#### APOLLO

## How are US consumers and firms responding to tariffs?

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## Anecdotes from this past week:

Southwest Airlines "I don't care if you call it a recession or not, in this industry that's a recession," CEO Robert Jordan.

Chipotle: "Saving money because of concerns around the economy was the overwhelming reason consumers were reducing the frequency of restaurant visits," CEO Scott Boatwright.

PepsiCo: "Relative to where we were three months ago, we probably aren't feeling as good about the consumer now," Jamie Caulfield, the chief financial officer of PepsiCo.

## The Voluntary Trade Reset Recession

#### April 2

Liberation day tariffs

Container departures from China to the US slowing rapidly

20-40 days containership transit time

**----**

Early May/Mid May

containerships to US ports come to a stop 1-10 days truck/rail transit time to cities

Mid May/Late May

Trucking demand comes to a halt

Empty shelves and companies respond to lower sales Late May/Early
June

Layoffs in trucking and retail industry

**Summer 2025** 

Recession

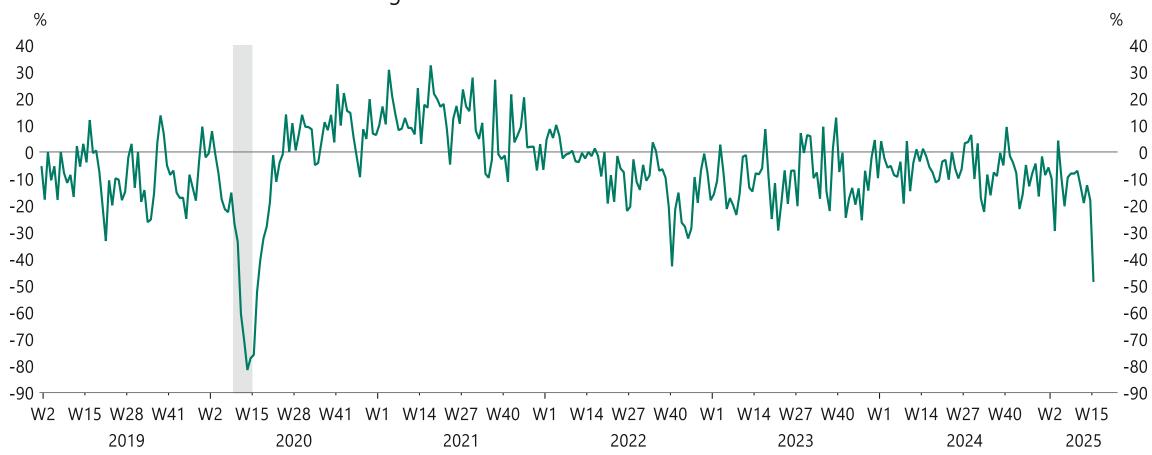
Source: Apollo Chief Economist

# How are firms responding to tariffs?

- Rapid downward revisions to earnings expectations
- New orders falling, capex plans falling
- Inventories rising before tariffs

#### Sharpest decline in earnings outlook since 2020





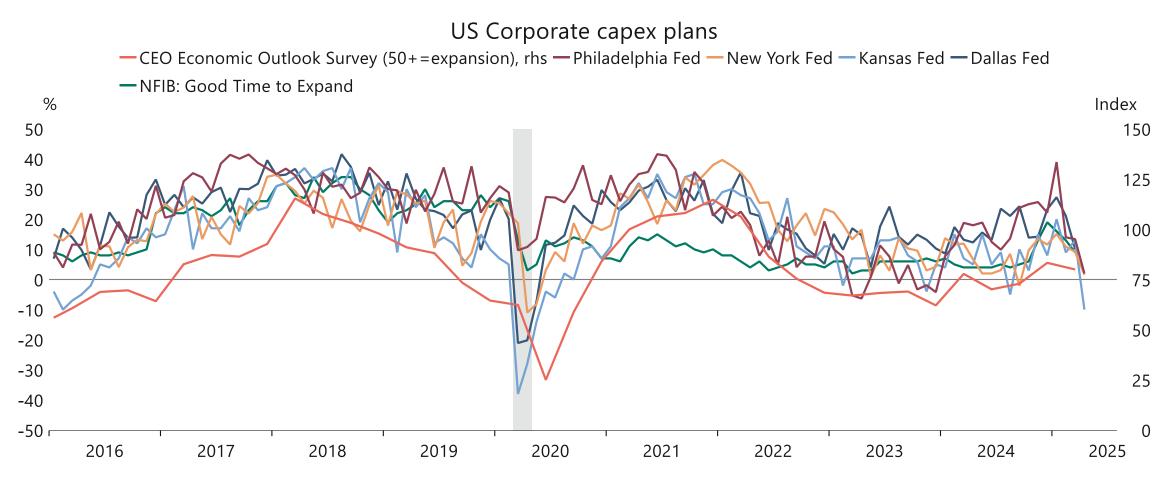
Source: Bloomberg, Macrobond, Apollo Chief Economist

#### New orders collapsing



Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, Federal Reserve Bank of New York, Institute for Supply Management (ISM), Macrobond, Apollo Chief Economist

#### Sharp reversal in corporate capex spending plans

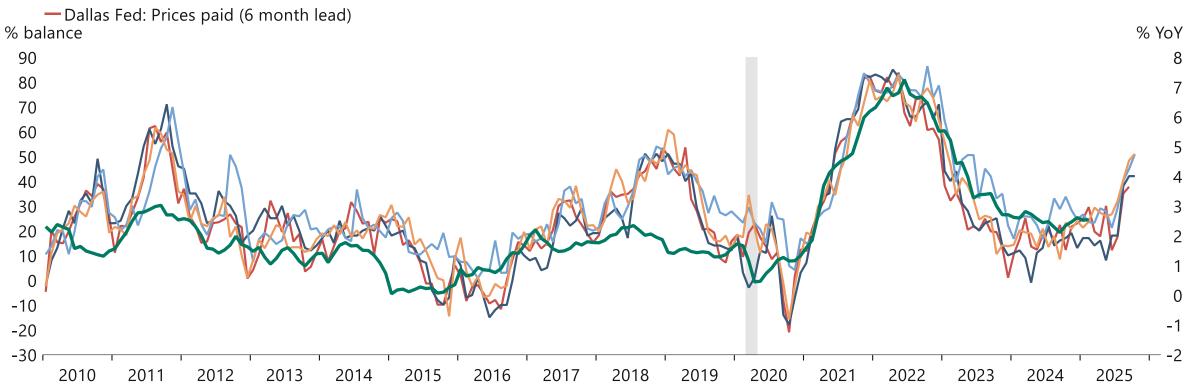


Source: National Federation of Independent Business, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, Federal Reserve Bank of New York, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, Business Roundtable, Macrobond, Apollo Chief Economist

