

Your Top Questions, Answered

Glenn S. Dorsey
SVP Head of Client Portfolio Management





Agenda

- What about the government shutdown?
- What about tariffs?
- Is the stock market in a bubble?
- What about AI?
- What is our view on international stocks?
- Will we have a recession?
- Is inflation going to come back?
- What about government debt?
- Is now a good time to invest?
- Turn it off!



Agenda

- What about the government shutdown?
- What about tariffs?
- Is the stock market in a bubble?
- What about AI?
- What is our view on international stocks?
- Will we have a recession?
- Is inflation going to come back?
- What about government debt?
- Is now a good time to invest?
- Turn it off!

Government Shutdowns



Starts	Ends	Number of Days	Return
9/30/1976	10/11/1976	11	-3.421%
9/30/1977	10/31/1977	13	-3.180%
10/31/1977	11/9/1977	9	0.693%
11/30/1977	12/9/1977	9	-1.244%
9/30/1978	10/18/1978	18	-1.999%
9/30/1979	10/12/1979	12	-4.418%
11/20/1981	11/23/1981	3	-0.090%
9/30/1982	10/2/1982	2	1.287%
12/17/1982	12/21/1982	4	0.815%
11/10/1983	11/14/1983	4	1.320%
9/30/1984	10/3/1984	3	-2.203%
10/31/1984	10/5/1984	2	0.148%
10/16/1986	10/18/1986	2	-0.288
12/18/1987	12/20/1987	2	0.000%
10/5/1990	10/9/1990	4	-2.055%
11/13/1995	11/19/1995	6	1.312%
12/15/1995	1/6/1996	22	0.060%
9/30/2013	10/17/2013	17	3.069%
1/19/2018	1/22/2018	3	0.807%
12/21/2018	1/25/2019	35	10.268%
Average		9	0.04%

For illustrative purposes. Past performance is not indicative of future results.
As of 9/30/2025. <https://history.house.gov/Institution/Shutdown/Government-Shutdowns/> ures.



Agenda

- What about the government shutdown?
- What about tariffs?
- Is the stock market in a bubble?
- What about AI?
- What is our view on international stocks?
- Will we have a recession?
- Is inflation going to come back?
- What about government debt?
- Is now a good time to invest?
- Turn it off!



SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

Search Site for...

[SEARCH TIPS](#)

[OPINIONS](#)

[FILING & RULES](#)

[ORAL ARGUMENTS](#)

[CASE DOCUMENTS](#)

[NEWS MEDIA](#)

[ABOUT](#)





Different Types of Tariffs

International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA)

President declares a national emergency

Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962

Agency determines articles being imported in such quantities...as to threaten to impair national security

Sections 201& 301 of the Trade Act of 1974

Domestic industries seriously injured...by increased imports may petition USITC for import relief

Power granted to USTR to investigate and take action to enforce U.S. trade agreements and respond to foreign trade practices



Source: ChatGPT. For illustrative purposes only.

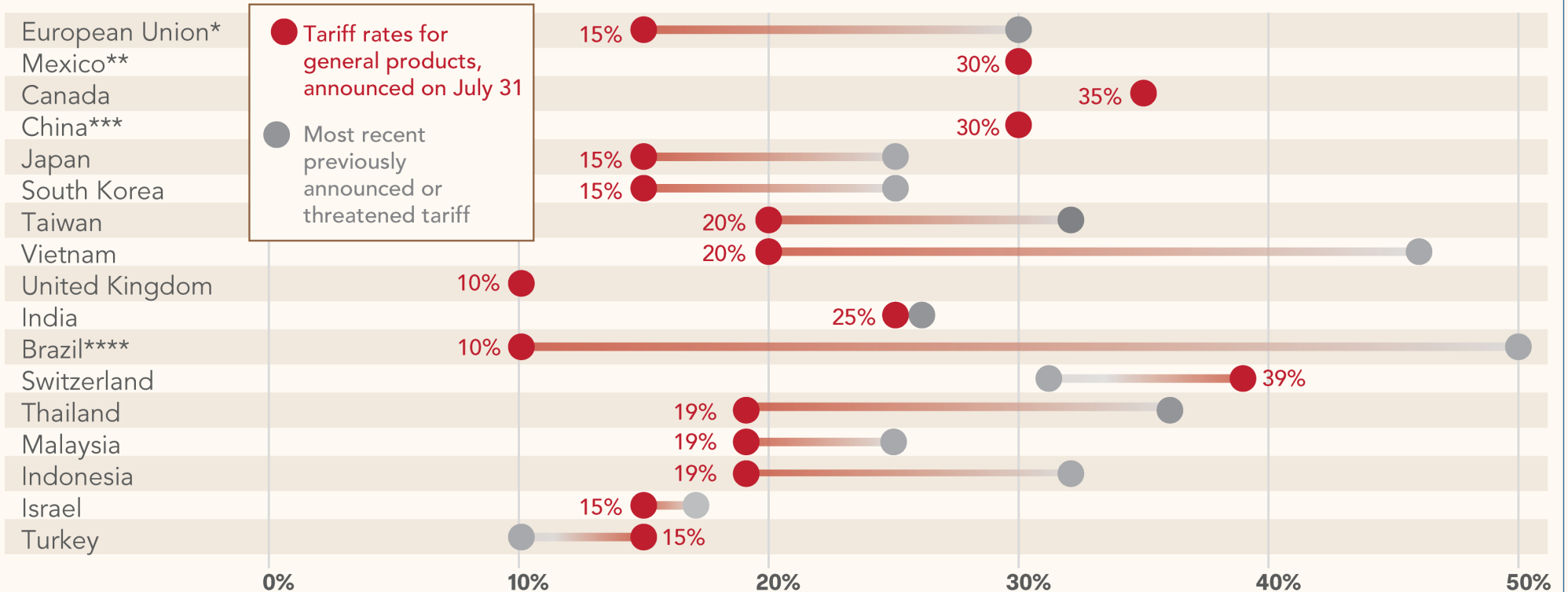
Tariff Deals Getting Done



Latest Trump Tariffs on U.S. Top Trading Partners

8/1/2025

As of August 1st, the White House announced fresh tariff rates for 70 trading partners, effective in seven days. This range plot displays U.S. President Donald Trump's tariff rates or the most recent previously announced or threatened tariff rates for the U.S.'s top trading partners.



Note: Data as of Aug. 1, 2025, 3:00 a.m. GMT; *European Union's tariff rates depend on goods with column 1 duty rate: Duty rate > 15% got 0% tariff, and duty rate < 15% got 15% minus column 1 duty rate tariff; **Mexico trade deal was extended 90 days; ***The U.S.-China trade deal negotiation is still ongoing, and the temporary tariff rate for China (including Hong Kong and Macau) is 30%; ****Brazil's cumulative rate is 50% since the IEEPA order imposes another 40%; Each trade deal has various exclusions for certain types of products.

Sources: The White House; Reuters Reporting | By Pasit Konghunakornkul | August 1, 2025 | REUTERS

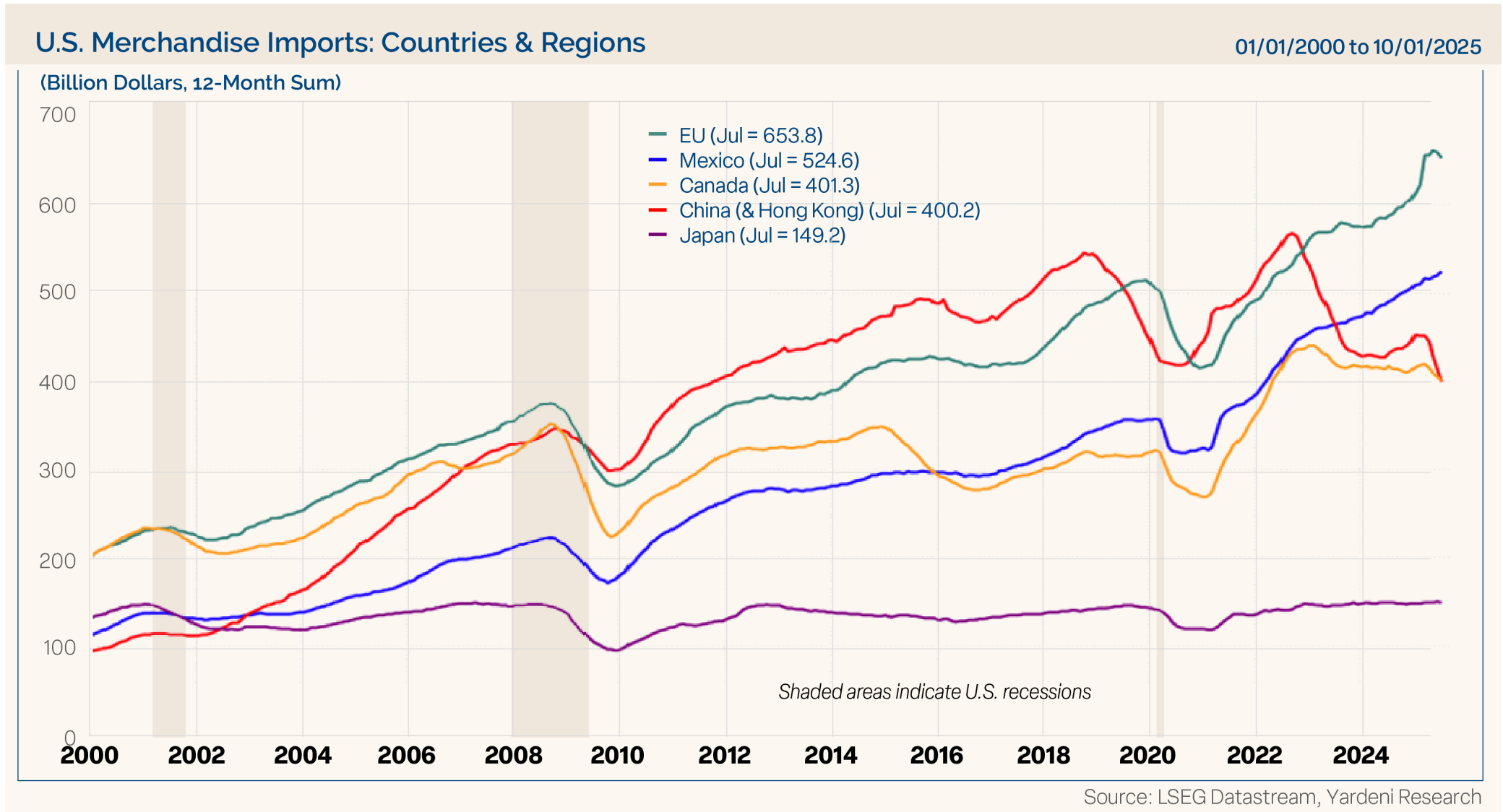
For illustrative purposes. Past performance is not indicative of future results.



Tariff Facts

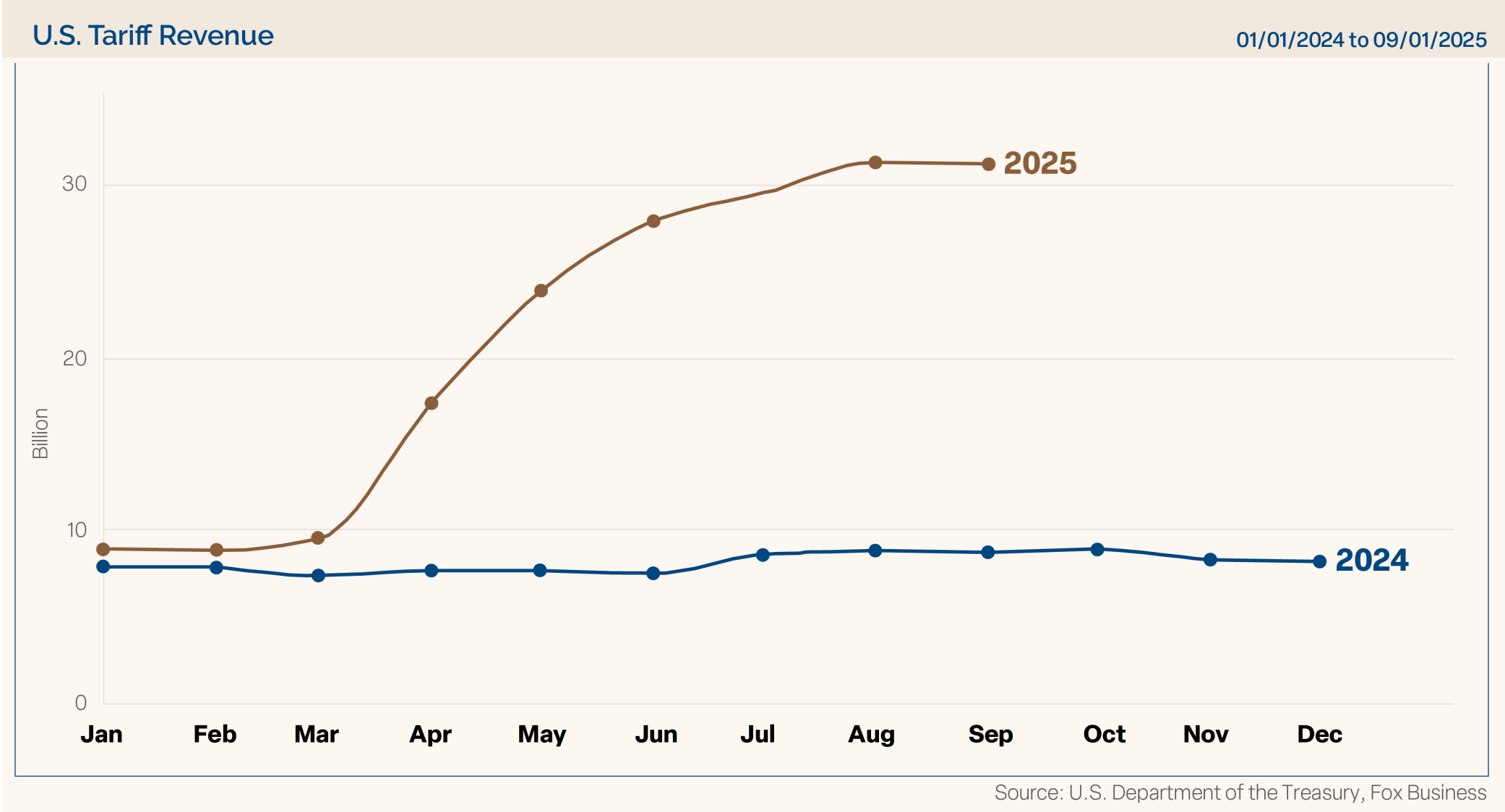
- Importers pay the tariffs, not countries
- Not all of the tariff is typically passed to consumers
- Tariffs do not necessarily lead to inflation or recession
- Tariffs are like a tax on the economy
- There could be offsets (lower energy prices, lower interest rates)
- There will be winners and losers – active management makes sense

Tariffs Haven't Stopped Imports



For illustrative purposes only. Past performance is not indicative of future results <https://yardeni.com/charts/us-trade-i/> figure 17

