

Global Investment Committee's outlook: still growing but proceed with caution

Positive growth in major economies expected but corporate earnings may slow, inflation also a potential risk

By Naomi Fink, Chief Global Strategist 4 July 2024

Here are the key takeaways from the Global Investment Committee (GIC)'s central scenario:

- Our central scenario is for positive GDP growth in most major economies, with mild upside risks to growth in all regions but Europe. Within this central scenario, we anticipate range-bound inflation with a gradual disinflationary trend in the US and Europe. Meanwhile, we expect reflation to continue in Japan and also to pick up in China.
- As we opined last quarter, the Federal Reserve (Fed) may only be able to deliver one rate cut this year if growth and inflation do not slow further, as now reflected in the Fed's June Summary of Economic Projections. We believe that the ability to deliver at least one cut in 2024 will help growth remain positive. We see the dollar as likely to remain stronger than expected by consensus.
- We expect Japan's "virtuous circle" of wages and prices to remain intact, with growth likely to remain above potential and inflation likely above the Bank of Japan (BOJ)'s 2% target over the immediate horizon. The GIC sees risks to growth as balanced across the early part of the coming year, with downside risk intensifying in 2025. We expect the yen to recoup losses, yet this may also bring some near-term downside pressures to earnings.
- We expect the European Central Bank (ECB) to continue cutting rates, responding to sluggish economic growth, with a disinflation trajectory likely to remain intact over the coming year.
- China is unlikely to sustain GDP growth above 5%. We anticipate a gradual decline in growth toward the mid-4% handle; risks to external demand include the impact of trade tariffs. We expect Chinese prices to reflate, mostly due to basis effects rather than robust demand.
- We expect earnings growth to remain positive over our outlook period. However, we
 are more conservative than consensus in our earnings growth expectations, and we
 only foresee upside in valuation (P/E) in less richly-valued markets.
- The balance of lower-probability risks to our outlook leans toward inflationary risks including those emanating from trade barriers and fiscal expansion in the US and Europe. Another source of risk in the event of higher inflation and higher-thanexpected central bank interest rates is a potential slowdown in artificial intelligence (AI)-related investment due to profitability concerns. Very low-probability but potentially high-impact risks to our outlook include systemic financial market risks.

Q2 2024 in review: re-rating of central bank policy, concentration of risk

As the GIC convened on 27 June, markets had largely converged toward our Q1 views on both equity markets (stronger for longer) and Fed policy (foreseen delivering one rather than three rate cuts in 2024). Similarly, as we foresaw in April, the BOJ kept policy accommodative after ending negative interest rates in March, supporting growth. Meanwhile, contrary to our expectations in Q1, both inflation and growth in Europe slowed to such an extent that the ECB was able to commence its rate cut cycle in advance of the Fed (who remains on hold at the time of writing). The pick-up in European growth, however, remains anaemic; meanwhile, the ECB appears to be evaluating the impact of its initial rate cut and confirming that inflation is moderating as expected.

Currently, the US is experiencing a two-speed economy, where corporate earnings, as well as expectations for future earnings, remain robust; meanwhile, household sentiment—particularly concerning the future—has worsened significantly. Although layoffs have not yet picked up momentum, hiring—and therefore labour mobility—has chilled somewhat and unemployment—while still low—has headed steadily higher. The household indicators contrast with signals of buoyancy emerging on the manufacturing side (e.g., bottoming out in PMIs and decreases in inventories of shipments). US inflation, meanwhile, continues to moderate, though not quickly enough for the Fed to signal an imminent rate cut.

The BOJ, having recently exited unconventional easing measures including negative interest rates, yield curve control and ETF purchases, signalled that it will remain accommodative for quite some time as it watches for signs of Japan's reflationary "virtuous circle" gaining traction. Japanese corporate profits and investment continue to show positive signals. Capex is supported by ongoing chronic labour supply shortages (evident in the June quarter Tankan) and investment in software and R&D. Although the historic spring "Shunto" rounds of wage hikes point toward imminent positive real wage growth (especially as inflation moderates), data and household behaviour have yet to reflect expectations of permanent real income expansion. The yen has weakened to multi-decade lows versus the dollar, and this has been a tailwind for earnings among large corporates with overseas revenues.

In China, although domestic property woes continue, external demand and the bottoming of the global manufacturing cycle have helped to provide some supportive counter currents to lacklustre domestic demand. Nevertheless, trade tensions continue to escalate—particularly in areas of strategic investment for China such as solar energy and EVs. The government continues to ensure that its commitment to support domestic demand fiscally is balanced with its desire to stave off perceptions of moral hazard. Markets have tentatively rewarded the pledge by the National People's Congress to match its 2023 commitment to boost growth to 5% year-on-year (YoY); however, deflationary pressures continue to present headwinds.

Amid this backdrop, alongside ongoing accommodative financial and monetary conditions, the GIC anticipates that economic growth will likely to be in line with consensus estimates for ongoing above-potential growth in most large economies. Although the GIC foresees prices as likely to remain on a gradual disinflationary trend in the US and Europe, we see upside risks to this outlook, particularly in 2025.

