



The Economic Outlook for Washtenaw County, 2026–2028

President's Leadership Recognition Luncheon

April 24, 2026

PREPARED BY

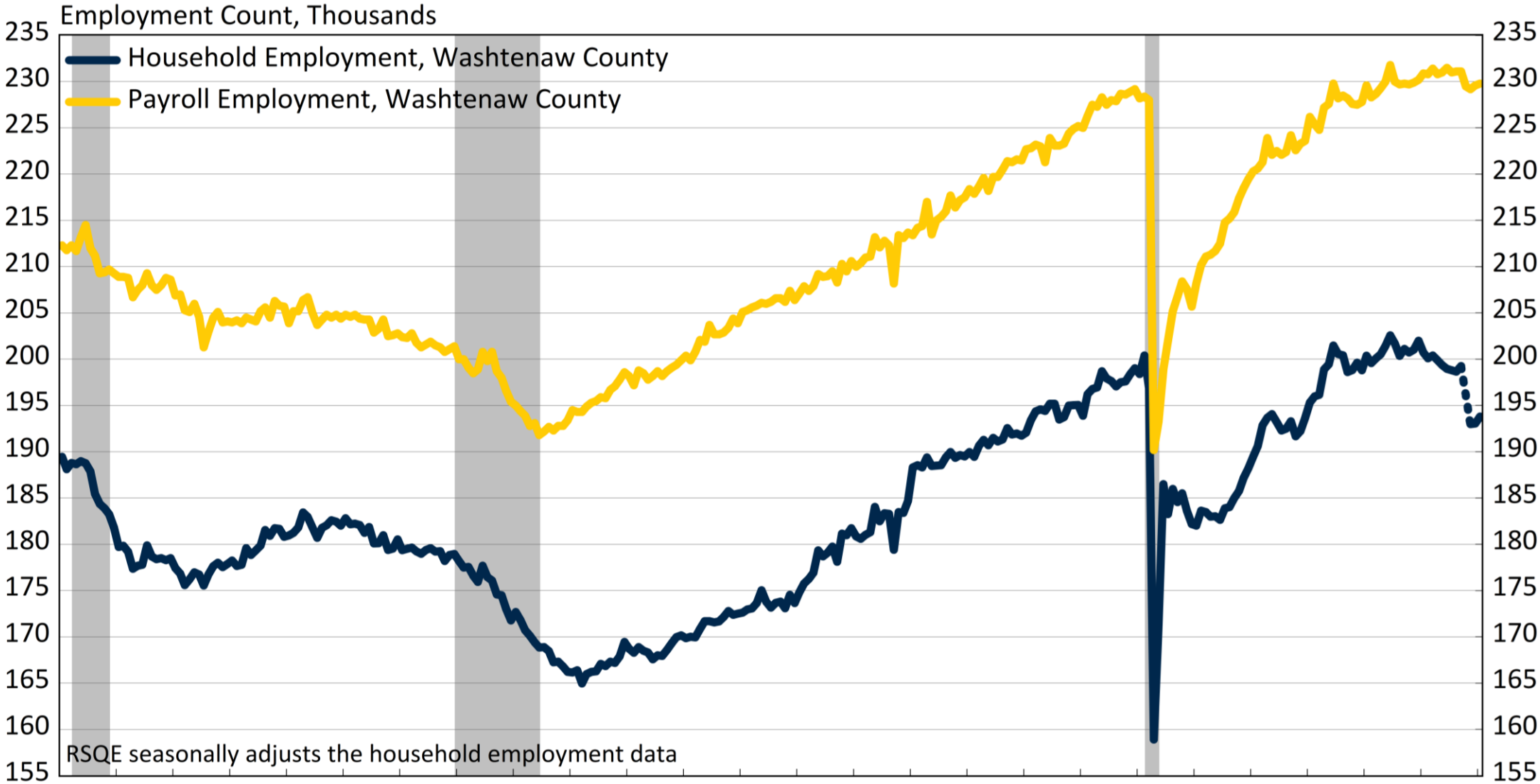
- Jacob T. Burton
- Gabriel M. Ehrlich
- Donald R. Grimes
- Daniil Manaenkov
- Michael R. McWilliams



