

MAIN STREET HEALTH REPORT

April 2026

Labor and Wage Stats





MAIN STREET AT A GLANCE

Weak Labor Supply Leads to Slower Employment Growth And Higher Turnover



Workforce & Hours: In April, employees working (-0.2%) and hours worked (-0.7%) both underperformed their growth in the same month one year and two years prior. This could reflect, at least in part, a slower pace of labor force growth as net immigration has declined.



Industry & Regional: Growth in the number of open businesses was slower in April than in the prior 2 years across all regions, but the weakest growth was seen in the Southeast (-1.1%), West (-2.0%) and Southwest (-2.1%). Growth in employees working decelerated in every industry, but was relatively resilient in entertainment (+3.5%) and home & repair (+3.8%).

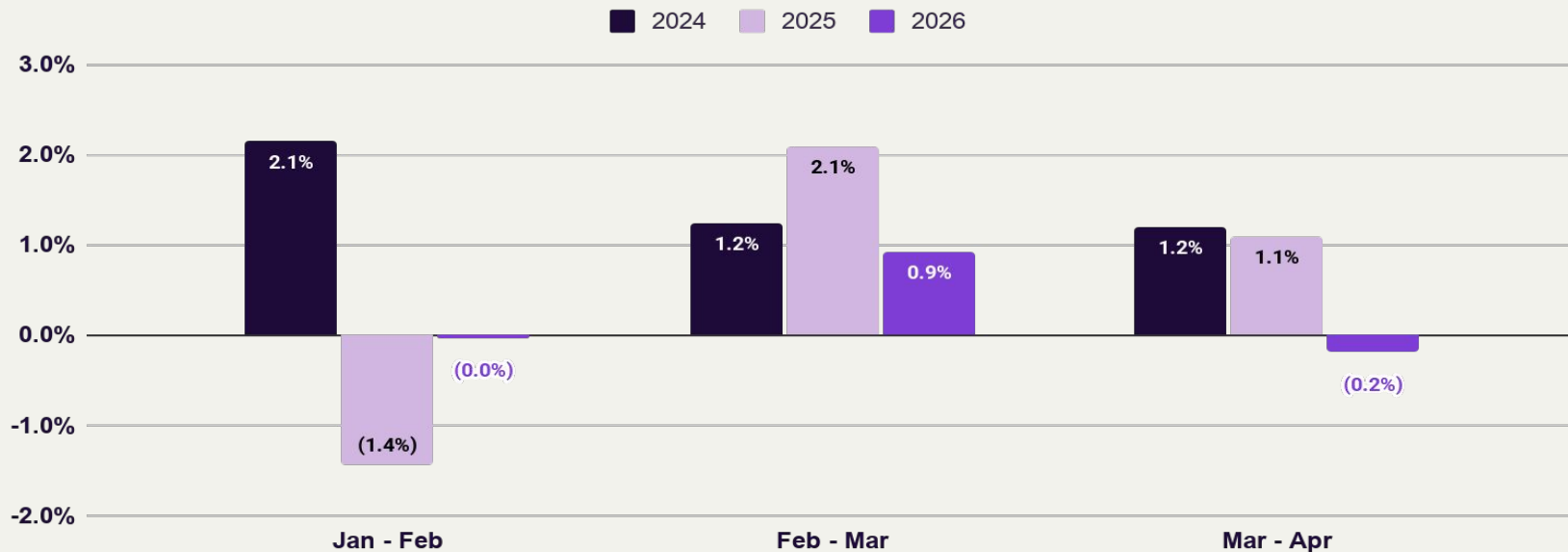


Hiring & Turnover: Despite weak labor supply growth, the labor market is showing early signs of warming (or at least no longer cooling). Turnover was up year-over-year for the first time since August, and hiring is falling at a slower rate.

Workforce Participation Stalls Heading Into Spring

April marked the first negative Mar–Apr reading in three years (–0.2%), reversing the +1.1% to +1.2% gains seen in 2024 and 2025, continuing a pattern of slower growth than in the prior two years. This could reflect, at least in part, a slower pace of labor force growth as net immigration has declined.