Tariff Revenue Surging

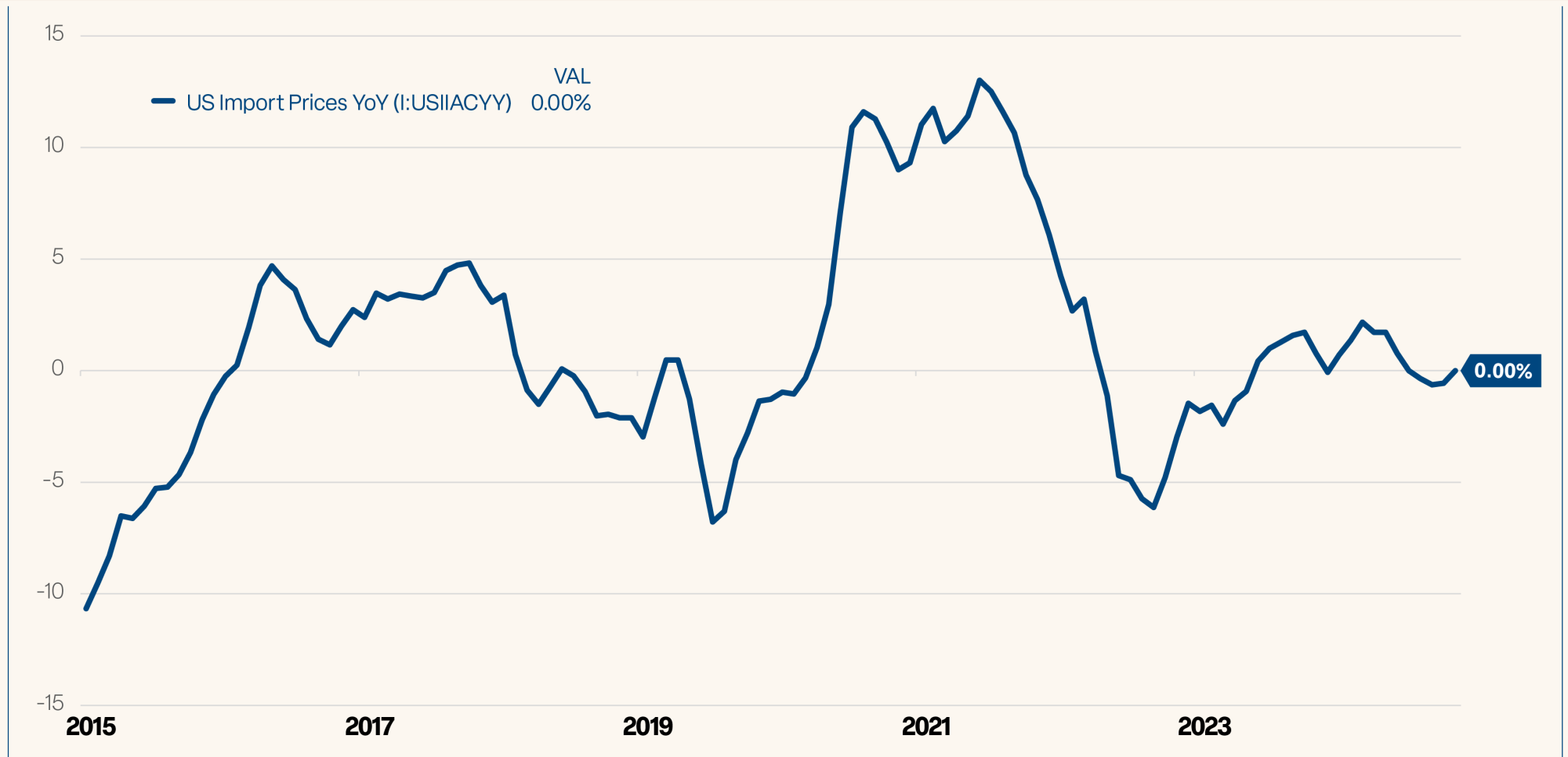




Where Is the Inflation?

U.S. Import Prices Year Over Year

10/31/2015 to 08/31/2025



Source: YCharts

For illustrative purposes only. Past performance is not indicative of future results. It is not possible to invest in these indices. Index returns include the reinvestment of income and dividends. The returns for these unmanaged indexes do not include any transaction costs, management fees or other costs. It is not possible to make an investment directly in any index.

Tariff Headlines From 2018 and 2019



Trump tariffs may imperil a delicate global economic rebound

Economy Mar 11, 2018 9:50 AM EST

MONEYWATCH

Trump trade war with China has cost 300,000 U.S. jobs, Moody's estimates



By Rachel Layne
Updated on: September 12, 2019 / 10:41 AM EDT / MoneyWatch



WHITE HOUSE Published March 19, 2018 3:51pm EDT

Trump's tariffs could be a 'catastrophic mistake': Economist Thomas Sowell

By Nick Giampila | FOXBusiness |



U.S. Stock Market
Quotes displayed in real-time

TRADE

Trump tariffs costing US consumers \$1.4 billion per month, study shows

PUBLISHED TUE, MAR 26 2019 7:08 AM EDT | UPDATED TUE, MAR 26 2019 8:27 AM EDT



SHARE f X in

INTERNATIONAL FREEDOM AND TRADE | EXPERT COMMENTARY April 5, 2018

Trump's Tit-for-Tat Trade Policy Could Leave the Economy in Tatters

By Veronique de Rugy

FORBES > MONEY > MARKETS

Trump's Tariffs Are About To Trash The Economy

Chuck Jones Senior Contributor @

I cover technology companies, worldwide economies and the stock market

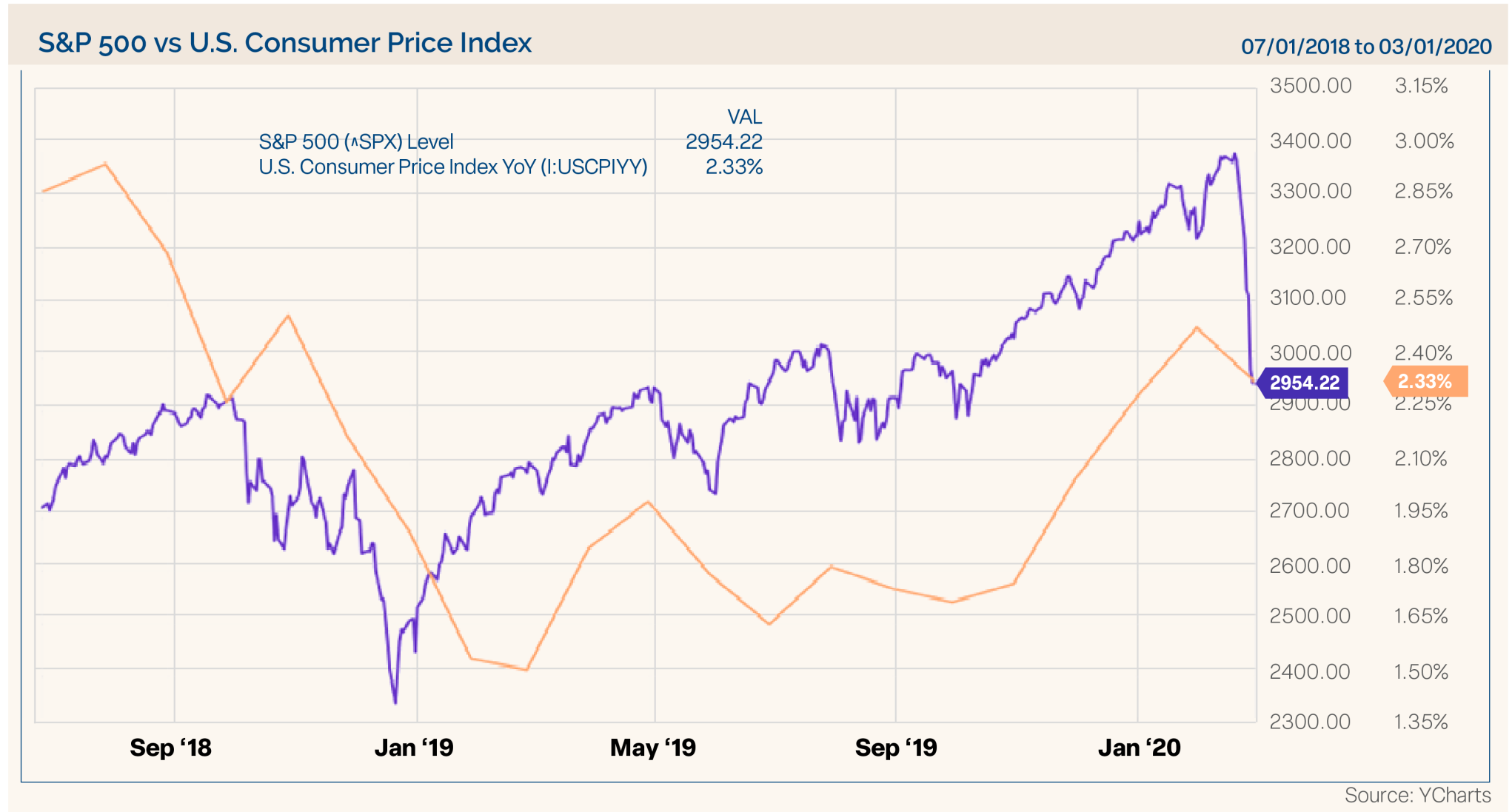
Follow



May 31, 2019, 08:30am EDT

Updated May 31, 2019, 06:37pm EDT

Tariffs, Inflation, & Stocks 2018-2020



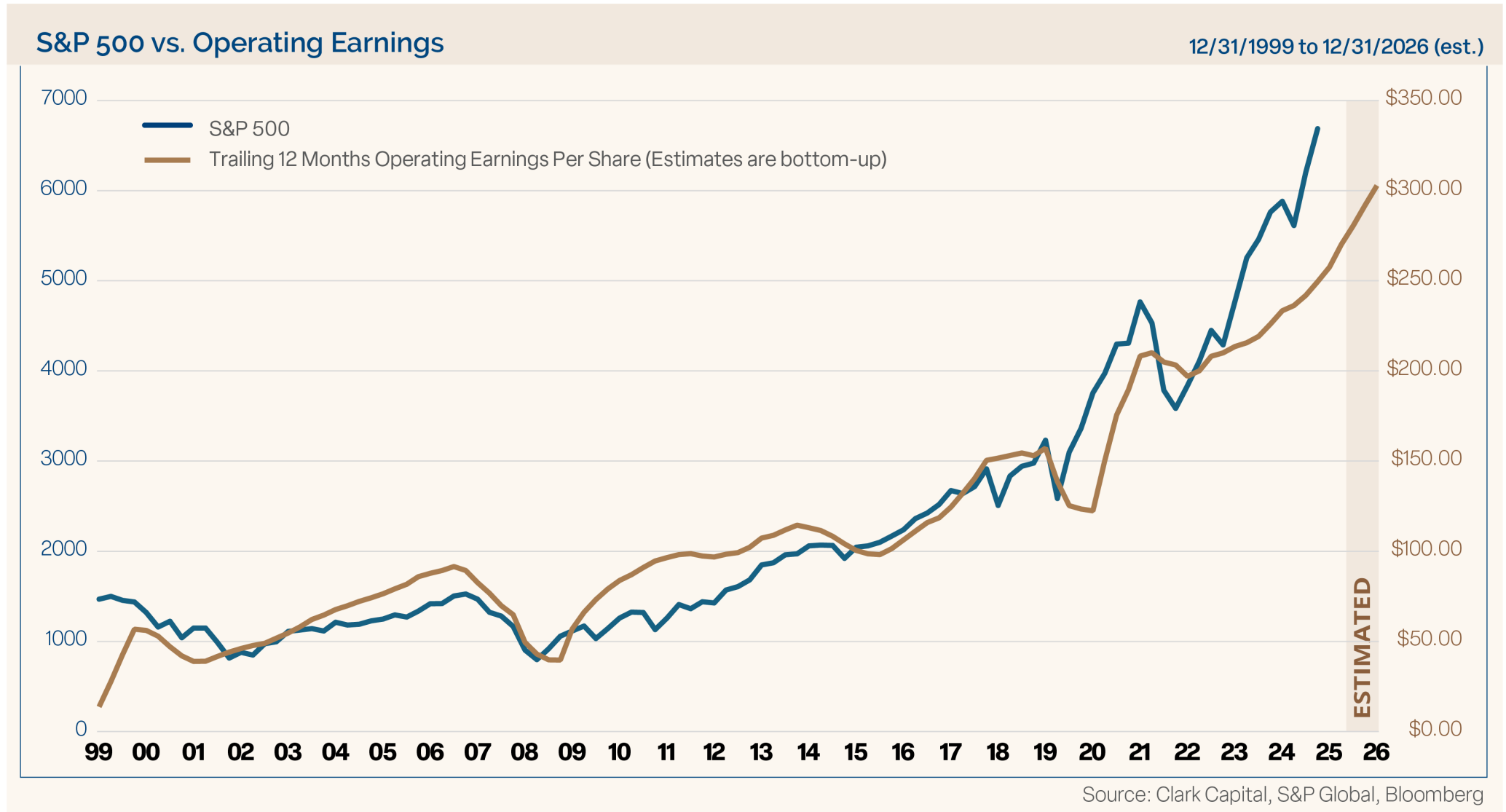
For illustrative purposes only. Past performance is not indicative of future results. It is not possible to invest in these indices. Index returns include the reinvestment of income and dividends. The returns for these unmanaged indexes do not include any transaction costs, management fees or other costs. It is not possible to make an investment directly in any index.



Agenda

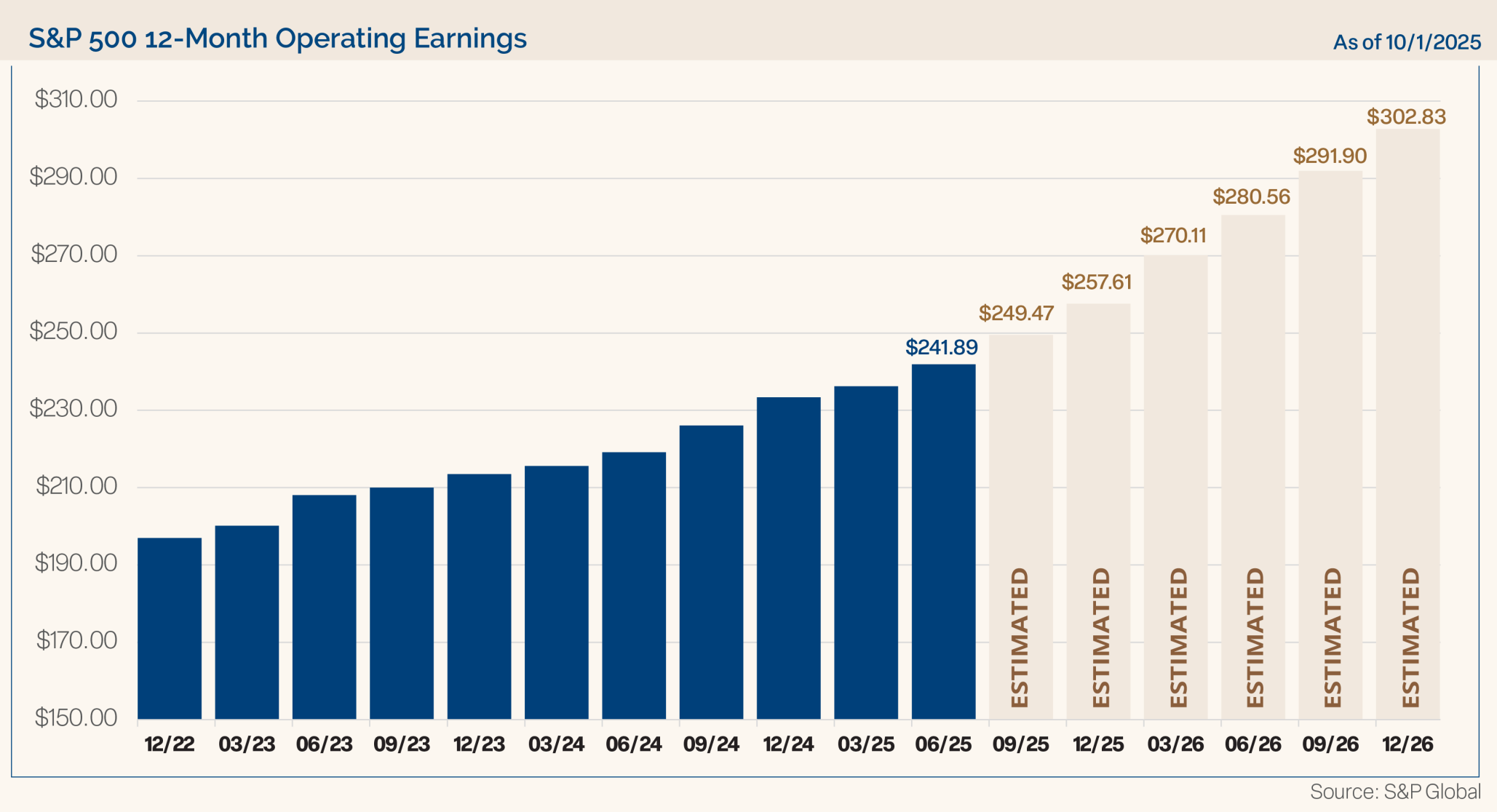
- What about the government shutdown?
- What about tariffs?
- Is the stock market in a bubble?
- What about AI?
- What is our view on international stocks?
- Will we have a recession?
- Is inflation going to come back?
- What about government debt?
- Is now a good time to invest?
- Turn it off!

