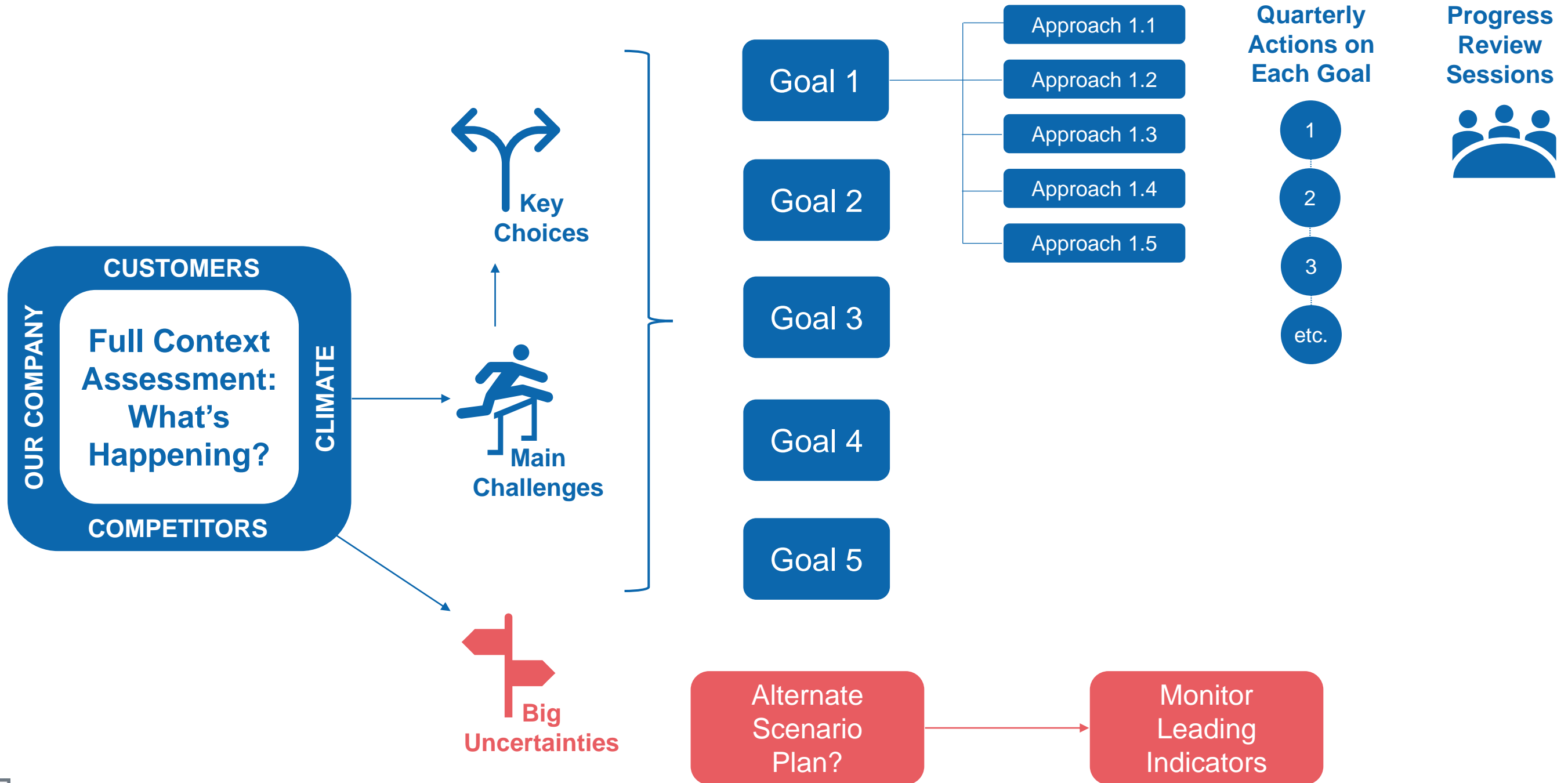




## North American Construction Outlook

[fmiconsulting.com](http://fmiconsulting.com)

# Strategic Planning from Development to Implementation

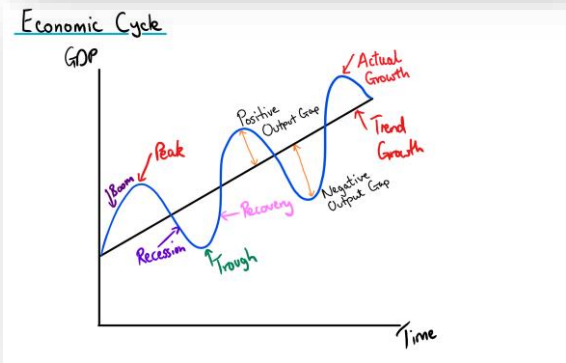


# THREE THINGS TO REMEMBER



## Economic Eras

Each era is defined by its economic drivers – what are ours and are they changing



## Long-term and short-term economic cycles

Within each economic era, creative destruction will cause economic variability



## Paddling with or against the tide

All economic environments have trade-offs, bulls, and bears

# Economics and Construction Demand

---

1

## Population Growth

Population growth is strongly correlated to construction demand. All else equal, construction demand will increase at approximately 1:1 with population growth.

2

## Depreciation

Replacement of structures past their usable lives. This drives the level of construction demand just to maintain the current built environment assets.

3

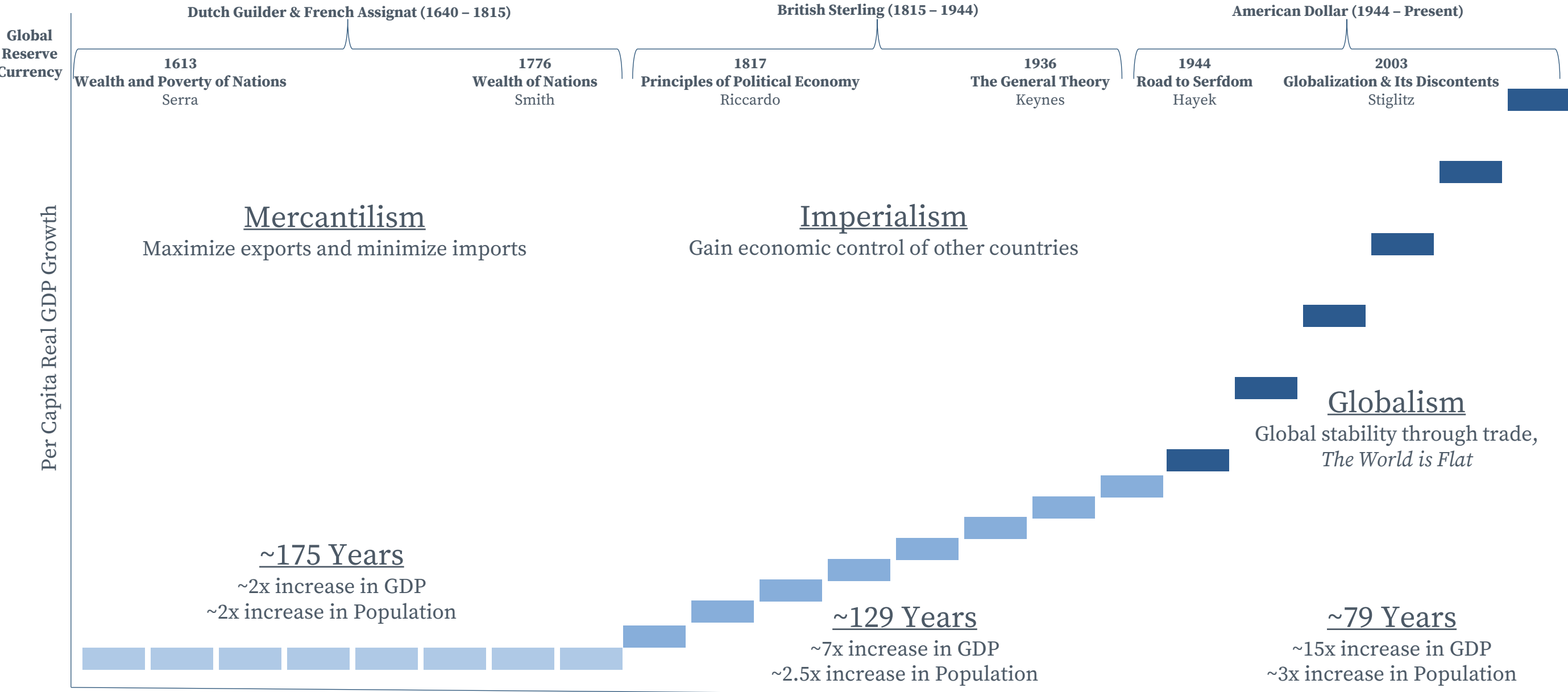
## Change in Use

Society has changing demands from the built environment. From infrastructure to housing, what and how we consume, produce and tolerate drives what projects get built.

