

The background features a dark blue gradient with a grid pattern. A prominent yellow line graph shows a sharp peak followed by a decline and subsequent fluctuations. A white dashed horizontal line is positioned near the top. In the bottom right corner, a bar chart with red and teal bars is visible.

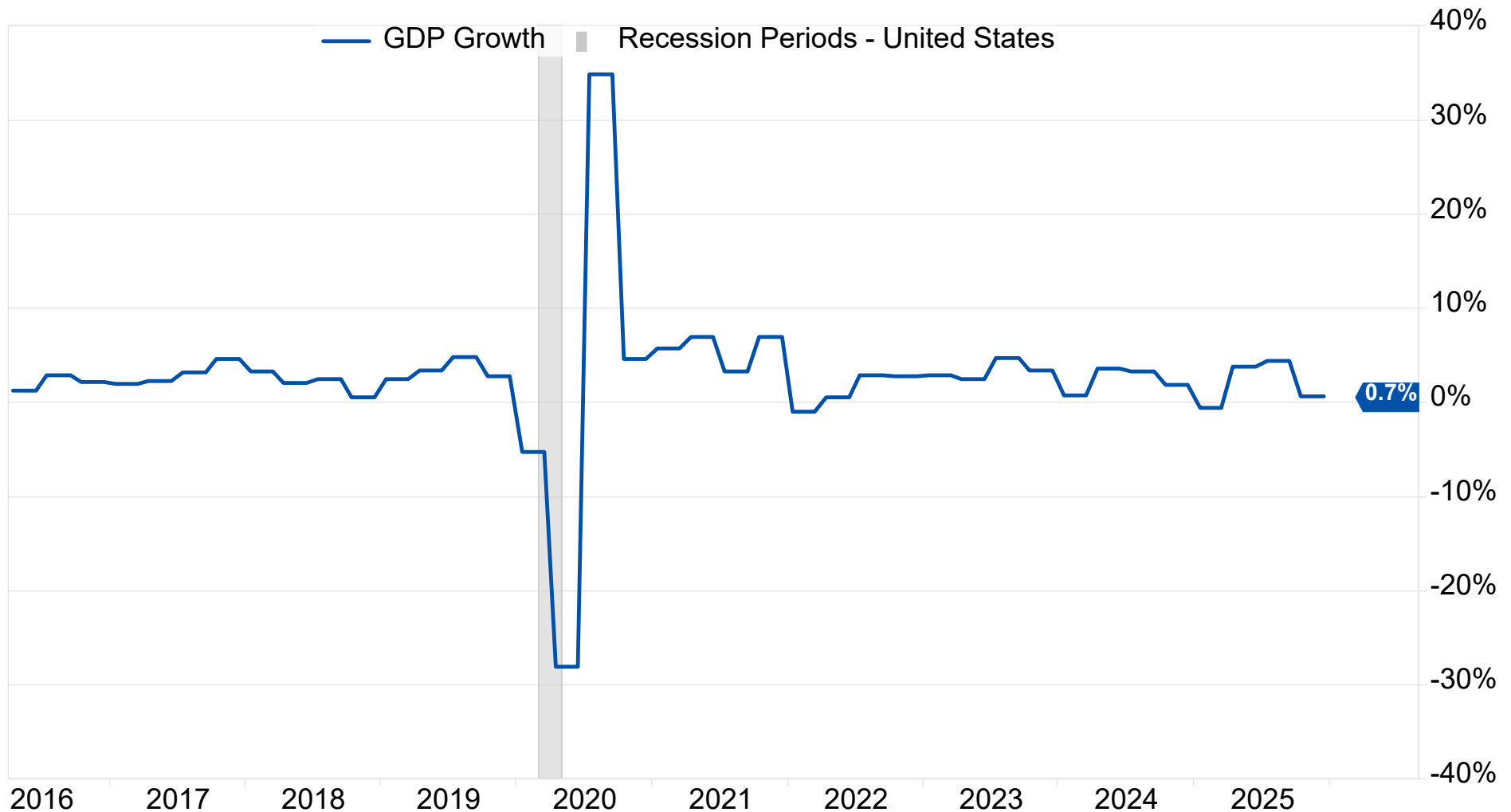
Bolton

Monthly Economic Update

April 2026

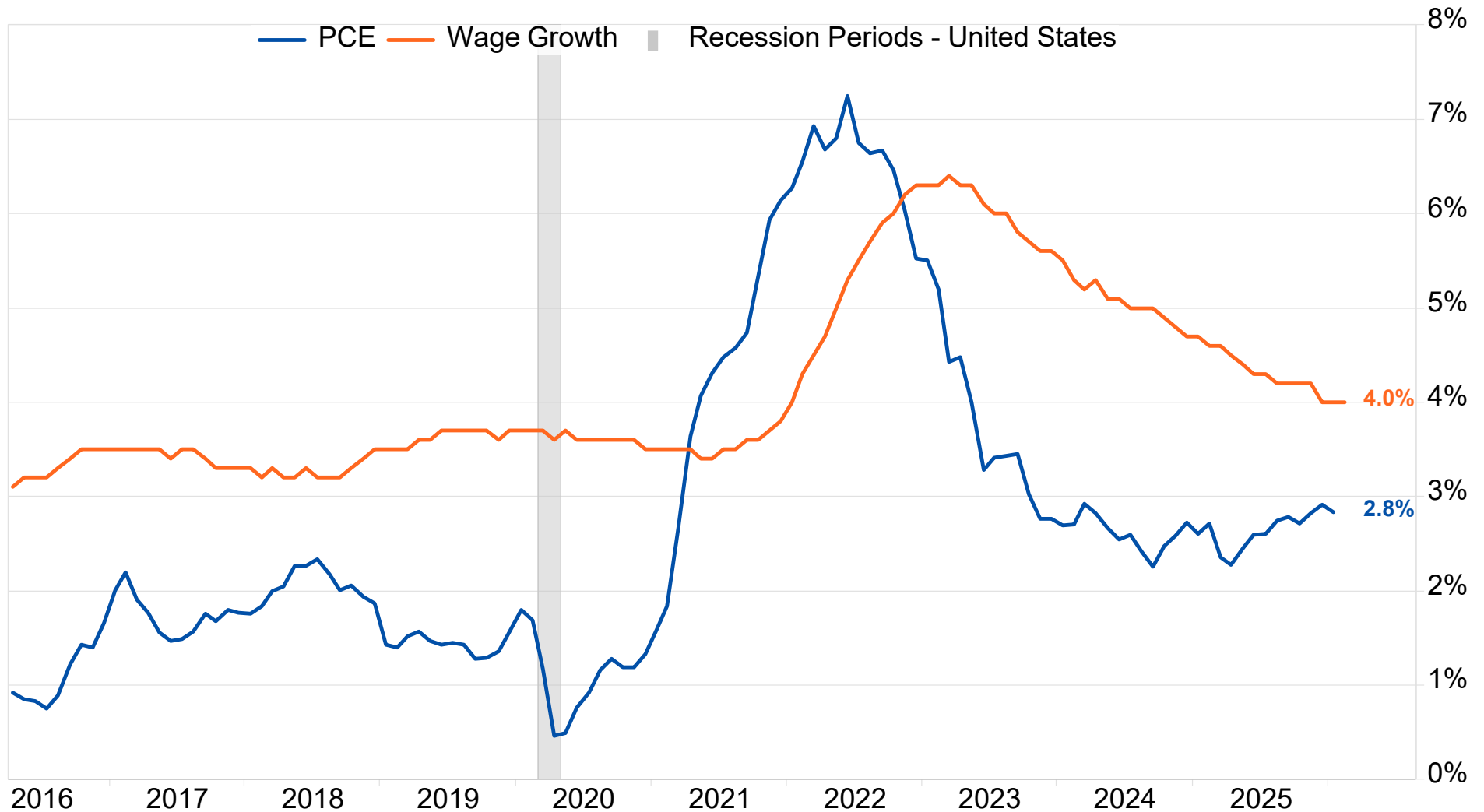
Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

