FICC Research
Economics

Green Budget 2025

The Economic Outlook: navigating narrow paths

16 October 2025

Jack Meaning
UK Chief Economist

BARCLAYS

Summary

- **The economic backdrop to this Budget is a difficult one…**
  - Slowing growth, rising unemployment, elevated inflation, restrictive monetary policy

- **… and we expect it to soften further in the near-term**
  - H2 GDP growth to be half of H1.
  - Saving rate to remain high, weighing on consumption, even with real income growth.
  - Unemployment to breach 5% in 2026.
  - Fiscal consolidation.

- **However, then comes the cyclical pick-up and a positive medium term**
  - Inflation back to target by mid-2026 allows BoE to cut Bank rate to 3.5% by Q1 26.
  - GDP growth to average 1.4% in the medium term, in line with potential output growth.
  - Requires three key things: handover to private domestic demand; pick-up in productivity and ability of policymakers to navigate the transition.

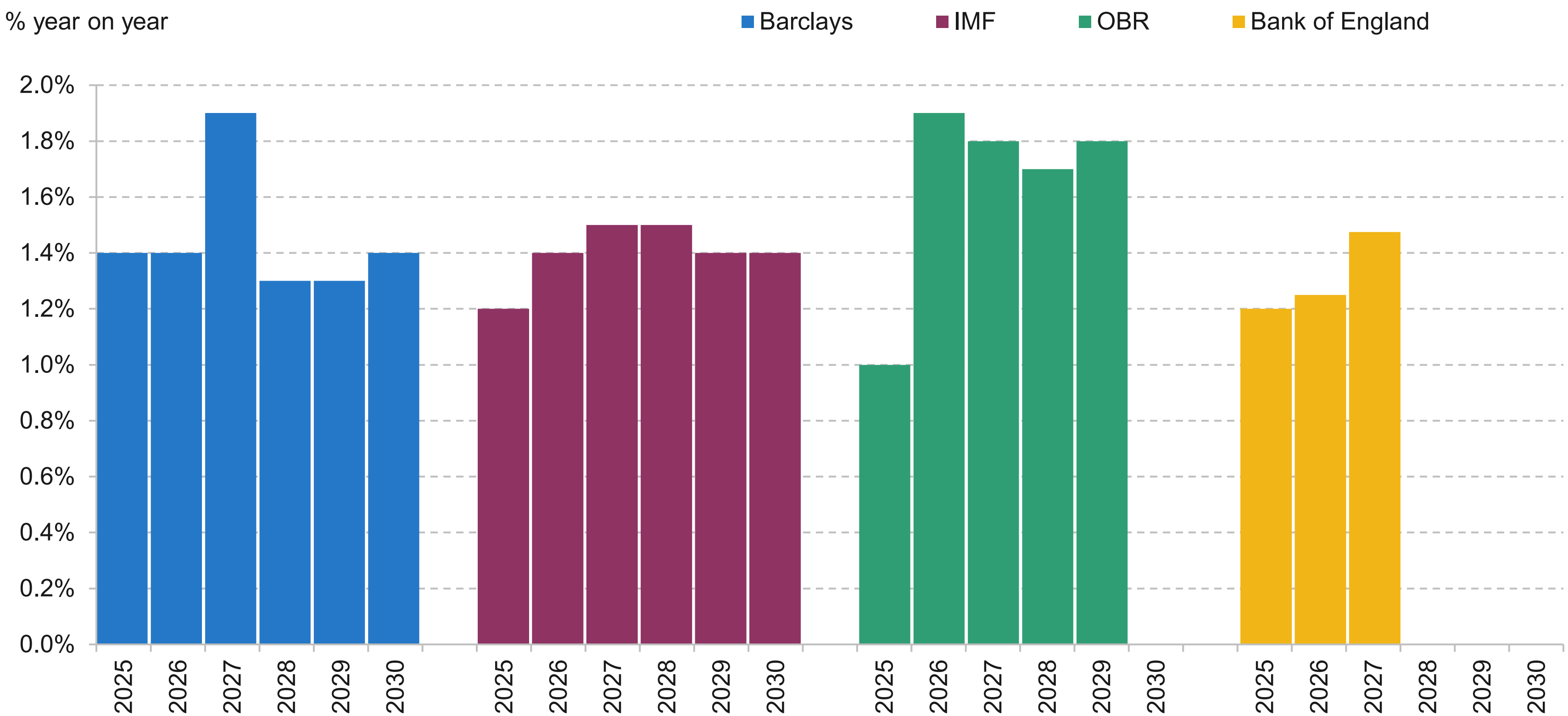
Key risks and scenarios we explore:

- **An *inflationary Budget:***
  - would keep both monetary and fiscal policy restrictive.
  - worse macroeconomic outcomes (doubles the hit to GDP).
  - Unemployment 0.2pp higher at peak.

- ***Saving rate to remain elevated:***
  - *Our forecast assumes saving rate eases only slowly* to around 9%.
  - A more rapid easing – in line with March EFO - would boost consumption by 2% by 2030.

- **What if the OBR is right on productivity?**
  - Real GDP 2% higher by 2030.

