

# INDIANA ECONOMIC OUTLOOK



**BALL STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

Center for Business and  
Economic Research

**January 21, 2026 • Horizon Convention Center, Muncie, IN**

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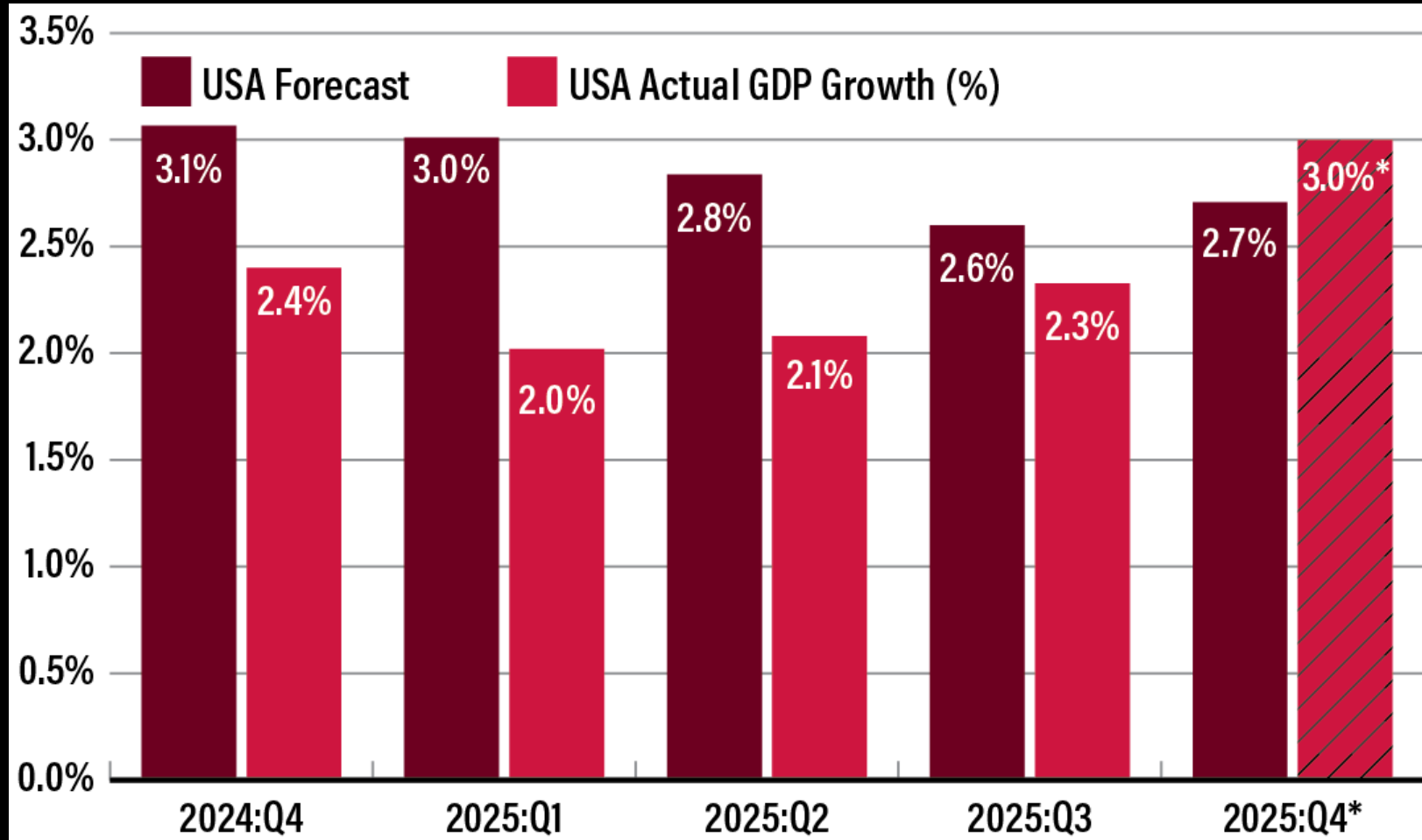
# **Michael J. Hicks**

**Director, Center for Business and  
Economic Research**

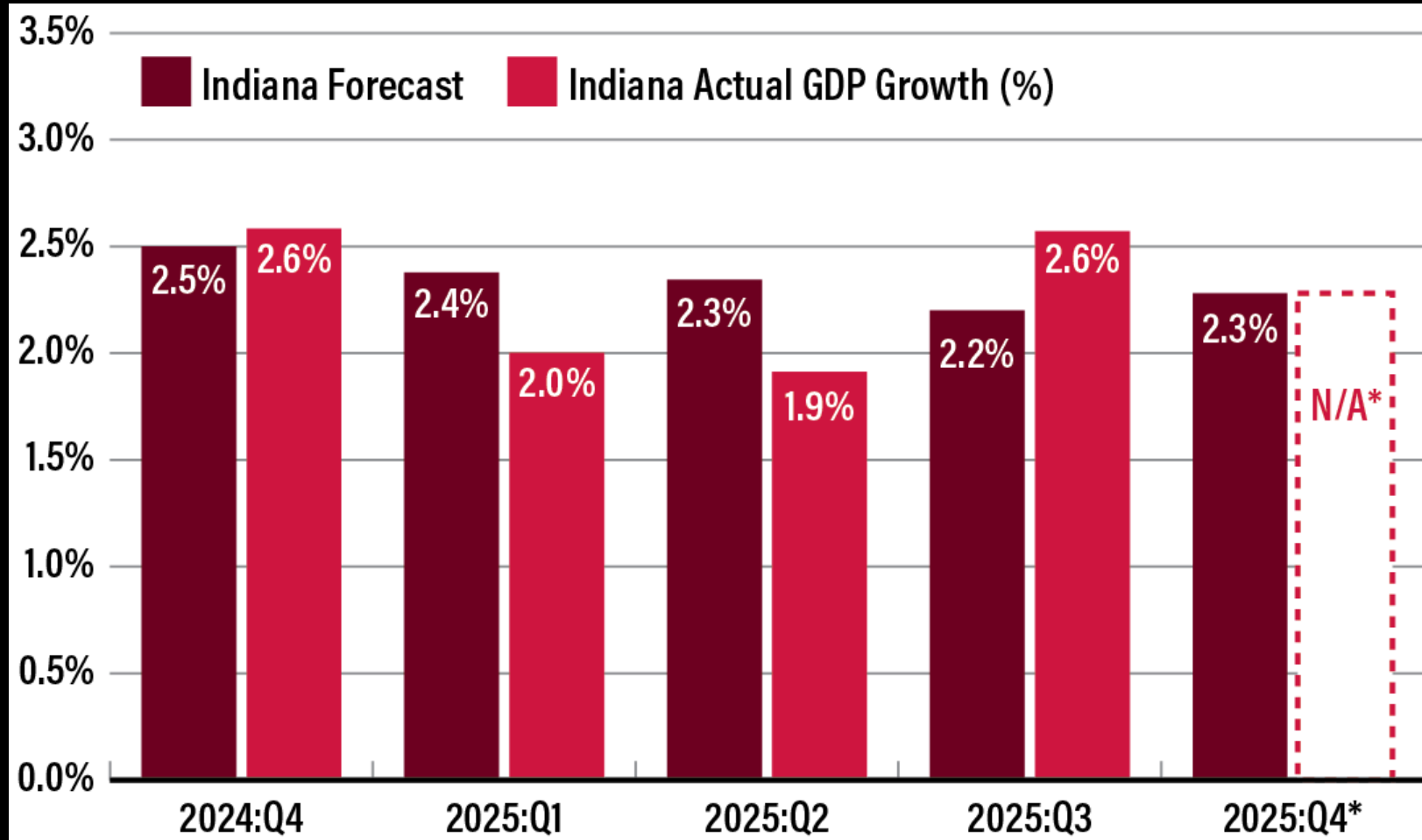
**George & Frances Ball Distinguished  
Professor of Economics**

