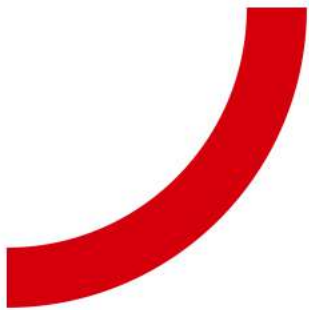




NI economy in an increasingly uncertain world



Richard Ramsey

NI economy in an increasingly uncertain world

15th October 2025



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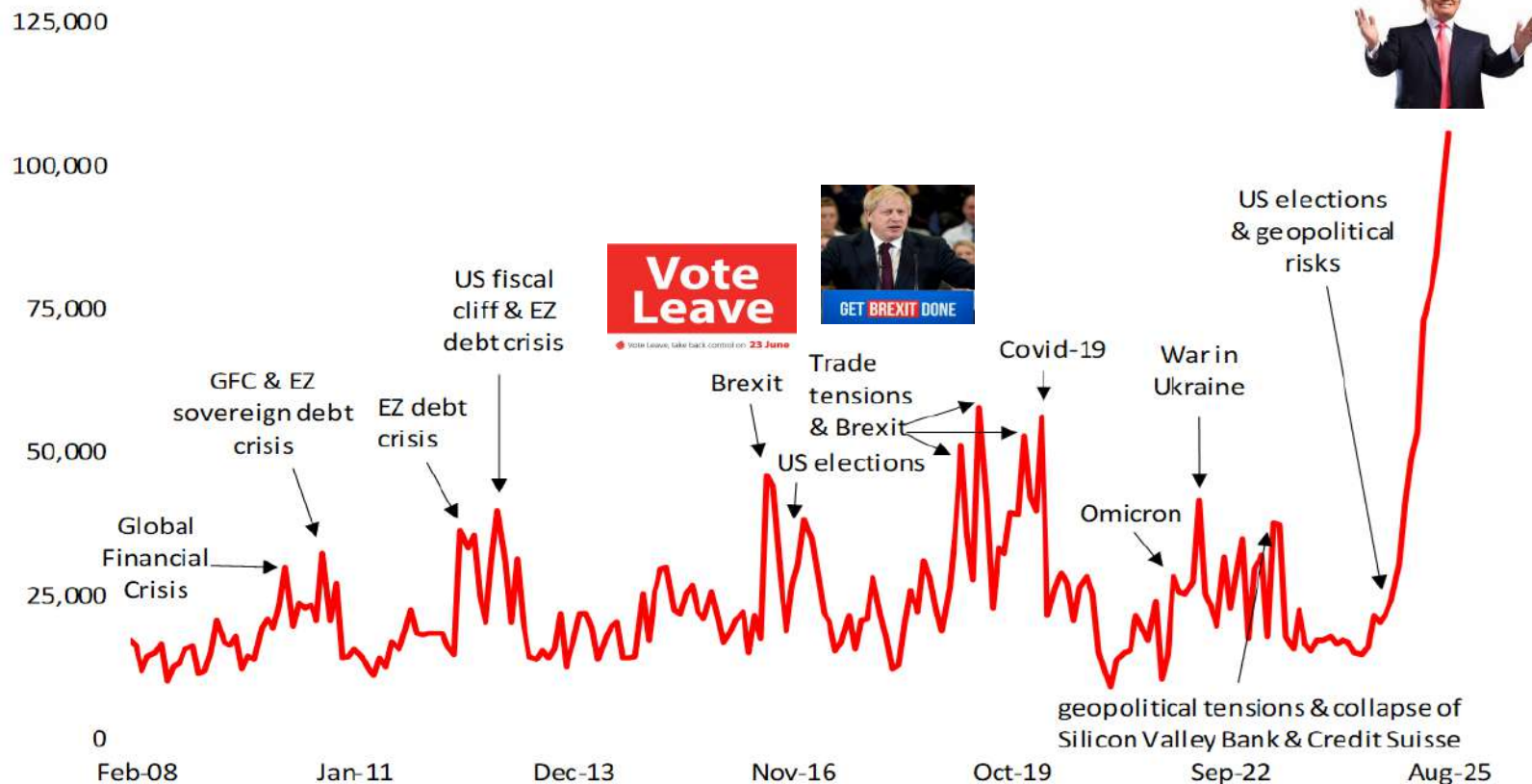
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**180
YEARS**

Making Uncertainty Rise Again

World Uncertainty Index, GDP weighted average

January 2008 to August 2025



Source: Ahir, H, N Bloom, and D Furceri (2022), "World Uncertainty Index", NBER Working Paper



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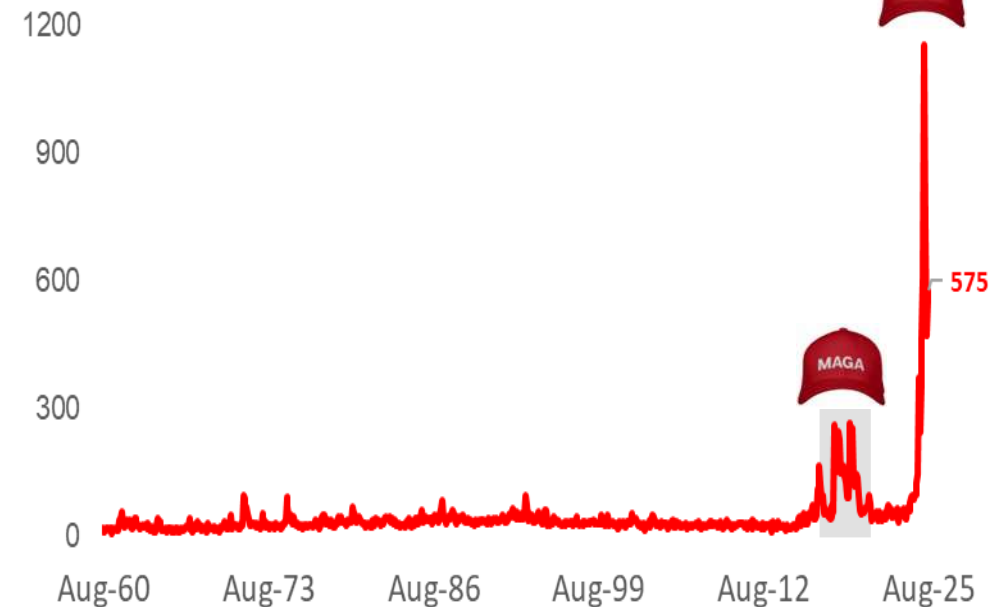
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Trump 2.0 – No country is safe from tariffs



Source: Kal Cartoons 30th January 2025

Trade Policy Uncertainty Index



Data downloaded from <https://www.matteoiacoviello.com/tpu.htm> on 15 September 2025



