

U.S. Equipment & Software

# Investment Momentum Monitor

May 2026



The Equipment Leasing & Finance Association (ELFA) is the leading trade association for the \$1.3 trillion U.S. equipment finance industry. We are the voice of an industry that provides the vital capital needed for businesses to acquire equipment and drive economic growth. Our diverse membership includes financial services companies, manufacturers, and service providers dedicated to financing capital goods. Through our work, we advance and promote the equipment leasing and finance industry to empower businesses and solve the most pressing challenges facing our sector.

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## **U.S. Equipment & Software Investment Momentum Monitor**

### ***About the Forecasts***

Business leaders require actionable forward-looking intelligence to make strategic decisions. Accordingly, the Equipment Leasing & Finance Association commissioned Keybridge LLC to develop a series of custom leading indicators for the equipment sector. Published monthly, the “U.S. Equipment & Software Investment Momentum Monitor” consists of indices for the seven equipment and software investment verticals listed below. These indices are designed to identify turning points in their respective investment cycles with an approximate 5–8-month lead time.

The Momentum Monitor is based on Keybridge’s extensive research which shows that not all movements in economic data are reliable signals of future economic trends. Keybridge has operationalized its research by constructing indices, each comprised of 15–20 high-frequency indicators. These indicators undergo rigorous testing to determine the optimal thresholds at which their short-term fluctuations are economically meaningful. In simpler terms, the Momentum Monitor sifts out the “noise” in the data and identifies the dominant trends. As a result, each Momentum Monitor index is statistically optimized to signal turning points in the investment cycle without giving false readings of shifts in momentum.

The Momentum Monitor covers seven equipment and software verticals as defined by the U.S. Department of Commerce. Collectively, these verticals represent more than 90% of total equipment and software investment as of 2025.

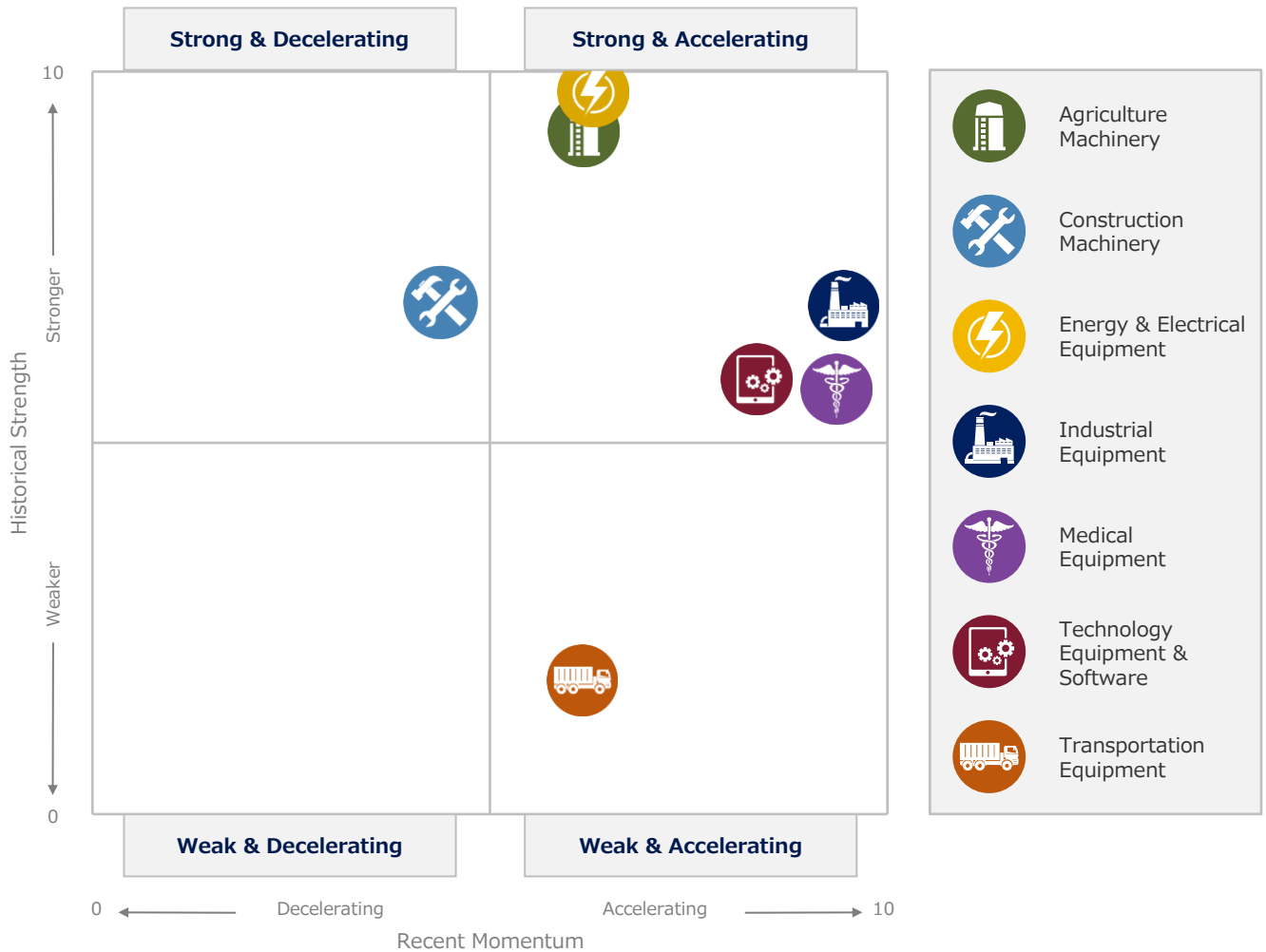
#### **U.S. Equipment & Software Investment Momentum Monitor – 7 Verticals**

- 1) Agriculture Machinery
- 2) Construction Machinery
- 3) Energy & Electrical Equipment
- 4) Industrial Equipment
- 5) Medical Equipment
- 6) Technology Equipment & Software
- 7) Transportation Equipment

# U.S. Equipment & Software Investment Momentum Monitor

## May 2026

### Momentum Monitor Sector Matrix



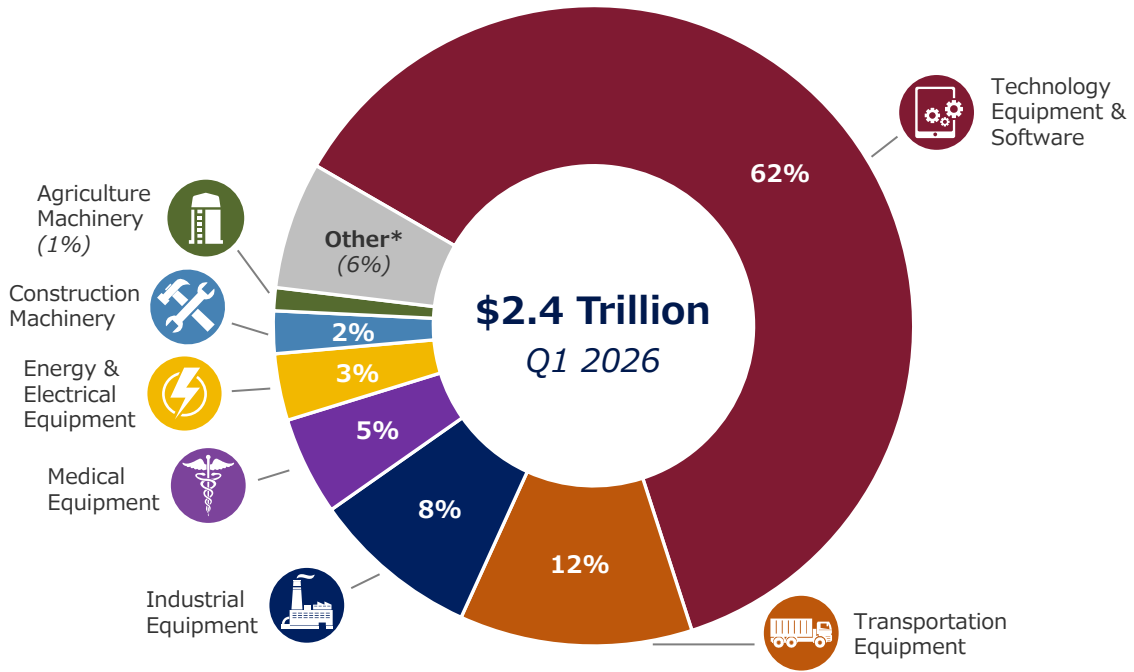
The matrix above summarizes the current values of each of the seven Equipment & Software Investment Momentum Indices based on two factors:

- **“Recent Momentum”** (vertical axis) represents an indicator’s movement in the past month relative to its average movement over the previous three months. Ratings closer to “0” represent an indicator that is decelerating, while ratings closer to “10” represent an indicator that is accelerating.
- **“Historical Strength”** (horizontal axis) represents an indicator’s strength over the last three months relative to its typical level over the last two decades. Ratings closer to “0” represent an indicator that is historically weak, while ratings closer to “10” represent an indicator that is historically strong.

The matrix is comprised of four quadrants, which correspond to a vertical’s recent momentum and historical strength readings. If a vertical is located in the top-left quadrant, its current reading is higher than average, but positive movement has slowed (and perhaps reversed) in recent months — suggesting that Y/Y investment growth may fall over the next two quarters. Conversely, if a vertical is located in the bottom-right quadrant, its current reading is lower than average, but recent movement shows promise — suggesting that Y/Y investment growth may rise over the next two quarters.

# U.S. Equipment & Software Investment Momentum Monitor

## Definitions and Distribution of Investment by Vertical



\*Other includes furniture and fixtures, office equipment, service industry machinery, nonmedical instruments, and other miscellaneous items.  
 Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

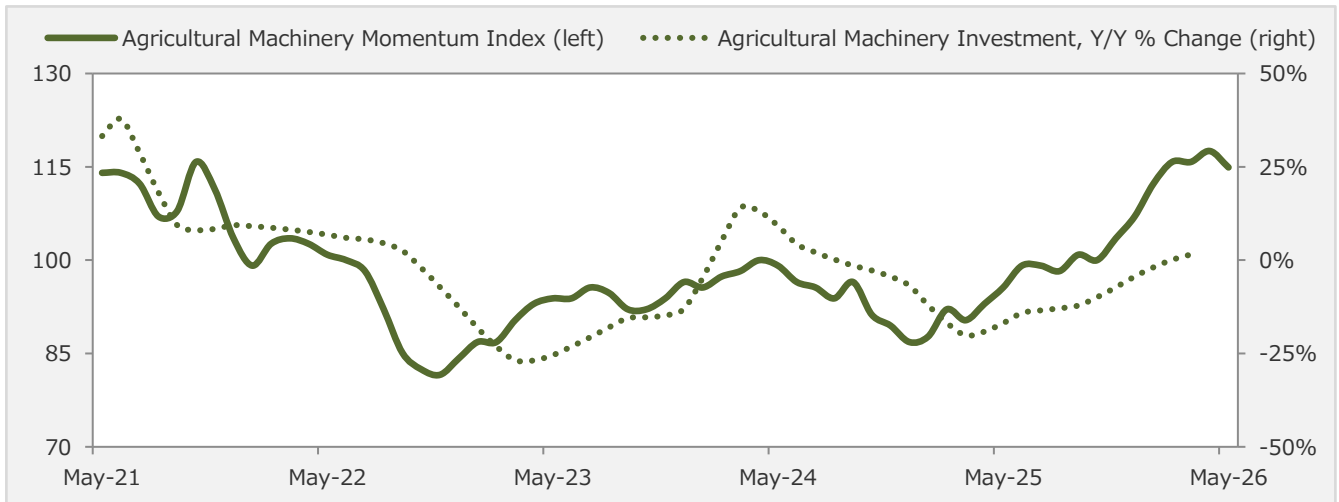
<b>Agriculture Machinery</b>	Agricultural machinery includes farm machinery and equipment, farm-type (power take-off hp) wheel tractors, and other agricultural equipment.
<b>Construction Equipment</b>	Construction machinery includes mixers, pavers, and related equipment, tractor shovel loaders, graders, rollers, compactors, and forklifts.
<b>Energy &amp; Electrical Equipment</b>	Energy and electrical equipment includes (1) mining and oilfield machinery and (2) electrical transmission, distribution, and industrial apparatus such as generators, electric power transformers, switchgear and board apparatus, and semiconductor power conversion apparatus.
<b>Industrial Equipment</b>	Industrial equipment includes fabricated metal products, engines and turbines (including steam engines and internal combustion engines), metalworking machinery, special industry machinery, general industrial equipment, and materials handling equipment.
<b>Medical Equipment</b>	Medical equipment includes medical imaging equipment, electronic medical equipment, surgical and medical instruments, dental equipment and supplies, irradiation apparatus, and electromedical apparatus.
<b>Technological Equipment &amp; Software</b>	Technology equipment includes (1) communications equipment such as data networking equipment, telephone apparatus, and navigation & guidance systems; (2) computers, including host and multiuser mainframe computers and servers, portable computers, personal computers and workstations, storage devices, terminals, and peripheral equipment, displays, and printers; and (3) software, including prepackaged and customized software.
<b>Transportation Equipment</b>	Transportation equipment includes light trucks (including utility vehicles), other trucks, buses, and truck trailers, autos, aircraft, ships and boats, and railroad equipment.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, National Income and Product Accounts. Data are seasonally adjusted and annualized.

