january 2026 issue #6

views

a visual newsletter by vizualytiks

← a recap of 2025

a glimpse into 2026 →

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Executive Summary

↘

Welcome to Views 2026!

As 2026 begins, the world is entering a period of adjustment rather than recovery. Political change, ongoing conflicts, and trade policy decisions are shaping economic conditions across regions. While growth is expected to continue, it is likely to be uneven, with inflation, labor pressures, and policy uncertainty weighing on confidence in many markets.

At the same time, artificial intelligence is becoming part of everyday individual and business operations. Companies are moving from testing AI to using it at scale, with the hope of influencing productivity and competition across industries. Views 2026 uses clear, visual storytelling to highlight these shifts while showing where momentum is building, where risks remain, and what themes are likely to define the year ahead.

— Vizualytiks

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Snapshot of 2025

JAN	LA wildfires kill 30 and destroy over 16,000 properties	Donald Trump sworn in as 47th president of U.S.	DeepSeek launches chatbot, wiping out $1Tn in market value
FEB	Beyonce wins 3 Grammys including her 1st album of the year	U.S. imposes additional 10% tariffs on China	Philadelphia Eagles win the Super Bowl
MAR	Mark Carney sworn in as Canadian PM	American astronauts return after 286 days in space	Earthquake in Myanmar kills 3,600
APR	South Korea's president, Yoon Suk Yeol removed from office	Trump announces 'Liberation Day" with sweeping global tariffs	Pope Francis dies at 88
MAY	Friedrich Merz becomes chancellor of Germany	India launches missiles into Pakistan	Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost is elected pope
JUN	Air India flight crashes, killing all but 1 of 272 on board	"No Kings Protest" in U.S draws 7 million attendees	U.S. military strikes Iranian nuclear sites
JUL	USAID shut down by Trump and DOGE	Deadly flash floods in Texas kill 135	"Kiss-Cam" incident at Coldplay concert
AUG	OpenAI releases ChatGPT-5	Trump deploys National Guard to Washington	Taylor Swift & Travis Kelce announce their engagement
SEP	Gen-Z protests in Nepal lead to ouster of Prime Minister	Charlie Kirk fatally shot at Utah Valley University	Ousmane Dembele wins Balon d'Or
OCT	Sean Combs "Diddy" sentenced to 50 months in prison	Israel-Hamas agree on ceasefire	Thieves break into the Louvre and steal 9 pieces of jewelry
NOV	Zohran Mamdani elected as mayor of New York	Longest government shutdown in the U.S. ends after 43 days	Trump signs legislation ordering release of "Epstein files"
DEC	Inter Miami FC, led by Lionel Messi win first MLS Cup	Australia bans social media for those younger than 16	Father and son kill 15 at Hanukkah celebration in Australia

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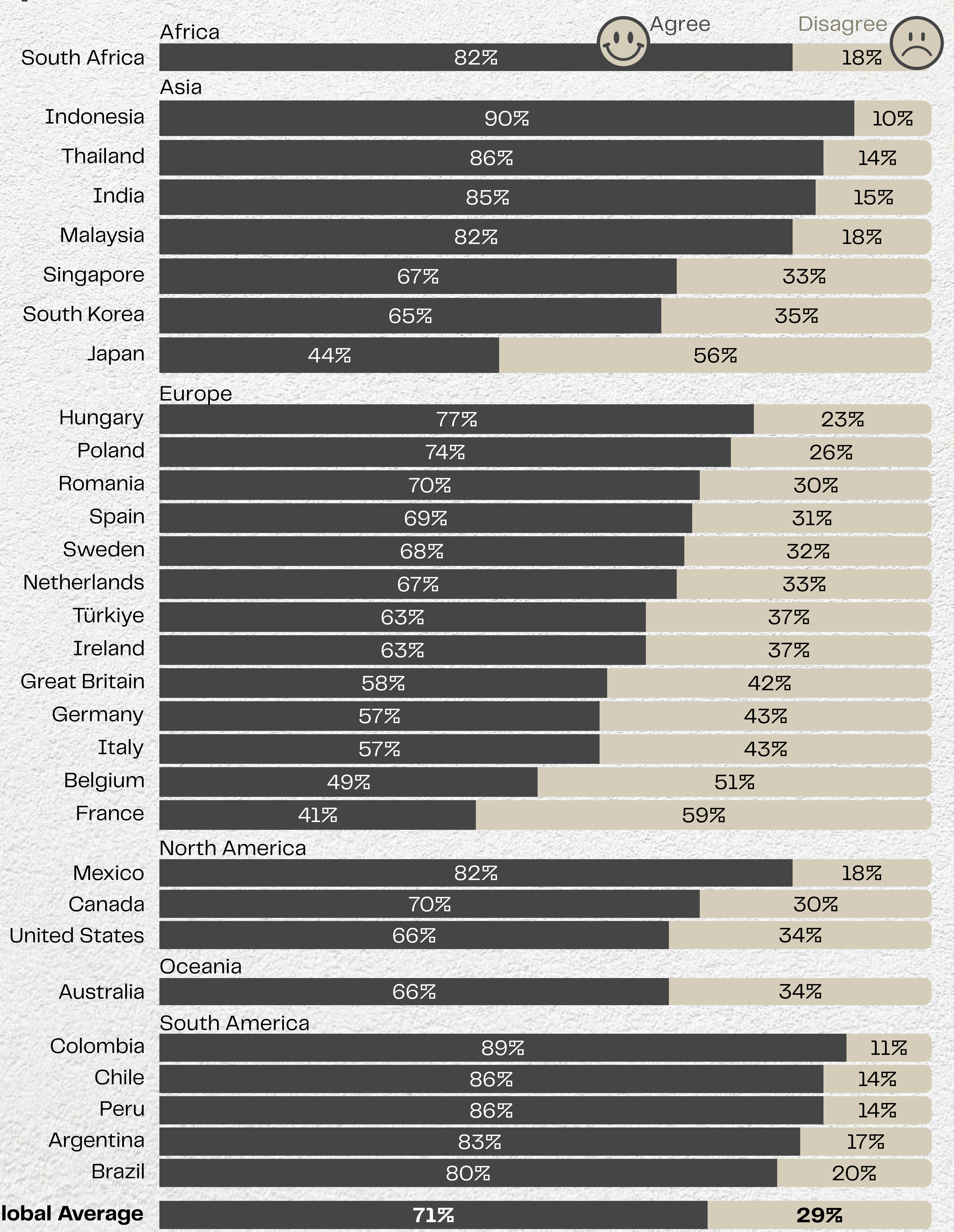
Sources: Google Trends | Britannica | On This Day

Optimism About 2026

Q: I am optimistic that 2026 will be a better year for me than it was in 2025



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Based on a survey of 23,642 adults in 30 countries between Oct 27 and Nov 4, 2025

Source: Ipsos Survey

2026 Crystal Ball

#	Prediction	Likely	Unikely
1	U.S. economy would grow by less than 2% in 2026	61%	39%
2	Russia & Ukraine would sign an agreement to end the conflict in 2026	26%	74%
3	SpaceX would successfully complete an in-orbit transfer between 2 starships in 2026	75%	25%
4	Democrats take back control of at least 1 house of Congress	95%	
5	Effective US tariff rate on all imports for consumption would be less than 20%	99%	
6	World GDP growth would be less than 3% in 2026	55%	45%
7	Lula da Silva wins Brazilian presidential election	70%	30%
8	Fidesz party wins the most seats in Hungary's parliamentary elections	55%	45%
9	Donald Trump does not win a Nobel peace prize	98%	
10	Benjamin Netanyahu will not be prime minister of Israel by the end of 2026	65%	35%
11	90% of online content will be AI-generated	60%	40%
12	Supreme Court will rule against Trump in tariff case	70%	30%
13	Trump will replace at least 1 member of the Supreme Court by end of 2026	75%	25%
14	China does not impose a full blockade of Taiwan or launch an invasion	75%	25%
15	At least one primarily AI-generated song reaches No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart	60%	40%
16	The EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) starts its definitive stage	70%	30%
17	Startup, Aska, makes the first deliveries of its four-passenger air-mobility vehicles (e.g., flying cars)	50%	50%
18	The Transatlantic Clean Hydrogen Trade Coalition (H2TC) ships clean hydrogen from US to Europe	60%	40%
19	At least one state-of-the-art AI system can complete a task that takes humans 16 hours, succeeding on at least half of its attempts	75%	25%
20	At least one Category 5 hurricane makes landfall in the continental US		90%
21	Trump nominates Kevin Hassett as Fed Chair	42%	58%

