# MIND OF THE MANAGER

# GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE — WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOING ON?

BRIAN ARCESE JC XUE

**MARCH 2024** 

### MACRO OUTLOOK

#### Inflation and interest rates are key determinants of returns

US equity valuations expensive; US leading economic indicators, auto loan and credit card delinquencies, point to US economic softening

Asian markets attractive; China regulatory overhang has abated though tepid economic growth continues to weigh on valuations (and create opportunity)

**GEOPOLITICAL** RISK. **GOVERNMENT** INTERVENTION.

Driven by a respite in shelter inflation, core inflation returns to target levels during 2024

> US interest rates have likely peaked for this cycle, though investors overly optimistic in expectations of 75bps of rate cuts

Position in defensive, high quality, dividend paying equities and high quality credit

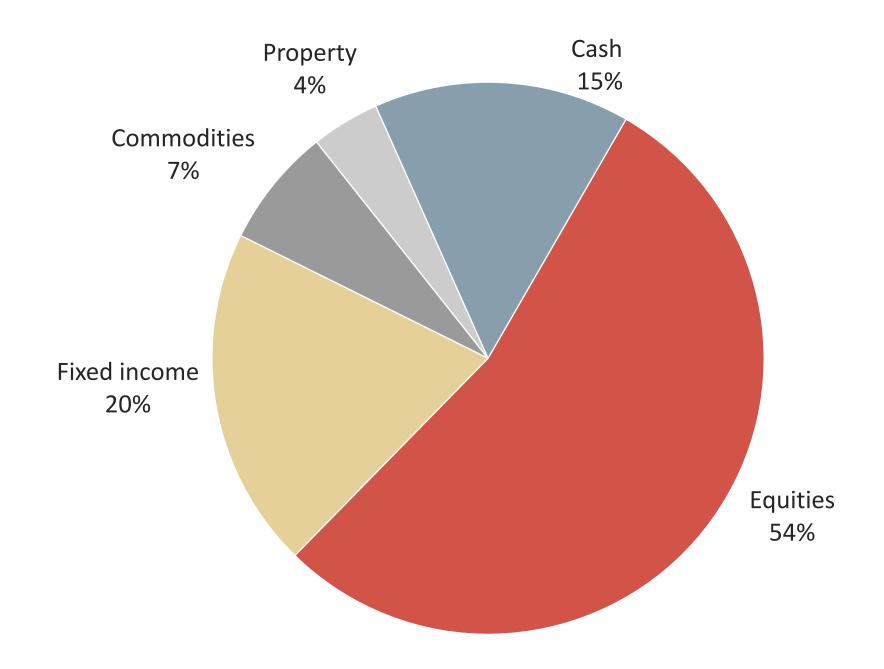
Gold maintains safe haven appeal amid heightened political tensions and expected market volatility; and interest provide additional tailwinds

As of 31 Dec 2023. For illustration purposes only. Foord reserves the right to amend data, views or processes presented



