

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, along with a teal line graph.

# Bolton

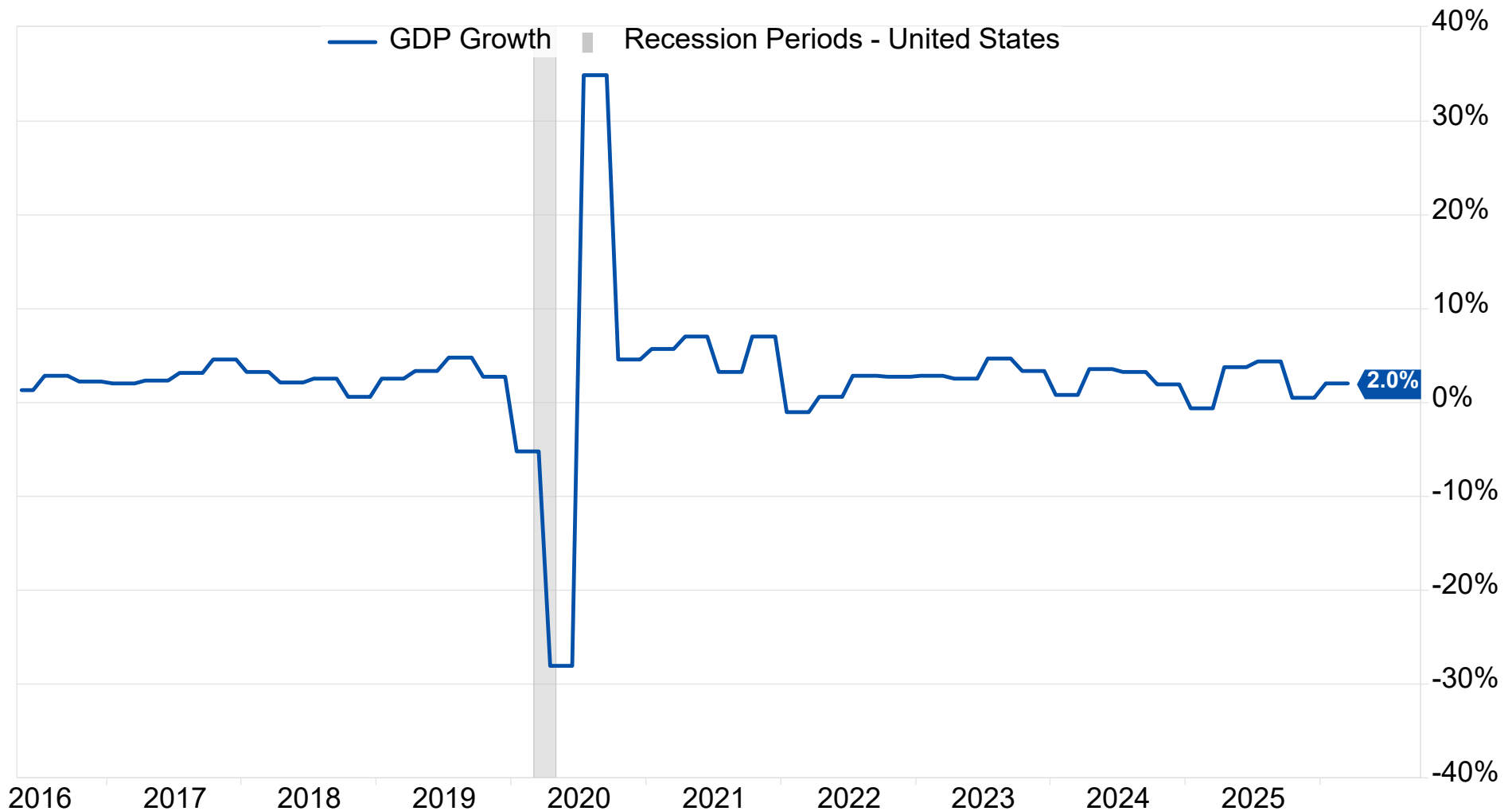
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## Monthly Economic Update

April 2026

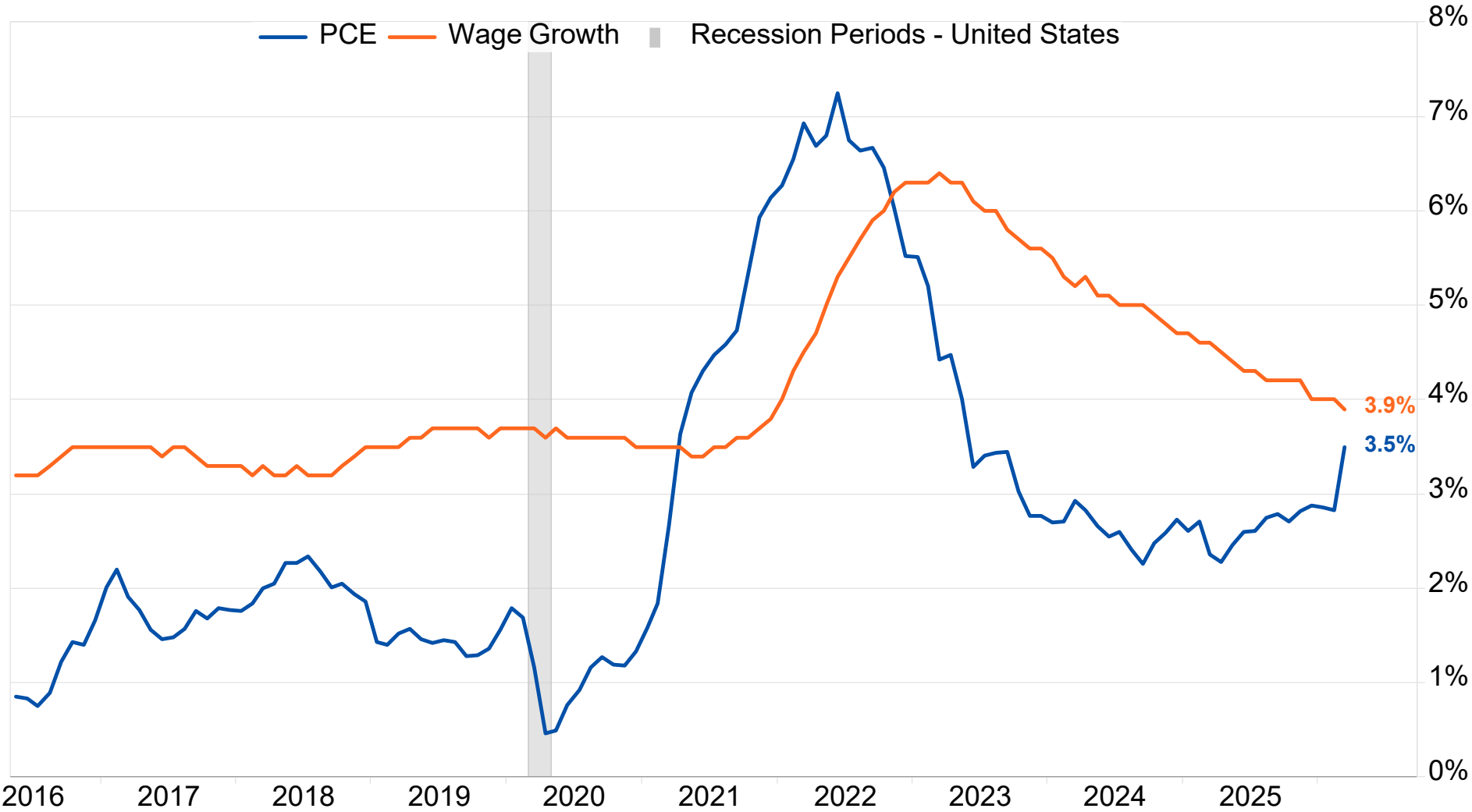
# Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

