

Private Markets Chartbook – Q4 2025

Strong Finish to a Year of Wild Cards



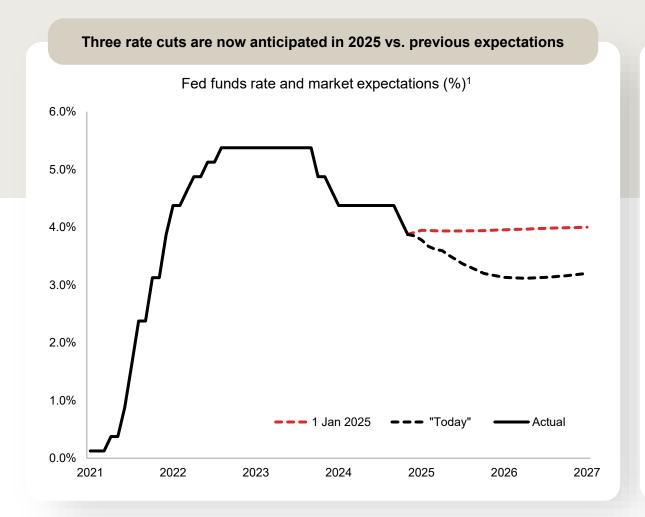
Partners Group Key Macro Views and Private Markets Implications

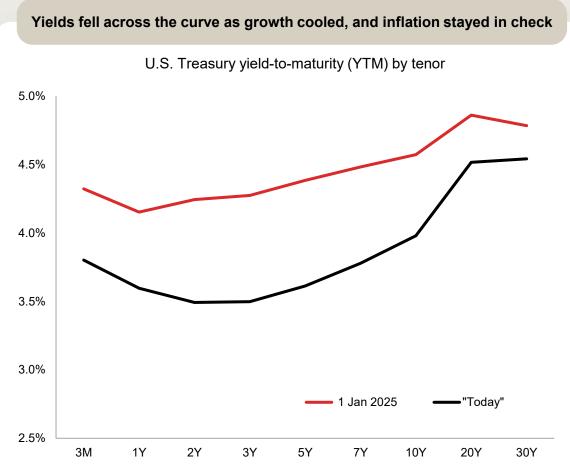
Key Macro Views Private Markets Implications Macro forces should continue to bolster private equity transaction Rate cuts should support the U.S. economy into 2026 and exit activity Lower rates are helping boost Euro Area private equity transaction Europe's mixed growth and in-check inflation should prompt further ECB¹ rate cuts in 2026 activity China's recent focus on supporting consumption and reducing China's strong stock market performance has enabled a robust overcapacity could be a positive for economic growth and outperforming IPO market this year Direct lending yields continue to offer an attractive spread above Private credit risks, despite recent concerns, are not systemic in our view publicly traded loans Al is a massively important commercial opportunity, to be Many Al beneficiary companies are being scaled in private markets approached selectively





The Fed rate cuts and lower long-term yields support the labor market

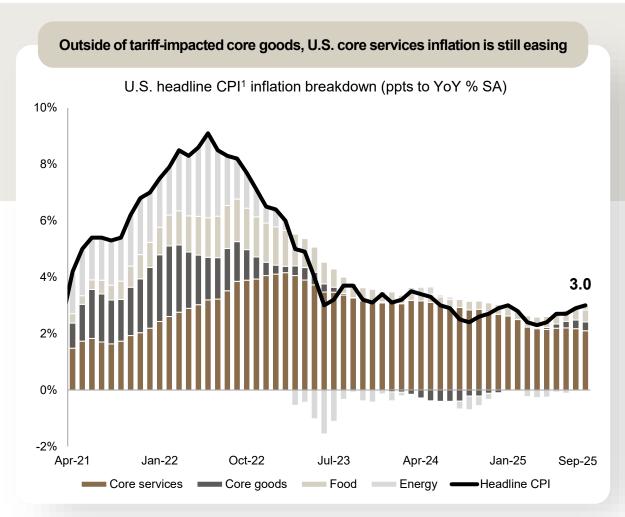


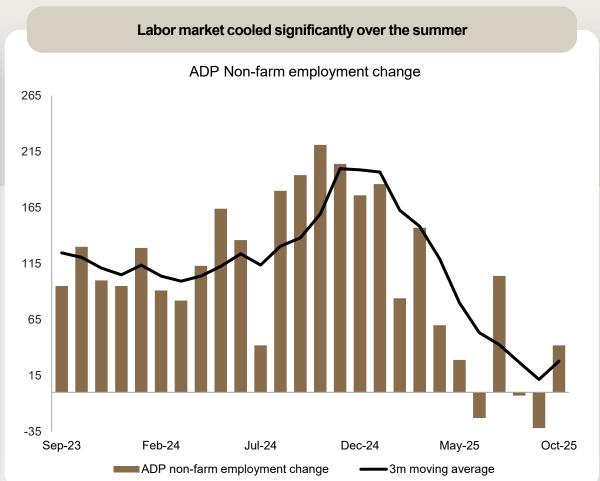


Source: Partners Group, Bloomberg (2025). We note, however, that we could see more aggressive cuts by the Fed should the labor market deteriorate more abruptly. 1 Market expectations are based on the forward rates for the 3-month SOFR for the Fed. "Today" figure represents the most recent YTM available at the time of data extraction, as of 28 October 2025. Actual figures and events may differ and may vary significantly. For illustrative purposes only.



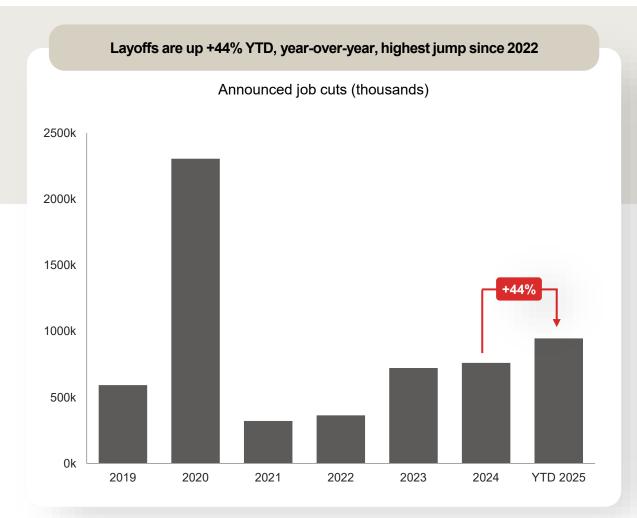
The Fed's focus shifted to the labor market as downside risks have increased

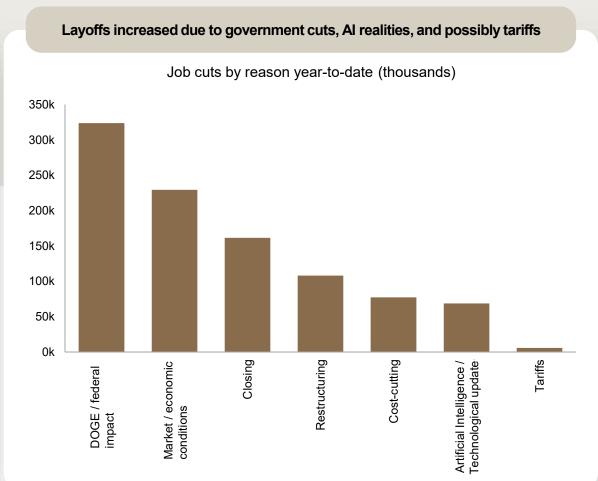






Layoffs are at the highest levels since 2020 and driven by a host of factors

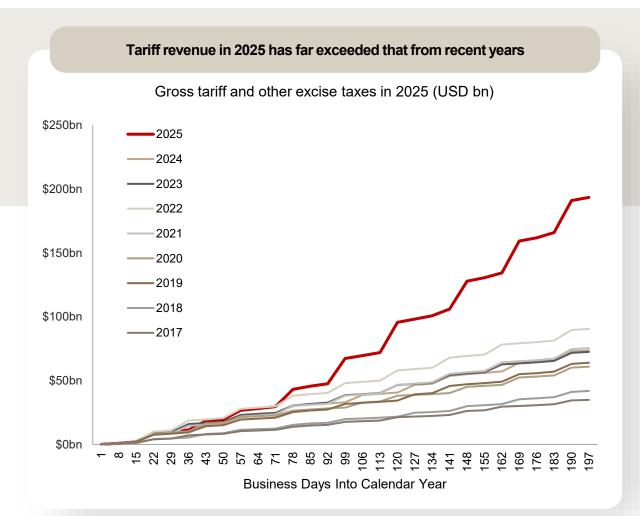


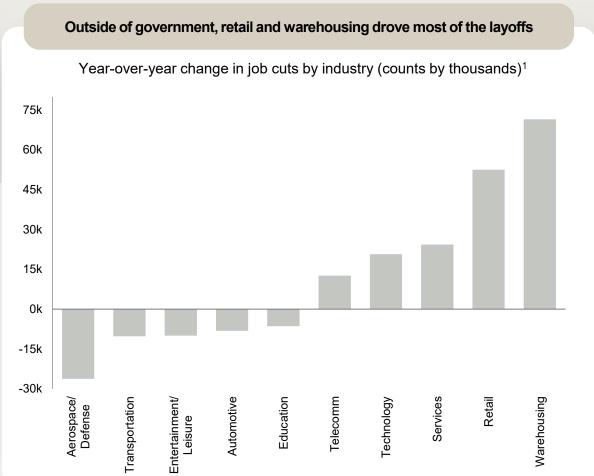


Source: Bloomberg and Challenger, Gray & Christmas as of 31 October 2025. Only the most significant reasons are shown; not all categories are included. Actual figures and events may differ and may vary significantly. For illustrative purposes only.



