

W U T I S



## Global Markets Division

### Inflation Risk Premia

Examining the long-term implications of a rising U.S. national debt in Nominal and TIPS Yields

**Investment Horizon:** Long-Term

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1	Macroeconomic Analysis	4
2	U.S. Deficit and Debt	9
3	Model and Trade	15
4	Appendix	19



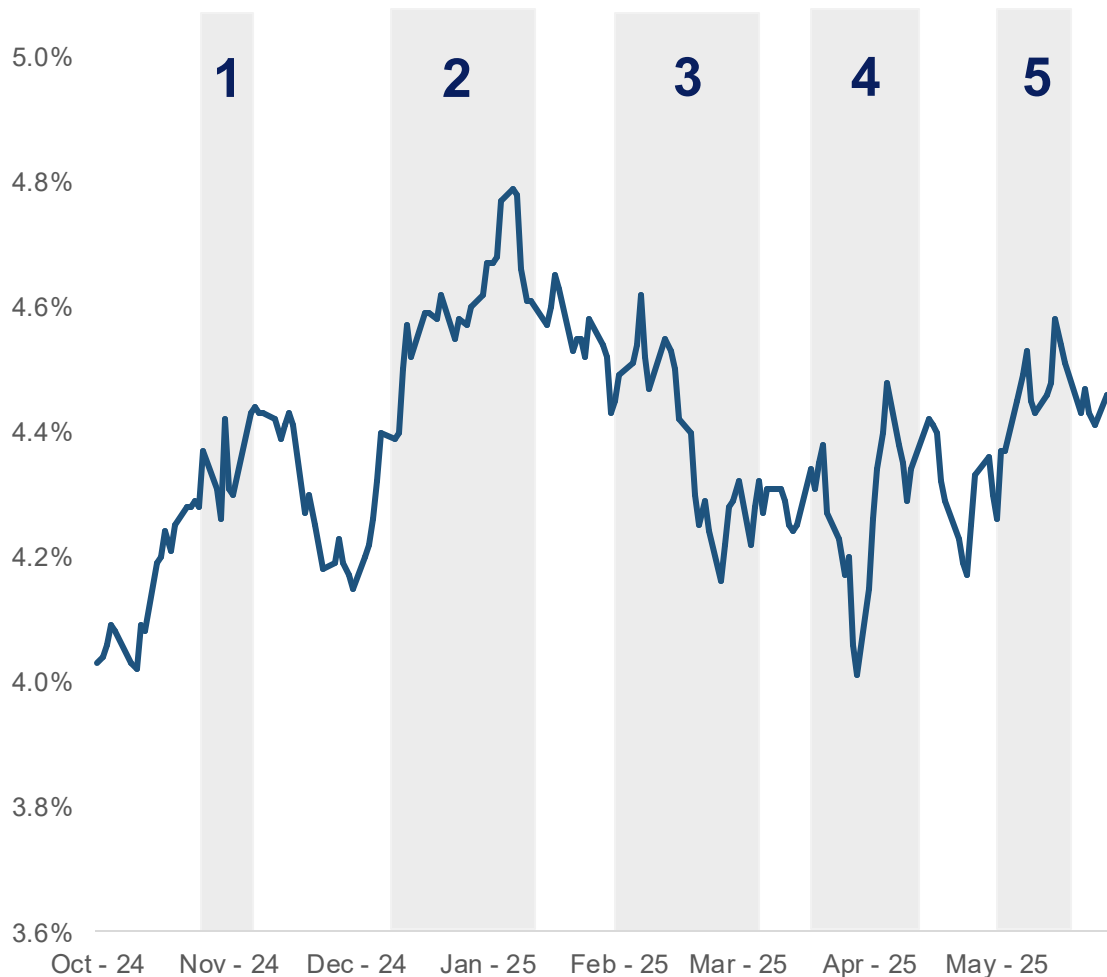


# Macroeconomic Analysis

# Yields

## What Moved Markets

### 10-Y Treasury Yield



### Events

- 1** Bonds sold off after November's election results as traders priced in Trump's campaign promises, including his **inflationary tariffs**.
- 2** Economic uncertainty started appearing in the Treasury market as investors became **weary about inflationary and Fed rate moves**.
- 3** Weaker manufacturing outlooks, lower real personal spending, and a rise in jobless claims **pointed toward a growth slowdown**.
- 4** While yields initially dropped, treasuries sold off due to fears of **inflation, trade retaliation, and reduced confidence in US assets**.
- 5** Although trade tensions eased, worries about the **deficit rose** in light of the **GOP Spending and Tax Bill** and **weaker auctions**.

## Labor Market Loses Momentum Amid Weaker Growth

### Economic Conditions

#### Softening of Economic Activity



While the labor market remains broadly stable, **momentum is gradually fading** and **signs of cooling conditions** emerge.

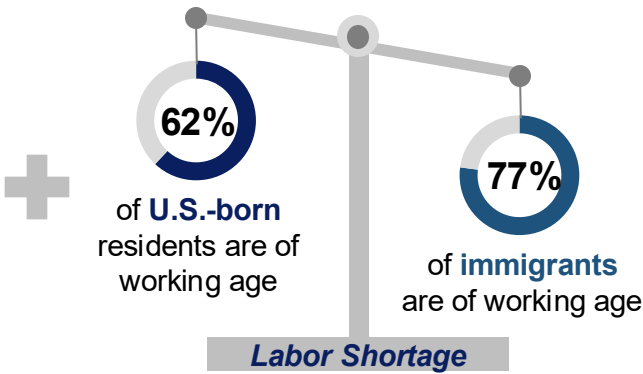


Real GDP contracted in Q1 2025 with higher imports and reduced government expenditure, while **growth expectations remain subdued**.




Ongoing **trade negotiations** and **potential tariff changes** add to near-term economic uncertainty.

