Manufacturing Public Policy Monthly Slide Deck

Prepared by

Inside the Beltway Solutions, LLC

January 30, 2026

PMPA
PRECISION MACHINED PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION

INSIDE BELTWAY

INSIDE BELTWAY

About Inside Beltway

- Washington-D.C.-based non-partisan lobbying, strategic consulting, and industry research firm
- Assist clients to navigate the complexity of public policy to help make informed decisions
- Represent clients before the White House, federal departments and agencies, the U.S. Congress, and other government and industry organizations

Key Services

- Lobbying and Public Policy Advocacy
- Strategic Planning
- Industry Research

INSIDE BELTWAY

Inside Beltway cannot provide legal or financial advice

February 2026 Monthly Content

U.S. Congress
119th U.S. Congress (2025-2026)
Congressional Funding Progressing
Manufacturing Extension Partnership Funding
FY26 Workforce Education Funding Levels

Regulatory Update
IRS Starts 2026 Filing Season
IRS FAQ on Refunds
Guidance on 1st Year Depreciation Deduction
FAQs on Qualified Overtime Compensation
OSHA HazCom Standard Compliance Extended
OSHA 300A Postings; E-Filings Due
DoL WHD Compliance Tools
DoL-Education Dept State Plan Guidance
Apprenticeship Week – April 26-May 2
Mfg Apprenticeship Incentive Fund Portal
EEOC to Require Approval for Litigation
EEOC Rescinds 2024 Harassment Guidance
EPA No Not Assigning Monetary Value to Rules
EPA Weakens Gas Turbine Nox Standards
EPA May Reverse Good Neighbor Plans
CA Climate Disclosure Laws Update

Regulatory Update (con't.)
Energy Dept. Office Restructuring
$155m from Energy Dept. for Nat'l Labs

Trade and Tariff Actions
CBP Launches Forced Labor Portal
CBP Shifts to Electronic Refunds
232 Action on Semiconductors, Critical Minerals
Trade Deal with Taiwan Signed
EU-India Reach Free Trade Agreement
Tariff Threat on Oil Sales to Cuba
Tariff Threat on Canadian Aircraft
Treasury Finds No Currency Manipulation
Fastener Co. Sues over CBP 232 Steel Valuations
No U.S. Supreme Court Decision on IEEPA

Supply Lines and Industry Data
U.S. Tariff Revenue $28b in December
Global Copper Demand
Swiss Exports to U.S. Set Record
15% of EU EVs Made in China
Electricity Usage Increase
Dollar at Lowest Level Since 2021

119^{th} U.S. Congress (2025-2026)

Congressional Funding Progressing

- As of 01/30/26 08:00 hrs, 6 of 12 signed into law
- Passed: Commerce, Justice, Science; Energy & Water; Agriculture; Interior (EPA); Military Construction & Veterans Affairs; Legislative Branch
- Pending: Defense; Labor-HHS; Financial Services; Homeland Security; State; Transportation-HUD;
- White House, Senate Democrats deal to extend DHS funding for two weeks; pass other bills

Manufacturing Extension Partnership Funding

- MEPs funded through Department of Commerce
- Congress restored full funding to $175 million
- Law includes language requiring the MEP program to maintain an MEP Center in all 50 states and PR
- Trump administration proposed zero MEP funding
- Administration in April initially ended contracts with 10 states, then reversed and restored
- Ohio MEPs still not operating due to audit

FY26 Workforce Education Funding Levels

- Perkins CTE: $1.45 billion
  - $50m increase based on House proposal
- WIOA Adult: $886 million
- WIOA Youth: $948 million
- WIOA Dislocated Worker: $1.4 billion
- Registered Apprenticeship: $285 million
- Perkins State Grant: $1.4 billion

Regulatory Update and Administrative Actions

IRS Starts 2026 Filing Season

Get help preparing and filing electronically

Filing electronically and choosing direct deposit remains the fastest way to receive a refund.

- IRS Free File offers eligible taxpayers brand-name tax preparation software at no cost.
- Free File Fillable Forms are available to taxpayers who are comfortable preparing and filing their own returns, regardless of income level.
- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and Tax Counseling for the Elderly programs offer free basic tax return preparation to qualified individuals.

More than half of taxpayers use a tax professional to prepare and file their tax returns. The IRS encourages taxpayers to review tips for choosing a tax preparer and learn how to avoid unethical "ghost" return preparers.

Most refunds are issued within 21 days

Direct deposit is the fastest way to receive a refund. Additionally, in accordance with Executive Order 14247, the IRS began phasing out paper tax refund checks on Sept. 30, 2025, meaning most taxpayers must provide their routing and account numbers to receive refunds directly deposited into their bank accounts.

Taxpayers can track refund status using Where's My Refund?, the IRS2Go app, or their IRS Individual Online Account.

While the IRS issues most refunds in fewer than 21 days, some returns require additional review and may take longer.

EITC and ACTC refunds available by March 2

The IRS expects most refunds for the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Additional Child Tax Credit to be available in bank accounts or on debit cards by March 2, 2026, for taxpayers who chose direct deposit and have no other issues with their returns. Some taxpayers may receive their refund earlier, depending on their financial institution. Where's My Refund? will provide projected deposit dates for most early EITC/ACTC refund filers by Feb. 21, 2026.

For more information and tools to help file a complete and accurate return and avoid errors that can delay refunds, visit IRS.gov.

https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/irs-opens-2026-filing-season

IRS FAQ on Refunds

Q1. What changes are being made to how refunds are delivered pursuant to Executive Order 14247 and what effect do the changes have on the process of filing a tax return? (added Jan. 27, 2026)

A1. Executive Order 14247 states that the Treasury must stop issuing paper checks effective Sept. 30, 2025, to the extent permitted by law. The federal government must continue to issue certified payments in some limited circumstances and will issue a limited number of paper checks in cases where no alternative is available. Otherwise, the IRS generally stopped issuing paper refund checks for individual taxpayers after Sept. 30, 2025.

No changes are being made to the process of filing a tax return itself based on Executive Order 14247 at this time. The IRS will publish all guidance and information necessary for filing 2025 tax returns before opening the 2026 tax filing season. Until further notice, taxpayers should continue to use existing filing options.

Q2. Will taxpayers without bank accounts still be able to receive refunds? (added Jan. 27, 2026)

A2. Yes. While direct deposit into a bank account will remain the primary method for issuing refunds, the Executive Order explicitly acknowledges that not all individuals have access to traditional banking services. Alternative electronic payment methods, including payments via certain mobile apps and prepaid debit cards, will be available to serve these individuals. Limited exceptions to the paper check phase-out will also be established.

https://www.irs.gov/pub/taxpros/fs-2026-02.pdf

IRS FAQ on Refunds

Q3. What should taxpayers do now to prepare for this change? (added Jan. 27, 2026)

A3. Taxpayers should:

- Ensure their direct deposit information is up to date when filing their tax return.
- Consider opening a low- or no-cost bank or credit union account if they don't currently have one. Resources to open an account at a bank or credit union are available at FDIC: GetBanked and MyCreditUnion.gov.
- Monitor IRS.gov for updates on alternative electronic payment options and exception processes for those who cannot receive funds electronically.

Q4. Will the transition delay tax refunds? (added Jan. 27, 2026)

A4. In most cases, no. One of the goals of Executive Order 14247 is to reduce delays and ensure timely, accurate payments. Electronic delivery is faster and more secure than paper checks. In most cases, taxpayers will receive their refunds sooner by using electronic methods, eliminating the risk of their paper check being lost or stolen.

Q5. What will happen if taxpayers do not include direct deposit information on tax returns? (added Jan. 27, 2026)

A5. Providing electronic payment information is voluntary. If taxpayers do not provide this information and no exception applies, their refunds could take longer to process. Taxpayers should provide direct deposit information when filing a tax return. If banking information is missing when filing a tax return, the tax return will still be accepted and processed. However, when filing electronically, the taxpayer may receive an alert notifying them of the missing banking information and outlining the next steps if they are due a refund.

https://www.irs.gov/pub/taxpros/fs-2026-02.pdf

Guidance on 1st Year Depreciation Deduction

Treasury, IRS issue guidance on the additional first year depreciation deduction amended as part of the One, Big, Beautiful Bill

IR-2026-06, Jan. 14, 2026

WASHINGTON — The Department of the Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service today issued Notice 2026-11 PDF that provides taxpayers with guidance on the permanent 100% additional first year depreciation deduction for eligible depreciable property acquired after Jan. 19, 2025, provided by the One, Big, Beautiful Bill. The notice also provides guidance on certain qualified sound recording productions that the OBBB added as property that may be eligible for the additional first year depreciation deduction.

Generally, when taxpayers acquire property for business use, they must depreciate it over several years based on various depreciation schedules.