**Economic vitality drives the core sources of construction demand and enables construction to meet those demands**

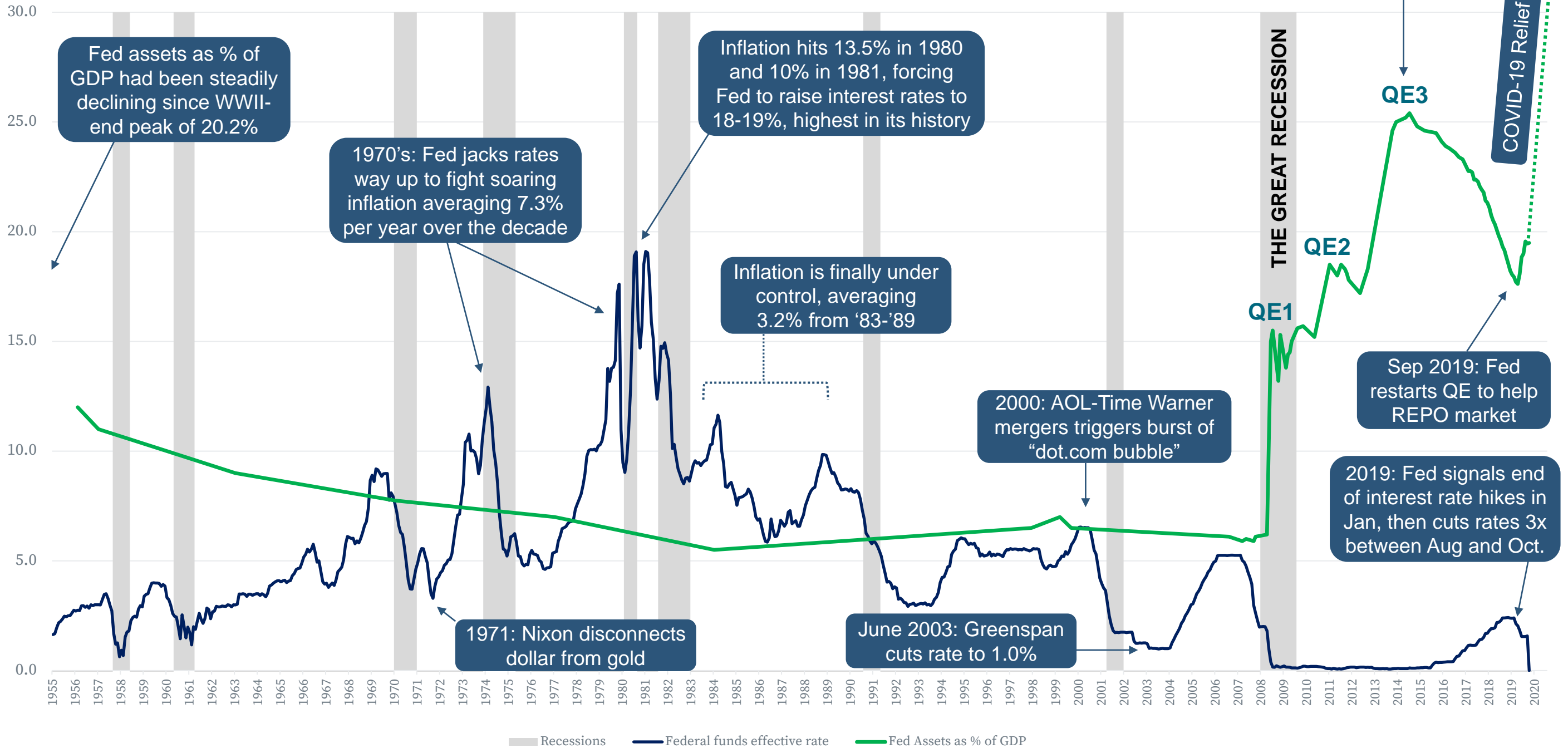
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# ECONOMIC ERAS & ECONOMIC IDEAS



# Effective Federal Funds Rate, January 1955 - March 2020

Shown with Fed Assets as % of Nominal GDP



“Most people think of the Bretton Woods system as a sort of Pax Americana. The American Century, if you will. But that’s simply not the case. The entire concept of the Order is that the United States disadvantages itself economically in order to purchase the loyalty of a global alliance. That is what globalization is. **The past several decades haven’t been an American Century. They’ve been an American sacrifice.**”

- Peter Zeihan, The End of the World is Just the Beginning: Mapping the Collapse of Globalization



# NEW VS. OLD – CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY REFLECTS THE DIRECTION OF THE ECONOMY

## New Economy

### Regionalization

<b>Resiliency</b>	<b>Economic competition</b>	<b>Market intervention</b>
<b>Preserving</b>	<b>Trade wars</b>	<b>Capital restrictions</b>

### Population Shifting

<b>Demand Shifting</b>	<b>Labor force participation declines</b>
<b>Aging Population</b>	<b>More people per household</b>

### Construction demand

<b>Life Sciences</b>	<b>Data Centers</b>	<b>Semiconductor Fabrication</b>
<b>Logistics &amp; Manufacturing</b>	<b>Food &amp; Beverage Manufacturing</b>	<b>Distributed Power</b>

## Old Economy

### Globalization

<b>Efficiency</b>	<b>Economic cooperation</b>	<b>Market liberation</b>
<b>Expanding</b>	<b>Trade deals</b>	<b>Capital liberation</b>

### Population Growth

<b>Total demand growth</b>	<b>Labor force participation steady / increasing</b>
<b>Young / steady population age</b>	<b>Fewer people per household</b>

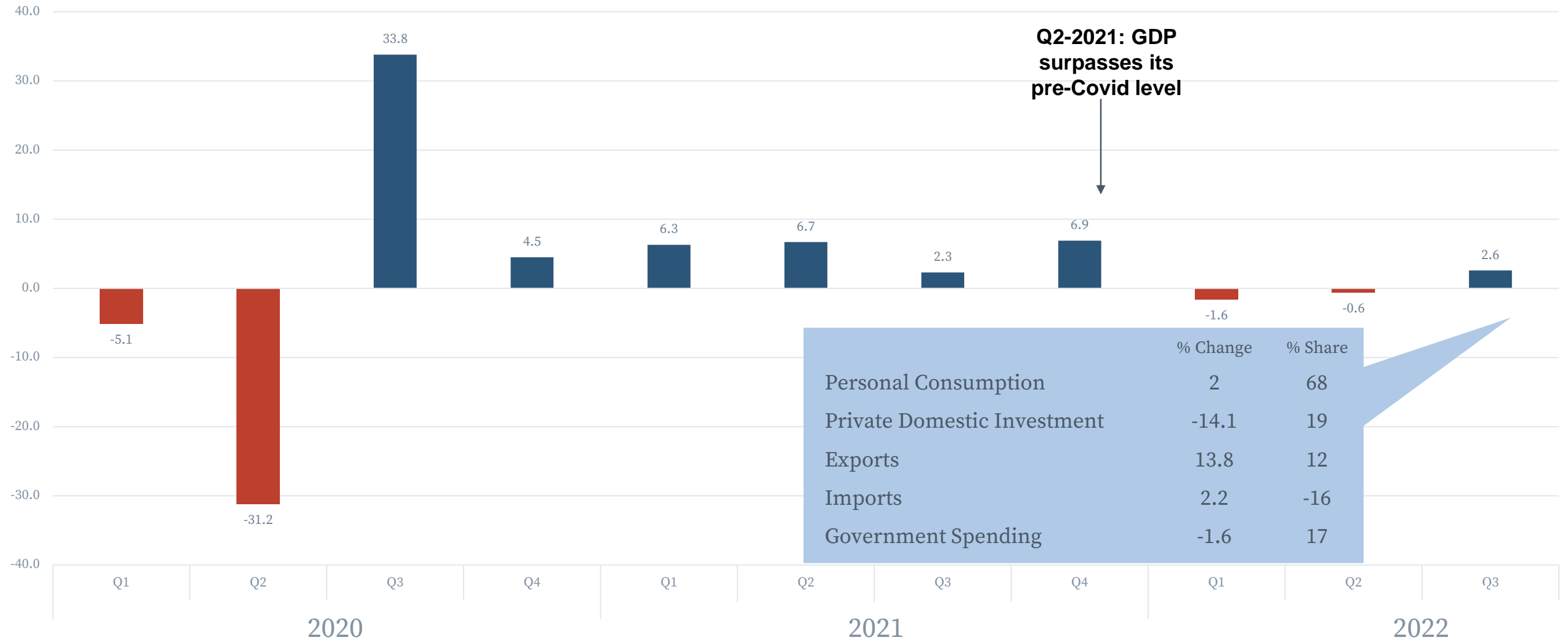
### Construction demand

<b>Lodging</b>	<b>Shopping Centers/ Malls</b>	<b>Movie Theaters</b>
<b>Office</b>	<b>Sports/ Recreation</b>	<b>Textile Mills</b>

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# Current decreases in Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

