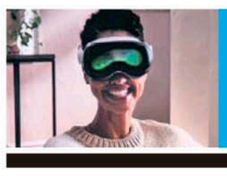
FINANCIAL TIMES

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Apple's smart call on its OpenAI connection
ANALYSIS, PAGE 11

The cool logic in putting populists in power
JANAN GANESH, PAGE 23

Gun charges
Biden sticks by convicted son

Hunter Biden walks out of federal court with US first lady Jill Biden, left, and his wife Melissa Cohen Biden yesterday after he was convicted of three felony charges in a gun trial.

The verdict makes Joe Biden's son the first child of a US president to be tried and convicted of a crime in a case that has been a distraction during his father's re-election campaign. "I am the president but I am also a dad. Jill and I love our son, and we are so proud of the man he is today," Joe Biden said in a statement after the verdict.

The conviction comes less than two weeks after Donald Trump, his father's rival for the White House, was convicted in a New York criminal case.

Hunter Biden faces up to 25 years in prison and a fine of up to $750,000, although sentences for federal crimes tend to be below maximum sanctions.

Report page 8



Matt Slocum/AP

Sunak's £17bn tax cuts promise fails to satisfy Tory appetite for 'boldness'

● Manifesto aims to revive campaign ● Party's right sees no riposte to Reform ● Analysts query sums

GEORGE PARKER — SILVERSTONE
LUCY FISHER AND
JIM PICKARD — LONDON
RAFE UDDIN — REDCAR

Rishi Sunak has pledged more than £17bn in tax cuts in an attempt to revive his stalled election campaign, but his party manifesto was attacked by some on the Tory right for being too timid.

The Conservative leader said his "bold" 76-page policy plan would help "white van" entrepreneurs, pensioners and first-time homebuyers, mainly funded by a big crackdown on welfare.

But one ex-Tory cabinet minister said Sunak had not done enough to defend the party's right flank from the threat of Nigel Farage's Reform UK party: "I think everyone is fairly underwhelmed and expected something more. There's no boldness, nothing that fires the imagination and nothing frankly that is going to induce people to vote Conservative."

Some economists questioned whether Sunak's sums added up.

"Those are definite giveaways paid for by uncertain, unspecific and apparently victimless savings. Forgive a degree of scepticism," said Paul Johnson of the Institute for Fiscal Studies think-tank.

Sunak, launching the prospectus at the Silverstone motor racing circuit, offered a surprise tax cut for small traders as he tried to reverse polls showing the Tories heading for a heavy defeat.

> 'Those are definite giveaways paid for by unspecific savings'
> Paul Johnson, IFS

He promised to honour "the unique contribution of risk takers and entrepreneurs" by abolishing the main rate of self-employed national insurance in the next parliament at a cost of £2.6bn. Tory officials said it would help "brickies, sparkies, chippies and cabbies".

He also put another 2p cut to national insurance contributions for employees by April 2027 — a £10bn downpayment on his aspiration to scrap the tax — at the centre of his plan, entitled "Clear Plan, Bold Action, Secure Future".

The Tories have cut the NICs rate for employees from 12p to 8p in the past year but the overall tax burden is set to rise in the next parliament because of a freeze on thresholds and allowances.

Much of the manifesto, including a revival of national service and a pledge to protect state pensioners from tax, had been trailed.

One insider on the party's moderate wing bemoaned the absence of a "big rabbit out of the hat".

Sunak claimed the policies were fully funded and that the Tories would cut £12bn from the welfare bill by 2030.

The manifesto said Sunak's plan to cut £17.2bn a year in taxes by 2029-30 would be further funded by cracking down on tax avoidance and evasion. He said the welfare and avoidance measures would collectively raise £18bn.

Sunak said he could deliver spending cuts and tax cuts if re-elected on July 4. "We are the party of Margaret Thatcher and Nigel Lawson, a party, unlike Labour, that believes in sound money."

The manifesto also promises "to ease the burden of business rates for high street, leisure and hospitality businesses by increasing the multiplier on distribution warehouses that support online shopping".

Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer took the unusual step of criticising Sunak's manifesto by comparing it to the leftwing tract Labour produced at the 2019 general election.

"It's a JeremyCorbyn-style manifesto, which is to load everything into the wheelbarrow, don't provide for funding and hope that nobody notices it is a recipe for five more years of chaos," he said.

Reports & analysis page 2

Briefing

▸ Mortgages in arrears approach eight-year high
The first quarter of this year has seen mortgages in arrears rise to an almost eight-year high of 1.28 per cent, says Bank of England data that illustrates the continuing impact of high borrowing costs on British households. — PAGE 3

▸ PE piles into US auditors
Ten of the top 30 US accountancy firms could soon be in private equity hands as at least four groups hold meetings after this year's sales of Grant Thornton and Baker Tilly.— PAGE 9

▸ Israel eyes anti-UN action
Israel's government has discussed measures against UN groups that work in the Palestinian territories and Israel, including the possible expulsion of staff, say five people familiar with the matter.— PAGE 8

▸ Kyiv urges aid for energy
Ukrainian officials have called on western investors to mobilise billions in aid for their battered energy sector, as Russian air strikes force power groups to impose blackouts.— PAGE 4

▸ Whistl alerts Křetínský
The mail group has warned Czech billionaire Daniel Křetínský that he should prepare to spend up to £600mn in damages after Royal Mail is bought, as it doubles down on an antitrust claim.— PAGE 12

▸ Invesco closes UK team
Invesco is to shutter its British equities team, once led by former star stockpicker Neil Woodford, and merge it with its European division amid a drop in interest for British stocks.— PAGE 9

▸ Mercer taps pensions
The US consulting group is to buy pension manager Cardano, which oversees some £50bn in assets, in an attempt to expand its business in Britain and tap rising demand for workplace pensions.— PAGE 10

▸ Lagarde steady on rates
The ECB's president has said the bank could keep rates on hold for more than one policy meeting in a row, despite starting to lower borrowing costs for the first time in nearly five years.— PAGE 4



Greenpeace takes climate action to voters' doorsteps

Environmentalists believe the problem is not that the public opposes climate action but that inflation, healthcare and immigration take higher priority. That is why Greenpeace, in a break from disrupting fuel depots or lobbying MPs, is testing Project Climate Vote. The aim is not to push one party but to canvass door to door to make climate an issue in an election where it has been largely absent, even though voters do face a stark choice on policy.

Green movement ▸ PAGE 3

Rivals tap London's rich Americans for cash at duelling US election fundraisers

ALEX ROGERS
SUNAPEE, NEW HAMPSHIRE
DANIEL THOMAS AND JIM PICKARD
LONDON

Brexit champion Nigel Farage and fashion icon Anna Wintour will be at rival fundraising events for Donald Trump and Joe Biden in London today as the battle for the US presidency crosses the Atlantic.

Donald Trump Jr and his fiancée and former Fox News host Kimberly Guilfoyle will be at a Republican gathering organised by Holly Valance, the former Australian soap star turned rightwing political activist, with her husband, the British property tycoon Nick Candy.

Trump Jr, the former president's son, is seeking to tap right-leaning wealthy Americans in London for donations, as the campaign tries to close a big funding gap opened by Biden in the 2024 money race. "After the bogus conviction of my father, we have seen an explosion in financial support from American citizens across the globe," he stated.

Biden's campaign will be holding a rival fundraiser in London on the same day, hosted by Wintour, the British-born editor-in-chief of US Vogue.

Wintour, who also endorsed Biden during his 2020 campaign, hosted another fundraiser for the US president in March during Paris Fashion Week.

Tickets for the Trump event will cost up to $100,000, with guests including Reform party leader Farage and Lord Matthew Elliott, former chief of Brexit group Vote Leave. Ex-UK prime minister Liz Truss was invited but a spokesperson said she would not be attending.

Duke Buchan, Trump's ambassador to Spain and finance chair of the Republican National Committee, helped organise the event, which is the first Trump fundraiser outside the US during this year's presidential campaign.

The event shows the close links between right-leaning conservatives on both sides of the Atlantic, with Farage playing a key role. When asked whether he would be at the event, Farage said it would "be very odd if I wasn't".

Buchan cited the "special relationship" between the US and UK as the reason the Trump campaign chose London.

Only US citizens will be able to donate and co-hosts include former US ambassadors to Portugal, Germany, Switzerland and the UK, according to an invitation obtained by the Financial Times.

The event has already raised $2mn through ticket sales and donations, say two people close to the organisers.

"It will be the most ever raised for Trump from a UK fundraiser," they said.

World Markets

STOCK MARKETS

	Jun 11	Prev	%chg
S&P 500	5344.51	5360.79	-0.30
Nasdaq Composite	17181.18	17192.53	-0.07
Dow Jones Ind	38642.76	38868.04	-0.58
FTSEurofirst 300	2052.72	2071.41	-0.90
Euro Stoxx 50	4966.71	5016.48	-0.99
FTSE 100	8147.81	8228.48	-0.98
FTSE All-Share	4444.07	4487.00	-0.96
CAC 40	7789.21	7893.98	-1.33
Xetra Dax	18369.94	18494.89	-0.68
Nikkei	39134.79	39038.16	0.25
Hang Seng	18176.34	18366.95	-1.04
MSCI World $	3482.22	3478.70	0.10
MSCI EM $	1070.33	1073.14	-0.26
MSCI ACWI $	794.75	794.24	0.06
FT Wilshire 2500	6881.66	6862.01	0.29
FT Wilshire 5000	53527.90	53376.30	0.28

CURRENCIES

Pair	Jun 11	Prev	Pair	Jun 11	Prev
$/€	1.072	1.073	€/$	0.933	0.932
$/£	1.271	1.272	£/$	0.787	0.786
£/€	0.844	0.844	€/£	1.185	1.185
¥/$	157.335	156.905	¥/€	168.711	168.429
¥/£	199.996	199.543	£ index	83.625	83.369
SFr/€	0.964	0.963	SFr/£	1.143	1.141

CRYPTO

	Jun 11	Prev	%chg
Bitcoin ($)	66431.92	68400.50	-2.00
Ethereum	3468.52	3593.95	-3.49

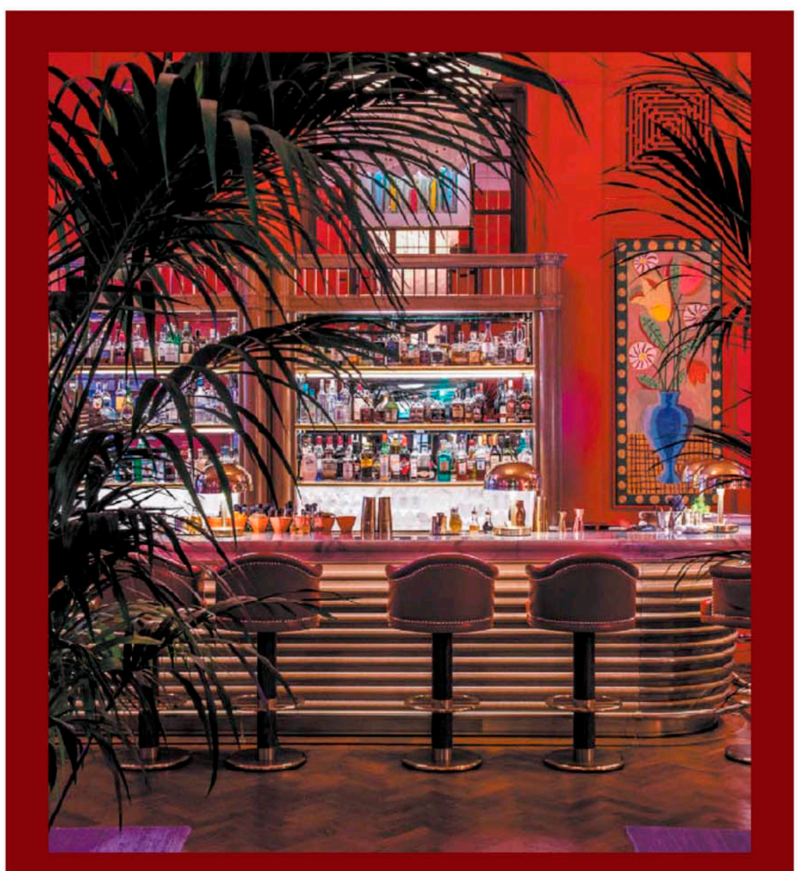
COMMODITIES

	Jun 11	Prev	%chg
Oil WTI $	78.07	77.74	0.42
Oil Brent $	82.07	81.63	0.54
Gold $	2304.40	2310.80	-0.28

GOVERNMENT BONDS

Yield (%)	Jun 11	Prev	Chg
US 2 yr	4.86	4.87	-0.02
US 10 yr	4.45	4.46	-0.01
US 30 yr	4.58	4.59	-0.01
UK 2 yr	4.32	4.40	-0.07
UK 10 yr	4.37	4.42	-0.06
UK 30 yr	4.72	4.75	-0.03
JPN 2 yr	0.36	0.38	-0.02
JPN 10 yr	1.01	1.03	-0.02
JPN 30 yr	2.17	2.19	-0.02
GER 2 yr	3.02	3.11	-0.08
GER 10 yr	2.63	2.67	-0.04
GER 30 yr	2.78	2.79	-0.02

Prices are latest for edition
Data provided by Morningstar



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NATIONAL

Social attitudes survey

Public trust in political system hits record low

Discontent with NHS and poverty highlight challenge facing winner of election

VALENTINA ROMEI
ECONOMICS REPORTER

Trust in the political system has sunk to a record low, while dissatisfaction with the NHS and concerns over poverty are at an all-time high, according to a survey that also shows Brexit is now widely seen as having hit the economy.

Today's findings of the latest British Social Attitudes survey point to the depth of the challenge facing the winner of the general election to restore voter confidence in government and public services.

Some 45 per cent of people would "almost never" trust administrations of any political persuasion to put the national interest before party interest, the highest share since the question was first asked in 1986, according to the National Centre for Social Research, which ran the survey.

Conducted in September and October last year, the poll found 52 per cent of respondents were dissatisfied with the health service; more than double the proportion in 2019 and the highest on record.

Some 73 per cent said they believed there was "a great deal" of poverty in Britain, from 63 per cent in 2019 and the highest proportion recorded since 1986 when the question was first asked.

Further, 71 per cent of the public think the economy is worse off as a result of leaving the EU, the highest share since the 2016 referendum.

Professor Sir John Curtice, NatCen senior research fellow, noted that the winner of the election would not only have to revive "Britain's stuttering economy and its struggling public services [but also] address the concerns of a public that is as doubtful as it has ever been about the trustworthiness and efficacy of the country's system of government."

The findings come weeks before the election on July 4, with the Labour opposition about 20 percentage points ahead of the Conservatives in opinion polls.

NatCen pointed out that the 2019-24 parliament had been "one of the most politically turbulent and economically challenging of the postwar period".

It added it included events such as Liz Truss's "mini"-Budget, which sparked market turmoil in September 2022, and revelations over parties held in Whitehall and Downing Street during lockdowns.

Some 79 per cent of the 5,500 survey respondents said the system of governance needed "significant improvement", a joint record since the question was first asked in 1973.

Some 58 per cent said they almost never trusted politicians "to tell the truth when they are in a tight corner", the highest figure since the 60 per cent registered during the 2009 MPs expenses scandal.

NatCen also reported changing attitudes towards Brexit. While about half of people in 2019 said leaving the EU would strengthen "Britain's ability to be an independent country that makes its own laws", the latest survey showed that figure had fallen to roughly one quarter.

Despite promises by both main parties to cut legal migration, almost half of those surveyed thought immigration would increase, up from only 5 per cent and 8 per cent in 2017 and 2018, when the question was last asked.

Gillian Prior, NatCen interim chief executive, pointed out that the survey results showed the past four years had left people "asking themselves just how well they are being governed".

Conservative manifesto

Tory right decries 'wishy-washy' election pledges

Sunak is battling to turn around his party's fortunes as it lags way behind in the polls

GEORGE PARKER, LUCY FISHER AND JIM PICKARD

Rishi Sunak admitted yesterday that people were "frustrated" with his leadership — the launch of his 76-page Conservative manifesto marked one of his last big chances to get his critics to change their minds.

But some of the frustration comes from within his own party, which has looked on aghast at the Tory leader's accident-prone campaign since he surprised the country by calling the snap election on July 4.

Within hours of the manifesto launch, the scale of Sunak's challenge was laid bare by a new YouGov poll that put the Conservatives on 18 points, 1 point above Nigel Farage's Reform UK and 20 points behind Labour.

> 'I'm not blind to the fact that people are . . . frustrated with me'
> Rishi Sunak

"I'm not blind to the fact that people are frustrated with our party and frustrated with me," Sunak said at the Silverstone motor racing circuit. "Things have not always been easy and we have not got everything right."

But, he said: "We are the only party in this election with the big ideas to make our country a better place to live."

Sunak believes that big ideas and the "red meat" policies demanded by his party are what he has offered: a substantial £17bn package of tax cuts, targeted especially on "white van" traders, first-time homebuyers and pensioners and, supposedly, largely funded by welfare cuts. To his critics on the Tory right, the manifesto was too timid and unlikely to shift the dial.

One former Tory cabinet minister said: "What we've got is wishy-washy [chancellor] Jeremy Hunt stuff that we've had to put up with for the past two years. We're fed up with it. I wouldn't be surprised if colleagues decided to jack it in and join Reform."

Conservatives on the party's right flank expressed disappointment that the manifesto did not go further with a vow to reform or leave the European Convention on Human Rights, which is blamed by some Tories for making it harder to deport migrants who arrive by clandestine means.

Senior cabinet ministers from the party's mainstream wing, including Hunt and housing minister Michael Gove, were wary of any such commitment, fearing it would further alienate liberal Tory voters.

The manifesto included Sunak's familiar holding statement: "If we are forced to choose between our security and the jurisdiction of a foreign court, including the ECHR [European Court of Human Rights], we will always choose our security."

The Tory manifesto also promised "a relentless, continual process of permanently removing illegal migrants to Rwanda with a regular rhythm of flights every month, starting this July, until the boats are stopped".

Conservative officials struggled to explain what would happen to tens of thousands of migrants expected to arrive by irregular means in Britain before the end of 2024 who under a new law have no right to have their asylum claims assessed.

"The scheme is uncapped," said one Tory official, referring to the Rwanda programme, suggesting that a large number of asylum seekers would be sent to the African nation. Migration experts have said many will simply be stuck in a legal limbo in the UK.

Farage has exploited the fact that Sunak failed to make his Rwanda scheme operational before calling the election. He argues that Labour, which has vowed to scrap the scheme, is certain to win and that the important question is who emerges as the "real opposition" to Sir Keir Starmer.

Labour claimed the Tory manifesto contained unfunded promises. Wes Streeting, shadow health secretary, said it amounted to "the most expensive panic attack in history".

Rachel Reeves, shadow chancellor, claimed the Tory manifesto would have to be funded by borrowing, which in turn would feed through to higher interest rates and increased mortgage payments for the average household by £4,800 over the next parliament.

But the Tories said Reeves was "confusing facts and fiction" in a "chaotic and panicked dossier". Tory rightwingers had urged Sunak to fill his manifesto with bold social policies, such as an outright ban on mobile phones for children.

Some influential figures on the right of the party backed Sunak. Sir Jacob Rees-Mogg, former business secretary, said: "The manifesto has my support."

But another senior Tory rightwinger was despondent: "He didn't listen to us, didn't put in anything we pitched. We're as much as 25 points behind in the polls — we've got nothing to lose and yet we've gambled nothing."



Backlash

Experts cast doubt on tax cut proposals

Under fire: Prime Minister Rishi Sunak at the launch of the Tory manifesto at Silverstone racetrack yesterday. The manifesto has drawn criticism fro analysts
James Manning/PA

Rishi Sunak's manifesto pledge to cut more than £17bn of taxes has come under fire, with analysts warning that the promise is funded by questionable plans to rein in welfare spending and curb tax dodging.

The prime minister insisted that the tax cuts would be funded by giving less to people on welfare and extracting billions of pounds more a year in revenue by clamping down on tax avoidance and evasion.

The centrepiece to the Tory tax reductions was a plan to further trim national insurance contributions by employees from 8 per cent to 6 per cent by April 2027, at a cost reaching £10.3bn in 2029-30.

The manifesto also pledged to remove contributions by the self-employed, at a purported cost of £2.6bn in that year.

Previously trailed policies to raise the tax-free allowance for pensioners were also added to the manifesto, bringing the total tax giveaway to £17.21bn.

Sunak's assertion that he was fully accounting for how to pay for the tax reductions rests on his plan to bring down the welfare bill by £12bn over the next five years.

But proposals to restrict incapacity benefits, toughen the regime for jobless benefits and step up job support for people with long-term health conditions are already factored into forecasts from the independent Office for Budget Responsibility, which last gave its fiscal outlook in March.

The only significant reform to benefits that is not included in the OBR's forecasts is a pledge to "halt the unsustainable rise" in disability benefits, which are expected to cost £30bn by 2028-29, chiefly by tackling the rise in claims relating to mental health.

"Welfare reforms tend to be more difficult than civil servants and politicians originally anticipate," said Mike Brewer, interim chief executive of the Resolution Foundation think-tank.

"It's about the scale — is it plausible to raise £12bn in one parliament?

> 'Is it plausible to raise £12bn in one parliament? They haven't said in detail how they will do it'

They haven't said in detail how they will do it."

The government published a green paper on the topic for consultation in April but it contained few concrete proposals.

The tax cuts would also be funded by reducing tax avoidance and evasion by £6bn a year. However, the manifesto did not substantiate how such savings would be achieved beyond current enforcement efforts. "On tax avoidance they really haven't told us anything about how they are going to get the extra money," Brewer pointed out.

Some experts said Sunak's tax cut promises would encourage avoidance.

Paul Johnson of the Institute for Fiscal Studies said abolishing NI contributions for the self-employed, while "only" cutting employees' contributions, would propel people to change status.

Scrapping capital gains tax on property sales to tenants would be "an open invitation to abuse and avoidance", he added.

Dan Neidle, founder of Tax Policy Associates, said: "There's a big industry selling tax avoidance schemes to landlords. The promise of a shiny new CGT exemption will be irresistible."

On spending, the Tory manifesto included Sunak's promise to raise defence spending to 2.5 per cent of GDP by 2030 at a cost of £5.7bn by that year. This and other promises would be funded by reducing the civil service to its pre-pandemic size.

But the pledges did not address a deeper tension in the outlook for public spending. The Tories in March pencilled in a 1 per cent real terms rise in overall spending for the rest of the decade.

Some departments, such as health, are protected but for others the outlook implies harsh cuts even when public services are already under stress.

"This manifesto remains silent on the wider problems facing core public services," said Johnson. "These plans imply an even tougher time than that set out back in March," he added.

Sam Fleming and Delphine Strauss

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Monetary policy

Reeves rules out tapping BoE reserves interest to raise funds

JIM PICKARD, SAM FLEMING AND DELPHINE STRAUSS

Rachel Reeves has warned of the "dangers" of overhauling how the Bank of England pays interest to commercial lenders on their deposits, pouring cold water on an idea that some economists had said could help a Labour government find savings.

The shadow chancellor said yesterday that the party had "no plans" to "tier" interest paid on the reserves commercial banks hold at the BoE, which total about £770bn. Such a move, which would have to be enacted by the central bank, could potentially save the public sector billions of pounds a year.

"We have no plans to do that and, actually, the paying of interest on reserves is part of the transmission mechanism for monetary policy, it's one of the ways that higher interest rates filter through to the real economy," Reeves said. "I don't think that [changing the current system] would be without its dangers."

The idea of changing the way the BoE pays interest has risen up the agenda because of the vast quantities of reserves in the banking system as a legacy of quantitative easing — the programme under which the BoE bought hundreds of billions of pounds to support the economy.

At present, the BoE pays its benchmark interest rate of 5.25 per cent on all those reserves. Interest earned by the largest high street banks on their reserves surged 135 per cent to more than £9bn last year, according to figures published by the House of Commons Treasury select committee in May.

NatWest, Barclays, Lloyds and Santander collectively received £9.23bn in interest on deposits held by the BoE in 2023, the cross-party group of MPs said.

Economists have suggested that the BoE could shift to a system under which banks were required to hold a fixed amount of money without interest, leaving the central bank to pay its official rate on only a portion of the reserves.

Michael Saunders, economist at consultancy Oxford Economics, said the savings from such a reform could amount to between £4bn and £5bn a year, depending on where the reserve requirements were fixed.

This would still allow the BoE to set money market rates, he said, adding: "It is certainly feasible in technical terms. And it's akin to a tax on banks."

BoE governor Andrew Bailey has sounded lukewarm about the idea. In February he told a House of Lords committee that the system of paying the benchmark rate on reserves "anchors the implementation of monetary policy".

The BoE would have to be "very careful how we implemented anything like that", Bailey said. "That is a pretty substantial change and not one that I would currently advocate."

NATIONAL

Project Climate Vote brings green movement to electorate's doorstep

Activists train thousands of volunteers to spread the word about benefits of environmental policies

HENRY MANCE



Green campaign: thousands of volunteers have been going door to door to put climate at the centre of the election debate

In a Quaker meeting house north of London, a Greenpeace campaigner instructs a dozen volunteers. "We need to show that there are votes to be won and lost on climate," she says. "You've given £3 a month for five years, you've signed a few petitions. We're saying there's more to it than that."

Since last summer, the group has been testing "Project Climate Vote" in a break from previous tactics, such as disrupting fuel depots or lobbying politicians.

The strategy involves training more than 2,000 supporters to go door-to-door canvassing. So far, they have visited more than 42,000 households. The aim is not to push a political party; as a charity, Greenpeace is legally prevented from doing so, but to make climate into an electoral issue.

In Britain, the main problem for environmentalists is not that the public disagrees with climate action, but that they have other priorities. Climate remains behind inflation, the economy, healthcare and immigration in voters' minds, the polls show.

That may be why climate action has been largely absent from the campaign, even though there is a clear choice.

Rishi Sunak, the Conservative prime minister, has granted new oil and gas licences and slowed the phaseout of petrol cars and gas boilers. In the first leaders' debate, he emphasised "energy security" and warned that Labour's climate measures could cost voters "thousands of pounds".

In contrast, Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer said the transition from fossil fuels was "a huge opportunity", because "renewables are cheaper". The Liberal Democrats, the Greens and the Scottish National party also have crafted climate action plans.

This is in line with public opinion: two-thirds of Britons say they are worried about climate change and nearly as many say the government is not doing enough, a YouGov poll in March found.

Contrary to public perception, older voters are as likely, and perhaps more likely, than young voters to say they are worried about climate.

Recent voting trends also show support for politicians with green policies: Sadiq Khan was re-elected as London mayor, defeating opponents of his clean air agenda, and Ben Houchen, a Conservative supporter of net zero, was re-elected as mayor of the Tees Valley.

The electoral system has limited the influence of the Greens, although the party gained council seats in May's local election. Dale Vince, a green businessman, has given £5mn to Labour, warning that voting Green is a mistake because only Labour can win nationally.

The Greens do hope to win as many as four parliamentary seats in July; their only current MP, Caroline Lucas, who is not standing this time, believes they can influence a future Labour government: "We know that we can shame Labour into being bolder and better," she said.

But it is not just the electoral system holding back the Green vote. A focus group in Redcar, a "red wall" seat now held by the Conservatives, highlighted voters' doubts about climate action.

"It doesn't matter [what a candidate pledges] because nobody delivers," said Stephen, a former construction worker.

Geraldine, an artist who views climate change as "dangerous", added that Britain's policies would make only a "tiny" contribution to stopping climate change.

Luke Tryl, UK director of More in Common, which ran the focus group, said: "What was surprising is that [the participants] were so fatalistic about climate, and that tied to their lack of faith in politics."



Some voters still remember how the government pushed the adoption of diesel cars, only to U-turn when their poor environmental performance was exposed, he said. "The worst thing you can do is march people up the hill."

At the same time, Tryl added, the Redcar focus group showed "there was no great culture war about wind and solar: it was why aren't we putting them on all new-build [homes]?"

Climate action is best framed in terms of its local and national benefits, not "as part of a global endeavour", pointed out Tryl.

Polling for the Conservative Environment Network, a green lobby group, suggests that Sunak's arguments on net zero are unlikely to win over rightwing voters, who are more concerned about immigration.

Even so, to answer concerns about energy security, Greenpeace trains its door-knockers to point out that climate action means "warm homes, cheap transport, and green spaces".

On that recent Saturday afternoon, its volunteers were targeting the swing seat of Welwyn Hatfield, held by the Conservative defence secretary Grant Shapps. As energy secretary Shapps approved a climate plan subsequently ruled "irrational" by a court.

> 'If you only view climate through a media lens, you get the impression it's 50:50. When you're on the doorstep that's not the case'

He is expected to lose his seat to Labour.

One Tesla-owning couple happily pinned one of the rainbow-coloured "I'm a Climate Voter" posters in their front window. Another man took a poster for his daughter. A third said climate was not his priority but agreed he would not vote for anyone without a credible climate plan. One woman took a poster, on the basis she could snip the Greenpeace logo off the bottom.

Out of the nearly 200 doors knocked on one day, 31 people pledged to be "climate voters". In total, Greenpeace says nearly 200,000 have signed up online and in person, short of its target of 1mn. It has been active in 404 constituencies, or two-thirds of the total.

Campaigners say they are breaking down the idea that there is a large rump of voters who oppose climate action. "If you only view climate through a media lens, you get the impression it's 50:50," said Amy Cameron, programme director at Greenpeace.

"When you're on the doorstep that's not the case," Cameron added.

Employment

Wage growth stays strong despite cooling jobs market

DELPHINE STRAUSS AND MARY MCDOUGALL

Wage growth remained strong in the three months to April as a rise in the minimum wage boosted pay packets despite a slowing jobs market, official data showed yesterday.

The Office for National Statistics said annual growth in average weekly wages, including bonuses, remained steady at 5.9 per cent, unchanged from an upwardly revised figure for the three months to March. Excluding bonuses, annual growth of 6 per cent in average wages was also unchanged from the three months to March, in line with analyst expectations.

But the ONS said there were signs of the labour market cooling. Unemployment rose on its headline measure, while there was a slight decline in the number of payrolled employees and job vacancies alongside an uptick in claims for jobless benefits.

Economists said the figures were broadly in line with Bank of England projections and would not change the outlook for interest rates. But it remains unclear whether the Monetary Policy Committee will feel confident enough that inflation is durably on the way down to begin cutting rates from a 16-year-high of 5.25 per cent from August.

"It's not a slam dunk. Cutting rates with pay growth as strong as this would be unusual," said Rob Wood, at the consultancy Pantheon Macroeconomics.

By August, there might be enough evidence of wage growth and services inflation slowing to cut rates, but unless the data became clearer the MPC might need to wait until September, he added.

"The BoE is likely to take this data as a sign that labour market conditions are easing but private sector regular pay growth remains . . . a key roadblock to returning inflation to target," said Ellie Henderson, an economist at Investec.

The ONS's headline measures of unemployment and employment have become less reliable than usual because of problems with the labour force survey that underpins them.

On the labour force survey measure, unemployment rose to 4.4 per cent in the three months to April from 4.3 per cent in the quarter to March, with the employment rate falling to 74.3 per cent; lower than a year ago. Based on the figures, the workforce has shrunk and is smaller now than before the pandemic.

Tony Wilson, director of the Institute for Employment Studies think-tank, said the data showed the number of people in work had fallen "for the first time since [Margaret] Thatcher's first term", with a drop of 40,000 since the 2019 election, in contrast to job gains of almost 4mn over the previous decade.

But HM Revenue & Customs tax records show the number of people on employers' payrolls had risen from just over 29mn at the start of 2020 to 30.3mn in May, with only a slight dip in recent months. Even so, all measures suggest the jobs market has softened. Vacancies have also fallen by a third since the 2022 peak, to 904,000, but remain higher than before the pandemic.

Shipbuilding. Pay dispute

Harland & Wolff strike threat adds to pressures

Owner of historic Belfast yard waits on loan guarantee as defence contract looms

JUDE WEBBER — BELFAST

Harland & Wolff held talks with unions yesterday after workers voted to strike in a pay dispute that risks paralysing the Belfast shipbuilder, just as it prepares to take on a crucial defence contract.

The walkout threat added to the woes of the lossmaking company, which has faced weeks of uncertainty over a £200mn government loan guarantee, without which chief executive John Wood has said it will be forced to "change strategy".

Management and unions met in the hope that a long overdue pay deal could be struck, according to one person with knowledge of Monday's strike ballot. Another person familiar with the process said H&W had put forward an offer and that negotiations were continuing.

Union leaders say the previous pay deal expired in December and there has been no agreement on a new one, which would have to be backdated to January. H&W and the GMB and Unite unions declined to comment.

Wood told the Financial Times on a visit to the Belfast yard last week that he remained hopeful of clinching a state export development guarantee before the July 4 election, despite splits among ministers last month. "The brutal reality is that, without Harland & Wolff . . . the UK can't deliver its commitment to defence," he said.

Wood said the company, which has three other operations in Britain, was "a strategic asset for whichever political parties form the next government".

He rejected the idea that the guarantee was needed to secure funding for pay rises as H&W faces a looming debt repayment.

The Belfast yard, which has not built a ship for two decades, is being revitalised by a £1.6bn Royal Navy contract, which it won in 2022 as part of a consortium led by Spain's Navantia. It expects to cut steel in July 2025 and to complete the first ship in June 2029.

Wood said the Aim-listed company was "pushing" the government to "get on with" granting the guarantee to give certainty to the business.

H&W is hiring apprentices and preparing for the three-ship naval contract by expanding its fabrication yard into an automated facility that it says will make it the most advanced UK shipyard, well placed to win future contracts. "All the commercial banks are lined up ready and waiting to go and I see no reason why a decision can't be made fairly soon," Wood said.

H&W has scotched talk that a failure to secure the guarantee, under discussion for two years, would be the death knell for the 163-year-old company.

Wood bought H&W out of administration in 2019 but it faces a repayment in December on a $100mn loan from Riverstone Credit Partners in New York. No party would say how much is due.

H&W's auditors last year warned of "material uncertainty" unless the shipbuilder could source fresh financing and win extra work. MPs have questioned using taxpayers' money to guarantee lending given its financial position.

Wood said he remained "fairly optimistic" but that if the guarantee was not granted, "what you have to do is change your strategy and instead of the growth projection you want for export projects you have to look at what you can do for the various funding lines".

In December, H&W said it had "sufficient funds" to meet its working capital needs "until the new loan facility is completed". But its shares, trading yesterday at about 10p, remain roughly a quarter of their level when energy group Infra-Strata, led by Wood, bought the company for £6mn.

H&W's most recent annual accounts, to the end of 2022, showed revenues of £27mn but losses of £70mn. Net debt stood at £82.5mn, in part thanks to high interest payments on the Riverstone debt. "We do have a year-end deadline for the debt repayment but, you know, everything's negotiable. If we aren't there by then [December], then we have to go and renegotiate, but I hope we are there by then," Wood said.



Uncertainty: chief executive John Wood has said that without a £200mn government loan guarantee the group will be forced to 'change strategy'
Charles McQuillan/FT

Household finance

Mortgages in arrears climb close to an eight-year high

VALENTINA ROMEI
ECONOMICS REPORTER

Mortgages in arrears hit an almost eight-year high in the first quarter of 2024, according to official data that underlines the continuing impact of high borrowing costs on households.

The proportion of total loan balances with arrears, relative to outstanding mortgage balances, rose to 1.28 per cent in the three months to March 31 from 1.23 per cent in the previous quarter, the Bank of England said yesterday.

The figure marked a continued reversal of a long-term decline in overdue payments and the highest share since the final quarter of 2016, when it stood at 1.24 per cent. It also points to the challenges facing many voters ahead of the general election on July 4.

High shop prices and mortgage costs and fast-rising rents are putting pressure on Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's campaign message of an improving economy, with his Conservative party about 20 percentage points behind Labour in opinion polls.

Simon Gammon, managing partner at consultancy Knight Frank Finance, said: "The value of mortgage balances in arrears has surged as household finances have come under pressure from both higher mortgage rates and the rising cost of various goods and services."

While the rise in arrears was "serious" for people struggling to pay their mortgages, "it doesn't yet present a systemic risk to the housing market", he added.

Arrears are still low compared with their all-time high of 3.64 per cent in the first quarter of 2009, during the global financial crisis. They have since declined on the back of the broader economic recovery and changes to mortgage regulations. But more households are set to face higher mortgage costs this year as fixed deals agreed two or five years ago expire.

Mortgage rates rose sharply between late 2021 and 2023 as the BoE lifted interest rates to a 16-year high of 5.25 per cent in an effort to tame inflation. They have eased from their peak in summer 2023 on expectations the BoE will start cutting interest rates this year but have edged up since February on the back of disappointing inflation and wages data.

Separate data published by the BoE last week showed that the quoted two-year mortgage rate on a 60 per cent loan to value rose to 5.01 per cent in May, up from 4.62 per cent in January but well below the 6.22 per cent in July 2023.

Energy supply

Ukraine pleads for aid to keep the lights on

Half of country's power generation hit by Russian air strikes, says Zelenskyy

GUY CHAZAN — BERLIN

Ukrainian officials have urged western investors to mobilise billions in aid for their battered energy sector, as Russian air strikes have forced power companies to impose nationwide rolling blackouts.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy told a conference in Berlin yesterday that Ukraine had lost half of its electricity generating capacity because of Russian attacks. Peak consumption last winter was 18 gigawatts, he said, but the strikes had destroyed 9GW. Energy, he said, continued to be "one of [Russian president Vladimir] Putin's main targets".

The conference, which its German hosts said involved 2,000 people from politics, businesses and civil society, is aimed at boosting aid for projects to rebuild cities and infrastructure destroyed by Russia's full invasion of Ukraine.

Chancellor Olaf Scholz said the World Bank had estimated that rebuilding Ukraine would require investments of nearly $500bn over the next 10 years.

But energy is the main focus. "It is trumping everything," said Arvid Tuerkner, managing director for Ukraine at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). "It comes back to energy."

Officials fear the waves of Russian missile and drone attacks on Ukrainian energy infrastructure since March mean residents of Kyiv and other cities are facing no power as temperatures drop below freezing later this year.

Recent strikes have also targeted pumping facilities for underground natural gas storage used by EU customers.

"This winter will be the most difficult since the invasion started," said Sergii Koretskyi, chief execution of oil and gas company Ukrnafta.

"Everyone will face problems with the electricity supply. So we need to prepare for this right now."

The conference was overshadowed by changes in Kyiv that have shaken the confidence of Ukraine's western partners. This week saw the resignation of Mustafa Nayyem, the official overseeing wartime reconstruction and the fortification of Ukraine's defences.

He said his agency was being undermined by the government and that the prime minister had barred him from attending the conference. Ukraine's minister for reconstruction, Oleksandr Kubrakov, was also dismissed in May.

One of the companies worst affected is DTEK, Ukraine's largest private energy provider, with 90 per cent of its thermal generation capacity damaged or destroyed since March.

"As of today we have only 460 megawatts out of 5000MW previously," chief executive Maxim Timchenko said.

He said the quickest way to solve the crisis was to expand Ukraine's electricity import capacity, from about 1.7GW to 2.2GW-2.5GW. Officials were already in talks with the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity, ENTSO-E, to boost imports.

But DTEK was also speaking to energy firms in neighbouring countries about buying up old, decommissioned transformers and generators for Ukraine.

Monetary policy. FT-Chicago Booth poll

Fed will cut rates only once this year, say experts

Economists believe lingering inflation will force US central bank to adjust 2024 schedule

CLAIRE JONES AND MARTHA MUIR
WASHINGTON
EVA XIAO — NEW YORK

The Federal Reserve will lower interest rates just once this year, according to a new poll of academic economists, as lingering inflation forces the US central bank to adjust its schedule to cut borrowing costs.

More than half of the 39 academics who took part in the FT-Chicago Booth poll said that the Fed would only make one quarter-point cut this year. Almost a quarter forecast no cuts at all.

The results of the survey, conducted in the final week of May, come ahead of the Fed's meeting today, when rate setters are expected to shift their own predictions for cuts this year from three to two, or fewer.

Expectations that rates will remain higher for longer follow months of stickier than expected inflation. The US Bureau of Labor Statistics will publish its consumer price index data for May today, just hours before the Fed's rate announcement.

Borrowing costs remaining high through November's US election would be a blow to President Joe Biden, under pressure over his handling of the economy amid voter anxiety over the cost of mortgages, food and other goods.

Economists in the poll also upped their forecasts for the personal consumption expenditures price index — another gauge of price inflation — from 2.5 per cent in the March poll to 2.8 per cent now. The Fed targets PCE of 2 per cent. Headline PCE was 2.7 per cent in April, the Bureau of Economic Analysis said in late May.

Karen Dynan, a professor at Harvard University and poll respondent, said recent data had raised "worries about whether higher-than-target inflation is becoming embedded".

Fed officials believe the continued strength of the jobs market gives them leeway to keep rates at a 23-year high of 5.25-5.5 per cent, unlike central banks in the Eurozone and Canada, which both cut rates last week. Economists' expectations of a soft landing for the US economy have also risen. The poll shows 52 per cent of respondents did not see recession until 2026 or beyond, up from 46 per cent in March.



The cost of food is a cause for concern among consumers as President Joe Biden comes under pressure over his handling of the US economy
David Paul Morris/Bloomberg

A third of poll respondents — the biggest group — think the Fed will make its first cut this year in September, at the central bank's last meeting before the November 5 election.

Julie Smith, a professor at Lafayette College, said a September move was likely "and maybe another one later in the year after the US election".

But she said Fed rate changes in the autumn would be "very tricky" because of "how it interplays with US politics and the presidential election".

While the central bank is almost certain to leave rates unchanged this week, Fed watchers expect the Federal Open Market Committee's so-called "dot plot" to show a reduction in the number of cuts policymakers see this year.

Claudia Sahm, a former Fed staff member who is now chief economist at investment manager New Century Advisors, said a disappointing CPI figure for May could lead officials to switch from three to one.

"The Fed doesn't like to be abrupt unless they have to be," said Sahm, who was not polled. "[But] they want to show that they're responsive to data."

The FT-Chicago Booth poll, conducted by the university's Kent A Clark Center for Global Markets, also highlighted economists' concerns about the US's ballooning fiscal debt.

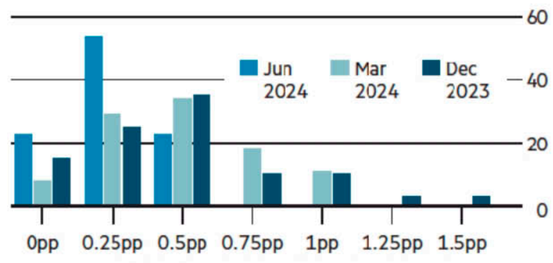
> 'The Fed doesn't like to be abrupt unless they have to be. They want to show that they're responsive to data'

The Congressional Budget Office, which is an official US spending watchdog, said in May that the federal debt was set to reach 166 per cent of GDP by 2054.

More than half of the poll's respondents said CBO's debt estimate was credible, while more than a quarter said it was too low.

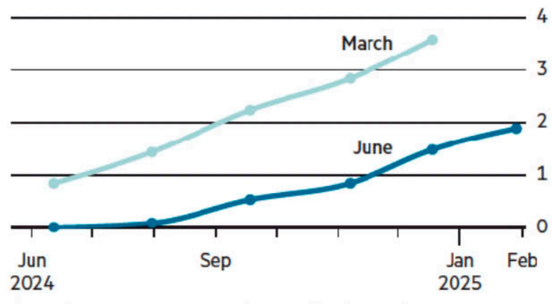
"There's a risk given the possibility of geopolitical events and the need to respond to climate change, that we're going to see even further upward pressure," said Dynan.

Economists hawkish on Fed rate cuts
% of respondents



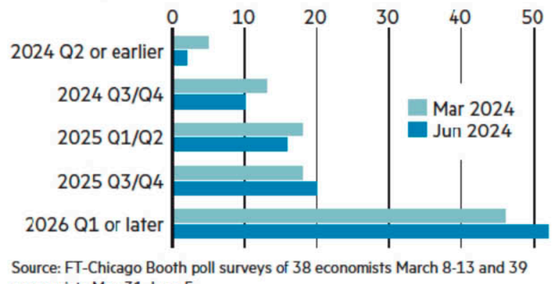
Source: FT-Chicago Booth poll surveys of 40 economists from December 1-4 2023, 38 economists from March 8-13 and 39 economists from May 31-June 5

Investors lower expectations of a reduction
Cuts by Fed meeting date according to Fed funds futures pricing



Source: Bloomberg • Chart shows data from Mar 12 and Jun 10

Economist bets on a soft landing have risen
Average probability (%) among polled economists that a recession will start at a given quarter



Source: FT-Chicago Booth poll surveys of 38 economists March 8-13 and 39 economists May 31-June 5

Eurozone

Lagarde says ECB can keep borrowing costs on hold if necessary

MARTIN ARNOLD — FRANKFURT

The European Central Bank could keep interest rates on hold for more than one monetary policy meeting in a row, despite starting to lower borrowing costs for the first time in almost five years, its president Christine Lagarde has said.

Pouring cold water on the idea that a string of similar moves could soon follow last week's quarter-percentage-point reduction in its deposit rate to 3.75 per cent, Lagarde said it "does not mean that interest rates will now move downwards in a linear fashion.

"We are not following a pre-determined path," the ECB president said in an interview with four EU newspapers. "There could also be phases in which we leave interest rates unchanged."

Asked if that meant it could leave rates unchanged for more than one meeting of the bank's governing council, she replied: "It's possible. We need to wait and see how labour costs develop. And we need to see that earnings continue to absorb the increases to date."

Lagarde's comments add to indications that the ECB is unlikely to be ready to cut rates again at its next meeting on July 18 because new quarterly data on Eurozone wages will not be available until after that date.

The ECB raised eyebrows among some analysts by cutting rates before its peers in the US and UK at a time when the Eurozone economy is recovering, inflation has recently picked up and wages are still rising at close to a record pace.

The US Federal Reserve is expected to keep interest rates on hold in the face of persistent inflation when it meets this week and the Bank of England is considered likely to do the same at its meeting next week.

Since last week's ECB meeting, several other members of the rate-setting council have said they think it should take a cautious and gradual approach to policy in the coming months, and investors have scaled back their bets on the extent and speed of ECB rate cuts this year.

Eurozone inflation ticked up from an almost two-year low of 2.4 per cent in April to 2.6 per cent in May, prompting the ECB to raise its own inflation forecasts for the next two years.

Lagarde admitted recent data "could have been better", although she said the decision to cut rates was still "appropriate", adding that the "disinflation process was sufficiently advanced".

She suggested the ECB would keep rates at a level where they continued to put a brake on the economy by restricting demand among businesses and consumers until inflation had fallen all the way to its target of 2 per cent; something the ECB does not expect until late next year.

"We have not yet ended the tightening monetary policy cycle," she told France's Les Echos, Germany's Handelsblatt, Italy's Il Sole 24 Ore and Spain's Expansión. "We're still in tightening territory and need to continue as long as it takes to get inflation back to 2 per cent."

She cited rising labour costs, higher company profits and declining worker productivity, which raise price pressure, as "weak" points, so the ECB needed to see these going in the right direction.

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Bilateral ties

Russian warships visit Cuba as cold war allies draw closer

ED AUGUSTIN — HAVANA

A Russian naval flotilla is due to dock in Cuba today, the first such visit since the outbreak of war in Ukraine and a signal that the full-scale invasion is binding Havana closer to its long-standing ally.

