

# Food and Beverages

# Private Label Tracker 4Q23; share reaching 2019 peak

**Industry Overview** 

#### A deeper look into private label

Our <u>quarterly private label tracker</u> (see the 3Q23 report), tracks private label (PL) performance in packaged food sub-categories and relative exposure to private label for companies within our packaged food coverage universe. Leveraging Nielsen's syndicated reports, we provide the following: (1) **Private label market share** on a quarterly basis for food and beverage; (2) Food categories with the **highest private label market shares** as of 4Q23; (3) Historical **price gaps and private label market share** for food categories that are relevant for our coverage universe; (4) **Weighted exposure to private label** at the company level; (5) Number of categories where the company ranks #1 or #2 in terms of dollar share; (6) Company **price gaps** versus private label; and (7) Percentage of **sales sold on promotion**.

#### Private label share up sequentially; price gaps narrow

According to Nielsen, private label share of total food sales was 21.7% in 4Q23, up +10bps sequentially vs 3Q23 and up +30bps vs 4Q22. Despite the price gap between private label and branded narrowing ~50bps QoQ, the gap remains meaningfully above historical averages. As companies begin to ramp up price management initiatives, we look to see if continued narrowing of price gaps leads to a tick down in PL share.

### Share up in Seasonings/Frozen vegetables/Frozen entrees

Categories with established private label offerings continued to see share gains this quarter, as price gaps remain wide and product differentiation between branded and PL is minimal (single ingredient products where consumers can switch with ease). These categories include seasonings and frozen vegetables where PL share increased for the second quarter in a row. Frozen entrees have a lower level of private label exposure, but PL share increased for two quarters in a row. Companies exposed to these categories include MKC, KHC and CAG.

#### PL share down in Sliced meats, Coffee pods & Soup

There were notable declines in PL share in sliced lunchmeat, single serve coffee (pods) and soup. For sliced meat and pods, this is likely given the pass-through nature of the category. Soup, on the other hand, saw category sales declines (sequentially decreasing QoQ as well) for all of 2023. PL sales were down in 4Q23 more than the category. Companies exposed to these categories companies exposed to these categories are HRL, KHC, TSN, KDP, SJM, CPB and GIS.

#### MDLZ, CAG score better; CPB, HRL, GIS, K fare worse

After assessing weighted exposure to PL, portfolio share positions and pricing gaps versus private label, we believe that **MDLZ** and **CAG** are better positioned qualitatively, while **CPB**, **HRL**, **GIS** and **K** are more at risk.

#### 02 February 2024

Equity United States Food and Beverages

Bryan D. Spillane Research Analyst BofAS +1 646 855 1979 bryan.spillane@bofa.com

Peter T. Galbo, CFA Research Analyst BofAS +1 646 743 0175 peter.galbo@bofa.com

Yasmine Deswandhy Research Analyst BofAS +1 646 855 3745 yasmine.deswandhy@bofa.com

#### Exhibit 1: Stocks symbol key

See below for companies mentioned in the report

| Company name         |
|----------------------|
| BellRing Brands Inc  |
| Conagra Brands Inc   |
| Campbell Soup Co     |
| Dole Plc             |
| General Mills Inc    |
| Hormel Foods Corp    |
| The Hershey Co       |
| Kellanova            |
| Keurig Dr Pepper Inc |
| Kraft Heinz Foods    |
| WK Kellogg           |
| Mondelez Intl        |
| McCormick & Co Inc   |
| The J M Smucker Co   |
| Tyson Foods Inc      |
| Utz Brands Inc       |
|                      |

Source: BofA Global Research

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

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 23 to 24.

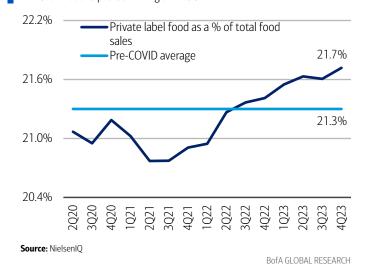
# Private Label share at 2019 peak

We update our Private Label (PL) analysis for packaged food and beverage companies for calendar 4Q23 using NielsenlQ, which captures sales in Food/Grocery, Drug, Mass, Club (excl. Costco) and Convenience channels. Private label is more relevant to packaged food because its overall share is double that in beverages.

#### Key takeaways for packaged food:

- PL market share was up to 21.7% vs 3Q23's 21.6% in packaged food, above the pre-COVID average of 21.3% and in line with the pre-COVID peak of 21.7%. Private label share gains can be attributed to: (1) supply chain improvement and service recovery for private label offerings; and (2) retailers raising PL prices resulting in higher dollar sales, though the weighted average price gap between branded and PL continues to be wider than the pre-COVID average. As private label availability continues to improve and the price gap magnitude holds, we believe further PL share gains are possible as consumers look for more value. However, if price gaps narrow, branded may win back some share.
- The price gap between private label and branded food category peers narrowed by ~50bps sequentially to 23.1% in 4Q23. Since 4Q19, the price gap has remained wider than the pre-COVID average. In our view, as companies assess their price points and begin to provide products that address value-seeking consumers, the weighted average price gap could continue to narrow moving forward.

