

### Japan Watch

# Japan Consumer Survey (Jan 23): Sharp jump in income expectations

This is the 27th installment of our proprietary Japan Consumer Survey series, which tracks changes in spending intentions using an online poll of Japanese consumers. 5,000 respondents participated in our latest survey round, which was conducted between 2 January – 19 January (see methodology in the Appendix for details; please refer to the October survey published on 15 November for the previous round's results). The responses are weighted for age, gender, and income (see Exhibit 27 - Exhibit 32 for sample characteristics.

### Rising income expectations a tailwind for spending

3-month ahead spending enthusiasm remained largely flat in October, with the share of respondents who said they planned to increase spending over the next three months little changed at 28% (Exhibit 1).

However, there was a notable rise in income expectations in January. Among respondents who are currently working, the share saying they expected their income to improve over the next year jumped to 27% from 22% in the previous October survey (Exhibit 4). This is by far the strongest reading since we began asking this question in March 2022. The pick-up was broad-based among age groups (Exhibit 5).

We attribute the improvement in income expectations to increasingly positive headlines around the FY24 spring wage negotiations (see <u>Wages update: Momentum building further for FY24 Shunto</u>, 10 January 2024). The developments are consistent with the recent bottoming in consumer sentiment and supports our view that consumer spending should start to improve in earnest from 2Q CY24 (see <u>Chartbook #83: Bottoming sentiment bodes well for future spending</u>, 15 January 2024).

### Perceived inflation falling for food, household essentials

Another factor that may be supporting the improvement in income expectations and sentiment is the easing of price hikes, particularly for essentials like food and daily necessities (<u>December CPI: Lull to continue</u>; <u>adjusting our forecasts</u>, 9 January 2024).

In January, "Food/prepared food" remained the category for which respondents noticed the most dramatic price increases over the past 3 months. But the share that said so dropped to 38% vs. 46% in October (Exhibit 10). Looking ahead, we expect imported goods inflation to continue easing, supporting sentiment and consumption.

### Special survey: Shifting attitudes towards job-hopping

In this survey round, we also asked respondents about their attitude towards job-hopping, which we think will become increasingly common in Japan as companies move away from the traditional lifetime employment system. (continued)

BofA

25 January 2024

**Economics** 

Japan

Data Analytics



Economics Izumi Devalier Japan and Asia Economist BofAS Japan +81 3 6225 6257 izumi.devalier@bofa.com

**Takayasu Kudo** Japan and Asia Economist BofAS Japan +81 3 6225 8592 takayasu.kudo@bofa.com

Equity Research Arashi Nishizawa >> Research Analyst BofAS Japan +81 3 6225 6402 arashi.nishizawa@bofa.com

Ayane Kanazawa >> Research Analyst BofAS Japan +81 3 6225 8490 ayane.kanazawa@bofa.com

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 14 to 15.

<sup>&</sup>gt;> 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.

Roughly a third of respondents said they were interested in changing their jobs: 13% said they intend to do so in the near feature (within the next 3 years), while another 20% of respondents said they would like to do so in such a time period, but consider it unlikely to happen (Exhibit 15).

By age group, younger respondents between 20 and 39 years are more interested in changing jobs (Exhibit 18). Respondents that work at bigger firms are slightly less likely to want to change jobs (Exhibit 16). Finally, the desire and intention to change jobs is inversely correlated with educational attainment: 85% of respondents with a masters or above state that they "do not want to change jobs," vs. 58% of high-school graduates (Exhibit 17).

#### Dissatisfaction with salary number 1 reason for job-switching

The most common reason to change jobs is dissatisfaction with salary (22%) followed by concerns about their company's future and stability (14%) (Exhibit 19).

Those that work in bigger companies are more likely to say they want to move due to dissatisfaction with salary levels (Exhibit 20). Those that would like to change jobs and work for smaller companies between 5 and 29 employees are more likely to transition due to concerns about their company's future.

Among those who want to change jobs but find it unlikely, the most popular reason was due concerns that doing so might come with a decline in salary (19%; Exhibit 21). This was more common for male respondents than females.

Among those who want to change jobs, nearly half (51%) would require a higher salary as a condition to do so (Exhibit 22; Exhibit 23). 34% of those who would like to change jobs would just need a salary increase of 5-10% (Exhibit 24).