The second revision of 2025 Q4 U.S. GDP was cut in half from 1.4% to 0.7%



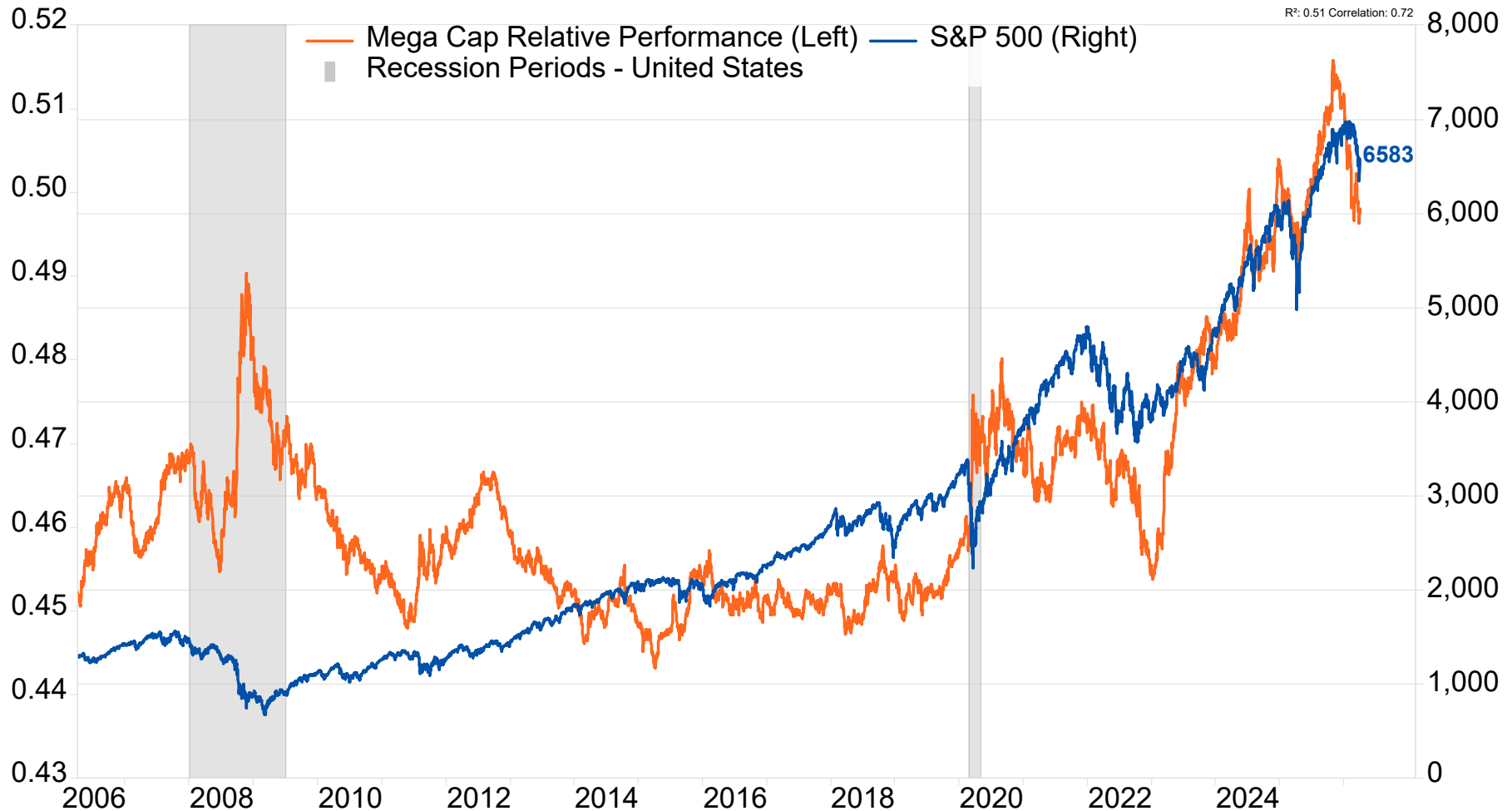
Inflation

Inflation has risen over the last year, despite falling wage growth over the same period.