# FOORD INTERNATIONAL FUND

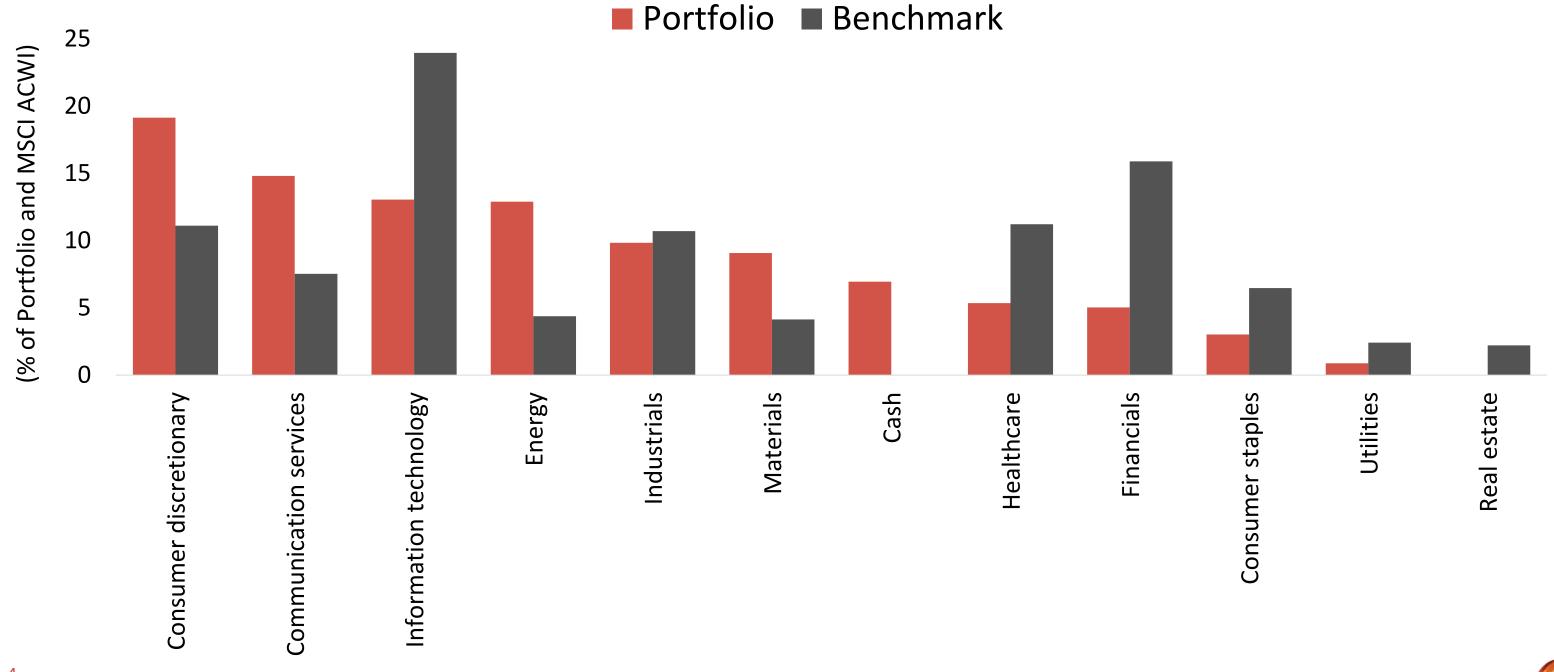
### Asset allocation – 29 February 2024





# FOORD GLOBAL EQUITY FUND

Equity region and sector exposure – 29 February 2024





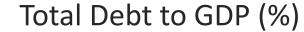
# CHINA UPDATE

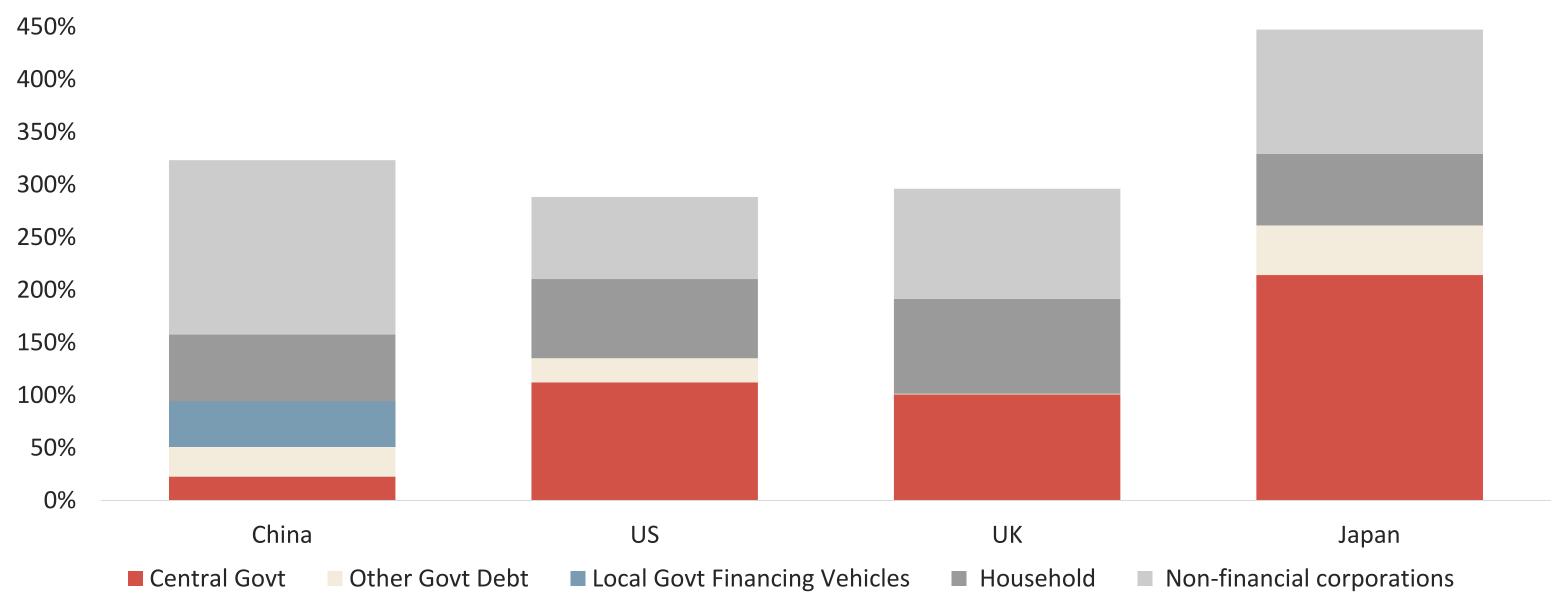
RISKS, MITIGANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Jing Cong Xue (JC)

