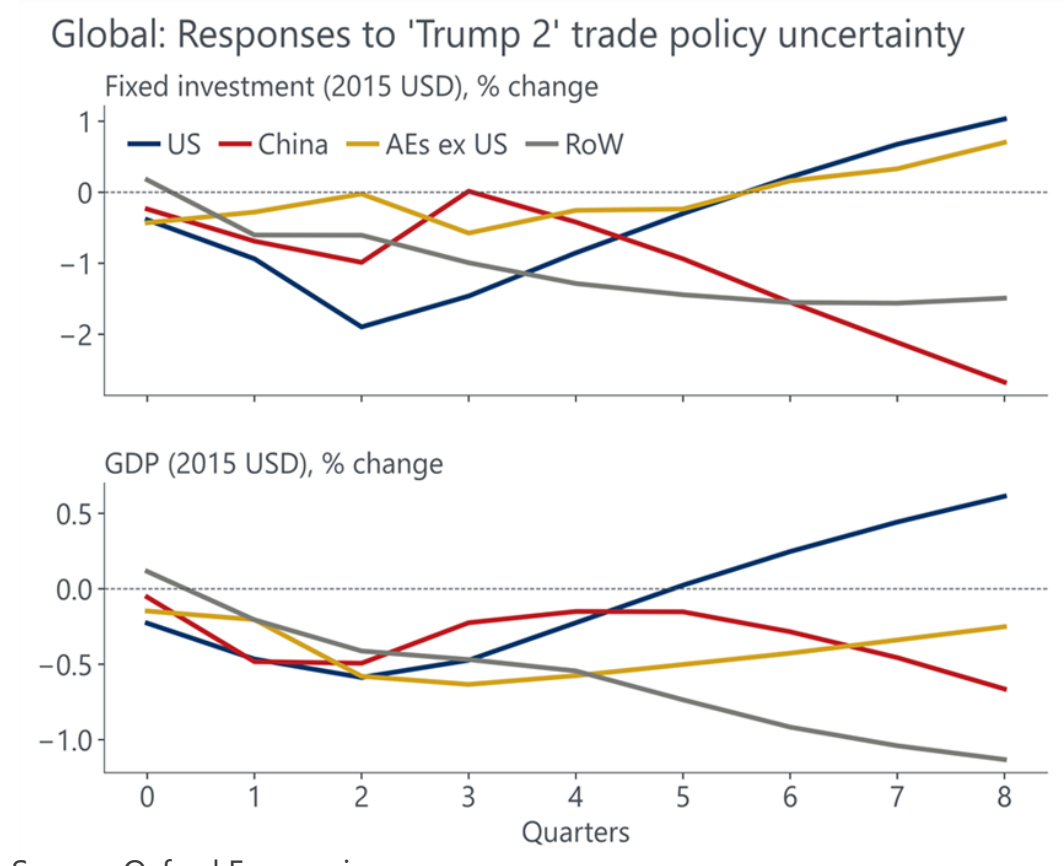
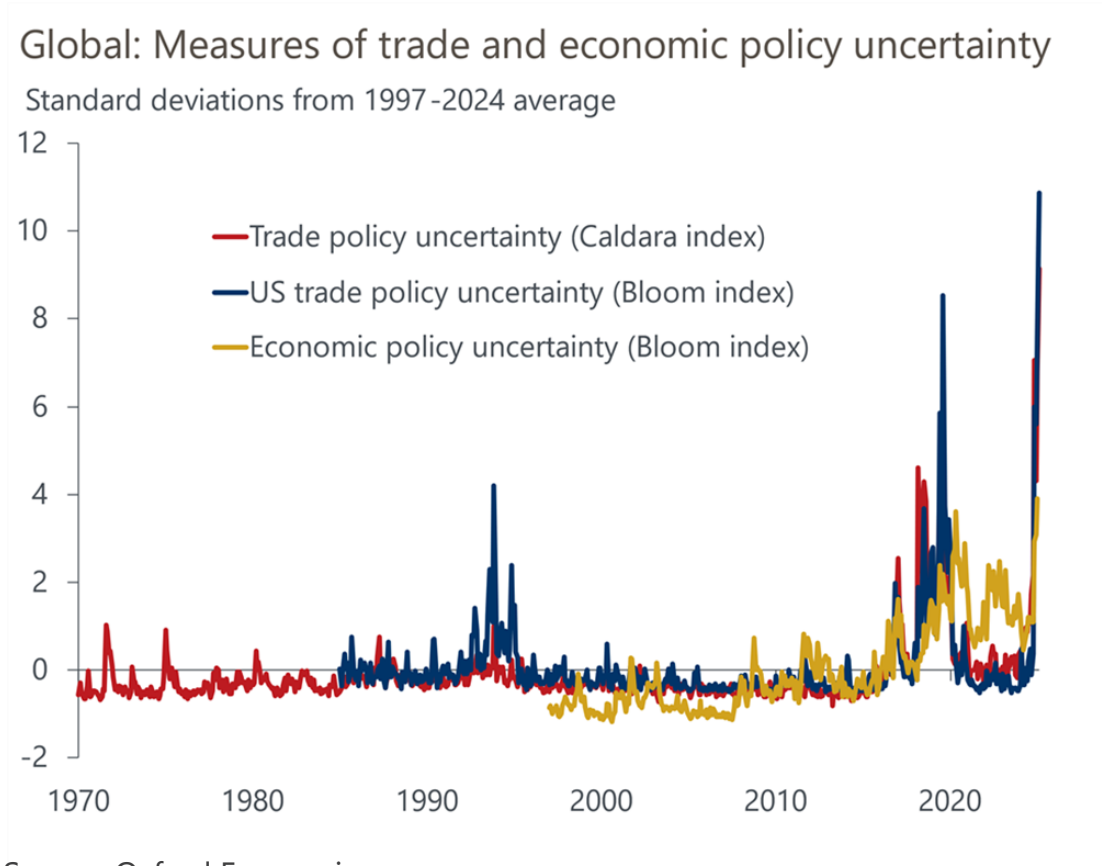


Source: Oxford Economics



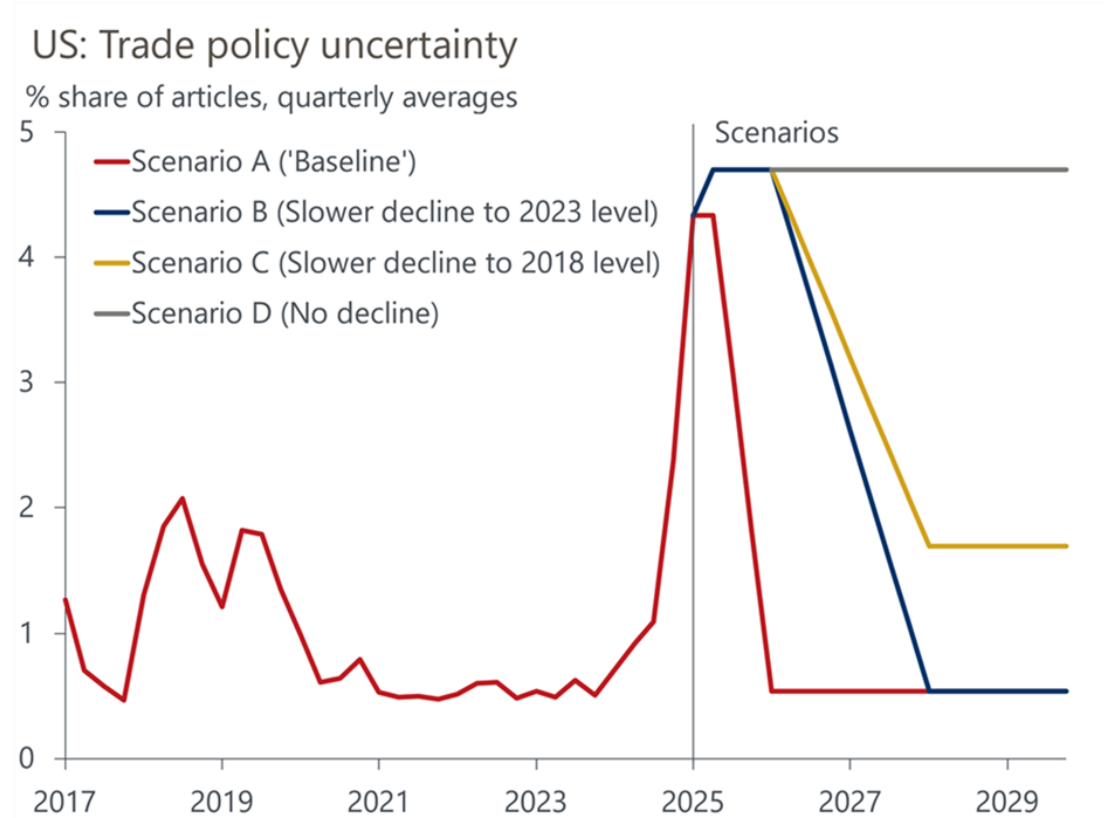
Source: Oxford Economics

# Record trade policy uncertainty impacts business investment

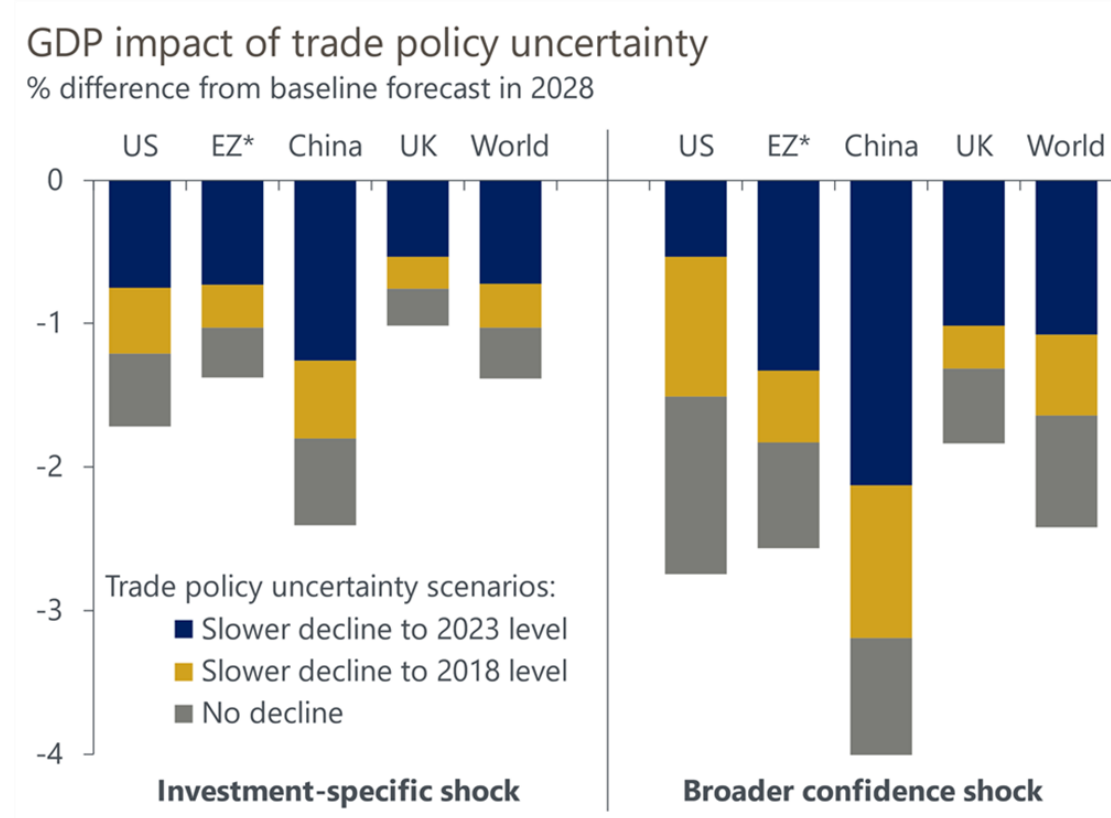




# Prolonged uncertainty will drag down the global economy

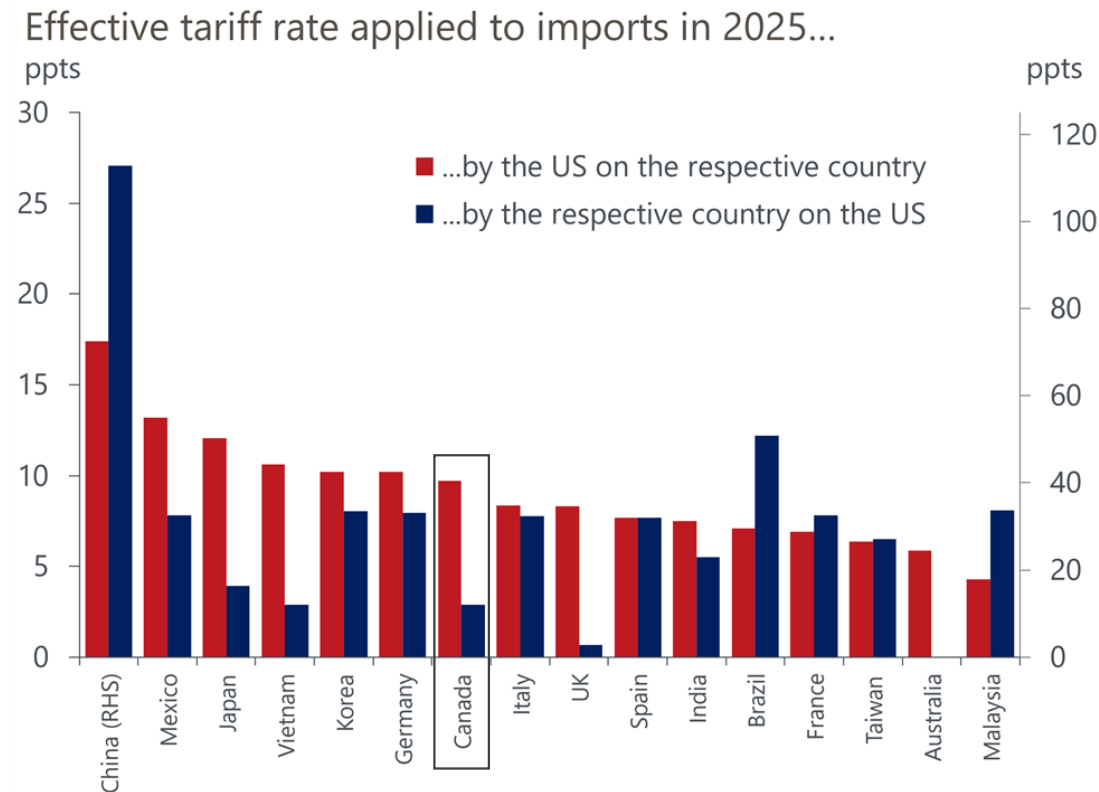


Source: Oxford Economics



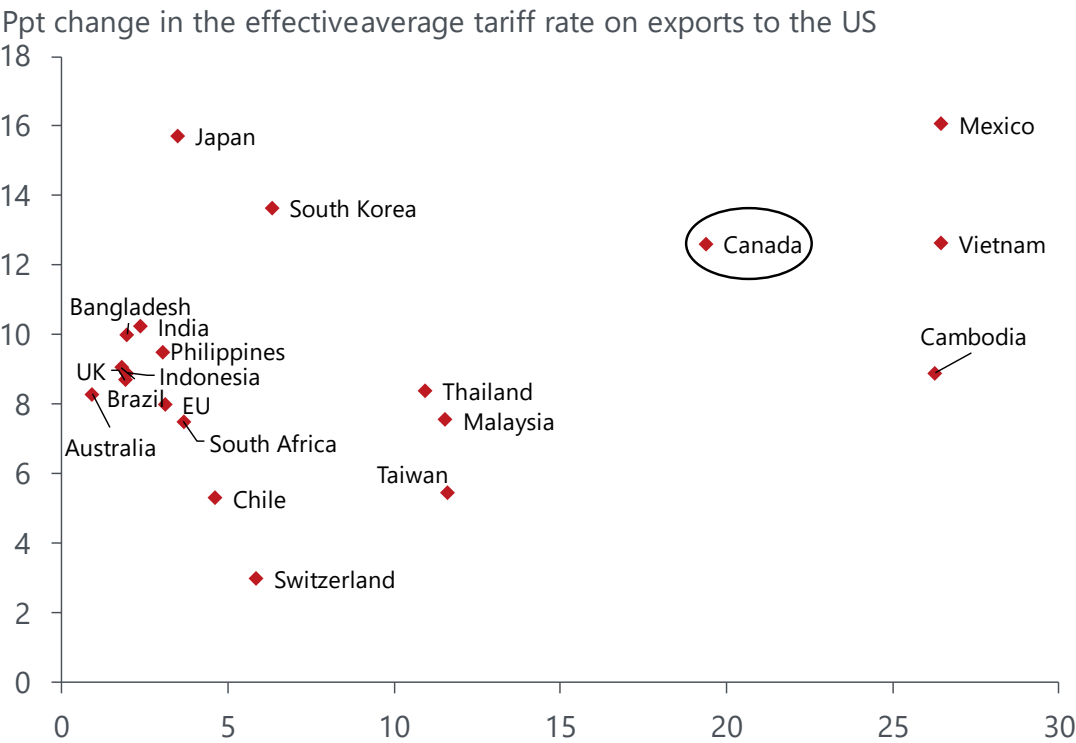
Source: Oxford Economics

# US tariff hikes prompt retaliation by most countries



Source: Oxford Economics

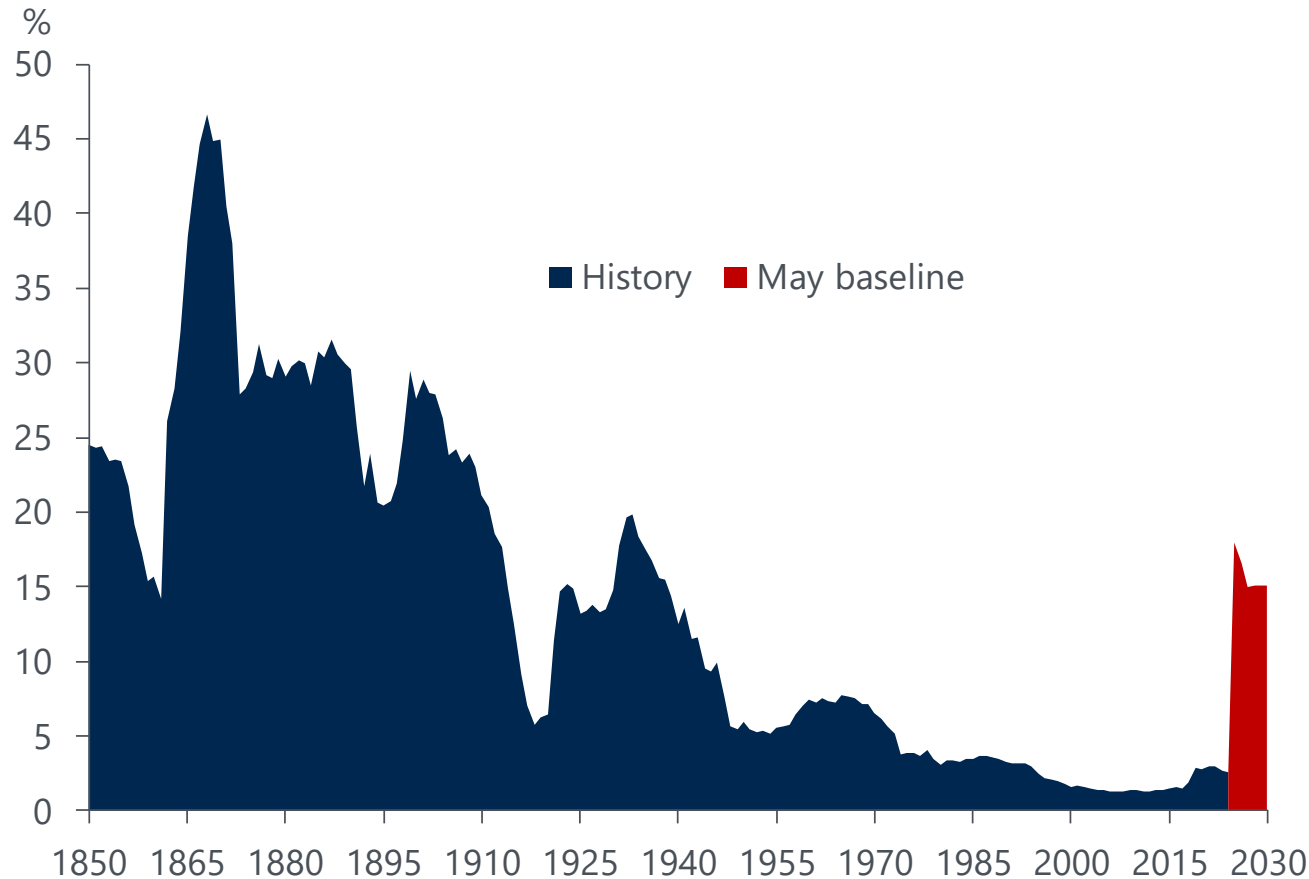
## World: Effective tariff increase and reliance on US trade



Source: Oxford Economics/Haver Analytics

# US tariffs rise to highest level since 1930s

US: Effective tariff rate



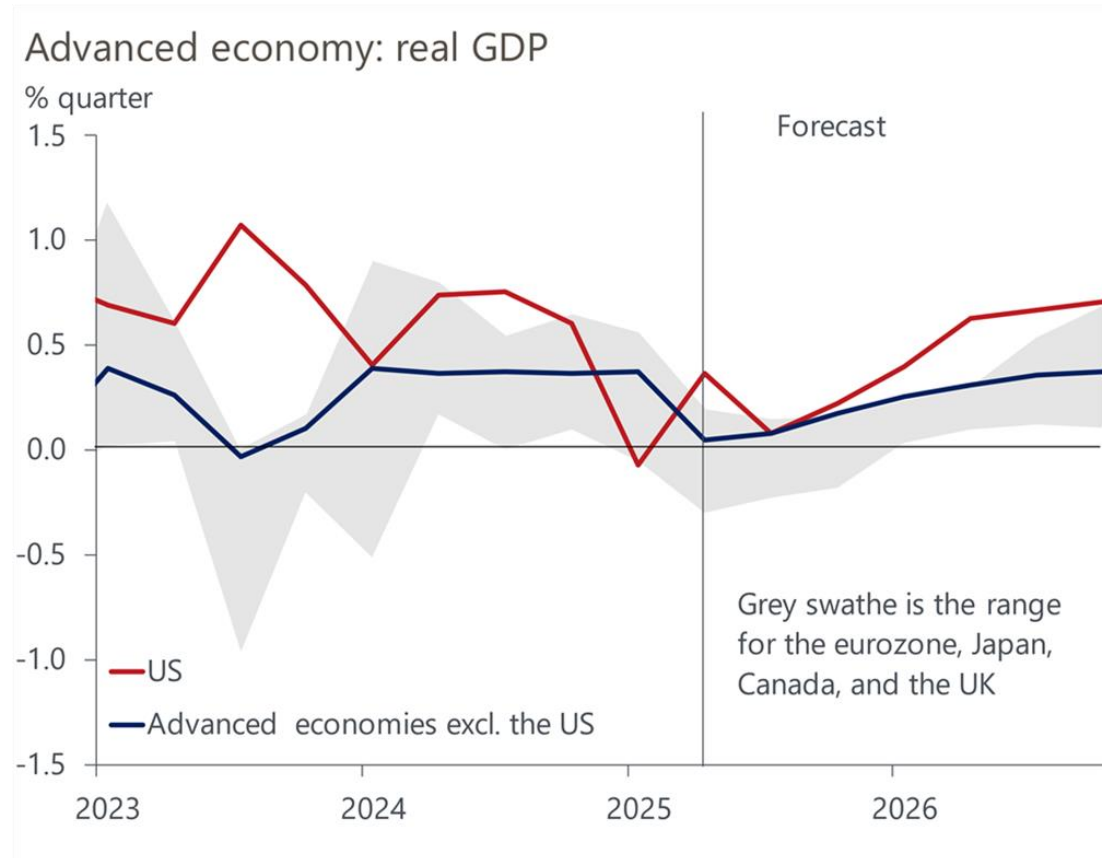
Source: Oxford Economics/Census Bureau

## Key takeaways

- Our May baseline incorporates the US unveiling of reciprocal tariffs on April 2, updated for most, not all, recent developments as the trade war remains highly fluid.
- The baseline assumes 10% 'reciprocal' tariffs on all countries outside of North America are permanent, along with a 90% tariff on China that slowly eases to 60%.
- The overall effective US tariff rate will average 18% in 2025 before settling at 15% with renegotiation of the USMCA. Trade diversion could lower it to about 9%.
- The 90-day pause on most tariffs between the US and China was announced on May 12, after the forecast was finalized and is not part of the current baseline.<sup>8</sup>