First quarter GDP growth rebounded, with initial estimates at 2%.



# Inflation

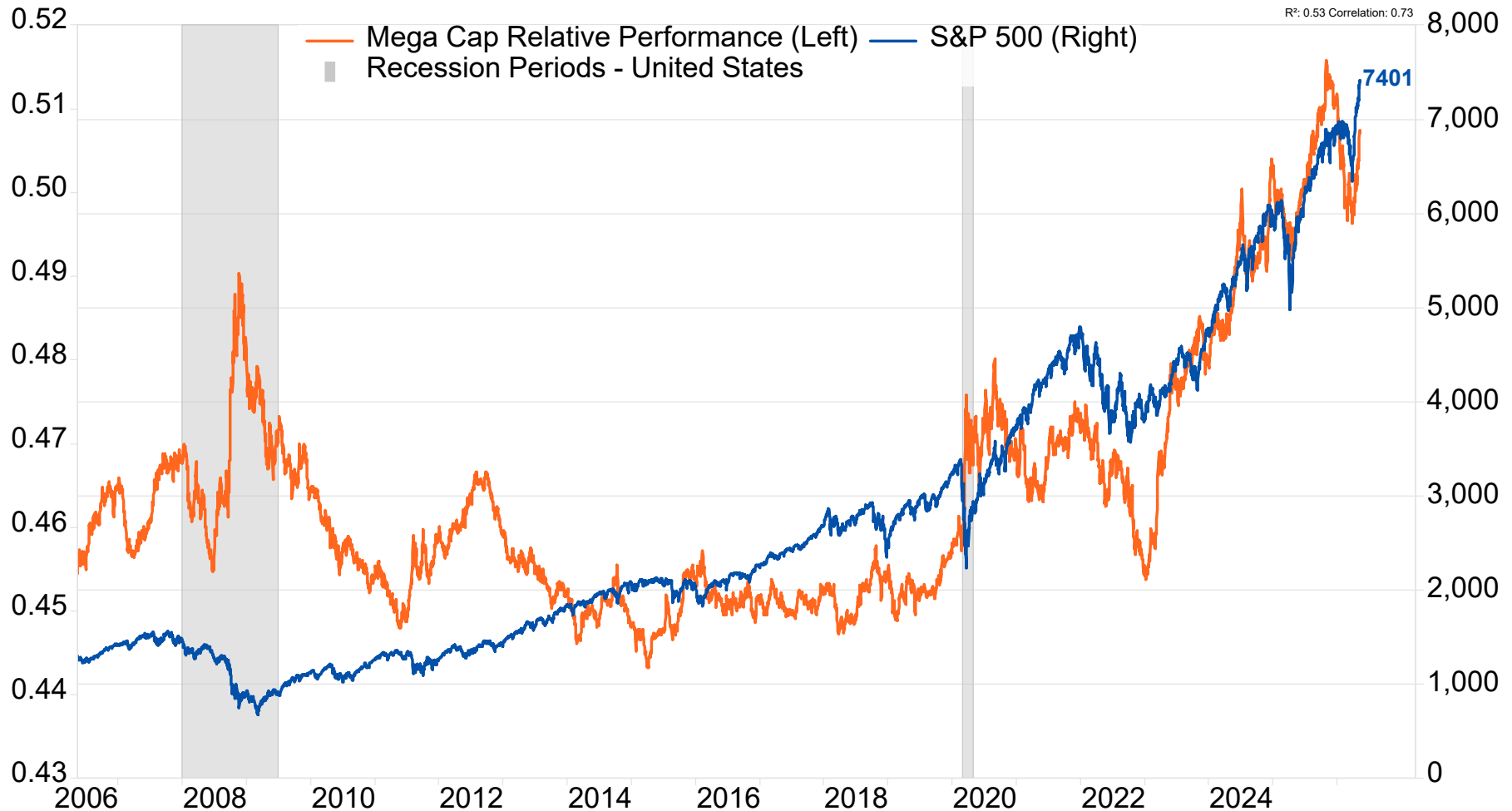
Wage growth continues to trend down; however, inflation has spiked significantly due to rising fuel prices.



Sourced from FactSet.

