



Social Narratives, Economic Realities and the Outlook for '24 Focus on the Inland Empire

Christopher Thornberg, PhD

Founding Partner, Beacon Economics March 2024



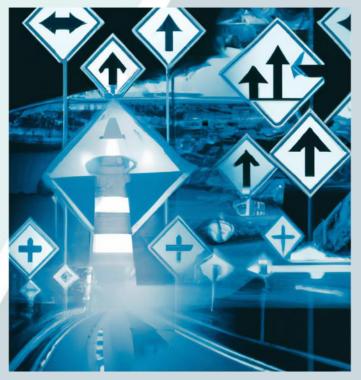
Introduction

Beacon Economics

- LA based firm, national client base
- Impact studies, policy analysis, regional development, litigation support
- Macro, regional, industry, labor & real estate forecasts
- Founded on the principle of letting the data drive the narrative

Today's talk

- What we think is happening in our economy
- What is actually happening in our economy
- What it all means for the IE



Access to slides available through **QR code** at end of presentation or email kristen@beaconecon.com

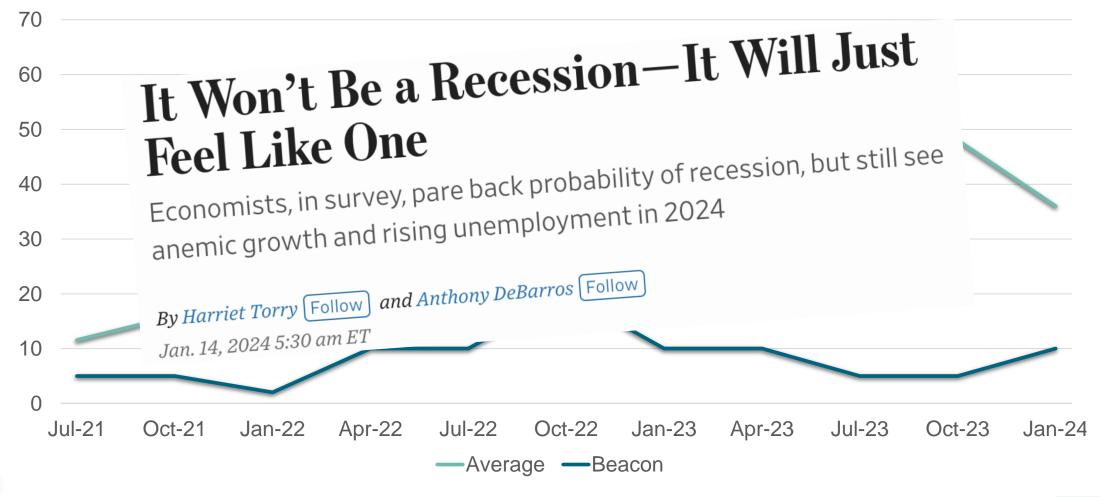


The 2023 narrative



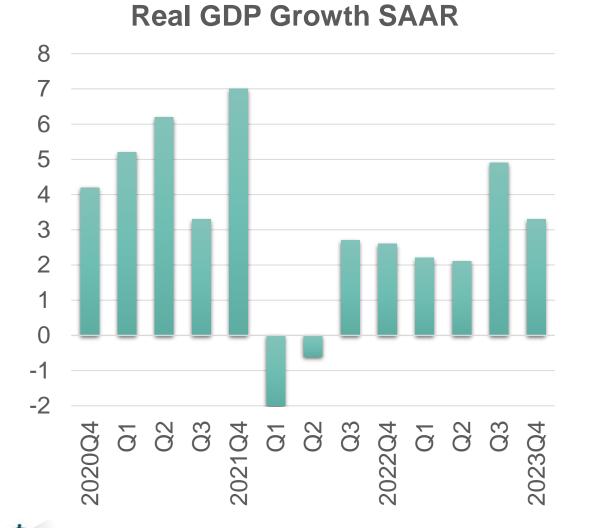
Beacon's Outlook: No Recession

WSJ Recession Probability Forecast Chance of US entering a recession in the next 12 months



2023: A solid year for growth





Contributions to Real GDP Growth

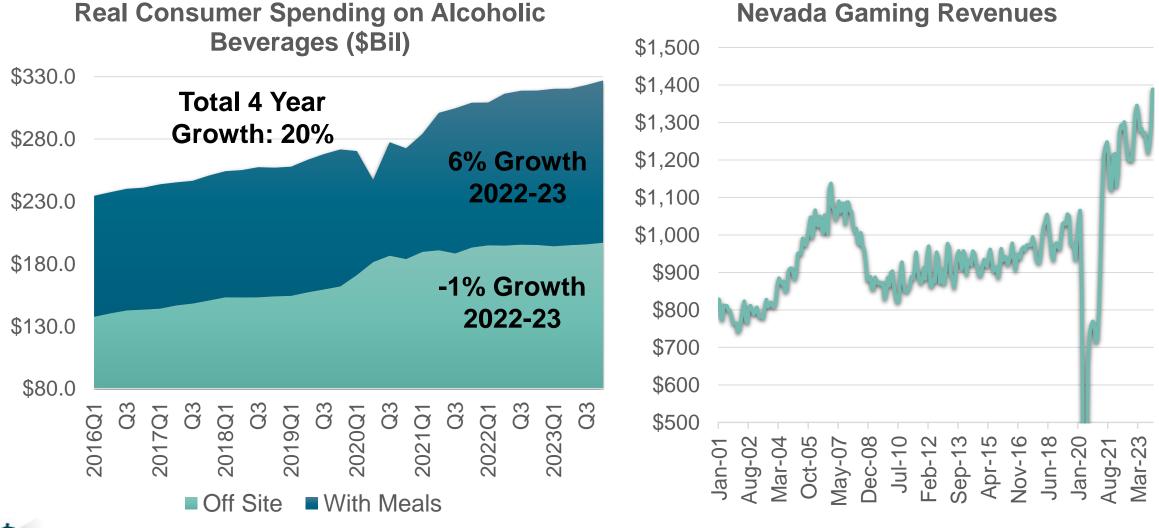
	2019	2022	2023
Gross domestic product	2.50	1.90	2.50
Final Demand	2.54	1.76	2.23
Personal consumption	1.35	1.72	1.49
Durable goods	0.23	-0.02	0.34
Nondurable goods	0.40	0.09	0.13
Services	0.71	1.65	1.02
Fixed investment	0.48	0.24	0.09
Structures	0.08	-0.06	0.36
Equipment	0.06	0.26	-0.01
IPP	0.37	0.48	0.23
Residential	-0.04	-0.44	-0.49
Net exports	-0.12	-0.48	0.58
Exports	0.06	0.76	0.32
Imports	-0.18	-1.24	0.26
Government	0.68	-0.16	0.68

Americans having fun!!



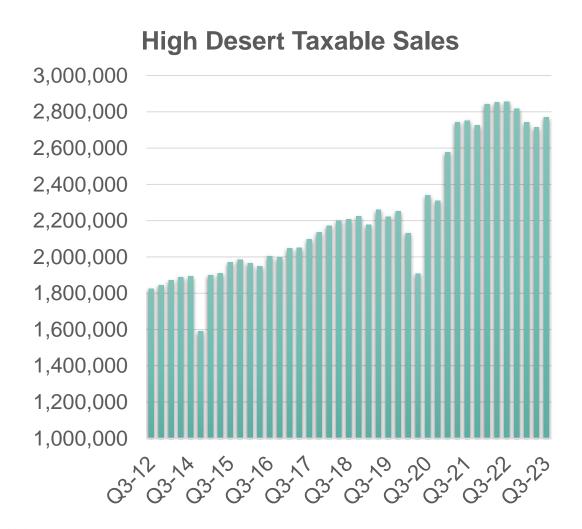


Back to the Great Gatsby





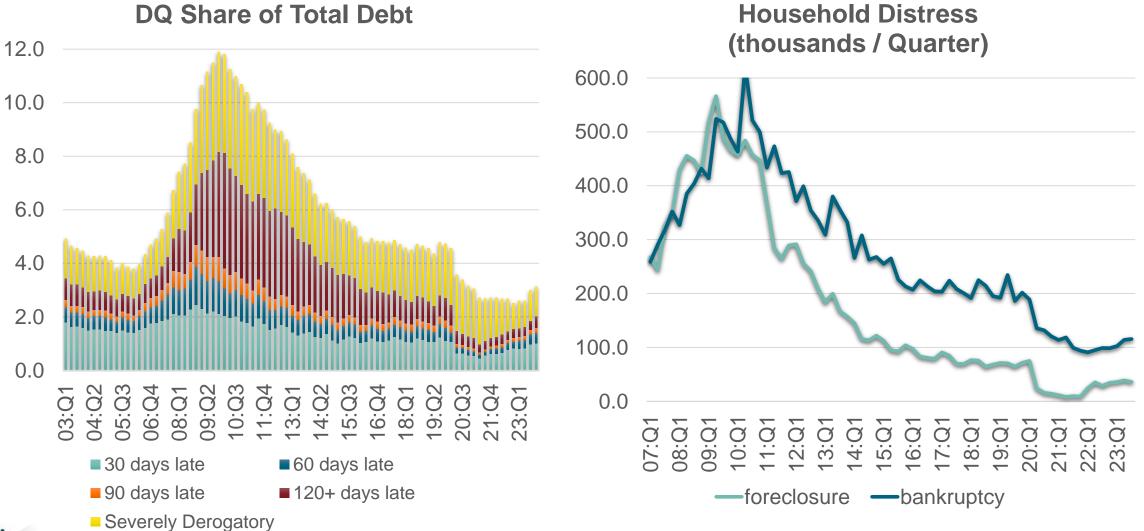
High Desert Taxable Sales



City	Q3-23 (\$, 000s)	1-Year Chg. (%)	5-Year Chg. (%)
Victorville	640,088	-3.9	33.5
Palmdale	568,609	0.0	27.7
Lancaster	556,457	-0.2	10.1
Hesperia	300,018	-6.8	36.5
Barstow	188,622	-1.2	10.9
Apple Valley	184,756	-4.1	35.3
Yucca Valley	98,712	1.1	29.7
Ridgecrest	90,518	-1.5	26.9
Adelanto	60,601	-26.9	50.3
Twentynine Palms	29,869	-4.6	4.2
California City	12,545	-6.3	67.3