S&P 500 Index Performance

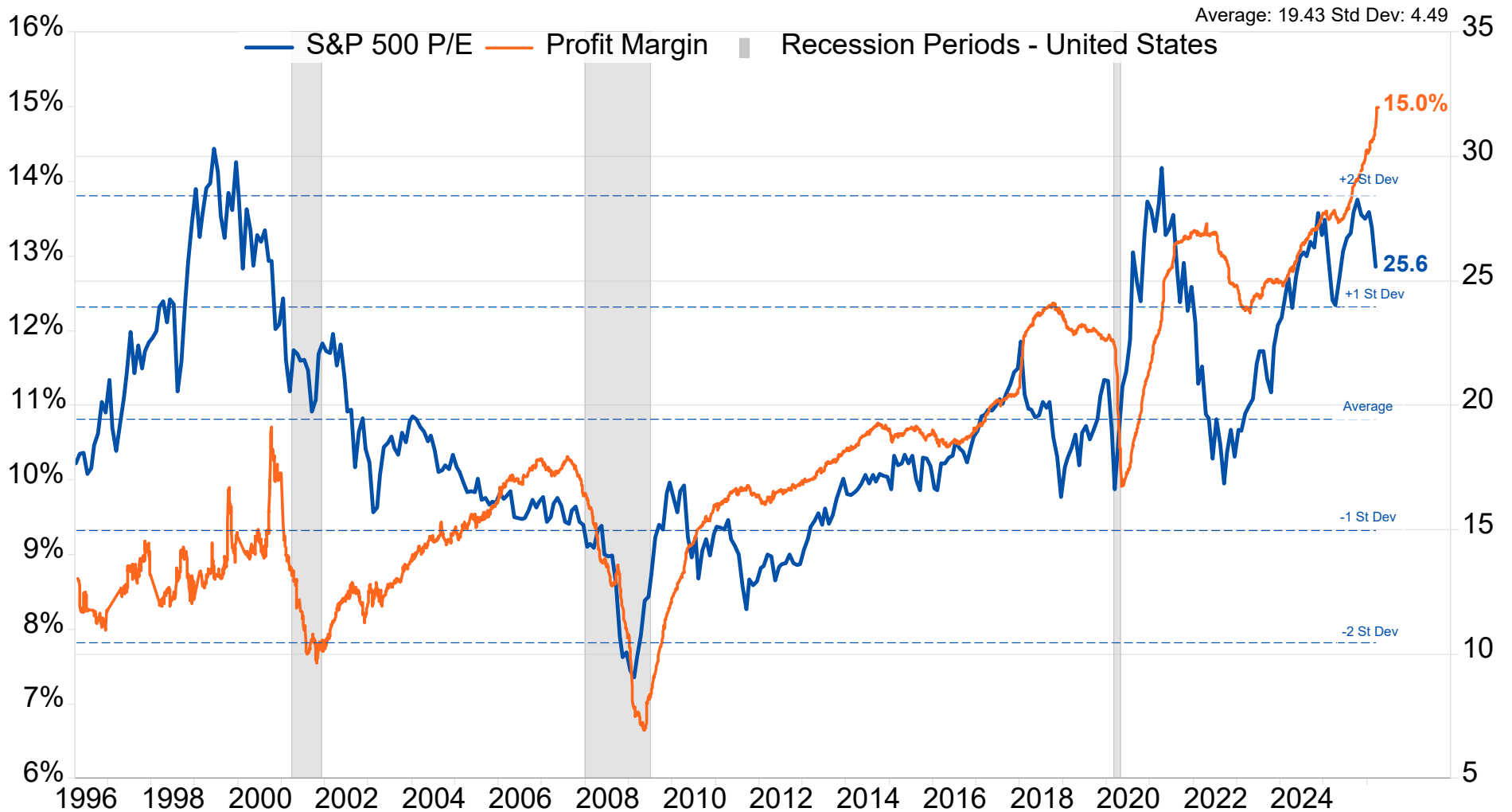
The S&P index has struggled after hitting record highs last year, with mega caps leading the downturn as global uncertainty increases.



► In 2025, the total return for the S&P 500 Index was **17.88%**. This return follows two consecutive years of strong gains.

