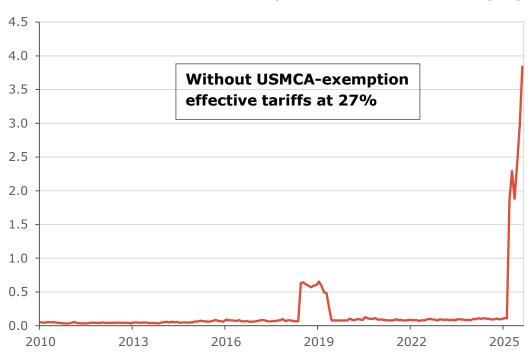


Overview of the Canadian Economy



US tariffs - Not as bad as originally feared, for now

Effective tariff rate on imports from Canada (%)



Share of imports from Canada under tariffs (%)



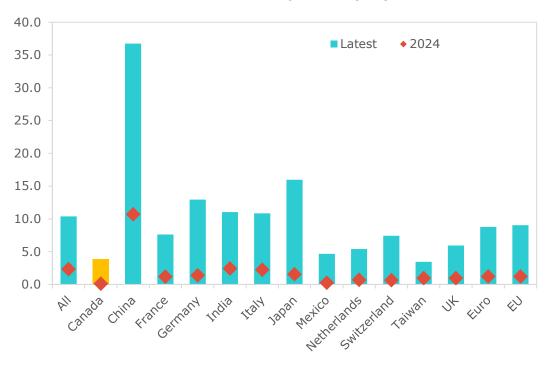
- USMCA-compliant exports are exempt of US tariffs, about 85% of Canadian exports.
- Tariffs on steel, aluminum and the non-US share of auto exports.
- The importance of the USMCA cannot be underestimated, next year's renegotiation is a key risk.

Source: US Census Bureau, Alberta Central

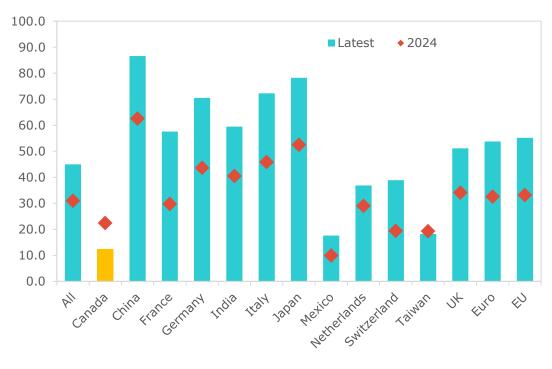


US tariffs – Canada amongst the least affected

Effective tariff rate on imports (%)



Share of imports under tariffs (%)

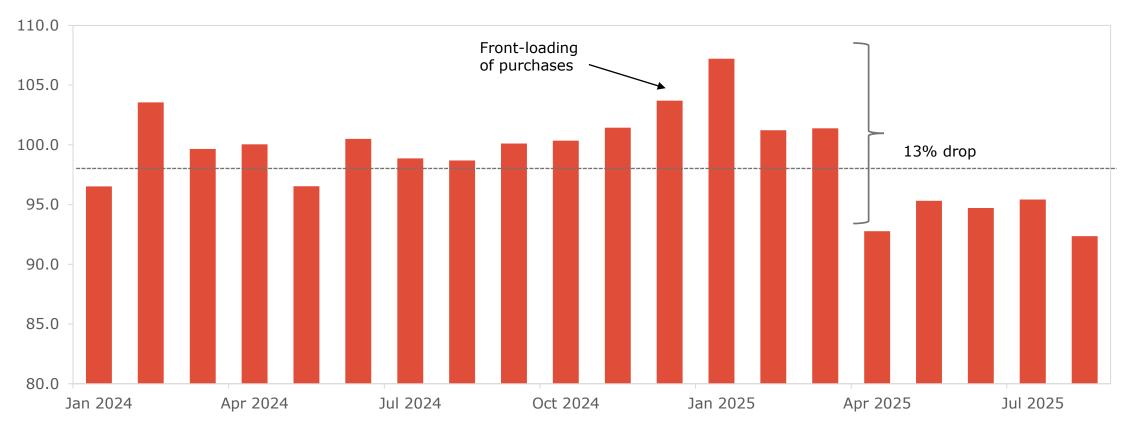


- The US effective tariff rate on Canadian imports is amongst the lower.
- Similarly, the share of imports subjected to tariffs declines is also one of the lowest.
- No country has avoided tariffs on steel and aluminum, except the UK

