

# Real Estate and Economic Outlook

Lawrence Yun, Ph.D.

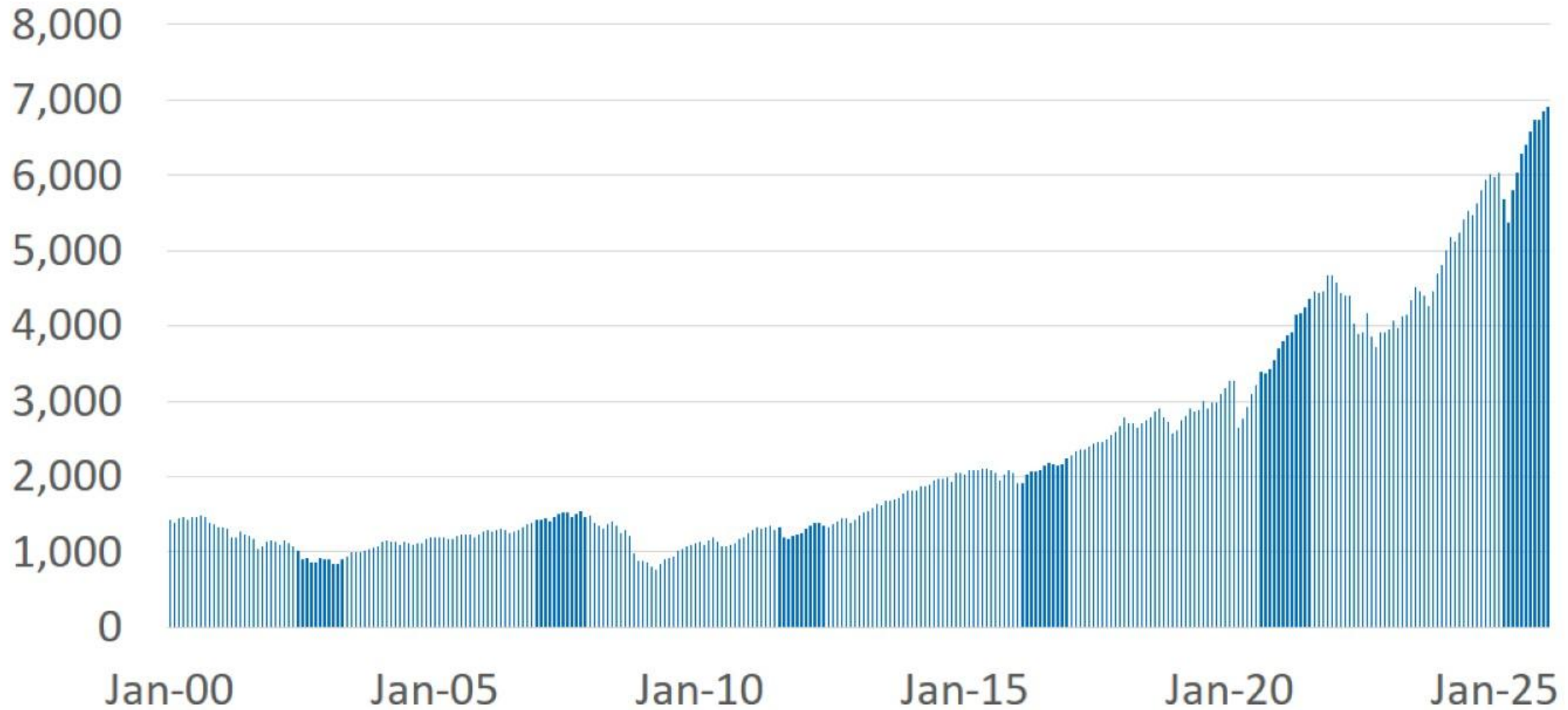
Chief Economist

National Association of REALTORS®

# Headed to Economic Recession?

- **No data to confirm during the Government Shutdown**
- **Near Record Stock Market Wealth but overvalued?**
- **Near Record Housing Wealth (appears on solid ground)**
- **Job Gains were weakening**
- **Consumers not happy**
- **Consumers are defaulting on loans**
- **Greenland related tariff war**

## Stock Market ... S&P 500 Index



Source: Standard & Poor's

# Warren Buffett Ratio ... Indicating Very High Valuation

(S&P 500 Market Capitalization to Nominal GDP)



Source: NAR calculation

# Stock Dividend Yield



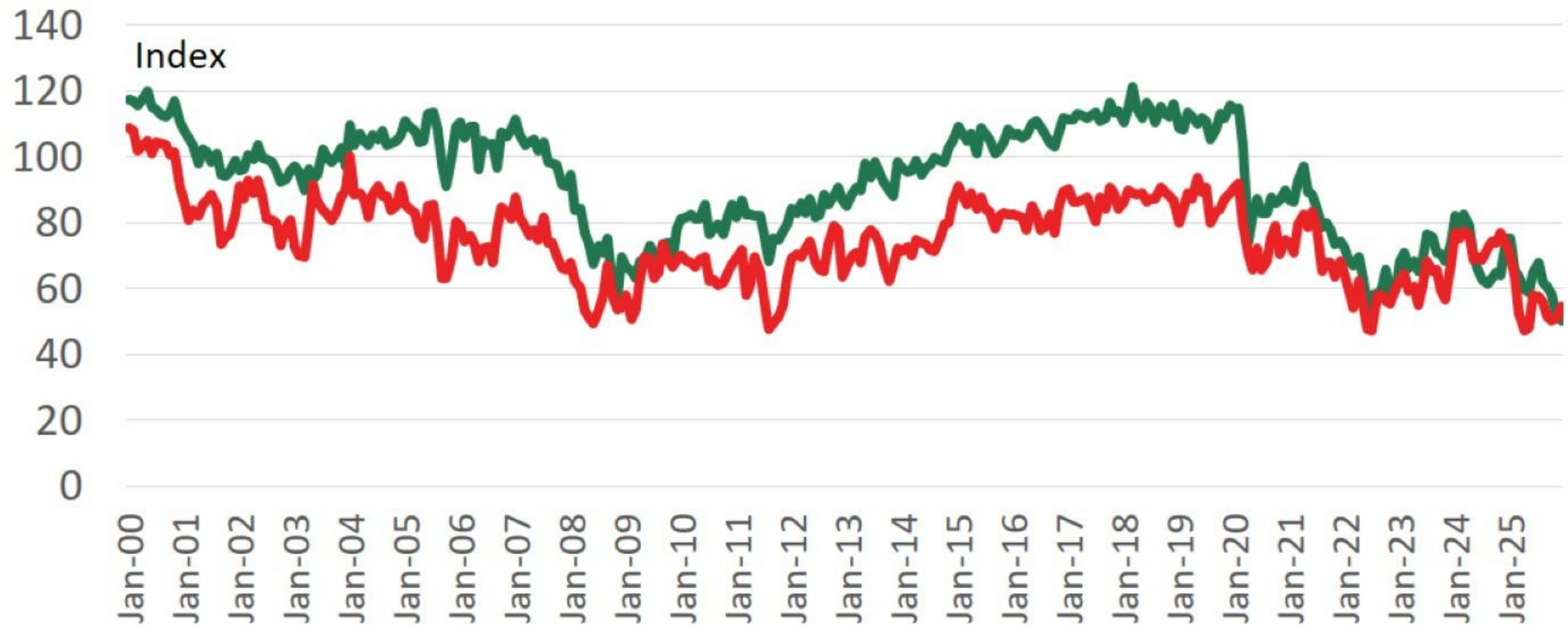
Source: Standard & Poor's

# Consumer Sentiment (Overall Index)



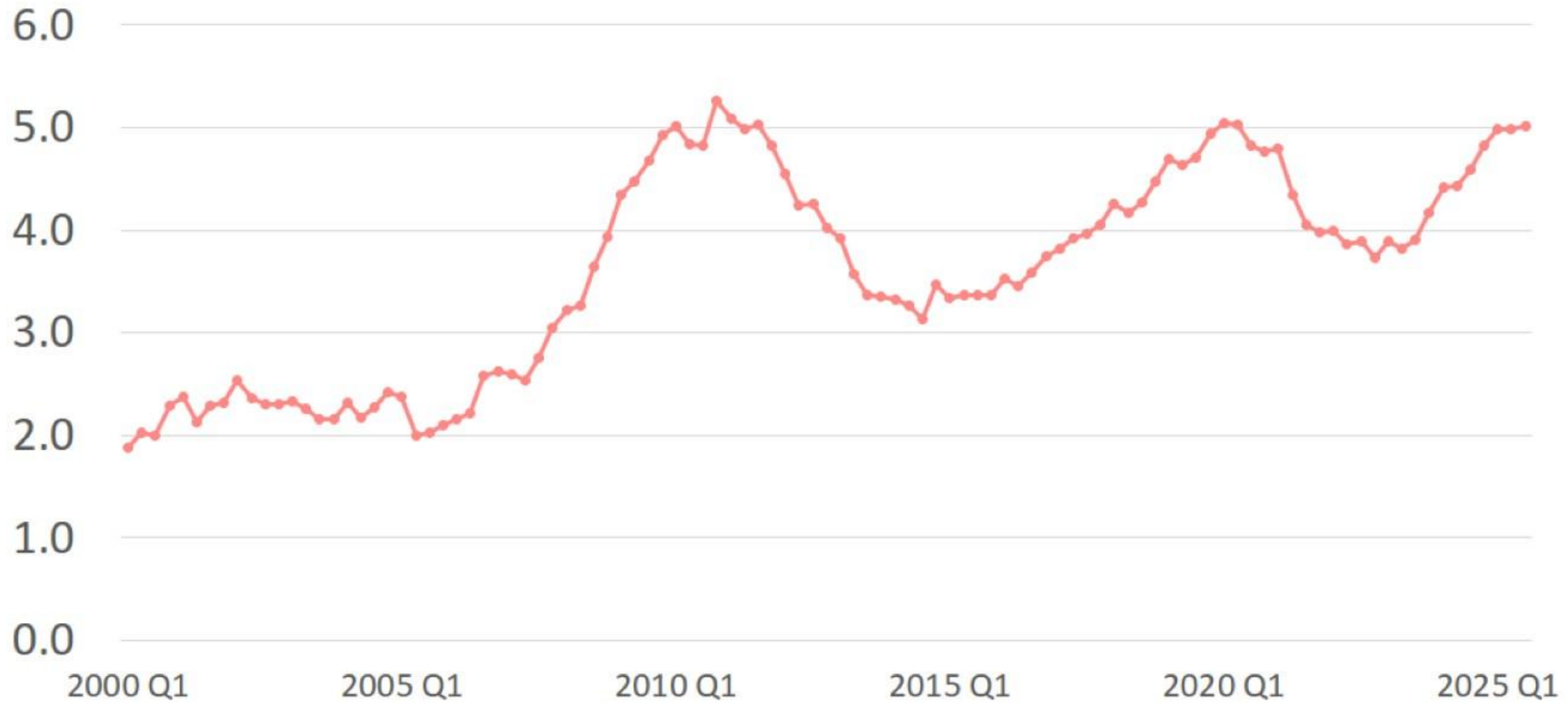
Source: University of Michigan

# Consumer Sentiment about Future and Present



Source: University of Michigan

## Auto Loan 90+ Days Delinquency



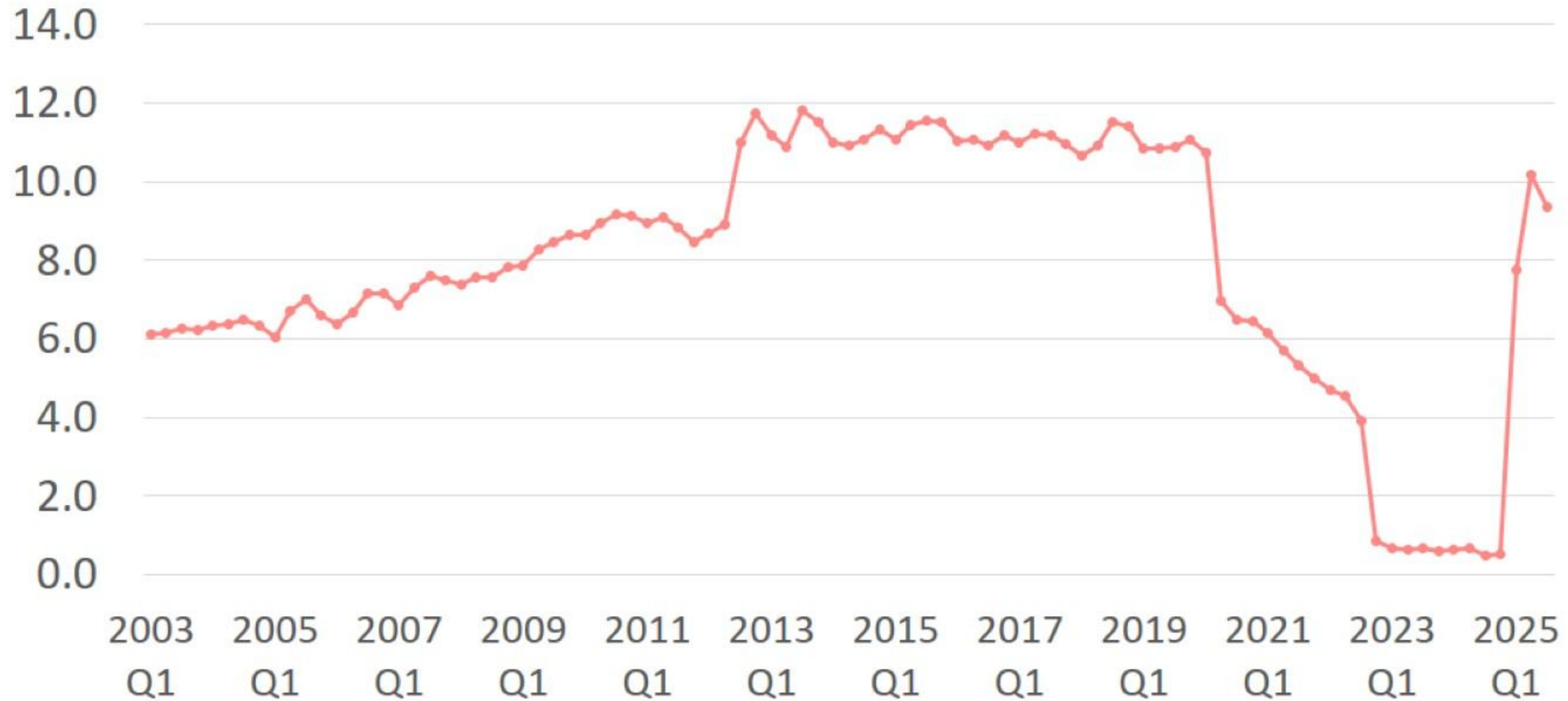
Source: Federal Reserve Bank of NY

# Credit Card 90+ Days Delinquency



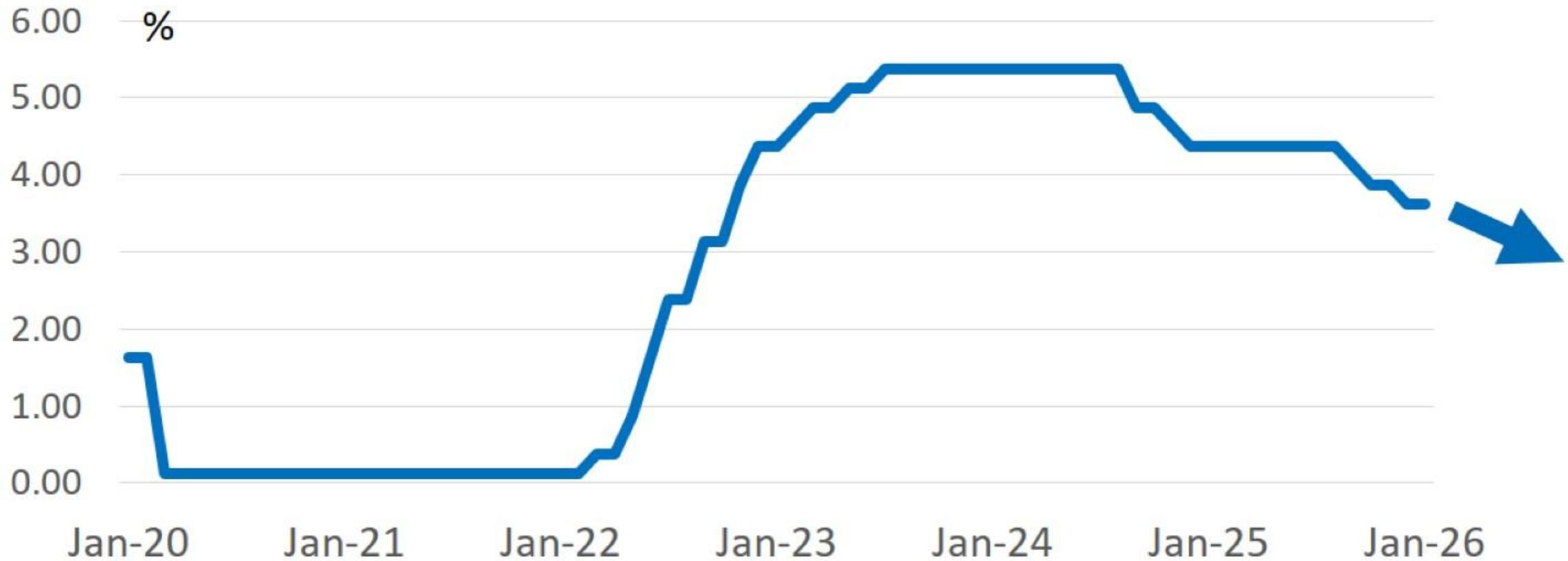
Source: Federal Reserve Bank of NY

# Student Debt 90+ Days Delinquency



Source: Federal Reserve Bank of NY

## To Avert Economic Stress Fed Funds Rate getting Cut (blue)

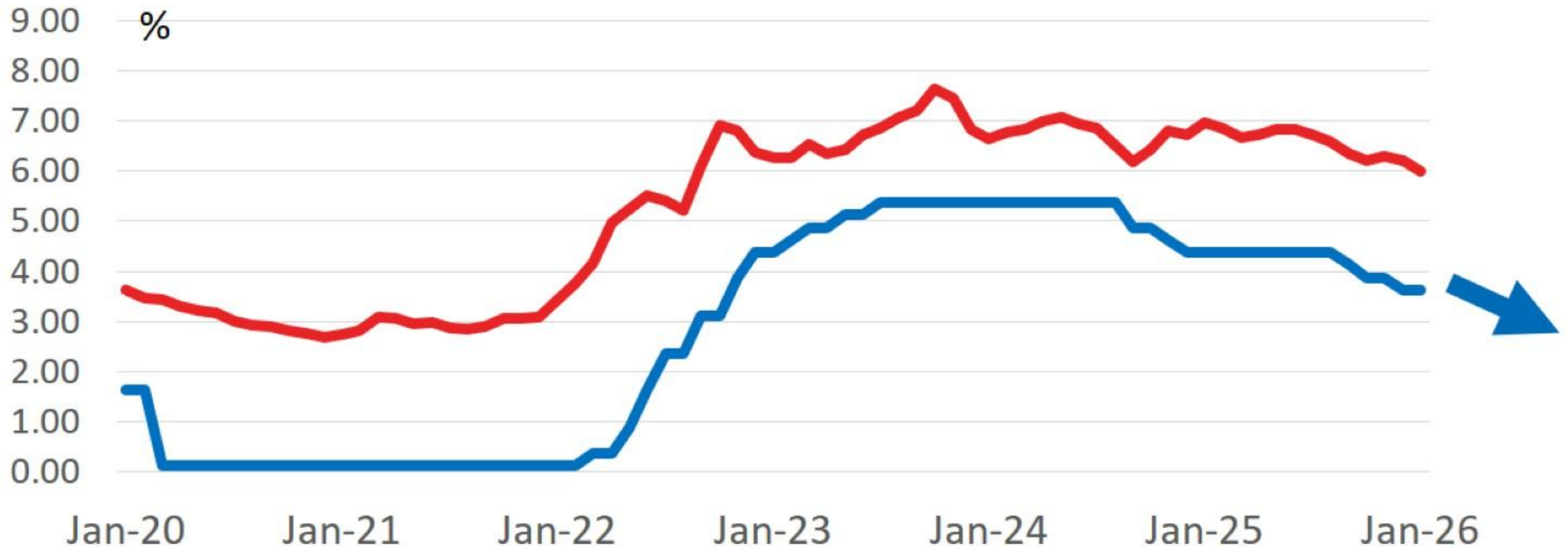


Source: Federal Reserve and Freddie Mac Mortgage Rate

# Impact to Mortgage Rates

- Federal Reserve Rate Cut (on fed funds short-term rate)
- Federal Deficit and National Debt
- Supreme Court on Trump Tariffs (\$3 trillion revenue over decade)
- Inflation Rate
- Quantitative Tightening/Easing
  - net buy/sale of mortgage-backed securities by the Fed or GSEs
- Government guarantee (or non-guarantee) on mortgages
- Spread between 30-year Mortgage and 10-year Treasury
- Stock Market Crash

## Mortgage Rate (red) Fed Funds Rate getting Cut (blue)



Source: Federal Reserve and Freddie Mac Mortgage Rate

## Consumer Price Inflation at 2.7% in December But still above 2% target



Source: BLS (missing data in Oct. is assumed as midpoint rate of Sep. and Nov.)

# Home Insurance Cost Rising at 8%

## Tenants' and Household Insurance



Source: BLS (missing data in Oct. is assumed as midpoint rate of Sep. and Nov.)

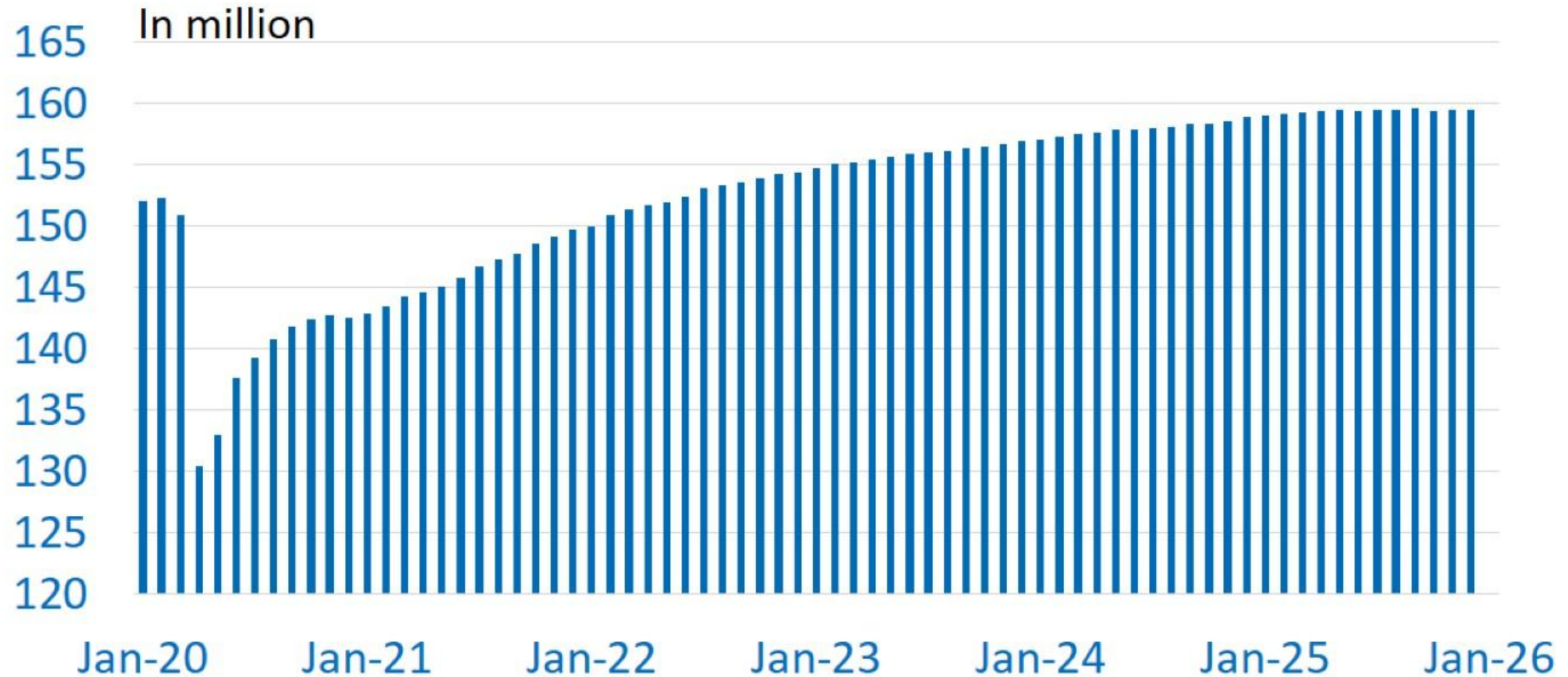
## Gold Price Reflecting ... Permanently Higher Inflation?



Source: Wall Street Journal (price per troy ounce)

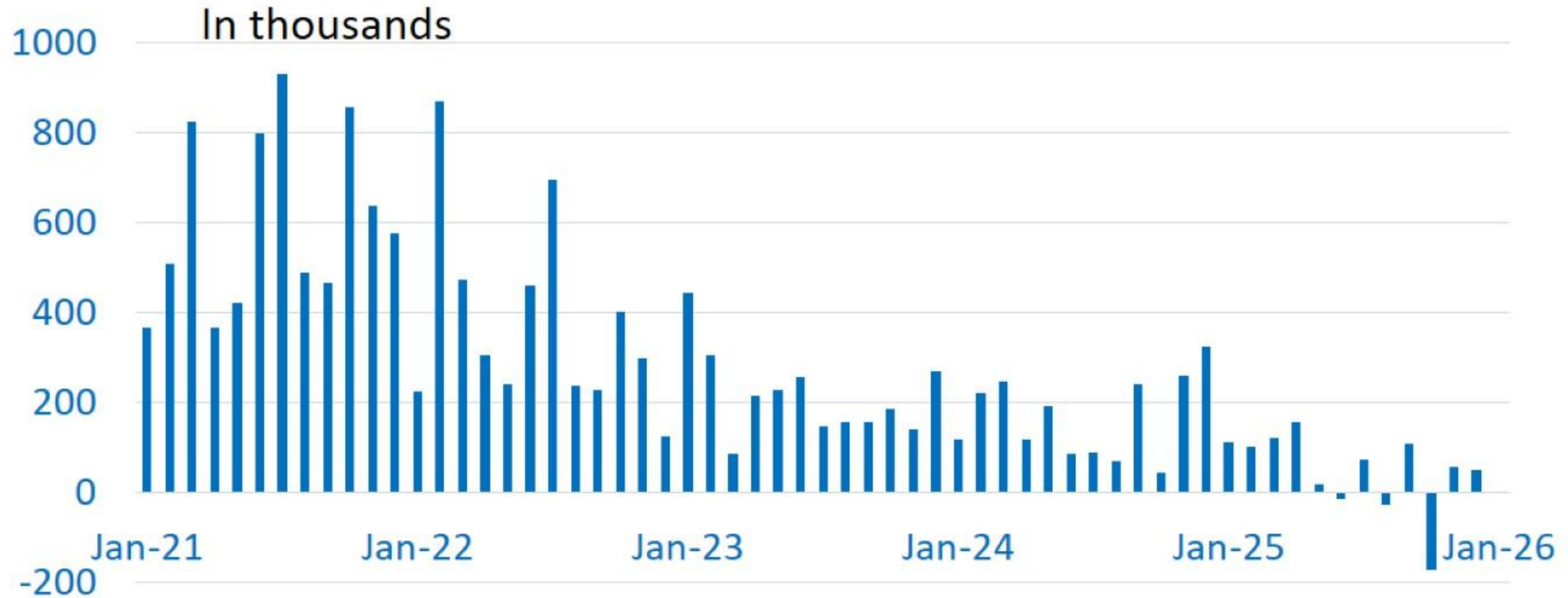
# Total Payroll Jobs to December 2025

## +7.3 Million More Jobs from Pre-COVID Highs



Source: BLS

# Monthly Net Job Changes ... circling near zero net in recent months



Source: BLS

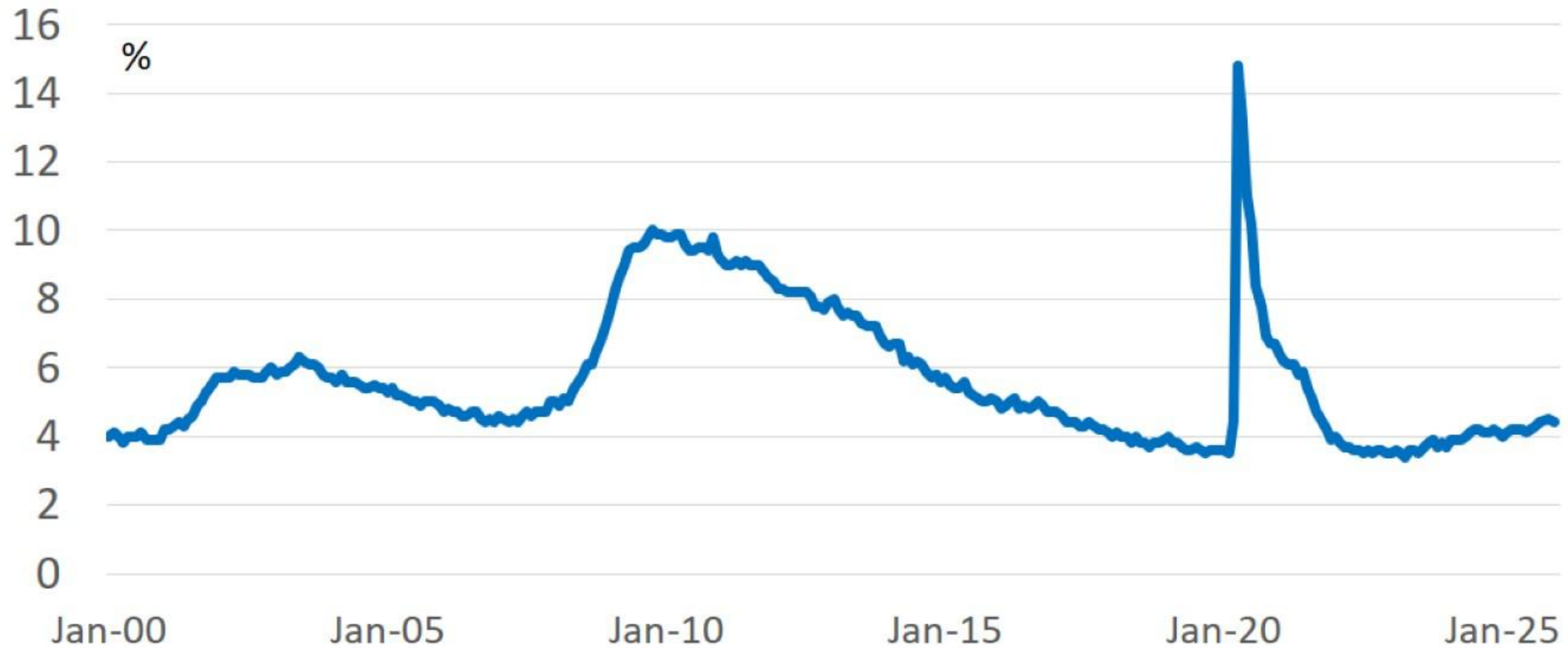
# Federal Government Jobs

(tumbling down ... 268,000 fewer from peak in December 2024)



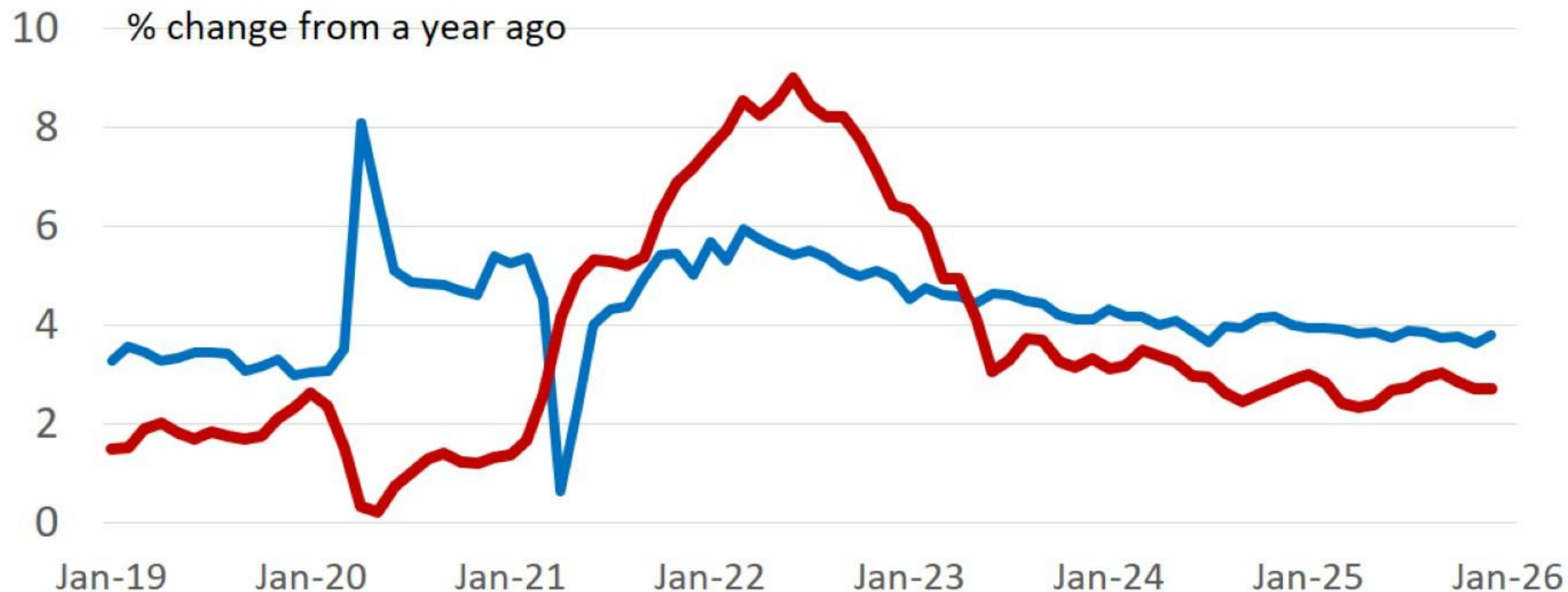
Source: BLS

# Unemployment Rate of 4.4% as of December



Source: BLS (October data missing but imputed as average of Sep. and Nov.)

## Wage Rate Rising at 3.8% (blue) Faster than Consumer Prices at 2.7% (red) in November



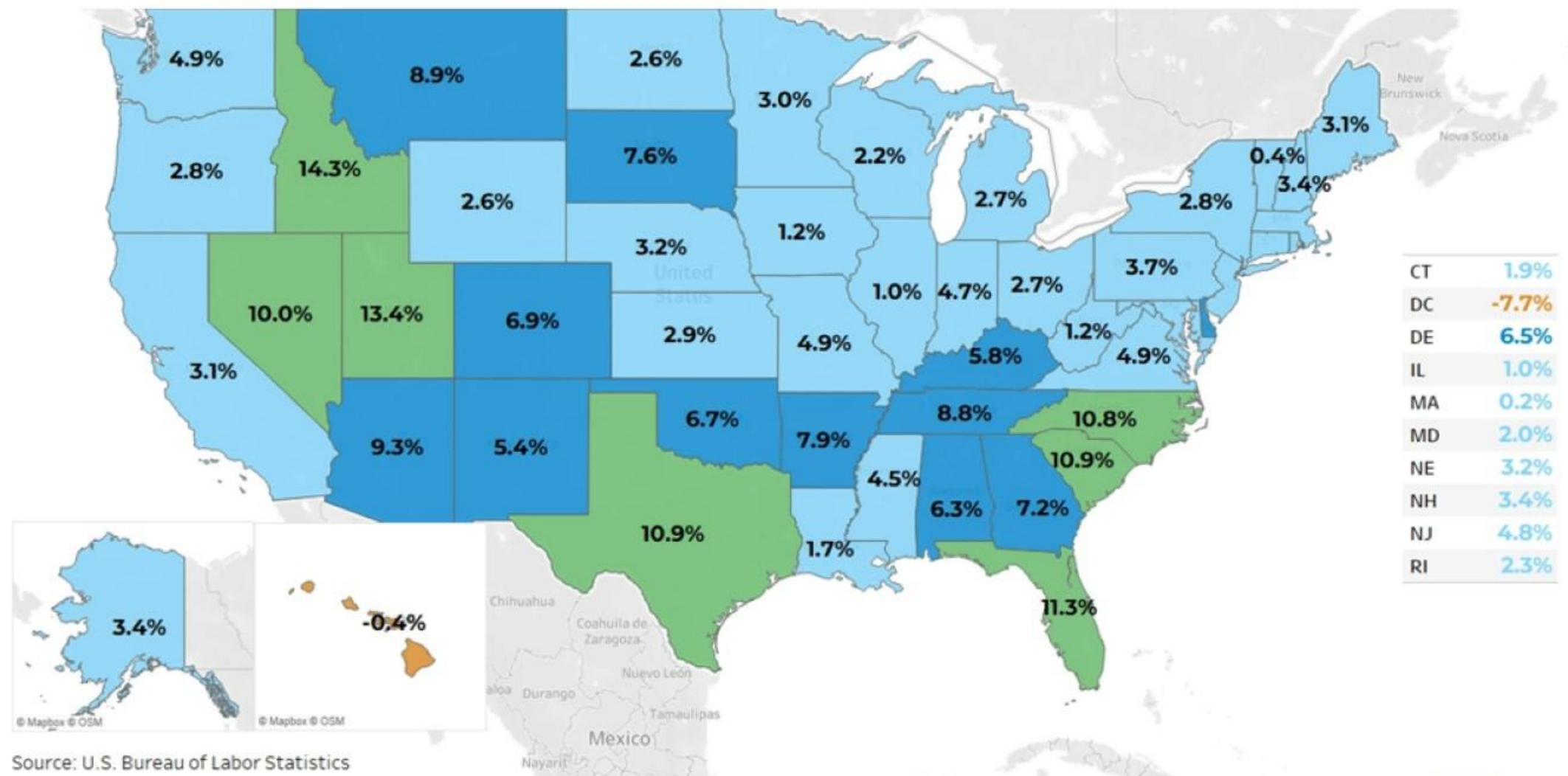
Source: NAR calculation of BLS data

# Hourly Wage Rate

| Industry                | December 2025 | December 2019 | % Growth from 6 years ago |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| All Workers             | \$37.02       | \$28.38       | 30.4%                     |
| Leisure and Hospitality | \$23.28       | \$16.76       | 38.9%                     |
| Construction            | \$40.37       | \$31.19       | 29.4%                     |

Source: NAR analysis of BLS data

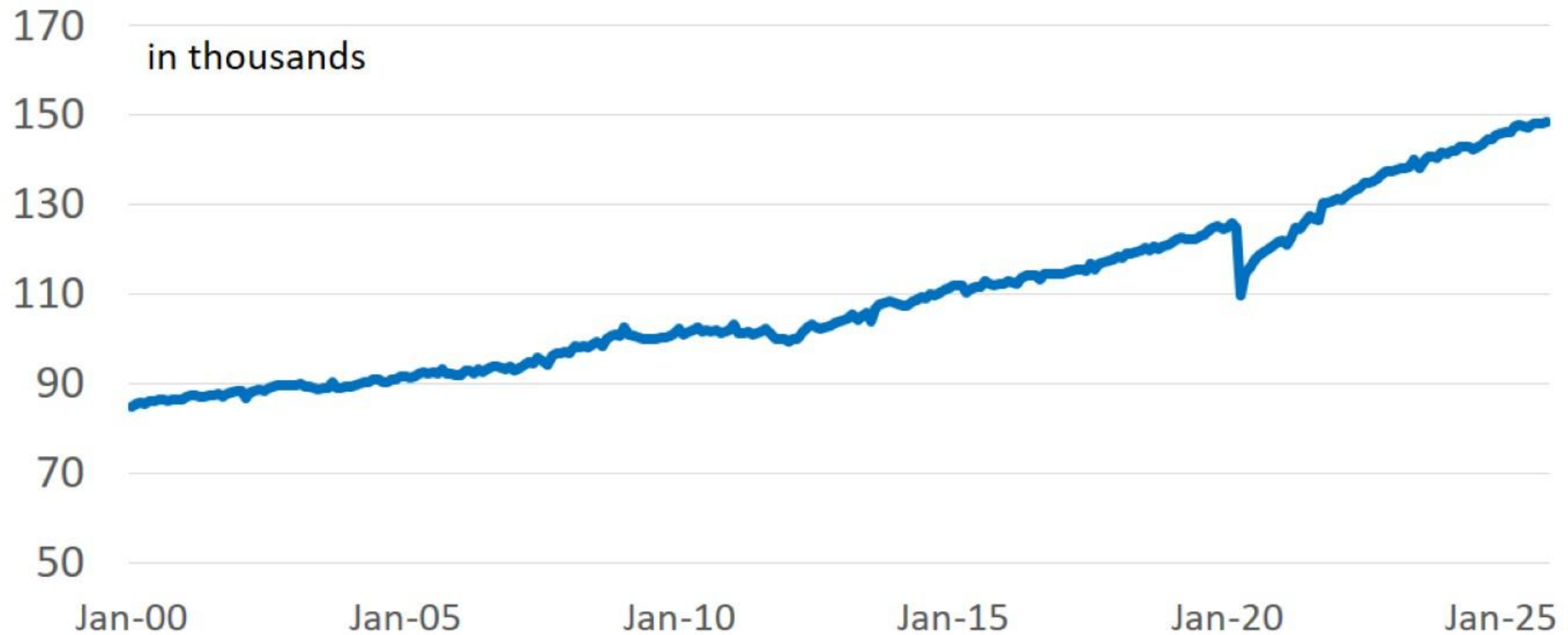
# Job Gains Since Pre-COVID Record High Payroll Employment (% change from March 2020 to November 2025)



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

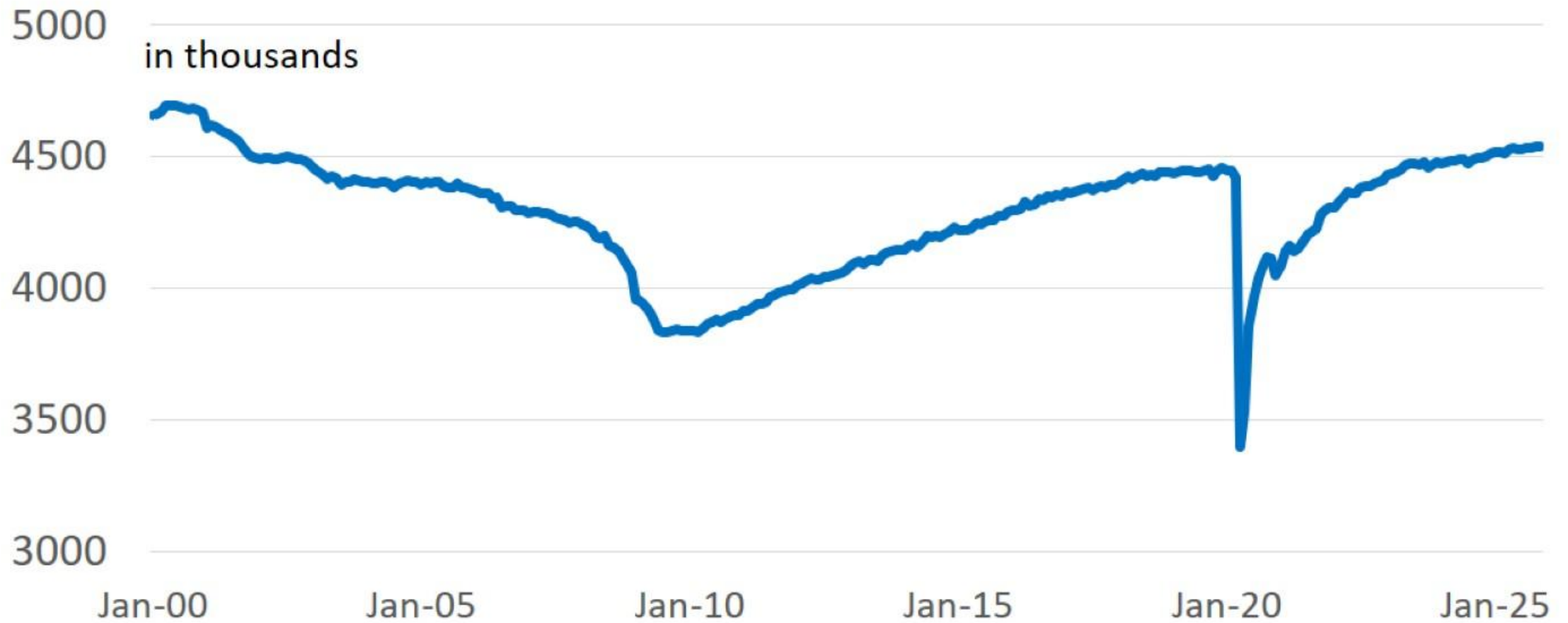
Source: NAR Analysis of BLS data

# Payroll Jobs in College Station-Bryan MSA



Source: BLS

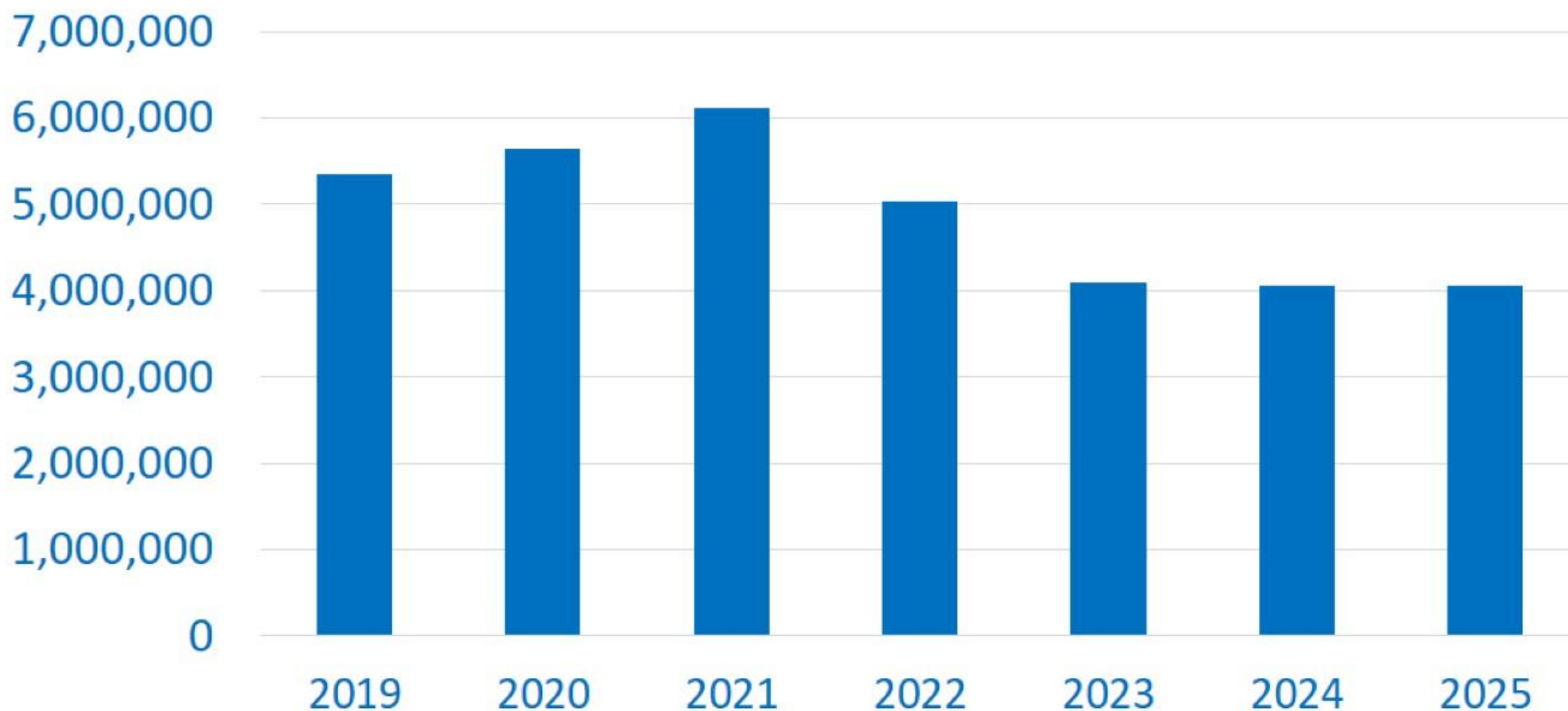
# Payroll Jobs in Michigan



Source: BLS

# Residential Real Estate

## Existing-Home Sales ... no change year-to-date to November Three Subpar Years ... 75% of Pre-covid Activity



Source: NAR

# Area Housing Stats - December 2025



**\$326,700**

*Median Sales Price*

1% increase compared to December  
2024



**273**

*Units Sold*

No change compared to December 2024



**123**

*Days on Market*

2 days less compared to December  
2024



**279**

*New Listings*

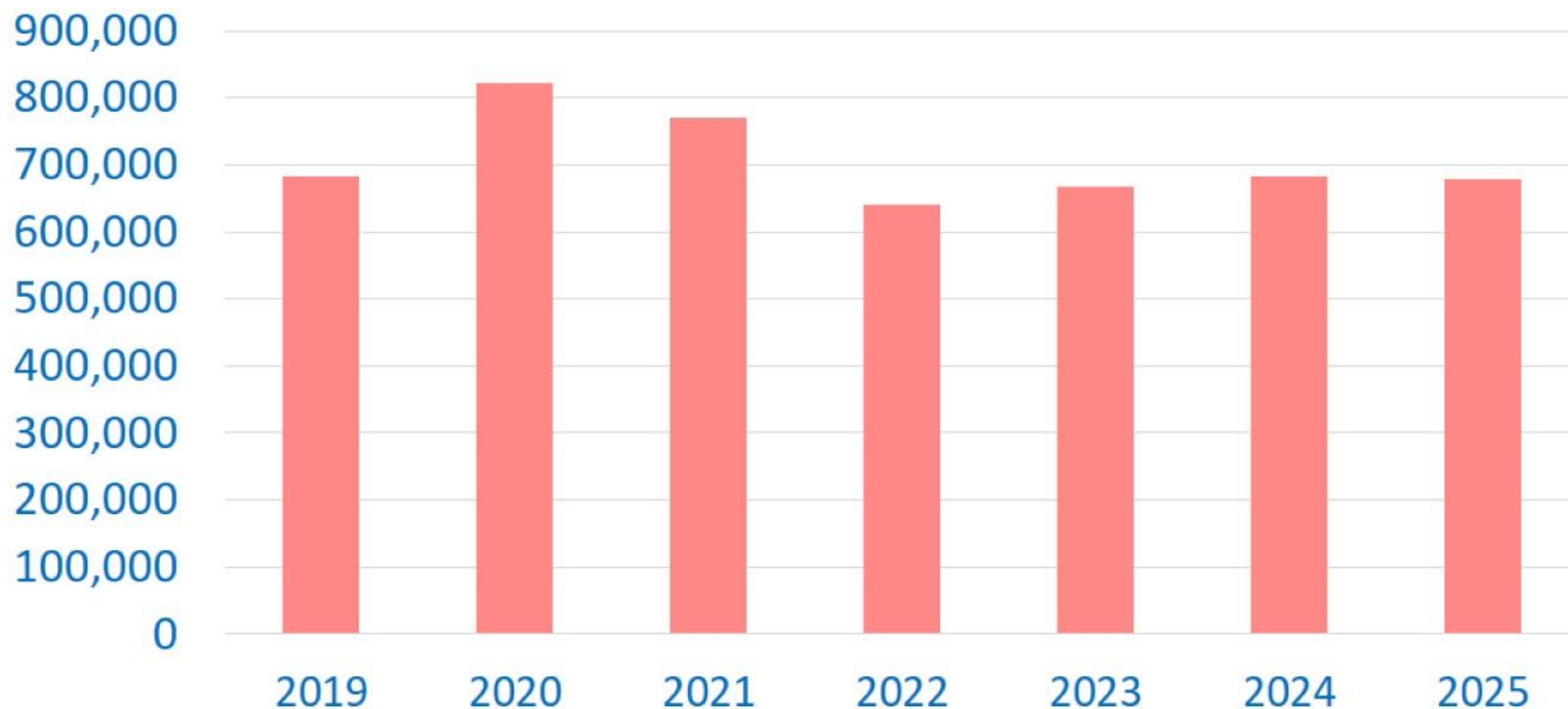
1% increase compared to December  
2024

BRYAN-COLLEGE STATION  
REGIONAL MULTIPLE  
LISTING SERVICE

**MLS**

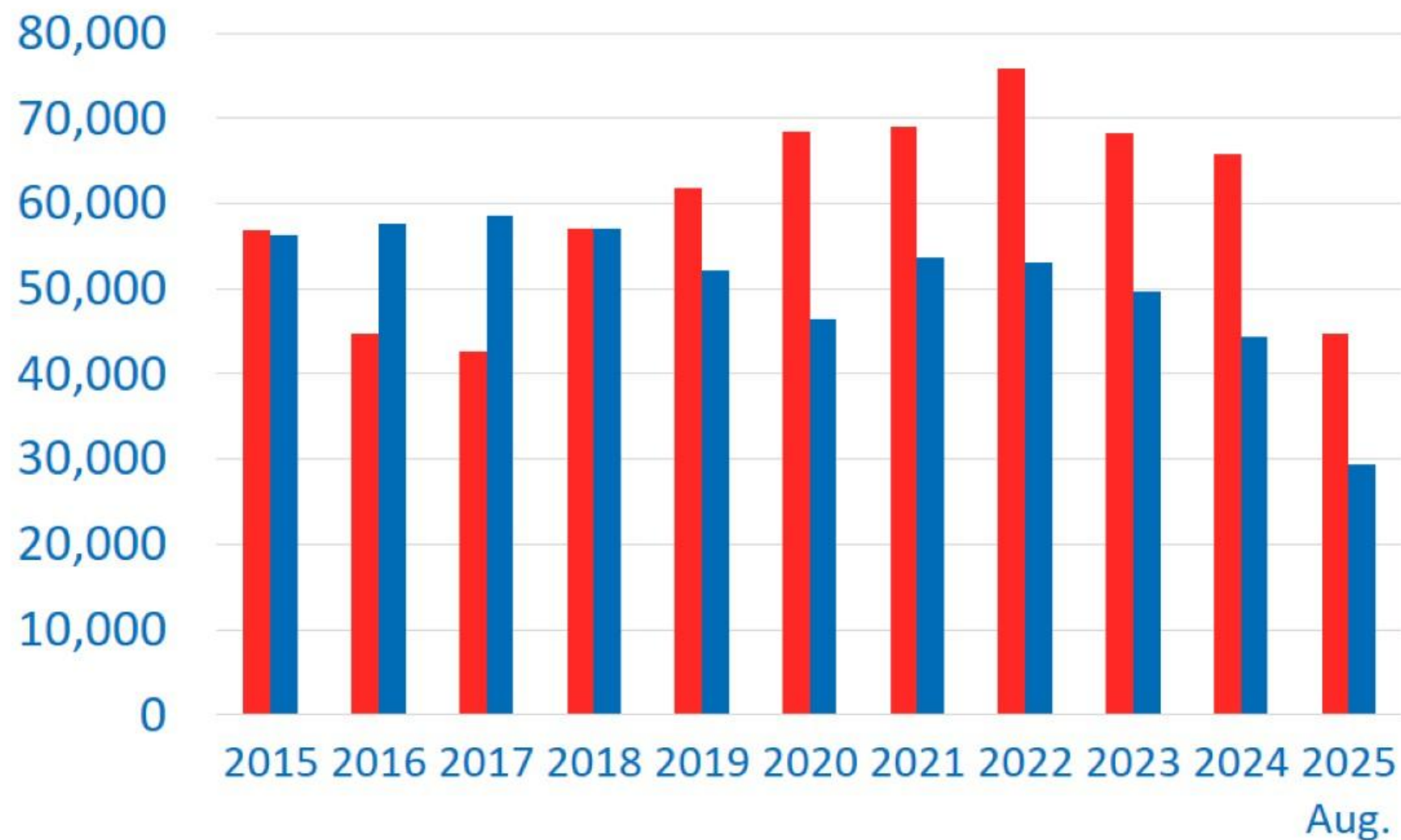


## New Home Sales ... Back to Pre-Covid Sales Activity



Source: Census

## Housing Starts in **Houston** versus CA big cities (LA-Anaheim, SF-Oak, SD combined)



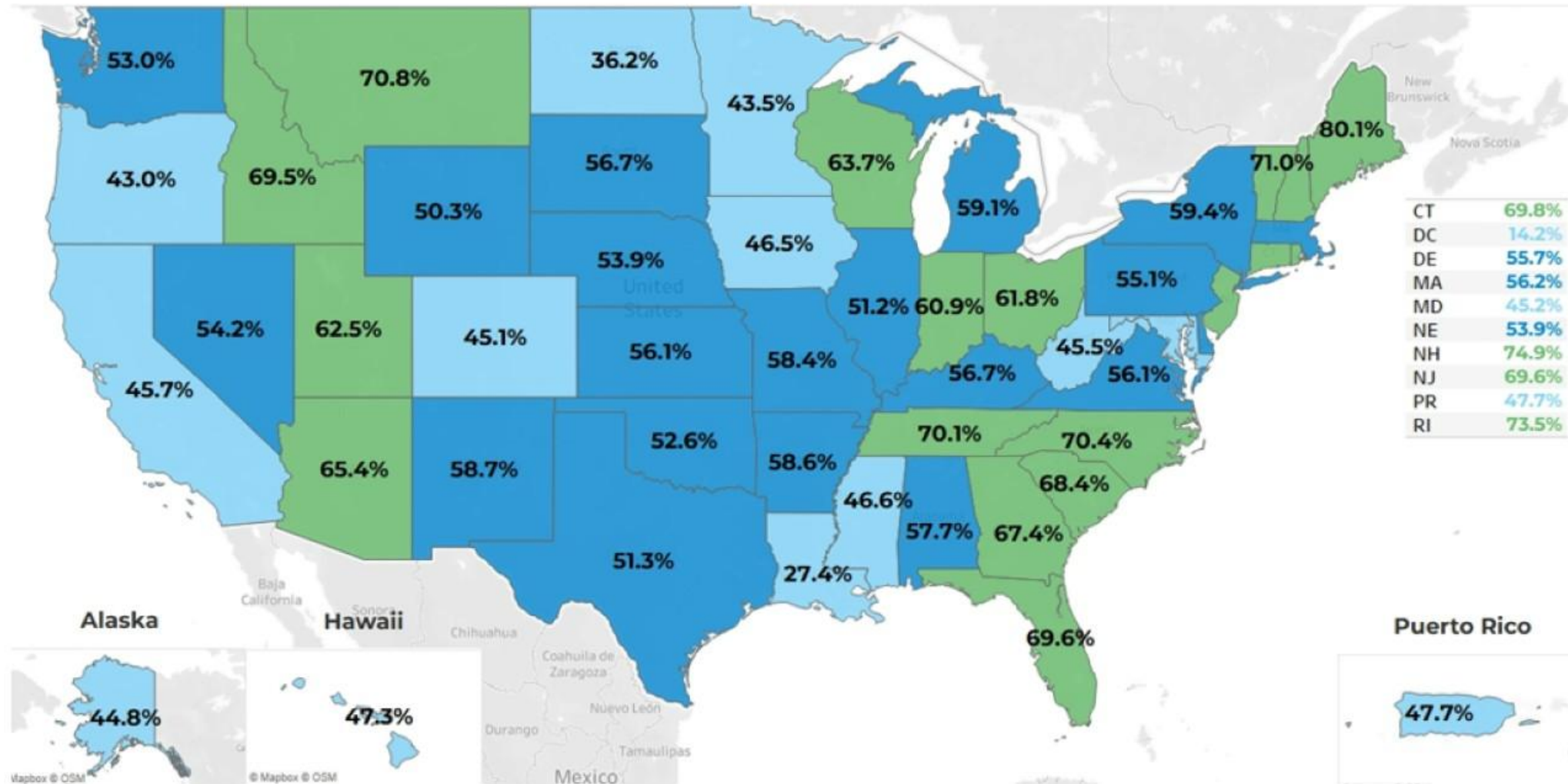
10-year Total:

**655K** vs. **558K**

Source: Census

# 5-year Home Price Gains Since Pre-COVID ... 51% in TX

## % change from 2020 Q1 to 2025 Q2



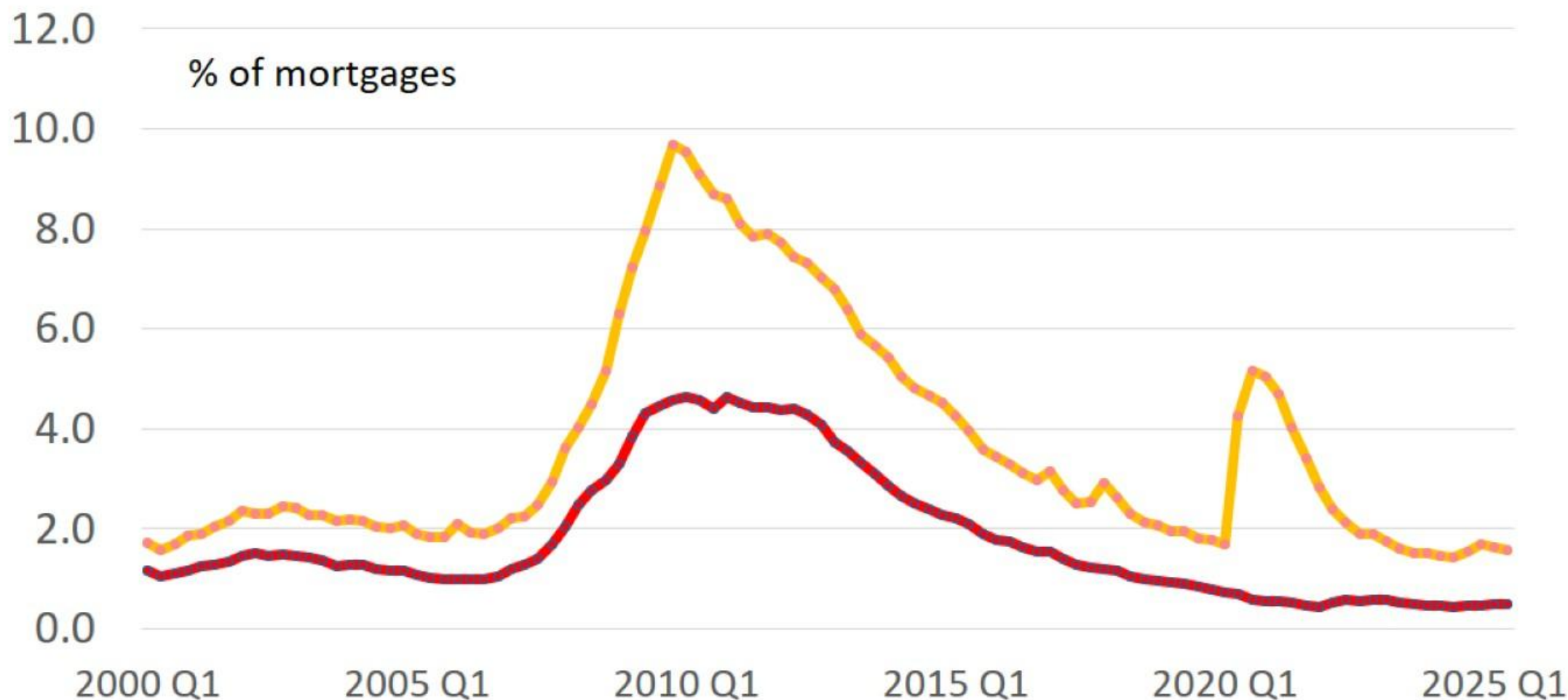
Source: NAR Analysis of FHFA data

# Real Estate Net Worth – Near Record High



Source: Federal Reserve

# Seriously Delinquent Mortgages and Foreclosure (90+ days late or in foreclosure)



Source: Mortgage Bankers Association

## Light Flashing on Weekly Mortgage Applications to Buy a Home (4-week moving average)



Source: Mortgage Bankers Association

# Nationwide Forecast

|                     | 2025                       | 2026                           |
|---------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Existing-Home Sales | +0%                        | +14%                           |
| New Home Sales      | -2%                        | +5%                            |
| Median Home Price   | +3%                        | +4%                            |
| Mortgage Rate       | 6.7%                       | 6.0%                           |
| Job Gains           | 400,000<br>(not 2 million) | 1.3 million<br>(not 2 million) |
| Unemployment Rate   | 4.3%                       | 4.6%<br>(not 5.5%)             |

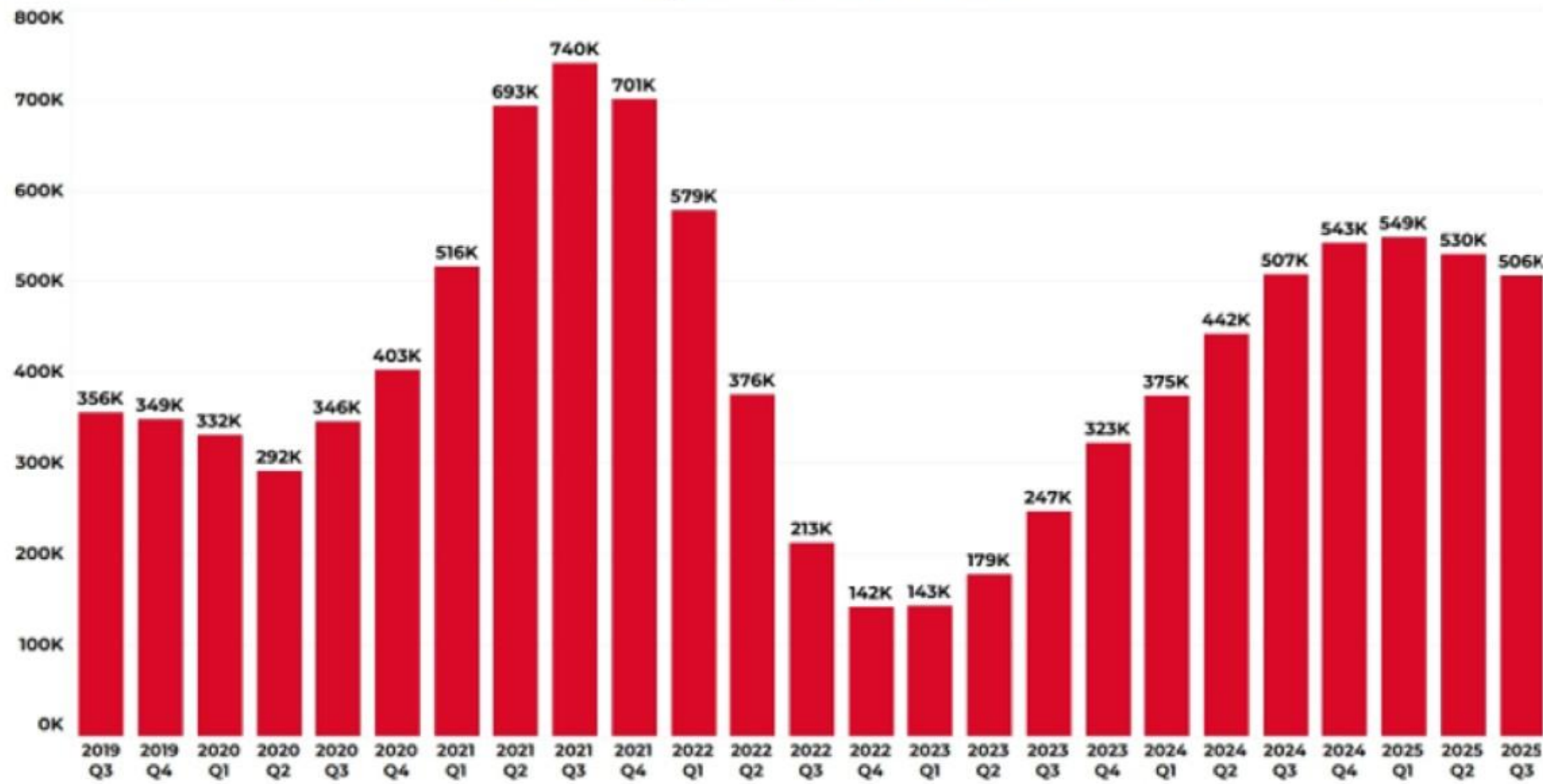


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# Commercial Real Estate Fundamentals

# Apartment Demand ... Strong, but expect sharp weakening in Class C lower-end

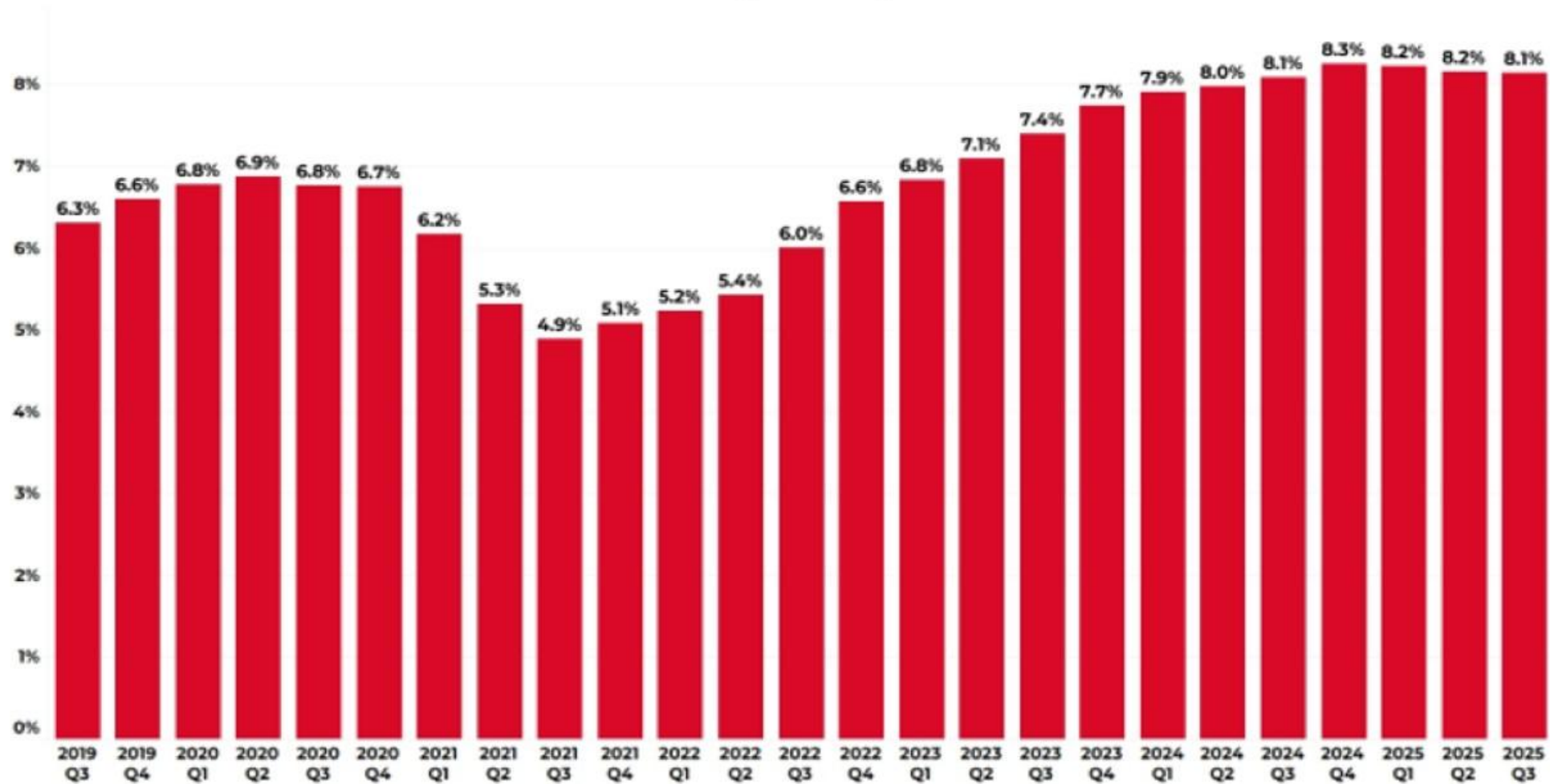
Multifamily Absorption Units 12 Mo



Source: NAR analysis of CoStar data

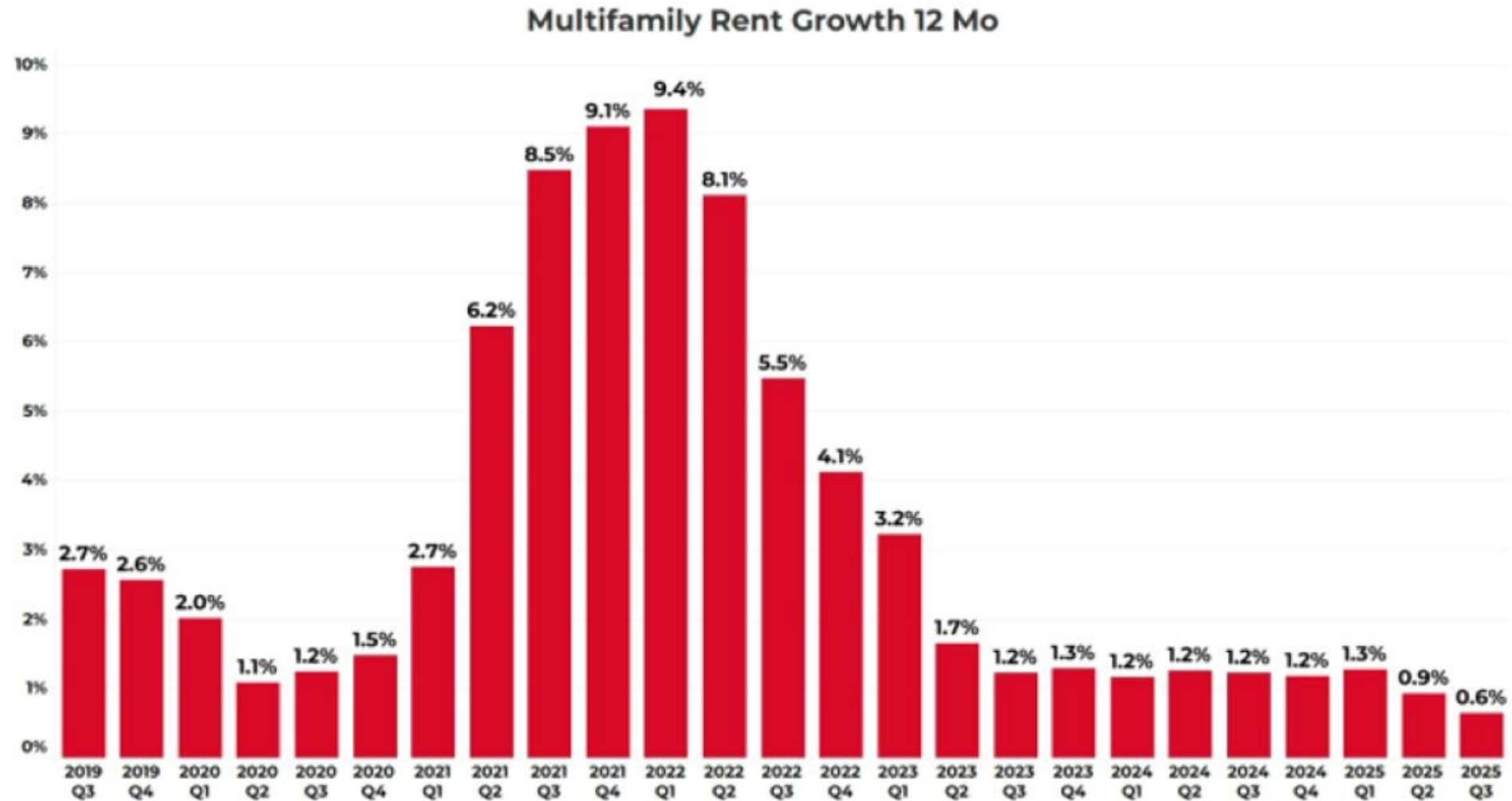
# Apartment Vacancy Rate High ... from overproduction

Multifamily Vacancy Rate



Source: NAR Analysis of CoStar data

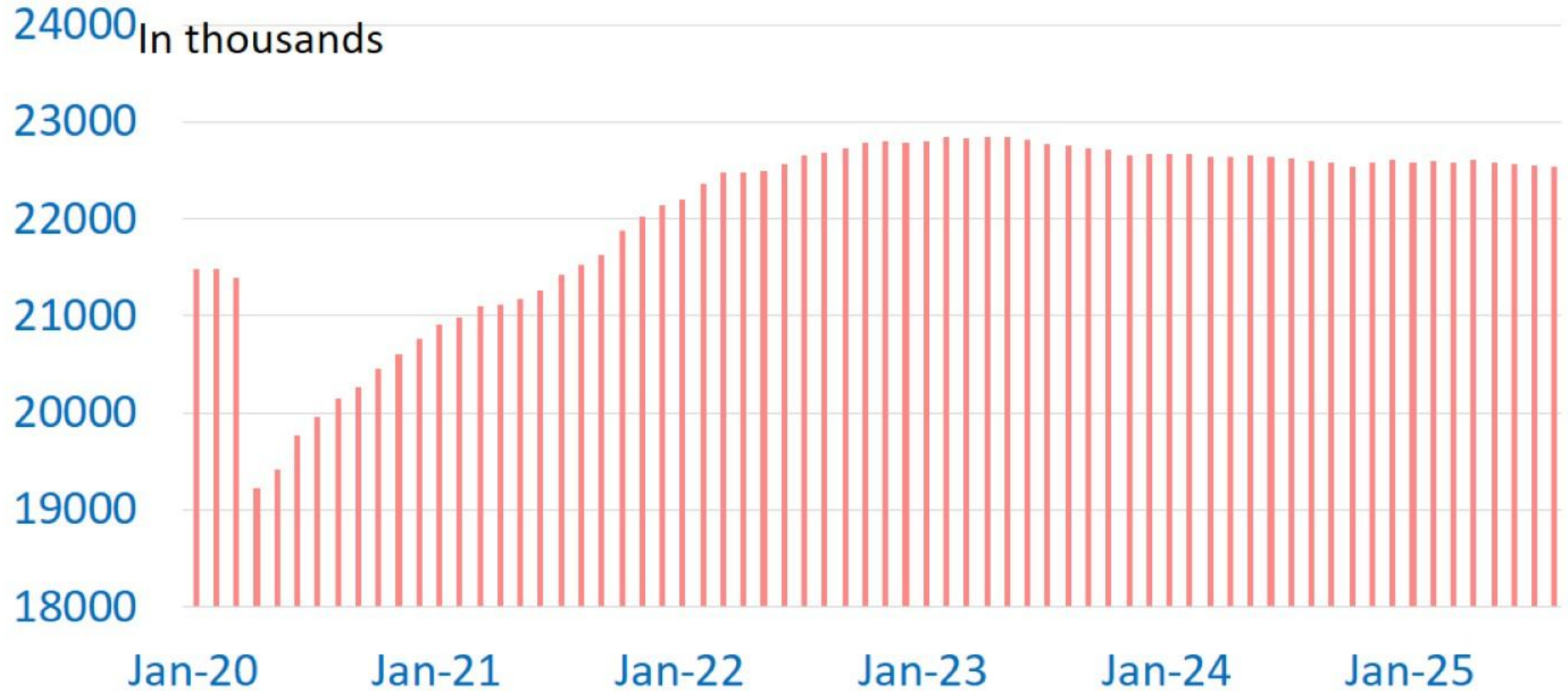
# Private Sector Data: Apartment Rents Barely rising



Source: NAR analysis of CoStar data

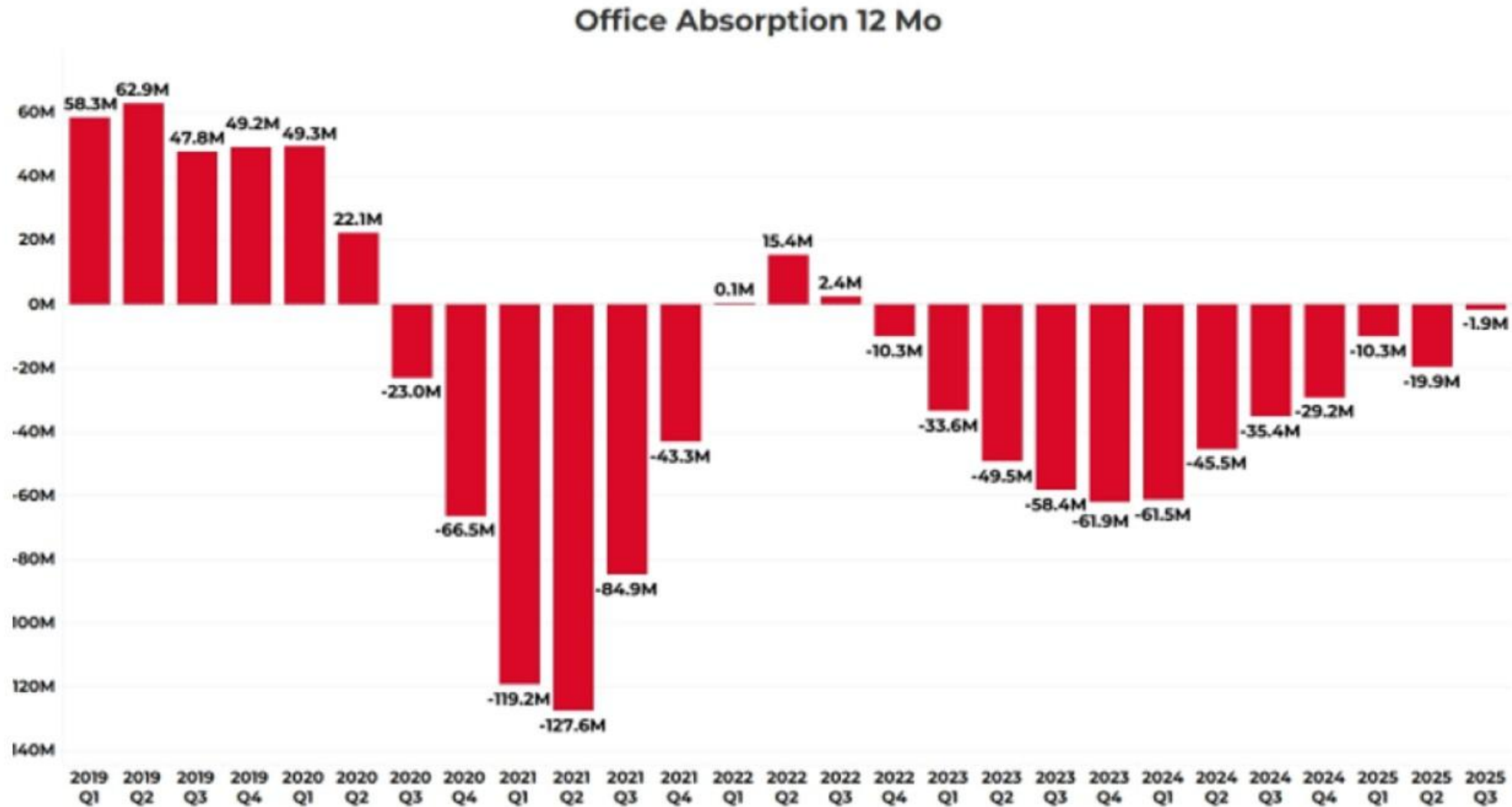
# Office Using Jobs (+1 million from pre-covid)

## (Professional Business Service and Financial Industry)



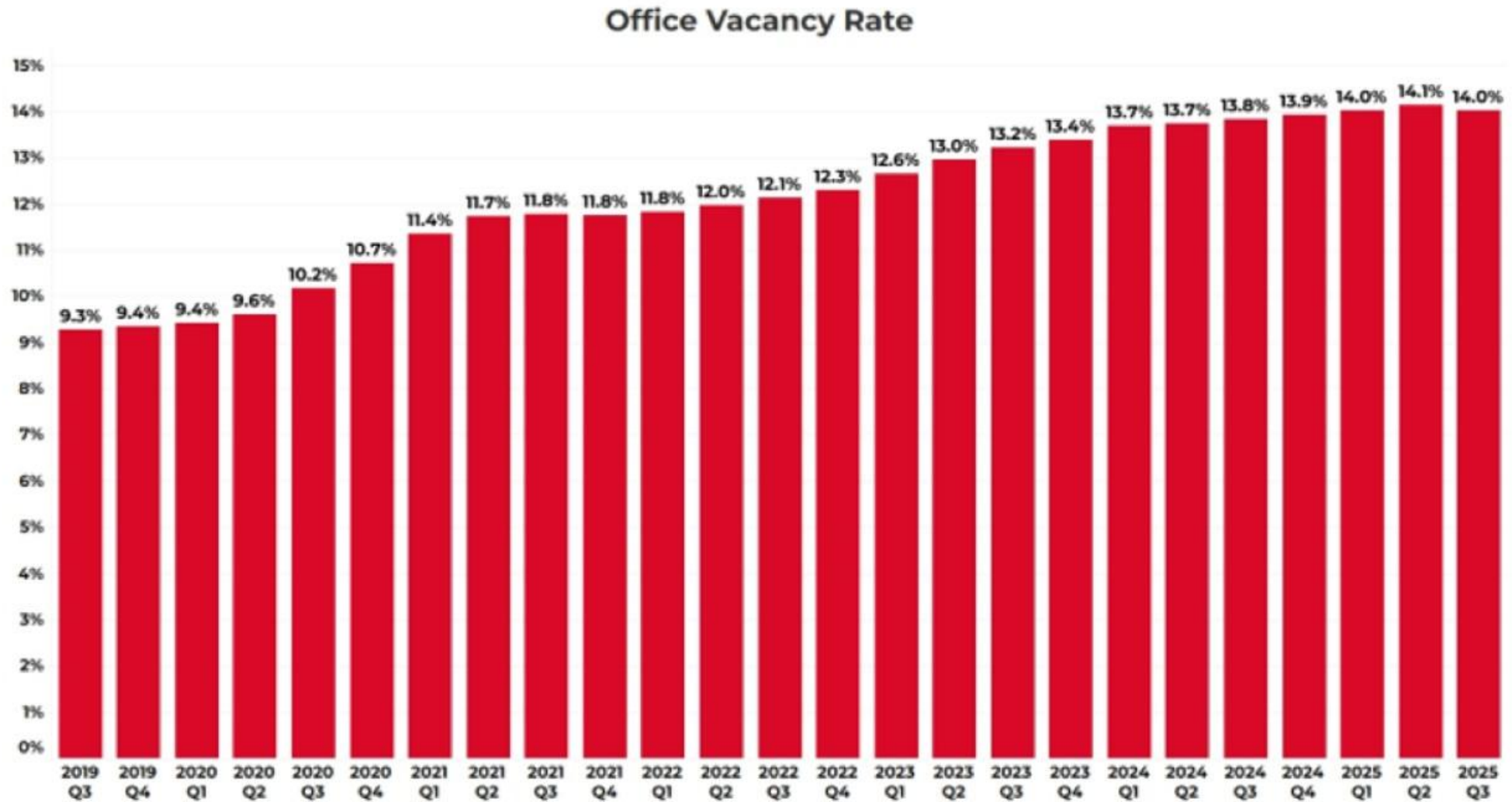
Source: BLS

# Office Net Absorption in past 12 months ... Stops Bleeding



Source: NAR analysis of CoStar data

# Office Vacancy Rising ... from lack of demand



Source: NAR Analysis of CoStar data

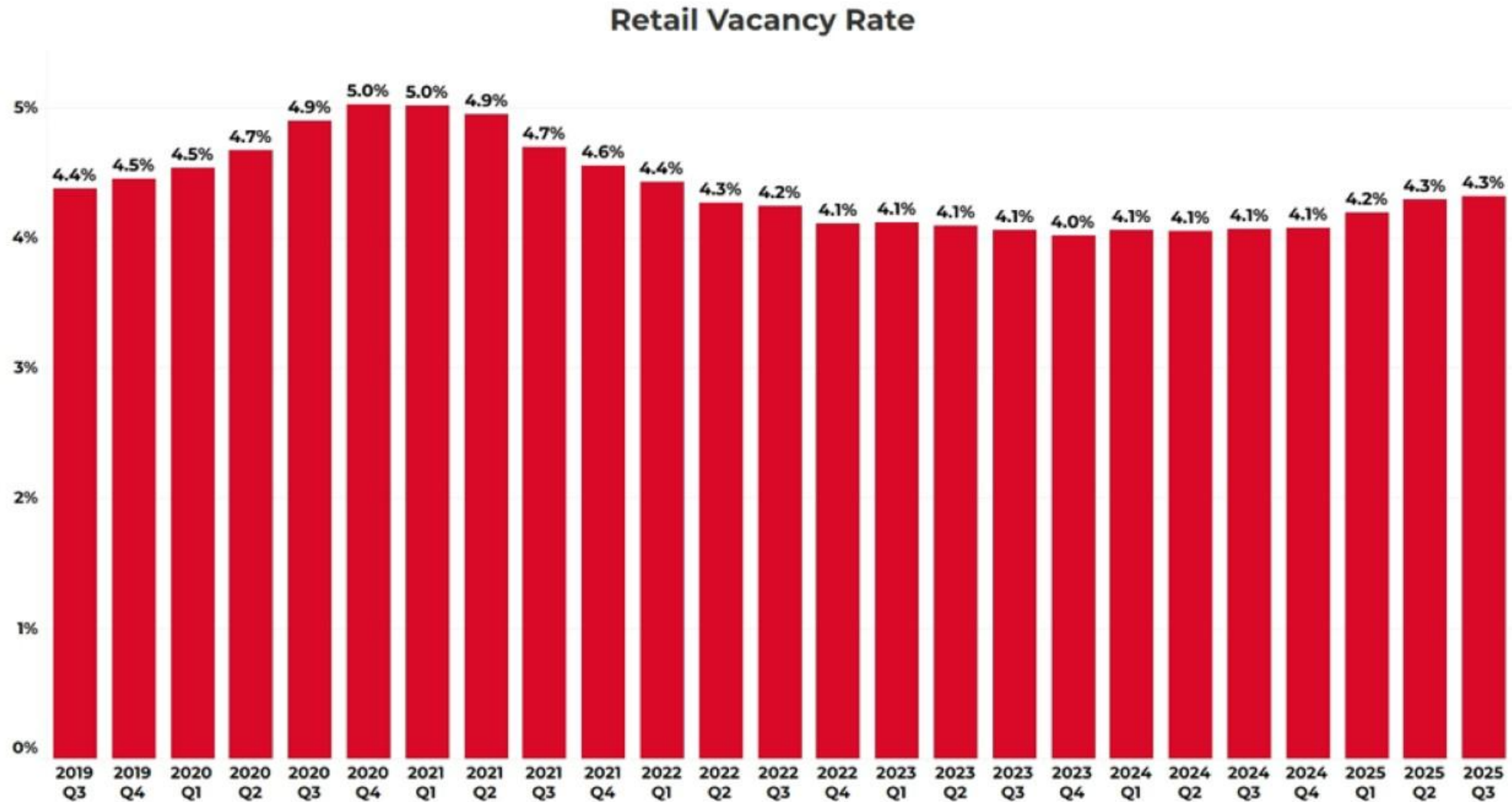
## Retail Sales

(In \$ million to August 2025)



Source: Census

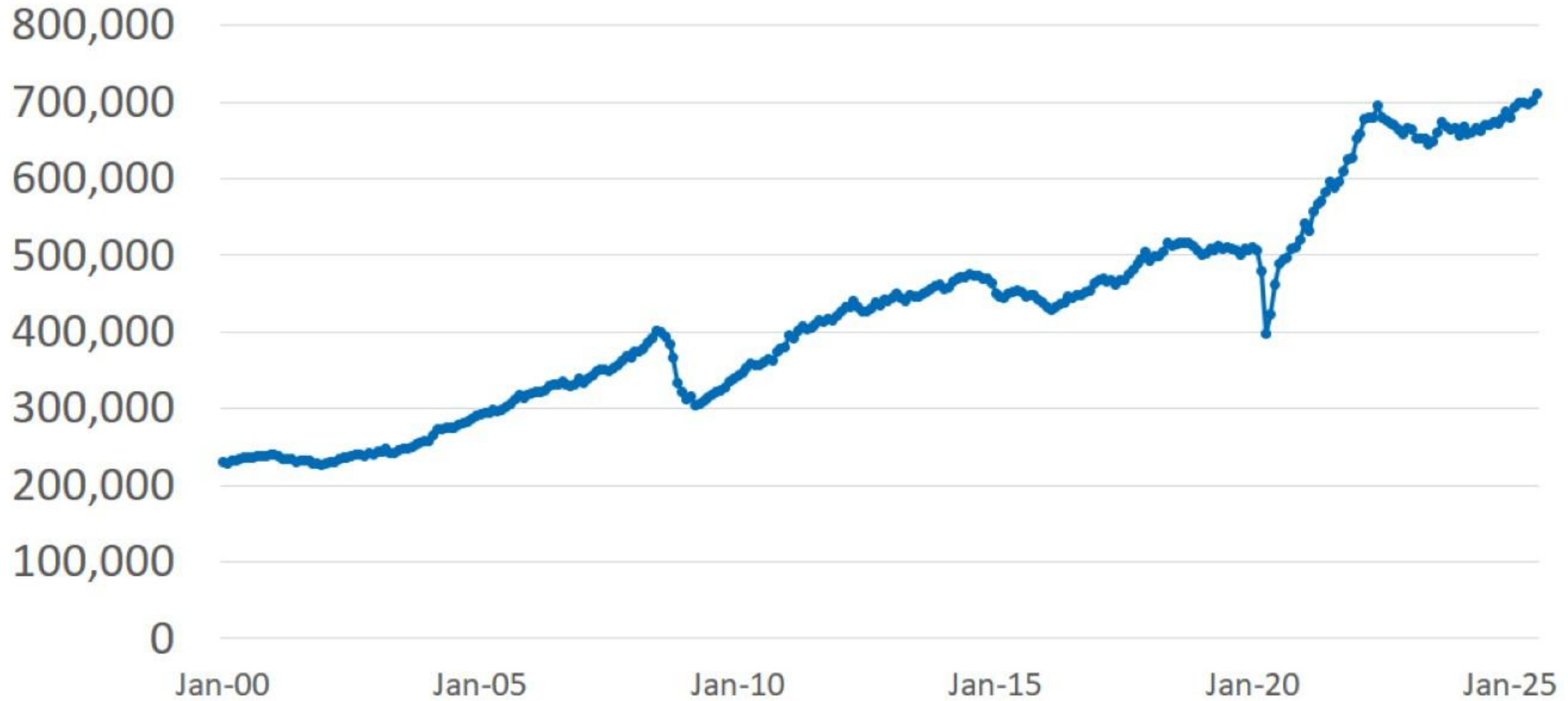
# Retail Vacany Rate Low ... from restrained production



Source: NAR Analysis of CoStar data

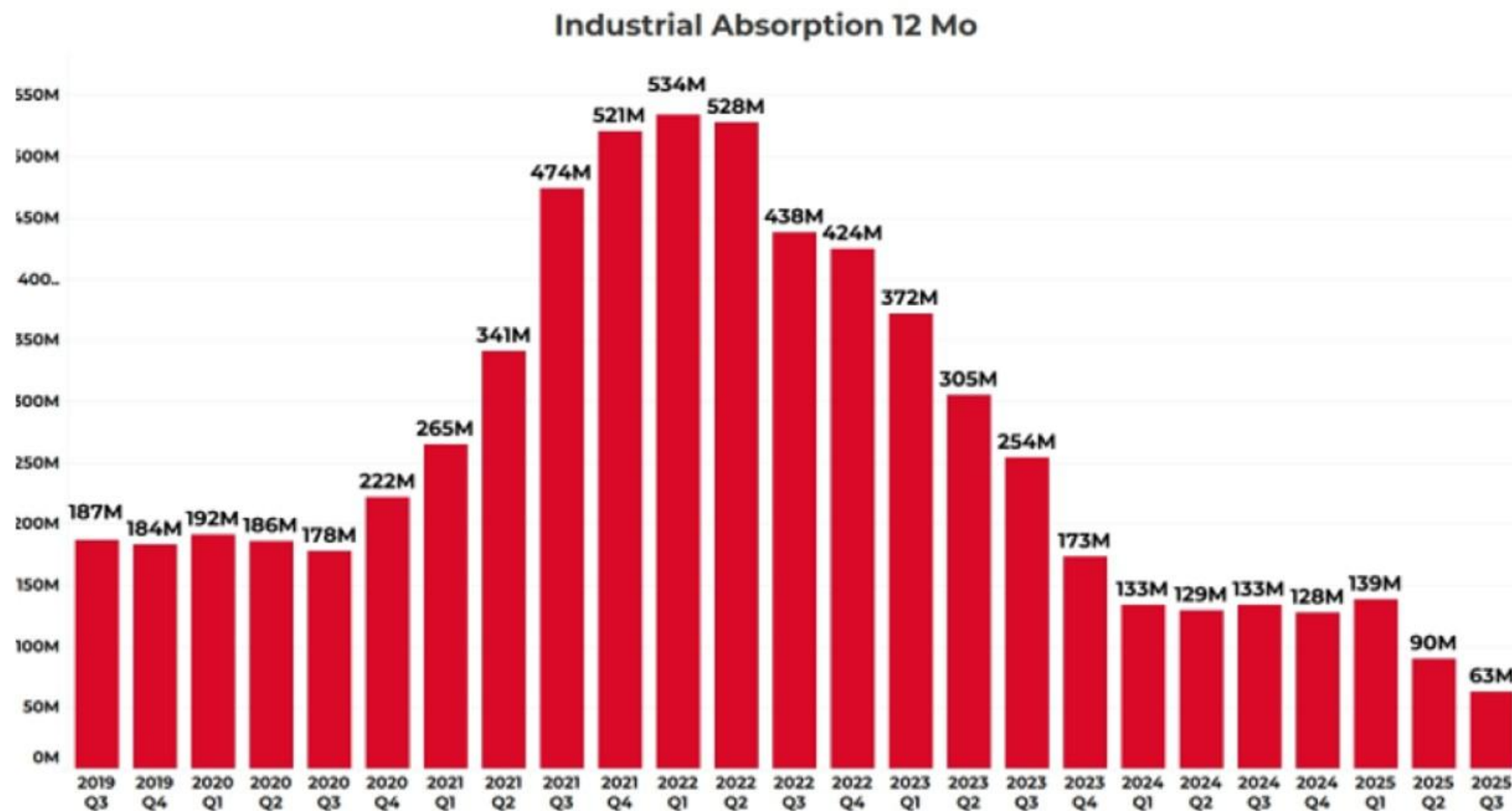
# Merchant Wholesaler Sales

(In \$ million to July 2025)



