

NIKKEI80 (DR)

Nikkei 225: Political Reset Meets Bond Market Stress

- Political uncertainty and bond stress raise Japan's equity risk premium.
- Rising yields threaten Nikkei's top-heavy, rate-sensitive leadership stocks.
- Weak-yen tailwinds have turned into a two-sided risk, increasing next-quarter volatility.

NIKKEI80 Is Shifting Into a “Macro Risk Premium” Regime

ดัชนี Nikkei 225 กำลังเข้าสู่สภาวะที่ท้าทายมากขึ้นในคราวนี้หน้า เมื่อจากไปจ่ายขั้นเดือนหลักของตลาดหุ้นญี่ปุ่นกำลังเปลี่ยนผ่านจากเรื่องการปฏิรูปของรัฐบาลและอาณานิสสหของเงินเยนอ่อนค่า ไปสู่ภาวะเดือนต้นการเมืองและอัตราดอกเบี้ยแทน โดยคงจะสร้างของตลาดมีความอ่อนไหวต่อ Discount Rate อย่างมาก เพราะหุ้นกู้ญี่ปุ่นส่วนใหญ่เป็นกู้เงินเทคโนโลยีและมีความต้องการซื้อต่ำลงก็เมื่อถูกหุ้นจะเป็นหุ้นระยะยาวยังคงมีความผันผวนของพันธบัตรและความไม่แนนอนทางการเมืองที่สูงขึ้น ตลาดจึงมีแนวโน้มที่จะเริ่มลงสักหนึ่งเดือนตามไปด้วย ซึ่งจะพยายามเป็นปัจจัยจากตัวการดำเนินการของรัฐบาลที่จะต้องมีการปรับตัวขึ้นของดัชนี แม้ว่าปัจจัยพื้นฐานของเศรษฐกิจจะยังคงมีความแข็งแกร่งอยู่ก็ตาม

The Political Reset: Snap Election Raises Fiscal Uncertainty

The Real Constraint: Bond Market Stress and Rising Long-End Yields

อุปสรรคสำคัญในขณะนี้คือการเทขายพันธบัตรของญี่ปุ่น โดยเฉพาะพันธบัตรระยะยาวที่อัตราผลตอบแทนพุ่งสูงขึ้นอย่างรวดเร็ว ทำมากรบกวนความต้องการซื้อที่บ้านเช้าจากการประมูล ซึ่งส่งผลให้ Reuters ระบุว่าการคิดจ่ายของคนญี่ปุ่นและจีนเริ่มมีความต่างกันมากขึ้น หลังดังตัวตั้งเดิมเริ่มลงแล้ว ส่งผลให้การบีบบากภายในครั้งนี้ดูเหมือนจะเป็นภาระให้กับเศรษฐกิจโลก สร้างความกังวลว่าเรื่องนี้จะร้ากว้าง นำพาภาระความผันผวนของตลาดพันธบัตรญี่ปุ่นสูงขึ้นเรื่อยๆ แม้จะมีมาตรการต่อต้านเงินเฟ้ออย่างเดียว ไม่สามารถบรรเทาความเสี่ยงในพื้นที่ได้ ทำให้เกิดความไม่สงบทางการเงินที่สูงขึ้น ไม่ใช่แค่สัญญาณของความท้าทาย แต่เป็นการเตือนภัยที่สำคัญที่สุด ที่ต้องเฝ้าระวังอย่างต่อเนื่อง

Why Nikkei Underperforms When Rates Rise: Concentrated, Rate-Sensitive Leadership

ผลตอบแทนของดัชนี Nikkei 225 ได้รับอิทธิพลอย่างมากจากหุ้นกลุ่มญี่ปุ่นเพียงไม่กี่ตัว ซึ่งข้อมูลการถือครองหุ้นของกองทุน ETF 1321 และผลให้เห็นว่าหุ้นอย่าง Advantest, Fast Retailing, Tokyo Electron และ SoftBank มีสัดส่วนอยู่ในอันดับต้น ๆ ของพอร์ตการลงทุน โดยเฉพาะหุ้นของห้าหุ้นที่ได้รับมีอัตราหุ้นต่อกิโลกรัมคล้ายกับสินทรัพย์ระยะยาว ซึ่งหมายความว่าแนวโน้มหุ้นเหล่านี้จะมีผลประกายการที่แข็งแกร่ง เพียงใด ก็อาจไม่สามารถรักษาผลตอบแทนของดัชนีได้หากเกิดการเปลี่ยนแปลงในโครงสร้างอัตราคิดลด (Discount Rate) และในสภาวะที่อัตราผลตอบแทนพันธบัตรพุงสูงขึ้น ตลาดอาจนำไปสู่ผลลัพธ์อันดับความหมายสมของมูลค่าหุ้น กลุ่มญี่ปุ่นเหล่านี้อย่างรวดเร็ว จนกลายเป็นแรงดึงให้ดัชนีในภาพรวมปรับตัวลดลงตามไปด้วย

A Volatility Window, Not a Broken Story

Analyst

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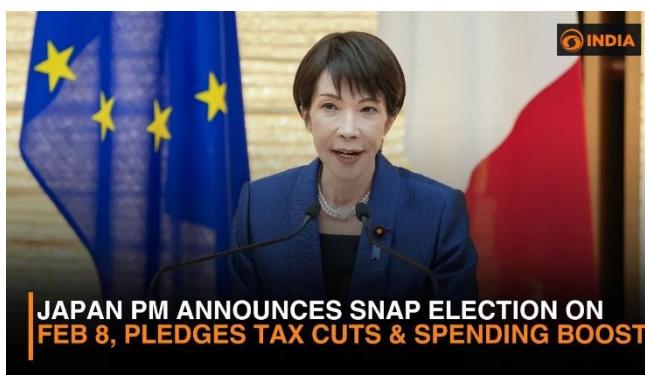
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Political Reset: Election Volatility Raises Fiscal Uncertainty

Japan's snap election is not just headline noise—it is a volatility event because it shifts the market focus from **corporate fundamentals to policy credibility**. The Financial Times describes the election call as a bold gamble and notes market concern about fiscal sustainability, especially as stimulus messaging includes proposals such as suspending a food sales tax. Channel News Asia similarly frames the **snap election as a strategic gamble that injects uncertainty into the near-term policy path**.

The key issue is that election dynamics tend to push policy in a more expansionary direction, precisely when the **bond market is already fragile**. This makes equity upside harder to sustain: stimulus headlines can lift earnings hopes, but they simultaneously widen the fiscal question and pressure yields, which then compress equity valuations. In this regime, the Nikkei may struggle to hold gains because the market is effectively pricing "**policy upside**" and "**rate downside**" at the same time.

Exhibit 1: Election dynamics shift the market's focus from fundamentals to fiscal credibility



Sources: DD India

Exhibit 2: Japan Long-End Yield Repricing vs Nikkei 225



Sources: Tradingeconomics

Bond Market Stress: The Core Macro Headwind for Equities

The most important driver of our negative view is Japan's **bond market repricing**. Reuters reported a sharp selloff in long-dated Japanese government bonds, with the move exacerbated by weak demand at a 20-year auction and reluctance from traditional buyers such as insurers. This matters because a destabilized long end pushes up the discount rate for equities and raises the probability of forced policy responses that can disrupt risk appetite.

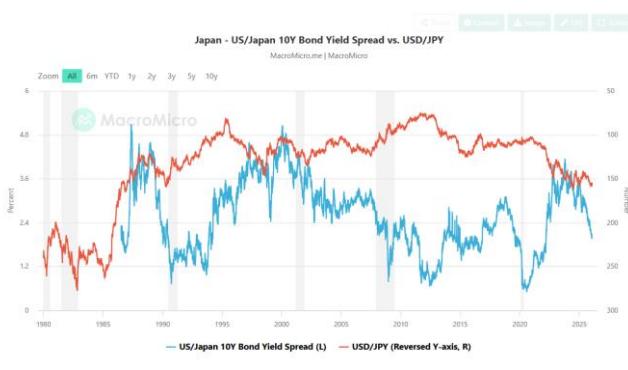
This bond stress is also no longer local. Japan's selloff has shaken global bond markets, increasing the risk that international investors reduce exposure not only to Japanese bonds, but also to Japanese equities. When **Japan shifts from being a low-volatility funding market to being a volatility source**, the Nikkei typically loses foreign-flow support and becomes more vulnerable to drawdowns, even if domestic earnings remain stable.

FX Channel: Yen Tailwind Turns Into a Two-Sided Risk

Historically, a weaker yen has been a clear positive for Nikkei performance through exporter earnings translation. However, the current environment ties yen moves to bond-market credibility, **making FX less predictable**. Recent yen weakness—and renewed discussion of potential currency intervention—signals that **FX stability is becoming an active policy variable rather than a passive tailwind**.

For NIKKEI80, this creates a two-sided risk. Continued yen weakness can support exporters, but it may also reinforce concerns that yields are rising for the wrong reasons and that policy credibility is deteriorating. On the other hand, if risk-off sentiment triggers yen strength, exporters lose support and the index's leadership weakens. Either outcome raises volatility and reduces the reliability of the “weak yen = higher Nikkei” trade over the next quarter.

Exhibit 3: USDJPY Has Become a Rates-Credibility Trade (US-Japan 10Y Spread vs USDJPY)



Sources: Macromicro

Exhibit 4: USDJPY Remains Elevated—Intervention Risk Becomes a Two-Sided Catalyst



Sources: Investing

Index Reality: Nikkei 225 Is Rate-Sensitive and Top-Heavy

Nikkei's vulnerability is amplified by its structure. **The Nikkei 225 is heavily influenced by a small group of high-weight constituents**, many of which are long-duration and rate-sensitive. Holdings data for the 1321 ETF shows that names such as **Advantest, Fast Retailing, Tokyo Electron, and SoftBank** sit near the top of the portfolio, reinforcing that the **index's performance is tightly tied to tech duration** and risk appetite.

