
2026 California Economic & Housing Market Forecast

Bridge Association of REALTORS®

October 6, 2025

Jordan G. Levine

SVP & Chief Economist

California Association of REALTORS®



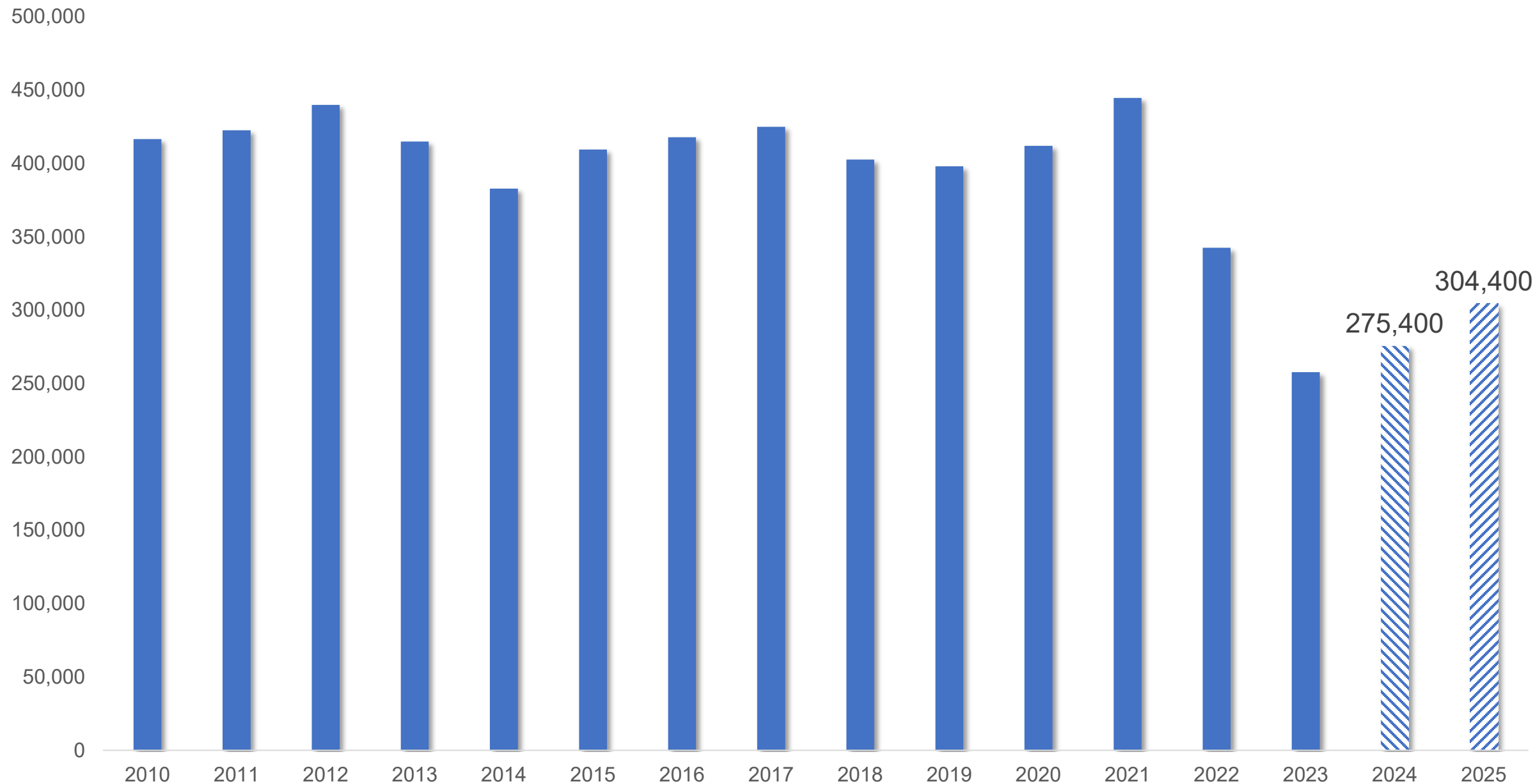
U.S. economic outlook

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024p	2025f
US GDP	1.8%	2.5%	3.0%	2.5%	-2.2%	5.8%	1.9%	2.5%	1.9%	1.1%
Nonfarm Job Growth	1.8%	1.6%	1.6%	1.3%	-5.8%	2.9%	4.3%	2.2%	1.2%	0.5%
Unemployment	4.9%	4.4%	3.9%	3.7%	8.1%	5.4%	3.6%	3.6%	4.1%	4.4%
CPI	1.3%	2.1%	2.4%	1.8%	1.2%	4.7%	8.0%	4.1%	2.9%	2.0%
Real Disposable Income, % Change	1.9%	3.1%	3.6%	3.1%	6.4%	3.1%	-5.9%	4.2%	2.0%	2.5%

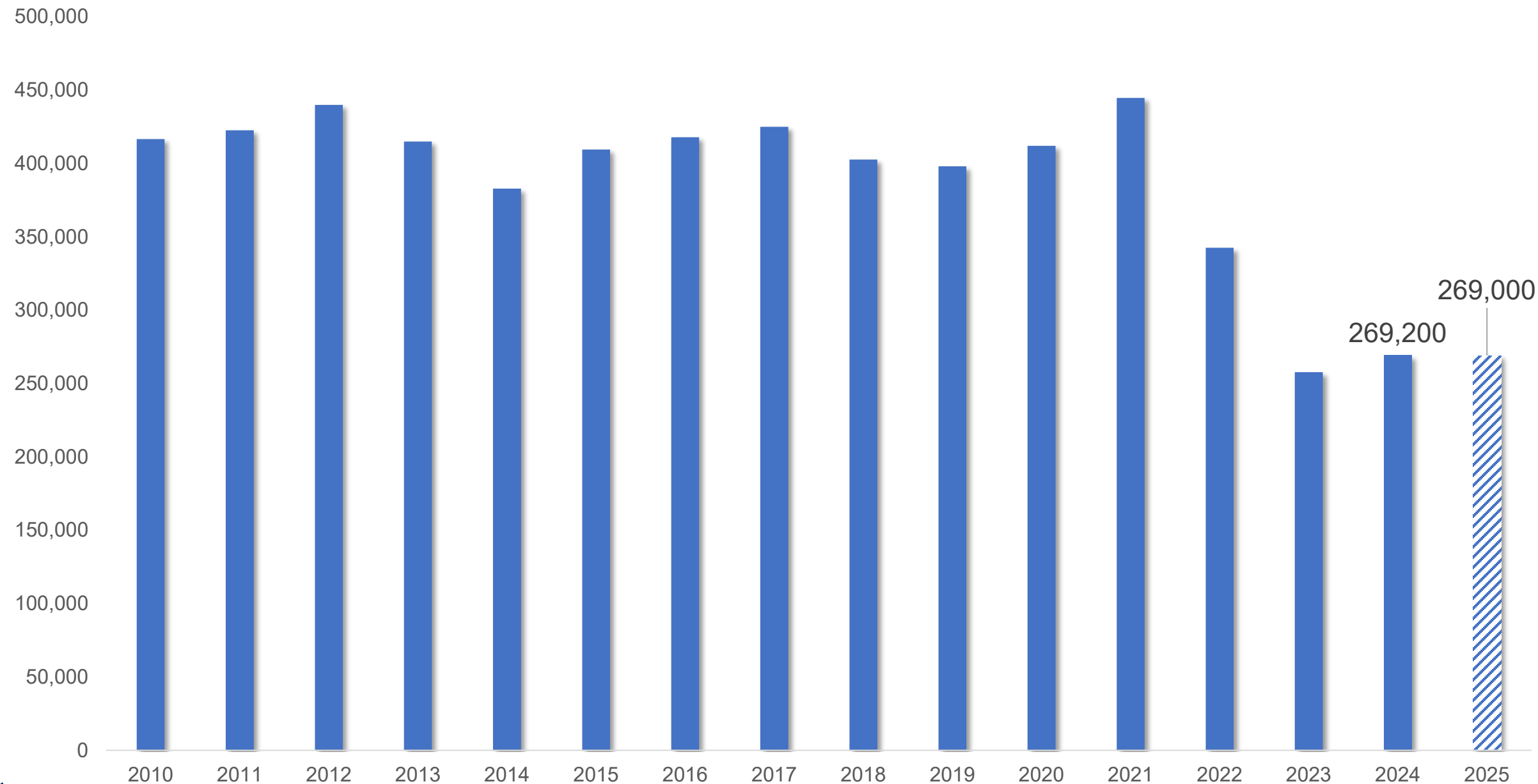
U.S. economic outlook

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025p	2026f
US GDP	1.8%	2.5%	3.0%	2.5%	-2.2%	5.8%	1.9%	2.9%	2.8%	1.3%	1.0%
Nonfarm Job Growth	1.8%	1.6%	1.6%	1.3%	-5.8%	2.9%	4.3%	2.2%	1.2%	0.9%	0.3%
Unemployment	4.9%	4.4%	3.9%	3.7%	8.1%	5.4%	3.6%	3.6%	4.0%	4.3%	4.6%
CPI	1.3%	2.1%	2.4%	1.8%	1.2%	4.7%	8.0%	4.1%	3.0%	2.8%	3.0%
Real Disp. Income, % Change	1.9%	3.1%	3.6%	3.1%	6.4%	3.1%	-5.9%	5.1%	2.9%	1.6%	1.7%

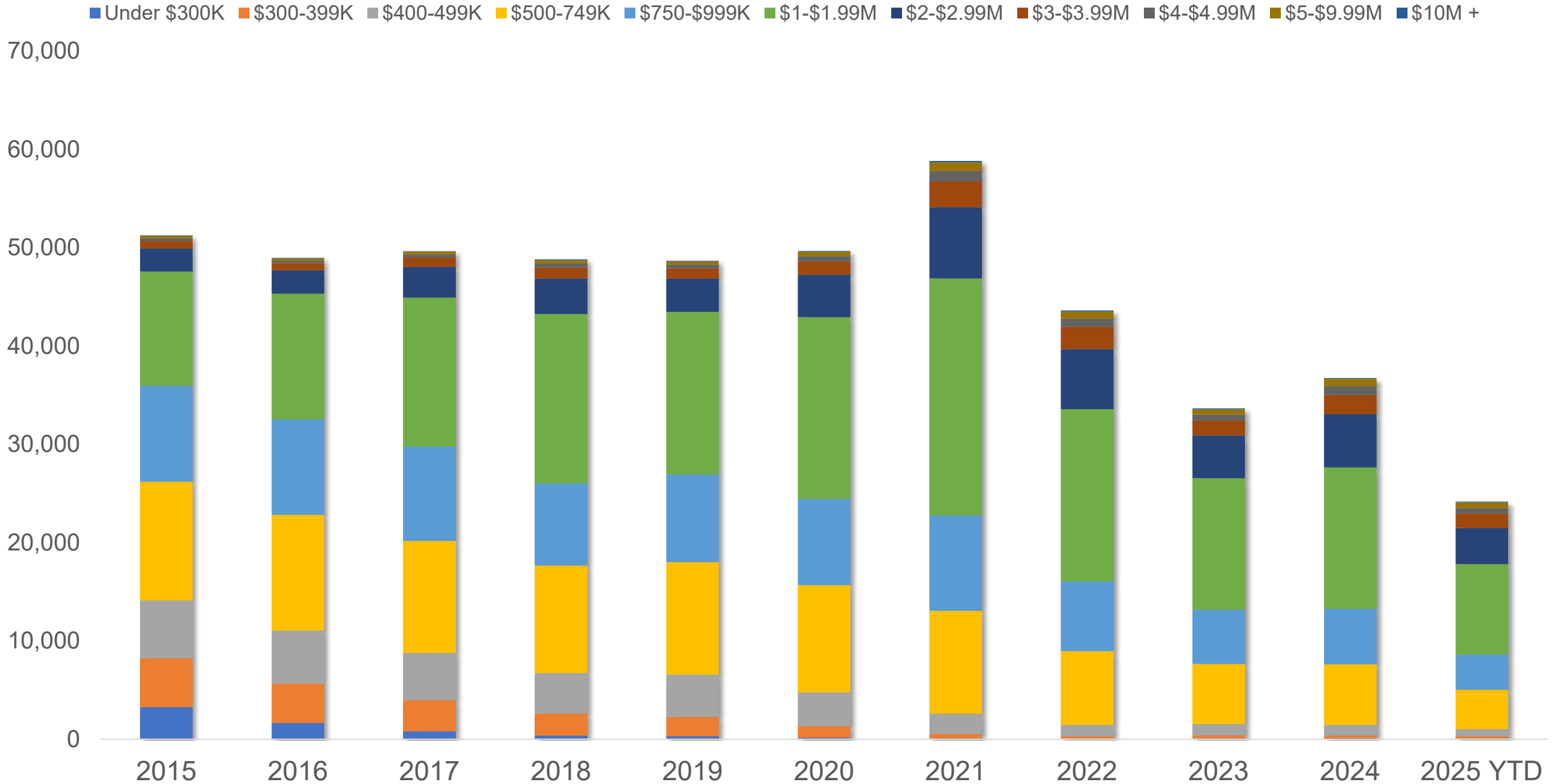
California Existing SFR Home Sales



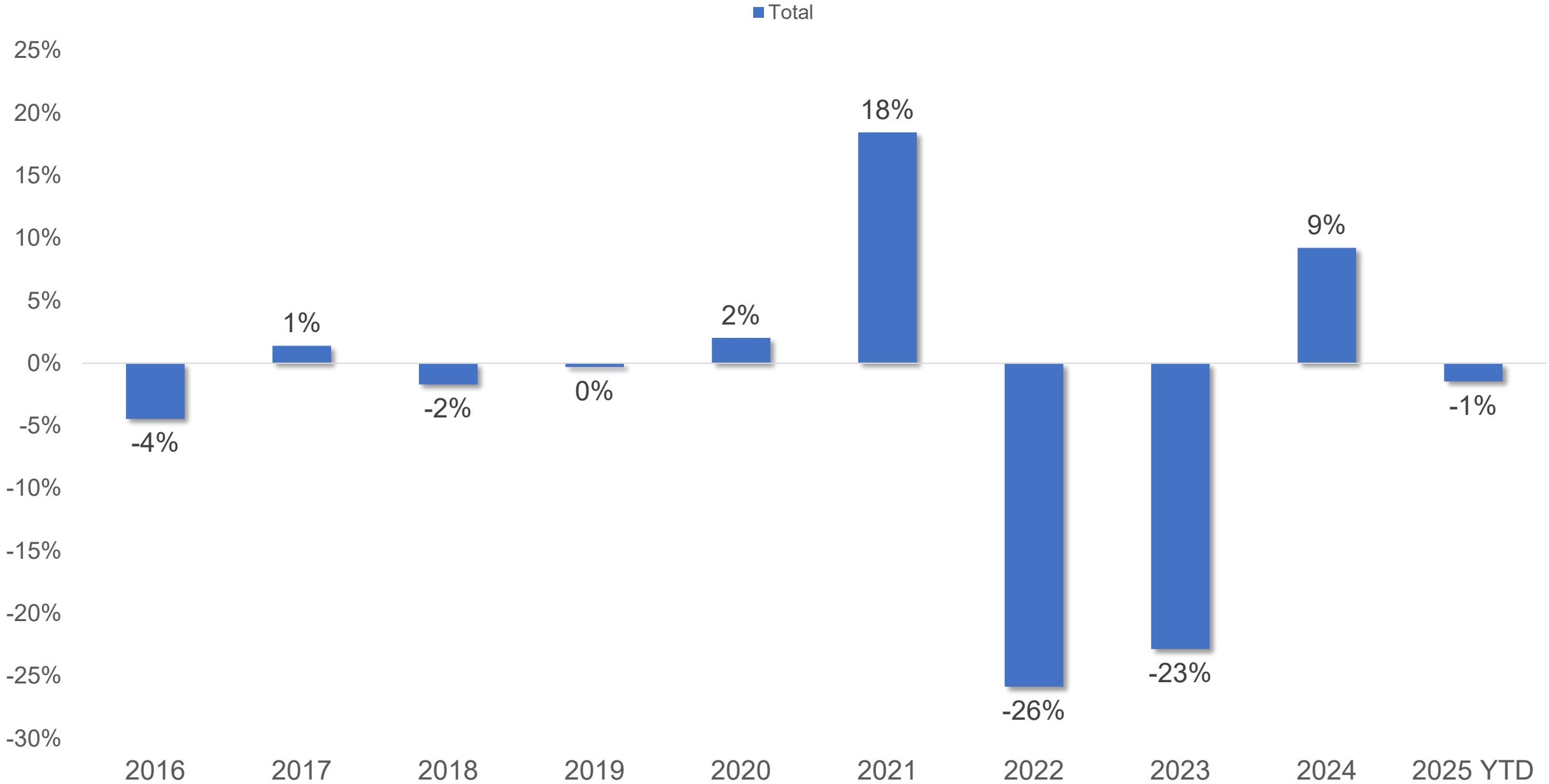
California Existing SFR Home Sales



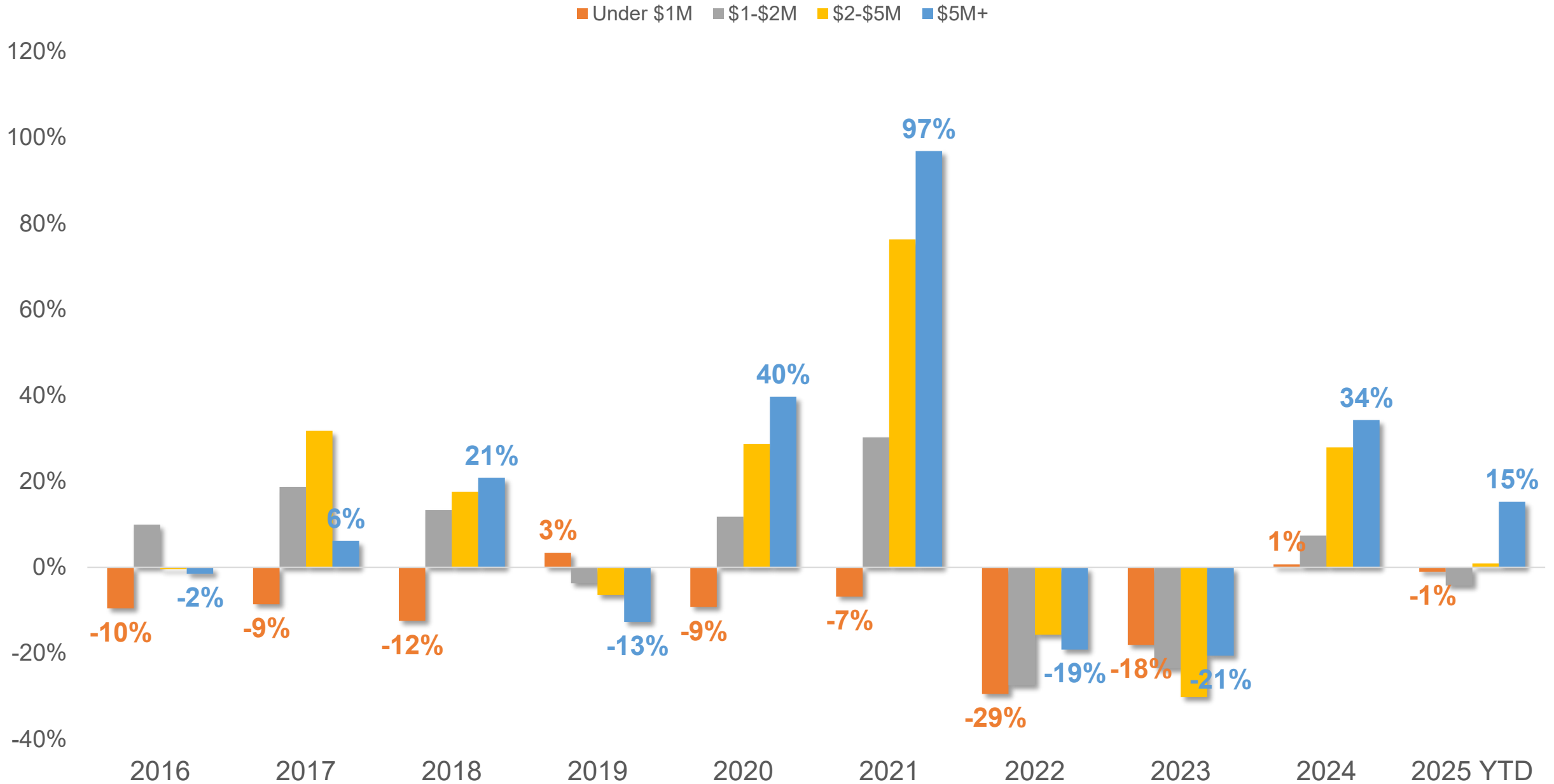
San Francisco Bay Area Existing SFR Sales



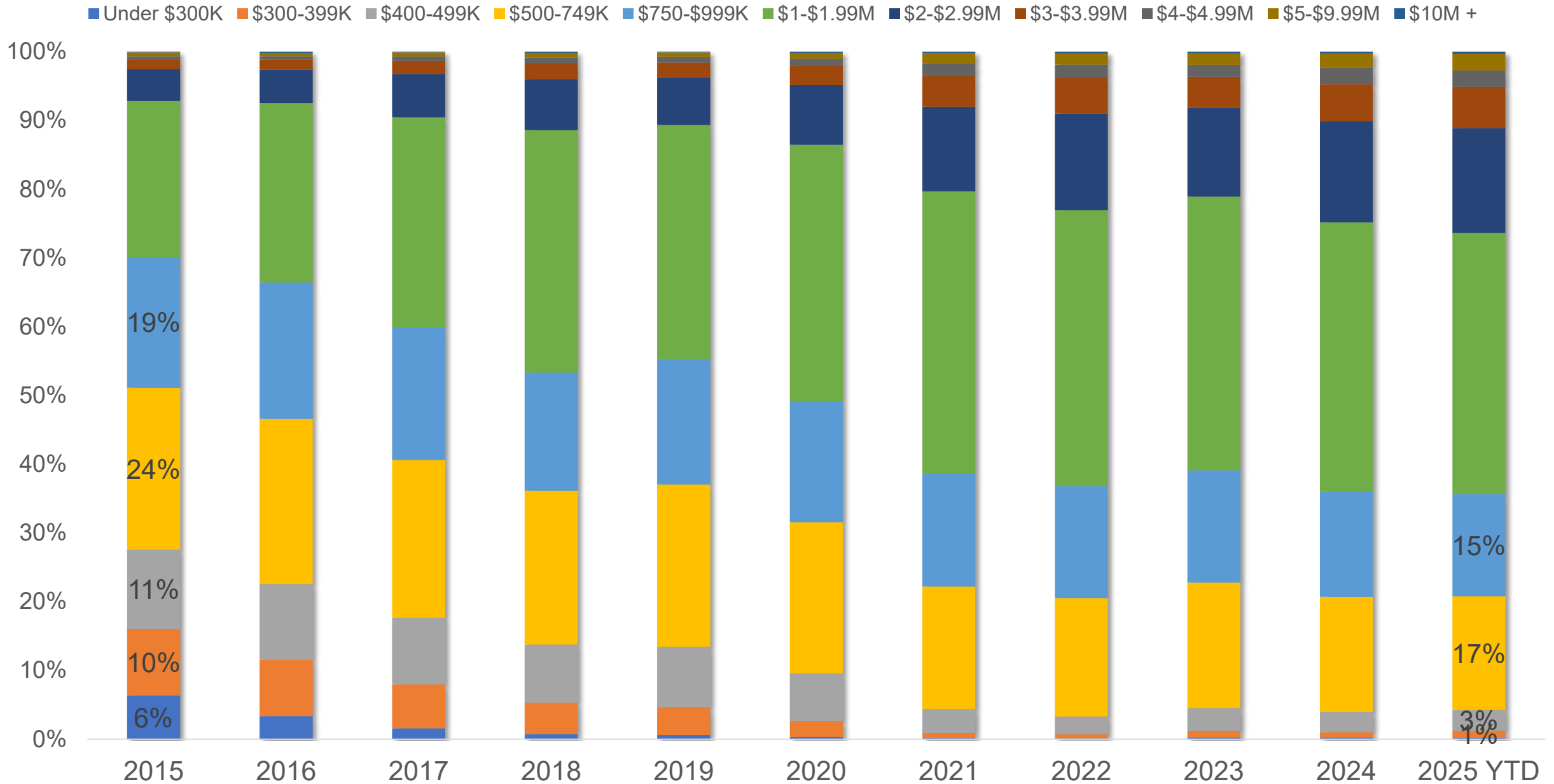
San Francisco Bay Area Existing SFR Sales Growth



