

# U.S. and Oklahoma Economic Outlook

Fortune Club

April 7, 2026

**Cortney Cowley**

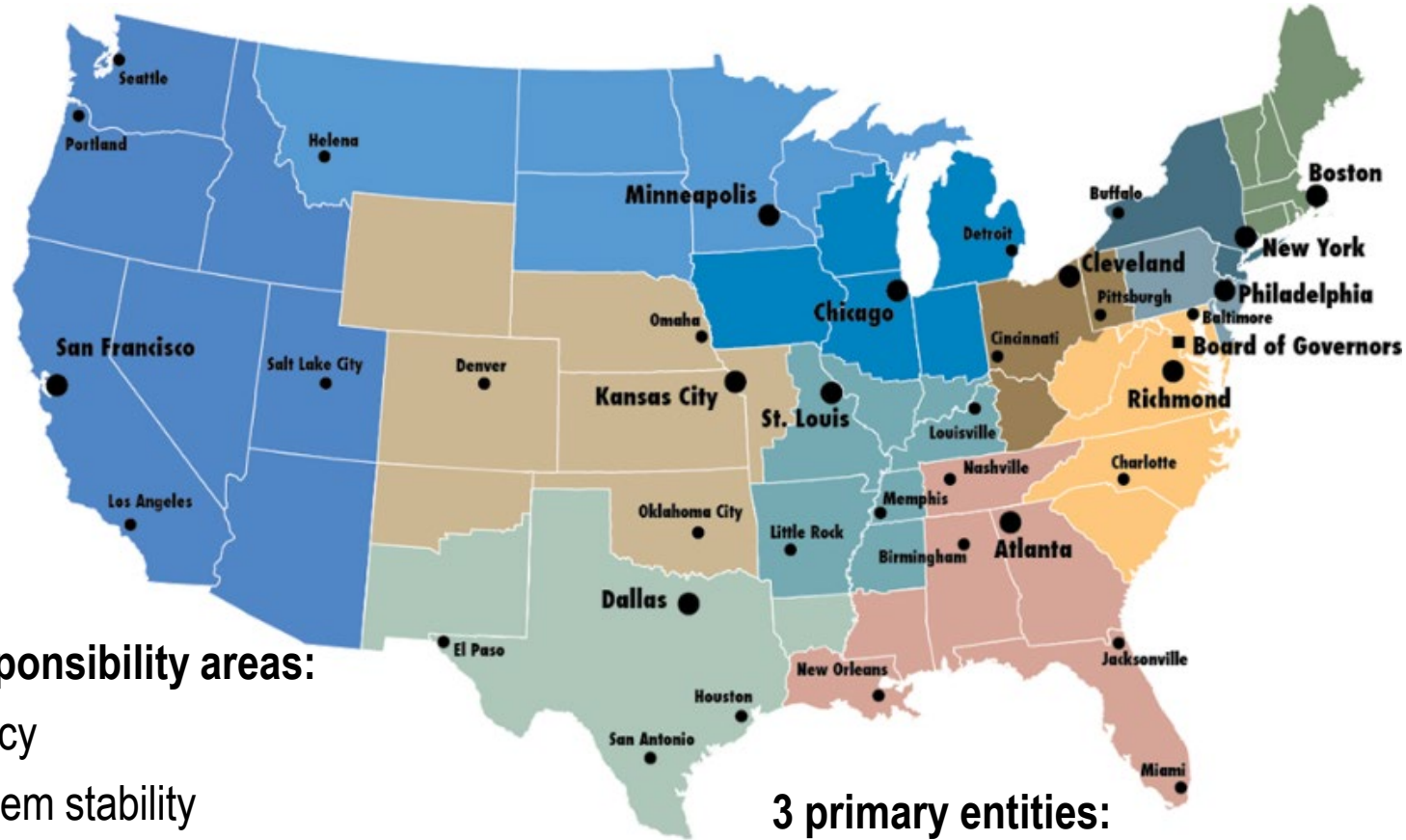
*AVP & Oklahoma City Branch Executive*

\*The views expressed herein are those of the presenter only and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City or the Federal Reserve System.



Denver / Oklahoma City / Omaha

# Structure & Functions of the Federal Reserve



## 5 primary responsibility areas:

- Monetary policy
- Financial system stability
- Bank supervision & regulation
- Payment system safety & efficiency
- Consumer protection & community development

## 3 primary entities:

- Board of Governors: 7 members appointed by U.S. President
- Federal Reserve Banks: 12 total; semi-independent
- Federal Open Market Committee: 19 members; 12 voting

# The Oklahoma City Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City

[www.kansascityfed.org/oklahomacity](http://www.kansascityfed.org/oklahomacity)

- **Functions and purposes ~ 50 staff**

- Research on U.S. and Oklahoma economies; energy sector and business survey focus
- Examinations of Oklahoma financial institutions (~45 banks, ~175 holding cos.)
- Risk analysis and IT development for bank exams; exam assistance for other Fed offices
- Community development and economic education programming for low/moderate income groups and students

- **2025 OKC Branch Board of Directors**

- **Rhonda Hooper (chair)**, President & CEO, Jordan Advertising, OKC
- **Mark Burrage**, CEO, FirstBank, Antlers/Atoka
- **Scott Case**, President, Case & Associates Properties, Tulsa
- **Jason A. Garner**, President, Crawley Petroleum Corporation, OKC
- **Terry Salmon**, President, Computer System Designers, OKC
- **Brady Sidwell**, Principal, Sidwell Enterprises, Enid
- **Rebecca Thompson**, CFO, Treasurer, & VP Finance, AAON, Inc., Tulsa