**Miller College of Business, Ball State  
University**

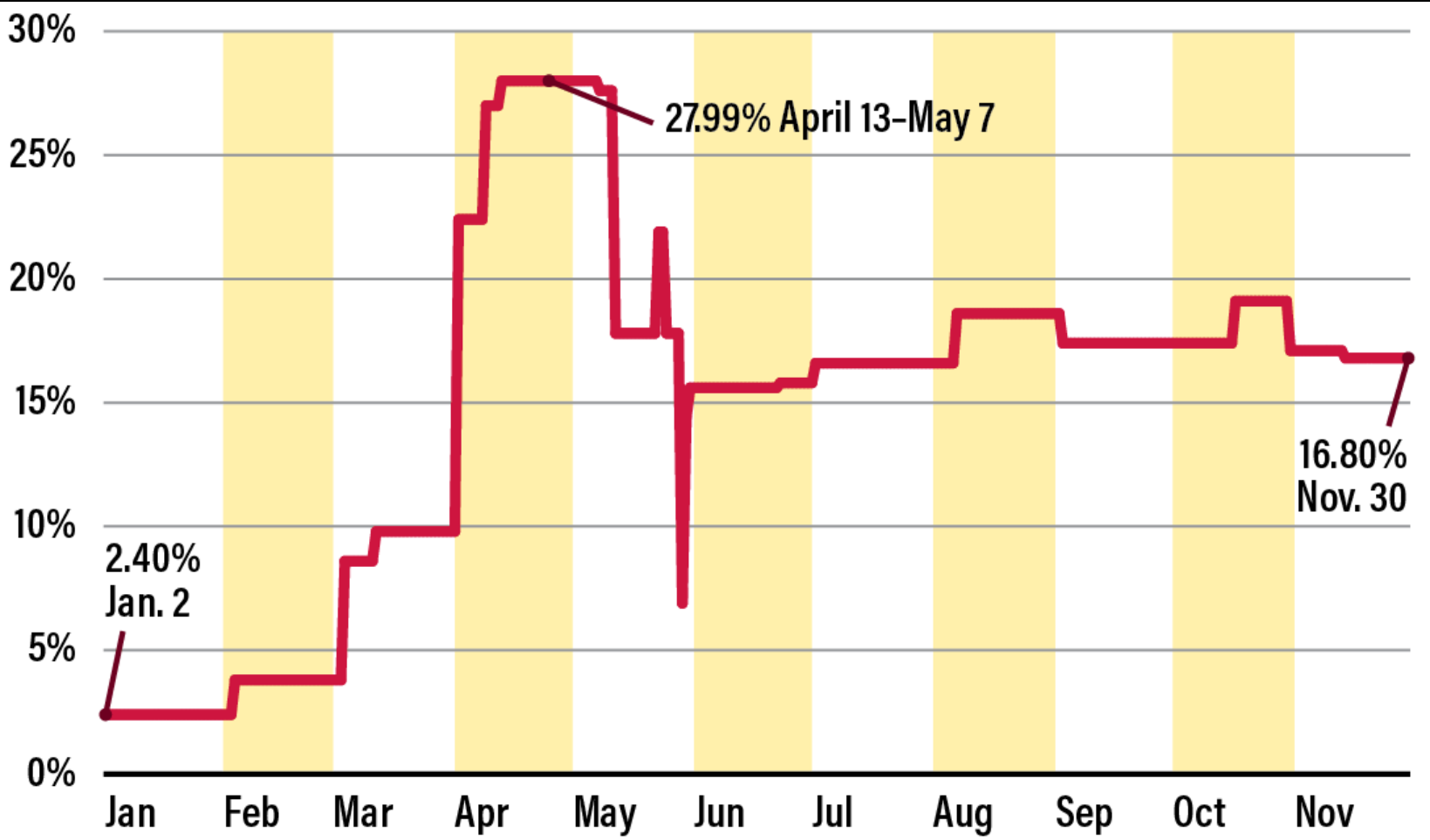
# U.S. GDP Growth: Forecast vs Actual



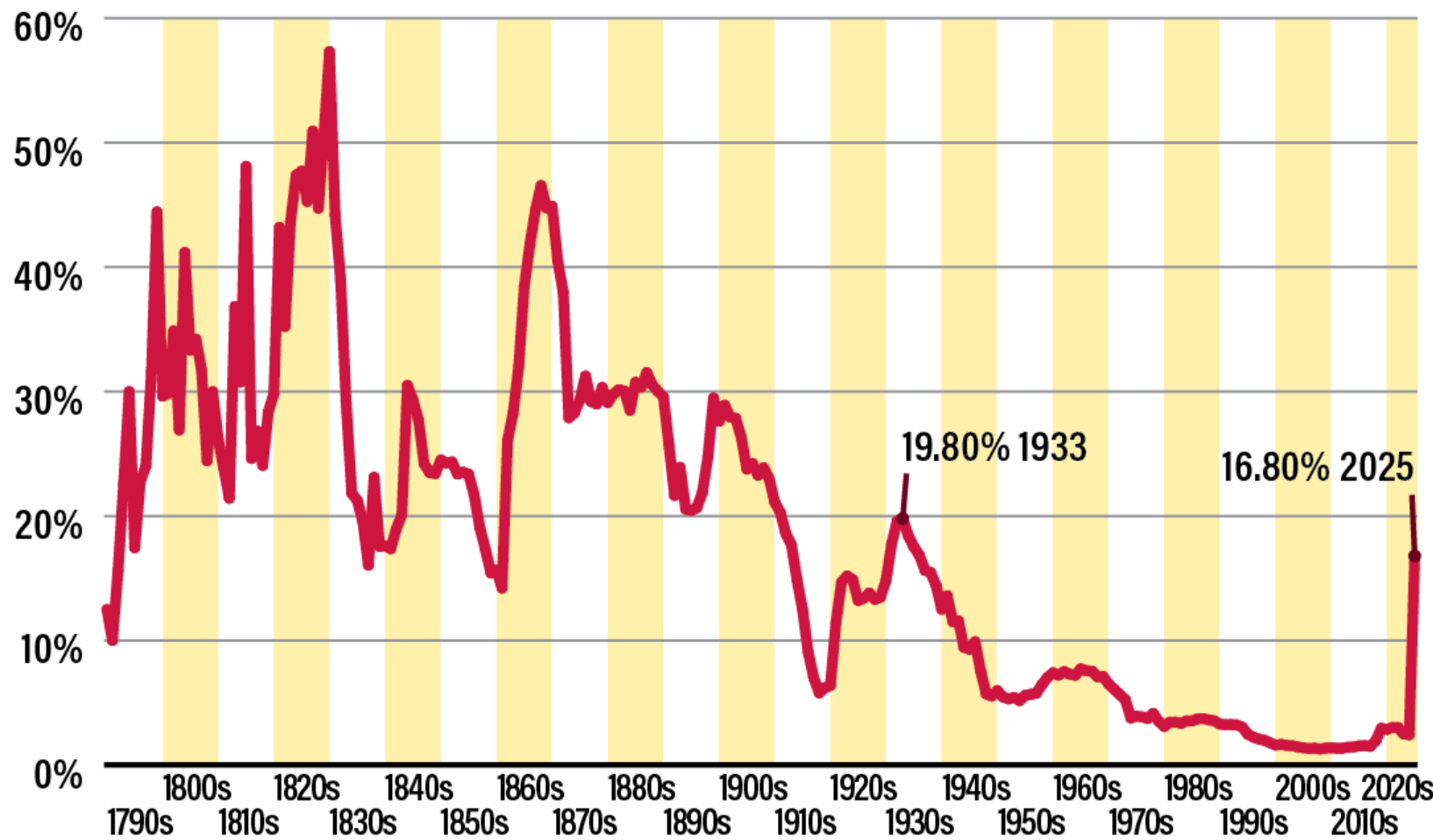
# Indiana GDP Growth: Forecast vs Actual



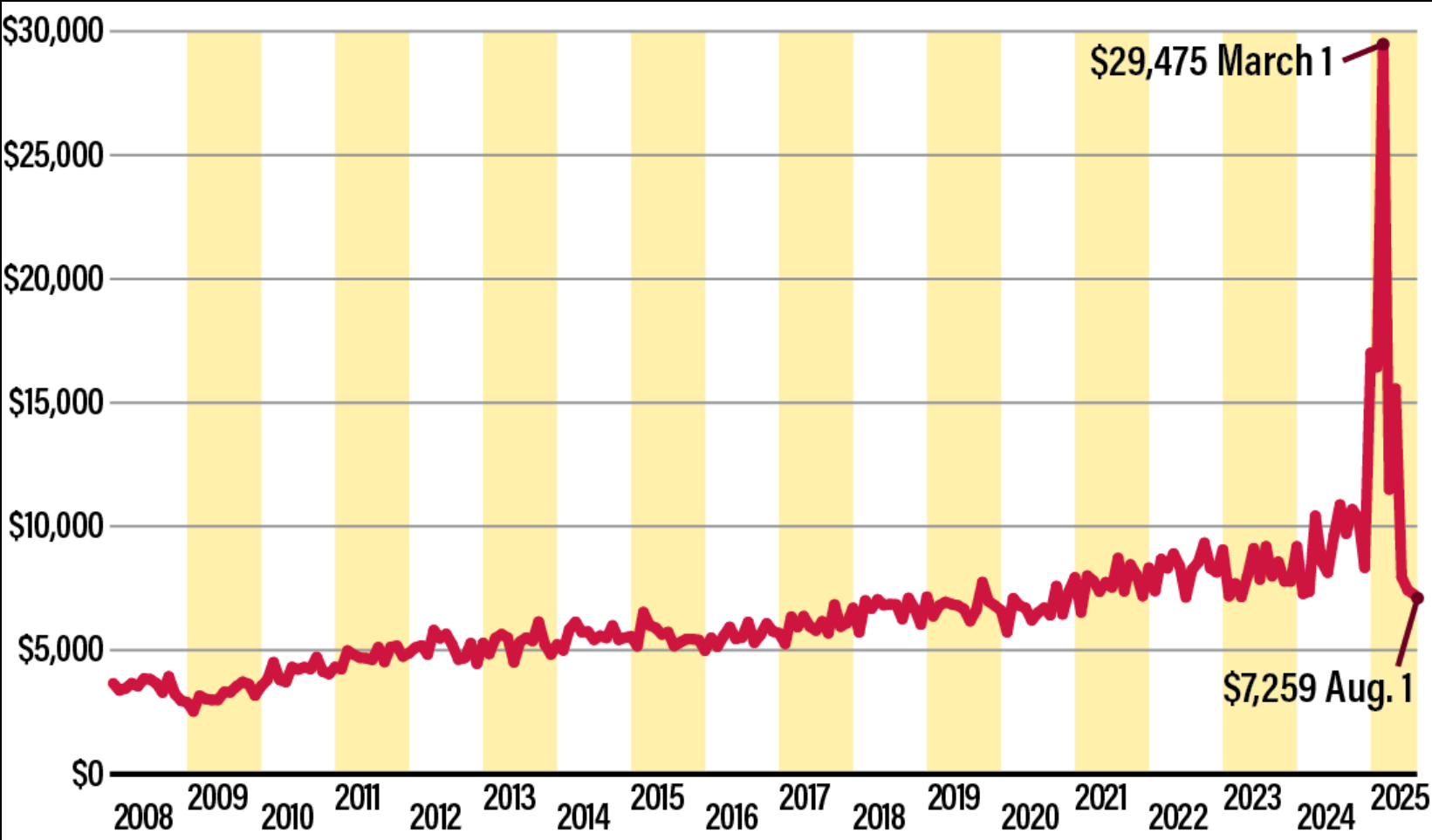
# U.S. Average Effective Tariff Rates, 2025