# CHINESE DEBT LEVELS MANAGEABLE

Government is deliberately implementing more measured stimulus

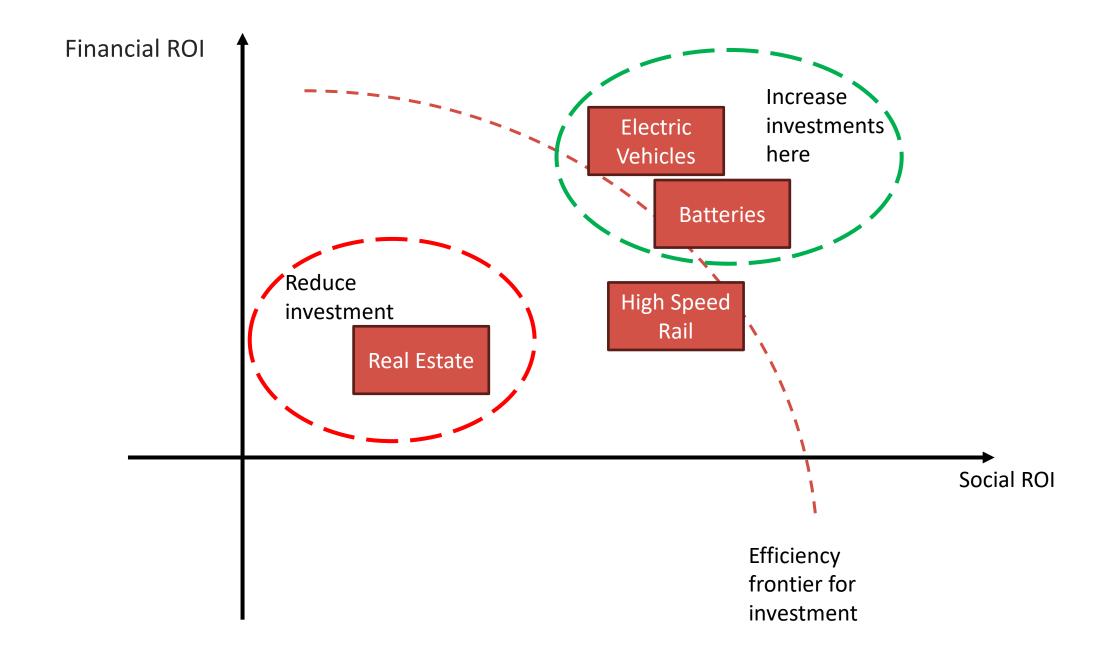






# PROPERTY SECTOR (1/4)

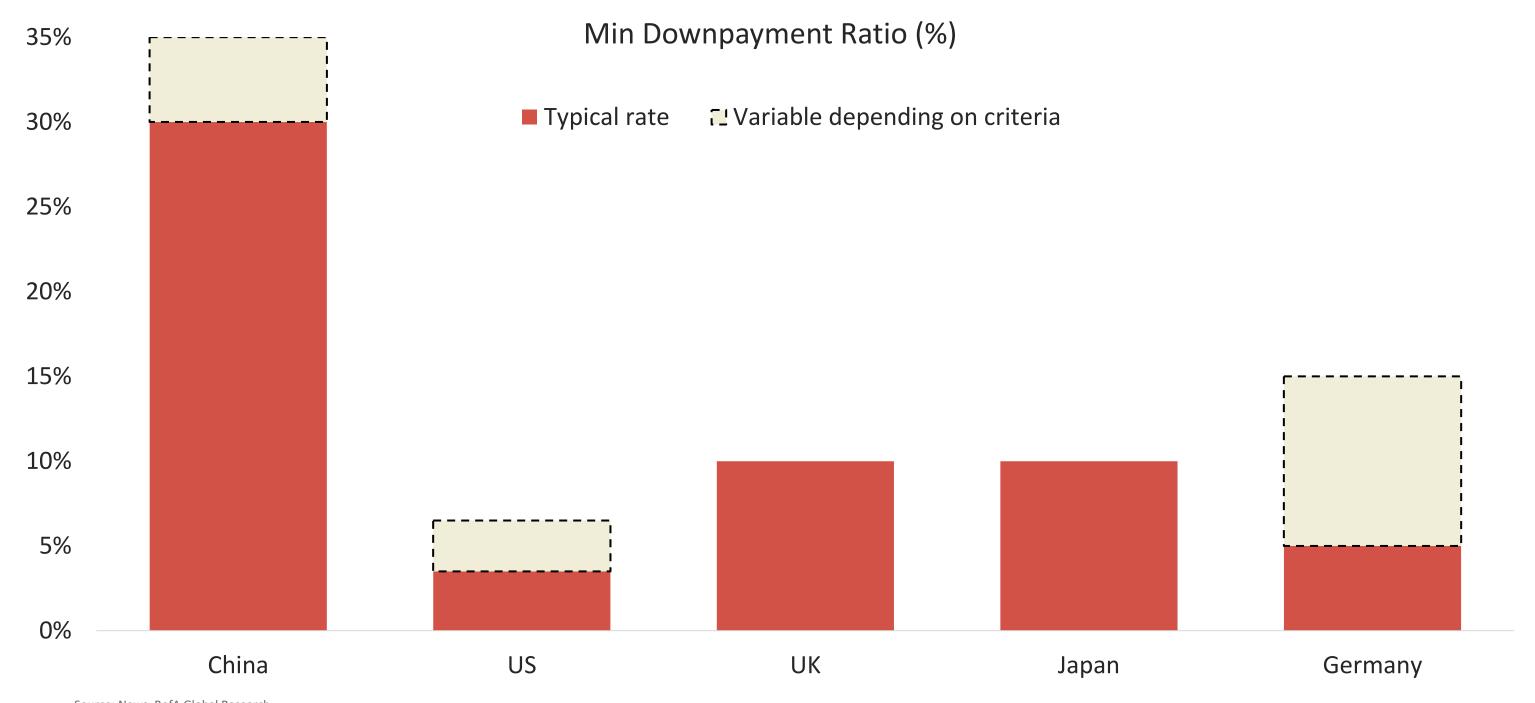
Shifting investments towards higher Return On Investment (ROI) sectors





