

Wisconsin Multifamily Outlook

September 2026

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For renter households making at least \$50k, what is the median share of income spent on rent?

- A. 22%
- B. 25%
- C. 28%
- D. 31%



RENTAL HOUSING TRIVIA



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APARTMENT TRENDS

Harvard Report: The Affordability Crunch Continues

By **Christine Serlin** · Mar 12, 2026 3:45pm

Joint Center for Housing Studies

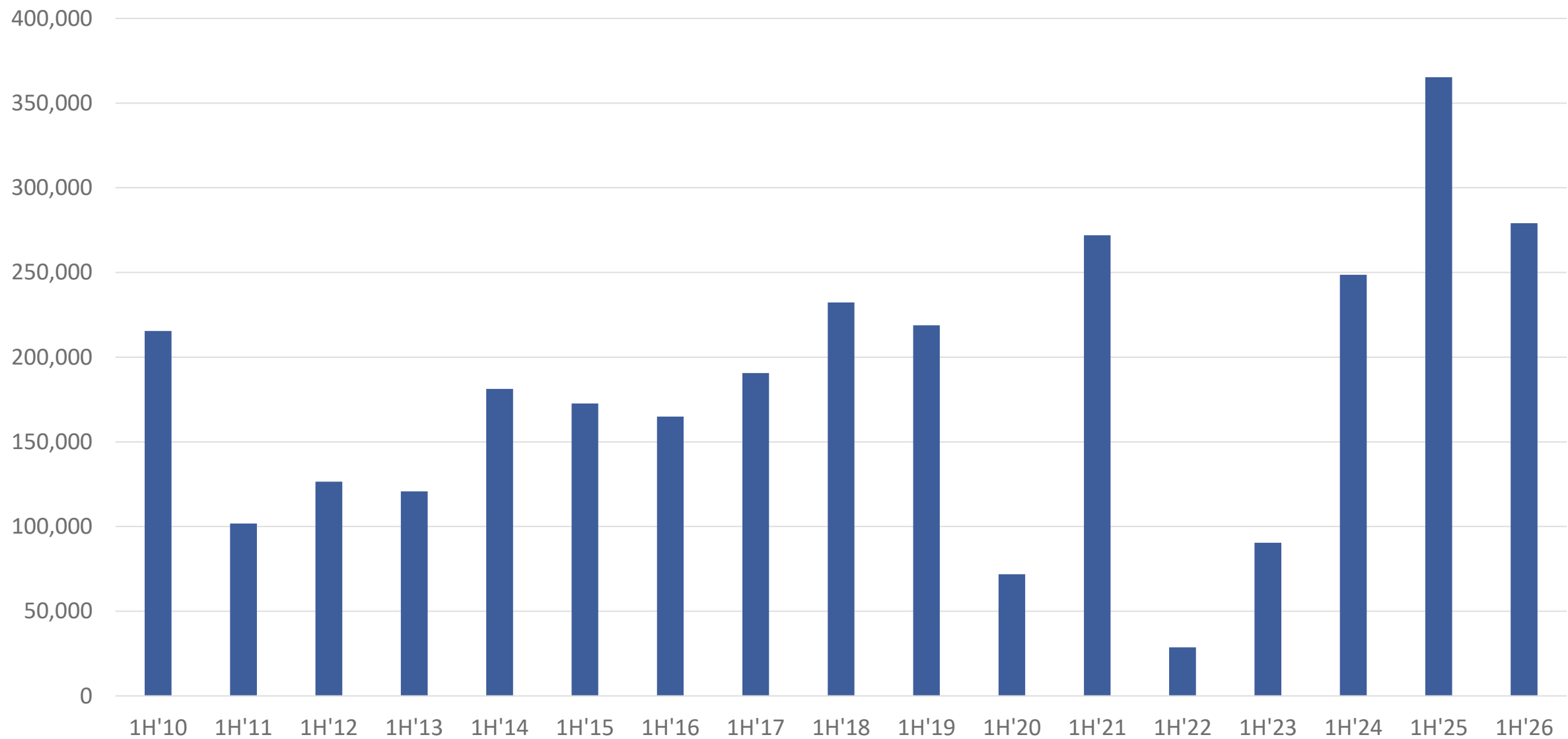
Chris Herbert

Harvard University

Whitney Airgood-Obrycki

For All the Noise, Apartment Demand Remains Very Strong

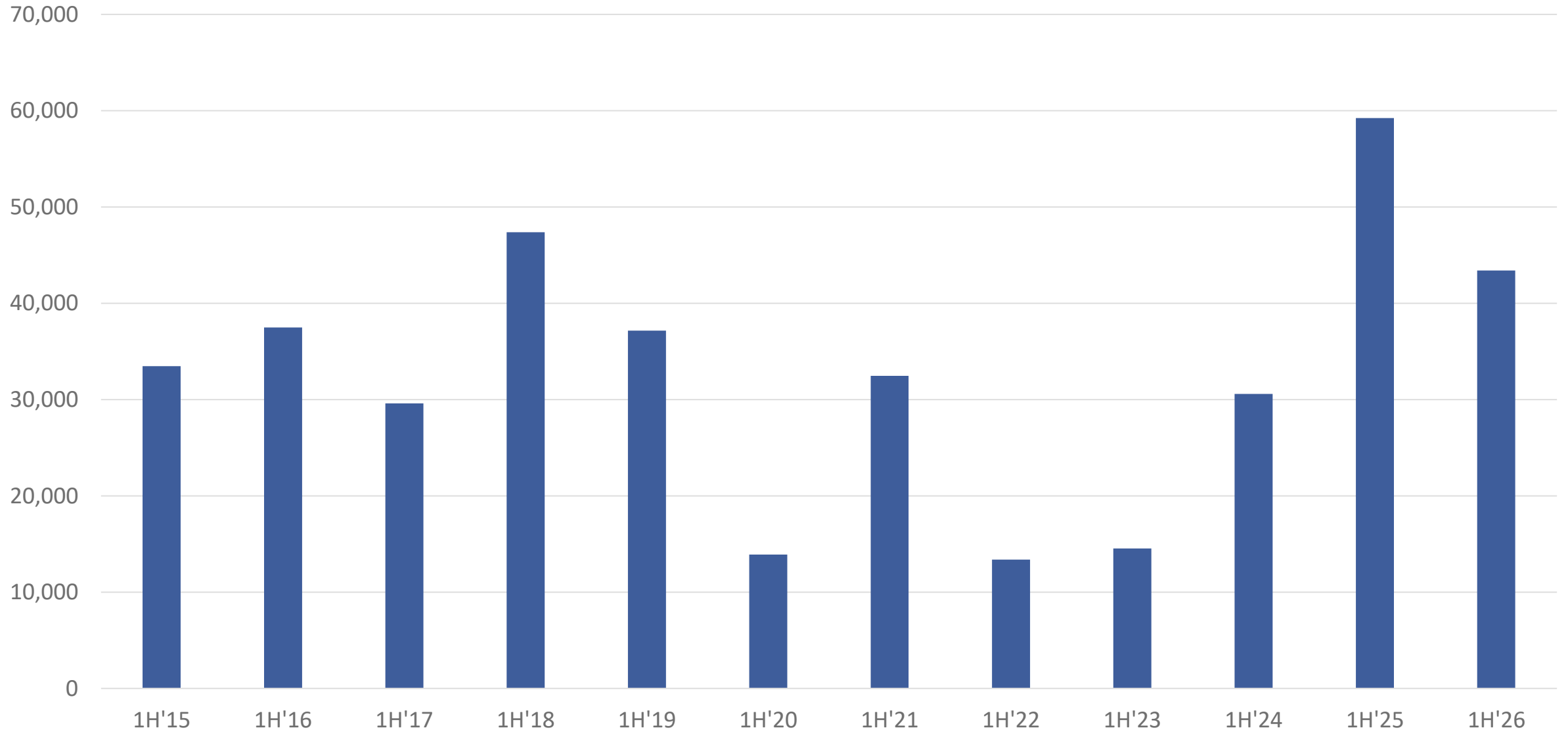
Net Apartment Absorption, First Half of Year, by Year



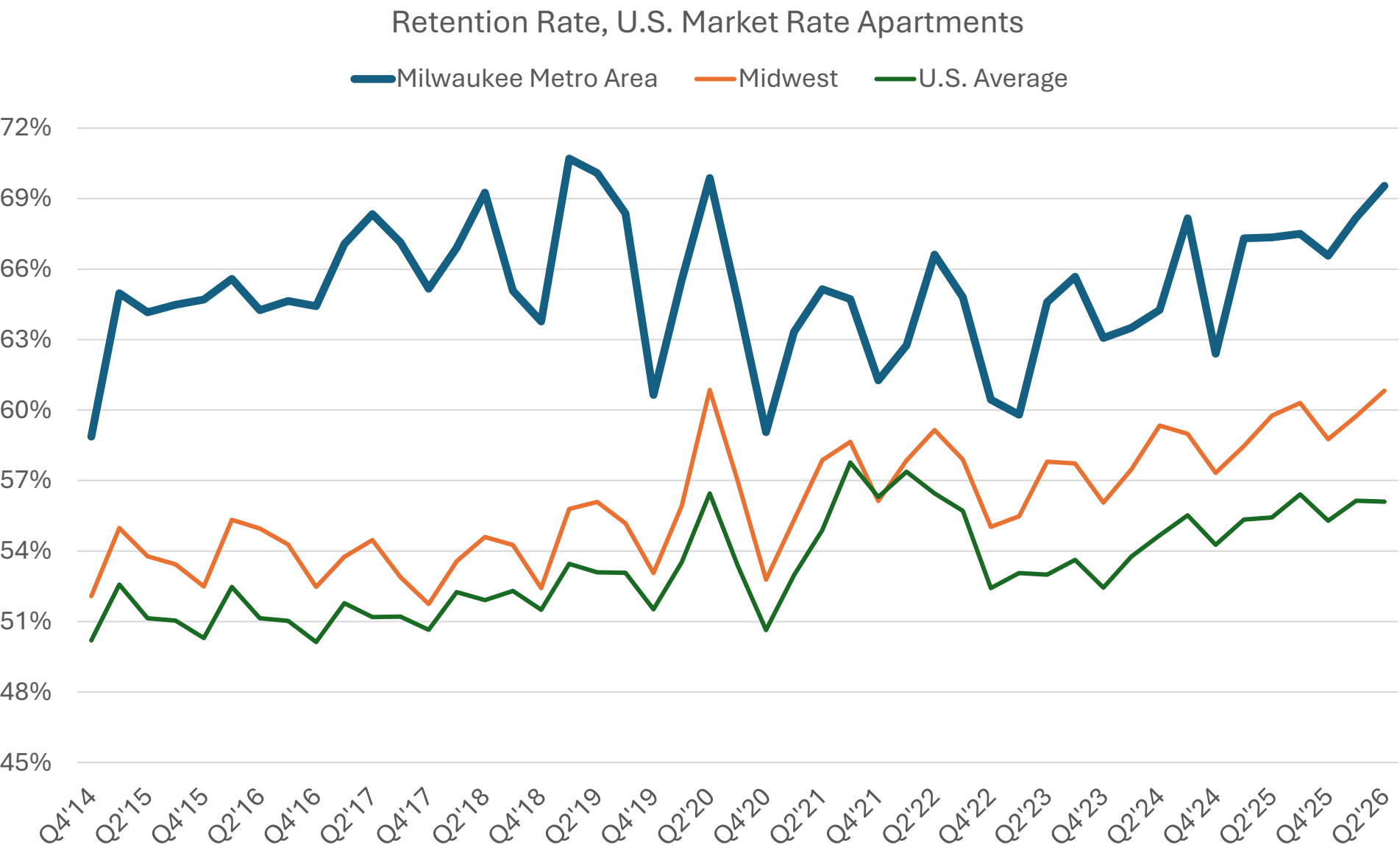
Source: Waymaker research, RealPage Market Analytics

Midwest: It's the Same Story Across the Midwest Region

Midwest Region: Net Apartment Absorption, First Half of Year, by Year



Renewal Demand, too: Retention Rates Continue to Trend Higher



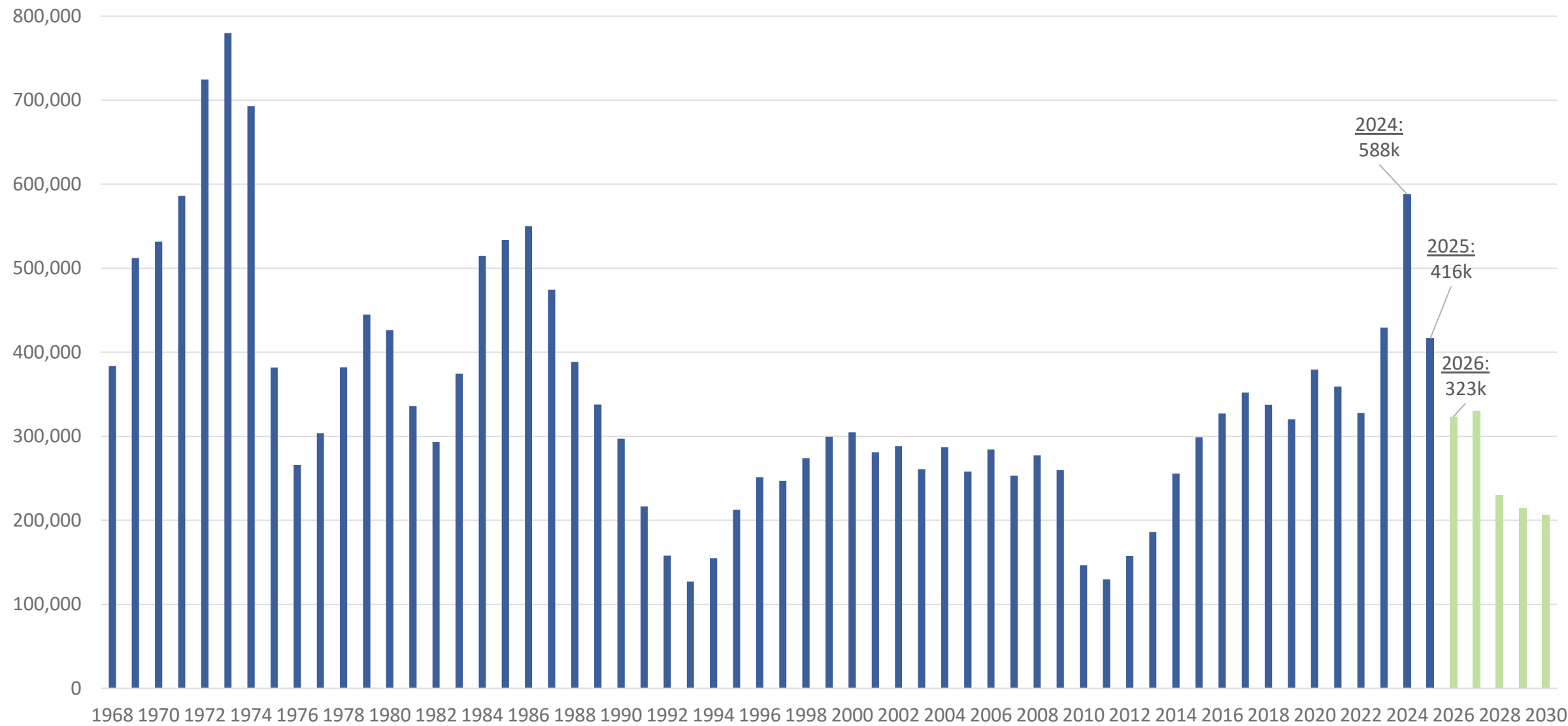
Takeaway:

Lower turnover is a long-term structural shift tracing back 10+ years, not a new phenomenon tied to mortgage rates.

Source: Waymaker research, RealPage Market Analytics. Retention = share of renter households with expiring leases signing a renewal.

