

# International Investor

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## Inside International Investor

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Founder: James R Cornell (B.Com.)

## World Stockmarket Forecasts

Stockmarket	One-Year Forecast	Fundamental Indicators	Technical Indicators	Monetary Indicators	Economic Indicators	Historical Performance (in US\$)			Share Index
						3 mths	6 mths	12 mths	
Australia	57%	Bullish	Bullish	Bearish	Neutral	+0.5%	+3.7%	+13.6%	8,352.00
Austria	65%	Bullish	Neutral	Bullish	Neutral	-4.7%	-4.3%	+6.1%	3,583.69
Belgium	60%	Neutral	Bullish	Bullish	Neutral	-3.1%	+6.2%	+12.9%	4,242.64
Canada	63%	Bearish	Bullish	Neutral	Neutral	+8.1%	+13.5%	+21.5%	25,691.80
Denmark	31%	Bearish	Bearish	Neutral	Bearish	-12.7%	-17.5%	+9.8%	2,438.81
Finland	51%	Bullish	Bearish	Neutral	Bullish	-6.1%	-6.5%	-3.7%	9,742.16
France	50%	Bullish	Bearish	Bullish	Neutral	-5.7%	-9.5%	-3.0%	5,502.55
Germany	70%	Neutral	Bullish	Bullish	Neutral	+6.1%	+7.4%	+19.6%	20,384.61
Ireland	67%	Bullish	Neutral	Bullish	Bullish	-4.5%	-4.0%	+11.7%	9,662.38
Italy	69%	Bullish	Bullish	Neutral	Neutral	-0.5%	-2.1%	+12.2%	36,958.47
Japan	50%	Neutral	Bullish	Bearish	Bearish	+1.8%	+5.7%	+17.0%	39,068.50
Netherlands	46%	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	-3.4%	-5.7%	+12.1%	891.67
New Zealand	58%	Bullish	Bearish	Bullish	Bullish	-8.7%	-1.7%	-8.4%	1,220.35
Norway	62%	Bullish	Bullish	Neutral	Neutral	-0.1%	-3.2%	+8.0%	1,662.44
Spain	74%	Bullish	Bullish	Bullish	Neutral	+2.3%	+1.9%	+14.3%	1,176.73
Sweden	64%	Neutral	Bullish	Bullish	Neutral	-4.1%	-4.6%	+19.6%	1,666.36
Switzerland	55%	Bullish	Neutral	Bullish	Neutral	-4.9%	-1.9%	+6.8%	11,780.65
Un. Kingdom	49%	Bullish	Bullish	Bearish	Neutral	-1.5%	+0.9%	+11.8%	8,308.61
USA	54%	Bearish	Bullish	Bearish	Neutral	+12.6%	+13.9%	+32.3%	6,090.27
Argentina	72%	Bearish	Bullish	Bullish	Bullish	+20.4%	+28.7%	-16.0%	2,202,444
Brazil	41%	Bullish	Bearish	Bearish	Neutral	-13.9%	-9.4%	-19.5%	125,946.00
Czech Rep.	74%	Bullish	Bullish	Neutral	Neutral	+2.3%	+6.2%	+16.3%	1,713.45
Chile	56%	Neutral	Neutral	Bullish	Neutral	+3.1%	-6.9%	-0.8%	33,343.22
China	73%	Bullish	Bullish	Bullish	Neutral	+20.0%	+11.2%	+13.0%	3,404.08
Greece	75%	Bullish	Bullish	Bullish	Neutral	-3.8%	-2.4%	+12.3%	1,456.52
Egypt	30%	Bearish	Neutral	Bearish	Bearish	-3.7%	+11.0%	-22.8%	30,839.57
Hong Kong	59%	Bullish	Bullish	Neutral	Bearish	+14.1%	+8.6%	+22.2%	19,865.85
Hungary	78%	Bullish	Bullish	Bullish	Neutral	-0.7%	+4.6%	+21.9%	79,173.15
India	52%	Bearish	Bullish	Neutral	Bullish	-0.2%	+5.0%	+15.3%	81,709.12
Indonesia	46%	Bullish	Neutral	Neutral	Bearish	-6.9%	+9.6%	+1.2%	7,382.79
Israel	67%	Neutral	Bullish	Neutral	Bullish	+18.7%	+27.8%	+33.7%	2,363.75
Korea	45%	Bullish	Bearish	Bullish	Neutral	-10.3%	-13.7%	-10.6%	2,428.16
Malaysia	62%	Bullish	Bullish	Neutral	Neutral	-4.4%	+5.9%	+18.2%	1,613.25
Mexico	51%	Bullish	Bearish	Bullish	Neutral	-0.5%	-12.5%	-18.9%	51,348.80
Philippines	64%	Bullish	Bearish	Bullish	Bearish	-5.9%	+4.8%	+3.6%	6,729.14
Poland	51%	Bullish	Bearish	Bearish	Neutral	-3.0%	-3.6%	+7.3%	82,860.19
Portugal	45%	Bullish	Bearish	Neutral	Neutral	-14.0%	-12.4%	-13.1%	4,177.77
Russia	33%	Bullish	Bearish	Bearish	Bearish	-21.2%	-36.9%	-30.0%	803.62
Singapore	73%	Bullish	Bullish	Bullish	Neutral	+8.6%	+17.6%	+24.4%	398.68
Sth Africa	69%	Bullish	Bullish	Bullish	Bearish	+5.3%	+16.5%	+22.1%	78,365.23
Taiwan	49%	Bearish	Bullish	Neutral	Bearish	+8.6%	+6.1%	+29.7%	23,193.27
Thailand	68%	Bullish	Bullish	Bullish	Bearish	+0.0%	+17.3%	+9.3%	1,451.96
Turkey	51%	Bullish	Neutral	Bearish	Bullish	+0.9%	-7.6%	+6.1%	10,081.00
Venezuela	43%	Neutral	Bullish	Bearish	Bearish	-17.4%	+10.9%	+35.7%	105,143.40

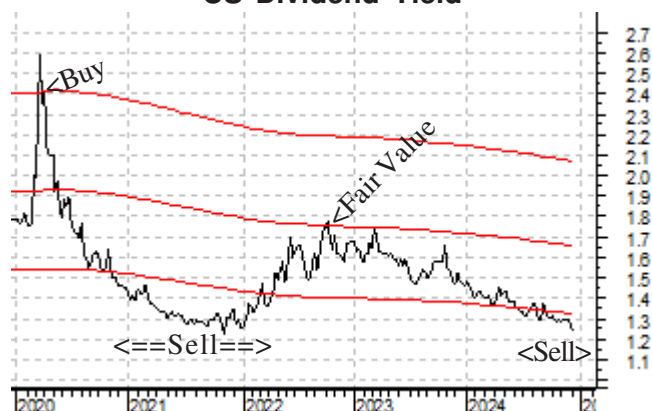
**One Year Forecasts** predict the probability that a stock-market will rise over the next year. Investors should seek to invest in markets with forecasts of 60-100%, while avoiding markets with forecasts of 0-40%. Bullish = Favourable. Bearish = Unfavourable.

# World Stockmarket Outlook

Our *very simple* (but surprisingly reliable) Dividend Yield indicator (see Page 4-5) shows that US Dividend Yields are at historical lows. That, of course, shows that share valuations are at historical highs - and probably over-valued.

The chart on Page 4 shows our 30 years of data but we have reproduced the last five years below:

**US Dividend Yield**



The Dividend Yield has a close to perfect record over recent years.

In early 2020 the indicator showed that the stockmarket was very *under-valued*, at least for a short time, corresponding to the Covid-19 panic selling low “buying opportunity”.

Then from late 2020 to early 2022 it indicated the stockmarket was *over-valued*, perfectly coinciding with the market highs.

Late 2022 the Dividend Yield indicated “fair value” and the stockmarket bottomed out at this level.

The indicator is again back in *over-valued* territory - suggesting the current rally could be short lived and likely to be followed by a retracement to lower levels in late 2025 to early 2026.

At the very least, this is cause for caution.

**US Stockmarket**



## Recommended Funds Geographic Portfolio Spread

FundName	Size (Mil)	Leverage (%debt)	Top 10 Hldgs(%)	Portfolio invested in (%):											
				Cash	HK	Australia	Malay	Taiwan	Korea	Sing.	Thail'd	Phil.	China	India	
abrdn Asia Focus	£596	13	30.7	2.3	4.3		3.7	14.6	8.3		3.3	3.6	11.4	28.9	Indo 7.6
India Capital Growth	£177	Nil	44.0	3.6										96.4	
Scottish Oriental Sm Coys	£430	7	43.3	3.9	2.1	0.2		8.9	2.8	1.8		12.1	22.2	37.4	Indo 11.7
				Cash	USA	UK	Europe	Japan	Canada	Aust	Russia	China	Sth Afr	Mexico	Brazil
Aberforth Small Cos Trust	£1485	6	25.6			100.0									
Baillie Gifford Shin Nippon	£465	20	26.1	1.3				98.7							
Fidelity Japan Trust plc	£278	21	43.1	0.0				100.0							
Herald Investment Trust	£1226	Nil	17.7	9.2	31.0	37.2	11.0	11.6							
iShares Oil & Gas Exp	£230	Nil	61.8	0.2	67.0		1.7	2.3	20.0	7.3					
iShares S&P500 Utilities	£369	Nil	58.6	0.7	99.3										
VanEck Gold Miners	£1098	Nil	61.9	0.2	16.9				42.9	12.5		4.9	9.5		7.0
VanEck Junior Gold Miners	£392	Nil	41.9	0.0	4.8	2.9			49.8	21.1			6.3	3.8	
				Cash	Nth Amer	Lat Am	Global	Euro	Asia	Africa	Aust				
CQS Natural Resources	£155	10	40.2		36.0	11.0	9.8	2.9	8.8	17.8	13.7				
				Cash	US	UK	China/HK	Korea	Taiwan	Brazil	India	Mexico	Sth Afr	Thai	
Templeton Emerging Mkts	£2050	0	46.0		3.1		24.5	21.6	17.9	9.3	12.3	2.4	1.0	2.5	

# Recommended International Investment Funds

## Fund Reports and Dividends

**abrdrn Asia Focus** has declared a first interim dividend of 1.6 pence, payable 20 December (ex-dividend 21 November).

**Scottish Oriental Smaller Companies Trust plc** lifted net assets +18.6% for the year to 31 August 2024, outperforming its two benchmark indices which rose +12.0% and +13.5%. The share price was up +16.5%.

A final dividend of 14.0 pence and a special dividend of 8.0 pence will be paid on 7 February (ex-dividend 10 January). The company will also make a 5 for 1 share split (subject to shareholder approval at the AGM on 29 January).

The fund is heavily weighted in India with 37.4% of the portfolio.

Its investment strategy is to own high-quality smaller companies that can “grow their earnings sustainably”. It focuses on “strong absolute returns” and “capital preservation” and has a long term investment horizon

## Share Repurchases

**Aberforth Smaller Companies Trust** made six share repurchases on-market over the last four weeks, buying back 86,000 of its own shares for £1,267,545.

**abrdrn Asia Focus** made 15 trades, buying back a total of 382,500 shares for £1,082,162.

**Scottish Oriental Smaller Companies** repurchased 57,500 shares in six trades for £822,750.

**India Capital Growth** bought back 205,228 of its own shares in five trades for £377,572.

**Baillie Gifford Shin Nippon** made 10 trades, repurchasing 4,300,000 shares and returning over £4.87 million to investors.

**Fidelity Japan Trust** made 13 trades, repurchasing 786,681 shares for £1,276,447.

**Herald Investment Trust** made three on-market trades repurchasing 1,787,592 shares for over £42.74 million. That included one very large trade of 1,756,122 shares (£42.06 million) - equal to 3.5% of its issued capital!

**Templeton Emerging Markets** continues to actively repurchase its own shares on-market. In 19 trades it bought back 5,065,504 shares and returned £8.40 million to investors. At a 15% discount to net asset value those repurchases also *increased* the net assets of the remaining shares by £1.48 million.

