



Understanding the real estate sector (part 15) (final issue)

Yoji Otani, CMA

Research Analyst
(+81) 3 5156-6756
yoji.otani@db.com

Akiko Komine, CMA

Research Analyst
(+81) 3 5156-6765
akiko.komine@db.com

Fundamentals unchanged; only market sentiment has altered

This is the final issue of our "Understanding the real estate sector" series. Against a background of substantial gaps between real estate fundamentals and sector share prices, we issued the series to reconfirm actual conditions in Japan's real estate market. In what we see as a favorable development, sector share prices have been firm since the start of 2012, and we estimate that the gap between fundamentals and share prices has accordingly narrowed. However, we reiterate our view that real estate and J-REIT share prices have not started rising seriously yet.

Real estate market rebounded firmly in 2011

We need to remember that the real estate and J-REIT sectors' firm performances since the start of 2012 are due partly to a steady recovery in the environment for the real estate market amid the disruptions caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake. We discussed this environment in parts 1 (on earnings), 3 (strong upturn in transactions) and 11 (office market recovering with increase in workers).

Expectations for escaping deflation; restoration demand

The BoJ's announcement of a de facto inflation target of 1% CPI growth has spurred the market to gather pace again. We think this development partly reflects investor awareness that firm markets in both 2003 and 2007 were due to expectations of an escape from deflationary conditions. We also think multiple factors are contributing, such as market conditions similar to those following the Great Hanshin Earthquake in 1996, when reconstruction demand buoyed share prices and economic conditions. We think real estate and J-REIT share prices have not started rising seriously yet.

Real estate, J-REIT sectors to turn up again following short-term correction

With the market looking overheated due to the major rise in share prices since start-2012, we expect to see a near-term correction. Thereafter, however, we look for the real estate sector to rise again. We reiterate our Overweight view on the real estate sector.

We determine our target prices for this sector by using a residual income model. We also take into account NAV. Risk factors include a rise in risk premiums due to a decline in bank lending to the real estate sector; a decline in government spending due to a hasty hike in the consumption tax, or to a rush toward fiscal restructuring; tax revisions or regulations that inhibit the liquidity of the real estate market; and the emergence of excessive pessimism toward Japan and Japanese real estate.

Deutsche Securities Inc.

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Part 1

How to accurately understand current fundamentals

We think investors may partly misunderstand current conditions in Japan's real estate sector. To address this issue, we are releasing a series of reports entitled "Understanding the real estate sector". This first issue looks at the five real estate majors' profit momentum and profit levels. We forecast the major's FY12 aggregate OP to rise 10.7% YoY and FY13 OP to rebound to a level that is basically on par with FY08. We emphasize that business conditions are very stable.

Our OP forecast for five major real estate companies: up 10.7% YoY in FY12

We forecast that aggregate OP at the five major real estate companies will likely expand 10.7% YoY in FY12 to ¥506.8bn. We forecast further growth of 2.7% YoY in FY13 to ¥520.4bn. OP of ¥520.4bn would more or less match the FY08 level, thereby demonstrating the earnings stability of the real estate sector. (See Figure 1).

Mitsui Fudosan, Sumitomo R&D return to profit growth

Mitsui Fudosan is set to return to profit growth in FY3/12, and Sumitomo R&D did so in FY3/11. Tokyu Land is likely to see profit dip in FY3/12 in reaction to sales profits booked in FY3/11, but we estimate that its underlying profits have returned to growth. Tokyo Tatemono has lagged in FY12/11, but we expect profit growth to resume in FY12/12 (Figure 1).

Figure 1: OP forecasts for five major real estate companies

| | FY08 Actual | FY09 Actual | FY10 Actual | FY11 DSF | FY12 DSF | FY13 DSF |
|-------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| OP (¥bn) | 519.2 | 468.2 | 503.5 | 457.9 | 506.8 | 520.4 |
| Mitsui Fudosan | 171.5 | 120.6 | 120.1 | 122.9 | 135.9 | 148.3 |
| Mitsubishi Estate | 138.6 | 149.0 | 158.3 | 146.5 | 140.7 | 155.3 |
| Sumitomo Realty | 146.4 | 134.0 | 138.5 | 146.0 | 152.2 | 152.4 |
| Tokyu Land | 35.0 | 35.5 | 62.5 | 43.2 | 47.4 | 51.2 |
| Tokyo Tatemono | 27.7 | 29.2 | 24.1 | -0.7 | 30.6 | 13.2 |
| YoY (%) | -18.8 | -9.8 | 7.5 | -9.1 | 10.7 | 2.7 |
| Mitsui Fudosan | -4.3 | -29.7 | -0.4 | 2.3 | 10.6 | 9.1 |
| Mitsubishi Estate | -22.1 | 7.5 | 6.3 | -7.5 | -4.0 | 10.4 |
| Sumitomo Realty | -5.3 | -8.5 | 3.4 | 5.4 | 4.2 | 0.1 |
| Tokyu Land | -57.4 | 1.4 | 76.2 | -30.9 | 9.7 | 8.0 |
| Tokyo Tatemono | -39.0 | 5.2 | -17.4 | - | - | -56.9 |

Notes: Figure for Tokyo Tatemono FY11 is actual.
Sources: Company, Deutsche Securities forecasts



Part 2

Miki Shoji's worsening vacancy data not negative for real estate sector

The laggard improvement in Miki Shoji's vacancy rates contrasts with the clear recovery in vacancy rates for newer large buildings (Figure 2). We believe companies that might have moved to buildings with cheaper rent in the past have been leaning instead towards those with better quake resistance since last year's Tohoku disaster. This suggests that demand is on the rise for the kind of buildings held by the real estate majors and J-REITs. That is, Miki Shoji's worsening vacancy data is positive for the large real estate firms and J-REITs.

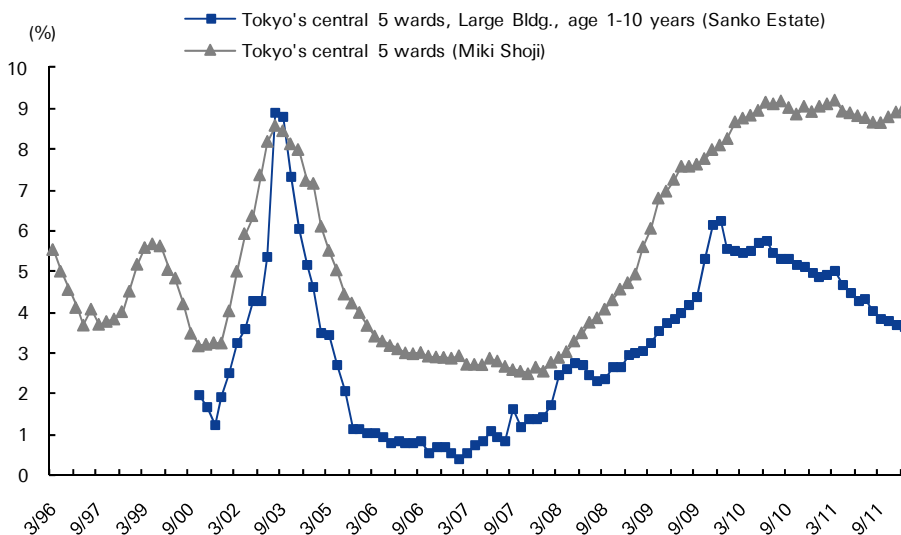
Protecting employee safety is management's duty

In an earthquake-prone country like Japan, homes and buildings need to serve as shelters at times of emergency. As such, Japanese architectural constructions boast a high level of earthquake resistance. At the same time, there are still many buildings that do not meet the new seismic standards introduced in 1971. People can choose residences at their own risk, but for companies, it is management's duty to protect the safety of employees. This is clear in Mori Building's recent "Survey of Office Needs in Tokyo's 23 Wards" (Figure 3).

Uncompetitive buildings switched to condo use

Even with an economic recovery we believe vacancy rate improvements will be sluggish for seismically inferior buildings. We suspect that such uncompetitive buildings will be razed and serve as spots for future large office buildings or be rebuilt as condominiums, which have become difficult to find in prime locations. The office stock has not increased significantly because of the large number of old buildings that have been demolished. We expect further disappearances among buildings unable to meet the new quake resistance designation system being introduced by Metro Tokyo for all buildings in the prefecture.

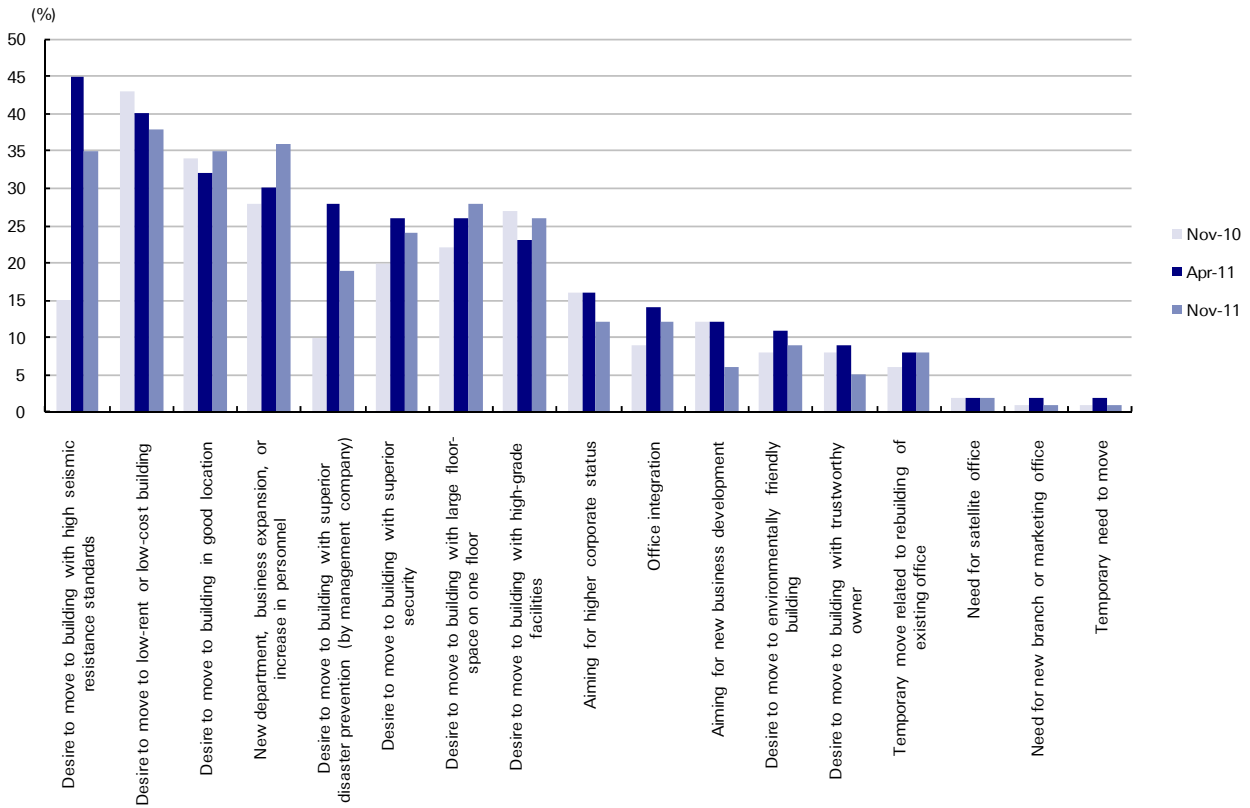
Figure 2: Office vacancy rates in Tokyo's five central wards



