

**MOVING ON UP?**

Will you breach the higher rate threshold?

**INFLATION AND INVESTMENT**

Factoring rises into real returns

**CHARITABLE GIVING**

Making the most of doing good



**rosan helmsley**  
WEALTH MANAGEMENT

SUMMER 2022

# Quarterly Newsletter

## Are you facing a retirement challenge?

*Keeping your plans on track with inflation*



# Looking through the short-term market challenges

*As we approach the half year point at the end of next week, it is easy to feel a little depressed about the state of the world and the significant impact geo political events have played in shaping investment returns this year. In January, the world appeared very different than today with Covid looking like it was fading in the rear view mirror, global growth rebounding strongly and a positivity about emerging from the global lock downs that had seen our lives, spending patterns and freedoms dramatically curtailed through the pandemic.*

No one anticipated Putin's menace and we are now witnessing daily not only the enormous tragedy of the events for Ukrainian citizens but the developing and ongoing impact of the war on global commerce, trade, inflation and supply chains. All of this exacerbated by the Chinese zero tolerance to Covid and the associated lock down of almost a quarter of their population (360 million people - more than the population of the US) across 46 cities at one point in the last quarter.

Inevitably, periods like these are difficult for markets and it is often hard to ignore the market 'noise' with the 24/7 availability of information and continued exposure to negative news flow. These periods can lead investors to make poor decisions. The harsh reality remains that global growth is slowing, inflation has risen fast and central banks are laser focused on containing it, leading them to move interest rates higher. Markets have become sentiment driven and that has led to many stocks being oversold.



## In this issue...

Financial concerns are taking hold in an increasing number of households. The Chancellor's promise of a £400 discount on everyone's gas bill this year will be a welcome relief for many, but with petrol prices at eye-watering levels it's not going to fix everything. Those nearing retirement may have to consider their options carefully. Rising inflation exacerbates existing concerns about funding a longer retirement, so there may be changes you could make to improve your standard of living in your later years. If you're not already a higher rate taxpayer, you could be soon. The Office for Budget Responsibility is predicting nearly 20% of taxpayers will be in the top bracket by 2025/26 and with inflation also affecting real returns on investments, wealth erosion is affecting all areas of finance. Meanwhile, if you are looking forward to a long-awaited trip to Europe this summer, be aware of additional costs you may need to factor in since Brexit and Covid-19.

03

### Could you join the one in five?

The number of higher rate taxpayers could reach 20% by 2025/26.

04

### Are you facing a retirement challenge?

Rising inflation means you may need to rethink your retirement plans.

05

### Holiday costs checklist

Travellers to Europe face changes due to Covid-19 and Brexit.

06

### Keeping it real on investment returns

Look behind the headlines for actual returns.

07

### What I wish I'd known – lessons from the other side of 50

Listening to parents on retirement planning.

08

### Charitable giving – doing it right

Generosity can benefit the givers too.

These are periods where significant opportunities for portfolio managers arise and it is good to hear though our ongoing dialogue with managers, that many of them are seeing significant value in areas of the market right now.

Hard as it may seem currently, these are most certainly periods for medium to long term investors to look through. Trying to time market entry points and exit points rarely works and the combination of factors that have led to the current market challenges will of course change and when they do and sentiment improves, many of the stocks and funds that have fallen in value will rise again.

If you would like to speak to us about the markets or your own portfolios, please get in touch with your usual contact.

**Rob Sandwith | Chief Executive**

June 24th, 2022

Cover image: RobSimonART/Shutterstock.com

## TAX

# Could you join the one in five?

*If you are not a higher rate taxpayer now, you may be soon.*

**T**he combination of high inflation and frozen tax thresholds is a toxic mix for taxpayers but provides comforting liquidity for HM Treasury. When the Chancellor announced in his spring 2021 Budget that the UK-wide higher rate tax threshold would be frozen until April 2026 at £50,270, the latest annual CPI inflation reading (for February 2021) was just 0.4%.

At that inflation rate the freeze seemed a tolerable form of stealth tax to help meet pandemic costs. In Scotland, the freeze only applies to savings and dividend income, but the Scottish higher rate threshold for other income (primarily earnings) is lower at £43,662 and the rate 1% higher.

