

### Japan Automobiles

# Japan December sales: First YoY growth in five years in CY23

**Industry Overview** 

## New vehicle sales +5% YoY in Dec, +14% in CY23 - first CY growth in 5 years

The December new vehicle sales data (preliminary) released by the Japan Automobile Dealers Association (JADA) and the Japan Light Motor Vehicle and Motorcycle Association in the afternoon of 5 January showed domestic total industry volume (TIV) sustaining the YoY recovery that began in September 2022 with YoY growth of 5% to 363k units. This implies the first calendar year growth in five years (CY23 4.78mn units, +14% YoY). Given that sales were still 9% lower than in CY18 (5.27mn units) our CY24 base case is growth in sales if production increases. However, near term at least we assume a drag from production and sales suspensions at Daihatsu after its disclosure of irregularities in December, and a hit from January earthquakes' disruption to production. As yet, the impact is difficult to detail and we plan updates.

By OEM, Toyota sustained strong sales in December (+18%, including Lexus +63%). Honda extended double-digit growth to a fourth month (+16%), and SUBARU sales also grew strongly (+33%). Substantial recovery in vehicle registrations is still ongoing.

### Registered vehicles: Toyota and Honda the drivers

Registered vehicles rose 11% YoY to 232k units in December, extending their double-digit YoY recovery to a twelfth month. The brand drivers were Toyota (+17%) and Honda (+26%) for the fourth straight month. SUBARU also posted high growth (+42%) with a new model boost. A continued strong Lexus recovery (+63%) implies mix positives for Toyota.

### Mini vehicles: Three straight declines for Daihatsu

There were only 130k mini vehicle registrations in December (-4% YoY). Daihatsu, which disclosed irregularities in testing processes in December, was down for a third straight month (-12%) and Suzuki was also weak (-6%). Honda sold well again (+7%, boost from the new N-Box) and Mitsubishi Motors' sales grew strongly (+64%).

### CVs: Isuzu regained sales growth momentum

In December there was commercial vehicle registration growth of 14% YoY for Isuzu, 22% for Hino, and 20% for Mitsubishi Fuso with a 15% decline for UD Trucks, which amounted to aggregate weighted-average growth of 15%. For Isuzu this was a return to double-digit growth. We still see strong underlying demand arising from protracted constraints on production along with production suspensions at Hino.

### 09 January 2024

Equity Japan Autos

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OEM: Original equipment manufacturer

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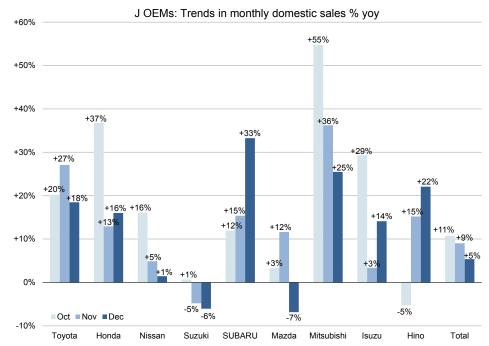
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### Exhibit 1: December Japan sales: Toyota and Honda the drivers

Domestic automobile industry: Japan sales YoY



**Source**: JADA, Japan Automobile Manufacturers' Association (JAMA), Japan Light Motor Vehicle and Motorcycle Association., BofA Global Research.

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### Exhibit 2: Brand/segment YoY change, market share YoY

Domestic automobile industry: Monthly data (Dec 2023)

2023/12

		YoY		Market share					
	Reg. car	Mini car	Total	Reg. car	Mini car	Total			
Nissan	+3.4%	-1.2%	+1.4%	8.5%	10.8%	9.3%			
Toyota	+17.2%	+8.7%	+17.0%	46.4%	1.7%	30.3%			
Lexus	+63.4%	-	+63.4%	2.2%	-	1.4%			
Mazda	-1.5%	-25.6%	-6.9%	3.8%	1.4%	2.9%			
Daihatsu	-28.9%	-11.7%	-12.6%	0.8%	31.5%	11.8%			
Honda	+26.1%	+7.0%	+16.0%	12.0%	20.1%	14.9%			
Suzuki	-6.5%	-6.0%	-6.1%	3.7%	29.3%	12.9%			
Subaru	+42.3%	-13.7%	+33.3%	4.2%	0.9%	3.0%			
MMC	-12.3%	+63.7%	+25.5%	1.3%	4.3%	2.4%			
Isuzu	+14.1%	-	+14.1%	2.2%	-	1.4%			
Hino	+22.1%	-	+22.1%	1.3%	-	0.8%			
Mitsubishi Fuso	+20.2%	-	+20.2%	1.7%	-	1.1%			
UD Trucks	-15.1%	-	-15.1%	0.4%	-	0.2%			
Others	-11.8%	-	-11.7%	11.6%	-	7.4%			
Total	+11.1%	-3.5%	+5.4%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%			