This composition matters because rising yields directly pressure the types of stocks that dominate Nikkei leadership. Semiconductor testing and equipment names are priced on multi-year growth visibility and capex cycles, while SoftBank trades as a leveraged proxy for tech valuation and liquidity conditions. As yields rise, even strong operating results can fail to support the share price because the discount-rate effect overwhelms incremental earnings strength.

Exhibit 5: Nikkei Is Top-Heavy—Rate-Sensitive Leaders Dominate (ETF 1321 Holdings)

Portfolio Holdings 1321			
Current Portfolio Date	Equity Holdings	Bond Holdings	Other Holdings
Jan 22, 2026	—	—	—
% Assets in Top 10 Holdings			
45.7			
Top 10 Holdings	% Portfolio Weight	Market Value USD	Sector
Advantest Corp	11.38	2T	Technology
Fast Retailing Co Ltd	9.09	1T	Consumer Cyclical
Tokyo Electron Ltd	7.94	1T	Technology
SoftBank Group Corp	6.46	918B	Communication Services
Fanuc Corp	2.05	291B	Industrials
KDDI Corp	1.98	281B	Communication Services
TDK Corp	1.86	265B	Technology
Shin-Etsu Chemical Co Ltd	1.76	250B	Basic Materials
Recruit Holdings Co Ltd	1.59	226B	Communication Services
Chugai Pharmaceutical Co Ltd	1.57	223B	Healthcare

Sources: Morningstar

Exhibit 6: Most Highly Concentrated Markets (Top-10 Weighting) — Data as of 14 Nov 2025

Most highly concentrated markets

Index	Weighting of top 10
Nikkei 225	48.4%
FTSE 100	46.1%
S&P 500	40.2%
MSCI Asia ex Japan	35.6%
MSCI Emerging Markets	31.5%
Euro STOXX	26.2%
MSCI ACWI	25.6%

Sources: trustnet

Near-Term Outlook: Why Underperformance Is the Base Case

Our view is that the Nikkei 225 will likely underperform in the next quarter due to a rising macro stress premium, rather than a sudden earnings recession. Political uncertainty and bond volatility are simultaneously tightening the conditions under which equities can re-rate, especially for an index whose leadership is concentrated in long-duration growth.

The market may still see tactical rallies, particularly if stimulus headlines dominate. But those rallies are likely to be fragile unless bond yields stabilize and investors regain confidence that fiscal policy will not escalate the long-end sell-off. Until then, the dominant driver is not micro execution but macro risk control—making a defensive stance on NIKKEI80 more appropriate into the next quarter.

Recommendation: Underweight (next quarter)

We are shifting our stance to Underweight on NIKKEI80 into the next quarter, as the market setup is becoming increasingly constrained by a higher macro risk premium driven by long-end JGB volatility and policy uncertainty. An upgrade would require clear evidence that **long-end yields have stabilized**, **auction demand has normalized**, and **the election outcome reduces fiscal slippage risk**, allowing valuation support to rebuild. Conversely, downside risk remains elevated if long-end JGB selling resumes, FX volatility intensifies amid intervention risk, and foreign outflows accelerate, reinforcing a de-rating environment for the index's top-heavy, rate-sensitive leadership.

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Analyst Certification

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RECOMMENDATION STRUCTURE

Stock Recommendations

Stock ratings are based on absolute upside or downside, which we define as $(\text{target price}^* - \text{current price}) / \text{current price}$.

BUY: Expected return of 10% or more over the next 12 months.

HOLD: Expected return between -10% and 10% over the next 12 months.

REDUCE: Expected return of -10% or worse over the next 12 months.

Unless otherwise specified, these recommendations are set with a 12-month horizon. Thus, it is possible that future price volatility may cause temporary mismatch between upside/downside for a stock based on market price and the formal recommendation.

* In most cases, the target price will equal the analyst's assessment of the current fair value of the stock. However, if the analyst doesn't think the market will reassess the stock over the specified time horizon due to a lack of events or catalysts, then the target price may differ from fair value. In most cases, therefore, our recommendation is an assessment of the mismatch between current market price and our assessment of current fair value.

Sector Recommendations

Overweight: The industry is expected to outperform the relevant primary market index over the next 12 months.

Neutral: The industry is expected to perform in line with the relevant primary market index over the next 12 months.

Underweight: The industry is expected to underperform the relevant primary market index over the next 12 months.

Country (Strategy) Recommendations

Overweight: Over the next 12 months, the analyst expects the market to score positively on two or more of the criteria used to determine market recommendations: index returns relative to the regional benchmark, index sharpe ratio relative to the regional benchmark and index returns relative to the market cost of equity.

Neutral: Over the next 12 months, the analyst expects the market to score positively on one of the criteria used to determine market recommendations: index returns relative to the regional benchmark, index sharpe ratio relative to the regional benchmark and index returns relative to the market cost of equity.

Underweight: Over the next 12 months, the analyst does not expect the market to score positively on any of the criteria used to determine market recommendations: index returns relative to the regional benchmark, index sharpe ratio relative to the regional benchmark and index returns relative to the market cost of equity.