**Exhibit 2: Private label food as a % of total food sales**Private label market share of 21.7% is in-line with its pre-COVID peak of 21.7% and above pre-COVID avg of 21.3%



**Exhibit 3: Weighted avg price gap between food category & PL** Price gap between food category and private label as of 4Q23 was 23.1%, above pre-COVID average of 18.2%



#### Category callouts/specifics

We also look at category level specifics within packaged food for key sub-categories.

**Increases:** We highlight sequential increases in PL market share in spices/seasonings/extract, crackers, frozen vegetables, and frozen entrees. Snacking nuts & seeds, refrigerated bacon and peanut butter all increased share sequentially after being down sequentially in 3Q23.

**Declines:** We note that sliced lunchmeat and single serve coffee (coffee pods) saw sequential PL share declines for the second quarter in a row. PL share in soup (shelf-stable/condensed/ready-to-serve), chocolate candy and pasta sauce declined sequentially after being up sequentially in 3Q23.



2

- **Spices/seasonings/extract:** PL market share increased +40bps sequentially to 26.4% in 4Q23 (it was also up +30bps in 3Q23), above the pre-COVID average of 25.5%. In the 12-week period ending 12.30.23, the category grew sales at a slower rate than private label, at 2.8% vs 4.6%. In its recent <u>earnings call, MKC</u> (see report) said it plans to address its volume/share issues through increased marketing, promo/merchandizing and managing price gaps on core items like Black Pepper and Vanilla. These initiative are designed to recapture share from both private label and lower price point branded competitors.
- Frozen dinner & entrees: The category has seen sales grow at a slower pace sequentially since 4Q22, with 3Q23 the first quarter with negative category sales, continuing the decline to -6.6% in 4Q23. Although private label market share has historically been low (4Q23 market share of 4.8% vs the pre-COVID average of 3.9%), private label sales grew 6.7%, with share ticking up two quarters in a row. Private label share in frozen vegetables has also ticked up for two consecutive quarters, with 4Q23 PL share at 41.4%. Private label sales also grew at a faster rate of 9.7% vs the category at 6.1%. In the L52-wk period ending 12/30/23, these two categories combined made up approximately one-third of CAG's sales.
- **Sliced lunchmeat:** PL market share decreased -50bps sequentially to 25.7% in 4Q23 after decreasing -10bps sequentially in 3Q23. We note that the overall category sales declined -4.6% in 4Q23 while private label declined -5.7%. Private label share in refrigerated bacon also increased +40bps in 4Q23 to 27.1% after decreasing -50bps sequentially in 3Q23.
- **Ground coffee single serve (K-cups & pods):** PL market share decreased sequentially to 21.4% after decreasing in 3Q23 QoQ (-60bps QoQ in 4Q23 and -30bps QoQ in 3Q23). The price gap between the category and private label contracted in 4Q23 following three quarters of expansion, which could lead to some PL losses moving forward. **Ground coffee excl single serve:** PL market share decrease QoQ by -120bps in 4Q23 after staying flat sequentially in 3Q23. The category price premium contracted by -730bps QoQ, which likely caused PL share losses in 4Q23.
- Shelf stable soup: Sequential PL market share declined -190bps in 4Q23 following a +50bps increase sequentially in 3Q23. This was driven by both condensed (~30% of category sales), which saw a -210bps sequential decline, and ready-to-serve (~70% of category sales), which saw a -190bps sequential decline. For all of 2023, the soup shelf stable category had negative sales growth (sequentially declining as well), which seems to be largely driven by branded, as private label sales grew in the same three quarters; however, in 4Q23, private label sales declined -6.4%. In the 12-week period ending 12/30/23, both CPB and GIS lost share to private label and other manufacturers.

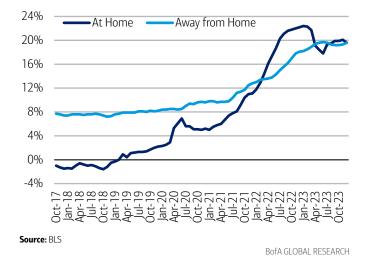


### At-home and away-from-home inflation at similar levels

Food inflation continues to rise as consumers face increased pressure on household budgets and choose to trade off between value, price, and quality. On a three-year stack, food-at-home (FAH) inflation only slightly exceeded food-away-from-home (FAFH) inflation, with at home inflation only 10bps higher than away from home (Exhibit 4). Athome inflation has remained sticky at ~20% on a three-year stack basis over the past five months. From September 2021 to September 2022, the gap between FAH inflation exceeding FAFH inflation widened, but since September 2022, the gap between the two has narrowed. Over the months of April through May 2023, away-from-home inflation exceeded at-home inflation but has since contracted again. The US personal savings rate was 3.7% for December 2023, which was above the June 2022 low of 2.7% but continues below its five-year average of 8.3%, 10-year average of 7.0%. and well below COVID highs of 32%.