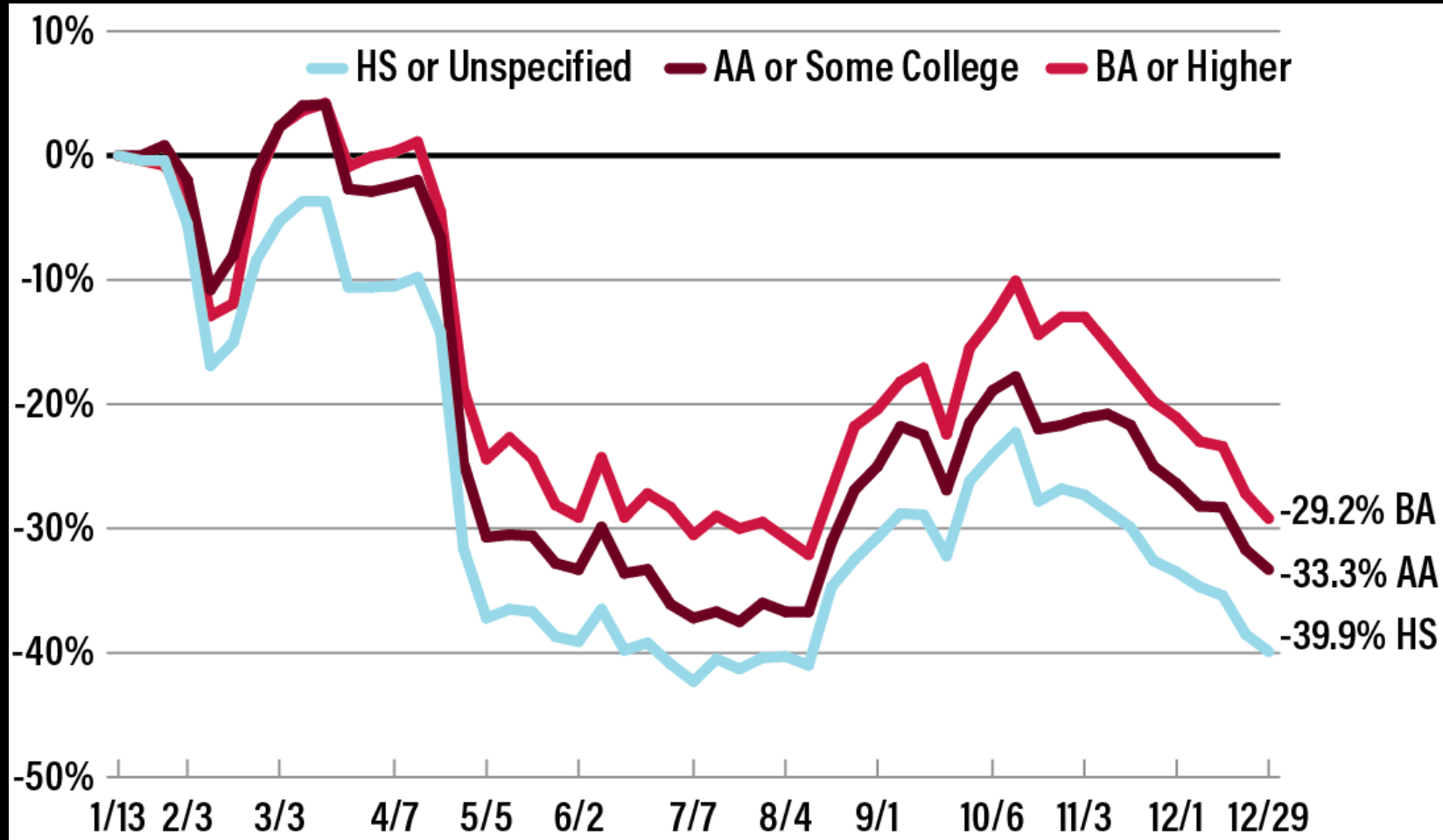
# Historical Effective Tariff Rates, 1790-2025



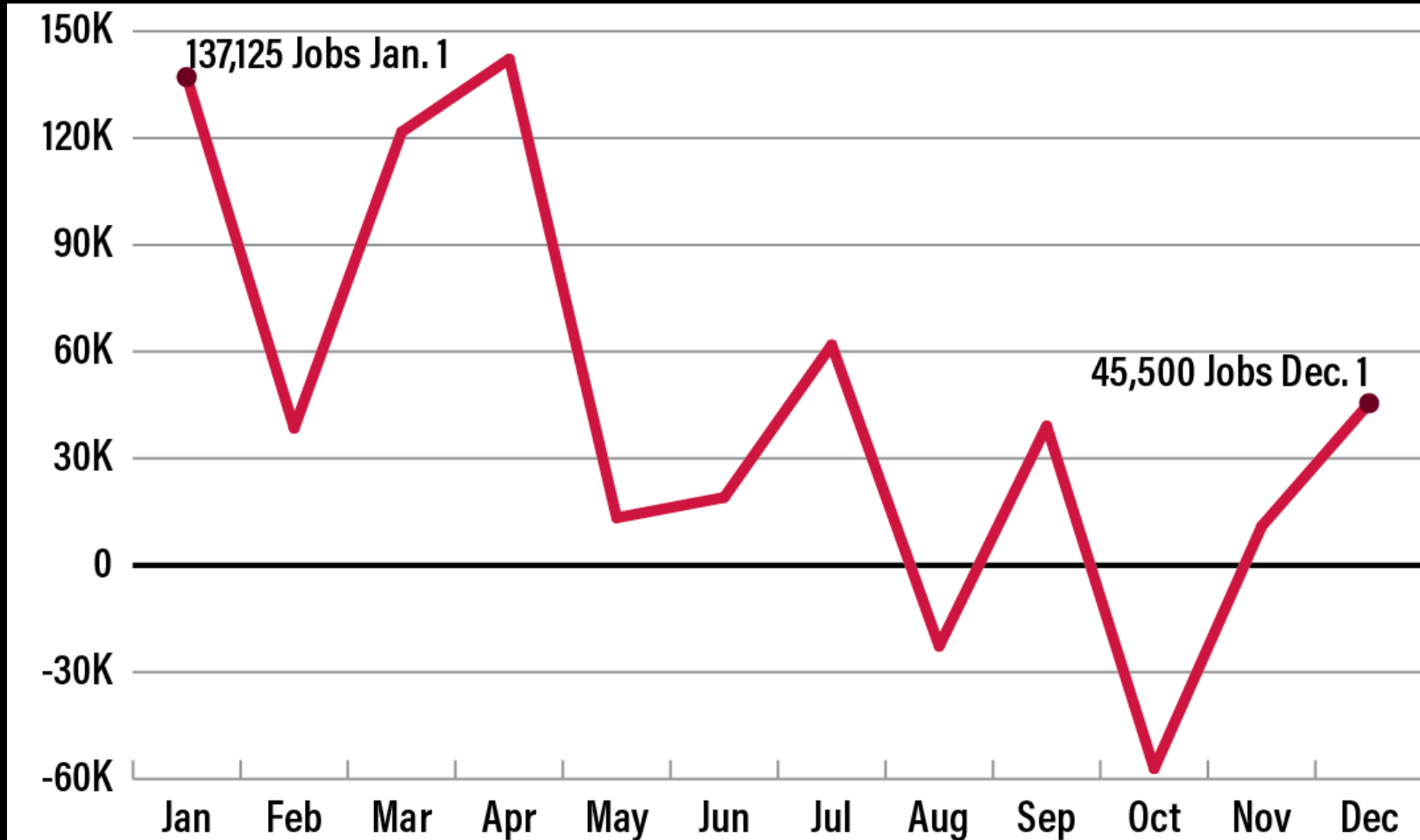
# Indiana's Import of Goods, 2025 (Real \$)



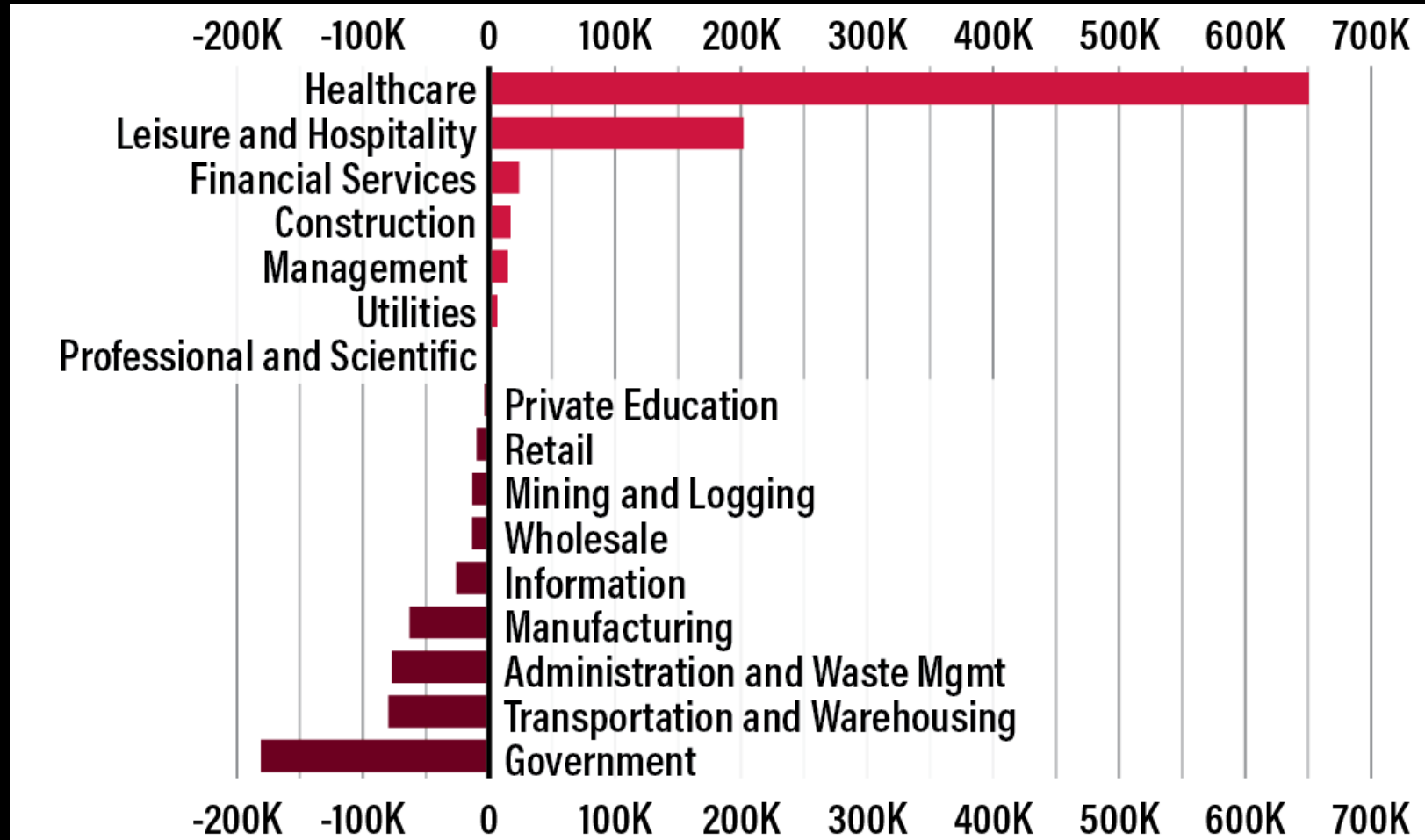
# Weekly 'Help Wanted' Ads – Cumulative Growth in New Jobs by Education Level, 2025