# PROPERTY SECTOR (2/4)

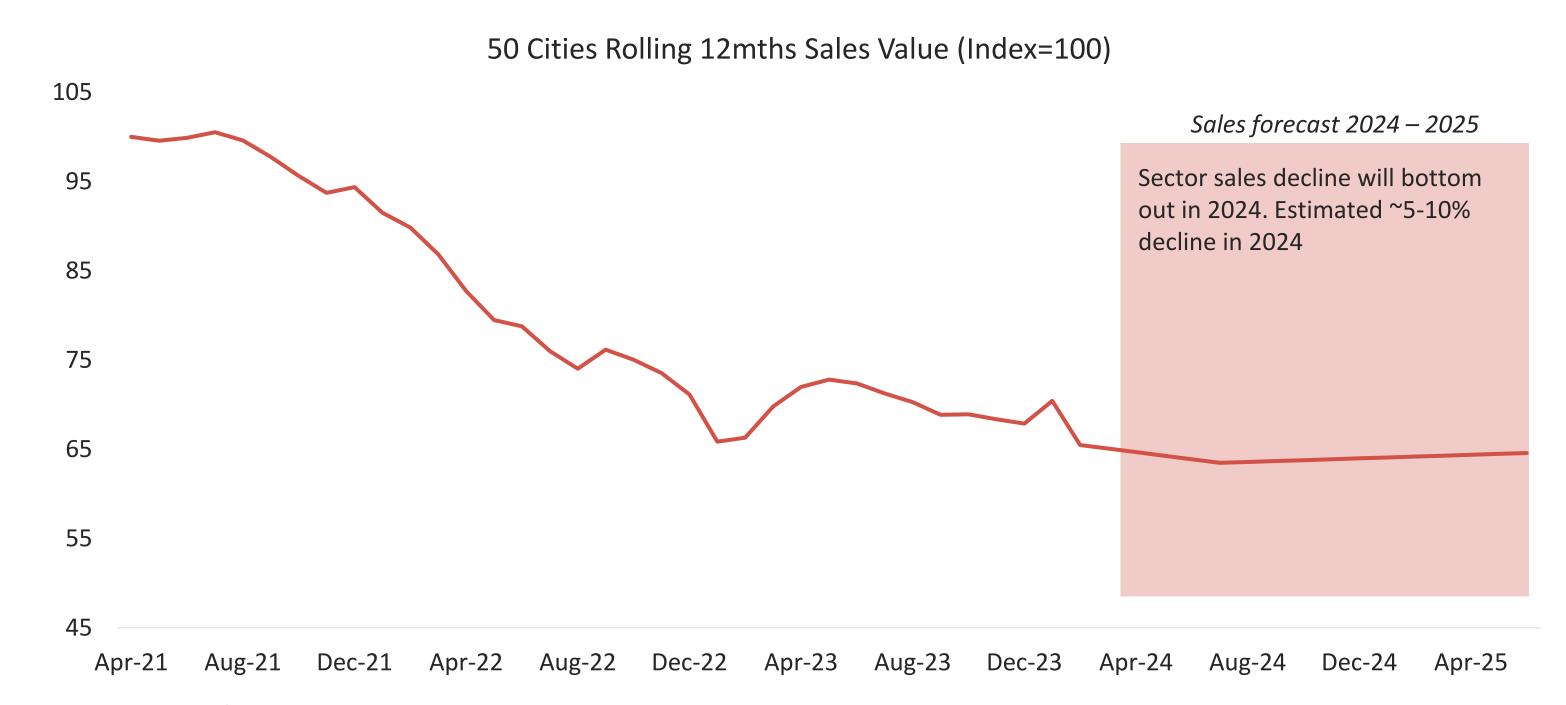
#### Not the US housing crash of 2008





# PROPERTY SECTOR (3/4)

#### Where are we today?





# PROPERTY SECTOR (4/4)

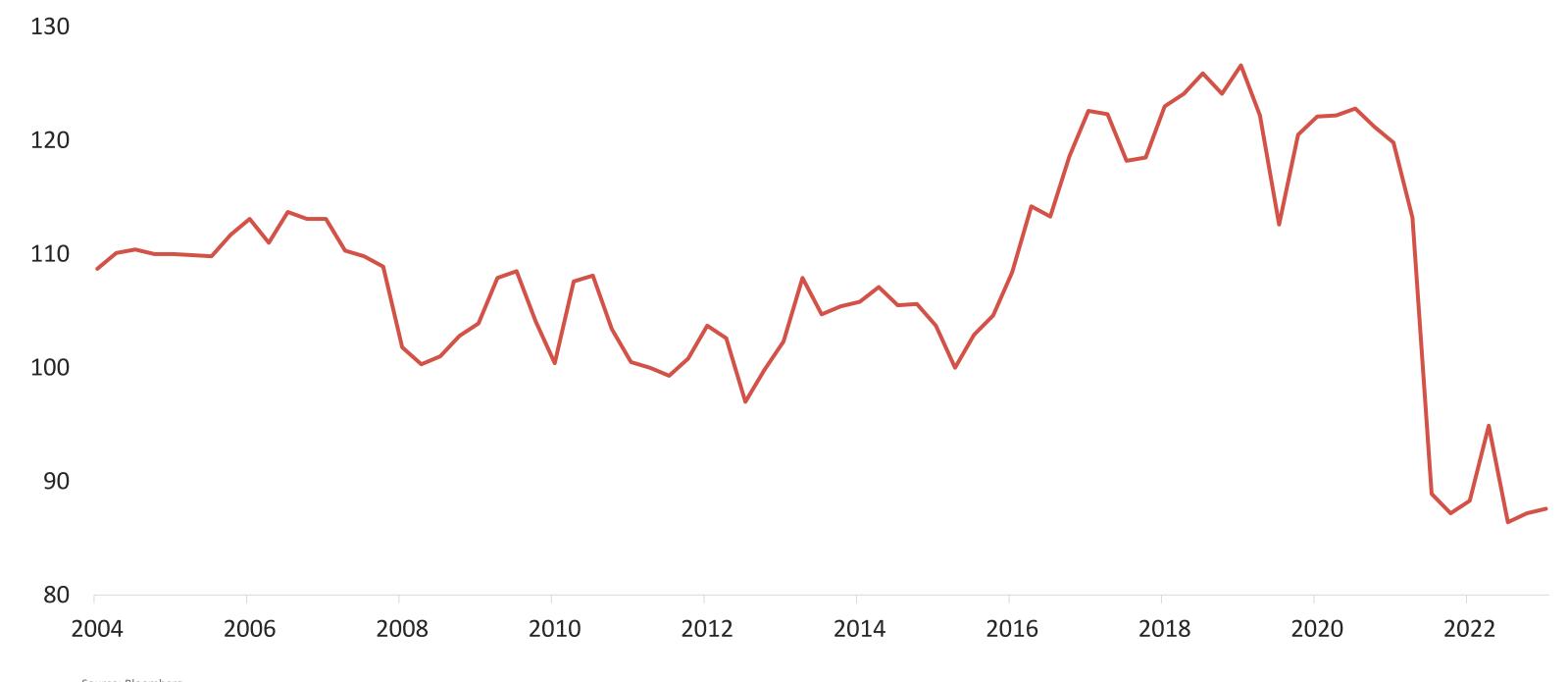
### Targeted easing measures to continue

|                          | Multiple measures to support the sector  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Rate cuts                | - Loan prime rate cut from 4.2% to 3.95%   |
| Loan extension           | - Targeted special loans projects etc.   |
| Urban village renovation | - Redevelopment of old villages located in cities into high rises                    |
| Down payment adjustments | - Beijing, Shanghai downpayment for first home reduced to 30% from 35-40%            |
| Whitelisting projects    | - Residential projects deemed financially sound get financing for project completion |



