



**HARVARD CLUB**  
**OF BOSTON**

# THE WORLD IS MY OYSTER

Personal Reflections from a Career in  
Global Business

*Dr. Staffan Canback, HBS MBA83*

April 15, 2025

# Agenda

## Introduction

Chaos | The World

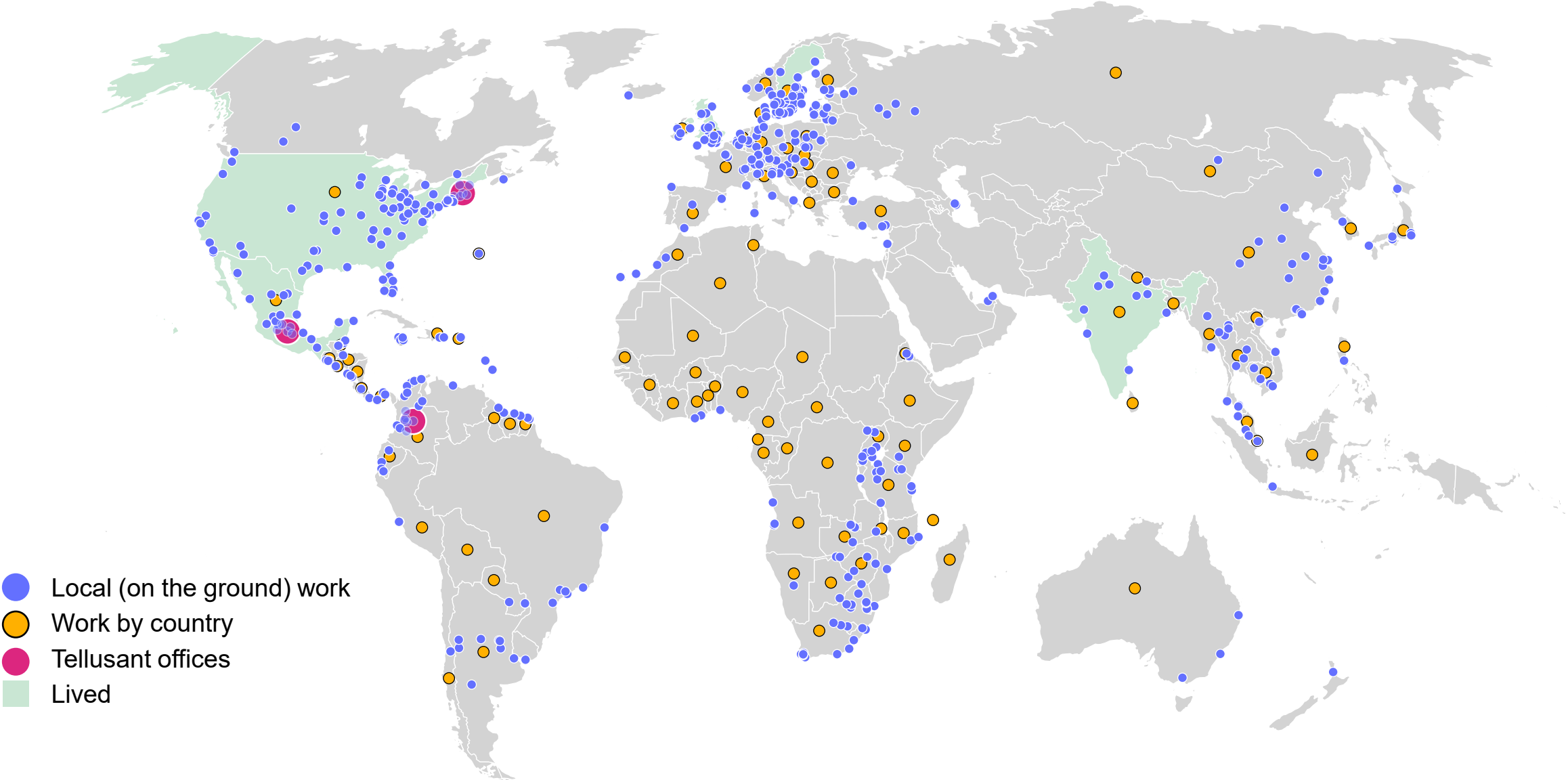
Why | The World

Where | The World

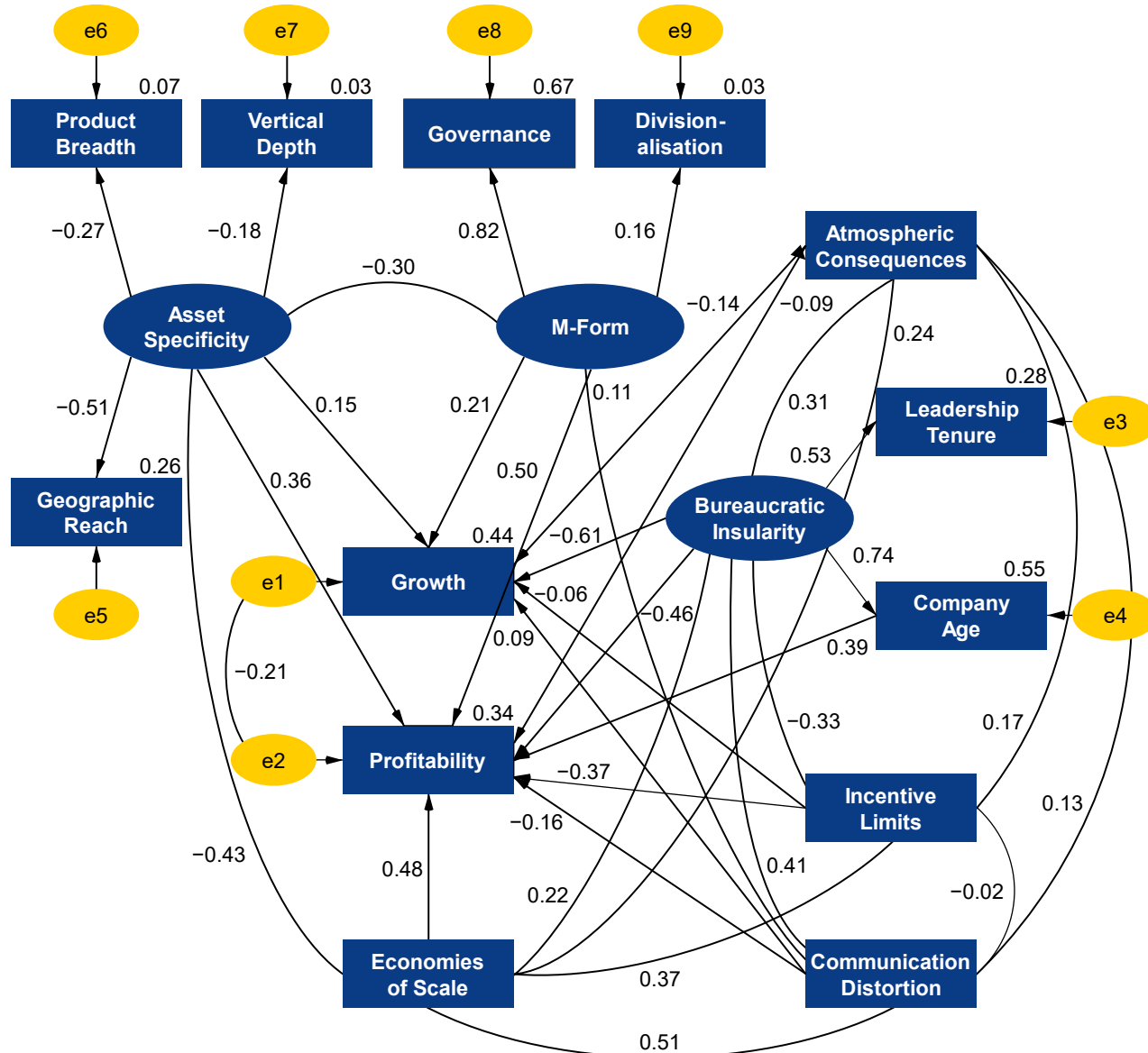
What | The World



# Credentials to speak: Well-travelled



## Credentials to speak: Analytically astute



$$\begin{bmatrix} \eta_1 \\ \eta_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \gamma_{11} & \gamma_{12} & \gamma_{13} & \gamma_{14} & & \gamma_{16} & \gamma_{17} \\ \gamma_{21} & \gamma_{22} & \gamma_{23} & \gamma_{24} & \gamma_{25} & \gamma_{26} & \gamma_{37} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \xi_1 \\ \xi_2 \\ \xi_3 \\ \xi_4 \\ \xi_5 \\ \xi_6 \\ \xi_7 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \zeta_1 \\ \zeta_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} X_1 \\ X_2 \\ X_3 \\ X_4 \\ X_5 \\ X_6 \\ X_7 \\ X_8 \\ X_9 \\ X_A \\ X_B \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & & & & & & & & \\ & \lambda_{22}^X & & & & & & & & & \\ & \lambda_{32}^X & & & & & & & & & \\ & & 1 & & & & & & & & \\ & & & 1 & & & & & & & \\ & & & & 1 & & & & & & \\ & & & & & \lambda_{76}^X & & & & & \\ & & & & & \lambda_{86}^X & & & & & \\ & & & & & \lambda_{96}^X & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \lambda_{97}^X & & & & \\ & & & & & & \lambda_{A7}^X & & & & \\ & & & & & & \lambda_{B7}^X & & & & \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \xi_1 \\ \xi_2 \\ \xi_3 \\ \xi_4 \\ \xi_5 \\ \xi_6 \\ \xi_7 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \delta_2 \\ \delta_3 \\ \delta_7 \\ \delta_8 \\ \delta_9 \\ \delta_A \\ \delta_B \end{bmatrix}$$

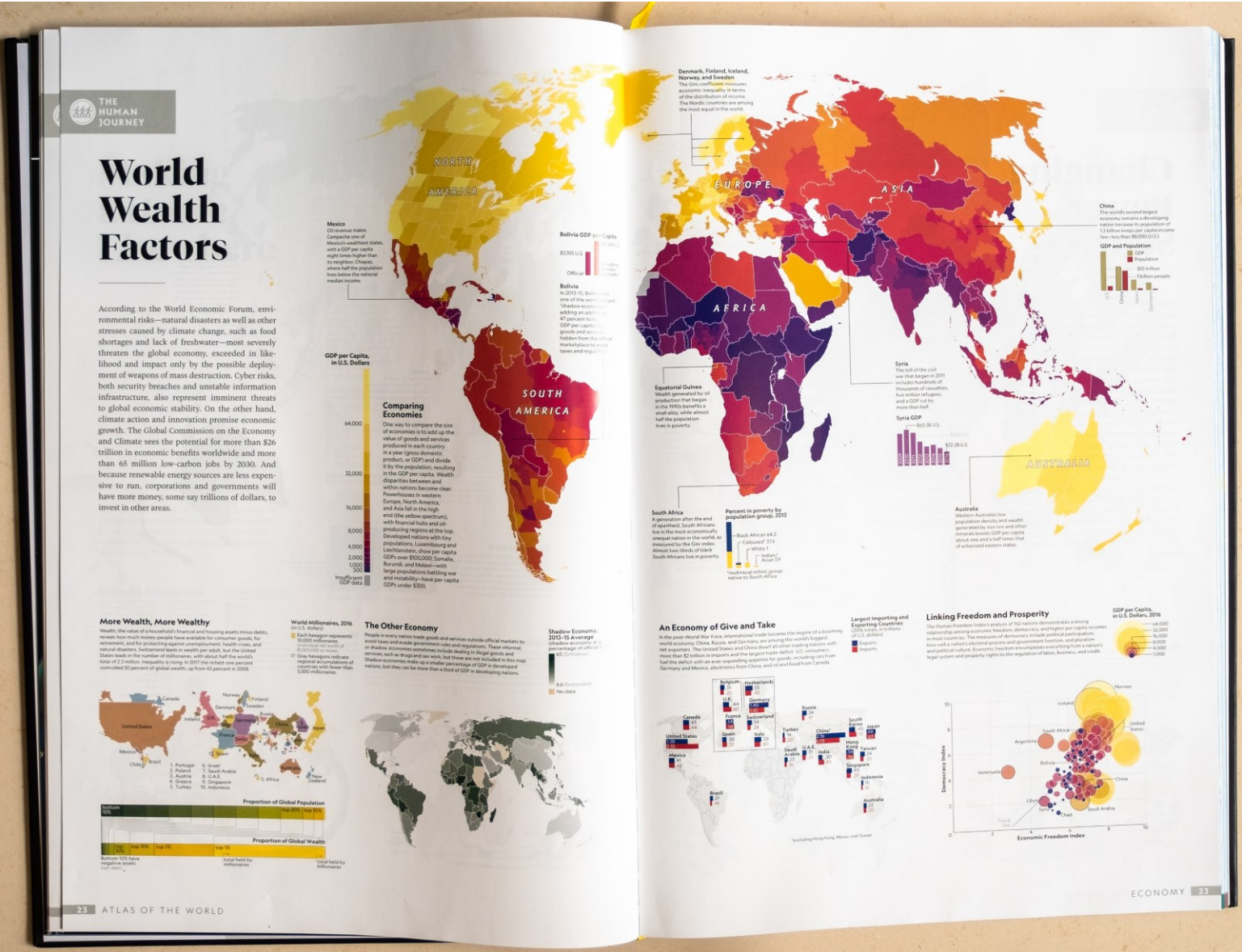
$$\begin{bmatrix} Y_1 \\ Y_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \\ & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \eta_1 \\ \eta_2 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \varepsilon_1 \\ \varepsilon_2 \end{bmatrix}$$



