



MEASURING POPULATION BELIEFS TO PREDICT & CHANGE BEHAVIOR

*“In the midst of chaos, there is also opportunity”*

*-Sun Tzu, Art of War*

## Belief3 - Key points

Longitudinal data: Forecast + Free text

Timing: Every two weeks

**December 11, 2024**

December 25, 2024

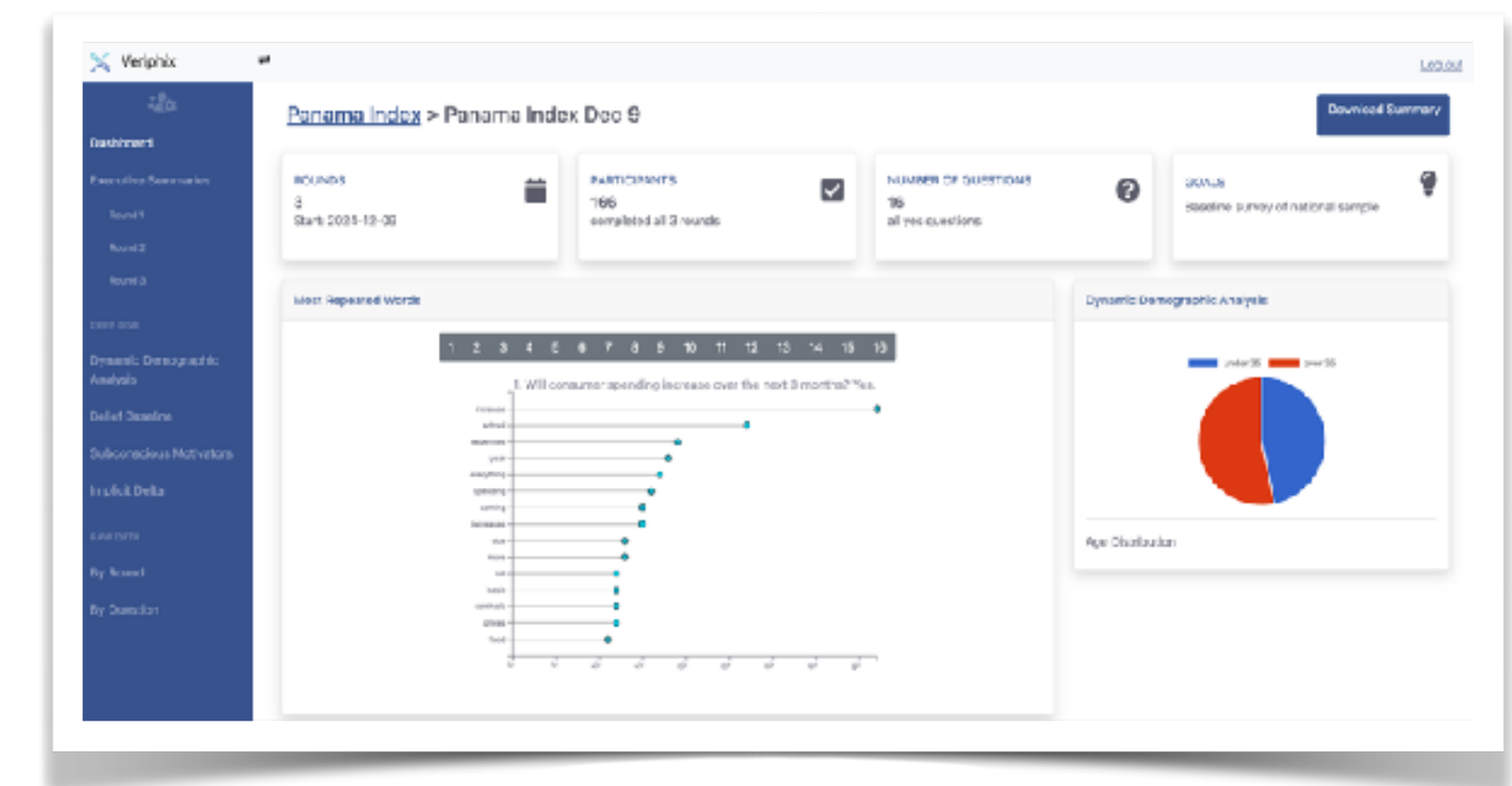
January 9, 2025

**January 23, 2025**

Panel: General population

Topics: 16 topics

Question format: Issue increasing in 3 months w/ "yes" bias



***We are not experts on Panama.***

***We report out the data and insights generated by the tool.***



## Topics

Consumer spending

Income inequality

Employment of Panamanians

Labor union affiliation

Social media use

Crime

People's satisfaction with public services

Trust in the Panamanian government

Traffic through the Panama Canal

Crypto currency popularity

Immigration to the United States

Drug trade

Human trafficking

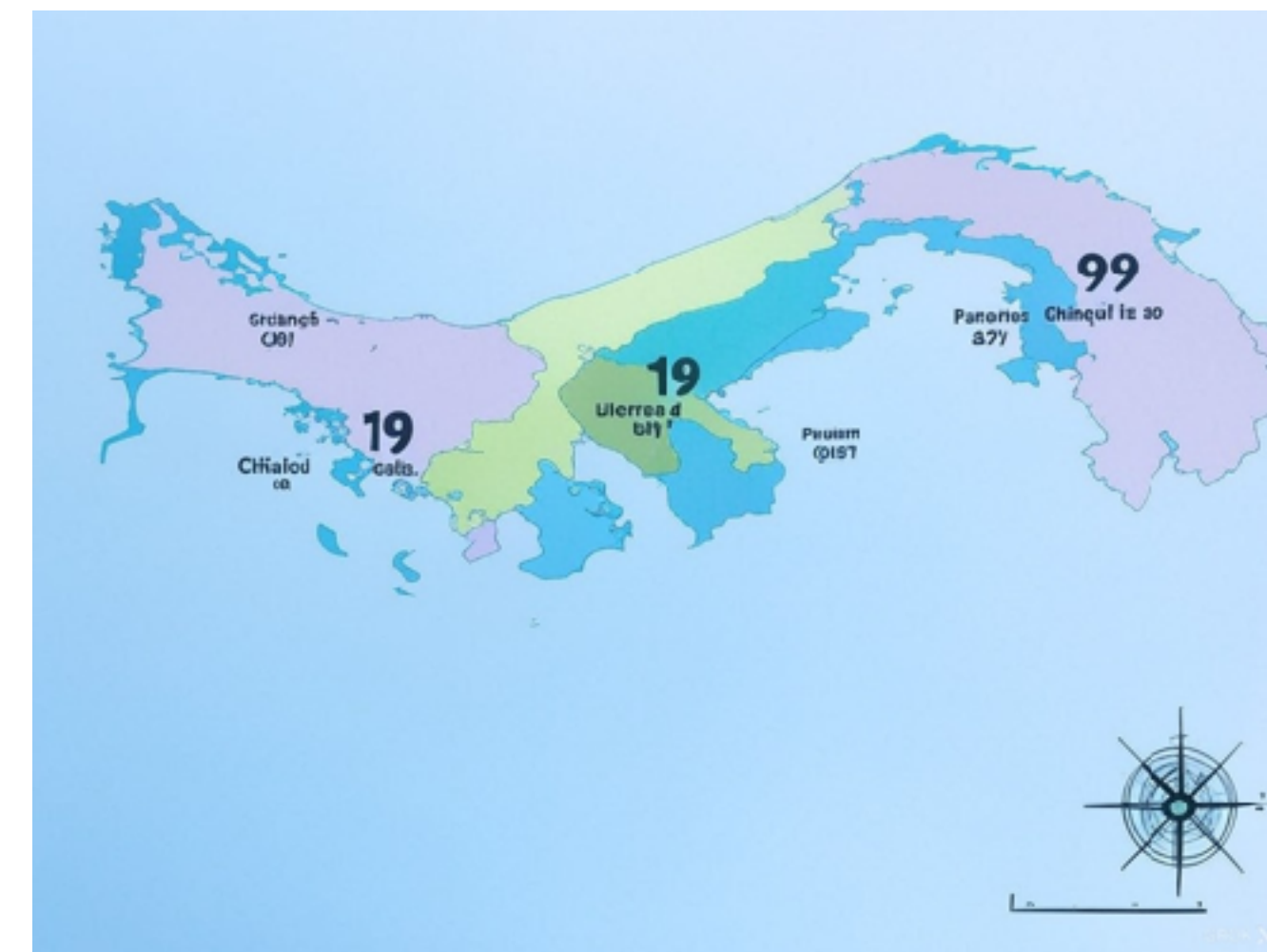
Relations with the U.S.

Relations with China

Relations with Russia

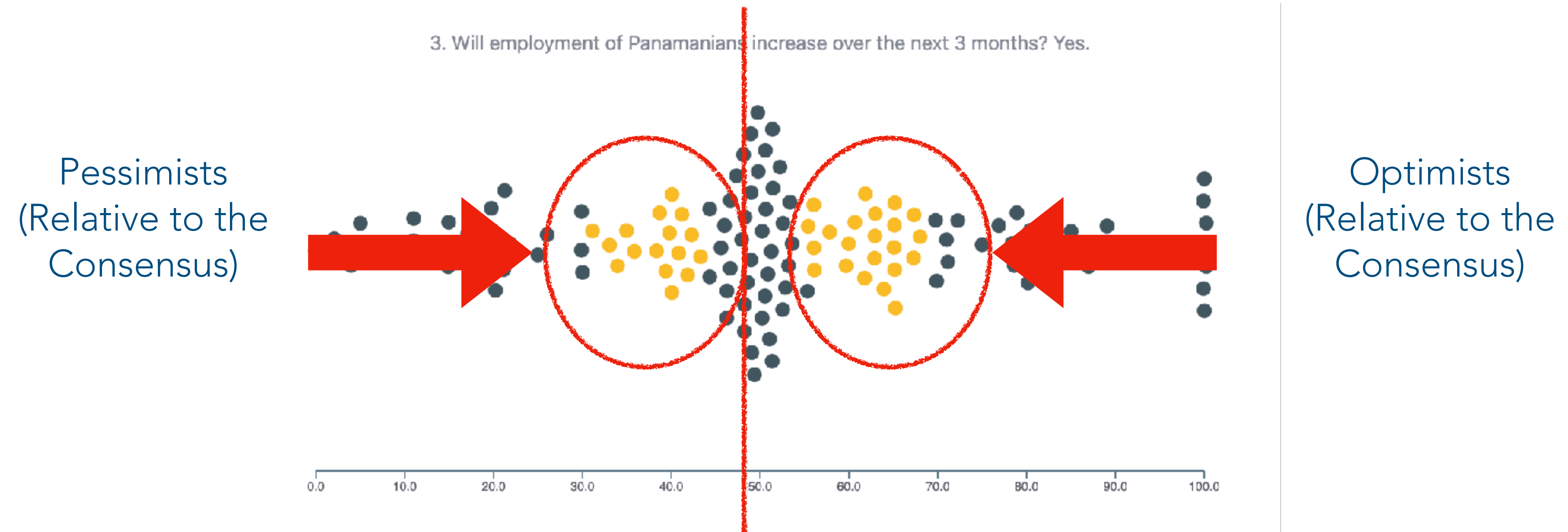
## The data primarily represented the belief in Panamá

- Panamá: 99 times
- Panamá Oeste: 27 times
- Chiriquí: 19 times
- Colón: 8 times
- Coclé: 5 times
- Veraguas: 4 times
- Los Santos: 2 times
- Herrera: 2 times
- Bocas del Toro: 1 time