#### Immigration Crackdown

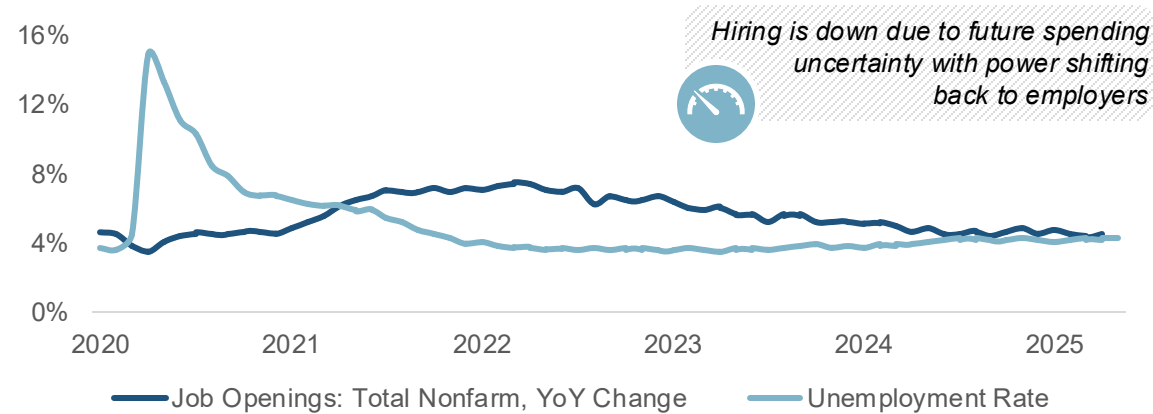


Slowing economic activity coupled with **unresolved trade risks**.

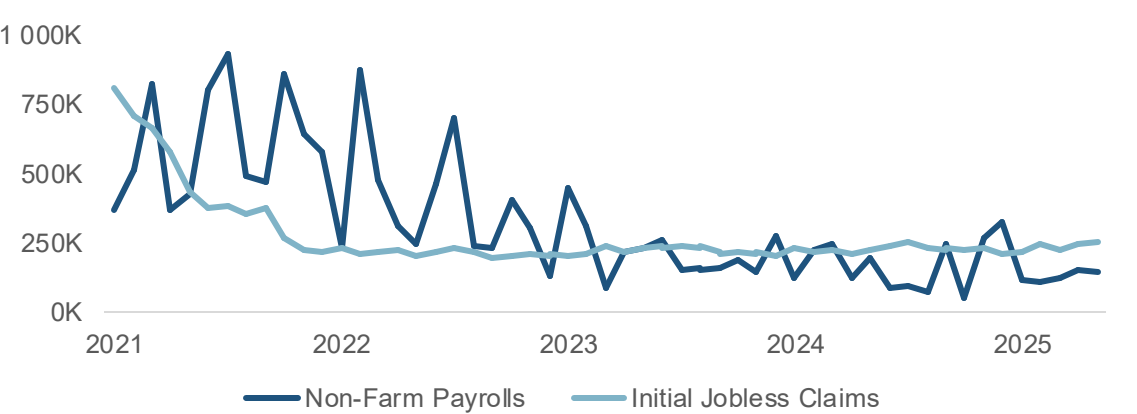
Diminishing labor market strength, with supply constraints likely to persist.

