

Emerging Insight

Israel – Inflation is coming down fast, but BOI is cautious

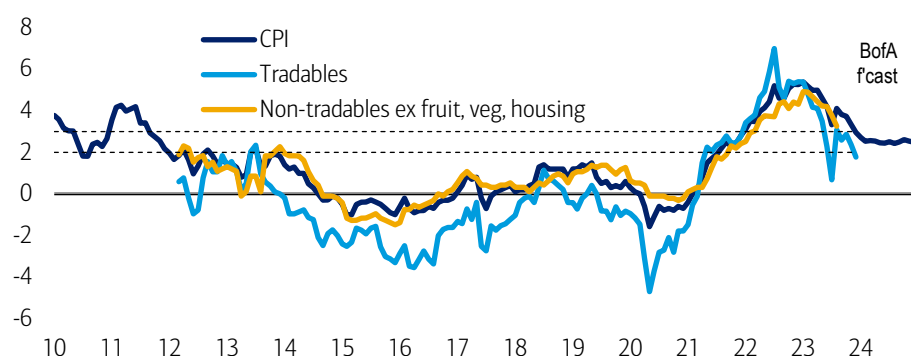
Key takeaways

- Inflation has been surprising on the downside since the conflict started although there are early signs of recovery in demand
- Budget deficit and debt to GDP poised to rise due to high defense spending but we see debt at manageable levels.
- A ceasefire or de-escalation could ease pressure on the ILS and supply side inflation, allowing BOI to cut more.

By Zumrut Imamoglu

Exhibit 1: CPI inflation and components, %

We see year-end inflation at 2.5%



Source: Haver, BofA Global Research

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

Israel in Focus

Inflation is coming down fast, but BOI is cautious

Inflation has decreased and hit the upper bound of the target band at 3%. Tradables inflation decreased to 1.77% and non-tradables inflation excluding housing, fruits and vegetables decreased to 2.95%. Hence, BOI started its cutting-cycle in January with a first cut of 25bp and decreased its base rate to 4.5%. However, increase in transport costs and depreciation in the ILS since start of the year pose risk in the short-term. A de-escalation in the conflict could support the ILS, ease supply side inflationary pressures and allow BOI to cut more.

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.

>> Employed by a non-US affiliate of BofAS and is not registered/qualified as a research analyst under the FINRA rules.

Refer to "Other Important Disclosures" for information on certain BofA Securities entities that take responsibility for the information herein in particular jurisdictions.

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 6 to 8.

12652472

Timestamp: 29 January 2024 09:22PM EST

30 January 2024

GEM Fixed Income Strategy & Economics
Global

Zumrut Imamoglu
Turkey & Israel Economist
MLI (UK)
+44 7749 727 494
zumrut.imamoglu@bofa.com

David Hauner, CFA >>
Global EM FI/FX Strategist
MLI (UK)
david.hauner@bofa.com

Claudio Irigoyen
Global Economist
BofAS
claudio.irigoyen@bofa.com

See Team Page for List of Analysts

Inflation is easing further

CPI inflation decreased from a peak of 5.4% at start of 2023 to 3.0% in December. Almost all measures of inflation show a significant decrease. CPI excluding food and energy was 2.8%, excluding housing it was 2.9%. Tradables inflation dropped to 1.8% and non-tradables inflation excluding fruits, vegetables and housing continued its downward trend to 3% (Exhibit 1). Our estimate of core inflation, the CPI excluding food, energy and housing decreased to 1.5% showing the overall weakness in demand. Our estimates of instantaneous inflation also point to an easing momentum both for headline and core inflation (Exhibit 14 and Exhibit 15).

Most of the decrease in inflation so far stemmed from demand side effects. However, supply side impact on housing and recent increase in transport costs, energy prices and depreciation in the ILS weigh on inflation outlook. Hence 12-month inflation expectations increased to 2.6% from 2.4% in January. Although house prices continued to decrease, housing inflation edged higher by 0.3% mom in December for the first time since the conflict started (Exhibit 5). Given the short-term risks we see year-end inflation at 2.5%.

