

OCTOBER 30, 2025 BEIJING

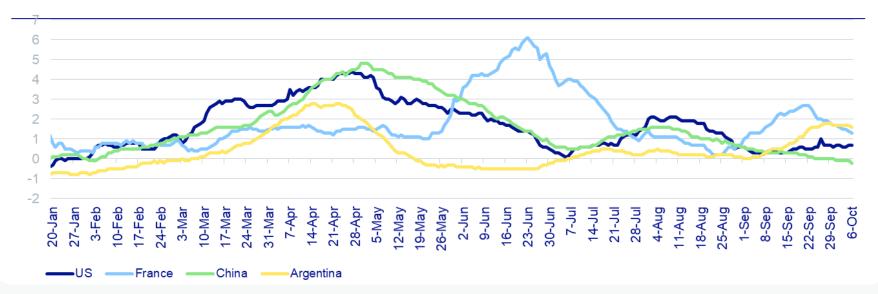
# Global Economic Outlook with a focus on Spain



### Global economy: recent developments

#### Uncertainty remains key, but less than before due to tariffs

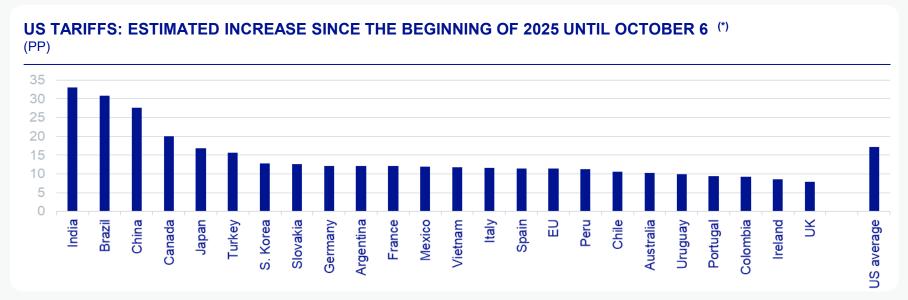




(\*) Last available data: October 6, 2025 Source: BBVA Research

Many sources of uncertainty, including geopolitical and political tensions, both global and local play a role across countries

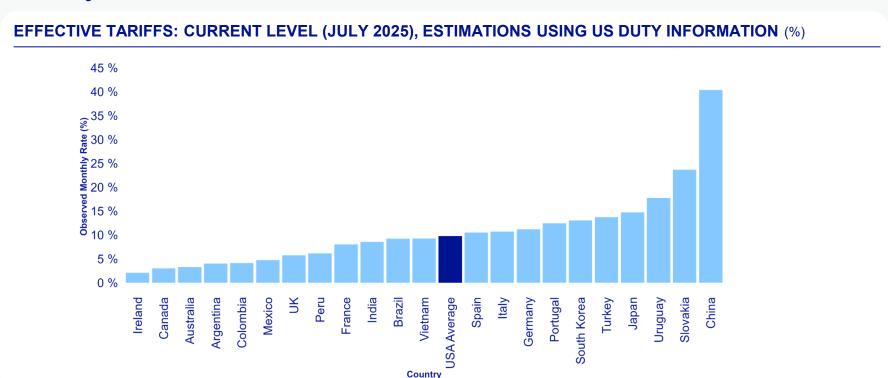
### Protectionism: US tariffs have reached high levels, especially for some targeted countries



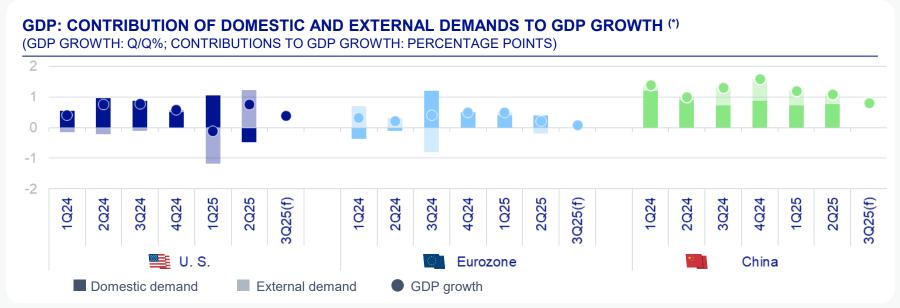
(\*) BBVA Research calculation Following recent trade deals and unilateral US announcements. Based on general tariffs set for each country (reciprocal and/or fentanyl), specific tariffs on some sectors (steel, aluminum, automobiles, autoparts, pharma...) and exempted goods (selected electronics, oil...). Sectoral weights are calculated according to 2024 trade flows.

Despite several US trade deals, uncertainty on tariffs remain relevant for investment, as there is an increasing view that is the new toolkit in the US

### Preliminary evidence suggests that effective tariffs are mostly below face-value tariffs



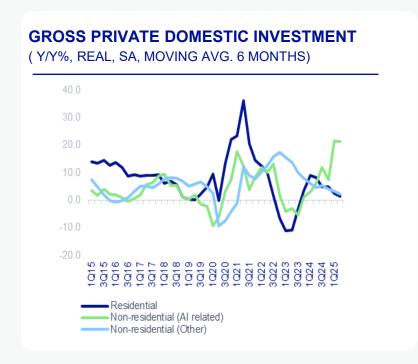
### GDP growth has remained broadly resilient in the first half of the year, with mixed signals

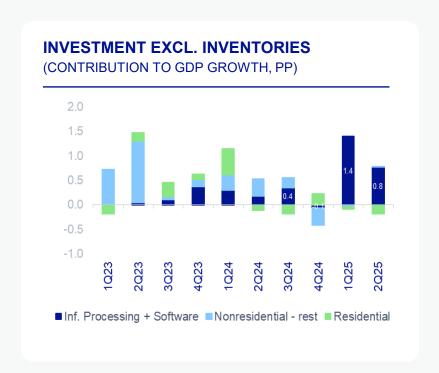


(\*) 3Q25 figures: BBVA Research forecasts Source: BBVA Research based on data from Haver and China's NBS

GDP data surprised upwards in 1H25; consumption has slowed, but remained resilient; investment only really supported by AI spending in the US

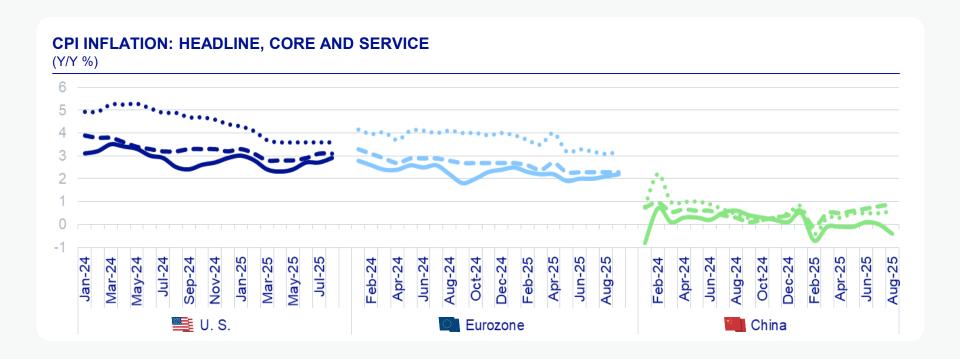
### US: AI-driven investment is fuelling short-term US GDP growth. Is it sustainable? Will it increase productivity?