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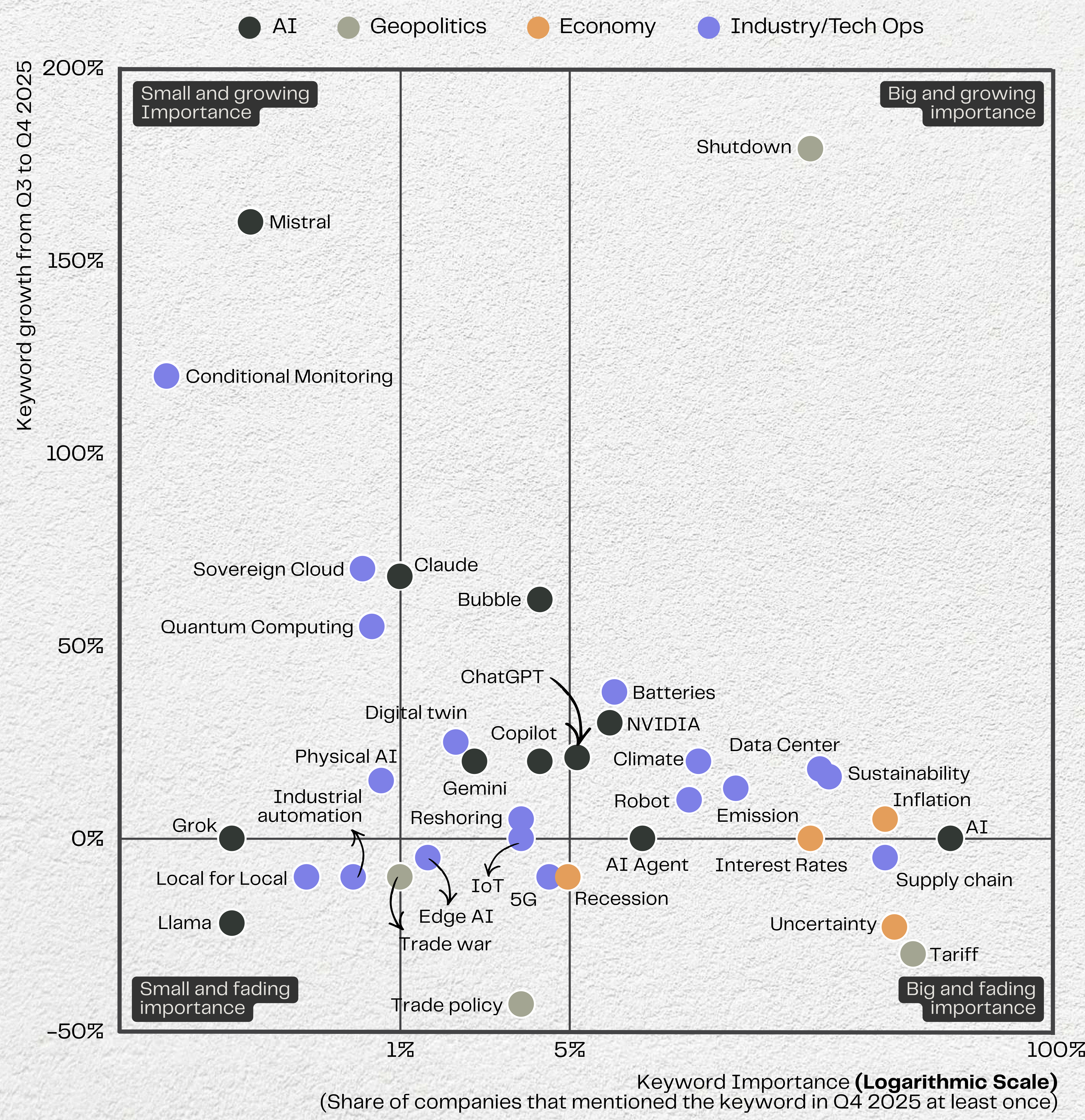
Sources: Economist | Quantumrun | Vox | Polymarket

What Are CEOs Saying?



The analysis looks at keywords during earnings calls of U.S listed companies. It is based on roughly 10,000 earnings calls from over 5,000 global companies listed in the U.S. in Q3 2025 and Q4 2025. The mentions of the selected keywords in each call were counted in each quarter

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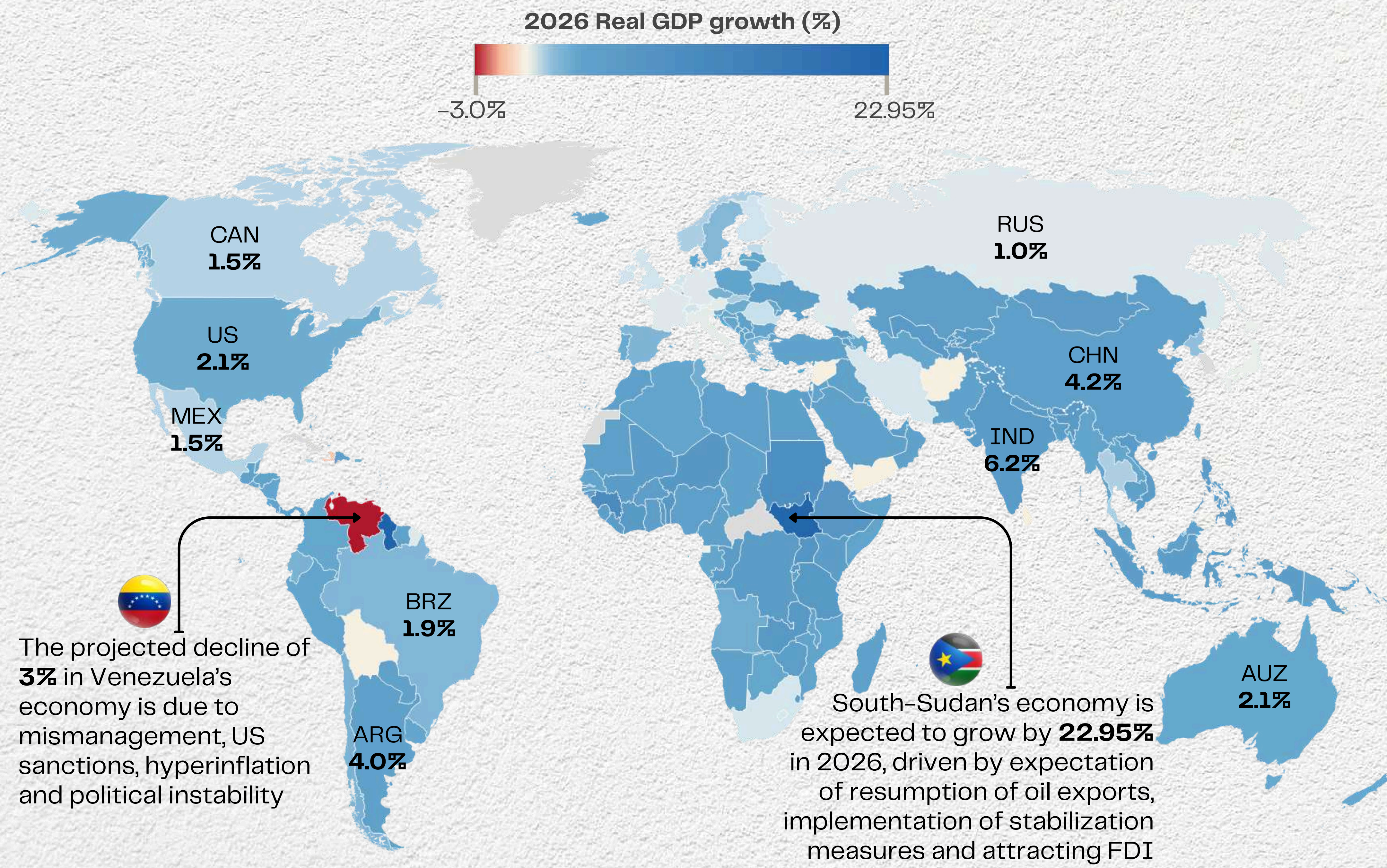
Sources: IoT Analytics Research 2025

GDP Growth Forecasts

> Wall Street is modestly optimistic for 2026. Global and US growth are expected to continue to demonstrate resilience even as some geopolitical and trade concerns linger.
>
> **-DWS**

> Global economic growth is projected at **3.1%** in 2026, slightly below 2025 and 2024, with the US, Europe, and emerging Asia driving most of the expansion.
>
> **-Truist Wealth**

> As the new landscape (introduction of more protectionist policies) takes shape, the world is adapting. To date, more protectionist trade measures have had a limited impact on economic activity and prices.
>
> **-World Bank**



Probability of Scenarios for the Global Economy in 2026

-J.P. Morgan

Expansion - 65%

- **Goldilocks - 15%** Inflation & rates back to pre-COVID levels
- **Sluggish - 20%** Sentiment, trade drags linger. Inflation & policy rates are sticky
- **Losing balance - 30%** Labor demand recouples to weak labor supply; inflation sticky and pressure hike builds

Recession - 35%

- **Only US falls - 20%** US recession without large spillovers
- **All falls down - 15%** US & financial markets break

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Source: World Bank | JP Morgan | Bloomberg