# S&P 500 Index Performance

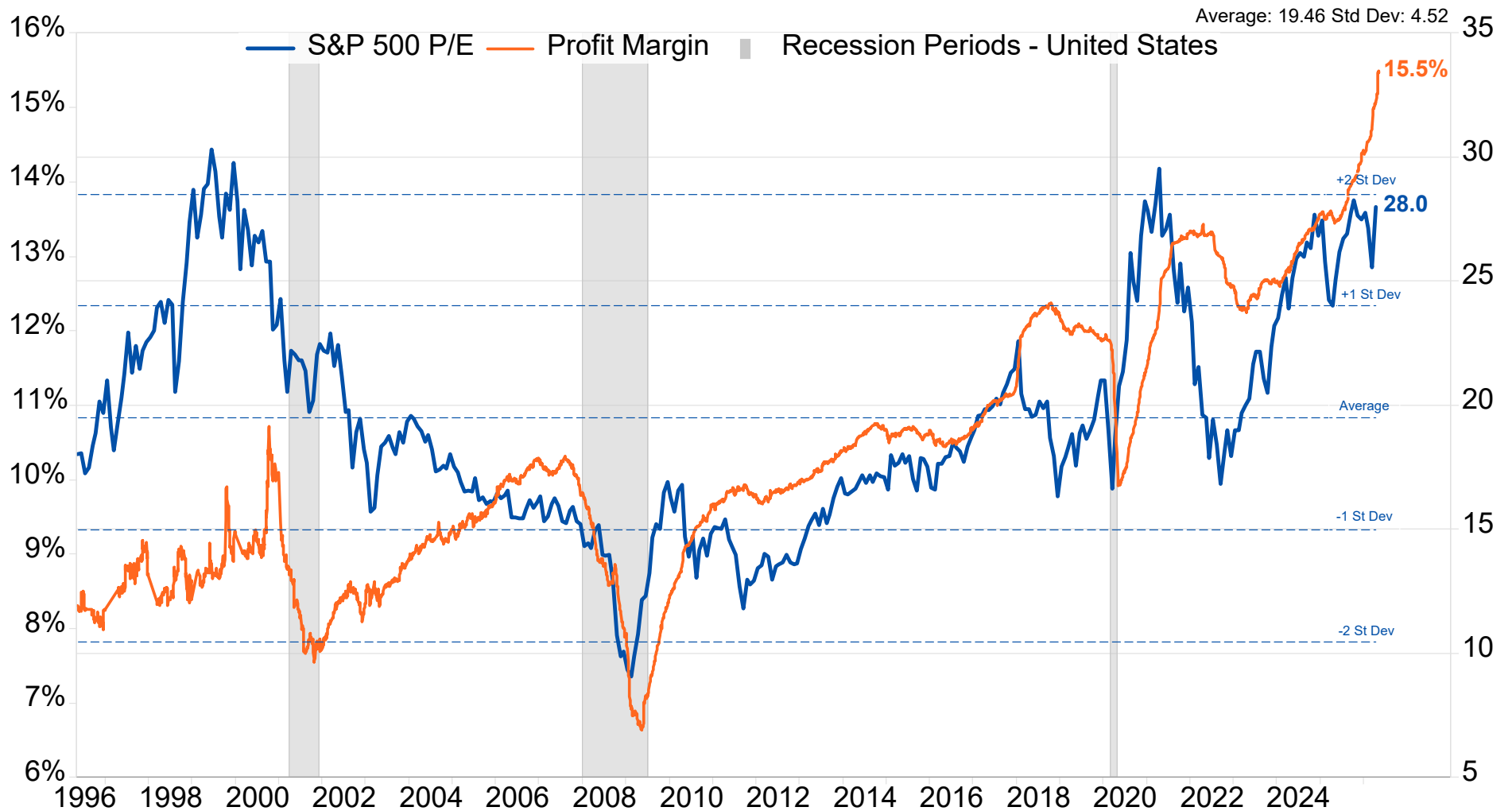
The S&P index has rebounded, with megacaps leading the index to record highs. The market continues to look through geopolitical events, anticipating a peace deal will be reached.