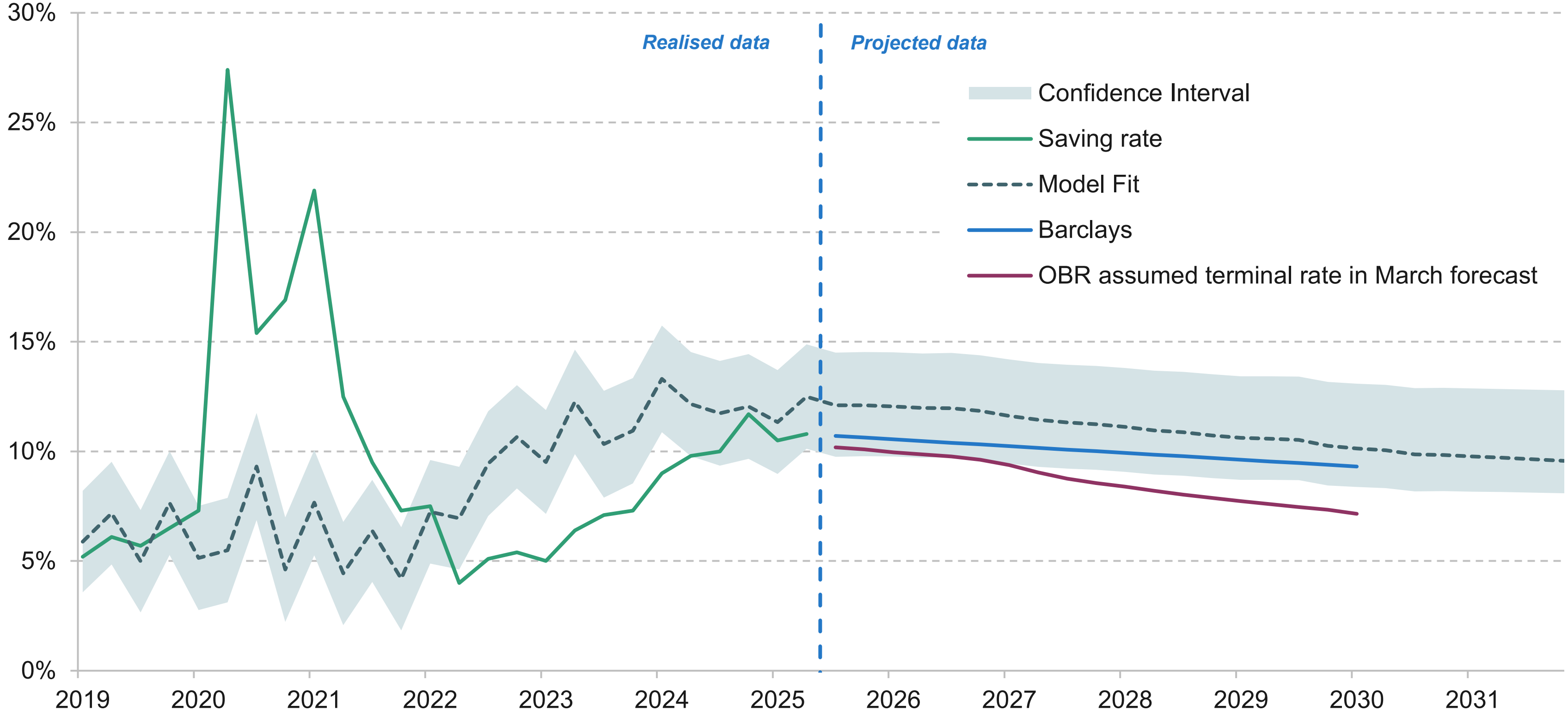
Real GDP growth



Note: Forecasts are only available from the Office for Budget Responsibility up to 2029–30 and from the Bank of England up to 2027–28.

Source: Office for Budget Responsibility, Economic and Fiscal Outlook, March 2025; Bank of England, Monetary Policy Report, August 2025; International Monetary Fund, World Economic Outlook update, July 2025; Barclays Research.

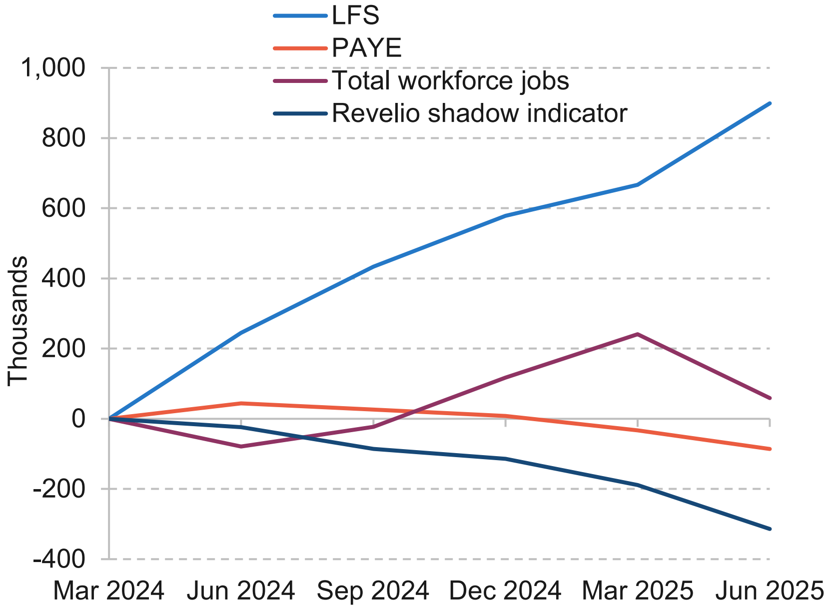
Saving staying sticky



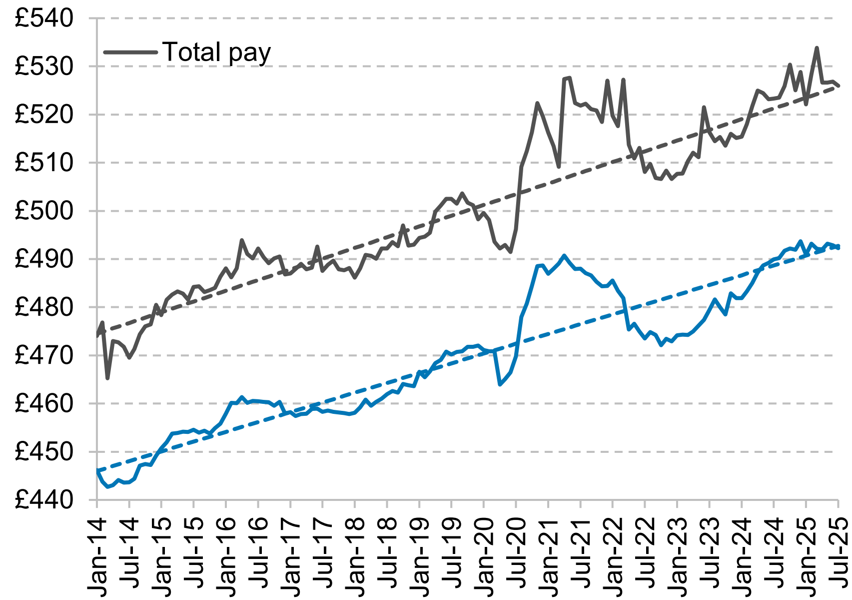
Note: Model fit shows implied saving rate based on an empirical model that is estimated on the household wealth–income ratio, income growth, interest rates, the unemployment gap and the change in mortgage lending. We then extrapolate this forward based on our forecast for these variables.