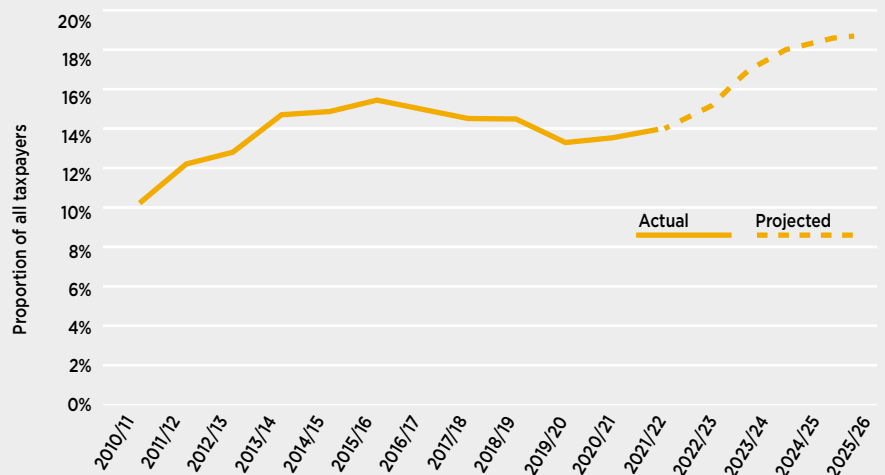
The 2022 Spring Statement saw the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) flagging up the effect of much higher inflation on UK taxpayer numbers. Its revised inflation assumptions calculated that the threshold freeze would mean that by 2025/26 there would be 6.8 million higher rate taxpayers – slightly fewer than one in five of all UK income taxpayers and about a third more than in the current tax year. Being a higher rate taxpayer was once membership of a relatively exclusive club, but it is steadily losing that status.

## MITIGATE THE HIKE

If you are – or will soon be – a higher rate taxpayer, there are plenty of tax planning points you should review with us, including:

- Ensure that you take full advantage of all your tax allowances, such as the dividend allowance and the personal savings allowance, which together could yield a tax saving of £875 in 2022/23.
- Explore the many opportunities presented by independent taxation if you are married or in a civil partnership. For example, re-arranging who holds which investments could reduce your joint tax bill. Unmarried partners can do the same, but capital gains tax and inheritance tax liabilities potentially complicate matters.

## HIGHER AND ADDITIONAL RATE TAXPAYERS



Source HMRC, OBR

- Maximise ISA investments – the UK tax-freedom of ISAs is more valuable once you pay higher rate tax.
- Review investments – investment returns in the form of capital gains (maximum rate 20% other than for residential property and a £12,300 annual exempt amount) will normally incur much less tax than income.
- If you run your own business, you may have scope to change the way your business is structured or be able to adjust the method by which you extract profits. For example, moving from self-employment to a corporate structure could allow you to draw an income with a lower overall charge to income tax and National Insurance contributions.
- The higher rate of 40% (or 41% in Scotland) income tax also means that you can receive 40%/41% in Scotland on pension contributions. However, you need to watch for the tax traps of the pension annual and lifetime allowances.

✦ *Investments do not offer the same level of capital security as deposit accounts.*

*The value of your investment and any income from it can go down as well as up and you may not get back the full amount you invested.*

*Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance.*

*Investing in shares should be regarded as a long-term investment and should fit in with your overall attitude to risk and financial circumstances.*

*The Financial Conduct Authority does not regulate tax advice.*

*ISA investors do not pay any personal tax on income or gains. Tax treatment varies according to individual circumstances and is subject to change.*





Credit: RobSimonART/Shutterstock.co

## PENSIONS

# Are you facing a retirement challenge?

*With double digit inflation on the horizon, you may need to reassess your plans.*

**I**n May 2022, a report from the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee bleakly predicted "We expect inflation to rise to around 10% this year". The Bank pins the blame on rising energy prices, the war in Ukraine and supply chain difficulties stemming from China's Covid-19 lockdowns. None of that trio has a clear end date, but the Bank expects inflation to be "close to our 2% target in around two years".