# Trade war to weaken global economic growth



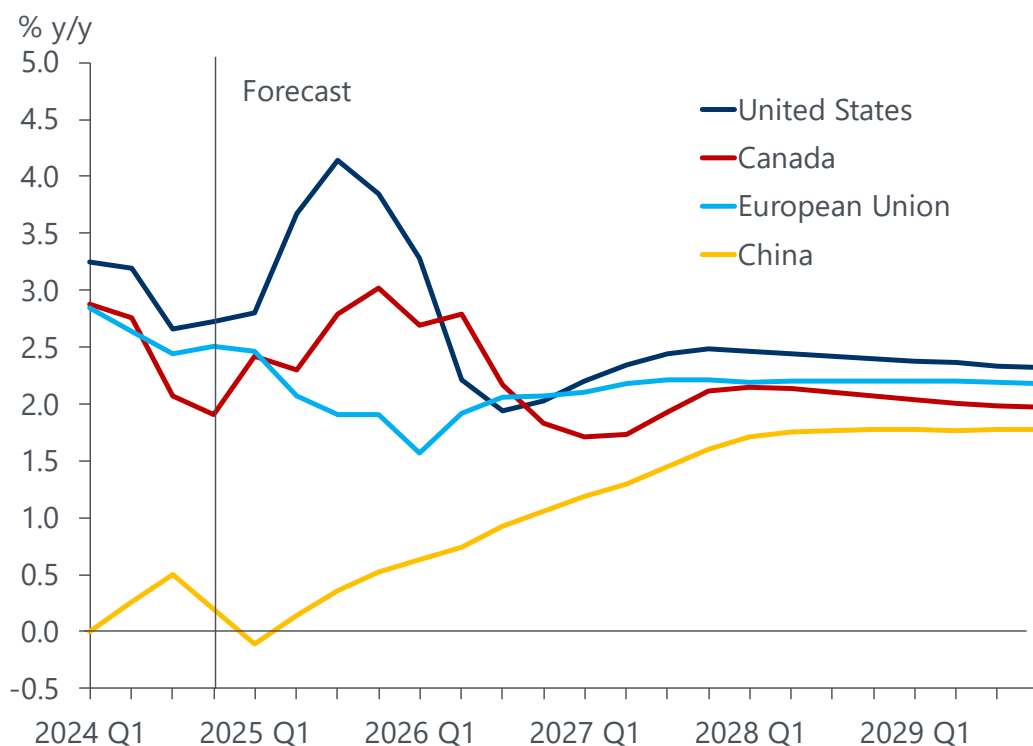
Source: Oxford Economics

Summary of International Forecasts					
(Annual percentage changes unless specified)					
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
<b>Real GDP</b>					
<b>North America</b>					
United States	2.9	2.8	1.3	1.7	2.8
Canada	1.5	1.5	0.9	0.3	2.7
<b>Europe</b>					
Eurozone	0.5	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.6
Germany	-0.1	-0.2	0.0	0.9	2.2
France	1.1	1.1	0.5	0.7	1.3
Italy	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.8
Spain	2.7	3.1	2.5	1.7	1.5
UK	0.4	1.1	1.0	0.9	1.3
<b>Asia</b>					
Japan	1.5	0.1	0.8	0.2	0.4
China	5.4	5.0	4.1	3.9	3.9
India	8.8	6.6	6.4	6.4	6.6
<b>World</b>	2.9	2.8	2.3	2.3	2.9

Source: Oxford Economics/Haver Analytics

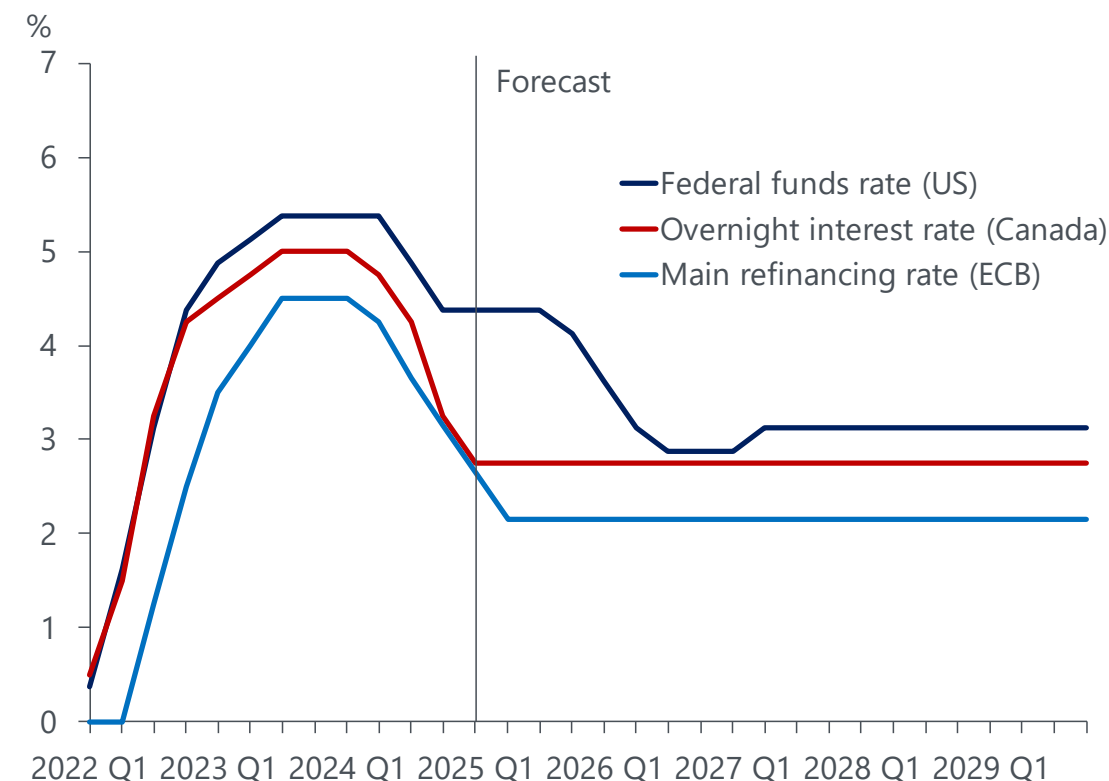
# Our baseline inflation and policy rate outlook

Global: CPI inflation



Source: Oxford Economics/Haver Analytics

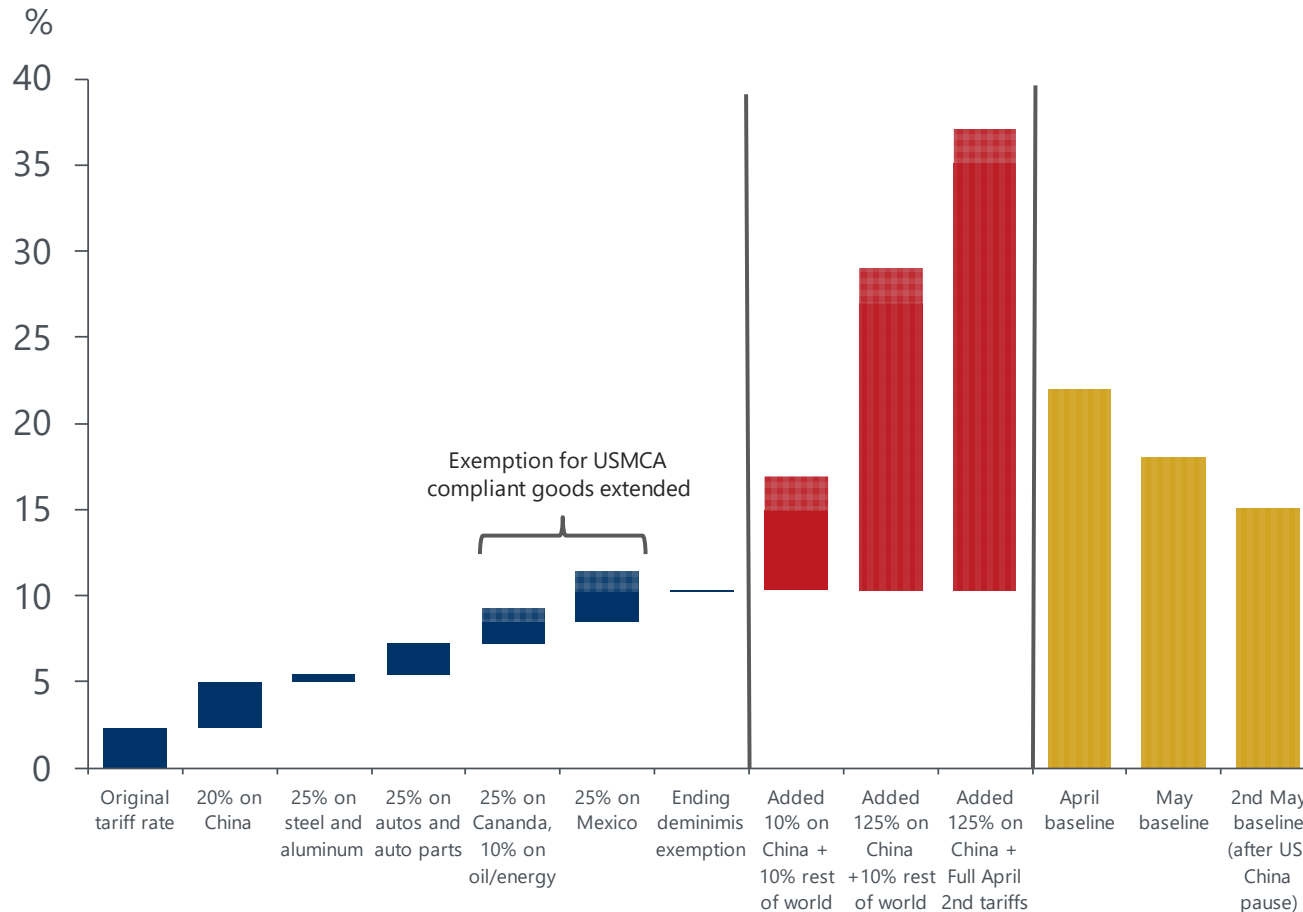
Global: Central bank policy rates



Source: Oxford Economics/Haver Analytics

# US-China pause is a big step forward, but still many tariffs to face

US: Impact of tariff hikes on overall effective tariff rate, 2025

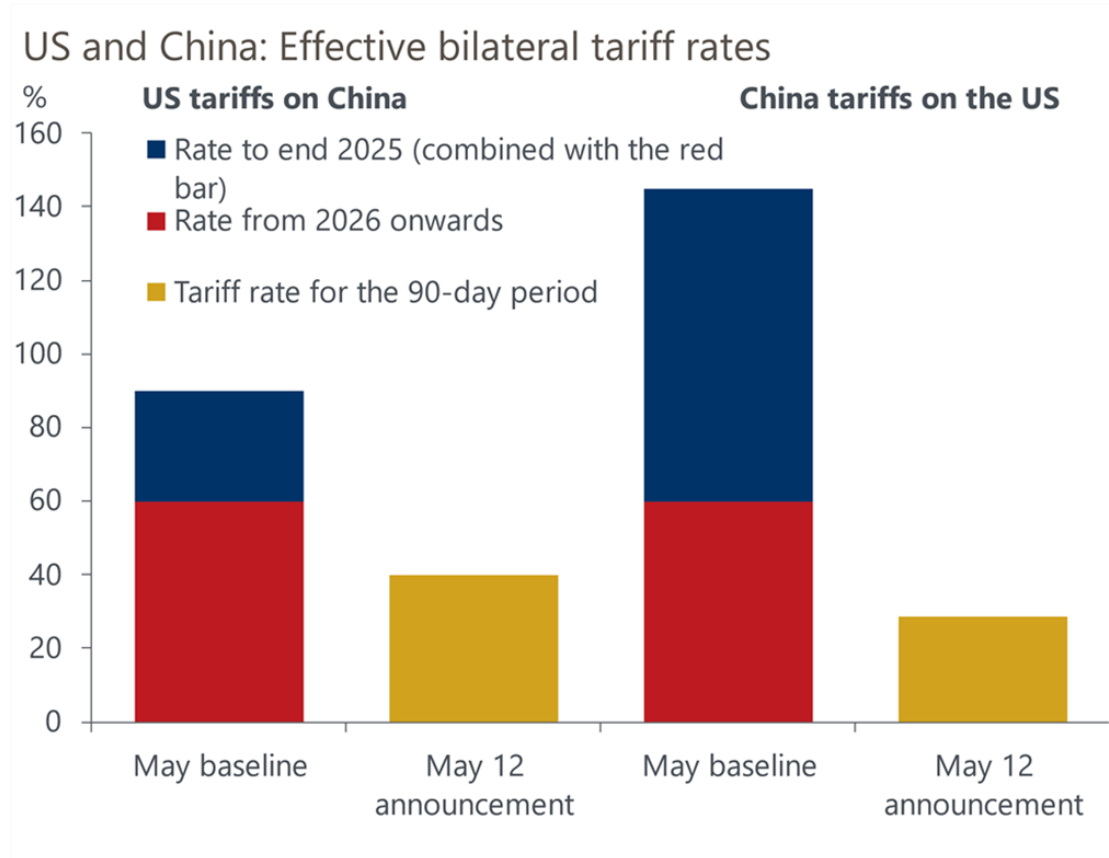


Source: Oxford Economics/USA Trade Online

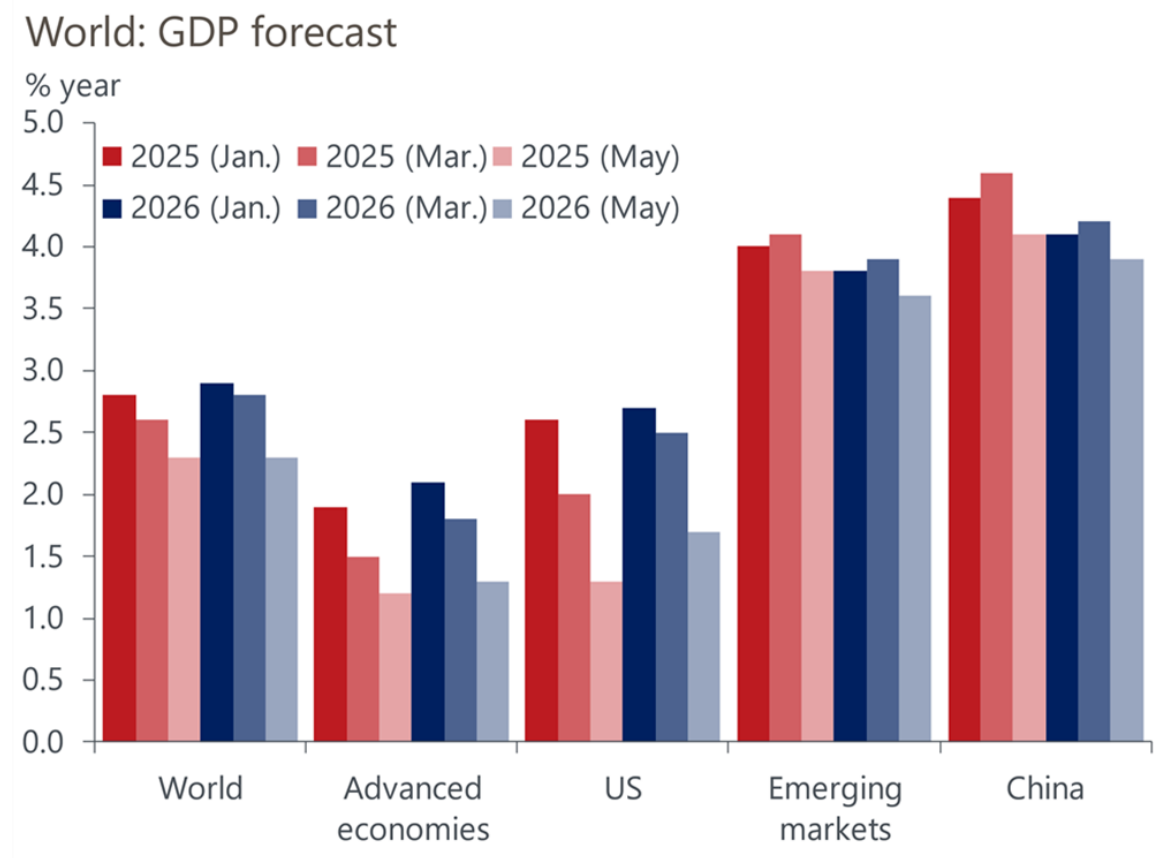
## Key takeaways

- The US-China agreement notably reduces tariffs for the next 90 days. It suggests less of a drag on the US economy through the rest of this year, reducing odds of a recession to 35% from even odds previously.
- If the pause is sustained, the overall effective US tariff rate falls from an average of 18% to 15% in 2025.
- However, as we learned during the first trade war, we don't want to read too much into a single agreement.
- Tariff-related risks for the outlook remain weighted to the downside.

# Lower US-China tariffs suggest stronger growth, but it will remain weaker than assumed prior to Liberation Day



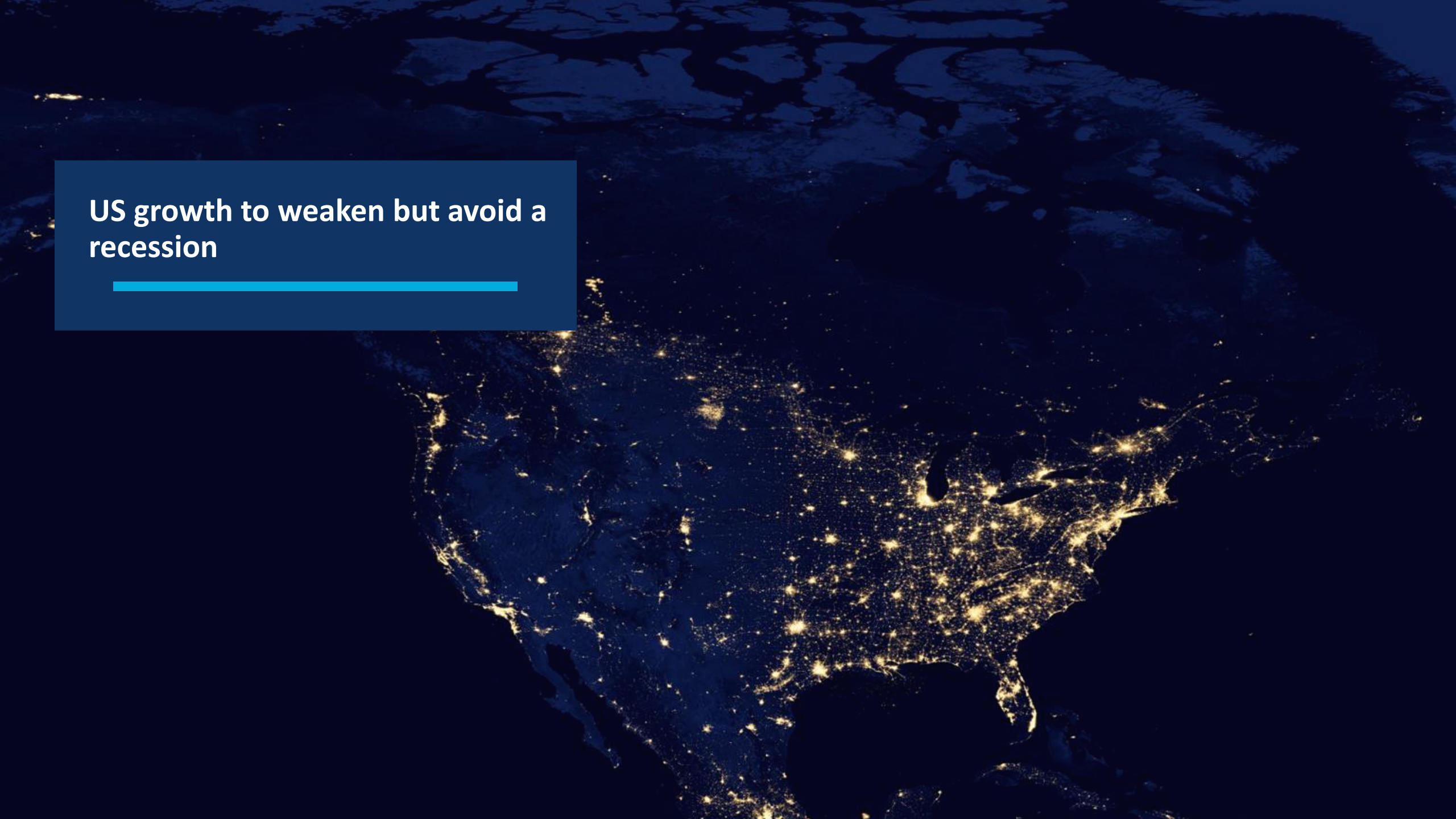
Source: Oxford Economics



Source: Oxford Economics

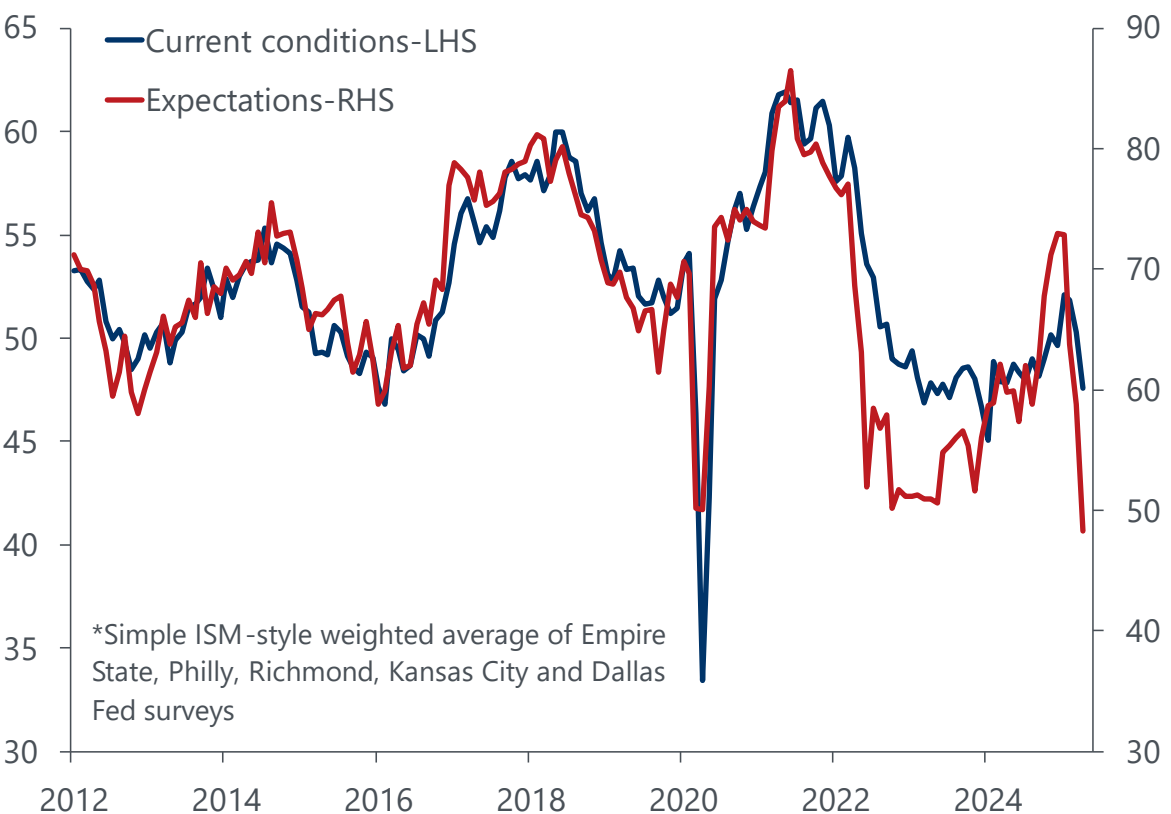
**US growth to weaken but avoid a recession**