# Credentials to speak: Somewhat respected

400 academic, news media, and business citations to my name

National Geographic  
*Atlas of the World*  
Plate 23



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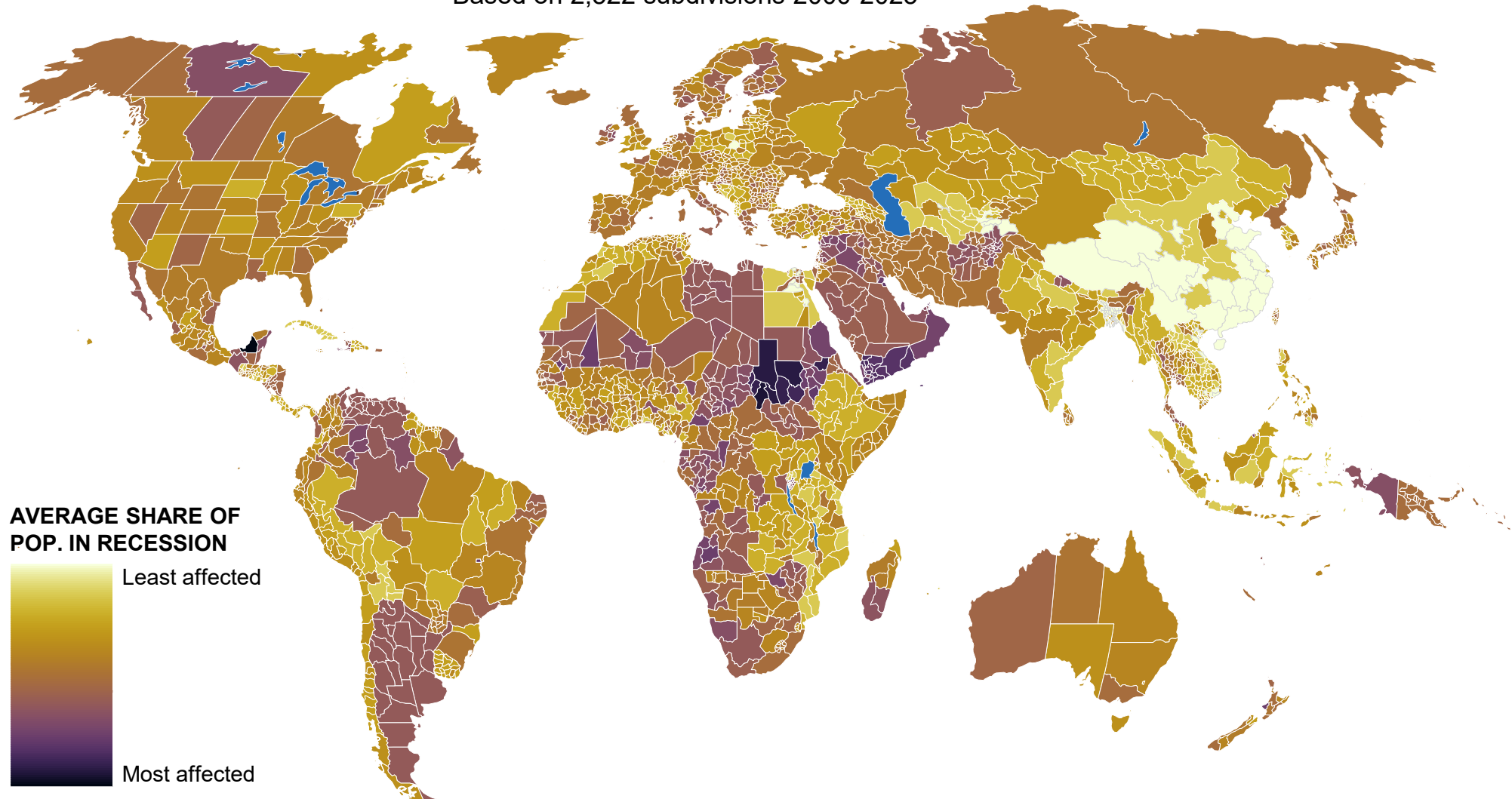






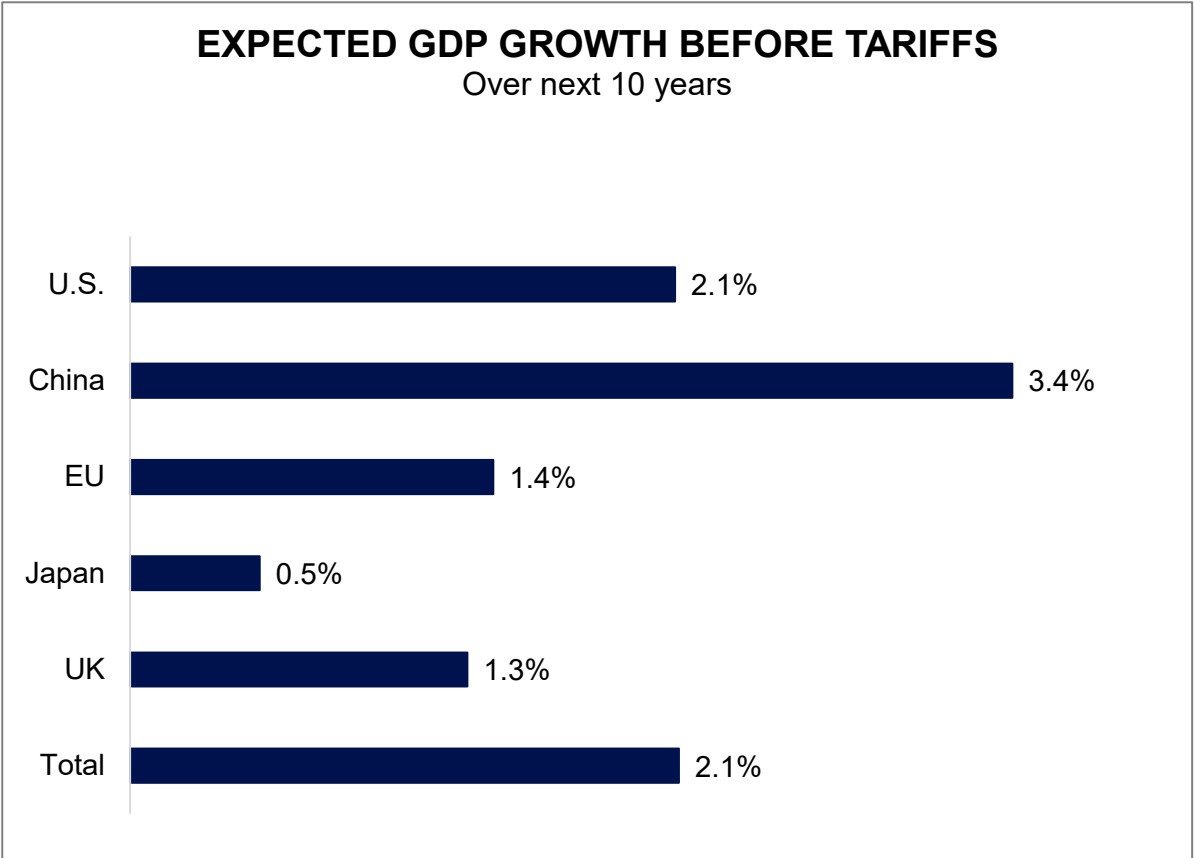
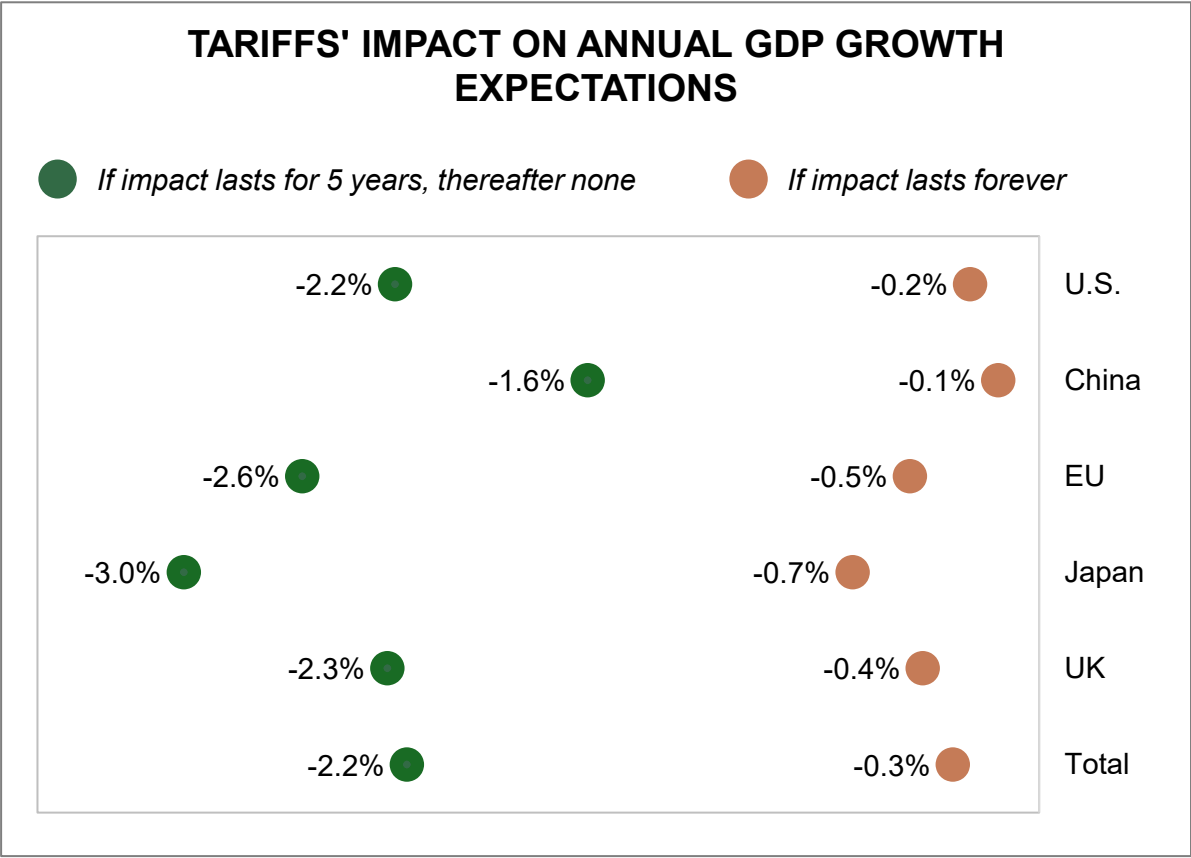
## RECESSION PRESSURE AROUND THE WORLD