Consensus forecasts: slower but above-potential growth contrasts with gravity-defying US earnings growth forecasts

According to consensus forecasts, **US GDP growth** is expected to slow from above 2% to the higher 1% range, but remain above potential (around 1.5%, according to Bloomberg) across the 1-year forecast horizon. Growth is expected by consensus to be underpinned by consumption and private investment. The rate of **inflation** is expected to gradually ease from above 3% to the mid-2% range (headline) and end June 2025 modestly above 2%. In line with the Fed's Summary of Economic Projections, markets are pricing in at least one rate cut by the **Fed** before the end of 2024, with the expectation of an additional cut in the remainder of the year or in early 2025. The consensus has priced in over 100 basis points of rate cuts by the end of Q2 2025. Meanwhile, consensus estimates are for **10-year Treasury yields** to decline alongside Fed rate cuts to near 4%, keeping the US yield curve inverted over the coming year.

Corporate **earnings growth** forecasts are much more aggressive than macroeconomic forecasts, with consensus seeing double-digit growth in US equities, with **earnings growth** of companies listed on the Dow expected to remain above 20% over the next year; however, **price to earnings** ratios are seen moderating toward 20 toward Q2 2025. The **dollar** is forecast by consensus to give back some of its recent gains across the board, with USDJPY anticipated to decline toward 145. The dollar is also seen weakening against other currencies; as of 27 June, EURUSD is expected to rebound above 1.10, GBPUSD to 1.29 and AUDUSD to 0.69 by Q2 2025.

Consensus forecasts predict an improvement in **Japan GDP growth** from temporarily negative YoY levels in early 2024, surpassing potential growth (estimated by the BOJ as just above 0.6%). **Inflation** is anticipated by consensus

to moderate gradually toward the BOJ's 2% target, with ex-fresh food inflation expected to reach 2.1% YoY by Q2 2025. Meanwhile, the **BOJ** is expected to continue withdrawing stimulus, with the uncollateralised call rate foreseen around 0.4% as of Q2 2025, while 10-year yields are expected to end the period above 1.2%. Although the market has been slow to react to the gradual narrowing of the US-Japan interest rate differential, consensus forecasts predict the **yen** to regain ground against both the dollar and euro, with USDJPY foreseen retreating to 145 and EURJPY to 161.5. **Japanese corporate earnings** are forecast by consensus to remain in buoyant double-digits over the latter half of 2024, moderating in early 2025, and possibly reversing before Q2 2025.

Consensus forecasters anticipate a pick-up in **Eurozone GDP** from anaemic levels to above potential (estimated around 0.6% by Bloomberg), posting 1.5% YoY growth by Q2 2025. Eurozone **inflation** is anticipated to moderate to just above the ECB's 2% target by the end of Q2 2025, with core inflation foreseen slightly higher in the mid 2% range. Numerous **ECB** rate cuts are foreseen by the market consensus, with forecasters viewing rates as likely to end Q2 2025 around 2.9%, similarly to what is priced into Overnight Index Swaps. 10-year **bund** yields are foreseen to dip to 2.25% by Q2 2025, keeping the curve inverted over the year horizon. **Corporate earnings** are anticipated to turn from negative to positive toward the year's end and into 2025 in the Eurozone and the UK. As with valuations in the US, **Eurozone and UK P/Es** are foreseen by consensus to moderate gradually, as earnings outpace price appreciation.

Consensus forecasts foresee **China GDP growth** temporarily breaking above 5% in mid-2024, but then languishing below this level for the rest of the forecast horizon. Industrial production is seen as a near-term supportive factor of fixed asset investment, while retail sales are expected to recover toward the end of 2024. **Both headline and core inflation** are expected to show signals of gradual reflation recovering the 1% handle by the end of Q2 2025.

Consensus forecasters foresee that **commodities** have already peaked. Although some forecasters do expect upside risk to oil prices, many see **oil** prices heading back toward USD 80/barrel (Brent crude) and **gold** ending Q2 2025 back near the USD 2,200/ounce level.

GIC outlook vs. consensus: in line on median GDP, inflation but earnings may be more subdued vs. consensus

A note on changes to the Global Investment Committee Process: In June 2024, we made changes to the Global Investment Committee, as to align our quarterly Outlook more closely with the views underlying our portfolio investments. In lieu of forecasts, we have chosen to provide guidance ranges for indicators and indices that we feel most closely relate to the asset classes we manage. In place of forecasts the Global Investment Committee now provide aggregate guidance at the median for our central outlook, and at the 25th and 75th percentiles.

The asset classes represented in our Outlook can change over time, depending on what is most representative of our active investment views.

In the event full ranges are not available, this may be interpreted as to mean that the asset class is not a central focal point for our highest conviction investment views. The GIC's guidance ranges may be found in Appendix 1 of this document.

Growth and inflation: in line

As its central scenario, the GIC foresees mild upside risk to GDP growth trajectories in all regions but Europe.

The GIC expects **US GDP** to moderate from above 2% in mid-2024 to 1.75% by the end of the outlook period. Although there are risks to both sides, the GIC anticipates these risks to be biased more toward the upside than downside, foreseeing a 25% chance of growth remaining above 2%. As our central scenario, the GIC's guidance for both US headline and core CPI differs little from consensus, expecting headline prices to disinflate to 2.4% by Q2 2025 and core to 2.3% over the same period. Nonetheless, several of our members do foresee **lower probability tail risks** to the inflationary upside, which we will discuss in the *Risks to our Outlook* section.

Meanwhile, our outlook for **Japanese growth**, which is also in line with consensus, forecasts above-potential growth as our central scenario. Nonetheless, we do not agree with consensus estimates for growth to show a YoY surge in Q1 2025, with the potential for the lagged impact of tightening to date to prevent Japan from fully capitalizing on the YoY basis effects of soft Q1 2024 growth. We foresee upside and downside risks mostly balanced over the rest of 2024, with downside risks likely to increase in 2025, due to the potential delayed impact of rate hikes as well as softer growth abroad. Although our central inflation outlook is also in line with consensus, on aggregate, we see a bias toward upside (cost-push) risks to headline **inflation**, while we see downside risks to core inflation. That said, some GIC members foresee a 25% probability of inflation potentially

retreating temporarily below 1% YoY in 2025, while others see the probability of core inflation remaining "stuck" at the mid-2% levels. Downside risks to growth may also emerge depending on the degree and the speed of any rebound by the yen; a rapid bounce may prove a near-term hurdle for corporate earnings. Large firms with overseas revenues have been able to capitalise on yen weakness to date, which has afforded them an additional buffer to absorb price rises from suppliers and raise wages.

On aggregate, our members remained **less positive than consensus on European GDP growth**; although ECB easing might allow for upside risks to our central outlook for anaemic growth in the front end of our outlook period (the rest of 2024), on aggregate, the GIC is of the view that the risks may be biased toward the downside in the latter half of the outlook period (ending Q2 2025); although a rebound in manufacturing has helped European growth pick up somewhat, the exposure not only to geopolitical risks (such as the war in Ukraine and Red Sea shipping disruptions) but also the ongoing sluggishness of consumption and domestic investment in the Eurozone are leaving our members less than enthused about Eurozone growth prospects. On the whole, the GIC foresees **Eurozone inflation** as likely to moderate toward the ECB's 2% target by the end of Q2 2025, with risks balanced at the near end of the outlook period and biased toward the upside going into 2025.

The GIC anticipates **China GDP growth** to remain close to consensus, with a downside trajectory from above 5% to the mid 4% handle by the end of the outlook period. However, we foresee uncertainty over how quickly China may reflate, with downside risks to the central outlook outweighing upside risks within 2024, while 2025 may, thanks to favourable basis effects, bring China **inflation** back above 1% again by the end of our outlook period.

Interest rates: uncertainty seen increasing toward 2025

Given that **BOJ policy** is still extremely accommodative (with interest rates near zero), uncertainty is likely to rise as the central bank progresses further into its rate hike regime. Our central scenario is somewhat more hawkish than consensus; the GIC foresees the BOJ as likely to hike once before September-end and again before the end of March 2025, with some probability that this rate hike may come before December 2024. Our median scenario foresees a third hike before the end of Q2 2025, converging on an overnight rate modestly above the 0.4% currently priced in by consensus. However, we foresee greater uncertainty both to the upside and the downside (consistent with the discussions described in the "growth and inflation" section above) going into 2025. Meanwhile, we expect **10-year JGB yields** to rise at a faster pace than foreseen by consensus, with our central scenario for 10-year yields at the end of Q2 2025 converging at 1.35% (versus consensus of 1.23% at time of writing), with bonds likely to come under pressure from the BOJ potentially commencing its quantitative tightening regime in July.

The GIC's central **FOMC** outlook is very close to consensus. The GIC foresees interest rates just above 5% at 2024 end and likely to fall to 4.5% by the end of the outlook period. We foresee risks both to the upside and downside, and we estimate a 25% chance of rates falling to 4.13% or lower or staying at 4.75% or higher by the end of our outlook period. Many of our members also foresee **tail risks** as biased to the upside, which will be discussed in the *Risks to the Outlook* section below. Meanwhile, the GIC expects the US Treasury curve inversion to persist, with our central scenario seeing the 10-year Treasury yield end Q2 2025 just above 4%. Nonetheless, our members' views for the latter half of the outlook period were more dispersed, and several perceived tail risks to the upside on US rates and inflation.

The GIC foresees a similar **ECB** rate cut path to the consensus forecast (ending Q2 2025 at 3%). However, we perceive some upside risk, estimating a 25% chance that interest rates end the year at 3.3% or higher, thanks to more stubborn inflation, in line with the bias to the upside in inflationary risks toward the end of our outlook horizon (Q2 2025). The GIC sees bund yields declining mildly to around 2.25% toward the end of Q2 2025, though on aggregate it foresees greater downside than upside risk for bunds, concentrated in the latter half of the outlook period (mostly due to soft growth).

Foreign exchange: dollar firmness to persist, yen to make a muted comeback

The **GIC's clearest counter-consensus view** may be its outlook for the **dollar to show stubborn strength** against many of the major currencies. Although directionally, consensus forecasts are for the dollar to lose ground across the board, the GIC looks for **EURUSD**, **GBPUSD** and **AUDUSD** to fail to rally over the coming year, with the central scenario for all three currency pairs to weaken. This contrasts with consensus forecast for strengthening in all three pairs. Given the extreme valuation in **USDJPY**, however, (with the pair above 161, far from purchasing power parity that should have the yen just under 100 to the dollar), the GIC anticipates potential for some correction in USDJPY, although not quite as much as consensus forecasts. Views over the yen's direction were disperse among our members, with some foreseeing additional yen weakness from current levels, and signalling potential risks to markets and growth in the event the currency strengthens again more rapidly than expected. On aggregate, although our median outlook

forecasts USDJPY at 146.5 at year-end, we foresee yen weakness turning around more slowly than forecast by consensus. Although we see risks to both sides, we estimate a 25% chance that consensus views will come to fruition, with the dollar giving up ground not only versus the yen but against a wide variety of currencies.

