

Economic Update

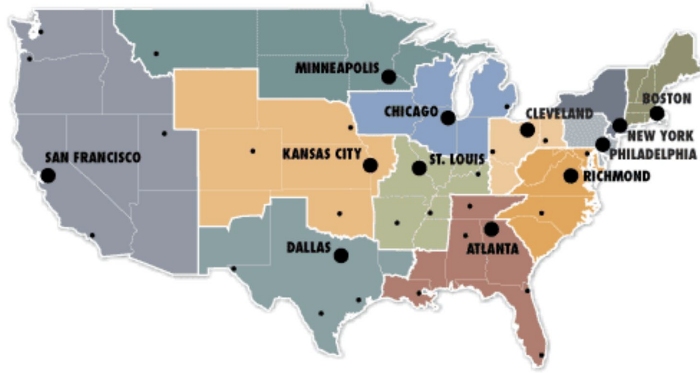
June 3, 2026

Jeremy Hill

Assistant Vice President, Regional Executive

The views herein are those of the presenter and do not necessarily reflect those of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City or the Federal Reserve System

Structure & Functions of the Federal Reserve



3 primary entities:

Board of Governors

- 7 members appointed by U.S. President

Federal Reserve Banks

- 12 total; semi-independent

Federal Open Market Committee

- 19 members; 12 voting

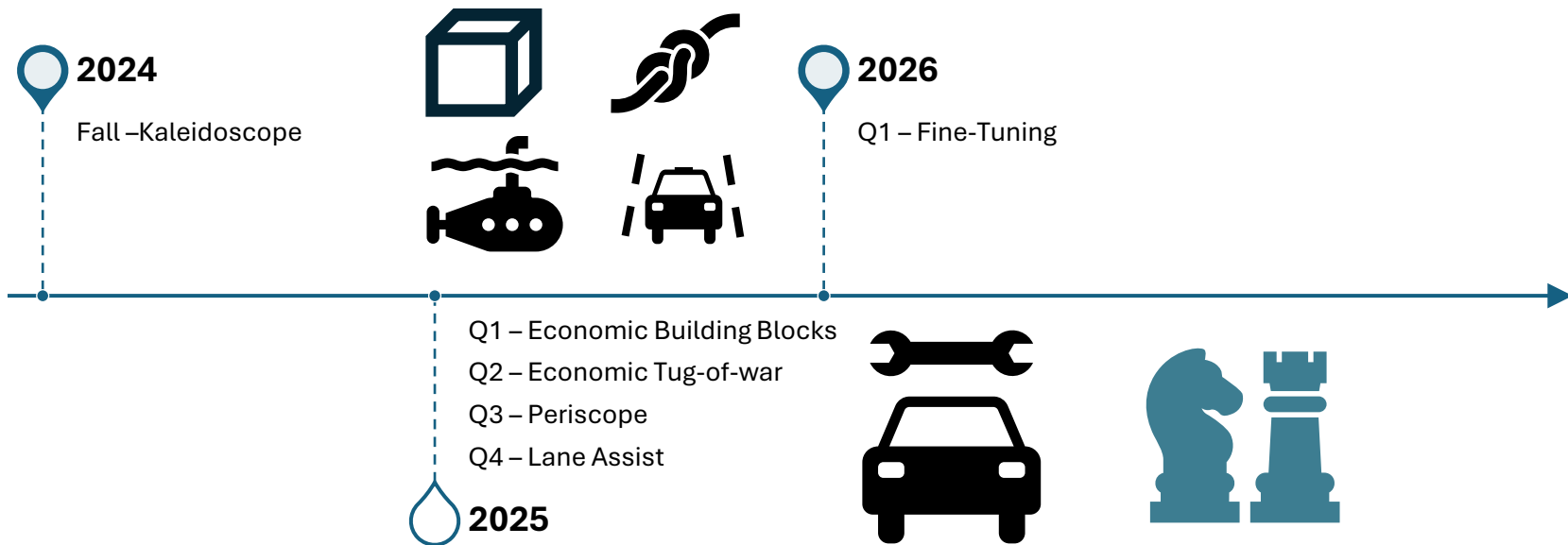
3 primary responsibilities

Monetary policy

Bank
supervision &
regulation

Payment
system safety
& efficiency

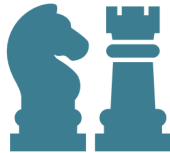
Economic progression of themes



Chess – Intentional movement/ Risk aware

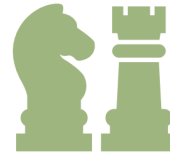
Labor Market

Exploring labor market trends, hiring, challenges, and workforce confidence.



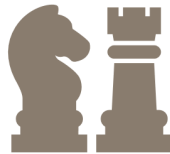
Inflation

Breaking down cost pressures, inflation expectations, and business responses.



Manufacturing

Examining whether strong production data signals sustained growth or temporary resilience.

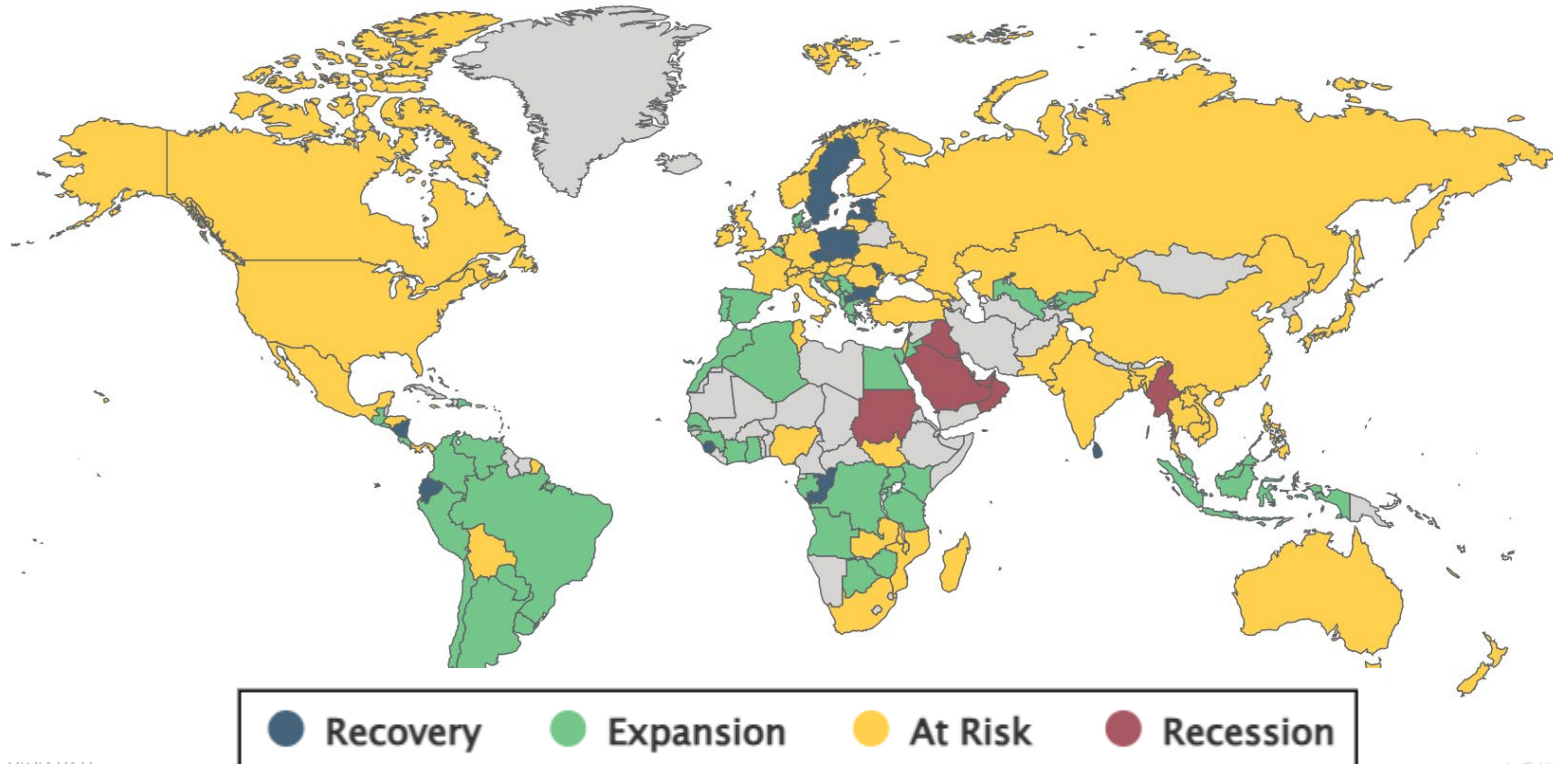


Services

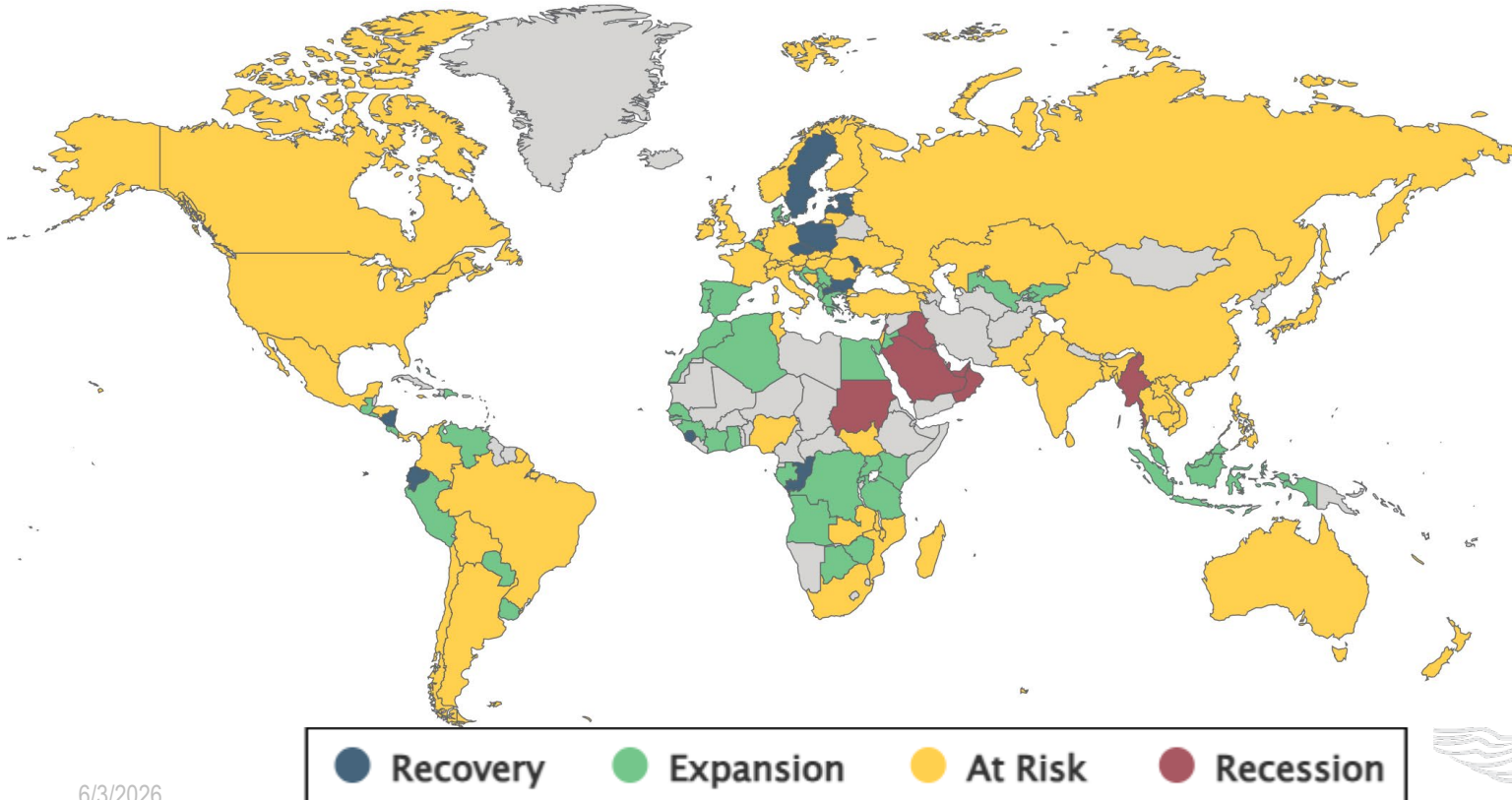
Analyzing the strength of the service sector amid shifting consumer and business confidence



