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Deloitte Economic Overview

Presentation at CILTNA 2024 Fall Conference Panel 1

November 2024

Deloitte Economic Outlook

Five key takeaways

Overview



Population With the recently announced changes to immigration policy, Canada's population is set to slow.



Productivity Canada's productivity continues to struggle. The Bank of Canada referred to this as a productivity emergency.



Investment

Business investment remains soft.



Households

Household debt is acting as a drag on consumer spending.

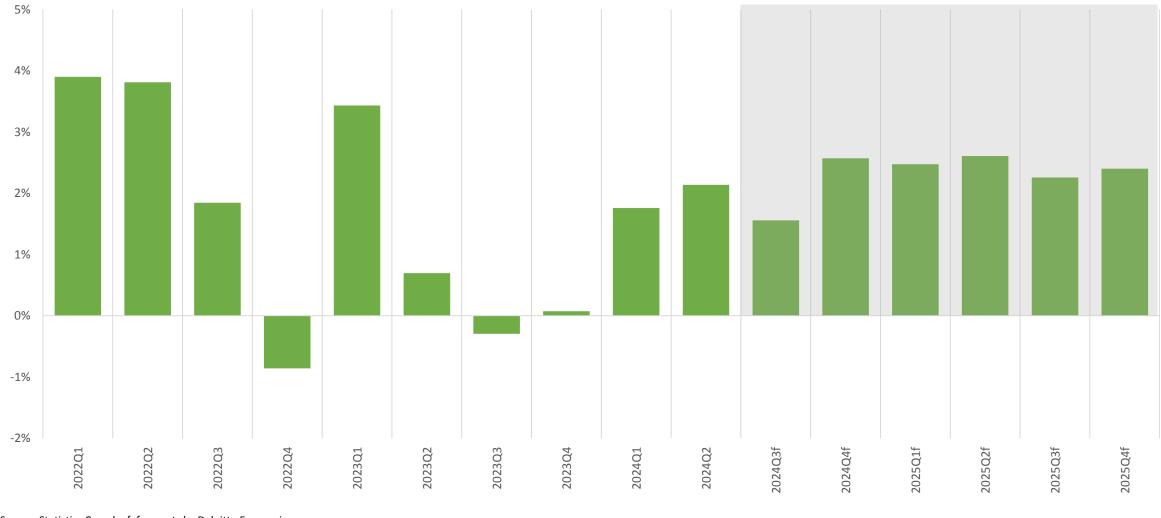


Preparing for trade tensions

Macroeconomic Update

Navigating uncertainty

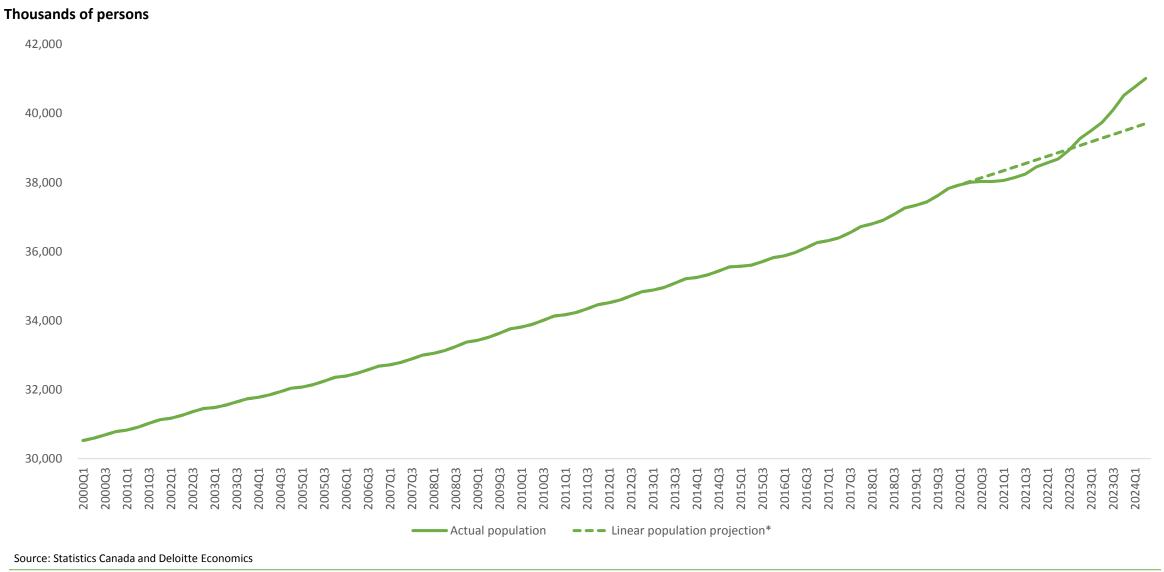
Canada's economy has started the year strongly; growth expected to accelerate next year but not as strongly as initially expected. Real GDP, Canada, quarter-over-quarter annualized % change