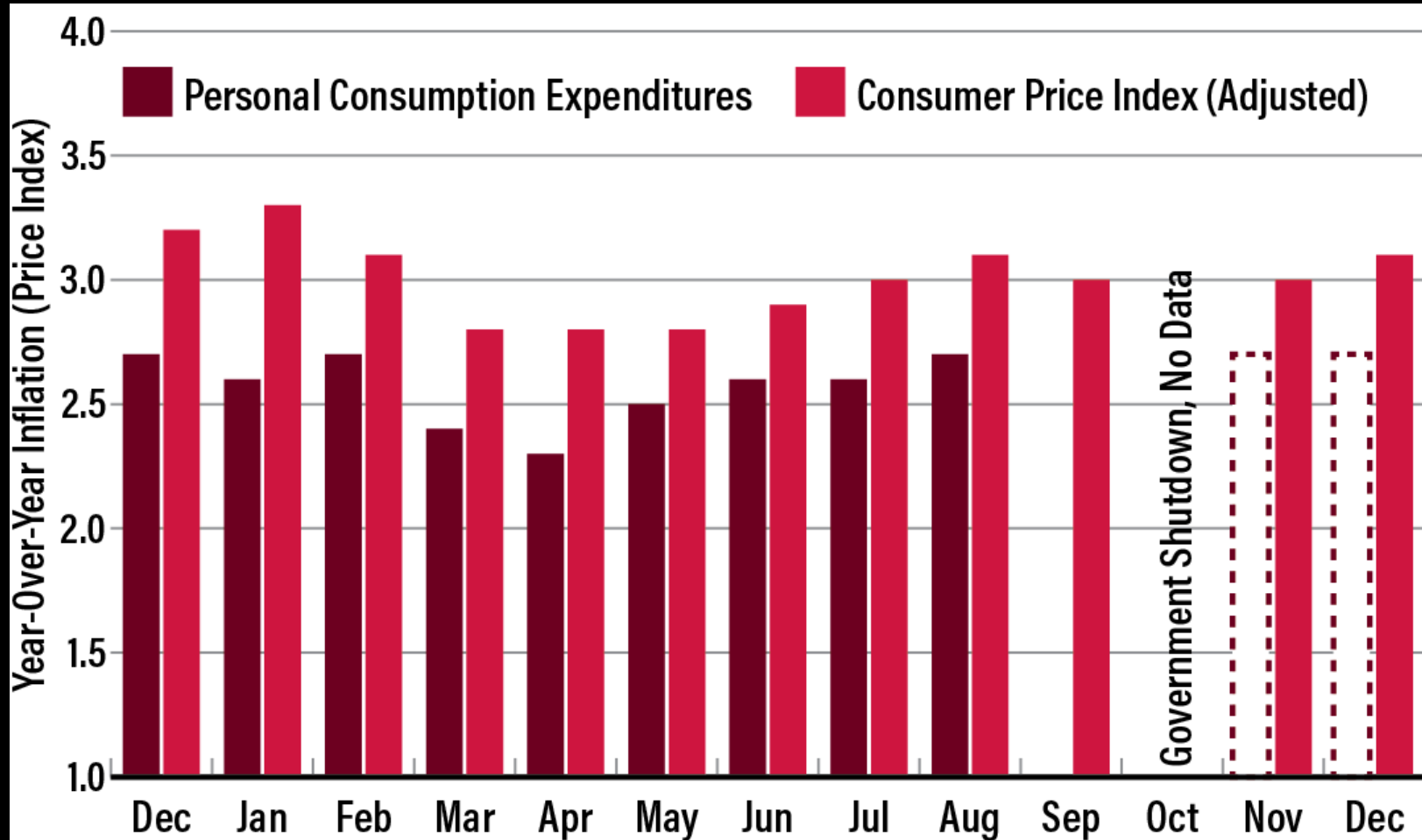
# Monthly Employment Growth, 2025 (Using Average of BLS & ADP Data)



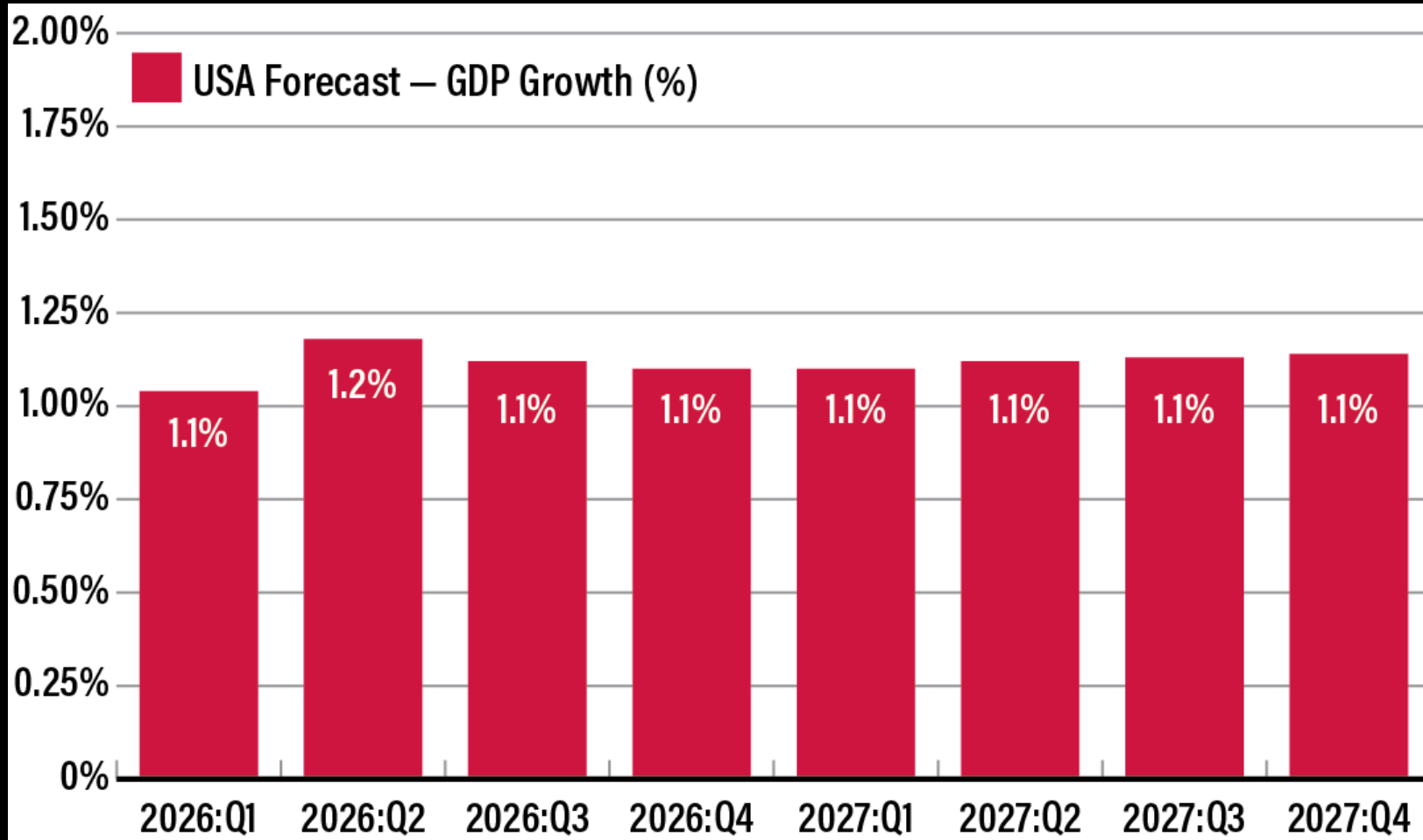
# U.S. Cumulative Employment Growth by Industry, 2025



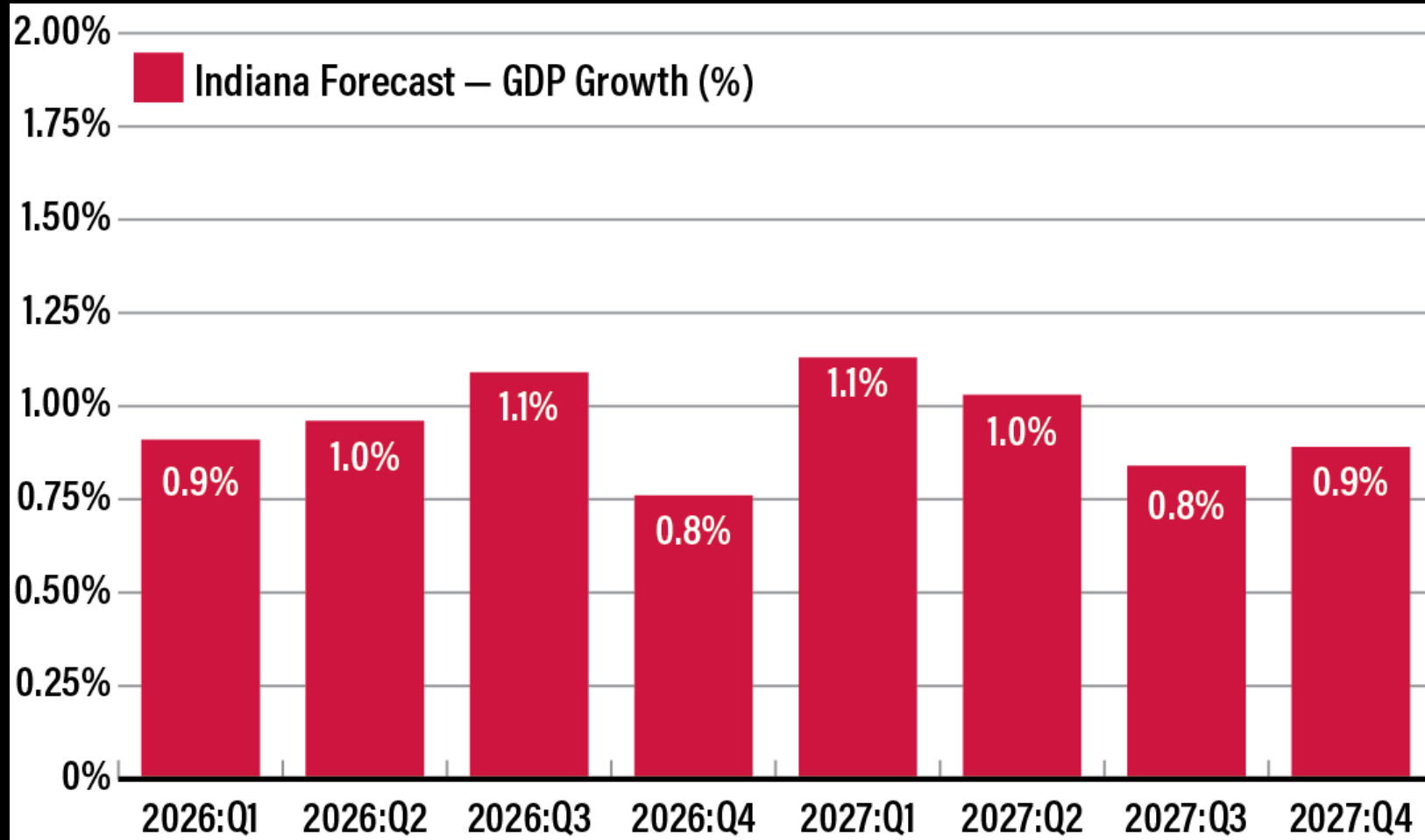
# Change in Year-Over-Year Inflation (PCE & CPI)