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

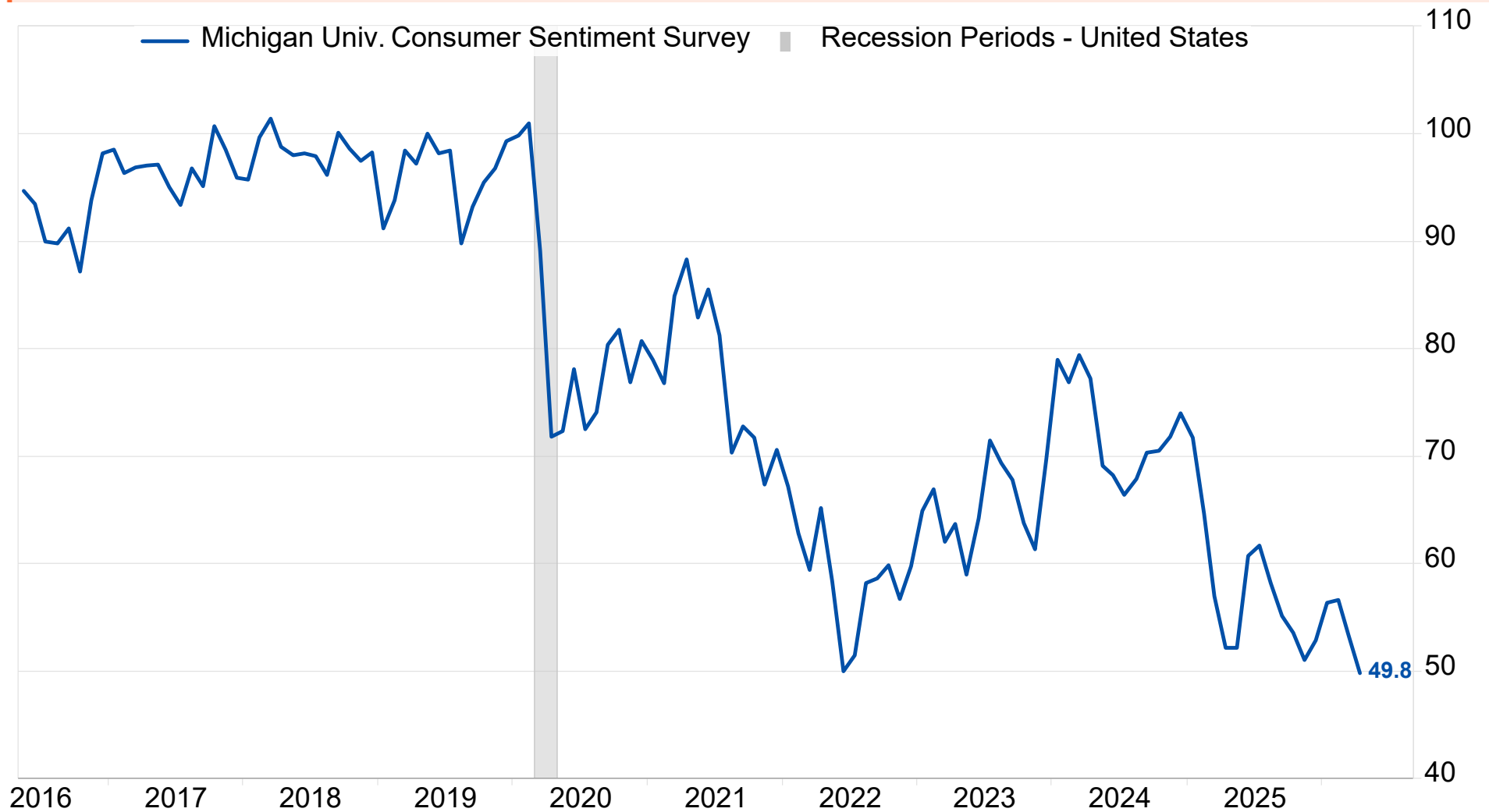
# S&P 500 Price/Earnings

The S&P 500 Index continues to be quite profitable; additionally, valuations have returned to their pre-conflict levels as the index has rallied.