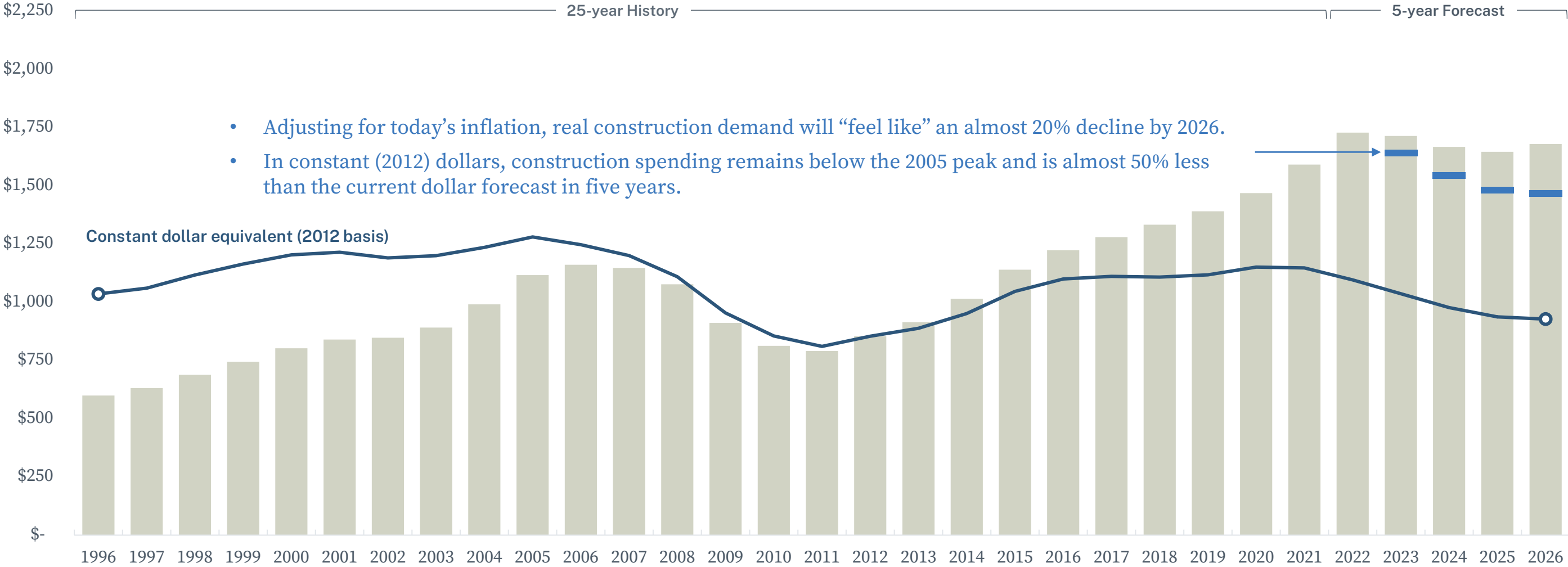
Percent Change From Preceding Period, Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rate



Data source: St. Louis Fed

# LESS FOR MORE

Total Construction Spending Put in Place (US)  
Billions of current dollars



# Recession Indicators – Q4 2021

$$\text{*Prediction Strength} = \frac{\text{Correct Predictions} - \text{False Positives}}{\text{Recessions Considered}}$$

Indicators / Metrics	Recessions Considered	Correct Predictions	False Positives	Prediction Strength*	Flag/Warning Timing	Risk Assessment / Trending
<b>PREDICTIVE INDICATORS</b>						
<a href="#">Yield Curve Inversion</a>	6	6	0	100%	<1-3 year	LOW ↔
<a href="#">New Home Sales</a>	7	7	1	86%	<1-3 year	MODERATE / HIGH ↓
<a href="#">Money Supply</a>	8	7	1	75%	<1-3 year	LOW ↑
<a href="#">Unemployment Rate</a>	7	5	0	71%	<1 year	LOW ↑
<a href="#">Lumber Sales</a>	3	3	1	67%	~1-2 year	LOW ↑
<a href="#">U.S. Trade Balance (BOP % Change)</a>	7	6	2	57%	~1-2 year	MODERATE ↑
<a href="#">Months Supply of Homes</a>	8	4	0	50%	<1-1 year	LOW ↓
<a href="#">Copper Price (Doctor Copper)</a>	8	7	3	50%	<1-4 year	MODERATE ↔
<a href="#">Stock Market Performance</a>	4	3	1	50%	<1 year	MODERATE ↑
<a href="#">MBS Held by Banks</a>	2	2	1	50%	<1-2 year	LOW ↑
<a href="#">Residential CPIP</a>	7	4	1	43%	<1-2 year	MODERATE ↑
<a href="#">Rental Vacancy Rates</a>	10	5	1	40%	<1-2 year	MODERATE ↓
<a href="#">Manufactured Goods, New Orders</a>	3	2	1	33%	<1 year	LOW ↑
<a href="#">Consumer Confidence (OECD)</a>	8	6	4	25%	~1-3 year	MODERATE / HIGH ↓
<a href="#">Heavy Duty Truck Sales</a>	8	6	5	13%	~1-2 year	MODERATE / HIGH ↓
<b>15 predictive indicators are listed, 0 (0%) show high risk, 12 (80%) show moderate risk, and 3 (20%) show low risk.</b>						
<b>OTHER NON-PREDICTIVE INDICATORS / METRICS</b>						
<a href="#">Nonresidential Buildings CPIP</a>	Trending <b>DOWN</b>					
<a href="#">Nonbuilding CPIP</a>	Trending <b>UP</b>					
<a href="#">Oil Price (WTI)</a>	Trending <b>DOWN</b>					
<a href="#">Search Engine Volume</a>	Trending <b>UP</b>					
<a href="#">Consumer Price Index (CPI)</a>	Trending <b>UP</b>					
<a href="#">Gross Domestic Product</a>	Trending <b>UP</b>					
<a href="#">Consumer Sentiment</a>	Trending <b>DOWN</b>					
<a href="#">NRCI</a> – ↑ <a href="#">HCCI</a> – ↑ <a href="#">HMI</a> – ↓ <a href="#">ABI</a> – ↓ <a href="#">PMI</a> – ↓						
<a href="#">Sahm Rule</a> - are we in a recession today?    → <b>NO</b> ←						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The analysis above suggests that recovery momentum has slowed, and several conditions have become increasingly challenged.</b></li> <li>• <b>Those few indicators that are suggesting moderate/high risk (i.e., new home sales, consumer confidence and heavy-duty truck sales) appear to be tied to supply-side/supply chain constraints.</b> Consumer confidence is being tested against rising prices and ongoing concerns over pandemic response. Likewise, and related, a decline in new home sales is being masked by higher home prices and higher construction costs. Truck sales are most likely down due to general lack of supply in manufacturing inputs (e.g., semiconductors). Demand for goods and consumer spending (represented in U.S. trade, new orders for manufactured goods and months supply of homes) is being upheld through 2020/2021 monetary and fiscal policy alongside high asset prices (i.e., homes, stocks).</li> <li>• Between 1970 and 2020, government spending as a share of gross domestic product (GDP) has remained (mostly) in the range of 30%-35%, nearing 40% through 2009 and 2010. Government spending as a share of GDP spiked to nearly 60% in Q2 2020 and has since moderated within a 40%-50% range of GDP through the first half of 2021. <b>Q3 2021 data suggests government spending has now fallen back to 38% of GDP and headed lower. Expect ongoing stagflation pressures into 2022.</b></li> </ul>						

# Recession Indicators – Q4 2022

$$\text{*Prediction Strength} = \frac{\text{Correct Predictions} - \text{False Positives}}{\text{Recessions Considered}}$$

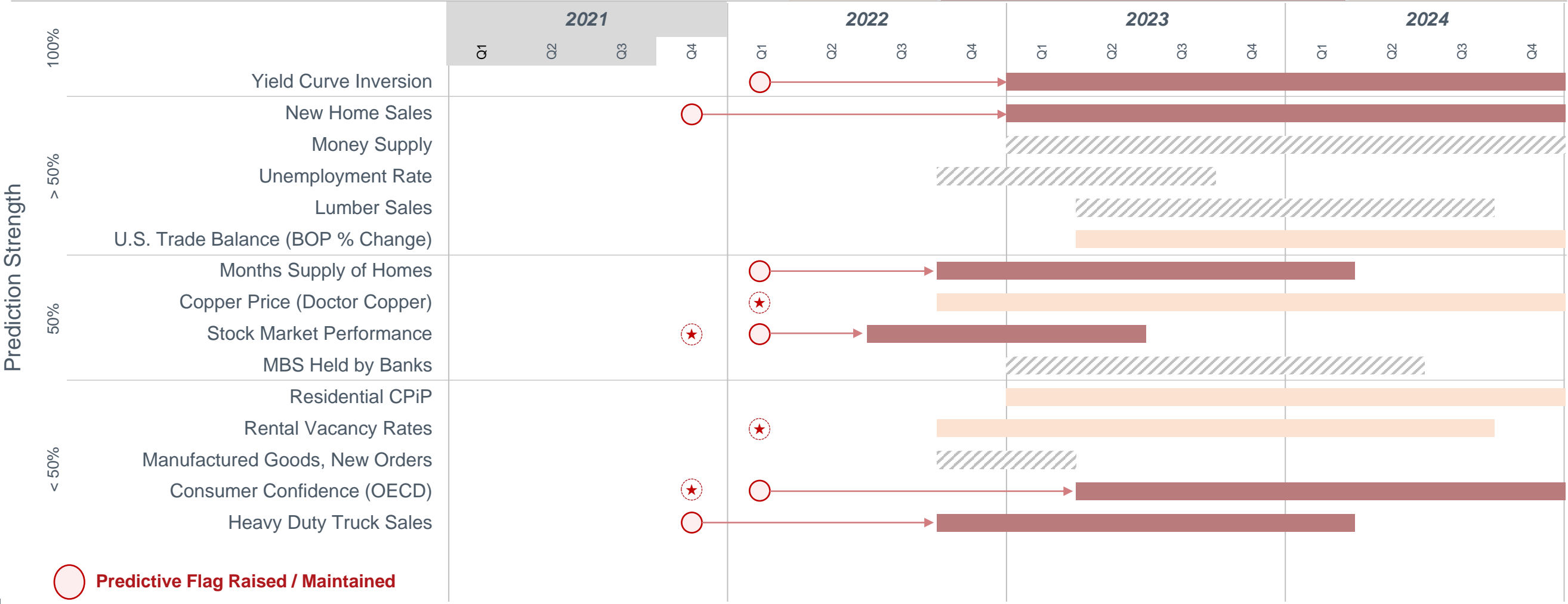
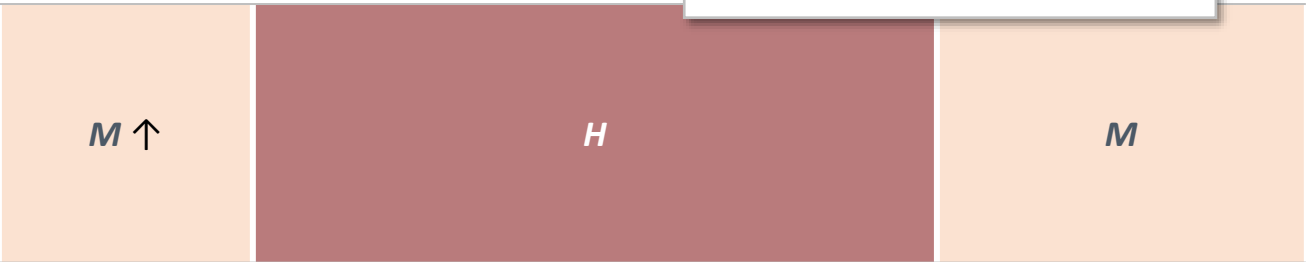
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PMI – ↓	HMI – ↓	ABI – ↓	NRCI – ↓	HCCI – ↑		
Sahm Rule - are we in a recession today? → NO ←						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two-year treasury yields suggest that Fed Funds tops out at approximately 4.5% before stabilization. Further, two-year treasury yields have been in decline for the past month. Traditional recessionary factors (i.e., a fall in asset values/equities, rising unemployment, declining consumer expenditures) historically are most at risk soon after the top of rate hike cycles and recession becomes most obvious as rates are cut.</li> <li>Currently 9 of the 15 predictive indicators are signaling recession (60%). This quarter a new signal/flag is raised by declining values of MBS held by banks.</li> <li>Though Q3 real GDP expanded 2.9% (2<sup>nd</sup> estimate), trade imbalances and global economic disruptions continue to heavily influence production data. Labor data remains challenging with participation low, layoffs announced daily and hiring remaining somewhat strong in leisure and hospitality, health care and government. Real personal income growth remains negative (yoy), saving rates are at all time lows and credit card spending has leveled off over November.</li> </ul>						