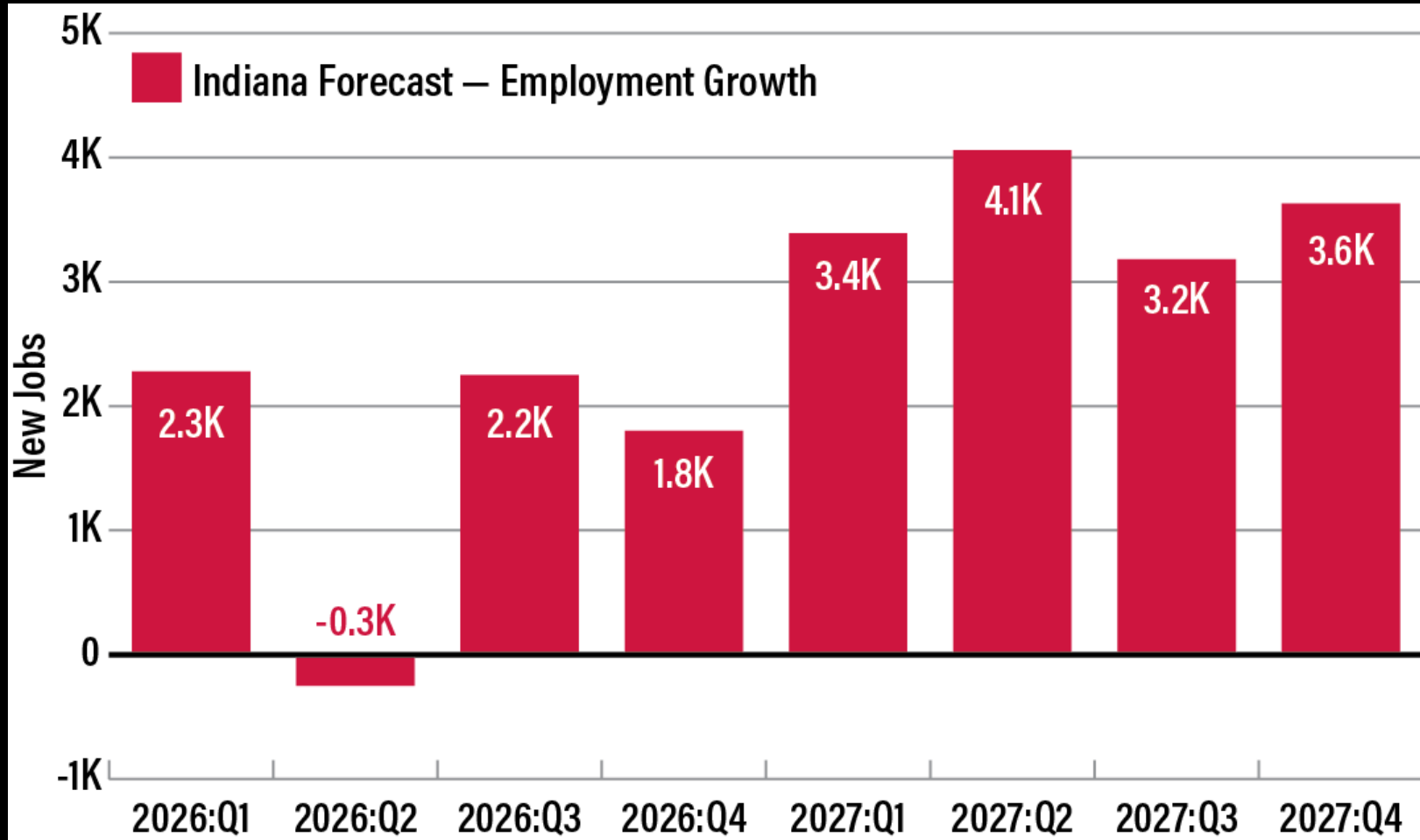
# Forecast: Real U.S. GDP Growth (Annualized)



# Forecast: Real Indiana GDP Growth (Annualized)



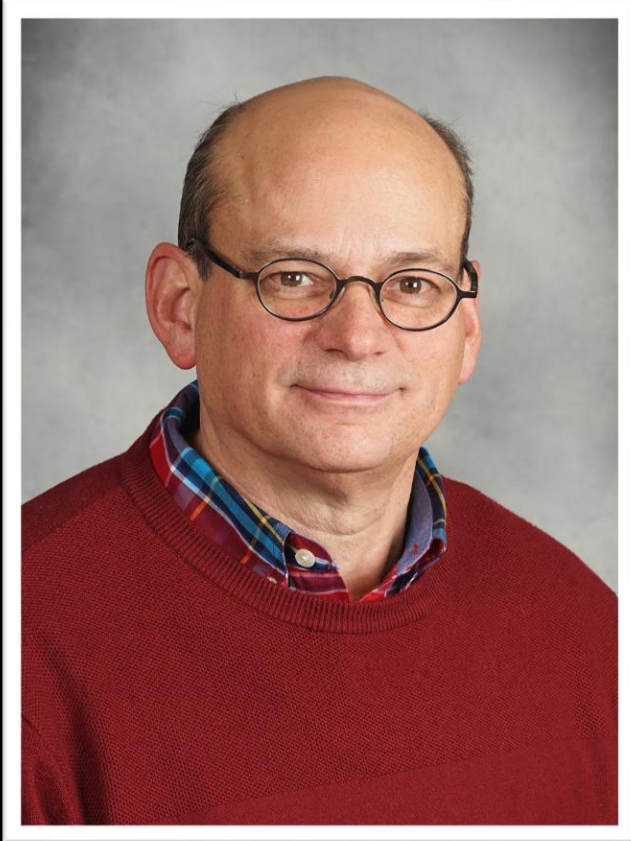
# Forecast: Indiana Employment Growth



# Summary

- We are in a period of extreme uncertainty, across many domains that affect economic growth.
- GDP growth has thus far remained resilient, most likely because of pre-tariff consumption and extremely narrow business investment.
- Labor market growth has stalled. Supply side effects (immigration) are part of the story, but this is also cyclical.
- Increased prices will affect consumption and interest rates.
- My optimistic forecast is for mild stagflation in 2026. Most risk is now downside.





# **Scott Buehrer**

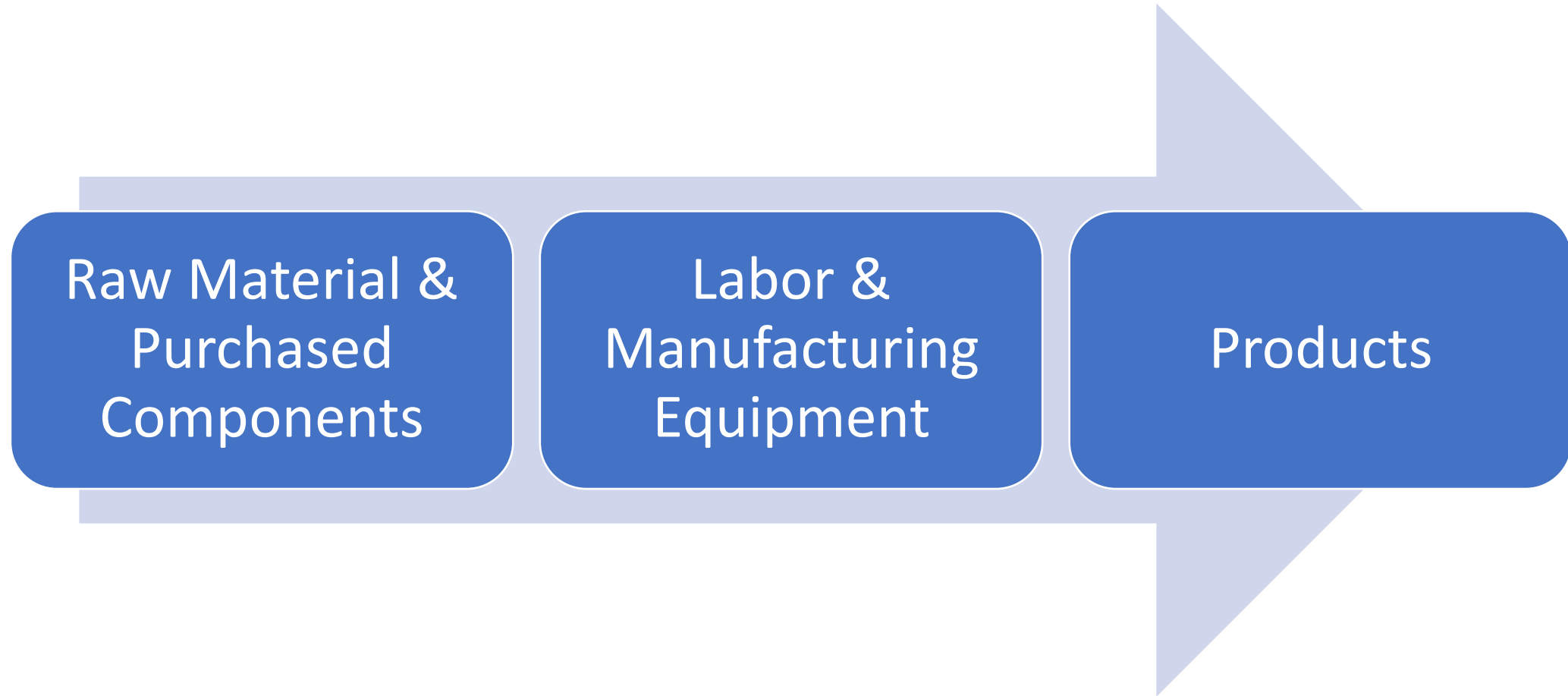
**President, B. Walter & Co.**

**President, Vigor Therapy Equipment**

# B. Walter & Co. Factory in Wabash



# Simplified View of Manufacturing



# B. Walter & Co.

- Established 1887
- Founded by a Wabash County Sheriff
- Table Slides & Wagon Wheel Spokes
- Today produce Stampings, Furniture Hardware, Racks
- Customers are other Manufacturers & Distributors
- Markets: Construction, Kitchen Cabinet, Furniture  
Agriculture, Retail Stores