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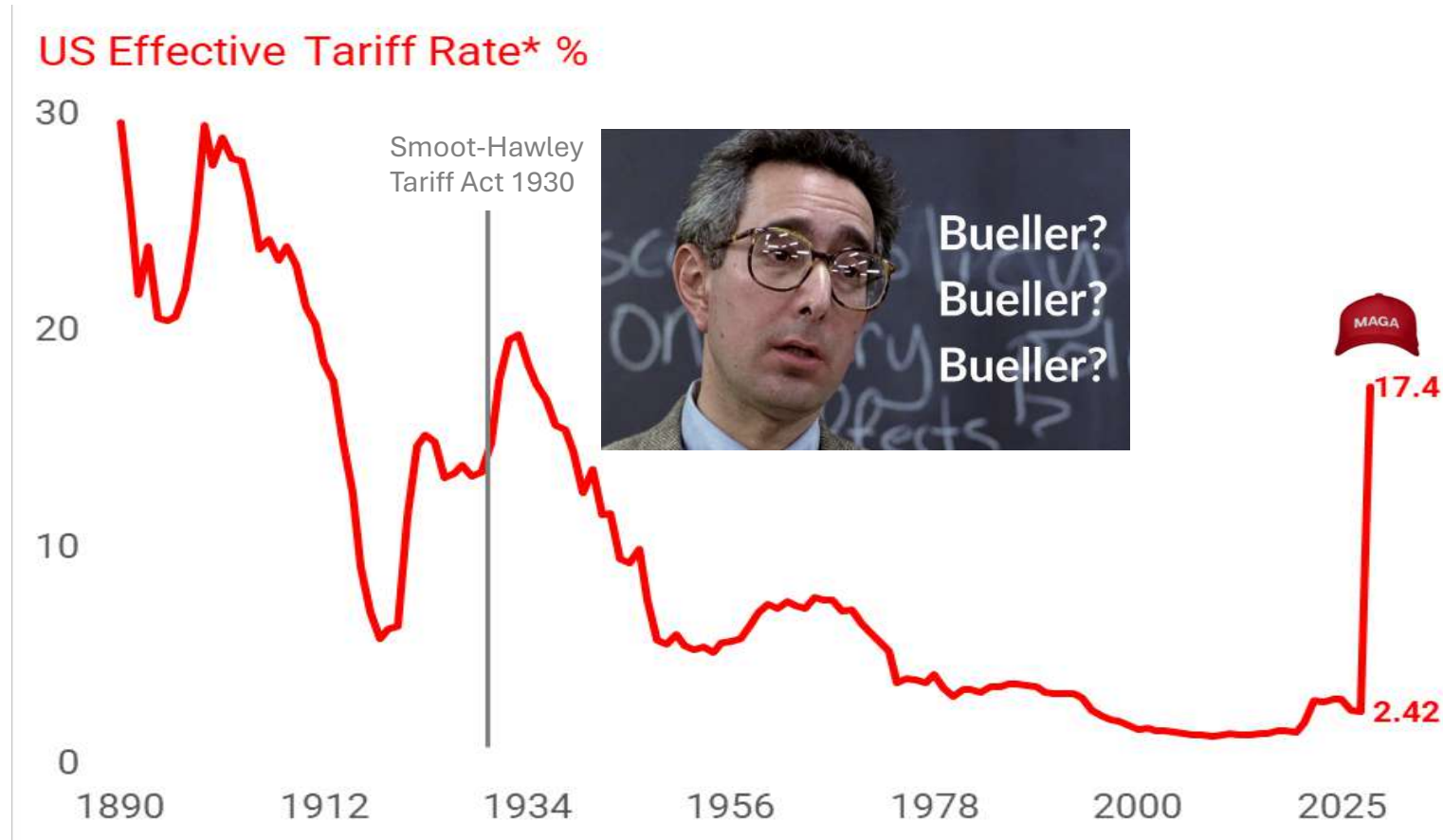
Liberation Day's Wile E. Coyote moment



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US effective tariff rate at a 90-year high



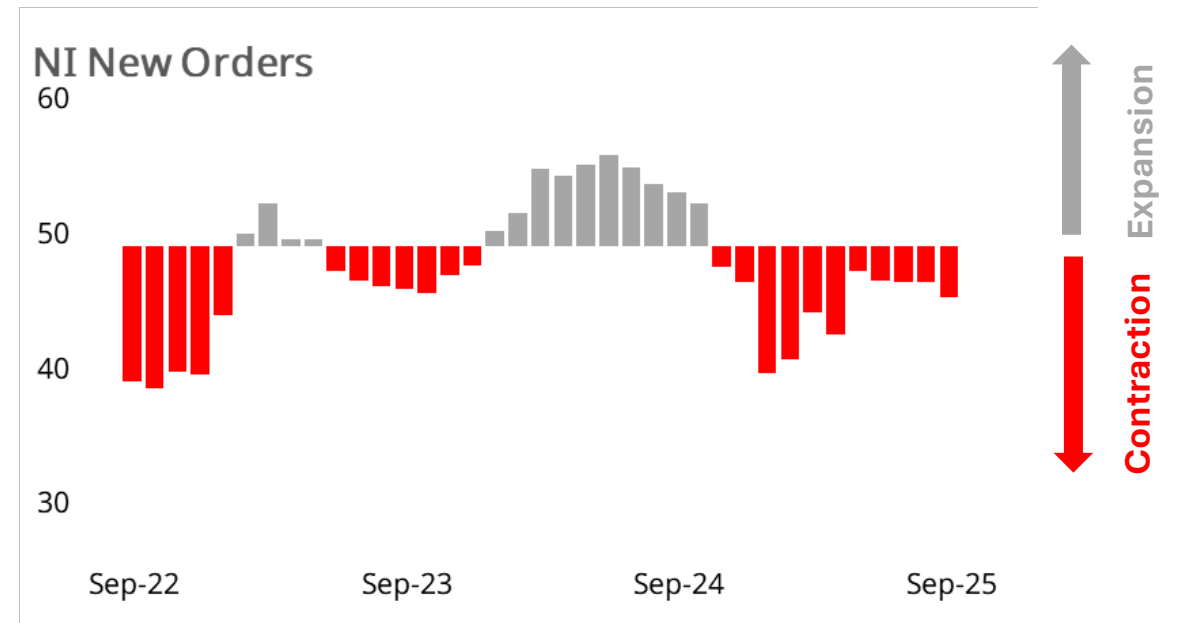
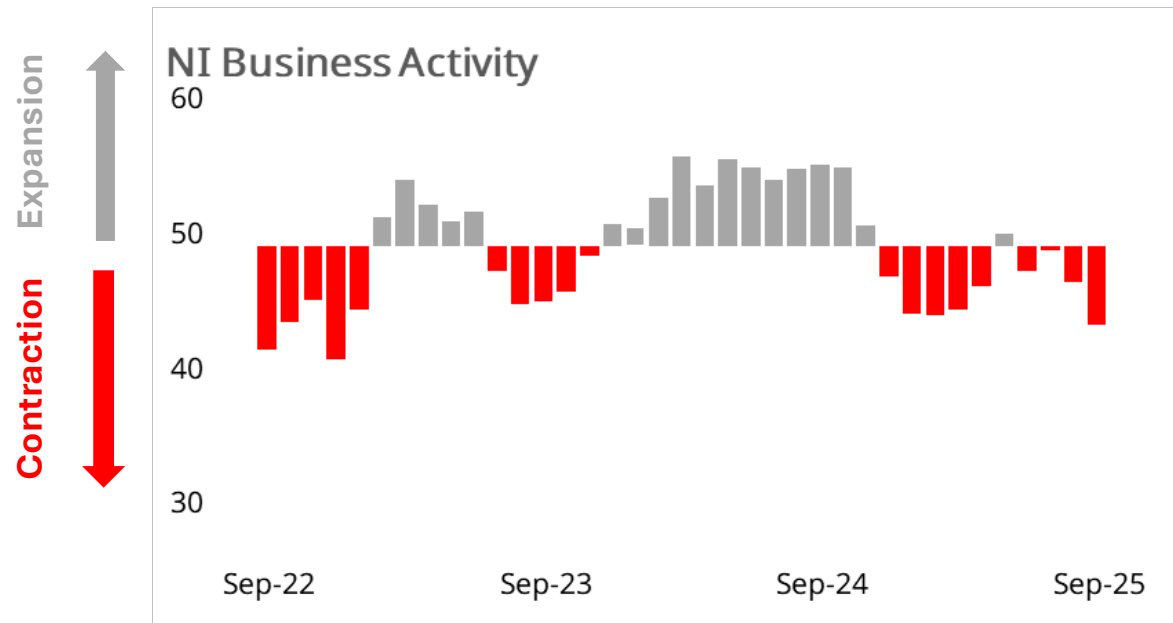
Source: Yale Budget Lab – Tariffs as of 4th September 2025,
* Customs duty revenue as a % of goods imports