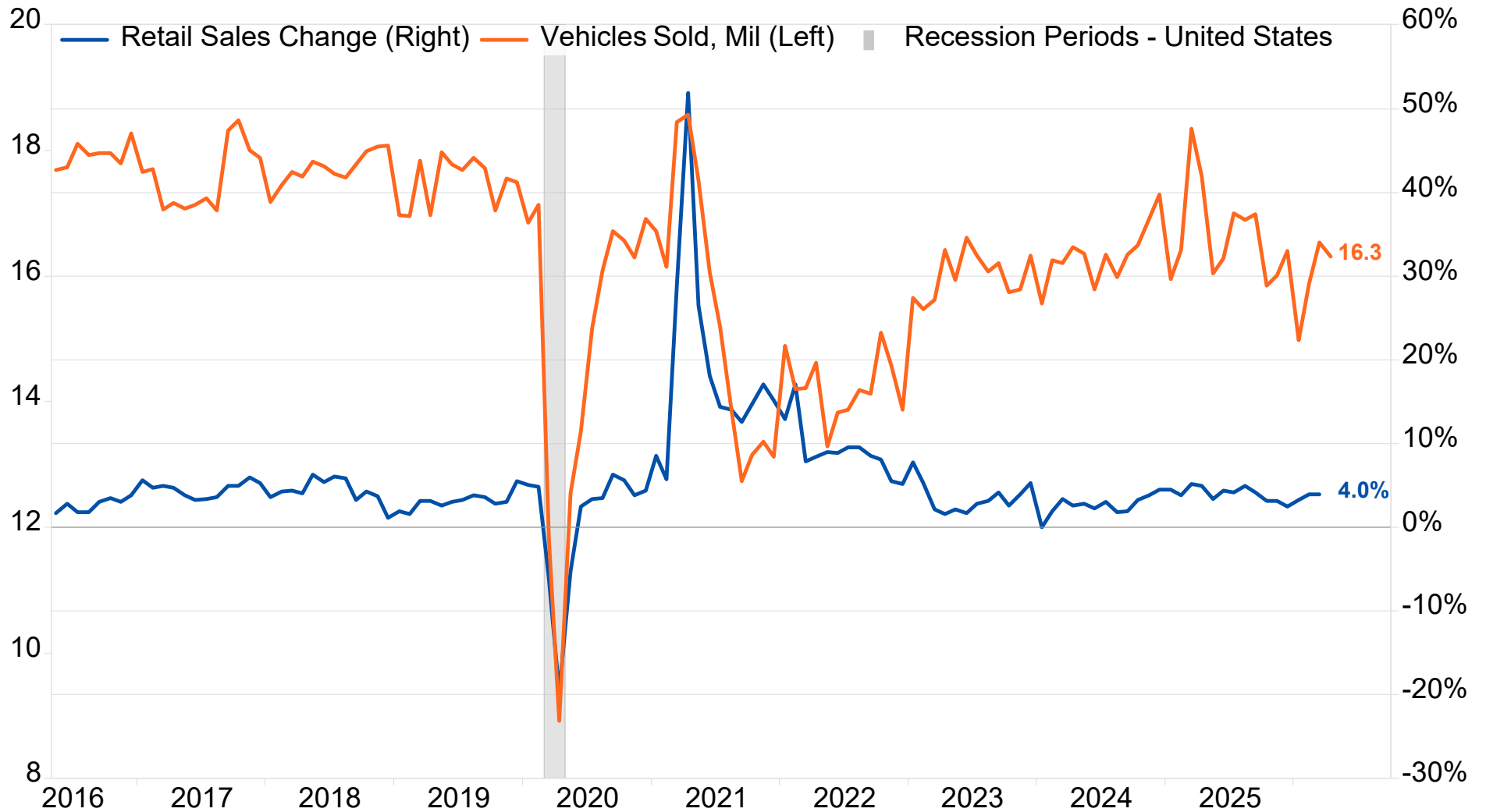
# Consumer Sentiment

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



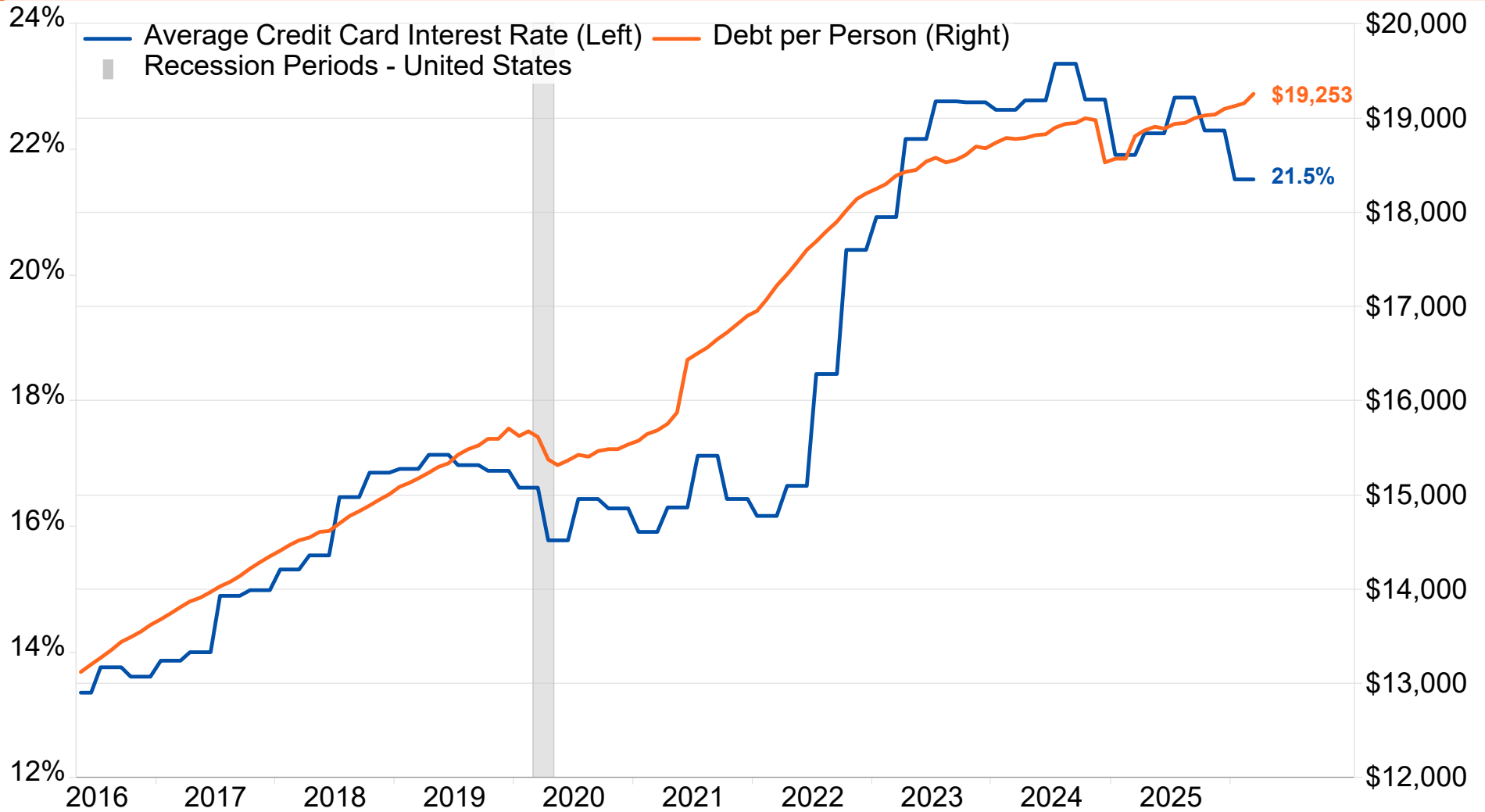
# Consumption

Retail sales grew at 4% compared to the prior year. Vehicles sold, a significant weight in retail sales, continues to hover around 16 million.