# Vigor Therapy Equipment

- Established 1992
- Founder: Norwegian Physical Therapist & Professor
- Produce Physical Therapy Medical Exercise Equipment
- Specialize in Unweighted and Weight Dosing
- Customers: Physical Therapy Centers

# Raw Materials

- Coils of Wire
- Coils of Steel
- Sheets of Steel
- Tubular Steel



# 2025 Economy

- Service Sector vs. Manufacturing Sector
- Year began with manufacturing optimism
- Manufacturing recovery derailed by Trump 2.0 Tariffs
- Interest rate cuts delayed by tariff inflation concerns
- Tariffs are taxes bringing in \$30B/month
- AI data center rollout drove GDP growth
- Warning: Precious Metals was best performing asset class

# 2026 Economy Expectations

- Manufacturing bottoms out in Q1
- Stimulus from BBB boosts economic activity
- Free money rains down timed for midterm elections
- Manufacturing gains momentum as year progresses
- Big story is inflation remains elevated
- Wild Card is a late night social media post changes everything

# 50 GLOBAL STEEL PRODUCTION VISUALIZED

YEARS OF

Steel is an essential building block of our material world.



Highly durable



Energy-efficient to produce

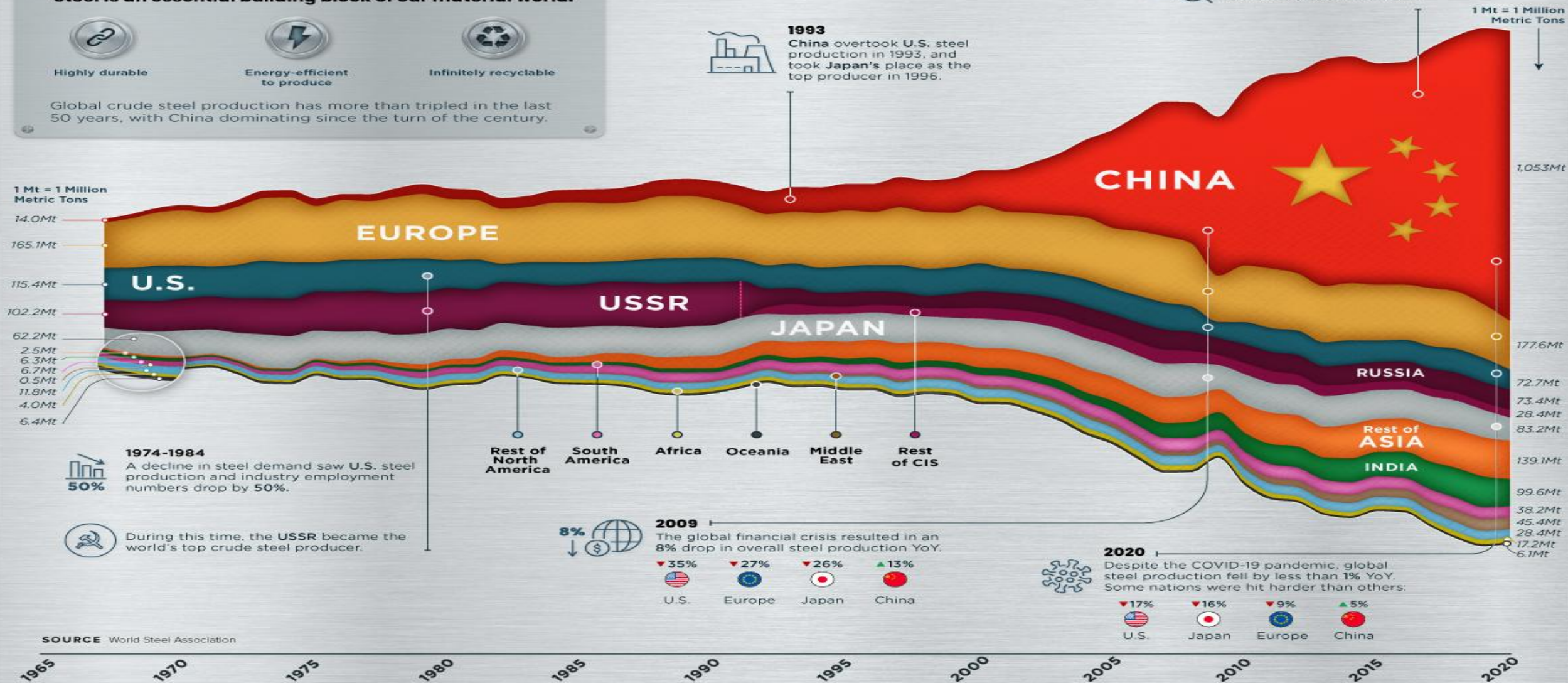


Infinitely recyclable

Global crude steel production has more than tripled in the last 50 years, with China dominating since the turn of the century.