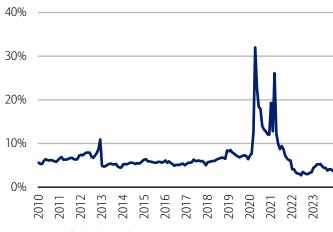
## Exhibit 4: At home vs away from home CPI data (3-year stack)

On a three-year stack, food at home slightly exceeds away from home inflation



#### Exhibit 5: U.S. personal savings rate

U.S. personal savings rate in December was 3.7%, which is below the 5-year average of 8.3% and 10-year average of 7.0%



Source: US BEA, BofA Global Research

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

# **Assessing Private Label exposure for food companies**

To assess the level of private label risk for our coverage universe, we analyzed several factors for DOLE, HRL, MKC, KHC, CAG, CPB, KLG, SJM, GIS, K, MDLZ, HSY: (1) **weighted exposure to private label** – higher exposure equates to more private label risk; (2) portfolio share positions – brands with #1 or #2 category positions tend to have better clout with consumers and can withstand private label pressures, particularly when the top-ranked brand has a clear lead over its competitors; (3) pricing gaps vs private label – brands priced significantly higher than private label may have a more difficult time maintaining share with downward pricing trends; and (4) % of sales from promotions – an increase in private label may lower lift from promotions and merchandising, especially if other competitors respond by increasing promotions to maintain share.

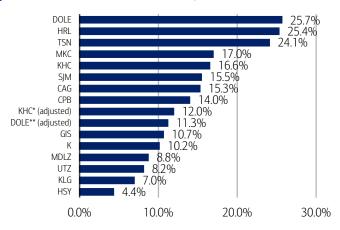
#### Weighted exposure to private label

According to Nielsen, DOLE, HRL, and TSN have the highest weighted exposure to private label since their portfolios are concentrated in categories with high private label market share (pre-packaged salads, snacking nuts & seeds, and fresh meat). We note that DOLE's exposure should decline, as the company agreed (on 1/31/23) to sell its Fresh Vegetables Division to Fresh Express, a deal that has yet to close. When excluding the pre-packaged salad category from the calculation, DOLE's exposure to private label drops to 11.3% from 25.7%. In addition, Nielsen estimates KHC weighted exposure at 16.6%, but KHC contends that Nielsen and IRI do not accurately reflects its private label exposure, which has dropped from 17% in 2019 to 12% on a 52-week basis as of 2Q23.



#### **Exhibit 6: Weighted exposure to private label**

DOLE (unadjusted), HRL & TSN have the highest exposure to private label

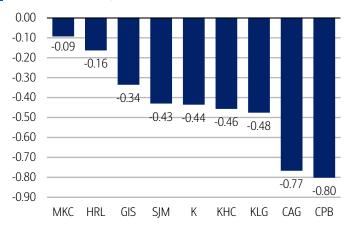


**Source:** NielsenIQ \*According to Nielsen, KHC has 16.6% weighted exposure to private label, however the company contends that Nielsen and IRI do not accurately reflects its private label exposure which as dropped from 17% in 2019 to 12.0% as of 2Q23 on a 52-week basis; \*\*prepackaged salad business adjusted out

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

# Exhibit 7: Portfolio elasticities by company in the latest 52wk period (North America) (pd end 12.30.23)

SJM's sweet snacks portfolio increased its elasticity to -0.43, from -0.14 in October. CAG and CPB elasticities were driven by frozen entrees and shelf stable soup, respectively



Source: NielsenIQ, BofA Global Research estimates

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

Using Nielsen latest 52-wk data for the period ending 12/30/23 we calculate price elasticity of demand for all key center-store categories and took the weighted average based on each category's sales exposure. Amongst its closest peers, MKC's portfolio is least elastic, with weighted average elasticity of -0.07, while CPB and CAG are most elastic with weighted average elasticity of -0.80 (prior -0.31) and -0.77 (prior -0.45), respectively. We note that SJM's portfolio became increasingly elastic following the Hostess acquisition, as its elasticity for the 52-wk period ending 10/7/23 (Hostess excluded) was -0.14 and is now -0.43. CAG and CPB also became increasingly elastic vs the 52-wk pd end 10/7/23. For CAG, frozen entrees drove the change, as the category saw elasticity of -1.05. For CPB, shelf stable soup had elasticity of -2.07. We exclude the refrigerated bacon, frozen breakfast foods, frozen meat & seafood, refrigerated snack combos and frozen waffles/pancakes/French toast categories in our analysis given the list price declines in the category.

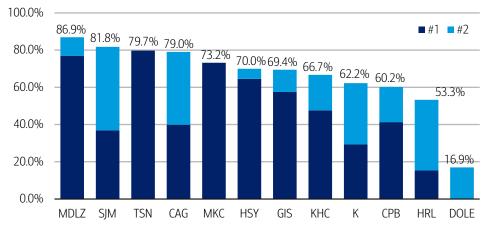
#### Relative market share analysis

Companies that have brands with #1 or #2 market share positions tend to have better clout with consumers and are better able to withstand private label pressures. MDLZ, SJM, and TSN have higher relative market share concentrations. We note that prior to spinning out its North America cereal business, K was in the top three companies that had highest relative market share concentration, but it and now sits in the bottom three. We exclude BRBR and KLG from this analysis given their low category exposure and UTZ since it does not hold #1 or #2 market shares in the categories in which it competes.