Source: Sanko Estate, Miki Shoji



Figure 3: Survey of Office Needs in Tokyo's 23-wards (Reasons behind new rentals)



Source: Mori Building



Part 3

J-REIT property acquisitions exceeded ¥700bn in 2011

J-REIT property acquisitions have improved steadily after bottoming at ¥246.8bn in 2009, rising to ¥544.4bn in 2010 and ¥714.4bn in 2011. Acquisitions exceeding ¥700bn are even larger than those recorded in 2004 (Figure 4). Also, in 2011 GLP made property acquisitions of ¥122.6bn – showing that non J-REIT companies are also making major acquisitions (Figure 5). Moreover, Canadian, Dutch, and Korean pension funds established funds that target Japanese real estate (Figure 6).

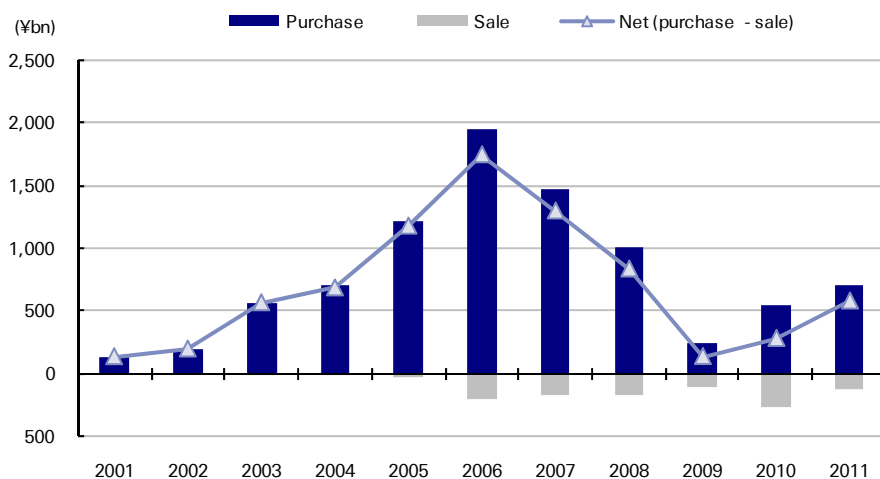
Real estate market is returning to normal

Japan's real estate market was beset by troubles last year because of the 11 March earthquake and the European debt crisis, both of which occurred in 2011. However, as mentioned above, the Japanese real estate market has improved dramatically despite these challenges. Most notable has been improving office vacancy rates and strong condo sales.

Why overseas investors focus on Japan's real estate market

Concerns arose that overseas real estate investors might avoid Japan after the 11 March earthquake, but these concerns turned out to be unfounded. In fact, overseas investors aggressively invested in Japanese real estate despite the earthquake's effects and the strengthening yen. This is because investors can procure funds at low interest rates and expect to generate stable cash flows; suggesting that Japan is a more attractive market than cities in other countries.

Figure 4: Property acquisition by J-REITs (purchase /sale price base)



Source: Company, The Association for Real Estate Securitization



Figure 5: Large deals in 2011

| | Kokusai Akasaka Bldg (East & West) | Otemachi Pal Bldg (Head office of Promise) | Akasaka Park Building | Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Head Office Bldg | Nibancho Center Building | Logistic facilities (15 properties) |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|---|--------------------------|--|
| Location | Minato-ku Tokyo | Chiyoda-ku Tokyo | Minato-ku Tokyo | Minato-ku Tokyo | Chiyoda-ku Tokyo | 15 properties |
| Construction completion | Y1980 | Y1961 | Y1993 | Y2003 | Y2009 | - |
| Gross floor space (m ²) | 81,046 | 27,923 | 97,489 | 67,123 | 44,343 | 77,989 |
| Transaction | 3/2011 | 3/2011 | 11/2011 | 9/2011 | 1H 2011 | 12/2011 |
| Price | (90bn yen)*1 | 72bn yen | 60.8bn yen | 60.5bn yen | (74.0bn yen) *2 | 122.6bn yen |
| Seller | Lone Star Group | Promise | Mitsubishi Estate | Mitsubishi Heavy Industries | Mitsubishi Estate | LaSalle Investment |
| Buyer | Mitsubishi Estate | Mitsui Fudosan Mitsui & Co. | JRE | NBF(60%) Domestic Institutional Investors (40%) | Private REIT | Global Logistic Properties China Investment Corp |

Note: *1 The price for Kokusai Akasaka Bldg is based on newspaper reports. *2 Deutsche Securities estimates *3 JRE: Japan Real Estate Investment Corporation NBF: Nippon Building Fund Inc.
Source: JRE, Nikkei Real Estate Market Information, Deutsche Securities

Figure 6: Major investments in Japanese real estate

| Operator, fund name | Country of origin | Targeted investments | Size | Investor affiliation | Investment style | Time of announcement |
|---|-------------------|--|--|--|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Diamond Realty Management Dream Data Center Fund | Japan | Domestic data centers (3 properties including the IIF Shinsuna data center) | ¥25.8bn | Mitsubishi Corporation, domestic pension funds, foundations, companies | Core (property-specific type) | Aug |
| Goodman Group | Australia | Domestic logistic facilities (Sakai Goodman and other) | ¥100.0bn (12 to 18 months) | The company | Development | Aug |
| Global Logistic Properties | Singapore | Domestic logistic facilities Misato GLP III, and others | ¥76.6bn (3 years) | The company, Canada Pension Plan (CPP) | Development | Sep |
| Alpha Investment Partners Alpha Asia Macro Trends Fund II | Singapore | Asian real estate including Japan | An initially ¥35bn investment commitment | Pension funds, government-related investment funds, Fund of funds | Core plus - Opportunity | Sep |
| JR AMC | Korea | Tokyo-based offices, residences, logistic facilities | ¥100.0bn (3-5 years) | Korean pension funds | Core | Sep |
| MGPA | Singapore | Asian commercial real estate including Japan | Approx. ¥100.0bn | Institutional investors in German-speaking regions | Core - core plus | Sep |
| Tokyu Land (Activia Properties) (Scheduled listing: 2012) | Japan | Domestic commercial facilities and office buildings | Undetermined | Public offering | Core | Sep |
| Kenedix's new REIT (Scheduled listing: 1H 2012) | Japan | Domestic residential rental properties | Initially capped at ¥70bn | Public offering | Core | Oct |
| Diamond Realty Management Dream Mezzanine debt Fund | Japan | Mezzanine debt Commercial facilities in metropolitan Tokyo 3 projects and a portfolio of residential rental properties | ¥10.2bn | Mitsubishi Corporation, domestic pension funds | Core (property-specific type) | Oct |
| Secured Capital AVIVA (UK) | NA | Central Tokyo offices | ¥40bn | The company, Dutch pension funds (PGGM) | | Nov |
| Global Logistic Properties (GLP) China Investment Corporation (CIC) | Singapore China | Domestic logistic facilities | ¥122.6bn | | | Dec |

Source: Nikkei Real Estate Market Report, Company



Part 4

Market has changed markedly

We issued our “Understanding the real estate sector” series of reports because we think that investors do not fully understand the current conditions of Japan’s real estate sector, and to convey our view that sector share prices are significantly undervalued. We halted the series temporarily during the 3Q results season, and the market has changed in the interim. However, we think the real estate and J-REIT sectors still look undervalued, and expect a firm market like that prevailing between 2003 and 2007 to reemerge.

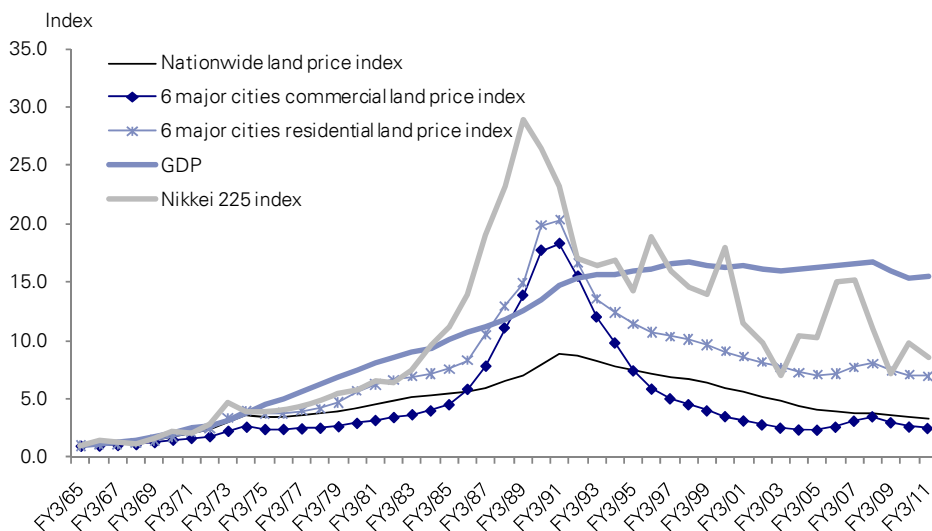
Japanese stocks in second period of low valuations

We think Japanese stocks have experienced only two periods of significantly low valuations, in 2003 and currently. We take this view because it is only on these occasions that share price levels have been well below nominal GDP (Figure 7). Investors will recall that share prices and real estate prices rose strongly during the first period, between 2003 and 2007. The upside was driven by increased expectations for the economy to escape from deflation as CPI turned from negative to positive growth owing to the BoJ’s monetary easing (Figure 8).