Based on 2,522 subdivisions 2000-2025



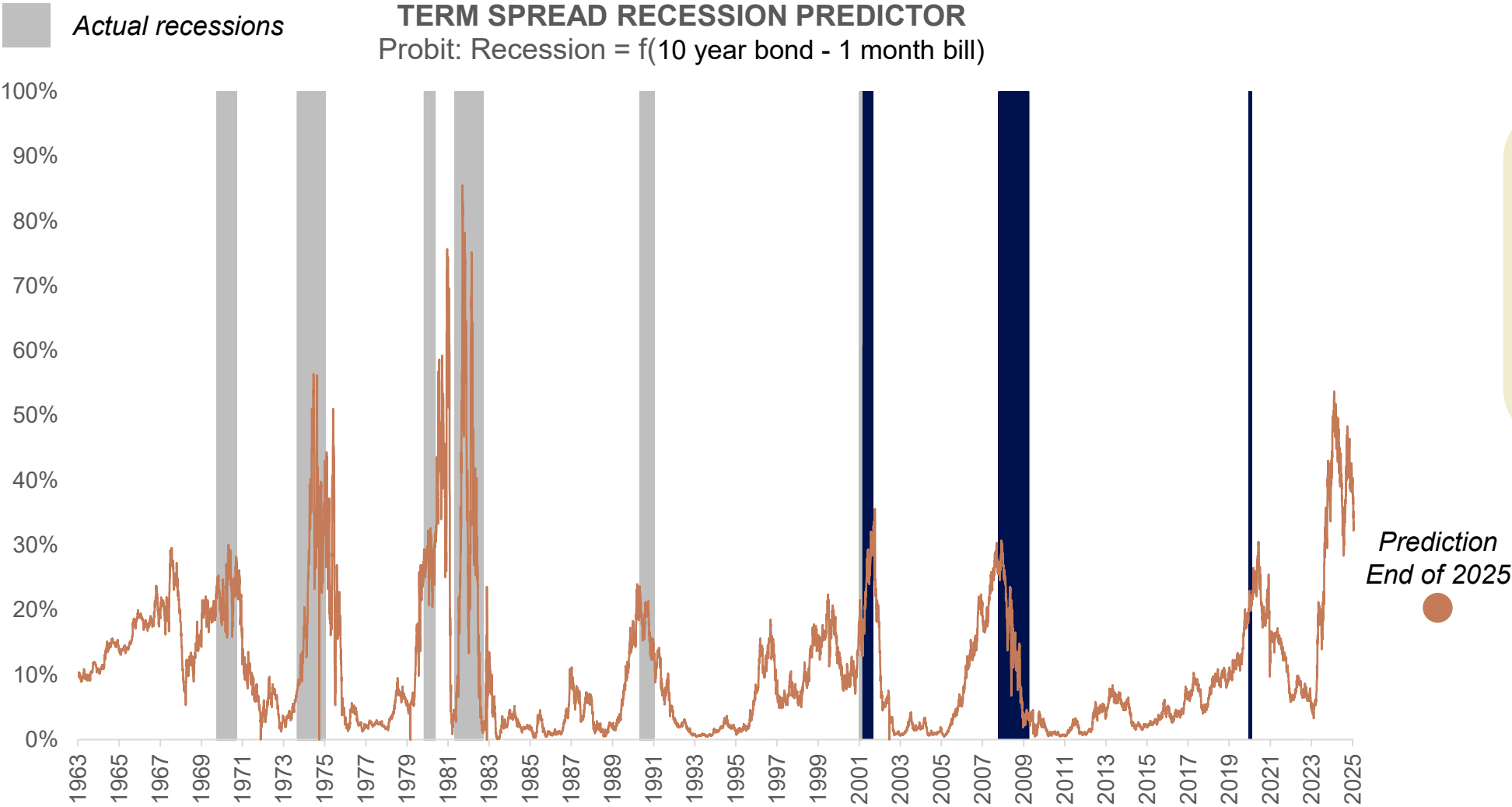


# How did the tariff announcements the world? In line with the law of comparative advantage (Ricardo)





# What is the recession probability for the United States as of today (4/15/2025)?



The **GDPNow** model by Atlanta Fed says we are deeply in recession in 1Q25.

However, the model appears to be distorted by excess imports before the tariffs hit.

Prediction  
End of 2025



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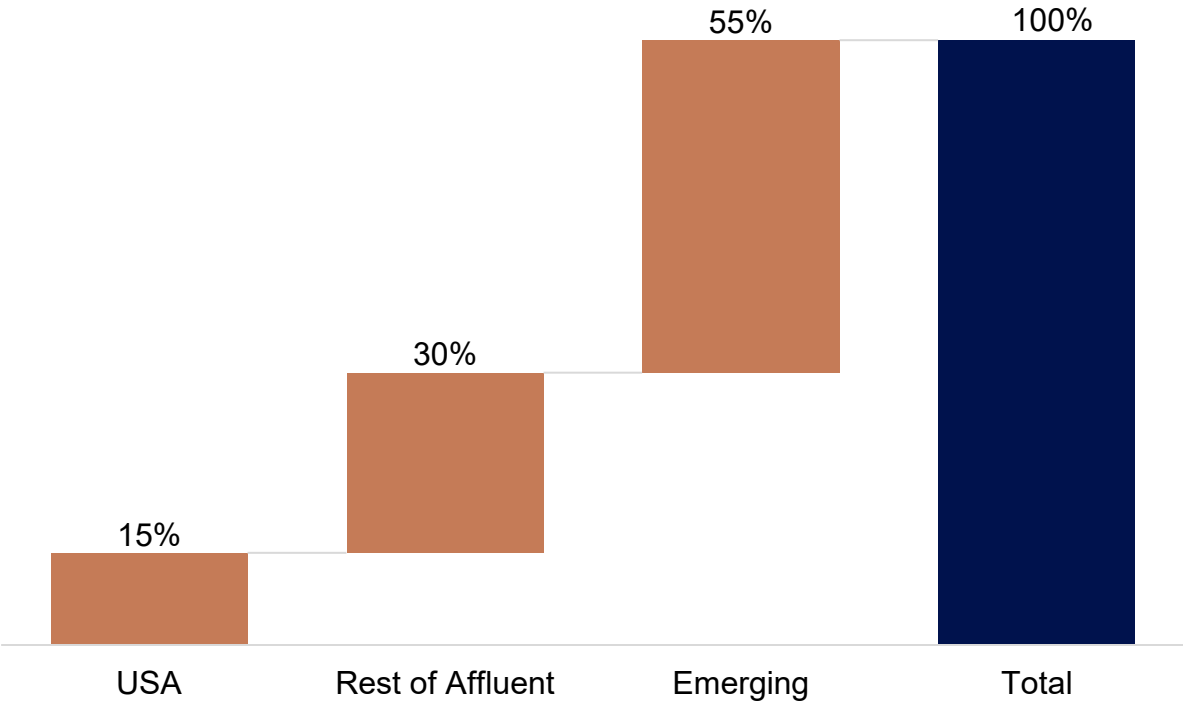
Өдөр бүр 09.00-22.00