 **Uncertain near-term outlook sustained with policy dynamics, weakening growth and labor market.**

### Hiring Slowdown

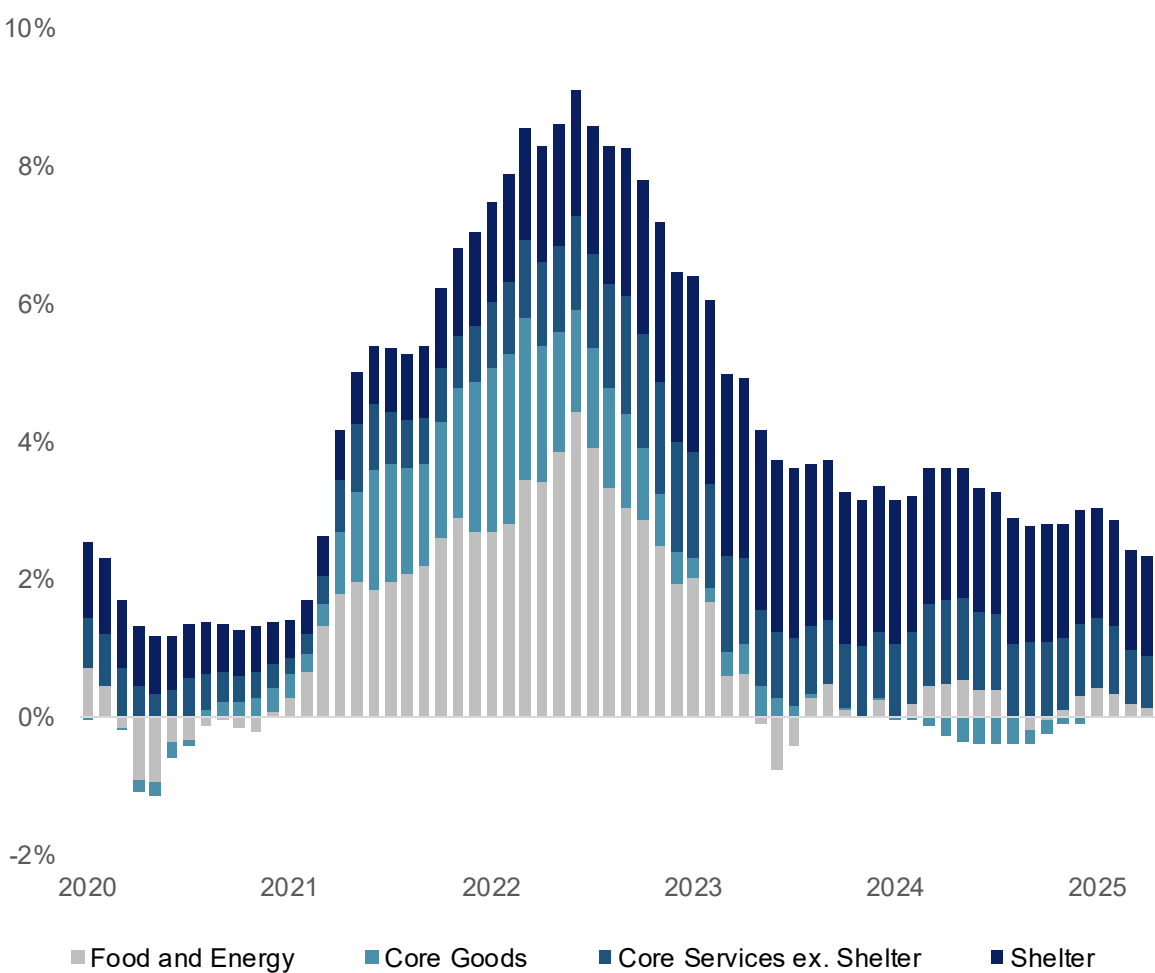


### Labor Market

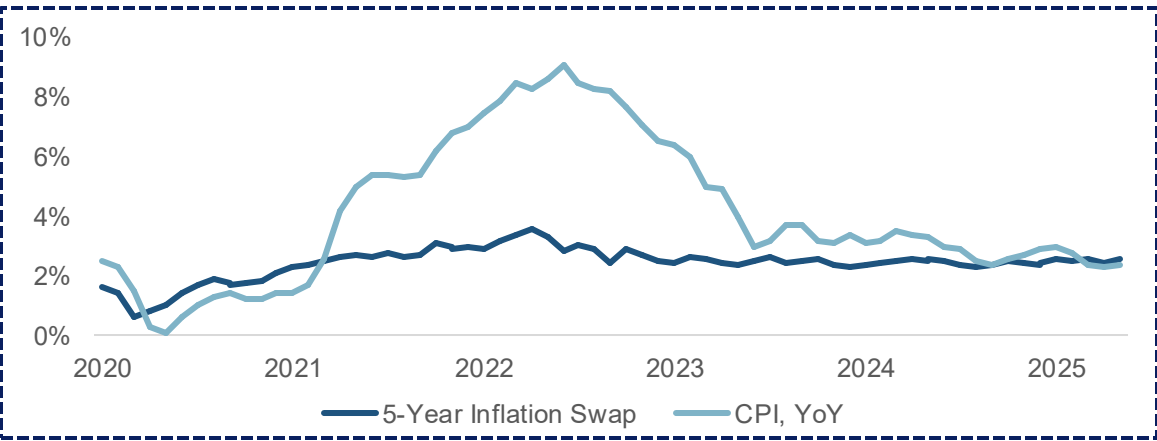


## Cooling Headline Inflation, But Volatility Ahead

Inflation Decomposition, YoY



Inflation vs. Market Expectations



Outlook Uncertainty

**Tariff impact on households** remained relatively **limited**, as companies work through their **stock of products brought in before the tariffs** were in place.

While **housing and grocery prices continue to climb**, these gains are offset by **price reductions in other segments**, including petrol, airfares and apparel.



**Persistent uncertainty renders short-term inflation path unclear, underscoring a focus on long-term structural trends.**



While near-term inflation remains uncertain, structural forces are increasingly shaping the long-run inflation regime.

### Demographics



An aging population **reduces labor force participation** and raises **entitlement spending**, placing sustained pressure on economic output and the federal budget.

### Deglobalization



The reversal of global supply chains **increases production costs** and weakens price competition, as countries re-shore key **industries through tariffs and subsidies**.

### Energy Transition



The shift to green energy requires **large upfront investment** in infrastructure, with governments funding the transition through **subsidies and fiscal support**.

### Geopolitics



Heightened geopolitical tensions are driving **long-term increases in defense and industrial spending**. These are often combined with little budgetary offset.

### Debt



Each of these forces pushes **governments to spend more**. With limited political appetite for consolidation, debt becomes the default tool, **reinforcing long-run inflation pressure**.