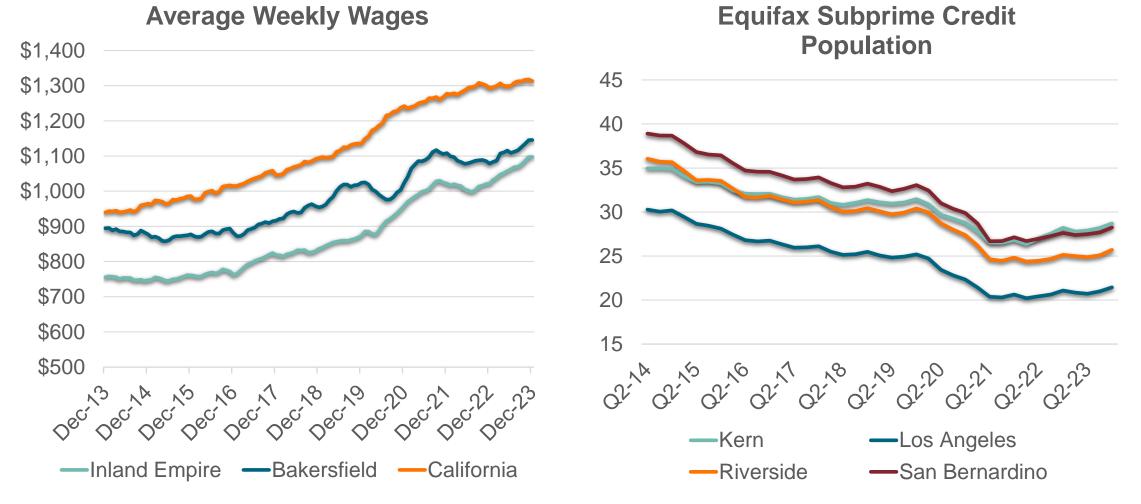


Little financial distress



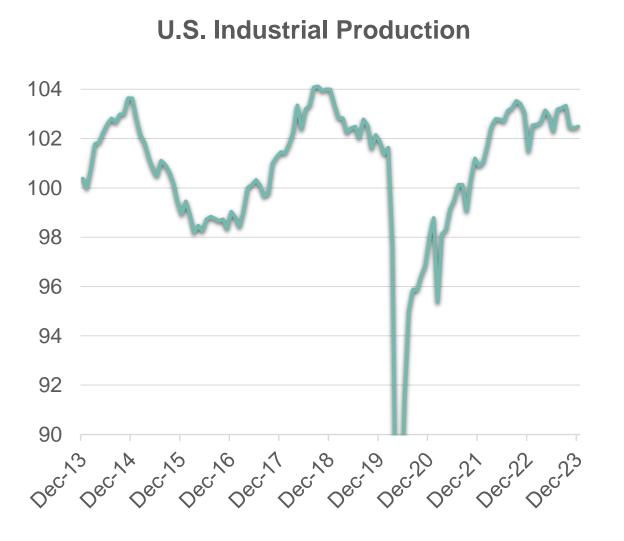


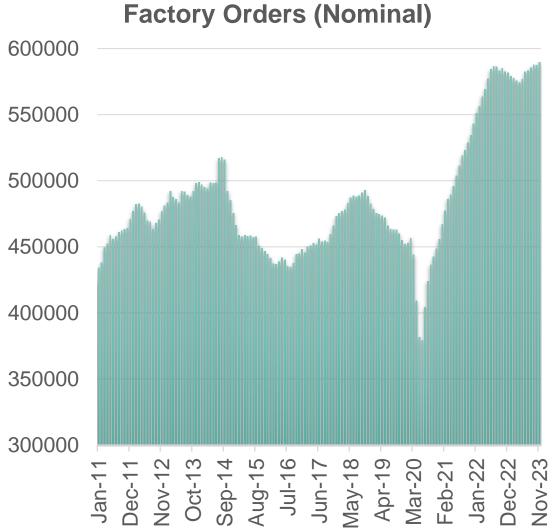
Average Weekly Wages & Earnings





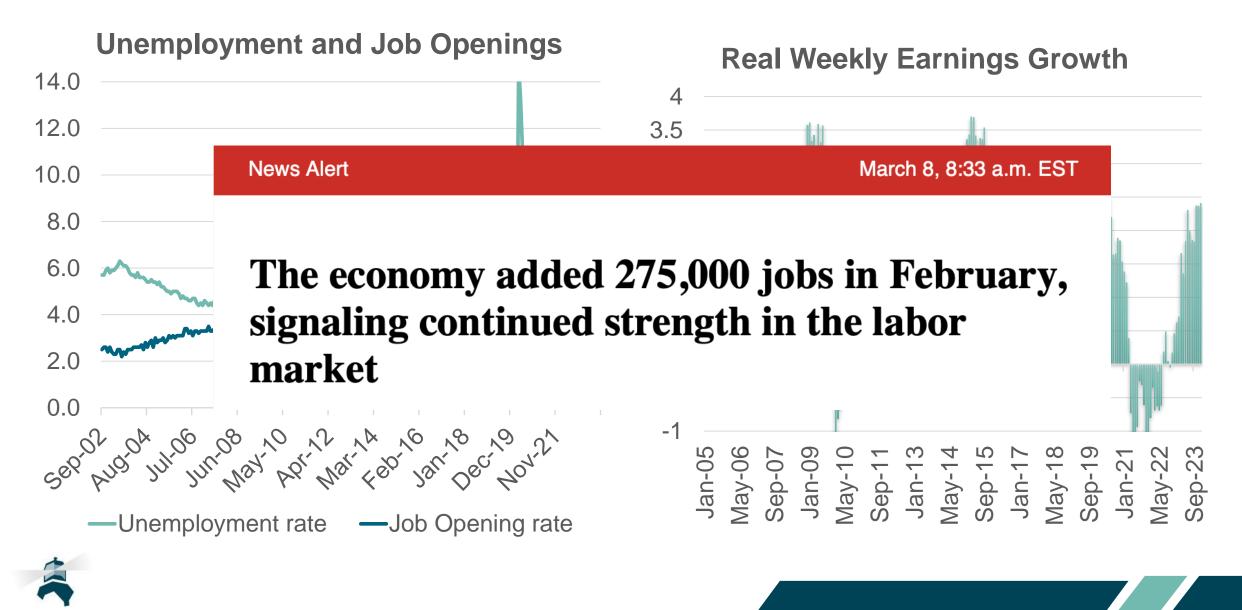
US Industrial Production







US Labor Markets still tight



The California Narrative

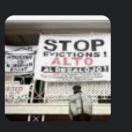
1 Los Angeles Times

Newsom signs wave of tenant protection bills into law

California Gov. Gavin Newsom this year has signed several new tenant-protection bills into law, including a measure to lower security...

Oct 11, 2023

VVCIV



Nearly a third of Californians are living in or near poverty.

In early 2023, 31.1% of residents were poor or near poor (with resources up to one and a half times the CPM poverty line), up from 28.7% in fall 2021.

The Guardian

California's fast-food workers win fight for \$20 hourly pay and industry council

In the face of recent intense pressures on fast-food workers, employees in the sector in California are about to get a boost with the...

Sep 28, 2023





CA Business Activity

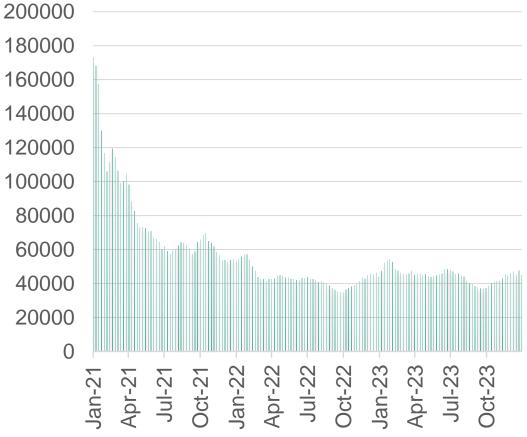
CA Tax	able Sales CA Rusiness Annlicat	tions	Real GDP Gro	owth (YoY)
\$2,600	Change 2019 – 202			
<u></u> \$2,400 ——		US	CA	
(Sy Willious) \$2,200 (Sy ¥2,000 (Sy ¥2,000))))))))))))	Real GDP Growth	8.0%	9.1%	h
	Change in Payroll Jobs	3.6%	3.8%	
	Nominal Per Capita Income Growth	23.3%	25.5%	
É \$1,400 −	Average Annual Earnings Growth	4.5%	4.9%	
	Home Price Appreciation	47.5%	43.6%	
\$1,000 \$1,000	Change in Unemployment Rate	0.3	0.8	
peinten of at	Jan-Cockete, Jan-Cockete, Jan-Cockete, Jul-L-L-L-L-L-L-L-L-L-L-L-L-L-L-L-L-L-L-L	Apr-2	—US -	-CA



State Labor Markets

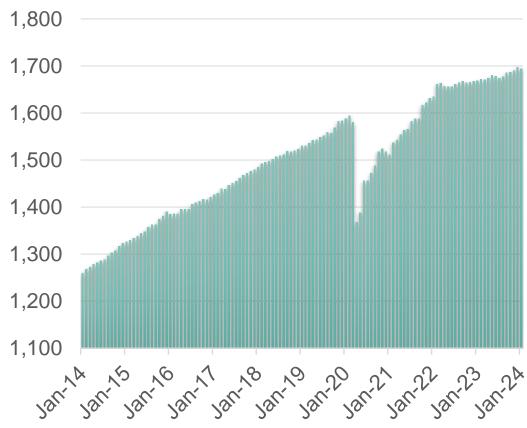
	Jan-24	23-24	20-24
Civilian Labor Force	19,357	0.6%	-1.1%
Civilian Unemployment Rate	5.2%	0.7%	0.9%
Total Nonfarm	18,007	1.3%	2.0%
Health Care	2,789	6.1%	12.4%
Private Education	414	6.1%	6.7%
Construction	936	5.0%	4.0%
Other Services	600	3.8%	1.4%
Leisure and Hospitality	2,033	2.5%	-1.2%
Government	2,639	2.4%	0.6%
Wholesale Trade	674	0.3%	-2.2%
Retail Trade	1,612	0.0%	-1.2%
Management	242	-0.7%	-5.8%
Professional	1,422	-0.7%	5.0%
Manufacturing	1,336	-0.7%	0.3%
Financial Activities	811	-1.3%	-4.4%
Transportation	826	-1.5%	11.9%
Administrative	1,114	-2.9%	-3.9%
Information	539	-10.4%	-8.1%