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# The forward-looking soft data looks terrible

US: Regional Fed manufacturing surveys



Source: Oxford Economics/Haver Analytics

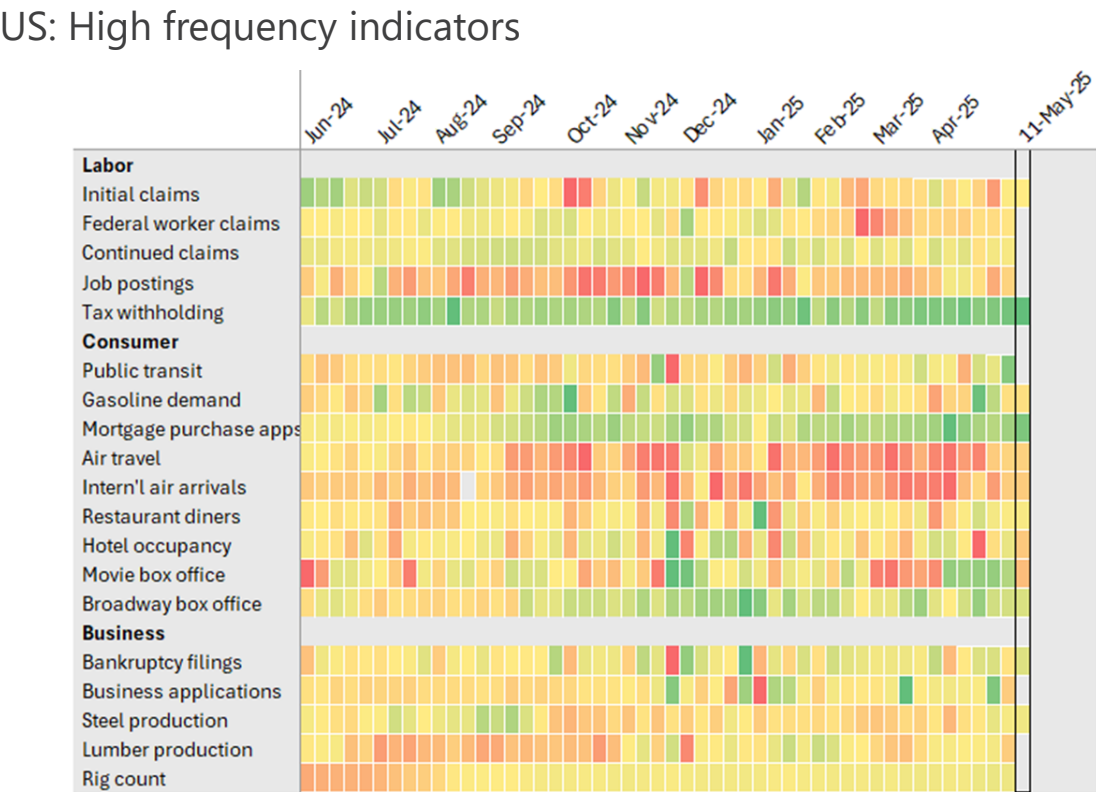
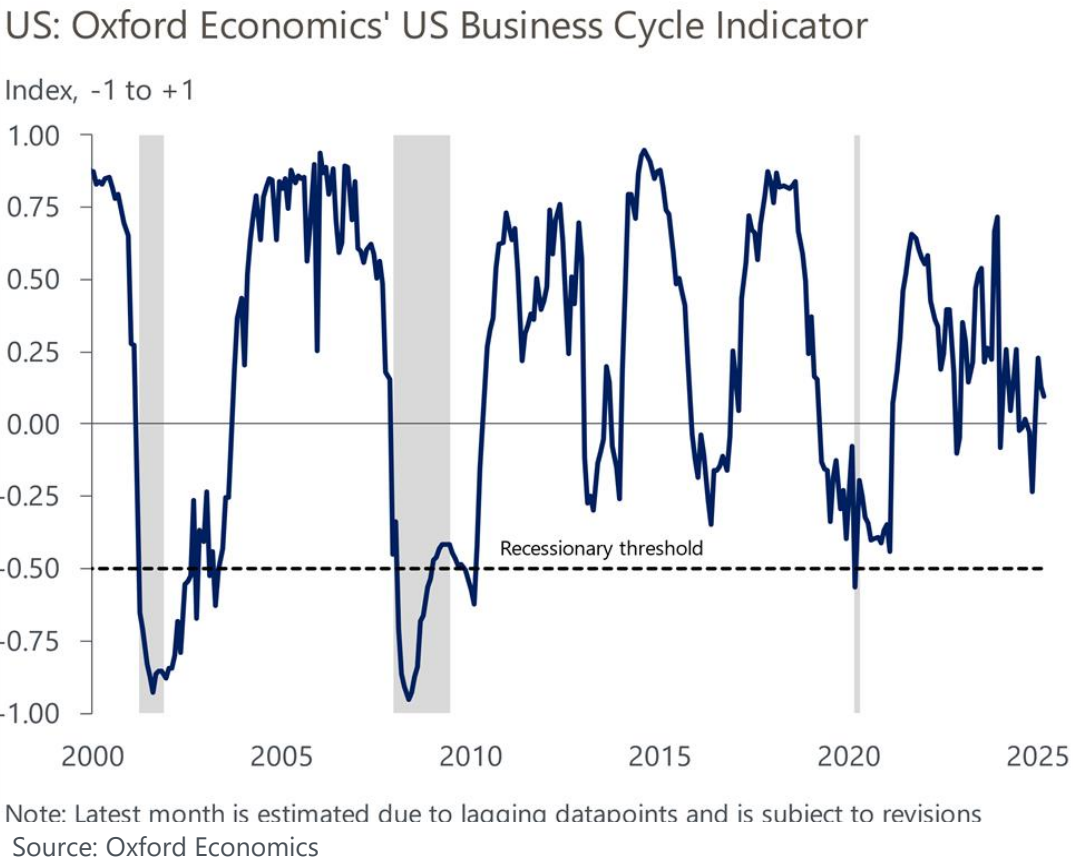
Bloomberg economic surprise indices



Source: Oxford Economics/Haver Analytics



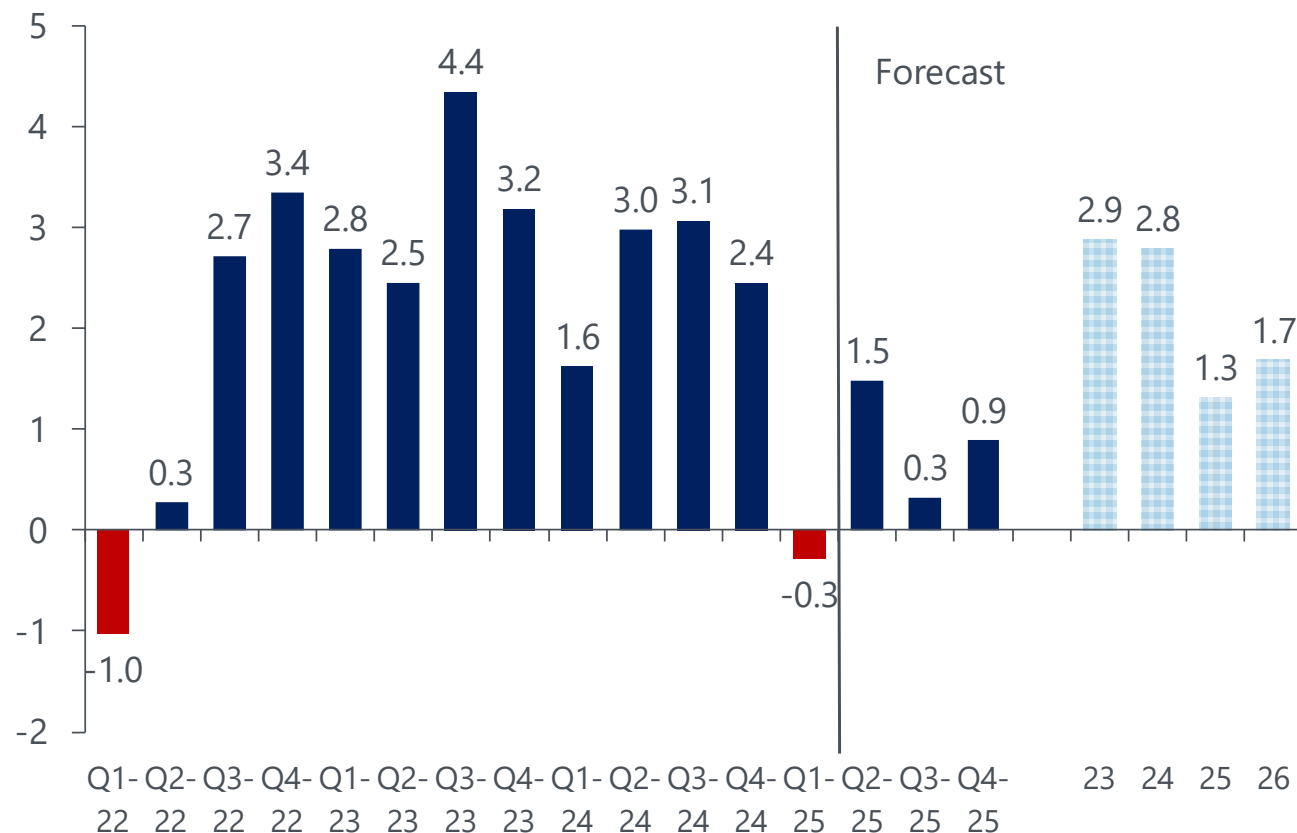
# Only a few high frequency indicators are flashing orange so far



Source: Oxford Economics/Haver Analytics

# Growth to slow sharply this year but a recession will likely be avoided

US: GDP Forecast  
% annualized



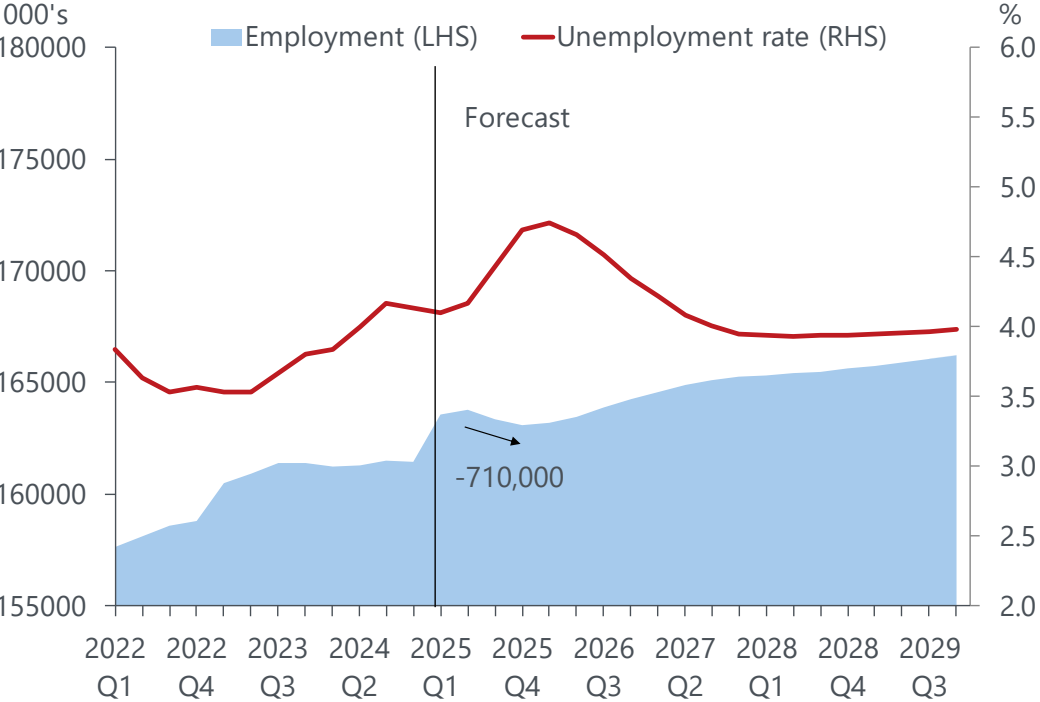
Source: Oxford Economics/Haver Analytics

## Key takeaways

- We expect GDP growth will slow from 2.8% in 2024 to 1.3% in 2025 and 1.7% in 2026.
- The economy will avoid recession, but it will be hit by multiple shocks that dampen growth.
- Households will contend with higher prices, tighter financial conditions, and a weaker labor market.
- Businesses will be overwhelmed by policy uncertainty, upturned supply chains, and weaker demand domestically and abroad.
- Recession risks are elevated. But, good things are in the pipeline for the economy next year from deregulation, fiscal stimulus, and (hopefully) less policy uncertainty.

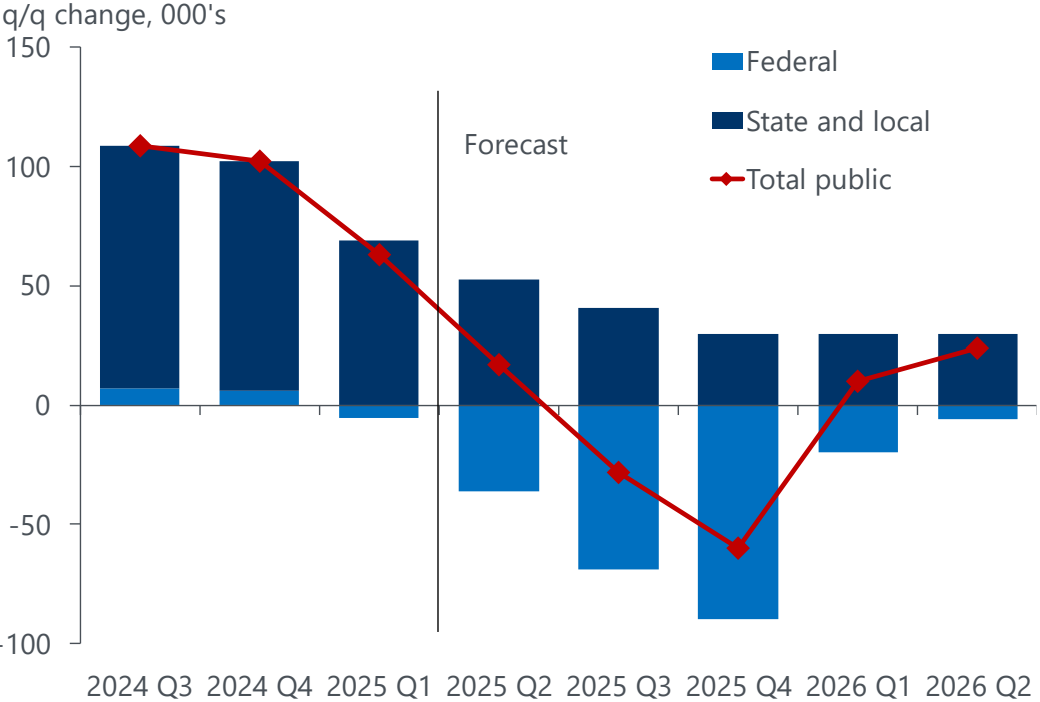
# Job growth is likely to falter and push up the unemployment rate

US: Total employment and the unemployment rate



Source: Oxford Economics/Haver Analytics

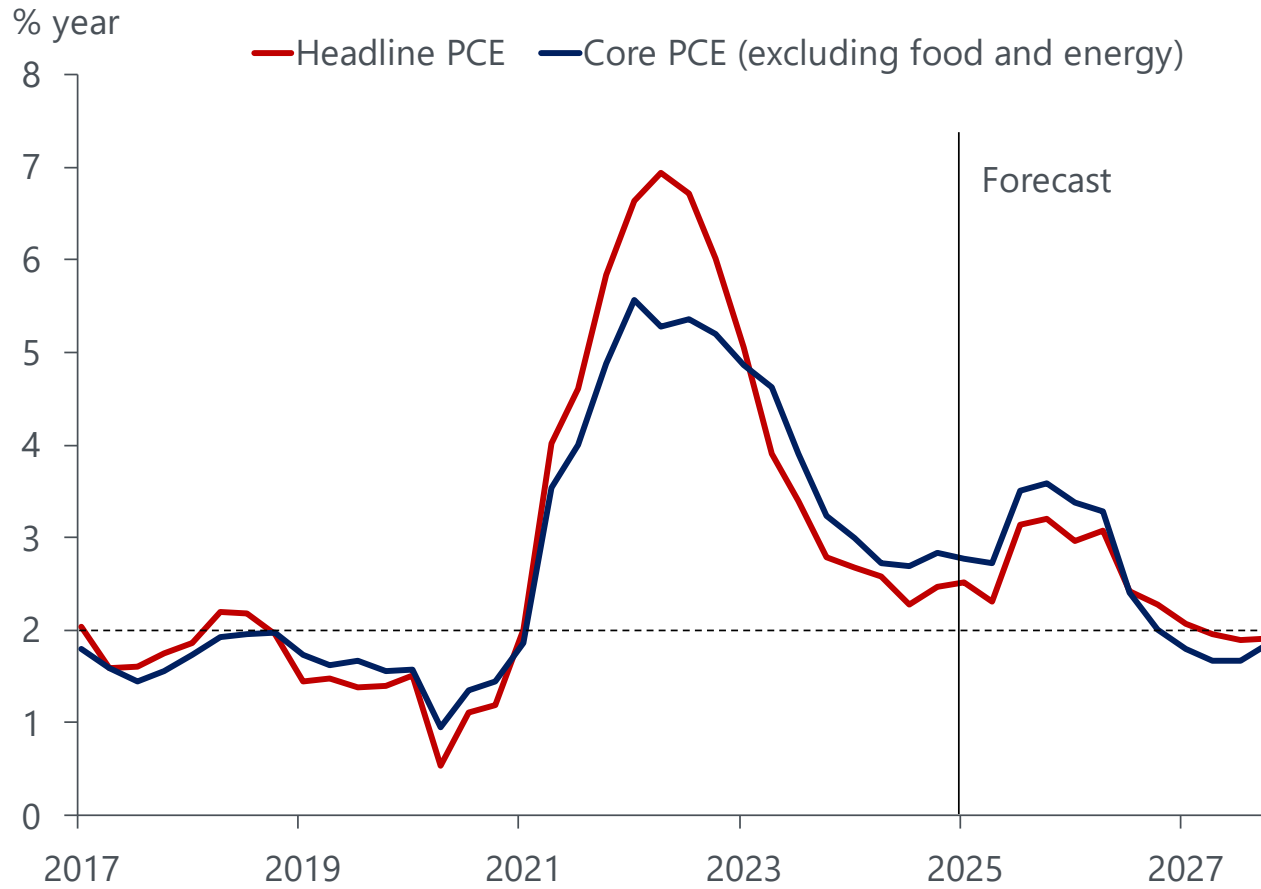
US: Public sector employment



Source: Oxford Economics/Haver Analytics

# Tariffs will soon generate higher inflation

## US: Headline and core PCE prices



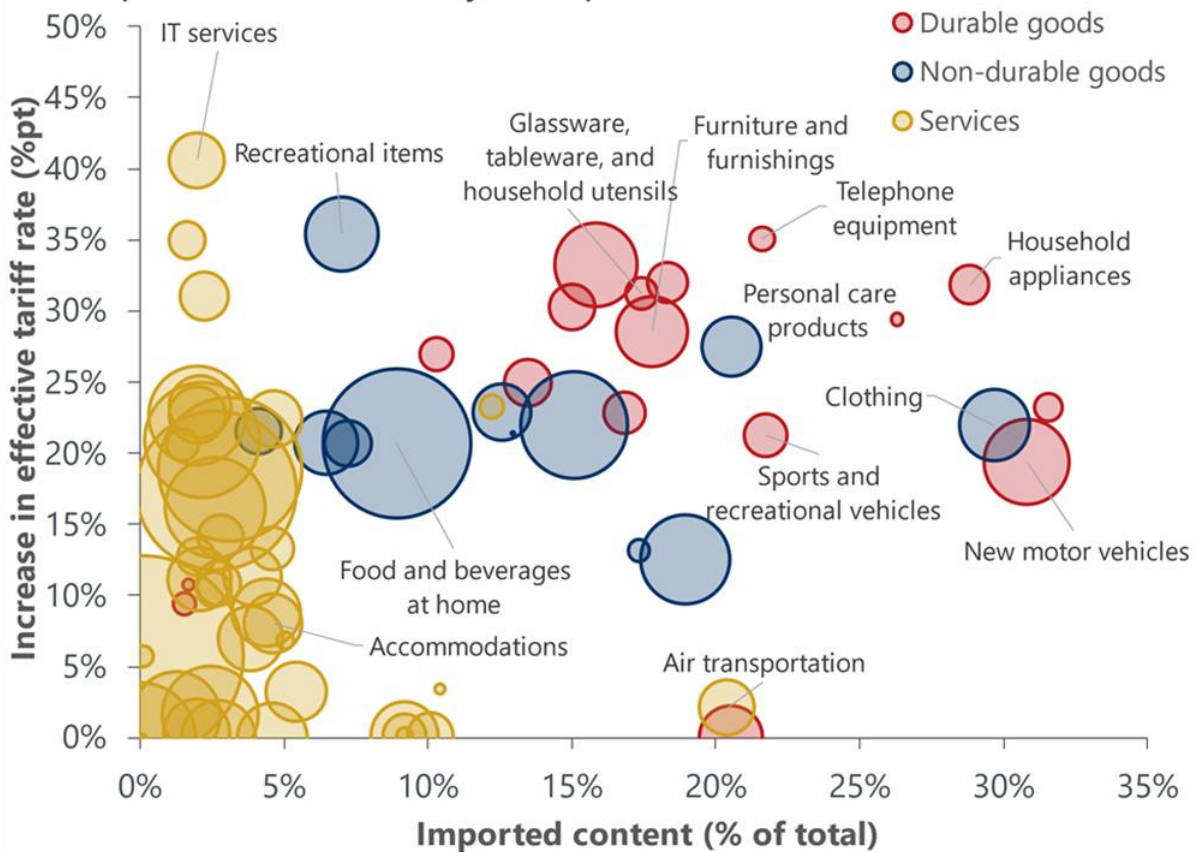
Source: Oxford Economics/Haver Analytics

## Key takeaways

- Lower global energy prices, demand destruction from the trade war, and idiosyncratic factors (like lower egg prices) are putting temporary downward pressure on inflation.
- But tariffs are still inflationary, and there are signs consumer goods prices have begun to adjust to the new tariff reality. This is evident in wholesale prices for used vehicles, which rose by nearly 2% in April, following months of declines.
- We expect headline PCE inflation to rise to 3.2% y/y in Q4 2025, while core PCE inflation will likely reach 3.6% by the end of this year.

