

## FX Quant Insight

## Renewed demand for Asia FX

## Key takeaways

- USD trend is neutral into FOMC; FX investors broadly waiting on Fed to provide more guidance for next USD trend signal.
- After January positioning unwind, our signals turned bearish EUR/AUD again.
- Quant signals bullish AUD on rising call demand from risk-on China news; bearish EUR on falling EU yields after ECB.

## FX Signal of the Week: Bearish EUR/AUD at 1.6386

**Exhibit 1: We prefer to chase a weaker EUR vs an Asia FX like AUD amid FOMC uncertainty for the USD**

Top signals from quant models

Section	Insight	Rationale
Option Flow	USD puts vs Asia FX	Investors bought USD puts vs Asia FX last week.
Technical Matrix	Neutral USD trend	USD MAA trend is neutral in 4 out of 9 USD/G10 pairs.
CARS	Bearish EUR	Model is bearish EUR, SEK vs CAD, NOK and JPY on combination of rates and commodity factors.
Time Zone	US hour USD demand	USD appreciated in US hours and depreciated in Asia/European hours.

Source: BofA Global Research

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

## Expect more USD breakouts after FOMC

Both the DXY and BBXY indices have been hovering around its 200d-SMA over the past two weeks. Simultaneously, our MAA trend indicator also shows a neutral USD signal in 4 out of 9 USD/G10 pairs. US-based investors bought the USD last week; but the US-hour demand was largely offset by USD supply from European and Asia hours. We believe FX investors are broadly waiting for the Fed to provide more guidance and on Treasury quarterly refunding this Wednesday before taking on a new directional USD view.

## Renewed bullishness for Asia FX vs EUR

Fading the strength of overvalued European FX vs cyclical “high-beta” G10 peers was one of our top 2024 Year Ahead convictions (see [FX Viewpoint: 21 November 2023](#) and [Liquid Insight: 07 September 2023](#)). The view had played out in December 2023 with many investors unwinding the positions this month. Our signals are once again turning bearish EUR/AUD after last week’s market developments. We find strong call option demand for Asia FX including AUD (Exhibit 2) after a slew of risk-on catalysts from China ([China Watch: 24 January 2024](#)). CARS turned bearish EUR, as EU 2y yield declined the most in G10 on weak ECB push back for April rate cuts ([Euro Area Watch: 25 January 2024](#)). Amid a week of Fed-induced USD uncertainty, we prefer to chase EUR/AUD lower. Last week we had also turned bearish EUR/JPY with EUR more at risk of rate cuts in H2 2024 ([FX Alpha: 26-Jan-2024](#)). The risk to our view would be 50d-SMA and daily Ichimoku cloud technical supports holding for EUR/AUD this week on weak AU CPI.

Trading ideas and investment strategies discussed herein may give rise to significant risk and are not suitable for all investors. Investors should have experience in relevant markets and the financial resources to absorb any losses arising from applying these ideas or strategies.

**BofA Securities does and seeks to do business with issuers covered in its research reports. As a result, investors should be aware that the firm may have a conflict of interest that could affect the objectivity of this report. Investors should consider this report as only a single factor in making their investment decision. Refer to important disclosures on page 7 to 8.**

12652382

Timestamp: 29 January 2024 04:29PM EST

29 January 2024

Currency Strategy  
Global

BofA

Data  
Analytics

**Howard Du, CFA**  
G10 FX Strategist  
BofAS  
+1 646 743 7017  
[yuhao.du@bofa.com](mailto:yuhao.du@bofa.com)

**Vadim Iaralov**  
FX Strategist  
BofAS  
+1 646 743 7018  
[vadim.iaralov@bofa.com](mailto:vadim.iaralov@bofa.com)

For more details on the construction of the quant signals, please refer to the [Global Rates and FX Primer: FX Quant Insight: decipher weekly FX signals 07 September 2022](#).

CARS (model): Cross-Asset Regime Switching

SDR: Swap Data Repository

MAA: Moving Average Aggregator

UD: Up/Down volatility

RS: Residual Skew

ADX: Average Directional Movement Index

DMI: Directional Movement Index

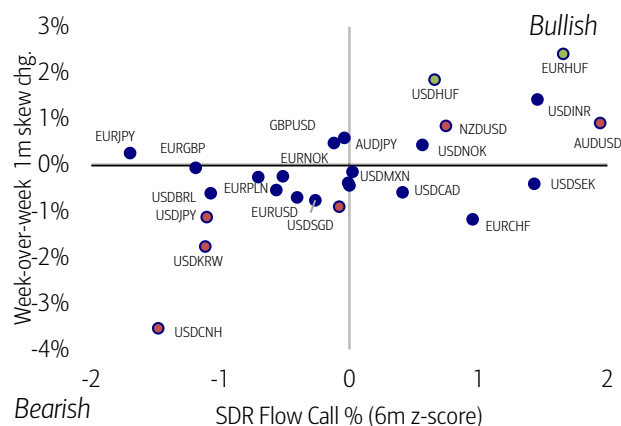
# Option Flow Signals

Our options flow signals combine Event analysis framework ([FX Viewpoint: Vol-guided decisions 18 March 2021](#)) with SDR flows data ([FX Viewpoint: SDR: What do FX options flows tell us? 01 February 2021](#)) to gauge bullish and bearish sentiments.

To learn more about FX volatility and options please refer to our [FX Volatility Dashboard](#) as well as the FX Vol Dashboard Primer ([Global Rates and FX Primer: 09 March 2022](#)).

## Exhibit 2: Standout flows were for USD puts vs Asia FX and for HUF puts last week

1m skew change vs call percentage z-score

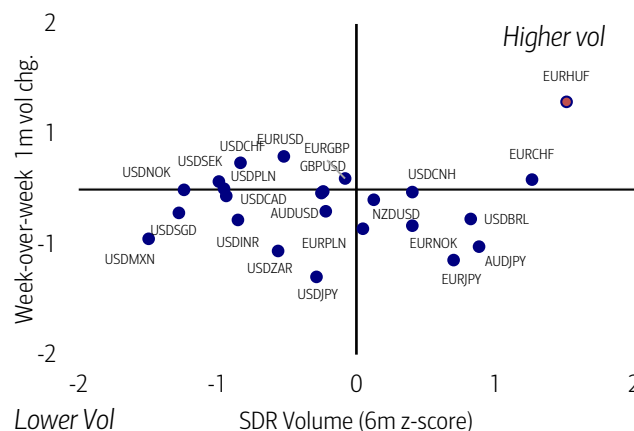


Source: BofA Global Research, DTCC. Note: CNH flows are proxied by "CNY" flows in SDR.

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

## Exhibit 3: EURHUF vol increased as market focuses on NBH rate cut this week

1m implied vol change vs volume z-score



Source: BofA Global Research, DTCC. Note: CNH flows are proxied by "CNY" flows in SDR.

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

## Exhibit 4: Moderately bullish TRY and moderately bearish HUF on short-dated skew moves

Event analysis signals after last week's spot and vol moves

Pair	Old spot	New spot	1m vol	1m vol chg	1y vol	1y vol chg	1y - 1m chg	Currency	Return vs USD	1m skew % chg vs		Signals
										USD	USD	
EURUSD	1.0883	1.0819	6.41	0.24	6.91	0.06	-0.18	EUR	-0.59%	-0.60	-0.60	EUR No Signal
USDJPY	148.10	148.01	8.44	-0.80	9.48	-0.16	0.63	JPY	0.06%	2.12	2.12	JPY No Signal
GBPUSD	1.2709	1.2690	6.77	-0.02	8.10	-0.03	0.00	GBP	-0.15%	0.47	0.47	GBP No Signal
USDCHF	0.8691	0.8627	7.18	0.30	7.44	0.05	-0.25	CHF	0.74%	0.29	0.29	CHF No Signal
AUDUSD	0.6570	0.6599	9.32	-0.04	9.91	-0.06	-0.02	AUD	0.44%	0.90	0.90	AUD No Signal
USDCAD	1.3479	1.3441	5.09	-0.06	5.76	-0.16	-0.10	CAD	0.28%	0.54	0.54	CAD No Signal
USDSEK	10.4653	10.4927	10.51	0.07	10.96	0.09	0.02	SEK	-0.26%	0.44	0.44	SEK No Signal
USDNOK	10.5136	10.4455	11.40	0.00	12.09	-0.01	0.00	NOK	0.65%	-0.44	-0.44	NOK No Signal
NZDUSD	0.6077	0.6113	9.40	-0.10	10.06	-0.05	0.04	NZD	0.59%	0.81	0.81	NZD No Signal
USDSGD	1.3419	1.3414	3.94	-0.22	4.57	-0.05	0.17	SGD	0.04%	0.67	0.67	SGD No Signal
USDKRW	1338.8	1335.7	8.64	-0.20	9.35	-0.07	0.13	KRW	0.24%	1.71	1.71	KRW No Signal
USDMXN	17.1839	17.1567	10.29	-0.45	12.51	-0.05	0.40	MXN	0.16%	-0.95	-0.95	MXN No Signal
USDTRY	30.2455	30.3511	7.16	0.27	20.98	-0.09	-0.36	TRY	-0.35%	7.53	7.53	TRY No Signal
USDZAR	19.2024	18.7742	12.96	-0.56	15.19	0.04	0.60	ZAR	2.26%	0.07	0.07	ZAR No Signal
USDHUF	352.4	360.5	11.46	0.87	11.93	0.13	-0.74	HUF	-2.28%	-0.57	-0.57	HUF No Signal
USDPLN	4.0087	4.0347	9.42	0.00	10.34	-0.02	-0.02	PLN	-0.65%	0.91	0.91	PLN No Signal

Source: BofA Global Research, Bloomberg.

The table shows the 1-year percentile and 1-week change in 1m and 1y implied vol, the 1y-1m spread, and the 1m 25 delta risk reversal as a percentage of the ATM. For a currency with a put skew, the rules for generating the signal column are the following:

[1] Bearish Continuation: Spot change < -1%, 1m vol change > 0.5%, 1y vol change > 0%, 1m skew chg. < -2; [2] Bearish Contrarian: Spot change > 1%, 1m skew change < -2;

[3] Bullish Continuation: Spot change > 2%, 1y-1m change < -0.1%, 1m skew change > 2; [4] Bullish Contrarian Spot change < -1%, 1m vol change < -0.2%, 1m skew chg. > 1.

Parameters that triggered a bearish condition are colored in red; parameters that triggered a bullish condition are colored in green.

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

# Technical Matrix

The Technical Matrix is a table of technical indicators ([Get to know even more technical strategy, 24 January 2022](#)) and BoFA positioning analysis ([Global Rates and FX Primer: 01 October 2018](#)) that look at trend following and reversal signals. To learn more about a variety of technical strategies, please see [Technicals Explained primer](#), as well as our Quantifying Technicals publications for [the ADX](#) and [Bollinger indicators](#).

## Exhibit 5: USD trend is neutral in 4 out of 9 USD/G10 pairs

Technical matrix with positioning analysis and key levels to watch

		Spot	Positioning Trend	Bullish / Bearish	ADX Trend	Bollinger Bands	Next Support	Next Resistance
USD	EURUSD	1.0821	↔	No Signal	Range	None	1.0777	1.0844
	USDJPY	147.93	↑	No Signal	Uptrend	None	147.46	151.91
	GBPUSD	1.2692	↑	No Signal	Range	None	1.2666	1.3142
	AUDUSD	0.6599	↔	No Signal	Downtrend	None	0.6578	0.6609
	USDCHE	0.8628	↓	No Signal	Uptrend	None	0.8333	0.8645
	USDCAD	1.3444	↓	No Signal	Transition	None	1.3401	1.3454
	NZDUSD	0.6114	↔	No Signal	Downtrend	None	0.6089	0.6156
	USDSEK	10.4876	↔	No Signal	Uptrend	None	10.4268	10.5875
	USDNOK	10.4401	↓	No Signal	Range	None	10.4065	10.5215
EUR	EURGBP	0.8526	↓	No Signal	Transition	None	0.8493	0.8619
	EURJPY	160.07	↑	Bullish	Range	None	158.96	164.30
	EURAUD	1.6397	↔	No Signal	Uptrend	None	1.6379	1.6404
	EURCHF	0.93357	↓	No Signal	Transition	None	0.9255	0.9447
	EURCAD	1.4547	↔	No Signal	Range	Lower	1.4523	1.4609
	EURNZD	1.7699	↓	No Signal	Uptrend	None	1.7657	1.7810
	EURSEK	11.3482	↓	No Signal	Uptrend	None	11.2777	11.3730
	EURNOK	11.2968	↓	Bullish	Range	None	11.2447	11.4093
G10 Cross	AUDJPY	97.625	↑	No Signal	Range	None	96.90	98.62
	AUDNZD	1.0794	↓	No Signal	Range	None	1.0788	1.0803
	AUDCAD	0.8872	↔	No Signal	Downtrend	None	0.8865	0.8921
	NOKSEK	1.0045	↑	No Signal	Uptrend	None	0.9999	1.0115
	CADJPY	110.039	↑	No Signal	Range	None	108.80	111.17
	GBPJPY	187.76	↑	Bullish	Transition	None	184.43	188.66
	NZDJPY	90.44	↑	Bullish	Range	None	89.94	91.52
	GBPCHF	1.0951	↓	No Signal	Transition	None	1.0637	1.0955
EM	USDMXN	17.1596	↔	No Signal	Transition	None	17.1366	17.3498
	USDBRL	4.9134	↔	No Signal	Range	None	4.9022	4.9234
	USDZAR	18.7594	↑	Bullish	Transition	None	18.7381	18.7787
	EURPLN	4.365	↔	No Signal	Transition	None	4.3476	4.4330
	EURHUF	390.19	↑	Bullish	Uptrend	Upper	389.13	402.45
	USDKRW	1335.65	↑	Bullish	Range	None	1323.59	1363.55
	USDINR	83.1425	↔	No Signal	Range	None	82.75	83.19
	USDCNH	7.1882	↔	No Signal	Transition	None	7.1643	7.1930

Data as of 01/29/24. Source: BoFA Global Research, Bloomberg.

Positioning uptrend has MAA > 60, downtrend MAA < 40. Positioning uptrend reversal likely if MAA/UD/RS > 80, continuation likely if UD, RS < 50. Positioning downtrend reversal likely if MAA/UD/RS < 20, and continuation likely if UD, RS > 50. UD and RS are 1y percentile and MAA is in %.

Positioning is bullish (green) if matrix shows downtrend reversal or uptrend continuation; Positioning is bearish (red) if matrix shows uptrend reversal or downtrend continuation.

Positioning is slightly bullish or slightly bearish (yellow) if only one of UD or RS supports the signal.

ADX downtrend if ADX > 25 and DMI+ is below DMI-. ADX uptrend if ADX > 25 and DMI+ is above DMI-. ADX shows Transition if ADX is between 20 and 25, and Range if ADX < 20. Cells in the ADX Trend column are colored with more intensity if the ADX trend signal matches the positioning signal. 14-day lookback is used for the ADX indicators.

The Bollinger Bands column shows 'Upper' if spot is above the +2 std bollinger band, and 'Lower' if spot is below the -2 std band. 20-day SMA is used for Bollinger indicators.

Cells in Next Support and Next Resistance columns are colored if spot is within 0.5% of the support or resistance level.

BoFA GLOBAL RESEARCH

# CARS Signals

CARS ("cross-asset regime-switching") is a systematic model that makes weekly buy/sell decisions for G10 currencies based on cross-asset factors (equity, rates, and commodities). FX's relationship with other asset classes is not constant over time, and investors could flock to own haven currencies during shock periods. The CARS model chooses the most performing factor for the appropriate macro regime of the week ([FX Viewpoint: CARS model: weekly FX cross-asset drivers 22 June 2022](#)).

## Exhibit 6: Bullish CAD, JPY, and NOK vs bearish EUR and SEK on combination of rates and commodity factors

CARS signals for a trending week (no macro shock)

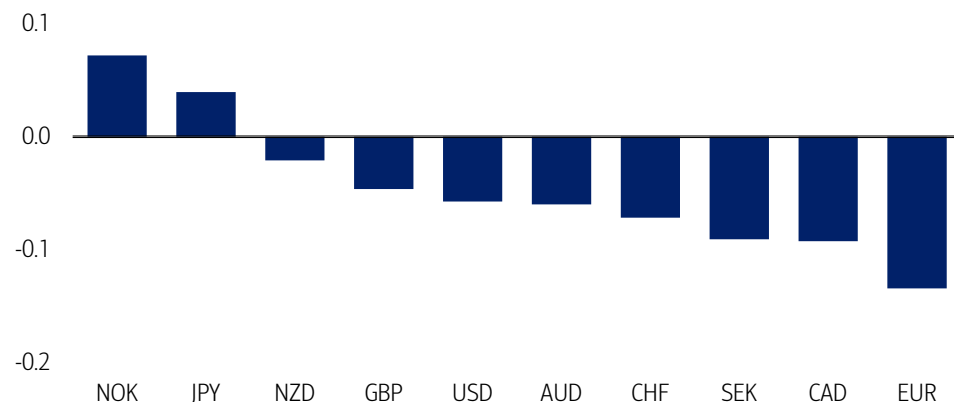
Currency	Bullish/Bearish	Equity	Rates	Commodity	Global regime	Values
EUR	Bearish	1	10	4	Commodity z-score	0.8
JPY	Bullish	10	1	9	Performing factor	Rates
GBP		2	4	6		
AUD		6	5	3		
CAD	Bullish	7	7	2	USD Equity	8
CHF		4	8	5	USD Rates	6
NZD		3	3	7		
SEK	Bearish	5	9	8		
NOK	Bullish	9	2	1		

The Equity ranking is ordered by 5y z-score of 1-week equity return. The Rates ranking is ordered by 5y z-score of 1-week rate change and level of 2y swap rate. The Commodity ranking is ordered by 52-week FX correlation with BCOM. The Commodity z-score is the 1y z-score of 1-week BCOM Index return.

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

## Exhibit 7: 2y yields declined the most for EUR last week

2y global yield change



Source: BofA Global Research, Bloomberg

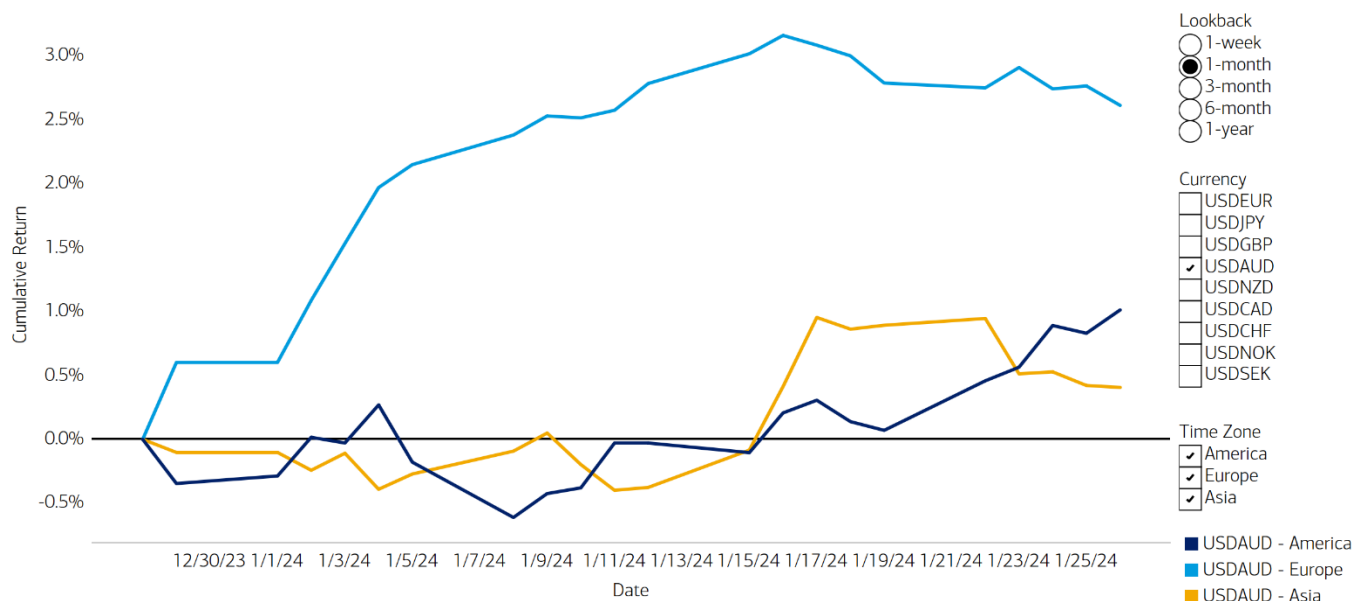
BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

## Interactive Time Zone

Expanding exhibits in the HTML view shows cumulative FX returns at different lookback periods, currency groupings, and time zones ([FX Watch: Interacting with time zones 06 July 2022](#)). Hours are shown in Coordinated Universal Time (UTC). We define America time zone as 1pm-12am UTC (8am-7pm EST), Europe time zone as between 8am-1pm UTC (3am-8am EST), and Asia time zone as between 12am to 8am UTC (7pm-3am EST).

### Exhibit 8: US-based investors bought USD ahead of this week's FOMC

Interactive time zone plot. For readers of the web-formatted version of this report, access interactive features of the visualization by clicking on the image. Use Google Chrome or Microsoft Edge browsers for the best experience



We denote America time zone as between 1pm to 12am UTC, Europe time zone as between 8am to 1pm UTC, and Asia time zone as between 12am to 8am UTC.

Source: BofA Global Research, Bloomberg

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

### Exhibit 9: The USD depreciated in Asia and Europe-based hours and appreciated in US hours last week

Interactive time zone plot. For readers of the web-formatted version of this report, access interactive features of the visualization by clicking on the image. Use Google Chrome or Microsoft Edge browsers for the best experience

	8am-11am	11am-2pm	2pm-5pm	5pm-8pm	8pm-11pm	11pm-2am	2am-5am	5am-8am	Lookback
USDEUR	-0.2%	-0.3%	1.1%	0.1%	-0.1%	0.4%	-0.1%	0.0%	1-week
USDJPY	-0.2%	-0.7%	1.3%	0.3%	-0.3%	-0.5%	0.0%	-0.3%	1-month
USDGBP	-0.6%	-0.3%	1.1%	0.3%	-0.1%	-0.1%	-0.1%	0.0%	3-month
USDAUD	-0.2%	-0.9%	1.4%	0.4%	-0.1%	0.2%	0.0%	-0.1%	6-month
USDNZD	-0.6%	-0.5%	1.4%	0.4%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	-0.1%	1-year
USDCAD	-0.4%	-0.3%	0.8%	0.1%	0.0%	0.3%	-0.1%	-0.1%	
USDCHF	-0.5%	-0.5%	1.0%	0.0%	-0.2%	-0.3%	-0.1%	-0.2%	
USDNOK	-0.1%	-0.7%	0.5%	0.1%	-0.2%	-0.7%	-0.2%	-0.1%	
USDSEK	-0.6%	-0.8%	1.5%	0.5%	0.1%	-0.1%	-0.1%	-0.4%	

Hours are as of UTC. Currency pairs with greater loss over the lookback period are colored in darker red. Currency pairs with greater gain over the lookback period are colored in darker green. We denote America time zone as between 1pm to 12am UTC, Europe time zone as between 8am to 1pm UTC, and Asia time zone as between 12am to 8am UTC.

Source: BofA Global Research, Bloomberg

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

## Options Risk Statement

Options and other related derivatives instruments are considered unsuitable for many investors. Options strategy is by definition governed by a finite duration. The most severe risks associated with general options trading are total loss of capital invested and delivery/assignment risk, all which can occur in a short period.



# Disclosures

## Important Disclosures

BofA Global Research personnel (including the analyst(s) responsible for this report) receive compensation based upon, among other factors, the overall profitability of Bank of America Corporation, including profits derived from investment banking. The analyst(s) responsible for this report may also receive compensation based upon, among other factors, the overall profitability of the Bank's sales and trading businesses relating to the class of securities or financial instruments for which such analyst is responsible. BofA Securities fixed income analysts regularly interact with sales and trading desk personnel in connection with their research, including to ascertain pricing and liquidity in the fixed income markets.

## Other Important Disclosures

Prices are indicative and for information purposes only. Except as otherwise stated in the report, for any recommendation in relation to an equity security, the price referenced is the publicly traded price of the security as of close of business on the day prior to the date of the report or, if the report is published during intraday trading, the price referenced is indicative of the traded price as of the date and time of the report and in relation to a debt security (including equity preferred and CDS), prices are indicative as of the date and time of the report and are from various sources including BofA Securities trading desks.

The date and time of completion of the production of any recommendation in this report shall be the date and time of dissemination of this report as recorded in the report timestamp.

Recipients who are not institutional investors or market professionals should seek the advice of their independent financial advisor before considering information in this report in connection with any investment decision, or for a necessary explanation of its contents.

Officers of BofAS or one or more of its affiliates (other than research analysts) may have a financial interest in securities of the issuer(s) or in related investments.

Refer to [BofA Global Research policies relating to conflicts of interest](#).

**"BofA Securities" includes BofA Securities, Inc. ("BofAS") and its affiliates. Investors should contact their BofA Securities representative or Merrill Global Wealth Management financial advisor if they have questions concerning this report or concerning the appropriateness of any investment idea described herein for such investor. "BofA Securities" is a global brand for BofA Global Research.**

**Information relating to Non-US affiliates of BofA Securities and Distribution of Affiliate Research Reports:**

BofAS and/or Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated ("MLPF&S") may in the future distribute, information of the following non-US affiliates in the US (short name: legal name, regulator): Merrill Lynch (South Africa): Merrill Lynch South Africa (Pty) Ltd., regulated by The Financial Service Board; MLI (UK): Merrill Lynch International, regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA); BofASE (France): BofA Securities Europe SA is authorized by the Autorité de Contrôle Prudentiel et de Résolution (ACPR) and regulated by the ACPR and the Autorité des Marchés Financiers (AMF). BofA Securities Europe SA ("BofASE") with registered address at 51, rue La Boétie, 75008 Paris is registered under no 842 602 690 RCS Paris. In accordance with the provisions of French Code Monétaire et Financier (Monetary and Financial Code), BofASE is an établissement de crédit et d'investissement (credit and investment institution) that is authorised and supervised by the European Central Bank and the Autorité de Contrôle Prudentiel et de Résolution (ACPR) and regulated by the ACPR and the Autorité des Marchés Financiers. BofASE's share capital can be found at [www.bofam.com/BofASEdisclaimer](http://www.bofam.com/BofASEdisclaimer); BofA Europe (Milan): Bank of America Europe Designated Activity Company, Milan Branch, regulated by the Bank of Italy, the European Central Bank (ECB) and the Central Bank of Ireland (CBI); BofA Europe (Frankfurt): Bank of America Europe Designated Activity Company, Frankfurt Branch regulated by BaFin, the ECB and the CBI; BofA Europe (Madrid): Bank of America Europe Designated Activity Company, Sucursal en España, regulated by the Bank of Spain, the ECB and the CBI; Merrill Lynch (Australia): Merrill Lynch Equities (Australia) Limited, regulated by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission; Merrill Lynch (Hong Kong): Merrill Lynch (Asia Pacific) Limited, regulated by the Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission (HKSF); Merrill Lynch (Singapore): Merrill Lynch (Singapore) Pte Ltd, regulated by the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS); Merrill Lynch (Canada): Merrill Lynch Canada Inc, regulated by the Canadian Investment Regulatory Organization; Merrill Lynch (Mexico): Merrill Lynch Mexico, SA de CV, Casa de Bolsa, regulated by the Comisión Nacional Bancaria y de Valores; Merrill Lynch (Argentina): Merrill Lynch Argentina SA, regulated by Comisión Nacional de Valores; BofAS Japan: BofA Securities Japan Co., Ltd., regulated by the Financial Services Agency; Merrill Lynch (Seoul): Merrill Lynch International, LLC Seoul Branch, regulated by the Financial Supervisory Service; Merrill Lynch (Taiwan): Merrill Lynch Securities (Taiwan) Ltd., regulated by the Securities and Futures Bureau; BofAS India: BofA Securities India Limited, regulated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI); Merrill Lynch (Israel): Merrill Lynch Israel Limited, regulated by Israel Securities Authority; Merrill Lynch (DIFC): Merrill Lynch International (DIFC Branch), regulated by the Dubai Financial Services Authority (DFSA); Merrill Lynch (Brazil): Merrill Lynch S.A. Corretora de Títulos e Valores Mobiliários, regulated by Comissão de Valores Mobiliários; Merrill Lynch KSA Company: Merrill Lynch Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Company, regulated by the Capital Market Authority.

This information has been approved for publication and is distributed in the United Kingdom (UK) to professional clients and eligible counterparties (as each is defined in the rules of the FCA and the PRA) by MLI (UK), which is authorized by the PRA and regulated by the FCA and the PRA - details about the extent of our regulation by the FCA and PRA are available from us on request; has been approved for publication and is distributed in the European Economic Area (EEA) by BofASE (France), which is authorized by the ACPR and regulated by the ACPR and the AMF; has been considered and distributed in Japan by BofAS Japan, a registered securities dealer under the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act in Japan, or its permitted affiliates; is issued and distributed in Hong Kong by Merrill Lynch (Hong Kong) which is regulated by HKSF; is issued and distributed in Taiwan by Merrill Lynch (Taiwan); is issued and distributed in India by BofAS India; and is issued and distributed in Singapore to institutional investors and/or accredited investors (each as defined under the Financial Advisers Regulations) by Merrill Lynch (Singapore) (Company Registration No 198602883D). Merrill Lynch (Singapore) is regulated by MAS. Merrill Lynch Equities (Australia) Limited (ABN 65 006 276 795), AFS License 235132 (MLEA) distributes this information in Australia only to 'Wholesale' clients as defined by s.761G of the Corporations Act 2001. With the exception of Bank of America N.A., Australia Branch, neither MLEA nor any of its affiliates involved in preparing this information is an Authorised Deposit-Taking Institution under the Banking Act 1959 nor regulated by the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority. No approval is required for publication or distribution of this information in Brazil and its local distribution is by Merrill Lynch (Brazil) in accordance with applicable regulations. Merrill Lynch (DIFC) is authorized and regulated by the DFSA. Information prepared and issued by Merrill Lynch (DIFC) is done so in accordance with the requirements of the DFSA conduct of business rules. BofA Europe (Frankfurt) distributes this information in Germany and is regulated by BaFin, the ECB and the CBI. BofA Securities entities, including BofA Europe and BofASE (France), may outsource/delegate the marketing and/or provision of certain research services or aspects of research services to other branches or members of the BofA Securities group. You may be contacted by a different BofA Securities entity acting for and on behalf of your service provider where permitted by applicable law. This does not change your service provider. Please refer to the [Electronic Communications Disclaimers](#) for further information.

This information has been prepared and issued by BofAS and/or one or more of its non-US affiliates. The author(s) of this information may not be licensed to carry on regulated activities in your jurisdiction and, if not licensed, do not hold themselves out as being able to do so. BofAS and/or MLPF&S is the distributor of this information in the US and accepts full responsibility for information distributed to BofAS and/or MLPF&S clients in the US by its non-US affiliates. Any US person receiving this information and wishing to effect any transaction in any security discussed herein should do so through BofAS and/or MLPF&S and not such foreign affiliates. Hong Kong recipients of this information should contact Merrill Lynch (Asia Pacific) Limited in respect of any matters relating to dealing in securities or provision of specific advice on securities or any other matters arising from, or in connection with, this information. Singapore recipients of this information should contact Merrill Lynch (Singapore) Pte Ltd in respect of any matters arising from, or in connection with, this information. For clients that are not accredited investors, expert investors or institutional investors Merrill Lynch (Singapore) Pte Ltd accepts full responsibility for the contents of this information distributed to such clients in Singapore.

### General Investment Related Disclosures:

Taiwan Readers: Neither the information nor any opinion expressed herein constitutes an offer or a solicitation of an offer to transact in any securities or other financial instrument. No part of this report may be used or reproduced or quoted in any manner whatsoever in Taiwan by the press or any other person without the express written consent of BofA Securities. This document provides general information only, and has been prepared for, and is intended for general distribution to, BofA Securities clients. Neither the information nor any opinion expressed constitutes an offer or an invitation to make an offer, to buy or sell any securities or other financial instrument or any derivative related to such securities or instruments (e.g., options,



futures, warrants, and contracts for differences). This document is not intended to provide personal investment advice and it does not take into account the specific investment objectives, financial situation and the particular needs of, and is not directed to, any specific person(s). This document and its content do not constitute, and should not be considered to constitute, investment advice for purposes of ERISA, the US tax code, the Investment Advisers Act or otherwise. Investors should seek financial advice regarding the appropriateness of investing in financial instruments and implementing investment strategies discussed or recommended in this document and should understand that statements regarding future prospects may not be realized. Any decision to purchase or subscribe for securities in any offering must be based solely on existing public information on such security or the information in the prospectus or other offering document issued in connection with such offering, and not on this document.

Securities and other financial instruments referred to herein, or recommended, offered or sold by BofA Securities, are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and are not deposits or other obligations of any insured depository institution (including, Bank of America, N.A.). Investments in general and, derivatives, in particular, involve numerous risks, including, among others, market risk, counterparty default risk and liquidity risk. No security, financial instrument or derivative is suitable for all investors. Digital assets are extremely speculative, volatile and are largely unregulated. In some cases, securities and other financial instruments may be difficult to value or sell and reliable information about the value or risks related to the security or financial instrument may be difficult to obtain. Investors should note that income from such securities and other financial instruments, if any, may fluctuate and that price or value of such securities and instruments may rise or fall and, in some cases, investors may lose their entire principal investment. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Levels and basis for taxation may change.

Futures and options are not appropriate for all investors. Such financial instruments may expire worthless. Before investing in futures or options, clients must receive the appropriate risk disclosure documents. Investment strategies explained in this report may not be appropriate at all times. Costs of such strategies do not include commission or margin expenses.

BofA Securities is aware that the implementation of the ideas expressed in this report may depend upon an investor's ability to "short" securities or other financial instruments and that such action may be limited by regulations prohibiting or restricting "shortselling" in many jurisdictions. Investors are urged to seek advice regarding the applicability of such regulations prior to executing any short idea contained in this report.

Foreign currency rates of exchange may adversely affect the value, price or income of any security or financial instrument mentioned in this report. Investors in such securities and instruments effectively assume currency risk.

BofAS or one of its affiliates is a regular issuer of traded financial instruments linked to securities that may have been recommended in this report. BofAS or one of its affiliates may, at any time, hold a trading position (long or short) in the securities and financial instruments discussed in this report.

BofA Securities, through business units other than BofA Global Research, may have issued and may in the future issue trading ideas or recommendations that are inconsistent with, and reach different conclusions from, the information presented herein. Such ideas or recommendations may reflect different time frames, assumptions, views and analytical methods of the persons who prepared them, and BofA Securities is under no obligation to ensure that such other trading ideas or recommendations are brought to the attention of any recipient of this information.

In the event that the recipient received this information pursuant to a contract between the recipient and BofAS for the provision of research services for a separate fee, and in connection therewith BofAS may be deemed to be acting as an investment adviser, such status relates, if at all, solely to the person with whom BofAS has contracted directly and does not extend beyond the delivery of this report (unless otherwise agreed specifically in writing by BofAS). If such recipient uses the services of BofAS in connection with the sale or purchase of a security referred to herein, BofAS may act as principal for its own account or as agent for another person. BofAS is and continues to act solely as a broker-dealer in connection with the execution of any transactions, including transactions in any securities referred to herein.

#### Copyright and General Information:

Copyright 2024 Bank of America Corporation. All rights reserved. iQdatabase® is a registered service mark of Bank of America Corporation. This information is prepared for the use of BofA Securities clients and may not be redistributed, retransmitted or disclosed, in whole or in part, or in any form or manner, without the express written consent of BofA Securities. BofA Global Research information is distributed simultaneously to internal and client websites and other portals by BofA Securities and is not publicly-available material. Any unauthorized use or disclosure is prohibited. Receipt and review of this information constitutes your agreement not to redistribute, retransmit, or disclose to others the contents, opinions, conclusion, or information contained herein (including any investment recommendations, estimates or price targets) without first obtaining express permission from an authorized officer of BofA Securities.

Materials prepared by BofA Global Research personnel are based on public information. Facts and views presented in this material have not been reviewed by, and may not reflect information known to, professionals in other business areas of BofA Securities, including investment banking personnel. BofA Securities has established information barriers between BofA Global Research and certain business groups. As a result, BofA Securities does not disclose certain client relationships with, or compensation received from, such issuers. To the extent this material discusses any legal proceeding or issues, it has not been prepared as nor is it intended to express any legal conclusion, opinion or advice. Investors should consult their own legal advisers as to issues of law relating to the subject matter of this material. BofA Global Research personnel's knowledge of legal proceedings in which any BofA Securities entity and/or its directors, officers and employees may be plaintiffs, defendants, co-defendants or co-plaintiffs with or involving issuers mentioned in this material is based on public information. Facts and views presented in this material that relate to any such proceedings have not been reviewed by, discussed with, and may not reflect information known to, professionals in other business areas of BofA Securities in connection with the legal proceedings or matters relevant to such proceedings.

This information has been prepared independently of any issuer of securities mentioned herein and not in connection with any proposed offering of securities or as agent of any issuer of any securities. None of BofAS any of its affiliates or their research analysts has any authority whatsoever to make any representation or warranty on behalf of the issuer(s). BofA Global Research policy prohibits research personnel from disclosing a recommendation, investment rating, or investment thesis for review by an issuer prior to the publication of a research report containing such rating, recommendation or investment thesis.

Any information relating to the tax status of financial instruments discussed herein is not intended to provide tax advice or to be used by anyone to provide tax advice. Investors are urged to seek tax advice based on their particular circumstances from an independent tax professional.

The information herein (other than disclosure information relating to BofA Securities and its affiliates) was obtained from various sources and we do not guarantee its accuracy. This information may contain links to third-party websites. BofA Securities is not responsible for the content of any third-party website or any linked content contained in a third-party website. Content contained on such third-party websites is not part of this information and is not incorporated by reference. The inclusion of a link does not imply any endorsement by or any affiliation with BofA Securities. Access to any third-party website is at your own risk, and you should always review the terms and privacy policies at third-party websites before submitting any personal information to them. BofA Securities is not responsible for such terms and privacy policies and expressly disclaims any liability for them.

All opinions, projections and estimates constitute the judgment of the author as of the date of publication and are subject to change without notice. Prices also are subject to change without notice. BofA Securities is under no obligation to update this information and BofA Securities ability to publish information on the subject issuer(s) in the future is subject to applicable quiet periods. You should therefore assume that BofA Securities will not update any fact, circumstance or opinion contained herein.

Certain outstanding reports or investment opinions relating to securities, financial instruments and/or issuers may no longer be current. Always refer to the most recent research report relating to an issuer prior to making an investment decision.

In some cases, an issuer may be classified as Restricted or may be Under Review or Extended Review. In each case, investors should consider any investment opinion relating to such issuer (or its security and/or financial instruments) to be suspended or withdrawn and should not rely on the analyses and investment opinion(s) pertaining to such issuer (or its securities and/or financial instruments) nor should the analyses or opinion(s) be considered a solicitation of any kind. Sales persons and financial advisors affiliated with BofAS or any of its affiliates may not solicit purchases of securities or financial instruments that are Restricted or Under Review and may only solicit securities under Extended Review in accordance with firm policies.

Neither BofA Securities nor any officer or employee of BofA Securities accepts any liability whatsoever for any direct, indirect or consequential damages or losses arising from any use of this information.