#### Costs pressures increasing: Prices paid rising

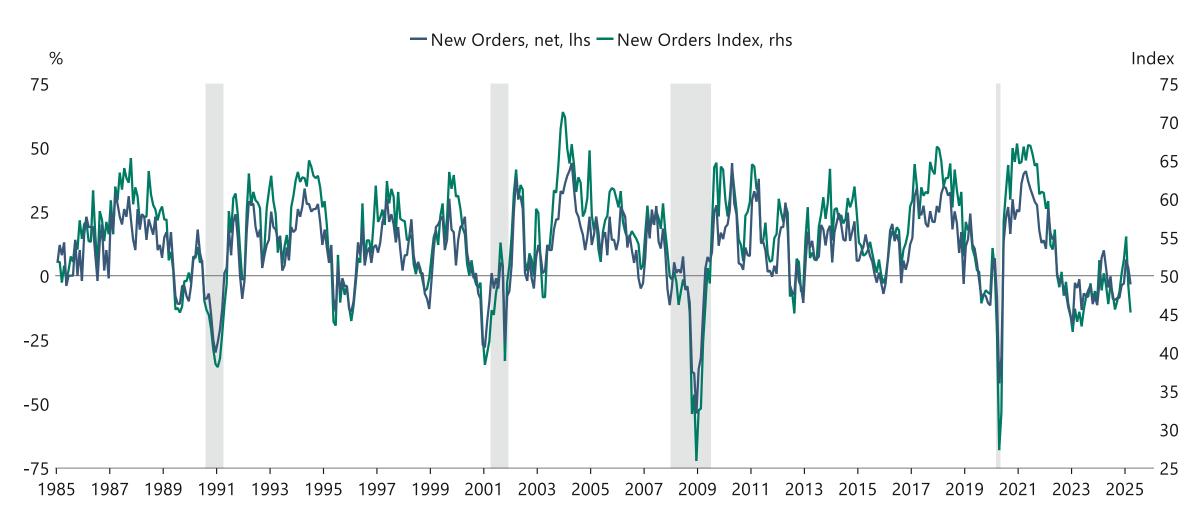
#### Fed Manufacturing Surveys Prices paid vs PCE

— PCE , rhs — Philadelphia Fed: Prices paid (6 month lead) — New York Fed: Prices paid (6 month lead) — Kansas Fed: Prices paid (6 month lead)



Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, Federal Reserve Bank of New York, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), Macrobond, Apollo Chief Economist

#### New orders in contraction territory in March. Will decline further in April.

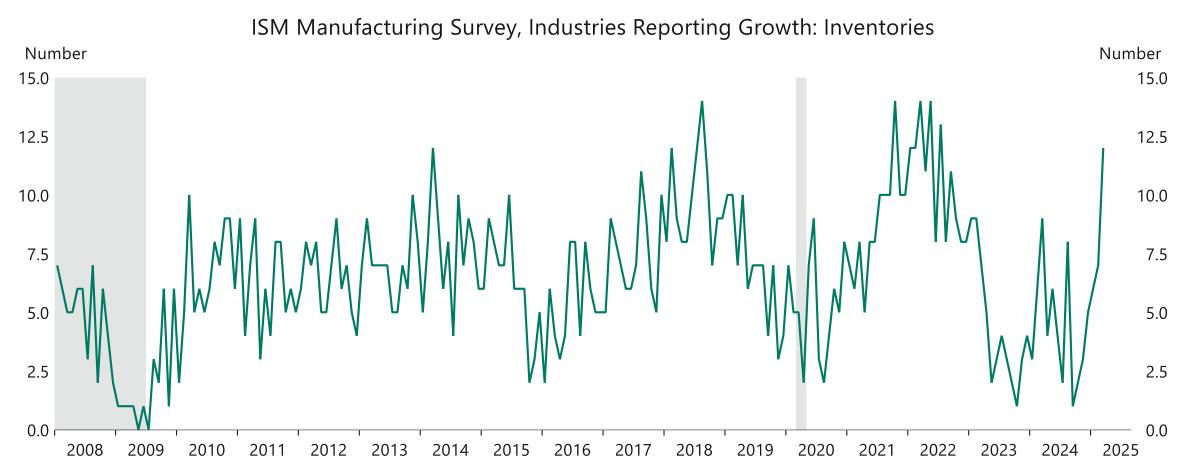


#### Inventories rising rapidly before tariffs took effect



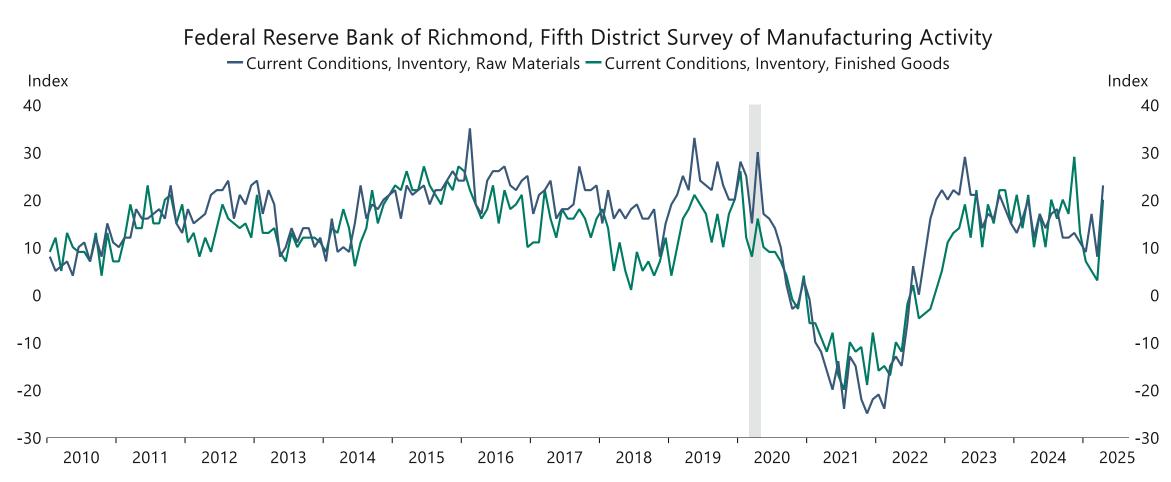
 $Source: Institute \ for \ Supply \ Management \ (ISM), \ Macrobond, \ Apollo \ Chief \ Economist$ 

#### Inventories rising before tariffs took effect



Source: Institute for Supply Management (ISM), Macrobond, Apollo Chief Economist

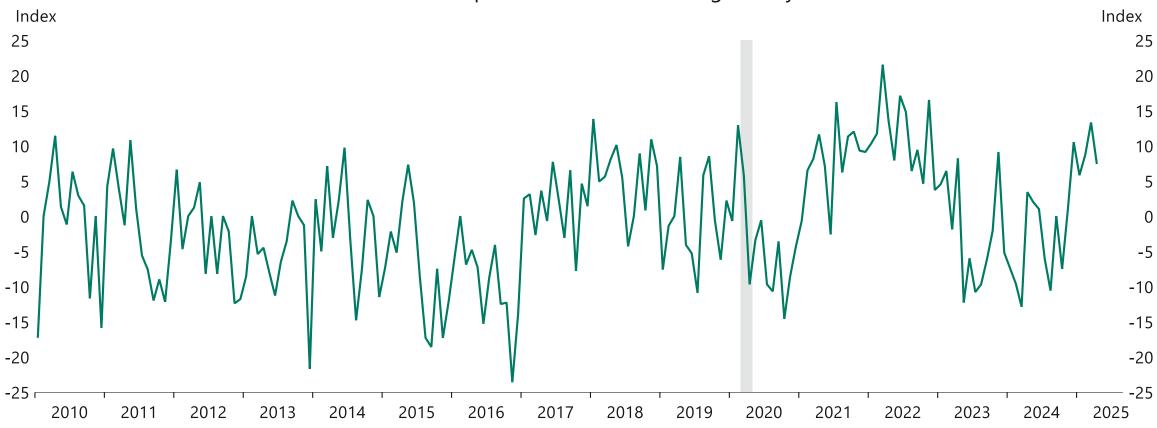
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Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, Macrobond, Apollo Chief Economist