ХҮНСНИЙ ДЭЛГҮҮР

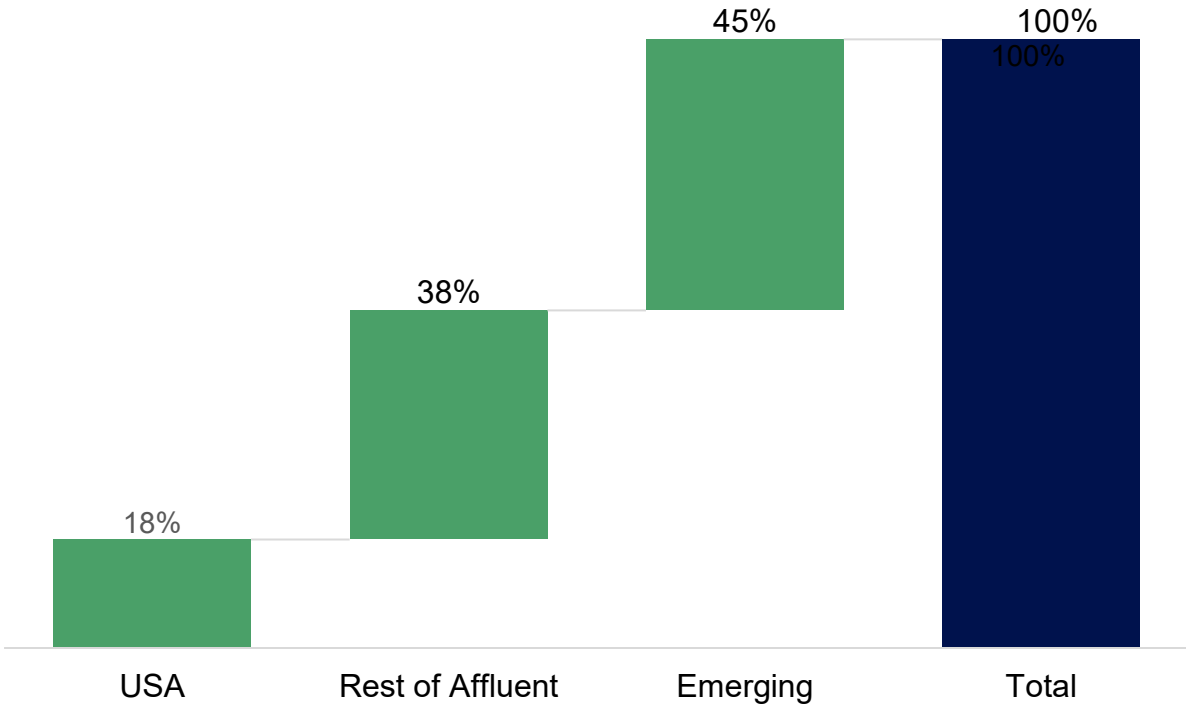


# Why? The U.S. is an important, yet small, part of the world economy

**U.S. SHARE OF GLOBAL GDP**  
PPP\$, constant 2015 values

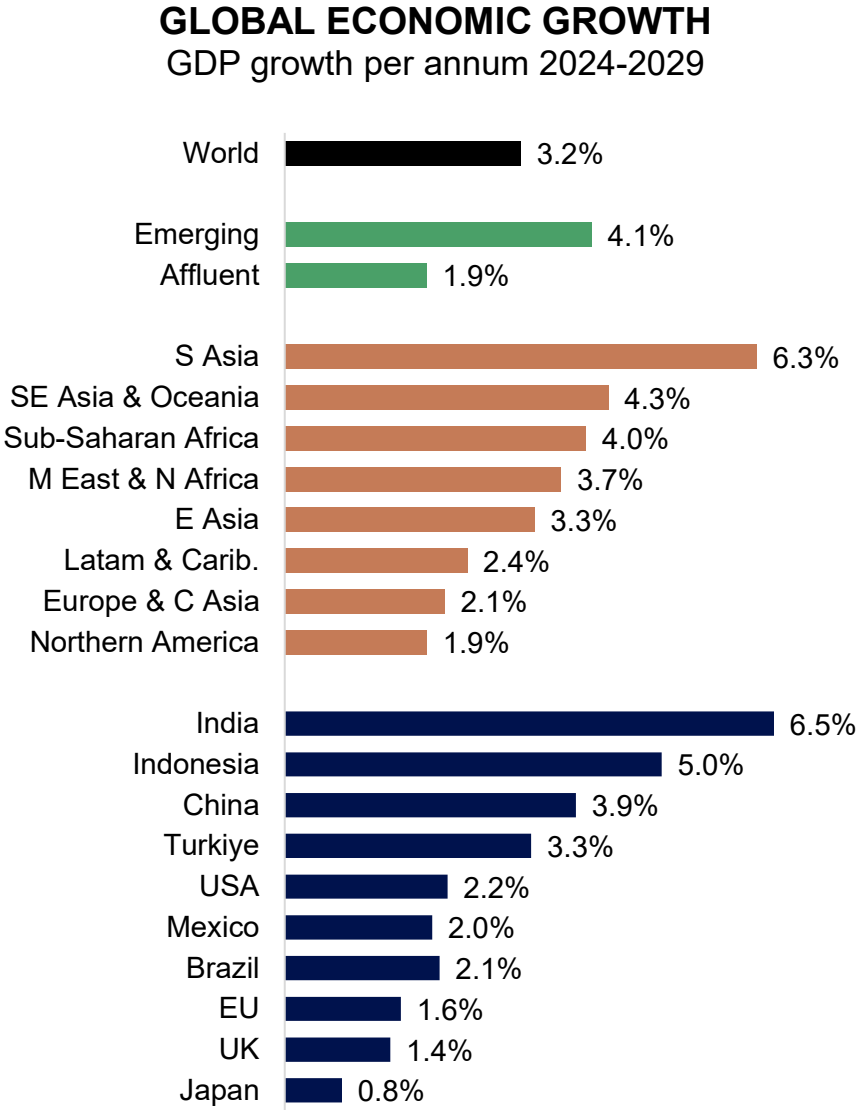


**U.S. SHARE OF GLOBAL MIDDLE CLASS AND ABOVE**





# Why? Growth is high in most parts of the world

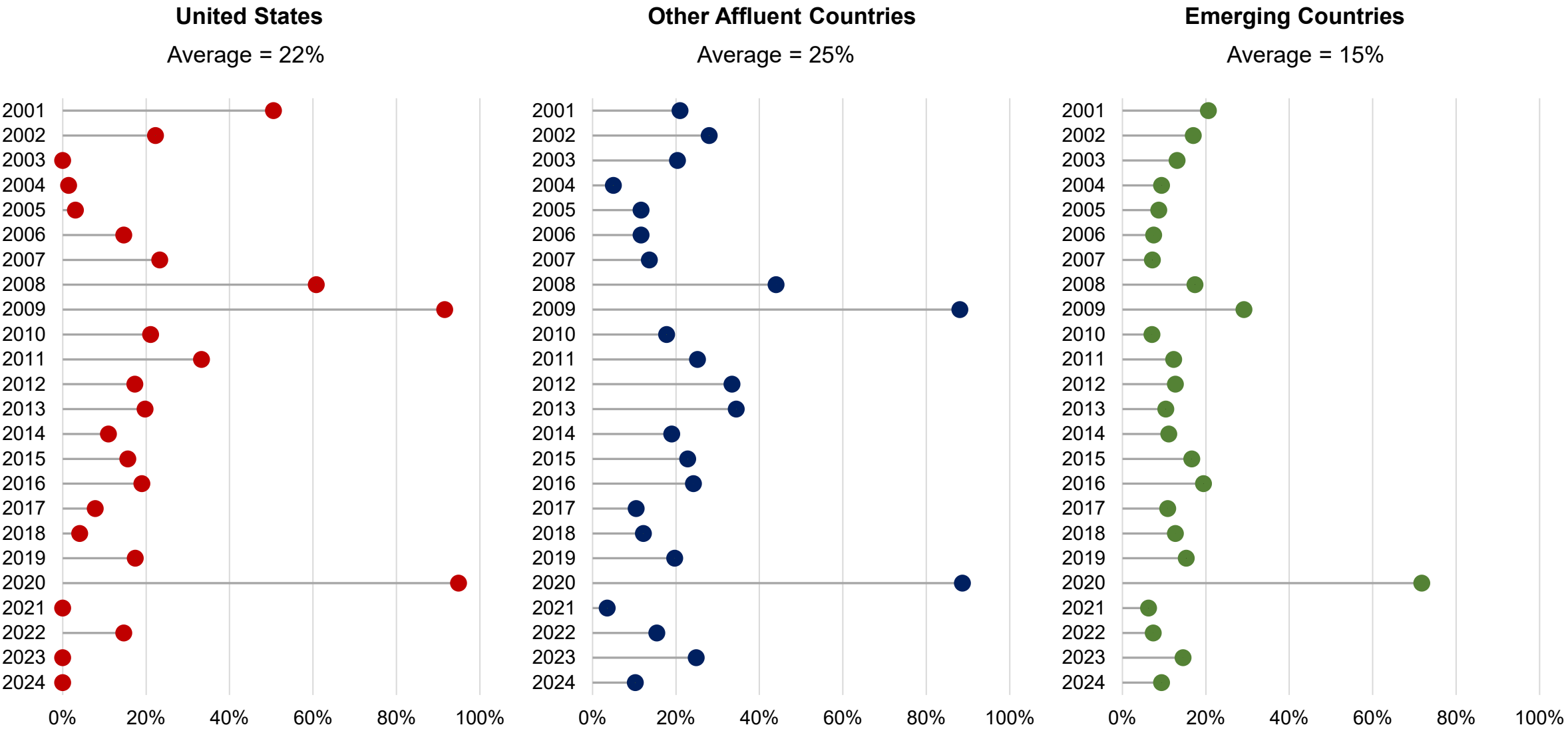