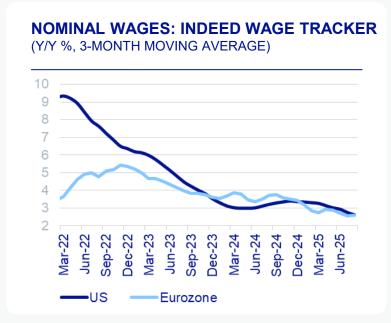


Source: BBVA Research, based on US BEA

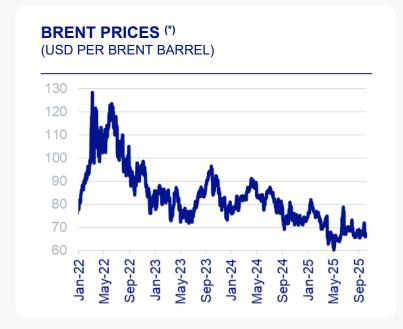
### Inflation has risen (but less than expected) in the US; it remains close to 2% in the Eurozone and very low in China



### Wage moderation and lower energy prices have taken some pressure off inflation



Source: BBVA Research based on data from Indeed



(\*) Last available data: October 6, 2025 Source: BBVA Research based on data from Haver

Wage growth has slowed while oil prices have remained low despite ongoing geopolitical tensions; their effects are helping to offset the initial impact of tariffs



### Global outlook

### Unsettling US policies will eventually hit global growth, but impact could be less than expected in the short term

Global resilience, so far, on compensating factors (fiscal stimulus, AI, loose financial conditions), preemptive exports, but also lower effective tariffs

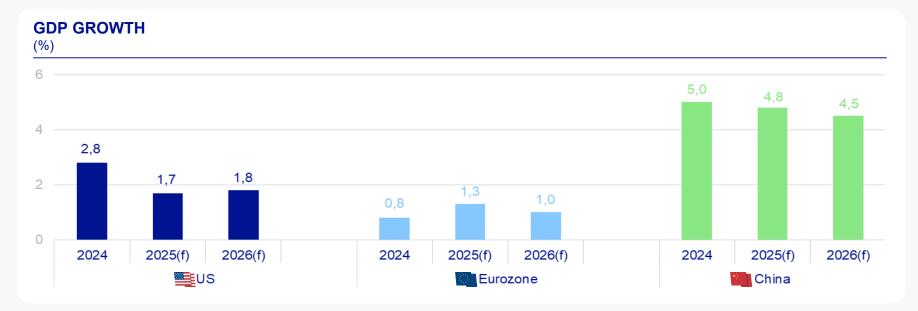
More disruptive policies: tariffs are the new policy of choice in the US, attacks on institutions and immigration curbs are hard, fiscal deficits will stay high, and geopolitical conflicts remain unresolved.

Global growth will likely slow; policy rates are expected to converge to 3% in the US and remain at 2% in Europe; inflation to remain around 3% in the US, close to 2% in Europe and low in China

Risks are rising; they include more negative supply shocks on tariff uncertainty and discretion, immigration policies,... and stress due to Fed intervention; but also positive risks associated to a strong boom in the AI wave



### Global growth is forecast to moderate gradually moving forward, from 3.3% in 2024 to 3.0% in 2025 and 3.1% in 2026

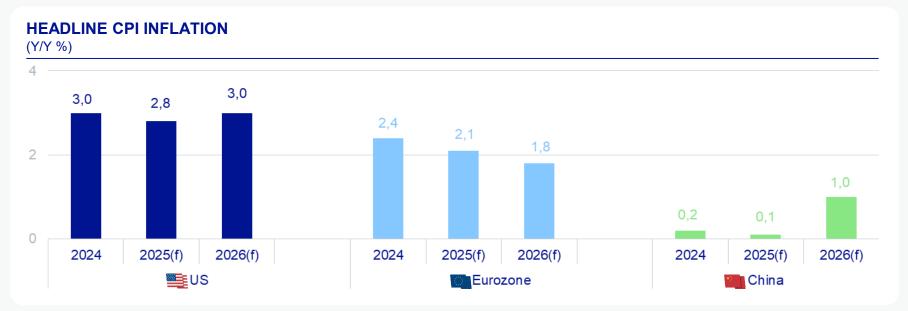


(\*) Global GDP grew by 3.3% in 2024 and is forecast to expand by 3.0% in 2025 and 3.1% in 2026, unchanged in comparison to previous forecasts.

Source: BBVA Research

In the US, AI explains a lot of growth; in Europe, spending gaining momentum; in China, slowdown with high growth remains in place

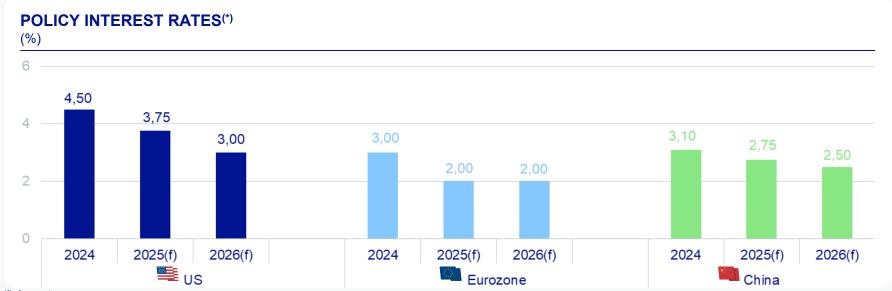
### Inflation: tariff effects are still expected; mostly unchanged prospects in Europe; lingering downwards risks in China



(f): forecast. Source: BBVA Research

US inflation has remained contained, but tariffs and immigration curbs will keep it around 3%; all ok in the Eurozone and watch for deflation in China

### A more dovish Fed will keep easing monetary conditions, likely lowering rates to 3% in 2026; ECB to hold at 2%

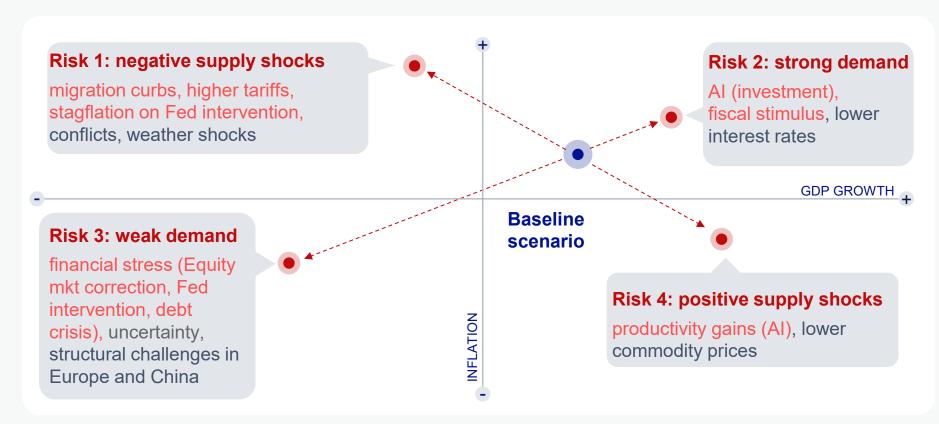


(f): forecast.