Source: US Census Bureau, Alberta Central

Tariffs have had a deep negative impact on Canada

Exports volume (index: 2024 average = 100)

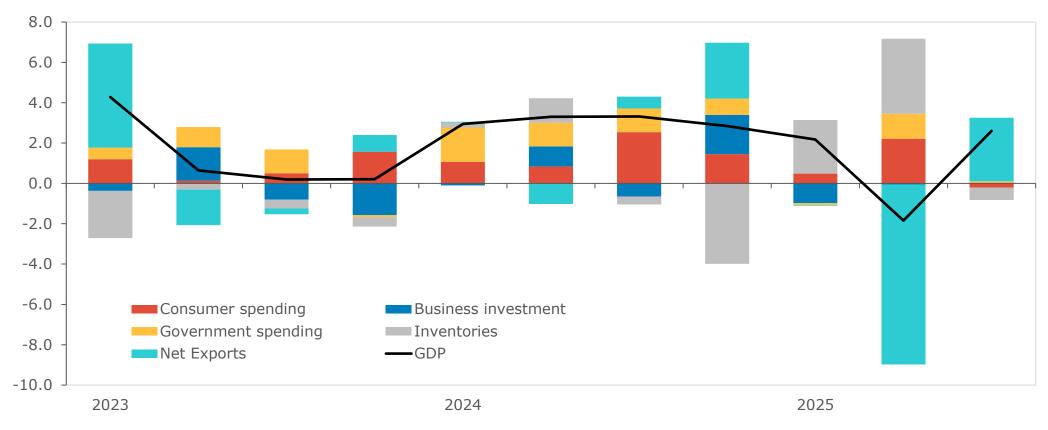


- Front-loading of purchasing by US customers meant pushed exports and growth higher in Q1, but this was reversed in Q2. As a result, the economy contracted sharply by -1.6% q-o-q ar. in Q2.
- Exports are still about 5% below their 2024 level.



Don't be fooled by headline growth

Contribution to GDP growth (Q-o- ar.)



- Growth rebound in Q3. However, it was mostly due to a drop in imports.
- Domestic demand is anemic, with declines in consumer spending and business investment. Residential investment and overall government spending made a marginally positive contribution.



