J.P.Morgan

## Navigating the Future

Key themes impacting business over the next decade | September 2025

### Introducing "Navigating the Future"

We are pleased to introduce "Navigating the Future," Corporate Finance Advisory's new piece on long-term themes impacting corporate planning and decision-making. In it, we examine a few trends that have the potential to drive significant macroeconomic, geopolitical and technological outcomes over the next decade and beyond.

Nearly 80 years ago in an essay titled "The Facts of Life," a demographer undertook an exercise to forecast the future for *The Atlantic*. Amid a period of rapid, post-war economic transformation and enormous demographic shifts, the writer predicted that the (then) recent increase in births...

"...will be felt in 1945-1950 in congested kindergartens and primary grades. By 1955-1960 it will be crowding in the high schools. A few years later it will be crowding the labor markets with entering workers, filling the colleges, swelling the number of marriages, stimulating the demand for homes. By 1970, a reflected secondary wave of births will be under way. By 1985 the number of workers over age 45 will mount sharply. Shortly after the turn of the century the wave will break on the retirement systems and pension funds of the country."

While *The Atlantic* got it right on many fronts, the article reminds us of the hazards of predicting the future. Industrialization, transformational geopolitical alliances, seismic technological and medical advances, and unprecedented global migration influenced population shifts in ways one could never have predicted.

Nonetheless, as we contemplate the rapidly accelerating impacts of AI development, and the trends in energy and health, our work operates on the premise that we must anticipate the possible scenarios of the future, even if we get some of it wrong.

We hope this serves as a powerful, data-driven analysis that supports your planning for the years ahead.

Rama Variankaval Evan Junek

Global Head of Corporate Advisory Global Head of Corporate Finance Advisory

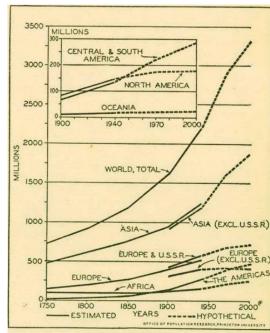


Fig. 2. Estimated and hypothetical populations of major sections of the world, 1750-2000 (values for 1750-1900 from Carr-Saunders, World Population, p. 42). [From Notestein, "Population—The Long View," p. 55, in Food for the World, edited by Theodore W. Schultz, University of Chicago Press, 1945.]

## **Executive summary**

#### Change is accelerating

- The compounding effects of technological advancement has accelerated the pace of change, adoption, and disruption
- At the same time, global trade dynamics and economic systems are also undergoing significant upheavals

#### We present three possible scenarios that could drive significant change in the next decade

- Al moves towards "artificial general intelligence" (AGI), supporting productivity improvements at least on par with precedents like the steam engine or electricity
- Power demand spikes in near-term but elevated investment supports a significant decline in the cost of energy over the long-term
- Advancements in medicine and biotechnology increase global life expectancy and improve quality of life along the way, also contributing to productivity gains

#### Each of these scenarios has implications for corporate decision-makers looking to the future

- Every industry gets transformed by shifts in productivity, and changes to input cost
- Early movers who anticipate these seismic changes will be the winners in their sectors
- Multi-factor modeling can help identify key attributes that could help or hurt sectors under these scenarios

#### Long-term scenario analysis is inherently flawed but remains a critical part of strategic planning

• The future is unknowable but anticipating change – even with unexpected results – supports better preparation

## The world is changing at a rapid pace

The world today vs. 10 years ago

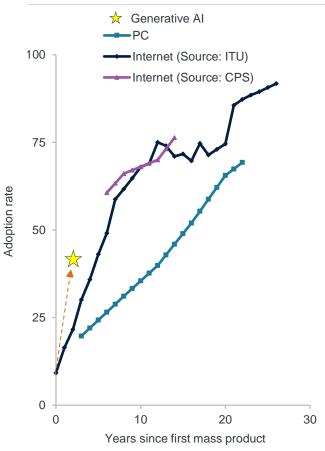




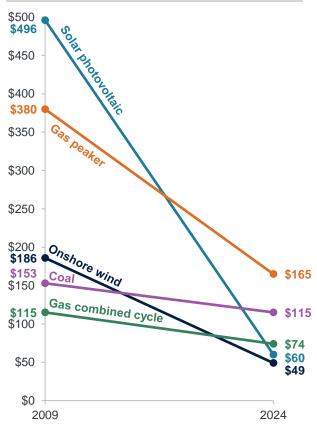




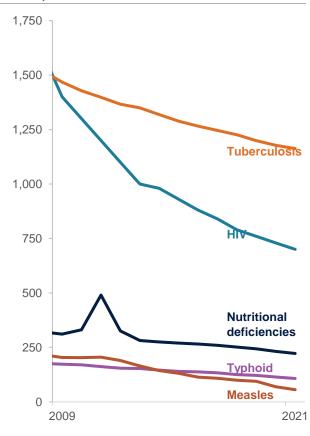
### ADOPTION RATE OF GENERATIVE AI VS OTHER TECHNOLOGIES<sup>2</sup>



