The Macroscope 2024

December 2024

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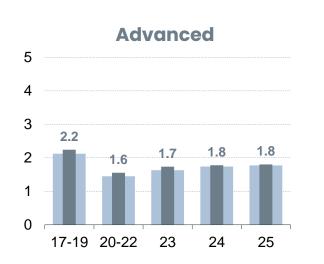
12/16/2024

The IMF expects world growth to stay slightly above 3%... with the US decelerating and the euro area accelerating



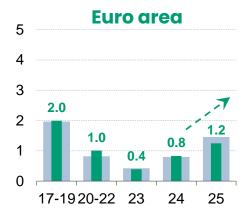
(% annual average)

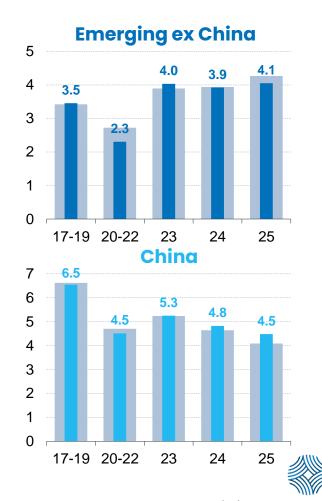




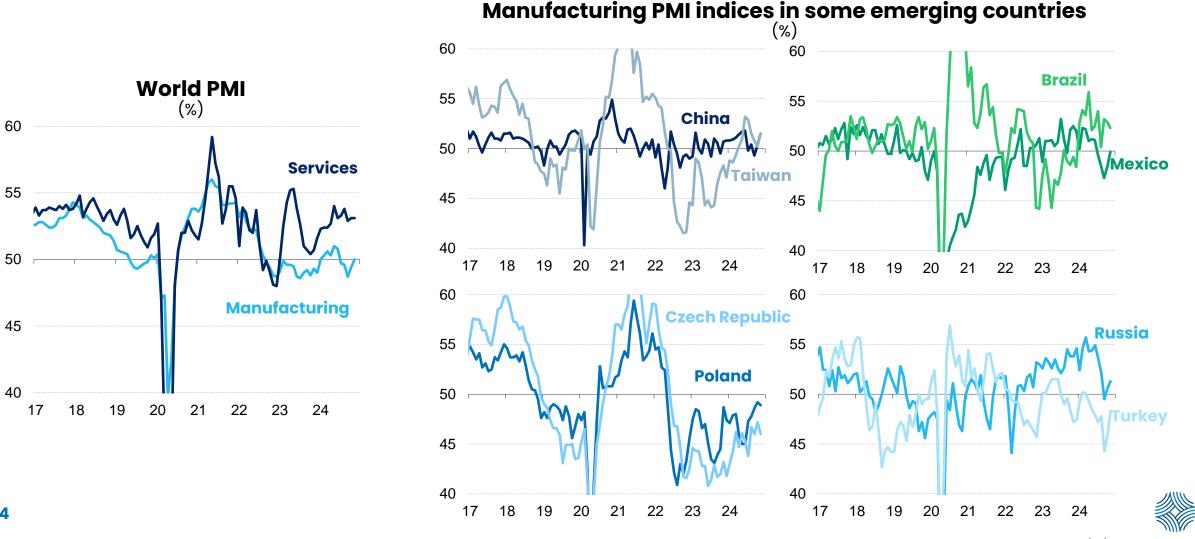


United States





Activity is holding in services, but remains weak in the manufacturing sector



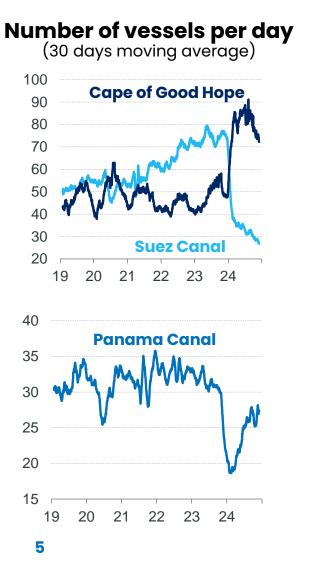
Marketing communication for Professional & Qualified Investors

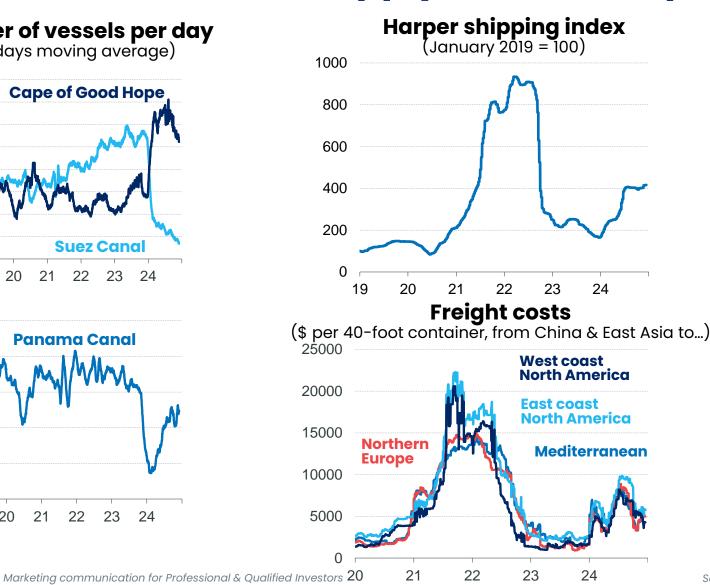
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Sources: Bloomberg, Candriam

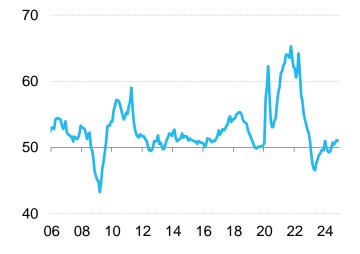
12/16/2024

Despite higher freight costs, there has been no supply chain disruptions so far





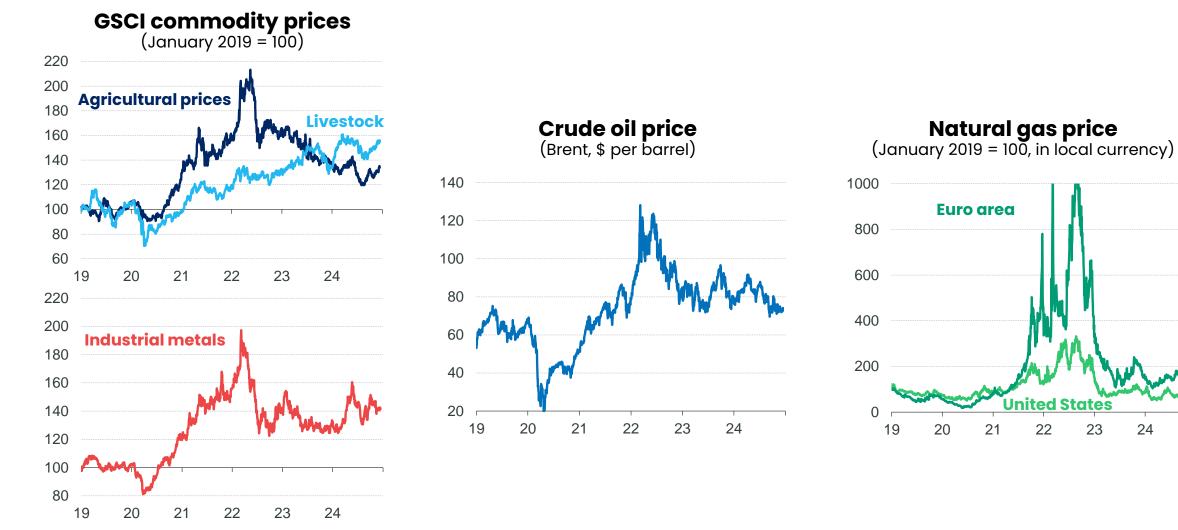
Global suppliers' delivery time (manufacturing PMIs, %)





12/16/2024

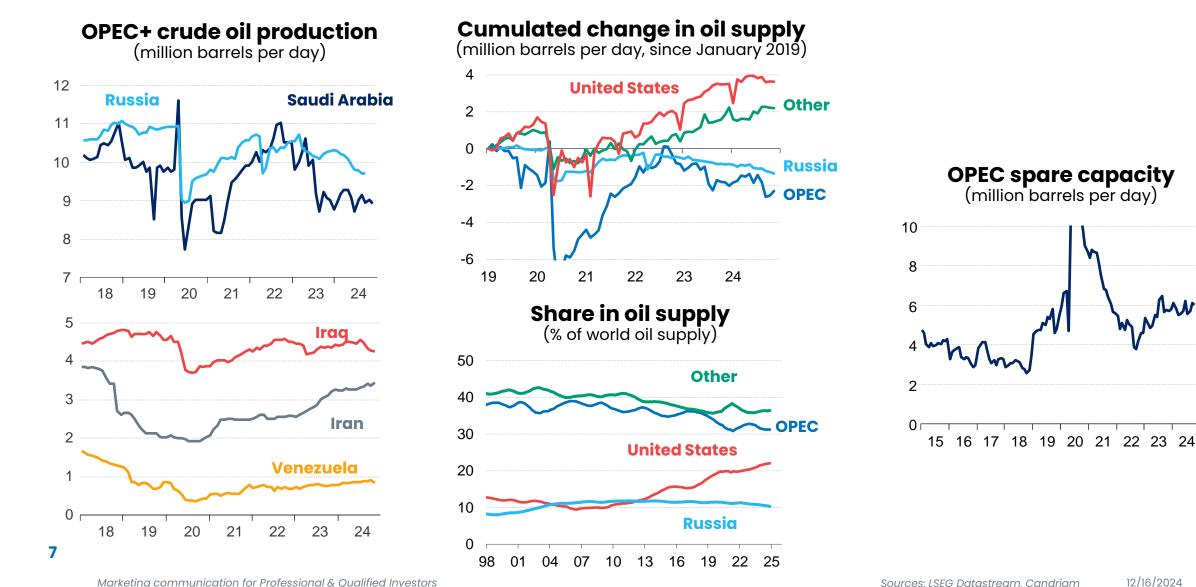
Up to now, commodity prices have been relatively stable





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Despite rising tensions in the Middle East, ample supply has kept oil prices on the soft side



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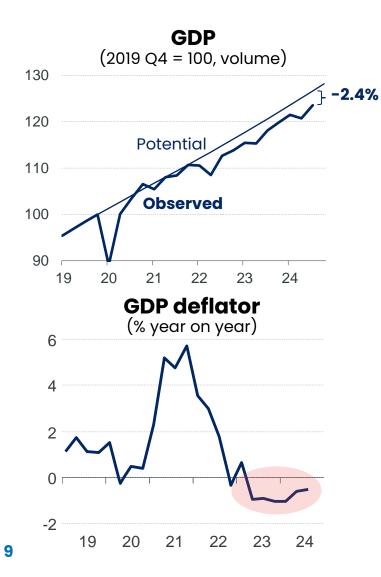


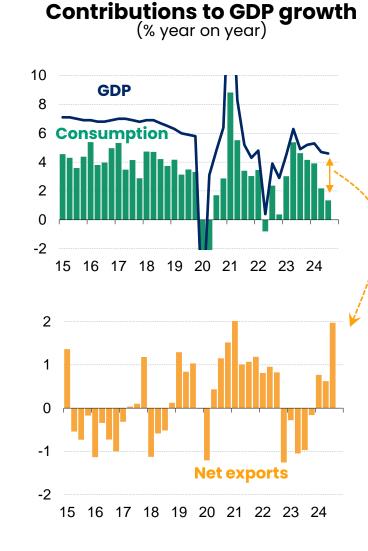
China A new round of support measures... but no new policy!



12/16/2024

Despite the recent rebound, deflationary forces are still weighing on activity





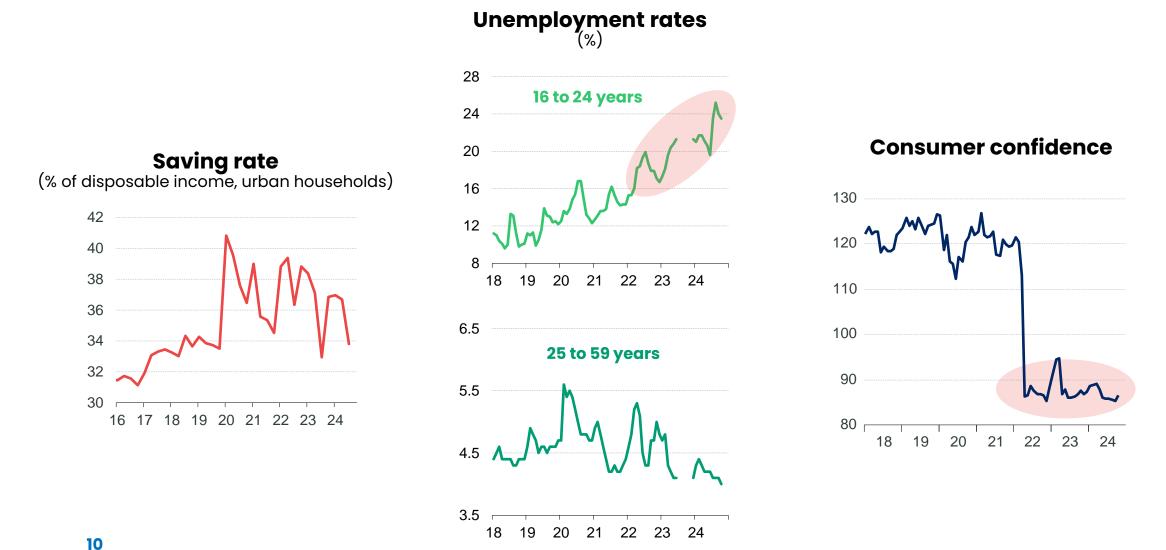
Urban per capita disposable income (Yuan, quarterly rate)





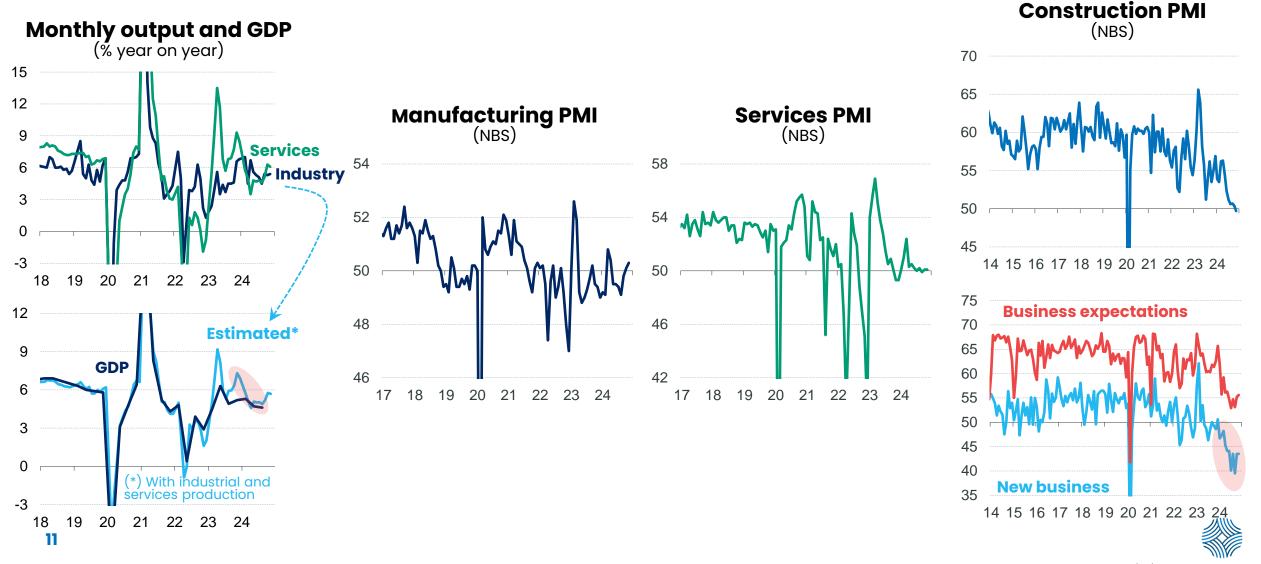
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Youth unemployment has kept increasing, and consumer confidence remains depressed

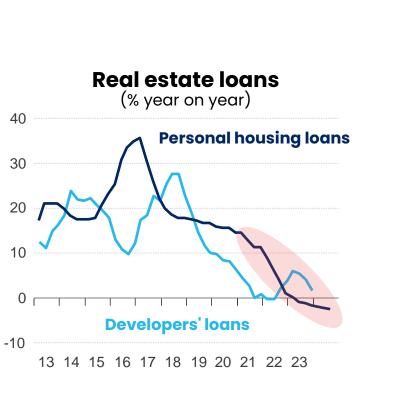


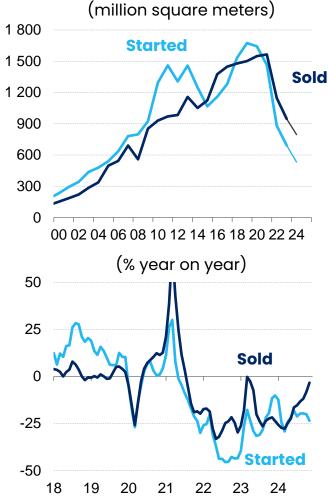


In October, the PMI index improved slightly in the manufacturing sector... but not in services

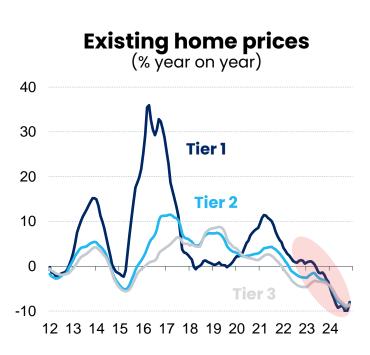


Real estate investment is the main drag on activity...





Residential building started and sold

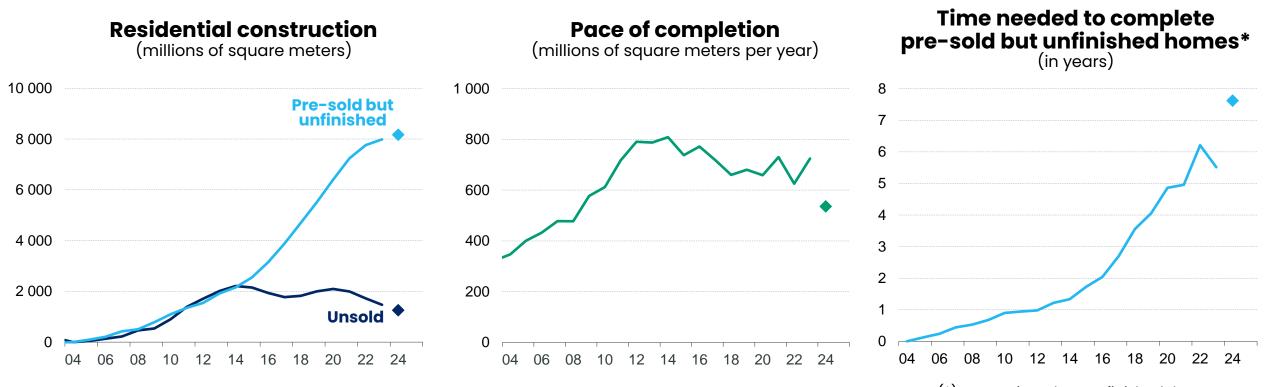




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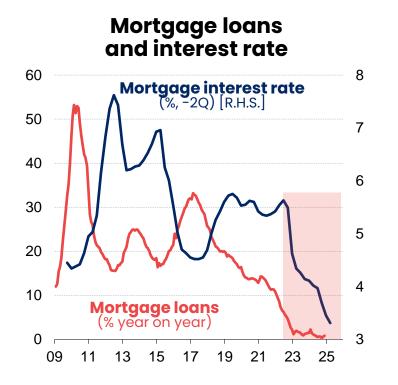
... and will remain so for the foreseeable future

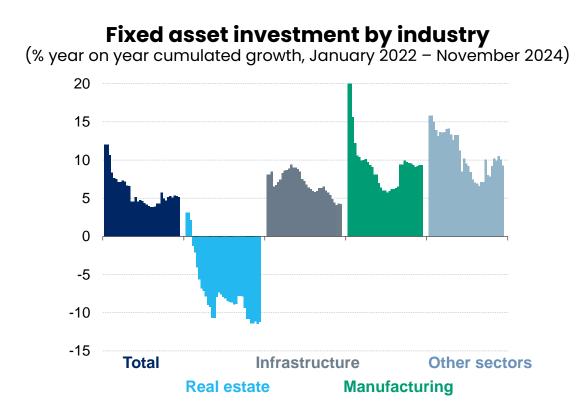


(*) Assuming that unfinished homes are halfway advanced and the pace of completion remains at current levels.