Confidence has recovered but remains weak

CFIB Business confidence



Consumer confidence

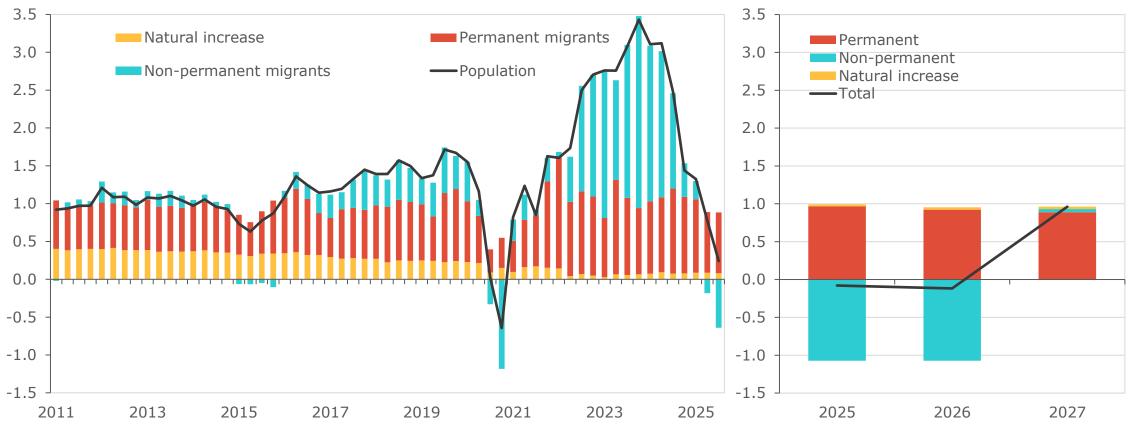


- Business and consumer confidence hit record lows. As a result, firms postponed and delayed investment and hiring decisions. Improved sentiment could suggest some improvement in business activity
- Consumer confidence also dropped and remains low. Nevertheless, consumer spending has been resilient.



Population growth is slowing quickly

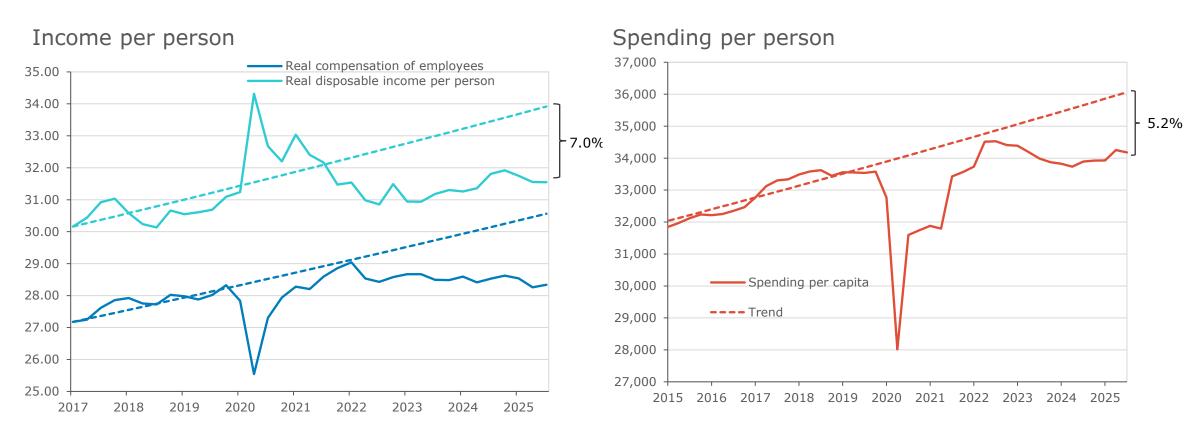
Population growth Q-o-Q SA annualized(%)



- Population growth is slowing rapidly, from a pace of 3.5% per year in early 2024 to 0.2% currently.
- As a result, potential growth is also very close to 0 and dependent on productivity growth, which has been weak.



Purchasing power is stagnating



- Canadian's purchasing power is about 7.0% lower than where it should be, as measured by real disposable income per capita, resulting in spending underperformance.
- Households are falling behind and feeling it; feeding into weak economic sentiment and stagnant spending.

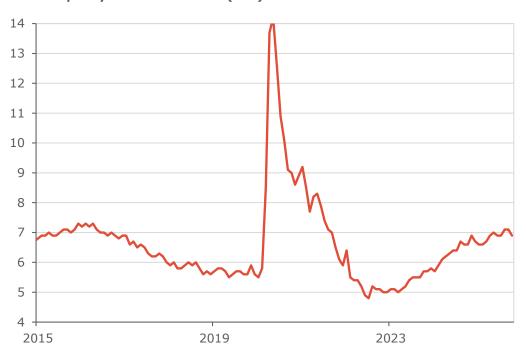


A weak labour market

Employment (index: 2019=100)



Unemployment rate (%)

