



ECONOMICS OF THE GLOBAL PORK INDUSTRY: THE ONLY THING CERTAIN IS CHANGE

ADVANCIA ACADEMY SWINE EVENT

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LAKE GENEVA, WI

MAY 19, 2025



KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY | Agricultural Economics

Roadmap of Today's Discussion

1. Economic Landscape in 2025
2. Mixed Signals & Unfunded Mandates
3. Are Vegan & Vegetarian Rates Increasing?

Consumer Sentiment

April 25' mid-month #s

50.8 (-11% from March)

Now down >30% since Dec. 2024



Consumer Sentiment

April 25' mid-month #s

- Year-Ahead Inflation Expectations: 6.7% (vs 5.0% in March)
 - Highest reading since 1981
- Share expecting unemployment is double Nov. 2024 level & highest since 2009
- Director Hsu: “*decline was, like the last month’s, pervasive and unanimous across age, income, education, geographic region, and political affiliation. Sentiment has now lost more than 30% since December 2024 amid growing worries about trade war developments that have oscillated over the course of the year.*”

Hard & Soft, Data & Science

- ❑ Soft Data: Univ. of MI Consumer Sentiment, NFIB Small Business Optimism Index, etc.
 - ❑ Often ex-ante or pre-event data

- ❑ Hard Data: Circana reported retail pork prices & volumes, actual business earnings, etc.
 - ❑ Often ex-post or realized data

- ❑ Hard Science: engineering, physics, math, parts of economics

- ❑ Soft Science: sociology, philosophy, psychology, marketing, parts of economics

➤ ***GT: Soft Data & Science + Hard Data & Science = Improved Understanding***

Meat Demand Monitor: Demand Differences by Financial Sentiment in Quarter 1 2025

Justin D. Bina, Glynn T. Tonsor.¹

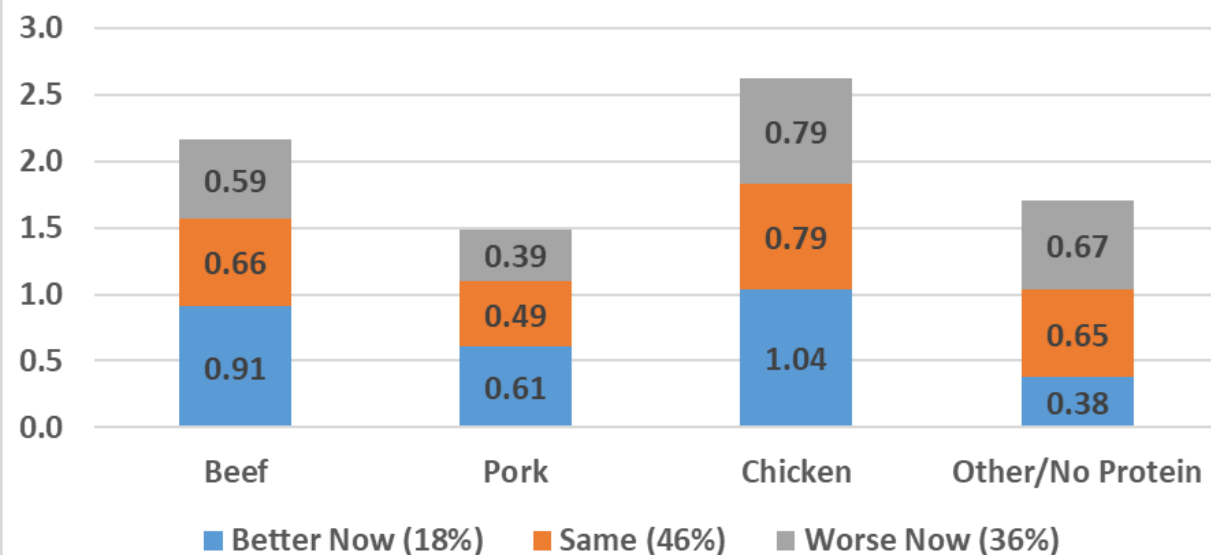
Kansas State University, Department of Agricultural Economics – April 2025

<https://www.agmanager.info/livestock-meat/meat-demand/monthly-meat-demand-monitor-survey-data/meat-demand-monitor-demand>

MDM: Meat Demand Monitor

The MDM tracks U.S. consumer preferences, views, and demand for meat with separate analysis for retail and food service channels. MDM is a monthly online survey with a sample of over 2,000 respondents reflecting the national population.

Prior Day Meal, Protein Inclusion Rate by Financial Sentiment (Now vs One Year Ago) for Apr. 2025 (MDM)



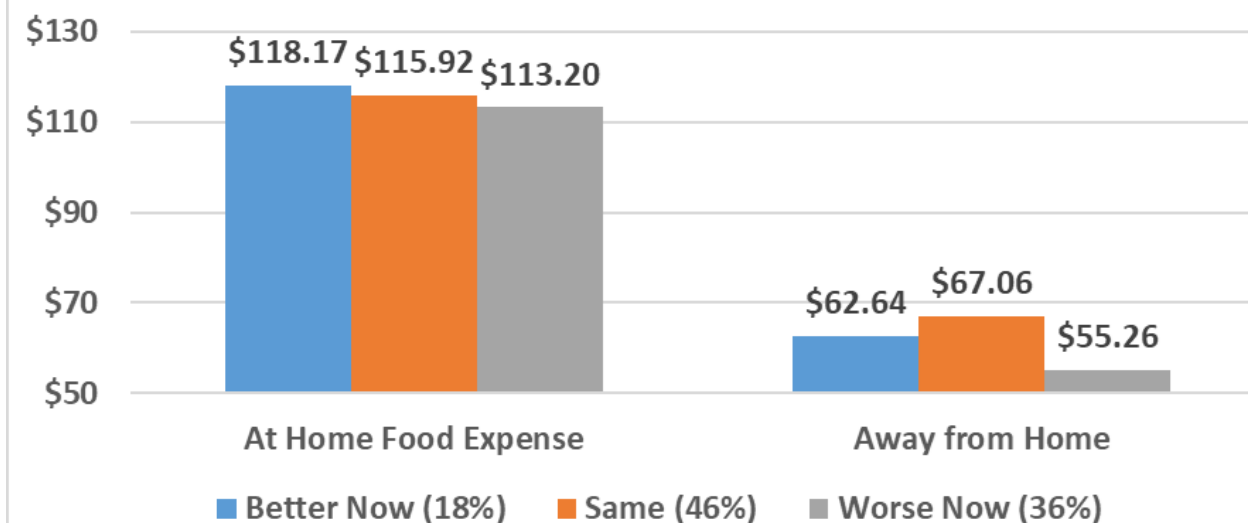
Implied Weekly (@21 total meals):

18%: 4.27 meals w/ pork

46%: 3.43 meals w/ pork (-20%)

36%: 2.73 meals w/ pork (-20%)

Average Weekly Food Expenses, by Financial Sentiment (Now vs One Year Ago) for Apr. 2025 (MDM)





National Pork Board Pork Management Conference

Economic Update

Lee Schulz, Ph.D.