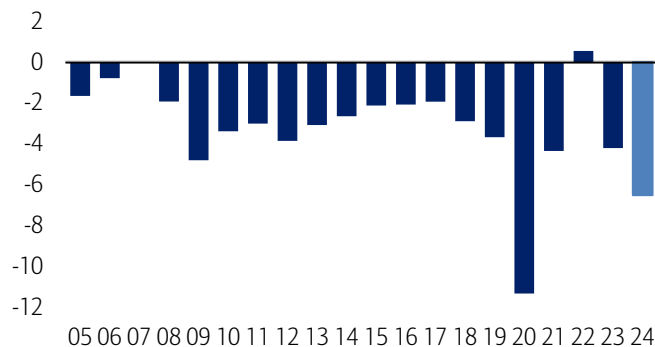
Budget deficit is widening but still manageable

The conflict that started in October is expected to cause a slowdown in the economy and weigh on the fiscal balance. The budget deficit widened to 4.2% of GDP in December on a 12-month basis. Expenditures increased 14.2% while revenues decreased 6.4%. Tax revenues decreased 5.5% yoy and interest expenditures increased 6.1%.

We increase our budget deficit forecast for 2024 from 5% to 6.5%. Depending on how long the conflict goes on, costs could be higher, a ceasefire or de-escalation on the other hand could help ease expenditures. Israel has a low debt to GDP ratio of 62% which we expect now to go up to 67.4% in 2024 but we do not expect any difficulty in financing the deficit. Depending on the course of the conflict, we expect deficit to start decreasing in 2025.

Exhibit 2: Central Government budget balance, % of GDP

Largest deficit since the Covid crisis, 2024 forecast

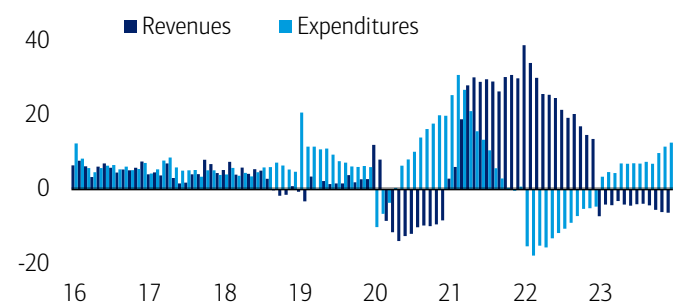


Source: Haver, MoF

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

Exhibit 3: Central Government budget revenues and expenditures, yoy % change

Since growth will remain weak, budget cuts are vital to decrease the deficit



Source: Haver, MoF

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

Although credit card spending shows signs of revival, we expect demand conditions to remain weak and growth to revive gradually. Although revenue losses are not as big as during the Covid crisis, growth and hence, revenue recovery may not be as fast (Exhibit 3). Employment data shows that broad unemployment rate increased to 10.2% when the conflict started and is still elevated at 7.2%. Although this is much lower than the Covid peak of 36%, an important share of the labor force still serves in the army. Lack of foreign employees in the housing and agriculture sectors as well as security concerns around the South and North borders also keep some productive capacity at bay. Hence, government revenue growth may not bounce back as strongly as it did after the Covid crisis. This makes spending cuts excluding defense vital to keep budget deficit under control. We see the cuts so far and increases in taxes as positive for the budget outlook.

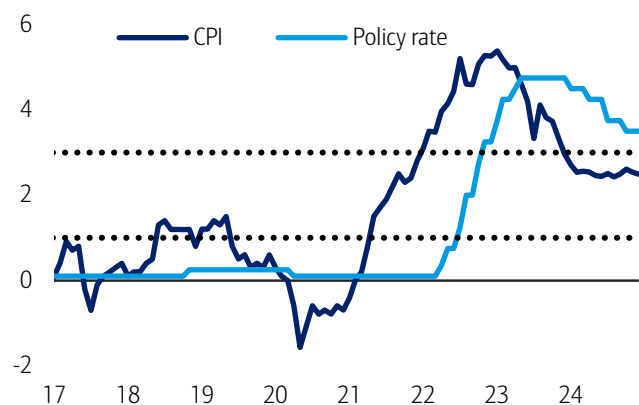
How fast will BOI cut?

BOI is still cautious as uncertainty around the conflict continues and its guidance points to a moderate pace of cuts. It sees year-end base rate at 3.75/4.00%. A ceasefire or de-escalation of the conflict could ease the impact of supply side effects and support the currency thus help bring down inflation faster.

Credit card spending is already above that of pre-conflict levels (Exhibit 11 and Exhibit 12) except for travel services (Exhibit 13), however, overall demand is still weak. Budget cuts excluding defense expenditures and tax increases will likely keep demand subdued and revival in the economy will be slow allowing BOI to cut more aggressively. In addition, as the Fed and ECB starts to cut rates, BOI might be in a better position to cut as well, especially if US equity performance and USD weakness supports the ILS. Therefore, we see the base rate at 3.50% at year-end.

