

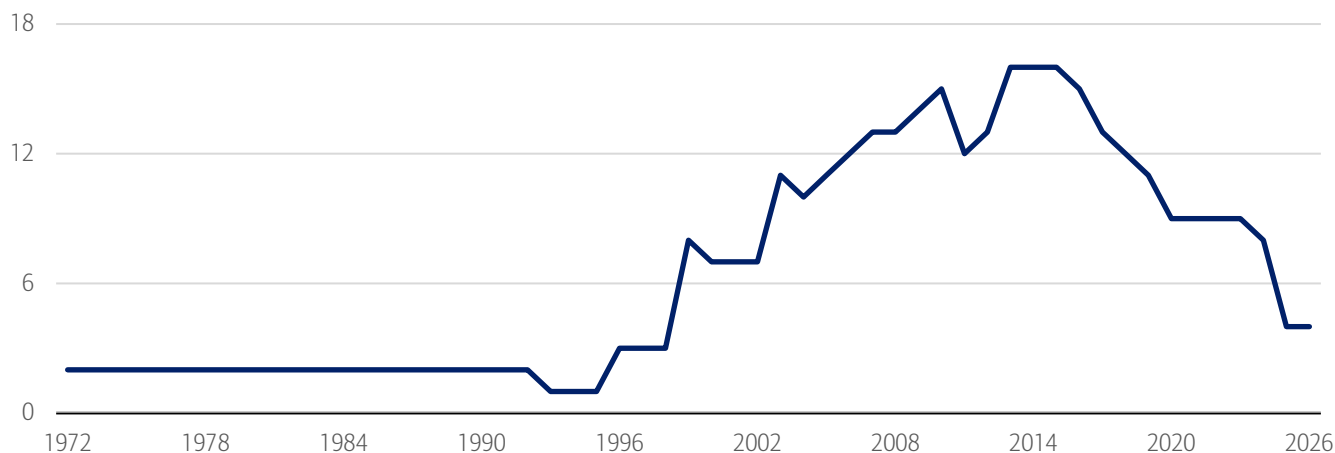
Daily Insights

Fewer pandas, cooler US-China relations

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At present, the US hosts only four pandas, a sharp decline from the peak of 16

Number of pandas in the US



Source: BofA Global Research

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Pandas have long served as a barometer of China’s diplomatic stance: the number of pandas loaned to foreign zoos often reflects the state of political relations rather than conservation needs. During President Emmanuel Macron’s December 2025 visit to China, for instance, Beijing announced it would send a new pair of pandas to France in 2027.

Along these lines, BofA Global Research had flagged the likelihood of a similar gesture toward the US around President Trump’s state visit, given its low-cost, high-visibility nature. In late April, China indeed announced that it will send two giant pandas to Zoo Atlanta in the US. It remains to be seen whether additional pandas will be announced during the visit itself. At present, the US hosts just four pandas, down sharply from a peak of 16 between 2013 and 2015, underscoring the chill in bilateral relations in recent years.

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