A nuclear-powered Russian submarine and three warships are expected to fire a 21-gun salute across Havana Bay, to be greeted by the island's Communist authorities. They are expected to dock in the same place US cruise ships anchored until they were banned by the Trump administration five years ago.

The Russian visit comes amid escalating tensions with the US over the war in Ukraine. Last week, President Joe Biden authorised the Ukrainian military to strike targets in Russia with US weaponry. President Vladimir Putin responded by saying Moscow might arm more countries hostile to the west.

"It's the tit for tat that Russian-American relations on Cuba have always involved," said Hal Klepak, professor emeritus of history and strategy at the Royal Military College of Canada. He said the message Moscow hoped to send to Washington was: "Yes, you can do a lot more to us from Ukraine, but we are also not completely helpless and can be a nuisance for you."

Cuba has long been Moscow's closest ally in the Americas, while Russia is one of a handful of countries Havana counts as "strategic partners". Cuba's relationships with other allies such as China and Venezuela have waned, but its ties with Russia are stronger than at any point since the cold war, analysts say.

Eager to boost diplomatic support for its war in Ukraine, Russia sees Cuba as worth courting because of its enduring influence among developing nations. In Havana, the ruling Communist party is looking for any economic assistance it can get; output has slumped in the centrally planned economy, tourism has not fully rebounded since the pandemic and millions face long daily blackouts.

In 2022, Russia sent its highest volumes of oil to Cuba since the end of the cold war. Last year, it agreed to supply Havana with an annual 1.64mn tonnes of oil and derivatives, a similar amount to the previous year, although deliveries have fallen short. In March, a Russian tanker docked with 90,000 tonnes of oil after protests against food and power shortages in Santiago, Cuba's second city. With Cuba now able to process Russians' credit and debit payments, tourists are flocking in. Some 66,000 arrived in the first quarter of this year, twice the number in the same period a year earlier, according to official figures. Russian private investments in hotels, sugar and rum have also been announced.

Cuba has consistently abstained on UN resolutions on the invasion of Ukraine, but rhetoric has recently morphed from one that could be taken as neutral to one that is pro-Russian. On a visit to Moscow last month, Cuban President Miguel Diáz-Canel wished Putin "every success with the special military operation". Last year, the Cuban leader said the sanctions on both countries "have the origin in the same enemy — the Yankee empire".



A Russian military training ship docking in Havana last year

Former US president Donald Trump reversed the normalisation of US-Cuban relations undertaken by his predecessor Barack Obama, and Biden has maintained an economic embargo and a policy of limited engagement.

"We've seen this film before," said Rafael Hernandez, editor of a state-backed social science magazine, who taught peasants to read in 1961, the year Cuba joined the Soviet camp. "The US is once again strengthening and accelerating our relationship with Russia."

The deployment of Soviet nuclear missiles to Cuba triggered the 1962 missile crisis, the closest the world has come to nuclear war. Havana's foreign ministry stated that the Russian warships arriving today carried no nuclear weapons and represented no threat.

The Biden administration said it expected Russian military exercises in the Caribbean over the coming days, adding that the fleet was not a concern.



YOUR MOVE

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#Perpetual

ROLEX

INTERNATIONAL

Macron election gamble puts onus on voters to decide who governs France

President's bet echoes de Gaulle but risks backfiring if he is forced into 'cohabitation' with party of Le Pen

LEILA ABBOUD — PARIS

Emmanuel Macron has an oft-repeated catchphrase he uses behind closed doors with ministers and advisers: *Il faut prendre son risque*, you must be willing to take risks.

The president of France has done that in spades by calling for snap elections after his centrist alliance took a drubbing on Sunday from Marine Le Pen's far-right Rassemblement National in European parliamentary elections. In doing so, he has again shown the daring that has marked his political career since he was elected as a little-experienced outsider in 2017.

"I have confidence in the French people to make the right choice now to enable the country to face the great challenges ahead of it," he said on Sunday.

The bet could also backfire spectacularly if the two-round vote on June 30 and July 7 forces him into a power-sharing government, known as a "cohabitation", with the RN. It would be the first time under the fifth republic founded in 1958 for the president and prime minister to hold such diametrically opposite views on how the country should be run.

If Macron was saddled with an RN prime minister, he would continue to run international affairs and serve as head of the military, but domestic affairs would be run by Le Pen or her lieutenant Jordan Bardella, 28, who she has said would be their prime minister.

François Patriat, a veteran senator and longsanding Macron backer, said the decision to call a snap election was in keeping with how the French constitution was supposed to work when there was an impasse preventing the government from functioning.

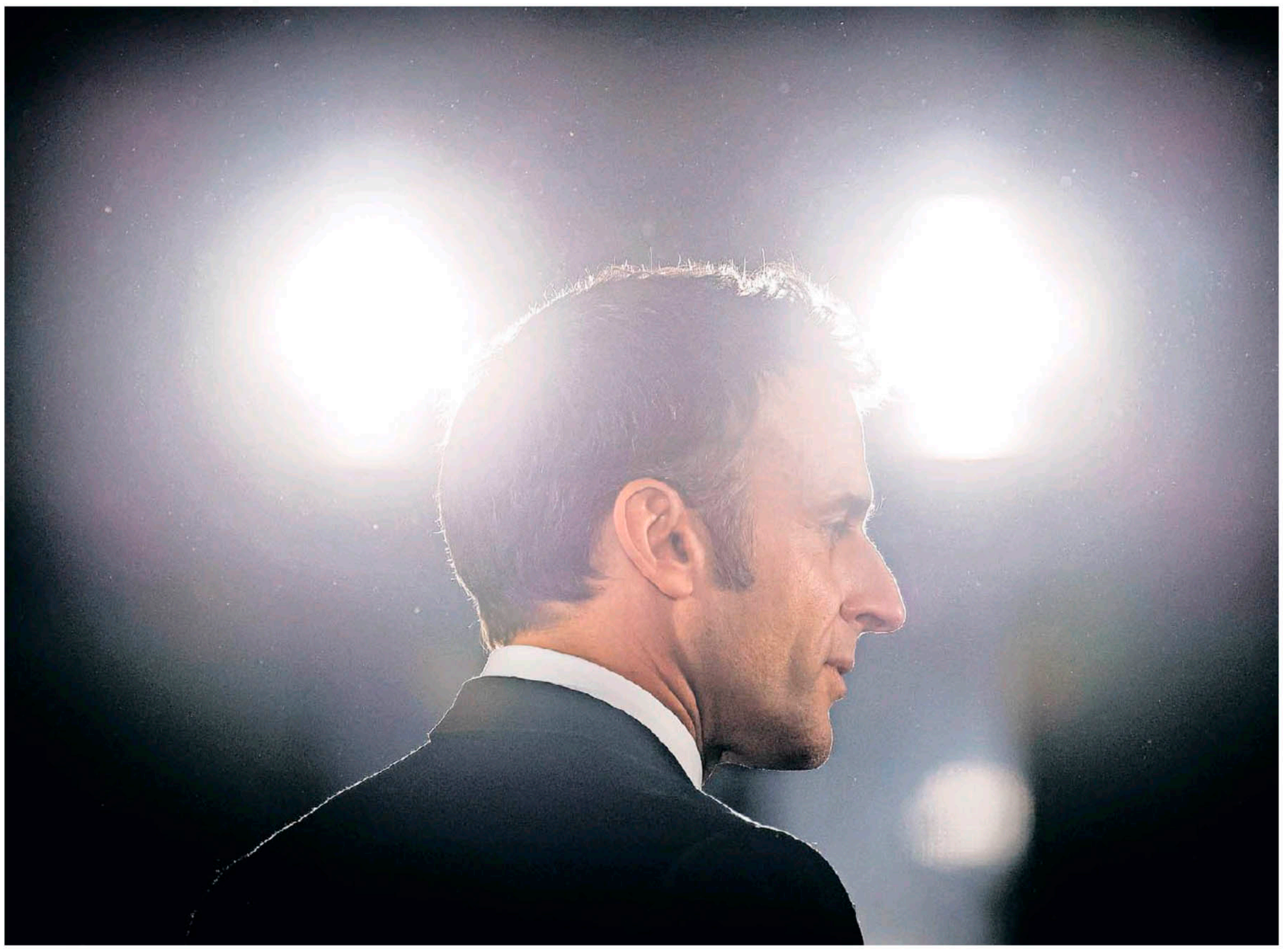
"It is not a risky bet, it's a brave decision that respects French institutions and is very G*aulliste* in nature," he said, referring to General Charles de Gaulle who resigned as president in 1969 when he felt he could not govern.

"The president is putting the responsibility back on the French people. They voted in a dumb way in the European elections, now it's up to them to decide."

Patriat added governing has been difficult since Macron's alliance lost its outright majority in 2022. He argued the RN would not be able to muster an absolute majority, which requires 289 of the 577 seats of the lower house, the National Assembly.

No opinion polls are yet available, but some analysts on Monday said a hung parliament was a real possibility, which would usher in a period of instability only six weeks before Paris hosts the Olympic Games. A sell-off in French stocks and bonds has dragged down European-wide indices.

Macron's centrist alliance, made up of three parties, now holds about 250 seats, and the RN has 88, making it the single largest opposition party. The left's 149 seats are spread out over several parties, sapping their influence.



In the spotlight: President Emmanuel Macron said he had confidence the French people would make the right choice — Ludovic Marin/AFP/Getty Images

Macron's allies say voters could deliver other outcomes that benefit the president and would provide the political clarification that has been needed since his centrist alliance lost its majority in 2022.

In the French system, the president has a lot of sway over choosing the prime minister, as long as the person can survive no-confidence votes filed by the opposition. For example, Macron could pick a premier from the centre-right or centre-left and govern in coalition, even if those parties have ruled that out. In the European election on Sunday, the RN received 31.4 per cent of the French vote, more than double the 14.6 per cent for Macron's list. The centre-left and Socialist candidates won 13.8 per cent.

But it is difficult to predict how those power dynamics will transfer to the legislative elections, which have two rounds of voting. European elections in France have also long been seen by voters as protest votes against the incumbent president, which is a different matter from choosing who they want to govern the country.

Macron has more prosaic reasons for calling the election. The opposition had been threatening to topple the government with a no-confidence vote in the autumn over the annual budget that was set to include some €25bn in public spending cuts to address the ballooning deficit.

An ally of Macron in the Senate said the budget debate was going to be very tense, with the real risk of street protests over the unpopular spending cuts. "It is better that he acted now rather than wait for things to go wrong in the autumn," the person said. "He is wrong-footing the opposition by moving fast."

> 'For years, voters have been saying, "We've tried everything besides the RN" and flirting with Le Pen's movement. Macron is going to let them taste the RN in a bet that they will soon be disgusted by them'

Another more Machiavellian explanation for Macron dissolving the National Assembly is that he may be hoping to inoculate the country against the RN ahead of the 2027 presidential race in which Le Pen is the frontrunner to succeed him.

"For years now, voters have been saying, 'We've tried everything besides the RN' and flirting with Le Pen's movement," said author and political analyst Chloé Morin. "Macron is going to let them taste the RN in a bet that they will soon be disgusted by them."

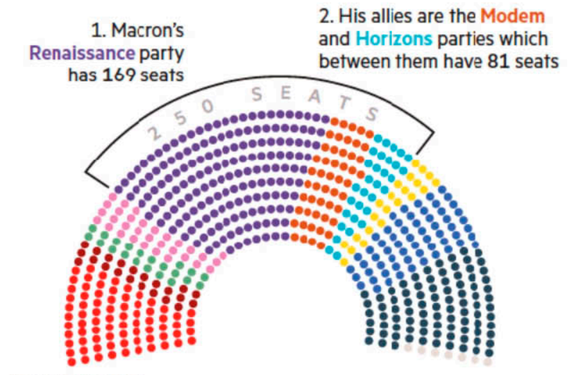
Macron has again shown himself to be an inveterate gambler, as in 2022 when he faced down street protests and narrowly survived no-confidence votes to pass his unpopular pensions reform, and when he bet that he could outlast the *gilets jaunes* movement in 2019.

"It's a risk, but it's too early to know if it's a mad one or a smart one," said Mujtaba Rahman, managing director for Europe at the Eurasia Group.

"He is gambling with his reputation and legacy, and the stability of France and the European Union," he added.

Macron's alliance lacks outright majority

Latest composition of 577 seats in the National Assembly (absolute majority requires 289)



Source: FT research

Political jostling

Conservative leader calls for alliance with RN ahead of poll

SARAH WHITE — PARIS
BEN HALL — LONDON

The leader of France's centre-right party has called for an electoral alliance with the far-right Rassemblement National ahead of snap legislative polls that have rattled financial markets.

A pact would boost the chances of RN securing an absolute majority in the unexpected election called by President Emmanuel Macron.

Éric Ciotti, leader of the conservative Republicans, said his party needed to strike "an alliance with the RN, its candidates, with all those who identify with ideas of the right, with the values of the right".

He added: "I want my political family to move in this direction," and called for a force to oppose the "impotence of Macronism" and the threat from the far left. Marine Le Pen, the far-right leader, said Ciotti had made a "courageous choice" and hailed his "sense of responsibility".

The move is a blow to Macron's hopes of forming a united front with the centre left and centre right to take on the RN.

Leftwing parties have already thrashed out a preliminary pact to run a single list of candidates — including the Socialists, the Communists, the Greens and the far-left France Unbowed party, but not the president's centrist alliance.

Investors sold French stocks for a second consecutive day yesterday, as markets digested the possibility that the RN, which advocates tens of billions of euros of extra public spending, could take or share power following the elections.

French stocks in the Cac 40 have fallen 2.7 per cent this week, their biggest two-day decline since July 2023.

Other senior members of the Republicans rejected Ciotti's call, suggesting the party, which has been divided on how closely to co-operate with the far right, could disintegrate in the run-up to the election. "Following Éric Ciotti's comments, I believe he can no longer lead our movement and must resign as chair of the party," said Gérard Larcher, president of the Senate and a senior Republican figure.

Michel Barnier, another senior figure within the Republicans and the EU's former Brexit negotiator, also called on his party to refuse a far-right alliance. "Never, never can an alliance or pact with a populist and anti-European party be the solution," he said on X.

Macron's allies also attacked the conservative leader's move.

"Éric Ciotti is signing a Munich agreement and is plunging the Gaullist family in dishonour," Gérald Darmanin, interior minister, said on X in reference to the 1938 accords France and Britain struck with Nazi Germany. "The shame of it. People of France, wake up!"

Macron's decision to call a snap election, to be held in two rounds on June 30 and July 7, followed his party's drubbing in European elections on Sunday.

South America

Milei promotes Argentina as a low-regulation hub for AI

CIARA NUGENT — BUENOS AIRES

Javier Milei is pitching to make Argentina "the world's fourth AI hub", an adviser to the libertarian president has said, promising hands-off regulation to lure US tech bosses to the troubled South American country.

Demian Reidel, head of Milei's council of economic advisers and organiser of the president's high-profile meetings with OpenAI, Google, Apple and Meta last month, said that investing in Argentina would provide companies with "a hedge" against rising regulatory risks in the US and Europe.

"Argentina has a president who is actually putting forth the ideas of freedom, low regulation, free enterprise, and he has captured the imagination of the tech world," he said. "All the stars have aligned for us to be perhaps the world's fourth AI hub."

Milei's plans come amid an economic crisis that has pushed annual inflation to 289 per cent. Six months into his term, his minority government has yet to pass any laws to deregulate the economy and attract investment.

But his critique of western leaders, whom he accused of being "co-opted" by socialism at a speech in Davos in January, has won him fans in a sector that is increasingly being targeted for regulation by European and US policymakers.

In May, Milei and Reidel held private meetings in California with chief executives including OpenAI's Sam Altman and Apple's Tim Cook, and hosted a summit with AI investors and thinkers, including venture capitalist Marc Andreessen and sociologist Larry Diamond. The Argentine president has met Tesla chief executive Elon Musk twice.

"People don't realise that if all these people want to meet us . . . it's not for a photo op," Reidel said. "It's a mutual interest, in terms of [investment] and what we will give them in terms of regulation and a business friendly place."

Reidel added that he had been speaking to the companies for months about regulation and Argentina's competitive advantages, which include a well-educated population and a vast supply of land for data centres.

He said the meetings were "very friendly" and that Milei had a "particular rapport" with Andreessen, author of The Techno-Optimist Manifesto.

Other regional governments are vying with Argentina and analysts said tech companies coming there would need to make big investments in infrastructure.

"They would need to see Argentina get rid of its [strict capital controls] and pass long-term economic reforms before putting down money," said Ignacio Labaqui, a Buenos Aires-based analyst at risk consultancy Medley Global Advisors. "That process is barely getting started and I would be cautious."

Mexico

Sheinbaum vows to press ahead with judicial reforms

CHRISTINE MURRAY — MEXICO CITY

Mexico's president-elect Claudia Sheinbaum has vowed to press ahead with her party's controversial plans to overhaul the judiciary by directly electing top judges, in comments that hit the value of the peso late on Monday.

In her first news conference since her landslide win, Sheinbaum said discussion of the judicial reform would begin immediately, with a view to approving it in the first months of the new legislature, which convenes in September.

"There should be a broad discussion in these months so people get to know it," she said at the National Palace after a lunch with outgoing president Andrés Manuel López Obrador, her political mentor.

Sheinbaum, a former Mexico City mayor, added that the reforms should be discussed broadly, including by university faculty, lawyers and justices.

But it wasn't clear if the discussions would lead to changes to the plans, and her assurances did little to calm foreign exchange traders. The peso, one of the most liquid emerging market currencies, weakened almost 2 per cent to 18.58 a dollar following the press conference before paring some of its losses. The peso has shed close to 9 per cent against the dollar since Sheinbaum's victory on June 2.

The election result had long been expected, but voters handed the ruling Morena party nearly the two-thirds majority needed to make constitutional amendments, unnerving markets and democracy activists who worry that the party's planned reforms would remove critical checks on power.

"Investors are looking for legal certainty," said Carlos Serrano, chief economist at BBVA Mexico. "As long as we don't know what the judicial reform looks like, there will be uncertainty and volatility."

Other constitutional changes on the table include enshrining above-inflation minimum wage rises, a ban on genetically modified corn and eliminating independent sector regulators.

Additional reporting by William Sandlund in Hong Kong



Claudia Sheinbaum will lead talks on planned constitutional changes

Public health

'Polysubstance abuse' threat increasing, EU agency warns

BARNEY JOPSON — MADRID

European drug users are taking increasingly diverse cocktails of stimulants, painkillers and tranquillisers as "polysubstance abuse" becomes a growing threat to public health, the EU drugs monitoring agency has warned.

The trend spans people who deliberately mix opioids with tranquillisers such as Valium, and those unwittingly consuming dangerous mixtures such as so-called "pink cocaine" and other novel products offered by drugs gangs. Alexis Goosdeel, director of the Lisbon-based EMCDDA, the EU drugs monitoring agency, said the growing use of two or more substances at the same time, or in sequence, was part of a proliferating drug problem that was spreading.

"We have never had so many drugs available in Europe," he told the Financial Times. "We have the biggest ever quantity of drugs arriving . . . and at the same time we have a very high quantity of drugs being produced in Europe."

Cannabis is the most commonly used illicit drug in the EU: some 22.8mn people — 8 per cent — of those aged 15-64 are estimated to have used it in the past year, said an EMCDDA report published yesterday. Cocaine is the second-most popular, used by around 4mn adults in the EU in the past year. The most commonly used illicit opioid is heroin.

But Goosdeel said the surge in "polysubstance abuse" was marked by the prevalence of synthetic opioids, including fentanyl — the cause of hundreds of thousands of deaths and an unprecedented crisis in the US — and tranquillisers such as Valium.

"You have people who combine different substances to [increase] some of their effects or to reduce them," Goosdeel said. "But clearly, polydrug consumption, especially for new psychoactive substances, is increasing the risk of intoxication because there is a possible negative interaction between those substances." The agency said opioids were found in 74 per cent of fatal overdoses. Goosdeel added post mortems often revealed the use of tranquillisers too.

The agency warned some people were unknowingly consuming substances that contained a mixture of drugs producers and dealers had deliberately mislabelled. "Pink cocaine", a brightly coloured powder with a longer history in Latin America, has been found in Europe to contain ketamine and ecstasy. The agency is also tracking "tranq-dope", a mix of synthetic opioids, and an animal sedative called xylazine.

In addition to fentanyl, another group of dangerous synthetic opioids known as nitazenes have a growing presence in Europe. A shift to such drugs "could be potentially very dangerous because those substances are much more potent than heroin", Goosdeel said.



BVLGARI

ROMA 1884

Court verdict

Biden's son convicted on gun crime charges

President says he accepts outcome of trial and respects judicial process

JOSHUA CHAFFIN — WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

Hunter Biden was convicted by a Delaware jury on federal gun charges yesterday, making him the first child of a US president to be tried and found guilty of a crime in a case that has been a distraction for the re-election campaign of his father, Joe Biden.

The verdict came after a week-long trial that laid bare the agony and dysfunction in the Biden family after the president's oldest son and political heir, Beau, died in 2015, and how that tragedy set in motion an unlikely series of events involving a handgun.

The verdict comes less than five months before the US election and less than two weeks after his father's rival, Donald Trump, was convicted in a New York criminal case.

"I am more grateful today for the love and support I experienced this last week from [his wife] Melissa, my family, my friends and my community than I am disappointed by the outcome," Hunter Biden said after the verdict.

He could face up to 25 years in prison and a fine of up to $750,000, although sentences for federal crimes tend to be lower. The court has yet to set a sentencing date.

"I am the president, but I am also a Dad. Jill and I love our son, and we are so proud of the man he is today," said Biden in a statement after the verdict yesterday. "So many families who have had loved ones battle addiction understand the feeling of pride seeing someone you love come out the other side and be so strong and resilient in recovery."

Biden said that he would "accept the outcome of this case and will continue to respect the judicial process as Hunter considers an appeal".

The trial in Wilmington featured testimony about Hunter's romantic relationship with his widowed sister-in-law, Hallie, after Beau's death, and their struggles with crack cocaine. Biden was convicted on all three counts.

Abbe Lowell, Biden's lawyer, said in a statement that "we are naturally disappointed by today's verdict" and that "we will continue to vigorously pursue all the legal challenges available to Hunter".

Trump's campaign said after the verdict the "trial has been nothing more than a distraction from the real crimes of the Biden Crime Family".

At issue was whether Hunter lied about his drug use when buying a .38-calibre Colt Cobra revolver on October 12 2018 from a Wilmington dealer while waiting for his iPhone to be serviced at a nearby store. On a federal background check, Hunter selected "no" when asked whether he used or was addicted to controlled substances.

Prosecutors alleged that was a lie and showed evidence that included text messages to dealers named "Mookie" and "Q", testimony from ex-girlfriends and photos of Hunter Biden weighing drugs. In one text message to Hallie, two days after the gun purchase, he said he was "sitting on a car smoking crack".

They also quoted extensively from Hunter Biden's 2021 memoir, *Beautiful Things*, in which he chronicled his spiral into crack addiction after Beau's death.

Additional reporting by Lauren Fedor in Washington

South-east Asia. New government

Indonesia presidency will be 'family enterprise'

Incoming leader poised to place tycoon brother at the heart of his administration

A. ANANTHA LAKSHMI — JAKARTA
CYNTHIA O'MURCHU — LONDON

From the shores of Lake Geneva to the holiday island of Bali, two events in recent weeks show the importance of Hashim Djojohadikusumo, a powerful tycoon and political fixer, to his brother Prabowo Subianto, the incoming Indonesian president.

In the affluent Swiss town of Anières, home to diplomats, bankers and the world's rich, authorities in late April auctioned two luxury villas with the goal of recovering tax dues from Hashim after a decades-long fight to secure SFr131mn ($144mn) from the tycoon and his wife Anie.

The couple, who said in court they were divorced, argued that they could not pay up because they were insolvent, having spent hundreds of millions of dollars bailing out Prabowo's business and funding his previous election campaigns. Swiss courts dismissed claims of insolvency and their separation and approved a sale to recoup funds.

Hashim's importance to his brother was on show last month in Bali, where the two men entertained Elon Musk for dinner. Ministers pressed Musk to consider establishing an electric vehicle factory in Indonesia, underlining how its vast nickel reserves and incipient EV supply chain remain key to the success of Prabowo's presidency.

Prabowo takes office in October, but there is still widespread uncertainty about how he will govern. Hashim, 70, is the man Prabowo trusts most, according to four people close to both men, although it is not clear if he will get a formal position in the new administration.

"There is no one that Prabowo is going to trust more than his brother. He is going to be very central to the next administration," said one of the four people. The brothers belong to one of Indonesia's best-known families. Hashim — once among Indonesia's richest men — has been closely involved in Prabowo's three presidential runs, acting as a spokesperson and adviser.

"He is one of Prabowo's closest advisers and also somebody whom Prabowo listens to," said Kevin O'Rourke, a political analyst at Reformasi Information Services, a consultancy. The Swiss court case raised questions about Prabowo's administration, given the influential role that Hashim was set to play and the "extraordinary strategy" used by Hashim to fight the tax dues, he added.

A second person close to the family described Prabowo's upcoming presidency as a "family enterprise" with the younger Hashim playing a pivotal role.

Some companies and individuals eager to work with Prabowo have met Hashim as a first step, one diplomat said. When there were concerns over Prabowo's divisive and nationalist rhetoric in his first two presidential runs, Hashim met business groups to ease their concerns, according to a person familiar with the meetings.

The Djojohadikusumo family has enjoyed an influential position in Indonesia's modern history. Prabowo and Hashim's grandfather played a significant role in Indonesia's independence movement, while their father served in the cabinet of two presidents, including the late dictator Suharto.

Under Suharto's regime, the brothers' stature grew. Hashim was a much sought-after businessman in the 1990s whose holdings included banks, petrochemicals, energy, cement manufacturing and palm oil plantations.

Prabowo served in Indonesia's military for decades, mostly in the special forces, and was once married to Suharto's daughter. In the 1990s, he was accused of kidnapping pro-democracy activists — allegations which led to his ousting from the military in 1998. Several activists remain missing. Prabowo has denied any involvement, but he was barred from entering the US until he became defence minister in 2019.

After the downfall of Suharto, both men's fortunes turned — albeit briefly. Prabowo went into exile in Jordan. Hashim, whose businesses took a hit from the Asian financial crisis, moved to Geneva in the late 1990s with Anie, according to Swiss court documents.

The Geneva tax office began an assessment inquiry in 2003.

The couple argued in court that they could not pay back taxes owed because they were insolvent after financing the parliamentary campaigns of two of their children, Prabowo and Indonesian president Joko Widodo between 2009 and 2014. Hashim also said he had spent $420mn to bail out his brother's firm. A Swiss court said the spending was unproven. Hashim and his wife also claimed their finances had deteriorated following the 2008 financial crisis.

A court in 2020 held that the couple had failed to prove their repeated claims of insolvency, citing his ranking as one of Indonesia's richest people on the Forbes list as being in "total contradiction with their allegations" of financial ruin. Forbes put his net worth at $685mn that year, with an earlier sale of a Kazakh oilfield to China's Citic Group for $1.9bn boosting his wealth.

Despite their divorce in 2019, a court noted numerous photographs of them together on the internet. A court held that the couple's "aim in divorcing could not have had any other objective than to get out of their obligation to pay the tax balances due". A final appeal in the Federal Supreme Court in December 2023 failed, paving the way for Geneva authorities to sell their properties.

Hashim and Anie did not respond to requests for comment sent through their lawyer in Geneva and his company, Arsari, in Jakarta. Prabowo and Widodo's spokespeople did not respond to a request for comment.

Additional reporting by Diana Mariska in Jakarta



Prabowo, left, and Hashim. Both men met Elon Musk (below) in Bali last month
FT montage/ Sonny Tumbelaka/AFP/Getty



'There is no one that Prabowo is going to trust more than his brother. He is going to be very central'

War in Gaza

Israeli cabinet weighs range of punitive action against UN agencies

NERI ZILBER — TEL AVIV

Benjamin Netanyahu's government has discussed far-reaching measures against UN agencies operating in Israel and the Palestinian territories, including the possible expulsion of staff, according to five people familiar with the matter.

Tensions between Israel and the organisation have reached crisis point after eight months of war in Gaza, where bodies such as the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) are integral to aid operations.

This hardening of Israel's attitude was spurred by the move late last week of António Guterres, UN secretary-general, to add Israel's military to a list of countries and organisations that fail to protect children in conflict, which puts the Israel Defense Forces on a par with Boko Haram and Isis.

Gilad Erdan, Israel's envoy to the UN, described the blacklisting as "shameful", with officials promising a reprisal against UN bodies that have worked in Israel, Jerusalem and the occupied Palestinian Territories for decades.

The Israeli cabinet considered a range of options on Sunday night, with the National Security Council continuing discussions on Monday, according to two people familiar with the matter.

"They need to be concerned," one Israeli official said of the UN agencies.

While no final decision has been taken, measures under discussion include the "slow-roll" or outright rejection of visa renewals for foreign UN staff, the boycott by the Israeli government of key UN officials, as well as the unilateral termination and expulsion of entire UN missions, such as the UNTSO peacekeeping force established in 1948.

Additional alarm has been raised in western diplomatic circles about the fate of UN agencies that are integral to humanitarian aid operations in Gaza and the occupied West Bank, including the Unicef children's agency and OCHA. The Special Co-ordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO), the main political arm of the UN effort in Israel and the Palestinian territories, may also be targeted, according to several people.

UNSCO has been central to de-escalating tensions and securing ceasefires via back-channel diplomacy through multiple previous rounds of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Relations between Israel and the UN were already strained even before last week's decision about the IDF. Israeli and UN officials have exchanged near-daily mutual, and highly public, recriminations over the lack of humanitarian aid that has reached Gaza.

Israel has alleged that dozens of Hamas and other militant operatives who took part in the October 7 attack on Israel were employed by UNRWA, the agency for Palestinian refugees. Israel has also targeted multiple UNRWA schools and facilities in Gaza, including last week, alleging that they were being used by Hamas as military installations.

Erdan last month decried the UN as a "terror organisation" that "co-operates with Hamas" and "provides cover for it".

The UN has in turn chided Israel for not doing enough to protect the organisation's humanitarian personnel in Gaza or Palestinian civilians, with Guterres calling Gaza a "graveyard for children".

The secretary-general also condemned the deaths at the weekend of "hundreds of Palestinian civilians" during an Israeli special forces raid on the Nuseirat refugee camp in Gaza that freed four Israeli hostages held by Hamas.

Knife attack

US college teachers stabbed in China park

RYAN MCMORROW — BEIJING
WILLIAM SANDLUND — HONG KONG
DEMETRI SEVASTOPULO — WASHINGTON

Four teachers from a US college have been stabbed in an attack in north-eastern China, according to Chinese and US officials.

The victims were taking part in an exchange programme organised by Beihua University in the city of Jilin and Cornell College, a small liberal arts college in Iowa.

The attack on Monday took place in a park near Beihua's campus. Video footage on social media showed three people lying on the ground, bleeding profusely and calling for help as a crowd of Chinese people gathered around.

The incident comes as the US and China try to ease tensions after relations hit rock bottom last year. Following his summit with President Joe Biden in San Francisco in November, President Xi Jinping said he wanted to invite 50,000 Americans to study in China over five years. There are currently fewer than 1,000 US students in China.

"I am angered and deeply troubled by the stabbing of 3 US citizens + a non-citizen resident of Iowa in Jilin," Nicholas Burns, US ambassador to China, wrote in on social media platform X.

US national security adviser Jake Sullivan said the Biden administration was "deeply concerned" by the incident and wished the victims a quick recovery.

"Our team has been in touch [with] these Americans and our PRC [People's Republic of China] counterparts to ensure that the victims' needs are met, and appropriate law enforcement steps are being taken," he wrote on X.

Footage and discussion of the attack were censored in China, which has become customary for sensitive issues. Nationalist commentator Hu Xijin wrote on Chinese social media that he hoped the victims "would get prompt medical attention and be well". The post later disappeared.

China's foreign ministry said police believed the attack was an isolated incident. Spokesperson Lin Jian said the injured were rushed to a hospital. None of them was in a critical condition.

"China is universally recognised as one of the safest countries in the world," said Lin, adding that the incident would not affect "people-to-people exchanges between China and the US".

Jilin police yesterday evening said they had arrested a 55-year-old man, surnamed Cui. They said Cui had bumped into a foreign national while walking in the park and then stabbed the foreigner and three others, as well as a Chinese tourist who tried to stop him.

Additional reporting by Nian Liu in Beijing

Respiratory virus

EU secures 40mn doses of avian flu vaccine

DARIA MOSOLOVA — BRUSSELS
IAN JOHNSTON — LONDON

The European Commission has signed a deal for more than 40mn doses of a vaccine against bird flu for 15 countries across the continent, as member states grapple with a rise in cases of the respiratory virus.

The EU's executive arm announced the contract yesterday, procuring up to 665,000 vaccine doses — which can be adapted to any bird flu strain — from Australia-based manufacturer CSL Seqirus. The deal includes a provision for a further 40mn vaccines over the next four years.

The deal comes as governments monitor an increase in bird flu cases in animals after 10 US states reported outbreaks in cattle in recent months, with three cases in humans following exposure to dairy cows.

Last week, the World Health Organization reported that a farmworker in Mexico had died after contracting the H5N2 variant, a strain previously undetected in humans but reported in Mexican poultry. There have been no recorded cases of human-to-human transmission of the virus.

The outbreaks have increased concerns over the safety of dairy and meat products. Strains of the virus have been detected in US milk, although pasteurisation kills the pathogen.

The tissue of one dairy cow was also reported to be infected but meat from the animal did not enter food supply chains, the US agriculture department said last month.

Stella Kyriakides, European commissioner for health and food safety, said: "While the threat of avian influenza to the general population remains low, we need to protect people at higher risk, such as poultry and farm workers or certain veterinarians."

Monitoring by the EU reference laboratory for avian influenza shows there have been 522 outbreaks of bird flu detected in wild and captive birds in 27 countries since the start of the year.

According to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, the risk of transmission from animals to humans is considered low in Europe. The commission said there were "no reported active cases" in EU citizens.

The doses will go to people most exposed to the virus, including farm workers and veterinarians, with the first shipment heading to Finland. Outbreaks of bird flu in the Nordic country's mink farms last year raised concerns of transmission to humans.

The US has a stockpile of flu vaccines from GSK, Sanofi and CSL Seqirus that can provide immunity against bird flu.

Call of the frontier Investors are snapping up emerging market debt of former pariahs such as Kenya and Pakistan PAGE 13

Companies & Markets

Private equity launches wave of deals for top US auditors

- Ten of 30 big accountants involved
- Sales address sector's need for cash

STEPHEN FOLEY AND ANTOINE GARA
NEW YORK

Ten of the 30 largest US accounting firms could soon be in private equity hands, according to people familiar with negotiations, as at least four groups hold deal talks following this year's sales of Grant Thornton and Baker Tilly.

The acquisitions by financial buyers of those two top-10 firms by revenue opened the floodgates to other deals, the people said, positioning private equity to increase its influence over the US accounting profession dramatically.

One top-30 firm, Atlanta-based Aprio, was planning a deal to sell a majority stake to the private equity firm Charlesbank Capital, according to people familiar with the situation.

> 'Partners are waking up to the fact there is leverage to be had by tapping into the capital markets'

Two more — New York's PKF O'Connor Davies and Carr, Riggs & Ingram of Alabama — had engaged bankers to run sale processes, they said.

California-based Armanino, the country's 19th largest firm, according to Accounting Today, was in talks with a private capital provider about selling a minority stake, the people said. Armanino hit the headlines as the auditor of the US operations of crypto exchange FTX, which collapsed in 2022.

The deal wave sweeping the profession means that one in three of the top 30 firms has taken, or is close to taking, private equity investment.

"Partners are waking up to the fact that there is leverage to be had by tapping into the capital markets," said Alan Whitman, a former chief executive of Baker Tilly. "The capital needs of the firms have increased exponentially in recent years, in terms of people costs and investments in offshoring and technology."

Deals can also mean windfalls for partners, and the prospect of capital appreciation via their ongoing stakes.

But regulators have expressed concern about whether private equity ownership could change the "tone at the top" of accounting firms and affect the quality of their audit work. Paul Munter, chief accountant at the US Securities and Exchange Commission, said last month "firm leaders need to be sensitive to the message such arrangements could send and stand ready to correct any such misimpressions".

Private equity groups have jumped into the accounting sector with enthusiasm. New Mountain Capital's acquisition, with two co-investors, of a 60 per cent stake in Grant Thornton for $1.4bn was its second deal in the sector. Grant Thornton bosses resolved a dispute with former partners over retirement benefits and the deal closed last month.

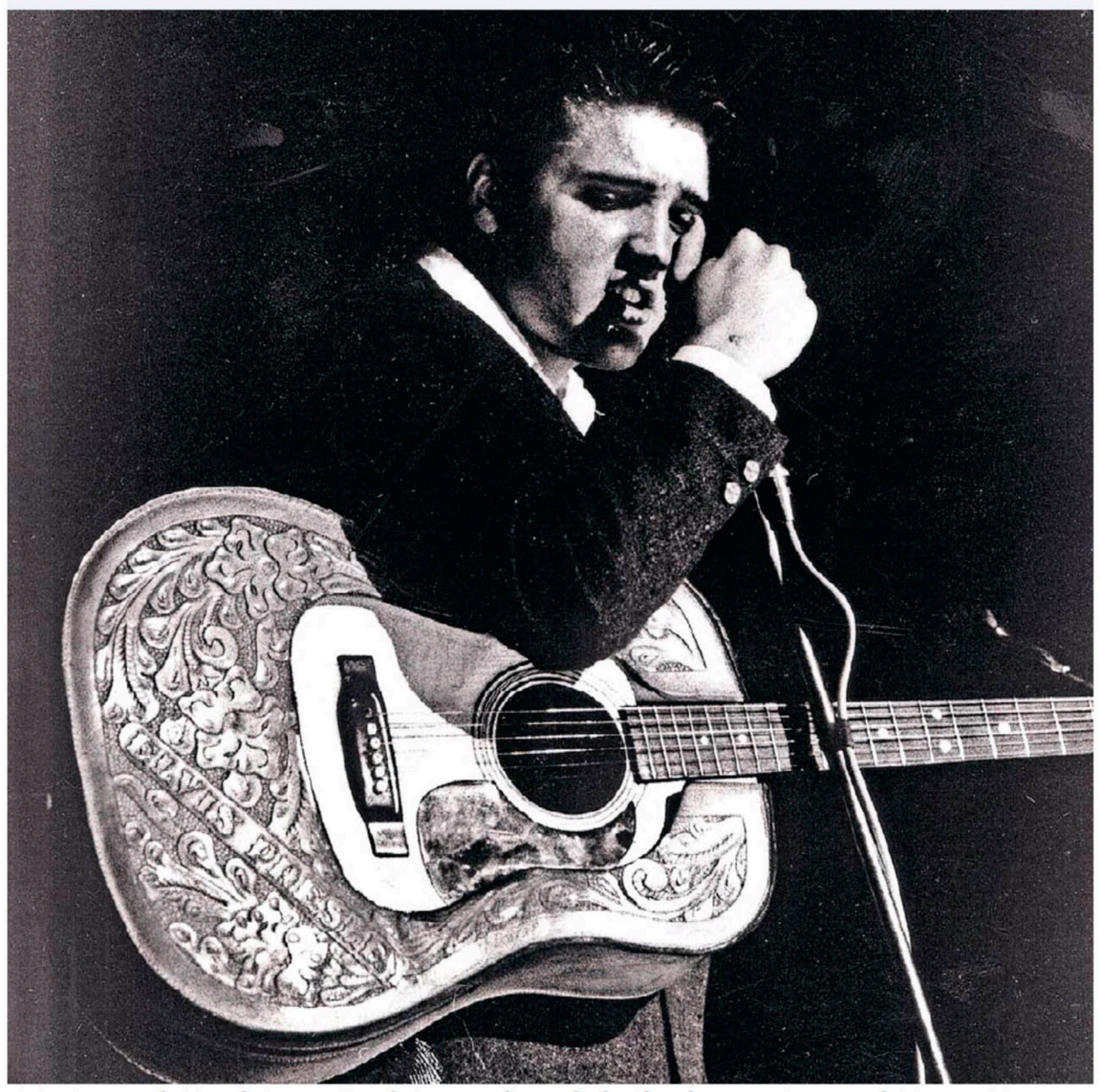
There was also robust appetite from the loan market for a $1.9bn debt sale to refinance Grant Thornton's liabilities, which priced with an interest rate 325 basis points above the Sofr benchmark, said one person familiar with the sale.

"Private capital is penetrating the accounting profession in a way that we never thought possible," said Allan Koltin, a deal adviser to accounting firms.

Carr, Riggs & Ingram, which had revenue of $455mn in its past fiscal year, narrowed potential investors to three after an initial bid deadline last month, according to people familiar with the situation. The deal process is being run by investment bank William Blair.

PKF O'Connor Davies, whose annual revenues are put at $380mn by Accounting Today, had engaged Capstone Partners to run its sale process, the people said. Aprio, with revenues of $420mn, used advisory group Falcon.

Return of the King Group behind virtual Abba show holds talks to put digital Presley on stage



Now or never: Elvis Presley in 1956. Pophouse is seeking a deal with rights owners Sony and ABG — Michael Ochs Archives

IVAN LEVINGSTON — BERLIN
DANIEL THOMAS — LONDON
ANTOINE GARA — NEW YORK

Elvis Presley, "the King of Rock 'n' Roll", is the next singer who could be revived in hologram form for live performances by the Swedish entertainment company Pophouse.

Co-founded by Abba's Björn Ulvaeus, Pophouse has held discussions with the owners of Presley's intellectual property to bring back the US star in digital avatar form for live shows, according to people familiar with the matter.

Sony Music owns the rights to the musician's work, while intellectual property including Presley's image and likeness is owned by investment company Authentic Brands Group.

The discussions between Pophouse, Sony and ABG have been focused on a commercial partnership rather than a sale of the music rights or intellectual property, some of the people said.

This means that a deal would be different from the recent $300mn acquisition of the music and image rights to the rock band Kiss. Pophouse will create a live show featuring avatars of the members of Kiss, similar to Abba Voyage, the London show that features digital versions of the members of the Swedish band playing their hits.

There is no certainty a deal will be reached, people close to the talks said.

Abba's Ulvaeus hinted at the potential partnership at a private equity conference in Berlin earlier this month, saying he "would like to work with Elvis. I would like to see the young Elvis come alive again."

He spoke alongside Conni Jonsson, chair of Swedish private equity group EQT and a co-founder of Pophouse, who said that while Presley performed for American audiences during his career "maybe the rest of the world would like to see Elvis Presley".

Fans in London will be able to see a holographic version of Presley already from this November when a venture called Layered Reality launches its "Elvis Evolution" experience that will incorporate virtual reality and holographic projections, according to its website.

Pophouse began investing in music catalogues two years ago by acquiring the majority share of the catalogues of Swedish dance acts Avicii and Swedish House Mafia.

The company is the lead investor and co-producer behind the Abba Voyage virtual concert. Pophouse has also acquired Cyndi Lauper's music catalogue.

Per Sundin, chief executive of Pophouse, was previously managing director of Universal Music Sweden and president of Universal Music in the Nordic region.

Pophouse, Sony and ABG declined to comment.

Invesco to merge UK and European equities units

EMMA DUNKLEY — LONDON

Invesco is shuttering its standalone UK equities team, formerly led by fund manager Neil Woodford, and merging it with its European division amid an industry-wide drop in interest for British stocks.

The US-headquartered asset manager said the move to merge the desks "to create one Pan European Equity Team" will take effect from January and is intended to encourage "collaboration" between the divisions based in Henley-on-Thames. Invesco added that the decision "was made in Henley by the investment management teams".

But the move is yet another setback for UK equity funds. The decision marks the end of an era after Invesco's UK equity team gained prominence under its former star stockpicker Woodford.

Woodford — whom the UK financial watchdog is investigating following the 2019 collapse of his £3.7bn Equity Income Fund — rose to fame in the active management industry after shunning technology stocks just as the bubble burst at the turn of the millennium. Instead, he invested in "old economy" stocks such as tobacco companies, boosting returns as rivals floundered.

Ben Yearsley, investment director at consultancy Fairview Investing, said: "Invesco Perpetual was the UK market for many people for probably about 15 years — they were synonymous with each other. That was, of course, at peak Woodford. But a decade later and it seems to have gone to pot."

Woodford oversaw about £33bn across the Invesco UK Equity Income and High Income funds, including the money he ran for wealth manager St James's Place. These funds now manage about £1bn and £2.3bn respectively.

UK equity funds have suffered successive quarters of customer outflows as investors withdraw money from underperforming domestic shares in search of higher returns from global stocks. Investors are also exiting actively run funds in favour of cheaper index trackers. The Investment Association, a trade body, said UK equity funds suffered net retail outflows of £1.3bn in April.

John Surplice, head of Emea Equities at Invesco, said the two teams have "always worked closely" and "share many investment resources".

He added that the move was "simply formalising this collaborative approach further".

Toyota faces a dilemma as it looks to safeguard its supply chain

INSIDE BUSINESS
ASIA

David Keohane



With great fanfare last month, Toyota put on an event showcasing its planned next generation of internal combustion engines, the clearest demonstration yet of its bet on the hybrid boom.

Beyond the immediate need to convince investors and analysts, Toyota's chief executive and chief technology officer had another audience in mind too: the group's suppliers.

"It is important for us to make clear which direction we are going to create a future together with these companies. That is why we declared today that we want to create together the future for internal combustion engines," said Koji Sato, Toyota's chief executive.

Toyota's famous "just-in-time" supply chain has long been a key element of its success, allowing the development of a lean production approach that has been adopted worldwide by multinationals. And executives have long said they feel a moral obligation to maintain the country's millions of auto jobs.

That is all fine and good when things are going well but what if things go wrong? What if there are corporate decisions they cannot make at sufficient speed due to the obligation to protect the supply chain and jobs?

"Toyota's defence of its supply chain — which makes economic sense at the moment due to the continuing demand for hybrids — could become a liability at some point. And it's not just about Toyota but about Japan's auto industry as a whole," said James Hong, autos analyst with Macquarie.

Such a dilemma might also confront carmakers in Germany, France and the US. It is one where the risks and benefits are complicated by the broader political economy.

The operations of auto companies often reflect the workings of the countries where they are founded. Their development over time can be very directly linked to subsidies, aid and unofficial support. This can have a deep impact on how the companies, and their home countries, view social obligations in areas like jobs. It can also provide a parachute during periods of difficulty.

> 'It is important for us to make clear which direction we are going to create a future together with these companies'

More jobs can equal more stability for companies across different sectors. When things get rough you have a built-in corpus of consumers, voters and lobbyists to argue for your survival. And industries like auto production carry more weight than others.

Auto industry-related employment — — from fuel retailers to insurance to shipping — totals some 5.5mn jobs in Japan, according to the country's automobile manufacturers' association. The sector is estimated to account for 2.9 per cent of the nation's GDP and 13.9 per cent of manufacturing GDP. Sato said that Toyota did business with about 100 so-called tier-one suppliers, companies that sit at the top of the pyramid and provide products directly to big manufacturers. Beneath them are many more smaller companies who in turn supply the top tier.

"I think it's extremely rare to see a country sacrifice its automotive industry. It's a bit like steel or banks or ships, you just don't do it," said Thomas Besson, head of autos research at Kepler Cheuvreux.