## CONSIDER ALL THE OPTIONS

Whether or not their forecast proves correct, if you are close to, or about to retire the immediate outlook is unsettling, and many will be worried about how they are going to manage. So, what should you do?

The starting point is to do nothing until you have sought advice. Some aspects of retirement can be impossible to unwind once set in motion. You should only proceed when you are confident about what happens next. Your pension arrangements may state a specific retirement age, but you may still have choices. Even the State pension (currently payable from age 66) can be deferred.

## CRUNCH THE NUMBERS

Your next step is to work out your likely expenditure and income in retirement. This needs to be a realistic assessment – a recent survey found that two fifths of 2021 retirees were already spending more than they had expected. We can help with the complex calculations using software that can handle

assumptions about differing rates of inflation (considering the impending 10%) and investment returns.

Identifying future income and spending patterns is vital in understanding what your options are. For example, cash flow analysis can show whether the level of investment risk that you are normally comfortable with is compatible with your retirement spending plans.

Bear in mind that at age 65, according to the Office for National Statistics:

- The average man will live for another 20 years, with one in four surviving until age 92; and



*Work out your likely expenditure and income in retirement. Two fifths of 2021 retirees were already spending more than they had expected.*

- The average woman will live for another 22 years, with one in four reaching 94.

If the calculations suggest that you will outlive your retirement fund – a common concern for recent retirees – then you could consider revising your expenditure plans or accepting that at some point you will need to trade down to a smaller property or look at other options to extract value from your home.

At the opposite end of the financing scale, the data might show all your needs can be met with an index-linked annuity, carrying no investment or duration risk. However, sadly that is unlikely as at current RPI-linked annuity rates the standard lifetime allowance of £1,073,100 will provide a monthly income of about £2,850 before tax.

#### COULD YOU WORK LONGER?

In the worst case, an analysis of your retirement cashflow may force you to consider deferring or phasing in retirement. That may seem an unpalatable option, but it is better to be aware of the situation before your earnings have ended. A survey of 2022 retirees found that a fifth were retiring later than they had originally planned, with the main reason for the delay being not having saved enough. An extra period of work – whether full or part time – reduces the pressure on your retirement savings and may allow you to continue your contributions rather than start making withdrawals.

For advice tailored to your circumstances, please contact us.

✦ *The value of pensions and investments and the income they produce can fall as well as rise. You may get back less than you invested.*

*Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance.*

*Investing in shares should be regarded as a long-term investment and should fit with your overall attitude to risk and financial circumstances.*

*Occupational pension schemes are regulated by The Pensions Regulator.*

*Equity release will reduce the value of your estate and can affect your eligibility for means tested benefits.*

#### PLANNING

## Holiday costs checklist

*Many Brits will take their first holiday to Europe this summer since Covid and the implementation of Brexit. Be aware of extra costs and additional paperwork requirements.*

#### DO I NEED A VISA?

Holidaymakers currently just need a UK passport, but from the end of 2022 they will need an ETIAS visa waiver. This lasts three years and allows unlimited trips during this period.

#### ROAMING CHARGES

You may have to pay 'roaming charges' to use your phone in Europe. Vodafone, Three, Sky and EE all now impose these charges, which typically amount to £2 a day. Other providers, including Virgin, O2 and BT Mobile currently have no extra fees. Exact charges depend on the contract so check before travelling.

#### COVID COSTS?

Most European countries don't require UK travellers to take a lateral

flow test now, provided they're fully vaccinated. The website [reopen.europa.eu](https://reopen.europa.eu) gives details of latest restrictions for each country. It also explains how to download the EU Digital Covid Certificate, proving vaccination status.

#### TRAVEL AND HEALTH INSURANCE

Travel insurance is always essential, particularly to cover medical bills. Some policies may offer cover should you need to cancel or delay arrangements due to Covid, but not all. European Health Insurance Cards (EHIC) are still valid, if in date. Once these expire you'll need the new UK Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC). This allows access to state healthcare in Europe at a reduced cost, or sometimes for free.



## INVESTMENTS

# Keeping it real on investment returns



Credit: patpitchaya/Shutterstock.com

*How you think about investment returns may need to change as inflation soars.*

**I**f you could choose between a 3% investment return or a 7% investment return, which would you pick? The answer seems obvious, so let's add some context.