Over Time, Earnings Drive Stock Prices



For illustrative purposes only. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

Earnings Are Still Hitting New Highs



Past actual projections and other forward-looking statements regarding future financial performance of markets are only predictions, and actual events or results may differ materially.

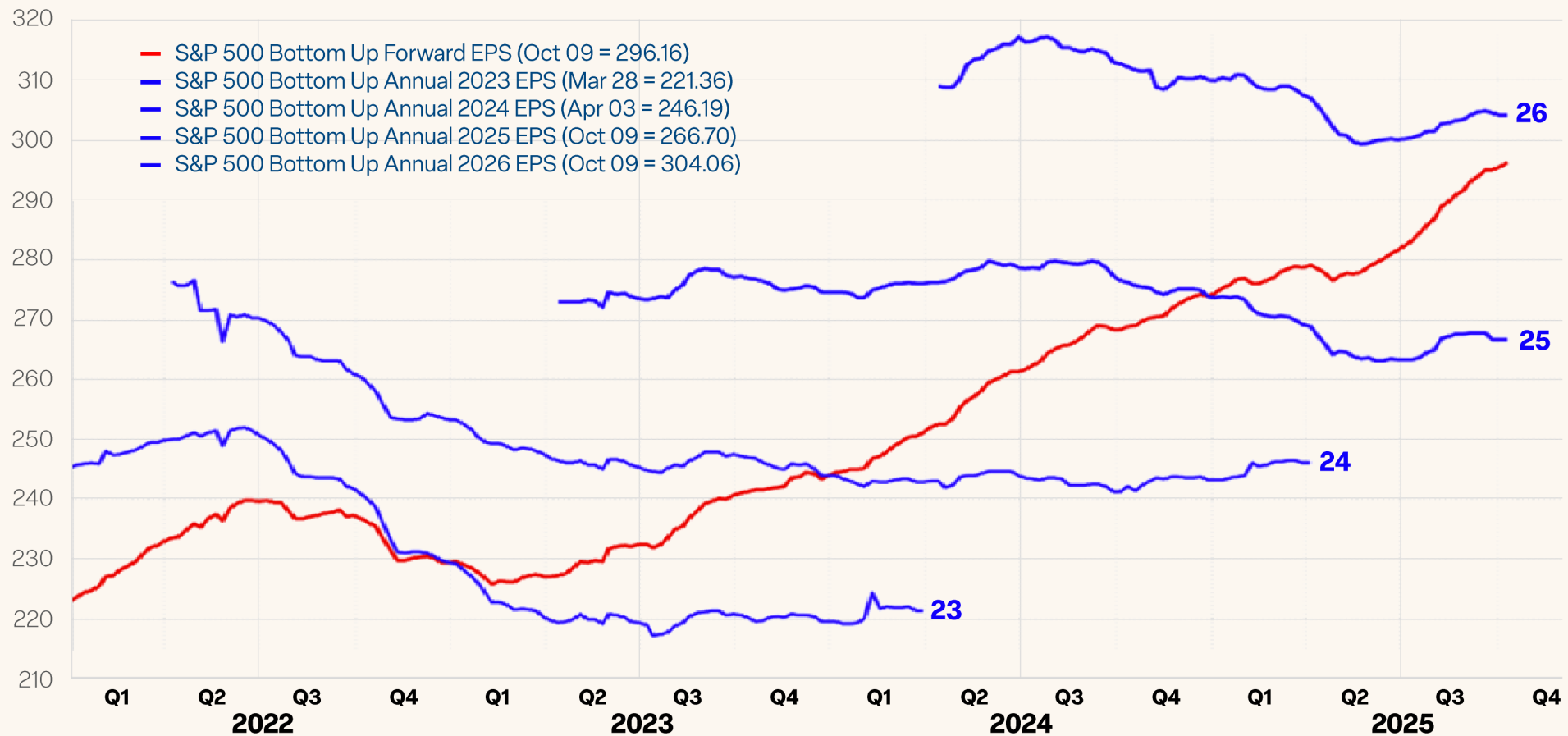
Earnings Estimates Moving Up



S&P Operating Earnings Per Share

01/01/2021 to 01/01/2026

(Consensus Analysts Estimates in Dollars, Weekly, Ratio Scale)



Source: LSEG Datastream, Yardeni Research, I/B/E/S

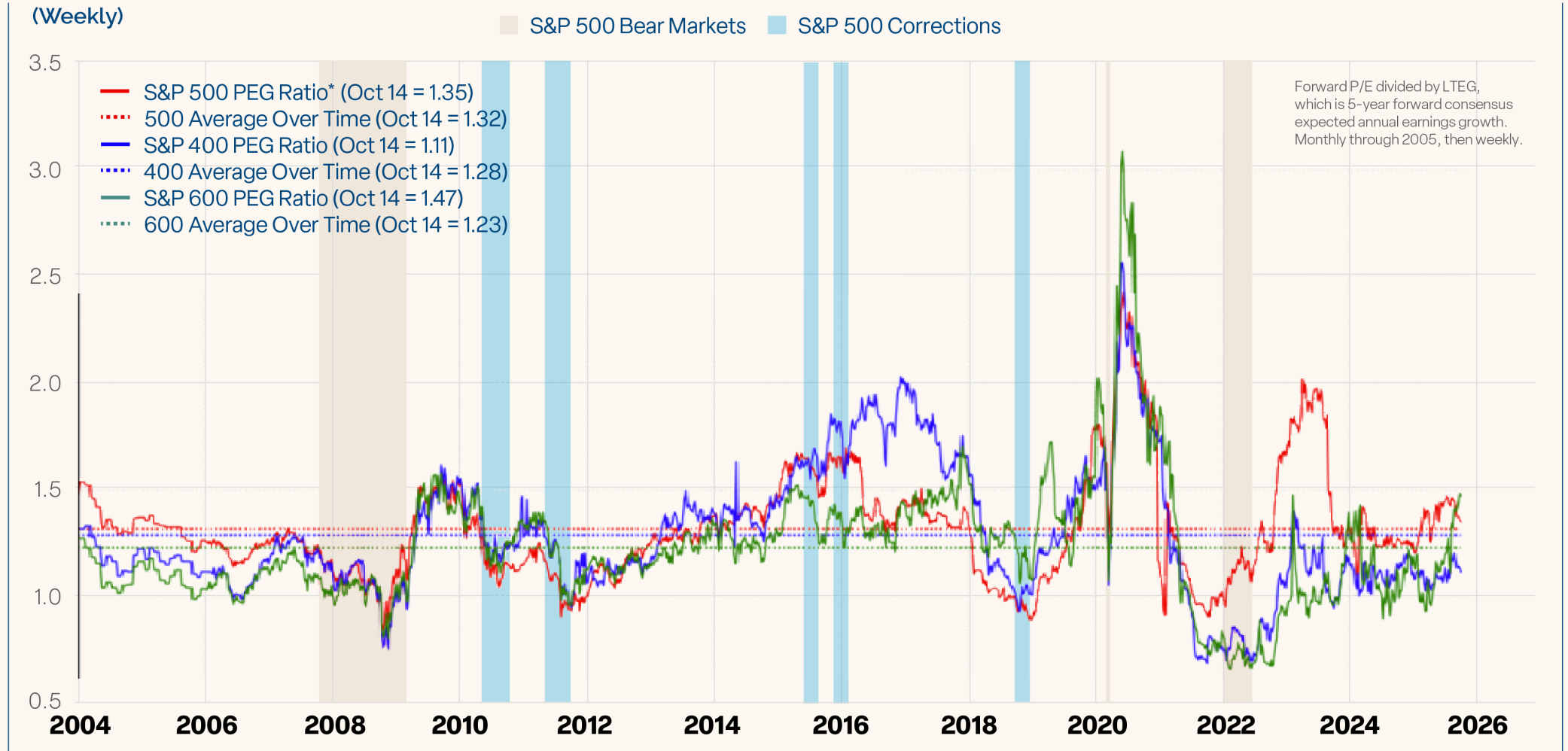
Past actual projections and other forward-looking statements regarding future financial performance of markets are only predictions, and actual events or results may differ materially. <https://yardeni.com/charts/sp-500-earnings-squiggles-annual-quarter/> figure 2

Valuations Relative to Growth Reasonable



S&P 500/400/600 PEG Ratio: Forward P/E Divided by LTEG

01/01/2004 to 06/30/2026



Past actual projections and other forward-looking statements regarding future financial performance of markets are only predictions, and actual events or results may differ materially.

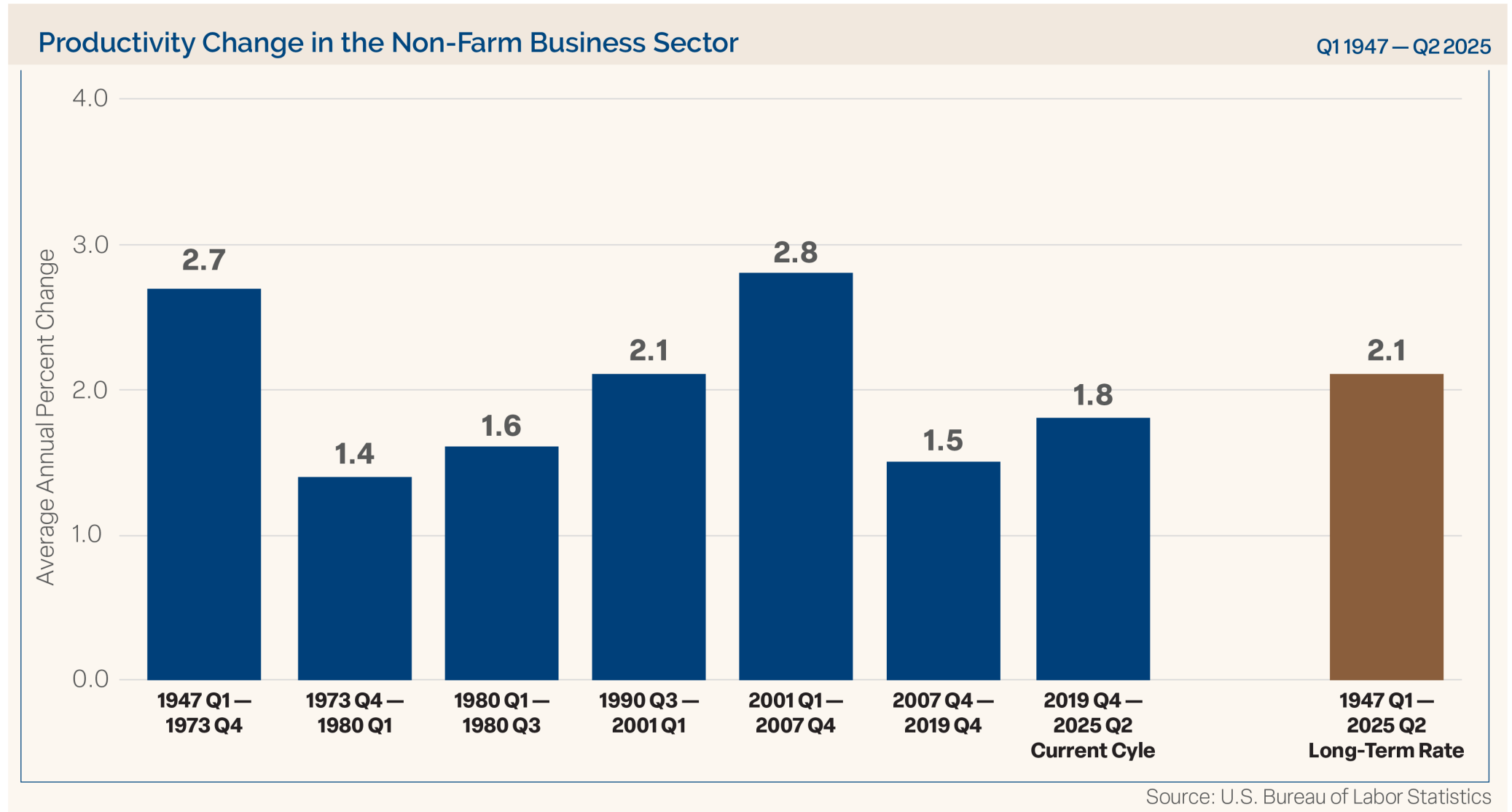
<https://yardeni.com/charts/pe-earnings-growth/> figure 3



Agenda

- What about the government shutdown?
- What about tariffs?
- Is the stock market in a bubble?
- What about AI?
- What is our view on international stocks?
- Will we have a recession?
- Is inflation going to come back?
- What about government debt?
- Is now a good time to invest?
- Turn it off!

AI Could Be Similar to the Tech Revolution



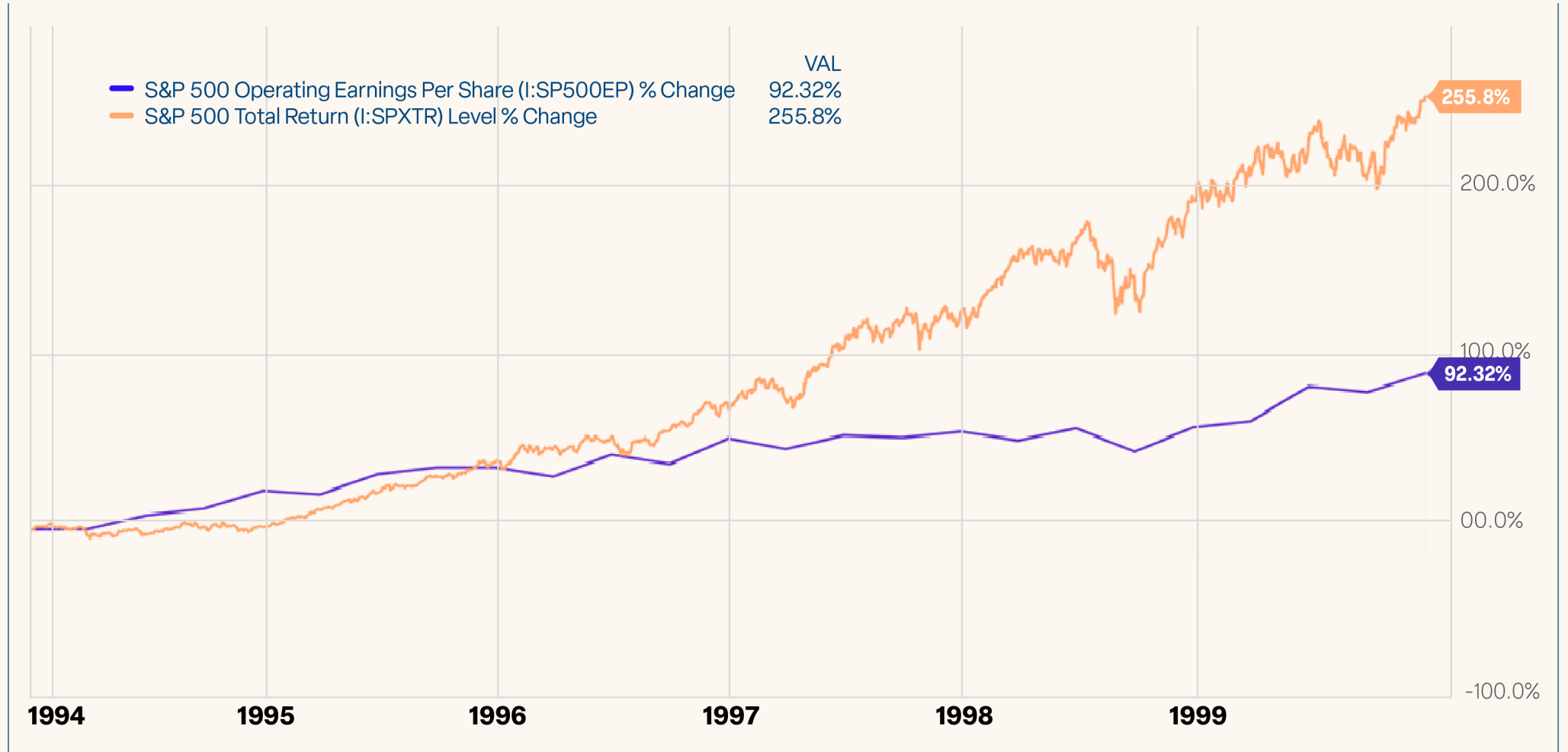
Past actual projections and other forward-looking statements regarding future financial performance of markets are only predictions, and actual events or results may differ materially.