Tariff revenue increased, but the impact on industries' layoffs seems narrow



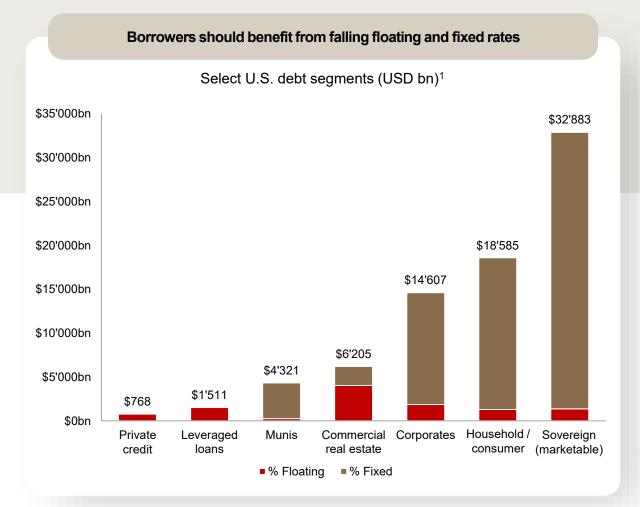


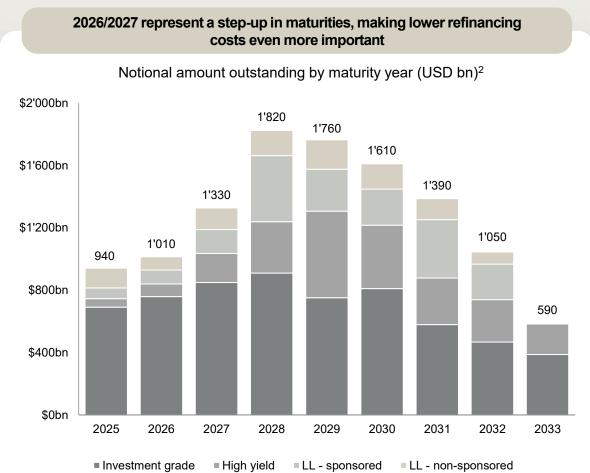


Key Macro View

Lower rates drive immediate resets and cost of capital

declines over time





Source: 1 Bloomberg, Federal Reserve Bank of New York, PitchBook | LCD, and Preqin with data complied in November 2025. Private credit provided as unrealized value is from Preqin as of 31 March 2025. Leveraged loans is from PitchBook | LCD as of 30 September 2025. State and Local Government (Munis), Corporates, Sovereign debt are from Bloomberg as of 3 November 2025. Household/consumer debt is from FRBNY and as of 30 September 2025. Commercial real estate debt is from Bloomberg as of 10 November 2025. 2 Notional amount outstanding for 2025 is as of 1 January 2025; amounts for all other years are as of November 2025. For illustrative purposes only. Past performance is not indicative of future results. Actual figures and events may differ and may vary significantly.



Tighter credit spreads have also driven cost of capital lower

Loan spreads have tightened to the lowest levels in years U.S. and Europe new-issue loan spreads (bps) over base rate, quarterly 575 bps 525 bps 475 bps 425 bps 375 bps 325 bps

2018

2020

2022

2017

Europe ——U.S.

275 bps

2009

2011

2012

2014

Corporate bond spreads have also moved lower this year U.S. Bond Index IG and HY Spread (bps), monthly 900 bps 750 bps 600 bps 450 bps 300 bps 150 bps 0 bps 2018 2021 2015 2016 2019 2022 2024 2025 ----High Yield Index Investment Grade Index

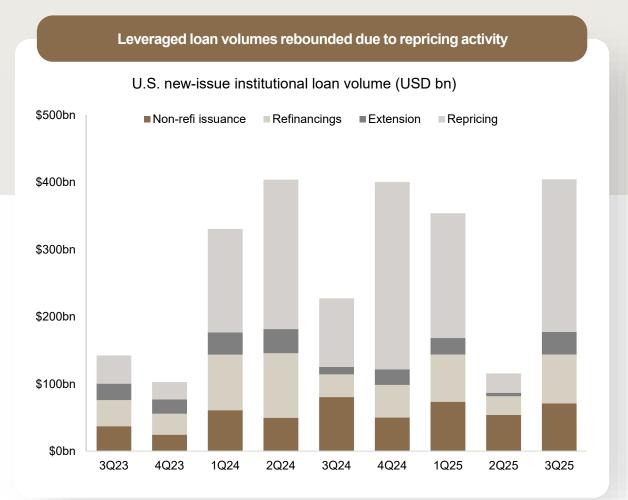


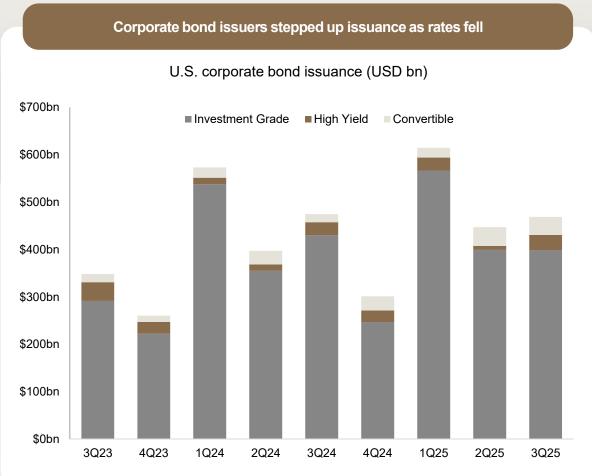
2023

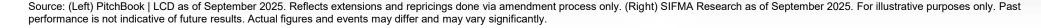
2025

Corporate debt issuance picked up on the back of lower rates

and spreads

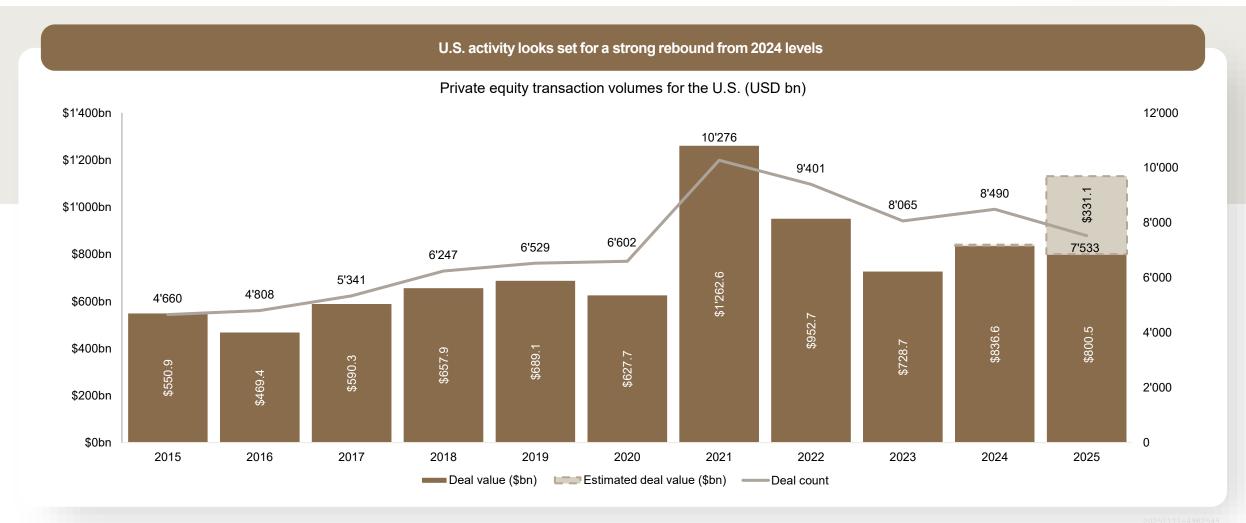








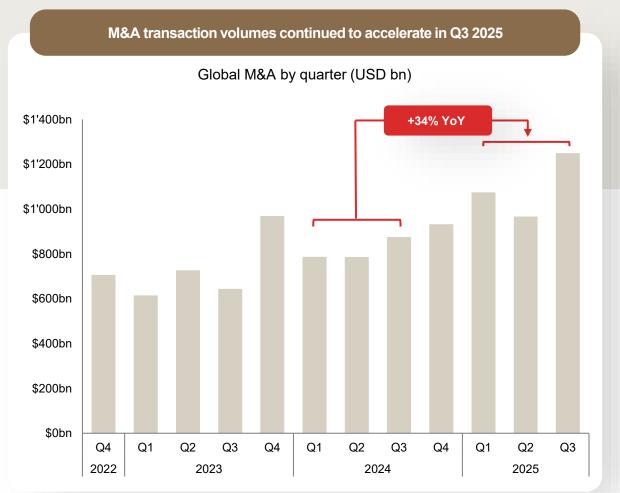
U.S. private equity transaction activity is on pace for a robust full year