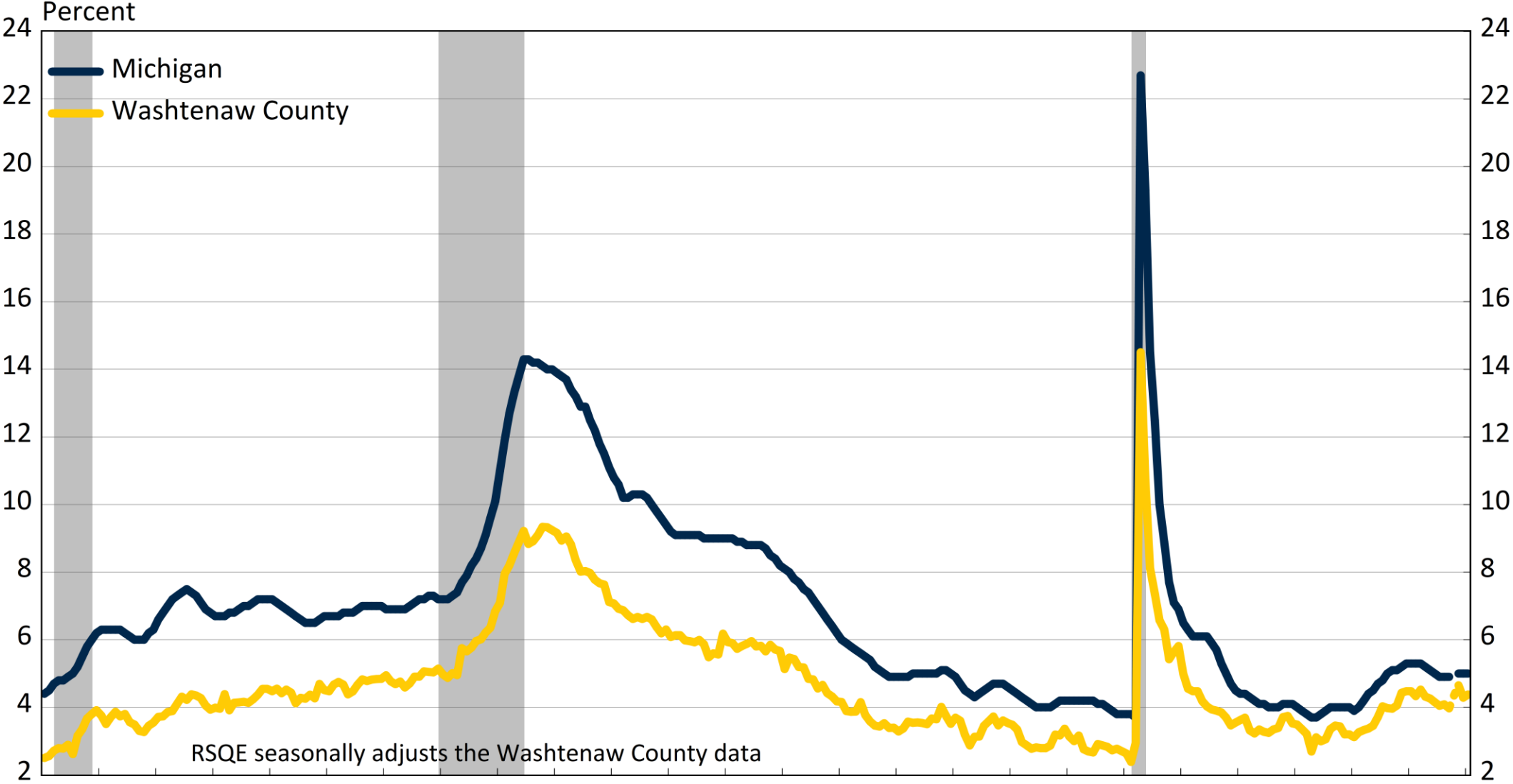
M | RSQE

Current State of Washtenaw's Economy

Monthly Employment in Washtenaw County

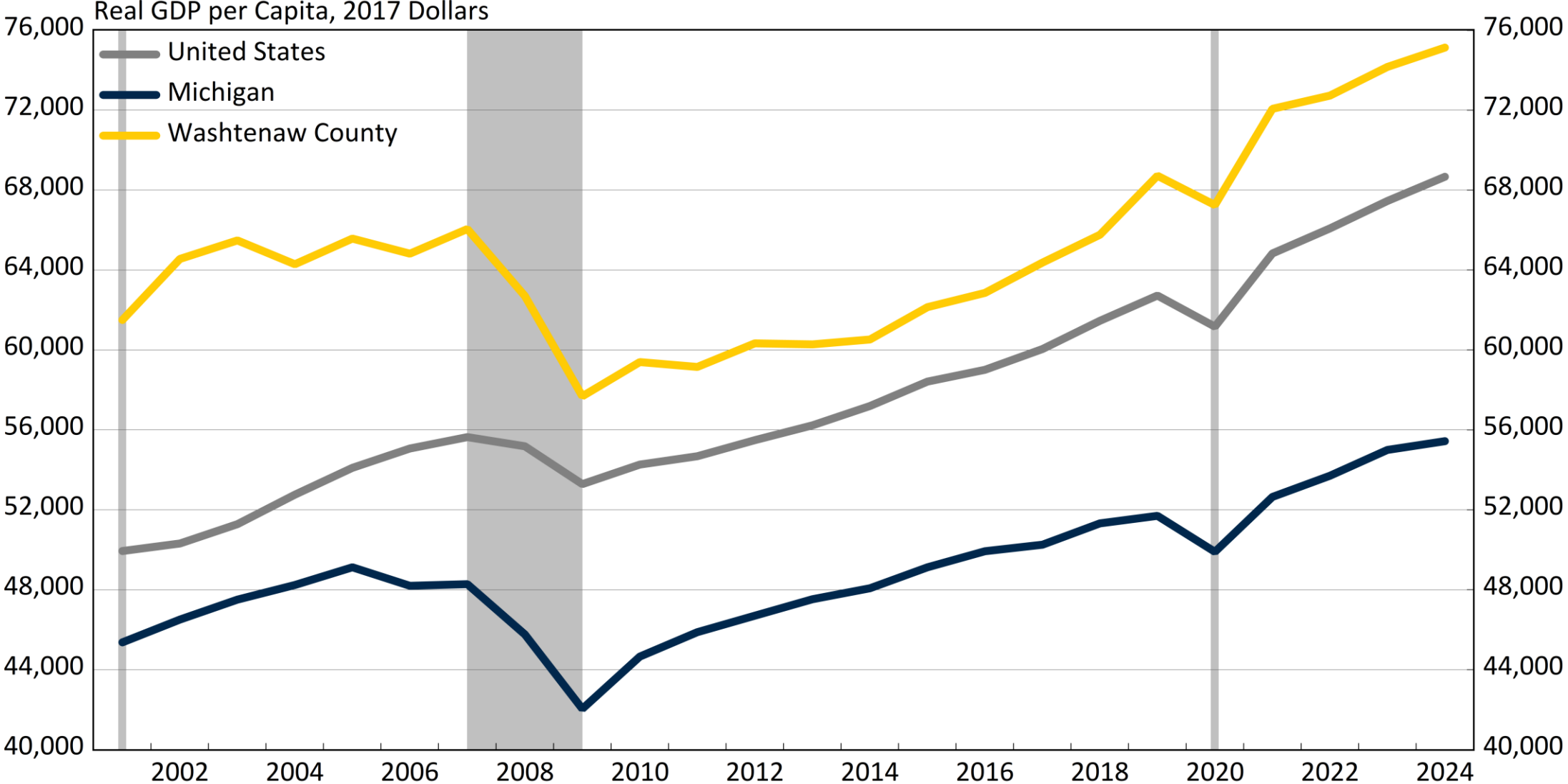


Monthly Unemployment Rate, Michigan and Washtenaw County

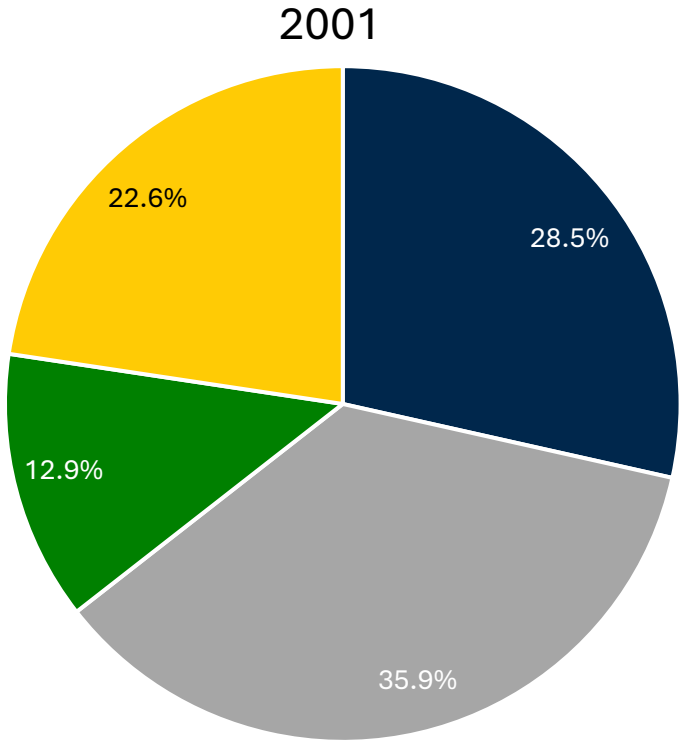


RSQE seasonally adjusts the Washtenaw County data

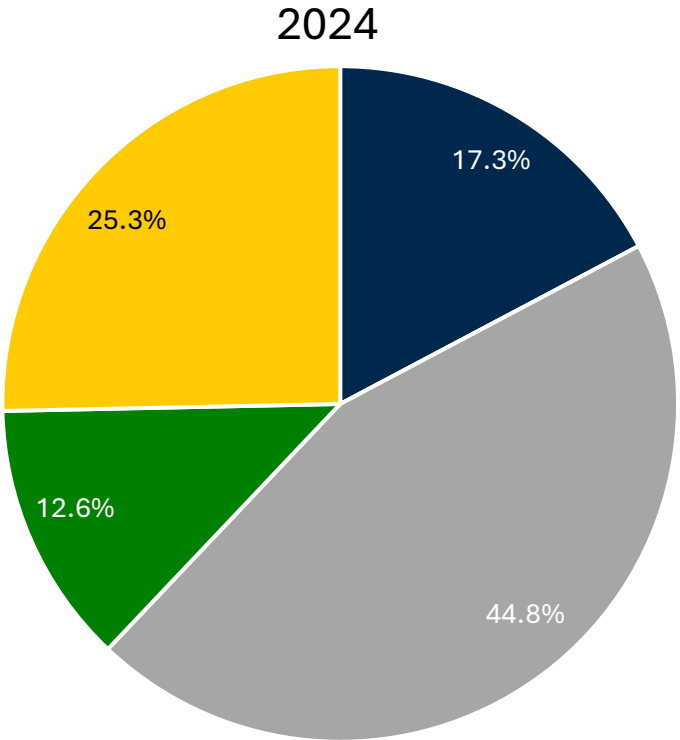
Real GDP per Capita: US, Michigan, and Washtenaw