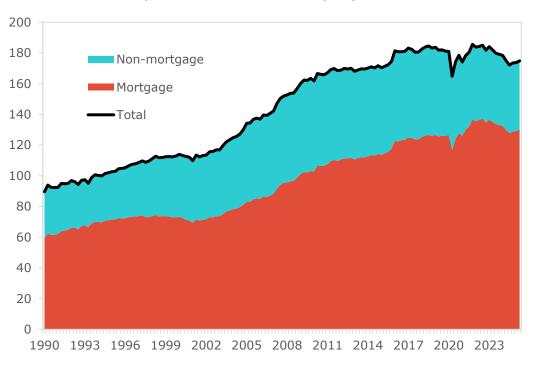


- Weak economic activity and high uncertainty have led to only a very modest job gains in 2025 and a rise the unemployment rate, to its highest since 2016.
- Whether Canada experiences a recession will likely depend on whether prolonged uncertainty and weak growth leads to job losses.

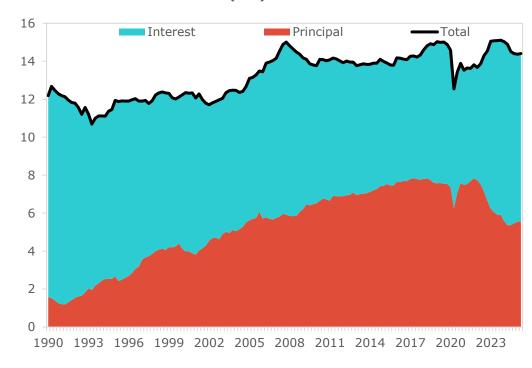


Households are vulnerable to job losses

Debt-to-disposable income (%)



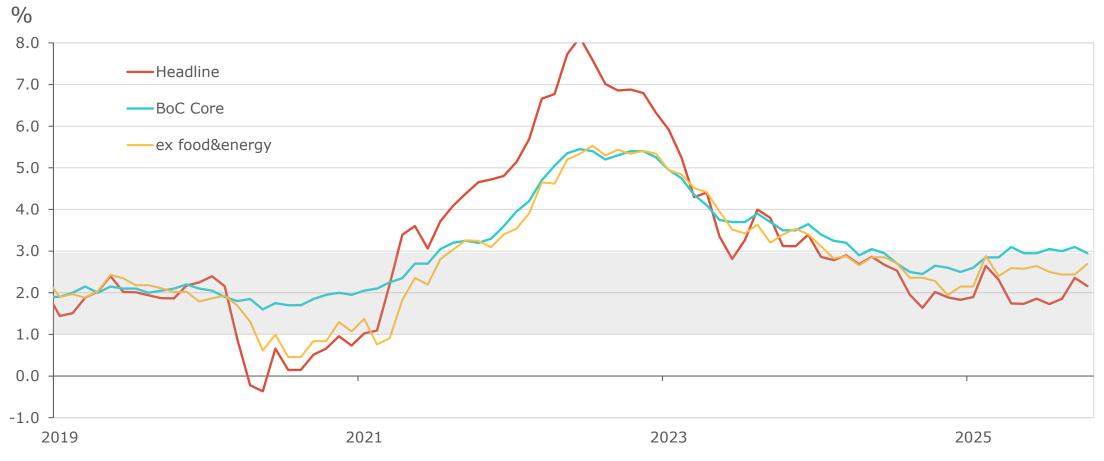
Debt-service ratio (%)



- High indebtedness and the associated high debt-service ratio make households vulnerable to a decline in income.
- Continued high interest rates continue to put pressure, as some households refinance their mortgage at higher interest rates (by 175bp to 200bp).



Inflation is showing some persistence

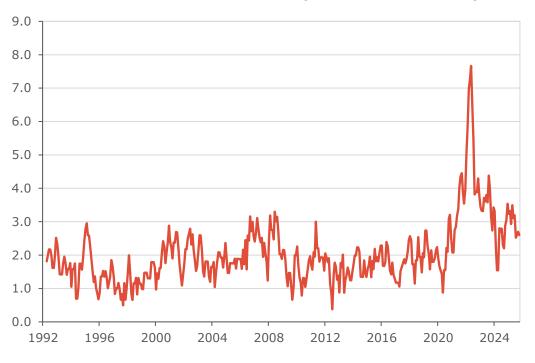


- Inflation is at target at 1.7%. Changes in taxes (GST, Carbon Tax) have led to volatile inflation in recent months, but hasn't change the underlying trends.
- Various measures of core inflation are at or slightly below 3%.