# U.S. Equipment & Software Investment Momentum Monitor

## Agricultural Machinery

Investment in Agricultural Machinery increased 2.7% (annualized) in Q1 2026 and is 1.5% above its year-ago level. The Agricultural Machinery Momentum Index weakened from 117.5 (revised) in April to 114.9 in May. Several indicators drove the Index's decrease, including the Nominal Broad Dollar Index (-2.0% M/M in April) and food, beverage, and tobacco production (-0.3% M/M in March). Despite the decline from last month, the Index's elevated position suggests that annual growth in agricultural machinery investment should strengthen over the next two quarters.



### Summary of Current Conditions

Historical Strength of Vertical Momentum	
Historical Strength of Investment Growth	
Investment Growth (Y/Y)	<b>+1.5%</b>
Investment Growth (Q/Q, SAAR)	<b>+2.7%</b>
Vertical Investment (SAAR)	<b>\$28.3 Billion</b>
Share of Total E&S Investment	<b>1.2%</b>

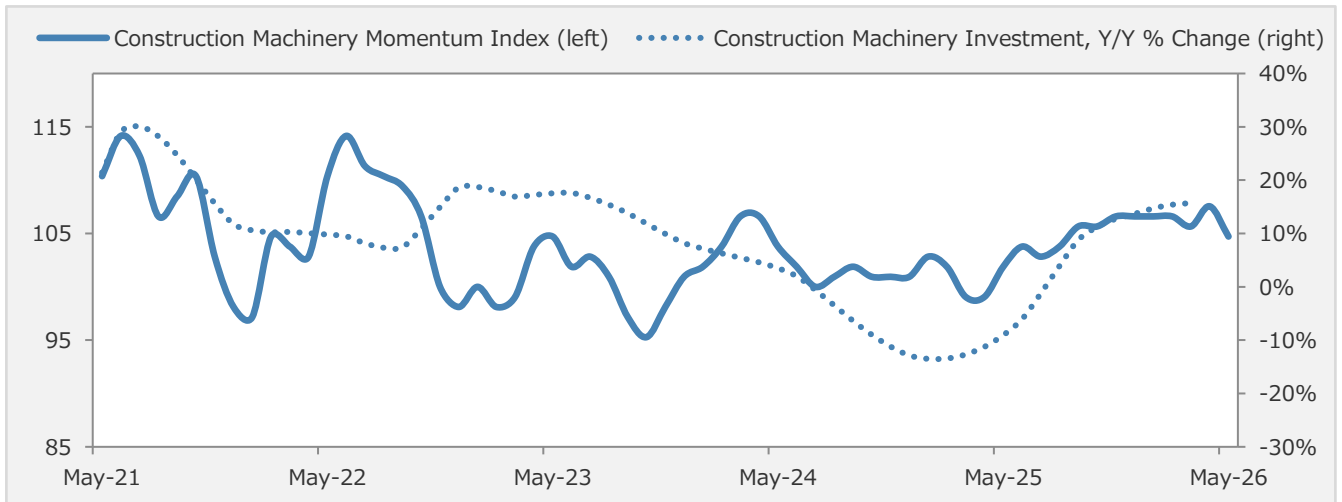
### Current and Previous Readings



# U.S. Equipment & Software Investment Momentum Monitor

## Construction Machinery

Investment in Construction Machinery rose 11% (annualized) in Q1 2026 and is now 16% above its year-ago level. The Construction Machinery Momentum Index decreased from 107.5 (revised) in April to 104.7 in May. The Index declined due to a 25% M/M contraction in multifamily housing permits in March, which offset a 1.6% M/M increase in construction machinery shipments in the same month. Overall, the Index's position suggests that annual growth in construction machinery investment may have peaked in Q1 and will begin to even out over the next six months.



### Summary of Current Conditions

Historical Strength of Vertical Momentum	
Historical Strength of Investment Growth	
Investment Growth (Y/Y)	<b>+15.7%</b>
Investment Growth (Q/Q, SAAR)	<b>+10.9%</b>
Vertical Investment (SAAR)	<b>\$52.2 Billion</b>
Share of Total Investment	<b>2.1%</b>