GDP by Industry Group in Washtenaw County

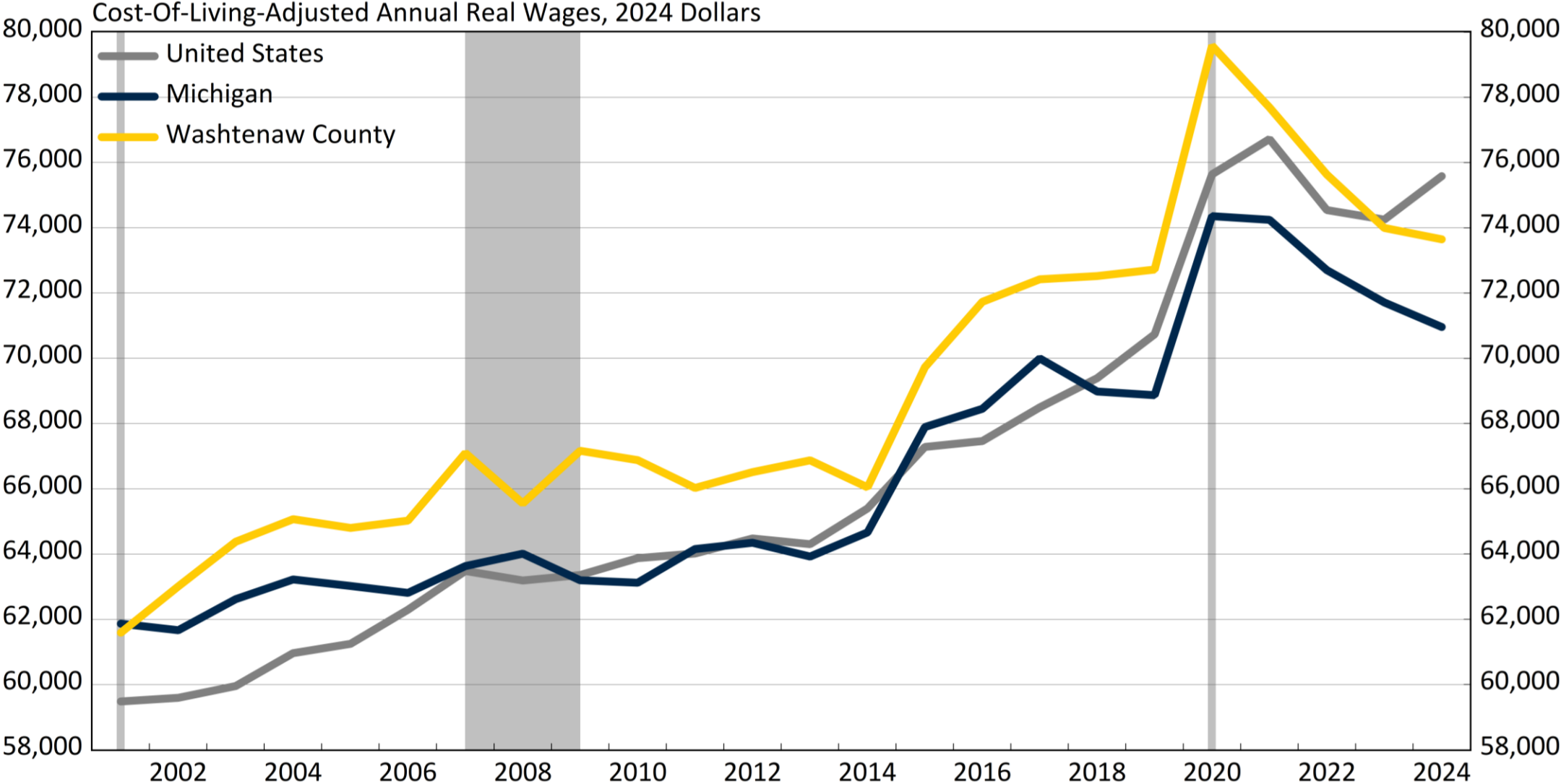


■ Blue-collar ■ Private Higher-ed
■ Private Lower-ed ■ Government



■ Blue-collar ■ Private Higher-ed
■ Private Lower-ed ■ Government

Adjusted Real Wages: US, Michigan, and Washtenaw





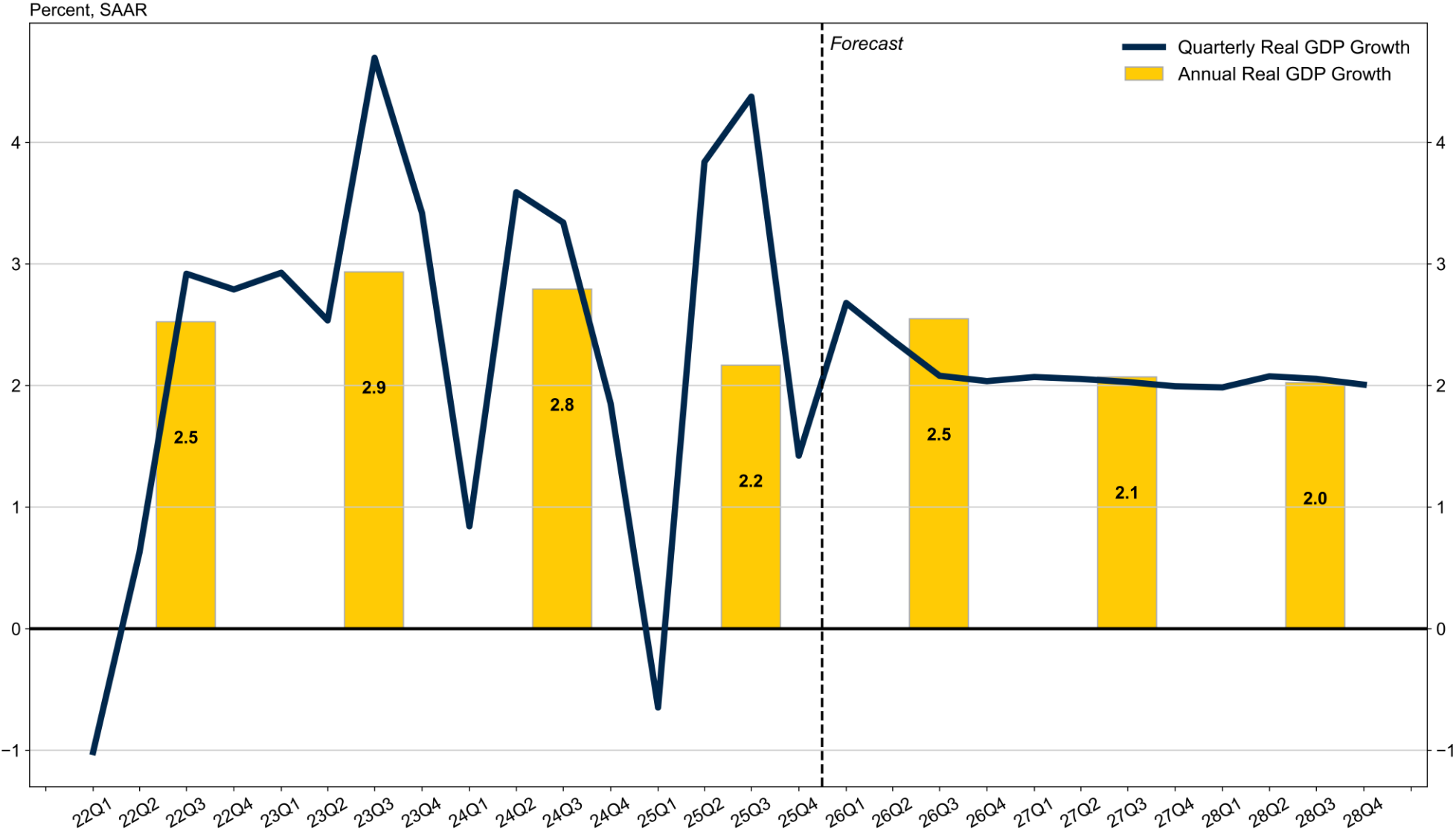
M | RSQE

U.S. Economic Outlook

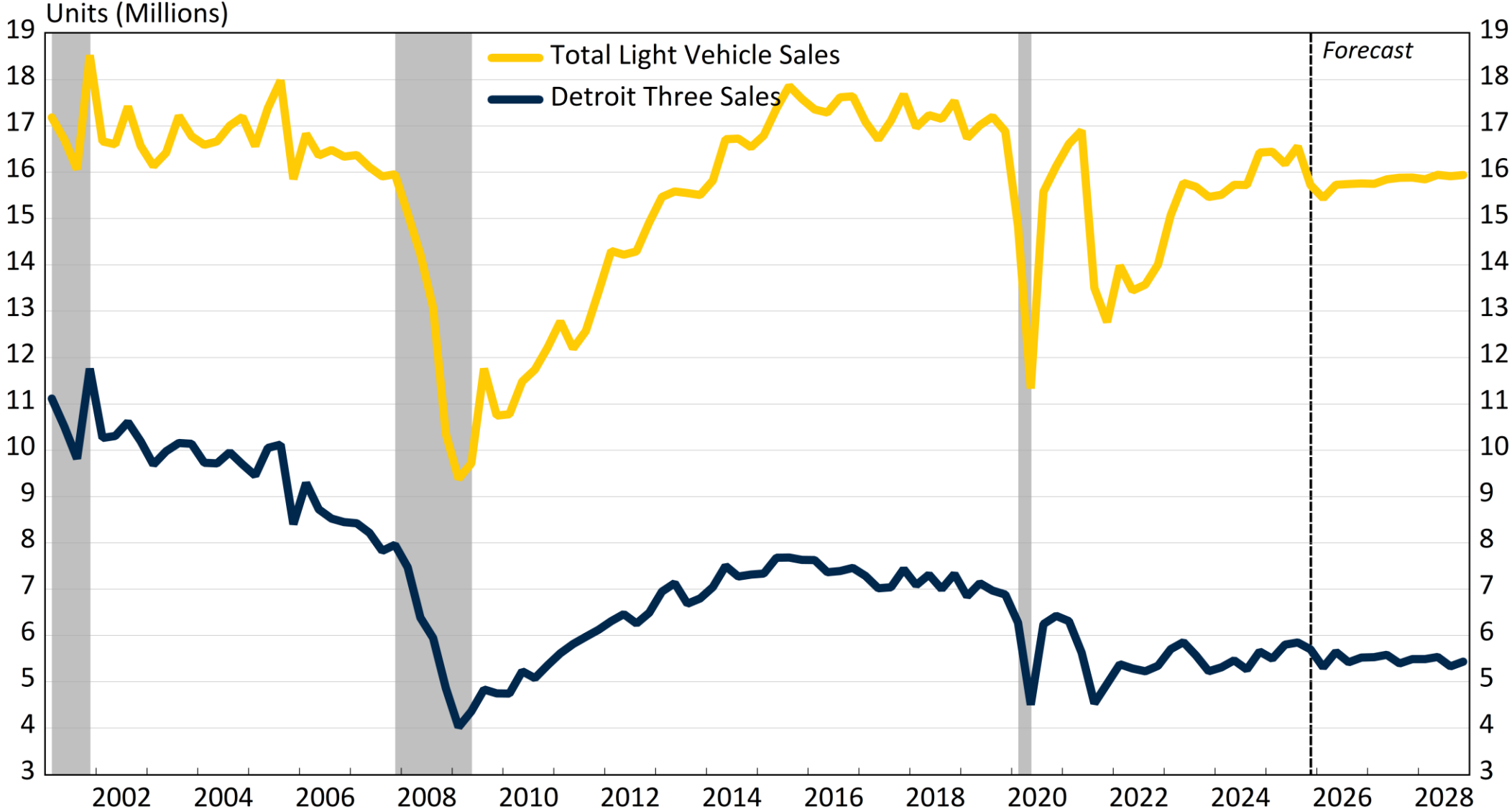
Policy Assumptions

- We expect the effective tariff rate to dip from around 11.3 percent in 2025q4 to 9 percent going forward following the recent Supreme Court decision
- We penciled in two more 25bps cuts from the Fed this year but no further change in 2027 and 2028
- We don't expect much action in terms of fiscal policy this year
- War in Iran could reduce real GDP by 0.2 percent and boost inflation by 0.3 percentage points in 2026
- CAFE penalties eliminated through 2028