#### Diminished expectations for life-time employment among the young

Finally, we asked respondents which of the following best described their work values:

- 1) "Stay employed with the same company for a long time" or...
- 2) "Change jobs multiple times as needs arise"

Preferences were split down the middle, with a slightly higher percentage (55%) of overall respondents preferring the latter (Exhibit 25).

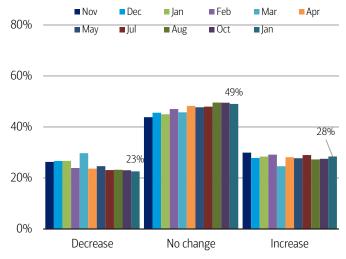
By gender, female respondents were more likely to prefer the more flexible model than males (60% for females vs. 50% males).

Consistent with their higher openness to job-switching, younger respondents were more likely to say they would prefer to "change jobs multiple times as needs arise" (Exhibit 26).



#### **Exhibit 1: Spending intentions over the next 3 months**

Comparison with previous month's survey

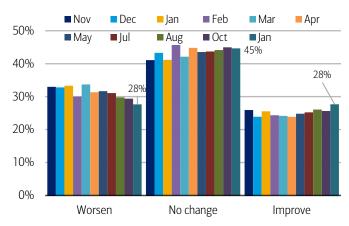


**Source:** RIWI, BofA Global Research; Respondents: 2,500 for before December 2023, 5,000 for after January 2024; Survey period: Jan = 1/2-1/19, Oct = 10/26-11/1; Aug = 8/23-9/3; Jul = 7/10-7/19; May = 5/30-6/12; Apr = 4/20-5/4; Mar = 3/27-4/4; Feb = 2/15-2/21; Jan = 11/11-1/20; Dec = 12/7-12/12; Nov = 11/9-11/18

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

# Exhibit 3: How do you see your income changing over the next year?

All respondents



**Source:** RIWI, BofA Global Research; Respondents: 2,500 for before December 2023, 5,000 for after January 2024; Survey period: Jan = 1/2-1/19, Oct = 10/26-11/1; Aug = 8/23-9/3; Jul = 7/10-7/19; May = 5/30-6/12; Apr = 4/20-5/4; Mar = 3/27-4/4; Feb = 2/15-2/21; Jan = 11/11-1/20; Dec = 12/7-12/12; Nov = 11/9-11/18

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

# Exhibit 2: Share of respondents who expect to increase spending over the next 3 months

Share of responses by age group

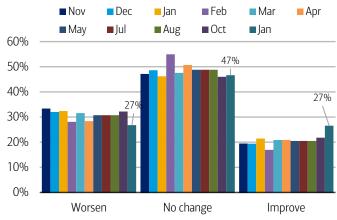


**Source:** RIWI, BofA Global Research; Respondents: 2,500 for before December 2023, 5,000 for after January 2024; Survey period: Jan = 1/2-1/19; Oct = 10/26-11/1; Aug = 8/23-9/3; Jul = 7/10-7/19; May = 5/30-6/12; Apr = 4/20-5/4; Mar = 3/27-4/4; Feb = 2/15-2/21; Jan = 1/11-1/20; Dec = 12/7-12/12; Nov = 11/9-11/18; Oct = 10/4-10/14; Aug = 8/24-9/1; Jul = 7/25-8/2; Jun = 6/23-6/29; May = 5/27-6/1; Apr = 4/26-5/1; Mar = 3/25-3/31; Feb = 2/22-3/1; Jan = 1/21-1/27; Dec = 12/21-12/27; Nov = 11/22-11/30; Oct = 10/21-10/31; Sep = 9/20-10/1

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

## Exhibit 4: How do you see your income changing over the next year?

Responses among working respondents

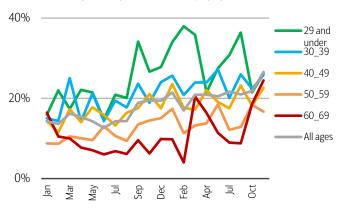


**Source:** RIWI, BofA Global Research; Respondents: 3,417; Survey period: Jan = 1/2-1/19; Oct = 10/26-11/1; Aug = 8/23-9/3; Jul = 7/10-7/19; May = 5/30-6/12; Apr = 4/20-5/4; Mar = 3/27-4/4; Feb = 2/15-2/21; Jan = 1/11-1/20; Dec = 12/7-12/12; Nov = 11/9-11/18; Oct = 10/4-10/14; Aug = 8/24-9/1