Peak Apartment Supply is Now in the Rearview Mirror

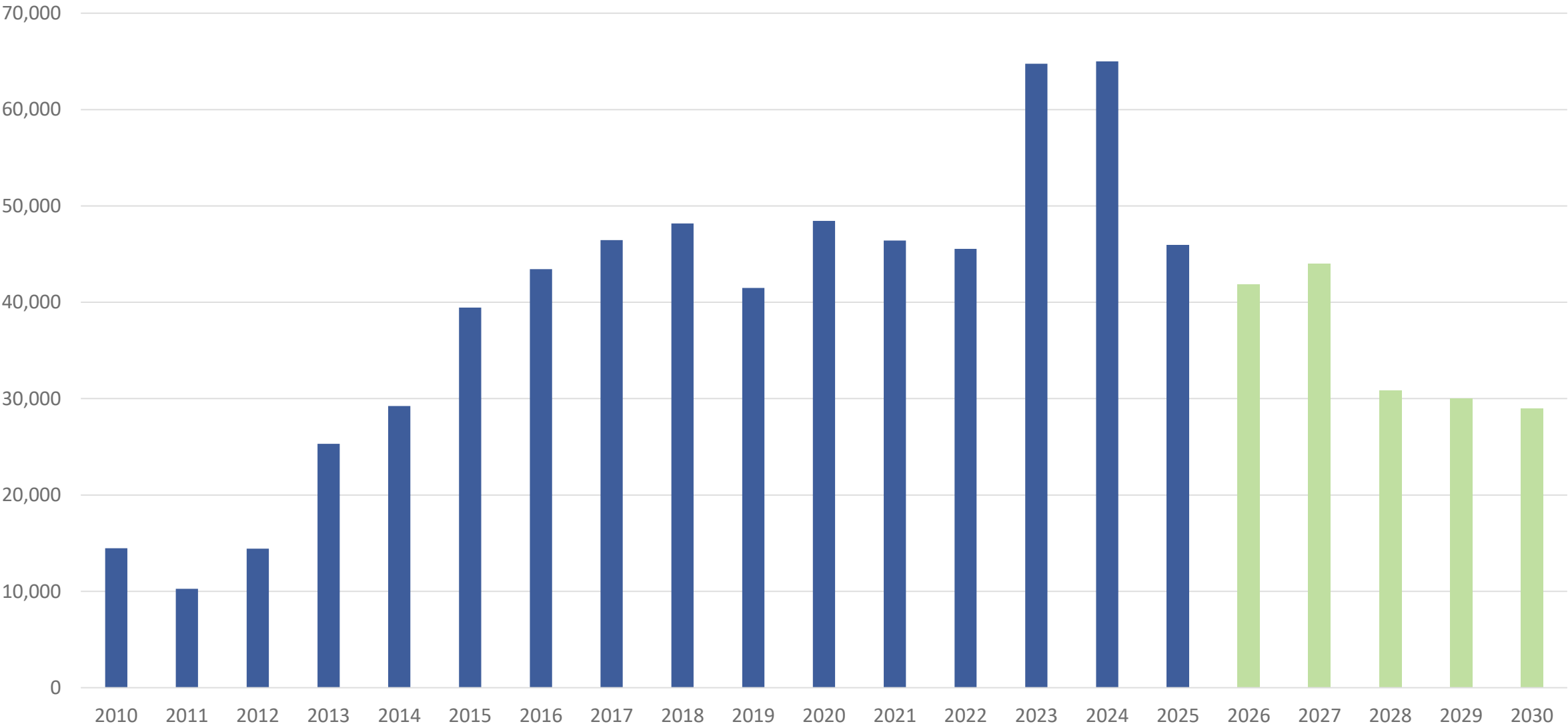
U.S. Multifamily Units Completed by Year and Forecast



Sources: Census, RealPage Market Analytics.

It's the Same Trend in the Midwest: Completions Peaked in '23-24

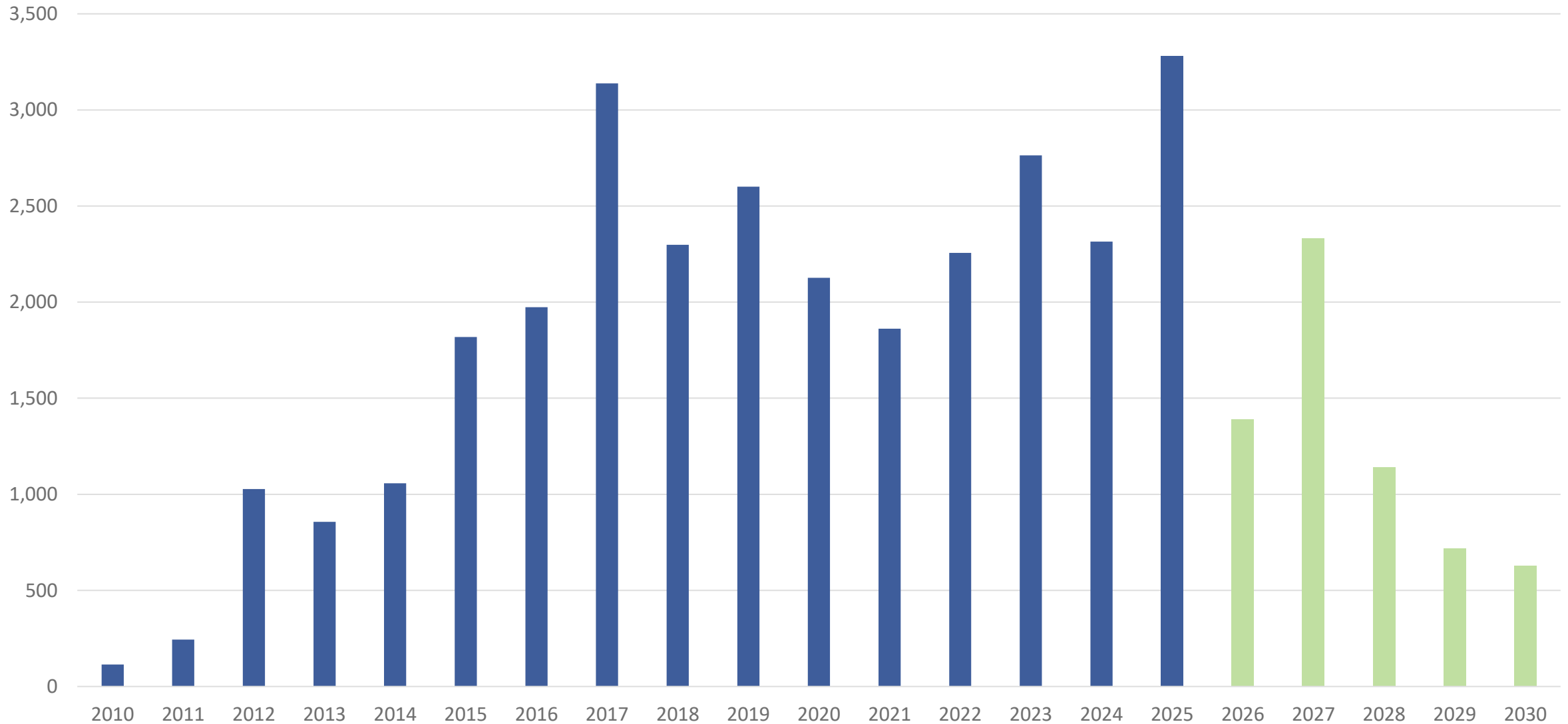
Multifamily Units Completed by Year and Forecast, Midwest Region



Sources: Waymaker research, Census, RealPage Market Analytics.

In Milwaukee: Completions Held Steadier, But Set to Decline

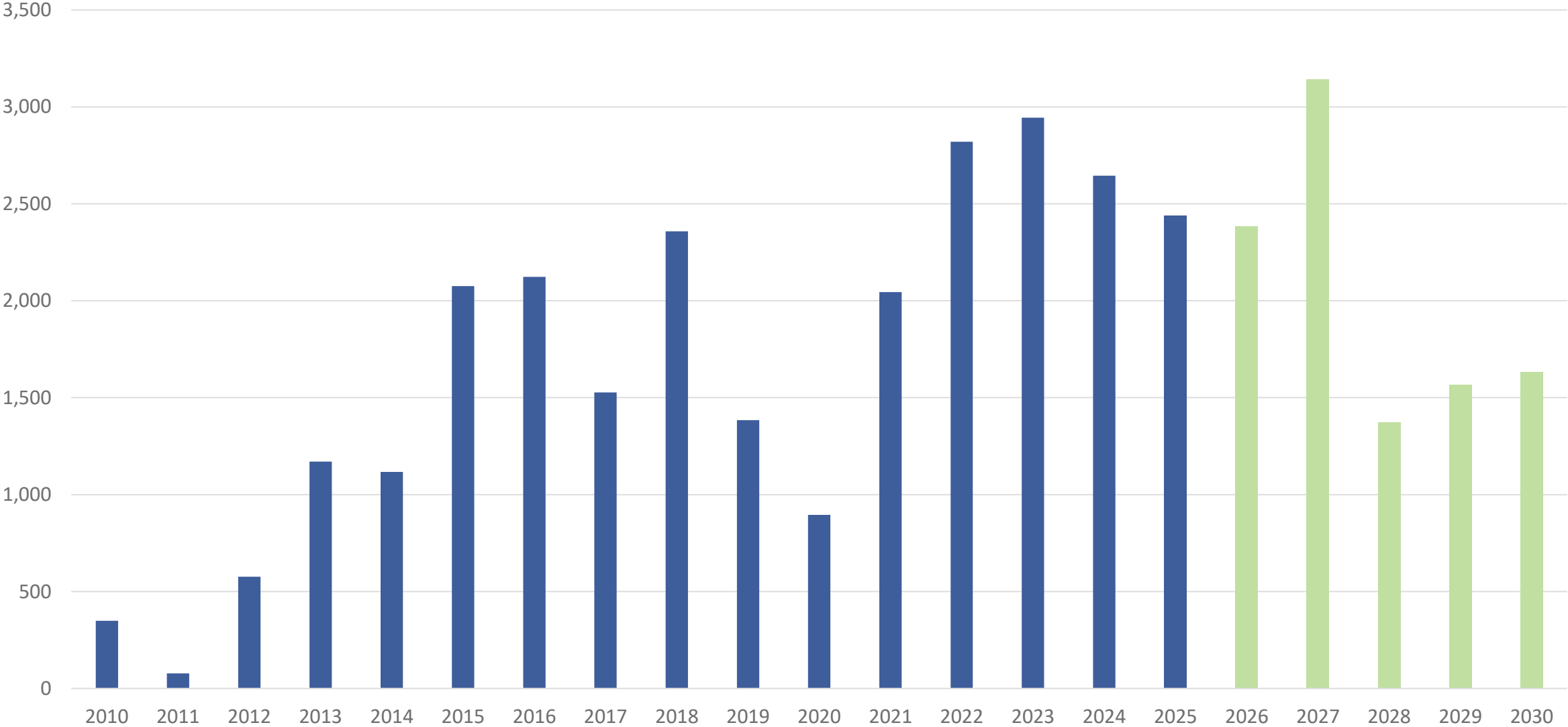
Multifamily Units Completed by Year and Forecast, Milwaukee Metro Area



Sources: Waymaker research, Census, RealPage Market Analytics.

In Madison: Moderate Supply Wave Should Persist Through '27

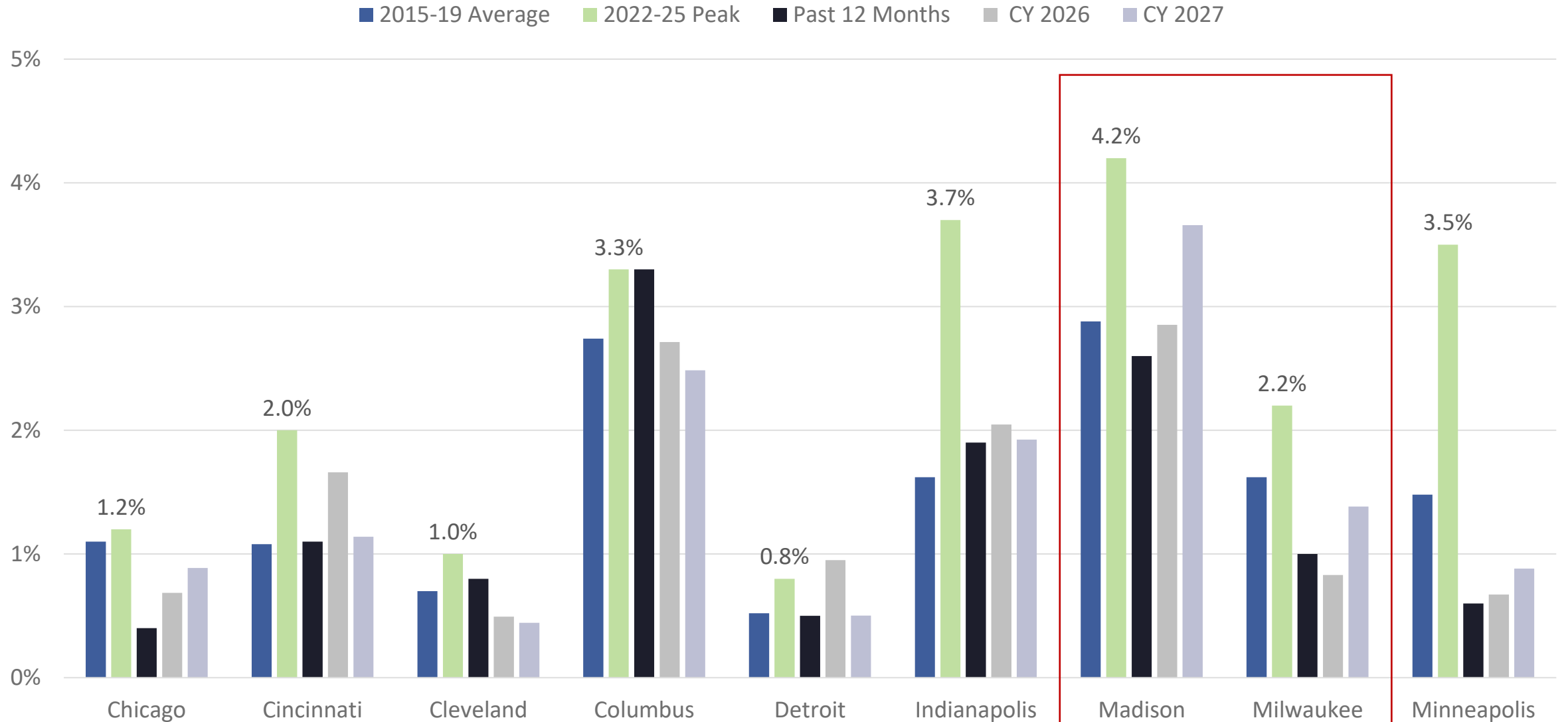
Multifamily Units Completed by Year and Forecast, Madison Metro Area



Sources: Waymaker research, Census, RealPage Market Analytics.