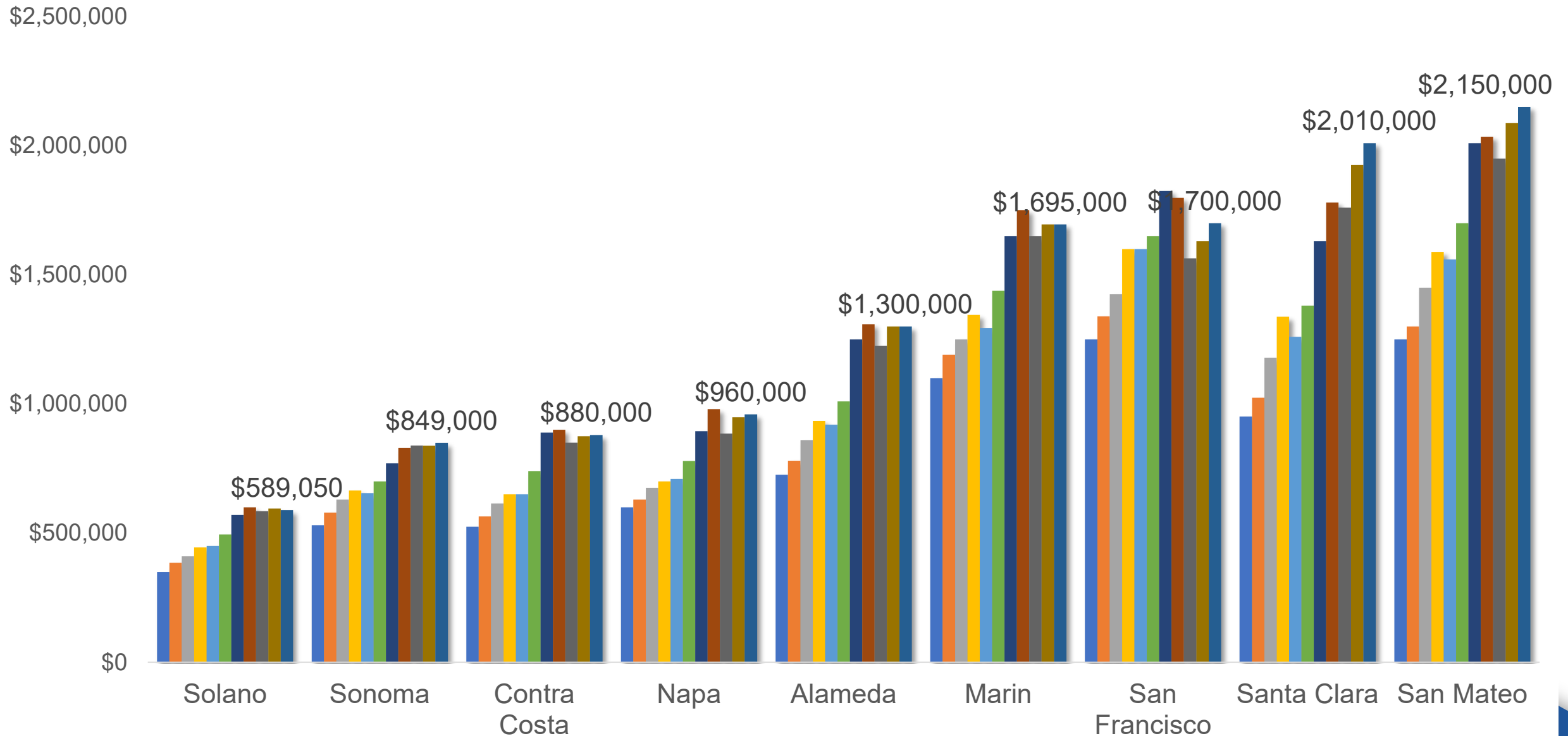
San Francisco Bay Area Existing SFR Sales Growth



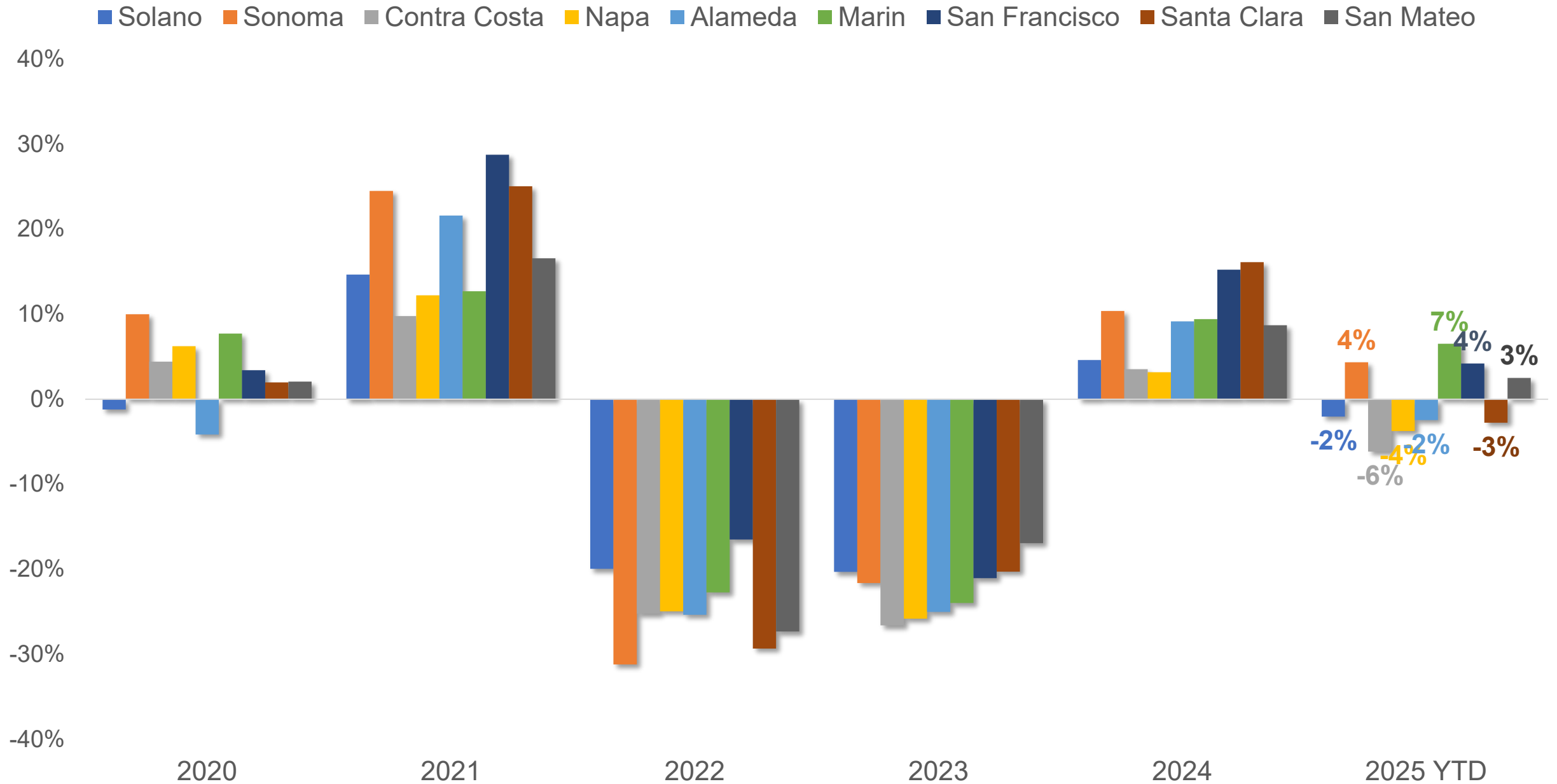
San Francisco Bay Area Existing SFR Sales



■ 2015 ■ 2016 ■ 2017 ■ 2018 ■ 2019 ■ 2020 ■ 2021 ■ 2022 ■ 2023 ■ 2024 ■ 2025 YTD



San Francisco Bay Area Existing SFR Sales Growth

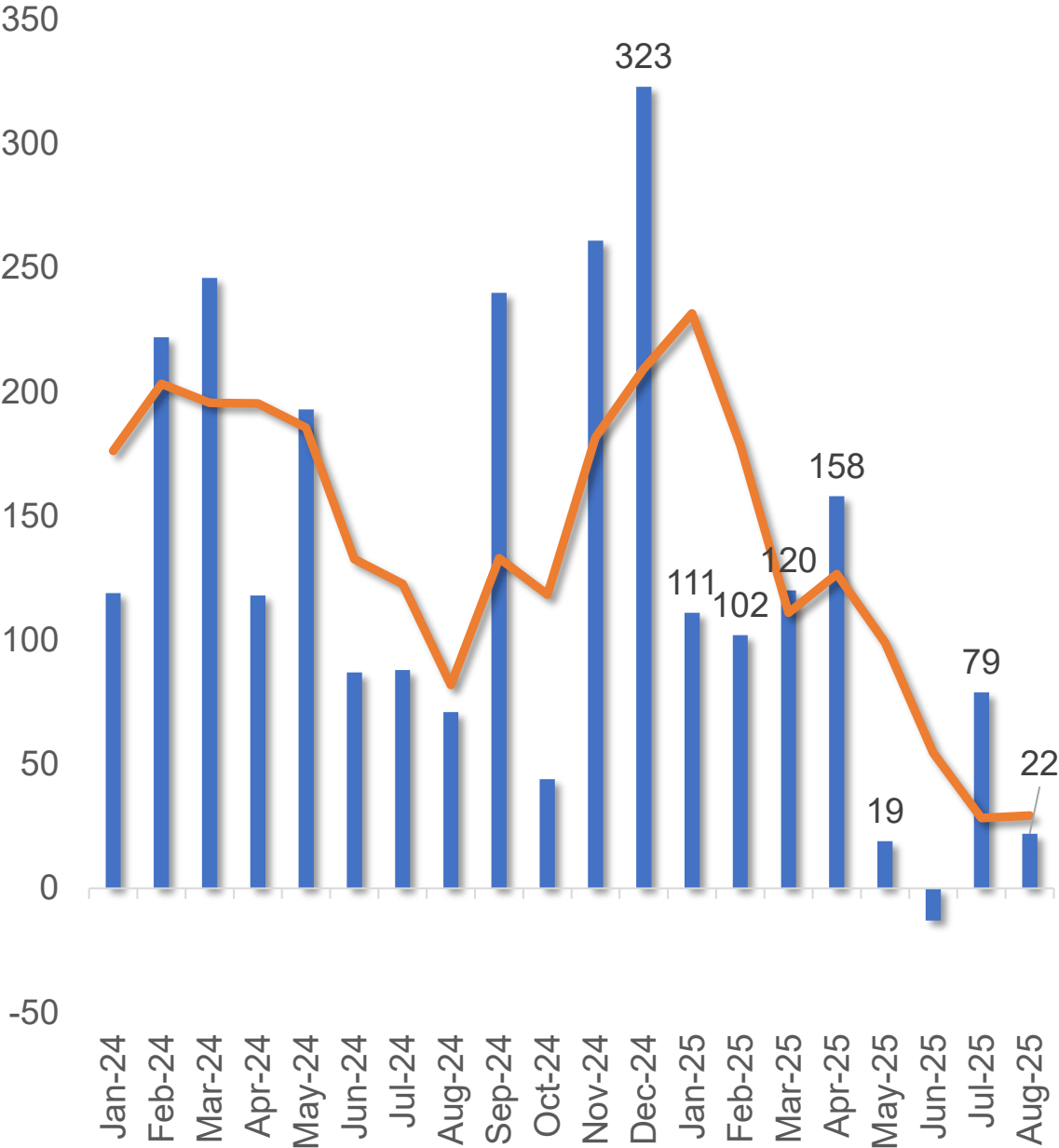


- L.A. Wildfires
- New Administration
- Trade War
- Stock Market
- Negative GDP
- Fed/Interest Rates
- Persistent Inflation
- AI & ChatGPT
- Price Gouging Laws
- Ongoing Insurance Issues
- HOA + MF Commercial RE Challenges

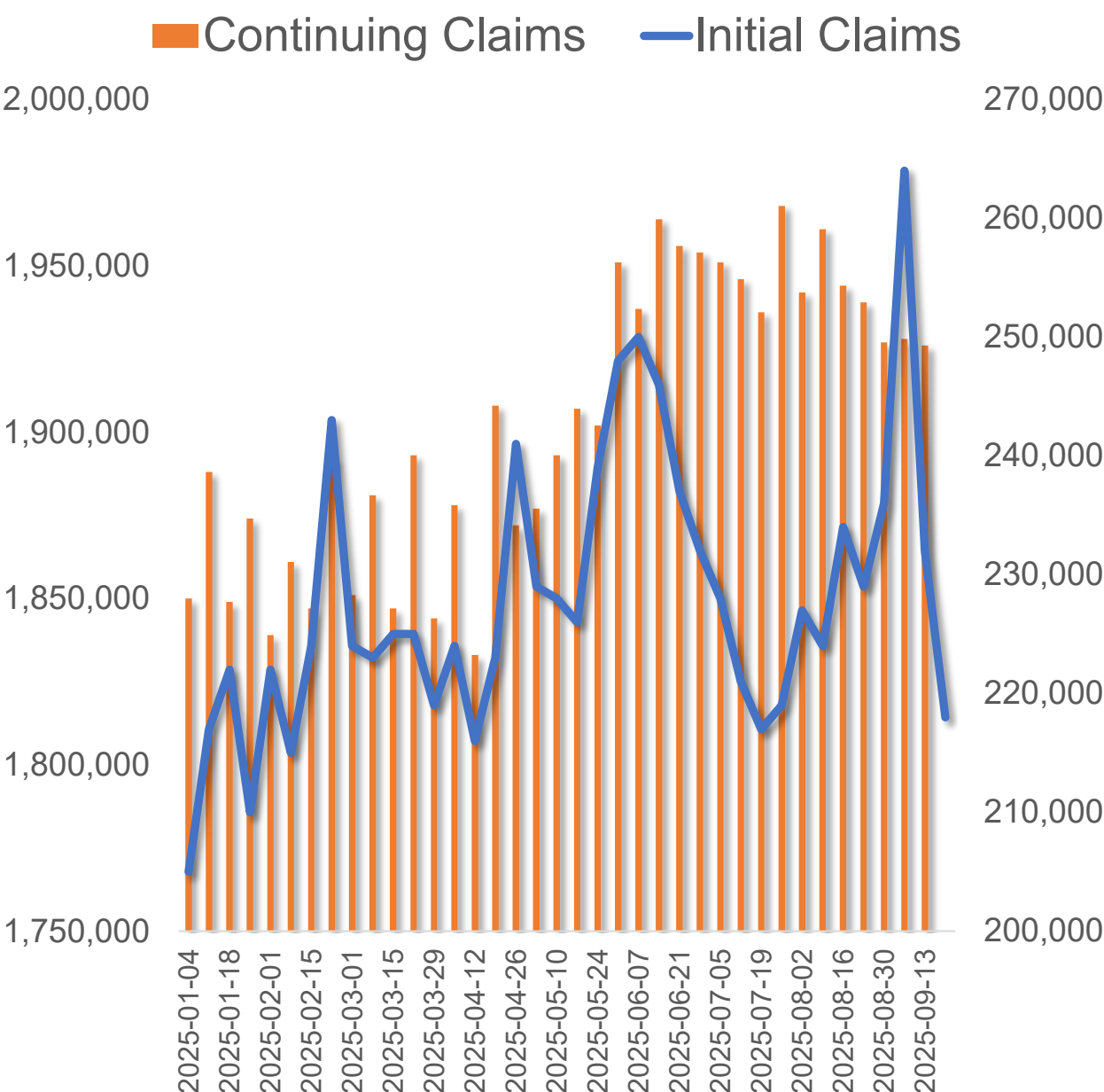


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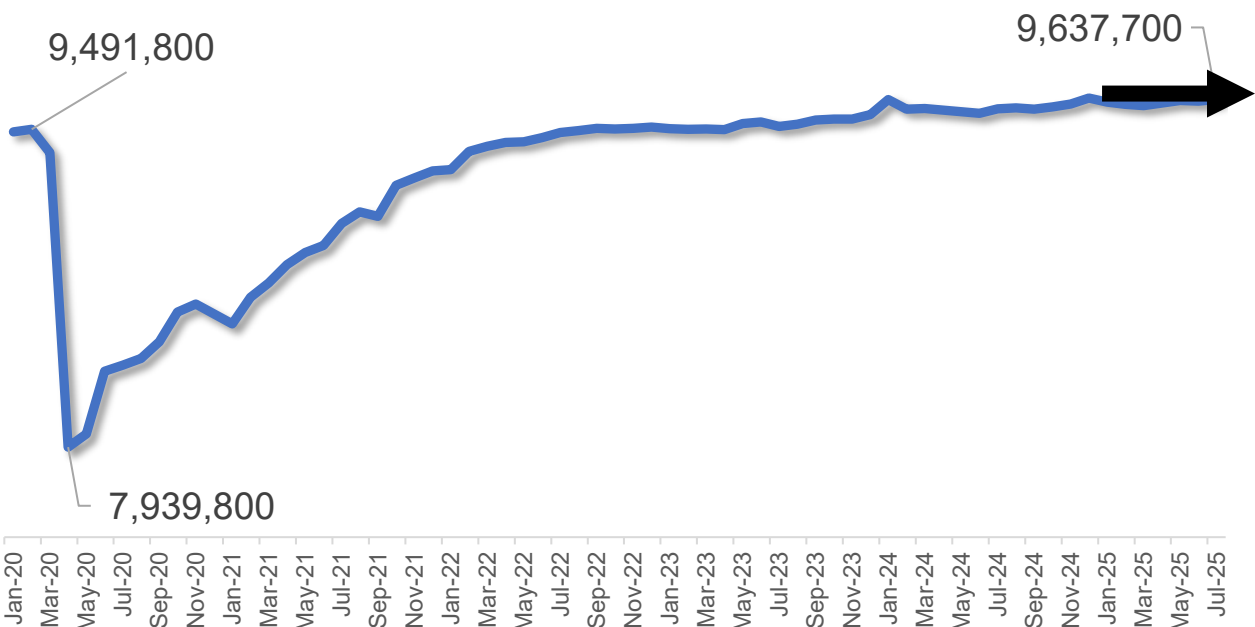
U.S. Nonfarm Job Growth



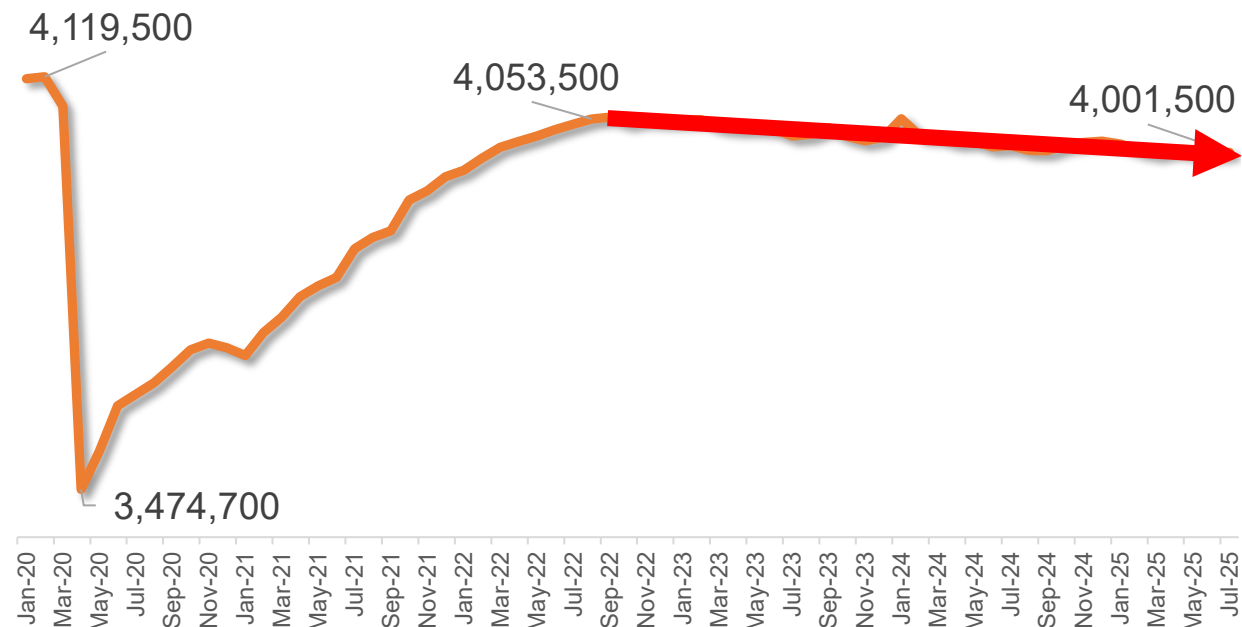
U.S. Unemployment Insurance



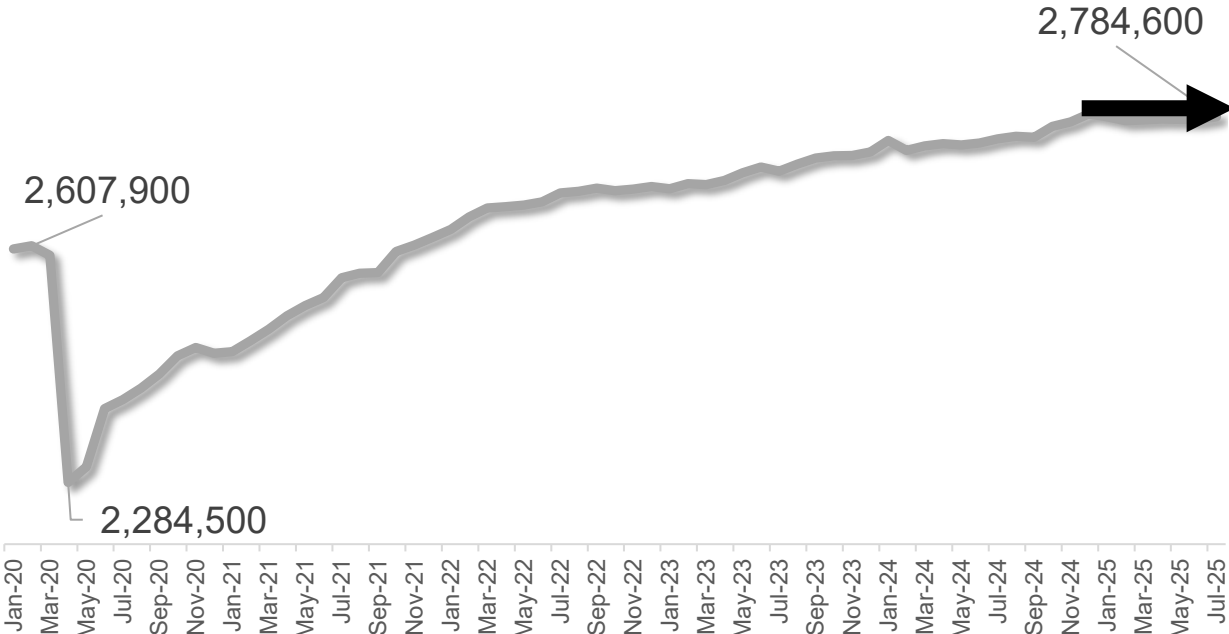
SoCal Nonfarm Jobs (SA)