Productivity Led Bull Market



S&P 500 Operating Earnings Per Share vs S&P 500 Total Return

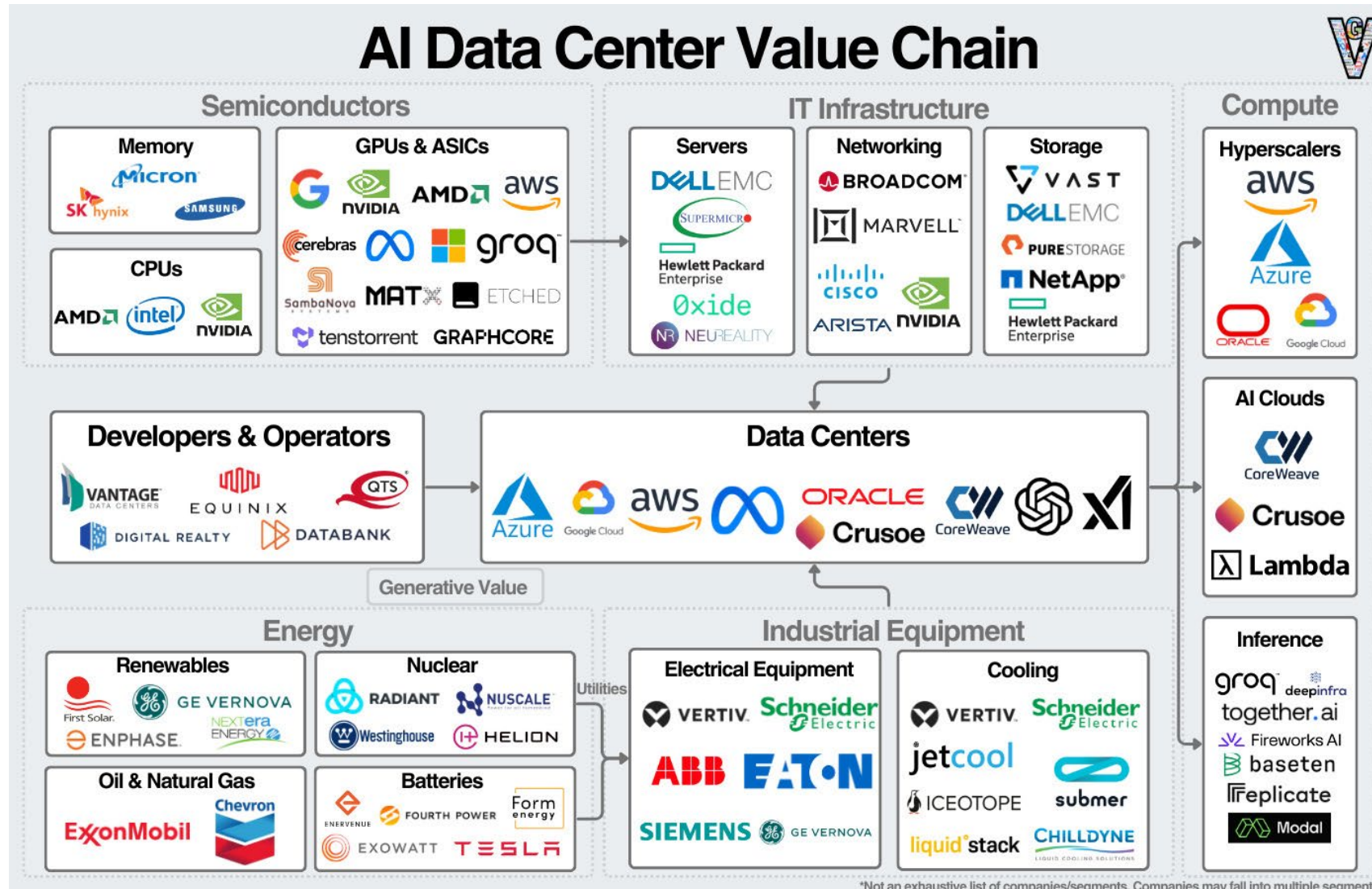
01/01/1994 to 01/01/2000



Source: YCharts

For illustrative purposes only. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

Lots of Beneficiaries of AI Buildout





Agenda

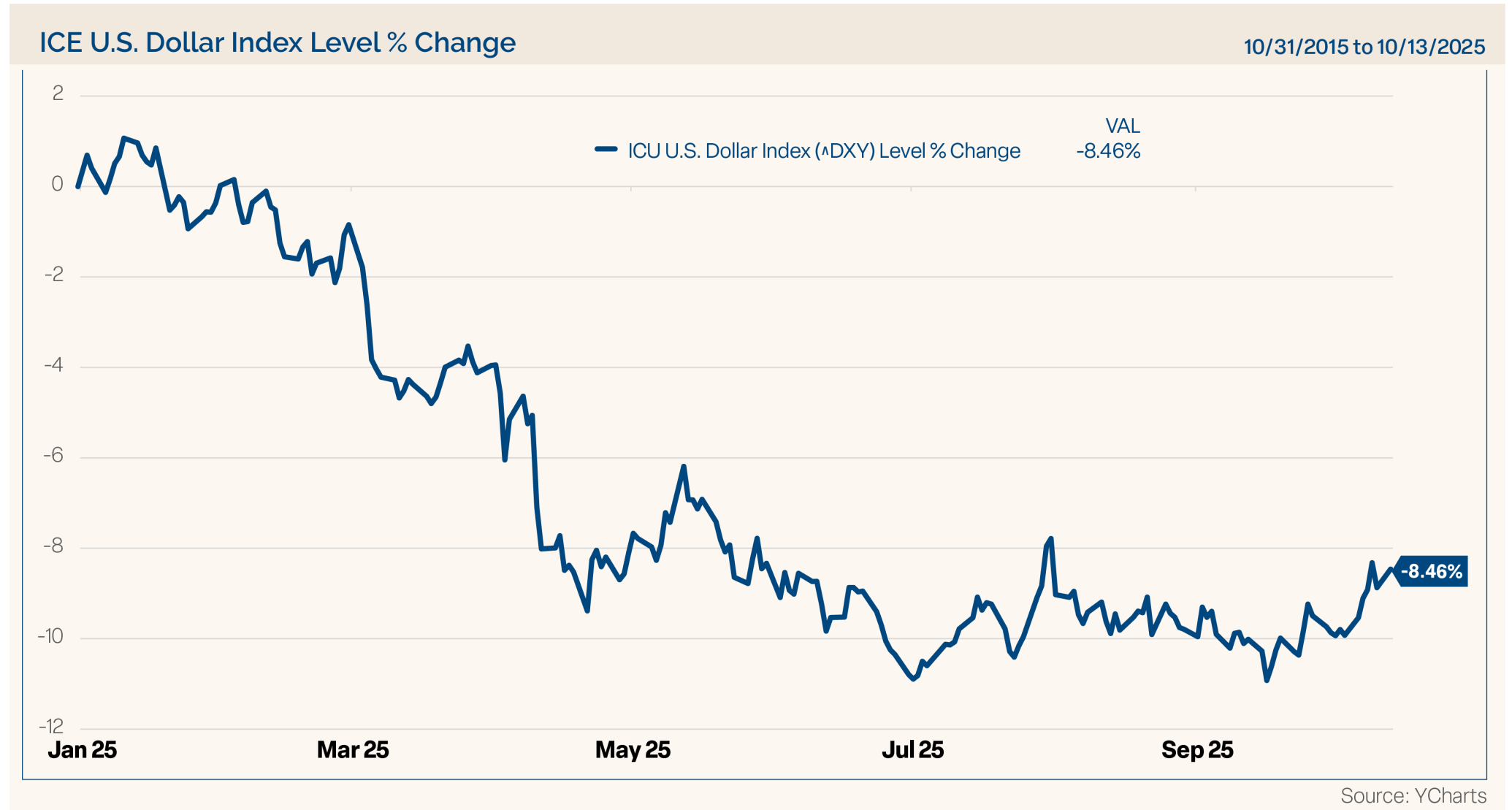
- What about the government shutdown?
- What about tariffs?
- Is the stock market in a bubble?
- What about AI?
- What is our view on international stocks?
- Will we have a recession?
- Is inflation going to come back?
- What about government debt?
- Is now a good time to invest?
- Turn it off!

What? International Beating U.S.?!

Domestic Equity	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	YTD (through 9/30/2025)
S&P 500	-4.27%	+10.94%	+8.12%	+14.83%
S&P 500 Equal Weight	-0.61%	+5.46%	+4.84%	+9.90%
Russell 2000	-9.48%	+8.50%	+12.39%	+10.39%
Russell 1000 Value	+2.14%	+3.79%	+5.33%	+11.65%
Russell 1000 Growth	-9.97%	+17.84%	+10.51%	+17.24%
International Equity				
MSCI All Country World (ex US)	+5.23%	+12.03%	+6.89%	+26.02%

Source: Bloomberg. Past performance is not indicative of future results. This is not a recommendation to buy or sell a particular security. Please see attached disclosures.

Dollar Has Dropped



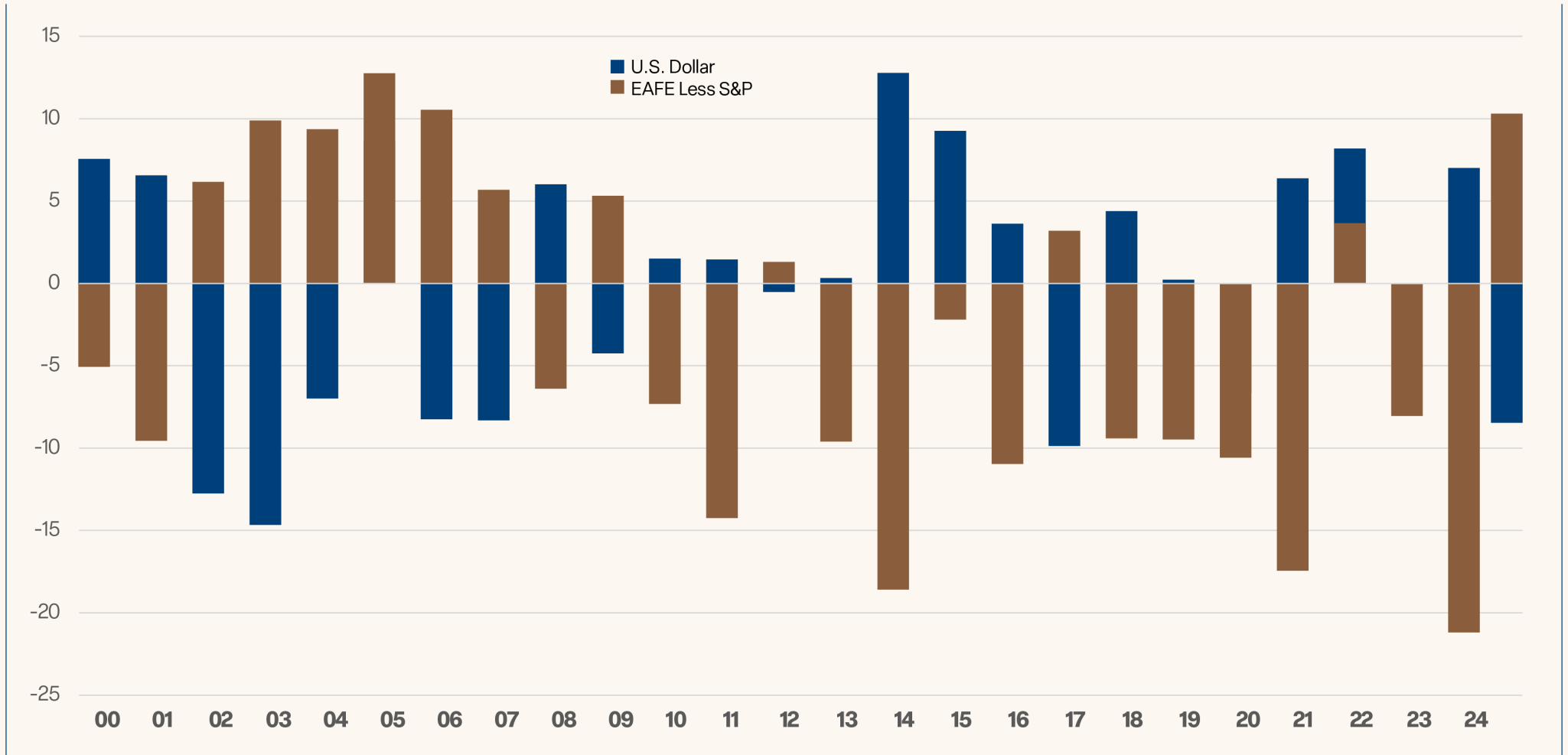
Past performance is not indicative of future results. This is not a recommendation to buy or sell a particular security. Please see attached disclosures.

Dollar Important for U.S./Int'l Stock Performance



EAFE Less S&P vs U.S. Dollar

12/31/2000 — 09/30/2025



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

For illustrative purposes only. Past performance is not indicative of future results.



Turning Point for International?