Fed's easing towards 3% might not be possible due to inflation ECB expected to hold rates at 2%, with (diminishing) risk of one more cut; some room in China

<sup>(\*)</sup> In the case of the Eurozone, interest rates of the deposit facility.

### Risks are mounting amid heightened uncertainty, recurring shocks, weaker global cooperation: potential non-linearities



### Geopolitics matters: the world of power — what's at stake is how the new world order will be reshaped

IN THIS NEW WORLD

Main leverage

Need to rebalance

#### US

(i) Global liquidity, safe asset status and deep markets; (ii) consumer of last resort; (iii) military power

High fiscal deficit/public debt and excessive CA deficit

#### **EUROPE**

Strong institutions and rule of law

Current account surplus (ongoing, following mostly GER fiscal expansion)

#### **CHINA**

Global producer and focus on new technologies, rare earths

Current account surplus (far from adjusting due to weak demand)

Global imbalances and the new role of the IMF (External Sector Report)

#### The growing concerns about geopolitics...

Polarization, political fragmentation and populism

Protectionism and deglobalization

Conflicts, wars and global rivalries

From a rules-based world to transactional politics

From a
Western
alliance to
uncertain
alliances

... with consequences for many different issues beyond the economic outlook, including:

Regulation and "supervisory" risk scenarios Financial markets: interest rates, risk premia, currencies

Banking sector

Policies: fiscal, monetary...

Global financial architecture

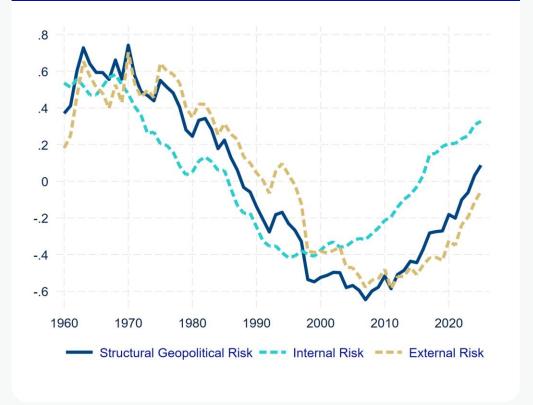
#### Global structural geopolitical shows that stress has risen since the GFC

Structural Geopolitical Risk (SGR)

Confirming prior beliefs, driven by institutional tensions and military buildups

- The global structural geopolitical stress isat levels not seen since late 1980s
- The escalation of internal risks seems to ultimately translate into an increase in overall external risk
- higher SGR levels have significant and persistent effects on trade, FDI, portfolio flows, credit risk (CDS), sovereign ratings, and long-term rates.
- structural geopolitical risk amplifies the impact short term geopolitical shocks

#### GLOBAL STRUCTURAL GEOPOLITICAL RISK (SGR) (1960-2024) (GDP WEIGHTED)

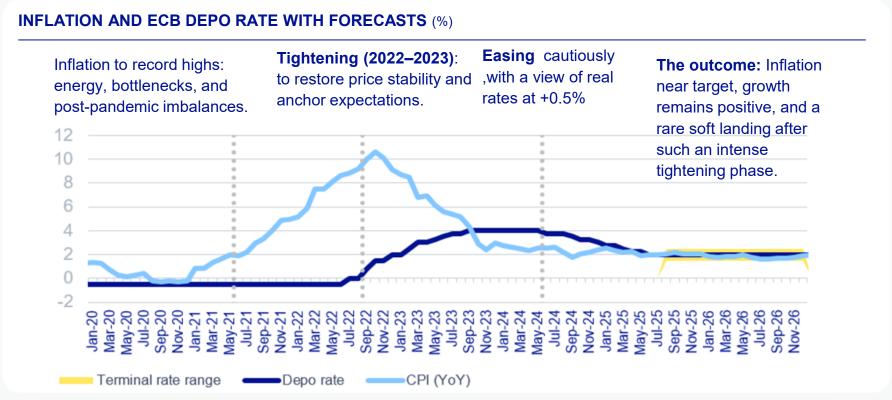


Note: total geopolitical risk is calculated by equally-weighting internal and external risk. Source: BBVA Research.

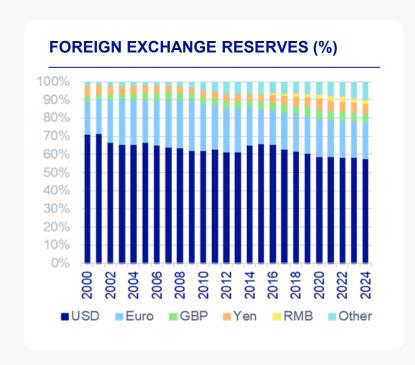


### Europe

#### The ECB's has reached its inflation target without recession



#### Europe can strengthen the euro's position as a reserve currency, but not to challenge the dollar



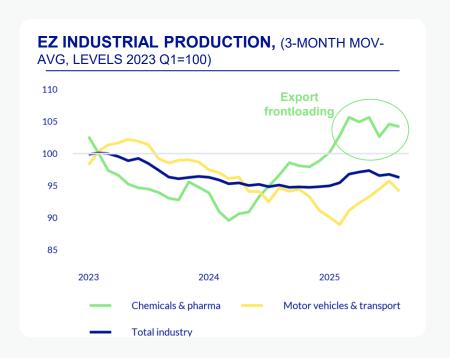
Source: IMF COFER.

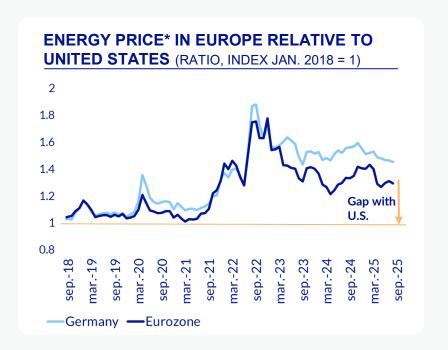
A stronger euro enhances global monetary stability, cuts reliance on foreign currencies, and shields Europe from FX shocks

#### Key priorities to reinforce the euro's global role

- i. Increase euro-denominated safe assets:
   Expand the pool of reliable and liquid euro assets
- ii. Deepen capital markets: Advance financial integration to make EU markets more attractive and efficient.
- iii. Boost global euro usage: Encourage wider use of the euro in international trade and finance.