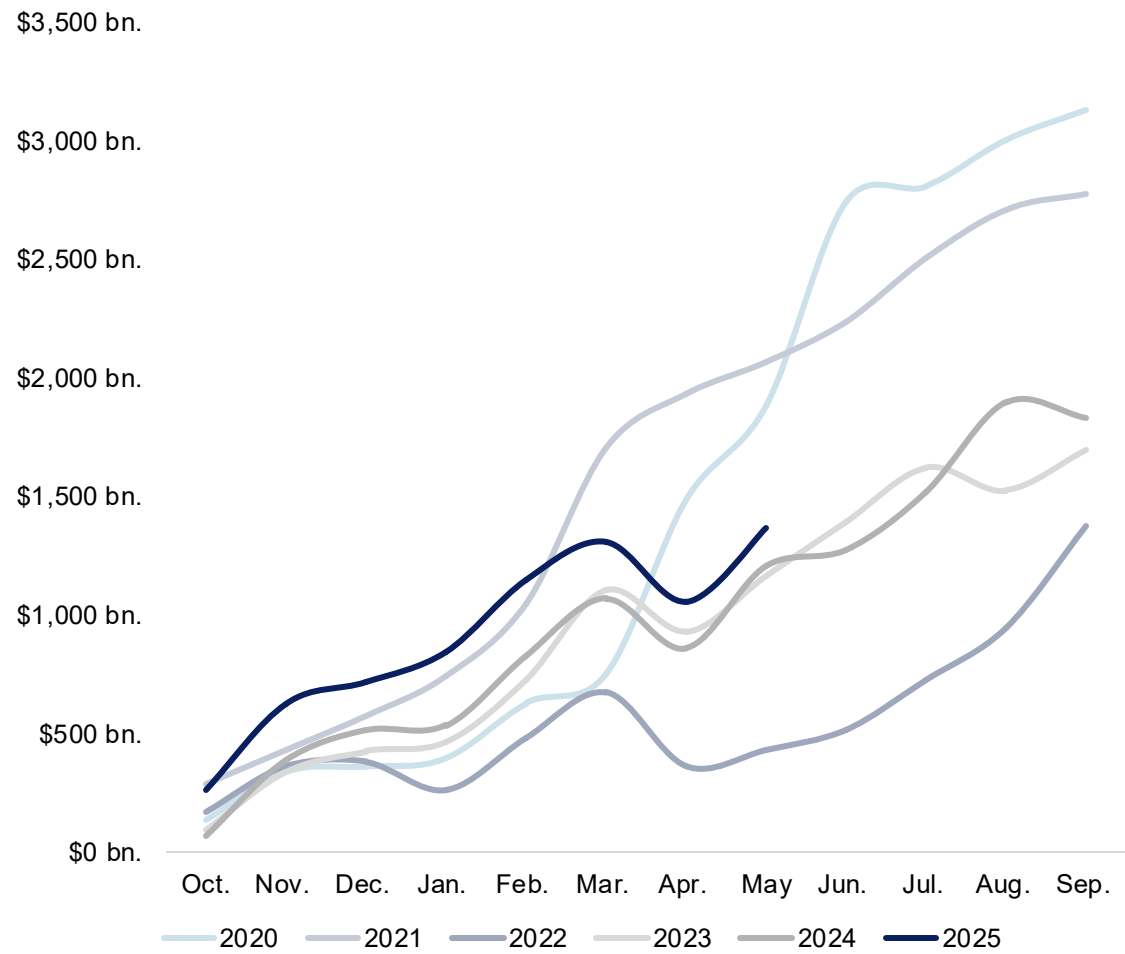


# U.S. Deficit and Debt


# The Deficit

## Deficits Continue to Expand


### U.S. Yearly Deficit




### The Spending Problem



Every **fiscal year since 2002**, the federal government has **run a deficit** as it has spent more than it has collected in revenue.



**Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and defense spending** are major components of mandatory and discretionary spending.



In FY24 the deficit was equal to **6.4% of GDP**. Before 2020, the government would have to run such **deficits to get the economy out of a recession**.

### A New Normal



## Is Trump's Policy a Fiscal Blowout?

### What Are the Current Implications?

#### Big Beautiful Bill

##### Spending Cuts

Medicaid and Nutrition: **\$1 trillion**

Student Loan Relief: **\$350 billion**

Clean Energy Credit: **\$560 billion**

##### Spending Boost

Debt Ceiling Increase: **\$5 trillion**

MAGA and Defense: **\$891 billion**

SALT Limit raise: **\$624 billion**

### Trump Policy

#### Tariffs

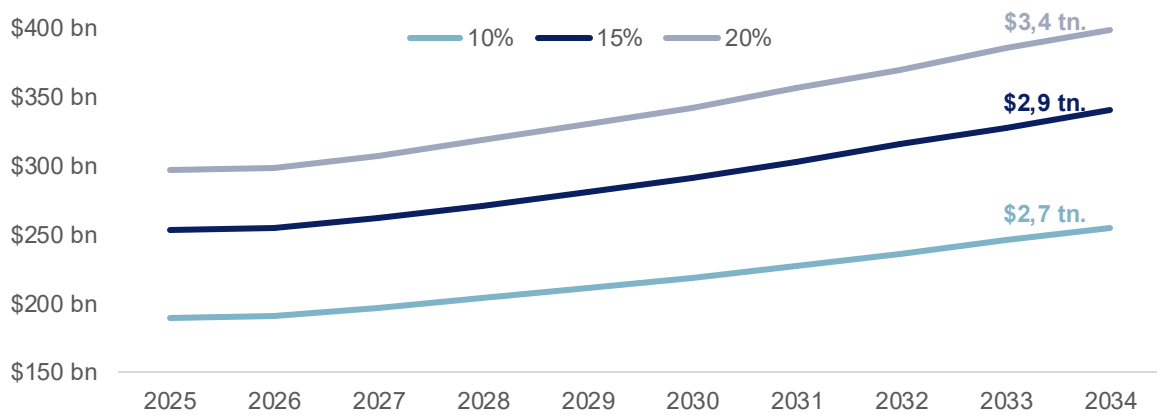
An **10-15% effective tariff rate** on US imports will produce about **\$2.8 trillion in revenue**.

#### Federal Job Cuts

**Federal job cuts**, will shrink the federal workforce by **10%** and add total cost savings of another **\$280 billion**.

The House bill appears fiscally neutral for now, but its sustainability hinges on spending cuts that **may not survive Senate revisions**.

### Estimated Yearly Tariff Revenue



### Deficit Impact

\$1.6 trillion in net offsets will most likely be **diluted in the Senate** especially as Medicare cuts **face resistance from the GOP**.


The Senate's concurrent resolution allows a **\$5.8 trillion net deficit increase** and only a **\$4 billion in gross deficit reduction**.

\$1 trillion – \$2 trillion added to national debt.


# Increasing Deficits

## Growing Mandatory Spending Pushes Deficits Further


### Drivers



As seen from policy decisions, a **spending slowdown does not seem likely** and will be amplified through structural changes. These fiscal challenges could push the **deficit to 9% of GDP by 2035**.



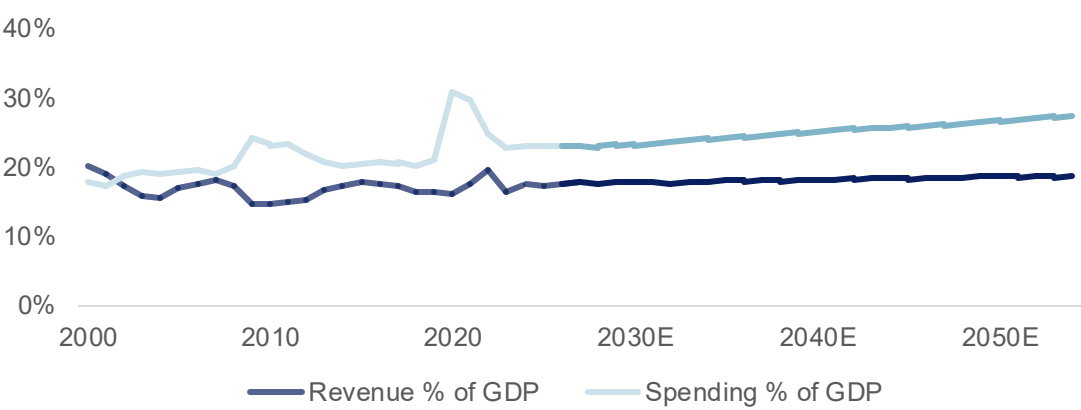
Spending for **Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid programs** have increased since 2008 and will continue to do so with an aging population especially as the **65-and-older age group's** share of the total population is projected to rise from **17% to 23% by 2050**.