The notice also provides interim guidance to taxpayers that they may generally rely on the existing additional first year depreciation deduction regulations. The notice provides rules for determining whether depreciable property is eligible for the additional first year depreciation deduction and for determining the amount of such deduction allowable under the OBBB. In general, the OBBB provides a permanent 100-percent additional first year depreciation deduction for qualified property acquired, or specified plants that are planted or grafted, after Jan. 19, 2025.

https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/treasury-irs-issue-guidance-on-the-additional-first-year-depreciation-deduction-amended-as-part-of-the-one-big-beautiful-bill?utm_source=sfmc&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=&utm_term=20260115Tax_TaxClips&utm_content=1/15/2026

Guidance on 1st Year Depreciation Deduction

Elections related to the additional first year depreciation deduction

The notice also provides interim guidance on elections taxpayers can make for certain property to be eligible for the additional first year depreciation deduction. Under the OBBB, taxpayers may elect:

- To deduct 40-percent (60-percent for certain property having longer production periods or certain aircraft) instead of the 100-percent additional first year depreciation deduction for qualified property placed in service during the first tax year ending after Jan. 19, 2025,
- To deduct additional first year depreciation for one or more specified plants,
- To treat certain acquired or self-constructed components of larger self-constructed property as generally eligible for the additional first year depreciation deduction, and
- Not to deduct the additional first year depreciation for a qualified sound recording production.

https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/treasury-irs-issue-guidance-on-the-additional-first-year-depreciation-deduction-amended-as-part-of-the-one-big-beautiful-bill?utm_source=sfmc&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=&utm_term=20260115Tax_TaxClips&utm_content=1/15/2026

FAQs on Qualified Overtime Compensation

Treasury, IRS issue FAQs to address the new deduction for qualified overtime compensation under the One, Big, Beautiful Bill

IR-2026-10, Jan. 23, 2026

WASHINGTON — The Department of the Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service today issued frequently asked questions in Fact Sheet 2026-01 related to the new deduction for qualified overtime compensation under the One, Big, Beautiful Bill.

For tax years 2025 through 2028, individuals who receive qualified overtime compensation may deduct the amount that exceeds their regular rate of pay (generally, the "half" portion of "time-and-a-half" compensation) and is reported on a Form W-2 or Form 1099.

These FAQs contain additional information about the deduction, provide resources for employees (including federal employees) to assist them in determining whether they received qualified overtime compensation under the Fair Labor Standards Act, and contain useful information regarding the differences in reporting requirements for tax year 2025 and 2026-2028.

https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/treasury-irs-issue-faqs-to-address-the-new-deduction-for-qualified-overtime-compensation-under-the-one-big-beautiful-bill

FAQs on Qualified Overtime Compensation

General information

Q1. What is qualified overtime compensation for purposes of the deduction?

A1. Qualified overtime compensation is overtime compensation paid to an individual required under section 7 of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) (29 USC § 207) that exceeds the regular rate at which the individual is employed. For example, if an individual is paid at "one and one-half times" their regular rate for an hour of overtime work as required by the FLSA, the "half" portion of the "one and one-half times" paid for an hour of overtime work is qualified overtime compensation.

- For overtime to be required under the FLSA, it must, among other requirements, be paid to an individual who is both covered by the FLSA and not exempt from the FLSA's overtime requirement (an FLSA overtime-eligible employee). See Q2/A2 and Q3/A3 to determine if you are covered by and not exempt from the FLSA's overtime requirement.
- An individual who is ineligible for overtime under the FLSA does not receive qualified overtime compensation regardless of other laws or circumstances (such as a collective bargaining agreement) providing for overtime pay.
- Individuals eligible for overtime under the FLSA generally must receive overtime pay for hours worked in excess of 40 in a workweek at a rate not less than one and one-half times their regular rate of pay. If an individual is eligible for overtime under the FLSA, but the individual's employer pays more than is required under the FLSA, the qualified overtime compensation is limited to the portion of the overtime that is required by the FLSA that is in excess of the regular rate. For example, if an employer pays double the individual's regular rate for hours worked over 40 in a workweek, only the one-half portion that is relied upon to comply with the FLSA requirement is qualified overtime compensation.

https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/questions-and-answers-about-the-new-deduction-for-qualified-overtime-compensation

FAQs on Qualified Overtime Compensation

Q2. How do I determine whether I am covered by and not exempt from the FLSA? In other words, how do I determine if I am an FLSA overtime-eligible employee?

A2. Though it is common for employees working in the United States to be covered by the FLSA, there are many exemptions from its overtime premium requirement. Whether an individual is covered by and not exempt under the FLSA is a fact-specific determination that depends on the individual's occupation, work activities, and/or earnings.

More information on coverage and exemption under the FLSA can be found on the Department of Labor website. See Fact Sheet #14: Coverage Under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) | U.S. Department of Labor, and # 8 in the Handy Reference Guide to the Fair Labor Standards Act.

https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/questions-and-answers-about-the-new-deduction-for-qualified-overtime-compensation

FAQs on Qualified Overtime Compensation

Q4. What is the deduction amount? Are there limits to the deduction?

A4. The deduction is up to $12,500 of qualified overtime compensation earned for the year per return ($25,000 in the case of a joint return). The deduction is reduced if a taxpayer's modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) for the tax year exceeds $150,000 ($300,000 for joint filers). See Notice 2025-69 PDF for more information on how to calculate MAGI for this purpose.

Q5. Are there other rules that apply to the deduction?

A5. Yes.

- The taxpayer who received the qualified overtime compensation must have a social security number valid for employment and must include the social security number on the tax return claiming the deduction.
- If the taxpayer is married (within the meaning of section 7703), the taxpayer and the taxpayer's spouse must file a joint return to claim the deduction. If both spouses received qualified overtime compensation, both spouses must have a social security number valid for employment and must include both social security numbers on the tax return claiming the deduction.

https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/questions-and-answers-about-the-new-deduction-for-qualified-overtime-compensation

OSHA Hazard Communication Standard Compliance Extended

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Occupational Safety and Health Administration

29 CFR Part 1910

[Docket No. OSHA–2019–0001]

RIN 1218–AC93

Hazard Communication Standard

AGENCY: Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Labor.

ACTION: Final rule; extension of compliance dates.

SUMMARY: OSHA is extending the compliance dates in its Hazardous Communications Standard (29 CFR 1910.1200), published in the **Federal Register** on May 20, 2024 (89 FR 44144), by four months. The compliance date in § 1910.1200(j)(2)(i) is extended from January 19, 2026, until May 19, 2026; the compliance date in § 1910.1200(j)(2)(ii) is extended from July 20, 2026 to November 20, 2026; the compliance date in § 1910.1200(j)(3)(i) is extended from July 19, 2027 to November 19, 2027; and the compliance date in § 1910.1200(j)(3)(ii) is extended from January 19, 2028 to May 19, 2028.

DATES: Effective Date January 15, 2026.

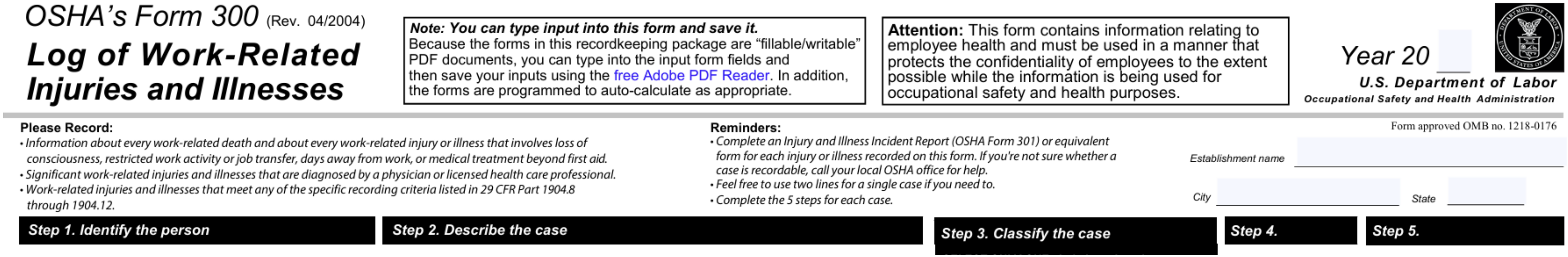
https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/01/15/2026-00653/hazard-communication-standard

OSHA Hazard Communication Standard Compliance Extended

- Manufacturers, importers, and distributors, evaluating substances – From Jan. 19, 2026 to May 19, 2026
- Workplace labeling, update hazard communication program & employee training for substances – From July 20, 2026 to November 20, 2026
- Chemical manufacturers, importers, and distributors evaluating mixtures – From July 19, 2027 to November 19, 2027
- Workplace labeling, update hazard communication program & employee training for mixtures – From January 19, 2028 to May 19, 2028

https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/01/15/2026-00653/hazard-communication-standard

OSHA 300A Postings; E-Filings Due


OSHA's Form 300 (Rev. 04/2004)

Log of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses

Note: You can type input into this form and save it. Because the forms in this recordkeeping package are "fillable/writable" PDF documents, you can type into the input form fields and then save your inputs using the free Adobe PDF Reader. In addition, the forms are programmed to auto-calculate as appropriate.