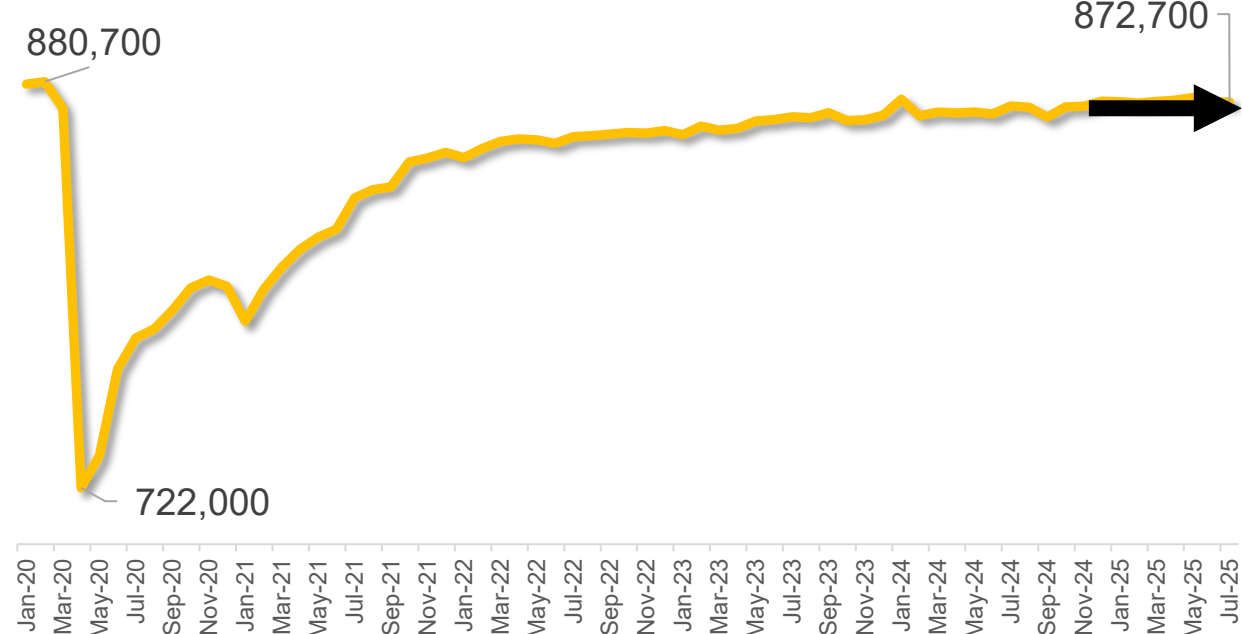
Bay Area Nonfarm Jobs (SA)



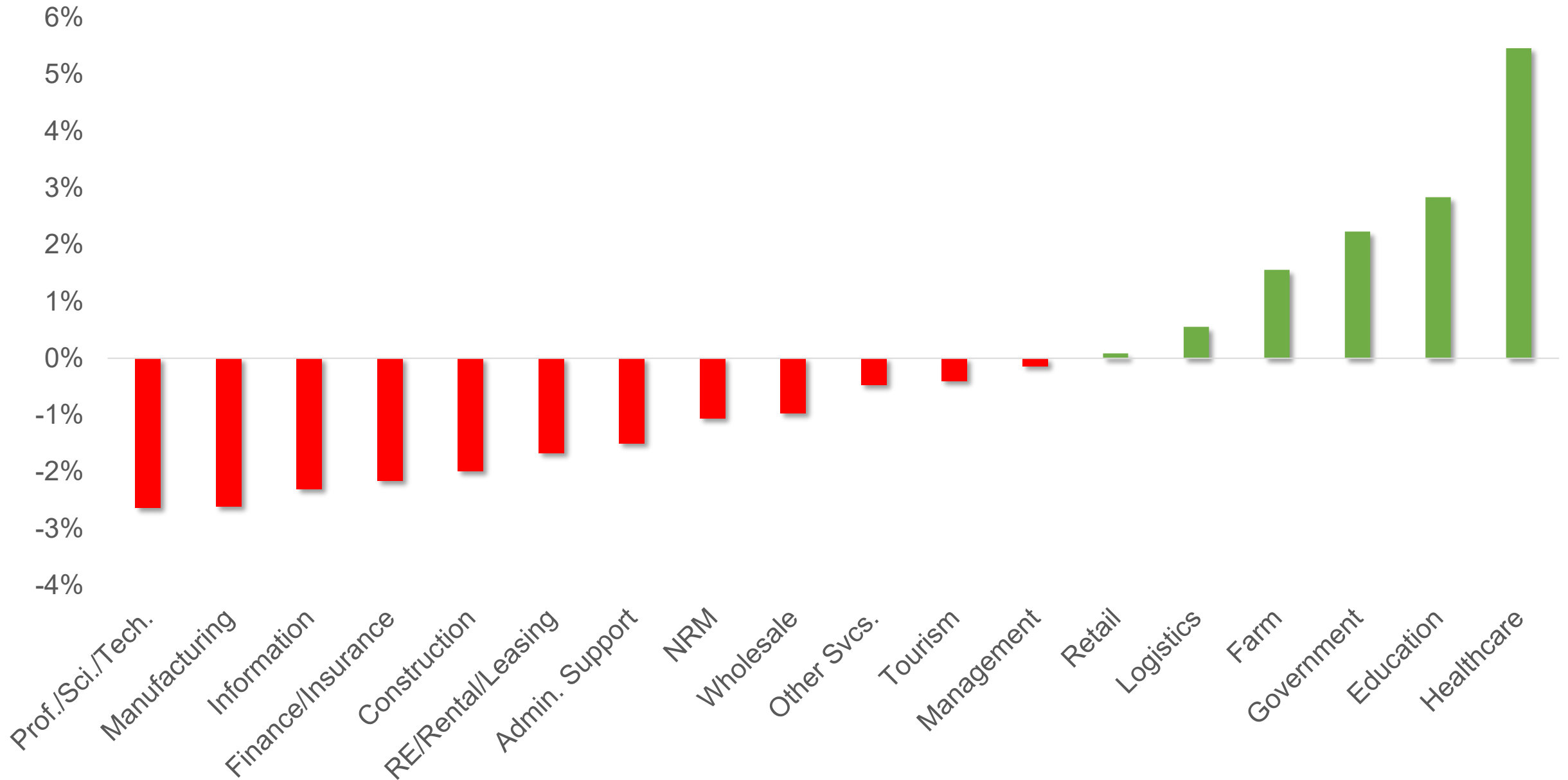
Central Valley Nonfarm Jobs (SA)



Central Coast Nonfarm Jobs (SA)

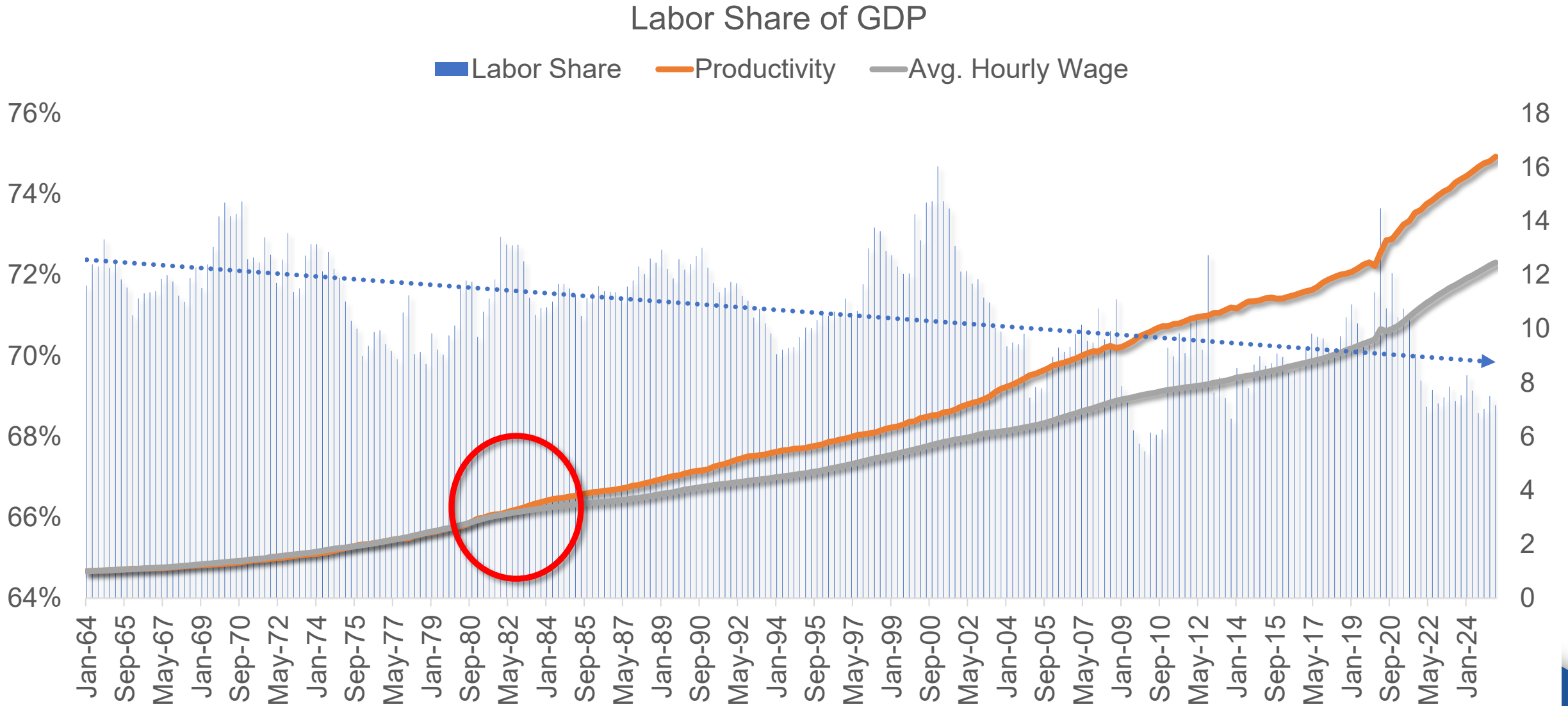


California Nonfarm Job Growth by Industry (July 2025)



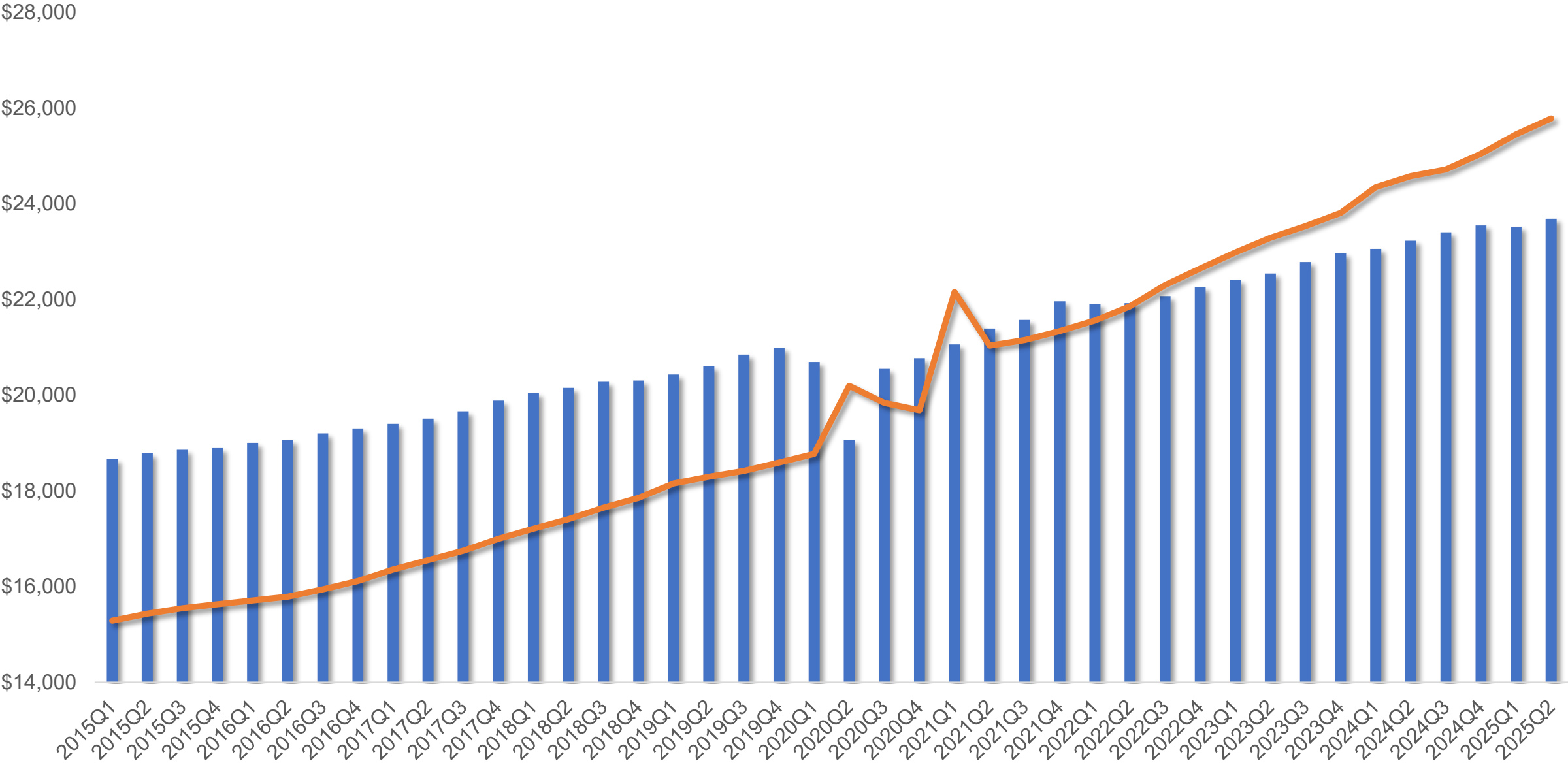
Major Structural Changes Since '70s

Traditional relationships breaking down

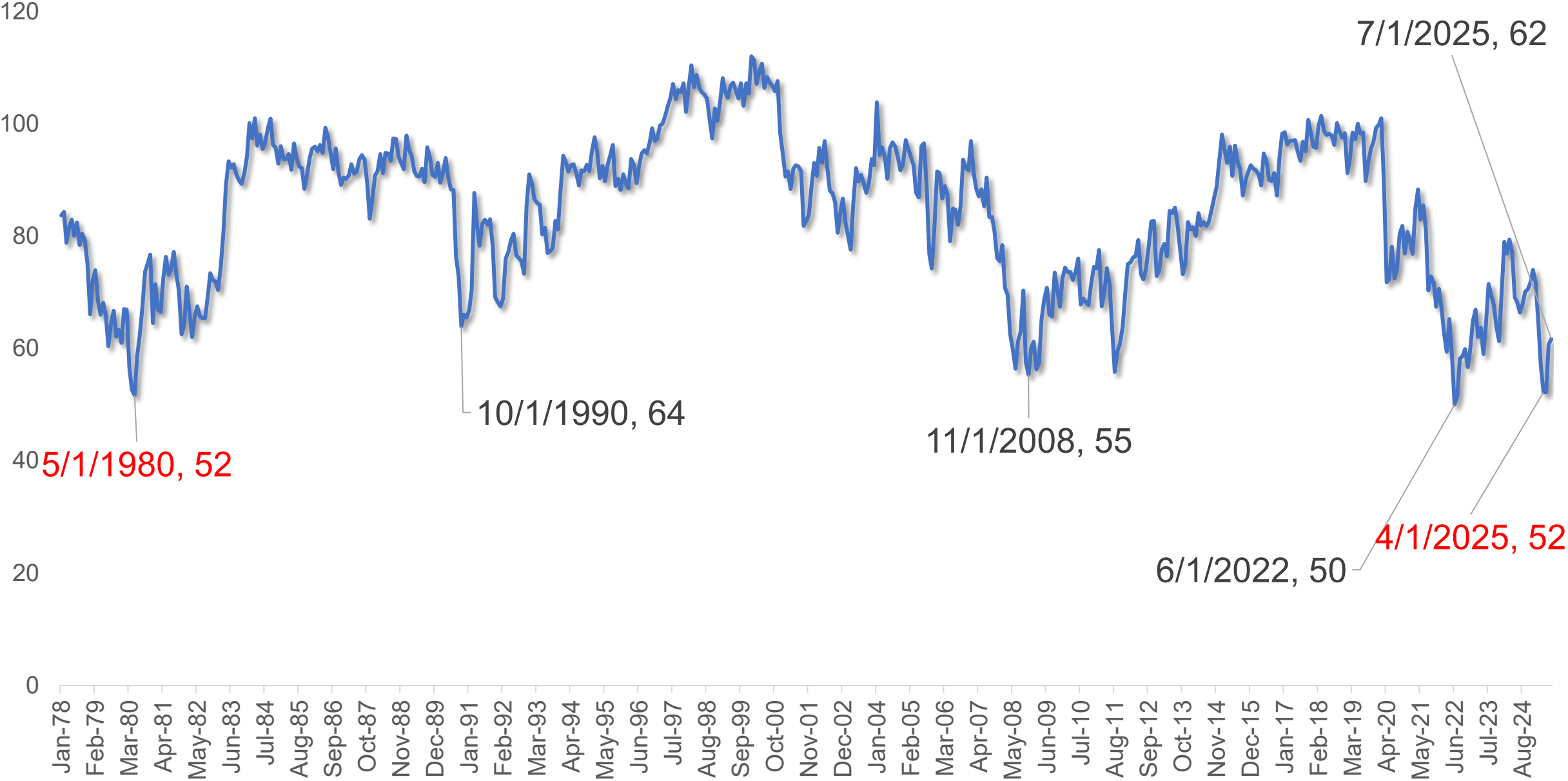


U.S. GDP & Personal Income

GDP Pers. Inc.

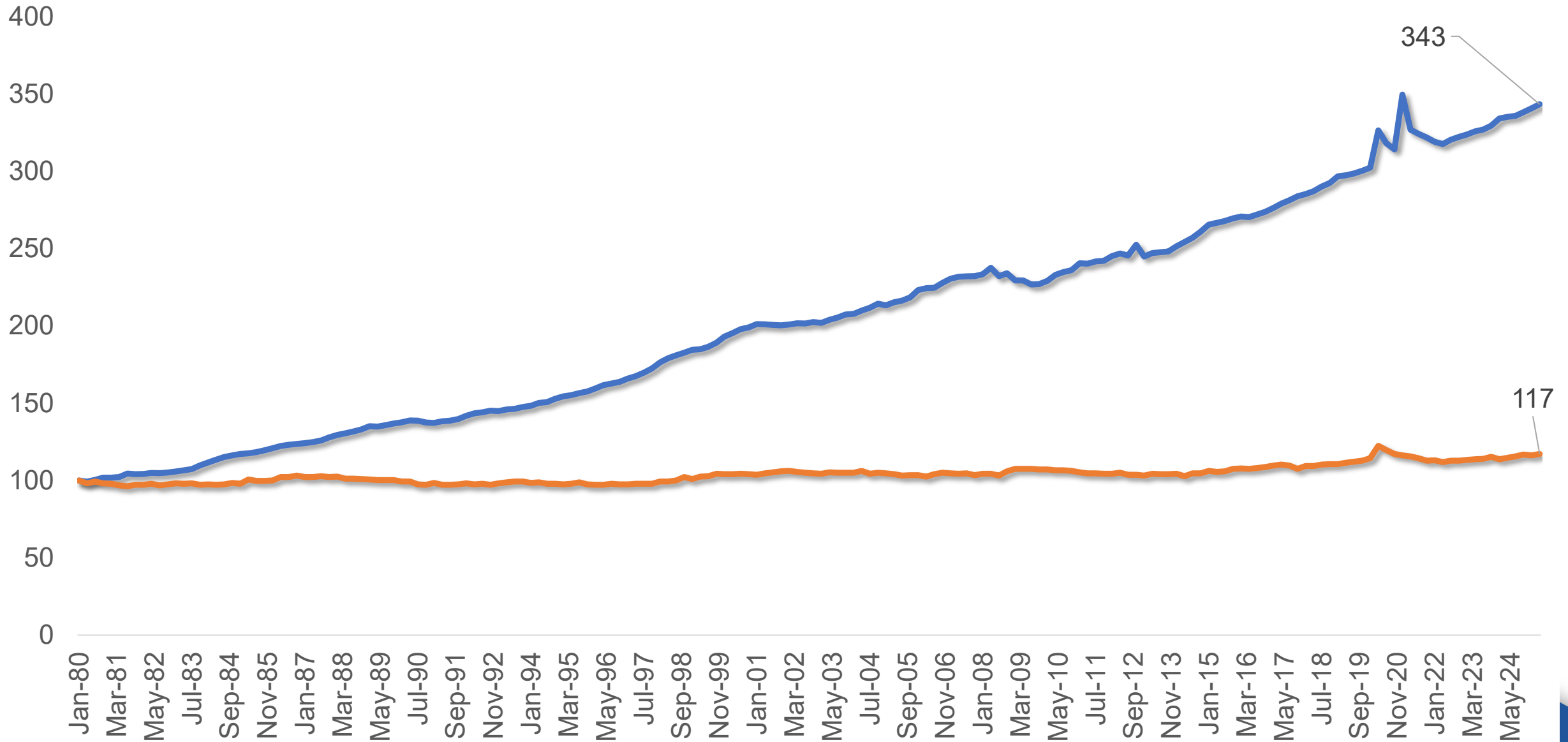


Consumer Sentiment



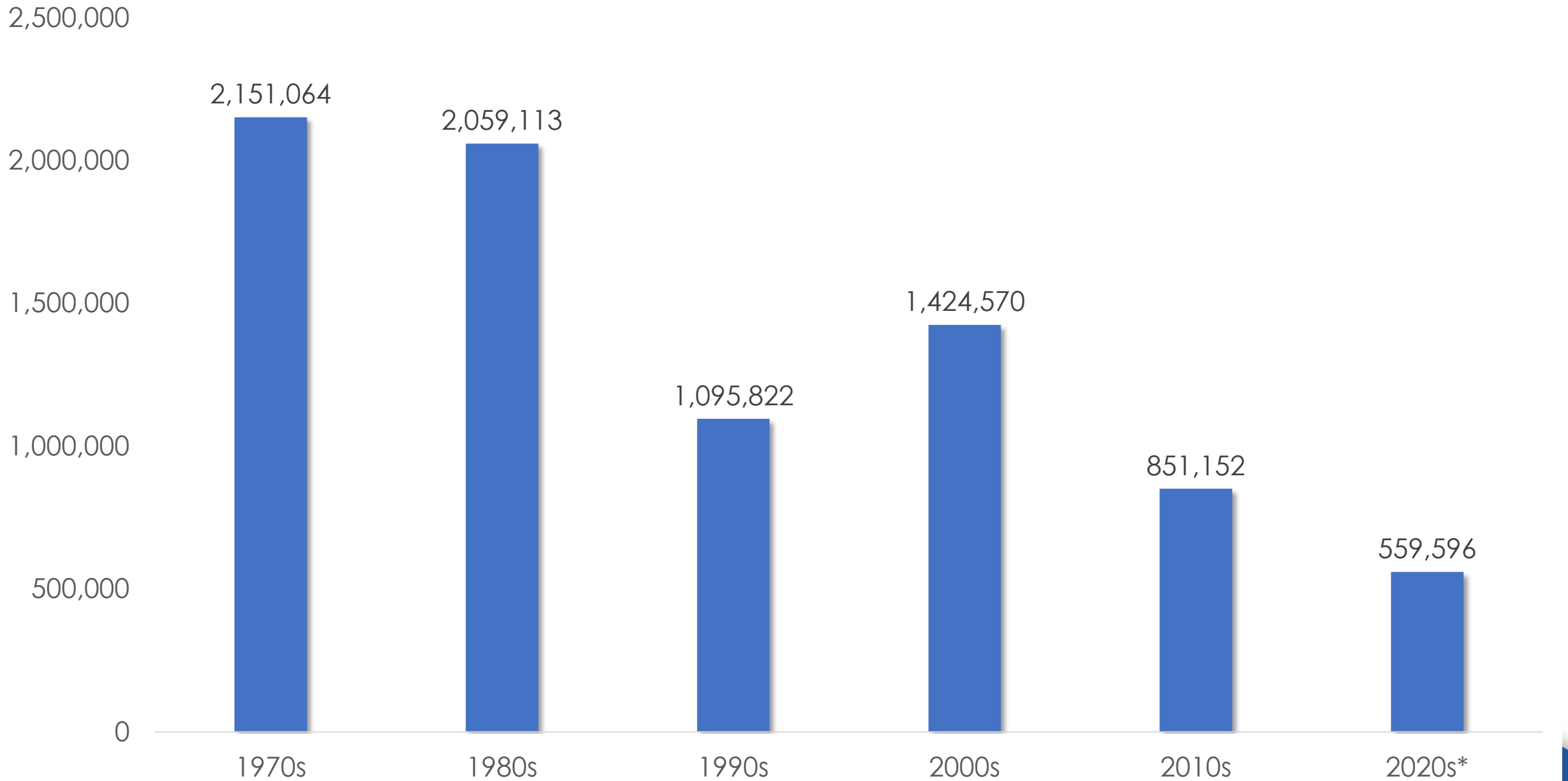
U.S. Inflation Adjusted Income & Wages

Aggregate Personal Income Median Weekly Wage



California Piled On w/Housing Policy

California Residential Building Permits





Key Figures

Construction

Housing Needs

Implementation

User Guide

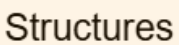
[Submit Feedback](#)

Timeline

Income



Maps



County

All

Jurisdiction

All

Structure Type

All

Year

All

COG/Region

All

Clear Filters

Construction: Structure Type

● 2-4 Plex Units Per Structure

● 5 or More Units

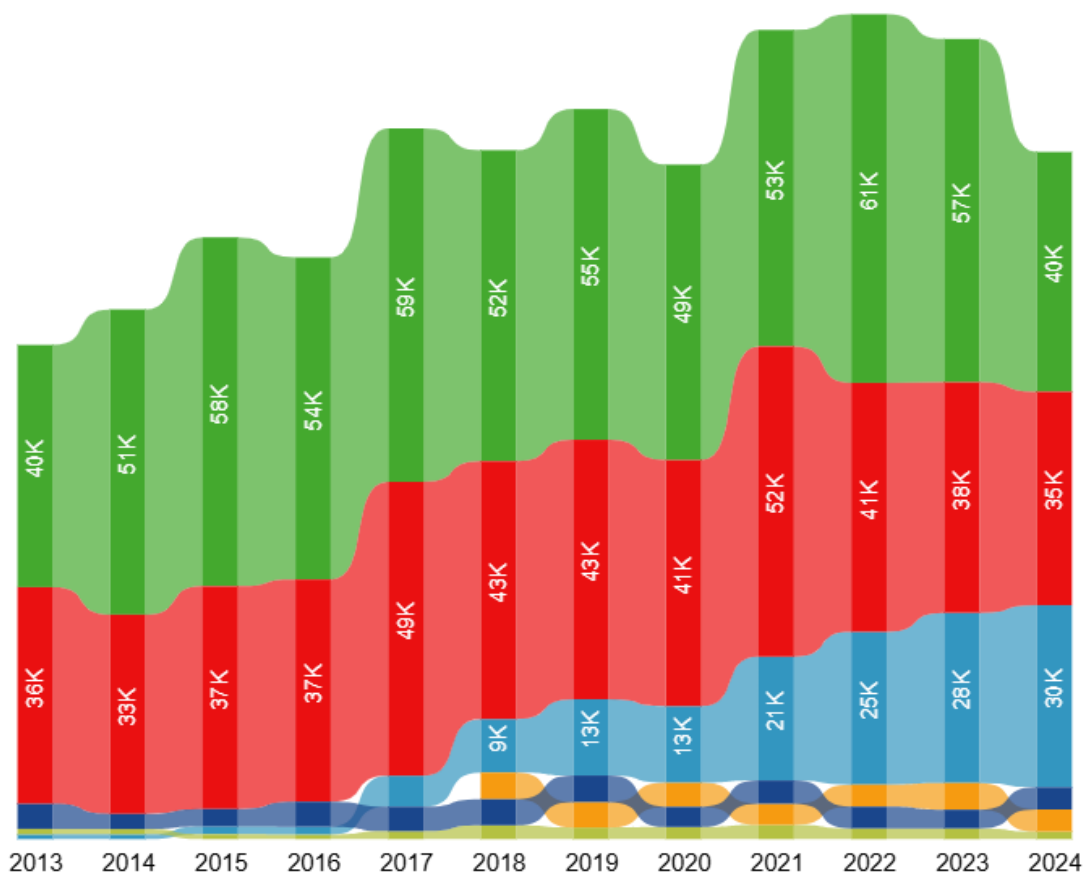
● Accessory Dwelling Unit

 Mobile Home Unit

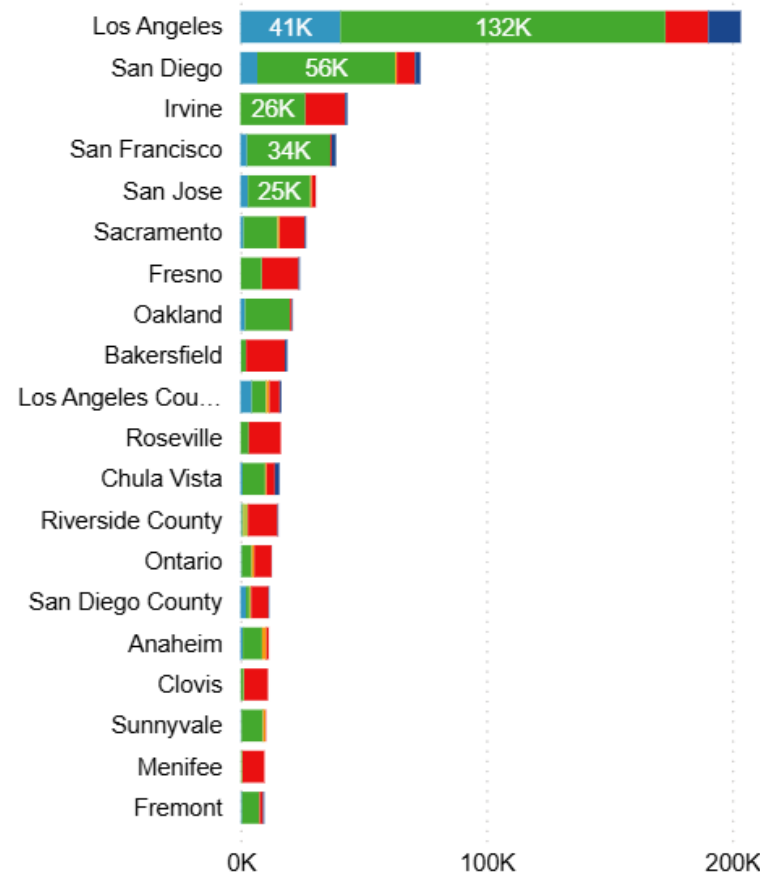
 Single Family Attached Unit

● Single Family Detached Unit

Units Permitted by Structure Type



Units Permitted by Structure Type by Jurisdiction



Timeline

Income

Maps

Structures

County

All

Jurisdiction

All

Structure Type

Multiple selections

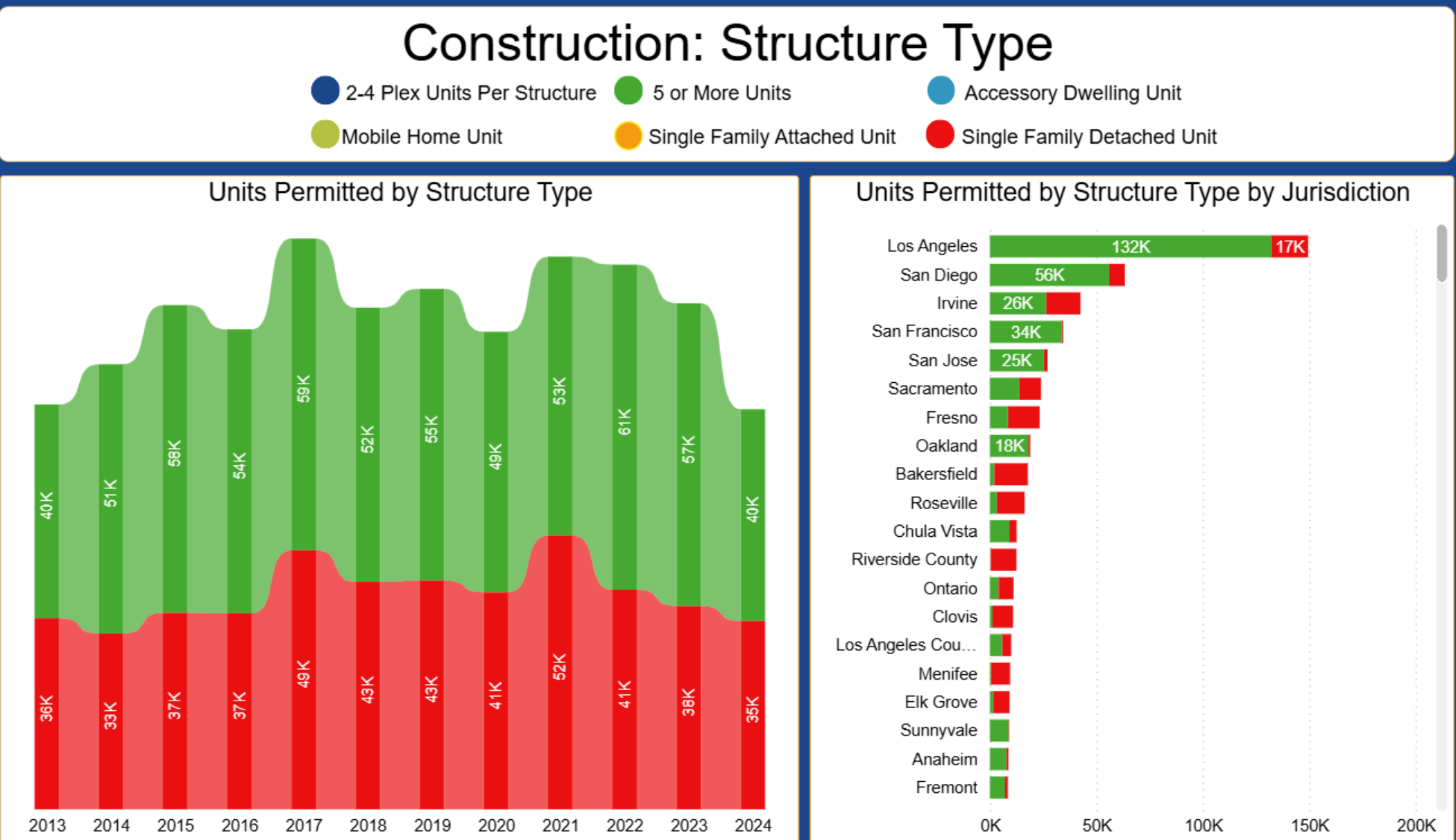
Year

All

COG/Region

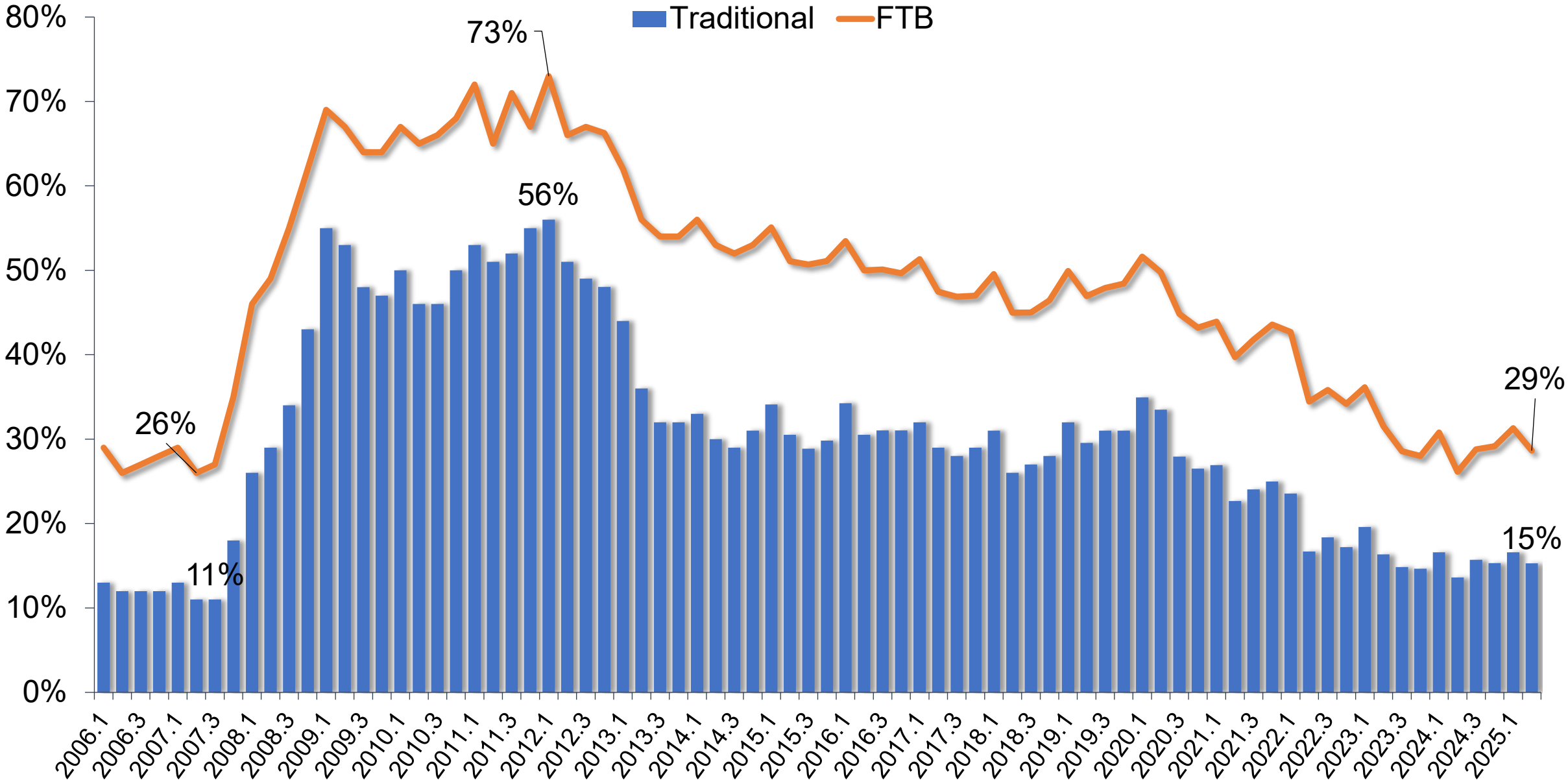
All

Clear Filters



State	2020-2024 Residential Permits	2024 Population	May 2025 Median Price
Texas	1,217,594	31,290,831	\$353,700
Florida	954,643	23,372,215	\$436,600
California	559,596	39,431,263	\$906,500
North Carolina	463,482	11,046,024	\$403,700
Georgia	332,580	11,180,878	\$398,400
Arizona	305,256	7,582,384	\$466,500
Tennessee	252,166	7,227,750	\$412,600
South Carolina	228,604	5,478,831	\$410,100
New York	226,181	19,867,248	\$586,400
Washington	224,727	7,958,180	\$690,100

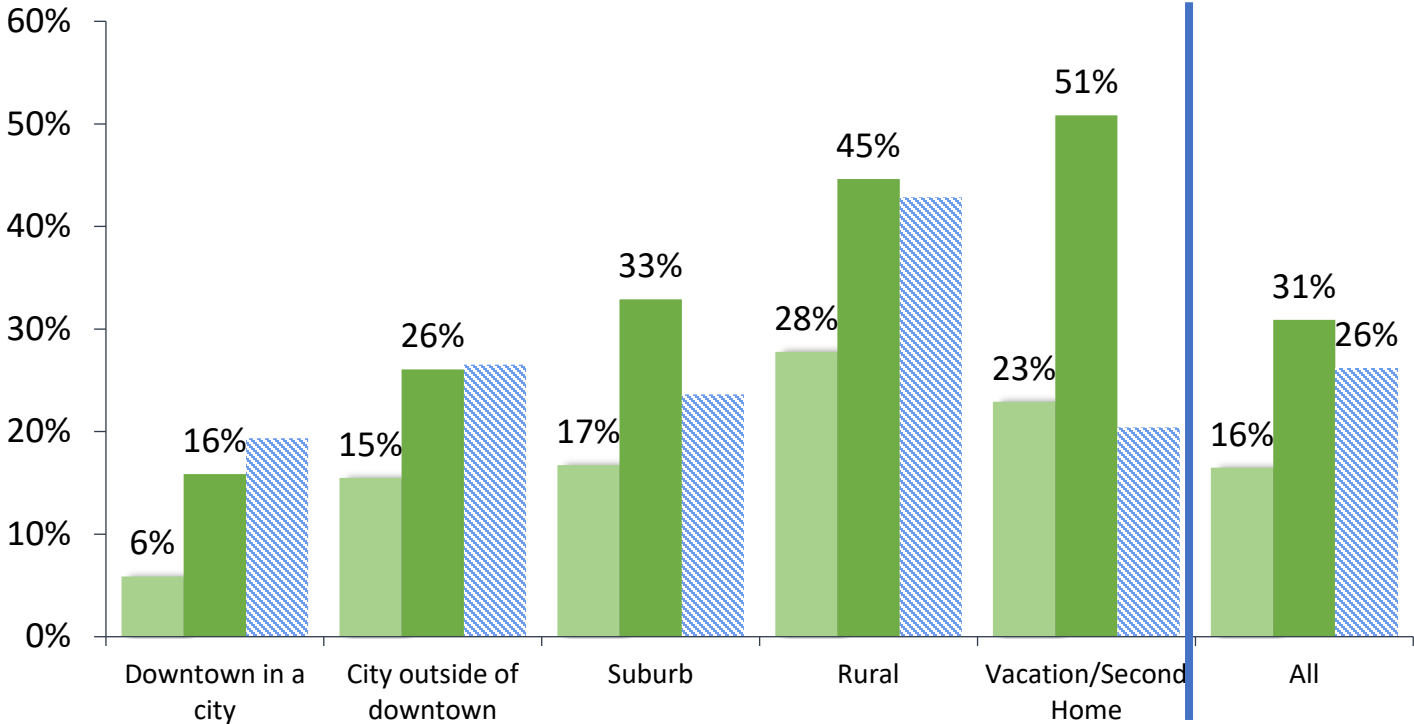
California Housing Affordability Index



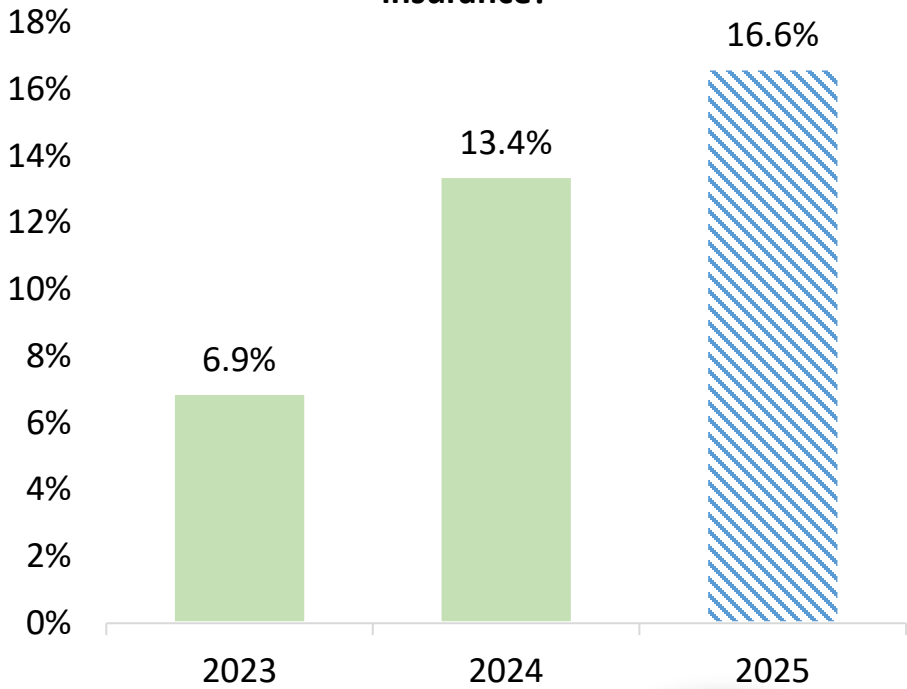
Insurance is impacting the housing market

% of buyers who had difficulties obtaining insurance

■ 2023 ■ 2024 ■ 2025



% of REALTORS® with transaction fall out of escrow due to failure to secure affordable insurance?



SERIES: 2025 Housing Market Survey
SOURCE: CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

Q. Did the buyer have difficulties obtaining fire/homeowners insurance?
*2024 and 2025 results based on buyer agents and dual agents' responses only



Effects of concentrated LIHTC development on surrounding house prices

Richard Voith ^a, Jing Liu ^a, Sean Zielenbach ^b, Andrew Jakabovics ^c, Brian An ^d, Seva Rodnyansky ^e, Anthony W. Orlando ^f  , Raphael W. Bostic ^g

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Impacts of
Tax Credit
Analysis of

Brian Y. An
Georgia Institute of Technology

Andrew Jakabovics
Enterprise Community Partners

• The Urban Institute recently released an affordable housing case study from Alexandria, Virginia. The results indicate that affordable housing has a positive if not zero effect on property values.

¹, Jing Liu², Sean Zielenbach³, Andrew Jakabovics⁴, Brian An⁵, Seva Rodnyansky⁶, Anthony W. Orlando⁷, & Raphael W. Bostic⁸

Abstract: While there is widespread agreement about the importance of the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) in addressing the country's affordable housing needs, there is less certainty

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Anthony W. Orlando

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Will It Lower My Home's Value?

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Latest on

Key Priorities

June 24, 2024

How to Bring
Properties Ba

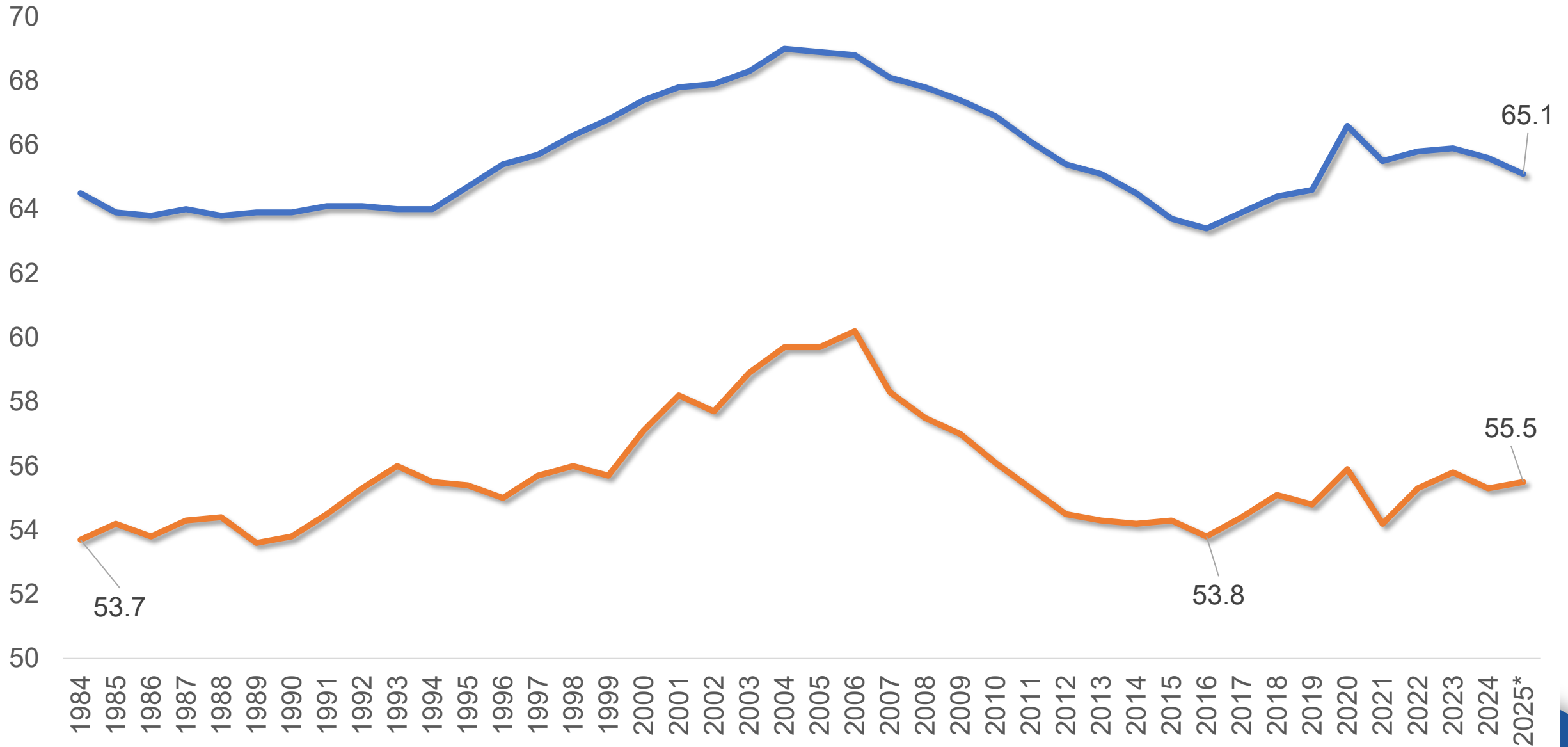
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Which Brings Us to Consequences

Homeownership Rate

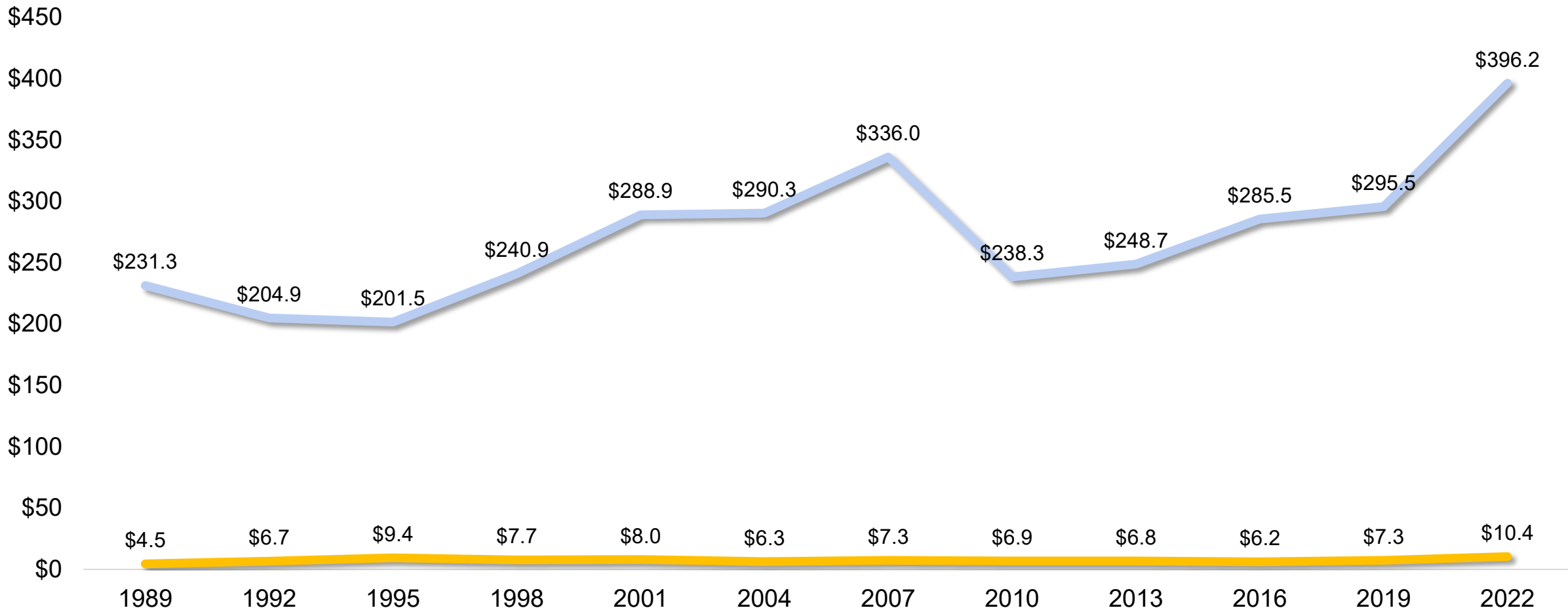
US CA



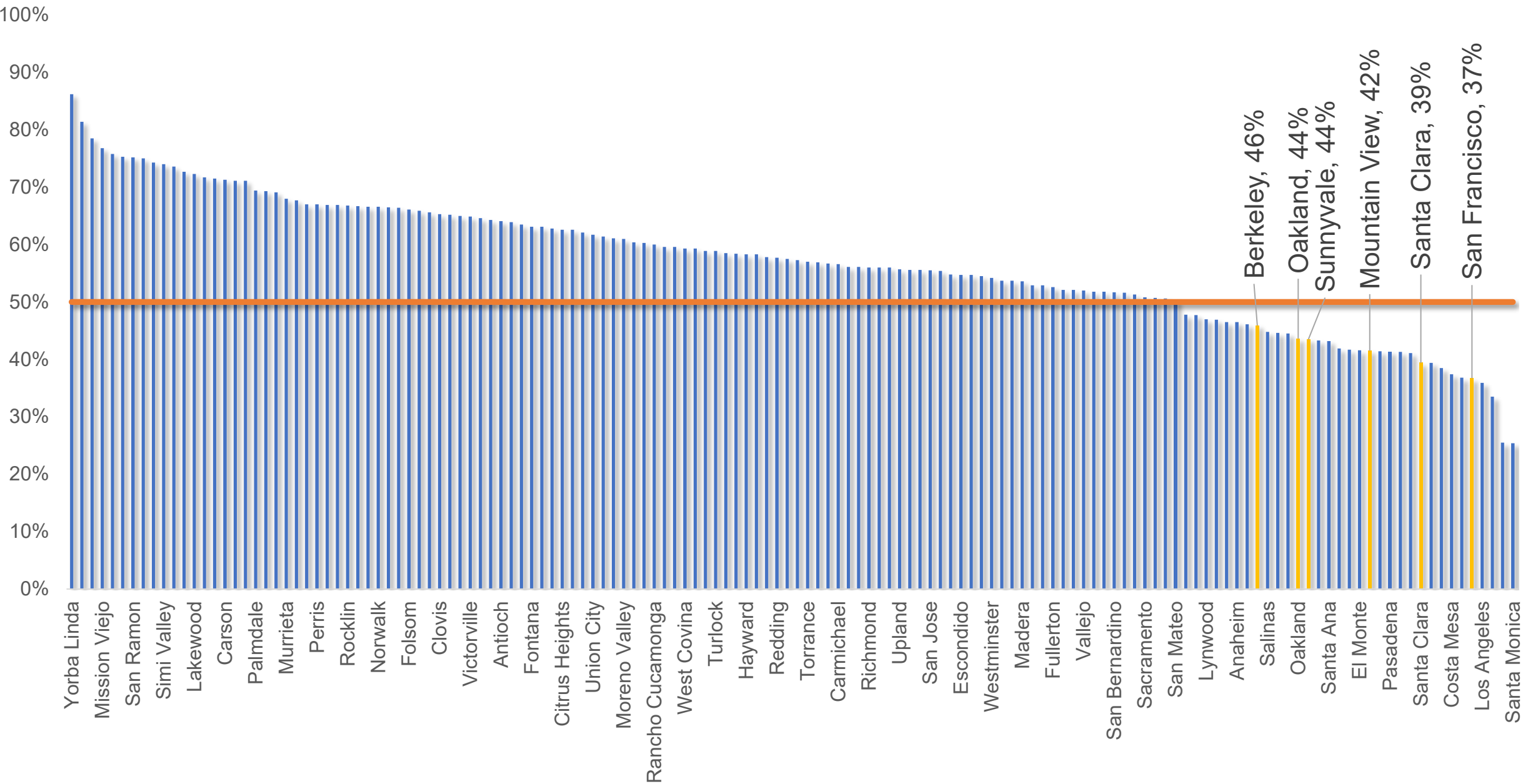
The benefits of homeownership are well documented

Real Household Net Worth Per Capita

Owner Renter/Other

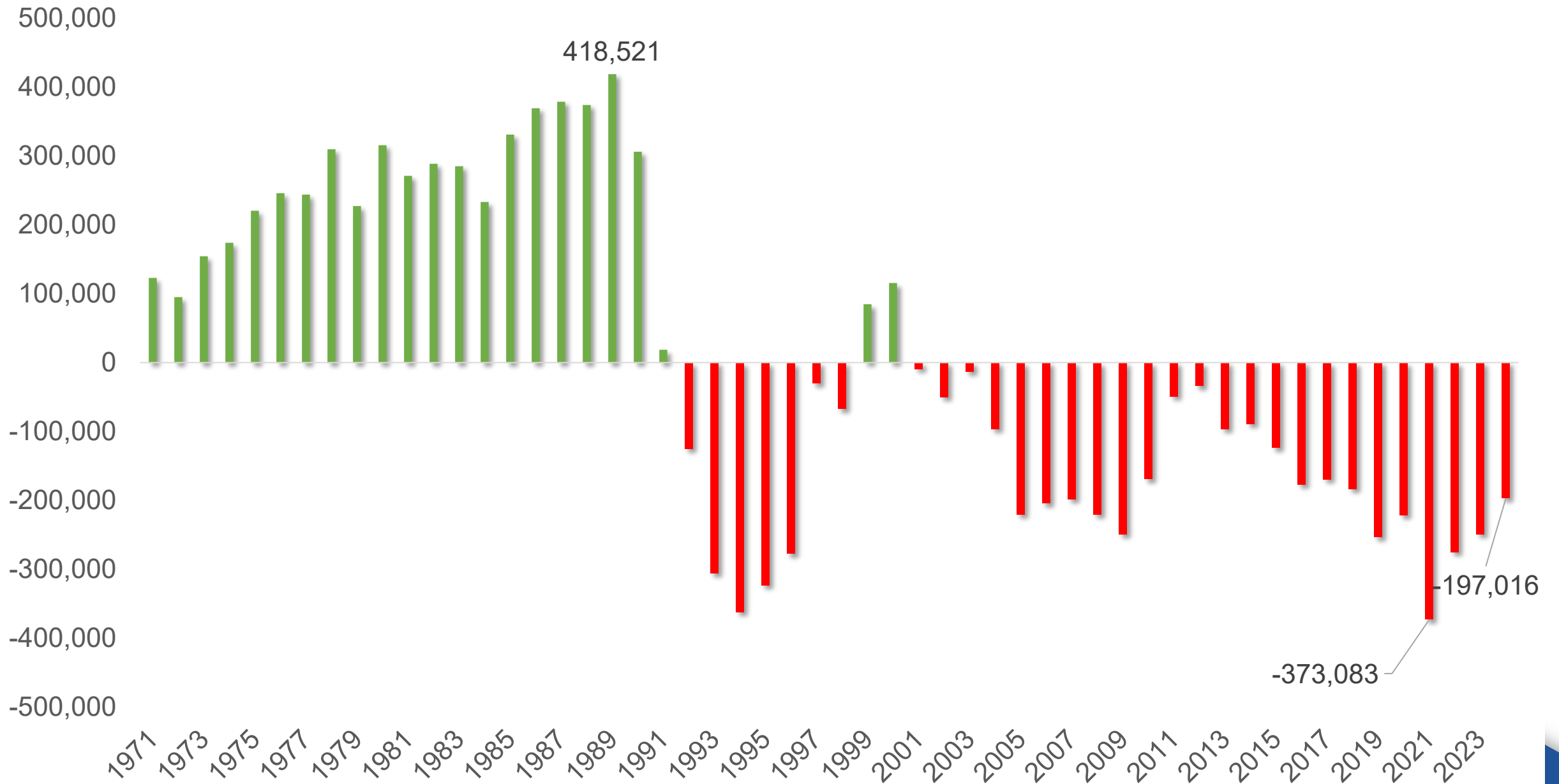


2024 Homeownership Rate by City



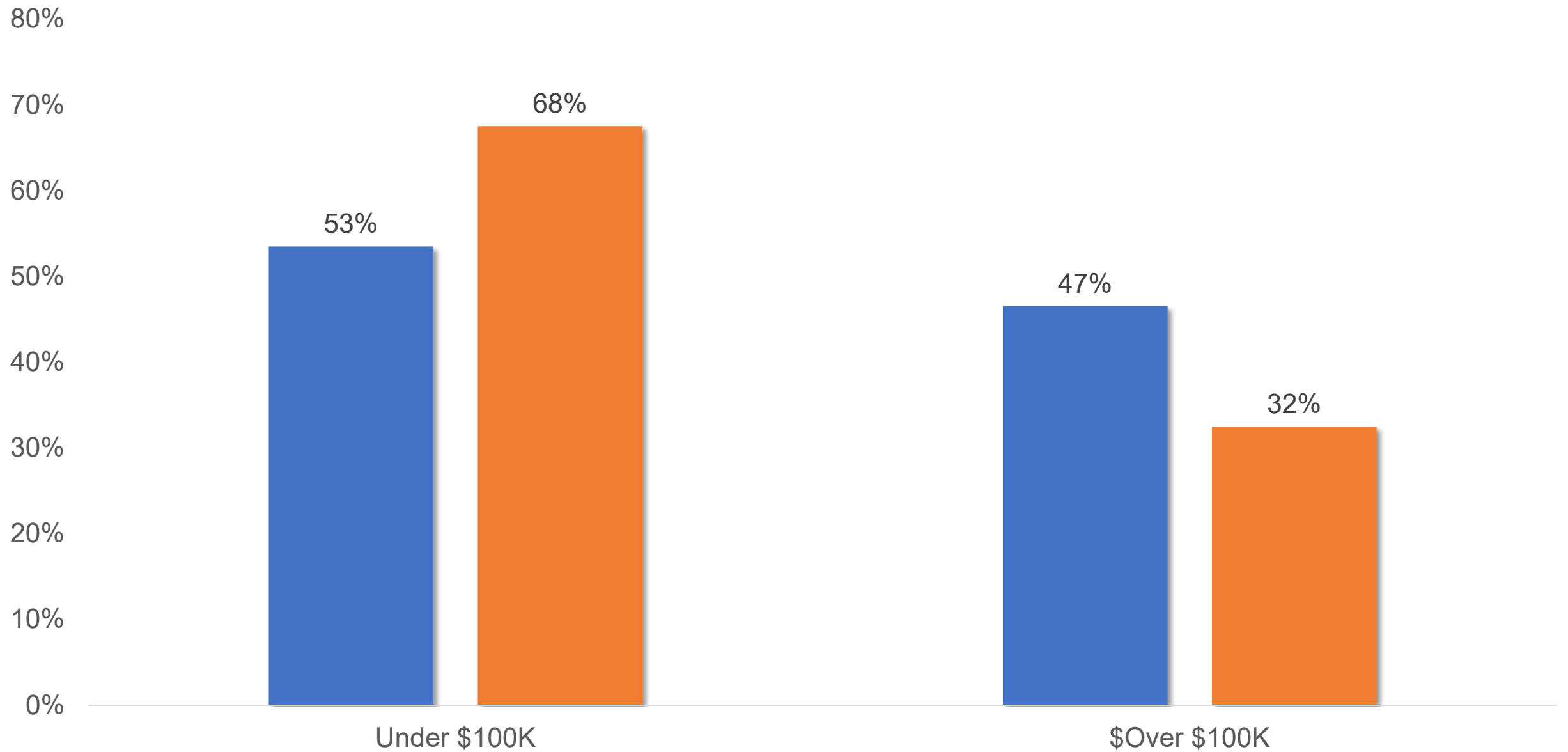
Outcome	2024 ACS Ranking	United States	California	Diff.
Homeowner Vacancy	35th	1.0%	0.8%	0.8X
Rental Vacancy	36th	5.7%	4.3%	0.8X
Overcrowding	50th	3.6%	8.2%	2.3X
Mortgage Burdened	50th	22.6%	31.1%	1.4X
Rent Burdened	49th	42.3%	46.5%	1.1X
Cash Assistance	44th	2.5%	3.7%	1.5X
Food Stamps	41st	11.8%	13.5%	1.1X
Poverty	34th	8.5%	8.5%	1.0X
Supplemental Poverty	51st	12.7%	17.7%	1.4X

California Net Domestic Migration

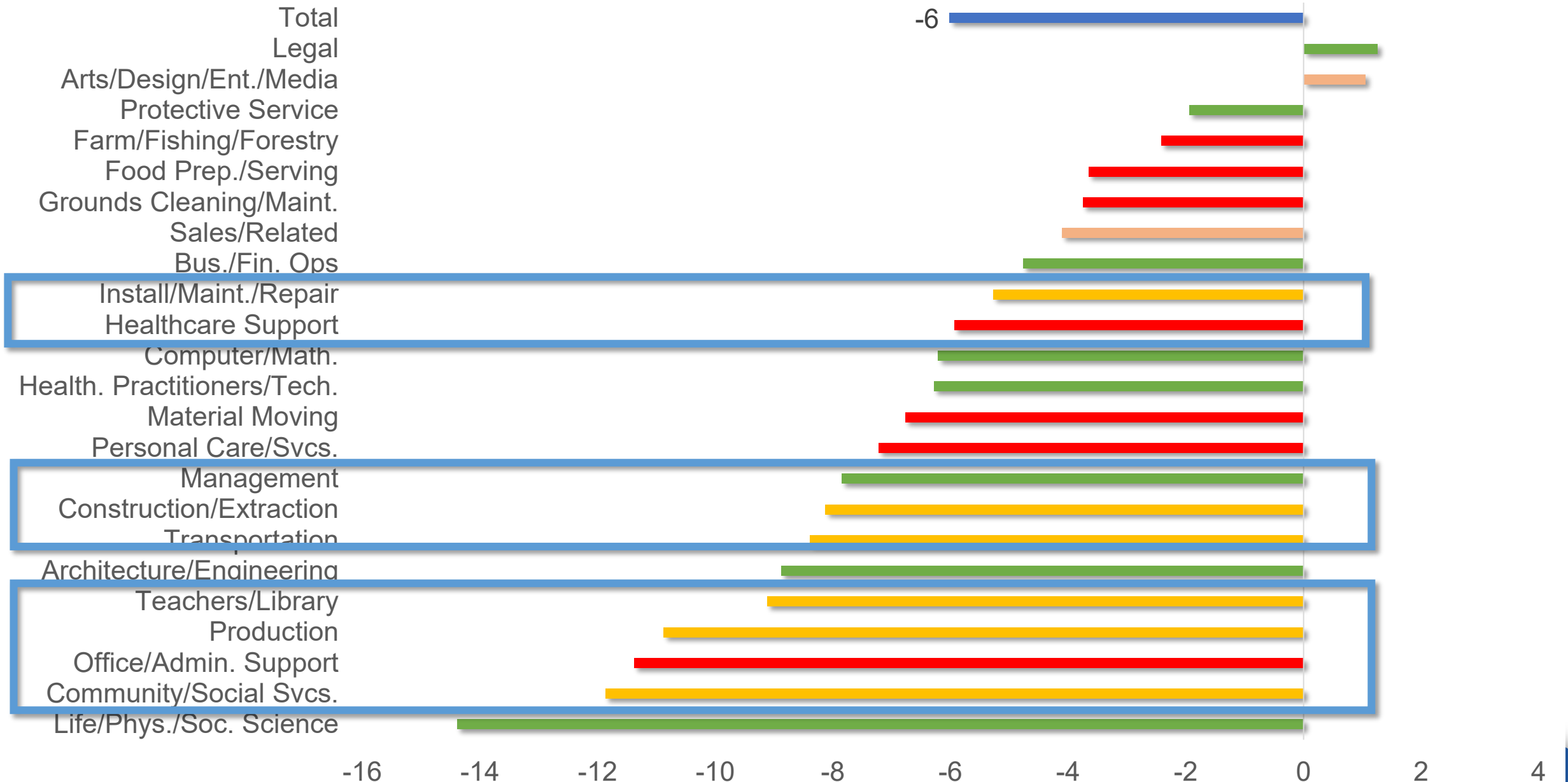


California Population vs. Distribution of Out-Migrants

■ % of Pop ■ % of Out Migration

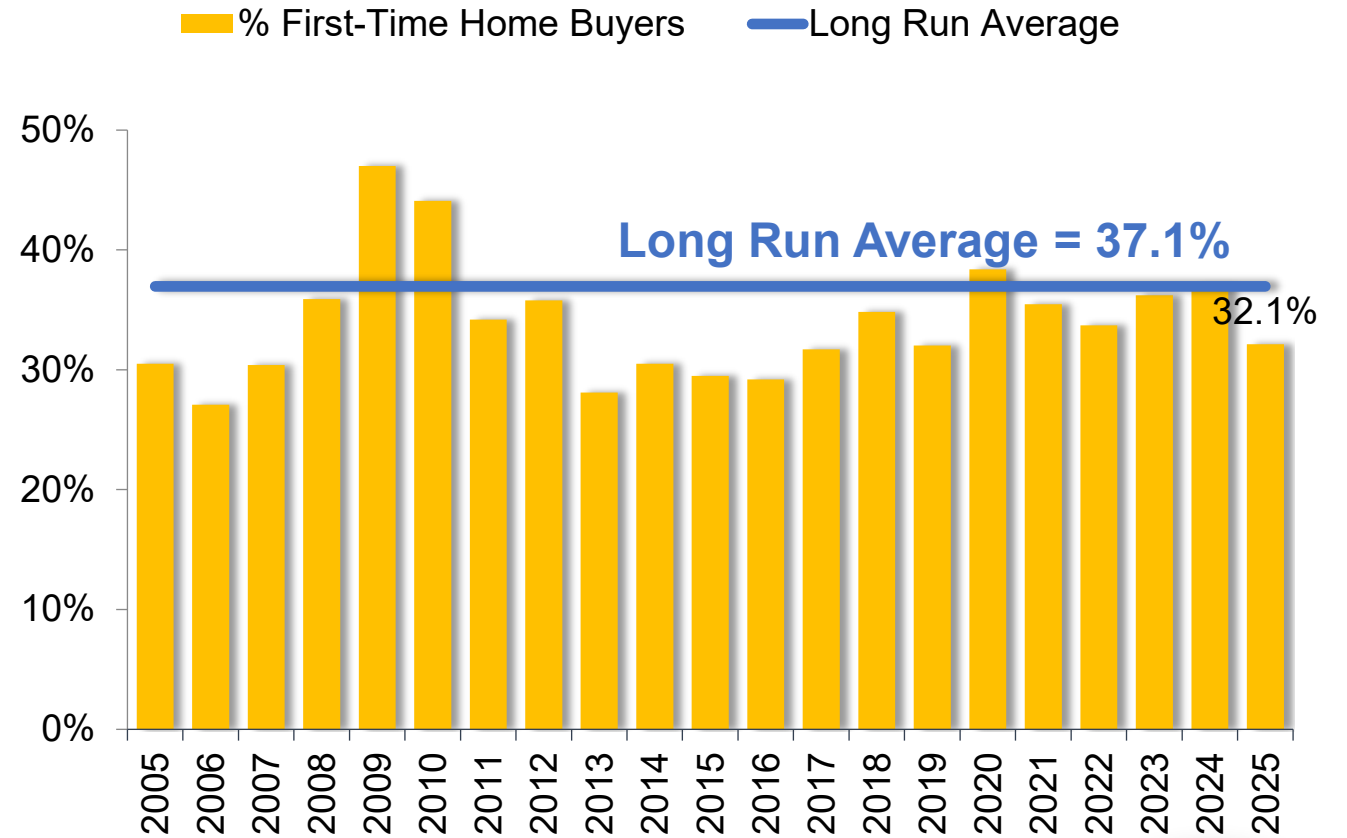


2023 California Out-Migration per 1,000 Population



Punchline: Market has Narrowed

First-Time Buyers: lowest level in 6 years



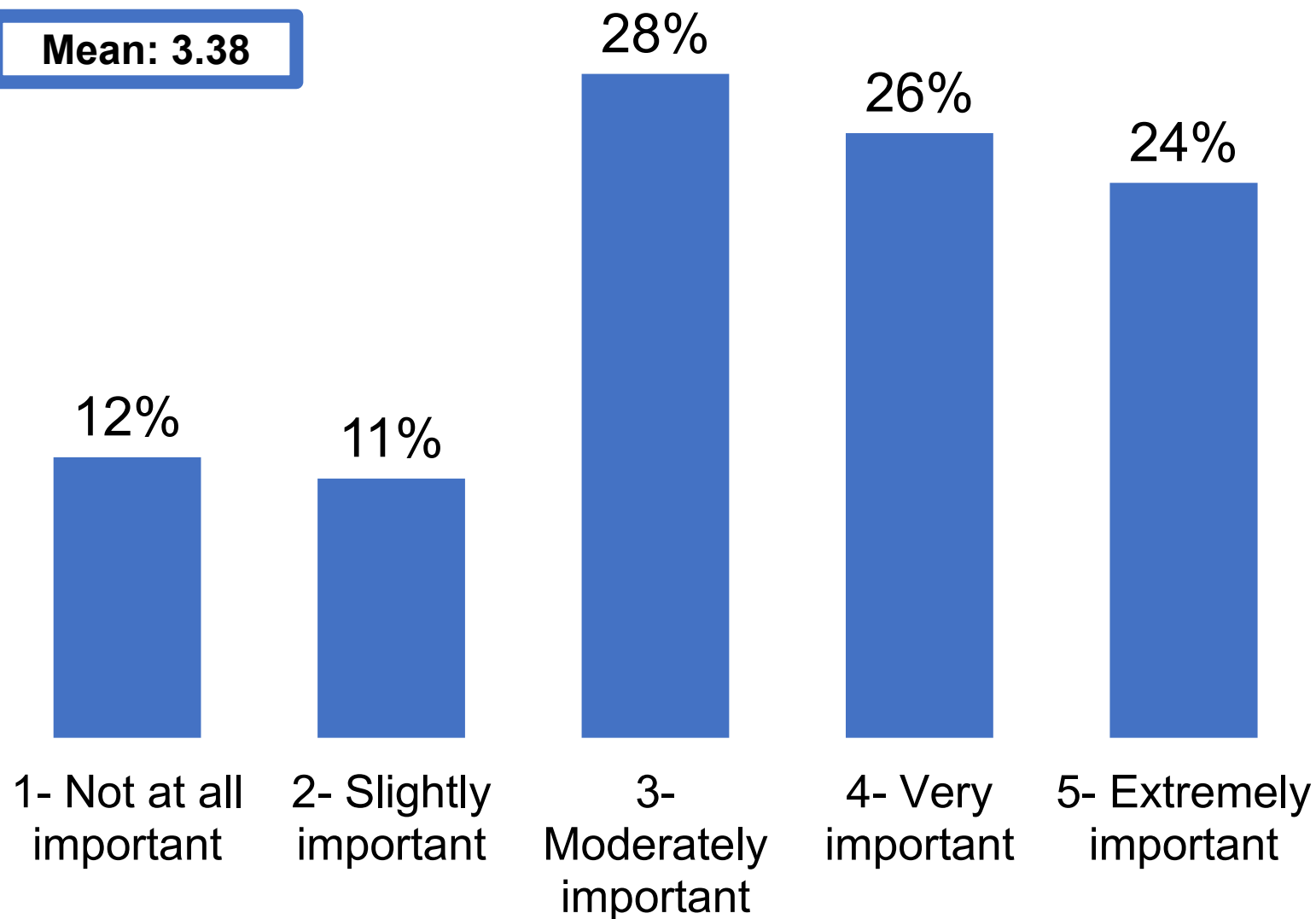
SERIES: 2024 Housing Market Survey
SOURCE: CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

How Can We Help Buyers?