**The major headwind in affluent countries is demographic: Declining and aging populations**

**It is largely not an economic issue**

# Why? Working outside the U.S. in emerging countries also reduces risk

## SHARE OF POPULATION IN RECESSION









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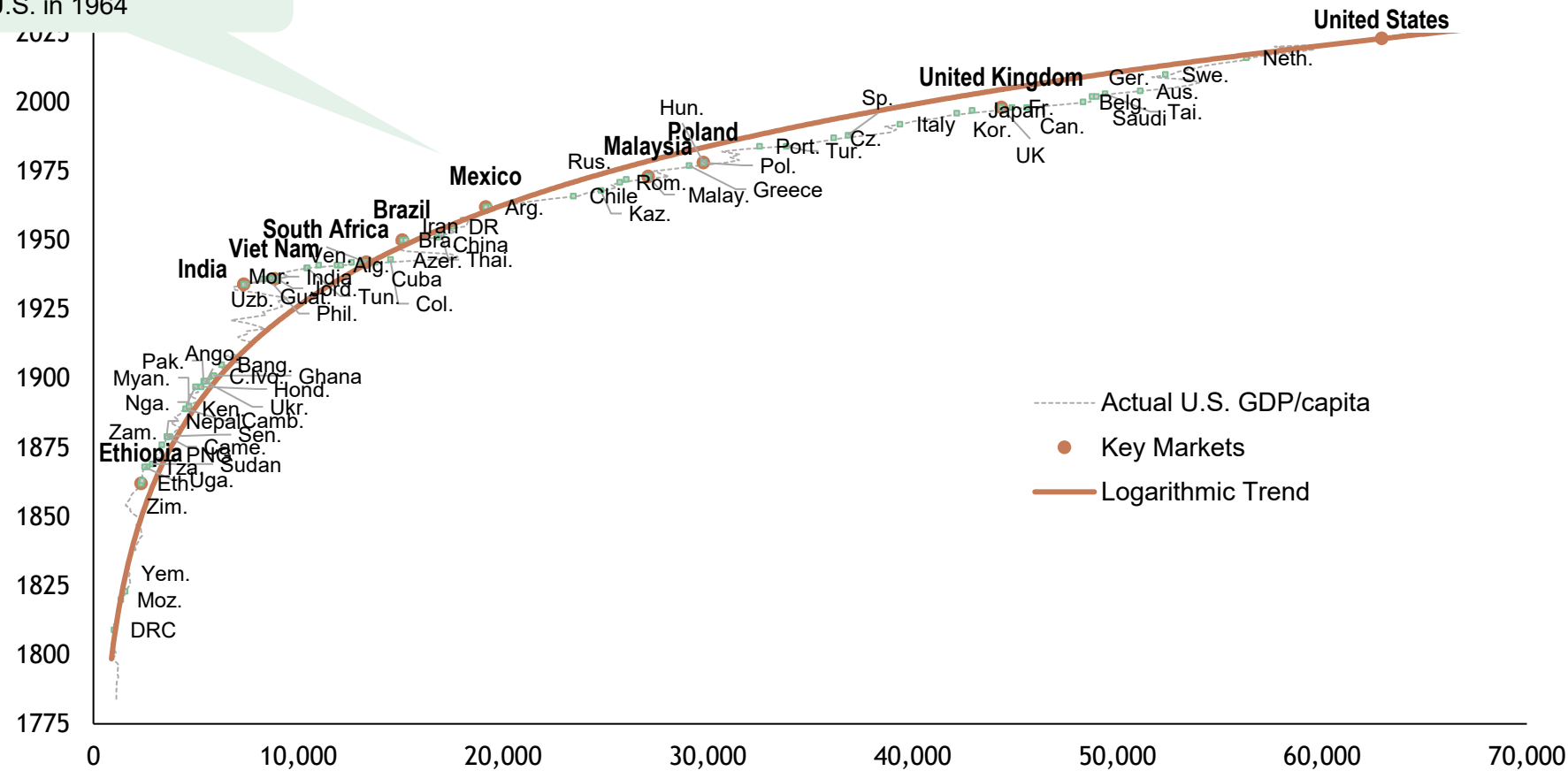