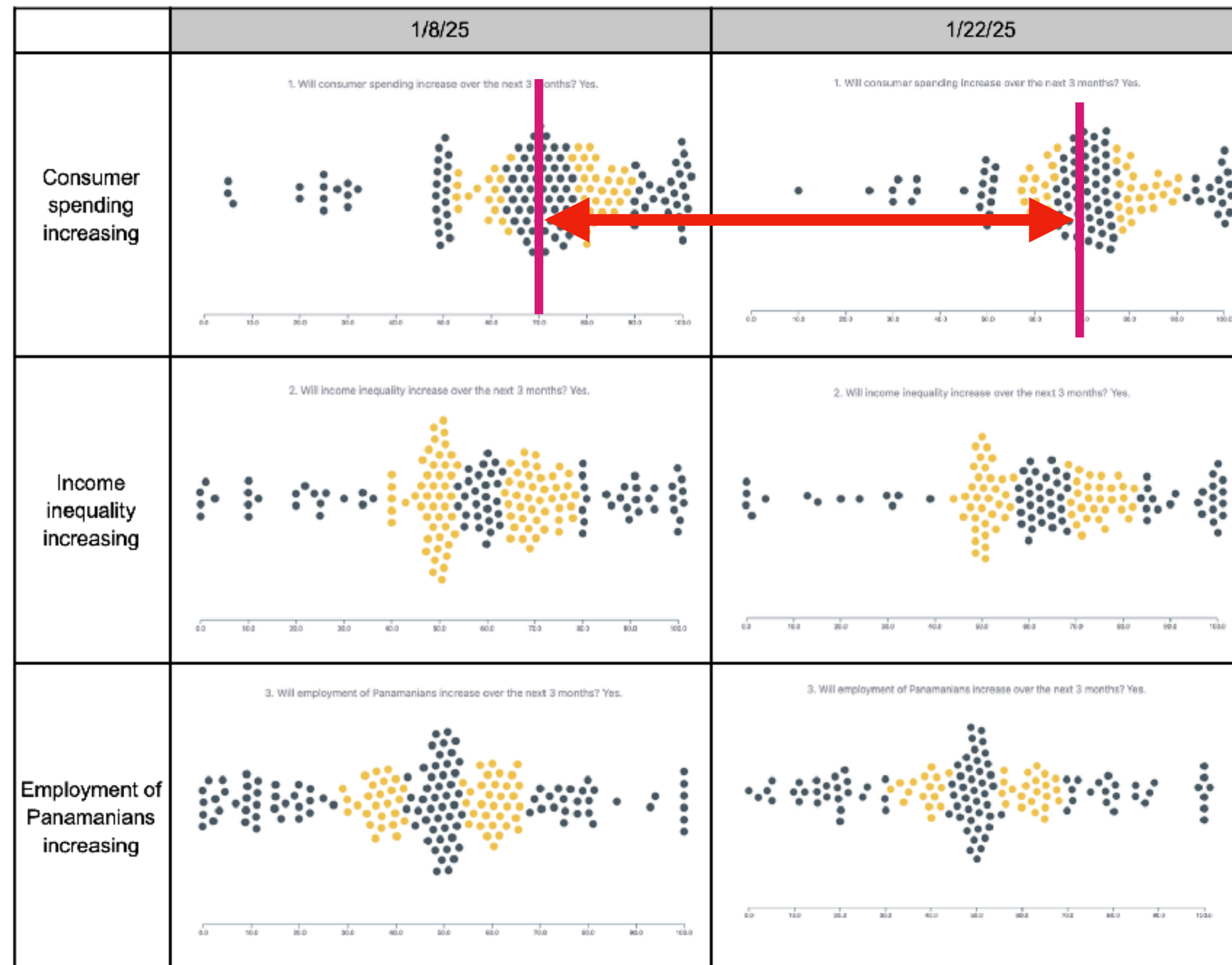
## Definitions

### Consensus of the Panel

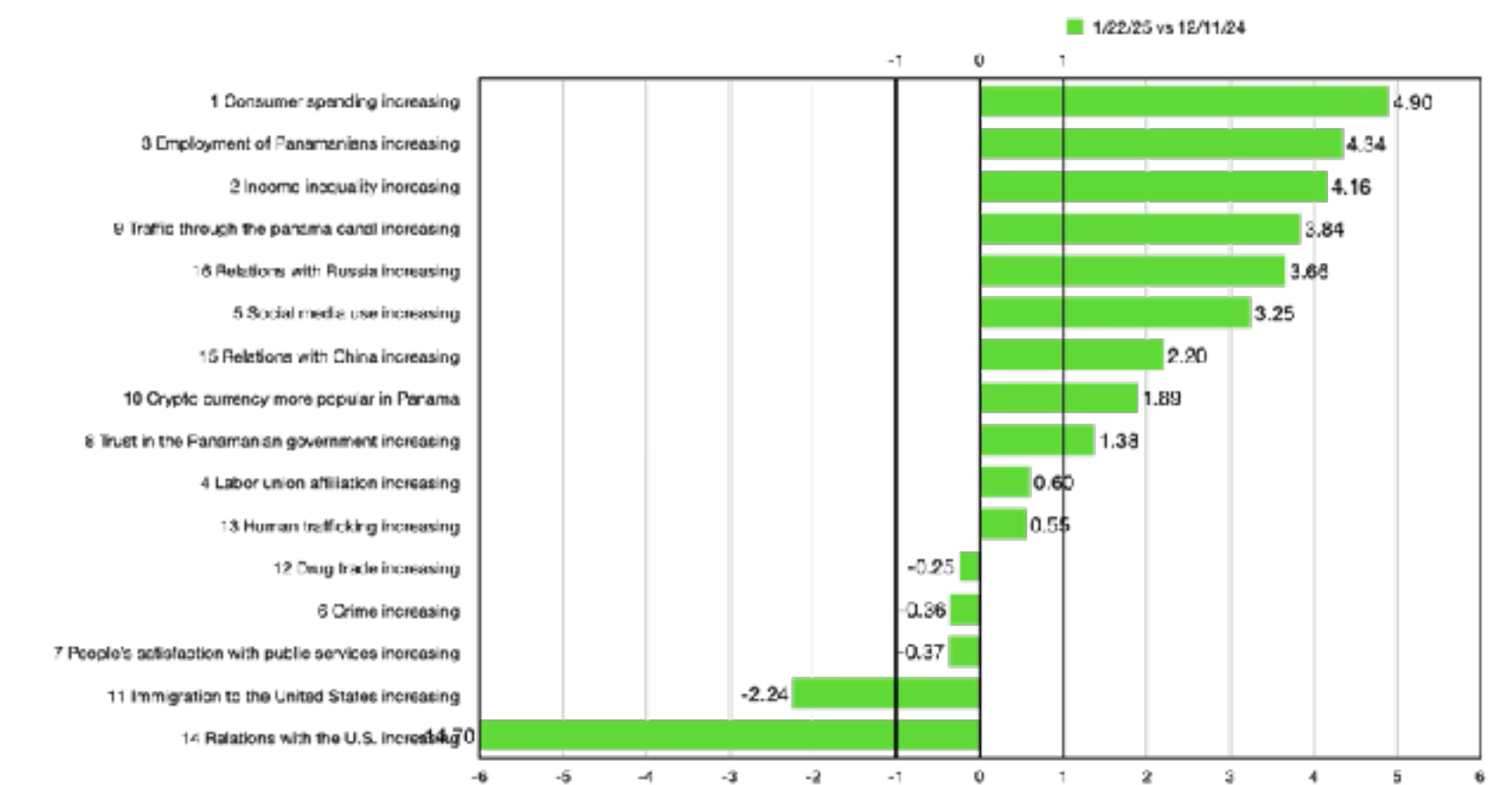




## Definitions



*The change in the Consensus Round-to-Round is “prediction error” and corresponds to belief change*



## Definitions

Consensus of the Panel

Consensus of a demographic

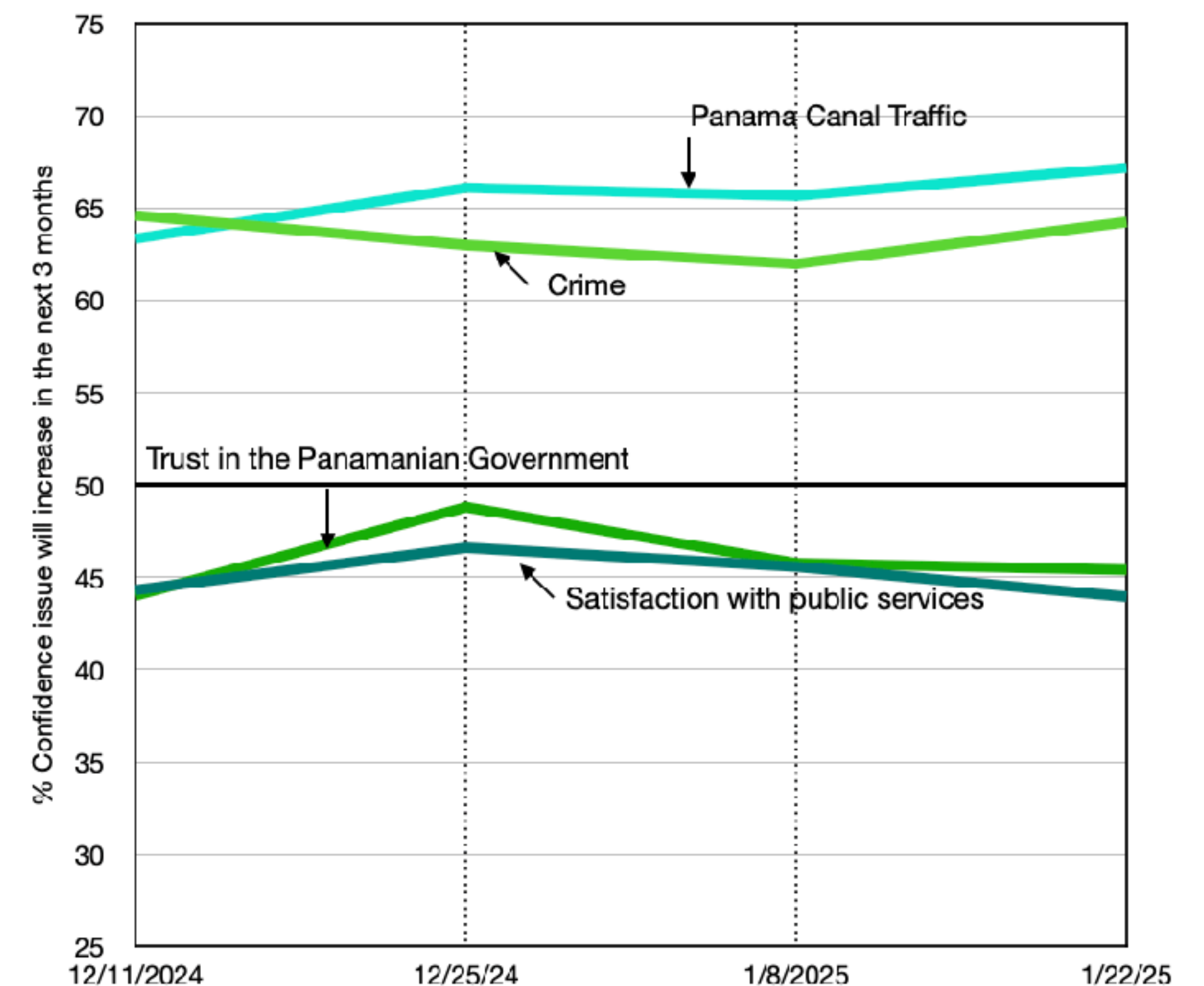
Topic	1/22/2025	Male	Female	Under 35	35 and over
Consumer spending increasing	71.05	70.45	71.79	70.15	71.71
Income inequality increasing	63.05	64.77	60.90	63.71	63.71
Employment of Panamanians increasing	50.18	49.19	51.41	49.39	50.86
Labor union affiliation increasing	45.22	44.96	45.55	46.30	44.29
Social media use increasing	81.21	82.66	79.40	82.85	79.79
Crime increasing	64.24	63.82	64.76	63.48	64.90
People's satisfaction with public services increasing	43.95	42.48	45.81	43.93	43.97
Trust in the Panamanian government increasing	45.4	45.79	44.90	42.59	47.84
Traffic through the Panama Canal increasing	67.18	67.44	66.86	67.00	67.34
Crypto currency more popular in Panama	58	59.00	56.74	58.52	57.54
Immigration to the United States increasing	50.05	49.45	50.79	51.03	49.19
Drug trade increasing	60.93	62.42	59.05	58.79	62.80
Human trafficking increasing	56.11	58.12	53.59	53.75	58.17
Relations with the U.S. increasing	47.41	50.58	43.43	47.82	47.06
Relations with China increasing	59.82	58.93	60.93	59.77	59.86
Relations with Russia increasing	43.09	41.22	45.45	42.52	43.59



# STATE OF PANAMA

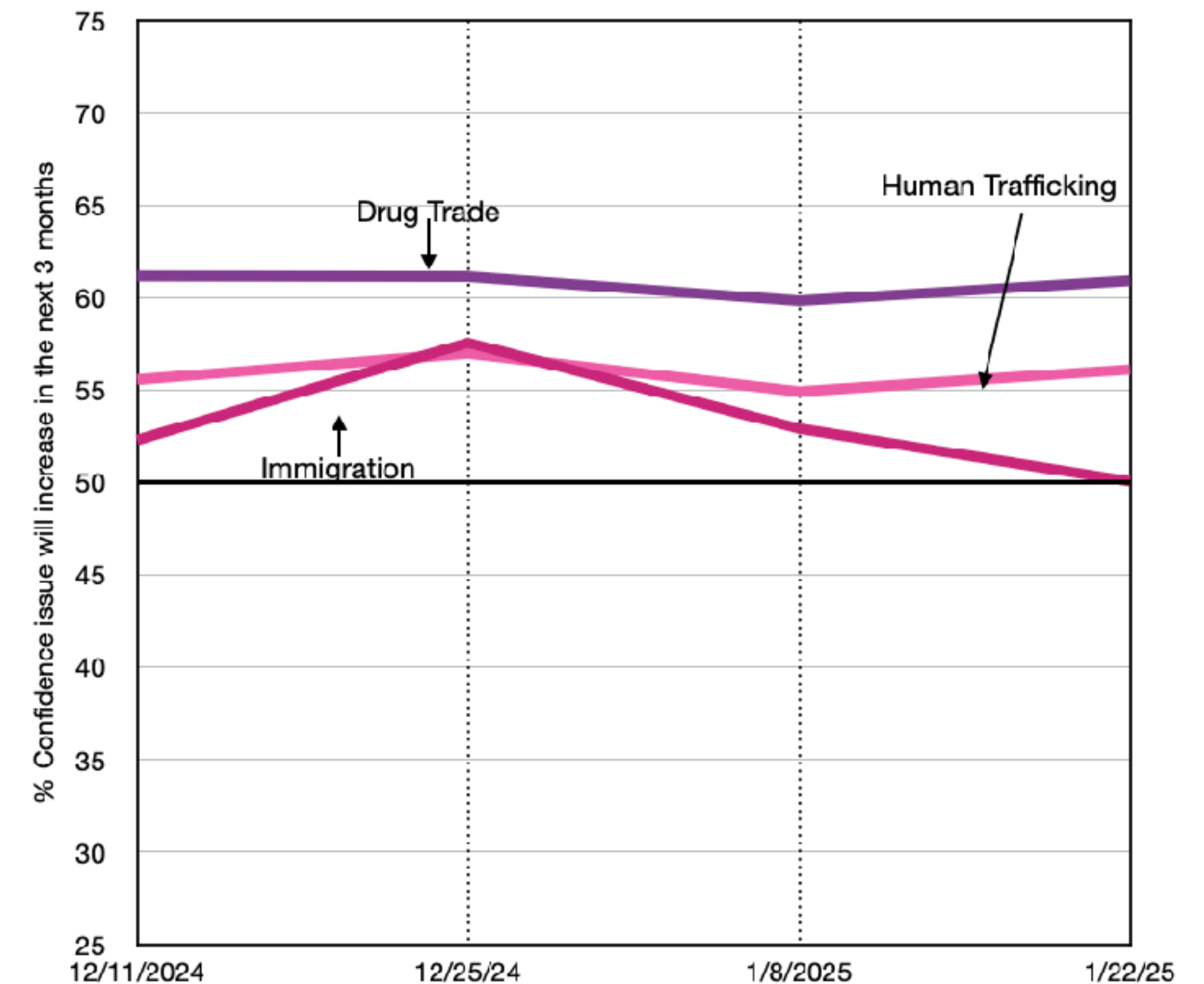
## Trust in the Panamanian Government

- Sub-45% = Potential Instability
  - Under 35 years olds have less trust in government
- **Optimists** see potential for increased trust if the government demonstrates transparency and delivers results.
- **Pessimists** remain doubtful, citing historical distrust, slow progress, and perceived corruption.
- **Trust in Government vs. Crime**
  - Inverse correlation (moderate)