Similarly firm market could reemerge

On 14 February, the BoJ announced a de facto inflation target of 1% CPI growth. Historical precedent indicates that a change in the CPI to positive growth brings strong growth in real estate prices (Figure 8). We think the current firm market is due partly to investors starting to factor in these expectations. CPI has already improved to close to zero, and the highest priced lots in Tokyo’s 23-wards have started to rise (Figure 9). We expect a turn to positive CPI growth and increased expectations of an escape from deflationary conditions to signal a firm market.

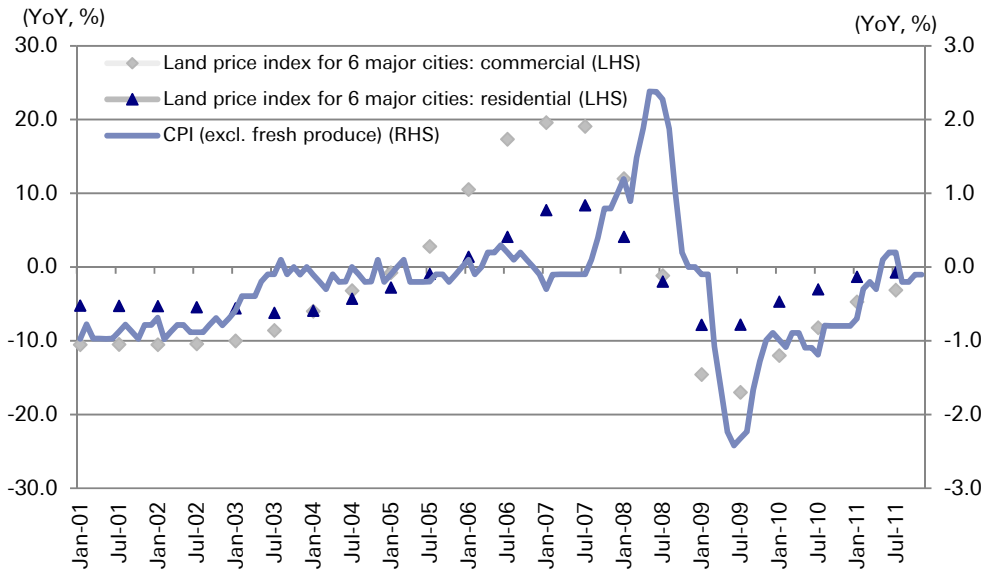
Figure 7: Land prices, nominal GDP and Nikkei 225 index



Source: Japan Real Estate Institute, Cabinet Office, Datastream

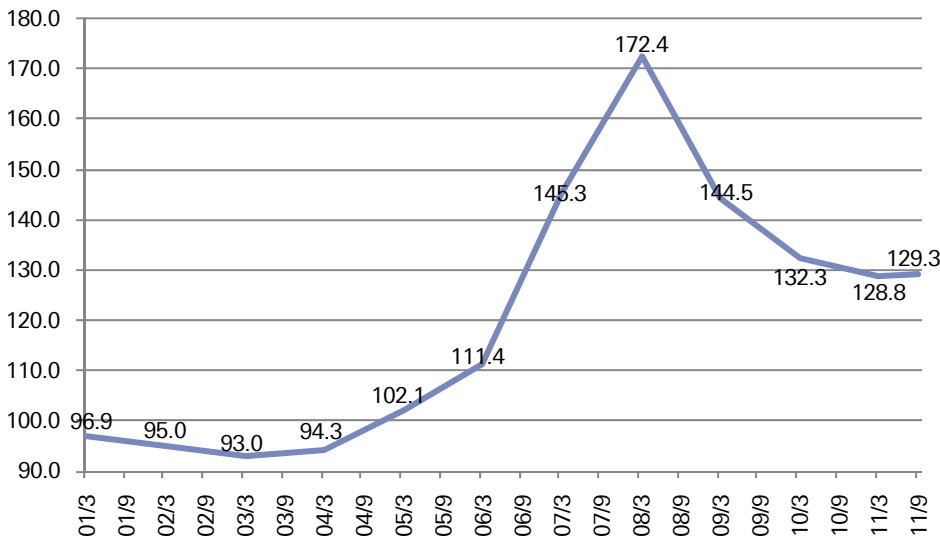


Figure 8: A turn to positive CPI growth brings strong growth in real estate prices



Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan Real Estate Institute

Figure 9: Urban Land Index (highest priced lots in Tokyo's 23-wards)



Source: Japan Real Estate Institute



Part 5

We can expect high economic growth in CY2012

When we use our forecast for real GDP to calculate GDP growth based upon an EXIT rate, the result is a high economic growth rate of 3% (Figure 10). The correlation between this EXIT rate based GDP growth and office demand is high (Figure 11). This means that in 2012 we could see a large rise in demand for office space. Office demand increased 1.1% YoY in CY2011, the first growth in four years. We expect demand to continue increasing in CY2012 and CY2013.

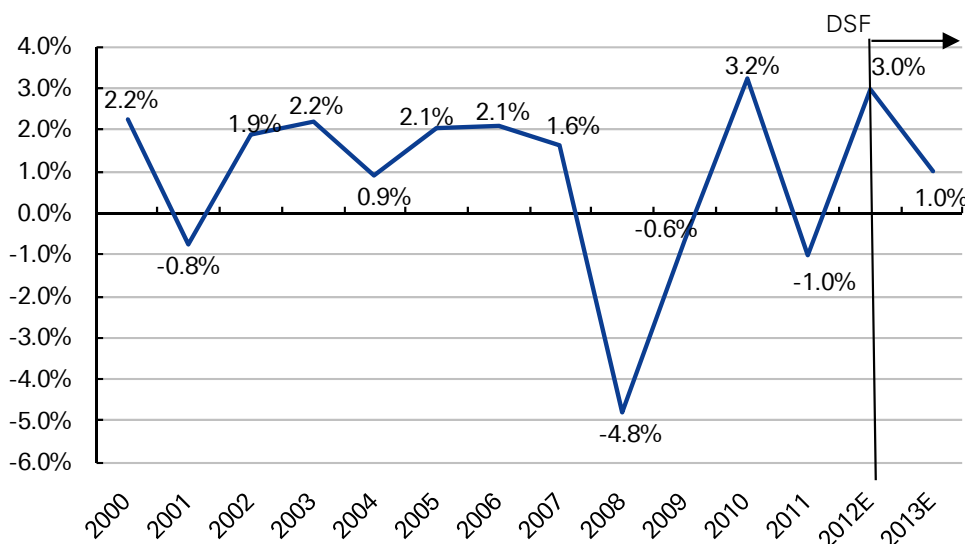
Net office supply not excessive

In accordance with the 2002 enactment of the Urban Renewal Special Measures Law, recent office supply is mainly due to reconstruction, and office stock increases are less than during the early 1990s (Figure 12). In fact, the office supply rate versus office stock is only increasing at around 1% per year (Figure 13). As such, demand, not supply, is important for forecasting the office market, and this means that the economic growth rate is key. The economy is now forecast to see major growth in CY2012.

A wall starts to crumble

After bottoming in 2009, share price rises in the real estate and J-REIT sectors have been lackluster compared to the improvement in the real estate market. This situation is gradually beginning to change. The wall formed by the overly pessimistic outlook of investors is starting to crumble. The recovery in the real estate market that started in 2009 is leading to the destruction of this wall. This development confirms our view the real estate sector has also entered a period of rising share prices.

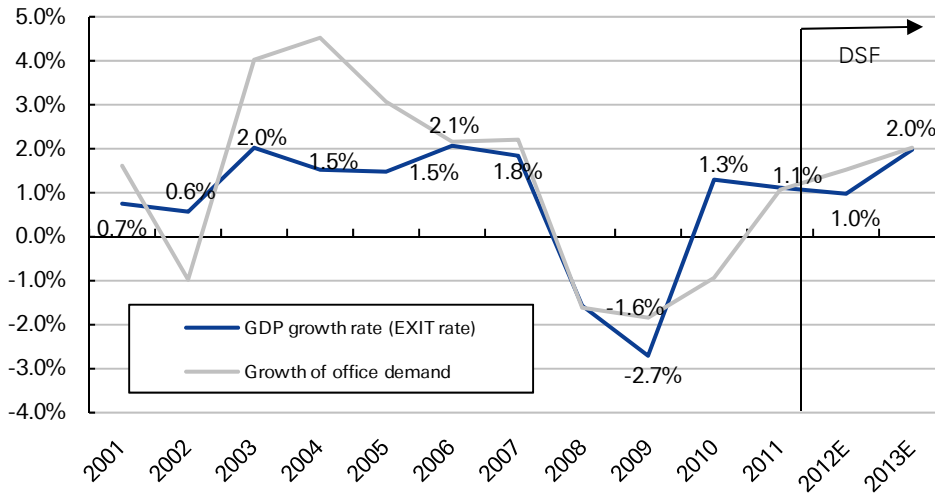
Figure 10: GDP growth rate (based on the EXIT rate)