Monetary policy has stopped having traction on mortgage borrowing making deflationary pressures difficult to counter

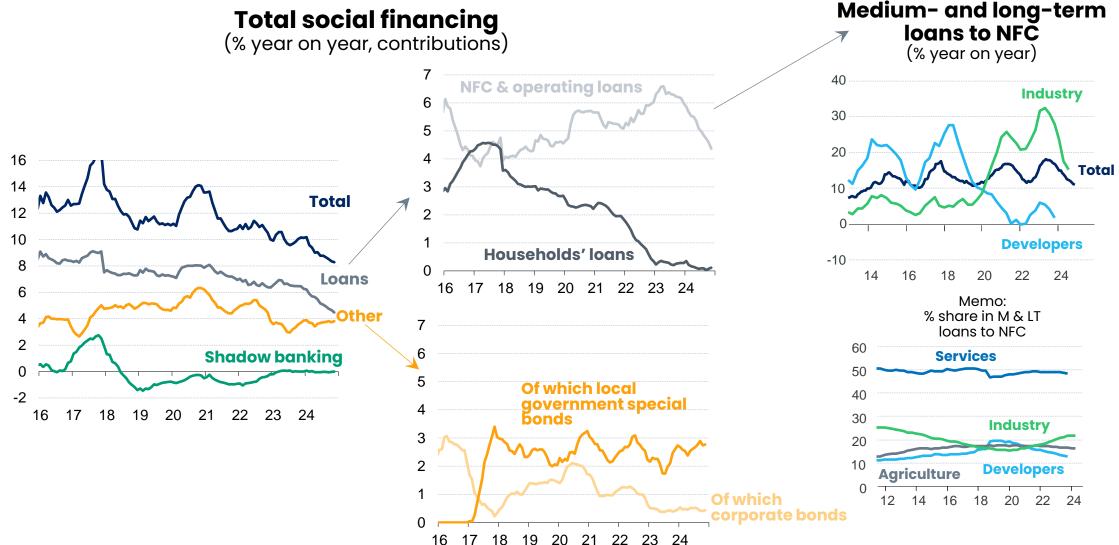




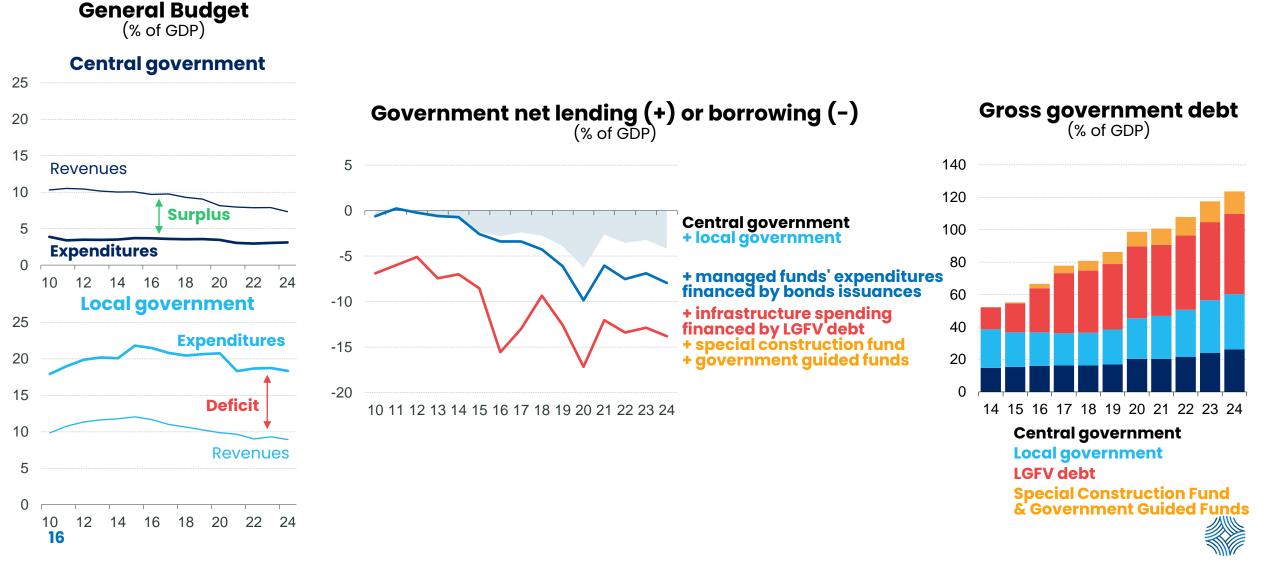


12/16/2024

The flow of credit has continued to weaken



With faltering land sales, local governments need more central government transfers



12/16/2024

The "bazooka-like" measures recently announced by the Politburo convey a sense of urgency in supporting the economy... and the financial system

September counter-cyclical announcements :

• Monetary policy:

- 50bp RRR cut (RMBItn of liquidity released) with possibly more to come
- Rate cuts: 20bp OMO, 30bp MLF
- o 25bp cut to 5-year LPR (mortgage interest rate benchmark) and deposit rate

Real estate market:

- Downpayment ratio for 2nd home buyer cut from 25% to 15% (same downpayment ratio than for 1st-time home buyers).
- 50 bp cut in existing mortgage rate (RMB150bn savings for 50 million households or 150 million people), i.e. 0.1% of GDP.
- Allow the RMB300bn relending facility to support 100% of the principal of eligible loans, which is used by banks to support local govts in their purchases of unsold but completed homes. Previously, only 60% of principal was supported.
- Existing policy measures on commercial property loans (allow developers use bank loans backed by their operating commercial properties to repay other existing loans and bonds) and the 16-point financial measures for the property financing support will remain effective by end-2026, as it was extended from end-2024.

Bank recapitalization:

• China is considering injecting more than 1tn yuan of capital into its biggest state banks to increase their capacity to offer loans.

• Liquidity support for equity markets:

- RMB500bn swap facility for securities firms, funds and insurance companies to tap liquidity from the PBoC to buy stocks.
- RMB300bn relending facility for banks to support listed companies and major shareholders to buy back shares and raise holdings.

Local governments debt swap:

 Beijing raised local gov't debt ceiling for hidden debt swap by RMB6000bn yuan and confirmed a 5-year plan to set aside RMB800bn each year from Local Gov't Special Bond (LGSB) quota for hidden debt swap. However, LGSBs used to be almost entirely for infrastructure investment and the newly planned portion for debt swap is not incremental to the annual quota and would eat into infrastructure financing.

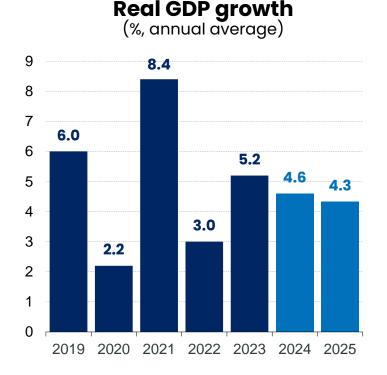
Fiscal measures under discussion:

- RMB150bn of vouchers for low-income people, i.e. 0.1% of GDP
- Other support mentioned but no specifics were offered on the size of fiscal spending.
- RMB800 per month (8% of median income) per child for households with 2 or more children (excluding the first child), i.e. RMB 830 billions (~0.65% of GDP).

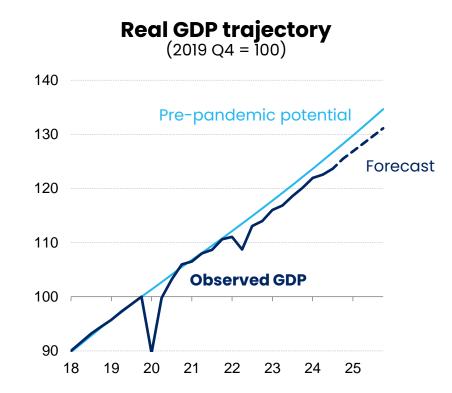
→ Estimated fiscal stimulus: ~1% of GDP



This will give a short-term boost to activity but is unlikely to durably offset deflationary forces... especially if D. Trump implements its tariff policy*



(*) A back of the envelope calculation points to a 60% tariff increase possibly subtracting 1.5%-2% to China GDP in 2025.





12/16/2024



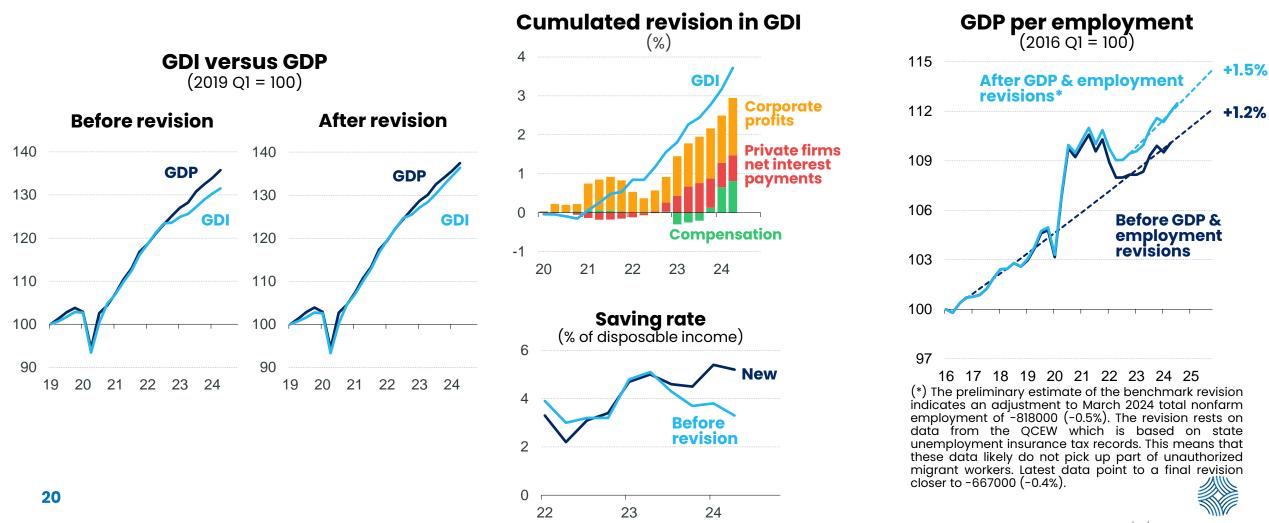
3 United States Lower uncertainty... but higher unpredictability!



12/16/2024

After the annual NIPA revisions, the past looks brighter: GDP, the saving rate and trend productivity are higher!

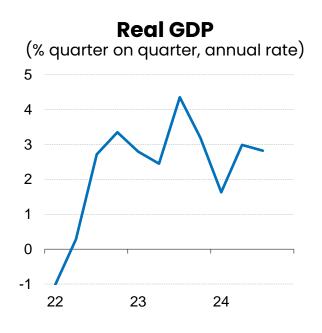
Revisions to Gross Domestic Income



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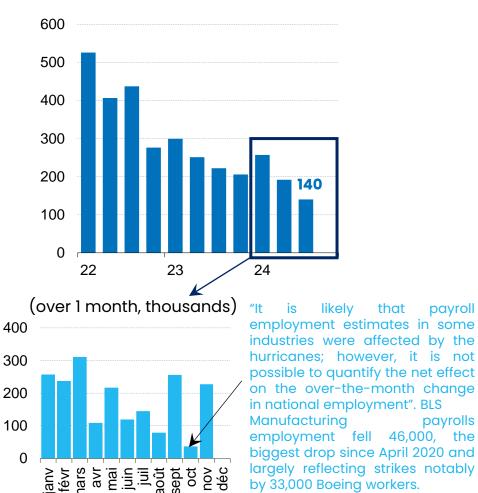
Sources: BEA, LSEG Datastream, Candriam 12/16/2024

Still, the recent deceleration in job creations may not be sufficient to meet the labor supply constraint

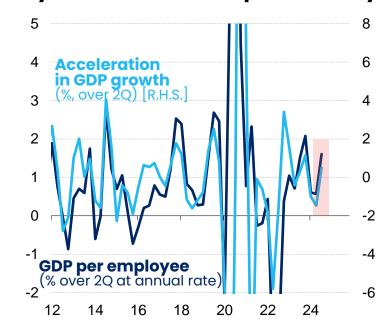


Change in employment

(over I quarter, monthly rate, thousands)



Cyclical behavior of productivity



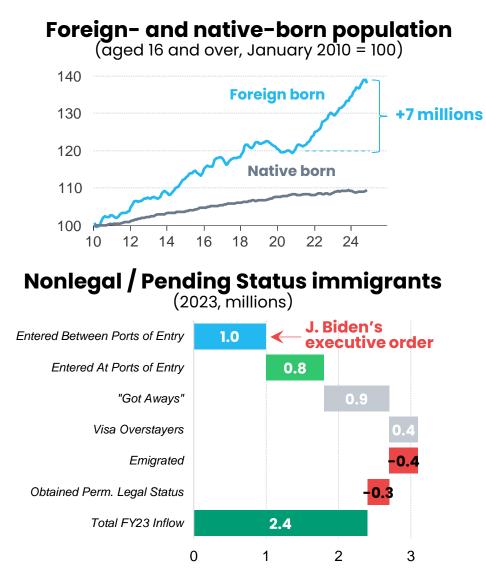
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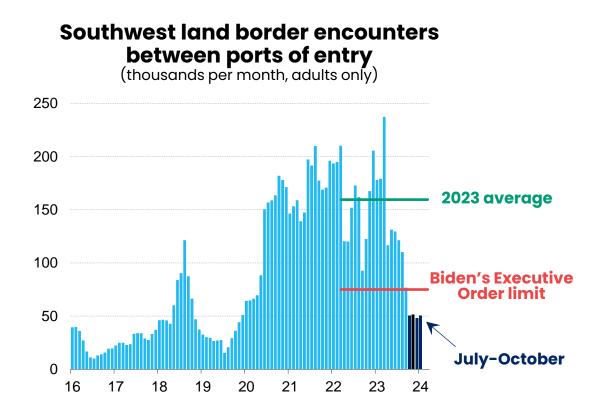
payroll

payrolls



Immigration, that allowed the workforce to grow faster, has recently been curbed



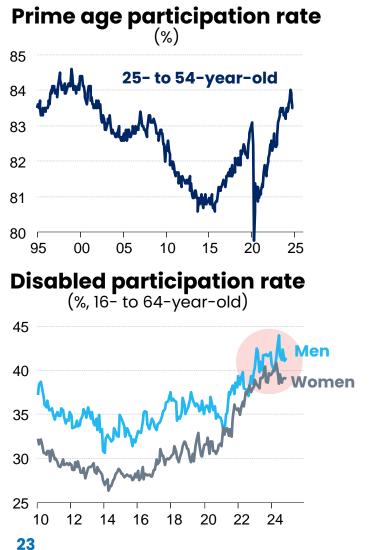


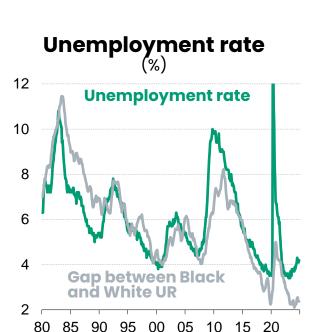


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Given the tightness in the labor market, job creations are supposed to stabilize around 110 000 / month in our baseline scenario





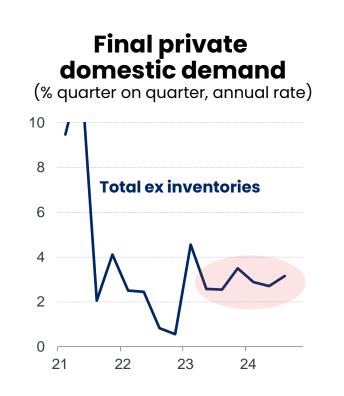
Labor force growth rate

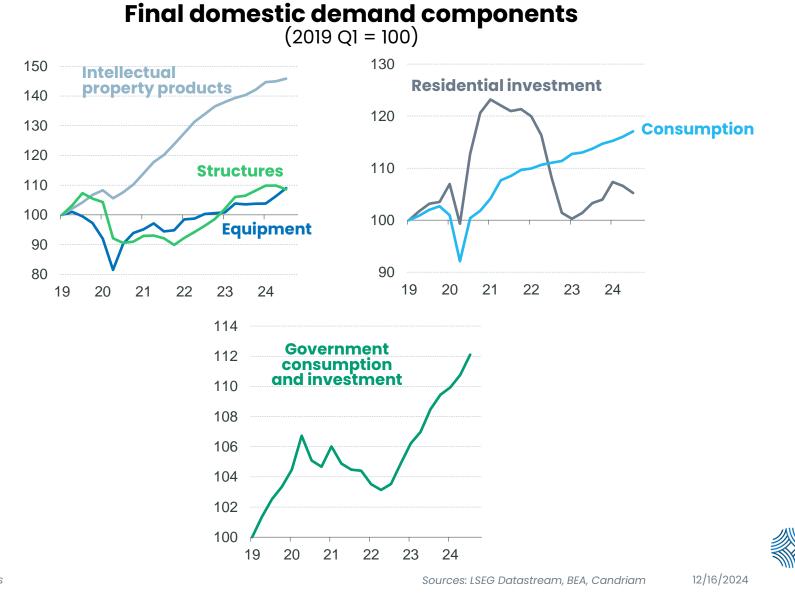
	2025
Natural working age population	50 000 / month
Immigration	130 000 / month
Working age population	180 000 / month (+0.8%)
Participation rate	Unchanged
Labor force growth	110 000 / month (+0.8%)

→Even assuming increased trend productivity, growth in our baseline scenario has to slow down to 2.3% (0.8% + 1.5%) to prevent a tightening in the labor market.

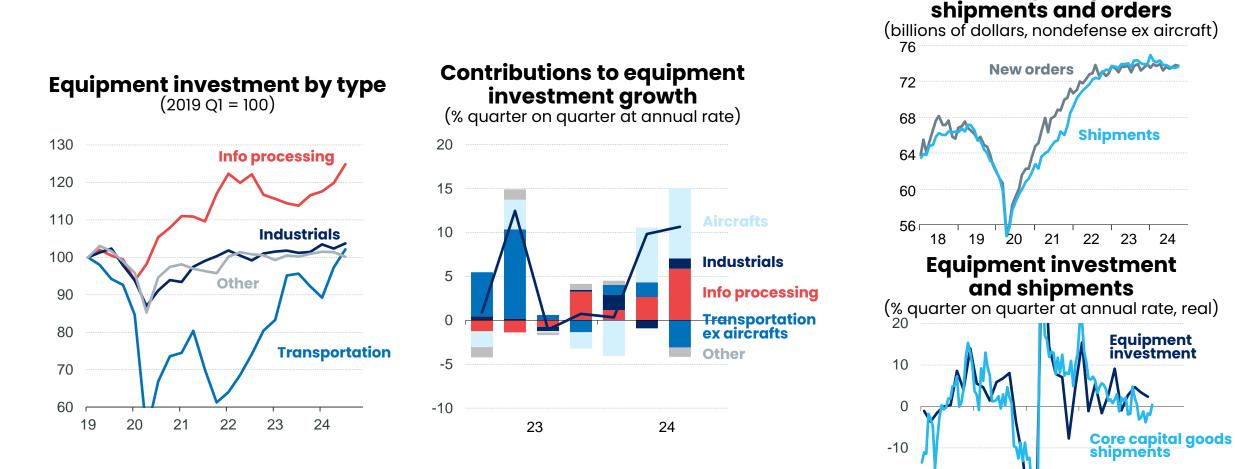


Up to now, domestic demand has remained strong... but some slowing down factors are at work





The surge in equipment investment has been exaggerated by booming nondefense aircraft transportation items



18

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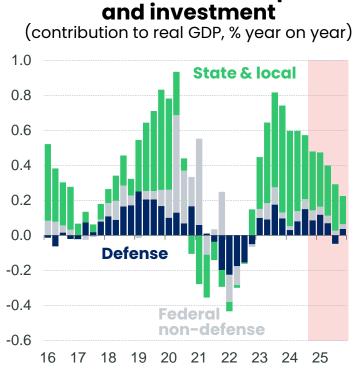
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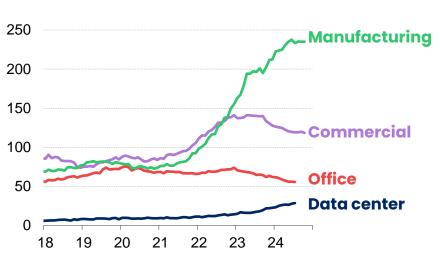
Core capital goods

12/16/2024

The support provided by government spending and firms' structures investment will weaken



Government consumption

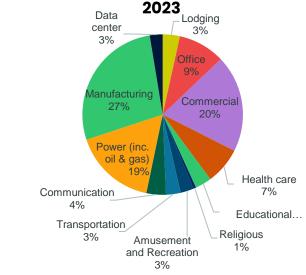


Manufacturing sector: Computer / electronic / electrical



Private investment in non-residential structures

(\$ billion, current prices, annual rate)

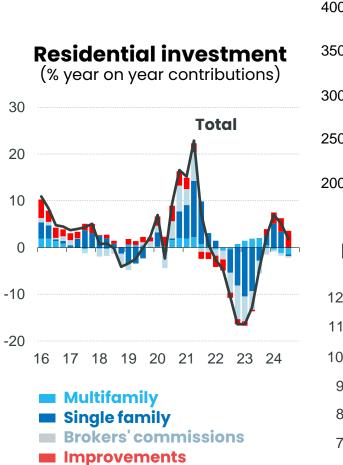


Commercial

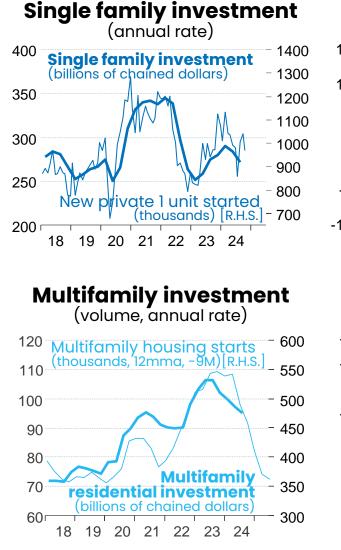


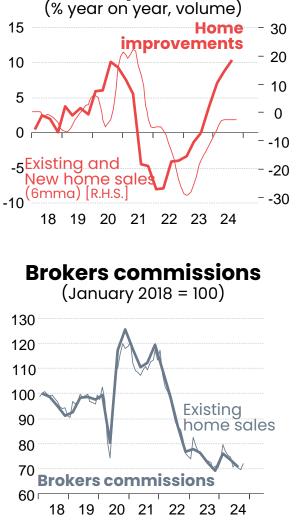


Housing is unlikely to significantly boost activity... (I)

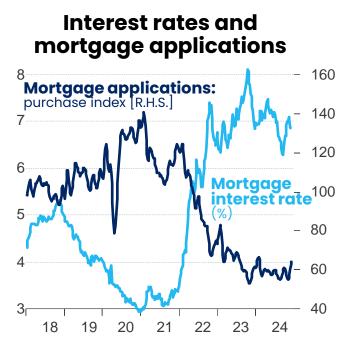


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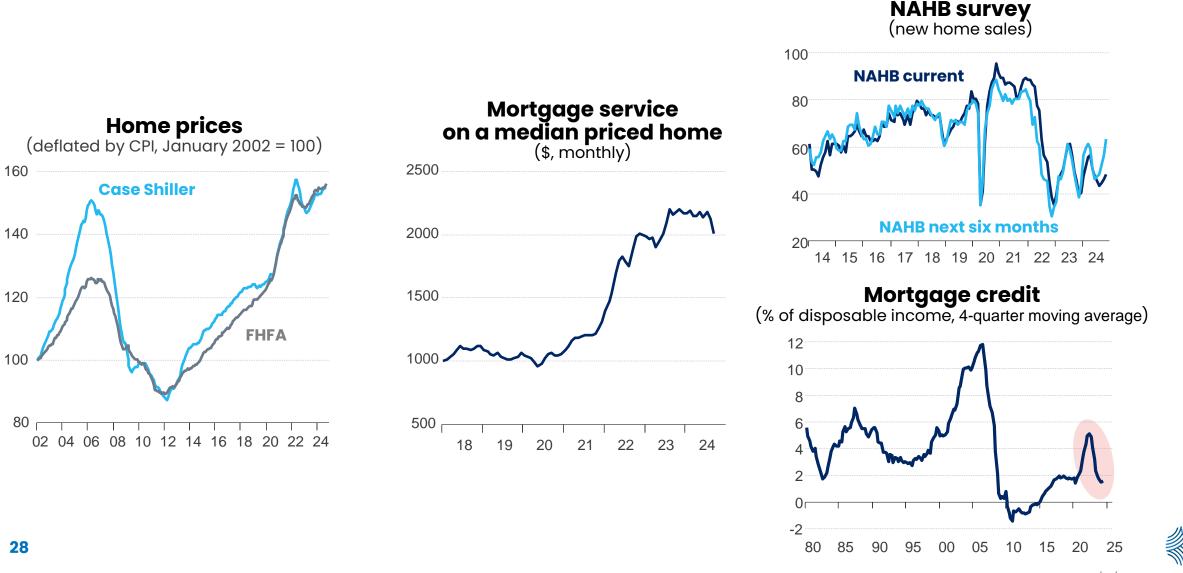
Home improvements





12/16/2024

Housing is unlikely to significantly boost activity... (II)



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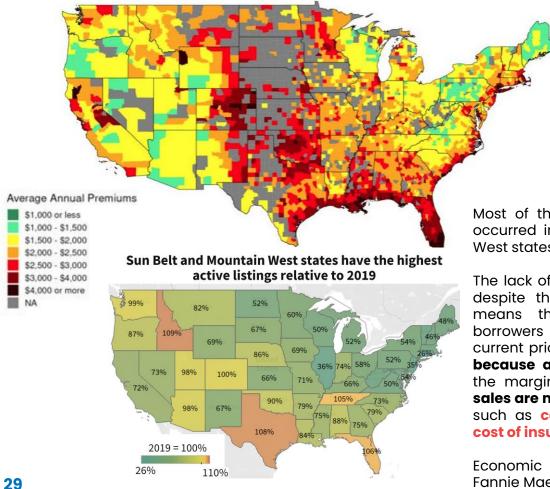
Sources: LSEG Datastream, Candriam

12/16/2024

... and households are concerned about the availability and the cost of insurance

Average annual insurance premiums by county

(2023 H1)

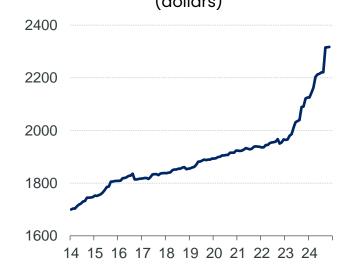


Most of the rise in homes for sale have occurred in Sun Belt and a few Mountain West states.