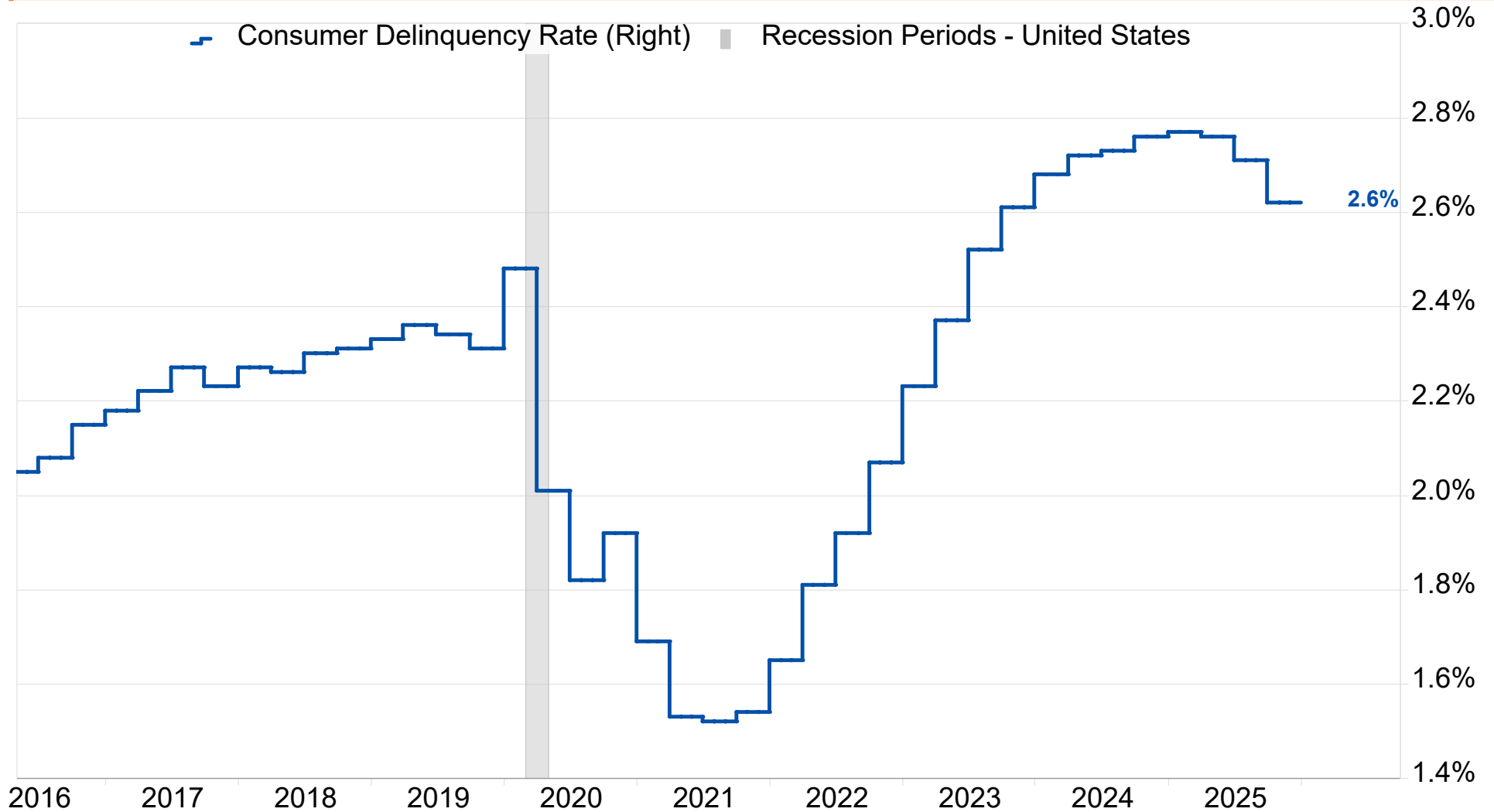
# Consumer Debt

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



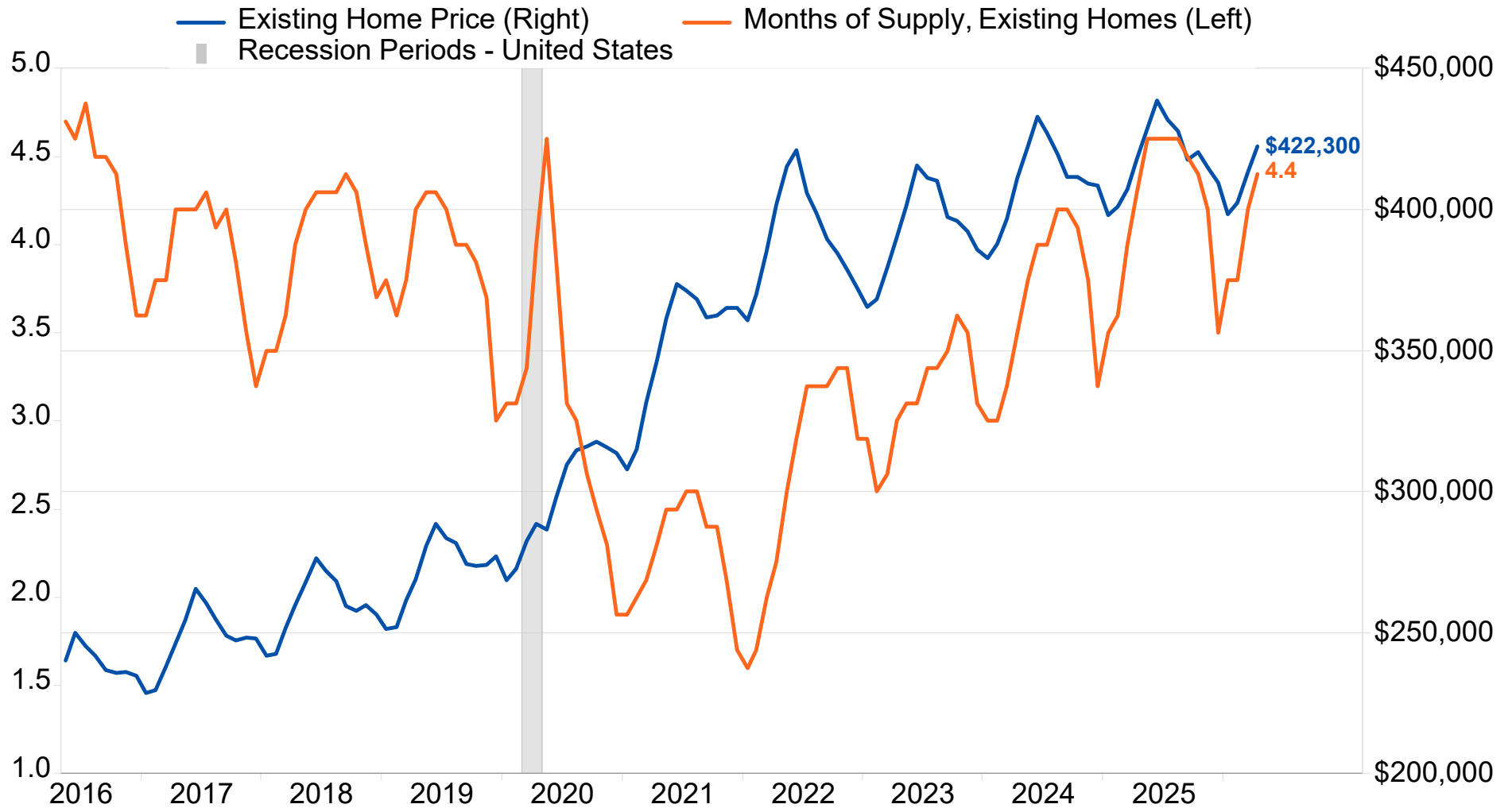
# Consumer Delinquency

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



# Housing

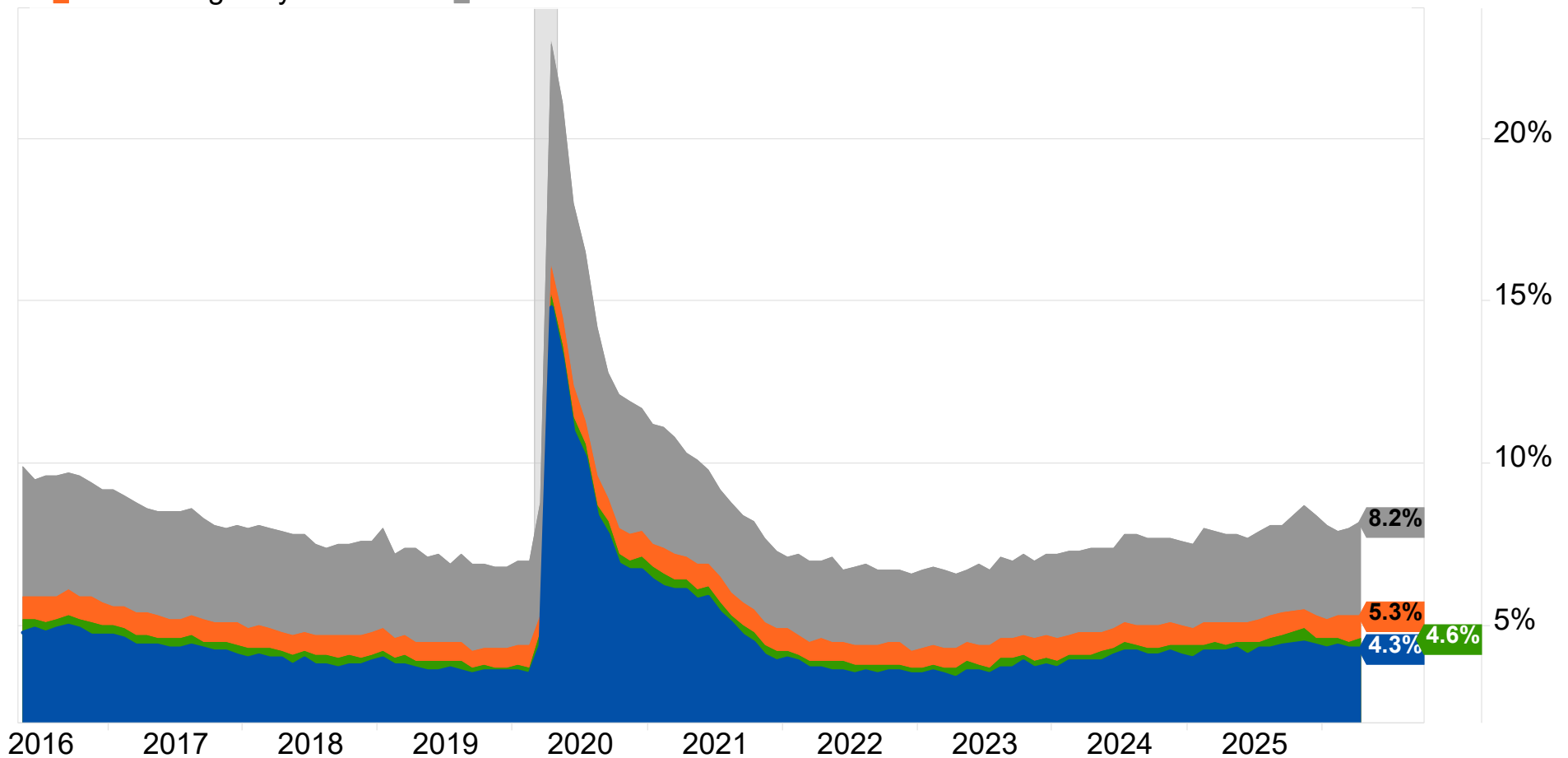
Home prices have continued their long rise, while the number of available homes remains constrained at just over four months of supply.