Chief Economist, Ever.Ag

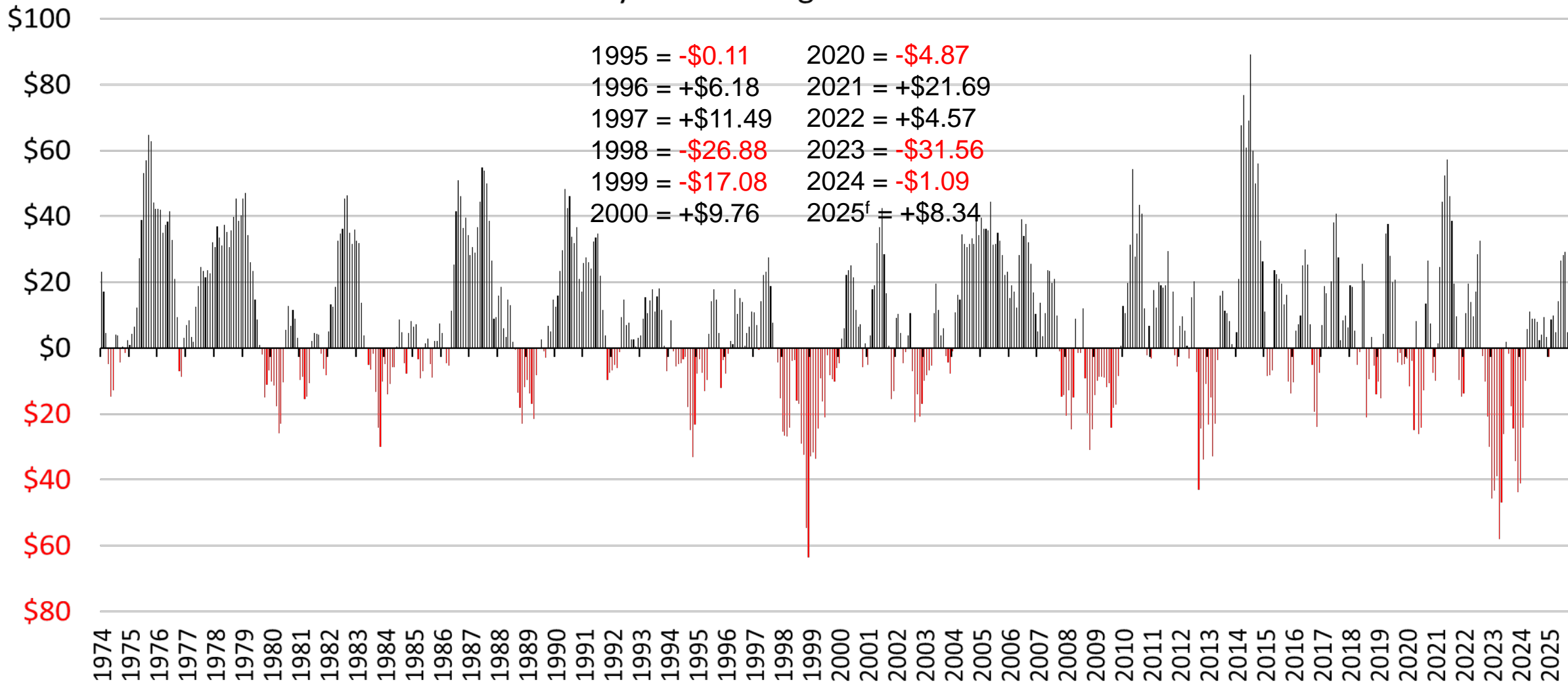
April 30, 2025
Grapevine, TX



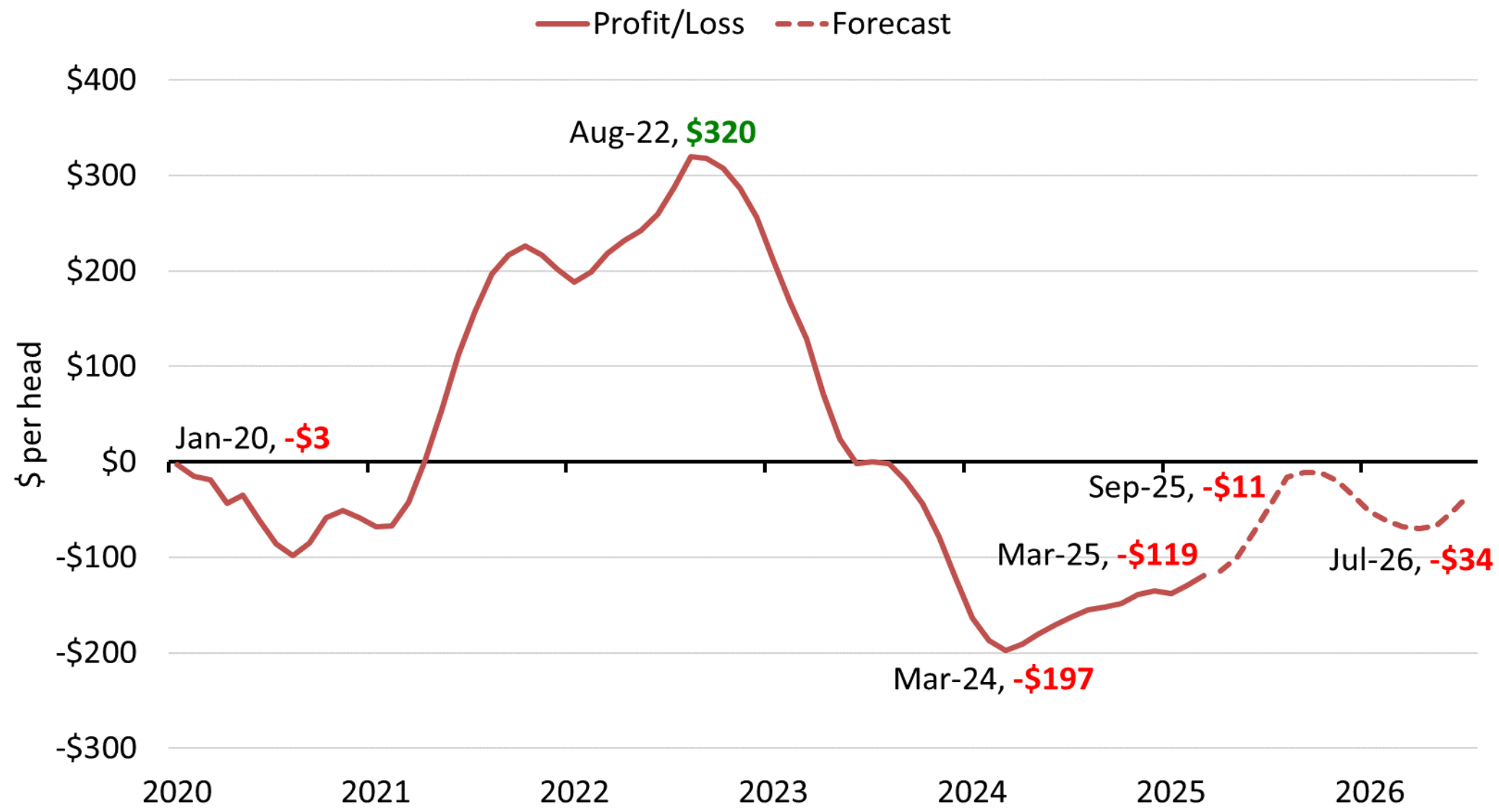
MONTHLY ESTIMATED RETURNS TO FARROW TO FINISH, IOWA