Renault in France, Volkswagen in Germany, BYD in China, Ford and GM in the US — they are all the products of their country's political economies. Toyota is a product of Japan and a clearly successful one. The world's largest carmaker is churning out record profits and sales. And Toyota's defence of its supply chain is a reflection of the scale and variety of technological bets that protect it against uncertain regulations, politics and consumer preferences.

But if a carmaker must defend its supply chain and its jobs, then it is not overly difficult to see the risk that responsibility becomes a hindrance, slowing down innovation and burdening a company with unnecessary costs.

With the car industry in turmoil over the development of electric vehicles, that strategic issue is becoming more pressing. In Europe, a 2021 study for a supplier trade body by PwC estimated that a switch to EV production only in the region by 2035 would lead to the loss of some 500,000 jobs in power-train production for cars with internal combustion engines. This would be offset by 226,000 new jobs related to EV power-train production but there still would be less employment.

"The danger point . . . could arrive sooner than they are planning for due to EVs and China ramping up competition and supply even quicker than was estimated," said Hong. "And the simple point is that you don't need as many suppliers for EVs."

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Financials

Mercer snaps up UK pension specialist

Consulting unit of Marsh McLennan agrees to buy Cardano in growth push

EMMA DUNKLEY

Consulting group Mercer has agreed to buy pension manager Cardano, which oversees more than £50bn in assets, in an attempt to expand its business in the UK and take advantage of rising demand for workplace pensions.

Mercer, part of US professional services company Marsh McLennan, was set to announce the acquisition of the privately owned group as early as late yesterday, according to two people familiar with the situation. The deal for Cardano, which manages pension funds' assets and offers liability-driven investment strategies that help defined benefit retirement schemes meet payouts, will expand Mercer's footprint in the growing UK workplace pension market.

Cardano, which has operations in the UK and Netherlands, owns Now: Pensions, a provider of workplace pension schemes whose clients include Uber, which struck a deal in 2021 to offer thousands of its drivers a pension pot.

"The growth is in Now: Pensions and the shift towards defined contribution schemes," said an industry expert.

Benoit Hudon, Mercer's UK president and chief executive, said the deal would "position Mercer as the pension provider of choice in the UK and the Netherlands". Michaël De Lathauwer, chief executive of Cardano, said the companies "share an aligned culture", noting that Cardano would benefit from Mercer's scale and resources.

Rules that came into force in the UK in 2012 require employers to "auto-enrol" eligible employees in their workplace scheme rather than leave the decision to the individual. Companies must contribute at least 3 per cent of pensionable salary to the employee's retirement pot, the worker paying at least 5 per cent. Since 2012, more than 11mn workers have been put into a pension set up by their employer, with about one in 10 opting out.

> Clients of the workplace schemes provider include Uber, which struck a deal in 2021 for its drivers

The government had considered plans to reduce the age at which an employee's auto-enrolment kicks in to 18 and remove a limit on how much of a worker's salary was eligible for pension contribution. However, the reforms have faltered.

Mercer's deal comes after then prime minister Liz Truss's "mini" Budget in September 2022, which sent the value of gilts tumbling and hit providers of LDI strategies, including the pension consultants, which were heavily exposed to long-dated bonds and were left scrambling for cash to cover the shortfall.

This was particularly difficult for consultants that relied on external fund managers to run the money.

Mercer's deal to acquire Cardano bolstered its ability to manage LDI investments internally, according to one person close to the situation.

Cardano, founded in 2000, employs about 500 people and services more than 2mn pension savers through Now: Pensions.

Retail. Meme stocks

GameStop keeps investors guessing on $2bn trove

US chain's social media status has brought bumper cash pile but no clear growth strategy

GREGORY MEYER — NEW YORK

GameStop's ecommerce strategy has faltered, its bricks-and-mortar store count is shrinking and its sales are in a multiyear slide. But one measure of the video game retailer is a picture of health: the amount of cash in its accounts.

The company at the centre of the 2021 meme-stock frenzy has once again captivated Wall Street after its shares soared in the past month on little more than the re-emergence of the influential social media fan known as Roaring Kitty.

The management took advantage of its sudden increase in valuation to sell 45mn shares and raise $933mn. Last Friday GameStop alerted investors to a potential sale of another 75mn shares, which at Monday's closing price would be worth $1.9bn.

> 'They are smart enough to say: the capital markets are going to hand us capital today? We'll take it'

In doing so, it followed a well-worn meme stock playbook of recent years, using shortlived popularity to raise cash. The mystery is where it will put all the money, which stands at $2bn.

GameStop sells video game hardware and collectibles for gamers such as T-shirts and stuffed toys. The rise of games streamed on mobile apps has undercut a business still anchored by thousands of stores. GameStop did not respond to requests for comment. A prospectus last week said the company had no current plans to make any acquisitions or investments.

The stock's latest leap followed the reappearance of Keith Gill, the Massachusetts trader who in early 2021 helped to rally hordes of retail investors into the stock. Last week he made his return to YouTube under his Roaring Kitty moniker, where, beer in hand, he reiterated his belief in GameStop's value and chief executive Ryan Cohen's vision. "Now it's all about the transformation. That cash pile is growing," Gill said.

This time his followers seem unconvinced. GameStop shares have been falling since Gill's monologue on Friday and are down by half from their peak last month, closing at $21.83 on Monday.

Activist investor Cohen, GameStop's largest shareholder, joined its board in early 2021 after lambasting the management for being trapped in a "bricks-and-mortar mindset" that prevented progress towards becoming a tech company. His arrival helped set off the first explosive rise in the shares.

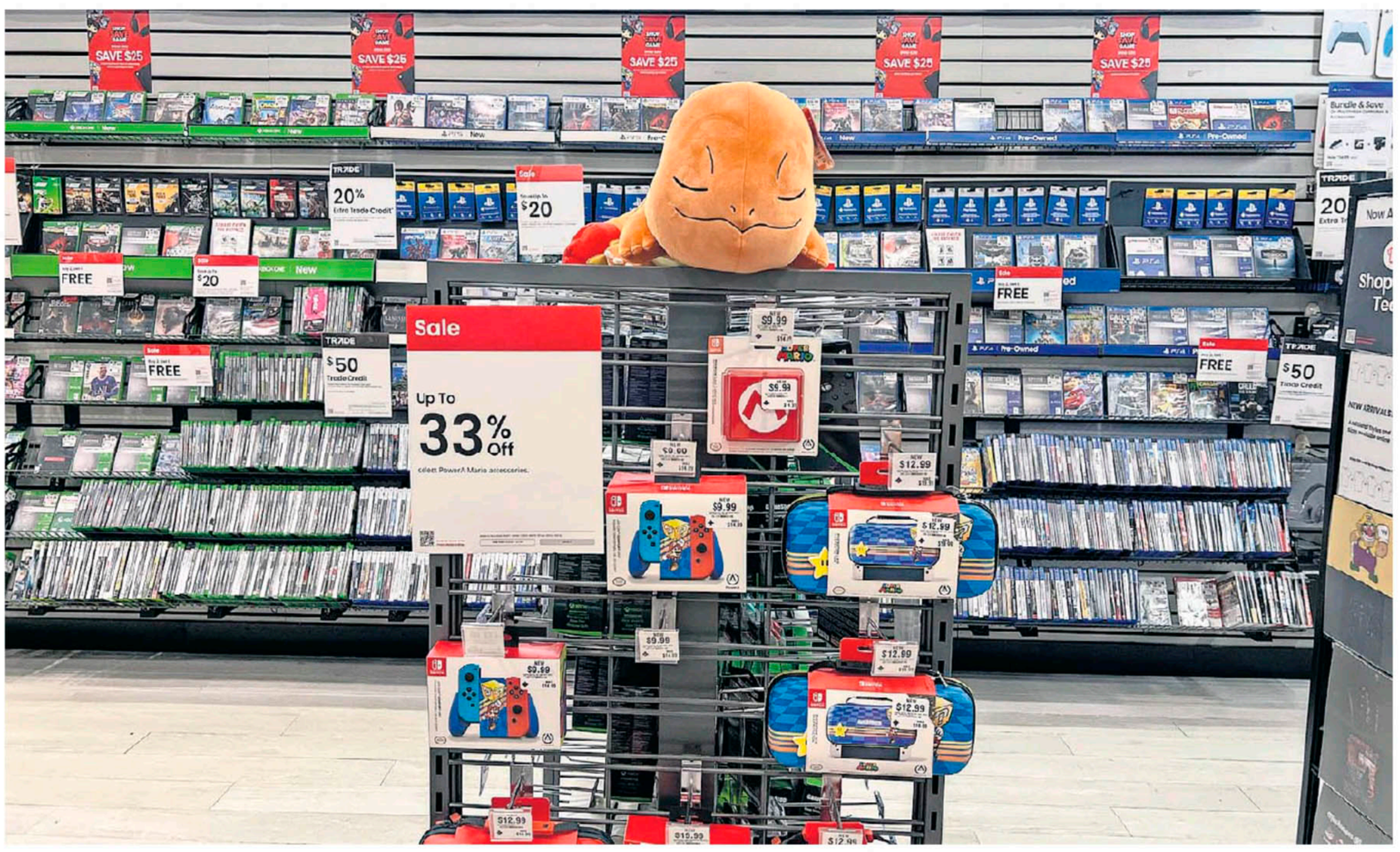
Cohen, the billionaire co-founder of online pet retailer Chewy, became CEO last September. But expectations of GameStop becoming an ecommerce powerhouse have so far failed to materialise.

"Instead of finding ways to increase revenue, he's finding ways to cut costs," said Michael Pachter, an analyst at Wedbush Securities.

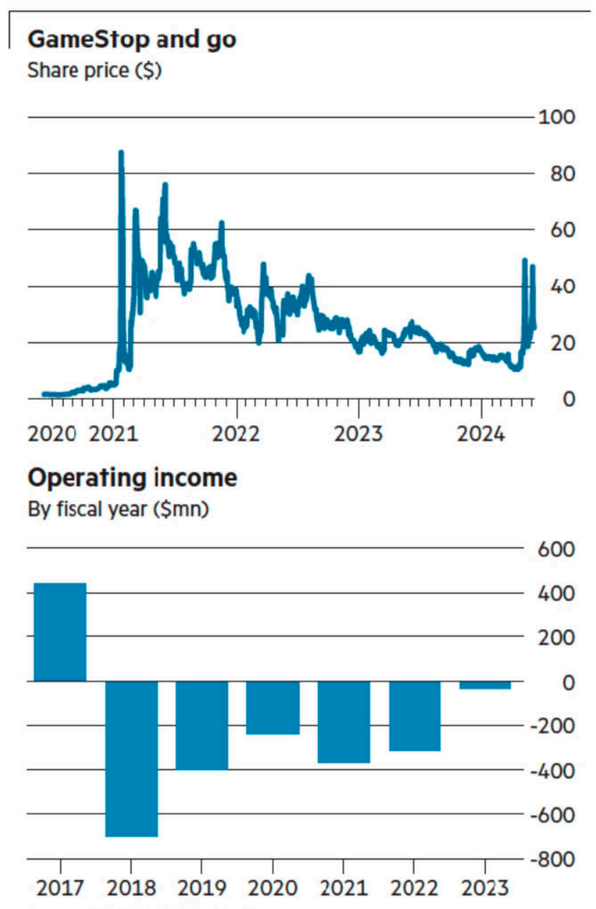
GameStop last Friday reported a 29 per cent decline in net sales in the first quarter that ended on May 4, to $882mn, while it held more than $1bn in cash and marketable securities on its books prior to the latest stock sale.

The potential use of GameStop's cash pile has been subject to speculation since it amended its investment policy in December to allow the purchase of equity securities.

Some speculated GameStop could follow the model of Berkshire Hathaway, Warren Buffett's investment conglomerate, which has a vast portfolio of stakes in other companies. In 2022, GameStop launched a marketplace for non-fungible tokens, a form of digital asset, that has since been wound down.



Merchandise lines the shelves of a GameStop store in Miami, Florida. The video games retailer's sales are falling and a prospectus last week said it had no acquisitions or investments in the pipeline
Joe Raedle/Getty Images



The group has shut two warehouses in Kentucky and Pennsylvania, leaving one in the US at its headquarters in Texas. Its total store count fell to 4,169 stores as of February, down from 4,800 in 2020. A store visited by the Financial Times this week revealed merchandise markdowns advertised on office paper printouts taped to the display racks.

So far GameStop has held fire on large capital outlays or acquisitions, instead hanging on to its cash hoard or purchasing low-risk securities such as short-term government bonds.

Most of the $1.7bn in share sales GameStop conducted in 2021 it used to pay down debt, earn interest and stanch operating losses, records show. The company earned nearly $50mn in interest income in its latest fiscal year, more than offsetting its operating losses, while its interest expenses disappeared.

James Angel, a finance professor at Georgetown University who has written about GameStop's previous stock volatility, said the company's willingness to raise capital was a sign of prudence. "They are smart enough to say: 'The capital markets are going to hand us capital today? We'll take it. Even if we don't have any use for it, we'll grab it while we can and then look for a good use for it,'" he said.

Transport

Singapore Airlines offers initial $25,000 to badly hurt passengers

MERCEDES RUEHL — SINGAPORE
ROBERT WRIGHT — LONDON

Singapore Airlines is offering initial compensation of $25,000 to some of the passengers on a flight from London last month that suffered severe turbulence, leading to one death and multiple severe injuries.

Those with injuries requiring long-term medical care have been offered an advance payment of $25,000. For those who suffered minor injuries in the May 21 incident, the airline has offered $10,000. The carrier said in a social media post yesterday that it had sent the offers to passengers on June 10.

A law firm representing some of the passengers said it was advising everyone to seek legal advice before signing anything with Singapore Airlines.

"Our working theory remains that this incident could have been avoided and therefore some fault lies with Singapore Airlines," said Peter Carter, director of Carter Capner Law.

"Our team, which includes very experienced airline captains, believes there is evidence to suggest that the aircraft flew through the top of a thunderstorm or in proximity to one as it passed over an area notorious for thunderstorm activity in the inter tropical convergence zone."

> 'Our working theory remains that this incident could have been avoided'
> Peter Carter, lawyer

Singapore Airlines said it was unable to comment on the views of other lawyers. "SIA is fully co-operating with the relevant authorities in the investigation into this incident," it said.

Earlier, the airline said it had invited those who had sustained more serious injuries "to discuss a compensation offer to meet each of their specific circumstances when they feel well and ready to do so".

It said: "Passengers medically assessed as having sustained serious injuries, requiring long-term medical care, and requesting financial assistance are offered an advance payment of $25,000 to address their immediate needs. This will be part of the final compensation that these passengers will receive."

The airline confirmed it had also given passengers S$1,000 (US$740) for immediate expenses following the flight. It would provide a full refund of airfares to all passengers.

One person died and dozens were hurt, including suffering severe spinal and brain injuries, when Flight SQ321 from London to Singapore experienced sudden, extreme turbulence over the Irrawaddy basin. The flight was diverted to Bangkok.

The jet dropped 178ft in less than five seconds, with passengers experiencing rapid changes in g-force, according to a preliminary chronology compiled by Singapore's Transport Safety Investigation Bureau, the US National Transportation Safety Board, the Federal Aviation Administration, and Boeing.

The flight underwent an "uncommanded" rise in altitude and airspeed while the autopilot was switched on, which the report said was most likely due to the aircraft being hit by a rapid upward movement of air, which lifted it more than 360ft. The incident lasted just over a minute before the flight returned to its planned altitude.

A probe by the Transport Safety Investigation Bureau is continuing.

Banks

Moelis director on leave amid scuffle inquiry

JOSHUA FRANKLIN AND AMELIA POLLARD — NEW YORK
IVAN LEVINGSTON — LONDON

Investment bank Moelis has placed one of its top employees on leave as it investigates a video on social media that appeared to show him punching a person during a New York City Pride event.

The short clip posted on social media platform X shows a man hitting a person in the face at a street corner and walking away.

The post identified the man as Jonathan Kaye, a managing director at the Wall Street bank, and said the incident happened at a Brooklyn Pride event over the weekend.

"We are aware that one of our employees was involved in a serious incident in Brooklyn on June 8. We take this matter very seriously, and this employee is on leave as we continue to conduct our investigation," Moelis said.

A spokesperson confirmed that the person in the video was Kaye. The video is only 10 seconds long, and does not include any build-up to the incident. However, the back of Kaye's jacket appears visibly wet in the footage, suggesting that some back-and-forth may have happened before filming began.

One person briefed on the matter said the altercation took place after four individuals with a Palestinian flag threw liquids on Kaye in response to Kaye, who is Jewish, telling them that they were "on the wrong side". In the scuffle, Kaye fell to the ground and injured his knee, this person said.

The New York Police Department said it was looking into the incident, but added that it had not received an official complaint.

"The NYPD is aware of the video. We encourage anyone who has been a victim to file a police report. There are currently no complaint reports on file," a spokesperson for the Deputy Commissioner of Public Information said in an email.

According to the bank's website, Kaye heads the global business services franchise at Moelis and has worked in the investment banking industry for two decades. Under Kaye, the site says, the franchise "has become a recognised global leader having advised on over 100 transactions across the sector".

Led by founder Ken Moelis, the investment bank is listed in New York and has a market capitalisation of $4bn.

Technology

Atos opts for shareholder's restructuring plan

ADRIENNE KLASA

French IT services company Atos has chosen a restructuring plan led by its largest shareholder, Onepoint's David Layani, over a rival proposal from Czech magnate Daniel Křetínský.

The Paris-listed group said yesterday that it would work with a consortium led by Onepoint, an IT consultancy founded by Layani, and a court-appointed mediator to finalise a deal by next month.

Layani and Křetínský have spent months vying for control of Atos, a former star of the French tech industry that has struggled to stay afloat under a €4.8bn debt burden. The company's shares have collapsed over the past three years.

Under the proposal from the Onepoint consortium, about €2.9bn of debt will be converted into equity while €250mn of new funds will be injected into the company. Roughly €1.5bn of new debt will be provided, including €300mn of bank guarantees.

Shareholders will be massively diluted under the plan, but Layani's pitch was to keep Atos largely intact and under French control.

Shares in Atos were down 15 per cent yesterday.

It was a "milestone in our financial restructuring process. A solution has emerged, which aligns with the interest of the company's stakeholders, particularly our employees and clients", Atos chair Jean-Pierre Mustier said.

It is Křetínský's second disappointment on Atos after an earlier deal, which would have seen him buy the group's lossmaking legacy business, fell apart in February.

Explaining its decision to pursue Onepoint's proposal, Atos said it had creditors' support and "thus gives greater confidence that a definitive financial restructuring agreement will be reached".

The Czech mogul, who built his fortune by buying up unloved energy assets in eastern Europe, has been rapidly expanding his portfolio in retail, media and logistics in countries including France, Germany and the UK.

Separately, the French state is seeking to acquire three parts of Atos that are deemed of importance to national security for up to €1bn. They include supercalculators for quantum computing that are used by the army.

Whistl warning to Czech tycoon page 12

Apple embarks on 'new era' for device sales after joining forces with OpenAI

US tech group uses annual event to outline plans for suite of generative models embedded in its operating systems

MICHAEL ACTON
CUPERTINO, CALIFORNIA

When it finally arrived, the hottest and most widely telegraphed partnership in Silicon Valley was announced so quickly that the audience at Apple's headquarters in Cupertino barely had time to applaud it.

Anyone expecting OpenAI's Sam Altman, one of the key players in the generative artificial intelligence fever that has swept the tech sector, to appear onstage with Tim Cook at Apple's flagship annual developer event for an eye-catching photo opportunity will have been disappointed.

The focus of Apple's event on Monday was on just that: Apple. And its message was that the partnership with OpenAI was merely the first of many.

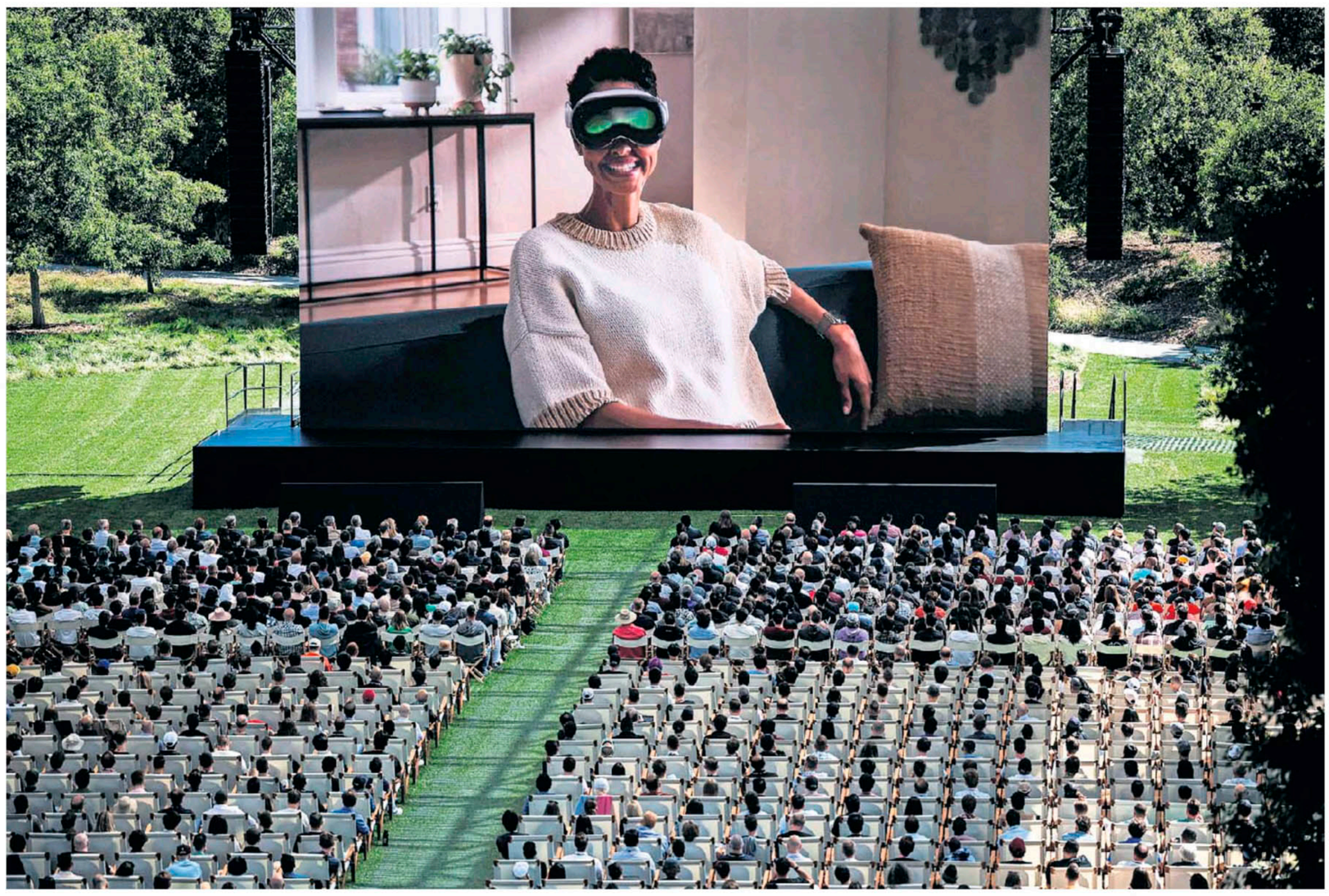
Apple's pitch to investors worried it is slipping behind on the technology is that if the first wave of generative AI has concerned artificial intelligence that understands the broader world, the iPhone maker is uniquely positioned to offer generative AI that understands you. That means Apple's own generative AI models received top billing.

"Apple Intelligence" is the tech giant's catch-all term for a suite of models, built and trained by Apple, that will be embedded in its new operating systems iOS 18, iPadOS18 and macOS Sequoia.

The company has not built generative models of the complexity and scale offered by rivals. It has opted instead to act as a gateway to other products on the market that can do the things Apple cannot. Its on-device foundational model has 3bn parameters. OpenAI's GPT-4o and Google's Gemini Pro are estimated to have more than a trillion.

"It doesn't surprise me [that Apple focused on its own solutions] because they want to emphasise that they are in control," said Gene Munster at Deepwater Asset Management. There is, he said, a "light year gap" between their model's capabilities and OpenAI's, and "they are not going to play that piece up".

Neither Apple nor OpenAI would say whether the partnership involved one of them paying the other in the same way that Google pays Apple about $20bn a year to be the default search engine on the iPhone maker's devices.



Apple's annual developer event in California on Monday, where the group set out its 'Apple Intelligence' ambitions — Carlos Barria/Reuters

> Apple is 'starting with the best' and already has an eye on another deal with Google

"We know that there are other models out there, and some of them have really fantastic world knowledge," Apple senior vice-president for software Craig Federighi said following the keynote presentation. Apple, he said, is simply "starting with the best" and already has an eye on another deal with Google over Gemini.

But even if Apple is focused on its own solutions, a cultural shift is still under way, Munster said. "Apple's AI, at the core of it, is in someone else's hands," he said. "They've never gone to a third party to license a core technology." The company's longtime search partnership with Google, he said, concerns a feature on the device, whereas AI "is more of an operating system".

Apple is playing up its traditional differentiator. It says its on-device models bring privacy and security benefits, emphasising that any personal data used to train its own AI models will stay within its ecosystem. These will run as much as possible on the device.

Where they do need to use the cloud, queries will go to servers owned and controlled by Apple. The idea is that users will not even notice which is being used.

The features this enables, such as custom-generated emojis, smart photo editing that allows users to seamlessly remove unwanted people or objects from photos, writing and drawing assistants, and a smarter Siri capable of more contextual awareness and interacting with both Apple's apps and third-party apps, are incremental.

The idea is that the iPhone and its productivity features will get smarter over time as the hardware gets more powerful and Apple's own models catch up.

In the meantime, ChatGPT will be tasked with handling more complex questions sent to Siri. Those might involve, for example, sending a picture of an ingredient that OpenAI's models can identify and recommend recipes for. It will also be integrated into Apple's writing tools.

Users will not be forced to use the feature and will receive a prompt from Siri before doing so. OpenAI meanwhile promises "built-in" privacy protections every time Siri pings ChatGPT. Requests will not be stored — which would allow a third party to develop a profile of a user — and users' IP addresses will be obscured. Users can choose to connect their ChatGPT account, which will mean that ChatGPT's data policies will then apply.

The move still had Tesla chief executive and X owner Elon Musk fuming. On X, he said that Apple apparently "isn't smart enough to make their own AI" and "has no clue" about what OpenAI would do with the data. He said he would ban Apple devices at his companies if OpenAI were integrated with them, calling it "an unacceptable security violation".

If nothing else, Musk's intervention reflected the intense scrutiny facing AI partnerships in Big Tech, with regulators vowing to intervene to address concentrations of power.

Meanwhile, if users want Apple's new features, they will need to be on Apple's latest and most powerful iPhones — the iPhone 15 Pro and Pro Max — powered by the newest A17 Pro chip. For laptops and tablets, the features will run on devices equipped with the M series of chips, which date back to 2020.

If iPhone users are clinging on to older models for longer, the demand that even smaller generative models place on ageing hardware creates an incentive for them to upgrade.

Francisco Jeronimo, data and analytics vice-president at the IDC research group, said the event marked "the beginning of a new era for Apple and for their users", with Apple positioning itself to benefit from a future "supercycle" of device sales as it transitions to new "intelligent devices".

Technology

Fundraising values French challenger Mistral at €5.8bn

TIM BRADSHAW — LONDON
LEILA ABBOUD — PARIS

Mistral AI, the Paris-based start-up, has raised €600mn in new funding at a valuation of almost €6bn, just a year after the Microsoft- and Nvidia-backed company was launched as an unlikely challenger to OpenAI.

The investment, which has tripled the company's price tag since December, is led by General Catalyst, alongside several of Mistral's existing investors including Lightspeed, Andreessen Horowitz, Bpifrance and BNP Paribas. Backers include Nvidia, Salesforce, Samsung and IBM.

Arthur Mensch, chief executive, said: "We were told when we started . . . that this is a market that is never going to be disrupted. We showed that this wasn't the case and we effectively disrupted the OpenAI business model."

Microsoft, which invested €15mn in February as part of a partnership to offer Mistral's products through its Azure cloud computing platform, did not participate in the new round.

The latest deal is the biggest yet for a start-up building large general-purpose AI models that is based outside Silicon Valley, as Mistral aims to grow from a European champion to a global contender with more than €1bn in firepower raised.

Investors are pouring big sums into AI start-ups that are building large language models, which are systems capable of producing high quality text and imagery in seconds. Big Tech companies including Microsoft, Google, Meta and Amazon, meanwhile, are ploughing tens of billions of dollars into computing infrastructure to build their own competing systems.



Guillaume Lample, Arthur Mensch and Timothée Lacroix of Mistral AI

Mistral's latest funding is made up of €468mn in equity and €132mn in debt and values the company, which was founded in mid-2023, at €5.8bn including the new capital raised, according to people close to the company. Co-founders Timothée Lacroix, Guillaume Lample and Mensch — a trio of French researchers who previously worked at Google's DeepMind and Meta — remain majority shareholders.

Mistral's latest round comes two weeks after Elon Musk raised $6bn for his start-up xAI, as rivals take aim at ChatGPT developer OpenAI's head start, which is fuelled by $13bn in backing from Microsoft.

Mensch said Mistral had used a "little more than 1,000" of the high-powered graphics processing units chips needed to train AI systems and spent "just a couple of dozen millions" of euros to build products that can rival those built using much bigger budgets by some of the richest companies, including OpenAI, Google and Meta.

"We seem to be doing very different calculations" of the costs needed to build large AI models than the likes of OpenAI chief Sam Altman, said Mensch.

Jeannette zu Fürstenberg, who leads General Catalyst's European business, said: "The capital efficiency of the company is really outstanding." Mistral had spent "the smallest possible fraction" of what its rivals had to build competitive AI models. "It really is very, very impressive how nimbly this team has operated."

Mensch said Mistral had opted to raise more capital now after receiving inbound interest from investors to scale up its commercialisation efforts as well as to buy more computing resources.

"It remains a capital-intensive market," he said. "The more [computing] capacity we have, the more people we can get into our team . . . to break the barriers of artificial intelligence."

Legal Notices

THE HIGH COURT
No. H. COS 2024-0000125
(2024 No 19 COM)

IN THE MATTER OF THE INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS IN IRELAND
AND IN THE MATTER OF SECTION 450 OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2014
AND IN THE MATTER OF A PROPOSAL FOR A SCHEME OF ARRANGEMENT
PURSUANT TO PART 9, CHAPTER 1 OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2014

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to section 453(2)(b) of the Irish Companies Act 2014 (the "**2014 Act**") that the following resolution approving a proposed scheme of arrangement (the "**Scheme**") between the Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("**CPA Ireland**") and its Members (as defined in the scheme document circulated by CPA Ireland to its members on or about 24 April 2024) was passed at a meeting of the members of CPA Ireland held on 17 May 2024 (which meeting was ordered by the High Court of Ireland (the "**Court**") on 22 April 2024 following an application by CPA Ireland pursuant to section 450(3) of the 2014 Act):

"That the Scheme in its original form or with or subject to any modification(s), addition(s) or condition(s) approved or imposed by the High Court be agreed to."

The purpose of the Scheme is to facilitate the amalgamation of CPA Ireland and The Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland ("**Chartered Accountants Ireland**"), such that CPA Ireland will become a wholly owned subsidiary of Chartered Accountants Ireland (with Chartered Accountants Ireland becoming the sole member of CPA Ireland). The Scheme will also provide for each Member to become a member of Chartered Accountants Ireland and to cease to be a member of CPA Ireland.

The Company will make an application to the Court pursuant to section 453(2)(c) of the 2014 Act for an order sanctioning the Scheme.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to an order made by the Court on **10 June 2024**, CPA Ireland will apply to the Court on **11 July 2024** under section 453(2)(c) of the 2014 Act for an order sanctioning the Scheme.

The Court has directed that the application for the sanction of the Scheme and any related orders be heard in the Commercial List of the Court sitting in the Four Courts, Inns Quay, Dublin 7, Ireland at **11:00 a.m. (Irish time) on 11 July 2024** (the "**Hearing**"). The Hearing will take place in a hybrid fashion and virtual meeting details are available from the solicitors for CPA Ireland at the email address below on request.

Any member or creditor of CPA Ireland that wishes to obtain a copy of CPA Ireland's filings relating to the Hearing should contact the solicitors for CPA Ireland at the email address below.

Any party with an interest in the Scheme may appear at the Hearing personally or be represented by a solicitor or by counsel. Any such party intending to so appear should give notice in writing to the solicitors for CPA Ireland by no later than **5:30 p.m. (Irish time) on 3 July 2024**, and any affidavit in support of any such appearance should be filed with the Central Office of the High Court of Ireland, and served on the solicitors for CPA Ireland, by no later than **5:30 p.m. (Irish time) on 3 July 2024**.

The Scheme proceedings are also listed in the Call Over Listing of the Commercial List on **5 July 2024 at 10.45 a.m. (Irish time).**

12 June 2024

ARTHUR COX
Solicitors for CPA Ireland
Ten Earlsfort Terrace
Dublin 2
D02 T380
Ireland
Ref:Conall.OShaughnessy@arthurcox.com

SAINT-GOBAIN

COMPAGNIE DE SAINT-GOBAIN
A French *société anonyme* with a share capital of €2,041,780,240
Registered Office at Tour Saint-Gobain, 12, place de l'Iris, 92400 Courbevoie (France)
542 039 532 R.C.S. Nanterre

NOTICE OF SECOND MEETING

Participating stocks April 1984 of €1,000 each

As the General meeting of the holders of participating stocks (*titres participatifs*) issued by Compagnie de Saint-Gobain (the "**Company**") in April 1984 could not deliberate on Wednesday, May 29, 2024 in the absence of the required quorum, the holders of participating stocks are reconvened to the General meeting on Thursday, June 27, 2024 at 12 p.m. (Paris time) at the registered head office of the Company, Tour Saint-Gobain, 12, place de l'Iris, 92400 Courbevoie Cedex (France), for the purpose of considering the following agenda:

Agenda

1. Board of Directors report on the Company's operations for fiscal year 2023;
2. Auditors' report on the financial statements for fiscal year 2023 and elements for determining the remuneration of the participating stocks;
3. Determination of the annual remuneration the holders' representative;
4. Powers to carry out formalities.

To attend or to be represented at this Meeting:

- The holders of registered participating stocks must be registered in the account kept by the Company no later than the date of the General Meeting.

- The holders of bearer participating stocks must prove within the same deadlines to the financial intermediary responsible for managing their securities accounts, that their participating stocks are registered by means of a certificate (*attestation de participation*) issued by said intermediary.

The holders of participating stocks may request a proxy or postal voting form from Uptevia – CTO Assemblées – Cœur Défense Tour A – 90-102 Esplanade du Général de Gaulle 92400 Courbevoie (France).

The shareholding certificate (*attestation de participation*) and proxy or postal voting form must be returned and received by Uptevia at the address indicated in the previous paragraph no later than Wednesday, June 26, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. (Paris time).

In accordance with Articles R. 22-10-24 and R. 225-79 of the French Commercial Code, notification of designation and revocation of a proxy, may also be done by e-mail (in addition to by mail), as follows:

- **For the holders of registered participating stocks:** by sending an e-mail with an electronic signature obtained by them from an authorized third party certifier to the following e-mail address: Paris.cts.france.mandats@uptevia.com. This e-mail must contain the following information: name of the Company, date of the Meeting, last name, first name, address and identifier of the holders of participating stocks (available from Uptevia in charge of managing the participating stocks service) as well as the last name and first name and, if possible, the address of the appointed or revoked proxy;

- **For the holders of registered participating stocks held through an intermediary and for the holders of bearer participating stocks:** by sending an e-mail with an electronic signature obtained by them from an authorized third party certifier to the following e-mail address: Paris.cts.france.mandats@uptevia.com. This e-mail must contain the following information: name of the Company, date of the Meeting, last name, first name, address and full bank account details of the holders of participating stocks, as well as last name, first name and, if possible, address of the designated or revoked proxy. Then, they will have to ask their financial intermediary managing their securities account to send a written confirmation to Uptevia – CTO Assemblées – Cœur Défense Tour A – 90-102 Esplanade du Général de Gaulle 92400 Courbevoie (France) or an e-mail to: Paris.cts.france.mandats@uptevia.com.

For the due process of electronic designations or revocations of proxies, confirmation will have to be received by Uptevia at the latest on Wednesday, June 26, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. (Paris time). Designations or revocations of proxies processed by paper will have to be received by Uptevia at the latest on Wednesday, June 26, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. (Paris time).

The Board of Directors

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AD7F5C3A845B38BD411E95A05E801456

UK COMPANIES

Tesco veteran crosses the aisle for big Waitrose test

Laura Onita



If there was a sign that Waitrose has been finding its form again in catering to Britain's middle classes, it could be an alliance struck with Yotam Ottolenghi.

The retailer started stocking sauces, pastes and spice blends from the dinner-party doyen in late April. Insiders say jars of pomegranate, rose and lemon harissa paste and miso pesto have been selling well, surpassing expectations.

The Ottolenghi mash-up came after Waitrose owner John Lewis Partnership reported that it had bounced back into profit in the year to January after three years of heavy losses. That was largely down to the performance of Waitrose, which lifted sales 5 per cent to £7.7bn. The John Lewis department store operations, by contrast, suffered a 4 per cent sales drop to £4.8bn.

Outgoing John Lewis chair Dame Sharon White said in March that the company would focus further its retail offering by opening more Waitrose shops and refurbishing existing ones. That broad strategy seems to have been endorsed by the choice of White's replacement, retail veteran Jason Tarry, who starts in September after 33 years at Tesco.

But retail watchers will be looking to the details of how Tarry, who is expected to have a hands-on role at John Lewis, carries out that plan and how he will work with James Bailey, the divisional boss of Waitrose, and other executives.

Bailey, a former buying director at Sainsbury's, joined in April 2020 as the pandemic struck.

It is only just emerging from the torrid time it has since had in the highly competitive grocery arena. Its market share has dropped from 5 per cent to 4.6 per cent, and is only slightly ahead of Marks and Spencer. Surging inflation saw some shoppers trade down.

Waitrose went through a painful decoupling from Ocado, the online supermarket that sold its products for almost two decades. Just as online shopping received a boost from the pandemic, it was ditched by Ocado for a now-resurgent M&S.

Last year Waitrose was plagued by technology issues. It has also lacked the firepower to meaningfully invest in its operations or launch a blitz of price promotions during the cost-of-living squeeze, owing to its unusual employee-owned structure, which limits its room for manoeuvre.

Waitrose said this year it planned to add to its 331 stores in areas where the brand was underserved, its first footprint expansion in about a decade, and refurbish 80 existing ones over three years. It is a costly but necessary endeavour, with competition fierce for the scarce space that could be profitable.

Some analysts suggest that when Tarry arrives, he should work with Bailey to devise a price match scheme to reinforce Waitrose's value credentials. Both Tesco and Sainsbury's have credited their initiatives to match discounter Aldi on price on hundreds of items for bolstering sales over the past couple of years.

"You wouldn't be surprised if Tarry comes in and goes, 'We had real success matching Aldi at Tesco.' Maybe Waitrose doesn't need to match Aldi but if they brought in Sainsbury's price match or M&S price match, that would help," one industry watcher said.

> The incoming John Lewis chair faces a very different culture at the risk-averse supermarket operation

But Richard Hyman, a retail analyst at Thought Provoking Consulting, believes Waitrose should not try to be all things to all people but should be confident about its upmarket offering and pricing.

Waitrose is seeking to deepen its relationship with customers as the likes of Tesco and Sainsbury's have done with loyalty schemes. The group said last year that it would launch a programme this year that would span John Lewis and Waitrose.

The retail industry will also be on the lookout to see if Waitrose reintroduces a perk similar to its free newspaper offer, which was scrapped amid cost-cutting in 2022.

Tarry was instrumental in turning round Tesco after it was hit by an accounting scandal in 2014. Hyman says the hope is that Tarry can do something similar. But he says that the culture of Tesco is very different to that of the risk-averse Waitrose. Tarry will have to "get involved in the weeds" of the retailer's operations. "This is a huge career move," says Hyman.

laura.onita@ft.com

Sport. Premier League

Aston Villa owner cries foul on spending rules

Billionaire Sawiris says system upholds the status quo and penalties lack transparency

JOSH NOBLE, ARASH MASSOUDI AND SAMUEL AGINI

The billionaire owner of Aston Villa has called for an overhaul of the Premier League's rule book on spending, complaining that the current system had turned English football into a "financial game".

Nassef Sawiris, Egypt's richest man, said existing regulations governing what clubs can spend were preventing ambitious owners from challenging the established elite, and the system of penalties for breaking the rules lacked transparency.

Sawiris, who owns Birmingham team Aston Villa alongside US private equity billionaire Wes Edens, also described the Premier League's so-called profit and sustainability rules as "anti-competitive", and said he was seeking legal advice on whether to lodge a formal complaint against them.

"Some of the rules have actually resulted in cementing the status quo more than creating upward mobility and fluidity in the sport," he said. "The rules do not make sense and are not good for football."

The Premier League is the most-watched domestic competition in world club football, generating billions of pounds in television revenue and making it a magnet for private equity firms, sovereign wealth funds and billionaires such as Sawiris.

But the increasing dominance on the pitch of Manchester City has undermined the league's reputation for competitiveness and led to increased debate over how it is run. The northern England club, owned by Abu Dhabi royal Sheikh Mansour, has won four titles in a row, a Premier League record, while also being the subject of 115 allegations of financial rule breaches over a period of several years.

Separately, rival clubs Everton and Nottingham Forest, both slapped with points deductions for exceeding allowed financial losses, have also criticised the rules.

Sawiris said regulations limiting how much a club can lose over a three-year period, brought in to prevent reckless overspending, had instead created some perverse incentives for owners, such as encouraging investment in music venues to boost non-sporting revenue, or prioritising sales of homegrown players to maximise accounting profits.



On target: Aston Villa striker Ollie Watkins in action — his performances helped the club finish fourth in the Premier League last season — Oli Scarff/AFP/Getty Images

"Managing a sports team has become more like being a treasurer or a bean counter rather than looking at what your team needs," he said. "It's more about creating paper profits, not real profits. It becomes a financial game, not a sporting game."

Aston Villa finished fourth in the Premier League last season, qualifying for the lucrative Uefa Champions League. But the club has been losing money in pursuit of on-field success even as it has increased revenues. In the 2022-23 season, Villa swung to a net loss of roughly £120mn.

Sawiris and Edens first purchased a 55 per cent stake in Villa for £30mn in 2018, rescuing the club from a financial crisis and quickly gaining promotion to the Premier League. They held full control of the club until late last year, when US investor Atairos funded a capital increase that valued Villa at more than £500mn, the Financial Times reported.

While the Premier League has acknowledged the need to reform its spending regulations, team owners are divided on what should replace it. Some want rules tightened to prevent the richest clubs from driving up costs; others want to be given more leeway to spend to stay competitive on the pitch.

At the league's annual meeting in Harrogate last week, clubs agreed to try out two new approaches to financial regulation. One limits spending on players to 85 per cent of revenue, while the other links the amount any club can spend to the income of the bottom-ranked team.

Both changes will be tested next season in tandem with existing regulations on profit and sustainability.

Sawiris complained financial regulations that incentivise sales of homegrown talent in effect penalise a club's loyalty and commitment to their own young players. Selling an academy player, valued at zero in the books because of accounting rules, allows a club to book an immediate profit. Yet management can then spend the proceeds on new players but spread the cost over several years. "This obvious flaw is to the detriment of the fans," he said.

> 'It's more about creating paper profits, not real profits. It becomes a financial game, not a sporting one'

The league's spending rules were designed to prevent clubs from going bust by limiting losses to £105mn over three seasons. Sawiris complained the system had failed to keep up with inflation since being introduced in 2013. And the decision-making process for dictating penalties for breaches was "opaque and . . . seemingly arbitrary", he said.

The Premier League is facing a legal challenge from City, which claims rules on related-party sponsorships and other transactions are unfair and anti-competitive. English football is also preparing for the introduction of an independent regulator, which will oversee certain financial aspects of the game.

Support services

Whistl warns Křetínský of its £600mn Royal Mail legal claim

OLIVER TELLING

Mail-sorting group Whistl has warned Czech billionaire Daniel Křetínský that he should prepare to shell out up to £600mn in damages following his takeover of Royal Mail, as it doubles down on a claim against the postal group for anti-competitive behaviour.

Nick Wells, Whistl's executive chair, said Royal Mail's current management had put its "head in the sand" since the company initially submitted its claim in 2018, but encouraged Křetínský to come to the negotiating table if he completes a takeover announced last month.

Křetínský's investment group "should be very cognisant, when they're buying Royal Mail, of the potential liability", he told the Financial Times.

Whistl, which sorts letters such as utility bills for business clients and passes them on to Royal Mail, is taking the former state-run postal service to the Competition Appeal Tribunal after Ofcom fined Royal Mail £50mn in 2018 for abuse of its dominant position in the bulk mail delivery market.

The postal regulator found that Royal Mail attempted to introduce a new pricing model that would have raised delivery costs for Whistl, a customer, in a deliberate move that prevented it launching a rival letter delivery service in 2014. The Supreme Court rejected Royal Mail's appeal against Ofcom's decision in 2022.

Whistl's claim for damages poses yet another challenge for Křetínský as his EP Group prepares to buy Royal Mail's owner, International Distribution Services.

> 'We always remain open to a negotiated settlement . . . We're expecting a substantial recompense'

"We always remain open to a negotiated settlement [but] we remain confident and committed to the legal process . . . We're expecting a substantial recompense," said Wells.

Whistl's £600mn claim would exceed the pre-tax £114mn profit generated by IDS during the most recent financial year, as Royal Mail struggles with growing competition in the parcels market, substandard service levels and discontented postal workers. A trial date has been set for November 2025, after EP Group expects to complete a takeover that values IDS at £5.3bn including debt.

Royal Mail will "have to wake up and smell the coffee and realise that they've got to pay damages for what they did", said Wells. "It is inconceivable that Daniel Křetínský and his team won't know about the potential liability . . . I would encourage [them] to engage, at the appropriate point."

The Competition Appeal Tribunal will hold a preliminary hearing for the case today.

Given the existing rulings in its favour, Peel Hunt analyst Alexander Paterson warned that "Whistl has got a very good case".

Royal Mail said Whistl's claim was "unsubstantiated and entirely without merit".

EP Group declined to comment.

Additional reporting by Ivan Levingston in Berlin

Retail

Former BHS directors told to repay £18mn

ALISTAIR GRAY

Two former directors of BHS have been ordered to pay at least £18mn to cover a chunk of the losses racked up by the UK retailer before its collapse in a landmark ruling from a High Court judge.

Former BHS general counsel Dominic Chandler and another ex-director, Lennart Henningson, were yesterday found liable in a wrongful trading and misfeasance lawsuit brought by liquidators.

Dominic Chappell, the former bankrupt who led the purchase of BHS from Sir Philip Green for £1 in 2015 and received a prison sentence in 2020, could be on the hook for an even larger sum. The judge has yet to rule on the sum he would need to cover, although he said he took the view that Chappell was "primarily liable" for losses at BHS.

Liquidators had accused the three former directors of seeking to "make money for themselves" at the expense of creditors in BHS, which had for decades been a British department store stalwart and whose collapse eight years ago was a national scandal.

In a 250,000-word judgment, Mr Justice Leech found that Chandler and Henningson had breached their duties as directors. Had they complied with them, he said, BHS would have ceased trading and been put "into insolvent administration immediately".

