

VIEWS FROM OUR CEO

In the midst of growing concern of a global economic slowdown, governments and central banks of major economies are engineering new ways to boost the economy. To be sustained however, world leaders are relying on the Fourth Industrial Revolution (“4IR”) as an enabler as it has the potential to boost investment, productivity, and long-term economic growth possibilities. A number of sectors in the economy are providing confirmation that the 4IR is currently unfolding, breaking the boundaries between physical, biological and digital. In addition, production is moving from factories and machines to networks, where the competitive advantage exists in knowledge and technology, rather than traditional factors of production. This has been facilitated by developments in Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), energy storage, 5G communication, virtual reality (VR), autonomous vehicles, cloud computing, and 3D printing, which are features of the new production landscape.

With the advent of the 4IR, countries and companies have an opportunity to counter and reverse the slowdown in productivity across a wide array of industries, ranging from healthcare to retail to agriculture and even to financial markets. This has resulted in the mass production of data, where we could consider that “data is the new oil”. This is reflected in the composition of the largest 10 companies in the world, which include Microsoft, Apple, Amazon, Alphabet (Google), and Facebook.



FINANCIAL ADVISORY

With advancements in technology, artificial intelligence and machine learning, it is inevitable that the employment landscape will change, as we enter the period of the 4IR. A changing economic landscape coupled with an economy currently under pressure, means that investors need to ensure that their long term savings objectives are a priority throughout the cycle. These changes to economic circumstances necessitate a review of your investment portfolio. At Oasis we provide the spectrum of products, catering to address the needs and objectives of our clients. Our product offering includes ethically managed, well diversified, balanced products, perfectly positioned for an ever evolving, uncertain and volatile environment.

Our long term investment philosophy, which involves investing in high quality stocks (generating consistent streams of cash flow) that satisfy our stringent share selection criteria, our focus on secular growth sectors, and the strong downside protection built into our portfolios, has created significant value for our clients over the long term. This is particularly important in an environment where we see increasing pressure on the economy, with the prevalence of uncertainties surrounding BREXIT, supply side constraints in the UK economy and a relatively tight labour market, which will influence short term outcomes.

Speak to an Oasis accredited financial advisor, who will be able to explain the various investment options that we provide, which would be able to suit your needs or changing financial circumstances.

LARGEST GLOBAL COMPANIES IN 2019 vs 1997

2019				1997			
Rank	Company	Est.	Us bn	Rank	Company	Est.	Us bn
1	Microsoft	1975	860	1	General Electric	1892	242
2	Apple	1976	816	2	Microsoft	1975	171
3	Amazon.com	1994	805	3	Coca Cola	1886	155
4	Alphabet	1998	781	4	Exxon	1870	150
5	Berkshire Hathaway	1839	496	5	Nippon Telegraph	1952	131
6	Facebook	2004	461	6	Intel	1968	127
7	Johnson & Johnson	1886	364	7	Citigroup	1812	117
8	JP Morgan Chase & Co	2000	342	8	Merck & Co	1891	114
9	Exxon	1870	335	9	Royal Dutch Shell	1907	112
10	Visa	1958	297	10	Toyota Motors	1937	110

Source: Bloomberg

However, while the 4IR will result in a number of positive changes, there are also a number of risks. A key area of risk is in employment, since automation could make certain skills redundant. Governments need to be proactive in both mitigating against potential job losses and seizing the opportunities that the 4IR presents. Economies like Germany and China are leading the way in this aspect. For instance, the Chinese government pioneered 4IR components and used AI and 5G to make smart cities a reality. In addition, the IMF estimates that digitisation now accounts for between a third and a half of all new jobs created in China.¹

OCAS TRAVEL - UK

Our Oasis Financial Advisors travel throughout the country on a monthly basis. During the month of April, our Financial Advisors will be travelling to the following areas:

DATE	AREA
23 rd – 26 th	Nottingham, Stoke on Trent and Leicester
29 th – 3 rd May	Bradford, Leeds, Blackburn, Manchester and Sheffield



IN THE NEWS



3G EDUCATIONAL AWARD

We are pleased to announce that the Oasis Bursary Programme received the 2019 3G Educational Award at the Global Good Governance Awards, held in Jakarta, Indonesia. The award ceremony, held in a different country each year, recognises businesses which meet the United Nation’s sustainable developmental goals. The Oasis Bursary Programme was rated as the best programme for educational development globally following the assessment performed by Cambridge IFA which assessed the programme in terms of its management, social and development impact, exposure to quality education and student mentoring. The programme, managed in South Africa, has been refined over a number of years to ensure that bright, young and hardworking students are afforded every opportunity to further their education and contribute meaningfully to society. It is rewarding as an organisation to be involved in nurturing the talent of our future generations and we look forward to the expansion and growth of the Oasis Bursary Programme.

UK ECONOMY

Brexit continued to dominate news, with the EU agreeing to extend the deadline for the UK’s European Union leaders agreed in the early morning hours on the 11th April to extend the Brexit deadline until October 31, 2019, postponing the UK’s departure about six months from the scheduled April 12 departure date. Whether a final deal will be reached remains uncertain. However, there are increasing signs that UK firms are now better prepared for a worse-case outcome, with the Bank of England reporting that around 80% of UK firms now deem themselves ready for a “no-deal” Brexit, up from 50% in January.

High-frequency economic data from the region have provided mixed signals, with supply-side indicators weaker, while demand-side indicators are more resilient. The unemployment rate fell to 3.9%² in the three months to January. This was despite evidence suggesting that Brexit-related uncertainty had adversely impacted firms’ hiring decisions. In its latest quarterly Inflation Report, the BoE has downgraded its outlook for UK growth from 1.7% to 1.2% for 2019, from 1.7% to 1.5% in 2020, and from 1.7% to 1.9% in 2021.³

¹ IMF Working Paper WP/19/16: China’s Digital Economy – Opportunities and Risk (January 2019). ² Bloomberg News, March 2019, ³ Bank of England, Quarterly Inflation Report, March 2019