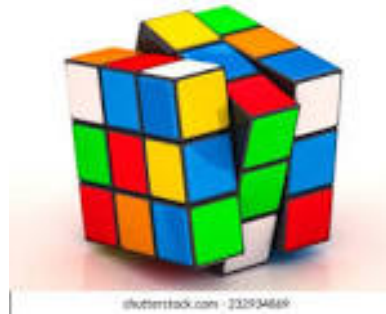
\$ per head

January 1974 through December 2025



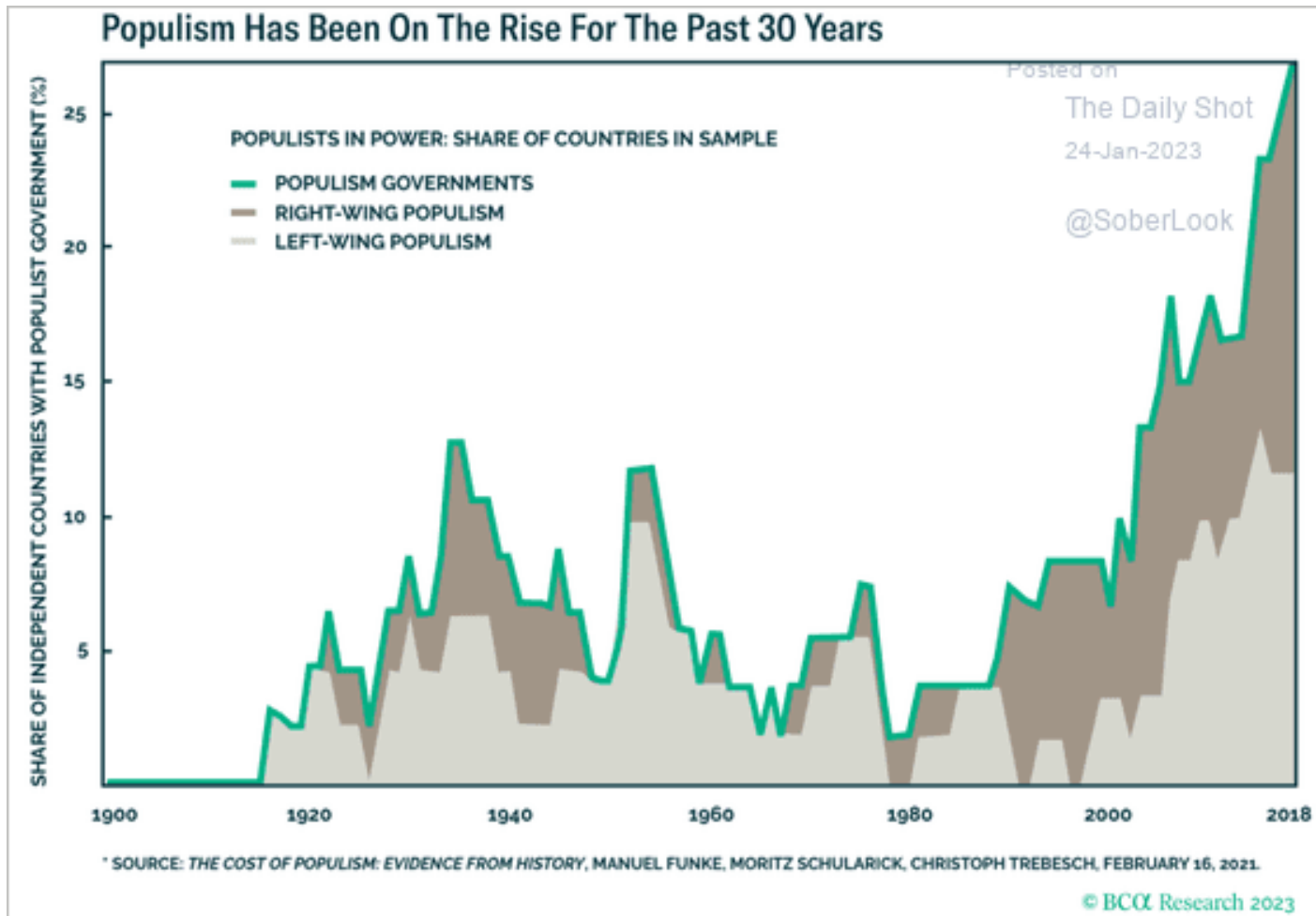
Cumulative Estimated Returns to Farrow to Finish, Iowa