#### Energy dependency and a vulnerable industrial sector in the face of competition from Asia and higher tariffs

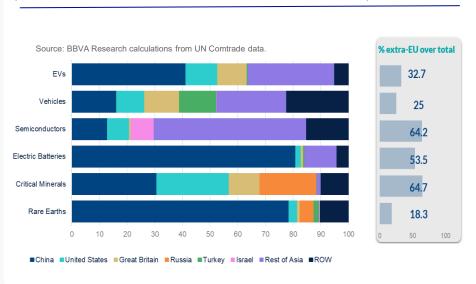


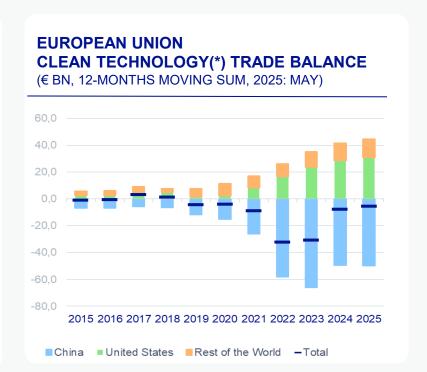


### The EU is heavily dependent on cleantech imports from China and on exports to the US

#### **EXTRA-EU EU IMPORTS BY PARTNERS AND PRODUCT** (2023)

(% OVER TOTAL EXTRA-UE PRODUCT IMPORTS OF EU)



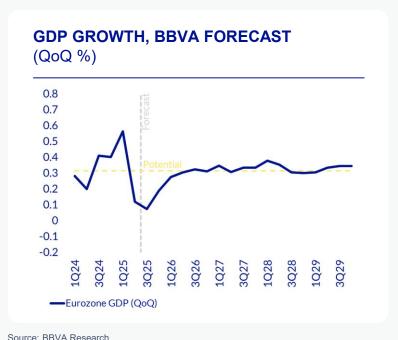


<sup>(\*)</sup> Batteries, EV and charging, Geothermal, Heat Pumps, Hydro, Hydrogen, Nuclear, Solar, and Wind

p. 23

Source: BBVA Research from Bruegel Clean Tech Tracker

### Resilient economy after all, but it will require fiscal support ahead to compensate for higher US tariffs

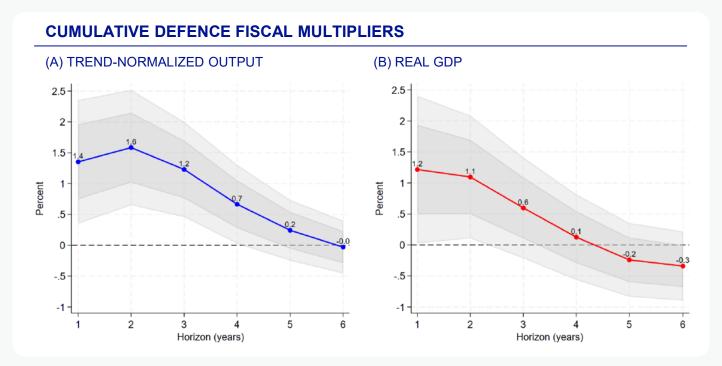


**EU DEFENCE AND GERMAN INFRASTRUCTURE PLANS** (IMPACT ON EZ GDP) ■German Infrastructure Plan EU Defence Plan 0.6 0,31 0.4 0.2 0,31 0.25 0.19 2025 2026 2027 2028 2029 2030

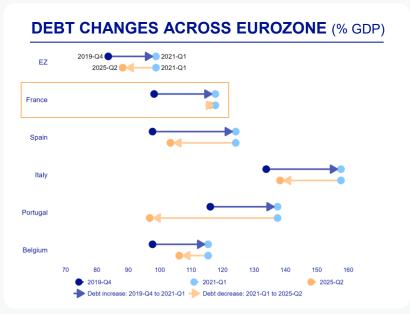
Source: BBVA Research

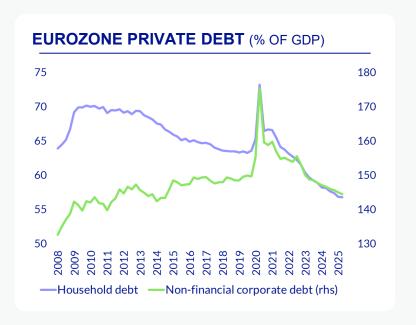
#### **Defense in Europe: Cumulative Fiscal Multipliers**

Elevated short-term defence spending multipliers (1.4-1.6), which fade in the medium-term (panel a), resulting in no lasting structural effects on output (panel b)



### High public debt contrasts with low private leverage and a well-capitalised banking sector





Source: BBVA Research Source: BBVA Research

France is now in the spotlight, given resistance to fiscal reforms. Spain and to some extent Italy have performed better than expected on the growth front

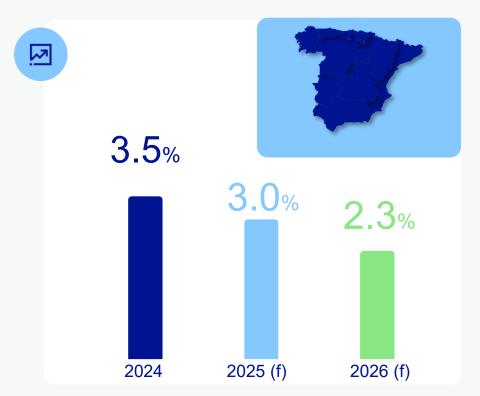
### Together with the fiscal impulse, the success of structural reforms will be crucial to face major challenges



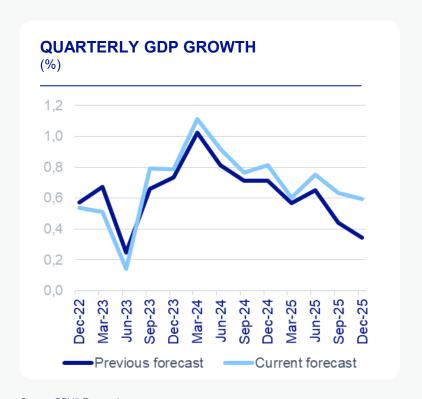


## Spain

#### **GDP** will decelerate its rate of growth slowly

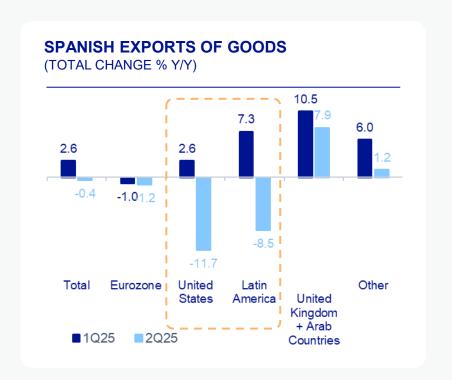


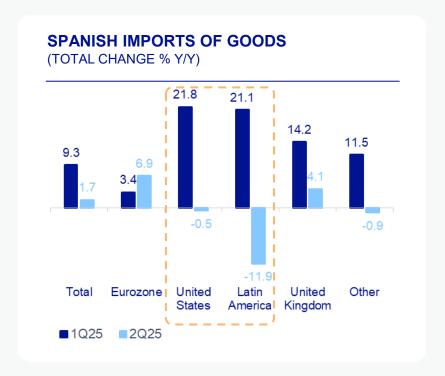




Source: BBVA Research.