1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
INTL	US	US	US	US	INTL	INTL	US	US	US	US	INTL	US	US	INTL	INTL	INTL	INTL	INTL
US	INTL	INTL	INTL	INTL	US	US	INTL	INTL	INTL	INTL	US	INTL	INTL	US	US	US	US	US

2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	YTD Sept
INTL	US	INTL	US	US	US	US	US	US	US	INTL	US	US	US	US	INTL	US	US	INTL
US	INTL	US	INTL	INTL	INTL	INTL	INTL	INTL	INTL	US	INTL	INTL	INTL	INTL	US	INTL	INTL	US

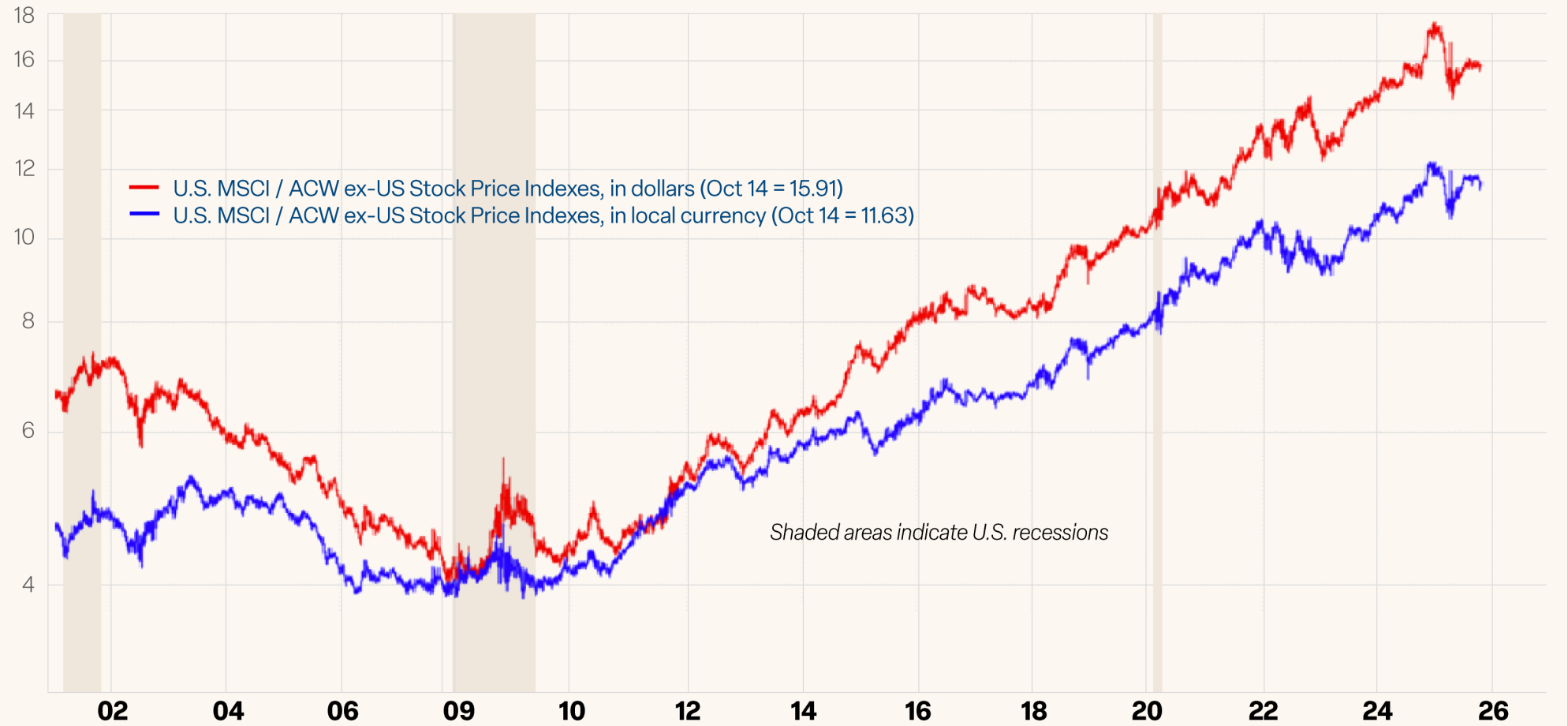
U.S. Has Outperformed Since Financial Crisis



Style Ratios: Stay Home vs. Go Global U.S. vs. ACW Ex-US MSCI

01/01/2004 to 10/14/2025

(Daily, Ratio Scale)



Source: LSEG Datastream, Yardeni Research. MSCI

Past performance is not indicative of future results. This is not a recommendation to buy or sell a particular security. Please see attached disclosures . <https://yardeni.com/charts/stay-home-vs-go-global/> figure 1

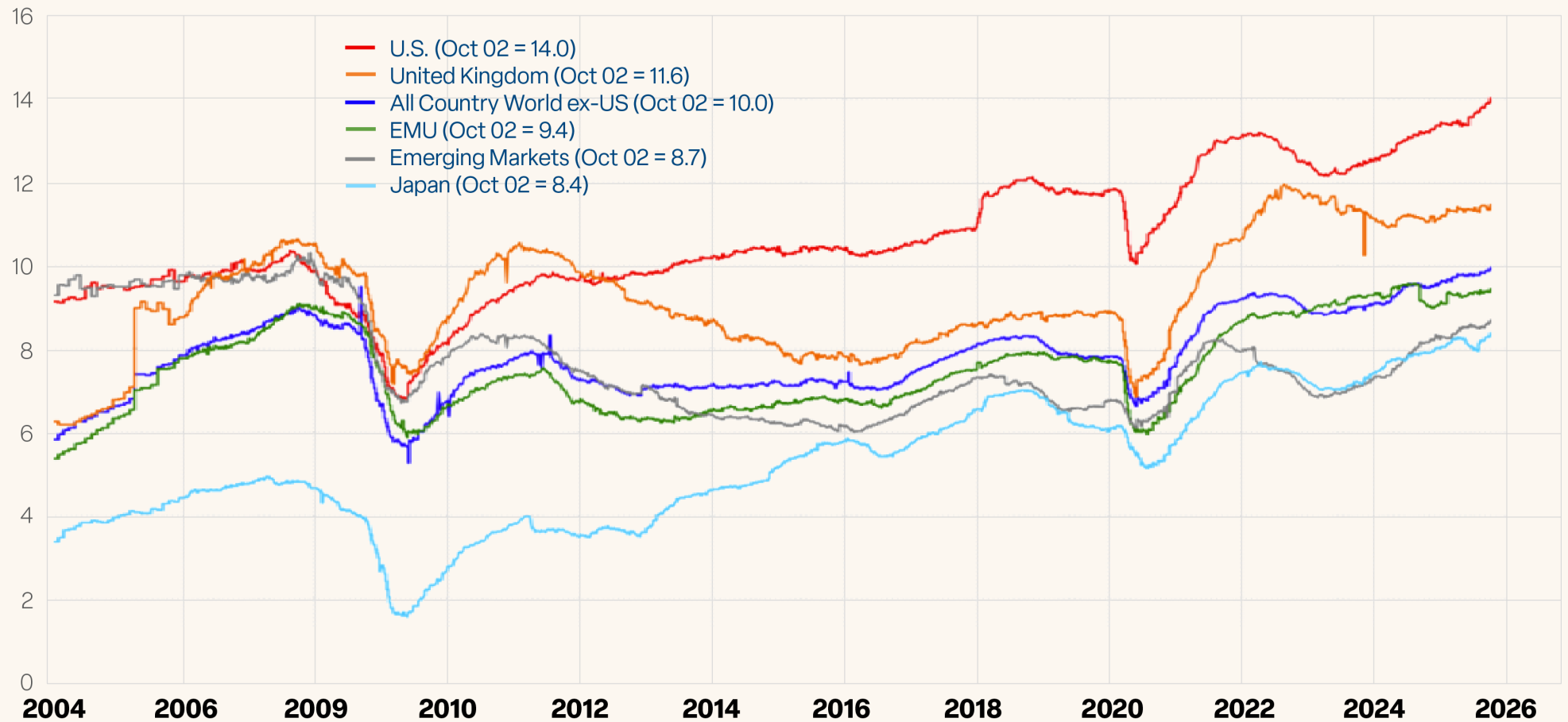
U.S. Companies Are More Profitable



MSCI Forward Profit Margins: Major World Market Indexes

01/01/2004 to 10/02/2025

(Percent, Using Analysts' Consensus Earnings and Revenues Forecasts, Weekly)



Source: LSEG Datastream, Yardeni Research, IBES

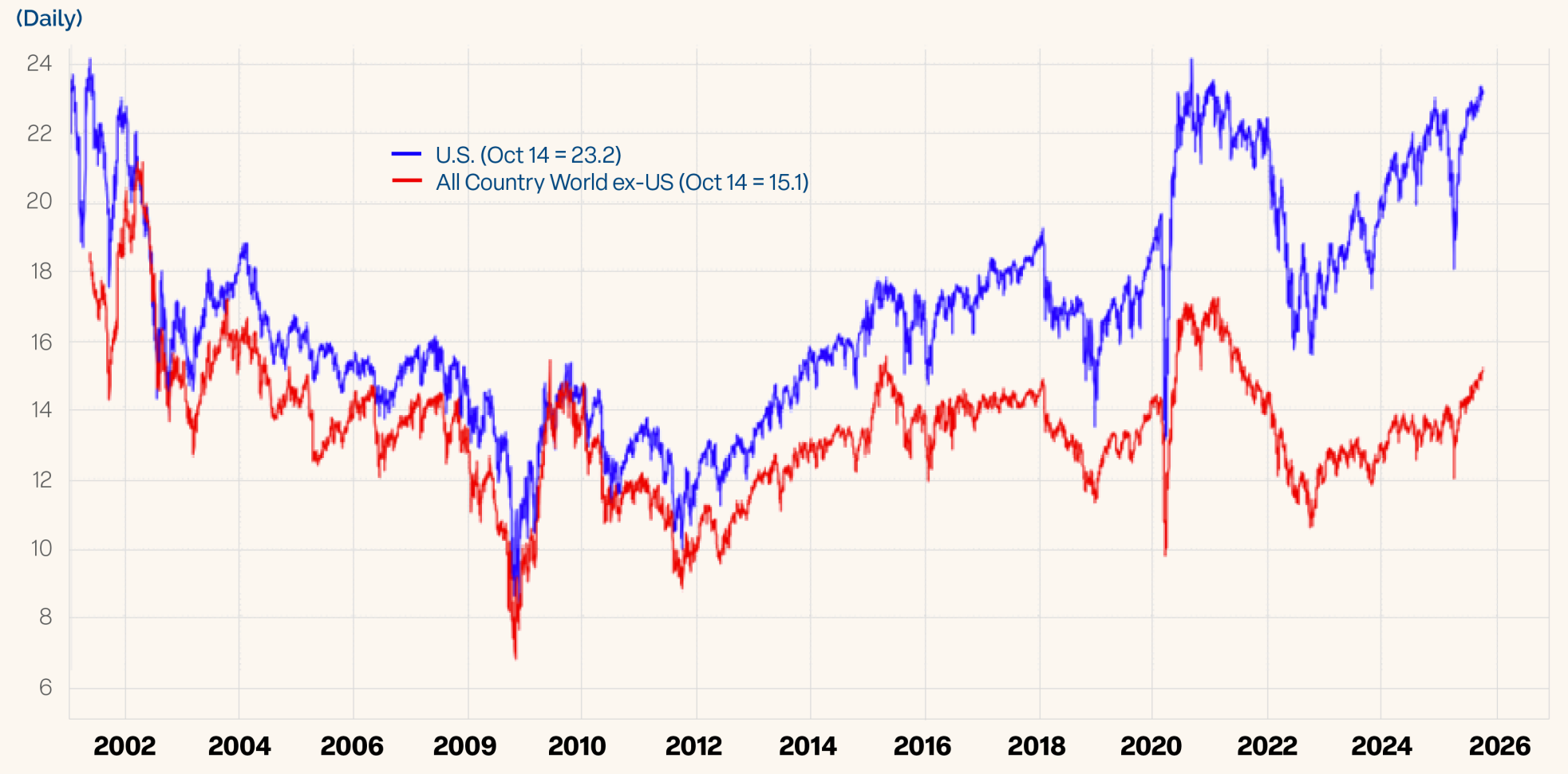
Past performance is not indicative of future results. This is not a recommendation to buy or sell a particular security. Please see attached disclosures. <https://yardeni.com/charts/stay-home-vs-go-global/> figure 7

And More Expensive



MSCI Forward P/E: U.S. vs. All Country World ex-US

01/01/2004 to 10/14/2025



Source: LSEG Datastream, Yardeni Research, IBES

Past performance is not indicative of future results. This is not a recommendation to buy or sell a particular security. Please see attached disclosures. <https://yardeni.com/charts/stay-home-vs-go-global/> figure 9



U.S. vs. International?

In our opinion:

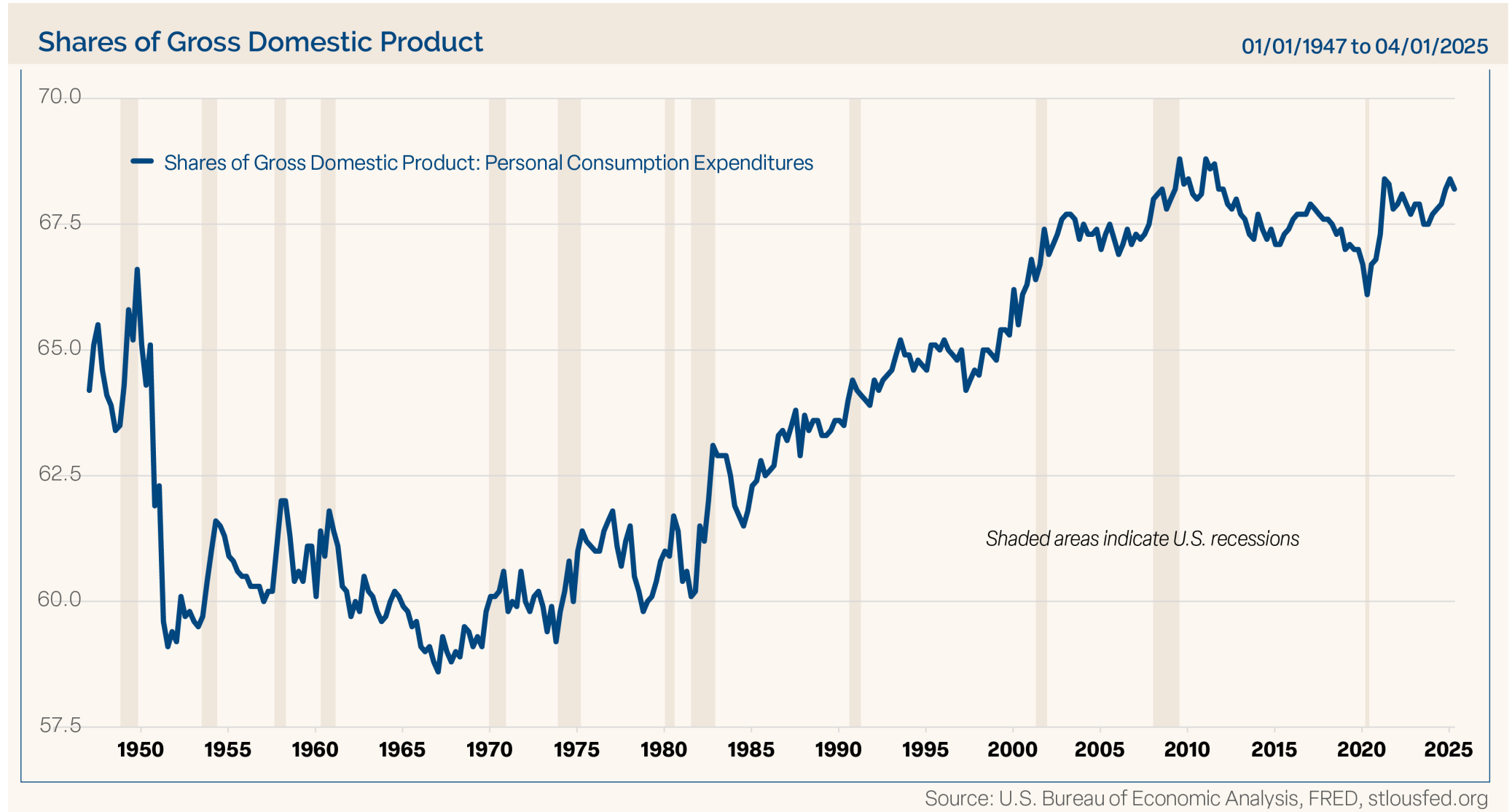
- Own high-quality companies, no matter where their mail goes!
- U.S. earnings are stronger
- International valuations are cheaper
- International div yield is higher
- International is about 35% of MSCI ACWI – massive bet not to own some