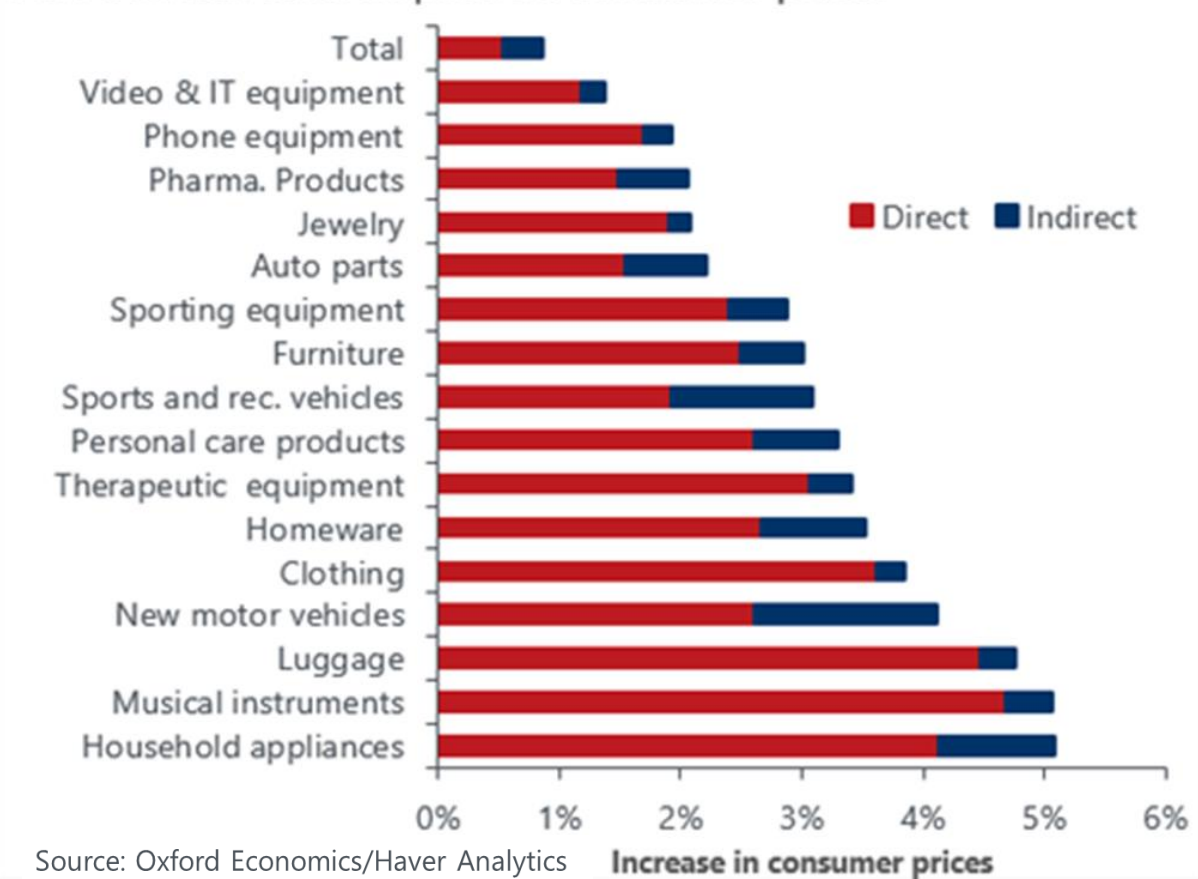
# Tariffs will raise costs for consumers and weigh on real disposable income

US: Exposure to tariffs by component of PCE



Source: Oxford Economics/Haver Analytics

US: Potential tariff impact on consumer prices

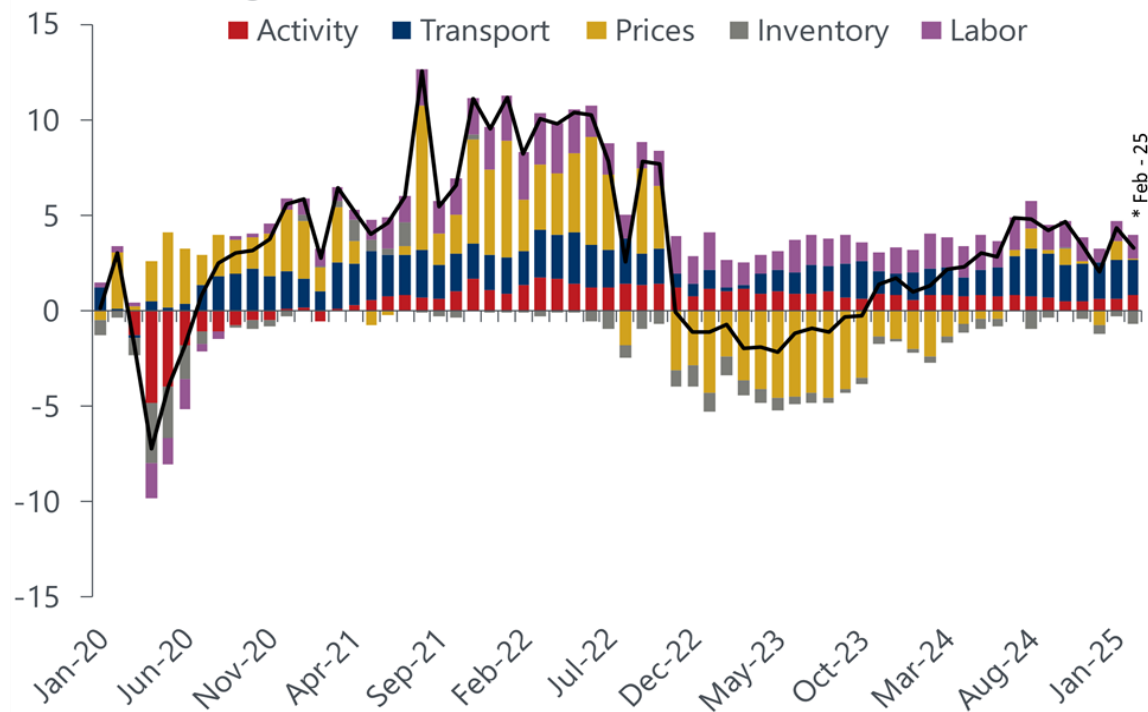


Source: Oxford Economics/Haver Analytics

# Increased supply chain stress could cause stickier inflation

## US: Supply-chain stress tracker

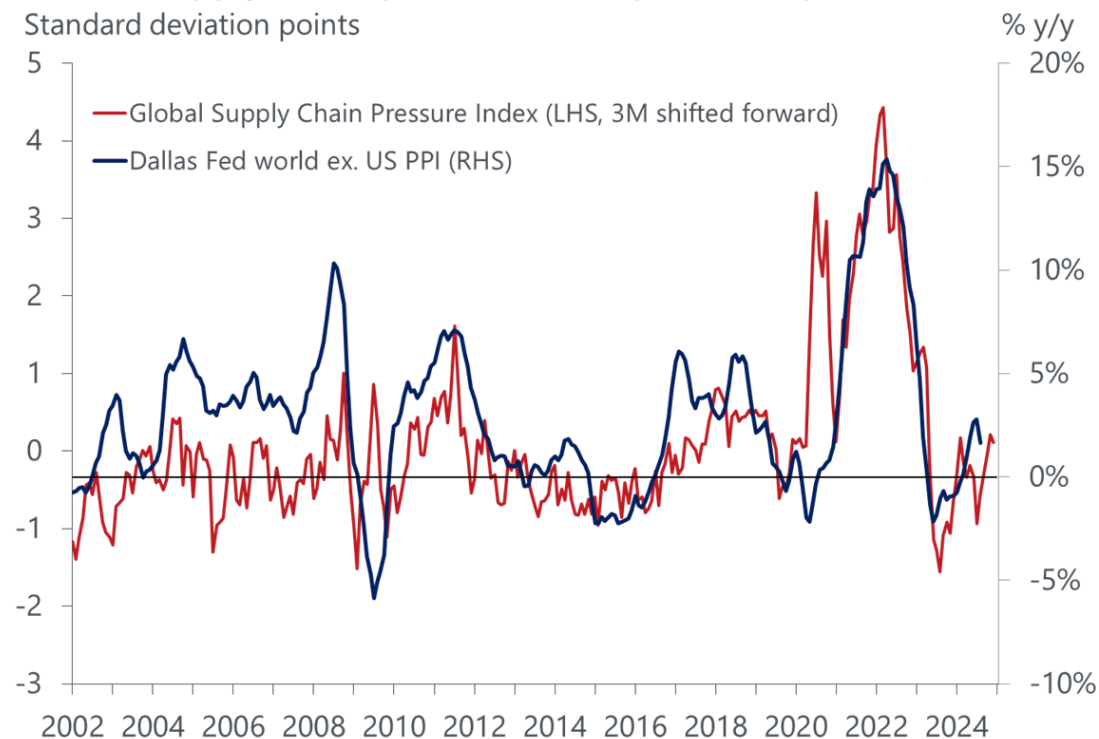
Index; > 0 = heightened stress



Source: Oxford Economics/Haver Analytics

## Global supply chain pressures and producer prices

Standard deviation points



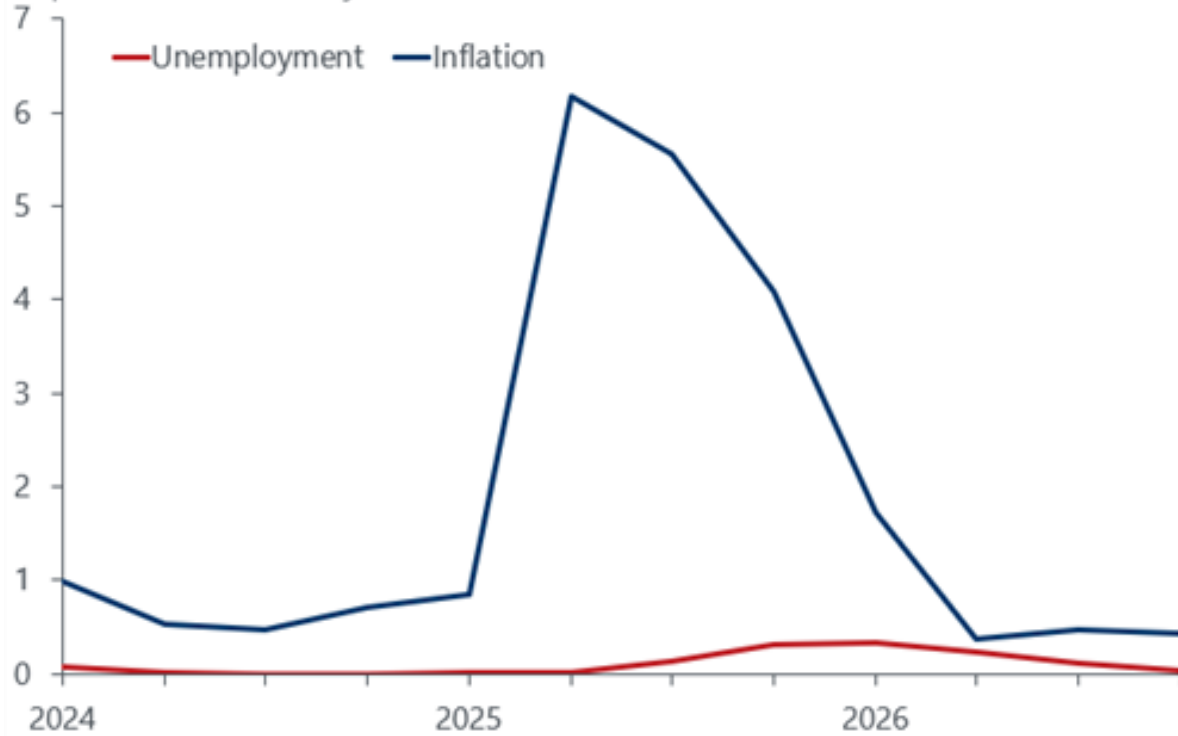
Source: Oxford Economics/Haver Analytics



# Fed likely to prioritize inflation risks and remain on hold until December

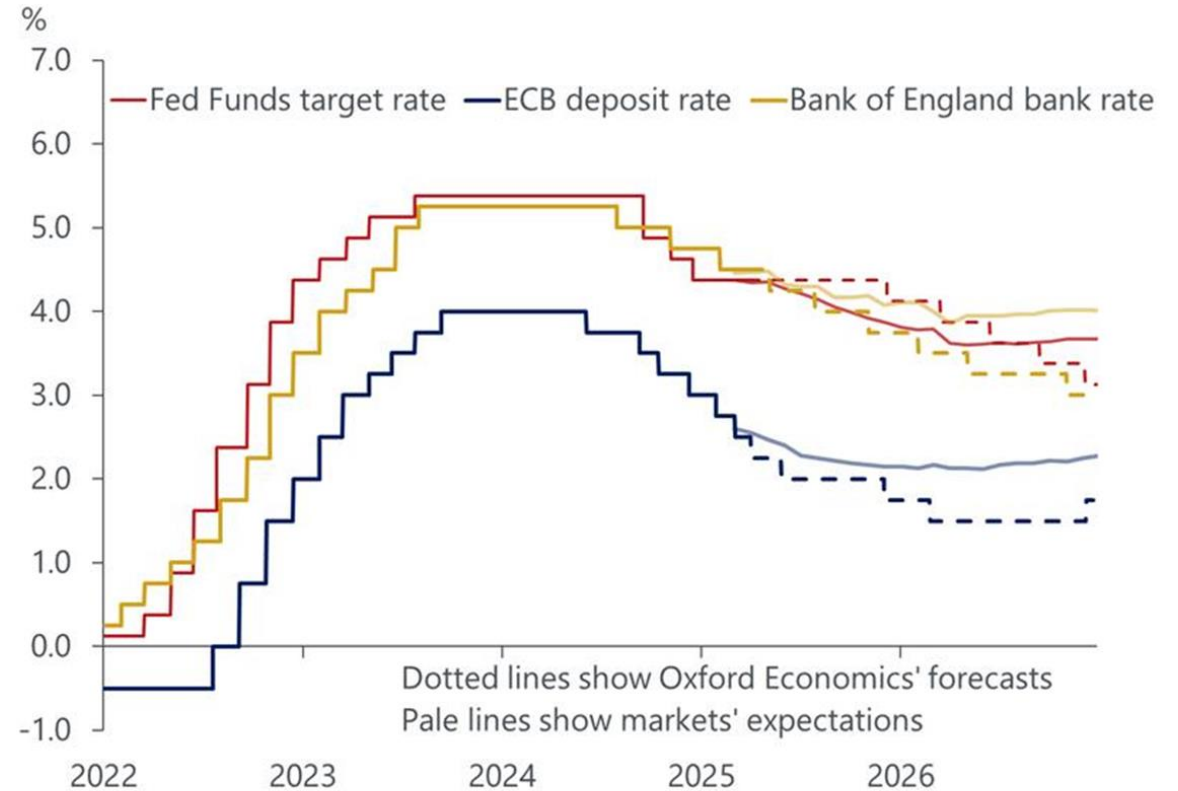
US: Distance from the Fed's mandate

Square root of Fed's objective function for...



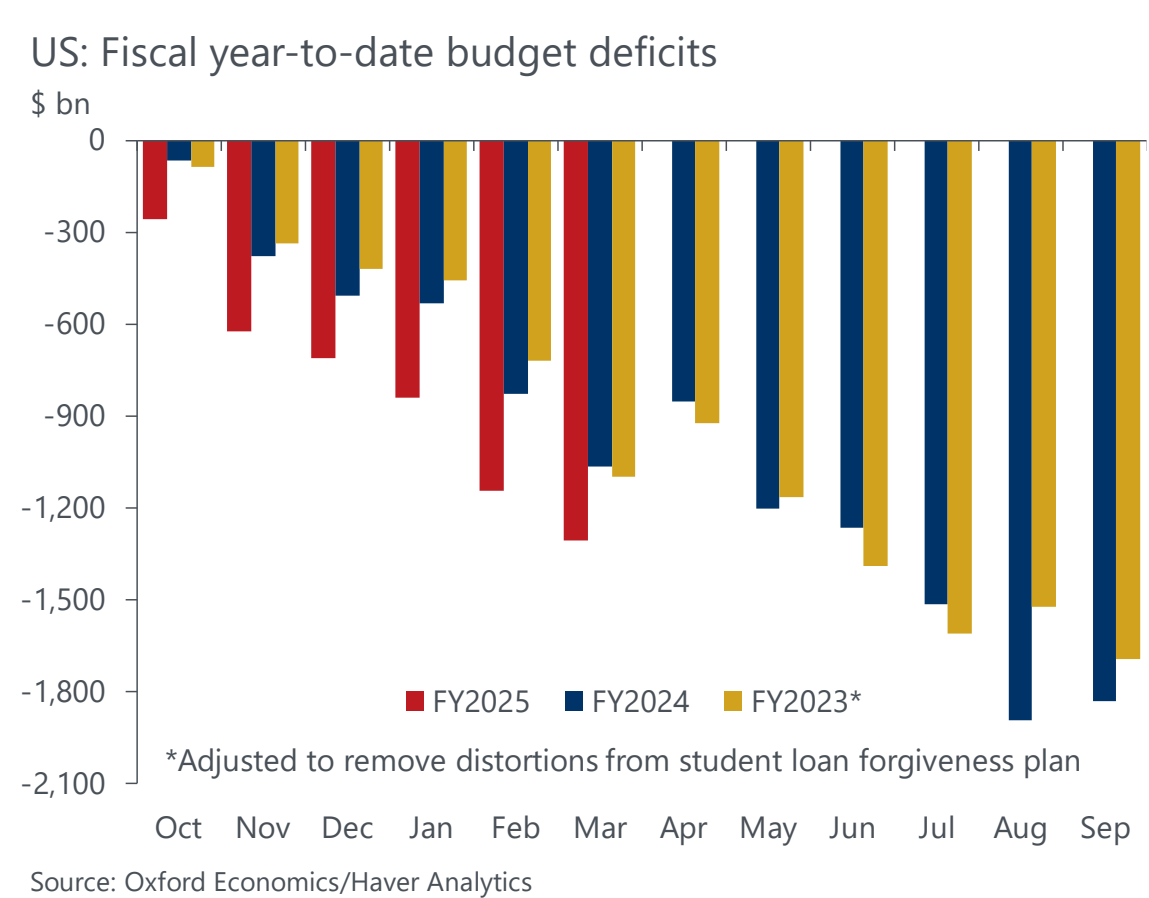
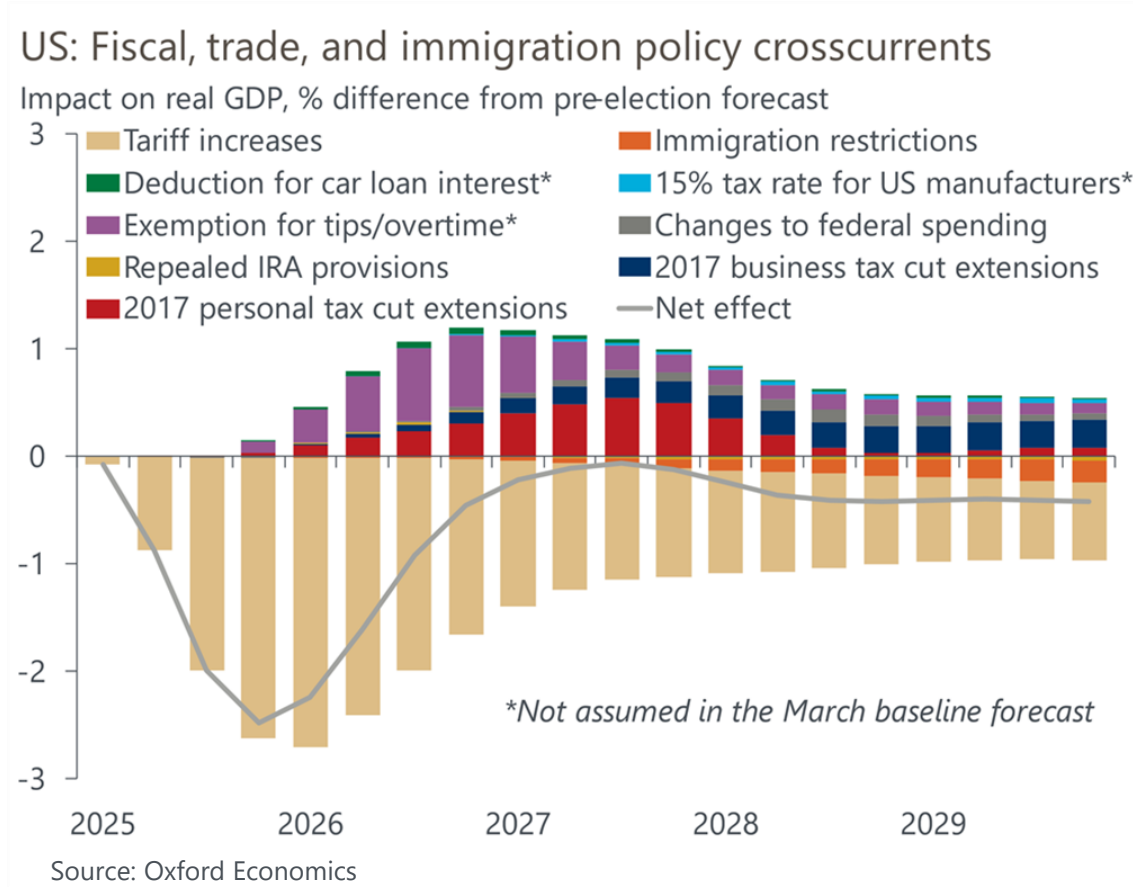
Source: Oxford Economics

Advanced Economy: Policy rate forecasts



Source : Oxford Economics/Haver Analytics/LSEG

# Fiscal upside won't offset economic hit from tariffs

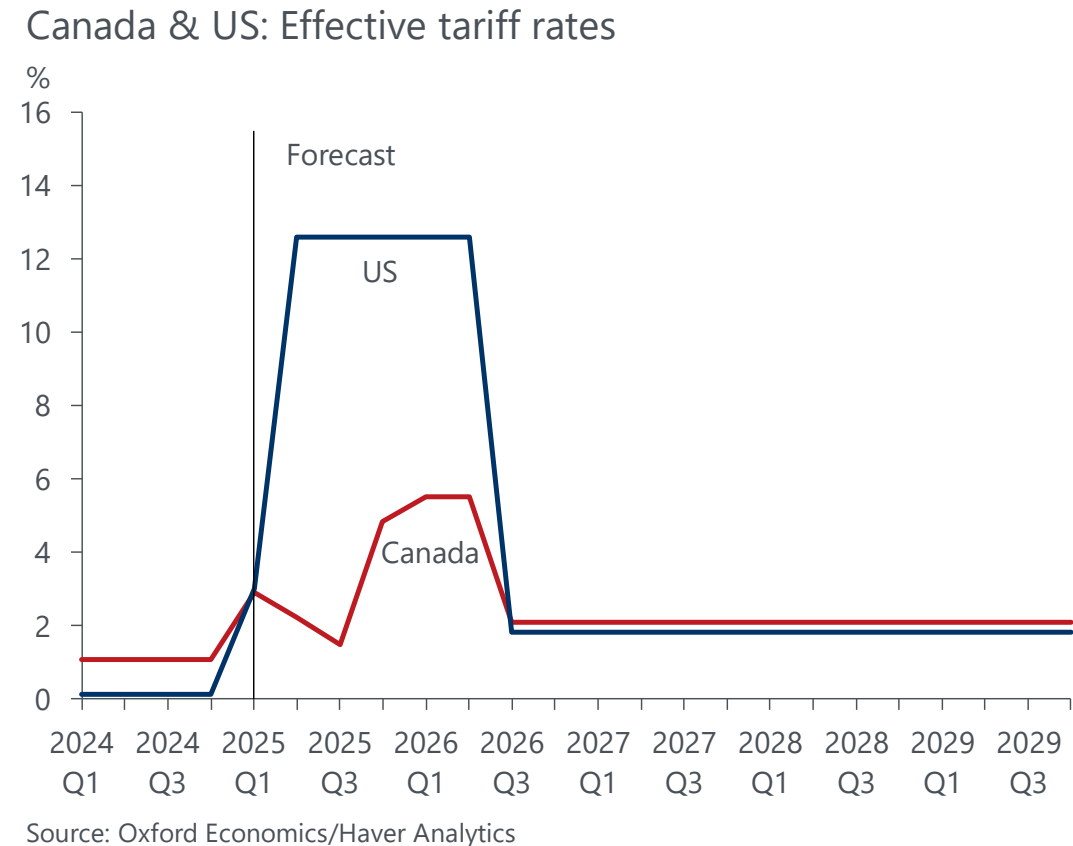
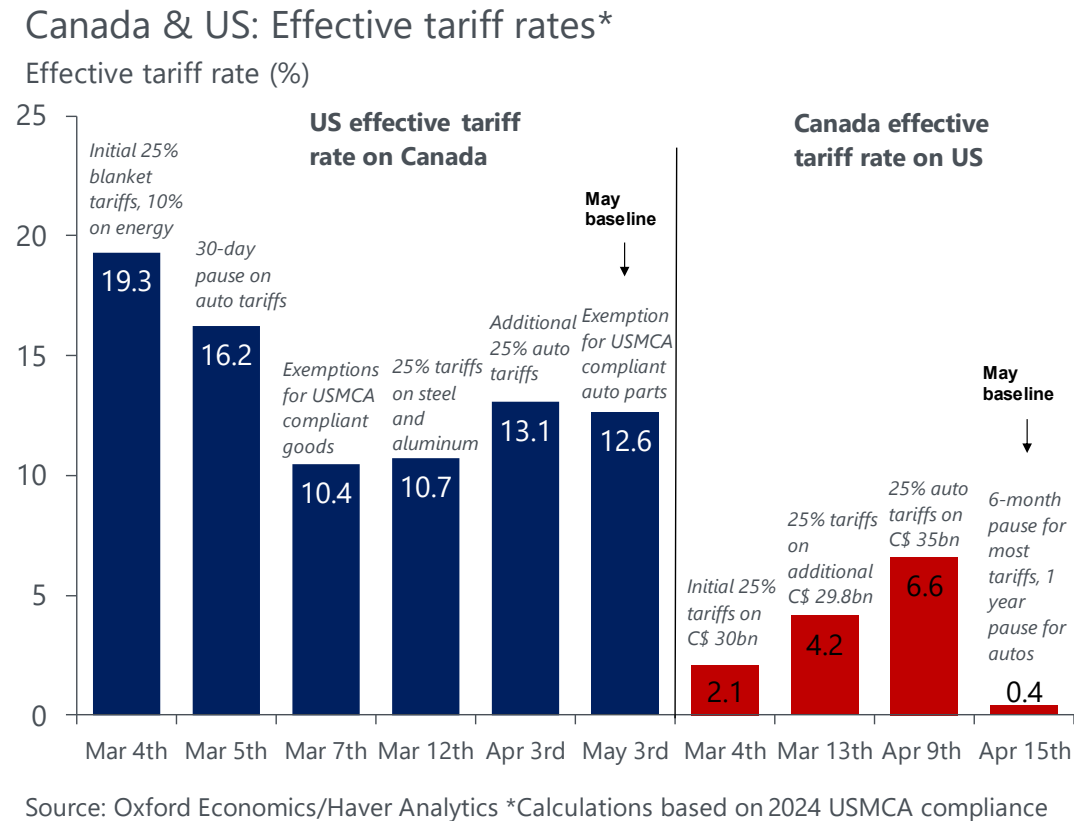