(Monthly change in 7–day average of “**Employees Working**”, relative to January of respective year)



Notes

1. Data compares rolling 7–day averages for weeks encompassing the 12th of each month.

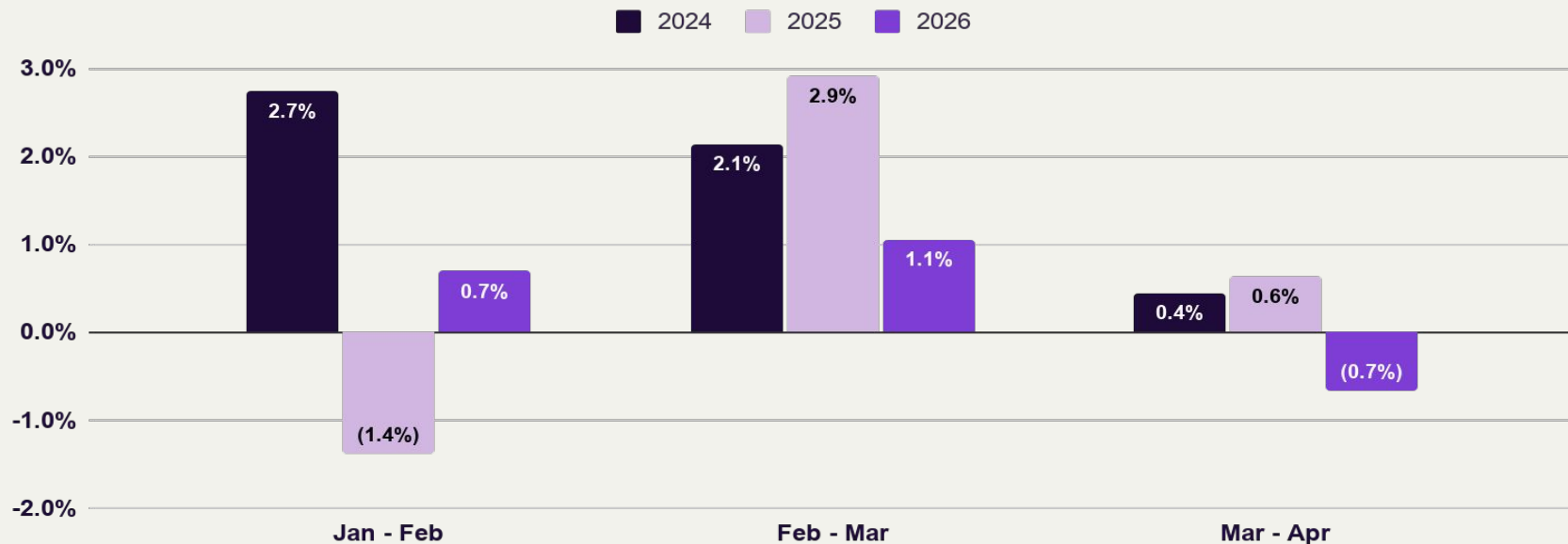
Source

[Homebase data](#)

Hours Worked Turn Negative for First Time Since 2024

Hours fell -0.7% from March to April, a sharp departure from the +0.4% (2024) and +0.6% (2025) seasonal pattern. As with the number of employees, hours are growing more slowly than it did 1 and 2 years ago.

(Monthly change in 7-day average of “Hours Worked”, relative to January of respective year)



Notes

1. Data compares rolling 7-day averages for weeks encompassing the 12th of each month.

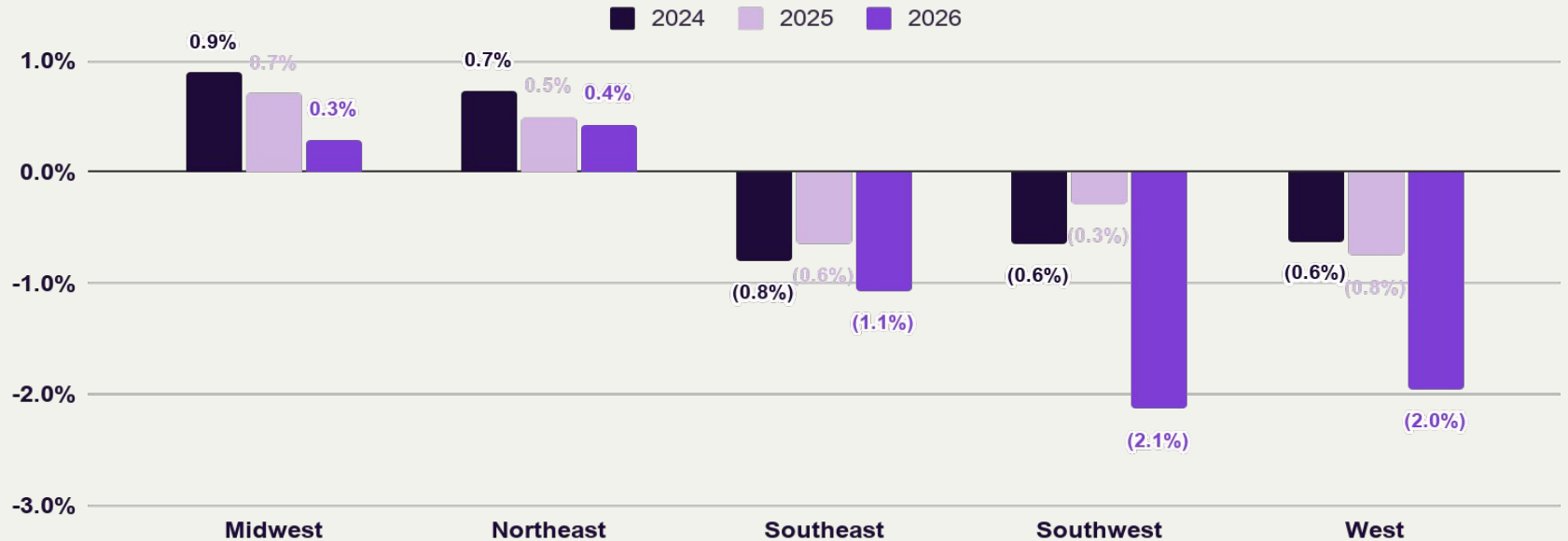
Source

[Homebase data](#)

Sun Belt Drives the Pullback in Open Businesses

Southwest (-2.1%) and West (-2.0%) posted their steepest April declines in three years, while the Midwest (+0.3%) and Northeast (+0.4%) stayed positive—a sharper divergence than in the prior 2 years.

(Month-over-month change in "Businesses Open", by Census region)



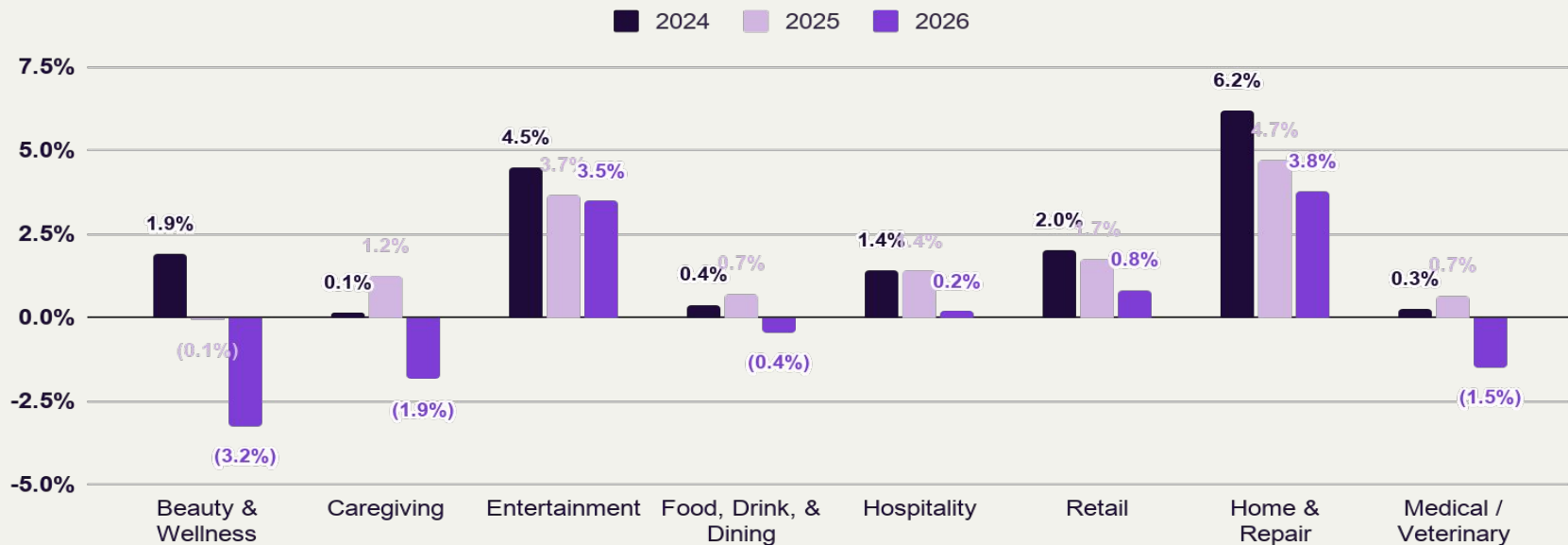
Notes
 1. Mar 10–16 vs Apr 14–20 (2024); Mar 09–15 vs Apr 6–12 (2025); Mar 8–14 vs Apr 12–18 (2026)
 2. Region classification – Midwest: ND, SD, NE, KS, MN, IA, MO, WI, IL, IN, OH, MI; West: NV, UT, AZ, NM, CO, WY, MT, ID, OR, WA, CA, HI, AK; Northeast: NY, PA, NJ, CT, RI, MA, NH, VT, ME; Southeast: MS, AL, TN, KY, NC, SC, GA, FL; Southwest: TX, OK, AR, LA.

Source | Homebase data

Personal Services Contract While Home & Repair Holds Up

Beauty & Wellness (-3.2%), Caregiving (-1.9%), and Medical/Veterinary (-1.5%) flipped negative versus prior-year gains, while Home & Repair (+3.8%) and Entertainment (+3.5%) preserved seasonal momentum, albeit below 2024 highs.

(Monthly change in 7-day average of “**Employees Working**”, relative to January of respective year)



Notes

1. Mar 10-16 vs Apr 14 - 20 (2024); Mar 09-15 vs Apr 6 - 12 (2025); Mar 8-14 vs Apr 12 - 18 (2026)
2. Data compares rolling 7-day averages for weeks encompassing the 12th of each month.
3. Entertainment includes events/festivals, sports/recreation, parks, movie theaters, and other categories.

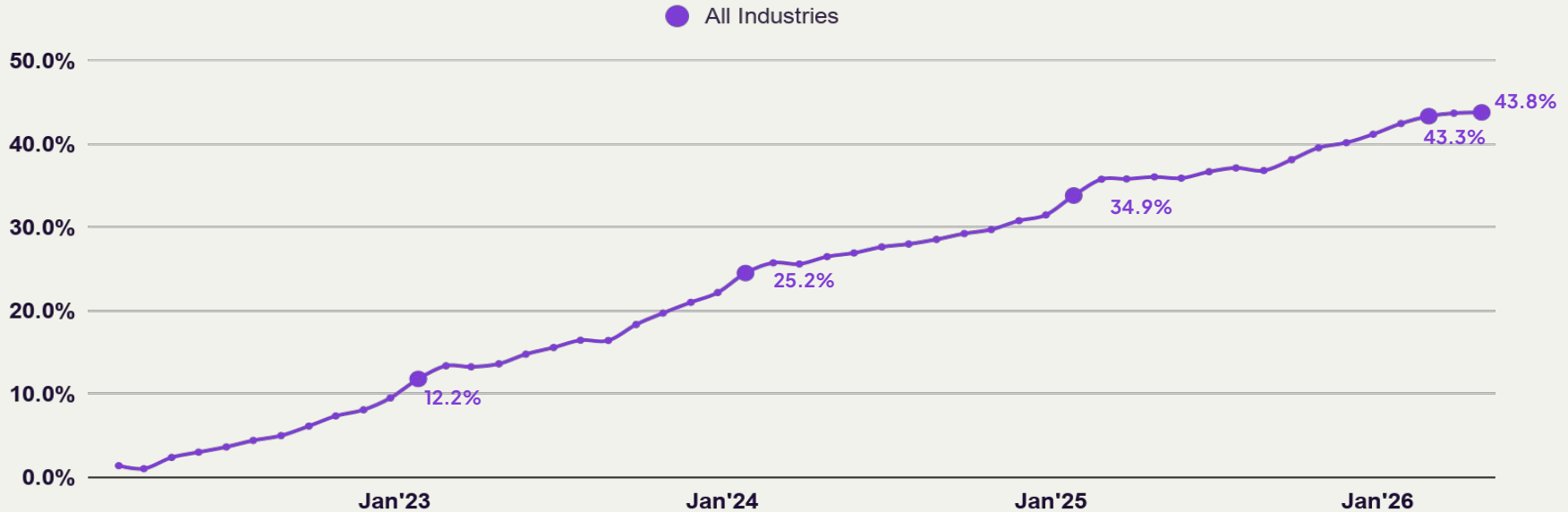
Source

Homebase data

Wage Growth Continues to Decelerate

Wages grew by 5.7% year-over-year in April, slower than a year earlier (7.6%) and two years earlier (11.3%).

(Percent change in average “Hourly Wages” across all jobs, relative to January 2022)



Notes

1. Data measures average hourly wages for locations that utilized Homebase to pay employees in both April 2025 and April 2026
2. A month is defined as the period from 28th of last calendar month to 27th of the current calendar month

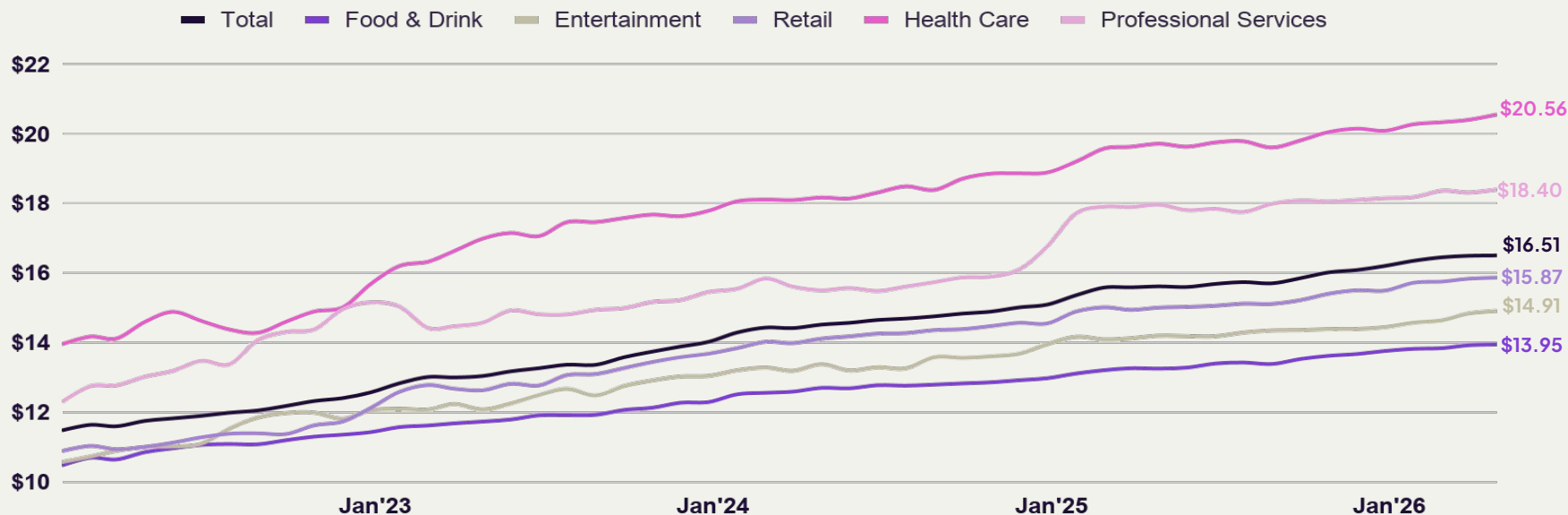
Source

[Homebase data](#)

Wage Divergence Emerges Between Service Tiers

Over the past year, wage growth has been slowest in the two highest-paid sectors: professional services and health care.

(Average “Hourly Wages” across all jobs)



Notes

1. Data measures average hourly wages for locations that utilized Homebase to pay employees in both April 2025 and April 2026. Total includes industries not depicted here.
2. A month is defined as the period from 28th of last calendar month to 27th of the current calendar month

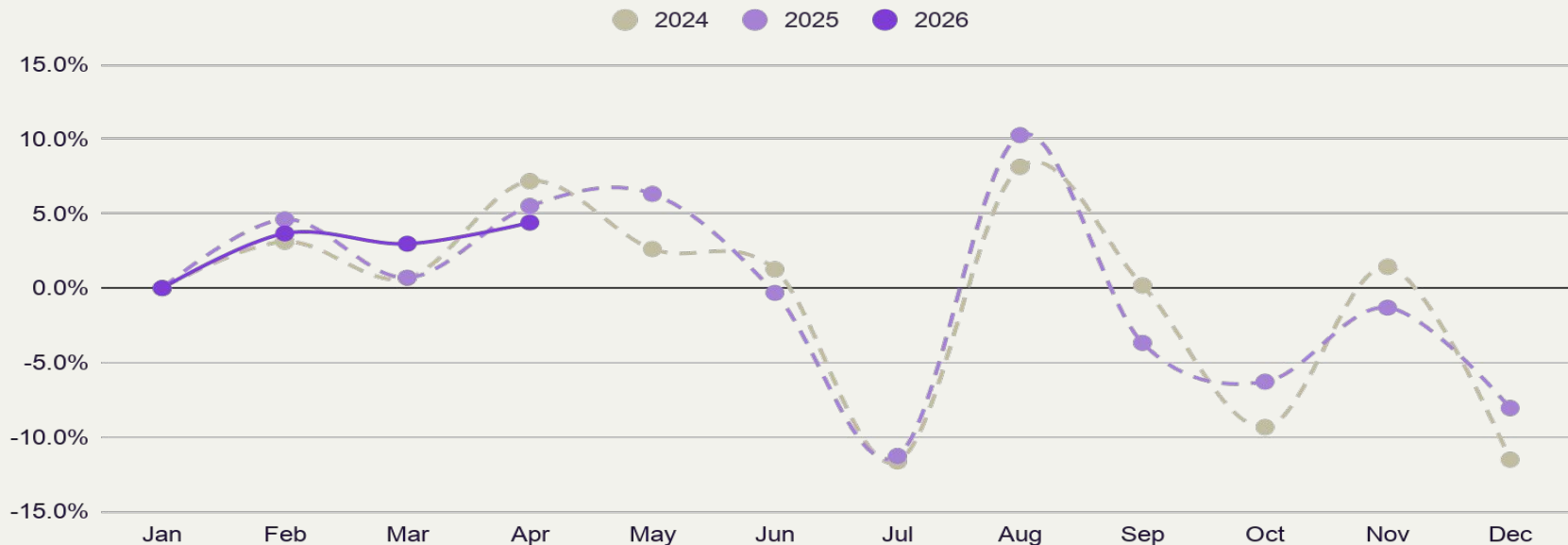
Source

[Homebase Payroll data](#)

Despite a soft April, hiring approaches stabilization

April's +4.4% m/m hiring gain was smaller than in 2024 and 2025. But zooming out, hiring declines are gradually moderating: the -2.2% y/y decline is more moderate than in any month during 2025.

(Monthly change in average "Number of Jobs Added" across all jobs)



Notes

1. Data measures average monthly change in total number of jobs created in official employee rosters for companies active in any given month.
2. A month is defined as the period from 28th of last calendar month to 27th of the current calendar month

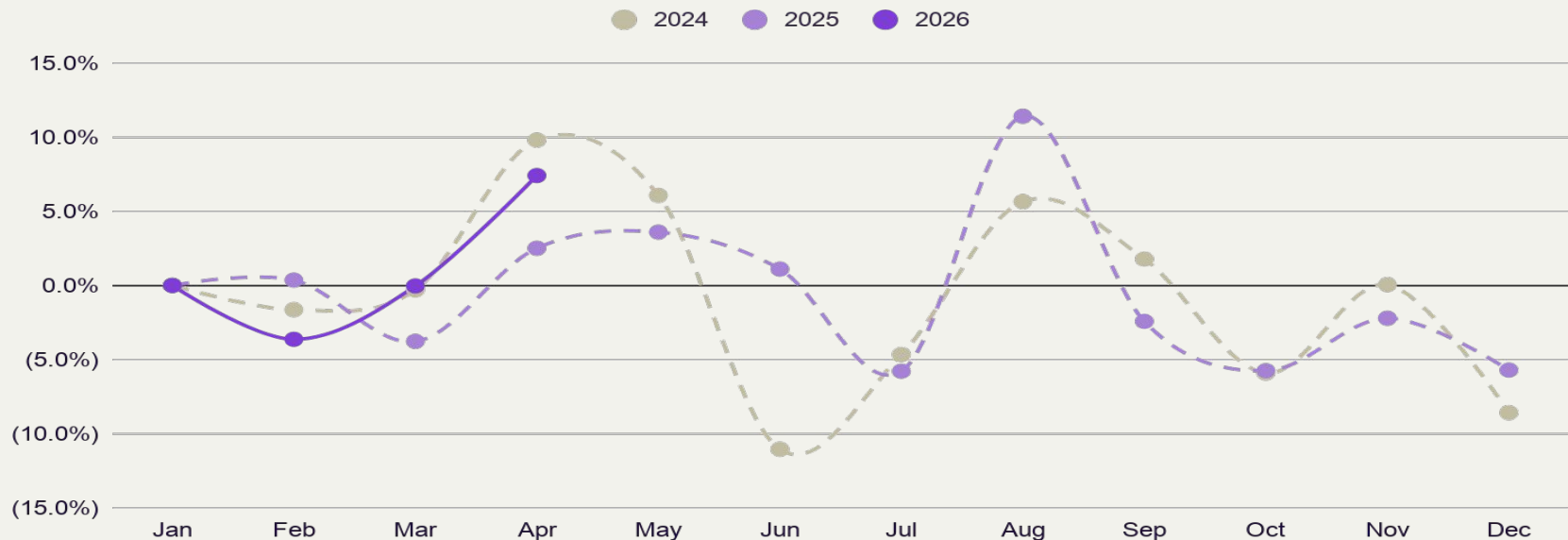
Source

[Homebase data](#)

Turnover Climbs Sharply Above 2025 Levels

Jobs archived rose +7.4% m/m in April—nearly three times the +2.5% pace of April 2025. And on a y/y basis, turnover was up 1.2% - the first positive number since last August.

(Monthly change in average “Number of Jobs Archived” across all jobs)



Notes

1. Data measures average monthly change in total number of jobs archived in official employee rosters for companies active in any given month.
2. A month is defined as the period from 28th of last calendar month to 27th of the current calendar month

Source

[Homebase data](#)

WE LOVE TALKING DATA

If you have questions or are interested in real-time access to Homebase data feeds, please reach out to data@joinhomebase.com



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Upcoming report schedule

**Jun 02,
2026**

Main Street Health Report – May 2026

**Jul 02,
2026**

Main Street Health Report – Jun 2026

**Aug 03,
2026**

Main Street Health Report – Jul 2026

**Sep 02,
2026**

Main Street Health Report – Aug 2026

METHODOLOGY

The dataset is based on Homebase data gathered from **more than 100,000 businesses and 2 million hourly employees** active in the US on our platform in April 2026. We are one of the largest and most trusted sources of real-time, quality data on employment growth across the small business landscape.

Data from prior years (e.g., 2024, 2025) use a similar cohort-based logic. Unless indicated otherwise, daily figures are calculated relative to the median value for that specific day for the baseline month (e.g., January) net of the first 4 days of the month.

Definitions



Hours worked is calculated from hours recorded in Homebase timecards.



Businesses open is based on whether a business had at least one employee clock-in.



Employees working is based on the distinct number of hourly workers with at least one clock-in.



Wage inflation data measures the monthly change in average hourly wages at businesses who ran Payroll with Homebase in April 2026 and April 2025

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