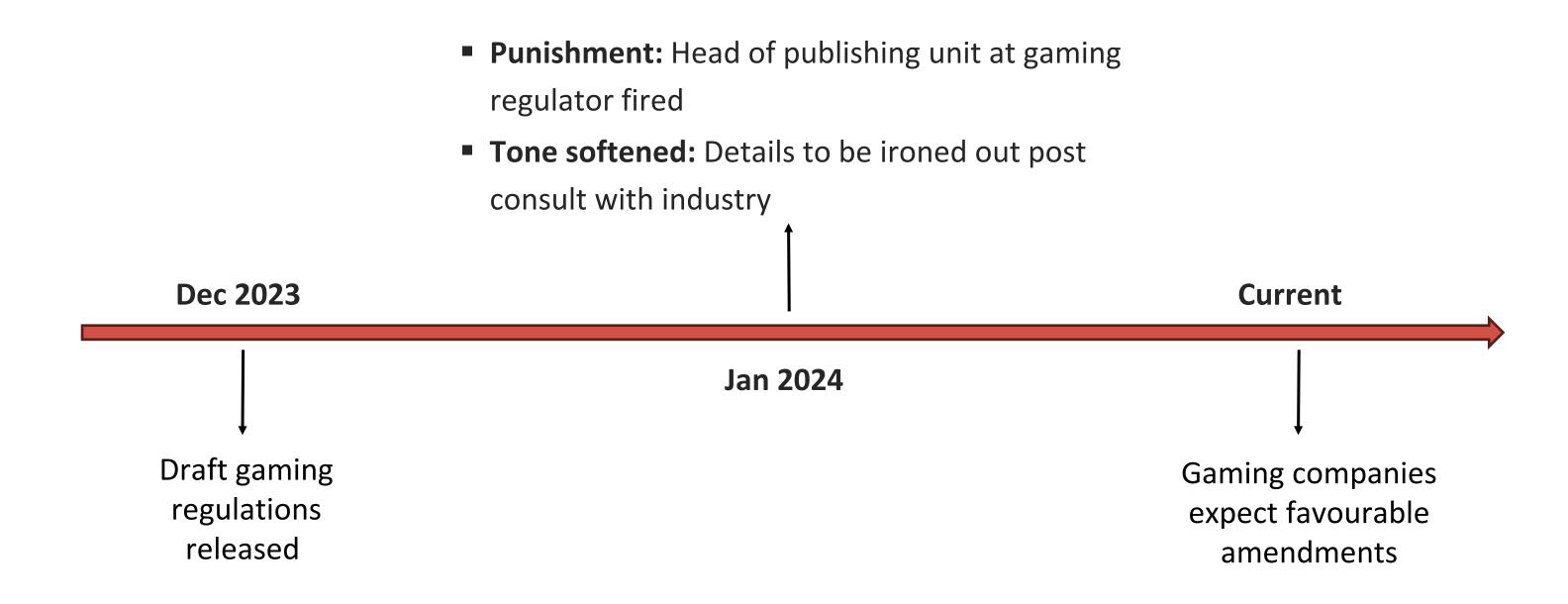
# CHINESE CONSUMER CONFIDENCE

Fundamentals support recovery off a low base



### **GAMING REGULATION**

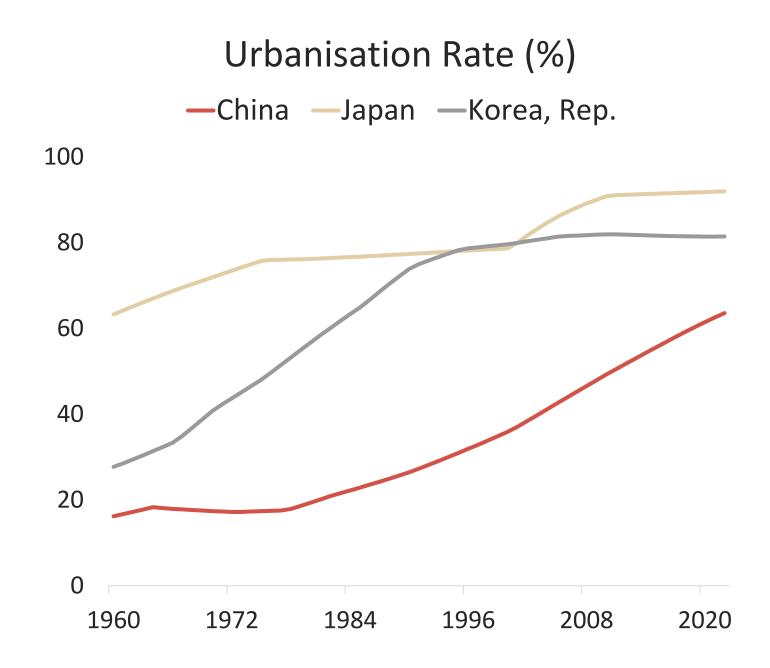
Draft gaming regulations not the start of new clamp downs