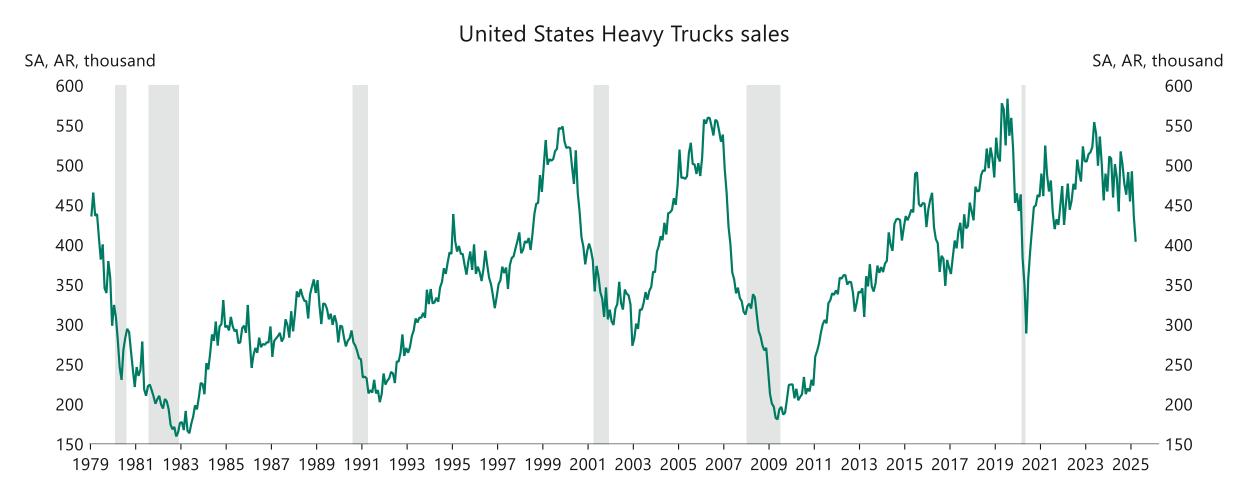
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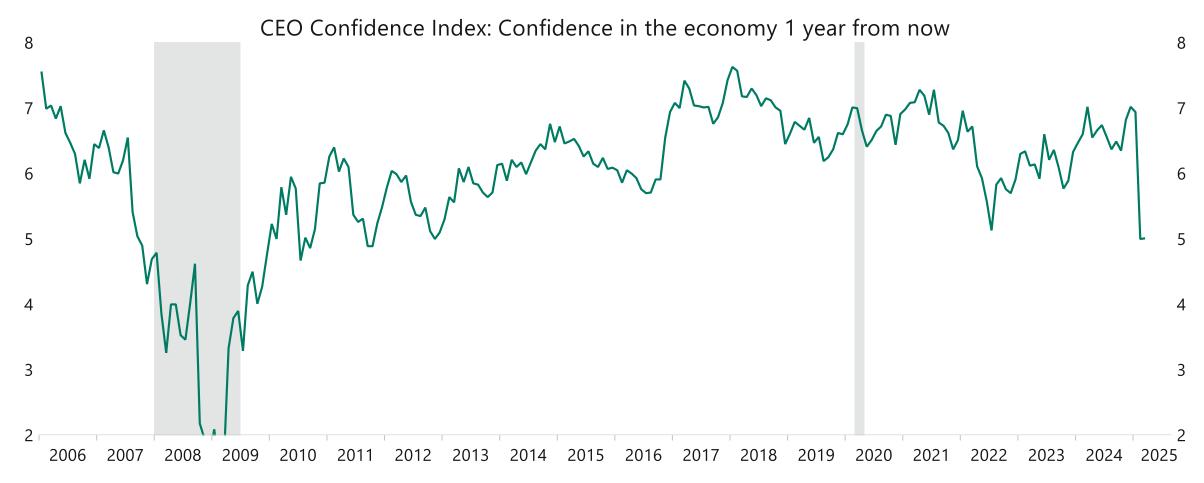
Source: Federal Reserve Bank of New York, Macrobond, Apollo Chief Economist

## Truck sales down significantly in March



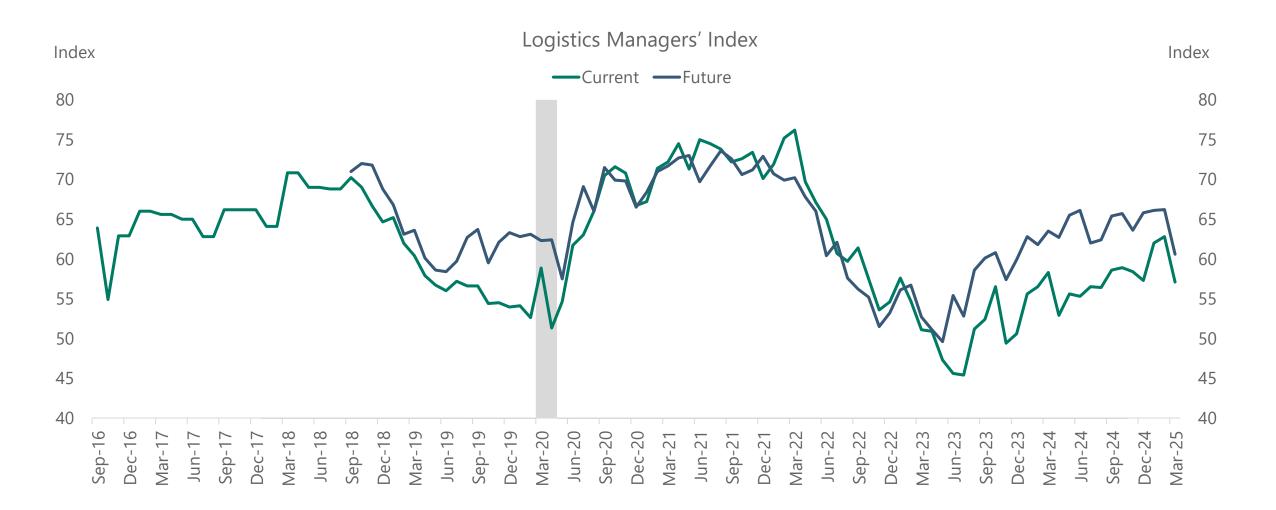
Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), Macrobond, Apollo Chief Economist

## CEO confidence declining



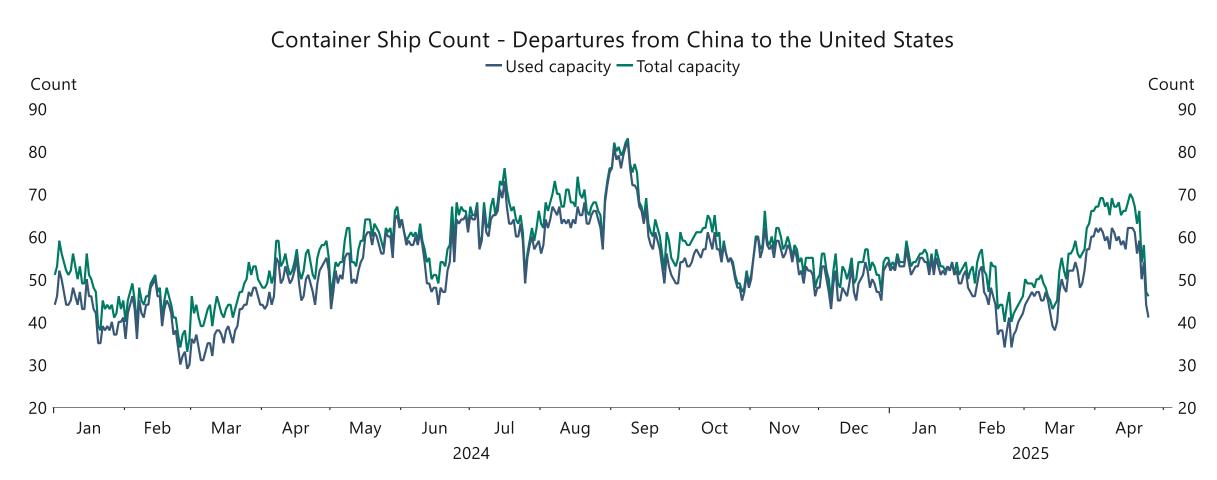
Source: Chief Executive Magazine, Bloomberg, Macrobond, Apollo Chief Economist