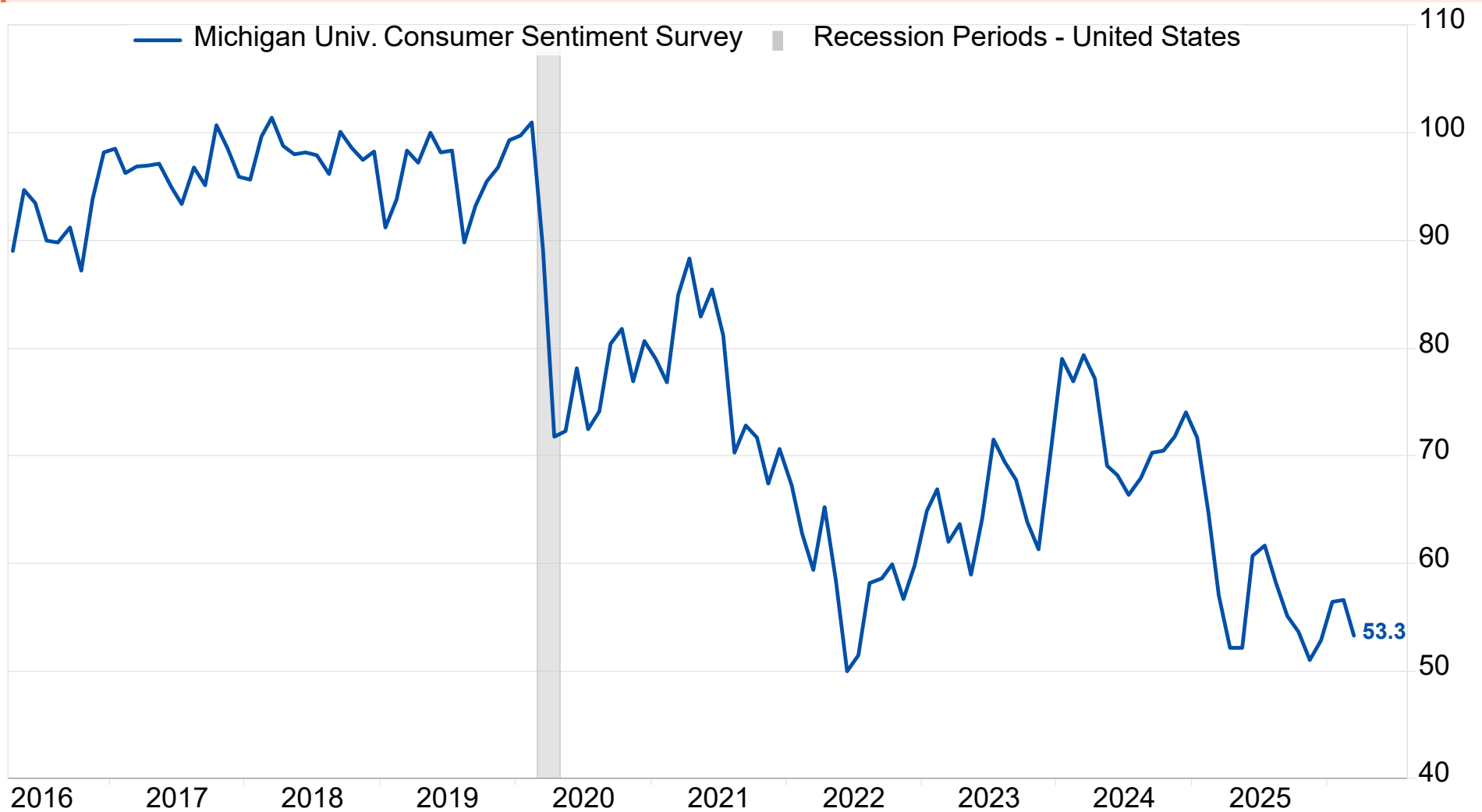
S&P 500 Price/Earnings

The S&P 500 Index continues to be quite profitable; however, valuations have begun to retreat as the market reassesses risks globally.



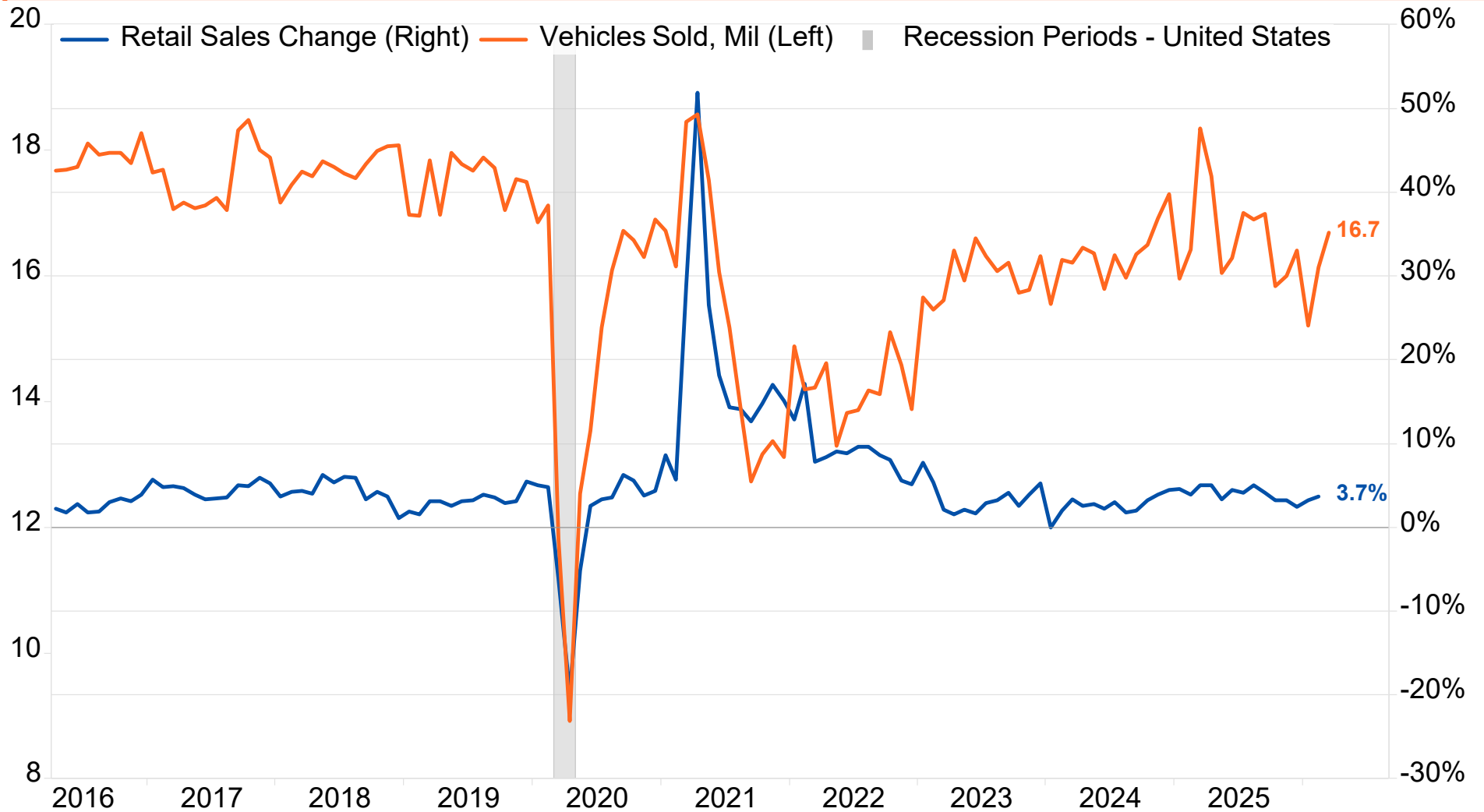
Consumer Sentiment

Sentiment remains low, approaching 2022 levels. Interestingly, consumer sentiment is materially lower than it was during the depths of COVID.