Examining Supply Trends Across the Region

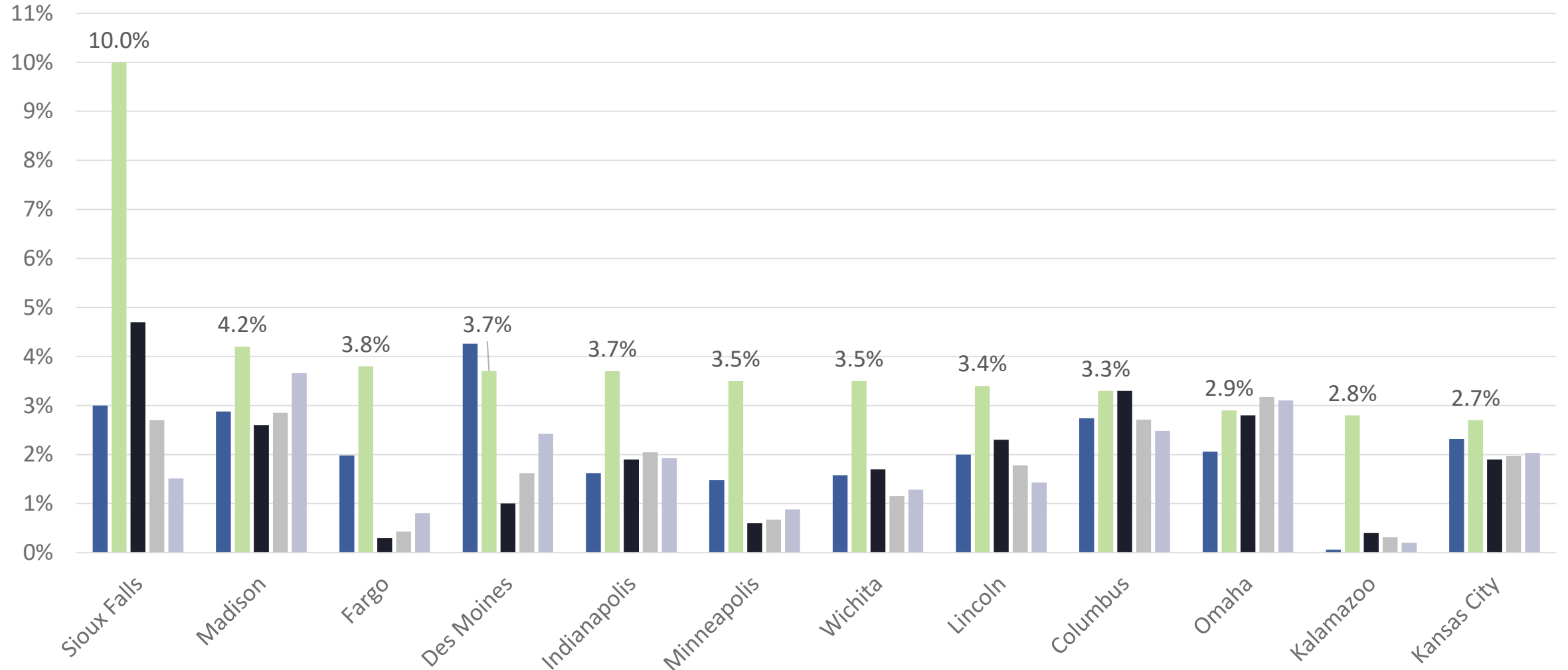
Apartment Units Completed as Share of Stock



Highest-Supplied Midwest Markets in the Post-COVID Cycle

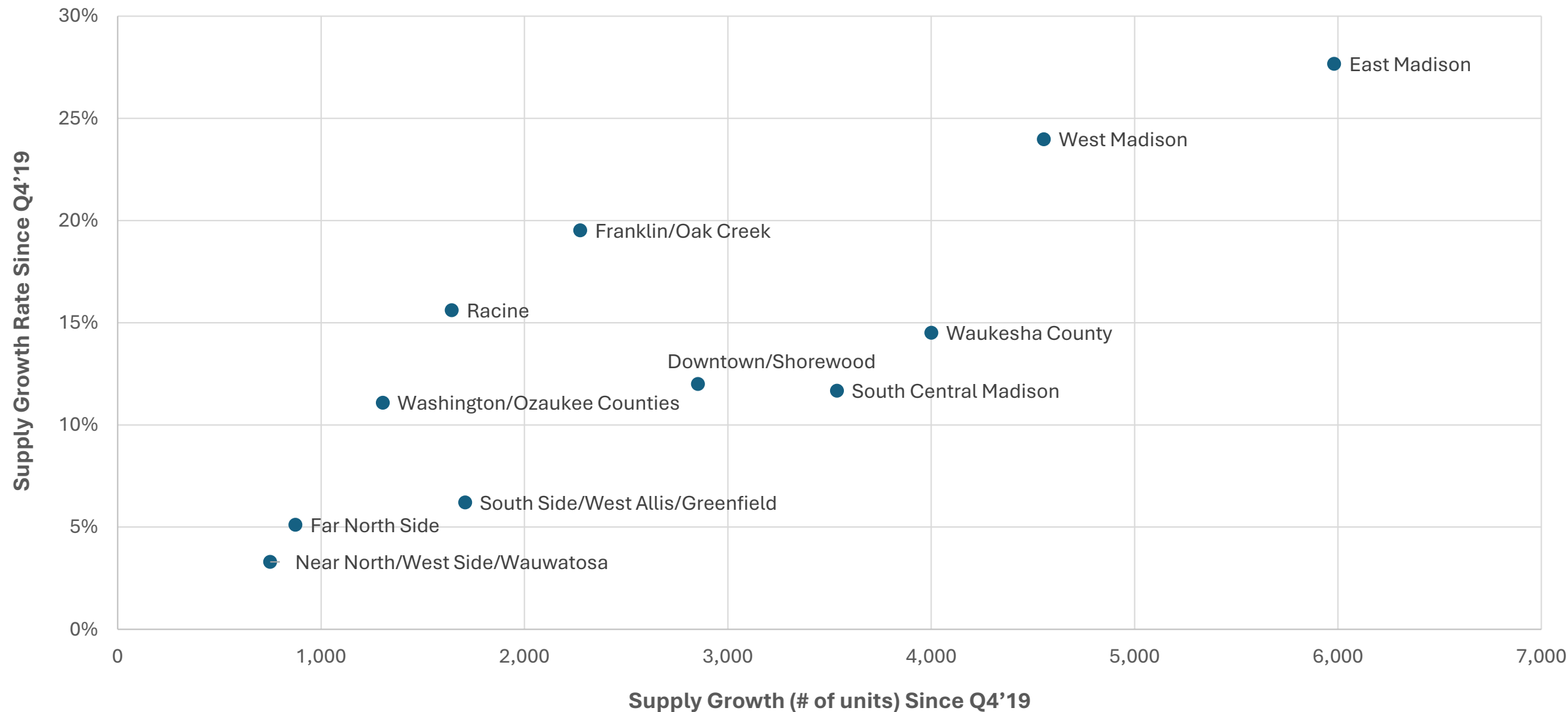
Apartment Units Completed as Share of Stock

2015-19 Average 2022-25 Peak Past 12 Months CY 2026 CY 2027



Some Submarkets Have Seen Moderate Supply Growth Since 2019

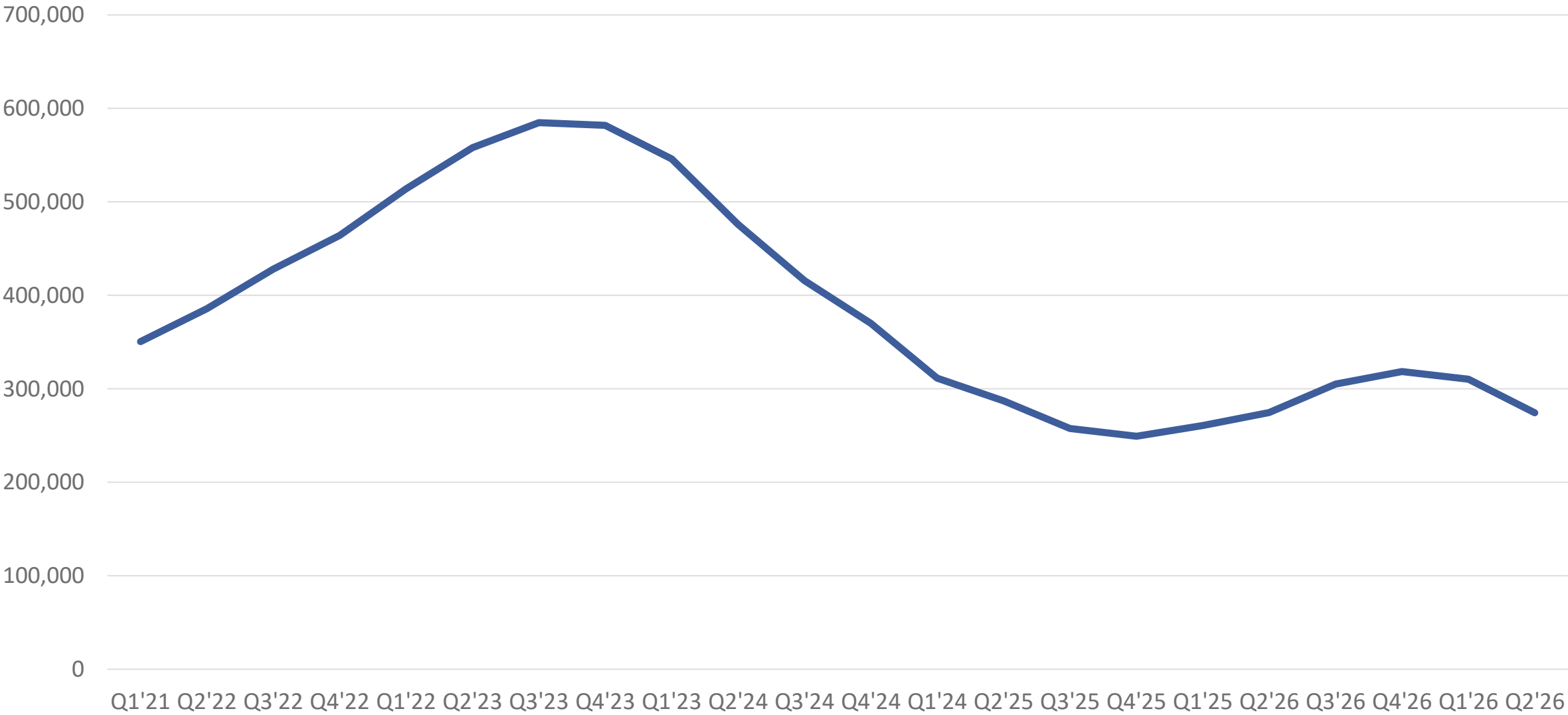
Apartment Supply Growth in 2020s (Q4'19 to Current) by Submarket



Source: Waymaker research, RealPage Market Analytics. Data covers market-rate professionally managed apartments.

Apartment Starts Hovering Around 300k, Half the Cycle's Peak

T-12 U.S. Apartment Starts (Conventional)



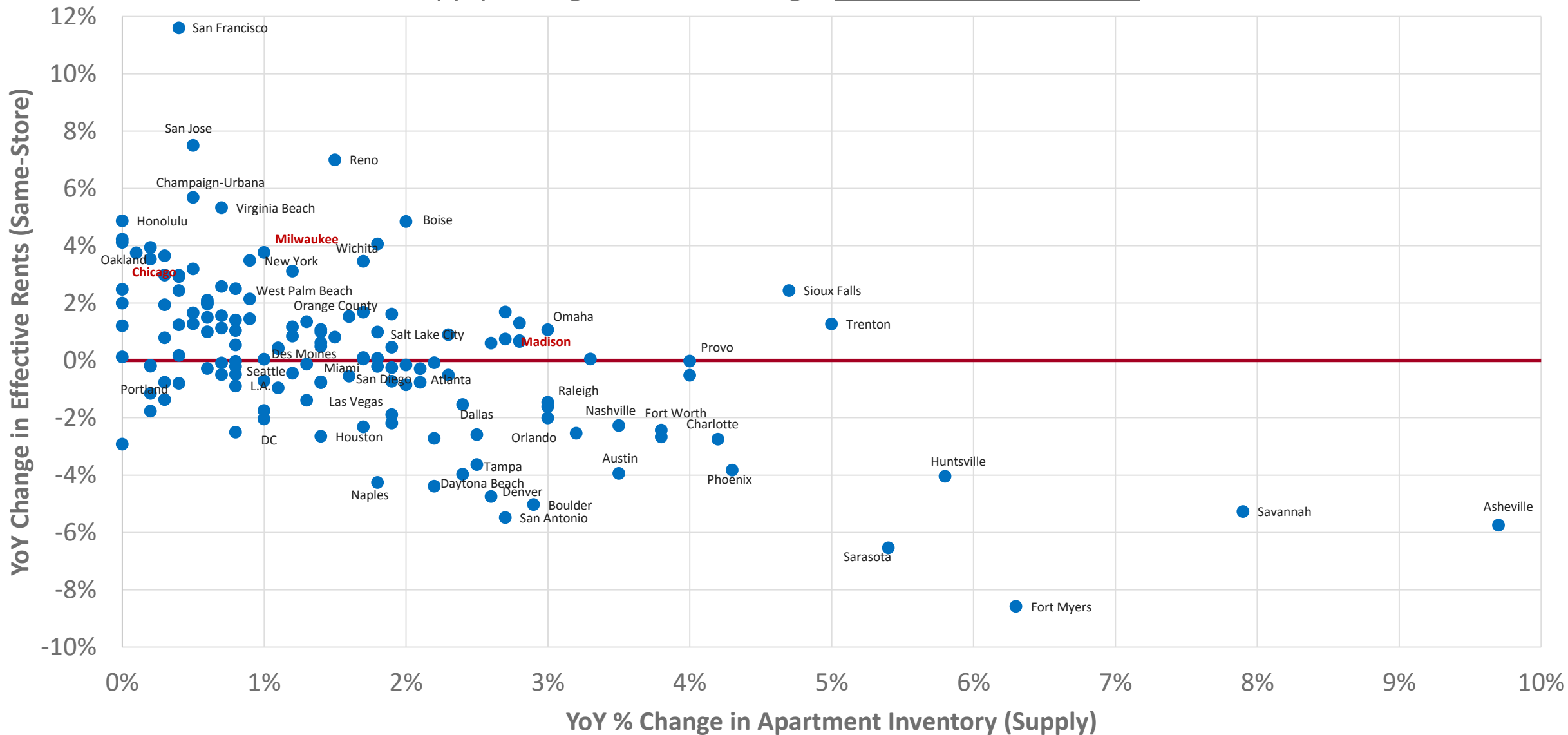
Source: Waymaker research, RealPage Market Analytics

The Six Types of Projects Still Breaking Ground

1. Not located in Massachusetts
2. Tax incentivizes
3. Master-planned, mixed-use development
4. Overlooked submarkets
5. “The Story”
6. “Making it Work” -- Value Engineering & Construction Efficiencies