Increased trade with other areas offsets the impact of higher tariffs





Note: Arab countries include: Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Sudan, Mauritania, Djibouti, Somalia, Comoros, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Yemen.

Source: BBVA Research, based on Haver.

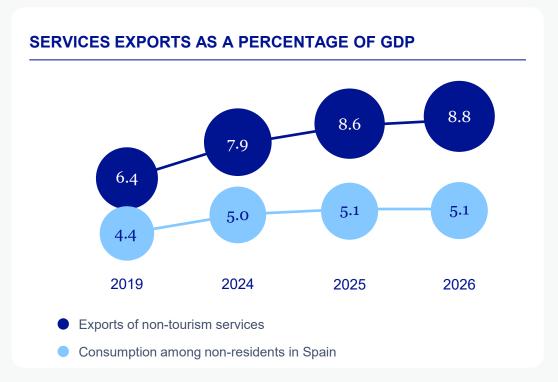
Services exports slow, but growth will be similar to GDP

### **Change in European Household Preferences**

Deseasonalization of tourism

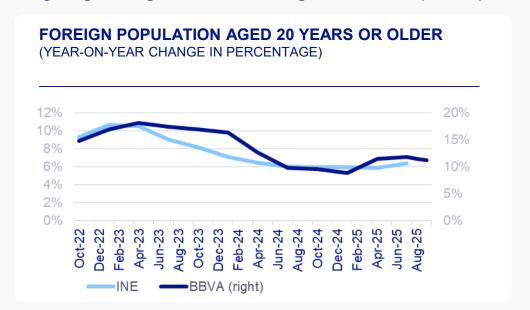
<u>Increased investment in the</u> sector

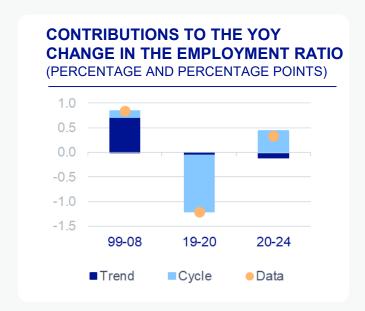
Increase in labor force (immigration)



Source: BBVA Research, based on INE data.

Ongoing immigration and rising labor force participation





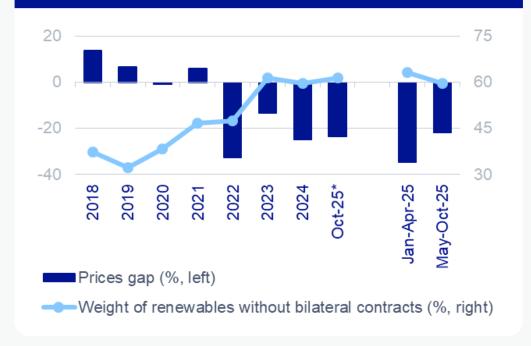
BBVA's indicator is constructed from the number of customers with foreign nationality or dual nationality. Nationality is determined by the country of origin and the type of document (DNI or NIE). Source: BBVA Research, with data from INE and BBVA.

The increase in the employment ratio after the pandemic is being driven by a rise in labor market participation, especially among the Spanish population but also foreign residents aged 25 to 54

There has been an improvement in the terms of trade due to falling energy prices

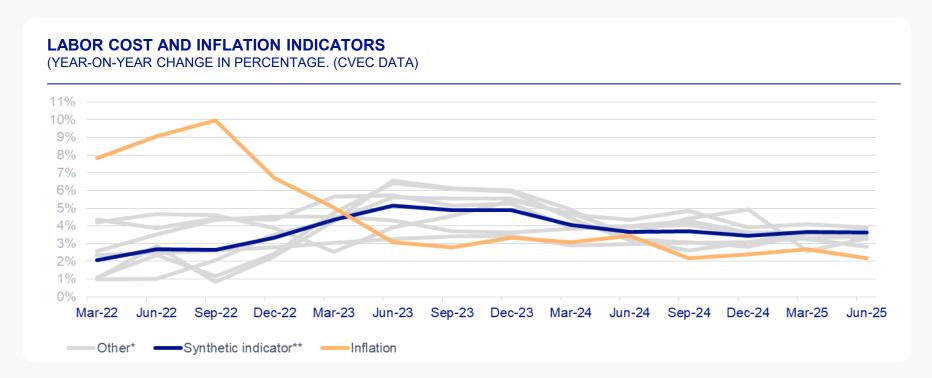
#### WHOLESALE ELECTRICITY PRICE GAP AND WIND AND SOLAR ENERGY SHARE IN THE ELECTRICITY MIX

(% OF EUROPEAN MEDIAN, LEFT; %, RIGHT)



<sup>\*</sup>Accumulated twelve months until Aug-25.
Source: BBVA Research from Ember.

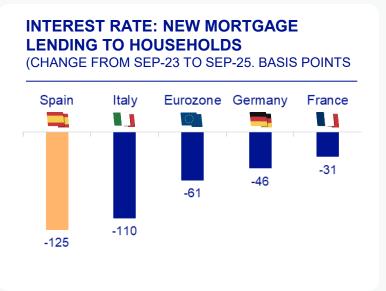
Domestic consumption will continue to be supported by the improvement in real wage income

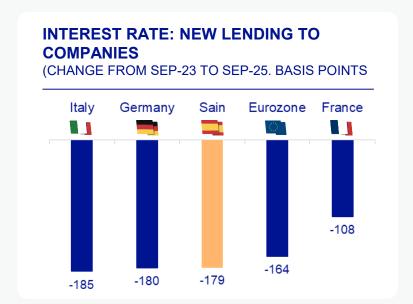


<sup>\*</sup> Unit labor cost (ULC) per employee, ULC per hour worked, total cost per worker, total cost per hour worked, salary agreed in collective bargaining agreement, gross remuneration per worker in large companies and Indeed Wage Tracker.

\*\* First main component of the series of unit labor costs, total costs, salary agreed in collective agreement and gross remuneration per worker. Source: BBVA Research based on AEAT, INE, Ministry of Labour and Social Economy and Indeed Hiring Lab.

Monetary policy will be moderately expansionary



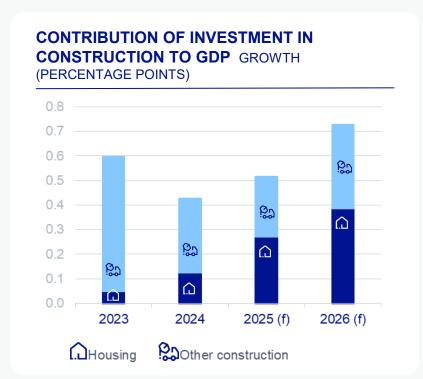


Source: BBVA Research, based on BCE data.