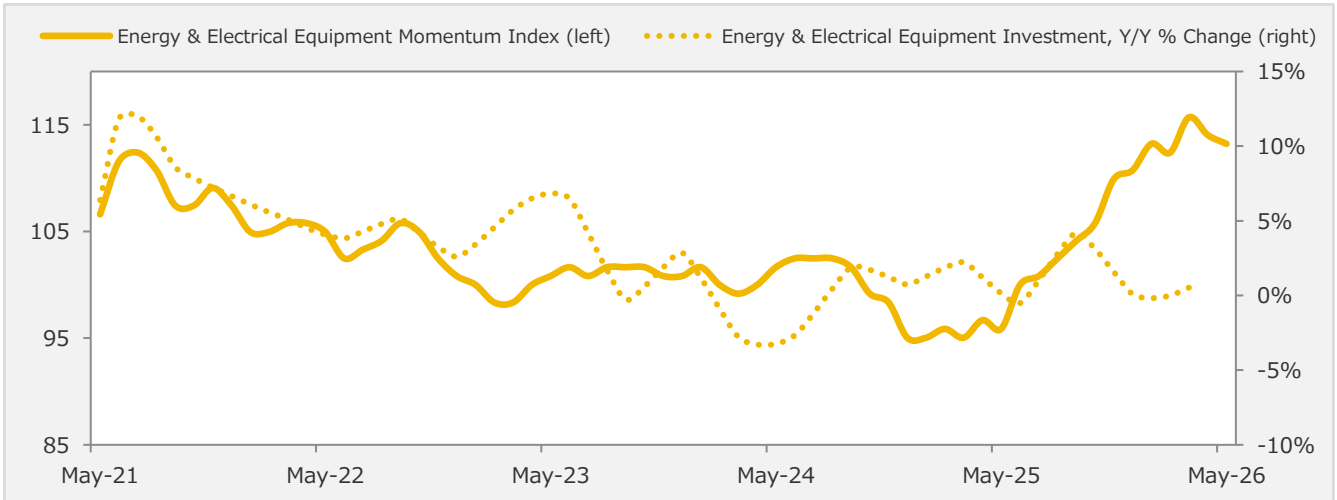
### Current and Previous Readings



# U.S. Equipment & Software Investment Momentum Monitor

## Energy & Electrical Equipment

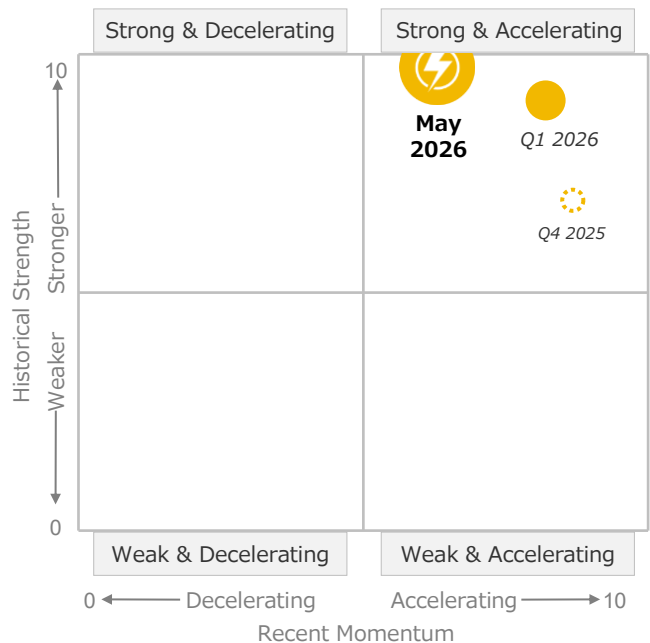
Investment in Energy & Electrical Equipment grew 2.6% (annualized) in Q1 2026 and edged up 0.5% Y/Y. The Energy & Electrical Momentum Index inched down from 114.0 (revised) in April to 113.2 in May. Recent signals are mixed: the Economic Policy Uncertainty Index fell 21% M/M in April (a positive sign for investment) while New Orders of Mining and Oilfield Machinery fell 16% M/M in March. Although the Index ticked down from last month, momentum remains strong by historical standards, suggesting that annual growth in energy & electrical equipment investment should improve over the next two quarters.



### Summary of Current Conditions

Historical Strength of Vertical Momentum	
Historical Strength of Investment Growth	
Investment Growth (Y/Y)	<b>+0.5%</b>
Investment Growth (Q/Q, SAAR)	<b>+2.6%</b>
Vertical Investment (SAAR)	<b>\$82.0 Billion</b>
Share of Total Investment	<b>3.4%</b>

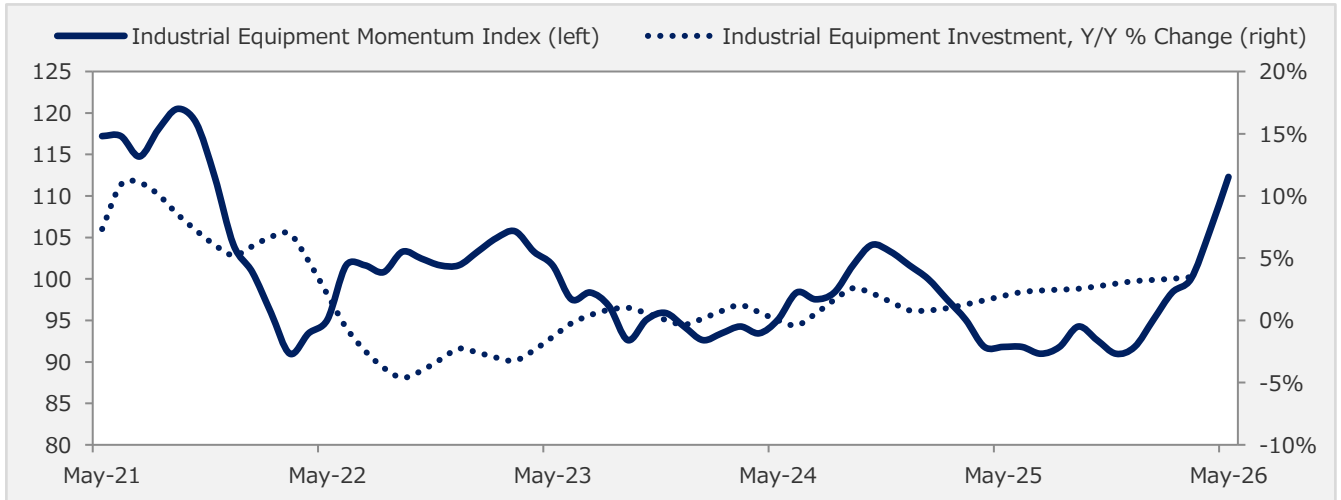
### Current and Previous Readings



# U.S. Equipment & Software Investment Momentum Monitor

## Industrial Equipment

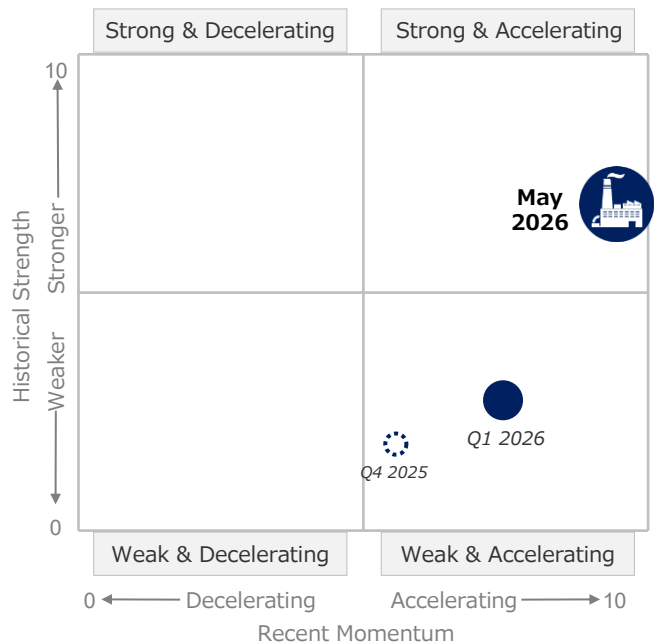
Investment in Industrial Equipment rose 5.7% (annualized) in Q1 2026 and is now 3.5% above its year-ago level. The Industrial Equipment Momentum Index increased from 105.7 (revised) in April to 112.3 in May. The Index's improvement was driven by a 21% M/M surge in LME Copper Prices and a 36% Y/Y gain in the S&P 500 Industrials Index in April, as well as a 1.2% M/M uptick in durable equipment parts production in March. Overall, the Index continues to suggest that annual growth in industrial equipment investment should strengthen over the next two quarters.



### Summary of Current Conditions

Historical Strength of Vertical Momentum	
Historical Strength of Investment Growth	
Investment Growth (Y/Y)	<b>+3.5%</b>
Investment Growth (Q/Q, SAAR)	<b>+5.7%</b>
Vertical Investment (SAAR)	<b>\$206.5 Billion</b>
Share of Total Investment	<b>8.5%</b>

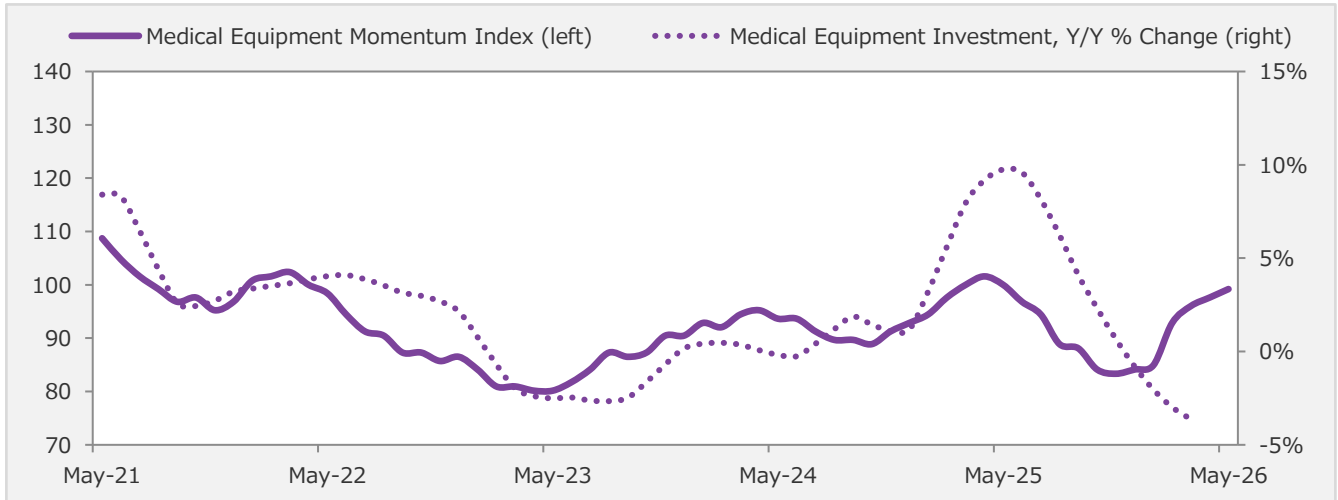
### Current and Previous Readings



# U.S. Equipment & Software Investment Momentum Monitor

## Medical Equipment

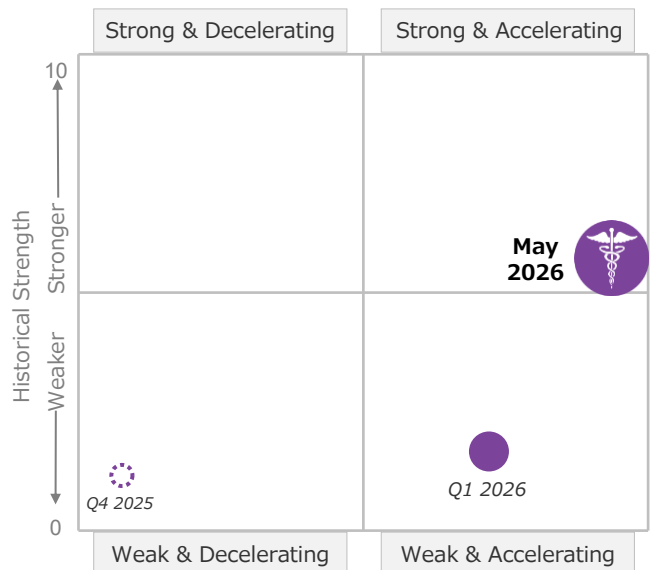
Investment in Medical Equipment expanded 5.9% (annualized) in Q1 2026 but is down 3.6% from its year-ago level. The Medical Equipment Momentum Index grew from 97.6 (revised) in April to 99.2 in May. The Index was pushed higher by a 1.7% M/M increase in industrial production of medical equipment and a 6.5% Y/Y rise in medical products consumer spending in March; these offset a recent contraction in hourly earnings in health & education occupations. Overall, recent momentum suggests that annual growth in medical equipment investment should begin to bounce back over the next six months.



### Summary of Current Conditions

Historical Strength of Vertical Momentum	
Historical Strength of Investment Growth	
Investment Growth (Y/Y)	<b>-3.6%</b>
Investment Growth (Q/Q, SAAR)	<b>+5.9%</b>
Vertical Investment (SAAR)	<b>\$121.0 Billion</b>
Share of Total Investment	<b>5.0%</b>

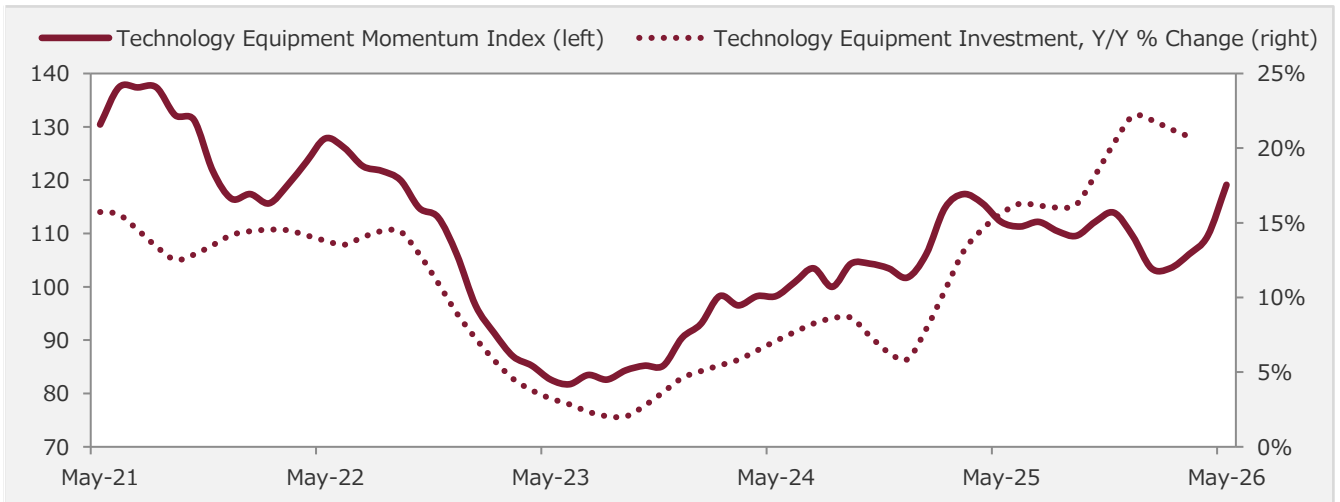
### Current and Previous Readings



# U.S. Equipment & Software Investment Momentum Monitor

## Technology Equipment & Software

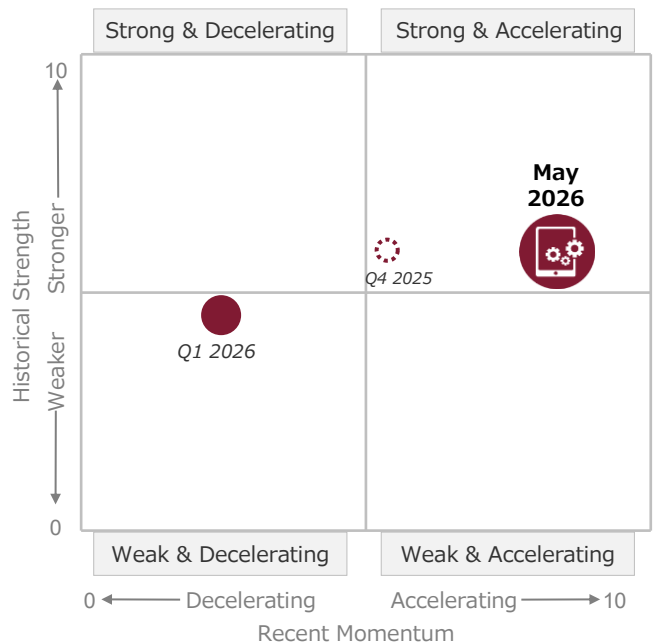
Investment in Technology Equipment & Software surged 34% (annualized) in Q1 2026 and is up 21% on an annual basis. The Technology Equipment & Software Momentum Index jumped from 109.6 (revised) in April to 119.1 in May. Multiple indicators contributed to the Index's rise, including the S&P 500 Information Technology Index (+50% Y/Y in April), shipments of communication equipment (+20% Y/Y in March), and consumer prices for computer and software accessories (+12% Y/Y in March). Looking ahead, the Index suggests continued strong annual growth in technology equipment and software investment over the next two quarters.



### Summary of Current Conditions

Historical Strength of Vertical Momentum	
Historical Strength of Investment Growth	
Investment Growth (Y/Y)	<b>+20.8%</b>
Investment Growth (Q/Q, SAAR)	<b>+34.1%</b>
Vertical Investment (SAAR)	<b>\$1.5 Trillion</b>
Share of Total Investment	<b>61.7%</b>

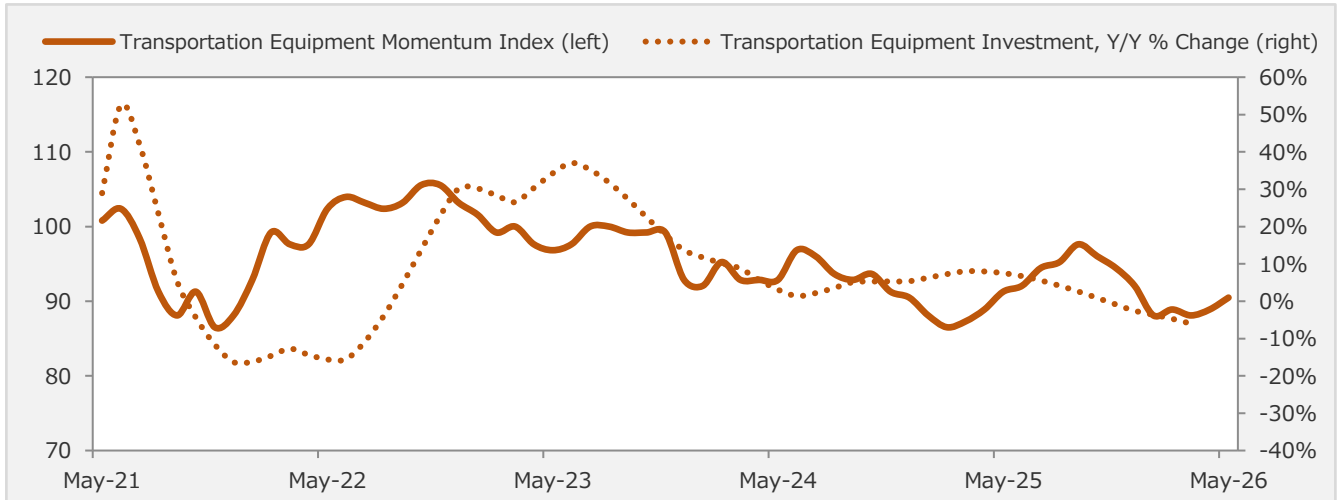
### Current and Previous Readings



# U.S. Equipment & Software Investment Momentum Monitor

## Transportation Equipment

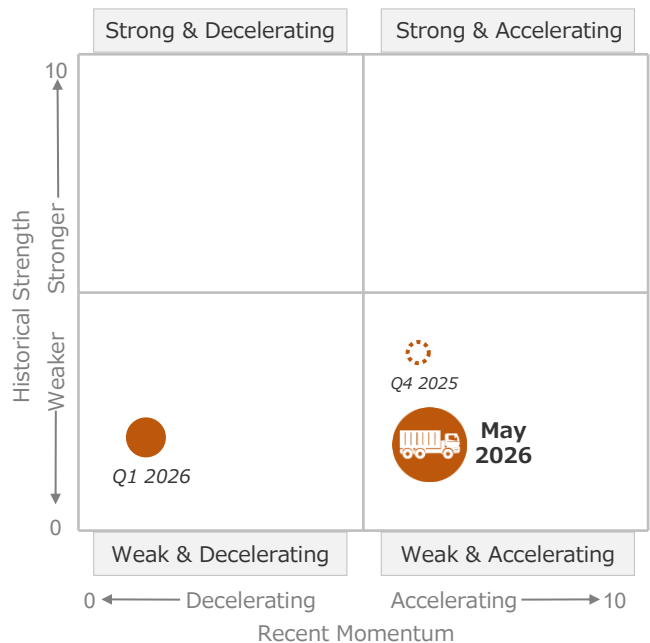
Investment in Transportation Equipment contracted 9.2% (annualized) in Q1 2026 and is down 6.0% on an annual basis. The Transportation Equipment Momentum Index edged up from 88.9 (revised) in April to 90.5 in May. In March, exports of computer and electronic product grew 13% M/M and shipments of light trucks rose 4.6% Y/Y, offsetting a 3.2-pt M/M decline in capacity utilization of automobile & light duty motor vehicles. Overall, the Index points to a modest improvement in annual transportation equipment investment growth over the next six months.



### Summary of Current Conditions

Historical Strength of Vertical Momentum	
Historical Strength of Investment Growth	
Investment Growth (Y/Y)	<b>-6.0%</b>
Investment Growth (Q/Q, SAAR)	<b>-9.2%</b>
Vertical Investment (SAAR)	<b>\$286.2 Billion</b>
Share of Total Investment	<b>11.8%</b>

### Current and Previous Readings

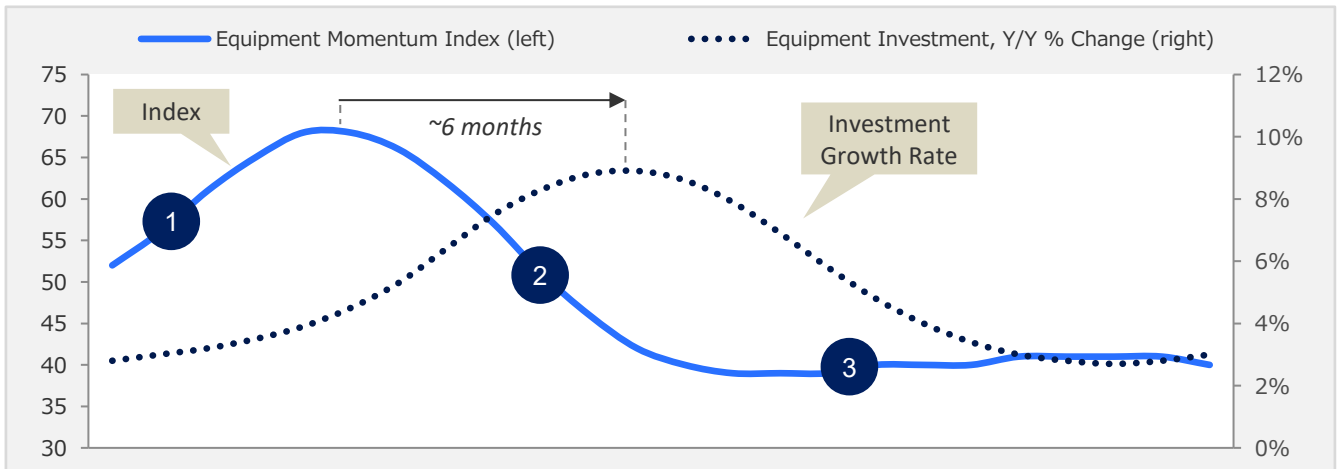


# U.S. Equipment & Software Investment Momentum Monitor

## How to Read the Monitors

Each Momentum Monitor index signals the direction and magnitude of expected growth in equipment investment over the next six months. It is important to note that index values do not correspond to specific growth rates. Instead, the Momentum Monitor indices should be interpreted within the context of prior index readings and investment growth. For example, there are several simple rules to follow when examining the latest index values:

- 1 At point 1, the Index is **increasing** and signals that **investment is likely to accelerate** over the next six months. Notice in the chart below that the bold blue line (the Index) peaks first, followed by investment growth (the dotted dark blue line).
- 2 At point 2, the Index is **decreasing** and signals that **investment is likely to decelerate/weaken** over the next six months. However, given that investment growth is roughly 8% Y/Y at point 2 (as denoted by the right axis), growth will likely remain positive.
- 3 At point 3, the Index is **relatively flat** and signals that **no significant change in investment** over the next six months.



To help the reader interpret the latest Momentum Monitor signals, a summary report for each equipment vertical follows a specific template:

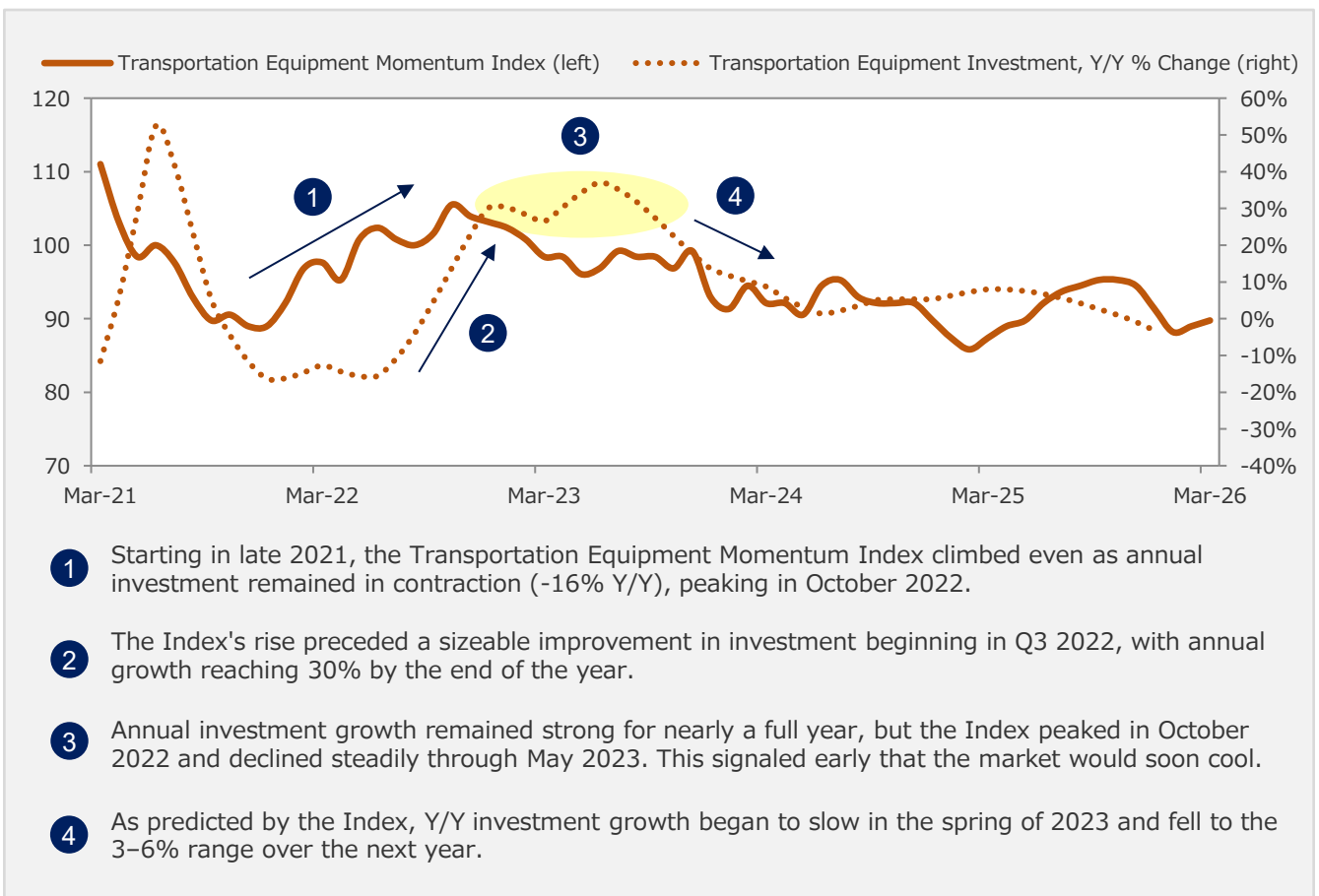
- (1) The first sentence reports the latest annual growth rate for investment in a given equipment vertical, providing context for interpreting the Index's near-term growth signal.
- (2) The second sentence conveys the Index's current reading compared to recent readings.
- (3) The third sentence describes recent movements in key indicators that influenced the Index's latest reading. In many cases, certain indicators will contribute positively to the Index while others will detract from it — the Index reading reflects these offsetting impacts.
- (4) The fourth sentence provides a directional forecast for year-over-year investment growth over the next two quarters based on the Index's recent movement and historical strength.

# U.S. Equipment & Software Investment Momentum Monitor

## How to Use the Monitors

The Momentum Monitor is designed to provide an accurate and reliable signal of turning points in the investment cycle for seven equipment verticals, making it a valuable leading indicator for the equipment finance industry. ELFA members can use forward-looking Momentum Monitor data to assess their portfolios against likely future trends in equipment investment activity. In practice, this could mean setting more aggressive growth targets for specific types of equipment during times of relative strength or tempering expectations and scaling back or delaying expansion plans during times of relative weakness. Firms that read the Momentum Monitor each month and use it to inform their strategic planning will be better positioned to quickly adapt to changing market conditions as they emerge.

For example, the May 2022 Momentum Index for Transportation Equipment pointed to improving growth in annual transportation equipment investment over the next six months. A prediction that turned out to be accurate, as investment went from -16% Y/Y in May 2022 to a peak of 37% Y/Y in June 2023.



Importantly, the Momentum Monitor is most powerful when paired with complementary data sources. Broad indicators like GDP provide context for overall business conditions while sector-specific data like ELFA's [CapEx Finance Index](#) (CFI) and [Monthly Confidence Index](#) (MCI-EFI) can support or temper expectations set by the Monitors. The CFI, in particular, has been shown to be a leading indicator for economic forecasting. Used together, these tools help ELFA members interpret current market conditions, anticipate near-turn upswings and downswings, and ultimately make better business decisions using economic data.

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