Agenda

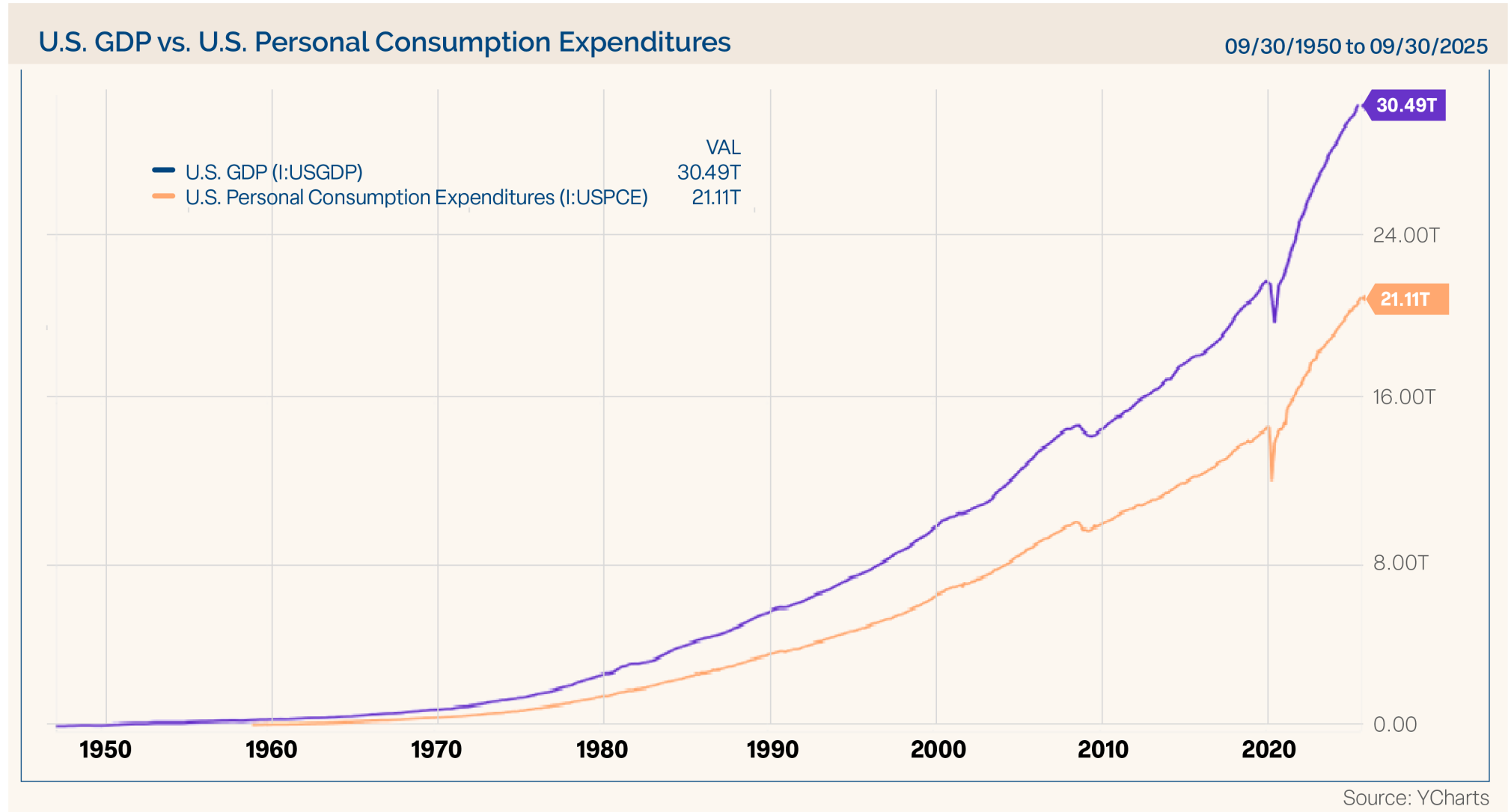
- What about the government shutdown?
- What about tariffs?
- Is the stock market in a bubble?
- What about AI?
- What is our view on international stocks?
- Will we have a recession?
- Is inflation going to come back?
- What about government debt?
- Is now a good time to invest?
- Turn it off!

U.S. Economy Is Driven by the Consumer



For illustrative purposes only. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

Consumer Is Still Spending

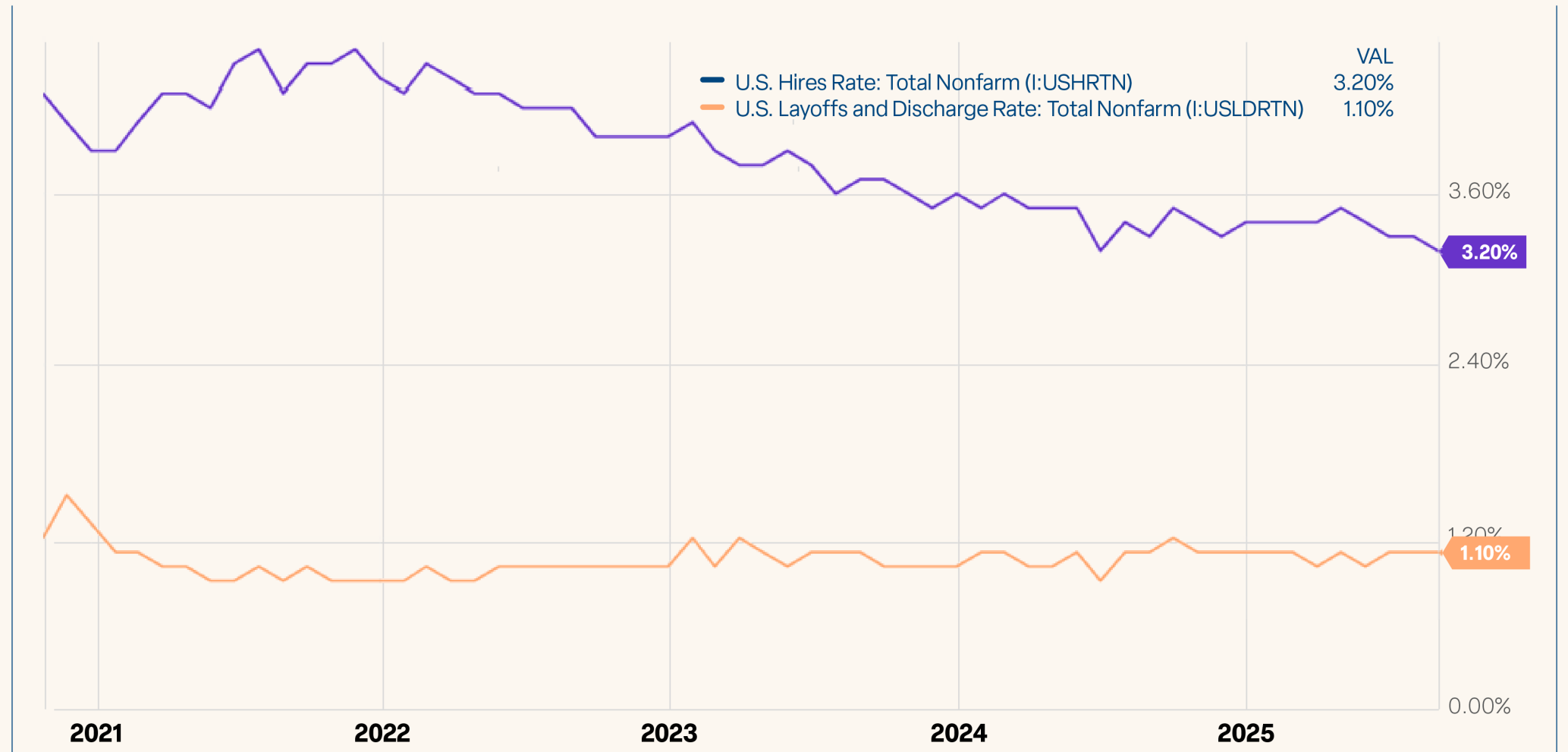


For illustrative purposes only. Past performance is not indicative of future results. Note: Imports are a subtraction in the calculation of GDP, thus, an increase in imports results in a negative contribution to GDP. Seasonally adjusted annual rates.

Hiring Has Slowed, Layoffs Have Not Accelerated



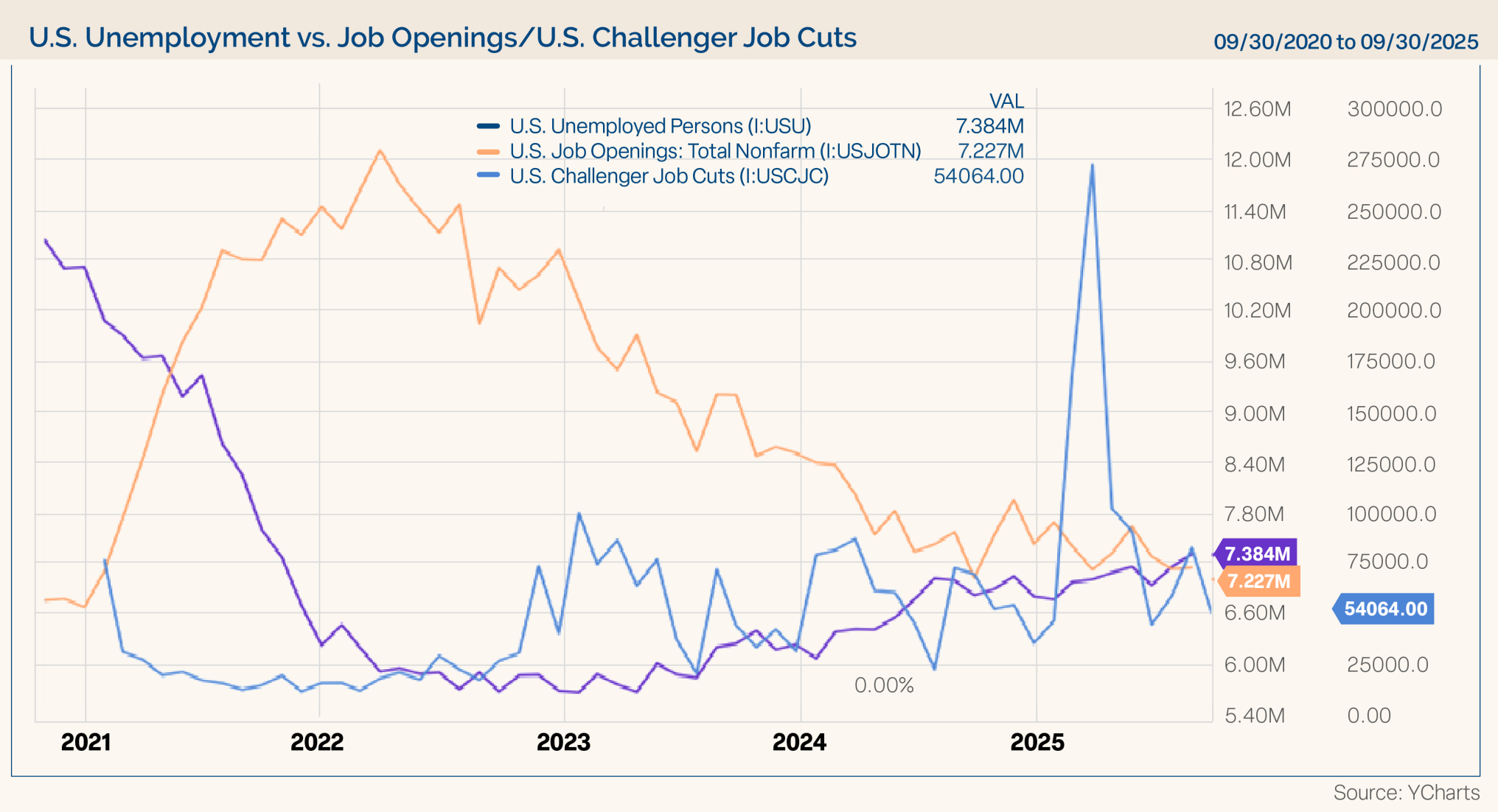
U.S. Hires vs. U.S. Layoffs



Source: YCharts

For illustrative purposes. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

Labor Market Still Solid but Softening



For illustrative purposes. Past performance is not indicative of future results.



Source: ChatGPT. For illustrative purposes only.



Agenda

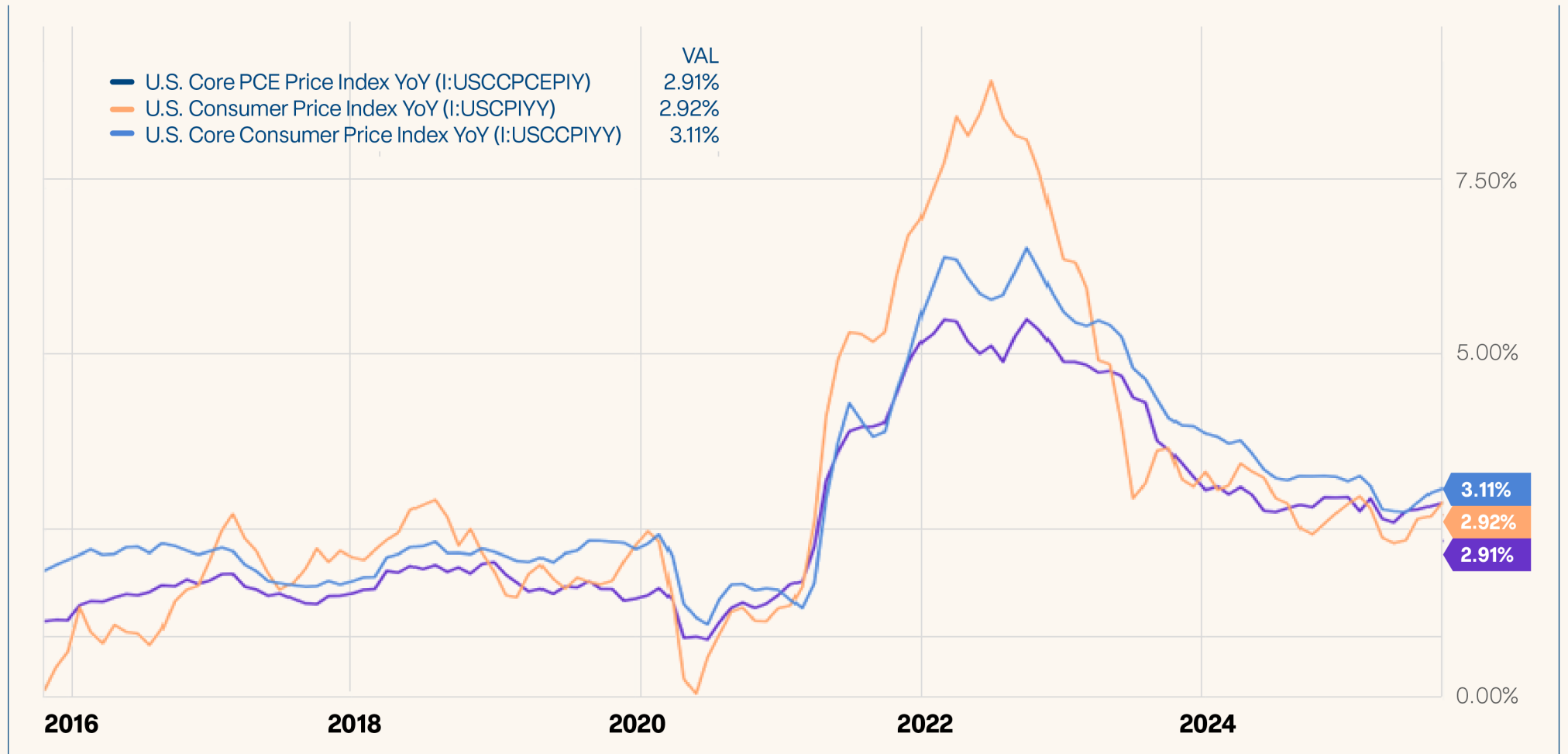
- What about the government shutdown?
- What about tariffs?
- Is the stock market in a bubble?
- What about AI?
- What is our view on international stocks?
- Will we have a recession?
- Is inflation going to come back?
- What about government debt?
- Is now a good time to invest?
- Turn it off!