Source: Statistics Canada; f: forecasts by Deloitte Economics

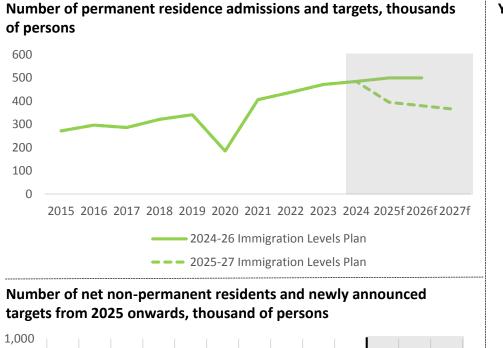
Population growth in perspective

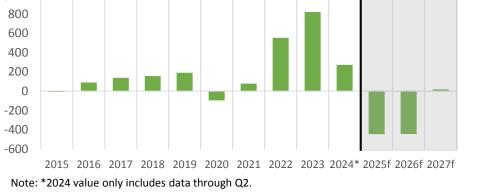
Canada's population has grown rapidly in recent years, running stronger than historical patterns would suggest.



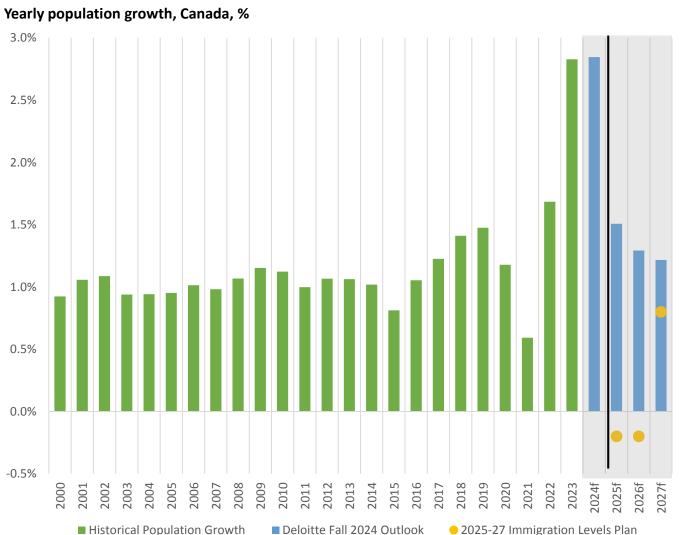
About turn

Feds make big pivot on immigration; population growth now projected to run negative for the next two years.