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NI private sector growth falters in 2025



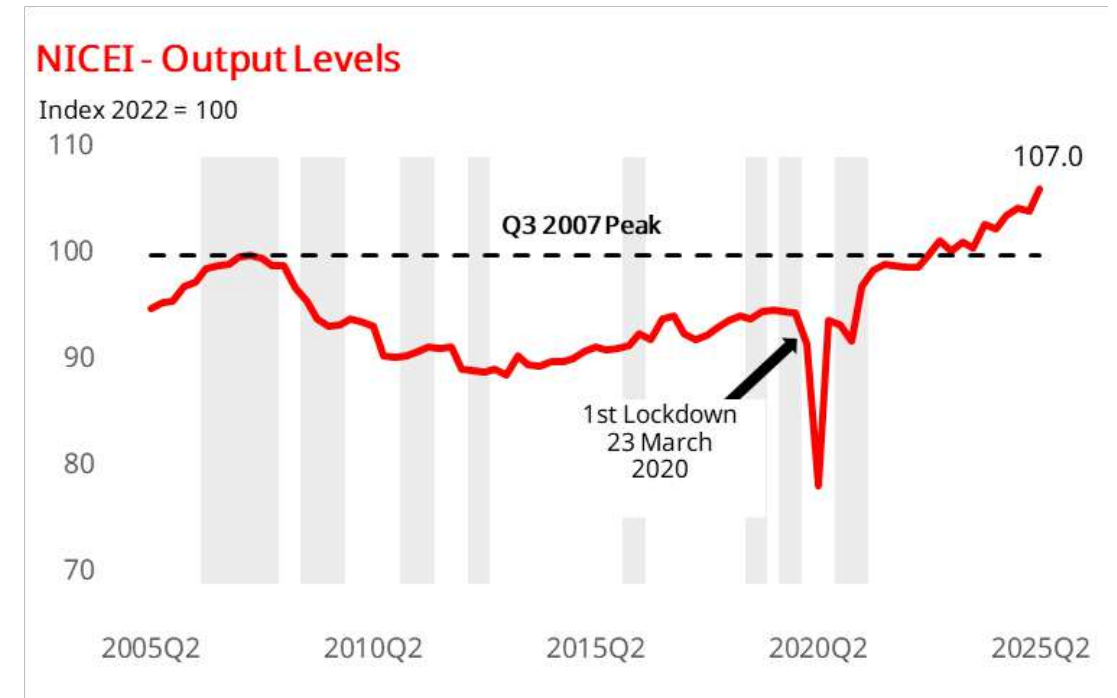
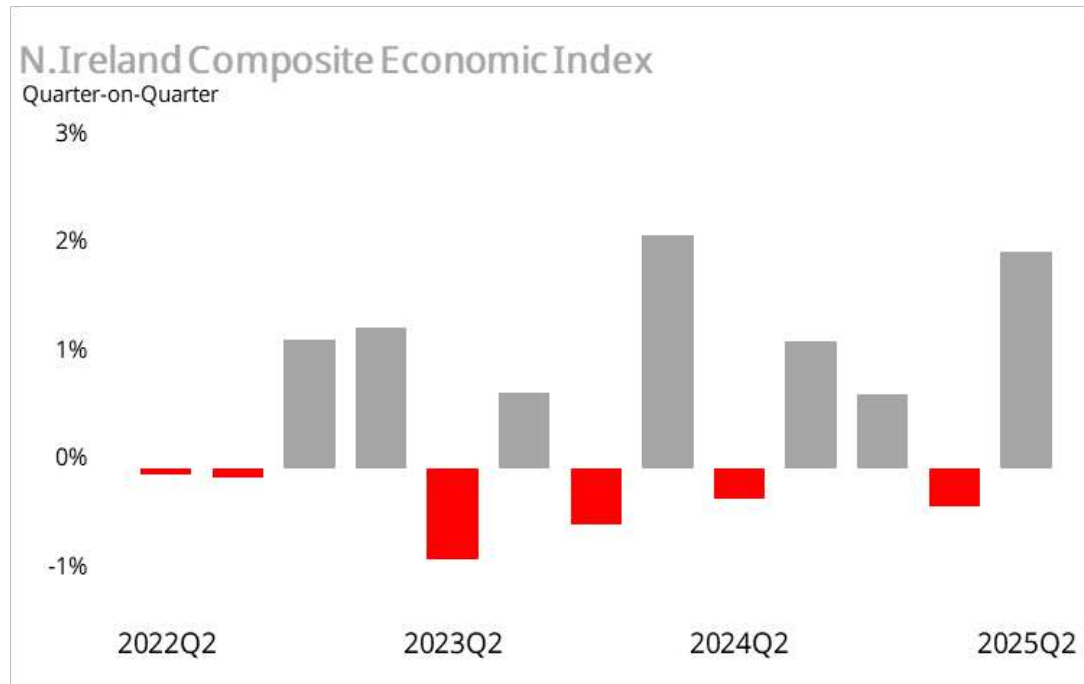
Source: S&P Global & Ulster Bank Northern Ireland Growth Tracker



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Official statistics paint a different picture



Source: NISRA, NICEI



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NI outperforming elsewhere

Table 1: Quarterly, annual, pre-pandemic and annualised change, NICEI compared with selected GDP measures, Quarter 2 2025

	Change on quarter	Change on year	Pre-Pandemic change	Rolling annual average change
NICEI	↑ 2.0%	↑ 3.5%	↑ 12.1%	↑ 2.8%
UK	↑ 0.3%	↑ 1.2%	↑ 4.5%	↑ 1.3%
Scotland	↑ 0.2%	↑ 0.9%	↑ 2.5%	↑ 1.2%
Ireland	↑ 0.2%	↑ 18.0%	↑ 48.7%	↑ 13.2%
Ireland MDD	↑ 0.6%	↑ 4.3%	↑ 22.7%	↑ 3.2%

