PIAS

PROFESSIONAL INVESTMENT ADVISORY SERVICES

Quarterly Client Newsletter

Issue Forty-Four
2021

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CONTRIBUTORS

Professional Investment Advisory Services ("PIAS")

Established in 2001 and licensed by the Monetary Authority of Singapore, PIAS is a multi-award winning financial advisory firm in Singapore. PIAS offers a diversified suite of financial services and solutions with a personalised approach. With one of the largest, most respected and fastest growing network of advisers in Singapore, PIAS' professional advisers provide sound and comprehensive financial advice at both individual and corporate levels.

More info: www.proinvest.com.sg

Manulife (Singapore) Pte. Ltd.

Established in 1980, Manulife Singapore provides insurance, retirement and wealth management solutions to meet the financial needs of our customers across their various life stages. Customers can readily access our solutions through our extensive multi-channel distribution network. In addition to our established agency force, we distribute our products through a number of specialist partners, including banks and financial advisory firms.

More info: www.manulife.com.sg

Nikko Asset Management

With US$283.1 billion* under management, Nikko Asset Management is one of Asia's largest asset managers, providing high-conviction, active fund management across a range of equity, fixed income, multi-asset and alternative strategies. In addition, its complementary range of passive strategies covers more than 20 indices and includes some of Asia's leading exchange-traded funds (ETFs). Headquartered in Asia since 1959, Nikko Asset Management and its subsidiaries employ personnel representing around 25 nationalities, including approximately 200 investment professionals**.

* Consolidated assets under management and sub-advisory of Nikko Asset Management and its subsidiaries as of 30 June 2021. ** Including employees of Nikko Asset Management and its subsidiaries as of 30 June 2021.

More info: http://www.nikkoam.com.sg/

5 steps to retirement planning: Learn how to make your retirement process easier. It only takes some planning

It is impossible to plan for every single thing in life, as surprises abound and things do not always go the way we expect them to. However, one certainty is that you will one day retire, decades of work giving way to a new life stage.

Since retirement is definitely on the horizon, it makes sense to plan for it just as you would for other milestones like a wedding, a first job or the purchase of a new home. Retirement is similar to all these goals, but typically takes a longer time to materialise. The longer time horizon allows more time for planning, but you need to develop a step-by-step approach for the best chances of success.

With sufficient planning and the discipline to follow through with your plans, you can make your dreams of a comfortable retirement a reality.

But how can you set yourself on the path to your desired retirement? Here are the 5 milestones you should take.

Step 1 - Start when you are young

When you are young, retirement might seem like a distant dream, but it is never too early to start preparing for it. In fact, the earlier you start, the more time you have to grow your money. That could translate to an earlier retirement or a higher standard of living when you do retire.

One common misconception is that should you wait until you have accumulated lots of savings, or put off retirement planning until after you have achieved certain milestones such as purchasing a home. In reality, starting small and early is better than waiting for the ideal conditions in which to begin retirement planning, as compound interest can make even modest amounts grow significantly over the years.

That being said, it is never too late to start, so do not be discouraged if you have reached a certain age and are still unprepared for retirement. There are numerous options and solutions available for those who start planning for retirement relatively late.

Step 2 - Picture your life after retirement

Picture your life when you stop working and make plans for life as a retiree in order to know how much money you will need to retire. What sort of lifestyle will you be living? What will your needs be like on a day-to-day basis?

Just like right now, you will incur certain expenses for necessities. This includes the cost of groceries, transportation, utilities and so on. When estimating how much you will need to spend when you retire, be sure to give yourself more leeway for higher costs in certain categories such as healthcare, caregiving arrangements and insurance premiums for certain types of policies.

Now comes the fun part. In order to estimate how much discretionary spending you'll need, imagine the kind of retirement you'd like to enjoy. Think about the lifestyle you'd like to lead and how much you can realistically expect to spend.

While you could well hope to enjoy activities such as overseas travel and dining at nice restaurants when you retire, don't forget to also factor in simple pleasures such as time spent with your loved ones and giving back to society through volunteering, which do not cost a lot of money.