**2017**  
China's annual steel production (870.9Mt) eclipsed the rest of the world (865.0Mt) in 2017.



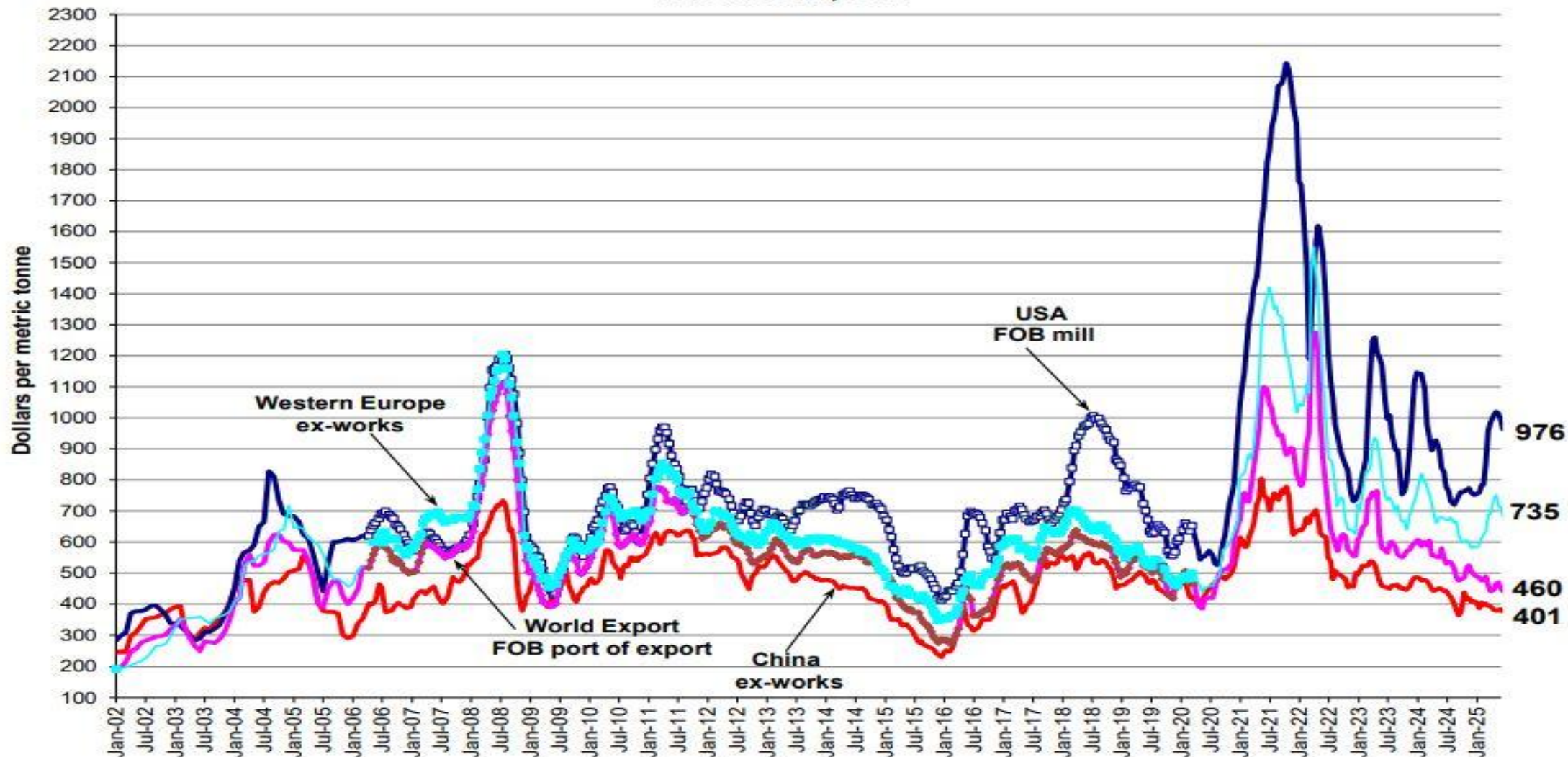
SOURCE World Steel Association

# SteelBenchmarker™ HRB Price

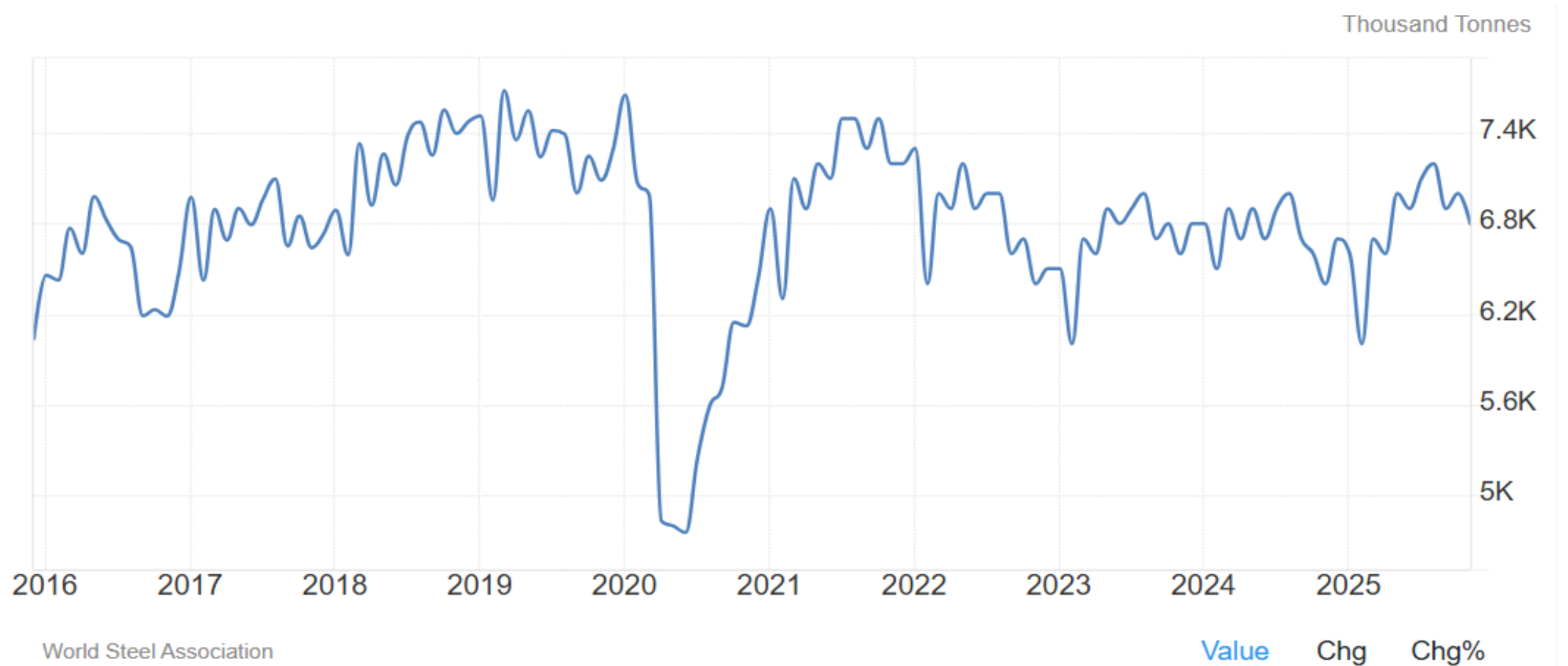
## USA, China, Western Europe and World Export

(WSD's PriceTrack data, Jan. 2002 - March 2006; SteelBenchmarker data begins April 2006)

December 22, 2025



# Domestic Steel Production



# Macroeconomic Formula for Trade Deficit

- **$GDP = C + I + G + (X - M)$**

where **C** = consumption, **I** = Investment, **G** = Govt. Spending,  
**X** = export, **M** = Imports

- **$GDP = C + S + T$**

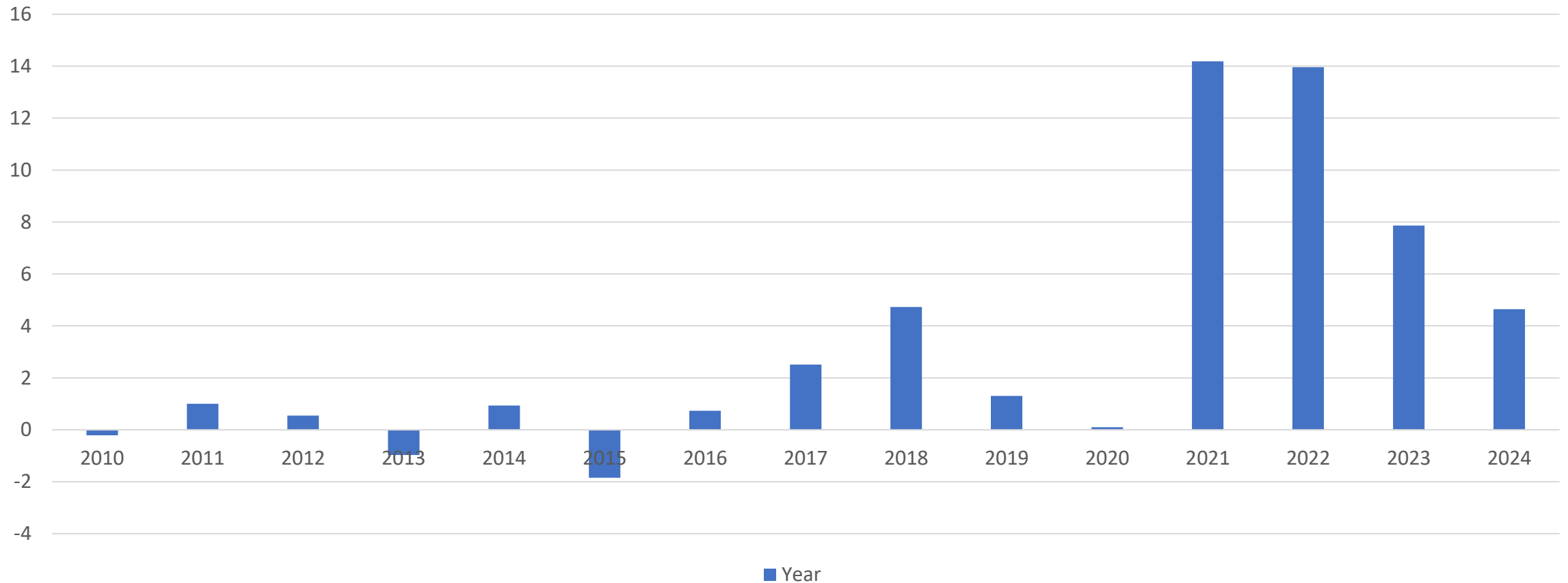
where **C** = consumption, **S** = Savings, **T** = Taxes

- **$(M - X) = (G - T) + (I - S)$**

Trade Deficit = Public Sector Balance + Private Sector Balance

# Combined Annual Net Income Nucor, Steel Dynamics, US Steel (\$ Billions)

Year





# **Steven M. Smith**

**Chief Executive Officer,  
Mid-West Metal Products Co.**



# Mid-West Metal Products



**100**  
YEARS

Family Owned

1921 - 2021



### MID-WEST THINWALL CONDUIT STRAPS



Cat. No.	Size	Weight Per 100	Std. Pkg. Quantity	Carton Quantity	Price per Hundred		
					Less than Carton	Carton	Standard Package
140	1/2"	4 lbs.	500	50	\$1.65	\$1.30	\$ 1.00
141	3/4"	8 lbs.	500	50	3.38	3.50	1.50
142	1"	6 lbs.	250	25	5.80	5.05	2.50
143	1 1/4"	10 lbs.	250	25	8.50	7.25	5.10
144	1 1/2"	50	50	50			9.00
145	2"	25	25	25			12.25

### MID-WEST SNAP-IN BLANKS AND BUSHINGS



Cat. No.	Size	Wt. Lbs. Per 1000	Net Price Per 1000 Assorted Sizes		
			Less than 500	500 to 999	1000 Lots and over
150	1/2"	17	\$31.00	\$27.00	\$24.50
151	3/4"	20	\$39.50	\$35.50	\$30.50
152	1"	30	\$80.00	\$75.00	\$63.00
153	1 1/4"	40	\$101.50	\$94.50	\$80.50
154	1 1/2"	43	\$154.50	\$139.50	\$119.50
155	2"	65	\$207.50	\$182.50	\$157.50

Designed for closing up the knockouts in service or outlet boxes. Snaps into place like a glove fastener. Rust-proof. Neat in appearance. The hole in the 1/2" bushing will take single braid rubber covered wire up to No. 8; the 3/4" bushing will take double braid wire up to No. 4.

#### NO. 156 MID-WEST HOLDIT SWITCH BOX SUPPORT



#### NO. 157 MID-WEST HOLDIT OUTLET BOX SUPPORT



Mid-West Cat. No.	Description	Wt. Lbs. Per 100	Standard Package	Less than 100 sets	100 to 499 Sets	500 Sets and over
156	Two Metal Holders for installing Switch Boxes in old work or walls of beaver-board, sheetrock, and metal lath.	6	500 sets	\$8.25	\$7.15	\$6.00
157	Two metal Holders for installing Outlet Boxes	21	250 sets	<del>\$22.50</del> 19.25	<del>\$20.00</del> 17.15	\$13.20

### MID-WEST ENTRANCE CABLE STRAPS



Cat. No.	Weight in pounds per 100	Standard Package Quantity	Carton Quantity	Price per 100			
				Less than Carton	Carton	Standard Package	
160	For 8, 2 wire cable	3	1000	100	\$1.30	\$1.00	\$ .75
161	For 8, 6, or 4 cable	2 1/4	1000	100	\$1.35	\$1.05	.80
162	For No. 3 or 2 cable	3	1000	100	\$1.50	\$1.15	.90

### NO. 175 MID-WEST HANGER STRAP



No.	Description	Weight per Carton	Standard Package	Net Price Less than Std. Pkge.	Per Box Std. Pkge.
175	Made of 3/4" x 20 Gauge Galvanite Steel. Hole size 1/4" x 1/2" centers. 10 ft. cut per individual box. 24 boxes per display carton.	19 lbs.	24 boxes	none	\$5.50

TERMS: 2% 10th Prox. - NET 30 DAYS  
 FREIGHT SHIPMENTS - F. O. B. MUNCIE, INDIANA, WITH FULL FREIGHT ALLOWANCE ON ALL ITEMS OVER 100 LBS., EAST OF ROCKY MOUNTAINS  
 EXPRESS AND PARCEL POST SHIPMENTS - F. O. B. MUNCIE, INDIANA

### DEALERS DISCOUNT SHEET

April 1, 1960

## Mid-West Metal Products Company

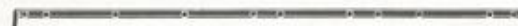
Krase Switch Box Supporting Strips	Mid-West Pipe Straps	Fitz-M-All Outlet Box Hangers
Mid-West Holdit Switch Box Support	Mid-West BX Clips	Mid-West Entrance Cable Straps
Mid-West Holdit Outlet Box Supports	Mid-West U Clips	Mid-West Snap-In Blanks & Bushings
Mid-West Conduit and Cable Straps	Mid-West BX Staples	Mid-West Plastic Cable Straps
Mid-West Hanger Strap	Mid-West Sill Plates	Mid-West Thin Wall Conduit Straps

### MUNCIE, INDIANA

### NO. 100 KRUSE METAL SWITCH BOX SUPPORTS

WITH OR WITHOUT LATH HOLDERS

STILL THE BEST METHOD OF INSTALLING SWITCH BOXES



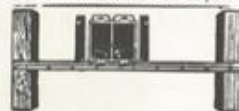
Patent Nos. 1258916 -- 2124996

CARRIED IN STOCK BY ALL THE LEADING JOBBERS

KRUSE STRIPS are made of RUST RESISTING Sheet Metal, U-Shaped, have bead to give them strength, and with least weight, beaded to prevent the switchbox from moving in the strip, holes to receive nails. Passes All Inspection.