# Unemployment

The commonly referenced unemployment rate (U-3) held steady in April at 4.3%, in line with consensus estimates. U-6 rose again, from 8.0% to 8.2%, indicating more people are working part time.

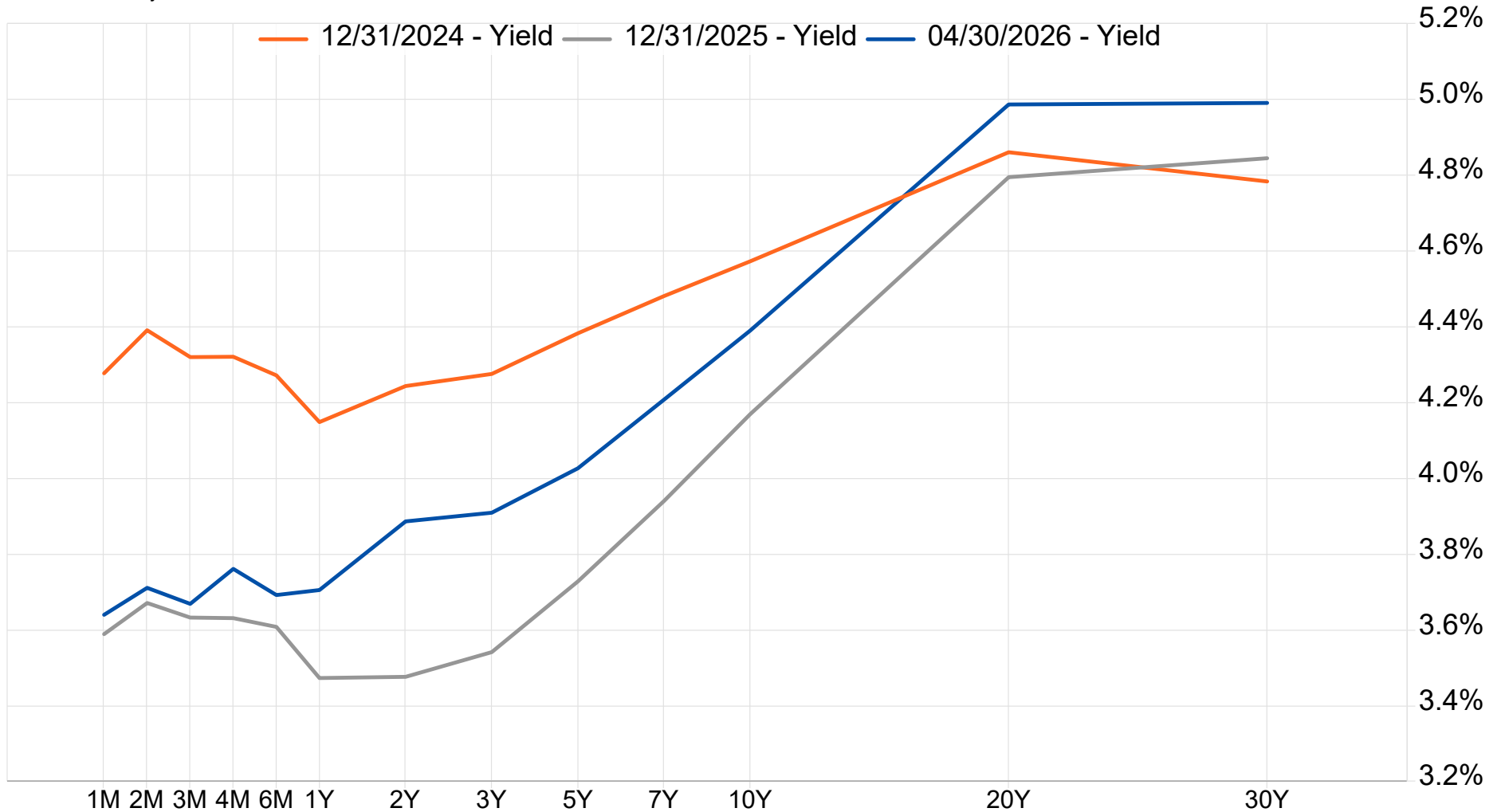
- U-3 Unemployment Rate
 ■ Recession Periods - United States
■ U-4 Discouraged Workers
- U-5 Marginally Attached
 ■ U-6 Part-Time for Economic Reasons