Source: Office for Budget Responsibility, Economic and Fiscal Outlook, March 2025; Barclays Research.

Labour market is loose, with wages easing

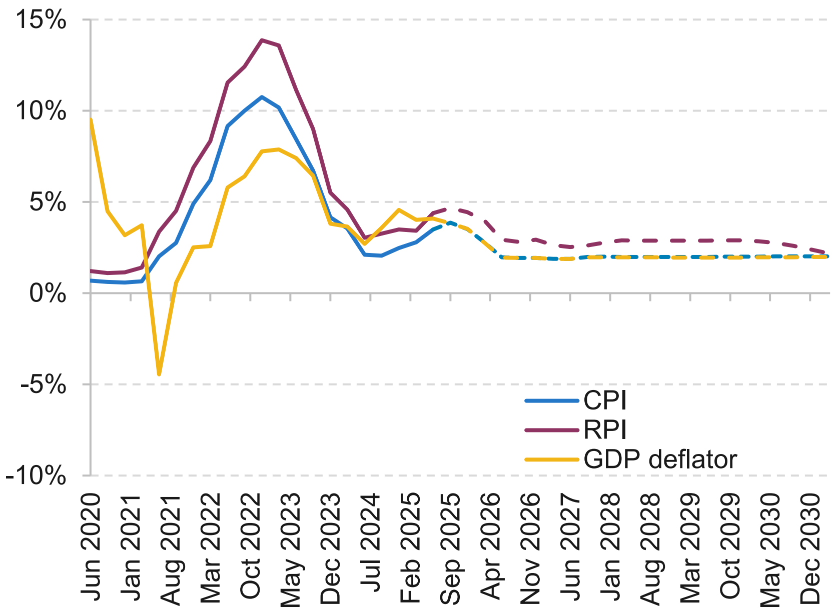


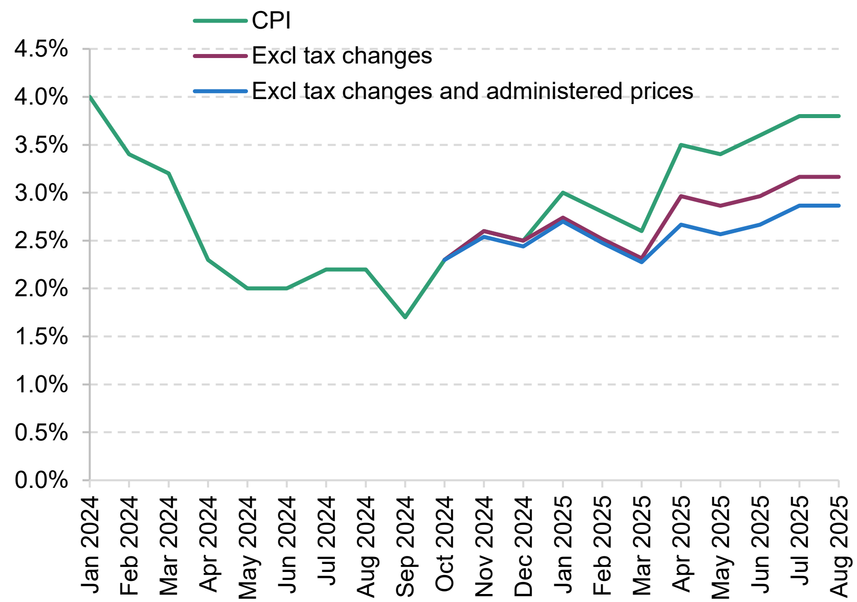
Source: Office for National Statistics; Revelio; Barclays Research



Source: Office for National Statistics; Barclays Research

Inflation to come back to target in H1 next year





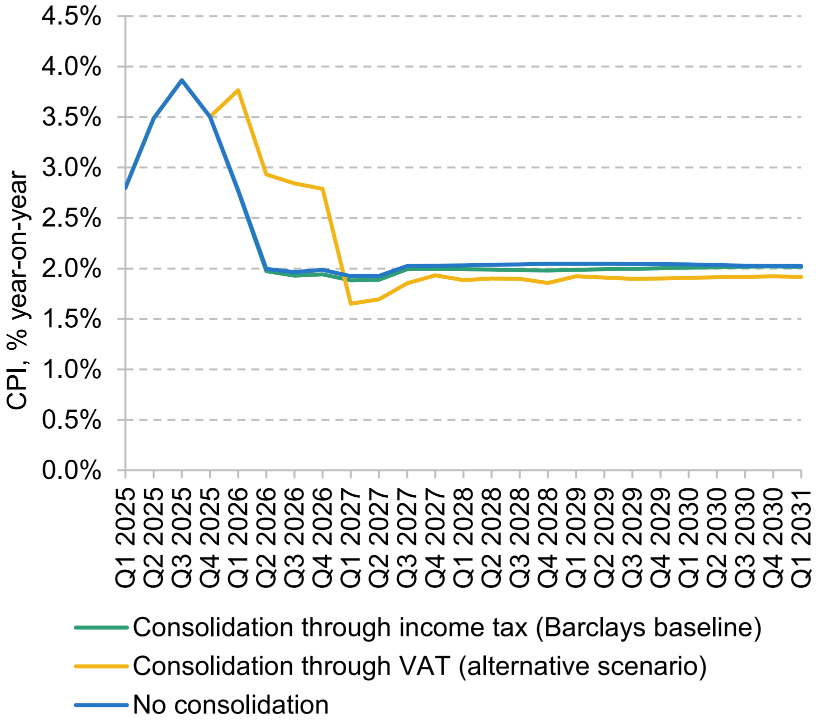
Note: 'Excl. tax changes' removes the impact of increased duties on alcohol and tobacco, vehicle excise duty and VAT on private school tuition fees as well as Barclays's estimate of the impact of increased employer NICs. 'Excl. tax changes and administered prices' additionally removes the impact of increases in water and sewerage costs, bus fares, postal charges and administrative passport fees

Source: Office for National Statistics; Barclays Research

Source: Office for National Statistics; Barclays Research

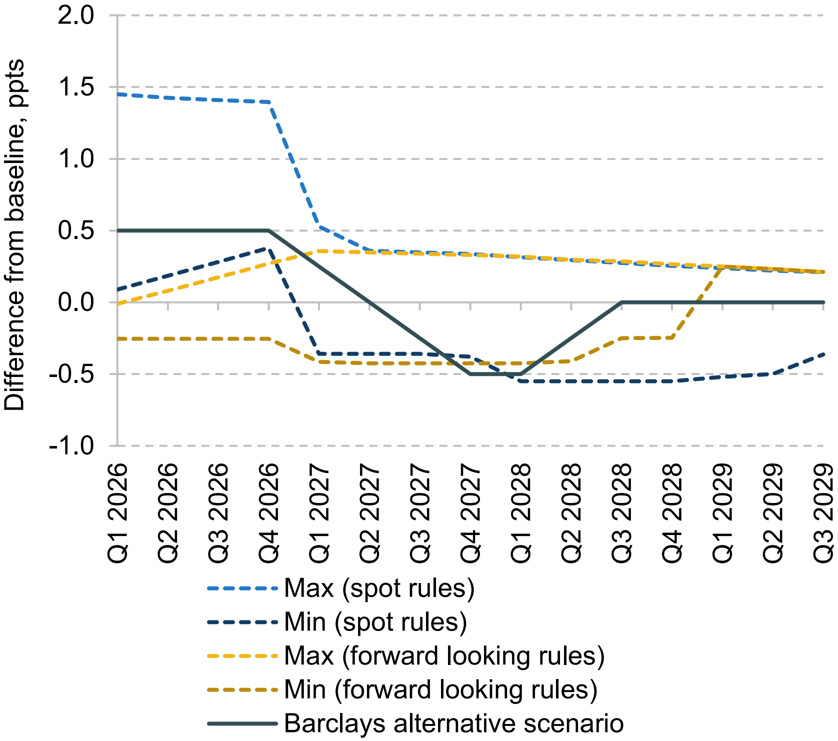
‘Inflationary’ taxation could lead to higher rates…

Inflation jumps in response to tax increase



Source: Barclays Research

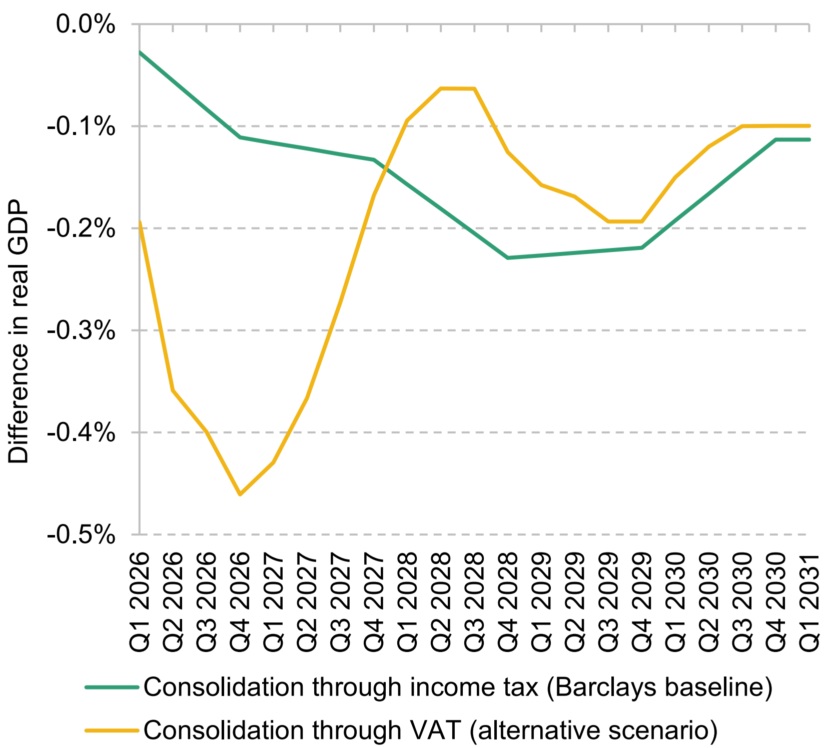
Policy rules suggest near-term increase in Bank Rate



Source: Barclays Research

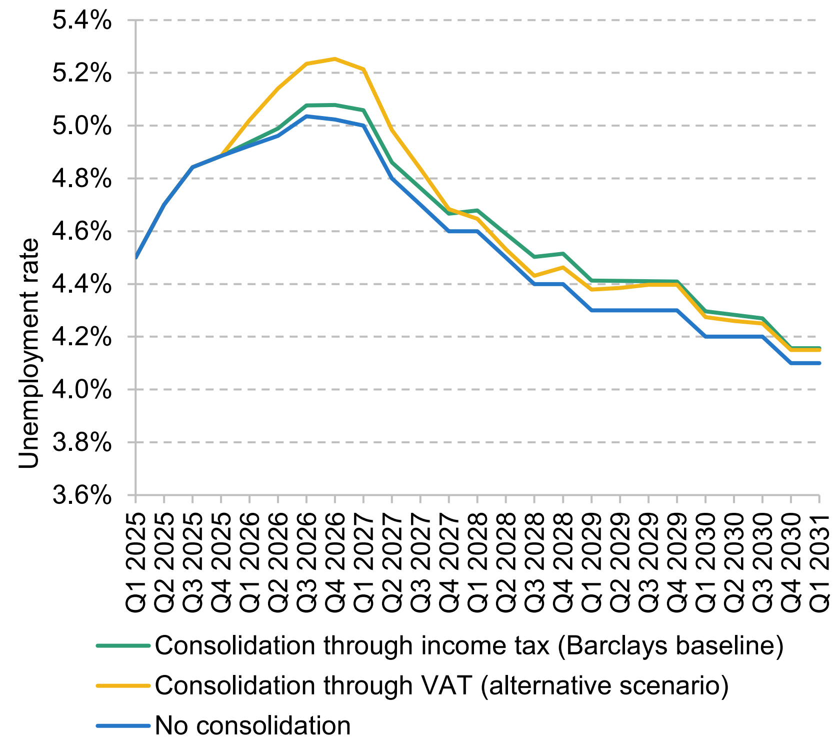
… leading to worse macroeconomic outcomes