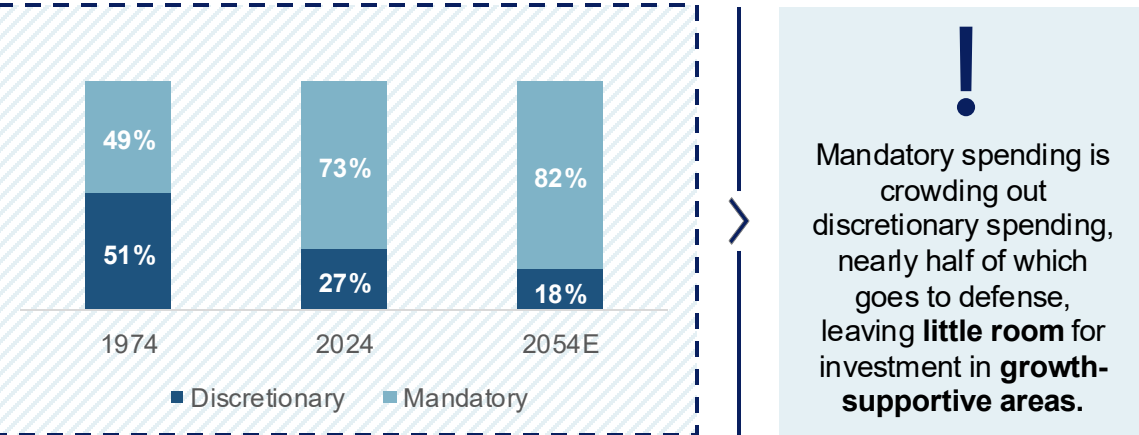
Net Interest spending is growing, with a **14% increase YoY in FY24**. Over the next 20 years, the U.S. federal government will spend about the **same on interest payments on its debt as on Medicare and defense spending**.

As revenues will not be able to keep up with increasing mandatory spending, **Treasury issuance** will continue to put **pressure on the U.S. national debt**.

### Mismatch Between Federal Revenue and Spending

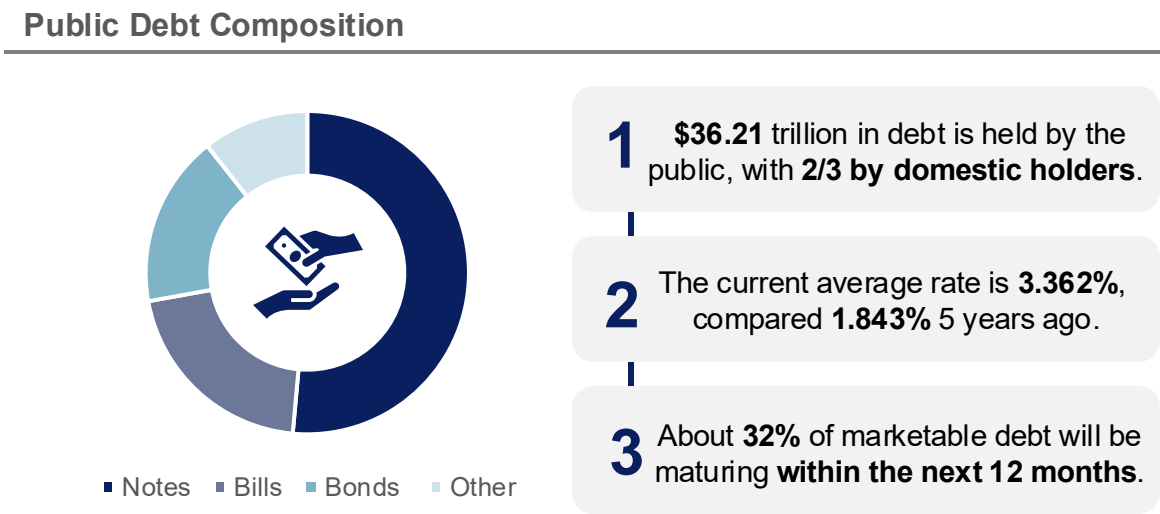
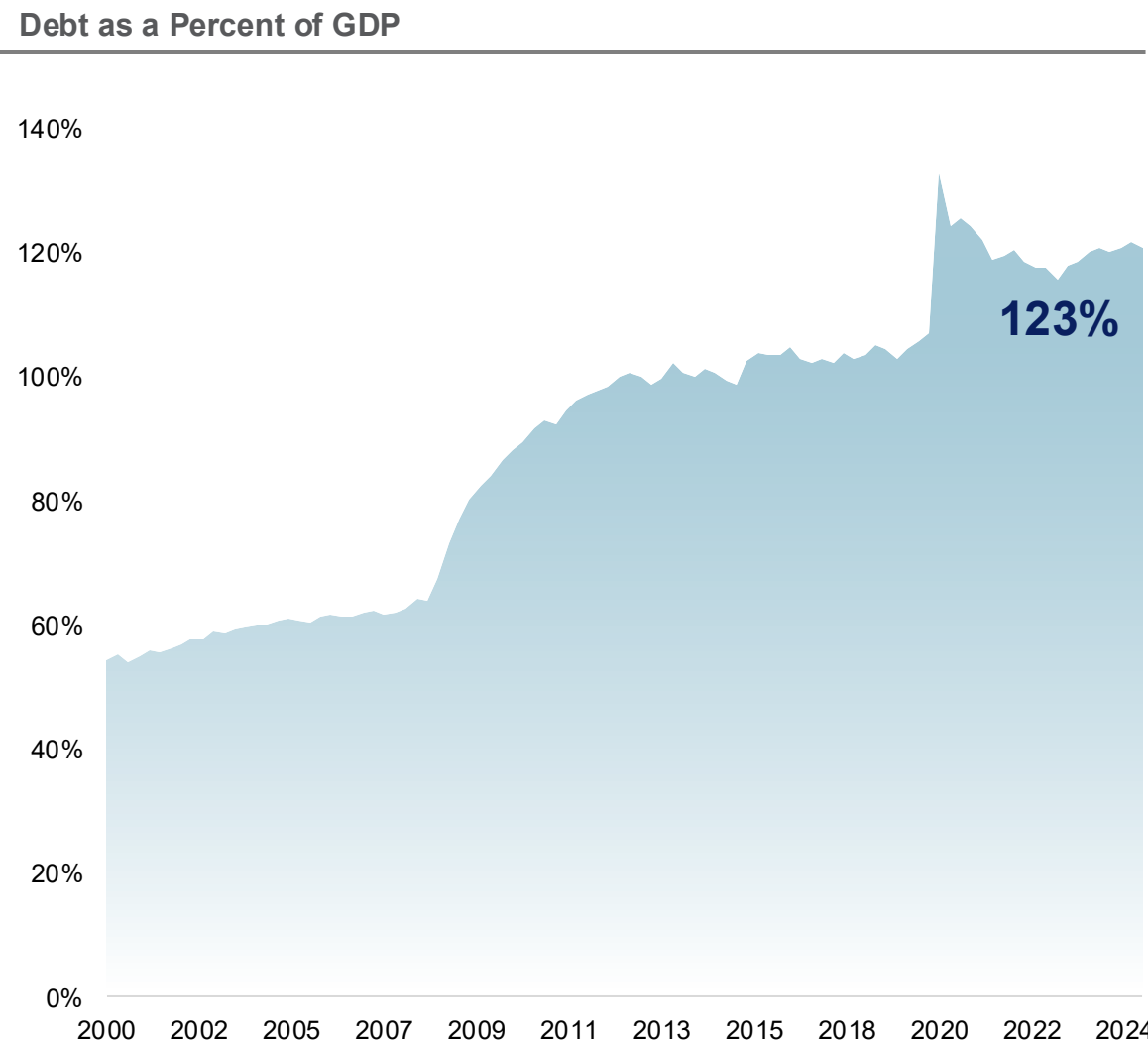