The lack of a sales pick up in these states, despite the increase in for-sale listings, means there are no longer enough borrowers able or willing to transact at current price and mortgage rates, whether **because affordability is now binding** for the marginal buyer, **because new home sales are more attractive**, or other reasons, such as **concern about availability and cost of insurance**.

Economic Developments – Sept. 2024, Fannie Mae.

Average annual homeowners' insurance premiums (dollars)

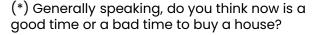




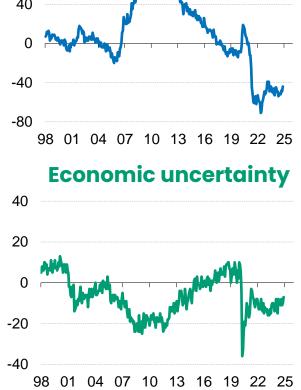
Memo. Households believe it's not a good time to buy a home



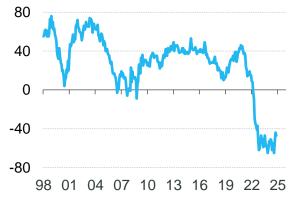




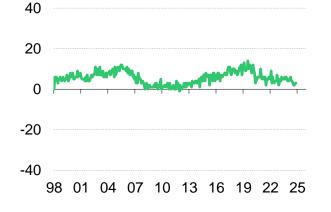
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Capital gains





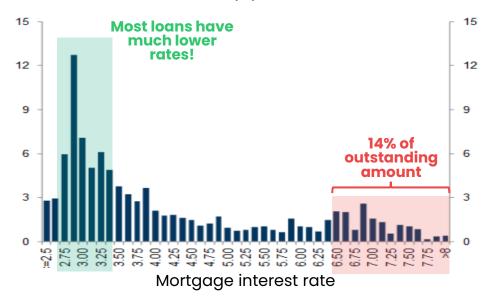
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Even if mortgage rates fall to 6%, refinancing is unlikely to significantly boost activity

Refinancing applications and mortgage rate

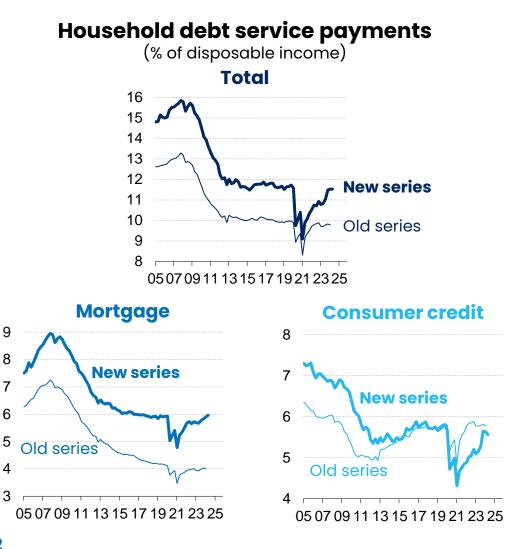


Distribution of outstanding 30-year conforming mortgages by interest rate levels (%)

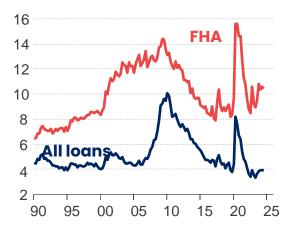


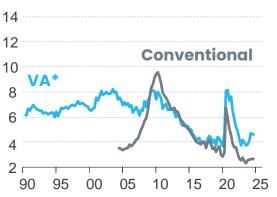


While mortgage delinquencies remain low, they have significantly increased for consumer credit



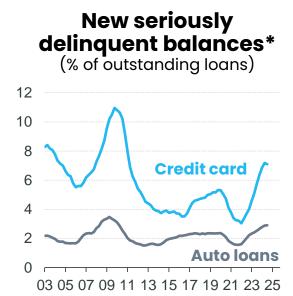
Residential mortgage delinquency rates (% of outstanding loans)







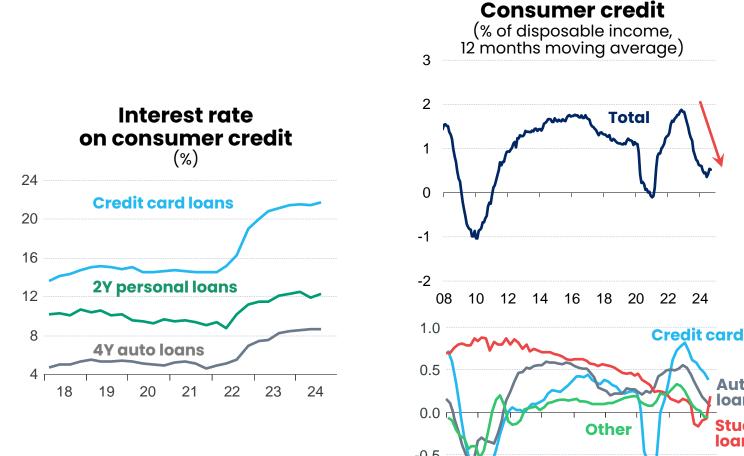
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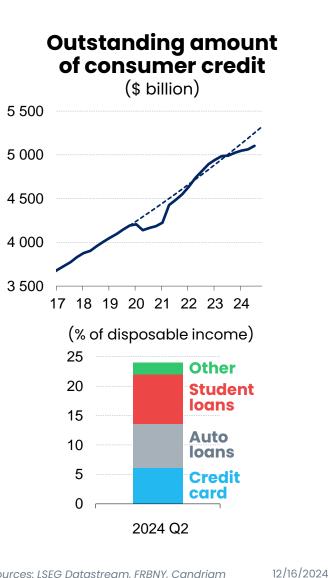
(*) 90 or more days delinquent



High interest rates will continue to curb consumer credit



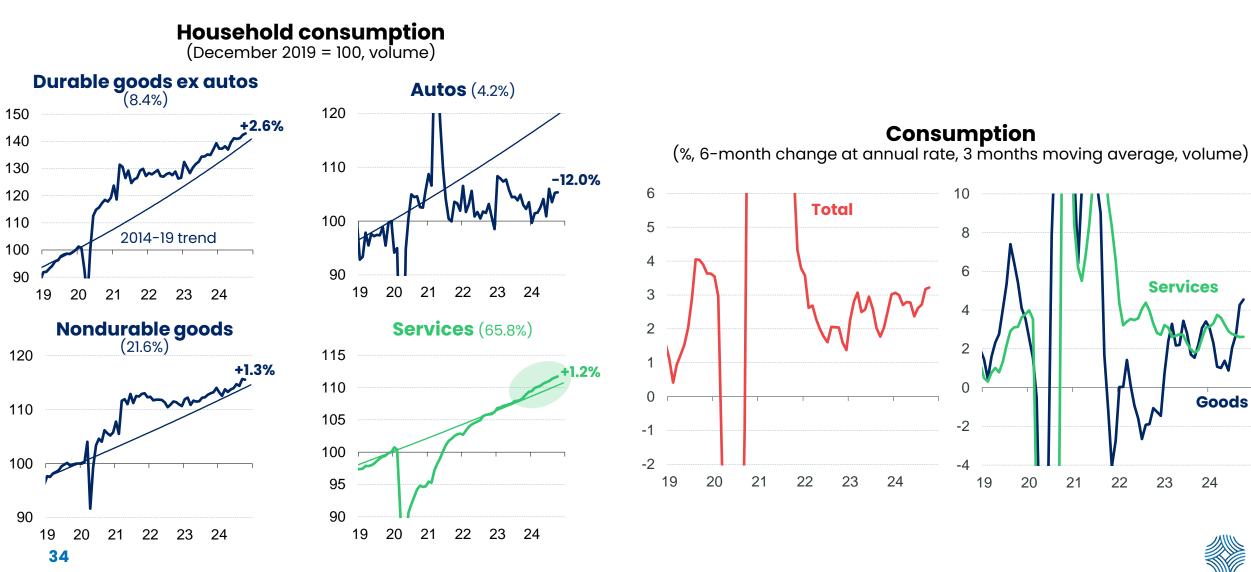




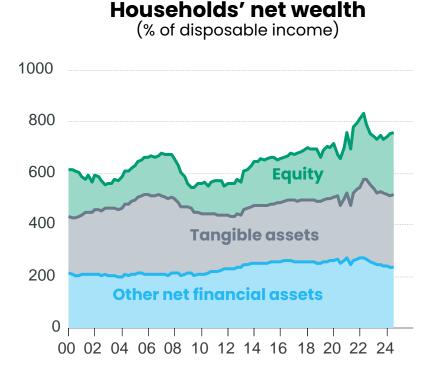


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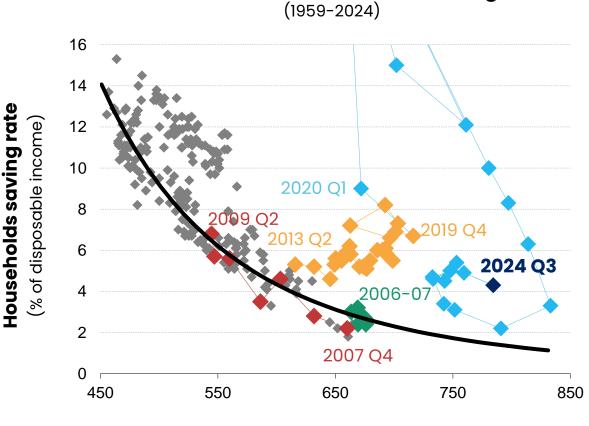
Memo. Services consumption has already more than caught up with its past trend!



Given the rise in wealth over the last couple of years, the saving rate is not that low!



From 2019 Q4 to 2024 Q2, household net wealth has increased by close to 80 points of disposable income.



Households' net wealth and saving rate

Households net wealth

(% of disposable income)



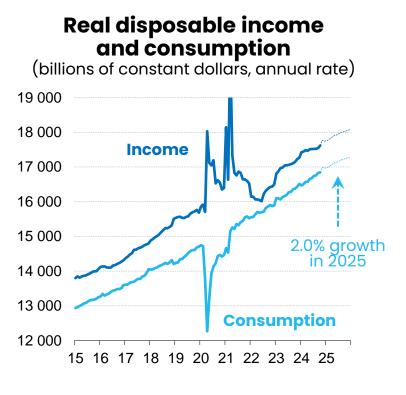
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Even with decelerating compensation, consumption can keep growing at a decent pace in real terms



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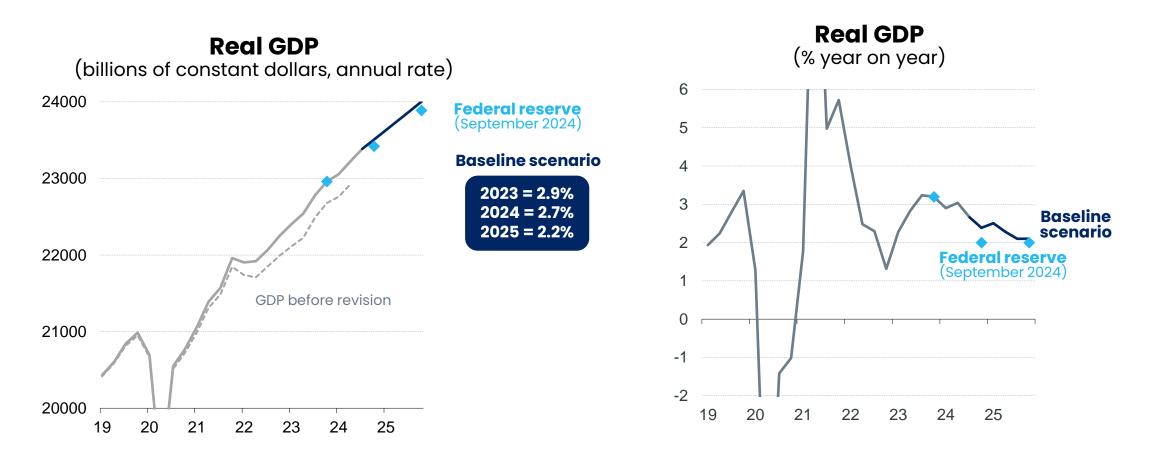






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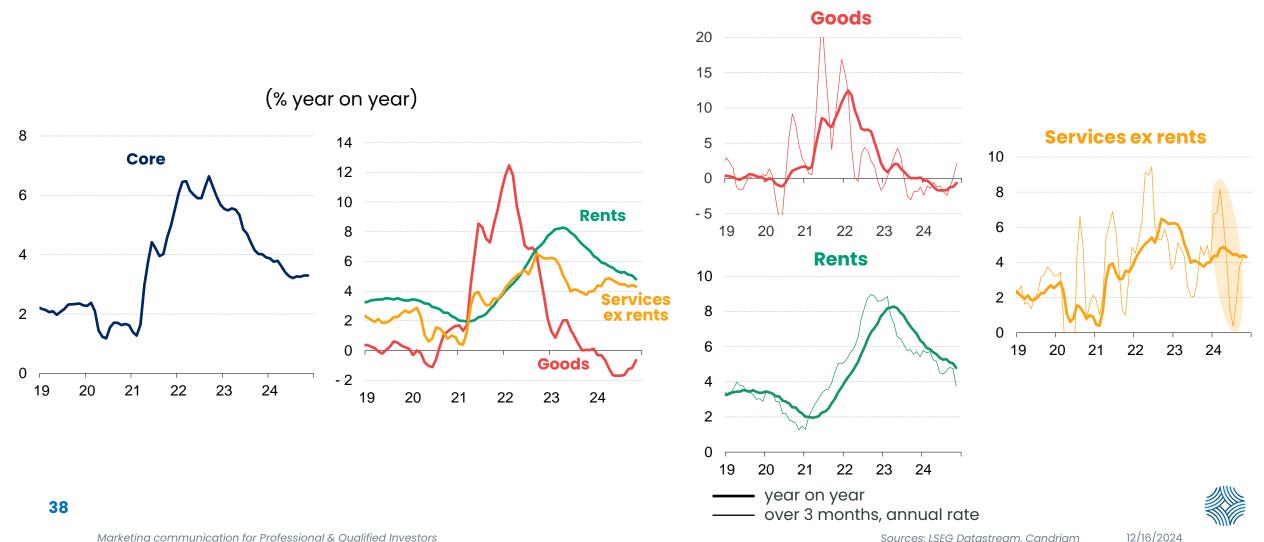
Before the election, our baseline scenario was for GDP growth to decelerate to slightly above 2% in 2025





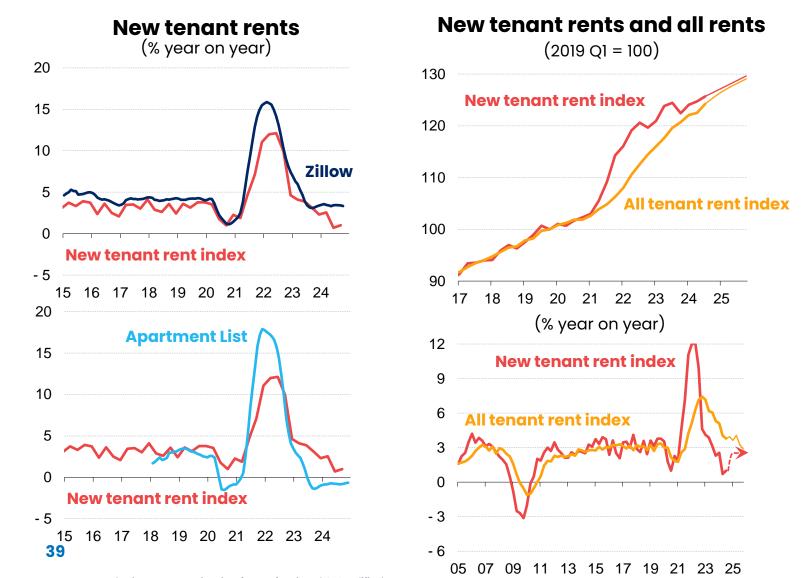
While the disinflation trend is clear, core services prices are still growing at around 4%

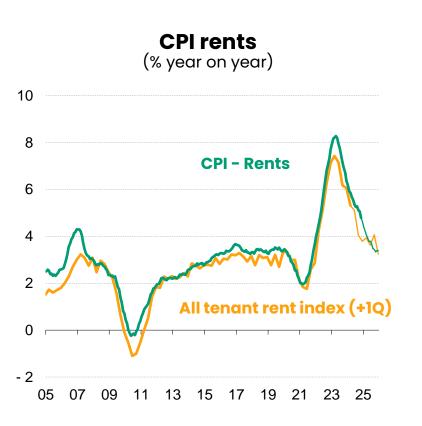
Core CPI inflation



Sources: LSEG Datastream, Candriam

Rents are on track to decelerate further



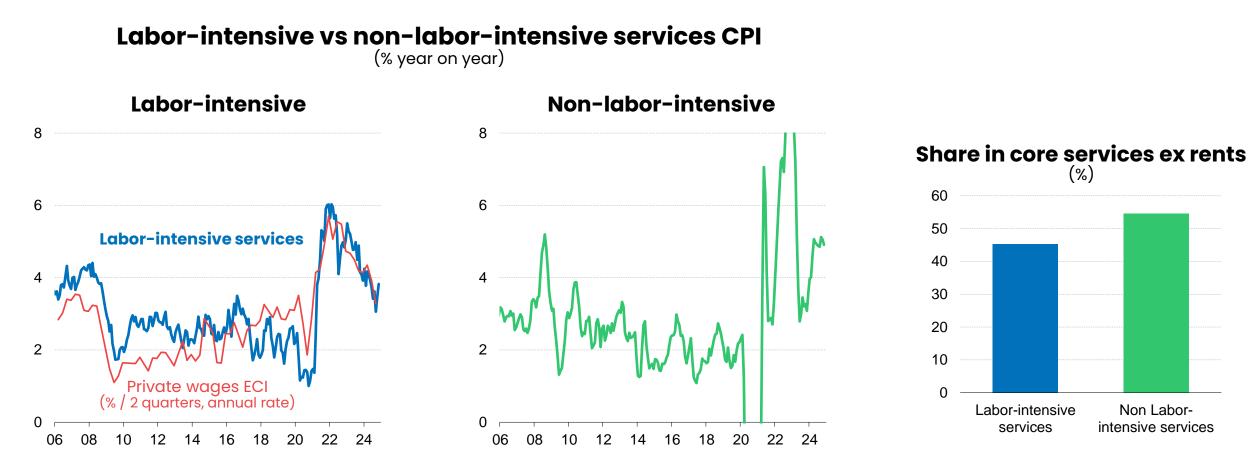




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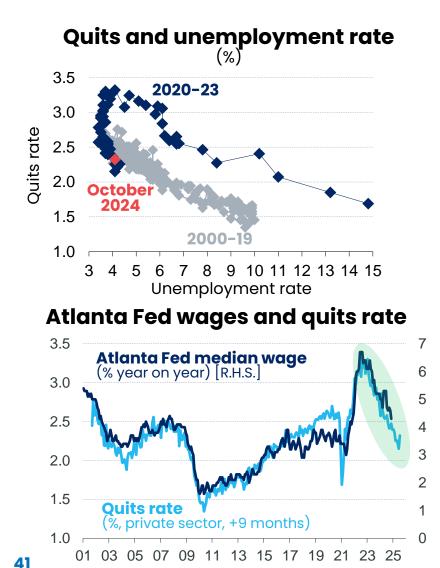
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Inflation in labor intensive services is gradually falling back to pre-covid levels

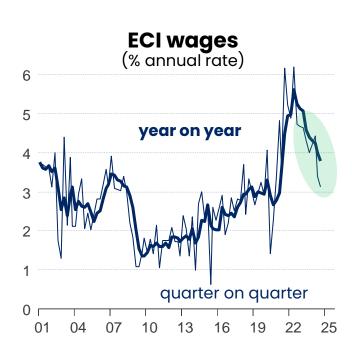




The fading of post-covid labor market tensions has allowed most wage growth measures to recede







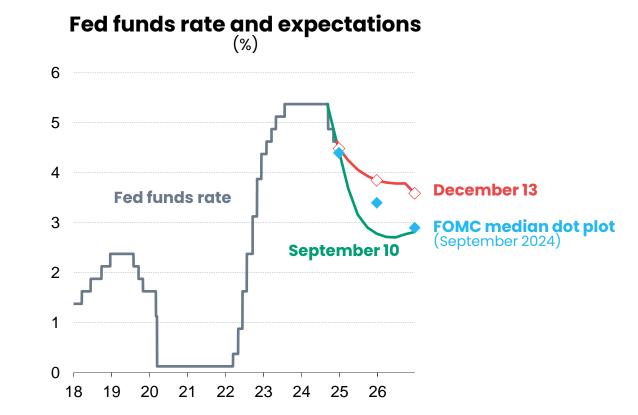


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In our baseline scenario, the Fed would go on easing... cautiously!

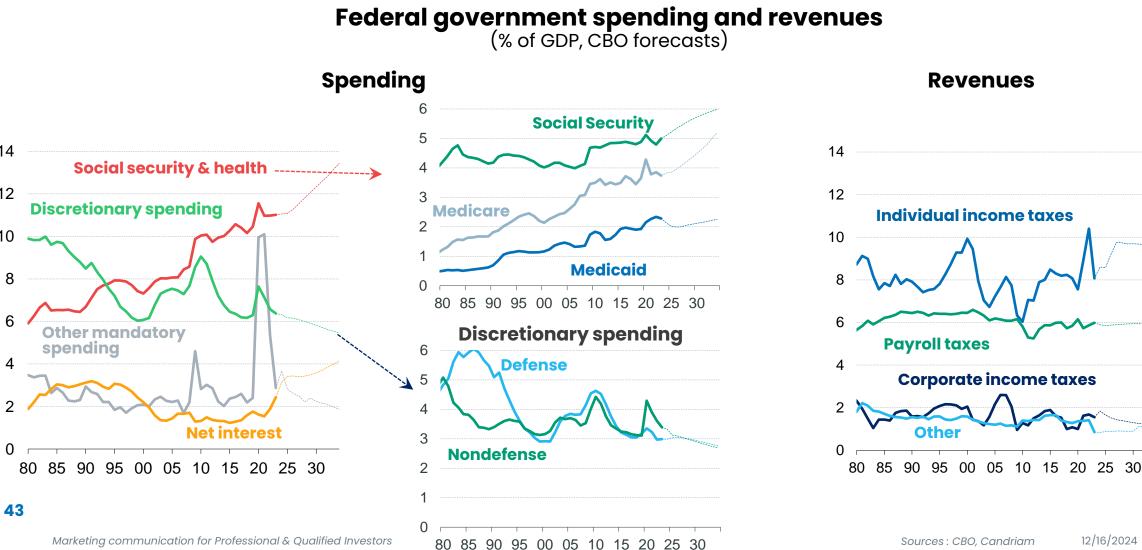
		B	Baseline scena	
	2023	_	2024	2025
GDP	2.9		2.7	2.2
Inflation	4.1		2.9	2.3
Fed funds rate 5.5		_	4.5	3.5



Monetary developments in 2025 will largely depend on the path of the economy... and hence on how much the economy will depart from this baseline given the outcome of the elections!

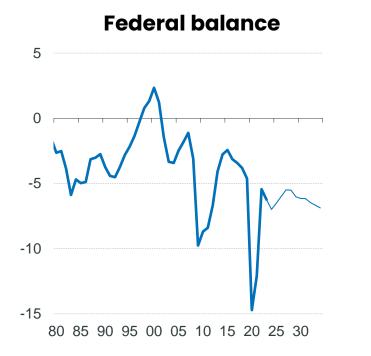


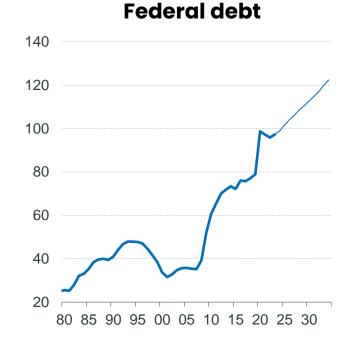
Memo. Federal government spending and revenues

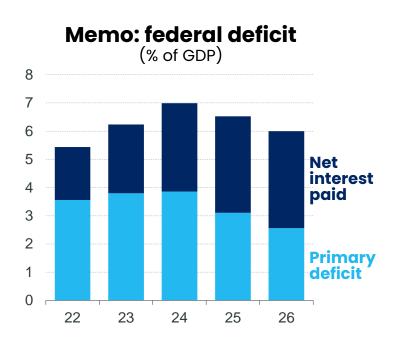


Memo. Federal government balance and debt

Federal government balance and debt (% of GDP, CBO June 2024 forecasts)







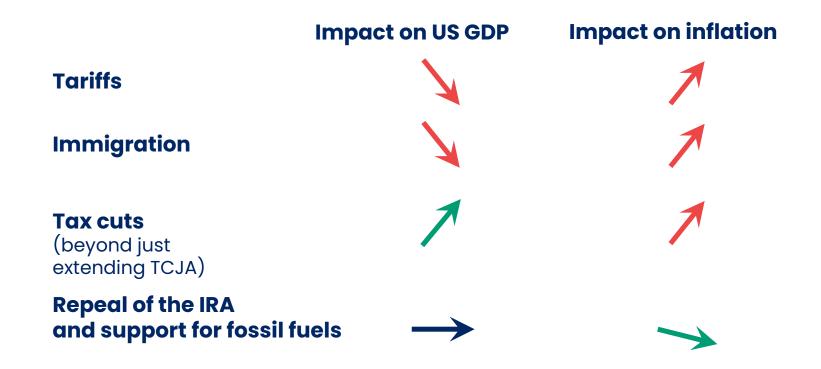




How the economy will fare in 2025 under D. Trump?



The headlines of D. Trump's economic program have been well advertised



The sequencing of the measures and their calibration will determine by how much and how quickly the economy departs from the baseline.



Tariffs are clearly Donald Trump's preferred policy tool to correct trade imbalances... and also the one he can most freely use

Donald Trump's preferred path on trade

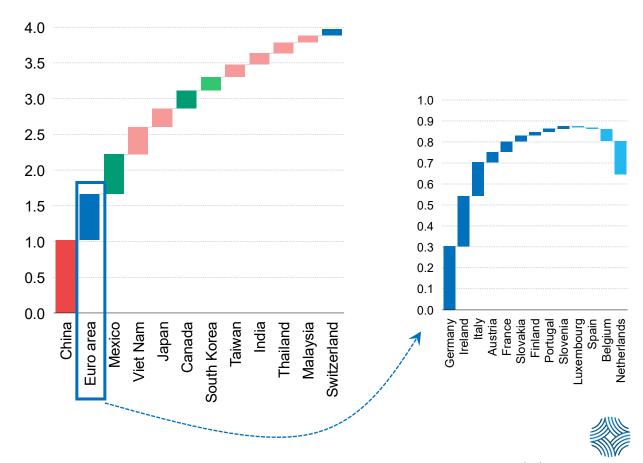
"I'm a big believer in tariffs"

"Under Joe Biden, our trade deficits, also known as losses, have hit record highs. Since 2000, the U.S. has racked up \$17 trillion in cumulative trade deficits with the world. Only a fool or a fanatic would dismiss these facts as irrelevant.

These gigantic sums of exported wealth are being used to build up our enemies' military strength and transfer permanent ownership of American companies, intellectual property, real estate, and other assets to foreign nations. Foreigners now own \$16.75 trillion more of our economy than we own of theirs. Our country is being plundered.

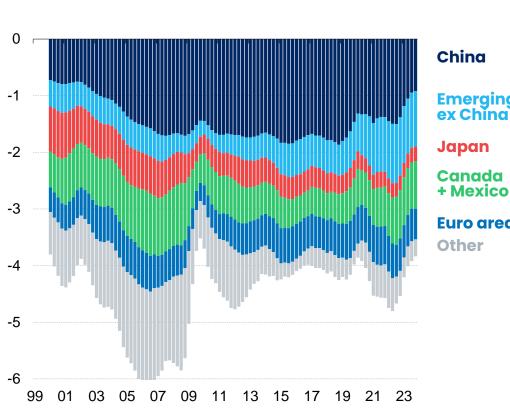
The best way to stop this hemorrhaging of America's lifeblood is a simple but powerful tariff on most foreign products, like the kind that was the primary source of government revenue through most of American history, and which built this country into the manufacturing powerhouse of the world."

Donald Trump, "My Tariff Policies Were a Success", Wall Street Journal.



US trade balance deficit by country or regions (% of US GDP, 2023)

The geography of the US trade deficit has changed during the last years...



China

Emerging Asia ex China

US trade balance by country or regions (% of US GDP)

0.4

0.0

-0.4

-0.8

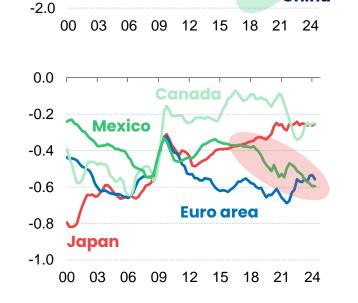
-1.2

-1.6

Japan Canada

Euro area

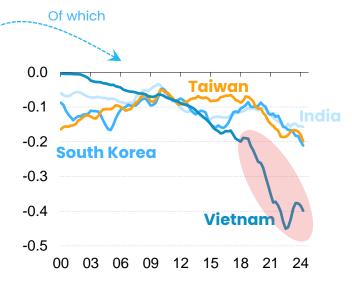
Other

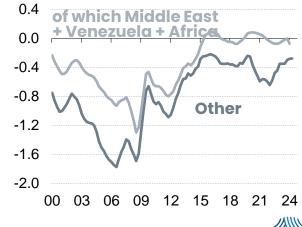


Emerging Asia

China

ex China

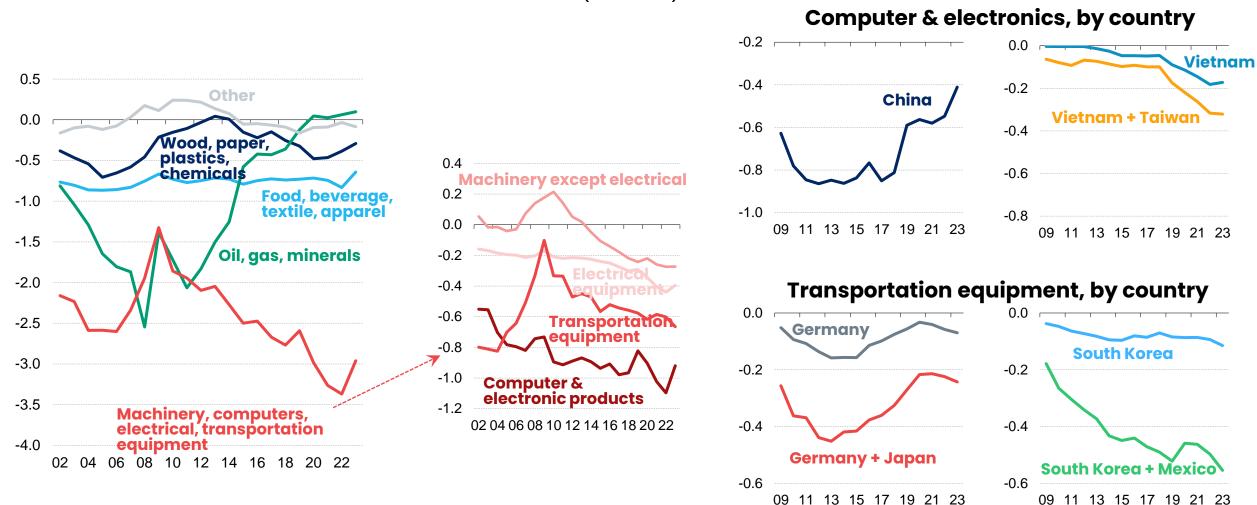






... so has its sectoral composition

US trade balance by product (% of GDP)



49

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Still there are a lot of uncertainties on what D. Trump's effective tariff policy will be

D. Trump has not explained whether he envisions the universal tariff as a new floor or an add-on to existing ones. For example, if an imported product was now taxed at 5 percent, would that rate rise to 10 percent or to 15 percent?

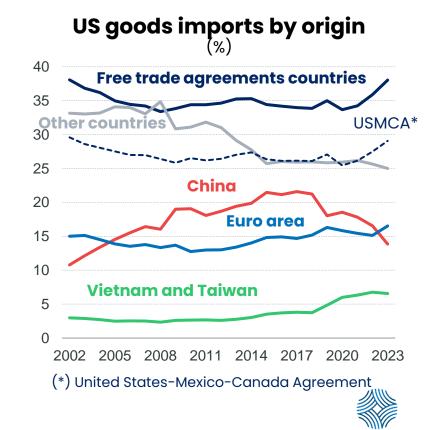
Nor has D. Trump said whether the new tariff would apply to imports from the nearly two dozen countries with which the US has free trade deals (in Mandate for leadership, P. Navarro targets only non-FTA countries).

The authority of the President to implement across the board new tariffs on "non free trade agreement" countries is not clear.

The Supreme Court may not go along with the president setting a new tariff rate on the pretext that all foreign trade is unfair. Placing a new 10 percent tariff against all products from all sources might even attract a judicial stay to prevent implementation as challenges are considered by the courts.

On the opposite, R. Lighthizer said that given the size of the U.S. trade deficit and its impact on the American economy, a president would have "clear authority" under two laws — the International Emergency Economic Powers Act and Section 338 of the Tariff Act of 1930 — to impose tariffs unilaterally. Still, he said, depending on political conditions, D. Trump might instead choose to ask Congress to enact new legislation so that a successor would not be able to easily revoke it. "He has the legal authority to do it and he's got two routes".

On China, the Supreme Court could find that it is the prerogative of the Congress to set tariffs at rates amounting to an embargo outside of war, assuming there were no grounds for invoking laws protecting national security.



The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) could be used as a bargaining tool by D. Trump

The USMCA review clause (article 34.7)

In summary, USMCA will terminate 16 years after the date of its entry into force (i.e., by 1 July 2036), unless each party confirms that it wishes to continue the agreement for a new 16-year term.

The parties are to confirm their ongoing support for USMCA at a "**joint review**". The first joint review will take place on July 1, 2026. Should the parties confirm that they want to continue, then the agreement will be extended for another 16 years.

If the parties do not extend the agreement in 2026, then the Commission is to conduct a joint review each year until 2036. During these joint reviews, the parties can confirm their wish to extend the agreement for another 16 years. **Failure to extend the agreement will lead to USMCA termination on July 1, 2036.**

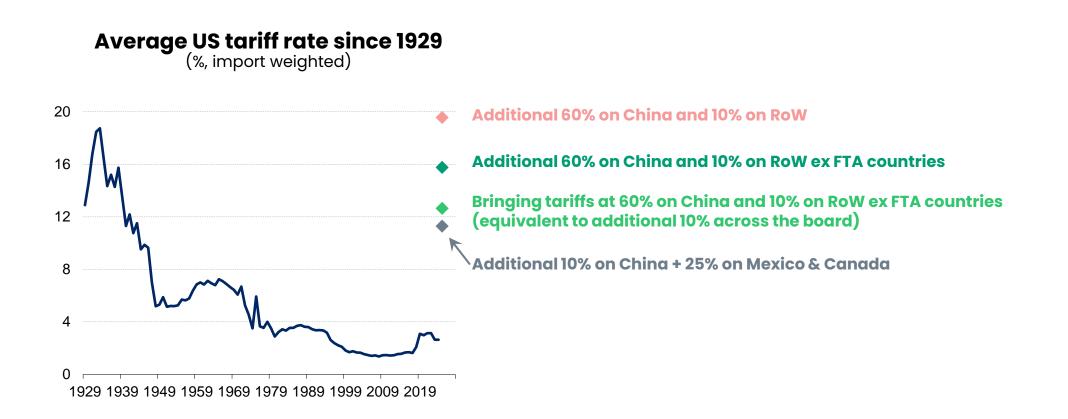
Article 34.6: Withdrawal

A Party may withdraw from this Agreement by providing written notice to the other Parties. A withdrawal shall take effect six months after a Party provides written notice. If a Party withdraws, this Agreement shall remain in force for the remaining Parties.

Withdrawal from the Treaty could be done by the President unilaterally. But this raises the question of the USCMA Implementation Act which can normally only be terminated by Congress. If the USCMA Implementation Act remains in effect, other provisions of federal law may grant the President authority to restrict trade with Canada or Mexico. But such actions would likely be subject to judicial review on various grounds.



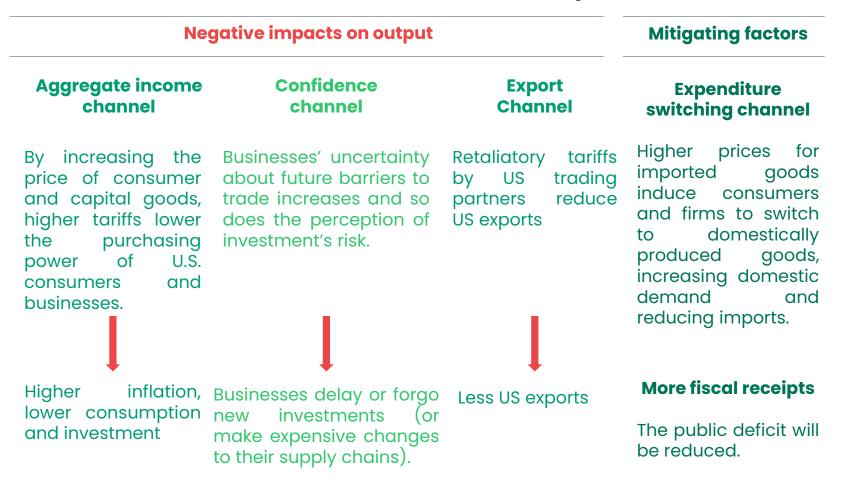
Fully implementing D. Trump's proposed tariffs' increases could deal a heavy blow to the world economy





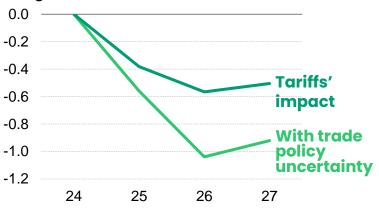
Higher tariffs could easily shave off 1% from US growth in 2025 while increasing the consumer price level by more than 1%*

Effects of tariffs on the economy



Impact on US GDP of 10% universal tariff + retaliation

(% against baseline, IMF October 2024 WEO)



CBO estimated that previously enacted substantially smaller tariffs (2% of the value of goods and services purchased by US consumers) have reduced US output by 0.1 to 0.3%.

Other recent studies

10% universal + retaliation

- -2.1% (ECB)
- -1.1% (È. York, Tax Foundation)
- -1.0% (CRFB)

10% universal + 60% on China

- -1.5% (Capital economics)
- -1.4% (Institute Der Deutschen Wirtschaft)

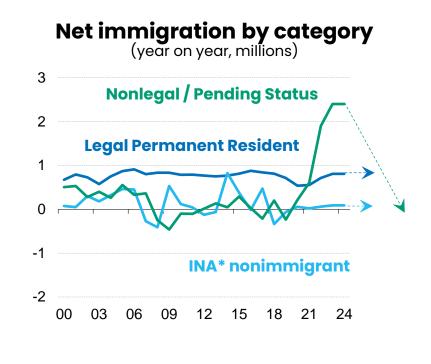
(*) Assuming 2/3 of the "10% +60%" duty on \$3000 billions of goods imports are passed through to the consumer.

The President could also stop the inflow of migrants by executive orders but would need Congress support to deport a significant number

Immigration

- If illegal immigration is just "stopped" in 2025, the net inflow of nonlegal adult migrants falls back to zero: this would reduce the rise in working age population by 60 000 per month and the labor force by 40 000 per month. Instead of growing by +0.8% per year, the labor force will only grow by +0.5%.
- Although deporting many millions of persons in 2025 looks practically impossible*, deportations of just 1.2 million illegal migrants next year would bring labor force growth close to 0%.

(*) Although officials claimed the Eisenhower summer operation led to 1.3 million apprehensions, scholars including Lytle Hernández have challenged that figure — saying that those statistics include arrests from previous years. According to Lytle Hernández, the number of apprehensions for fiscal year 1955 was about 250,000.



(*) Immigration and Nationality Act



Implementing the promised fiscal measures will require the approval of Congress

Tax cuts for individuals and corporates

Extend the TCJA individual tax cuts set to expire on Dec. 31, 2025.

Eliminate federal taxes on tips, overtime pay and Social Security benefits, as well as restore the deductibility of state and local taxes, which was limited by his tax cuts package.

Reduce the corporate tax rate to 15% for companies that make their products in the US.

Reinstate immediate expensing for capital expenditures.

"With a vision I'm outlining today, not only will we stop our businesses from leaving for foreign lands, but under my leadership, we're going to take other countries' jobs" D. Trump said.

Repeal of the IRA

Support repeal of massive spending bills like the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

"This ridiculous Green New Deal crusade is causing car prices to skyrocket while setting the stage for the destruction of American auto production." D. Trump.

Repeal of Obamacare

Repeal "harmful health policies enacted under the Obama and Biden Administrations" (D. Trump.).



Even if Congress approves D. Trump's "costly" fiscal package, it would only provide a "one-off" stimulus in 2025

Cost of D. Trump's fiscal plan for the Budget

(billions of dollars over 10 years)

Extend TCJA	5350
Exempt overtime income*	700
End taxation of social security benefits	1300
Exempt tip income from taxes	300
Lower corporate tax rate to 15% for domestic manufacturers	200
Enact and expand other tax breaks	200
Total tax cuts	8050
Reverse current energy /	
environment policies and expend production	700
Total revenue increases	700
Direct impact on deficit	7350

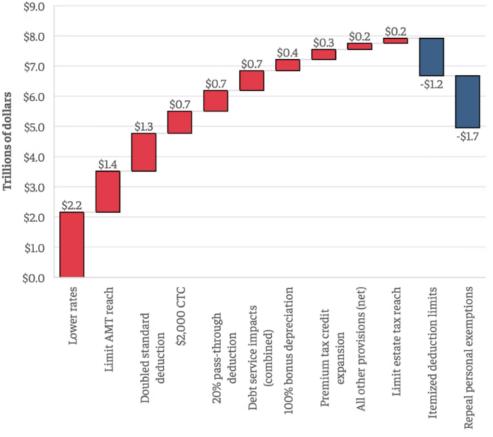
If voted by Summer, this package could reduce taxes paid by the private sector in 2025 by **\$100 billions to \$200 billions** and **would stimulate GDP by 0.5% to 1.0%**.

(*) FLSA-qualified overtime pay among tax filers will total \$335 billion in 2025 (about 3% of total wages reported on tax returns). This income will face an average effective income tax rate of 19% in 2025. (cf. Fair Labor Standards Act)

Cost/Savings From Extending Various Expiring Tax

Provisions, FY2025-2034

Source: Congressional Budget Office



Taken together, the proposed measures could have a rather contrasted impact on inflation... and on monetary policy!

(%) Soft Trump Hard Trump Unemployment Unemployment **GDP** Inflation Inflation **GDP** rate rate Tariffs Bringing tariffs at Additional 60% on -0.6 +0.6+1.0+1.2-1.2 +2.0China and 10% on RoW 60% on China and 10% on RoW ex FTA countries +0.1+0.4Immigration Illegal immigration Deportation of 1.2 mln -0.2 -0.1 -0.2 -0.7illegal migrants is stopped **Tax policy** +0.5-0.5 +1.0-1.0 Moderate support Exempt overtime, end taxation of social security benefits... Total -0.2 -0.1 +1.1* -0.4 -0.5 +2.4*The Fed will tolerate the rise in inflation. **Rising inflation coupled with a tight labor market** forces the Fed to raise rates and take the risk of viewing it as temporary.

triggering a recession!

Effects on the economy in 2025 compared to our baseline scenario

(*) Inflation could be slightly dampened by deregulation in the energy sector.







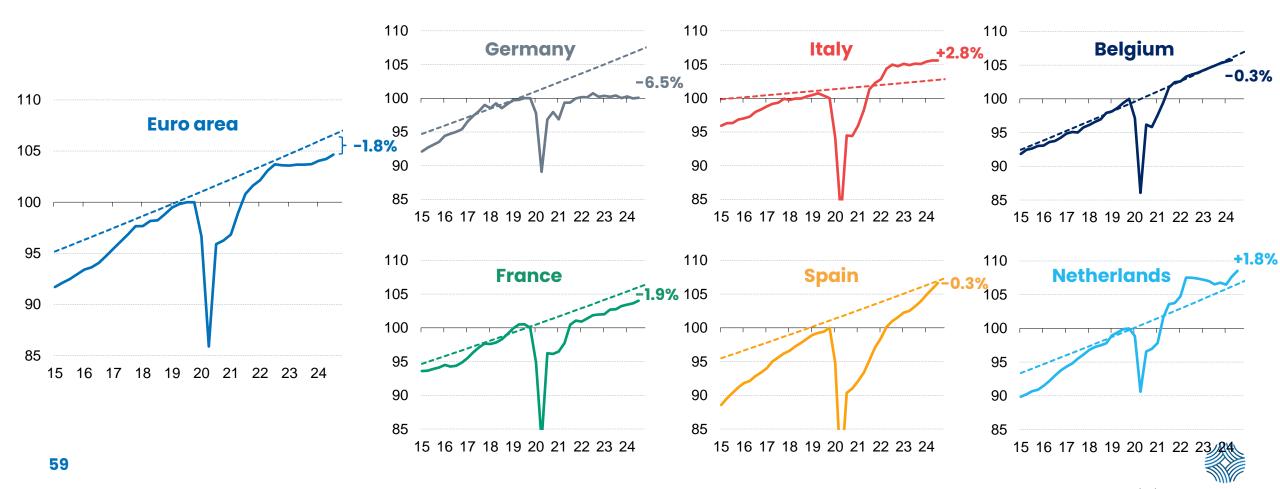


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Euro area activity is still not back on trend... mainly because German GDP is stuck at its pre-Covid level

Real GDP (compared to 2004–2019 trend, 2019 Q4 = 100)



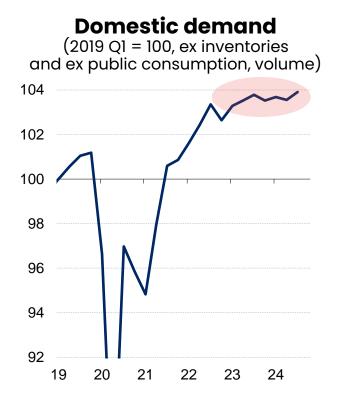
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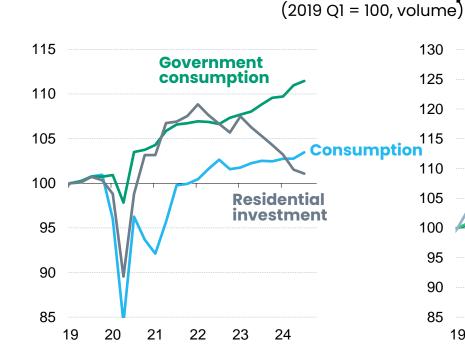
Sources: LSEG Datastream, Candriam

Domestic demand remains sluggish

Domestic demand in the euro area ex Ireland

Domestic demand components



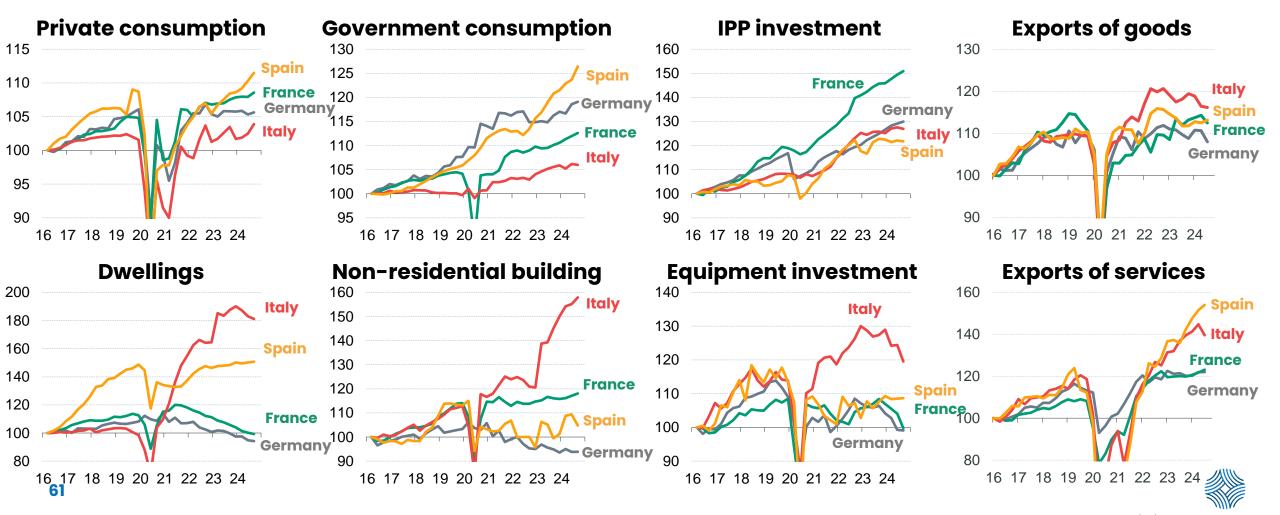






While the support provided by investment in Italy is now fading, consumption remained dynamic in Spain until Q3

(2016 Q1 = 100, volume)



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Sources: LSEG Datastream, Candriam

The latest PMI surveys are hardly reassuring

65

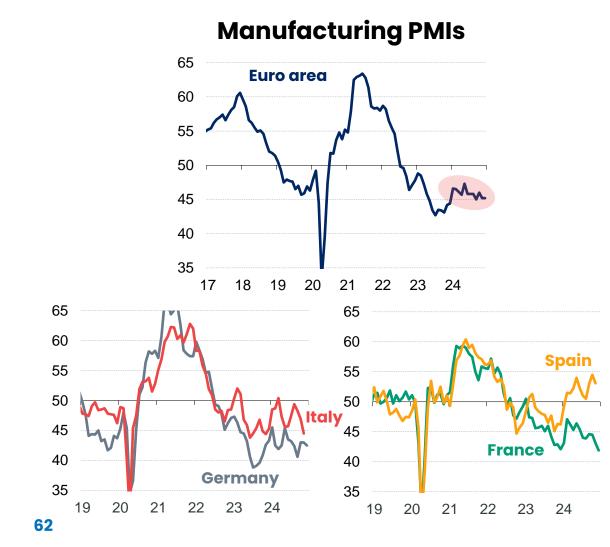
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55

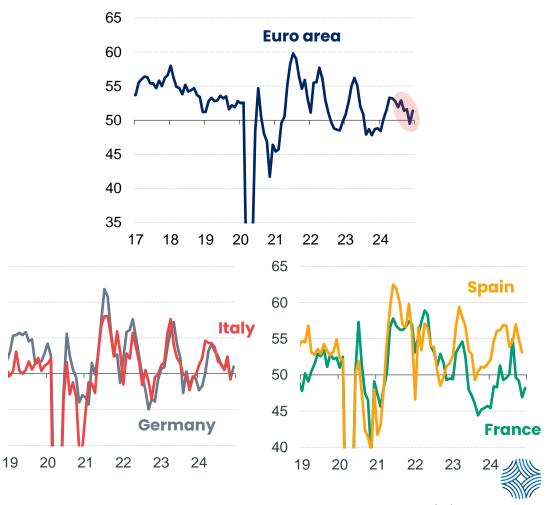
50

45

40



Services PMIs



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Sources: Bloomberg, Candriam

The EC economic sentiment index is a bit less worrying

Germany

21

-30

19

20

21

22

Italy

23

23

22

Services

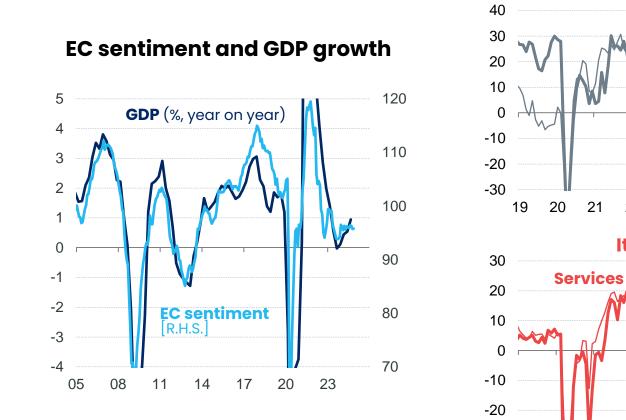
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Industry

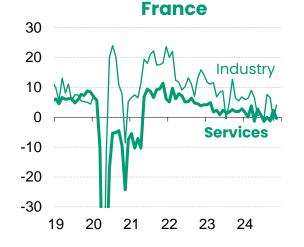
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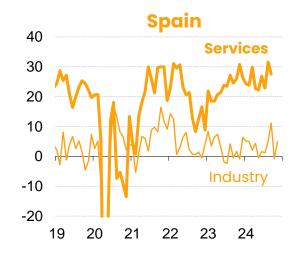
Industry

24



EC Survey - demand next quarter

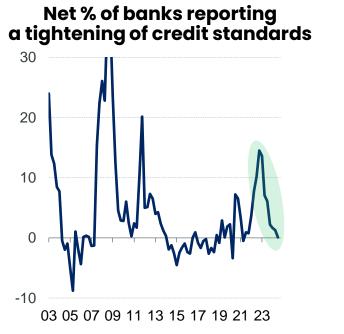


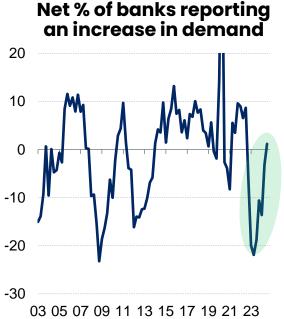


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Credit conditions for firms have stopped tightening...

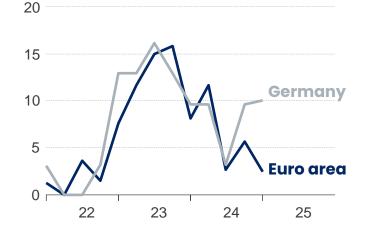
Changes in credit standards to enterprises and demand for loans





Changes in the share of rejected loan applications for enterprises

(net % of banks reporting an increase)



The further increase in the share of rejected loan applications was mainly driven by developments in Germany.

The net increase in the share of rejected loan applications was larger for loans to SMEs than for loans to large firms.



... but loans to NFC are barely growing and loan demand for fixed investment is muted

20 **Fixed investment** M&A 10 0 -10 Debt Inventories restructurina -20 17 19 21 23 19 21 23 17 19 21 23 17 17 19 21 23 Firms' demand for loans – Fixed investment by country (net %) 30 Germany France Italy Spain 20 10 0 -10 -20 -30 -40 17 21 23 21 23 19 21 23 17 19

Factors contributing to changes in demand for loans to enterprises (net % of banks reporting an increase in demand, and contributing factors)

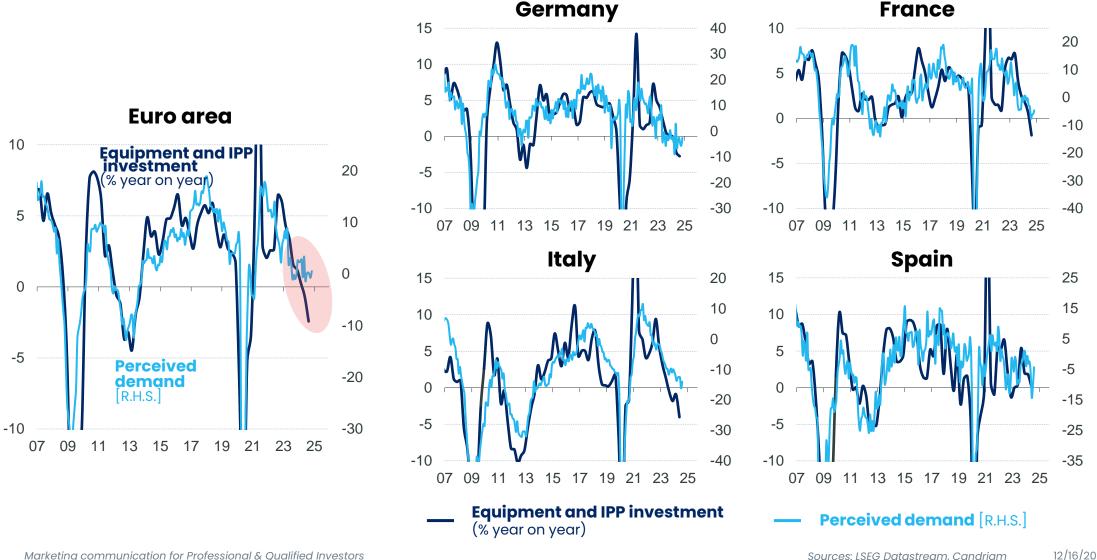
Loans to non-financial corporations (%, annual rate)





With perceived demand remaining weak, there is no reason for business investment to pick up

Equipment and IPP investment versus perceived demand

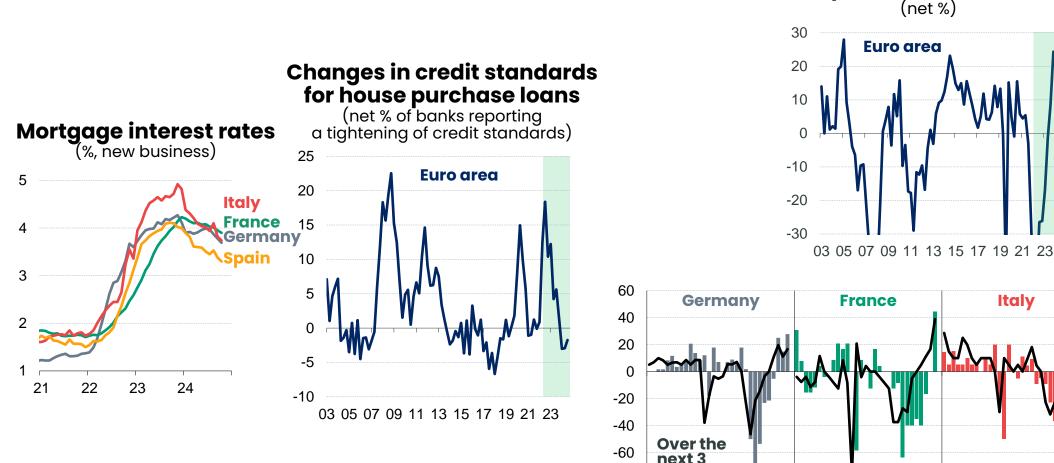


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Credit conditions for mortgage loans have started to improve and loan demand by households is recovering...

months

-80

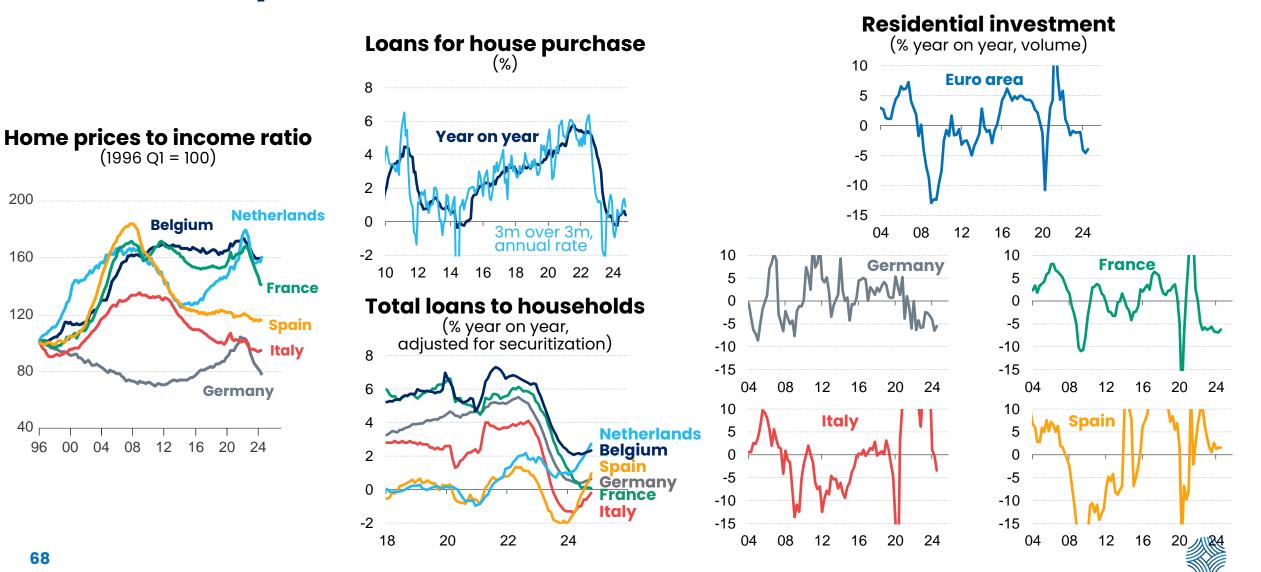


House purchase loans demand

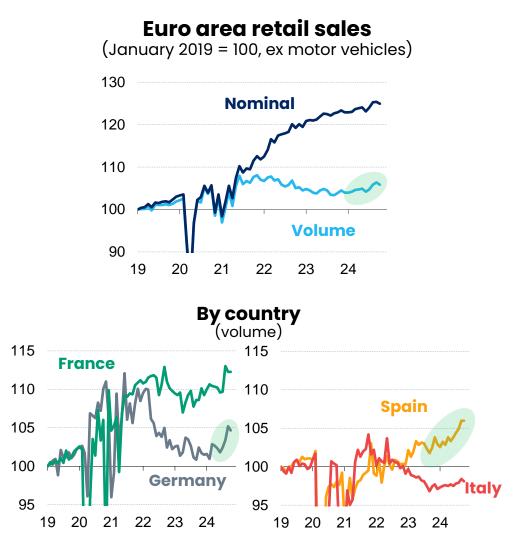
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Spain

... but impaired affordability should moderate the recovery in residential investment



While retail sales have picked up recently...

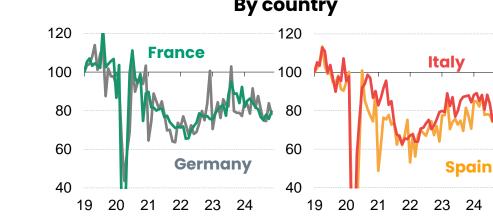


New car registrations (January 2019 = 100)

Euro area

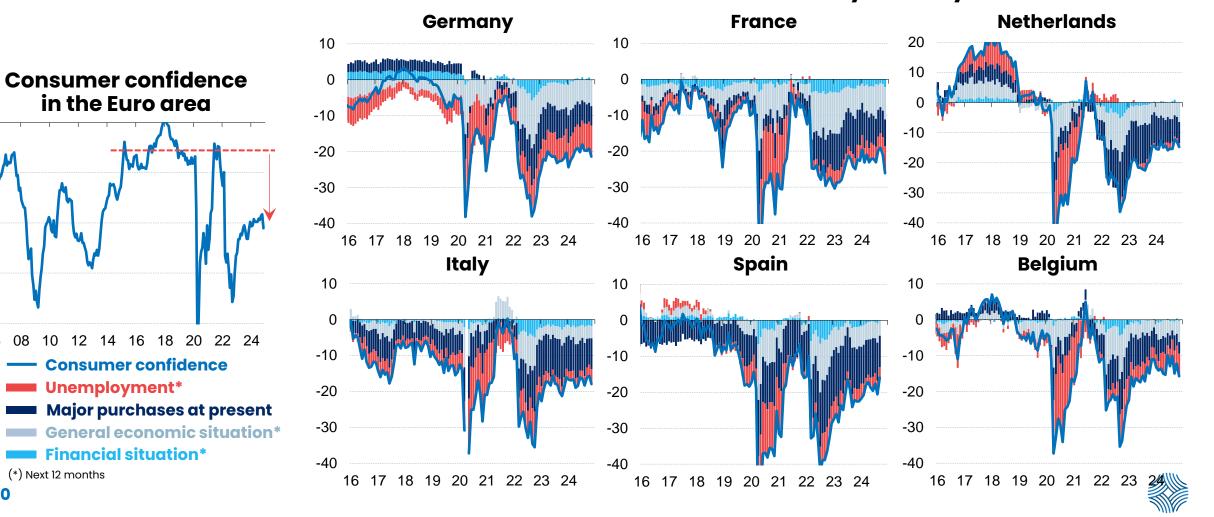
120





By country

... consumer confidence remains well below its pre-covid levels



Consumer confidence by country

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0

-10

-20

-30

-40

06

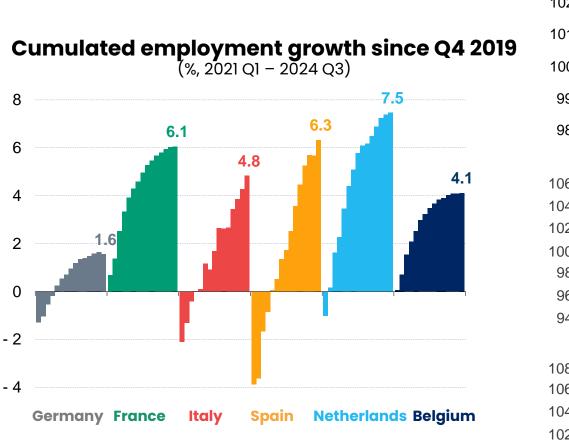
70

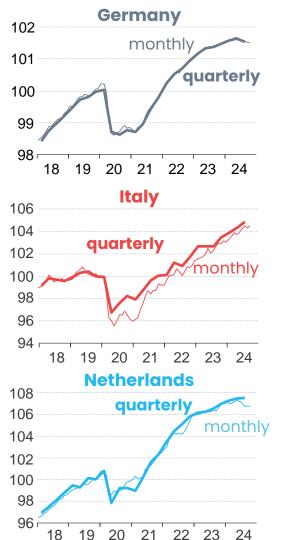
08

(*) Next 12 months

Unemployment*

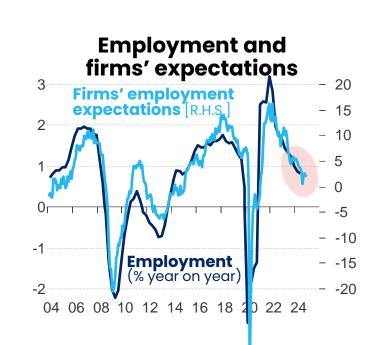
Employment is levelling off





24

Employment (end of 2019 = 100)





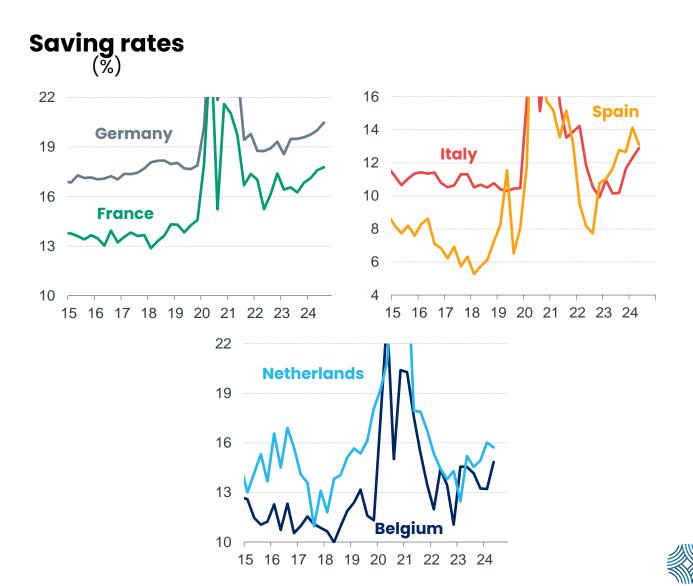
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71

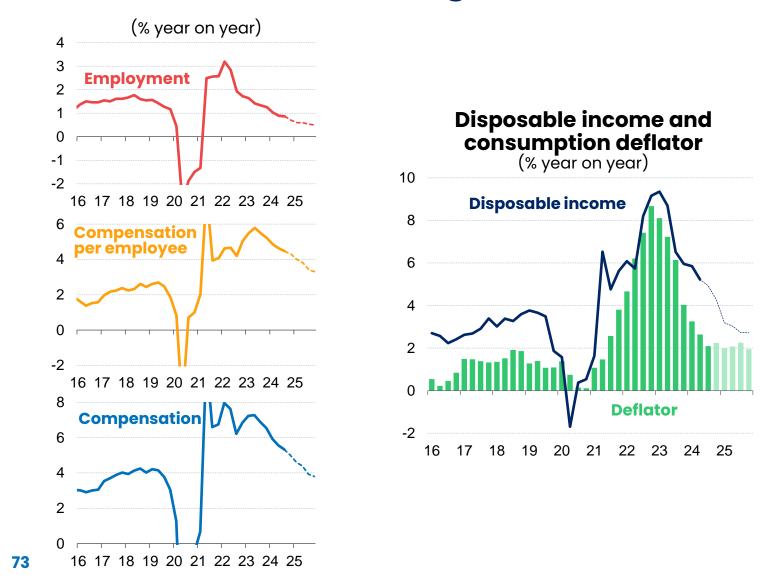
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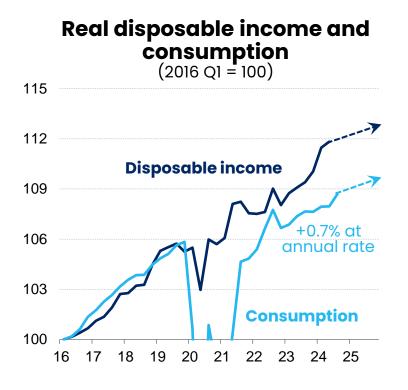
With still low consumer confidence and slowing job creations, the saving rate has little reason to fall back to pre-covid levels





Still, steady growth in real disposable income should allow for some growth in consumption



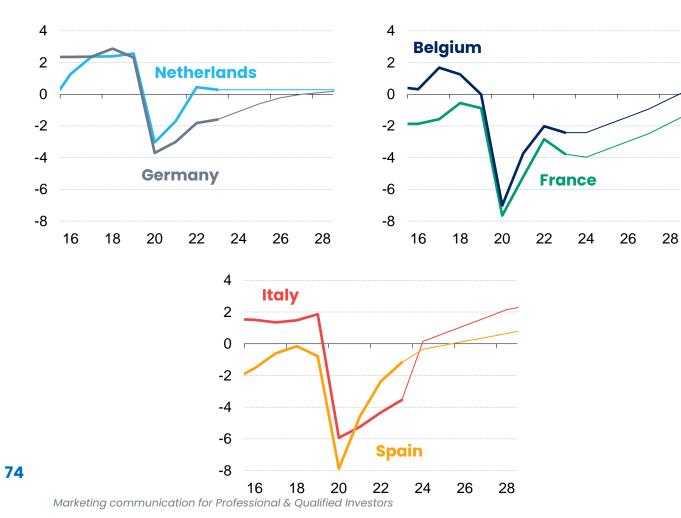




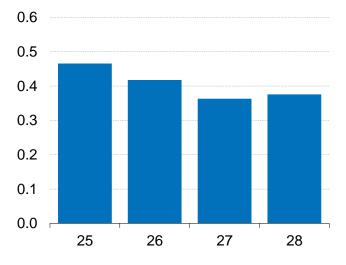
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Given some coming fiscal tightening...

Primary balance (% of GDP)



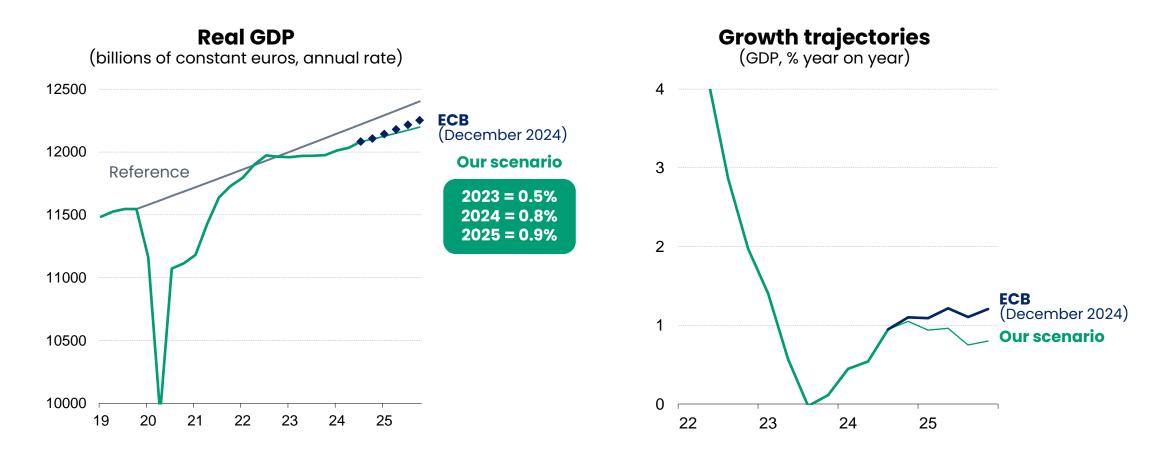
Euro area* fiscal rebalancing effort (% of GDP)



(*) Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Belgium

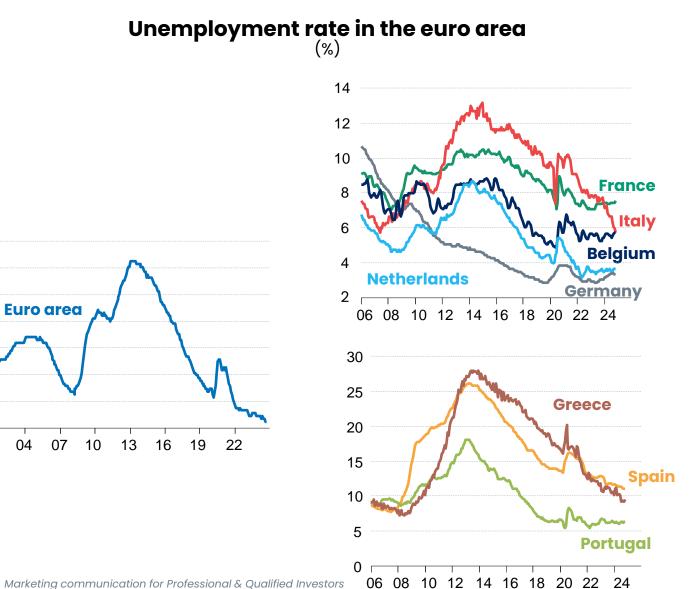


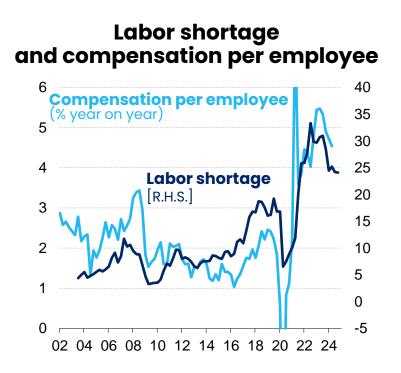
... our baseline scenario is for growth to remain below 1% in 2025





While the labor market is still tight...





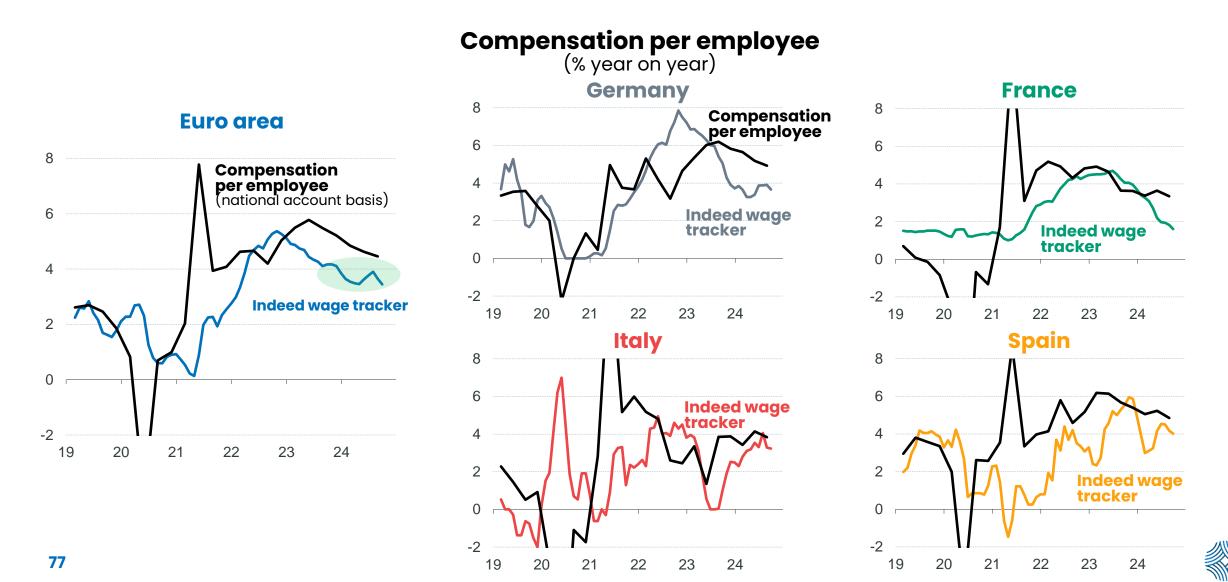


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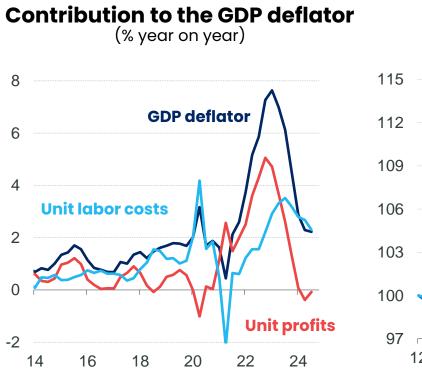
Sources: LSEG Datastream, Candriam

... wage pressures have started to ease

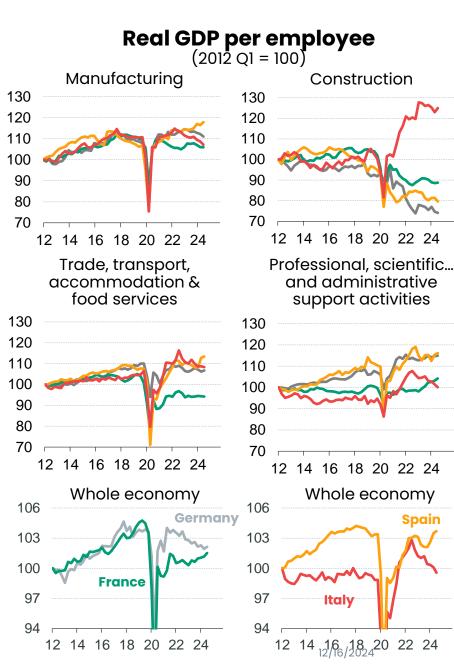


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The deceleration of unit labor costs could however take some time







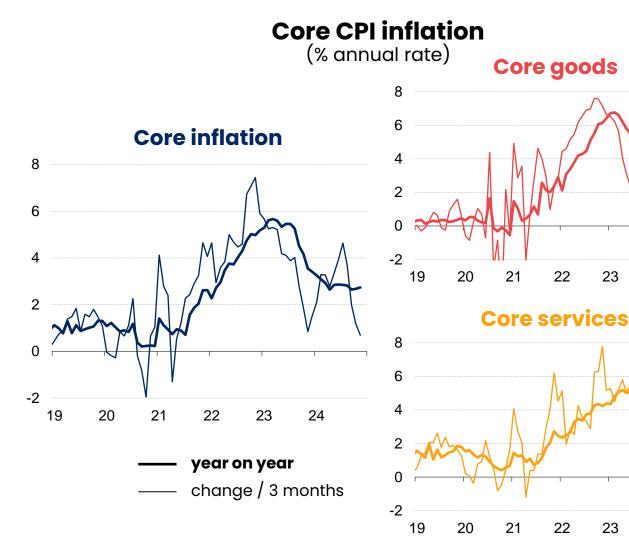
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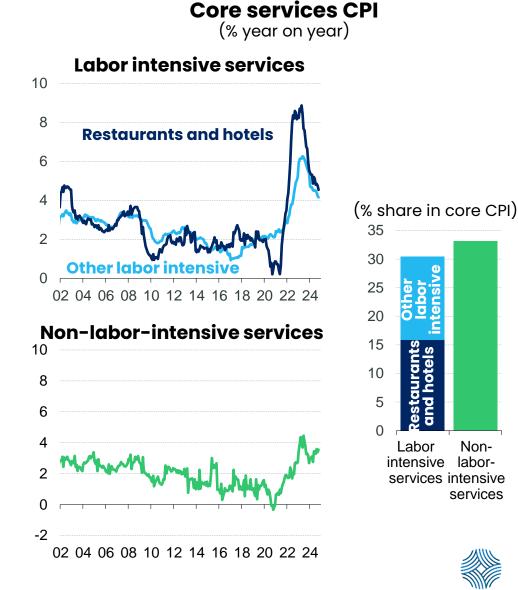
Sources: LSEG Datastream, Eurostat, Candriam

Still, as long as inflation keeps on receding...

24

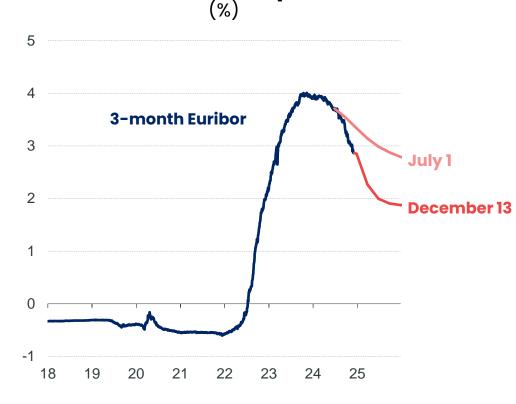
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... the ECB will be "forward looking" and continue to ease its monetary policy

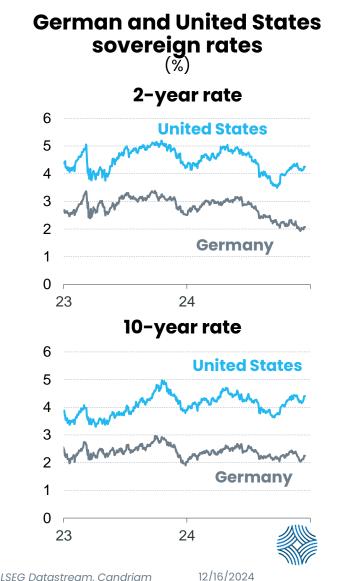


ECB interest rate expectations

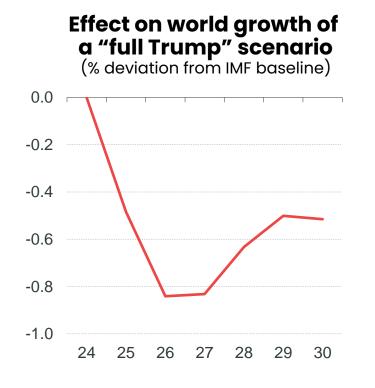
"If you look past the monthly ups and downs, you can see that price stability is not far off, but the last stretch of the road still has to be covered." Joachim Nagel, October 30 2024

"When victory against inflation is in sight, monetary policy shouldn't inflict excessive or prolonged activity restraint to and employment, and hence to our fellow citizens."

François Villeroy de Galhau, October 22 2024



The more so since the downside risks from a looming trade war have increased





(*) Measured as the half sum of exports and imports to GDP

Impact of 1% lower world growth using our macro model (%)

Euro area	DE	FR	IT	ES
-0.7	-0.9	-0.4	-0.6	-0.4

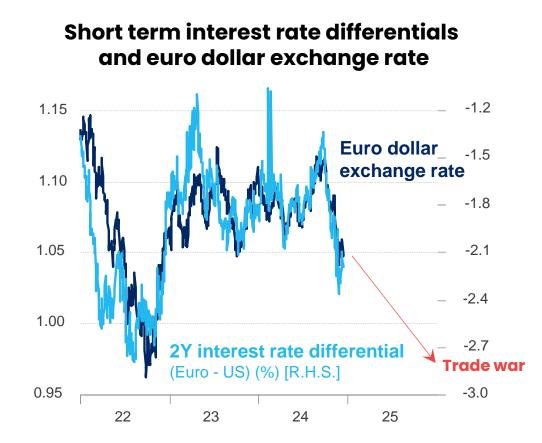
1% lower world growth would weaken growth in the euro area by 0.7%.

This would likely push the euro area in recession territory.

The ECB would cut rates more than in our baseline and the euro would weaken against the dollar.



Euro / dollar exchange rate





12/16/2024



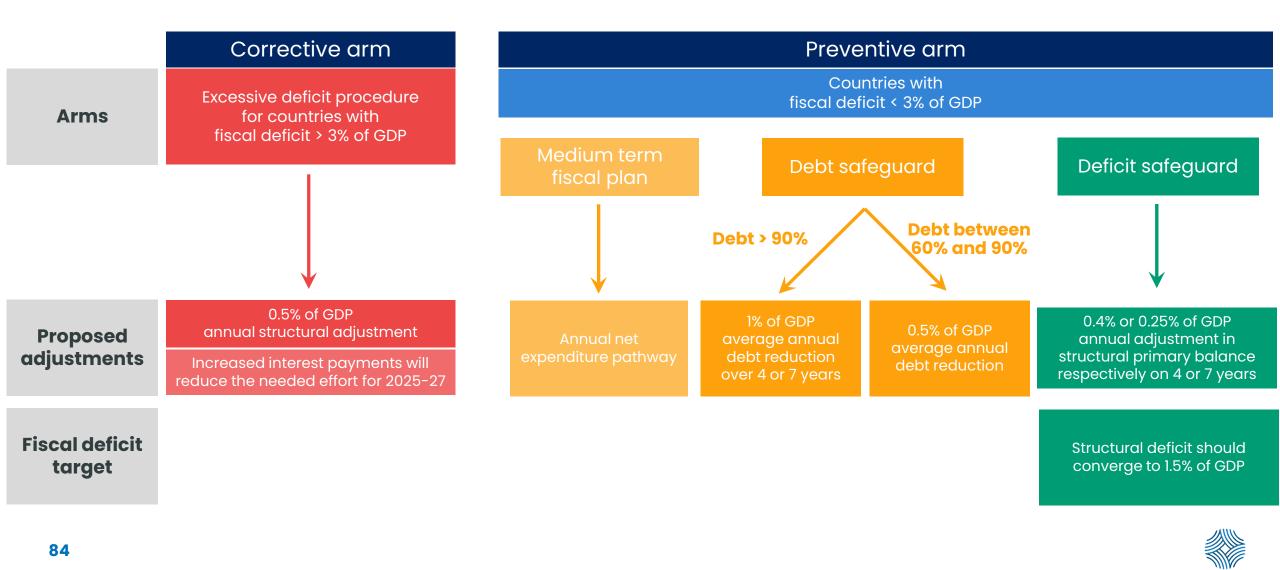




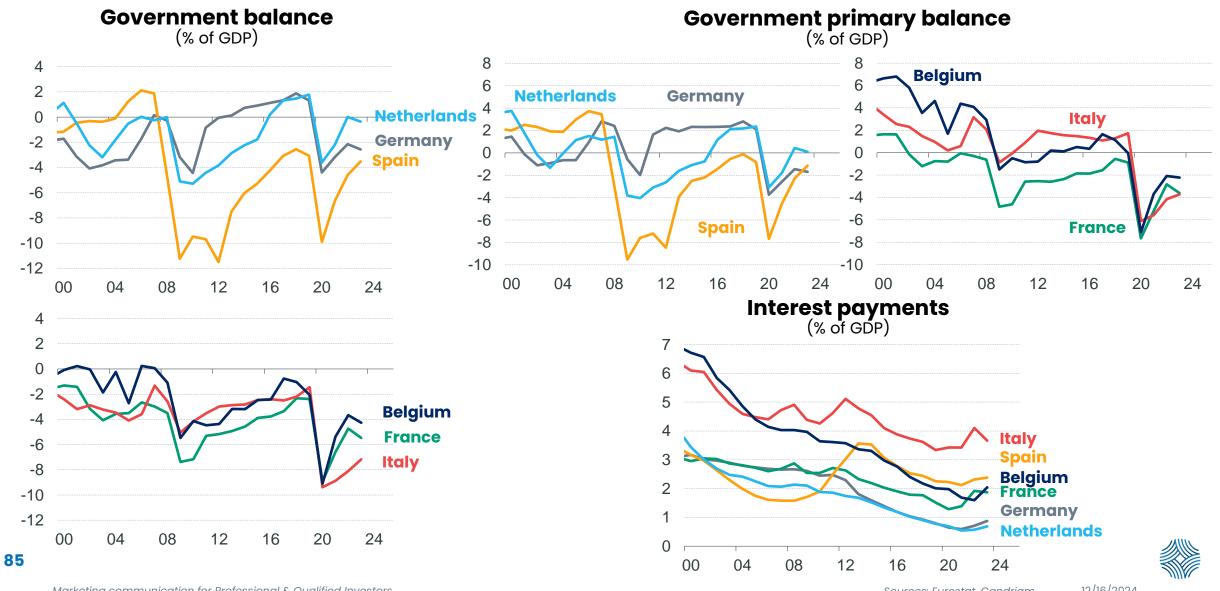
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Summary of the new EU fiscal rules



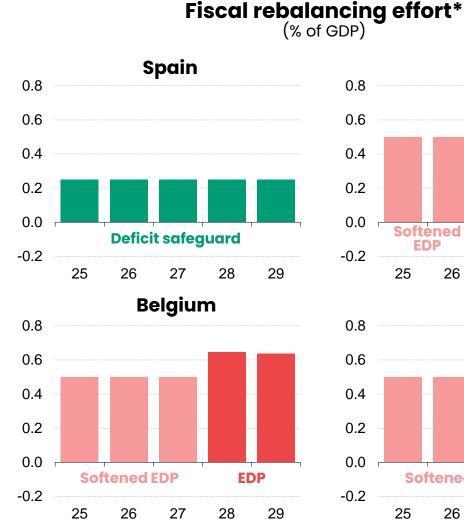
With a deficit above 3% of GDP in 2024, Belgium, France and Italy have been placed under an excessive deficit procedure

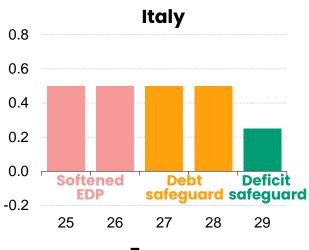


Marketing communication for Professional & Qualified Investors

Sources: Eurostat, Candriam

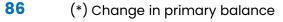
In EDP countries, the new fiscal rules call for a sustained rebalancing effort of 0.5% of GDP

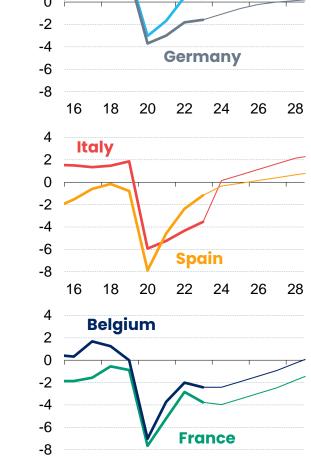












Primary balance

(% of GDP)

Netherlands

4

2

16

18

20

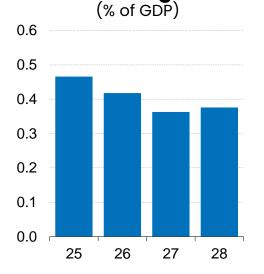
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Euro area* fiscal rebalancing effort