**15 predictive indicators are listed; at least 9 (60%) have flagged a (potential forthcoming) recession, 4 (27%) show moderate risk and 2 (13%) show low risk.**

# Predicting the next U.S. recession

- High Risk Assessment
- Moderate Risk Assessment
- Low Risk Assessment
- ★ Possible Flag

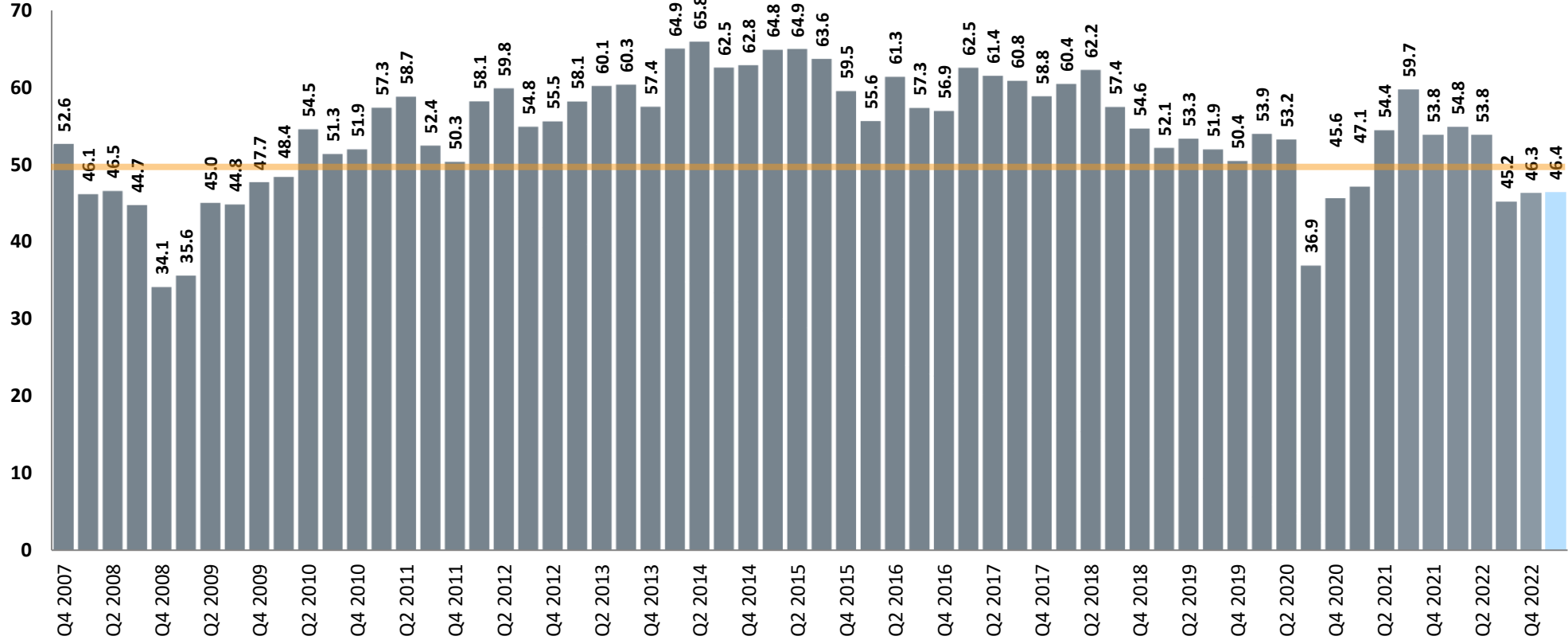
The timing of a potential recession is suggesting increasing risk through the next two quarters with high levels of risk spanning Q4 2022 through Q1 of 2024. Q1 2022 yoy real GDP growth fell 1.5% as a result of trade losses, tied to the strength of the Dollar, Russian sanctions and China's strict COVID policies (all of which have ties to inflation). Early warning signs of a weakening labor market have begun to surface (e.g., hiring freezes) and are expected to worsen, especially in sectors sensitive to rising interest rates (e.g., tech.).



○ Predictive Flag Raised / Maintained

# FMI's Nonresidential Construction Index

**NRCI Scores – Q4 2007 to Q1 2023**  
 (Scores above 50 indicate expansion, below 50 contraction.)



SOURCE: FMI NONRESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION INDEX Q1 2023 | SURVEY DATES: DECEMBER 1 – 16



# HOW CONFIDENT IS THE MARKET?

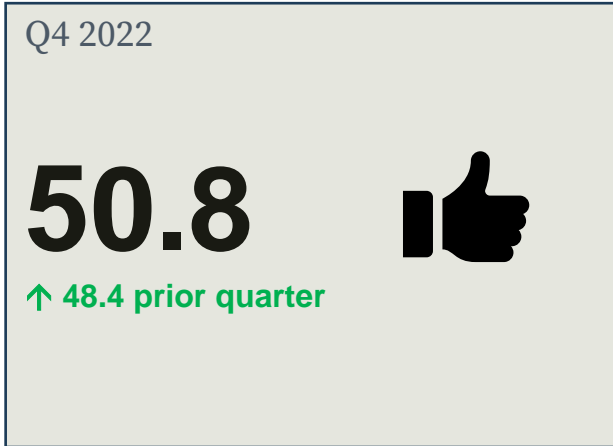
## AEC Sentiment Indices



Architectural Billings Index (ABI)



Nonresidential Construction Index (NRCI)



Heavy Civil Construction Index (HCCI)



Construction Industry Round Table

CIRT Sentiment Index

AIA, FMI, CIRT

# Resilience or Recession?

## Resilience

01

Unemployment at historic lows:  
Overall 3.5%, construction 4.4%

02

Positive GDP growth in Q3 and  
\*anticipated\* Q4 at 4.1%

03

Upheld consumer spending on  
services

04

Reopening borders and fewer  
international COVID disruptions

05

Lack of National Bureau of  
Economic Research (NBER)  
announcement



## Recession

Two quarters of real GDP decline, Q1  
& Q2 2022

01

Peak & decline in commodities,  
asset, shipping, CPI, & various  
predictive indexes

02

Real income growth turns negative  
year-over year & consumer saving  
rate collapses

