NUME 2026

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Utah Department of Workforce Services

Northern Utah Manufacturing Excellence
September 30, 2026

AGENDA

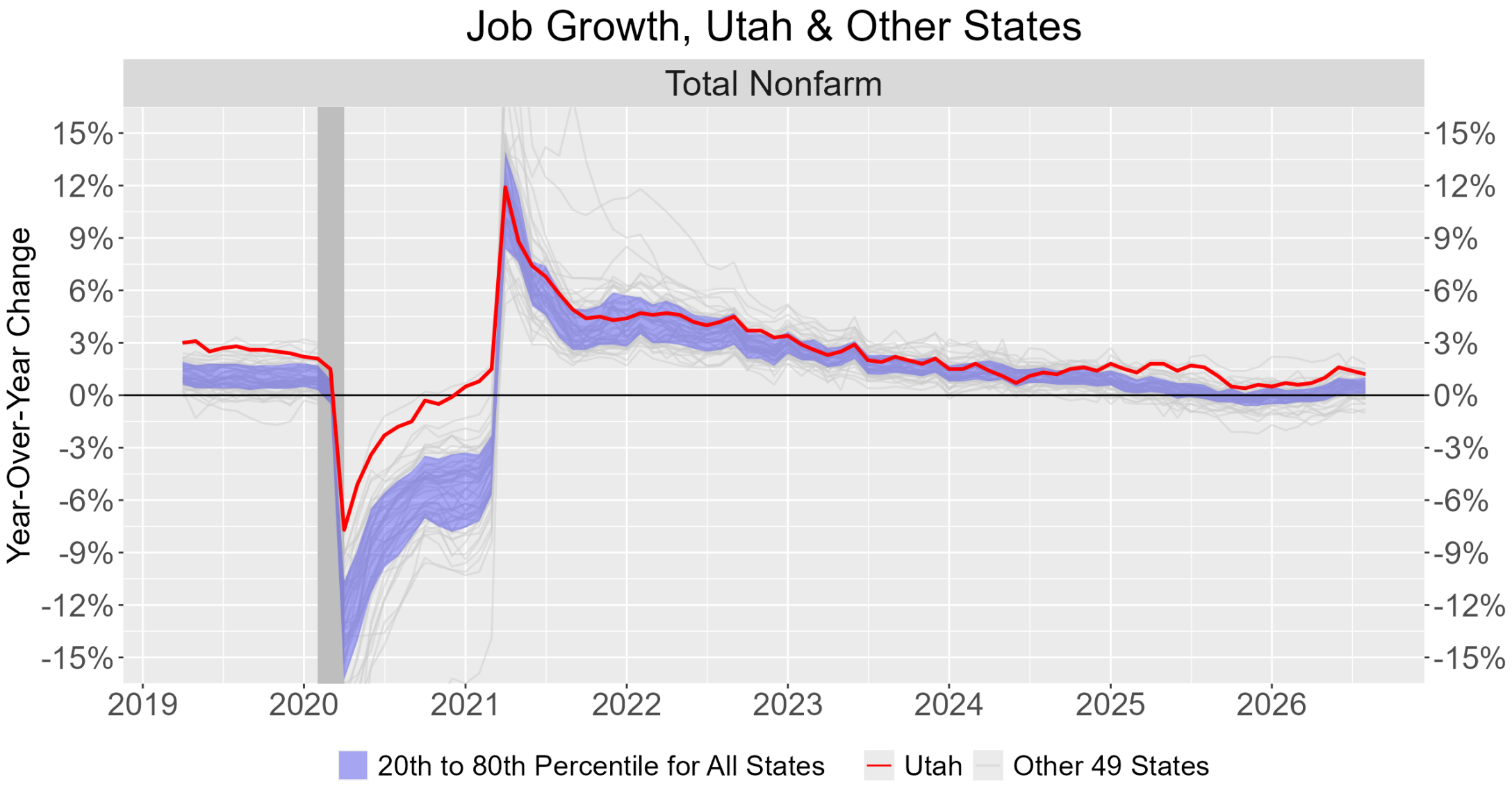
1. Labor Market and Economic Update
2. The Workforce of Tomorrow
3. Looking Forward

Labor Market and Economic Update



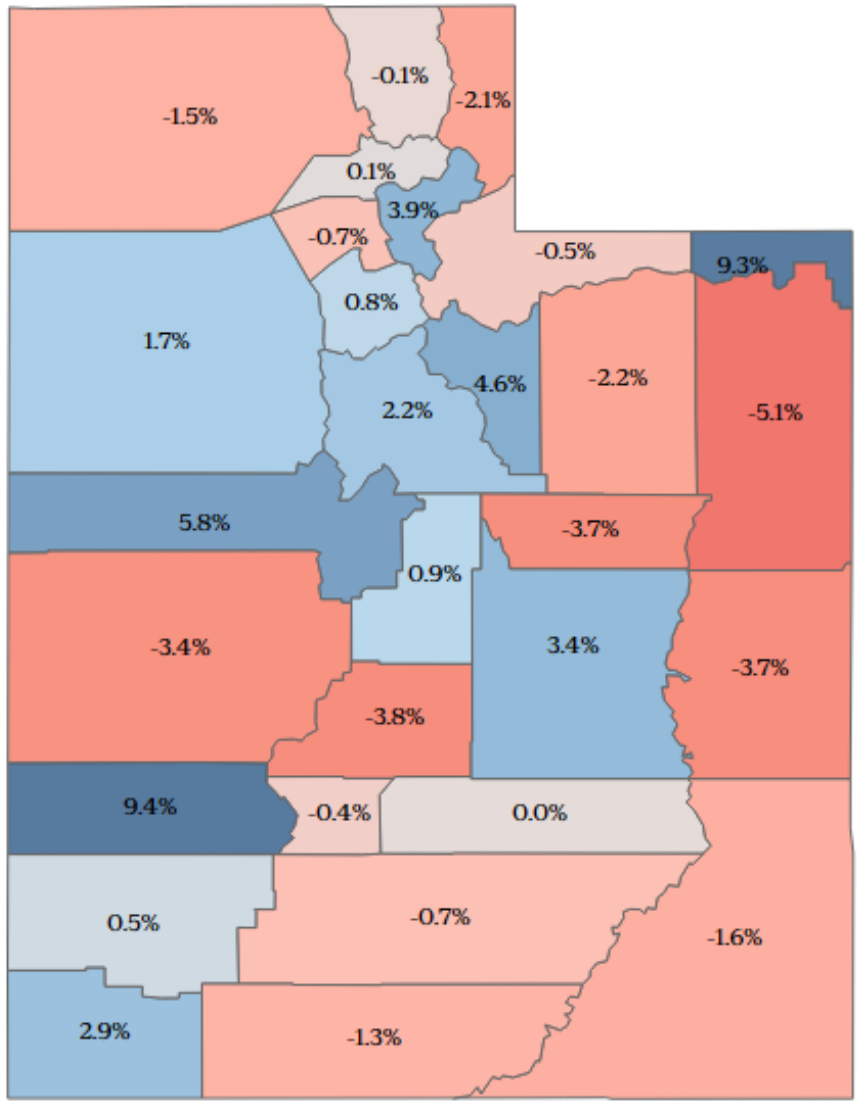
Photograph by airbnb

State and Nation CES Comparison



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

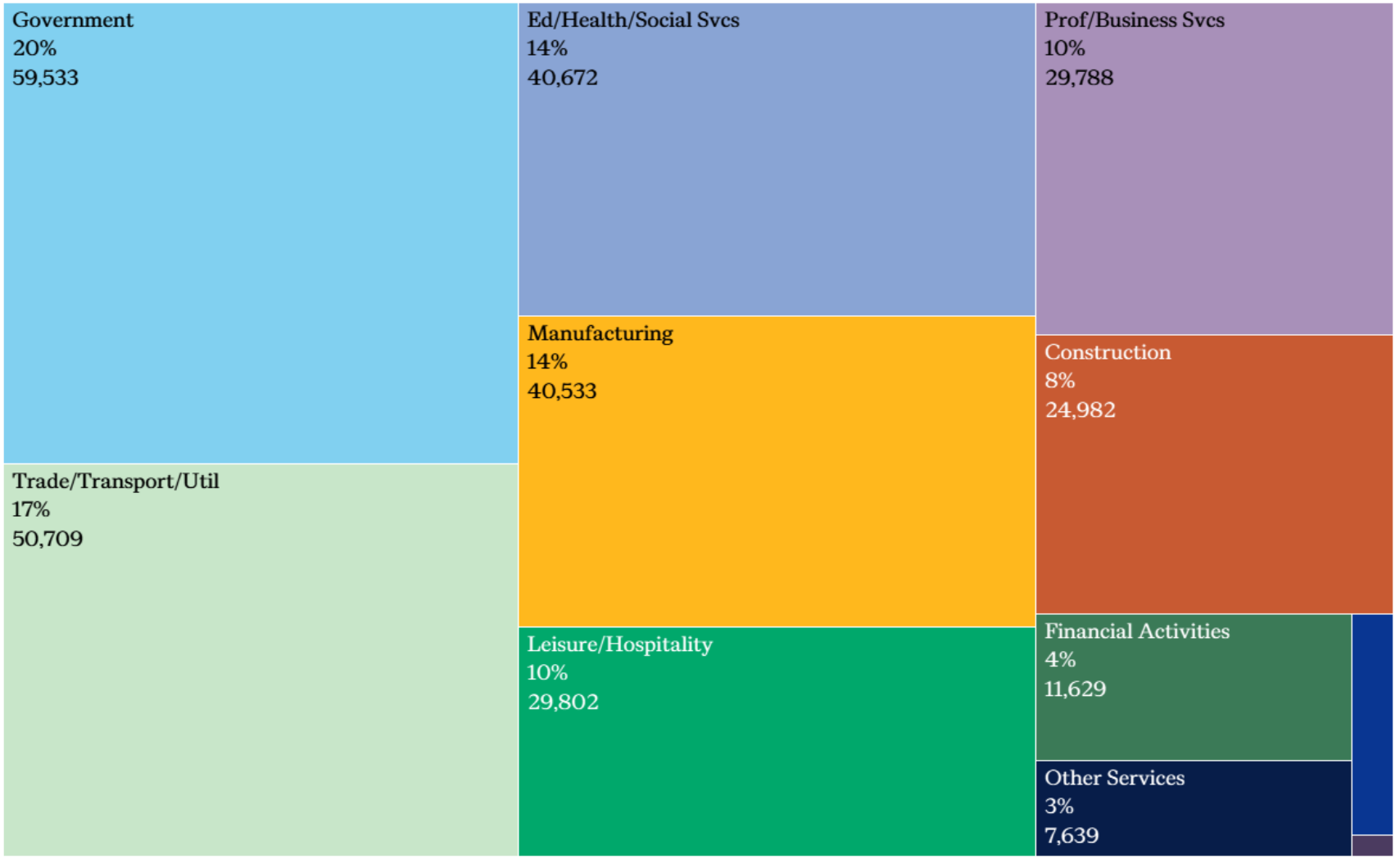
Employment Growth – March 2026 YO



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Northern Utah Employment by Industry