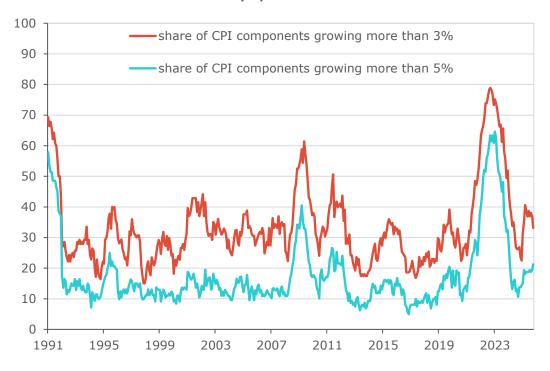


What is the BoC focusing on?

Core inflation momentum (% 3m/3m ann.)



Breadth of inflationary pressures



- Inflation momentum, as measured by the 3-month on 3-month annualized change in prices, suggests price pressures are slightly above target
- The broadness of inflation is higher than historical norms and is likely a concern for the BoC.

Source: Statistics Canada, Bank of Canada, Alberta Central



Where's the terminal rate?

%



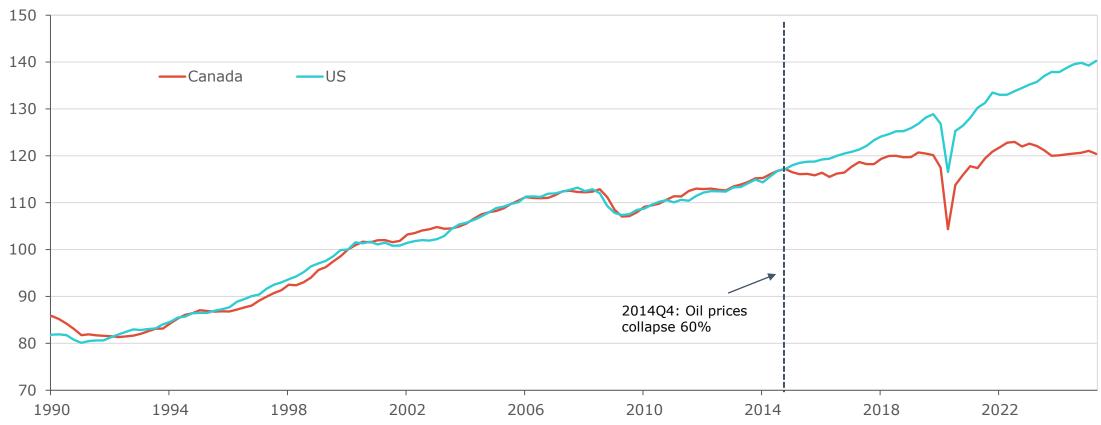
- The BoC is expected to cut its policy rate twice this year (50bp) to support the economy
- However, interest rates will remain above levels seen during the decade that preceded the pandemic.

Source: Bank of Canada, Alberta Central



Canada is falling behind

GDP per Capita (index: 2000=100)