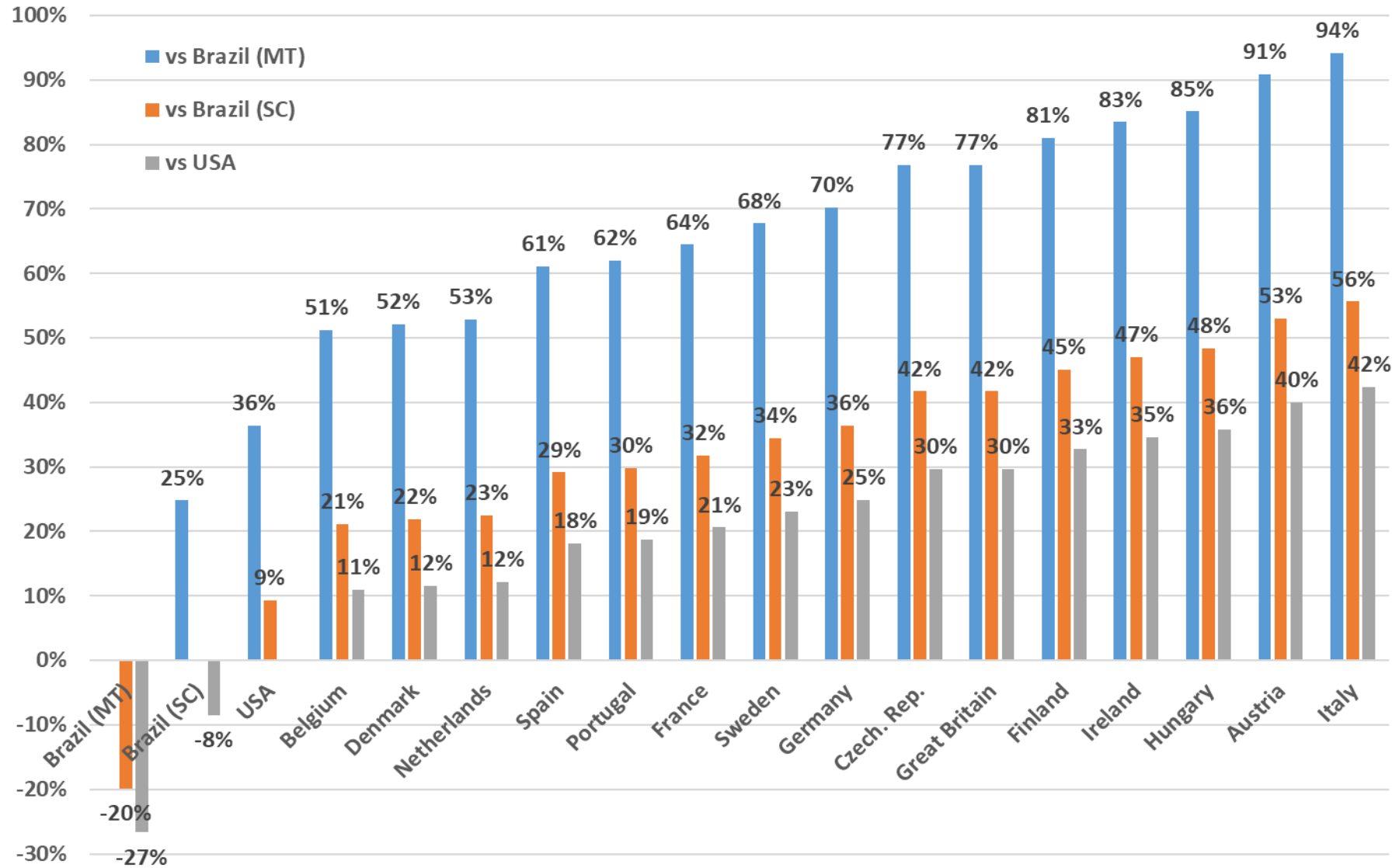


~15% of
Human Population

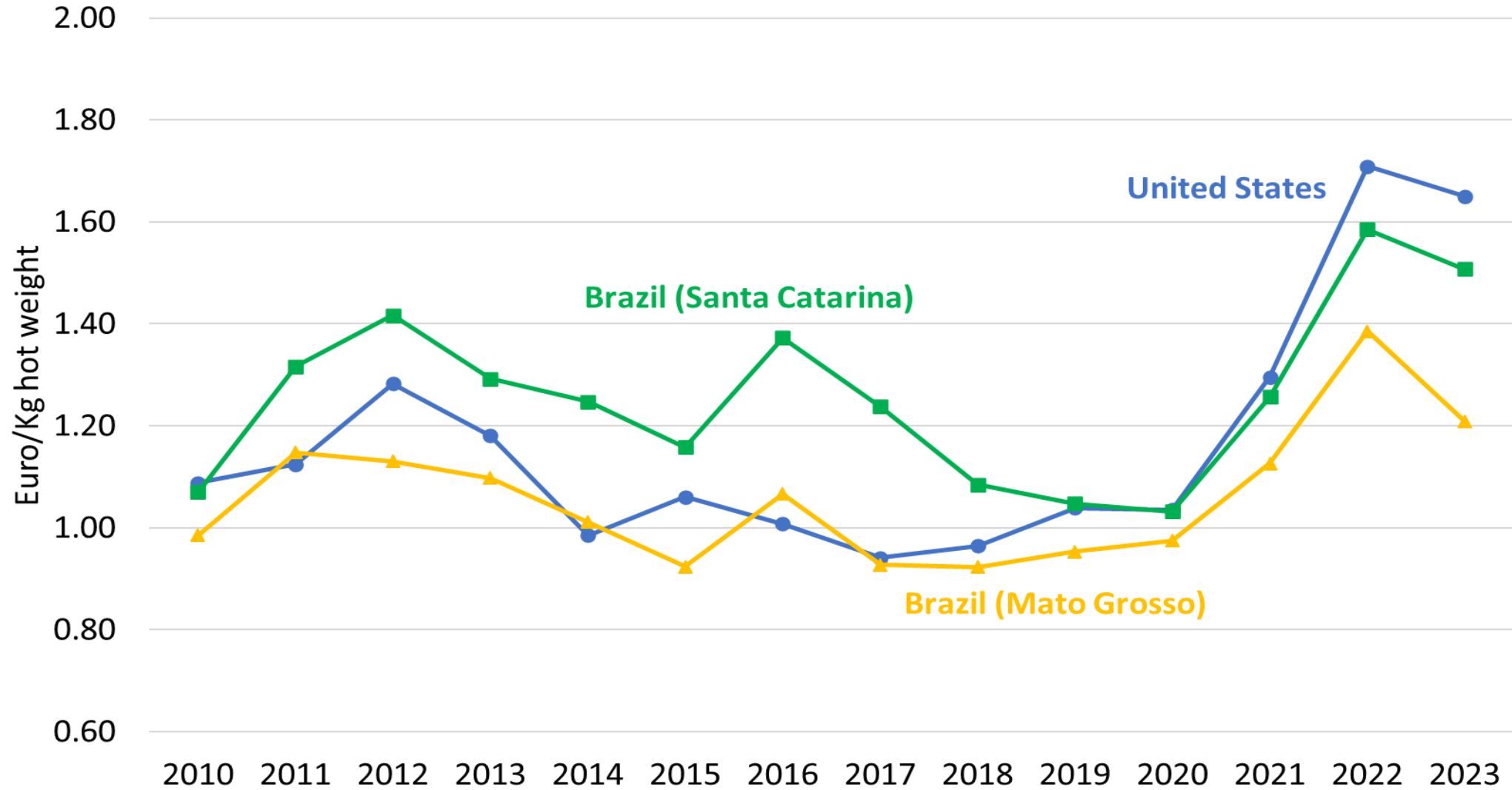
~85% of
Human Population



Average Total Pig Costs, by Country (2023, InterPig & Eve.Ag)



Average Total Pig Costs by Country



Benchmarking the profitability of raising pigs 2022

Dr. Derald Holtkamp, Dr. Lee Schulz and Dr. Dermot Hayes, Iowa State University (USA)

[Download PDF](#)

<https://www.msd-animal-health-swine.com/market-trends/benchmarking-the-profitabilityof-raising-pigs-2022/>

2018

2019

2020

2021

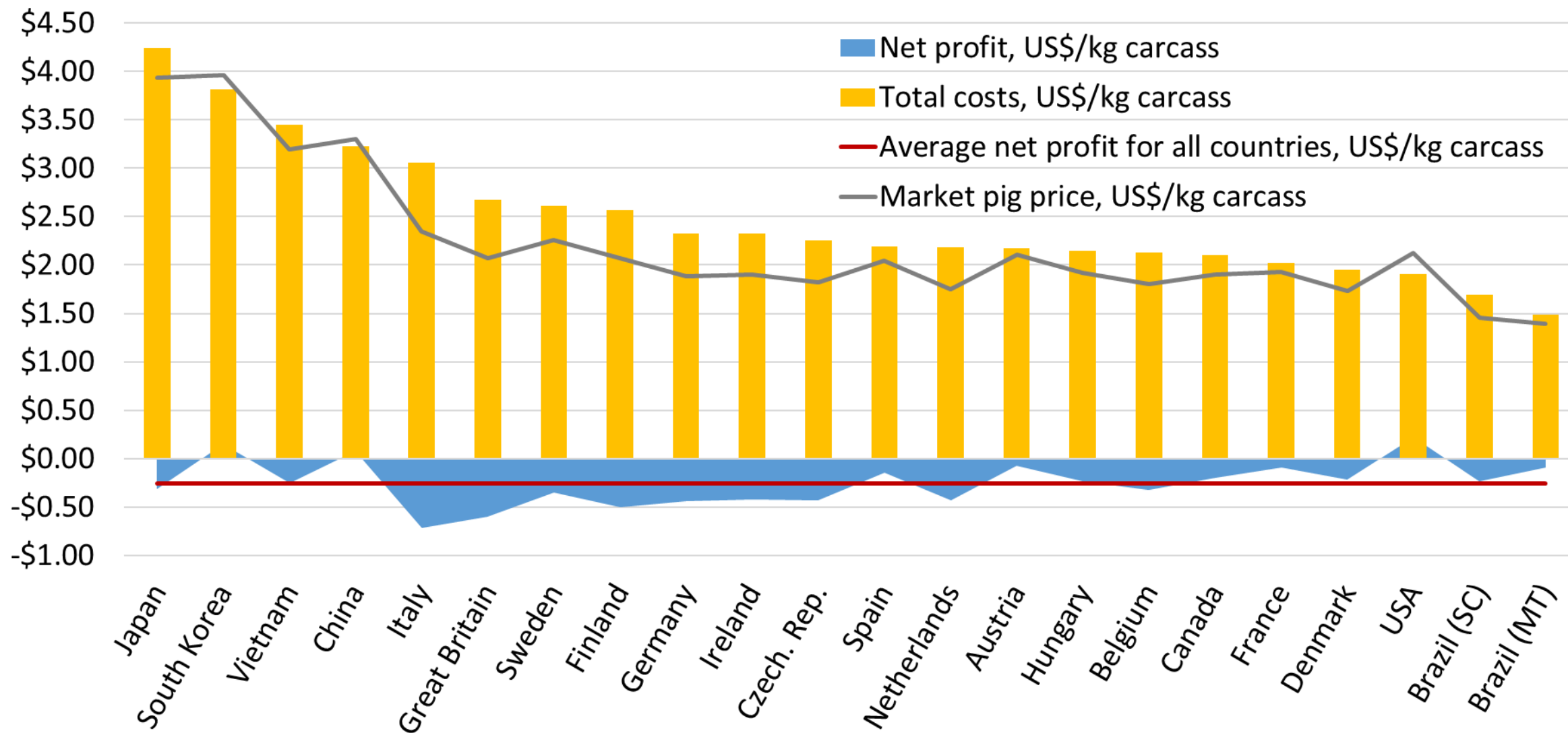
2022

**Benchmarking
the profitability
of raising pigs
2022**

[Key messages](#)