Source: NISRA, NICEI



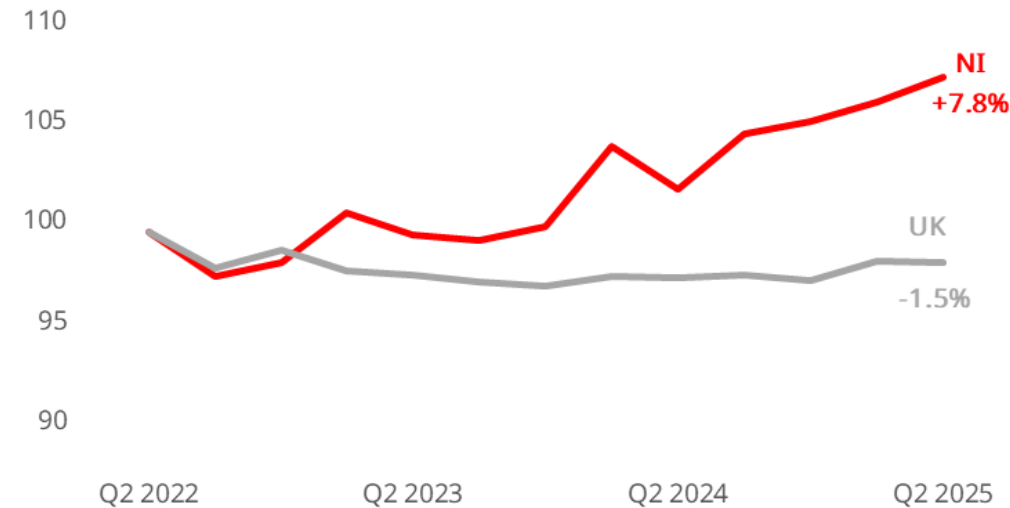
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NI economy enjoying 'Southern Comfort'