## Drug Trade

- 60+% expect it to **INCREASE**
  - Concerns over poverty, unemployment, and weak enforcement.
  - Male and Over 35 year olds - highest
- **Seasonal luxury business catering to holiday festivities**
- **Optimists** foresee an increase in the drug trade in Panama due to corruption, unemployment, high demand, and insufficient enforcement.
- **Pessimists** argue that the trade will stabilize or even decrease due to improved law enforcement, stronger border security, and external political factors.





## Human Trafficking

- **Males Over 35:** Focus on systemic issues like migration, unemployment, and crime. Their responses are pragmatic, often pointing to structural weaknesses.
- **Males Under 35:** While sharing similar concerns, they express more optimism or ambivalence. Their reasoning often reflects a personal detachment or uncertainty.
- **Females:** Emphasize the vulnerability of specific groups (women and children) and the moral implications of trafficking. Corruption and social inequality are recurring themes.

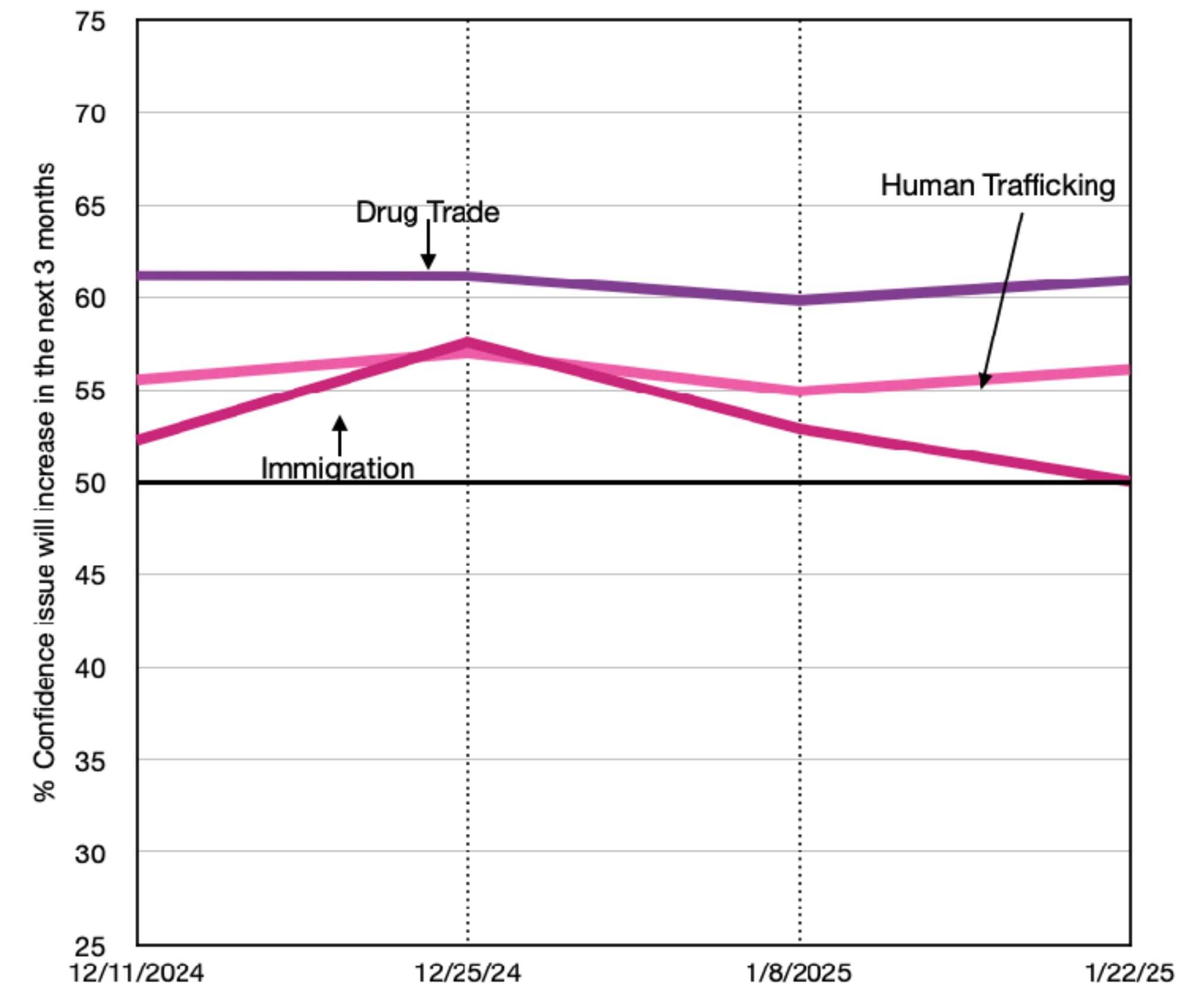
***"For organ trafficking"***

***"I'm not really sure, but I think you shouldn't look the other way, including organ trafficking."***

***"And also organ trafficking."***

## Immigration

- Hovering just above 50%
- Educated, whose awareness illuminates the inadequacies of their country's systems
- Education equips individuals with the tools to critically assess their environment, exposing them to global benchmarks in governance, quality of life, and opportunity.
  - Awareness + Futility + Opportunity
- **Optimists** believe immigration to the U.S. will increase, driven by economic necessity, pursuit of stability, and the allure of the American Dream.
- **Pessimists** foresee stricter immigration policies, uncertainty under the Trump administration, and a shift in migration trends as reasons for reduced immigration.



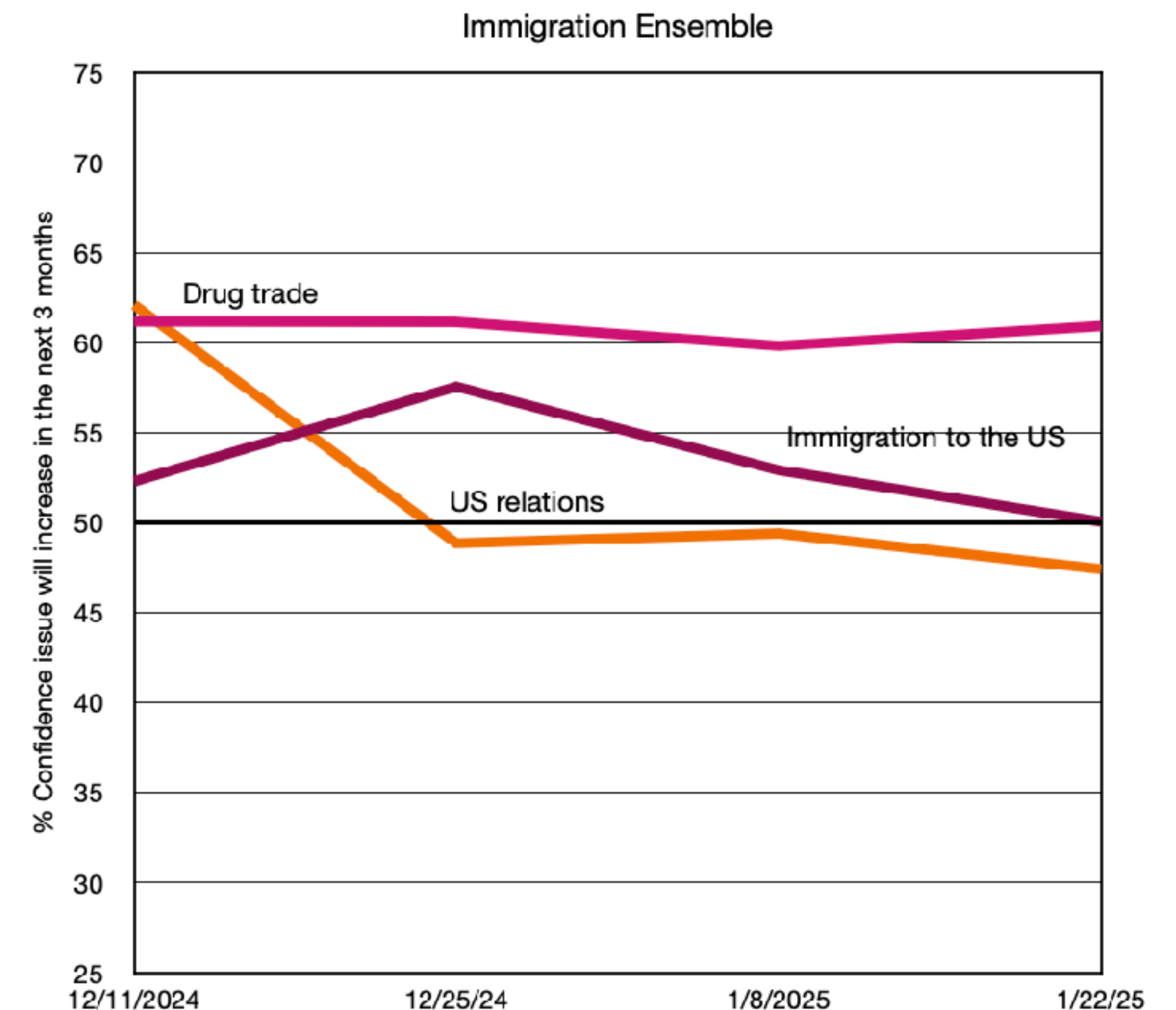
## Immigration - Secondary Issues

### Comparison with Actual immigration at the US Southern Border

**Correlation improved to 0.87** = A correlation this high means the ensemble is a highly reliable predictor of immigration trends, capturing most of the variability in the real-world data.

- **Drug Trade Increasing:** Correlation = 0.71
- **Immigration to the United States Increasing:** Correlation = 0.63
- **Relations with the U.S. Increasing:** Correlation = 0.60

**Note:** Immigration numbers sourced from U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) reports for December 2024 and January 2025, as cited in U.S. News and The New York Post articles.





# Immigration

## Recurring Themes Supporting Increased Immigration

- **Economic Motivations:**
  - Common phrases: “better quality of life,” “American dream,” “poverty,” “unemployment,” “higher incomes,” “economic crisis.”
  - The desire for economic stability and opportunity is a dominant driver of immigration.
- **Political Instability in Home Countries:**
  - Common phrases: “corruption,” “dictatorships,” “conflicts,” “bad governments.”
  - Political turmoil, poor governance, and lack of personal security in origin countries fuel the desire to migrate.
- **Perception of the U.S. as a Land of Opportunity:**
  - Common phrases: “opportunities,” “future,” “improve their lives.”
  - Many view the U.S. as a beacon of hope for a better life, especially when contrasted with the challenges in their home countries.
- **Cultural and Historical Momentum:**
  - Common phrases: “migration will never end,” “route of many Latinos.”
  - Migration is seen as a historical and cultural norm, particularly from Latin America to the U.S.

## Recurring Themes Supporting Decreased Immigration

- **U.S. Immigration Policies:**
  - Common phrases: “new president,” “Trump,” “strict laws,” “tough measures.”
  - Policies perceived as hostile or restrictive are frequently cited as a deterrent to immigration.
- **Fear of Deportation:**
  - Common phrases: “deported,” “return to their countries,” “anti-immigration policies.”
  - Increased deportations or enforcement efforts reduce migration incentives.
- **Geopolitical Barriers:**
  - Common phrases: “closed borders,” “strict measures.”
  - Barriers like the closing of certain migration routes (e.g., Darien Gap) are seen as potential obstacles.
- **Changing Aspirations:**
  - Common phrases: “not looking for the dream anymore,” “European dream.”
  - A shift in focus toward other destinations, such as Europe, suggests diversification of migratory aspirations.

# CHINA ATTACK VECTOR



## Education that leads nowhere

### China's Role in Employment Struggles

China's investments in Panamanian universities have produced graduates with limited domestic job opportunities

The lack of jobs not only deepens income inequality but also drives educated individuals toward emigration.

Meanwhile, the audit of Chinese-operated ports in January 2025 reflected ongoing tensions between national pride and economic reliance on foreign powers

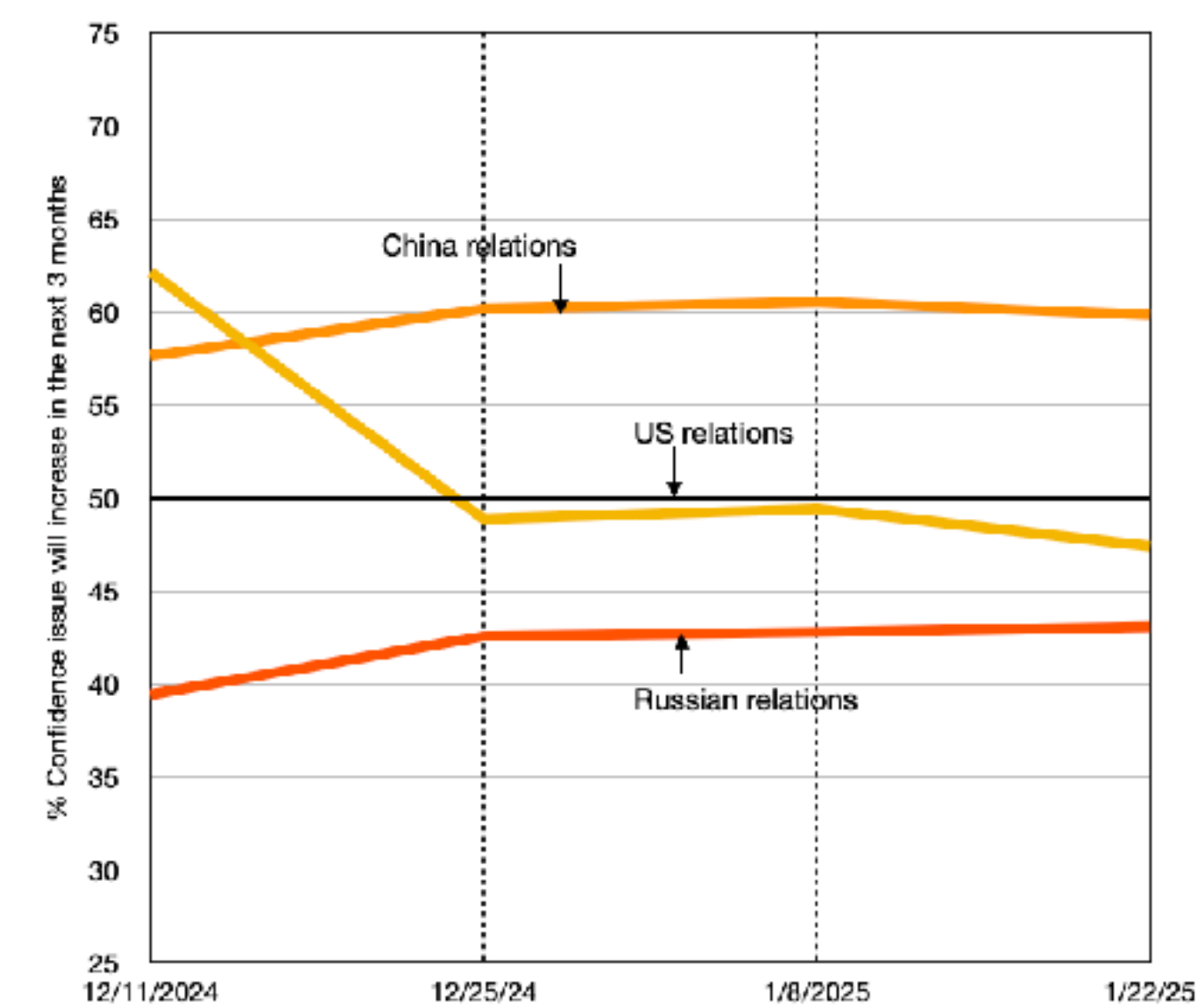
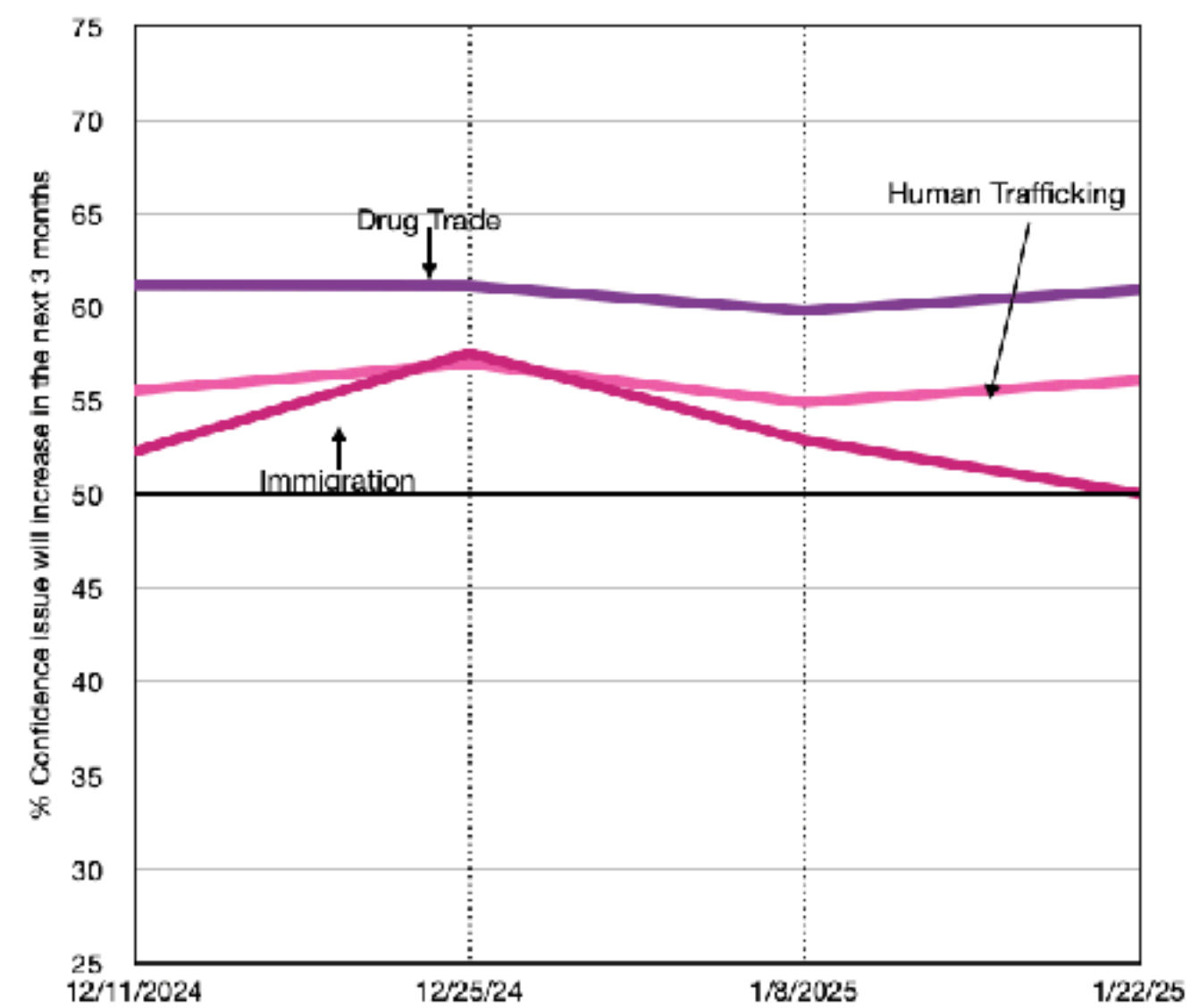
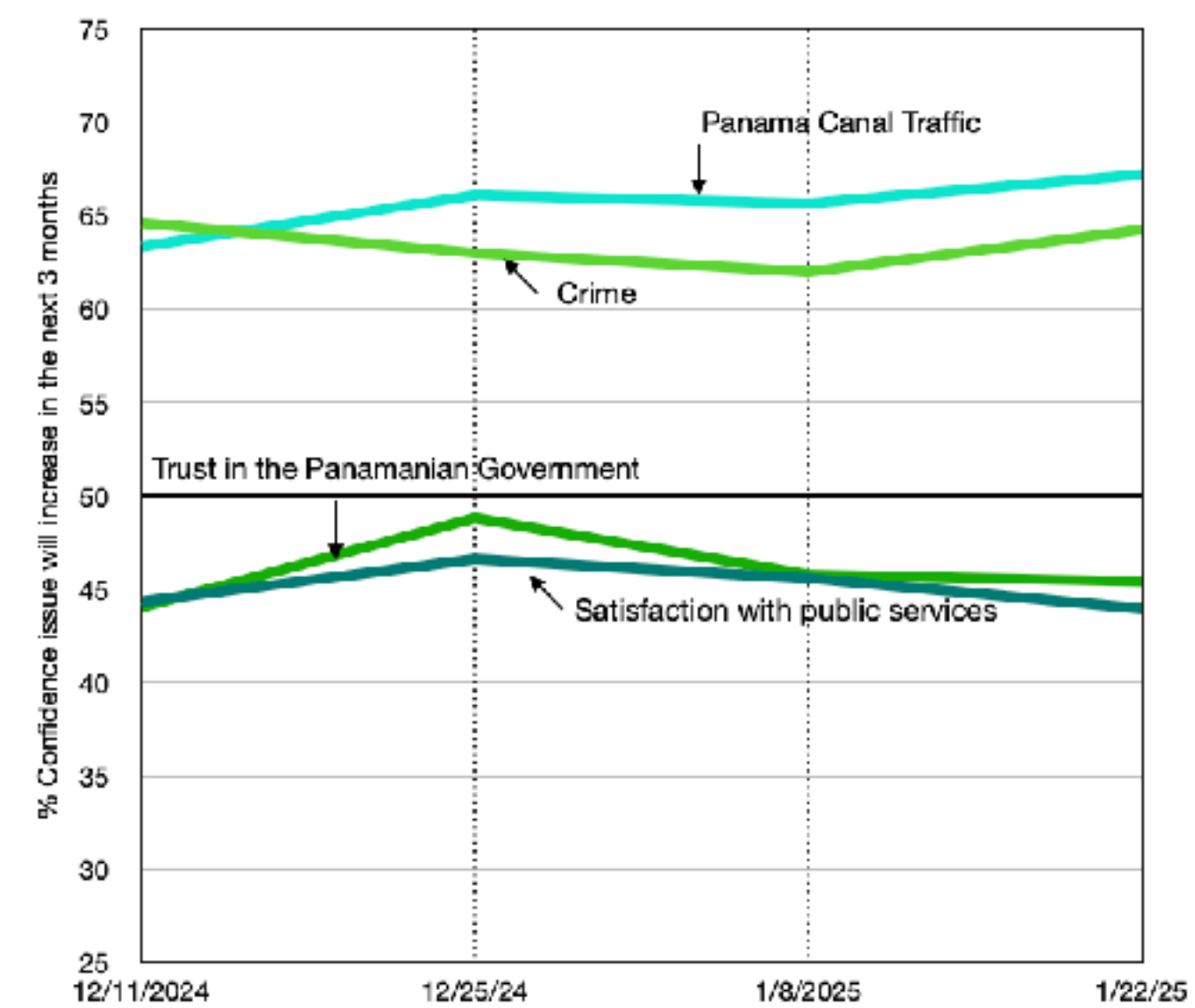
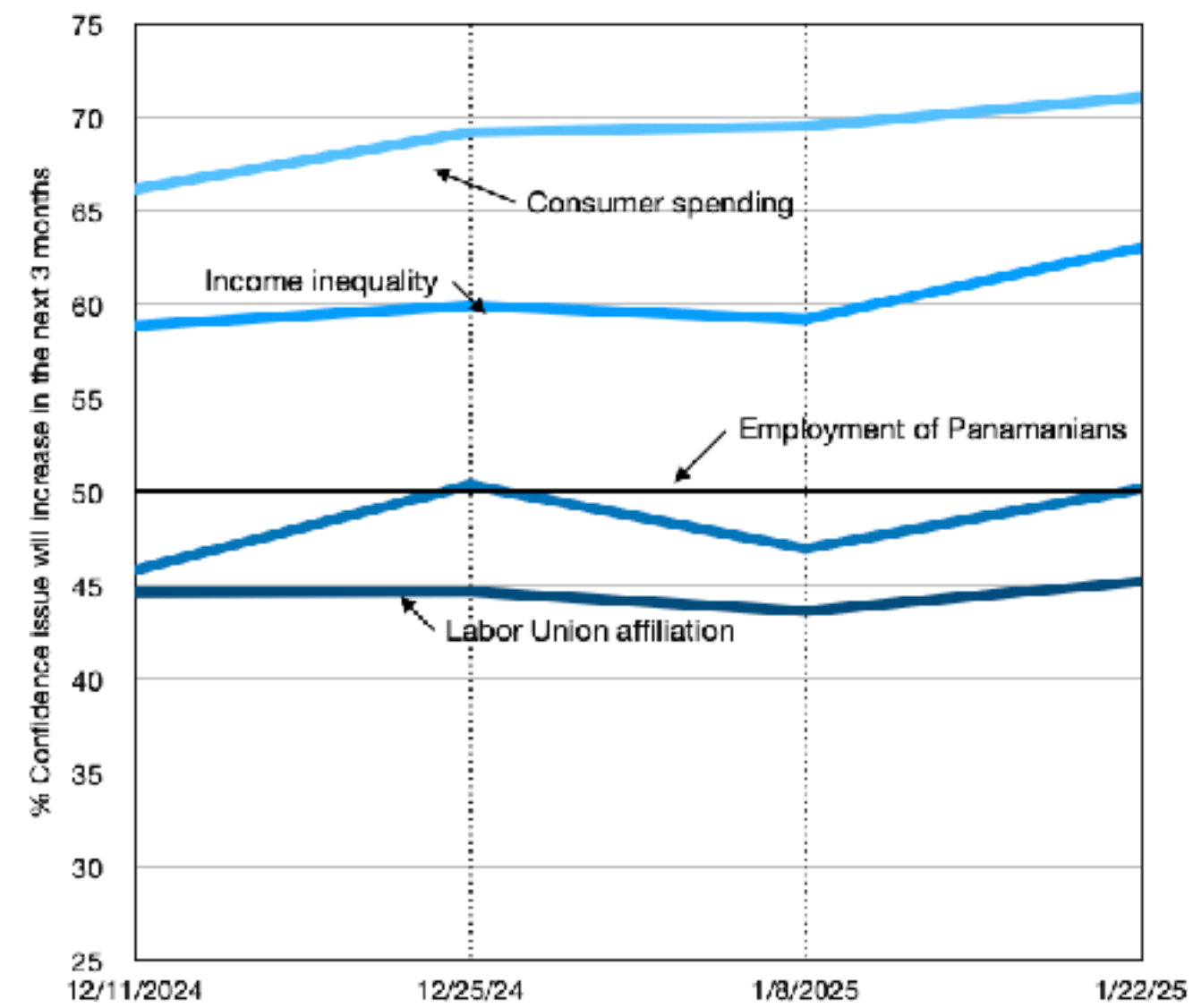