Attention: This form contains information relating to employee health and must be used in a manner that protects the confidentiality of employees to the extent possible while the information is being used for occupational safety and health purposes.

Year 20

U.S. Department of Labor

Occupational Safety and Health Administration

Form approved OMB no. 1218-0176

Please Record:
- *Information about every work-related death and about every work-related injury or illness that involves loss of consciousness, restricted work activity or job transfer, days away from work, or medical treatment beyond first aid.*
- *Significant work-related injuries and illnesses that are diagnosed by a physician or licensed health care professional.*
- *Work-related injuries and illnesses that meet any of the specific recording criteria listed in 29 CFR Part 1904.8 through 1904.12.*

Reminders:
- *Complete an Injury and Illness Incident Report (OSHA Form 301) or equivalent form for each injury or illness recorded on this form. If you're not sure whether a case is recordable, call your local OSHA office for help.*
- *Feel free to use two lines for a single case if you need to.*
- *Complete the 5 steps for each case.*

Establishment name

City

State

Step 1. Identify the person | **Step 2. Describe the case** | **Step 3. Classify the case** | **Step 4.** | **Step 5.**

- February 1: Employers must post 300A summary of injuries and illnesses recorded in 2025 at workplace until April 30
- March 2: Deadline for covered employers to submit 2025 injury and illness data through Injury Tracking Application

As of Jan. 2, 2026

https://www.osha.gov/injuryreporting

DoL WHD Compliance Tools

US DEPARTMENT OF LABOR ANNOUNCES COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE TOOLS TO HELP EMPLOYERS UNDERSTAND FEDERAL LABOR LAWS, AVOID VIOLATIONS

Resources designed to encourage proactive compliance, educate employees

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division today announced the launch of several compliance assistance resources designed to promote greater compliance with federal labor laws and empower employers with the tools and knowledge they need to prevent violations.

The new tools include a compliance assistance webpage, a video series on the Family and Medical Leave Act, and revamped compliance assistance toolkits for various industries. In addition to encouraging proactive compliance among employers across the country, the resources also provide American businesses and workers with simple, straightforward guidance on understanding federal labor laws.

The division also offers the Payroll Audit Independent Determination program known as PAID, to help employers self-report and resolve potential minimum wage and overtime violations under the Fair Labor Standards Act, and now certain potential violations under the FMLA.

https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/whd/whd20260126 *As of Jan. 26, 2026*

DoL-Education Dept State Plan Guidance

US DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, EDUCATION ISSUE GUIDANCE FOR STATE PLANS TO ALIGN EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEMS

WASHINGTON – In a continuing commitment to streamlining the federal workforce and education systems, the U.S. departments of Labor and Education today released guidance to support states in updating their Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act State Plans.

Today's guidance builds on the agencies' collaborative efforts over the past year, including the transition of the WIOA State Plan Portal to Department of Labor, activating Perkins V and Adult Education Basic Grants through the Department of Labor's GrantSolutions and the Payment Management System, and publishing available WIOA waiver and flexibility options to more closely integrate programs.

Under WIOA, state governors are required to submit four-year state plans and strategies for their state's workforce development systems, creating an opportunity for states to align their strategies with America's Talent Strategy, the Trump Administration's blueprint for transforming the federal government's approach to workforce development. Through this alignment, federal workforce and education investments will meet the talent needs of employers and empower more Americans to access high-wage careers.

https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/whd/whd20260126

As of Jan. 26, 2026

Apprenticeship Week – April 26-May 2

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Labor today announced the 2026 National Apprenticeship Week will take place from April 26-May 2, marking the nationwide celebration's move to spring.

National Apprenticeship Week is an annual nationwide celebration for employers, educators, state agencies, unions, and many others to showcase how Registered Apprenticeship improves and expands career pathways for American workers, while helping employers drive economic growth across all industries. Since its inception in 2015, more than 2 million people participated in more than 10,000 National Apprenticeship Week events, and over 3,250 proclamations have been issued in support of Registered Apprenticeship.

National Apprenticeship Week 2026 will include events across all 50 states and U.S. territories reflecting the theme, "America at Work: Making America Skilled Again Through Registered Apprenticeship," and advance the Trump Administration's goal of ensuring America's workforce is equipped to meet the opportunities of the "Golden Age" of industry and innovation. As the nation celebrates its 250th year and continues its reindustrialization, the theme reflects Registered Apprenticeship's prominence as a key strategy to ensure the American worker is equipped for the skilled jobs of today and tomorrow.

Find a National Apprenticeship Week 2026 event near you and learn how to participate.

https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20260128-0

Mfg Apprenticeship Incentive Fund Portal

US DEPARTMENT LABOR, ARKANSAS ANNOUNCE AMERICAN MANUFACTURING APPRENTICESHIP INCENTIVE FUND PORTAL NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Registered Apprenticeship sponsors can apply for manufacturing job funding

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Labor today announced the launch of the American Manufacturing Apprenticeship Incentive Fund portal, which will accept applications from eligible Registered Apprenticeship sponsors nationwide.

This initiative was designed through a cooperative agreement with Arkansas and represents an innovative approach that aligns with America's Talent Strategy, the Trump Administration's blueprint for transforming the federal government's approach to workforce development, and supports President Trump's goal of reaching and surpassing 1 million active apprentices.

The $35.8 million American Manufacturing Apprenticeship Incentive Fund is designed to incentivize employers nationwide to develop, expand, or join existing advanced manufacturing Registered Apprenticeship programs through a pay-for-performance model. Through the program, eligible Registered Apprenticeship sponsors will receive $3,500 for each new apprentice hired.

Connect to the American Manufacturing Incentive Fund application portal

https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20260128

As of Jan. 28, 2026

EEOC to Require Approval for Litigation

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) voted 2-1 this week to approve a resolution modifying its procedures to initiate or intervene in litigation.

The resolution returns to the EEOC Chair and Commissioners the authority to approve or disapprove new and intervening litigation. The EEOC General Counsel will retain delegated litigation authority in limited circumstances, including during a loss of quorum.

"Congress expressly entrusted the authority to commence or intervene in litigation to the members of the Commission in Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964," **said EEOC Chair Andrea Lucas.** "Over 30 years ago, the Commission essentially gave that authority away. This week's resolution further builds on work done in the first Trump Administration to restore to the Commission panel the critical responsibility to authorize litigation. The new resolution enables the Commission to directly execute that authority in the vast majority of cases, with the transparency and accountability of the Commission's voting process."

The General Counsel is responsible for submitting cases to the Commission for a vote. The General Counsel otherwise retains delegated authority to initiate litigation in certain limited situations, including to enforce settlements, consent decrees, subpoena enforcement actions, and temporary restraining orders.

As of Jan. 23, 2026

https://www.eeoc.gov/newsroom/eeoc-commission-adopts-resolution-require-commission-approval-almost-all-litigation

EEOC Rescinds 2024 Harassment Guidance

Disagreement with gender identity interpretations (bathroom access, pronouns, dress preferences)

Background on 2024 Guidance: Consolidated prior harassment guidance addressing race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information and included EEOC's position on LGBTQ discrimination following.

Legal Status: Federal anti-harassment laws and Supreme Court precedent remain in effect. State and local harassment laws unaffected. 2024 guidance was non-binding, rescission does not change underlying law.

As of Jan. 23, 2026

https://www.eeoc.gov/newsroom/eeoc-commission-votes-rescind-2024-harassment-guidance

EPA No Not Assigning Monetary Value to Rules

- EPA will no longer assign monetary value to health benefits from reducing PM2.5 (fine particulate matter) and ozone when setting air pollution regulations
- EPA previously estimated that for every $1 spent reducing PM2.5, there could be $77 in health benefits
- Agency will continue to quantify emissions but not monetize health impacts
- Cost-benefit analyses will now focus primarily on industry compliance costs

As of Jan. 15, 2026

https://www.epa.gov/stationary-sources-air-pollution/stationary-gas-and-combustion-turbines-new-source-performance

EPA Weakens Gas Turbine Nox Standards

New Source Performance Standards for Stationary Combustion Turbines: Final Rule

Summary of Action

- On January 9, 2026, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized amendments to the New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) for Stationary Combustion Turbines and Stationary Gas Turbines. These amendments set standards of performance for emissions of the criteria air pollutants nitrogen oxide (NO_X) and sulfur dioxide (SO_2).
- This final action, issued under 40 CFR part 60, subpart KKKKa:
    - Establishes subcategories for new, modified, or reconstructed stationary combustion turbines.
    - Revises the NO_X standards of performance for certain subcategories of stationary combustion turbines to reflect the degree of emission limitation achievable based upon application of the best systems of emissions reduction (BSER).
    - Finalizes an additional subcategory for stationary temporary combustion turbines.
    - Maintains the current limits for SO_2 and finalizes flexibilities regarding when performance tests must be conducted after long periods of non-operation. Additionally, it allows owners and operators to use fuel records to comply with the applicable SO_2 standard.