Revenue, cost, and profit per carcass kg sold—2022

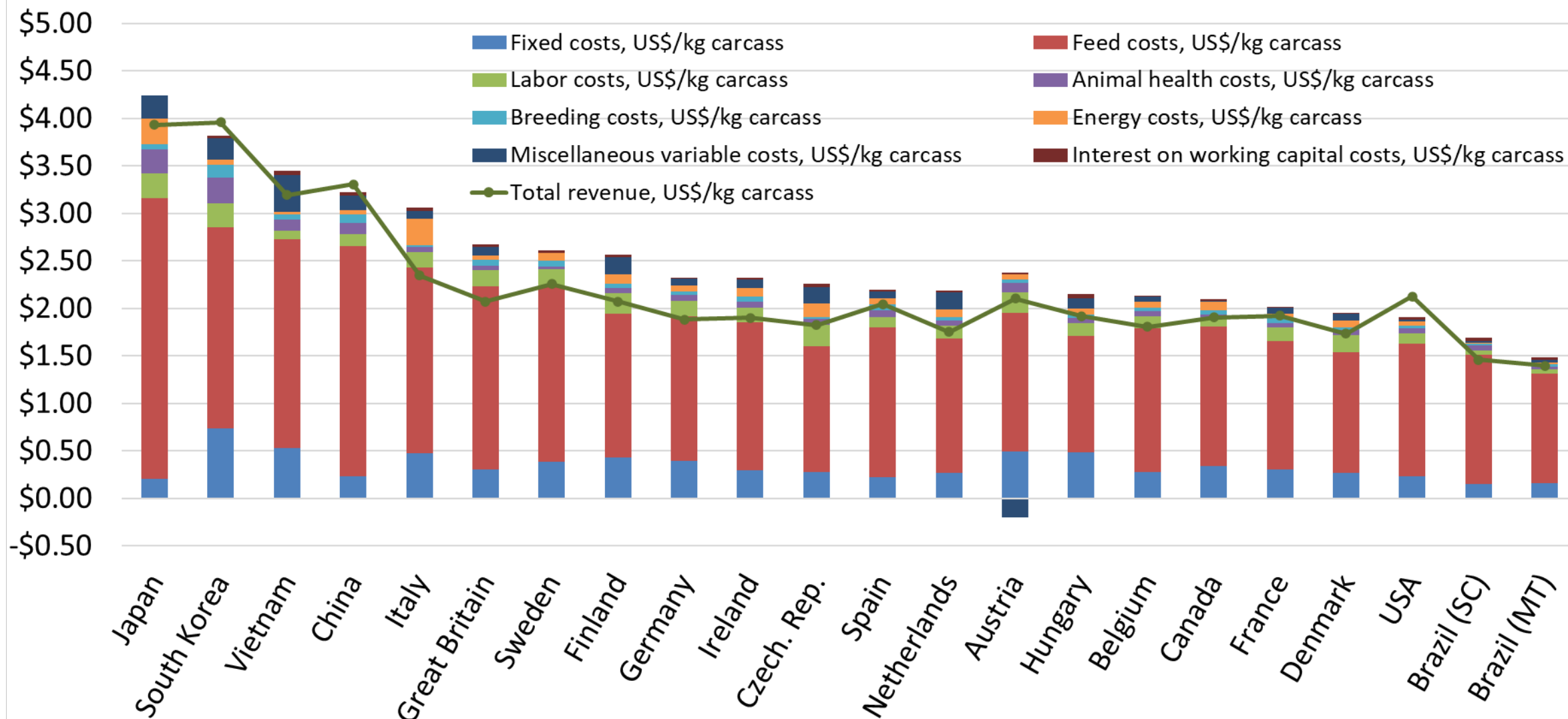


KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS IN PORK PRODUCTION: AN INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON USING 2022 DATA

Derald Holtkamp, Dermot Hayes, Lee Schulz

Detailed costs per carcass kg sold—2022

Breed-to-market



KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS IN PORK PRODUCTION: AN INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON USING 2022 DATA

Derald Holtkamp, Dermot Hayes, Lee Schulz

Mixed Signals of Customers, Consumers, & Voters

- Inconsistent signals lead to adverse economic outcomes
- Misalignment of incentives leads to aggregate, social economic welfare loss

I Will Give You My Vote but Not My Money: Preferences for Public versus Private Action in Addressing Social Issues

Franklin Bailey Norwood ✉, Glynn Tonsor, Jayson L Lusk

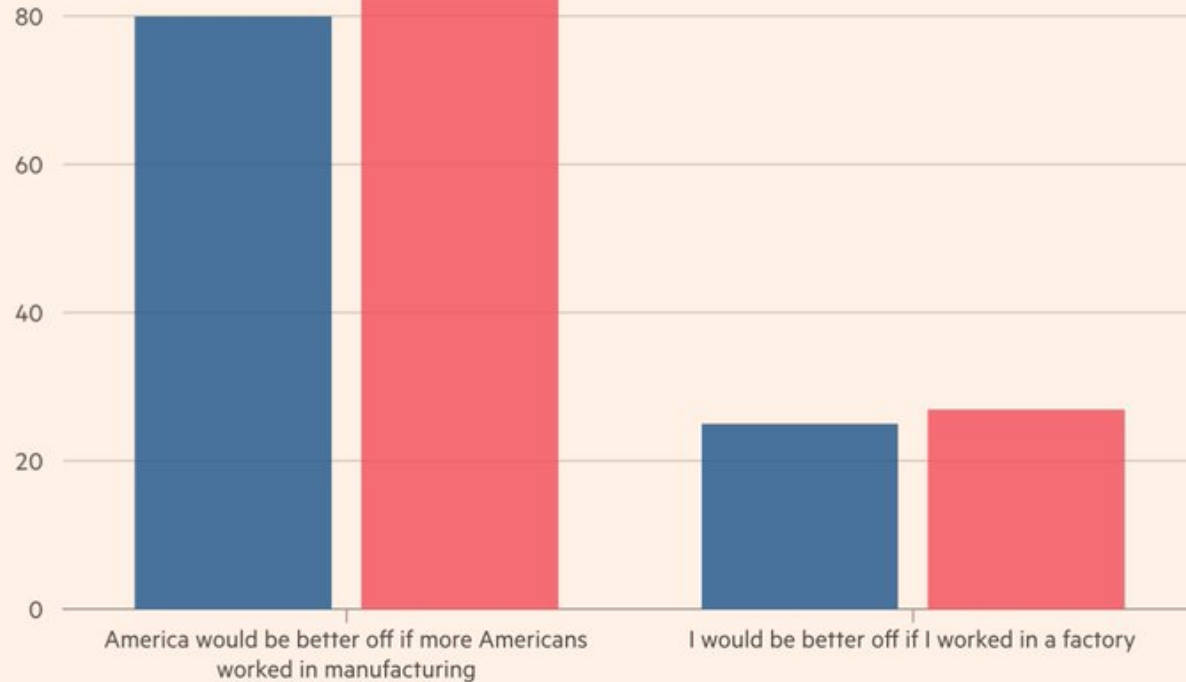
First published: 12 March 2018

<https://doi.org/10.1093/aep/ppy002>

Manufacturing: someone's American Dream, just not mine

% in agreement

■ All Americans ■ Republican/Republican-leaning



FINANCIAL TIMES

Source: Cato Institute 2024 Trade and Globalization National Survey

“America would be better off if more people worked in manufacturing.”

□ **80%** of Americans agree

□ **20%** disagree

“I would be better off if I worked in a factory.”

□ **25%** of Americans agree

□ **73%** disagree

□ **2%** currently work in a factory

Feature Article

Public animal welfare discussions in the United States: perspectives from a Missouri farm boy turned economist

Glynn T. Tonsor

Department of Agricultural Economics, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS


<https://academic.oup.com/af/article/8/1/4/4967584>

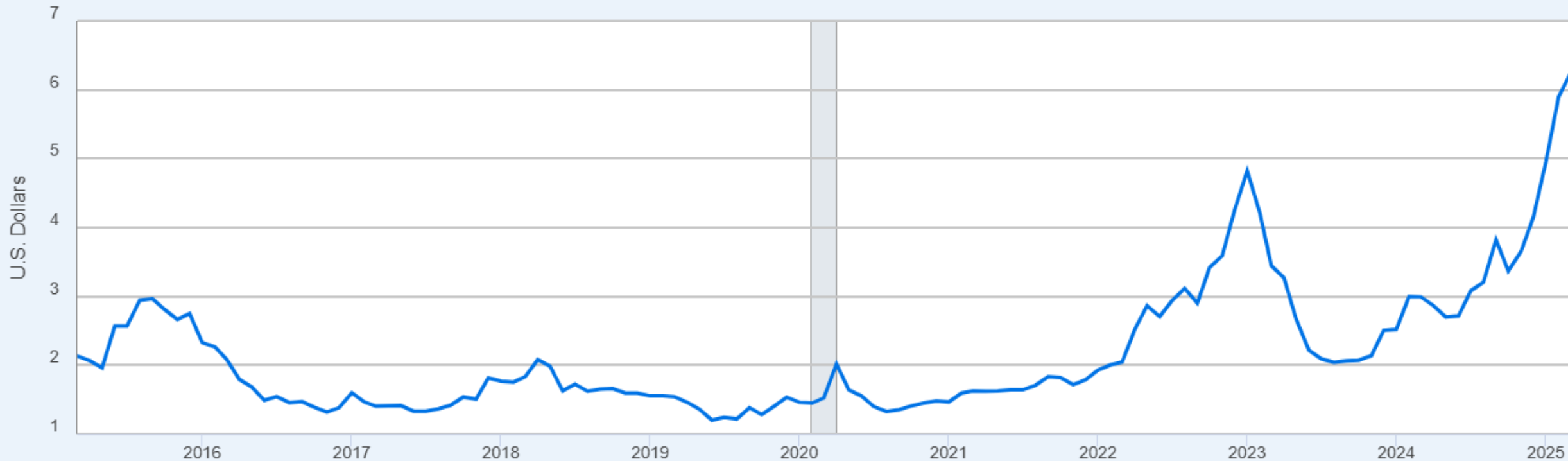
*“Science tells us if we can do something.
Society tells us if we should do it.”*

Center for Food Integrity, September 2013

■ GT: Pork illustrative application

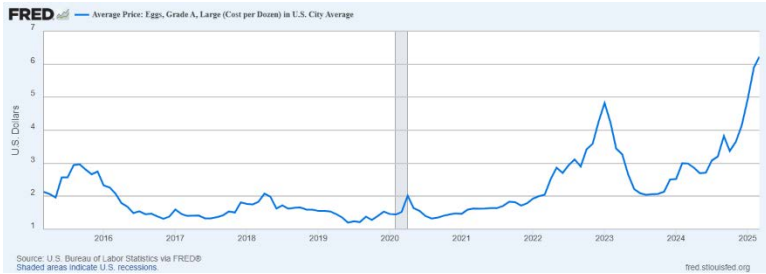
- Scientific ability to increase stocking density, reduce disease, etc. exists and is ever-advancing
- Societal signals (customer acceptance/requirements, consumer buying, and resident voting) vary and evolve
- Consider gestation housing, feed additives, antibiotic use, genetic editing

FRED  — Average Price: Eggs, Grade A, Large (Cost per Dozen) in U.S. City Average



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics via FRED®
Shaded areas indicate U.S. recessions.

fred.stlouisfed.org



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THE TRANSITION TO CAGE-FREE EGGS

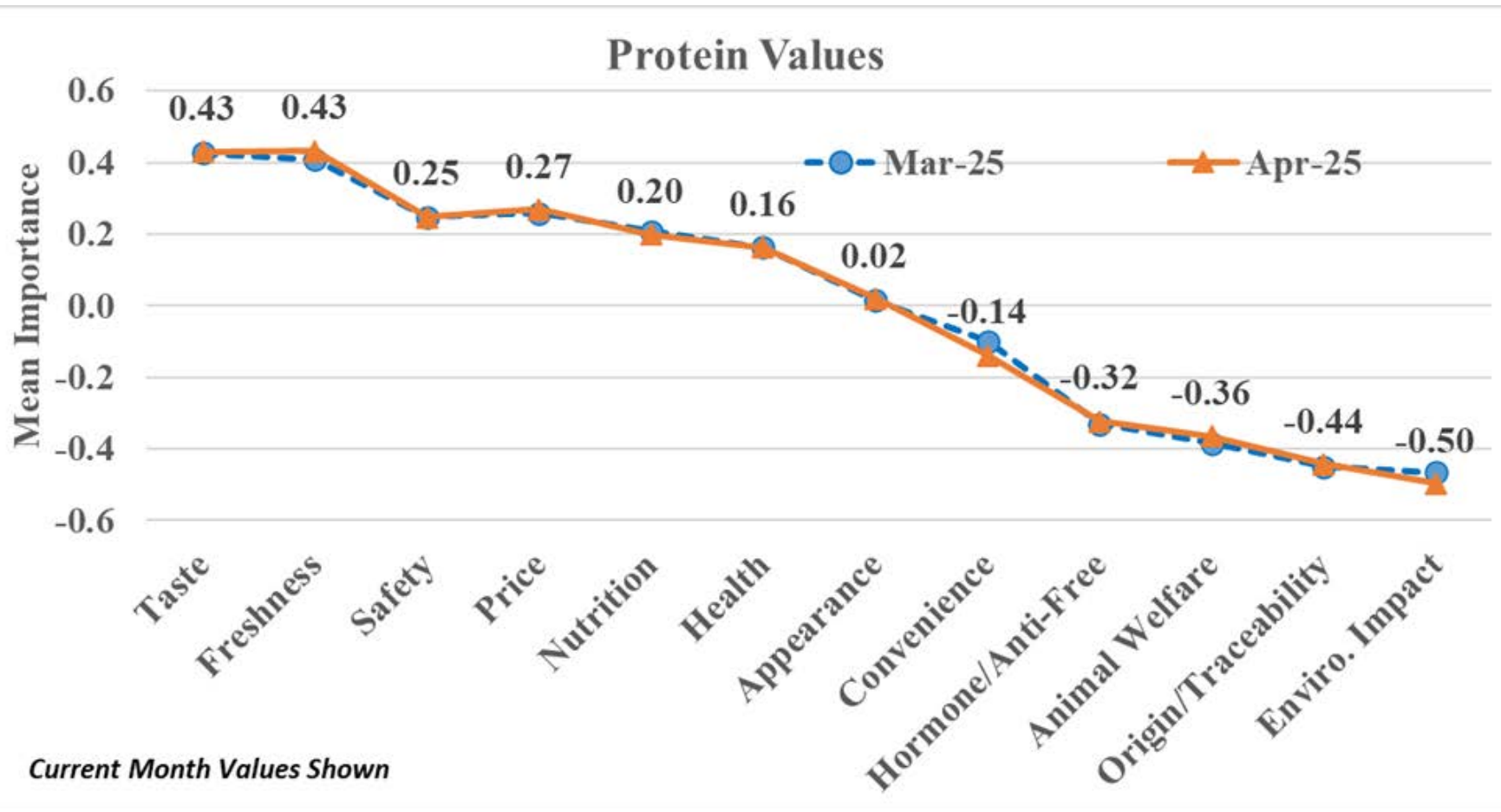
Authors: Dr. Vincenzina Caputo, Dr. Jayson Lusk, Dr. Glynn Tonsor, and M.S. Aaron Staples