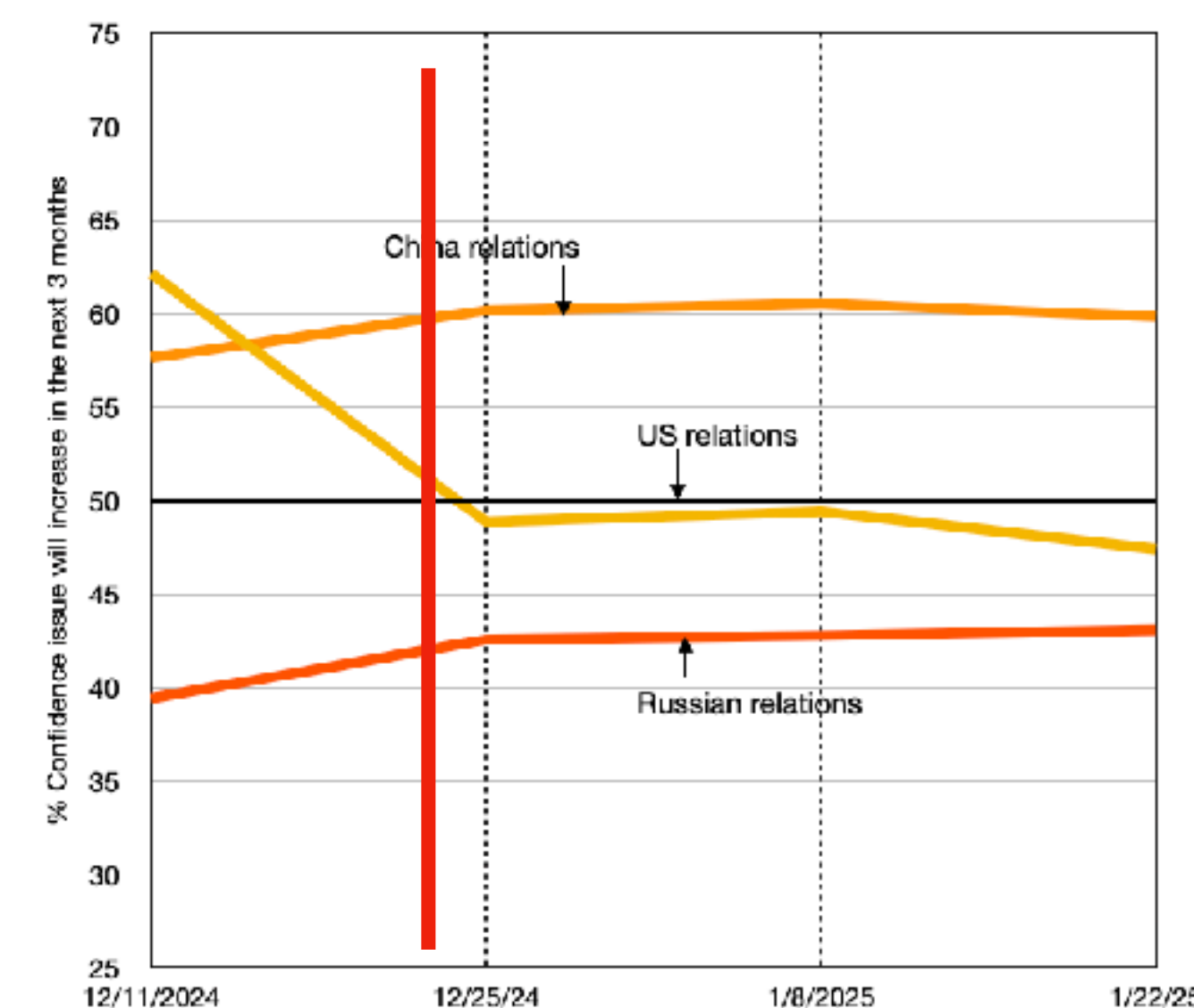
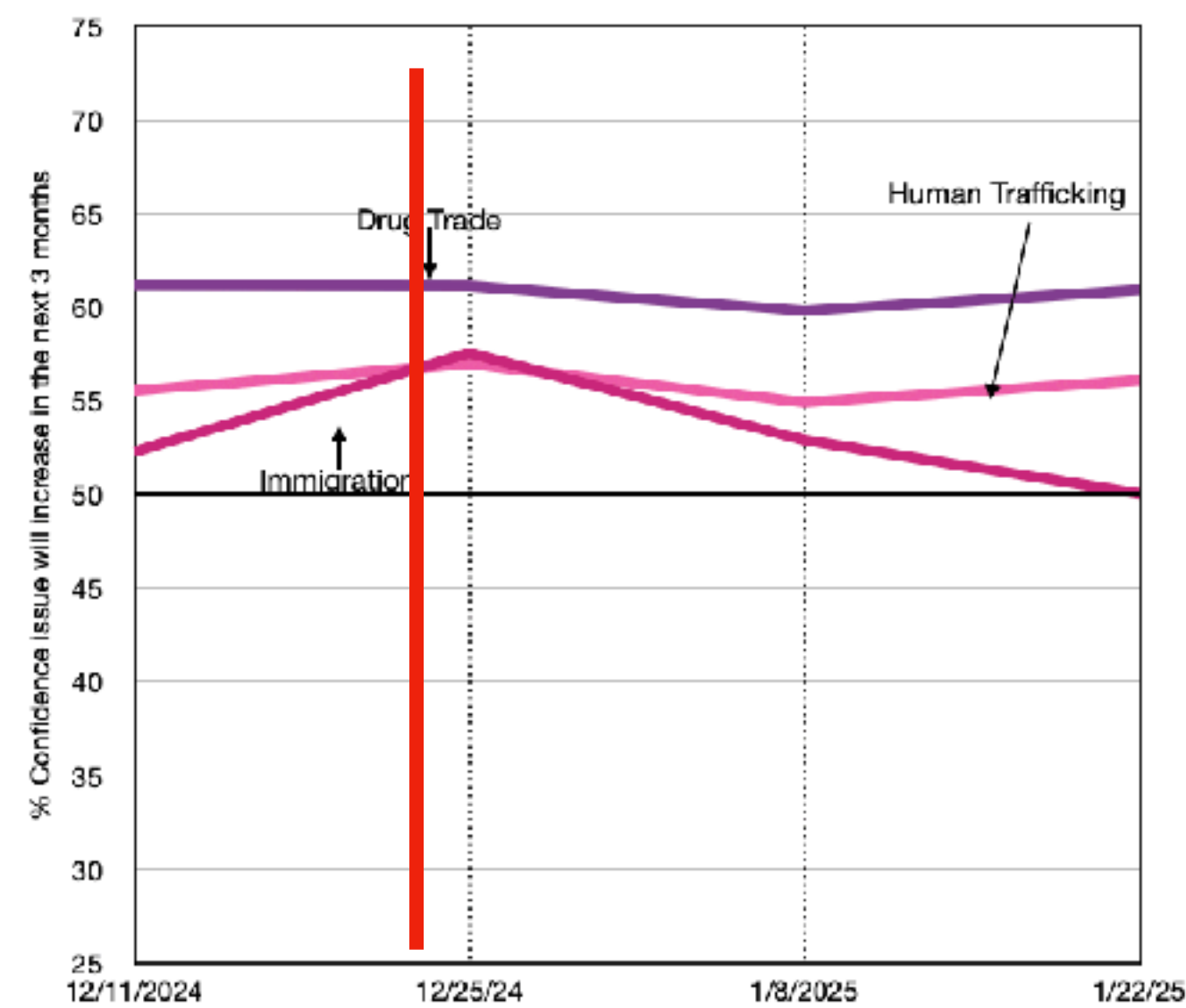
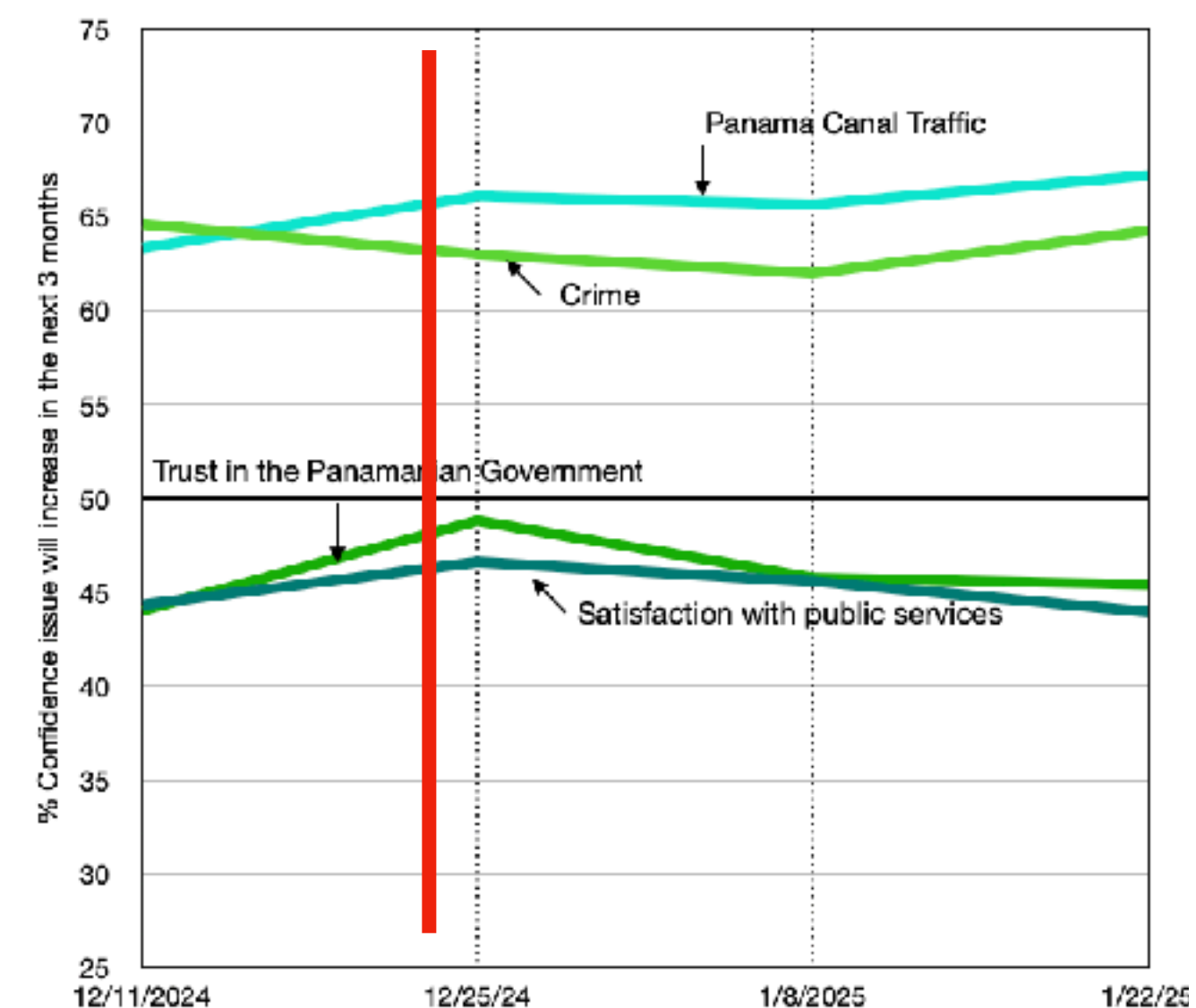
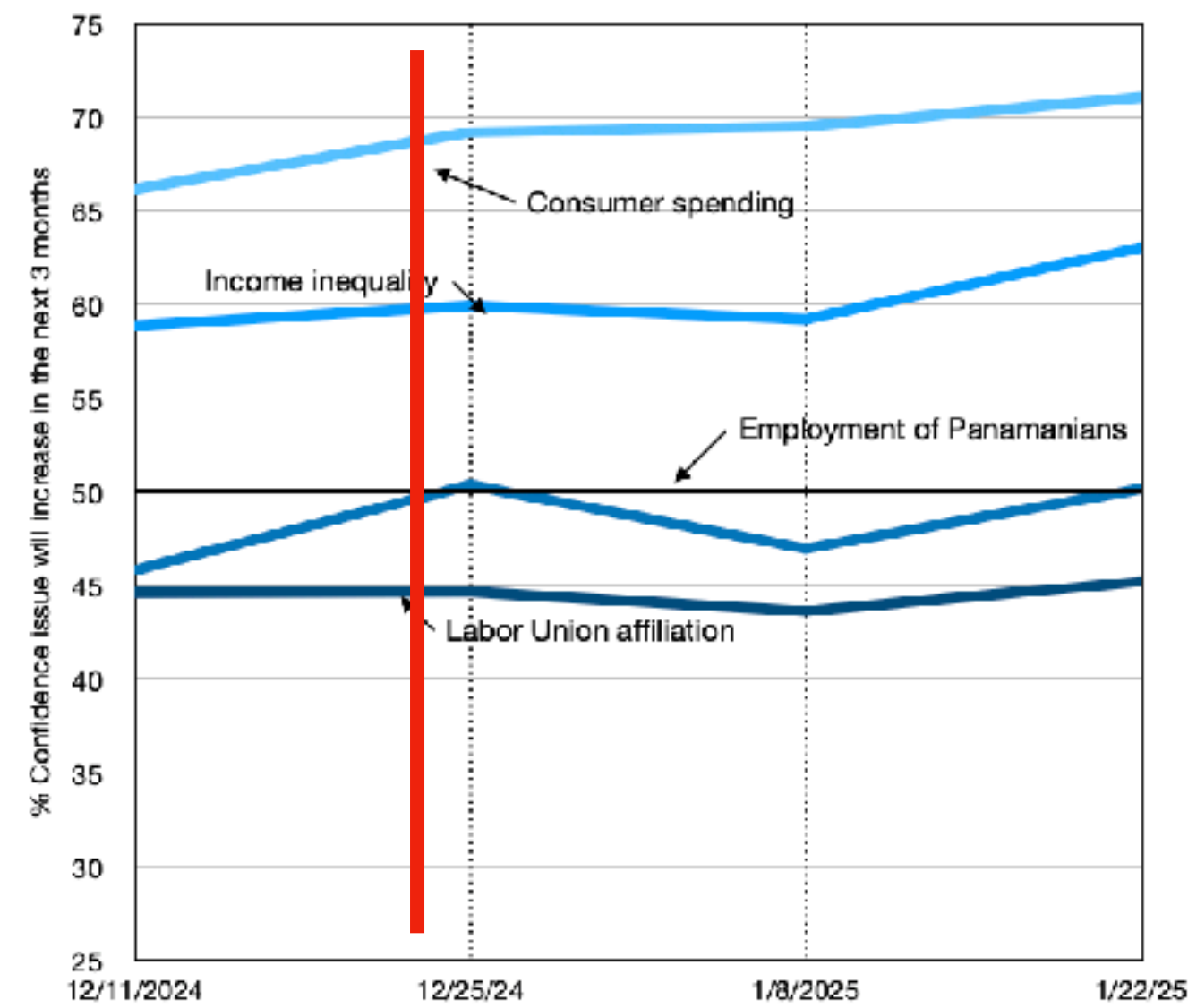
(Meeting with the Vice President and Confucius Institute at the University of Panama)

<https://en.cupl.edu.cn/info/1014/3317.htm>



# IMPACT OF TRUMP



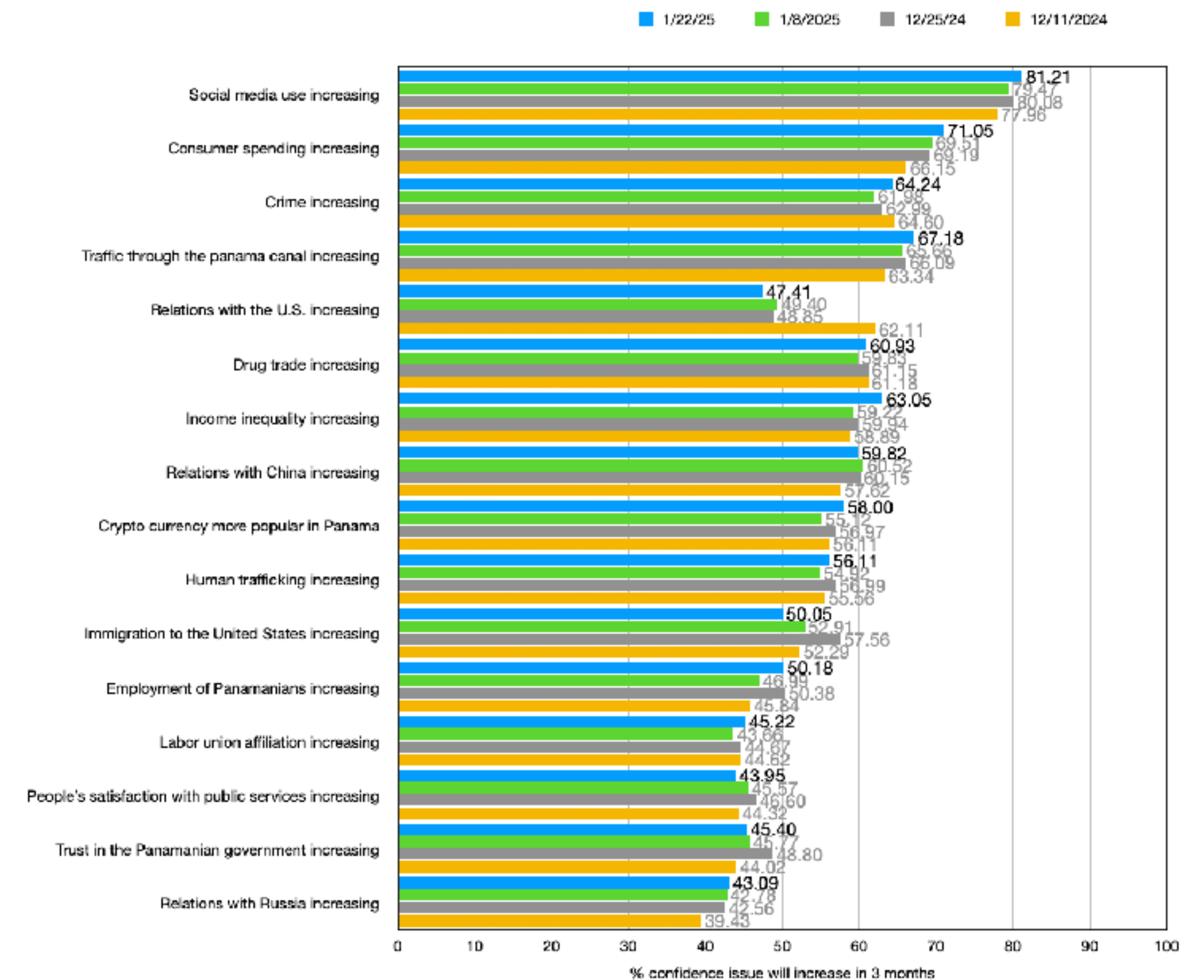


December 21, 2024



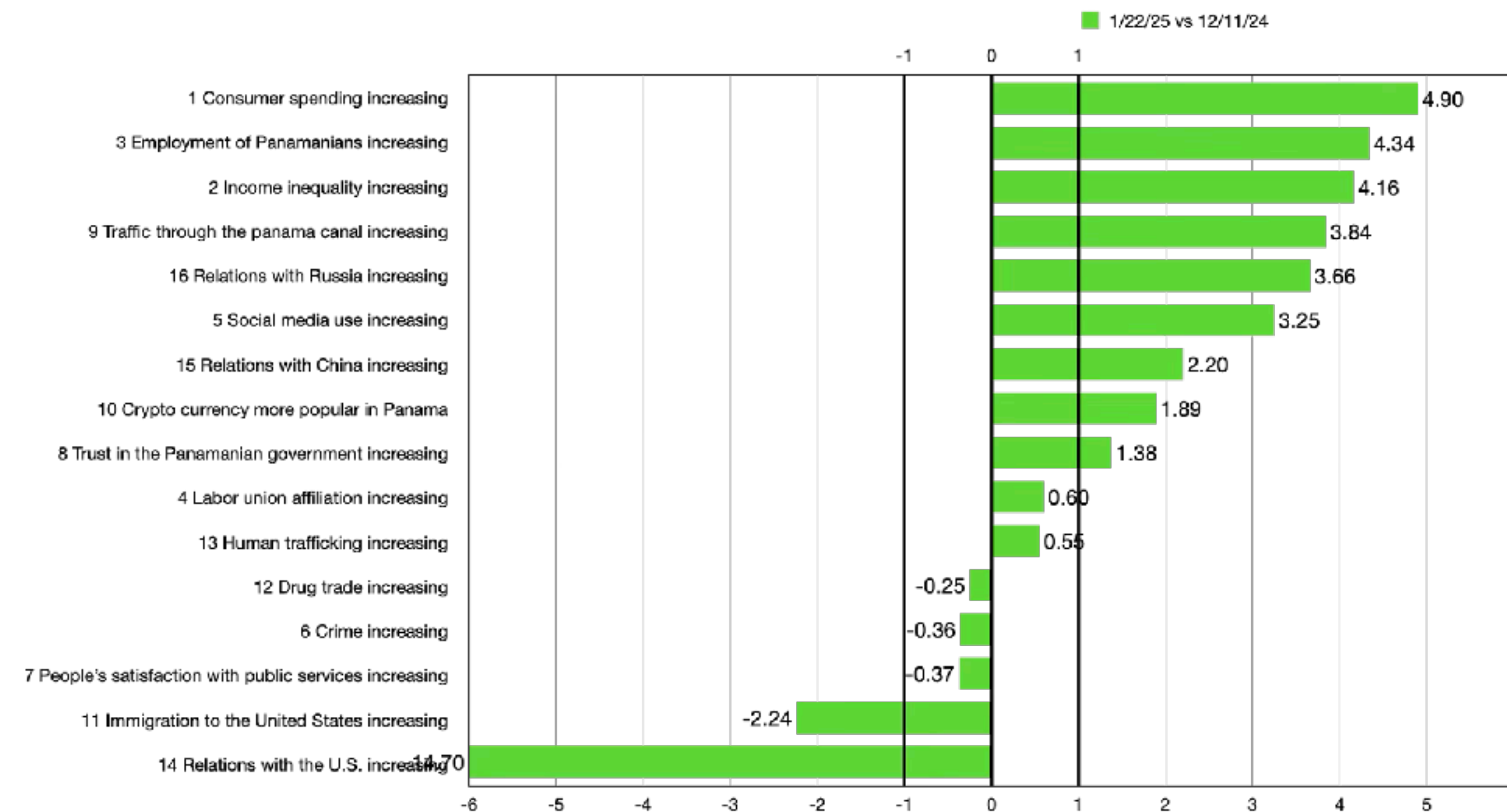
## Summary of 7 week trends

- **Geopolitical Shifts:** Panama's relations with the U.S. are weakening, while ties with China and Russia show moderate improvement, reflecting potential strategic realignments.
- **Economic Optimism:** Positive sentiment in consumer spending, employment, and canal traffic suggests confidence in Panama's economic prospects.
- **Improved Public Perceptions:** Concerns about crime and drug trade are decreasing, likely due to optimism in law enforcement and public safety measures.
- **Mixed Social Trends:** While employment and consumer spending are improving, persistent concerns about income inequality and muted expectations for U.S.-Panama relations highlight ongoing challenges.



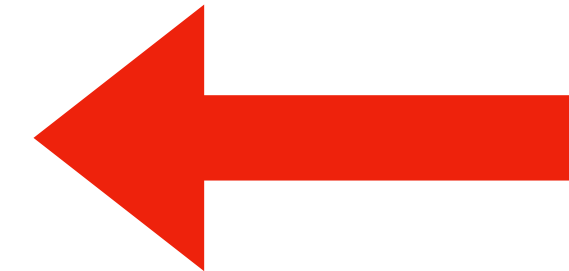
## Relationships and Opposing Trends:

- **Consumer Spending vs. Income Inequality:** Economic growth is perceived as unevenly distributed.
- **Relations with the U.S. vs. Relations with China:** Geopolitical pivot towards China amid global tensions.
- **Trust in Government vs. Crime:** Trust in government shows moderate improvement, while concerns about crime decreased.
- **Traffic Through the Panama Canal vs. Relations with the U.S.:** Optimism about canal traffic contrasts with declining U.S. relations, underscoring the canal's significance in Panama's foreign policy dynamics.



The issues the population's belief increased (more than 1%):

- **Immigration to the United States**
- **Trust in the Panamanian government**
- Employment of Panamanians
- Relations with Russia
- Consumer spending
- Traffic through the panama canal
- Relations with China
- People's satisfaction with public services
- Social media use
- Human trafficking
- Income inequality



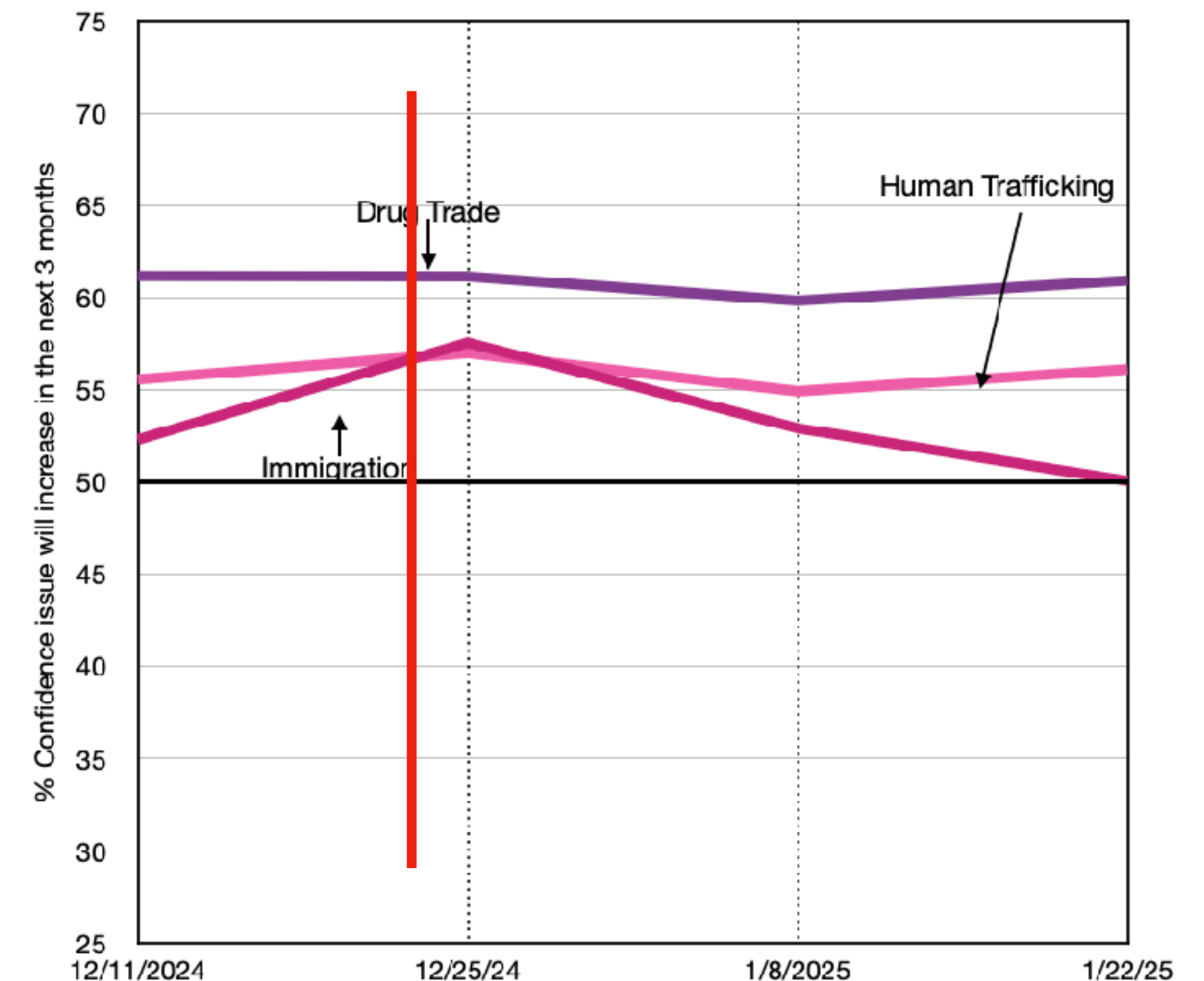
December 25, 2024

The issues the population's belief remained neutral (between -1% and 1%):

- Crypto currency more popular in Panama
- Labor union affiliation
- **Drug trade**

The issues the population's belief decreased (less than 1%):

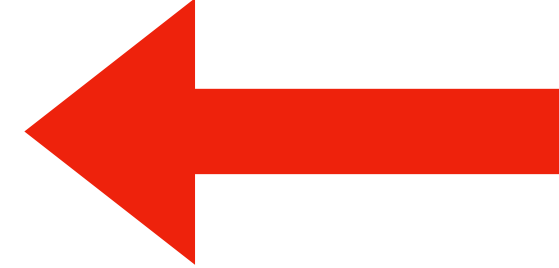
- **Crime**
- **Relations with the U.S.**





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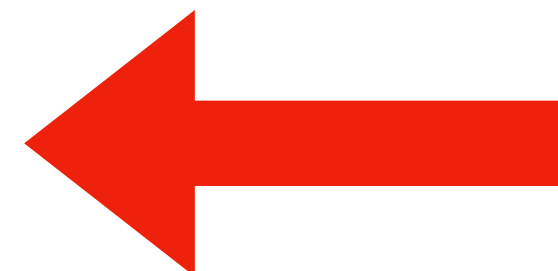


To reduce immigration, The US needed to move Immigration, Drug trade and Relations with the US.

Trump's Impact was missing an impact on the Drug Trade. Note subsequent announcement with Mexico

The issues the population's belief remained neutral (between -1% and +1%):

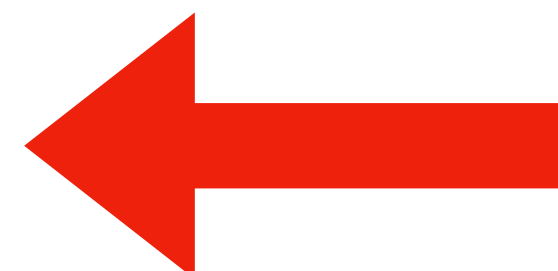
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Relation with the US need to increase to bolster trust in the Panamanian government. The sense of nationalism offset the negative US relations.

The issues the population's belief decreased (less than 1%):

- **Crime**
- **Relations with the U.S.**

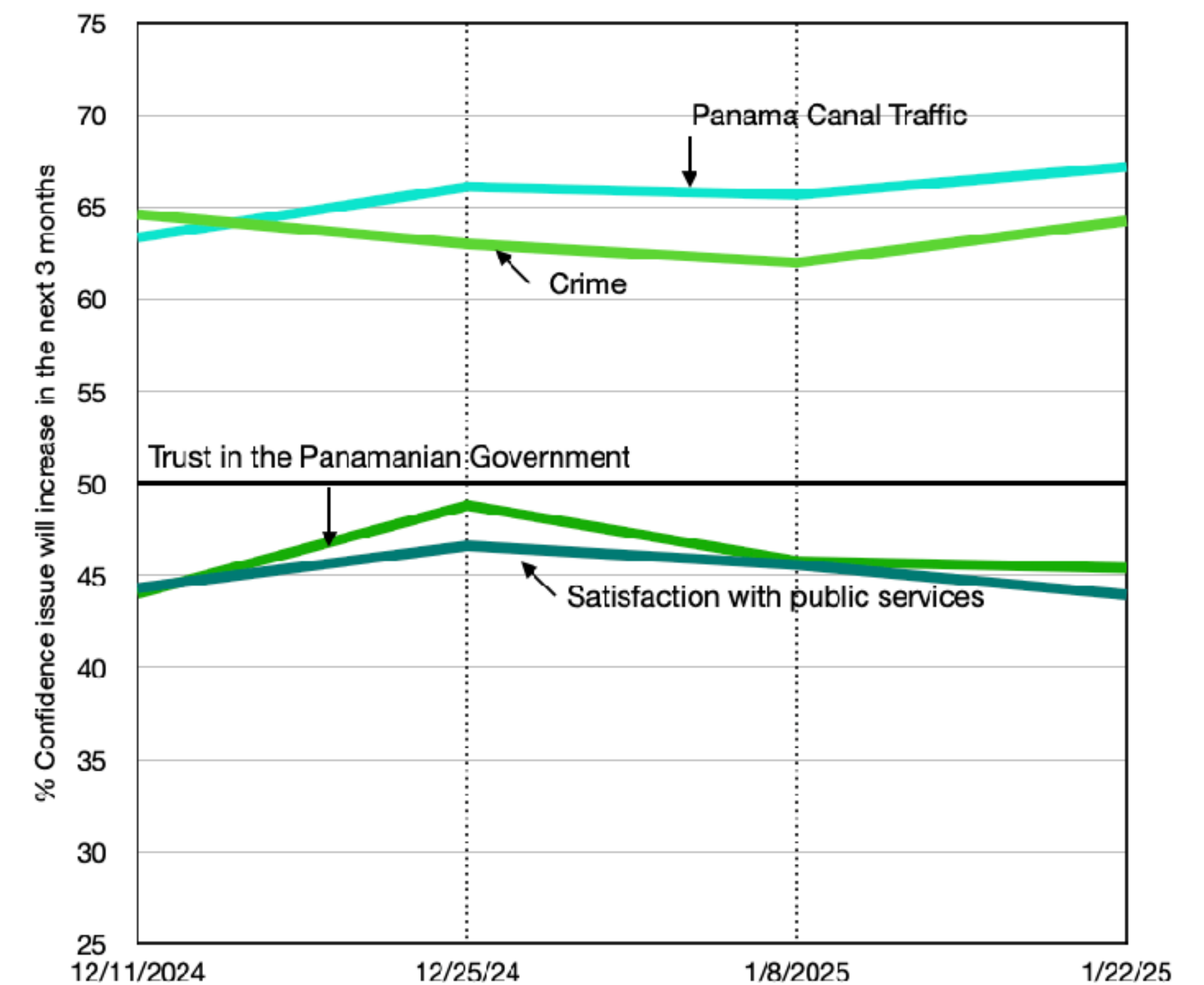


# Who is running influence ops in Panama?

*Someone is trying to destabilize the Panamanian Government*

## Trust in the Panamanian Government

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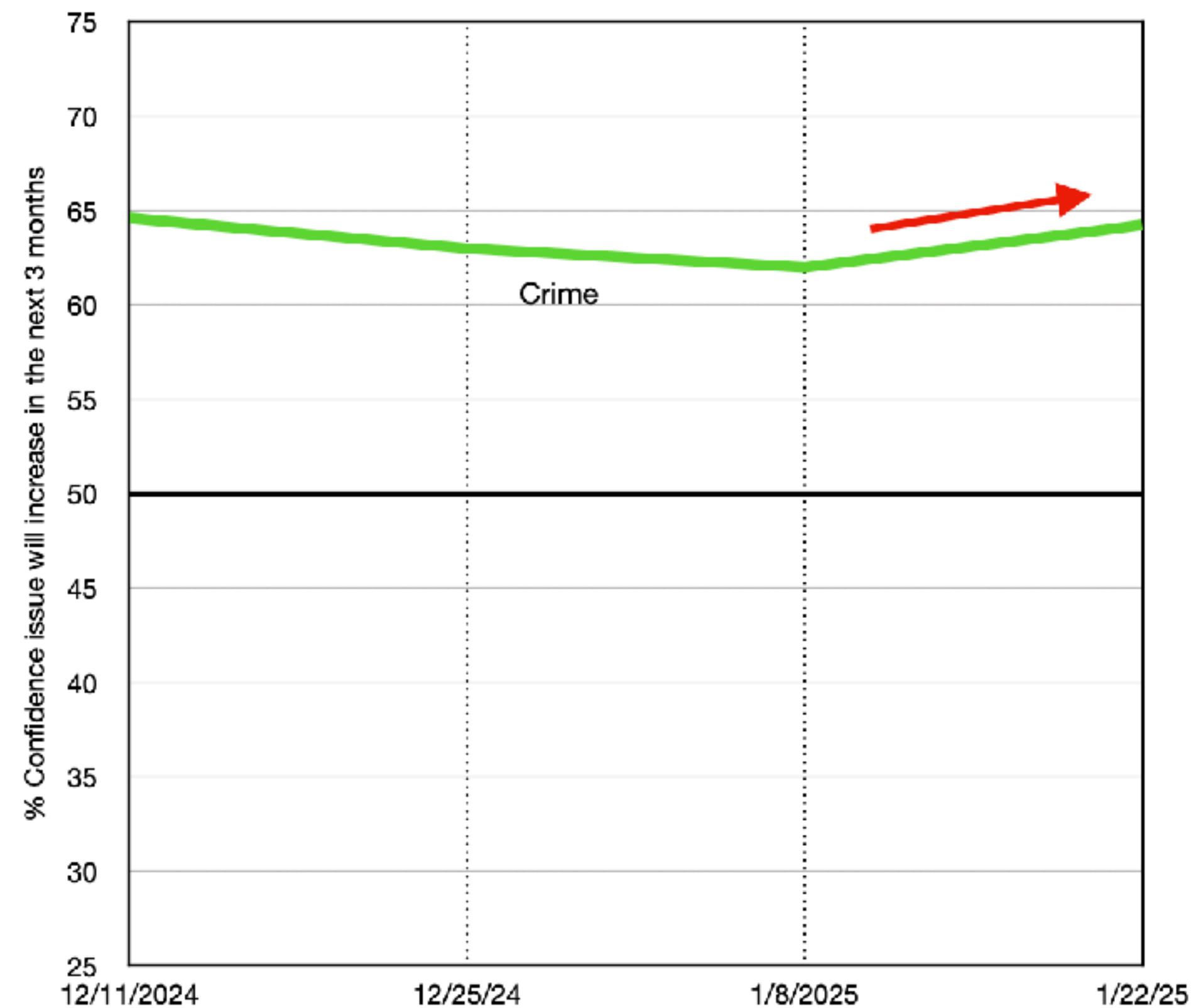