# Where? Recognize that countries live in different eras compared to the U.S.

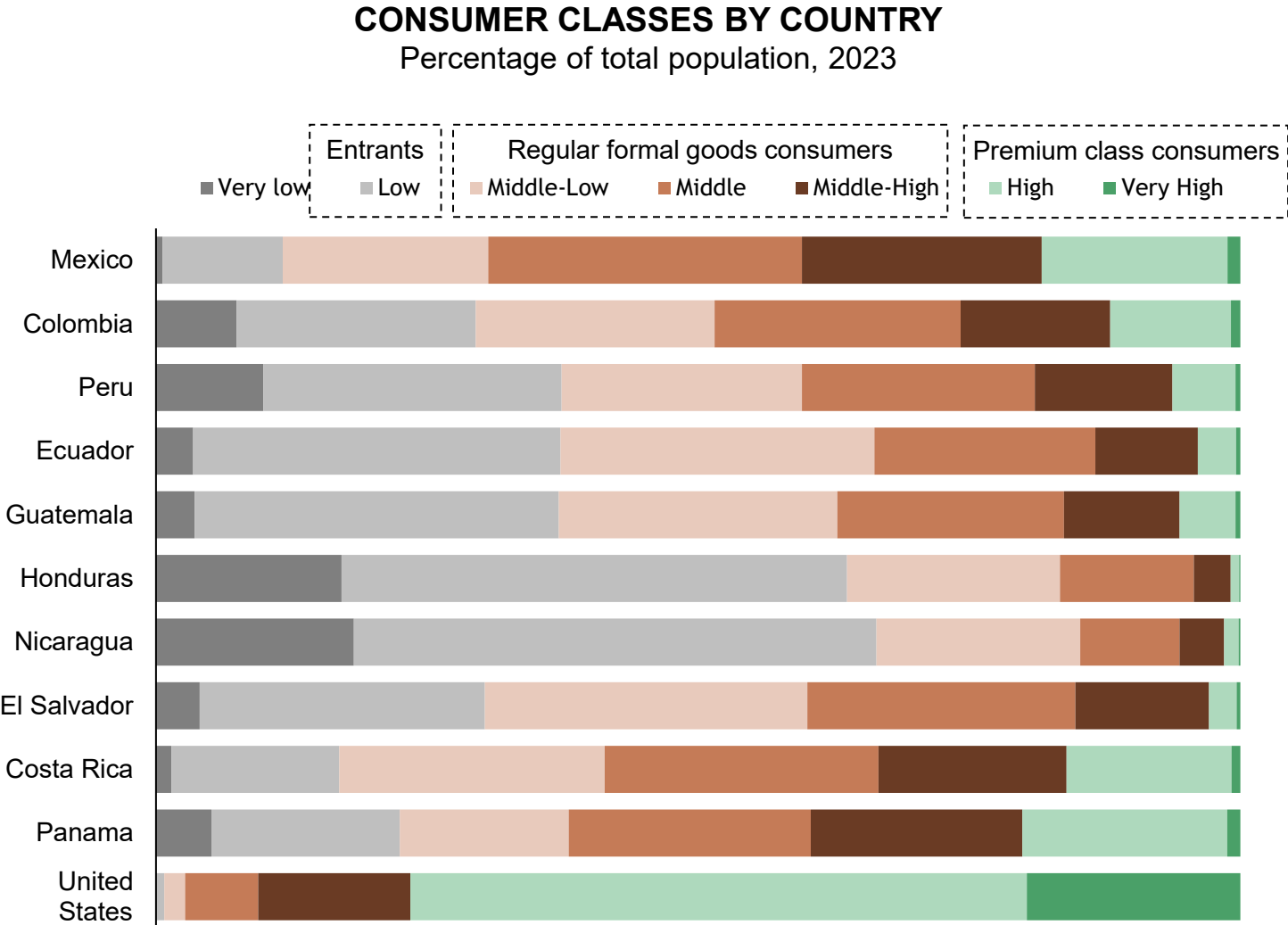
**How to interpret:** Mexico  
GDP per capita is at the level  
of the U.S. in 1964

**ECONOMIC STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT**  
Countries compared to U.S. GDP per capita



Source: WHO; TelluBase; Tellusant analysis

# Where? The size of consumer classes is the right metric to understand opportunity



# Where? Keep in mind that cities always outperform the country

MIDDLE CLASS ANNUAL GROWTH RATE 2003-2023  
10 largest Latin American cities





TAGLIERO



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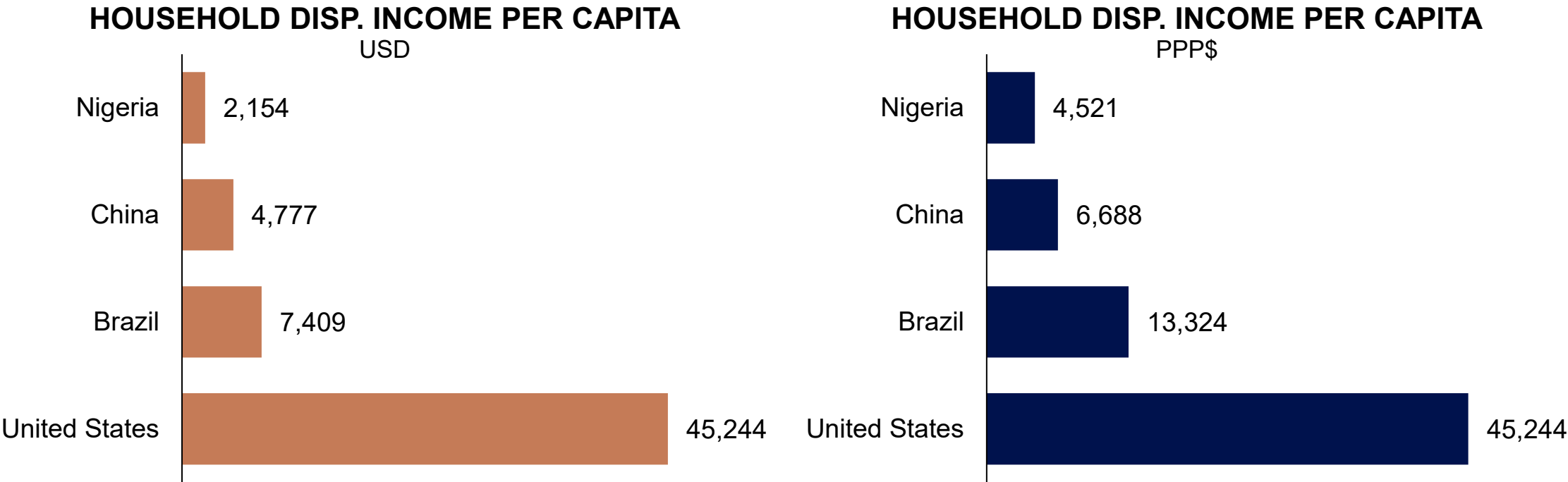
**How | The World**







How: Work with purchasing power parity values or you will underestimate opportunity and be late