# Exhibit 5: How do you see your income changing over the next year?

Responses among working respondents - by age group



**Source:** RIWI, BofA Global Research; Respondents: 3,417; Survey period: Jan = 1/2-1/19; Oct = 10/26-11/1; Aug = 8/23-9/3; Jul = 7/10-7/19; May = 5/30-6/12; Apr = 4/20-5/4; Mar = 3/27-4/4; Feb = 2/15-2/21; Jan = 1/11-1/20; Dec = 12/7-12/12; Nov = 11/9-11/18; Oct = 10/4-10/14; Aug = 8/24-9/1; Jul = 7/25-8/2; Jun = 6/23-6/29; May = 5/27-6/1; Apr = 4/26-5/1; Mar = 3/25-3/31; Feb = 2/22-3/1; Jan = 1/21-1/27

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

## Exhibit 6: If you have planned, or are considering, travel by Jul-Sep '24, what kind of trip is it?

Response by trip timing

	Domesti	c Travel	Overseas	Overall	
Share	Close dist.	Long dist.	Travel	Overall	
Jan-Mar '24	54%	25%	21%	100%	
Apr-Jun '24	29%	29%	43%	100%	
Jul-Sep '24	27%	34%	40%	100%	

**Source:** RIWI, BofA Global Research; Respondents: 2,496; Survey period: 1/2-1/19

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

# Exhibit 7: If you have planned, or are considering, travel by Jul-Sep '24, what kind of trip is it?

Share of responses by household income

	Household income										
Share	Less than 2mn	2 to 4mn	4 to 6mn	6 to 9mn	9 to 12mn	Over 12mn	ALL				
Dom, close dist.	63%	38%	29%	38%	36%	19%	40%				
Dom, long dist	20%	32%	26%	31%	37%	21%	28%				
Overseas	17%	30%	45%	32%	28%	60%	32%				
Overall	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%				

**Source:** RIWI, BofA Global Research; Respondents: 2,496; Survey period: 1/2-1/19

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

### Exhibit 8: How long do you think the rise in price for household necessities, such as food and utilities, will continue? Share of responses by expected duration of inflation (%)

	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jul	Aug	Oct	Jan
I do not think the price of household necessities are currently rising	13.0%	13.7%	12.7%	14.5%	16.3%	13.2%	20.1%	19.3%	23.7%	15.1%	12.8%
Less than 6 months	13.1%	13.2%	12.8%	13.6%	12.7%	10.5%	11.4%	11.5%	8.0%	15.0%	16.8%
More than 6 months, less than 1 year	17.8%	18.4%	14.9%	13.5%	13.6%	12.1%	10.8%	9.8%	7.0%	11.1%	13.3%
More than 1 year, less than 2 years	22.0%	19.8%	22.6%	22.9%	22.6%	22.2%	18.8%	18.1%	15.8%	22.8%	18.0%
More than 2 years, less than 3 years	11.0%	10.6%	12.4%	10.1%	9.7%	11.6%	11.8%	9.5%	12.6%	8.1%	9.3%
More than 3 years	23.1%	24.4%	24.6%	25.4%	25.2%	30.5%	27.1%	31.7%	32.7%	28.0%	29.8%
Grand Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

**Source:** RIWI, BofA Global Research; Respondents: 2,500 for before December 2023, 5,000 for after January 2024; Survey period: Jan = 1/2-1/19, Oct = 10/26-11/1; Aug = 8/23-9/3; Jul = 7/10-7/19; May = 5/30-6/12; Apr = 4/20-5/4; Mar = 3/27-4/4; Feb = 2/15-2/21; Jan = 11/11-1/20; Dec = 12/7-12/12; Nov = 11/9-11/18



# Exhibit 9: Price hikes for household necessities, such as food and utilities, has been increasing recently. How long do you think these price increases will continue?