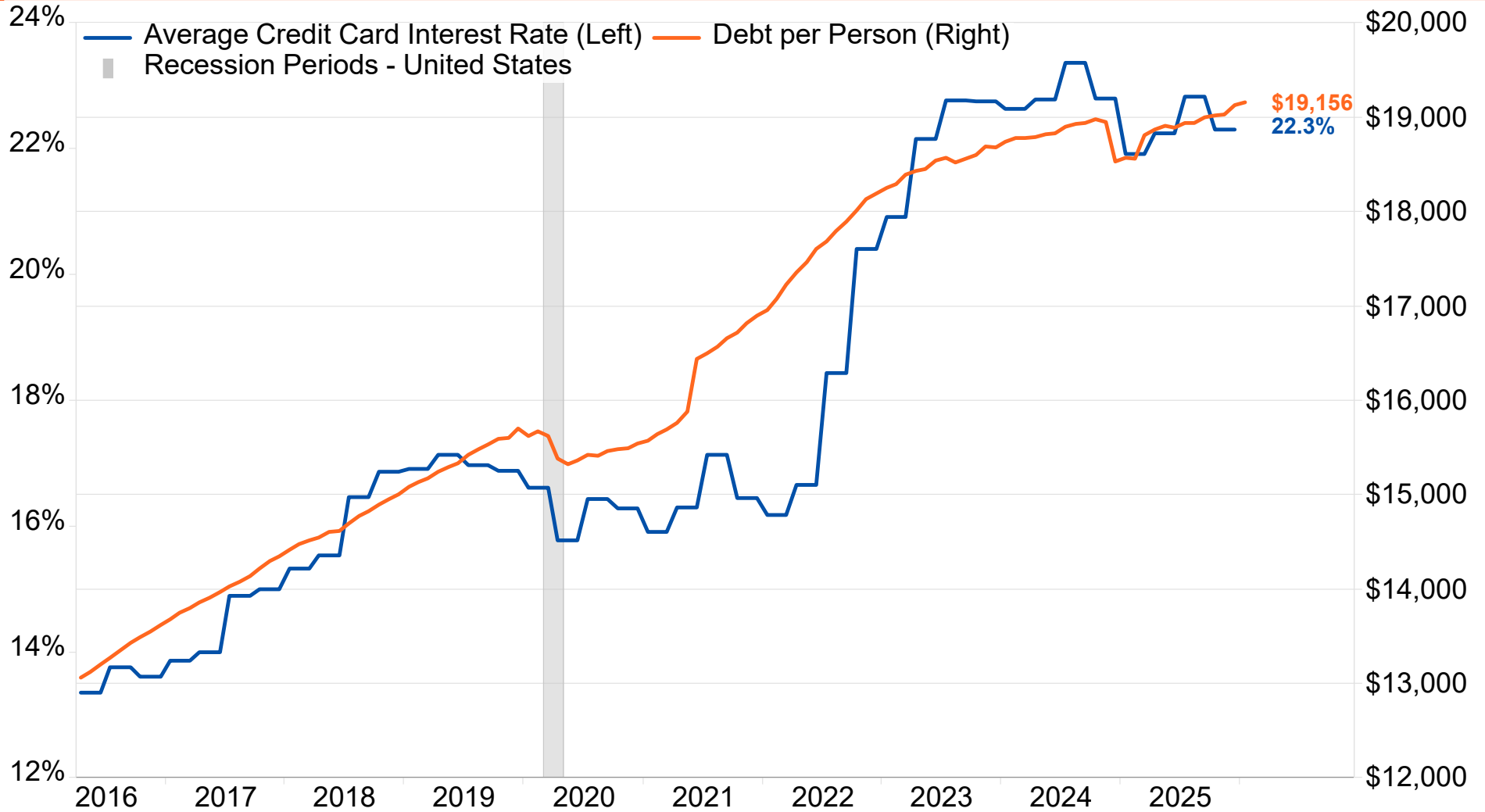
Consumption

Retail sales grew at 3.71% compared to the prior year. Vehicles sold, a significant weight in retail sales, continues to hover around 16 million.



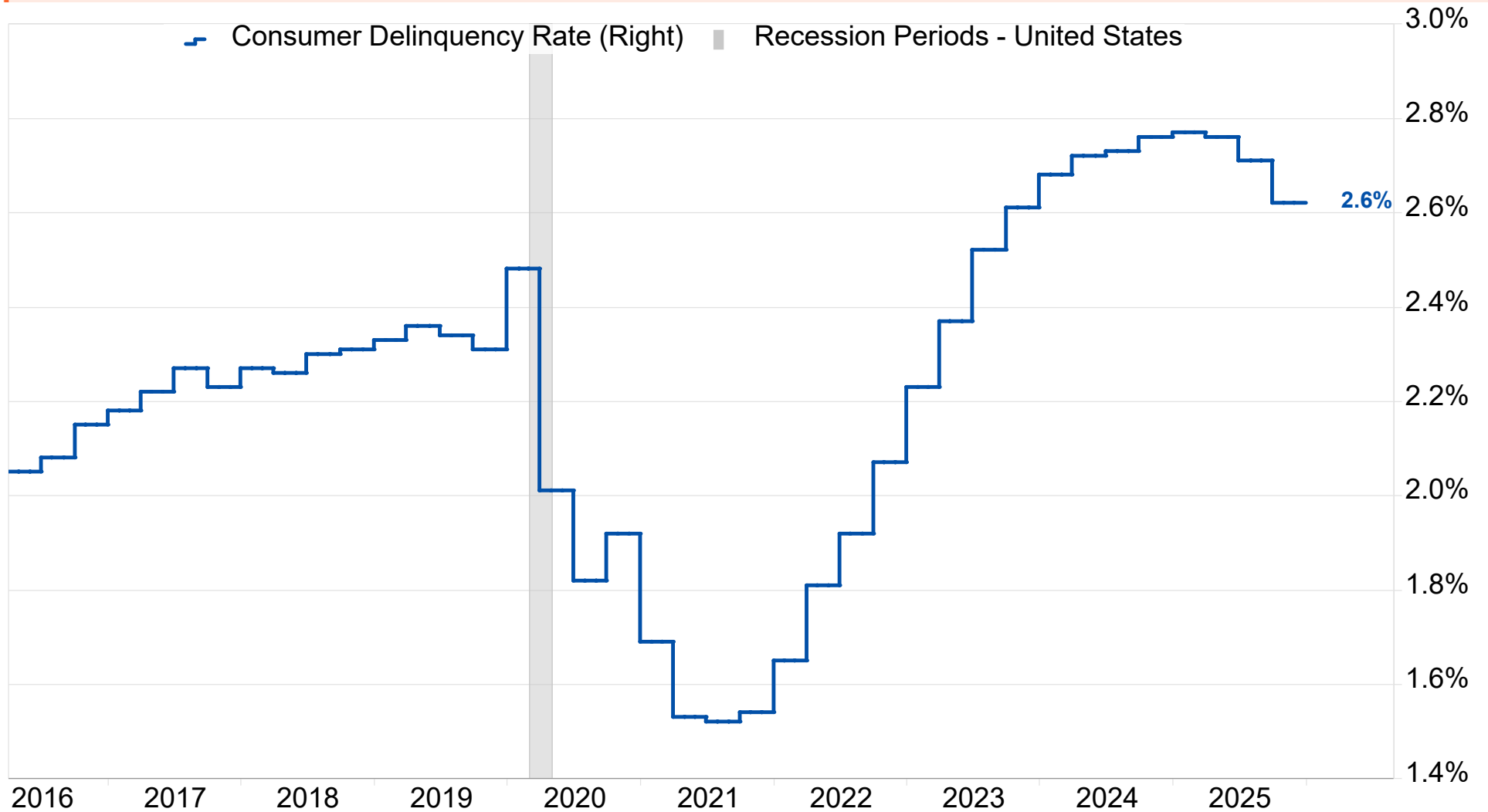
Consumer Debt

U.S. adults are carrying the most debt ever on average, meanwhile credit card rates remain significantly elevated.