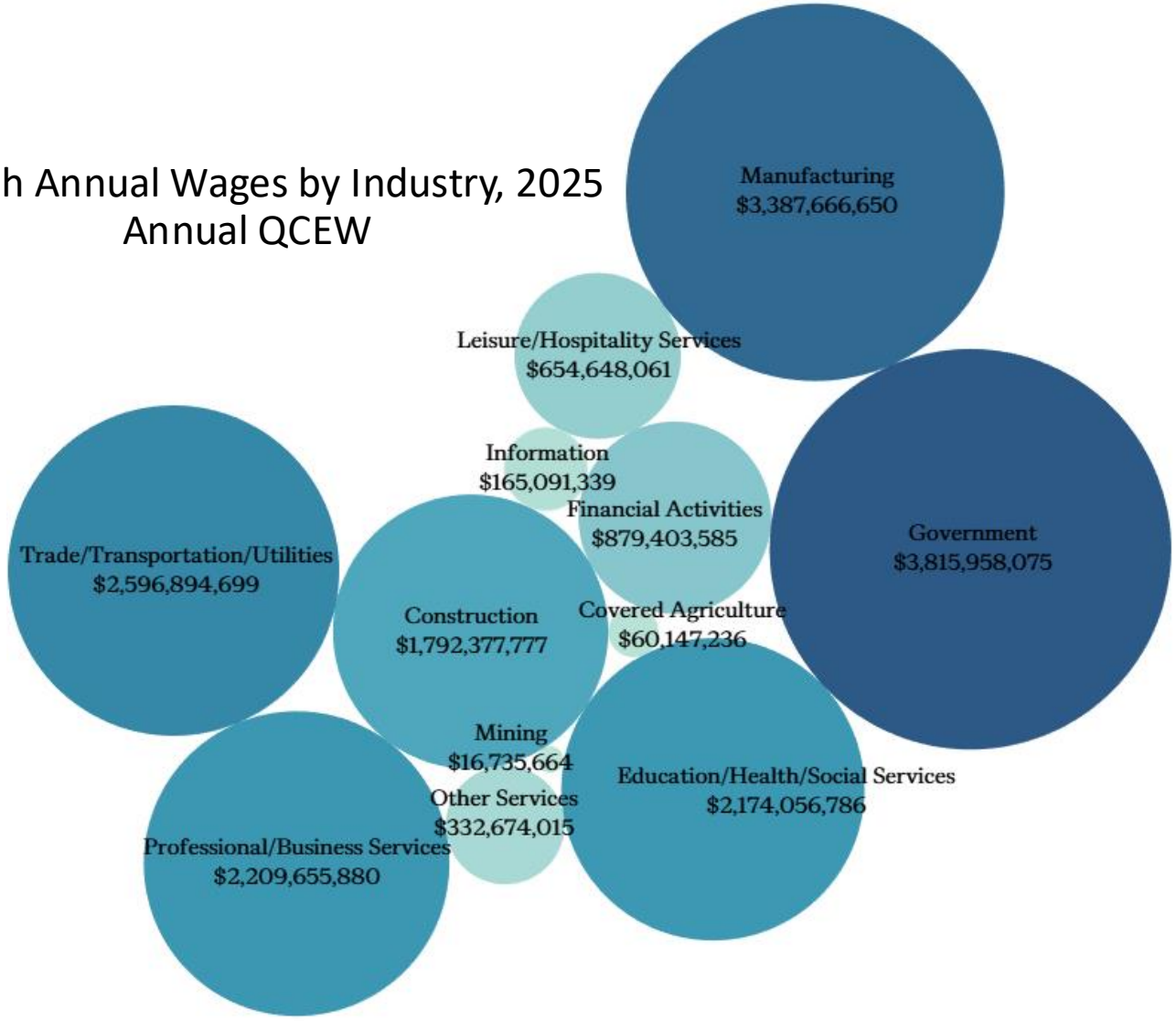
Employment Share 12 Months ending March 2026**



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

The Twin Pillars

N. Utah Annual Wages by Industry, 2025
Annual QCEW



Government and manufacturing generate 40% of Northern Utah's $18.1B payroll.

High-wage manufacturing spans defense, aerospace, automotive safety, medical tech, and food processing.

Information tech remains under 1%, contrasting sharply with Silicon Slopes.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Ogden MSA Production Occupations Location Quotients

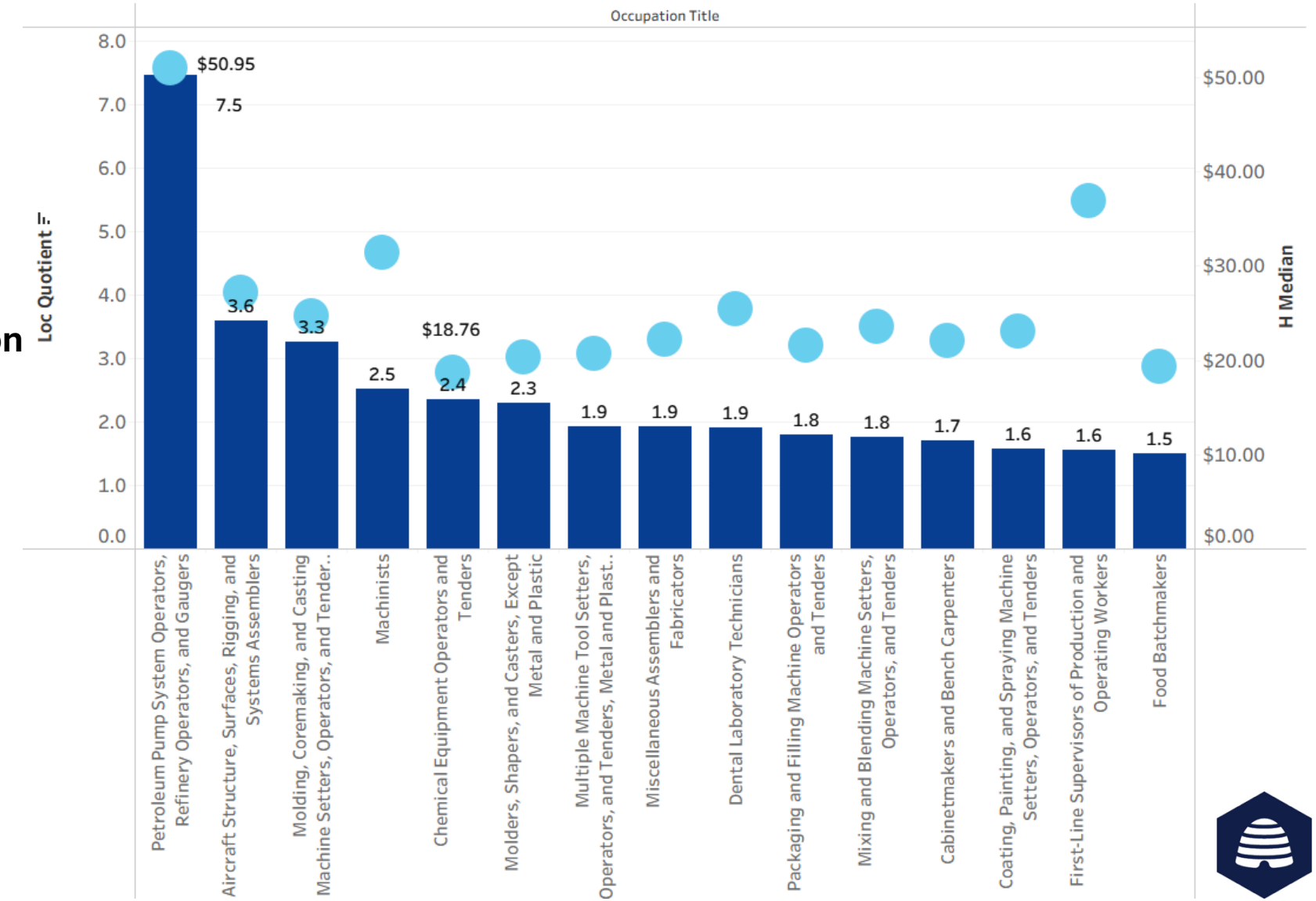
Includes Weber, Davis, & Box Elder Counties

Key Manufacturing Drivers

- **Aerospace & Defense Production**
- **Automotive Safety & Systems**
- **Heavy Metals & Materials**

Multimodal Logistics Corridor

High-Capital Industrial Parks



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Logan MSA Production Occupations Location Quotients

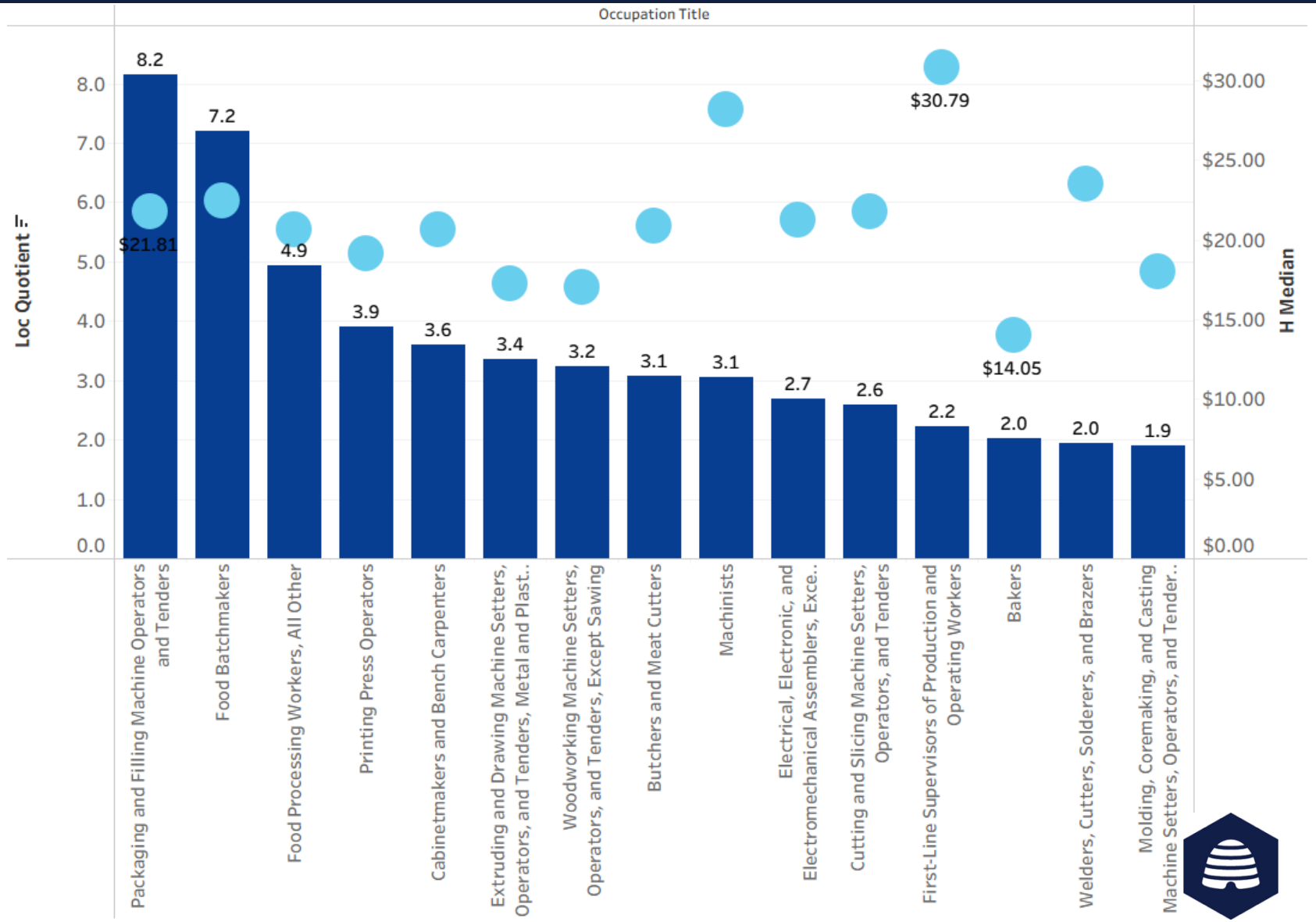
Includes Cache County, UT & Franklin County, ID