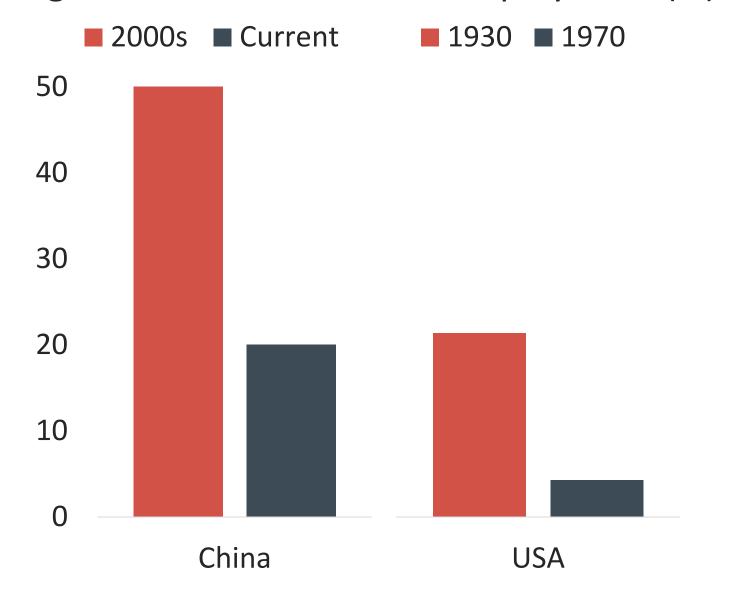


### AGEING POPULATION

Multiple levers to pull to supplement labour force



### Agriculture Share of Total Employment (%)

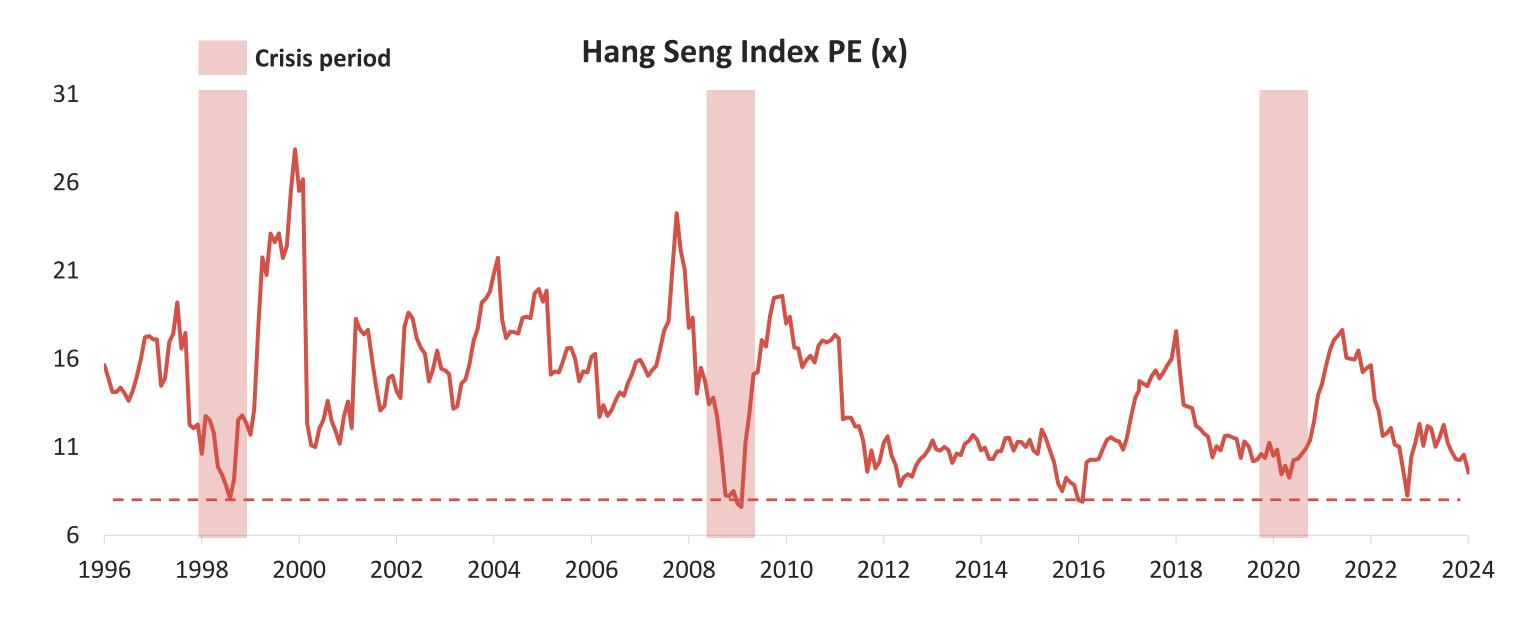


Sources: China-National Bureau of Statistics; World Bank



### WHERE ARE WE IN THE CYCLE?

Hang Seng Index close to Asian and Global Financial Crises valuations

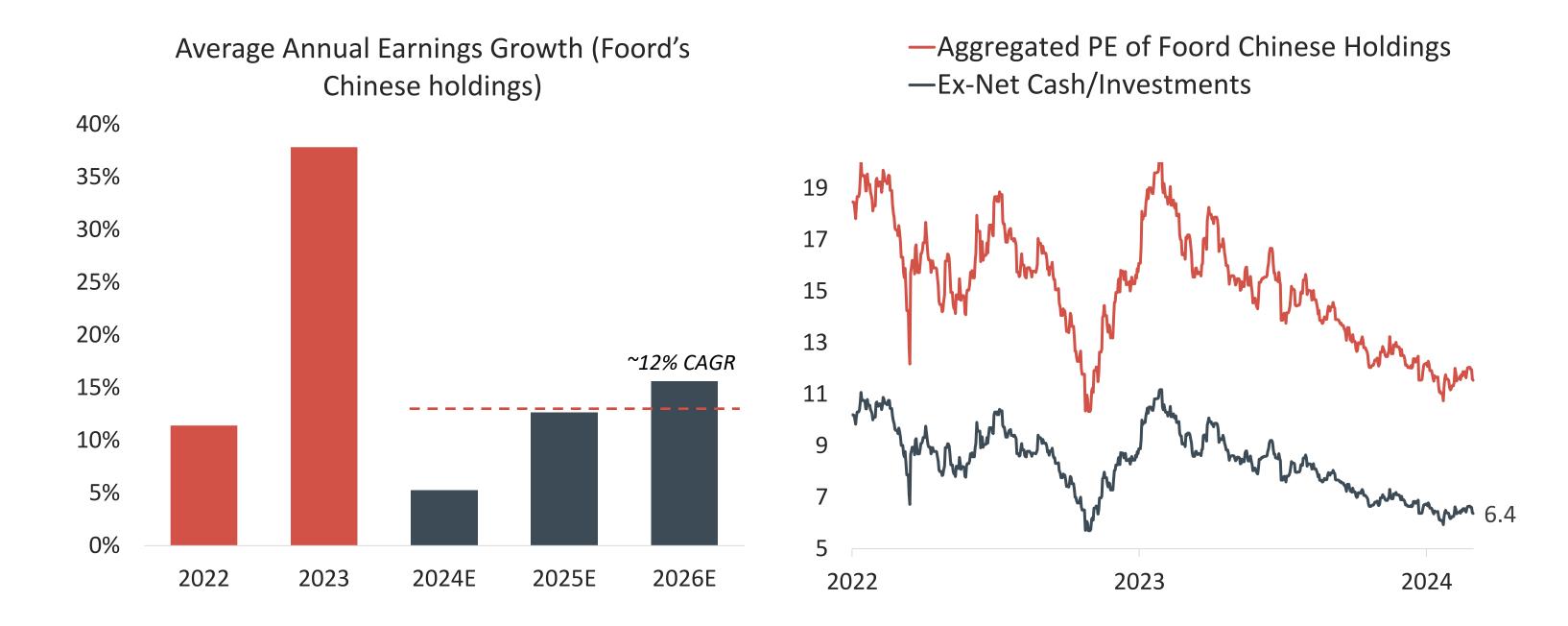


"Economists, analysts, fund managers and journalists were unanimous in their attacks on Thailand, predicting depression, massive devaluation, surging non-performing loans, political incompetence"



### VALUATION VS. GROWTH

Valuation continues to look attractive relative to growth for the names we own







# THANK YOU

www.foord.co.za

# Disclaimer

#### COPYRIGHT 2024 FOORD. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Foord Unit Trusts (RF) (Pty) Ltd (Foord Unit Trusts) is an approved CISCA Management Company (#10). Assets are managed by Foord Asset Management (Pty) Ltd (Foord), an authorised Financial Services Provider (FSP: 578). Collective Investment Schemes in Securities (unit trusts) are generally medium- to long-term investments. The value of participatory interests (units) may go down as well as up and past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. Performance may be affected by changes in the market or economic conditions and legal, regulatory and tax requirements. Foord Unit Trusts does not provide any guarantee either with respect to the capital or the performance return of the investment. Unit trusts are traded at ruling prices and can engage in borrowing. Foord Unit Trusts does not engage in scrip lending. Commission and incentives may be paid and if so, this cost is not borne by the investor. A schedule of fees and charges, including performance fees, and maximum commissions is available on www.foord.co.za or directly from Foord Unit