**The trade war will push Canada  
into a recession**

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# US-Canada baseline tariffs assumed to last until USMCA renegotiation in mid-2026

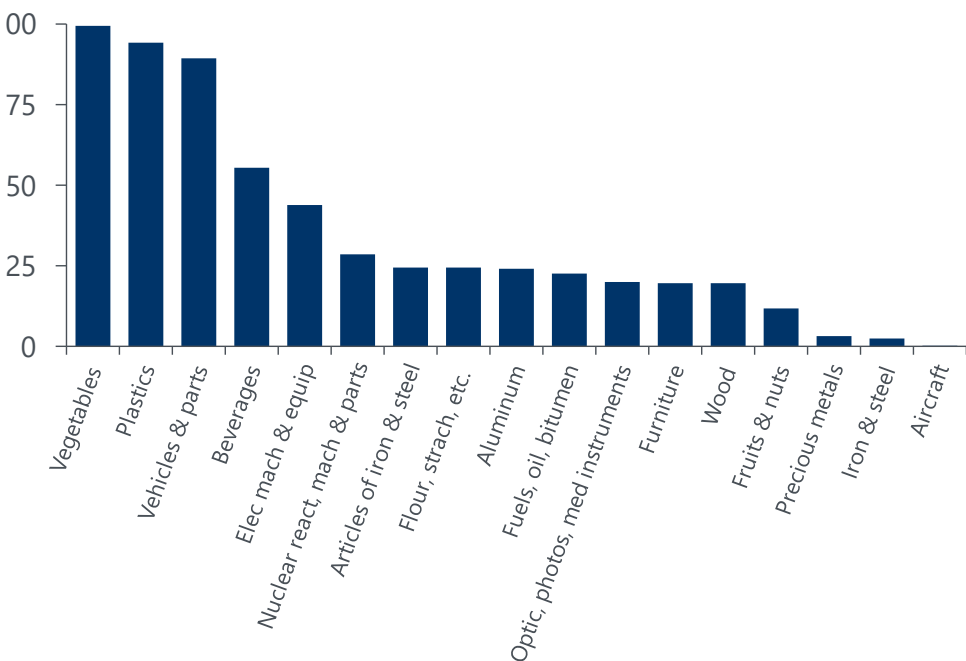




# Based on 2024 USMCA compliance rates, the US effective tariff rate on Canada currently stands at 12.6%

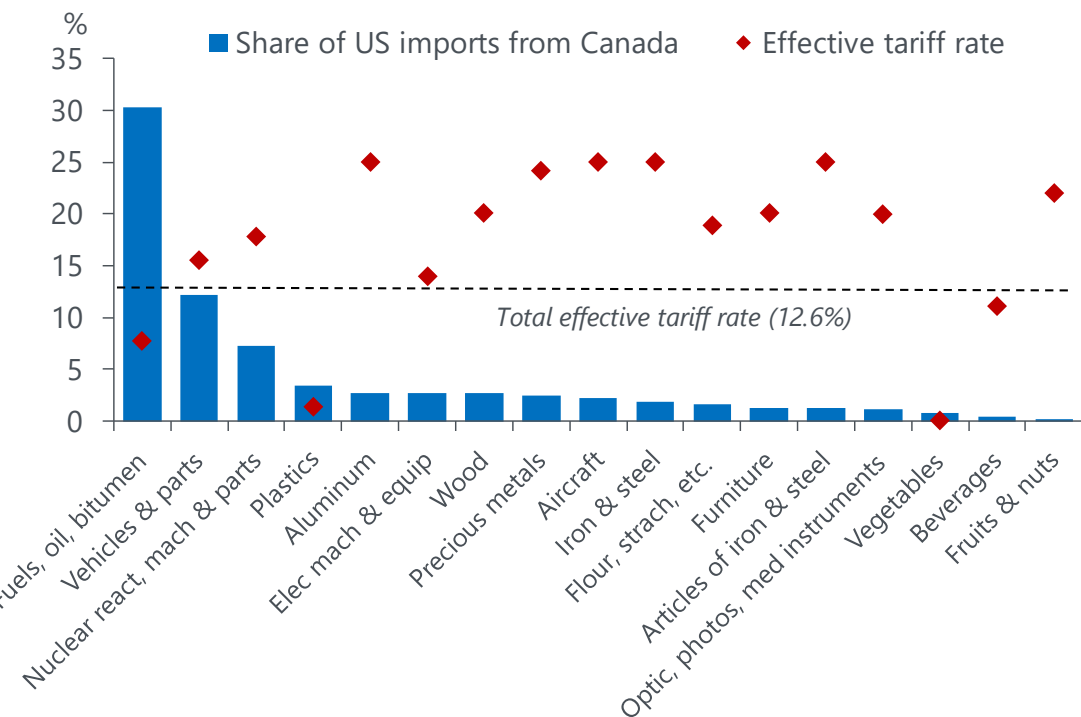
North America: US imports from Canada & USMCA compliance

% of total imports that are USMCA compliant, 2024



Source: Oxford Economics/US Census Bureau

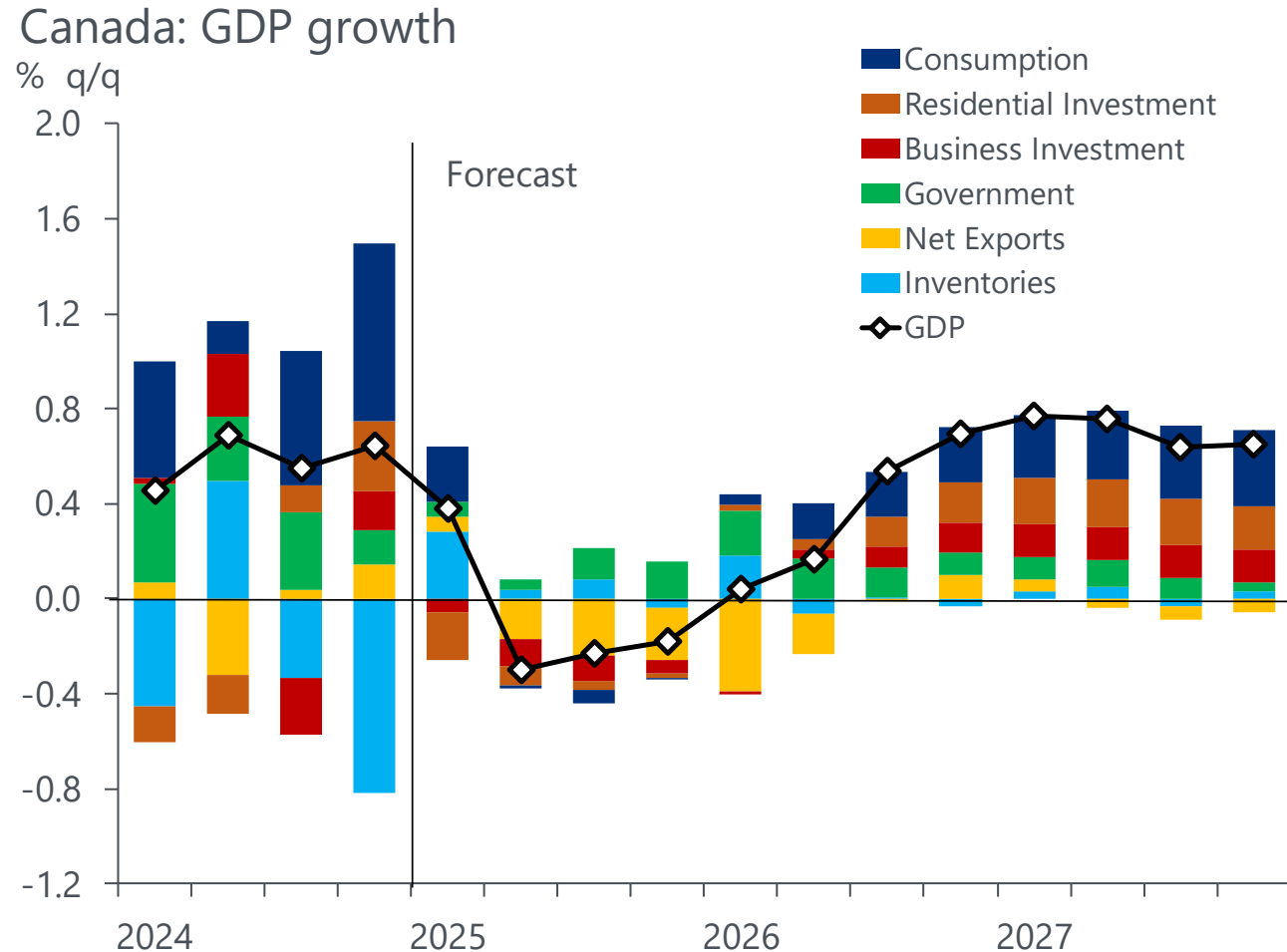
North America: US imports from Canada & effective tariff rates



Source: Oxford Economics/US Census Bureau\* 2024 annual data, products represent 75% of total US imports from Canada

# Trade war will push Canada into a recession

## Key takeaways



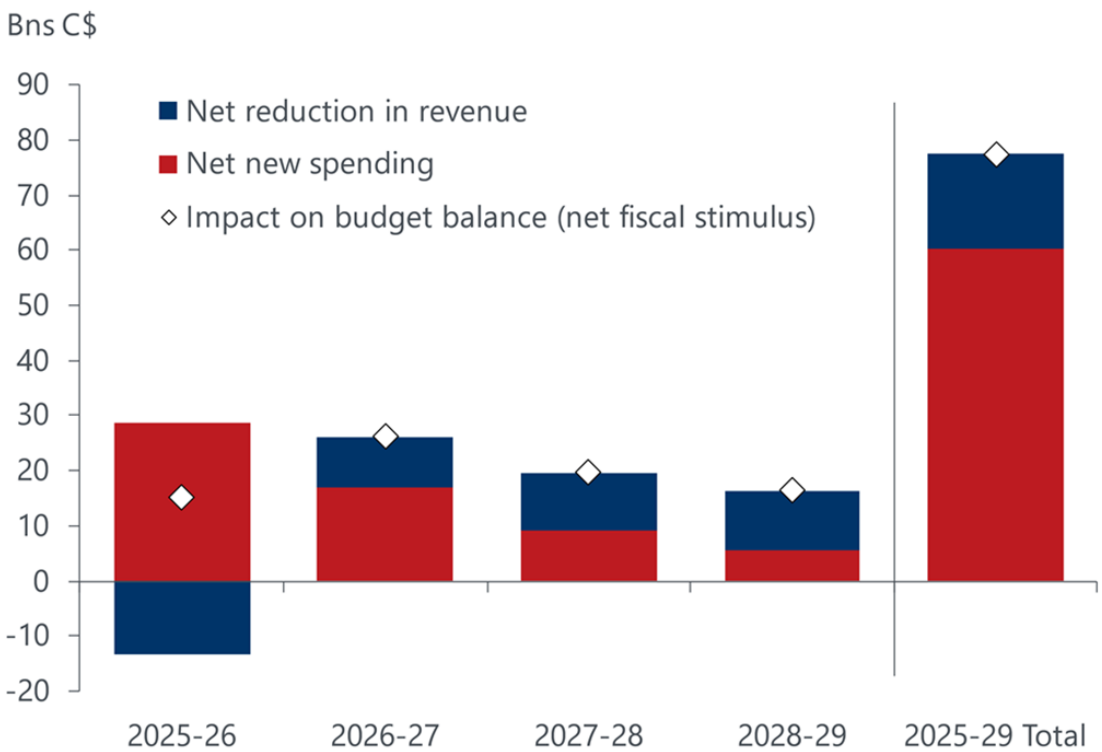
Source: Oxford Economics

- The effective pause in Canada's counter-tariffs, relaxed US tariffs on auto parts imports, and new fiscal stimulus will soften the downturn we expect from the trade war, but likely won't prevent a recession this year.
- Exports and investment will see the largest direct hit. But layoffs, higher costs from tariffs and supply issues, and the equity sell-off will also hurt consumption and housing.
- Imbalances such as highly indebted consumers, overvalued housing, weak private investment, and slow productivity growth will aggravate - and be aggravated by - the recession.



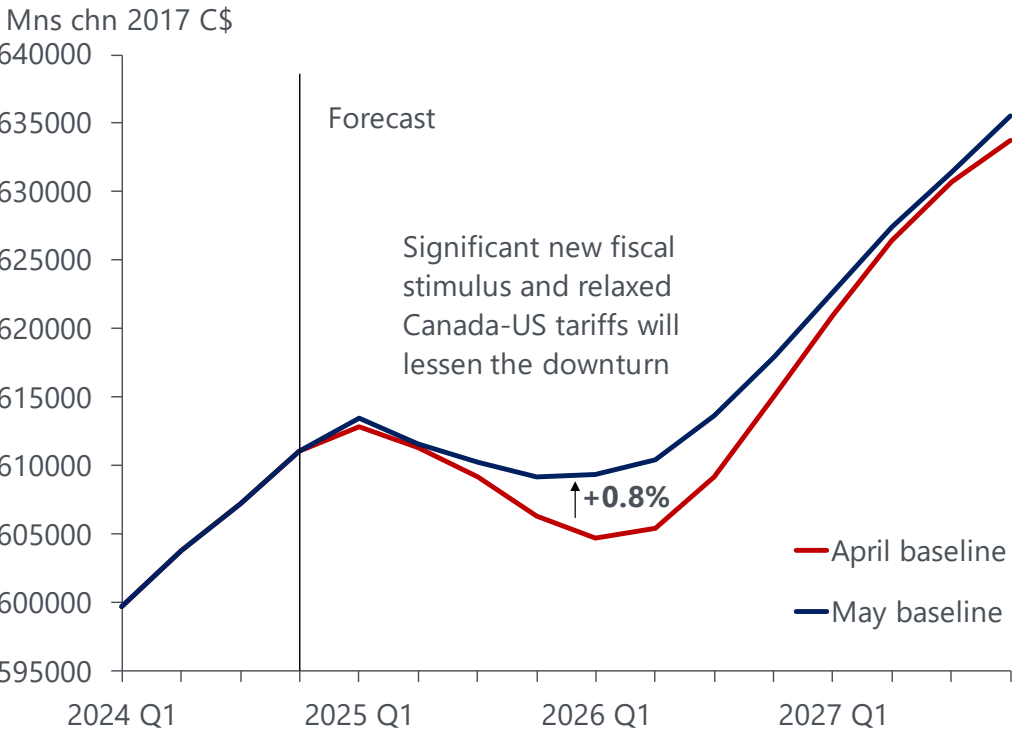
# Major new fiscal stimulus and lower tariffs will soften the downturn

Canada: Liberal platform measures



Source: Oxford Economics/Haver Analytics

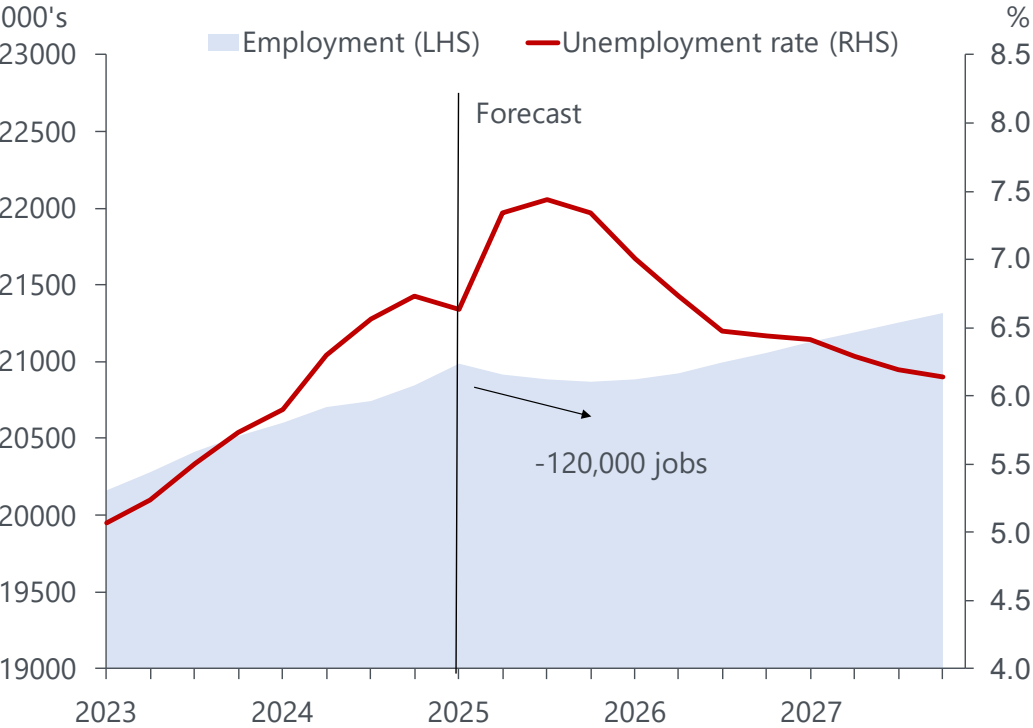
Canada: Real GDP



Source: Oxford Economics/Haver Analytics

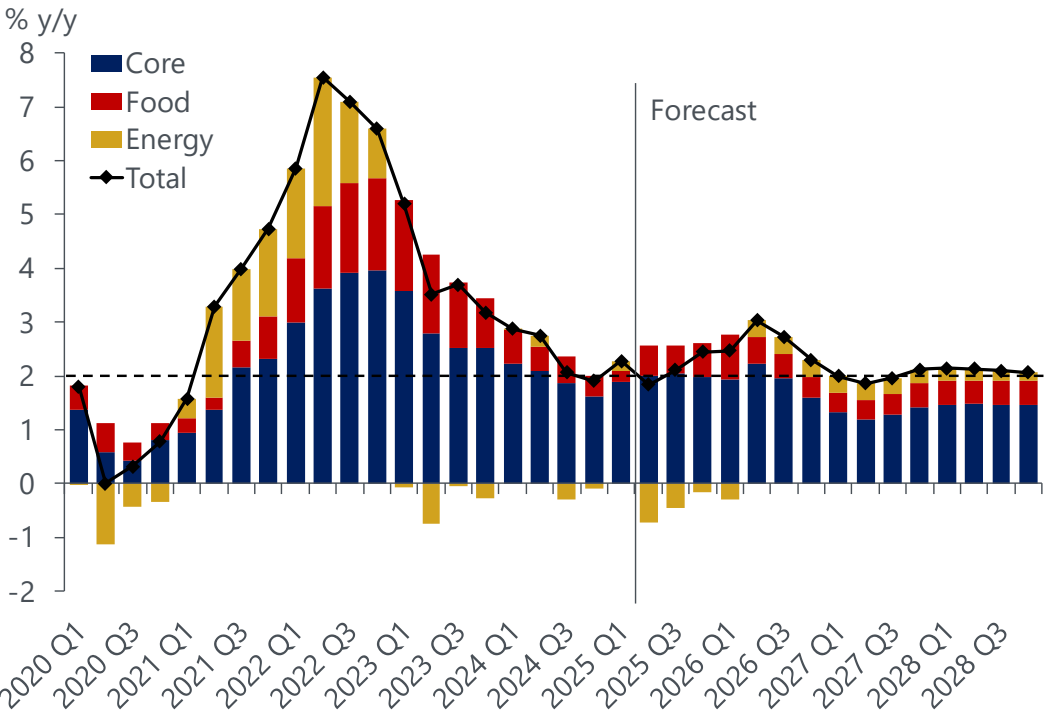
# Loss of 120,000 jobs will lift Canada's unemployment rate to 7.4% while inflation rises to 3% by mid-2026