NI & UK Wholesale & Retail Trade; Accommodation & Food Service

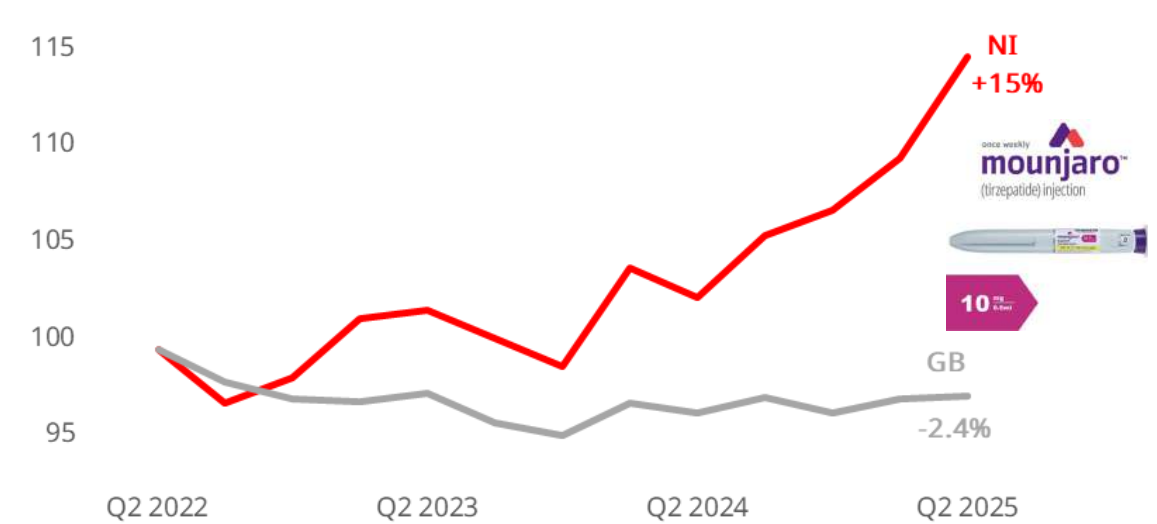
Index Q2-22 = 100



Source: NISRA, Index of Services

NI & Great Britain Retail Sales Index

Index Q2-22 = 100



Source: NISRA, Index of Services

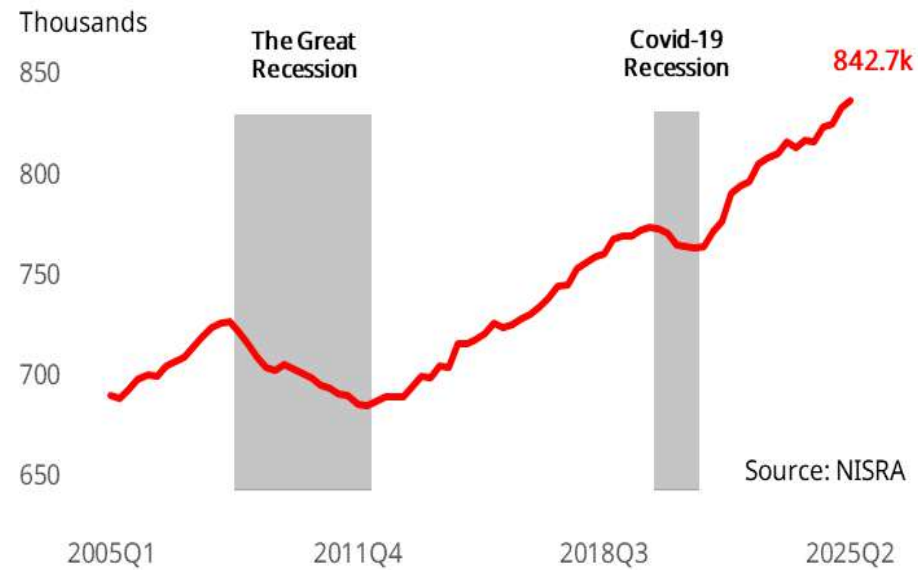


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Labour market looks healthy

NI Employee Jobs



Source: NISRA, QES

ILO Unemployment Rate



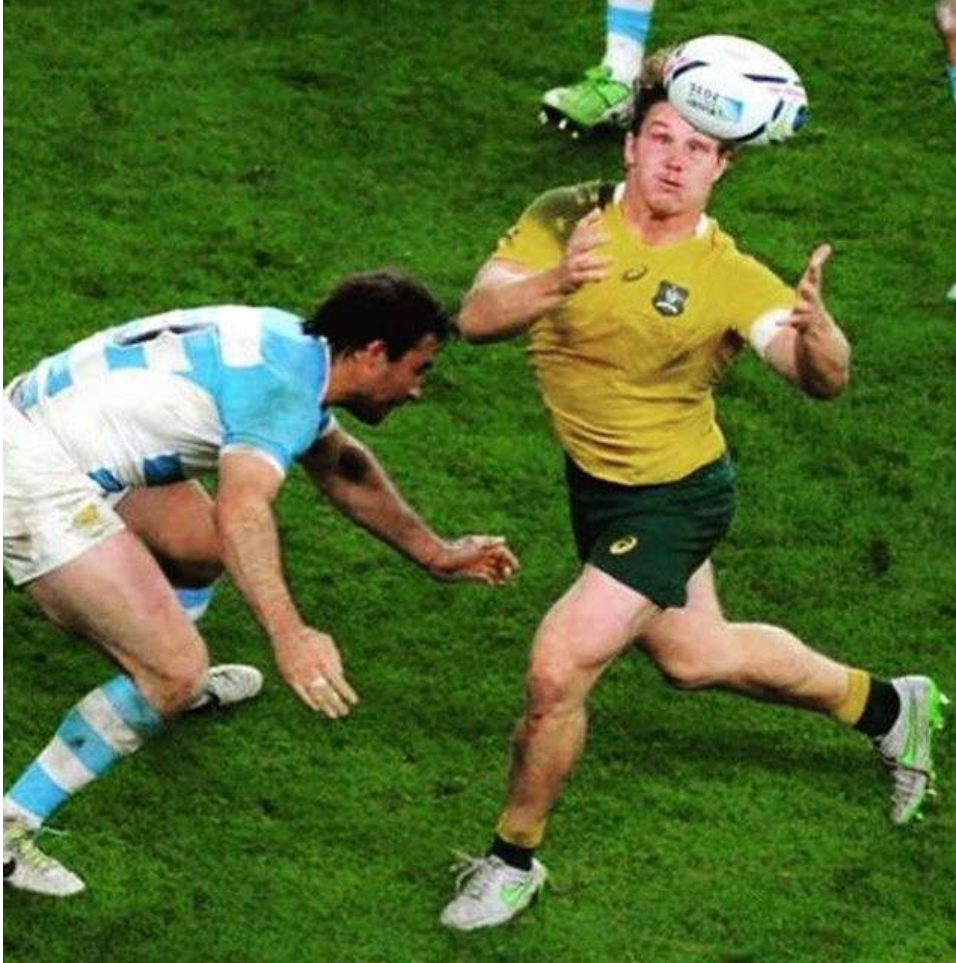
Source: NISRA, Labour Force Survey



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Hospital(ity) pass in 2025



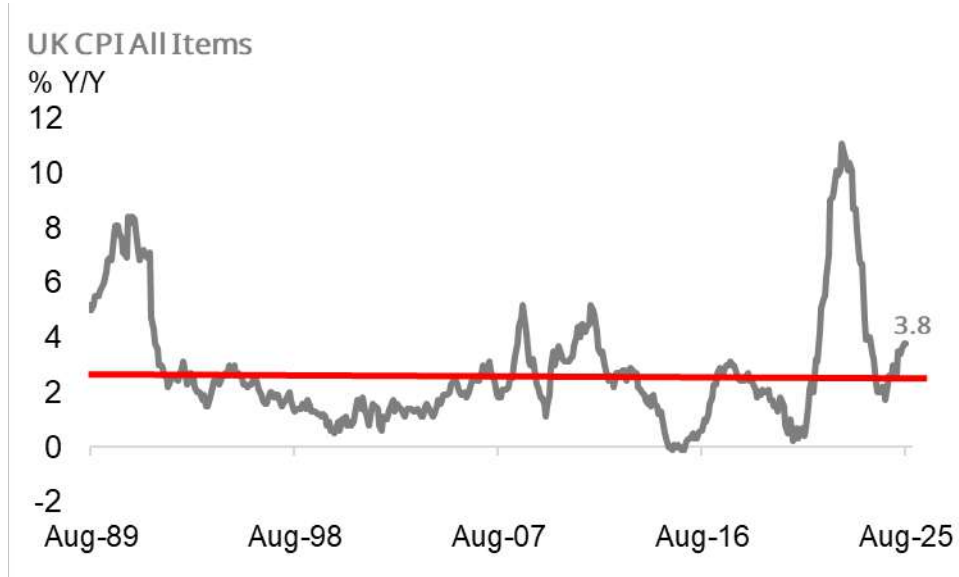
- **Hike in Employer's NICs**
- **Hike in NLW**
- **Surge in Food Price Inflation**



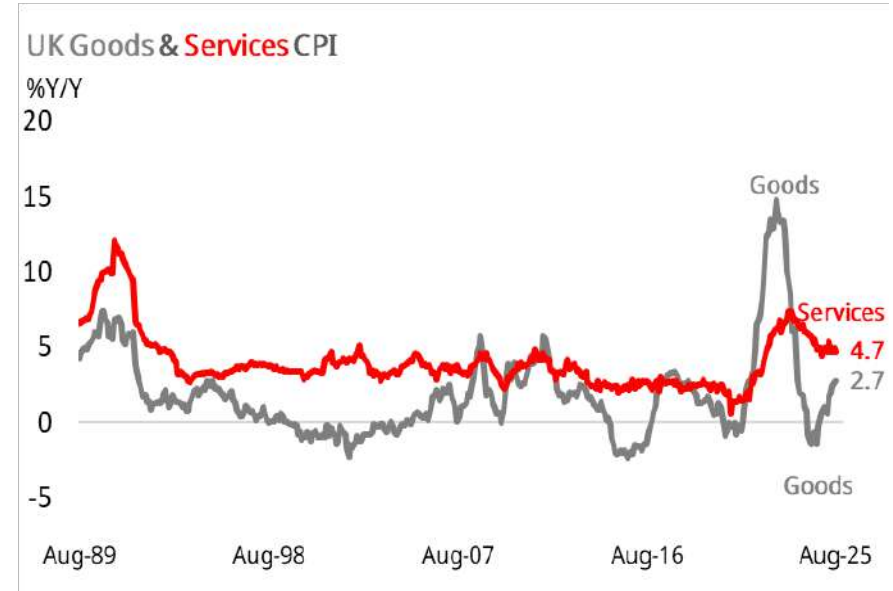
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UK inflation almost twice MPC's target