CA Initial Claims for Unemployment Insurance CA



Inland Empire Employment

Inland Empire Nonfarm Employment



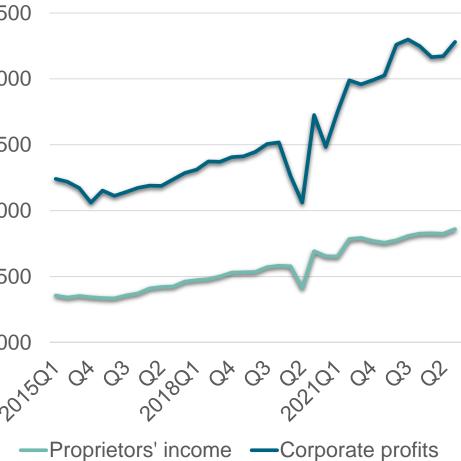
Inland Empire Industry	Jan-24 Emplt (000s)	1-Year Chg. (%)	Chg. Since Feb-20 (%)	LQ
Total Nonfarm	1,694.6	1.6	6.3	1.0
Logistics	201.0	-4.1	26.1	2.6
Natural Resources	1.6	14.4	23.6	0.9
Health Care	276.2	8.2	16.0	1.1
Construction	120.6	7.5	8.4	1.4
Prof Sci Tech	45.7	-0.9	7.2	0.3
Education	22.3	8.2	7.0	0.6
Management	9.2	5.9	3.1	0.4
Leisure & Hospitality	183.5	-1.7	2.8	1.0
Other Services	49.4	2.5	2.3	0.9
Government	268.8	4.9	1.6	1.1
Retail Trade	181.7	-0.5	1.4	1.2
Admin Support	109.8	-2.1	-0.4	1.0
Wholesale Trade	68.7	-1.1	-0.6	1.1
Financial Activities	44.9	-0.9	-2.5	0.6
Manufacturing	98.1	-2.4	-3.2	0.8
Information	13.2	-1.4	-7.2	0.3



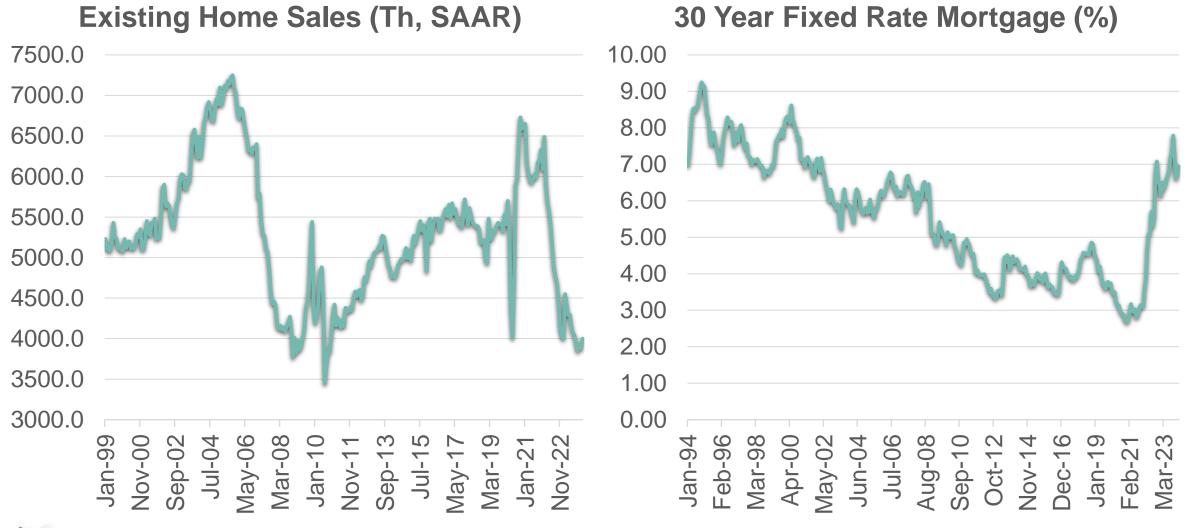
Investment Up, Profits Steady

	2023	2019-23	YoY Gr	
Total Private fixed investment	3960	6.8%	0.5%	350
Manufacturing Structures	126.1	73.5%	62.7%	300
Transportation equipment	263.5	-13.5%	15.5%	300
Software	718.9	54.1%	8.9%	250
Power and communication	105.8	-18.0%	2.4%	
Entertainment, literary, art	94.1	4.8%	2.3%	200
Mining exploration, shafts	108.3	-12.4%	1.7%	150
Research and development	602.9	18.8%	0.9%	100
Commercial and health care	169.9	-9.1%	0.1%	100
Industrial equipment	252.4	-0.3%	-0.9%	
Information processing eq	484.4	12.9%	-5.0%	2
Residential	734.5	-3.5%	-10.7%	

National Incomes (BEA)

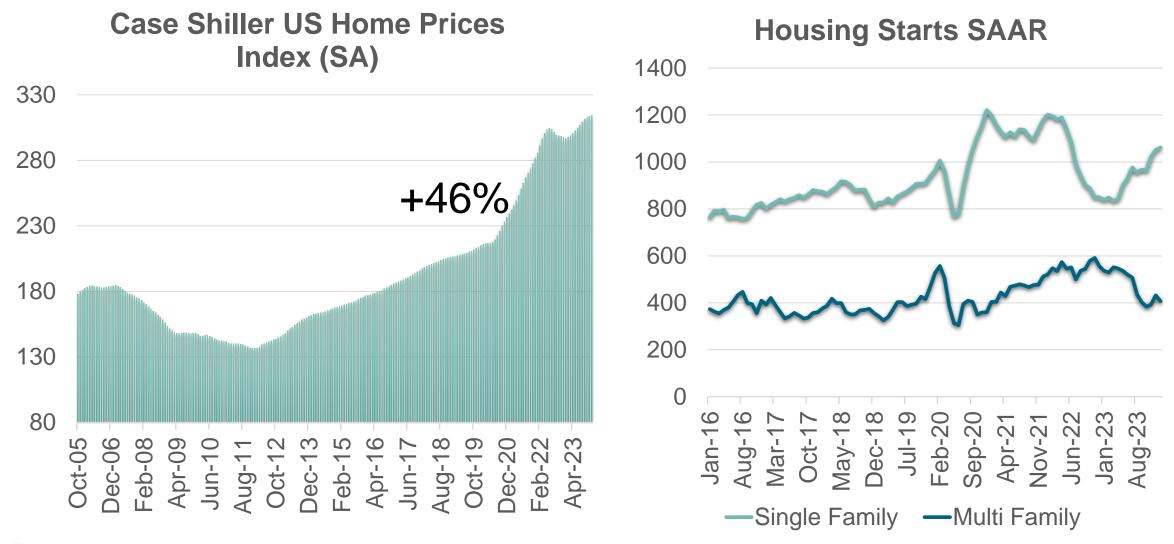


Frozen Housing Market





Housing: prices, starts both rising...



-

Home Sales





City	2023 Homes Sold	1-Year Chg. (#)	5-Year Chg. (#)
Adelanto	308	-49	-151
Apple Valley	933	-302	-373
Hesperia	931	-258	-383
Lancaster	1,696	-362	-572
Palmdale	1,260	-345	-755
Victorville	1,353	-281	-387



Home Prices

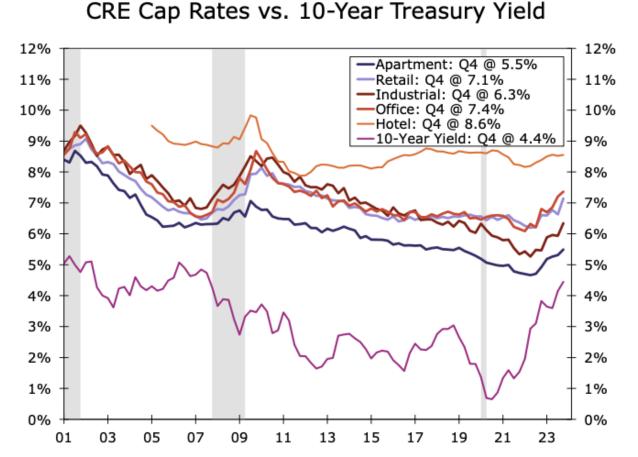
\$1,200,000	Median Home Prices	City	2023 Median Price (\$)	1-Year Chg. (%)	5-Year Chg. (%)
\$1,000,000		Adelanto	376,958	0.1	70.8
\$800,000		Apple Valley	404,716	0.2	61.3
\$600,000 \$400,000		Hesperia	428,919	-0.7	61.3
\$200,000		Lancaster	446,710	-0.4	57.1
\$0	-14 -15 -16 -17 -18 -22 -23 -23 -23	Palmdale	491,790	-1.4	55.5
	Jan-14 Jan-15 Jan-15 Jan-15 Jan-16 Jan-16 Jan-16 Jan-20 Jan-22 Jan-22 Jan-22	Victorville	415,128	0.5	67.8



Commercial Transactions by Type



Commercial Activity

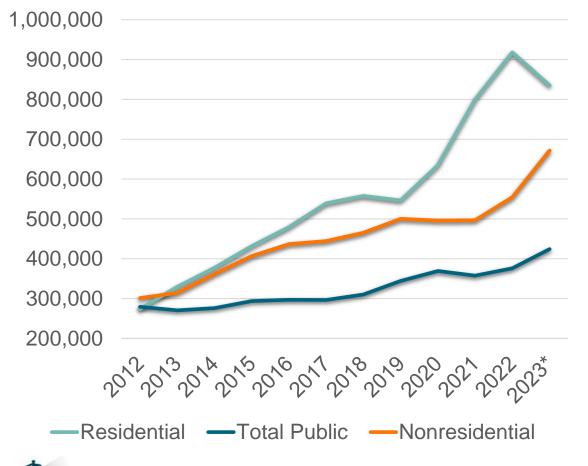


Source: CoStar Inc,, Bloomberg Finance L.P. and Wells Fargo Economics



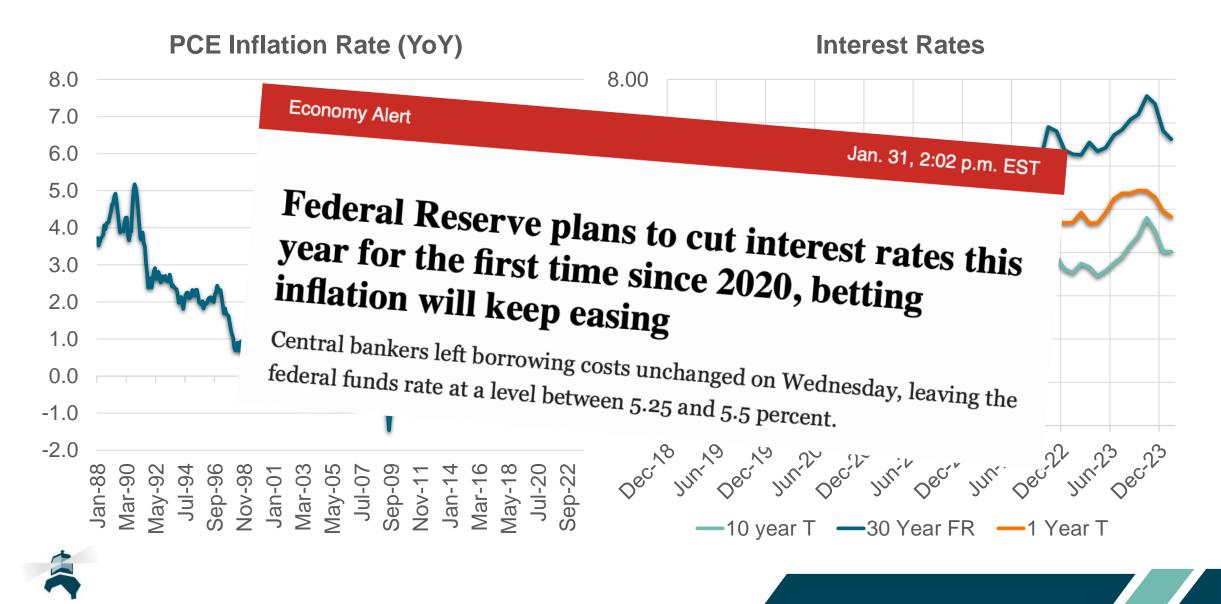
The Construction Industry

Total Nominal Spending by Sector (\$Millions)