Inflation Peaked Over Three Years Ago!



U.S. Core PCE vs. U.S. CPI vs. U.S. Core CPI

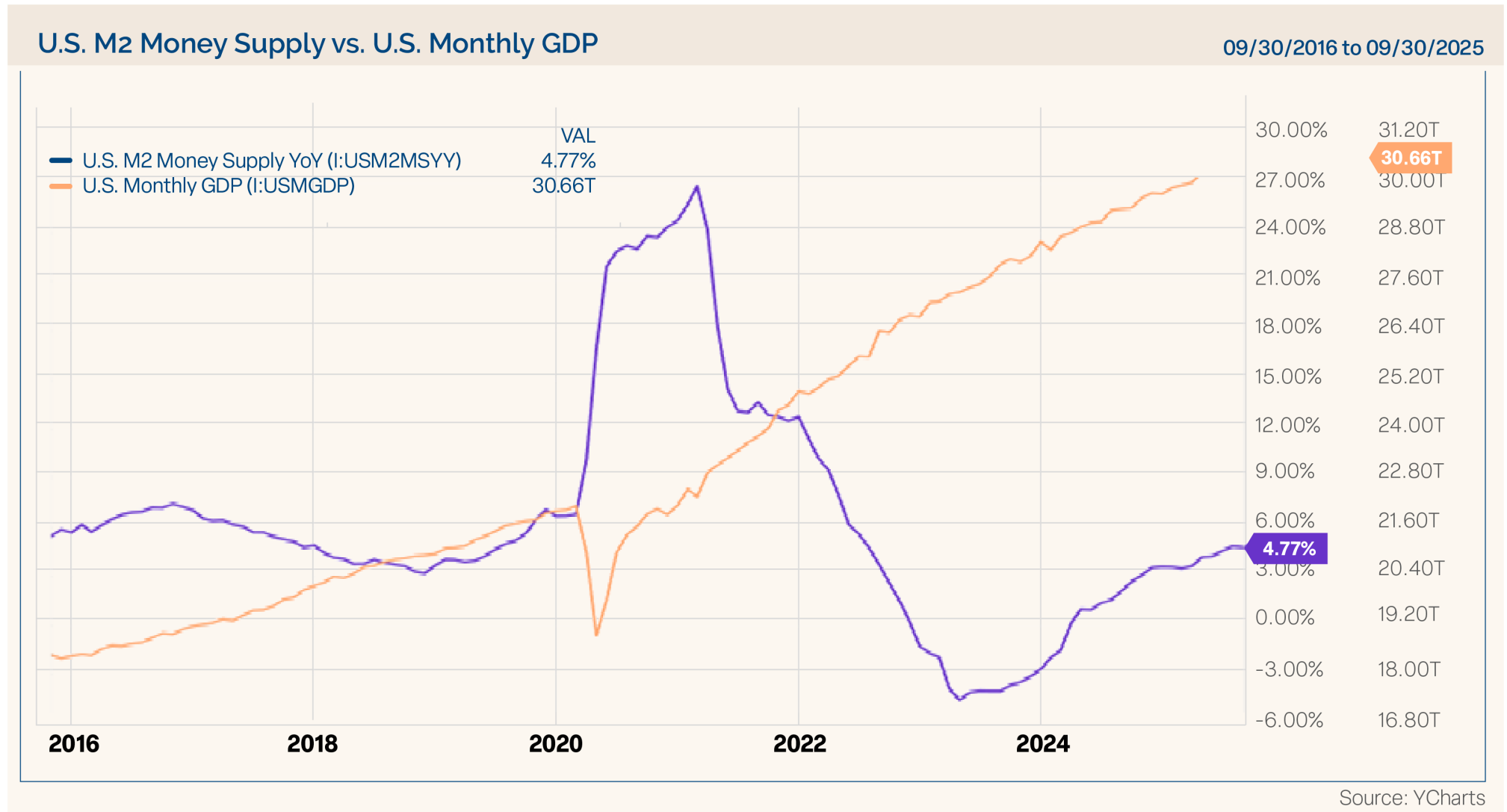
09/30/2016 to 09/30/2025



Source: YCharts

For illustrative purposes. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

Too Many Dollars Chasing Too Few Goods



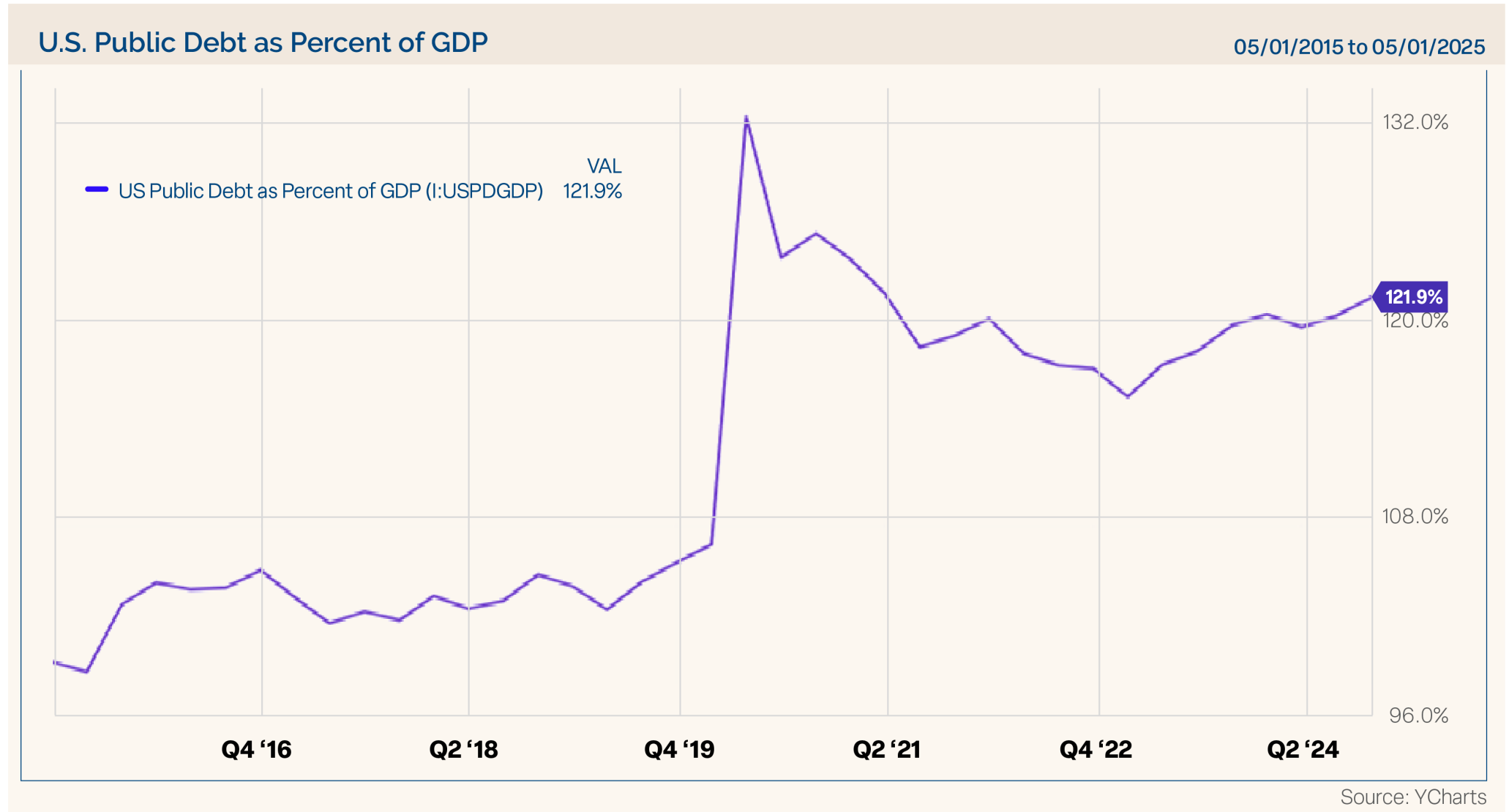
For illustrative purposes. Source: <https://www.universalcpareview.com/ask-joeey/what-is-the-law-of-supply-and-demand/>



Agenda

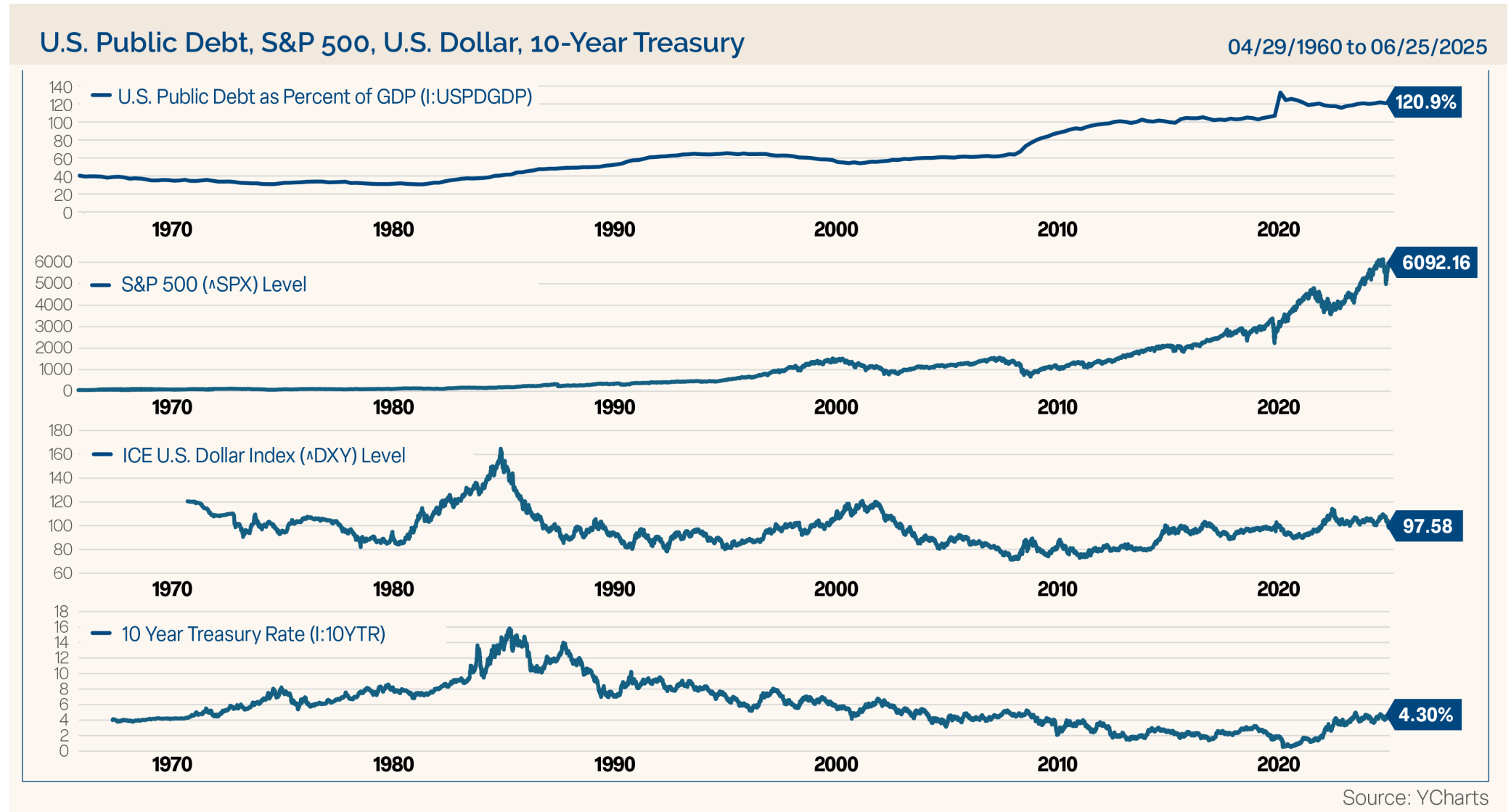
- What about the government shutdown?
- What about tariffs?
- Is the stock market in a bubble?
- What about AI?
- What is our view on international stocks?
- Will we have a recession?
- Is inflation going to come back?
- What about government debt?
- Is now a good time to invest?
- Turn it off!

Government Debt Matters...



For illustrative purposes only. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

...But Maybe Not the Way You Think



For illustrative purposes only. Past performance is not indicative of future results.



Debt to GDP Around the World

Global Debt-to-GDP Ratios

Country	Debt-to-GDP (%)
Sudan	272.0
Japan	237.0
Singapore	173.0
Italy	135.0
United States	124.0
France	113.0
Canada	111.0
United Kingdom	96.4
China	88.3
India	81.6
Brazil	76.5
Germany	62.5
Australia	43.8
Saudi Arabia	29.9
Russia	16.4

Source: ChatGPT. For illustrative purposes only. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

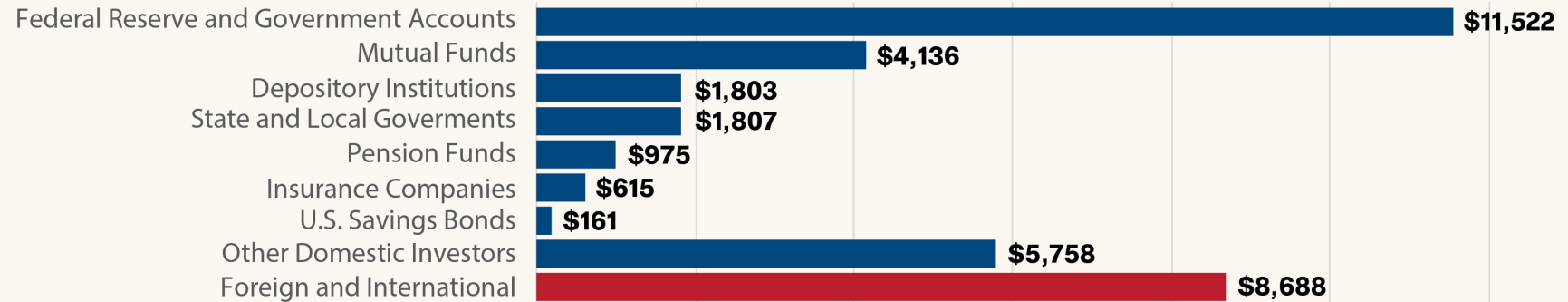
Who Owns Our Debt?



Federal Debt Ownership

U.S. Federal Debt Ownership by Category

Data Through 09/30/2024

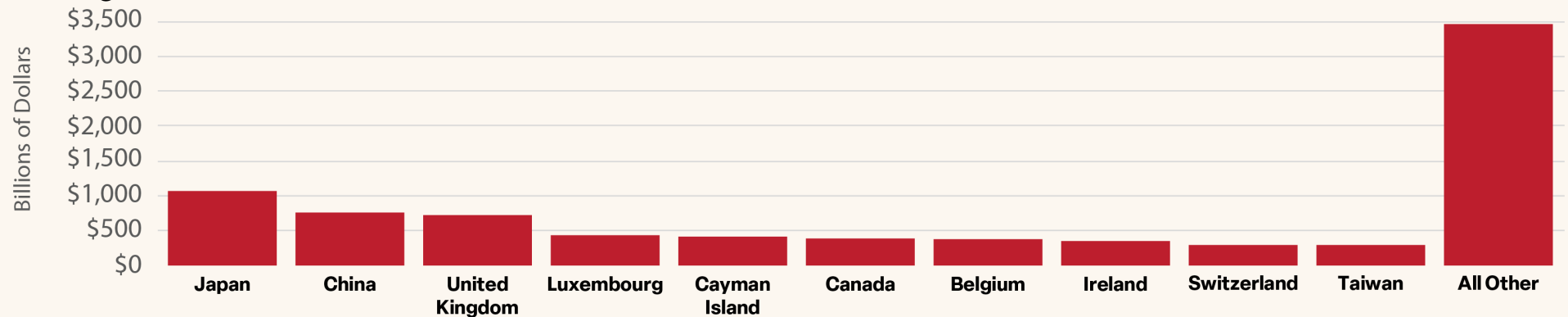


Billions of Dollars

Other domestic investors include individuals, government-sponsored enterprises, brokers and dealers, bank personal trusts and estates, corporate and non-corporate businesses, and other investors.