#### **Exhibit 8: Relative market share analysis**

MDLZ, SJM, & TSN have high relative market share concentration (86.9% of MDLZ's retail sales are from brands that rank #1 or #2 in their respective category



Source: NielsenIQ

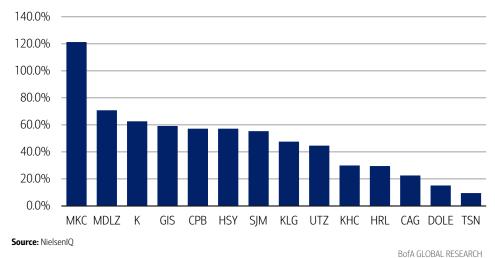
BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

#### Minding price gaps

MKC, MDLZ and K have the largest price gaps relative to private label, which suggests they could be more vulnerable to value offerings. MKC experienced the largest price gaps in canned vegetables, soup, and spices/seasonings/extracts. MDLZ's gap was driven by snack and nutrition bars, baking staples and chocolate candy. K's gap was driven by crackers and salty snacks.

#### Exhibit 9: Average company price gaps to private label on a 52-week basis

MKC has the largest price gap with a 121.2% premium



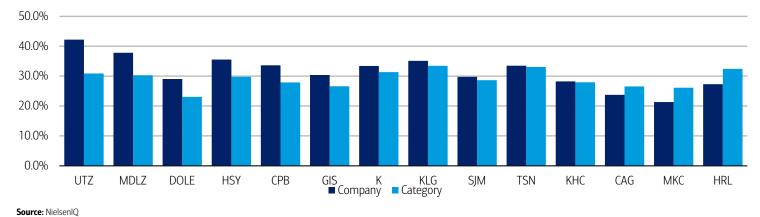
#### Sales lift from promotions may be impacted

Most companies are more promotional than the category excluding KHC, CAG, MKC, HRL.



### Exhibit 10: % sold on promotion by company versus category on a 52-week basis

UTZ promos versus category gap of 11.3%



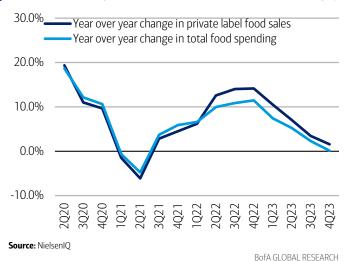


# Private label in focus

Before COVID-19 (1Q19 to 4Q19) private label market share peaked at 21.7% and averaged at 21.3% in terms of sales. In our view, strong growth was a function of (1) constant improvement in the quality of private label offerings (taste & packaging); (2) retailers' strong appetite for product offerings that provide consumers with value; (3) consumers being less regimented about brands than previous generations; (4) an increase in the number of households shopping in discount channels (dollar stores, Aldi & Lidl); and (5) inconsistent support from leading brands in certain food categories. During the COVID-19 crisis (1Q20 to 4Q21) private label share of total food sales declined as the industry dealt with supply chain challenges and temporary stimulus payments afforded consumers the luxury to purchase branded consumer packaged goods. Private label plays less of a role in beverages with only 7.8% market share of total beverage sales this quarter (~80bps below pre-COVID peak of 8.6%). Sales growth trends for private label beverages are in line with private label food.

### Exhibit 11: Total food sales growth versus private label, y-y

In 4Q23, private label grew sales +140bps faster than the total food category



# **Exhibit 13: Total beverage sales growth versus private label, y-y** In 4Q23, private label grew sales +140bps faster than the total beverages

Year over year change in private label beverage sales

Year over year change in total beverage spending

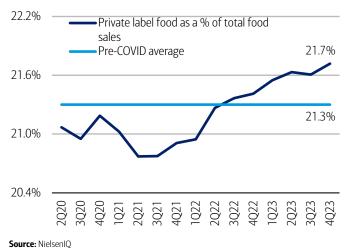
10.0%

-10.0%

Source: NielsenIO

#### Exhibit 12: Private label food as a % of total food sales

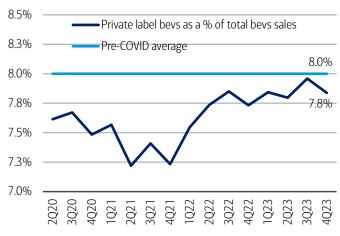
Private label market share of 21.7% is in-line with its pre-COVID peak of 21.7% and above pre-COVID average of 21.3%



BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

### Exhibit 14: Private label beverages as a % of total beverage sales

Private label market share of 7.8% remains below its pre-COVID peak of 8.6%



Source: NielsenIQ

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

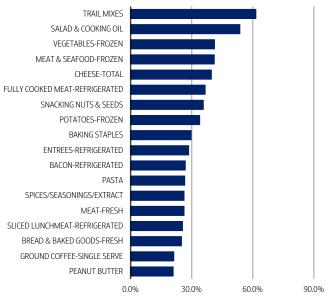


### Market share data for key categories in private label

Private label has strong market share positions in the following categories: trail mixes, salad & cooking oil, and frozen vegetables (Exhibit 15). Private label share tends to be large for commoditized products and share gains on a year-over-year quarterly basis were most pronounced for refrigerated fully cooked meat, frozen potatoes and frozen vegetables (Exhibit 16).