Source: ONS



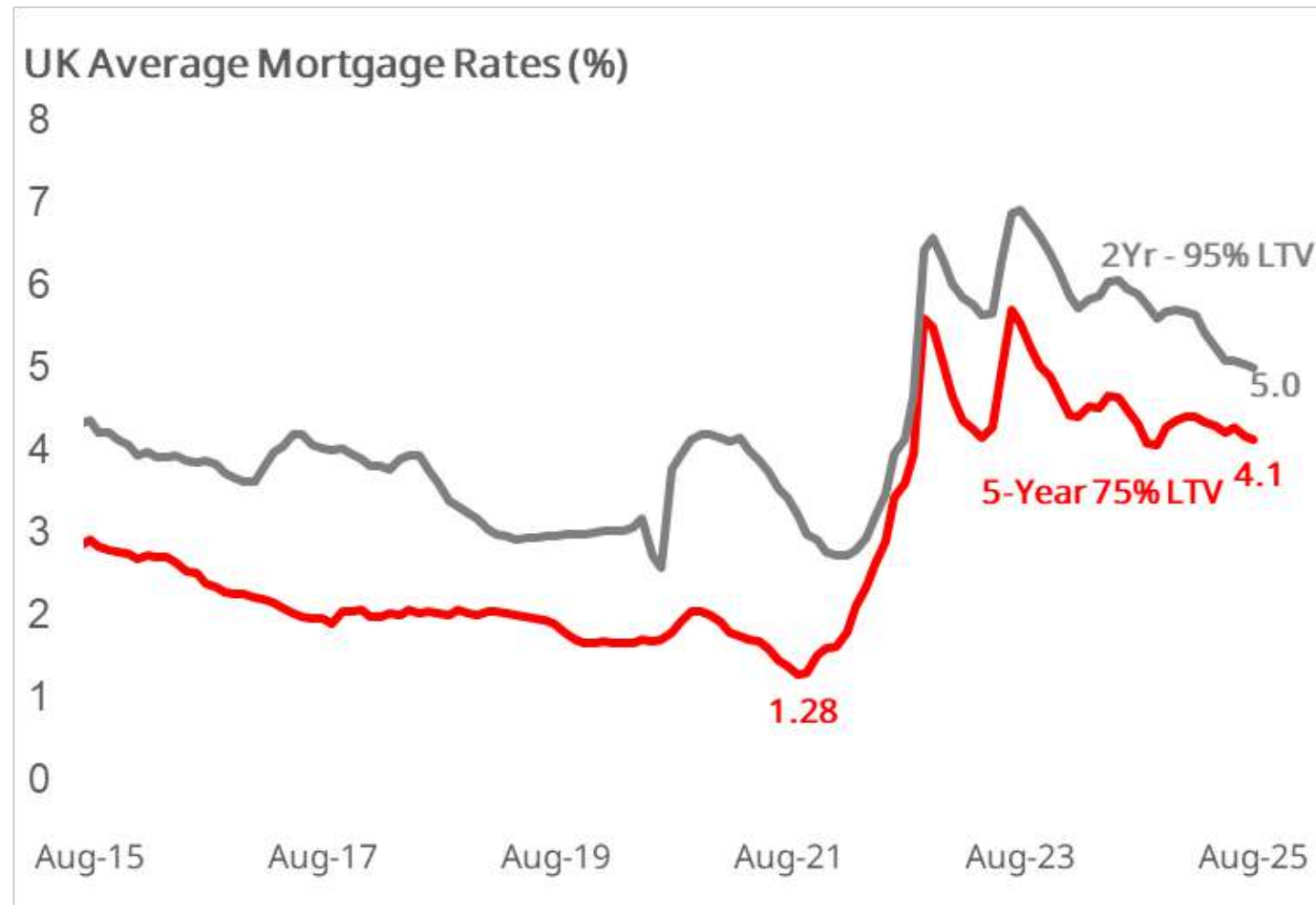
Source: ONS



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Mortgage rates may edge slightly lower



Source: Bank of England



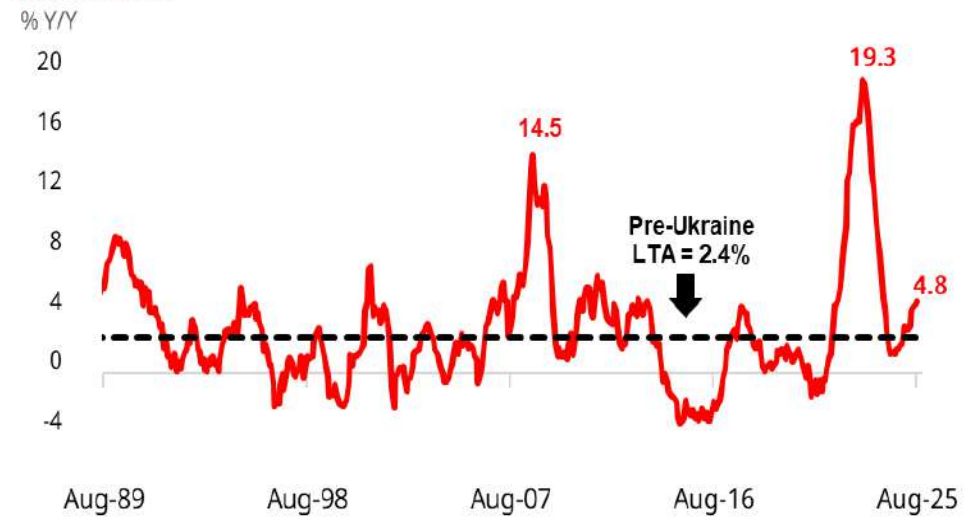
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Food price inflation causing concern



UK Food CPI



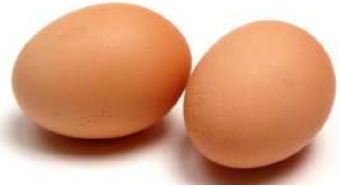
Source: ONS



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Year-on-Year prices rises to August 2025



+4.8%



+7.3%



+9.6%



+15.4%



+18.9%



+6.2%



+12.6%



+15.4%



+24.9%

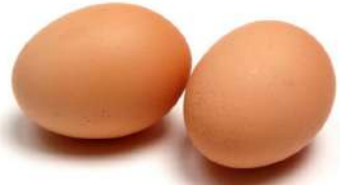
Source: ONS, CPI August 2025



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Price rises over the last 4 years



+53.7%



+53.9%



+44.0%



+42.9%



+50.4%



+35.9%



+44.8%



+50.4%



+57.6%

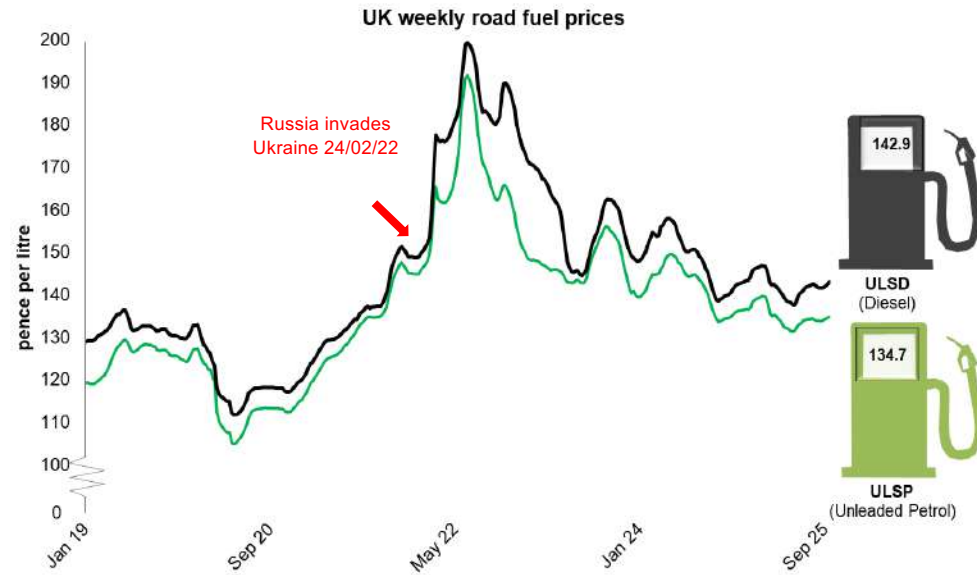
Source: ONS, CPI August 2025



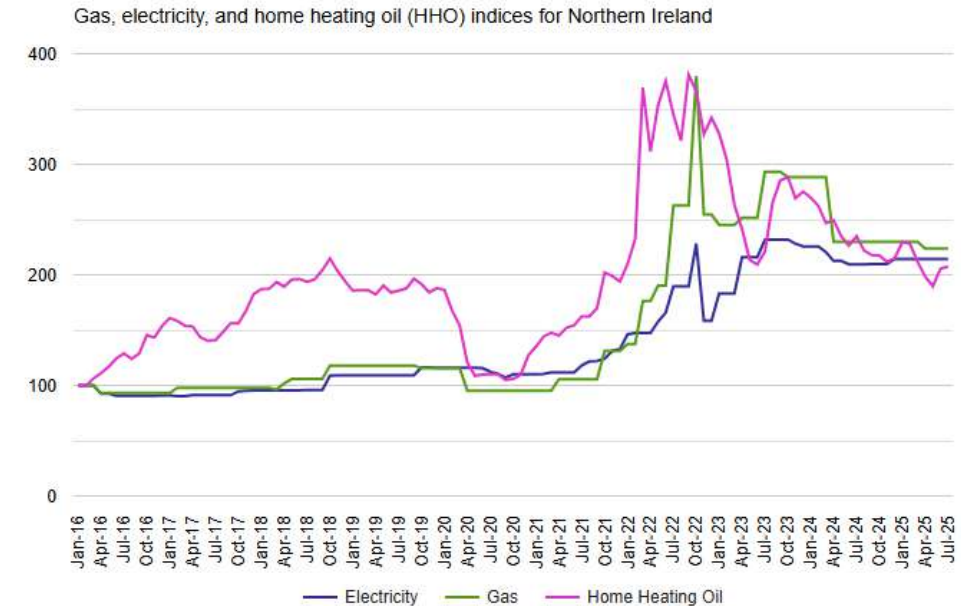
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Energy costs falling but utility bills still high