#### Logistics Managers' Index declining



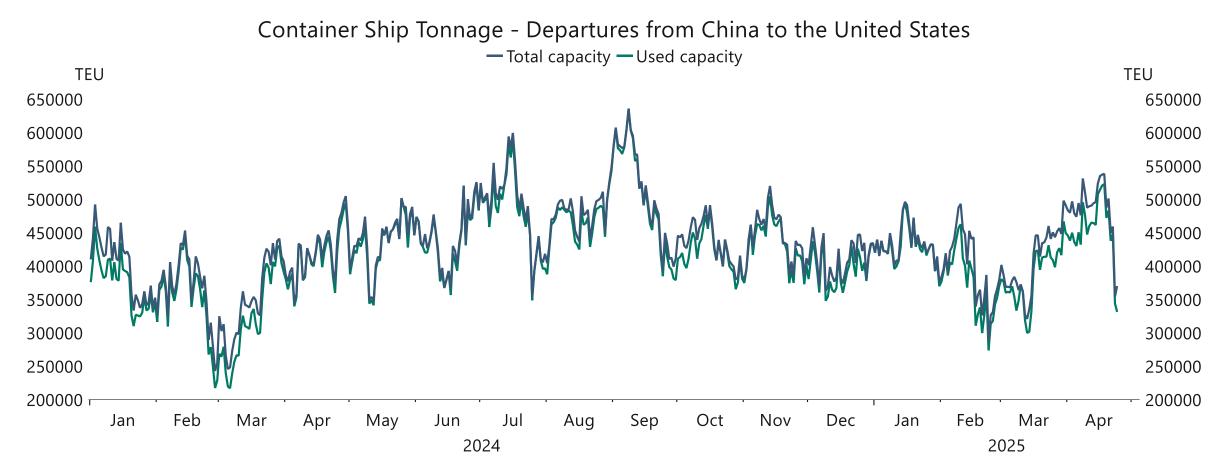
Source: Logistics Managers' Index, Apollo Chief Economist.

#### China to US trade coming to a stop



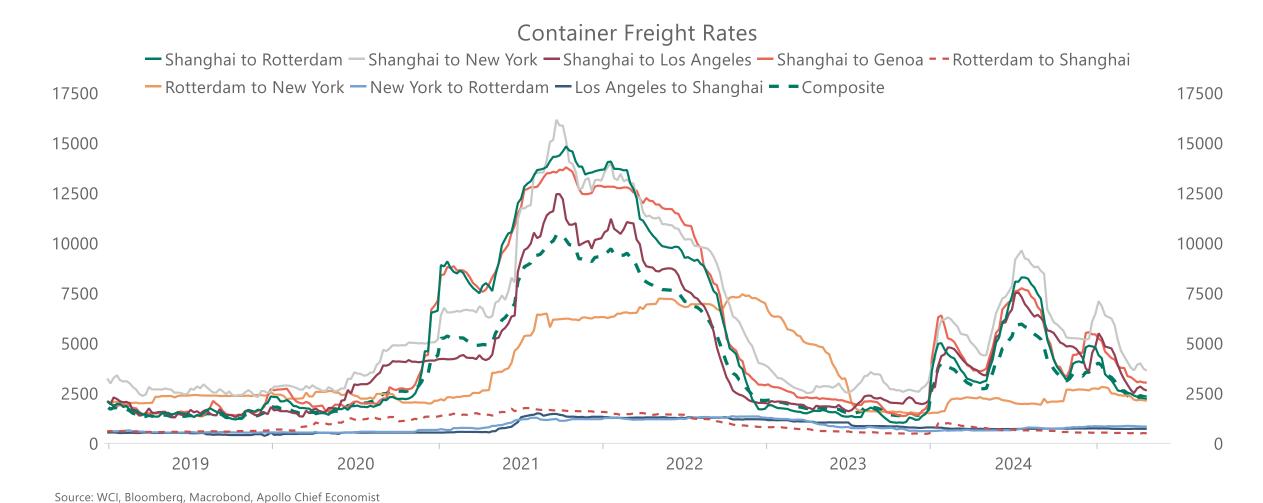
Note: Displays the estimated number of container vessels departing China for the United States, focusing on dry cargo ships. Aggregates data using a 15-day rolling average to reduce short-term volatility and provide a clearer view of broader trends in vessel activity. Source: Bloomberg, Macrobond, Apollo Chief Economist

#### China to US trade coming to a stop



Note: DRepresents the aggregated container volume, measured in twenty-foot equivalent units (TEU), of vessels departing China for the United States over a 15-day rolling period. Accounts for the shipping capacity being utilized, irrespective of the number of vessels. Source: Bloomberg, Macrobond, Apollo Chief Economist

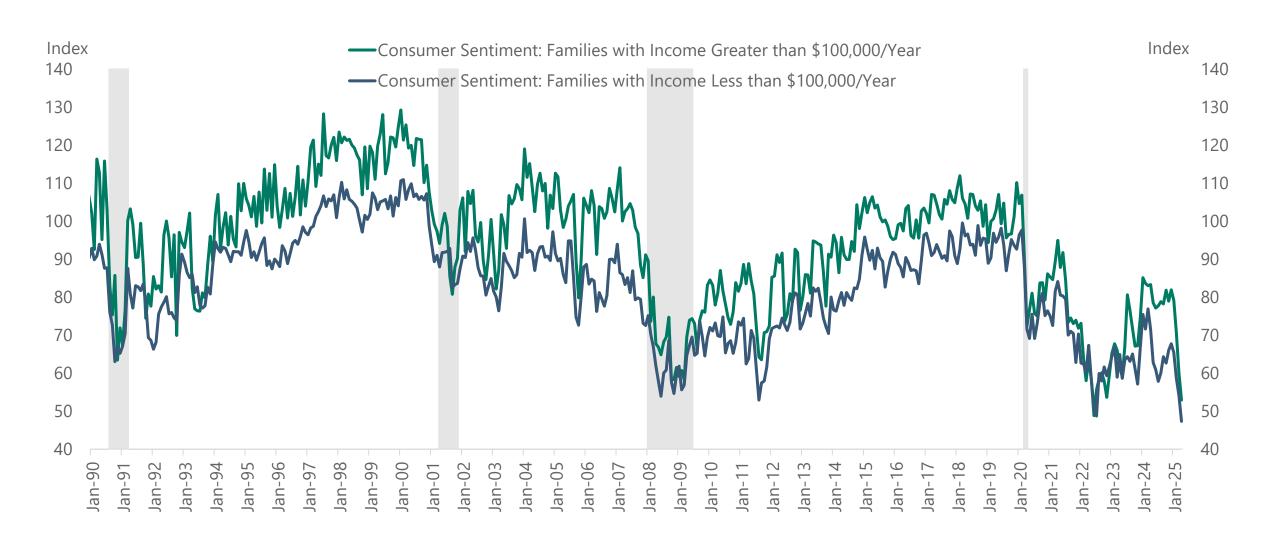
#### Container freight rates falling



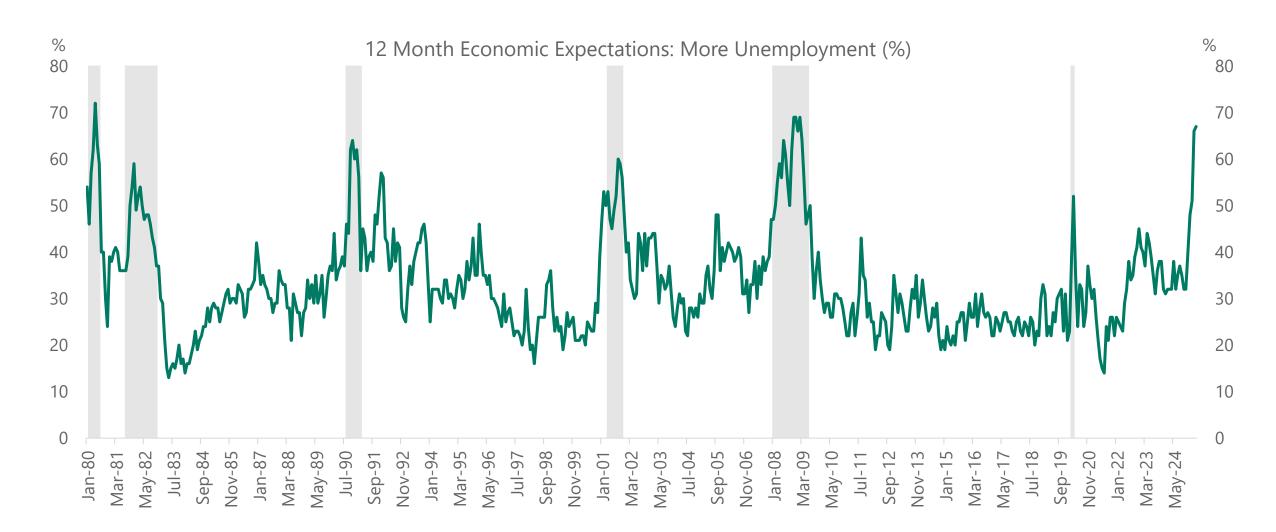
How are consumers responding to tariffs?

- Consumer confidence at record-low levels
- Front-loading purchases before tariffs began
- Tourism slowing, in particular international

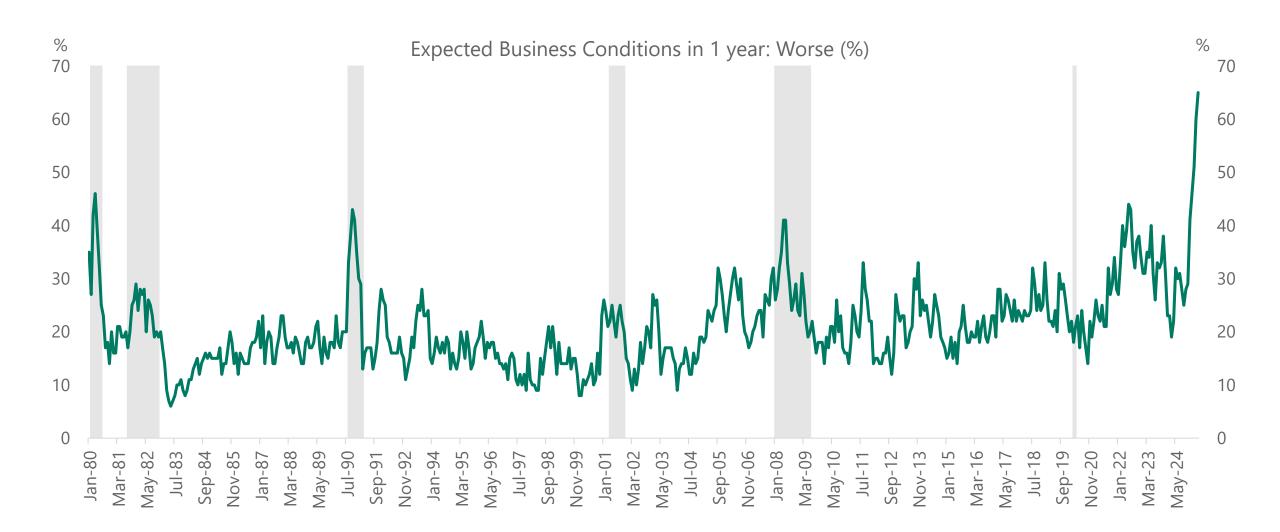
#### Consumer sentiment declining across income groups



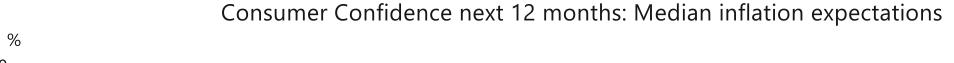
#### Consumers very worried about losing their jobs

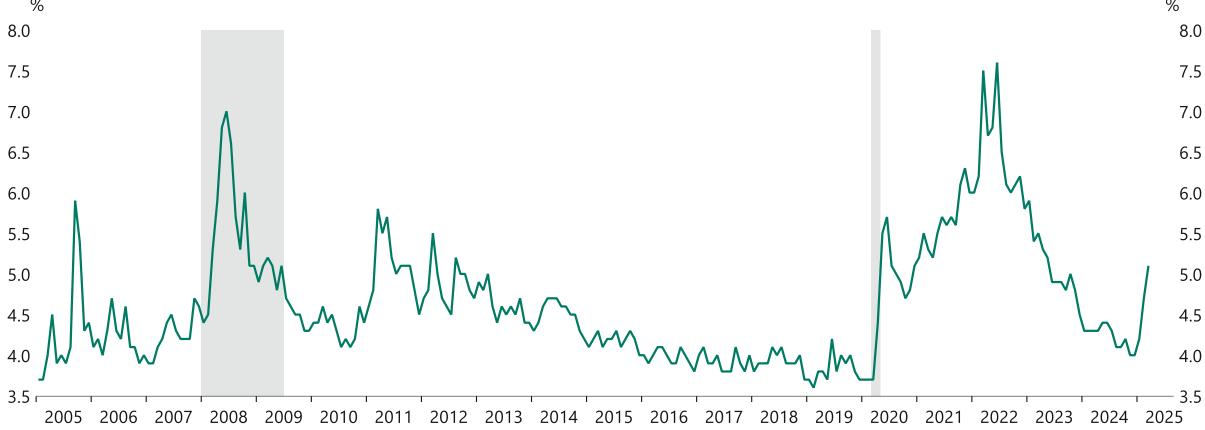


#### Record-high share of consumers think business conditions are worsening



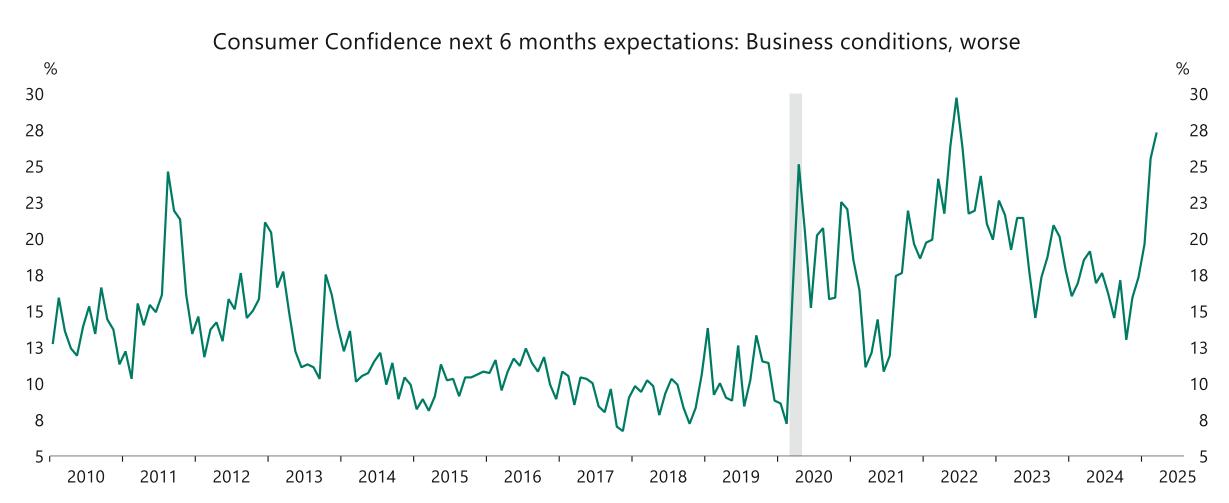
#### Consumer inflation expectations





Source: Conference Board, Macrobond, Apollo Chief Economist

#### Consumer expectations to business conditions



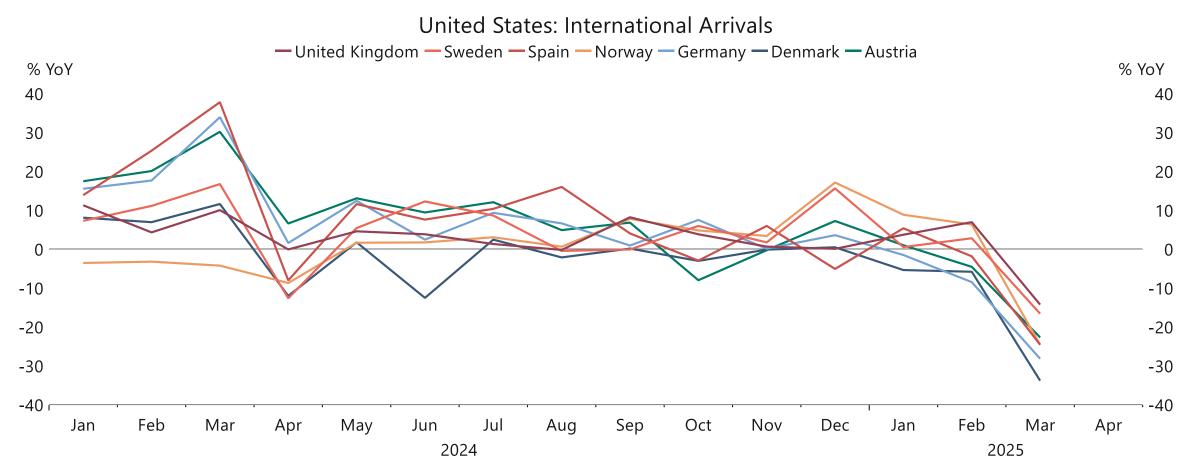
Source: Conference Board, Macrobond, Apollo Chief Economist

#### Consumers getting more worried about their jobs



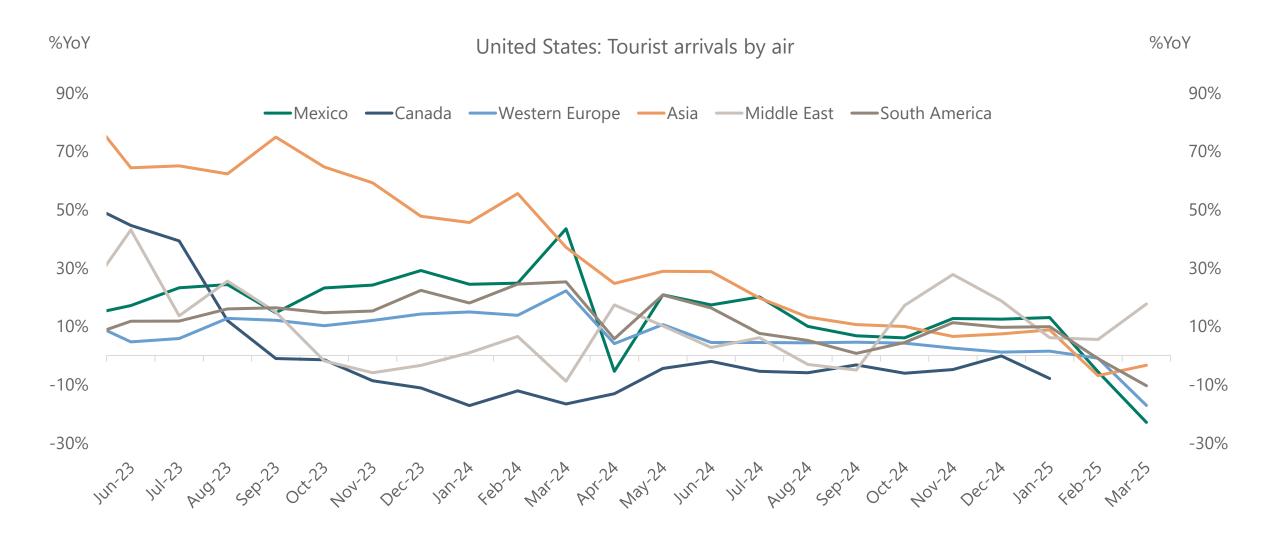
Source: Conference Board, Macrobond, Apollo Chief Economist