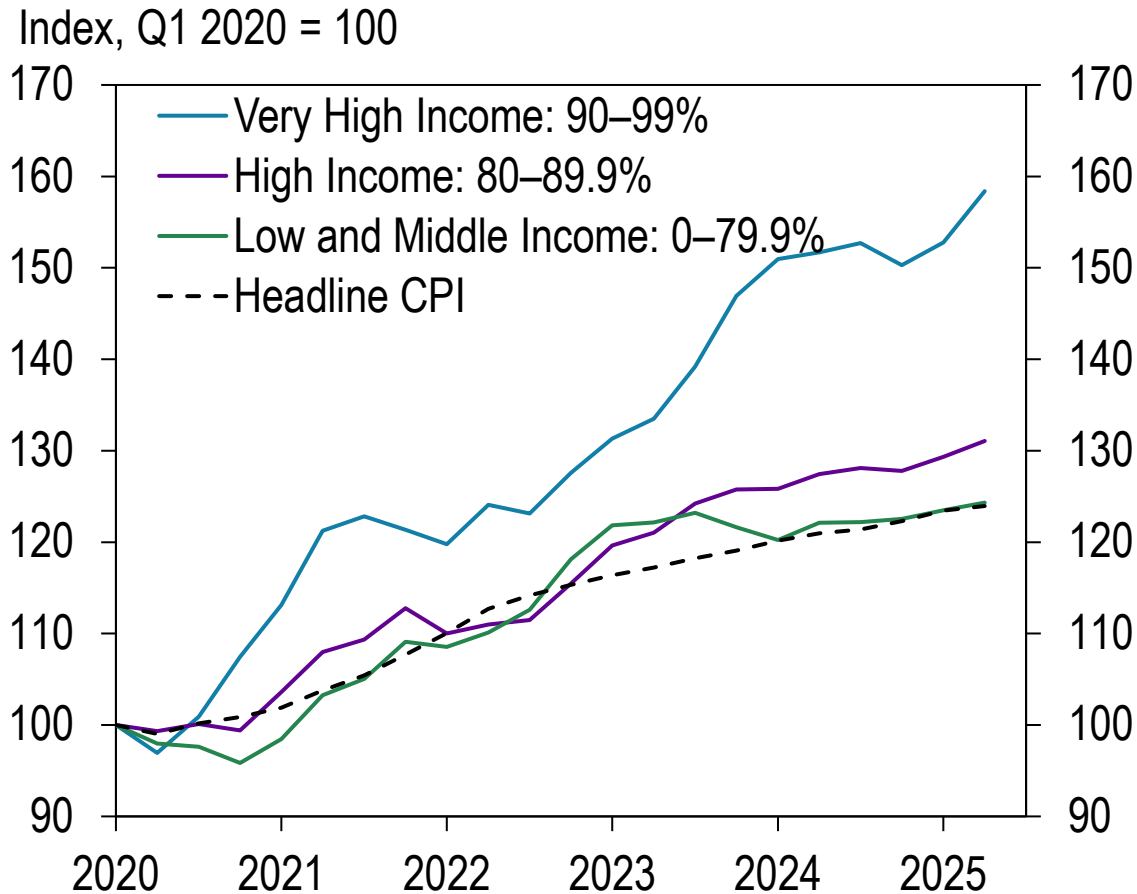


# GDP cooled in Q4 and employment growth has slowed considerably

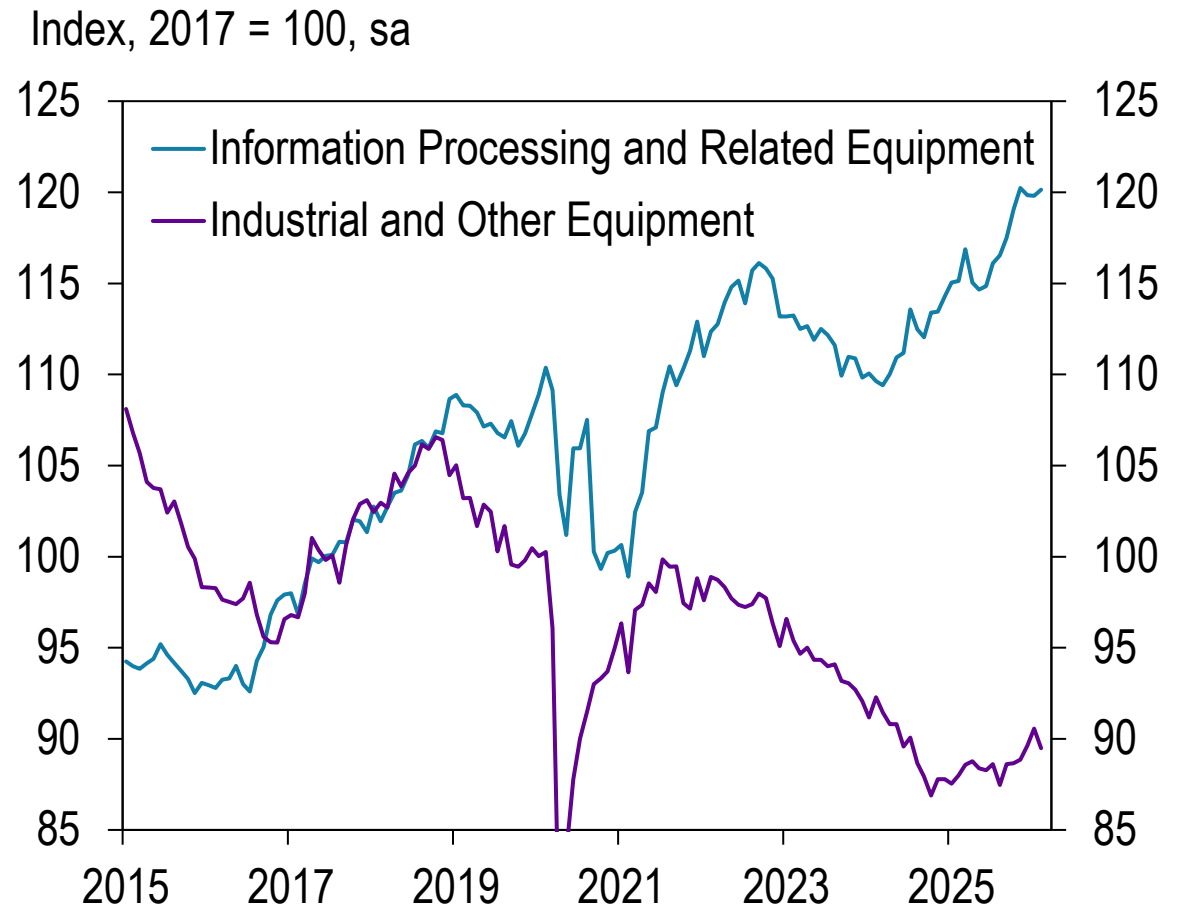


# Current economic growth is supported by consumer spending from high earners and investment in tech-related sectors

## U.S. Consumer Spending by Income

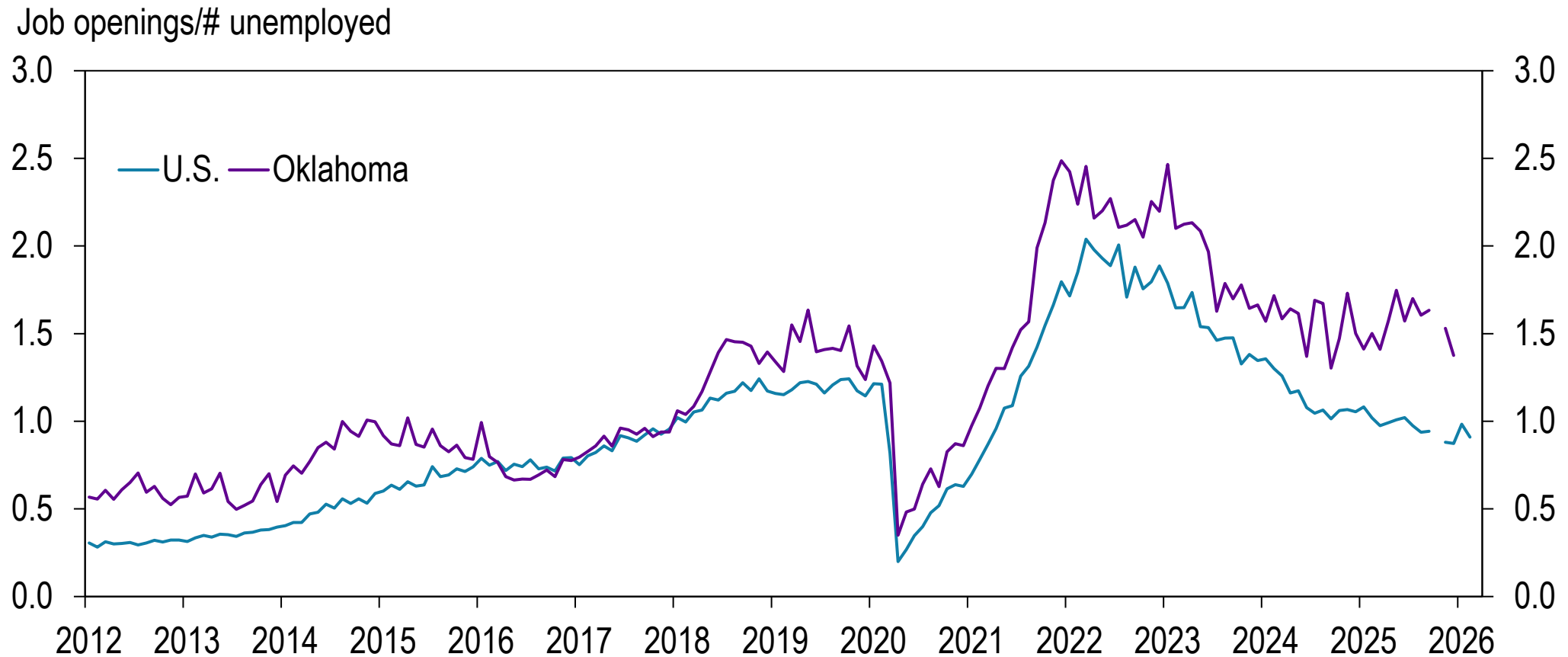


## U.S. Industrial Production



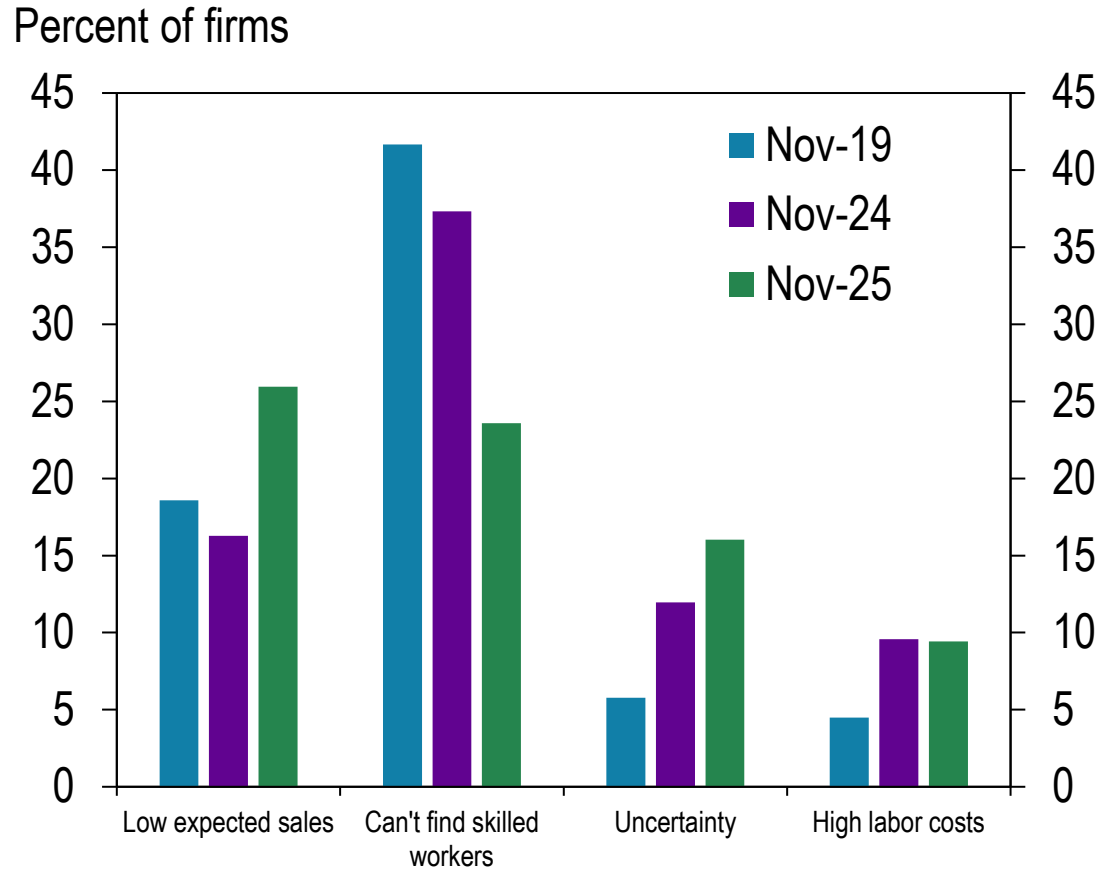
# Job openings still exceed unemployed workers in Oklahoma but have returned to near pre-pandemic levels

## Job Openings/Unemployment Ratio

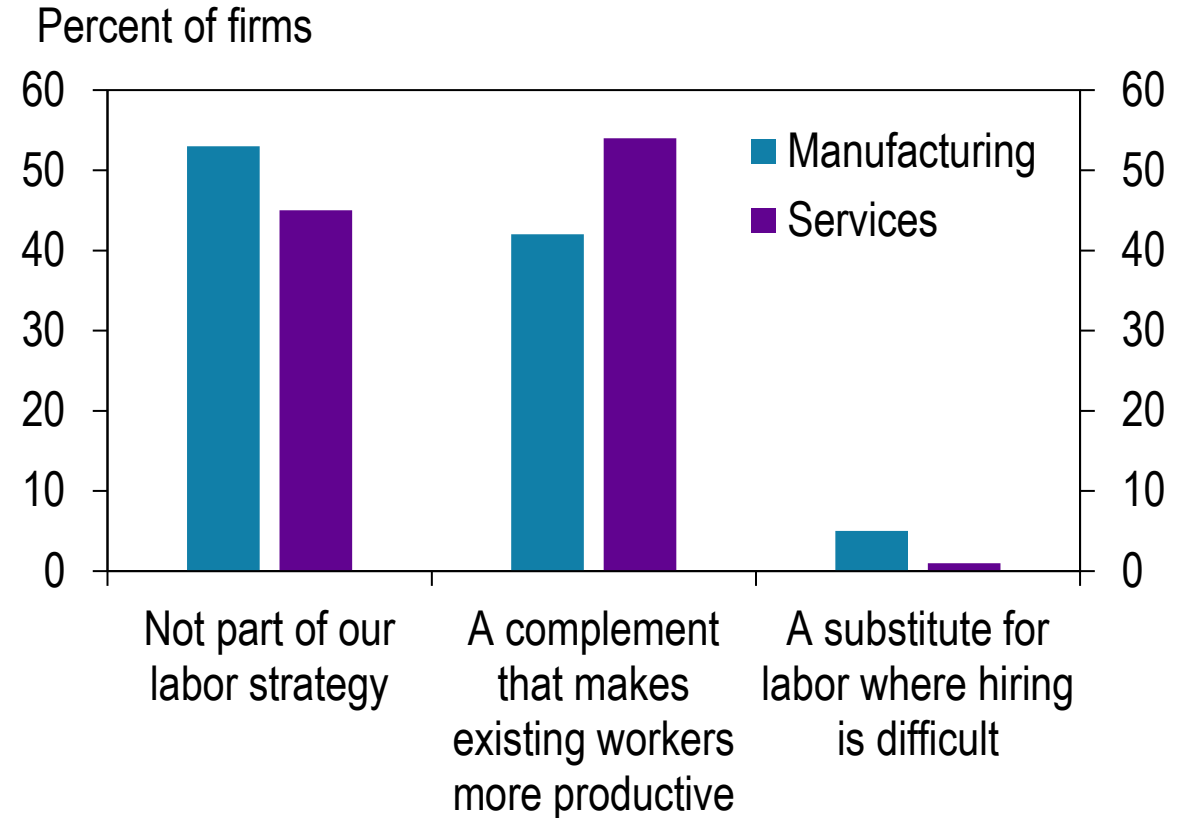


# Low expected demand and uncertainty have increased as the top factor restraining hiring, and firms do not cite AI as a replacement for labor

**Tenth District Firms' Top Factors Restraining Hiring**



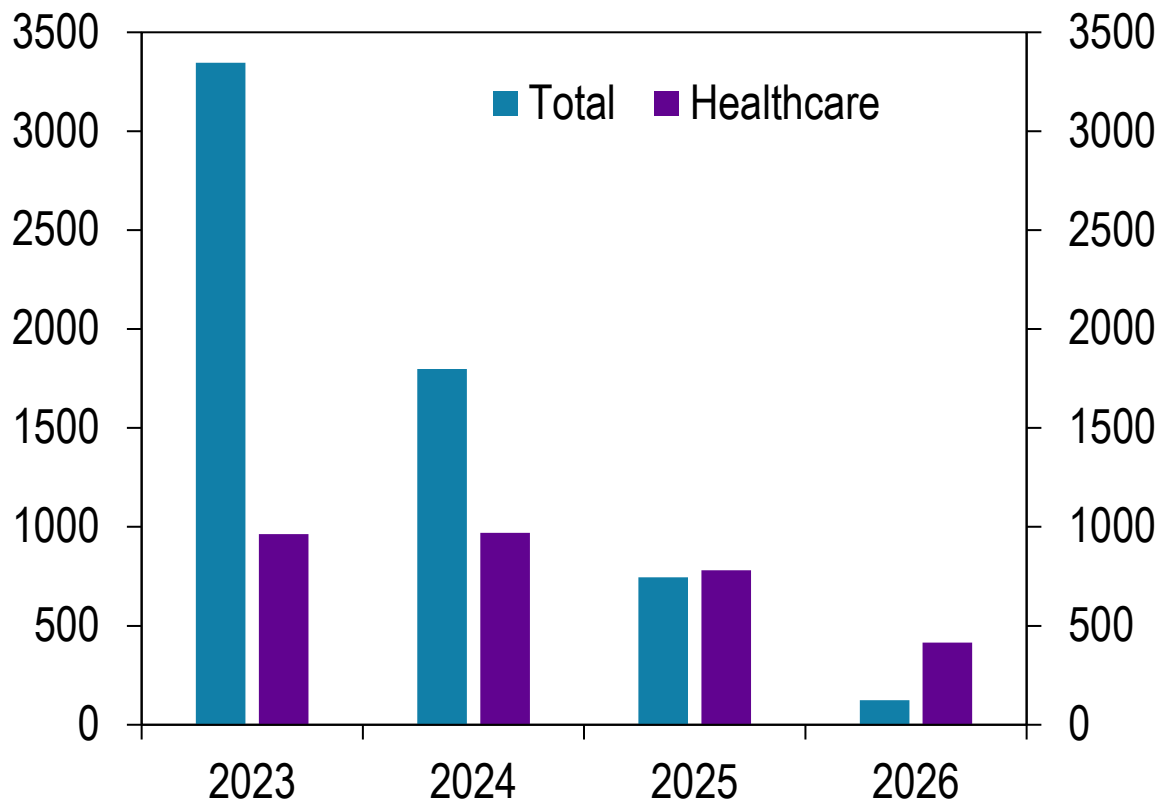
**Jan. 2026: Which best describes how AI or technology fits into your firm's labor strategy?**



# U.S. job gains have slowed in recent months and are largely concentrated in healthcare, partially due to reduced labor supply

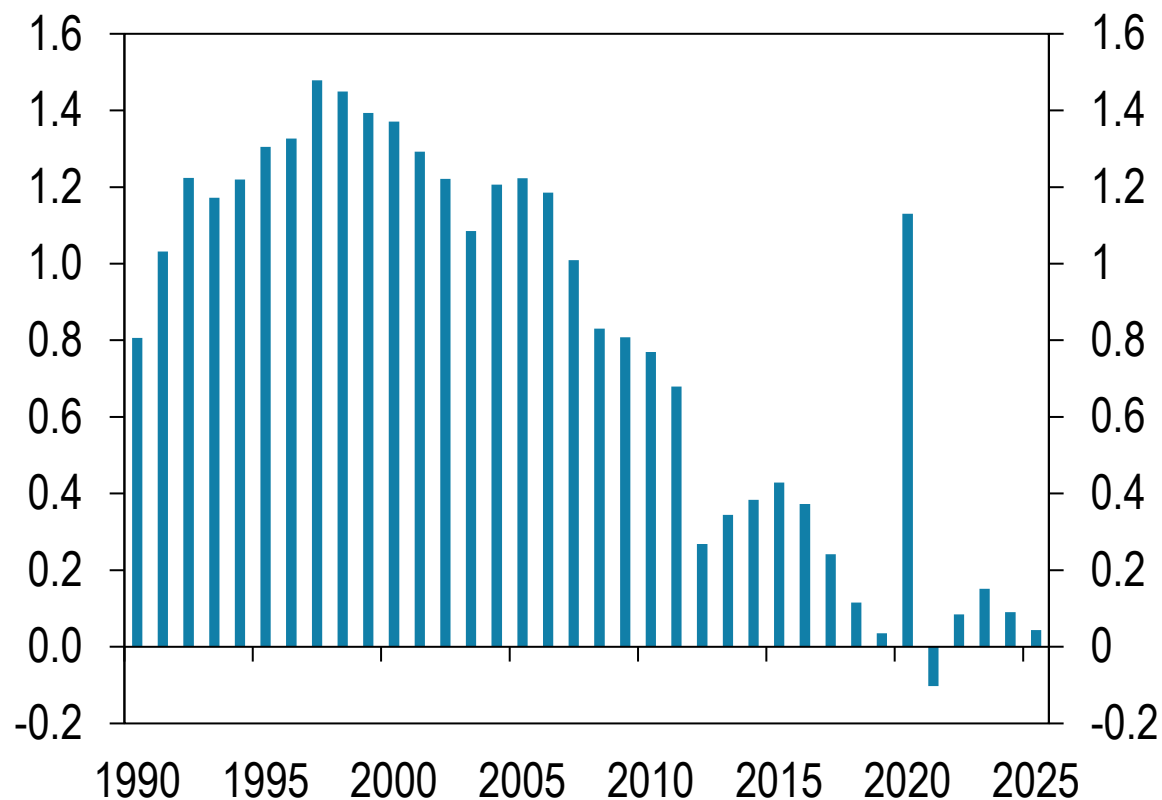
### U.S. Average Monthly Job Gains

Thousands, sa



### U.S. Working-Age Population Growth

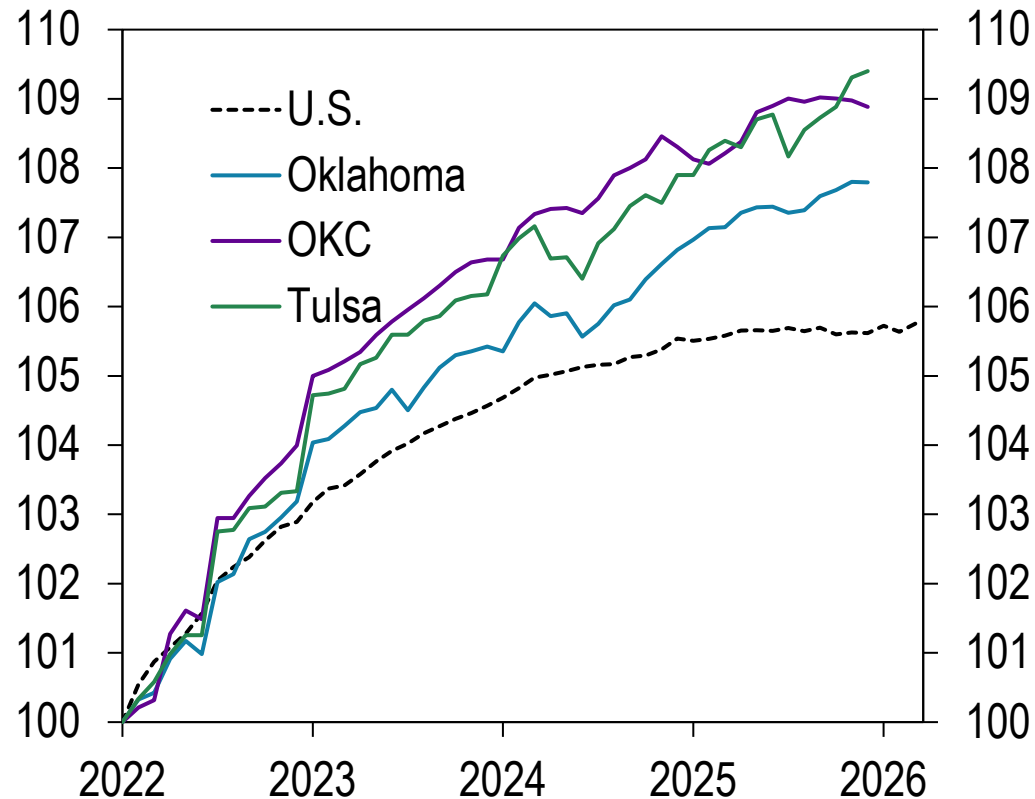
year/year percent change



# Jobs in Oklahoma have grown, but gains are leveling off, and unemployment remains very low

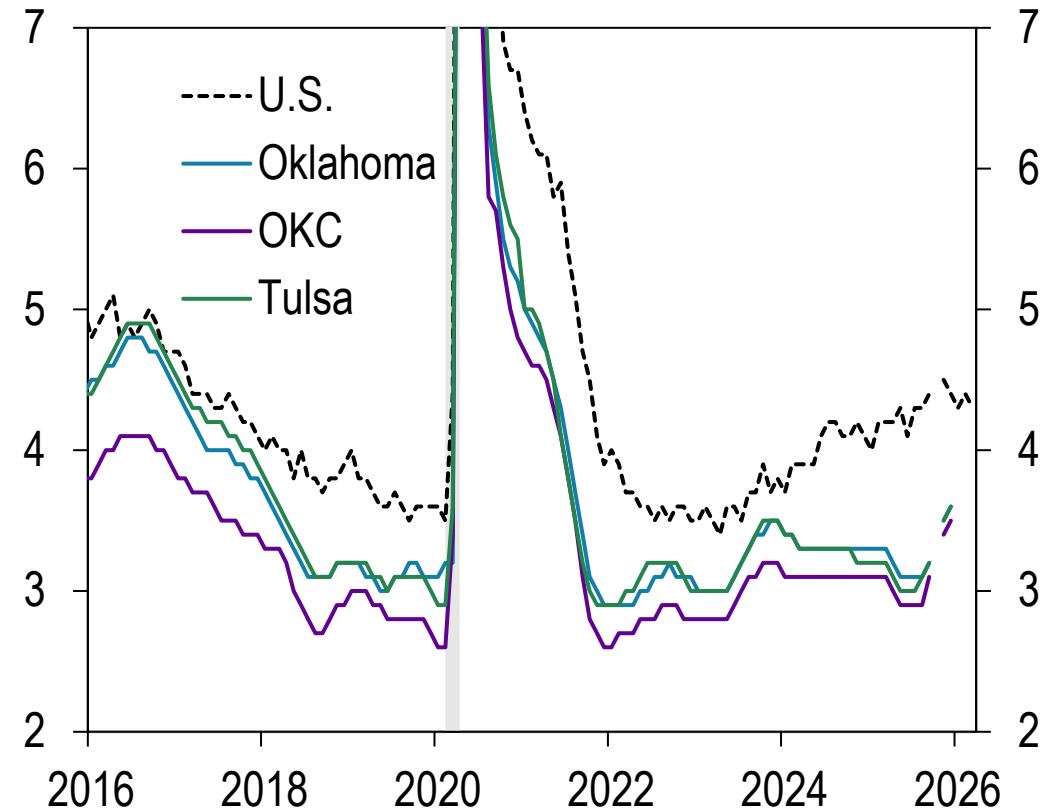
## Non-Farm Payroll Employment

Index, Jan. 2022 = 100, sa

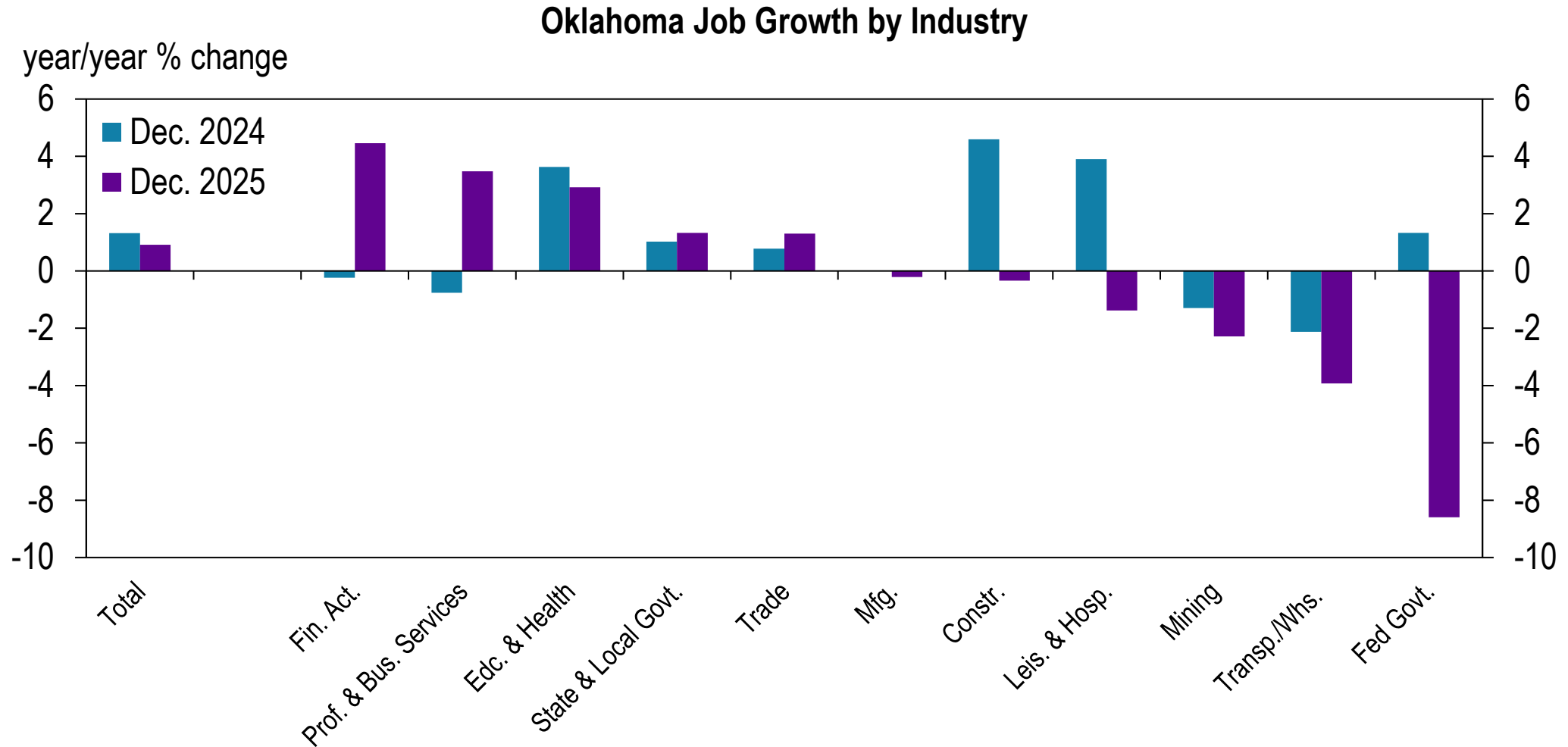


## Unemployment Rate

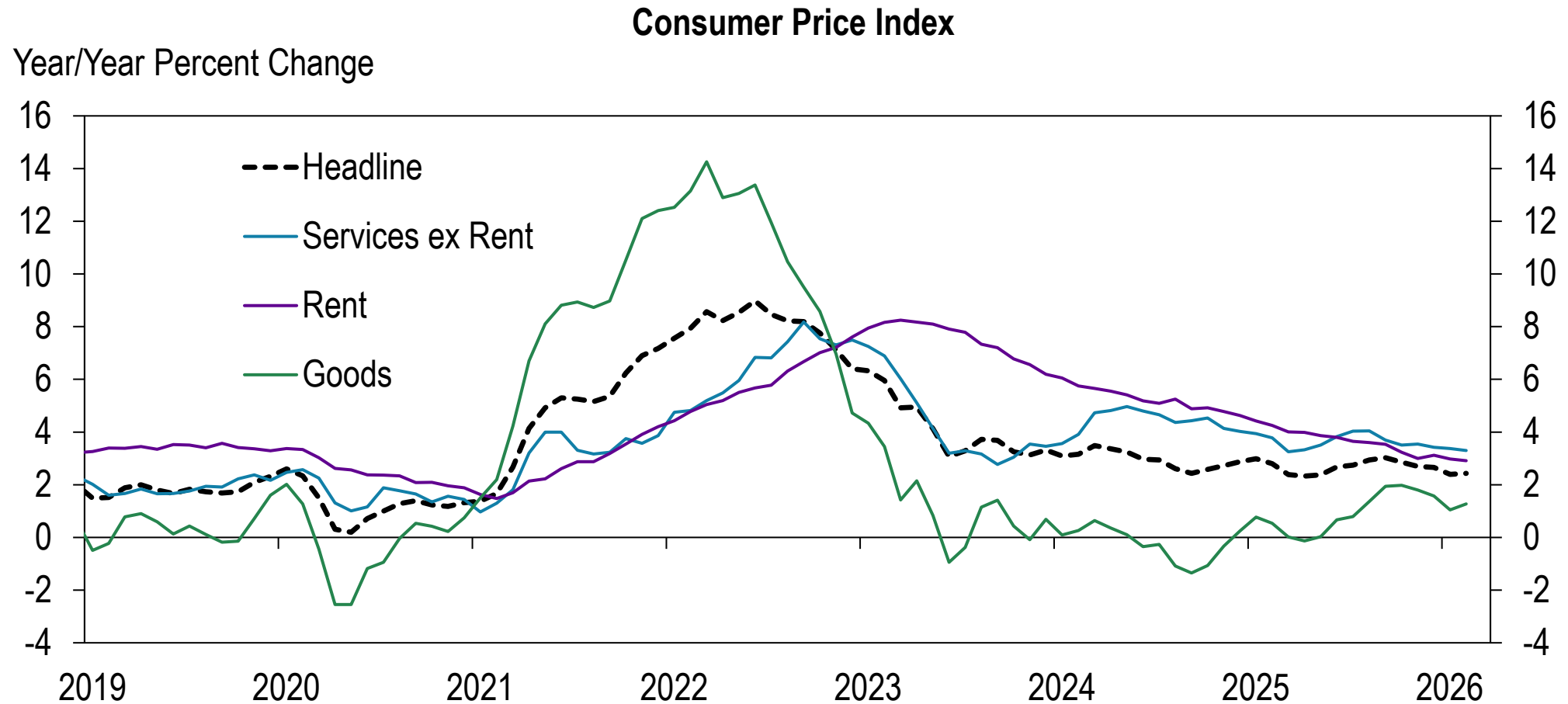
Percent



# Oklahoma's job growth has remained solid over the past year, driven by growth in healthcare and business services



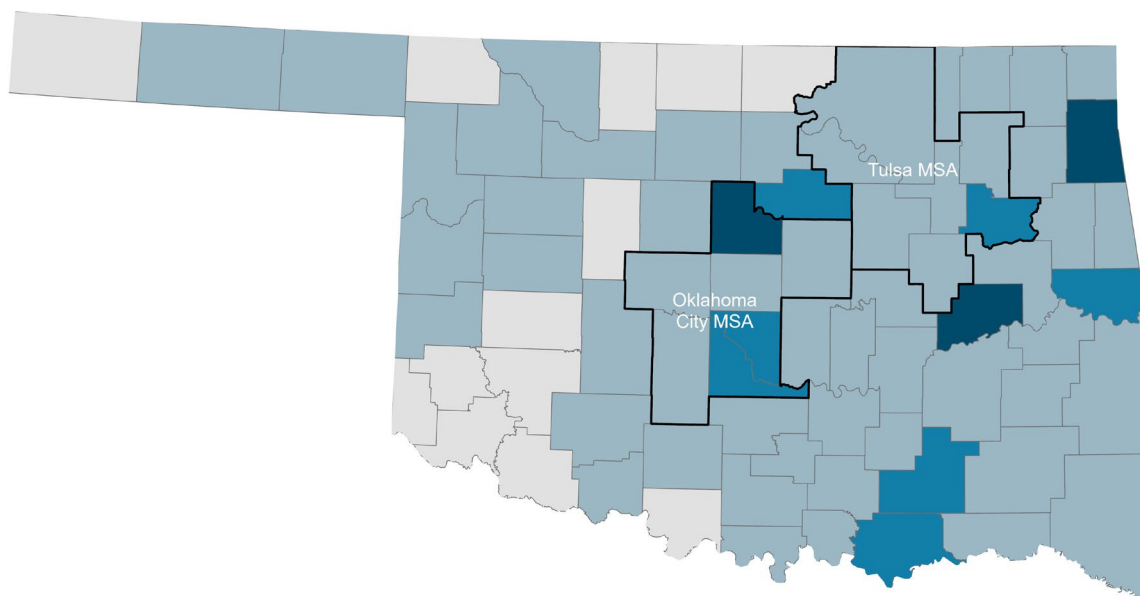
# CPI inflation stayed at 2.4% in February, as progress on goods and energy inflation stalled



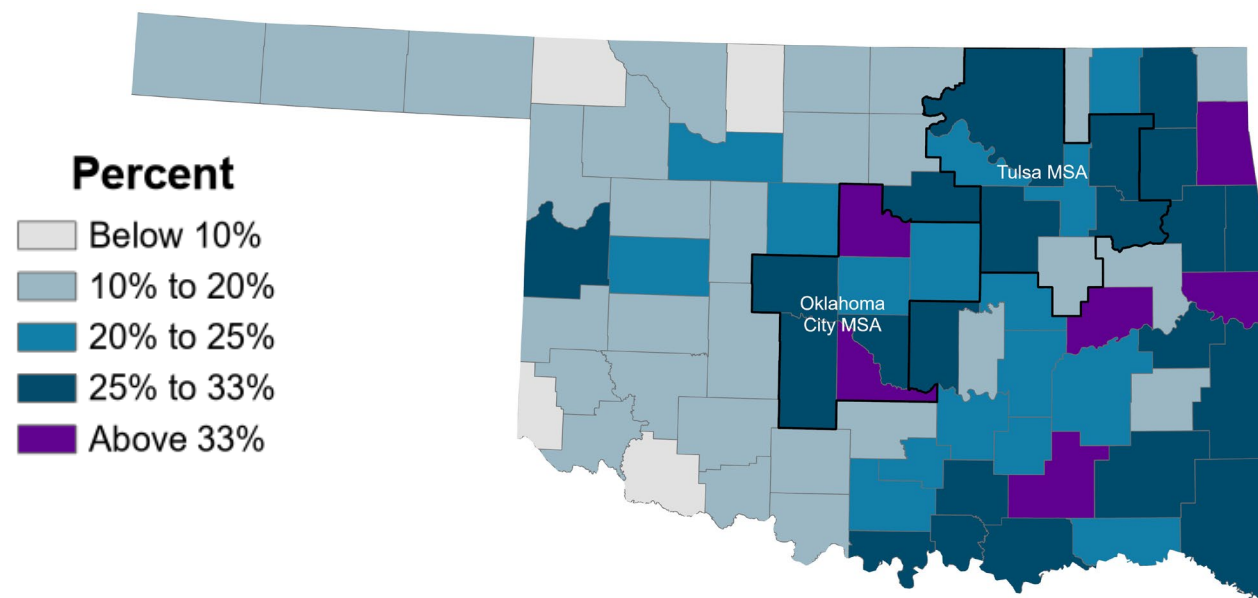
# Homeownership for first-time buyers became less affordable across Oklahoma in recent years

## First-Time Homeownership Costs as a Share of Household Income

2018-2019



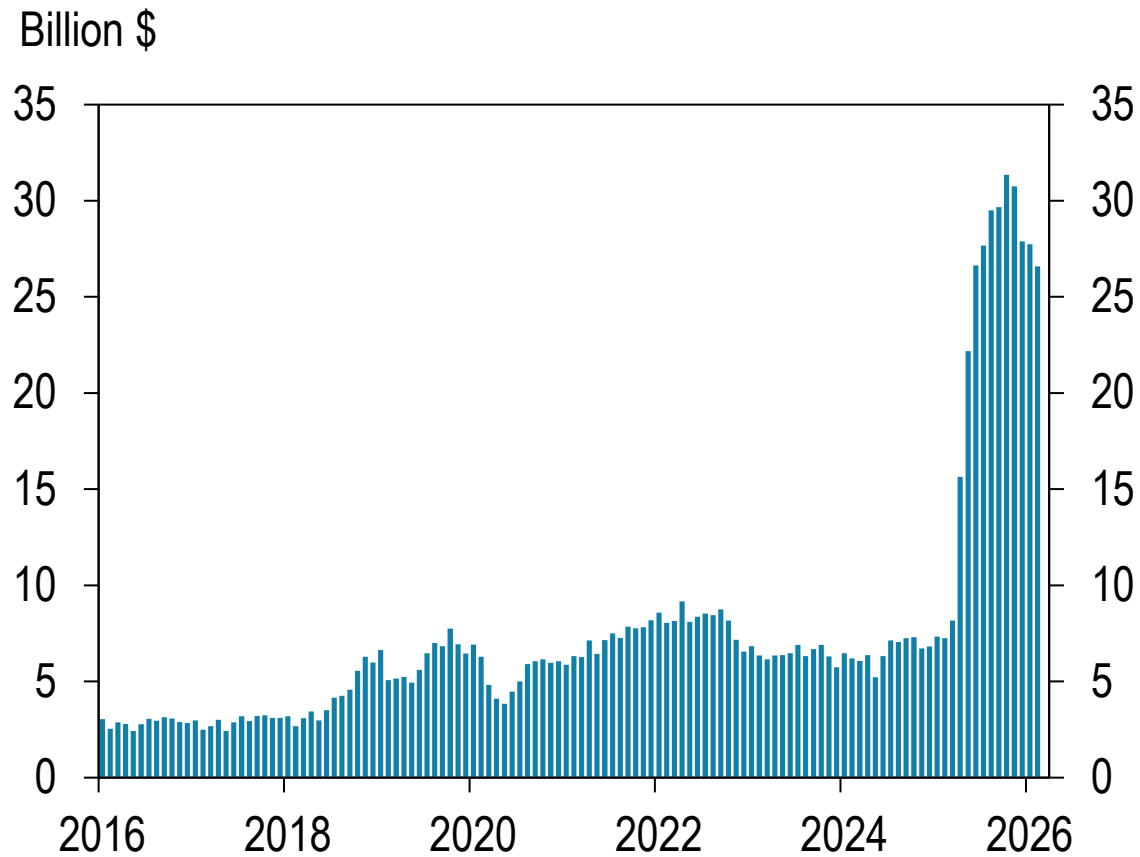
2024



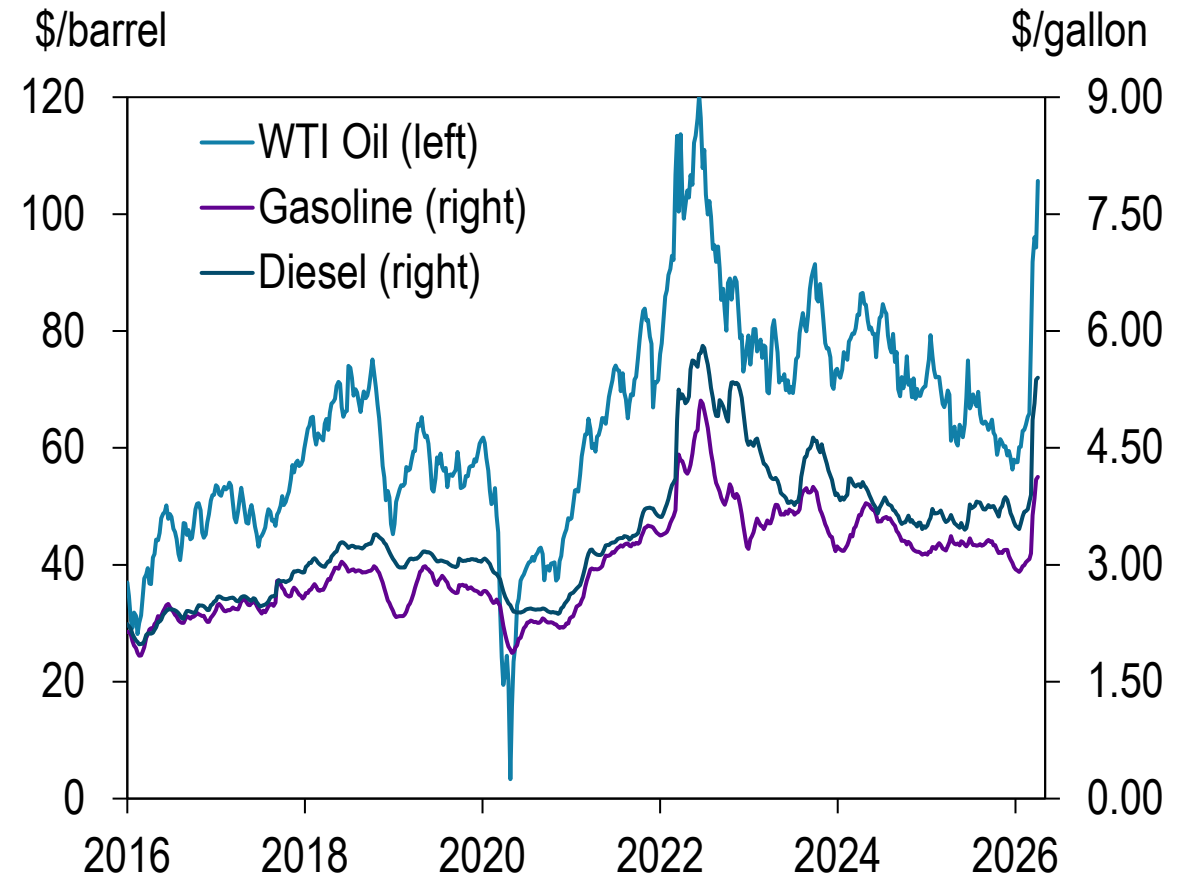
Notes: Costs include mortgage payment, insurance, and maintenance. 2024 data through October.  
Sources: Zillow, BLS, U.S. Census Bureau (IPUMS NHGIS), WSJ (Haver Analytics), staff calculations

# Customs taxes collected and fuel prices are elevated, presenting upside risk to inflation

## U.S. Customs Taxes Collected

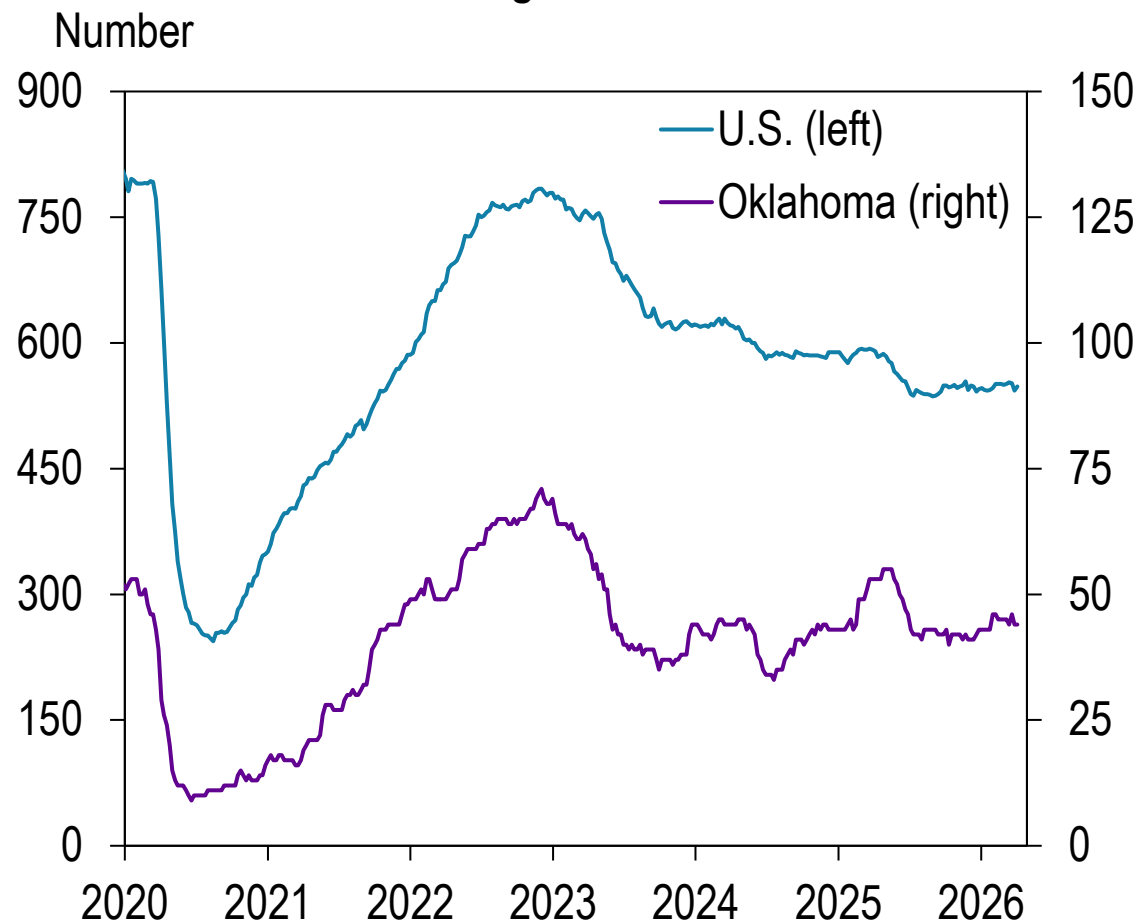


## U.S. Oil and Fuel Prices



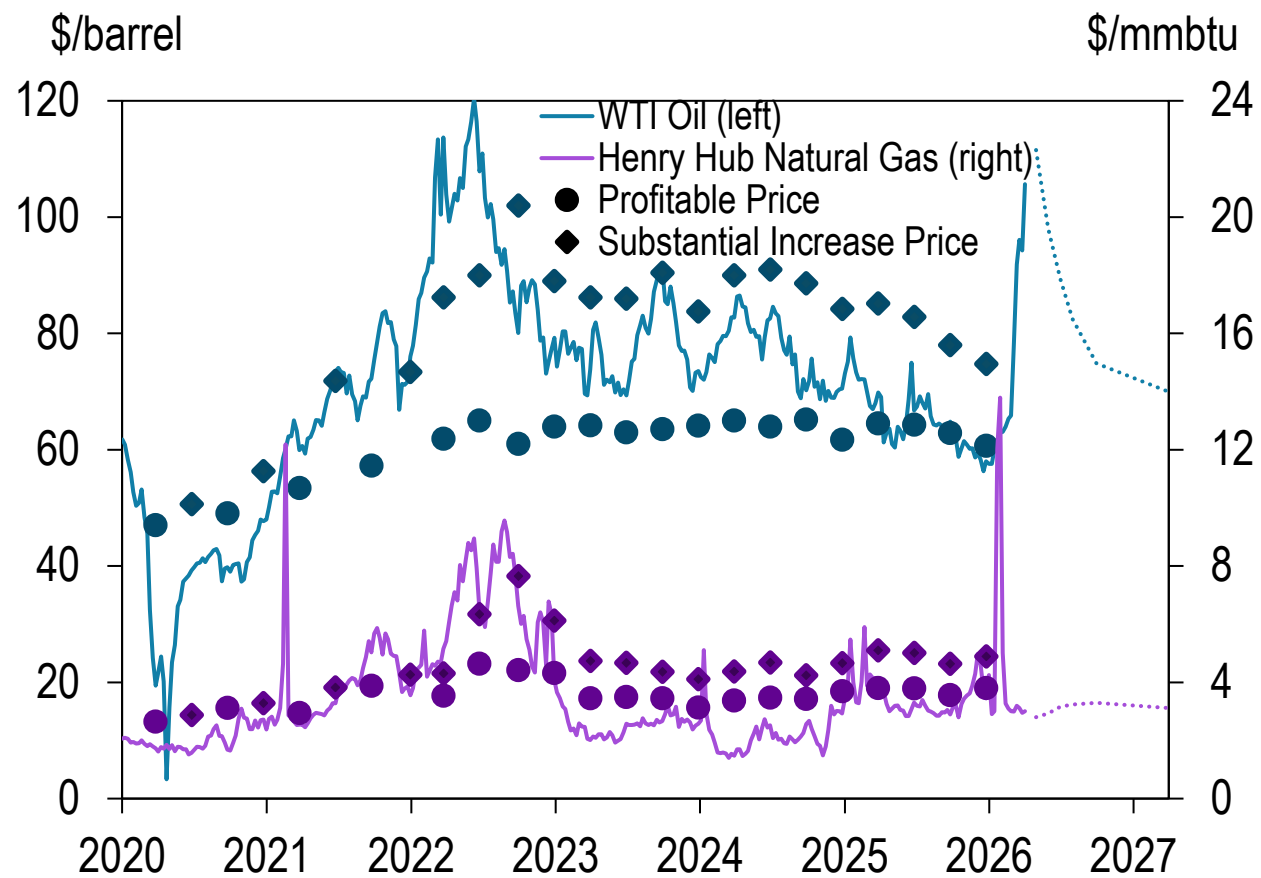
# Oil prices have surged since the Middle Eastern conflict, but are not yet expected to sustain levels supporting a substantial increase in drilling

## Rig Counts



Source: Baker Hughes, EIA/Haver Analytics, FRBKC Surveys

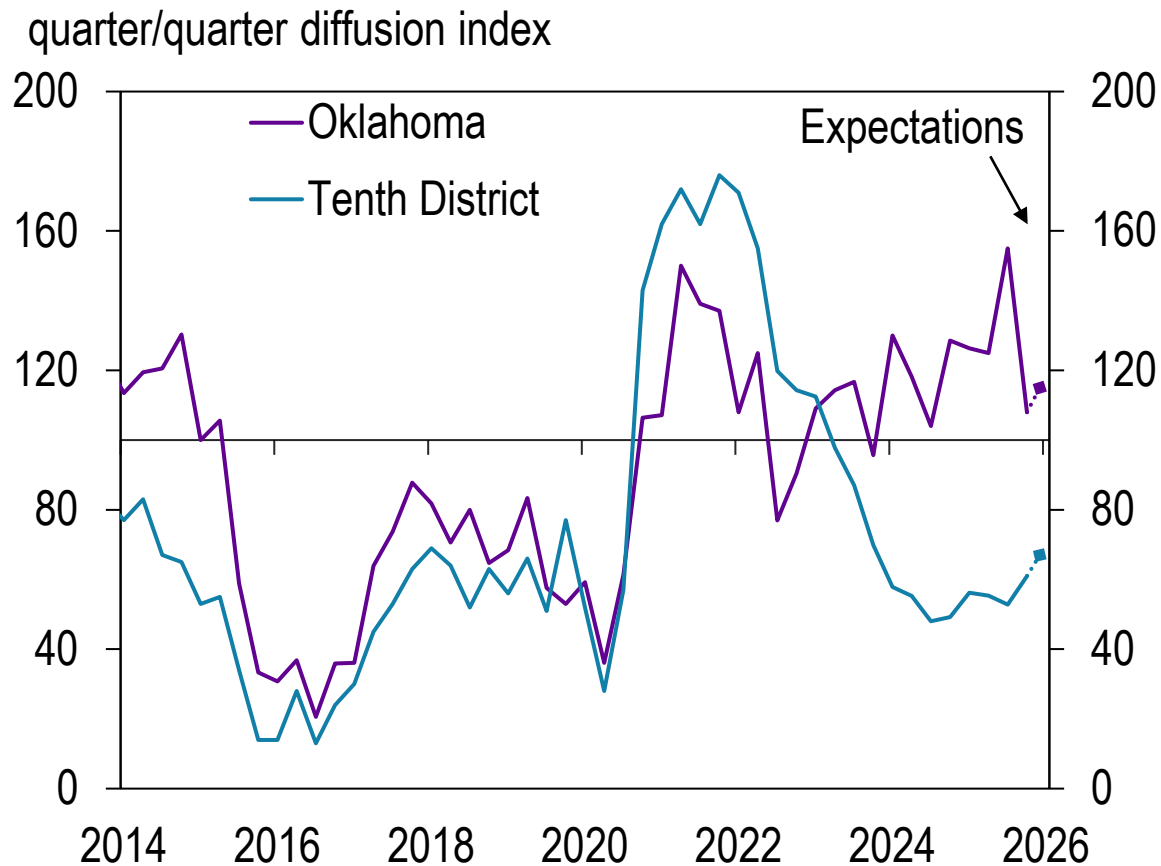
## U.S. Energy Prices



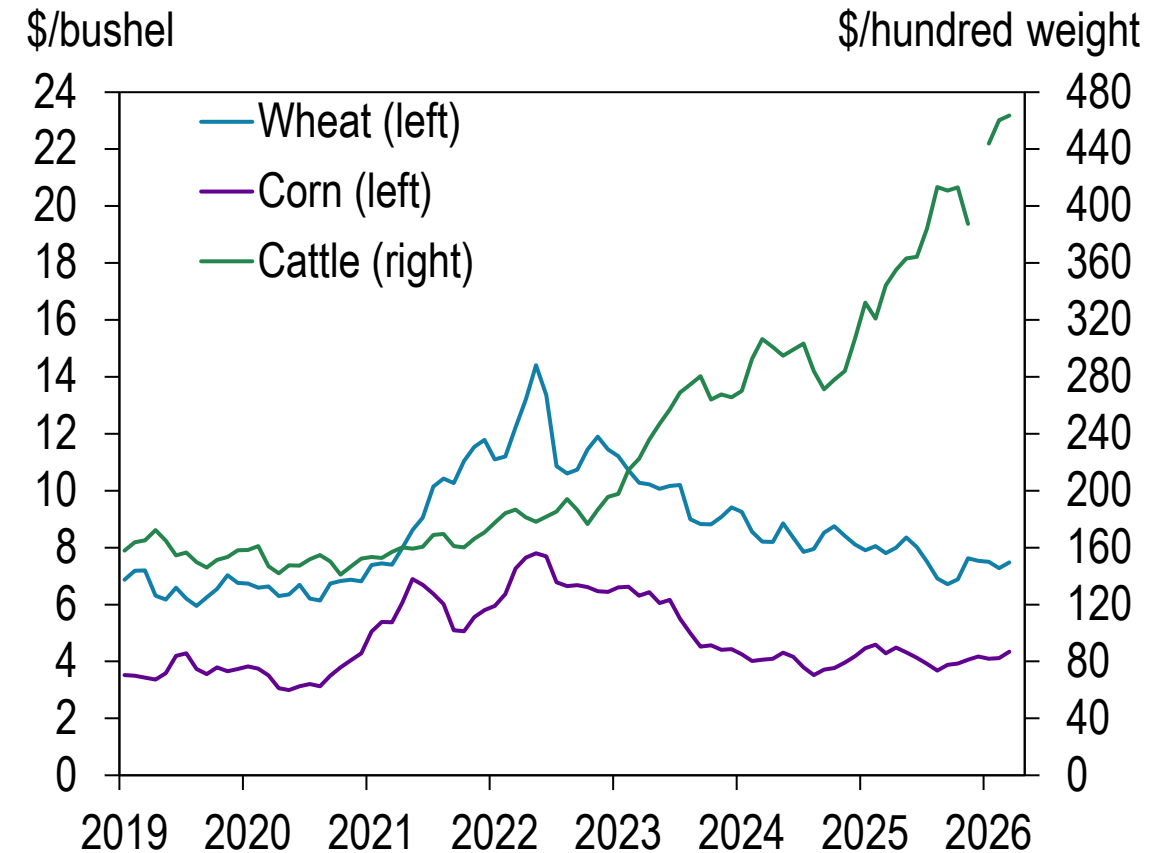
Note: Dotted lines show NYM futures as of April 2, 2026.