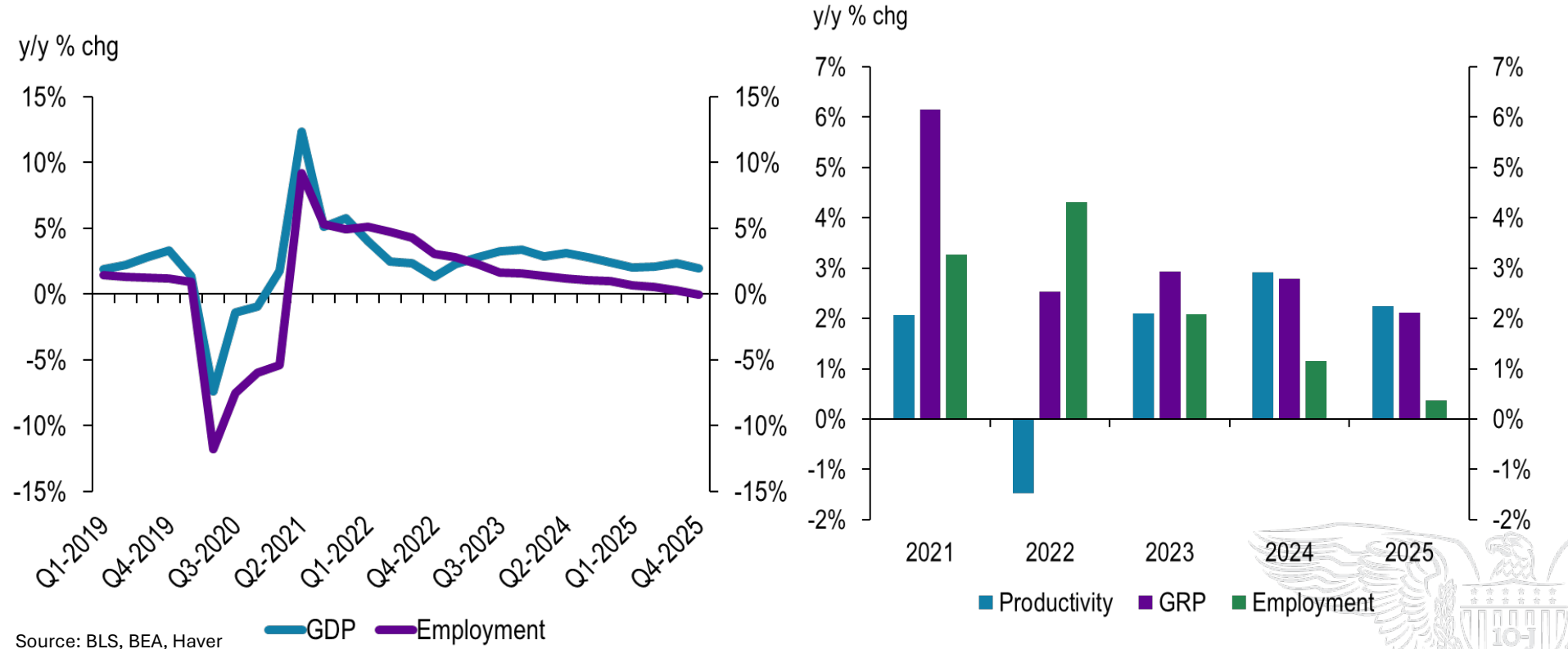
Moody's – Business Cycle - April



Moody's – Business Cycle - May

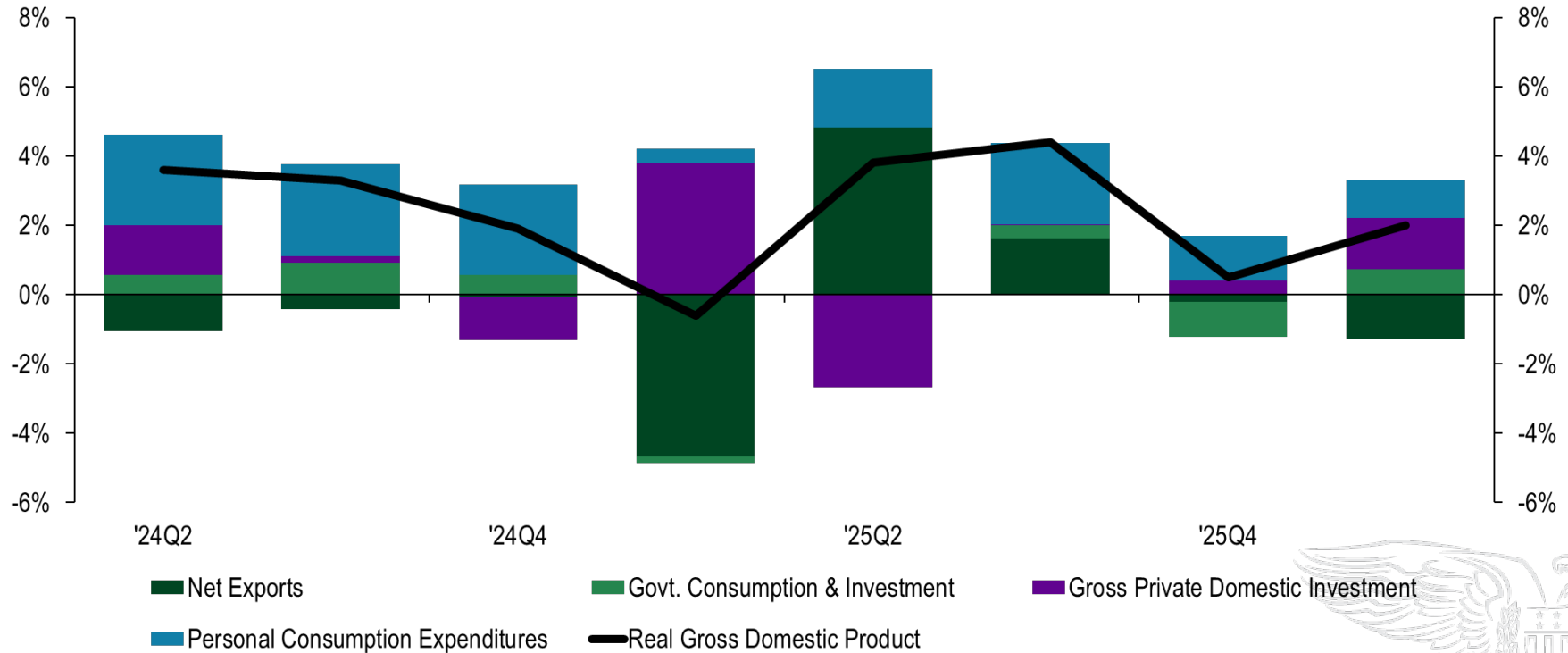


GDP is growing- where is it coming from



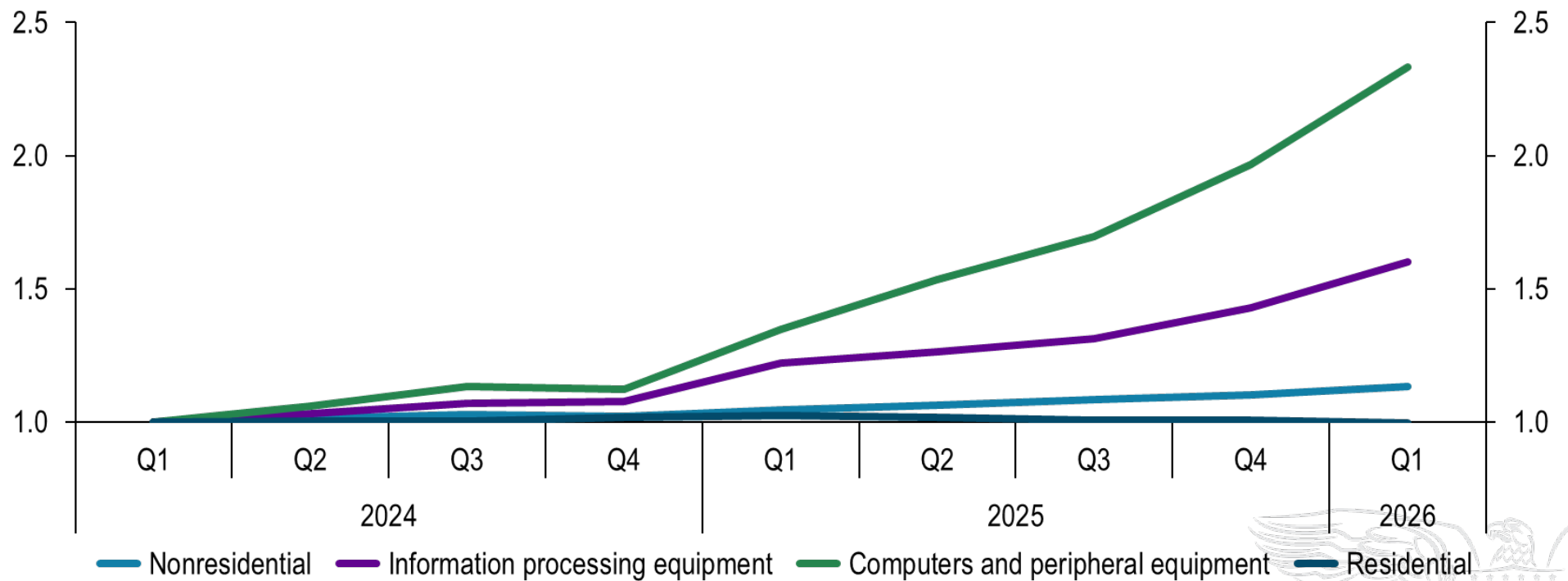
GDP is growing- where is it coming from

Contributions to Percent Change

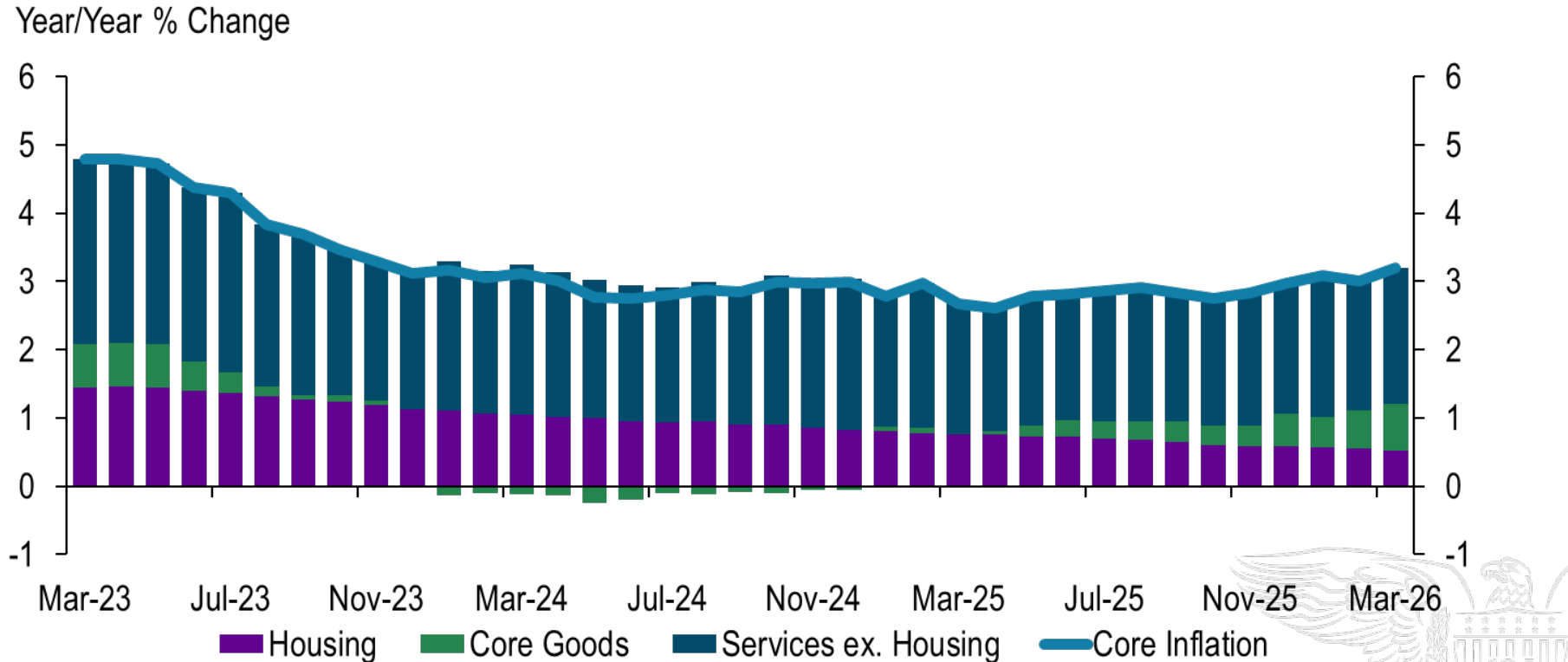


Investment has been concentrated

Indexed (2024Q1) Private Fixed Investment

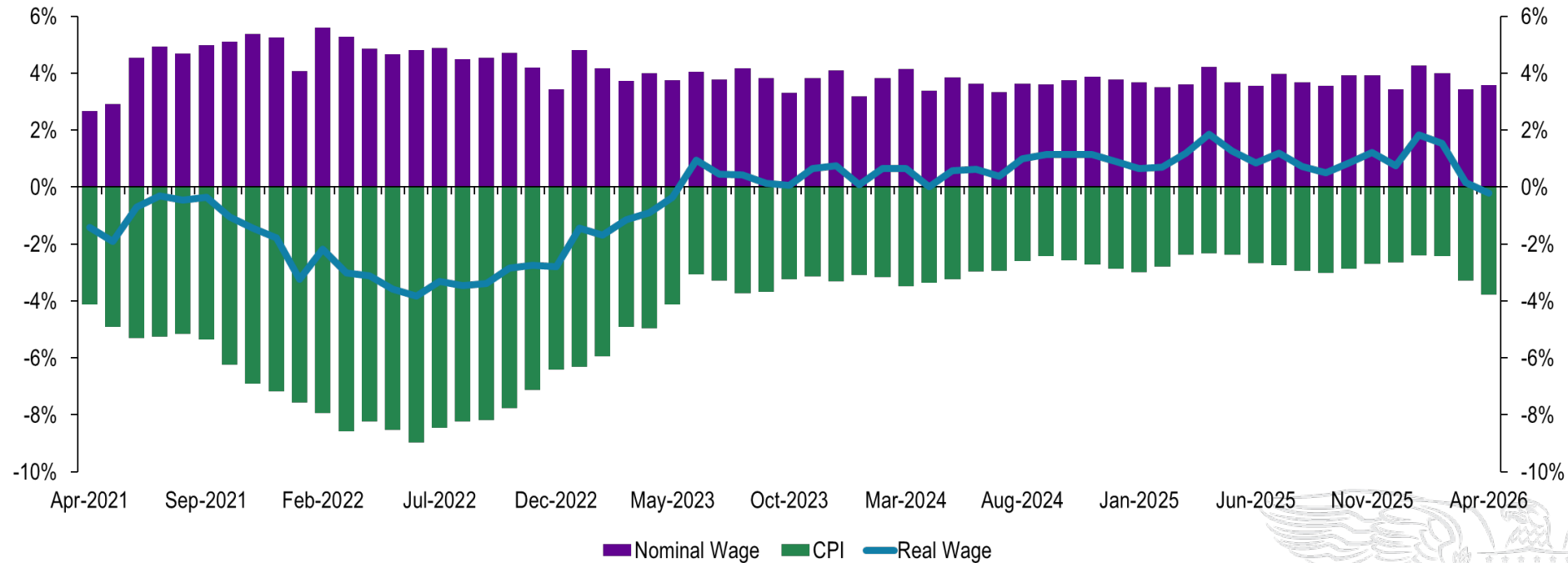


Goods inflation continues to creep in



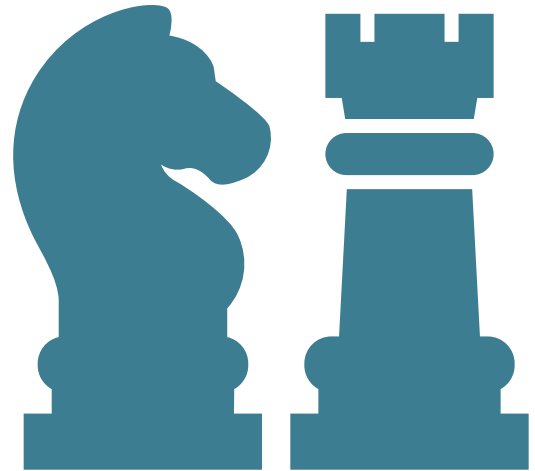
Inflation outpaced wage growth in April

Year over Year % Change

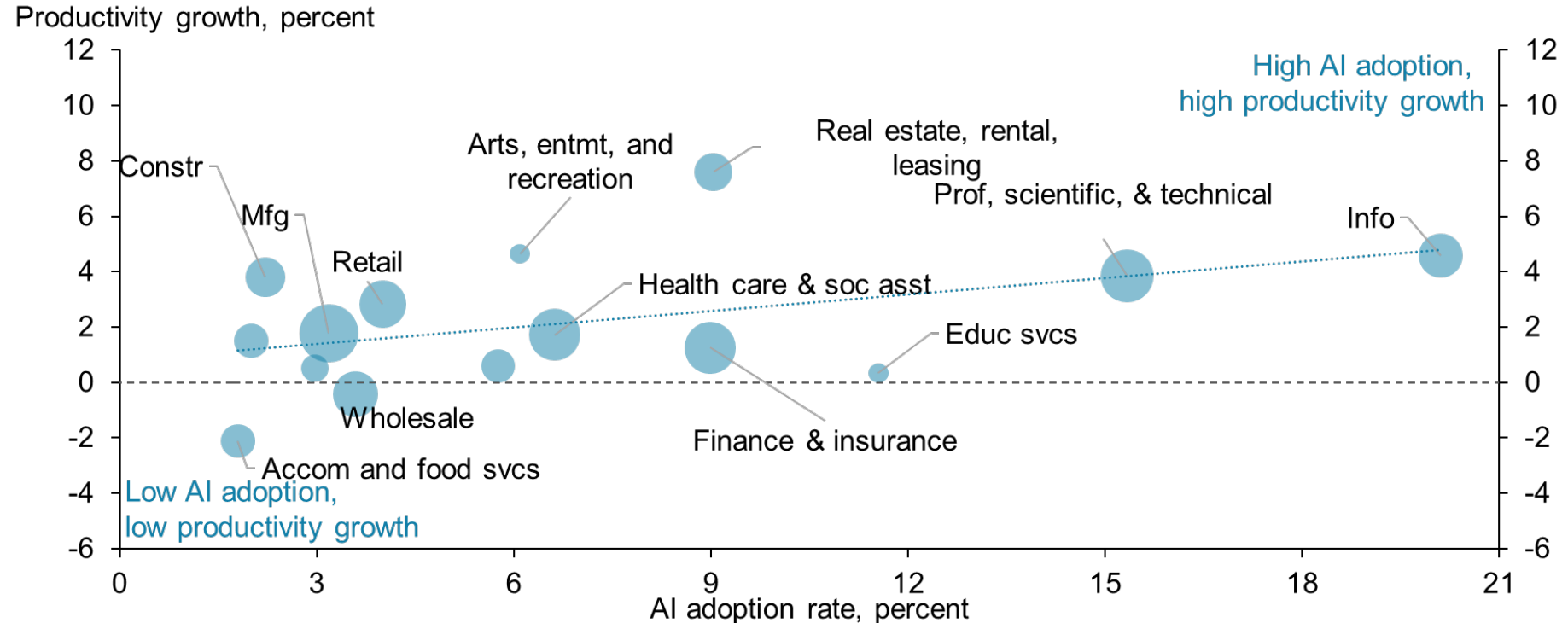


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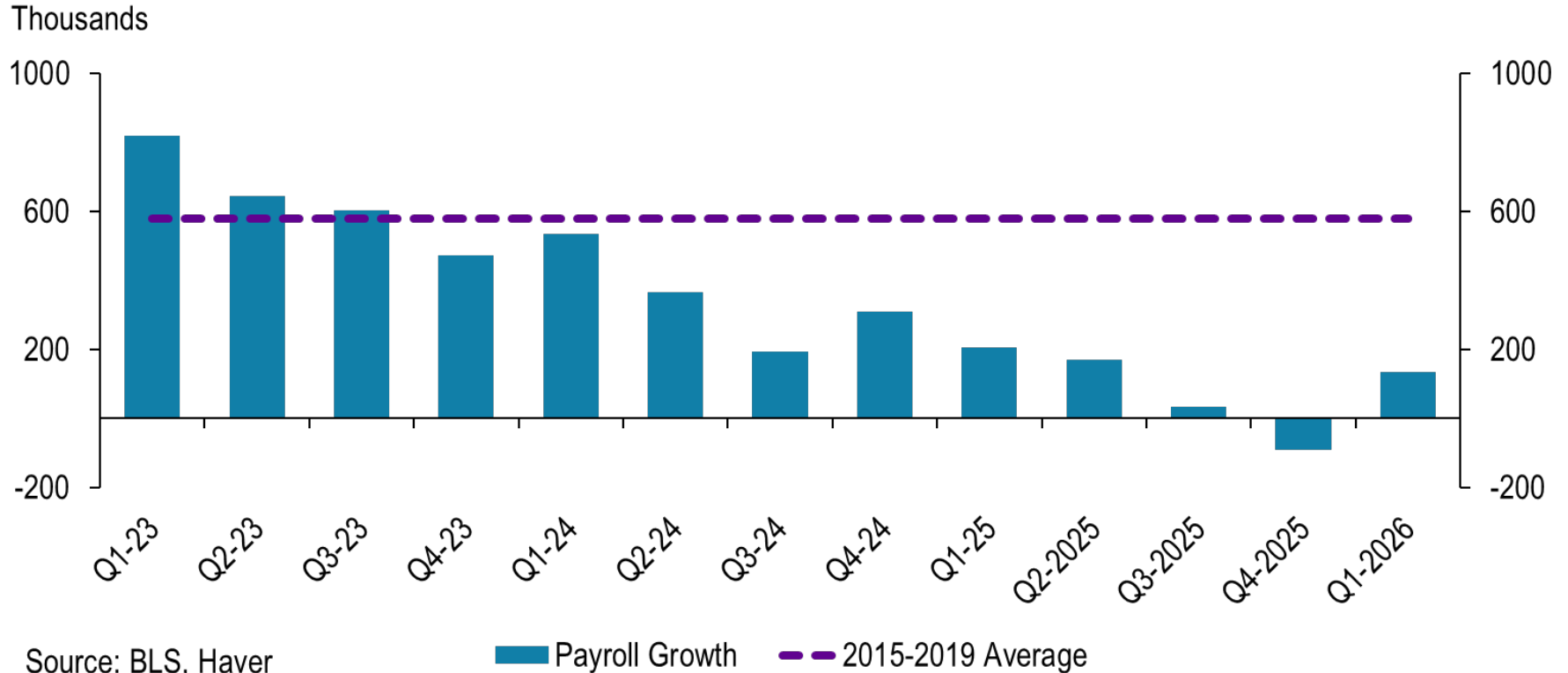