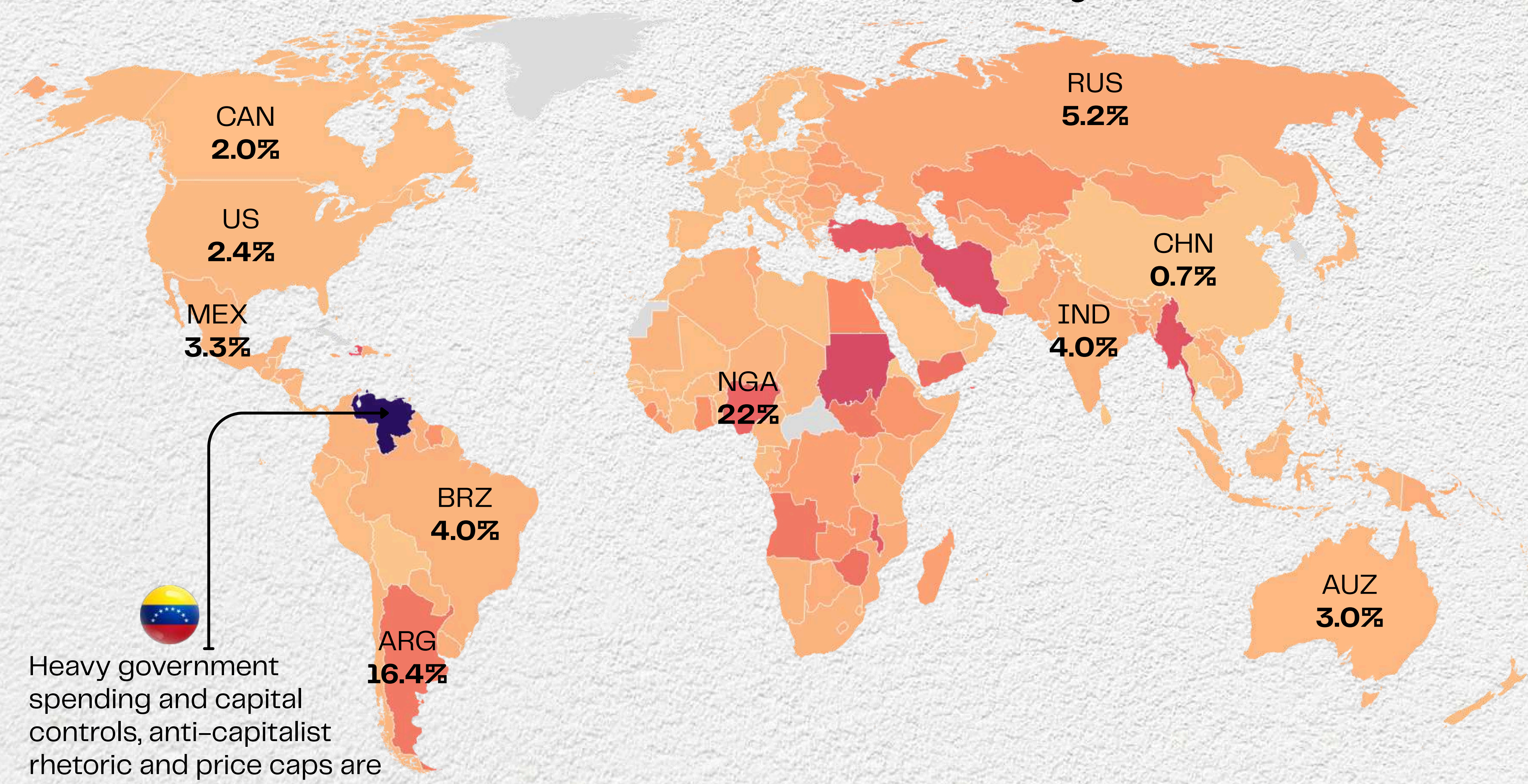
Inflation Rate Forecasts

> Preserving the independence of central banks remains critical for anchoring inflation expectations and enabling them to achieve their mandates.
>
> **-World Bank**

> Global inflation is set to slow further but not by enough to remove the risks of persistent above-target dynamics.
>
> **-BNP Paribas**

> Companies and economies are likely to benefit from AI-related productivity gains, while global disinflation and growth should converge toward a sustainable pace in 2027 — with potential for further upside.
>
> **-Morgan Stanley**

> Inflation has been stuck around **3%** amid a tug-of-war between slowing services prices but a tariff-induced pickup in goods prices. We expect inflation to still be above **2%** by the end of 2026.
>
> **-Wells Fargo**



Heavy government spending and capital controls, anti-capitalist rhetoric and price caps are largely responsible for the worsening inflation rate of **682%** in Venezuela (**270%** in 2025)

As economies move into 2026, inflation risks are increasingly shaped by policy rather than demand alone. while disinflation remains the baseline, **renewed tariff escalation under Trump's trade agenda represents a clear upside risk**

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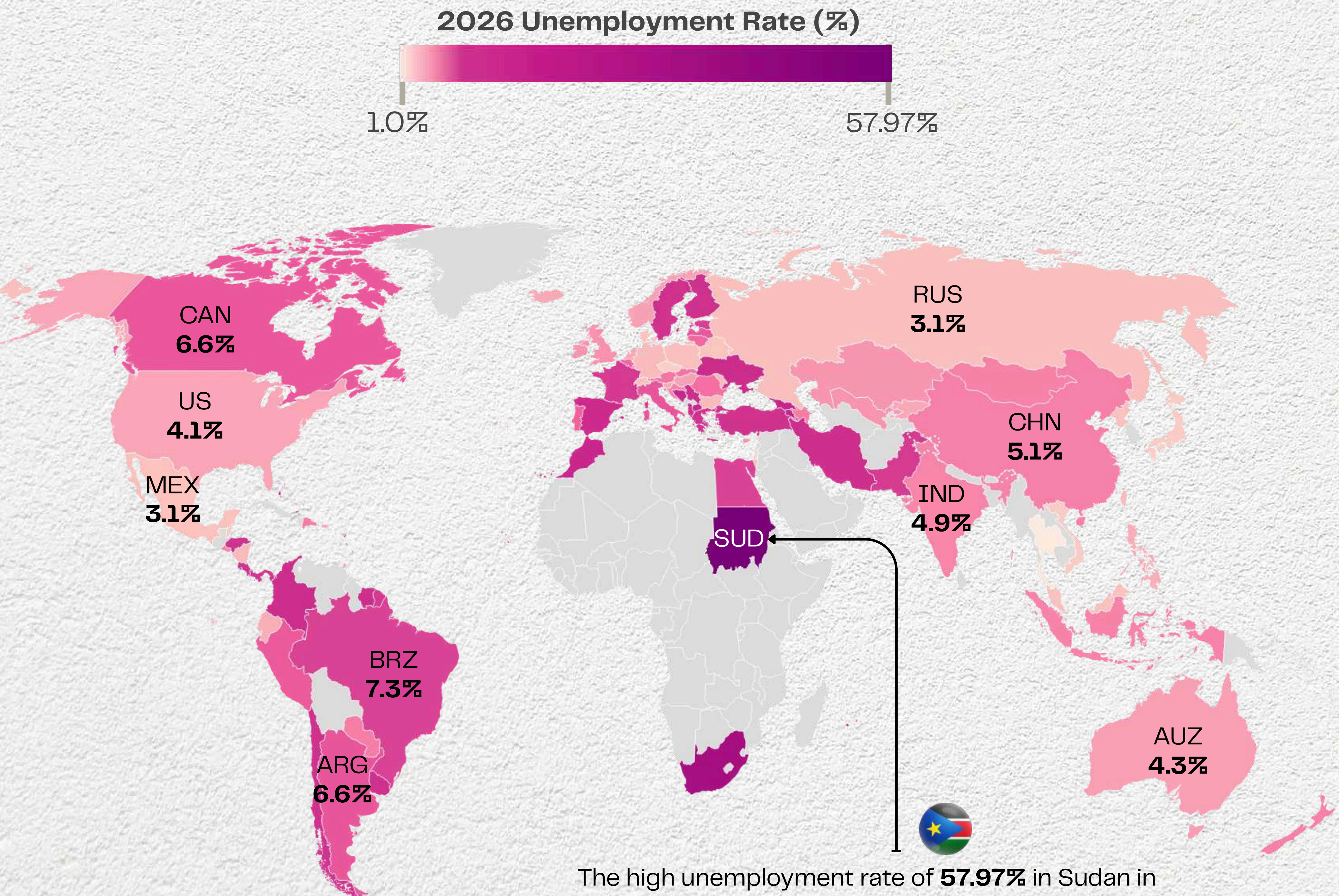
Source: World Bank | JP Morgan | Bloomberg

Unemployment Rate Forecasts

> The (US) Fed's December 2025 SEP shows the median unemployment projection at **4.4%** (Q4 2026) – basically higher than post-pandemic lows but not recessionary.
>
> **–Federal Reserve**

> The ECB's (European Central Bank) December 2025 projections describe a labor market that "remains resilient", with unemployment declining, through the projected horizon, albeit marginally
>
> **–ECB**

> The OECD's outlook suggests unemployment pressure is more visible across rich countries, with the median OECD unemployment rate projected to rise in 2026.
>
> **–OECD**



The high unemployment rate of **57.97%** in Sudan in 2026 is primarily due to the ongoing conflict, which has led to significant economic contractions and disruptions across various sectors. The conflict has resulted in **widespread displacement, destruction of economic infrastructure**, and loss of industrial jobs, particularly in urban areas like Khartoum.

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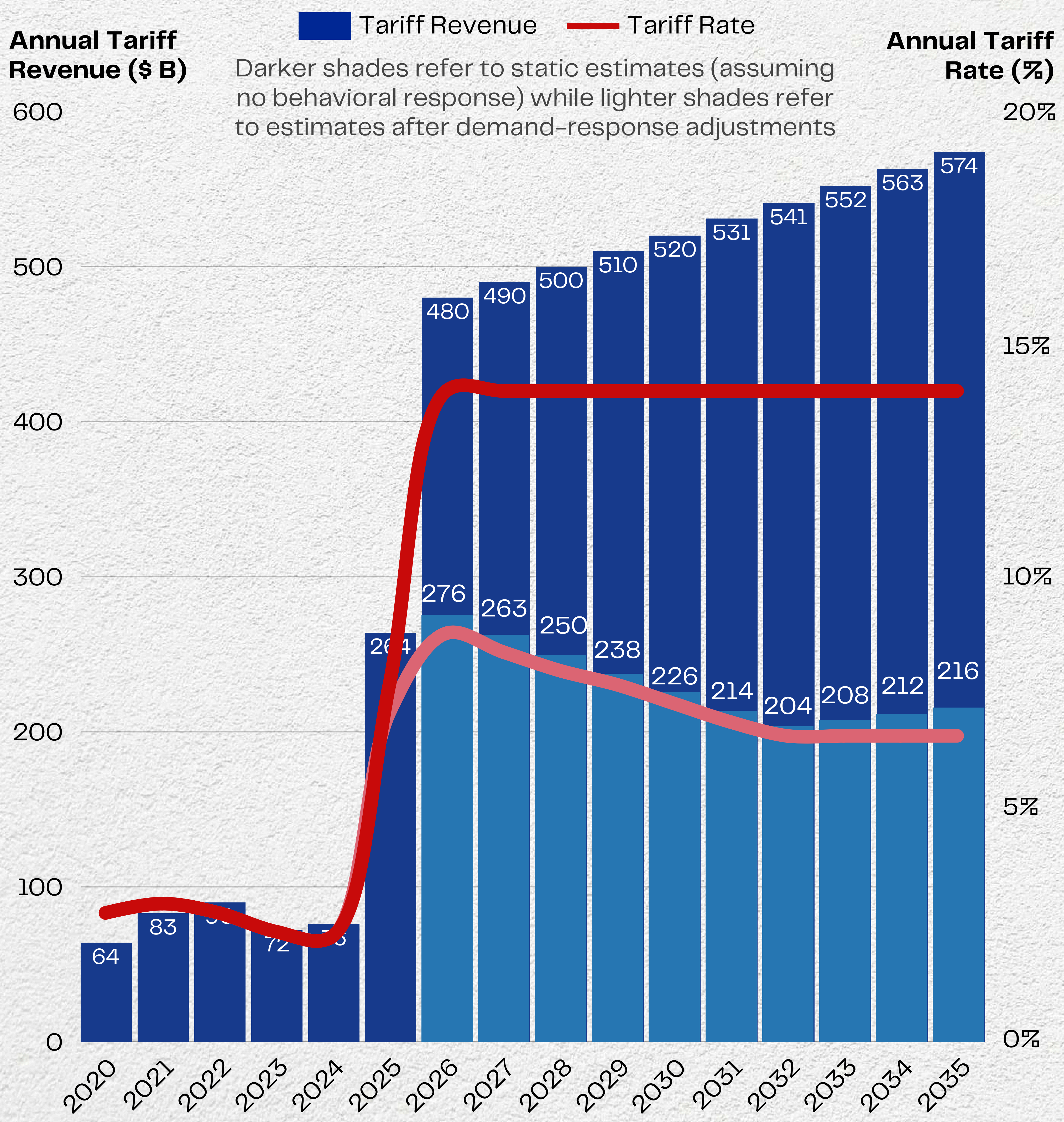
Source: World Bank | Federal Reserve | ECB | OECD