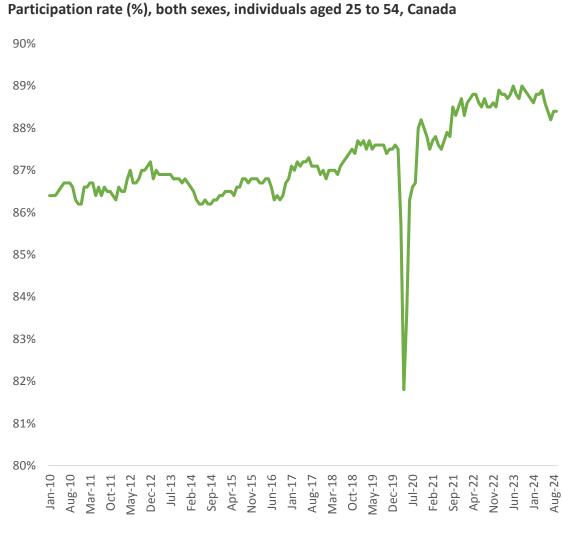


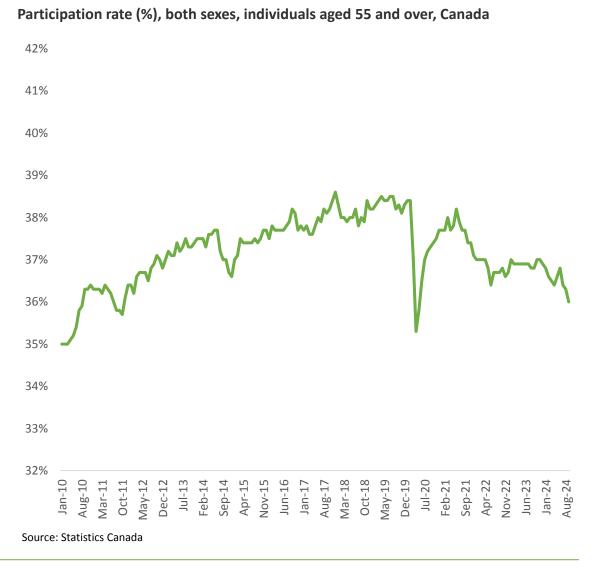
Source: Statistics Canada, Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada and Deloitte Economics



What is the current state of the workforce?

Participation rates for core workers have recovered well, but an increasing number of workers are retiring.





Source: Statistics Canada

GDP per person continues to struggle

Amid eye-popping immigration flows, Canada's GDP per capita has trended lower, declining for 5 consecutive quarters.



Falling behind

In the last thirty plus years, U.S. GDP per worker has grown at more than double the rate of Canada's.

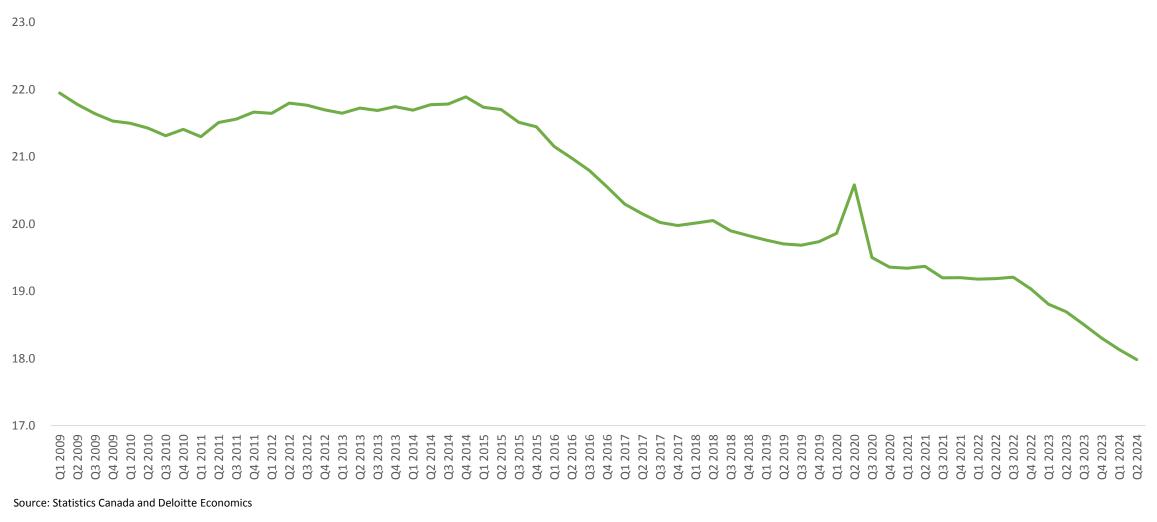
Index of real GDP per worker, 1990Q1 = 100



Assessing possible root causes

For too long, Canada has been asking its labour force to do more with less.

Stock of machinery and equipment per available worker, thousands of constant 2017\$



Note: Capital stock is valued geometric end-year net stock; labour force is derived as the quarterly average of the seasonally-adjusted monthly labour force.

Chronically weak business investment

The lack of robust business investment is hurting productivity growth.



Energy investment is unlikely to recover

Oil and Gas firms are unlikely to increase energy investment significantly.