Exhibit 15: Private label market share for key categories for 4Q23 (12 weeks ending December 30th, 2023)

Trail mixes had 60.9% private label market share

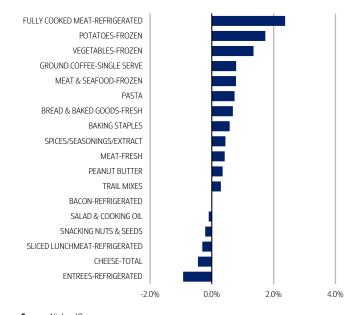


Source: NielsenIQ

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

# Exhibit 16: Year-over-year change in private label market share (4Q23 versus 4Q22)

Refrigerated cooked meat up +2.4% YoY



Source: NielsenIQ

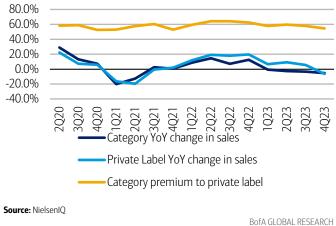
### Deep dive into key food categories

In this section we pulled: (1) year-over-year change in sales for the total category and the private label counterpart; (2) category premium versus private label; and (3) private label market share of the category. We define pre-COVID as the period from 1Q19 to 4Q19. Our analysis captures sales from Food/Grocery, Drug, Mass, Club (excl. Costco) & Convenience channels.

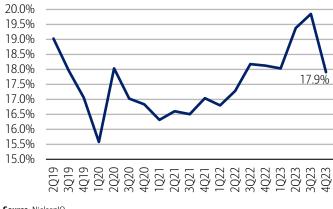
#### Soup-shelf stable

- Private label underperformed the category on a year-over-year sales basis by -110bps this past quarter.
- Category premium of 54.6% this past quarter was significantly higher than 48.2% average in the pre-COVID period.
- Private label market share is currently at 17.9%, which is 20bps below the 18.1% pre-COVID average. Condensed soup PL market share decreased 210bps sequentially while ready to serve decreased 190bps sequentially.





**Exhibit 18: Private label market share of the soup-shelf stable category** Private label market share is currently at 19.7%, which is 20bps below average pre-COVID levels of 18.1%



Source: NielsenIQ

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

#### Dinners & entrees-frozen

- Sales growth for private label outperformed the category by +1,330bps this past quarter.
- Category premium versus private label is currently at 18.2%, which is below the 19.8% pre-COVID average.
- Private label market share is currently at 4.8%, which is above the 3.9% pre-COVID average.



#### Exhibit 19: Frozen dinners & entrees versus private label

Sales growth for private label outperformed the category by  $\pm 1,330$  bps this past quarter

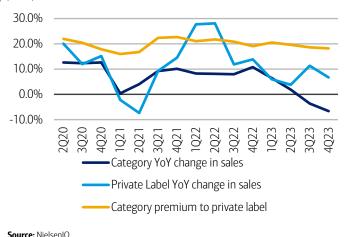
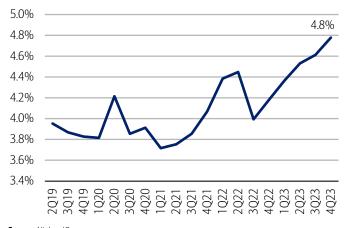


Exhibit 20: Private label market share of the frozen dinners & entrees category

Private label market share is currently at 4.8%, which is above its pre-COVID average of 3.9%



Source: NielsenIQ

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

#### **Refrigerated Bacon**

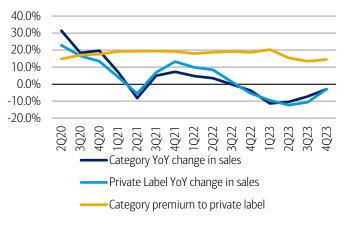
Sales growth for private label was largely in line with the category this past quarter.

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

- Category premium versus private label is currently at 14.5%, which is higher than the 12.2% pre-COVID average.
- Private label market share is currently at 27.1%, which is lower than 27.6% pre-COVID average.

Exhibit 21: Refrigerated Bacon category versus private label

Sales growth for private label grew largely in-line with the category this past quarter

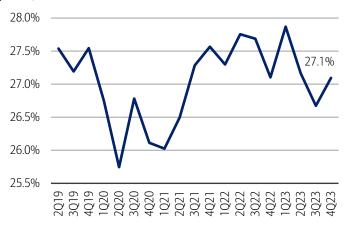


Source: NielsenIQ

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

# Exhibit 22: Private label market share of the refrigerated bacon category

Private label market share is currently at 27.1%, which is below its pre-COVID average of 27.6%



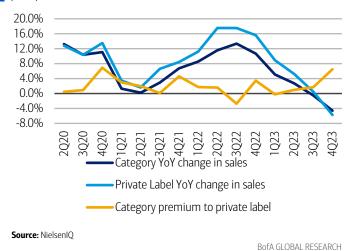
Source: NielsenIQ



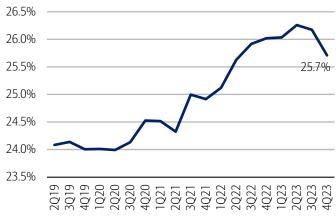
#### Sliced Lunchmeat-Refrigerated

- Sales growth for private label underperformed the category by -110bps this past quarter.
- Category premium versus private label is currently at 6.5%, which is higher than the -0.7% pre-COVID average.
- Private label market share is currently at 25.7%, which is above the 22.7% pre-COVID average.

**Exhibit 23: Sliced lunchmeat category versus private label**Sales growth for private label underperformed the category by -110bps this past quarter



**Exhibit 24: Private label market share of the sliced lunchmeat category** Private label market share is currently at 25.7%, which is above pre-COVID average of 22.7%



Source: NielsenIQ

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

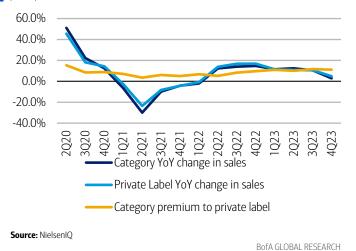
#### **Baking staples**

- Private label outperformed the category by +200bps this past quarter.
- Category premium versus private label is currently at 11.2%, which is below the 12% pre-COVID average.
- Private label market share is currently at 30%, which is +10bps above the 29.9% pre-COVID average.

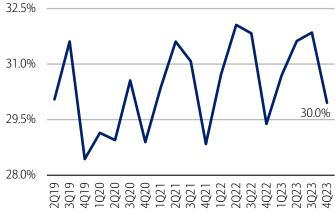


#### **Exhibit 25: Baking staples category versus private label**

Sales growth for private label outperformed the category by  $+200 \mathrm{bps}$  this past quarter



**Exhibit 26: Private label market share of the baking staples category** Private label market share is currently at 30%, which is above pre-COVID average of 29.9%



Source: NielsenIQ

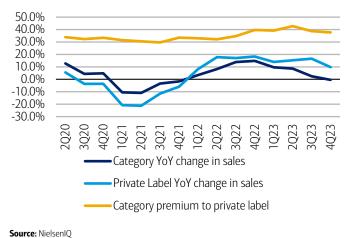
BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

#### Cereal

- Sales growth for private label outperformed the category by +1,020bps this past quarter.
- Category premium versus private label is currently at 37.7%, which is above the 34.6% pre-COVID average.
- Private label market share is currently at 7.1%, which is below the 7.2% pre-COVID average.

#### Exhibit 27: Cereal category versus private label

Sales growth for private label outperformed the category by  $\pm 1,020$  bps this past quarter



BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

#### Exhibit 28: Private label market share of the cereal category

Private label market share is currently at 7.1%, which is below average pre-COVID levels of 7.2%



Source: NielsenIQ



#### **Yogurt**

- Sales growth for private label outperformed the category by +560bps this past quarter.
- Category premium versus private label is currently at 70.5%, which is above the 59.5% pre-COVID average.
- Private label market share is currently at 8.3%, which is in line with its pre-COVID average.

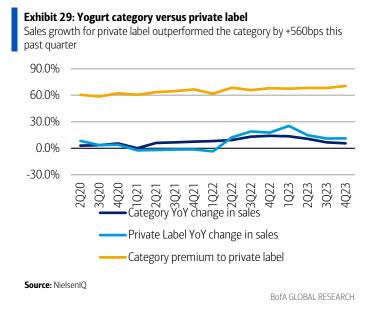




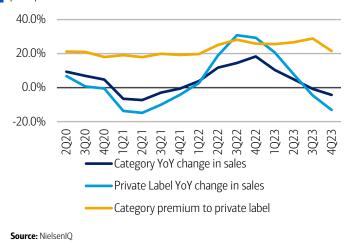
Exhibit 30: Private label market share of the yogurt category

#### **Ground Coffee excl Single Serve**

- Sales growth for private label underperformed the category by -880bps this past quarter.
- Category premium versus private label is currently at 21.5%, which is above the 20% pre-COVID average.
- Private label market share is currently at 10.9%, which is below the 12.4% pre-COVID average.

#### Exhibit 31: Ground Coffee excl. SS category versus private label

Sales growth for private label underperformed the category by -880bps this past quarter



# Exhibit 32: Private label market share of the ground coffee excl. SS category

Private label market share is currently at 10.9%, which is below its pre-COVID average of 12.4



Source: NielsenIQ

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

#### **Ground Coffee Single Serve**

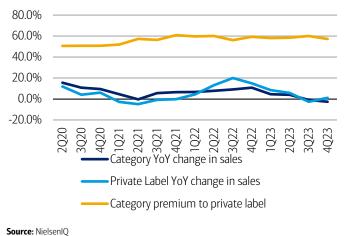
• Sales growth for private label outperformed the category by +370bps this past quarter.

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

- Category premium versus private label is currently at 57.2%, which is above the 48.1% pre-COVID average.
- Private label market share is currently at 21.4%, which is below the 22.6% pre-COVID average.

Exhibit 33: Ground Coffee SS category versus private label

Sales growth for private label outperformed the category by  $+370 \, \mathrm{bps}$  this past quarter



BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

Exhibit 34: Private label market share of the ground coffee SS category

Private label market share is currently at 21.4%, which is below its pre-COVID average of 22.6%



Source: NielsenIQ



#### Spices/seasonings/extract

- Sales growth for private label outperformed the category by +170bps this past quarter.
- Category premium versus private label is currently at 17.2%, which is above the 15.1% pre-COVID average.
- Private label market share is currently at 26.4%, above the 25.5% pre-COVID average.

**Exhibit 35: Spices/seasonings/extract category versus private label** Sales growth for private label outperformed the category by +170bps this past quarter

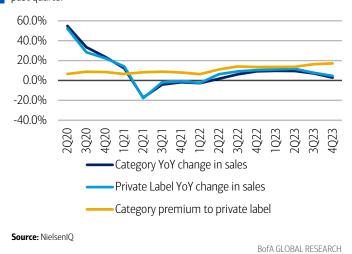
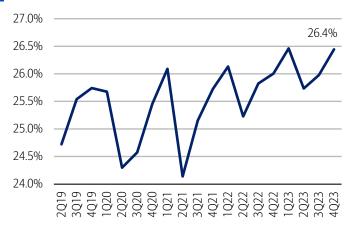


Exhibit 36: Private label market share of the spices/seasonings/extract category

Private label market share is currently at 26.4% above its pre-COVID average.

Private label market share is currently at 26.4%, above its pre-COVID average of 25.5%



Source: NielsenIQ

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

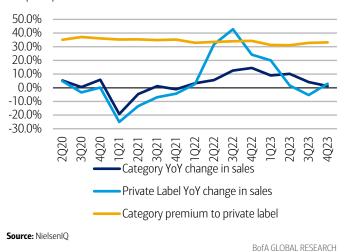
#### Peanut butter

- Sales growth for private label outperformed the category by +170bps this past quarter.
- Category premium versus private label is currently at 33.2%, below the 34.1% pre-COVID average.
- Private label market share is currently at 21.1%, above the 20.6% pre-COVID average.



#### Exhibit 37: Peanut butter category versus private label

Sales growth for private label underperformed the category by +170bps this past quarter



# Exhibit 38: Private label market share of the peanut butter category Private label market share is currently at 21.1% which is above its pre-

Private label market share is currently at 21.1%, which is above its pre-COVID average of 20.6%



Source: NielsenIQ

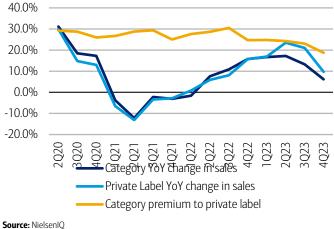
BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

#### **Frozen Vegetables**

- Sales growth for private label outperformed the category by +360bps this past quarter.
- Category premium versus private label is currently at 18.7%, below the 27.9% pre-COVID average.
- Private label market share is currently at 41.4%, above the 40.3% pre-COVID average.

## Exhibit 39: Frozen vegetables category versus private label

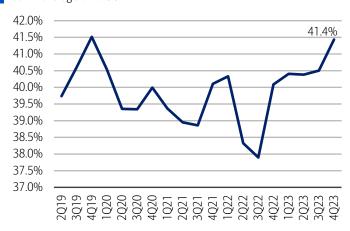
Sales growth for private label outperformed the category by +360bps this past quarter



BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

# Exhibit 40: Private label market share of the frozen vegetables category

Private label market share is currently at 41.4%, which is above its pre-COVID average of 40.3%

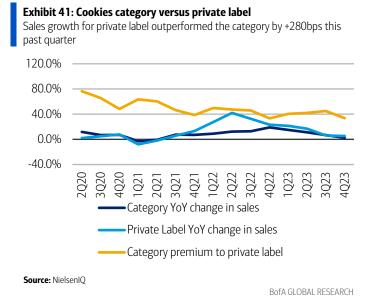


Source: NielsenIQ



#### **Cookies**

- Sales growth for private label outperformed the category by +280bps this past quarter.
- Category premium versus private label is currently at 33.7%, which is below the 66.1% pre-COVID average.
- Private label market share is currently at 11.8%, which is above the 9.4% pre-COVID average.







Source: NielsenIQ

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

#### Pasta Sauce

- Sales growth for private label outperformed the category by +490bps this past quarter.
- Category premium versus private label is currently at 39.4%, above the 28.0% pre-COVID average.
- Private label market share is currently at 11.5%, above the 11.4% pre-COVID average.



#### Exhibit 43: Pasta sauce category versus private label

Sales growth for private label outperformed the category by +490bps this past quarter  $\,$ 

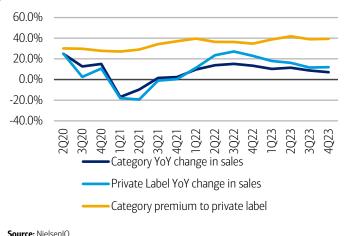


Exhibit 44: Private label market share of the pasta sauce category

Private label market share is currently at 11.5%, which is above its pre-COVID average of 11.4%



Source: NielsenIQ

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

#### **Chocolate Candy**

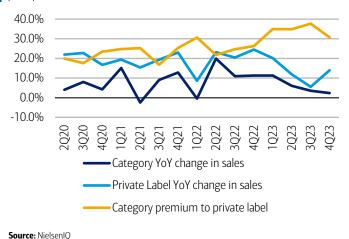
 Sales growth for private label outperformed the category by +1,160bps this past quarter.

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

- Category premium versus private label is currently at 30.7%, above the 15% pre-COVID average.
- Private label market share is currently at 2.6%, above the 1.9% pre-COVID average.

#### Exhibit 45: Chocolate candy category versus private label

Sales growth for private label outperformed the category by  $\pm 1,160$  bps this past quarter

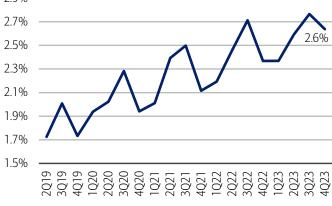


BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

# **Exhibit 46: Private label market share of the chocolate candy category** Private label market share is currently at 2.6%, which is above pre-COVID

Private label market share is currently at 2.6%, which is above pre-COVID average of 1.9%

2.9%



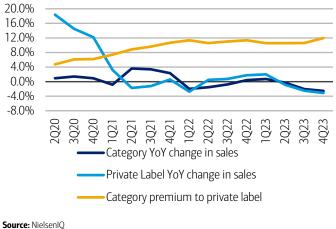
Source: NielsenIQ



#### **Snacking Nuts & Seeds**

- Sales growth for private label underperformed the category by -60bps this past quarter.
- Category premium versus private label is currently at 12%, above the 3.6% pre-COVID average.
- Private label market share is currently at 35.9%, above the 32.9% pre-COVID average.