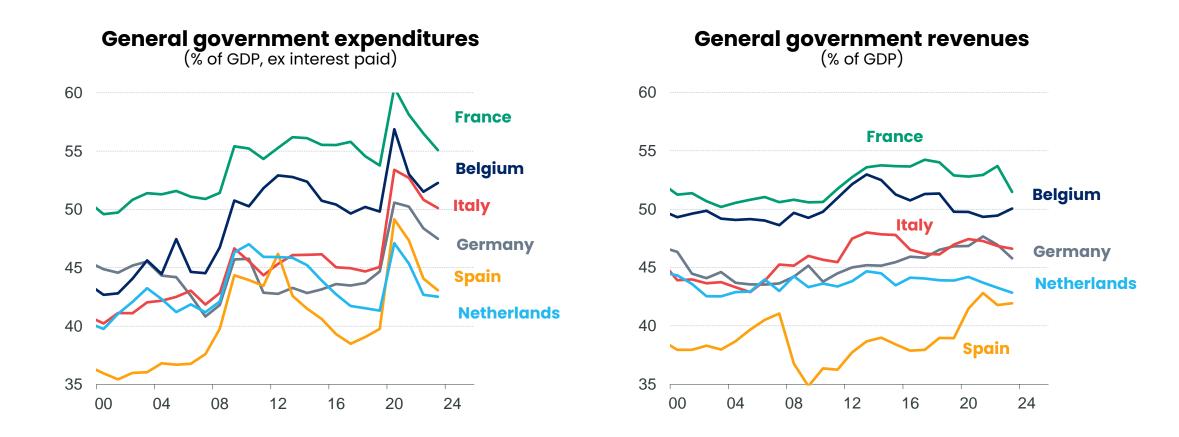
(*) Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Belgium



Marketing communication for Professional & Qualified Investors

Sources: LSEG Datastream, Candriam

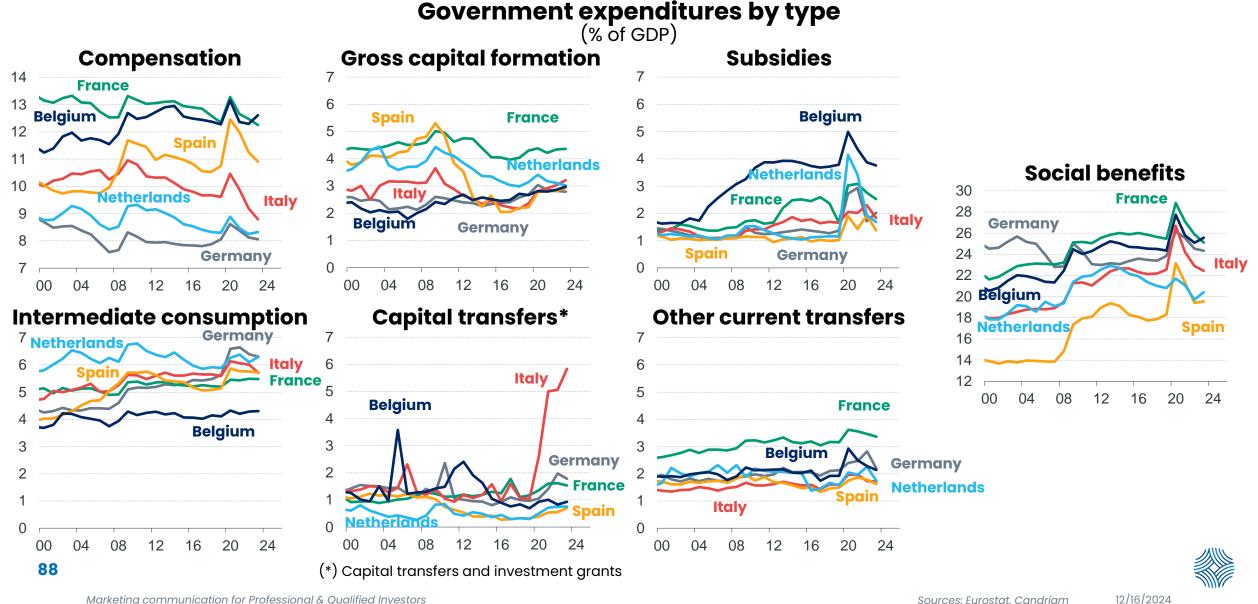
Since 2019, the ratio to GDP of government expenditures has increased in Italy while it has fallen for revenues in France



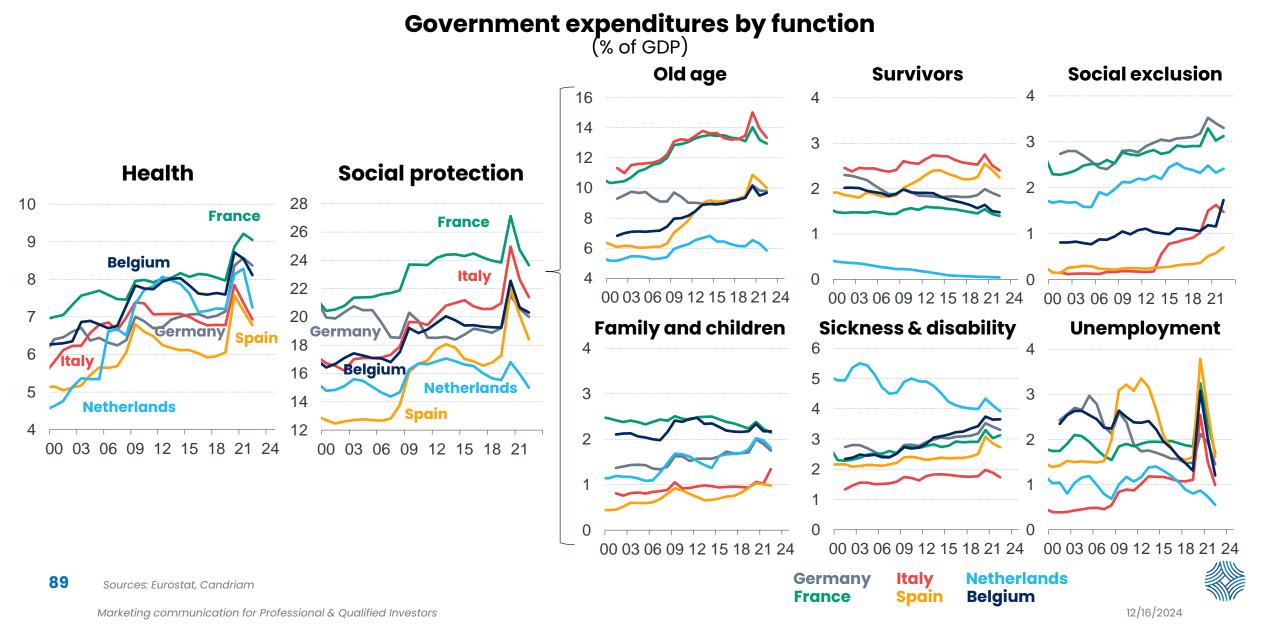


12/16/2024

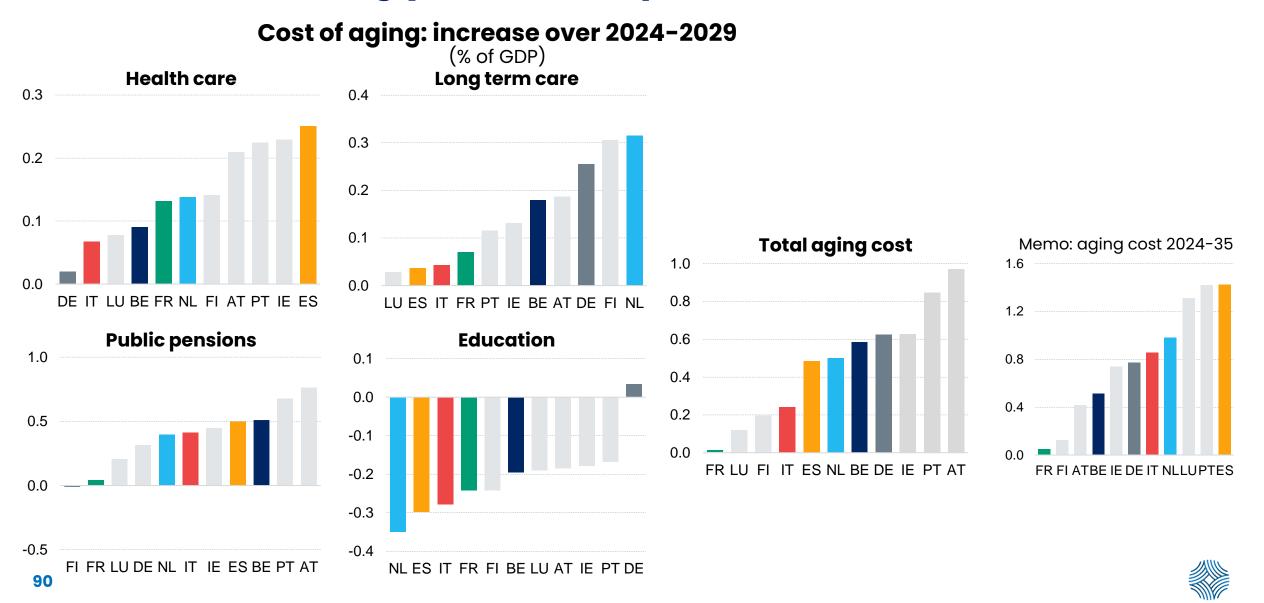
Capital transfers account for most of the rise in Italy's expenditures to GDP ratio



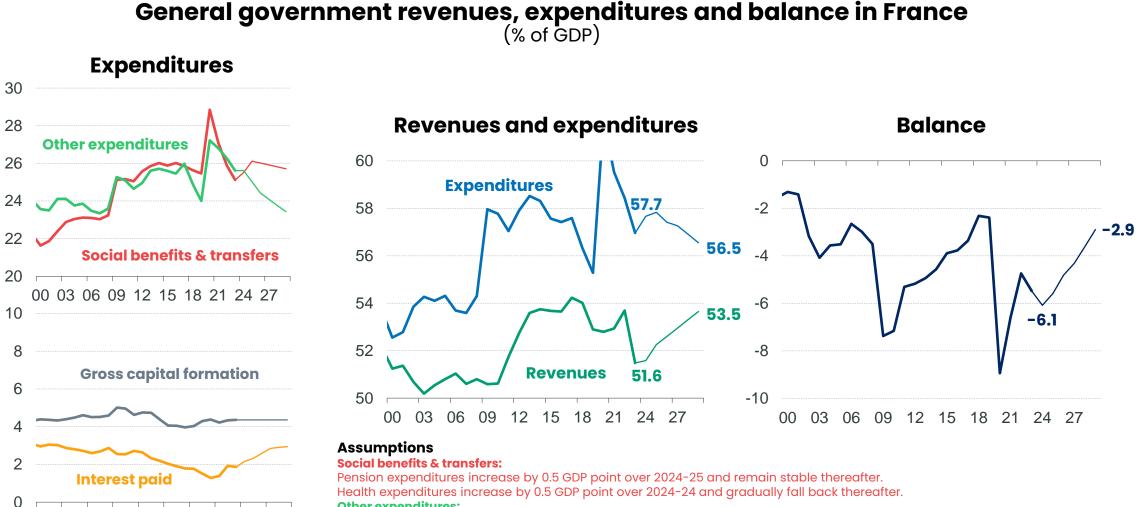
Memo. Covid pushed health spending upwards in most countries



For most countries, the cost of aging is going to add to public debt in the coming years... except in France!



The French fiscal rebalancing effort is nevertheless important... and even if expenditures are curbed, an increase in revenues is required



Other expenditures:

1 GDP point reduction over 2025-26 resulting from the end of energy subsidies; increase 0.5% less than inflation afterwards.

→ To reach the 3% target by 2029, revenues have to increase by €20 billion in 2025, and by an additional €12 billion from 2026 on (i.e. 0.35% of GDP) 12/16/2024

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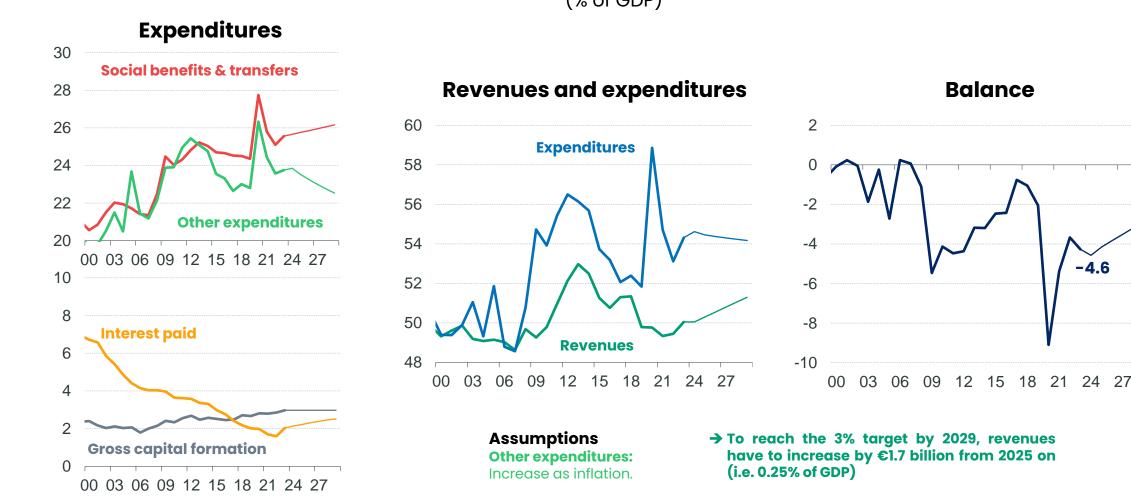
91

00 03 06 09 12 15 18 21 24 27

Sources: Eurostat, Candriam

In Belgium, an increase in revenues is also needed to reach the 3% target by 2029

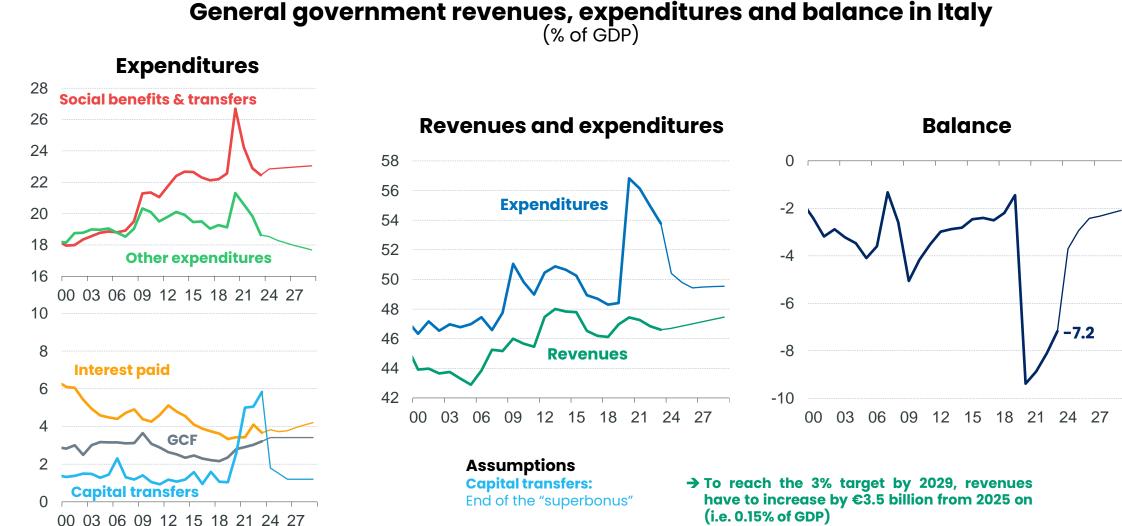
General government revenues, expenditures and balance in Belgium (% of GDP)





-2.9

Italy seems in a slightly more favorable position

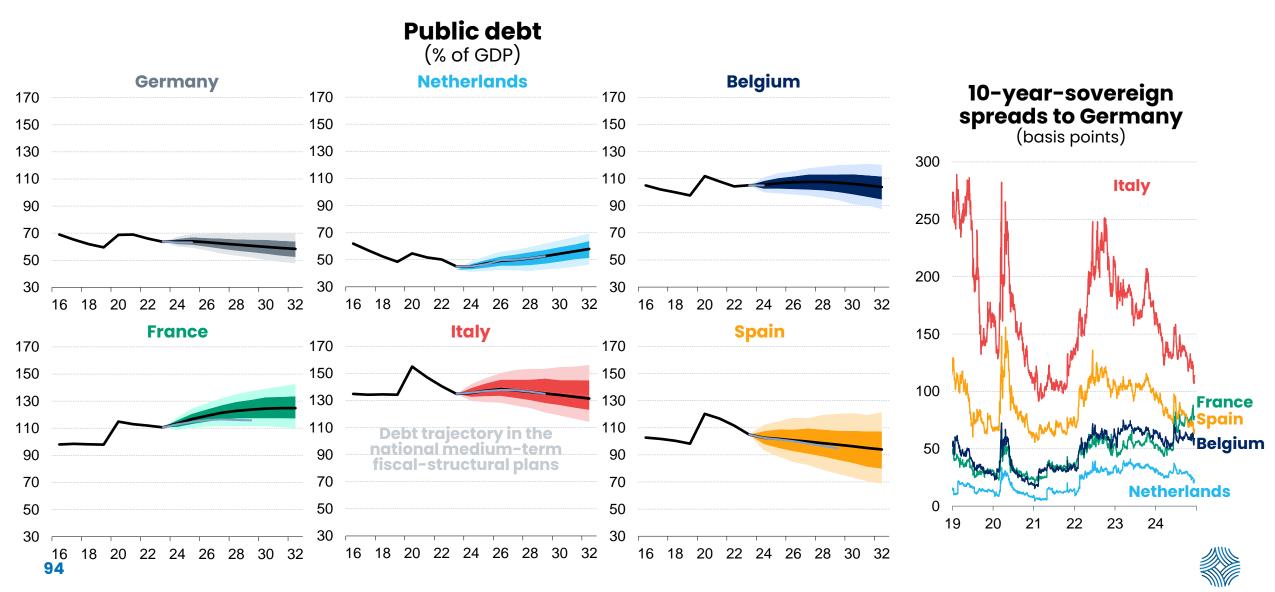


Other expenditures:

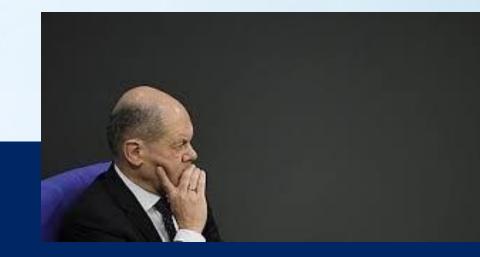
Increase 0.5% less than inflation from 2025 on.

2.1

Memo. Public debt trajectories for euro area countries



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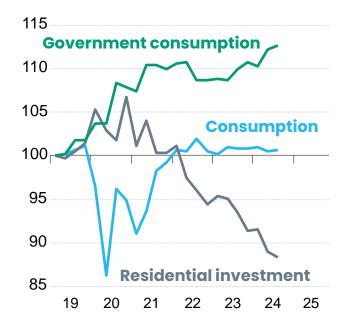
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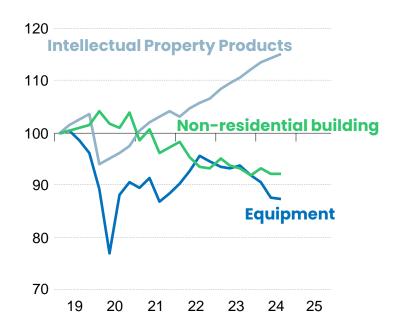
Since 2022, domestic demand has been stagnating

Domestic demand components

(2019 Q1 = 100, volume)



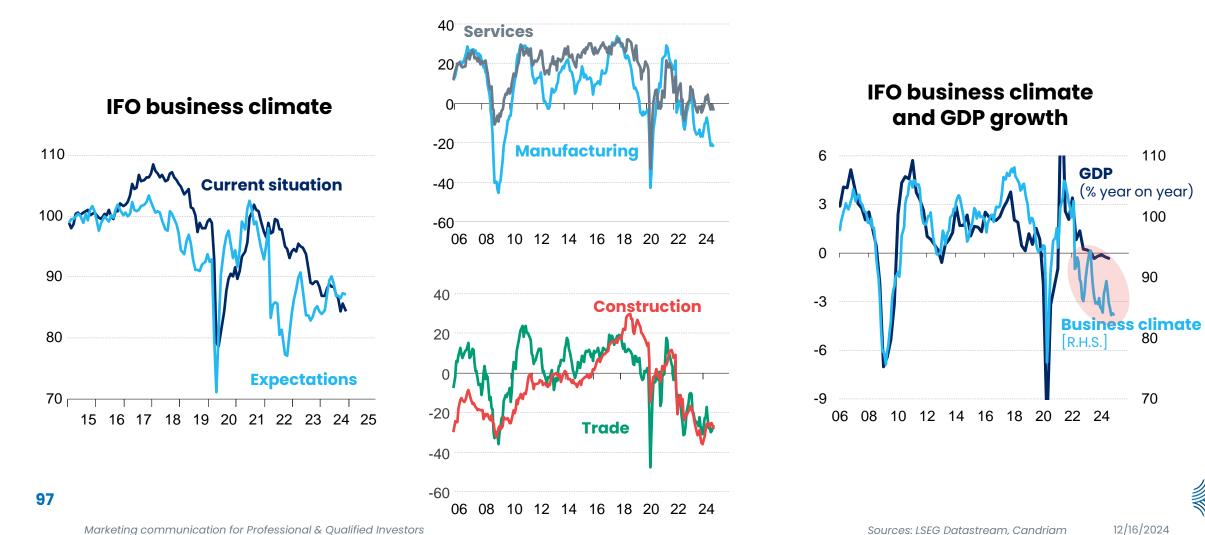




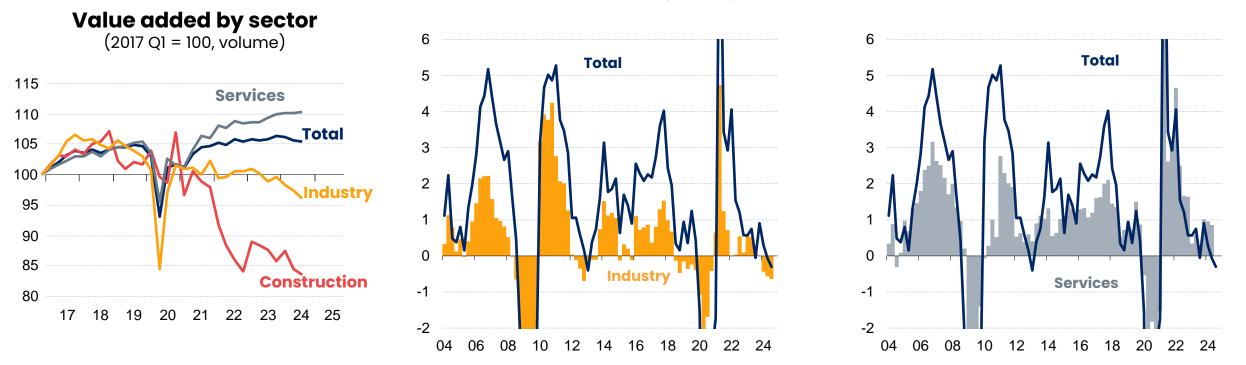


IFO is pointing to more softness ahead

IFO business climate by sector



After having been for years a pillar of German growth, the manufacturing sector is now a drag!