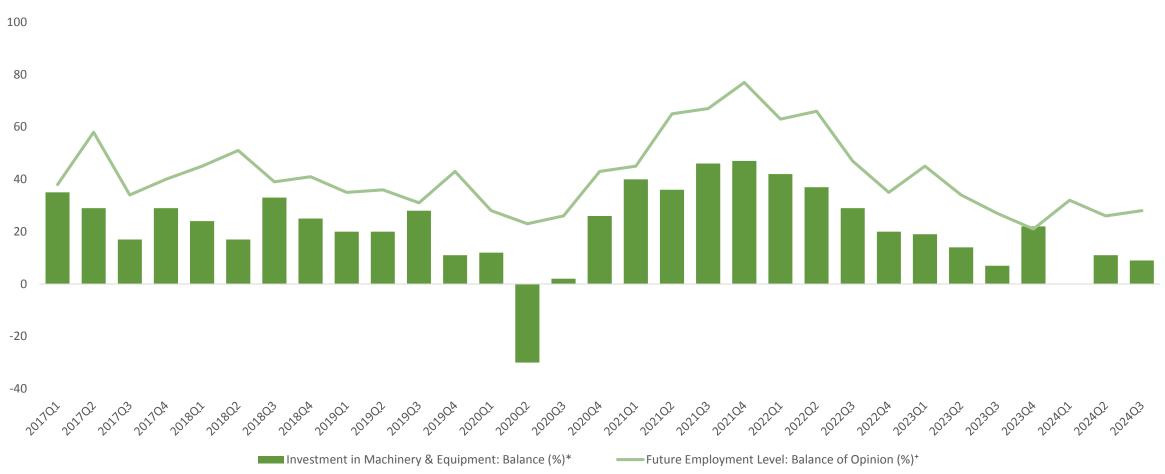
Investment in oil and gas, millions, Chain Fisher constant dollars, WTI price



Firms are hesitant given the uncertain backdrop

Business investment and hiring will be limited over the coming year.

Balance of opinion

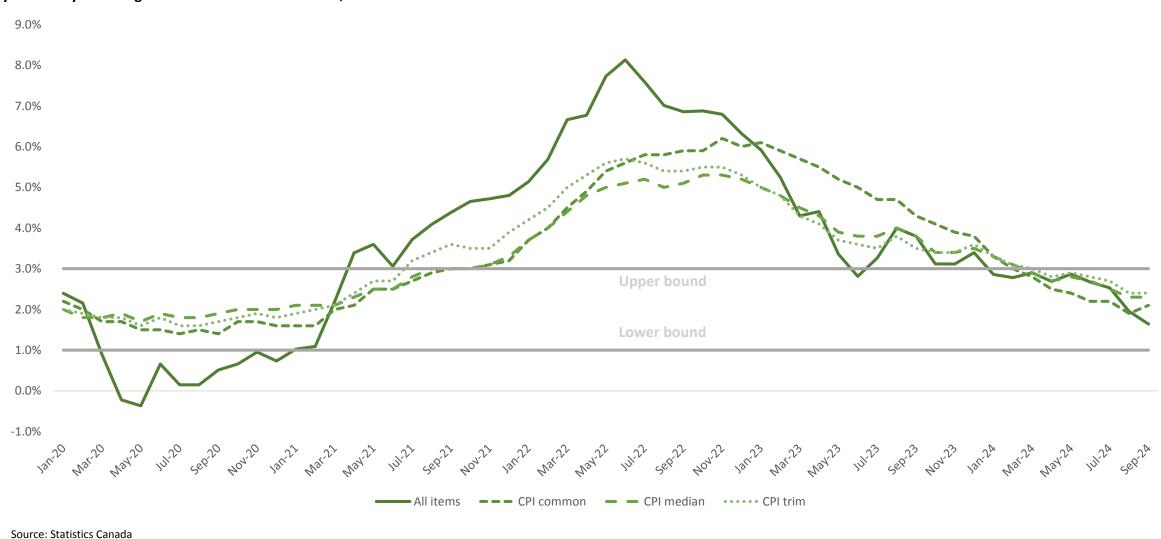


Source: Bank of Canada

*Percentage of firms expecting higher investment spending minus the percentage of firms expecting lower investment spending *Percentage of firms expecting higher employment levels minus the percentage of firms expecting lower employment levels