#### Fewer Europeans travelling to the US

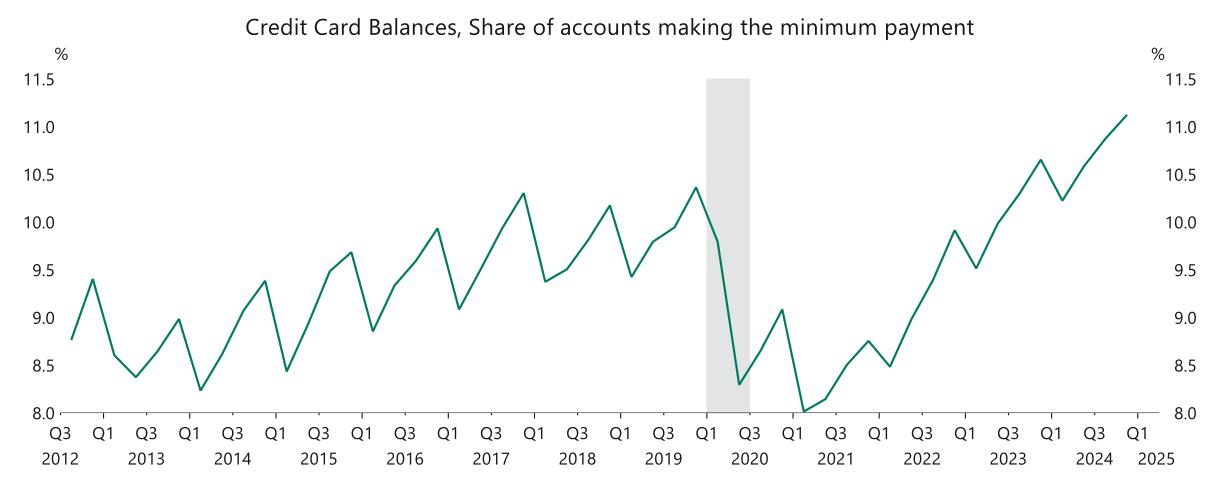


Source: National Travel & Tourism Office, Macrobond, Apollo Chief Economist

#### Foreign tourists declining

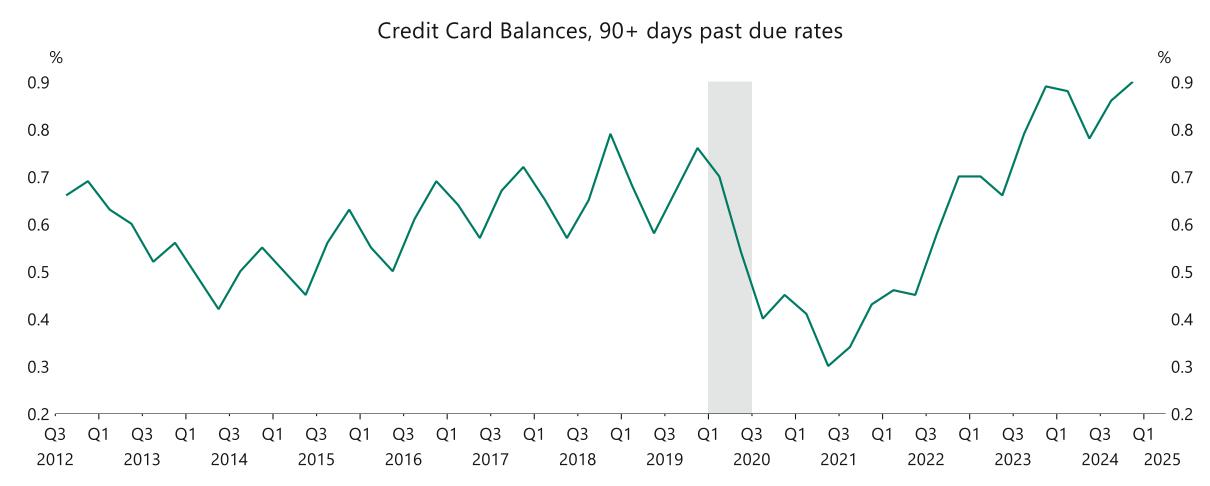


#### The share of credit card accounts only making the minimum payment is rising



Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, Macrobond, Apollo Chief Economist

#### Delinquency rates rising



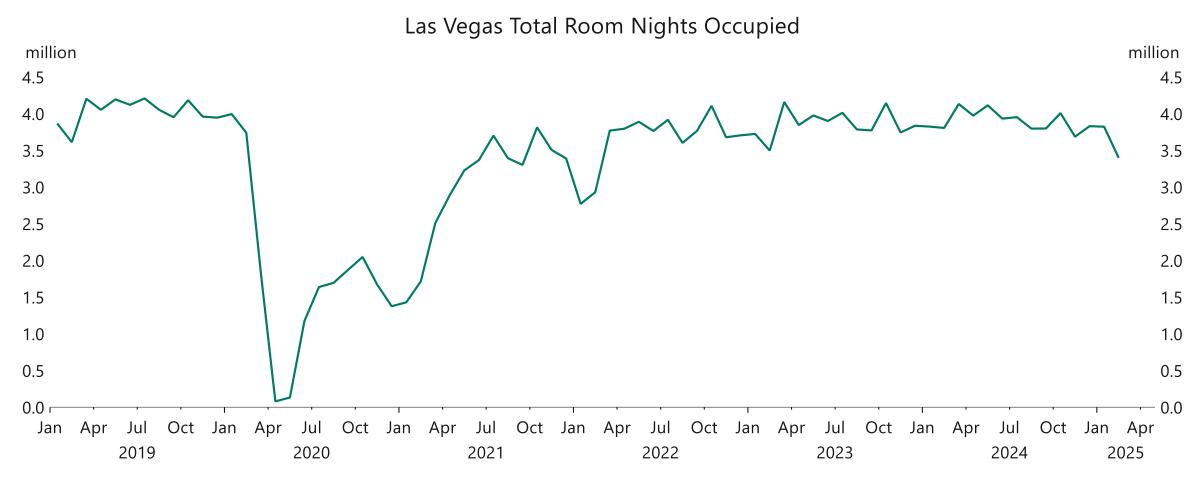
Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, Macrobond, Apollo Chief Economist

#### Las Vegas tourism declining



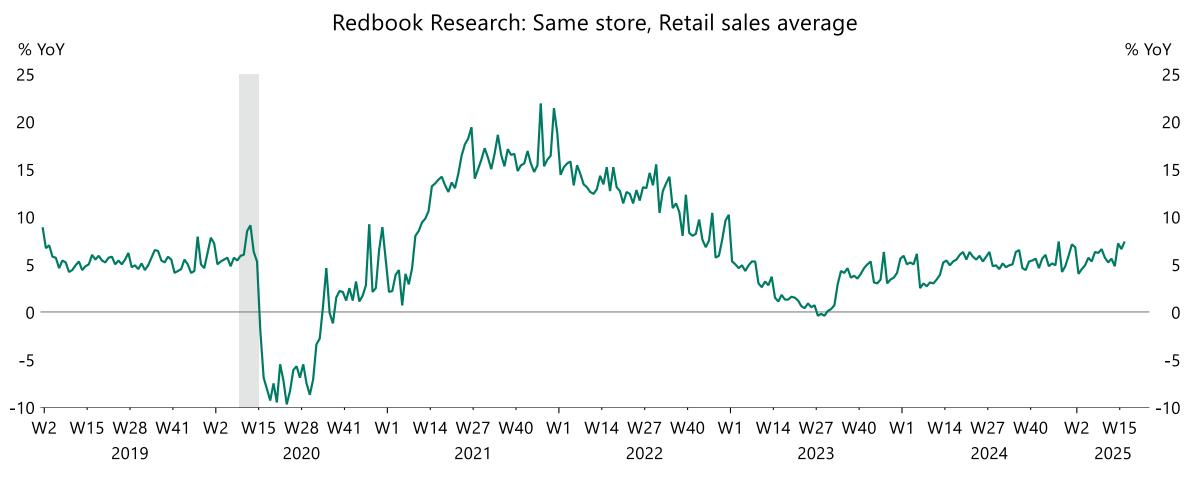
Source: Bloomberg, Macrobond, Apollo Chief Economist

#### Las Vegas room nights occupied



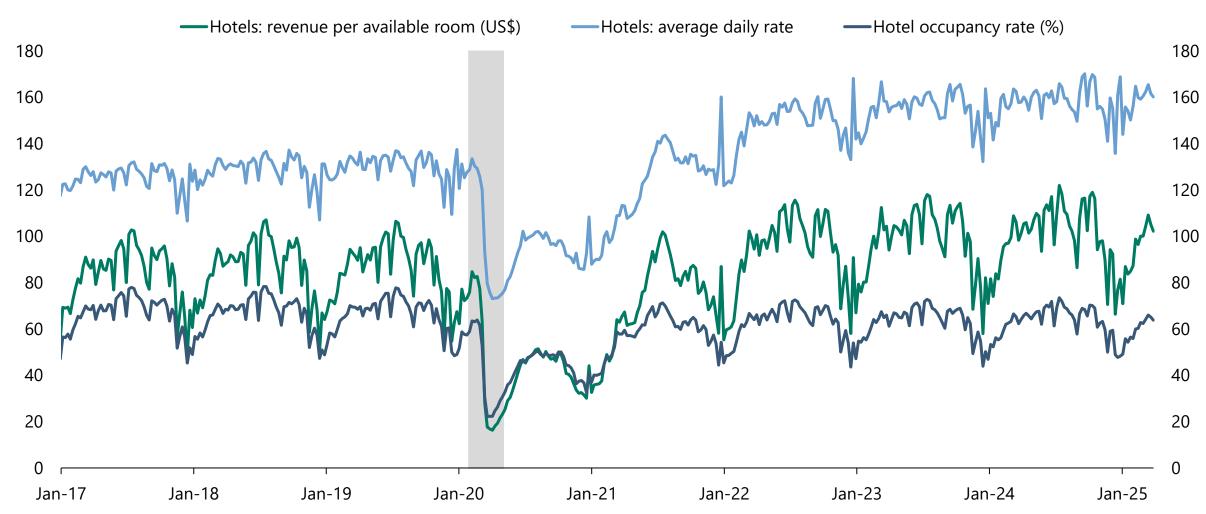
Source: Bloomberg, Macrobond, Apollo Chief Economist

#### Weekly data for same-store retail sales



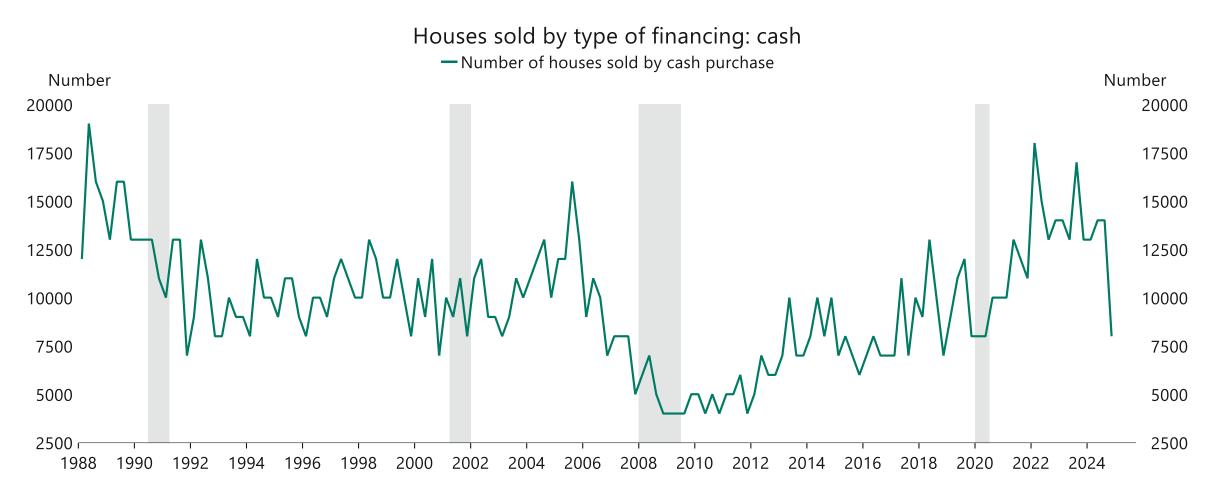
Source: Redbook Research Inc., Macrobond, Apollo Chief Economist

#### Weekly data for hotel demand



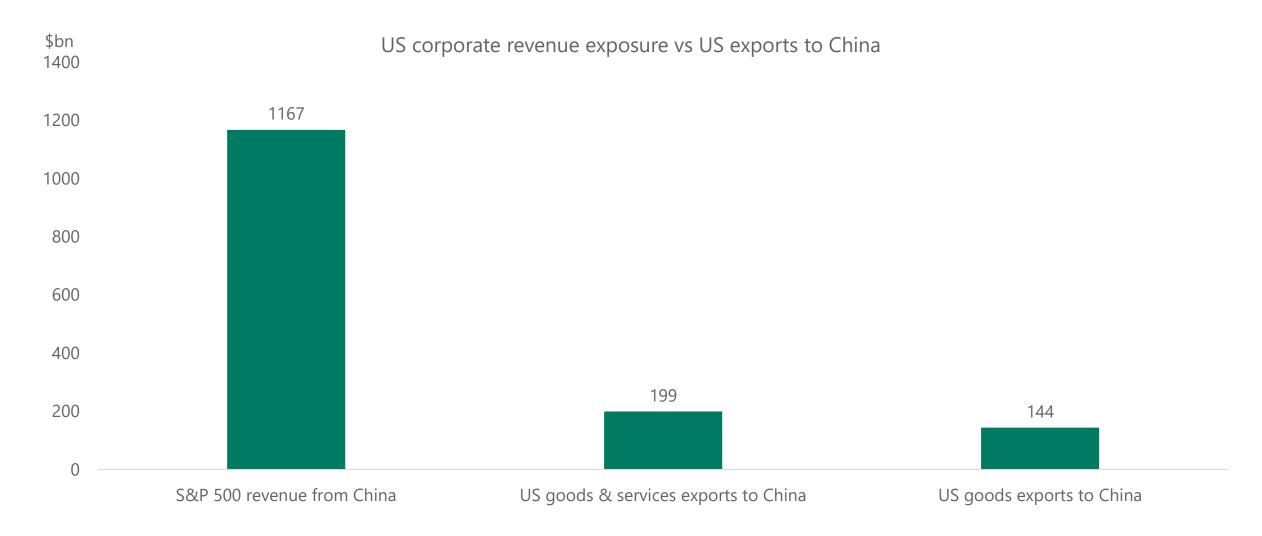
Source: STR, Haver Analytics, Apollo Chief Economist

#### Decline in cash purchases of homes



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Macrobond, Apollo Chief Economist

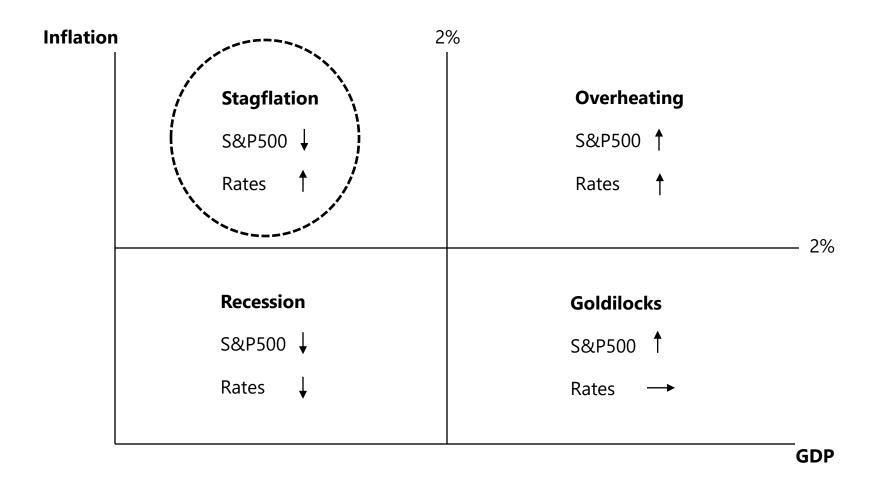
#### S&P 500 revenue from China roughly six times US exports to China



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# Conclusion

## A trade war is a stagflation shock



Source Apollo Chief Economist.



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Torsten Slok joined Apollo in August 2020 as Chief Economist and he leads Apollo's macroeconomic and market analysis across the platform.

Prior to joining, Mr. Slok worked for 15 years as Chief Economist at Deutsche Bank where his team was top ranked in the annual Institutional Investor survey for a decade, including #1 in 2019. Prior to joining Deutsche Bank Mr. Slok worked at the IMF in Washington, DC and at the OECD in Paris.

Mr. Slok has a Ph.D in Economics and has studied at the University of Copenhagen and Princeton University.