Exhibit 4: BofA base rate and CPI forecast*, %

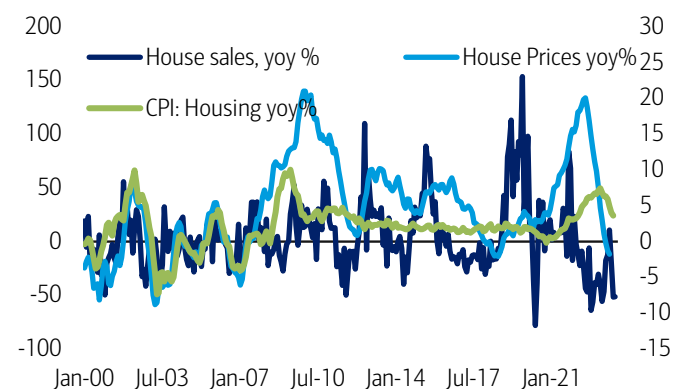
We see year-end inflation at 3.9% and first rate cut in 1Q



Source: Haver, CBS, BOI, BofA Global Research. *Forecasts from June 2023 onwards
BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

Exhibit 5: House sales and prices vs. housing inflation

House prices have been decreasing however rent and owner spending in CPI remains elevated

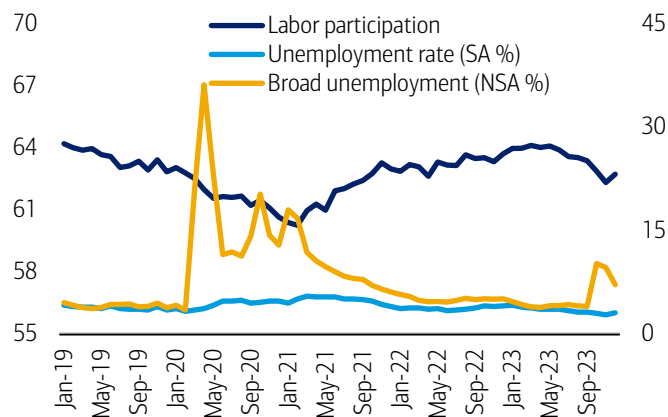


Source: Haver, BofA Research

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

Exhibit 6: Labor force participation and unemployment rates

Broad unemployment started to decrease (rhs)

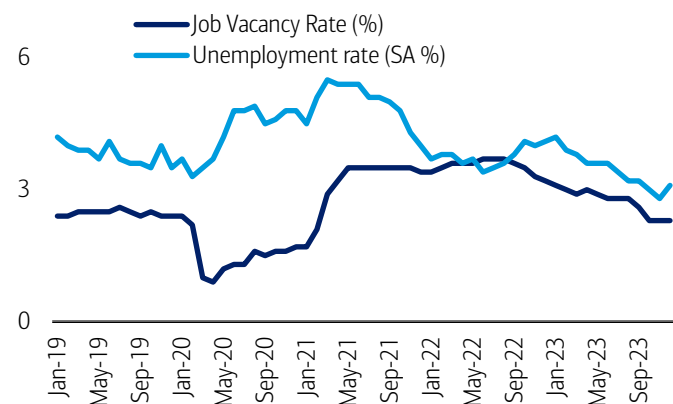


Source: Haver, CBS

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

Exhibit 7: Job vacancy rate %

Weak participation in part explains why vacancy rate and unemployment rate has been decreasing at the same time



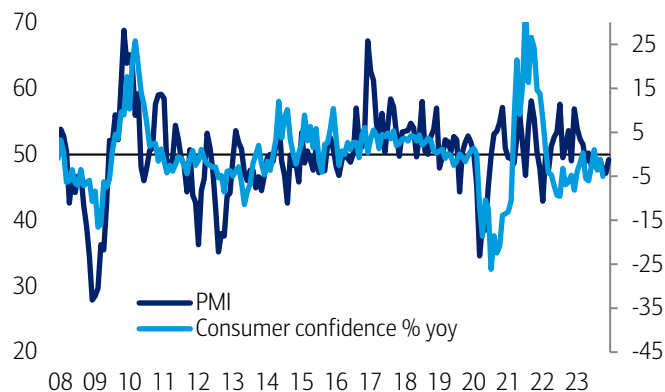
Source: Haver, CBS

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

Inflation and economic activity

Exhibit 8: PMI and consumer confidence

Confidence is weak and PMI is still below 50

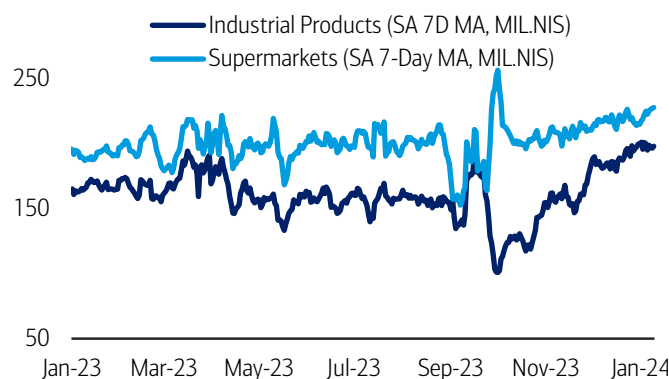


Source: Haver

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

Exhibit 10: Credit card expenditures, markets and products

Expenditure on tradables has recovered

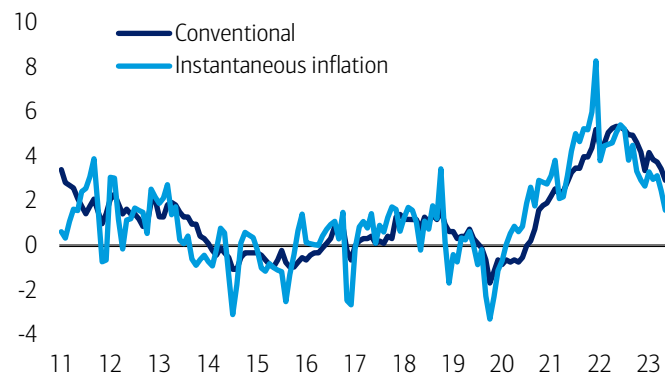


Source: Haver

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

Exhibit 12: Instantaneous inflation, %

With larger weights attached to more recent data, decrease in inflation is more pronounced

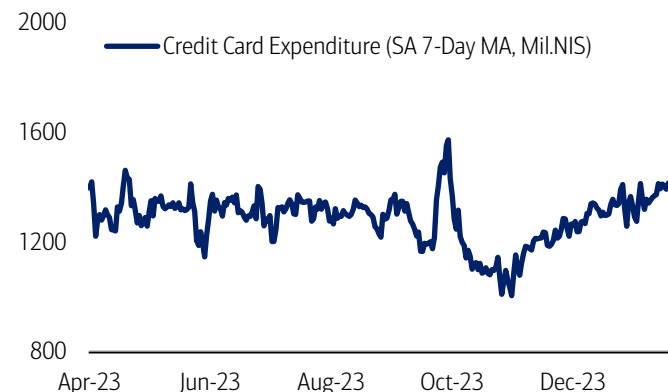


Source: Haver, CBS, BofA Global Research

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

Exhibit 9: Credit card expenditures, total SA 7-Day MA, NIS mn

Recovered and surpassed the pre-conflict levels

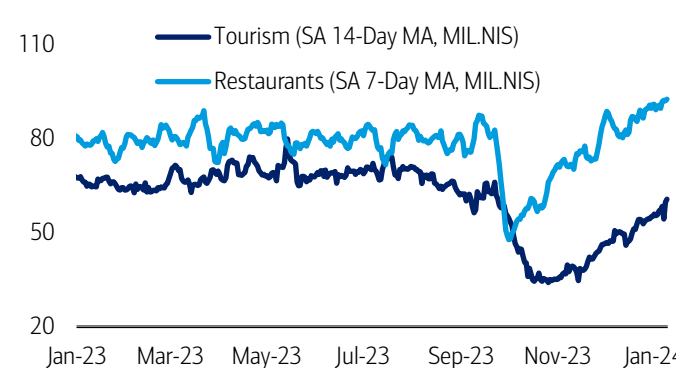


Source: Haver

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

Exhibit 11: Credit card expenditures, services

Expenditure on travel services remains weak

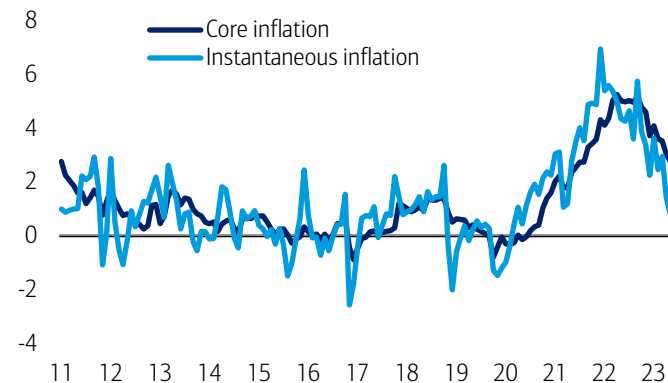


Source: Haver

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

Exhibit 13: Core instantaneous inflation

Core inflation is decreasing faster



Source: Haver, CBS, BofA Research

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

News and Views

Brazil: Central government ended 2023 with a primary deficit of R\$230.5bn

David Beker

+55 11 2188 4371

Natacha Perez

+55 11 2188 4127

The Central Government reported a primary deficit of R\$116.1bn in December (vs R\$38.2bn deficit in November), slightly lower than market expectations of R\$117.3bn. With this, 2023 primary balance registered a deficit of R\$230.5bn (-2.1% of GDP), from a surplus of R\$46.4bn (0.5% of GDP) in 2022. While net revenues reached to R\$1.90tn in 2023 (from R\$1.86tn in 2022) - a decline of -2.2% in real terms, total expenditures were R\$2.13tn (from R\$1.81tn) – a real increase of 12.5% yoy. When we don't consider court-ordered debts (or "Precatórios") in the print, the result is a deficit of R\$138.1bn (or 1.3% of GDP), below the primary balance target set for the year (R\$213.6bn). Recall that the Supreme Federal Court (STF) allowed the payments of court-ordered debt stock to be out from the fiscal target and spending limit calculation until 2026.

- **To follow:** Though all the revenues boosting measures proposed by the government were approved last year, the 2024 zero deficit target remains challenging – as we expect a central government primary deficit of 0.4% of GDP for this year.

Special Disclosures

Some of the securities discussed herein should only be considered for inclusion in accounts qualified for high risk investment.

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.

This report may refer to fixed income securities or other financial instruments that may not be offered or sold in one or more states or jurisdictions, or to certain categories of investors, including retail investors. Readers of this report are advised that any discussion, recommendation or other mention of such instruments is not a solicitation or offer to transact in such instruments. Investors should contact their BofA Securities representative or Merrill Global Wealth Management financial advisor for information relating to such instruments.

Rule 144A securities may be offered or sold only to persons in the U.S. who are Qualified Institutional Buyers within the meaning of Rule 144A under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended. SECURITIES OR OTHER FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS DISCUSSED HEREIN MAY BE RATED BELOW INVESTMENT GRADE AND SHOULD THEREFORE ONLY BE CONSIDERED FOR INCLUSION IN ACCOUNTS QUALIFIED FOR SPECULATIVE INVESTMENT.

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.

The securities or other financial instruments discussed in this report may be traded over-the-counter. Retail sales and/or distribution of this report may be made only in states where these instruments are exempt from registration or have been qualified for sale.

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.

This report, and the securities or other financial instruments discussed herein, may not be eligible for distribution or sale in all countries or to certain categories of investors, including retail investors.

Individuals identified as economists do not function as research analysts under U.S. law and reports prepared by them are not research reports under applicable U.S. rules and regulations.

Macroeconomic analysis is considered investment research for purposes of distribution in the U.K. under the rules of the Financial Conduct Authority.

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; 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.

This report may contain a trading idea or recommendation which highlights a specific identified near-term catalyst or event impacting a security, issuer, industry sector or the market generally that presents a transaction opportunity, but does not have any impact on the analyst's particular "Overweight" or "Underweight" rating (which is based on a three month trade horizon). Trading ideas and recommendations may differ directionally from the analyst's rating on a security or issuer because they reflect the impact of a near-term catalyst or event.

Certain investment strategies and financial instruments discussed herein may only be appropriate for consideration in accounts qualified for high risk investment.

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 or 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.