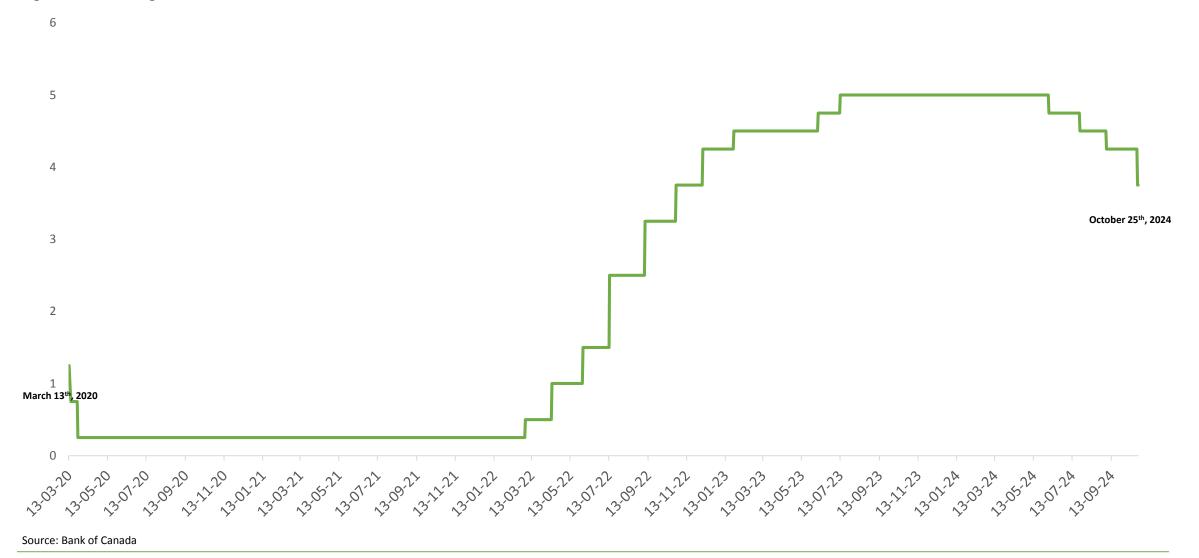
Mission accomplished?

All measures of inflation have been within the Bank of Canada's target range for a few months.



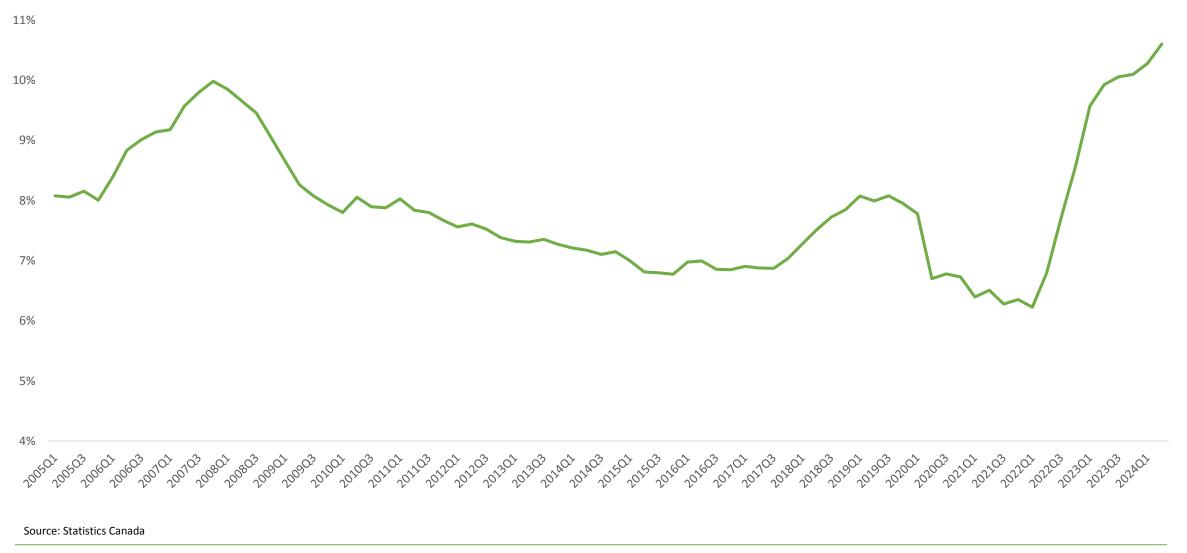
Snip snip

Despite geopolitical concerns, further rate cuts could help to encourage an improvement in business sentiment. Target for the overnight rate, %