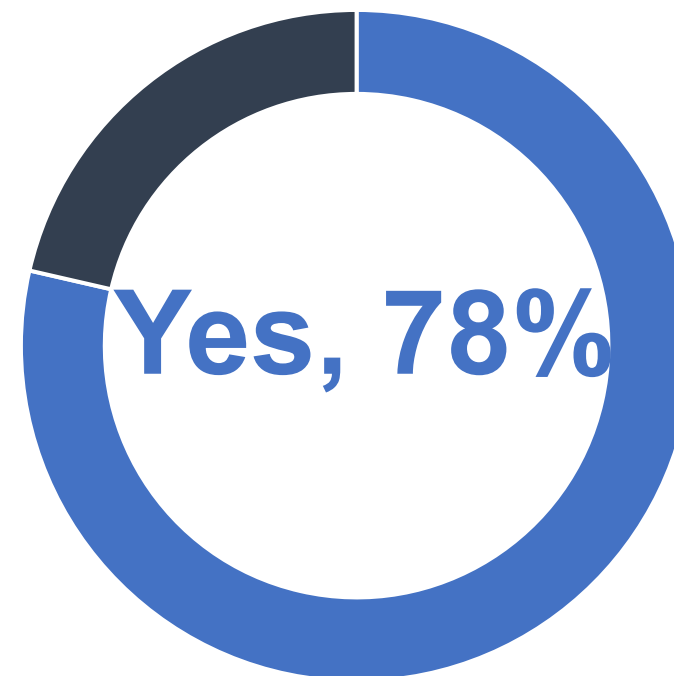


How important is homeownership to you? (n=1,001)

Mean: 3.38

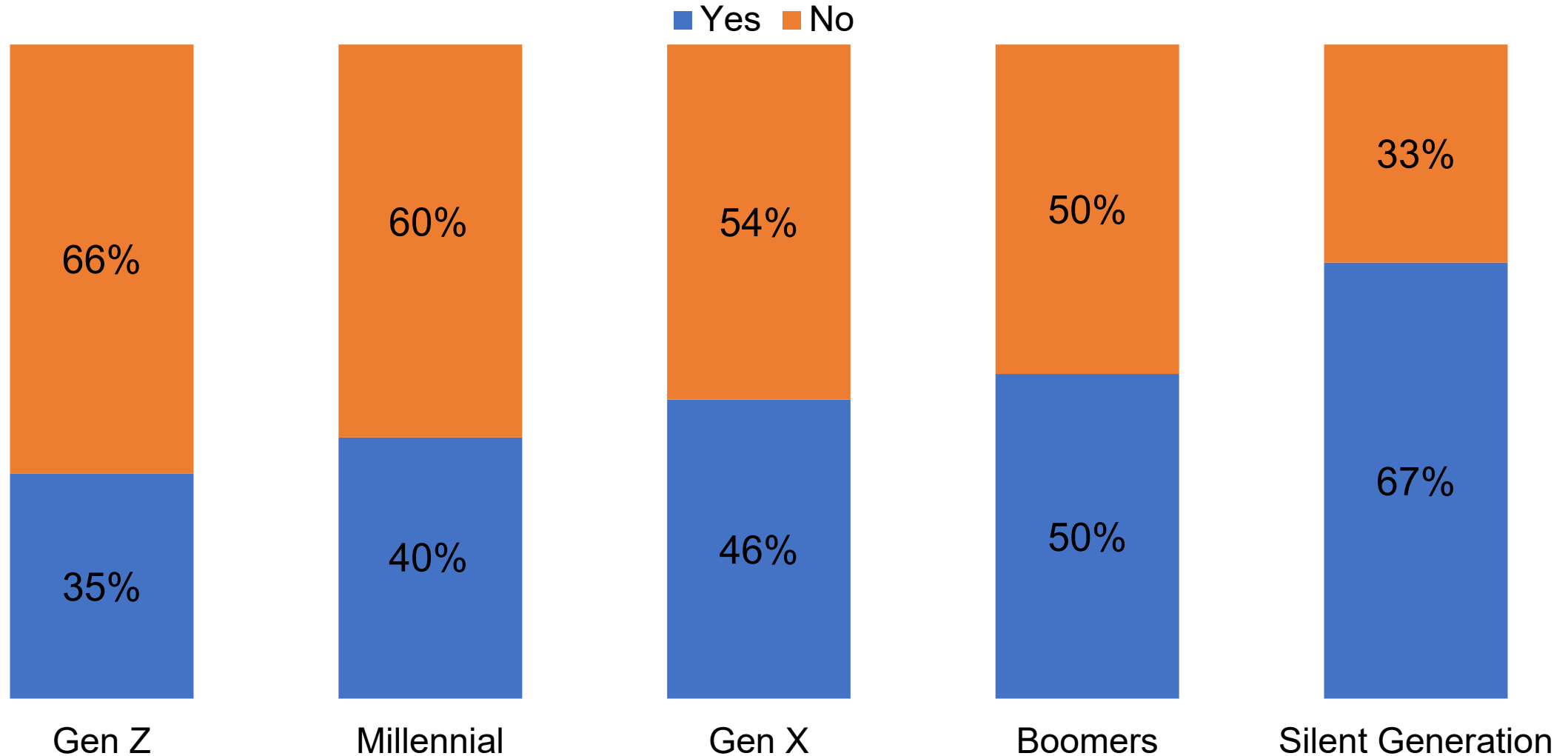


Do you want to own at some point in the future? (n=1,005)



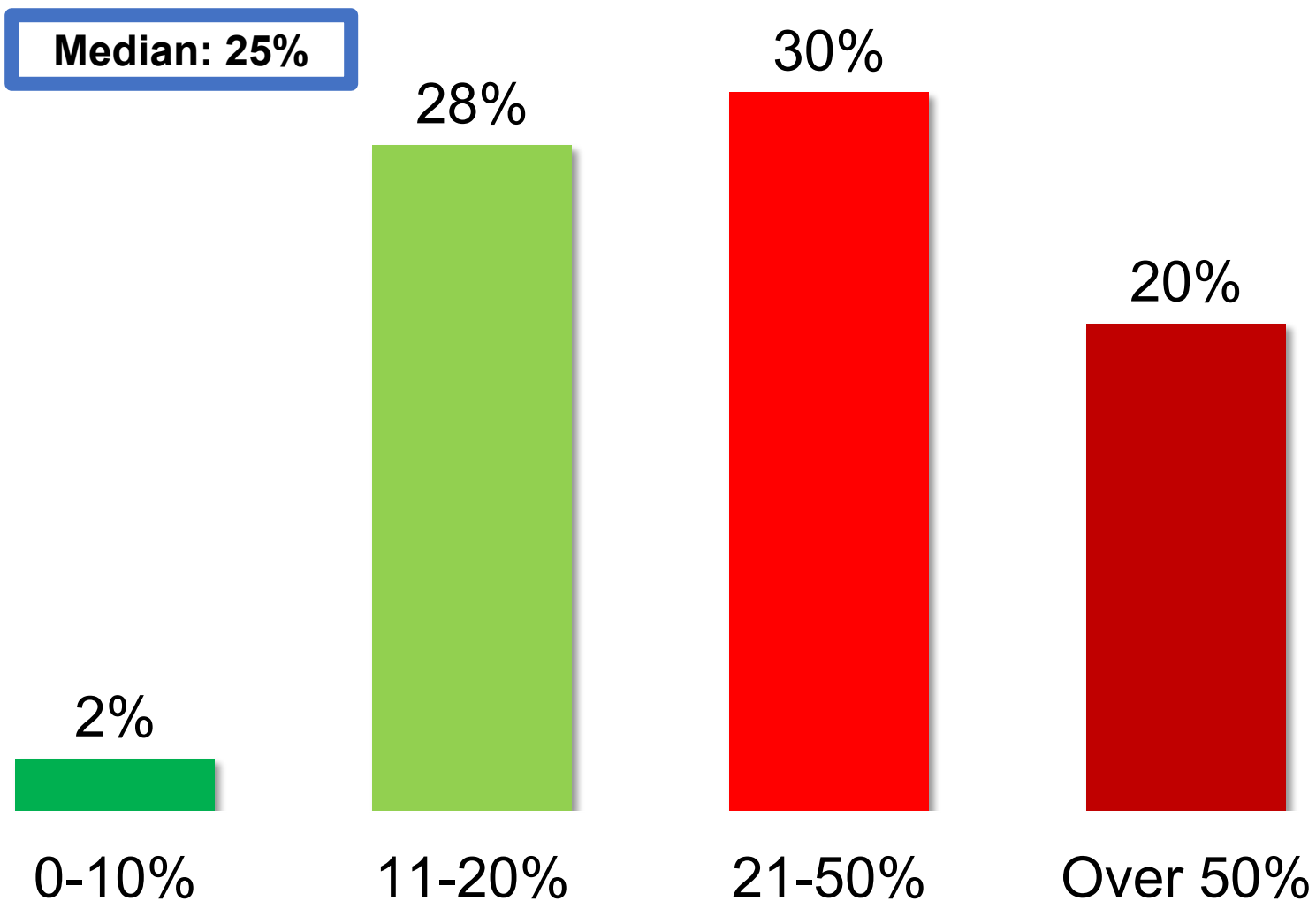
Are you familiar with credit and loan criteria needed for qualifying for a home purchase?

(n=1,005)

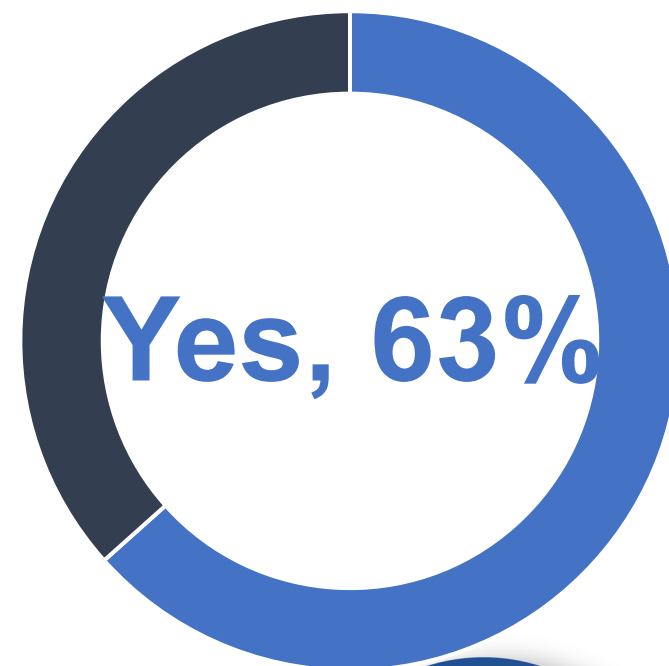




In your estimation, how much down payment
is required to purchase a home?
(n=1,005)



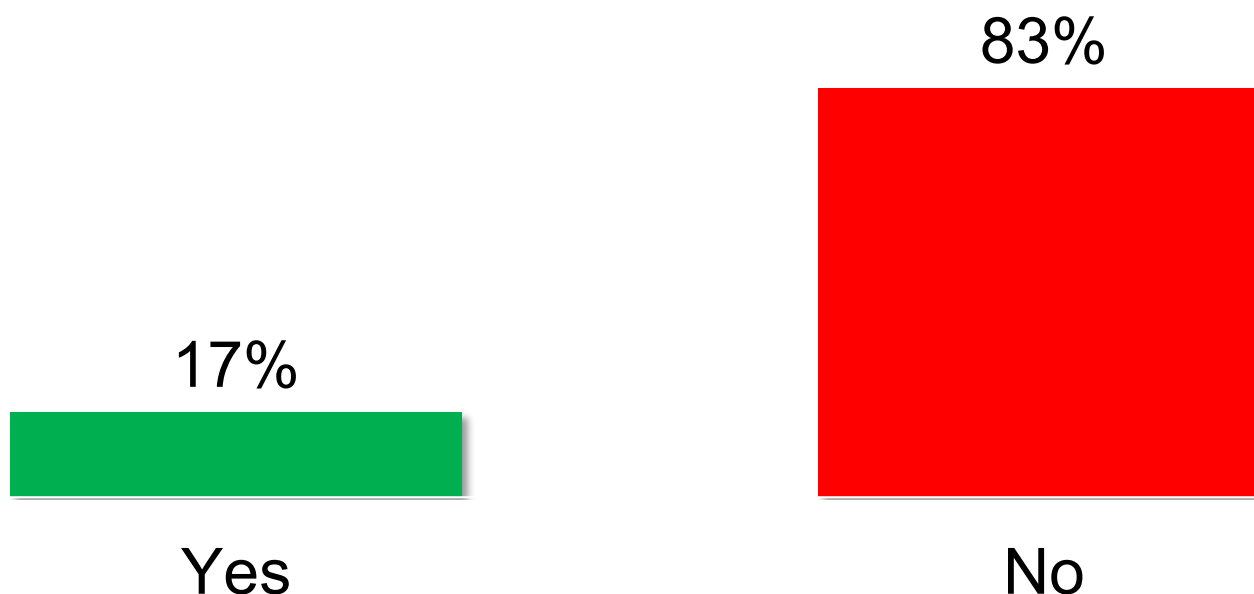
If you knew you could qualify for
a mortgage with a much lower
down payment would you start
to look for a house?
(n=1,005)





They are also unaware of possible assistance...

Are you aware of any first-time buyer or down payment assistance programs in your area?
(n=1,005)



Keep Them Grounded in Reality



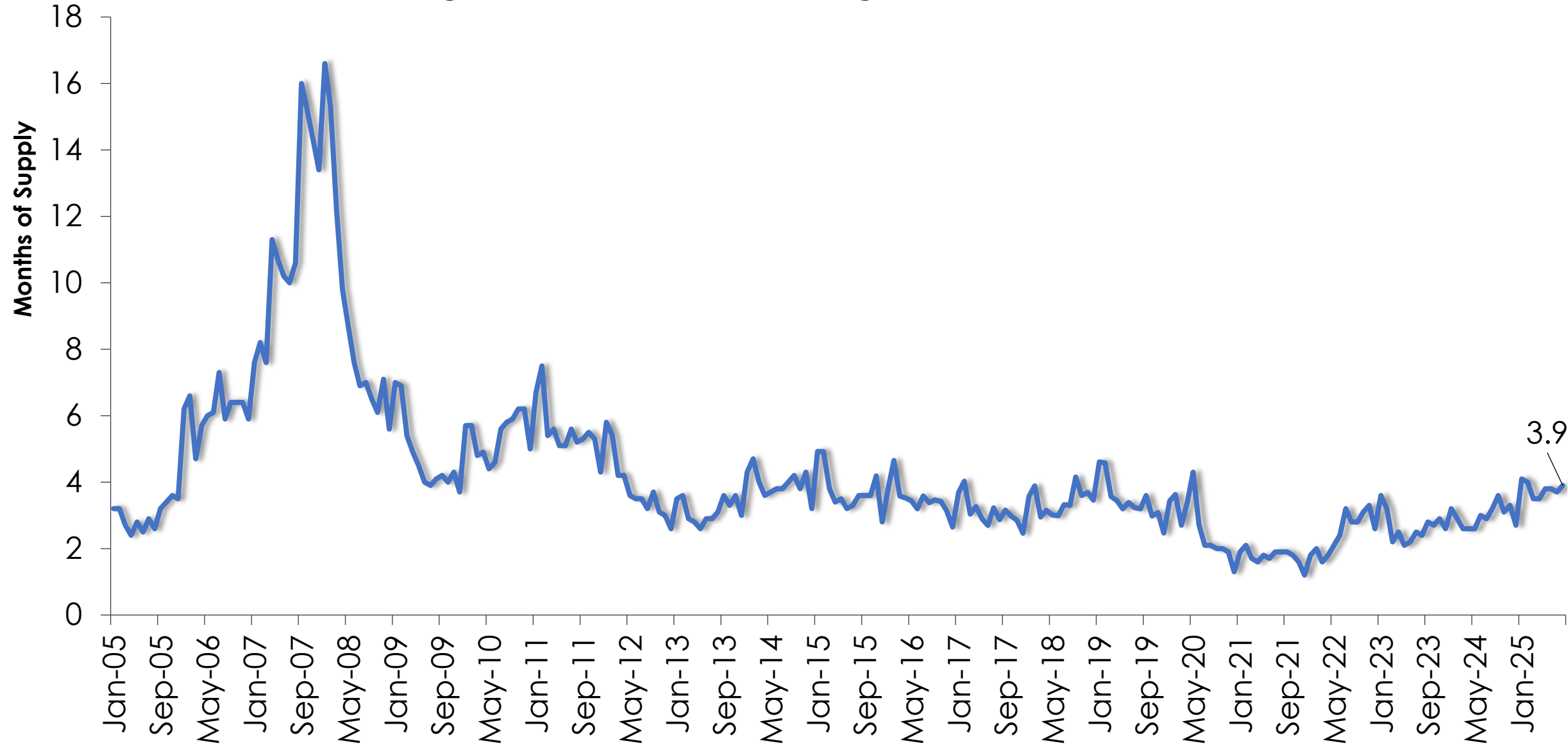
Has the shift
favored buyers?
For Sure!

A buyer's market??
Not in my book....



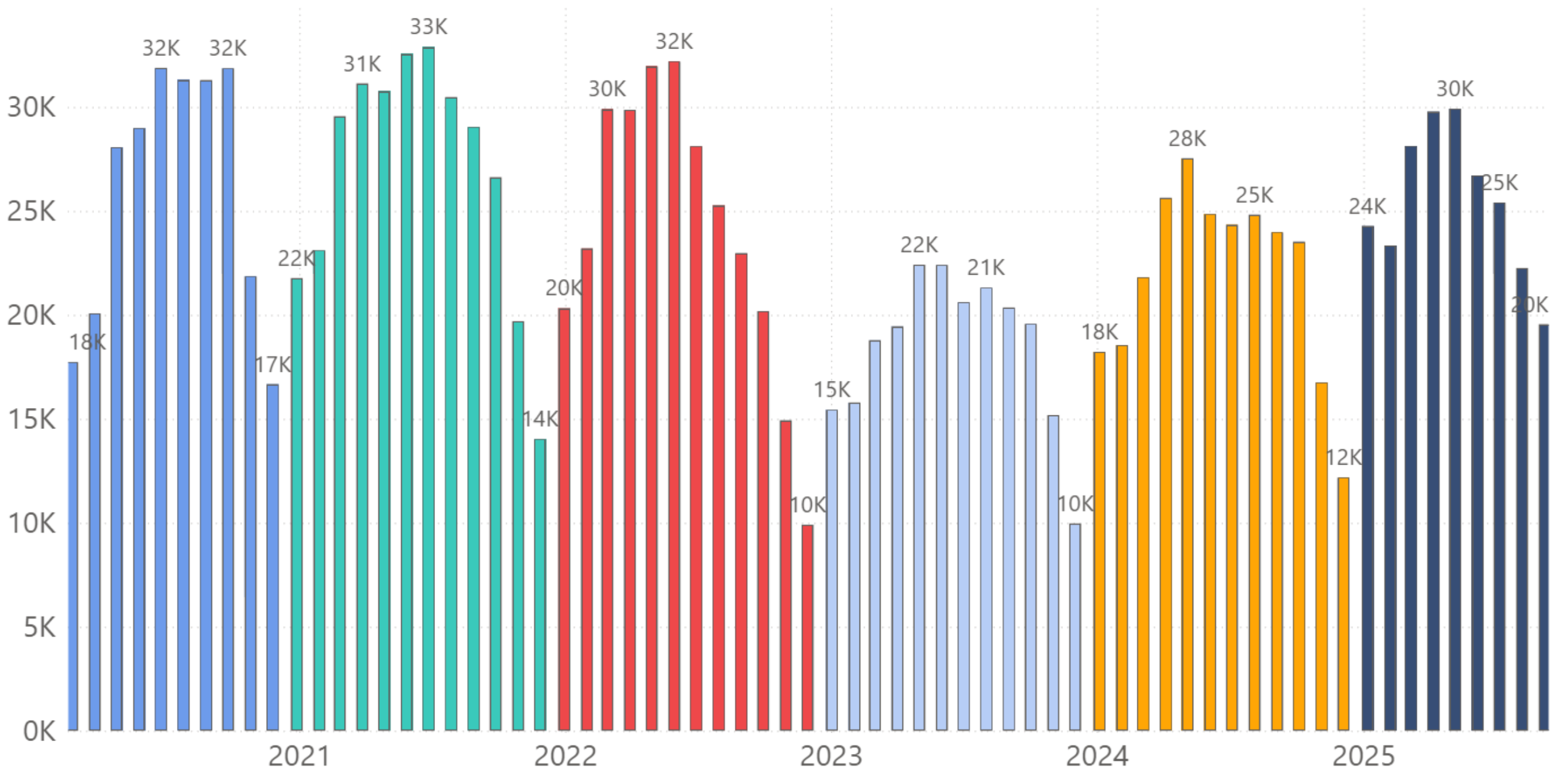
California Unsold Inventory Index

August 2024: 3.2 Months; August 2025: 3.9 Months



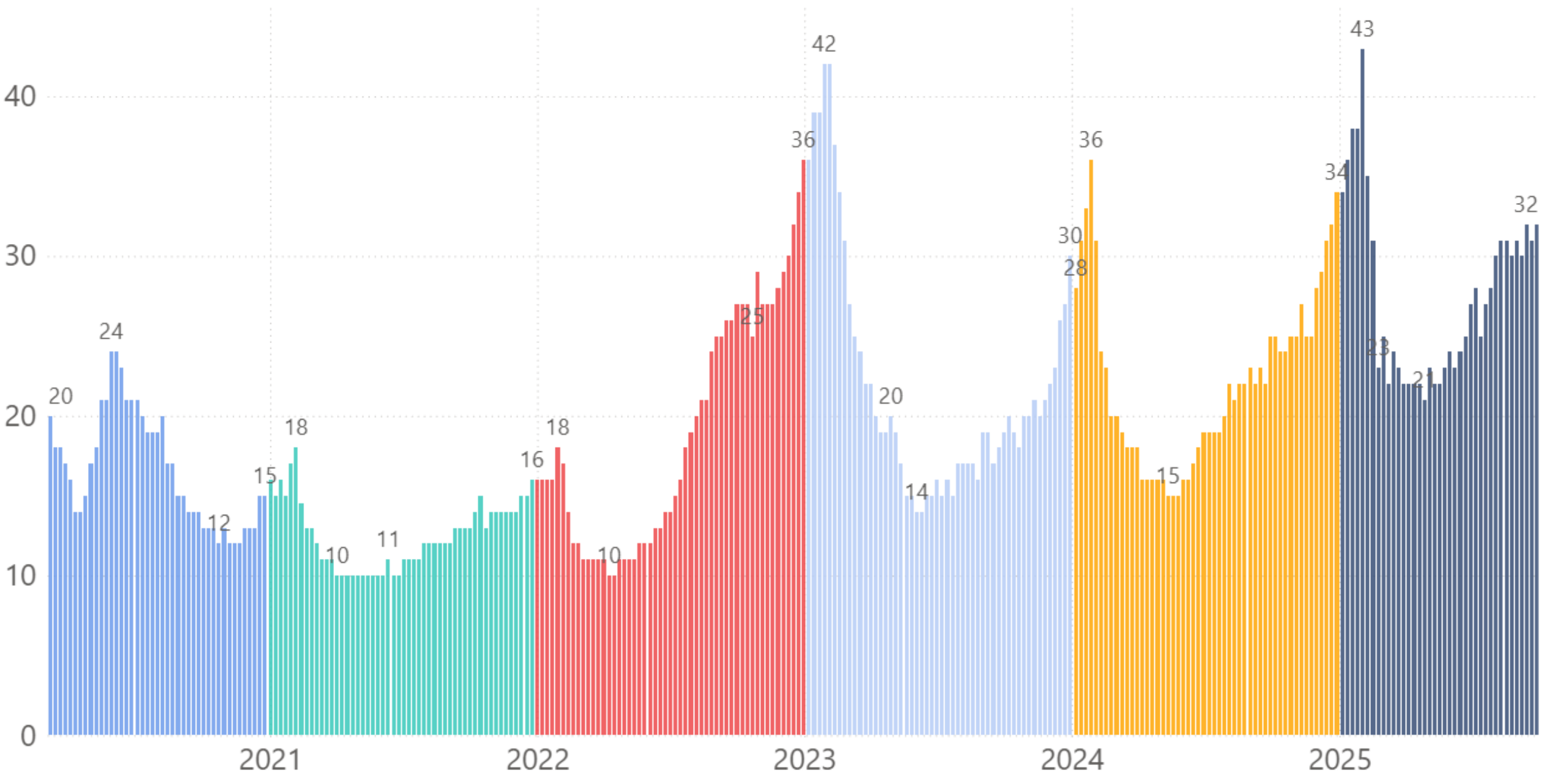
New Existing SFR Listings Added to MLSs (Month-to-Date for Current Month)