### Mandatory vs. Discretionary Spending, % of Federal Spending





## The Cycle of Rising Debt and Rates



### Outlook

With rising deficits, debt is projected to exceed **156% of GDP by 2055**, pressuring rates upwards.

The treasury plans to **refinance \$3T** in maturing short-term debt into longer tenors in 2025, straining the intermediate and long ends.

Refinancing at higher rates reinforces a cycle of debt-driven issuance and rising costs: **a long-term drag on fiscal stability**.



# Unsustainable Debt

## Rising Debt Loads are Structurally Inflationary

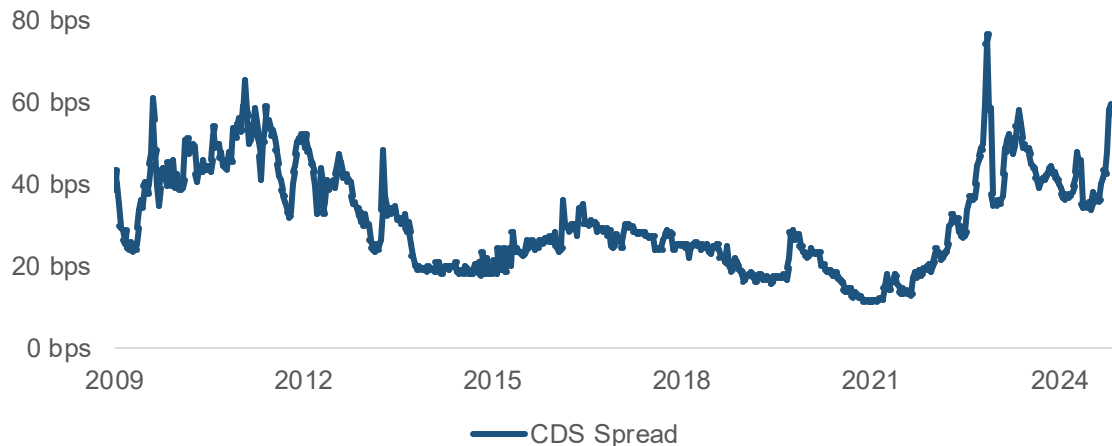
### Debt Concerns in 5Y CDS



The date when the government can't meet its financial obligations (X-Date) is projected to fall between Aug. and Oct.

The debt-ceiling will most likely be raised by congress before the X-Date.

While a default is highly unlikely, a rising debt-tolerance underlines structural fragilities and changes.



### Long-Run Implications



*Increased entitlement spending through secular changes will continue the cycle of debt issuance, creating a growing source of future inflation pressure.*

#### Higher Rates

As debt rises, markets demand **higher yields**, pushing up interest rates across the economy and **tightening overall financial conditions**.

#### Crowding Out

Rising debt **crowds out** private investment and shifts government spending toward interest and entitlements, **squeezing out supply-enhancing areas**.



Higher rates **raise the cost of mortgages, credit, and refinancing** which contributes to **upward pressure on consumer prices**.

High debt limits the Fed's ability to raise rates, as tighter policy worsens debt sustainability, **weakening the response to future inflation shocks**.

#### Increasing Costs

#### Fiscal Dominance



# Model & Trade

## Decomposing Breakeven Inflation Through Nominal and Treasury Inflation Protected Security Yields

### Goal of the Model

$$BEI^{(n)} = E^{\mathbb{Q}}[\pi^{(n)}] + IRP^{(n)} - LP$$



BEI is **not an appropriate measure** of market-expected inflation.