In line with the scenario presented by BBVA Research three months ago, the ECB cut the deposit interest rate to 2 % and could start a prolonged pause, conditioned by tariff and fiscal measures. Although the cycle of cuts is expected to have come to an end, rates will remain at relatively low levels, which could continue to boost new credit growth

The construction sector will make an increasing contribution to growth

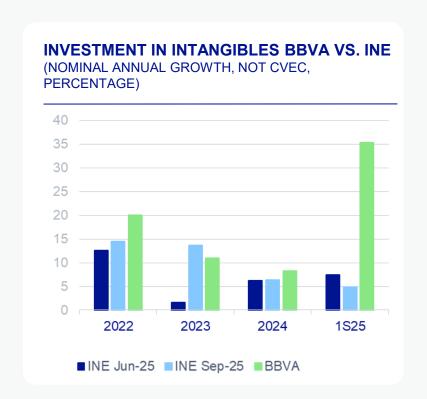
- The growth in demand and some of the measures announced to accelerate the increase in supply will allow residential investment to increase its contribution to the growth in activity.
- The expansion of this component of domestic demand could reach 4.1 % in 2025 and 6.8 % in 2026. The increase in prices is acting as a catalyst for investment in the sector and there has been a pick-up in new building permits.
- The government has announced the PERTE housing program, whose target of 15,000 industrialized housing units per year is ambitious (4,000 are currently produced).

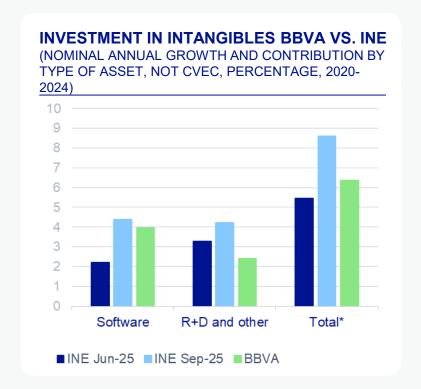


(f): forecast. Source: BBVA Research, based on INE data.

# Factors that will support economic activity

Investment in intangible assets is revised upward





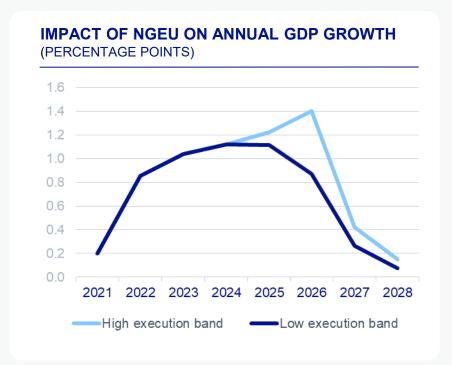
Source: BBVA Research, based on INE data.

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# Factors that will support economic activity

The execution of the NGEU funds could accelerate over the coming months as the deadline approaches



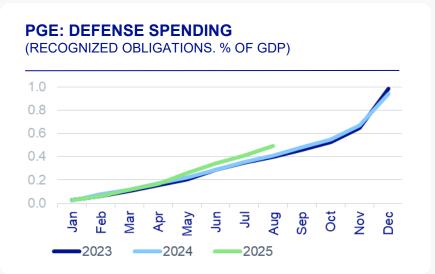


Source: BBVA Research.

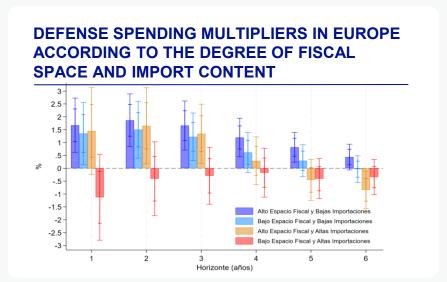
<sup>\*</sup> Data at the end of 1H25. Source: BBVA Research, based on INE data.

#### Factors that will support economic activity

Defense spending could contribute to growth, especially if it ends up having a low import content



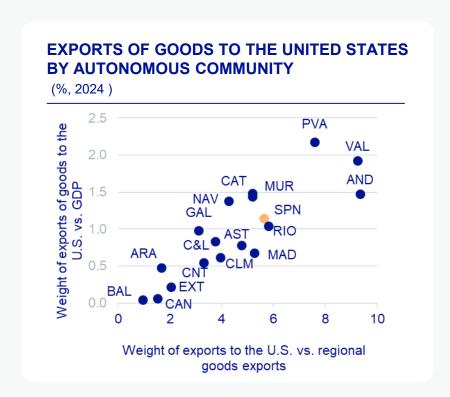


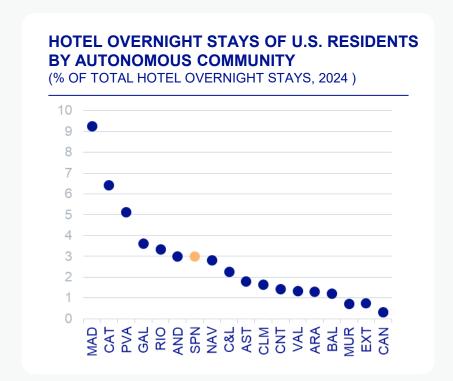


Source: BBVA Research.

The available data on the execution of the General State Budget points to a certain acceleration in defense spending, particularly since May 2025. The increase in the remuneration of military personnel and, above all, capital transfers to other bodies (and in particular to the CNI or the Spanish Space Agency, to strengthen cybersecurity and international cooperation) are behind this boost in defense spending

Tariff hikes and the appreciation of the euro will continue to weigh on progress

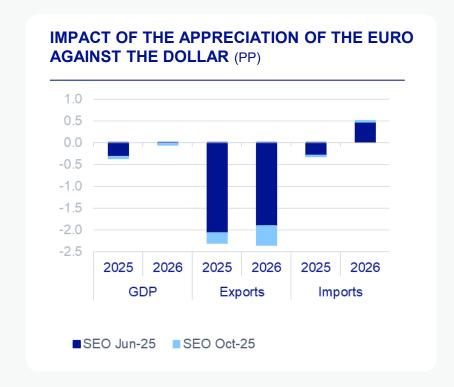




Source: BBVA Research based on DataComex. Source: BBVA Research based on DataComex. p. 40

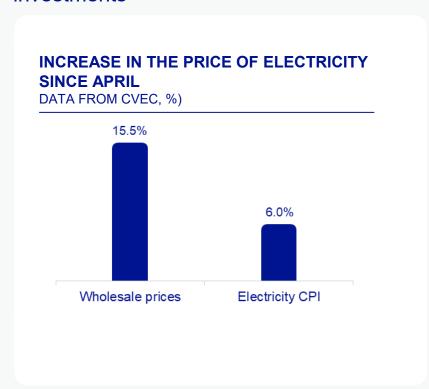
The euro has appreciated more than expected, which may affect competitiveness

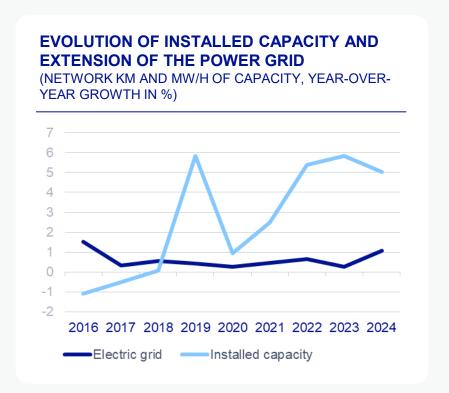
- The significant appreciation of the euro against the dollar could knock more than 2.0 pp off the growth of Spanish exports in 2025 and 2026, respectively.
- It also adds credence to the idea that the cost of exporting to the United States will be much more expensive from now on, which would lead to reduced trade with this country.
- The measures announced by the Government of Spain to alleviate the effects of the tariff hikes replicate a roadmap that proved successful during the pandemic.