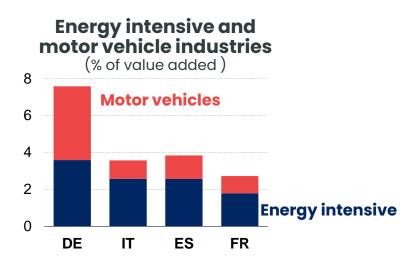


Value added by sector

(% year on year contribution to total VA, volume)

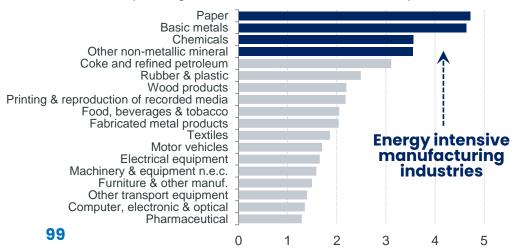


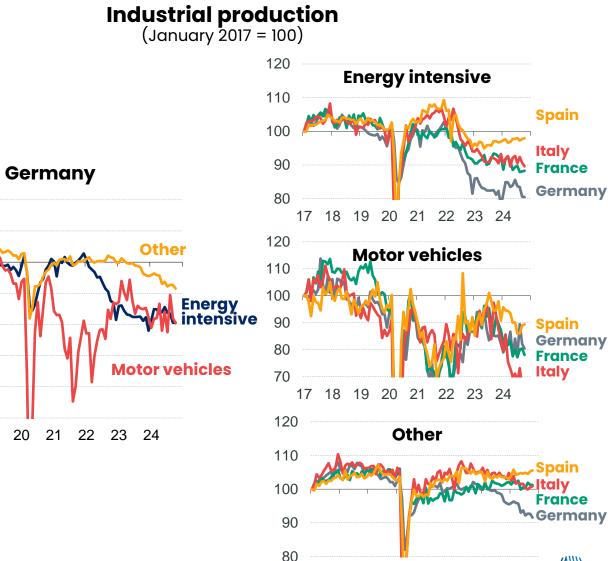
The auto sector first, then energy intensive industries were severely hit



Euro area industry's dependence on electricity and gas

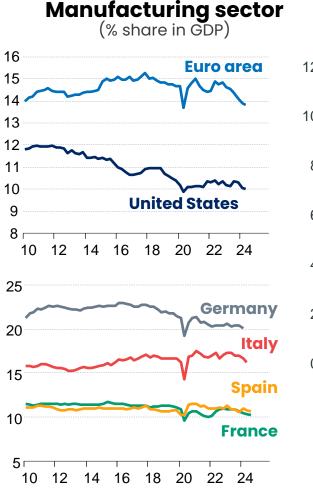
(electricity and gas content as % of sector's output, 2014)



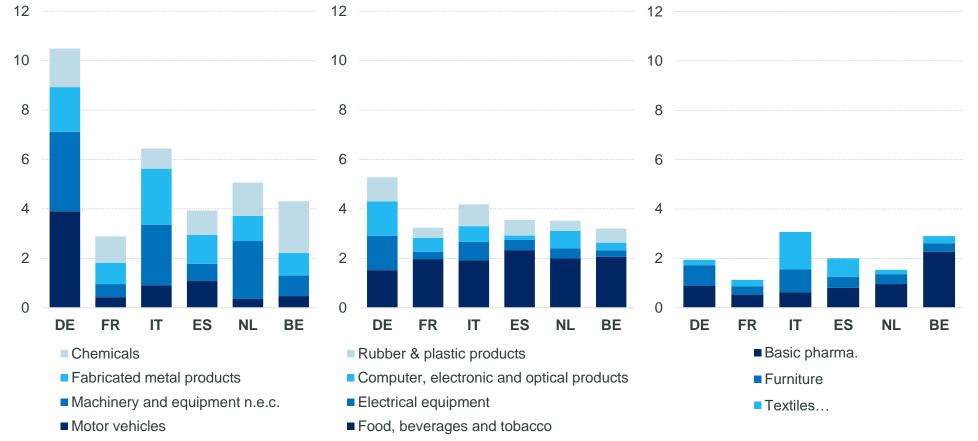


17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

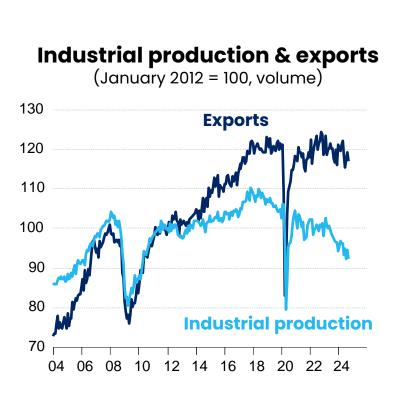
Memo. Manufacturing share in total value added

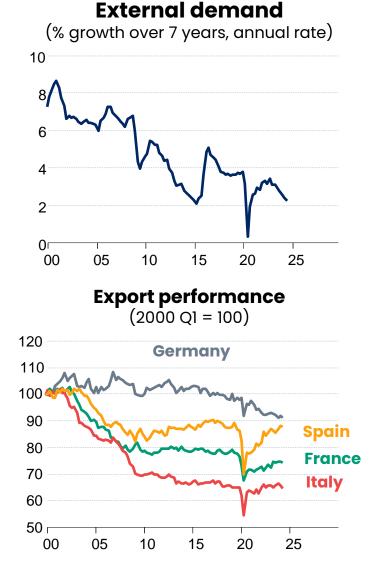


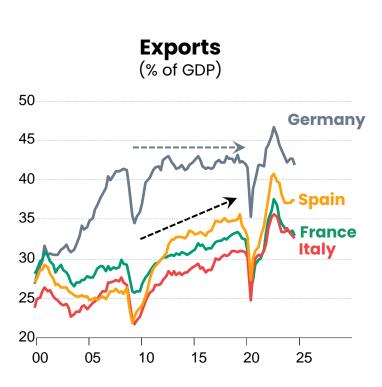
Share of manufacturing industries in total value added (%, 2021)



German exports have been stagnating since 2017





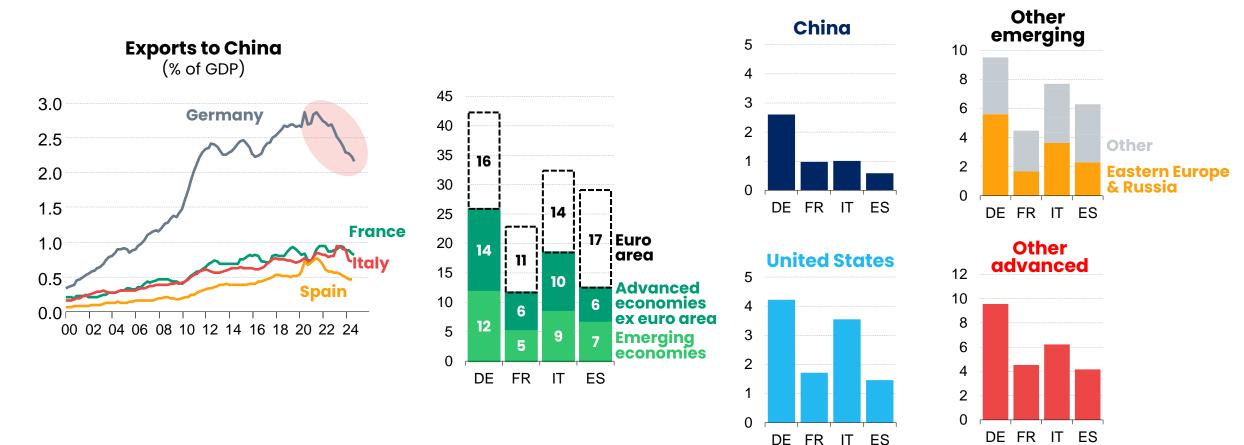




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Germany has suffered from its exposure to China

Exports of goods by region (% of GDP, 2023)

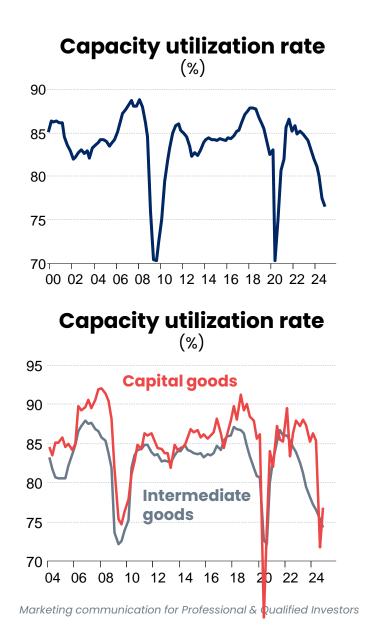


For the time being, there are no signs of an imminent rebound in exports





Business investment is unlikely to revive quickly either



104



Equipment investment and perceived demand





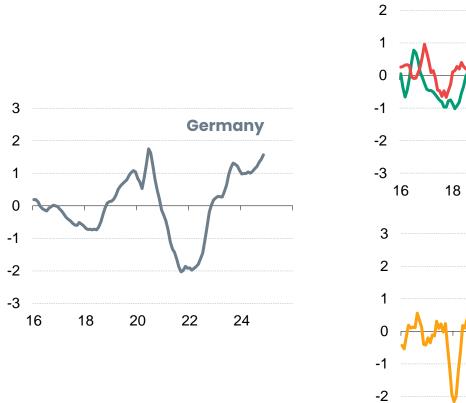


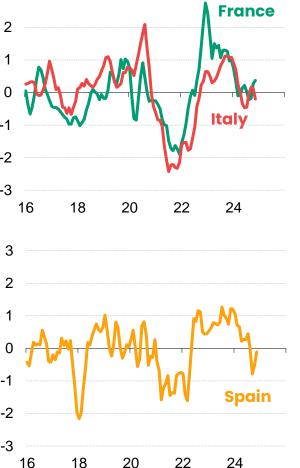
Elevated inventories are likely to weigh on growth in the coming months

Firms' assessment of inventories

(EC survey, normalized)

3





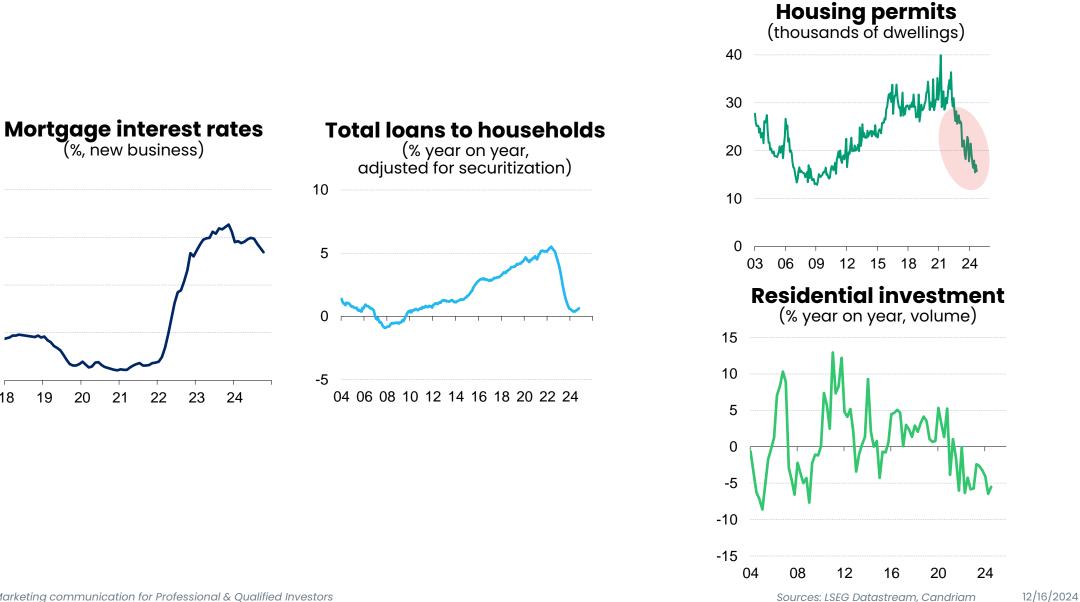




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Residential investment is unlikely to pick up

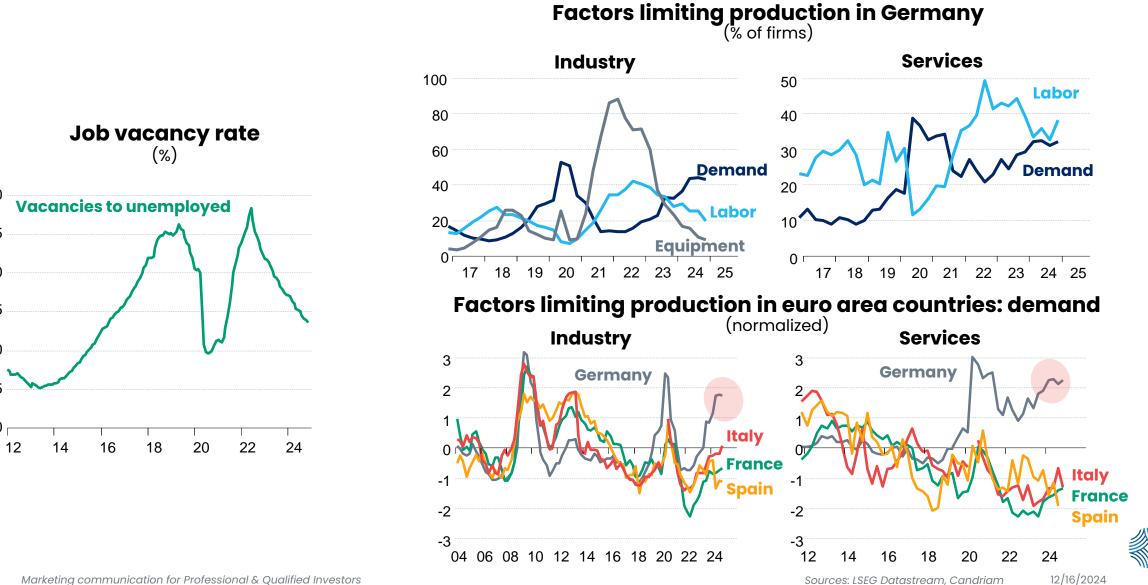




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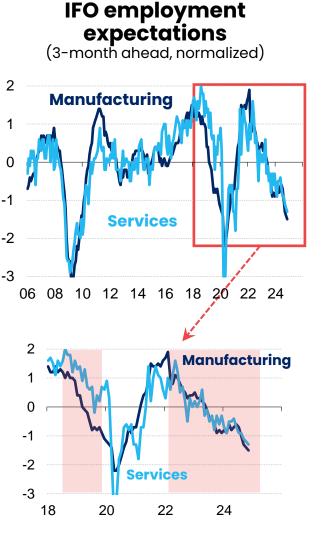
Sources: LSEG Datastream, Candriam

For German firms, lack of demand has now become more of an issue than labor shortages...

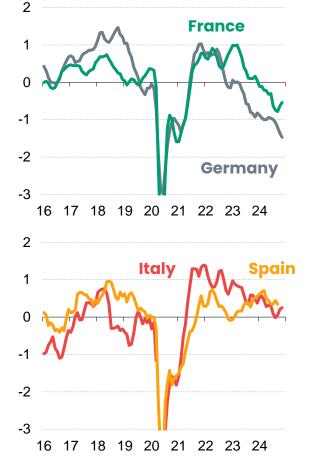


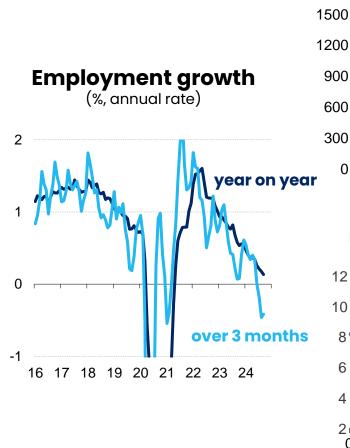
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... and the labor market has now started to deteriorate



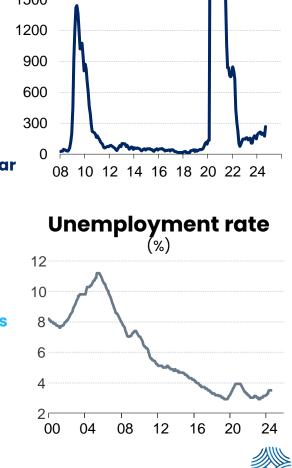
Firms' employment **expectations** (EC survey, normalized)





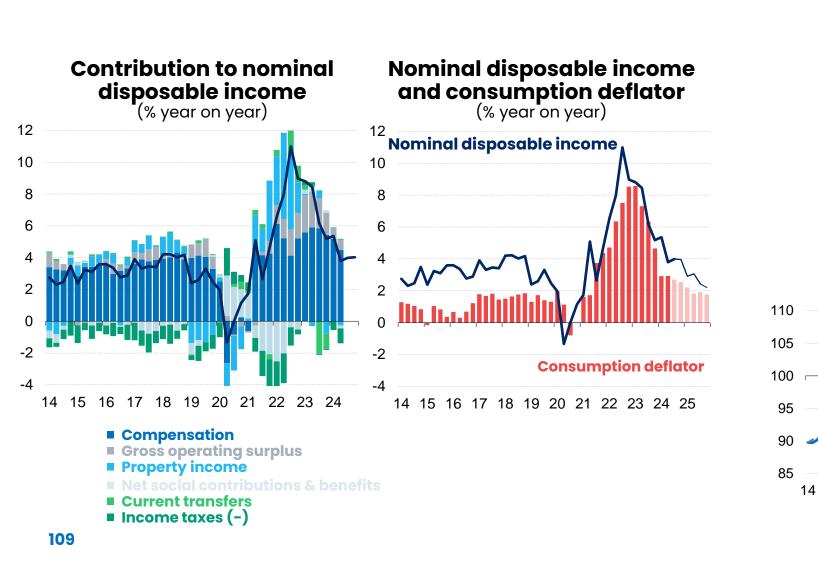
Short-time unemployment

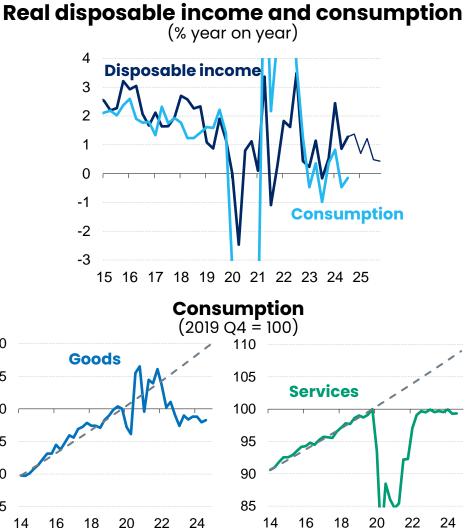
(thousands of employees)



108

Real disposable income growth should slow down

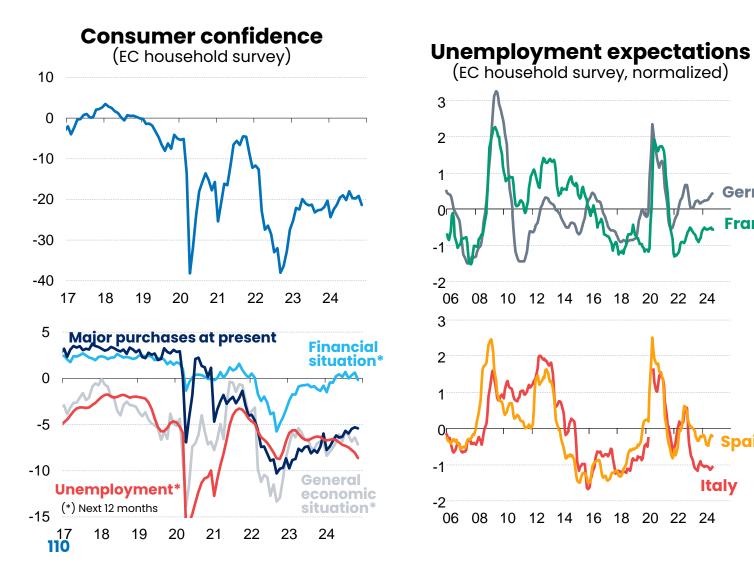




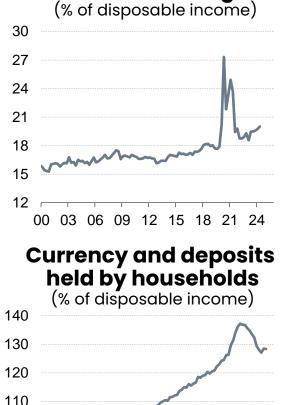
Sources: LSEG Datastream, Eurostat, Candriam

12/16/2024

With impaired confidence and no excess cash left, there is no reason for households to save less!



Households saving rate



Germany

France

🔨 Spain

Italy



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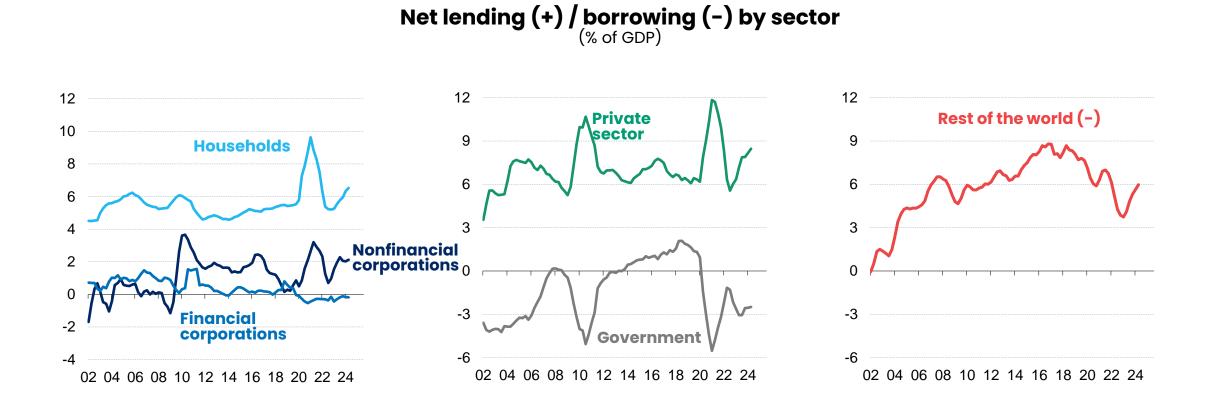
06 09 12 15 18 21 24

100

90

80

For many years, Germany has preferred to export its savings... despite obvious domestic investment needs!



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The BDI has indeed estimated that €1400 billion of investment are needed over 2025-2030 for Germany to restore its competitiveness

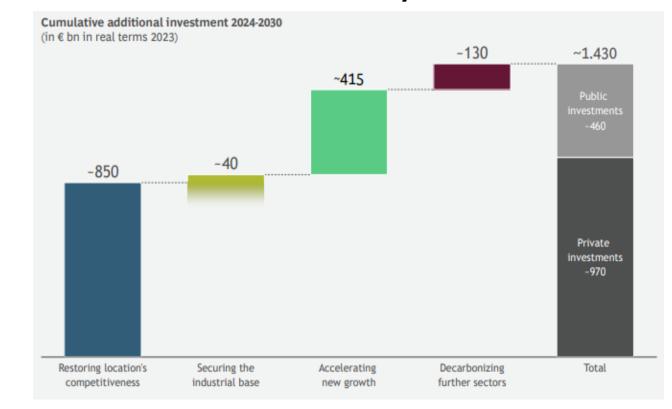
The Federation of German Industries (BDI) identified 15 action areas for successful necessary a transformation of the German industry.

The transformation of Germany as an industrial location will require one of the greatest transformation efforts since the postwar period - and additional investments of around €1.4 trillion (~37% of GDP) by 2030, of which €460 billion needs to be invested by the public sector.

On an annual basis, this corresponds to an additional annual investment of close to 5% of GDP (of which 1.6% of GDP for the public sector).

112

Additional investment required by 2030 to transform the German industry





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