Key Manufacturing Drivers

- **Agri-Food & Dairy Processing**
- **Life Sciences & Biotech Production**
- **Specialized Hardware & Consumer Goods**

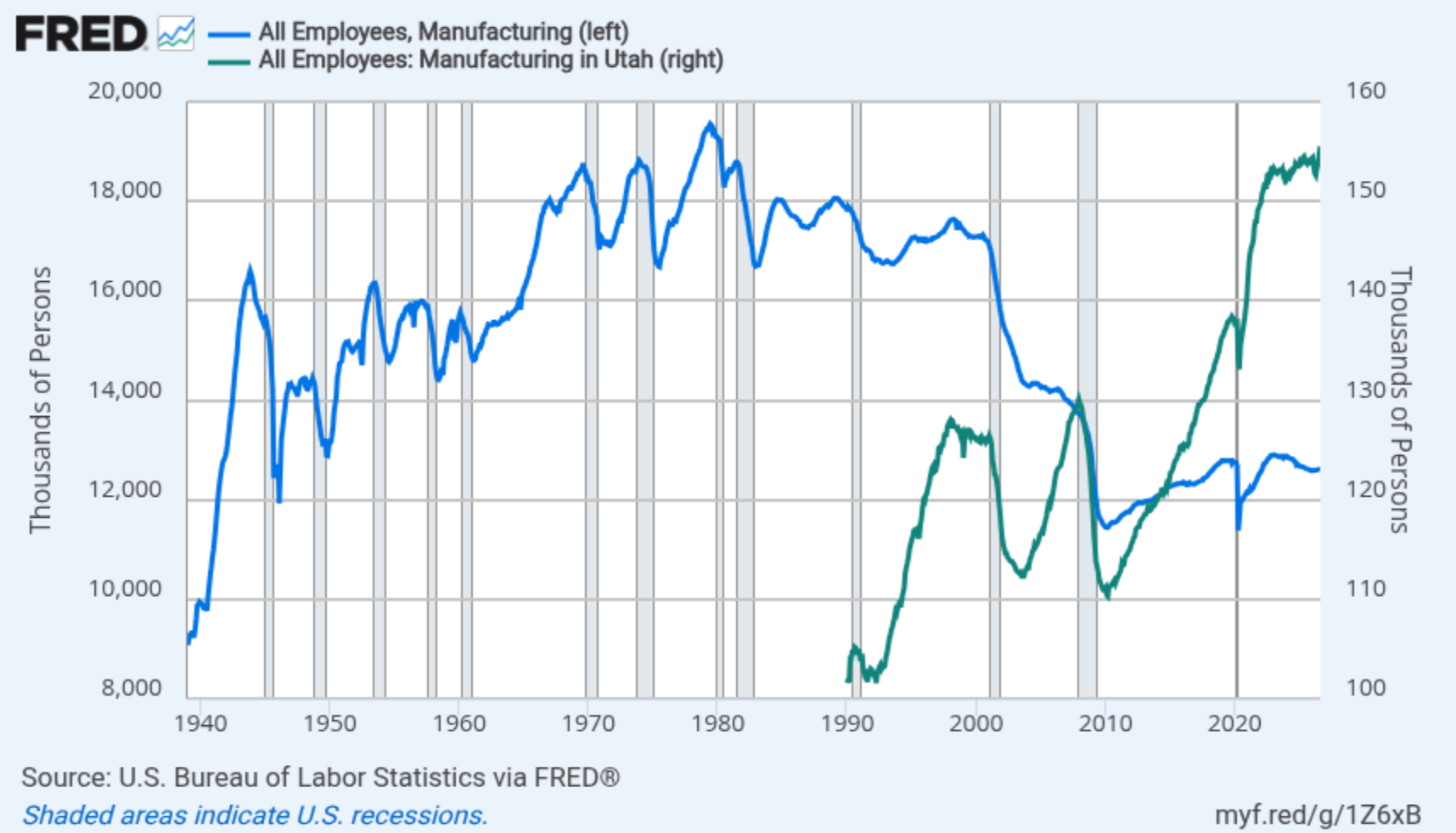
High Per-Capita Concentration

University Talent Pipeline



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Nation and Utah Mfg. Employment



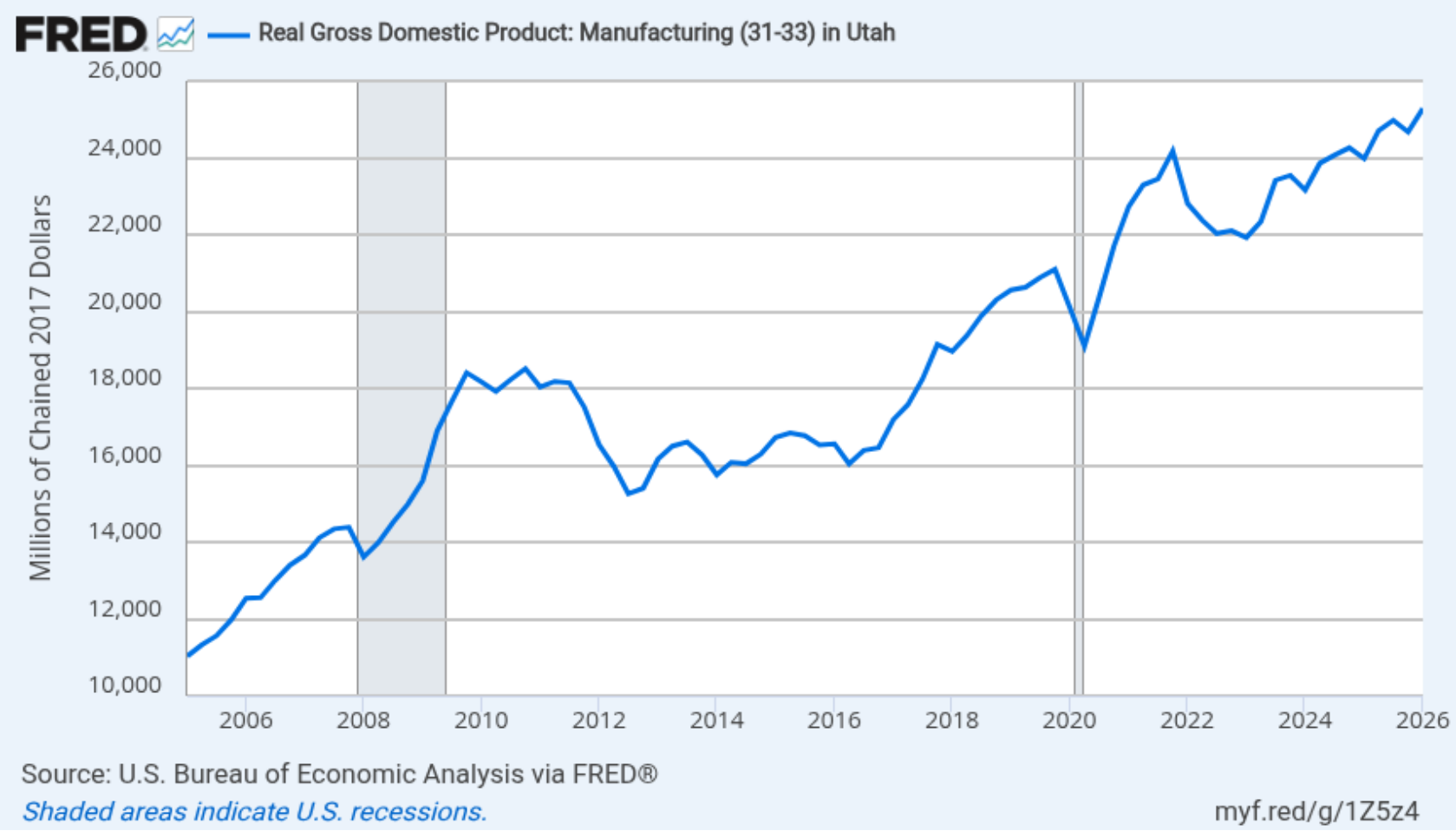
U.S. manufacturing employment peaked in 1979 and lost millions of jobs.

Decades of offshoring and automation severely depressed national industrial payrolls.

Utah completely decoupled from national stagnation, surging to all-time historic highs.

Currently at ~155,500 employees, representing a +41% gain since the 2010 low.