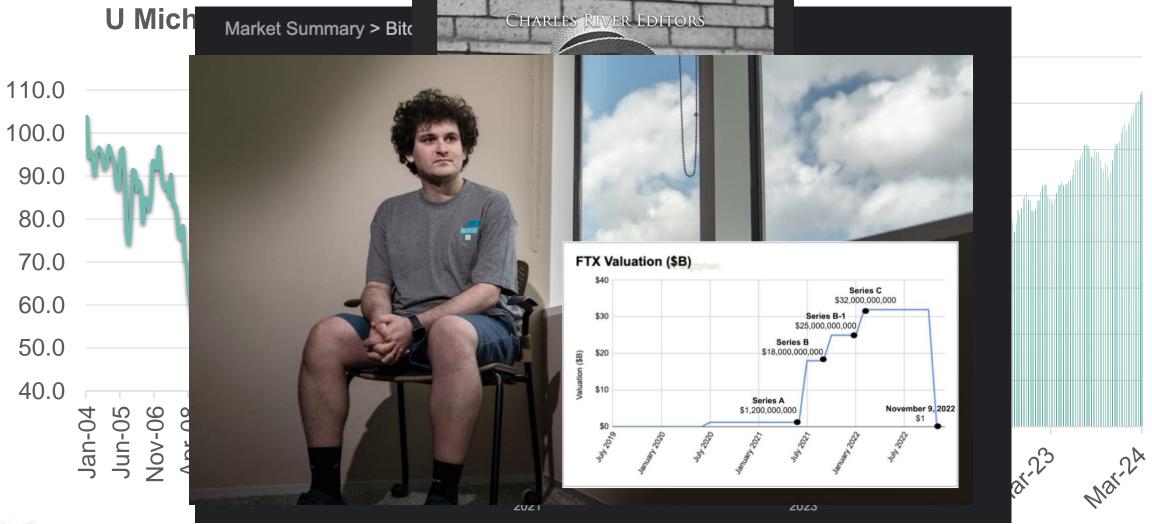


			5 Yr Avg
	2023*	1 Year	Gr
Private			
Manufacturing	198,237	73.7%	22.5%
Commercial	127,073	8.4%	8.9%
Power	103,488	3.5%	1.9%
Office	84,241	7.3%	4.7%
Health care	49,136	13.3%	7.7%
Communication	24,515	1.5%	0.2%
Lodging	24,228	25.5%	-4.5%
Educational	22,152	16.6%	-0.2%
Transportation	20,136	15.8%	2.4%
Public			
Highway and street	130,769	15.4%	7.4%
Educational	88,867	7.0%	2.4%
Transportation	43,622	5.5%	4.3%
Sewage waste	39,201	22.7%	10.8%
Water supply	25,841	13.9%	11.2%

Inflation and Rates—Down



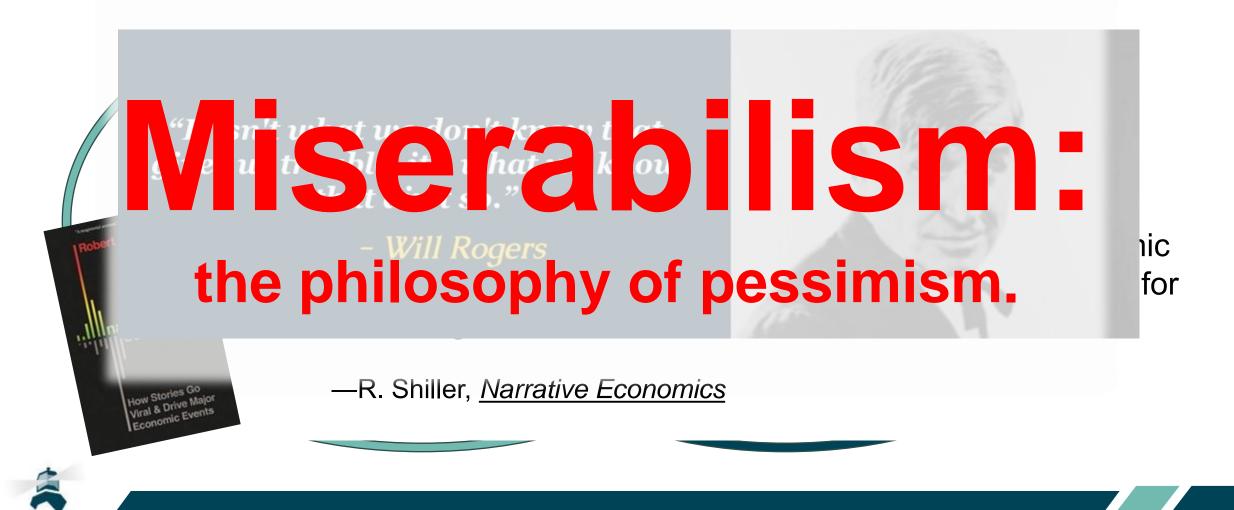
Sentiment and Equities: Up





Beware the Narrative!

Social Narratives Economic Reality



Miserabilism and the Pandemic

CBO: Coronavirus pandemic will scar U.S. labor market for the next decade

FINANCE - ECONOMY

What shape will the recovery take? U-shape, check mark, square root symbol, and swoosh are all on the table, say economists

> As many as 30% of Americans with home loans about **15 million** households — could stop paying if the U.S. economy remains closed through the summer or beyond, according to an estimate by Mark **Zandi**, chief economist for Moody's Analytics.

Coronavirus to cause worst economic downturn since Great Depression, IMF forecasts 30-40 Million People in America Could Be Evicted from Their Homes by the End of 2020

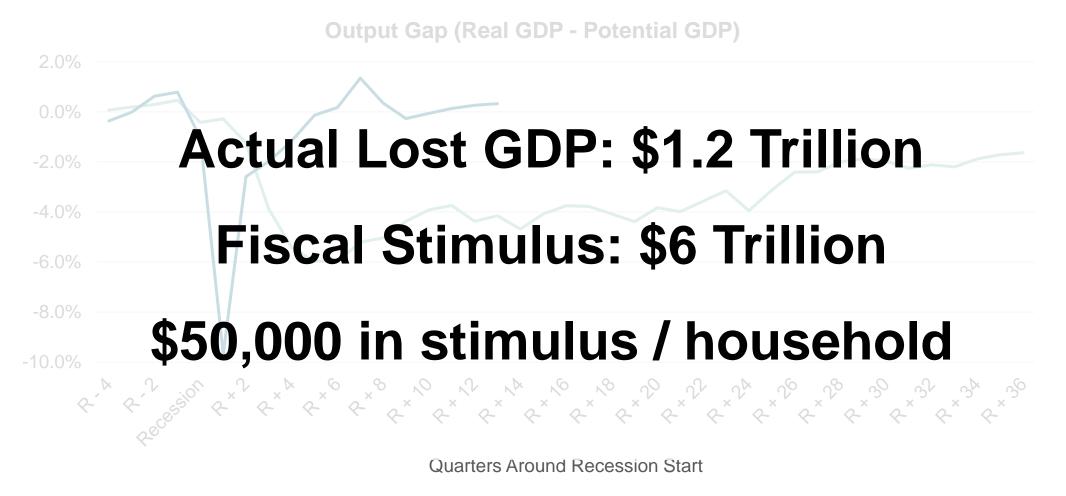
Coronavirus: Leading economist warns of 10 years of depression and debt

3 22 May 2020

Home prices rose in June, but they'll likely fall in 2021: CoreLogic

'Make no mistake...the pandemic morphed into a Depression-like crisis,' says UCLA economist, who predicts U.S. economy won't recover from coronavirus until 2023

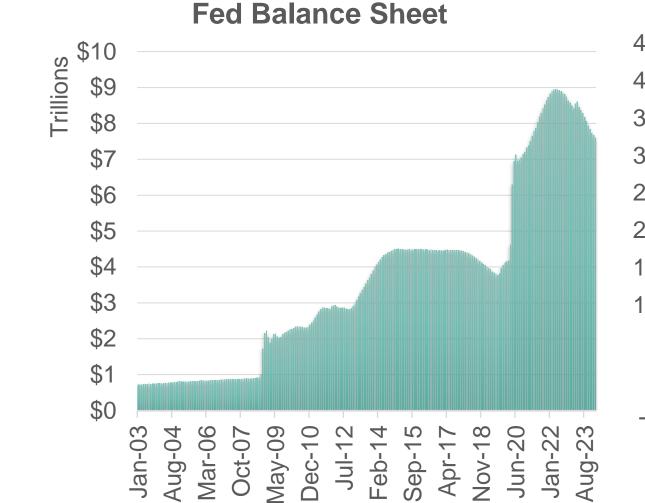
The Pandemic Over-reaction



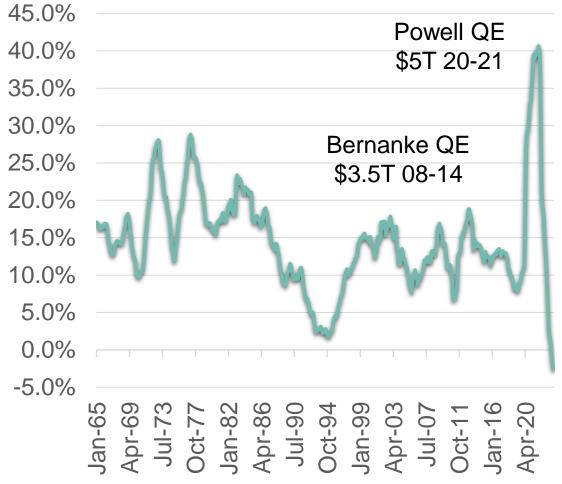
-Great Recession -Pandemic



The Fed Money Pump



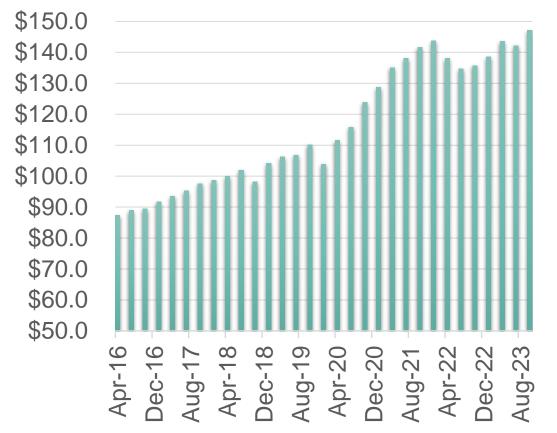
M2 Growth (2 Year)