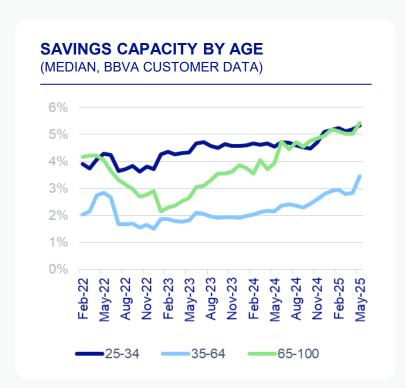
Source: BBVA Research

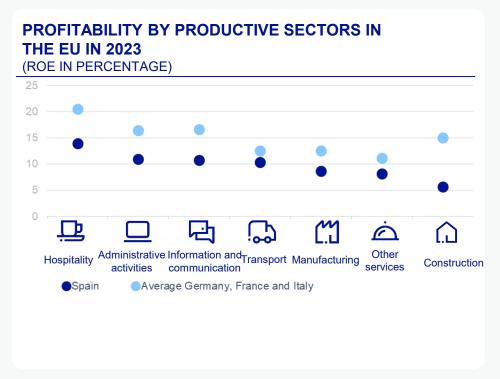
Sustaining competitiveness improvements related to the cost of electricity requires additional investments





Household savings remain relatively high, and investment relatively low



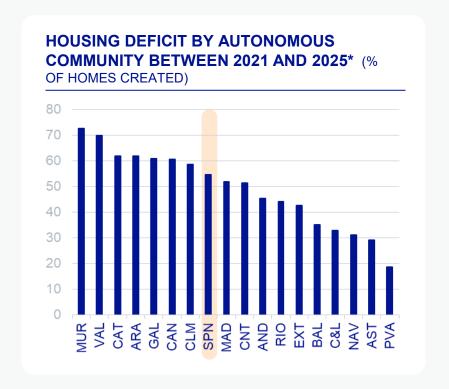


Real savings capacity: ratio of the difference between positive movements (necount (including financial items). Stivided BB VARResearch, based on BACH data.

Source: BBVA Research.

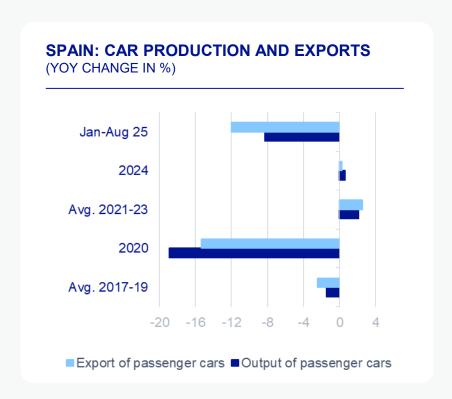
The housing market will continue to limit the growth in domestic demand





<sup>\*</sup>Forecast of completed homes and housing units created in 2025. Source: BBVA Research based on MITMA and INE.

Different factors restrict the growth of activity in the automotive sector

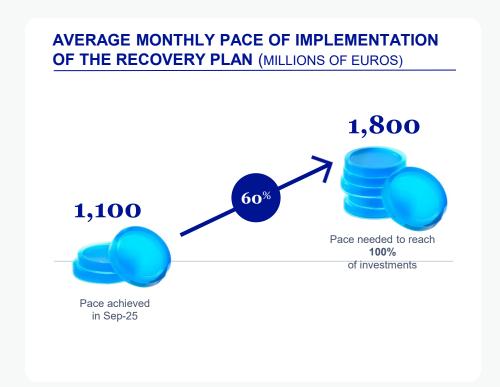




Source: BBVA Research based on ANFAC and ACEA.

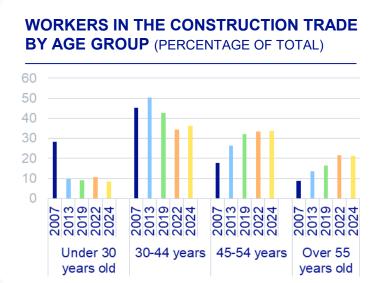
Implementation of the Recovery Plan is moving forward, but it is not enough

- The average monthly rate of grants and tenders carried out under the Recovery Plan stood at €1.1 billion in September 2025.
- If this pace is maintained, by the end of the Plan, August 2026, around 87 % of the planned transfers (roughly €69.5 billion) will have been completed.
- To reach 100% of the investment committed, it would be necessary to speed up the pace by 60 %, to €1.8 billion per month, which would imply exceeding the monthly maximum recorded by mid-2023 by 30 %.

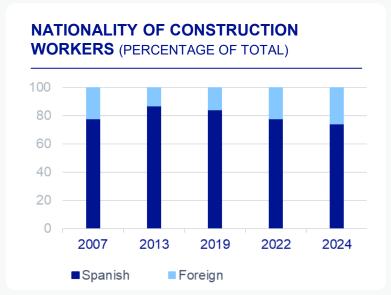


Source: BBVA Research, based on PLACS and BDNS data.

There is a lack of labor despite immigration



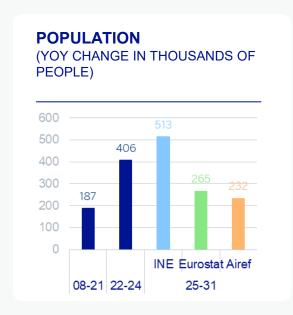


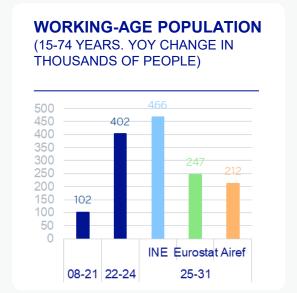


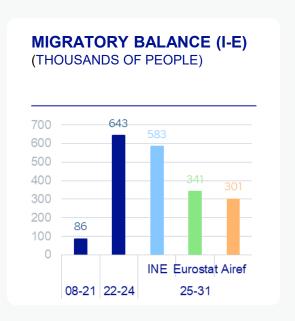
Source: BBVA Research, based on INE data (EPA).