Hit to GDP twice as big as non-inflationary baseline



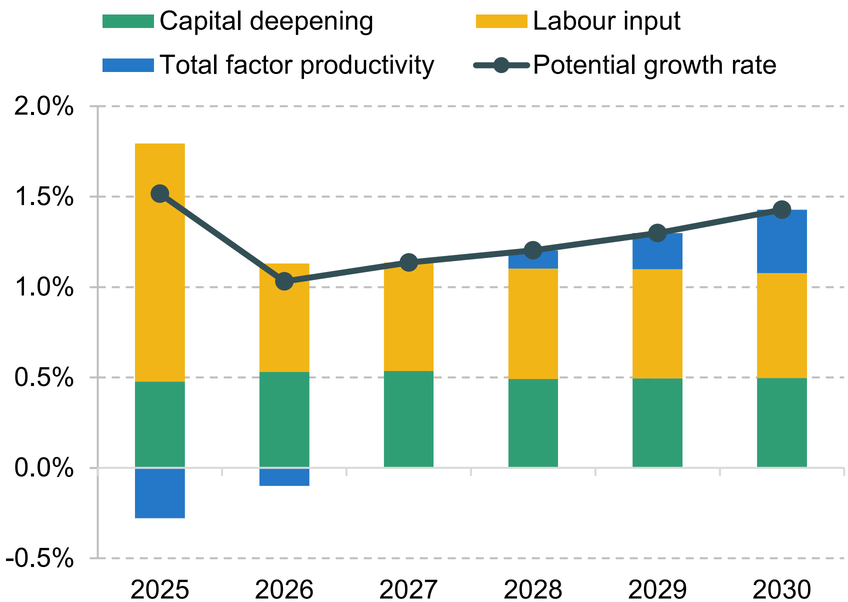
Source: Barclays Research

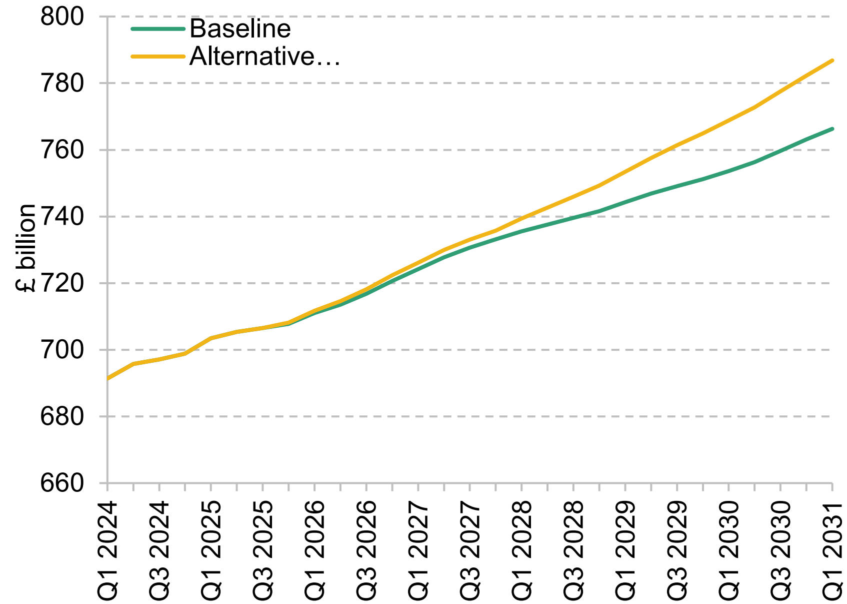
Unemployment peaks 0.2pp higher



Source: Barclays Research

What a difference productivity makes



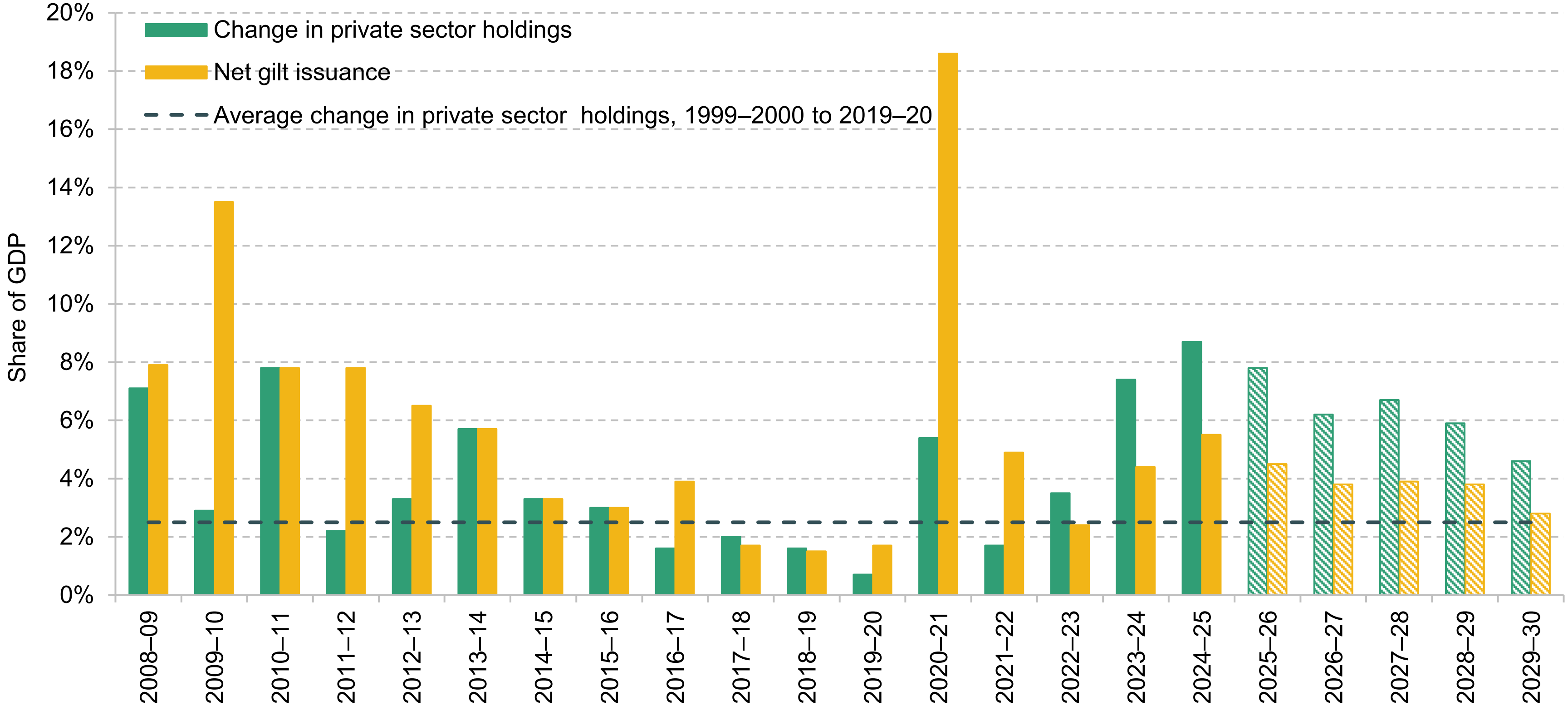


Note: Seasonally adjusted quarterly UK GDP, chained volume measures. Forecasts from Q3 2025 onwards.

Source: Barclays Research

Source: ONS, Barclays Research

Market focus: loss of ‘borrower privilege’ requires a credible plan



Source: Office for Budget Responsibility, Economic and Fiscal Outlook, March 2025 and Barclays Research

Analyst(s) Certification(s):

I, Jack Meaning, hereby certify (1) that the views expressed in this research report accurately reflect my personal views about any or all of the subject securities or issuers referred to in this research report and (2) no part of my compensation was, is or will be directly or indirectly related to the specific recommendations or views expressed in this research report.

Important Disclosures:

Barclays Research is produced by the Investment Bank of Barclays Bank PLC and its affiliates (collectively and each individually, "Barclays").
All authors contributing to this research report are Research Analysts unless otherwise indicated. The publication date at the top of the report reflects the local time where the report was produced and may differ from the release date provided in GMT.

Availability of Disclosures:

For current important disclosures regarding any issuers which are the subject of this research report please refer to https://publicresearch.barclays.com or alternatively send a written request to: Barclays Research Compliance, 745 Seventh Avenue, 13th Floor, New York, NY 10019 or call +1-212-526-1072.
Barclays Capital Inc. and/or one of its affiliates does and seeks to do business with companies covered in its research reports. As a result, investors should be aware that Barclays may have a conflict of interest that could affect the objectivity of this report. Barclays Capital Inc. and/or one of its affiliates regularly trades, generally deals as principal and generally provides liquidity (as market maker or otherwise) in the debt securities that are the subject of this research report (and related derivatives thereof). Barclays trading desks may have either a long and / or short position in such securities, other financial instruments and / or derivatives, which may pose a conflict with the interests of investing customers. Where permitted and subject to appropriate information barrier restrictions, Barclays fixed income research analysts regularly interact with its trading desk personnel regarding current market conditions and prices. Barclays fixed income research analysts receive compensation based on various factors including, but not limited to, the quality of their work, the overall performance of the firm (including the profitability of the Investment Banking Department), the profitability and revenues of the Markets business and the potential interest of the firm's investing clients in research with respect to the asset class covered by the analyst. To the extent that any historical pricing information was obtained from Barclays trading desks, the firm makes no representation that it is accurate or complete. All levels, prices and spreads are historical and do not necessarily represent current market levels, prices or spreads, some or all of which may have changed since the publication of this document. Barclays Research Department produces various types of research including, but not limited to, fundamental analysis, equity-linked analysis, quantitative analysis, and trade ideas. Recommendations and trade ideas contained in one type of Barclays Research may differ from those contained in other types of Barclays Research, whether as a result of differing time horizons, methodologies, or otherwise.
In order to access Barclays Statement regarding Research Dissemination Policies and Procedures, please refer to https://publicresearch.barclays.com/S/RD.htm. In order to access Barclays Research Conflict Management Policy Statement, please refer to: https://publicresearch.barclays.com/S/CM.htm.

Disclosure(s) regarding Information Sources
Bloomberg® is a trademark and service mark of Bloomberg Finance L.P. and its affiliates (collectively "Bloomberg") and the Bloomberg Indices are trademarks of Bloomberg. Bloomberg or Bloomberg's licensors own all proprietary rights in the Bloomberg Indices. Bloomberg does not approve or endorse this material, or guarantee the accuracy or completeness of any information herein, or make any warranty, express or implied, as to the results to be obtained therefrom and, to the maximum extent allowed by law, Bloomberg shall have no liability or responsibility for injury or damages arising in connection therewith.

All pricing information is indicative only. Unless otherwise indicated, prices are sourced from LSEG Data & Analytics and reflect the closing price in the relevant trading market, which may not be the last available price at the time of publication.

Types of investment recommendations produced by Barclays FICC Research:

In addition to any ratings assigned under Barclays' formal rating systems, this publication may contain investment recommendations in the form of trade ideas, thematic screens, scorecards or portfolio recommendations that have been produced by analysts in FICC Research. Any such investment recommendations produced by non-Credit Research teams shall remain open until they are subsequently amended, rebalanced or closed in a future research report. Any such investment recommendations produced by the Credit Research teams are valid at current market conditions and may not be otherwise relied upon.

Disclosure of other investment recommendations produced by Barclays FICC Research:

Barclays FICC Research may have published other investment recommendations in respect of the same securities/instruments recommended in this research report during the preceding 12 months. To view all investment recommendations published by Barclays FICC Research in the preceding 12 months please refer to https://live.barcap.com/go/research/Recommendations.
Barclays does not assign ratings to asset backed securities. Barclays Capital Inc. and/or one of its affiliates may have acted as an underwriter for public offerings of any asset backed securities that are otherwise recommended in trade ideas contained within its securitised research reports.

Legal entities involved in producing Barclays Research:

Barclays Bank PLC (Barclays, UK)
Barclays Capital Inc. (BCI, US)
Barclays Bank Ireland PLC, Frankfurt Branch (BBI, Frankfurt)
Barclays Bank Ireland PLC, Paris Branch (BBI, Paris)
Barclays Bank Ireland PLC, Milan Branch (BBI, Milan)
Barclays Securities Japan Limited (BSJL, Japan)
Barclays Bank PLC, Hong Kong Branch (Barclays Bank, Hong Kong)
Barclays Bank Mexico, S.A. (BBMX, Mexico)
Barclays Capital Casa de Bolsa, S.A. de C.V. (BCCB, Mexico)
Barclays Securities (India) Private Limited (BSIPL, India)
Barclays Bank PLC, Singapore Branch (Barclays Bank, Singapore)
Barclays Bank PLC, DIFC Branch (Barclays Bank, DIFC)

Non-U.S. persons should contact and execute transactions through a Barclays Bank PLC branch or affiliate in their home jurisdiction unless local regulations permit otherwise.
This material is distributed in Canada by Barclays Capital Canada Inc., a registered investment dealer, a Dealer Member of Canadian Investment Regulatory Organization (www.ciro.ca), and a Member of the Canadian Investor Protection Fund (CIPF).
This material is distributed in Mexico by Barclays Bank Mexico, S.A. and/or Barclays Capital Casa de Bolsa, S.A. de C.V. This material is distributed in the Cayman Islands and in the Bahamas by Barclays Capital Inc., which it is not licensed or registered to conduct and does not conduct business in, from or within those jurisdictions and has not filed this material with any regulatory body in those jurisdictions.
Japan: This material is being distributed to institutional investors in Japan by Barclays Securities Japan Limited. Barclays Securities Japan Limited is a joint-stock company incorporated in Japan with registered office of 6-10-1 Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-6131, Japan. It is a subsidiary of Barclays Bank PLC and a registered financial instruments firm regulated by the Financial Services Agency of Japan. Registered Number: Kanto Zaimukyokucho (kinsho) No. 143.
Asia Pacific (excluding Japan): Barclays Bank PLC, Hong Kong Branch is distributing this material in Hong Kong as an authorised institution regulated by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority. Registered Office: 41/F, Cheung Kong Center, 2 Queen's Road Central, Hong Kong.
All Indian securities-related research and other equity research produced by Barclays' Investment Bank are distributed in India by Barclays Securities (India) Private Limited (BSIPL). BSIPL is a company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 having CIN U67120MH2006PTC161063. BSIPL is registered and regulated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) as a Research Analyst: INH000001519; Portfolio Manager INP000002585; Stock Broker INZ000269539 (member of NSE and BSE); Depository Participant with the National Securities & Depositories Limited (NSDL): DP ID: IN-DP-NSDL-478-2020; Investment Adviser: INA000000391. BSIPL is also registered as a Mutual Fund Advisor having AMFI ARN No. 53308. The registered office of BSIPL is at Nirlon Knowledge Park, 9th floor, Block B-6, Off. Western Express Highway, Goregaon (East), Mumbai – 400063, India. Telephone No: +91 22 61754000 Fax number: +91 22 61754099. Any other reports produced by Barclays' Investment Bank are distributed in India by Barclays Bank PLC, India Branch, an associate of BSIPL in India that is registered with Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as a Banking Company under the provisions of The Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (Regn No BOM43) and registered with SEBI as Merchant Banker (Regn No INM000002129) and also as Banker to the Issue (Regn No INBI00000950). Barclays Investments and Loans (India) Limited, registered with RBI as Non Banking Financial Company (Regn No RBI CoR-07-00258), and Barclays Wealth Trustees (India) Private Limited, registered with Registrar of Companies (CIN U93000MH2008PTC188438), are associates of BSIPL in India that are not authorised to distribute any reports produced by Barclays' Investment Bank.
This material is distributed in Singapore by the Singapore Branch of Barclays Bank PLC, a bank licensed in Singapore by the Monetary Authority of Singapore. For matters in connection with this material, recipients in Singapore may contact the Singapore branch of Barclays Bank PLC, whose registered address is 10 Marina Boulevard, #23-01 Marina Bay Financial Centre Tower 2, Singapore 018983.
This material, where distributed to persons in Australia, is produced or provided by Barclays Bank PLC.
This communication is directed at persons who are a "Wholesale Client" as defined by the Australian Corporations Act 2001.
Please note that the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) has provided certain exemptions to Barclays Bank PLC (BBPLC) under paragraph 911A(2)(l) of the Corporations Act 2001 from the requirement to hold an Australian financial services licence (AFSL) in respect of financial services provided to Australian Wholesale Clients, on the basis that BBPLC is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority of the United Kingdom (PRA) and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) of the United Kingdom and the PRA under United Kingdom laws. The United Kingdom has laws which differ from Australian laws. To the extent that this communication involves the provision of financial services by BBPLC to Australian Wholesale Clients, BBPLC relies on the relevant exemption from the requirement to hold an AFSL. Accordingly, BBPLC does not hold an AFSL.
This communication may be distributed to you by either: (i) Barclays Bank PLC directly, (ii) Barrenjoey Markets Pty Limited (ACN 636 976 059, "Barrenjoey"), the holder of Australian Financial Services Licence (AFSL) 521800, a non-affiliated third party distributor, where clearly identified to you by Barrenjoey. Barrenjoey is not an agent of Barclays Bank PLC or (iii) such other non-affiliated third-party distributor(s) as may be clearly identified to you. Such non-affiliated third-party distributor(s) are not agents of Barclays Bank PLC.
This material, where distributed in New Zealand, is produced or provided by Barclays Bank PLC. Barclays Bank PLC is not registered, filed with or approved by any New Zealand regulatory authority. This material is not provided under or in accordance with the Financial Markets Conduct Act of 2013 ("FMCA"), and is not a disclosure document or "financial advice" under the FMCA. This material is distributed to you by either: (i) Barclays Bank PLC directly or (ii) Barrenjoey Markets Pty Limited ("Barrenjoey"), a non-affiliated third party distributor, where clearly identified to you by Barrenjoey. Barrenjoey is not an agent of Barclays Bank PLC. This material may only be distributed to "wholesale investors" that meet the "investment business", "investment activity", "large", or "government agency" criteria specified in Schedule 1 of the FMCA.
Middle East: Nothing herein should be considered investment advice as defined in the Israeli Regulation of Investment Advisory, Investment Marketing and Portfolio Management Law, 1995 ("Advisory Law"). This document is being made to eligible clients (as defined under the Advisory Law) only. Barclays Israeli branch previously held an investment marketing license with the Israel Securities Authority but it cancelled such license on 30/11/2014 as it solely provides its services to eligible clients pursuant to available exemptions under the Advisory Law, therefore a license with the Israel Securities Authority is not required. Accordingly, Barclays does not maintain an insurance coverage pursuant to the Advisory Law.
This material is distributed in the United Arab Emirates (including the Dubai International Financial Centre) and Qatar by Barclays Bank PLC. Barclays Bank PLC in the Dubai International Financial Centre (Registered No. 0060) is regulated by the Dubai Financial Services Authority (DFSA). Principal place of business in the Dubai International Financial Centre: The Gate Village, Building 4, Level 4, PO Box 506504, Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Barclays Bank PLC-DIFC Branch, may only undertake the financial services activities that fall within the scope of its existing DFSA licence. Related financial products or services are only available to Professional Clients, as defined by the Dubai Financial Services Authority. Barclays Bank PLC in the UAE is regulated by the Central Bank of the UAE and is licensed to conduct business activities as a branch of a commercial bank incorporated outside the UAE in Dubai (Licence No.: 13/1844/2008, Registered Office: Building No. 6, Burj Dubai Business Hub, Sheikh Zayed Road, Dubai City) and Abu Dhabi (Licence No.: 13/952/2008, Registered Office: Al Jazira Towers, Hamdan Street, PO Box 2734, Abu Dhabi). This material does not constitute or form part of any offer to issue or sell, or any solicitation of any offer to subscribe for or purchase, any securities or investment products in the UAE (including the Dubai International Financial Centre) and accordingly should not be construed as such. Furthermore, this information is being made available on the basis that the recipient acknowledges and understands that the entities and securities to which it may relate have not been approved, licensed by or registered with the UAE Central Bank, the Dubai Financial Services Authority or any other relevant licensing authority or governmental agency in the UAE. The content of this report has not been approved by or filed with the UAE Central Bank or Dubai Financial Services Authority. Barclays Bank PLC in the Qatar Financial Centre (Registered No. 00018) is authorised by the Qatar Financial Centre Regulatory Authority (QFCRA). Barclays Bank PLC-QFC Branch may only undertake the regulated activities that fall within the scope of its existing QFCRA licence. Principal place of business in Qatar: Qatar Financial Centre, Office 1002, 10th Floor, QFC Tower, Diplomatic Area, West Bay, PO Box 15891, Doha, Qatar. Related financial products or services are only available to Business Customers as defined by the Qatar Financial Centre Regulatory Authority.

Russia: This material is not intended for investors who are not Qualified Investors according to the laws of the Russian Federation as it might contain information about or description of the features of financial instruments not admitted for public offering and/or circulation in the Russian Federation and thus not eligible for non-Qualified Investors. If you are not a Qualified Investor according to the laws of the Russian Federation, please dispose of any copy of this material in your possession.

Sustainable Investing Related Research: There is currently no globally accepted framework or definition (legal, regulatory or otherwise) of, nor market consensus as to what constitutes a 'sustainable', 'ESG', 'green', 'climate-friendly' or an equivalent company, investment, strategy or consideration or what precise attributes are required to be eligible to be categorised by such terms. This means there are different ways to evaluate a company or an investment and so different values may be placed on certain sustainability credentials as well as adverse ESG-related impacts of companies and ESG controversies. The evolving nature of sustainable investing considerations, models and methodologies means it can be challenging to definitively and universally classify a company or investment under a sustainable investing label and there may be areas where such companies and investments could improve or where adverse ESG-related impacts or ESG controversies exist. The evolving nature of sustainable finance related regulations and the development of jurisdiction-specific regulatory criteria also means that there is likely to be a degree of divergence as to the interpretation of such terms in the market. We expect industry guidance, market practice, and regulations in this field to continue to evolve.

Any information, data, image, or other content including from a third party source contained, referred to herein or used for whatsoever purpose by Barclays or a third party ("Information"), in relation to any actual or potential 'ESG', 'sustainable' or equivalent objective, issue, factor or consideration is not intended to be relied upon for ESG or sustainability classification, regulatory regime or industry initiative purposes ("ESG Regimes"), unless otherwise stated. Nothing in these materials, including any images included therein, is intended to convey, suggest or indicate that Barclays considers or represents any product, service, person or body mentioned in these materials as meeting or qualifying for any ESG or sustainability classification, label or similar standards that may exist under ESG Regimes. Barclays has not conducted any assessment of compliance with ESG Regimes. Parties are reminded to make their own assessments for these purposes.

IRS Circular 230 Prepared Materials Disclaimer: Barclays does not provide tax advice and nothing contained herein should be construed to be tax advice. Please be advised that any discussion of U.S. tax matters contained herein (including any attachments) (i) is not intended or written to be used, and cannot be used, by you for the purpose of avoiding U.S. tax-related penalties; and (ii) was written to support the promotion or marketing of the transactions or other matters addressed herein. Accordingly, you should seek advice based on your particular circumstances from an independent tax advisor.