Source: Department for Energy Security & Net Zero



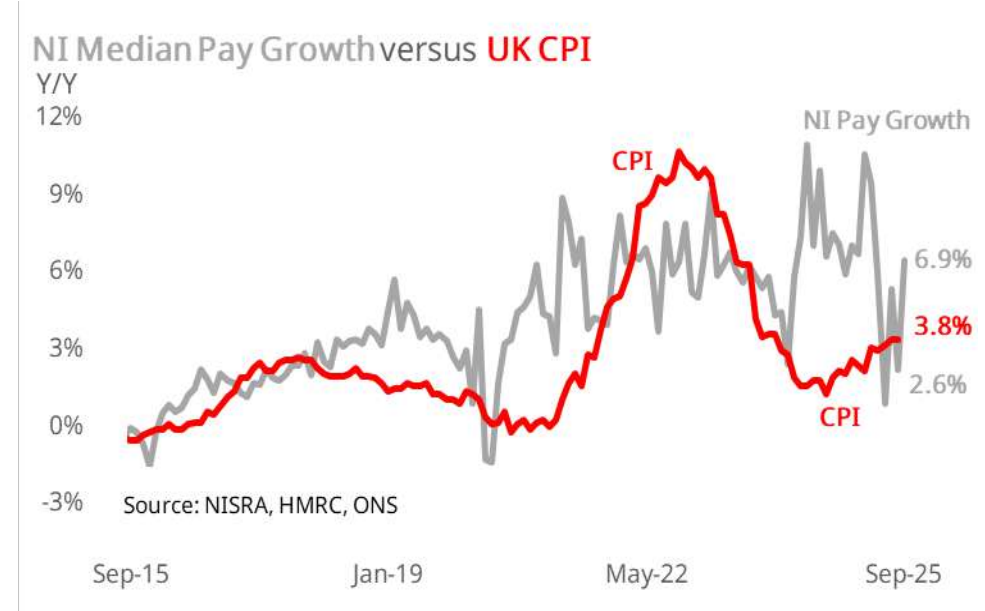
Source: Consumer Council for Northern Ireland



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NI wage growth > CPI... but for how long?



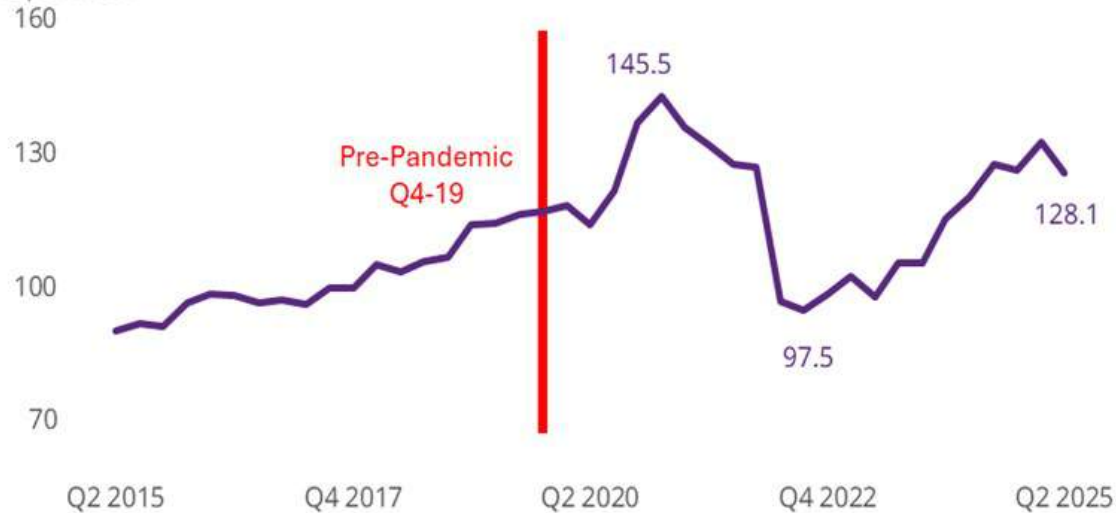
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Squeeze on household incomes

NI Discretionary Household Income - Nominal Prices

£ per week



Source: ASDA Income Tracker, Centre for Economics & Business Research

Average household Income Tracker, £ per week, current prices, excluding bonuses, by region, August 2025

North East	North West	Yorkshire & Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East
£163	£222	£210	£214	£193	£272

London	South East	South West	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland
£334	£220	£202	£206	£266	£131