Inflation risk premia is **market compensation** for bearing **inflation risk**.



Liquidity premia arise in the BEI due to **relative illiquidity of TIPS**.

Goal is to extract each of the components through affine term structure model

### Model Specifications

$X \in \mathbb{R}^6 : X := (3 \text{ PCs}; 2 \text{ PCs}^{TIPS}; \text{Liqui.})$

pricing series  $X$   
 =  
 3 Treasuries-specific factors  
 +  
 3 TIPS-specific factors  
 ~95%  
 of yield movements

$$y_t^{(n)} = \frac{1}{n} [A_n + B_n' X_t]$$

**Affine structure** allows for a **closed-term solution** of B and A through regression of log-price returns.  
 Model produces **“backed out” yields**

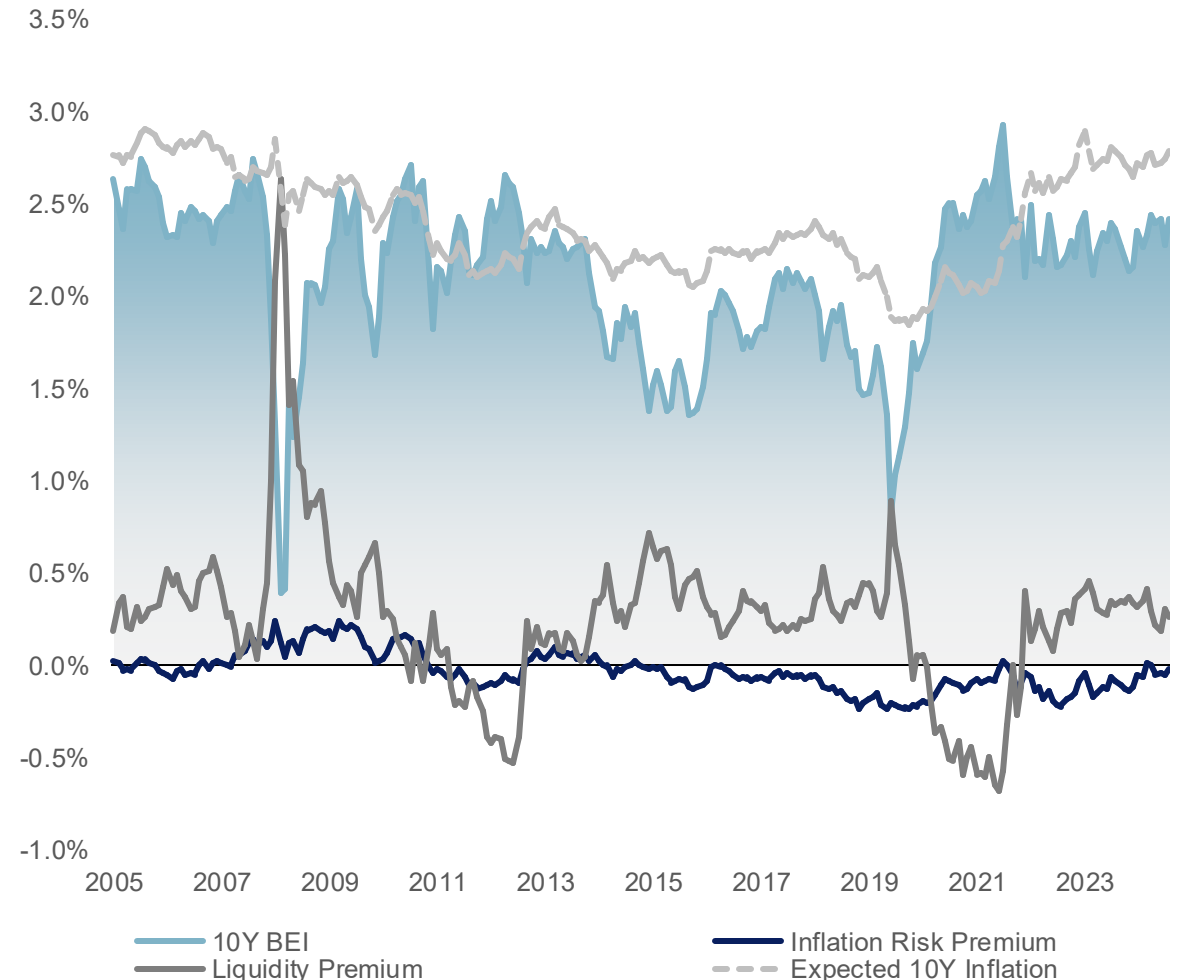
$$E^{\mathbb{Q}}[\pi_t^{(n)}] = \tilde{y}_t^{(n)} - \tilde{y}_{t,R}^{(n)}$$

**Expected inflation**  
 “BEI” under model-implied yields.

**Liquidity Premium**

**Modelled out explicitly within  $X$**

### Breakeven Inflation





## Impact of the Term Premium on Inflation Expectation

### Decomposition of Term and Inflation Risk Premia



### Inflation Risk Premium

$$IRP^{(n)} = E^{\mathbb{P}}[\pi^{(n)}] - E^{\mathbb{Q}}[\pi^{(n)}] = TP^{(n)} - TP_R^{(n)}$$



IRP determines the **steepness of the break even inflation**.



Higher IRP **does not** correspond to higher expected inflation.

$$TP^{(n)} = y^{\mathbb{P},(n)} - y^{\mathbb{Q},(n)}$$

Decomposes into the **term premia gap between nominal and real rates**.

*IRP-based trade reflects the degree of investor aversion to taking inflation risk.*

### Implications



The path of **inflation remains highly uncertain** amid shifting tariff policies, geopolitical instability, and the risk of economic downturns.



High debt tightens financial conditions, **crowds out investments**, and **reduces the ability to respond** forcefully to inflation shocks, while rising mandatory spending makes it increasingly difficult to rein in deficits.