# Yield Curve

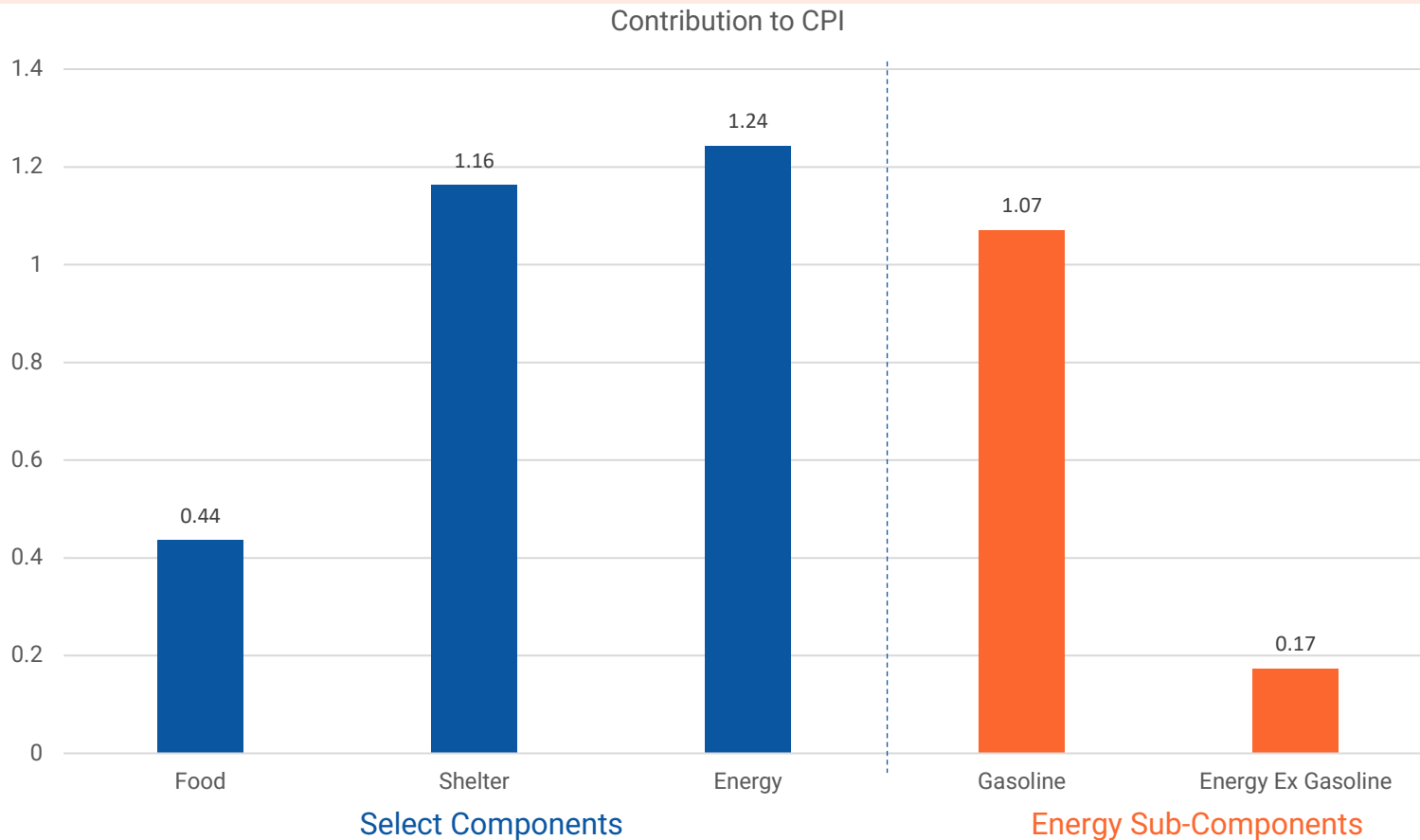
Yields have risen since the end of 2025, yet the curve remains normalized relative to 2024.

United States Treasury Yield Curve



# Inflation Drivers

The April Consumer Price Index rose 3.8% relative to last year, led by energy and shelter. The effects of the Iran conflict are driving gasoline prices to their highest levels since the summer of 2022.



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