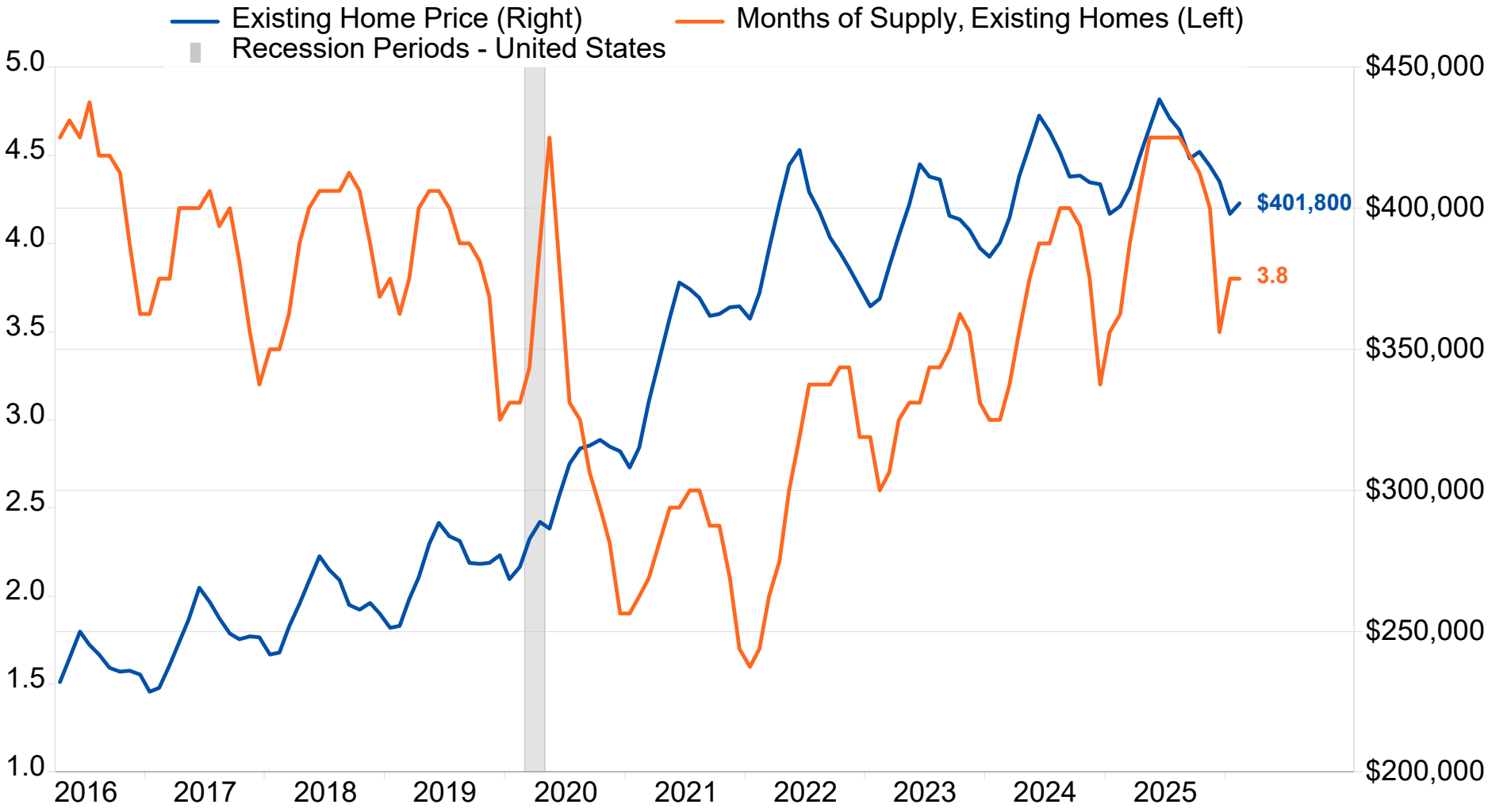
Consumer Delinquency

The delinquency rate continues to fall from its 10-year high.



Housing

Home prices have continued their long rise, while the number of available homes remains constrained with less than four months of supply on the market