Current Advice	Investment Fund	EPIC Code	Initial Recommendation			Prem/ Disc to Net Assets	Recent Price		Gain or Loss %
			--- Date ---	Offer	Price		Bid-Offer or Last Sale	Price	
				Foreign	NZ Cents			NZ Cents	
	<b>United States</b>								
HOLD	iShares S&P500 Utilities	IUSU	13/08/18	422.3p	819.4		746.5p	1632.1	+99
	<b>United Kingdom</b>								
BUY	Aberforth Smaller Cos Trt plc	ASL	15/07/03	375.5p	1042.0	-11%	1502.0p	3283.8	+215
	<b>Gold &amp; Commodities</b>								
BUY	VanEck V. Gold Miners	GDGB	14/01/19	1731.0p	3253.8		3226.0p	7052.9	+117
BUY	VanEck V. Junior Gold Miners	GJGB	14/01/19	2011.0p	3780.1		3281.0p	7173.2	+90
BUY	CQS Natural Resources G&I	CYN	11/01/21	136.8p	256.1	-3%	198.5p	434.0	+69
	<b>Asian Regional</b>								
HOLD	abrdrn Asia Focus	AAS	09/09/03	17.8p	49.6	-9%	286.0p	625.3	+1162
HOLD	Scot Oriental Smaller Coy	SST	11/11/03	121.9p	330.5	-16%	1465.0p	3202.9	+869
	<b>India</b>								
HOLD	India Capital Growth plc	IGC	07/11/16	80.5p	137.6	-12%	192.5p	420.9	+206
	<b>Japan</b>								
HOLD	Baillie Gifford Shin Nippon plc	BGS	11/01/94	31.2p	88.1	-16%	115.6p	252.7	+187
HOLD	Fidelity Japan Trust plc	FJV	10/01/06	126.0p	322.7	-14%	170.0p	371.7	+15
	<b>International</b>								
HOLD	Herald Investment Trust	HRI	12/10/04	310.8p	820.1	-3%	2445.0p	5345.4	+552
BUY	iShares Oil & Gas Exp & Prod	SPOG	08/04/19	1287.0p	2491.8		2034.0p	4446.9	+78
HOLD	Templeton Emerging Markets	TEM	11/01/21	199.2p	373.0	-15%	166.6p	364.2	-2

The average Gains/Losses of all current investments from initial recommendation is +281.3%. This is equal to an average annual rate of +21.1%, based upon the length of time each position has been held. The average annual rate of gain of ALL recommendations (both the 13 current and 59 closed out) is +14.3%.

# World Stockmarket Valuations

Country	Dividend Yield	Price/Earn. Ratio
Australia .....	3.5 .....	22.7
Austria .....	5.1 .....	7.7
Belgium .....	2.6 .....	22.4
Canada .....	2.6 .....	19.8
Denmark .....	1.5 .....	28.6
Finland .....	5.0 .....	13.7
France .....	3.1 .....	16.8
Germany .....	2.7 .....	15.8
Ireland .....	3.0 .....	10.1
Italy .....	5.1 .....	9.2
Japan .....	2.3 .....	15.1
Netherlands .....	2.1 .....	22.2
New Zealand .....	2.9 .....	53.1
Norway .....	6.6 .....	13.1
Spain .....	4.3 .....	9.9
Sweden .....	2.5 .....	14.8
Switzerland .....	3.0 .....	18.0
Un. Kingdom .....	3.7 .....	13.2
USA .....	1.2 .....	29.6
Argentina .....	1.3 .....	13.2
Brazil .....	6.6 .....	9.5
Czech Rep. ....	7.0 .....	13.3

Country	Dividend Yield	Price/Earn. Ratio
Chile .....	3.7 .....	12.5
China .....	2.4 .....	14.5
Greece .....	4.8 .....	6.6
Egypt .....	1.9 .....	7.9
Hong Kong .....	3.0 .....	12.9
Hungary .....	1.8 .....	11.0
India .....	1.0 .....	29.1
Indonesia .....	4.5 .....	15.7
Israel .....	1.9 .....	17.3
Korea .....	2.3 .....	11.0
Malaysia .....	3.6 .....	16.6
Mexico .....	3.9 .....	14.5
Philippines .....	3.0 .....	11.6
Poland .....	5.1 .....	11.0
Portugal .....	4.5 .....	13.1
Russia .....	10.5 .....	4.3
Singapore .....	4.2 .....	16.2
Sth Africa .....	3.1 .....	15.9
Taiwan .....	2.3 .....	22.8
Thailand .....	3.2 .....	19.7
Turkey .....	2.9 .....	11.5

United States Dividend Yields



United Kingdom Dividend Yields



Japan Dividend Yields



Canada Dividend Yields



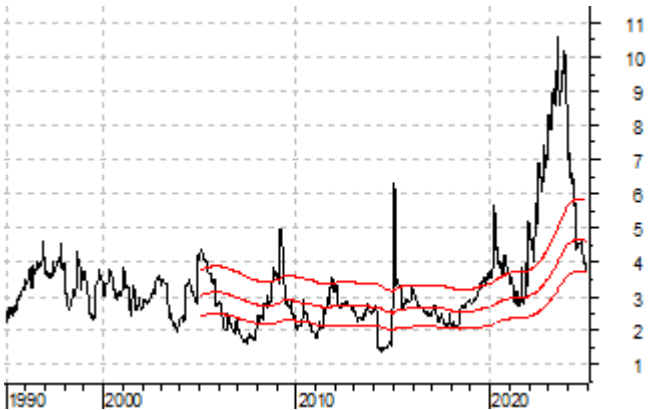
Brazil Dividend Yields



China Dividend Yields



Chile Dividend Yields



Malaysia Dividend Yields



Australia Dividend Yields



South Korea Dividend Yields



Germany Dividend Yields



Austria Dividend Yields





# World Stockmarket Capitalisations

Country	Market Capitalisation (US\$ Billions)	Percentage of Total	Country	Market Capitalisation (US\$ Billions)	Percentage of Total
United States .....	58,541	46.42	Oman .....	59	0.05
China .....	11,815	9.37	Luxembourg .....	51	0.04
Japan .....	6,373	5.05	Russia .....	47	0.04
India .....	5,287	4.19	Egypt .....	45	0.04
Hong Kong .....	4,367	3.46	Hungary .....	44	0.03
Canada .....	3,458	2.74	Nigeria .....	36	0.03
France .....	3,242	2.57	Bangladesh .....	30	0.02
United Kingdom .....	3,067	2.43	Croatia .....	29	0.02
Saudi Arabia .....	2,656	2.11	Jordan .....	24	0.02
Taiwan .....	2,196	1.74	Lebanon .....	22	0.02
Germany .....	2,183	1.76	Bahrain .....	21	0.02
Australia .....	2,016	1.60	Iceland .....	21	0.02
Switzerland .....	1,762	1.40	Uzbekistan .....	18	0.01
Iran .....	1,743	1.38	Malta .....	17	0.01
South Korea .....	1,704	1.35	Panama .....	16	0.01
Netherlands .....	1,643	1.30	Ivory Coast .....	16	0.01
Spain .....	1,350	1.07	Sri Lanka .....	16	0.01
South Africa .....	1,230	0.98	Kenya .....	13	0.01
Sweden .....	1,017	0.81	Slovenia .....	12	0.01
Indonesia .....	756	0.60	Argentina .....	9	0.01
Denmark .....	751	0.60	Tunisia .....	8	0.01
Italy .....	747	0.59	Bulgaria .....	7	0.01
Belgium .....	721	0.57	Mauritius .....	7	0.01
Brazil .....	718	0.57	Ghana .....	7	0.01
Singapore .....	634	0.50	Cyprus .....	6	0.00
Thailand .....	559	0.44	Estonia .....	5	0.00
Mexico .....	472	0.37	Lithuania .....	5	0.00
Malaysia .....	426	0.33	Bosnia & Herzegovina .....	5	0.00
Turkey .....	380	0.30	North Macedonia .....	5	0.00
Poland .....	367	0.29	Malawi .....	4	0.00
Norway .....	357	0.28	Ukraine .....	4	0.00
Philippines .....	343	0.27	Serbia .....	4	0.00
Israel .....	283	0.22	Botswana .....	4	0.00
Finland .....	275	0.22	Mongolia .....	4	0.00
UAE .....	217	0.17	Mozambique .....	3	0.00
Vietnam .....	212	0.17	Slovakia .....	3	0.00
Peru .....	194	0.15	Georgia .....	3	0.00
Qatar .....	170	0.13	Palestine .....	2	0.00
Chile .....	166	0.13	Costa Rica .....	2	0.00
Ireland .....	158	0.13	Syria .....	1	0.00
Kuwait .....	139	0.11	Latvia .....	0	0.00
Austria .....	132	0.10	Sudan .....	0	0.00
Greece .....	103	0.08			
New Zealand .....	102	0.08			
Portugal .....	97	0.08			
Morocco .....	76	0.06			
Colombia .....	74	0.06			
Romania .....	71	0.06			
Kazakhstan .....	64	0.05			
Czech Republic .....	61	0.05			
			TOTAL .....	\$126,110	100.00%

## Next Issue:

The next issue of *International Investor* will be emailed in five weeks time on Monday January 13, 2025.

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