● 2020 ● 2021 ● 2022 ● 2023 ● 2024 ● 2025



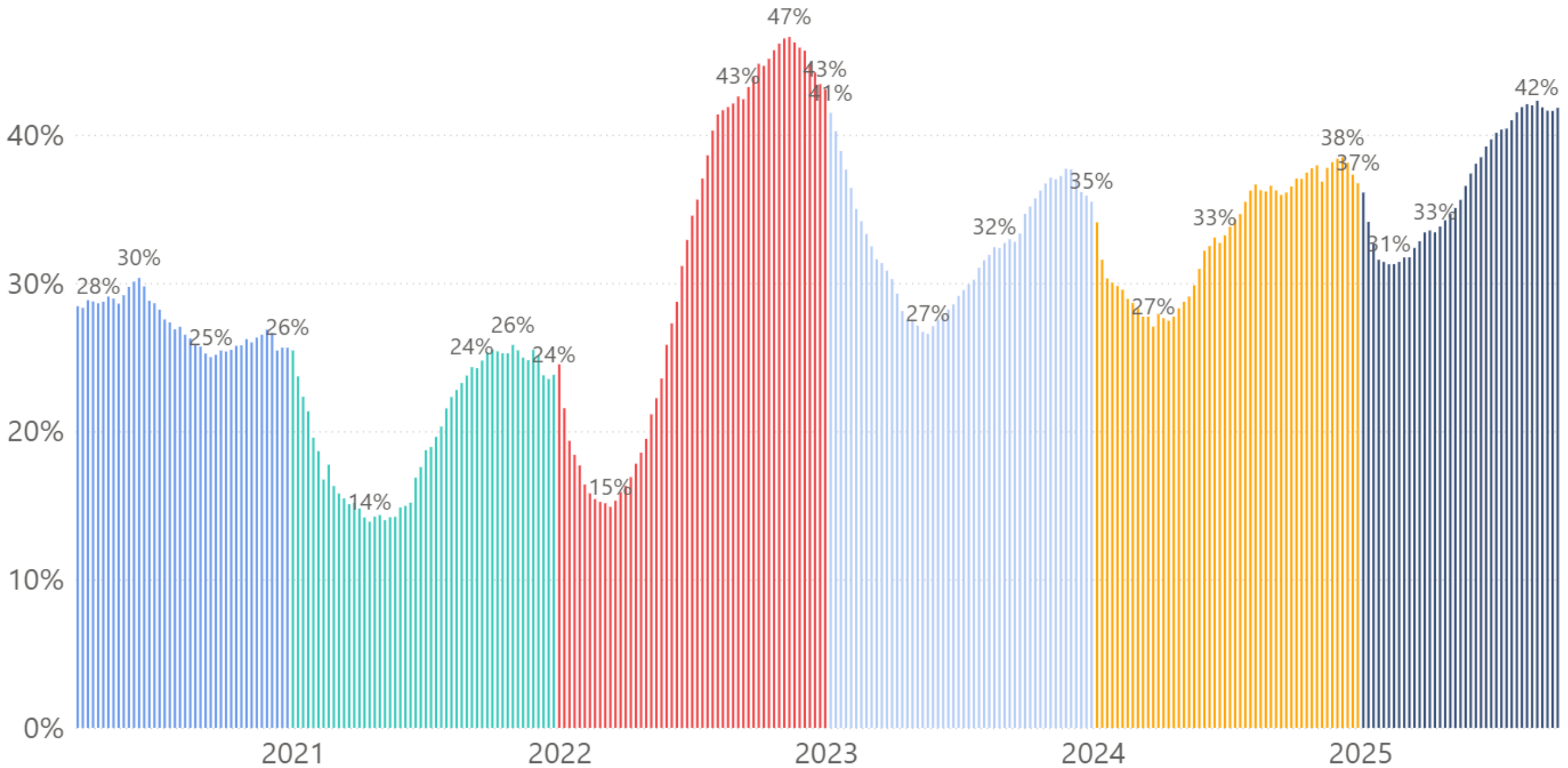
Median Days on Market for Closed Sales (Month-to-Date for Current Month)