Apartment Rents Slow Where Supply Goes, Grow Where It Doesn't

T-12 Supply Change vs. Rent Change, Top 150 U.S. Markets, Q2 2026

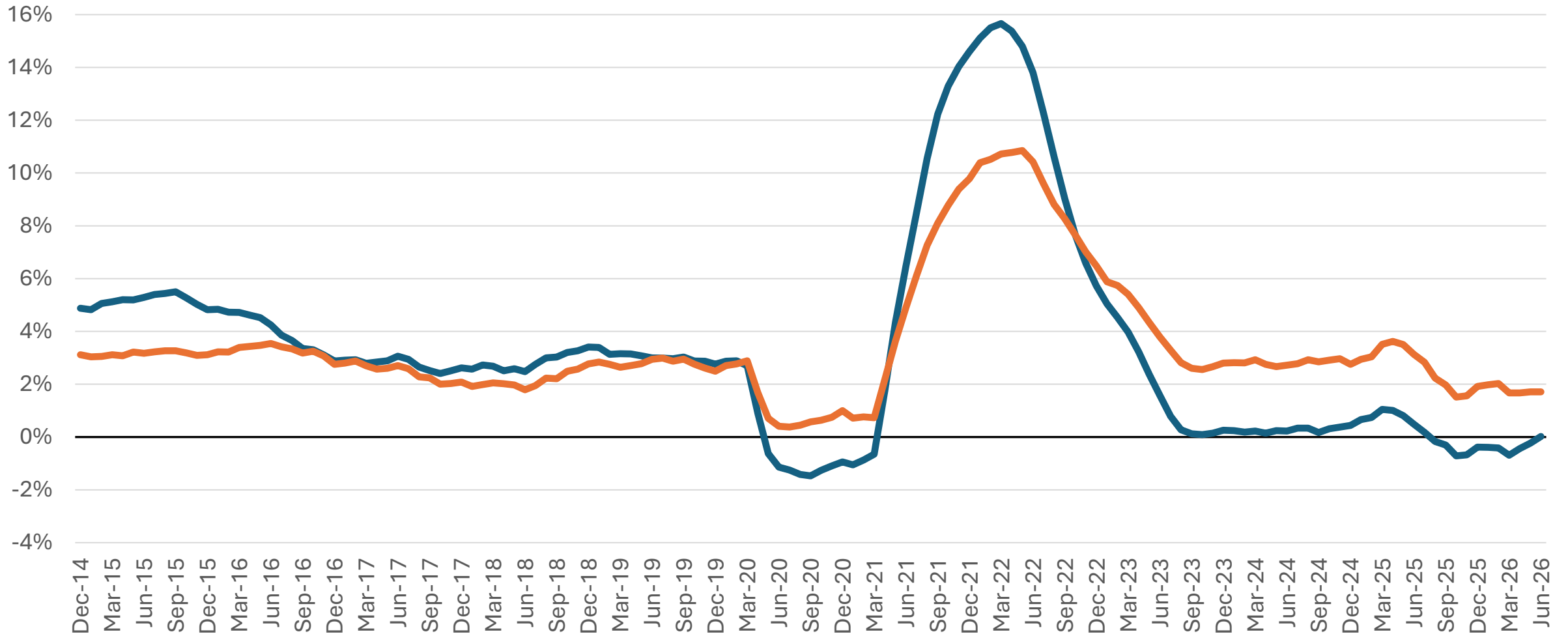


Source: Waymaker research, RealPage Market Analytics

In the Midwest, Less Supply = Much Steadier Rent Growth

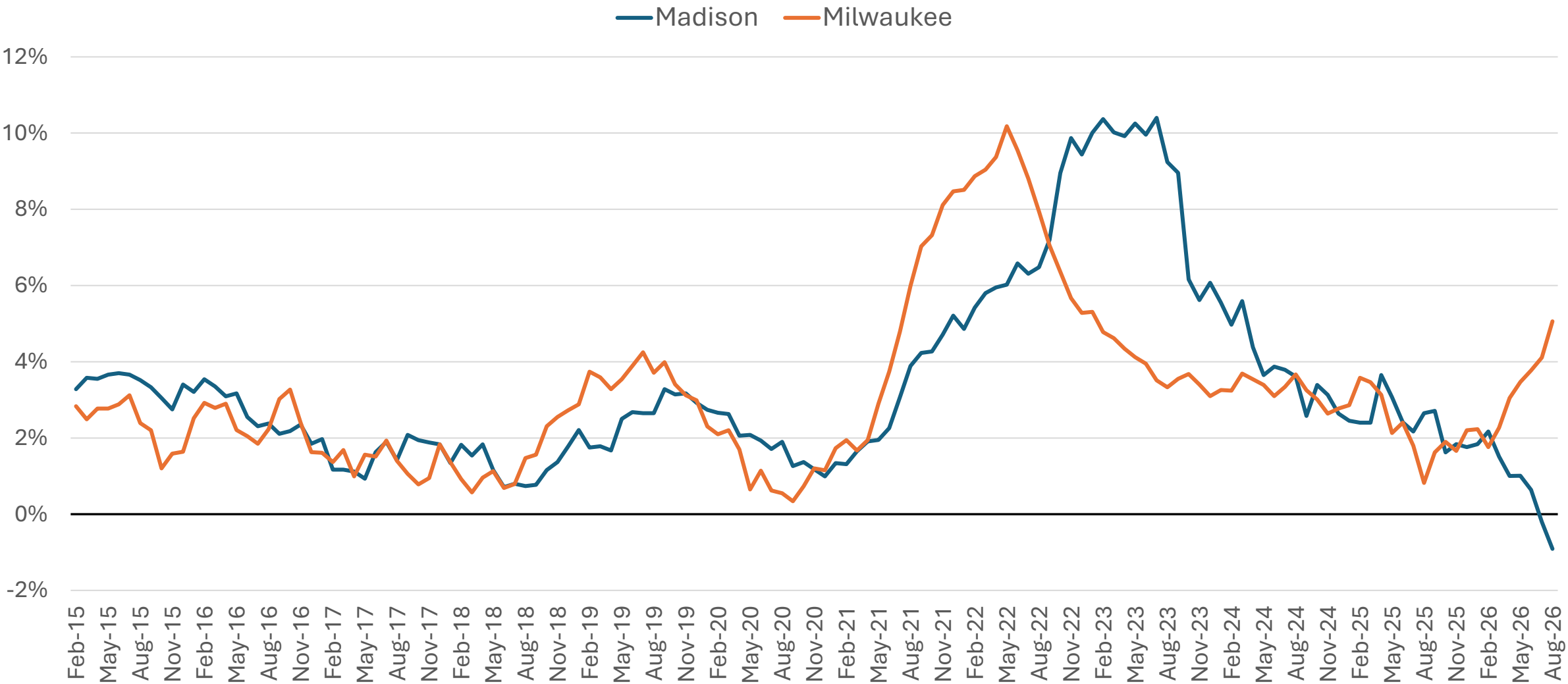
Year-Over-Year Effective Rent Change

— U.S. Average — Midwest



Rents in Milwaukee Gain Momentum, While Madison Lags

Year-Over-Year Effective Rent Change

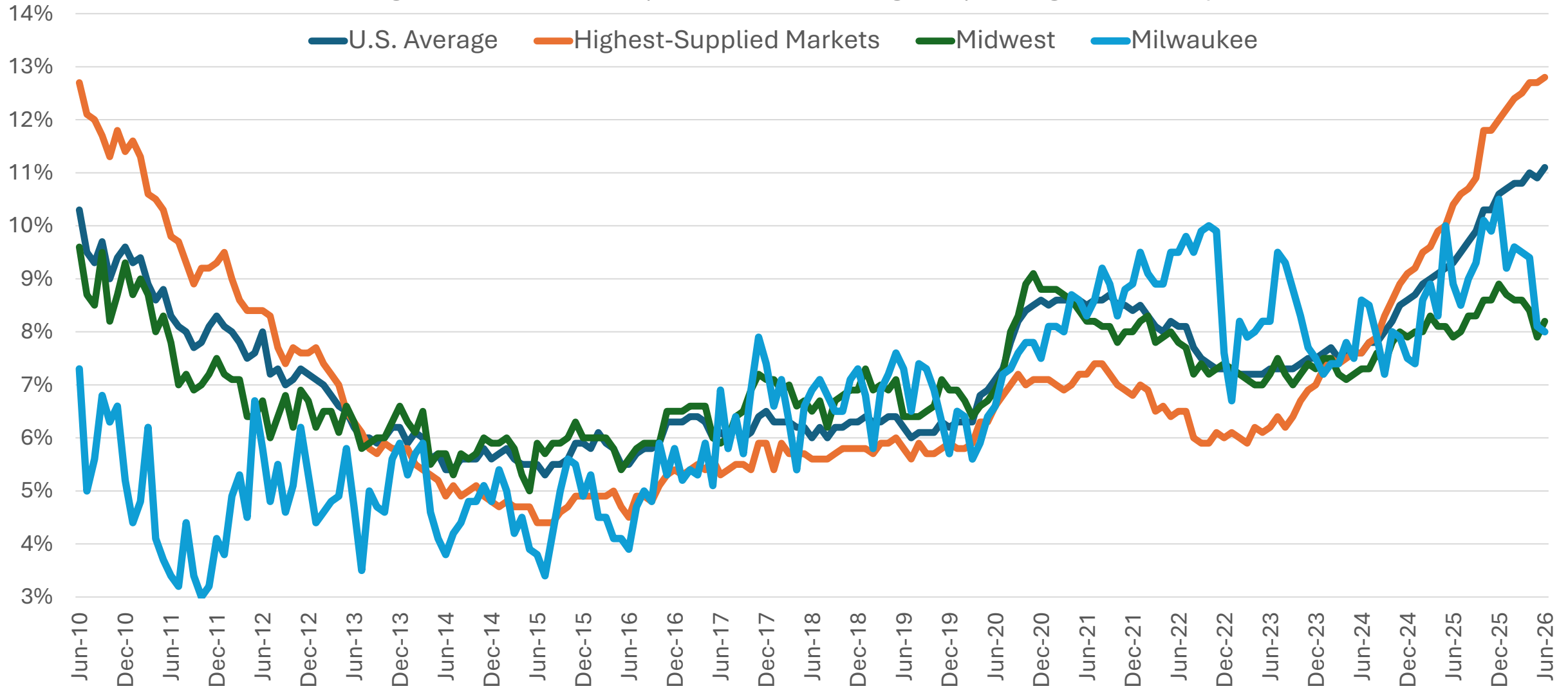


Source: Waymaker research, RealPage Market Analytics. Data covers market-rate professionally managed apartments.

Rent Concessions are Less Common in Midwest than Elsewhere

Average Concession Value (Discount from Asking Rent) Among Stabilized Apartments

— U.S. Average — Highest-Supplied Markets — Midwest — Milwaukee

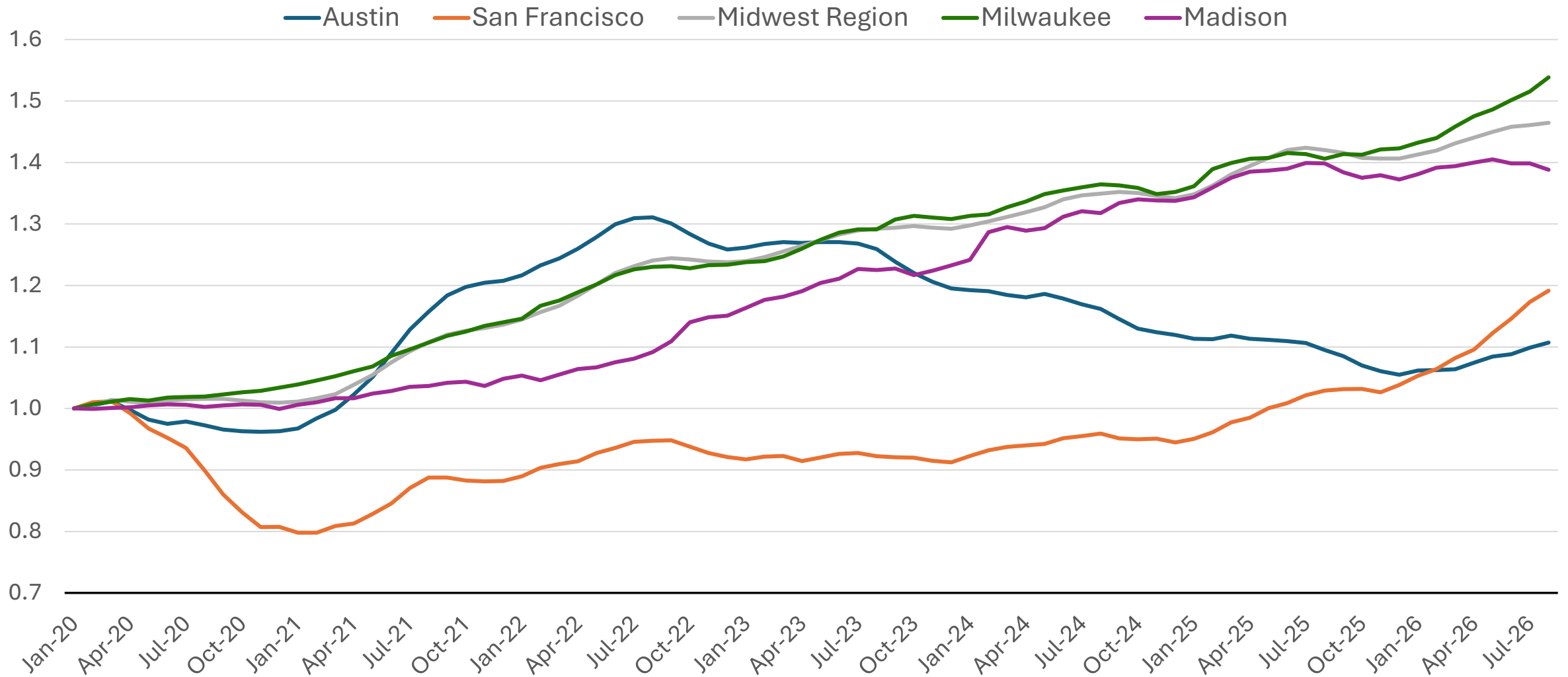


Apartment Fundamentals Hold Steady Across Milwaukee

Submarket	YoY Rent Change	Effective Rent	T-12 New Supply
Downtown/Shorewood	6.9%	\$ 2,280	90
Far North Side	6.2%	\$ 1,597	134
Franklin/Oak Creek	5.5%	\$ 1,758	131
Near North/West Side/Wauwatosa	3.2%	\$ 1,888	0
Racine	6.7%	\$ 1,554	162
South Side/West Allis/Greenfield	4.1%	\$ 1,549	353
Washington/Ozaukee Counties	5.1%	\$ 2,080	176
Waukesha County	4.0%	\$ 1,802	626