## GLOBAL CHANGE IN PRICE OF ELECTRICITY FROM NEW POWER PLANTS

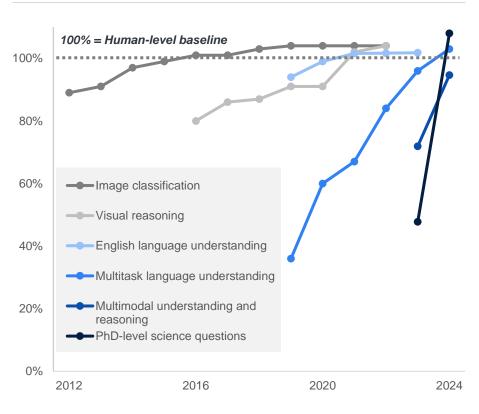


## GLOBAL DEATHS FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASE (IN 000S)

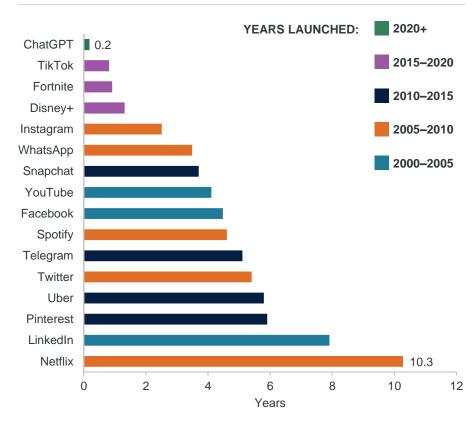


## Al development and adoption has been extraordinary

#### Al model performance benchmarks vs. human performance<sup>1</sup>



#### Years to reach 100mm Users - 2000 - 20232



**Key insights** 



32% CAGR
Capex growth since 2020 4





## Al's current capabilities are already influencing everyday experiences

#### **Current examples**

#### **Impact**



Navigation with computer vision

Enabling vehicles to complete unmanned, self-guided journeys

- On-site transport automation
- Autonomous tractor trailers
- Unmanned taxis
- Driverless commercial deliveries
- Self-directed driving

Logistics businesses
 expand revenue and
 margins: freight rapidly scales
 with round-the-clock driving
 and saving on total cost of
 tractor-trailer operation of up
 to 42%1



Problem solving and data analysis

Solving prompted problem statements using LLMs trained on textbooks, coding courses, and Q&A forums

- Text-prompted data analysis
- No-code widget creation
- In-line coding assistants
- Al-enabled bug fixing

 Cost of software development is slashed:

Al assistants increase software developer deadline completion by 25-30% for complex tasks<sup>1</sup>

 Analysis agent integrations in software and platforms shrink the time from data to insight



Decision-making in Healthcare

Rules-based tasks and processes can be executed by Al with lower error rates than humans in some cases

- Automated oncology screening
- Emergency room / urgent care triage
- Pre-appointment diagnostic assistance

 ER efficiency greatly improved leading to better patient outcomes and resource allocation: Al triage systems accurately categorize the severity of patient acuity better than both nurses and clinicians<sup>2</sup>

## Our AI scenario envisions continued and significant improvements

2035

Al's answers to: "What are the top things Al can do today? What will Al be capable of in 2030 and 2035?"

"Technological advancements, data availability and quality, interdisciplinary research, ethical and responsible frameworks, education and workforce development and increased public understanding of AI and its benefits are required to achieve advanced AI capabilities"

## Al's caveats about its future

"These advancements will depend on continuous research, ethical considerations and societal acceptance"

Human-level general intelligence: Perform any intellectual task a human can do

• Medical research: Accelerate R&D and personalized medicine

- Tackle global challenges: Climate change, resource management, disease eradication
- Collaboration: Assist humans in creative fields (i.e., art, music)
- Ethical decision making: Develop frameworks to help robotics and processes navigate moral dilemmas
- Smart cities: Traffic management, infrastructure monitoring, resource optimization

"These capabilities are continually evolving, with ongoing research and development pushing the boundaries of what AI can achieve"

2030

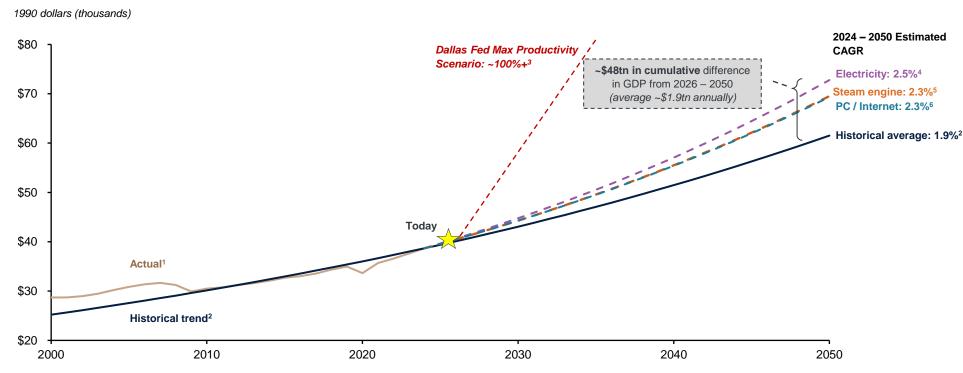
- Advanced NLP: Sophisticated, human-like interaction and translation
- Healthcare diagnostics: Enhanced disease diagnosis, treatment recommendations
- Personalized education: Tailored experiences adapted to learning styles and needs
- **Emotional intelligence:** Ability to detect emotion and have more empathetic human interaction
- Cybersecurity: More intelligent threat identification and mitigation tactics
- Environmental monitoring: Ecosystem management and climate change prediction

Today

- Natural Language Processing (NLP): Chatbots, virtual assistants, language translation, copy-editing
- Computer vision: Facial recognition, object detection, medical imaging analysis, autonomous driving
- Speech recognition: Speech-to-text conversation
- **Predictive analytics:** Fraud detection and prediction, supply chain optimization
- Robotics: Control robots in manufacturing, logistics and personal assistance
- Creative arts: Generate music, art and literature

# Al's contributions to labor productivity conservatively increase U.S. GDP by an average of \$1.9trn per year

#### **GPD PER CAPITA UNDER PREVIOUS TECH INNOVATION SCENARIOS**



Note: <sup>1</sup> Real gross domestic product (GDP) per capita in 1990 dollars; <sup>2</sup> The line is a trend line fitted to the data for 1870–2024 with a trend growth rate of 1.9 percent per year until 2050; <sup>3</sup> Assuming heaviest reliance on AI in the "benign scenario" presented by the Dallas Fed; <sup>4</sup> Assumes 2.46% GDP growth from 2025 – 2030; <sup>5</sup> Assumes 2.28% GDP growth in 2025 – 2050; <sup>6</sup> Assumes 2.27% GDP growth in 2025 - 2050

Economically transformative innovations and time to peak productivity upside <sup>7</sup>						
Innovation	Year invented	Time to peak productivity	Productivity upside			
Steam engine	1796	61 years	30%			
Electricity	1880	32 years	31%			
PC/Internet <sup>8</sup>	1981	15 years	13%			

#### Al has the potential to drive productivity growth further and faster than technological precedents

### Evaluating corporate leverage to Al adoption

#### Overview of J.P. Morgan's Al leverage factor model

#### J.P. MORGAN'S SIX FACTOR AI LEVERAGE MODEL

#### Opportunity to create efficiencies

#### **Gross margin per employee**

High margin revenue per employee | Marginal efficiency gains with Al as a 'co-pilot' to highly specialized work



#### Low revenue per employee |

More opportunity to streamline production / tasks and improve cost efficiency

#### **Gross margin**

<u>High margin</u> | *Greater flexibility* to invest in AI capabilities



Low margin | Less capacity to invest heavily enough in Al capabilities that drive appreciable growth

#### Potential to increase innovation

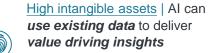
#### R&D / Sales

High R&D / Sales | R&D is major growth driver and AI can enhance and expedite R&D discoveries



Low R&D / Sales | May have less propensity toward integrating AI into R&D processes

## Intangible assets (excl. Goodwill)





<u>Low intangible assets</u> | *Limited differentiated data* for artificial intelligence to be deployed on

#### Ability to adapt

## Share price return since ChatGPT released



Stable or increasing | Resilient to and/or benefitting from competitive pressures added by outsized AI stock performance

<u>Decreasing</u> | Market may view ability to adapt / grow in the future as limited

#### Workforce skill

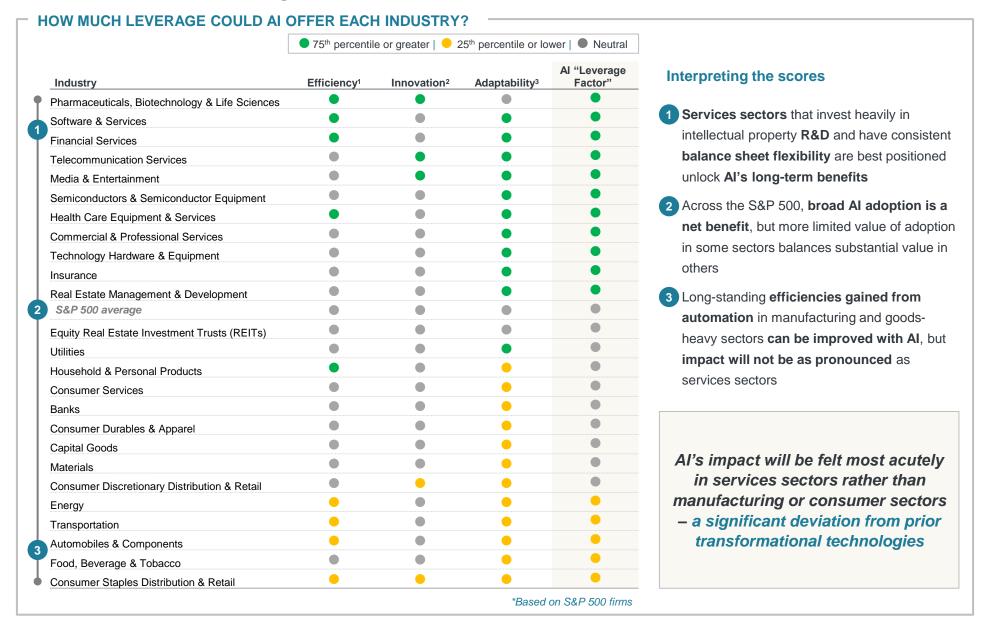
Highly skilled workforce | Al could *replace knowledge* workers first



<u>Lower skilled workforce</u> | More likely to be insulated from AI disruptions

Industries best-positioned to adopt and benefit from advanced AI will be most resilient and competitive in the long-term

## All sectors stand to benefit from AI, but the "knowledge economy" has the most room to leverage Al



### Despite the potential benefits, Al dissemination comes with risks

#### ONGOING AI DISSEMINATION RISKS (ACCORDING TO A LARGE LANGUAGE MODEL)

Bias and Disinformation

 Incorrect information is a common issue, leading to inaccurate outputs Al Dependence & Human Cognitive Decline

 Over-reliance on Al tools leads to declines in critical thinking and decision making Job Loss & Inequality Expansion

 Automation of some jobs could displace rules- or process-based career paths **Environmental Concerns** 

 Al data center power and water consumption is comparable to that of some countries' current consumption

#### **IMPACTS OF AI RISK**

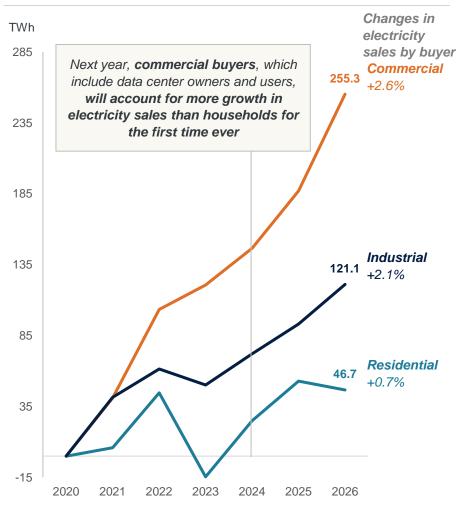
60%+ of adults
overall are highly
concerned
about others
getting
inaccurate
information from
Al<sup>2</sup>

62% of people report engaging in less critical thinking when using AI<sup>3</sup>

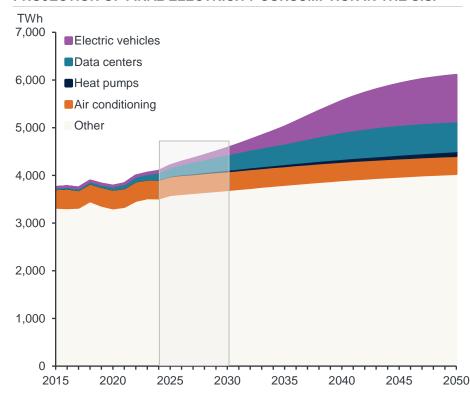
Al could impact up to **40%** of jobs globally, and up to **60%** in advanced economies<sup>4</sup> Al's global annual water usage is projected to reach **4.2 – 6.6**billion cubic meters by 2027<sup>5</sup>

## Al data centers drive a significant increase in power demand

#### CHANGE IN U.S. ELECTRICITY SALES TO ULTIMATE CUSTOMERS



#### PROJECTION OF FINAL ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION IN THE U.S.

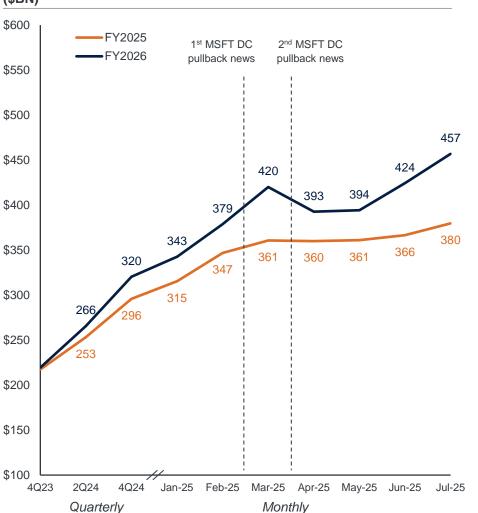


Driver	% of total demand in 2024	% of total demand in 2030	
EV	1%	3%	
Data centers	3%	7%	
Heat pumps	0%	1%	
AC	10%	9%	

The expected annual growth of U.S. electricity consumption between 2020 and 2026 is 17x annual growth rates in prior 15 years

## Hyperscaler growth continues to outpace expectations which drives near term increases in energy costs in the market





#### PJM CAPACITY COSTS - LATEST AUCTION (\$BN)<sup>2</sup>



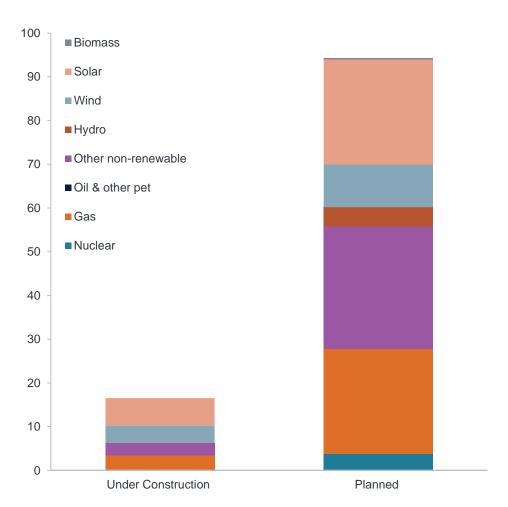
- Capacity prices hit a record high in the '26-'27 JPM auction
  - Capacity auctions are held to ensure sufficient electricity capacity is available during peak demand periods
  - Record prices indicate that new demand, including data centers, is outpacing new generation development
- ~8GW of demand response resources were offered in the auction –
  consistent with prior years however in the past 2 auctions, 100% of
  demand response resources cleared, compared to ~80% in the 2 prior

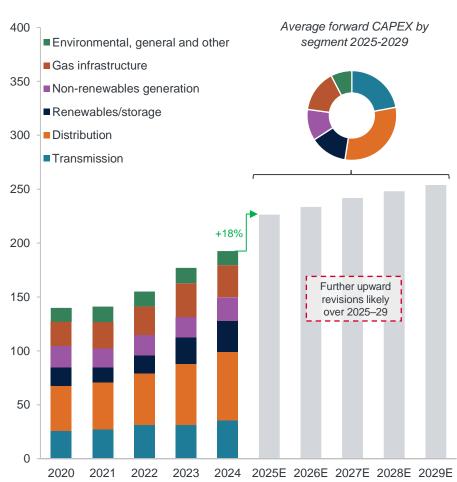
Hyperscalers are contributing to price volatility in the short term

# In our energy scenario, utilities aggressively expand capex and capacity to meet growing demand

NORTH AMERICAN UTILITIES NET OWNED CAPACITY GENERATION ADDITIONS BY TECHNOLOGY (GW)

#### NORTH AMERICAN UTILITY CAPEX BY SEGMENT (\$BN)

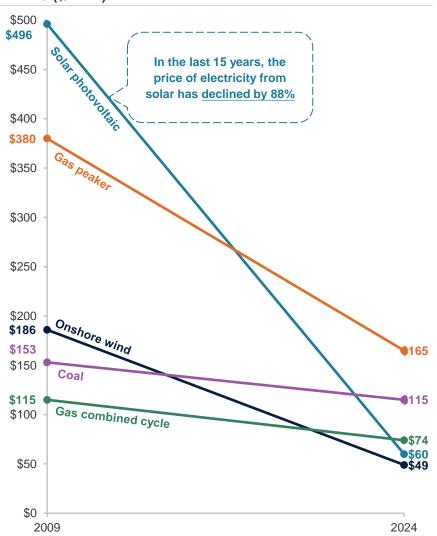




Utility investments and capacity expansion drive down energy costs in the long term

## Electricity generation costs continue to decline

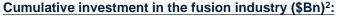
### GLOBAL CHANGE IN PRICE OF ELECTRICITY FROM NEW POWER PLANTS (\$/MWH)

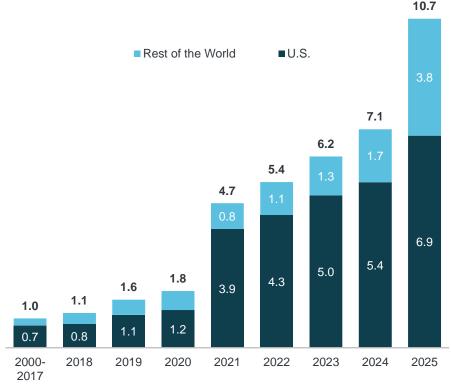


#### **CUTTING EDGE SOLUTIONS: NUCLEAR FUSION**

Nuclear fusion combines 2 light atomic nuclei to form a single, heavier one while releasing massive amounts of energy

- Could generate 4x more energy per kg of fuel than fission and nearly 4M times more energy than burning oil or coal
- 1st U.S. fusion plant is set to begin operations by the early 2030s1





Renewables deflation and new technologies could affordably supply future energy demand

## Existing solutions and expected advancements provide flexibility, enhance grid reliability, and reduce cost

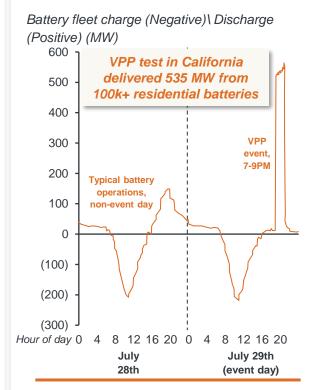
#### **Demand Side Response**

"[Google has] been working to bring flexible demand capabilities into our data center fleet, which enables us to shift or reduce power demand during certain hours or times of the year. These capabilities, often referred to as demand response, have several advantages, especially as we continue to see electricity growth in the U.S. and elsewhere"

- Google announced agreements with local utilities to enable demand response for machine learning workloads
- See load flexibility as a promising tool for managing large new energy loads and facilitating investment and growth

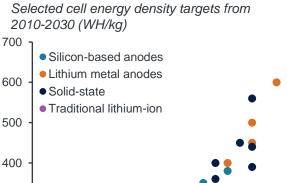
DSR programs can help companies reduce operational costs and earn incentives for load reduction

#### **Virtual Power Plants**



Aggregating battery storage capacity in a VPP reduces the demand for storage infrastructure investment and build out

## Lithium battery technologies



300

200

100

2010

New Lithium battery technologies to boost energy density

2020

2025

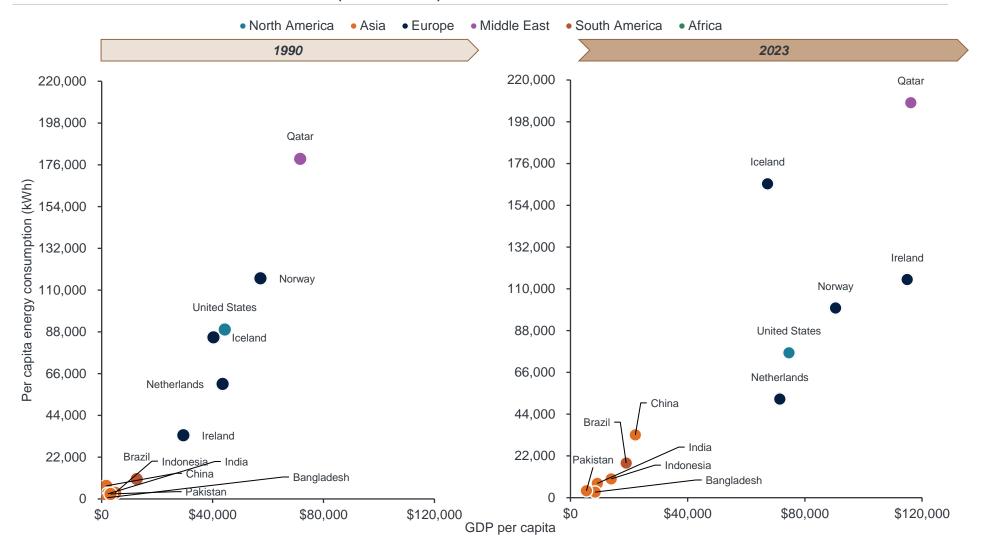
2030

2015

Improvements in AI efficiency, grid enhancements, demand response and improved energy storage are key to unlocking lower power costs

## Reliable, low-cost energy drives global economic growth

**ENERGY USE PER PERSON VS. GDP PER CAPITA (1990 AND 2023)** 



Affordable energy access consistently provides greater economic leverage to consumers, companies and governments

## To gauge which sectors will benefit the most from sustained declines in energy prices, we developed a 4-factor model

#### J.P. MORGAN'S FOUR FACTOR LOW-COST ENERGY LEVERAGE MODEL

#### **Sensitivity** to market behavior



Commodity price vs share price correlation

<u>Inverse or low correlation</u> | Equity values trade inverse to the performance of energy commodity prices

<u>High positive correlation</u> | Performance of equity values highly dependent on bullish conditions for energy commodities

## **EBITDA** margin vs growth-adjusted **EBITDA** multiple



High correlation | High likelihood of being rewarded for margin expansion as demonstrated by valuation assigned by the market

<u>Low correlation</u> | Limited value creation to be realized from margin improvement caused by declines in energy prices

#### Flexibility to invest in innovation



**Energy intensity (Energy consumed / revenue)** 

High intensity | Significant value to be gained from low energy prices, given current consumption, through margin expansion or price cuts

<u>Low intensity</u> | Limited energy consumption translating to limited value to be gained from low energy prices



Energy purchased as % of total energy use

More energy purchased | Higher dependence on purchased energy would translate to greater benefit

More energy produced | Cost benefit likely to be lost that previously existed from self-sufficiency

The current value chain across industries is positioned to benefit considerably from significant declines in energy price

## Sustained lower energy prices provide the most leverage to industrial sectors

	● 75 <sup>th</sup> percentile or greater   ● 25 <sup>th</sup> percentile or lower   ● Neutral				Neutral	How it works
Industry	Commodity price sensitivity <sup>1</sup>	Energy intensity <sup>2</sup>	Value of margin expansion <sup>3</sup>	Energy use mix <sup>4</sup>	Low-cost energy leverage factor	<ul> <li>Using z-scores, assessed individual companies' sensitivity to each metric relative industry peers</li> </ul>
Automobiles & Components		•		0		<ul> <li>High score (green) suggests optimal gains</li> </ul>
Transportation		•		•		from low energy prices; gray and yellow suggest more limited gains
Materials						
Semiconductors & Semiconductor Equipment		•		•		Interpreting the scores
Media & Entertainment		0		0		1 Capital-intensive sectors benefit the mo
Software & Services	•	•	•	•		Their profit margin improvements are
Health Care Equipment & Services		•		•		historically rewarded by investors.
Real Estate Management & Development		•		•	•	<ul> <li><u>Transportation sector</u>: Fuel costs represent up to 50% of total transportation costs<sup>5</sup>. Appreciable ene price reduction meaningfully improves sector's margins and result in lower costs to customers</li> </ul>
Food, Beverage & Tobacco	0			•		
Consumer Durables & Apparel	•	•	•	•		
Consumer Staples Distribution & Retail						
Consumer Services	•	•		•		
Capital Goods				•		2 Beyond capital-intensive sectors, the benefi lower energy prices becomes negligible or even a net negative – particularly for consumer sectors, where direct exposure energy costs remains limited
Technology Hardware & Equipment						
Consumer Discretionary Distribution & Retail	•	•	•	•	•	
Commercial & Professional Services		•	•	•		
Pharma, Biotech & Life Sciences	•		•	•		
Utilities	•	•	0	•		The expected downsides of sustained low energy costs to utilities and energy
Energy	•		0	•		companies are somewhat offset by the end intensity across the value chain of both industries
Telecommunication Services			•	•		
Household & Personal Products						

# Some technical and geopolitical challenges pose risks to this future of an energy-rich global economy

## U.S. Energy investment is outpaced by China and Europe<sup>1</sup>

- Annual energy investment increases from 2019 to 2024:
  - U.S.: + 9%
  - China: +48%
  - Europe: +75%
- Total clean energy investment in the U.S. in 2024 was \$300Bn compared to \$659Bn in China and \$410Bn in the EU



## Grid infrastructure construction is labor and materials-intensive

- <u>Labor</u>: Grid construction and maintenance workforce needs to grow by almost 20% to meet current policy demands<sup>1</sup>
- <u>Materials</u>: Tariffs and inflation will continue to increase costs<sup>1</sup>

## Built-in end-use solutions remain configured for single fuels

 Nearly 70% of the transport sector's final energy consumption is expected to be oil – even in 2050<sup>6</sup>



Key challenges



## Distribution lines remain susceptible to extreme weather

- 80% of U.S. power lines are above ground, creating increased<sup>2</sup>:
  - Maintenance costs
  - Risk of power loss
- Regardless of generation sources, weatherizing power lines can cost \$20mm-\$30mm per mile<sup>3</sup>



 Cyber attack magnitude of impact will increase as dependence on power infrastructure grows

Cybersecurity attacks on power infrastructure are increasing<sup>5</sup>



 China controls 95% of the global battery-grade graphite supply – the largest component by weight in batteries<sup>4</sup>

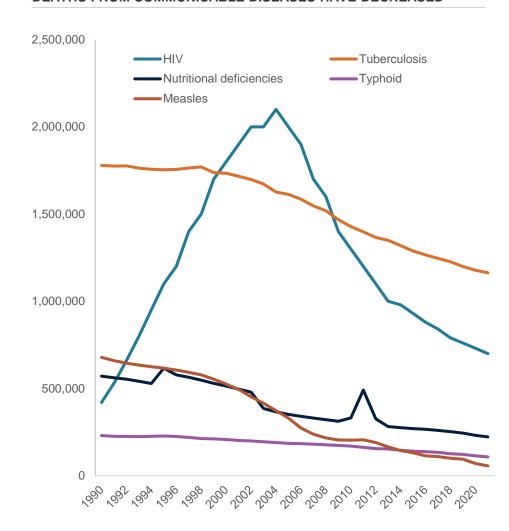
Battery storage supply chains are concentrated outside the U.S.

## Healthcare advances have been rapid and significant

#### THE LAST 5 YEARS HAVE INCLUDED MAJOR LEAPS IN MEDICINE

#### 2020 **mRNA** successfully used to create Covid-19 2021 vaccines Universal **Hepatitis C** treatment introduced 2022 **CRISPR** therapy for rare blood disorders received 1st drug approval 2023 GLP-1s become the 3<sup>rd</sup>-most utilized drugs in history 2024 1st successful application of gene therapy for 2025 hereditary hearing FDA approves 1st loss injectable preventative HIV treatment

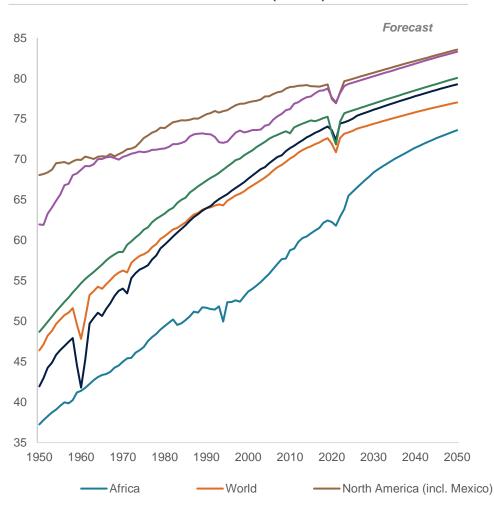
#### DEATHS FROM COMMUNICABLE DISEASES HAVE DECREASED



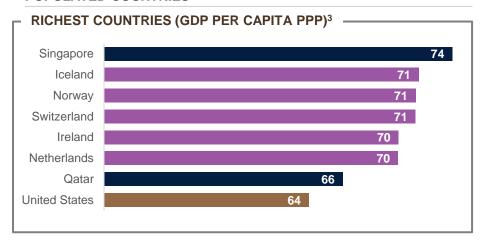
Advances in healthcare and medicine in the last 5 years are enabling a shift in the long-term challenges to be solved

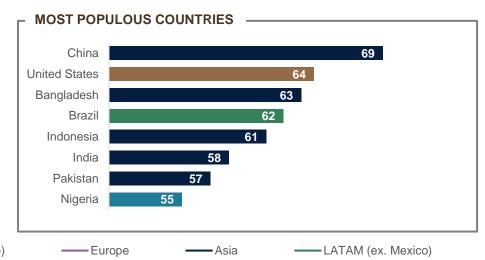
# Developing countries still have a lot to gain as advanced economies focus on both extending and improving the quality of lifespans

#### AVERAGE LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH (YEARS)1



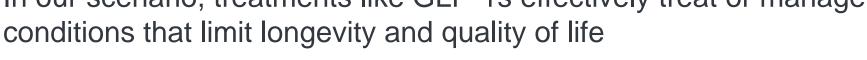
DISEASE-FREE YEARS EXPECTED AT BIRTH IN THE MOST POPULATED COUNTRIES<sup>2</sup>

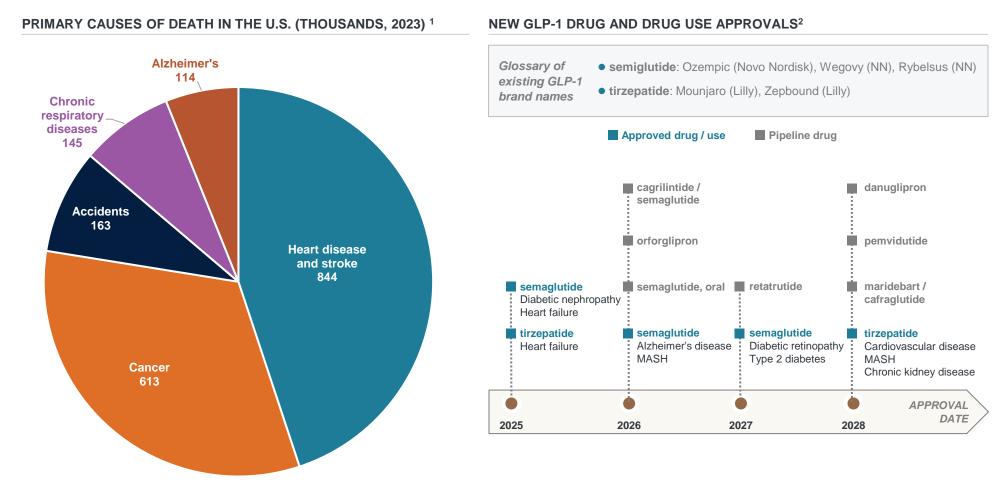




The 12-year gap between U.S. life expectancy and healthy life expectancy means that while we are living longer diseases that ultimately end life also afflict us for longer

## In our scenario, treatments like GLP-1s effectively treat or manage





Beyond GLP-1s, targeted gene therapies, advancements in transplant medicine, and other emerging technologies will reduce the burden that patients and their families face as they manage challenging conditions

## Improving healthy aging drives significant economic benefits

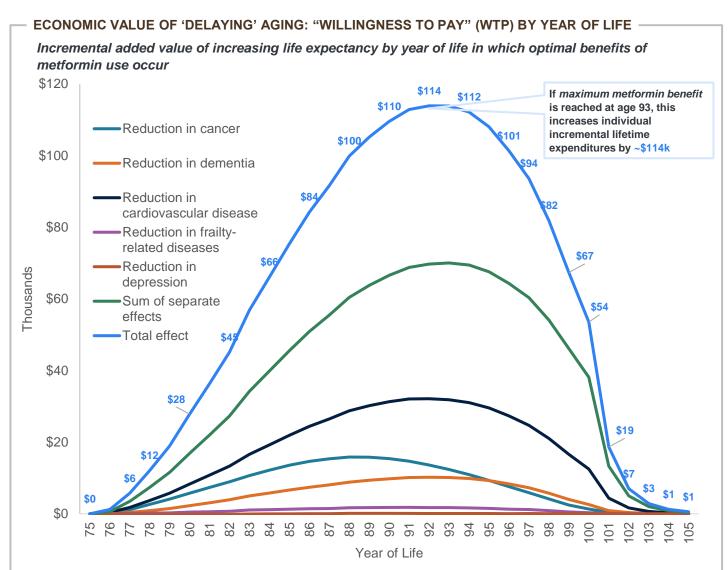
Decisions about spending and saving, particularly in advanced age, are made based on wages, interest rates, retirement age, expected remaining years of life and future health<sup>1</sup>

**Metformin**, a drug used to treat type 2 diabetes, is used by an estimated **200** million people globally<sup>2</sup>.

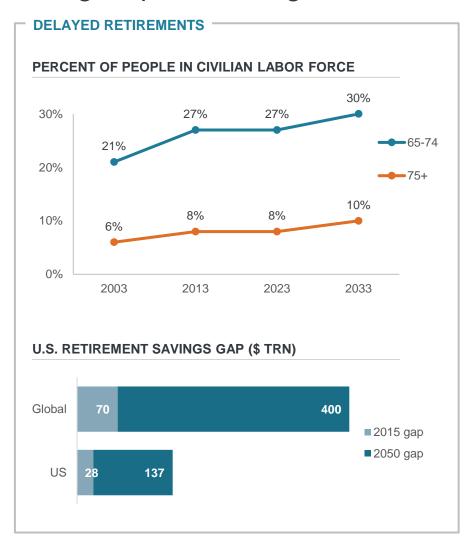
It has also proven effective at **treating or delaying diabetes co-morbidities** like cardiovascular disease, dementia, and other conditions.

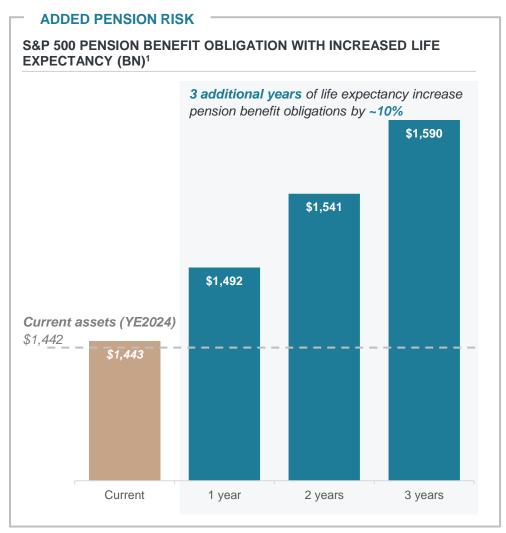
A 2021 study in the journal *Nature* demonstrated the economic impact of 75-year-old metformin patients changing consumption patterns as their quality of life improves and they expect to have more years of leisure ahead.

In aggregate, this suggests that a 2-year increase in life expectancy generates an incremental \$7trn - \$21trn in U.S. economic gains<sup>3</sup>.



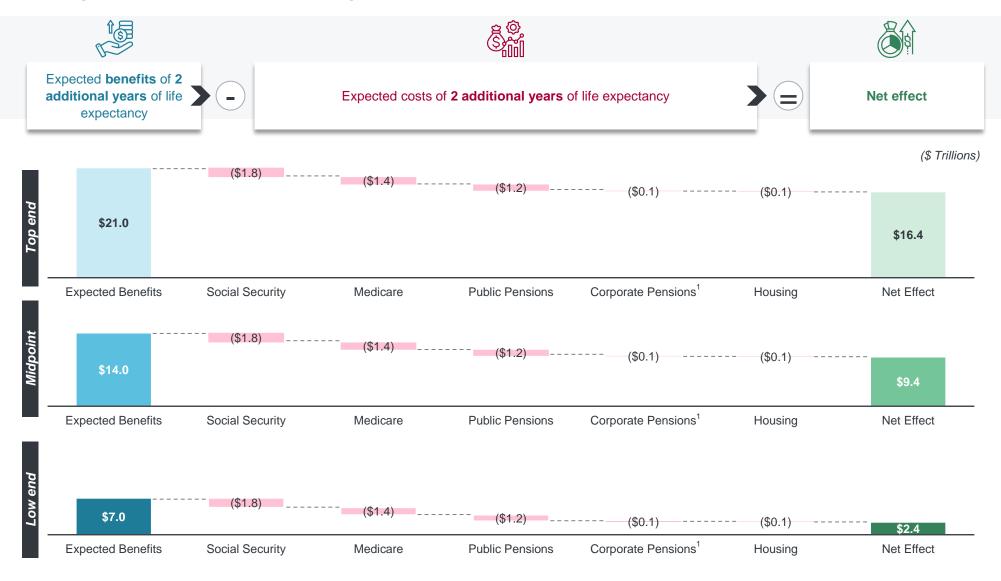
## Increased longevity requires reimagining the way Americans retire and taking steps to manage increased costs





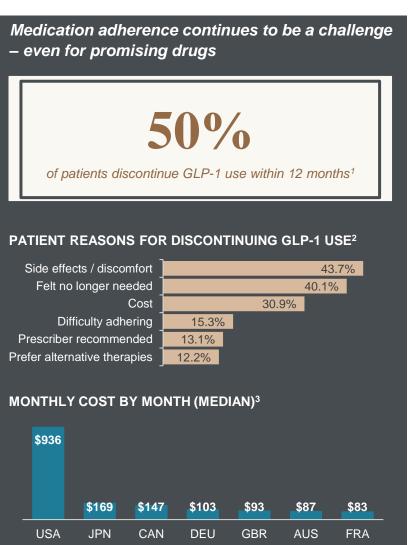
Each incremental year of life expectancy increases S&P 500 pension liabilities by 3-4% - representing \$148Bn in unfunded liabilities if life expectancy increases 3 years

## Longer lives provide a significant economic benefit



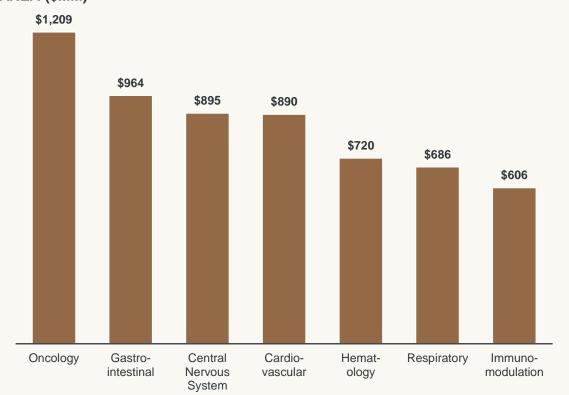
Treatment for conditions that improve longevity <u>and</u> quality of life, such as metformin or GLP-1s, not only drive increased consumption patterns but may also reduce overall health expenditures long-term

### Healthcare costs remain a key hurdle to development and adoption





## EXPECTED CAPITALIZED COST OF NEW DRUG DEVELOPMENT BY THERAPEUTIC AREA (\$MM)<sup>4</sup>



Al advancements can potentially assist in the efficacy of drug development

### Key takeaways

#### Corporate leaders should consider 'sensitizing' for each of these scenarios

- Imagine different states of the world (with or without associated probabilities) and stress test your business model
- Take steps to evaluate not only risk exposure, but also long-term strategic opportunities, within each scenario

#### **Key considerations**

#### Artificial intelligence

- Consider the ways AI could be incorporated in innovation, research, and development processes
  - Think both possibilities for the top line as well as efficiency gains
- Position workforce to operate with optimal efficiencies and resources to independently drive innovation

#### Energy

- Manage risk of near-term price increases; explore demand response programs and use financial tools as appropriate to hedge against changes
- Prepare for an expanded set of energy sources and re-think business strategy if cost and access to energy are not binding constraints

#### Health

- Prepare for a world with employees and customers who live longer, better quality lives
  - Re-think workforce management and product offering
- Continue planning for variability in retirement expenses

The pace of change is only increasing. Preparing for the future is more important than ever.

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