Major Foreign Holders of U.S. Federal Debt

Data Through 12/31/2024



Source: U.S. Department of the Treasury, First Trust Advisors

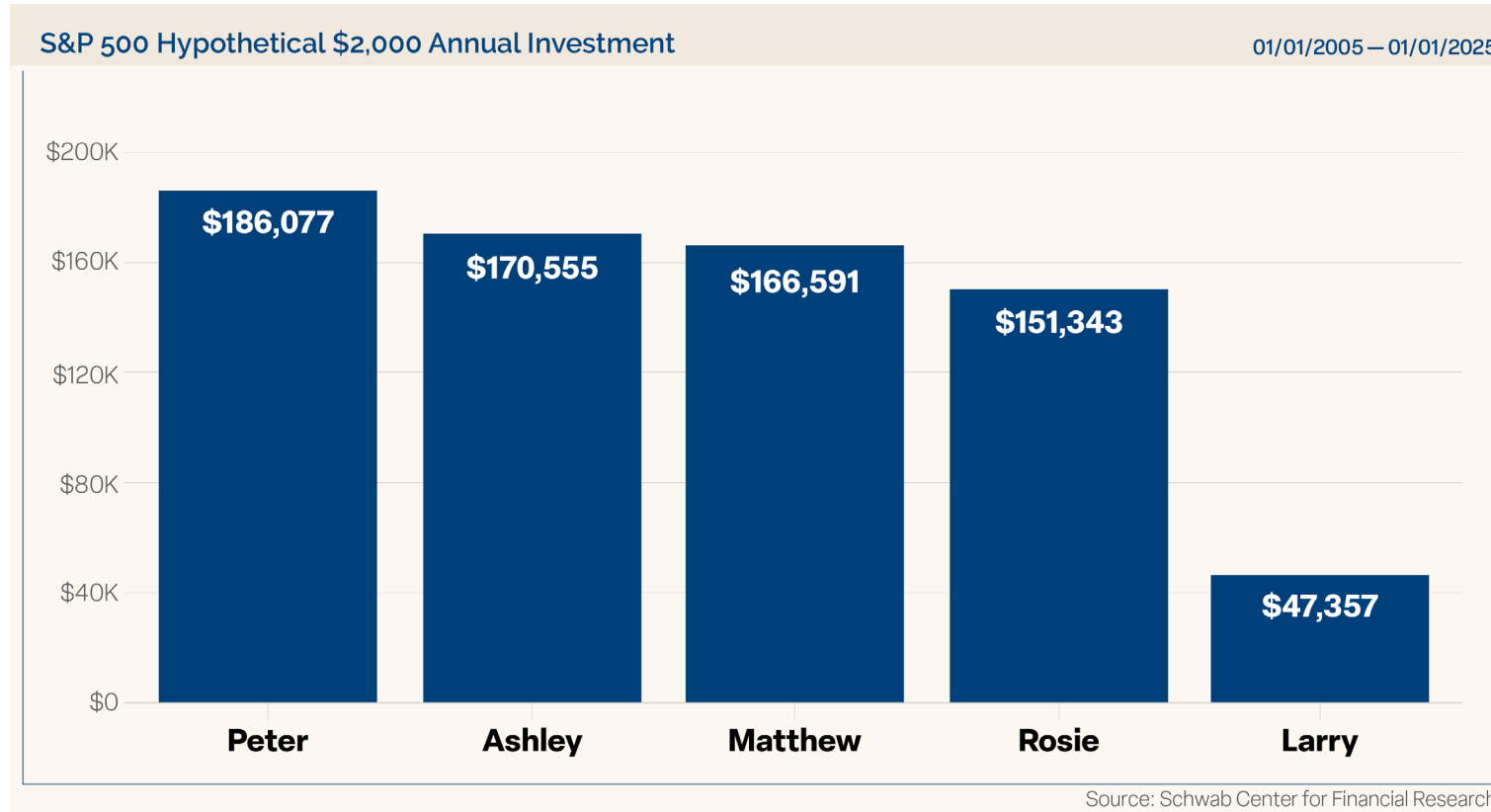
For illustrative purposes only. Past performance is not indicative of future results.



Agenda

- What about the government shutdown?
- What about tariffs?
- Is the stock market in a bubble?
- What about AI?
- What is our view on international stocks?
- Will we have a recession?
- Is inflation going to come back?
- What about government debt?
- Is now a good time to invest?
- Turn it off!

Time in the Market, not Timing the Market



Each individual invested \$2,000 annually in a hypothetical portfolio that tracks the S&P 500® index from 2005 – 2024. The individual who never bought stocks invested in a hypothetical portfolio that tracks the Ibbotson U.S. 30-day Treasury Bill Index. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Indexes are unmanaged, do not incur fees or expenses and cannot be invested in directly. The examples are hypothetical and are provided for illustrative purposes only. They are not intended to represent a specific investment product, and investors may not achieve similar results. Dividends and interest are assumed to have been reinvested, and the examples do not reflect the effects of taxes, expenses, nor fees. Had fees, expenses or taxes been considered, returns would have been substantially lower.

The chart shows hypothetical market performance. Hypothetical performance is prepared with the benefit of hindsight and is provided for informational and illustrative purposes to indicate historical performance. Hypothetical performance results have certain inherent limitations including, but not limited to, material economic and market factors that might have had an impact on actual decision making. Additionally, hypothetical performance does not involve financial risk, and no hypothetical performance calculation can completely account for the impact of financial risk on an actual investment strategy. <https://www.schwab.com/learn/story/does-market-timing-work>



Stay Focused

- Are these long-term assets?
 - When do you ever feel good getting into the market? Be honest!
 - High quality & diversification make sense over time
- Stocks have historically helped grow principal
 - Earnings drive values
 - Earnings are increasing
- Bonds help you sleep at night
 - Stable cash flow
 - Highest yields in a while



Agenda

- What about the government shutdown?
- What about tariffs?
- Is the stock market in a bubble?
- What about AI?
- What is our view on international stocks?
- Will we have a recession?
- Is inflation going to come back?
- What about government debt?
- Is now a good time to invest?
- Turn it off!

Turn It Off!



Source: ChatGPT. For illustrative purposes only.

Q&A





Disclosures

The opinions referenced are as of the date of publication and are subject to change due to changes in the market or economic conditions and may not necessarily come to pass. There is no guarantee of the future performance of any Clark Capital investment portfolio. Material presented has been derived from sources considered to be reliable, but the accuracy and completeness cannot be guaranteed. Nothing herein should be construed as a solicitation, recommendation or an offer to buy, sell or hold any sectors or securities, other investments or to adopt any investment strategy or strategies. For educational use only. This information is not intended to serve as investment advice. This material is not intended to be relied upon as a forecast or research. The investment or strategy discussed may not be suitable for all investors. Investors must make their own decisions based on their specific investment objectives and financial circumstances. Past performance does not guarantee future results.

This document may contain certain information that constitutes forward-looking statements which can be identified by the use of forward-looking terminology such as "may," "expect," "will," "hope," "forecast," "intend," "target," "believe," and/or comparable terminology (or the negative thereof). No assurance, representation, or warranty is made by any person that any of Clark Capital's assumptions, expectations, objectives, and/or goals will be achieved. Nothing contained in this document may be relied upon as a guarantee, promise, assurance, or representation as to the future.

Investing involves risk, including loss of principal.

Equity securities are subject to price fluctuation and possible loss of principal. Stock markets tend to move in cycles, with periods of rising prices and periods of falling prices. Certain investment strategies tend to increase the total risk of an investment (relative to the broader market). Strategies that concentrate their investments in limited sectors are more vulnerable to adverse market, economic, regulatory, political, or other developments affecting those sectors.

Fixed incomes securities are subject to certain risks including, but not limited to: interest rate (changes in interest rates may cause a decline in market value or an investment), credit, prepayment, call (some bonds allow the issuer to call a bond for redemption before it matures), extension (principal repayments may not occur as quickly as anticipated, causing the expected maturity of a security to increase), and inflation risk (rising prices will lower the purchasing power of the investment at maturity).

Non-investment-grade debt securities (high-yield/junk bonds) may be subject to greater market fluctuations, risk of default or loss of income and principal than higher-rated securities.

CFA® and Chartered Financial Analyst® are registered trademarks owned by CFA Institute.

CAIA® is a registered trademark of the CAIA association.

Clark Capital Management Group, Inc. is an investment adviser registered with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Registration does not imply a certain level of skill or training. More information about Clark Capital's advisory services can be found in its Form ADV and/or Form CRS, which are available upon request.



Benchmark Descriptions

References to market or composite indices, benchmarks or other measures of relative market performance over a specified period of time (each, an "index") are provided for your information only. Reference to an index does not imply that the portfolio will achieve returns, volatility or other results similar to that index. The composition of the index may not reflect the manner in which a portfolio is constructed in relation to expected or achieved returns, portfolio guidelines, restrictions, sectors, correlations, concentrations, volatility or tracking error targets, all of which are subject to change. Investors cannot invest directly in an index.

The volatility (beta) of an account may be greater or less than its respective benchmark.

The S&P 500 measures the performance of the 500 leading companies in leading industries of the U.S. economy, capturing 80% of U.S. equities.

The Composite Index of Leading Indicators, otherwise known as the Leading Economic Index (LEI), is an index published monthly by The Conference Board. It is used to predict the direction of global economic movements in future months. It is used to predict the direction of global economic movements in future months. The index is composed of 10 economic components whose changes tend to precede changes in the overall economy.

Gross domestic product (GDP) is the monetary value of all finished goods and services made within a country during a specific period. GDP provides an economic snapshot of a country, used to estimate the size of an economy and growth rate.

Index returns include the reinvestment of income and dividends. The returns for these unmanaged indexes do not include any transaction costs, management fees or other costs. It is not possible to make an investment directly in any index.

The 10 year treasury yield is included on the longer end of the yield curve. Many analysts will use the 10 year yield as the "risk free" rate when valuing the markets or an individual security. GDPNow is a forecasting model that provides a "nowcast" of the official GDP estimate prior to its release by estimating GDP growth using a methodology similar to the one used by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

The Producer Price Index (PPI) program measures the average change over time in the selling prices received by domestic producers for their output. The prices included in the PPI are from the first commercial transaction for many products and some services.

The nonfarm payroll measures the number of workers in the U.S. except those in farming, private households, proprietors, non-profit employees, and active military.

The price-to-earnings ratio is the ratio for valuing a company that measures its current share price relative to its earnings per share (EPS).

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure that examines the weighted average of prices of a basket of consumer goods and services, such as transportation, food, and medical care. It is calculated by taking price changes for each item in the predetermined basket of goods and averaging them. Changes in the CPI are used to assess price changes associated with the cost of living.

The Personal Consumption Expenditures Price Index (PCE) is a measure of the prices that people living in the United States, or those buying on their behalf, pay for goods and services. The PCE price index is known for capturing inflation (or deflation) across a wide range of consumer expenses and reflecting changes in consumer behavior.

Treasury bond yields (or rates) are tracked by investors for many reasons. The yields are paid by the U.S. government as interest for borrowing money via selling the bond. Treasury Bills are loans to the federal government that mature at terms ranging from a few days to 52 weeks. A Treasury Note matures in two to 10 years, while a Treasury Bond matures in 20 or 30 years. The 10-year Treasury yield is closely watched as an indicator of broader investor confidence. Because Treasury bills, notes, and bonds carry the full backing of the U.S. government, they are viewed as one of the safest investments.

The implied rate is an interest rate equal to the difference between the spot rate and the forward or futures rate. The implied rate gives investors a way to compare returns across investments. An implied rate can be calculated for any type of security that also has an option or futures contract.

Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index covers the U.S. investment-grade fixed-rate bond market, including government and credit securities, agency mortgage pass-through securities, asset-backed securities and commercial mortgage-based securities. To qualify for inclusion, a bond or security must have at least one year to final maturity, and be rated investment grade Baa3 or better, dollar denominated, non-convertible, fixed rate and publicly issued.



Benchmark Descriptions

The Bloomberg US Treasury Index measures US dollar-denominated, fixed-rate, nominal debt issued by the US Treasury. Treasury bills are excluded by the maturity constraint but are part of a separate Short Treasury Index. STRIPS are excluded from the index because their inclusion would result in double-counting. The US Treasury Index is a component of the US Aggregate, US Universal, Global Aggregate and Global Treasury Indices.

The Bloomberg US Corporate Bond Index measures the investment grade, fixed-rate, taxable corporate bond market. It includes USD-denominated securities publicly issued by US and non-US industrial, utility and financial issuers. The US Corporate Index is a component of the US Credit and US Aggregate Indices, and provided the necessary inclusion rules are met, US Corporate Index securities also contribute to the multi-currency Global Aggregate Index.

The Bloomberg U.S. Corporate High-Yield Index covers the U.S. dollar-denominated, non-investment grade, fixed-rate, taxable corporate bond market. Securities are classified as high-yield if the middle rating of Moody's, Fitch, and S&P is Ba1/BB+/BB+ or below.

The Bloomberg Municipal Bond Index is a rules-based, market-value-weighted index engineered for the tax-exempt bond market. The index tracks general obligation bonds, revenue bonds, insured bonds, and pre-refunded bonds rated Baa3/BBB- or higher by at least two of the ratings agencies.

The S&P 500 Total Return index reflects the overall performance of the S&P 500, including not only price changes of the stocks within the index but also the reinvestment of any dividends received, providing a more comprehensive picture of the total return an investor would experience by holding the S&P 500 index over time; essentially, it captures both price appreciation and dividend income from the constituent stocks.

The Russell 2000 Index measures the performance of the 2000 smallest U.S. companies based on total market capitalization in the Russell 3000, which represents approximately 10% of Russell 3000 total market capitalization.

The MSCI World ex US Index is a market capitalization-weighted index designed to measure equity performance in 22 global developed markets, excluding the United States. The benchmark for this composite is used because the MSCI World Ex US Net Index is generally representative of international equities. Index returns reflect the reinvestment of income and other earnings, are provided to represent the investment environment shown, and are not covered by the report of independent verifiers.

The ICE U.S. Dollar Index (USDx) futures contract is a leading benchmark for the international value of the US dollar and the world's most widely-recognized traded currency index. In a single transaction the USDx enables market participants to monitor moves in the value of the US dollar relative to a basket of world currencies, as well as hedge their portfolios against the risk of a move in the dollar. US Dollar Index futures are traded for 21 hours a day on the ICE platform.

The U.S. dollar index is a measure of the value of the U.S. dollar relative to a basket of foreign currencies. The index is a geometrically-averaged calculation of six currencies weighted against the U.S. dollar. The index was established by the U.S. Federal Reserve in 1973 after the dissolution of the Bretton Woods Agreement. It is now maintained by ICE Data Indices, a subsidiary of the Intercontinental Exchange (ICE).

The Russell 1000 Value Index measures the performance of the large-cap value segment of the U.S. equity universe. It includes those Russell 1000 Index companies with lower price-to-book ratios and lower forecasted growth values.

The Russell 1000 Growth Index measures the performance of the large-cap growth segment of the U.S. equity universe. It includes those Russell 1000 Index companies with higher price-to-book ratios and higher forecasted growth values.