Source: Cabinet Office, Deutsche Securities forecast

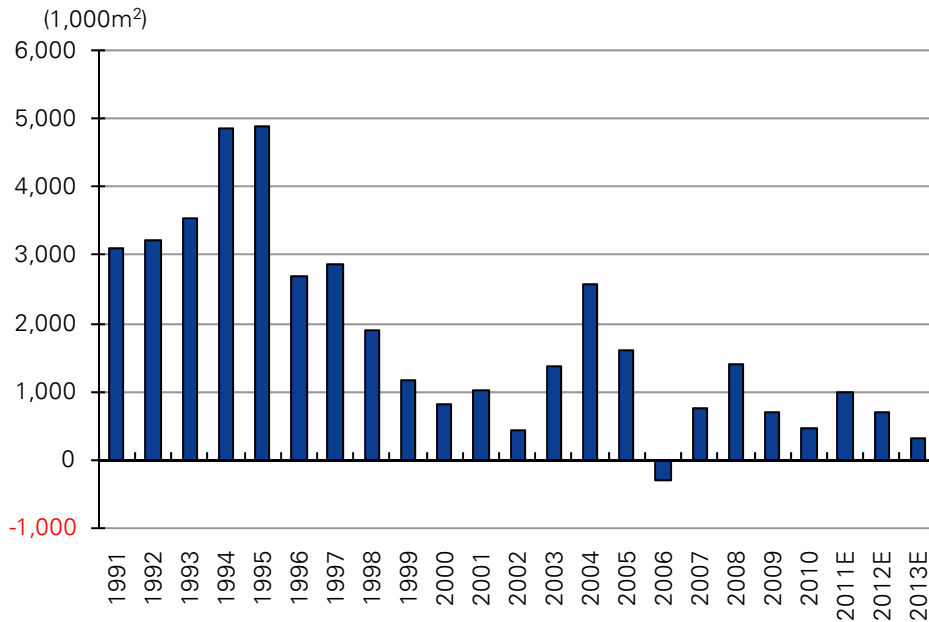


Figure 11: GDP growth rate (based on the EXIT rate) and office demand



Notes: GDP growth rate = average of recent 2 years
Source: Cabinet Office, Miki Shoji, Deutsche Securities forecast

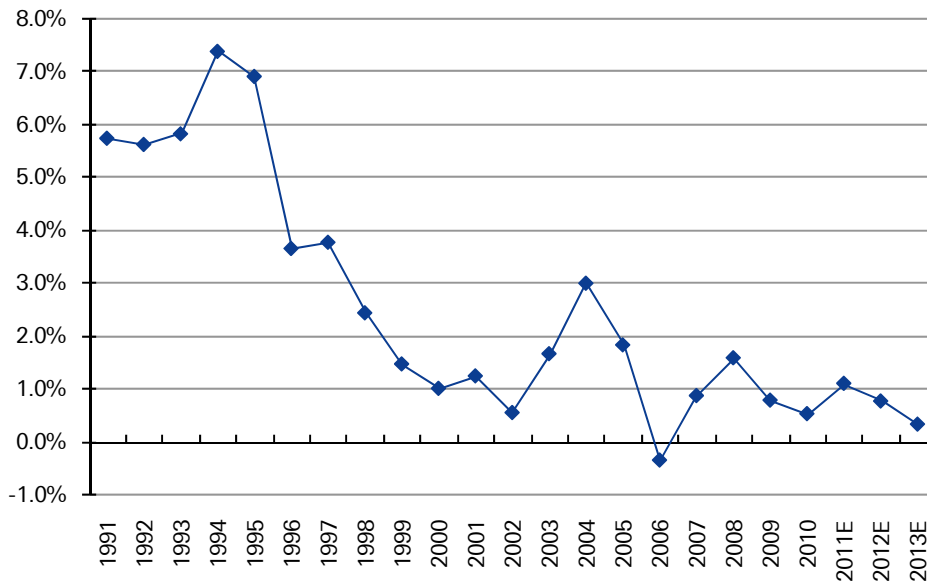
Figure 12: Tokyo 23 wards, Annual increase in office stock (net base)



Source: Tokyo Metropolitan Government "Tokyo no tochi", Deutsche Securities forecast



Figure 13: Tokyo 23 wards, Office supply rate versus office stock



Source: Tokyo Metropolitan Government "Tokyo no tochi", Deutsche Securities forecast



Part 6

Condo boom in 2012: rush of large-scale projects

There are five large-scale condominium developments, each with more than 1,000 units, scheduled to come to market in 2012. We believe there is a tendency for market conditions to become more active in years when large-scale condo projects are completed. According to projections made by Haseko, metropolitan area condo supply is estimated to increase 21% YoY to 54,000 units in 2012 (See Figure 14). This suggests the condo market has made a steady improvement since supply bottomed at 36,876 units in 2009.

Market share growing for top seven condo makers

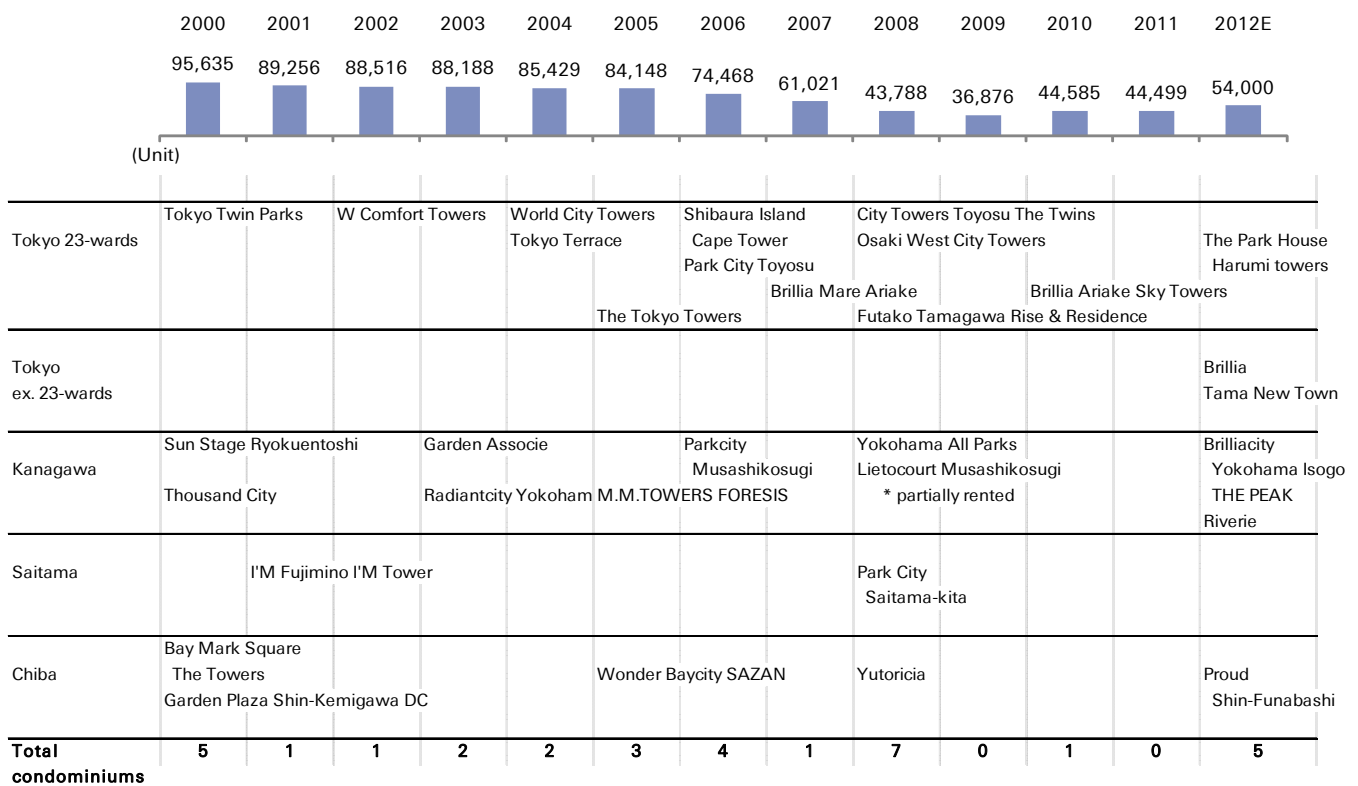
Market share is increasing for the seven major real estate companies (Sumitomo R&D, Daikyo, Tokyu Land, Tokyo Tatemono, Nomura Real Estate Development, Mitsui Fudosan, and Mitsubishi Estate). The market share of these companies was just under 30% in the early 2000, but has risen to roughly 50%. We believe the trend favoring companies with reliable funding, strong brand image, and highly functional products is likely to continue. As a result, we think the major real estate developers are positioned to benefit from a recovery in the condo market, not the mid-sized condo developers.

Monitoring Tokyo Tatemono's Yokohama Isogo Brillia City, "The PEAK"

We believe sales trends for Tokyo Tatemono's Yokohama Isogo Brillia City "The PEAK", which comes to market in mid-March, will prove to be an important indicator for the condo market in 2012. Given its location in the Isogo Ward of Yokohama, the development is not centrally located, but represents the large-scale (1,230 units) redevelopment of space vacated by the former Yokohama Isogo Prince Hotel. It will also have a substantial impact on earnings for Tokyo Tatemono.



Figure 14: Metropolitan area supply of large-scale condo projects (1,000-plus units)



Source: Haseko Urbest



Part 7

Land prices: signs of a turnaround

On 22 February, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transportation and Tourism released its January 2012 research paper "Land Price LOOK Report". The report contains price trends for 150 locations in major cities over the prior quarter. A majority of areas (86) showed higher or stable prices. It is the first time this has occurred since July 2008. There has recently been a clear improvement in the CPI, which is highly correlated with land prices. If the BoJ successfully attains its 1% inflation target, we expect land prices to gain further upward momentum.

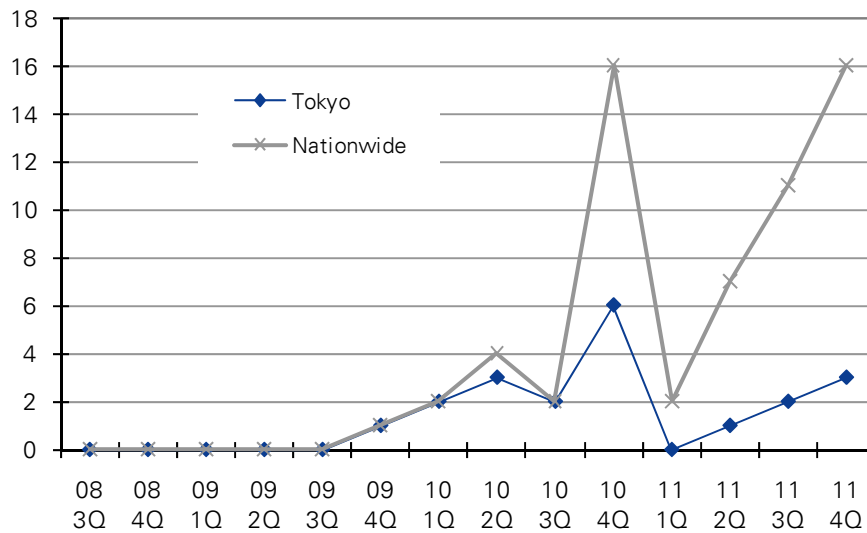
Higher prices for 3 districts in Tokyo area, 16 locations nationwide

In the Tokyo metropolitan area, 3 districts had higher land prices, 5 districts each in the Osaka and Nagoya areas, and 16 regions nationwide (Figure 15). A turnaround is already visible for prices in the most expensive areas (Figure 16), and the "Land Price LOOK Report" provides further evidence of higher prices.