Research Analysts

Global Economics

Claudio Irigoyen
Global Economist
BofAS
+1 646 855 1734
claudio.irigoyen@bofa.com

Antonio Gabriel
Global Economist
BofAS
antonio.gabriel@bofa.com

Global EM FI/FX Strategy

David Hauner, CFA >>
Global EM FI/FX Strategist
MLI (UK)
+44 20 7996 1241
david.hauner@bofa.com

Asia FI/FX Strategy & Economics

Helen Qiao
China & Asia Economist
Merrill Lynch (Hong Kong)
+852 3508 3961
helen.qiao@bofa.com

Claudio Piron
Emerging Asia FI/FX Strategist
Merrill Lynch (Singapore)
+65 6678 0401
claudio.piron@bofa.com

Jojo Gonzales ^^
Research Analyst
Philippine Equity Partners
jojo.gonzales@pep.com.ph

Abhay Gupta
Emerging Asia FI/FX Strategist
Merrill Lynch (Singapore)
abhay.gupta2@bofa.com

Pipat Luengnaruemitchai
Emerging Asia Economist
Kiatnakin Phatra Securities
pipat.luen@kkpfg.com

Miao Ouyang
China & Asia Economist
Merrill Lynch (Hong Kong)
miao.ouyang@bofa.com

Xiaoqing Pi
China Economist
Merrill Lynch (Hong Kong)
xiaoqing.pi@bofa.com

Benson Wu
China & Korea Economist
Merrill Lynch (Hong Kong)
benenson.wu@bofa.com

Ting Him Ho, CFA
Asia Economist
Merrill Lynch (Hong Kong)
tinghim.ho@bofa.com

Janice Xue
Emerging Asia FI/FX Strategist
Merrill Lynch (Hong Kong)
janice.xue@bofa.com

Chun Him Cheung, CFA
Emerging Asia FI/FX Strategist
Merrill Lynch (Hong Kong)
chunhim.cheung@bofa.com

Kai Wei Ang
Asia & ASEAN Economist
Merrill Lynch (Singapore)
kaiwei.ang@bofa.com

EEMEA Cross Asset Strategy, Econ

Mai Doan
CEE Economist
MLI (UK)
+44 20 7995 9597
mai.doan@bofa.com

Zumrut Imamoglu
Turkey & Israel Economist
MLI (UK)
zumrut.imamoglu@bofa.com

Vladimir Osakovskiy >>
EM Sovereign FI/EQ strategist
Merrill Lynch (DIFC)
vladimir.osakovskiy@bofa.com

Jean-Michel Saliba
MENA Economist/Strategist
MLI (UK)
jean-michel.saliba@bofa.com

Merveille Paja
EEMEA Sovereign FI Strategist
MLI (UK)
merveille.paja@bofa.com

Mikhail Liluashvili
EEMEA Local Markets Strategist
MLI (UK)
mikhail.liluashvili@bofa.com

Tatonga Rusike
Sub-Saharan Africa Economist
MLI (UK)
tatonga.rusike@bofa.com

LatAm FI/FX Strategy & Economics

David Beker >>
Bz Econ/FI & LatAm EQ Strategy
Merrill Lynch (Brazil)
+55 11 2188 4371
david.beker@bofa.com

Jane Brauer
Sovereign Debt FI Strategist
BofAS
+1 646 855 9388
jane.brauer@bofa.com

Carlos Capistran
Canada and Mexico Economist
BofAS
+1 646 743 2921
carlos.capistran@bofa.com

Ezequiel Aguirre
LatAm FI/FX Strategist
BofAS
ezequiel.aguirre2@bofa.com

Pedro Diaz
Caribbean Economist
BofAS
pdiaz2@bofa.com

Christian Gonzalez Rojas
LatAm Local Markets Strategist
BofAS
christian.gonzalezrojas@bofa.com

Lucas Martin, CFA
Sovereign Debt FI Strategist
BofAS
lucas.martin@bofa.com

Alexander Müller
Andean(ex-Ven) Carib Economist
BofAS
alexander.muller@bofa.com

Natacha Perez
Brazil Economist
Merrill Lynch (Brazil)
natacha.perez@bofa.com

Sebastian Rondeau
LatAm FI/FX Strategist
BofAS
sebastian.rondeau@bofa.com

FINRA rules.

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.

>> Employed by a non-US affiliate of BofAS and is not registered/qualified as a research analyst under the FINRA rules.

Refer to "Other Important Disclosures" for information on certain BofA Securities entities that take responsibility for the information herein in particular jurisdictions.

BofA Securities participated in the preparation of this report, in part, based on information provided by Philippine Equity Partners, Inc. (Philippine Equity Partners). ^^Philippine Equity Partners employees are not registered/qualified as research analysts under

