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Despite core inflation staying sticky for now, we believe that the balance of risks will eventually lead to further rate cuts from the Bank of Canada.

The Bank of Canada's September rate cut was driven mostly by the pronounced weakening in the job market in recent months, and was in spite of core inflation staying sticky. We continue to believe that **the balance of risks will eventually lead to further rate cuts, with the BoC ultimately taking the overnight rate to 2.0%**. The main constraint on additional rate cuts, and what largely kept the Bank sidelined for six months, has been the persistence of above-target inflation on the preferred measures of core (Trimmed Mean and Median), which have been stuck around 3% since February. Our fundamental view is that these metrics are misleadingly high, and that they will likely roll over.



Budget 2025 lays out an expansionary fiscal plan to help address numerous headwinds buffeting Canada's economy. Spending is being refocused on industrial support, infrastructure, defense, and housing, financed in part by an ambitious plan to rein in direct program spending and shrink the public service. Measures to boost private investment are a step in the right direction. The ultimate success of this budget will depend on execution – getting major infrastructure built, crowding in private investment, and delivering on fiscal consolidation. But first, the minority Liberals will need the support (or abstention) of a handful of opposition Members of Parliament (MPs) to pass it.





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## The Housing Market— Where are We?

by **Benjamin Tal** and **Shaun Hildebrand** (*Urbanation*)





Can we describe the Canadian real estate market in one word? The answer is no. Simply put, there is no such thing as the Canadian real estate market. That has been always the case, and even more so today. What is true for Toronto is absolutely not true for Calgary. Conditions in the condo market are very different than what we currently see in the purpose-built space, and the low-rise segment of the market is dancing to a totally different tune. What's more, the current weakening in the condo space and the recent awakening of rental supply represents much more than a temporary adjustment. It's the beginning of a significant realignment of the structure of the market — mainly in centers such as Toronto and Vancouver.

# US Economy is Poised to Accelerate, but a Lengthy Shutdown Would Contain Advancement by José Torres, Senior Economist Interactive Brokers

The first six months of the year were turbulent from a markets and economic standpoint, as the new administration in Washington embarked on a plethora of reforms. Households' equity and fixed-income holdings lost meaningful value during April's significant volatility as Trump threatened to upend international trade with heavy levies. The efficiency efforts led by Tesla CEO Elon Musk were also painful for asset values since the measures were poised to leave Wall Street with a lack of fiscal stimulus. But by late April, bullish sentiments crept back into the landscape, as it was clear that the White House's bark was much worse than its bite. Indeed, import duties on foreign goods ended up averaging approximately just 15%, not 30%, and there was very little appetite for Musk's austerity plans. Furthermore, second-quarter GDP grew 3.8%, its fastest pace in nearly two years.

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# Provincial Economic Outlook: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly

by Randall Bartlett, Deputy Chief Economist, Sonny Scarfone, Principal Economist, and Samuel Turcotte, Analyst



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### Pitch Imperfect: The Real Risks Behind Private Assets

by Murray Leith, Chief Investment Officer



If you have attended an investment seminar or browsed financial news lately, you have likely heard the siren song of private markets. Private equity, private credit, private real estate – these asset classes are no longer the exclusive reserve of lvy League endowments and the ultra-wealthy. Today, they promise everyday investors higher returns, smoother rides and exclusive opportunities. The pitch is polished, the brochures are glossy, and the numbers look enticing. But before you sign on the dotted line, it is worth asking: is the pitch for private investments really perfect?



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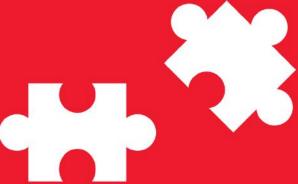








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