Which is better – a 3% investment return when inflation is 2% or a 7% investment return when inflation is 9%?

Once you allow for the impact of inflation, the 3% investment return is the more attractive as it outpaces inflation; the 7% return means lost buying power over time.

The impact of inflation on investment returns has been a minor factor until recently. In the first 21 years of this century, inflation (on the CPI measure) averaged 2.0% a year, exactly matching the Bank of England's target. At that level, inflation still had an effect – prices rose by a half over the period – but it has taken less than six months to become the rapid destroyer of wealth represented by current rates.

Today's environment, with inflation forecast by the Bank of England to reach 10% later this year, is one that you and many other investors may never have experienced during your adult life. Double digit inflation long predates the introduction of the CPI – it was last seen in 1990, when the official inflation yardstick was the now-discredited RPI (retail prices index – currently running at 11.1%).

In an inflationary environment you need to think of investment returns in 'real' terms, removing the eroding effect of inflation. So, in the example, the 3% return becomes a real return of 1% (3% – 2%) and the 7% return is actually –2% (7% – 9%).

Taking a 'real' view of investment returns means that short-term, deposit-based investments look much less attractive, despite the recent interest rate increases. Beyond your necessary rainy-day reserve, you need a good reason to leave money on deposit, losing purchasing power.

## INCOME AND DIVIDENDS

The past 13 years of near zero interest rates, combined with low inflation, have encouraged investors to focus on the capital growth element of investment returns. Until this year, young technology-related companies with no profits (and sometimes no revenue) flourished: investors could afford to wait for the promised

bonanza, often years away. Inflation and rising interest rates have altered that perspective so that income, the other component of investment return, has become important.

However, inflation is not all bad news for investors. Many companies aim to keep their dividends growing at least in line with inflation over the longer term. While UK dividend payments fell in 2020 because of the pandemic, they recovered strongly in 2021 and are expected to continue growing in 2022. Link Group, a leading share registrar which monitors dividend payments, recently said that it expected regular dividend growth of over 15% this year.

If you want to protect your capital from the ravages of inflation, there are plenty of potential options, but none is without risk, so advice is important.

✦ *The value of your investment and any income from it can go down as well as up and you may not get back the full amount you invested.*

*Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance.*

*Investing in shares should be regarded as a long-term investment and should fit in with your overall attitude to risk and financial circumstances.*

**“** *Until this year, young technology-related companies with no profits flourished. Inflation and rising interest rates have altered that perspective so that income has become important.*

## PENSIONS

# Lessons from the other side of 50

*Many younger people now rely on the bank of Mum and Dad to help get them on the housing ladder. But as well as being a useful source of funds, they may also have some important life lessons to impart when it comes to saving towards a more secure financial future.*

**R**ecent research among the over 50s by the insurer Aviva found that half regretted not starting a pension earlier, while almost two-thirds said they wished they had saved more into their retirement savings.

Unlike their parents, those embarking on careers today have the benefit of auto-enrolment pensions, with employer contributions, once they earn more than £10,000. The ten years since auto-enrolment started have seen greater participation in pensions from those starting their careers.

Building pension savings from the beginning of your working life can make a significant difference to the size of your eventual pension pot, not least because contributions made early benefit from longer periods of investment growth.

A quarter of those surveyed had delayed starting a pension until they were in their 30s. Many parents said they had prioritised mortgage payments and shoring up family finances ahead of making contributions to a pension plan.

However, financial experts warn that parents' advice is not always correct when it comes to how much needs to be saved.

A quarter of those aged over 50 think that putting 5% of

earnings into a pension will be enough to fund a decent retirement. Retirement experts tend to disagree, stating that minimum auto enrolment levels (currently 8% with 3% of that coming from employers) could leave people with insufficient funds for long-term retirement and social care.

The Pension and Lifetime Savings Association has argued that minimum levels should be increased to 12% of earnings, to help provide for a more comfortable retirement.

While the minimum auto-enrolment levels are unlikely to change anytime soon — particularly given the current cost of living crisis — where possible younger workers should increase savings and ensure pension contributions increase in line with any pay rise. This should help protect against the same financial regrets when they reach their parents' age.