Commodities: not done with the rally

Another area where the GIC's view diverges from the consensus is the outlook for commodities. The GIC expects commodities to retain broad support, whereas the consensus expects a peak to have already been reached. We foresee **gold** as likely to continue capitalising on recent gains and end Q2 2025 at USD 2,600/ounce, and we see Brent crude as likely to hit a floor at USD 85/barrel. The GIC also sees the **Bloomberg commodities index** as likely to continue picking up toward 105, estimating a 25% chance that commodities show the type of retreat that markets are pricing in.

Earnings growth to remain solid, but it will not defy gravity

Overall, we anticipate earnings growth to remain fairly steady over the year to Q2 2025. However, we do not foresee **US earnings growth** remaining above 20%, even among large caps, particularly in light of the foreseen slowing growth trajectory. We predict a more conservative double-digit growth trajectory for the Dow (with a median estimate of 15.6% EPS growth as of Q2 2025), while the S&P is also likely to demonstrate solid growth. We foresee **valuation (P/E ratios)** as likely to post a down trend, with earnings growth outpacing price rises, with S&P PER likely to be below 19x by the end Q2 2025.

We do foresee **Japanese companies** as likely to present healthy single-digit earnings growth across the TOPIX, which represents the majority of our Japan equity investments. We do expect large caps to continue to show faster earnings growth than the broader index (as they have so far this cycle). That said, we foresee some potential for sector rotation, with a slowdown occurring in large cap earnings (toward the lower double-digits). The broader index could also post resilient earnings, particularly as domestic demand starts to improve in Japan. We see a 25% chance of the TOPIX showing double-digit growth by Q2 2025. We foresee TOPIX PER potentially going on a mild uptrend as valuation rerating continues, anticipating convergence to around 16x by the end Q2 2025.

However, some downside risks persist in the form of the impact of the BOJ's rate hikes. Lagged cost-push inflation, in part driven by the yen's weakness, is another downside risk; a weaker yen is helpful for large firms with overseas revenues, but less so for smaller, domestically-oriented firms which are sensitive to import price rises. One GIC member was encouraged that buybacks are picking up (and with them, hopes of higher return on equity), although clear evidence of investments into restructuring and increasing productivity is sought as a key stock selection criterion. Meanwhile, too rapid a USDJPY reversal may prove disruptive for the large, listed firms who have been able to capitalise on the yen's weakness to date, and this may prove a headwind for overall Japanese earnings in the absence of countervailing factors such as a pick-up in domestic demand.

We foresee earnings growth among companies listed on the **Hang Seng** as likely to show modest improvement over the course of the coming year. That said, the GIC does see some downside risks (linked to uncertainty over China's near-term ability to beat deflation) in the more immediate quarters of our outlook horizon; we estimate a 25% possibility that earnings may show single-digit negative growth in latter 2024, yet we foresee recovery thereafter as our main scenario. That said, some downside risks remain (such as trade conflict and increasing tariffs) that could still undermine growth going into 2025.

Although **European stocks** were mentioned as being potentially under-valued, alongside **UK** and **Australian** equities, these assets remain generally out of favour among the majority of GIC members, primarily due to the outlook for slow earnings growth in these regions. These asset classes do merit monitoring, however, particularly given their low valuations. One GIC member pointed out that European P/E ratios remain low compared to recent historical valuations.

Risks to our outlook: elections, inflation, AI re-rating, systemic risk

Although the GIC's central outlook remains mostly in line with consensus, we perceive downside tail risks to growth as likely greater than upside tail risks in the year to Q2 2025, with some tail risks showing potential to rise beyond low-probability events. Meanwhile, we see low-probability risks to inflation as balanced to the upside.

1. **Elections, protectionism fiscal expansion, inflation:** Several members foresaw tail risks to the outlook that have the potential to rise beyond low probability events, and many of these were concentrated in the area of inflationary risks in the US, including

from trade tariffs or fiscal expansion following US elections. Although trade tariffs were most closely associated with a potential Trump re-election, inflation from fiscal expansion or other sources was not necessarily associated with a particular election outcome. The impact of such risks was assessed as medium to high by those who cited them as likelier downside risks (between 25-50%). A number of additional participants also cited inflation or political risk (including political risk in France, potentially triggering a fiscal crisis) as lower (10-25%) probability but higher impact. One participant anticipated a very low probability but high impact risk of extreme escalation of trade and financial conflicts to trade and financial wars, admitting the possibility of additional capital controls and tariffs. Meanwhile, though the probability of the BOJ losing control of inflation was foreseen as very low, the impact of such an event, more so because of such a development being unexpected, was cited as one participant as being potentially high.

- 2. **Re-rating of Al investment:** The potential for the re-rating of Al investment was another risk to our outlook, cited by several participants. Although the probability is low (25-40%), but not extremely so, this could lead to a slowdown in the key driver of US earnings growth and valuation in the tech sector. This included the potential for R&D investments—crucial for innovation—being perceived as a drag on profitability. The impact of the risk was assessed broadly as Medium by those who cited it as a key risk to the outlook.
- 3. The stickier situation of (1) + (2): One GIC participant pointed out the possible correlation between higher (and stickier) inflation and re-rating of AI investment. Given 2024 has already seen a re-rating of rate cut prospects (from three Fed cuts priced in at the beginning of the year to one at time of writing), the risk that sticky inflation—given further impetus by trade tariffs or fiscal expansion—could give rise to an unexpected Fed rate hike, while not our central scenario, is not nil. Were this to happen, the liquidity essential to fuelling significant investment into technology may decrease suddenly, which could prompt a sudden re-rating of AI investment, under higher financing cost assumptions. In this case, although the joint probability of the two risks would be lower, the impact would likely be higher than under an isolated decrease in AI investment or rise in US inflation.
- 4. Systemic financial risk: while rated a lower probability tail event by those who cited it (10-25%), a financial or market crisis occurring remains another risk cited by several GIC participants; the impact of this class of risk is assessed at "High". Systemic financial risks cited include a potential credit crisis in private debt markets, with more than one participant citing the murkiness surrounding leverage in the private credit markets, and linkage to private equity (including NAV loans extended by smaller creditors to private equity firms gathering assets under management).

Investment strategy conclusion: aggregate growth still has legs, but proceed with caution

The overall economic outlook does not look poor on an aggregate perspective. The GIC believes that there is likely a case for continued positive earnings growth going into 2025. Nonetheless, consensus earnings growth forecasts do not look entirely consistent with the consensus GDP growth outlook, which, while above potential growth, is still forecast to slow. Although rate cuts from the Fed (alongside further rate cuts from the ECB) are anticipated, valuations are such that one rate cut within 2024 is not, in our view, likely to result in further price growth. Earnings may remain healthy for some time, particularly if ongoing investment in technology continues alongside anticipation of future productivity growth. However, caution is warranted as lower-probability risks to growth have the potential to escalate from tail risks to higher-probability downside scenarios. These include additional fiscal expansion or trade barriers in the US.

The BOJ, meanwhile, is the outlier as it is hiking rates while other central banks are doing the opposite; although we expect firm growth and accommodative conditions continuing to support earnings for TOPIX constituents, the outlook is not without its risks of fluctuations in the interim. One of our key non-consensus views is that the dollar will continue to strengthen against currencies other than the yen, which might take more time to recoup its losses than what the consensus forecasts anticipate. However, the yen reversal may present a hurdle to the global earnings of large-cap stocks; in this case we would remain reliant on a pick-up in domestic demand to support smaller cap, domestic names, and thus keep TOPIX earnings positive. Alongside our higher-than-expected commodity outlook,

the conditions may be such that the US may export any upside risks to inflation to other markets more easily. Although our central scenario is for continued above-potential growth, we remain vigilant about risks related to inflation, re-rating of Al investments and systemic financial risk.

Appendix 1: GIC Outlook guidance ranges

Global macro indicators

					US									Japan				
		GDP		He	adline C	PI	(Core PC	E		GDP		He	adline (CPI	CPI	ex fresh	food
	25th	Median	75th	25th	Median	75th	25th	Median	75th	25th	Median	75th	25th	Median	75th	25th	Median	75th
	Pctile	weatan	Pctile	Pctile	weatan	Pctile	Pctile	weulan	Pctile	Pctile	weulan	Pctile	Pctile	weulan	Pctile	Pctile	weulan	Pctile
Jun-2024	2.50	2.70	3.15	3.05	3.30	3.50	2.50	2.70	2.90	-0.93	-0.10	-0.03	2.40	2.60	3.00	2.14	2.50	2.70
Sep-2024	1.85	2.15	2.60	2.76	3.10	3.35	2.40	2.70	3.00	0.47	0.80	1.12	2.34	2.55	3.15	2.04	2.50	2.82
Dec-2024	1.40	1.80	2.50	2.59	3.00	3.23	2.43	2.80	3.00	0.55	1.00	1.35	2.16	2.30	2.95	1.99	2.30	2.55
Mar-2025	1.35	1.80	2.36	2.35	2.60	2.95	2.20	2.50	2.80	0.70	1.20	1.73	2.00	2.30	2.75	1.79	2.25	2.51
Jun-2025	1.35	1.75	2.36	2.09	2.40	2.85	2.10	2.30	2.60	0.70	1.30	1.65	1.74	2.00	2.40	1.74	2.10	2.35

					urozone	9								China				
		GDP		Hea	adline H	ICP	C	ore HIC	Ρ		GDP		He	adline C	PI	Core CP	l ex food a	& energy
	25th	Median	75th	25th	Median	75th	25th	Median	75th	25th	Median	75th	25th	Median	75th	25th	Median	75th
	Pctile	weulan	Pctile	Pctile	weulan	Pctile	Pctile	weulan	Pctile	Pctile	Weulan	Pctile	Pctile	weulan	Pctile	Pctile	weulan	Pctile
Jun-2024	0.25	0.45	0.70	2.30	2.53	2.70	2.50	2.70	2.90	4.80	5.30	5.50	0.10	0.30	0.50	0.50	0.70	0.90
Sep-2024	0.40	0.65	1.05	2.00	2.25	2.60	2.30	2.60	2.90	4.45	4.86	5.20	0.20	0.50	0.70	0.40	0.80	1.10
Dec-2024	0.70	1.00	1.50	2.00	2.30	2.60	2.20	2.60	2.80	4.30	4.70	5.00	0.80	1.10	1.30	0.90	1.10	1.40
Mar-2025	0.70	1.20	1.55	1.80	2.20	2.40	2.16	2.40	2.70	3.80	4.20	4.60	1.00	1.40	1.60	1.00	1.20	1.50
Jun-2025	0.90	1.30	1.73	1.80	2.10	2.40	2.00	2.20	2.50	4.00	4.40	4.70	1.00	1.44	1.80	1.00	1.20	1.50

Central bank rates, forex, fixed income and commodities

	1				Central	bank ov	ernight						ر-10	/ear gov	ernment	bond yie	lds		
		BOJ ce	entral bai	nk rate		FOMC		ECB	MainRefi	rate		JGB		U	S Treasu	ry		Bund	
_		25th Pctile	Median	75th Pctile	25th Pctile	Median	75th Pctile	25th Pctile	Median	75th Pctile	25th Pctile	Median	75th Pctile	25th Pctile	Median	75th Pctile	25th Pctile	Median	75th Pctile
	Jun-2024	0.10	0.100	0.100	5.375	5.50	5.625	4.125	4.25	4.375	0.900	1.0000	1.100	4.075	4.30	4.525	2.250	2.40	2.600
	Sep-2024	0.10	0.200	0.250	5.050	5.35	5.550	3.575	3.65	4.075	1.000	1.1350	1.300	3.975	4.25	4.475	2.145	2.35	2.545
	Dec-2024	0.10	0.275	0.500	4.775	5.05	5.400	3.325	3.40	3.825	1.030	1.2250	1.350	3.815	4.13	4.315	2.025	2.25	2.425
	Mar-2025	0.25	0.300	0.500	4.500	4.75	5.125	3.075	3.15	3.575	1.100	1.3000	1.400	3.730	4.06	4.230	1.980	2.26	2.380
	Jun-2025	0.25	0.450	0.750	4.125	4.50	4.750	2.825	3.00	3.325	1.200	1.3500	1.600	3.655	4.01	4.155	1.925	2.25	2.325

							Fore	ign excha	ange						
		USDJPY			EURJPY			EURUSD			GBPUSD			AUDUSD	
	25th	Median	75th	25th	Median	75th	25th	Median	75th	25th	Median	75th	25th	Median	75th
	Pctile		Pctile	Pctile		Pctile	Pctile		Pctile	Pctile		Pctile	Pctile		Pctile
Jun-2024	155.00	158.62	160.00	162.50	169.00	171.50	1.0400	1.0715	1.1100	1.2250	1.2688	1.2950	0.6300	0.6648	0.7000
Sep-2024	150.00	153.50	155.00	159.50	165.00	169.50	1.0350	1.0661	1.1050	1.2300	1.2600	1.3000	0.6300	0.6611	0.7000
Dec-2024	148.00	151.00	153.00	157.25	164.50	167.25	1.0350	1.0608	1.1050	1.2250	1.2500	1.2950	0.6300	0.6574	0.7000
Mar-2025	145.00	148.50	150.00	154.75	163.50	164.75	1.0350	1.0554	1.1050	1.2250	1.2400	1.2950	0.6300	0.6537	0.7000
Jun-2025	143.00	146.50	147.00	153.00	162.00	163.00	1.0400	1.0500	1.1100	1.2300	1.2400	1.3000	0.6250	0.6500	0.6950

					Co	ommoditi	es			
		в	rent crud	le	G	iold (XAU	I)	Bloomb	erg Comi Index	nodities
		25th Pctile	Median	75th Pctile	25th Pctile	Median	75th Pctile	25th Pctile	Median	75th Pctile
Γ	Jun-2024	80.00	84.99	84.50		2335.02			102.209	105
	Sep-2024	75.00	85.00	85.50	2350	2407.52	2450	100	102.782	104
	Dec-2024	72.00	85.00	90.00	2400	2480.01	2500	99	103.354	103
	Mar-2025	69.00	85.00	89.50	2430	2542.51	2530	98	103.927	102
	Jun-2025	66.00	85.00	89.00	2450	2600.00	2550	97	104.500	101

Equities

			Nikkei 225					TOPIX		
	EPS g	rowth scei	narios	PE ratio	Index price	EPS g	rowth scer	narios	PE ratio	Index price
	25th Pctile	Median	75th Pctile	Median	Median	25th Pctile	Median	75th Pctile	Median	Median
Jun-2024		0.121575		23.01564	38842.60	0.010	0.063644	0.05	15.32764	2752.675
Sep-2024		0.130811		22.01173	38906.95	0.030	0.073786	0.08	14.68323	2769.506
Dec-2024		0.130047		20.50782	40371.30	0.030	0.068928	0.08	14.28882	2881.338
Mar-2025		0.124283		22.00391	41335.65	0.035	0.069070	0.09	14.89441	2958.169
Jun-2025		0.116019		23	42300.00	0.040	0.069212	0.11	16	3050

			Dow Jone	es Industrial	Average				S&P 500		
		EPS g	rowth scer	narios	PE ratio	Index price	EPS g	rowth scer	narios	PE ratio	Index price
_		25th Pctile	Median	75th Pctile	Median	Median	25th Pctile	Median	75th Pctile	Median	Median
	Jun-2024	0.103	0.153910	0.171	19.87280	39138.61	0.060	0.125161	0.131	22.25979	5411.435
	Sep-2024	0.152	0.187160	0.273	19.93335	40294.20	0.082	0.147812	0.205	22.50109	5541.951
Г	Dec-2024	0.122	0.171411	0.325	19.43390	40633.80	0.048	0.132962	0.255	22.51240	5551.968
	Mar-2025	0.108	0.159662	0.309	18.77945	40103.40	0.058	0.136613	0.267	21.23870	5467.984
Г	Jun-2025	0.111	0.155912	0.312	18.63000	40839.50	0.056	0.133764	0.265	20.93000	5543

		STO	OXX Europe	600				DAX					FTSE 100		
	EPS g	rowth scer	narios	PE ratio	Index price	EPS g	rowth scei	narios	PE ratio	Index price	EPS g	rowth scei	narios	PE ratio	Index price
	25th Pctile	Median	75th Pctile	Median	Median	25th Pctile	Median	75th Pctile	Median	Median	25th Pctile	Median	75th Pctile	Median	Median
Jun-2024		0.038768		13.75296	518.870		0.109085		12.42610	18325.58		0.024767		11.65792	8281.550
Sep-2024		0.049749		14.06472	539.153		0.112650		12.56957	19119.19		0.032780		11.99344	8661.163
Dec-2024		0.060730		14.37648	559.435		0.116215		12.71305	19912.79		0.040793		12.32896	9040.775
Mar-2025		0.071711		14.68824	579.718		0.119780		12.85652	20706.40		0.048806		12.66448	9420.388
Jun-2025		0.082692		15	600		0.123345		13	21500		0.056819		13	9800

			Ha	ng Seng Ind	ex			5	6&P ASX 20	0	
		EPS g	rowth scei	narios	PE ratio	Index price	EPS g	rowth scer	narios	PE ratio	Index price
_		25th Pctile	Median	75th Pctile	Median	Median	25th Pctile	Median	75th Pctile	Median	Median
	Jun-2024	-0.015	0.057560	0.03	8.739736	17913.86		0.033754		17.01422	7788.40
	Sep-2024	-0.030	0.041546	0.02	8.792302	18060.39		0.035346		16.51067	7616.30
	Dec-2024	0.070	0.099150	0.15	8.844868	18606.93		0.036938		16.00711	7444.20
	Mar-2025	0.050	0.104495	0.20	8.761671	19173.46		0.038531		15.50356	7272.10
Γ	Jun-2025	0.030	0.084534	0.15	8.717619	19748.10		0.040123		15	7100

Important information: This document is prepared by Nikko Asset Management Co., Ltd. and/or its affiliates (Nikko AM) and is for distribution only under such circumstances as may be permitted by applicable laws. This document does not constitute personal investment advice or a personal recommendation and it does not consider in any way the objectives, financial situation or needs of any recipients. All recipients are recommended to consult with their independent tax, financial and legal advisers prior to any investment.

This document is for information purposes only and is not intended to be an offer, or a solicitation of an offer, to buy or sell any investments or participate in any trading strategy. Moreover, the information in this document will not affect Nikko AM's investment strategy in any way. The information and opinions in this document have been derived from or reached from sources believed in good faith to be reliable but have not been independently verified. Nikko AM makes no guarantee, representation or warranty, express or implied, and accepts no responsibility or liability for the accuracy or completeness of this document. No reliance should be placed on any assumptions, forecasts, projections, estimates or prospects contained within this document. This document should not be regarded by recipients as a substitute for the exercise of their own judgment. Opinions stated in this document may change without notice.

In any investment, past performance is neither an indication nor guarantee of future performance and a loss of capital may occur. Estimates of future performance are based on assumptions that may not be realised. Investors should be able to withstand the loss of any principal investment. The mention of individual securities, sectors, regions or countries within this document does not imply a recommendation to buy or sell.

Nikko AM accepts no liability whatsoever for any loss or damage of any kind arising out of the use of all or any part of this document, provided that nothing herein excludes or restricts any liability of Nikko AM under applicable regulatory rules or requirements.

All information contained in this document is solely for the attention and use of the intended recipients. Any use beyond that intended by Nikko AM is strictly prohibited.

Japan: The information contained in this document pertaining specifically to the investment products is not directed at persons in Japan nor is it intended for distribution to persons in Japan. Registration Number: Director of the Kanto Local Finance Bureau (Financial Instruments firms) No. 368 Member Associations: The Investment Trusts Association, Japan/Japan Investment Advisers Association.

United Kingdom: This document is communicated by Nikko Asset Management Europe Ltd, which is authorised and regulated in the United Kingdom by the Financial Conduct Authority (the FCA) (FRN 122084). This document constitutes a financial promotion for the purposes of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (as amended) (FSMA) and the rules of the FCA in the United Kingdom, and is directed at professional clients as defined in the FCA Handbook of Rules and Guidance.

Luxembourg and Germany: This document is communicated by Nikko Asset Management Luxembourg S.A., which is authorised and regulated in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg by the Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier (the CSSF) as a management company authorised under Chapter 15 of the Law of 17 December 2010 (No S00000717) and as an alternative investment fund manager according to the Law of 12 July 2013 (No. A00002630).

United States: This document may not be duplicated, quoted, discussed or otherwise shared without prior consent. An offering of any investments, securities or investment advisory services with respect to securities may only be made by receipt of relevant and complete offering documentation and agreements, as applicable. Any offering or distribution of a Fund in the United States may only be conducted via a licensed and registered broker-dealer or a duly gualified entity. Nikko Asset Management Americas, Inc. is a United States Registered Investment Adviser.

Singapore: This document is for information to institutional investors as defined in the Securities and Futures Act (Chapter 289), and intermediaries only. Nikko Asset Management Asia Limited (Co. Reg. No. 198202562H) is regulated by the Monetary Authority of Singapore.

Hong Kong: This document is for information to professional investors as defined in the Securities and Futures Ordinance, and intermediaries only. The contents of this document have not been reviewed by the Securities and Futures Commission or any regulatory authority in Hong Kong. Nikko Asset Management Hong Kong Limited is a licensed corporation in Hong Kong.

New Zealand: This document is issued in New Zealand by Nikko Asset Management New Zealand Limited (Company No. 606057, FSP22562). It is for the use of wholesale clients, researchers, licensed financial advisers and their authorised representatives only.

Kingdom of Bahrain: The document has not been approved by the Central Bank of Bahrain which takes no responsibility for its contents. No offer to the public to purchase the Strategy will be made in the Kingdom of Bahrain and this document is intended to be read by the addressee only and must not be passed to, issued to, or shown to the public generally.

Kuwait: This document is not for general circulation to the public in Kuwait. The Strategy has not been licensed for offering in Kuwait by the Kuwaiti Capital Markets Authority or any other relevant Kuwaiti government agency. The offering of the Strategy in Kuwait on the basis a private placement or public offering is, therefore, restricted in accordance with Decree Law No. 7 of 2010 and the bylaws thereto (as amended). No private or public offering of the Strategy is being made in Kuwait, and no agreement relating to the sale of the Strategy will be concluded in Kuwait. No marketing or solicitation or inducement activities are being used to offer or market the Strategy in Kuwait.

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: This document is communicated by Nikko Asset Management Europe Ltd (Nikko AME), which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (as amended) (FSMA) and the rules of the Financial Conduct Authority (the FCA) in the United Kingdom (the FCA Rules). This document should not be reproduced, redistributed, or sent directly or indirectly to any other party or published in full or in part for any purpose whatsoever without a prior written permission from Nikko AME.

This document does not constitute investment advice or a personal recommendation and does not consider in any way the suitability or appropriateness of the subject matter for the individual circumstances of any recipient. In providing a person with this document, Nikko AME is not treating that person as a client for the purposes of the FCA Rules other than those relating to financial promotion and that person will not therefore benefit from any protections that would be available to such clients.

a

Nikko AME and its associates and/or its or their officers, directors or employees may have or have had positions or material interests, may at any time make purchases and/or sales as principal or agent, may provide or have provided corporate finance services to issuers or may provide or have provided significant advice or investment services in any investments referred to in this document or in related investments. Relevant confidential information, if any, known within any company in the Nikko AM group or Sumitomo Mitsui Trust Holdings group and not available to Nikko AME because of regulations or internal procedure is not reflected in this document. The investments mentioned in this document may not be eligible for sale in some states or countries, and they may not be suitable for all types of investors.

Oman: The information contained in this document nether constitutes a public offer of securities in the Sultanate of Oman as contemplated by the Commercial companies law of Oman (Royal decree 4/74) or the Capital Markets Law of Oman (Royal Decree80/98, nor does it constitute an offer to sell, or the solicitation of any offer to buy non-Omani securities in the Sultanate of Oman as contemplated by Article 139 of the Executive Regulations to the Capital Market law (issued by Decision No. 1/2009). This document is not intended to lead to the conclusion of any contract of whatsoever nature within the territory of the Sultanate of Oman.

Qatar (excluding QFC): The Strategies are only being offered to a limited number of investors who are willing and able to conduct an independent investigation of the risks involved in an investment in such Strategies. The document does not constitute an offer to the public and should not be reproduced, redistributed, or sent directly or indirectly to any other party or published in full or in part for any purpose whatsoever without a prior written permission from Nikko Asset Management Europe Ltd (Nikko AME). No transaction will be concluded in your jurisdiction and any inquiries regarding the Strategies should be made to Nikko AME.

United Arab Emirates (excluding DIFC): This document and the information contained herein, do not constitute, and is not intended to constitute, a public offer of securities in the United Arab Emirates and accordingly should not be construed as such. The Strategy is only being offered to a limited number of investors in the UAE who are (a) willing and able to conduct an independent investigation of the risks involved in an investment in such Strategy, and (b) upon their specific request.

The Strategy has not been approved by or licensed or registered with the UAE Central Bank, the Securities and Commodities Authority or any other relevant licensing authorities or governmental agencies in the UAE. This document is for the use of the named addressee only and should not be given or shown to any other person (other than employees, agents or consultants in connection with the addressee's consideration thereof).

No transaction will be concluded in the UAE and any inquiries regarding the Strategy should be made to Nikko Asset Management Europe Ltd.

Republic of Korea: This document is being provided for general information purposes only, and shall not, and under no circumstances is, to be construed as, an offering of financial investment products or services. Nikko AM is not making any representation with respect to the eligibility of any person to acquire any financial investment product or service. The offering and sale of any financial investment product is subject to the applicable regulations of the Republic of Korea. Any interests in a fund or collective investment scheme shall be sold after such fund is registered under the private placement registration regime in accordance with the applicable regulations of the Republic of Korea, and the offering of such registered fund shall be conducted only through a locally licensed distributor.

Canada: The information provide herein does not constitute any form of financial opinion or investment advice on the part of Nikko AM and it should not be relied on as such. It does not constitute a prospectus, offering memorandum or private placement memorandum in Canada, and may not be used in making any investment decision. It should not be considered a solicitation to buy or an offer to sell a security in Canada. This information is provided for informational and educational use only.