03

Start of global unified destruction in  
money supply & aggressive rate hikes

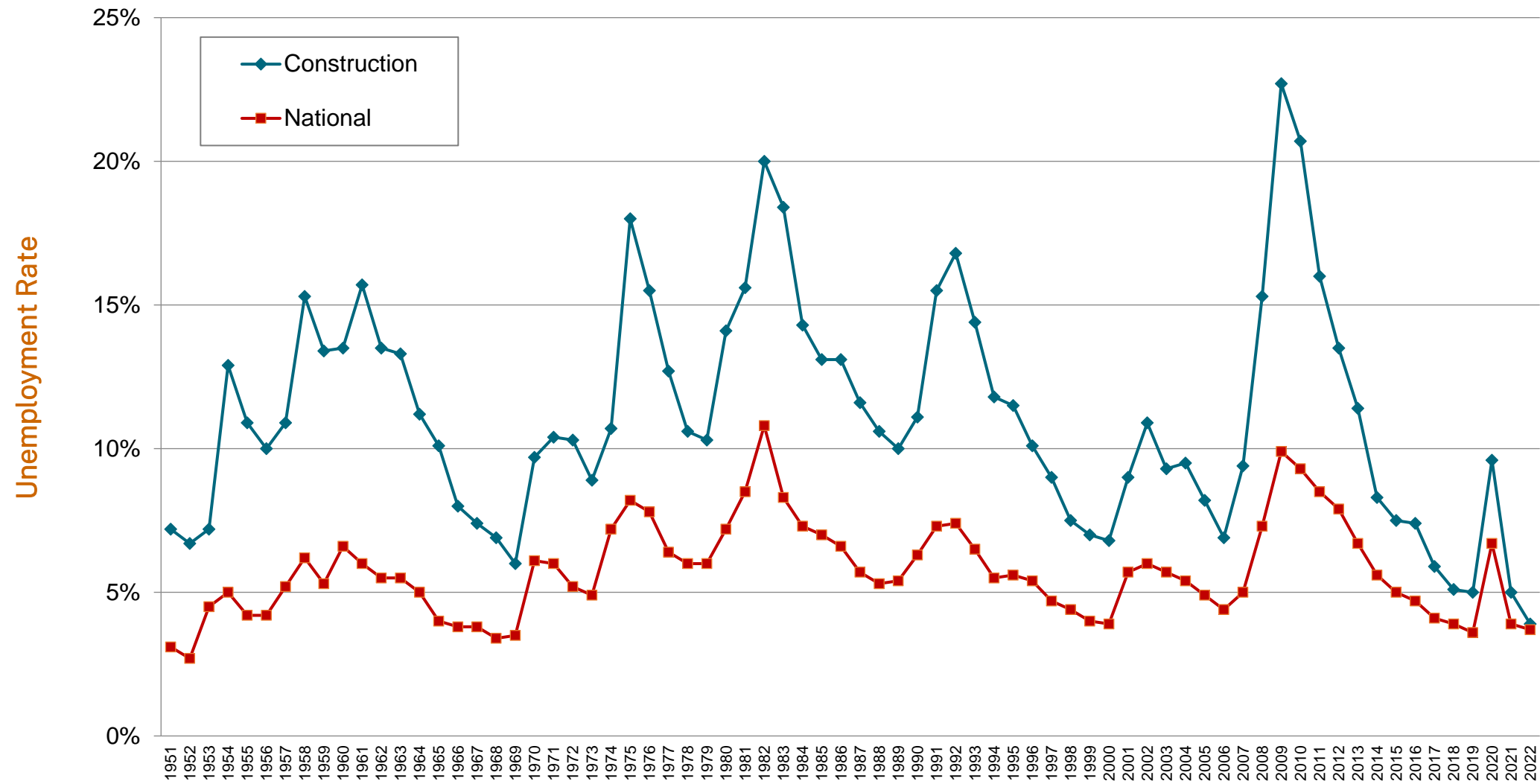
04

Rising housing inventory, price cuts &  
mortgage rates, declining applications  
& refinancing

05

# Jobs & Unemployment

## Construction Unemployment vs. National Unemployment



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics  
Annual – End of Period



*Many in today's construction industry have neither managed or led through a significant downturn, and almost no one has managed during an extreme inflationary environment.*

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Resiliency	Economic competition	Market intervention
Preserving	Trade wars	Capital restrictions

### Population Shifting

Demand Shifting	Labor force participation declines
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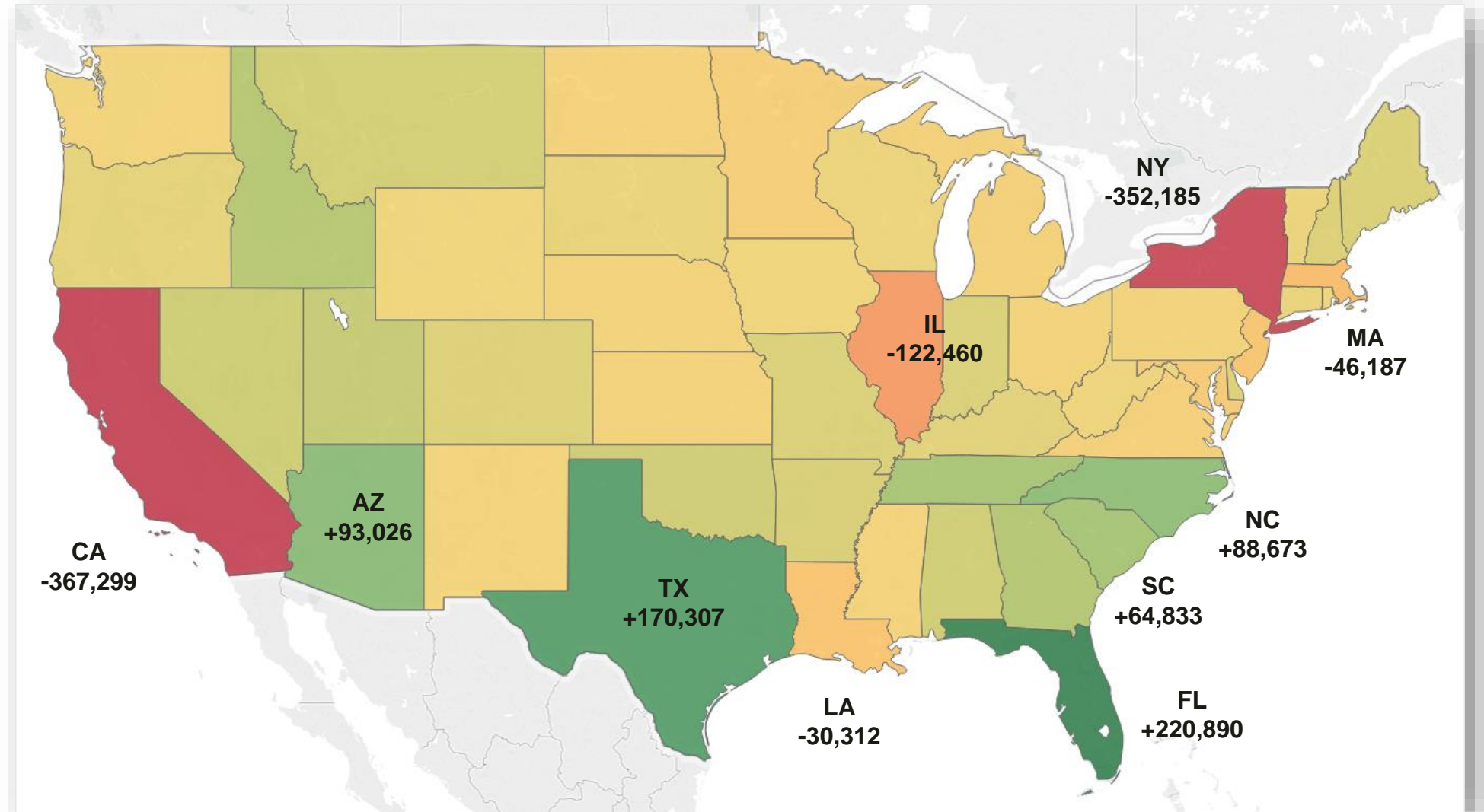
Lodging	Shopping Centers/ Malls	Movie Theaters
Office	Sports/ Recreation	Textile Mills

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# FOLLOW THE PEOPLE

## Population Movement by State Total net migration 2001- 2021

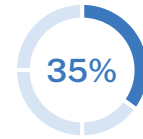
- **Five of the top 10 largest-gaining counties in 2021, were in Texas.** Collin, Fort Bend, Williamson, Denton and Montgomery counties gained a combined 145,663 residents.
- **Los Angeles County, California experienced the largest population loss** of any county, losing 159,621 residents in 2021.
- Seventy-one percent of counties (2,218) experienced positive net international migration.
- Four counties crossed the threshold of 100,000 residents in 2021—Cleveland County, North Carolina (100,359), Lancaster County, South Carolina (100,336), Bastrop County, Texas (102,058), and Grant County, Washington (100,297).
- Los Angeles County, California (9,829,544) and Cook County, Illinois (5,173,146), had more than 5 million residents in 2021, making them the top two most populous counties in the nation.