, , ,

The Progressive Asset Bubble

Aggregate U.S. Household Net Worth \$Trillions

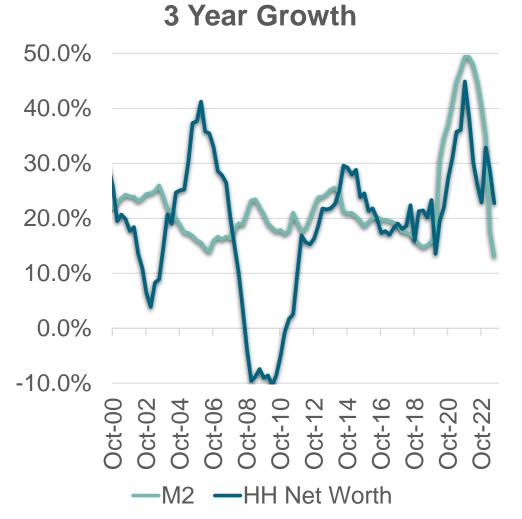


Real Median Household Net Worth in 2022 (\$000) and Growth Rate 2013-2022

Percentile of net worth		Age of person			
All families	\$193	87%	Less 35	\$39	195%
Less 25	\$4	n.a.	35–44	\$136	128%
25–49.9	\$93	134%	45–54	\$247	84%
50–74.9	\$356	67%	55–64	\$365	73%
75–89.9	\$1036	61%	65–74	\$410	39%
90–100	\$3795	59%	75 or more	\$336	35%

The consumer boom





	Growth
Real Changes in Consumer Spending	2019-23
Video, audio, photographic, and IT	91%
Air transportation	45%
Alcoholic bev for off-premises	22%
Clothing and footwear	20%
Foreign travel by U.S. residents	18%
Food services	12%
New motor vehicles	7%
Food purchased for off-premises	6%
Accommodations	4%
Gasoline and other energy goods	1%
Household utilities	1%

Inflationary Pressures Cooling

Unit Money Supply M2 / Nominal GDP



GDP Prices Q4 to Q4	20-21	21-22	22-23
GDP Prices	6.1%	6.4%	2.6%
Personal consumption	5.9%	5.9%	2.7%
Goods	8.1%	6.1%	0.0%
Services	4.7%	5.8%	4.1%
Inv: Structures	9.5%	13.2%	2.0%
Inv: Equipment	2.5%	7.0%	2.6%
Inv: Intellectual products	0.2%	1.2%	2.3%
Inv: Residential	13.6%	11.6%	1.7%
Exports	13.7%	5.0%	-0.7%
Imports	9.3%	3.5%	-1.3%
Government	6.3%	6.3%	1.8%



Shifting demand

Nominal Retail Sales

	Dec		
	Sales	YoY Gr	1
Retail & food services Total	709,890	4.8%	
Food services & drinking places	94,559	11.1%	
Electronics & appliance stores	7,679	10.4%	
Nonstore retailers	120,496	9.7%	
Motor vehicle & parts dealers	136,507	8.3%	
Clothing & clothing accessories	26,611	2.9%	
General merchandise stores	74,032	2.2%	
Food & beverage stores	83,124	1.0%	
Building material & garden eq	41,665	-2.3%	
Furniture & home furn stores	10,783	-5.0%	
Gasoline stations	53,169	-8.4%	



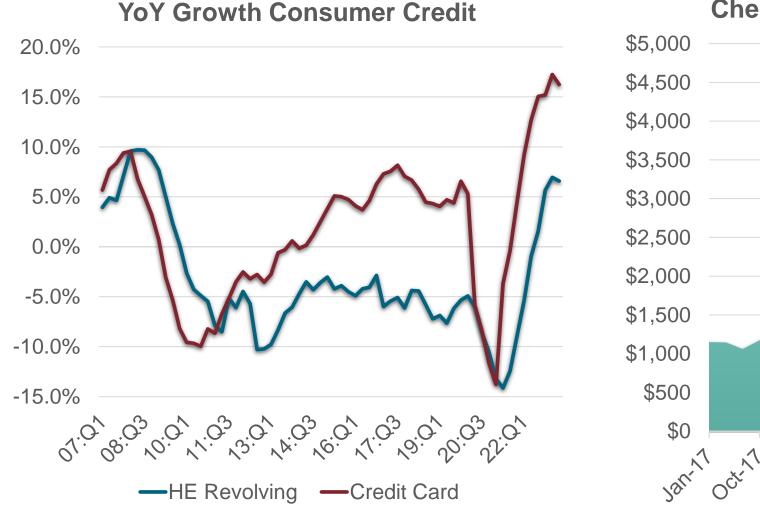
100000 90000 80000 70000 60000 50000 40000 Jan-20 Sep-20 May-23 Jan-24 တ May-21 Jan-22 ∞ ∞ Sep-22 May-1 Jan-1 Sep-1 **May-1** Jan-1 Sep-1

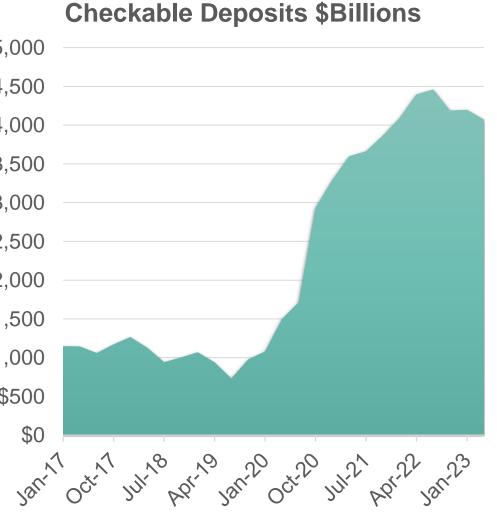
—Restaurants and Bars

-Grocery and beverage Stores



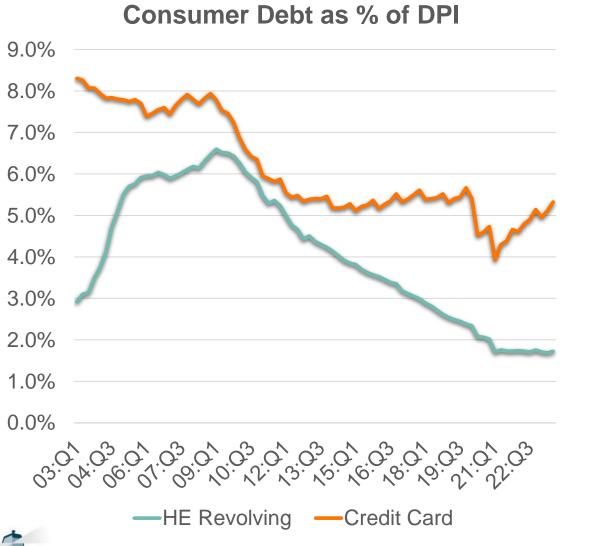
Still Lots of Cash and Credit







Consumer Debt: Not a problem... yet



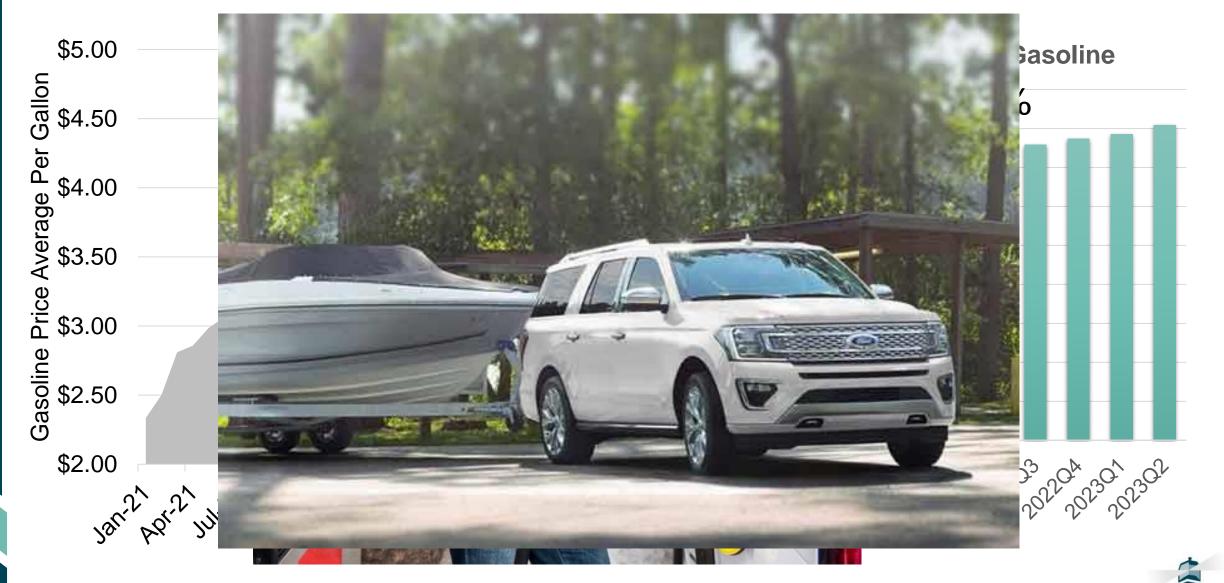
Household Debt Service Ration as % DPI (Fed Est.)



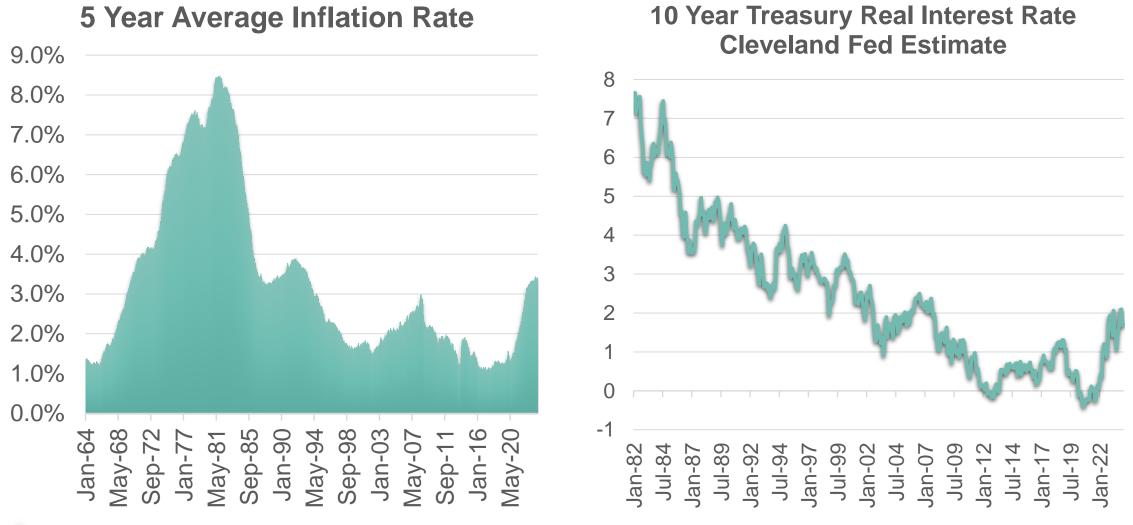
The narrative on inflation



Reality: Inflation is caused by demand

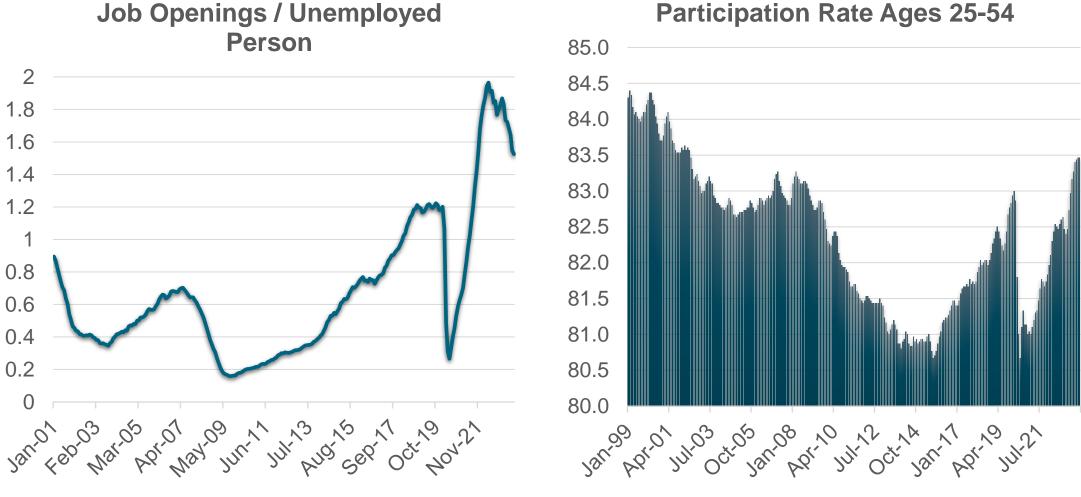


The Longer Run Context





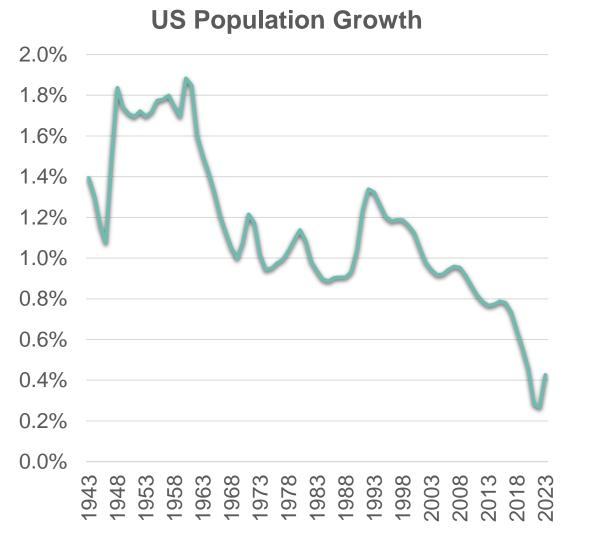
The deeper issue? Labor supply, not consumer demand



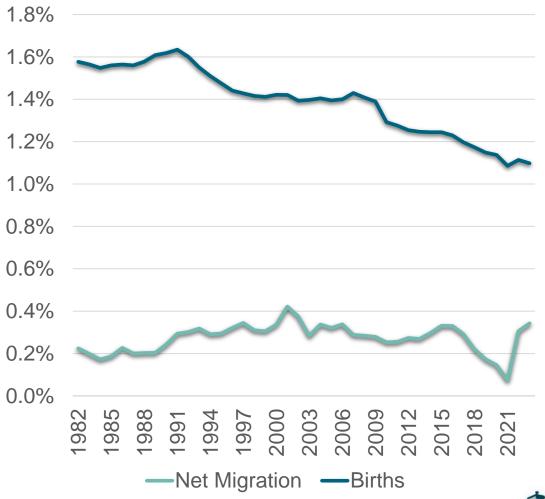
Participation Rate Ages 25-54

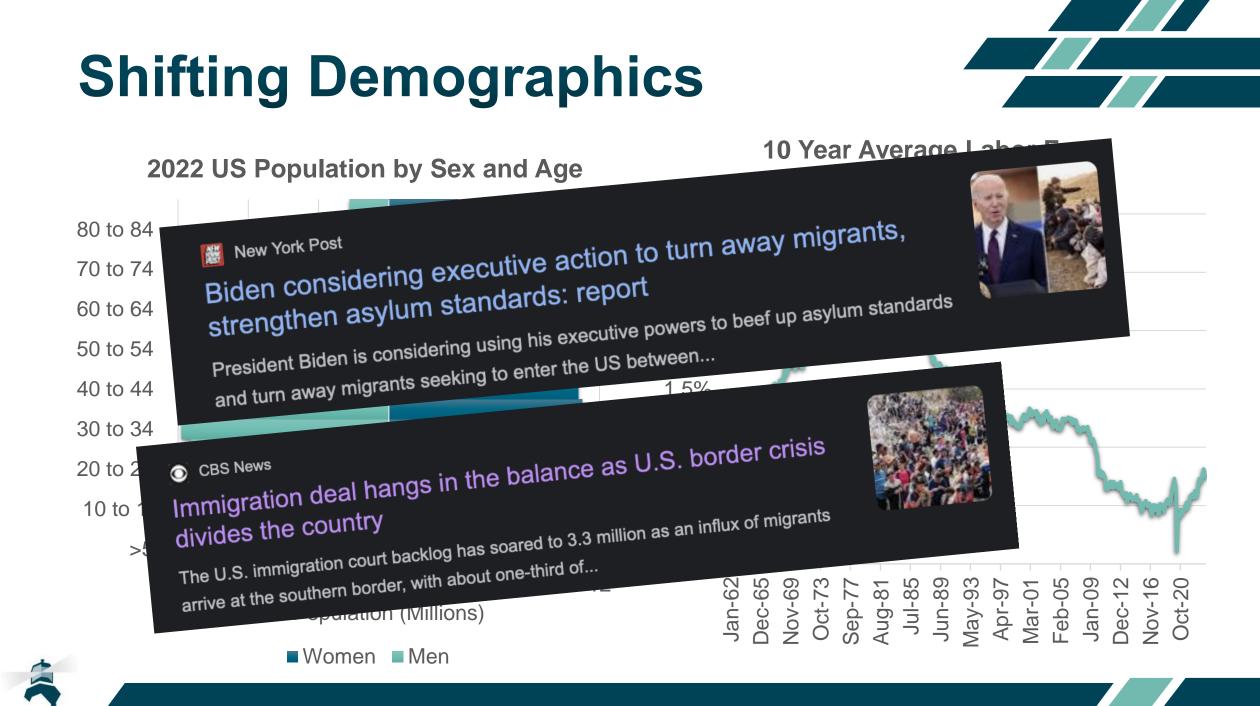


The Era of Labor Shortages is Here



Sources of New Population





The Impact of Labor Shortages



—Lower 1/2 of wage distn —Upper 1/2 of wage distn

Earnings Growth by Quartile 2015-2023

Lowest	2nd	3rd	Highest
38.0	31.8	29.4	27.1

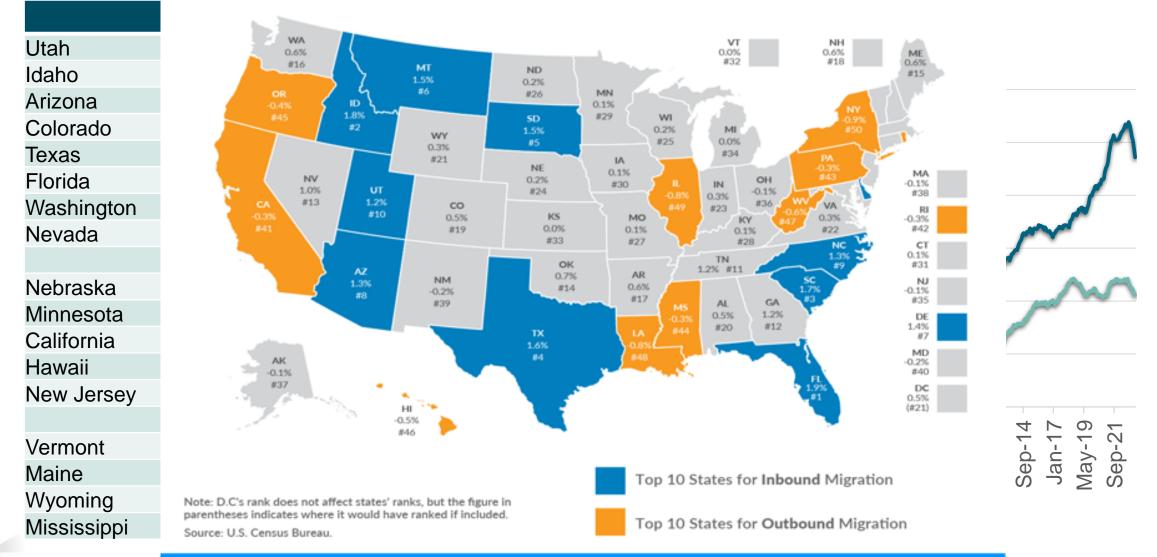
Weekly Earnings for Non-Supervisory Employees

	Q1 23	Gr 17-20	Gr 20-23
Accommodation	\$603.5	6.5%	33.8%
Childcare	\$561.8	11.6%	28.7%
Food and Drink	\$418.6	10.6%	26.2%
Nursing Homes	\$704.4	12.6%	23.5%
Truck Transport	\$1,200.4	13.3%	20.1%
Total Private	\$964.8	10.0%	19.6%
Retail	\$620.0	14.6%	19.0%
Warehouses	\$857.2	10.0%	14.2%