As of Jan. 9, 2026

https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2026-01/correct_fact-sheet-nsps-stationary-combustion-turbines.pdf

EPA Weakens Gas Turbine Nox Standards

- Manufacturing facilities with gas turbines may face less stringent NOx controls
- Some gas plants have weaker limits than 2006 standards
- Special carve-out allows temporary gas turbines (used at data centers) to emit more NOx than other sources
- EPA will no longer monetize health benefits from reducing NOx and other pollutants in cost-benefit analyses

As of Jan. 9, 2026

https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2026-01/correct_fact-sheet-nsps-stationary-combustion-turbines.pdf

EPA May Reverse Good Neighbor Plans

WASHINGTON – On January 27, 2026, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed phase 1 of its reconsideration of the deeply flawed Biden-era "Good Neighbor Plan." Under phase 1, the agency is proposing to approve eight states' State Implementation Plans (SIPs) pertaining to the 2015 eight-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). If finalized, Alabama, Arizona, Kentucky, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, New Mexico, and Tennessee would no longer need to worry about another "Good Neighbor Plan" and could implement the remainder of their SIPs.

Today's proposal demonstrates the Trump EPA's commitment to advance cooperative federalism and recognizes the important responsibility EPA shares with our state air agency partners to ensure clean air for all Americans. In stark contrast, the Biden EPA disapproved the 2015 eight-hour ozone NAAQS SIPs for Alabama, Kentucky, Minnesota, Mississippi, and Nevada; proposed to disapprove portions of the SIPs for Arizona, New Mexico, and Tennessee, and proposed error corrections on previous SIP approvals for Iowa and Kansas, claiming the states did not include sufficient provisions to control ozone emissions that travel across state lines. These decisions were made despite these states properly using EPA-supported modeling and thresholds to demonstrate they were not interfering with the attainment of the NAAQS in other states. The Biden-Harris administration took it a step further by improperly finalizing the "Good Neighbor Plan," which mandated strict emission controls for power plants, natural gas pipelines, cement and cement product manufacturing, iron and steel mills and ferroalloy manufacturing, glass and glass product manufacturing, metal ore mining, basic chemical manufacturing, petroleum and coal products manufacturing, pulp, paper, and paperboard mills, and solid waste combustors or incinerators across 20 states, including six of the states mentioned in today's action. This was despite 21 states demonstrating they did not need to address emissions activity within the state in order to not interfere with other states' ability to meet CAA standards. In June 2024, the U.S. Supreme Court stayed the rule, finding that it was likely unreasonable and irrational in key respects. Additionally, two other federal courts vacated EPA's SIP disapprovals for Kentucky and Mississippi.

of Jan. 28, 2026

https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-advances-cooperative-federalism-improve-air-quality-taking-important-step

CA Climate Disclosure Laws Update

- SB 253 (GHG Emissions Reporting)
  - Applies to companies >$1B revenue doing business in CA
  - CARB proposed implementing regulations (Dec. 2025)
  - Public comments due Feb. 9, 2026; hearing Feb. 26, 2026
  - Scope 1 & 2 reporting begins 2026; Scope 3 phased in
  - No court injunction—rulemaking moving forward
- SB 261 (Climate Financial Risk Disclosure)
  - Applies to companies >$500M revenue doing business in CA
  - CARB issued proposed regulations (Dec. 2025)
  - Enforcement stayed pending Ninth Circuit litigation
  - Rulemaking continues; compliance timing uncertain

Energy Dept. Office Restructuring

Dissolved

Grid Deployment Office; Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations; Manufacturing and Energy Supply Chains - MERGED with Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

New Structure Under CMEI

Office of Critical Minerals, Materials, and Manufacturing
Office of Energy Technology
Office of Innovation, Affordability, and Consumer Choice

As of Jan. 28, 2026

https://www.energy.gov/cmei/articles/energy-department-announces-realignment-critical-minerals-and-energy-innovation

$155m from Energy Dept. for Nat'l Labs

Project Title: National Library for Iron Ore and Scrap

Project Lead: INL

City/State: Idaho Falls, ID

Primary Project Partner: ORNL, NLR

Federal Funding: $5,000,000

Project Description:
Idaho National Laboratory along with Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the National Laboratory of the Rockies will establish the National Library of Iron Ore and Steel Scrap. The library will serve as an iron ore and steel scrap resource center to acquire, characterize, and subdivide iron ore samples in various stages of the refinement process and various forms of scrap, enabling the critical research necessary for the future of the iron and steel industry. The library will provide a variety of well characterized accessible samples of scrap and iron ore to researchers in kilogram quantities. This will enable researchers to perform industrially relevant lab-scale experiments using real-world materials that would ordinarily require expensive and difficult multi-ton orders on the open market.

As of Jan. 22, 2026

https://www.energy.gov/eere/ito/ito-fy25-fy27-lab-call-selections

$155m from Energy Dept. for Nat'l Labs

Project Title: Incubator for Critical Steel Technologies: Tramp Element Removal Innovation (TERI)

Project Lead: NLR

City/State: Golden, CO

Primary Project Partner: -

Federal Funding: $5,000,000

Project Description:
The National Laboratory of the Rockies will establish the Tramp Element Removal Innovation (TERI) project as an incubator to develop innovative decopperization technologies. TERI will bring new and existing capabilities and critical expertise to demonstrate and de-risk tramp element removal technologies across pretreatment, steel melt, and postprocessing regimes – technologies that do not currently exist, but are necessary to ensure that the U.S. continues to have the ability to make high-quality steel from our significant scrap resources. To maximize the impact of the technologies, laboratory tools and resources, and associated expertise in the TERI incubator ecosystem will be available to collaborators. The project will create a lab-hosted incubator for technology developers, demonstrating technologies at the laboratory scale with clear paths for continued scaleup and commercial progression, helping to develop innovative domestic commercial capabilities to maintain the global competitiveness of the U.S. iron and steel sector.

As of Jan. 22, 2026

https://www.energy.gov/eere/ito/ito-fy25-fy27-lab-call-selections

$155m from Energy Dept. for Nat’l Labs

Project Title: Center of Excellence for High-Efficiency Process Heating Systems

Project Lead: ORNL

City/State: Oak Ridge, TN

Primary Project Partner: ANL, NLR

Federal Funding: $12,000,000

Project Description:
Oak Ridge National Laboratory will develop a state-of-the-art research, testing, and demonstration center of excellence that will support the development and deployment of high-efficiency process heating technologies. The center will enable standardized testing and evaluation of industrially relevant high-temperature, high-efficiency process heat components and systems to help ensure consistent and reliable evaluation of performance and improve comparability of technologies across application spaces. The project will also include a virtual lab that develops digital capabilities for design optimization, maintenance strategies, and technoeconomic analysis.

As of Jan. 22, 2026

https://www.energy.gov/eere/ito/ito-fy25-fy27-lab-call-selections

Statements, Actions on Tariffs and Trade

CBP Launches Forced Labor Portal

CSMS # 67466320 - Launch of the Forced Labor Portal

U.S. Customs and Border Protection is pleased to announce that the Forced Labor Portal is now live.

The Forced Labor Portal is a centralized location for importers to submit review requests for shipments detained or excluded for forced labor enforcement. Depending on the type of review submitted, submission will be reviewed by CBP personnel in Forced Labor Division, or Port of Entry, or the Center of Excellence and Expertise.

Effective, January 21, 2026, it is a mandatory requirement to use the Forced Labor Portal to submit the following review:

- Withhold Release Order/Finding admissibility reviews.
- Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act applicability reviews.
- Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act requests for exception; and
- Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act exception requests.

The Portal is available at https://flportal.cbp.gov/s/login/

https://content.govdelivery.com/bulletins/gd/USDHSCBP-4057450?wgt_ref=USDHSCBP_WIDGET_2

CBP Shifts to Electronic Refunds

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

19 CFR Parts 24, 141, 159, and 174

[USCBP–2025–1076; CBP Dec. 25–18]

RIN 1685–AA36

Electronic Refunds

AGENCY: U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security.