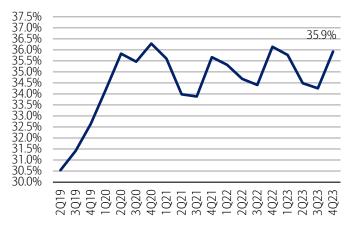
**Exhibit 47: Snacking Nuts & Seeds category versus private label**Sales growth for private label underperformed the category by -60bps this past quarter



BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

# Exhibit 48: Private label market share of the snacking nuts & seeds category

Private label market share is currently at 35.9%, which is above its pre-COVID average of 32.9%



Source: NielsenIQ

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

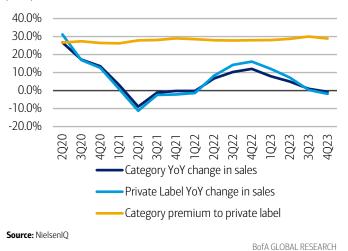
#### Cheese

- Sales growth for private label underperformed the category by -110bps this past quarter.
- Category premium versus private label is currently at 28.9%, above the 24% pre-COVID average.
- Private label market share is currently at 39.9%, below the 40% pre-COVID average.



#### Exhibit 49: Cheese category versus private label

Sales growth for private label underperformed the category by -110bps this past quarter



#### Exhibit 50: Private label market share of the cheese category

Private label market share is currently at 39.9%, which is below its pre-COVID average of 40%



#### Crackers

- Sales growth for private label outperformed the category by +790bps this past quarter.
- Category premium versus private label is currently at 59.3%, below the 82.8% pre-**COVID** average
- Private label market share is currently at 8.7%, above the 7% pre-COVID average.

#### Exhibit 51: Crackers category versus private label

Sales growth for private label outperformed the category by +790bps this past quarter

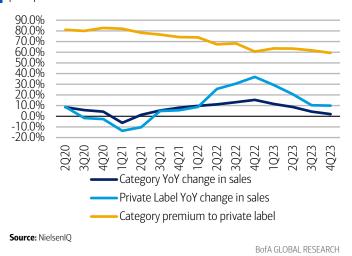
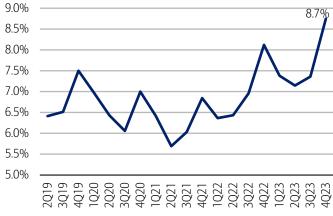


Exhibit 52: Private label market share of the crackers category Private label market share is currently at 8.7%, which is above its pre-COVID



Source: NielsenIQ

average of 7%

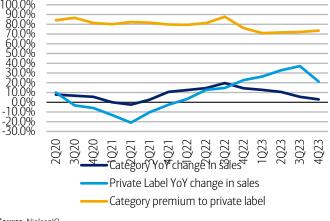


#### **Potato chips**

- Sales growth for private label outperformed the category by +1,820bps this past quarter.
- Category premium versus private label is currently at 73.5%, below the 79.5% pre-COVID average
- Private label market share is currently at 7.6%, below the 7.9% pre-COVID average.

#### Exhibit 53: Potato chips category versus private label

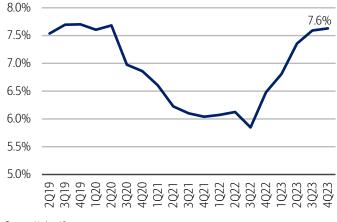
Sales growth for private label outperformed the category by  $\pm 1,820$  bps this past quarter



Source: NielsenIQ

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

# **Exhibit 54: Private label market share of the potato chips category** Private label market share is currently at 7.6%, which is below its pre-COVID average of 7.9%



Source: NielsenIQ



# **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.

### **Other Important Disclosures**

From time to time research analysts conduct site visits of covered issuers. BofA Global Research policies prohibit research analysts from accepting payment or reimbursement for travel expenses from the issuer for such visits.

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 Prudential 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 <a href="https://www.bofaml.com/BofASEdisclaimer">www.bofaml.com/BofASEdisclaimer</a>; 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 (Hong Kong): Merr (Asia Pacific) Limited, regulated by the Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission (HKSFC); 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 HKSFC; 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 in Germany and is regulated by BaFin, the ECB and the CBI. BofA Securiti

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.

This report may contain a short-term trading idea or recommendation, which highlights a specific near-term catalyst or event impacting the issuer or the market that is anticipated to have a short-term price impact on the equity securities of the issuer. Short-term trading ideas and recommendations are different from and do not affect a stock's fundamental equity rating, which reflects both a longer term total return expectation and attractiveness for investment relative to other stocks within its Coverage Cluster. Short-term trading ideas and recommendations may be more or less positive than a stock's fundamental equity rating.

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 herein. Investors in such securities and instruments, including ADRs, 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 legal proceeding 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 in

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