Once you have an idea of the retirement income you'll need, you can adjust the figure upwards for inflation, which raises the cost of living from year to year.

Step 3 - Review your investment options for growing your wealth

For many people, simply putting aside cash savings is not an efficient way to prepare for retirement as the purchasing power of cash is reduced over time by inflation. In order to counter inflation and achieve your objectives sooner, find ways to not just save but also grow your money over time.

One way to grow your money is to invest it. Some common ways to invest in Singapore include buying stocks, bonds, Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs), Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) and investing properties. But do take note of the risks involved when it comes to investing. It is always good to do more research and understand the instruments/options involved before you invest.

Nowadays, there are also numerous financial products geared towards helping you become retirement ready, such as retirement savings plans which serve the dual purposes of wealth accumulation and insurance protection.

Investing your money directly is not the only way to prepare for a brighter post-career future. For instance, don't forget to invest in yourself by staying in good health and keeping your work skills sharp so you can boost your earning power.

Step 4 - Build your own retirement plan

After the previous step, you should be able to create your own retirement calculator and have a good idea of how much money you will need to retire at your chosen age. But how do you achieve your desired income for retirement? If you are a Singapore Citizen or Permanent Resident, you can factor in your CPF payouts as part of your future retirement income.

When drawing up a plan that will help you achieve your financial objectives, one of the first things to do is to decide how you should channel your monthly income into retirement. How much money can you afford to set aside every month and how are you going to grow this money for the future?

To cite an example, you might decide to pay a portion of your monthly savings into a retirement savings plan, and then invest any surplus in stocks.

In your zeal to put aside money for retirement, don't forget to maintain an emergency fund of cash savings at all times. Your emergency fund can be used to pay for unexpected expenses such as health emergencies or non-routine home repairs. Having this cash on hand will prevent you from turning to credit card debt or personal loans which, due to high interest rates, can be financially detrimental.

Step 5 - Make it easy to stick to your plan

Sticking to a retirement plan for the next few decades might sound difficult, but it doesn't have to be. After charting out your plan, you can make adhering to it almost effortless by automating your savings and investments. Thanks to automation, putting aside money for retirement does not have to require much willpower or create much hassle.

Regular premium retirement savings plans are one example of how you can automatically put aside money on a regular basis. You can select a plan with monthly premiums to ensure that you pay in a set sum every month.

Similarly, if you are investing in stocks or Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs), taking a dollar cost averaging approach by investing a fixed sum every month can simplify the decision-making process and help you slip into the habit of investing regularly.

Planning for retirement doesn't need to be daunting if you break it down into easy steps. Manulife's retirement savings plans can help you plan your finances for your future, while at the same time protecting you and your family with insurance coverage.

Source || Manulife.com.sg

Manulife

Nikko AM Impact Investing Multi Asset Fund
Invest in the world you want to live in

Author | Nikko AM

Why invest in Nikko AM Impact Investing Multi Asset Fund?

1 - Active asset allocation

A balanced strategy that is actively managed by Nikko Asset Management's team of managers to achieve incremental returns via medium term asset allocation, and short-term risk management to reduce or prevent deep relative decline against reference benchmark.

Key Drivers of Asset Allocation

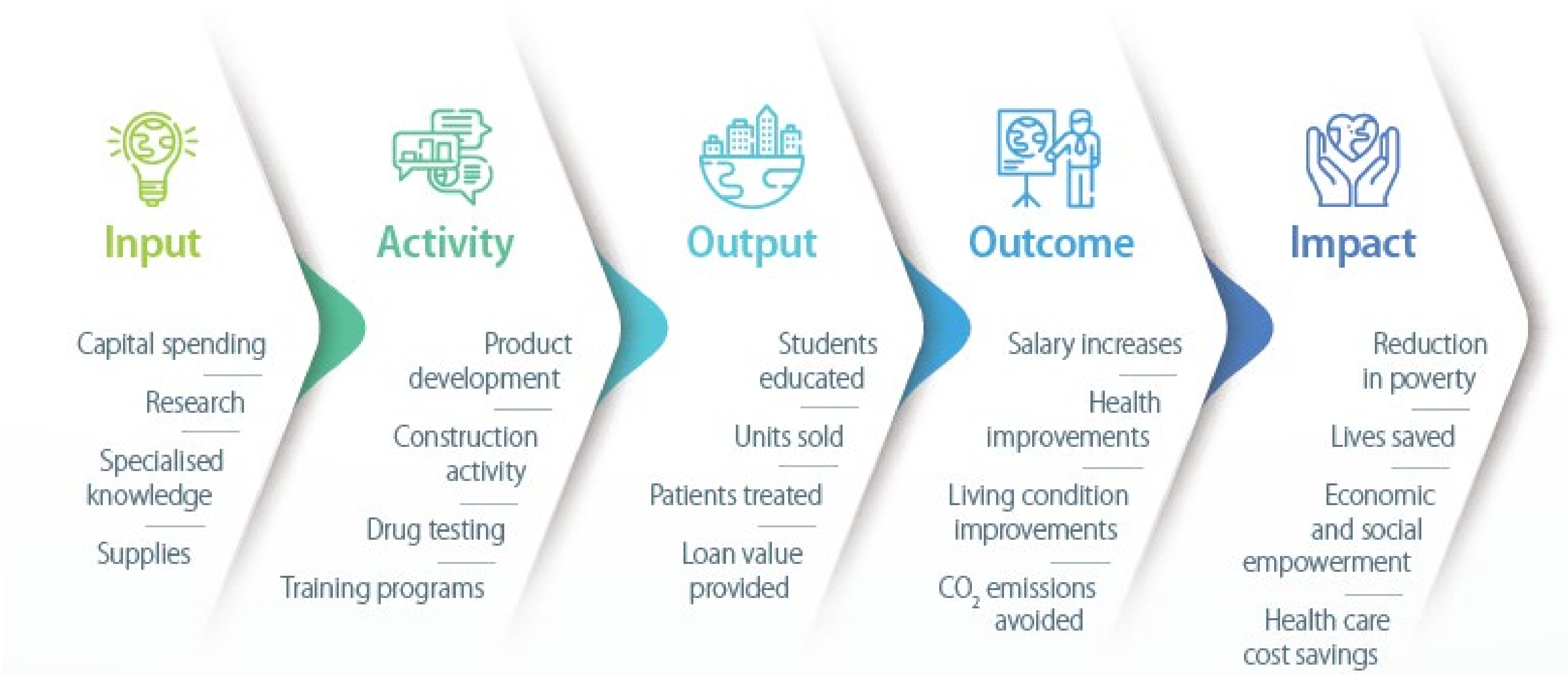
Asset Allocation Implementation

Equity (GIE)	Bonds (GIB)	
56% - 60%	44% - 40%	High Conviction Bullish
51% - 56%	49% - 44%	Moderately Bullish
49% - 51%	51% - 49%	Relative Risk Neutral
44% - 49%	56% - 51%	Moderately Bearish
40% - 44%	60% - 56%	High Conviction Bearish

2 - Measurable social and environmental impact

The ability to measure a company's social or environmental impact is central to impact investing. Once we determine that a company meets the criteria for impact, we develop a set of key portfolio indicators (KPIs) to track that company's progress towards our impact goals. Adapted from academic research, the KPI logic chain allows us to form a structured view, measuring impact for each company during different stages of its business life cycle, and tracking progress over time.

Developing strong relationships with our impact companies helps us understand their business models and determine which KPIs are most relevant. Depending on the business, availability of data and a firm's awareness of its impact, our impact assessment will align with one or more categories within the logic chain. We document our work so that we can review and improve the process over time. Gaining access to these KPIs is an important area of engagement.



For illustrative purposes only

3 - Invest in a new generation of companies with novel approaches to address global challenges

As the need for impact solutions grows, a new generation of companies are taking novel approaches and employing cutting-edge technology or innovative business models to address global challenges in distinctive often disruptive — and profitable ways.

We aim to identify companies that are making an appreciable difference in solving the world's most challenging problems. To narrow our universe, we focus on three broad impact areas: **life essentials, human empowerment,** and the **environment**. We then target specific sub-themes where we have identified our theory of change. These themes align with many of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and are areas where we have clear views on investment potential.

Source: Wellington Management, www.un.org

Fund Characteristics: Delivering regular returns* through a flexible Multi-Asset strategy in the Impact Investing space

Potentially attractive returns and access to world-changing companies

Regular Income

Pays quarterly distribution*

Alignment with select United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Diversified portfolio

A balanced strategy (equities and bonds) actively managed by Nikko Asset Management's team of managers that provides a neutral point of the asset allocation

Who is the Fund suitable for?

The Fund is only suitable for investors who:

- seek to achieve long-term total returns;
- are prepared to accept, in normal market conditions, a high degree of volatility of NAV from time to time; and
- are willing and able to accept that their principal will be at risk.

You should consult your financial advisers if in doubt about whether this Fund is suitable for you.

* The Managers have the absolute discretion to determine whether any distribution should be made. Any distribution is expected to result in an immediate reduction of the Fund's net asset value (NAV). If the Investment Income of the Fund is insufficient to fund a distribution, the Managers may determine that such distributions should be paid from the capital of the Fund. Where distributions are paid out of capital, the NAV of the Fund will be reduced and this will be reflected in the Realisation Price of the Fund. Holders redeeming their Units may therefore receive an amount less than their initial investment. Such distributions may also result in reduced future returns to Holders.

What are the key risks of this investment?

The following are key risk factors that may cause you to lose some or all of your investment:

- Market, Interest Rate and Credit Risks
- Risk of investing in foreign securities
- Product-Specific Risks
  - Risk associated with the investment strategy of the Underlying Funds
  - Derivatives risk
- Liquidity Risks

You should be aware that your investment in the Fund may be exposed to other risks of an exceptional nature from time to time.

Please refer to the Product Highlights Sheet and Paragraph 9, 11.6 and 14 of the Prospectus for further information on risks of the Fund.

For more information, please approach your financial advisor or visit our website at http://www.nikkoam.com.sg

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Nikko Asset Management

Important Information

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Past performance or any prediction, projection or forecast is not indicative of future performance. The Fund or any underlying fund may use or invest in financial derivative instruments. The value of units and income from them may fall or rise. Investments in the Fund are subject to investment risks, including the possible loss of principal amount invested. You should read the relevant prospectus (including the risk warnings) and product highlights sheet of the Fund, which are available and may be obtained from appointed distributors of Nikko AM Asia or our website (www.nikkoam.com.sg) before deciding whether to invest in the Fund.

Nikko Asset Management Asia Limited. Registration Number 198202562H.

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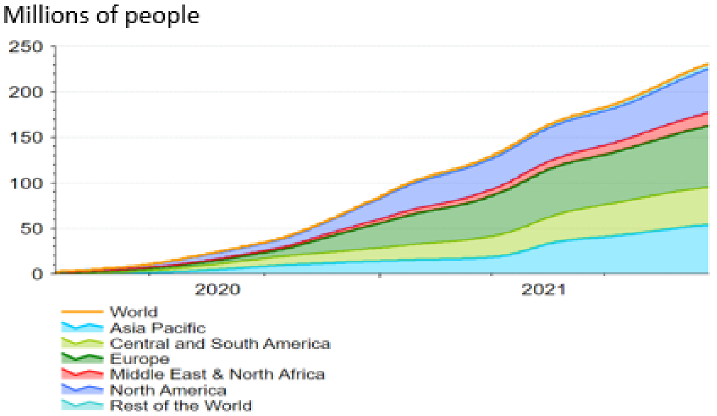
Nikko Asset Management

PIAS Investment Outlook (Q4 2021)

Author | Gerard Minjoot, Investment Strategy, Partnership Management, Professional Investment Advisory Services Pte Ltd.

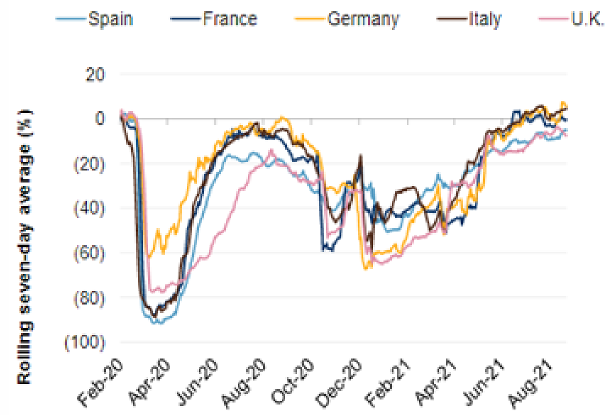
The global economic landscape has once again shifted away from the positive sentiments of transiting back to normalcy as countries are caught between in a rock and a hard place; the Delta variant and inflationary concerns. The Delta variant has managed to circumnavigate the world and become the predominant strain of current cases reported with a total of over 230 million people already infected **(Chart A)**. As the resurgence of the pandemic made its way across the US over summer, so did worries about breakthrough infection **caused weaker consumer confidence, softening of retail sales and PMI. To top it all off, manufacturing faced ongoing bottlenecks as the supply chain continues to be disrupted.** This had put a gentle tap on the brakes from the strong growth the US experience in the first half of 2021. Investors watched closely as the Fed held their recent FOMC meeting in September and dissected everything Powell had to say. As expected, Powell kept to the script and **gave guidance on asset tapering which may take place as soon as November** but did not spell out when interest rate hikes will take place. While no exact timeline was given on the rate hikes, **we believe it should occur sometime in 2022 or early 2023 once the Fed has wane off asset purchases.** While we still maintain very slight positive in equities, we have dialed down our expectations as we see more downside potential than upside at this point. We still expect the market to expand at a gradual rate and maintain our blended approach to both value and growth. We do not foresee large scale lockdowns but if the virus situations was to turn for the worst in the coming winter months, we cannot rule out that possibility.

World Total Covid-19 Cases (Chart A)



Source: Refinitiv Datastream/Fathom Consulting, September 2021

Recovery in Retail & Recreation in the EU (Chart B)



Source: Google Mobility Data, S&P Global Ratings, September 2021

The Chinese market came under heavy scrutiny by Beijing as regulatory crackdowns swept across the economic landscape. From technology to education, no sector was spared by the tighter rulings which gave way to heavy sell-off as investor's confidence was shaken. Adding oil to fire, Evergrande, China's largest real estate developer faces a mounting liquidity crunch which could potentially lead to either a default or restructuring have regulators scrambling to try to mitigate this situation. Economic indicators have also pointed to a slowdown in growth momentum as the country battles with new cases occurring from time to time disrupting growth plans. **While we may have reduced our view of China to neutral in the near term based on the pressing issues and the volatility that follows, we are cautiously optimistic in the longer term based on China's fundamentals as it remains robust and through such challenges, the economy emerges stronger.**

Europe has made good progress on their vaccination as countries eased restrictions further giving a much-needed boost to the retail and hospitality sector as improved consumer confidence emerges (Chart B) Although Europe was late in the cyclical recovery, the bloc is proving to have a faster-than-expected growth with S&P Global **raising growth forecast for 2021 to 5.1% from 4.4%** previously with expectations for the region to reach pre-crisis GDP before the end of the year. The ECB maintains its dovish stance and will not make any premature or abrupt withdrawal of policy support despite inflation running above projections which will provide adequate support to the growing economy. **We are broadly optimistic as Europe's growth has legs to run compared to other developed markets mainly driven by government support and sentiments of a less disruptive future but not discounting the threat of the Delta variant looming as a recurring risk.**

As the world attempts to manage Covid-19 infections and vaccinations on one hand while juggling re-opening the economy and keeping a watchful eye over inflation, **we expect volatility to stay for the near term.** We remain **hopeful on the growth trajectory of the overall economy and continue to favour equities but reduced our risk appetite in anticipation of market corrections** through volatility. We would advise clients to **remain invested and keep the portfolio diversified to mitigate systematic risks which may arise during these uncertain periods.**

Source | | Figures extracted from Refinitiv Datastream, Fathom Consulting and Refinitiv Lipper Data, Reuter Graphics

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