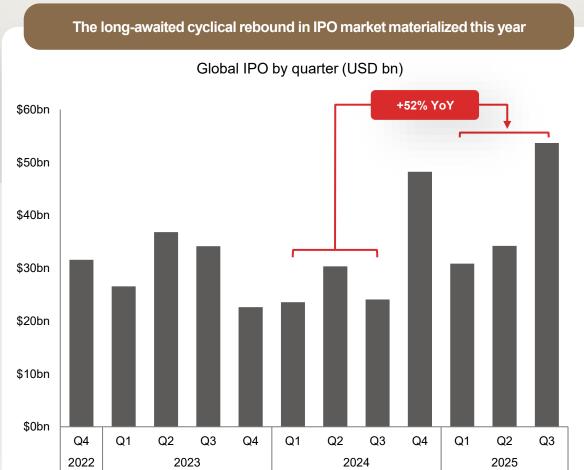




Global M&A and IPO activity continues to rebound on signs of

greater clarity



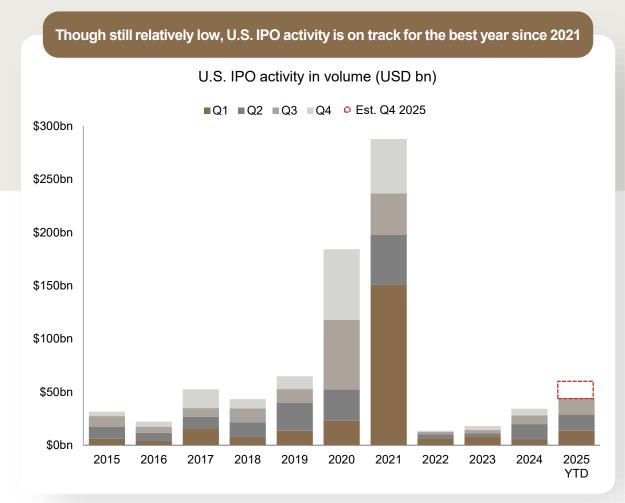


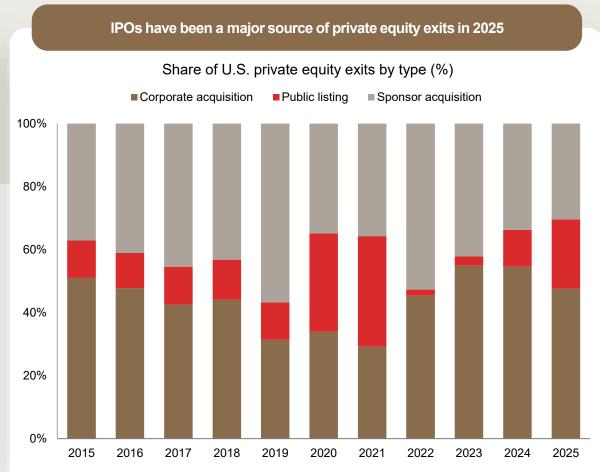
Source: Dealogic/ION Analytics as of 31 October 2025. For illustrative purposes only. Q3 2025 data reflects figures available as of the date of writing this Chartbook. There is no assurance that similar results will be achieved.

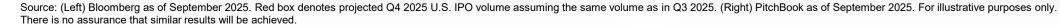


The rebound in global IPOs has helped lift private equity exits

this year

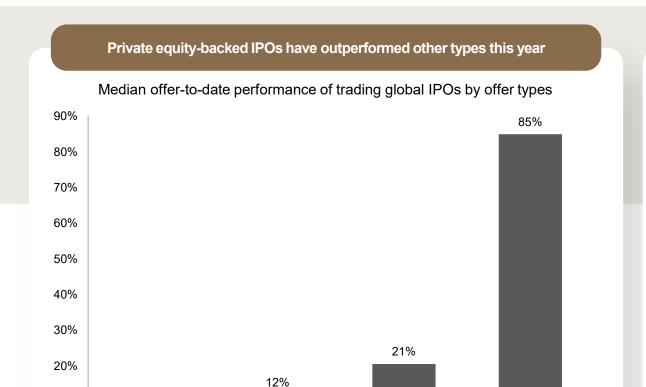








Private equity-backed companies have seen meaningful outperformance



All IPOs

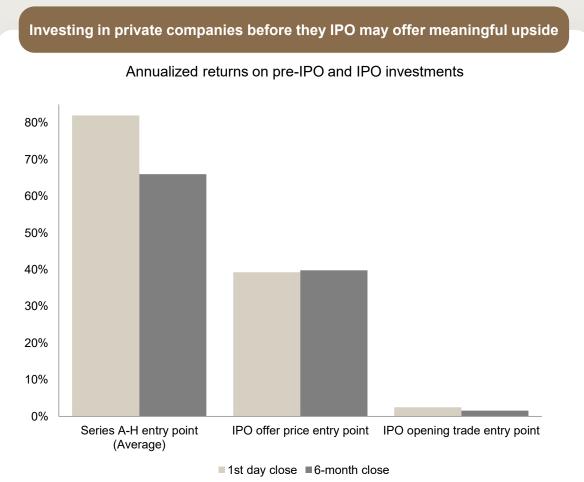
Non-PE-backed

(excluding SPACs)

10%

0%

SPACs



Source: (Left) Bloomberg as of 14 October 2025. Median performance of global IPOs that started trading in 2025 to date. Private equity-backed indicates that at least one shareholder of a company completing a public offering is a private equity firm and/or at least one selling shareholders of a company completing a public offering is divesting its shares. All IPOs includes performances of all IPO offering types. (Right) Manhattan Venture Research as of 09 May 2022. Investments included in the study are all technology media and telecommunication (TMT) IPOs over a 10-year period – from 2011 to December 2021. For Illustrative purposes only.

Private equity-

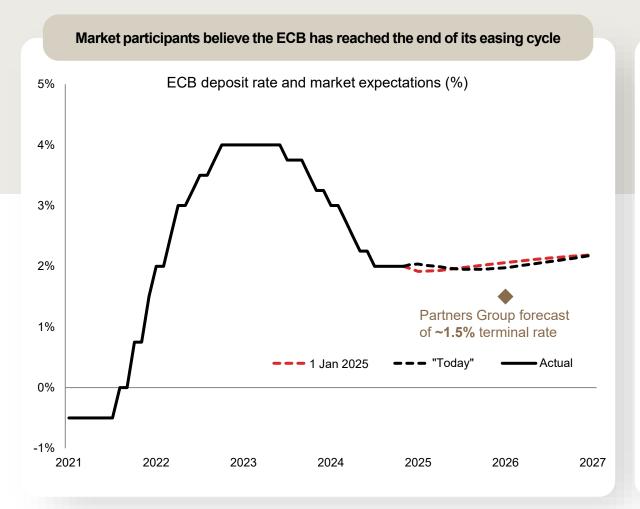
backed

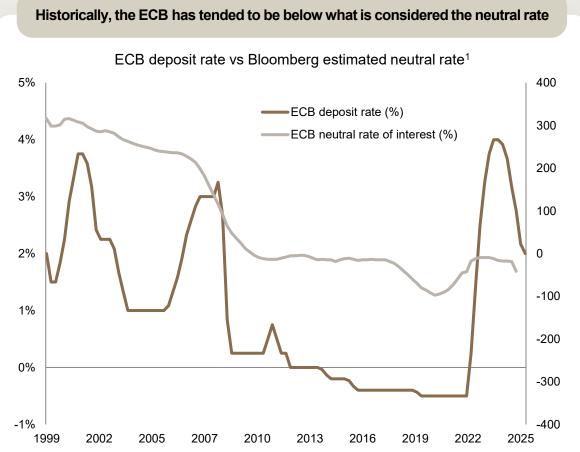


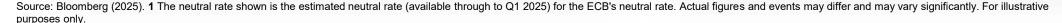


Despite the ECB pausing its easing cycle, we maintain our

view of further cuts

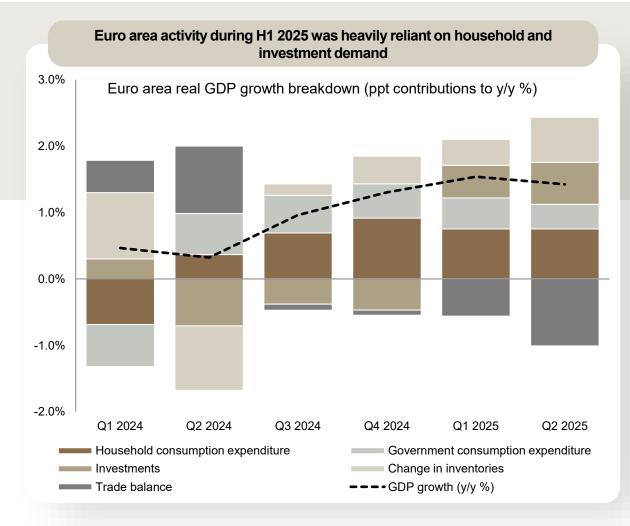


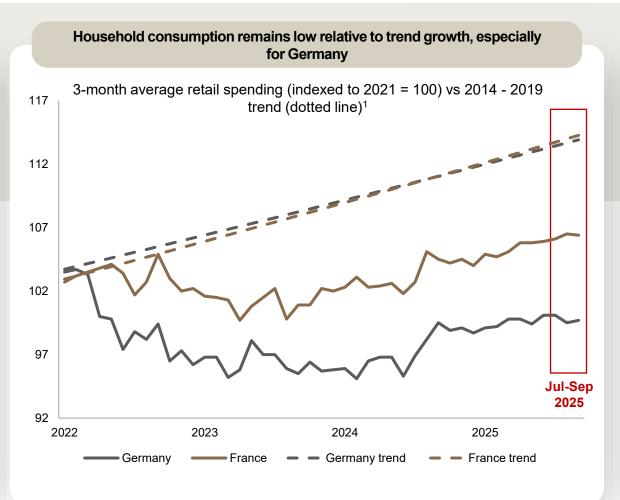






The Euro area's household-driven growth appears to be low so far in H2 2025

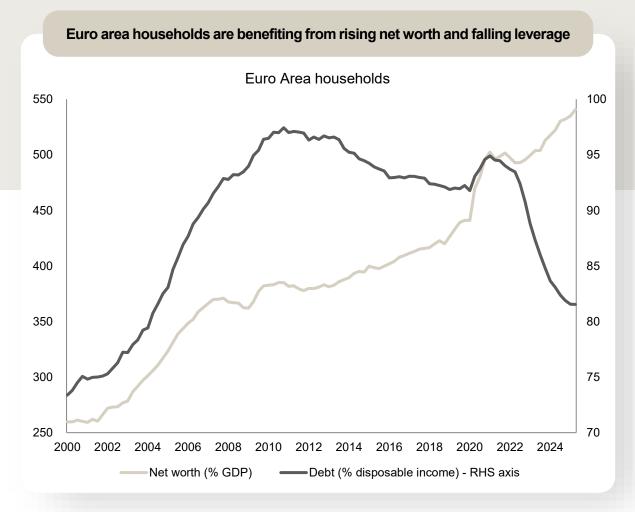


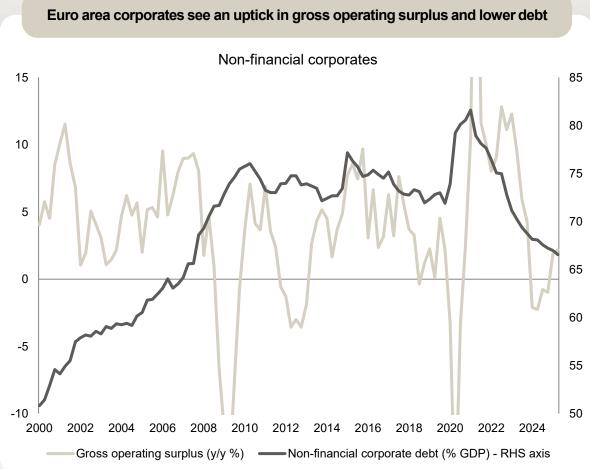






Good news is that both consumer and corporate balance sheets are healthy

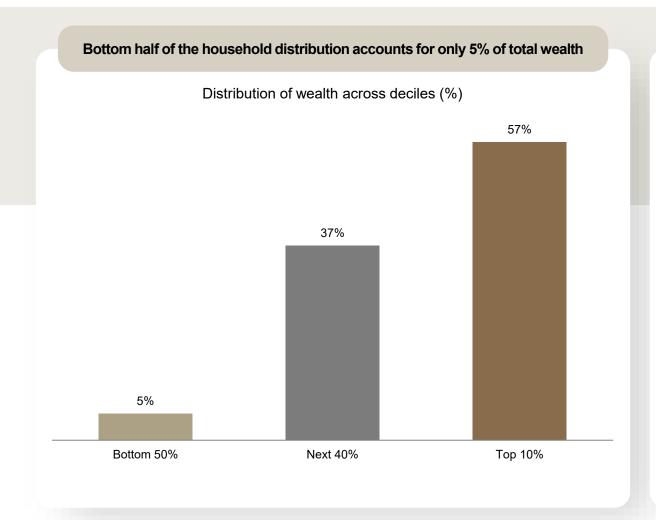


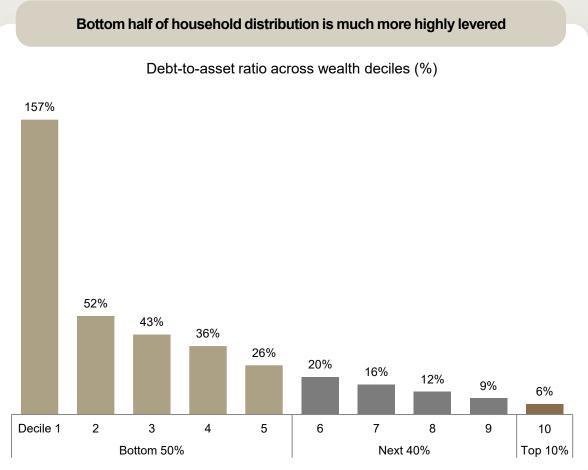


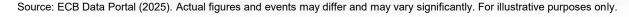
Source: ECB Data (2025). Actual figures and events may differ and may vary significantly. For illustrative purposes only.



A large share of the EU population relies on debt to finance consumption

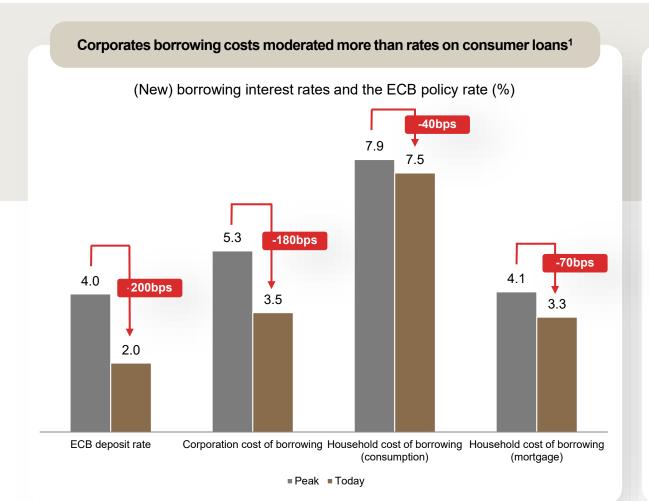


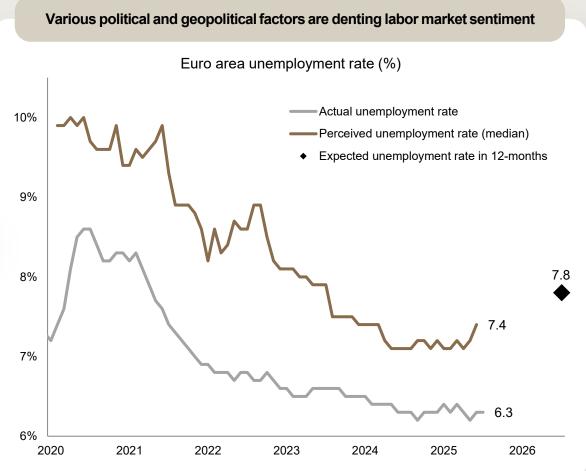






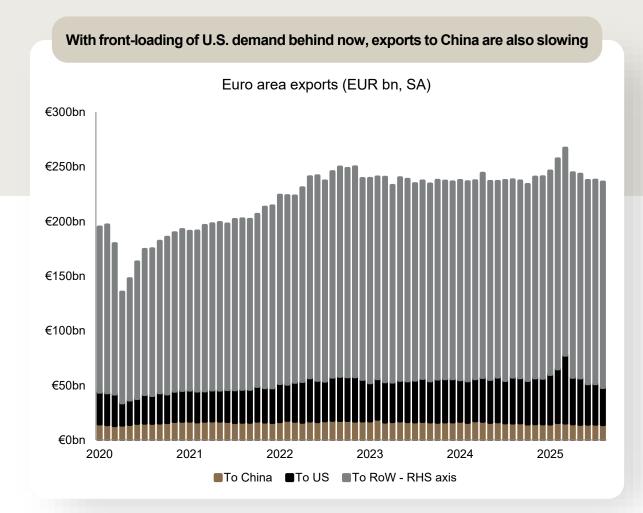
Rates passed through to households have been less than for corporates

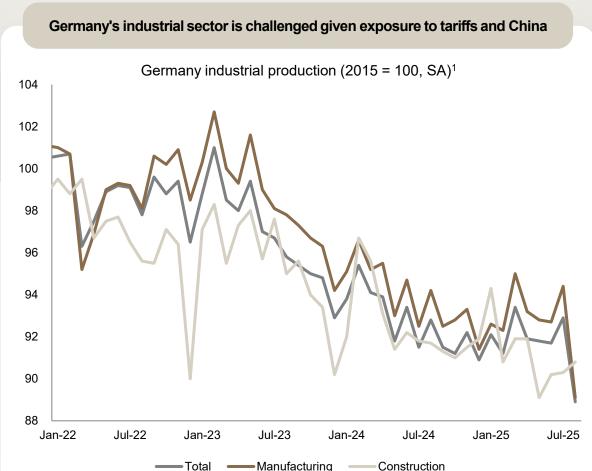






Deteriorating exports and industrial production also weigh on EU sentiment



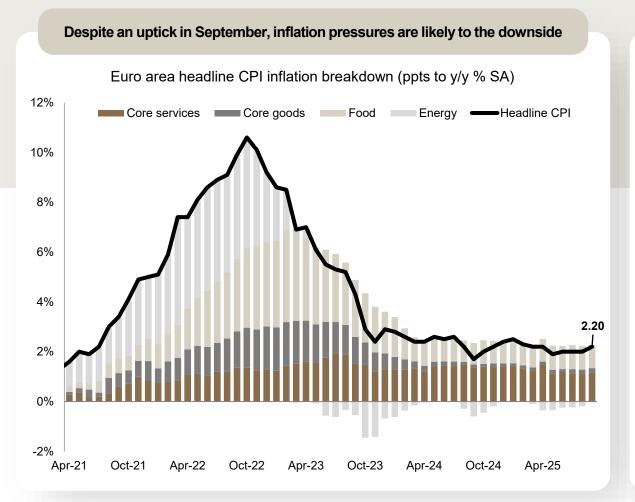


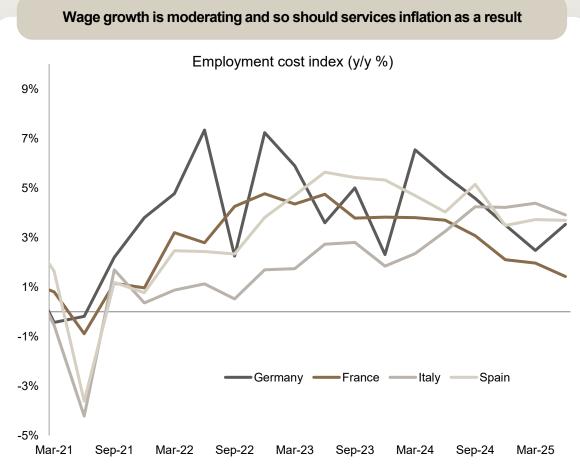
Source: Bloomberg (2025). 1 The German share of exports from the Euro area to China is ~50% with the weakening in exports from Euro area to China is mostly felt by Germany. Actual figures and events may differ and may vary significantly. For illustrative purposes only.