Rising land prices to gain momentum if the CPI breaks into positive territory

Figure 17 illustrates the correlation between CPI and land prices. Land prices are likely to gain added upward momentum if the BoJ successfully achieves the 1% underlying inflation target announced 14 February.

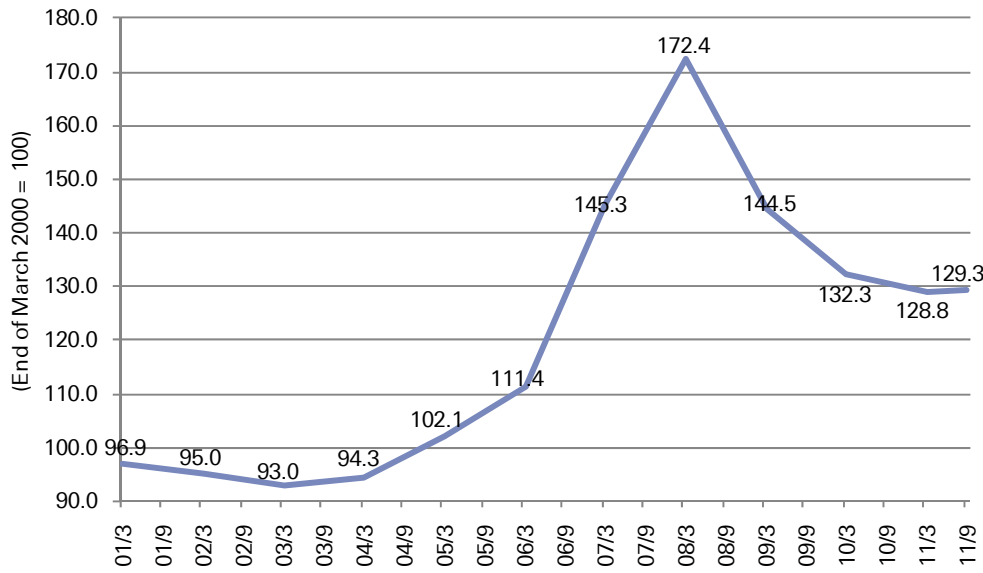
Figure 15: The number of districts with rising land value increased during the quarter



Source: Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism

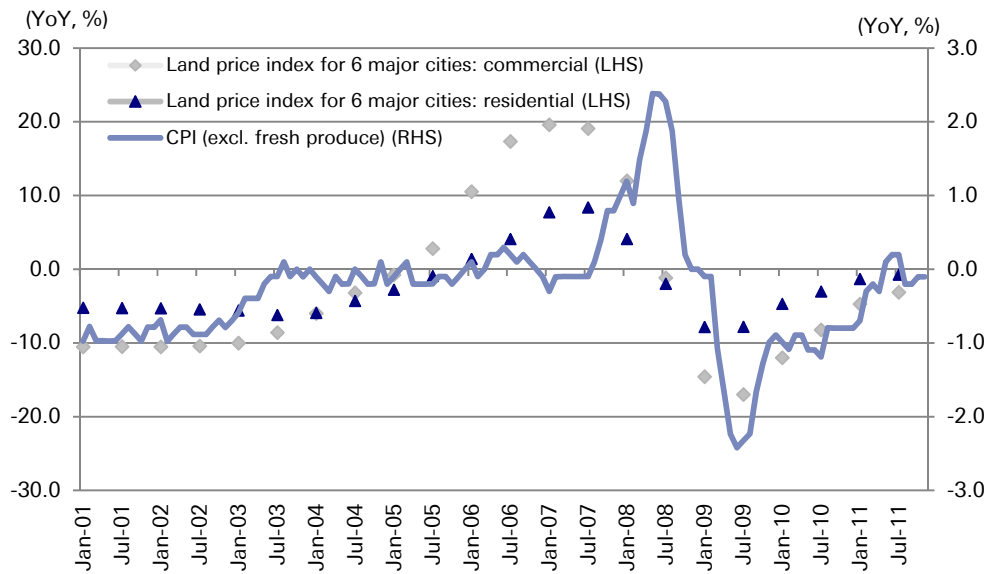


Figure 16: Urban Land Index (highest priced lots in Tokyo 23-wards)



Source: Japan Real Estate Institute

Figure 17: CPI and land price index



Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan Real Estate Institute



Part 8

Extremely cheap funds remain available

Mitsubishi Estate took out a 5 year syndicate loan for ¥29bn. Funding cost was based on 3 month LIBOR plus zero spread, as the company has once again successfully borrowed at cost-of-funds plus zero. Tokyo Land also issued a 5 year corporate bond for ¥10bn at 0.81% in another sign of the exceptionally low-cost funding environment. The BoJ's Tankan Survey shows an improvement in funding for real estate companies (See Figure 18), and we believe further monetary easing announced on 14 February ensures the continuation of favorable conditions.

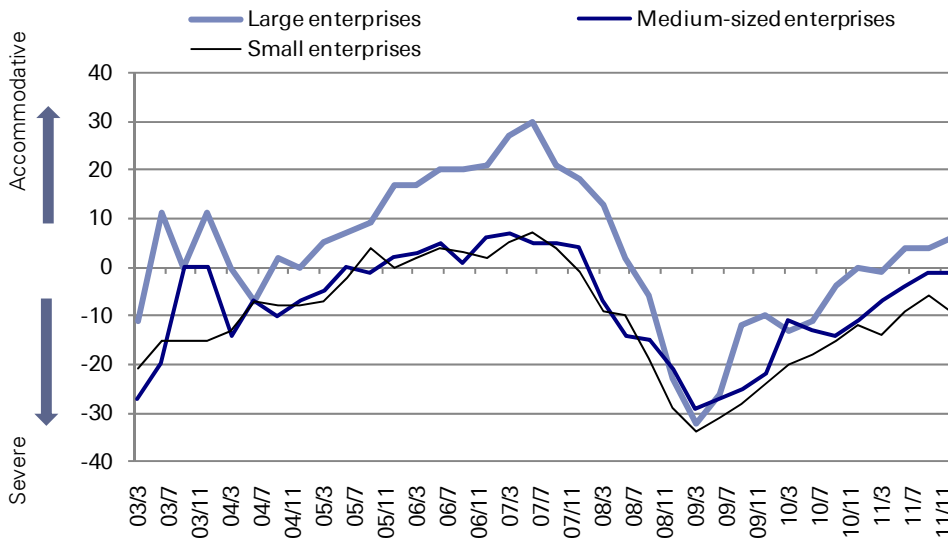
Negative real interest rates

The BoJ introduced a de facto inflation target aiming for a 1% increase in the CPI. As such, funding rates under 1% for the large real estate developers and J-REITs are possibly indicative of negative real borrowing costs.

Home mortgage rates also low

Home mortgage loans (35 years) for the Toyosu condo development brought to market by Sumitomo R&D are 0.775% (as of February). Low-cost home mortgage financing is also available. In other words, even individuals are able to benefit from low real interest rates in the current environment.

Figure 18: BoJ Tankan Survey, Bank lending attitude to the real estate sector



Source: Bank of Japan



Part 9

Many real estate sector shares still look undervalued

Although real estate sector share prices are performing favorably, many issues are still trading far below NAV. We have prepared a list of issues that look undervalued in terms of NAV (Figure 19). For example, on a P/NAV of 0.21, Land Business (8944) is trading at some 80% discount to NAV. We see this as evidence that Japan's real estate sector is still strongly undervalued.

TOC's (8841) P/NAV, at 0.57, is lower than Sankei Building's (8809)

Operating companies are obliged to disclose market values of their leasing properties at term-end. We have simply defined NAV as shareholders' equity plus the differential between market and book value (after tax). Dividing the share price by this figure, we obtain our P/NAV. Based on this definition, TOC's P/NAV is 0.57. This figure is lower than Sankei Building's.

Sankei building TOB at 2.49x share price

Fuji Media Holdings (4676) announced its TOB for Sankei Building (8809) on 19 January. The purchase price of ¥740 was 2.49x the 19 January closing price of ¥297. Even this was below our calculated NAV per share of ¥1,147.

Figure 19: TSE 1st section, Real estate companies, undervalued stocks by P/NAV ranking

| Company | PBR (x) | NAV (¥mn) | P/NAV (¥mn) | NAV/per share (¥) |
|----------------------------------|------------|--------------|----------------|----------------------|
| 8944 Land Business | 0.31 | 19,733 | 0.21 | 73,908 |
| 8881 Nisshin Fudosan | 0.41 | 29,099 | 0.43 | 1,240 |
| 8864 Airport facilities | 0.45 | 49,830 | 0.44 | 908 |
| 8877 Nihon Eslead | 0.46 | 26,174 | 0.47 | 1,692 |
| 8818 Keihanshin Real Estate | 0.53 | 62,615 | 0.30 | 1,364 |
| 8869 Meiwa Estate Company | 0.53 | 22,986 | 0.51 | 884 |
| 8871 Goldcrest | 0.61 | 94,948 | 0.59 | 2,653 |
| 8904 Sanyo Housing Nagoya | 0.63 | 17,022 | 0.60 | 127,985 |
| 8934 Sun Frontier Fudosan | 0.64 | 6,475 | 0.72 | 17,452 |
| 8804 Tokyo Tatemono | 0.64 | 193,722 | 0.74 | 447 |
| 8809 Sankei Building | 0.65 | 78,342 | 0.65 | 1,147 |
| 8803 Heiwa Real Estate | 0.66 | 77,655 | 0.55 | 388 |
| 8841 TOC Co. | 0.74 | 101,677 | 0.57 | 743 |
| 8806 Daibiru Corporation | 0.74 | 159,823 | 0.42 | 1,368 |
| 8842 Tokyo Rakutenchi | 0.75 | 39,871 | 0.48 | 612 |
| 3003 Shoei Company | 0.75 | 31,782 | 0.45 | 769 |
| 3231 Nomura Real Estate Holdings | 0.80 | 322,138 | 0.83 | 1,692 |
| 9706 Japan Airport Terminal | 0.87 | 149,777 | 0.61 | 1,773 |

Source: Deutsche Bank



Part 10

BoJ's balance sheet expanded to ¥144trn

There may little change in the BoJ's reluctant approach to monetary easing, but its easing policy nonetheless continues. Evidence can be found in the BoJ's balance sheet. The most recent data available, for 29 February, shows this has expanded to ¥144trn. While this is less than the ¥152trn reached in 2006, it is still a 25% increase from the approximately ¥115trn reported in 2010 (see Figure 20).

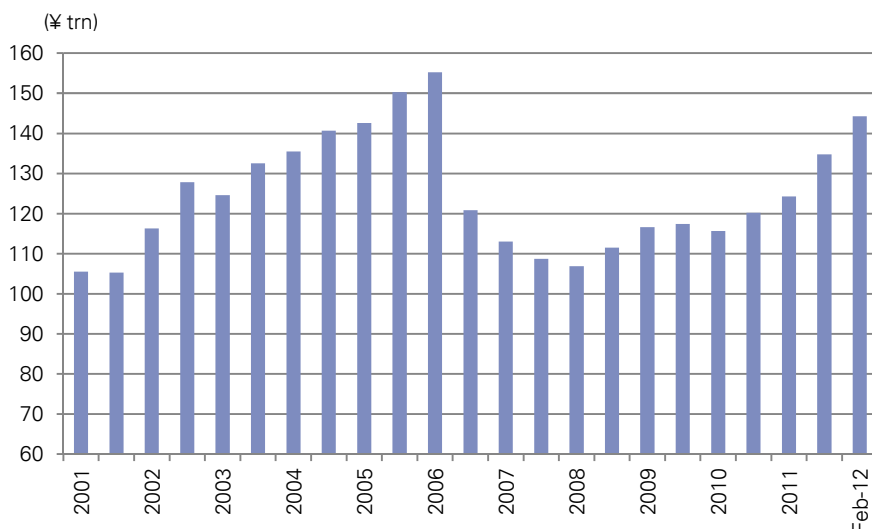
January CPI declines 0.1%

On 14 February, the BoJ announced a de facto inflation target of 1% CPI growth. January's 0.1% decline in the CPI means the BoJ is far from this 1% target. However, the degree of the decline in the CPI is steadily growing smaller in response to the BoJ's monetary easing. During 2003 to 2007, the equity market rose substantially, led by financial stocks, and real estate prices also appreciated significantly. One factor behind this movement was the transition of the CPI from negative to positive territory and accompanying expectations that deflation had been defeated (See Figure 21).

January contract prices for existing condos in Tokyo's 23 cities rose 1.5% YoY

January data released by At Home, a real estate information company, showed prices for existing condos in Tokyo's 23 cities rose 1.5% YoY and 0.8% YoY for the Tokyo metropolitan region. It was the first time in six months that contract prices in the 23 cities exceeded ¥28m. Real estate prices tend to get a bounce when the CPI enters positive territory, and we believe the real estate and J-REIT sectors have further upside potential (See Figure 21).

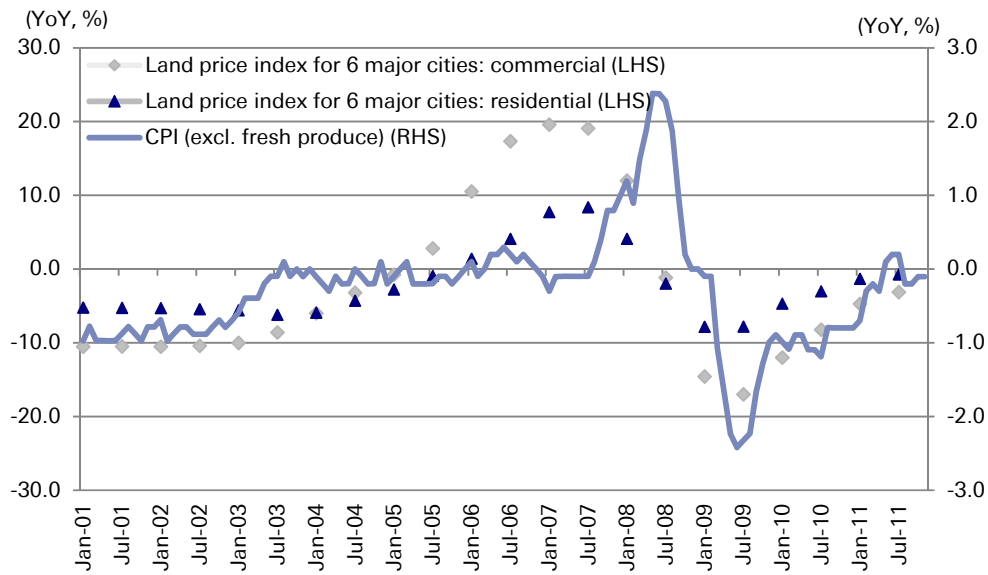
Figure 20: Bank of Japan balance sheet



Source: Bank of Japan



Figure 21: CPI and land price index



Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan Real Estate Institute



Part 11

Return to growth in office demand in 2011 due to increase in workers

The number of employed persons in metropolitan Tokyo totaled 6,795,000 in 2011, up by 67,000 or 1.0% YoY and increasing for the first time in three years. Figure 22 indicates a correlation between changes in the number of employed persons in Tokyo and demand for office space. Reflecting this, demand for office space increased by 1.1% YoY in 2011. We forecast real GDP growth of 3% (EXIT rate basis) for 2012, and expect the number of employed persons in Tokyo to continue rising. We thus also expect demand for office space to expand for the second year in a row.

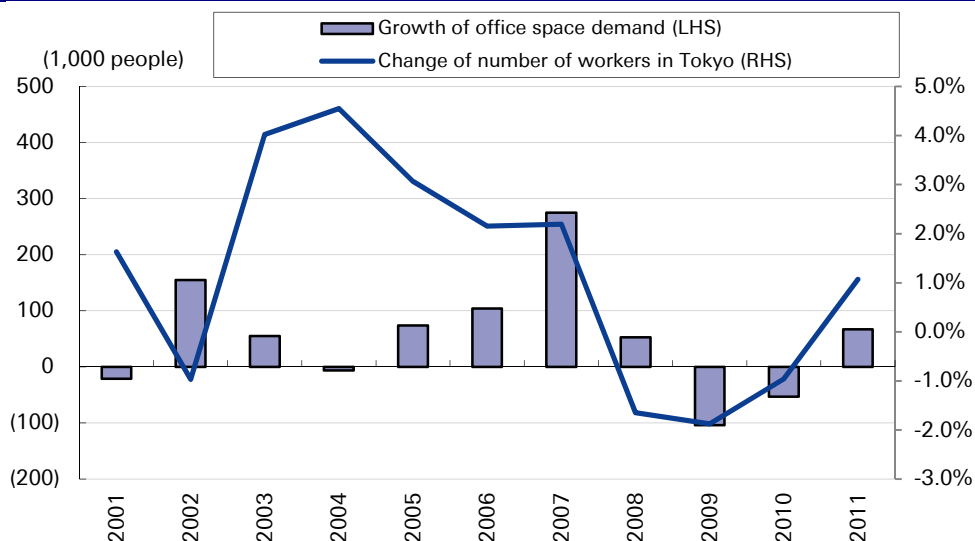
Growth in demand for office space between 2003 and 2006 may have been speculative

Demand for office space expanded rapidly between 2003 and 2006. Although the number of employed persons in Tokyo grew, demand for office space outpaced it substantially (Figure 22). We estimate that much of this demand may have been speculative, ie, in expectation of future rent growth. We also think that the subsequent weakness in office pricing was more prolonged than during normal cycles because of a decline in reaction to this speculative demand.

Office demand poised for growth phase

The first growth in three years in the number of employed persons in Tokyo in 2011 resulted in the first upturn in demand for office space in four years. We forecast real GDP growth (EXIT rate basis) of 3% for 2012, and look for demand for office space to rise for the second year in succession. Figure 23 plots the relationship between real GDP growth and demand for office space.

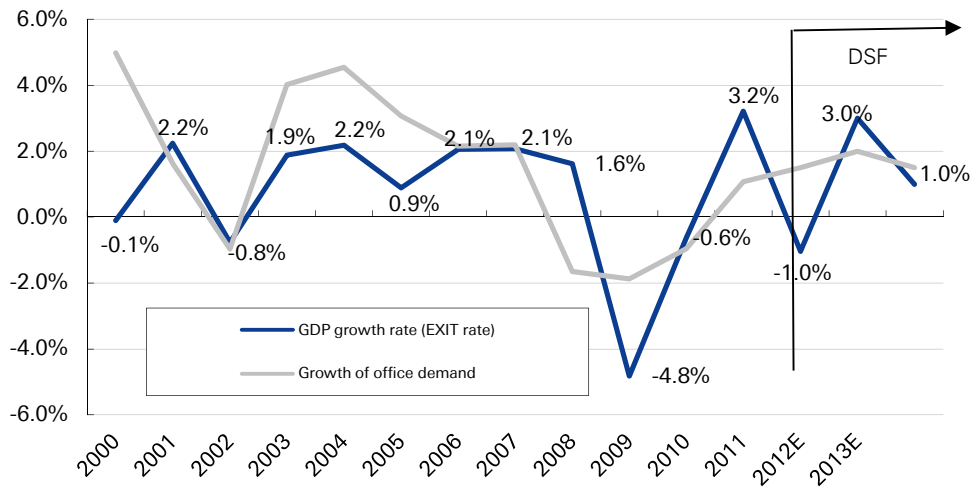
Figure 22: Office space demand and number of workers in Tokyo



Source: Tokyo metropolitan Office, Miki Shoji, Deutsche Securities



Figure 23: Office demand and Real GDP growth (EXIT rate basis)



Notes: GDP growth rate is one year ahead
Source: Cabinet Office, Miki Shoji, Deutsche Securities forecast



Part 12

Residential rents are rising despite deflation

Current rents for residential properties have risen to 110.6 from a base of 100 in 1990, the peak of the economic bubble. At the same time, real estate prices have fallen to 34.3 from a base of 100 (prices in the six major cities) in the same year (Figure 24). Japanese real estate is thus a substantially more attractive investment now than it was during the bubble era. We think a high distribution yield of roughly 6% makes residential REITs into investment vehicles offering potential stable returns.

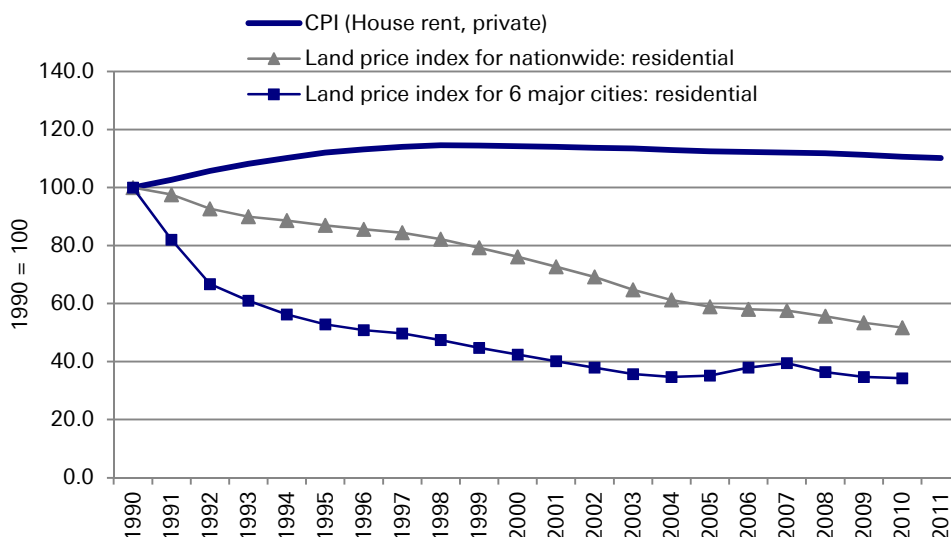
Why high net worth individuals invest in real estate

The bubble economy's collapse also brought steep falls in real estate prices. However, rents for residential real estate have risen more than 10% compared with 1990. High net worth individuals thus view real estate as an investment offering stable and high returns. Favorable tax treatment of property inheritance is a further incentive for real estate investment. The advantages are 1) the taxable value of a property at the time of inheritance is lower than would be the same amount of received cash and deposits (inheritance tax can be reduced) and 2) not only can real estate be passed on to children at a taxable value lower than the property's market value, but when the heirs sell the property, for tax purposes they use the price at which their parents acquired the property rather than the low value (taxable value) at which they inherited it. In other words, there is little likelihood of any tax on transfer profits.

Investment in residential REITs offers potential stable returns

We think residential REITs are a suitable proxy for investing in residential real estate that offers stable rents even in a deflationary environment. The distribution yield for residential REITs is currently about 6%, and we think they are one of few yen-asset investments offering potential stable returns.

Figure 24: Highly attractive with steady rent level and lower real estate prices



Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan Real Estate Institute



Part 13

Joint reform of the tax and social security systems: a real estate industry perspective

A joint approach to tax and social security reform is now being debated in the diet. A hike in the consumption tax has become the central topic of the discussion. From the perspective of the real estate sector, however, the increase in inheritance taxes that is now being considered can potentially have a much greater impact on property prices. Real estate investment is commonly viewed as a simple and effective means of dealing with inheritance taxes, and we believe expectations for deflation to end and an increase in inheritance taxes is likely to boost the real estate market beyond a steady recovery to a period of real activity.

Substantial decrease in basic allowance: tax reform could saddle renters with losses

If the legislation before the diet is passed, the fixed portion of the basic allowance for inheritance taxes will be decreased from ¥50m at this time to ¥30m, and the proportional deduction for each legal heir will be reduced from ¥10m to ¥6m. For example, in the case of inheritance received by a wife and 2 children, under current legislation the standard deduction would equal ¥80m, but under the new proposal, this would be lowered to ¥48m (Figure 25).

Higher taxes to stimulate real estate investment for tax saving

Tax rates will also be increased. The tax rate on assets with assessed value in excess of ¥600m will be increased from 50% to 55% (See Figure 26). It is well known that real estate investment is a simple and effective means of dealing with inheritance taxes. For example, the assessed value of a tower-type condo is lowered on average by about 70%. The assessed value of ¥100m in cash is still ¥100m, but if this is used to purchase a high-rise condominium, the taxable assessed value is only ¥30m and it is thus possible to reduce the taxable assessed value of the asset by ¥70m (Figure 27).

Figure 25: Details of the increase in inheritance taxes

Basic exemption

From ¥50m to ¥30m

Statutory heir

From ¥10m to ¥6m

Non-taxable insurance payment after death of insured

¥5m x number of legal heirs

(Unchanged, but stipulation of cohabitation added except for minors and persons with disabilities)

Tax rate and maximum rate

From 6 brackets to 8, maximum rate from 50% to 55%

Source: Ministry of Finance



Figure 26: Inheritance taxes, tax rate structure

| Current | | | Proposed | |
|----------------|----------|--|----------------|----------|
| Taxable amount | Tax rate | | Taxable amount | Tax rate |
| ¥10m or less | 10% | | ¥10m or less | 10% |
| ¥30m or less | 15% | | ¥30m or less | 15% |
| ¥50m or less | 20% | | ¥50m or less | 20% |
| ¥100m or less | 30% | | ¥100m or less | 30% |
| ¥300m or less | 40% | | ¥200m or less | 40% |
| - | - | | ¥300m or less | 45% |
| Over ¥300m | 50% | | ¥600m or less | 50% |
| - | - | | Over ¥600m | 55% |

Source: Ministry of Finance

Figure 27: Tax saving alternatives

- Purchase of investment real estate
 - Rental income + reduction in assessed valuation
- Construction of apartment building
 - When owner doesn't want to part with large lot
- Purchase luxury brand items, luxury cars, country club memberships
 - Price declines as soon as purchased, but can be sold for cash
- Acquire investment real estate and give as gift
 - Utilize ¥25m system for settlement at time of inheritance
- Large-scale renovation
 - Assessed valuation does not change after renovation

Source: Deutsche Securities



Part 14

Official land price data due 22 March; impact on share prices likely negligible

Official land price data is scheduled for release on 22 March. Land prices (all regions, all uses) in 2011 declined 3.0% YoY, but this marked an improvement from the 4.6% drop in 2010. This year's data will include the impact from the earthquake, so the rate of decline on a nationwide basis is unlikely to ease by much. However, we expect land prices in the Tokyo area to improve further. We do not put too much importance on land price data because it is a lagging indicator, and we expect little impact on sector share prices.

Official land price data does not reflect actual conditions

Figure 28 shows official land price data released since 1988. According to the data, land prices (all uses) in the Tokyo area rose 65.3% in 1988. Prices subsequently fell from 1992 until 2006. We now know that the actual real estate market turned up in 2004 and developed into a mini bubble between 2006 and 2008. Data compiled by the Japan Real Estate Institute show that prices in Tokyo's premium real estate areas rose sharply during this period (Figure 29). Share prices also jumped in 2005.

Real estate sector share price gains tend to accelerate when the CPI turns positive.

We therefore focus closely on trends in the CPI. We believe the CPI's return to positive territory, fueling expectations that Japan had overcome deflation, was the reason behind the strong growth in the real estate market from 2003 through 2007 (Figure 30). We think the strong gains for the sector since the start of 2012 show that the market is beginning to factor in similar expectations. These gains are likely to accelerate if the CPI turns positive again.



Figure 28: Official land price survey (historical changes)

| | Year | 88 | 89 | 90 | 91 | 92 | 93 | 94 | 95 | 96 | 97 | 98 | 99 |
|-------------|--------------------------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| Residential | Tokyo metropolitan area | 68.6 | 0.4 | 6.6 | 6.6 | -9.1 | -14.6 | -7.8 | -2.9 | -5.0 | -3.4 | -3.0 | -6.4 |
| | Osaka metropolitan area | 18.6 | 32.7 | 56.1 | 6.5 | -22.9 | -17.1 | -6.8 | -1.9 | -4.3 | -2.2 | -1.5 | -5.2 |
| | Nagoya metropolitan area | 7.3 | 16.4 | 20.2 | 18.8 | -5.2 | -8.6 | -6.1 | -4.0 | -3.6 | -1.7 | -0.8 | -3.3 |
| | Three major metropolitan areas | 46.6 | 11.0 | 22.0 | 8.0 | -12.5 | -14.5 | -7.3 | -2.8 | -4.6 | -2.8 | -2.2 | -5.7 |
| | Local area | 1.9 | 4.4 | 11.4 | 13.6 | 2.3 | -1.7 | -1.2 | -0.3 | -0.6 | -0.4 | -0.6 | -1.9 |
| | Nationwide | 25.0 | 7.9 | 17.0 | 10.7 | -5.6 | -8.7 | -4.7 | -1.6 | -2.6 | -1.6 | -1.4 | -3.8 |
| Commercial | Tokyo metropolitan area | 61.1 | 3.0 | 4.8 | 4.1 | -6.9 | -19.0 | -18.3 | -15.4 | -17.2 | -13.2 | -8.2 | -10.1 |
| | Osaka metropolitan area | 37.2 | 35.6 | 46.3 | 8.1 | -19.5 | -24.2 | -19.1 | -15.3 | -15.8 | -9.9 | -6.8 | -9.6 |
| | Nagoya metropolitan area | 16.8 | 21.0 | 22.4 | 19.1 | -7.6 | -13.7 | -11.5 | -12.7 | -12.6 | -8.5 | -6.2 | -11.2 |
| | Three major metropolitan areas | 46.6 | 14.1 | 18.6 | 8.1 | -10.3 | -19.2 | -17.2 | -14.8 | -16.0 | -11.5 | -7.5 | -10.2 |
| | Local area | 5.4 | 7.6 | 15.4 | 16.3 | 0.4 | -5.6 | -5.9 | -5.5 | -5.8 | -5.4 | -5.1 | -6.8 |
| | Nationwide | 21.9 | 10.3 | 16.7 | 12.9 | -4.0 | -11.4 | -11.3 | -10.0 | -9.8 | -7.8 | -6.1 | -8.1 |
| Average | Tokyo metropolitan area | 65.3 | 1.8 | 7.2 | 7.0 | -8.4 | -14.9 | -9.4 | -5.0 | -7.0 | -5.1 | -3.9 | -7.1 |
| | Osaka metropolitan area | 19.8 | 32.1 | 53.9 | 6.8 | -21.3 | -17.4 | -8.5 | -4.0 | -6.0 | -3.4 | -2.3 | -5.9 |
| | Nagoya metropolitan area | 8.3 | 16.4 | 19.9 | 18.4 | -5.1 | -9.3 | -6.9 | -5.6 | -5.2 | -3.0 | -1.9 | -4.9 |
| | Three major metropolitan areas | 43.8 | 12.2 | 22.1 | 8.5 | -11.6 | -14.7 | -8.8 | -4.8 | -6.4 | -4.3 | -3.2 | -6.4 |
| | Local area | 2.4 | 4.8 | 11.7 | 13.8 | 1.9 | -2.3 | -2.0 | -1.2 | -1.8 | -1.6 | -1.7 | -3.0 |
| | Nationwide | 21.7 | 8.3 | 16.6 | 11.3 | -4.6 | -8.4 | -5.6 | -3.0 | -4.0 | -2.9 | -2.4 | -4.6 |

