CLOSER LOOK

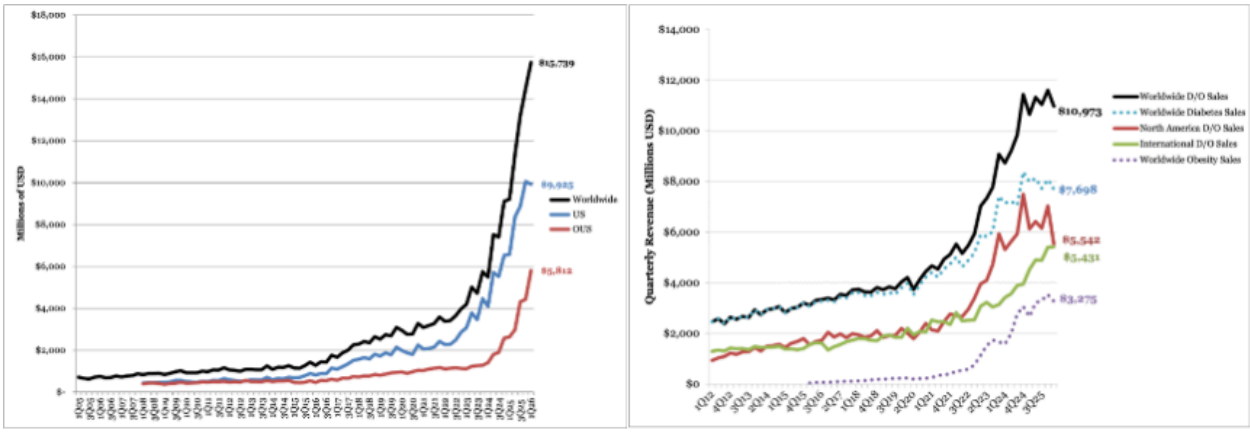
MEMORANDUM

Novo Nordisk plans to submit oral Wegovy for approval in China – June 16, 2026

Semaglutide lost patent protection in China; Lilly has also submitted its oral GLP-1 RA orforglipron for approval in the market

Novo Nordisk CEO Mr. Mike Doustdar said today that oral Wegovy (semaglutide) will be submitted for regulatory approval in China within the next few months, per *Reuters*. This move follows approvals in the UK and the US. If approved, it would be entering a market in which Novo Nordisk's patent for semaglutide expired in March, with a number of generic competitors awaiting approval. Lilly has also submitted its once-daily small-molecule GLP-1 RA orforglipron at the end of 2025, which may have urged Novo Nordisk to accelerate its own efforts. Globally, Novo Nordisk's ex-US sales totaled $5.4 billion in 1Q26, closely following Lilly's $5.8 billion in international diabetes and obesity sales (see below).

Left: Lilly's Overall Diabetes Sales (1Q05 – 1Q26), Right: Novo Nordisk D/O Sales (2Q21-1Q26)



Source: Close Concerns Knowledge Base

-- by Nour Khachemoune, Kat Moon, and Kelly Close