**Structural challenges surrounding fiscal and monetary policy will drive the premium for bearing long-term inflation risk higher.**

# Trade Overview

## Structure of the Trade to Reflect Rising Inflation Risk Premium

### The Strategy

#### Asset Box Spread



Pairs a **TIPS curve flattener** with a nominal **Treasury steepener** to isolate **changes in the inflation risk premium**. It profits if real yields flatten while nominal yields steepen, indicating a rise in long-term inflation compensation.



#### Co-Movement Isolation

DV01-weighted positions isolate the trade from value changes linked to parallel moves in either of the curves.



#### Inflation Expectation Neutral

Majority of unexpected inflationary movement leads to parallel shifts in the curves.

#### Trade Structure

Position	BUY 20Y TIPS	SELL 5Y TIPS	BUY 5Y Note	SELL 20Y Bond
DV01	0.08741	0.02326	0.04456	0.12782
Position	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 266,102	\$ 521,992	\$ 181,974



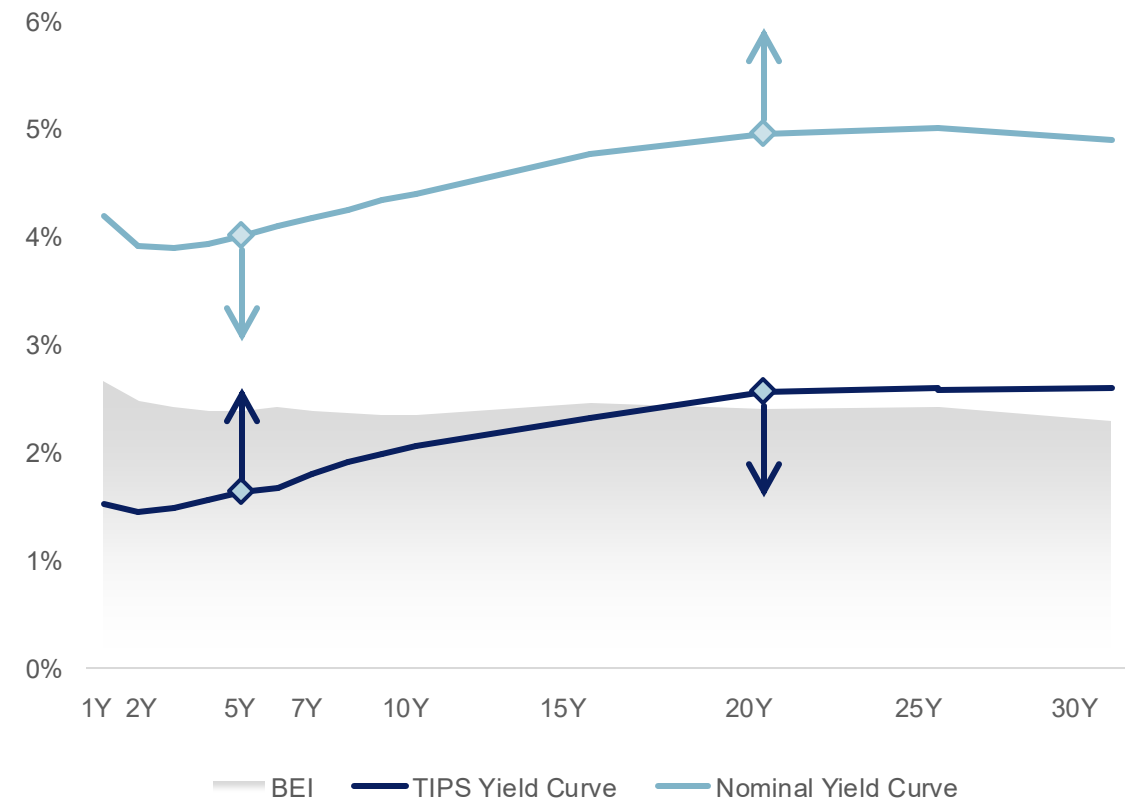
**5bps** change in either direction based on historical movements.

**1:1 Risk-Reward:**

**\$ 116,300**

### Spread Widening

**Rising inflation risk premia > steeper breakeven inflation**





A low-angle, upward-looking photograph of several modern skyscrapers. The buildings are constructed with dark, grid-like facades and glass windows. The perspective creates a sense of height and scale, with the buildings converging towards the top of the frame. The sky is a clear, pale blue. The overall color palette is dominated by blues and greys, giving it a modern, architectural feel.

# Appendix

## Sources

Source Name	Link	Date of Retrieval	Used for
Bloomberg Finance L.P.			Continuous Work
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis	<a href="#">Link</a>	29.05.2025	Yields
J.P. Morgan Wealth Management	<a href="#">Link</a>	29.05.2025	Yields
Allianz Research	<a href="#">Link</a>	14.06.2025	Long-Term Inflation
Yale Budget Lab	<a href="#">Link</a>	14.06.2025	Long-Term Inflation
Bipartisan Policy Center	<a href="#">Link</a>	10.06.2025	Deficit
American Immigration Council	<a href="#">Link</a>	15.06.2025	Demographics
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis	<a href="#">Link</a>	10.06.2025	Deficit, Labor Market
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis	<a href="#">Link</a>	10.06.2025	Deficit
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis	<a href="#">Link</a>	10.06.2025	Deficit
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis	<a href="#">Link</a>	10.06.2025	Labor Market
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis	<a href="#">Link</a>	10.06.2025	Labor Market
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis	<a href="#">Link</a>	10.06.2025	Labor Market

Sources

Source Name	Link	Date of Retrieval	Used for
Peter G. Peterson Foundation	<a href="#">Link</a>	10.06.2025	Deficit
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis	<a href="#">Link</a>	10.06.2025	Debt
United States Joint Economic Committee	<a href="#">Link</a>	15.06.2025	Debt
BlackRock	<a href="#">Link</a>	20.06.2025	Inflationary Impact
Abrahams et al. (2015) <i>Decomposing Real and Nominal Yield Curves</i>	<a href="#">Link</a>	25.05.2025	Model
Yale Budget Lab	<a href="#">Link</a>	15.06.2025	Big Beautiful Bill

*Code available upon request.*

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