Manufacturing GDP

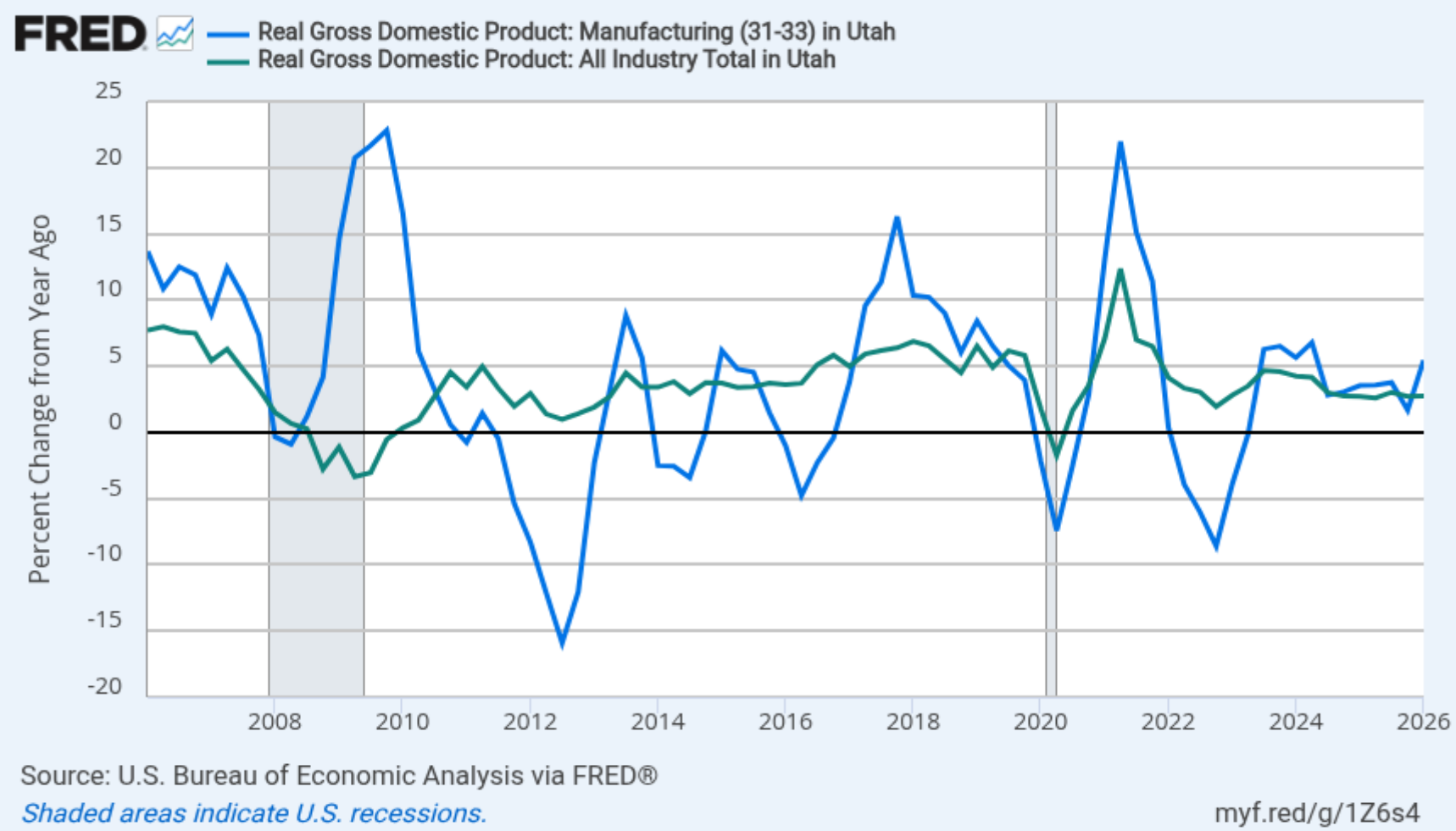


Real GDP (Chained 2017 Dollars): $25.3 billion

Cumulative CPI Increase: +36.31%

Current Nominal GDP Value: **$34.5 billion (~$34.46 billion)**

Manufacturing and Total GDP

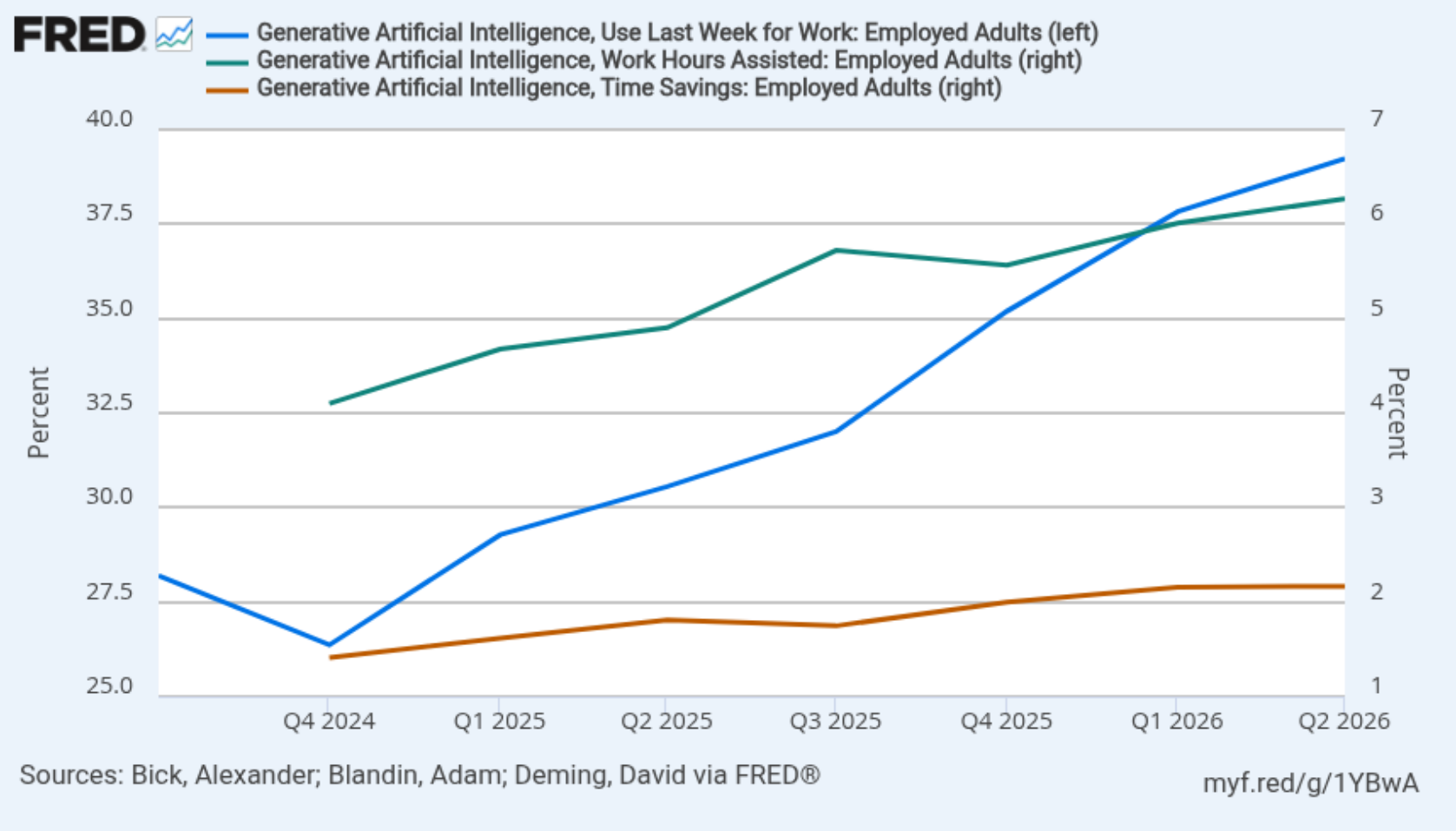


- Manufacturing acts as an amplified growth engine with sharp cyclical swings.
- Broad state economic diversification protects total GDP during industrial downturns.
- Pandemic “Bullwhip”
- Post-pandemic supply chain volatility has normalized back toward steady growth.



The Workforce of Tomorrow

Business Trends and Outlook Survey, September 2026



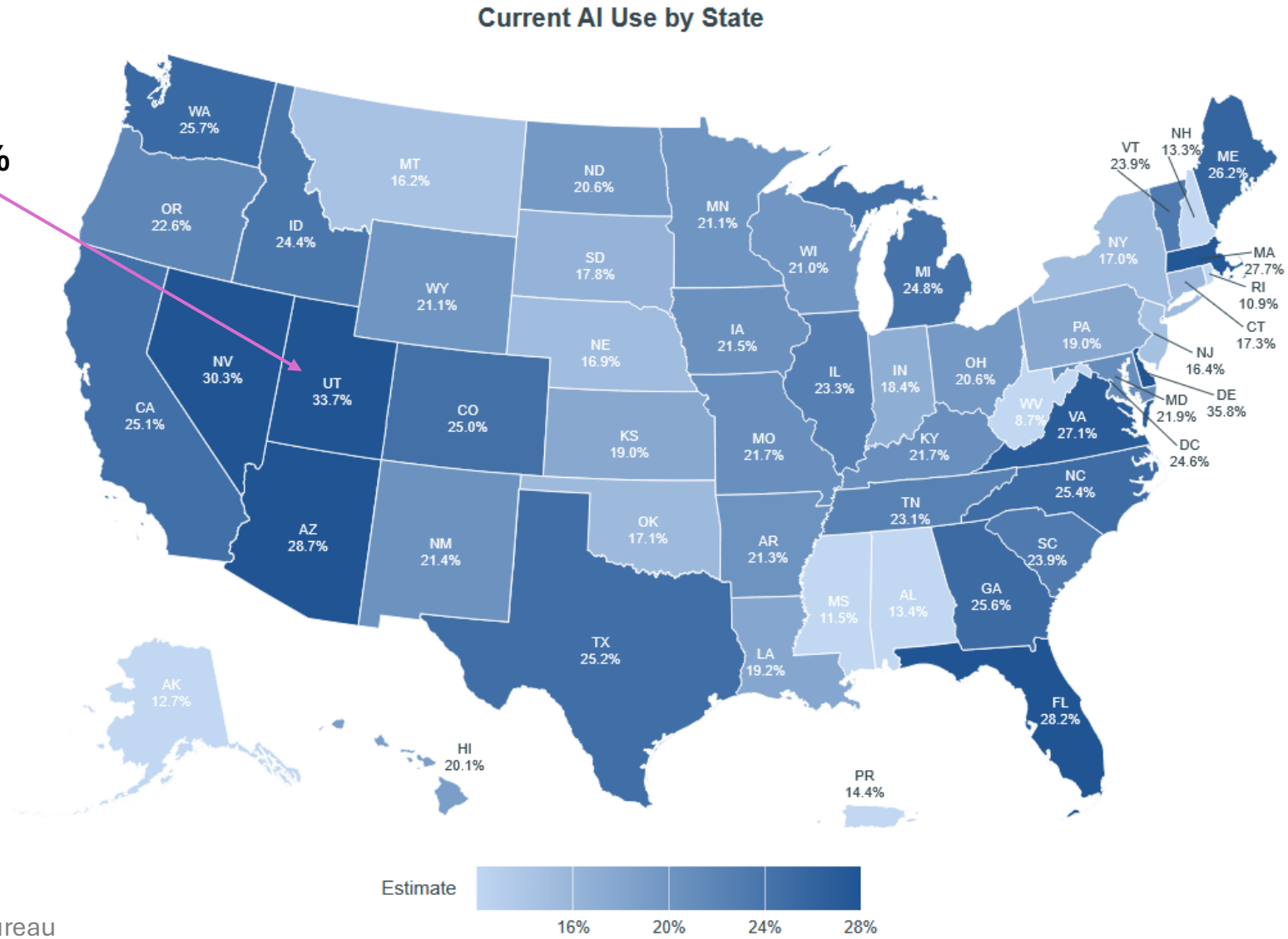
Weekly Adoption (Blue)
Nearly 40% of U.S. workers now use generative AI on the job at least once a week, jumping more than 12 percentage points since late 2024 as access spreads across industries.