U.S. Tariff Projections



PWBM estimates that the Combined Trump Tariffs will generate **$2.3T** in revenue over 10 years, using recent time-varying demand elasticity estimates. This corresponds to a reduction in imports by over 16.3% or **$6.1T** due to higher prices on imported goods paid by US consumers and firms
– University of Pennsylvania

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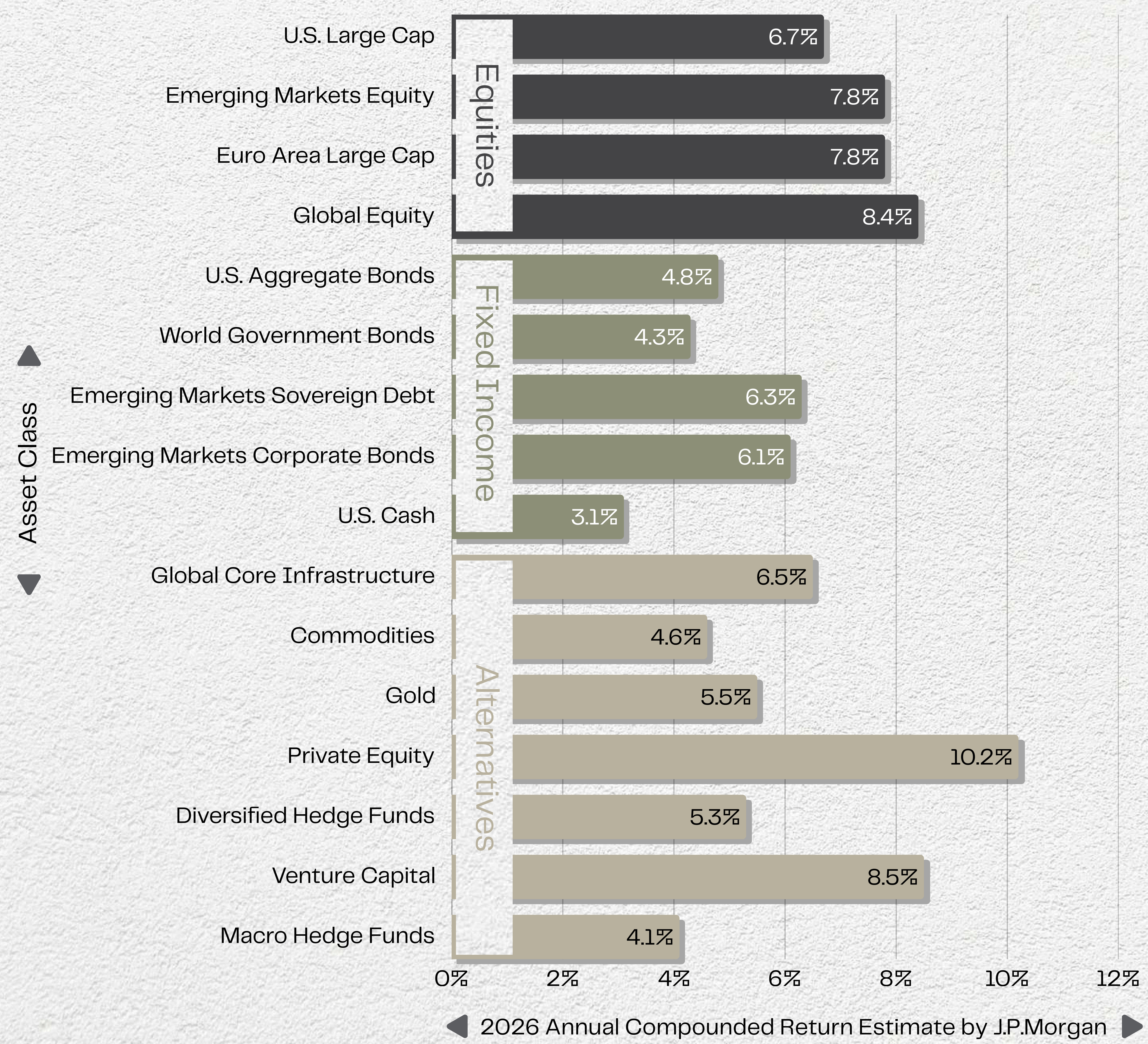
Source: University of Pennsylvania Budget Model (PWBM)

Forecast Returns for Major Asset Classes

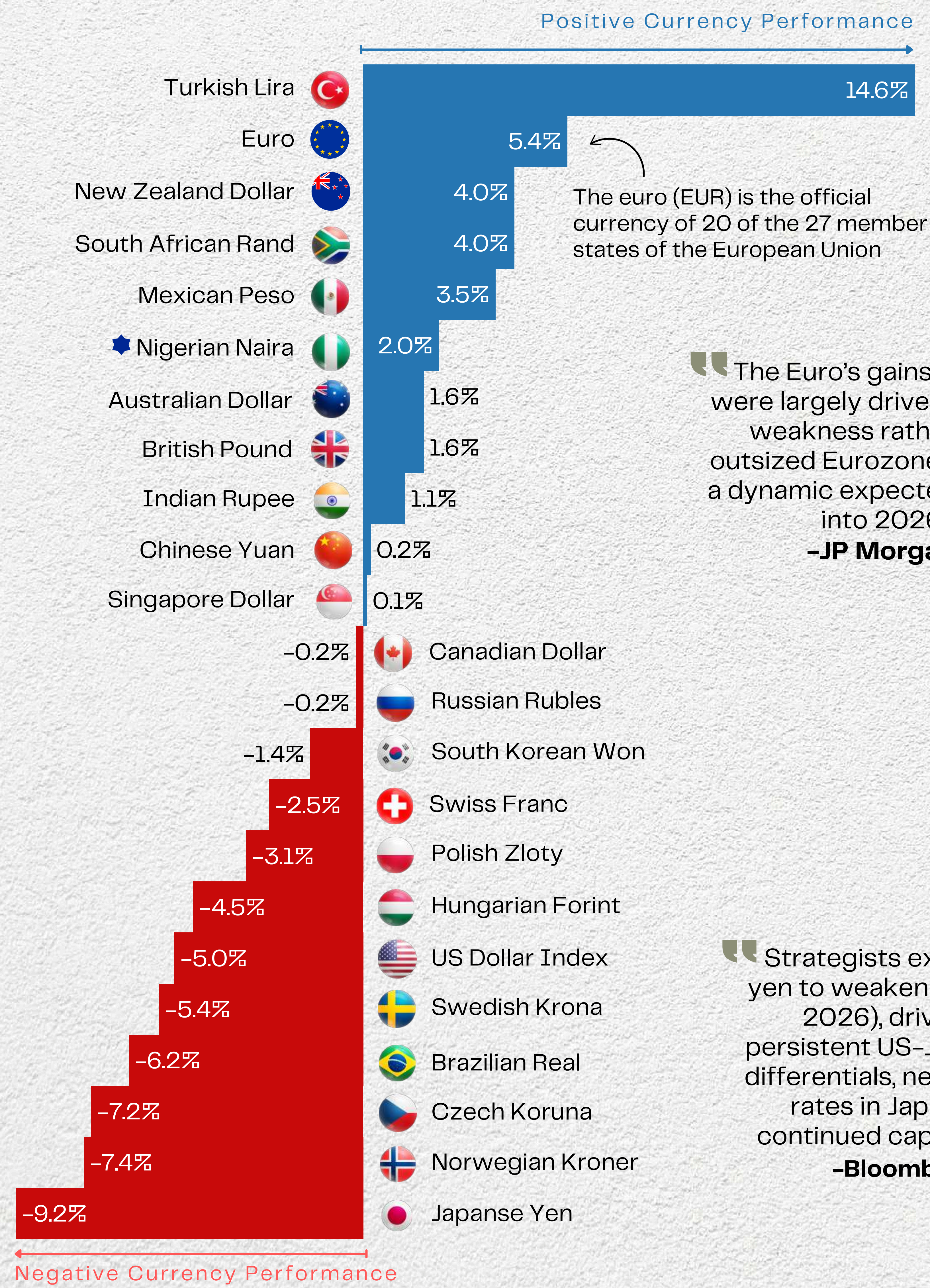


" Wall Street is modestly optimistic for 2026. Global and US growth are expected to continue to demonstrate resilience even as some geopolitical and trade concerns linger. Policy support, both fiscal and monetary, combined with unprecedented capital expenditure for AI adoption are key to the extension of the cycle. AI's broadening boost to productivity is also positive. The elevated starting point of many assets curtails gains. There's no bubble yet.