## Nudges - Subconscious Motivators

Topic	Issues that INCREASE belief	Issues that DECREASE belief
Consumer spending increasing	School expenses Corruption Monopolies Food prices	—
Income inequality increasing	Government salaries Corruption Sexism	CSS Reform
Employment of Panamanians increasing	Foreign investment Construction 4th Canal bridge	Medium size business closings
Labor union affiliation increasing	Dealing with injustice Unjustified government layoffs	Not trustworthy Layoffs
Social media use increasing	Sales tool / Revenue source Distractions Social networks	—
Crime increasing	Unemployment	Police / Police surveillance
People's satisfaction with public services increasing	Government investment	Monopolies Corruption
Trust in the Panamanian government increasing	Social Security law Transparency	New CSS policies
Traffic through the Panama Canal increasing	Shipping rates	—

January 9, 2025 Report

## Nudges - Subconscious Motivators

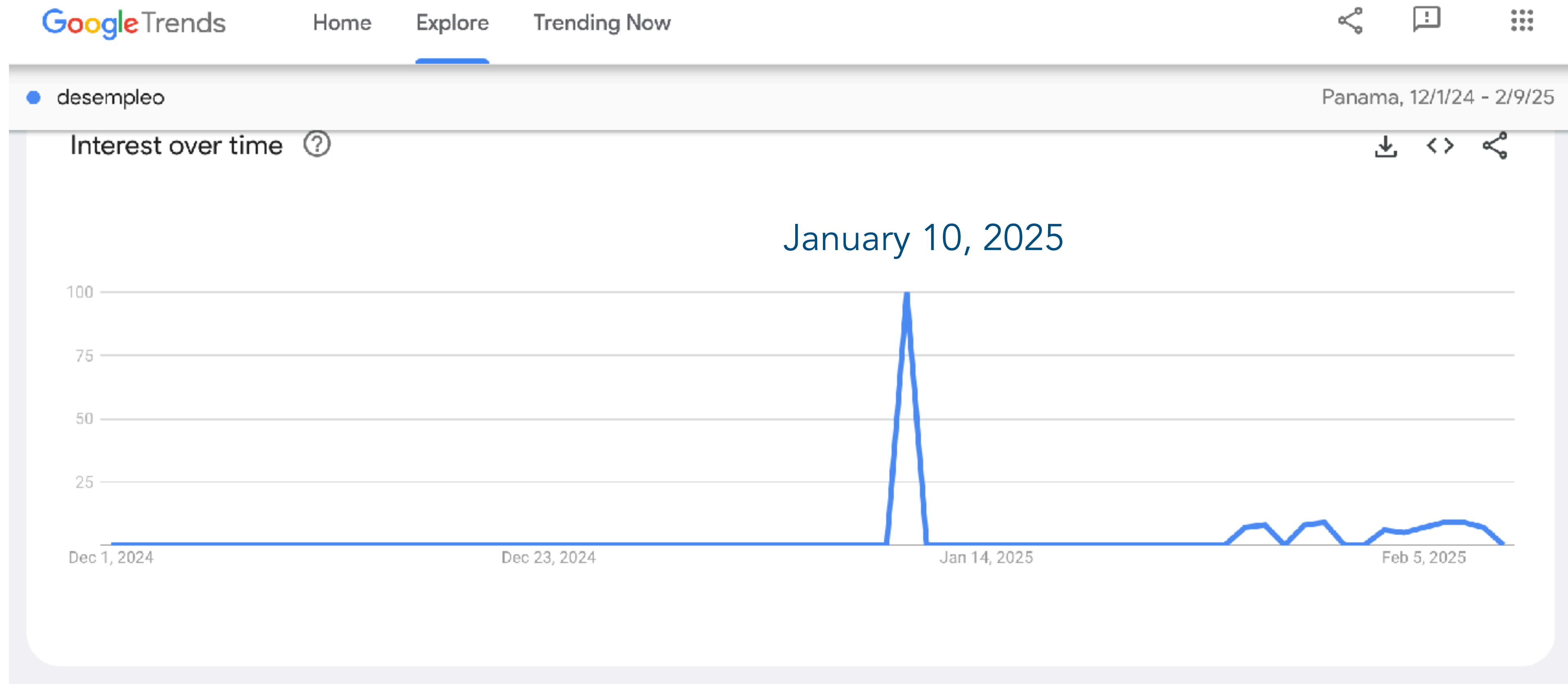


The confidence that crime would increase went from **61.98%** to **64.24%**, **+2.26%**.

Abnormal usage may also be indicative of foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI). Abnormal use is defined as either:

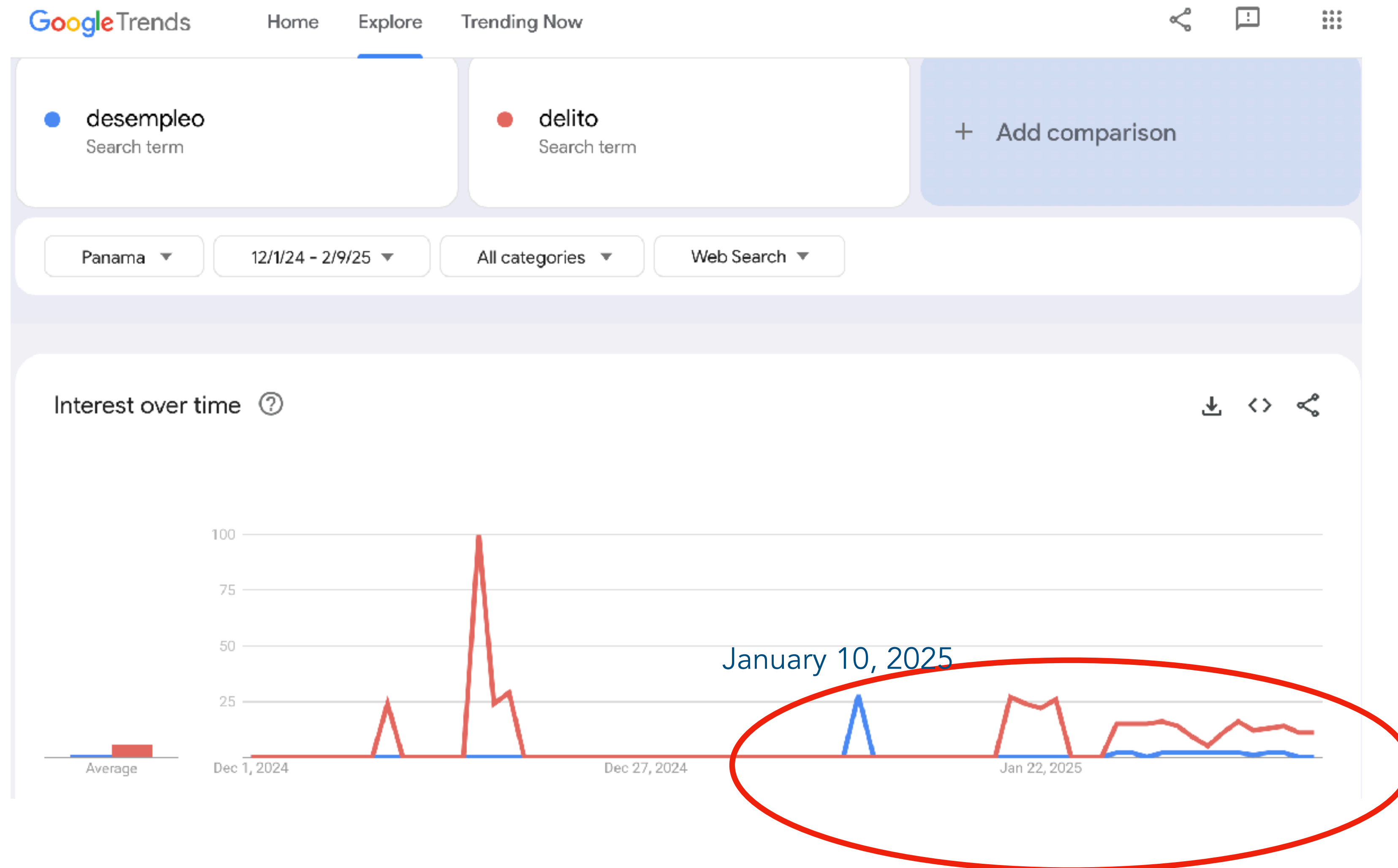
- Type 1: A single account repeatedly using a nudge, or
- Type 2: Coordinated use of a nudge across multiple accounts.

## Did someone inject “Desempleo” in the media landscape?





## "Desempleo" vs. "Delito" (crime)



## Was there an organic basis for the January 10th spike?

**GROK AI:** "Given the lack of direct evidence in the provided sources about a specific event or news story on January 10, 2025, concerning unemployment in Panama, we can infer that any increase in mentions of unemployment might have been part of a broader, ongoing conversation *rather than triggered by a singular event on that exact date.*"

**BUT THERE WAS .....**



<https://x.com/sucedo3569/status/1888092712584262069>





<https://x.com/saucedo3569/status/1888096930229555354>

New account

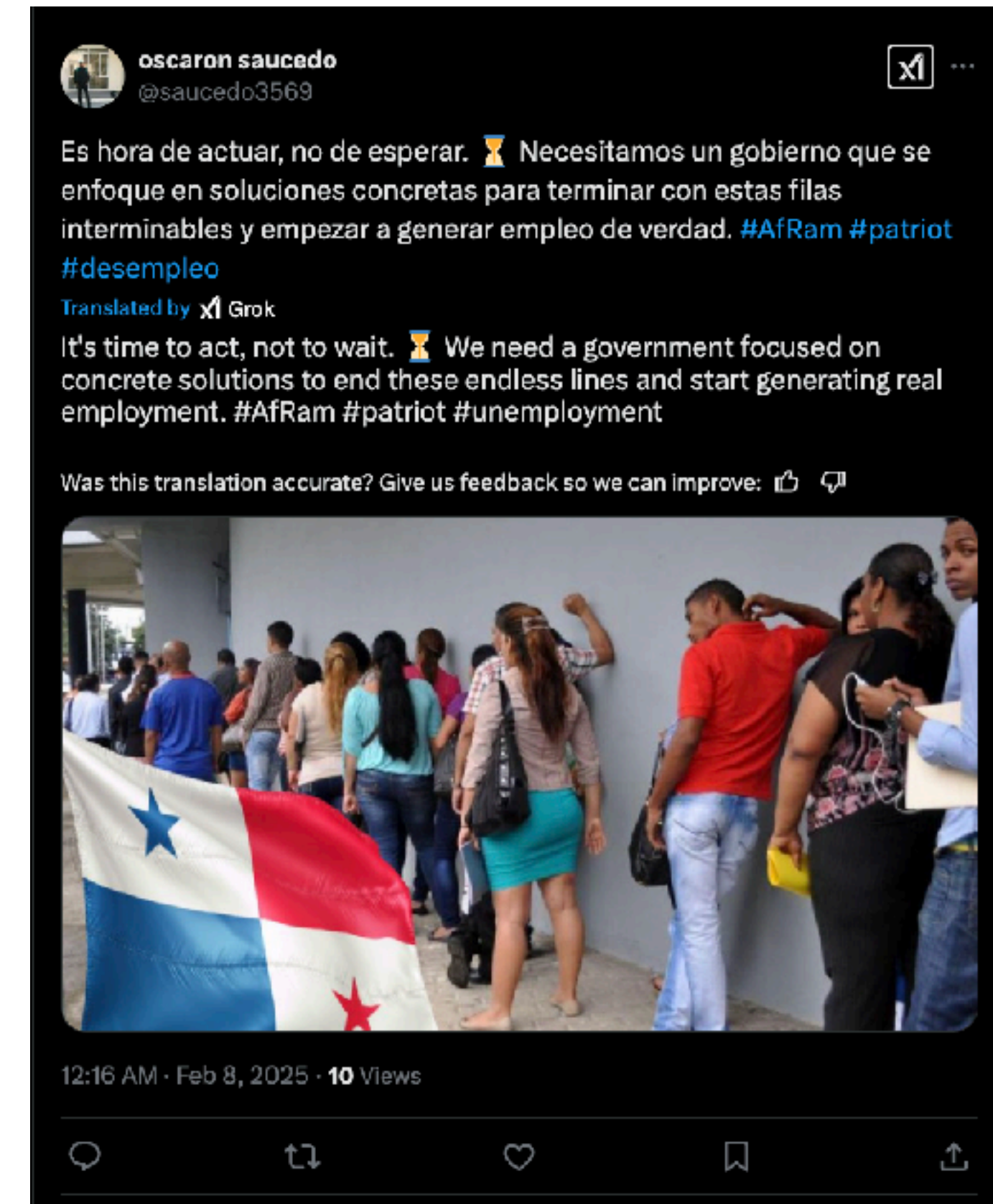
Outsized reach

Multiple Posts with trigger  
(Type 1)

Links trigger to "crime"



<https://x.com/saucedo3569/status/1888096930229555354>



<https://x.com/saucedo3569/status/1888096930229555354>

February 8, 2025



**Conclusion:** There is an informed effort underway to destabilize the Panamanian government.

**Likely target:** Males under 35 years old

**Issue:** Unemployment and crime

**Originating entity:** Unknown, likely China as efforts appear to run counter to US interests

# QUESTIONS