> Liquidators had accused three former executives of seeking to 'make money for themselves'

The full scale of the pair's liability is to be determined at a later date but is due to run into several millions.

The sum includes £6.5mn each arising from the wrongful trading claim. BHS liquidators FRP Advisory said this would mark the largest court award for wrongful trading since it was introduced by the Insolvency Act 1986. The total also includes at least £5.64mn for misfeasance claims.

Directors and officers insurance is in place to cover payouts, according to the judgment.

A further hearing to determine how the case against Chappell is to proceed is expected in coming weeks.

Lynn Dunne, dispute resolution partner at law firm Ashurst, who is not involved in the case, said the ruling was a "coup" for the liquidators as successful claims were "extremely rare".

The department store chain failed a year after Chappell's investment vehicle Retail Acquisitions bought it. Chappell was jailed for six years in 2020 after being convicted of tax evasion.

FRP has been pursuing directors in court proceedings in an attempt to recoup funds for creditors.

Lawyers for Chandler declined to comment, while those for Henningson have been contacted for comment.

Additional reporting by Laura Onita

Utilities

Severn Trent chief pay rises despite £2mn fine

GILL PLIMMER — LONDON

Severn Trent has awarded its chief executive a pay package of £3.2mn, including a £584,000 bonus, months after the utility received a £2mn fine for pollution.

Liv Garfield, chief executive of Severn Trent, which provides 4.6mn households and businesses in England with sewerage and water services, saw her pay rise 2.1 per cent on last year, according to the annual report released yesterday, despite her bonus being cut because of the fine.

The industry is under scrutiny over unknown quantities of sewage pouring into rivers and coastal waters, which is set to be a critical issue during the election. The awards come as water companies ask customers to pay for steep rises in bills, with a draft decision expected by regulator Ofwat in July.

Severn Trent has proposed a 36 per cent rise in bills to £546 a year per household, excluding inflation, by 2030.

Susan Davy, chief executive of Pennon, which owns South West Water, said on Monday she had forgone her annual bonus, which would have been worth £237,000.

Davy's pay rose to £860,000, up from £543,000 in 2022-23 as she picked up a long-term performance award to be held for two years and reinvested in Pennon stock. Pennon was already under fire for paying a £127mn dividend, days after a parasitic outbreak in drinking water in Devon.



The £3.2mn award to Liv Garfield comes after the business received a £2mn penalty for water pollution

Severn Trent said Garfield had her bonus cut because of the £2mn fine received for pollution in February. Quantities of raw sewage were allowed to flow into the Trent between 2019 and February 2020; 260mn litres were discharged illegally and in breach of permits.

An Environment Agency investigation found that a pump at the Strongford wastewater treatment works near Stoke-on-Trent had been broken for 52 days before the incident.

Severn Trent said Garfield's bonus was justified as the company had delivered against "operational targets for customers" and achieved a "four-star rating from the Environmental Agency for a fourth consecutive year". It said: "Just under three-quarters of executive pay is directly linked to performance, with stretching targets in place."

Although water companies are required as of last year to have electronic monitors on combined sewage overflow pipes, these measure the frequency but not the duration of spills. There are an additional 7,000 emergency pipes, meant to run in urgent circumstances such as power outages, which do not have monitors but will be required to have them by 2030.

Fixed income. Economic turnarounds

Frontier EMs lure investors back with higher yields



Foreign buyers snap up local currency debt of former pariahs such as Kenya and Pakistan

JOSEPH COTTERILL — LONDON

Investors are flocking to the local currency bonds of one-time emerging market pariahs such as Kenya and Pakistan, attracted by these countries' economic turnarounds and higher interest rates.

Egyptian, Pakistani, Nigerian, Kenyan and other countries' local currency debt have been some of the most unloved assets — short of outright defaulted debt — in EMs in recent years, as currency crises have ravaged their economies.

But such bonds are now making a comeback, helped by as a series of interest rate rises and moves to liberalise currency markets, as these countries bid to repair their damaged economies.

With interest rates on the way down in some of the more mature EMs such as Brazil, investors are finding the double-digit yields on offer in frontier markets too attractive to ignore.

"You are having to reach into slightly more off-piste trades in frontier to really make your money," said one EM fund manager who has invested in Egyptian T-bills and has also looked at short-term Nigerian naira debt.

"Frontier local currency still gives you carry" or outsized yields compared with US rates, the manager said.

They added that, even if the US Federal Reserve only cuts interest rates once this year, frontier markets "will still get you a lot of [yield]".

In Turkey, where years of monetary mismanagement had scared investors away, interest rates of 50 per cent designed to tackle double-digit inflation and stabilise the lira have attracted them back this year.

Foreign investors' holdings of lira-denominated government debt have almost quadrupled since the start of the year to about $10bn at the end of May, according to central bank data.

Egypt's debt has also been a popular trade this year. Foreign investors have poured $15bn into its local bonds, much of it following a $35bn investment by Abu Dhabi's sovereign wealth fund in an attempt to ease the country's financial crisis.

The Egyptian pound was devalued this year and has also been allowed to float freely against the dollar as a way of trying to relieve foreign currency shortages.

Investors believe that similar reforms in Nigeria, Turkey and around two dozen other frontier markets are bearing fruit at a time when returns on other forms of EM debt are falling.

"Policymakers in frontier markets are becoming more savvy," said Luis Costa, global head of emerging markets strategy at Citi.

The US dollar debt of many of these countries has already rallied as they avoided outright default and many investors doubt that yields — which move inversely to prices — can go much lower from here.

Meanwhile, a rally in more creditworthy EM local currency debt, driven by rate cuts, is also seen as nearing an end.

Trades in the currencies of some larger EMs have also misfired recently, for instance in the sharp sell-off in the Mexican peso after this month's election.

Jonny Goulden, head of emerging markets fixed income strategy at JPMorgan, said investors were trying to avoid just betting on when the Fed will cut rates.

"Within emerging markets, we have a number of countries where there are idiosyncratic drivers," he said, where a mixture of currency devaluations, interest rate rises, policy reforms and bailout loans help reassure investors.

They tend to be wary of riskier countries' local debt, which tends to be more volatile and which is tied to the fortunes of the currency.

Many investors fear the sudden imposition of capital controls or the prospect of the debt market seizing up during a crisis as foreign participants rush for the exit.

Analysts said that, so far, there were few signs that buying the debt was a crowded trade or that investors are failing to consider the risks.

"What we have found is that while positioning has increased, it's generally not that large," Goulden said.

While foreigners have hurried back in to Turkey's lira bonds this year in response to more orthodox economic policies, they still only account for about 5 per cent of the market — down from one-fifth before its 2018 currency crisis.

Smaller bite: the Egyptian pound was devalued this year and has also been allowed to float freely against the dollar — Khaled Desouki/AFP/Getty Images

'You are having to reach into slightly more off-piste trades in frontier to really make your money'

In Egypt, foreign investors hold around one-tenth of local debt. That is higher than a 2022 nadir but well below a peak in 2021.

However, the prospect that US interest rates will stay higher for longer as the Fed battles stubbornly high inflation could prove a headwind for EM local debt.

Egypt, Nigeria and Pakistan, which are forecast to spend more than one-third of their revenue on debt interest payments by 2028, are particularly at risk from high US rates as that could force them to keep their own rates elevated in order to attract capital, according to Moody's analysts.

This month, Kenya's central bank said it could not cut its benchmark rate from its current level of 13 per cent because global rates might still entice investor cash away from the country.

"We have to be very cautious that we don't take measures here that will cause the same kind of problems that we had . . . whereby we again see capital flowing out because returns are lower than abroad," said Kamau Thugge, the bank's governor.

However, some investors argue that, even if US rates do stay elevated, local currency bonds and the yields they offer are still more attractive than these countries' dollar-denominated debt.

While there is still some value to be found in dollar debt, "valuations are reasonably tight", said Daniel Wood, an emerging markets debt portfolio manager at William Blair Investment Management. "In local currency, this is more the start of the story."

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Asset management

Marshall Wace to join hedge fund rush for Middle East

HARRIET AGNEW PARIS

Marshall Wace plans to open an office in Abu Dhabi in the coming months, according to people familiar with the matter, in what would be the latest hedge fund manager to establish a presence in the United Arab Emirates.

The move is designed to help the group be closer to the Middle Eastern investor base — an important source of capital — and to be able to better compete for talent, the people said. The Gulf states are marketing themselves as financial centres with attractive regulatory and tax regimes as well as a growing pool of talent from which to hire.

Marshall Wace, which manages about $65bn in assets, would follow hedge funds including Chris Hohn's TCI and macro fund Brevan Howard in opening an office in Abu Dhabi. Brevan Howard now runs more money from Abu Dhabi than from either London or New York.

Marshall Wace declined to comment.

Other funds such as Izzy Englander's Millennium, Steve Cohen's Point72 and quant investing giant AQR have picked Dubai to establish a presence in the region. Both cities benefit from their geographical position, straddling the European and Asian trading days.

Hedge fund managers have been expanding their presence in the Middle East in an attempt to win local business

Hedge funds have been expanding in the region to win business and court sovereign wealth funds

and forge ties with sovereign wealth funds in the region. The lure of low taxes has also attracted them to Abu Dhabi and Dubai. The majority of them are London or New York-based funds opening subsidiaries.

The pandemic helped Dubai and Abu Dhabi position themselves as attractive alternatives to London, New York and Hong Kong. Hedge fund managers said they experienced an increase in relocation inquiries during government-mandated lockdowns in Europe and the US, reflecting how Dubai's Covid restrictions were less harsh. In addition, Abu Dhabi has been trying to make itself a hub for blockchain technology.

Since Paul Marshall and Ian Wace founded Marshall Wace in 1997, the hedge fund has carved out a position as Europe's answer to US industry giants Citadel and Millennium.

Its assets under management have mushroomed to a record $65bn, defying a trend that has seen many of the region's equities hedge funds under pressure.

Founder Marshall's Eureka fund, which accounts for about a third of the firm's assets, is up about 8 per cent this year, according to investors.

The remaining two-thirds of its assets are run in systematic strategies that use computer algorithms.

About a third of its about 575 employees work in technology-related roles and the firm spends tens of millions of dollars a year on tech.

Financials

Ex-NatWest boss Rose takes first role with Charterhouse after Farage furore

OWEN WALKER AND AKILA QUINIO

Former NatWest chief executive Dame Alison Rose has joined private equity firm Charterhouse in her first role since leaving the UK high street lender following the "debanking" of Nigel Farage last year.

Rose was made a senior adviser at the firm, which is one of the UK's oldest buyout groups, in April, according to people familiar with the matter.

One of the UK's highest-profile female business leaders, Rose stepped down by mutual consent from NatWest last July amid a row over the "debanking" of Farage, the leader of Reform UK and former head of the UK Independence and Brexit parties.

As part of her departure from NatWest, Rose forfeited £7.6mn in outstanding pay and bonuses that she could have been due from the bank because the board judged that she did not qualify as a "good leaver".

She was entitled to receive her 2023 salary, pension and fixed-pay share allowance, which totalled £1.75mn for the remainder of her notice period until this July.

Rose, who received a damehood in the 2023 honours list, had admitted to unintentionally misleading a BBC reporter into writing a story that said NatWest's private bank, Coutts, cut ties with Farage for purely commercial reasons and that the decision had nothing to do with his political views.

An independent review by law firm Travers Smith later found that, while the decision to oust Farage as a client was primarily commercial and therefore lawful, it had failed to communicate the decision properly and then mishandled his complaint.



Former chief Alison Rose forfeited £7.6mn in NatWest pay and bonuses

She denied sharing confidential customer data and said she had incomplete information at the time.

Her name was subsequently axed from a government-commissioned review into female entrepreneurship that had been dubbed the "Rose review".

Farage, who is currently standing as an MP for Reform in the UK general election, obtained and released a dossier of internal documents from Coutts that showed its reputational risk committee had accused him of "pandering to racists" and being a "disingenuous grifter", which was "at odds with our position as an inclusive organisation".

Charterhouse, which was spun out of HSBC via a management buyout in 2001, has roots going back to 1934.

It has about €5bn in assets under management and specialises in European mid-market companies.

Charterhouse declined to comment while representatives for Rose confirmed her new role. The hiring of Rose was first reported by trade title Private Equity News.

Food & beverage

Diageo sells majority stake in Guinness Nigeria to Singaporean group Tolaram

MADELEINE SPEED — LONDON
AANU ADEOYE — FREETOWN

Diageo is selling its majority shareholding in its subsidiary Guinness Nigeria, becoming the latest western company to scale down its presence in Africa's most populous nation on the back of a long-running currency crisis and economic downturn.

The spirits giant will sell its 58 per cent stake in the Lagos-listed company to Singaporean conglomerate Tolaram for N81.60 per share or about N103bn ($68mn).

"The acquisition of Guinness Nigeria marks a pivotal moment in Tolaram's journey of growth and diversification," said Haresh Aswani, the group's managing director in Africa. "We are thrilled to welcome a company with such a rich legacy and strong consumer loyalty into our ecosystem."

Western consumer groups including Unilever, GSK and PZ Cussons have been retreating from Nigeria over the past year due to a chronic shortage of foreign exchange and a precipitous fall in the value of the local naira currency.

Tolaram, which has joint ventures with several leading consumer goods multinationals such as Kellanova and Colgate-Palmolive, is one of the largest consumer goods companies present in Africa, with combined investments of more than $1bn in Nigeria.

It is one of a growing number of largely non-western groups taking advantage of the retreat of their western competitors.

Others, including Singapore-listed Olam and Turkey's Hayat Kimya, continue to invest in Nigeria.

'We are thrilled to welcome a company with such strong consumer loyalty into our ecosystem'

Analysts said they provided the Nigerian market with cheaper alternatives and often have a higher risk appetite.

Diageo said it would retain ownership of the Guinness brand in the country and continue to license it to Guinness Nigeria. Nigeria makes up between 1 and 2 per cent of Diageo's global net sales value.

Bernstein analyst Trevor Stirling said the deal offered a resolution to the fact Diageo has been losing share in the mainstream beer market in Africa as it focused on Guinness and spirits.

Pointing to the company's sale of Guinness Cameroon to Castel in 2022, he asked: "Does this presage an eventual complete exit from beer in Africa?"

The Nigerian subsidiary used to manufacture and distribute brands including Baileys and Smirnoff, until Diageo and Guinness Nigeria terminated their international spirits licence agreement last October so that Guinness Nigeria could focus on local brands such as Harp beer, Orijin and Captain Morgan Gold.

With fixed costs such as those for raw materials and other inventory mostly invoiced in dollars, companies have to pay with a plummeting currency that is one of the worst performing globally.

Nigeria, with its population of 200mn, was once considered an attractive growth market for global brands seeking to expand internationally.

But the country is experiencing its worst cost of living crisis in a generation with inflation at a three-decade high of 33.7 per cent.

Europe needs to protect its global currency status



Piero Cipollone

Markets Insight

For the last quarter of a century, the euro has been a key global currency, second only to the dollar. It has demonstrated its resilience despite the Covid-19 pandemic, Russia's war in Ukraine and the tragic conflict in the Middle East.

The euro's estimated share of international currency use stands at over 19 per cent — a level that has remained broadly stable over the past five years.

Nevertheless, its place on the global stage cannot be taken for granted as a report by the European Central Bank on the international role of the euro shows. More reforms are needed.

China's increasingly large role in global trade is encouraging use of its currency. By 2023, the renminbi's share of China's trade invoicing had risen to around one-quarter for goods and one-third for services. It is racing with the euro to become the second most-used currency for trade finance.

History shows that the evolution of global currencies is deeply intertwined with that of the global geopolitical order.

In an increasingly multipolar world, there are signs that the fragmentation of the global monetary system is no longer a remote possibility.

To diversify and protect against geopolitical risks, central banks — led by China's — are accumulating gold at the fastest pace seen since the second world war. And anecdotal evidence suggests that some countries are exploring ways of using their own currencies more in international trade transactions instead of those of countries sanctioning Russia.

Yet nowhere else are the risks of global monetary system fragmentation more visible than in international payments. At a time when we should be integrating payment systems to reduce their complexity and cost to users, some nations are deliberately creating separate platforms as alternatives to existing global infrastructures.

For example, China, Iran and Russia have created their own cross-border payment messaging systems while Brics members have started to discuss a "bridge" platform for linking digital payments and settlement.

These developments could potentially disrupt the smooth flow of capital and reduce the efficiency of the global financial system.

Given these shifts, there are compelling economic and political reasons for seeking to preserve the euro's global currency status.

> In a multipolar world, the fragmentation of the global monetary system is no longer a remote possibility

This status brings tangible benefits to European citizens, such as low borrowing costs in international capital markets and protection from exchange rate volatility. Moreover, in a fragmented geopolitical landscape, the euro's international currency status provides strategic autonomy by shielding Europeans from external financial pressures.

Internally, the euro's appeal to foreign investors hinges on maintaining confidence in its stability, supported by well-anchored expectations of price stability and sound economic policies.

Its appeal depends on the size and liquidity of the market for safe euro-denominated debt securities and the resilience of the underlying market infrastructures, particularly as a haven in times of stress.

A majority of official reserve managers have expressed an interest in increasing their euro holdings but note that the currency's attractiveness is hampered by a lack of highly rated assets and centrally issued debt.

So building a stable, technically resilient and deeper market for internationally accepted euro debt securities is essential. That is why building a genuine European capital markets union must go hand in hand with efforts to further strengthen the fiscal dimension of the EU economic and monetary union.

Europe needs to further develop the infrastructure for making cross-border payments in euros with key partners. This could involve interlinking the euro area's Target Instant Payment Settlement system with fast payment systems in other jurisdictions — either through bilateral links or by connecting to a common, multilateral platform.

Such steps could strengthen the trade and financial relations with key partners, including emerging economies. They could pave the way for central bank digital currencies to be used to make future cross-border payments.

Robert Mundell, the late economist whose Nobel Prize-winning work was so influential for the creation of the single currency, once said of the euro: "In all the aspects in which it was expected economically to make an improvement, it has performed spectacularly."

By bolstering safety, liquidity and connectivity, we can ensure that the euro continues to strengthen as a cornerstone of the global monetary system.

Piero Cipollone is a member of the European Central Bank's executive board



The day in the markets

What you need to know

- **Wall Street dips as looming US inflation data depresses risk appetite**
- **Paris stocks extend slide after Macron call for snap elections**
- **French government bonds trade more steadily but euro retreats**

Global stocks slipped yesterday as political uncertainty in Europe and looming US inflation data depressed risk appetite.

Wall Street's S&P 500 fell 0.3 per cent by midday trading in New York and the tech-dominated Nasdaq Composite was flat. Both indices rose to fresh all-time highs in the previous session.

Apple shares hit a record, pushing the company's valuation back above $3tn in the wake of its decision to link up with OpenAI to roll out a new artificial intelligence system. Apple stock took its gains so far this year to 6.2 per cent.

Investors will today focus on core inflation figures for May and the US Federal Reserve's latest economic projections, as well as chair Jay Powell's press conference.

Last week, strong jobs numbers added to a sense that the central bank's first interest rate cut remained months away.

"Figuring out when the Fed will act next is the name of the game," said Mike Zigmont, head of trading and research at Harvest Volatility Management. "Inflation data is an important input, the [Federal Open Market Committee] statement is another and the press conference is huge."

French stocks extended Monday's losses as President Emmanuel Macron's decision to call a snap legislative election continued to unsettle European financial markets.

Paris's Cac 40 index closed 1.3 per cent lower for the second consecutive session with banks again the worst performers.

The region-wide Stoxx Europe 600 and Frankfurt's Xetra Dax both slid 0.9 per cent. London's FTSE 100 fell 1.1 per cent.

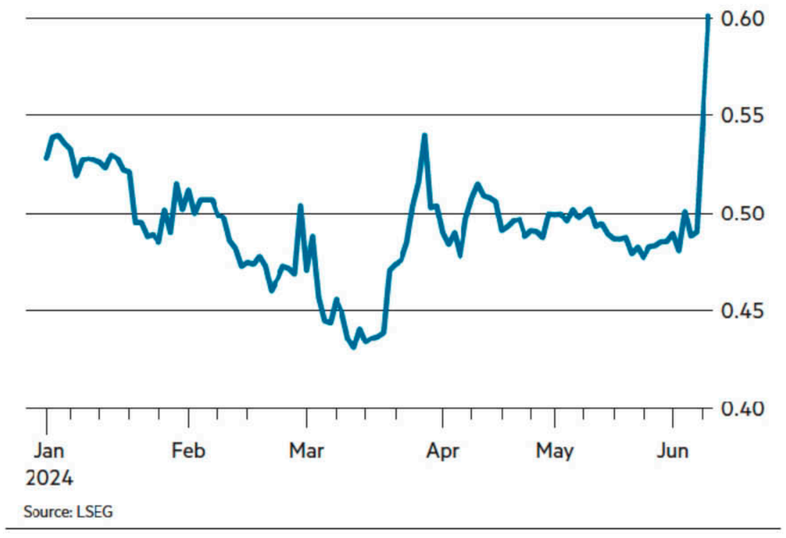
The leader of France's centre-right party yesterday called for an alliance with the far-right Rassemblement National ahead of elections on June 30. A majority for the RN would "[worsen] France's debt sustainability and lower economic growth", said analysts at Rabobank.

Yields on 10-year French government bonds steadied at 3.24 per cent after jumping on Monday but spreads with German benchmark debt widened on investor demand for Bunds. The euro slid 0.4 per cent against the dollar to $1.0721.

The risk-off moves come just a week after the European Central Bank's first rate cut in almost five years. But "the absence of future guidance, president [Christine] Lagarde's hawkish tone and upward revisions to inflation forecasts" only raised the possibility of a shallower than expected cutting cycle, said Bank of America analysts in a note. **George Steer**

Political uncertainty widens spread between French and German bond yields

10-year French government bond yield spread over German Bunds (percentage points)



Source: LSEG

Markets update

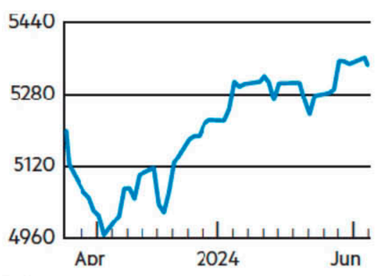
	US	Eurozone	Japan	UK	China	Brazil
Stocks	**S&P 500**	**Eurofirst 300**	**Nikkei 225**	**FTSE100**	**Shanghai Comp**	**Bovespa**
Level	5344.51	2052.72	39134.79	8147.81	3028.05	121316.82
% change on day	-0.30	-0.90	0.25	-0.98	-0.76	0.46
Currency	**$ Index (DXY)**	**$ per €**	**Yen per $**	**$ per £**	**Rmb per $**	**Real per $**
Level	105.338	1.072	157.335	1.271	7.254	5.346
% change on day	0.179	-0.093	0.274	-0.079	0.159	-0.375
Govt. bonds	**10-year Treasury**	**10-year Bund**	**10-year JGB**	**10-year Gilt**	**10-year bond**	**10-year bond**
Yield	4.450	2.627	1.012	4.365	2.308	11.632
Basis point change on day	-0.930	-4.400	-2.280	-5.500	-0.100	-0.500

World index, Commods	FTSE All-World	Oil - Brent	Oil - WTI	Gold	Silver	Metals (LMEX)
Level	520.82	82.07	78.07	2304.40	29.68	4231.80
% change on day	-0.45	0.54	0.42	-0.28	-1.93	0.94

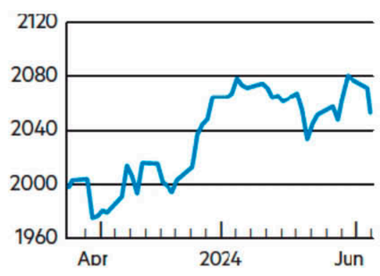
Yesterday's close apart from: Currencies = 16:00 GMT; S&P, Bovespa, All World, Oil = 17:00 GMT; Gold, Silver = London pm fix. Bond data supplied by Tullett Prebon.

Main equity markets

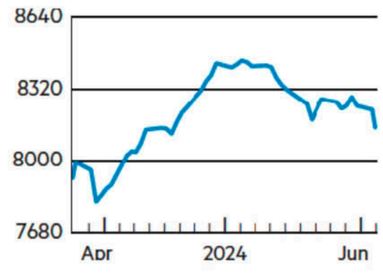
S&P 500 index



Eurofirst 300 index



FTSE 100 index



Biggest movers

%	US		Eurozone		UK	
Ups	Apple	5.80	Solvay	1.92	Hikma Pharmaceuticals	2.23
	General Motors	2.76	Colruyt	1.47	Rentokil Initial	1.44
	Fmc	2.75	Coloplast	1.34	Convatec	1.30
	Paramount Global	2.71	Carrefour	1.20	Intermediate Capital	1.07
	Vistra	2.32	Evonik Industries	1.11	Rs	1.00
Downs	Nextera Energy	-6.55	A.p. Moller - Maersk B	-6.95	Antofagasta	-4.26
	Autodesk	-5.01	Casino Guichard	-4.88	Standard Chartered	-4.25
	Southwest Airlines Co	-4.28	Alstom	-4.75	Marks And Spencer	-4.20
	State Street	-4.25	Gecina	-4.68	Admiral	-3.54
	Mohawk Industries	-3.95	Societe Generale	-4.59	Unite	-3.02

Prices taken at 17:00 GMT. Based on the constituents of the FTSE Eurofirst 300 Eurozone

All data provided by Morningstar unless otherwise noted.

Equities

Raspberry Pi shares soar more than a third on first day of trading in London

STEPHANIE STACEY — LONDON

Shares in British microcomputer maker Raspberry Pi jumped more than a third on its first day of trading in London, providing a boost for the UK stock market amid a dearth of flotations.

The Cambridge-based group yesterday confirmed an offer price at the top end of a range of 260p to 280p, implying a market valuation of about £542mn.

Shares rose 36 per cent to 380p in "conditional dealing", which is only open to institutional shareholders.

Demand for the stock, which will begin open trade for retail investors from Friday, is a shot in the arm for a London market struggling to attract interest from high-growth technology companies, which mostly prefer to list in New York.

The listing caps more than a decade of growth for Raspberry Pi, which started out selling single-board computers for enthusiasts. The company made a profit of almost $40mn last year.

Listing Raspberry Pi shares in the UK was "not a patriotic decision", said chief executive Eben Upton. "We did take a look at New York but we realised that, for a company of our scale, the London market is probably a better home."

Upton said there was too much gloom surrounding the UK stock market. "Many of the stories that people tell about the differences between the US and the UK — particularly this sort of magical multiple arbitrage — don't seem to be real."

> 'The London Stock Exchange will be pleased to see that it may have a palpable hit on its hands'

The total offer comes to £166mn, representing about 30.7 per cent of the company's ordinary shares. That includes about 11mn new shares issued by the company, which it said would raise about £31.4mn.

That offer would rise to £178.9mn if the overallotment option — in which additional shares would be made available by its majority shareholder, the Raspberry Pi Foundation — is exercised in full, said the company.

Upton said the money would enable Raspberry Pi to make its supply chains more robust and fund new projects.

"The London Stock Exchange will be pleased to see that it may have a palpable hit on its hands, even if the deal is not particularly big and the free float is relatively limited," said Russ Mould, investment director at AJ Bell.

Raspberry Pi began trading in 2012 and has since sold more than 60mn single-board computers and computer modules.

The Raspberry Pi Foundation, a charity founded in 2008 to promote computer science education for young people, held almost 73 per cent of shares in the computer maker before the flotation. It said it would remain a shareholder.

Jefferies International and Peel Hunt were engaged as joint bookrunners for Raspberry Pi.

MARKET DATA

WORLD MARKETS AT A GLANCE

FT.COM/MARKETSDATA

Change during previous day's trading (%)

S&P 500	Nasdaq Composite	Dow Jones Ind	FTSE 100	FTSE Eurofirst 300	Nikkei	Hang Seng	FTSE All World $	$ per €	$ per £	¥ per $	£ per €	Oil Brent $ Sep	Gold $
-0.30%	-0.07%	-0.58%	-0.98%	-0.90%	0.25%	-1.04%	-0.45%	-0.093%	-0.079%	0.274%	No change	-0.39%	-0.28%

Stock Market movements over last 30 days, with the FTSE All-World in the same currency as a comparison

AMERICAS

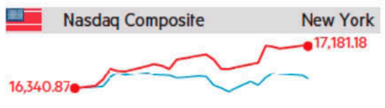
May 12 - - — Index — All World

S&P 500 — New York



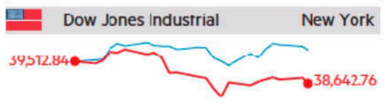
Day -0.30% Month 2.36% Year 24.36%

Nasdaq Composite — New York



Day -0.07% Month 5.19% Year 29.64%

Dow Jones Industrial — New York



Day -0.58% Month -2.20% Year 14.07%

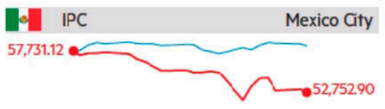
May 12 - Jun 11 — Index — All World

S&P/TSX COMP — Toronto



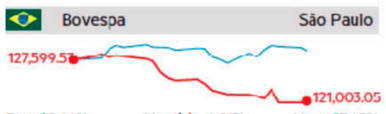
Day -0.93% Month -2.00% Year 9.90%

IPC — Mexico City



Day 0.54% Month -7.47% Year -2.03%

Bovespa — São Paulo



Day 0.46% Month -4.91% Year 3.69%

Country	Index	Latest	Previous
Argentina	Merval	1554121.44	1576828.34
Australia	All Ordinaries	8005.90	8112.80
	S&P/ASX 200	7756.40	7850.00
	S&P/ASX 200 Res	5723.20	5866.10
Austria	ATX	3612.89	3652.33
Belgium	BEL 20	3957.90	3990.79
	BEL Mid	10819.54	11002.80
Brazil	Ibovespa	121316.82	120759.51
Canada	S&P/TSX 60	1306.76	1318.68
	S&P/TSX Comp	21863.68	22059.76
	S&P/TSX Div Met & Min	2113.07	2130.83
Chile	S&P/CLX IGPA Gen	33265.87	33601.52
China	FTSE A200	9434.08	9545.70
	FTSE B35	9000.71	8988.96
	Shanghai A	3174.42	3138.80
	Shanghai B	233.40	234.61
	Shanghai Comp	3028.05	3051.28
	Shenzhen A	1761.45	1756.37
	Shenzhen B	1108.45	1116.47
Colombia	COLCAP	1261.61	1250.21
Croatia	CROBEX	2013.05	2011.29
Cyprus	CSE M&P Gen	68.46	68.68
Czech Republic	PX	1530.21	1542.73
Denmark	OMXC Copenahgen 20	2871.50	2892.90
Egypt	EGX 30	25896.56	25659.13
Estonia	OMX Tallinn	1794.96	1788.83
Finland	OMX Helsinki General	10094.73	10101.47
France	CAC 40	7789.21	7893.98
	SBF 120	5905.65	5987.17
Germany	M-DAX	26457.33	26741.07
	TecDAX	3428.60	3449.77
	XETRA Dax	18309.94	18494.09
Greece	Athens Gen	1448.75	1458.84
	FTSE/ASE 20	3518.96	3546.00
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	18176.34	18366.95
	HS China Enterprise	6452.06	6510.37
	HSCC Red Chip	3891.63	3975.68
Hungary	Bux	69782.02	70248.97
India	BSE Sensex	76456.59	76490.08
	Nifty 500	21852.00	21808.25
Indonesia	Jakarta Comp	6855.69	6921.55
Ireland	ISEQ Overall	9577.64	9718.90
Israel	Tel Aviv 125	1951.11	1943.94

EUROPE

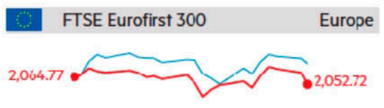
May 12 - Jun 11 — Index — All World

FTSE 100 — London



Day -0.98% Month -3.46% Year 7.66%

FTSE Eurofirst 300 — Europe



Day -0.90% Month -0.58% Year 12.82%

CAC 40 — Paris



Day -1.33% Month -5.23% Year 7.99%

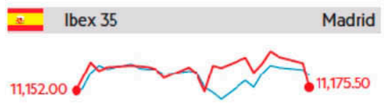
Country	Index	Latest	Previous
Italy	FTSE Italia All-Share	36069.04	36770.97
	FTSE Italia Mid Cap	47269.28	48136.93
	FTSE MIB	33940.03	33796.18
Japan	2nd Section	7228.27	7239.06
	Nikkei 225	39134.79	39038.16
	S&P Topix 150	2467.92	2472.56
	Topix	2776.80	2782.49
Jordan	Amman SE	2408.69	2397.75
Kenya	NSE 20	1749.51	1752.74
Kuwait	KSX Market Index	6633.44	6633.51
Latvia	OMX Riga	1251.00	1251.62
Lithuania	OMX Vilnius	990.74	994.69
Luxembourg	LuxX	1442.90	1457.42
Malaysia	FTSE Bursa KLCI	1611.49	1614.37
Mexico	IPC	53410.31	53122.58
Morocco	MASI	13150.07	13137.04
Netherlands	AEX	921.25	924.70
	AEX All Share	1247.75	1253.82
New Zealand	NZX 50	11785.48	11737.57
Nigeria	SE All Share	97343.42	98255.72
Norway	Oslo All Share	1630.34	1643.72
Pakistan	KSE 100	72589.49	73252.56

Xetra Dax — Frankfurt



Day -0.68% Month -1.28% Year NaN%

Ibex 35 — Madrid



Day -1.60% Month 0.63% Year 20.04%

FTSE MIB — Milan



Day 0.46% Month 7.09% Year 32.76%

Country	Index	Latest	Previous
Poland	Wig	83955.52	84845.86
Portugal	PSI 20	6634.71	6729.42
	PSI General	4592.28	4655.28
Romania	BET Index	17725.07	17872.46
Russia	Micex Index	2436.57	2445.30
	RTX	1245.71	1212.57
Saudi-Arabia	TADAWUL All Share Index	11853.82	11855.11
Singapore	FTSE Straits Times	3309.21	3322.08
Slovakia	SAX	310.52	311.02
Slovenia	SBI TOP	-	-
South Africa	FTSE/JSE All Share	76077.30	76188.16
	FTSE/JSE Res 20	57580.48	58553.84
	FTSE/JSE Top 40	69786.85	69919.66
South Korea	Kospi	2705.32	2701.17
	Kospi 200	367.71	367.46
Spain	IBEX 35	11175.50	11357.20
Sri Lanka	CSE All Share	12394.99	12381.49
Sweden	OMX Stockholm 30	2586.96	2600.72
	OMX Stockholm AS	982.85	986.12
Switzerland	SMI Index	12072.92	12137.74

ASIA

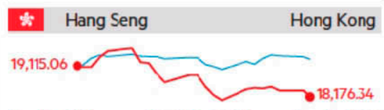
May 12 - Jun 11 — Index — All World

Nikkei 225 — Tokyo



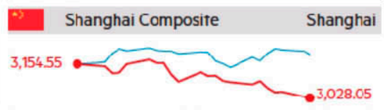
Day 0.25% Month 2.30% Year 21.21%

Hang Seng — Hong Kong



Day -1.04% Month -4.06% Year -6.17%

Shanghai Composite — Shanghai



Day -0.76% Month -4.01% Year -6.29%

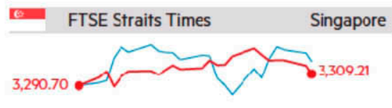
Country	Index	Latest	Previous
Taiwan	Weighted Pr	16915.54	16942.30
Thailand	Bangkok SET	1316.10	1318.57
Turkey	BIST 100	10107.87	9997.91
UAE	Abu Dhabi General Index	9222.93	9251.11
UK	FT 30	2861.90	2839.40
	FTSE 100	8147.81	8228.48
	FTSE 4Good UK	7332.09	7408.85
	FTSE All Share	4444.07	4487.00
	FTSE techMARK 100	7082.26	7092.11
USA	DJ Composite	12312.10	12399.43
	DJ Industrial	38642.76	38868.04
	DJ Transport	14994.92	15159.06
	DJ Utilities	919.69	924.99
	Nasdaq 100	19046.45	19074.68
	Nasdaq Cmp	17181.18	17132.53
	NYSE Comp	17885.98	18037.53
	S&P 500	5344.51	5350.79
	Wilshire 5000	42053.18	41446.59
Venezuela	IBC	73241.88	71570.16
Vietnam	VNI	1284.41	1290.67

Kospi — Seoul



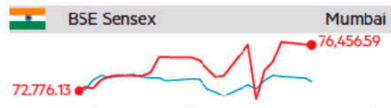
Day 0.15% Month -0.82% Year 2.43%

FTSE Straits Times — Singapore



Day -0.39% Month 0.45% Year 3.71%

BSE Sensex — Mumbai



Day -0.04% Month 5.18% Year 22.04%

Country	Index	Latest	Previous
Cross-Border	DJ Global Titans ($)	650.33	651.77
	Euro Stoxx 50 (Eur)	4966.71	5016.48
	Euronext 100 ID	1514.29	1531.79
	FTSE 4Good Global ($)	13935.57	13972.50
	FTSE All World ($)	520.82	523.18
	FTSE E300	2052.72	2071.41
	FTSE Eurotop 100	4098.31	4134.79
	FTSE Global 100 ($)	3754.15	3761.05
	FTSE Gold Min ($)	2005.82	1983.03
	FTSE Latibex Top (Eur)	4440.00	4432.20
	FTSE Multinationals ($)	3747.55	3745.30
	FTSE World ($)	956.49	960.74
	FTSEurofirst 100 (Eur)	5521.05	5577.19
	FTSEurofirst 80 (Eur)	6655.57	6726.40
	MSCI ACWI Fr ($)	794.75	794.24
	MSCI All World ($)	3482.22	3478.70
	MSCI Europe (Eur)	2092.15	2103.87
	MSCI Pacific ($)	3069.25	3050.18
	S&P Euro (Eur)	2158.93	2182.53
	S&P Europe 350 (Eur)	2104.39	2123.94
	S&P Global 1200 ($)	3810.61	3838.32
	Stoxx 50 (Eur)	4516.68	4558.34

(c) Closed. (u) Unavailable. † Correction. ♥ Subject to official recalculation. For more index coverage please see www.ft.com/worldindices. A fuller version of this table is available on the ft.com research data archive.

STOCK MARKET: BIGGEST MOVERS

AMERICA

ACTIVE STOCKS	stock traded m's	close price	Day's change
Apple	184.3	204.33	11.21
Nvidia	149.1	119.25	-2.54
Tesla	58.6	168.77	-5.02
Advanced Micro Devices	34.0	157.43	-2.86
Alphabet	20.2	174.09	-0.92
Meta Platforms	19.0	500.59	-2.02
Amazon.com	18.0	185.27	-1.79
Eli Lilly & Co	17.3	859.82	-5.18
Broadcom	16.7	1442.83	2.42
Microsoft	16.3	428.33	0.48

BIGGEST MOVERS	Close price	Day's change	Day's chng%
Ups			
Apple	204.33	11.21	5.80
General Motors	48.88	1.31	2.76
Fmc	56.50	1.51	2.75
Paramount Global	12.31	0.33	2.71
Vistra	90.27	2.05	2.32
Downs			
Nextera Energy	71.93	-5.04	-6.55
Autodesk	207.26	-10.94	-5.01
Southwest Airlines Co	28.43	-1.27	-4.28
State Street	71.19	-3.13	-4.25
Mohawk Industries	113.42	-4.63	-3.95

Based on the constituents of the S&P500

LONDON

ACTIVE STOCKS	stock traded m's	close price	Day's change
Shell	326.0	2750.50	-7.00
Rolls-royce Holdings	214.8	465.00	0.00
Compass	210.6	2195.00	-12.00
Astrazeneca	194.2	12375.00	-224.00
Rio Tinto	169.2	5251.00	-106.00
Natwest	161.8	303.80	-7.10
Bp	155.0	468.35	-2.50
British American Tobacco	144.4	2388.00	-14.00
Unilever	138.6	4357.00	-12.00
Hsbc Holdings	137.7	677.60	-16.00

BIGGEST MOVERS	Close price	Day's change	Day's chng%
Ups			
Oxford Instruments	2635.00	175.00	7.11
Me Int	169.60	7.60	4.69
Icg Enterprise Trust	1232.00	44.00	3.70
Dowlais	73.65	1.70	2.36
Hikma Pharmaceuticals	1973.00	43.00	2.23
Downs			
Future	1050.00	-58.00	-5.23
W.a.g Payment Solutions	67.00	-3.00	-4.29
Antofagasta	2067.00	-92.00	-4.26
Standard Chartered	721.20	-32.00	-4.25
Marks And Spencer	296.60	-13.00	-4.20

Based on the constituents of the FTSE 350 index

EURO MARKETS

ACTIVE STOCKS	stock traded m's	close price	Day's change
Unicredit	478.9	34.89	-1.36
Nestle N	354.8	98.11	-1.34
Intesa Sanpaolo	358.0	3.48	-0.39
Roche Gs	251.8	250.55	1.37
Asml Holding	244.9	959.60	-3.80
Bnp Paribas Act.a	237.9	60.49	-2.72
Novartis N	217.0	97.57	-0.23
Iberdrola	203.9	12.08	-0.09
Lvmh	195.1	737.10	-9.20
Vinci	183.9	102.15	-2.35

BIGGEST MOVERS	Close price	Day's change	Day's chng%
Ups			
Roche Gs	250.55	1.97	0.79
Basf Se Na O.n.	46.44	0.29	0.53
Nordea Bank Abp	11.32	0.07	0.52
Mowi	16.00	0.07	0.46
Danone	59.48	0.14	0.24
Downs			
Bnp Paribas Act.a	60.49	-2.72	-4.30
Credit Agricole	13.58	-0.54	-3.79
Unicredit	34.89	-1.36	-3.75
Kering	319.45	-8.50	-2.59
Intesa Sanpaolo	3.48	-0.09	-2.56

Based on the constituents of the FTSEurofirst 300 Eurozone index

TOKYO

ACTIVE STOCKS	stock traded m's	close price	Day's change
Lasertec	2741.7	36980.00	-420.00
Disco	1189.1	60390.00	990.00
Tokyo Electron	801.6	35560.00	780.00
Softbank .	727.6	9669.00	-55.00
Mitsubishi Ufj Fin	709.8	1632.50	-17.00
Toyota Motor	624.7	3254.00	-18.00
Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha,	622.8	2335.50	-87.50
Mitsubishi Heavy Industries,	576.7	1444.00	39.00
Hitachi,	506.5	17060.00	-90.00
Socionext	497.9	4238.00	-19.00

BIGGEST MOVERS	Close price	Day's change	Day's chng%
Ups			
Chugai Pharmaceutical Co.,	4978.00	167.00	3.47
Ebara	12165.00	405.00	3.44
Taiyo Yuden Co.,	3576.00	116.00	3.35
Mercari	2192.00	69.00	3.25
Furukawa Electric Co.,	4291.00	128.00	3.07
Downs			
Daiwa Securities	1254.50	-60.50	-4.60
Mitsui O.s.k.lines,	4927.00	-189.00	-3.69
Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha,	2335.50	-87.50	-3.61
Mitsui Chemicals	4529.00	-154.00	-3.29
Eisai Co.,	6649.00	-223.00	-3.25

Based on the constituents of the Nikkei 225 index

UK MARKET WINNERS AND LOSERS

FTSE 100	Jun 11 price(p)	%Chg week	%Chg ytd
Winners			
Pershing Square Holdings Ltd	4252.00	3.8	9253.3
Rolls-royce Holdings	465.00	3.8	641279.3
Ashtead	5596.00	2.5	1565.5
Rs	706.50	1.6	544.1
Smith & Nephew	1006.50	1.3	20910.4
Imperial Brands	1976.00	1.3	84070.2
Scottish Mortgage Investment Trust	892.20	1.2	10.5
St. James's Place	506.00	1.2	67633.3
Bp	466.35	1.2	234.5
Sage	1030.50	1.1	-11.6
Rightmove	552.60	1.1	1170.3
Shell	2750.50	1.0	21139.4
Losers			
B&m Eur Value Retail S.a.	485.00	-11.2	1287.7
Vodafone	70.10	-8.8	-84.6
Sainsbury (j)	257.00	-7.8	193.7
Wpp	755.00	-7.3	753.7
Centrica	132.35	-7.0	63.4
Jd Sports Fashion	122.60	-6.6	-98.7
Smurfit Kappa	3590.00	-6.5	13447.2
Unite	882.50	-6.1	592.2
Kingfisher	254.80	-5.8	128.5
Howden Joinery	860.00	-5.7	596.4
Easyjet	456.30	-5.4	-9.2
Prudential	706.40	-5.4	14.4

FTSE 250	Jun 11 price(p)	%Chg week	%Chg ytd
Winners			
Wood (john)	200.60	11.3	3547.3
Oxford Instruments	2535.00	10.5	588.0
Dowlais	73.65	6.2	56.4
Allianz Technology Trust	368.00	5.9	98.9
Aston Martin Lagonda Global Holdings	152.70	4.1	-31.9
Jpmorgan Indian Investment Trust	371.00	3.9	1505.0
Polar Capital Technology Trust	3135.00	3.6	4378.6
Wizz Air Holdings	2504.00	3.5	4371.4
Wh Smith	1182.00	3.4	10.7
Baillie Gifford Us Growth Trust	190.00	3.3	30097.4
Auction Technology	562.00	3.3	10707.7
Harbourvest Global Private Equity	2405.00	2.8	1.9
Losers			
Energean	1016.00	-11.6	6501.7
C&c	154.00	-9.4	2269.2
Ip	47.75	-9.4	-88.9
Jupiter Fund Management	76.20	-8.4	81.0
Ninety One	156.90	-8.1	157.2
Tritax Big Box Reit	152.10	-7.9	6974.4
Cmc Markets	259.00	-7.8	6715.8
Safestore Holdings	828.00	-7.7	111.2
Indivior	1310.00	-7.6	69.4
Fz Cussons	104.40	-7.6	6132.8
Fets At Home	295.40	-7.5	2768.0
Ao World	105.40	-7.4	7.2

FTSE SmallCap	Jun 11 price(p)	%Chg week	%Chg ytd
Winners			
Petrofac	16.20	19.6	-88.0
Int Personal Finance	126.00	9.1	123.8
Abrdn New India Investment Trust	794.00	9.1	208.3
Schroder Real Estate Investment Trust	45.80	8.0	65328.6
Ncc	145.20	7.1	12.7
Ashoka India Equity Investment Trust	271.00	6.7	922.6
Capricorn Energy	186.50	6.1	-13.7
Gore Street Energy Storage Fund	68.80	5.8	-95.4
India Capital Growth Fund	172.00	5.5	10650.0
Speedy Hire	29.00	5.1	-90.9
Life Science Reit	35.20	4.8	-95.0
Pensionbee	157.00	4.7	-28.8
Losers			
Cab Payments Holdings	127.20	-16.5	54.8
Ceres Power Holdings	191.30	-14.6	226'.7
Saga	117.00	-14.2	-77.7
Gcp Asset Backed Income Fund	70.10	-10.1	-46.6
Vanquis Banking	52.80	-9.0	104.7
Gallifrey Try Holdings	238.00	-7.8	-73.7
Mcbride	118.50	-7.4	41.2
Palace Capital	225.00	-7.4	49.0
Panthaon Infrastructure	77.00	-6.8	833.3
Secure Trust Bank	840.00	-6.0	3474.5
Capita	13.58	-5.5	-98.4
Halfords	144.60	-5.5	-33.2

Industry Sectors	Jun 11 price(p)	%Chg week	%Chg ytd
Winners			
Automobiles & Parts	1144.33	4.4	-27.6
Industrial Transportation	4147.19	1.1	3.6
Aerospace & Defense	11506.25	1.1	33.7
Oil & Gas Producers	9001.84	0.9	4.7
General Retailers	3050.01	0.6	2.1
General Financial	14737.94	0.3	0.8
Software & Computer Services	2474.20	0.1	2.4
Pharmaceuticals & Biotech.	23052.46	-0.1	13.7
Electronic & Electrical Equip.	10013.49	-0.4	0.4
Equity Investment Instruments	11910.43	-0.5	3.2
Tobacco	27651.33	-0.9	5.3
Media	12257.26	-1.1	10.0
Losers			
Mobile Telecommunications	1973.67	-6.8	3.3
Chemicals	8482.80	-4.8	-11.7
Health Care Equip.& Services	11642.53	-4.1	8.8
Real Estate Investment Trusts	2303.47	-4.0	-3.8
Gas Water & Multiutilities index	5512.73	-4.0	-9.8
Nonlife Insurance	3540.86	-3.8	5.5
General Industrials	6920.17	-3.5	1.7
Life Insurance	5726.66	-3.3	-8.2
Construction & Materials	10186.00	-3.2	9.5
Personal Goods	15098.34	-2.6	-30.4
Mining	10039.61	-2.4	1.4
Banks	4180.21	-2.3	13.5

Based on last week's performance. †Price at suspension.