State Population Change in 2022

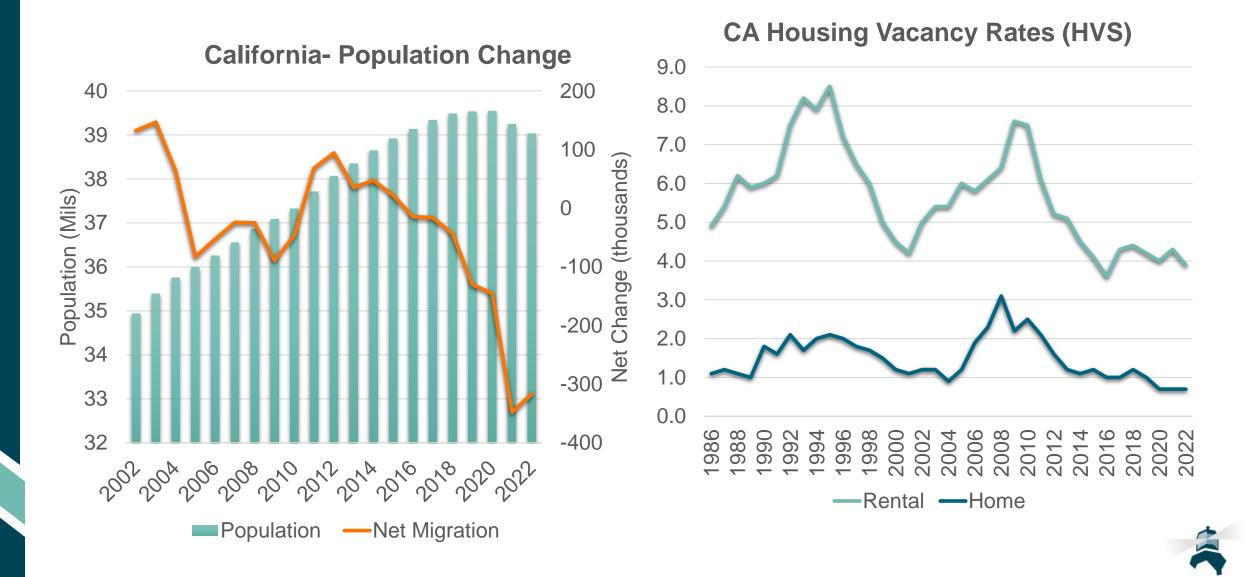
State Migration Patterns, from Most Inbound to Most Outbound, 2022



TAX FOUNDATION

@TaxFoundation

Fleeing? Or being Pushed?



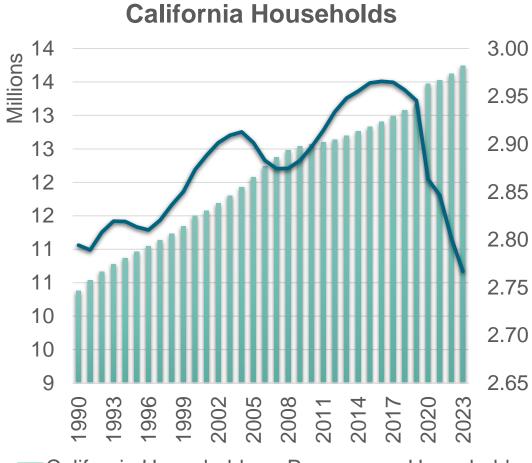
Home Inventory







Spreading Out



California Households — Persons per Household

Location	2023 Population	1-Year Change (%)	10-Year Change (%)
California	39,109,070	-0.1	1.2
Los Angeles	9,825,708	-0.2	-2.3
Fresno	1,012,424	0.1	5.1
Kern	903,372	-0.6	3.5
San Francisco	848,019	0.6	-0.1
Ventura	825,937	-0.5	-2.5
Santa Barbara	442,614	-0.3	1.0
Monterey	436,476	-0.1	1.8
San Luis Obispo	280,251	-0.1	0.5
Santa Cruz	263,101	-0.8	-3.4

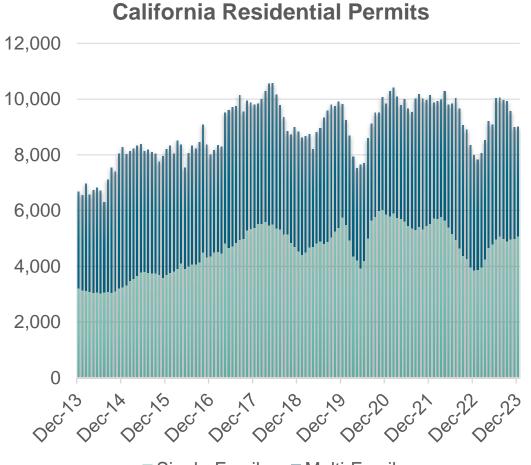


State Worker Earnings



Supply, Not Affordability

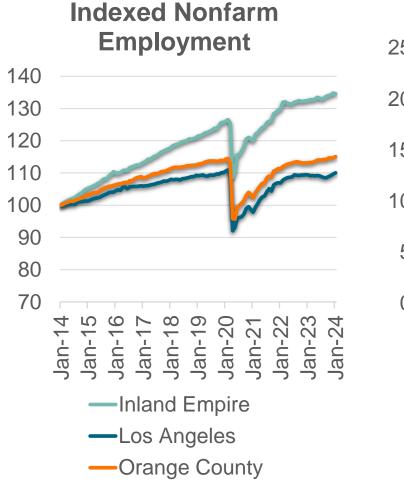
Share Cost Burdened: Renters	2017	2022
United States	49.5%	51.9%
California	55.2%	56.0%
Los Angeles	57.8%	58.3%
Orange County	57.7%	57.9%
Riverside	60.6%	59.3%
San Bernardino	56.6%	60.9%
San Diego	57.2%	58.3%

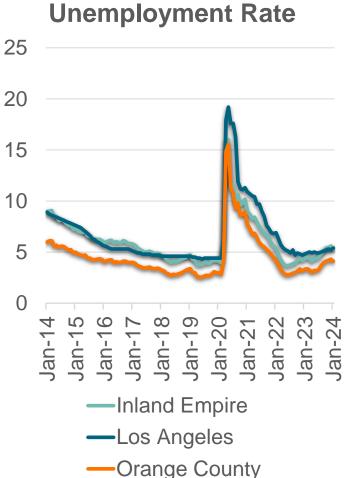


Single-Family Multi-Family

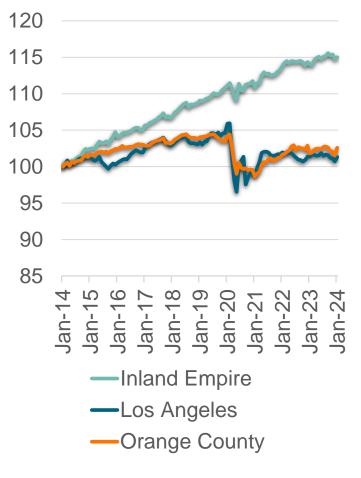


Labor Markets

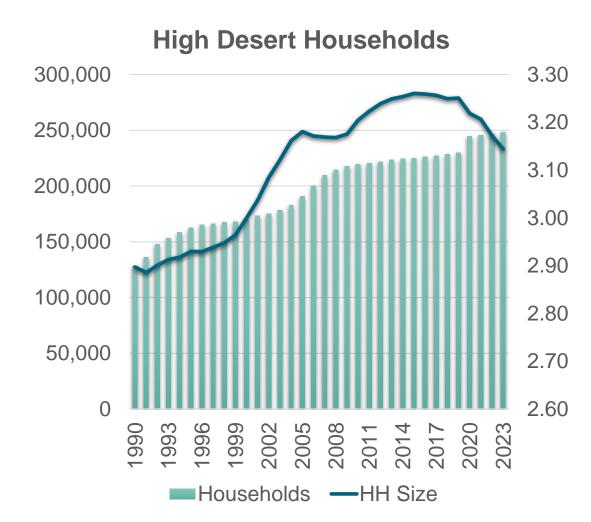




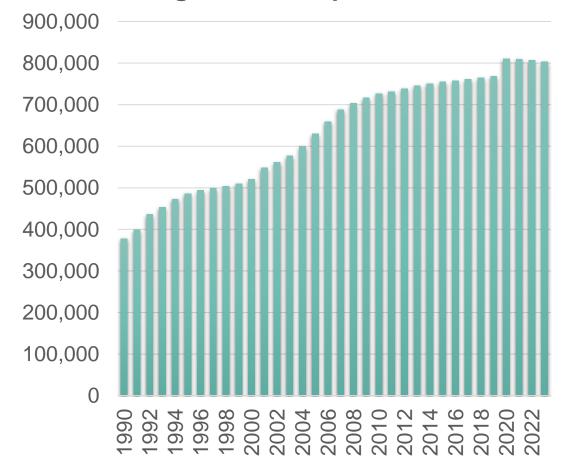
Indexed Labor Force



Households



High Desert Population





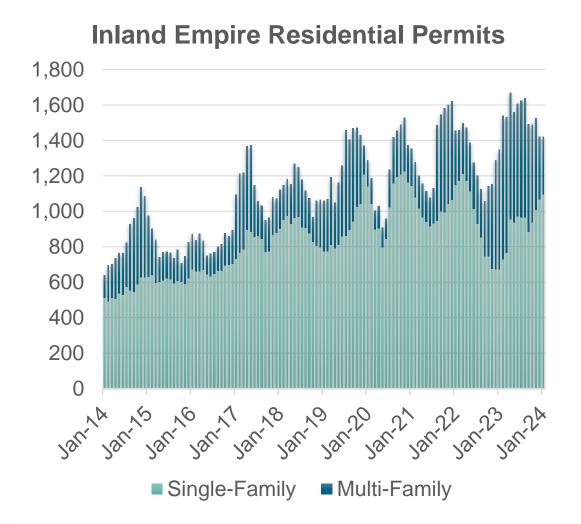
Inventory





Permits and Affordability





Cost Burdened Households	2017	2022	
Renters			
California	55.2	56.0	
Kern County	54.8	57.6	
Los Angeles County	57.8	58.3	
Riverside County	60.6	59.3	
San Bernardino County	56.6	60.9	
Owners			
California	38.4	37.8	
Kern County	36.8	37.4	
Los Angeles County	43.8	42.7	
Riverside County	40.0	38.7	
San Bernardino County	37.9	40.0	

Commercial Real Estate

Metro	Q4-23 (\$)	1-Yr Change (%)	Change since Q4-19 (%)	Q4-23 (%)	1-Yr Change (pp)	Change since Q4-19 (pp)
Office						
Inland Empire	25.02	2.5	7.7	15.8	-0.8	-0.8
Los Angeles (MD)	42.12	0.7	3.9	18.3	1.5	4.1
Orange County (MD)	34.21	0.2	-2.4	20.0	1.5	3.5
San Diego	35.46	0.2	4.9	19.0	1.1	3.3
Retail						
Inland Empire	22.92	1.5	-1.5	10.0	-0.4	0.1
Los Angeles (MD)	34.24	1.1	1.1	8.1	-0.1	0.7
Orange County (MD)	34.69	0.8	0.8	6.5	0.1	0.8
San Diego	32.59	0.6	0.2	6.9	0.7	1.0
Warehouse/Distribution						
Inland Empire	12.93	4.7	124.5	5.9	4.0	-3.9
Los Angeles (MD)	12.93	1.9	63.9	3.3	2.1	-2.2
Orange County (MD)	10.75	6.2	42.0	2.5	1.0	-4.9
San Diego	11.89	4.6	30.5	2.3	0.0	-6.8