Canada: Employment and unemployment rate



Source : Oxford Economics/Haver Analytics

Canada: CPI inflation

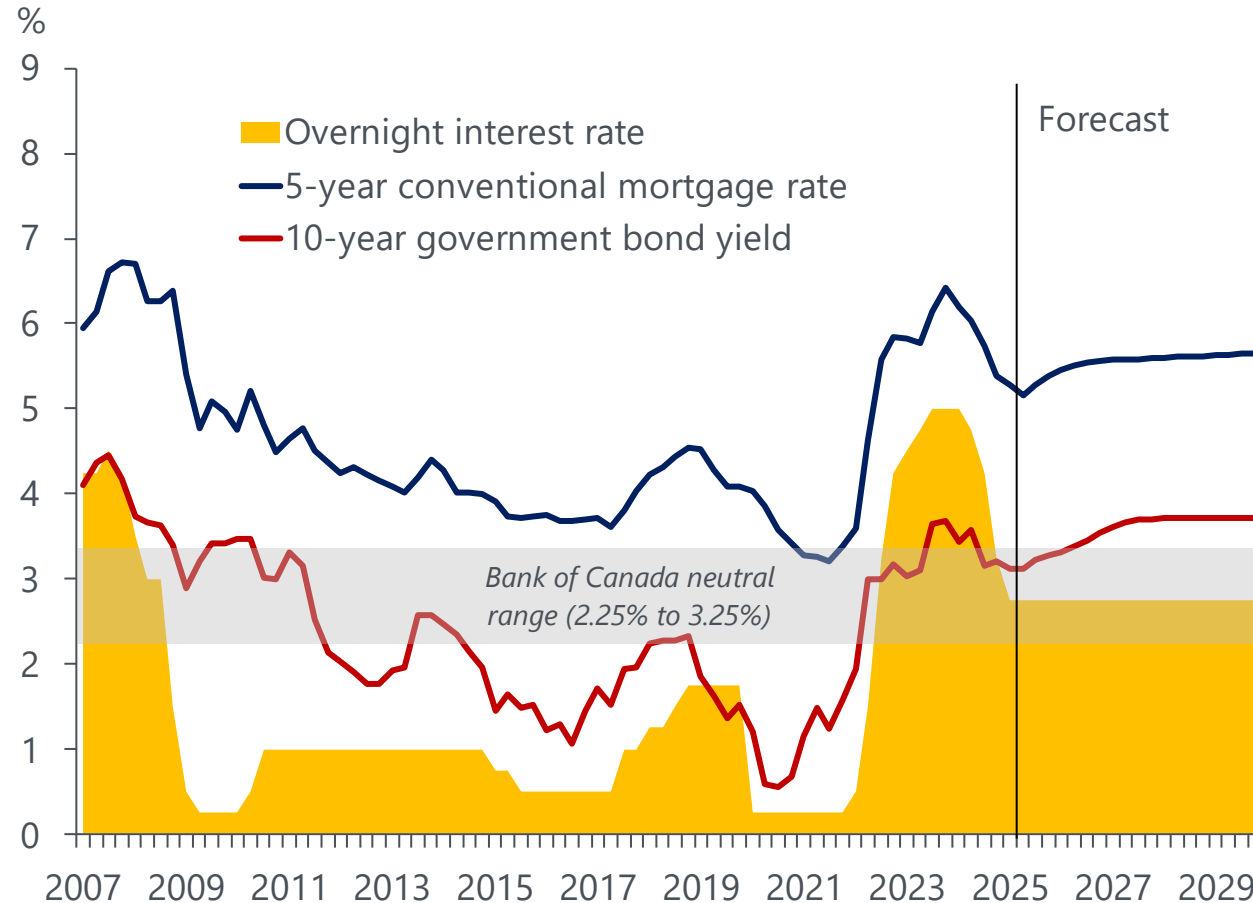


Source: Oxford Economics/Haver Analytics

# Bank of Canada will likely remain on hold

## Key takeaways

Canada: Overnight rate, mortgage rate & 10-year bond yield

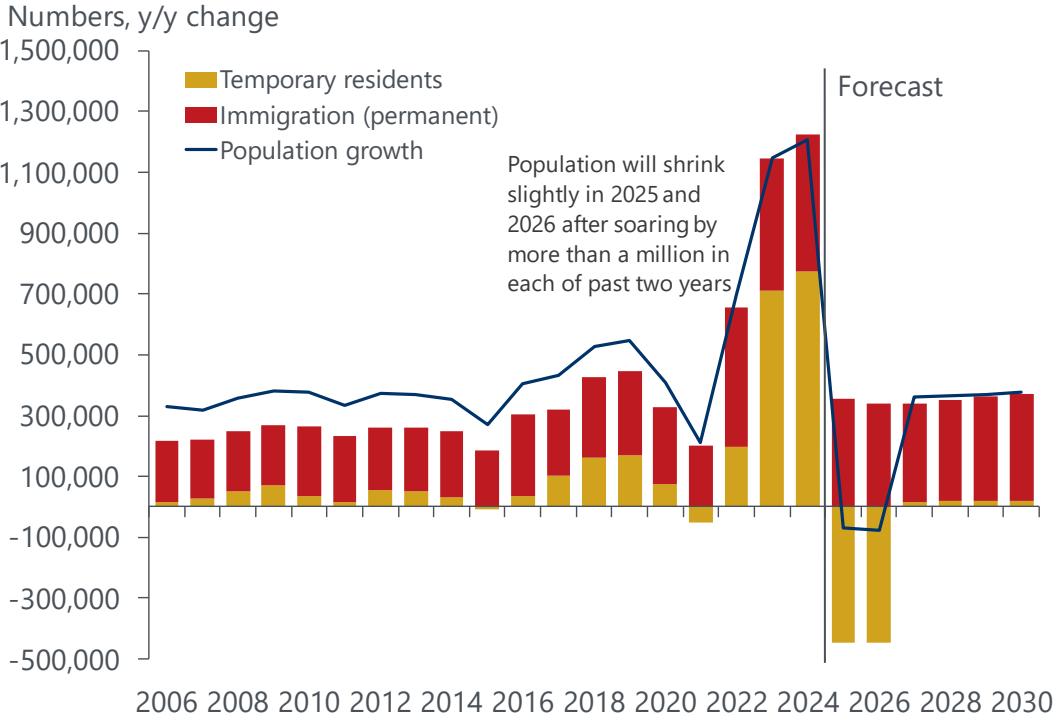


Source: Oxford Economics/Haver Analytics

- The stagflationary tariff shock means the BoC needs to balance concerns over higher prices with a downturn in the economy.
- Uncertainty about tariffs and their economic impact led the BoC to keep the policy rate at 2.75% in April.
- The BoC will likely continue to hold, but we can't rule out a couple of 25bp rate cuts. Still, we don't believe the BoC will reduce rates into stimulative territory unless it's convinced inflation is under control and additional stimulus is required.
- Higher inflation and rising risk premia will push up long bond yields.

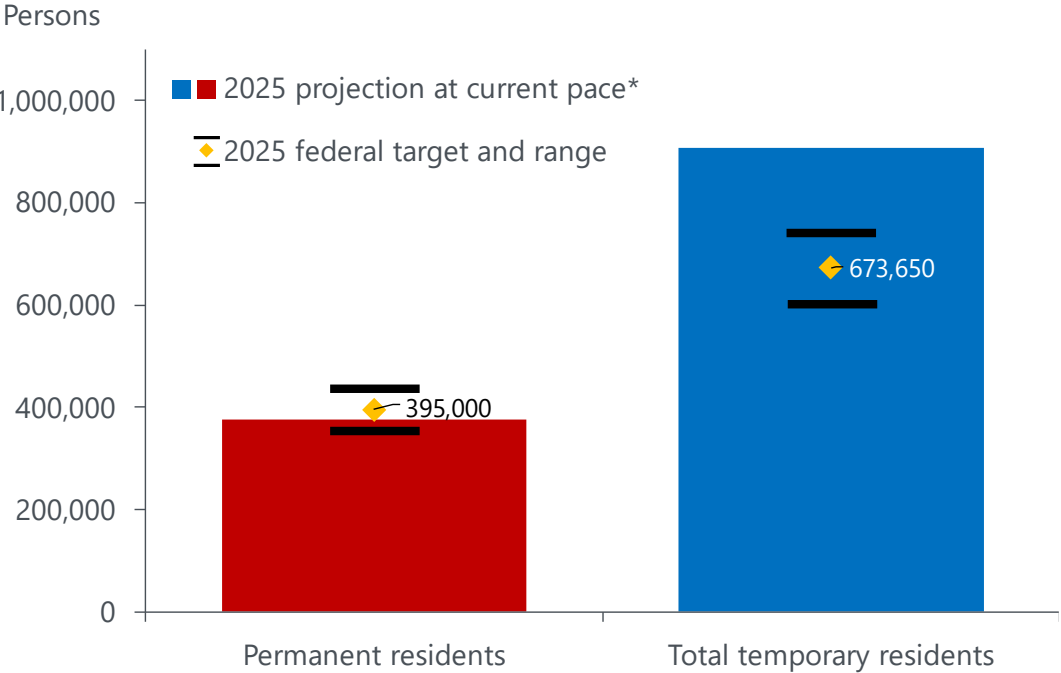
# Population is still likely to shrink this year, but the government is at risk of undershooting its temporary resident target

Canada: Population annual growth sources\*



Source: Oxford Economics/Haver Analytics \*Figures are as of July 1st each year.

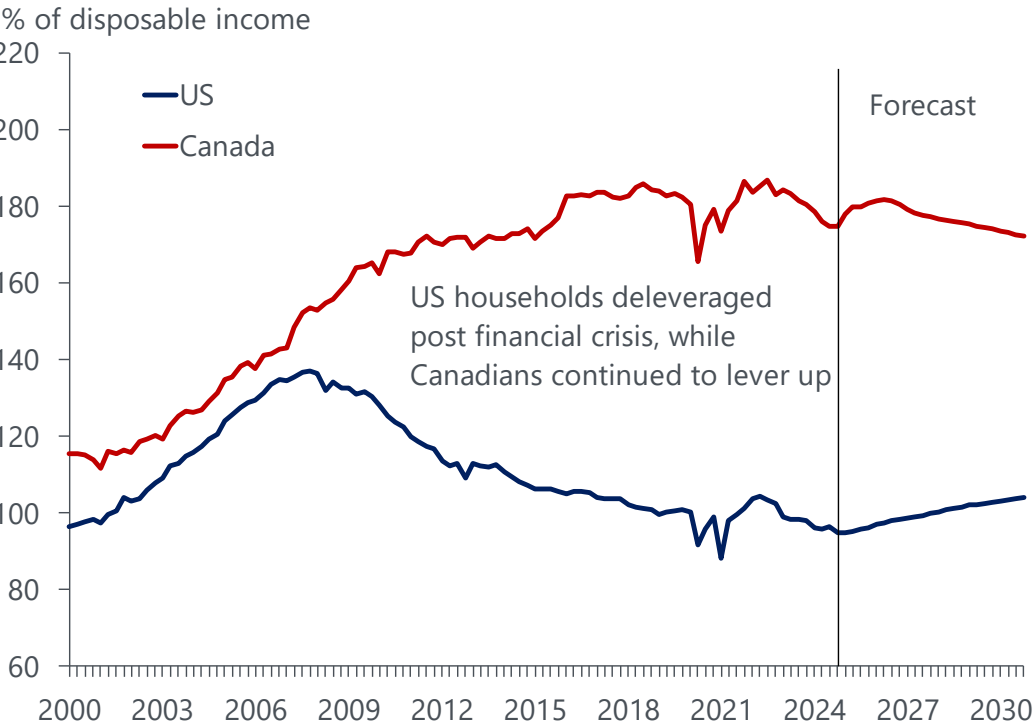
Canada: Permanent & temporary resident arrivals



Source: Oxford Economics/Haver Analytics \*Projections assume arrivals grow at the average y/y growth since the 2025 -2027 Immigration Levels Plan was introduced

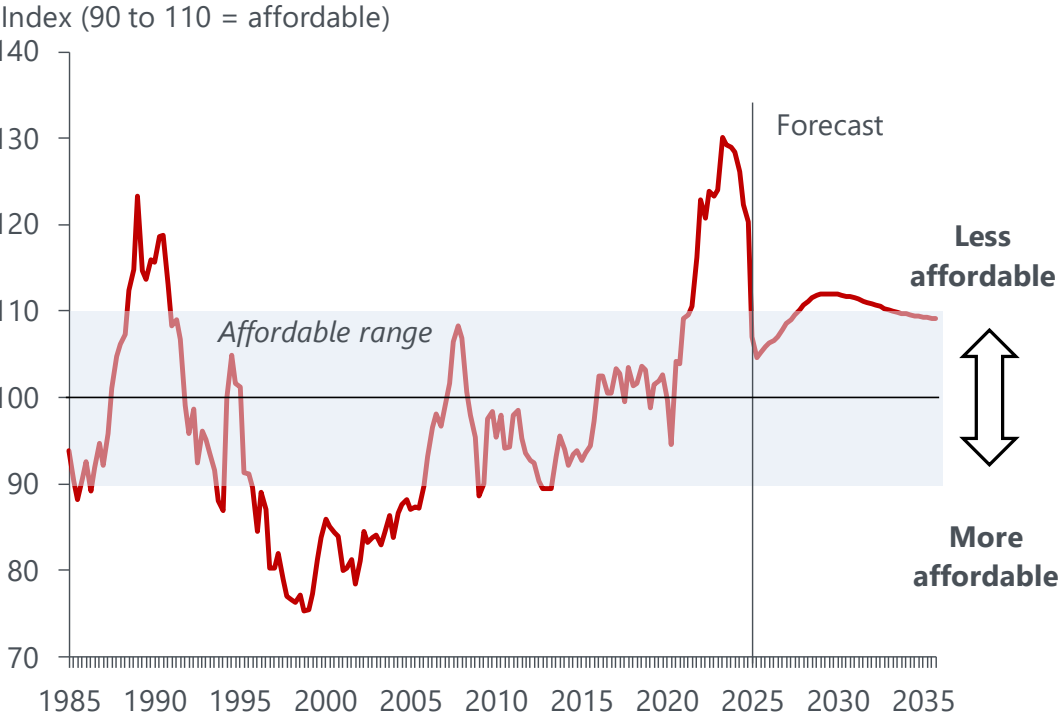
# Elevated household debt and overvalued housing make Canadian households acutely vulnerable to a shock to income or interest rates

Canada: Household debt to disposable income



Source: Oxford Economics/Haver Analytics

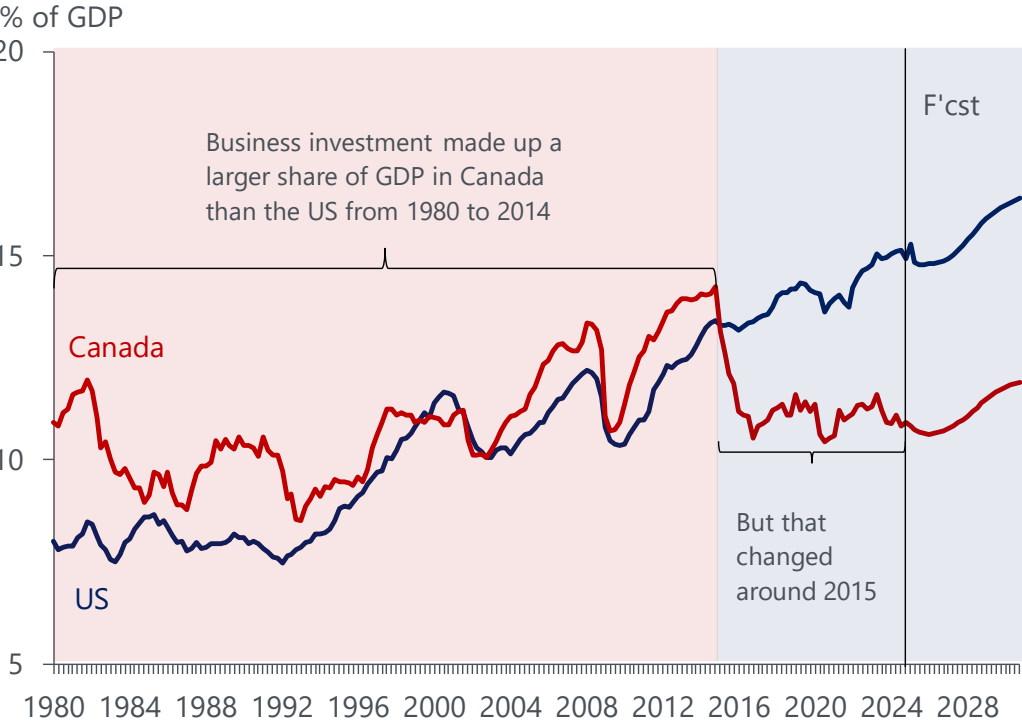
Canada: Housing Affordability Index



Source: Oxford Economics/Haver Analytics

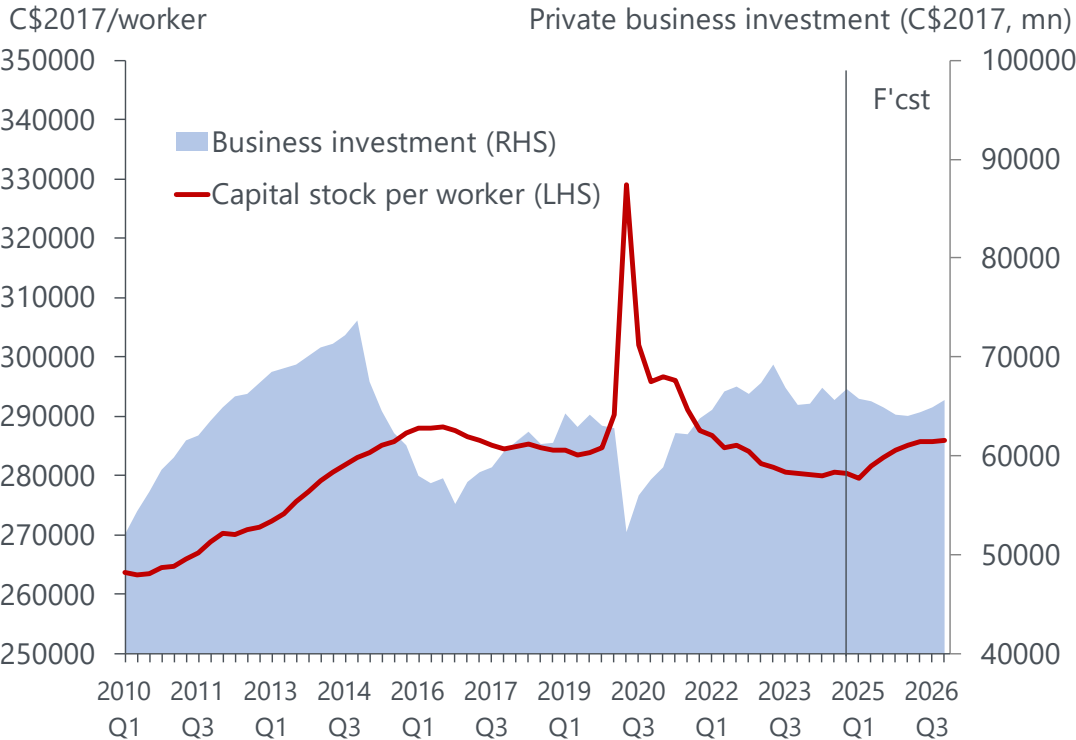
# Persistent underinvestment in Canada will likely continue amid trade war

North America: Real business investment, share of GDP



Source: Oxford Economics/Haver Analytics

Canada: Capital stock per worker & business investment

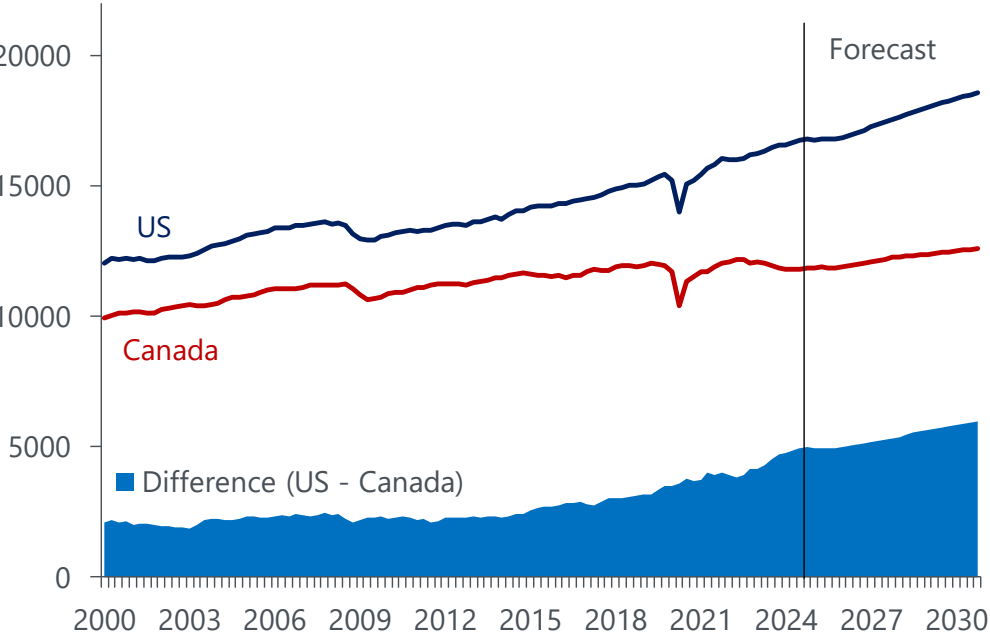


Source: Oxford Economics/Haver Analytics \*Capital stock data for 2024 is an estimate



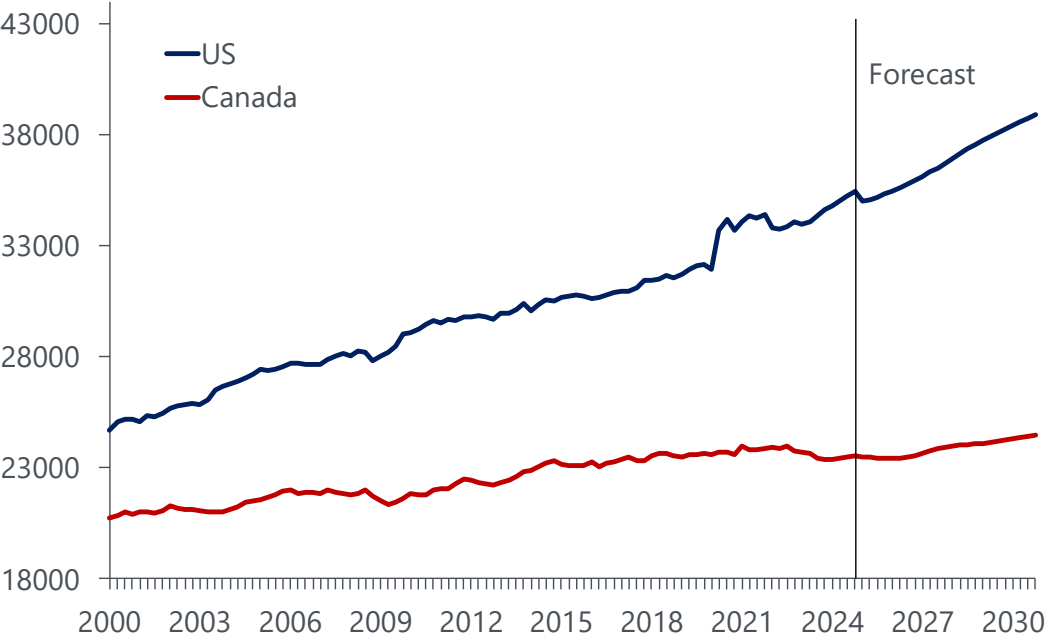
# Growing gap between US and Canadian GDP per capita will continue to widen

North America: Real GDP per capita, PPP exchange rate  
2015 US\$



Source: Oxford Economics/Haver Analytics

North America: Output per worker (productivity)  
Real GDP, 2015 US\$, PPP exchange rate, per worker



Source: Oxford Economics/Haver Analytics

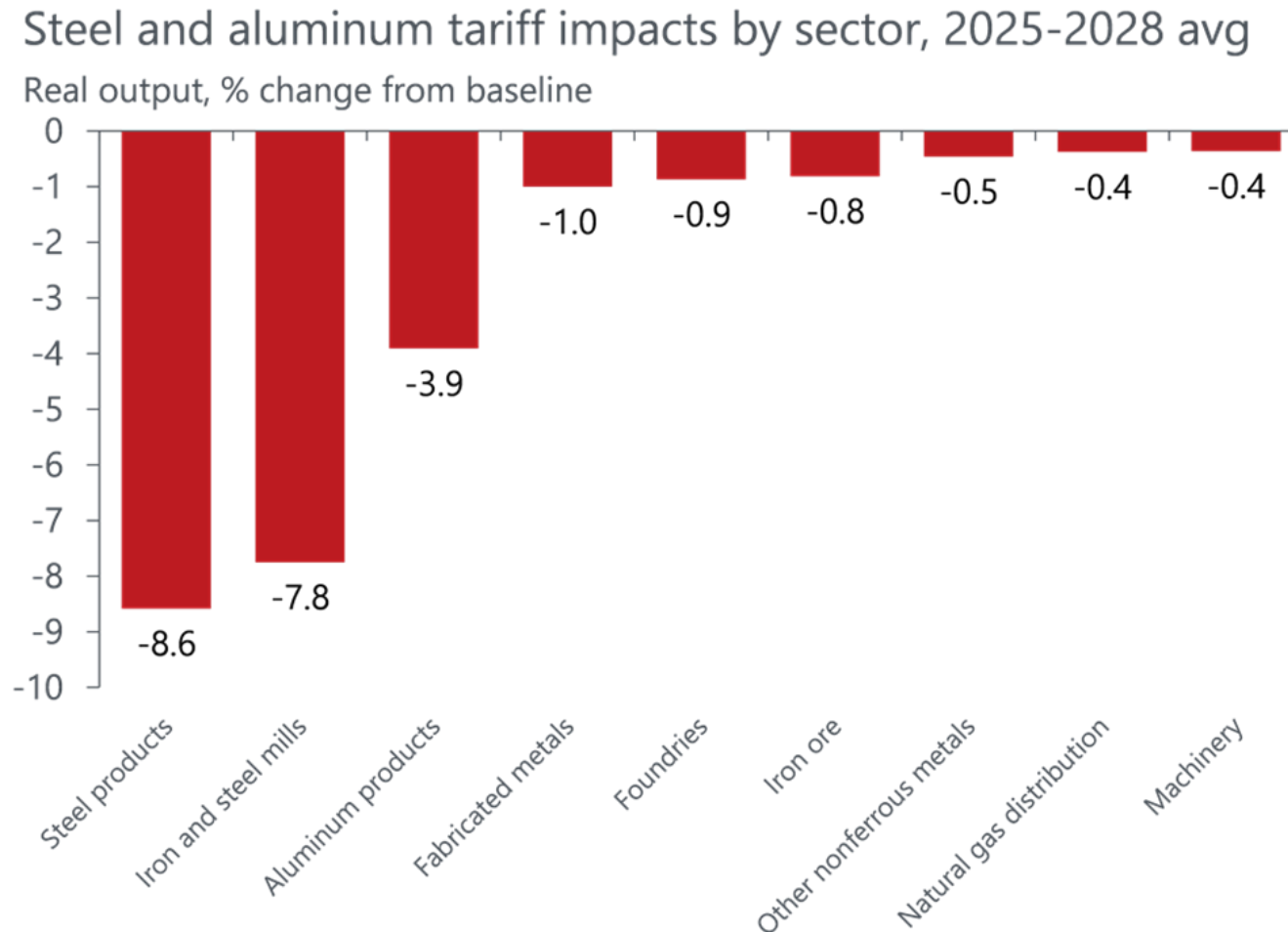
A photograph of an automotive manufacturing plant. In the center, a silver car body is on an assembly line. Several orange robotic arms are visible, some in the foreground and others in the background, working on the cars. The factory has a high ceiling with industrial lighting and various pipes and structures.