AI is only part of the productivity story

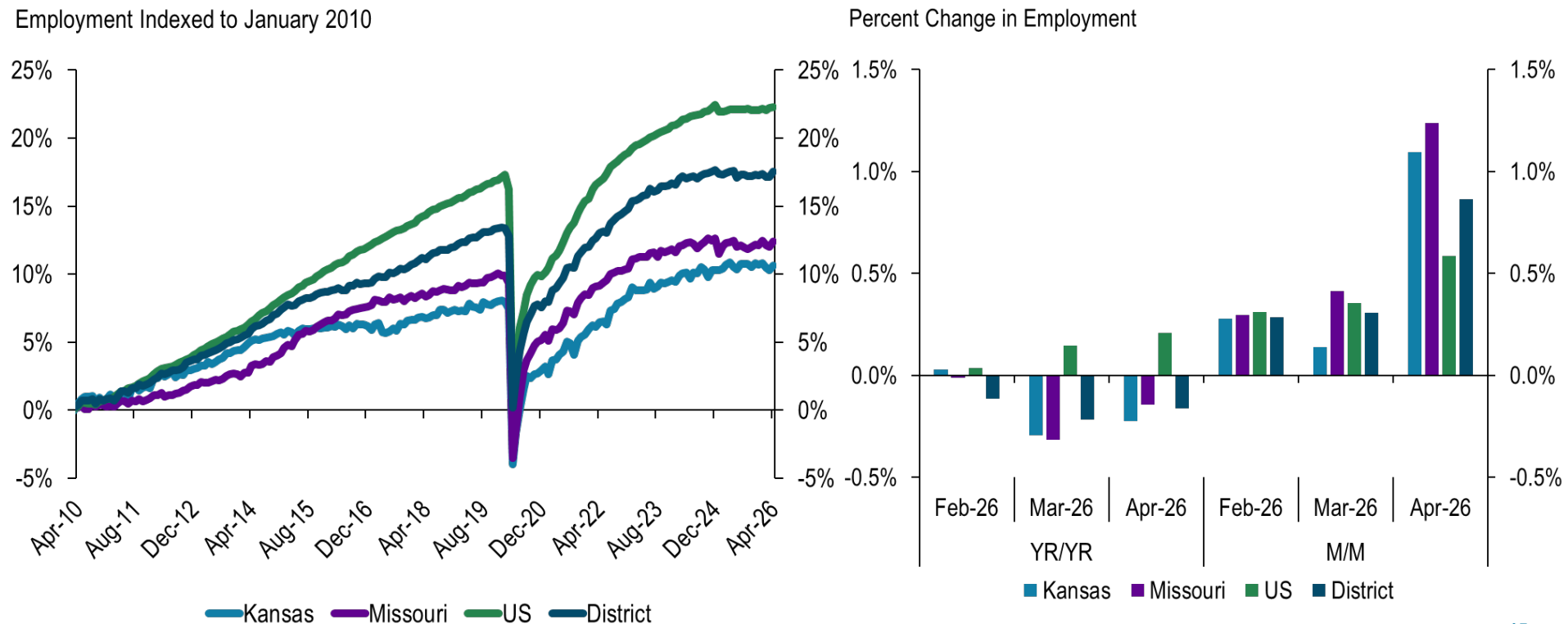


Sources: Nida Cakir-Melek and Sydney Miller, [A New U.S. Productivity Chapter? What Industry Data Say About AI](#), Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City Economic Bulletin, February 11, 2026

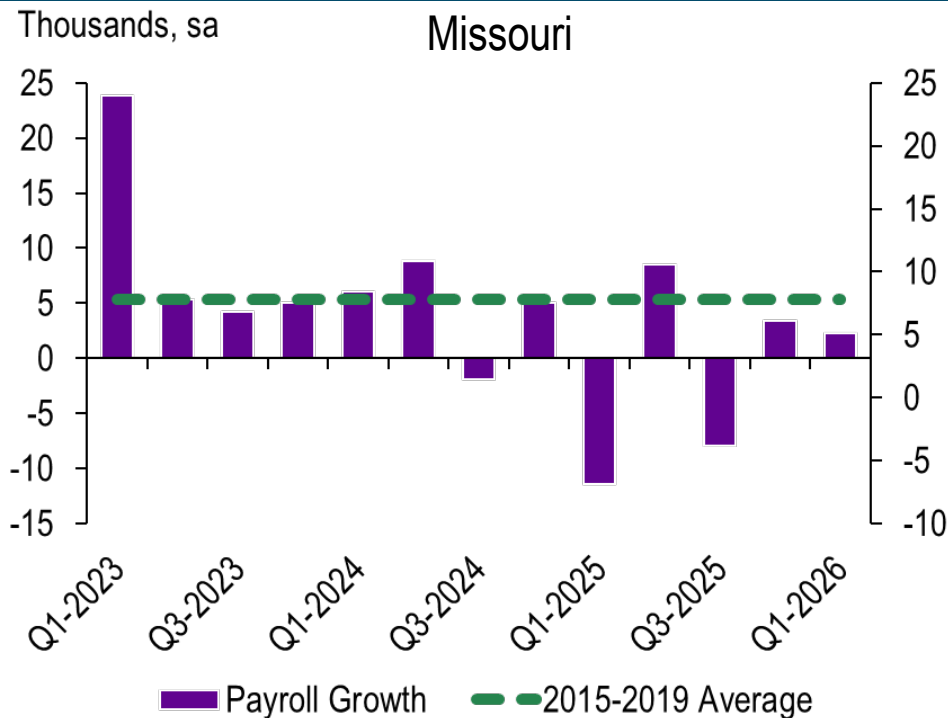
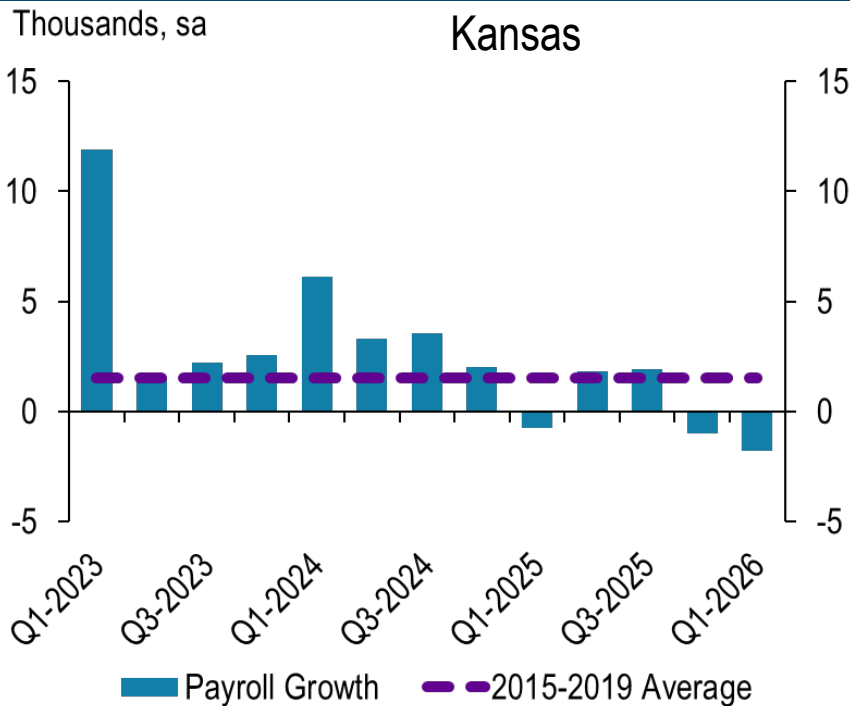
Labor is still cooling