CURRENCIES

Jun 11	Currency	DOLLAR Closing Mid	DOLLAR Day's Change	EURO Closing Mid	EURO Day's Change	POUND Closing Mid	POUND Day's Change
Argentina	Argentine Peso	902.2175	0.7375	967.4529	-0.2687	1146.8526	0.3600
Australia	Australian Dollar	1.5162	0.0305	1.6258	-0.0012	1.9273	-0.0003
Bahrain	Bahraini Dinar	0.3770	-	0.4042	-0.0004	0.4792	-0.0002
Bolivia	Bolivian Boliviano	6.9100	-	7.4096	-0.0079	8.7836	-0.0041
Brazil	Brazilian Real	5.3457	-0.0201	5.7322	-0.0277	6.7951	-0.0288
Canada	Canadian Dollar	1.3774	-0.0001	1.4769	-0.0017	1.7508	-0.0010
Chile	Chilean Peso	923.5500	-0.7300	990.4351	-1.9006	1174.0966	-1.5572
China	Chinese Yuan	7.2642	0.0115	7.7788	0.0041	9.2212	0.0103
Colombia	Colombian Peso	3951.5050	15.8950	4237.2217	12.5592	5022.9524	17.8522
Costa Rica	Costa Rican Colon	529.5000	-1.0000	567.7858	-1.6768	673.0733	-1.5884
Czech Republic	Czech Koruna	23.0570	0.1169	24.7241	0.0993	29.3089	0.1349
Denmark	Danish Krone	6.9564	0.0382	7.4594	0.0009	8.8427	0.0063
Egypt	Egyptian Pound	47.5633	-0.1141	51.0024	-0.1766	60.4600	-0.1735
Hong Kong	Hong Kong Dollar	7.8121	-0.0016	8.3770	-0.0106	9.9303	-0.0067
Hungary	Hungarian Forint	368.3205	1.9317	394.9521	1.6539	468.1901	2.2363
India	Indian Rupee	83.5738	0.0525	89.6166	-0.0281	106.2347	0.0295
Indonesia	Indonesian Rupiah	16290.0000	10.0000	17467.8591	-7.8453	20707.0205	2.9582
Israel	Israeli Shekel	3.7383	-0.0386	3.9764	-0.0457	4.7137	-0.0513
Japan	Japanese Yen	157.3350	0.4300	168.7112	0.2823	199.9962	0.4527
	..One Month	157.3342	0.4235	168.7106	0.2812	199.9952	0.4509
	..Three Month	157.3328	0.4257	168.7096	0.2791	199.9935	0.4474
	..One Year	157.3271	0.4142	168.7055	0.2708	199.9952	0.4420
Kenya	Kenyan Shilling	129.5000	-	138.8636	-0.1476	164.6133	-0.0775
Kuwait	Kuwaiti Dinar	0.3069	0.0001	0.3290	-0.0002	0.3901	-0.0001
Malaysia	Malaysian Ringgit	4.7195	-0.0015	5.0607	-0.0070	5.9992	-0.0047
Mexico	Mexican Peso	18.4355	0.0012	19.7685	-0.0197	23.4343	-0.0094
New Zealand	New Zealand Dollar	1.6323	-0.0036	1.7503	-0.0057	2.0743	-0.0056
Nigeria	Nigerian Naira	1479.0000	-8.0000	1585.9399	-10.2731	1880.0293	-11.0584
Norway	Norwegian Krone	10.7344	0.0411	11.5106	0.0351	13.6450	0.0497
Pakistan	Pakistani Rupee	278.6000	0.1000	298.7443	-0.2101	354.1423	-0.0395
Peru	Peruvian Nuevo Sol	3.7376	0.0227	4.0614	0.0200	4.8145	0.0265
Philippines	Philippine Peso	58.7300	-0.0900	62.9443	-0.1635	74.6164	-0.1496
Poland	Polish Zloty	4.0451	0.0133	4.3375	0.0103	5.1419	0.0153
Romania	Romanian Leu	4.6417	0.0053	4.9773	0.0004	5.9003	0.0040
Russia	Russian Ruble	89.1500	0.0712	95.5960	-0.0251	113.3229	0.0373
Saudi Arabia	Saudi Riyal	3.7504	0.0002	4.0216	-0.0041	4.7673	-0.0020
Singapore	Singapore Dollar	1.3541	0.0001	1.4520	-0.0014	1.7212	-0.0006
South Africa	South African Rand	18.6988	-0.0700	20.0508	-0.0964	23.7689	-0.1002
South Korea	South Korean Won	1378.5000	2.4500	1478.1732	1.0590	1752.2786	2.2913
Sweden	Swedish Krona	10.5181	-0.0004	11.2786	-0.0124	13.3700	-0.0068
Switzerland	Swiss Franc	0.8992	0.0023	0.9643	0.0012	1.1431	0.0021
Taiwan	New Taiwan Dollar	32.4055	0.1500	34.7486	0.1241	41.1922	0.1714
Thailand	Thai Baht	36.7450	-0.0700	39.4019	-0.1170	46.7084	-0.1110
Tunisia	Tunisian Dinar	3.1364	0.0001	3.3632	-0.0035	3.9868	-0.0018
Turkey	Turkish Lira	32.3620	-0.0703	34.7020	-0.1123	41.1369	-0.1087
United Arab Emirates	UAE Dirham	3.6728	-0.0002	3.9384	-0.0044	4.6687	-0.0025
United Kingdom	Pound Sterling	0.7867	0.0004	0.8436	-0.0005	-	-
	..One Month	0.7867	0.0004	0.8435	-0.0005	-	-
	..Three Month	0.7868	0.0004	0.8433	-0.0005	-	-
	..One Year	0.7869	0.0004	0.8423	-0.0005	-	-
United States	United States Dollar	-	-	1.0723	-0.0011	1.2711	-0.0006
Vietnam	Vietnamese Dong	25442.5000	20.0000	27282.1520	-7.5197	32341.2127	10.1426
European Union	Euro	0.9326	0.0010	-	-	1.1854	0.0007
	..One Month	0.9324	0.0010	-	-	1.1853	0.0007
	..Three Month	0.9321	0.0010	-	-	1.1851	0.0007
	..One Year	0.9307	0.0010	-	-	1.1841	0.0007

Rates are derived from WM Reuters Spot Rates and MorningStar (latest rates at time of production). Some values are rounded. Currency redenominated by 1000. The exchange rates printed in this table are also available at www.FT.com/marketsdata

FTSE ACTUARIES SHARE INDICES

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Produced in conjunction with the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries

	£ Strlg Jun 11	Day's chge%	Euro Index	£ Strlg Jun 10	£ Strlg Jun 07	Year ago	Div yield%	Cover	P/E ratio	X/D adj	Total Return
FTSE 100 (100)	8147.81	-0.98	7529.81	8228.48	8245.37	7562.36	3.76	1.96	13.58	159.12	8885.11
FTSE 250 (250)	20266.85	-0.88	18729.63	20446.04	20555.37	19891.66	3.33	1.49	20.21	301.68	17731.89
FTSE 250 ex Inv Co (166)	21208.52	-1.07	19599.87	21438.60	21518.19	19724.94	3.42	1.38	21.11	326.76	18966.72
FTSE 350 (350)	4487.52	-0.97	4147.15	4531.29	4542.66	4173.74	3.70	1.90	14.23	84.74	9697.01
FTSE 350 ex Investment Trusts (263)	4430.09	-1.00	4094.07	4474.79	4484.89	4120.30	3.75	1.87	14.24	85.43	4952.32
FTSE 350 Higher Yield (128)	3794.17	-1.10	3505.39	3836.28	3839.95	3503.22	5.27	1.68	11.25	100.96	9474.11
FTSE 350 Lower Yield (222)	4742.02	-0.83	4382.34	4781.50	4801.39	4441.00	2.02	2.50	19.77	51.20	6040.97

MARKET DATA

FT500: THE WORLD'S LARGEST COMPANIES

Stock	Price	Day Chg	52 Week High	52 Week Low	Yld	P/E	MCap m
Australia (A$)							
ANZ Bank	28.91	-0.27	29.90	22.64	6.03	12.87	57345.8
BHP Group	43.74	-0.79	50.84	41.93	5.97	19.86	146306.72
CmwBkAu	124.93	-0.62	125.97	95.90	3.72	21.04	137898.54
CSL	286.30	-2.70	309.69	228.65	1.26	37.20	91251.93
NatAusBk♦	34.87	-0.36	35.23	25.12	4.77	15.90	71349.25
Telstra	3.52	-0.04	4.46	3.39	4.98	19.39	26824.87
Wesfarmers	67.49	0.35	71.11	46.64	2.92	29.59	50485.51
Westpac Bank	26.69	-0.28	28.05	20.18	5.12	13.42	61072.93
Woolworths	32.39	-0.05	40.35	30.12	3.312617	14	26096.47
Belgium (€)							
AnBshInBv	56.76	-0.50	62.16	49.17	1.37	23.48	109384.74
KBC Grp	63.90	-2.22	71.70	48.78	3.43	7.73	28593.94
Brazil (R$)							
Ambev	11.46	-	15.78	11.34	6.99	11.41	33781.27
Bradesco	11.54	0.05	15.77	11.36	5.26	9.26	11506.85
Cielo	5.62	-0.02	5.67	3.24	8.32	6.59	2856.24
ItauUnHoFin	27.39	0.25	31.02	22.46	4.95	7.43	25405.24
Petrobras	39.23	-0.07	44.77	31.44	26.22	3.42	54617.79
Vale	60.46	-0.61	78.55	59.36	9.73	6.21	51336.77
Canada (C$)							
Bausch Hlth	8.46	-0.23	15.43	8.32	-	-3.80	2252.95
BCE	46.51	-0.13	61.99	43.96	8.67	19.59	30805.61
BkMontrl	114.82	-1.42	133.95	102.67	5.27	15.35	60792.71
BkNvaS	63.65	-0.22	70.40	55.20	6.81	10.12	56820.78
Brookfield	58.88	11.29	63.88	41.28	0.63	73.41	69948.82
CanadPcR	105.00	-0.63	123.37	94.45	0.74	24.53	71108.08
CanImp	66.42	-0.69	69.54	47.44	5.41	9.87	45476.79
CanNaRs	49.01	0.21	56.50	47.87	7.86	6.30	38073.77
CanNaRy♦	170.05	-1.06	181.34	143.13	1.94	19.14	78338.08
Enbridge	48.76	-0.32	52.34	42.75	7.58	16.48	75266.4
GtWesLif♦	40.27	-0.22	45.14	37.06	5.38	11.22	27266.01
ImpOil	89.96	-0.53	101.63	63.19	2.39	10.23	34997.55
Manulife	35.52	-0.59	36.61	23.69	4.28	13.07	46309.1
Nutrien	73.37	-2.48	97.48	64.89	3.97	21.12	26347.04
RylBkC	144.81	-1.40	149.24	107.92	3.84	13.07	148776.24
SHOP	88.29	1.47	123.20	63.16	-	642.88	77556.75
SuncorEn	52.24	-0.27	56.69	37.09	4.20	7.92	48769.15
ThmReut	234.50	-0.49	242.92	163.01	1.17	30.01	76713.51
TntoDom	75.36	-0.60	87.10	73.98	5.33	11.57	96267.05
TmCan	53.27	-0.46	55.69	43.70	7.21	19.05	40125.59
China (HK$)							
AgricBkCh♦	3.24	-0.07	3.85	2.50	7.38	4.20	12748.62
BkChina	3.72	-0.07	3.99	2.60	6.82	4.68	39819.26
BkofComm	5.89	-0.10	6.33	4.23	6.96	4.67	26397.54
BOE Tech	0.54	-0.01	0.87	0.40	5.54	6.85	13.75
Ch Cons Cons	5.02	-0.03	5.07	3.16	4.96	3.10	2839.27
Ch Evrbrght	2.49	-0.10	2.64	2.13	8.40	3.75	4041.22
Ch Rail Cons	5.48	-0.13	6.25	4.06	5.53	2.90	1456.48
Ch Rail Gp	4.25	-0.18	5.40	3.06	5.08	3.06	2288.95
ChConstBk	5.54	-0.12	5.95	4.01	7.67	3.89	170494.35
China Vanke	5.56	-0.09	11.46	3.63	13.18	5.85	1570.42
ChinaCtic	4.71	-0.11	5.09	3.39	7.69	3.70	8972.6
ChinaLife	11.08	-0.22	14.18	8.19	4.84	15.21	10553.89
ChinaMBank	34.70	-0.75	39.60	24.20	5.48	5.70	20392
ChinaMob♦	73.90	-1.05	77.80	60.90	6.26	10.92	194158.43
ChinaPcIns	20.60	-	23.30	12.72	5.41	6.67	7318.3
ChMinsheng	2.94	-0.02	3.21	2.43	8.07	3.86	3131.26
ChMrchSecs	14.08	-0.08	15.91	12.62	1.33	14.99	14405.59
Chna Utd Coms	4.47	-0.10	5.61	3.90	2.76	16.52	19080.73
ChShenEgy	38.60	-1.20	39.85	21.45	7.59	12.38	16888.31
ChShpbldng	4.85	-0.24	5.31	3.81	-	-154.69	15244.76
ChStCnrEng	5.50	-0.11	6.25	4.54	4.64	4.16	31328.29
ChUnicHK♦	6.24	-0.01	6.59	4.45	5.58	9.31	24440.56
CNNC Intl	10.28	-0.12	10.52	6.66	1.67	18.21	26759.5
CSR	4.76	-0.25	5.13	3.10	4.64	10.18	2663.33
Daqin	7.14	-0.09	7.82	6.91	6.79	10.88	17289.55
GuosenSec	9.24	-0.04	10.90	7.42	2.95	19.06	11640.51
HaitongSecs	3.72	-0.14	5.70	3.44	6.24	-85.53	1623.57
Hngzh HikVDT	33.50	0.38	37.75	29.82	2.11	21.65	42062.56
Hunng Pwr	5.36	-0.18	5.60	3.22	-	9.86	3225.03
IM Baotou Stl	1.44	-0.02	1.97	1.36	-	213.97	6252.18
In&Cm3kCh	4.36	-0.06	4.80	3.35	7.60	4.13	48440.62
IndstrlBk	17.41	-0.12	18.45	13.95	6.89	5.37	49857.69
Kweichow	1569	50.18	1935	1555.55	1.67	25.02	271609.3
Midea	0.34	0.04	0.41	0.26	-	-1.39	13.10
New Ch Life Ins	15.66	-0.42	23.45	12.46	7.57	6.70	2072.95
PetroChina	7.67	-0.08	8.22	4.73	6.21	7.92	20715.11
PingAnIns♦	37.45	-0.65	57.45	29.55	7.31	7.42	35702.57
PngAnBnk	10.87	-0.12	12.53	8.96	2.67	4.74	29077.85
Pwr Cons Corp	5.23	-0.11	6.08	4.45	2.32	7.58	9424.05
SaicMtr	14.10	-0.01	15.77	12.92	2.41	11.44	22498.79
ShenwanHong	0.08	0.00	0.15	0.05	-	5.10	83.92
ShgPdgBk	8.15	-0.16	8.64	6.36	3.97	7.76	32976.58
Sinopec Corp	4.82	-0.07	5.28	3.64	8.02	8.27	15040.54
Sinopec Oil	1.77	-0.01	2.27	1.60	-	54.84	3310.79
Denmark (kr)							
DanskeBk	206.50	-2.80	213.70	152.00	7.12	8.09	25593.67
MollerMrsk	11445	-655.00	14430	8412	4.56	15.28	9990.61
NovoB	382.00	-6.40	597.40	504.40	0.97	48.66	478563.89

Stock	Price	Day Chg	52 Week High	52 Week Low	Yld	P/E	MCap m
Finland (€)							
Nokia	3.57	-0.03	3.98	2.70	3.41	23.49	21498.23
SampoA	39.48	-0.40	41.80	34.55	4.68	18.13	21234.91
France (€)							
Airbus Gpe	148.50	-0.96	172.78	123.28	1.25	30.12	126161.18
AirLiquide	165.90	-2.22	179.47	137.60	1.83	27.51	93251.25
AXA	31.80	-0.53	35.19	25.21	5.44	10.85	77448.81
BNP Paribas	60.75	-2.46	73.08	52.82	6.51	9.90	73663.9
ChristianDior	657.00	-11.00	839.50	613.50	1.84	19.43	134910.77
Cred Agr	13.57	-0.55	15.03	10.22	7.84	6.17	44014.23
Danone	59.54	0.20	63.80	50.59	3.45	42.62	43367.45
EDF	12.00	-	12.05	7.27	2.41	-2.31	53889.44
Engie SA	14.25	-0.28	16.64	13.82	10.10	15.94	37198.95
EssilorLuxottica	206.00	-1.80	212.40	153.68	1.61	39.48	101019.3
Hermes Intl	2130	-9.00	2436	1641	0.63	50.43	241121.63
LOreal	451.40	-1.15	461.85	372.00	1.37	38.15	258827.84
LVMH	736.60	-9.70	892.70	644.00	1.74	23.64	395042.06
Orange	9.80	-0.14	11.41	9.73	7.24	-	27959.16
PernodRic	134.25	-1.00	205.70	131.90	3.60	16.27	36799.98
Renault	50.68	-0.96	54.54	31.32	0.51	6.17	16070.86
Safran	207.20	-1.10	219.90	133.66	0.67	24.99	94929.48
Sanofi	89.89	-0.38	104.32	80.60	4.01	24.57	122064.12
Sant Gbn♦	76.44	-0.68	82.76	43.87	2.69	14.23	41512.45
Schneider	225.85	-2.20	239.00	134.38	1.43	31.10	139039.98
SocGen	22.87	-1.21	27.95	20.23	7.64	10.26	19691.98
Total	64.10	-1.11	70.11	50.55	4.69	7.71	164059.39
UnibailR	49.68	0.06	73.09	39.68	-	-4.32	7615.7
Vinci	100.75	-4.05	120.62	93.49	4.13	11.99	63694.85
Vivendi	9.74	-0.10	10.49	7.99	2.64	22.57	10754.52
Germany (€)							
Allianz	256.10	-3.30	280.00	202.35	4.57	11.77	107572.87
BASF	46.44	0.29	54.93	40.25	7.421527	31	44445.7
Bayer	27.08	-0.40	53.80	24.96	9.10	-8.82	28527.66
BMW	91.12	-0.18	115.35	86.80	9.58	5.02	58820.04
Continental	60.86	-0.14	78.40	53.20	2.53	10.25	13052.43
Deut Bank	14.80	-0.48	17.01	9.90	2.05	5.12	31647.5
Deut Tlkm	22.61	-	23.33	13.50	3.18	26.84	120895.84
DeutsPost	44.73	0.54	45.03	23.68	4.18	14.57	60466.66
E.ON	12.29	-0.03	13.48	10.43	4.26	66.44	34794.81
Fresenius Med	39.12	-0.23	49.62	30.16	2.94	22.40	12308.23
Fresenius SE	29.43	-0.73	31.22	23.93	3.21	45.48	17625.18
HenkelKgaA	75.10	0.55	75.50	53.36	2.50	23.36	20921.4
Linde	402.80	1.00	437.60	313.00	1.18	34.41	207615.95
Mercedes-Benz	65.41	-0.11	77.45	55.08	8.06	5.11	75037.87
MuenchRkv	459.70	-0.80	468.10	321.60	2.59	13.21	67270.46
SAP	175.40	-1.42	184.48	113.52	1.18	85.68	231060.02
Siemens	172.46	-1.90	180.80	113.48	2.53	15.25	147943.86
Volkswgn	121.10	-1.90	162.65	105.95	7.28	3.98	38319.24
Hong Kong (HK$)							
AIA♦	57.20	-1.15	83.05	45.25	2.71	22.25	82009.05
BOC Hold	24.70	-0.25	26.10	17.86	5.80	8.00	33428.59
Ch OSLnd&Inv	15.20	-0.16	19.24	10.10	5.03	5.91	21295.46
ChngKng♦	30.15	-0.30	45.60	23.75	7.54	6.22	13549.69
Citic Ltd	7.81	-0.22	10.26	5.53	8.31	3.47	29082.41
Citic Secs	12.14	-0.36	18.02	10.86	4.43	8.86	4071.6
CK Hutchison♦	37.95	-0.70	49.60	35.35	7.47	6.20	18605.73
CNOOC	21.30	0.05	21.75	10.90	6.34	7.10	121540.33
HangSeng	106.70	-1.50	120.20	73.05	4.96	11.92	25947.47
HK Exc&Clr	266.20	-4.60	336.00	212.20	3.07	28.51	43201.97
MTR♦	25.00	-0.90	36.43	22.30	5.23	20.05	19896.03
SandsCh	19.26	-0.32	31.45	17.02	-	27.30	10917.47
SHK Props	72.75	-0.85	103.30	63.60	6.79	8.57	26985.52
Tencent	373.80	-1.00	401.00	260.20	0.64	28.63	450103.71
India (Rs)							
Bhartiart	1427.25	1.20	1436.65	813.00	0.28	98.22	103768.15
HDFC Bk	1564.8	3.50	1757.5	1363.55	1.22	16.33	142377.22
Hind Unilevr	2556.35	-9.00	2769.65	2172.05	1.57	58.13	71869.13
HsngDevFin	2724.3	-23.05	2927.4	2160	1.16	18.17	61324.4
ICICI Bk	1118.2	-5.60	1173	899.00	0.72	18.77	94087.62
Infosys♦■	1495.75	-4.00	1733	1262.25	2.38	25.28	74308.01
ITC	433.00	-3.90	499.70	393.35	2.95	26.32	64683.97
I&T	3698.7	54.95	3919.9	2377.1	0.67	39.46	59197.15
OilNatGas	273.55	14.40	292.95	152.60	3.75	8.20	41177.27
Reliancein	2913.35	-29.45	3029	2220.3	0.31	28.08	235864.1
SBI NewA	835.55	3.75	912.00	543.20	1.35	11.67	80226.13
SunPhrminds	1499.75	-13.35	1638.85	977.30	0.77	40.37	43056.64
Tata Cons	3852.1	-6.60	4254.75	2156	1.30	31.35	166765.69
Israel (ILS)							
TevaPha	62.95	-0.03	63.83	23.37	-	-33.52	18944.76
Italy (€)							
Enel	6.57	-0.11	6.89	5.47	6.26	11.61	71602.91
ENI	13.99	-0.12	15.83	12.64	6.74	12.90	49265.42
Generali	23.24	-0.39	24.98	17.98	5.13	-	39103.86
IntSPaolo	3.48	-0.09	3.77	2.28	6.92	8.05	68155.9
Unicred	34.90	-1.36	37.18	13.35	2.91	6.73	62931.1
Japan (¥)							
AstellasPh	1579	2.50	2305	1426	4.58	535.26	18161.62
Bridgestne	6712	-	7058	5474	3.32	12.64	30446.77
Canon	4579	8.00	4703	3422	3.12	15.68	38817.2
CntJpRwy	3466	-51.00	4027	3235	0.90	8.57	22690.31

Stock	Price	Day Chg	52 Week High	52 Week Low	Yld	P/E	MCap m
Denso	2491.5	16.50	2993.5	2075.5	2.15	20.73	49910.45
EastJpRwy	2700	-36.00	3108.33	2520	1.44	12.94	19467.47
Fanuc♦	4366	2.00	5334	3603	2.41	26.83	27622.59
FastRetail	41700	210.00	48040	31140	0.86	35.80	84341.15
Fuji Hvy Ind	3401	-25.00	3610	2395.5	2.49	6.73	16296.56
Hitachi	17060	-90.00	17340	8561	1.01	17.93	100549.62
HondaMtr	1708	-	1959.5	1380.33	3.19	8.05	57318.73
JapanTob	4571	-	4622	2997	4.72	15.12	58105.32
KDDI	4295	-4.00	5080	4059	3.63	11.95	59833.99
Keyence	70440	-180.00	75040	52080	0.47	47.48	108885.81
MitsbCp	3275	15.00	3775	2082	2.36	13.59	86988.19
MitsubEst	1114.84	-2.99	1191.47	972.54	-	-	-
MitsubishiEle	2611.5	-75.00	2942.5	1651.5	1.96	18.95	35075.64
MitsuiFud	787.50	9.68	1147.48	732.82	-	-	-
MitUFJFin	1632.5	-17.00	1723.5	957.50	2.49	8.59	128015.47
Mizuho Fin	3141	-6.00	3310	2093	3.28	10.93	50693
Murata Mfg	3037	-46.00	3141	2461	1.83	23.93	38424.32
Nippon TT	150.20	-1.80	192.90	149.50	3.63	9.62	86443.86
Nissan Mt	545.40	0.30	712.50	520.70	3.06	4.43	13552.15
Nomura	939.50	-23.20	1086	512.10	2.37	22.82	18890.71
Nppn Stl	3388	-17.00	3847	2861.5	5.42	5.12	20488.45
Panasonic	1329	-28.50	1808	1295	2.72	5.56	20731
Seven & I	2651	3.00	2244.5	1720.67	1.91	22.26	34326.43
SmtEtsuCh♦	6193	-13.00	6926	4190	5.84	20.87	78790.33
Softbank	9669	-55.00	9929	5639	0.51	-22.70	90338.35
Sony	13340	-20.00	14915	11535	0.67	17.34	105867.01
Sumitomof	10280	-85.00	10580	5722	2.81	14.77	86076.47
Takeda Ph	4219	-22.00	4873	3980	4.85	33.71	42433.18
TokioMarine	5642	55.00	5705	2960.5	2.18	16.55	70930.66
Toyota	3254	-18.00	3891	2054.5	2.22	8.79	326671.61
Mexico (Mex$)							
AmerMvl	16.40	0.11	20.25	15.66	-	17.00	41116.45
FEMSA UBD	203.52	3.25	245.00	175.10	1.74	29.53	23858.47
WalMrtMex	62.65	0.19	73.50	59.28	2.00	18.38	59288.36
Netherlands (€)							
ASML Hld	959.20	-4.20	972.00	534.40	0.64	52.41	410994.92
Heineken	94.44	-0.32	99.30	81.54	2.09	22.48	58330.94
ING	15.95	-0.28	16.66	11.43	4.76	7.61	56505.74
Unilever	51.68	-0.06	51.94	42.97	2.86	23.30	164278.14
Norway (Kr)							
DNB	202.60	0.40	224.40	180.45	6.14	8.20	29115.13
Equinor	298.35	-0.80	382.85	256.70	4.37	8.50	83467.75
Telenor	123.40	-1.40	131.80	102.05	7.58	23.04	16087.82
Qatar (QR)							
QatarNtBk	13.87	0.17	17.15	12.83	4.72	7.01	35185.16
Saudi Arabia (SR)							
AlRajhiBnk	80.90	-0.90	91.60	63.10	2.96	20.53	86288.72
NatnlcombnkSaudiBasic	35.70	-0.85	44.35	30.90	4.05	11.08	57116.94
SaudiBasic	76.20	0.70	91.00	74.30	4.98	177.62	60956.76
SaudiTelec	37.65	0.10	45.95	35.00	4.24	14.19	50197.3
Singapore (S$)							
DBS	35.55	-0.08	36.15	27.75	4.96	8.76	74670.87
JardnMt US$	36.83	-0.69	52.57	34.92	5.96	15.58	10704.97
OCBC	14.19	-0.04	14.58	12.00	5.69	8.62	47150.08
SngTel	2.56	0.02	2.68	2.25	4.00	12.87	31200.92
UOB	30.57	-0.16	31.35	26.82	5.36	8.97	37800.33
South Africa (R)							
Firstrand	64.48	1.14	74.77	58.90	6.07	9.34	19343.53
MTN Grp	80.26	0.04	145.91	77.53	4.19	35.30	8087.79
Naspers N	3813.72	-31.35	4084.54	2673.3	-	8.93	36362.09
South Korea (KRW)							
HyundMobis	219000	-2500.00	270000	198300	0.49	5.45	14878.83
KoreaElePwr	19800	40.00	25450	16030	-	17.99	9220.81
SK Hynix	212500	4500	215000	109700	0.58	-30.75	112223.79
SmsungEl	75200	-500.00	86000	65800	2.05	33.06	325663.88
Spain (€)							
BBVA	9.59	-0.17	11.28	6.41	1.69	6.96	59253.89
BcoSantdr	4.61	-0.10	4.93	3.01	3.09	6.77	78171.71
CaixaBnk	5.10	-0.17	5.32	3.49	7.78	7.99	40351.31
Iberdrola	12.08	-0.09	12.45	9.88	4.35	13.02	83169.45
Inditex	45.47	-0.24	47.02	32.32	1.77	26.05	151060.88
Repsol	14.46	-0.25	16.22	12.48	4.97	5.72	19799.87
Telefonica	4.28	-0.06	4.48	3.49	7.20	-20.82	26010.85
Sweden (SKr)							
AtlasCpcoB	174.20	-1.20	178.40	119.10	1.31	29.93	25851.24
Ericsson	64.04	-1.08	66.48	48.53	4.17	-8.48	18792.38
H & M	183.15	-1.30	189.90	137.10	3.63	30.96	24659.17
Investor	285.20	-1.65	289.75	197.88	1.53	5.48	49402.34
Nordea Bk	127.80	0.85	134.30	108.80	8.23	7.76	42594.78
SEB	151.40	0.30	157.45	111.90	5.56	8.40	30455.91
SvnskaHn	99.32	0.66	125.95	86.34	6.48	7.17	18364.16
Swedbank	216.00	0.40	233.80	172.70	6.94	7.03	23247.02
Telia Co	26.87	-0.24	27.79	20.98	5.53	226.32	10045.2
Volvo	271.10	-1.30	321.10	210.10	2.74	10.92	40942.34
Switzerland (SFr)							
ABB	50.08	-0.28	50.84	29.13	1.74	28.38	104810.32
CredSuisse	0.82	0.01	5.86	0.66	11.88	-0.31	3611.19
Nestle	94.60	-1.00	109.34	89.52	3.32	20.99	275620.8
Novartis	94.08	-0.22	95.41	79.21	3.61	23.63	229111.67

Stock	Price	Day Chg	52 Week High	52 Week Low	Yld	P/E	MCap m
Richemont	147.05	-1.50	154.00	102.95	1.60	21.52	87908.2
Roche	241.60	1.90	284.00	212.90	4.19	15.85	188756.35
Swiss Re	111.50	-0.75	117.20	83.10	5.15	11.85	39367.2
Swisscom	499.00	-3.00	565.80	486.80	4.70	14.18	28745.25
UBS	27.77	-0.26	28.78	17.26	1.99	3.19	96142.18
Zurch Fin	470.40	-6.00	492.90	401.70	5.09	17.65	76559.07
Taiwan (NT$)							
Chunghwa Telecom	126.50	-	128.00	114.00	3.79	26.25	30282.44
Formosa PetChem	66.10	0.30	88.60	65.00	1.75	27.32	19430.86
HonHaiPrc	180.50	3.00	186.00	94.00	3.09	17.02	77217.41
MediaTek	1270	-5.00	1320	652.00	8.34	24.95	62679.7
TaiwanSem	883.00	4.00	899.00	516.00	1.41	25.82	706551.45
Thailand (THB)							
PTT	32.00	-0.25	36.50	31.00	5.03	7.60	24874.66
United Arab Emirates (Dhs)							
Emrtestele	24.30	0.70	38.98	11.60	2.92	23.18	57535.64
United Kingdom (p)							
Anglo American	2359	-14.00	2813	1630	4.29	130.75	40109.15
AscBrFd♦	2517	-29.00	2765	1849.5	1.88	16.28	23974.32
AstraZen	12376	-224.00	12704	9461	1.85	38.60	243382.24
Aviva	468.50	-1.50	501.40	366.00	6.79	12.59	16001.61
Barclays	209.05	-5.70	224.30	128.12	3.83	8.07	39561.29
BP	468.35	-2.50	562.30	441.05	4.66	6.95	99294.69
BrAmTob	2388	-14.00	2742	2233	9.67	-3.69	67466.44
BT	128.00	-1.65	147.85	101.70	6.02	6.77	16193.53
Compass	2195	-12.00	2332	1940.5	1.69	29.15	47497.67
Diageo	2594.5	-12.50	3509	2711	3.01	17.69	73318.19
GlaxoSmh♦	1615	-6.00	1823.5	1302.6	3.59	14.84	85392.17
Glencore	465.55	-10.25	506.72	365.31	7.51	17.46	72201.74
HSBC	677.60	-16.00	725.20	572.90	7.19	7.38	161100.26
Imperial Brands	1978	-2.00	2006	1968	7.17	7.89	21503.48
Jardine Mathes.	62.50	-	51.00	36.49	3.55	26.45	18166.19
LlydsBkg	53.38	-0.84	57.39	39.42	4.72	7.63	42593.79
LSE Group	9342	-58.00	11080.2	7784	1.19	67.64	63089.3
Natl Grid	862.80	9.60	1052.85	645.00	5.98	11.69	40815.87
Natwest Group	303.80	-7.10	329.80	168.00	5.60	6.53	32179.93
Prudential	709.40	-11.40	1153	684.73	2.16	14.61	24802.07
ReckittB	4388	-32.00	6104	4102.64	4.18	14.18	39127.7
RELX♦	3491	-12.00	3567	2432	1.60	37.10	82752.7
RioTinto	5251	-106.00	5910	4509.5	6.04	10.86	83606.87
RollsRoyce	465.00	-	470.10	143.75	-	16.20	49749.75
Shell PLC	2750.5	-7.00	2961	2251	3.54	12.30	221314.95
StandCh	721.20	-32.00	796.00	571.00	2.96	8.15	23506.53
Tesco♦	302.30	-3.50	316.10	217.53	3.61	15.39	26763.13
Unilever	4357	-12.00	4418	3680.5	3.45	19.64	138498.41
Vodafone	70.10	-0.78	82.56	62.71	11.14	2.13	23951.37
WPP♦	753.00	-15.00	878.80	7.24	5.23	74.55	10323.65
United States of America ($)							
21stC Fox A	33.70	0.01	35.41	28.29	1.51	19.76	7788.6
3M	100.54	-0.12	106.04	71.35	6.02	-7.85	55534.94
AbbottLb	105.97	-1.52	121.64	89.67	1.92	32.60	184348.99
Abbvie	167.84	-2.62	182.89	130.90	3.52	61.00	296303.25
Accenture	290.12	-0.31	387.51	278.69	1.67	26.17	194502.76
Activision Bli.	94.42	-0.05	94.57	70.94	-	36.23	74289.5
Adobe	456.64	-3.31	634.59	433.97	-	43.40	204572.48
Advanced Micro	157.48	-2.86	227.30	93.12	-	226.81	254537.11
AEP	88.73

FINANCIAL TIMES SHARE SERVICE

Main Market

	Price	+/-Chg	52 Week High	52 Week Low	Yld	P/E	Vol 000s
Aerospace & Defence							
Avon Protection	1318	-2.00	1408	582.00	2.78	-29.41	25.3
BAE Sys	1384	-16.00	1415.25	883.40	2.03	22.91	4154.8
Chemring	381.00	-4.00	412.14	258.00	1.60	29.03	637.3
Automobiles & Parts							
FordMtr $◆	12.24	-0.14	15.42	9.63	4.93	12.54	15335.3
Banks							
ANZ A$◆	28.91	-0.27	29.90	22.64	5.03	12.87	5732.8
BcoSant	391.50	3.00	423.00	257.00	3.07	6.82	202.2
BnkGeorgia	3640	-40.00	5510	2646.26	7.11	4.13	81.7
BankIre Grp €	9.64	-0.23	10.80	7.74	2.24	6.70	59.5
BkNvaS C$◆	63.65	-0.22	70.40	55.20	3.81	10.12	706.5
Barclays◆	209.05	-5.70	224.30	128.12	3.83	8.07	54749.1
CanImp C$◆	66.42	-0.69	69.54	47.44	5.41	9.87	783.2
HSBC◆	677.60	-16.00	725.20	572.90	7.19	7.33	20318.5
LlydsBkg◆	53.38	-0.84	57.39	39.42	4.72	7.63	157729.7
NWG◆	303.80	-7.10	329.80	168.00	5.60	6.53	53259.5
PermTSB €	2.35	-0.04	2.81	1.18	-	53.03	65.9
RylBkC C$◆	144.81	-1.40	149.24	107.92	3.84	13.07	648.4
StandCh◆	721.20	-32.00	796.00	571.00	2.96	8.13	14205.4
..7.375%Pf	107.25	-1.50	108.43	94.50	5.88	-	650.0
..8.25%Pf	117.85	-	119.20	101.36	7.00	-	300.0
TntoDom C$◆	75.36	-0.60	87.10	73.98	5.33	11.57	840.7
Westpc A$◆	26.69	-0.28	28.05	20.18	5.12	13.42	6385.7
Chemicals							
Elementis	144.40	-	161.17	96.60	-	39.13	1264.2
Johnsn Mtthey	1619	-13.00	1917.07	1428.5	4.76	16.73	1291.3
Victrex	1220	-32.00	1632	1152	4.88	17.30	48.9
Construction & Materials							
Boot(H)	205.00	-2.00	244.00	170.00	3.38	10.62	37.8
GalfrdT	238.00	-10.00	279.00	185.81	4.41	17.25	202.9
MorgSdl	2550	-25.00	2605	1640.14	4.08	10.13	64.7
Tyman	356.00	-3.50	400.00	231.50	3.85	18.25	86.8
Electronic & Electrical Equip							
Dialight	176.00	-	240.00	135.00	-	-15.13	0.5
Discoverie PLC	714.00	-4.00	958.00	586.00	1.60	31.73	63.0
Halma	2274	-10.00	2463	1802	0.89	36.21	797.1
Morgan Ac	307.50	-7.50	338.00	215.50	3.90	18.87	250.7
Oxfordin	2635	175.00	2850	1634	0.74	25.53	250.0
Renishaw	3960	-60.00	4500	2823.42	1.92	29.62	28.4
Spectris◆	3220	-62.00	3861	2917	2.38	23.10	134.6
TT Elect	150.00	-	189.80	133.60	4.30	38.45	261.7
XP Power	1556	10.00	2489.2	682.41	3.47	34.27	14.7
Financial General							
3i	2970	23.00	2995	1837.5	1.78	6.40	2113.0
abrdn	148.15	-1.80	238.00	134.60	9.85	1481.50	4654.8
Bridgepoint Grp Plc	209.40	-1.80	300.60	164.80	4.01	23.27	333.6
CtyLnInv	359.00	-4.00	441.00	300.00	8.76	12.42	23.8
CloseBrs	446.40	-7.20	989.50	273.00	15.12	4.72	332.4
CoinShares Int Ltd SKr	67.60	-	72.90	33.80	-	0.68	26.9
Hargr Lans	1059	-15.00	1151	675.40	3.64	18.88	1529.6
IndvardnSKr	360.80	-0.80	377.20	273.70	1.99	4.99	352.5
ICG	2124	12.00	2176	1224	3.89	27.46	1022.3
Investec	522.00	-2.00	567.00	413.00	5.94	7.11	1443.6
Jupiter	76.20	-1.00	128.30	71.10	5.25	-30.48	607.7
Liontrust	760.00	-4.00	865.00	513.00	6.18	9.50	319.0
LSE Gp◆	9342	-58.00	11080.2	7784	1.19	67.64	799.4
RathbnGrp	1718	-18.00	1996	1436	6.93	33.82	38.1
Record	64.80	-0.20	98.90	55.20	6.94	12.73	325.5
S & U	1895	-25.00	2490	1750	7.02	7.02	1.7
Schroder	372.80	-8.60	470.00	345.20	5.77	15.40	1055.5
Shires Income	243.00	1.00	257.50	200.00	5.84	8.66	57.0
StJmsPl	508.00	-5.50	1185.5	393.60	10.44	-282.22	2341.2
TP ICAP	205.50	-3.00	230.50	140.60	6.18	22.10	595.2
Vanqus	52.80	-0.50	218.50	43.15	28.98	-22.00	390.4
Food & Beverages							
AngloEst	676.00	-2.00	806.00	650.50	2.89	7.26	2.0
AscBrFd◆◆	2517	-29.00	2765	1849.5	1.88	16.28	1186.0
BarrAG)	603.00	-2.00	637.00	445.00	2.20	17.61	308.5
Britvic	966.00	0.50	1025	770.00	3.04	20.17	358.8
CarrsGroup	146.50	4.50	152.02	92.00	5.49	-133.18	9.3
Coca-Cola HBC	2708	8.00	2830	2065	2.50	18.06	634.1
Cranswk	4265	-20.00	4570	3158	1.86	18.14	140.1
Diageo◆	2594.5	-12.50	3509	27.11	3.01	17.69	2832.8
Grncore	168.80	-2.00	178.60	68.35	-	23.44	603.0
HiltonFd◆	861.00	10.00	957.00	614.00	3.67	21.42	256.3
Kerry £	76.10	-3.00	93.45	71.05	1.46	18.08	7.5
PremFds	162.80	-1.80	180.20	111.50	0.88	14.67	1360.3
Tate&Lyl	673.50	-8.00	777.50	587.00	4.57	14.42	1070.9
Unilever◆	4357	-12.00	4418	3680.5	3.45	19.64	3181.4
..NV	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Health Care Equip & Services							
GNStre kr	214.50	-9.30	227.90	113.10	-	55.69	2330.2
Smith & Nephew	1008.5	-18.50	1269	887.00	2.90	42.71	1907.6
House, Leisure & Pers Goods							
BarrttDev	496.50	-5.30	582.60	384.15	6.79	22.07	12104.4
Bellway◆	2720	-34.00	2898	1903	5.15	15.09	284.4
Berkeley	5110	-75.00	5360	3634	2.52	12.13	220.4
Burberry Gp	1009.5	-10.00	2289	1003.5	6.04	8.45	1353.2
Cairn Homes	139.00	-3.60	151.20	89.00	3.87	12.73	371.7
GamesWk	9720	-15.00	11850	8860	4.58	22.96	20.7
Gleeson	560.00	-	590.00	344.50	2.50	19.24	64.6
Headlam	152.00	2.00	275.00	146.22	10.00	15.83	32.7
McBride	118.50	0.50	129.17	24.10	-	11.73	1034
Philips €	24.37	-0.08	29.10	16.48	-	-49.57	1225.9
PZCusns	104.40	-1.80	190.00	81.50	6.13	-12.99	339.2
Redrow	694.50	-8.50	750.00	423.62	4.32	10.82	2245.4
Superdry Plc	2.83	0.04	21.39	1.21	-	-0.02	816.8
Vistry Group	1239	-16.00	1383	12.65	2.58	19.45	847.3
Industrial Engineering							
Bodycote	724.00	-5.00	774.00	545.00	2.98	16.16	151.5
Goodwin	6280	-80.00	7300	4200	1.77	30.11	34
Hill&Sm◆	1962	-4.00	2155	1426	1.89	23.08	47.2
IMI	1826	-22.00	1911	1429	1.45	20.02	293.6
Melroselnd	622.40	3.00	681.23	445.40	0.96	6224.00	5293.0
Renold	62.00	-1.00	66.80	26.50	-	9.12	851.2
RHIM◆	3150	-5.00	3827.43	2456	4.54	10.63	37.2
Rotork	331.60	-2.40	348.00	277.20	2.07	25.12	695.4
Severfd	72.00	-1.00	76.23	48.10	4.72	10.57	2100
Weir	2066	-26.00	2210.25	1652.5	1.80	23.42	412.9
Industrial General							
Coats Group	82.40	-0.10	89.60	63.50	2.42	20.48	3305.5
Macfrlne	123.50	-0.50	147.50	98.38	2.80	13.22	1096.5
Smith DS	356.00	-5.00	415.00	260.50	5.06	10.63	4893.3
Smiths	1705	-10.00	1776.5	1517.5	2.44	25.64	699.8
SmurfKap	3590	-32.00	3913	2528	3.41	14.23	324.6
Industrial Transportation							
Braemar	285.00	-	317.64	215.00	3.86	-31.67	20.7
Fisher J	310.00	-	427.50	238.73	-	73.81	11.5
intTdistser	329.40	-4.00	340.00	197.25	-	-3.12	2373.0
OceanWI◆	1315	-	1500	856.00	4.16	8.84	2.7
Insurance							
Admiral	2563	-94.00	2870	2010	2.95	23.13	460.0
Aviva◆	468.50	-1.50	501.40	366.00	6.79	12.59	7504.8
Chesnar	247.50	-2.50	289.50	242.70	9.50	20.14	141.2
Direct Line	199.00	-8.00	240.10	132.11	-	12.68	2513.0
Eccles prf◆	126.00	-1.00	138.00	115.00	6.85	-	61.0
Hansard	49.45	0.95	53.00	37.20	9.00	10.30	3.9
Hiscox◆	1115	-14.00	1277.85	926.04	2.61	7.05	498.0
Lancashire	590.00	-15.00	690.00	525.00	1.99	5.70	209.4
Leg&Gen	243.10	-2.90	257.90	203.10	8.00	33.39	22442.5
Old Mut	44.00	0.65	58.30	41.55	8.18	6.66	229.0
PhoenixGrp	484.80	-4.20	564.80	436.40	10.73	-35.13	2801.1
Prudntl◆	709.40	-11.40	1153	684.73	2.16	14.61	5024.4
LEISURE							
PhotoMe International Plc	107.00	5.00	109.00	55.70	5.58	8.04	655.5
Media							
4imprint	5850	-40.00	6780	4115.9	2.54	26.17	48.4
Aim Trader Group PLC	814.20	-9.40	849.00	580.20	1.03	32.17	2815.2
DlyMailA	270.00	-2.50	1178	264.50	8.95	10.31	111.0
Informa◆	826.60	-9.00	865.20	604.00	1.52	27.65	2669.2
ITV	77.15	-1.05	82.55	55.49	6.48	14.84	7073.9
Pearson	947.20	-6.80	1046.5	806.20	2.31	17.97	1516.4
MEDIA							
Reach PLC	86.40	-2.70	92.80	58.47	8.50	12.71	792.3
Media							
RELX PLC◆◆	3491	-12.00	3567	2432	1.80	37.10	2771.0
Rightmove PLC	552.60	-1.20	603.00	5.31	1.59	22.65	2293.5
STV Grp	290.50	5.50	297.00	175.00	3.89	30.90	11.1
WPP◆◆	753.00	-15.00	878.80	7.24	5.23	74.55	2249.9
Mining							
AngloAmer◆	2359	-14.00	2813	1630	4.29	130.75	5167.1
ArGoldA R	420.61	1.66	483.57	287.40	2.09	224.97	1174.7
Antofagasta	2067	-92.00	2425	15.82	2.38	31.11	1335.4
BHP Group	2226	-67.00	2707.5	2157	6.12	19.48	2477.4
Ecora Resources	72.50	-1.10	125.40	69.40	9.26	279.92	331.1
Ferrexpo	45.00	0.35	99.90	41.00	-	-3.98	548.8
Fresnillo	551.00	-9.00	679.90	435.20	2.11	22.16	513.3
Glencore◆◆	465.55	-10.25	506.72	365.31	7.51	17.46	26309.8
Hermony R	152.63	-3.88	187.42	65.00	0.50	10.45	1752.3
PolymtIntl#	215.00	50.00	362.02	125.00	-	2.47	12.0
Rio Tinto◆	5251	-106.00	5910	4509.5	6.04	10.86	3222.0
Troy Res A$	0.04	0.00	0.20	0.03	-	-0.24	3131.9
Oil & Gas							
BP◆	468.35	-2.50	562.30	441.05	4.66	6.95	53092.5
Caracorn Energy	186.50	15.00	380.73	139.14	-	-1.71	401.4
ExxonMb $◆	112.38	-0.71	123.75	95.77	3.33	13.69	4005.2
Gazprom PJSC ADR $◆	0.58	-	10.97	0.02	-	0.61	3213.3
GeoPark $	10.32	-0.01	10.95	8.05	5.08	5.33	61.7
HELLENIQ ENERGY £	8.22	-0.20	8.81	6.55	9.37	5.13	280.6
ImpOil C$◆	89.96	-0.53	101.63	63.19	2.39	10.23	225.8
TnCan C$◆	53.27	-0.46	55.69	43.70	7.21	19.85	666.4
Wood Group (John) PLC	200.60	3.60	211.80	117.67	-	-13.18	5264.2
Pharmaceuticals & Biotech							
AstraZeneca◆	12376	-224.00	12704	9461	1.85	38.60	1569.5
GlaxoSmh◆◆	1615	-6.00	1823.5	1302.6	3.59	14.84	5143.0
HikmaPhm	1973	43.00	2222	1711	2.46	29.59	341.5
Oxfd Bio	325.50	-1.00	474.50	164.29	-	-2.00	67.3
RichterG $	25.00	-0.40	27.60	23.40	4.53	10.09	0.0
Real Estate							
REITs							
Assura	39.18	-0.64	50.12	37.54	8.17	-7.00	16566.3
BritLand	423.80	-6.40	446.80	287.30	5.34	3.68	2662.5
Cap&Reg	60.00	-	63.37	48.88	8.65	-11.45	225.9
Civitas SH	79.80	-	86.18	51.07	6.81	13.62	115.0
DrwntLdn	2296	-26.00	2452	1766	3.44	-5.41	358.8
Great Portland	335.50	-10.50	400.80	290.50	3.76	-2.57	2751.1
LandSecs	628.50	-16.50	729.40	551.20	6.21	-7.64	3751.0
LondonMtrc	196.80	-3.60	210.80	152.30	4.88	-10.41	4522.4
Palace Cap	225.00	-2.00	265.00	200.00	6.67	-4.23	30.5
PrimyHth	90.60	-0.40	109.00	84.20	7.40	45.30	4036.4
SEGRO	895.80	-9.80	944.80	675.00	3.00	-43.28	2575.8
Shaftesbury Cap	139.30	-3.10	151.10	101.50	2.30	3.08	1774.0
TritaxBBOX	152.10	-4.40	173.00	121.80	4.75	40.89	9309.5
Wkspace	554.00	-11.00	617.00	449.20	4.66	-4.78	153.6
Real Estate Inv & Services							
Grainger	233.50	-6.00	278.80	215.40	2.64	66.71	2603.1
Harworth Grp	145.00	4.00	146.00	95.40	0.95	12.61	175.4
Helical	214.50	-0.50	283.00	181.00	5.48	-1.51	154.4
Lon&Assc	11.50	-	18.00	7.00	-	-3.27	0.0
Mntview	9800	-50.00	11500	9200	5.10	14.35	0.3
Savills	1112	-4.00	1208	745.00	1.83	38.61	74.1
SiriusRE	96.85	-1.45	101.70	77.50	5.05	32.08	1558.5
Smart(J)	125.00	-	172.00	108.00	2.58	416.67	2.0
U+I	148.50	-0.50	151.50	58.51	-	-2.12	98.8
Retailers							
Caffyns	450.00	-	628.00	400.00	5.00	9.55	2.8
Dunelm	1068	-12.00	1335.53	959.00	3.93	14.47	152.7
Halfords	144.60	-2.40	244.80	136.04	6.92	9.77	4641.5
Inchcape◆	773.50	-17.50	892.50	597.50	3.99	11.94	468.5
JDSportsF	123.60	-0.80	177.75	103.00	0.65	32.27	7892.1
Kingfisher◆	254.80	-4.00	274.00	198.30	4.87	14.16	7777.2
Marks&Sp	296.60	-13.00	314.00	183.80	-	228.15	13454.0
Ocado	351.30	-4.10	1017	332.70	-	-9.14	10001.3
Saga	117.00	-1.40	154.80	100.20	-	-1.45	322.6
Sainsbury (J)◆	257.00	-6.20	311.16	243.80	4.12	21.60	8348.5
Tesco◆◆	302.30	-3.50	316.10	217.53	3.61	15.39	25960.6
Support Services							
Ashtd6p	5596	-46.00	6180	4437	1.42	19.34	1173.7
Bunzl◆	2958	10.00	3306	2660	2.15	18.96	468.5
Capita	13.98	-0.62	34.80	12.48	-	-1.32	7543.3
DCC	5600	-20.00	6075	4145	2.85	18.51	131.2
DeLaRue	94.20	0.20	107.00	29.10	-	-4.24	23.9
Diploma	4094	4.00	4340	2772.88	1.35	45.29	154.2
Essenta PLC◆	167.40	-0.40	191.80	130.20	1.31	83.70	165.9
Experian	3679	29.00	3796	2366	1.21	40.02	868.9
Ferguson	15650	85.00	17810	11490	1.50	23.17	105.7
Hays	102.30	-2.40	111.90	87.00	2.93	19.64	3069.4
HowdenJny	860.00	-10.00	937.00	605.00	2.41	18.57	1381.1
Intertek◆	4786	-60.00	5145	3746	2.28	26.10	334.5
Mitie	116.60	-2.40	124.94	90.70	2.49	16.90	1531.0
Rentokil	415.20	5.90	663.80	387.80	1.90	27.55	12325.2
Ricardo	488.00	-2.00	619.60	394.01	2.45	-488.00	17.9
RbrtWlts	422.00	2.00	472.00	344.00	5.57	22.21	42.2
RS Grp	708.50	7.00	1134.91	7.66	2.95	14.20	938.2
SIG	26.75	-0.40	39.36	25.35	-	-7.04	353.8
Vp	710.00	10.00	745.00	460.00	5.28	11.83	11.5
Tech - Hardware							
SpirentCM	184.10	-0.10	203.80	79.75	3.33	55.09	8698.3
Tech - Software & Services							
Computcnt◆	2805	45.00	2982	1994.3	2.44	16.20	600.5
NCC Grp	145.20	-2.40	150.00	81.20	3.20	-32.27	1327.5
Sage	1036.5	-7.50	1285	860.60	1.80	50.73	1877.4
TriadGp	295.00	-	300.47	105.00	2.03	-77.23	0.7
Telecommunications							
Airtel Africa	117.70	-1.60	135.80	90.20	3.79	17.31	7379.8
BT◆	128.00	-1.65	147.85	101.70	6.02	6.77	12876.5
TelePlus	1858	-22.00	1900	1356	3.07	47.64	65.6
Vodafone Gp◆	70.10	-0.78	82.56	62.71	11.14	2.13	86157.3
Tobacco							
BrAmTob◆	2388	-14.00	2742	2233	9.67	-3.69	6045.9
Imperial Br◆	1978	-2.00	2006	1968	7.17	7.89	2082.0
Travel & Leisure							
Carnival	1159.5	-9.00	1388	793.00	-	45.83	333.2
Dalata Hotel	358.00	-	436.00	324.00	0.97	10.35	0.5
easyJet	459.30	-0.40	591.07	350.00	-	10.76	8988.9
FirstGrp	164.80	-4.70	189.00	128.50	2.31	-109.86	2198.9
Rutter Entertainment	14475	-315.00	17980	12020	-	-24.66	211.5
Fuller A	720.00	16.00	730.00	522.00	2.04	41.14	28.0
IntCon Htels Gp	8000	10.00	8790	5104	1.41	23.12	437.5
Intl Cons Air	167.15	-1.00	187.65	2.14	-	3.81	9424.2
TUI	594.50	-4.00	687.00	375.00	-	4.96	497.1
Whitbrd◆	2982	-15.00	3714	2848	-	-24.20	1076.7
Utilities							
Drax	493.20	0.40	637.60	395.20	4.42	3.54	459.8
Natl Grid◆	862.80	-9.60	1052.85	645.00	5.98	11.69	13174.8
Pennon	582.00	-8.50	802.00	532.83	7.34	-90.06	694.4
Severn Trent	2362	-24.00	2770	2243	4.48	57.26	503.3
SSE	1770	-19.50	1932.5	1485	5.46	33.21	2732.0
UtdUtils	997.60	-12.90	1139.5	896.76	4.56	-212.26	1245.0

AIM

	Price	+/-Chg	52 Week High	52 Week Low	Yld	P/E	Vol 000s
Aerospace & Defence							
Cohort	758.00	-12.00	860.00	430.00	1.77	23.27	63.8
Velocity Composites PLC	39.00	-0.50	57.00	28.00	-	-4.88	33.0
Banks							
Caribbean Inv	26.50	-	45.40	24.03	-	3.05	138.6
Basic Resource (Ex Mining)							
CropperJ	320.00	-5.00	870.00	212.00	1.88	9.41	3.1
Chemicals							
Directa Plus PLC	18.50	-1.20	70.85	16.00	-	-3.08	131.8
Versarien PLC	0.07	0.00	4.00	0.07	-	-0.01	8638.8
Construction & Materials							
AccsysTch	56.80	0.10	108.00	49.90	-	-2.50	21.1
Electronic & Electrical Equip							
Checkit	23.00	-0.50	31.00	18.10	-	-2.45	93.5
IPA	66.50	0.50	101.66	55.60	-	-246.30	18.4
ThorpeFW	362.00	-	460.00	320.00	1.78	19.19	37.2
Zytronic	57.50	-	104.00	53.00	3.83	-3.73	1.1
Financial General							
Arbuthnot	942.50	-20.00	1150	840.00	4.67	4.23	1.5
BP Marsh	496.00	21.00	518.00	347.20	0.49	13.66	46.3
Burford Capital Ltd◆	1076	-16.00	1388	900.00	0.92	5.01	96.8
Gresham House Plc	1100	-20.00	1120	652.00	1.45	30.51	177.7
MatrixIlWds	790.00	-1.00	800.00	481.00	3.39	41.15	237.6
Premier Miton Group	72.00	-0.50	90.00	48.10	12.92	30.64	171.2
Food & Beverages							
Camellia	4400	10.00	6300	4048.6	3.32	-32.84	0.5
Fevertree Drinks◆	1023	-15.00	1445	947.00	1.59	100.26	110.0
Nichols	1000.00	-30.00	1520	882.00	2.79	19.87	40.6
Health Care Equip & Services							
AVO#	1.93	-	25.75	1.75	-	-0.23	200.0
Tristel	445.00	10.00	503.50	315.00	2.36	35.57	42.3
House, Leisure & Pers Goods							
Churchill◆	1100	-	1508	947.00	2.86	14.73	9.9
Frontier Developments PLC	277.00	1.50	649.00	95.00	-	-1.77	170.0
Portmern	230.00	-	426.72	200.17	5.65	-3.74	34.6
Sanderson Design Grp	110.00	-	132.50	95.31	3.18	8.46	51.2
Industrial Engineering							
600 Grp#	2.65	-	13.50	2.00	-	15.50	40.4
MS Intl	1010	-20.00	1086	522.00	1.49	24.22	8.5
IT							
Keywords Studios◆	2142	-22.00	2498	1101	0.11	99.12	363.3
Learning Technologies Group◆	82.00	-0.70	105.50	58.62	1.95	20.58	599.1
Media							
Mission Group	24.00	-	52.00	10.00	6.95	-1.90	2.3
Mining							
AMC#	0.09	-	48.00	11.20	-	-0.55	5981.6
CentAsiaM	201.50	-10.00	235.00	150.20	9.17	13.08	308.1
Gemfields◆	12.60	-0.15	17.00	11.00	17.95	-20.06	158.0
Oil & Gas							
BorSthnPet	2.47	0.01	3.34	1.70	-	-16.58	767.0
Phoenix Global	6.50	0.25	7.95	3.07	-	-1.63	53.0
UrJackOil	18.38	-	34.00	14.00	1.63	9.72	259.0
Pharmaceuticals & Biotech							
Reneuron#	3.38	-0.08	11.50	3.28	-	-0.38	177.6
Sareum	39.00	-2.00	140.00	10.00	-	-6.29	479.1
Real Estate							
Lok'nStor	1100	5.00	1180	621.50	1.73	87.72	314.8
Retailers							
Boohoo Group PLC	33.98	-0.26	42.63	27.77	-	-5.00	12022.9
CVS Group PLC	1114	-24.00	2226	902.41	0.67	22.51	171.0
Support Services							
Begbies	102.50	-1.00	136.50	102.50	3.71	341.67	106.3
Christie	115.00	2.50	167.00	66.00	3.26	77.70	4.9
Impellam	675.00	35.00	950.00	580.00	-	25.00	4.6
JhnsnSrv	159.80	-2.60	172.00	99.00	1.56	24.97	514.2
LonSec	3050	-	3300	2765	2.75	17.18	0.1
NWF	192.50	1.50	280.00	170.50	4.05	7.32	50.1
Petards	8.10	0.35	8.48	2.13	-	38.57	42.6
Renew	1080	6.00	1096	672.00	1.60	18.19	209.8
Tech - Software & Services							
SolBlue Prism Group PLC	1274	-	1392	747.50	-	-23.65	1869.0
Eckoh	38.00	1.00	46.70	32.05	1.95	30.89	496.7
Oxford Metrics	99.00	-14.00	121.64	78.00	2.53	22.92	1128.0
Travel & Leisure							
gamingrealms	39.00	-	43.00	27.74	-	24.66	290.3
Jet2	1290	-20.00	1568	960.00	0.85	7.04	329.9
MinoanGp	0.90	-	1.19	0.41	-	-6.38	150.0

Investment Companies

| Convent

MANAGED FUNDS SERVICE

SUMMARY

FT.COM/FUNDS

Winners - US Fund Mid-Cap Blend

Fund Name	1yr Return GBP	3yr Return GBP	5yr Return GBP	3yr Sharpe Ratio	3yr Std Dev
Gotham Enhanced Return Fund	26.73	11.72	9.97	0.65	18.27
FMI Common Stock Fund	15.66	7.53	9.86	0.46	17.81
Madison Mid Cap Fund	18.75	7.46	9.33	0.40	18.18
Victory RS Investors Fund	17.70	7.43	8.34	0.47	15.23
Schwartz Value Focused Fund	18.01	7.18	12.92	0.32	20.74

Losers - US Fund Mid-Cap Blend

Fund Name	1yr Return GBP	3yr Return GBP	5yr Return GBP	3yr Sharpe Ratio	3yr Std Dev
Patient: Opportunity Trust	23.11	-6.86	7.59	-0.26	29.70
13D Activist Fund	4.52	-2.97	6.24	-0.22	19.68
Penn Capital Mid Cap Core Fund	5.50	-2.69	3.98	-0.17	21.88
Tarkio Fund	11.86	-2.53	7.65	-0.08	26.33
Gabelli Value 25 Fund	7.47	-1.89	2.96	-0.21	18.10

Morningstar Star Ratings

Fund Name	Base Currency	Morningstar Rating 3 Yr	Morningstar Rating 5 Yr	Morningstar Rating 10 Yr
Algebris Financial Income Fund - Class Rd EUR???	Euro	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★
Algebris Financial Income Fund - Class EUR	Euro	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
South East Asia	Pound Sterling	★★★	★★	★★★
Pacific (Ex Japan)	Pound Sterling	★	★	★★
Mult Asset Income Fund W-INC-GBP	Pound Sterling	★	★★	★★★

Global Broad Category Group - Fixed Income

Morningstar Category	Base Currency	Total Ret 1Yr GBP	Total Ret 3Yr GBP	Total Ret 5Yr GBP
Emerging Bonds	Mexican Peso	-1.85	17.10	2.90
World Bank Loan	Yen	23.42	16.70	10.86
World High Yield Bond US	Yen	22.32	13.23	10.66
World ST Bond/Money	Yen	17.26	12.07	8.30
World High Yield Bond Global	Yen	18.38	10.23	8.93

Advertising Feature

McInroy & Wood Portfolios

Please remember that past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance

Firm Name
McInroy & Wood Portfolios Limited

Fund Name
Income Fund Personal Class Units

Morningstar Category
GBP Allocation 60-80% Equity

Max Annual Charge
-

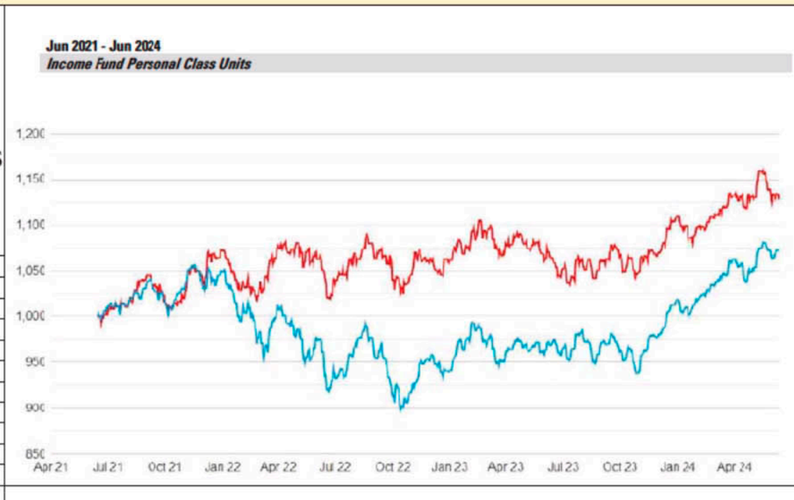
3Yr Rating
★★★★

Morningstar Sustainability Rating
-

Bid Price	-	KIID Ongoing Charge	1.12
Offer Price	-	Day-End One Year Return	6.19
+/-	-16.10	**Total Ret 3Yr**	4.82

Performance

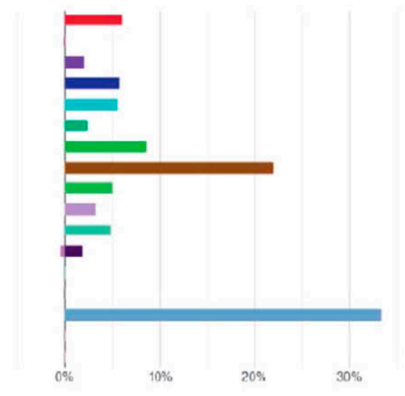
Jun 2021 - Jun 2024
Income Fund Personal Class Units



Fund — Category

Day ↘ -0.55% | Month ↘ -2.74% | Year ↗ 5.89%

Weightings - As of 30/04/2024



Sector	Weighting	Cat Avg.
Basic Materials	5.99%	3.82%
Communication Services	-	4.34%
Consumer Cyclical	2.03%	7.26%
Consumer Defensive	5.80%	5.54%
Energy	5.61%	3.18%
Financial Services	2.33%	11.44%
Healthcare	8.52%	8.27%
Industrials	22.00%	9.44%
Real Estate	5.07%	2.82%
Technology	3.21%	12.02%
Utilities	4.86%	2.32%
Cash & Equivalents	1.21%	5.18%
Corporate	-	9.89%
Derivative	-	0.54%
Government	33.39%	12.91%
Municipal	-	0.01%
Securitized	-	1.01%

Top 10 Holdings - As of 30/04/2024

Holding	Sector	Weighting
National Grid PLC	Utilities	3.02%
Watsco Inc Class A	Industrials	2.92%
Novo Nordisk A/S Class B	Healthcare	2.92%
Schneider Electric SE	Industrials	2.87%
TotalEnergies SE	Energy	2.84%
Shell PLC	Energy	2.77%
AbbVie Inc	Healthcare	2.74%
Paychex Inc	Industrials	2.51%
Air Liquide SA	Basic Materials	2.49%
Lloyds Banking Group PLC	Financial Services	2.33%

Risk Measures - As of 31/05/2024

	1Yr	1Yr Cat Ave	3Yr	3Yr Cat Ave	5Yr	5Yr Cat Ave
Alpha	-3.90	-2.78	0.69	-2.23	0.19	-1.54
Beta	0.60	0.94	0.59	0.90	0.68	0.98
Information Ratio	-1.71	-1.10	-0.05	-0.63	-0.26	-0.41
R Squared	59.00%	82.64%	55.20%	78.99%	72.97%	83.11%
Sharpe Ratio	0.19	0.02	0.34	0.07	0.46	0.38
Std Dev	5.54	8.02	6.57	8.93	7.67	10.41

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Algebris Investments

Algebris Investments (IRL)
Regulated

Fund	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yield	1Yr	3Yr
Algebris Core Italy I EUR	€ 160.67	-	0.02	0.00	7.58	1.53
Algebris Core Italy F EUR	€ 150.80	-	0.01	0.00	6.78	0.95
Algebris Financial Credit I EUR	€ 200.34	-	-1.15	0.00	13.87	1.23
Algebris Financial Credit R EUR	€ 170.89	-	-0.99	0.00	13.31	0.64
Algebris Financial Credit Rd EUR	€ 95.37	-	-0.55	6.04	13.48	0.71
Algebris Financial Equity B EUR	€ 229.16	-	-1.15	0.00	35.80	17.44
Algebris Financial Equity R EUR	€ 189.83	-	-0.97	0.00	34.44	16.13
Algebris Financial Income I EUR	€ 223.35	-	-0.78	-	22.53	7.62
Algebris Financial Income R EUR	€ 200.49	-	-0.71	-	21.43	6.63
Algebris Financial Income Rd EUR	€ 114.03	-	-0.40	-	21.44	6.63
Algebris Global Credit Opportunities I EUR	€ 143.41	-	-0.33	0.00	10.96	2.94
Algebris Global Credit Opportunities R EUR	€ 139.22	-	-0.33	0.00	10.63	2.47
Algebris Global Credit Opportunities Rd EUR	€ 114.76	-	-0.27	4.61	10.81	2.55
Algebris IG Financial Credit I EUR	€ 108.31	-	-0.28	0.00	11.02	-0.74
Algebris IG Financial Credit R EUR	€ 105.84	-	-0.27	0.00	10.48	-1.23
Algebris Sust. World B	€ 129.21	-	0.73	-	20.46	-
Algebris Sust. World R	€ 126.49	-	0.71	-	18.89	-

Atlantas Sicav (LUX)
Regulated

Fund	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yield	1Yr	3Yr
American Dynamic	$ 7736.77	-	-71.94	-	16.17	1.43
American One	$ 8686.13	-	151.69	0.00	20.07	6.76
Bond Global	€ 1598.27	-	9.48	0.00	3.37	2.12
Eurocroissance	€ 1479.94	-	23.99	0.00	5.69	2.02
Far East	$ 1086.98	-	-14.79	0.00	-2.74	-9.53

CANDRIAM
A NEW YORK LIFE INVESTMENTS COMPANY

Candriam Investors Group (LUX)
FCA Recognised

Fund	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yield	1Yr	3Yr
Candriam Abs Ret Eqt Mkt Neutral-C-Cap	€ 216.04	-	-0.27	0.00	5.33	2.43
Candriam Eds Euro High Yield Cap	€ 1317.67	-	-1.76	0.00	9.02	1.15
Candriam Bonds Glb Hi Yield -C-Cap	€ 264.20	-	-0.16	0.00	8.28	2.44
Candriam Bonds Glbl Infl Sh Dtion-I-Cap	€ 155.44	-	-0.07	0.00	2.22	0.36
Candriam Bonds Total Return - C - Cap	€ 136.54	-	-0.37	0.00	3.03	0.05
Candriam Dversified Futures-I-Cap *	€ 1487.29	-	90.30	0.00	6.44	7.19
Candriam Eqts L Australia CapA$	2081.15	-	-29.49	0.00	9.18	5.81
Candriam Eqts L Emerging Mkts Cap	€ 946.75	-	4.06	0.00	9.97	-7.06
Candriam Equities L Biotech-C-Cap	$ 853.40	-	2.62	0.00	9.30	1.19
Candriam Equities L Europe Innov-R-Cap	€ 276.79	-	-1.14	0.00	2.80	-1.29
Candriam Index Arbitrage-C - Cap	€ 1485.07	-	1.37	0.00	4.69	1.68
Candriam Long Short Credit-R - Cap	€ 112.55	-	-0.01	0.00	5.56	2.10
Candriam Risk Arbitrage - C - Cap	€ 2572.42	-	-0.54	0.00	6.01	0.16
Candriam Sust Bond Emerg Mkts-I-DIST	€ 783.77	-	-1.93	8.48	5.42	-4.32
Candriam Sust Bond Euro Corp-R-Cap	€ 102.96	-	-0.21	0.00	5.97	-2.22
Candriam Sust Bond GlobalHighYield-I-Cap	€ 1163.32	-	-0.77	0.00	6.49	0.34
Candriam Sust Eq Clrl Econ-R-Cap	$ 145.19	-	-0.13	0.00	8.47	-1.79
Candriam Sust Eq Clmt Action- I - Cap	$ 1679.10	-	4.41	0.00	4.71	-2.20
Candriam Sust Eq Emerging Mkts C Cap	€ 120.93	-	0.76	0.00	4.37	9.48
Candriam Sust Eq EMU-C-Cap	€ 189.85	-	-0.96	0.00	11.47	5.34
Candriam Sust Eq Eurp S&M Caps-I-Cap	€ 2415.98	-	-9.39	0.00	-0.52	-3.61
Candriam Sust Eq World -C-Cap	€ 36.63	-	0.28	0.00	18.47	8.51
NYLIM GF US HighYieldCorp Bond-R-Cap	$ 152.28	-	-0.04	0.00	8.69	2.01

Dragon Capital
www.dragoncapital.com
Fund information:info@dragoncapital.com

Dragon Capital
Other International Funds

Fund	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yield	1Yr	3Yr
Vietnam Equity (UCITS) Fund A USD	$ 32.43	-	0.00	0.00	21.92	-2.99

edentree
investment management

EdenTree Investment Management Ltd (UK)
Sunderland, SR43 4AU, 0800 358 3010
Authorised Inv Funds

Fund	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yield	1Yr	3Yr
EdenTree European Equity Cls A Inc	364.70	-	-2.90	2.22	15.58	7.05
EdenTree European Equity Cls B Inc	369.00	-	-2.90	2.69	16.20	7.65
EdenTree Global Equity Cls A Inc	370.10	-	-1.60	0.94	9.56	2.59
EdenTree Global Equity Cls B Inc	373.90	-	-1.50	1.42	10.18	3.14
Edentree Global Impact Bond B	86.64	-	-0.14	3.01	4.74	-
Edentree Green Future B Net Inc	111.30	-	0.30	1.02	10.42	-
EdenTree Green Infrastructure Cls B Inc	£ 0.83	-	0.00	6.44	-8.98	-
EdenTree Managed Income Cls A Inc	123.00	-	-0.70	4.47	6.55	1.28
EdenTree Managed Income Cls B Inc	131.90	-	-0.90	4.59	6.89	1.74
EdenTree Multi-Asset Balanced Cls B Acc	£ 0.98	-	-0.01	1.95	7.14	-
EdenTree Multi-Asset Catious Cls B Acc	£ 0.98	-	0.00	2.09	6.29	-
EdenTree Multi-Asset Growth Cls B Acc	£ 1.01	-	-0.01	-	8.94	-
EdenTree Responsible and Sust S Dd Bd B	95.13	-	0.02	2.96	6.12	-0.01
EdenTree Sterling Bond Cls A Inc	86.14	-	0.11	-	8.49	-3.01
EdenTree Sterling Bond Cls B Inc	98.11	-	0.12	4.42	9.16	-2.42
EdenTree UK Equity Cls A Inc	221.30	-	-0.80	1.50	1.03	-4.17
EdenTree UK Equity Cls B Inc	220.90	-	-0.90	2.03	1.54	-3.65
EdenTree UK Equity Opps Cls A Inc	303.30	-	-1.00	1.48	11.60	-3.03
EdenTree UK Equity Opps Cls B Inc	310.10	-	-1.00	1.98	12.21	-2.50

Euronova Asset Management UK LLP (CYM)
Regulated

Fund	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yield	1Yr	3Yr
Smaller Cos Cls One Shares	€ 56.66	-	-0.38	0.00	4.00	-1.91
Smaller Cos Cls Two Shares	€ 35.90	-	-0.24	0.00	3.49	-2.54
Smaller Cos Cls Three Shares	€ 17.91	-	-0.13	0.00	3.47	-2.85
Smaller Cos Cls Four Shares	€ 23.61	-	-0.16	0.00	3.46	-2.10

Findlay Park Funds Plc (IRL)
30 Herbert Street, Dublin 2, Ireland Tel: 020 7968 4900
FCA Recognised

Fund	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yield	1Yr	3Yr
American EUR Unhedged Class	€ 198.59	-	2.19	0.06	24.09	10.79
American Fund USD Class	$ 213.23	-	0.83	0.06	23.83	6.26
American Fund GBP Hedged	£ 103.46	-	0.41	0.06	23.06	4.99
American Fund GBP Unhedged	£ 167.64	-	0.70	0.06	22.49	10.09

Foord Asset Management
Website: www.foord.com - Email: info@foord.com
FCA Recognised - Luxembourg UCITS

Fund	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yield	1Yr	3Yr
Foord International Fund | R	$ 48.52	-	-0.03	0.00	-2.25	-2.12
Foord Global Equity Fund (Lux) | R	$ 18.37	-	0.00	0.00	9.37	-2.62

Regulated

Fund	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yield	1Yr	3Yr
Foord Global Equity Fund (Sing) | B	$ 21.99	-	0.01	0.00	9.55	-2.55
Foord International Trust (Gsy)	$ 47.31	-	-0.03	0.00	-2.23	-2.09

Fundsmith LLP (1200)F (UK)
PO Box 10846, Chelmsford, Essex, CM99 2BW 0330 123 1815
www.fundsmith.co.uk, enquiries@fundsmith.co.uk
Authorised Inv Funds

Fund	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yield	1Yr	3Yr
Fundsmith Equity T Acc	708.56	-	-2.89	0.26	16.58	5.94
Fundsmith Equity T Inc	643.94	-	-2.63	0.26	16.57	5.94

GUINNESS GLOBAL INVESTORS

Guinness Global Investors
Fund	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yield	1Yr	3Yr
Guinness Global Equity Income Y GBP Dist	£ 21.35	-	-0.06	1.84	14.99	10.95
Guinness Global Innovators Y GBP Acc	£ 37.79	-	0.21	0.00	34.38	12.31
Guinness Sustainable Global Equity Y GBP Acc	£ 12.45	-	0.03	0.00	10.67	4.74

HPB Assurance Ltd
Anglo Intl House, Bank Hill, Douglas, Isle of Man, IM1 4LN 01638 563490
International Insurances

Fund	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yield	1Yr	3Yr
Holiday Property Bond Ser 1	£ 3.50	-	0.00	0.00	1.61	1.50
Holiday Property Bond Ser 2	£ 3.64	-	0.00	0.00	-	1.18

Hermes Property Unit Trust (UK)
Property & Other UK Unit Trusts

Fund	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yield	1Yr	3Yr
Property	£ 5.93	6.35	0.00	3.80	-6.48	-2.81

Janus Henderson INVESTORS

Janus Henderson Investors (UK)
PO Box 9023, Chelmsford, CM99 2WB Enquiries: 0800 832 832
www.janushenderson.com
Authorised Inv Funds

Fund	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yield	1Yr	3Yr
Janus Henderson Absolute Return Fund A Acc	182.80	-	0.10	1.64	7.78	2.87
Janus Henderson Asia Pacific Capital Growth Fund A Acc	1137.00	-	-7.00	0.20	5.32	-5.95
Janus Henderson Asian Dividend Income Unit Trust Inc	73.38	-	-0.49	5.16	8.40	-0.05
Janus Henderson Cautious Managed Fund A Acc	361.90	-	-0.60	3.84	7.32	0.54
Janus Henderson Cautious Managed Fund A Inc	141.70	-	-0.30	3.94	7.35	0.54
Janus Henderson China Opportunities Fund A Acc	1030.00	-	-8.00	0.56	-7.24	-17.14
Janus Henderson Emerging Markets Opportunities Fund A Acc	261.90	-	-0.90	0.04	4.07	-6.89
Janus Henderson European Selected Opportunities Fund A Acc	2734.00	-	-14.00	0.74	19.22	6.83
Janus Henderson Fixed Interest Monthly Income Fund Inc	17.05	-	-0.03	4.52	4.28	-5.05
Janus Henderson Global Equity Fund Acc	5233.00	-	2.00	0.00	26.39	6.14
Janus Henderson Global Equity Income Fund A Inc	73.11	-	-0.44	2.99	11.01	6.75
Janus Henderson Global Sustainable Equity Fund A Inc	568.40	-	0.60	-	20.62	7.48
Janus Henderson Global Technology Leaders Fund A Acc	4548.00	-	15.00	0.00	43.38	13.05
Janus Henderson Instl UK Index Opportunities A Acc	£ 1.28	-	-0.01	2.84	11.80	6.14
Janus Henderson Mid & Large Cap Fund	346.40	-	-1.50	0.65	15.89	6.68
Janus Henderson Multi-Asset Absolute Return Fund A Acc	169.40	-	-1.00	1.38	4.18	3.32
Janus Henderson Multi-Manager Active Fund A Acc	261.50	-	-0.30	1.12	9.75	2.15
Janus Henderson Multi-Manager Distribution Fund A Inc	127.00	-	-0.50	3.38	6.10	0.00
Janus Henderson Multi-Manager Diversified Fund A Acc	91.32	-	-0.26	4.07	5.65	-1.13
Janus Henderson Multi-Manager Global Select Fund Acc	363.70	-	-1.00	-	15.24	5.95
Janus Henderson Multi-Manager Income & Growth Fund A Acc	200.60	-	-0.70	3.45	6.99	0.40
Janus Henderson Multi-Manager Income & Growth Fund A Inc	149.20	-	-0.50	3.52	6.97	0.40
Janus Henderson Multi-Manager Managed Fund A Acc	342.20	-	-0.20	1.40	9.12	1.84
Janus Henderson Multi-Manager Managed Fund A Inc	325.00	-	-0.20	1.54	9.13	1.84
Janus Henderson Strategic Bond Fund A Inc	99.72	-	-0.17	3.43	-0.70	-6.66
Janus Henderson Sterling Bond Unit Trust Acc	211.60	-	-0.20	-	6.22	-5.39
Janus Henderson Sterling Bond Unit Trust Inc	55.64	-	-0.05	-	6.23	-5.39
Janus Henderson UK Alpha Fund A Acc	158.00	-	-0.40	1.41	14.24	-2.54
Janus Henderson UK Equity Income & Growth Fund A Inc	527.70	-	-3.50	4.04	10.89	4.17
Janus Henderson US Growth Fund A Acc	2359.00	-	0.00	0.00	31.57	9.88

The Antares European Fund Limited
Other International

Fund	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yield	1Yr	3Yr
AEF Ltd Usd	$ 541.01	-	-13.82	0.00	-2.21	-1.35
AEF Ltd Eur	€ 498.45	-	0.25	0.00	-1.56	-1.84

BLUE WHALE GROWTH FUND

Blue Whale Investment Funds ICAV (IRE)
www.bluewhale.co.uk, info@bluewhale.co.uk
FCA Recognised - Ireland UCITS

Fund	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yield	1Yr	3Yr
Blue Whale Growth USD T	$ 13.76	-	0.11	-	38.89	4.64

BM BROOKS MACDONALD

Brooks Macdonald International Fund Managers Limited (JER)
Third Floor, No 1 Grenville Street, St Helier, Jersey, JE2 4UF
+44 (0) 1534 700 104 (Int.) +44 (0) 800 735 8000 (UK)
Brooks Macdonald International Investment Funds Limited

Fund	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yield	1Yr	3Yr
Euro High Income	€ 1.2299	-	0.0003	2.50	4.55	-4.29
High Income	£ 0.6543	-	0.0008	3.77	8.57	-3.91
Sterling Bond	£ 1.2769	-	0.0018	2.06	8.13	-3.86

Brooks Macdonald International Multi Strategy Fund Limited

Fund	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yield	1Yr	3Yr
Cautious Balanced Strategy	£ 1.2992	-	-0.0013	1.21	4.88	-1.39
Cautious Balanced Strategy A	£ 0.9268	-	-0.0009	1.68	4.90	-
Balanced Strategy	£ 0.9941	-	-0.0011	0.95	8.01	-
Balanced Strategy A	£ 0.9929	-	-0.0011	1.40	8.05	-
Growth Strategy	£ 2.1650	-	-0.0015	-	10.60	1.94
Growth Strategy A	£ 1.0325	-	-0.0007	-	10.64	-
High Growth Strategy	£ 3.0703	-	-0.0011	-	11.59	2.25
High Growth Strategy A	£ 1.0449	-	-0.0003	0.66	12.39	-
US$ Growth Strategy	$ 2.0180	-	0.0001	0.00	14.65	-1.05

Dealing Daily. Initial Charge Nil for A classes and up to 2% for other classes

Chartered Asset Management Pte Ltd
Other International Funds

Fund	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yield	1Yr	3Yr
CAM-GTF VCC	$ 320397.98	320397.98	1806.20	-	-6.36	3.78
CAM GTi VCC	$ 780.49	-	-32.39	-	12.31	4.69
RAIC VCC	$ 1.64	1.64	0.03	2.06	5.74	-1.66

Brown ADVISORY
Thoughtful Investing.

Brown Advisory Funds plc (IRL)
http://www.brownadvisory.com Tel: 020 3301 8130
FCA Recognised

Fund	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yield	1Yr	3Yr
Global Leaders Fund USD C	$ 26.82	-	-0.05	-	19.95	5.50
Global Leaders Sustainable Fund USD C	$ 16.02	-	-0.03	-	18.40	4.74
Global Sustainable Total Return Bond GBP B	£ 9.29	-	-0.02	2.69	1.44	-
Global Sustainable Total Return Bond USD B	$ 9.87	-	-0.02	0.00	1.86	-
US Equity Growth Fund USD B	$ 62.15	-	0.19	0.00	22.49	1.45
US Flexible Equity Fund USD B	$ 32.54	-	0.17	-	29.28	7.99
US Mid-Cap Growth Fund USD C	$ 20.31	-	0.12	-	17.47	-1.94
US Small Cap Blend Fund USD B	$ 23.99	-	-0.01	0.00	10.00	-0.58
US Smaller Companies Fund USD B	$ 37.28	-	0.08	-	4.05	-3.73
US Sustainable Growth Fund USD C	$ 33.16	-	0.25	-	29.73	8.81
US Sustainable Value Fund USD C Acc	$ 13.20	-	0.15	0.00	27.17	-

Dodge & Cox Worldwide Funds

Dodge & Cox Worldwide Funds (IRL)
48-49 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JG.
www.dodgeandcox.com +44 (0)203 642 3370
FCA Recognised
Dodge & Cox Worldwide Funds - Global Bond Fund

Fund	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yield	1Yr	3Yr
EUR Accumulating Class	€ 17.19	-	0.03	-	6.31	4.37
EUR Accumulating Class (H)	€ 11.15	-	-0.02	0.00	4.50	-1.73
EUR Distributing Class	€ 11.75	-	0.03	-	6.30	3.40
EUR Distributing Class (H)	€ 7.57	-	-0.01	4.44	4.55	-2.71
GBP Distributing Class	£ 12.20	-	-0.03	-	5.17	3.82
GBP Distributing Class (H)	£ 8.22	-	-0.01	5.05	5.84	-1.64
USD Accumulating Class	$ 13.35	-	-0.02	-	6.46	0.20

Dodge & Cox Worldwide Funds - Global Stock Fund

Fund	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yield	1Yr	3Yr
USD Accumulating Share Class	$ 35.90	-	-0.09	0.00	18.36	5.47
GBP Accumulating Share Class	£ 46.39	-	-0.14	0.00	16.97	9.30
GBP Distributing Share class	£ 30.71	-	-0.09	1.26	16.99	8.93
EUR Accumulating Share Class	€ 50.10	-	0.06	0.00	18.22	9.88
GBP Distributing Class (H)	£ 16.10	-	-0.04	1.65	17.49	3.89

Dodge & Cox Worldwide Funds - U.S. Stock Fund

Fund	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yield	1Yr	3Yr
USD Accumulating Share Class	$ 46.34	-	0.07	0.00	20.33	5.78
GBP Accumulating Share Class	£ 56.62	-	0.05	0.00	18.87	9.61
GBP Distributing Share Class	£ 33.55	-	0.03	0.81	18.89	9.62
EUR Accumulating Share Class	€ 55.83	-	0.29	0.00	20.14	10.20
GBP Distributing Class (H)	£ 18.00	-	0.03	0.80	19.72	4.36

Fidelity INTERNATIONAL

FIL Investment Services (UK) Limited (1200)F (UK)
Beech Gate, Millfield Lane, Lower Kingswood, Tadworth, KT20 6RP
Callfree: Private Clients 0800 414161
Broker Dealings: 0800 414 181
OEIC Funds

Fund	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yield	1Yr	3Yr
Allocator World Fund W-ACC-GBP	£ 3.13	-	0.00	1.14	16.12	7.09
American Fund W-ACC-GBP	£ 69.27	-	0.41	0.00	21.61	7.53
American Special Sits W-ACC-GBP	£ 25.22	-	0.06	0.58	17.25	9.57
Asia Fund W-ACC-GBP	£ 16.04	-	0.01	0.96	5.94	-5.60
Asia Pacific Ops W-Acc	£ 2.84	-	-0.02	1.21	-0.07	-2.91
Asian Dividend Fund W-ACC-GBP	£ 2.43	-	-0.01	2.73	6.91	3.14
Cash Fund W-ACC-GBP	£ 1.10	-	0.00	4.62	5.36	2.74
China Fund W-Accumulation (UK)	£ 2.23	-	0.01	0.72	-9.12	-17.17
Emerging Mkts NAV	£ 7.21	-	-0.16	2.07	13.82	-6.89
Enhanced Income Fund W-INC-GBP	£ 0.83	-	-0.01	-	7.68	7.27
European Fund W-ACC-GBP	£ 28.62	-	-0.34	1.26	14.21	9.21
Extra Income Fund W-ACC-GBP	£ 1.39	-	-0.01	-	10.57	-1.58
Sustainable Emerg Mkts Equity Fund A-ACC Shares	£ 1.52	-	0.01	-	-13.81	-0.91
Sustainable European Equity Fund W-ACC-GBP	£ 6.31	-	-0.09	1.03	11.28	4.17
Sustainable Global Equity Fund W-ACC-GBP	£ 37.57	-	-0.00	0.30	10.09	1.60
Japan Fund W-ACC-GBP	£ 6.88	-	0.07	1.13	13.65	8.06
Japan Smaller Companies Fund W-ACC-GBP	£ 3.66	-	-0.01	-	0.63	-3.54
Select 50 Balanced Fund PI-ACC-GBP	£ 1.23	-	0.00	1.53	7.52	0.60
Special Situations Fund W-ACC-GBP	£ 50.08	-	-0.19	3.02	16.90	6.88
Short Dated Corporate Bond Fund W-ACC-GBP	£ 11.38	-	-0.02	4.42	7.74	0.58
Sustainable Water & Waste W-ACC-GBP	£ 1.28	-	0.00	0.69	9.51	1.87
Sustainable Water & Waste W-INC-GBP	£ 1.25	-	-0.01	0.69	9.52	1.00
UK Select Fund W-ACC-GBP	£ 4.20	-	-0.03	2.28	14.50	5.55
Global Dividend Fund W-ACC-GBP	£ 3.44	-	-0.01	2.59	13.07	7.77
Global Enhanced Income W-ACC-GBP	£ 2.69	-	-0.02	4.32	13.16	8.02

Fundsmith Equity Fund

GAM
funds@gam.com, www.funds.gam.com
Regulated

Fund	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yield	1Yr	3Yr
LAPIS GBL TOP 50 DIV.YLD-Na-D	£ 121.87	-	0.03	2.87	6.07	7.07
LAPIS GBL FOWD 50 DIV.YLD-Na-D	£ 108.81	-	0.34	1.20	5.57	0.49
LAPIS GBL MED DEV 25.YLD-Na-D	£ 93.58	-	0.41	-	-2.35	-

Ashmore

Ashmore Group
61 Aldwych, London WC2B 4AE. Dealing team: +352 27 62 22 233
Authorised Inv Funds

Fund	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yield	1Yr	3Yr
Emerging Markets Active Equity Fund	$ 126.42	-	0.52	-	3.39	-9.97
Emerging Markets Blended Debt Fund	$ 54.96	-	-0.25	4.62	9.47	-7.95
Emerging Markets Corporate Debt Fund	$ 59.67	-	-0.08	-	7.75	-7.84
Emerging Markets Debt Fund	$ 61.94	-	-0.13	4.87	14.53	-7.33
Emerging Markets Equity ESG Fund	$ 151.56	-	0.42

MANAGED FUNDS SERVICE

M & G Securities (1200)F (UK)
PO Box 9038, Chelmsford, CM99 2XF
www.mandg.co.uk/charities Enq/Dealing: 0800 917 4472
Authorised Inv Funds

Fund	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yield	1Yr	3Yr
Charifund Inc	1500.48	-	-11.29	5.75	9.73	4.33
Charifund Acc	3219.15	-	-24.11	5.13	9.71	4.32
M&G Charibond Charities Fixed Interest Fund (Charibond) Inc	£ 1.09	-	0.01	-	6.24	-1.38
M&G Charibond Charities Fixed Interest Fund (Charibond) Acc	£ 40.95	-	0.03	3.60	6.23	-1.38
M&G Charity Multi Asset Fund Inc	£ 0.92	-	0.00	4.34	8.26	4.85
M&G Charity Multi Asset Fund Acc	£116.81	-	-0.46	3.77	8.27	4.85

MMIP Investment Management Limited (GSY)
Regulated
Multi-Manager Investment Programmes PCC Limited

Fund	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yield	1Yr	3Yr
UK Equity Fd Cl A Series 01	£3080.40	3080.41	-231.75	-	-2.98	13.94
Diversified Absolute Rtn Fd USD Cl AF2	$1688.02	-	45.93	-	-1.51	1.32
Diversified Absolute Return Stlg Cell AF2	£1579.00	-	-1.96	-	0.70	2.45
Global Equity Fund A Lead Series	£1747.16	1747.16	-5.31	-	-1.04	9.13