Trusts. Distributions may be subject to mandatory withholding taxes. Portfolios may include underlying foreign investments. Fluctuations or movements in exchange rates may cause the value of underlying foreign investments to go up or down. Underlying foreign investments may be adversely affected by political instability as well as exchange controls, changes in taxation, foreign investment policies, restrictions on repatriation of investments and other restrictions and controls which may be imposed by the relevant authorities in the relevant countries. A fund of funds invests only in other Collective Investment Scheme portfolios, which may levy their own charges, which could result in a higher fee structure. A feeder fund is a portfolio that, apart from assets in liquid form, consists solely of units in a single portfolio of a Collective Investment Scheme which could result in a higher fee structure. Foord Unit Trusts is authorised to close any of their portfolios to new investors in order to manage them more efficiently in accordance with their mandates. This document is not an advertisement, but is provided exclusively for information purposes and should not be regarded advice, an offer or solicitation to purchase, sell or otherwise deal with any particular investment. Economic forecasts and predictions are based on Foord's interpretation of current factual information, and exploration of economic activity based on expectation for future growth under normal economic conditions, not dissimilar to previous cycles. Forecasts and commentaries are provided for information purposes only and are not guaranteed to occur. While we have taken and will continue to take care that the information contained herein is true and correct, we request that you report any errors to Foord at unittrusts@foord.co.za. The document is protected by copyright and may not be altered without prior written consent.