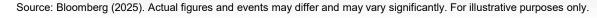


Inflation should stay in check allowing ECB room to ease

and support growth



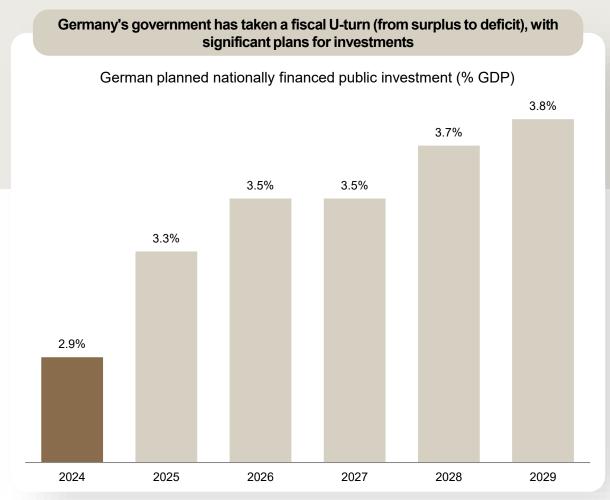


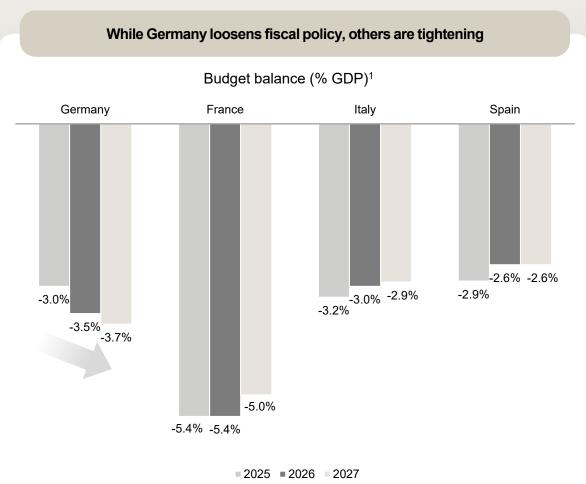




While many countries see fiscal tightening, German stimulus is a support

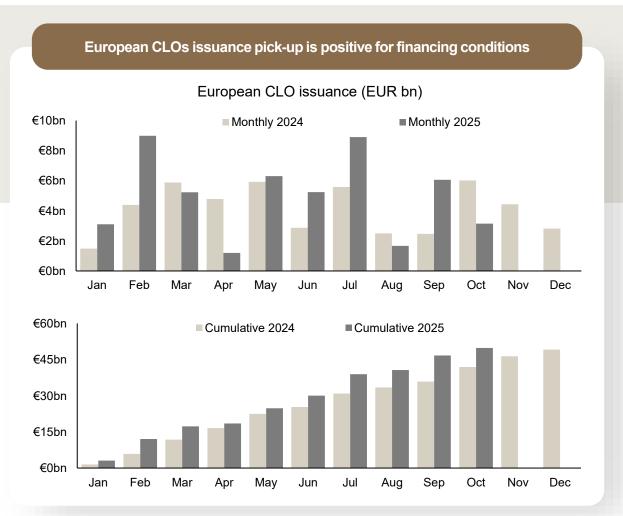
is a support

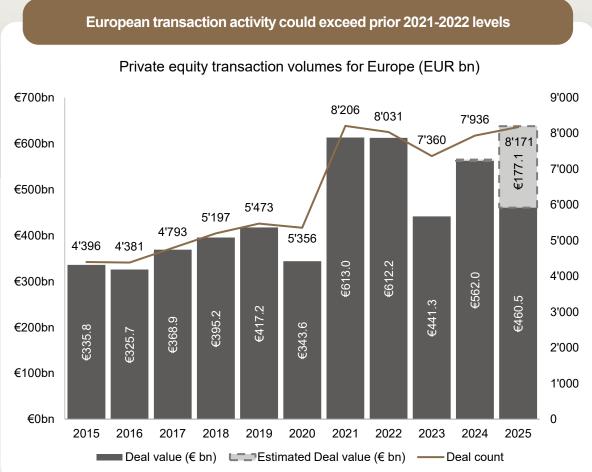






Lower rates are helping boost Euro area private equity transaction activity



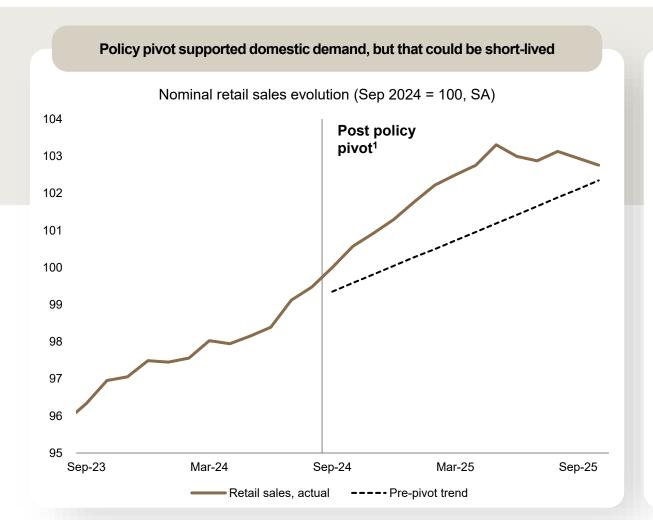


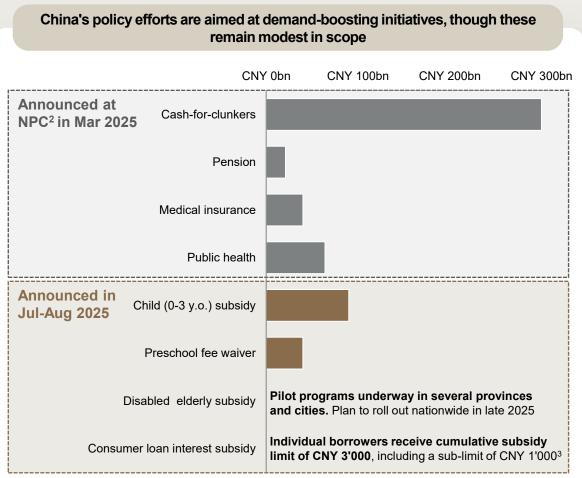




Key Macro View

China's fiscal push supported economic activity, but that may be fading





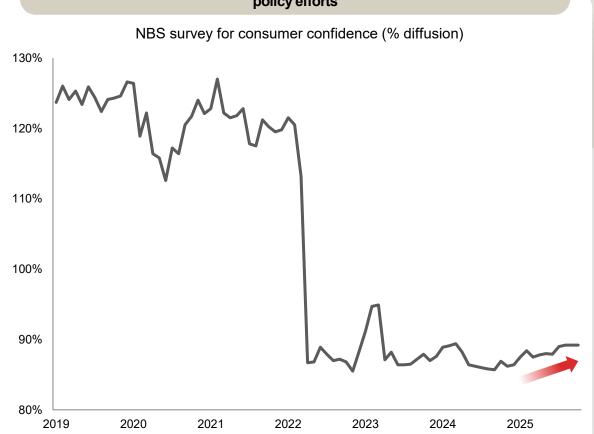
Source: (Left) Bloomberg (2025). (Right) Bloomberg, Xinhua NPC takeaway, Ministry of Civil Affairs, Ministry of Finance, The State Council (2025). 1 Anchor as of September 2024, which is when the push to support consumption gained more important traction. 2 NPC = National People's Congress. 3 Subsidy limits apply on a "per lending institution" basis. Actual figures and events may differ and may vary significantly. For illustrative purposes only.



Key Macro View

Recent efforts and communication acknowledge the need to spur demand

While at very low levels, China's consumer confidence may be turning thanks to policy efforts



Over 2026-2030, along with tech self-reliance priority¹, there are clearer intentions and plans to promote domestic demand in China

Improve "people's quality of life"

Pledge to "increase household income share" in national income, expand free education, enhance social security systems

Achieve "high-quality development"

Key points from China's next 5-year plan Explicit target of raising household consumption share,² alongside the new mentioning of "unified national market" (= anti-involution?³)

"Significantly improve scientific and tech selfreliance"

Promotion of strategic emerging technologies,³ could see more state-backed funds

"Further consolidate national security"

Plans to "accelerate the development of advanced combat capabilities" and "advance modernization of military governance"

"Accelerate the development of a strong manufacturing nation"

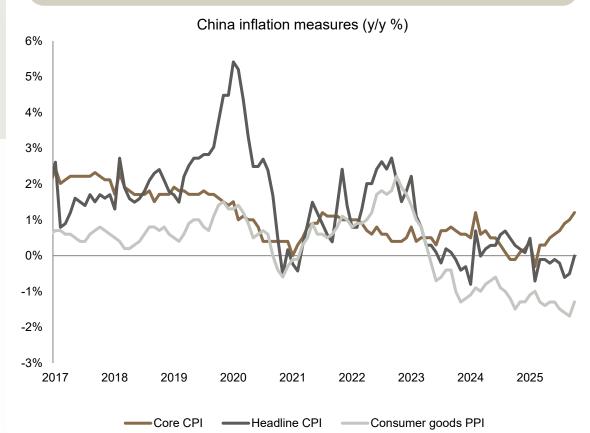
Ascend the value chain, using tech / innovation to upgrade traditional ("old") 4 industries

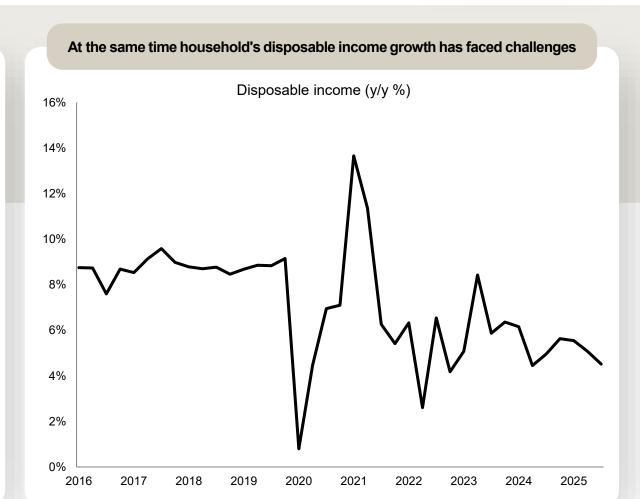
Source: Bloomberg (2025), Morgan Stanley (2025). **1** These are: new energy, new materials, aerospace, quantum technology, biomanufacturing, hydrogen and nuclear fusion energy, brain-computer interfaces, embodied AI (robotics), and 6G telecommunications. **2** This also includes some focus on services consumption (could include opening-up for foreign investors to invest in China's services sector). The 14th FYP only mentioned "stronger domestic market" in contrast. **3** While "anti-involution" was not explicitly mentioned in the communique, it included an order to "resolutely remove any obstacles that hinder the development of a unified national market". This was reflected in a 1st July speech by Xi Jinping in which he identified involution as the number one "stubborn problem" in need of elimination to create a "unified national market". **4** This likely nods to the reality that China can't fully remove focus from "old" industries given their importance to employment. Actual figures and events may differ and may vary significantly. For illustrative purposes only.