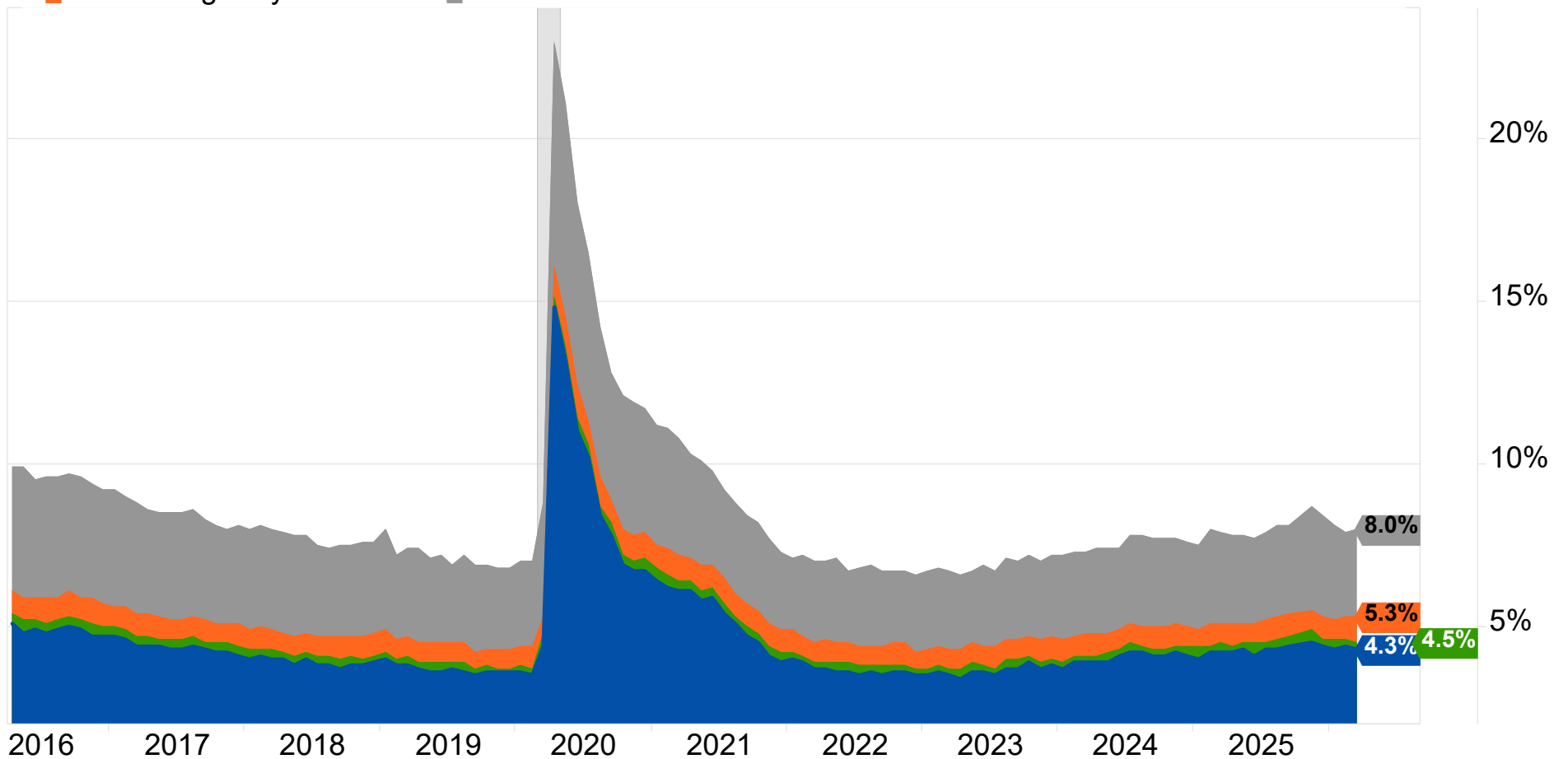


Sourced from FactSet.

Unemployment

The commonly referenced unemployment rate (U-3) fell in March to 4.3%, below consensus estimates of 4.4%. U-6 did rise from 7.9% to 8.0%, indicating more people are working part time.

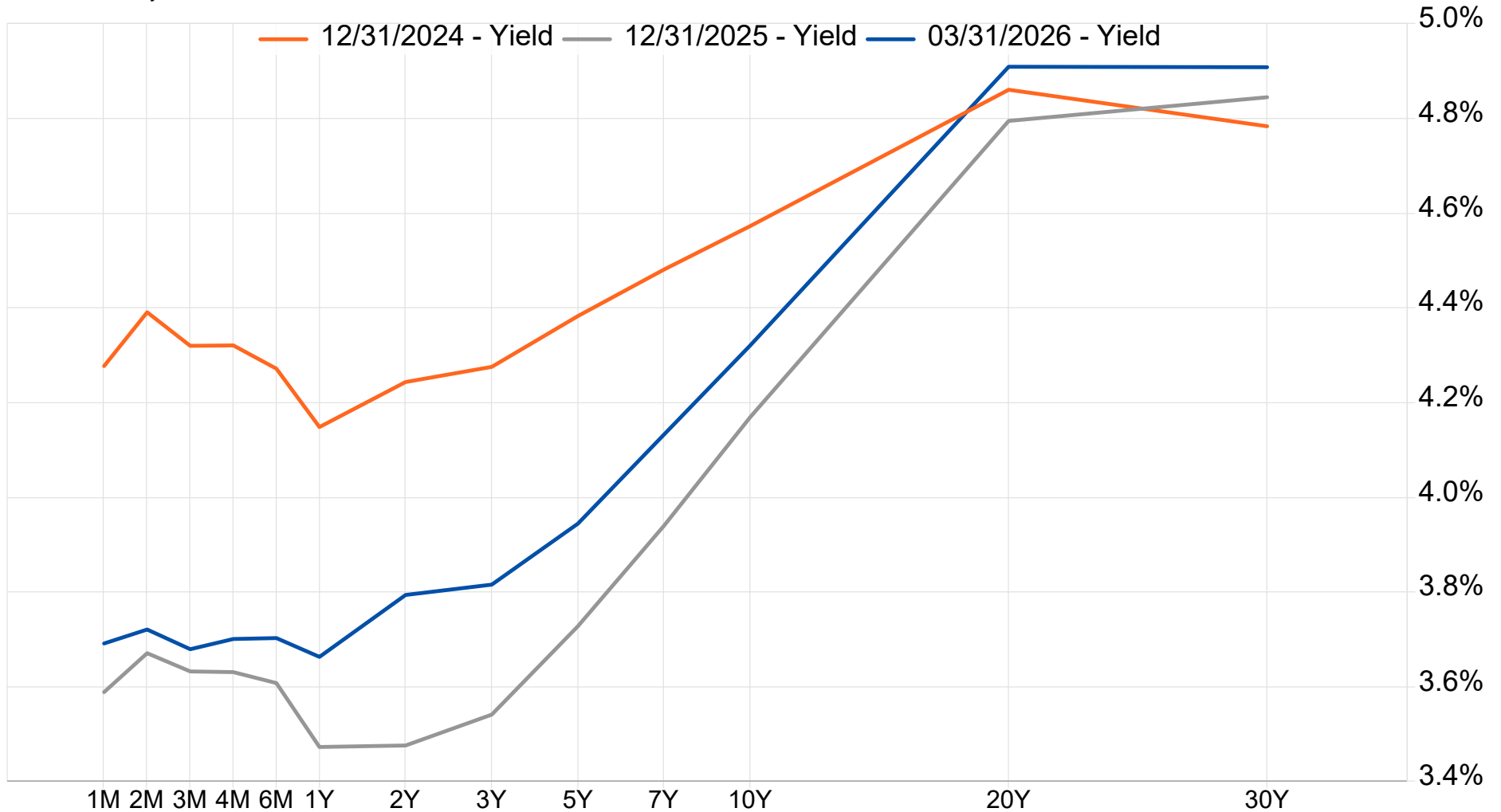
- U-3 Unemployment Rate
 ■ Recession Periods - United States
■ U-4 Discouraged Workers
- U-5 Marginally Attached
 ■ U-6 Part-Time for Economic Reasons