● 2020 ● 2021 ● 2022 ● 2023 ● 2024 ● 2025



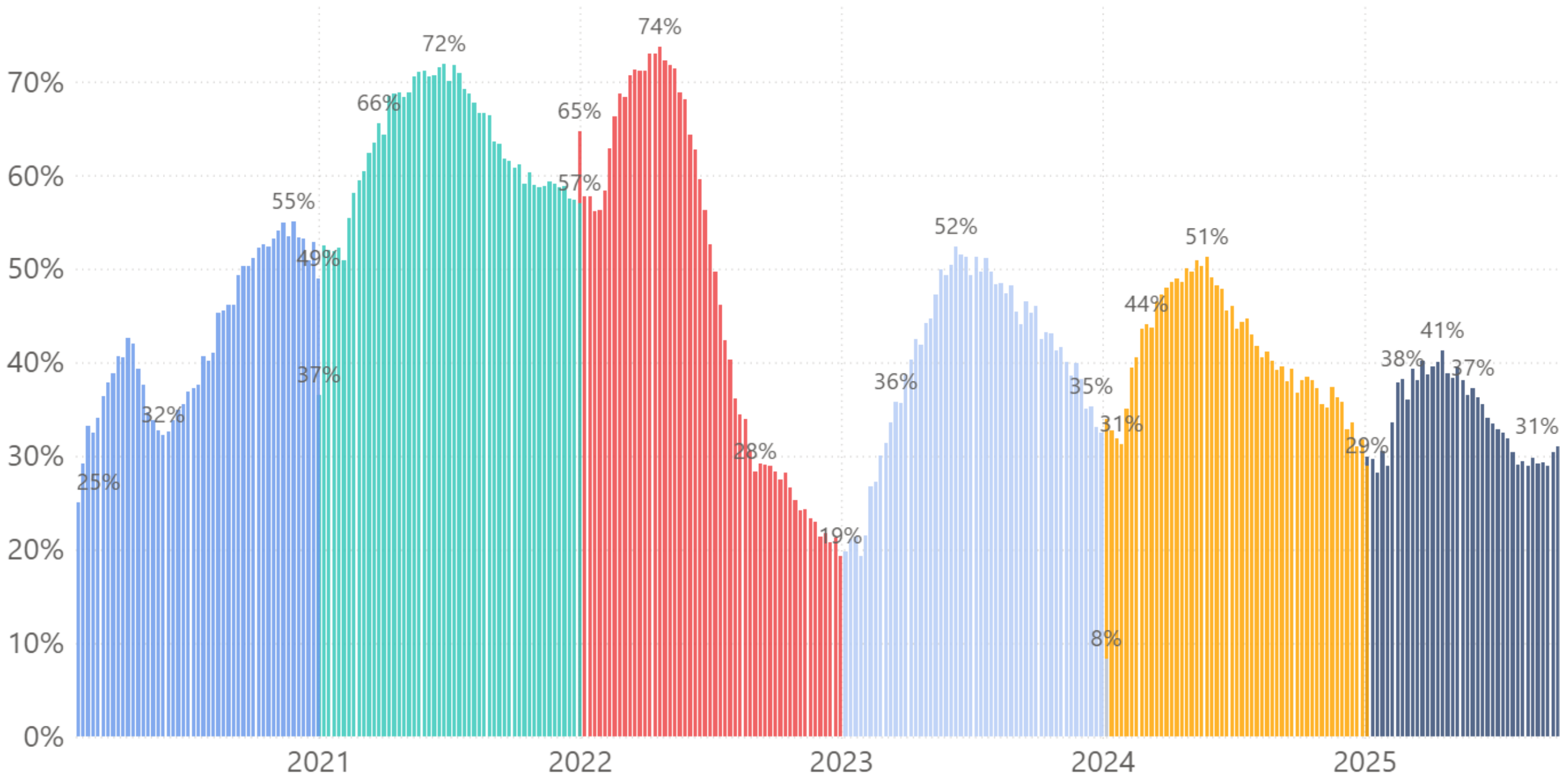
% of Active Listings w/Reduced Price

● 2020 ● 2021 ● 2022 ● 2023 ● 2024 ● 2025



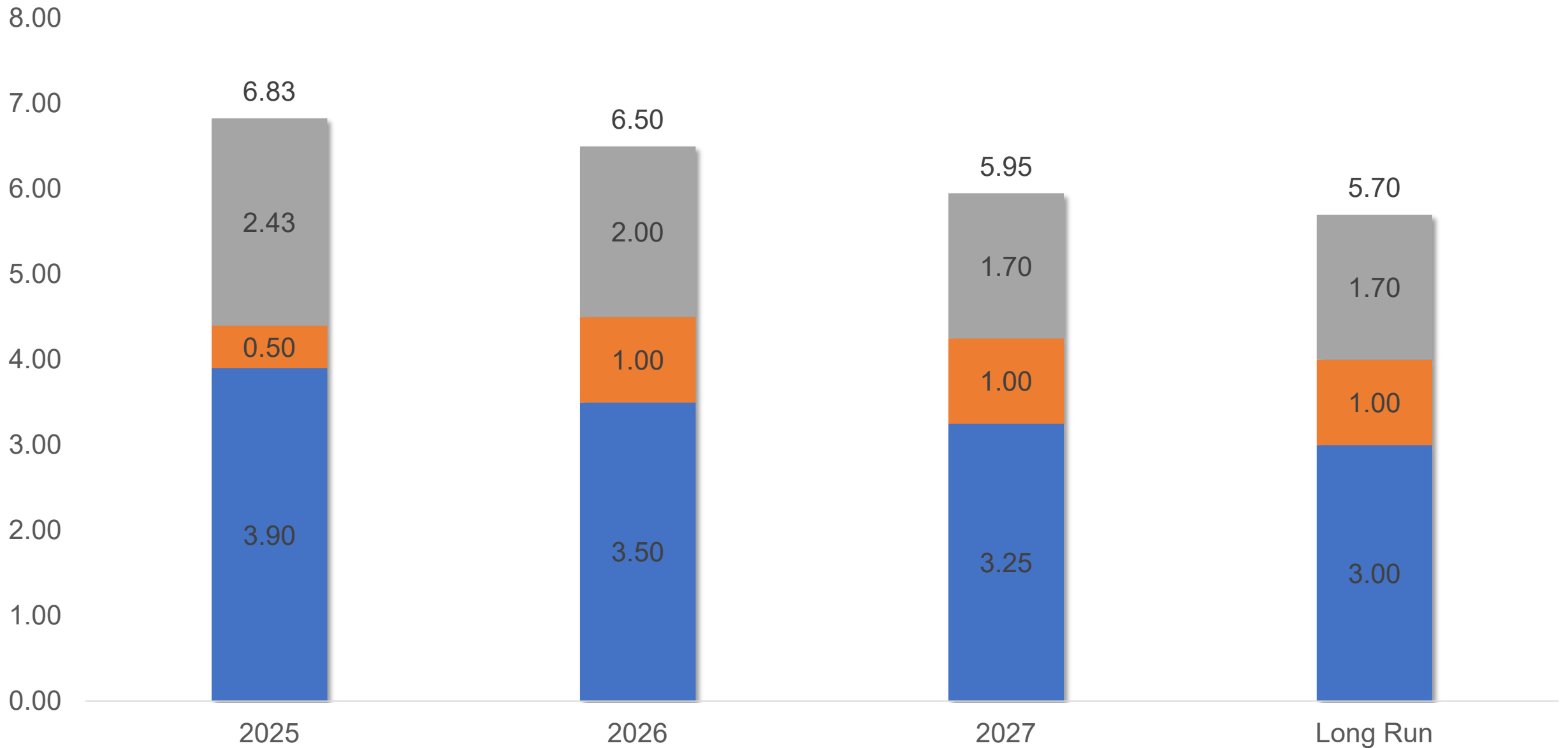
% of Homes Closed Above List Price

● 2020 ● 2021 ● 2022 ● 2023 ● 2024 ● 2025

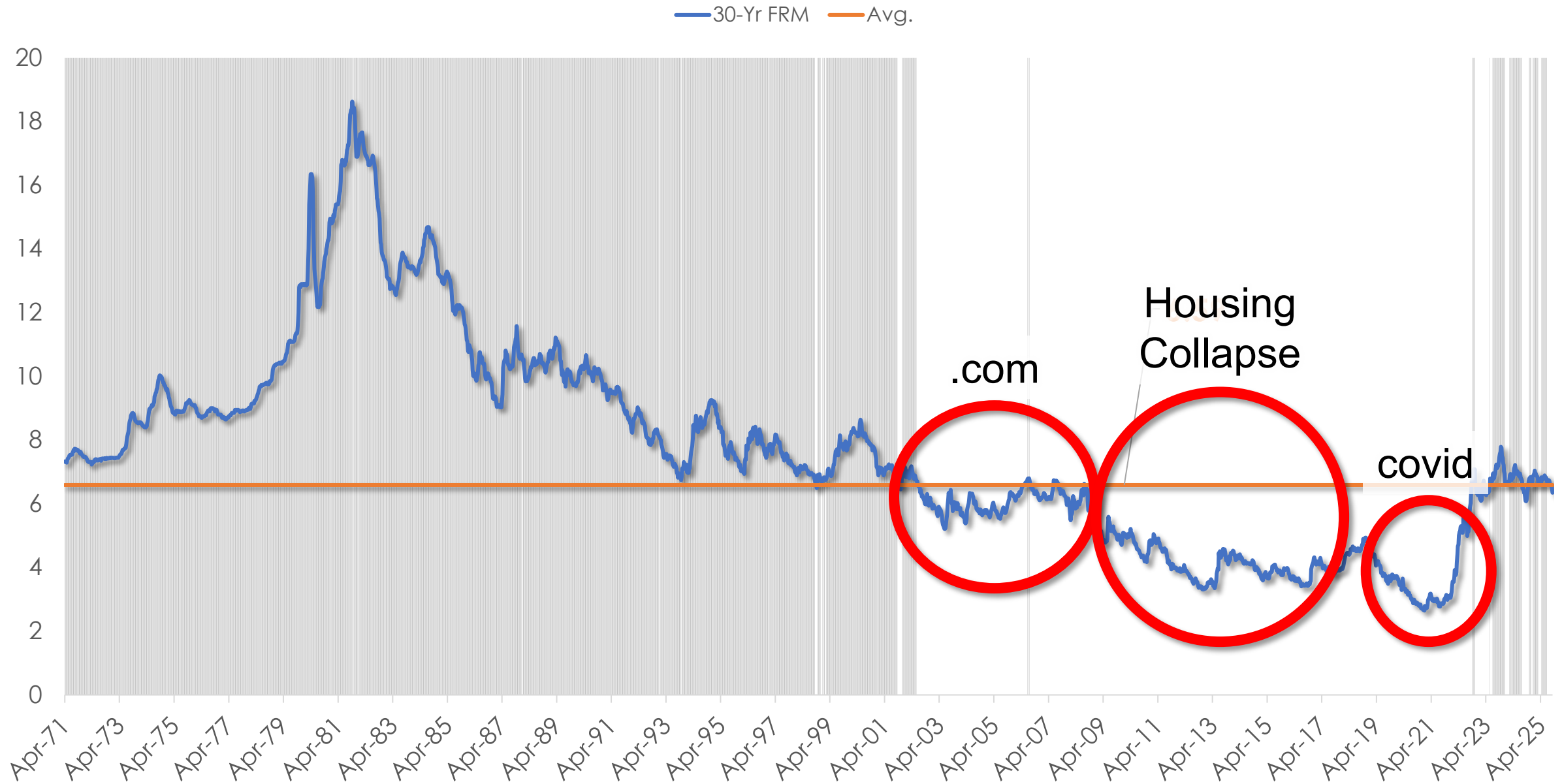


Translating Fed Funds Rate Into Mortgage Rates

■ FFR ■ Yield Curve ■ Spread



30-Yr Fixed-Rate Mortgage Rates

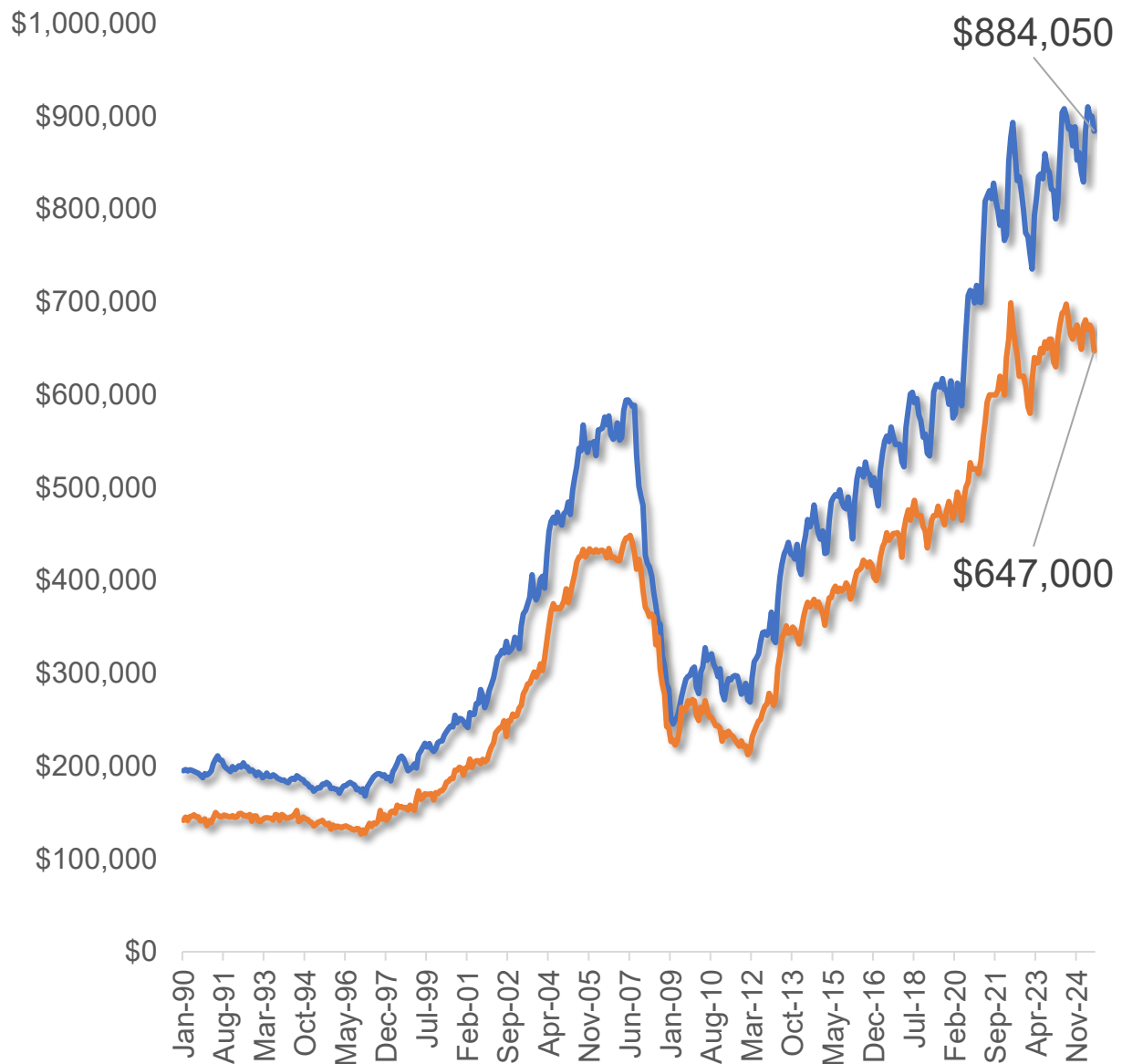


30-Yr Fixed-Rate Mortgage Rates



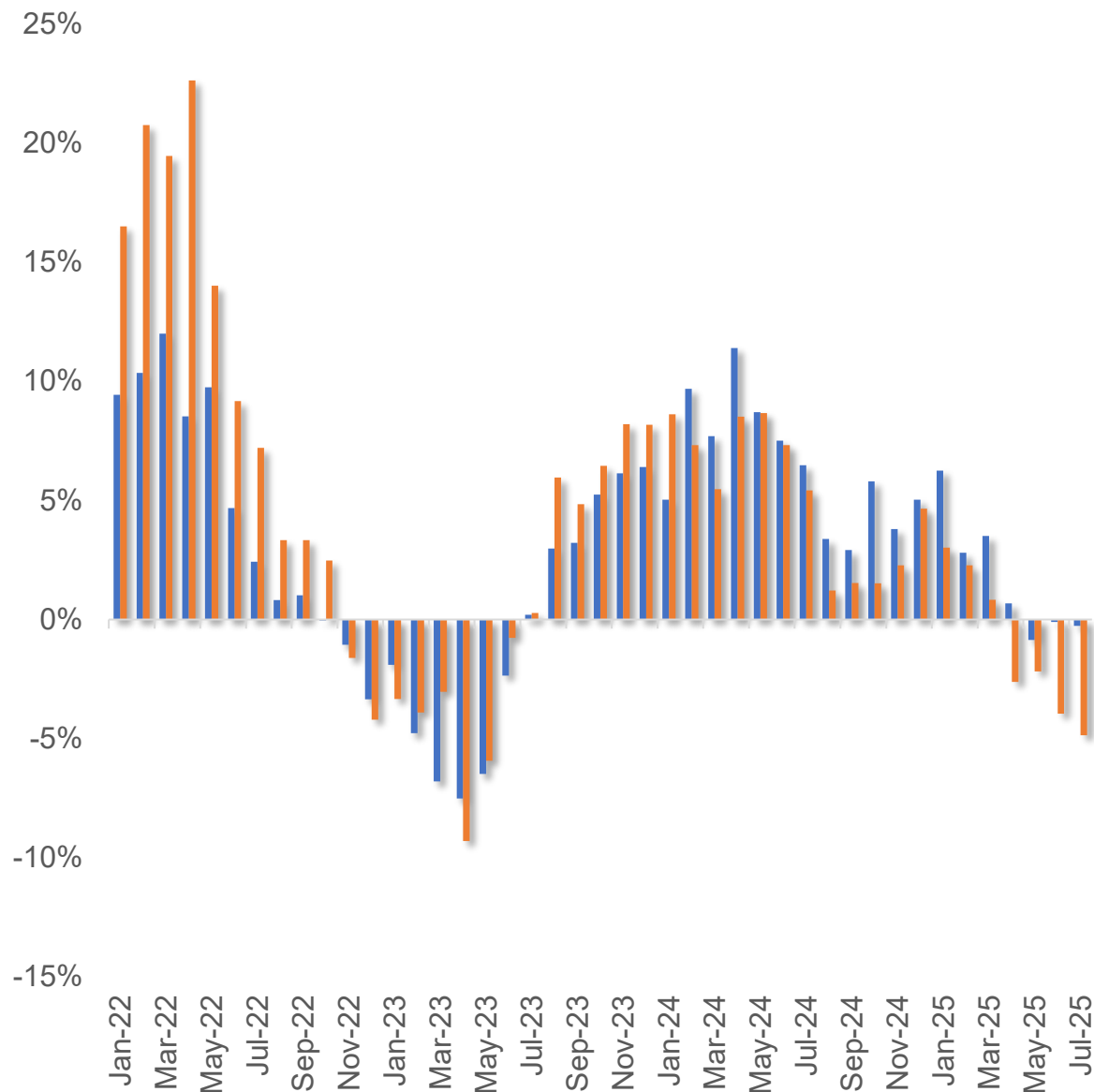
California Median Sales Price

— SFR — Condo



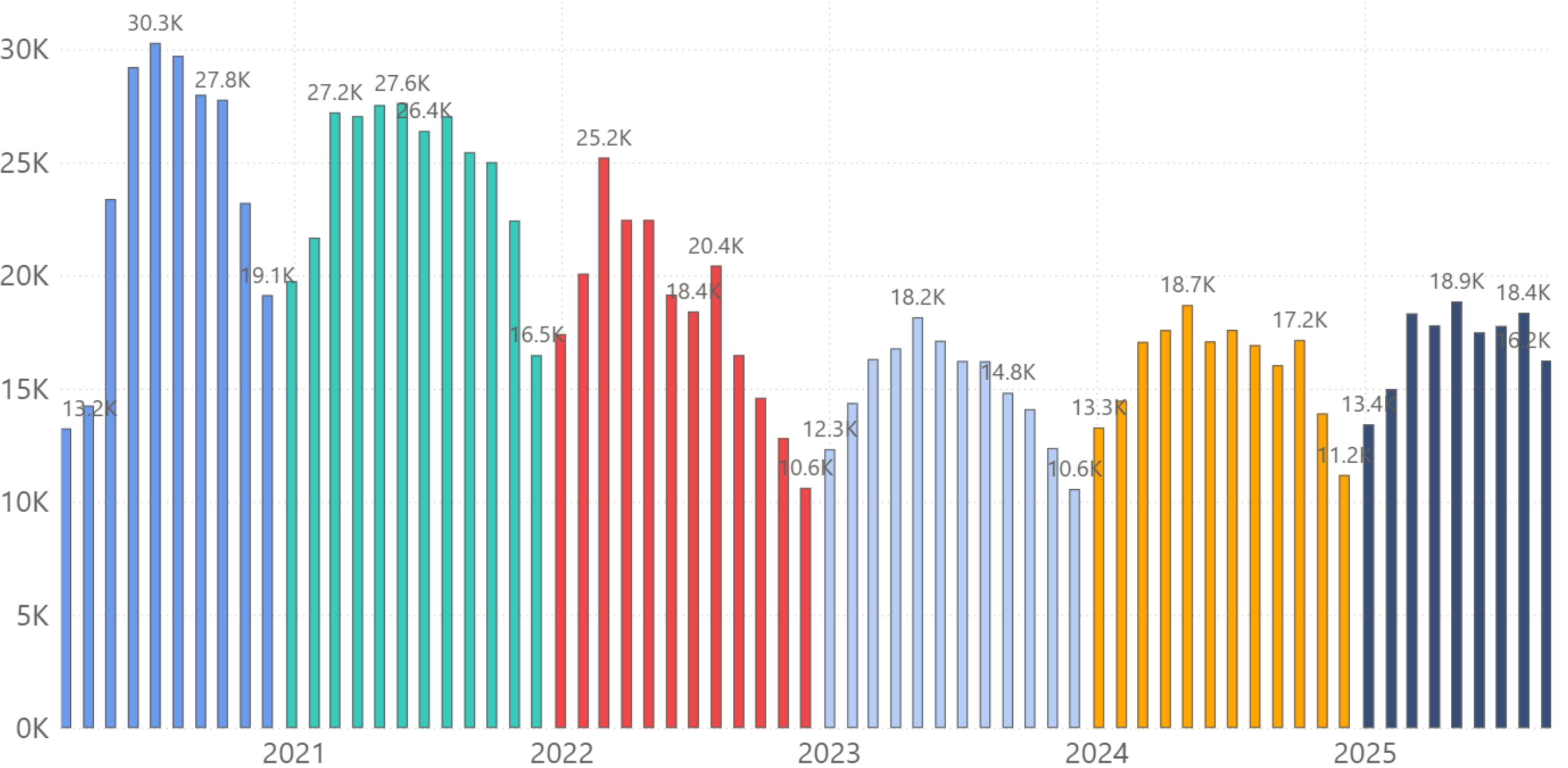
California Median Sales Price Growth

■ SFR ■ Condo

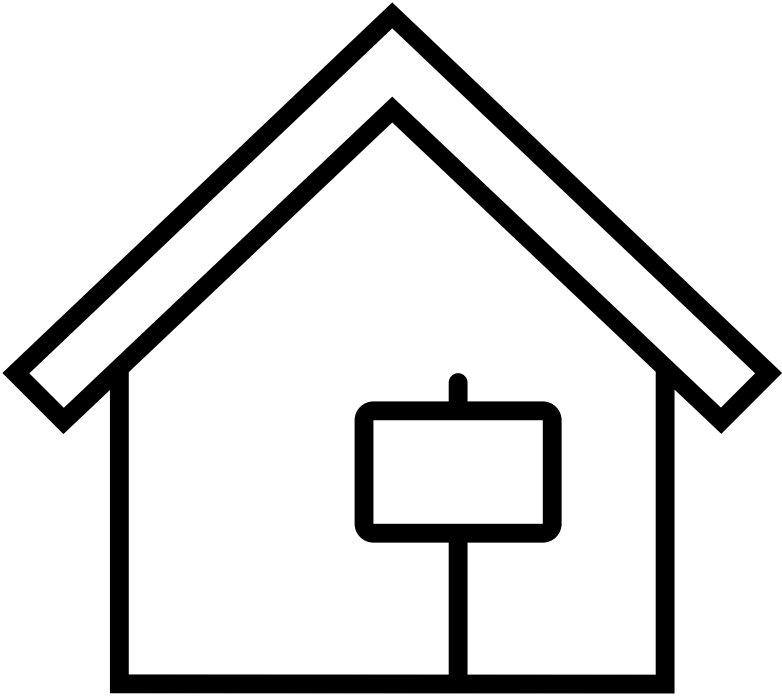


Existing SFR Pending Sales (Month-To-Date for Current Month)

● 2020 ● 2021 ● 2022 ● 2023 ● 2024 ● 2025



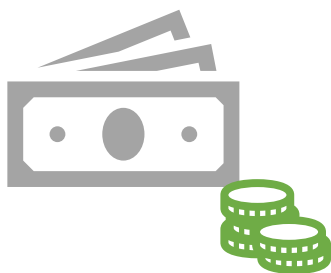
And sellers?



- Manage expectations
- Get creative to compete
- Price it right!!
- Do the pre-listing work
- Market it like crazy
- Set boundaries
- Have a downstairs en suite!
- Help them transfer their base!
- Be strategic, not desperate

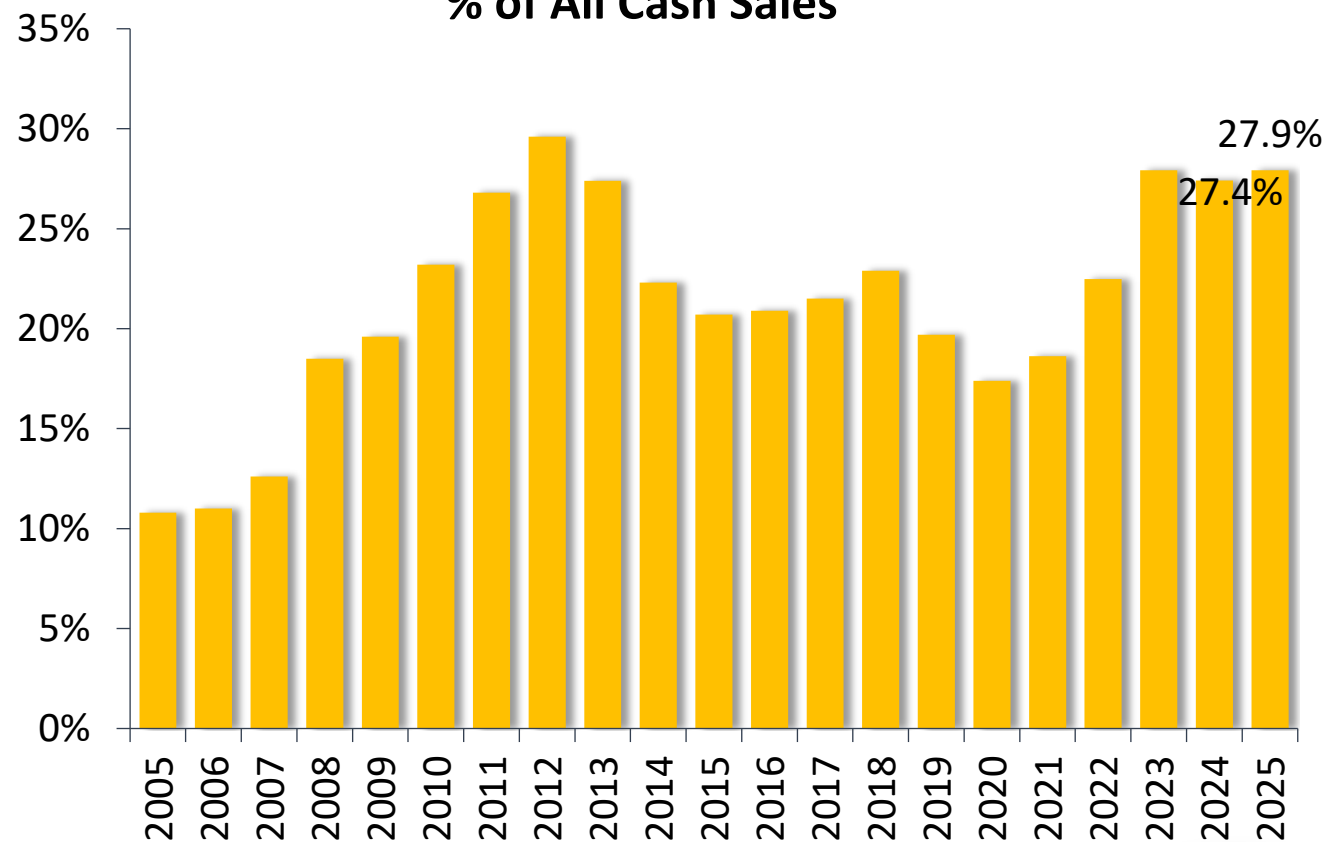
Opportunity in High-Income Segment

All cash at highest level in 13 years



- **Over a quarter of buyers paid with all cash**
- **Higher interest rates pushed up the share of all cash buyers**

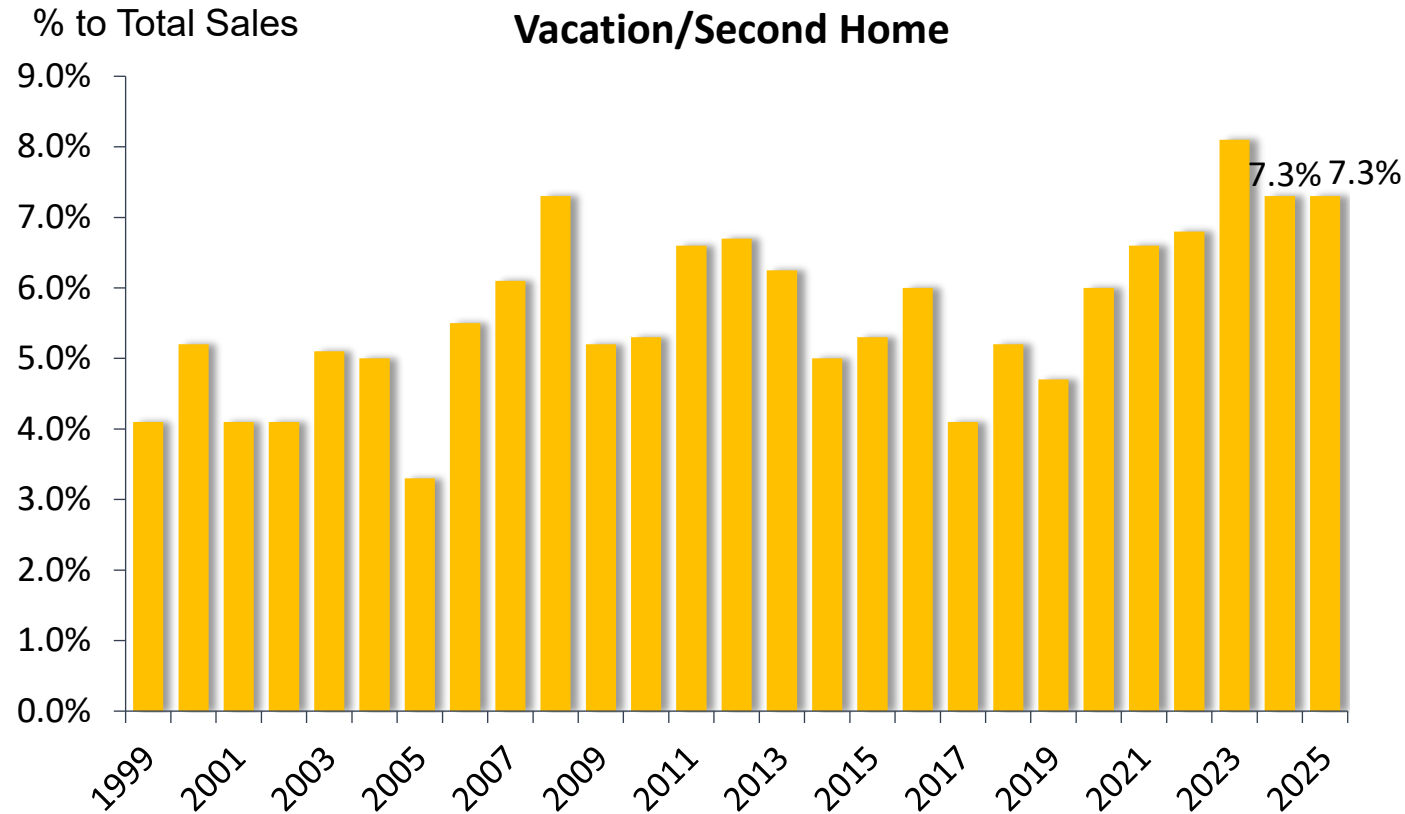
% of All Cash Sales



SERIES: 2025 Housing Market Survey

SOURCE: CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

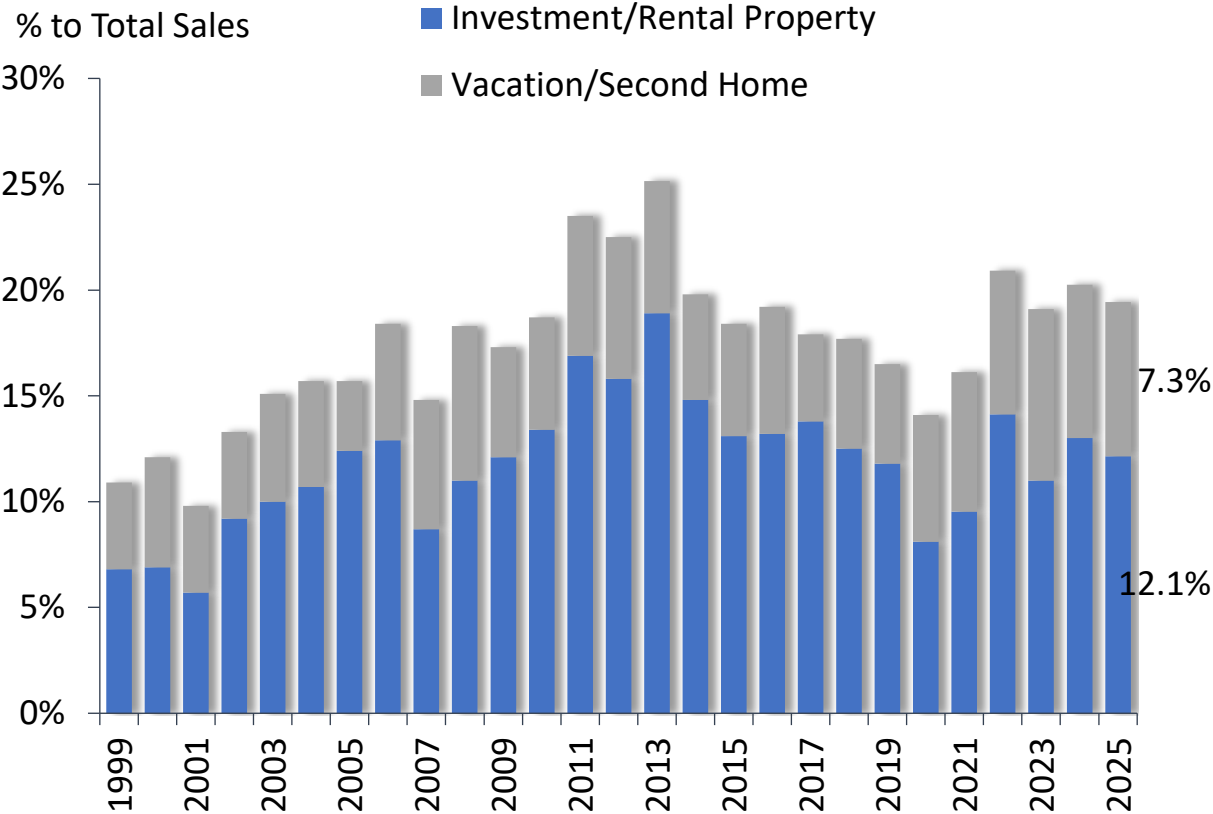
Second home market remains elevated



SERIES: 2025 Housing Market Survey
SOURCE: CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®



Investors moderate, but remain elevated



Flip

Vs.



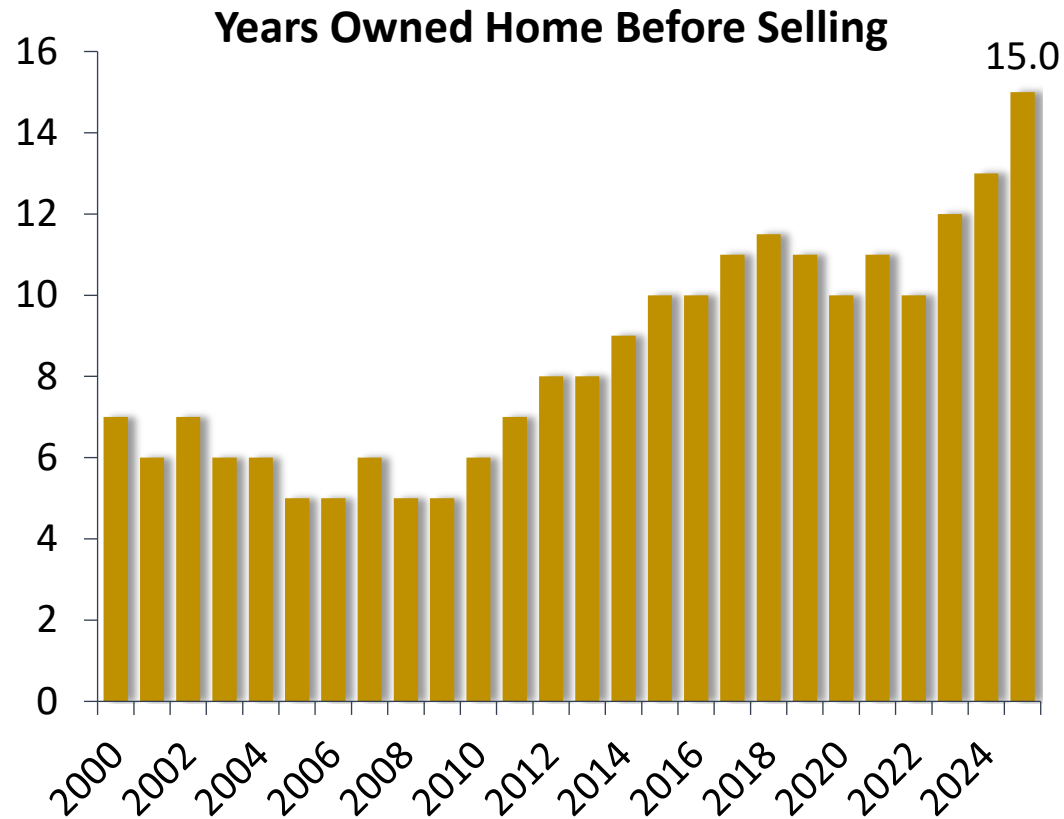
Rent

2014: 30%
2015: 26%
2016: 20%
2017: 24%
2018: 26%
2019: 18%
2020: 27%
2021: 29%
2022: 18%
2023: 34%
2024: 29%
2025: 32%

2014: 70%
2015: 74%
2016: 80%
2017: 76%
2018: 74%
2019: 82%
2020: 73%
2021: 71%
2022: 82%
2023: 66%
2024: 71%
2025: 68%

SERIES: 2025 Housing Market Survey
SOURCE: CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

Sellers' housing tenure all-time high



Homeowners holding onto their properties longer before selling because:

- Low rate on current mortgage
- Low property taxes
- Capital gains hit
- Where can I afford to go?
- Remodel and stay

SERIES: 2025 Housing Market Survey
SOURCE: CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

Summary

ADU laws working, Governor's budget could help—very cautiously optimistic

Consumers really need a good professional for all the hurdles they face

Sales to rise along with inventory, but slowly—still a market share game

Rates to come down slowly, but even a little helps a lot

New SALT deductions + potential for Capital Gains

Market less competitive—that's GOOD!—but still probably not a buyer's market

Lots of desire for homeownership, little education—meaning a big opportunity!

Potential for weak prices short run, but will rebound when uncertainty subsides

Minimal risk for new foreclosure crisis, but likely to see some distress

California housing market outlook

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025f	2026f
SFH Resales (000s)	417.7	424.9	402.6	398.0	411.9	444.5	343.0	257.9	269.2	269.0	274.4
% Change	2.0%	1.7%	-5.2%	-1.2%	3.5%	7.9%	-22.8%	-24.8%	4.4%	-0.1%	2.0%
Median Price (\$000s)	\$502.3	\$537.9	\$569.5	\$592.4	\$659.4	\$784.8	\$819.4	\$814.3	\$865.4	\$873.9	\$905.0
% Change	5.4%	7.1%	5.9%	4.0%	11.3%	19.0%	4.4%	-0.6%	6.3%	1.0%	3.6%
Housing Affordability Index	31%	29%	28%	31%	32%	26%	19%	17%	16%	17%	18%
30-Yr FRM	3.6%	4.0%	4.5%	3.9%	3.1%	3.0%	5.3%	6.8%	6.7%	6.6%	6.0%

Thank you!!