# MORE THAN ONE-IN-THREE CONSTRUCTION DOLLARS ARE SPENT IN JUST 12 MARKETS

Total Construction Spending Put in Place  
Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA); 2021-2025 sum

- Concentration of spending continues in fewer markets
- Old markets move down, and new markets move up
- Megapolitans can equal or rival metropolitans



1. New York



2. Los Angeles



3. Dallas



4. Houston



5. Phoenix



6. Atlanta



7. Seattle



8. Washington, DC



9. San Francisco



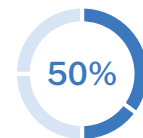
10. Miami



11. Chicago



12. Riverside



13. Denver

14. Austin

15. Boston

16. Philadelphia

17. Orlando

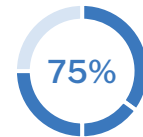
18. Tampa

19. Minneapolis

20. Charlotte

21. San Diego

22. Portland



24. Sacramento

25. San Jose

26. Las Vegas

27. Nashville

28. Jacksonville

29. Salt Lake City

30. Detroit

31. Raleigh

32. San Antonio

33. Baltimore

34. Indianapolis

35. St. Louis

36. Sarasota

37. Kansas City

38. Columbus

39. Boise

40. Provo

41. Cincinnati

42. Fort Myers

43. Virginia Beach

44. Pittsburgh

45. Richmond

46. Ogden

47. Charleston

48. Cleveland

49. Oklahoma City

50. Tucson

51. Memphis

52. Colorado Springs

53. Lakeland

54. Milwaukee

55. Greenville

56. Honolulu

57. Naples

58. Providence

59. Louisville

60. Stockton

61. Myrtle Beach

62. Columbia

63. Daytona Beach

64. Grand Rapids

65. Knoxville

66. Fresno

67. Durham

68. Reno

69. Birmingham

70. Melbourne



71. New Orleans

72. Port St. Lucie

73. Omaha

74. Tulsa

75. Rochester

76. Onondaga

77. Hartford

78. Greensboro

79. Bakersfield

80. Worcester

81. Des Moines

82. Spokane

83. Albuquerque

84. Fayetteville

85. Albany

86. Buffalo

87. Madison

88. Baton Rouge

89. Greeley

90. El Paso

91. Bridgeport

92. Winston-Salem

93. Portland

94. McAllen

95. Allentown

96. Boulder

97. Santa Rosa

98. Asheville

99. Fort Collins

100. Augusta

101. Pensacola

102. St. George

103. Ocala

104. Chattanooga

105. Salisbury

106. Huntsville

107. Little Rock

108. Harrisburg

109. Savannah

110. New Haven

111. Fort Walton Beach

112. Killeen

113. Wilmington

114. Salem

115. Bend

116. Vallejo

117. Lexington

118. Dayton

119. Spartanburg

120. Wichita

121. Lancaster

122. Springfield

123. Brentwood

124. The Villages

125. Syracuse

126. Santa Barbara

127. Olympia

128. Manchester

129. Eugene

130. Modesto

131. Tallahassee

132. Springfield

133. Akron

134. Visalia

135. San Luis Obispo

136. Sioux Falls

137. Salinas

138. Toledo

139. Jackson

140. Fort Wayne

141. Prescott

142. Bellingham

143. Scranton

144. Kennewick

145. Anchorage

146. Hilton Head Island

147. Corpus Christi

148. Punta Gorda

149. Trenton

150. Daphne

151. Hickory

152. Brownsville

153. Coeur d'Alene

154. Ann Arbor

155. York

156. Green Bay

157. Gainesville

158. Fargo

159. Lafayette

160. Clarksville

161. Gainesville

162. Lubbock

163. Lincoln

164. Mobile

165. Vero Beach

166. Medford

167. Gulfport

168. College Station

169. Santa Cruz

170. Beaumont

171. Kahului

172. Laredo

173. Logan

174. Lake Havasu City

175. Charlottesville

176. Fayetteville

177. Rochester

178. Lansing

179. Reading

180. Midland

181. Montgomery

182. Roanoke

183. Amarillo

184. Merced

185. Shreveport

186. Idaho Falls

187. Waco

188. Panama City

189. Elkhart

190. Hagerstown

191. Billings

192. Youngstown

193. Chico

194. Grand Junction

195. Davenport

196. Cedar Rapids

197. Evansville

198. Columbus

199. Burlington

200. Barnesville Town

201. Tyler

202. Athens (Go Dawgs)

203. Kalamazoo

204. Yakima

205. Canton

206. Appleton

207. St. Cloud

208. Kingsport

209. Dover

210. Duluth

211. Lynchburg

212. Atlantic City

213. South Bend

214. Yuma

215. Homosassa Springs

216. Warner Robins

217. Burlington

218. Rockford

219. Flagstaff

220. Missoula

221. Mount Vernon

222. Peoria

223. Napa

224. Pueblo

225. Jacksonville

226. Tuscaloosa

227. Las Cruces

228. Newark

229. Auburn

230. Greenville

231. Rapid City

232. Columbia

233. Utica

234. Flint

235. Fort Smith

236. Lafayette

237. Waretown

238. Iowa City

239. Macon (Home)

240. Johnson City

241. Florence

242. Longview

243. Odessa

244. Erie

245. Yuba City

246. Riddling

247. Lake Charles

248. Winchester

249. Madera

250. Harrisonburg

251. Oshkosh

252. Bismarck

253. Valdosta

254. Huntington

255. Albany

256. Houma

257. Joplin

258. Bowling Green

259. Sioux City

260. Eau Claire

261. El Centro

262. Racine

263. Santa Fe

264. Champaign

265. Dalton

266. Abilene

267. Topeka

268. Waterloo

269. Blacksburg

270. Longview

271. Binghamton



# Canada Key Takeaways

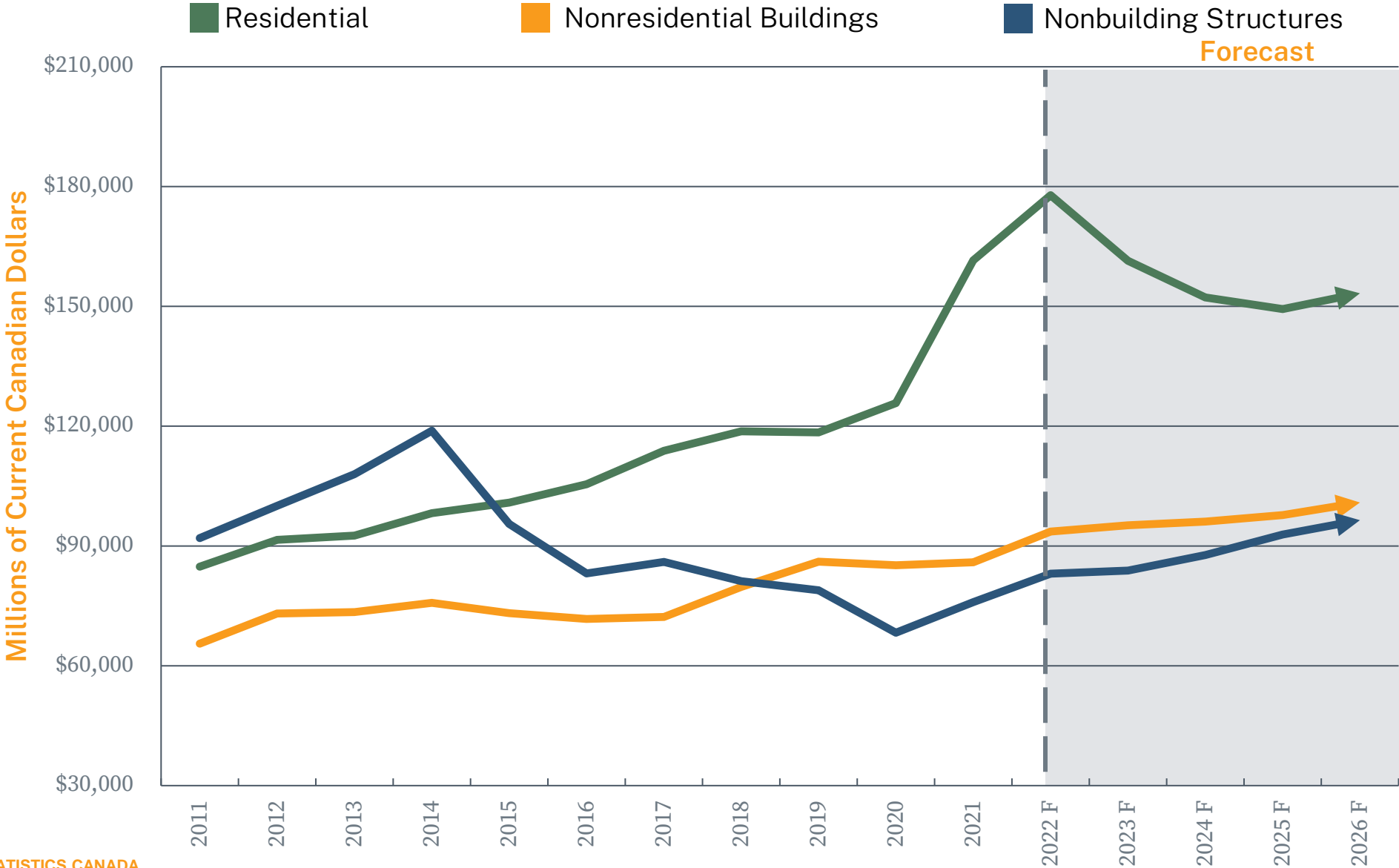
- **Bank of Canada** has taken their rate up higher than originally anticipated this fall. This will result in a growing squeeze on households, creating the conditions for a consumer-lead slowdown in most provinces.
- **Prairie providences** are anticipated to outperform for the second straight year in 2023. At the same time, oil and natural gas prices should remain elevated, putting tailwinds on the region.
- Canadian forecasts projections also reflect the softer side of the **global economy**. The economic downdraft in Europe will impact exporters in the Atlantic Region, Ontario and Quebec. At the same time softer U.S. economic growth will hurt shipments across the country.
- Strong segments with growth rates around 5% or greater
  - Health care
  - Transportation
  - Power
  - Highway & Street
  - Sewage & Waste Disposal
  - Conservation & Development

# Canada Key Takeaways

- FMI is anticipating a decline in total construction activity, driven primarily by residential markets — forecast period
  - The decline is varied by province and government programs
  - Quebec has a program to build 1.5 million affordable housing units over the next decade
- Infrastructure spending, which includes transportation, highway / street, health care, and education, will be bright spots
- Contractors prioritizing public pursuits will benefit from consistent work stream
- Alberta – and power construction – will remain a bright spot for the construction industry overall
  - Renewable energy has significant government support – notably hydro and solar
  - Several major oil and gas projects are winding down this year and next. This should alleviate some of the labor challenges seen on other projects or other segments
- One important distinction between the US and Canada is how heavily concentrated spending activity is
  - Ontario accounts for 35% - 40% of spending
  - Quebec accounts for ~20%
  - Alberta's power spend is 40%-50% of the national power construction spend