## The impact of US tariffs on Canadian steel, aluminum & autos

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# Steel & aluminum tariffs deal a significant blow to Canadian metal manufacturing

## Key takeaways

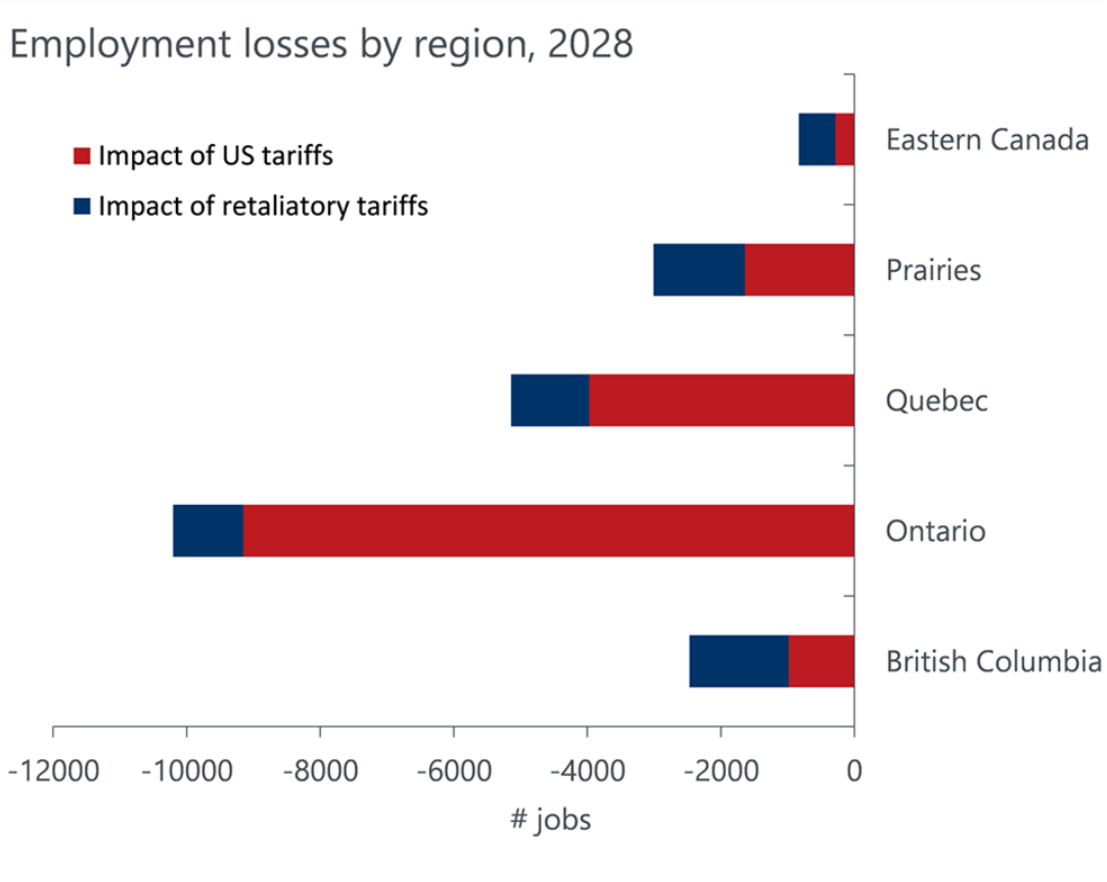


- Permanent 25% US tariffs on steel and aluminum would significantly harm Canada's metal manufacturing industries.
- Analysis using our Canada Provincial-Territorial Model shows production falls by an average of 9% in Canada's steel industry and by 4% in the aluminum industry over the 2025-2028 period.
- Related industries like fabricated metal manufacturing would also see lower output.
- Canada's retaliatory tariffs would raise producer costs, especially for industries heavily reliant on steel and aluminum, like autos and construction.

Source: Oxford Economics/Haver Analytics



# Steel & aluminum tariffs hit Ontario & Quebec most, and impacts will persist, unless the tariffs are temporary as in 2018-19



Source: Oxford Economics/Haver Analytics



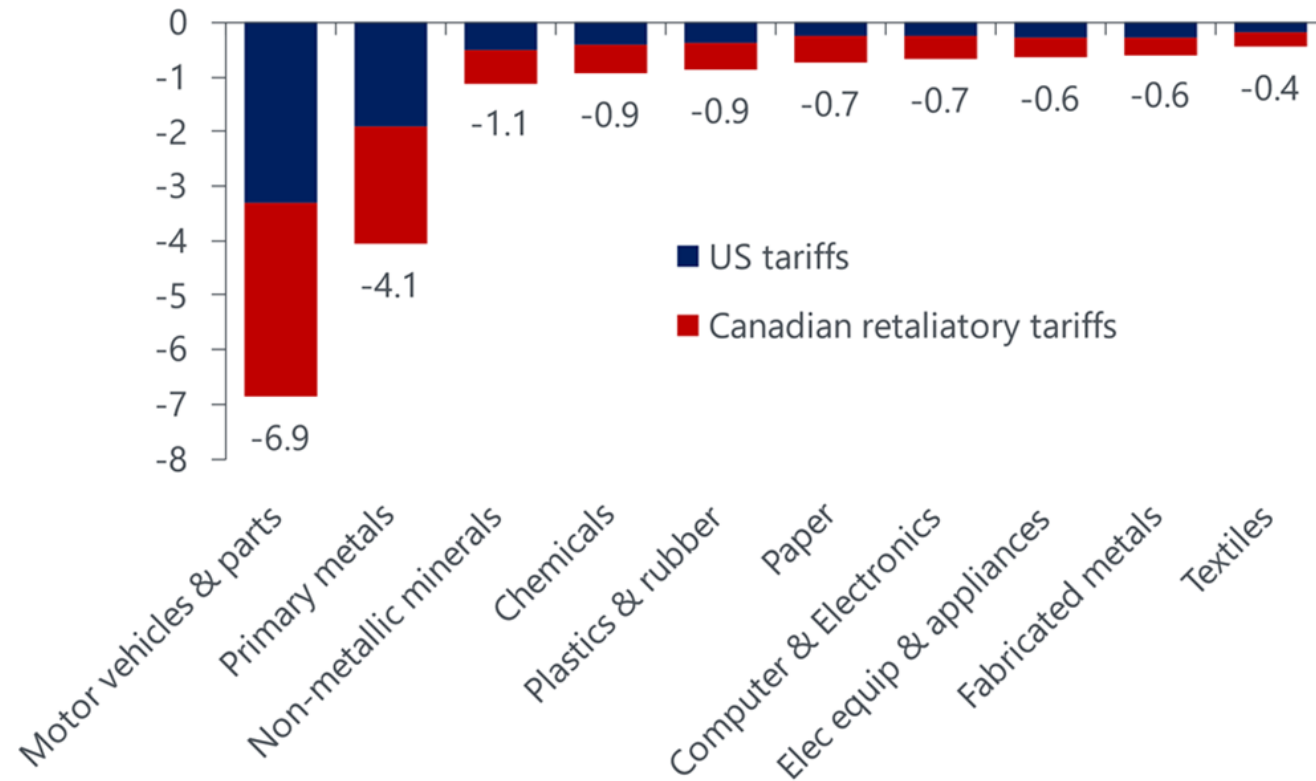
Source: Oxford Economics/Haver Analytics

# US auto tariffs would slam Canada's motor vehicle & metal industries

## Key takeaways

Canada: Auto tariff impacts by sector, 2025

GVA, % change from baseline

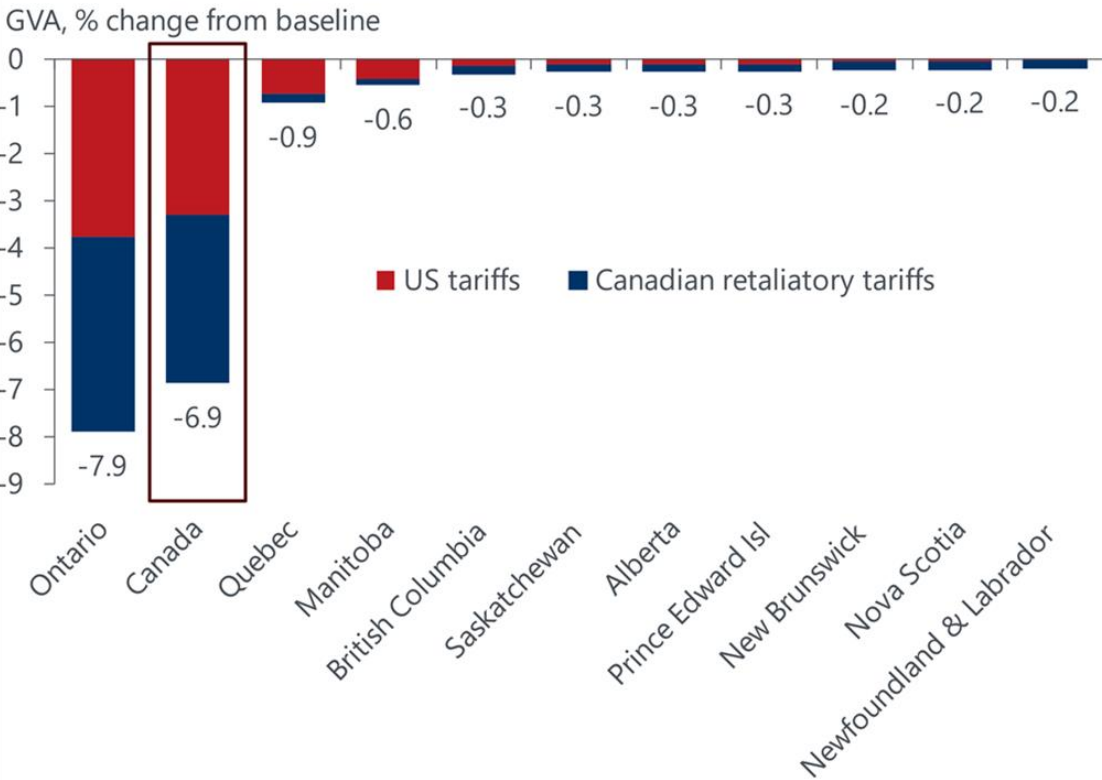


Source: Oxford Economics/Haver Analytics

- 25% tariffs on the non-US content in auto & parts imports reduce Canada's motor vehicle production by 3.3% this year. The impact doubles if Canada retaliates in kind. This raises new car prices in Canada by 5%-10%.
- For each week tariffs shut down North America's motor vehicle production, Canada's auto & parts industry would lose C\$330mn, or 2%, in production.
- Latest: Automakers that continue manufacturing in Canada will now be allowed to import USMCA-compliant vehicles free of tariffs. The US will also now exempt auto parts from tariffs on auto imports.

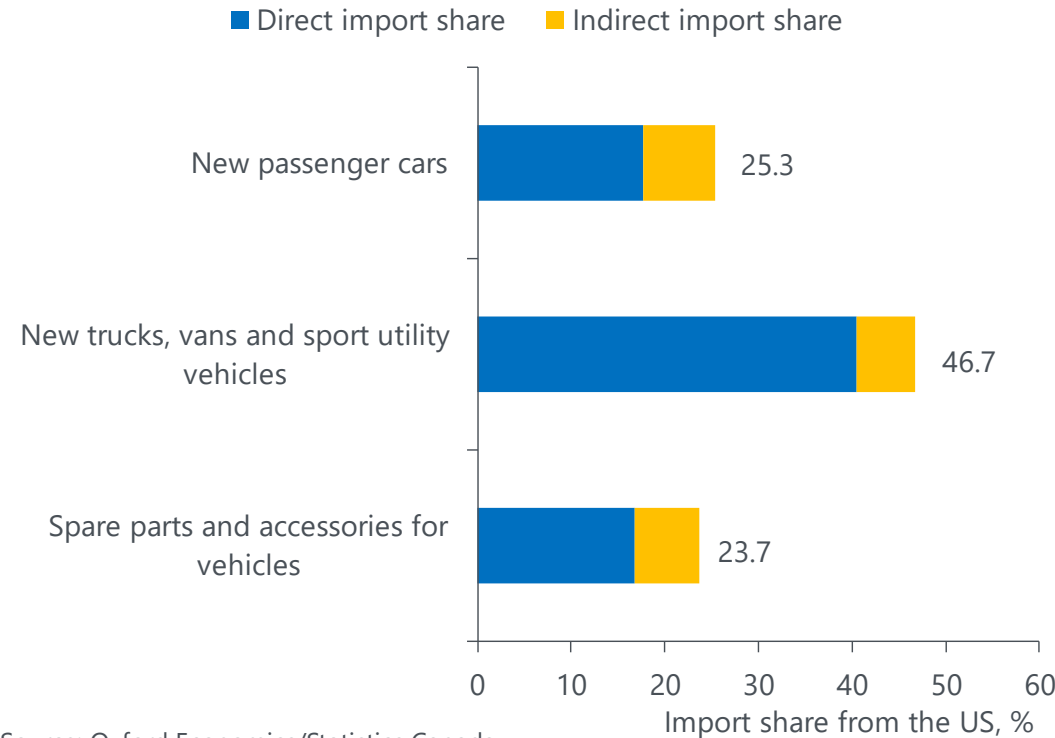
# Ontario is hardest hit by US auto tariffs, but the broader economy also suffers...new motor vehicle prices would rise 5%-10%

Canada: Auto tariff impacts, motor vehicles & parts, 2025



Source: Oxford Economics/Haver Analytics

Canada: US import content of consumption



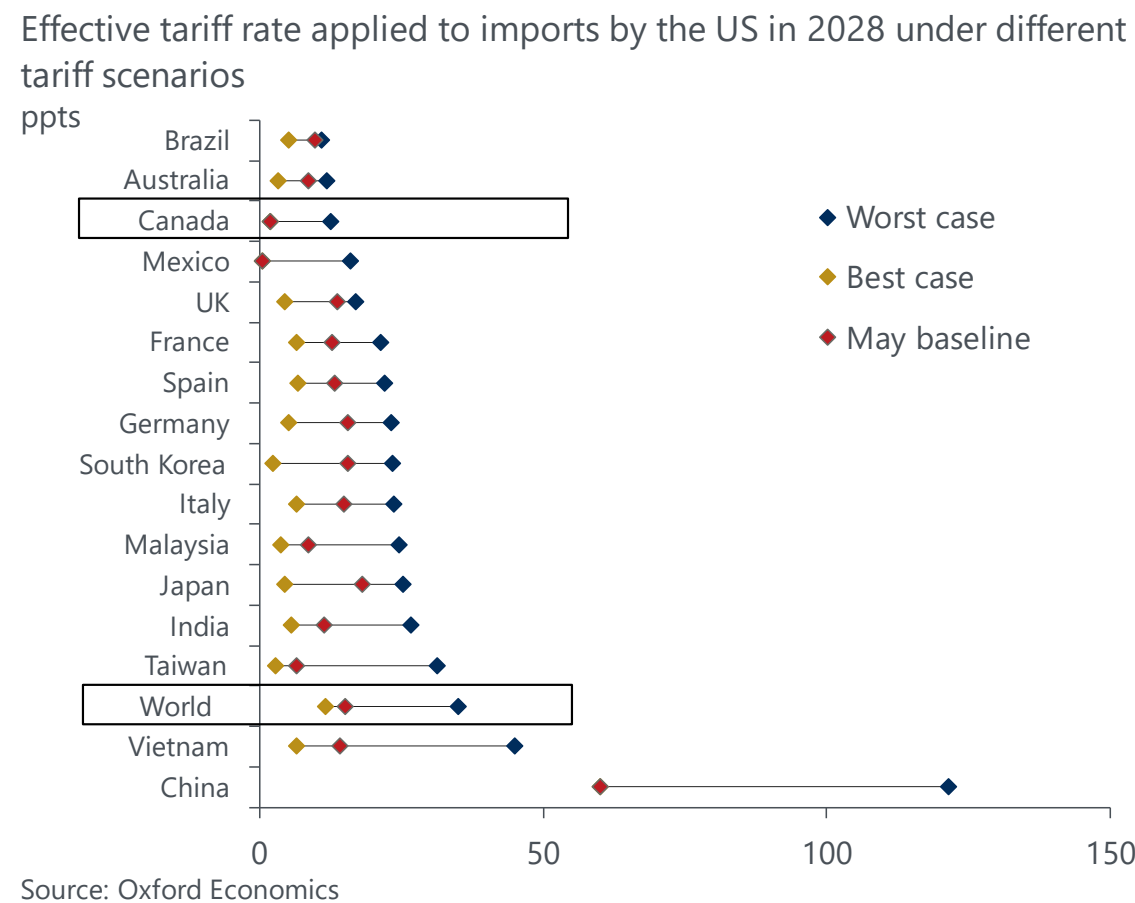
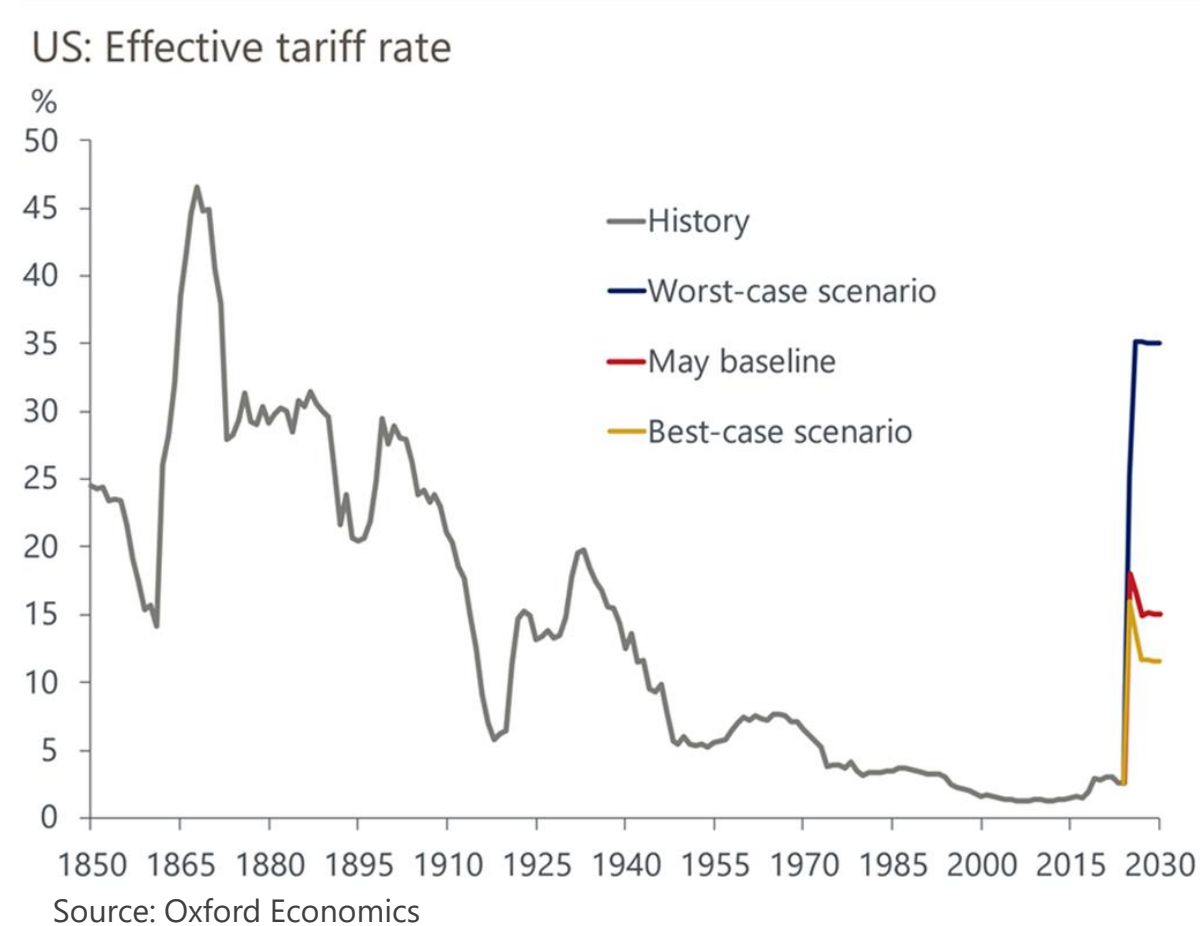
Source: Oxford Economics/Statistics Canada