# Oklahoma farm income grew in Q4 while it declined in other District states, partially due to higher cattle prices

## Farm Income

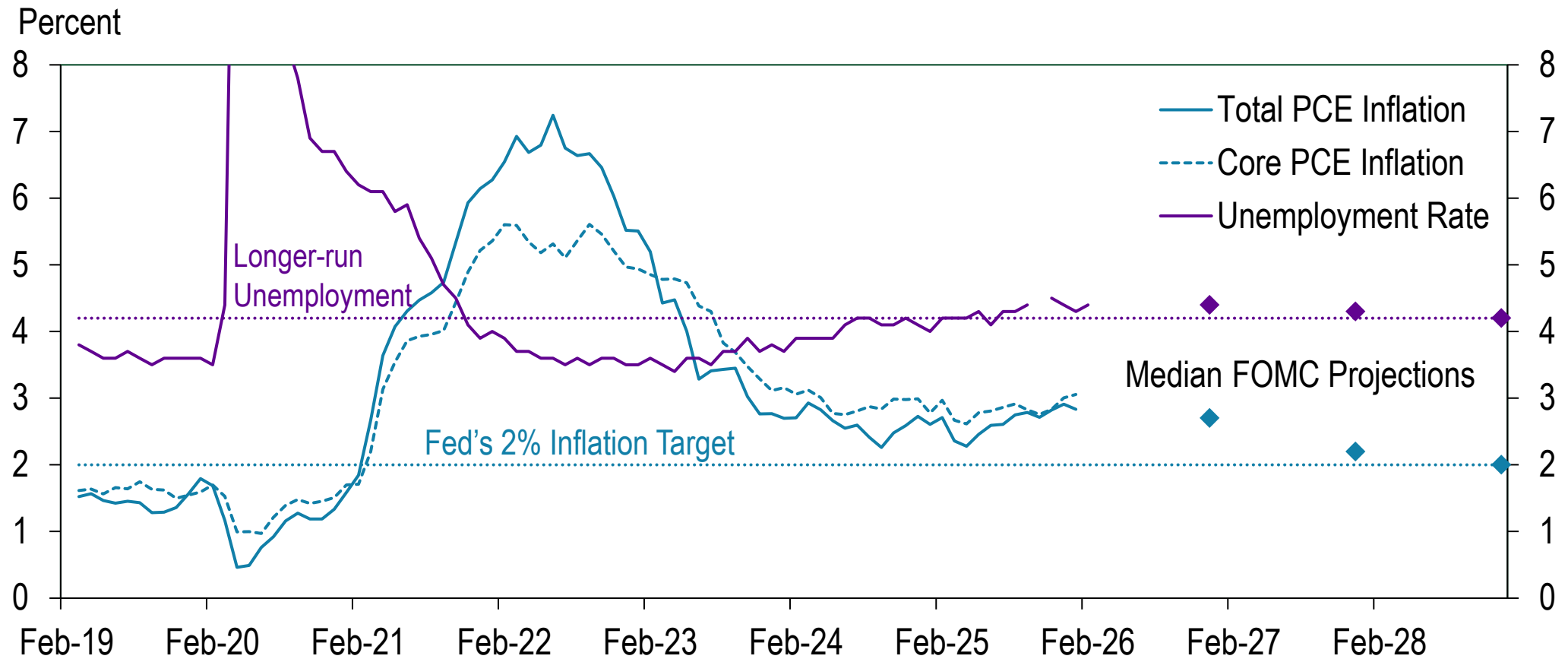


## Agricultural Commodity Prices

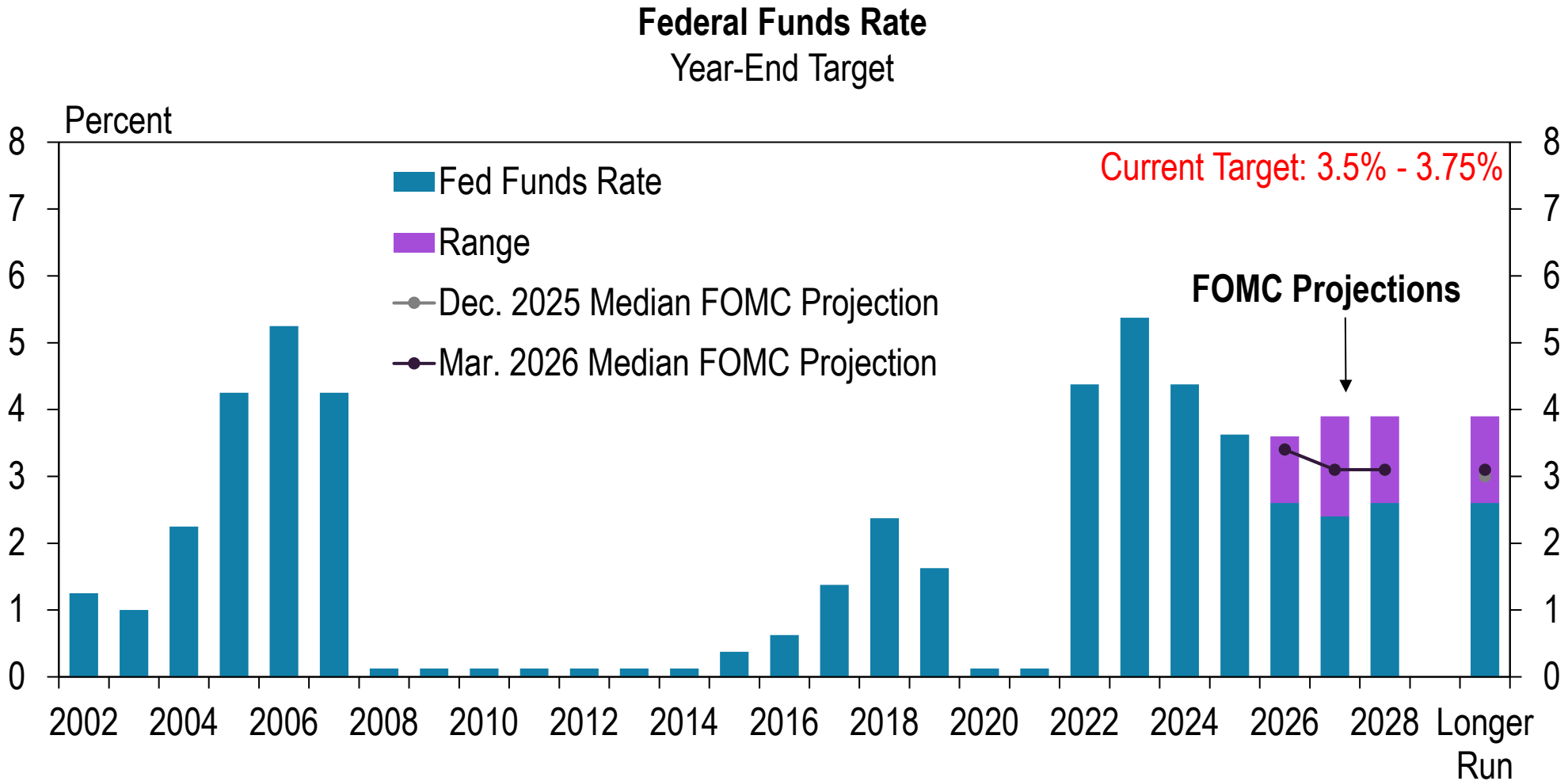


# Inflation and unemployment have come closer to the Fed's targets, but progress on inflation has stalled

## U.S. Inflation and Unemployment



# The Fed held the federal funds rate steady in January and the latest projections are shown

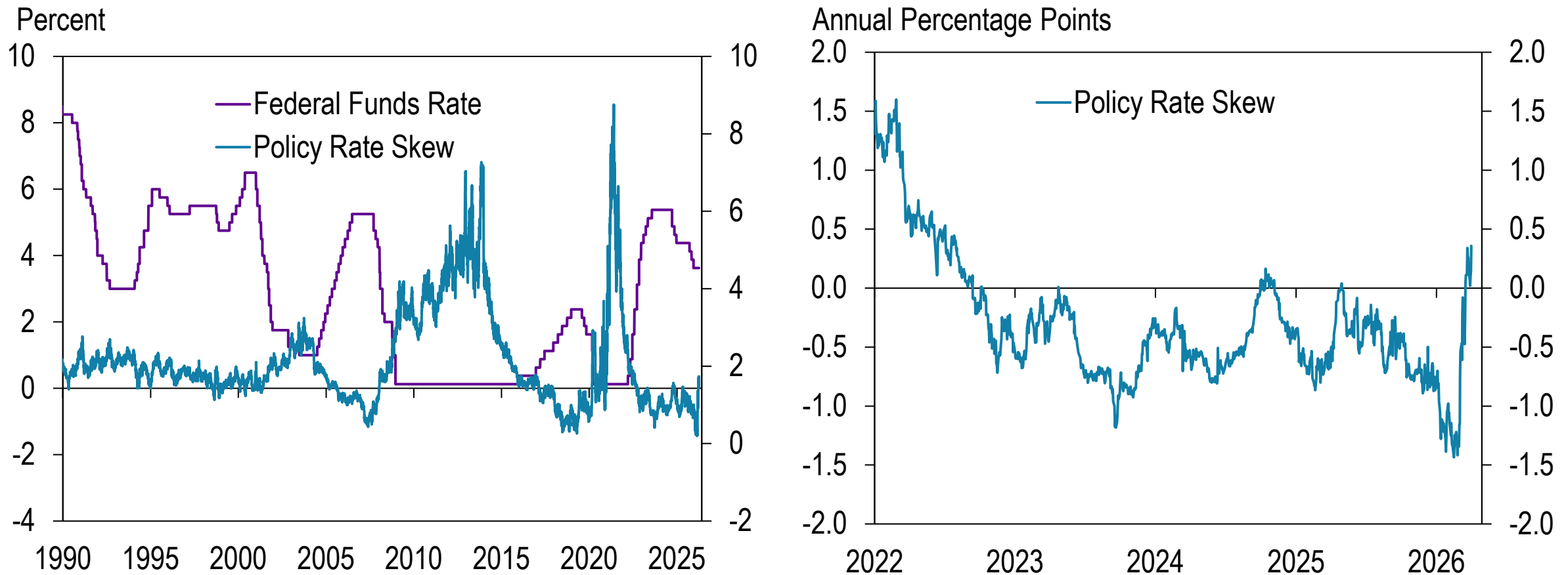


Note: Data and FOMC projections are for year-end.

Sources: Bureau of Economic Analysis, FOMC

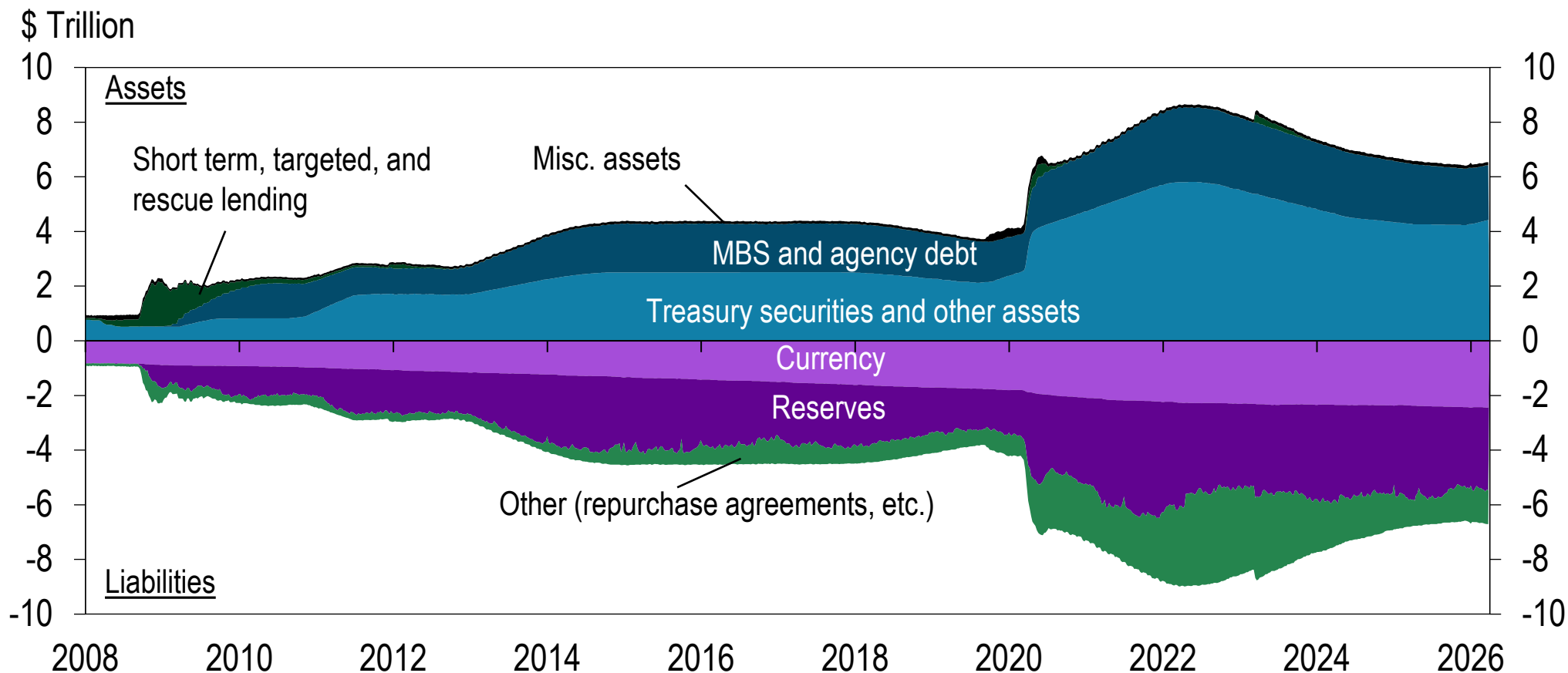
# The Kansas Fed's policy rate skew is near zero, indicating markets may be equally concerned about growth and inflation

## Kansas City Fed Policy Rate Skew



# The FOMC also started purchases of short-term Treasury securities to maintain an ample supply of bank reserves

## Federal Reserve Balance Sheet



# Thank you!

RECEIVE REGULAR UPDATES ABOUT  
*Oklahoma's economy*

For more analysis of the Oklahoma economy, regional manufacturing conditions and regional energy conditions, subscribe to receive e-mail alerts from the KANSAS CITY FED.

Visit *[kansascityfed.org/lealert](http://kansascityfed.org/lealert)* to subscribe!