ACTION: Interim final rule; request for comments.

SUMMARY: This document amends the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) regulations to reflect that, subject to limited exceptions, CBP will issue all refunds electronically. This document explains the process required to receive electronic refunds and the process to receive paper checks in those rare instances where the recipient meets the criteria for a waiver.

DATES: The interim final rule is effective February 6, 2026. Comments regarding this interim final rule must be received by March 3, 2026.

https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/01/02/2025-24171/electronic-refunds

CBP Shifts to Electronic Refunds

Saved to this PC

CBP Modernizes Electronic Refund Enrollment Process

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) recently improved the Automated Clearing House (ACH) refund sign-up process in support of Executive Order 14247 and the mandatory transition to electronic refunds on February 6, 2025, as announced in the Federal Register. To authorize ACH refunds, the trade community must now use the Automated Commercial Environment Secure Data Portal (ACE Portal). Learn more below about how to get an ACE Portal account and use the new ACH refund authorization tool.

Step 1: Ensure ACE Portal Access with the Importer Sub-account View

- For ACE Portal trade account owners (TAO) with importer sub-account access, proceed to Step 2.
- For ACE Portal TAOs without the importer sub-account view, learn how to add the importer sub-account view on the Managing an ACE Portal Account webpage.
- For those who receive refunds but do not currently have ACE Portal account access, use the new automated application to create a top account with the importer sub-account view. Check out this Information Notice to learn more about the modernized application tool and related training resources.

ACE Portal users must have a current CBP Form 5106 record on file with CBP to access the Importer sub-account view

Information Notice: Modernized ACE Portal Importer Account Application

Training Guide: Modernized ACE Portal Importer Account Application

Step 2: Use the ACE Portal to Manage ACH Refund Information

1. Log in to your ACE Portal top account as TAO or as an authorized Proxy TAO or Trade Account User.
2. Navigate to the importer sub-account view and locate the *ACH Refund Authorization* tab.
3. View, add, and update U.S. bank information for receiving refunds.

For more information and training resources, review this Information Notice about the new ACH tab.

CBP Form 4811 "Notify Parties" will continue to receive paper checks until February 6, 2026. However, "notify parties" may apply anytime for an ACE Portal importer sub-account and enter their bank information to prepare to begin receiving electronic refunds on February 6, 2026.

Information Notice: New ACE Portal ACH Enrollment Tool

Training Guide: New ACE Portal ACH Enrollment Tool

REMEMBER: ACE Portal users with importer sub-account access can run the REV-603 Trade Refund report in ACE Reports to view refund data. For help running the report, review the ACE Refund Report Quick Reference Card

Training Guide: ACE Refund Report

Pub# 5286-1225

https://www.cbp.gov/sites/default/files/2025-12/ach_refund_one-pager_12312025_508c.pdf

232 Action on Semiconductors

Proclamations

ADJUSTING IMPORTS OF SEMICONDUCTORS, SEMICONDUCTOR MANUFACTURING EQUIPMENT, AND THEIR DERIVATIVE PRODUCTS INTO THE UNITED STATES

January 14, 2026

SUPPORTING AMERICA'S SEMICONDUCTOR INDUSTRY: Today, President Donald J. Trump signed a Proclamation invoking Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 (Act) to address national security concerns with respect to imports of semiconductors, semiconductor manufacturing equipment, and their derivative products.

- The President directed the U.S. Secretary of Commerce and U.S. Trade Representative to jointly negotiate agreements, or continue any current negotiations of agreements, to address the threatened impairment of the national security with respect to imports of semiconductors, semiconductor manufacturing equipment, and their derivative products from any country.
- The President also imposed a 25% tariff on certain advanced computing chips, such as the NVIDIA H200 and AMD MI325X. This tariff will not apply to chips that are imported to support the buildout of the U.S. technology supply chain and the strengthening of domestic manufacturing capacity for derivatives of semiconductors.
- In the near future, President Trump may impose broader tariffs on imports of semiconductors and their derivative products, as well as an accompanying tariff offset program to incentivize domestic manufacturing as previously announced.

https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2026/01/adjusting-imports-of-semiconductors-semiconductor-manufacturing-equipment-and-their-derivative-products-into-the-united-states/

232 Action on Semiconductors

CSMS # 67400472 - GUIDANCE: Section 232 Import Duties on Semiconductors and their Derivative Products

This message provides guidance for importers, brokers, and filers on submitting entries to U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) covering certain imported semiconductors and their derivative products from all countries, as provided in the below headings of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS), entered for consumption, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after 12:01 a.m. eastern time on January 15, 2026.

- **9903.79.01**: Semiconductor articles meeting certain technical parameters, as provided in U.S. note 39(b) to subchapter III of chapter 99 of the HTSUS, and that are classifiable in the following HTSUS provisions:

  8471.50

  8471.80

  8473.30

[CSMS # 67400472 - GUIDANCE: Section 232 Import Duties on Semiconductors and their Derivative Products]

The imported products must be a logic integrated circuit, or an article that contains a logic integrated circuit, that meets the technical parameters of having:

(1) a total processing performance (TPP) greater than 14,000 and less than 17,500, and a total DRAM bandwidth greater than 4,500 GB/s and less than 5,000 GB/s; or

(2) a TPP greater than 20,800 and less than 21,100, and total DRAM bandwidth greater than 5,800 GB/s and less than 6,200 GB/s.

232 Action on Critical Minerals

Proclamations

ADJUSTING IMPORTS OF PROCESSED CRITICAL MINERALS AND THEIR DERIVATIVE PRODUCTS INTO THE UNITED STATES

January 14, 2026

SUPPORTING AMERICAN INDUSTRY: Today, President Donald J. Trump signed a Proclamation pursuant to Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 (Act) ordering the U.S. Secretary of Commerce and U.S. Trade Representative to jointly negotiate agreements with trading partners to address the threatened impairment of national security with respect to imports of processed critical minerals and their derivative products (PCMDPs) from any country.

- In negotiating, the Administration will, working with our allies, promote the adoption of price floors for trade in PCMDPs.
- The Secretary of Commerce will inform the President of any circumstances that might indicate the need for further action under Section 232 with respect to PCMDPs.
- The President may also take other actions he deems necessary to adjust imports of PCMDPs and eliminate the related threats to national security, including if the agreements directed to be negotiated are not entered into within 180 days of the proclamation, are not being carried out, or are ineffective.

https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2026/01/adjusting-imports-of-processed-critical-minerals-and-their-derivative-products-into-the-united-states/

Trade Deal with Taiwan Signed

ADVANCING AMERICA FIRST TRADE AND INVESTMENT: Today, the American Institute in Taiwan and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States signed a historic trade deal that will drive a massive reshoring of America's semiconductor sector. This unprecedented commitment will strengthen U.S. economic resilience, create high-paying jobs, and bolster national security.

- The agreement establishes a strategic economic partnership between the United States and Taiwan to decisively strengthen U.S. domestic semiconductor supply chains and secure America's technological and industrial leadership.

https://www.commerce.gov/news/fact-sheets/2026/01/fact-sheet-restoring-american-semiconductor-manufacturing-leadership

Trade Deal with Taiwan Signed

Establishes a predictable tariff framework tied to U.S.–Taiwan semiconductor and technology investment commitments.

- Reciprocal tariffs on Taiwanese goods capped at 15%
- Section 232 tariffs capped at 15% for covered Taiwanese auto parts and timber/lumber products.
- Zero tariffs for specified products, including generic pharmaceuticals and ingredients, aircraft components, and unavailable natural resources.
- Targeted semiconductor incentives:
  - Duty-free imports up to 2.5× planned production capacity during U.S. fab construction.
  - Duty-free imports up to 1.5× production capacity after facilities begin operations.
- Tariff structure designed to lower buildout costs, accelerate U.S. chip capacity, and reinforce supply-chain security.

https://www.commerce.gov/news/fact-sheets/2026/01/fact-sheet-restoring-american-semiconductor-manufacturing-leadership

EU-India Reach Free Trade Agreement

- Negotiations began in 2007, suspended in 2013, relaunched in 2022, concluded January 2026; may take effect by end of 2026
- Creates free trade zone covering 2 billion people, $27T in market size
- India to reduce or eliminate tariffs on 96.6% of EU exports
- EU to reduce tariffs in phases covering nearly 99% of India's shipments
- Zero duty on Indian textiles, apparel, leather, footwear, chemicals, plastics, sports goods, toys, gems, and jewelry (currently at 4-26%)
- India auto tariffs on EU gradually reduced from 110% to 10% with quota of 250,000 vehicles/year
- EU tariffs on machinery (up to 44%), chemicals (up to 22%), and pharmaceuticals (up to 11%) to be eliminated

As of Jan. 27, 2026

https://commission.europa.eu/topics/trade/eu-india-trade-agreement_en

Tariff Threat on Oil Sales to Cuba

Sec. 2. Imposition of Tariffs. (a) Beginning on the effective date of this order, an additional *ad valorem* rate of duty may be imposed on goods imported into the United States that are products of any other country that directly or indirectly sells or otherwise provides any oil to Cuba, in accordance with subsections (b) and (c) of this section.