Share of responses by annual household income

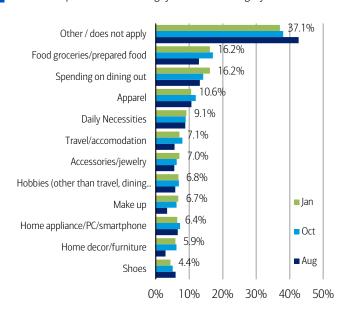
	Household income							
(%)	Less than 2mn	2 to 4mn	4 to 6mn	6 to 9mn	9 to 12mn	Over 12mn	ALL	
I do not think the price of household necessities are currently rising	15.3%	7.2%	8.4%	7.0%	13.0%	54.2%	12.8%	
Less than 6 months	40.1%	14.2%	9.7%	10.2%	11.1%	8.1%	16.8%	
More than 6 months, less than 1 year	8.9%	18.3%	18.3%	11.3%	9.1%	4.5%	13.3%	
More than 1 year, less than 2 years	7.9%	19.0%	26.4%	23.2%	17.7%	4.7%	18.0%	
More than 2 years, less than 3 years	5.5%	8.5%	9.7%	14.6%	9.4%	6.4%	9.3%	
More than 3 years	22.3%	32.8%	27.4%	33.7%	39.8%	22.2%	29.8%	
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

**Source:** RIWI, BofA Global Research; Respondents: 5,000; Survey period: 1/2-1/19

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

# Exhibit 11: In the past 3 months, which items did you buy less due to price hike?

Share of respondents answering "yes" for each category

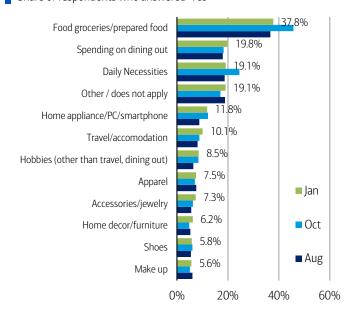


**Source:** RIWI, BofA Global Research; Respondents: 2,574; Survey period: Jan = 1/2-1/19; Oct = 10/26-11/1; Aug = 8/23-9/3

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

# Exhibit 10: In the past 3 months, where have you noticed the most dramatic price increases? (choose up to 3 from below)

Share of respondents who answered "Yes"

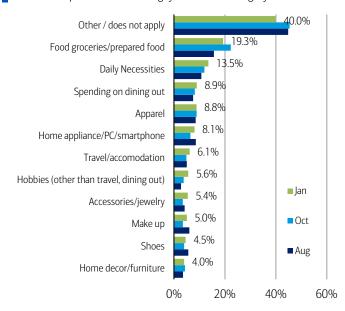


**Source:** RIWI, BofA Global Research; Respondents: 2,500 for before December 2023, 5,000 for after January 2024; Survey period: Jan = 1/2-1/19; Oct = 10/26-11/1; Aug = 8/23-9/3

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

# Exhibit 12: In the past 3 months, which items did you choose to buy cheaper version due to the price hike?

Share of respondents answering "yes" for each category

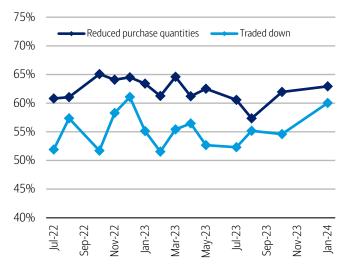


**Source:** RIWI, BofA Global Research; Respondents: 2,448; Survey period: Jan = 1/2-1/19; Oct = 10/26-11/1; Aug = 8/23-9/3



# Exhibit 13: Share of respondents who 1) reduced purchase quantities or 2) traded down in response to price hikes over the past 3 months

The share of consumers who report reducing purchase quantities in response to price hikes has remained fairly constant

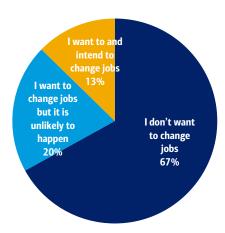


**Source:** RIWI, BofA Global Research; Respondents: 2,500 for before December 2023, 5,000 for after January 2024; Survey period: Jan = 1/2-1/19; Oct = 10/26-11/1; Aug = 8/23-9/3; Jul = 7/10-7/19; May = 5/30-6/12; Apr = 4/20-5/4; Mar = 3/27-4/4; Feb = 2/15-2/21; Jan = 1/11-1/25; Dec = 12/7-12/12; Nov = 11/9-11/18; Oct = 10/4-10/14; Aug = 8/24-9/1; Jul = 7/25-8/2;