– Bloomberg

2026 Currency Forecasts

Performance is based on Q4 2026 estimates by MUFG Research except otherwise stated



"The Euro's gains in 2025 were largely driven by dollar weakness rather than outsized Eurozone strength, a dynamic expected to carry into 2026.

–JP Morgan

"Strategists expect the yen to weaken further (in 2026), driven by persistent US-Japan yield differentials, negative real rates in Japan, and continued capital flows.

–Bloomberg

Q4, 2026 estimate based on mid-point of forecast range by Financial Derivative Company

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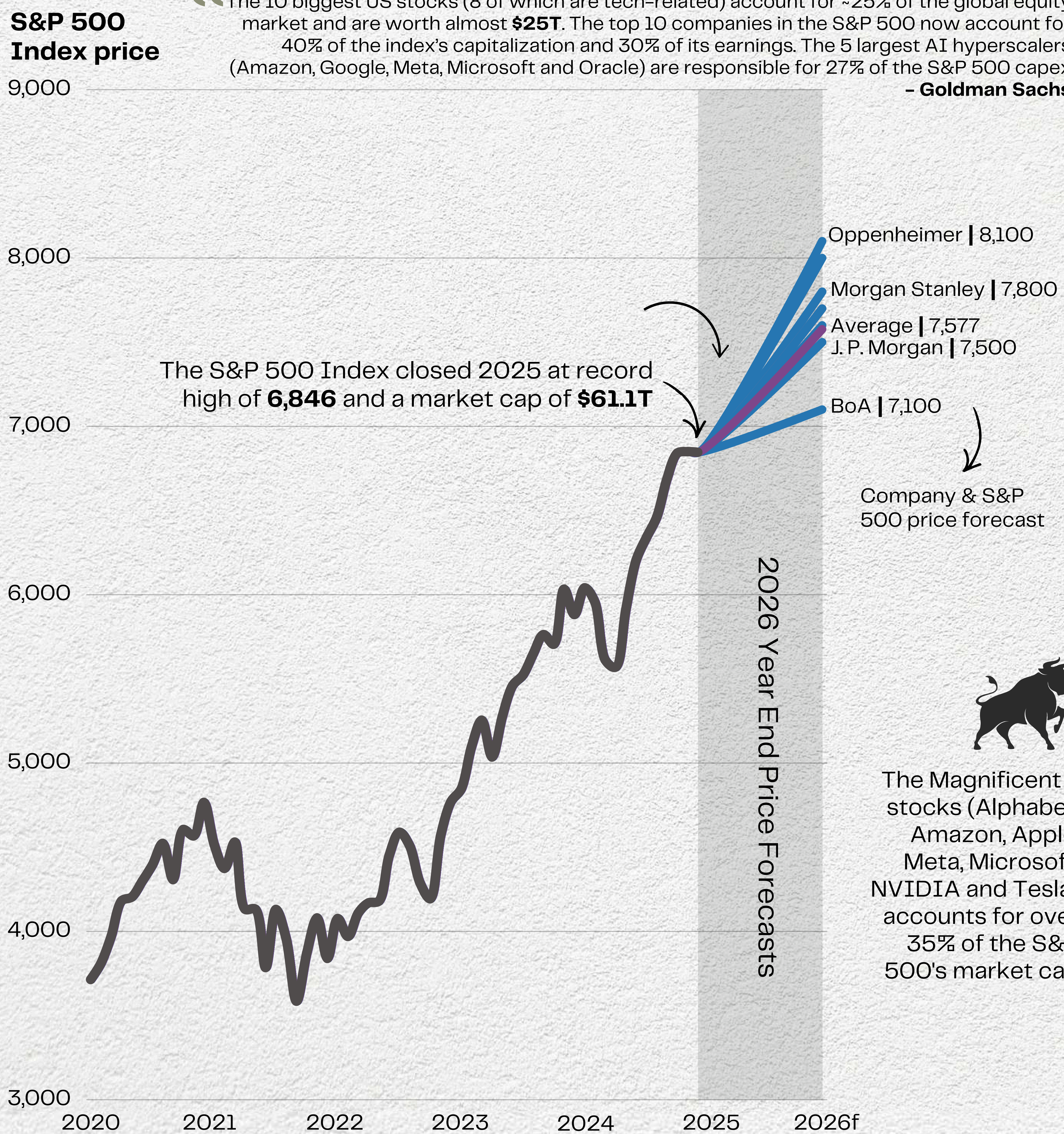
Sources: MUFG Research | Trading Economics | Financial Derivatives Company

S&P 500 Index Price Forecasts

"The 10 biggest US stocks (8 of which are tech-related) account for ~25% of the global equity market and are worth almost **$25T**. The top 10 companies in the S&P 500 now account for 40% of the index's capitalization and 30% of its earnings. The 5 largest AI hyperscalers (Amazon, Google, Meta, Microsoft and Oracle) are responsible for 27% of the S&P 500 capex
– Goldman Sachs



The Magnificent 7 stocks (Alphabet, Amazon, Apple, Meta, Microsoft, NVIDIA and Tesla) accounts for over 35% of the S&P 500's market cap

"Looking at the S&P 500, J.P. Morgan Global Research estimates the AI supercycle driving above-trend earnings growth of 13–15% for at least the next two years
– J. P. Morgan

Sources: The Street | Wells Fargo | Oppenheimer | Morgan Stanley | Bank of America | Goldman Sachs | JP Morgan Chase | Deutsche Bank | Citigroup | S&P Global

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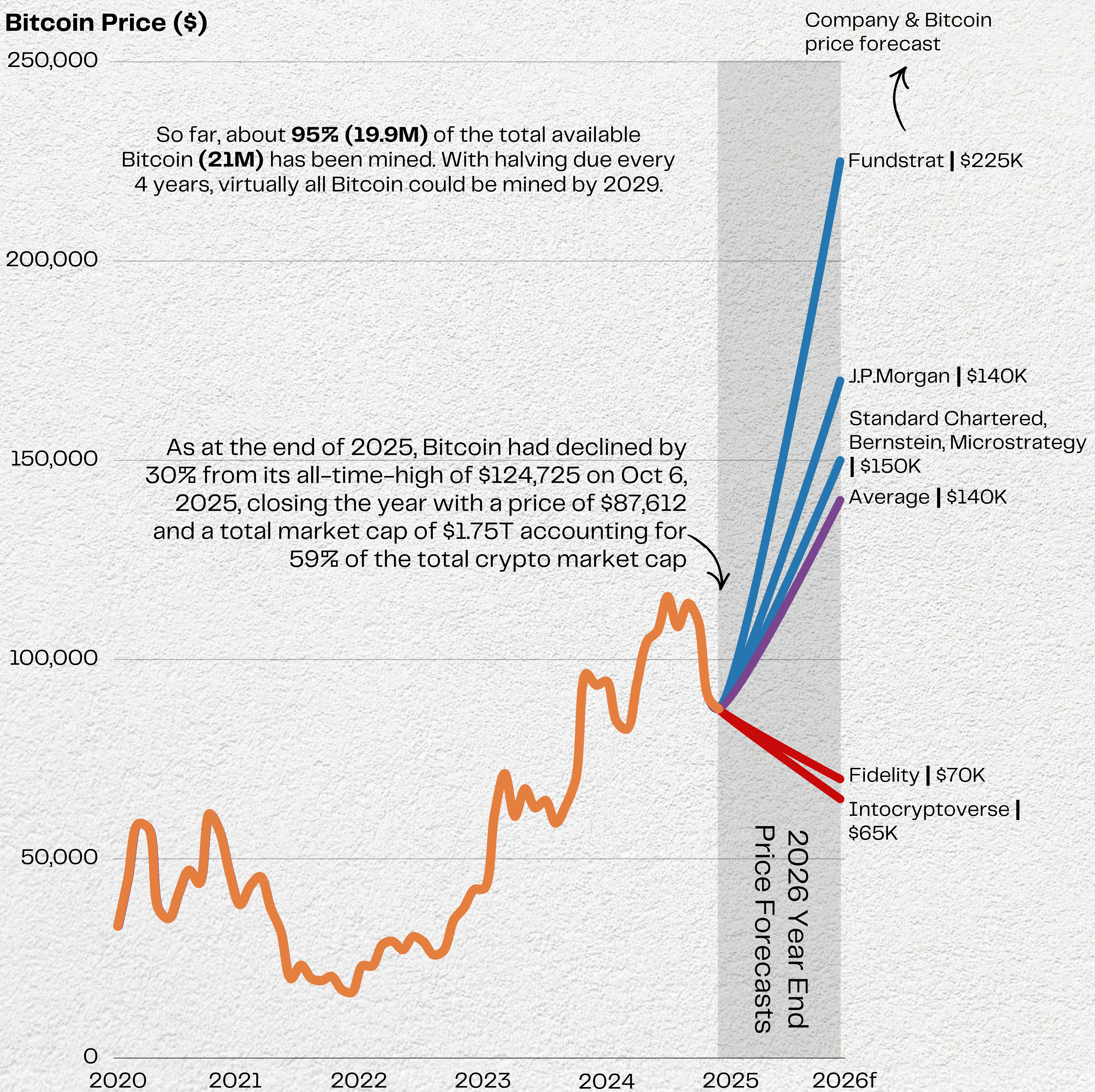
Bitcoin Price Forecasts



Bitcoin tumbled during the past year, leading some investors to wonder where the world's top cryptocurrency is headed in 2026. Is the recent plunger a sign of things to come, or is the crypto poised for a potential turnaround in 2026