# Canada Construction Forecast – Q1 2023

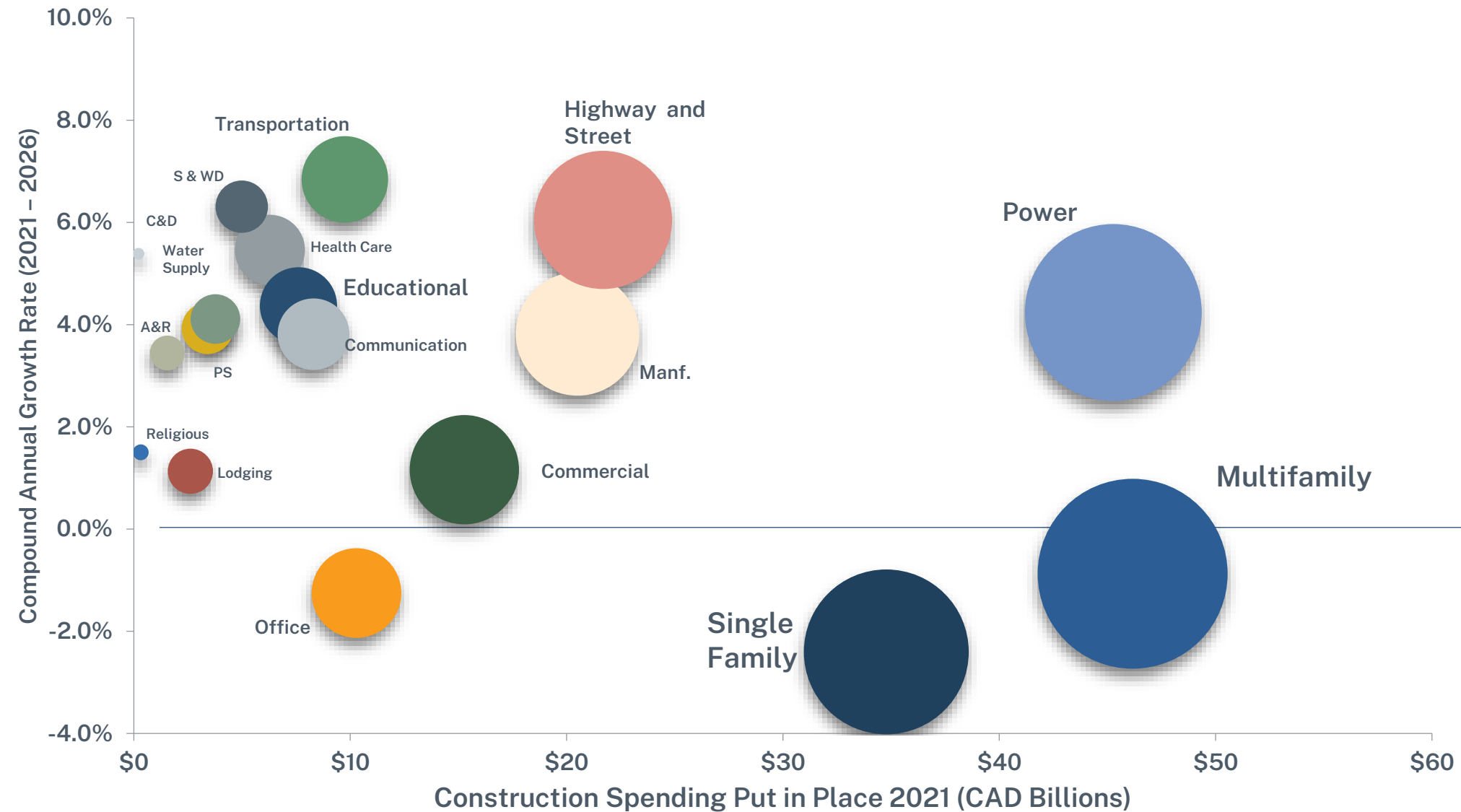
## Ten-Year History



SOURCE: FMI FORECAST Q1 2023; STATISTICS CANADA

# Canada Construction Forecast – Q1 2023

Construction Spending 2021 and Compound Annual Growth Rate



\*Improvements include additions, alterations and major replacements. It does not include maintenance and repairs.

SOURCE: FMI FORECAST Q1 2023; STATISTICS CANADA

# Canada Construction Forecast – Q1 2023

Compound Growth Rates 2021 – 2026

Manitoba  
-0.1%

Saskatchewan  
3.4%

Alberta  
3.9%

British Columbia  
1.7%

Northern  
Territories 1.5%



Atlantic  
Provinces 2.5%

Quebec  
1.2%

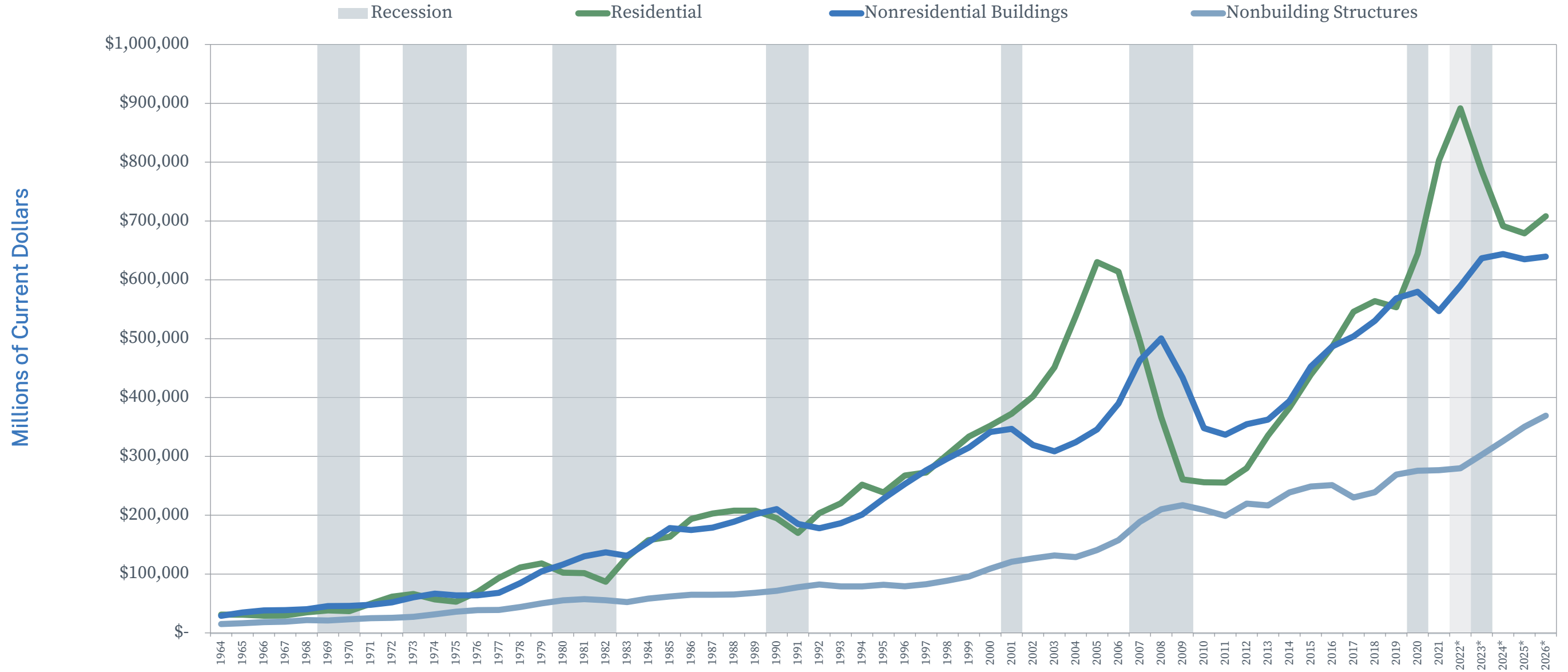
Ontario  
0.7%

SOURCE: FMI FORECAST Q1 2023; STATISTICS CANADA

# U.S. Key Takeaways

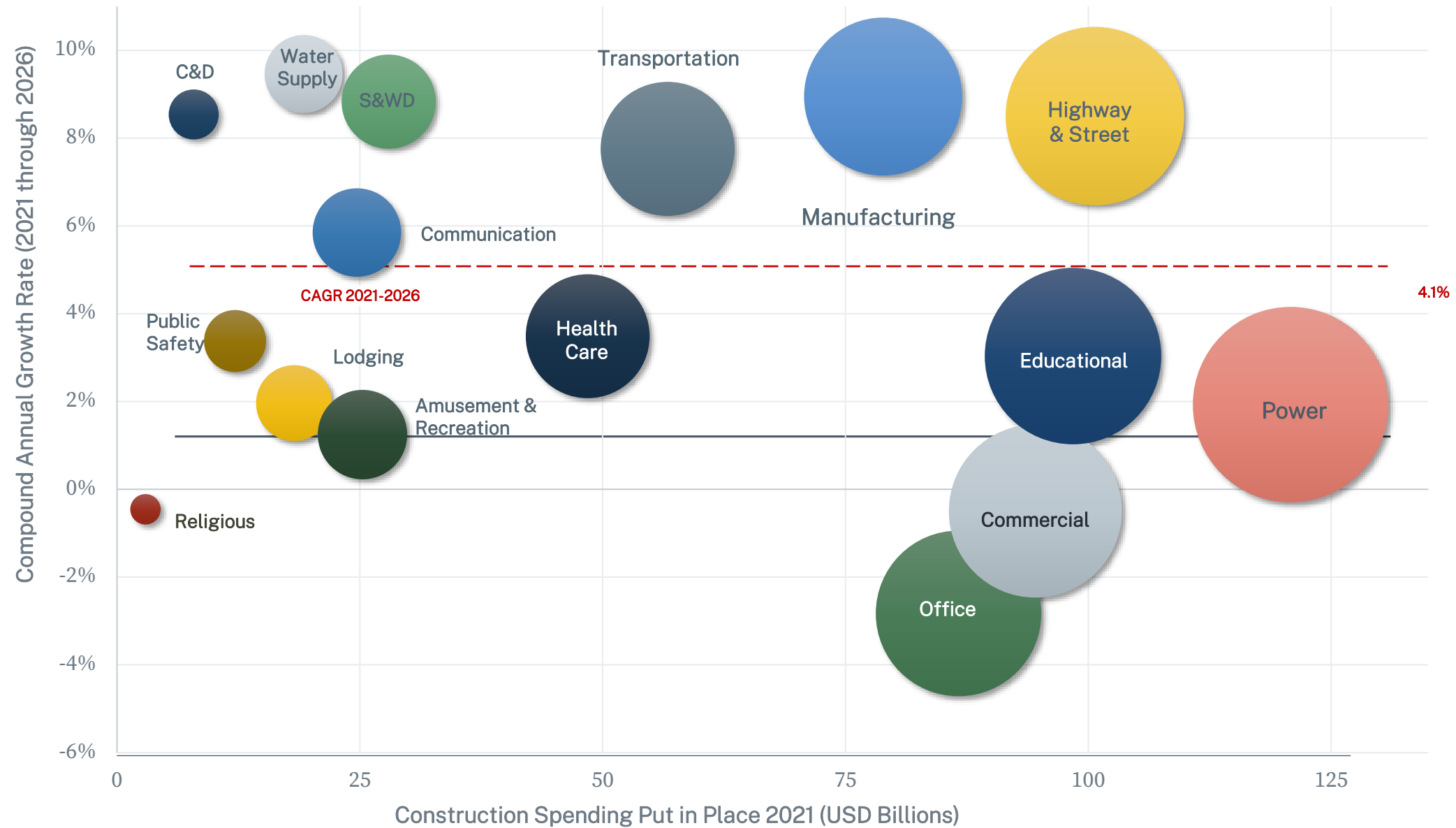
- Total engineering and construction spending for the U.S. is forecast to end **2022 up 8%**, the same increases as in 2020 and 2021 all led primarily by residential
- Looking to 2023, FMI **forecasts a 2% decline** in engineering and construction spending levels compared to 2022 due to an anticipated fall in residential construction
- Elevated **inflation in 2022 is driving output contraction** across the industry
- High growth segments in **2022** (from 2021) (**10%**)
  - Multifamily
  - Residential improvements
  - Commercial
  - Manufacturing
  - Sewage & waste disposal
  - Water supply
  - Conservation & development construction
- Markets with a **0% - 4% growth** rate for 2022 include:
  - Lodging
  - Office
  - Education
  - Transportation
  - Communication
- **Negative** growth markets include
  - Religion
  - Public safety
  - Commercial
  - Office
- The latest Nonresidential Construction Index (**NRCI**) **score of 46.4**, nearly flat from the previous quarter's score of 46.3, suggests ongoing concerns heading into the first quarter of 2023
  - The index has remained under 50 for three quarters and **indicates fewer future engineering and construction opportunities** into 2023

# U.S. Construction Forecast – Q1 2023



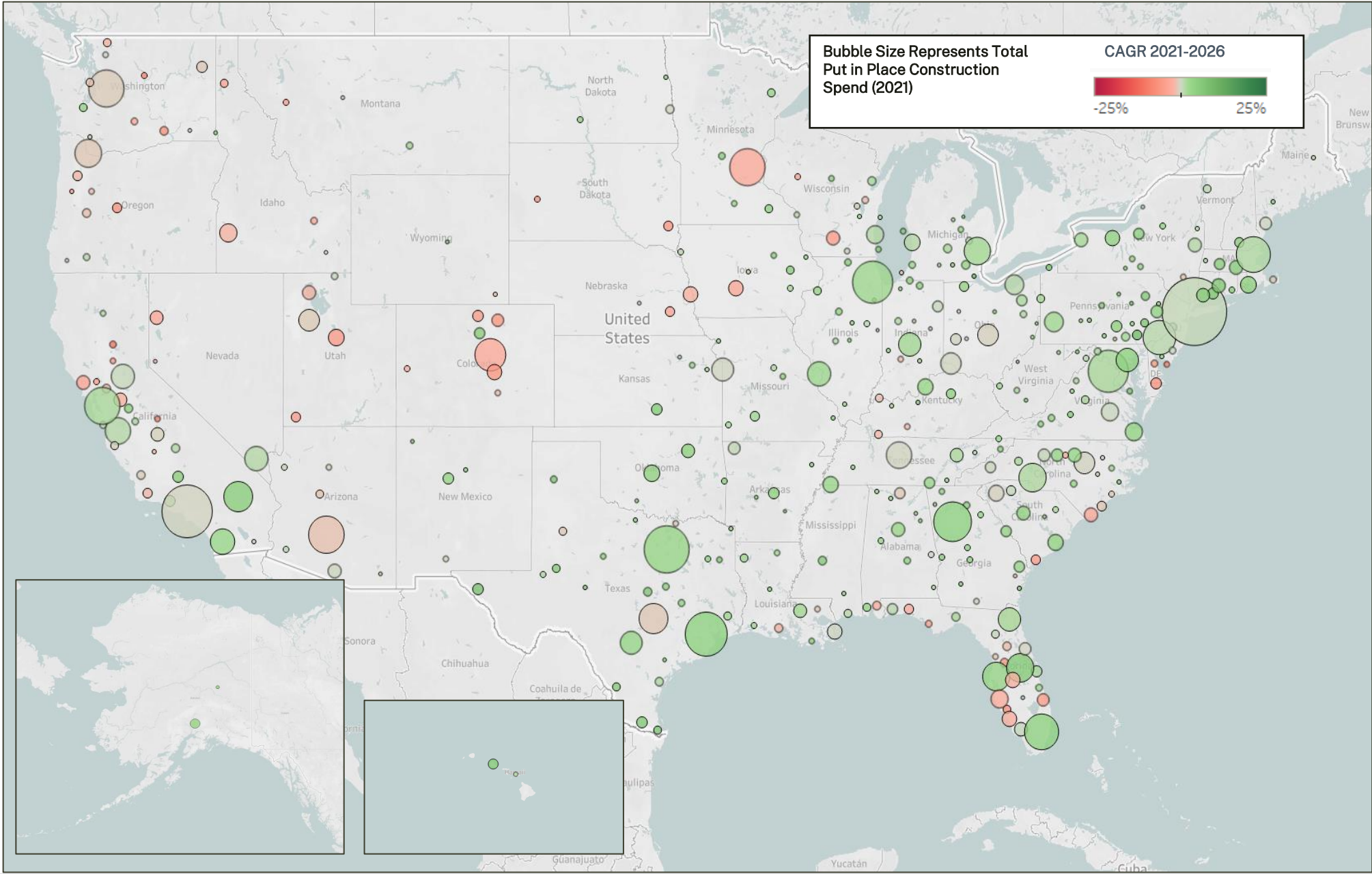
SOURCE: FMI FORECAST Q1 2023

# U.S. Nonresidential Construction Forecast – Q1 2023





# Based on Q1 2023 CPiP Forecast



# NEW VS. OLD – CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY REFLECTS THE DIRECTION OF THE ECONOMY

## New Economy

### Regionalization

Resiliency	Economic competition	Market intervention
Preserving	Trade wars	Capital restrictions

### Population Shifting

Demand Shifting	Labor force participation declines
Aging Population	More people per household

### Construction demand

Life Sciences	Data Centers	Semiconductor Fabrication
Logistics & Manufacturing	Food & Beverage Manufacturing	Distributed Power

## Old Economy

### Globalization

Efficiency	Economic cooperation	Market liberation
Expanding	Trade deals	Capital liberation

### Population Growth

Total demand growth	Labor force participation steady / increasing
Young / steady population age	Fewer people per household

### Construction demand

Lodging	Shopping Centers/ Malls	Movie Theaters
Office	Sports/ Recreation	Textile Mills

# Thank you



## Will Gruy, Senior Consultant, Strategy Practice

- Will Gruy works with companies across the U.S. serving the built environment with an emphasis on operational improvement and strategic thinking. He specializes in corporate strategy, using a research and evidence-based approach to achieve improved financial results through organizational focus.
- Prior to FMI, Will worked as an IT enterprise insights consultant for a major consulting firm serving global Oil & Gas companies. He developed operational improvement tools for managers that utilized the constant flow of data produced by operations.

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### Thought Leadership

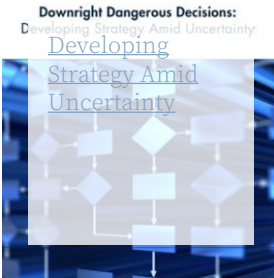
The Changing Game of Strategy



The Last Normal Day



Downright Dangerous Decisions



Our Latest Construction Outlook – [Download](#)





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