 $\textbf{Source:} \ \ \textbf{JAMA, JADA, Japan Light Motor Vehicle and Motorcycle Association.}, \ \ \textbf{BofA Global Research.}$ 

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### **Exhibit 3: Brand sales volume and YoY/MoM change** Domestic automobile industry: Monthly data (Dec 2023)

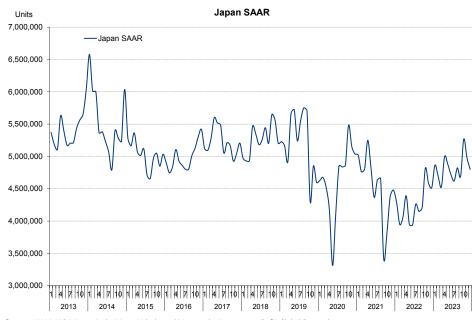
	Japan vehicle sales volume (Monthly)														
	By brand										By segment				
Dec-23	(Units)	Toyota	Honda	Nissan	Suzuki	Daihatsu	SUBARU	Mazda	ММС	Lexus	Hino	Isuzu	Registered Vehicles	Mini Vehicles	Total
Dec-23	Sales units	110,118	53,965	33,858	46,785	42,916	10,865	10,596	8,726	5,024	2,904	5,150	232,320	130,519	362,839
	Market share	30.3%	14.9%	9.3%	12.9%	11.8%	3.0%	2.9%	2.4%	1.4%	0.8%	1.4%	64.0%	36.0%	100.0%
	mom	-17%	-7%	-13%	-15%	-22%	+4%	-20%	-6%	-27%	+10%	+19%	-9%	-16%	-12%
	yoy	+17%	+16%	+1%	-6%	-13%	+33%	-7%	+25%	+63%	+22%	+14%	+11%	-4%	+5%
	Calas units	107 002	27 770	10.702	0.607	1.040	0.720	0.724	2.062	E 024	2,004	F 1F0			222 220
Registered Vehicles	Sales units	107,892	27,778	19,703	8,607	1,849	9,729	8,724	3,063	5,024	2,904	5,150	-	-	232,320
	Market share	46.4%	12.0%	8.5%	3.7%	0.8%	4.2%	3.8%	1.3%	2.2%	1.3%	2.2%	-	-	100.0%
	mom	-17%	-7%	-15%	-5%	-7%	+5%	-17%	-5%	-27%	+10%	+19%	-	-	-9%
	yoy	+17%	+26%	+3%	-6%	-29%	+42%	-2%	-12%	+63%	+22%	+14%	-	-	+11%
Mini Vehicles	Sales units	2,226	26,187	14,155	38,178	41,067	1,136	1,872	5,663	-	-	-	-	-	130,519
	Market share	1.7%	20.1%	10.8%	29.3%	31.5%	0.9%	1.4%	4.3%	-	-	-		-	100.0%
	mom	-13%	-8%	-9%	-17%	-23%	-5%	-30%	-6%	-	-	-	-	-	-16%
	yoy	+9%	+7%	-1%	-6%	-12%	-14%	-26%	+64%	-	-	-	-	-	-4%

**Source**: JAMA, JADA, Japan Light Motor Vehicle and Motorcycle Association., BofA Global Research.

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### Exhibit 4: Japan SAAR

Domestic automobile industry: SAAR



**Source**: JAMA, JADA, Japan Light Motor Vehicle and Motorcycle Association., BofA Global Research.

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 Buy
 ≥ 10%
 ≤ 70%

 Neutral
 ≥ 0%
 ≤ 30%

 Underperform
 N/A
 ≥ 20%

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