Warehouse Market

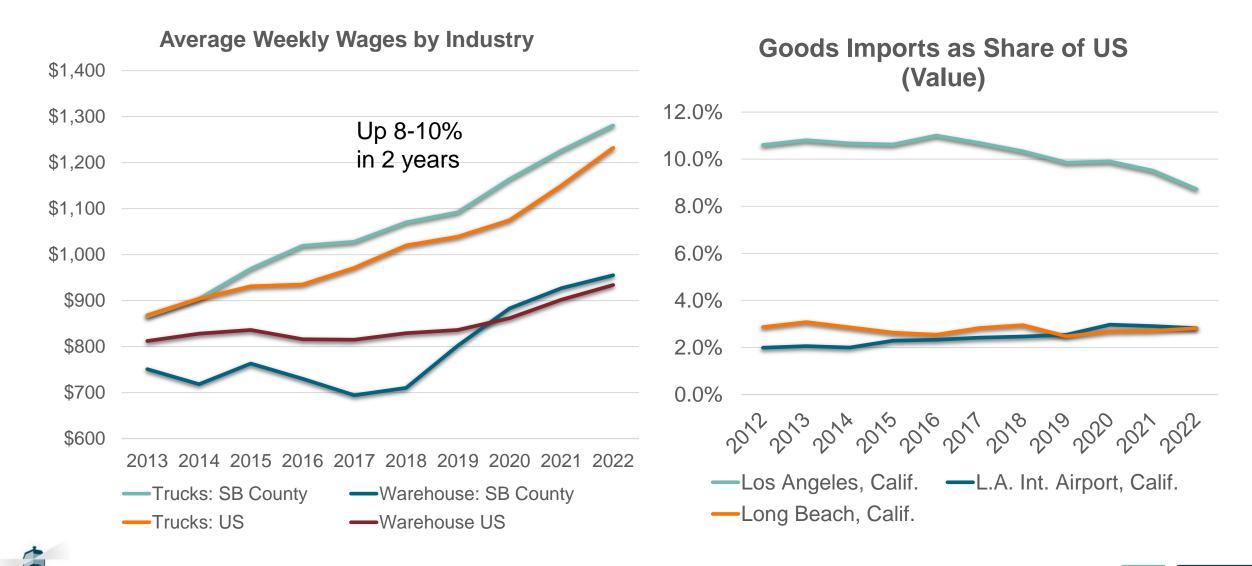


Warehouse Vacancy Rates

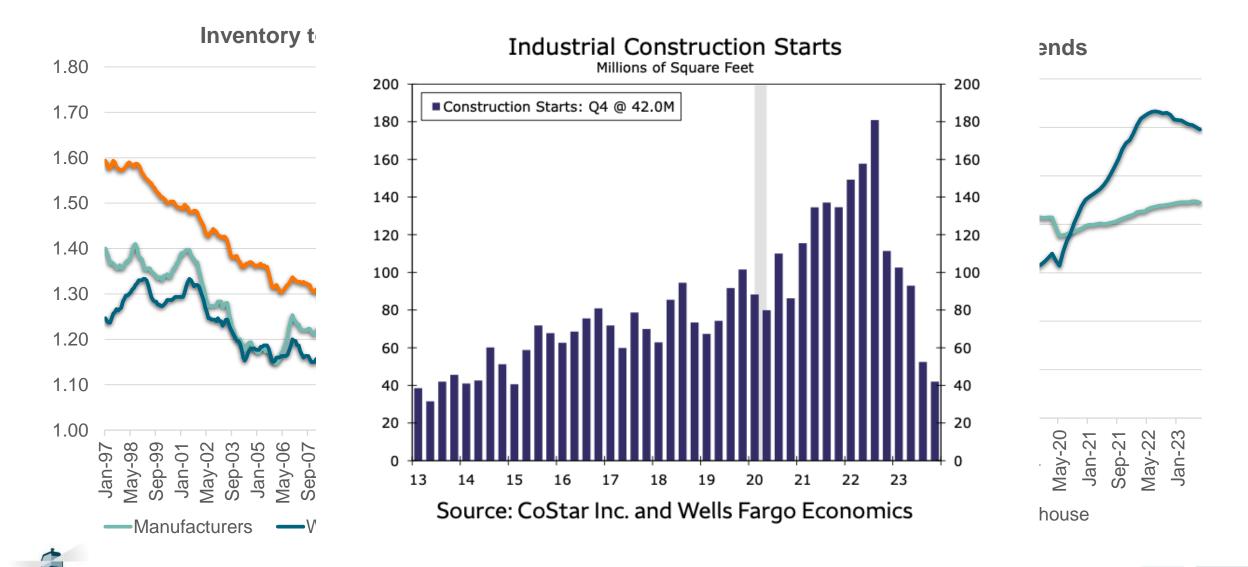


	Cost of Rent			
Metro	Q4-23 (\$)	1-Yr Growth (%)	Change since Q4- 19 (%)	
United States	7.80	4.8	37.8	
California	11.83	4.0	68.1	
Fresno	6.41	4.2	21.9	
Inland Empire	12.93	4.7	124.5	
Los Angeles (MD)	12.93	1.9	63.9	
Oakland (MD)	8.96	5.9	32.0	
Orange County (MD)	10.75	6.2	42.0	
Sacramento	6.49	5.0	28.0	
San Diego	11.89	4.6	30.5	
San Francisco (MD)	13.67	5.2	32.7	

Industry Labor Costs



Shifting Trade / Inventories



Narratives of Fed Policy?

The Γ Narra

MARKETS

Fed

rate

PUBLISHE

Jes

@/| @J

- US ir
- Inflat expension
- Inflat
 Amei
- The I loss (



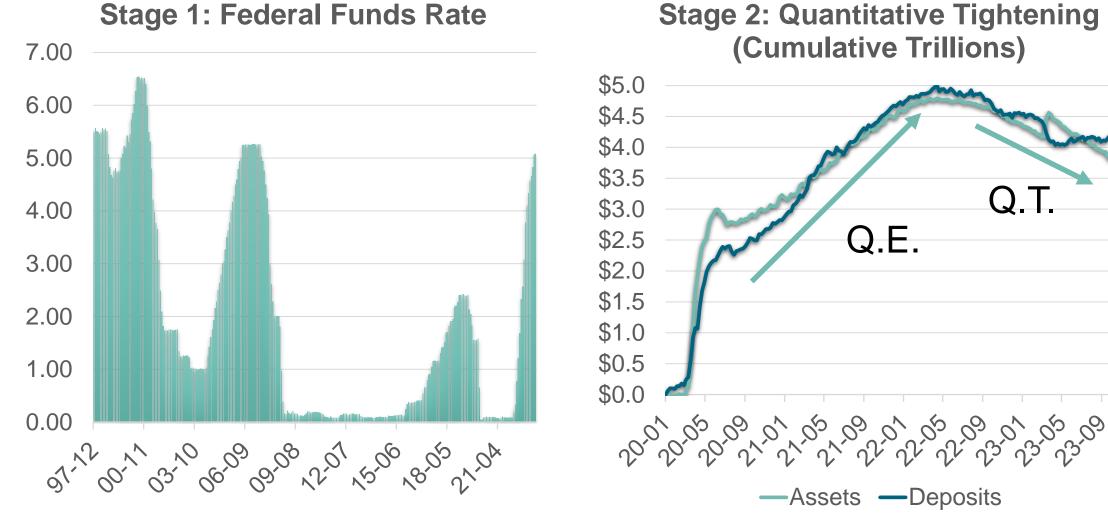
CHAIRMAN POWELL

FOLLOWING THE FEDERAL RESERVE'S ANNOUNCEMENT TO HOLD INTEREST RATES STEADY, SCOTT PELLEY INTERVIEWS FED CHAIR JEROME POWELL,

THIS SUNDAY



The Fed Response





The Fed is on the Brake, Congress is the Gas



Out of the Woods?





t thinks

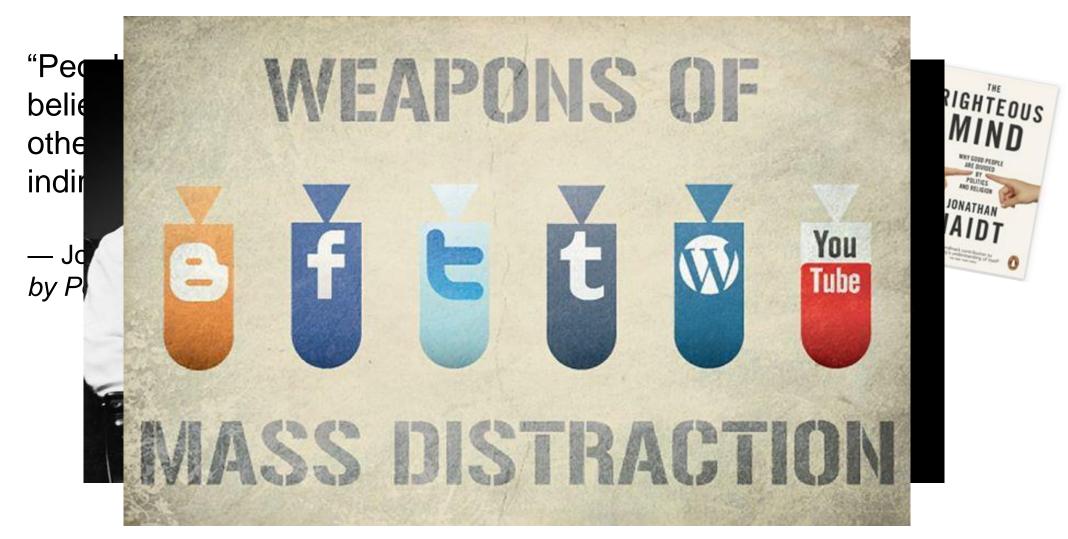
Column: Biden says America is 'coming back.' Trump says we're 'in hell.' Are they talking about the same nation?



Los Angeles Times



Sticky Narratives







Sources

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics U.S. Census Bureau U.S. Bureau Economic Analysis CA Dept. of Finance Federal Reserve VisitCalifornia California EDD HdL Companies Redfin REIS

Chris@BeaconEcon.com beaconecon.com

Get In Touch With Us:

Kristen@beaconecon.com Beaconecon.com

- Economic Outlooks
- Revenue Forecasts
- Cost Projections
- Regional Development
- Housing Studies

- Impact Reports
- CEDS Analysis
- Policy Studies
- Industry Studies
- Labor Markets