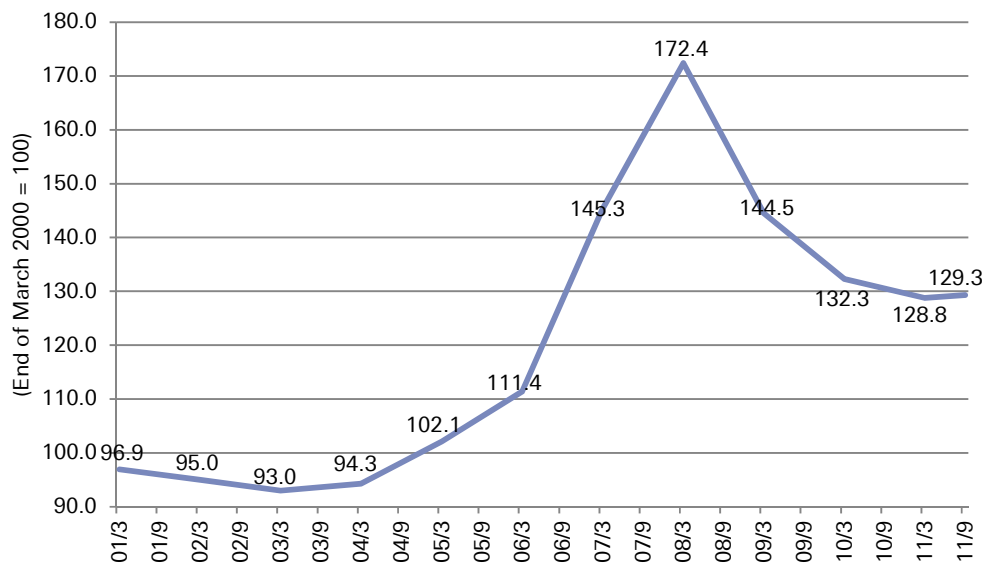
| | Year | 00 | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 06 | 07 | 08 | 09 | 10 | 11 |
|-------------|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Residential | Tokyo metropolitan area | -6.8 | -5.8 | -5.9 | -5.6 | -4.7 | -3.2 | -0.9 | 3.6 | 5.5 | -4.4 | -4.9 | -1.7 |
| | Osaka metropolitan area | -6.1 | -6.7 | -8.6 | -8.8 | -8.0 | -5.2 | -1.6 | 1.8 | 2.7 | -2.0 | -4.8 | -2.4 |
| | Nagoya metropolitan area | -1.8 | -1.9 | -4.4 | -5.6 | -4.9 | -3.3 | -1.3 | 1.7 | 2.8 | -2.8 | -2.5 | -0.6 |
| | Three major metropolitan areas | -5.9 | -5.6 | -6.5 | -6.5 | -5.7 | -3.7 | -1.2 | 2.8 | 4.3 | -3.5 | -4.5 | -1.8 |
| | Local area | -2.3 | -2.8 | -4.0 | -5.1 | -5.7 | -5.4 | -4.2 | -2.7 | -1.8 | -2.8 | -3.8 | -3.6 |
| | Nationwide | -4.1 | -4.2 | -5.2 | -5.8 | -5.7 | -4.6 | -2.7 | 0.1 | 1.3 | -3.2 | -4.2 | -2.7 |
| Commercial | Tokyo metropolitan area | -9.6 | -8.0 | -7.4 | -5.8 | -4.5 | -2.5 | 1.0 | 9.4 | 12.2 | -6.1 | -7.3 | -2.5 |
| | Osaka metropolitan area | -11.3 | -11.0 | -11.3 | -10.2 | -8.8 | -5.0 | 0.8 | 8.3 | 7.2 | -3.3 | -7.4 | -3.6 |
| | Nagoya metropolitan area | -7.3 | -5.6 | -8.1 | -8.0 | -6.0 | -3.3 | 0.9 | 7.8 | 8.4 | -5.9 | -6.1 | -1.2 |
| | Three major metropolitan areas | -9.6 | -8.3 | -8.5 | -7.1 | -5.8 | -3.2 | 1.0 | 8.9 | 10.4 | -5.4 | -7.1 | -2.5 |
| | Local area | -7.0 | -7.0 | -8.1 | -8.7 | -8.7 | -7.5 | -5.5 | -2.8 | -1.4 | -4.2 | -5.3 | -4.8 |
| | Nationwide | -8.0 | -7.5 | -8.3 | -8.0 | -7.4 | -5.6 | -2.7 | 2.3 | 3.8 | -4.7 | -6.1 | -3.8 |
| Average | Tokyo metropolitan area | -7.4 | -6.4 | -6.4 | -5.9 | -4.9 | -3.2 | -0.7 | 4.6 | 6.7 | -4.7 | -5.4 | -1.9 |
| | Osaka metropolitan area | -6.9 | -7.4 | -9.1 | -9.1 | -8.3 | -5.4 | -1.4 | 2.7 | 3.4 | -2.3 | -5.3 | -2.7 |
| | Nagoya metropolitan area | -3.0 | -2.8 | -5.3 | -6.1 | -5.3 | -3.5 | -1.0 | 2.8 | 3.8 | -3.5 | -3.3 | -0.8 |
| | Three major metropolitan areas | -6.6 | -6.1 | -6.9 | -6.8 | -5.9 | -3.9 | -0.9 | 3.8 | 5.3 | -3.8 | -5.0 | -2.0 |
| | Local area | -3.4 | -3.8 | -5.0 | -6.0 | -6.5 | -6.0 | -4.6 | -2.8 | -1.8 | -3.2 | -4.2 | -3.9 |
| | Nationwide | -4.9 | -4.9 | -5.9 | -6.4 | -6.2 | -5.0 | -2.8 | 0.4 | 1.7 | -3.5 | -4.6 | -3.0 |

Note: YoY, %

Source: Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism

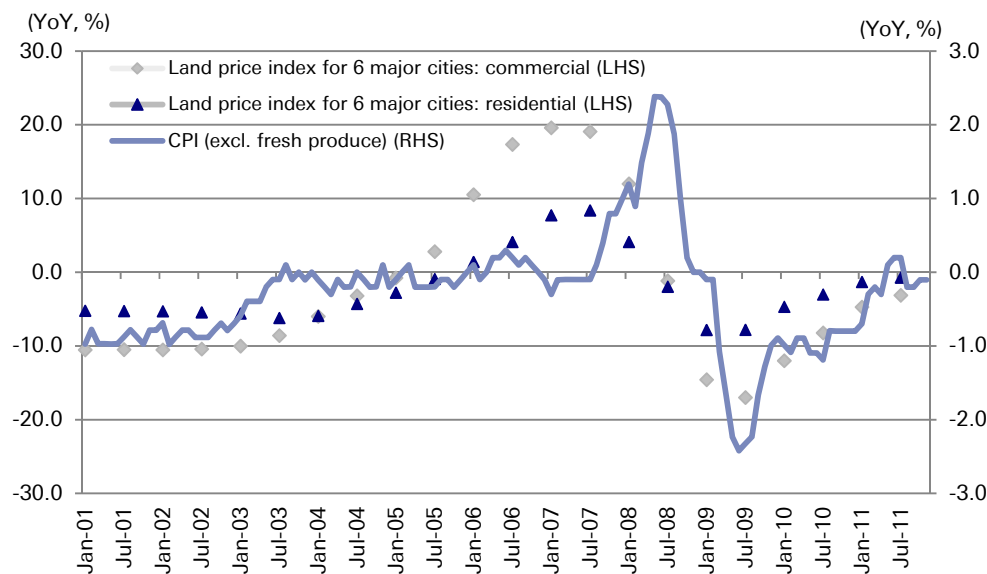


Figure 29: Urban Land Index (highest priced lots in Tokyo 23-wards)



Source: Japan Real Estate Institute

Figure 30: CPI and land price index



Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan Real Estate Institute



Appendix 1

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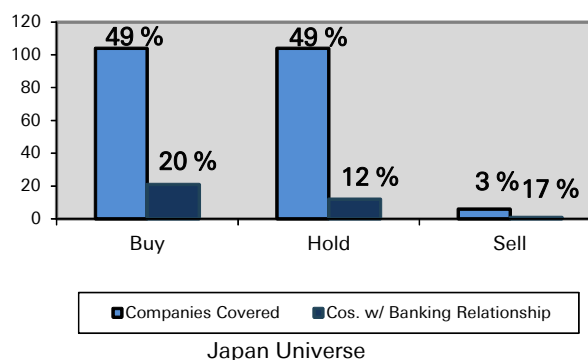
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