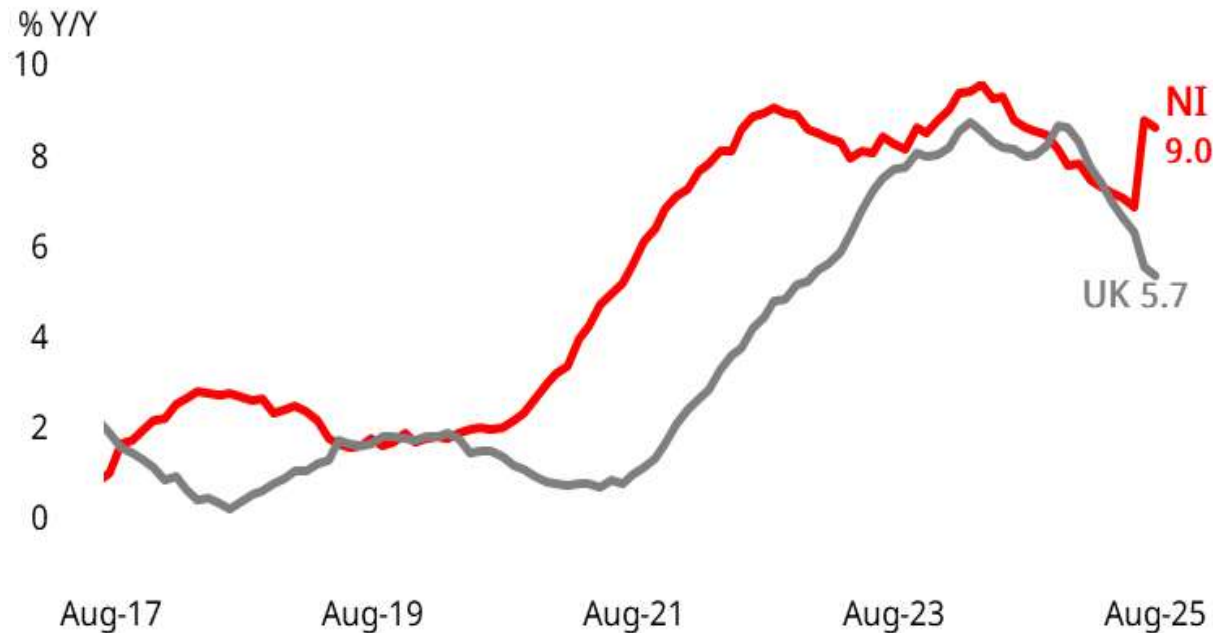


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Nightmare on Rental Street

NI & UK Private Sector Rents



Source: ONS



Belfast Average Rent (*All Properties*) £1,143 per month

Source: PropertyPal

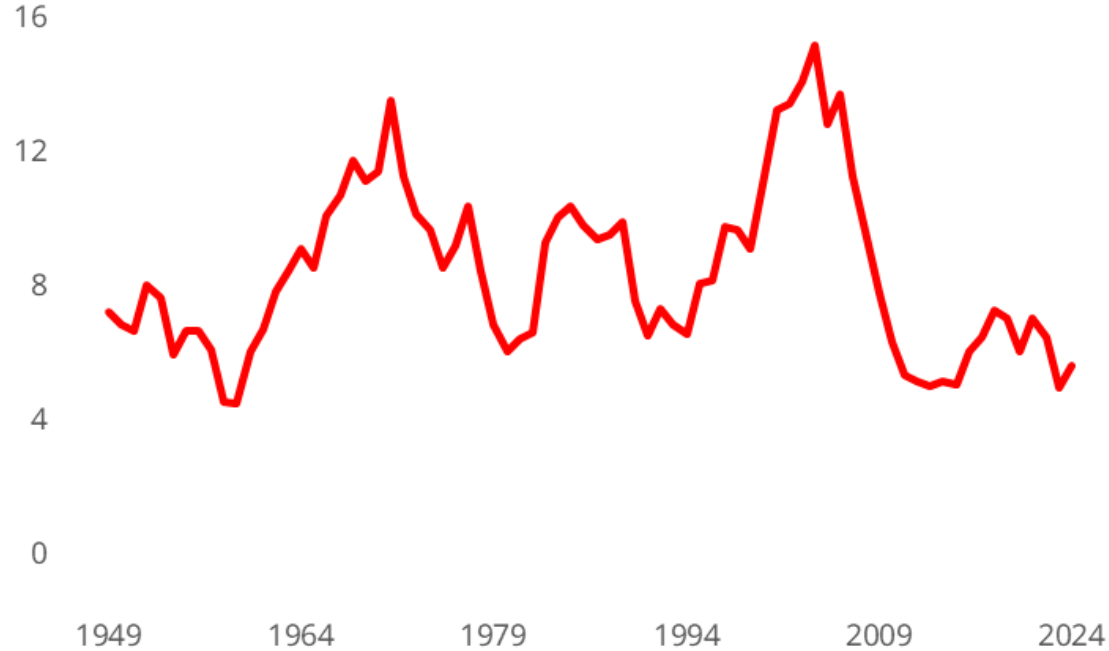


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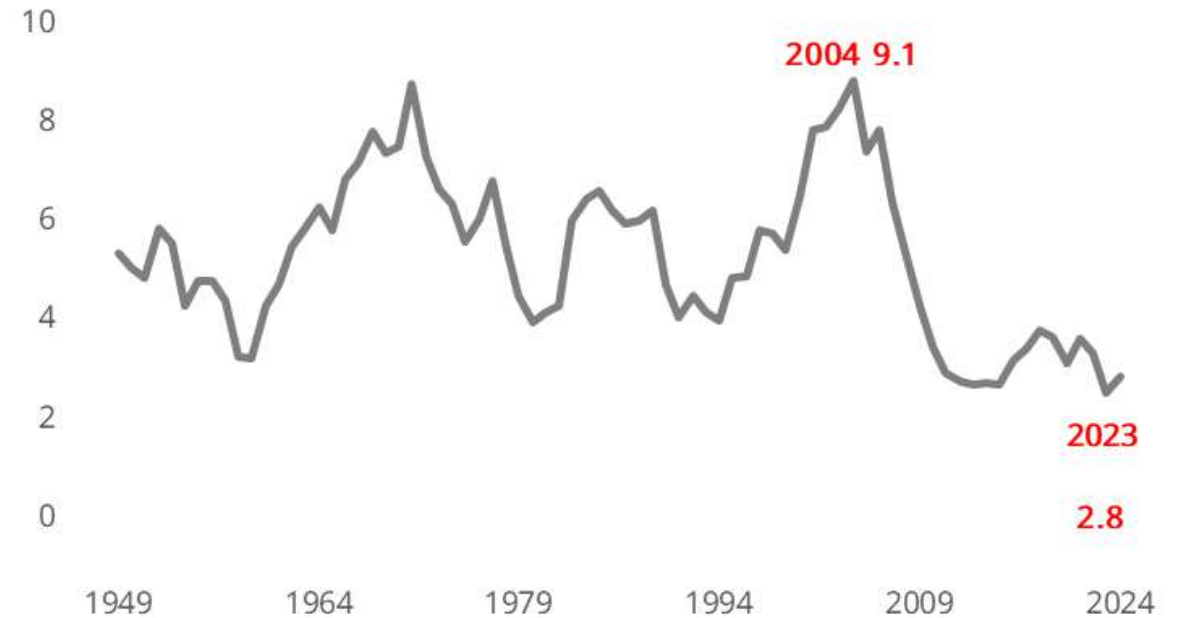
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Housing emergency continues to build

NI Housing Completions (k)



House Completions per (000) Population



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Challenging outlook at home & abroad



Source: X @KeyesGraeme & @Cartoon4sale 3rd May 2025

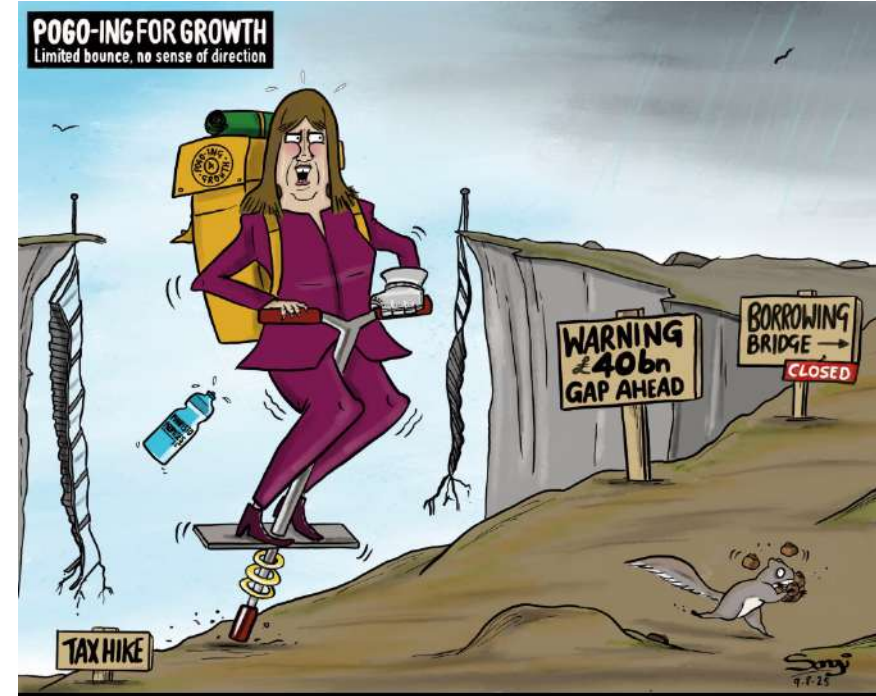
- 'Flood the zone' with uncertainty
- ExtraTradelreland v InterTradelreland
- Hospital(ity) pass set to continue?
- Focus on higher income customers
- Maximising Southern Comfort



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42 sleeps to Rachel's Big Reveal...



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