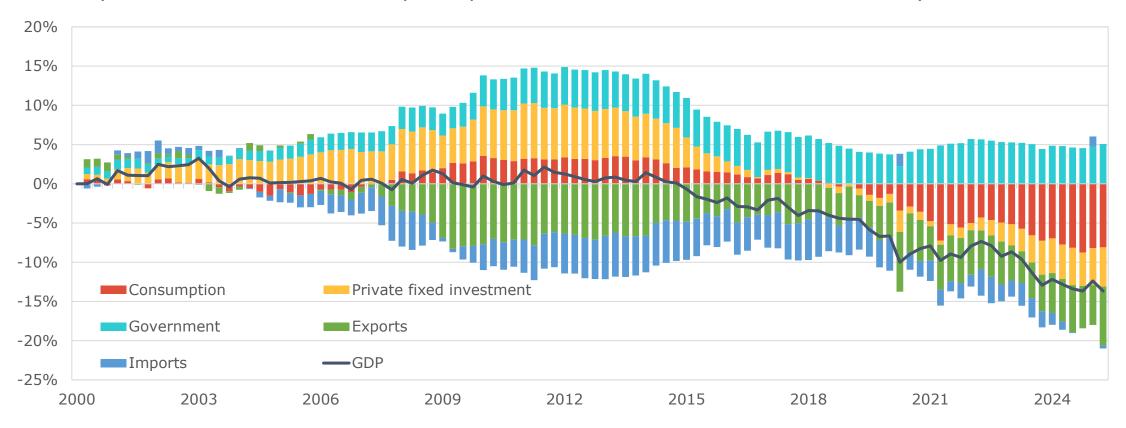


- Canada has underperformed the US since end-2014.
- The collapse in oil prices in late 2014 seems like the trigger, not change in government.



The oil boom hid Canada's economic mediocrity

Decomposition of the relative GDP per capita US vs Canada – Canadian drivers only

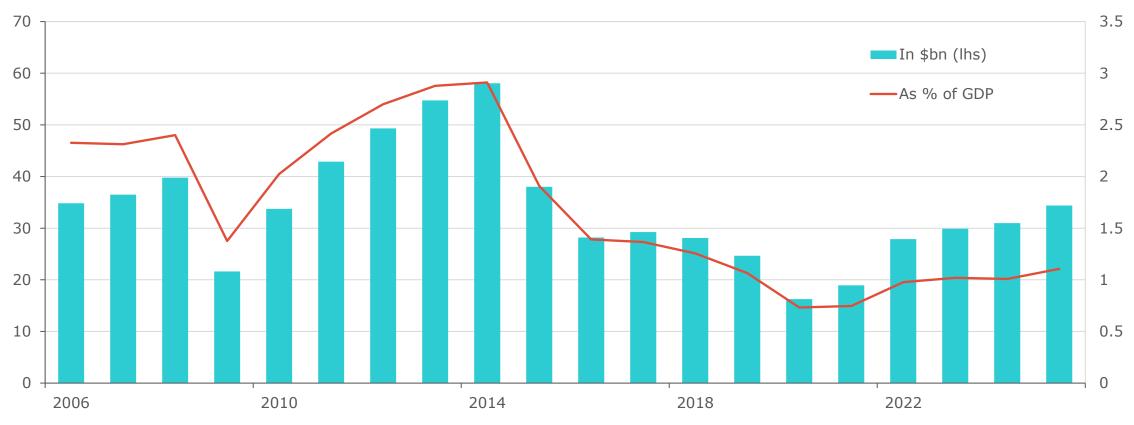


- The oil boom that ended in 2014 hid the mediocre performance in the rest of the economy.
- Without any sector to drive its prosperity, GDP per capita in Canada has persistently underperformed the US.



Capex is growing but well below 2014 levels

Investment by the oil and gas sector (\$bn)

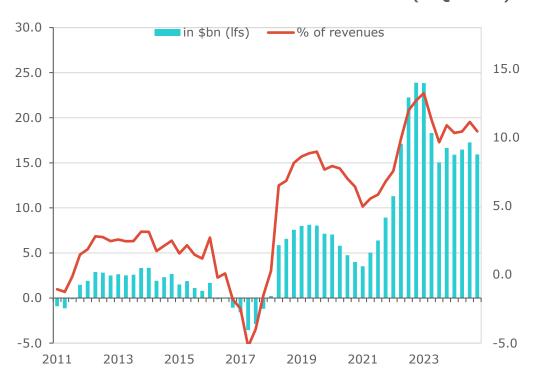


- Oil and gas producers are increasing their amount of Capex, which is a positive for the economy. However, the level of investment remains significantly below the peak in 2014 by almost 50%.
- Less revenues staying in Canada and small economic multiplier.