Household debt remains a significant risk

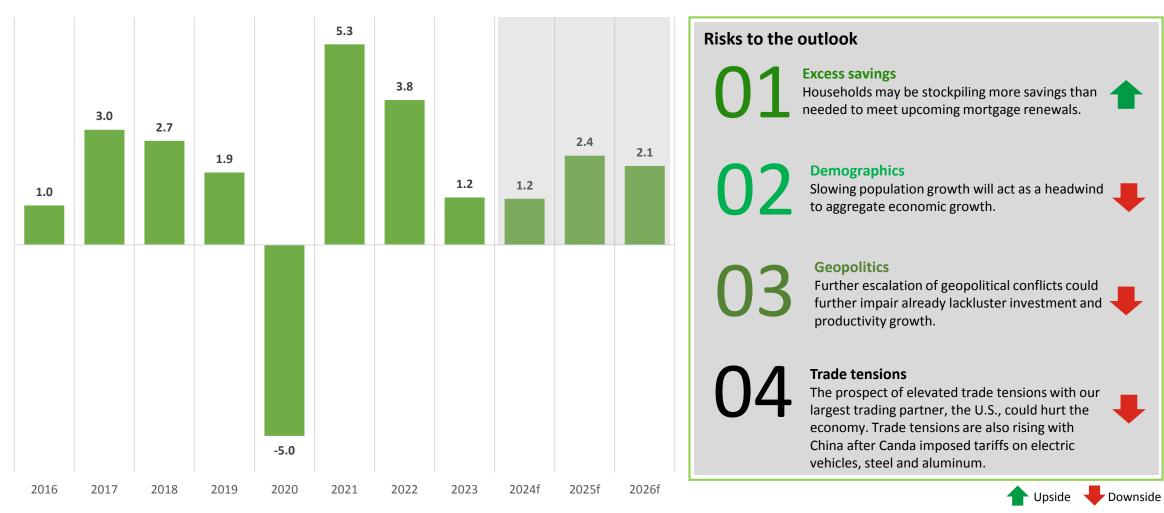
Payments on debt continue to rise as previous increases in interest rates feed into household debt servicing costs with a lag. Ratio of household interest payments to disposable income, Canada



Final takeaways and risks to the outlook

Real GDP growth will accelerate next year and remain solid through 2026.

Real GDP growth, %, Canada



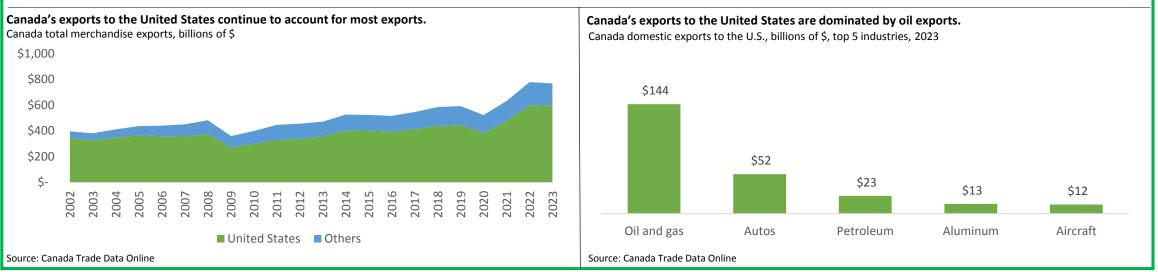
Source: Statistics Canada, f: forecasts by Deloitte

Preparing for rising trade tensions



Background

During the 2024 U.S. presidential campaign, Donald Trump proposed implementing a universal tariff – a 10% tariff on all imported goods (except that for China the tariff may be even higher, at 60%). Presumably, the goal of these measures would be to protect United States' (US') industries from foreign competition and to reduce the long-standing US trade deficit. Given Canada's experience during the 2016-2020 U.S. presidency, economists have therefore been busy trying to quantify the macroeconomic impacts of a second Trump presidency. However, while the intention of the Trump proposals are perhaps the most well elucidated, it is less clear how a Harris presidency would treat to the issue of addressing the trade deficit. While the means may be different, it's clear that both candidates seem committed to the same ends of bolstering U.S. manufacturing capacity. With CUSMA up for review in 2026, Canada must ready itself to deal with any outcome.



At Deloitte, we've assessed the potential impacts of Trump's proposal and found that should this idea indeed become policy, this could shave about 1.1% off real GDP growth relative to baseline. While Canada will be able to redirect some exports away from the U.S. market, it won't be able to do so fully given the importance of the U.S. as a trading partner. In addition, we also modelled a couple of additional scenarios, one of which assessed whether Canada and Mexico were exempted from the tariffs. In this case, Canada would gain an additional 0.9% in real GDP growth relative to baseline due to a lack of competition.

Estimated impacts on the Canadian economy, policy vs baseline, cumulative, 2025-2040			
Scenario	Real GDP	Real GDP (2017 dollars, \$B)	СРІ
10% additional tariff on all countries	-1.1%	-\$389	-1.2%
Canada and Mexico exempted from 10% additional tariffs on all countries	0.9%	\$334	2.7%

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