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

# Exhibit 15: Do you have plans to change jobs in the near future (roughly 3 years) and how likely it is to happen?

Roughly a third of respondents are interesting in changing jobs in the next three years

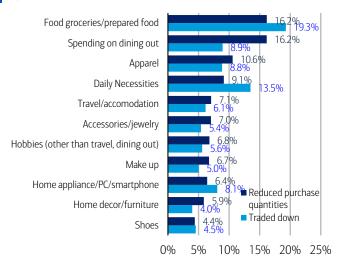


**Source:** RIWI, BofA Global Research; Respondents: 3,418; Survey period: 1/2-1/19

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

# Exhibit 14: Share of respondents who 1) reduced purchase quantities or 2) traded down in response to price hikes over the past 3 months

Food remains the most popular target of both quantity cuts and trading down

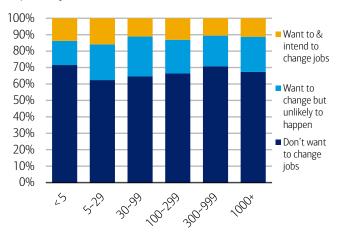


**Source:** RIWI, BofA Global Research; Respondents: 5,000; Survey period: Jan = 1/2-1/19

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

# Exhibit 16: Do you have plans to change jobs in the near future (roughly 3 years) and how likely it is to happen?

Responses by firm size (%)

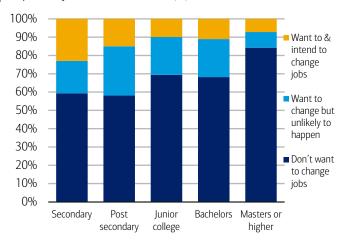


**Source:** RIWI, BofA Global Research; Respondents: 3,418; Survey period: 1/2-1/19



## Exhibit 17: Do you have plans to change jobs in the near future (roughly 3 years) and how likely it is to happen?

Responses by educational attainment (%)



 $\textbf{Source:} \ \mathsf{RIWI}, Bof A \ \mathsf{Global} \ \mathsf{Research}; Respondents: 3,418; Survey \ \mathsf{period}: 1/2-1/19$ 

of A GLOBAL RESEARCH

# Exhibit 18: Do you have plans to change jobs in the near future (roughly 3 years) and how likely it is to happen?

Share of responses by age group

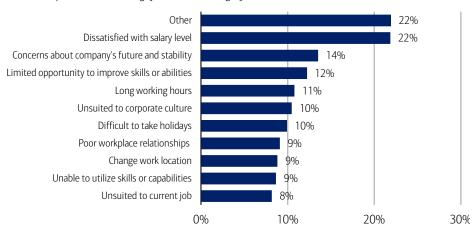
	Age group										
Share	29 and under	30_39	40_49	50_59	60_69	70 and above	All ages				
I don't want to change jobs	62%	62%	64%	64%	73%	77%	67%				
I want to change jobs but it is unlikely to happen	17%	21%	22%	26%	17%	17%	20%				
I want to and intend to change jobs	21%	16%	15%	10%	10%	6%	13%				
Overall	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%				

Source: RIWI, BofA Global Research; Respondents: 3,418; Survey period: 1/2-1/19

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

#### Exhibit 19: Why do you want to change jobs? (select all that apply)

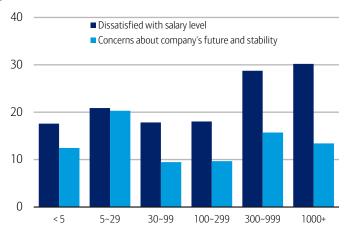
Share of respondents answering "yes" for each category



**Source:** RIWI, BofA Global Research; Respondents: 1,091; Survey period: 1/2-1/19

### Exhibit 20: Why do you want to change jobs? (select all that apply)

Responses by firm size (%)

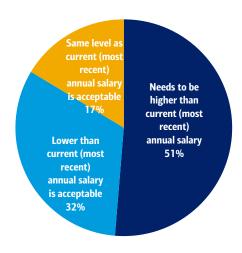


**Source:** RIWI, BofA Global Research; Respondents: 1,091; Survey period: 1/2-1/19

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

## Exhibit 22: What is your required annual salary as a condition for changing jobs?

Share of responses for respondents who want, or intend, to change jobs (%)

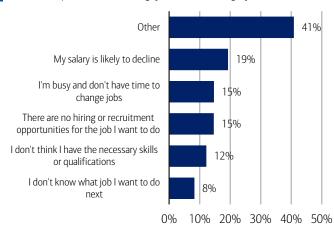


**Source:** RIWI, BofA Global Research; Respondents: 1,129; Survey period: 1/2-1/19

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

### Exhibit 21: Why do you think you will not be able to change jobs? (select all that apply)

Share of respondents answering "yes" for each category



Source: RIWI, BofA Global Research; Respondents: 699; Survey period: 1/2-1/19

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

# Exhibit 23: What is your required annual salary as a condition for changing jobs?

Share of responses by age group

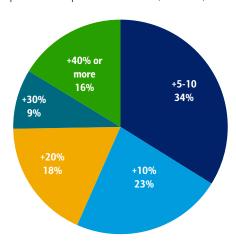
	Age group									
Share	29 and under	30_39	40_49	50_59	60_69	70 and above	All ages			
Needs to be higher than current (most recent) annual salary	53%	52%	60%	53%	40%	41%	51%			
Lower than current (most recent) annual salary is acceptable	15%	17%	11%	9%	20%	38%	16%			
Same level as current (most recent) annual salary is acceptable	32%	32%	29%	38%	41%	21%	32%			
Overall	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%			

**Source:** RIWI, BofA Global Research; Respondents: 1,091; Survey period: 1/2-1/19



Exhibit 24: Please answer the following question if you responded, "Needs to be higher than current (most recent) annual salary." By how much does your salary need to rise?

Share of responses for respondents who want, or intend, to change jobs (%)



Source: RIWI, BofA Global Research; Respondents:560; Survey period: 1/2-1/19

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

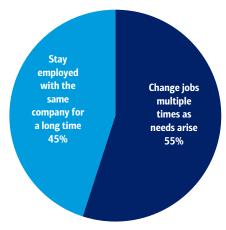
# **Exhibit 26: Which of the following best describes your work values?** Share of responses by age group

	Age group									
Share	and under	30_39	40_49	50_59	60_69	and above	All ages			
Change jobs multiple times as needs arise	59%	53%	51%	44%	49%	76%	55%			
Stay employed with the same company for a long time	41%	47%	49%	56%	51%	24%	45%			
Overall	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%			

 $\textbf{Source:} \ \mathsf{RIWI}, Bof A \ \mathsf{Global} \ \mathsf{Research}; Respondents: 3,418; Survey \ \mathsf{period}: 1/2-1/19$ 

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

## **Exhibit 25: Which of the following best describes your work values?** Share of responses



**Source:** RIWI, BofA Global Research; Respondents: 3,418; Survey period: 1/2-1/19



### **Appendix**

### Methodology

We surveyed 5,000 men and women aged 16 and above between 2 January and 19 January.

Our survey data is collected online by survey company RIWI using "Random Domain Intercept Technology." This directs respondents who enter an incorrect or lapsed URL address to a randomized RIWI survey site.

After collection, weights are applied to the responses to adjust for the age, gender, and household income composition of the Japanese population. Respondent weight values are generated post-stratification using a raking algorithm.

Unlike traditional or online survey approaches, RDIT's algorithms ensure that anyone on the Web in the region(s) of interest has an equal chance of being randomly exposed to the questions. In addition, unlike mail, panel or telephone surveys, all voluntary response data are gathered anonymously, reducing social desirability bias and eliminating a potential barrier to participation. Furthermore, respondents are not incentivized to participate in any way. RIWI randomly engages a new, random set of unique respondents each day, ensuring no repeat respondents throughout a period of data collection.

The potential disadvantage of this method is that we collect less comprehensive personal data about respondents, which means we cannot weight the sample with as many variables as some pollsters. Meanwhile, as an internet-based technology, it cannot reach someone who has absolutely no access to the internet, thereby creating the risk that our sample is skewed towards heavy internet users.

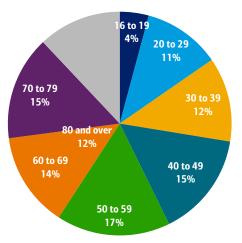
Every survey method has advantages and disadvantages. However, we believe this method is effective in offering a timely snapshot of Japanese consumers, providing an alternative view to existing surveys.

Going forward, we plan on publishing the results of our survey on a monthly basis, aiming to collect 2,500 complete survey responses, usually in the last 10 days of each month.

### Basic data on survey sample (weighted %)

Exhibit 27: Age of survey respondents

What is your age?

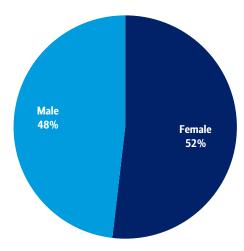


**Source:** RIWI, BofA Global Research; Respondents: 5,000; Survey period: 1/2-1/19

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

### Exhibit 28: Gender of survey respondents

What is your gender?

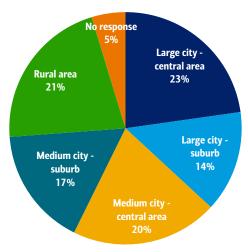


**Source:** RIWI, BofA Global Research; Respondents: 5,000; Survey period: 1/2-1/19

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

#### **Exhibit 29: Location of survey respondents**

Where do you live?



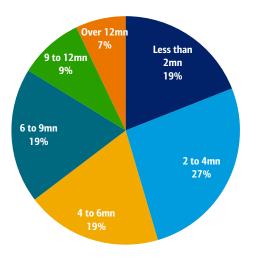
Source: RIWI, BofA Global Research; Respondents: 5,000; Survey period: 1/2-1/19

Note: Large city: population >= 1mn; Medium city: population between 1mn-2mn

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

#### Exhibit 31: Annual household income\* of survey respondents

What is your household's annual income? (before tax, including all income sources not just employee compensation)



**Source:** RIWI, BofA Global Research; Respondents: 5,000; Survey period: 1/2-1/19

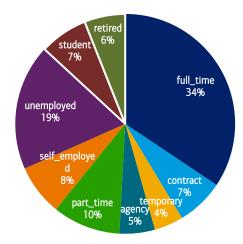
BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

### **Question list**

- 1. How do you see your income changing over the next year?
  - a. Improve a lot
  - b. Improve a little
  - c. No change
  - d. Worsen a little
  - e. Worsen a lot
- Compared to right now, how do you expect to increase your spending over the next 3 months?
  - a. Increase a lot
  - b. Increase a little
  - c. No change
  - d. Decrease a little
  - e. Decrease a lot
- 3. Do you want to, or have you already planned, travel with family or friends in the next year? If so, when are you considering taking the trip?

#### **Exhibit 30: Employment status of survey respondents**

Are you currently employed?

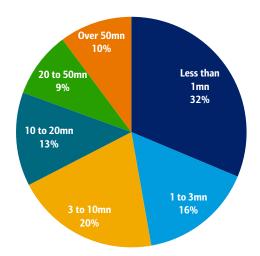


**Source:** RIWI, BofA Global Research; Respondents: 5,000; Survey period: 1/2-1/19

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

### Exhibit 32: Household financial assets\* of survey respondents

What is your household's total financial assets? (excluding property)



**Source:** RIWI, BofA Global Research; Respondents: 5,000; Survey period: 1/2-1/19

- a. Jan-Mar '24
- b. Apr-June '24
- c. Jul-Sep '24
- d. Oct-Dec '24 onwards
- e. Other / does not apply
- 4. What kind of trip are you considering?
  - a. Domestic travel (close distance)
  - b. Domestic travel (long distance)
  - c. Overseas travel
- 5. Price hikes for household necessities, such as food and utilities, has been increasing recently. How long do you think these price increases will continue?
  - a. Less than 6 months
  - b. More than 6 months, less than 1 year
  - c. More than 1 year, less than 2 years
  - d. More than 2 years, less than 3 years
  - e. More than 3 years
  - f. I do not think the price of household necessities are currently rising
- 6. In the past 3 months, where have you noticed the most dramatic price increases? (choose up to 3 from below)
  - a. Food groceries/prepared food
  - b. Daily Necessities
  - c. Apparel
  - d. Shoes
  - e. Accessories/jewelry
  - f. Make up
  - g. Home decor/furniture
  - h. Home appliance/PC/smartphone
  - i. Spending on dining out
  - j. Hobbies (other than travel, dining out)
  - k. Travel/accommodation
  - I. Other / does not apply
- 7. In the past 3 months, which items did you buy less due to the price hike?
  - a. Food groceries/prepared food
  - b. Daily Necessities
  - c. Apparel
  - d. Shoes
  - e. Accessories/jewelry
  - f. Make up
  - g. Home decor/furniture
  - h. Home appliance/PC/smartphone
  - i. Spending on dining out
  - j. Hobbies (other than travel, dining out)
  - k. Travel/accommodation
  - I. Other / does not apply
- 8. In the past 3 months, which items did you choose to buy cheaper version due to the price hike?
  - a. Food groceries/prepared food
  - b. Daily Necessities
  - c. Apparel
  - d. Shoes
  - e. Accessories/jewelry
  - f. Make up
  - g. Home decor/furniture
  - h. Home appliance/PC/smartphone
  - i. Spending on dining out
  - j. Hobbies (other than travel, dining out)
  - k. Travel/accommodation
  - I. Other / does not apply
- Do you have plans to change jobs in the near future (roughly 3 years) and how likely it is to happen?
  - a. I want to and intend to change jobs



- b. I want to change jobs but it is unlikely to happen
- c. I don't want to change jobs
- 10. Why do you want to change jobs? (select all that apply)
  - a. Dissatisfied with salary level
  - b. Long working hours
  - c. Difficult to take holidays
  - d. Change work location
  - e. Unsuited to current job
  - f. Poor workplace relationships
  - g. Unsuited to corporate culture
  - h. Concerns about company's future and stability
  - i. Unable to utilize skills or capabilities
  - j. Limited opportunity to improve skills or abilities
  - k. Other
- 11. Why do you think you will not be able to change jobs? (select all that apply)
  - a. I don't know what job I want to do next
  - b. There are no hiring or recruitment opportunities for the job I want to do
  - c. My salary is likely to decline
  - d. I'm busy and don't have time to change jobs
  - e. I don't think I have the necessary skills or qualifications
  - f Other
- 12. What is your required annual salary as a condition for changing jobs?
  - a. Needs to be higher than current (most recent) annual salary
  - b. Same level as current (most recent) annual salary is acceptable
  - c. Lower than current (most recent) annual salary is acceptable
- 13. Please answer the following question if you responded, "Needs to be higher than current (most recent) annual salary." By how much does your salary need to rise?
  - a. +5-10
  - b. +10%
  - c. +20%
  - d. +30%
  - e. +40% or more
- 14. Please answer the following question if you responded, "Lower than current (most recent) annual salary is acceptable." What size of decline in salary would you tolerate?
  - a. -5-10%
  - b. -10%
  - c. -20%
  - d. -30% or more
- 15. Which of the following best describes your work values?
  - a. Stay employed with the same company for a long time
  - b. Change jobs multiple times as needs arise



### **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

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. 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.bofaml.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 (HKSFC); Merrill Lynch (Singapore): Merrill Lynch (Singapore) Pte Ltd, regulated by the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS); Merrill Lynch (Canada): Merrill Lynch (Canada): Merrill Lynch (Canada): Merrill Lynch (Mexico): Merrill Mexico): Merrill Mexico (Mexico): Merrill Mexico): Merrill Mexico (Mexico): Merrill Mexico (Mexico 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 (I 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.

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

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

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

BofA Securities, through business units other than BofA Global Research, may have issued and may in the future issue trading ideas or recommendations that are inconsistent with, and reach different conclusions from, the information presented herein. Such ideas or recommendations may reflect different time frames, assumptions, views and analytical methods of the persons who prepared them, and BofA Securities is under no obligation to ensure that such other trading ideas or recommendations are brought to the attention of any recipient of this information. In the event that the recipient received this information pursuant to a contract between the recipient and BofAS for the provision of research services for a separate fee, and in connection therewith BofAS may be deemed to be acting as an investment adviser, such status relates, if at all, solely to the person with whom BofAS has contracted directly and does not extend beyond the delivery of this report (unless otherwise agreed specifically in writing by BofAS). If such recipient uses the services of BofAS in connection with the sale or purchase of a security referred to herein, BofAS may act as principal for its own account or as agent for another person. BofAS is and continues to act solely as a broker-dealer in connection with the execution of any transactions, including transactions in any securities referred to herein.

#### Copyright and General Information:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