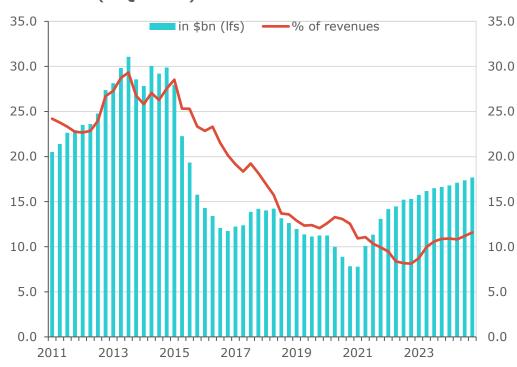


Less oil revenues staying in Canada

Revenues returned to shareholders (4Q sum)



CAPEX (4Q sum)

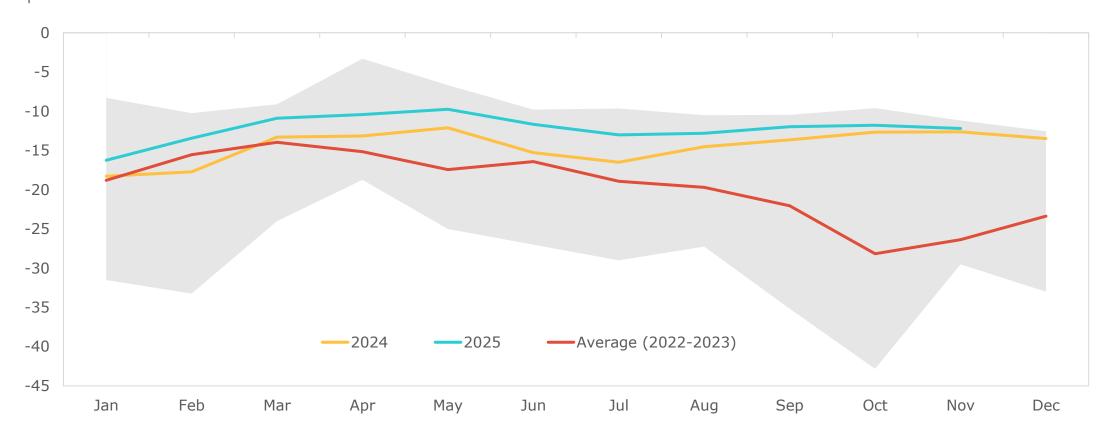


- A greater share of revenues is being returned to shareholders, 80% of whom are not Canadians.
- · A smaller share of revenues is being reinvested in current operations.
- This explains why the Canadian dollar is less sensitive to oil price fluctuations.

Source: Bloomberg, Alberta Central



Canadian oil no longer selling at a discount



- Since the opening of the expanded TMX, Canadian oil is selling close to its fair value relative to WTI.
- The narrower differential translates into an extra C\$13bn in revenue over the past year, equivalent to almost an extra month and half of production

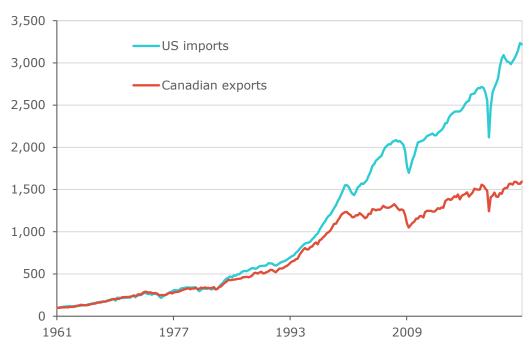


Is Canada still a "trading nation"?