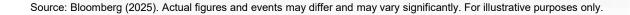


Two years of deflation due to involution/overcapacity are weighing on consumer finances

China's headline inflation has returned to deflation in February 2025 China inflation measures (y/y %) 6%





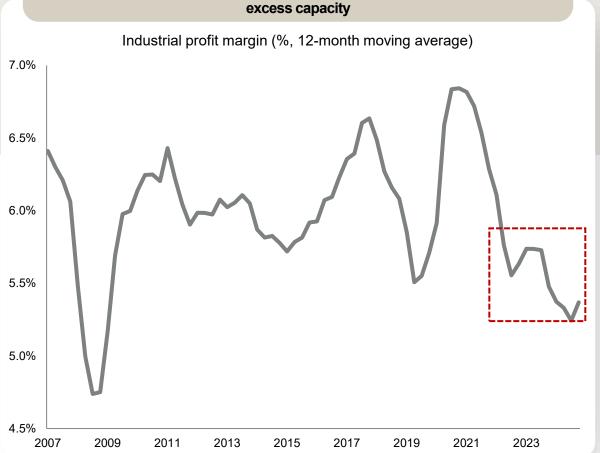




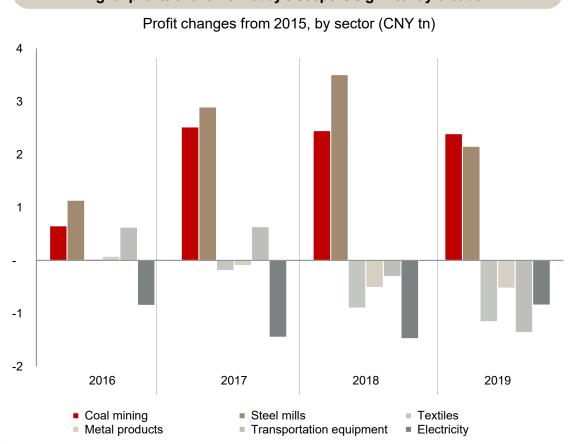
Key Macro View

The renewed anti-involution¹ drive to address excess capacity could be a long-term plus, but near term, it weighs on growth

China's industrial profit margin has dropped to the lowest level since 2010 due to



China's prior anti-involution push focused on coal and steel helped deliver higher profits over time. Today's scope is significantly broader²

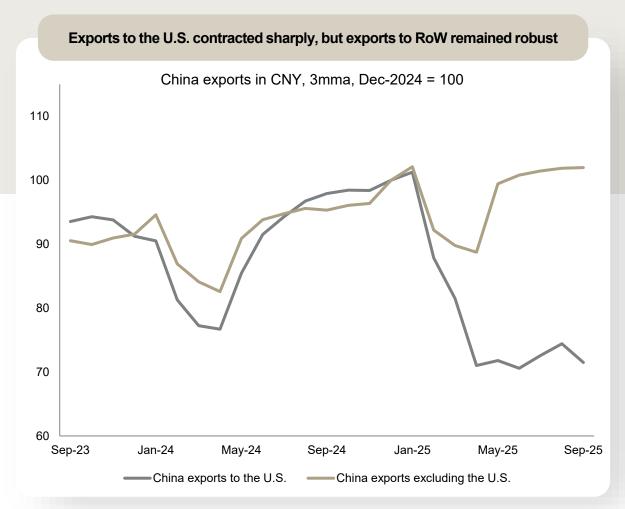


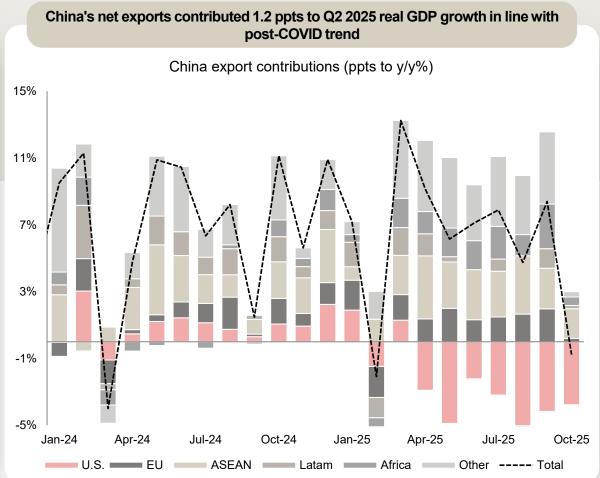
Source: Bloomberg (2025). **1** Beijing launched this policy drive to break the cycle of destructive competition and stabilize the economy. Key goals are to curb price wars and overcapacity (to address deflation), promote consolidation and quality growth. **2** The anti-involution campaign is still in its early days, with Beijing scrambling to flesh out a more comprehensive sector-by-sector plan. Actual figures and events may differ and may vary significantly. For illustrative purposes only.

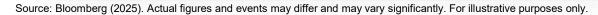


China's external environment remained resilient despite the

U.S. tariffs

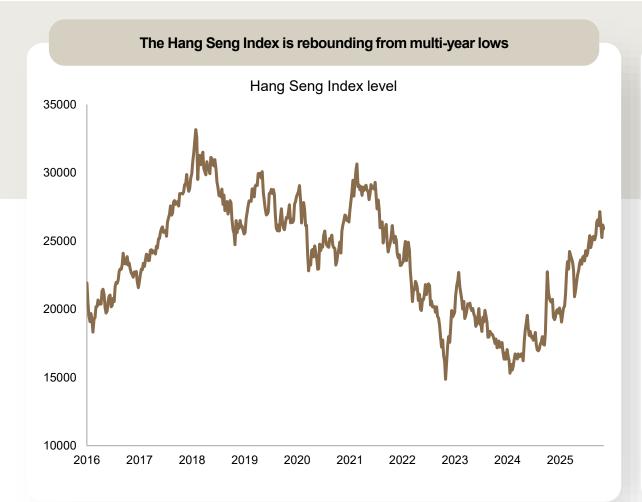




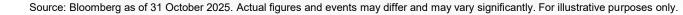




Long-term success is still uncertain, but YTD stock market performance is a boost to sentiment

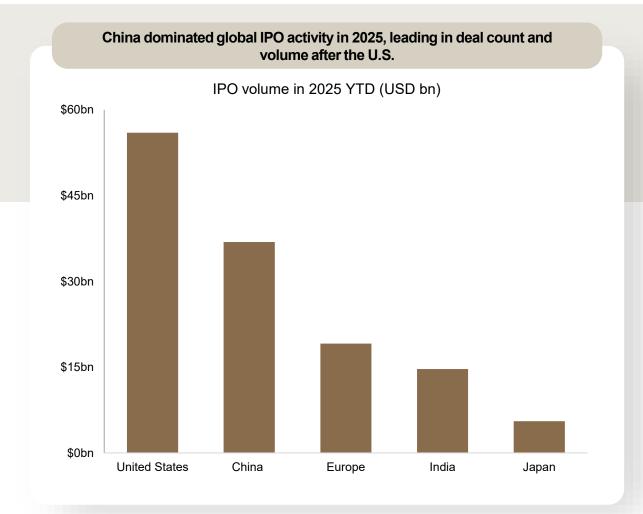




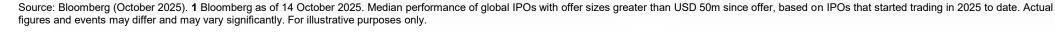




China's IPO markets stood out among others in volume, performance YTD





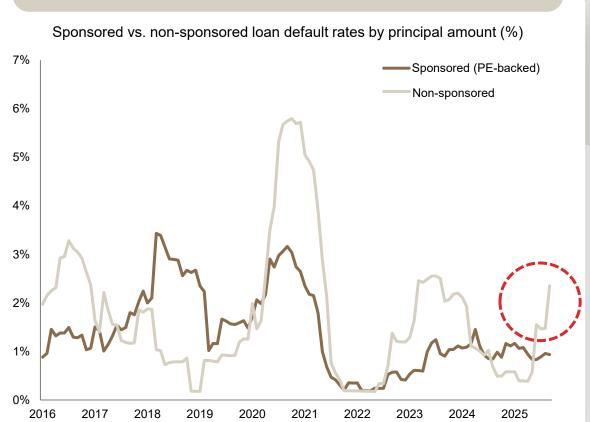




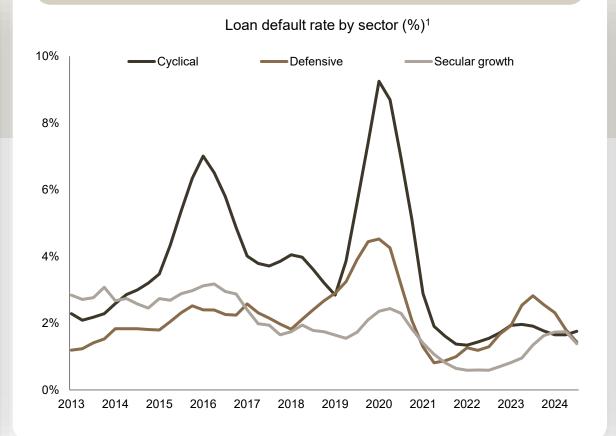


Default rates diverge for sponsor-backed and cyclical loans

PE-backed companies exhibit lower default rate than those without backing



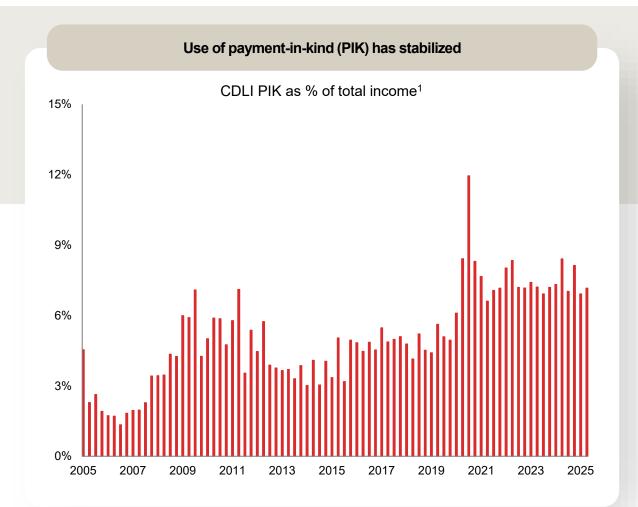
Defaults rates vary by sector, with cyclical defaults spiking higher during distress



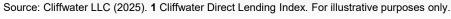
Source: (Left) PitchBook as of 30 September 2025. Based on loans in the Morningstar LSTA U.S. Leveraged Loan Index. (Right) Cliffwater LLC as of 30 June 2025. 1 Loan default rate on a four-quarter moving average. Cyclical includes financial services, consumer & retail discretionary, media & telecom, industrials, energy, and materials. Defensive includes food, beverage & staples, and utilities. Secular growth includes information technology and business service. For illustrative purposes only. Past performance is not indicative of future results. Actual figures and events may differ and may vary significantly.



The amount of distressed loans has been declining across direct lending



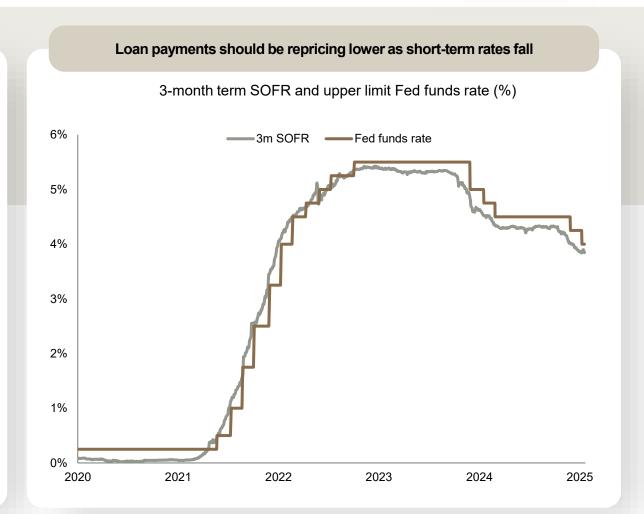






Coverage ratios are improving as loan payments are adjusting to lower rates

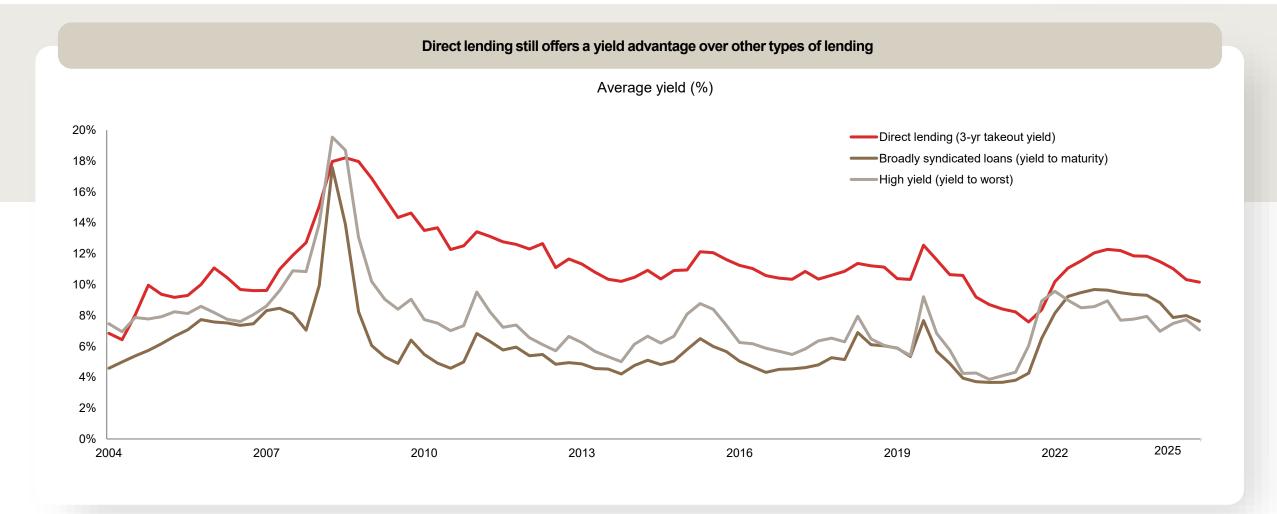
The interest coverage ratios¹ have troughed and are gradually improving Average interest coverage ratios 4.0x 3.5x 3.0x 2.5x assume 3.7% 1.9x 2.0x 1.5x 1.0x 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 2026



Source: (Left) Houlihan Lokey. (Right) Bloomberg as of 10 November 2025. 1 Interest coverage ratio is defined as adjusted EBITDA divided by total interest expense using the Houlihan Lokey Private Performing Credit Index (PPCI). For illustrative purposes only.



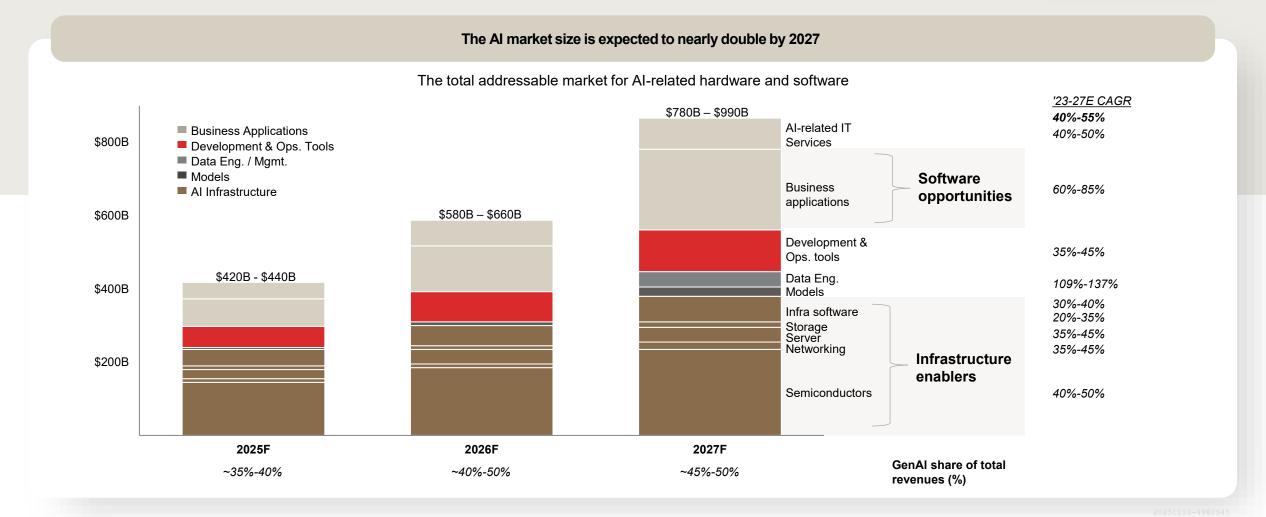
As rates fall, a pick-up in yield in direct lending is still attractive







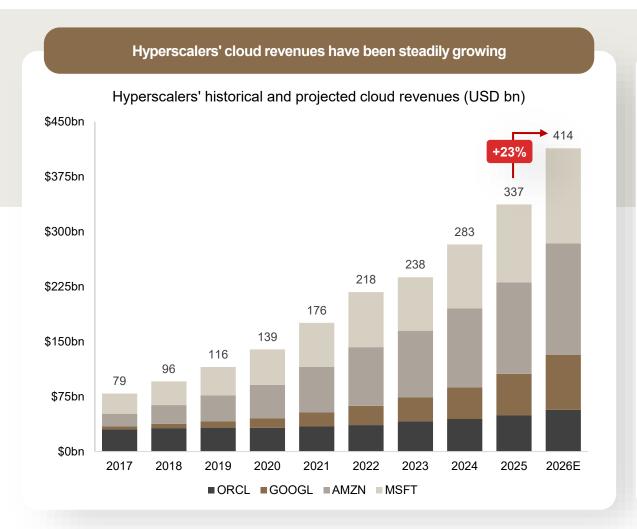
Al is one of the largest commercial opportunities for long-term investors