– Yahoo Finance

Sources: Coinedition | Cointelegraph | YahooFinance | Investing.com

Commodity Price Forecasts

How to read this:

2025 estimated closing price | ▲ price increase vs prior year | 2026 forecast closing price | ▼ price decrease vs prior year

Commodity	Commodity Type	2025 estimated closing price	vs prior year	2026 forecast closing price	vs prior year
Coal, Australia ($/mt)	Energy	107.0	▼	100.0	▼
Crude Oil, Brent ($/bbl)	Energy	68.0	▼	60.0	▼
Natural gas, US ($/mmbtu)	Energy	3.5	▲	3.9	▲
Cocoa ($/kg)	Agriculture	8.0	▲	7.5	▼
Groundnut oil ($/mt)	Agriculture	1,655	▼	1,537	▼
Palm Oil ($/mt)	Agriculture	1,020	▲	1,051	▲
Rice, Thailand, 5% ($/mt)	Agriculture	406	▼	401	▼
Wheat, U.S., HRW ($/mt)	Agriculture	249	▼	258	▲
Beef ($/kg)	Agriculture	6.76	▲	6.82	▲
Oranges ($/kg)	Agriculture	1.53	▼	1.52	▼
Sugar, World ($/kg)	Agriculture	0.38	▼	0.37	▼
Logs, Africa ($/cum)	Agriculture	390	▲	395	▲
Cotton ($/kg)	Agriculture	1.70	▼	1.75	▲
Rubber, TSR20 ($/kg)	Agriculture	1.77	▲	1.80	▲
Tobacco ($/mt)	Agriculture	6,400	▲	5,600	▼
Aluminium ($/mt)	Metals & Minerals	2,580	▲	2,600	▲
Copper ($/mt)	Metals & Minerals	9,700	▲	9,800	▲
Iron ore ($/dmt)	Metals & Minerals	98.0	▼	94.0	▼
Lead ($/mt)	Metals & Minerals	1,970	▼	1,975	▲
Nickel ($/mt)	Metals & Minerals	15,300	▼	15,500	▲
Tin ($/mt)	Metals & Minerals	33,000	▲	34,000	▲
Zinc ($/mt)	Metals & Minerals	2,800	▲	2,750	▼
Gold ($/toz)	Precious Metals	3,400	▲	3,575	▲
Silver ($/toz)	Precious Metals	38.0	▲	41.0	▲
Platinum ($/toz)	Precious Metals	1,230	▲	1,275	▲

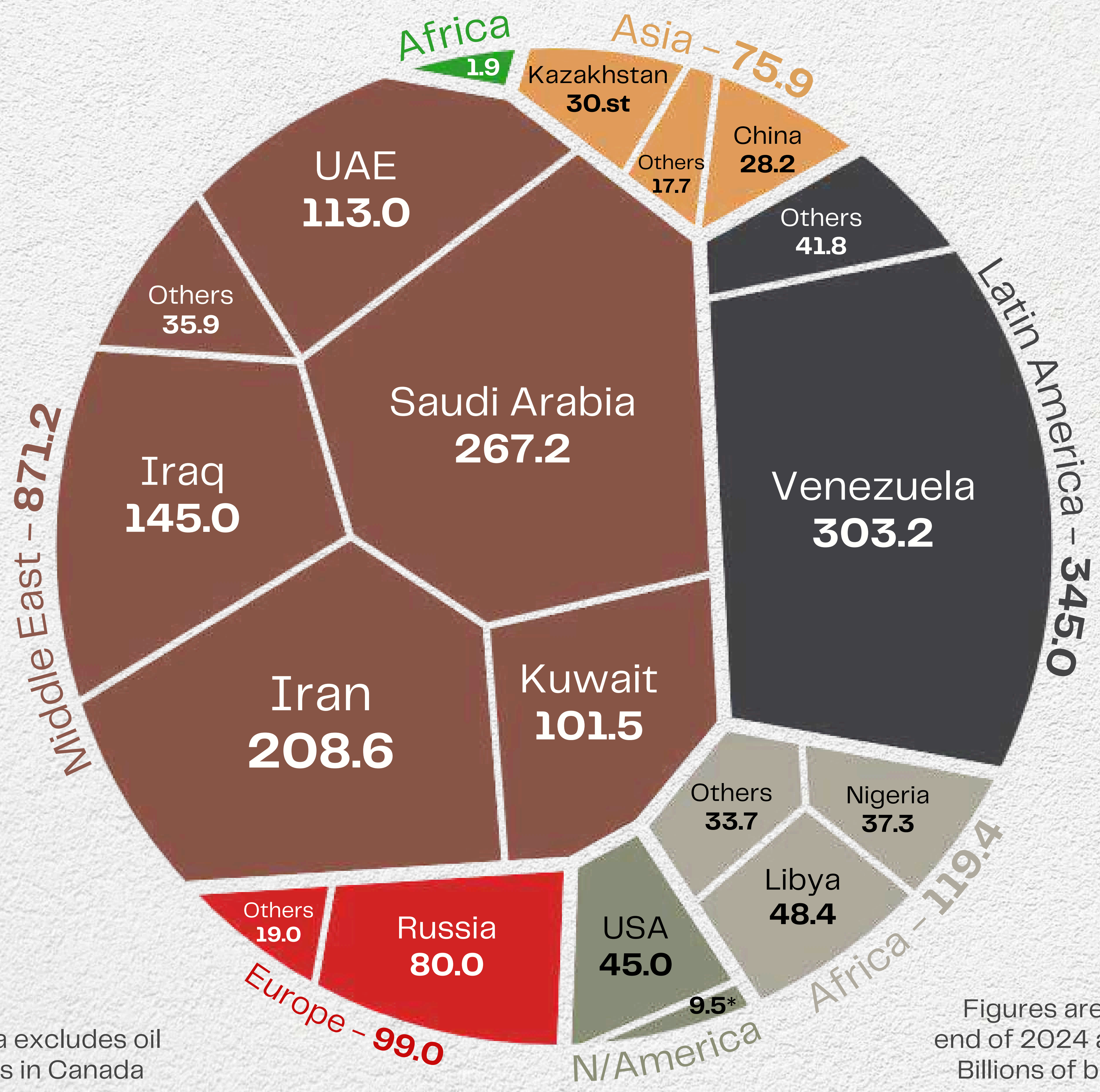
Commodity Type:
- Energy
- Agriculture
- Metals & Minerals
- Precious Metals

> Precious metals prices are projected to rise another 5% in 2026, after a historically large, investment-driven rally of about 40% in 2025
> **– WorldBank**

Source: World Bank Commodity Markets Outlook

Global Oil Reserves

As at end of 2024, total proven oil reserves globally stood at 1.57 trillion barrels



*Data excludes oil sands in Canada

Figures are as at end of 2024 and in Billions of barrels

"Venezuela holds the world's largest proven oil reserves – an estimated 303B barrels, about 19% of global total – yet output has fallen sharply due to mismanagement, sanctions and lack of investment....Following U.S. capture of Nicolas Maduro, President of Venezuela, U.S. officials said American oil companies will invest "billions: to restore Venezuela's crude output, underscoring strategic importance of these reserves..

–Reuters

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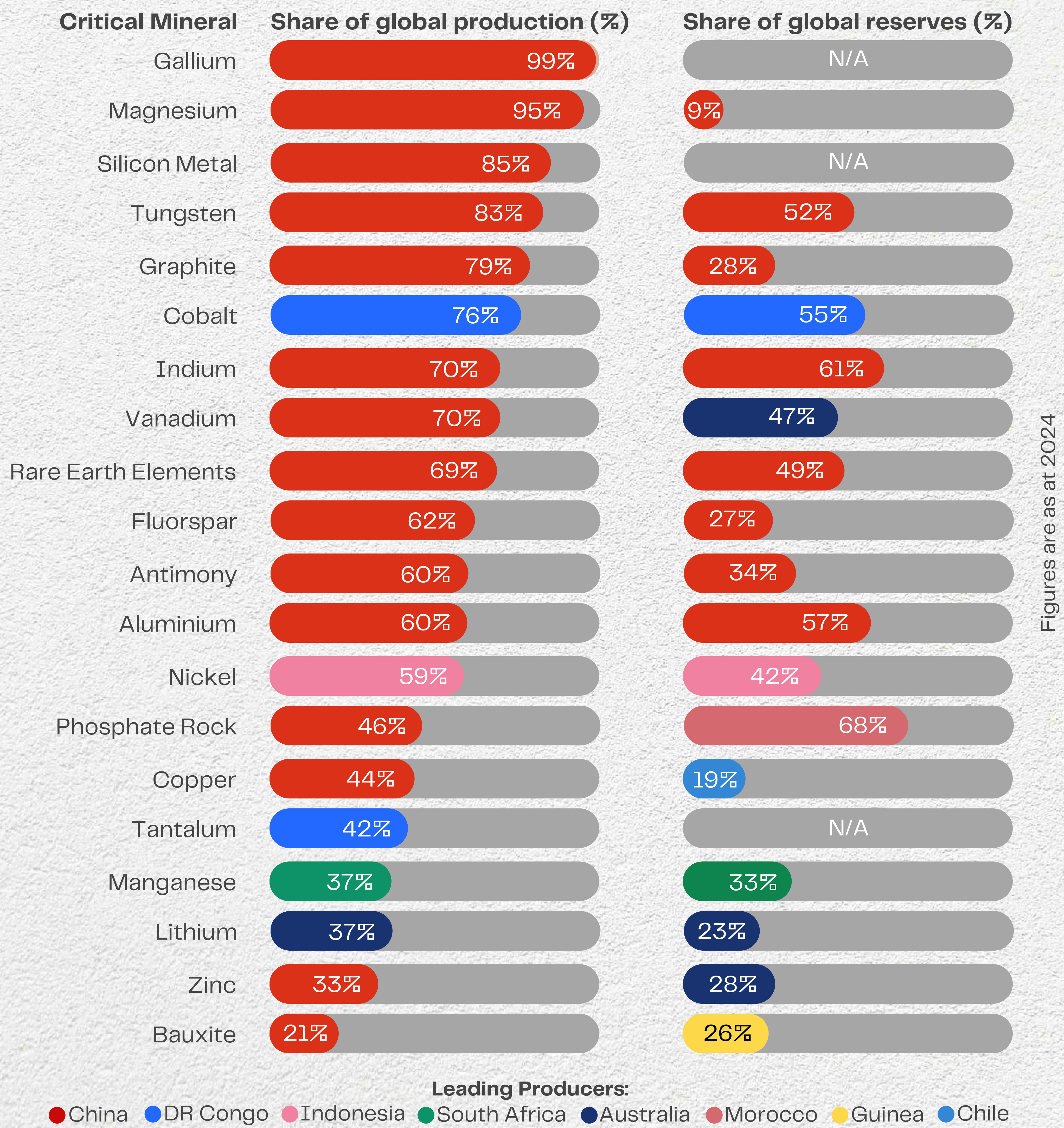
Source: OPEC