The labor shortages that have held the sector back in recent years have stopped worsening and, thanks to immigration, there seems to have been a turning point in the aging observed across different trades

#### Immigration could slow down





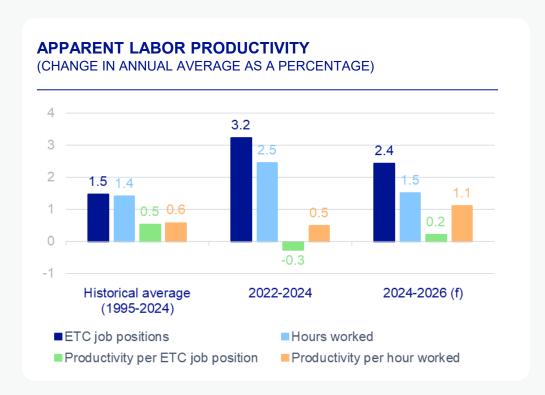


Source: BBVA Research, based on Eurostat and INE.

The most recent demographic projections suggest that moderation in migration flows will slow population growth, especially among the working-age population

Productivity is expected to converge to its historical values

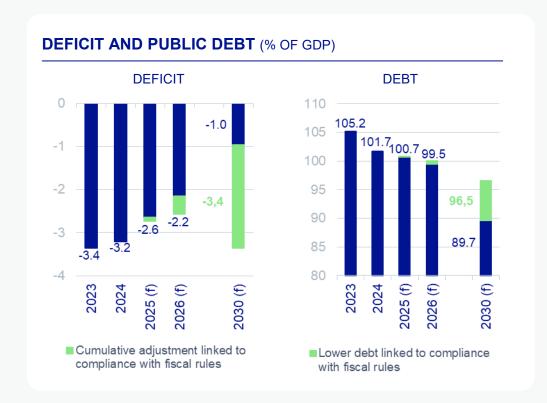
- Moving forward, growth may be constrained by the trend shown in productivity per worker and the labor force participation rate.
- Although hourly productivity has been positive, it is expected to grow below the average of the last thirty years. It is necessary to delve into the causes of this divergence and reach a diagnosis as to whether it will persist over time.
- It is essential to analyze the decline in the number of hours per worker and the contribution of sectoral composition, immigration, aging (and its effect on work leave), the increase in the minimum wage, and the change in other public policies.



Source: BBVA Research, based on INE data.

Spain faces a daunting reduction in the public deficit, with growing expenditure needs

- Compliance with the fiscal rules will require a significant effort to control the growth of public spending and an average annual structural adjustment of 0.4 pp of GDP over the next five years.
- All of this is taking place in a context of growing spending needs, linked, among other things, to population aging (with such spending expected to rise by more than 5 percentage points of GDP by 2070), defense and investment, which is currently at historic lows.
- In addition, the reform of the regional financing system and the commitment to cancel part of the debt pose a challenge for public finances.



Source: BBVA Research, based on INE data.

While trade uncertainty is reducing, domestic uncertainty is increasing

#### BBVA RESEARCH ECONOMIC POLICY UNCERTAINTY INDEX IN 2025 \*

(NATIONAL MEDIA AVERAGE SINCE 2017 SET TO 0; 28-DAY MOVING AVERAGE)

#### MAIN ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH THE EPU

(APR 1-MAY 1, 2025)

Investment withdrawalCredit insurance

Economic policy uncertainty

Insurance Economic policy uncertainty

Insurance Economic policy uncertainty

Institutional scandals Legislative gridlock



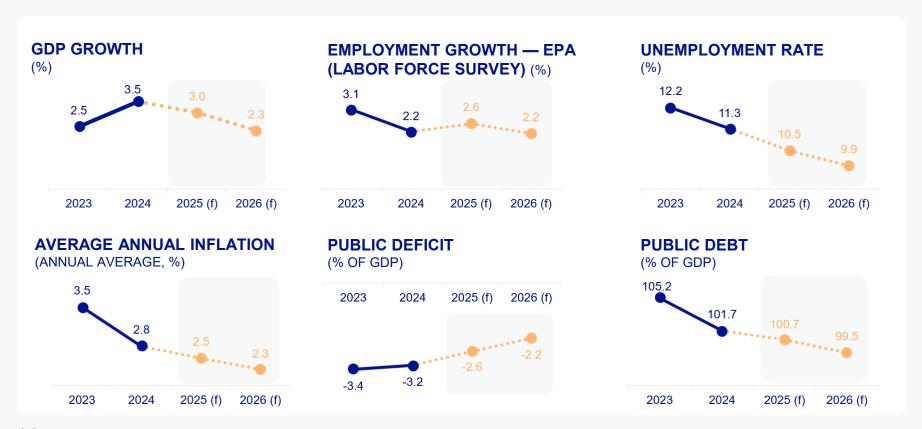
#### MAIN ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH THE UPR (MAY 1-SEP 30, 2025)

deficit GDP growth recovery support package inflation corruption trade tensionSpublic transfers polarizationparliament deadlock fiscal consolidationPolicy Support credit investment fragility governance crisis exports domgrade political scandals volatilityresilience employment political fragmentation

Source: BBVA Research.

The lack of agreements and consensus is a drag on growth





(f): Forecast. Source: BBVA Research based on INE and Bank of Spain data.

% YoY	2022	2023	2024	2025 (f)	2026 (f)
National final consumption expenditure	3.8	2.5	3	2.8	2.2
Private consumption	4.9	1.8	3.1	3.3	2.5
Government expenditure	0.8	4,5	2.9	1.4	1.6
Gross fixed capital formation	4.2	5.9	3.6	5.7	6.1
Equipment and machinery	2.1	2.6	1.9	7.9	3.7
Construction	4	5.5	4	4.9	6.8
Housing	9	8.0	2.1	4.7	6.8
Domestic demand*	4.1	1.6	3.3	3.3	3
Exports	14.2	2.2	3.2	4.7	3.3
Exports of goods	3.5	-1.5	0.1	2.2	3.1
Exports of services	48.5	11.3	9.8	9.4	3.8
Non-tourist services	25.7	6.6	8.1	12.2	4.4
Final consumption among non-residents in Spain	115.6	19.1	12.4	5.4	2.8
Imports	7.7	0	2.9	6.3	5.8
External demand*	2.3	0.9	0.2	-0.3	-0.7
Real GDP at market prices (mp)	6.4	2.5	3.5	3	2.3

\*: Contribution to GDP growth

p. 54

% YoY	2022	2023	2024	2025 (f)	2026 (f)
Employment (full-time equivalent)	4.4	3.6	2.8	2.9	1.9
Employment, Labor Force Survey (EPA)	3.6	3.1	2.2	2.6	2.2
Unemployment rate (% of the labor force)	13	12.2	11.3	10.5	9.9
CPI (annual average)	8.4	3.5	2.8	2.5	2.3
GDP deflator	5	6.4	3	2.2	1.9
Public deficit (% of GDP)	-4.5	-3.4	-3.2	-2.6	-2.2
Public debt (% of GDP)	109.3	105.2	101.7	100.7	99.5



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