Exports per capita (C\$)



Canadian exports vs US imports (Index: 1960=100)

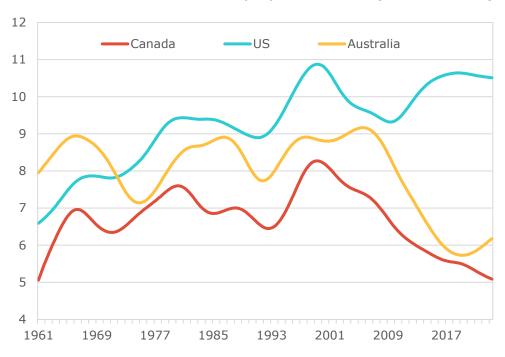


- Canada's export sector has not contributed to its prosperity in more than 25 years. As a comparison, about half of the increase in GDP per capita between 1960 and 2000 came from exports.
- Exports have dramatically underperformed increasing demand from the US over the past three decades.

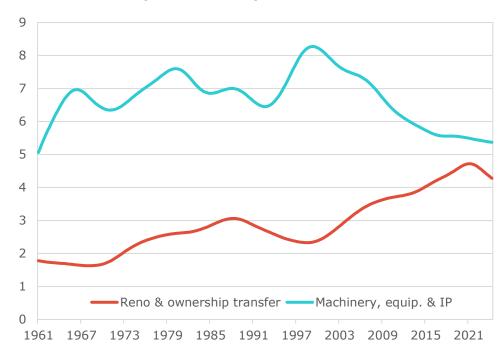


Weak productive investment

Invest. in machine, equip. and IP (% of GDP)



Investment (% of GDP)

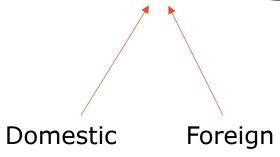


- Canada has persistently invested a smaller share of its GDP in productive investment.
- The country is spending almost as much as a share of GDP on home renovation and ownership transfer costs than on machinery, equipment and IP.



Competition for scarce resources and crowding out

Saving=Investment



4 million homes @375k each = **\$1.5 trillion**

4 million homes @500k each = **\$2 trillion**

About 5% to 7% of GDP per year, double the current level

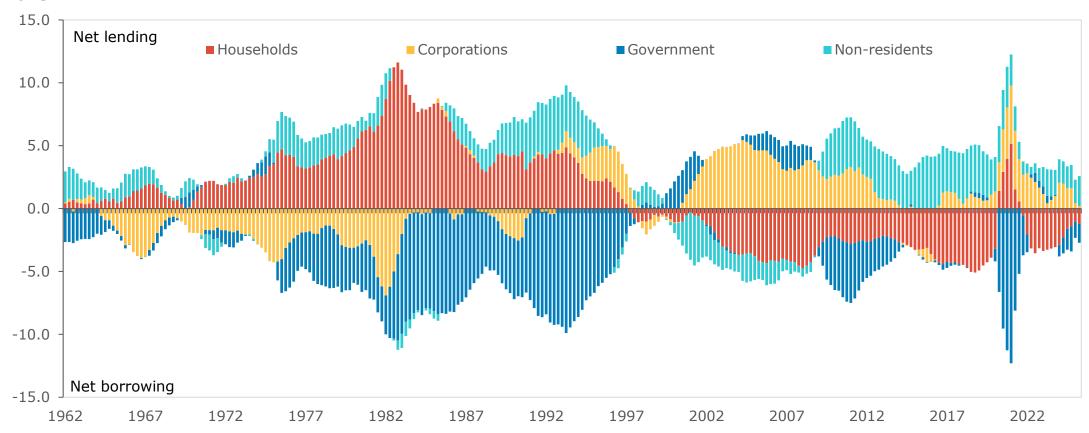
Competition for the available savings between the various needs:

- Residential
- Infrastructure
- Machinery & equipment
- R&D, IP
- Household borrowing
- Government (e.g. defence)



Net lending/borrowing

% GDP



- Households will need to start to be net lenders to finance the needed borrowing required.
- Higher interest rates will be needed to entice them to save/repay debt and/or to attract foreign capital.

Q&A

To subscribe to the economics mailing list: Charles.starnaud@albertacentral.com