Marwyn Asset Management Limited (CYM)
Regulated

Fund	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yield	1Yr	3Yr
Marwyn Value Investors	£329.72	-	-6.14	0.00	-	-7.17

McInroy & Wood Portfolios Limited (UK)
Easter Alderston, Haddington, EH41 3SF 01620 825867
Authorised Inv Funds

Fund	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yield	1Yr	3Yr
Balanced Fund Personal Class Units	6194.00	-	-16.90	1.42	5.16	3.80
Income Fund Personal Class Units	2934.50	-	-16.10	2.70	5.89	4.07
Emerging Markets Fund Personal Class Units	2073.60	-	-23.10	1.92	-6.02	-2.82
Smaller Companies Fund Personal Class Units	6250.10	-	7.30	1.41	2.14	-4.37

Milltrust International Managed Investments ICAV (IRL)
mimi@milltrust.com, +44(0)20 8123 8316 www.milltrust.com
Regulated

Fund	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yield	1Yr	3Yr
Milltrust Global Emerging Markets Fund - Class A	$ 90.43	-	-0.04	0.00	-2.47	-11.84

Milltrust International Managed Investments SPC
em@milltrust.com, +44(0)20 8123 8316, www.milltrust.com
Regulated

Fund	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yield	1Yr	3Yr
Milltrust Alaska Brazil Fund SP A	$ 85.42	-	-0.33	0.00	-8.87	-2.35
Milltrust Laurium Africa Fund SP A	$ 97.02	-	-0.70	0.00	7.23	-5.28
Milltrust Marcellus India Fund SP	$142.67	-	4.36	0.00	12.53	2.41
Milltrust Singular ASEAN Fund SP founders	$146.13	-	-0.50	0.00	14.08	-3.63
Milltrust SPARX Korea Equity Fund SP A	$139.05	-	2.07	0.00	11.02	-5.92
Milltrust Xingtai China Fund SP A	$ 87.53	-	-0.46	0.00	-6.83	-19.80
The Climate Impact Asia Fund SP A	$ 71.60	-	-0.14	0.00	-9.10	-10.03

Ministry of Justice Common Investment Funds (UK)
Property & Other UK Unit Trusts

Fund	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yield	1Yr	3Yr
The Equity Idx Tracker Fd Inc Distribution Units	2101.00	-	-10.00	2.33	13.15	5.32

Mirabaud Asset Management (LUX)
www.mirabaud.com, marketing@mirabaud-am.com
Please find more details on our website: www.mirabaud-am.com
Regulated

Fund	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yield	1Yr	3Yr
Mir. - Glb Strat. Bd I USD	$125.20	-	-0.18	-	7.62	0.34
Mir. - DiscEur D Cap GBP	£193.08	-	-2.35	0.00	18.41	-2.22

Oasis Crescent Global Investment Funds (UK) ICVC (UK)
Regulated

Fund	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yield	1Yr	3Yr
Oasis Crescent Global Equity Fund USD A (Dist)	$ 38.25	-	0.03	0.79	9.38	-0.56
Oasis Crescent Global Income Fund USD A (Dist)	$ 10.10	-	0.00	3.76	4.88	-0.13
Oasis Crescent Global Low Equity Fund USD D (Dist)	$ 12.98	-	0.01	1.45	7.18	-0.60
Oasis Crescent Global Medium Equity Fund USD A (Dist)	$ 14.58	-	0.01	1.04	7.35	-0.60
Oasis Crescent Global Property Equity Fund USD A (Dist)	$ 8.84	-	0.02	1.67	14.15	-2.00
Oasis Crescent Glbal Short Term Income fund USD A (Dist)	$ 0.94	-	0.00	3.45	4.20	0.70
Oasis Crescent Variable Fund GBP A (Dist)	£ 10.30	-	0.00	0.71	7.21	0.22

Omnia Fund Ltd
Other International Funds

Fund	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yield	1Yr	3Yr
Estimated NAV	$1139.68	-	32.23	0.00	24.32	20.48

Platinum Capital Management Ltd
Other International Funds

Fund	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yield	1Yr	3Yr
Platinum All Star Fund - A	$163.41	-	-	-	10.63	2.20
Platinum Global Growth UCITS Fund	$ 10.13	-	-0.04	0.00	21.32	-10.20
Platinum Essential Resources UCITS fund SICAV USD Class E	$ 9.42	-	-0.70	0.00	-19.83	13.34
Platinum Global Dividend UCITS Fund	$ 48.74	-	-0.28	0.00	6.16	-5.75

Private Fund Mgrs (Guernsey) Ltd (GSY)
Regulated

Fund	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yield	1Yr	3Yr
Monument Growth 04/06/2024	£575.11	580.73	1.57	0.85	5.23	3.31

Prusik Investment Management LLP (IRL)
Enquiries - 0207 493 1331
Regulated

Fund	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yield	1Yr	3Yr
Prusik Asian Equity Income B Dist	$167.81	-	-2.17	5.96	-2.17	-0.90

Purisima Investment Fds (UK) (1200)F (UK)
2nd floor, 23-22 Bedford Row, London, WC1R 4EB
Order Desk and Enquiries: 0345 922 0044
Authorised Inv Funds
Authorised Corporate Director - Waystone Management (UK) Limited

Fund	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yield	1Yr	3Yr
Global Total Fd PCG A	523.18	-	-1.03	0.26	27.85	11.83
Global Total Fd PCG B	515.86	-	-1.02	0.07	27.53	11.55
Global Total Fd PCG INT	504.83	-	-1.00	0.00	27.21	11.27

Purisima Investment Fds (CI) Ltd (JER)
Regulated

Fund	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yield	1Yr	3Yr
PCG B ✠	408.85	-	1.64	-	29.11	7.77
PCG C ✠	396.46	-	1.59	-	28.83	7.54

Ram Active Investments SA
www.ram-ai.com
Other International Funds

Fund	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yield	1Yr	3Yr
RAM Systematic Emerg Markets Eq	$252.46	252.46	-0.87	0.00	14.09	0.08
RAM Systematic European Eq	€617.92	617.92	0.98	0.00	16.33	2.81
RAM Systematic Funds Global Sustainable Income Eq	$174.57	174.57	-0.40	0.00	15.66	3.48
RAM Systematic Long/Short European Eq	€167.09	167.09	0.85	0.00	13.46	4.51

Royal London (UK)
80 Fenchurch Street, London EC3M 4BY
Authorised Inv Funds

Fund	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yield	1Yr	3Yr
Royal London Sustainable Diversified A Inc	£ 2.59	-	0.00	-	12.04	1.96
Royal London Sustainable World A Inc	402.70	-	-0.60	-	15.53	4.51
Royal London Corporate Bond Mth Income	76.27	-	-0.04	-	9.20	-2.60
Royal London European Growth Trust	233.10	-	-1.60	-	13.13	6.12
Royal London Sustainable Leaders A Inc	848.50	-	-3.70	-	9.43	4.97
Royal London UK Growth Trust	679.80	-	-2.20	2.09	10.94	3.99
Royal London UK Income Wtr Growth Trust	215.20	-	-1.00	4.59	11.87	4.70
Royal London US Growth Trust	497.10	-	-1.60	-	26.93	14.82

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Fund	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yield	1Yr	3Yr
WS Ruffer Diversified Rtrn C Acc	100.02	-	-0.19	1.16	-0.39	-
WS Ruffer Diversified Rtrn C Inc	97.05	-	-0.18	1.18	-0.39	-
WS Ruffer Equity & General C Acc	619.45	-	-1.04	1.24	9.05	2.50
WS Ruffer Equity & General C Inc	552.13	-	-0.92	-	9.03	2.50
WS Ruffer Gold C Acc	304.26	-	-10.31	0.33	24.10	0.28
WS Ruffer Gold C Inc	183.37	-	-6.21	0.33	24.10	0.28
WS Ruffer Total Return C Acc	539.51	-	0.70	1.98	-0.05	-1.08
WS Ruffer Total Return C Inc	325.44	-	0.42	-	-0.05	-1.07

Rubrics Global UCITS Funds Plc (IRL)
www.rubricsam.com
Regulated

Fund	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yield	1Yr	3Yr
Rubrics Emerging Markets Fixed Income UCITS Fund	$140.77	-	-0.41	0.00	0.31	-0.52
Rubrics Global Credit UCITS Fund	$ 17.59	-	-0.01	0.00	4.03	-0.85
Rubrics Global Fixed Income UCITS Fund	$172.73	-	-0.35	0.00	0.65	-1.46

Scottish Friendly Asset Managers Ltd (UK)
Scottish Friendly Hse, 16 Blythswood Sq, Glasgow G2 4HJ 0141 275 5000
Authorised Inv Funds

Fund	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yield	1Yr	3Yr
Managed Growth ♦	392.30	-	-1.10	-	13.05	5.76
UK Growth ♦	442.20	-	-1.60	-	9.21	2.86

Stonehage Fleming Investment Management Ltd (IRL)
www.stonehagefleming.com/gbi
enquiries@stonehagefleming.com
Regulated

Fund	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yield	1Yr	3Yr
SF Global Best Ideas Eq B USD ACC	$277.92	-	-0.34	0.00	13.50	1.44
SF Global Best Ideas Eq D GBP INC	£331.54	-	-0.31	0.00	12.28	5.09

Superfund Asset Management GmbH
www.superfund.com, +43 (1) 24 7 00
Other International Funds
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Fund	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yield	1Yr	3Yr
Superfund Green Gold	$1057.63	-	-4.67	0.00	6.45	-13.55
Superfund Green Silver	$967.46	-	9.20	0.00	9.94	-17.34
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Superfund Green US$	$705.66	-	-3.73	0.00	-3.50	-15.85
Superfund Black Blockchain EUR	€ 20.06	-	-0.39	0.00	88.89	-
Superfund Gold Silver & Mining EUR	€ 10.91	-	-0.54	-	-	-

Thesis Unit Trust Management Limited (UK)
Exchange Building, St Johns Street, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 1UP
Authorised Funds

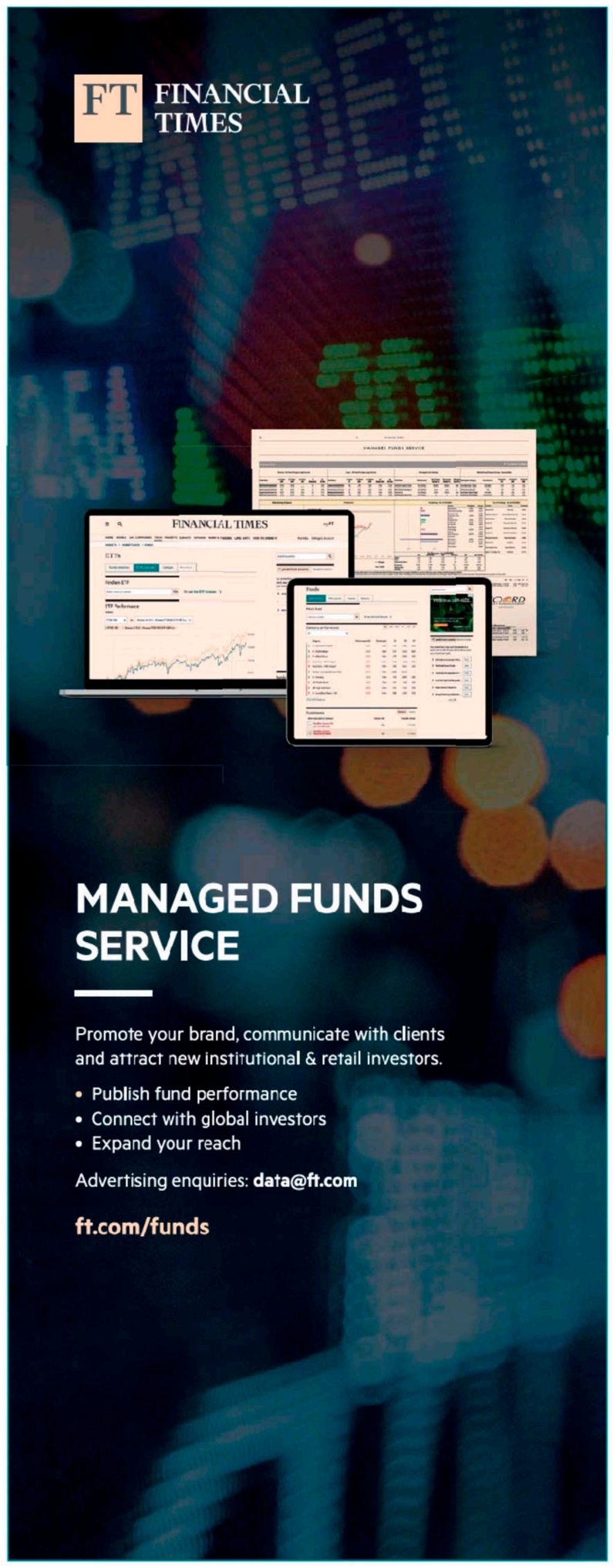
Fund	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yield	1Yr	3Yr
TM New Court Fund A 2011 Inc	£ 20.42	-	-0.04	0.24	7.86	1.49
TM New Court Fund - A 2014 Acc	£ 20.65	-	-0.04	-	7.89	1.51
TM New Court Equity Growth fund - Inc	£ 22.68	-	-0.06	0.06	9.37	1.68

Toscafund Asset Management LLP
www.toscafund.com

Fund	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yield	1Yr	3Yr
Tosca Mid Cap GBP	£117.80	-	-0.64	0.00	-29.93	-21.59
Tosca Opportunity D USD	$252.01	-	-15.03	0.00	-29.95	-19.96
Pegasus Fund Ltd A-1 GBP	£ 27.03	-	-0.23	0.00	-32.66	-22.42

Troy Asset Mgt (1200) (UK)
2nd floor, 20-22 Bedford Row, London, WC1R 4EB
Order Desk and Enquiries: 0345 608 0950
Authorised Inv Funds
Authorised Corporate Director - Waystone Management (UK) Limited
Trojan Investment Funds

Fund	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yield	1Yr	3Yr
Trojan Ethical Global Inc O Acc	107.29	-	-0.92	2.49	6.44	-
Trojan Ethical Global Inc O Inc	100.59	-	-0.86	2.53	6.44	-
Trojan Ethical O Acc	135.90	-	-0.30	1.24	6.90	3.21
Trojan Ethical O Inc	133.80	-	-0.29	1.45	7.09	3.28
Trojan Ethical Income O Acc	147.89	-	-0.81	2.68	6.96	1.38
Trojan Ethical Income O Inc	118.70	-	-0.65	2.74	6.95	1.38
Trojan Fund O Acc	402.49	-	-1.12	1.02	4.86	2.73
Trojan Fund O Inc	321.55	-	-0.89	1.03	4.86	2.73
Trojan Global Equity O Acc	590.16	-	-3.34	0.22	18.19	7.34
Trojan Global Equity O Inc	435.83	-	-2.75	0.22	18.18	7.34
Trojan Global Income O Acc	157.83	-	-1.55	3.04	4.34	3.77
Trojan Global Income O Inc	125.78	-	-1.24	3.10	4.33	3.76
Trojan Income O Acc	358.19	-	-2.02	2.95	5.47	0.90
Trojan Income O Inc	168.90	-	-0.95	3.02	5.47	0.90

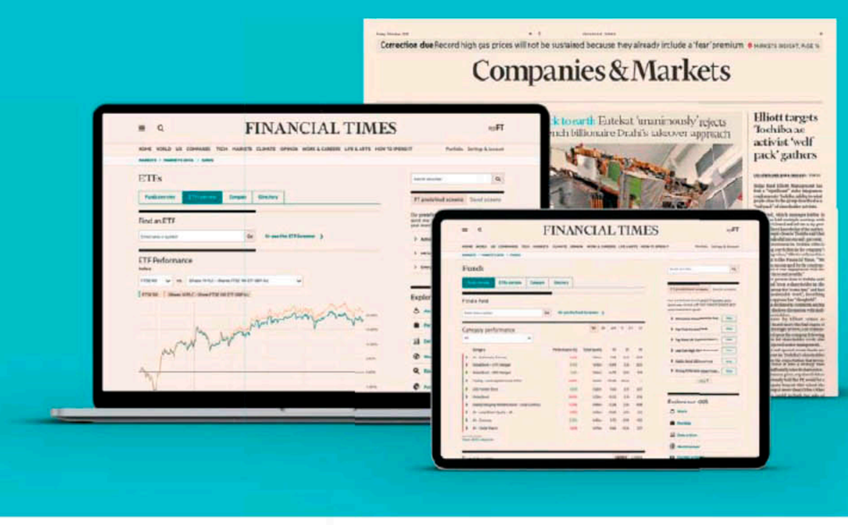


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Buying price: Also called offer price. The price at which units in a unit trust are bought by investors. Includes manager's initial charge.
Single price: Based on a mid-market valuation of the underlying investments. The buying and selling price for shares of an OEIC and units of a single priced unit trust are the same.
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ARTS

This Widow is a very merry affair

OPERA

The Merry Widow
Glyndebourne, East Sussex
★★★★☆

Richard Fairman



Danielle de Niese as Hanna Glawari in Glyndebourne's 'The Merry Widow' — Tristram Kenton

There was a brilliantly funny scene in the National Theatre's *One Man, Two Guvnors* in which James Corden played a man with two jobs fighting with himself. It started with a slap on his own cheek, then a wrestling scene for one, and finally he hit himself over the head with a dustbin lid.

That may not seem to have much to do with *The Merry Widow*, but the National Theatre comedy and Glyndebourne's new production of Lehár's operetta share the same director in Cal McCrystal. When he is in charge, expect high jinks, pratfalls and slapstick.

One sympathises with the challenge facing the director of any classic Viennese operetta. The music may be beautiful, especially when the composer is Lehár, who could not help turning every tune to gold, but the plots are wafer-thin and the comedy is, shall we say, dated.

The recent history of *The Merry Widow* is littered with productions coarse and/or clumsily updated that have sunk without trace. It seems unlikely that Glyndebourne's will go the same way: it looks lavish in a way that manages to be both dusty operetta and garish pantomime and, like everything else about this production, does it with in-your-face self-confidence.

A lot of McCrystal's gags are fun, but he does not know when to stop. Danilo's image as the romantic lead is undercut from the off, when he makes his entrance tumbling down a flight of stairs and spends the next five minutes in a Chaplinesque silent comedy routine as the bellboy tries to pick him up. Later on, it is criminal to upstage one of the finest numbers Lehár ever wrote with a cheap jape about the summer house being pushed on from the wrong side. The shadow-play with Camille energetically making love to a female mannequin, while hilariously funny, belongs in a different kind of show altogether.

All this is too much and it comes as a relief when the principal players are left in peace to explore the romance at the opera's heart.

The production is lucky to have Danielle de Niese, bright-eyed and charismatic, in the title role. It would be nice to have more voice from her — "Vilja", her big number, is chopped into short phrases and rather effortful, as if she has not been doing much serious singing of late (and wasn't it transposed down a tone?) — but her youthful energy radiates a feelgood glow. As star of the show, she purloins the big cancan number at Maxim's from Valencienne.

She is paired with Germán Olvera as a fine Danilo, who imposes with his proud, bronzed baritone, allied to an unusually brooding take on the role, which he turns to great advantage by the end. Soraya Mafi sings sweetly as Valencienne, though she has been encouraged to play the role for laughs. Michael McDermott has been saddled with a stuffed-shirt portrayal of Camille de Rosillon, which does not make sense for the young French lover, and sings with little Viennese whipped-cream seduction in his dry tenor.

The show is launched by Tom Edden turning Njegus into a camp but entertaining stand-up comic and he also gets to sing his aria, added by Lehár for London in 1907. Best of the rest is the inimitable Thomas Allen as Baron Zeta, at 79 a master of the sparkling, light touch that would have been appreciated everywhere else.

The music is in the expert hands of John Wilson, who entices the London Philharmonic Orchestra to some effervescent playing. The opera is sung in a new English version by Stephen Plaice and Marcia Bellamy, pepped up, one imagines, with added puns and double entendres by McCrystal.

In the end, the real *Merry Widow* has been usurped by a high-octane comedy show, more McCrystal than Lehár, but very slick and giving 120 per cent towards hitting every funny bone in the body. This audience loved it, which is possibly recommendation enough.

To July 28, glyndebourne.com

DANCE

Eva Yerbabuena
Sadler's Wells, London
★★★☆☆

Louise Levene

When Eva Yerbabuena first played Sadler's Wells back in 2002, she came flanked by a unison-drilled backing band who were arranged around the flamenco star like so much parsley, or wheeled on to allow the boss to change a frock or take a breath. Shows such as *Eva* and *5 Women 5* felt slickly overchoreographed, but were always redeemed by Yerbabuena's tremendous artistry.

Happily, the vogue for synchronised señoritas — a mainstay of the old Joaquin Cortés spectaculars — is long gone. Yerbabuena's 19th show, *Yerbagüena*, is a much simpler, more concentrated affair, featuring four (male) singers, a percussionist and the guitarist Paco Jarana, the star's husband and musical director. There is also a brief but very welcome appearance by the excellent dancer Christian Lozano, fetchingly kitted out in a velvet dress and skinny jeans.

The roomy Sadler's Wells space is stripped back, with the six musicians clad in dark suits and shirts. Black-on-black gloom is always a risk, but the stage pictures are rescued by clever side and back lighting by Fernando Martín, whose "darkness visible" is a physical expression of the show's subtitle: *Oscuro Brillante*.

The star herself wears a series of inky gowns for her four numbers. The opening has Yerbabuena dressed *à la* Bernarda Alba in a sooty ensemble of taffeta and jet, but this is soon swapped for edgier creations. The frilly *bata de cola* which traditionally trails after the *bailaora* to be kicked or caressed like an errant lover is a flamenco archetype, yet takes on a new dimension when realised in wet-look black lamé that puddles around the dancer's feet like a pool of tar.

The production is intended as an exploration of contrasts — light/dark; movement/stasis — but seems strangely lacking in structure, making for a meandering, unfocused 90 minutes. Pacing is perverse, with none of the usual build-up. Instead we begin almost *in medias res* with the 53-year-old diva firing off a sustained solo that demonstrates her spiralling *quebradas*, the boneless curl of her lovely hands and fingers, and her rapid-fire *taconeo* footwork.

The sound mix is not ideal. The contrapuntal purr of Yerbabuena's heels remains a thing of wonder but is accompanied at all times by the handclaps of the four vocalists, the slap of the *cahon* and the percussive strumming of Jarana's guitar, which crowd out the rippling rattle of her feet. This busy soundscape and heavy amplification also creates an unhelpful disconnect between sound and vision.



Eva Yerbabuena in 'Yerbagüena'

The show culminates in a sensational *baile de mantón*, in which a massive fringed shawl becomes her partner in the dance. At first, she whirls it around her head like a matador throwing *reboleras* with his cape, then follows this show of strength with a succession of painterly tableaux in which the fabric becomes an awning, a vestment, a shroud. Finally, Yerbabuena encases herself in the red and gold silk and swoops into one of her trademark anti-gravity backbends, slowly revolving in the half-light as the curtain falls.

sadlerswells.com

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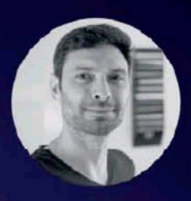

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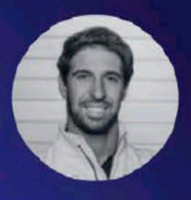

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Players find joy in sticking to old games

Some of today's most popular titles were released years ago. Why is this — and what does it mean for the industry? Tom Faber reports



Storylines in 'Final Fantasy XIV' have unfolded over many years

Could you play a single video game forever? There might not be any infinite books or endless films, but there are games to which people dedicate thousands, even tens of thousands, of hours. One Polish fan of the sports strategy sim *Football Manager* holds a Guinness World Record for spending 10,887 hours on a single campaign — that's 453 days.

He's not alone. Today gamers are spending more time than ever playing old games. A study from analysts Newzoo showed that the top 10 most played games of 2023 were released, on average, seven years ago. Where gamers were once obsessed with new consoles with more advanced graphics, today technological progress is less pronounced and older games are updated continually, so many players see little reason to change games. We are entering the world of forever games. But what does this mean for the future of the medium?

There are a few traits shared by these titles. They tend to lack linear narratives, which are of less interest once you've seen the ending. Rather they offer systems that change each time you play: roguelike games such as *The Binding of Isaac* and *Spelunky*; deck-builders such as *Slay the Spire* and *Hearthstone*; strategy games such as *Civilization* and *Total War*.

Then there is a deeper level of intricate systemic games such as *Dwarf Fortress* and *RimWorld*, which have legions of fans online who play little else. Often forever games have active online communities, many of whom make mods to tweak the game's graphics or gameplay. The other games that bring players back over long periods simply offer fun places to hang out; life simulations such as *Animal Crossing* or *The Sims*, or open-world games such as *Grand Theft Auto* or *Skyrim*, where there is always something new to explore.

Yet despite drawing players back over many years, these are not the games at the top of 2023's most-played list. No, those are the "live service games", which are usually multiplayer titles played online and regularly updated with new content. Most are free to play but make money from microtransactions. They are usually shooters, arena battles or sandbox titles, games that spark name-brand recognition far beyond the world of gamers: *Roblox*, *Fortnite*, *Minecraft*, *Call of Duty*.

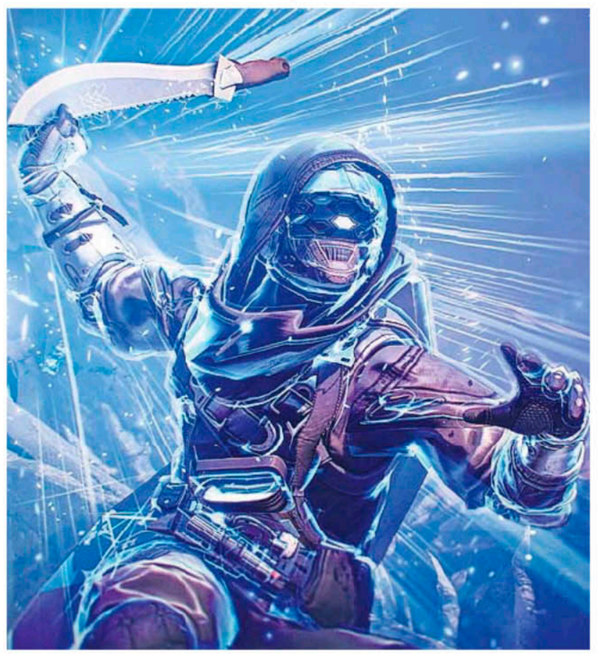
These games strike a balance between a feeling of comfortingly familiarity and an injection of freshness that comes with each update. Sometimes these bring dramatic changes: the recent "Loot Reborn" update to the troubled *Diablo IV* has been so rapturously received that one critic claimed the makers had finally "fixed the game". This month promises major new instalments to *Final Fantasy XIV* and *Destiny 2*, both of which have attracted loyal followings with complex storylines unfolding over many years.

Some of the most profitable titles, such as *Fortnite* and *Roblox*, are not just single games but platforms where players can create their own games for others to try. This means developers can profit from content they didn't create. It also points to the essential significance of community in live service games — sometimes you log on to complete missions and earn points, but you also turn up just to hang out with your friends in a virtual space that feels like home.

Over the past few years, many developers have attempted to launch new forever games to compete with the likes of *Fortnite*. As development costs rise, companies are naturally interested in making titles that can generate long-term profits. However, it's punishingly tough to get it right. Two superhero-branded efforts, *Marvel's Avengers* and DC's *Suicide Squad*, were both excoriated by fans and critics for trying to shoehorn live service elements into games in which they didn't feel natural. Even after a successful launch, keeping fans onside can be difficult: this year's space shooter *Helldivers 2* initially seemed a contender for the forever game pantheon, but a series of bungling changes turned the fanbase against the developer.

Big games companies keep trying to build new live service games with blind optimism. Meanwhile, today's latest games need to compete not just against other new releases, but also the long tails of the most beloved, well-resourced games. In a time of lay-offs and studio closures, developers are going to have to think carefully about the industry's future, and whether it's sustainable.

For gamers, the equation is simpler. They will just play whatever is most appealing, no matter how old it is. It's refreshing to see a medium once obsessed with novelty realise that some things do get better with age.



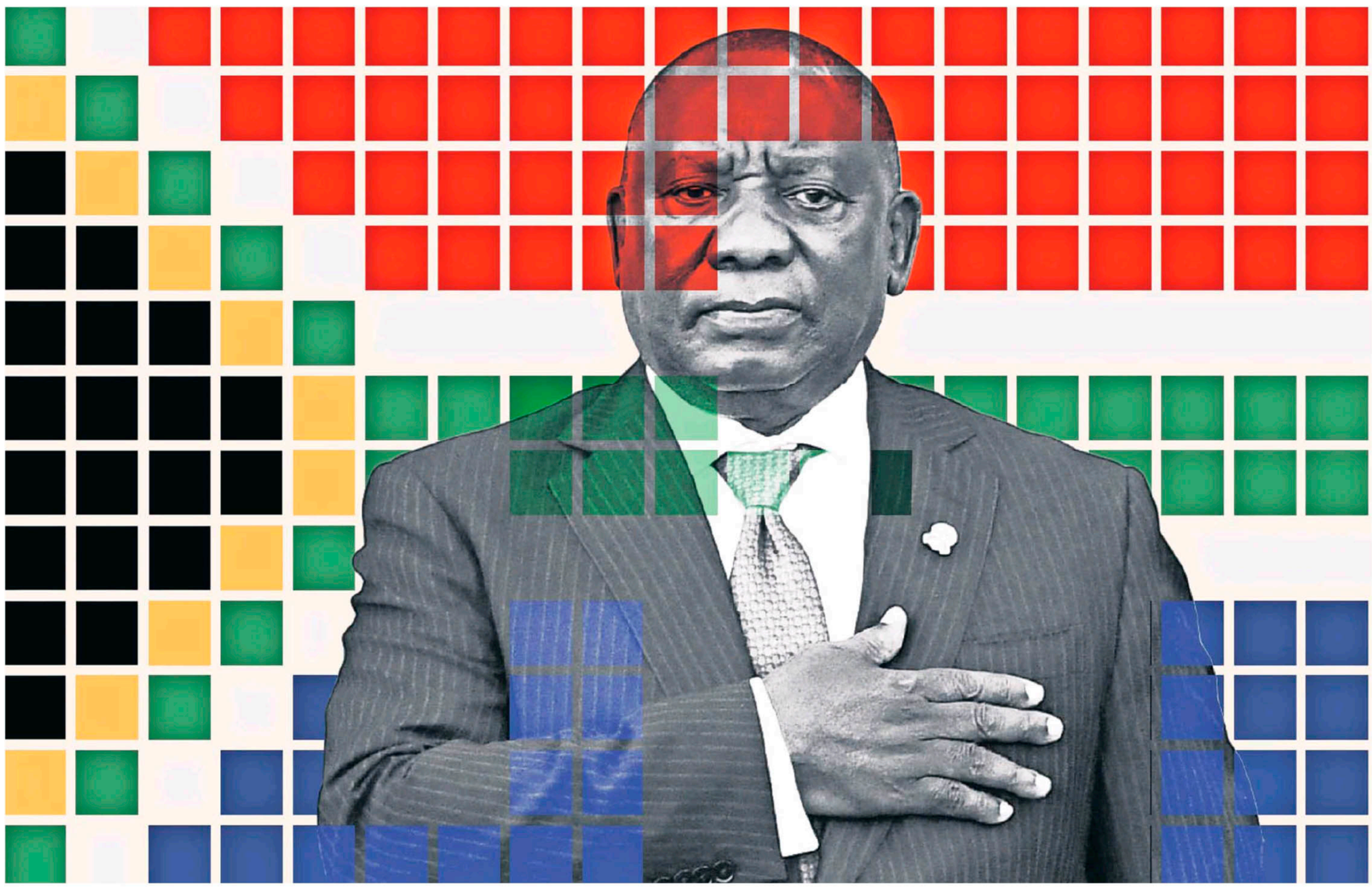
A new instalment of 'Destiny 2', a game with a loyal following, is set for release this month

FT BIG READ. INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

Facing a Friday deadline for a new coalition government, President Cyril Ramaphosa is trying to prevent economic chaos while avoiding new splits in the ruling party. Many analysts fear instability is inevitable.

By David Pilling and Rob Rose

Can the ANC hold South Africa together?



South Africans have been treated in recent days to a series of cartoons depicting a gnu, a notoriously ungainly creature also known as a wildebeest. With its boxy head, heavy-built front half and spindly hindquarters, it is said to resemble an unfortunate composition of several animals.

The gnu of the cartoons also takes its name from the acronym of the Government of National Unity, proposed by President Cyril Ramaphosa as a solution to the dilemma posed by last month's election: that the African National Congress, the party that brought liberation from white minority rule 30 years ago, no longer has enough seats in parliament to govern alone.

"We are now in the era of coalitions," says William Gumede, chair of the Johannesburg-based Democracy Works Foundation, who predicts a new pattern of deeply unstable politics, akin to Italy. "This is likely to last forever."

At municipal level, where ANC dominance slipped earlier than on the national stage, coalition politics involving the ANC, the Economic Freedom Fighters of Julius Malema and the Democratic Alliance, the largest opposition party, has been messy, with a series of administrations forming and collapsing as parties with different ideologies and political interests clash.

Many wonder whether the GNU proposed by Ramaphosa — a creation formed from the union of wildly different political animals — can possibly stand. It is somehow meant to incorporate both Malema's EFF, which advocates the expropriation of land and the nationalisation of the central bank and mining industry, and the DA, a party that wants to carve out more space for the private sector and to prioritise growth-enhancing pro-business policies over redistribution.

Jacob Zuma, the former national and ANC president who now leads a breakaway party called uMkhonto weSizwe (MK), is demanding Ramaphosa's head and the scrapping of the constitution as the price for his participation.

One senior ANC figure tells the Financial Times that the proposal for a government of national unity is a "non-starter". Another ANC insider, pointing to the split within the party over potential coalition partners, adds: "The battle lines are clearly drawn."

Coalition governments "can work in a place like Germany where there is a history of it, the civil service has relative autonomy and inequality is not as deep," says Adam Habib, a South African academic who is now director of London's School of Oriental and African Studies. "But in a place like South Africa, where the trade-offs are horrendous, coalition governments are particularly difficult."

Time is running out to forge a new coalition. The constitution demands that a new government be formed within 14 days of the declaration of the result, which the chief justice said had to coincide with the opening of parliament this Friday. By that time, Ramaphosa needs a majority of the 400 delegates to re-elect him as president in a chamber where only 159 members will be from his own party.

To his critics, Ramaphosa's coalition proposal is evidence of weakness, typical of his inability to take hard decisions and his desperation not to split his party.

But others see it as a clever strategy to overcome opposition within the ANC to an alliance with the DA by flushing out the unwillingness of the EFF and MK to join. Malema has already said he won't be part of any coalition with the "enemy" DA and has declared his intention to eat the "ANC animal piece by piece".

"This may be a way for the ANC, and particularly Ramaphosa, to get the option they want," says Sithembile Mbete, who teaches politics at the University of Pretoria, referring to a deal with the DA.

For business, financial markets and prospective foreign investors, an ANC-DA combination, almost certainly in conjunction with the Inkatha Freedom party, would be the best outcome. In this view, the DA could tame ANC corruption and bring a pragmatism to national government of the sort it has exhibited in the Western Cape, which is generally considered to be the best-run province in the country.

Such an alliance between the ruling party and the DA could take the form of a full-fledged coalition, in which the DA would get some cabinet positions, or it could be a looser agreement, a so-called confidence and supply arrangement. "If you're interested in growth and service delivery and if you're interested in stable politics, then the most sensible coalition partner is the DA," says Habib.

> 'A strong line of thinking in the ANC is that they are being [coerced] into a coalition with their enemy'

Yet many ANC members, including in the National Executive Committee, the main decision-making body, remain staunchly opposed to dealing with the DA. Much of the movement regards the party, most of whose senior officials are white, as a vehicle of "white monopoly capital", one that seeks to preserve the unequal status quo through the abandonment of progressive measures and capitulation to market forces.

"A strong line of thinking in the ANC is that financial markets and the western governments behind them are holding them to ransom, that they are essentially being blackmailed into going into a coalition with their enemy," says Jonny Steinberg, a South African author now at Yale's Council on African Studies.

One outcome, he says, is that, "the ANC potentially goes into some sort of arrangement with the DA and IFP but it does so with a bad heart. Whatever relationship they go into with the DA is going to be very fragile."

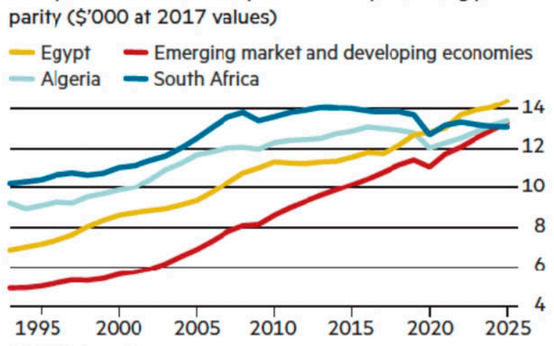
The ANC, says Nhlanhla Shezi, a 50-year-old businessman who used to support the party, has become a "coconut", supporting "white" policies. "This talk of a coalition with the DA, the ANC has been wanting that for ages, long before the election," he says.

Some ANC members are pushing, instead, for an alliance with the EFF and possibly Zuma's MK party, in what would essentially be the reassembly of the party before it split into three parts.

Lindiwe Sisulu, a senior ANC leader and former minister, leans towards this option. She told SABC, the public broadcaster, that a deal with a "Black" party would be preferable, a clear swipe at the DA. "We have many Black parties in parliament that are able to form the majority of parliament, as required by the constitution. They cover a wide spectrum of our people," she said.

South Africa's GDP per head is set to fall below the average for developing economies

GDP per head in constant prices and at purchasing power parity ($'000 at 2017 values)



2024-25=forecasts
Source: IMF

Two weeks after the election, the blow suffered by the ANC is still being absorbed. In a racially divided nation where more than 80 per cent of the population is Black, the party that purports to represent the majority's interests contrived to muster only 40 per cent of the vote.

"From the results of these elections, it is clear that South Africans expect their leaders to work together to meet their needs," Ramaphosa said of a result that party insiders described as catastrophic

In one sense, Ramaphosa's magnanimity was a reflection of South Africa's remaining institutional strengths, which have endured in spite of attempts by senior figures within his own party to whittle them away. In a continent where very few liberation parties have willingly given up power, or the moneymaking opportunities arising from it, Ramaphosa was acknowledging the truth of any authentic democratic process: that his party needed to obey the will of the people.

Yet the verdict of the electorate on 30 years of ANC misrule is not straightforward. On the one hand, it was an indictment of the party's inability to fix deep social and economic problems over the six parliamentary terms during which it had a commanding majority. Despite the creation of a Black middle class, South Africa is as economically divided today as it was during apartheid. Crime and unemployment are sky high and the ANC has consistently failed to deliver basic services like electricity, drinking water and social housing.

"We all love to believe a good story, and the ANC looked like a good story for a long time," says Moeletsi Mbeki, a political analyst, referring to the early years of ANC rule. "But it has failed on so many counts — like education, public health, housing and the economy. Like many liberation parties in Africa, they became more nationalist in their thinking, hoping that Black people wouldn't see their failure, but they miscalculated."

According to Mbeki, the past 15 years of corruption, collapsing infrastructure and economic stagnation have shattered belief that the ANC has the wherewithal to run the country. That is quite an admission for an ANC "blue blood" whose father Govan was imprisoned alongside Nelson Mandela for 24 years and whose brother Thabo was president after Mandela from 1999 to 2008.

Yet, despite the apparent seismic shift, in some ways the electorate has remained quite stable. Although the ANC got only 40 per cent of the vote, the two ANC splinter parties — Zuma's MK, and Malema's EFF — mopped up nearly 25 per cent between them.

"The ANC lost to the ANC, it didn't lose to any other party," says Mbete of the University of Pretoria.

Added together, the ANC and its breakaway parties got 64 per cent of the vote, virtually the same as the tally gained by Mandela in the first triumphant democratic elections of 1994. Meanwhile, support for the market-oriented DA barely budged from the last two outings, settling on just under 22 per cent. Of the 17 percentage points the ANC lost between the elections of 2019 and 2024, 15 points went to uMkhonto weSizwe, a party that has only existed for six months. "I'm not sure how decisively we've moved into a new era," says Steinberg. "That makes the coalition politics of the next five years really, really difficult."

Ramaphosa's attempts to bring the country towards the centre ground are being undermined by another force — the rise of identity politics in a nation that, under Mandela, became a byword for optimism about the prospect for a non-racial "rainbow" society. This year's election produced a plethora of parties appealing to voters almost exclusively on the basis of identity.

Zuma's MK party, which won 45 per cent of the vote in his home province of KwaZulu-Natal, seeks to represent the Zulu people, while the EFF and, increasingly, the ANC itself, present themselves as parties of the Black majority. Other parties that gained parliamentary seats include the Patriotic Alliance, which canvasses votes from those who identify as "coloured", many of whom do not feel represented by the ANC. Separate parties explicitly target the Indian, Afrikaner and Muslim vote.

"What Hendrik Verwoerd [the founder of apartheid] tried to do many years ago was divide people along racial lines," says Herman Mashaba, a businessman and leader of ActionSA, one of more than 50 parties on the ballot. "This election has done that all by itself, with people now looking at coalitions purely based on identity. We now have people saying they won't be in a government with someone based on their race," he says, adding that the new reality "scares the hell" out of him.

Mmusi Maimane, a former leader of the DA who quarrelled with its leadership and left to form his own Build One South Africa party, also bemoans the fact that politics has shattered along identity lines. The duty of politicians, he says, is to steer politics back to the middle ground where the majority of voters can meet. "It's the only way we'll get through this storm."

To his critics, Ramaphosa's coalition proposal is evidence of weakness, typical of his inability to take hard decisions and his desperation not to divide his party
FT montage/Reuters

Identity politics is most pronounced in KwaZulu-Natal where the Zulu majority has often felt out of step with the largely Xhosa leadership of the ANC, represented by people like Mandela and Thabo Mbeki. Many Zulus feel slighted by what they see as the persecution of Zuma, a prominent Zulu. That sense of grievance was only heightened last month when the constitutional court barred Zuma from running for parliament because of a 15-month prison sentence he received for contempt of court.

Despite his party's spectacular showing, Zuma has called the elections rigged and demanded a rerun. If his demands are not met, he has threatened "trouble", triggering memories of the nationwide violence in 2021 in which 354 people died after he was jailed.

The threat of what analyst Mbeki calls "insurrection politics" reminiscent of Latin America goes beyond KwaZulu-Natal. Ralph Mathekga, an independent analyst, says South Africa's polarised environment is ripe for populism, with what he calls "a sinister new brand of parties based on ethnic nationalism and radicalism".

Gayton McKenzie, a reformed bank robber and leader of the Patriotic Alliance, is unapologetic about his party's platform, which includes reintroduction of the death penalty and bussing undocumented foreigners out of the country. "The voters tasted what we were offering and they liked it," he tells the FT. "So I've got no problem if people think that we're right wing or populist. We're not appealing to the centre."

As much as the ANC pretends to represent the working class, Mbeki says, it is really a party for the Black middle class, evidenced by its championing of the rights of those in work over the third of the working-age population — and half of youth — with no job.

> 'Coalitions can work in a place like Germany. But in a place like South Africa, they are difficult'

In such a febrile social and political environment, some analysts are deeply pessimistic about the future. For Habib, the prospects of stability are slim. "I think the track record of coalitions in this country is horrible and it's dangerous what we're going through."

Habib believes that an era of political volatility, with what he calls the dangers of slipping into Zimbabwe-like dysfunction, has been made all but inevitable given the evident failings of the ANC. "It may be we need to go through this," he says. "But it's also possible we will never come out of it."

The FT View



FINANCIAL TIMES
'Without fear and without favour'

Europe's green backlash

Rightwing advances in EU parliament elections will lessen climate ambitions

The rise of populist and far-right parties in Sunday's European parliament elections was partly mirrored by falls for green parties — even if the centre largely held. Five years after the euphoria the Greens experienced in 2019, when they increased their seats from 52 to 74, they slipped back to 53. The setback is unlikely to lead to a widescale rollback of EU climate policies. But it will surely mean less green ambition in the coming five years — with implications well beyond Europe.

The Greens' performance in 2019 may prove a high-water mark. In the more benign, pre-pandemic and prewar economic environment, mass rallies inspired by green groups and activists such as Greta Thunberg helped to make climate concerns a central electoral issue. In response, mainstream parties were adopting net zero pledges and Ursula von der Leyen, the then incoming European Commission president, made the Green Deal — which aims to make the EU climate-neutral by 2050 — her flagship project.

Unfortunately, voters began to feel the impact of green policies on their wallets and lifestyles just as post-pandemic inflation and the energy shock from the Ukraine war kicked in. Some governments exacerbated the problem through mis-steps; the botched introduction by Germany's three-way coalition — including the Greens — of a bill to replace new gas and oil heating systems with heat pumps created a backlash exploited by the far-right AfD.

Hard-right parties elsewhere made political capital out of promises to slow the transition, and centre-right parties adopted watered-down versions of the same rhetoric. EU-wide farmers' protests over environmental regulations seen as heavy-handed provided a very different backdrop to the 2024 vote.

The overall picture is mixed. It is far more complex than green votes flowing directly to far-right parties — though green parties performed worst in France and Germany, where the far right did best. Greens fared better in Sweden, where the far right did not surge, and advanced in Denmark — while the Labour/Green alliance in the Netherlands narrowly overtook Geert Wilders' far-right party. Where hard-right parties did well, polling suggests concern about migration — or its effects on, say, housing costs — was a bigger factor than the "greenlash".

Yet an enlarged hard-right presence in the parliament, and the greater caution of von der Leyen's centre-right EPP group, provide a much less propitious outlook for green policies in the next five years — which are vital to determining whether the EU achieves its 2030 climate change targets. Green laws will be hard to undo. But some, including the 2035 phaseout of the sale of new petrol or diesel cars, are due to be reviewed, and could be weakened. A less climate-friendly parliament could make life harder for Brussels' proposal to agree a legal target of cutting net emissions by 90 per cent, from 1990 levels, by 2040.

> Policymakers committed to the net zero transition need to learn lessons and must be finely attuned to the impact on consumers

Policymakers committed to the green transition need to learn lessons. They must be finely attuned to the impact on consumers, and ensure policies are well designed and communicated, with help for those most heavily affected. More targeted tax incentives to reduce the upfront costs of, say, installing solar panels or switching to electric vehicles could accelerate adoption by businesses and households alike.

A more compelling narrative is needed, too, on the jobs, businesses and technologies the green transition will create. The European election of 2024 might yet prove to be the peak of the far right. But amid efforts to neutralise rightwing extremism, the focus on combating the epochal threat of climate change must not be lost.

ft.com/opinion

Opinion Science

Women have a lot on their Petri dish

Andy Carer





Anjana Ahuja

Antimicrobial resistance happens when pathogens — microorganisms that cause disease, like viruses, bacteria, fungi and parasites — stop responding to medicines. The World Bank estimates AMR could add $1tn to healthcare costs by 2050.

Now, a survey by the World Health Organization suggests that women could be more exposed than men to such superbugs, thanks to a complex mix of biological, social, cultural and economic factors. It is unclear yet whether that leads to more disease among women but WHO is urging countries to pass on information on sex and gender in their monitoring of drug-resistant infections.

This new perspective — that AMR risk is not the same everywhere for everyone — is valuable. Without reliable infection control, staples of modern medicine like caesarean births and hip replacements become routes to infection, disease, disability and death. Superbugs directly killed about 1.3mn in 2019.

> A WHO survey suggests that they could be more exposed than men to superbugs

Last month, the health agency added four new pathogens to its hit list of drug-resistant bacteria. The world needs to clamp down on antimicrobial misuse, including in food production, and better incentivise R&D. But understanding who is most vulnerable and why, could also shape better policy interventions.

Zlatina Dobreva and WHO colleagues in Geneva teamed up with researchers from the Global Strategy Lab at Toronto's York University, to review the scientific literature on AMR for information on sex (defined as biological sex assigned at birth) and gender (reflecting broader social norms, such as caring responsibilities). Their findings, based on 130 papers and bankrolled by the Fleming Fund, come out officially next month but Dobreva offered a recent preview, reported in Nature.

The evidence, Dobreva told me, is that "women are at a higher risk of exposure to potentially drug-resistant infections," not least through childbirth and abortion in settings that might not always be sterile. In many low- and middle-income countries, women and girls tend to fetch water, prepare food and care for others, bringing them more frequently into contact with bacteria like E. coli.

A lack of sanitation can make periods a monthly window of risk: inadequately washed cloths, for example, make infections more likely. Some girls skip school during menstruation, limiting their prospects and compromising the health decisions they later make for themselves and their children (such as childhood vaccination). Sex work and sexual violence exposes some to drug-resistant sexually transmitted diseases, including gonorrhoea.

Prompt diagnosis and treatment can take time and money — and sometimes male permission and childcare. Those difficulties can mean women instead self-diagnose; buy drugs over the counter or informally; try herbal remedies; or share medicines. Women are also more likely than men to receive antibiotics in their lifetime. All are factors in AMR.

On top of that, women make up about 70 per cent of healthcare workers globally, making superbugs an occupational hazard; personal protective equipment, if available, is generally designed for men and a poor fit. When food is scarce, women are rarely prioritised; malnutrition makes opportunistic infections more likely. A rare upside: women are more likely to have contact with healthcare professionals and to comply with prescribed treatment.

While the researchers are confident that, globally, women are more exposed, they do not know whether women suffer more disease as a result, nor whether all countries show the same pattern. A recent European study suggests men have slightly higher rates of drug-resistant infection than women, for unknown reasons, and that age matters. "We need more data," Dobreva says.

The WHO wants demographic detail included as standard when nations send data to the global AMR surveillance system. Professor Shona Hilton, a public health policy researcher at Glasgow university who is helping Tanzania with its AMR action plan, agrees that gender is under-represented in policy considerations.

The WHO analysis, Hilton says, shows that "poor countries need tailored plans to address the distinct challenges they face", including sparse healthcare infrastructure and squeezed resources.

It is a cliché that women, particularly in the global south, have a lot on their plate. If the WHO report is anything to go by, they also have a lot on their Petri dish.

The writer is a science commentator

Letters

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Forget half-measures, G7 must confiscate frozen Russian assets

G7 leaders are expected to make a decision at their next meeting on whether — and how — to seize the nearly €300bn in Russian state assets frozen in western countries since February 2022 ("G7 finance ministers mull plan to issue debt backed by frozen assets", Report, FT.com, May 24; and "The heated debate over frozen assets", The Big Read, May 3).

As chairs and parliamentarians of our respective parliamentary foreign and European affairs committees, we collectively urge G7 leaders to explore all legal avenues to support Ukraine, starting with the creation of multilateral or bilateral loan facilities backed by the windfall profits generated by the frozen Russian assets.

However, this should only be a first step. The ultimate objective must be to fully confiscate all Russian assets and transfer them to Ukraine, ensuring that this process adheres to international law. Russia's war of aggression has already done almost €500bn in damage to Ukraine's infrastructure — and that amount grows daily. At least €3bn a month in outside financial assistance is required just to prevent a collapse of Ukraine's economy. Against numbers like these, confiscating €3bn in annual windfall profits on Russia's frozen assets simply is not a sufficient response to the challenge Russia has issued to Ukraine and its friends in the democratic world.

Moreover, a multilateral or bilateral loan facility backed by windfall profits generated by the frozen Russian assets is estimated to only provide around €40bn-€50bn to Ukraine. We see these proposals as a first step — not an alternative — to confiscating the nearly €300bn.

We need to step up our assistance to help Ukraine win this war — both for Ukraine's democratic European future and for our own security. To do that, we need to be prepared to take big, bold decisions proportionate to the historical significance of our times. Our decision here will set a precedent either way. If we confiscate the entire €300bn in accordance with international law, we affirm the legal right to take countermeasures when a state like Russia grossly violates international law with its aggression.

Confiscating the full amount will signal our resolve to Vladimir Putin and other authoritarians who may seek to attack their neighbours that such aggression has severe financial consequences. Leading economists who support full confiscation point out that most market impacts were priced in at the time these assets were originally frozen two years ago — and that seizure in response to aggression would be too rare an occurrence to have major currency impacts.

To do this, we urge the G7 to dispense with half-measures and to take the only step that will have the required impact — confiscation of all €300bn in frozen Russian central bank assets.

Michael Roth
Chair, Foreign Affairs Committee, Deutscher Bundestag, Germany
Michael McCaul
Chair, Foreign Affairs Committee, House of Representatives, US
Žygimantas Pavilionis
Chair, Foreign Affairs Committee, Seimas (Parliament), Lithuania
Bogdan Klich
Chair, Committee on European Union Affairs. Senate, Poland
Lia Quartapelle
Vice President, Committee on Foreign and European Community Affairs, Chamber of Deputies, Italy
For full list of signatories go to www. ft.com/letters

How capital allowances can help thwart cyber threats

The recent cyber attack on the laboratory services provider Synnovis, impacting hospitals across London, serves as a stark reminder of the vulnerabilities within the NHS ("Operations cancelled after cyber attack on lab services", Report, June 5).

Given this, it was disheartening to watch the first Leaders' Debate, where both Conservative and Labour leaders acknowledged the challenges but failed to directly address vulnerabilities and offer clear solutions for the NHS. For example, we need an actionable plan to address our cyber security challenges, especially attacks on small firms, such as Synnovis with its 300 staff.

This is not an isolated event. Cyber security remains one of the biggest threats to the UK and its critical national infrastructure, a fact that cannot be ignored.

To address this pressing issue, all parties should consider a "super-deduction" tax incentive for UK small firms that may not have the resources to prioritise cyber security. This scheme would offer organisations employing less than 500 staff a significant tax break — for instance 25p off for every £1 invested — on cyber security solutions. A similar scheme was introduced for purchasing plant and machinery in April 2021.

If implemented, this incentive would not only encourage small businesses to prioritise cyber security spending but also strengthen national cyber defences. This policy has the potential to drive widespread improvements in cyber security across all sectors, indirectly benefiting public services by reducing the overall threat landscape and enhancing the safety of our digital infrastructure.

Graham Smith
Head of Customer Success, OryxAlign London EC3, UK

Volunteering is better idea than Sunak's 'gimmick'

Robert Shrimsley says, "History shows it doesn't much matter whether a bold new policy idea is popular if the people proposing it are not" ("Sunak resorts to a spaghetti strategy", Opinion, May 30).

Conservative leader and prime minister, Rishi Sunak, has outlined a plan to tackle two problems: the need for a larger military reserve and a desire to foster more social cohesion and a spirit of service among the young. This would compel people by law to complete a community programme over a 12-month period, or enrol in a year-long military training scheme, when they turn 18.



Presenting this idea on an election platform with no earlier reference makes it look neither serious nor thought-through. While there may be some substance in these ideas, it looks like a "gimmick" as described by the opposition Labour party.

But there is a strong case for the next government to set up a national community service programme. A volunteering programme for young people at 18 would build social solidarity, tackle low self-esteem, unemployment and aim to heal social divisions.

It has been shown that volunteer work enhances happiness, life satisfaction, self-esteem, physical health and a sense of control over life. By bringing people together from different parts of the community, volunteering has been shown to develop a greater sense of belonging. Volunteers report that volunteering enriches their sense of purpose in life and helps them learn valuable things about the world and about themselves.

Creating a culture of "national community service" will take political will and a serious commitment by government and not a pasta cut strategy. It is a big vision with enormous possibilities: a society that is based on not, "what can I do for myself", but "what we can do for each other".

Gabrielle Rifkind
Director, Oxford Process London NW3, UK

Let's debunk the myths about LNG as clean energy

Of the many myths propagated by the fossil fuel industry, none has been more misleading than the claim that liquefied natural gas is a "bridge to renewables".

The claim is implicit in the letter from the Geneva-based LNG analyst Daniela Miccoli ("Europe's LNG strategy is a big boon of war in Ukraine", May 3) which states that gas is a key asset in the European energy transition. But LNG is "clean" only in the sense that it causes less local air pollution than coal when burnt. It is also true that it is more fuel-efficient than coal in terms of energy generated per tonne of CO_2 produced, but that is only half the story.

As long ago as 2011, Professor Tom Wigley demonstrated that the climate change advantage of gas over coal is lost if fugitive emissions of methane exceed 2 per cent of the gas produced. Wigley was comparing high-sulphur coal with gas; so some allowance has to be made for the fact that coal is now either low-sulphur, or plants are fitted with desulphurisation equipment. So the figure might be 2.5 or even 3 per cent. However, it makes no difference since gas obtained from fracking, the source of most US LNG, is associated with far more methane leakage than conventional gas production. Several studies have estimated releases of 6 to 10 per cent from satellite observations over shale fields in North America, but the resolution is not sufficiently refined to focus down on the main culprits.

Discharges over Azerbaijan are probably even higher, but there has been no consistent monitoring. Azerbaijan, for whom oil and gas provide over 90 per cent of export revenues, is hosting COP 29 later this year — another disastrous decision by the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Liquefaction of gas to LNG is a very energy intensive process and adds 50 per cent to the carbon footprint of the product. So we have fugitive emissions that make gas two to three times worse than coal from a climate perspective, being liquefied to produce LNG which is four to five times worse than coal.

And that is then shipped around the world to provide energy to countries whose deluded politicians think that it is cleaner than coal.

Robin Russell-Jones
Scientific Adviser, APPG Air Pollution (2017-21); Founder, HHelp Rescue the Planet, Marlow, Buckinghamshire, UK

Image of Cambridge that ignores its glittering prizes

As a former doctoral student and lecturer and long-term resident of the city, I was dismayed by the parsimonious image of this great university painted by Deborah Prentice, Cambridge university's vice-chancellor (Opinion, June 4).

Cambridge's reputation in the natural and medical sciences, in mathematics, engineering and innovation is extraordinary. But it also does pretty well in the arts, humanities and social sciences — none of which are mentioned in Professor Prentice's article. Could not the vice-chancellor have made at least a passing reference to Cambridge's contribution to national and international culture more broadly? Surely there's a clue in the word "university"?

Professor Paul Cornish
Cambridge, UK

Interrogating judge's move to quit Hong Kong bench

As a London lawyer, I confess I am confused by Jonathan Sumption's comment piece "The rule of law in Hong Kong is in grave danger" (Opinion, June 11). In essence, the rule of law means that people are bound to obey laws, not the discretionary diktats of men or bodies of men. The rule of law needs a political and legal culture to sustain it and it is easy to mark, as Lord Sumption did, the deterioration of that culture over time in Hong Kong.

Yet Sumption observes that "every judge knows that under the Basic Law, if China does not like the courts' decisions it can have them reversed by an 'interpretation' from the standing committee of the National People's Congress in Beijing."

I am puzzled as to how Sumption got comfortable that the rule of law was at all "sustained" in Hong Kong from the time of his appointment to the Court of Final Appeal in 2019 until the May 30 Hong Kong High Court decision that he so rightly condemns.

Marke Raines
Raines & Co, London EC3, UK

New moniker for XR?

Your weekend edition (June 1) had a photo of Extinction Rebellion protesters. They all appeared close to retirement age. I suppose they would be the "Grey Greens"?

Cathal Guiomard
Dublin, Ireland

Opinion

Last best hope against populism is to expose it to government



WORLD AFFAIRS

Janan Ganesh

In the first-rate Stendhal novel that we call Emmanuel Macron's life, the protagonist grows bolder and bolder as he rises through France. He marries who he likes, thanks. He joins Rothschild even as a banking crash turns public opinion against financiers. He sets up a party, gives it his own initials and wins the biggest directly elected office in Europe after jilting his mentor.

His latest decision — to give the hard right an early shot at power — will be filed alongside those headstrong acts. It is no such thing. It is a work of cool logic.

The last best hope against populism in Europe is to expose it to government. The pressure of office might force anti-establishment parties to moderate, as Giorgia Meloni has done somewhat in Italy. Or it might reveal their incompetence and turpitude, as happened to Boris Johnson in Britain. Sometimes, of course, it will do neither: power will neither tame nor shame. (See Viktor Orbán.) But even then, these parties should at least become subject to the pendulum of politics. Time spent in government is time spent alienating voters with tangible decisions.

Right now, in much of Europe, populists have a goldilocks level of success: enough to foul the atmosphere, to spread the idea that simple answers to big problems exist if governments would but enact them, but not enough to have to prove this in office. The establishment has a record, and all records are flawed. Its enemies get to travel lighter. The contest between the two sides is, in Pentagon argot, asymmetric.

Note how many of the hard right's relative underperformers in the European parliament elections are incumbents at home (Orbán's Fidesz) or proppers-up of governments (the Sweden Democrats). This is the gravitational force that drags mainstream politicians down. Government brings round-the-clock attention, not just the curated broadcast rounds at which Nigel Farage excels. Above all, it brings the burden of making choices that cost voters money.

> Macron wouldn't have called an election if he saw nothing constructive in a win for the hard right

I could cite tax rises here, to fund lavish promises. Or higher interest rates from overborrowing. But few things would harm the populist cause more than having to manage immigration. Their plausible-sounding alternative to foreign labour in low-wage sectors — pay domestic workers more — would be tested against the public's price-sensitivity. Even if voters don't balk at higher social care or retail costs, the trade-off would become apparent at last. Never having to be tested, populist ideas have a spurious credibility. Only a spell in government would change that.

What can be said against all this? "Donald Trump", perhaps. High office didn't temper the 45th US president, *did* show voters his worst, and still he is favourite to be the 47th. All true. But Europe, for now, is different. Most of its democracies aren't quite as divided or tribal as the US, where, eventually, the question of what day of the week it is will generate a 50-50 polling result. Gross misgovernment would still discredit a leader in most of the continent. Consider the irrelevance of Johnson in the UK election, even as a loudmouth on the sidelines.

A better argument is that, once in office, populists might pervert the system to remain there, or do something so harmful as to outweigh the benefit of rendering them unelectable thereafter. (Such as leaving the world's biggest single market.) Hence the *cordon sanitaire* of the German mainstream against the hard right.

It is an argument to be reckoned with. In an ideal world, getting *close* to power would be enough for populists to lose voters. Macron wants France to contemplate a Rassemblement National prime minister this summer, and demur. But he wouldn't have taken the decision to hold an election if he saw nothing constructive at all in an RN win. At some point, voters have to live with the consequences of their stated desires.

A notion dear to the west is that progress is made, and the truth arrived at, through argument. (Socrates has a lot to answer for.) This underestimates the role of practical demonstration. The west didn't experience a human lifetime of moderate politics after 1945 because it was talked into it. What counted was the folk memory, now almost extinct, of what happened when nations last voted for parties that defined themselves against the system.

There might be no safe way of giving voters a controlled dose. But the status quo in which populists are on television, on stage, but not on the hook for much isn't tenable. Macron's election will be framed as another outrageous gamble from an almost novelistic *homme du destin*. It might in fact be the most prudent thing he could have done.

janan.ganesh@ft.com

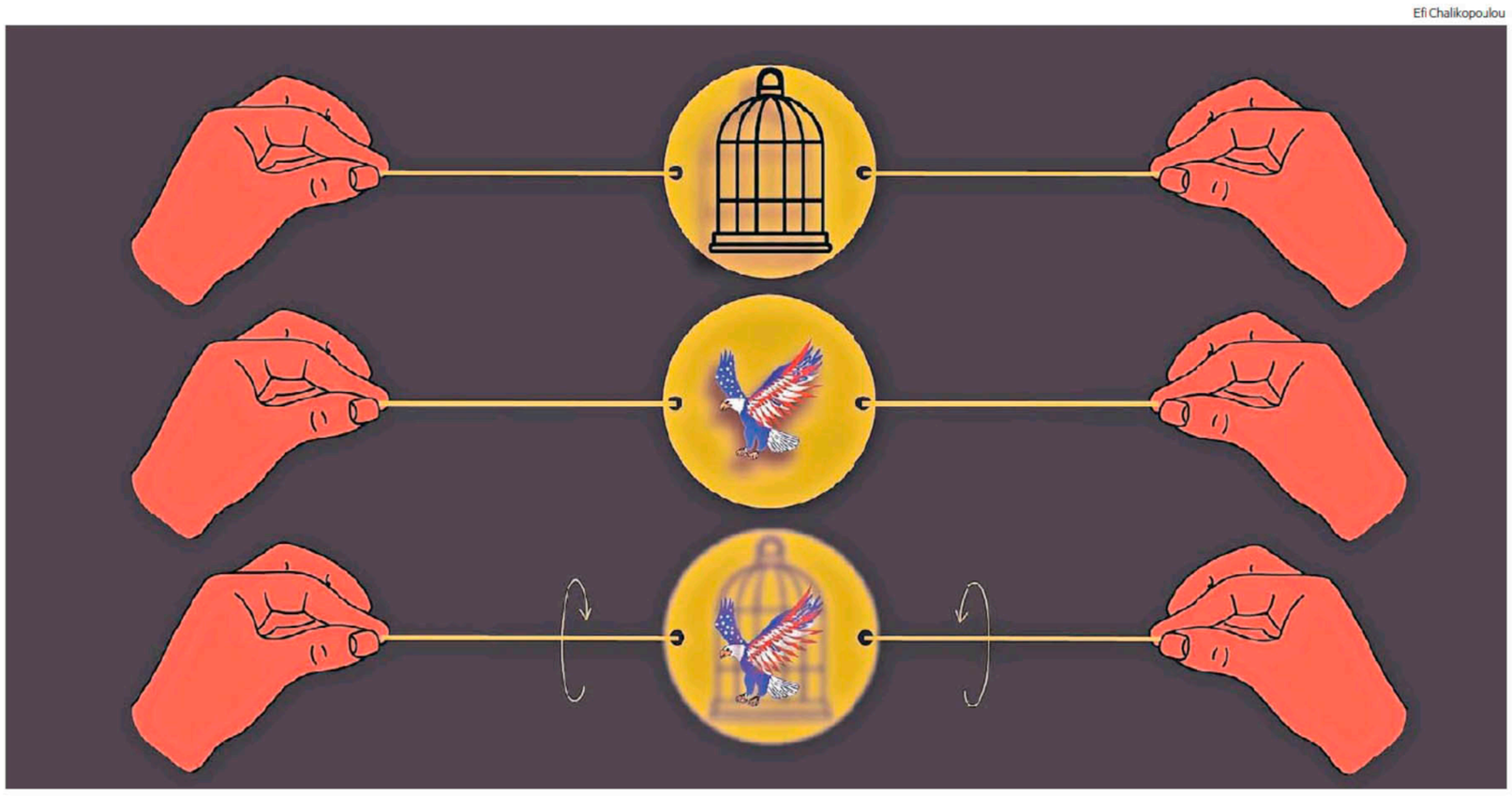
Tariffs are bad policy — but good politics



Martin Wolf Economics

While there are excellent reasons to intervene in the economy, these taxes will rarely be the best way

Efi Chalikopoulou



We are moving into a protectionist world, led by the US, as in the early 1930s. Donald Trump is of course, a committed protectionist — a true successor of Senator Smoot and Representative Hawley, who instigated the infamous Smoot-Hawley tariff in 1930. But, except by Trump's standards, Joe Biden is also no slouch when it comes to protection, most recently with his tariffs on $18bn of Chinese exports. The US tariff on electric vehicles, in particular, is to be quadrupled to 100 per cent. "Where have you been for three-and-a-half years? They should have done it a long time ago," responded Trump. He proposes tariffs of 10 per cent on all imports, apart from those from China, on which he hopes to impose tariffs of 60 per cent. These new tariffs, he hopes, would also partially offset the lost revenue from extending his highly expensive 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

These policies are politically appealing. The impact of tariffs on those who are harmed is relatively invisible; the victims are usually powerless; and — hallelujah! — tariffs can be justified as a way to right wrongs done by nasty foreigners. Yet they are still bad policies.

To understand this one needs to make a distinction introduced into economics in the early 1960s and justified empirically in some classic analyses of the role of trade policies in the huge success of the export-oriented development of Taiwan, South Korea and, later, China.

The point is simple. Yes, there exist excellent reasons why we might want to intervene in the economy. We might want to lower inequality, reduce insecurity, promote infant industries, limit macroeconomic instability and minimise strategic vulnerabilities. But trade policy, especially protection, will rarely be the best way of achieving the objective. The argument for liberal trade is *not* an argument for laissez faire. It is an argument for using instruments other than trade barriers wherever possible.

To understand why tariffs are rarely the best policy instrument, one needs to understand what they do. Tariffs are taxes on consumers whose revenue goes in part to the government, but in large part to producers. So, they are examples of "tax-and-spend", but the taxation is concealed in the elevated price of the good and the spending is concealed in the elevated rewards to producers.

Such policies are not well targeted at anything but these goals. Like any other tax, tariffs make the people who buy the good, be they consumers or producers, worse off. But they also have wider effects on the economy. Above all, they impose a "home-market bias". To put that in general terms, a tax on imports is also a tax on exports. How does this work? Well, take the example of Trump's proposed 10 per cent tariff on all imports. This can be thought of as initially being like a devaluation, but just for import substitutes. Imports of such goods will fall — that, after all, is the aim. But there is no reason why this should directly affect the current account balance, unless it also changes aggregate income and expenditure in the economy. So, with less demand for imports, the need to buy foreign currency will fall. That will strengthen the dollar, making exports less competitive. They, then, will shrink. Exporters are the most competitive producers in the country. Protecting producers of uncompetitive import substitutes at their expense does not look sensible.

This is not theoretical. Those of us who have worked in countries with highly protectionist trade policies have seen this outcome. I worked on India at the World Bank in the 1970s. Protectionist trade policy did not make the country self-sufficient. It crushed exports, making it far more vulnerable.

> Such measures are inefficient, regressive and nigh on certain to cause retaliation

This is far from all. There are also adverse distributional effects. An excellent recent study, "Why Trump's Tariff Proposals Would Harm Working Americans", by Kimberly Clausing and Mary Lovely for the Peterson Institute for International Economics, reviews the evidence that Trump's agenda for another term "amounts to regressive tax cuts, only partially paid for by regressive tax increases. A lower-bound estimate of costs to consumers indicates that the tariffs would reduce after-tax incomes by about 3.5 per cent for those in the bottom half of the income distribution." Similarly, a study published by the National Bureau of Economic Research in January 2024 concluded that the 2018-19 trade war launched by Trump had "not to date provided economic help to the US heartland: import tariffs on foreign goods neither raised nor lowered US employment in newly protected sectors; retaliatory tariffs had clear negative employment impacts, primarily in agriculture; and these harms were only partly mitigated by compensatory US agricultural subsidies". In all, lousy policy; good politics.

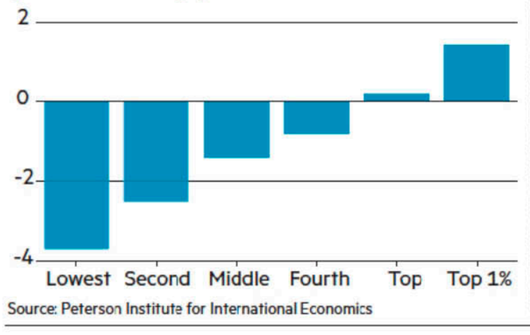
Will Biden's more targeted support for production of electric vehicles do better? That is unlikely, for a simple reason. The policy will protect producers in the US market, but the US market is too small to make domestic producers globally competitive. According to the International Energy Agency, in 2023, the US market for battery-electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles was 17 per cent of China's. US consumers no longer dominate world consumption. That is a big obstacle to a home-market-oriented industrial policy. (See charts.)

Something far more subtle will be needed. That something is subsidies. Biden has been quite right to use these. The rejoinder will be that the taxes needed to fund subsidies are anathema. But tariffs *are* higher taxes. Worse, they are inefficient, regressive and nigh on certain to cause retaliation. Yes, there are perfectly sound arguments for intervention in markets. But returning to the trade policies of the 1930s is quite mad.

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Trump's proposed tariffs and tax cuts would hurt low-income Americans the most

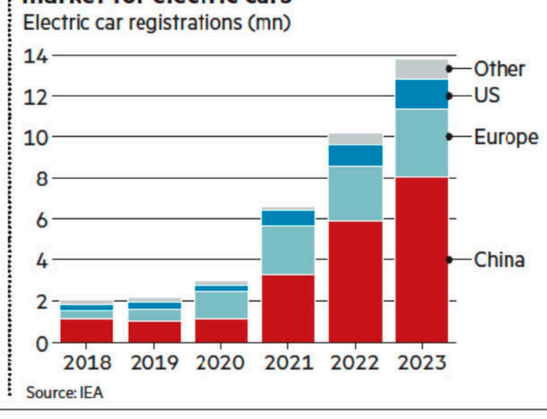
Net distributional impact of tariff increases and extensions to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, % change in post-tax income by quintile



Source: Peterson Institute for International Economics

The Chinese market is over half the world market for electric cars

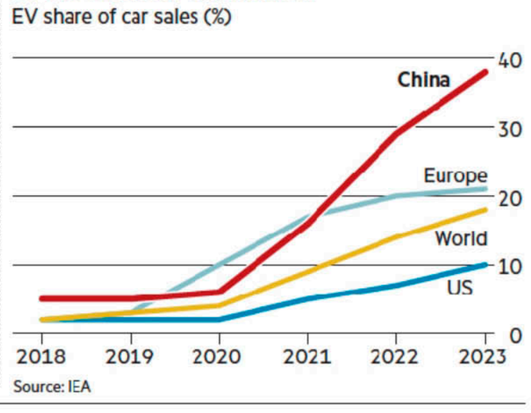
Electric car registrations (mn)



Source: IEA

In 2023, electric cars made up almost half of the Chinese car market

EV share of car sales (%)



Source: IEA

US regulators have vertical integration in their sights



COMPANIES

Brooke Masters

Vertical integration is all the rage as companies scramble to compete in artificial intelligence and decarbonisation. They believe that exerting more sway over suppliers and sales channels will help them speed innovation and cope with geopolitical disruption. But is it better to buy the necessary supplies and smarts, develop them in-house or find some way to strike a partnership?

Last year General Motors purchased a lithium mine to secure crucial minerals for its electric vehicles. Chinese rival BYD already controls most of its supply chain, down to the ships that transport its cars and it is reportedly on the hunt for acquisitions as it looks to expand.

Apple this week announced a partnership with OpenAI to integrate ChatGPT into its devices. It is seeking to catch up with rival Microsoft, which got in early with the AI start-up and has now put in $13bn and incorporated its technology into multiple products. Meanwhile, Google owner Alphabet, an early AI leader because of its 2014 purchase of DeepMind, is building its own large language models and recently bumped up development of proprietary chips to power its offerings.

Many companies have very good reasons for vertical combinations beyond seeking to command and profit from cutting-edge technology. Tight connections often increase efficiency and the ability to recover from supply chain disruptions. Direct ownership also makes it easier to monitor for labour abuses, overseas bribery and other regulatory violations, while simplifying the calculation of carbon emissions.

But competition watchdogs are growing concerned that vertical integration can also further less laudable goals. In areas where technology is still developing, powerful companies may try to steal a march on rivals — and independent entrepreneurs — by using their power over key inputs or sales channels to foreclose competition.

> Corporate executives should be wary of seeing this as a blip that will pass if Trump returns to office

For years, US enforcers focused on horizontal deals, where harm to competition is easier to prove because they involve combinations of direct rivals. To the extent they expressed concern when big companies moved up or down the value chain, these were largely allayed by promises not to abuse market power, as with concert promoter Live Nation's 2010 purchase of Ticketmaster.

But that has begun to change. Under chair Lina Khan, the Federal Trade Commission tried to stop Microsoft, which makes gaming consoles, from buying game group Activision, and block Meta from taking over Within, a virtual reality company. Those challenges failed, but the FTC had more success when it sought to block biotech group Illumina from buying Grail, which makes cancer screening tests.

A federal appeals court agreed the FTC was right to worry that Illumina's dominance in DNA sequencing tests gave it too much power over potential competitors to Grail in the still nascent screening market. EU enforcers were even tougher, hitting Illumina with a €432mn fine for completing the merger without Brussels' OK. Illumina's chief executive lost his job and the company plans to spin Grail back out again in an initial public offering this month.

More cases are in the works, including some that reconsider earlier leniency. The justice department last month sued to break up Live Nation, saying it now suffocates competition because it manages musical acts and controls arenas while also dominating concert ticketing.

Corporate executives should be wary of seeing this as a brief Biden administration blip that will go away if Donald Trump retakes the presidency in November. His justice department started this trend when it brought the first vertical merger court case in more than 40 years, seeking to block AT&T's purchase of Time Warner.

While that lawsuit failed, Republican-appointed judges have proved to be sympathetic to some of the other claims. The Illumina decision author was appointed by George HW Bush. "Courts are a lot more receptive . . . than people think they are. This is not only a right-left issue," says Rebecca Allensworth, a Vanderbilt law professor. "I don't see this all going away."

Chief executives hoping to stay out of the regulatory crosshairs would do well to remember a simple rule: not all vertical integration is the same. Companies that innovate generally avoid criticism unless they abuse existing power by illegally tying two products together. And buying an already successful business to deny access to competitors is quite different than licensing the technology.

Total control has its advantages. Freedom from antitrust scrutiny is not one of them.

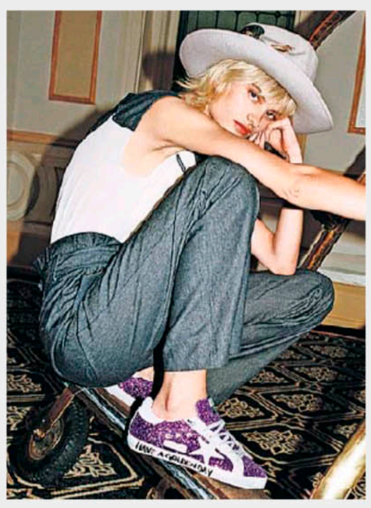
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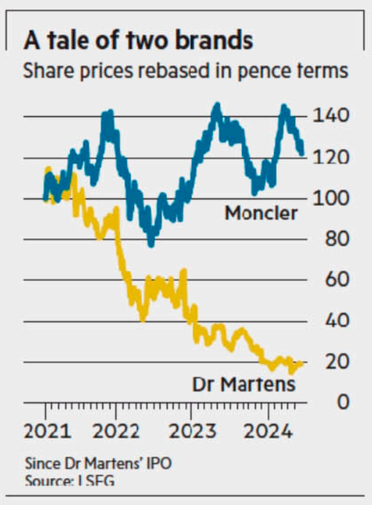
Lex.



David Keohane
Toyota's dilemma on innovation and defending its supply chain
INSIDE BUSINESS

Golden Goose's 'distressed' trainers stretch luxury's limits





The line between fad and fixture is so fine as to be almost invisible to the naked eye. Yet isolating the trends that have staying power from those that don't is precisely the task facing luxury investors as they evaluate brands.

See, for instance, the debate around Golden Goose, seller of used-looking trainers ("distressed", in fashion parlance) at €500 a pop to well-heeled customers including Taylor Swift and Selena Gomez.

Owner Permira is targeting an IPO at an enterprise value of around €2.2bn — or about 10 times this year's expected ebitda. That is below expectations but still a luxury-like multiple: factoring in a typical IPO discount that puts Golden Goose within reach of Moncler, Prada and even LVMH. Yet its growth runway is strewn with potential obstacles.

The group's main issue is that it is a one-trick farmyard animal. Over 90 per cent of its revenues come from selling trainers. It does this well, managing net sales growth of 18 per cent last year at a plush 25 per cent ebit margin. And it can point to "casualisation" — the trend towards less formal clothing — as a tailwind.

It is also attempting to harness the luxury trend towards personalisation by letting customers co-create their shoes in store. But footwear lovers are a fickle bunch. Dr Martens — another Permira IPO — can testify to what happens when trends change.

Meanwhile, pricey trainers probably have a capped addressable market. Half of Golden Goose's sales go to repeat buyers. While customer satisfaction and loyalty are positives, that does suggest it may be bumping up against the limits of its fan base.

For the group to grow sales from last year's €587mn to €1bn by 2029, as it is targeting, it will probably need to expand into clothes and handbags and the like. That is a difficult proposition at any time, let alone in the context of luxury spending that is returning to earth post-pandemic. Gucci's and Burberry's turnaround travails suggest that customers concentrate tighter budgets on tried and tested luxury staples.

Golden Goose reckons it has the wherewithal to step out of its niche, helped by its presence on three continents, almost 200 stores and a strong following among younger consumers. That is not impossible, of course. Moncler, for instance, has managed to escape its down-jacket straitjacket. But Golden Goose's reliance on trainers — as distressed, personalised and on-trend as they may be — means it is stretching the definition of a credible luxury brand.

Oil's exploration comeback means drillers could finally hit pay dirt

Working on offshore oil rigs can be a lonely business. Onshore executives at specialist drilling companies might have suffered similar pangs. Big oil companies have not had much need for deepwater rigs as exploration budgets tightened. Demand for the largest drillships has hardly changed in the past decade. Meanwhile, supply has collapsed as much as 40 per cent.

Hence the keenness to consolidate. Noble Corporation this week said it would buy US rival Diamond Offshore in a cash and shares deal worth about $1.6bn. Diamond relisted in 2022 after exiting bankruptcy with reduced debt. The pro forma Noble, with deepwater rig operator Transocean, will dominate the sector with a combined third of the global supply of this equipment.

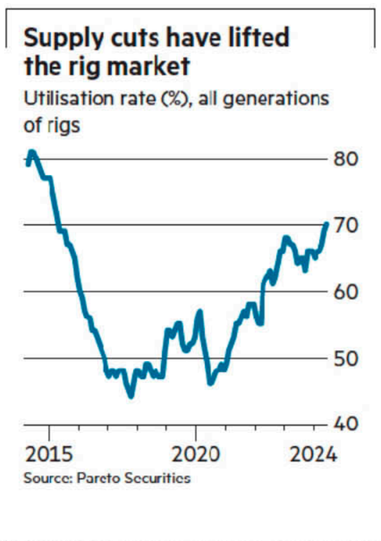
This deal works out for both sides, highlighting the value in this market. Noble will pay the equivalent of $350mn per Diamond rig, says Bård Rosef at Pareto. It would pay nearly double that for a new deepwater drillship. Noble's planned pre-tax annual cost cuts of $100mn will easily cover the smallish premium of 11 per cent paid on Friday's closing price.

Indeed, Noble has promised a 25 per cent dividend lift on the expectation of more free cash flow after the deal. Diamond shareholders should receive a price near its relisting high. Shares of buyer and seller rose on the day.

This optimism is warranted. With fewer deepwater vessels around, day rates (rentals) have hit $450,000, on Pareto's data. Take away operating expenses and drillers can clear about $300,000 a day. If a company needs a deepwater rig in the Gulf of Mexico or new exploration hotspot Namibia, it has to deal with these higher costs.

No surprise that French oil company TotalEnergies recently chose to hedge these rising costs. It bought 75 per cent of the Tungsten Explorer drillship from Vantage Drilling in February for $199mn. Oil companies prefer to lease, not own, rigs. There are other drilling operators that might attract takeover attention, or seek consolidation deals. Companies with appropriate fleets include US-listed Seadrill and Norway's Eldorado.

Business may have improved for deepwater drillers but only after much belt tightening. As the sector's fortunes pick up, companies will find it cheaper to buy extra capacity than build it.



Elliott cannot solve Southwest's Boeing delivery problem

Elliott Investment Management has chosen a good time to pick a fight with Southwest Airlines.

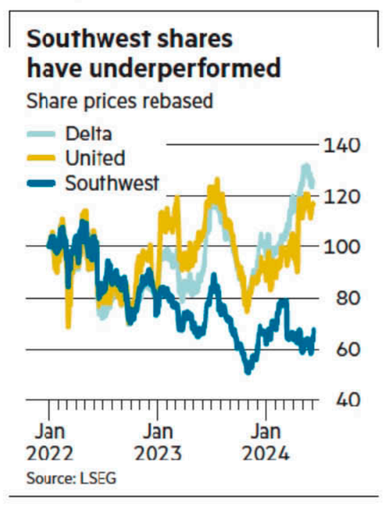
Shares in the largest US domestic carrier by passenger volume have been grounded by softening US travel demand and turmoil at aircraft supplier Boeing.

Coming into this week, the stock had lost more than a 10th of its value over the past 12 months and more than 50 per cent over the past three years to trade near its 2020 lows.

By contrast, Delta Air Lines, which has a more international focus, is up 25 per cent over the past year and has long bounced back from the pandemic sell-off.

Enter Elliott. The investor this week revealed that it had amassed a $1.9bn stake in Southwest. It is calling for chief executive Bob Jordan to be replaced and the board of directors to be overhauled. It also wants a comprehensive review of the business.

However, there are limits to its campaign. Even this veteran activist cannot solve Southwest's Boeing problem.



shaking up. Founded in Dallas by the late Herb Kelleher in 1967, the budget airline grew and found success by making flying more accessible to the masses. But more recently, it has struggled with rising costs and stalled revenue growth.

Despite pulling in record revenues during the first quarter, Southwest's net loss widened to $231mn. Consensus forecasts put net income for this year at about a fifth of the level in 2017.

Southwest has already announced plans to slash jobs and close routes in a bid to cut costs. Elliott, which thinks Southwest shares could be worth $49 in 12 months, up 75 per cent, believes it can go further.

It reckons the discount airline should follow rivals and start charging for assigned seating and other premium options. It needs to overhaul an outdated IT system that led to an operational meltdown in 2022 and left more than 2mn passengers stranded. But this will take time and money.

Then there is Boeing. Southwest only flies one type of plane, the Boeing 737. The advantage is that it helps keep maintenance costs low.

But Southwest's reliance on Boeing means it has been forced to reduce capacity and cut revenue growth guidance due to insufficient plane deliveries.

Southwest does benefit from a solid balance sheet. Debt, including operating lease liabilities, stood at just $8bn at the end of March. That is well below total cash and short-term investments of $11.5bn. But its turnaround will remain at the mercy of Boeing until the latter can get its safety and production issues in order.

Daiwa stake in Aozora could help in the battle of Japan's brokers

In Japan, Nomura is hard to beat. Japan's largest brokerage house has a market share of about a third at home. That is more impressive if you consider it has more than 200 competitors.

Of them, Daiwa Securities is a strong runner-up. But bridging the gap with Nomura has long seemed a tall task. Its latest effort — taking a stake in Aozora, Japan's worst-performing major bank stock — went down badly. Daiwa shares fell nearly 5 per cent yesterday, despite Daiwa getting a discount on its stake compared with the undisturbed price. This bet may not be as reckless as market reaction suggests.

Daiwa has agreed to buy a stake in Aozora — a mid-sized bank with a market value of $1.8bn — from a fund with ties to Yoshiaki Murakami, Japan's most famous activist investor. This raises its stake in Aozora to 24 per cent.

The concern from Daiwa's investors is understandable. Shares of Aozora have had a rollercoaster ride after it posted its first loss in 15 years earlier this year. Large losses on its portfolio of US office property loans shocked its conservative retail investor base.

But Aozora's history in US commercial real estate and US agency bonds is no bad thing for Daiwa. Daiwa has a strong record in stable businesses such as mutual funds and wealth management.

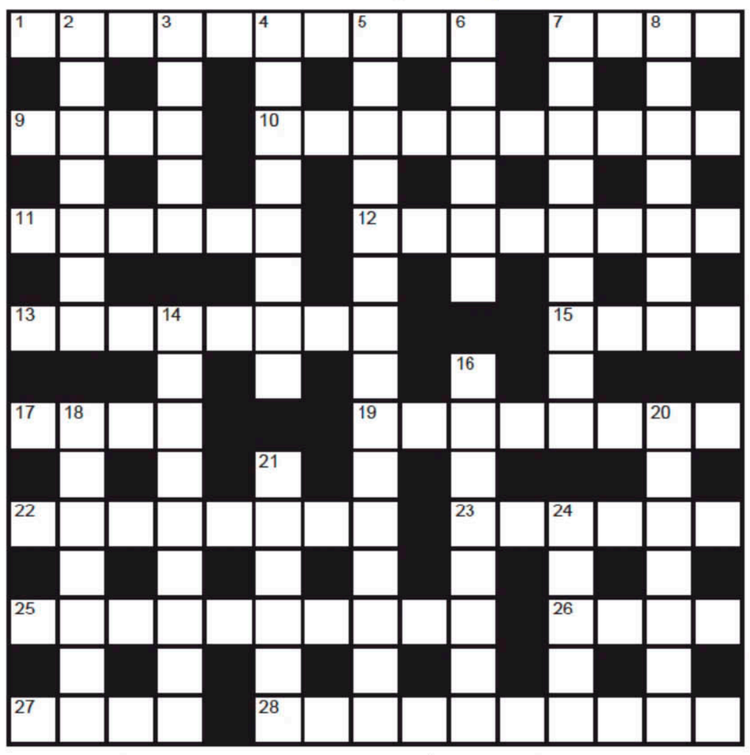
Brokers are facing fierce competition from upstart online rivals in Japan. They have been offering zero commission for cash and margin trading in Japanese stocks. A more aggressive shift in strategy is in order.

While the stock market reaction to Aozora's loss was dramatic in February, US office loans accounted for less than a tenth of its total loan book. The sell-off was as much a reflection of how stable its performance has been since 2008. Its shares trade at just over 0.7 times tangible book value, a discount of about a quarter to local rivals

Daiwa will get an edge over rival brokers thanks to Aozora's variety of loan services. As the competition for broker fees heats up, it may also have things to learn from Aozora, which has survived more than two decades of razor-thin domestic yields.

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ACROSS

1 Hold horse's head with lad having fallen badly (4,6)
7 Mock article's concluding section (4)
9 What one might think of assistant retracting article (4)
10 Offend strangers somehow by beginning to swear (10)
11 Current form of power crushing resistance (6)
12 Domesticated animals cross over threshold (8)
13 Intimidate Tory in Slough (8)
15 Opposed to books spreading panic regularly (4)
17 Ladies and gents cycling round city (4)
19 Nervous about receiving one reminder (8)
22 She will approve, provided it stops parent coming back (8)
23 Spirit of artist inspired by doctor every year (6)
25 Final course related to US reportedly stops when not trading (5,5)
26 Stag party stripped husband-to-be first (4)
27 All points that will be reported by the media (4)
28 Teams go off where one is up (10)

DOWN

2 Person who checks car before start of race (7)
3 Speaker's talent is something that demands attention (5)
4 English public split over author's value (8)
5 Hold firm attitude about accepting somebody covering for something (5,4,6)
6 Who doesn't appear in theatre performance? (2-4)
7 Court case condemned Glitter (9)
8 Protest is first to see widening evidence of impact (7)
14 Stupidity and sentimentality diminished expertise (9)
16 Guests smoking on vacation ruined tables (8)
18 Take part in teacher's naff lesson (7)
20 Risk associated with empire abandoning America (7)
21 Ruins food (6)
24 Sucker is initially taken in by first-class doctor's qualification (5)*

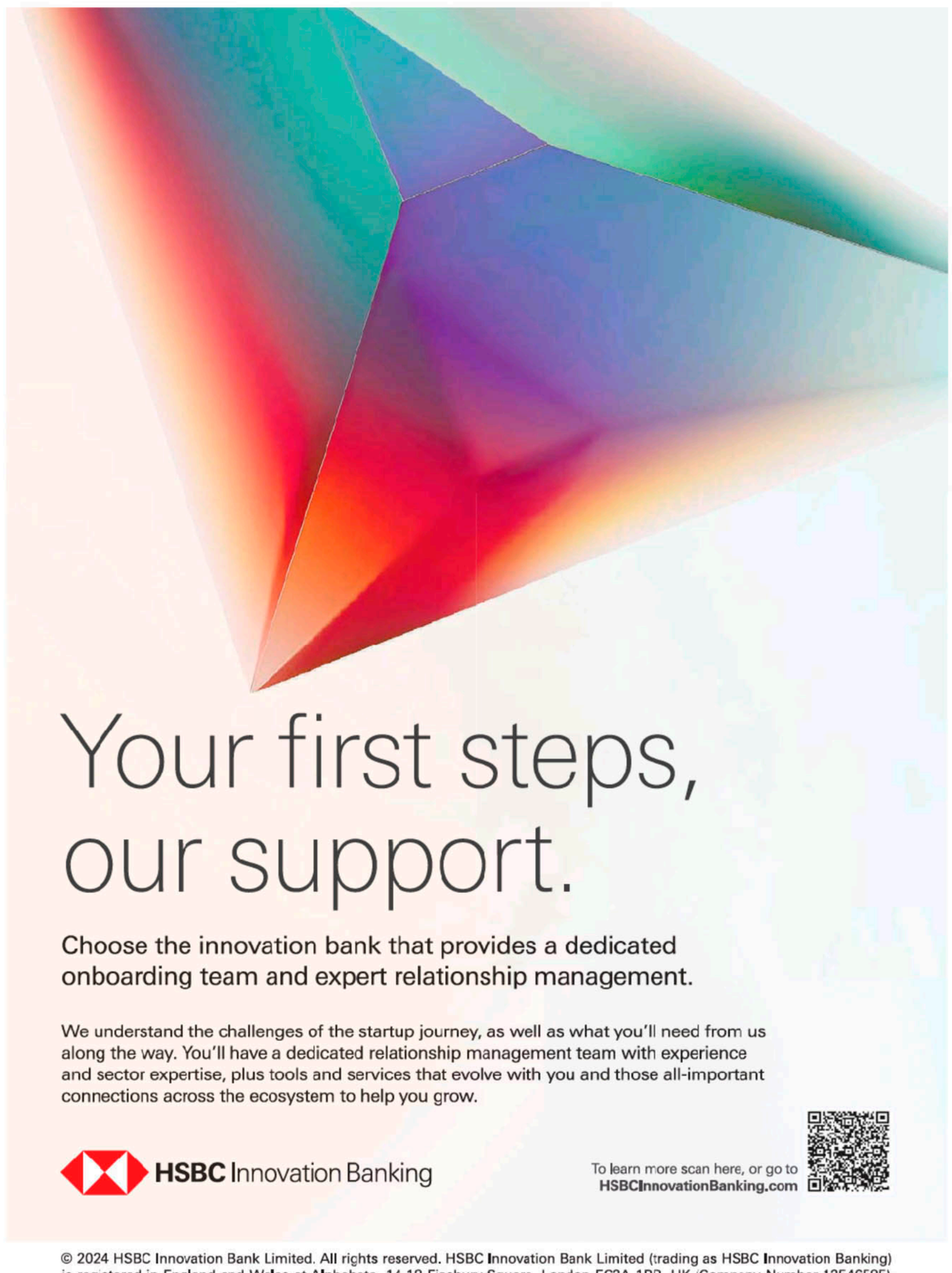
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