Since the COVID Era, Slow and Steady Wins the Race

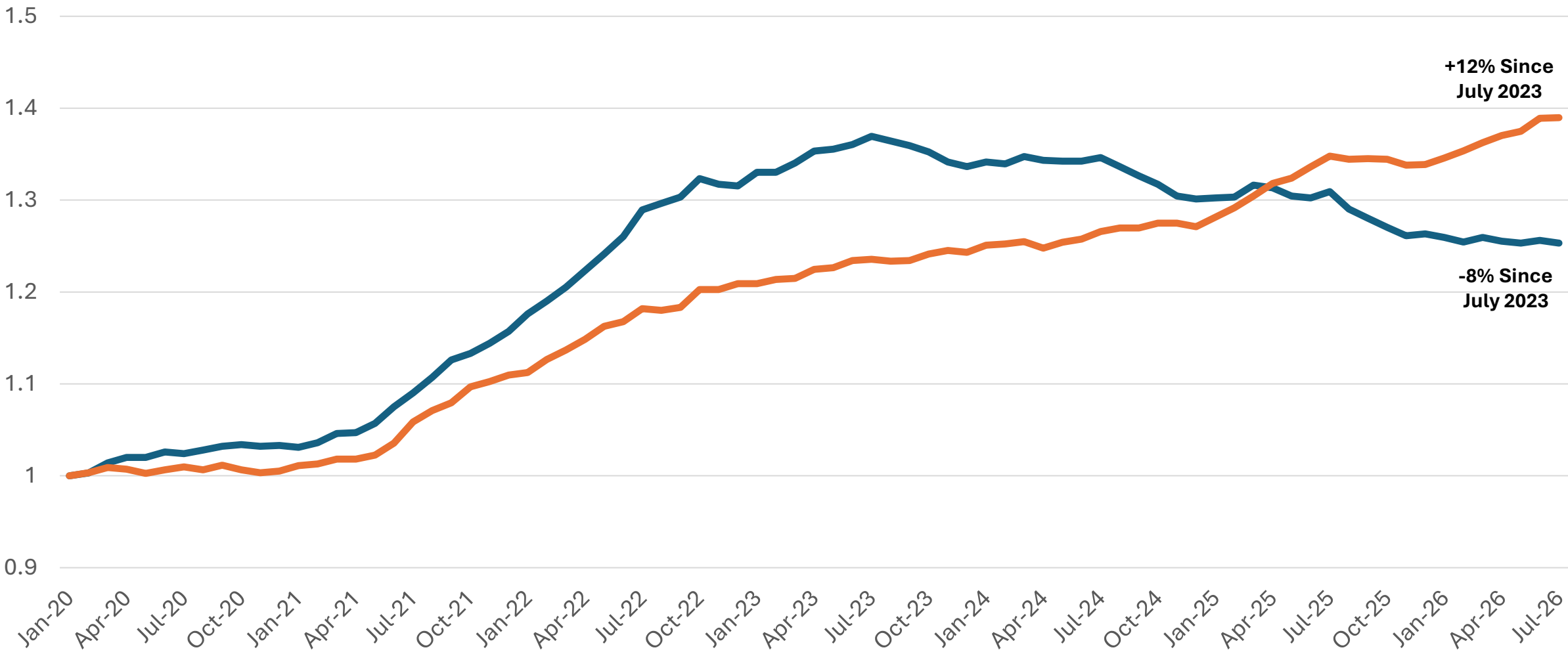
Effective Rents Indexed to January 2020



Class C Rents Rise in Low-Supply Areas, Fall in High-Supply Areas

Average Effective Monthly Rent for Class C Apartments Indexed to Jan 2020

Highest-Supplied Markets Lowest-Supplied Markets



+12% Since
July 2023

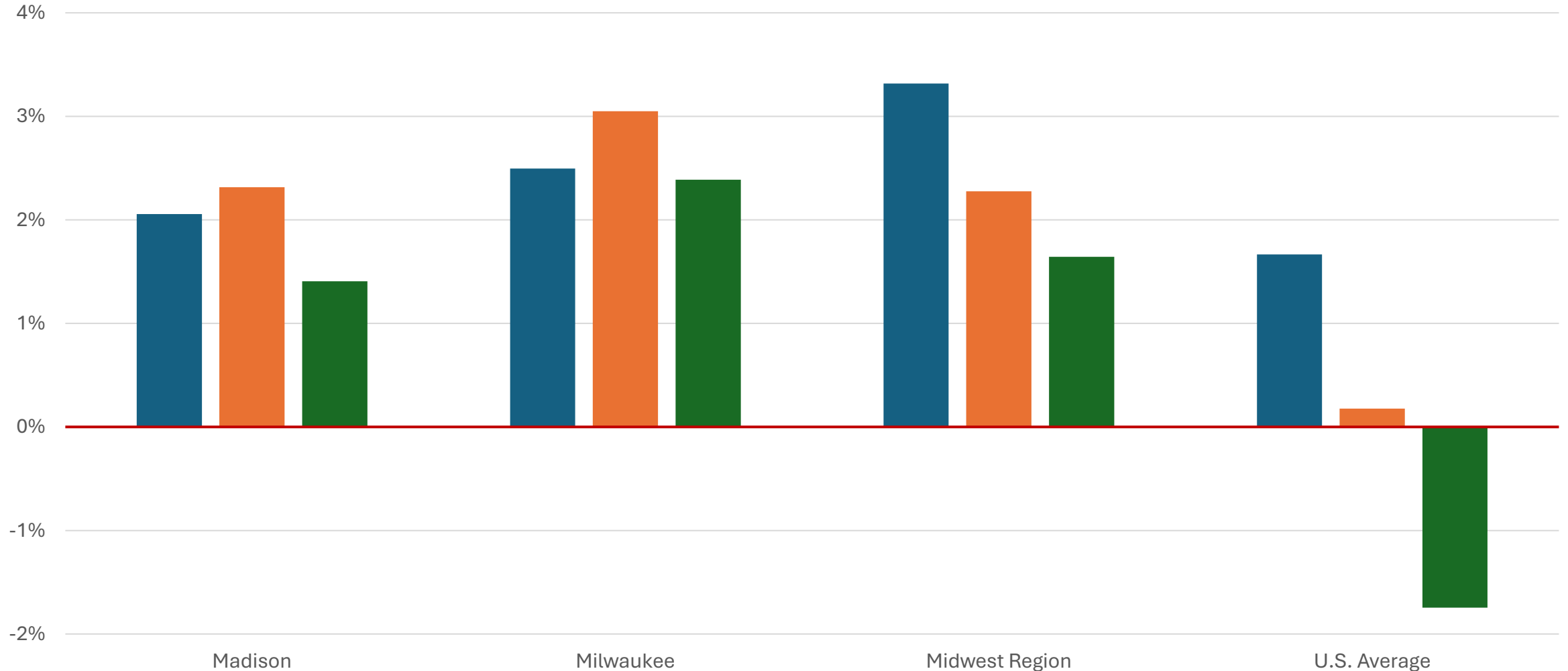
-8% Since
July 2023

Source: RealPage Market Analytics. Data covers major metro areas with highest supply versus lowest supply as a percent of total stock. Class C generally represents cheapest market-rate apartments.

In Multifamily, Class A Has (Generally) Outperformed Bs and Cs

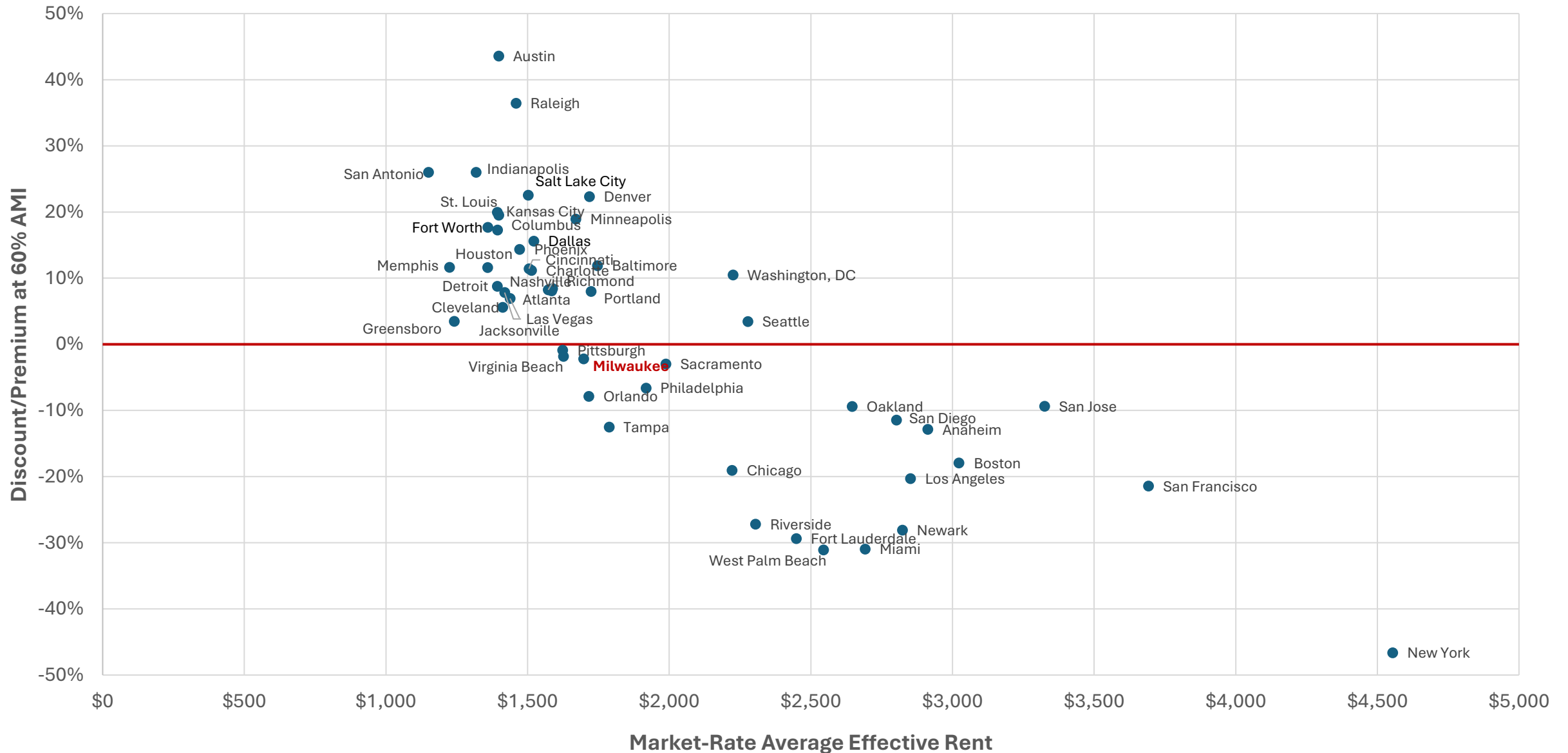
2-Year Average Annual Rent Change by Asset Class

■ Class A ■ Class B ■ Class C



LIHTC Max Rents Top Market Rents in Higher-Supply Markets

Discount/Premium for 60% AMI Rent vs. Market-Rate Rent





Journal of Urban Economics

Volume 133, January 2023, 103383

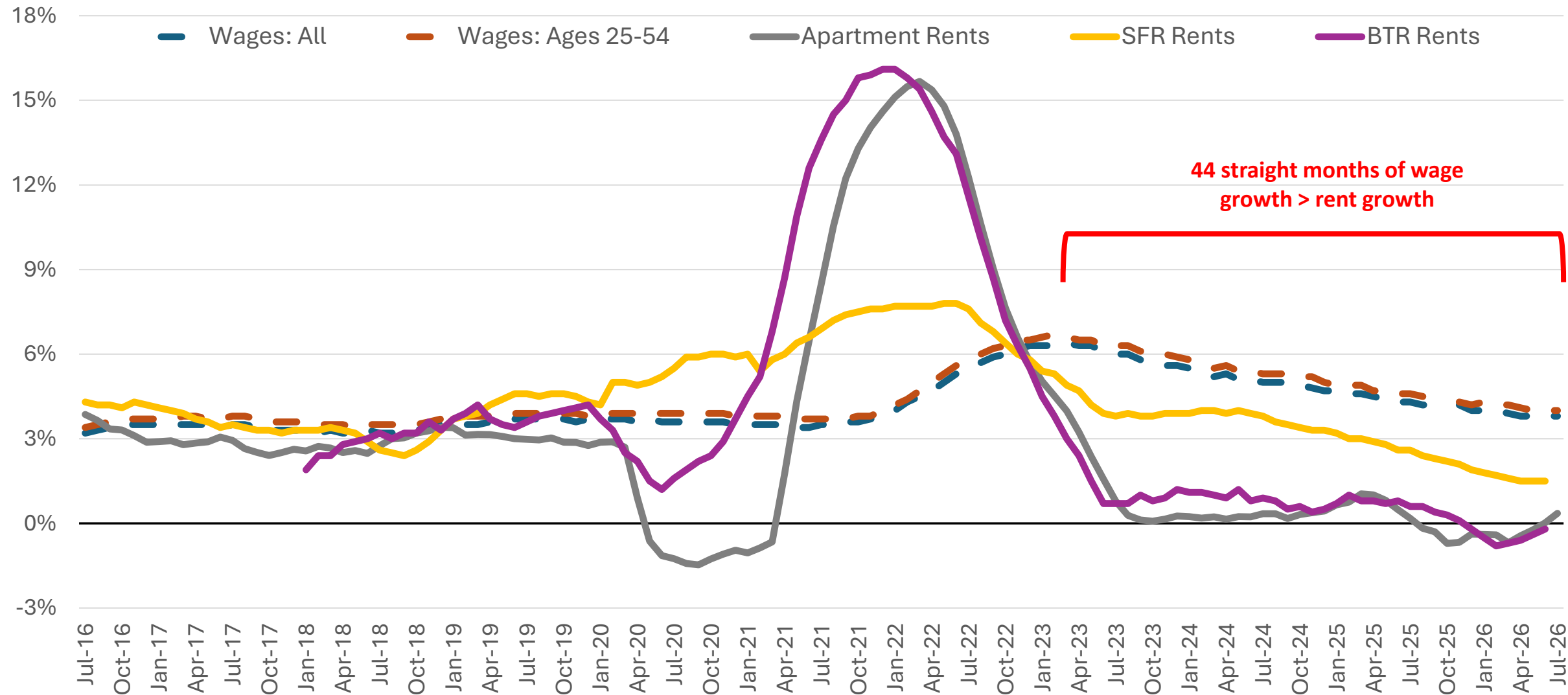


JUE Insight: The effect of new market-rate housing construction on the low-income housing market ☆

Evan Mast ✉

Wage Growth Surpasses Rent Growth for 44 Months and Counting

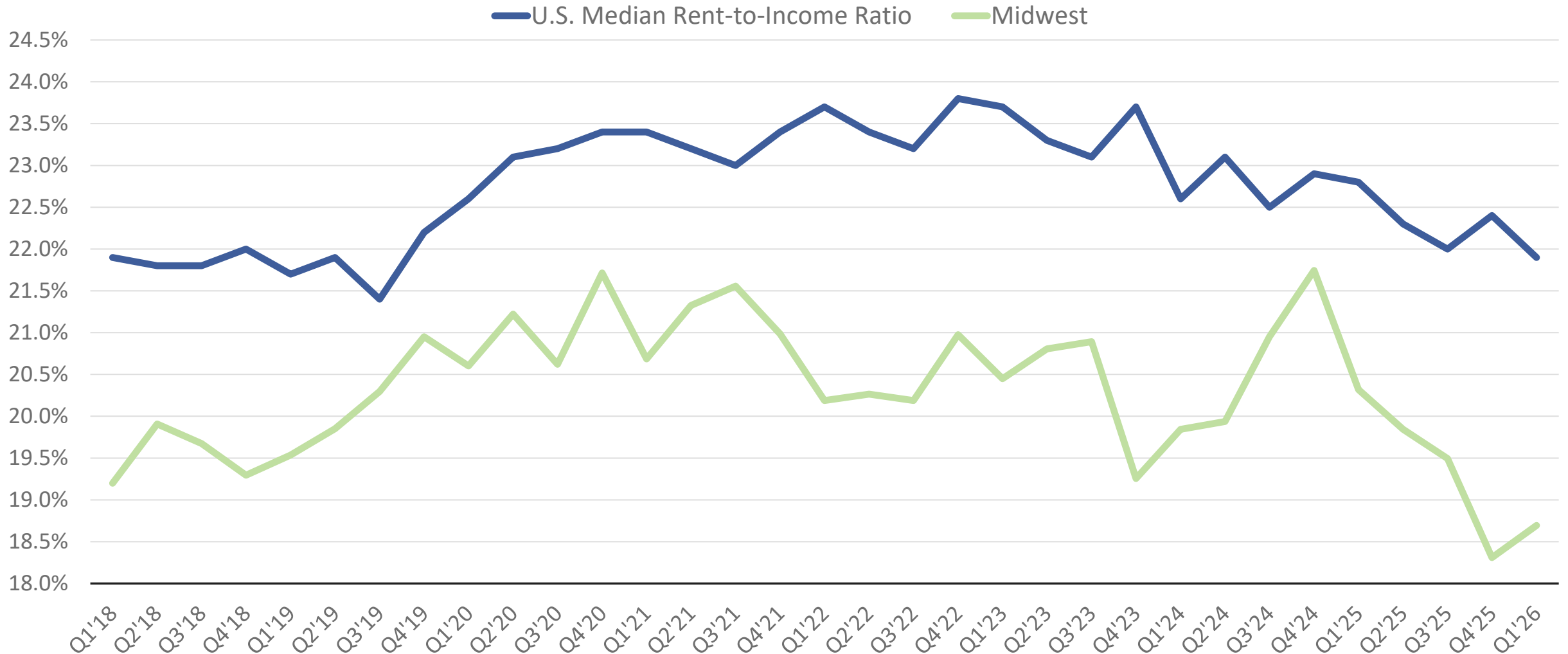
U.S. Rents (YoY Change) vs. Wages (Atlanta Fed's 12-Mo Moving Average)



Source: Effective asking rents from RealPage covering market-rate, professionally managed apartments. SFR and BTR data from John Burns Research & Consulting. Wages from Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta's Wage Tracker tool.