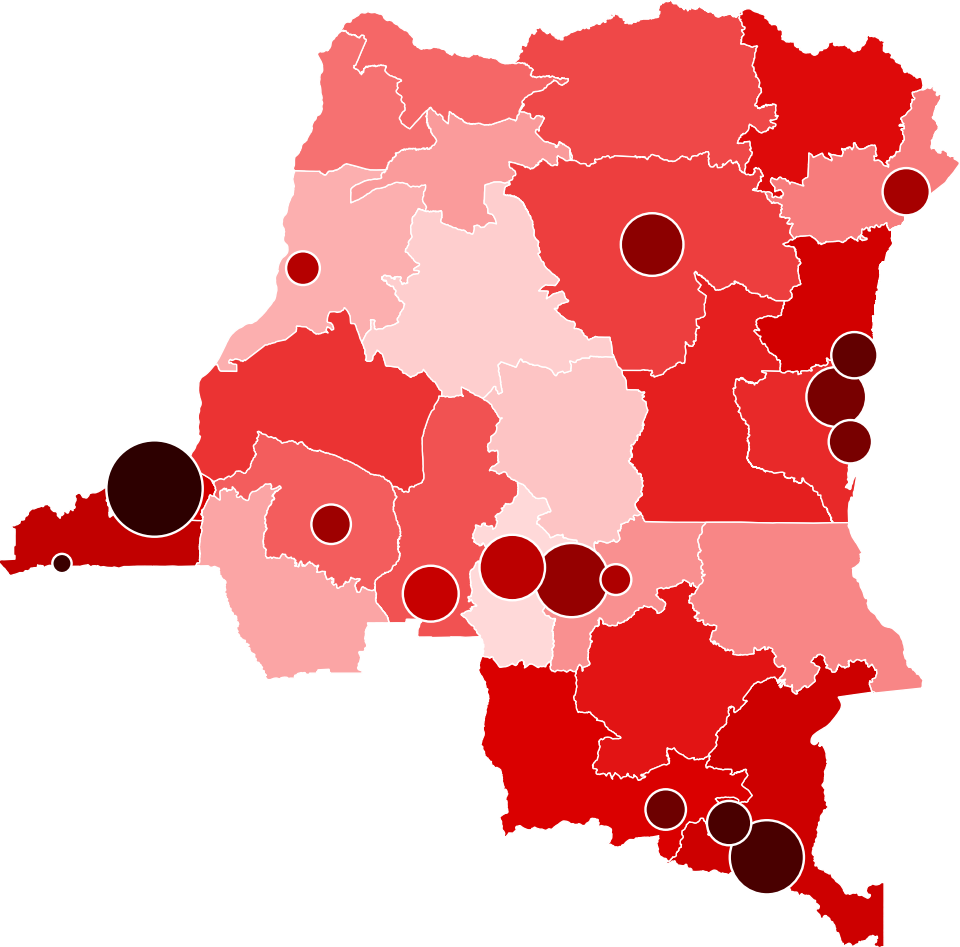




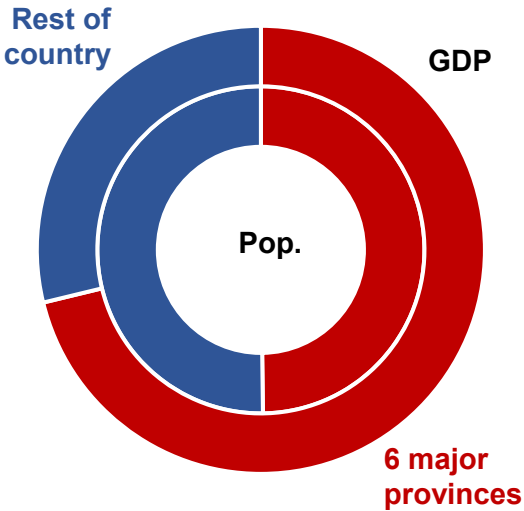
How? Have a detailed subnational understanding. The DRC is an opportunity despite war in the east

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO INCOME LEVELS

Cities and rural part of provinces colored by income/capita



SHARE OF CONGOLESE ECONOMY



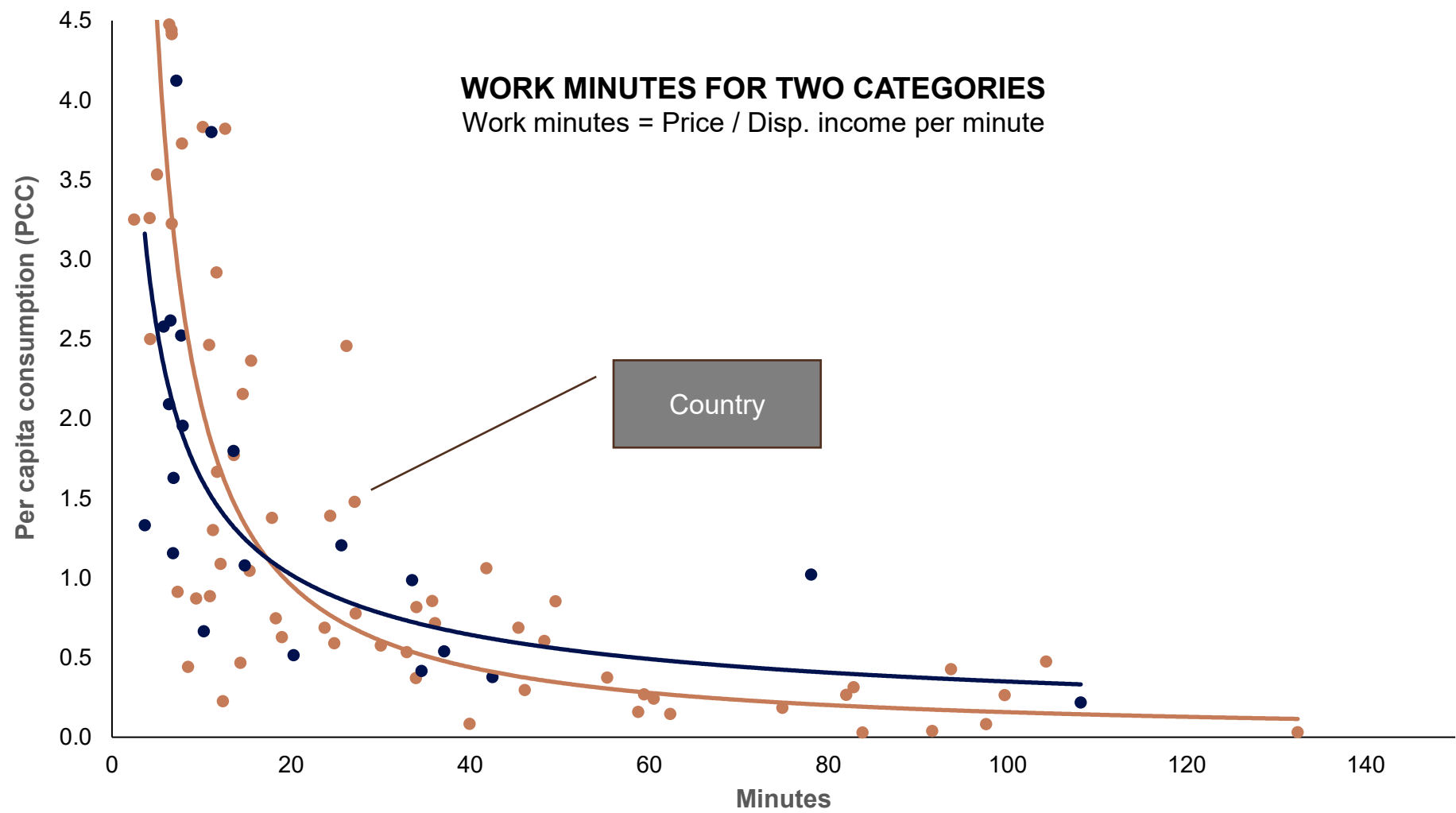
DRC ANNUAL GDP GROWTH '10-'22



DRC GDP PER CAPITA



# How? Track affordability by measuring the effort required to buy a product









**Thank you for your attention! And a hello from our team!**

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Office building on Reforma



Team meeting in Mexico City office for Mexican and U.S. staff

## Appendix: Sources

Slide	Sources
1	Creator: Rose Lincoln   Credit: Harvard University © 2021 The President and Fellows of Harvard College
4	S.Canback: <i>Bureaucratic Limits of Firm Size</i>
5	National Geographic: <i>Atlas of the World, 11<sup>th</sup> Edition</i>
7	© S.Canback: Shanghai, China
8	TelluBase; S.Canback (Tellusant) analysis
9	S&P500, CSI 300, Euro STOXX, Nordic STOXX, Topix, FTSE All-Share Index providers; IMF; TelluBase; S.Canback (Tellusant) analysis
10	FRED series DTB3, DGS10, USRECD; Bernanke, B. (1990): <i>Predictive powers of interest rates</i> ; S.Canback (Tellusant) analysis
11	© S.Canback: Mukalla, Yemen
13	© S.Canback: Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia (drinking fermented horse milk, <i>airag</i> )
14	TelluBase; S.Canback analysis
15	IMF; USDA ERS; TelluBase; S.Canback (Tellusant) analysis
16	TelluBase; S.Canback (Tellusant) analysis

Slide	Sources
17	© S.Canback: Harare, Zimbabwe (shopping center in suburbs)
19	© S.Canback: Mexico City, Mexico (Museo Soumaya)
20	Maddison Historical Statistics; Billennium database (Tellusant); TelluBase; S.Canback (Tellusant) analysis
21	TelluBase; Tellusant analysis
22	TelluBase; S.Canback (Tellusant) analysis
23	© S.Canback: Asmara, Eritrea (Fiat Tagliero petrol station)
25	© S.Canback: Ha Noi, Viet Nam
26	TelluBase; Tellusant analysis
27	TelluBase; UNHDR, MICS and MPI reports; S. Canback (Tellusant) analysis
28	TelluBase; Tellusant analysis
29	© S.Canback: Medellin, Colombia (wholesale market, <i>Central Mayorista</i> )
30	© Tellusant: Mexico City office