Work Hours Assisted (Green)
Active hands-on time with AI tools has climbed to over 6% of all hours worked nationwide, showing that employees aren't just testing the tech—they're integrating it into daily routines.

Net Time Saved (Orange)
Actual hours saved hover at just over 2% of total work time, growing much more slowly than adoption because prompt writing, fact-checking, and editing still require meaningful human effort.

Business Trends and Outlook Survey, September 2026

Utah: 33.7%



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

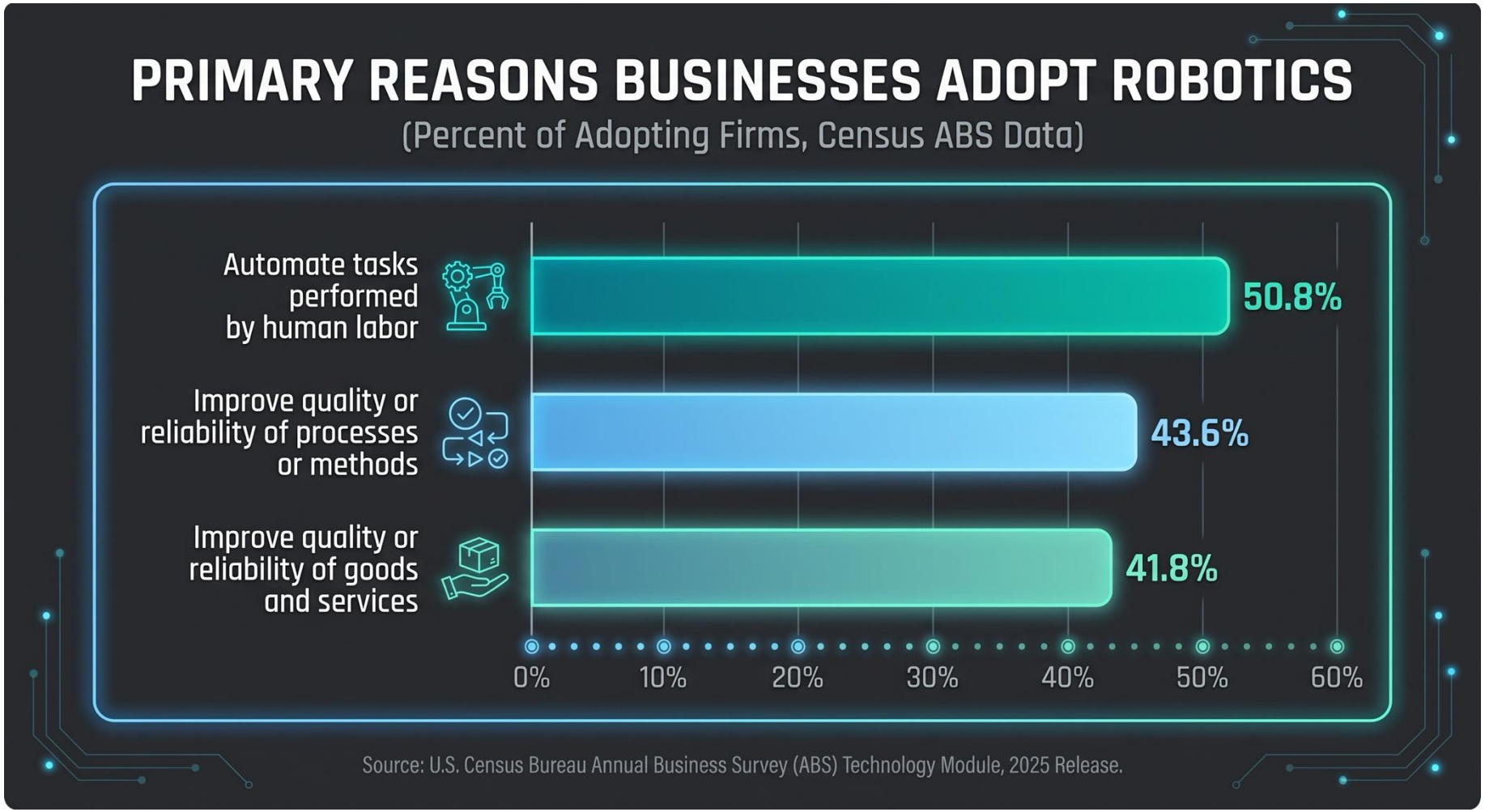
AI and Automation in the Manufacturing Sector vs Everyone Else

Feature / Dimension	Knowledge Work (“LLM’s and Generative AI")	Industrial Manufacturing (“Industry 4.0")
Operating Environment	Operates purely inside digital software environments without physical hardware.	Combines generative software algorithms with industrial robotics and physical machinery.
Primary Data Inputs	Processes text, code, images, and unstructured office data.	Processes real-time sensor streams, computer vision, and industrial IoT feeds.
Core Applications	Automates document creation, administrative tasks, and customer communications.	Powers predictive maintenance, automated defect detection, and precision robotics.
Cost of Failure	System errors result in minor text edits or code debugging.	System errors cause physical equipment damage, safety hazards, and line shutdowns.



Annual Business Survey

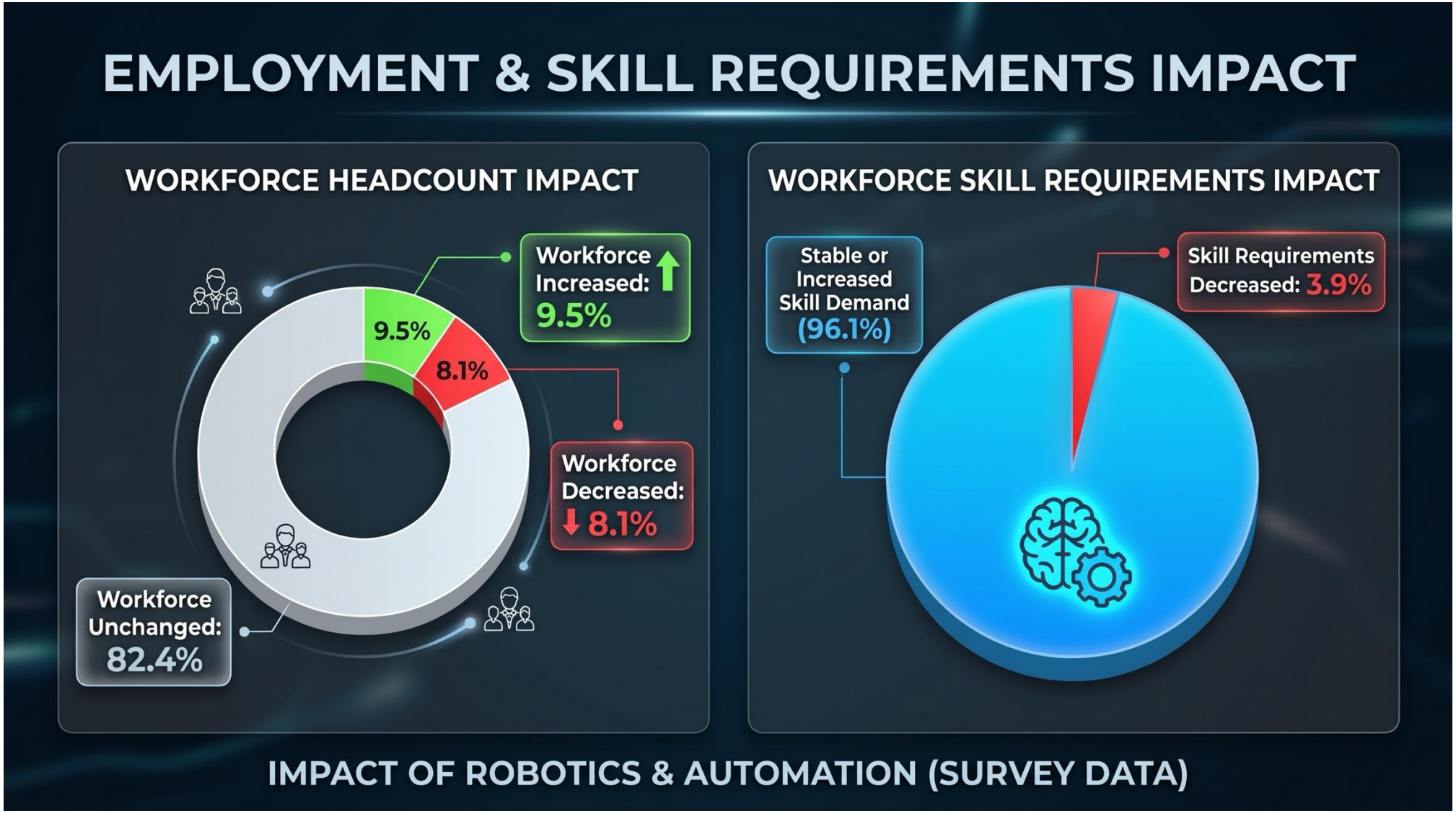
Why Do Business Adopt Robotics & Automation?