Affordability Improves as Wage Growth Outpaces Rents

U.S. Median Rent-to-Income Ratio, New Lease Signers in Market-Rate Apartments





HARVARD UNIVERSITY
JOINT CENTER FOR HOUSING STUDIES

Renter Cost Burdens Are Widespread

The New York Times

NEWSLETTER

Headway

Rent Is Swallowing Household
Incomes



Despite Cooling Rent Growth, Nearly Half of
Renter Households Were Cost-Burdened in
2024

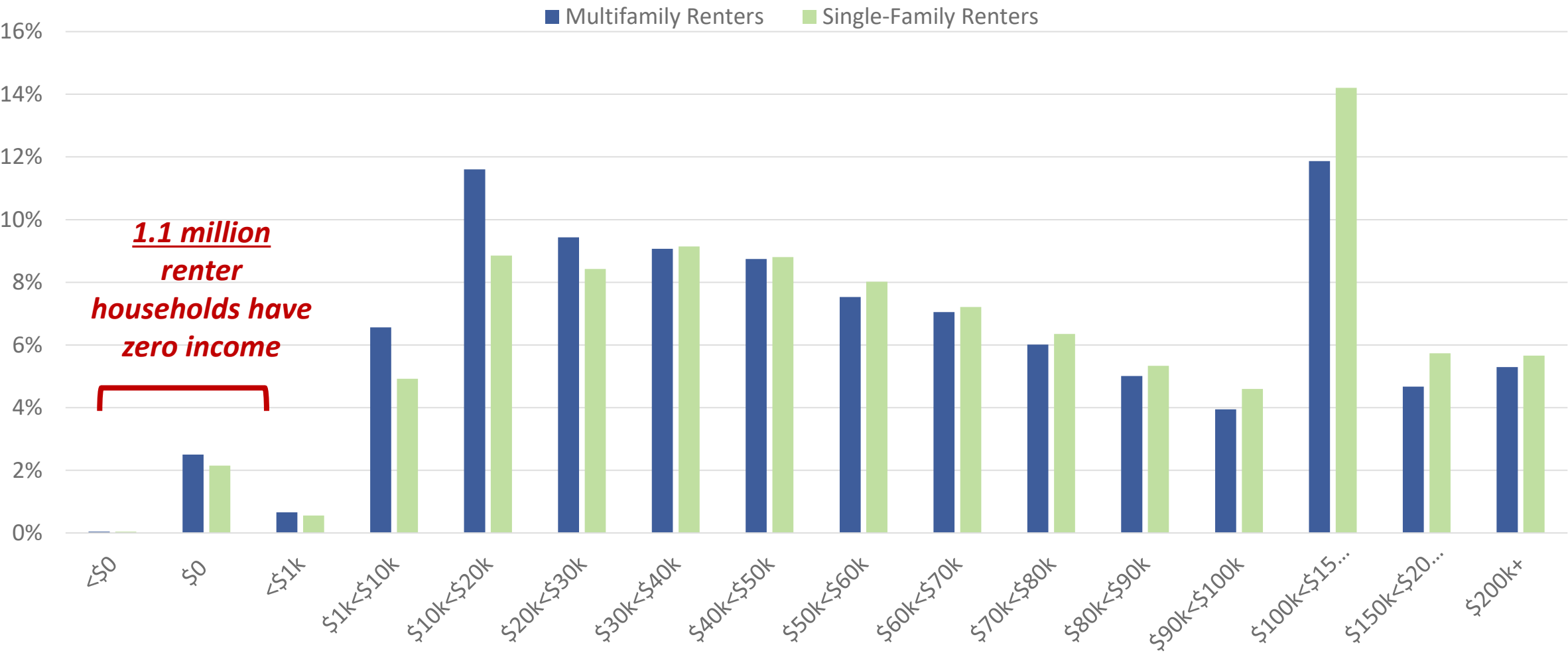
PBS NEWS HOUR

Half of American renters pay
more than 30% of income on
housing, study shows

Feb 8, 2024 6:30 PM EDT

Nearly 30% of U.S. Renters Have Incomes <\$30k, Which Means They Can't Afford to Cover Operating Costs of a Typical Rental

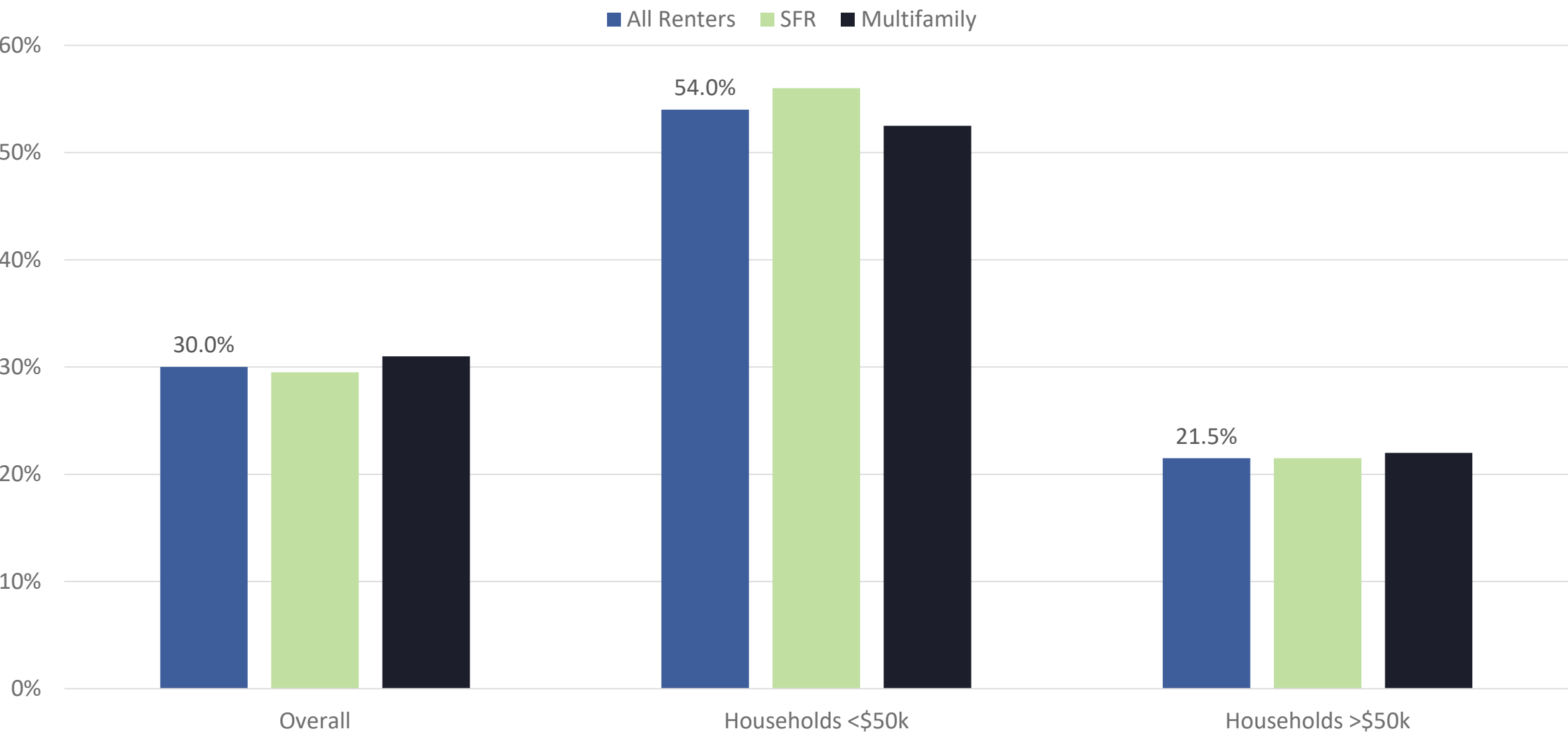
Distribution of Renters by Household Income Level

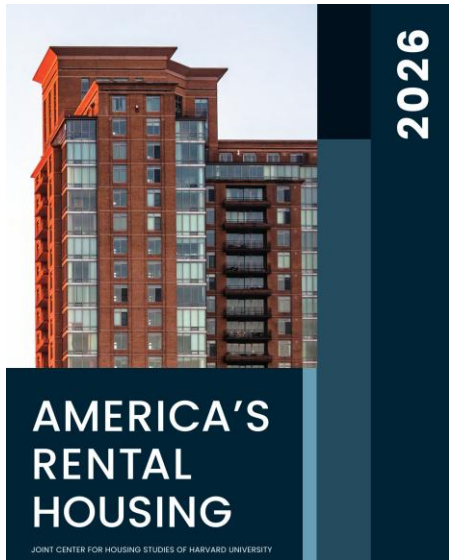


Source: Witten Advisors analysis of Census data

Census: Renters Making >\$50k Spend 21.5% of Income on Rent

Median Rent-to-Income Ratio by Household Income Level

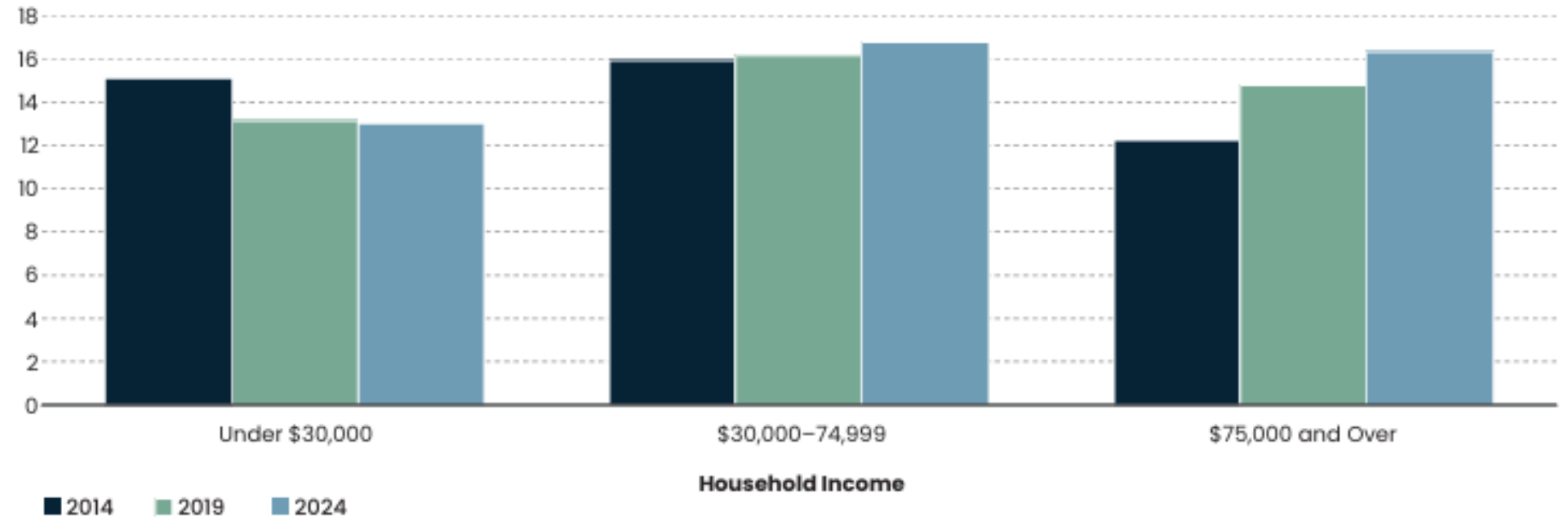




Since 2014, the U.S. added 4.1 million higher-income renters, and they now comprise 35% of the renter population, up 7.1 ppts since 2014.

Higher-Income Households Have Driven the Bulk of New Rental Demand

Renter Households (Millions)



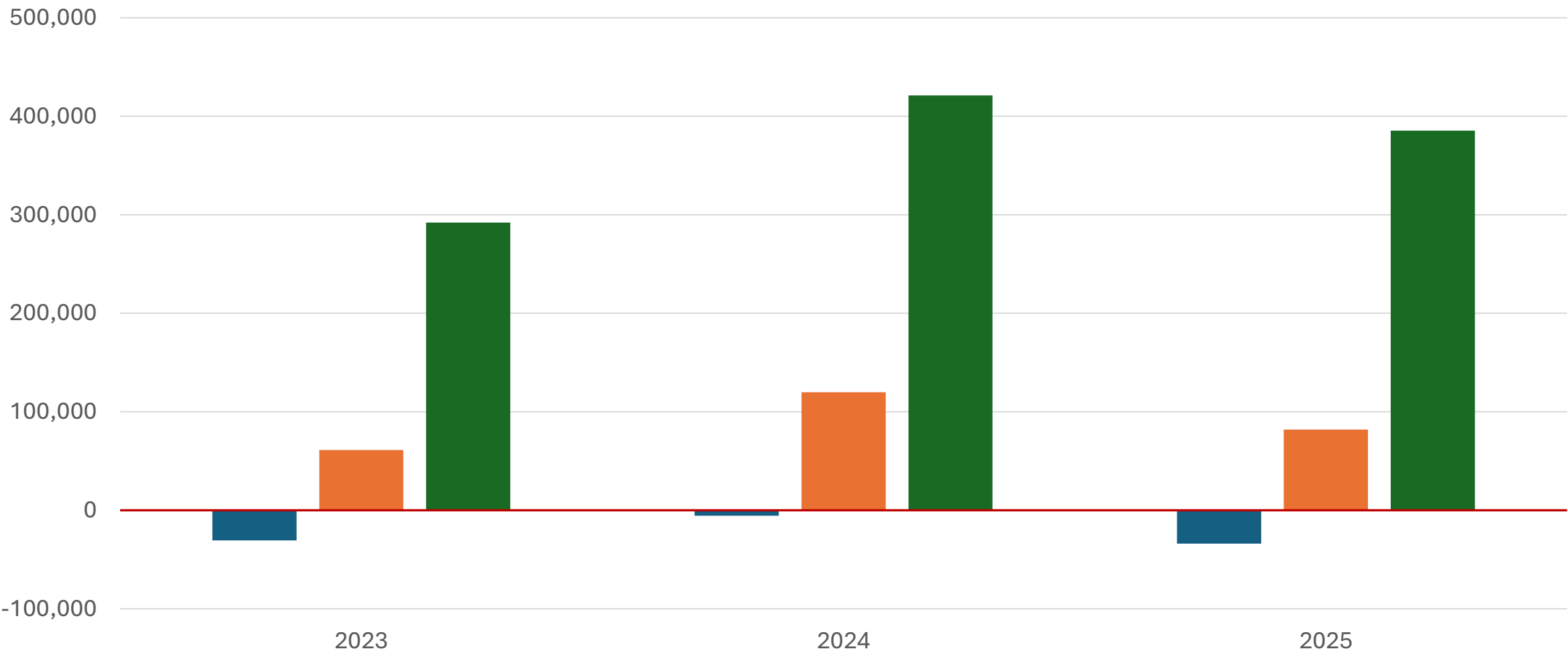
Note: Household incomes are adjusted for inflation using the CPI-U for All Items.

Source: JCHS tabulations of US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates.