Global Control of Critical Minerals



Across many critical minerals, global supply is concentrated in a handful of countries. While reserves may be geographically dispersed, production is far more concentrated (especially **China**). As the International Energy Agency notes, supply risks are shaped less by geology than by industrial capacity, leaving global energy, technology and defense supply chained exposed to **geopolitical change.**

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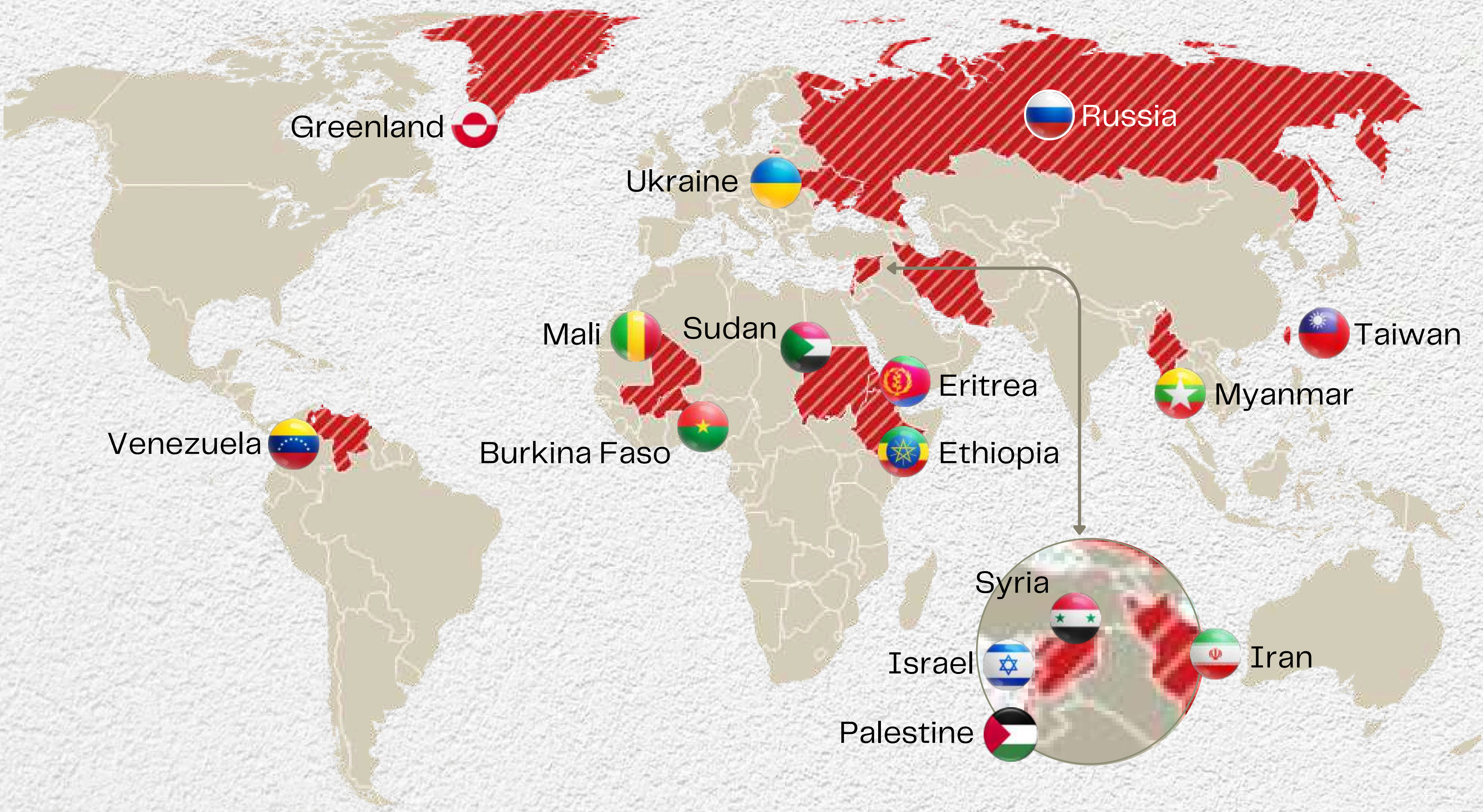
Source: U.S. Geological Survey Mineral Commodity Summaries, 2025

Major Geopolitical Hotspots

"As the world enters a year marked by political transitions, economic uncertainty, and sharpening geopolitical rivalries, new conflict assessments warn that instability is set to intensify across several key regions.
– **Newsweek**

U.S. captures Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro	**Russia-Ukraine war enters its 4th year**	**Fragile stability in Syria**
"U.S. action (capture of Venezuelan president Nicolas Maduro) crossed an unacceptable line and violated Venezuelan sovereignty. **-Lula Da Silva, President of Brazil**	"Ukraine is 90% of the way to a peace deal, but the remaining 10% is critical. **-Volodymyr Zelensky, President of Ukraine**	"Stability depends on inclusive governance and restraint by new authorities; exclusion or reprisals could quickly unravel the current calm. **-International Crisis Group**



Next phase of Israel-Palestine ceasefire deal	**Afghanistan-Pakistan tensions risk sustained border instability**	**Ethiopia and Eritrea edging closer to war**
"Most fighting has stopped, but major steps for the next phase remain unsolved. **-Reuters**	"The October clashes exposed chronic mistrust; neither Kabul nor Islamabad has a clear mechanism to prevent further flare-ups in 2026. **-The Economist**	"With Sudan ablaze, a clash between two of its neighbors, Ethiopia and Eritrea (both currently trading barbs), could tip the Horn of Africa into all-out conflagration. **-Crisis Group**

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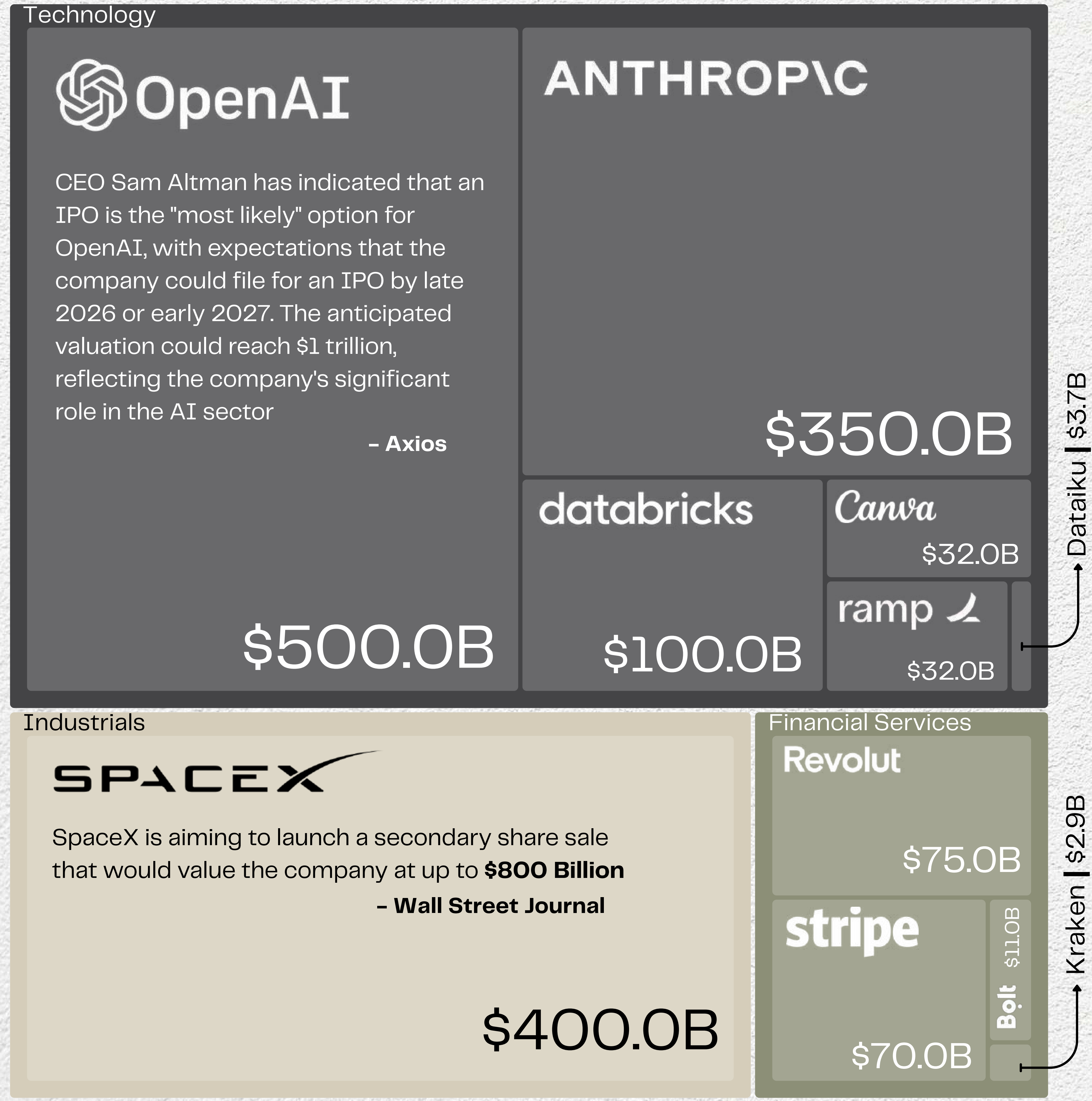
Sources: Reuters | Crisis Group | International Crisis Group | The Economist