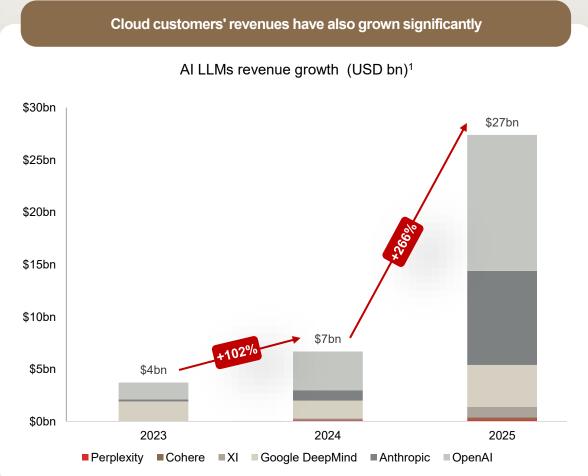




Despite concerns about rapid capex growth, there are signs

of monetization



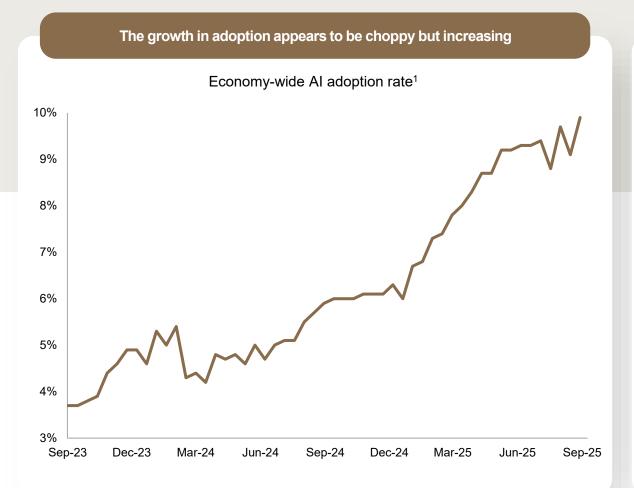


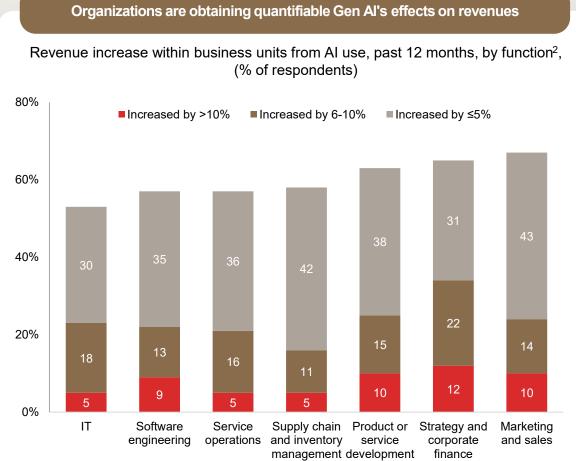
Source: (Left) Bloomberg as of 31 October 2025. Annual amount aggregates all four quarters using actuals for reported quarters and consensus estimates for unreported ones. All revenue figures for 2026 are based on estimates. (Right) Pitchbook and Structure Research (2025). 2025 revenue figures reflect expected revenue for the year. Revenue figures may not be exact as data is not publicly available. 1 LLM stands for large language model. Actual figures and events may differ and may vary significantly. For illustrative purposes only.



Success of Gen AI will depend on wide end-user adoption

and applications

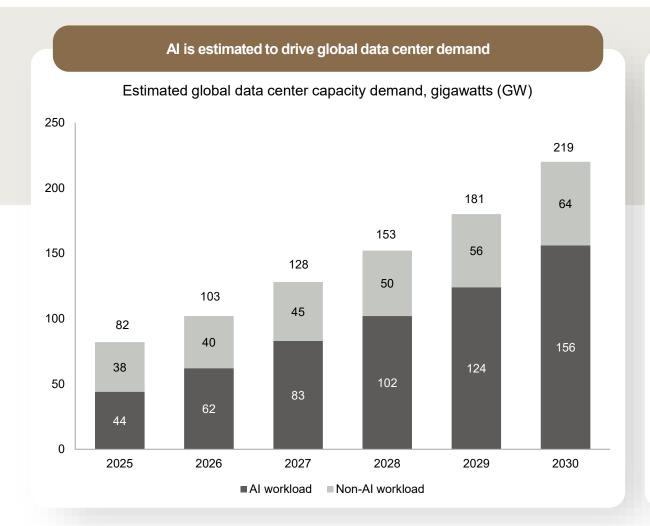


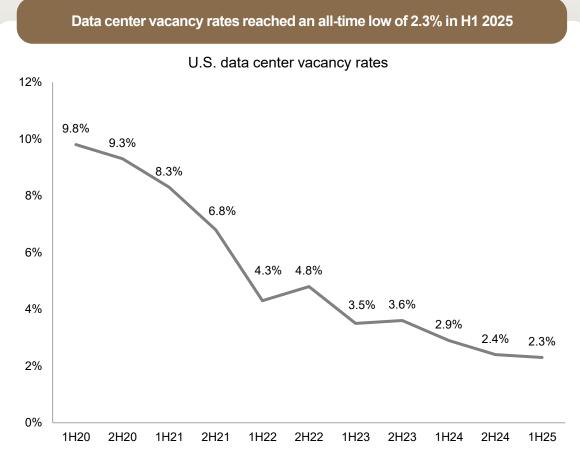


Source: (Left) U.S. Census Bureau, Business Trends and Outlook Survey (BTOS) 2023-2025. (Right) McKinsey Global Surveys on the state of AI (2024). 1 In its biweekly survey, the U.S. Census Bureau defines AI adoption as a firm's use of artificial intelligence—such as machine learning, natural language processing, virtual agents, or voice recognition—to produce goods or services within the past two weeks. 2 Questions were asked only of respondents who said their organizations regularly use AI in a given function. Respondents who said, "no change," "decreased revenue," "don't know," and "not applicable," for the effect of AI on revenue are not shown. The survey was fielded from 25 June to 29 July 2025. Actual figures and events may differ and may vary significantly. For illustrative purposes only.



Recent announcements of cloud/compute deals are consistent with demand forecasts

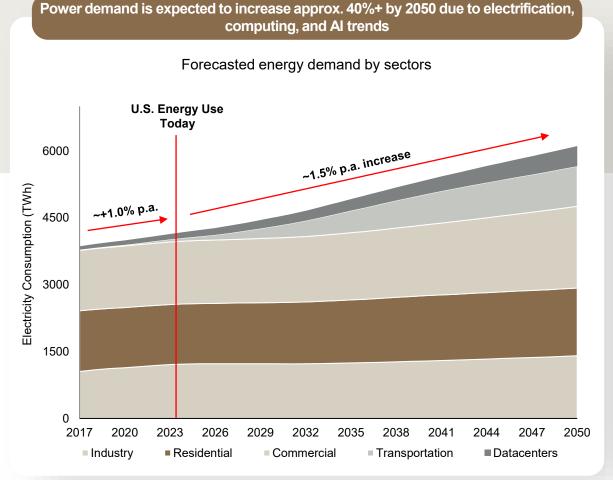


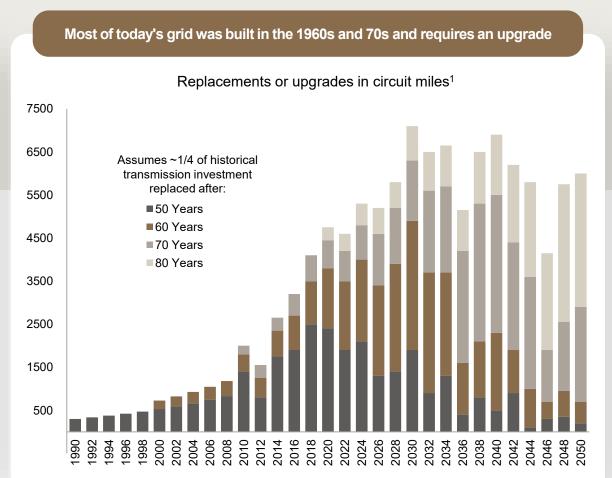


Source: (Left) McKinsey Data Center Demand Model, Gartner reports, IDC reports, Nvidia capital markets reports (2025). Based on the continued momentum scenario. (Right) JLL Research (2025). Figures may not sum to totals because of rounding. For illustrative purposes only.



Data centers and transportation are set to drive electricity demand and require grid investments





Source: (Left) National Renewable Energy Laboratory. (Right) Brattle Group (2021). 1 Brattle Group research estimates. Chart represents illustrative theoretical replacement of transmission installed base using simple useful life calculations (e.g., for all lines installed in 1960, 25% are replaced in 2010, 25% are replaced in 2020, etc.) portraying how aged infrastructure may be replaced. Measure in circuit miles. For illustrative purposes only.



We focus on investment themes bolstered by enduring global trends

Health & Life		Goods & Products		Technology		Services	
Pharma Discovery Services	Pharma Commercialization Services	Multi-Site Consumer	Wellness & Self- Care	AI Platforms	Security	Enhancing Quality & Safety Standards	
Pharma Development Services	Pharma Clinical Trial Services	Future Building Products		Data Management	Property Tech	Asset Life Extension	Business Transformation
Provider & Payors Digitization	Pharma & Life Sciences Technology	Supply Chain Transformation	Industrial Tech. Solutions	Financial Services	Industrial Tech		Personalized
Care Delivery Technology	Analytics & Digital Enablement	Digital Consumer	Safety	Governance & Compliance	HR Tech	Smart Cities	Education
Healthy Living & Patient Empowerment	Specialty Pharma	Food & Agriculture Value Chain	Industrial Automation	Supply Chain	Legal Tech	Home as a Workplace	Business Efficiency
Consumerization of Medical Products		Data Center & Grid		Tech Services		Digitalization of Financial Services	

Thematic areas with recent transactions and short-term opportunities



Investment Strategy Office



Anastasia Amoroso

Managing Director and Chief Investment Strategist Partners Group

Anastasia Amoroso is Chief Investment Strategist for Partners Group's Private Wealth and Retirement Business Unit. She provides macroeconomic, private markets, and portfolio insights to wealth advisors and individual investors. With 20 years of experience, she is a recognized strategist, frequently featured on Bloomberg TV, CNBC, and in financial media. She joins from iCapital, where she held the same role for four years. Previously, she held senior investment strategy positions at J.P. Morgan Private Bank and Merrill Lynch. At J.P. Morgan, she led thematic strategies focused on emerging technologies like AI, decarbonization, and gene therapy. Anastasia holds a BBA from the University of New Mexico, graduating summa cum laude, and is a CFA Charterholder.



Fiona Gillespie

Private Markets Economist Partners Group

Fiona is a Private Markets Economist at Partners Group since February 2023, based in Zug. She is responsible for steering the company's economic view, which feeds into the investment underwriting considerations. Additionally, Fiona supports the investment teams by analyzing potential macro risks when assessing investment opportunities. Prior to joining Partners Group, she worked at Swiss Re, initially in the Asset Management division with a focus on strategic asset allocation, and later as a Macro Strategist in the Swiss Re Institute. Fiona holds a Master's degree in Physics from University College London and a Master's in Investment and Wealth Management from Imperial College London.



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