February 2023

CA-Prop 12: “Domestic Trade & Mixed Signals” Lessons

Bina, Tonsor, & Lusk (working research)

- July 2023 – Sept. 2024 MDM Data
 - N=2,522 CA respondents
- Economic welfare losses vary over time & consumers
- CA annual consumer welfare loss of \$488 million on pork chops & bacon
- Disproportionate loss for lower-income
 - With under 40% the income, losses are 84% those of higher-income households



Average U.S. Consumer

Animal Welfare is 10th out of 12 when examined in forced-rank format

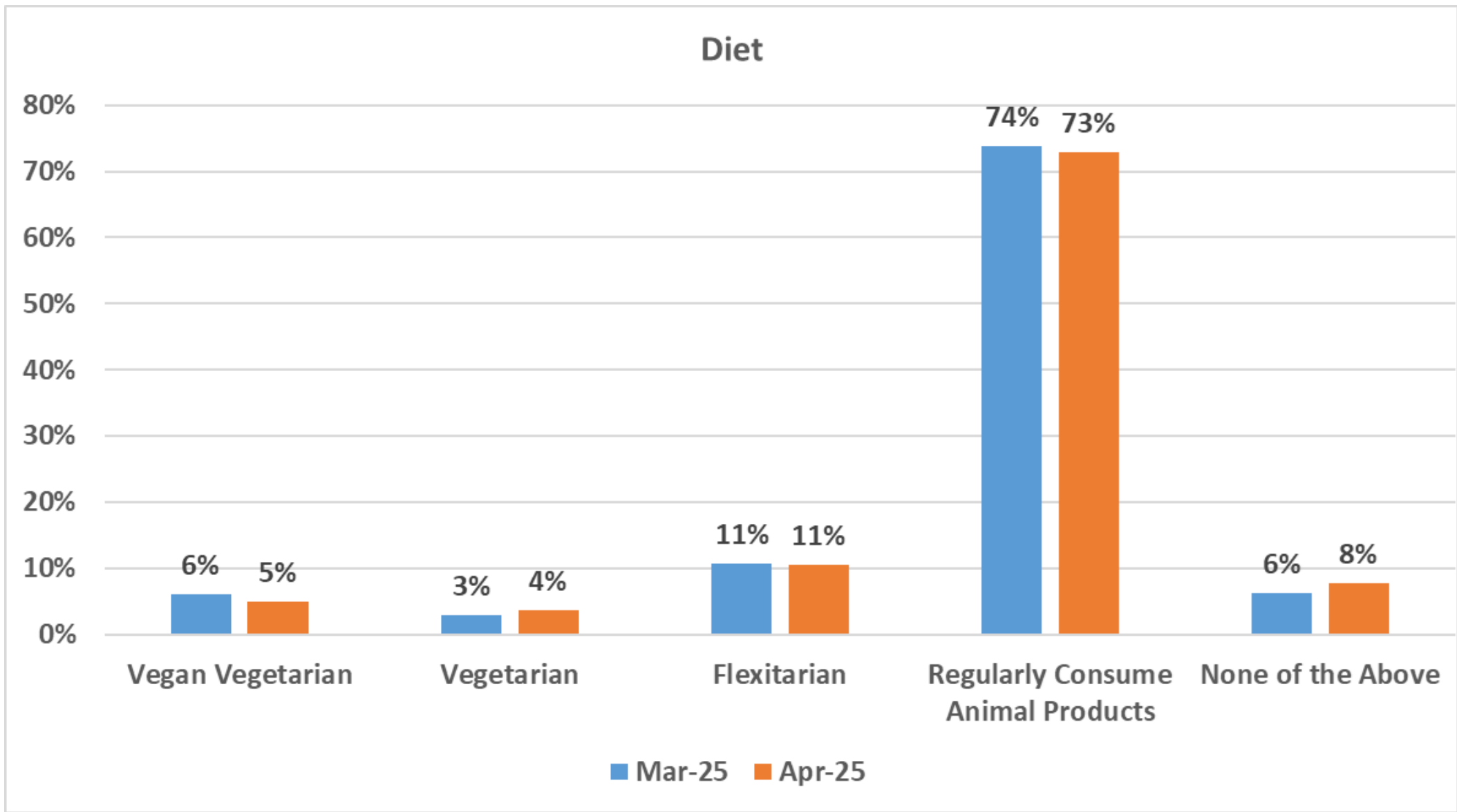
Taste is 1.6x the importance of Price

Convenience is 3.6x the importance of Env. Impact

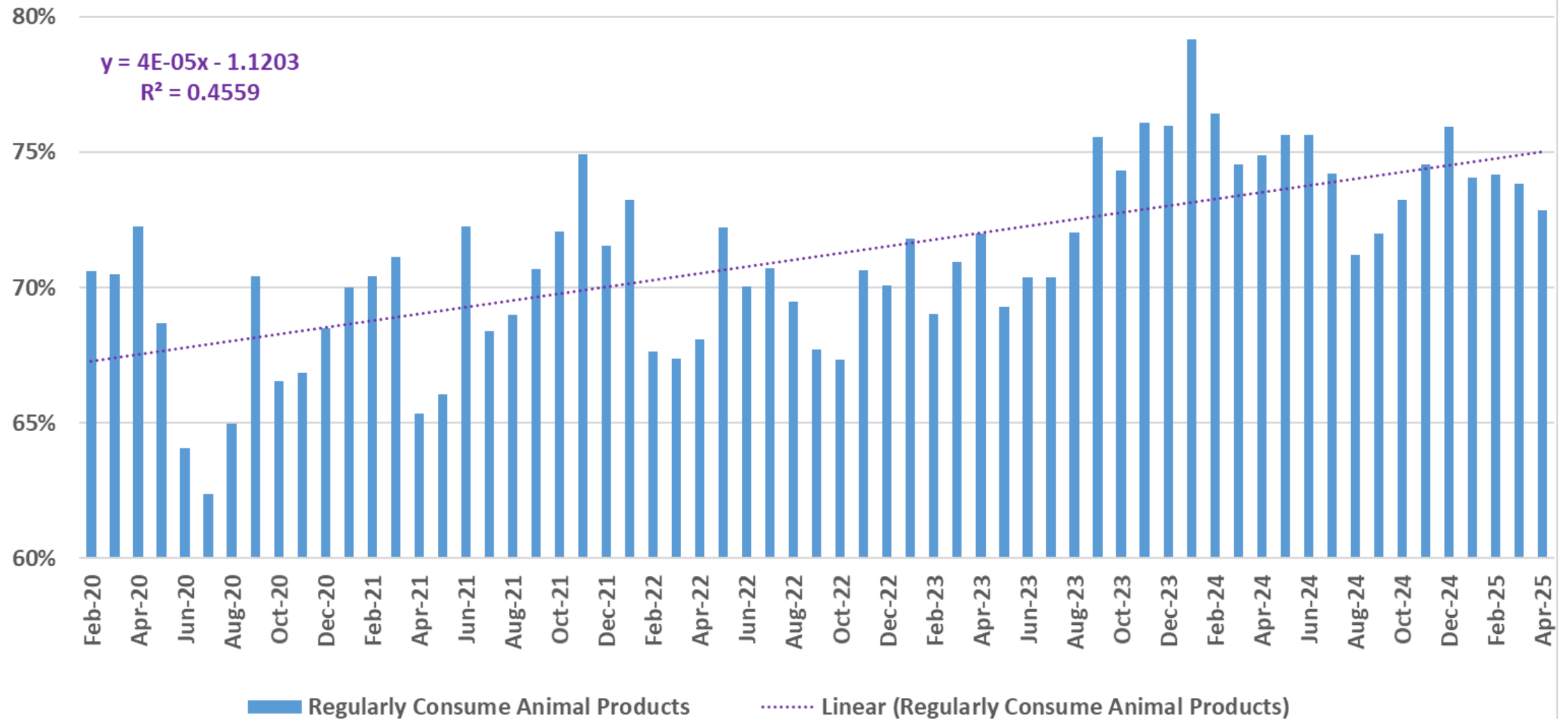
**Pessimists see the
glass half empty**

**Optimists are
already opening
another bottle**

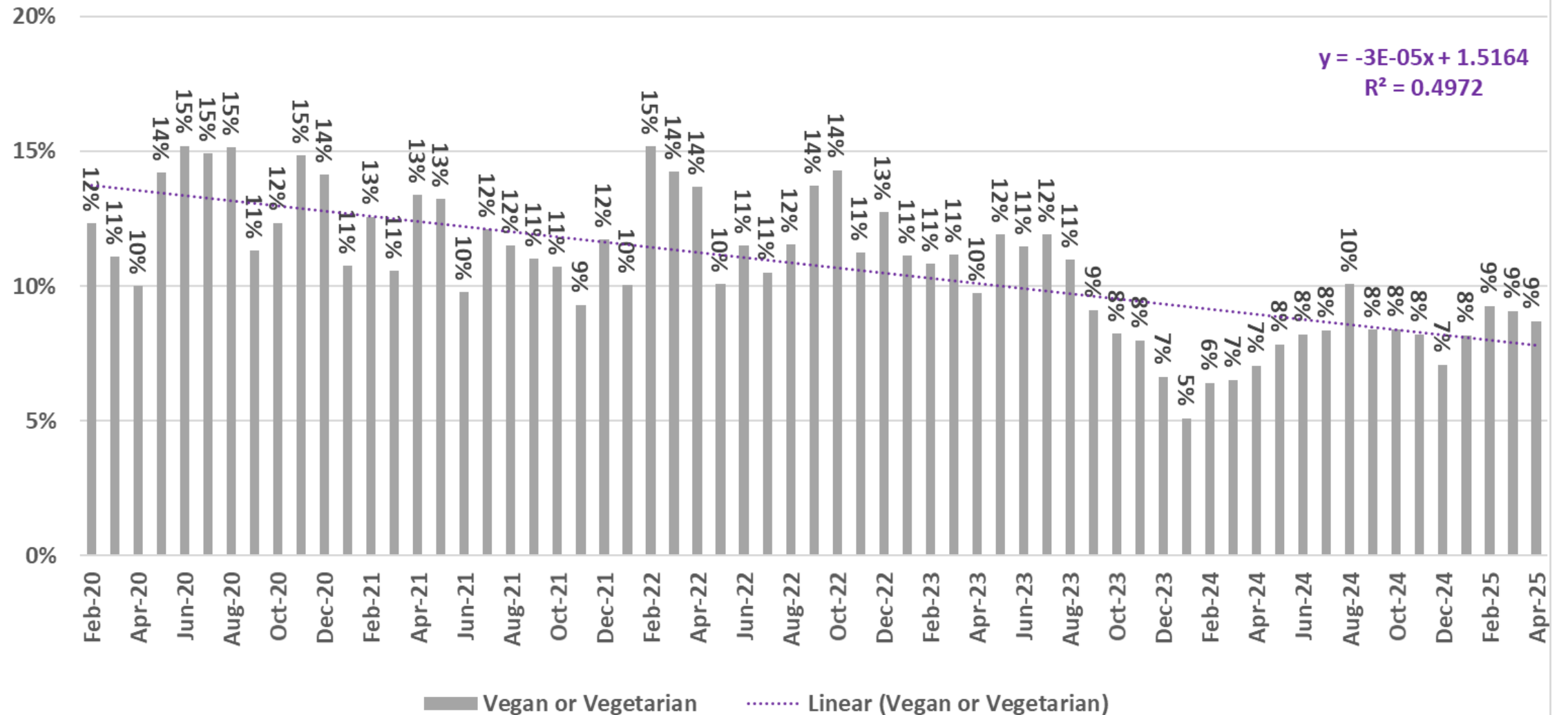




Self-Declared Diet, Feb. 2020 - Apr. 2025 (Source: MDM Project)



Self-Declared Diet, Feb. 2020 - Apr. 2025 (Source: MDM Project)



HEALTH

America Is Done Pretending About Meat

Plant-based eating has lost its appeal.

By Yasmin Tayag



Illustration by Paul Spella / The Atlantic. Source: Getty.

MARCH 24, 2025

SHARE SAVE

Majority of self-declared Vegan & Vegetarian MDM respondents also declared prior day meat consumption...

USDA & MDM Info:

Meat Demand Outdoes Meat Avoidance

Meat Science 190 (2022) 108843



Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

Meat Science

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/meatsci



U.S. perspective: Meat demand outdoes meat avoidance

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<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0309174022001115>

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Meat Demand Monitor: Protein in the GLP-1 Era

Justin D. Bina, Glynn T. Tonsor.¹

Kansas State University, Department of Agricultural Economics – January 2025

- July-Dec 2024 MDM: 15% currently using a GLP-1
 - More likely male, under 45, high earners, and have larger household sizes
 - Key evolving factor spanning entire food space
 - **Consume pork more frequently (0.68 prior day meals vs 0.47)**
 - Bacon: 0.24 vs 0.15
 - Pork chop: 0.16 vs 0.06
 - Pork sausage: 0.25 vs 0.16
 - Report buying larger package sizes (i.e. 1 lb larger bacon package)

Final Thoughts

- Globally public clearly wants meat protein & pork has opportunity
- Macroeconomic challenges are real and associated economic impacts must not be ignored
- Customer-consumer & resident voter-wallet disconnects in food sector may be softening = improved signaling, decision-making, & economic viability





<http://library.meetingplace.com/publication/frame.php?i=727245&p=72&pn=&ver=html5>

“Any good business plan or policy needs a clearly stated goal...”

- Think global & stay informed
- Ultimately, manage local & focus on things you can influence

More information available at:



This presentation will be available in PDF format at:

<http://www.agmanager.info/about/contributors/individual/tonsor.asp>

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