Most Anticipated IPOs of 2026

An IPO (initial public offering) is when a private company sells shares to the public for the first time

Values reflect latest disclosed market valuation as at Dec 2025

Only unicorns (private companies valued at over $1B) with anticipated IPOs in 2026 were included in this image



> Generally strong market conditions, falling rates, and excitement around AI have encouraged more companies to gear up for near-term listings, including many high-profile unicorns that have been waiting in the wings.
>
> **– Renaissance Capital**

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Sources: CB Insights | Interactive Brokers | Renaissance Capital | Axios | WSJ

Tech Trends To Watch Out For

AGENTIC AI

"Agentic AI moves beyond task automation by independently planning, executing, and refining workflows. These systems manage everything from software deployment to customer support with minimal human oversight.

-Tech Times

DOMAIN-SPECIFIC LANGUAGE MODELS (DSLMS)

"AI agents unpinned by DSLMs can interpret industry-specific context to make sound decisions even in unfamiliar scenarios, excelling in accuracy, explainability and sound decision-making

-Business Wire

CONFIDENTIAL COMPUTING

"This protects sensitive data while in use, enabling secure AI and analytics across untrusted infrastructure. By 2029, Gartner predicts more than 75% of operations processed in untrusted infrastructure will be secured in-use by confidential computing.

-Seeking Alpha

PHYSICAL AI

"Physical AI brings intelligence into the real world by powering machines and devices that sense, decide, and act, such as robots, drones, and smart equipment. It brings measurable gains in industries where automation, adaptability, and safety are priorities

-Seeking Alpha

NEUROMORPHIC AND BRAIN-INSPIRED COMPUTING

"Neuromorphic chips process data using architectures modeled after human neurons. They dramatically reduce power consumption while enabling real-time learning at the edge. In 2026, they will support robotics, medical monitoring, and smart sensors without constant cloud connectivity.

-Tech Times

DIGITAL PROVENANCE

"As organizations rely more on third-party software, open-source code, and AI-generated content, verifying digital provenance has become essential. Digital provenance refers to the ability to verify the origin, ownership, and integrity of software, data, media, and processes.

-ZDNET

AI IN HEALTHCARE

"We'll see evidence of AI moving beyond expertise in diagnostics and extending into areas like symptom triage and treatment planning...Progress will move from research settings into the real world, with new generative AI products and services available to millions of consumers and patients

-Dominic King, Microsoft

SYNTHETIC CONTENT

"Synthetic content generated by AI, including text, audio, video, and 3D assets, is revolutionizing media, marketing, and entertainment in real time. By automating production and personalizing it in real time, it is changing how content is produced and consumed.

-USAII

ARTIFICIAL GENERAL INTELLOGENCE (AGI)

"AGI presents vast opportunities, from scientific discovery and automation of advanced cognitive tasks to new forms of human-AI collaboration and innovation acceleration across industries.

-USAII

"A common technology theme for 2026 is transition from experimental to practical, transformative impact.

-Deloitte Brazil

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Sources: Seeking Alpha | USAII | Tech Times | Deloitte | ZDnet | Microsoft

Elections To Watch Out For

"Israel's upcoming national election could reshape the balance of power and redefine security and judicial reform debates
–Reuters

"Hungary's 2026 election could change Europe, testing Orban's long rule and relations with Brussels
–The Economist

Presidential
Legislative
Parliamentary
General

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
11th | Benin 12th | Uganda 18th | Portugal	12th | Bangladesh N/A | Costa Rica	5th | Nepal N/A | Rep. of Congo

APRIL	MAY	JUNE
12th | Hungary	31st | Colombia	1st | Ethiopia 7th | Armenia

JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
	13th | Zambia	13th | Sweden 20th | September

OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
4th | Brazil 27th | Israel	3rd | U.S.A	5th | The Gambia 22nd | South Sudan

"If Republicans lose control of either chamber in 2026, it would significantly constrain the Trump administration's legislative agenda
–Brookings Institution

"Lula is far ahead of Flavio Bolsonaro in the 2026 race, reflecting continued broad support for Brazil's leftist incumbent
–Bloomberg

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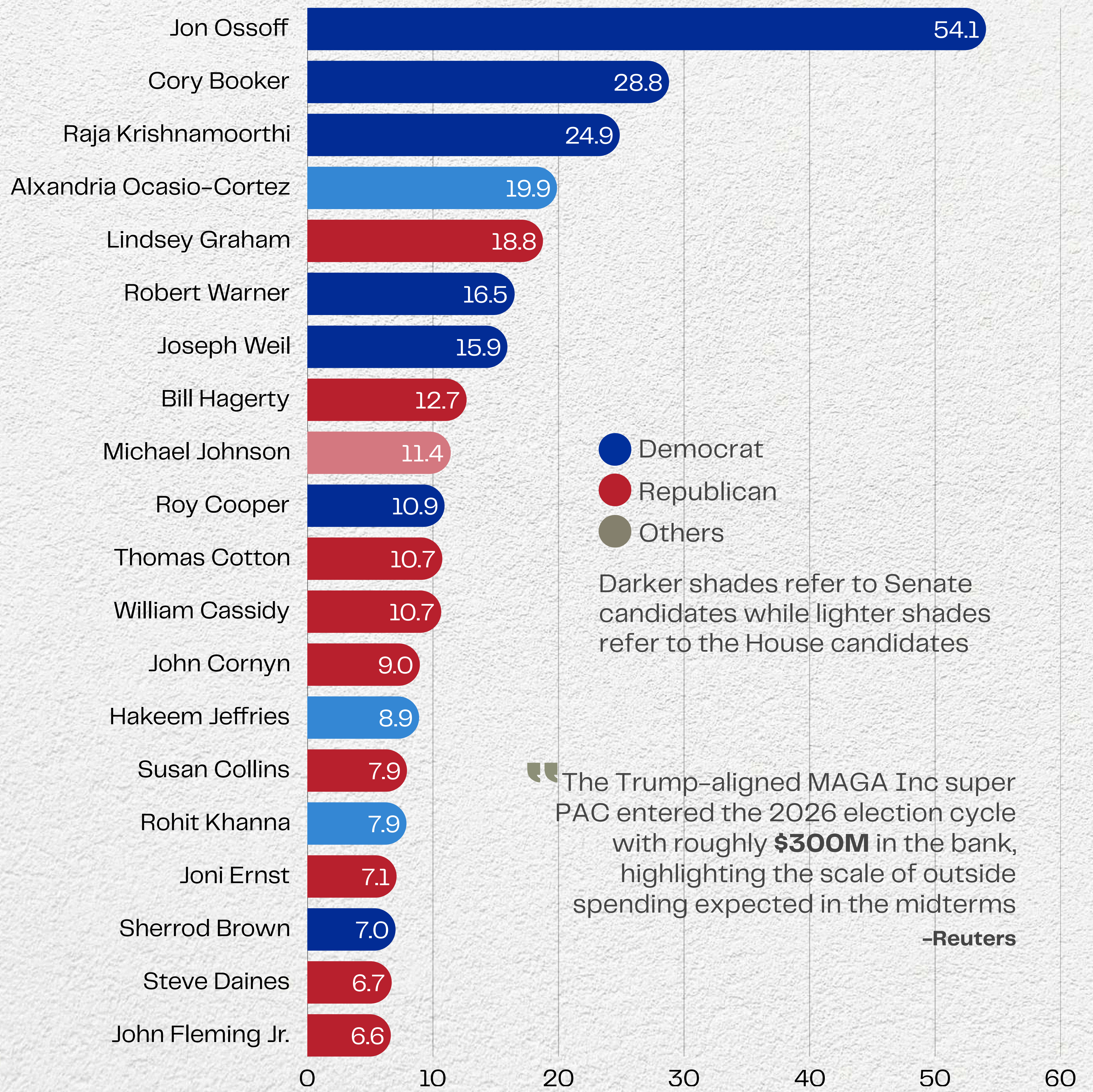
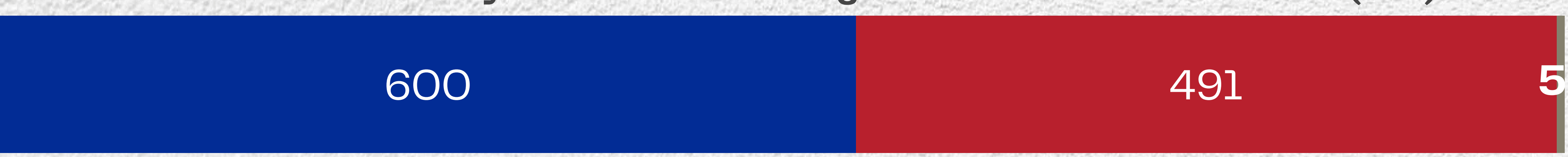
Sources: National Democratic Institute | Council for Foreign Relations | Newsweek

U.S. Midterm Elections

Most funds raised since the last election ($ 'M)



Total funds raised by Candidates running in 2026 midterm elections ($ M)



Source: Federal Election Commission

Thank you!

Thank you for taking the time to read this report. If you have any questions or would like to discuss our findings further, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

info@vizualytiks.com

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