(b)(i) The Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Secretary of State and any senior official the Secretary of Commerce deems appropriate, shall determine whether, after the effective date of this order, a foreign country directly or indirectly sells or otherwise provides any oil to Cuba. After the Secretary of Commerce finds that a foreign country directly or indirectly sells or otherwise provides any oil to Cuba, the Secretary of Commerce shall inform the Secretary of State of his finding, including any information relevant to that finding.

(ii) The Secretary of Commerce may issue rules, regulations, and guidance necessary or appropriate to implement this order. The Secretary of Commerce may also make any other determinations or take any other actions necessary or appropriate to implement this order.

As of Jan. 29, 2026

https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2026/01/addressing-threats-to-the-united-states-by-the-government-of-cuba/

Tariff Threat on Canadian Aircraft

Truth Details
4045 replies

Donald J. Trump
@realDonaldTrump

Based on the fact that Canada has wrongfully, illegally, and steadfastly refused to certify the Gulfstream 500, 600, 700, and 800 Jets, one of the greatest, most technologically advanced airplanes ever made, we are hereby decertifying their Bombardier Global Expresses, and all Aircraft made in Canada, until such time as Gulfstream, a Great American Company, is fully certified, as it should have been many years ago. Further, Canada is effectively prohibiting the sale of Gulfstream products in Canada through this very same certification process. If, for any reason, this situation is not immediately corrected, I am going to charge Canada a 50% Tariff on any and all Aircraft sold into the United States of America. Thank you for your attention to this matter!

DONALD J. TRUMP
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

10.1k ReTruths **43.9k** Likes Jan 29, 2026, 6:29 PM

Treasury Finds No Currency Manipulation

The Report highlights that, as part of President Trump's America First Trade Policy, in Spring 2025 Treasury initiated discussions with a number of trading partners that have regularly appeared on the Monitoring List of recent Foreign Exchange Reports. To date, Treasury has released joint statements with the relevant authorities of six major trading partners – Japan, Switzerland, Malaysia, Thailand, Korea, and Taiwan. These joint statements reinforce close consultations on macroeconomic and foreign exchange matters and reaffirm each party's commitment to avoid manipulating exchange rates to prevent effective balance of payments adjustment or to gain an unfair competitive advantage. They also highlight the importance of transparent exchange rate policies and practices, and improve the frequency and timeliness of trading partners' foreign exchange disclosures.

As of Jan. 29, 2026

https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sb0373

Fastener Co. Sues over CBP 232 Steel Valuations

- Case filed January 27, 2026 at Court of Int’l Trade
- Express Fasteners, Ltd vs. United States (CBP)
- Express Fasteners is challenging CBP's approach to calculating Section 232 tariffs on steel and aluminum content in imported goods, specifically arguing that CBP failed to follow proper legal procedures over how to value steel content

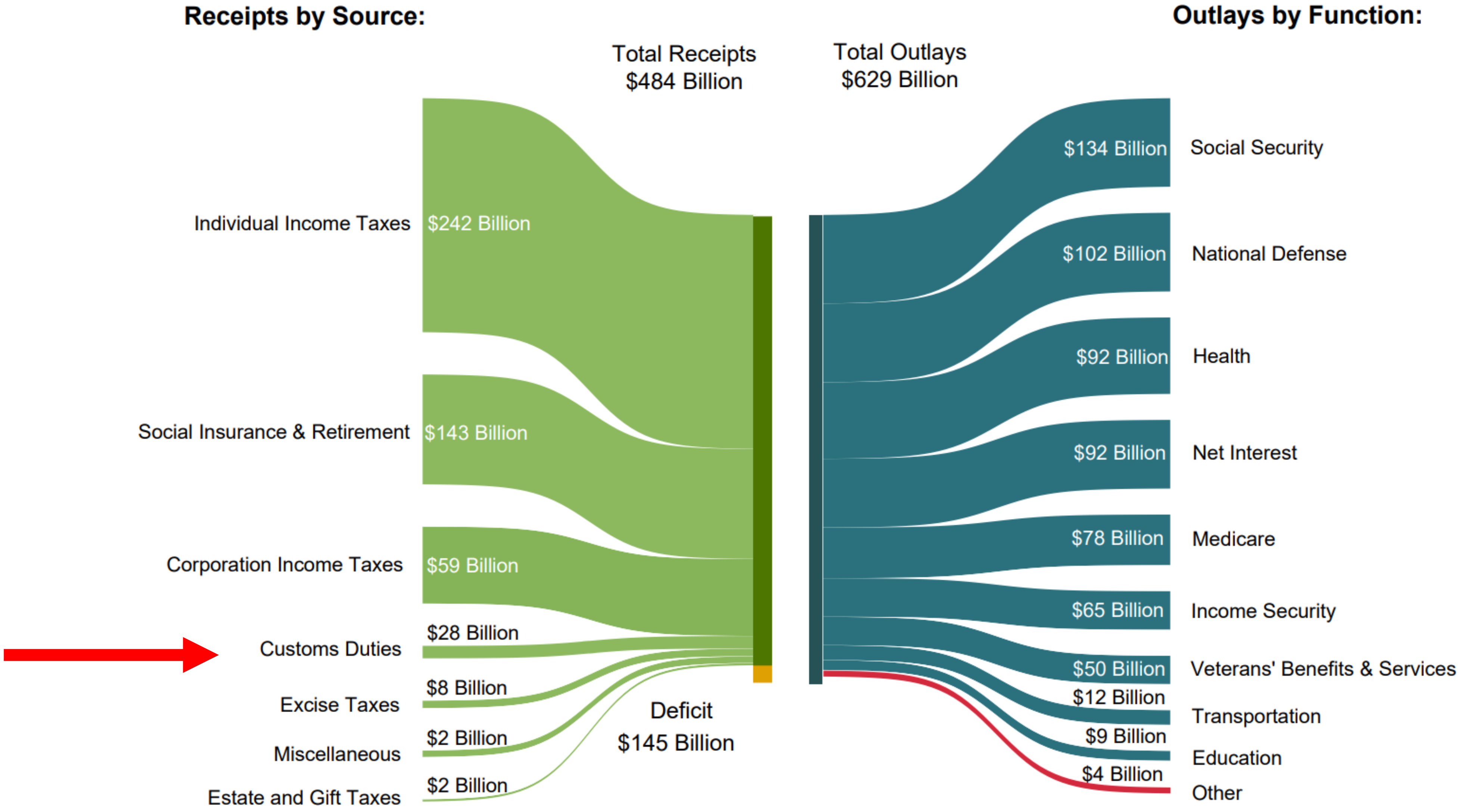
No U.S. Supreme Court Decision on IEEPA

- Nov. 5 hearing on reciprocal tariff legality
- No official timeline to release ruling
- Next official Court opinion day February 20
- President Trump State of the Union February 24
- Will Justices issue decision 4 days ahead of SOTU?