Flight to Quality: Demand Shifts Up Market to Pricier Apartments

Apartment Net Absorption by Rent Tier

Low Tier (Cheapest) Mid Tier High Tier (Priciest)



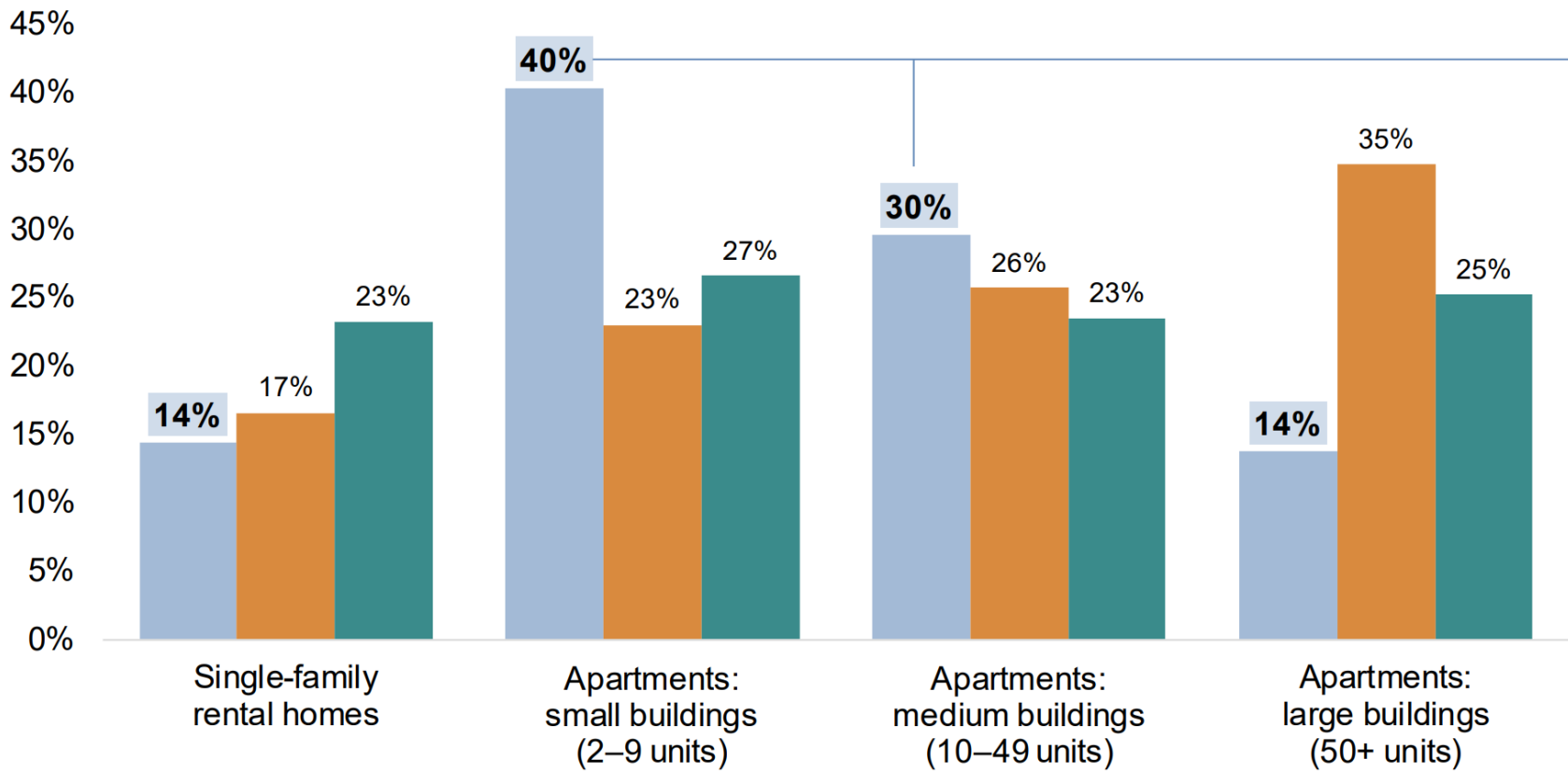
Source: JPI research, CoStar. Tiers based on CoStar's groupings of 1-2 Star, 3 Star and 4-5 Star properties.

Immigrants from the 2022–2024 surge* have primarily rented apartments in smaller buildings with fewer than 50 units.

Recent Immigrant Rental Tenants by Structure Type and Country of Origin

Top 6 largest MSAs**

■ From high-encounter countries* ■ From all other countries ■ All other US renters



70% of new immigrant tenants from high-encounter countries rent in small to medium-sized apartment buildings—**mostly sub-institutional-grade properties.**

New immigrant **renters from other countries tend to rent in larger apartment buildings** (with 50 or more units).

**We categorize immigrants from the surge as originating in Mexico and Central America, plus Cuba, Haiti, Colombia, Peru, and Venezuela.*

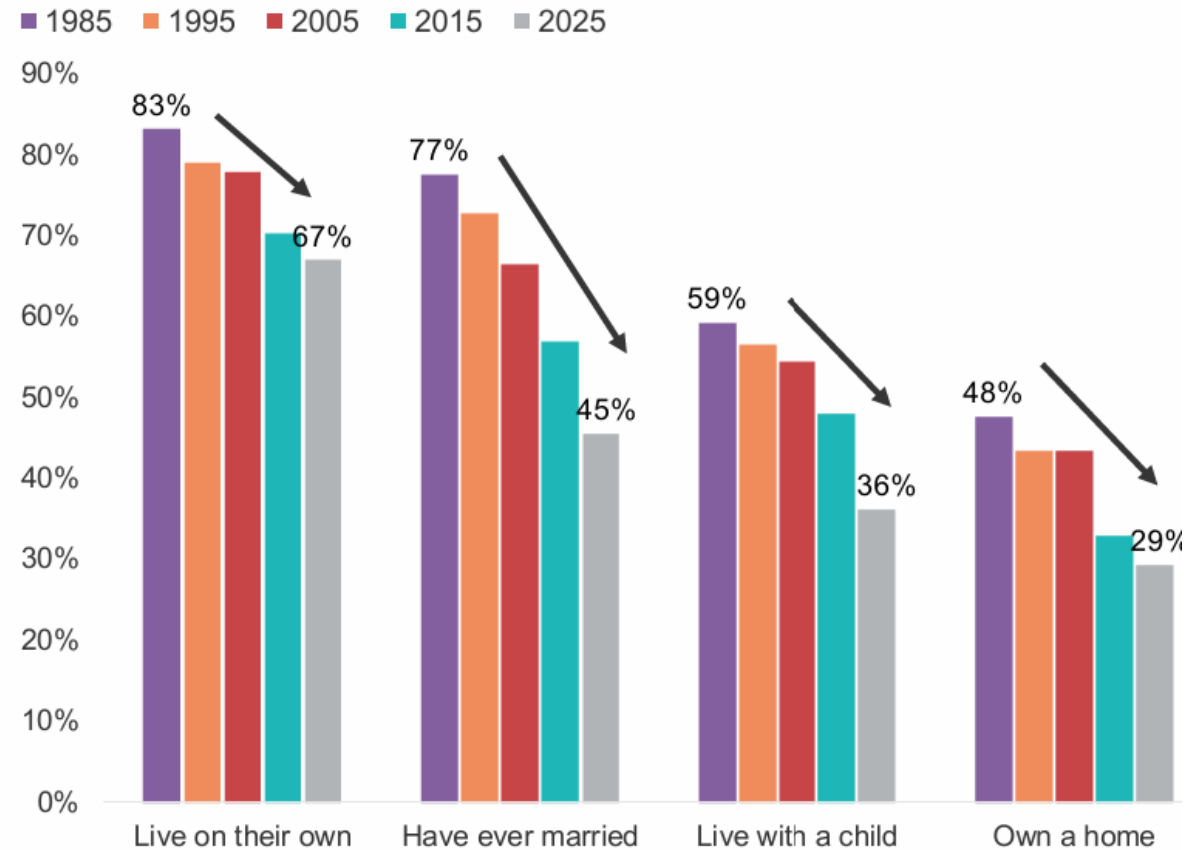
*We categorize immigrants from the surge as originating in Mexico and Central America, plus Cuba, Haiti, Colombia, Peru, and Venezuela.

**Six largest MSAs include New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston, Dallas, and Atlanta.

Sources: John Burns Research and Consulting, LLC tabulations of US Census Bureau microdata (Data: 2024, Pub: Jun-26)

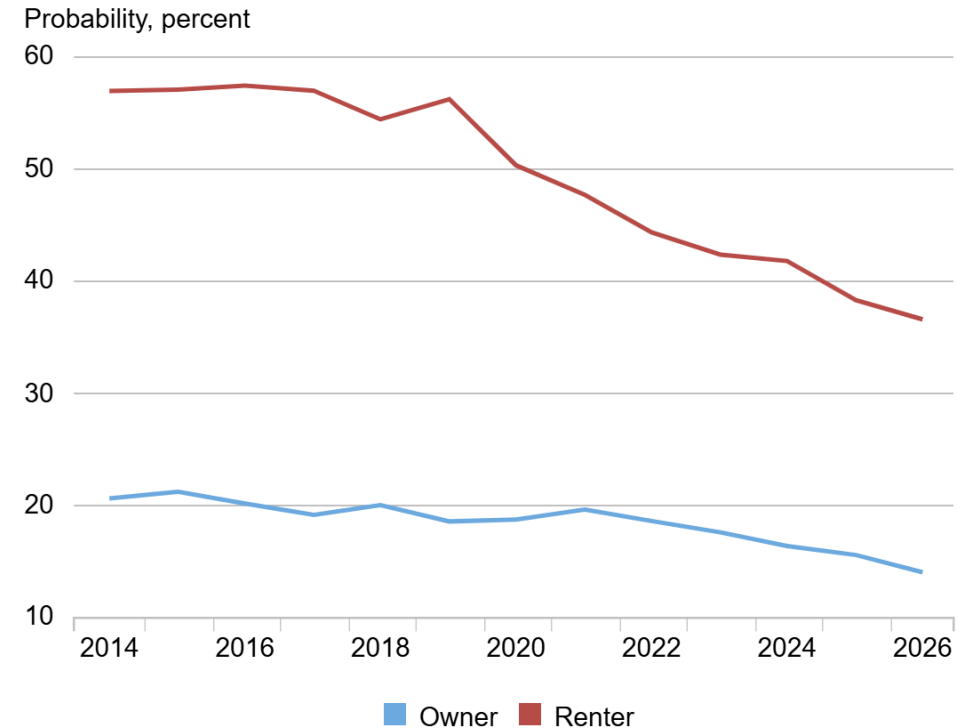
The American Renting Stage of Life is Elongating

Percentage of US 30-Year-Olds Reaching 'Adult' Milestones



Sources: John Burns Research and Consulting, LLC, tabulations of U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplements via IPUMS-USA (Data: 2025, Pub: Mar-26)

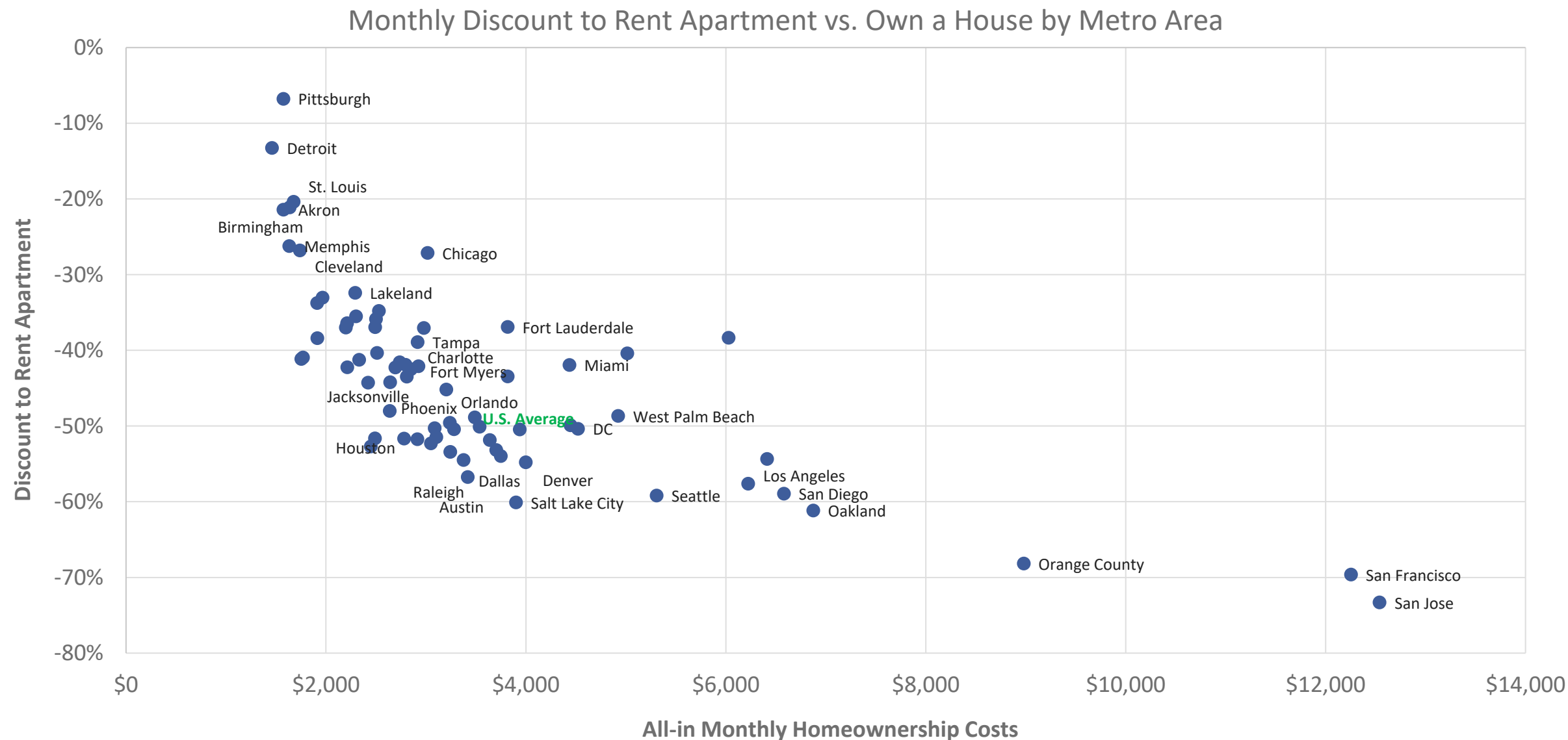
Renters' Expected 3-Year Mobility Fell 20 Percentage Points in the Last 12 Years



Source: Survey of Consumer Expectations Housing Surveys, February 2014 through February 2026.

Notes: The chart shows the mean percent chance of moving to a different primary residence within the next three years, by owner/renter status.

How Much Cheaper is it to Rent an Apartment vs. Buy a House?

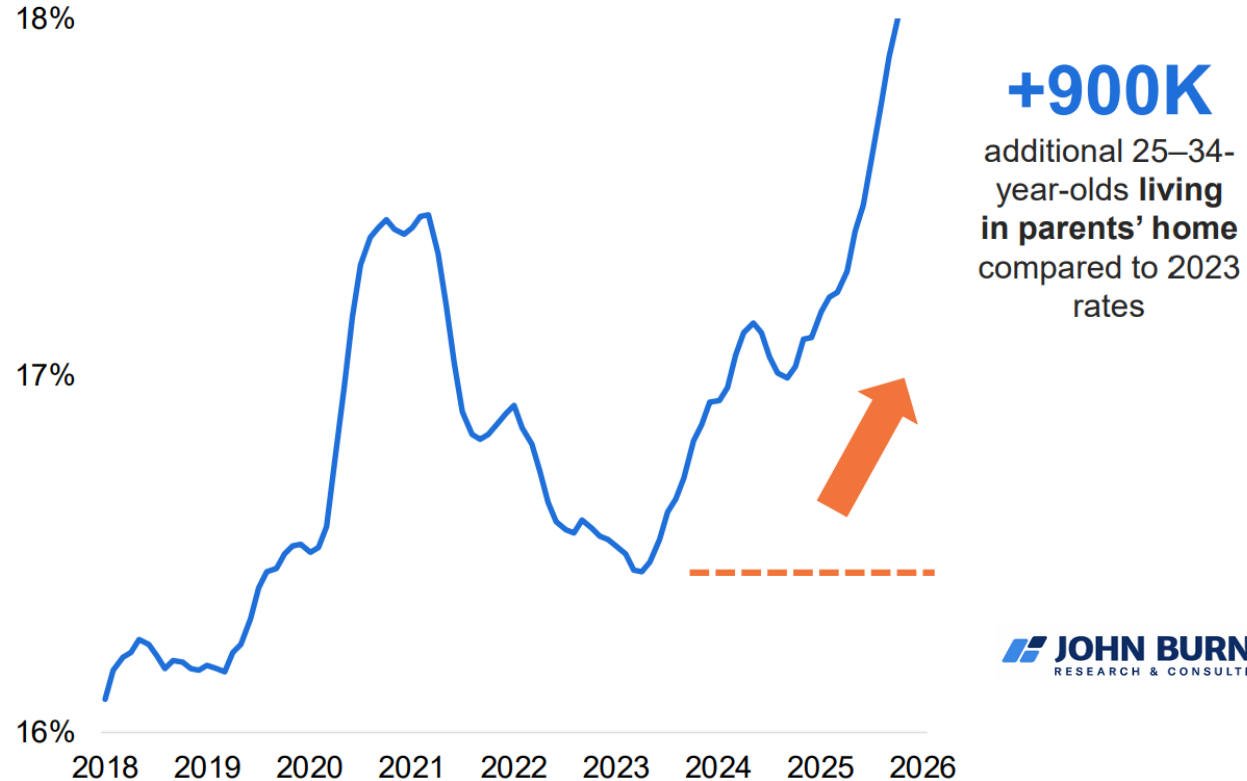


Sources: John Burns Research & Consulting. All-in homeownership costs include mortgage payment, taxes, maintenance, etc., for new homebuyers, estimated by JBREC.

On the Flip Side: More Young Adults Living with Parents

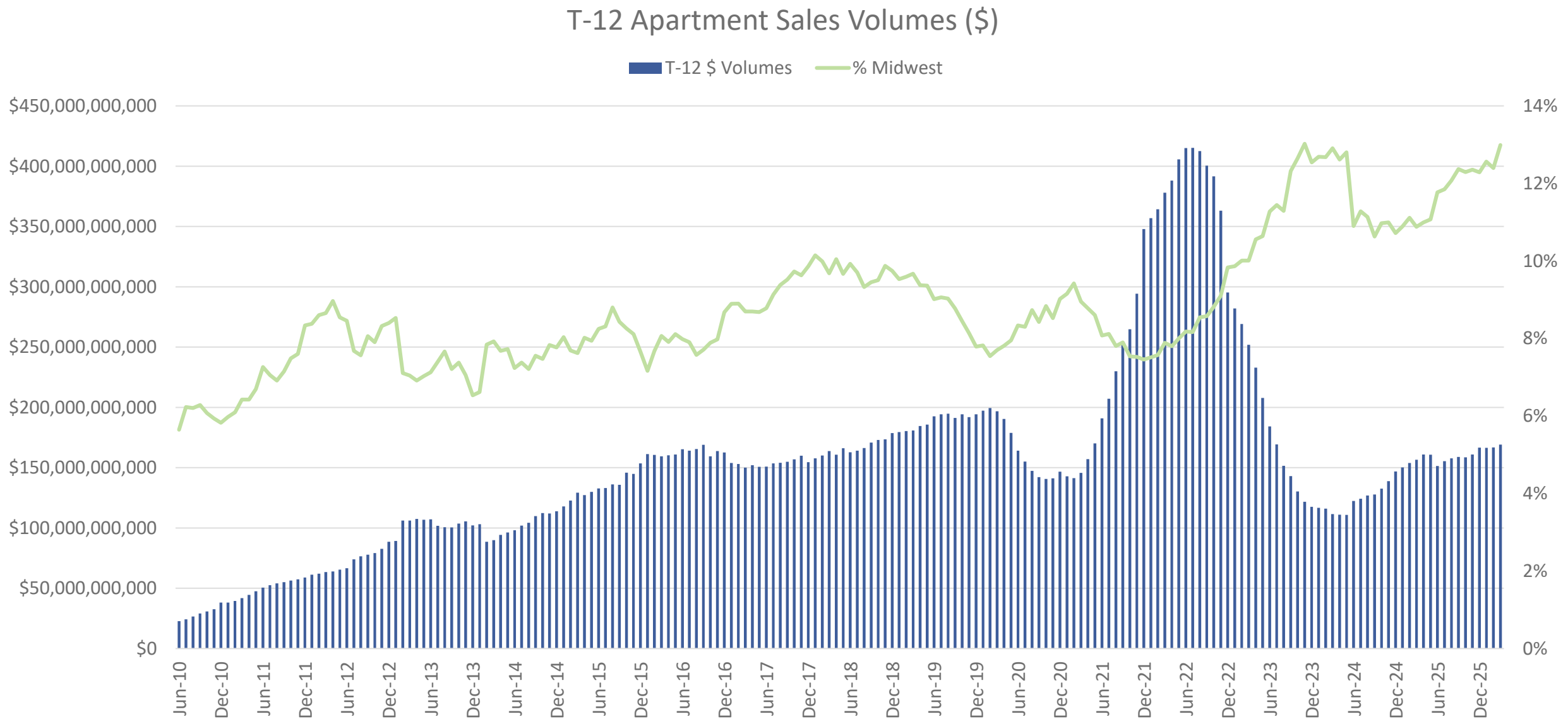
US Young Adults (Age 25–34) Not Yet Living On Their Own

Share Living in Parents/Grandparents' Home



Additional roommates are people living in households where they are neither the householder nor in a family or romantic relationship with the householder.
Source: John Burns Research and Consulting, LLC tabulations of U.S. Census Bureau Basic Monthly Current Population Survey (Data: 2018–2023)

Transactions Picking Up Slowly, With Midwest Taking Growing Share



Source: Waymaker research, MSCI Real Capital Analytics

In Milwaukee: Apartment Sales Top Pre-Pandemic Highs

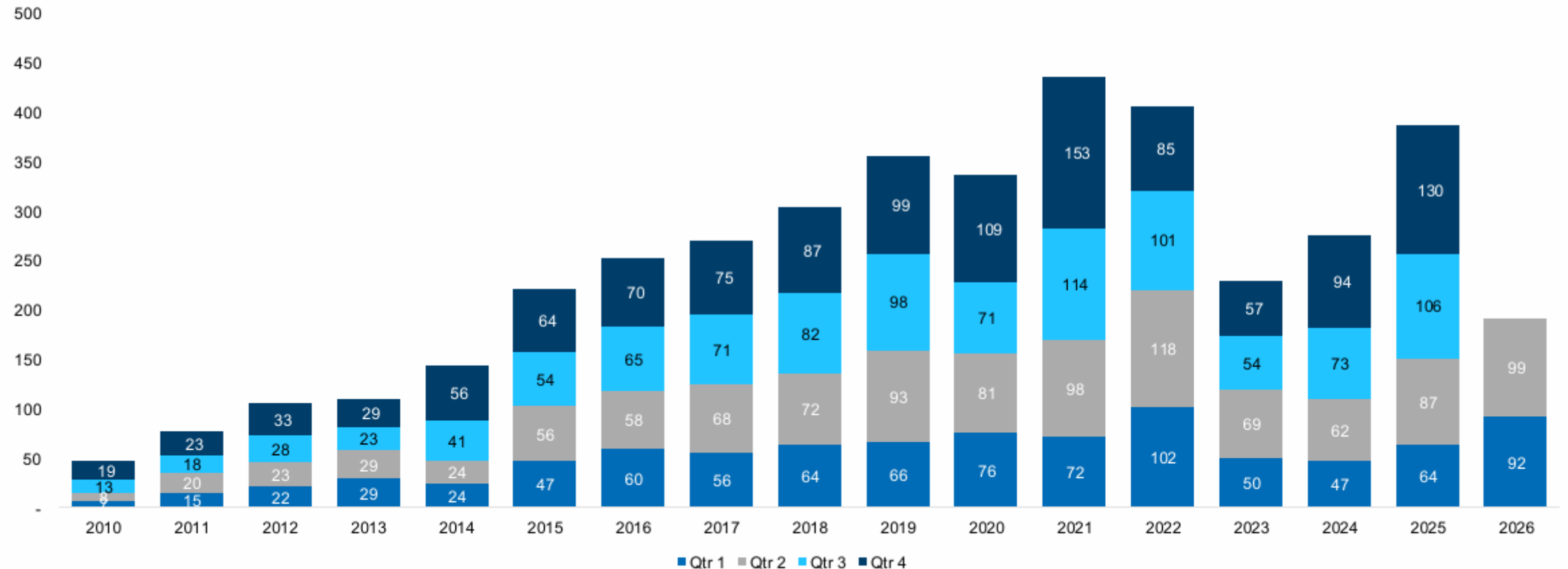


Source: Waymaker research, MSCI Real Capital Analytics

Multifamily Debt Originations Accelerated 26% Year-Over-Year in 1H26

Activity gained momentum in the first half of 2025 and has extended through the first half of 2026, accelerating 26% year over year. Borrowers benefited from narrow loan spreads, improved confidence in fundamentals as construction slowed, and continued momentum starting in the second half of 2024.

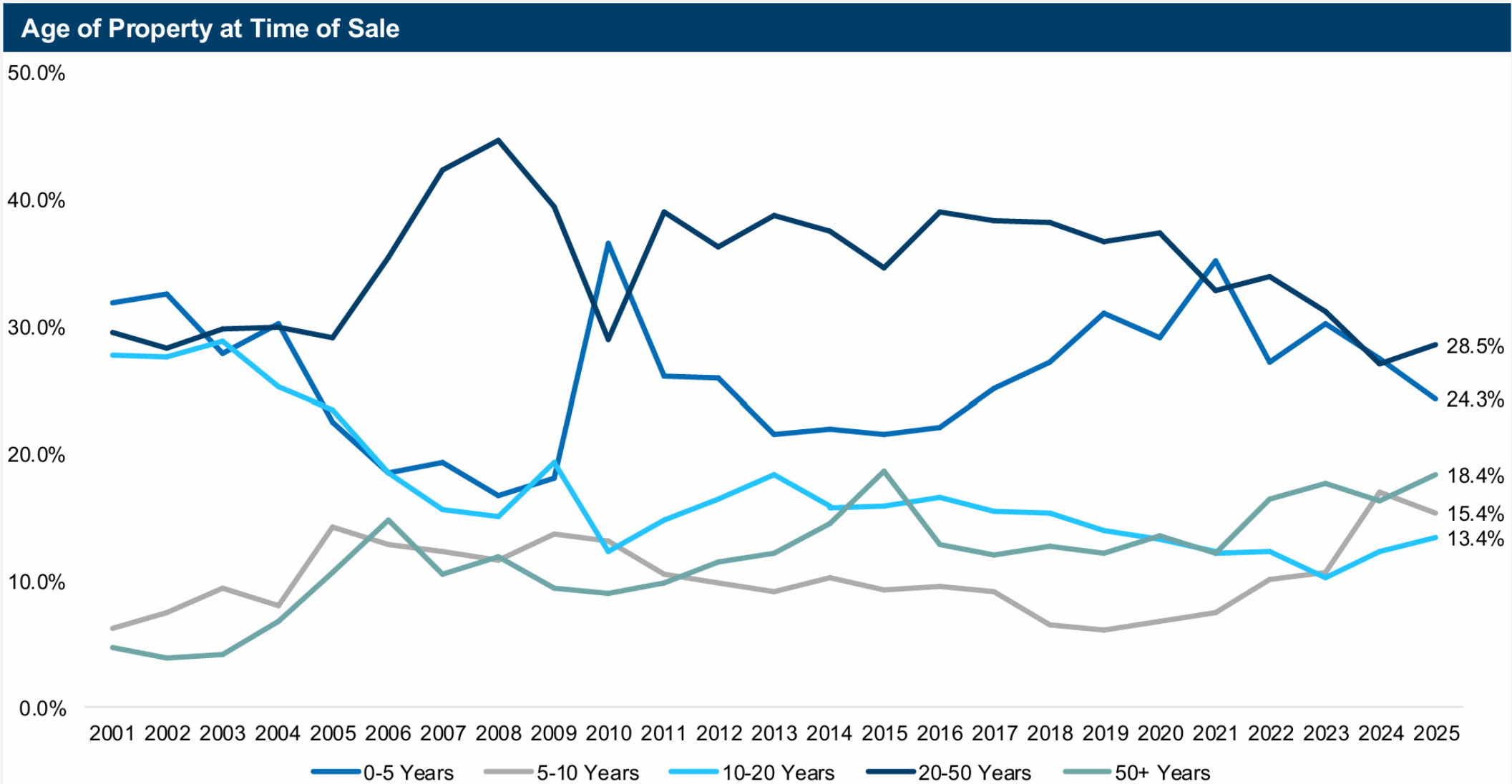
Multifamily Debt Origination Volume* (\$, Billions)



Source: RCA, Newmark Research as of 7/14/2026

Note: loan origination volumes are adjusted for future expected revisions using Newmark's proprietary models

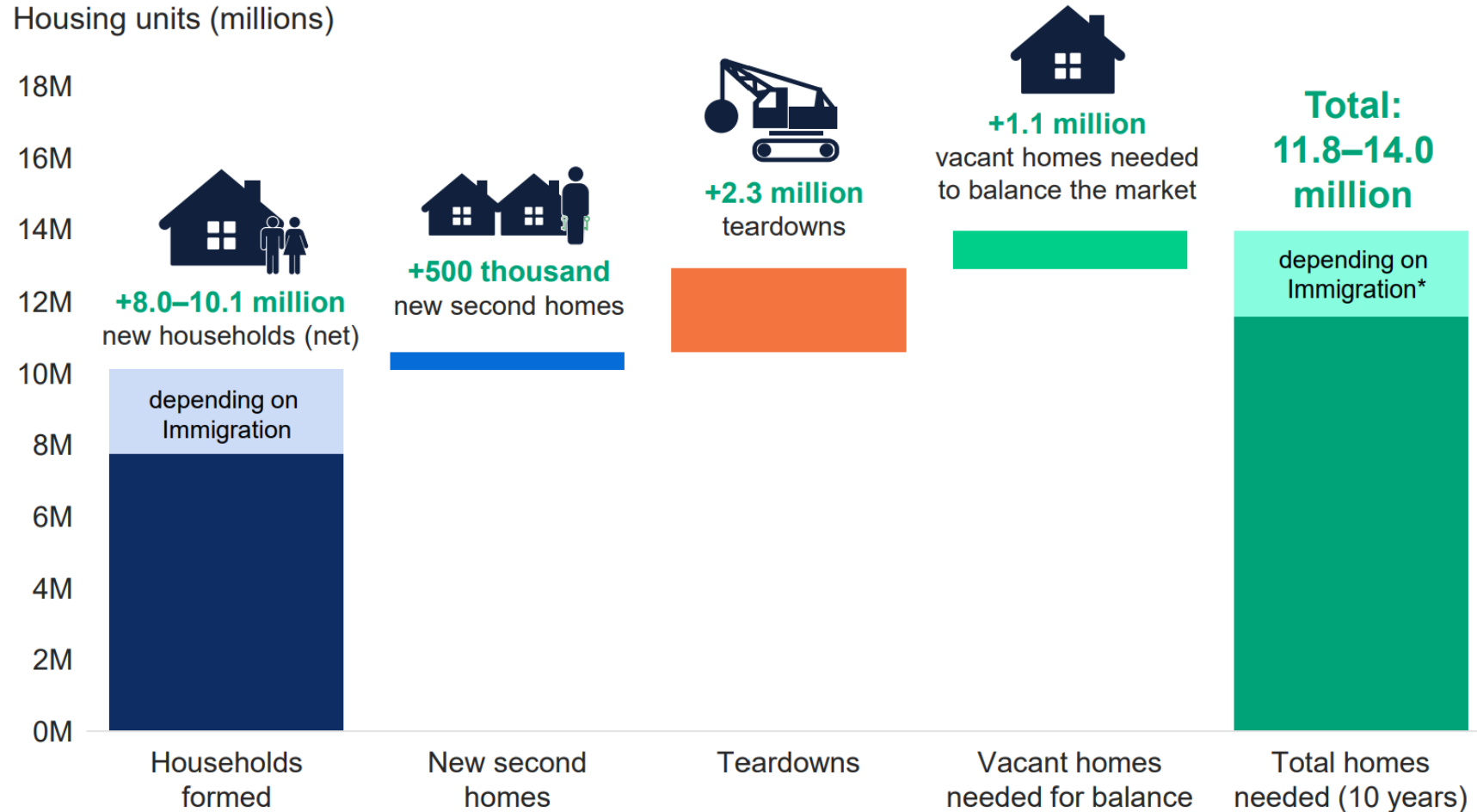
Buyers Heavily Favor Newer Apartments



Burns: 1.2-1.4m New Homes Needed Per Year Over Next Decade

10-Year Projected US Housing Demand (2025–2034): For Sale and For Rent

Housing units (millions)



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau; John Burns Research and Consulting, LLC (Pub: Dec-25)



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THANK YOU

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