U.S. Real GDP Growth



Light Vehicle Sales

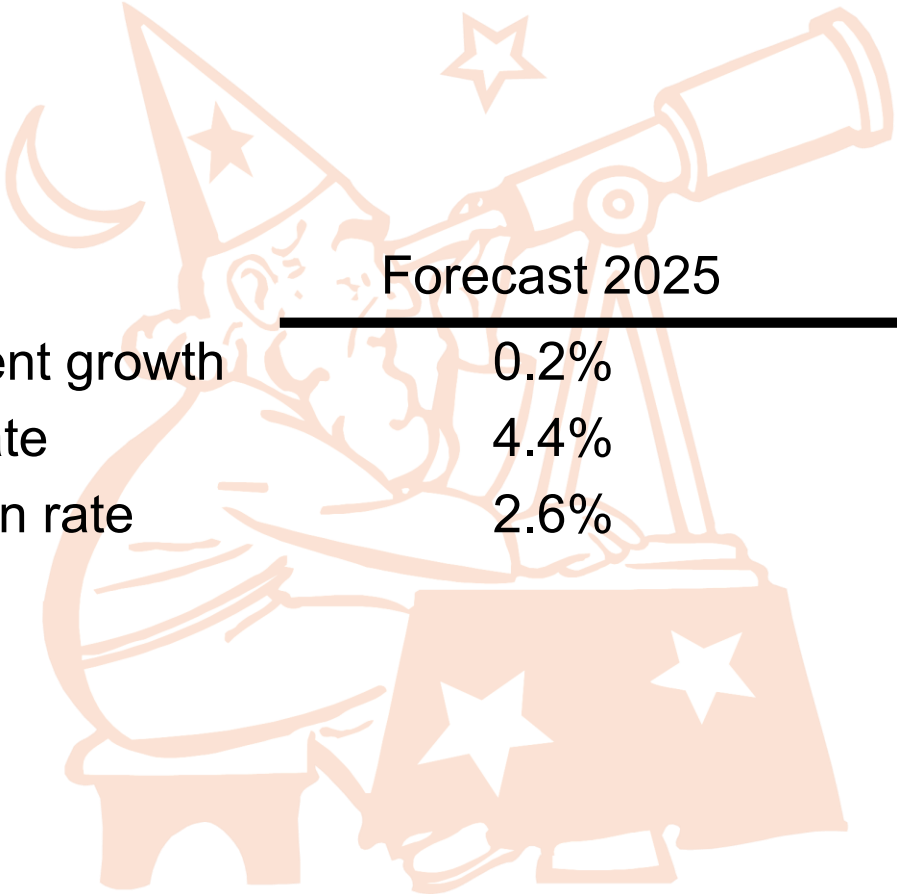




M | RSQE

Forecast Review

Review of Last Year's Forecast



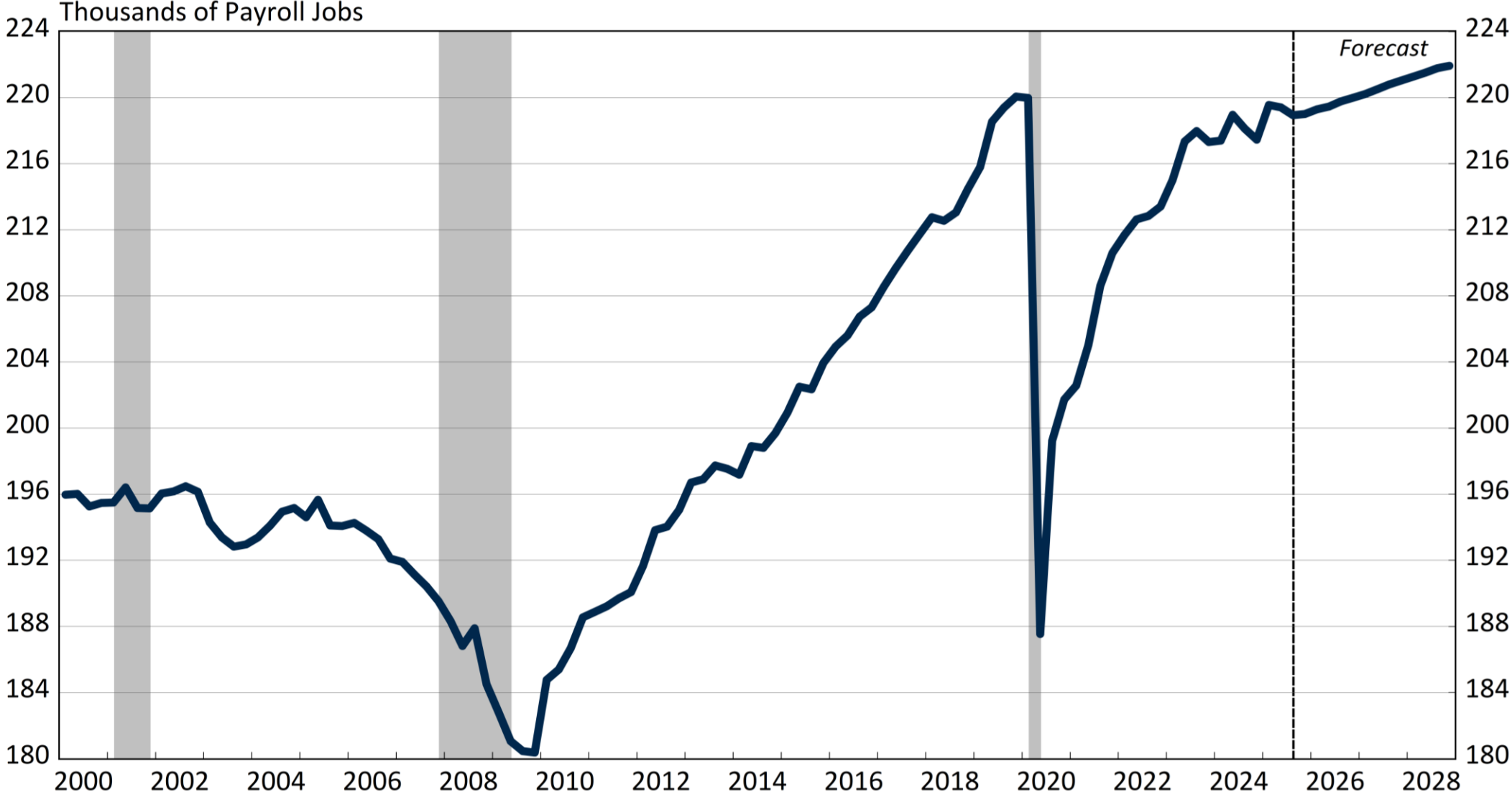
	Forecast 2025	Actual 2025
Payroll employment growth	0.2%	0.6%
Unemployment rate	4.4%	4.5%
Consumer inflation rate	2.6%	1.9%



M | RSQE

Washtenaw County Economic Outlook

Payroll Jobs in Washtenaw County

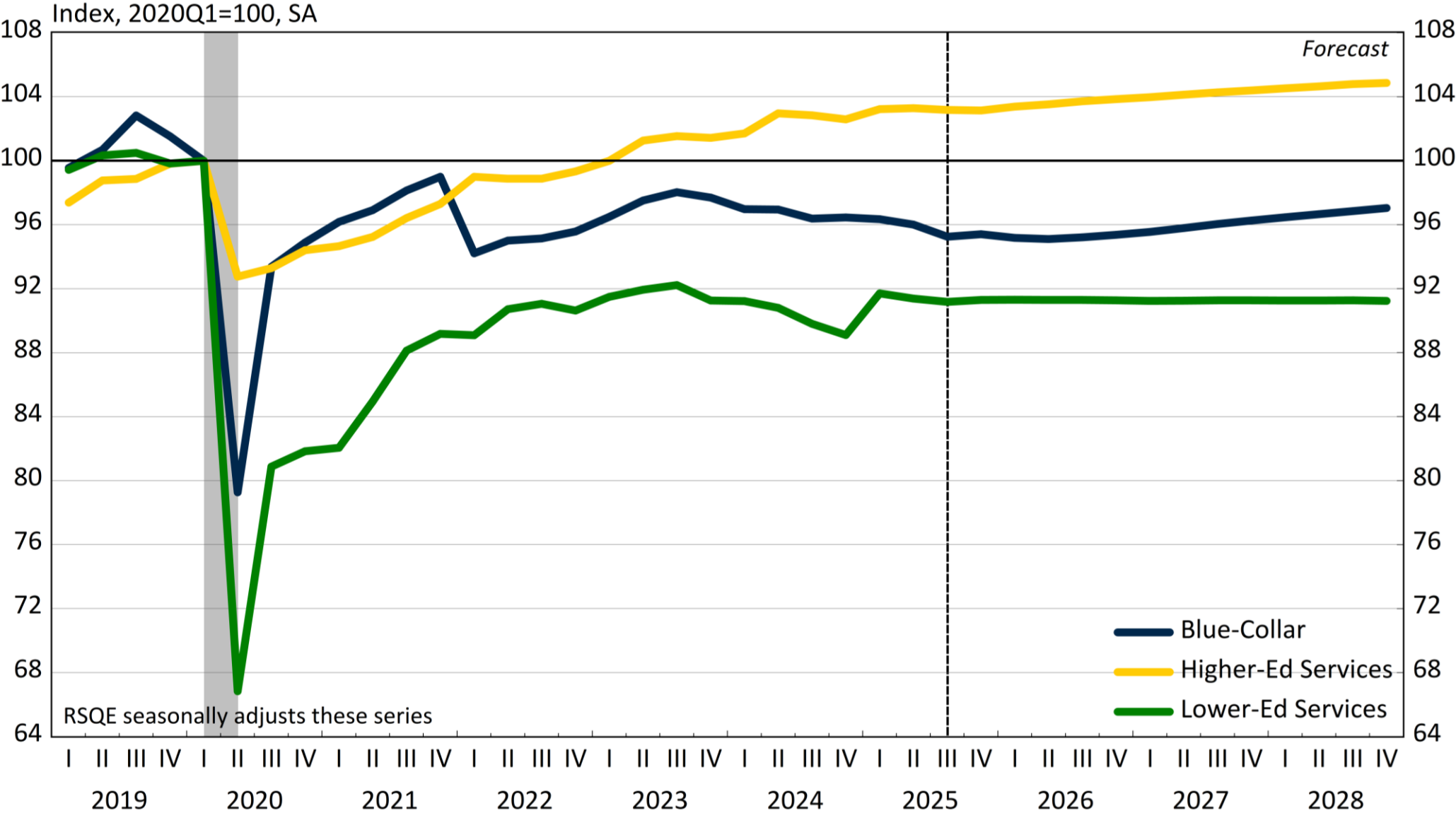


Payroll Jobs in Washtenaw County

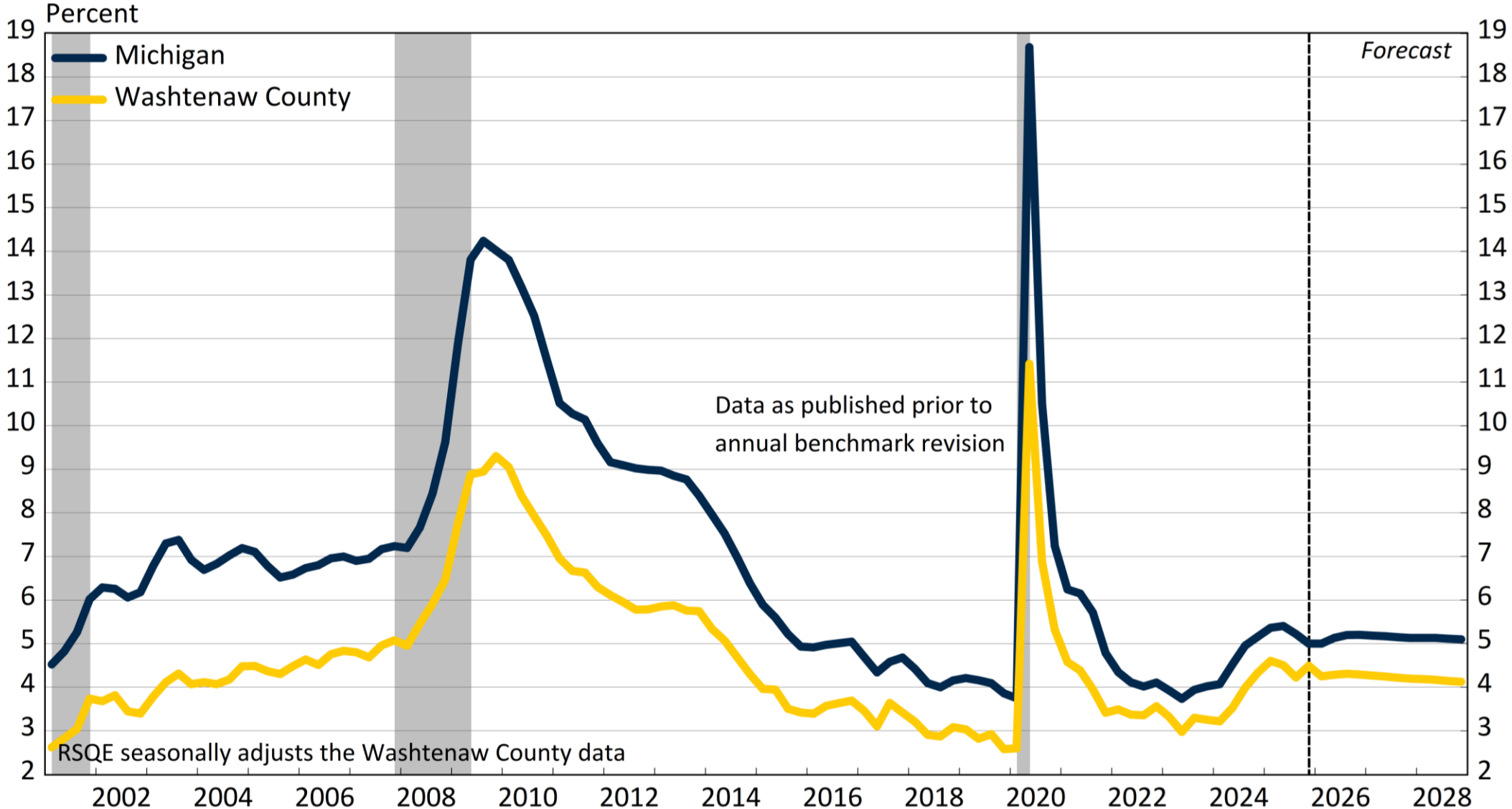


	2024	Forecast Employment				Average Annual Wage 2024 \$
		2025	2026	2027	2028	
Total Jobs	217,988	219,234	219,635	220,646	221,628	74,298
(Annual percentage change)	(0.5)	(0.6)	(0.2)	(0.5)	(0.4)	
Total Government	84,302	84,646	85,236	85,691	86,054	77,374
Federal Government	4,735	4,652	4,574	4,499	4,382	106,980
State Government	67,262	67,641	68,167	68,609	69,028	78,258
Local Government	12,305	12,353	12,494	12,583	12,643	61,153
Total Private	133,686	134,587	134,399	134,955	135,574	72,358

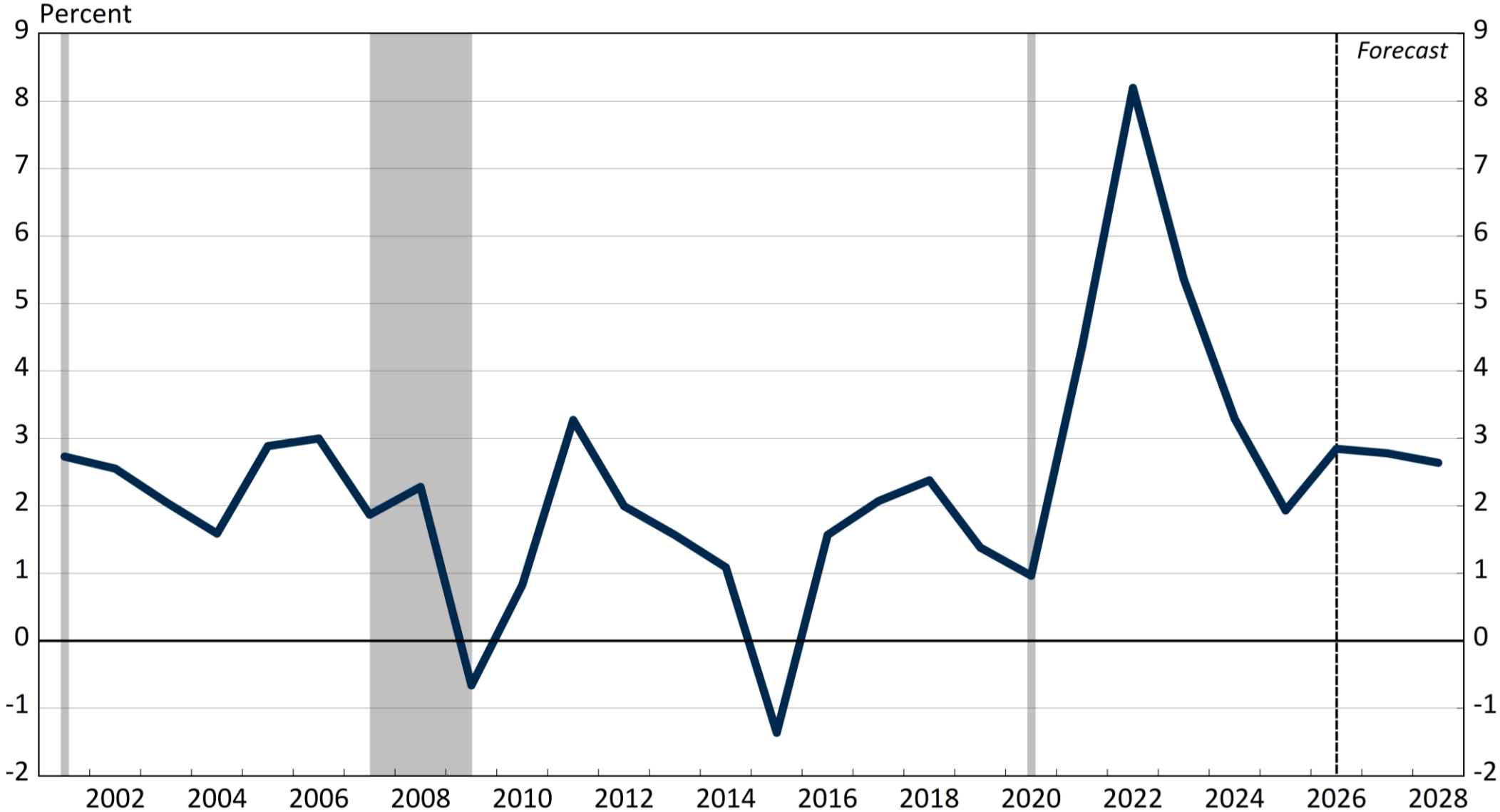
Payroll Jobs in Washtenaw by Industry Group



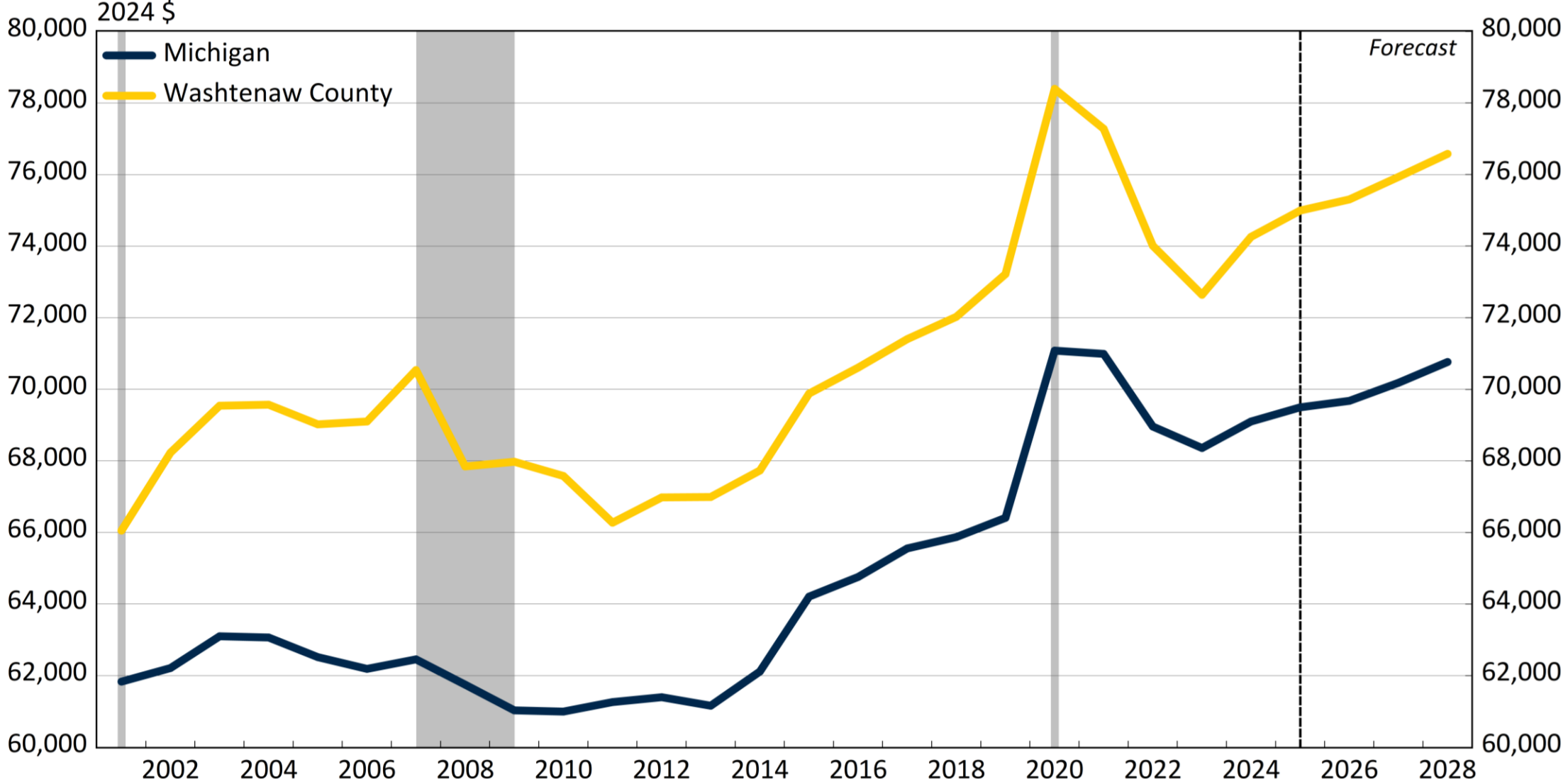
Quarterly Unemployment Rate, Michigan and Washtenaw County



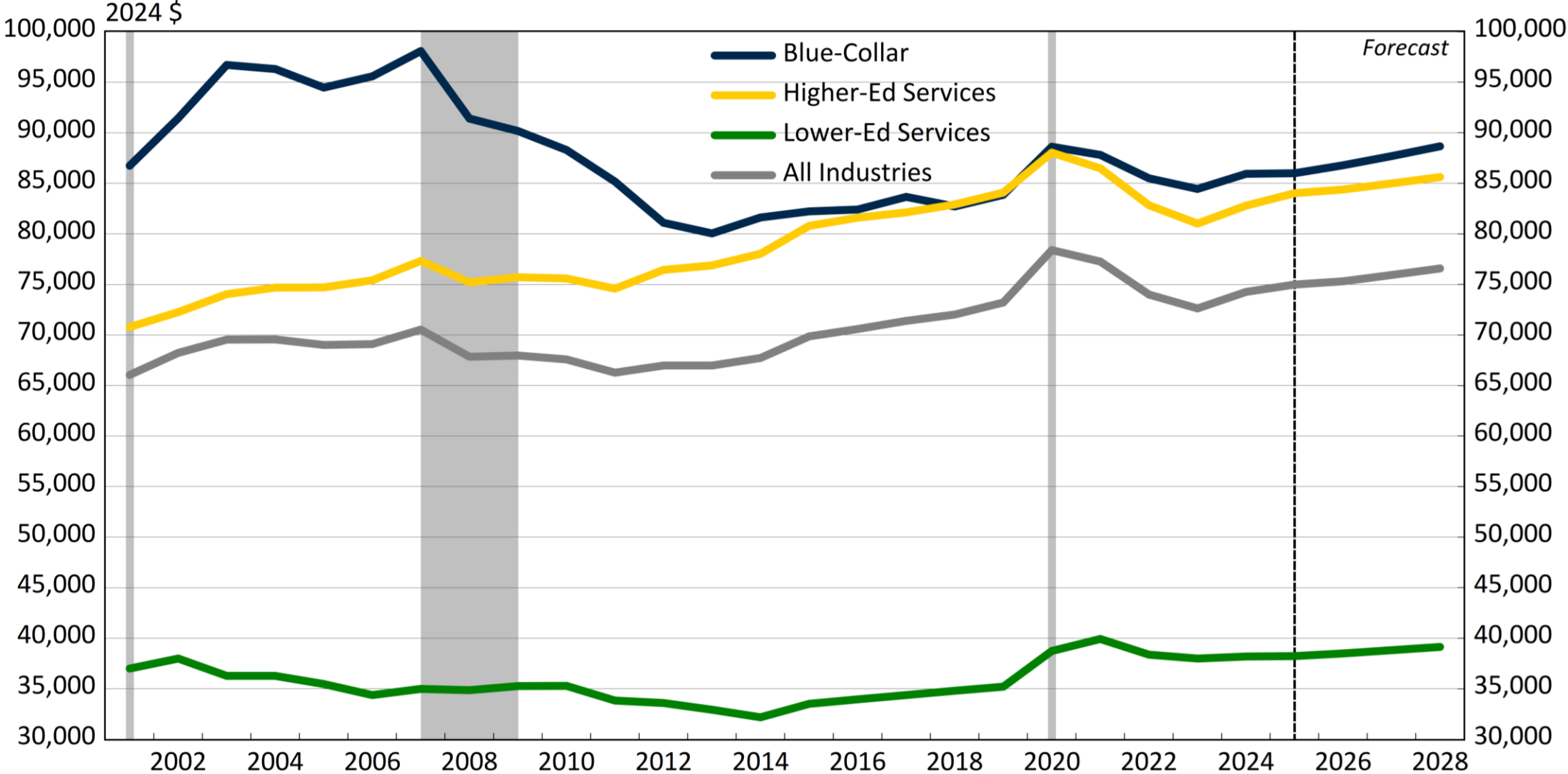
Local Inflation, Detroit CPI



Average Annual Real Wage, Michigan and Washtenaw County



Real Wages in Washtenaw by Industry Group



THANK YOU!

Access the full outlook and subscribe to data below

RSQE Homepage



Subscriptions



Loren Townes Jr.

Ann Arbor SPARK
Director Entrepreneurial
Services