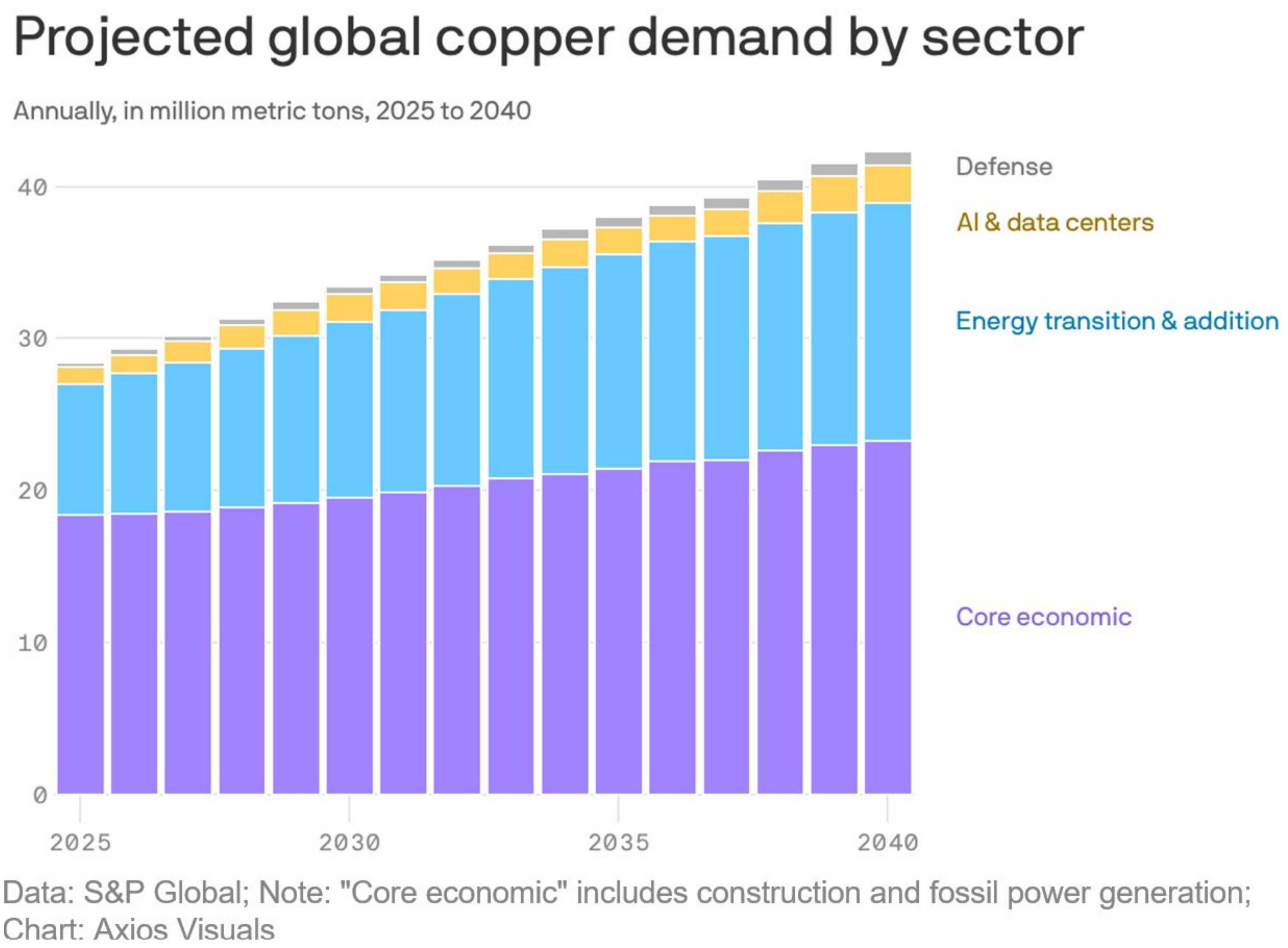
Supply Chains and Data Points

U.S. Tariff Revenue $28b in December

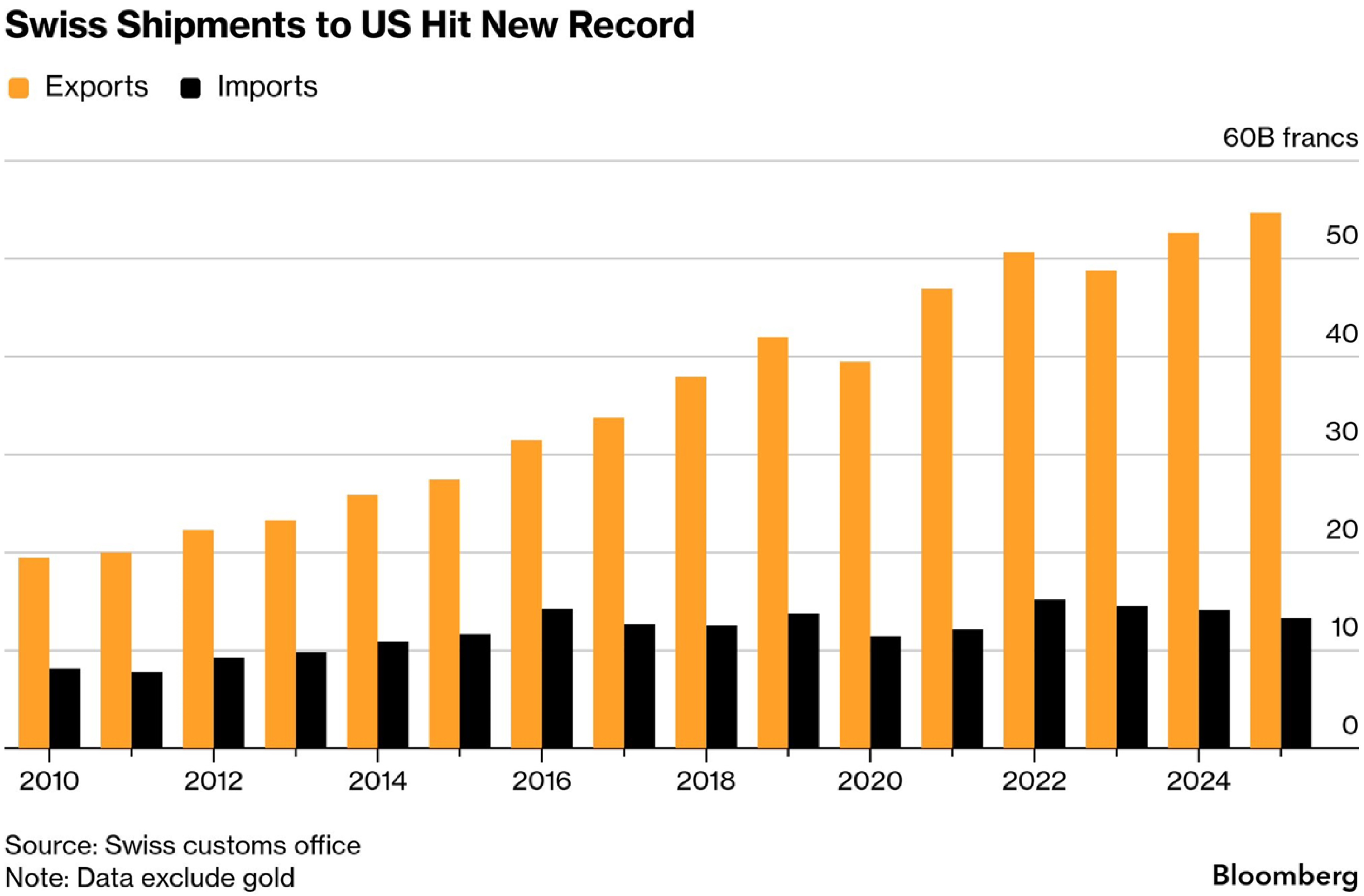
Figure 1. Receipts, Outlays, and Surplus/Deficit for December 2025



Global Copper Demand



Swiss Exports to U.S. Set Record

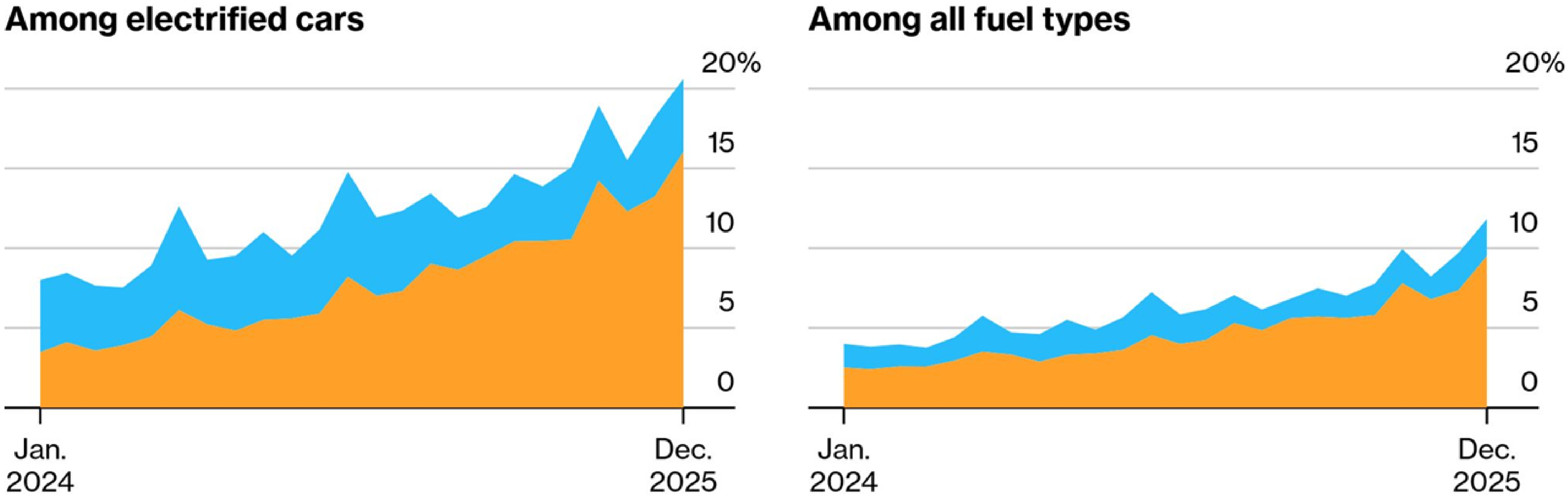


15% of EU EVs Made in China

Record Reach

About one in seven electrified cars sold in Europe were made in China in 2025

- Share of new cars by Chinese brands
- Share of new cars manufactured in China by other brands