Source: U.S. Census; Annual Business Survey

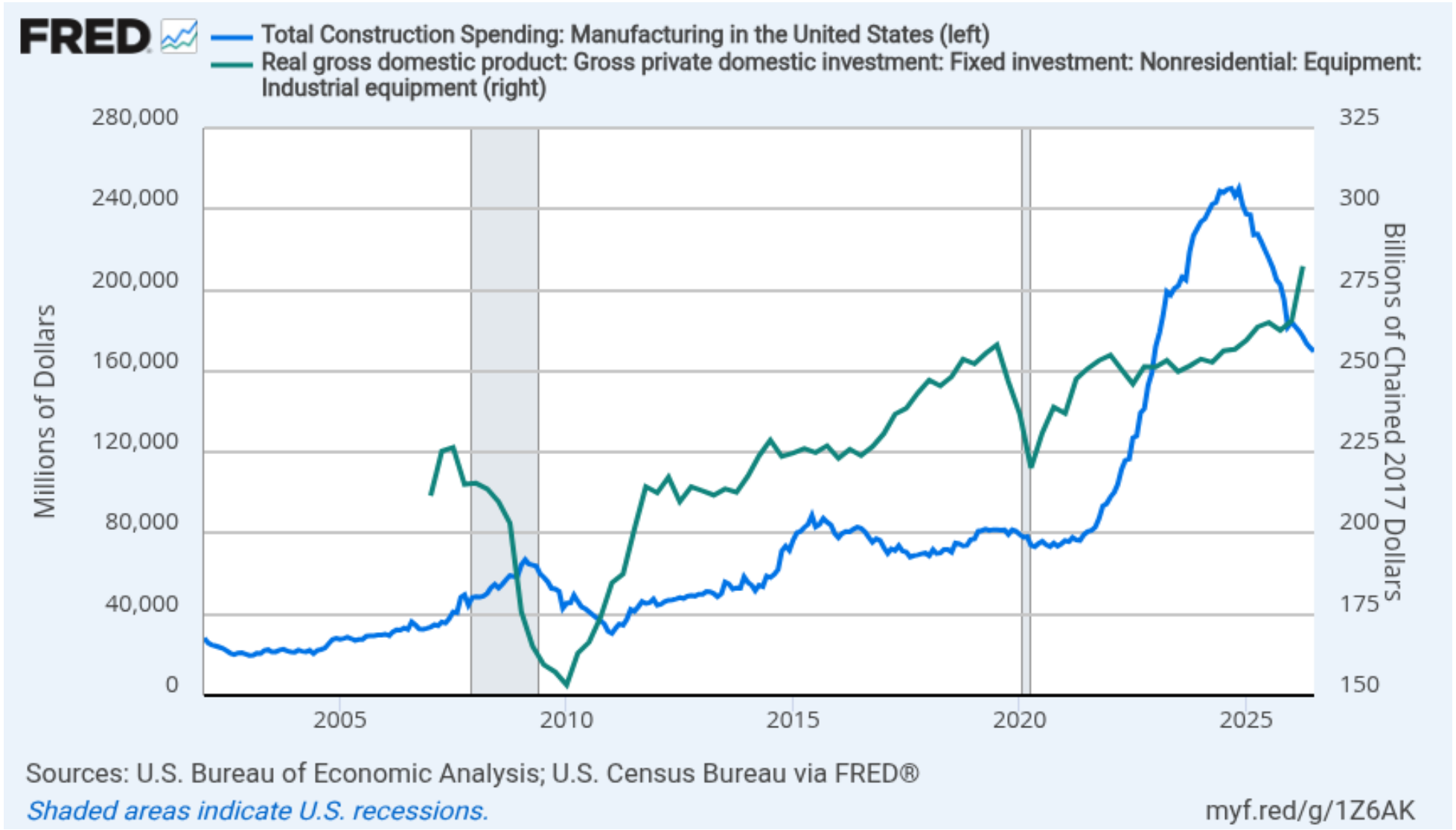
Annual Business Survey

How Does Robotics & Automation Adoption Impact Their Workers?



Source: U.S. Census; Annual Business Survey

US Mfg. and Industrial Equipment Investment



Success in AI, Automation, and Industry 4.0

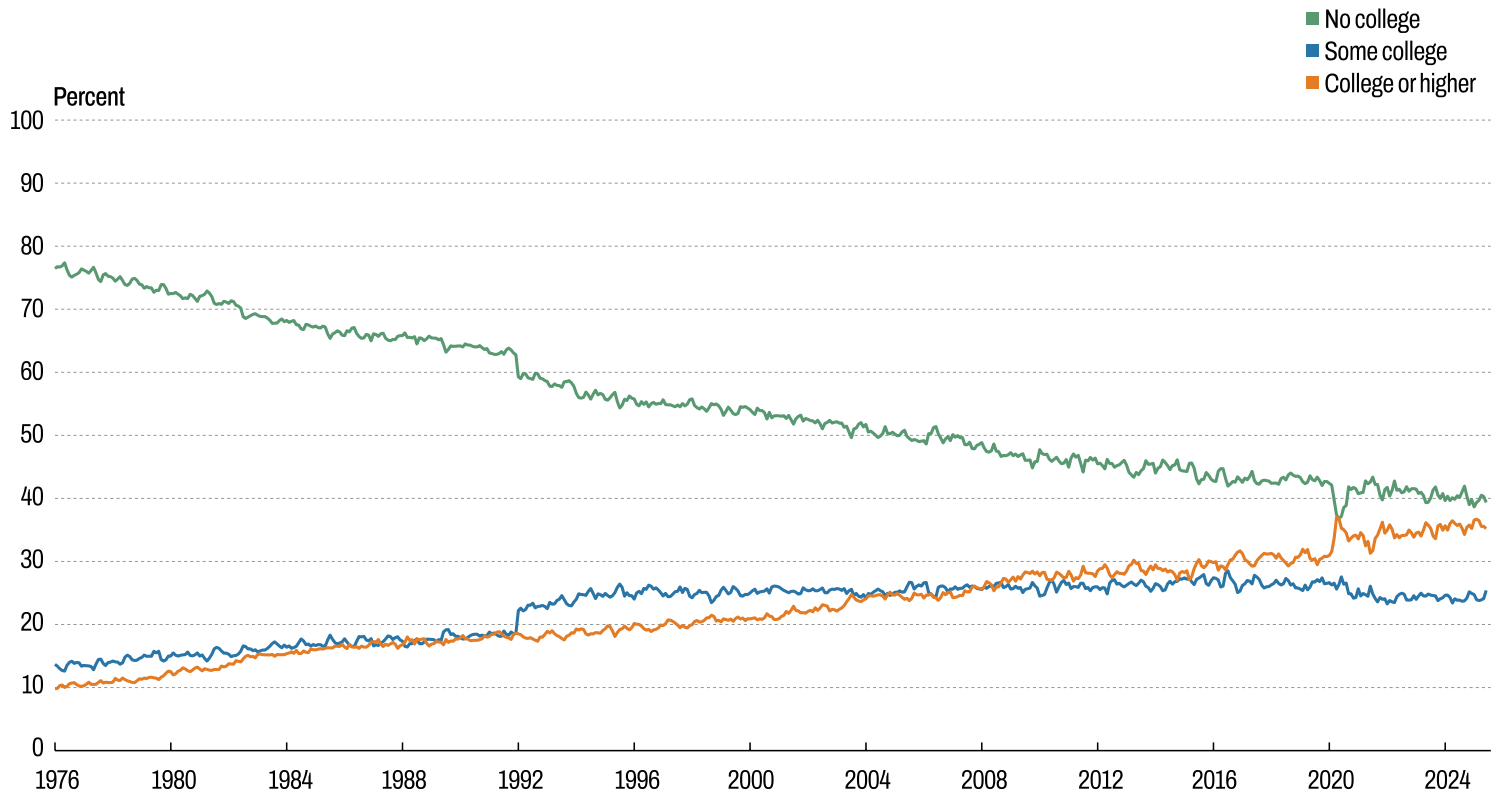
Advanced machinery requires operators to act as system supervisors, not manual laborers.

Over 60% of modern manufacturing employees now hold some post-secondary education or higher.

Workers with no college education dropped below 40%, marking a decades-long decline.

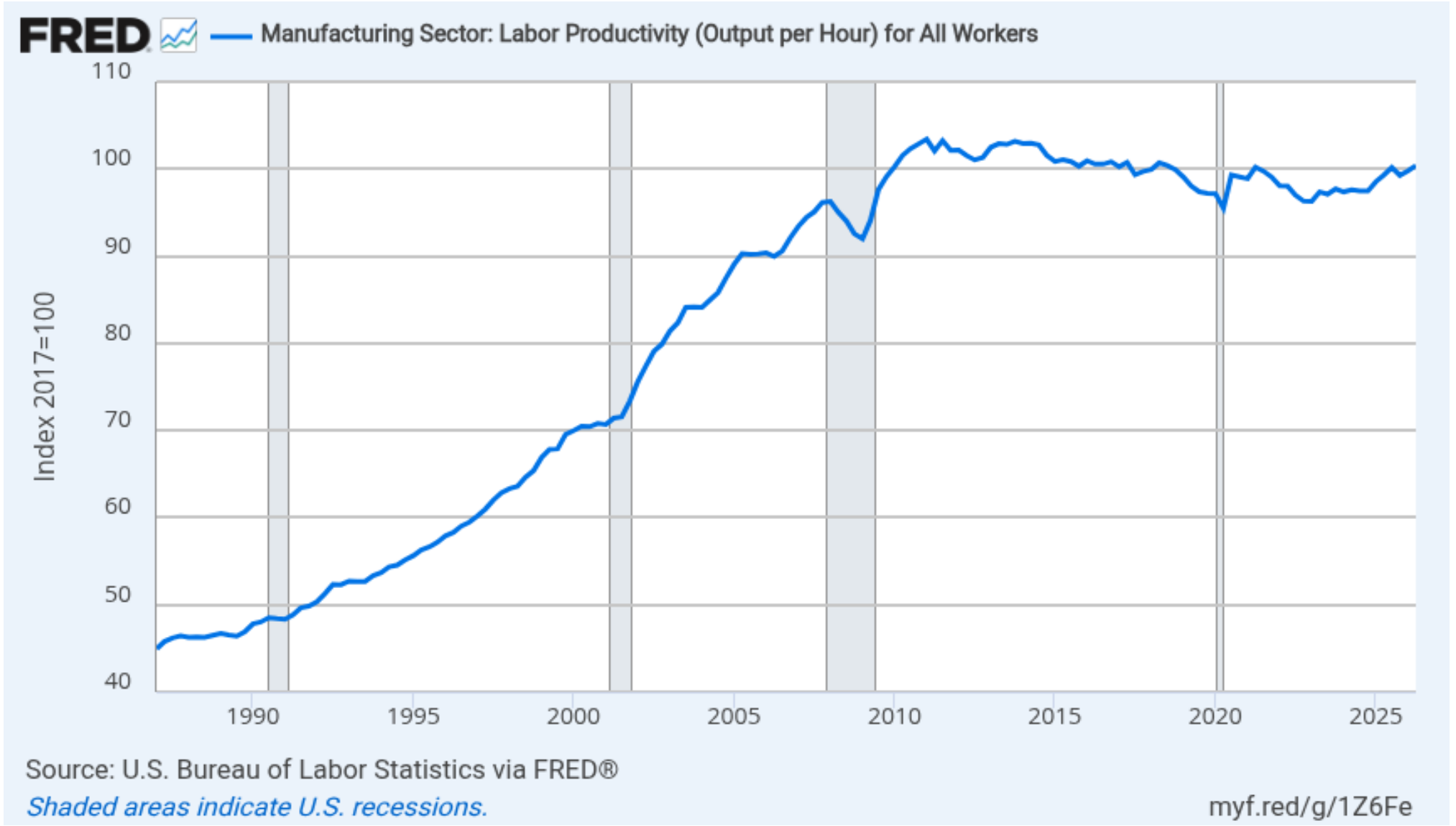
Modern factories prioritize educated system supervisors over traditional, low-skill manual labor.
Continuous technical reskilling transforms legacy workers into successful high-wage automation managers.

Figure 3: Employment Share in Manufacturing, by Education Level



Source: Current Population Survey, all employed civilians ages 16 through 65

U.S. Manufacturing Labor Productivity

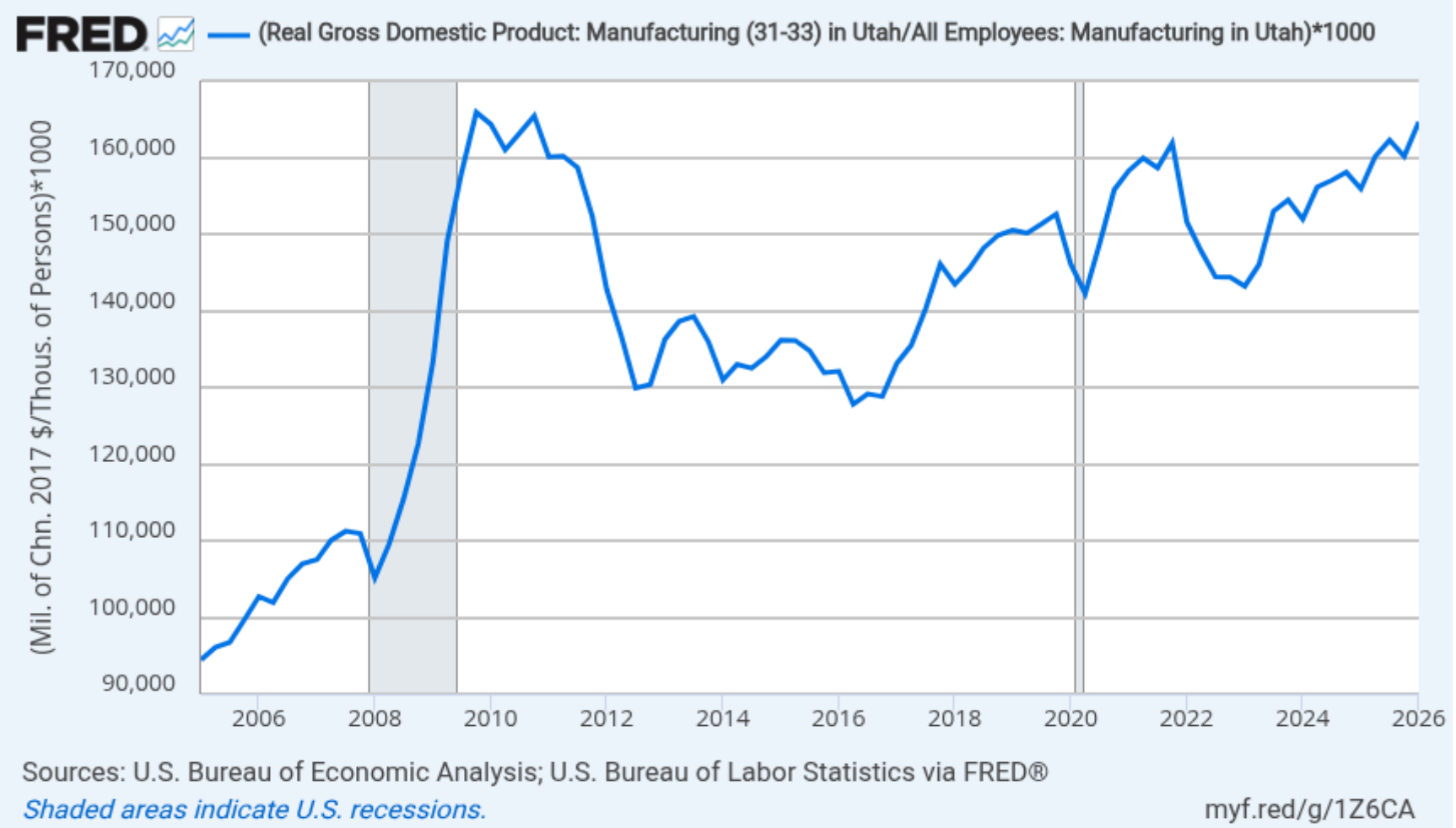


Productivity Proxy for Utah

2005 Baseline: ≈ $95,000 in real output per worker

2026 Value: ≈ $165,000 in real output per worker

Manufacturing payrolls play a huge roll here, e.g. the bump in 2010.



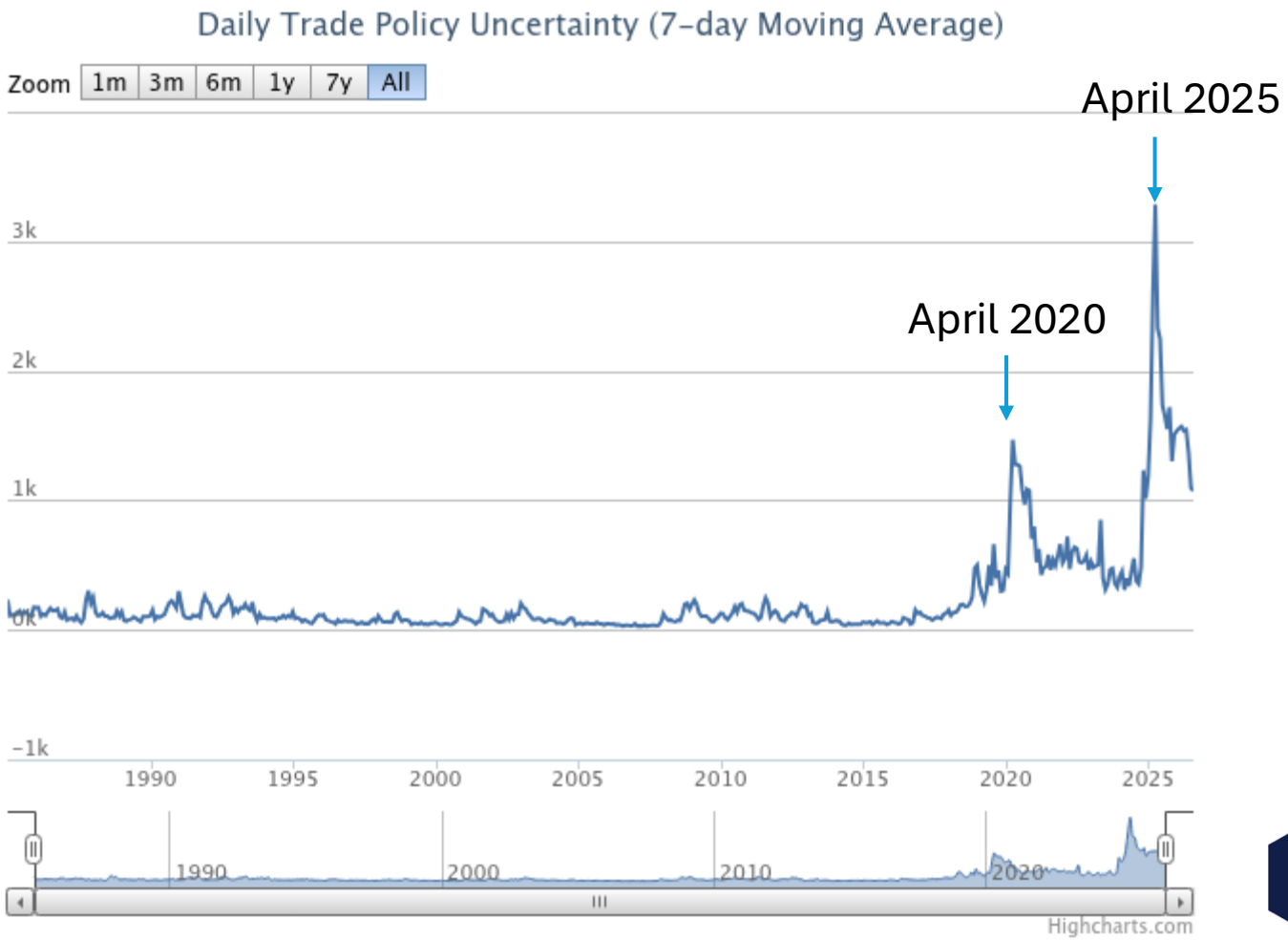

Photograph by EnvisionUtah

Looking Forward

Uncertainty Index

Uncertainty is unhealthy for the economy…

- **Freezes Capital:** Businesses hoard cash and halt hiring, expansion, and long-term investments.
- **Depresses Valuations:** Higher required risk premiums raise discount rates, dragging down asset prices.
- **Drains Liquidity:** Market makers pull back and widen bid-ask spreads, triggering violent volatility.
- **Breaks Price Discovery:** Masked fundamentals prevent markets from accurately pricing assets and directing capital.



Source: Trade Policy Uncertainty Index

International Exports in Utah

Unwrought gold bullion sent to London markets accounts for nearly all UK exports (~$11B of $22.4 total in 2025)

Utah serves as a primary western hub for precious metal refining and processing.

Gold export values fluctuate heavily based on global commodity markets and metal exchanges.

Stripping out gold reveals a balanced export mix of electronics, aerospace, and medical tech.

Source: Visual Capitalist



Top International Exports in Utah (2025)

Utah exported a record **$22.4 billion in total goods** globally in 2025.

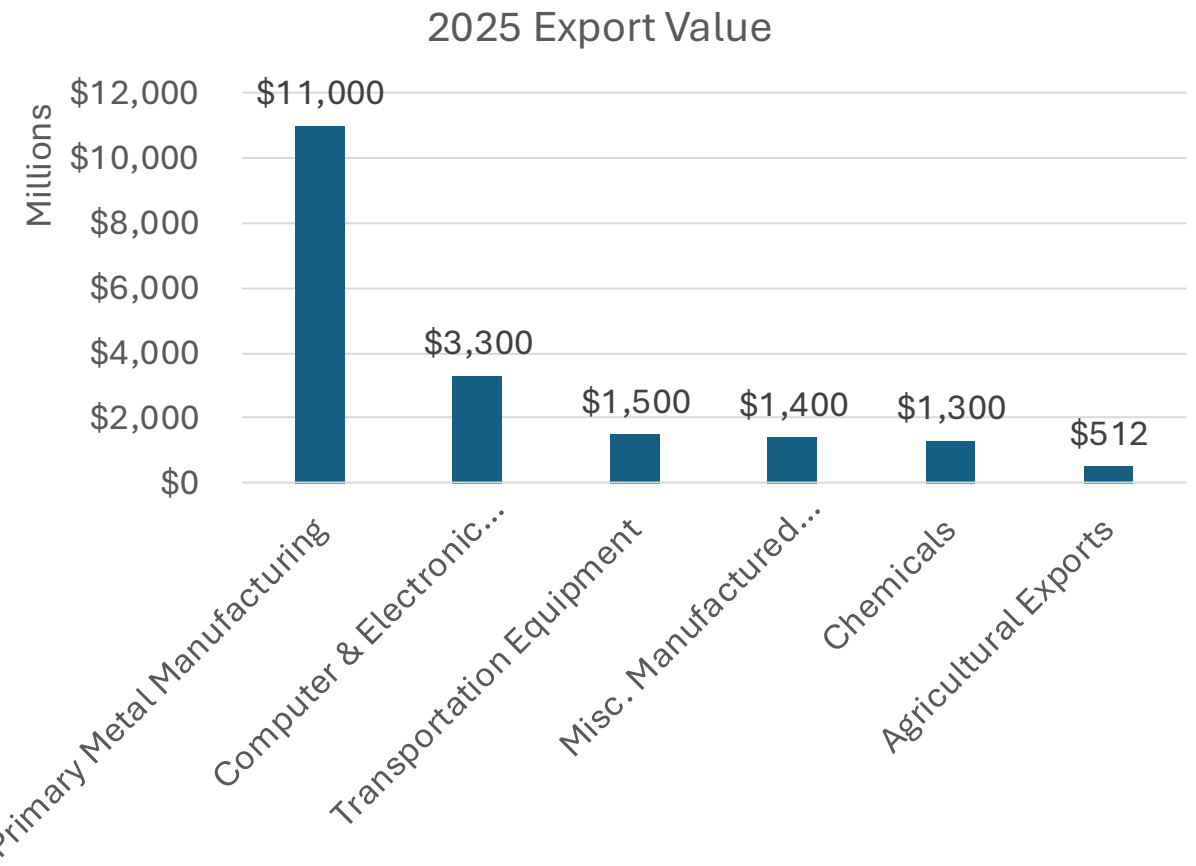
Manufactured products accounted for $21.7 billion of total state exports in 2025.

Computer & electronic products ($3.3B) and transportation equipment ($1.5B) lead the state's advanced manufacturing exports.

Miscellaneous manufactured commodities totaled $1.4 billion, covering medical devices, surgical tools, and life sciences equipment.

Chemical products reached $1.3 billion, driven by structural composites, industrial polymers, and specialized formulations.

Domestic agricultural exports totaled $512 million in 2024, led by plant products alongside $77 million in dairy products and $77 million in beef.



Source: Office of the United State Trade Representative

Crude Oil Price

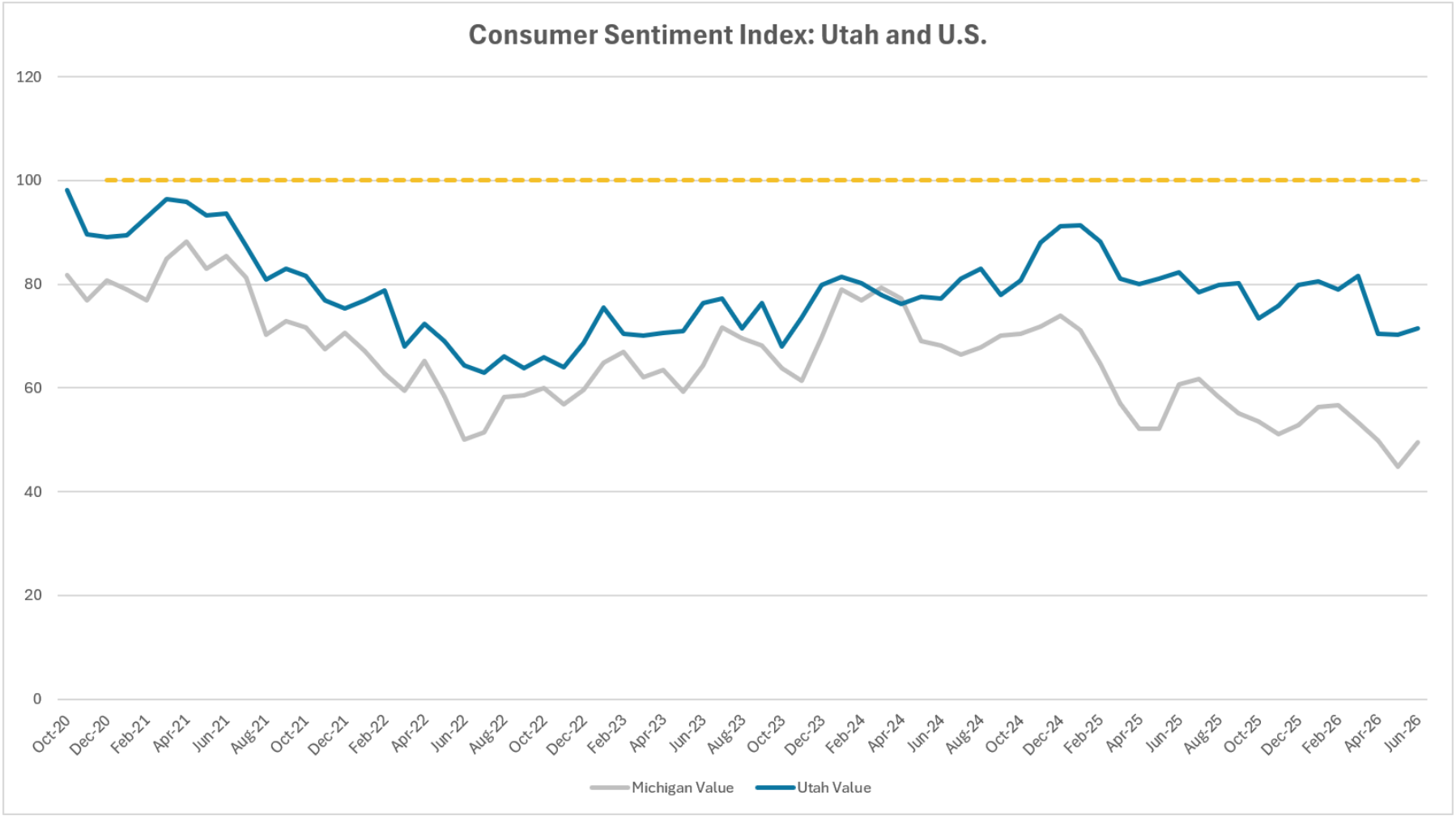
Every $10 jump per barrel of crude adds roughly 0.2% directly to consumer inflation.

Governments executed a historic release of 400 million barrels from strategic reserves to stabilize price swings and bring prices down.



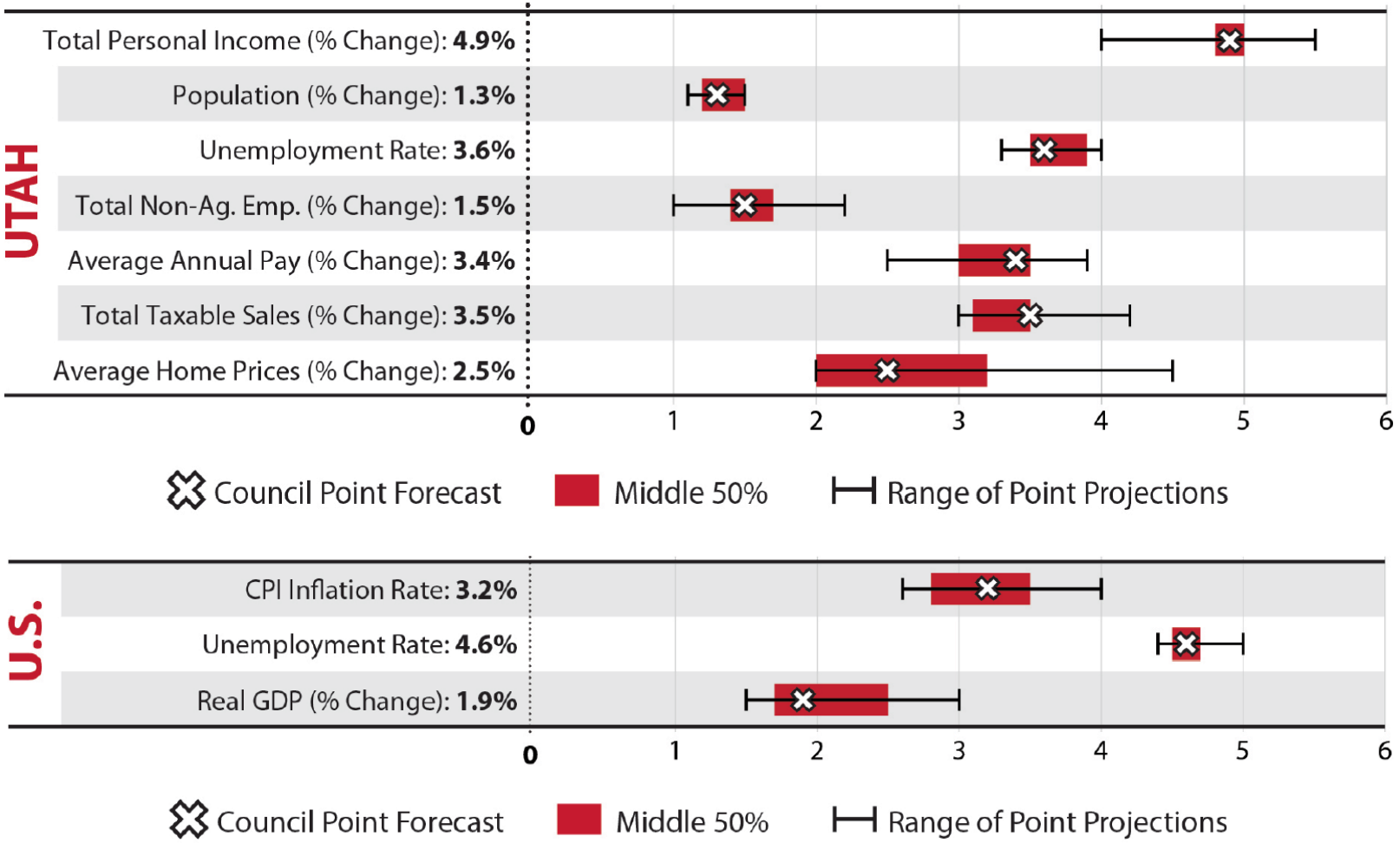
Source: Trade Policy Uncertainty Index

Utah Consumer Sentiment Remains Positive



Source: Joseph Politano, Apricitas

Utah **Economic Outlook** 2025-2026



Source: Utah Economic Council

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Questions.