No	Description	Wt. Lbs. per 100	Standard Package	NET PRICES PER 100 SETS		
				Less than 100 Sets	100 to 400 Sets	500 Sets or over
100	Two 16 1/2" Strips	35	100 Sets	\$17.00	\$16.25	\$15.50
<b>Special Lengths</b>						
100-A	Two 18 1/2" Strips	40	100 Sets	19.50	18.75	18.00
100-B	Two 20 1/2" Strips	45	100 Sets	21.00	20.25	19.50
100-C	Two 22 1/2" Strips	50	100 Sets	22.50	21.75	21.00
100-D	Two 24 1/2" Strips	55	100 Sets	23.50	22.75	22.00
100-E	Two 26 1/2" Strips	60	100 Sets	24.50	23.75	23.00

THE KRUSE WAY  
 One Strip Nailed to Studding--  
 box and lath holders set in place.



THE KRUSE WAY (Completed)  
 showing strips, lath holders,  
 switch box and laths in place.



#### DIRECT SHIPMENTS

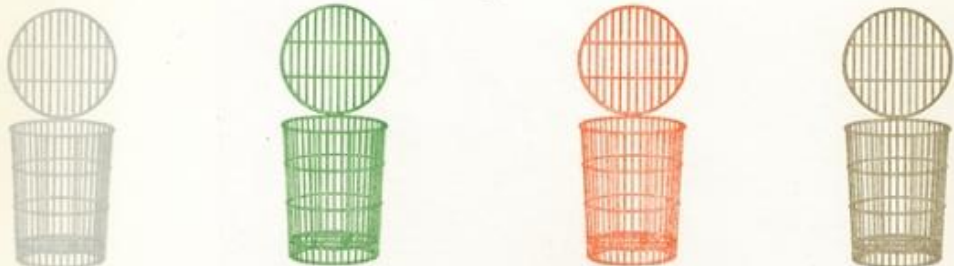
We will make direct shipments for you in cartons, of Kruse Strips, and allow you the same quantity discounts.

In cartons containing 100 complete sets less Lath Holders. If Lath Holders are wanted - specify on order.

WITH LATH HOLDERS - add \$2.50 per thousand sets to NET PRICE.

# MID-WEST METAL PRODUCTS CO.

## MUNCIE, INDIANA



### No. 6—Round "Flat Top" Wire Rubbish Burner

Size 20" High, Diam. top 19", Diam. bottom 16".  
 36 upright wires looped at top and bottom, 12 ga. 1½" spacing.  
 Top and bottom rings 6½ ga. Two center rings 11 ga.  
 Bottom, ten wires one way, two wires across, all 12 ga.  
 fastened to body 3½" above bottom ring with five wire links.  
 Lid, twelve wires one way, two wires across, all 11 ga. with

two S hooks for fastening to burner.  
 Bright basic wire throughout unless galvanized or coppered wire finish.

Electric welded at every intersection.  
 Weight, 5½ lbs. Packed nested in stacks of twelve.  
 Finish: Galvanized, coppered wire, red or green enamel.  
 Lids in contrasting finish, without extra cost.



PATENT PENDING

### No. 6A—Round "Roll Top" Wire Rubbish Burner

Same as No. 6 only "Roll Top" and 30" High over-all.

#### "ROLL TOP" SPECIFICATIONS

Lid height, approx. 10 inches.  
 9 Semi-circular cross wires, 9 ga.  
 Joined by chain in center to give "Roll Top" feature.

### No. 7—Round "Flat Top" Wire Rubbish Burner

Same as No. 6 except 24" high. Upright wires 11 ga.  
 3 center rings 10 ga. Bottom wires all 11 ga. Weight 6½ lbs.



PATENT PENDING

### No. 7A—Round "Roll Top" Wire Rubbish Burner

Same as No. 7 only "Roll Top" and 34" high over-all.

### No. 11—Round "Flat Top" Wire Rubbish Burner

Same as No. 7 except 28" High. Weight 7 lbs.



PATENT PENDING

### No. 11A—Round "Roll Top" Wire Rubbish Burner

Same as No. 11 only "Roll Top" and 38" high over-all.

### No. 8—Round "Flat Top" Wire Rubbish Burner

Same as No. 11 except 30" High, 4 center rings, all 10 ga.  
 Weight 7½ lbs. Packed nested six to a bundle.



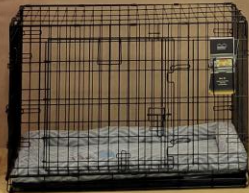
PATENT PENDING

### No. 8A—Round "Roll Top" Wire Rubbish Burner

Same as No. 8 only "Roll Top" and 40" high over-all.



**MidWest**<sup>®</sup>  
Homes For Pets



7800  
PURINA

DUCT  
ASE

PURINA

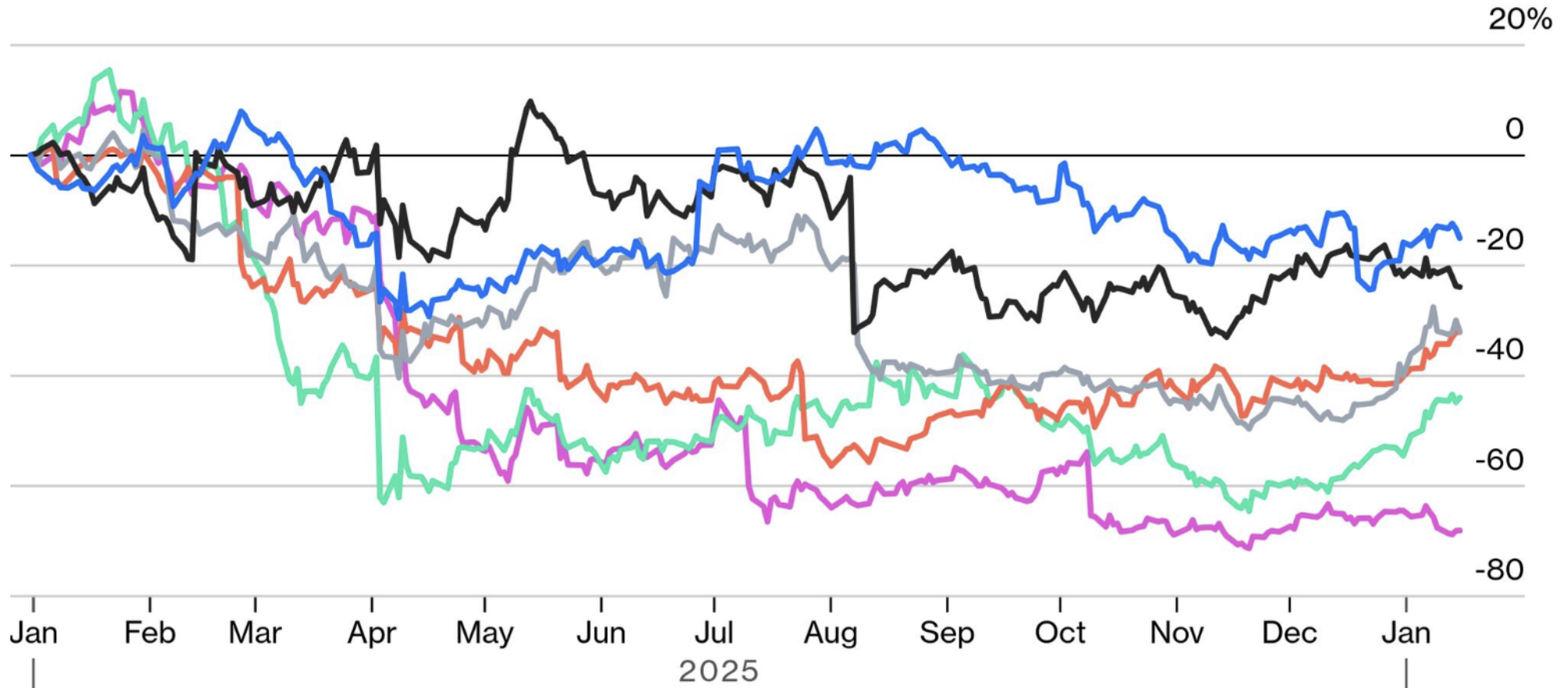
SUPERZOO



# Tariffs Hit Some Public Companies Hard

While the broad market has rebounded, some unfortunate stocks have not

NIKE, % change since Dec. 2024   Crocs   Under Armour   Carter's   RH  
Helen of Troy



Source: Bloomberg

Note: Data is normalized with percentage appreciation as of December 31, 2024.

Bloomberg Opinion



業主  
越南中西宠物  
责任有限公司

CHỦ ĐẦU TƯ  
CÔNG TY  
TNHH  
MIDWEST PETS  
VIET NAM

BÌNH PHƯỚC  
11-05-2025

LỄ ĐỘNG THỔ 动土仪式  
項目：越南中西宠物责任有限公司工厂  
DỰ ÁN: NHÀ MÁY CÔNG TY TNHH MIDWEST PETS VIET NAM



平福省 · 真誠市 · 明誠坊 · Becamex-平福工業區 · 第B區 · D3B路  
ĐỊA ĐIỂM: D3B, KHU B, KCN BECAMEX BÌNH PHƯỚC, MINH THÀNH, CHƠN THÀNH, BÌNH PHƯỚC



總承包商  
大皇建筑装饰  
责任有限公司

TỔNG THẦU  
CÔNG TY  
TNHH XD TH  
DỰ TTNT  
ĐẠI HOÀNG

BÌNH PHƯỚC  
11-05-2025

# Audience Q&A

*Please raise your hand and  
wait for microphone*

# Thank you –

- **AMS Audio Visual**
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# **Thank you –**

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