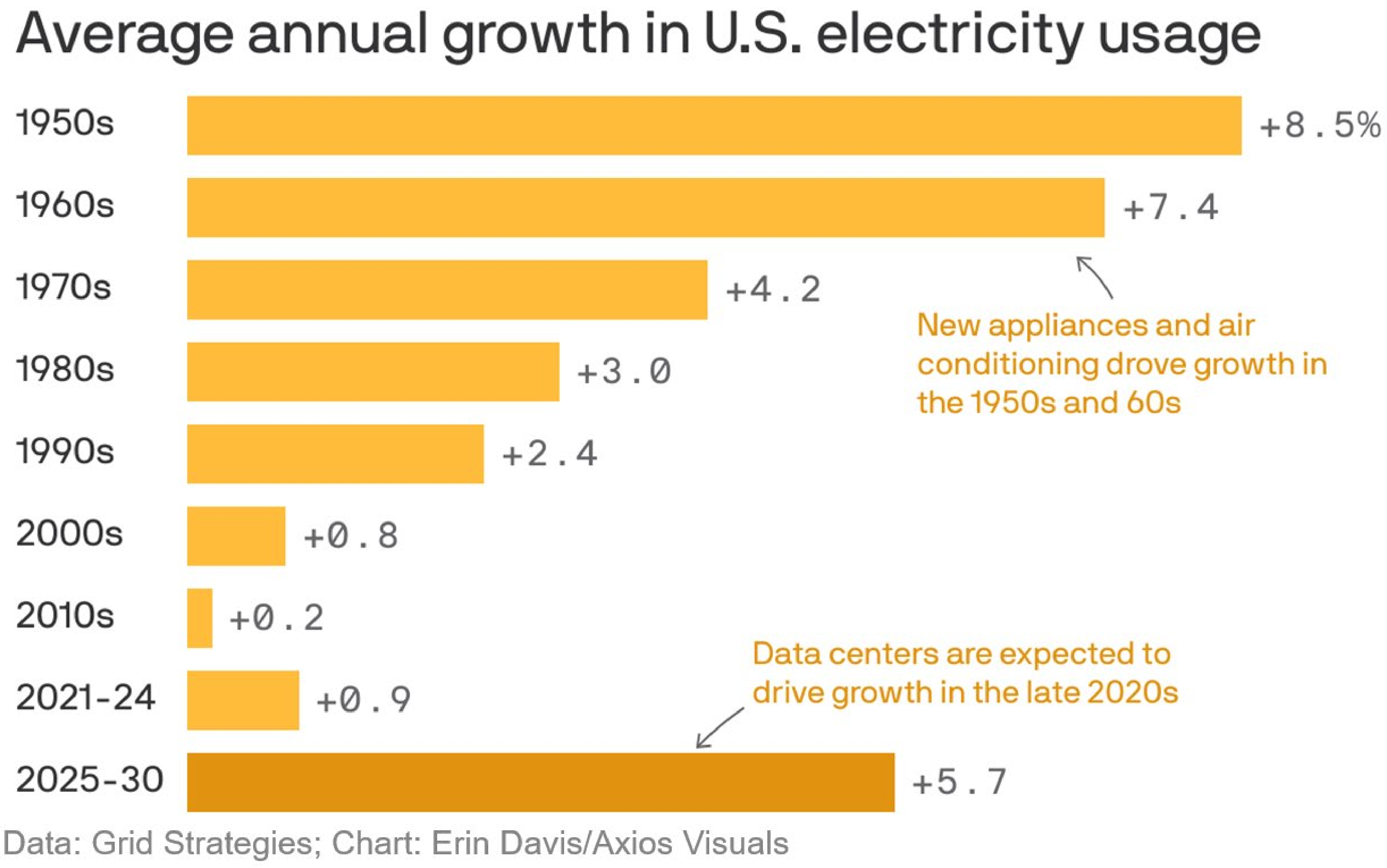


Source: Dataforce

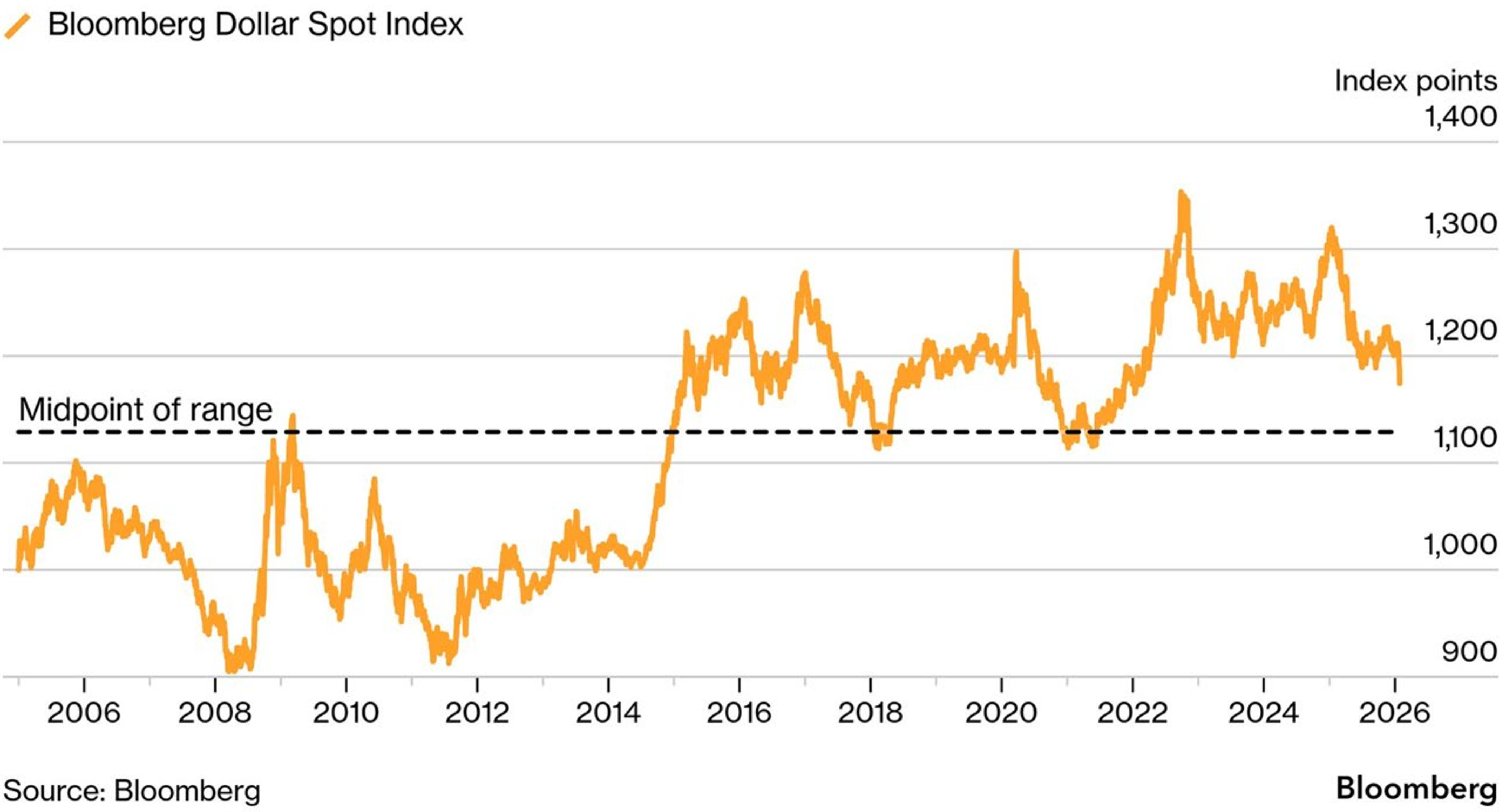
Note: Data based on unit sales in EU, UK and EFTA countries. Made-in-China figures for other brands are estimated. Electrified cars include EVs, PHEVs and hybrids.

Bloomberg

Electricity Usage Increase



Dollar at Lowest Level Since 2021



Contact

David Wynn, MBA

Director of Technical Services & Industry Affairs

Precision Machined Products Association

dwynn@pmpa.org

Omar S. Nashashibi

Founder

Inside Beltway

omar@insidebeltway.com

PRECISION MACHINED PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION