SHINFIELD
Financial Planning Ltd

AUGUST 2025 INVESTMENT NEWSLETTER

Enjoy this month's instalment of our newsletter. As always, it is packed with links that you may find interesting.

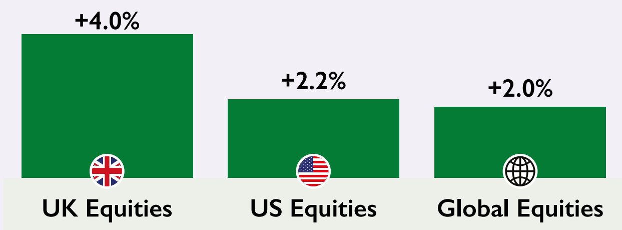
The Stock Markets

JULY 2025

The key benchmark you should care about is achieving all of your financial and life goals, and not running out of money

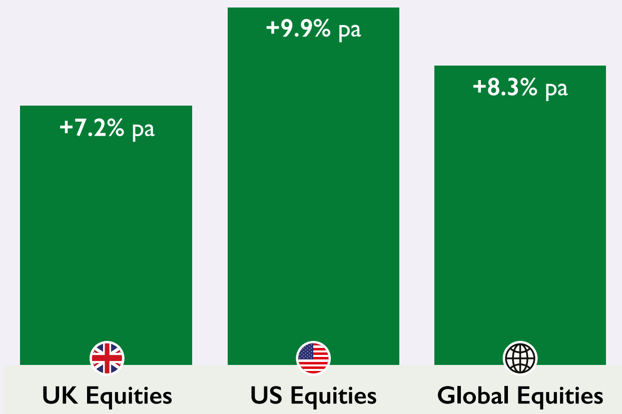
The **Unimportant Numbers** 1 MONTH

Monthly figures are a distraction from your long term goals.



The **Important Numbers** 30 YEARS

Investing in the Great Companies of the World has produced life-changing returns for the disciplined and patient investor over the last 30 years, the average length of a two-person retirement.



Source: FE Analytics, Humans Under Management. Returns are based on the total return of the respective indices, which assures all dividends are re-invested.
Returns are in local currencies.

Inflation THE REAL ENEMY

JULY 2025

The number one enemy of the long-term investor is the financial dragon called inflation (the silent but steady increase of prices over time).

An investment in the global share market has consistently provided protection from this enemy. To earn this return, you had to be willing to see your investment value temporarily decline by about -15% on average every year without being panicked into selling.

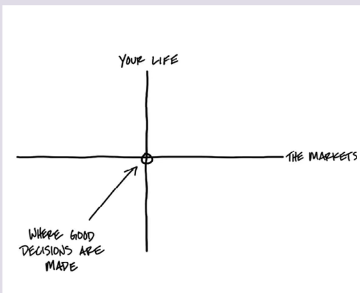
Sources: FE Analytics. Humans Under Management. For illustrative purposes only.

Watch

The Secret to Happiness with Harvard professor Robert Waldinger View

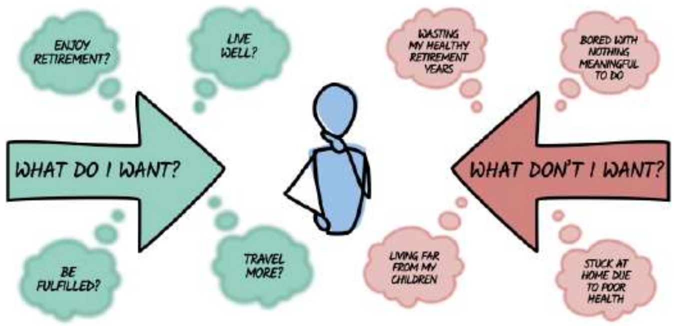
Listen

Life Meets Money
[4 minutes].
What really drives good financial decisions?
Listen



Please note past performance should not be regarded as a guide to the future. Also, there are a number of hyper links in this newsletter. Neither Shinfield Financial Planning, or Quilter Financial Planning are responsible for the accuracy of the information.

Thinking Backwards: A Different Way to Plan Your Retirement



Most people plan their retirement by looking forward, trying to envision their perfect future. “What do I want to do? Where do you want to live?” Unfortunately, most people have no idea what they want.

Ask someone to describe their ideal retirement and you’ll get vague answers. “Travel more.” “Spend time with family.” These sound nice, but they’re not specific enough for planning.

Here’s a different approach that gets you better answers much faster: start with what you don’t want. This comes from Charlie Munger, who made “invert, always invert” one of his core principles. Instead of asking “How do I succeed?” consider asking “How do I fail?” and then work to avoid those outcomes.

When you ask, “What would make my retirement miserable?” the answers come quickly. These fears are specific and actionable. Avoiding them brings you remarkably close to the life you want.

The Overlooked Mistakes to Avoid

The financial regrets of retirement get all the attention. Not saving enough, retiring too early, and underestimating costs are common financial pitfalls. Most advisers typically cover these areas well.

We believe four lifestyle mistakes can ruin your retirement, even if your money is sorted.

Missing your active window.

Most people have roughly 15 years of healthy, mobile retirement before things get harder. Yet many waste these precious years because they didn’t plan for travel and adventure while they could still enjoy them.

Losing your identity and purpose.

After 40 years of career structure, many retirees feel completely lost. They have money, but it lacks a sense of usefulness or meaning. The days feel empty because work provided more than just income.

Relationship isolation.

Some retirees find themselves living far from adult children and grandchildren, or they’ve let friendships fade during busy career years. Money can’t buy back lost time with people you love.

Neglecting health in your 50s and 60s.

This is when prevention matters most. Poor health choices during these years can significantly reduce the quality of your entire retirement, regardless of how much money you have saved.

All of these issues can be avoided entirely through proper planning.

How to Apply Inversion Thinking to Your Retirement Planning

While most people do post-mortems after something goes wrong, a “pre-mortem” imagines failure before it happens. It’s simpler than it sounds.

Begin by imagining you’re 80 years old, reflecting on your retirement with profound regret. Ask yourself: “What went wrong?”.

What do you wish you’d done differently? Don’t overthink this. Your gut reactions are usually the most telling. Write down everything that comes to mind, no matter how obvious it seems.

Next, get specific. Instead of “I wish I’d travelled more,” ask “Where exactly did I want to go, and when was the best time to do it?” Instead of “I should have stayed healthier,” ask “What specific health habits would have made the biggest difference?”

Then work backwards to today. For each regret, identify what you need to start doing now to prevent it. If your biggest fear is losing touch with your children, consider where you’ll live in retirement. If you’re worried about losing your sense of purpose, consider developing interests beyond work.

The goal isn’t to solve everything today; it’s about gaining clarity on what matters to you, so you can begin incorporating those elements into your plan. This exercise may take 30 minutes, but it can save you decades of regret.

Your Next Step

Most retirement advice focuses on the numbers. How much to save, when to retire, how to invest. These are important, but they’re not enough.

The retirement that will bring you fulfilment requires thinking beyond the spreadsheet. It requires imagining not just the money you’ll have, but the life you’ll live with it.

Inversion thinking gives you a practical way to do this. The pre-mortem exercise we described isn’t a one-time activity. Your fears and priorities will change as you get closer to retirement. What feels important at 50 might look different at 60. Regular check-ins help you stay on track.

The financial piece of retirement is well understood. Do the work now to avoid the lifestyle regrets later. If you’d like help applying this thinking to your specific situation, we’re always here to guide you through the process.

Read

The Opportunity Cost of Everything *[14 minutes].*
The most valuable currency in life isn't money, but the choices you make with your time.

Read the full article

Under the Influence *[19 minutes].*
What if your biggest desires were never truly yours to begin with?

Read the full article

Do What Matters: A Framework to Invest and Live Better *[5 minutes].* Examining what truly counts.

Read the full article

Pedalling Away From Tightness *[3 minutes].*
Permission to enjoy life might be your best retirement plan yet.

Read the full article

Being Human Means Being a Bad Investor *[3 minutes].* The intriguing ways our human nature affects our investment decisions.

Read the full article

Now You Get It *[5 minutes].*
What if everything you thought you knew about success and loss was turned upside down by the reality of firsthand experience?

Read the full article

Rational Optimism

The media is not a friend of the disciplined and patient investor. Ignoring the key determinants of lifetime investor returns, the media focuses on short-term returns, market predictions, and negative news.

We present the following as an antidote to the onslaught of negative news:

In Praise of Obsolescence: The Hidden Wealth in Products That Break

Although it may seem that today's appliances and products are problematically short-lived compared to those from previous generations, shorter lifespans are often the trade-off for greater efficiency, affordability, and innovation.

Read the full article

Google AI Tool That Fills Missing Words in Roman Inscriptions

In addition to sanitation, medicine, education, wine, public order, irrigation, roads, a freshwater system and public health, the Romans also produced a lot of inscriptions.

Read the full article

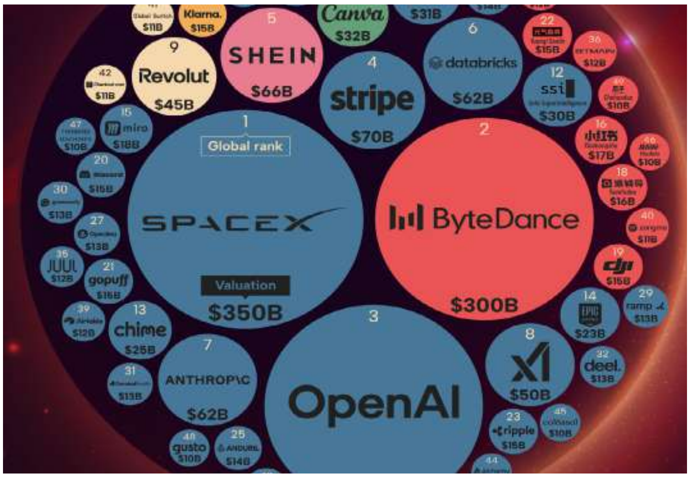
Drones Carry 180 Tonnes of Steel and Concrete up Mountain

In an unprecedented show of China's advanced civilian drone technology, a swarm of heavy-lift unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) has carried 180 tonnes of construction materials up a remote mountain in the country's southwest, according to state media.

Read the full article

Visuals

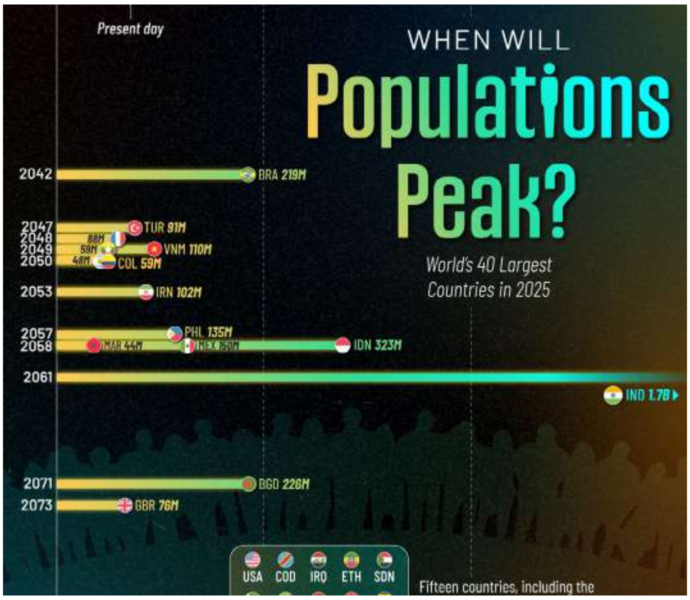
The World's 50 Most Valuable Private Companies in 2025



The race to build the next generation of global giants is on. While public markets get most of the spotlight, private companies are quietly building massive valuations and shaping the future of industries.

[Read the full article]

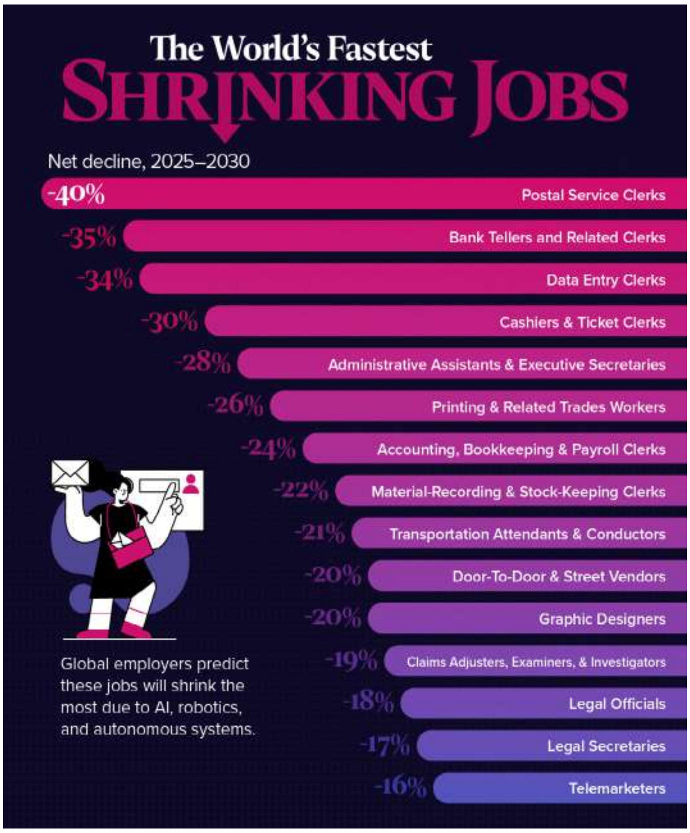
Peak Population: When It'll Hit the World's 40 Largest Countries



The global population is entering an era of divergence. Half a century century of explosive growth—driven by better access to food and healthcare—is starting to slow, but not in the same way. Some nations are shrinking, while others have decades of expansion ahead.

[Read the full article]

The World's Fastest Shrinking Jobs



The job market is constantly evolving, and technological change is a major driver of disruption. From automation to AI, certain roles are expected to decline sharply over the next decade. In this graphic, we rank the 15 fastest shrinking jobs between 2025 and 2030, highlighting shifts in employer demand and workplace transformation.

The data for this visualization comes from the World Economic Forum's Future of Jobs Report 2025. It forecasts the fastest shrinking jobs between 2025 and 2030, based on a survey containing 1,043 unique responses by global companies, collectively representing more than 14.1 million employees worldwide.

At the top of the list are traditional clerical roles. Postal Service Clerks are projected to see a dramatic 40% decline, followed by Bank Tellers (-35%) and Data Entry Clerks (-34%). These jobs are especially susceptible to automation and digitization because a large portion of their tasks can be done much quicker thanks to AI.

[Read the full article]

We hope that you enjoyed this month's newsletter. Please let us know what you enjoyed, or write back with any of your own news.

As always, we're here for you. See you next month.