Yield Curve

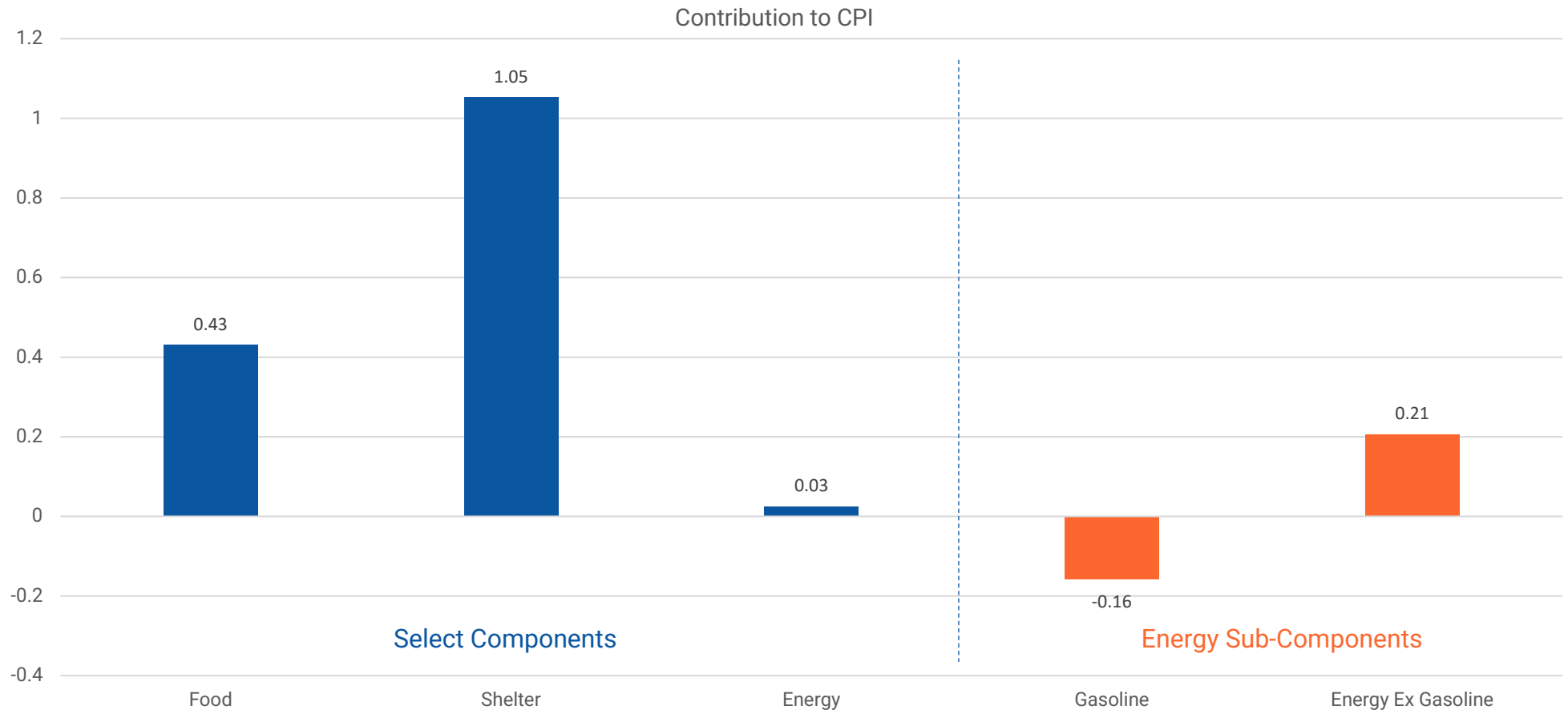
Yields have risen since the end of 2025, yet the curve remains normalized relative to 2024.

United States Treasury Yield Curve



Inflation Drivers

The February Consumer Price Index rose 2.4% relative to last year, led by food and shelter. Since the the Iran conflict, gasoline prices are up ~40% leading consensus estimates for March to rise to 2.7%.



Contribution found by multiplying prior ending weight by inflation rate.
Sourced from FactSet.

Glossary

Data point definitions and sources

GDP Growth: Real GDP growth, seasonally adjusted annualized percent rate via US Bureau of Economic Analysis

PCE: Personal Consumption Expenditures, Measures the average change in prices paid by U.S. consumers for goods and services, expressed as the year-over-year percent change and seasonally adjusted to remove normal seasonal patterns via US Bureau of Economic Analysis

Wage Growth: Measures the 12-month moving average percent change in median hourly wages for continuously employed workers, via Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

S&P 500 PE: Trailing Price/Earnings for the prior twelve (12) months

Mega Cap Relative Performance: S&P 100 total return divided by S&P 500 total return – a rising line means the 100 is outperforming the 500, a falling line indicated underperformance

Profit Margin: Net profit margin of the S&P 500 index

Consumer Sentiment: Consumer Sentiment Index via University of Michigan Survey

Vehicles Sold: Total vehicles sold in the US, seasonally adjusted annualized rate, millions of vehicles via US Bureau of Economic Analysis

Sales Change: Year-over-year percent change in Retail and Food Services Sales via US Census Bureau

Credit Card Rate: Commercial Bank Interest Rate on Credit Card Plans, Accounts Assessed Interest. Measures the average interest rate paid by consumers carrying balances, excludes borrowers who pay in full or have 0% APR via Federal Reserve

Debt per person: Total Consumer Credit Outstanding, seasonally adjusted divided by population of US adults, approximately 267 million. Expressed in USD per person. Includes both revolving debt such as credit cards and fixed debt such as auto and student loans via Federal Reserve

Delinquency Rate: Delinquency rates for all consumer loans held by commercial banks, seasonally adjusted. Includes credit cards, auto loans, and personal loans, via Federal Reserve

Months of Supply, Existing Homes: Measures how many months it would take to sell the current inventory of existing homes at the prevailing sales pace, not seasonally adjusted via National Association of Realtors

Existing Home Price: Median sales price of an existing home via National Association of Realtors

U-3: The official unemployment rate. Counts people without a job who have actively looked for work in the past four weeks and are available to work via US Bureau of Labor Statistics

U-4: Includes everyone in U-3 plus discouraged workers, individuals who want a job, are available to work, but have stopped looking because they believe no suitable jobs are available via US Bureau of Labor Statistics

U-5: Includes everyone in U-4 plus all other marginally attached workers, people who want and are available to work, have looked for a job within the past 12 months, but not in the past four weeks (for reasons other than discouragement) via US Bureau of Labor Statistics

U-6: Includes everyone in U-5 plus workers employed part-time for economic reasons, individuals who want full-time work but can only obtain part-time hours due to business conditions or inability to find full-time jobs via US Bureau of Labor Statistics