KS and MO are similar to US changes

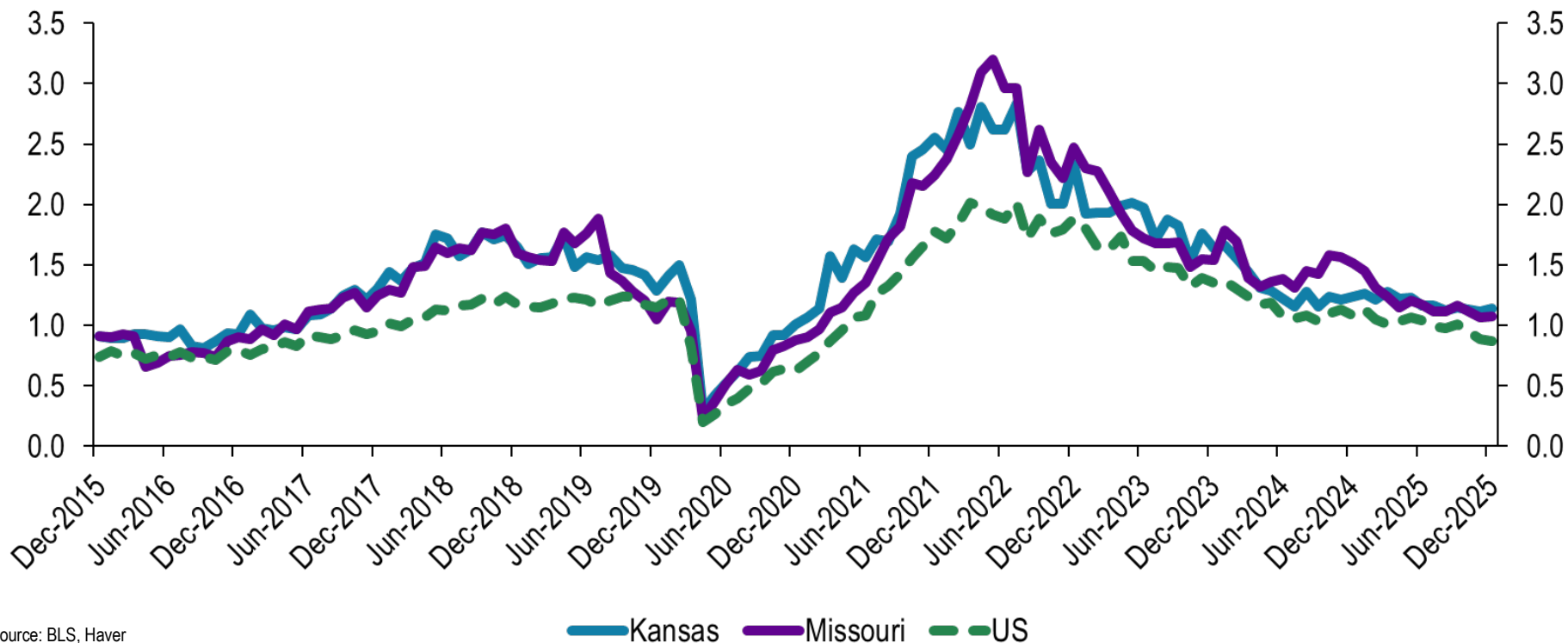


KS is not far from previous tight labor conditions



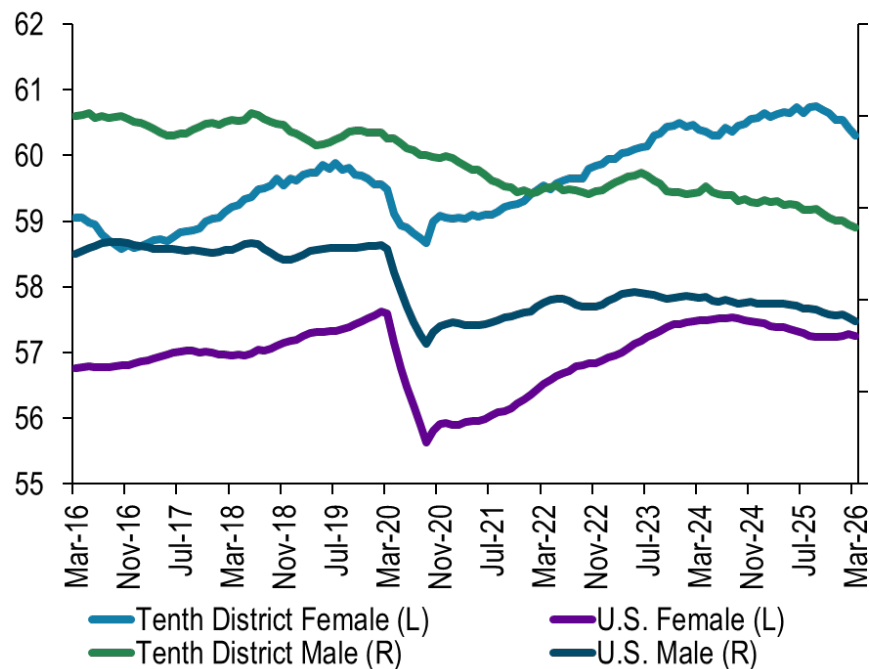
The labor market is balanced

Job Openings to Unemployment Ratio

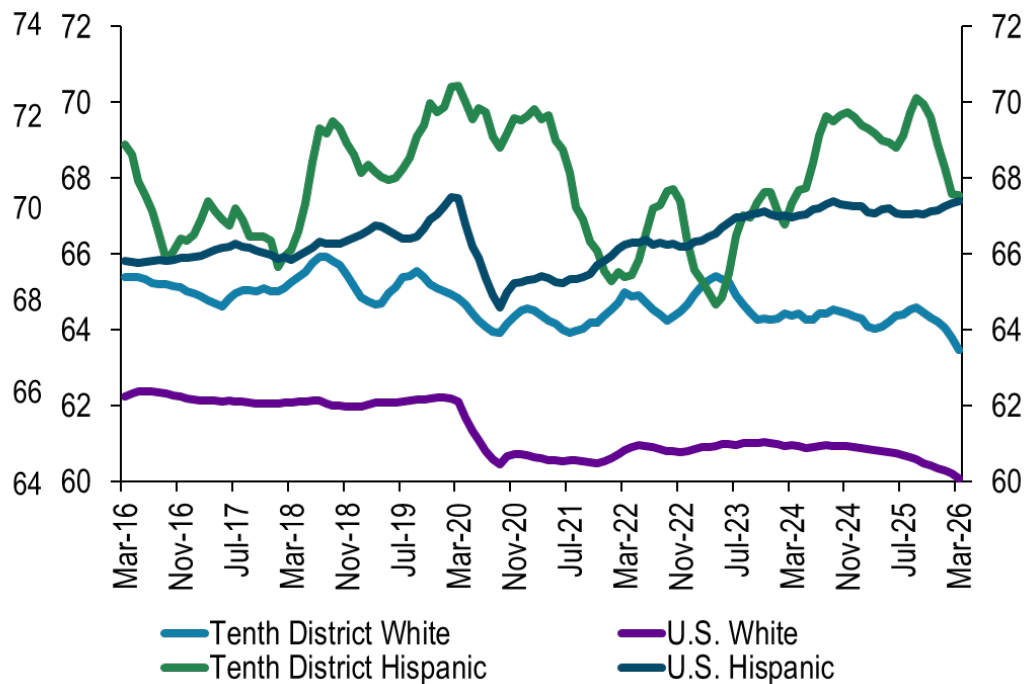


Labor Force Participation

Labor Force Participation Rate 6mma

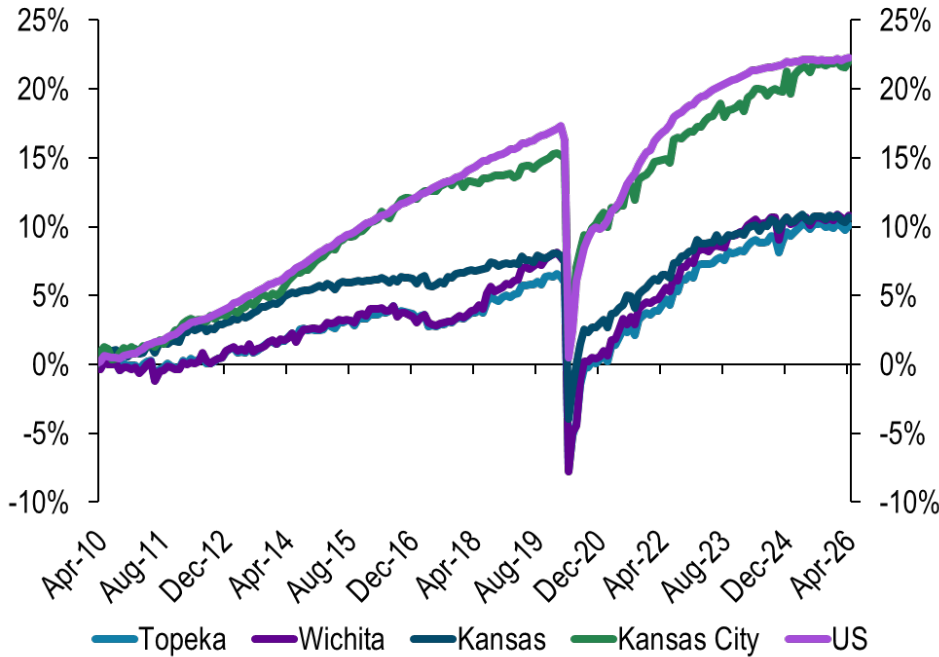


Labor Force Participation Rate 6mma

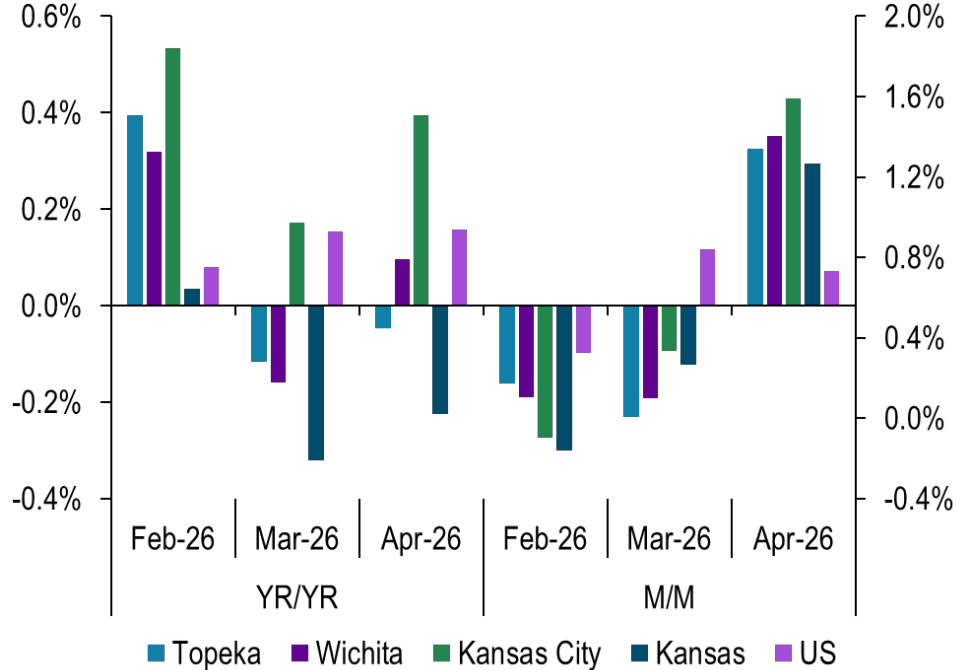


KS – All metros are slowing down

Employment Indexed to Jan 2010

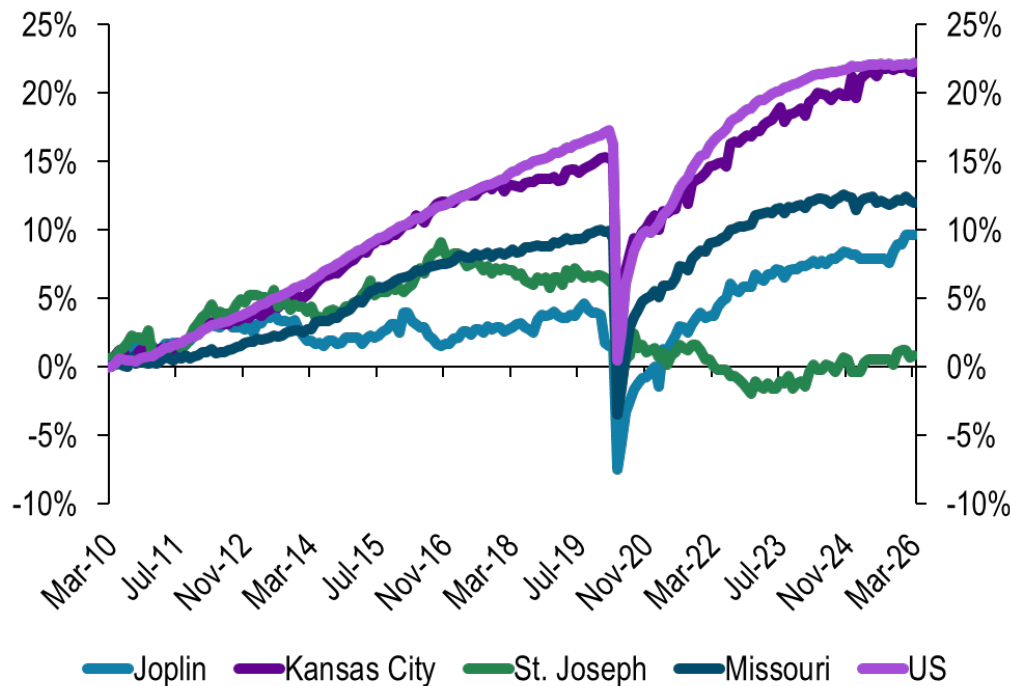


Percent Change in Employment

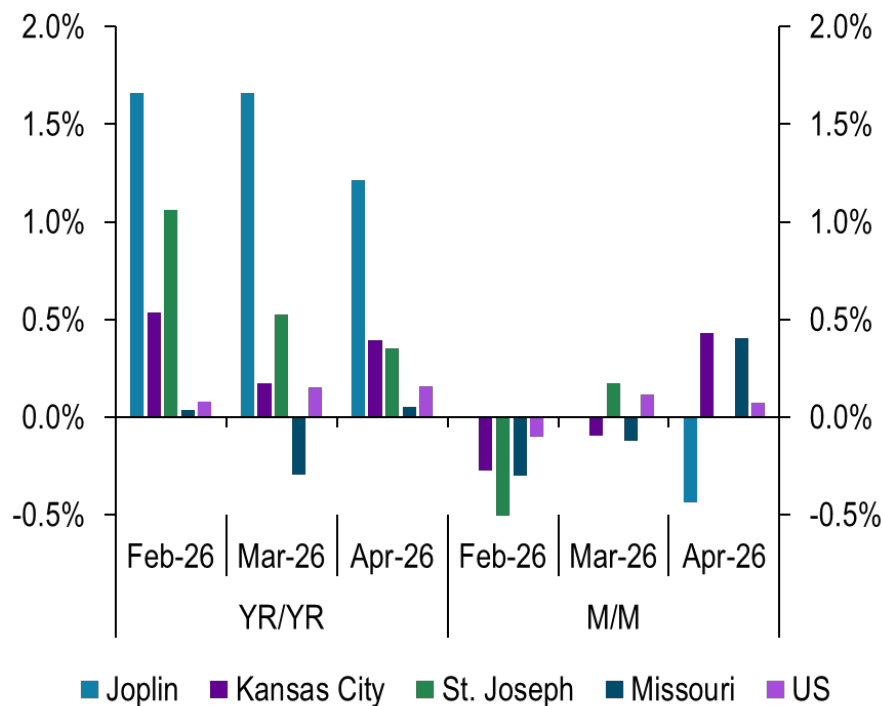


MO – Joplin has grown faster than the other metros

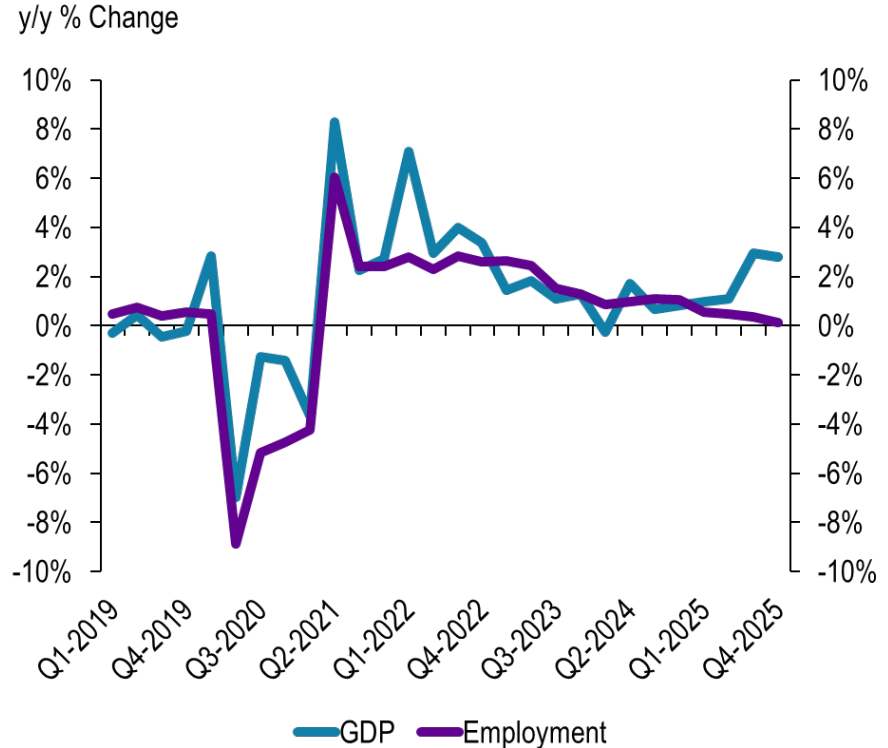
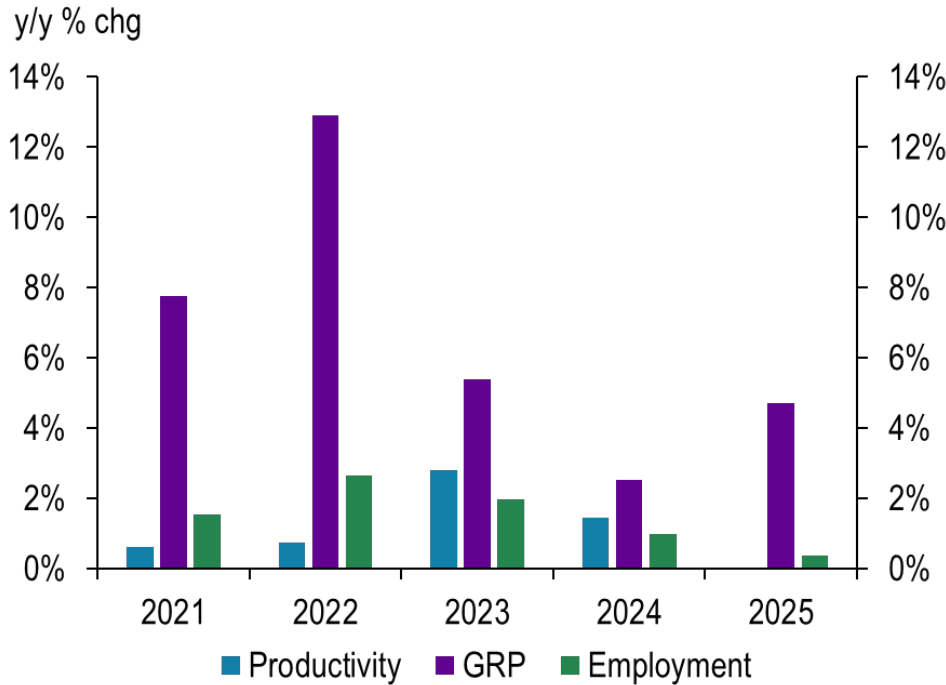
Employment Indexed to Jan 2010



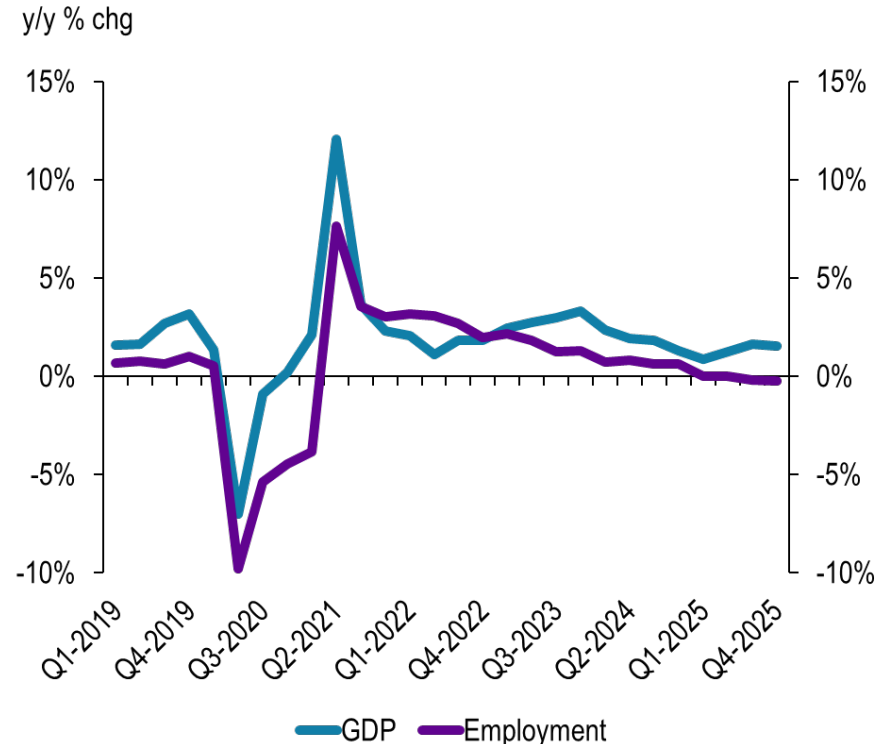
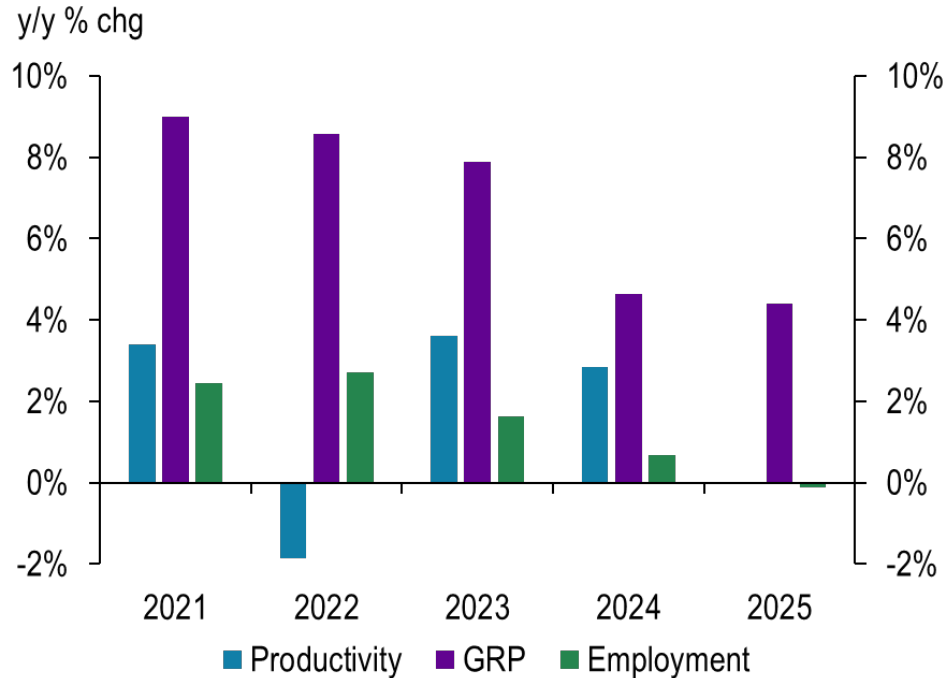
Percent Change in Employment



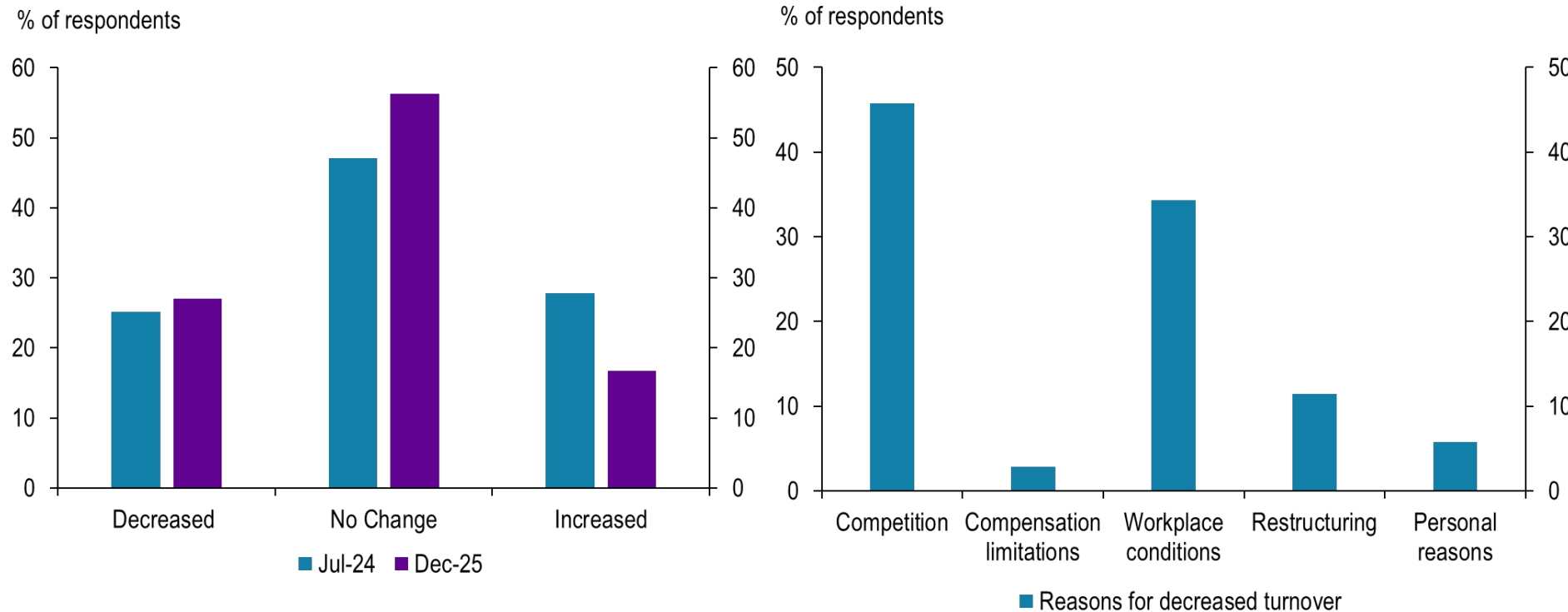
Kansas Productivity



Missouri Productivity



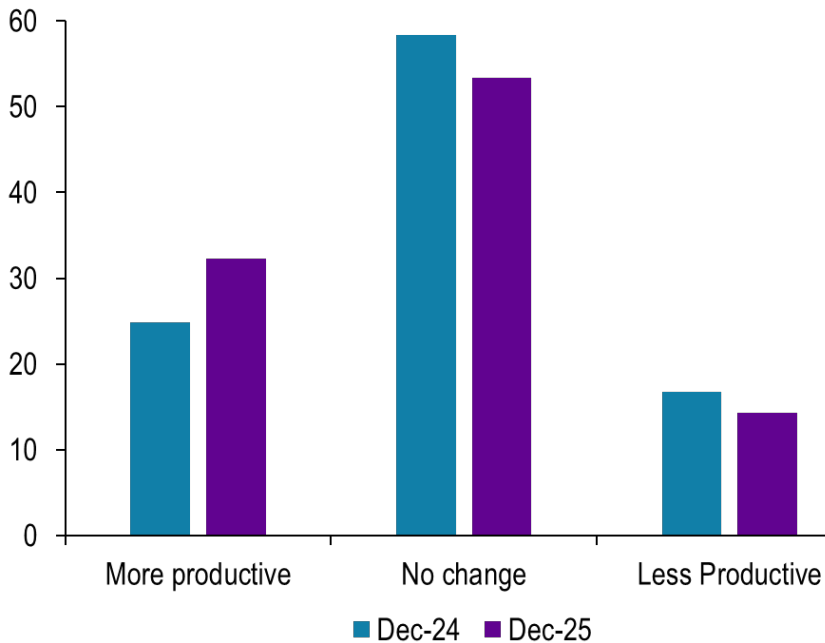
Survey- Labor turnover over the past year



Source: KCFED Manufacturing and Services Survey (DEC)

Survey- Productivity over the past year

% of respondents



% of respondents

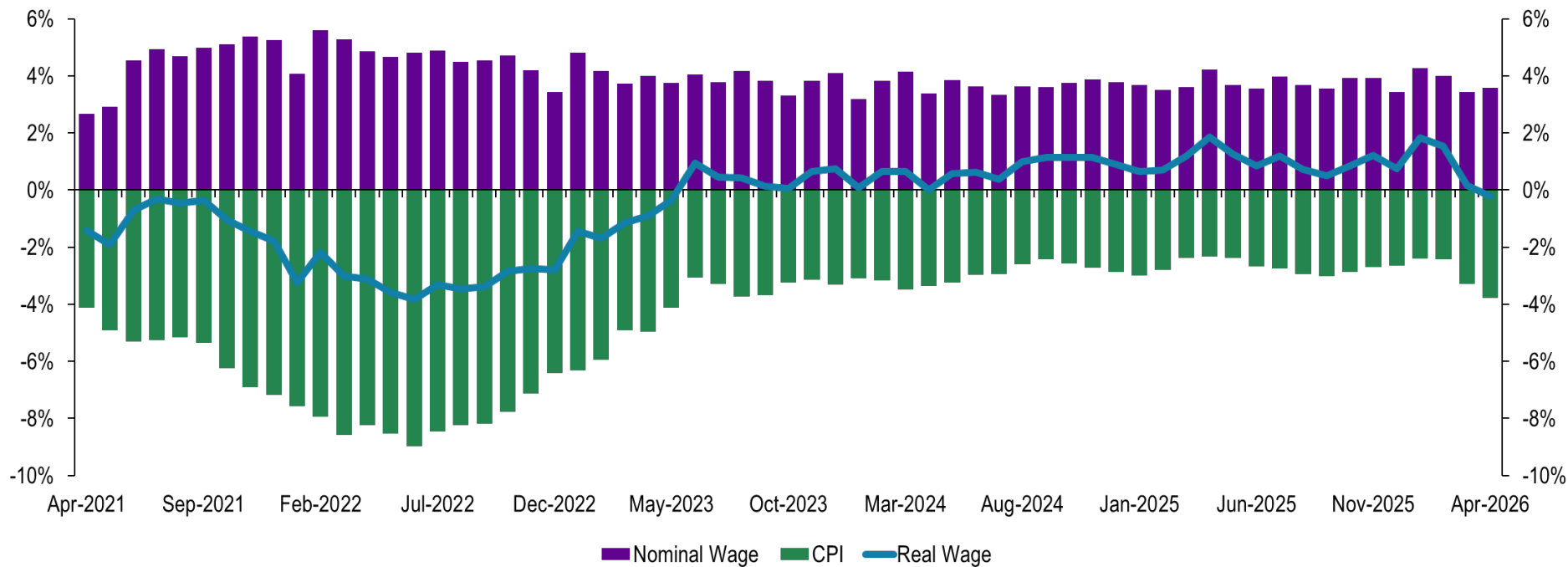


Reasons for increased productivity

Source: KCFED Manufacturing and Services Survey (DEC)

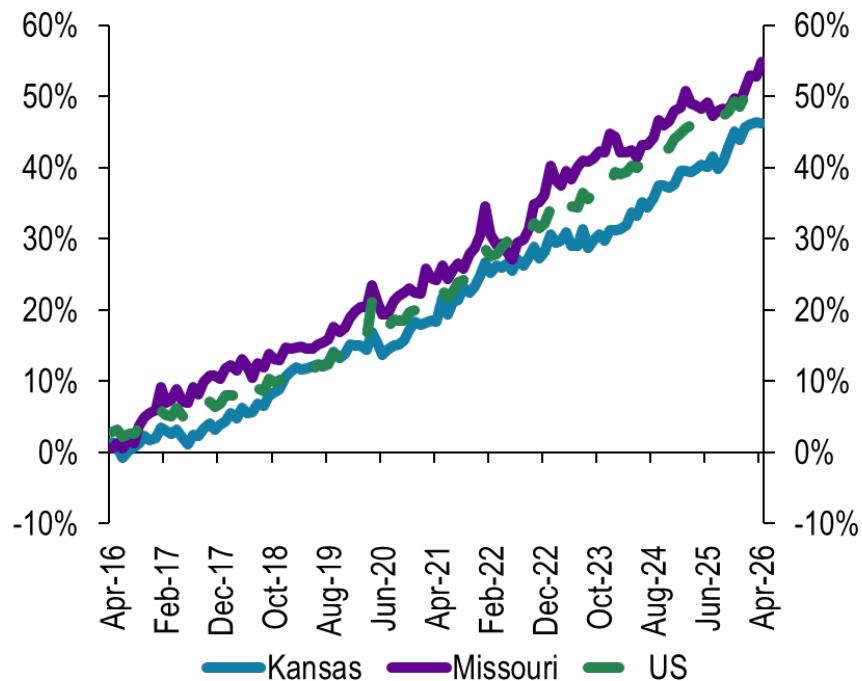
Inflation outpaced wage growth in April

Year over Year % Change

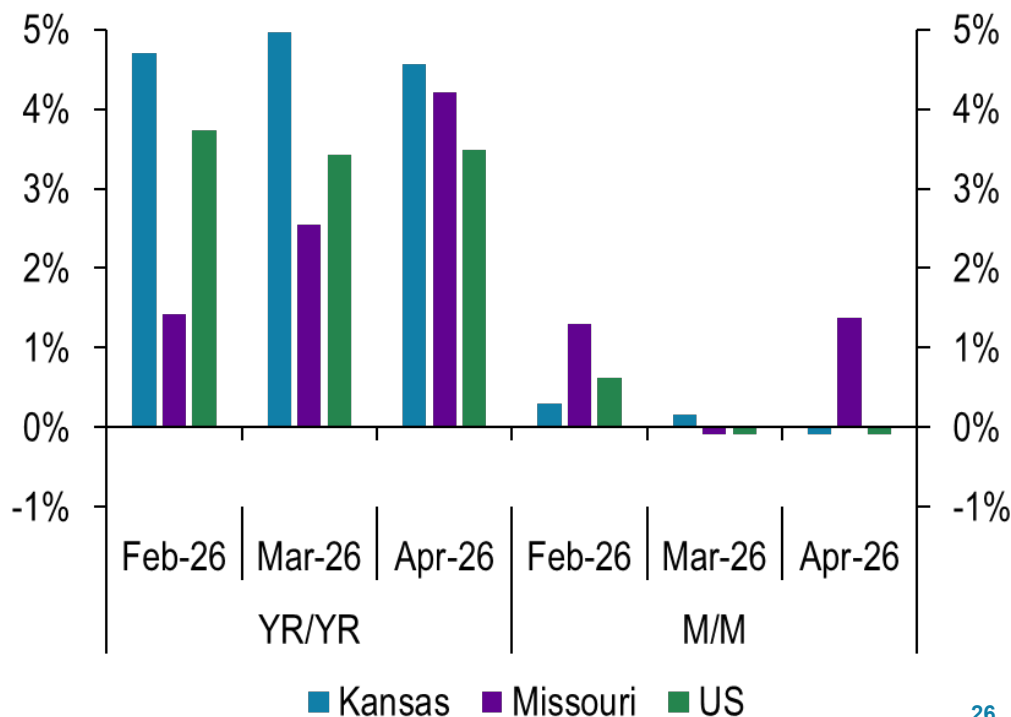


KS nominal wages are starting to catch up to the US

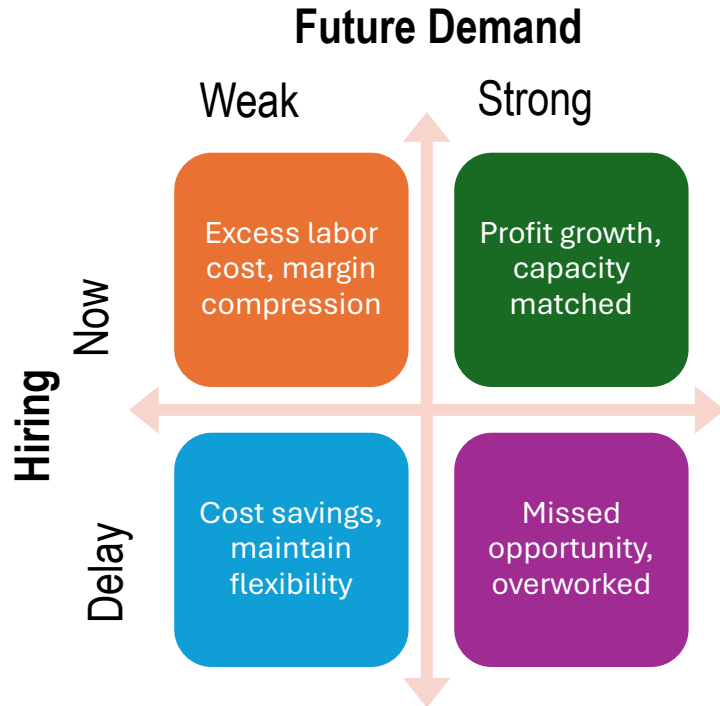
Average Hourly Wage Indexed Jan 2015



Change in Hourly Wages



Labor expansion decision framework



Factors for less labor demand



Productivity – AI and less labor churn



Cost stability – Healthcare and wage competition



Demand alignment – uncertainty in matching capacity



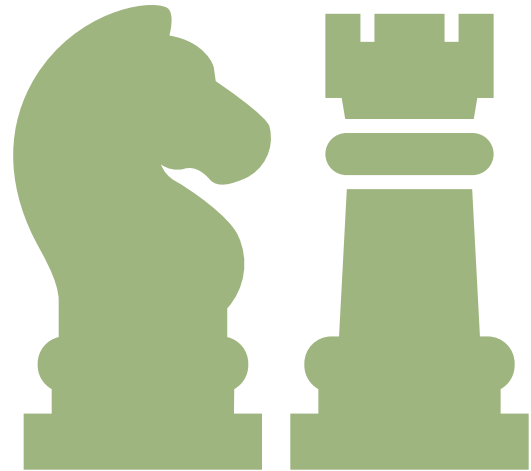
Macroeconomic risks – uncertainty



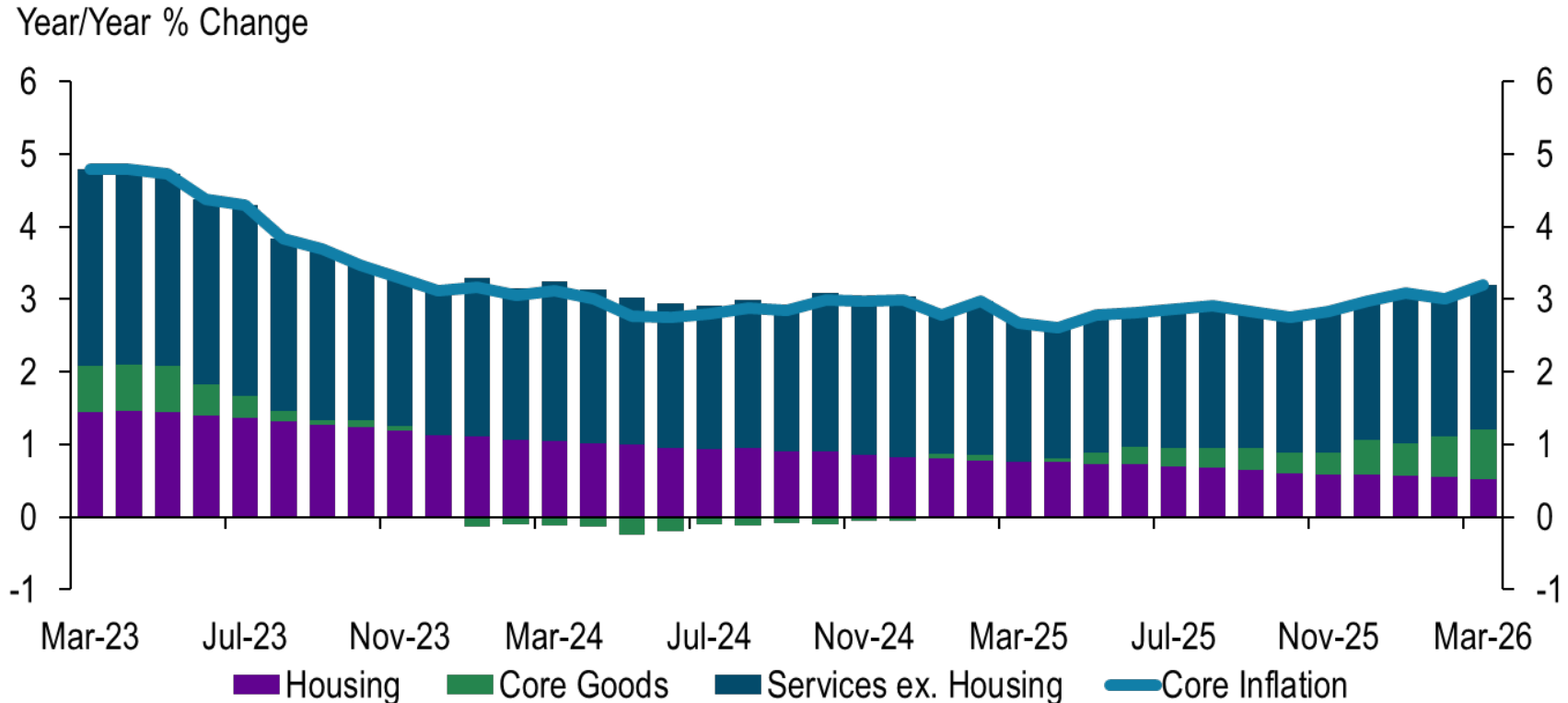
Industry shifts – mergers or increased market share

Inflation

Breaking down cost pressures, inflation expectations, and business responses.

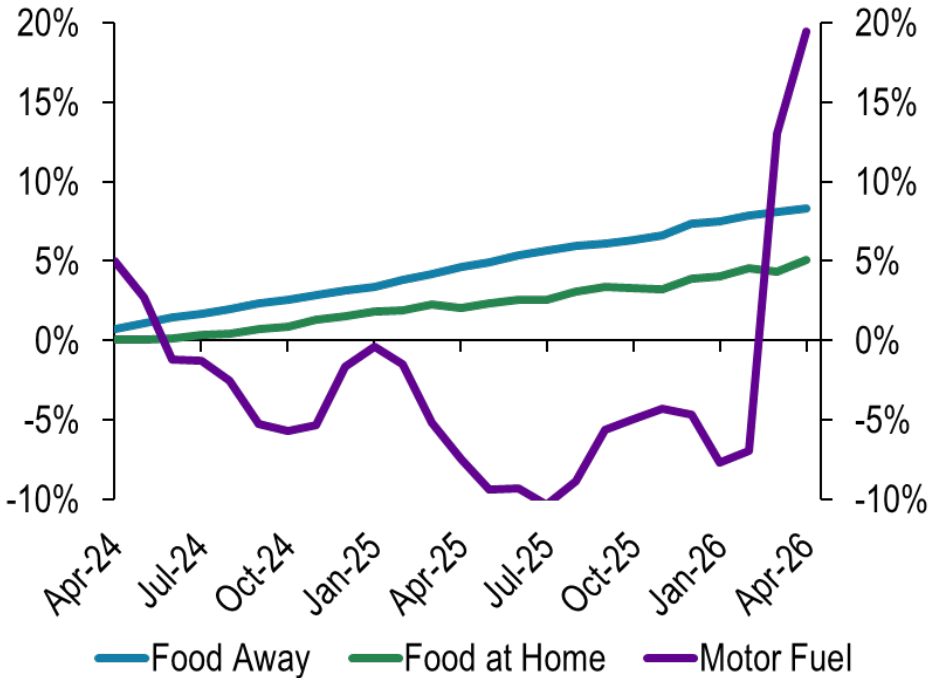


Goods inflation continues to creep in

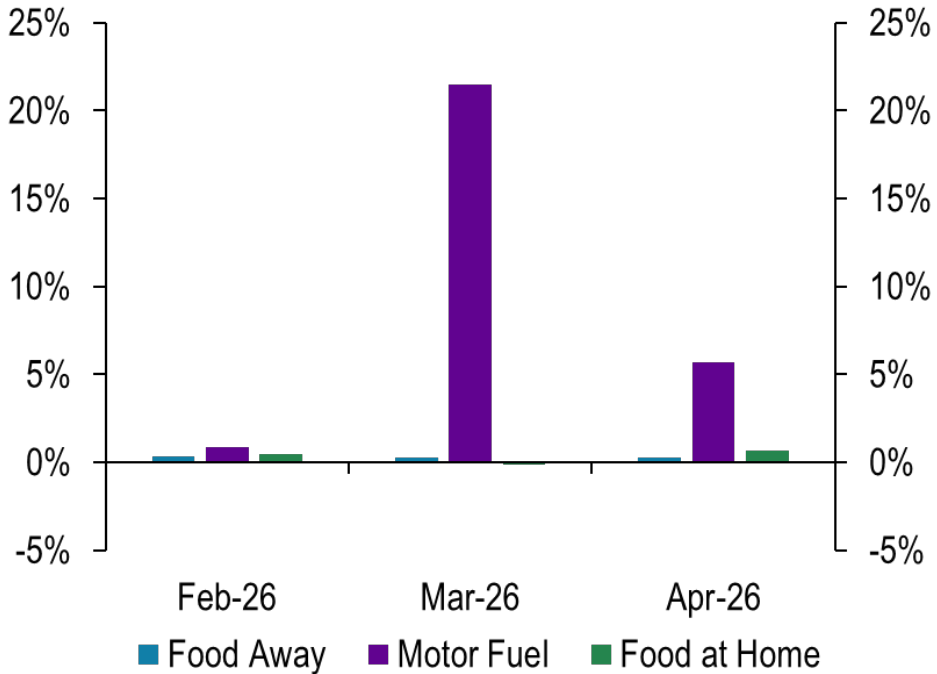


Inflation – Selected variables

% Indexed Jan-24

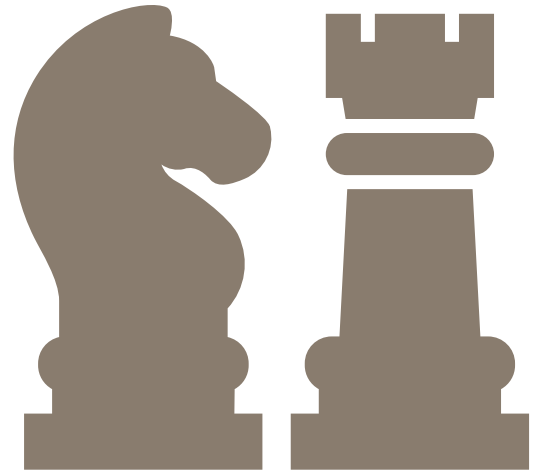


M/M % Change

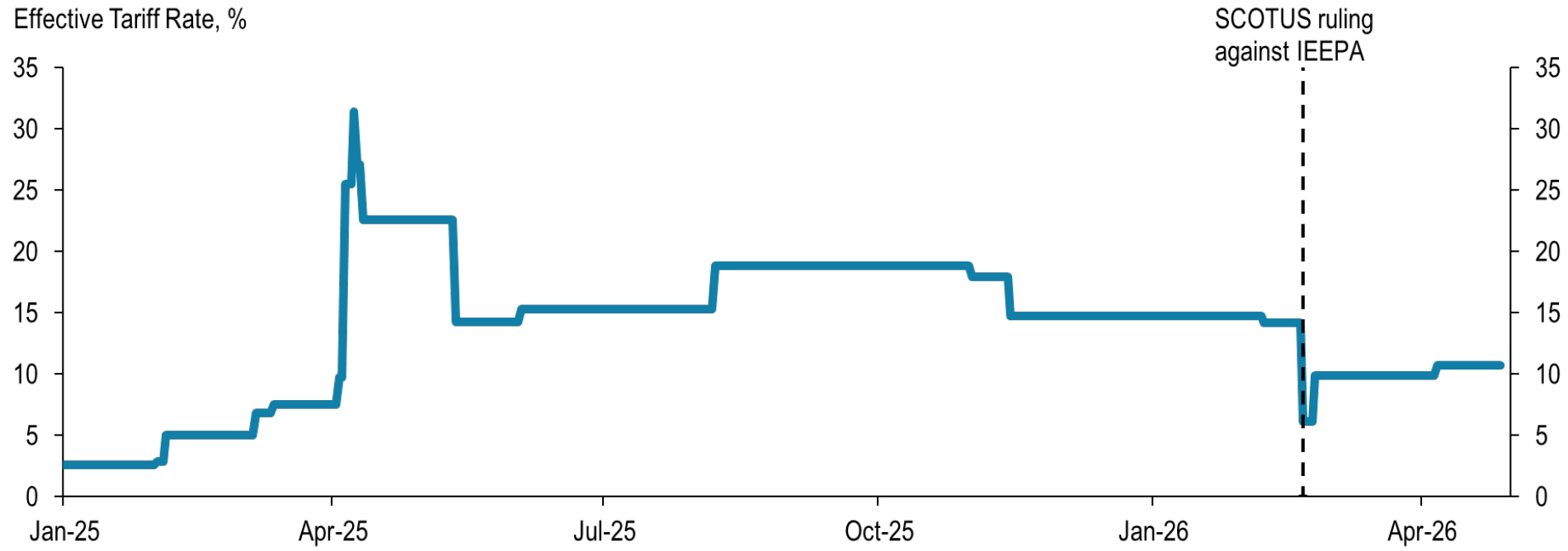


Manufacturing

Examining whether strong production data signals sustained growth or temporary resilience.

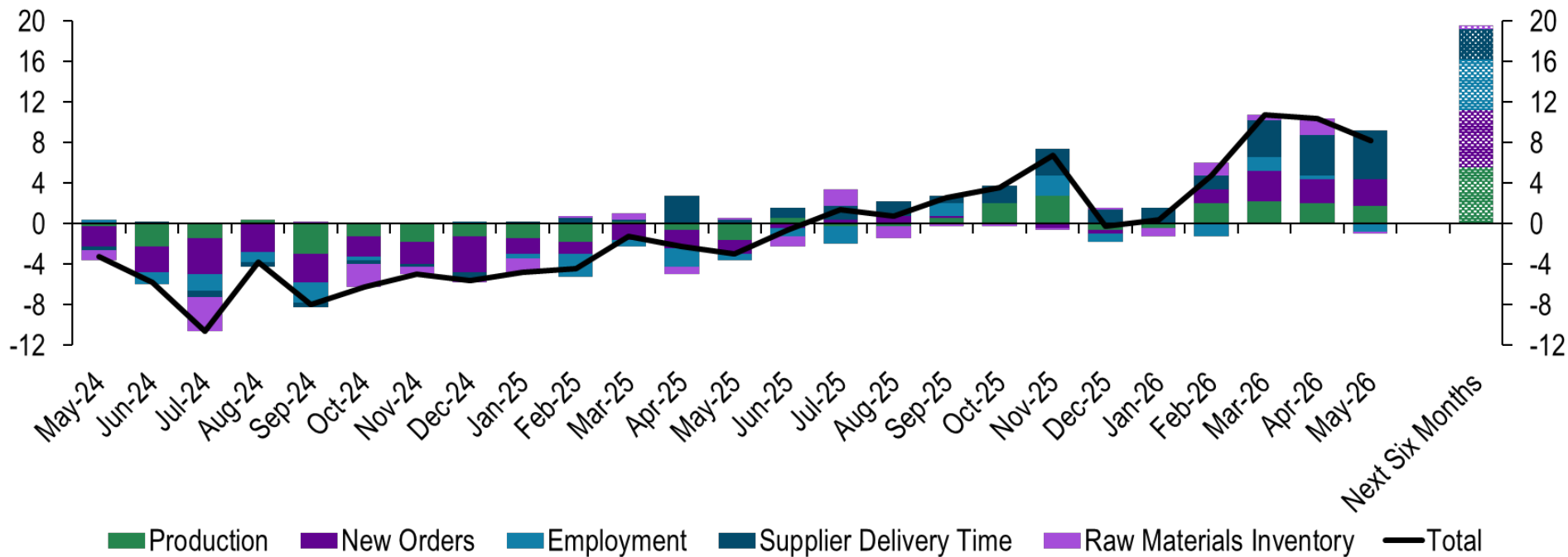


Effective Tariff Rate

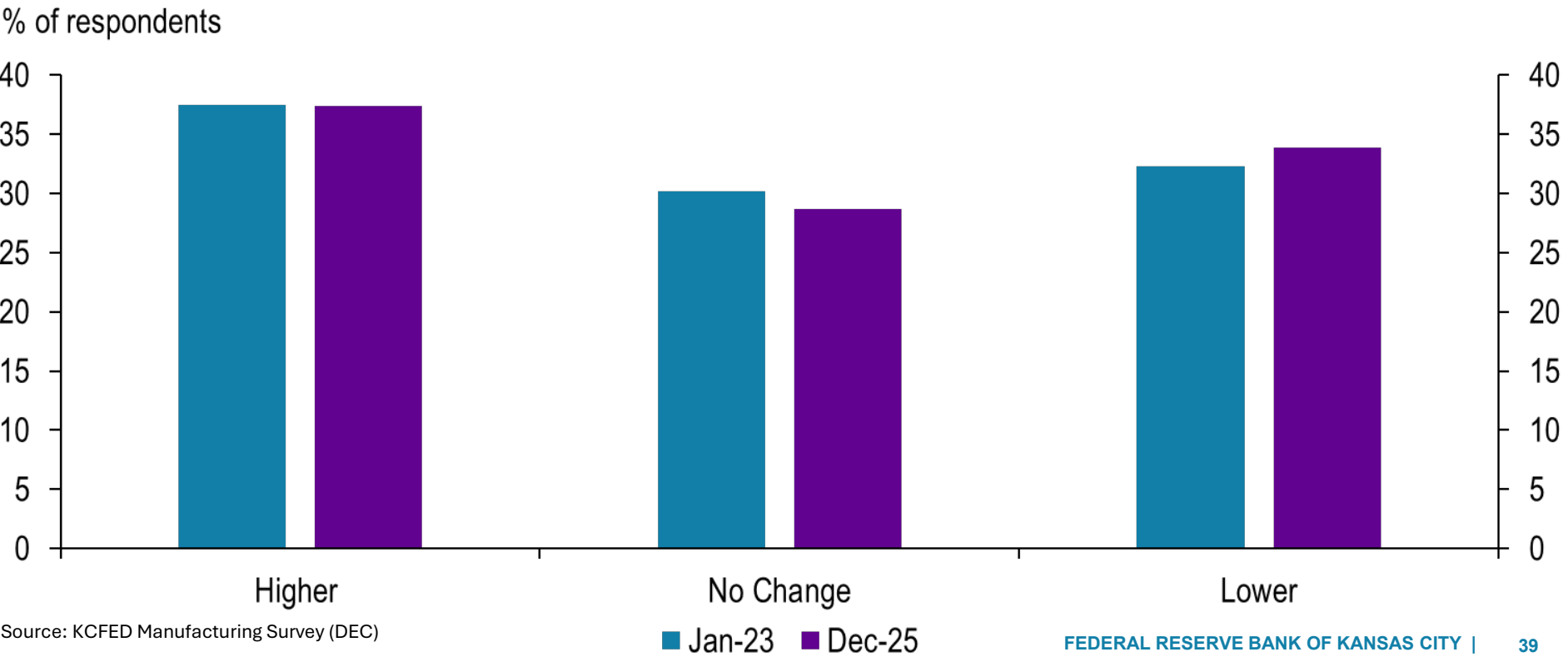


Manufacturing survey – high optimism for new orders

Diffusion Index vs a Month Ago



Survey- Capital expenditures expectations

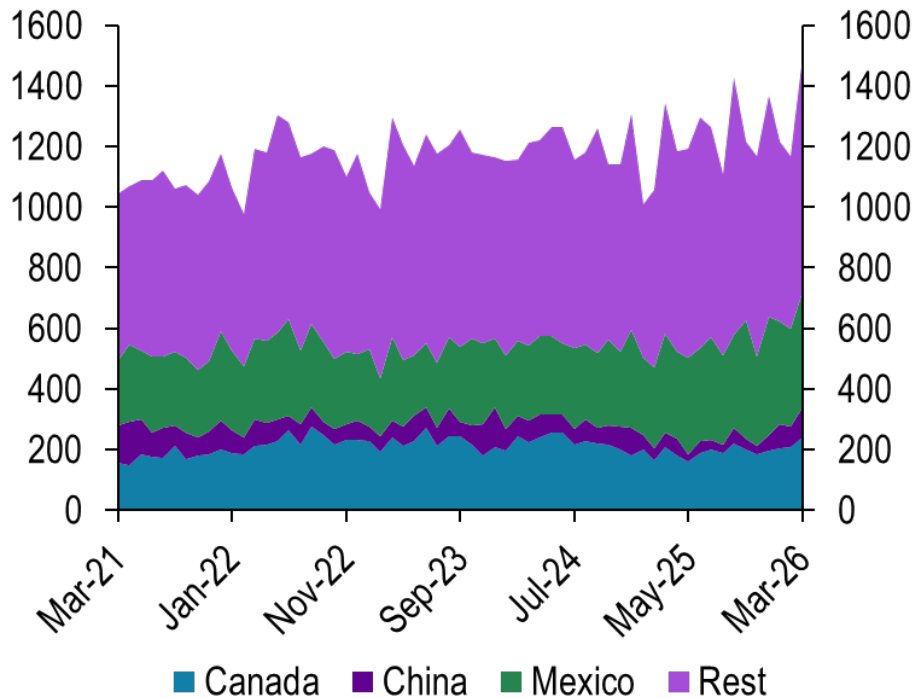


Source: KCFED Manufacturing Survey (DEC)

KS exports have more global exposure

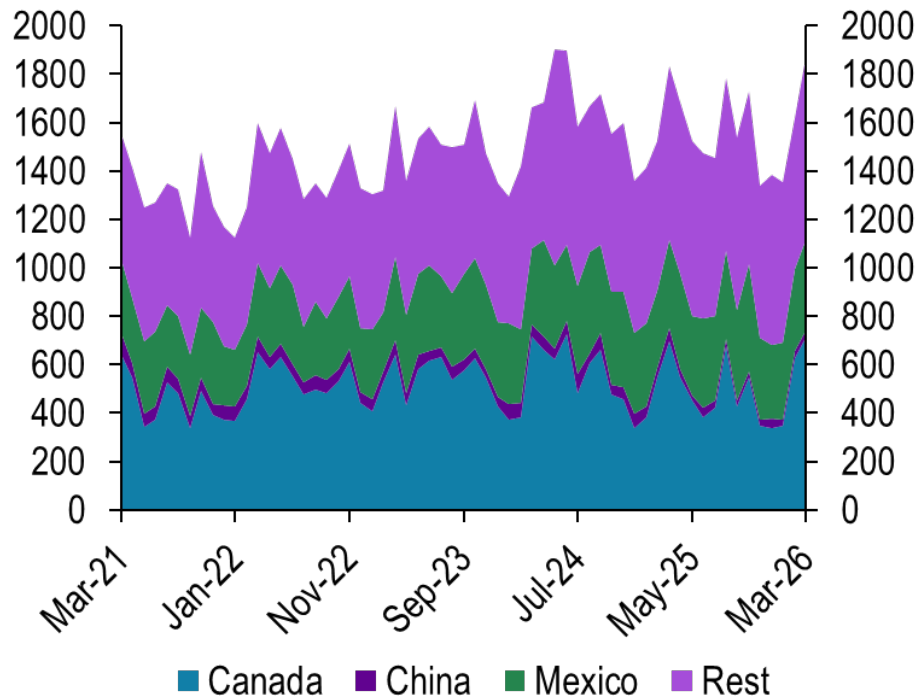
In Millions of Dollars

Kansas



In Millions of Dollars

Missouri



Globally Connectedness – Is there a Midwest advantage?

Domestic – Customers and Suppliers

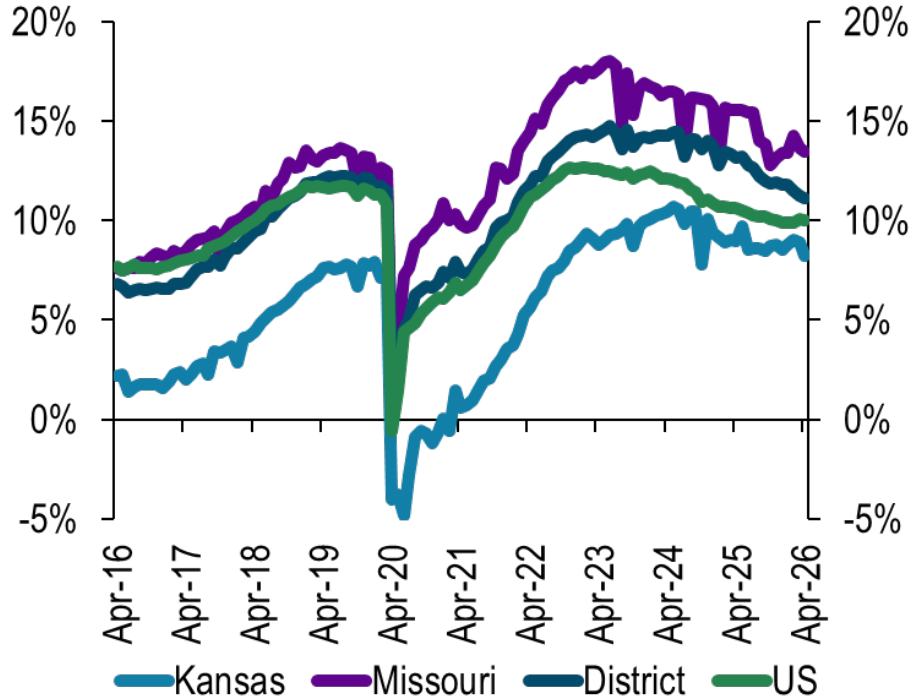
- A more stable cost base enabled price competitiveness and stronger relative margins, gaining market share as import-reliant rivals adjusted pricing.
- Industry Examples:
 - Food production
 - Fabricated metals
 - Metal foundry
 - Consumer goods

Foreign – Customers and Suppliers

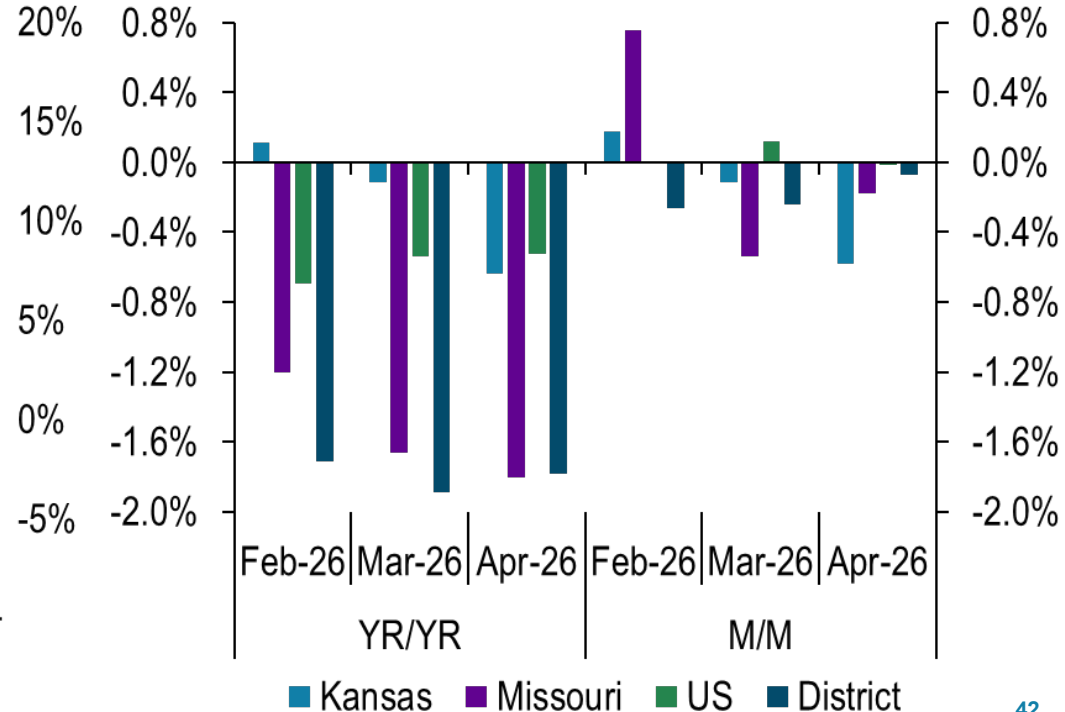
- Industries faced pressure from rising input costs and declining global competitiveness. Strategies included tightening margins, cutting output, adjusting product lines, switching to lower-cost inputs, or passing on costs to customers.
- Industry Examples:
 - Automotive
 - Aerospace
 - Machinery equipment
 - Farm equipment

Manufacturing Employment is slowing

Employment Indexed to 2010

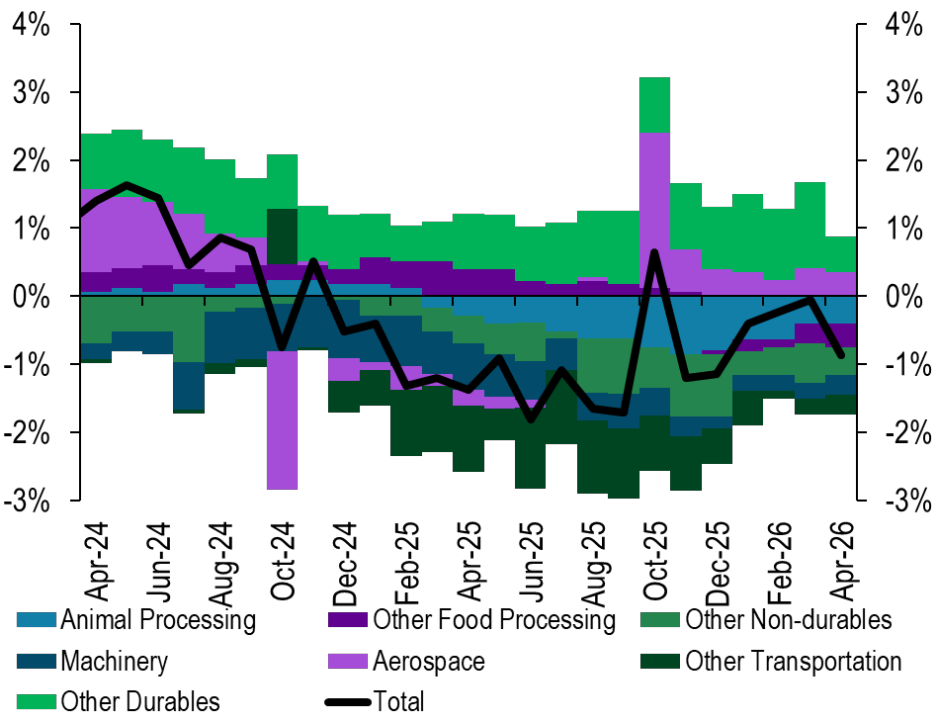


Employment Change

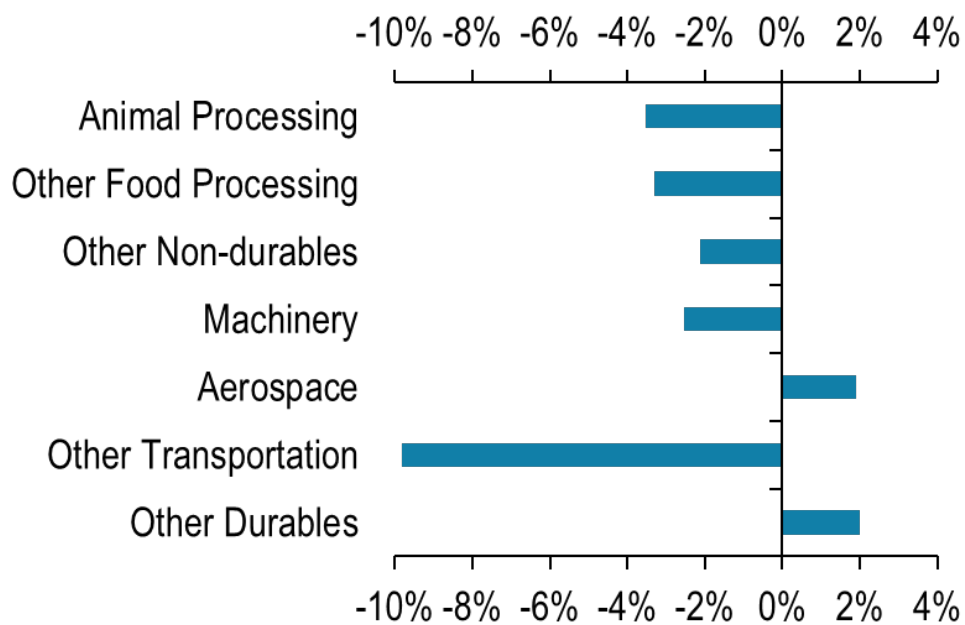


KS: Other durables has propped up the economy

Contributions to change in employment Kansas

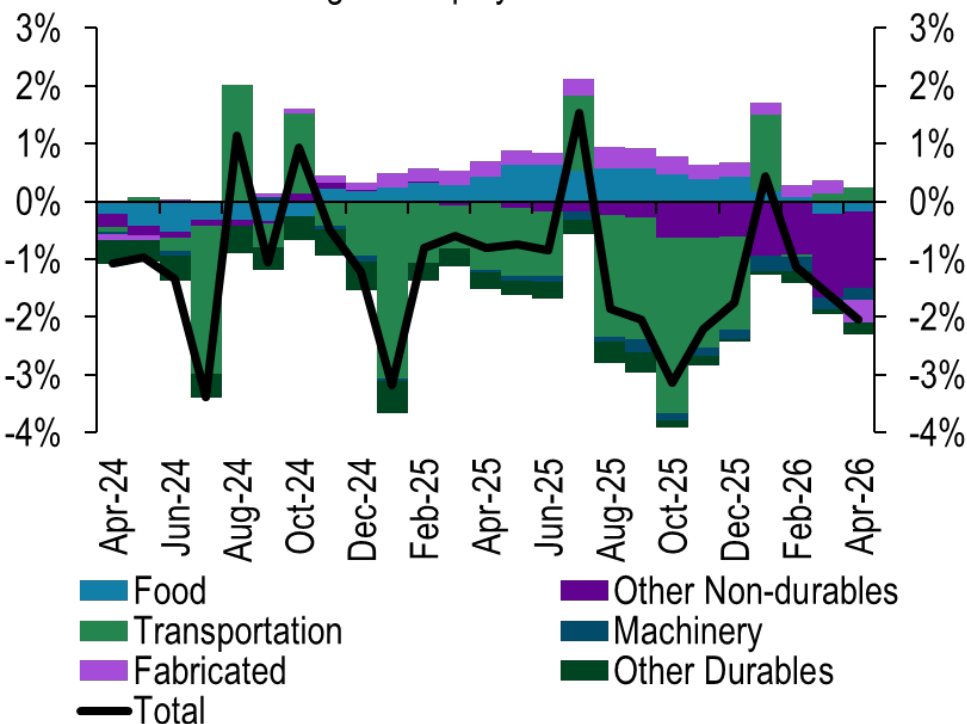


Y/Y % chg in employment Apr 2026

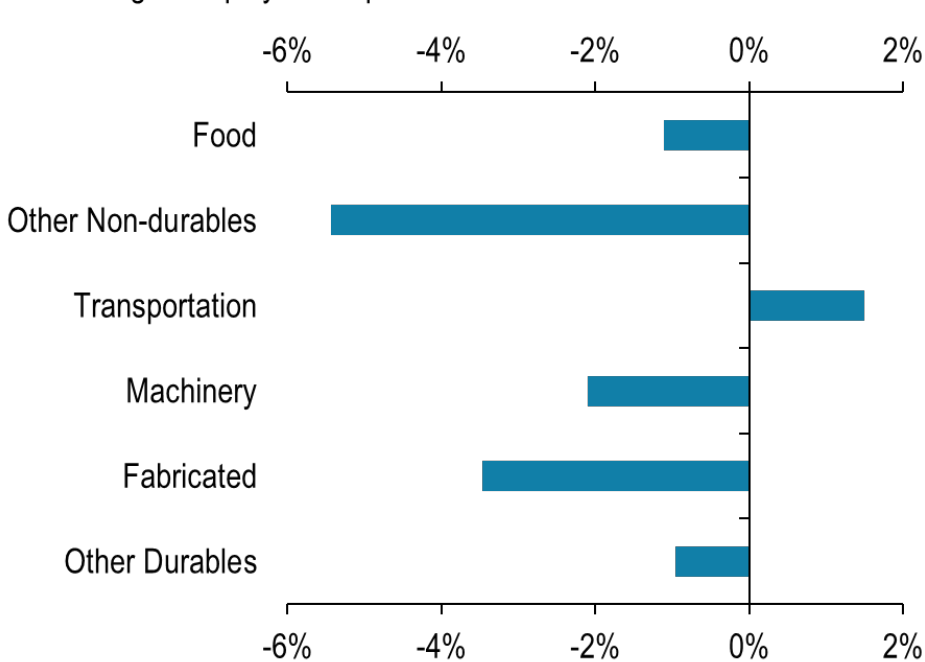


MO: Transportation employment has been volatile

Contributions to change in employment Missouri

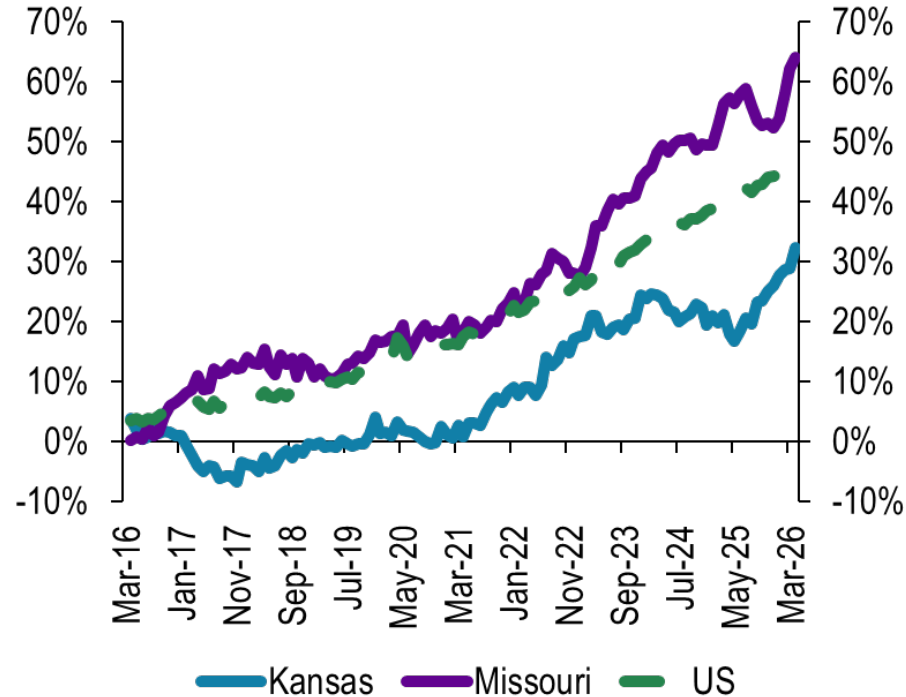


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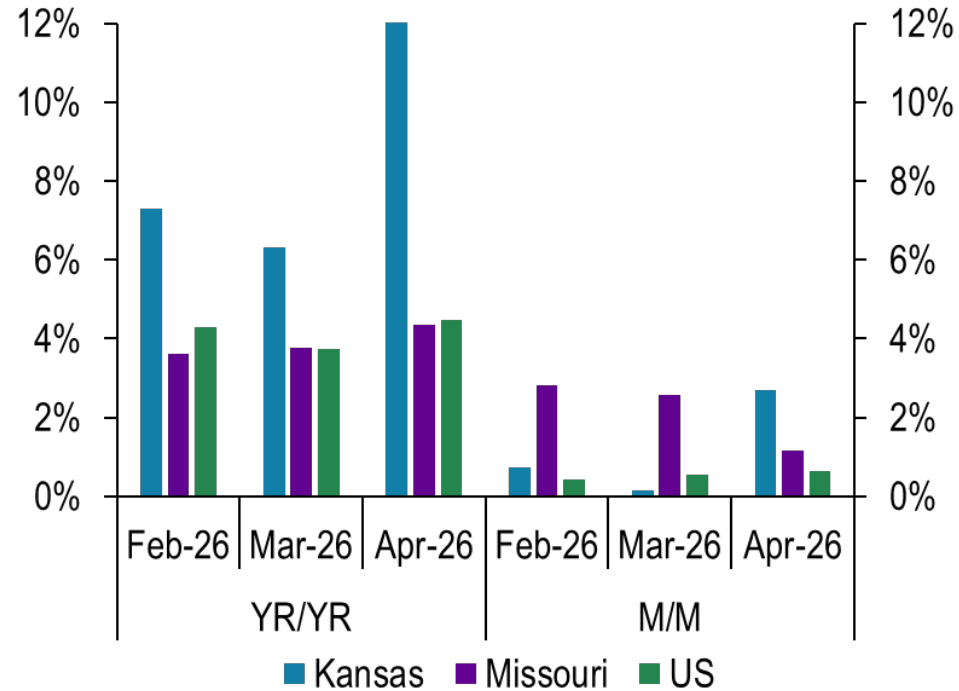


Manufacturing Wages

Manufacturing Wages Indexed Jan 2015

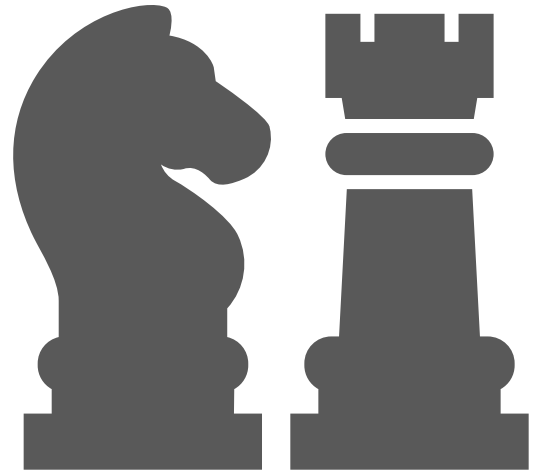


Change in Manufacturing Weekly Wages



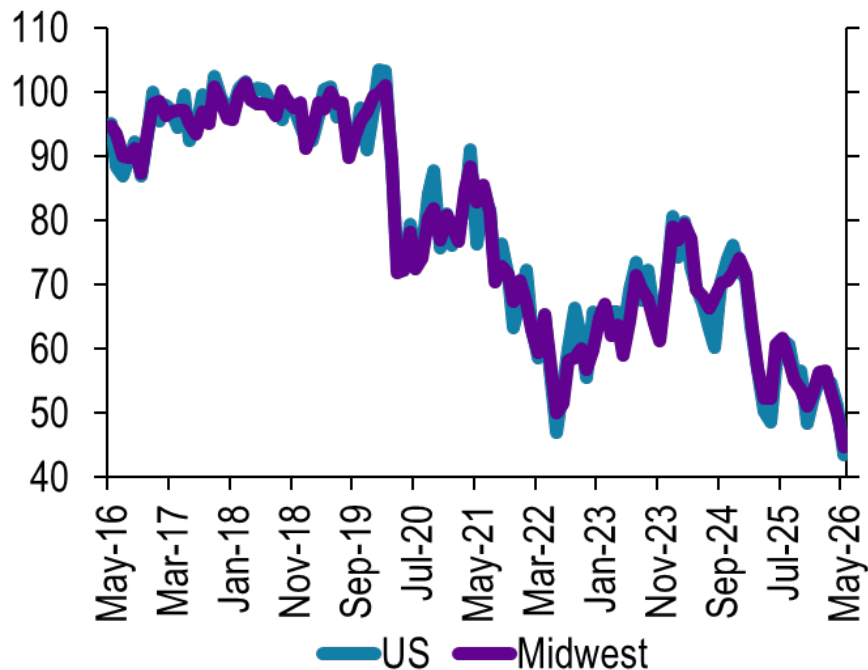
Services

Analyzing the strength of the service sector amid shifting consumer and business confidence

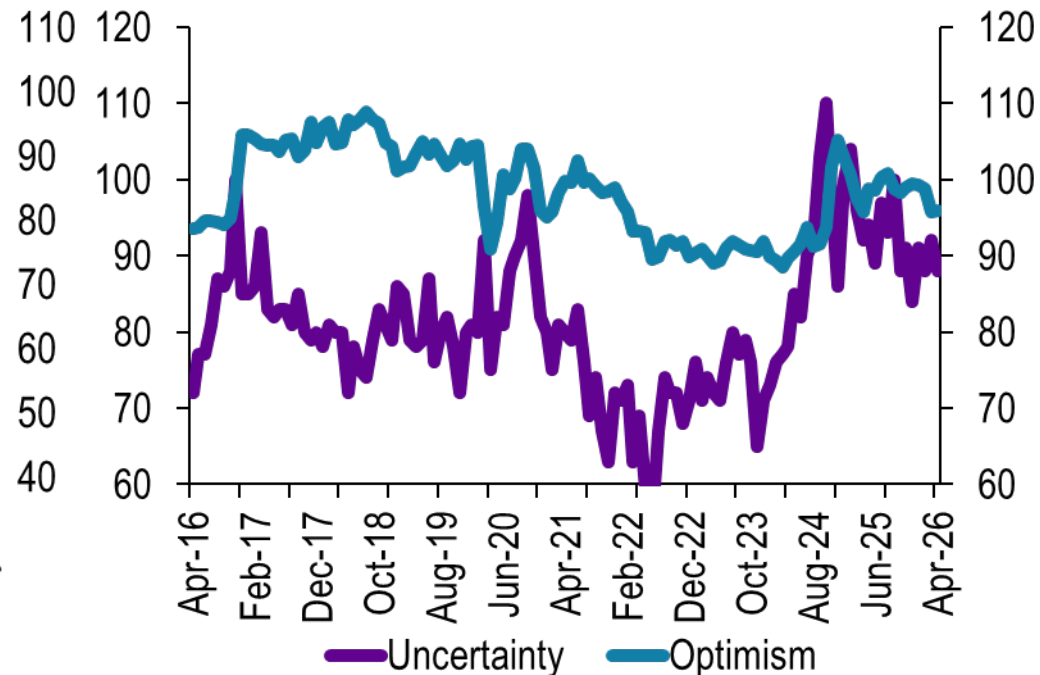


Consumers sentiment declined while business uncertainty remains high

Consumer Sentiment Index (Q1-66=100)