# Trade war scenarios

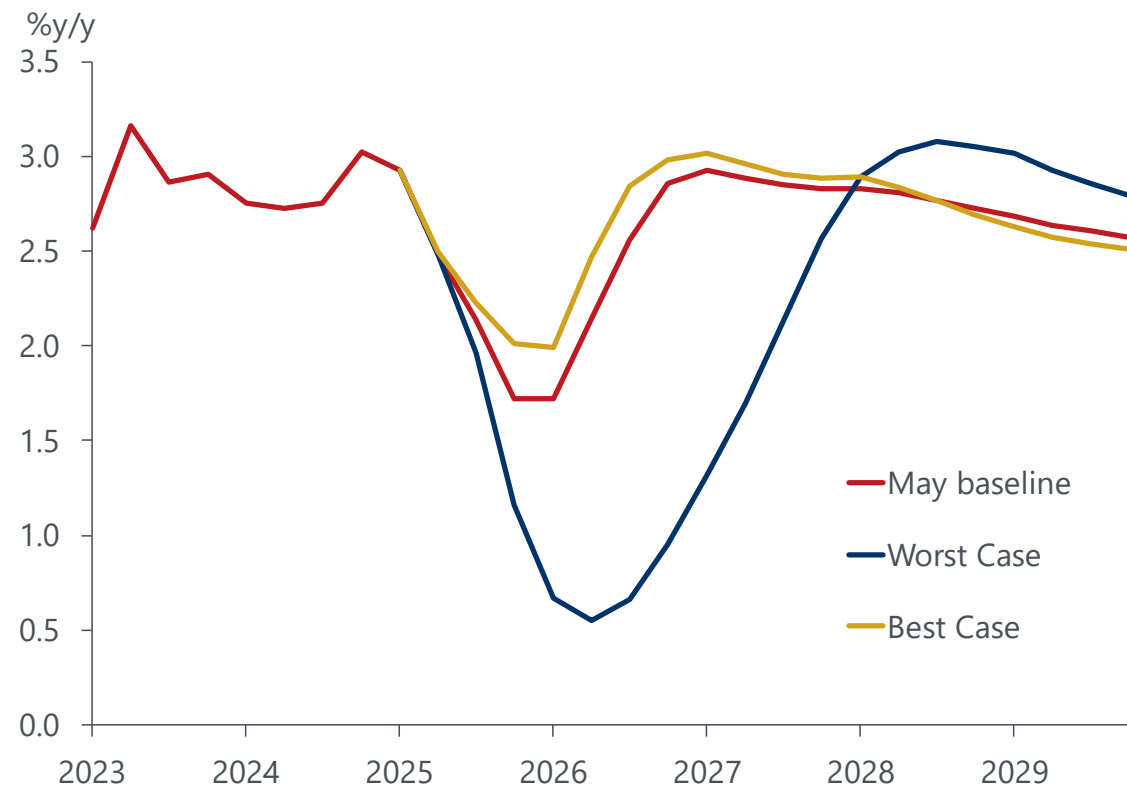


# Asian economies risk larger potential US tariff hikes



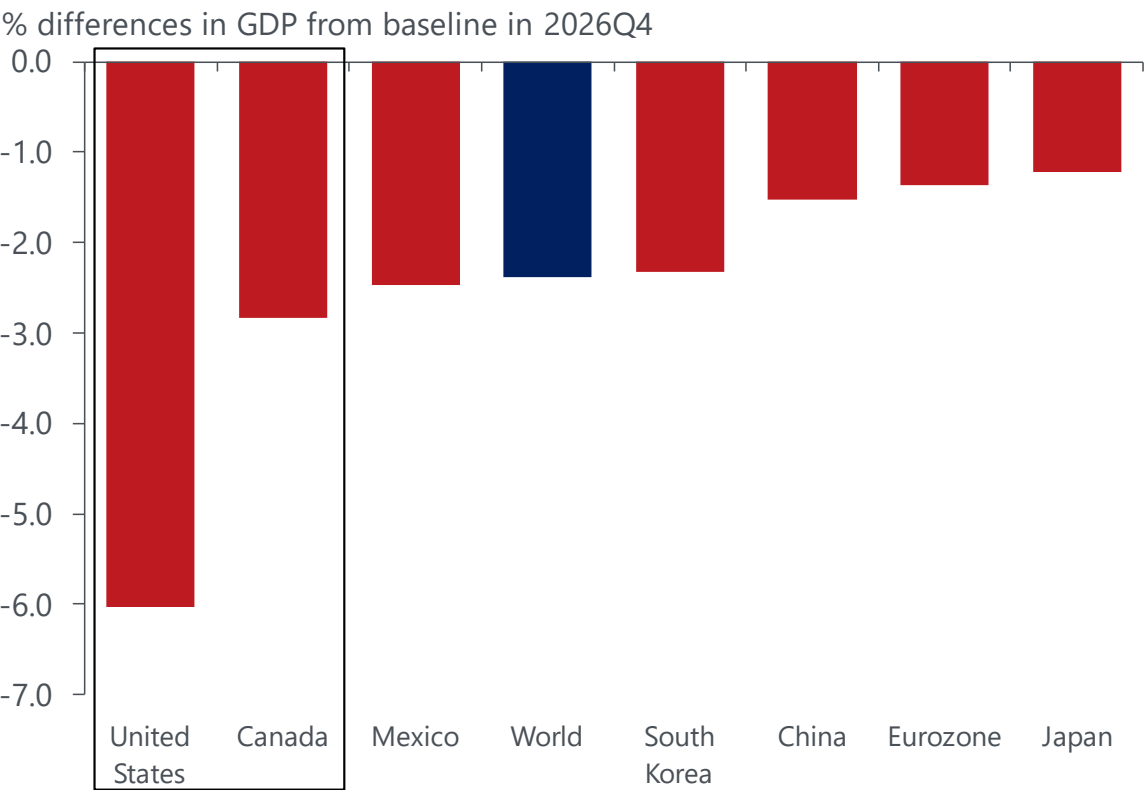
# Worst-case scenario would push world economy close to recession

World: GDP growth under different scenarios



Source: Oxford Economics/Haver Analytics

GDP impacts under the worst-case scenario

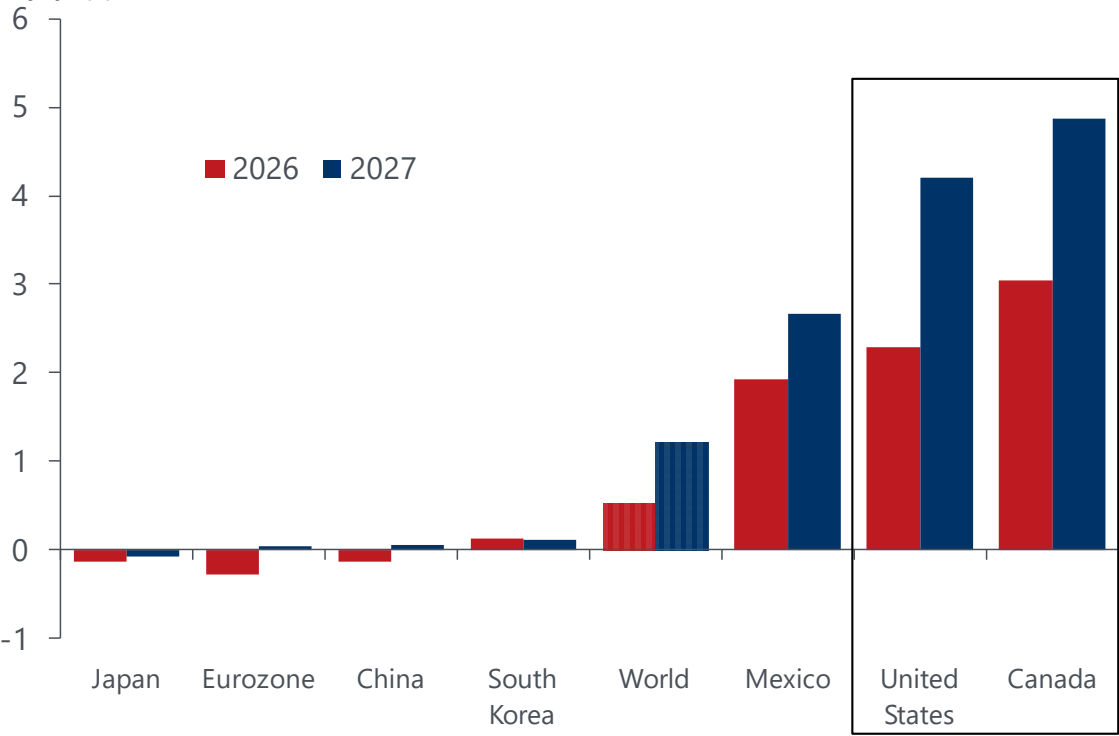


Source: Oxford Economics

# Inflation impacts outside North America are small, but tariffs are a headache for USMCA countries' central banks

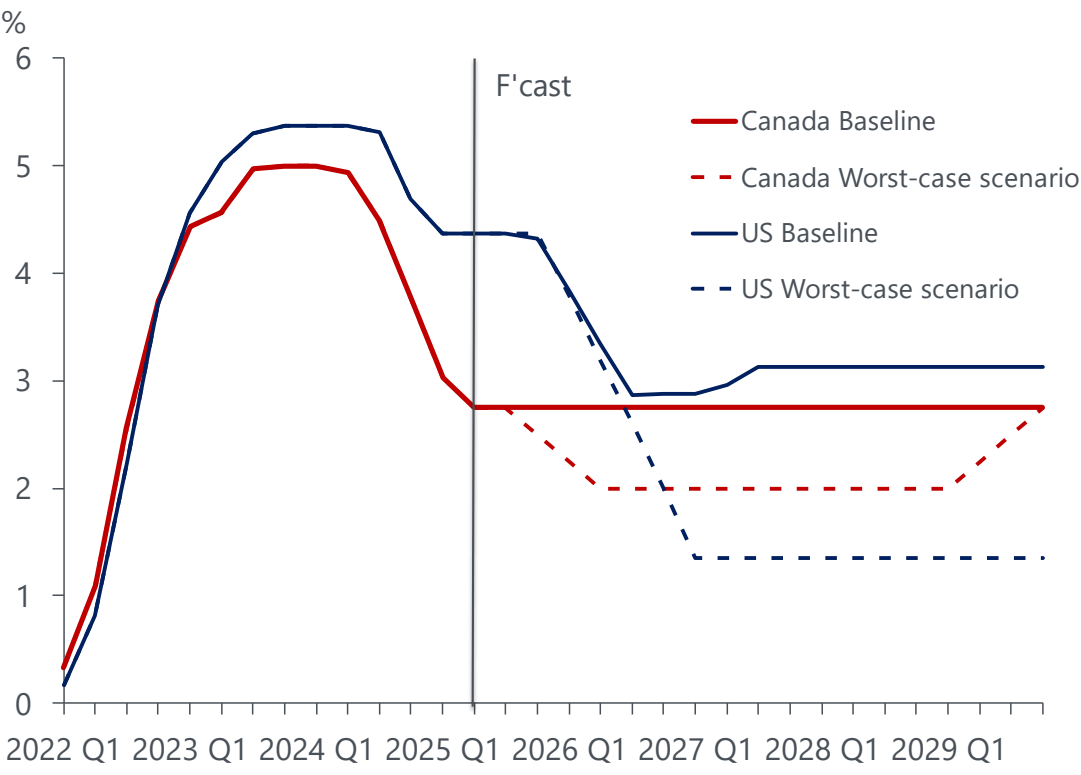
World: CPI

%y/y, ppt deviation from baseline, worst-case scenario



Source: Oxford Economics

North America: Central bank policy rates

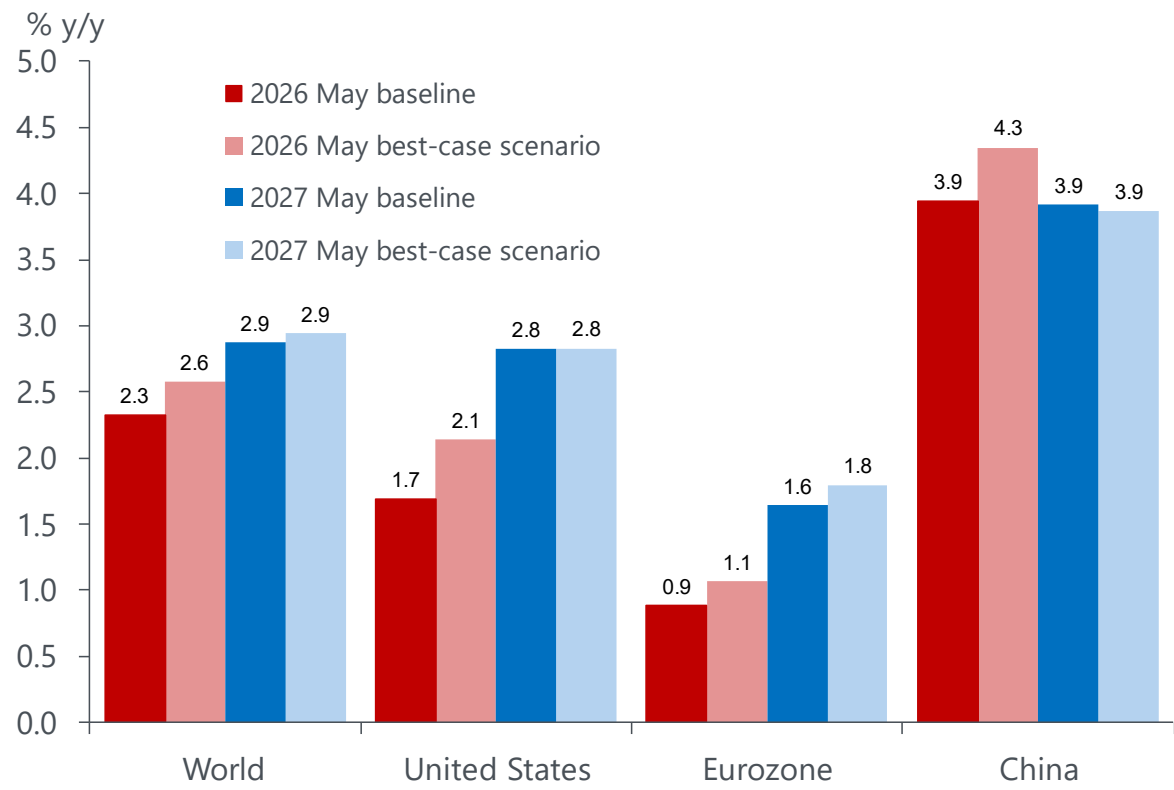


Source: Oxford Economics/Haver Analytics



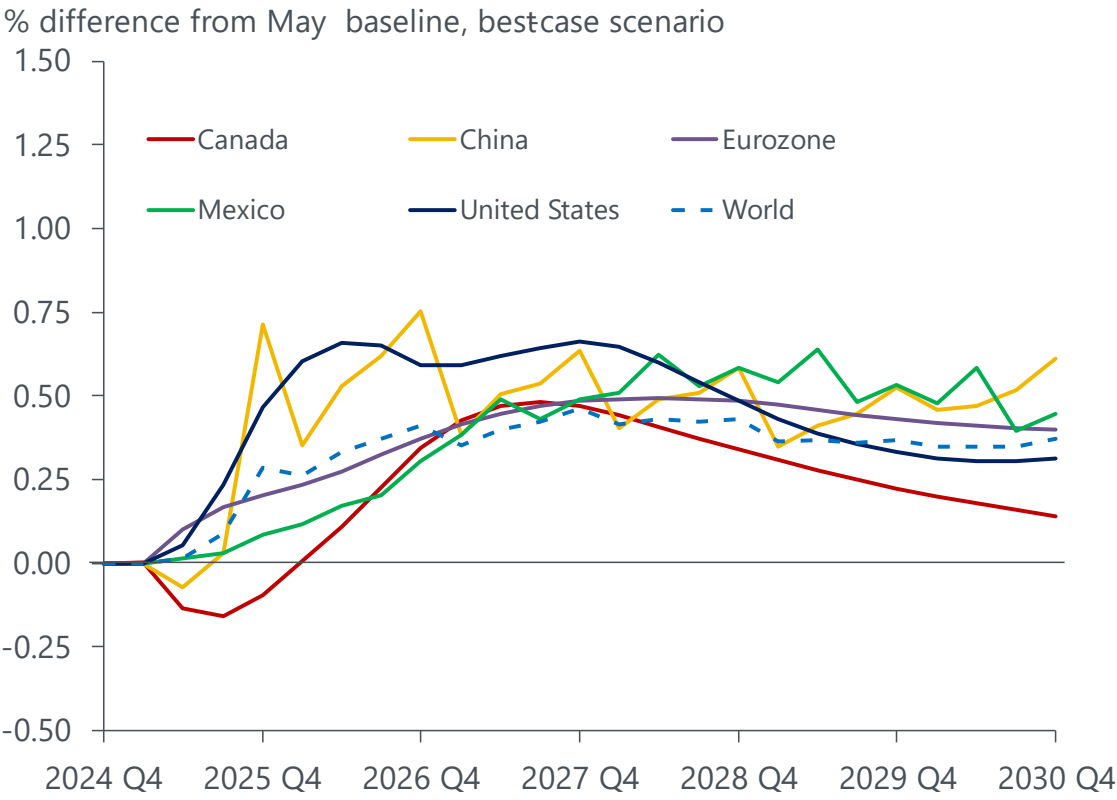
# The US and China benefit from a large short-term boost from easing its tariff policy in best-case scenario

World: GDP under different scenarios



Source: Oxford Economics

World: GDP



Source: Oxford Economics

# Appendix

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# United States baseline macro forecast – May 2025

Forecast for United States						
(Annual percentage changes unless specified)						
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
<b>GDP</b>	2.5	2.9	2.8	1.3	1.7	2.8
<b>Private consumption</b>	3.0	2.5	2.8	2.0	1.2	2.3
<b>Fixed investment</b>	2.0	3.2	4.3	0.9	1.7	4.2
<b>Government consumption</b>	-1.1	2.9	2.5	1.3	1.1	1.3
<b>Exports of goods and services</b>	7.5	2.8	3.3	-0.4	-1.7	2.8
<b>Imports of goods and services</b>	8.6	-1.2	5.3	2.3	-9.0	4.1
<b>Industrial production</b>	3.4	0.2	-0.3	-0.7	-1.5	2.2
<b>Consumer price index</b>	8.0	4.1	3.0	3.0	2.8	2.2
<b>PCE deflator</b>	6.6	3.8	2.5	2.8	2.7	2.0
<b>Unemployment rate (%)</b>	3.6	3.6	4.0	4.3	4.6	4.1
<b>Current a/c balance (% of GDP)</b>	-3.9	-3.3	-3.9	-4.0	-2.7	-2.7
<b>Government balance (% of GDP)</b>	-5.3	-6.1	-6.3	-6.2	-6.1	-6.5
<b>Central bank policy rate (% EOP)</b>	4.38	5.38	4.38	4.12	2.88	3.13
<b>10yr govt. bond yield (% EOP)</b>	3.88	3.88	4.58	4.12	4.00	4.07
<b>Exchange rate (Yen per US\$, EOP)</b>	132.65	141.91	156.65	150.14	146.30	141.48
<b>Exchange rate (US\$ per euro, EOP)</b>	1.07	1.11	1.04	1.13	1.13	1.13

# Canada baseline macro forecast – May 2025

<b>Forecast for Canada</b>						
<b>(Annual percentage changes unless specified)</b>						
	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>
<b>GDP</b>	4.2	1.5	1.5	0.9	0.3	2.7
<b>Private consumption</b>	5.5	1.9	2.4	1.9	0.5	1.8
<b>Fixed investment</b>	-1.2	-1.6	0.1	0.9	1.3	6.6
<b>Government consumption</b>	3.2	2.2	3.2	2.0	1.7	0.3
<b>Exports of goods and services</b>	4.2	5.0	0.6	-1.0	-3.8	3.8
<b>Imports of goods and services</b>	7.5	0.3	0.6	-0.4	-1.2	3.5
<b>Industrial production</b>	3.8	-0.1	-0.2	-0.9	-2.4	2.9
<b>Consumer prices</b>	6.8	3.9	2.4	2.2	2.6	2.0
<b>Unemployment rate (%)</b>	5.3	5.4	6.4	7.2	6.7	6.3
<b>Current a/c balance (% of GDP)</b>	-0.3	-0.6	-0.5	-1.1	-2.0	-1.7
<b>Government balance (% of GDP)</b>	0.9	0.5	-1.4	-2.3	-3.8	-3.7
<b>Central bank policy rate (% EOP)</b>	4.25	5.00	3.25	2.75	2.75	2.75
<b>10yr govt. bond yield (% EOP)</b>	3.30	3.10	3.23	3.29	3.57	3.71
<b>Exchange Rate (Per US\$)</b>	1.35	1.32	1.44	1.40	1.38	1.36
<b>Exchange Rate (Yen per Can \$)</b>	97.94	107.30	108.87	107.22	105.95	104.13

Source: Oxford Economics/Haver Analytics

# Trump executive actions declared a “national emergency” under IEEPA to impose tariffs and bypass Congressional approval

## International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA)

- Existing legislation, active since the 1970s
- Empowers the President to declare a national emergency and take steps in response, in many cases used for sanctions.
- There is no specific definition of “national emergency”
- It has not been used previously to impose tariffs
- It allows immediate action, e.g. tariffs could be implemented without an investigation
- Prior Presidents have invoked IEEPA in 69 declarations of emergency; most are still active; average length is nine+ years
- However, requires significant Congressional oversight and reporting
- Congress can terminate the emergency against the President’s will, but only with 2/3 majority; this has never happened before
- Trump threatened to use it against Mexico in 2019, but did not

- The US president has other options to impose tariffs without Congressional approval, but most require months for a Department of Commerce investigation.
- **Section 232:** President finds a threat to national security; Department of Commerce must conduct an investigation
- **Section 201:** USITC does an investigation and must submit a finding
- **Section 301:** USTR investigates unfair foreign practices; can cover a wide range of products
- **Section 338 (of Tariff Act):** President can impose new tariffs up to 50% on countries that have discriminated against US products; can also be applied to third countries that benefit from the conduct. Can be done quickly.
- **Section 122 (Trade Act, 1974):** President has right to address large and serious balance of payments deficits via temporary import surcharges of up to 15% and import quotas. Can be done quickly, but only for a maximum of 150 days.

# Our baseline tariff assumptions – May 2025

Tariff assumptions in our baseline		
Tariffed countries	US tariffs	Retaliation measures
US / China	In addition to the 20% blanket tariffs on products imported from China imposed during February (10%) and March (10%), additional reciprocal tariffs of 125% were imposed in April. In our May baseline, we have included all the exemptions on these reciprocal tariffs to date and estimate the effective tariff rate will be around 90% for the remainder of 2025. We assume the US will lower its tariff rate on China at the start of 2026 to 60%, which would be in line with Trump's presidential campaign pledge.	China has retaliated proportionately since the US began imposing reciprocal tariffs, raising tariffs on US goods by 125% in April. We estimate the effective tariff rate applied to imports from the US will be around 144% for the remainder of this year. In response to an anticipated lowering of US tariffs next year, we expect China will wind down its tariffs on the US too, bringing the effective rate down to around 60%.
US / Canada	Tariffs of 25% on steel and aluminium, 25% on the non-US content of USMCA-compliant autos, 10% on non-USMCA-compliant energy and potash, and 25% on all other non-USMCA-compliant products. Most tariffs are assumed to be removed by Q3 2026 as the USMCA is renegotiated, but smaller 10% targeted tariffs remain in place permanently for metals and select agricultural products.	As of March 4, 25% tariffs on C\$30bn of US goods imports. As of March 13, 25% tariffs on an additional C\$29.8bn of US goods imports (this includes steel, aluminium, and other products). As of April 17, 97% of the C\$59.8bn in counter tariffs are paused for six months before being reinstated. Most tariffs are assumed to be removed by Q3 2026 as the USMCA is renegotiated, but smaller 10% targeted tariffs remain in place permanently for metals and select agricultural products.
US / Mexico	Mexico is assumed to face US tariffs of 25% on non-USMCA goods, steel and aluminium, and the non-US content of autos, bringing our estimate of the average tariff rate on Mexico to around 16%. Moreover, these tariff hikes are assumed to be largely reversed in mid-2026 when a new USMCA trade deal is agreed.	Mexico does not retaliate and instead concedes to US demands on border security, hoping to secure a reduction in the current 25% tariff on non-USMCA-compliant exports.
US / Rest of World	Tariffs of 10% have been imposed on the rest of the world; however, universal tariffs on certain products – such as 25% on autos, steel, and aluminium – as well as exemptions on others, mean that effective tariff rates have increased by varying amounts across individual economies. These tariffs are expected to remain in place for the duration of our forecast period.	We assume most countries will not retaliate. However, we expect the EU will respond with targeted tariffs for an equivalent amount of 10% if any negotiations with Trump during this 90-day pause are unsuccessful.

Source: Oxford Economics



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Questions?





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