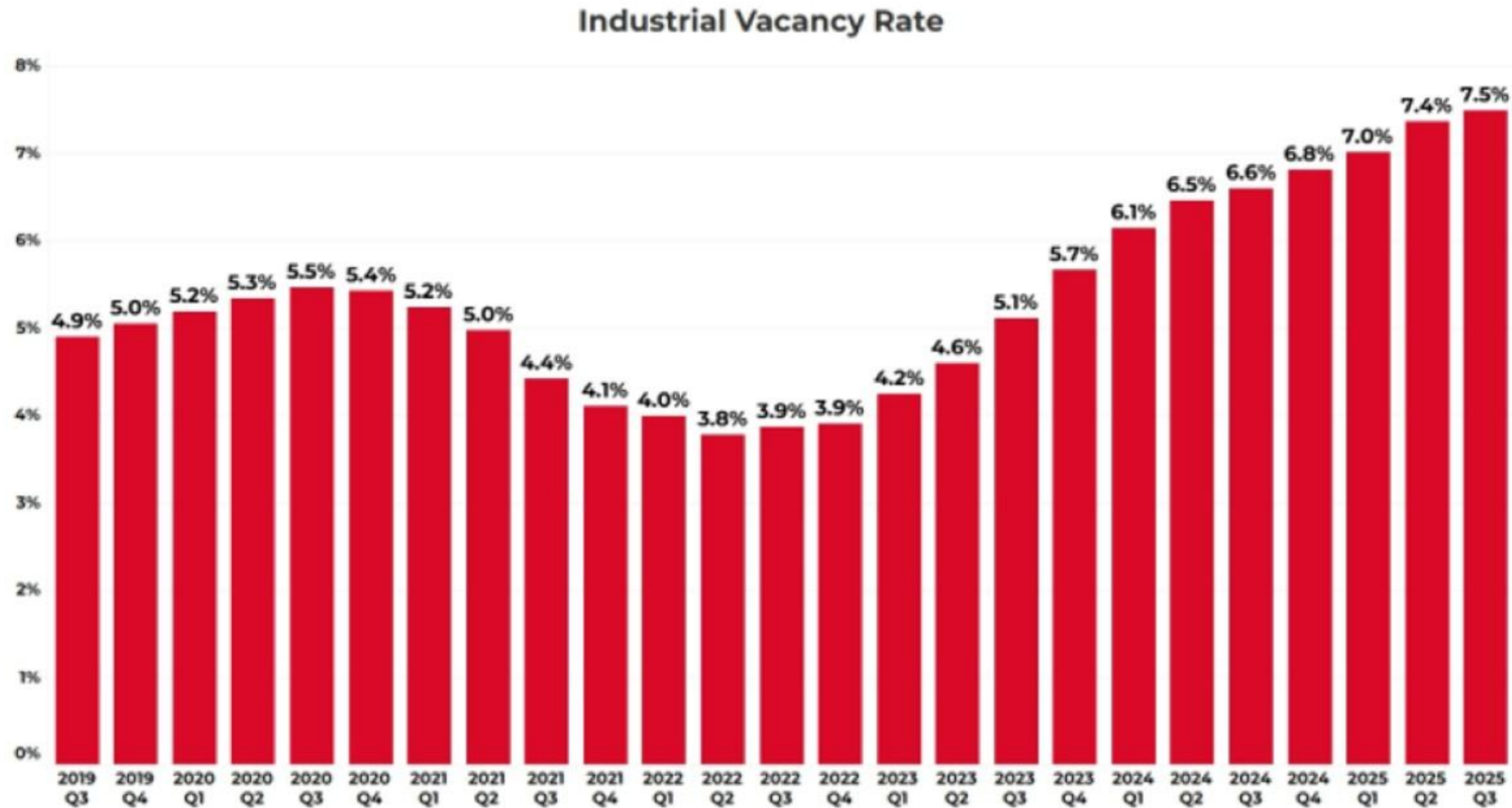
Source: Census

# Industrial Space Net Absorption ... Tariff Impact ?



Source: NAR analysis of CoStar data

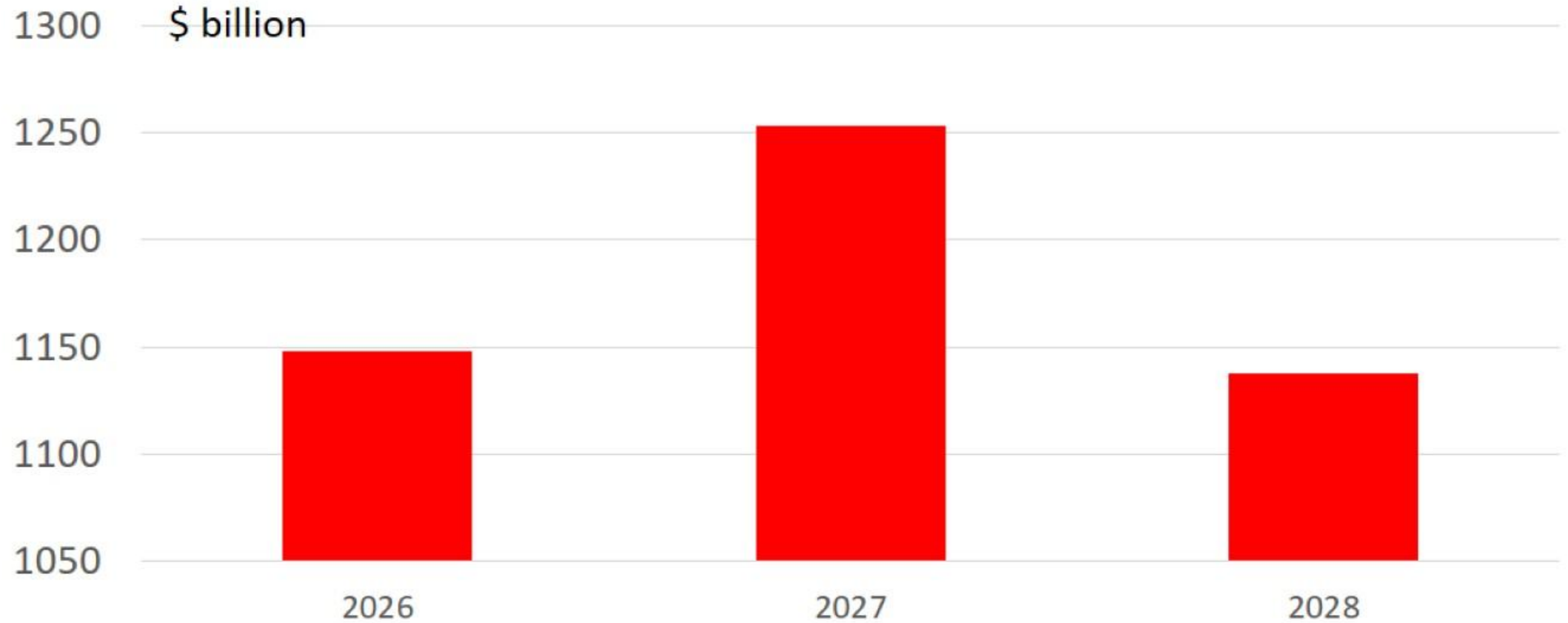
# Industrial Vacancy Rate ... from overproduction



Source: NAR Analysis of CoStar data

# Commercial Real Estate Loan Distress?

## CRE Loan Requiring Refinancing ... At Higher Interest Rate and Lower Collateral Value



Source: S&P Global

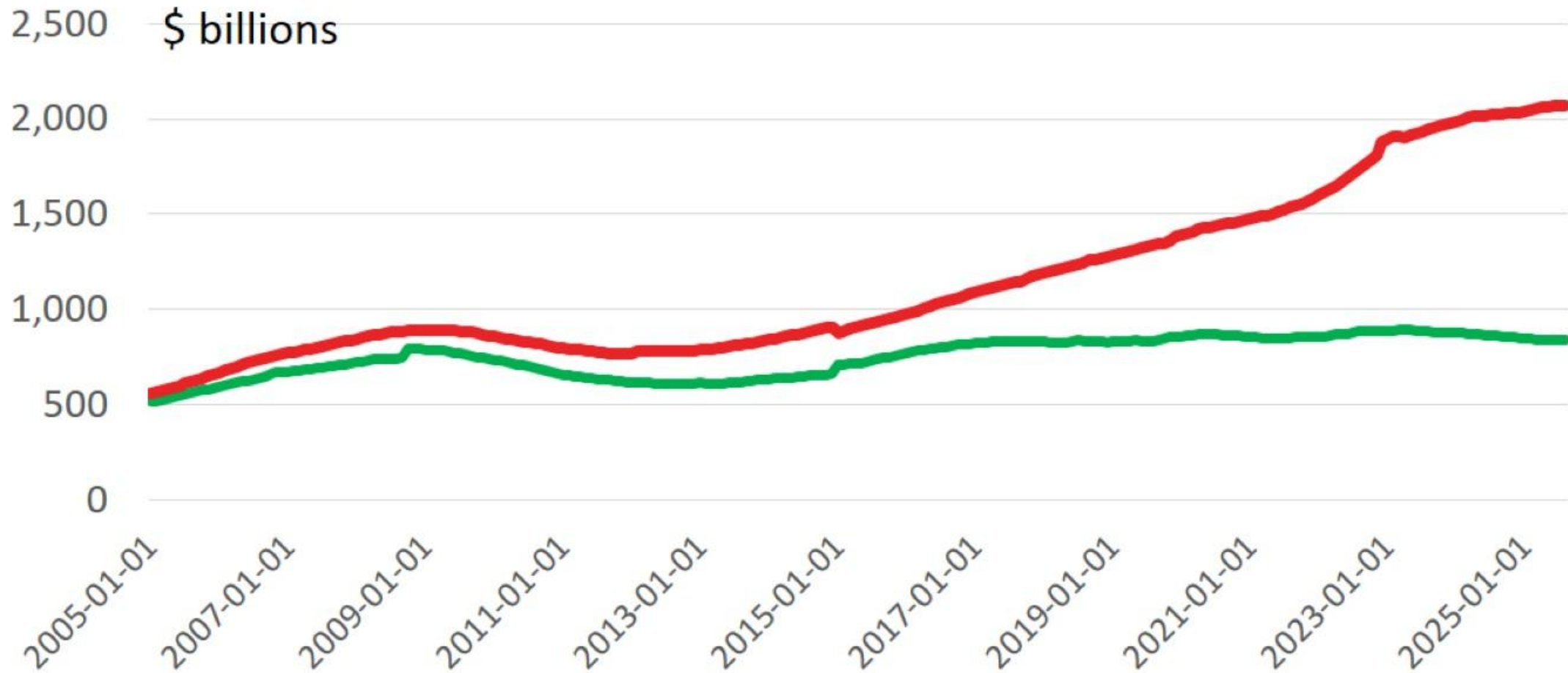
# Commercial Property Prices ... Still not Recovering



Source: Federal Reserve

# Commercial Real Estate Loans

Growth Primarily from Small Banks (red); Not Big Banks (green)



Source: Federal Reserve

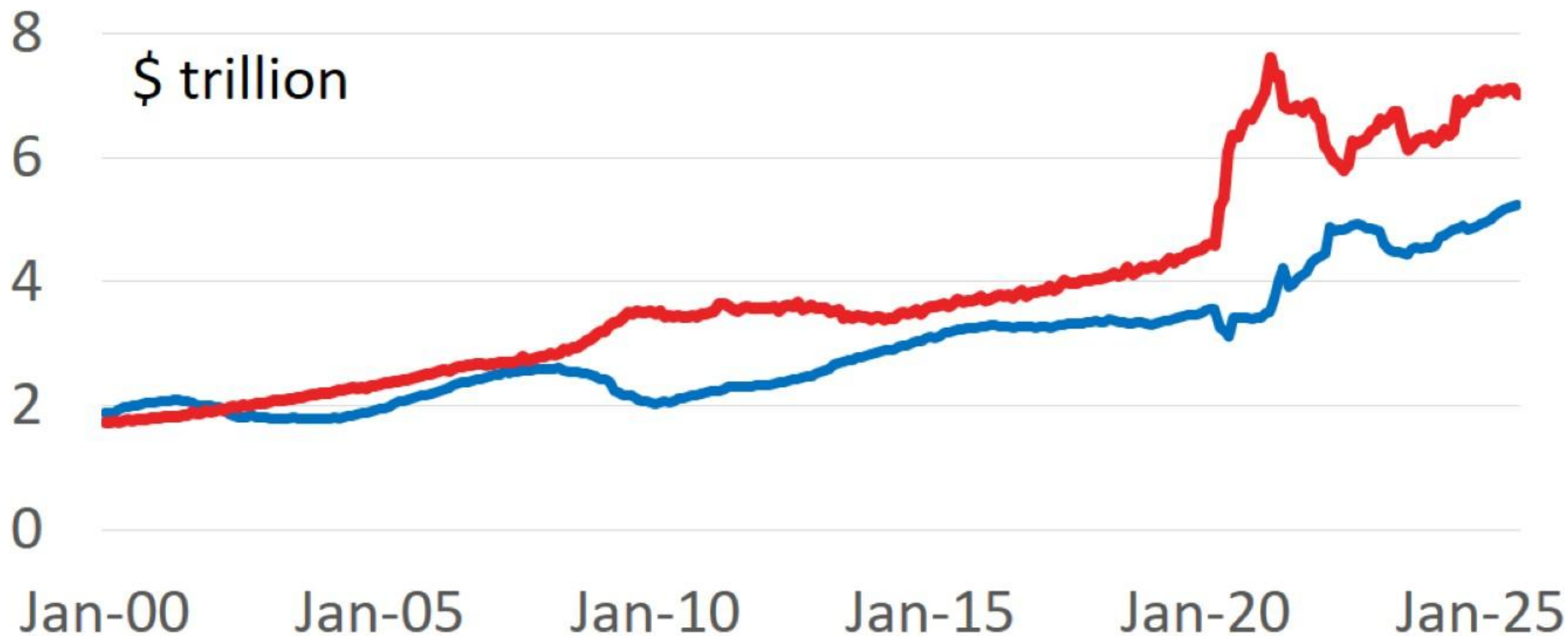
# Commercial Market Forecast

- **Federal Reserve Rate Cuts ... Big Help**
- **Job Growth to Turn Around ... Boost Demand?**
- **Positive Net Absorption ... More Leasing**
- **Vacancy Rates Peaking ... Easier to Market Property**
- **Supply Picture is Mixed**
- **Temporary Oversupply in Multifamily and Industrial**
- **Permanent Oversupply in Office**
- **Restrained Supply in Retail**
- **Need Lower Rates ... More Investment Sales + Price Growth**

# **Risks to the Economy and Interest Rates**

# Federal Government **Outlays** and Receipts

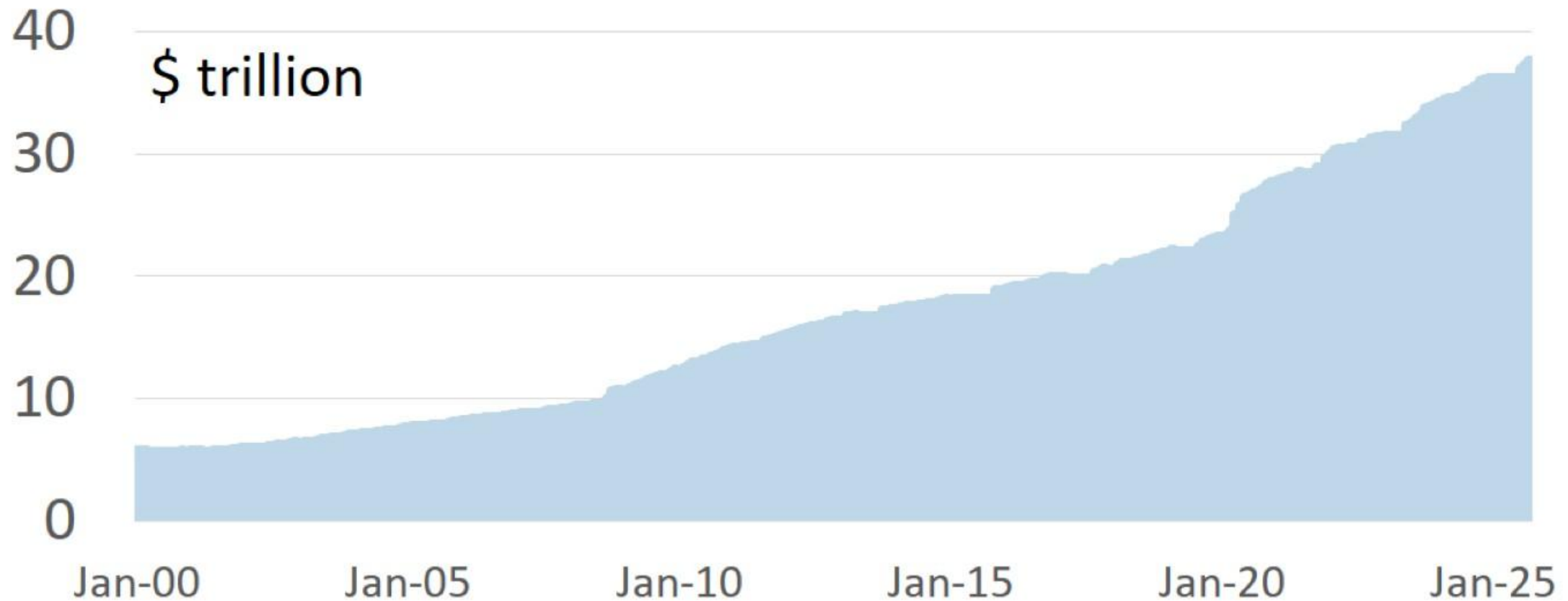
(rolling 12-month total)



Source: NAR analysis of monthly Treasury statements

# Ongoing Risk

## Federal Government Cumulative Debt



Source: NAR analysis of monthly Treasury statements

**Thank You !**