Small Business Uncertainty



Services survey – Revenue is improving

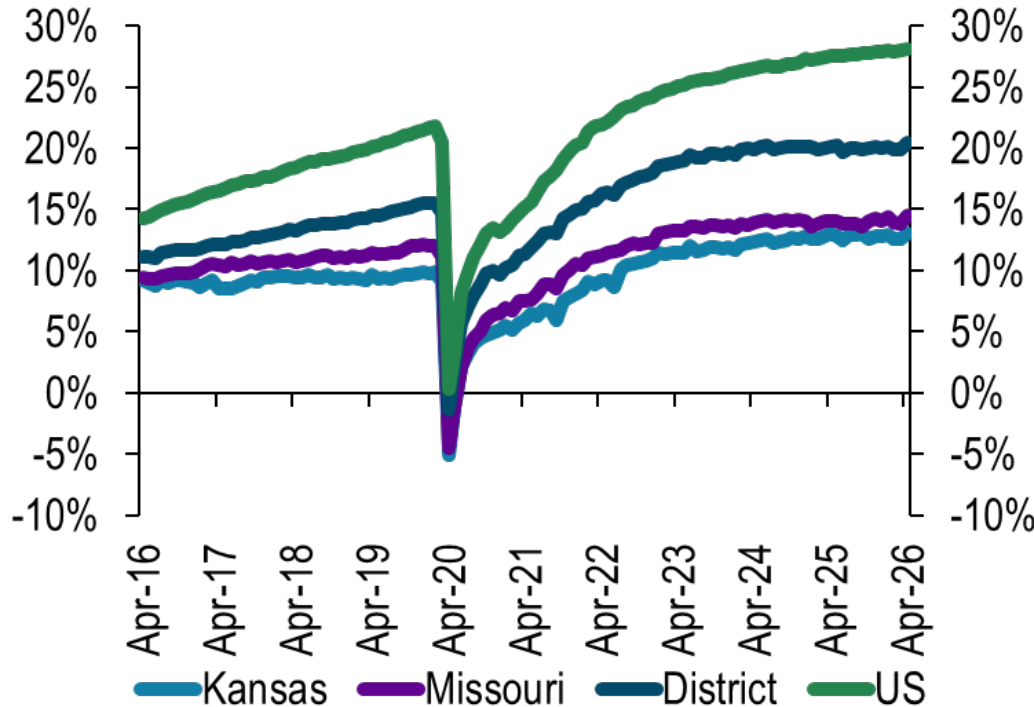
Diffusion Index vs Previous Month



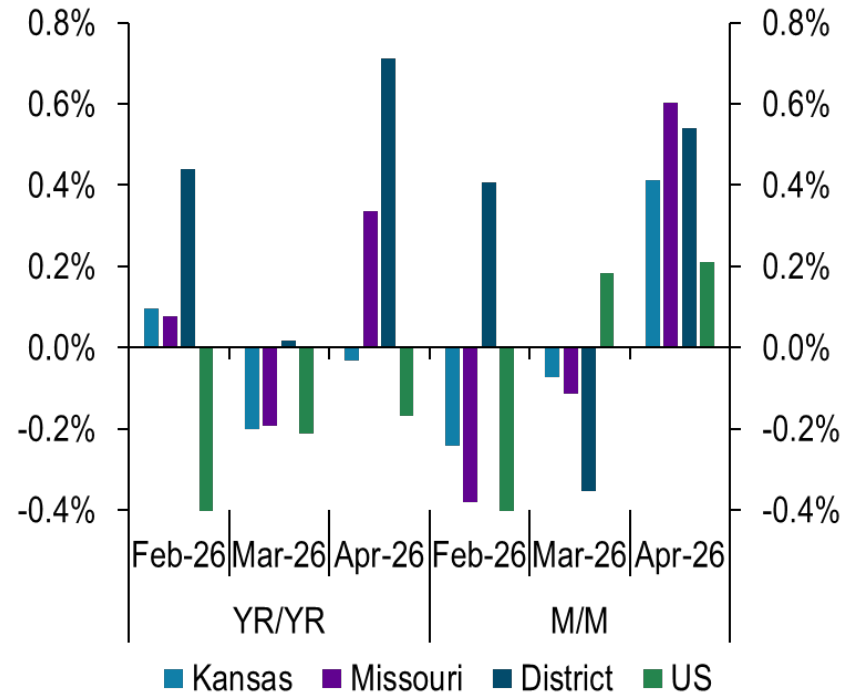
Source: KCFED Manufacturing Survey

Employment in KS has cooled

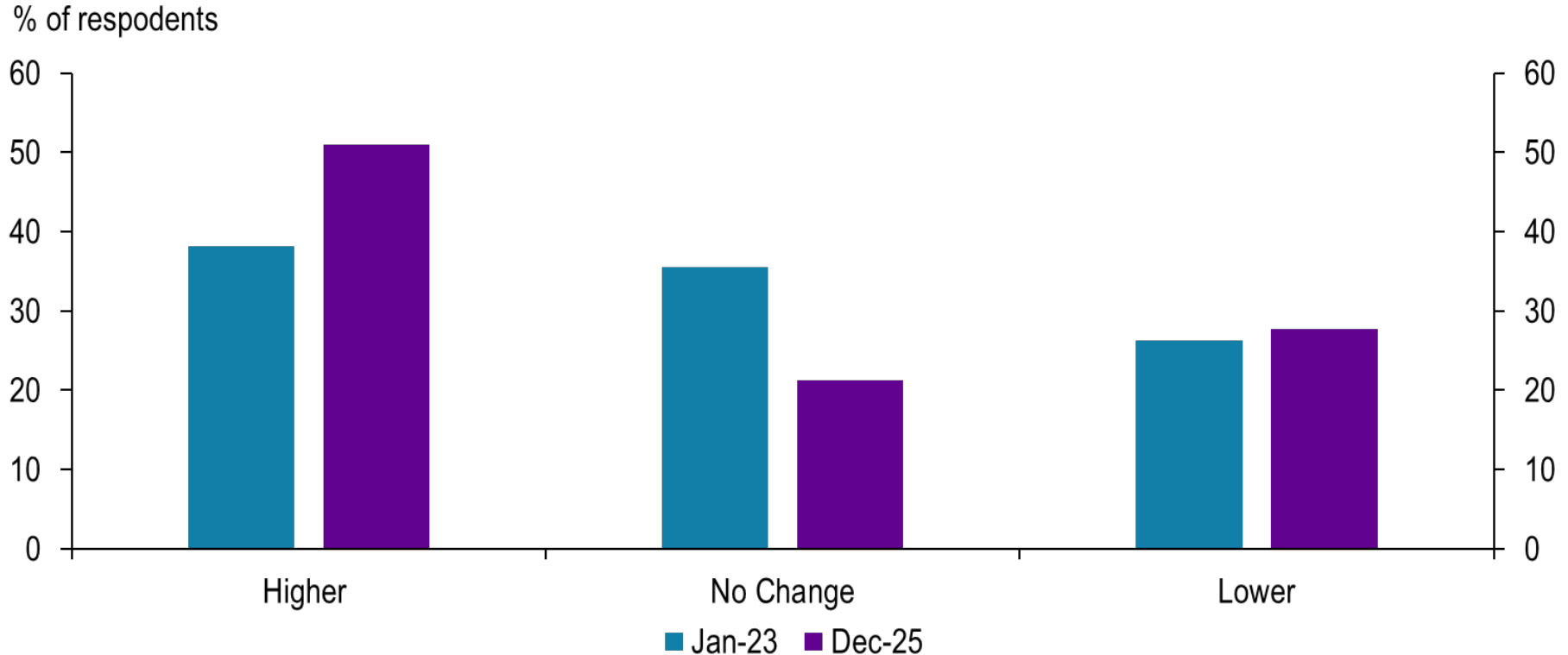
Services Employment Indexed to 2010



Services Employment Change

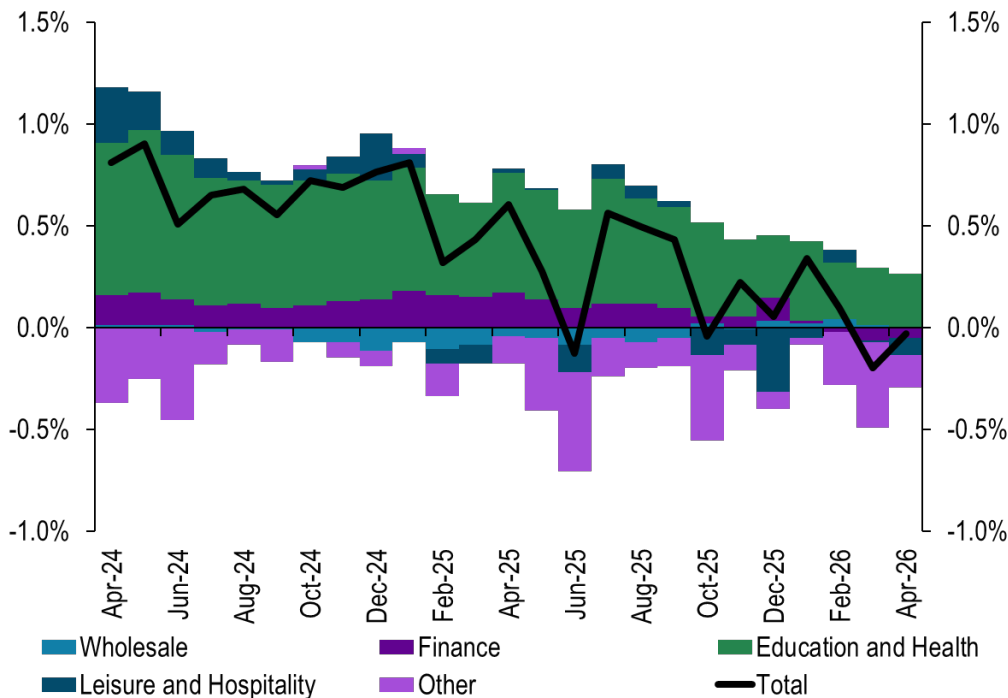


Survey- Capital expenditures expectations

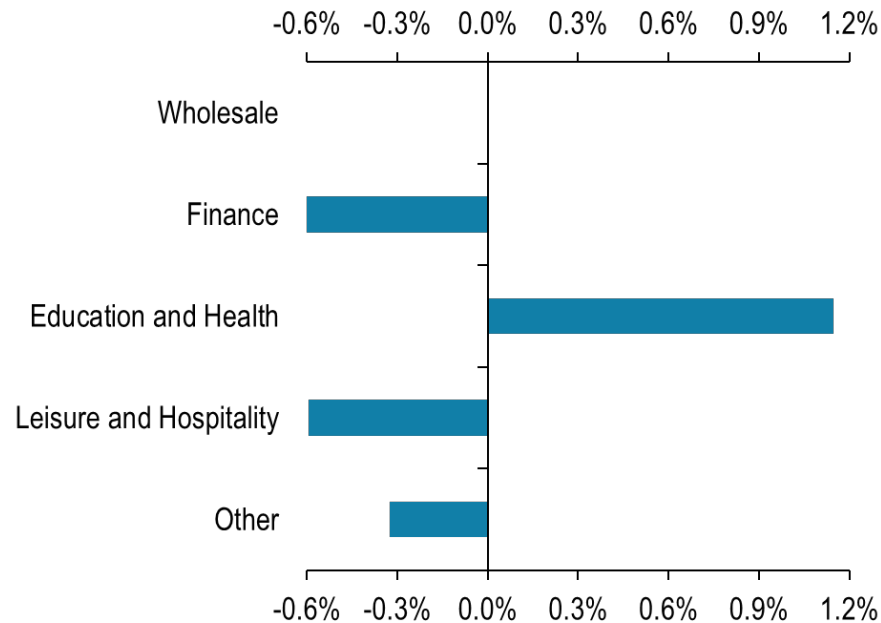


Leisure has been volatile in Kansas

Contributions to change in employment Kansas

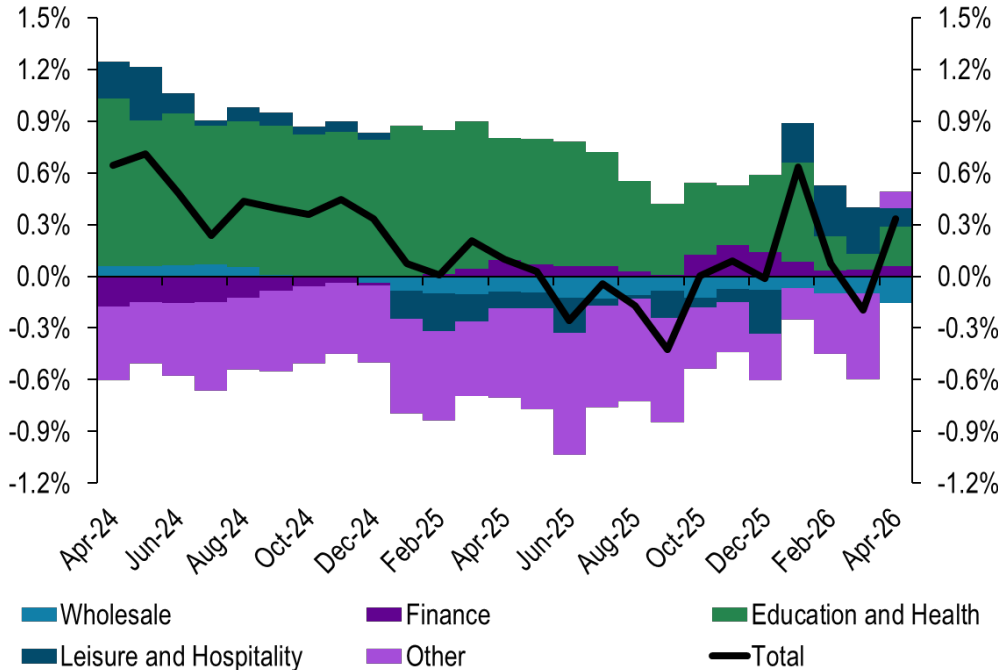


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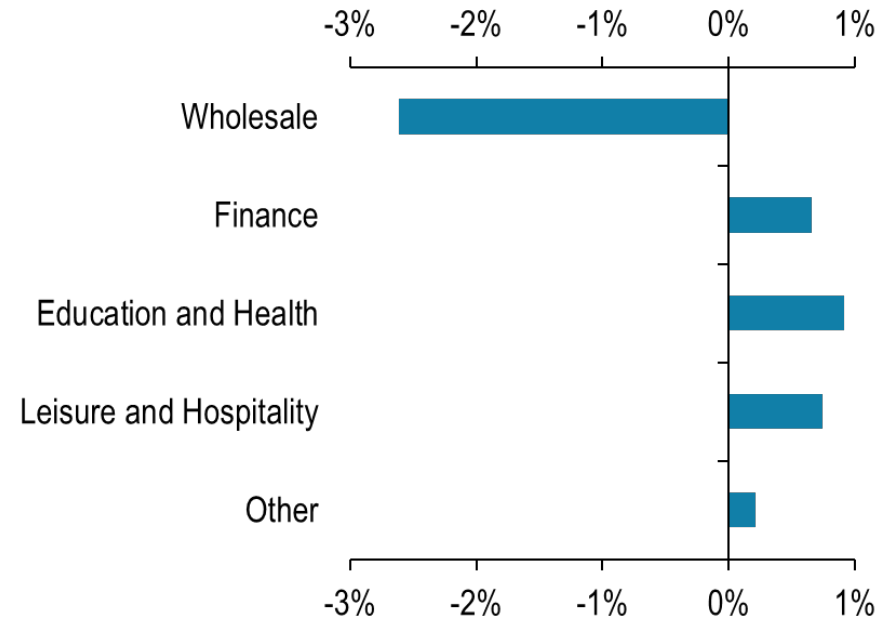


Leisure still growing - Missouri

Contributions to change in employment Missouri

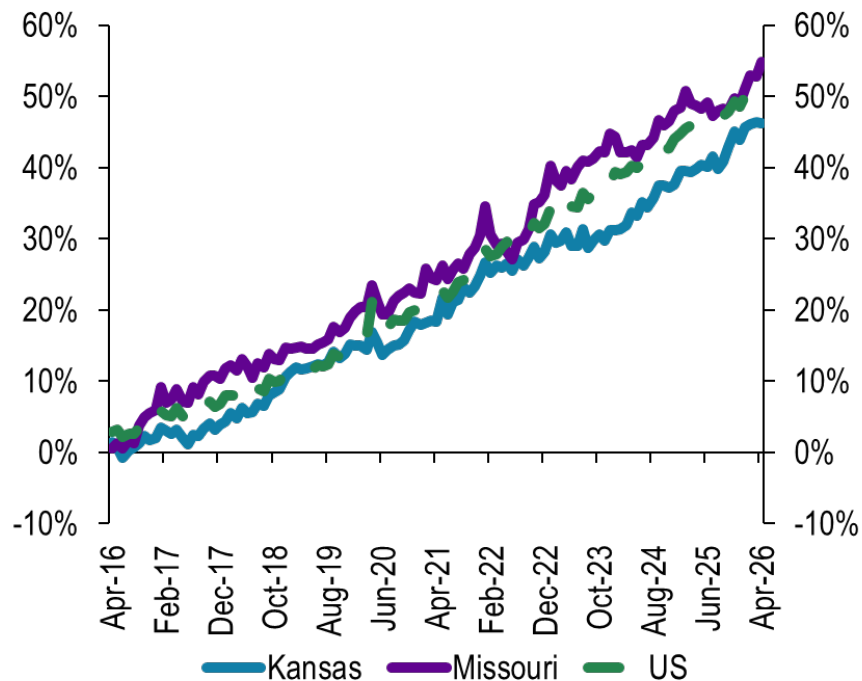


Y/Y % chg in employment Apr 2026

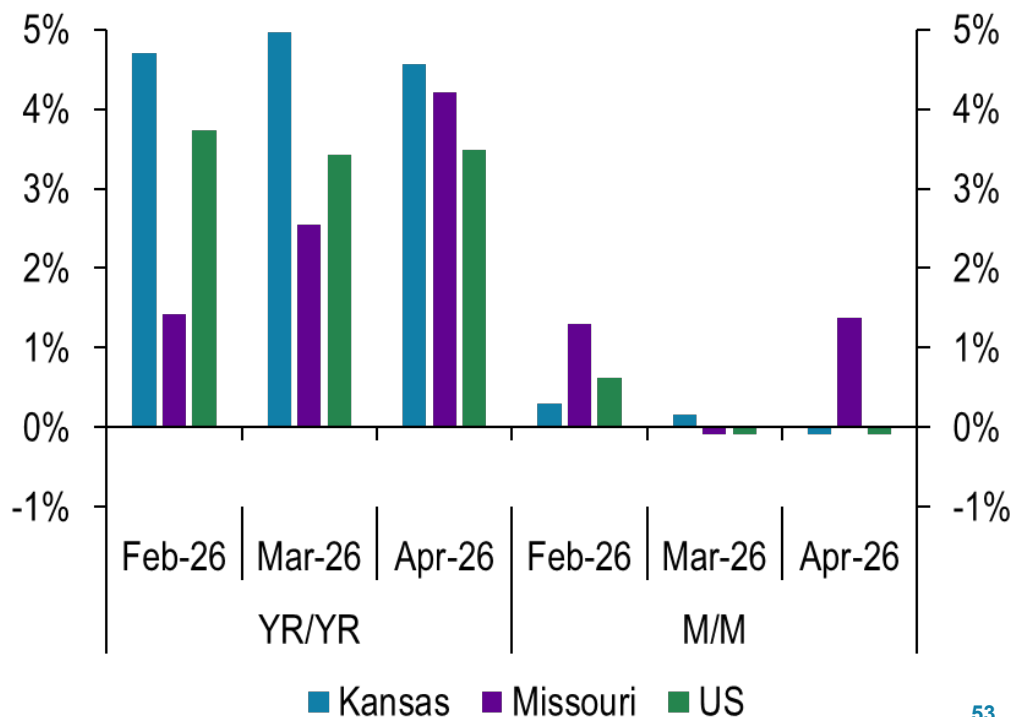


KS nominal wages are starting to catch up to the US

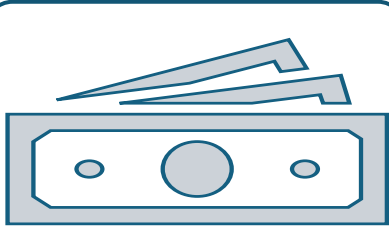
Average Hourly Wage Indexed Jan 2015



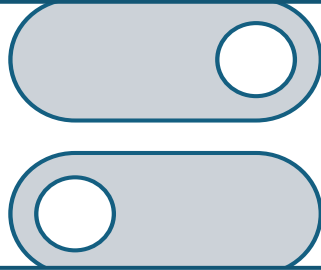
Change in Hourly Wages



Where did my customer go?



Segment – Heterogeneity increased:
demand behavior diverged more by income and wealth



Substitution toward value:
premium to mid or budget alternatives

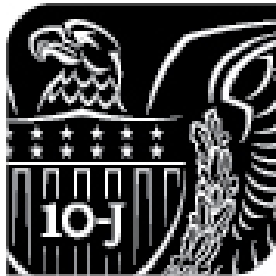


Staycations:
consumers are optimizing costs towards smaller trips



Retail and goods: value and essentials win over big discretionary purchases

Contact Information:



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C: 816-764-7639 **E:** Jeremy.R.Hill@kc.frb.org

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF KANSAS CITY

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