✦ *The value of pensions and investments and the income they produce can fall as well as rise. You may get back less than you invested.*

*Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance.*

*Investing in shares should be regarded as a long-term investment and should fit in with your overall attitude to risk and financial circumstances. The Financial Conduct Authority does not regulate auto enrolment.*

## Are you a trustee?

*A new measure to prevent money laundering means trustees must now register with HMRC.*



Credit: fizkes/Shutterstock.com

The government has introduced a new requirement for trustees to register details of their trust(s) with HMRC as part of its continuing anti-fraud strategy. For most existing trusts, the deadline registration date is 1 September 2022. New trusts will need to register within 90 days. Once registered, any changes to the trust must be reported by the trustees, also within 90 days.

Certain types of trust, such as property co-ownership trusts, are exempt, but many trusts that do not currently pay tax must be registered.

The treatment of trusts linked to life assurance policies is particularly complex and has prompted HMRC to regularly update and expand its guidance. While a trust holding a simple term assurance policy that only pays out on death will not need to register, the treatment of investment-oriented policies is less clear cut.



Credit: fizkes/Shutterstock.com



Credit: Ink Drop/Shutterstock.com

## NEWS ROUND UP

### Managing energy price rises

Ofgem, the utility regulator, is consulting on a proposal to adjust the energy price cap every quarter after forecasting a jump from £1,971 to about £2,800 in October. That figure is likely to drop to around £2,400 for many households following the Chancellor's end of May measures including a £400 per household rebate. But a mid-winter bill amendment is still coming at the start of 2023.

### No-fault divorce

In England and Wales, divorce has become much simpler and potentially quicker with the introduction of no-fault divorces since 6 April 2022. However, the reform has done nothing to simplify all the related financial issues, so professional advice will still be necessary.

### No-fault evictions

In the Queen's Speech the government announced that it would be introducing a Renter's Reform Bill. Among its measures the Bill would remove the option of no-fault evictions which English landlords currently have (often called section 21 evictions).

### National insurance cut comes through

If you are an employee, in July you should see the benefit of the change to national insurance contribution (NIC) thresholds announced in the Spring Statement. At best your NIC saving will be worth about £28 a month.

## CHARITY

# Charitable giving - doing it right

*The war in Ukraine and cost of living crisis have prompted many people to donate to charities helping those affected. Various schemes are available to boost the value of your charitable donations.*

### GIFT AID

Charities can claim back basic rate tax on donations, meaning for every £1 you give the charity gets £1.25. You need to be a UK

You can also use gift aid when buying an annual membership to these organisations.

### GIVE AS YOU EARN

Some companies allow employees to make regular charity donations direct from their gross salary, exempting these donations from tax, although they are subject to National Insurance contributions.

### CHARITABLE LEGACIES

If you leave a charitable donation or legacy in your will, it won't be included within your estate when calculating inheritance tax. What's more, if you bequeath at least 10% of your net estate to charity, any IHT due is charged at 36% rather than 40%.

### SHARE GIFTING

Shares donated to charity are not subject to capital gains tax (CGT). The value will also be deducted from your taxable income, potentially reducing income tax. If a charity can't accept shares directly you can sell them on their behalf, again avoiding CGT, although you will need an instruction from the charity.

✦ *The Financial Conduct Authority does not regulate tax, Wills or estate planning advice.*

*Tax treatment varies according to individual circumstances and is subject to change.*



taxpayer to use this scheme.

Higher rate and additional rate payers can also reclaim the tax paid on donations through self-assessment. This can effectively lower the net income at which their tax is calculated, which can be beneficial for those earning just over £50,000 who pay the High Income Child Benefit Tax Charge.

It isn't just big national charities like DEC, Cancer Research or Trussell Trust that use gift aid. If you make a voluntary donation (of at least 10%) on top of the standard ticket price to many museums and art galleries, then the total value of your purchase can benefit from gift aid.

Credit: SewCream/Shutterstock.com



# rosan helmsley

WEALTH MANAGEMENT

Rosan Helmsley Ltd, 1000 Cathedral Square,  
Cathedral Hill, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 7YL

01483 90 40 40 | [www.rosan-ifa.com](http://www.rosan-ifa.com)

Rosan Helmsley Ltd is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA).