It is clear that 2015 will be a remarkable year in terms of political and economic fluctuations, making it harder than ever to predict investor sentiment and the resulting wealth flows.

We are fortunate in being able to draw not only on a network of over 350 offices, but also the views of thousands of active clients and investors, together with the expertise of our agency and consultancy teams, including those advising on alternative property sectors, such as healthcare, agriculture and student housing.

I am delighted that in this edition of The Wealth Report we share the first-hand investment perspectives and experiences of Massimo Ferragamo and Goodwin Gaw. In addition, the report also features the latest research from leading wealth analysts and commentators. Through our partnership with WealthInsight, for example, we can offer an analysis of wealth distribution trends covering almost 100 countries and over 100 cities. Contributions from NetJets, Fragomen and Ledbury Research allow us to focus on the critical issues of global travel and connectivity, wealth migration and luxury spending trends.

Our Attitudes Survey adds depth to our analysis by delving deep into the views of the wealthy regarding investment risks and opportunities. Our coverage of the world’s premier luxury residential markets has been expanded to include 100 cities and second-home destinations. And our focus on investment opportunities covers the world.

The scope and the ambition of the report is reflected by Knight Frank’s growth. In the last year we have formed a strategic residential relationship with Douglas Elliman covering New York and the key luxury home hotspots in the US. We have also established new offices in Chamonix, Provence, San Remo, Venice, Sardinia, Marbella and Taipei, as well as opening five new offices in the UK.

The reach and influence of The Wealth Report continues to grow. We hope you find our latest findings and forecasts both informative and inspiring. If we can provide you with further research or advice we are of course happy to help and look forward to hearing from you.
World in numbers

Highlights from the key research findings of the 2015 edition of The Wealth Report, including Attitudes Survey, PIRI, Global Cities Survey and wealth distribution data

Attitudes Survey

WEALTH WORRIES
81% of advisors say their clients are worried about tax hikes — P10

NO PLACE LIKE HOME
Just over 25% of UHNWIs are considering buying a new home in 2015 — P12

Global wealth distribution

WEALTH RISE
The total number of UHNWIs rose by almost 5,200, or 3%, in 2014. Their population is set to grow a further 24% by 2026 — P18

AFRICAN SURGE
The Ivory Coast will see Africa’s largest 10-year increase in UHNWI numbers with forecast growth of 119% — P21

Global cities

LONDON CALLING
The UK’s capital city holds off New York to take the top spot in our 2015 Global Cities Survey — P28

WHERE THE RICH LIVE
A graphical representation of UHNWI wealth population data for over 100 cities across the world — P30

PIRI 2015

THE BIG APPLE SHINES
New York tops our PIRI 100 index with prime residential price growth of almost 19% in 2014. Overall, the index rose by just over 2% — P37

DOOM WITH A VIEW
Monaco once again tops our list of the world’s most expensive prime residential property. US$1m will buy you just 17 sq m of home there, compared with 204 sq m in Cape Town — P39

For me the slump in oil prices that started in 2014 is a game changer for the economy, and also for property investment

Property investment

TANGLE ASSETS PROSPER
The total amount of money invested into commercial property rose to around $1.1trn in 2014. Private investors accounted for $153bn of that — P48

Luxury spending trends

RULE BRITAINIA
The UK tops our new Big Spenders Index, followed by China and Qatar — P60

Databank

Wealth distribution data in detail — P68 Attitudes Survey responses by region — P71

Final word

Liam Bailey, Knight Frank’s Global Head of Research, highlights the implications of The Wealth Report’s latest findings for UHNWIs and their advisors

Contributors and interviewees

Liam Bailey, Global Head of Research, Knight Frank
Foremost prime property expert

Andrew Shirley, The Wealth Report Editor, Knight Frank
Luxury investments commentator

Claire Adler, Luxury Jewellery Consultant
Writer, PR advisor, speaker

Massimo Ferragamo, Chairman, Ferragamo USA
Sico of leading fashion dynasty

Goodwin Gan, Chairman, Saw Capital
One of Asia’s leading property investors

James Roberts, Chief Economist, Knight Frank
Leading commercial property expert

Madeleine Olliver, Analyst, Luxury Research
Luxury goods commentator and researcher

Dr Pipa Malin-Green, Founder, DRFM Group
Conservative and former US presidential advisor
The Wealth Report contains a huge amount of data, not only from Knight Frank's own research teams, but also from leading industry analysts and commentators. The map below includes a worldwide snapshot of the numbers drawn from our PIRI 100 Index; the wealth distribution data supplied by WealthInsight; the results of our Global Cities Survey and the findings of our annual Attitudes Survey.

**Global trends**

- **$20.8tn** The total wealth held by UHNWIs
- **172,850** The total number of UHNWIs worldwide
- **3%** Increase in the number of UHNWIs 2013 to 2014
- **$153bn** The total commercial property investment by private individuals
- **82%** Of wealth advisors reporting that their clients' net worth increased

**Highs and lows: key statistics from The Wealth Report 2015**

- **18.8%** The largest prime residential price rise, seen by New York
- **15%** Of Latin American UHNWIs are thinking of changing their country of residence
- **50,767** The number of US UHNWIs predicted to open in 2024
- **-15%** The greatest drop in prime residential prices, seen by Buenos Aires
- **1.8m sq ft** The area of First-World shopping malls to open in Nairobi in 2015
- **01** London's ranking in our 2015 Global Cities Survey
- **17.3 sq m** The area of prime property US$1m will buy in Monaco
- **03** Hong Kong's ranking in our 2015 Global Cities Survey – the top Asian location
- **$0.2tn** The total wealth held by African UHNWIs in 2014
- **52%** The proportion of UHNWIs from the UAE who are considering buying a new home in 2015
- **1,752** The growth in Singapore's UHNWI population, 2014 to 2024
- **61%** Of Russian UHNWIs are sending their children overseas for their secondary education
- **42%** Of Australian UHNWIs investment portfolios are allocated to property

**Property**

- **$20.8tn** The total wealth held by UHNWIs
- **172,850** The total number of UHNWIs worldwide
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**Global trends**

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The world is becoming increasingly preoccupied by the lives of the rich and famous; the more sensational the detail the better. Fuelling this trend is the growing omnipotence of an internet that streams a non-stop flow of gossip and photographs, authorised or not. Some of the super-rich, those whose wealth derives from their celebrity status, actively encourage it, but for most the intrusion is unwelcome. No wonder then that the distinctly un-voyeuristic results of our own annual survey of the attitudes of the wealthy, discussed over the following pages, reveal that ultra-high-net-worth individuals are becoming increasingly concerned about the power of the web in terms of online privacy and cyber-crime.

Interestingly, however, given a potential economic slowdown in China and continued political and economic uncertainty in many parts of the world, it is family and business succession issues followed by a possible hike in wealth taxes that are the biggest concerns for UHNWIs, according to the wealth managers and private bankers who advise them.

Putting these concerns aside, 2014 was a good year for the wealthy. The vast majority saw their net worth increase, and most of the respondents to the survey said this trend would continue for their clients in 2015. But with contributors from all parts of the world, the results of our Attitudes Survey highlight some revealing regional trends.

Generally, UHNWIs living in Australasia seem happiest with their lifestyles – only 4% want to change their country of residence or domicile, and very few send their children overseas to be educated. By contrast, a third of those from Russia and the CIS are considering a move, and over 60% dispatch their children abroad for their secondary education.

The results of the Attitudes Survey also cement the position of property as the cornerstone of many UHNWI investment strategies – it accounts on average for almost a third of UHNWI portfolios. But bricks and mortar are not the only tangible assets that are in demand. So-called investments of passion, such as art, wine and classic cars, continue to attract more interest.

While our survey doesn’t delve into the more personal facets of UHNWI lifestyles, it provides an invaluable glimpse of their attitudes towards property, investments and the factors affecting their ability to increase and safeguard their wealth, and how those factors vary around the world.
Wealth trends

The Wealth Report’s annual Attitudes Survey is based on a detailed survey of almost 500 leading private bankers and wealth advisors from across the globe, and reflects the attitudes of their ultra-wealthy clients who have a combined wealth of over US$1.7tn.

Covering many aspects of the lifestyles of ultra-high-net-worth individuals (those with a net worth of over US$30m), from wealth creation to philanthropy, from property investments to luxury spending, the survey’s findings offer a unique insight into the attitudes of the super-wealthy.

Last year proved to be a more profitable one for the world’s UHNWIs than expected by their advisors. In 2013 when we asked the survey’s respondents about their clients’ wealth creation prospects over the next 12 months, 63% said they thought their net worth would increase. A year later 82% said it had actually increased during 2014, with only 3% reporting a fall.

Like looking forward, the outlook is still bullish. Despite concerns over the global economy, 80% of survey respondents expect their clients’ wealth to grow further in 2015 (see p12 for our detailed predictions on global wealth creation over the next 10 years).

Wealth threats

However, the road to greater riches is not always smooth, and the survey results highlight a number of issues that UHNWIs believe could hinder their ability to generate more wealth. Interestingly, it was not the global geopolitical and economic issues that tend to spook stock markets that were of the most concern, but more personal issues.

On average, less than half of respondents said their clients were concerned about the impact of the Chinese economy (although unsurprisingly this rises to over 70% in Asia and 67% in neighbouring Australasia). The same pattern was repeated for the ongoing turmoil in the Middle East and Ukraine.

Family succession issues were, in fact, the number one worry, with 88% of respondents saying their clients were worried about the handover of family wealth to the next generation.

Wealth worries

The issues UHNWIs believe could affect their wealth, lifestyle or business

Trends affecting wealth include: family succession issues, rising wealth taxes, an increase in government scrutiny of wealthy individuals, and, of course, the increasing power of the internet, both in terms of cyber-crime and the ability to invade privacy and damage reputations.

Wealth creation to philanthropy, from property investments to luxury spending, the survey’s findings offer a unique insight into the attitudes of the super-wealthy.

Philanthropy, shopping, flying

UHNWI attitudes to philanthropy remain largely unchanged. According to last year’s Attitudes Survey, 28% of respondents expected their clients’ philanthropic activities to increase; in this year’s survey the figure was 23%, with three-quarters predicting they would remain the same.

The outlook for a rise in giving was most pessimistic in more mature economies like Europe (17%), perhaps because philanthropy is already well established there, compared with emerging economies like Africa (56%).

As part of this year’s Attitudes Survey we have endeavoured to find out if younger UHNWIs have a different attitude to wealth than their parents’ generation. When asked if they were more philanthropic, 45% of respondents said “yes”.

By contrast, when we asked if they spent more on luxury goods, two-thirds of those taking the survey agreed that was the case, perhaps explaining why succession planning is considered such a big issue. Overall, 30% of survey respondents are expecting their clients to splash out more on luxury goods this year, compared with 2014, with UHNWIs from Africa (89%) enjoying their wealth the most.

The use of private jets is growing steadily around the world, with demand rising most quickly in Asia – 38% of respondents said their clients were increasingly using them for business and leisure purposes (see our special feature on p40 for more).

Bright Future

Most wealth advisors expect their clients’ wealth to increase in 2015

Concerned about the handover of family wealth to the next generation.

A potential increase in wealth taxes (80%) and increased government scrutiny of wealth (80%) were the second and third most vexatious issues, according to our survey results. Respondents from Australasia were the least concerned about increased government scrutiny, with only 44% flagging it as a threat.

The growing power of the internet, both in terms of cyber-crime and the ability to invade privacy and damage reputations, led 76% of respondents to highlight it as an area of concern.

Poll: Do younger UHNWIs spend more on luxury goods than their parents?

Source: The Wealth Report 2015 Attitude Survey

Percentage of respondents who think their younger UHNWIs are more philanthropic than their parents’ generation

Source: The Wealth Report 2015 Attitude Survey

% increase in wealth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
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<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia/CIS</td>
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The use of private jets is growing steadily around the world, with demand rising most quickly in Asia – 38% of respondents said their clients were increasingly using them for business and leisure purposes (see our special feature on p40 for more).

Across the world, 23% of the wealth on average of UHNWIs is accounted for by their main residence and any second homes not
owned purely as an investment, according to our survey results. In Australasia and Asia the proportion edges up to almost 30%. Just over a quarter of UHNWIs are considering purchasing another house in 2015 to add to the three they already own. When we asked our respondents if any of their clients were particularly interested in a ski, vineyard or equestrian property, a few interesting trends emerged. The demand from Asian UHNWIs for vineyards remains keen, with 40% of respondents with clients in China, 43% in Taiwan and 33% in Malaysia noting rising interest. In Africa (29%) and the Middle East (40% in the UAE) equestrian properties are more of a draw, while a ski chalet is the top priority for wealthy second-home seekers from Europe (38%) and North America (30% in the US).

One of the most revealing questions posed by the survey relates to the number of UHNWIs who are planning to permanently change their domicile or country of residence. Australians and New Zealanders are the least likely to want to up sticks. Only 4% of those surveyed said their clients were considering a move. By contrast, a third of respondents with clients in the Russia/CIS region said a move could be on the cards. This follows a response rate of 35% in last year’s survey, suggesting a longer-term trend is emerging. Globally, tax was highlighted as the main reason UHNWIs would consider moving to a different country, but in Russia education and political issues were reported as two of the biggest drivers.

Seeking out the best education abroad for their children is clearly very important for Russian and CIS UHNWIs. Over 60% are likely to send their offspring overseas for their secondary education, compared with a global average of 27%. This process also seems to be happening sooner, with 67% of respondents noting that their clients were sending their children overseas at an earlier age.

Overseas education and political issues were reported as two of the biggest drivers of UHNWIs who are planning to permanently change their domicile or country of residence. Australians and New Zealanders are the least likely to want to up sticks. Only 4% of those surveyed said their clients were considering a move. By contrast, a third of respondents with clients in the Russia/CIS region said a move could be on the cards. This follows a response rate of 35% in last year’s survey, suggesting a longer-term trend is emerging. Globally, tax was highlighted as the main reason UHNWIs would consider moving to a different country, but in Russia education and political issues were reported as two of the biggest drivers.

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Outside property, equities are predicted to be the most popular investment class in 2015, with a net balance of 48% of those taking the survey expecting their clients’ exposure to stocks and shares to increase in 2015. This builds on the growing appetite for riskier investments that the Attitudes Survey flagged up last year. Investments of passion, however, remain firmly on the radar for the super-rich. Globally, 41% of our respondents said their UHNWI clients were becoming more interested in the likes of classic cars, art and wine. Art is the luxury asset where interest is rising the most – perhaps unsurprising given its accessibility – followed by watches, wine and classic cars. Stamps are of interest in Africa and Asia, where 34% and 5% respectively, of survey respondents noted increasing interest. Drilling down, the figure rises to 17% for China.

This matches the recent rise in prices for Asian and Commonwealth stamps. For more on the performance of luxury investments turn to p62. Despite collectable assets commonly being described as investments of passion, personal pleasure is still the main motivation for their acquisition, according to 62% of those surveyed. In India, however, status (38%) was considered almost as important, and across Asia capital growth (32%) was a key factor. For full regional results see Databank, pp68-69.
Leading wealth experts share their views on key findings from the Attitudes Survey

The results of The Wealth Report Attitudes Survey discussed over the preceding pages provide a unique glimpse into the attitudes, concerns and investment choices of UHNWIs from around the world. To look at some of the issues raised in more detail, we asked leading specialists from various sectors of the wealth industry, including private banking, investment, family offices, education and legal services, to share their own insights.

**Philanthropic attitude change**

Millennials (to use the new parlance for under-40s) take seriously the notion of stewardship and social responsibility. This may not be news, exactly, but what differentiates millennials from their parents is the inclination to use robust and/or sophisticated management techniques for family philanthropy. The steel magnate model of philanthropy is giving way to that of measuring impact not only through the aforementioned implementation of business models for philanthropy, but also through the use of metrics to evaluate the potency of value-informed investments. While wealth managers still need to employ tax-efficient and long-term wealth management vehicles for UHNW millennials, they can also expect to implement value-based considerations into investment portfolios. Service providers supporting UHNWIs through intergenerational wealth management vehicles (read here, family offices) can capitalize on these opportunities into investment portfolios.

**Overseas education**

Recently, leading public schools have started to insist overseas applicants complete at least two years in a UK-based preparatory school. Clients from areas that are already well represented in the independent system, such as Russia, Nigeria and the Middle Eastern states, have realised the dramatic effect that an earlier move to a UK school can bring. Leading public schools carry out rigorous reassessments when children are 10 or 11. Preparing for these tests from within the system greatly increases a student’s chance of success. For all these reasons, we are seeing renewed interest in boarding preparatory schools and London day schools from most of our international clients.

**Luxury investment**

In our experience UHNWIs are becoming more and more concerned about paper assets such as bonds and equities, and are increasingly looking for tangible alternatives. The scarcity of luxury assets and their historic ability to hedge against inflation make them an appealing investment proposition – it is always possible to commission a new yacht, but nobody can paint another Monet or build a classic Ferrari. Increasing demand and limited supply suggest that capital growth could continue. There are risks, however, like fraud and poor portfolio diversification. To remove some of these risks, investors should express their views on luxury through a multi-asset solution.

**Online perils**

A reputation is an individual’s most valuable asset, and in an increasingly digital age, cybercrime and online privacy are big concerns. We are increasingly being asked by high net-worth individuals how they can go about protecting their reputation. It is vital to conduct a reputation management audit as soon as possible. This will focus on maintaining or taking control of an individual’s reputation. The first area to look at is information that the individual, or friends and family, has direct control over, such as social media accounts and personal websites. It’s also important that family and friends are aware of the risks of posting information online, as it could damage the individual. The more that can be done at the proactive stage, the better.

**Attitudes to risk**

As an investor you should devote your attention to things that a) matter, and b) you can do something about. Geo-political events, though of huge significance in most ways, matter much less to the returns of a long-term investor than investors think they do, while they’re thinking about them. And they are typically so unpredictable that it is nearly impossible to do much about them in the short term with any certainty. So it is uncommonly reassuring to observe from the Attitudes Survey results that clients instead seem to be rather more much focused on the certain things they can actually do something about, such as planning for succession, taxes, government scrutiny and privacy/security. Or at least their advisors think they are – which may not be quite the same thing.

**For more details please see the lifestyle section**

**As an investor you should devote your attention to things that a) matter, and b) you can do something about.**

**Philanthropic attitude change**

Andrew Porter, Director of Research, Campden Wealth

**Overseas education**

William Petty, Director, Bonas MacFarlane Education

**Luxury investment**

Nirish Shah, Head of Reputation Management, Taylor Wessing

**Online perils**

Dr Greg Davies, Head of Behavioural Finance, Barclays
Global wealth trends

With the help of data from WealthInsight, The Wealth Report provides a unique and comprehensive analysis of how global wealth distribution is changing and is predicted to change over the next 10 years.

Last year, around 15 people a day joined the ranks of the ultra-wealthy, or those worth over US$30m. This growth is set to continue in the coming decade, with the global population of ultra-high-net-worth individuals forecast to climb by 34% to a total of almost 231,000.

Our data also allows us to look at wealth distribution trends at a granular country level. As such, we can highlight specific wealth-creation hotspots, for example, Kazakhstan, where the number of UHNWIs is set to grow by 114% over the next decade. But topping the list of the almost 100 countries we examine is Vietnam, with a forecast uplift of 159% in its UHNWI population.

Taking a different angle on the data, we can see how evenly wealth is distributed within a country. While Monaco, unsurprisingly, perhaps, given that most of its residents are very wealthy, tops this list, with the equivalent of 874 UHNWIs per 100,000 people, the other countries that emerge at the top are perhaps more surprising. The, US with 12.7 UHNWIs per 100,000 head of population, is some way behind countries in Scandinavia, New Zealand and the UK. Despite the sharp rise in the number of Chinese UHNWIs, there are still only 0.6 UHNWIs per 100,000 people in China because of the size of the country’s population.

Wealth, or more specifically, its uneven distribution, has become an increasing subject of debate over the past few years. Some, such as the controversial French economist Thomas Piketty, argue that governments should take action and levy higher taxes on the rich in order to re-distribute wealth. Others, like our contributor Dr Pippa Malmgren, believe that higher taxes could actually prove a barrier to economic growth, undermining the opportunity for wealth creation across every stratum of society.

In developing countries significant amounts of wealth are already being created by a growing and increasingly aspirational middle class. On p23 we examine the importance of this movement across the world, not only as a generator of wealth but also in terms of the increased political power it commands, and how this may be set to change the geopolitical landscape.
UHNWI population growth continues

The global population of ultra-high-net-worth individuals grew by almost 5,200 last year, according to data prepared exclusively for The Wealth Report by the analyst firm WealthInsight. This latest increase means 65,385 people have joined the ranks of the ultra-wealthy over the past decade – a rise of 6%. In total, there are now 172,850 individuals in this cohort who hold wealth totalling $20.8tn, an increase of $70bn compared with 2014.

Moving up the wealth brackets, nearly 1,180 people became centa-millionaires in 2014 compared with 2013, taking the world’s total population of ultra-high-net-worth individuals to 38,280. Half of those worth over $100m to 38,280.

Economic headwinds

There is certainly evidence that beneath the economic headwinds, some central banks and governments have been getting to grips with the serious repair work needed in the wake of the global financial crisis.

However, fears over economic weakness in the eurozone prompted the European Central Bank to start a programme of quantitative easing earlier this year, a signal of the headwinds still facing developed economies.

Yet the longer-term forecast for wealth creation, anticipating how wealthy populations will have changed a decade from now, is still upbeat. Looking through the shorter-term uncertainties, WealthInsight predicts the number of ultra-wealthy people will grow globally by 34% between 2014 and 2024, up from a forecast of 28% growth between 2013 and 2023 (see graphic for regional predictions).

Ms Vlasova says: “We expect the measures that are being put into place to

For full details of wealth distribution trends and forecasts for each world region and for almost 100 countries turn to Databank, p66.
safeguard against another financial crisis will contribute to improved economic conditions over the next decade, coupled with government initiatives to create more entrepreneurs – one of the main drivers of millionaire growth.”

Asia is set to lead the way, with another 20,127 people likely to see their wealth move past $30m during the next decade. Looking in more detail at our data, which includes a comprehensive analysis of wealth distribution for over 100 countries, we see a number of other key trends emerge.

Despite the turbulence in some corners of the global economy as a result of renewed political tensions and fiscal uncertainty in 2014, some countries experienced particularly strong wealth creation last year, with UHNWI populations expanding by 5% or more in 15 countries (see chart on p18).

Twelve of those countries were emerging economies, underlining the fact that despite concerns about the easing of the pace of growth in developing economies, they are still key drivers of wealth creation.

But it is also notable that it was Monaco, the well-established hub for wealth, that topped the list for growth last year, with a 10% expansion in its population of UHNWIs. The number of centa-millionaires (those with over $100m in net assets) in the principality jumped by 10% in 2014, far above the European average of 3.2%, while the number of billionaires rose from 11 to 12 (see chart on p.21).

It is likely that the tax-free environment and low entry hurdles for residency in Monaco have become a greater draw for those concerned by discussions of increased taxes on wealth and assets.

Indeed, our Antidotes Survey (p10) highlights that one of the biggest concerns for UHNWIs across the globe is a potential increase in wealth taxes.

In terms of sheer numbers, the US will still be the dominant force in terms of its ultra-wealthy population in 2024, with 12 UHNWIs per 100,000, outpacing 19 countries including New Zealand and the UK (see chart on p.21). Unsurprisingly, Monaco tops the list with an equivalent rate of 574 per 100,000.

Wealth equality

But when looking at these wealthy residents as a proportion of the country’s total population, the US, with 12 UHNWIs per 100,000, is outgunned by 19 countries including New Zealand and the UK (see chart on p.21). Unsurprisingly, Monaco tops the list with an equivalent rate of 574 per 100,000.

While Monaco is set to double its population of ultra-wealthy residents over the next 10 years, it will not quite keep up with the rate of growth in some other economies, including Vietnam, the Ivory Coast, Kazakhstan and Indonesia, which are forecast to see the largest increases in UHNWI populations over the next decade (see chart above).

We identified Kazakhstan last year as a country to watch, and this is still the case. It is set for a 14% increase in UHNWIs over the next 10 years, much higher than the 46% growth forecast for neighbouring Russia. Indeed, most of the CIS countries are set to outperform Russia in terms of UHNWI growth – not only because of the military and fiscal turbulence in the country, but also because of the trend in Russia for those who have amassed wealth to base themselves overseas. Almost one-third of Russian UHNWIs would like to change their domicile, according to the Antidotes Survey.

Indonesia, which is expected to see 132% growth in the number of ultra-wealthy people by 2024, is the only MINT country where 10-year forecast growth exceeds 100%. Jim O’Neill, former Chairman of Goldman Sachs, popularised the acronym MINT for Mexico, Indonesia, Nigeria and Turkey, identifying them as the new engines of economic growth. Nigeria comes close to Indonesia with 90% forecast growth in UHNWIs. It is striking, however, that even this level of growth is not enough to clinch the top spot for Africa, which is taken by the Ivory Coast (149%).

Deon de Klerk, Head of International Private Clients at Standard Bank, Africa’s largest bank, says: “Africa has the highest potential for growth of any region at the moment. Reforms in Nigeria have been expedited, helping the country build credibility among foreign investors. It is an exciting time.”

When we look at the amalgamated expectations for growth in UHNWIs, the MINT countries, with average expected uplift of 76% over the next decade, narrowly defeat the BRIC countries (Brazil, Russia, India and China), which have an average forecast growth of 72%. However, they both far outstrip global average

In terms of sheer numbers, the US will still be the dominant force in terms of its ultra-wealthy population in 2024.
forecast growth (54%) and the average increase expected across the G8 (28%) over the next decade.

In China, policymakers are under increasing pressure with questions over economic growth mounting as well as political tensions surfacing in Hong Kong. However, Gabriel Sterne, Head of Global Macro Investor Services at Oxford Economics, says there is room for more education and financial deepening in the country. “We still see China as a success story, and in key cities, housing prices catch up in terms of productivity,” he says. Certainly by 2024 China is not only set to be the largest economy in the world, but will boast nearly 15,700 UHNWIs and 338 billionaires.

Meanwhile, elections in India and Brazil have sparked opportunities for more economic growth. India has seen a 166% rise in UHNWIs over the past decade, and with the new Indian government commanding a majority in the lower house for the first time at any point in its history, there is real opportunity to introduce far more transparency. That in turn will boost foreign investment. WealthInsight forecasts a 104% increase in India’s UHNWIs over the next decade.

Last year’s election in Brazil, and the ensuing interest rate rise by the country’s central bank, has led to its independent muscles, could start to shore up the Global pyramid of wealth 2014

PEOPLE WITH NET WORTH OVER $1 MILLION

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<th>Billionaires</th>
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*As of 15:40 GMT 27 January 2015
Source: WealthInsight, worldometers.info

**WEALTH TAXES: THE GREAT DEBATE**

The debate about income inequality (see graphic below) and wealth taxes gained traction during 2014, not least because of the wide discussions around the idea of Thomas Piketty, a French economist who argues that there should be a global wealth tax on the richest in order to redistribute money to the poorest in society. The well-regarded OECD has also highlighted the idea of a wealth tax in its economic survey of France in 2014, arguing that using tax and transfers to tackle inequality can be effective as long as the policies are highly targeted, aimed at not just the very poorest but the poorest 40% of the population, particularly focusing on education.

Yet other economists point out that it has been proved that high marginal tax rates can decrease productivity and inhibit entrepreneurialism, as those who succeed are faced with the prospect of much higher levies. Dr Pippa Malmgren, founder of DRPM Group and former economic adviser to US President George W. Bush, argues that instead of focusing on taxes, wealth brackets, there should be more emphasis on creating more wealth for all. In her book Signale, published earlier this year, she argues that instead of increasing tax levies, governments should be cutting them, especially for entrepreneurs and small businesses: “The argument seems to have swung to distribution, when in fact it should be about productivity. It is essential that the policymakers focus on innovating and growing their economies.”

**THE POWER OF MASS AFFLUECE**

**Special focus on the importance of middle-class wealth growth**

GRÁINNE GILMORE, HEAD OF UK RESIDENTIAL RESEARCH

Millionaires. UHNWIs. Cents-mil-

The changes happening below the apex of the pyramid, while less glamorous, are just as important to anybody interested in the luxury sector. Mass affluence, or the creation of middle-class consumers with disposable income to spend, is inextricably linked with economic growth and development, and wealth creation.

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**Whatever the definition, there is no doubt that the middle classes have been expanding rapidly in emerging econo-

mic countries in recent years. Millanovic and Yitzhaki’s measure, there are more than 750 million middle-class people in G20 developing economies, such as China, Brazil and India, and around one billion in advanced economies.

Between 2000 and 2010, Africa’s middle-class population grew from 29% to 34% of the continent’s total popula-
tion, while the OECD says that by 2030 nearly 40% of the US and Europe’s middle class can often be accompanied by political challenges, however, as the growth in economic independence sparks greater demand for better services – especially education, political transparency and freedom of expression. In the past two years alone there have been protests in countries including Brazil, Hong Kong, Venezuela, Bulgaria, China and Turkey, which have, to some extent, been associated with the increasingly vociferous demands of the middle classes.

A growing and strengthening middle class can often be accompanied by political challenges, however, as the growth in economic independence sparks greater demand for better services – especially education, political transparency and freedom of expression. In the past two years alone there have been protests in countries including Brazil, Hong Kong, Venezuela, Bulgaria, China and Turkey, which have, to some extent, been associated with the increasingly vociferous demands of the middle classes.

Yet the increasing demands of the middle classes can also prove a great spur to innovation, encouraging entrepreneurs to start their own businesses to provide this new emerging class with disposable income, which in turn provides good jobs to lift more people into the middle classes – resulting in a virtuous circle.

This ability of the middle class to grow itself is perhaps just as well, as amid a cooler outlook for the global economy, the eyes of the world are turning to the middle classes – and more importantly their wallets and purses. Their spending power is a crucial lever to help boost global demand.

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The Wealth Report asks what the biggest risks and opportunities for wealth creation around the world are.

**Volatile outlook**

**JOHN VEALE**
Chief Investment Officer at Stonehage Investment Partners, a global multifamily office

Geo-political events such as the escalation of Russia’s actions and Ukraine could lead to a further loss of confidence and potentially a deflationary trap, particularly in Europe. At the other extreme, if economic growth is stronger than anticipated and central banks are wrong-footed by wage pressures on inflation, this could lead to tightening of policy and strong rises in yields. As investment advisors we worry more about these issues today, as loose monetary policies have helped push the valuation of many asset markets to levels that allow little room for disappointment.

**Pricing of equities**

**CHRIS WILLIAMSON**
Chief Economist at Markit, a global financial information services provider

I see the biggest disconnect at present being the disconnect between the pricing of bonds and commodities on the one hand, and equities on the other. While bond and commodity prices are pricing in weak global demand, recent stock market rallies seem to be factoring in the expectation of future profits based on rising demand. This year will certainly be a year to watch how the markets react to withdrawal of monetary stimulus in the US, as there is a strong argument that the stock rally has been fuelled by excess credit in developed and emerging markets, fuelled by quantitative easing.

**Government expansion**

**CURT RICHARDSON**
UNHR US tech entrepreneur and founder of OtterBox

One key risk, certainly in the US but also elsewhere around the world, is the continued expansion of government. There has been exponential growth in the size of the government in the US over the past eight to 12 years, and this has been marked by more taxes and regulation. These developments have an impact on the dollars people have to invest. When there is uncertainty about whether a tax regime will continue to change, or about expanding regulation, investment decisions change, which in turn can have an effect on economic as well as investment outcomes. The US’s approach to this is, in effect, a global issue, as its economic performance has international ramifications.

**Sustained political upheaval**

**DEON DE KLERK**
Head of International Private Clients at Standard Bank, the largest bank in Africa

Instability is a risk to any form of economic growth. This is particularly true in Africa. A major sustained political upheaval or a similar incident could detract from the important projects being implemented that should deliver growth. There are many countries within Africa, all at different stages of development. The ideal is that each of these countries stays on track towards economic development and growth. But if any of them, especially one of the major nations such as Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa or Angola, took a sudden change of direction, then that would pose a risk to Africa’s growth story.

**Property and investments of passion**

**CHRIS WILLIAMSON**
Chief Economist at Markit, a global financial information services provider

After a period such as the financial crisis, with the great correction that happened in its wake, there are always opportunities to find assets that might still be undervalued, whether property in the US or Spain. Even seven years after the crisis, there are still opportunities available. And when the markets react to political events, then that would pose a risk to Africa’s growth story.

**Technology**

**JOHN VEALE**
Chief Investment Officer at Stonehage Investment Partners, a global multifamily office

Identifying specific growth opportunities is made more difficult by the uncertain outlook, and it is equally difficult to be sure which assets will be low risk in the future – traditional havens cannot be guaranteed to remain low risk, and this includes blue-chip companies and government debt. But in this environment, excessive caution can be misplaced, and even wealth preservation requires a degree of risk. Taking a 10-year view, advances in technology should continue to empower the spread of education and prosperity, and in turn fuel consumer demand. Only a major conflict is likely to stand in the way of this.

**Africa’s young population**

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Head of International Private Clients at Standard Bank, the largest bank in Africa

Africa is one of the few regions remaining in the world where there is huge potential for growth. It has a growing and young population that is fuelling demand and pushing up economic activity and wealth creation. The continent also boasts a strong strand of entrepreneurialism, which has resulted in a clear shift towards substantial growth in HNWI numbers over recent years. Given that Africa currently accounts for 18% of the world’s population, but delivers only 4% of global output, it unquestionably offers great opportunity over the medium and longer term.

**Technology and real estate**

**CURT RICHARDSON**
UNHR US tech entrepreneur and founder of OtterBox

There will be growing opportunities in emerging-market technology, that is, new, more-sophisticated developments within the technology we all use every day. Funding platforms such as Kickstarter are exciting, helping engender more new ideas. We also see real estate, mostly commercial property, in the US as an opportunity – there is a reassurance that you can actually go kick your investment. People should not overlook the opportunities in developed economies. For many years the story has been about emerging economies, based on their manufacturing. But we have moved some of our manufacturing back to the US and Canada in recent years – there is opportunity here.

**Risks**

**NARROW ECONOMIC GROWTH**

**DR SHUBHADA RAO**
Senior President and Chief Economist at Yes Bank, one of India’s largest private-sector banks

The risk for wealth creation in the Indian economy and many other emerging economies will arise if economic growth over the coming years is not spread across every sector of the economy, from services to energy. Such broad-based growth results in a quicker trickle-down effect than when the economy is relying on just a few strong pockets of output. Every economy that transforms itself from an emerging to a developed economy has seen some instances where wealth inequality has grown, but this seems to be most acute where the economy is leaning on just one or two levels of growth.

**Opportunities**

**FIND THE “MISSING MIDDLE” OF MANUFACTURING**

**DR SHUBHADA RAO**
Senior President and Chief Economist at Yes Bank, one of India’s largest private-sector banks

The opportunities for wealth creation, especially in India, are potentially huge. If policymakers can boost manufacturing, or, as I call it, the “missing middle”. There are signs of a stronger and more-transparent policy system under the new Modi government, and, if successful, this will attract more overseas investment. India has the ability and the know-how to increase its global presence in terms of manufacturing, and it could benefit from the global links created by overseas investors. If allowed to flourish, a manufacturing sector in India could provide massive growth. Education is also more widespread than in other emerging economies.

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Global Cities Survey

What makes a city important to the wealthy, and what makes them want to live there? Researchers attempt to solve this conundrum by measuring and ranking quality of life and a host of other indicators.

Of course, if we measure a city’s importance by political power, Washington DC and Beijing will be at the top of the tree, followed closely by Brussels, the power base of the EU. If we assess quality of life, a clutch of northern European, Canadian and Australian cities, led by the likes of Melbourne and Toronto, will dominate. But, by and large, these cities do not boast the highest concentrations of UHNWI residents. You may need to lobby in Washington or Brussels, but you are less likely to want to live there.

Our focus, as highlighted so graphically on pp30-31, is to consider the number of UHNWI residents who actually choose to live in each city.

To provide a more rounded picture we have also assessed responses from our Attitudes Survey, in which we asked wealth advisors around the world to name the cities where their clients spend time for business and leisure. “Follow the money” was the sage advice from the Watergate mole, and it holds true at the top of our rankings. London and New York, the world’s dominant financial centres, take the first two positions in our latest rankings. Although the total wealth held by UHNWIs is now greater in Asia than in North America, no single city can claim to be the region’s economic hub and really challenge the dominance of London and New York.

Within the Asia-Pacific region, Hong Kong is now the most important city largely because of its close economic affinity with China, although Singapore has the biggest UHNWI population.

Some of the most interesting results are not found at the top of city ranking tables – new candidates rarely emerge – and up-and-coming locations offer some of the most interesting opportunities for entrepreneurial UHNWIs or those looking to join the ranks of the super-rich. On p32 and p33 we highlight four cities around the world that could be worth a closer look.

01 London calling: The UK’s capital is now the world’s most important city, but that distinction could belong to New York by 2025.

02 Power shift: Despite not being able to grab the top spots from London and New York, the number of UHNWI residents in Singapore and Hong Kong is set to increase more rapidly over the next 10 years. Seven of the top 10 risers are in Asia.

03 Asian battle: Hong Kong overtakes Singapore as the key city for UHNWIs in Asia. It will retain this position in 2025.
The world’s top 40 cities

The latest results from our Global Cities Survey, which monitors the cities that matter to the world’s wealthy.

Changing fortunes across our rankings over the past 12 months have seen Hong Kong and Singapore continue to slug it out for pole position in Asia. This year Hong Kong edges ahead, moving from fourth to third position in our global top 10. With Shanghai maintaining its steady rise, Asia holds four of the top 10 slots in our list. Although Geneva loses ground this year, Zurich’s strengthening helps maintain European representation.

Focusing purely on the population of wealthy residents, our data confirms that London remains the single biggest centre for global UHNWIs, followed by Tokyo, New York and London and, with New York expected to be the biggest global total, with over $20.000 HNWI, and Tokyo slipping to second place with $9.000.

By this point Beijing will sit in third position, with 360,000 dollar millionaires, a rise of 55% over the decade. Despite the US and Japan hanging on with the two biggest city counts, growth even at this wealth level will be dominated by Asian centres, with six of the 10 biggest growth cities in absolute terms being in Asia. Collectively they are expected to add 600,000 new HNWIs to their populations over the period to 2024. In Mumbai alone forecast growth is a phenomenal 125,000 – a 120% increase.

Our Attitudes Survey points to the cities that UHNWIs believe will yield the best investment opportunities in 2015 – led by New York, London, Berlin and Los Angeles.

Looking to the future, one constant remains: the rise of the Asian powerhouse cities, the relative decline of the European centres and the tussle between the two global behemoths – New York and London, with New York expected to be the most important city for global UHNWIs in 2028.

Geographic concentration of wealth

In 10 years we will see a reversal, with the US and Japan in decline, the next decade, despite an average closure of the gap with a 54% growth in its population of UHNWIs over that period. London remains the single biggest centre for global HNWIs, followed by Tokyo, New York and London and, with New York expected to be the most important city for global UHNWIs in 2028.

Most important cities to UHNWIs in 2025

Source: Knight Frank Global Cities Survey

Top cities with the greatest growth in the number of UHNWI residents (2014–2024)


How we measure the world

Our analysis confirms the most important global cities to the world’s wealthy.

Our measure includes an assessment of unique city-level UHNWI population counts, provided by WealthReport; in addition, our Attitudes Survey contributes rankings covering the importance of cities for their business links, economic activity and lifestyle offer. In short, these are the cities where the wealthy congregate, work, invest, are educated and spend their leisure time.

Future forecasts for wealth populations and judgements of the changing influence of cities from our Attitudes Survey underpin our forecast for the top 10 cities in 2025.
Where UHNWIs really live

Our Global Cities Survey touched on the locations with the highest concentration of UHNWIs; here we take a wider graphical look at city-level populations around the world in 2014.

Source: Wealth Insight
Cities of the future

The Wealth Report picks locations with a potentially bright future

The cities featured on this spread are not those about to be listed among the world’s top 10 or even top 20 most important cities. Indeed, none of them yet boasts any billionaire residents, according to data from Wealth Insights, but their HNWI (millionaire) and UHNWI populations are rising, and they are locations whose influence we believe is growing strongly at a regional level. Even if they are unlikely to be on the second-home list of most UHNWIs, they should certainly be on their radars in terms of the wealth creation opportunities they will present.

Belgrade, Serbia

As with all our featured cities, rising wealth is a key illustration of the growing strength of Belgrade’s economic fortunes. While seeing only a steady 12% rise in the number of HNWI residents in the years from 2007 to 2014, the expectation is that this figure will jump markedly by 2024, with a forecast of 72% growth over the decade.

Accounting for 40% of Serbia’s economic activity, the city acts as south-eastern Europe’s financial and business centre and is witnessing rising levels of foreign direct investment. Inward investment has been aided by tax incentives and grants and an increasingly competitive tax environment, which has attracted the likes of Fiat and Siemens to invest in plants in the city.

Lifestyle improvements over the past decade have been supercharged by a growing reputation as a tourist centre – Lonely Planet describes Belgrade as “one of the most happening cities in Europe” – luring young visitors in particular, who are staying in increasing numbers, attracted by low-cost and relatively high-quality office accommodation to develop internet and app start-ups, including leading online gaming firms.

Panama City

The unique geography that has blessed Panama with its canal has also aided economic growth and wealth creation in its capital, Panama City, by bridging the divide between Latin and North America. With a near doubling in the number of HNWIs since 2007 to 4,700 in 2014 and nearly 7,000 by 2024, The Economist’s decision to label the city a “Singapore for Central America” seems increasingly prescient. In a Central American context Panama offers a high degree of economic and regulatory stability. Investors are attracted by the strongest economic growth offered in the region and also a very competitive tax environment – all of which have contributed to foreign direct investment levels hitting 9% of GDP in recent years.

Tourism and retirement developments have added to the attractions of the city. High-quality transport and health care and a growing presence of global hotel brands have drawn investment from entrepreneurs looking to expand on a strong food and lifestyle scene.

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Africa’s fastest-growing economy, Ethiopia, benefits from not only the political importance of Addis Ababa but also the 4.8% annual growth rate of the population within the capital. In addition to natural growth, there is vast rural-urban migration, which planners predict combined could lead to the size of the city surging by 2040 to over 8.1 million. Wealth creation has seen a near doubling of the population of HNWIs since 2007 to a little over 1,300, with one of the strongest forecast growth rates for the coming decade – with an expected expansion to 2,600 by 2024.

The city is understandably witnessing severe growing pains, with public investment in transport including an overhead rail network, and construction dominating GDP growth. Relocation of existing residents to accommodate new infrastructure has caused severe stresses on some sectors of the city’s population. The Renaissance dam under construction on the Blue Nile is Africa's largest hydroelectric scheme and could provide energy security – a vital component for economic development.

With the presence of the African Union headquarters, and the headquarters of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, as well as a number of continental and international organizations, the city is commonly regarded as the political capital of Africa, lending a strong diplomatic and political edge to its growing economic strengths.

Yangon, Myanmar

With its number of HNWI residents set to more than double over the coming decade, hitting in excess of 3,500 US dollar millionaires by 2024, Myanmar’s former capital and largest city, Yangon, is a classic example of emerging market wealth creation.

Benefitting from the gradual opening up of its economy, following the introduction of democratic reforms in recent years, the city has seen strong employment growth and inward investment, with annual GDP growth at a national level predicted to eclipse that seen in India and even China in 2015 and 2016. Accounting for a fifth of overall economic output, Yangon is set to be the lead beneficiary of this process.

Controls over non-resident property ownership have slowed private international investments, but private equity investment in business, especially those in the construction and development sectors, have been one method for non-residents to gain exposure to rising property values. Restaurant, hotel and retail offer has been improving steadily over the past five years, and new entrants are arriving rapidly – with tourism visits forecast to grow from three million in 2013 to over seven million in 2020. A grand tour of Myanmar is now on the wishlist for wealthy tourists.

The Economist’s decision to label Panama “a Singapore for Central America” seems increasingly prescient.
The performance of the world’s most important prime residential markets

Virtually everybody likes to talk about house prices, particularly the value of their own home. But for ultra-wealthy individuals who may own houses around the world, keeping track of their portfolio’s worth is not that simple.

However, Knight Frank’s newly enlarged Prime International Residential Index (PIRI) now includes performance data for 100 of the world’s key luxury city and second-home markets, and is recognised as the sector’s most comprehensive performance benchmark.

So what does the PIRI 100 tell us about prime market performance in 2014 – which UHNWI property owners will be rubbing their palms, and who will be less cheerful? Well, the picture is certainly mixed around the world.

Those lucky enough to have property in the US are unlikely to have any complaints, as domestic and international demand fuelled price growth. European destinations fared less well, with values dropping on average by 0.4% across the continent. Overall, city markets around the world outperformed second-home sun and ski destinations.

Of course, the analysis over the following pages is about more than just what happened last year. While past performance is interesting, what the astute property owner will be more concerned about is future trends.

Although isolated issues such as the Swiss government’s surprise decision to unpeg its currency from the euro in January – house prices in effect became 20% more expensive overnight for foreign buyers – will clearly impact markets, we see two main opposing trends at play at the macro level. How they play out will have a profound impact on prime property markets. On one hand, the growing globalisation of wealth means there are more UHNWIs from more countries looking for luxury homes in an increasingly diverse number of international destinations; on the other, there is burgeoning government scrutiny of wealth and levels of protectionism.

The globalisation theme is highlighted by the rising number of UHNWIs who are looking to shift their domicile; with the help of immigration specialist Fragomen we explore this trend in more detail on page 42. The growing usage of private jets for business and personal purposes is another reflection of rising wealth mobility. Using exclusive data from NetJets we highlight the most popular and fastest-growing routes for the ultra-rich traveller.

And finally, Massimo Ferragamo, of the Italian fashion house Ferragamo, shares some of his own perspectives on luxury property ownership.

The PIRI 100

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US shines as global growth falls

Analysis of the latest trends to emerge from Knight Frank’s unique Prime International Residential Index (PIRI)

KATE EVERETT-ALLEN, HEAD OF INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTIAL RESEARCH

The value of luxury residential property around the world saw by just over 2% on average in 2014, based on the performance of the 100 locations covered by our PIRI rankings. With reversals in markets as far apart as Asia, the Middle East and Europe, growth was lower than the 2.1% seen in 2013.

The US dominates the top of our table, taking four out of the top 10 positions, with New York (+18.8%) and Aspen (+16%) in first and second place respectively. The disparity with Europe’s cities is stark. Luxury prices rose by almost 13% on average across US cities last year, compared with an average of only 2.5% in Europe.

Bali, the leading Asian second-home market, and the emerging Middle Eastern urban powerhouse of Istanbul were stand-out performers, with luxury prices up by 15% in a year on year in both markets.

Our previous forecast, drawn from Jakarta, which led the rankings in 2012 and 2013, slipped to 12th place this year, an indication of the housing market slowdown evident across many Asian cities last year.

Some very strong markets such as Dubai (17% growth in 2013) saw prices slow markedly (0.3% in 2014). This is in part because of the massive price cap of the Central Bank of the UAE, which is stricter for those purchasing properties above five million dirham.

The dampening impact of this prudent macro policy also explains the ongoing weak growth in Hong Kong and Singapore. Government policy has been deliberately aimed at limiting price rises through higher taxation and mortgage market intervention.

Mainland China mirrored this trend with prime price growth in Shanghai (0%), Beijing (-0.3%) and Guangzhou (0.6%) proving lacklustre at best.

Buenos Aires proved our weakest performer, but with GDP growth in negative territory in 2014, the city’s housing market tribulations are less than surprising.

While the threat of Mayor de Blasio’s so-called pied-a-terre tax doesn’t appear to have damped growth in New York, recent hikes in stamp duty (a purchase tax) have curtailed the rate of price growth for properties worth over £2m in London, holding overall prime price growth at 5.1% for the year. The latest changes to UK Stamp Duty mean higher costs for those purchasing a property priced at £327,000 or above, this may cap growth above this threshold in the near term.

Despite the more muted performance of the PIRI 100 this year, luxury housing markets continue to outperform their mainstream counterparts. The average price of a luxury home in our index is 58% higher than it was at the index’s lowest point in the second quarter of 2009; the average price of mainstream global property has risen by just 14% over the same period.

The PIRI 100

The latest results of our Prime International Residential Index, which marks the change in price of prime residential property in 100 cities and second-home locations (annual percent growth to 31 December 2014)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>World Region</th>
<th>Annual % change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>New York</td>
<td>North America</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Aspen</td>
<td>North America</td>
<td>16.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Istanbul</td>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>15.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Abu Dhabi</td>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>14.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>San Francisco</td>
<td>North America</td>
<td>14.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Dubai</td>
<td>Middle East</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Cape Town</td>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Mumbai</td>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>12.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>North America</td>
<td>11.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Auckland</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Sydney</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>11.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Tel Aviv</td>
<td>Middle East</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Bengaluru</td>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Amsterdam</td>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Mumbai</td>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Paris</td>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Washington DC</td>
<td>North America</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Johannesburg</td>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*All price changes relate to local currency and reflect nominal change.

Government policy has been deliberately aimed at limiting price rises through higher taxation and mortgage market intervention.

**Prime property values in New York are soaring**

The value of luxury residential property around the world saw by just over 2% on average in 2014, based on the performance of the 100 locations covered by our PIRI rankings. With reversals in markets as far apart as Asia, the Middle East and Europe, growth was lower than the 2.1% seen in 2013.

The US dominates the top of our table, taking four out of the top 10 positions, with New York (+18.8%) and Aspen (+16%) in first and second place respectively. The disparity with Europe’s cities is stark. Luxury prices rose by almost 13% on average across US cities last year, compared with an average of only 2.5% in Europe.

Bali, the leading Asian second-home market, and the emerging Middle Eastern urban powerhouse of Istanbul were stand-out performers, with luxury prices up by 15% in a year on year in both markets.

Our previous forecast, drawn from Jakarta, which led the rankings in 2012 and 2013, slipped to 12th place this year, an indication of the housing market slowdown evident across many Asian cities last year.

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Opposing forces

The tension between protectionism and globalisation in residential markets is impacting market performance

Liam Bailey, Global Head of Research

Since Knight Frank published the first edition of The Wealth Report in 2007, a relatively simple narrative – undented by even the global financial crisis – has dominated our analysis of global luxury residential markets. Growing wealth creation has led to an increasing number of buyers, from an ever-widening list of countries, purchasing property in a growing number of global hubs. This trend for 2014 of significant volumes of wealthy Chinese investors in luxury global hubs.

The strength of London’s education offer has long underpinned demand for the city’s property. A decade ago Russian, Middle Eastern or European children moving into London schools would be starting at age 13. Rising competition for places at this age means a starting age of seven or eight is increasingly the norm.

London is not the sole education target. There is a growing desire for UNWINI to craft a global education experience – school in the UK or Australia, university, in the US, postgraduate study or MBA in Europe – creating global citizens in terms of language, location and education. And at every stage there will almost inevitably be a property requirement.

But long-term trends, such as the growing appetite for international education, and the pull of stable political, economic and regulatory safe havens, are responsible for the most durable ongoing demand sources.

Although rules surrounding the immigration process are tightening in some locations, the general trend is for more countries, especially indebted European ones, to try to attract new wealthy residents. Although it can be a challenge for countries to create high-value immigration schemes and meet tough compliance safeguards, more will undoubtedly try.

Perhaps the biggest trend that would contribute to our globalisation narrative assumption for a moment. Since the financial crisis the list of countries that have imposed tougher controls on the free flow of capital, even if only temporarily, has grown longer – India, Ghana, Cyprus, Ukraine, with more to come. There has been a shift away from the assumed direction of travel – of more liberal trading conditions.

Even if China does liberalise, the huge potential for Chinese investment flows to influence asset prices globally highlights the tension between our globalisation and protectionism themes.

Rising demand from emerging-world wealth has the potential to lead to a more strategic political and regulatory backlash in the main global investment hubs – if asset prices and affordability issues rise strongly as a result.

PIWI (Prime International Residential Index)

The square metres of luxury property US$1m will buy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Second home – sun</th>
<th>Second home – ski</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monaco</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hong Kong*</td>
<td>$680,000</td>
<td>$680,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>London</td>
<td>$680,000</td>
<td>$680,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>$680,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geneva</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sydney*</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shanghai*</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paris</td>
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<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miami</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beijing</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rome</td>
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<td>$250,000</td>
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<td>Moscow</td>
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<td>Istanbul</td>
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<td>Tokyo</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>$250,000</td>
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<td>New York</td>
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<td>Miami</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rome</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are, however, two potential factors to add to its narrative. Firstly, there is a politically restrictive approach, with more taxation and regulation aimed at non-resident investors. By asking for notification of second passports, Russia has confirmed how restrictions can easily come from the wealthier nations. China could introduce a wealth tax on outbound capital flows or even a worldwide tax regime.

Alternatively, it is just as likely that China will enter into greater cooperation on information exchange – regarding taxation and by which China, and others, will ultimately join in the wider policing of global wealth. This shift towards increased global cooperation over taxation and transparency, and the sharing of investor details, would see a greater alignment of costs and benefits between wealth-exporting countries and the investment destinations where – which could ultimately support long-term growth in investment.

The square metres of luxury property US$1m will buy

Source: See main PFI table on page 37. *Based on apartments only

FIVE GLOBAL PRIME RESIDENTIAL HOTSPOTS

London

St John Street, Clerkenwell. This area has led the left-trending for over 30 years. We see the demand for left accommodation increasing. Scarcity will drive pricing, as well Crossrail, with the nearby Farmington station providing access to this key investment location. The Tech City association will drive the continued growth of high-quality shopping and restaurants.

Typical 700 sq ft apartment – US$200,000

New York

Business Bay, Dubai. Work has started on building a channel connecting the city to the existing lake that lies in front of the Burj Khalifa. This will allow access for super yachts and sailing boats to the city. Construction of large towers lining the channel is under way, providing residences with the unique benefit of cruising facilities in this central location.

Typical 1,100 sq ft apartment – US$400,000

Hong Kong

Our tip for Hong Kong is the Sai Ying Pun neighbourhood which is within close walking distance to central Hong Kong but retains local charm. The area is a mecca for good shops and excellent local restaurants. While more residential buildings have started to be developed in the area, there are still many opportunities for redevelopment.

Typical 700 sq ft apartment – US$150,000

Rising demand from emerging-world wealth has the potential to lead to a stronger political and regulatory backlash in the main global investment hubs – if asset prices and affordability issues rise strongly as a result.

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FLY AWAY

Using exclusive NetJets data, The Wealth Report looks at the most popular private jet routes and assesses their impact on wealth migration and property investment destinations.

With its density of wealth and internal economic linkages, the US remains the world’s most important private jet market by some distance, according to private aviation provider NetJets. This dominance is borne out when we consider the globe’s busiest private jet routes, where 60% of the traffic starts and ends in the US.

NetJets confirms that Europe is the second-largest market, at around 25% of the US. Russia continues to represent a significant portion of overall European demand. Moscow is among the top 10 routes with highest hours flown, as recorded by NetJets, reflecting the ongoing importance of Russian wealth in luxury property investment destinations and the growing strength of property in long-distance resorts.

NetJets reports that the synergy between New York and London is greater than ever, with traffic on this major route increasing every year.

While Dubai and the broader UAE are seeing increasing traffic, the Middle East’s position as the world’s third-largest market is being challenged by the rise of traffic in China and Brazil. Traffic from Brazil to Europe has grown 20% each year since 2010, with the main destinations including France, Spain, Portugal and the UK – reflected by luxury property investment purchases by Brazilian buyers during 2014.

Africa is a more fragmented market, although Nigeria has become a major private jet hub – with flights to and from Lagos making it into our list of the top 10 fastest-growing global routes.

Anticipating wealth flows from one part of the world to another has become an industry in itself. The insight of NetJets shines some light on the latest trends. There is a clear synergy between established market routes and investment flows – with London and New York displaying one of the closest prime property relationships as well as flight paths.

The most insightful data comes when we look at emerging-market demand. Latin American investment in Europe, for example, has long been overshadowed by the huge waves of investment flowing into Miami and other US hotspots. The breadth of routes flown into key EU markets from Brazil, but also Argentina and other key southern American hubs, reveals a closer relationship between these markets than is often recognised.

The huge potential for demand for property in Europe, and also in North America, from investors based in Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America is hinted at by the new growth routes highlighted by the NetJets data.

WHO IS FLYING?

Over 80% of private jet passengers are male. The typical age for flyers is 40–55. Private entrepreneurs dominate in terms of profession. Source of wealth tends to be from finance and the oil and gas sectors. NetJets reports that flyers from the property industry have returned in the past 12 months, joined by owners of technology companies.
PASSPORTS, PLEASE

HNWI migration is a major influence on the global luxury property market. Using research provided by global immigration specialist Fragomen, we examine the directions of travel.

Anyone watching London’s stellar residential market performance will be unsurprised to hear that the UK has been a top recipient of mobileHNWIs over the past decade. According to Nadine Goldfoot, a partner at Fragomen, over 60% of these have been from Europe, but substantial numbers also coming from China, Russia, Italy, the Middle East (especially Saudi Arabia, Syria and Turkey) and Africa (led by South Africa, Nigeria and Egypt). More recently, 30% of the EU applications in the first nine months of 2014 for the UK’s Tier 1 investor visas were from China, with 162 coming from Russia.

Singapore has seen strong migration of HNWIs from China, India and Indonesia. Flows into the US predominantly come from the UK, India and Russia, although Fragomen’s worldwide client practice notes a number of HNWIs who had been domiciled in Switzerland for tax purposes have relocated to Singapore, the UK or the UAE.

There has been growing speculation over the success of more recent entrants to the investor immigration market – most of them in Europe. Fragomen has noticed a sizeable uptick in programmes linked to property purchases in Europe – across Spain, Portugal and Latvia.

Malta’s Individual Investor Programme introduced in February 2014 had received over 200 applications by August 2014, with applicants from 30 countries, but mostly from Russia.

Official figures show over 1,936 visas were issued in the first 12 months of Portugal’s Golden Visa programme. Here the vast majority of applicants have been from China, representing close to 80% of total demand.

The biggest story in terms of wealth-exporting nations is undoubtedly China. It is estimated that 76,000 Chinese millionaires emigrated or acquired alternative citizenship over the 10 years to 2013. They are a significant force in Europe and dominate Asia-Pacific schemes – with around 90% of applicants for Australia’s Significant Investor visa coming from China.

India’s wealthy migrants tend to favour the UK and Australia. French and Italian HNWIs prefer the UK and Switzerland. Some 73,000 Russians received foreign passports in 2013/14, the majority of the HNWIs among them focusing on the UK and US.

Countries with the biggest inflows of HNWIs (past 10 years)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>HNWI 2013</th>
<th>HNWI gained from 2012 to 2013 (as a percentage of total HNWI population)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>11,900</td>
<td>4,600 (39%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>32,000</td>
<td>2,000 (6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>59,000</td>
<td>1,600 (27%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>42,000</td>
<td>1,700 (4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
<td>22,000</td>
<td>900 (4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>11,000</td>
<td>2,000 (18%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UAE</td>
<td>2,300</td>
<td>1,000 (45%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Countries with the biggest outflows of HNWIs (past 10 years)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>HNWI 2013</th>
<th>HNWI lost from 2012 to 2013 (as a percentage of total HNWI population)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>22,000</td>
<td>9,000 (41%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>37,000</td>
<td>8,000 (22%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>26,000</td>
<td>4,000 (15%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>13,000</td>
<td>2,000 (15%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>3,000 (20%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>22,000</td>
<td>4,000 (18%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>2,000 (17%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Fragomen using data from New World Wealth survey.

Future prime property trends

The main factors that are likely to drive prime residential markets over the short and long term

LIAM BAILEY, GLOBAL HEAD OF RESEARCH

Demand will increasingly be driven by international developers

The world’s largest residential developers, led by players from China, Hong Kong and Malaysia, continue to diversify into new markets. Where Greenland Group, Swire, China Vanke Co and Lodha Group lead, they are followed by private compatriot investors looking to dip their toe into international investment – with the reassurance of buying from a familiar brand. Watch for Hong Kong buyers in Miami, and Chinese buyers on the Australian Gold Coast and the US West Coast – and just about every nationality in London and New York.

Some buyers will find the market less welcoming

Pressure from any number of bodies – the EU, the US and the OECD included – on low tax jurisdictions to comply with transparency rulings is acting in concert with ever-tighter regulations aimed at reducing the risk of money laundering. Similarly, while EU and US restrictions on Russia over the Ukraine crisis may have been tightly drawn in terms of named individuals with whom to avoid doing business, the somewhat vague wording in the regulations has caused professional advisers to become increasingly risk-averse in terms of whom they work with. Banks in particular will simply not risk falling short of regulatory standards. There are a small but growing number of potential buyers who will find it increasingly difficult to access foreign property markets.

Government stimulus will be with us for longer

That ultra-low interest rates and government stimulus measures have aided demand for residential property, as with just about every other tangible asset, is a given. A year ago the assumption was that it was only a matter of time before interest rates would begin to rise across the developed world. A year on and the continued fragility of the eurozone recovery and broader concerns over the global economy have meant that policy tightening has been pushed further into 2015 and even into 2016. It appears that the support for global demand and the ability of purchasers to push prices higher will be with us for some while yet.

Technology will reinforce the globalisation of demand

In last year’s edition of The Wealth Report we discussed the potential impact of suborbital travel on property demand over the next 10 to 20 years. More immediate support for global demand is likely to come from improvements to traditional jet technology. Several companies such as Aeron, Spike Aerospace, Lockheed Martin and Boeing are working to reintroduce a more affordable and sustainable supersonic replacement for Concorde.

Reducing the London to New York travel time from seven hours to three and a half is the first ambitious objective.

New buyers will help boost demand in established and emerging prime markets

Mexico, Indonesia, Nigeria and Turkey will be among the biggest suppliers of HNWIs hungry to buy luxury international property. Although Mexican nationals tend to move into the US, they are positive about European opportunities, with some notable investments made in Spain and Germany in 2014. Turkey is a growth market, although because of ongoing problems around banking licences and restrictions on capital flows, real demand has been held below potential levels. Indonesian buyers will become a much more serious force in Australia and the wider Asia-Pacific region in 2015. While Nigerian buyers will still form a strong sector of the market in key cities like London and New York, they will increase their activity closer to home in South Africa and Mauritius.
Personal perspectives

on property

The Wealth Report Editor Andrew Shirley talks to MASSIMO FERRAGAMO about homes, property investments and an unusual collection

Massimo Ferragamo's life seems to divide neatly in two. Not only does he split his time between Italy and the US — “I was sent there to work for the Ferragamo business when I was 25” — but in each country he likes to move between homes in the city and the countryside.

In Italy he owns a house in Florence — “the most beautiful city in the world, where I was born” — as well as Castiglion del Bosco, a 5,000-acre estate in the Val d'Orcia region of Tuscany. Stateside he has an apartment in Manhattan and a country house in Millbrook, a small village in upstate New York referred to as a low-key version of the Hamptons.

“I love the contrast between the city and the countryside,” he explains. “They are quite different, and I really like that.”

But, as I ask if he had to make a choice? “If I was forced to choose I would say I prefer the countryside,” he concedes after a moment’s thought.

He brushes off my surprise that he doesn’t also own a waterfront property like many other UHNWIs or a ski chalet, “The process of rejuvenating the estate, which dates back to the 10th century, has clearly been a labour of love. “You cannot own a property like this without it having a purpose. You have to create a synergy for all its elements – the land, the buildings, the vineyards – to bring it back to life again.”

After we’ve talked and just as The Wealth Reporter is about to go to press, Mr Ferragamo gets in touch to let me know that Rosewood Hotels and Resorts, after careful consideration, has been appointed to manage the estate’s hotel and villas.

He asks me if I’ve ever been to the Val d’Orcia, a UNESCO world heritage site, largely unchanged since the 18th century. “I’ve not, so I mention another area in Tuscany that I have visited and considered very beautiful. ‘It is nice there,” he replies politely, “but it’s not the same. Del Bosco is somewhere very special. All you can see is green, green and green, and nothing to ruin the view of the landscape.’

Originally, the plan was to turn the estate into a very exclusive private members’ club. However, in the wake of the financial crisis, Mr Ferragamo changed his model. The estate is still very exclusive, but visitors can now stay in the hotel and villas and join Italy’s only private golf club, which is located on the property. A number of the estate’s villas have also been sold to an international range of buyers. “We renovate the villas for the owners, and when the owners are not in residence, we manage all aspects of the property.”

The process of rejuvenating the estate, which dates back to the 10th century, has clearly been a labour of love. “You cannot own a property like this without it having a purpose. You have to create a synergy for all its elements – the land, the buildings, the vineyards – to bring it back to life again.”

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They immediately recognised and respected that Castiglion del Bosco is deeply rooted in the Tuscan way of life.” As well as his cherished Tuscan estate, Mr Ferragamo is also involved with his family’s wider property portfolio, which includes five boutique luxury hotels in Florence and Rome — “They are doing very well, so we might open outside of Italy — and the freehold of many of the Ferragamo shops around the world. “They are doing very well, so we might open outside of Italy — and the freehold of many of the Ferragamo shops around the world. “They are doing very well, so we might open outside of Italy — and the freehold of many of the Ferragamo shops around the world.”

“There’s an old saying, ‘You can’t buy happiness,’ but in terms of property, it turns out that he does have a suitably individual collection that takes pride of place in his Florentine study. “I do love sports, so I like to buy antique silver trophies. You can get a nice surprise when you turn them over and see they were made by Mappin & Webb, Asprey or Garrard.” His favourite, he says, is a huge 1904 silver charity shield won by the Corinthians against the winners of the then equivalent of the Premier League.

Given that Mr Ferragamo has such a peripatetic lifestyle, I wonder if he has time for any other investments of passion apart from property – maybe art or classic cars. “As a family we own art, although I’m not really a collector myself,” he says. “We’ve owned Chatsworth and we’re allergic to paying rent,” he adds firmly.

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Although he “hates to overpay” for anything, Mr Ferragamo says, as with property, you have to like what you buy and be prepared to hold it, and then in the long term it will prove to be a good investment.

As a family we don’t speculate. There is not a speculative piece of DNA in our bodies. When you speculate it’s like musical chairs – if the music stops and you don’t have somewhere to sit, you’ve got a problem,” he adds firmly.

He asks me if I’ve ever been to the Val d’Orcia, a UNESCO world heritage site, largely unchanged since the 18th century. “I’ve not, so I mention another area in Tuscany that I have visited and considered very beautiful. ‘It is nice there,” he replies politely, “but it’s not the same. Del Bosco is somewhere very special. All you can see is green, green and green, and nothing to ruin the view of the landscape.’

Originally, the plan was to turn the estate into a very exclusive private members’ club. However, in the wake of the financial crisis, Mr Ferragamo changed his model. The estate is still very exclusive, but visitors can now stay in the hotel and villas and join Italy’s only private golf club, which is located on the property. A number of the estate’s villas have also been sold to an international range of buyers. “We renovate the villas for the owners, and when the owners are not in residence, we manage all aspects of the property.”

The process of rejuvenating the estate, which dates back to the 10th century, has clearly been a labour of love. “You cannot own a property like this without it having a purpose. You have to create a synergy for all its elements – the land, the buildings, the vineyards – to bring it back to life again.”

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Although he “hates to overpay” for anything, Mr Ferragamo says, as with property, you have to like what you buy and be prepared to hold it, and then in the long term it will prove to be a good investment.
In the 2014 edition of The Wealth Report, almost half of the wealth advisors who took part in our annual Attitudes Survey said that their UHNWI clients would potentially increase their investment allocation to property during the year. In this year’s survey, almost 40% of respondents said that had actually happened.

Property is definitely back on the agenda for private investors, who accounted for around a quarter of all commercial property deals last year, as well as residential investments. Tracking the exact proportion is difficult because many transactions, while essentially funded by an UHNWI, are fronted by a family-owned fund, company or private office.

The tangible nature of property, especially when located in leading cities such as London, is one of its enduring attractions. But UHNWIs are now looking beyond prime or trophy offices and retail space as a safe haven for their funds; they are prepared to look up the risk curve to non-core locations.

This may mean moving outside a capital city’s CBD area, where yields have become increasingly compressed, or heading into secondary cities where better value and higher returns are available. Increasingly for many UHNWIs it also means investing overseas. The results of our Capital Markets Survey show that wealthy investors are allocating more of their funds to property investments outside their own country. More peripheral markets such as Ireland and Spain are benefiting from this trend.

Demand for alternative property assets is also growing, and is leading to more private investment into business-critical opportunities like health care and student accommodation. UHNWIs are adopting increasingly sophisticated investment strategies, and sometimes this approach involves the kind of active management previously restricted to institutions and funds. Examples include refurbishment and development projects.

UHNWI appetite for property increases

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The slump in oil prices may be bad news for producers, but it is the economy that benefits. For the investor in the Middle East it is uncertainty over the situation in Iraq and Syria. To the European or Japanese investor it is the move towards QE and whether this will end stagnation. Conversely, the American or Briton faces uncertainty on how best to invest to capitalise on an unfolding recovery.

A real estate investor knows that if the length years are to continue, one buys the prime assets, like offices in Manhattan or shops on the Champs-Elysées. If the economy is about to improve, the riskier but higher-yielding properties are where opportunities lie.

Where next?

In the cities that have led the recovery, like London, New York and San Francisco, the skylines are peppered with cranes. Since the Olympics London has added seven new skyscrapers. In these cities higher-risk investment strategies are now in play, so real estate investors are asking where next that they should buy to best ride the recovery.

A good starting point has to be the places that have been struggling up to now.

Commercial property sales in Asia-Pacific fell by 8% in 2014. The region’s two rising giants, India and China, are indicative of trends in the broader region.

In China the land market has seen sales drop by 22%, which is understandable in a country that has built “ghost cities” in the past. China is adapting to a new pace of growth, but the country’s projected GDP increase this year from the IMF is about 7% in 2014 to around US$619bn in 2014, an increase this year from the IMF is about US$1,152m.

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That office rents have edged back rather than slumped in Shanghai and Beijing during challenging market conditions bodes well for the long term, so I see resilience in key centres.

India’s property market has experienced a marked slowdown. However, on a recent trip to Mumbai I was struck by the encouraging effect of the reformist Modi government on the business community. The Knight Frank India Real Estate Sentiment Index reflects this, with confidence in the property industry nearly doubling in 2014. Dubai’s commercial property is often overshadowed by the residential market. However, office rents are showing tentative signs of recovery, and Jebel Ali has been declared the world’s most productive port by the Journal of Commerce, while passenger numbers at Dubai’s international airport continue to rise. This suggests the core economic areas of tourism, trade and travel are performing well.

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In my role advising high-net-worth investors around the world, it is clear that the demand for property as an investment class is increasing rapidly.

To help analyse the global property investment activities of UHNWIs in more detail, the Wealth Report Global Capital Markets Survey 2015 conducted a survey of Knight Frank’s Capital Markets team in key locations around the world to find out where and what the super-rich are buying.

One of the clear trends to emerge is the increasingly global nature of private investments. UHNWIs still hold most of their property investments in their own country, but in the vast majority of the locations surveyed, wealthy private individuals have been increasing the amount invested overseas.

Some are diversifying their portfolios as they gain more experience with property investing, while others may be from a particular diaspora investing back into their homelands – for example, US-domiciled Indians, and ex-pat Kenyans. Those based in less stable parts of the world are often seeking a safe-haven for their wealth.

This safe-haven theme is also reflected in the preferred locations and sectors for those UHNWIs investing outside their own countries. The UK, and London in particular, was the most popular first-choice destination.

Germany was at the top of the list for UK-based wealthy individuals and was a popular second for other European UHNWIs. For Asian investors, Australia and the US were leading second or third choice destinations. A Chinese UHNWI, for example, has just bought 175 Liverpool Street, a Grade A office building in Sydney’s CBD, for AUD$460m.

Office buildings were the dominant commercial property sector of choice, however, there is still demand for residential buildings, particularly from UHNWIs making their first foray into property investment. According to a report from New York Capital Markets team, highlights Miami, which attracts a lot of interest from Latin American UHNWIs, as a case in point. Demand has mainly been focused on condominium developments, but private investors are now starting to look at more commercial sectors.

In terms of inbound investment from UHNWIs from other countries, there are some interesting patterns. China is not seeing an increase in the number of private individuals looking to invest in property there. The same pattern is repeated for Hong Kong and Singapore.

The uncertainty around the extent of the Chinese economic slowdown is clearly having an impact. For the UK and France, the Middle East is the source of most private investment, although those from other parts of the world are making their presence felt, notably Brazilian billionaire Joseph Safra who purchased London’s “Gherkin.”

In Australia, the US and Africa, wealthy Chinese investors are currently the most significant overseas investors.

One of the clear trends to emerge is the increasingly global nature of private investments.
The Wealth Report asks 10 property investment experts from across Knight Frank’s global network to highlight trends that private UHNW investors should be watching closely.

**Chinese investors diversifying their portfolios**

NEIL BROOKES
Head of Capital Markets, Asia-Pacific

Wealthy Chinese investors have been expanding from luxury residential properties into office buildings, shopping malls and hotels. The latest example is the high-profile joint-venture purchase of the General Motors Building in New York by Zhang Xin, chief executive of office landlord Soho China. After several initial waves of Chinese institutional capital outflow, China is now becoming part of the so-called Fourth Wave of investors, which also consists of insurance companies, small- to mid-cap state-owned enterprises and private developers. After heavy investment into gateway cities and trophy buildings, Chinese UHNWIs have established a familiarity with transacting in these markets, and we expect that they will start to pursue higher yields in other commercial property sectors. We will see them moving beyond gateway cities of London, New York and Sydney and investing into other key cities, such as Frankfurt, Brisbane, Miami and Manchester. In fact, cities like Miami are already firmly on the radar of the wealthy Chinese investor as the prices of apartments there are up to 28% lower than in Shanghai. A key trend remains the cultural diversity of the city, and of growing importance is the quality of life offered. These factors will continue to draw in Chinese UHNWIs.

**Changing population and food consumption trends**

TOM RAYNAM
Head of Agricultural Investments, London

Investor interest in farmland continues to grow for a number of reasons. First, demographics. Everybody has to eat, and the world’s population is set to hit nine billion by 2050. Investing in farmland in a simple way to buy into the demand created by this trend. But not only will there be more mouths to feed; those mouths are demanding more meat and dairy-based foods. Invested more land to produce per unit of energy than traditional grain-based diets. Second, affordability. Off the back of the financial crisis, farmland is increasingly being seen as a safe-haven inflation-hedging asset. In the UK values have risen almost 200% over the past 10 years, according to the Knight Frank Farmland Index. Third, the ability to add value to underutilised land. For the more hands-on investor this offers the opportunity to substantially boost capital values, particularly in areas with a higher-risk profile, and is something our experts in Zambia are helping a number of UHNWIs investors achieve.

**Rebalancing of economic power in Africa**

ANTHONY HAVELock
Head of Agency, Nairobi

This year should see the opening of around 1.8m square feet of First World shopping malls in Nairobi. The decline of Cairo’s commercial influence at the northern end of Africa, and the realisation by international businesses that they cannot run the entire continent from Johannesburg in the southern tip, has created a vacuum that Nairobi is eagerly filling. With the arrival and expansion of a string of multinationals, the city is now firmly established as one of Africa’s leading hubs. Local developers have responded by building Grade A quality office space that is attracting top-quality tenants paying dollar-denominated rents with leases that include fixed annual increases. Generally, rents are perceived as good value by international firms, suggesting there is room for healthy future rental growth and also yield shift, which in turn is attracting global investors. In addition, newly discovered oil and gas deposits are creating something of an energy boom, while all sectors of Kenya’s economy, apart from tourism, are growing — GDP is rising at around 5.5% each year. This is largely being driven by a burgeoning middle-class hungry for Western-style goods and shopping experiences that, by and large, seem impervious to political controversies and terrorism activities. This year should see the opening of around 1.8m square feet of First World shopping malls in Nairobi, with new international retailers committing to the region for the first time.

**Middle Eastern economic and political instability**

JOSEPH MORRIS
Head of Capital Markets, Middle East

Last year was a tumultuous one for the Gulf region. After an extremely positive start to the year, continued political and economic instability in the Middle East, as well as sharp falls in oil prices, hit confidence hard across local capital markets. As a result, we have witnessed further investment flows from the region into stable, income-generating commercial property internationally. Key cities such as London continue to attract capital, but we have more recently seen Middle Eastern investors moving up the risk curve to tier-two cities and UK regions, as well as peripheral European markets like Ireland, Germany and Spain. More locally, in the Gulf, with high volatility across both the local stock market and the Dubai residential sector, we anticipate that assets such as commercial real estate with long-term occupational leases will benefit from the fallout, especially as Dubai preserves its status as the region’s relative safe haven. Investor interest is growing from the wider GCC (particularly Saudi Arabia), but also from countries such as India.
Owning their own home still remains a key aspiration for most people in the UK, but a growing number of young professionals now see renting as a long-term option rather than as a stopgap investment, particularly from the fast-growing IT sector, with Google, Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook all expanding their Irish operations in 2014. Mirroring the broader economy, the property market has rebounded from the lows of 2010/11, with strong occupier demand pushing up rents in all sectors. With very little new construction over the past five years and a limited development pipeline, rents are likely to continue to grow strongly over the next 24 months. Although the total property return is predicted to exceed 36% in 2014, property values are still approximately 20% below their peak, offering potential for attractive investment returns. Investor demand, buoyed by the strength of the dollar against the euro, is largely from US private equity funds that have targeted both large-scale asset and loan portfolios. Although they have now been joined by some of the European pension funds and Middle Eastern investors, demand from UHNWIs has so far been limited to some Asian interest in the hotel sector. With a number of trophy residential and commercial assets still to be traded, the market offers international private investors a stable environment with potential for attractive returns.

Although some commentators are saying that Australian commercial property is now fully priced, partly on the back of continued demand from Asian institutions and private investors, I believe the market still offers opportunities for UHNWIs. While current premium (trophy) yields in Sydney’s CBD are almost comparable to the 2007 nadir, yields are still relatively high on a global basis and there is the expectation that local funding costs will fall to their lowest levels on record in 2015 and remain "lower for longer". This means a substantial positive spread between property yields and funding costs is opening up. This is most accentuated for non-CBD secondary grade, suburban and provincial office stock. Cross-border capital flows will increase further because of the depreciation of the Australian dollar, driving even higher sales volumes and asset prices. This will be complemented by a more positive outlook in the occupier market, particularly in east coast cities where stock levels are falling because of conversion of former commercial space into hotels and residential accommodation.

A change in consumer behaviour and societal trends, and the increasing rise of the internet, has made property investors look more closely at traditionally non-core options. While the three main sectors of logistics, offices and retail continue to dominate, specialist property sectors, predominantly comprising student accommodation, hotels and health care, have substantially increased their impact on the investment landscape, particularly with UHNWIs. The main rationale is that the physical properties themselves in these sectors are business-critical assets – without the building the operator will not have a business – and will generally benefit from long-term leases to good covenants, with fixed or inflation-linked linked increases contained within the leases. This provides the UHNWI investors with an asset class they will generally be familiar with, combined with an easy-to-manage and hands-off investment that requires little active property asset management. With all occupational markets within these subsectors showing robust high-calibre demand for best-in-class locations, there should continue to be a pipeline of good-quality supply from tenants in solid occupier markets. This all signals sound investment opportunities for investors looking for wealth preservation and wealth generation.

I am increasingly seeing the second or third generation of UHNWI families being allocated a proportion of the family’s investment portfolio to invest into commercial real estate. These generation of UHNWIs – often in the UK or the US – than their parents or grandparents and are approaching investment in a fashion more akin to a professional fund or wealth manager. There is more of a focus on cash-flow analysis of the investment, and an analysis of tenant covenant strength and local market drivers. They are looking for performance over trophy assets.

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Personal perspectives on property

The Wealth Report Editor Andrew Shirley talks to GOODWIN GAW about his passion for property and why investing in the wrong side of town can sometimes be the right move.

The first thing I notice when talking to Goodwin Gaw in his Hong Kong office is that property development is clearly more than just a business for him. It is something he is deeply passionate about at a very personal level.

“I was always into building things and architecture as a kid. I even thought I wanted to be an architect. So my dad sent me off to work with one, but then I realised something: apart from a few very successful ones, and even then only later on in their careers, architects generally build what their clients want, not what they want to.”

For many in the real estate industry, it’s the deal that is their livelihood. But I don’t get the impression that this is what makes Goodwin Gaw tick. For him it’s the chance to take something unloved, recycle it and bring it back to life.

Take his very first investment, for example. In 1998 he bought Hollywood’s iconic Roosevelt Hotel, bankrupt and a shadow of its former life, which witnessed some of Tinseltown’s most historic events, including the inaugural Academy Awards and Marilyn Monroe’s first modelling shoot.

Not only is the hotel again the cool place to be seen, but the deal spurred a slew of further investments, including the conversion of over 40,000 square metres of empty historical buildings into trendy residential lofts, which helped rejuvenate the then down-at-heel downtown area of Los Angeles.

“I always want to be ahead of the curve, to be the first one, to go in while the zoners need to be located,” he says – places like London, Hong Kong and New York, where physical boundaries and planning policies create zones where people want to live or businesses need to be located.

“Hong Kong was never a market that I liked. There’s no zoning, and if you look out from the top of a tall building all you can see is land. But I thought that if I renovated the building I could charge higher rents, but people just go and build somewhere else. It taught me that if a market is high enough for you to want to sell something, then just pay the tax.”

He adds, “The Philippines wasn’t an easy place to do business, it’s really an insider’s market.”

Although his family bought and redeveloped one of Yangon’s best hotels – “My grandfather was brought up in Burma, my father was born there” – investors aren’t generally flocking towards emerging markets now, he says.

“Asian HNWIs are looking for safety rather than pure upside at the moment, and that means markets with liquidity – places like London and New York. Tokyo also looks like an interesting play.”

Having cut his property teeth on a hotel redevelopment, Mr Gaw continues to be drawn to hospitality and lifestyle opportunities around the world, but he’s not surprised to hear he still likes something with a bit of an alternative angle to it. He helped, for example, bring renowned hotelier Nick Jones’s arty Soho House concept to Chicago and is also looking at Hong Kong.

As we wrap up the interview I ask him where he chooses to live and why. He succinctly lists Hong Kong and Los Angeles – “Those are the places where I do business.” But he gets more animated when I ask about second homes. “We do have a house in a members-only club in the Montana mountains, he says. “The air is so clean up there.”

He pauses, thinks and then adds: “I think that is a concept that could really develop in China. People are becoming more and more interested in healthy lifestyles and organic food.” Watch this space.

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But he still likes to focus on the edgier parts of town and is eyeing up Hong Kong’s Sham Shui Po neighbourhood. He remains upbeat about China – “Apart from the US it will be the world’s only self-sustaining economy” – and is involved with a US$1bn redevelopment of a Beijing “vintage-style” retail outlet. “It will be a fresh new take on something that is obsolete. It will be cutting edge.”

Cities go through cycles, he explains. “At one point everything old is considered obsolete, but then people get nostalgic for it. You need history. Take New York’s meat-packing district, London’s Shoreditch. To be a truly global city you need that character, that variety.”

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Investments of passion: performance and luxury spending trends

Luxury research

And now for the fun stuff. So far in The Wealth Report we’ve talked about big and important themes like global wealth distribution, the world’s most important cities, property markets and investments.

In this chapter we look at exciting things like luxury goods, classic cars, art, jewellery and fine wine.

Of course, this being a serious research publication we naturally look at such purchases from an investment perspective. The latest results from the Knight Frank Luxury Investment Index, which tracks a theoretical portfolio of 10 investable luxury assets, show that many of these investments of passion have seen their values continue to rise.

Although, according to the results of our Attitudes Survey, the personal pleasure they provide is the main reason most UHNWIs like to collect beautiful and pleasurable things, one suspects that even the most epicurean collectors would prefer that their treasures grow in value.

Coloured diamonds are the latest addition to our index. Given that jewellery has historically been a common way to store and transfer wealth in many cultures, diamonds are perhaps one of the most multifunctional assets in the index. We list some of the most high-profile sales in our special feature on p64.

Pearls, which until recently were considered rather old-fashioned, are also rising rapidly in value. This trend is being helped by the almost total lack of supply of new natural pearls coupled with strong demand from the Arabian Gulf, where many of the world’s finest pearls were originally harvested.

Indeed, much of the recent demand for luxury goods and investments has been driven by wealth creation in regions with burgeoning economies like Asia and the Middle East. It is therefore intriguing to see that the UK tops our new Big Spenders Index, compiled for The Wealth Report by Ledbury Research.

The index tracks the countries likely to see the strongest growth in spending on big-ticket luxury items by their own UHNWI populations and visitors from abroad. It would be fair to say that the UK secured poll position off the back of the many visitors who flock to London’s luxury stores and increasingly out-of-town designer outlets like Bicester Village – the second-most visited destination in the UK for wealthy Chinese tourists and part of a string of similar ‘villages’ around the world.
Hey, big spender

The results of a new index compiled for The Wealth Report by Ledbury Research’s Luxury Analysis team

The general outlook for luxury spending continues to be positive. Almost a third of respondents to The Wealth Report’s Attitudes Survey expect their wealthy clients to spend more on luxury goods in 2015, compared with just 8% who expect it to decline.

But how does the short-to-medium-term outlook compare for individual countries, and where in the world might luxury brands look to expand? The new Big Spenders Index, compiled exclusively for The Wealth Report, provides some of the answers by identifying the locations likely to see strong growth in big-ticket spending by their own ultra-wealthy populations and visiting UHNWIs.

Topping the list for 2015 is a very well-established centre of wealth, the UK. The country scores well, in terms of both the fortunes of its domestic UHNWI population, thanks to the relative strength of the UK economy, and our tracking of the drivers and indicators of high-end spending. The finding underlines the importance of the UK for luxury brands, which sold over £8bn of goods in the country last year, according to Ledbury’s estimates.

China fills the second slot in our ranking table. The Chinese are already the single biggest consumers of luxury goods around the world, accounting for some 29% of the global luxury spend, according to consultants Bain & Altagamma.

Although recently much has been said about the impact of the Chinese government’s anti-graft measures on luxury demand, Ledbury has consistently argued that the fundamentals of the Chinese luxury market remain very attractive, given the burgeoning wealthy population and rapidly growing middle class. China’s high ranking in the Big Spenders Index reflects the underlying robustness of its UHNWI population.

While overall sales performance of luxury goods in the Greater China region has been muted over the past year, there is no denying that there is still a strong demand for luxury brands, which isn’t going to change.

However, what is certainly changing is where Chinese consumers are choosing to buy luxury (the vast majority of Chinese luxury spending continues to stay outside mainland China), the selection of luxury brands they are buying, and the profiles of the consumers themselves, which are rapidly evolving because of the varying attitudes that exist towards luxury within the different Chinese cities.

India, one of the lower-profile BRIC economies, is in fifth place in our rankings. Over the past year the rise in wealth and the number of wealthy has been impressive – the number of UHNWIs is increasing rapidly, according to the Wealth Model. Aligned to this wealth growth is an equally substantial increase in luxury consumption: the value of champagne consumed in India increased by 36% year on year, according to the most recent data from Le Comité Interprofessionnel du Vin de Champagne, despite total exports being flat.

We expect international luxury goods to be particular beneficiaries of this new wealth in India, rather than more traditional, local brands. For example, research by the Kotak Mahindra bank has shown that among the wealthy, the traditional Indian wedding gift is fast evolving away from silver plates towards top Western designer brands.

We also anticipate that wealth creation, and luxury consumption, will be neither quite as controversial nor quite as hampered by social inequality or austerity agendas as has been the case in Brazil and indeed, lately, China. With India’s long-standing caste system, wide gaps in incomes and wealth are an accepted norm in the country, according to Kotak Mahindra.

Reflecting on the regional make-up of the top countries, it is interesting to see Europe, Asia and the Middle East all well represented. Africa is noticeably absent this year, reflecting some weakening on the continent, notably in commodity-fuelled wealth, which had propelled the success of a number of countries.

LUXURY SPENDING TRENDS

Drawing on extensive monitoring of luxury markets around the world, Ledbury Research picks out interesting developments within the luxury goods categories

APPAREL

We have traditionally been more interested in smaller, unobtrusive styles that are better able to accommodate the flexibility and multifunctionality of traditional men’s watches. But a fashion for slightly larger watches and jewellery, combined with the growing purchasing power of women, particularly in luxury strongholds such as China, is helping drive sales.

The share of female watches in the market has risen to around 30% from 20% in 1995 (Bain & Altagamma).

FINE WINES AND SPIRITS

Chinese government’s continued austerity campaign is thought to be part of the explanation for the drop in Cognac sales as the spirit is associated with gift-giving. Scottish whisky sales are, however, reporting an upturn in other emerging Asian markets as the spirit is associated with status.

WATCHES AND JEWELLERY

Women’s watches boom

Women have traditionally been more interested in smaller, unobtrusive styles that are better able to accommodate the flexibility and multifunctionality of traditional men’s watches. But a fashion for slightly larger watches and jewellery, combined with the growing purchasing power of women, particularly in luxury strongholds such as China, is helping drive sales.

The share of female watches in the market has risen to around 30% from 20% in 1995 (Bain & Altagamma).

MEN’S WATCHES

Manufacturers had been hoping that India would follow in China’s footsteps for luxury car demand, but most have seen disappointing sales and sluggish demand. Only 250 supercars are estimated to have been sold in the country in 2014 (HSH). Import duty hikes and currency declines aren’t helping, but a more fundamental obstacle comes from India’s roads. However, manufacturers could benefit from impending releases of luxury SUVs.

CARS

India lags

YACHTS

Market recoveries

At the 2014 Monaco Yacht Show, shipbuilders, brokers and outfitters all said that the market was improving – 35% more super-yachts were sold in the first half of the year compared with the same period in 2013 (Camer & Nicholson Internationa). This is despite some caution in the industry because of the political uncertainty within Russia and the Middle East, traditionally seen as the strongest markets for super-yachts.
Sparking returns

The latest results from the Knight Frank Luxury Investment Index (KFLII), which now includes coloured diamonds.

Andrew Shirley, The Wealth Report Editor

There is no doubt that so-called investments of passion are catching the imagination of the wealth management sector and the media. I continue to be pleasantly surprised by the press coverage devoted to KFLII since it was launched two years ago.

One question I have often been asked is why we don’t include gold or diamonds in the index. Gold to me has always seemed like a conventional investment that seems to fall more readily into the category of investments of passion. (See our special focus on diamonds on p64 for more details.)

So how has this newcomer to KFLII performed compared with the other asset classes that we track? Since January 2005 the Fancy Color Diamond Price Index has increased by 367% in value, which interestingly is almost exactly the same rise as the wider jewellery index that we use.

Christie’s jewellery consultant Raymond Sancroft-Baker, who compiles the index on behalf of Art Market Research, says that demand for top-quality coloured gemstones is also very strong. “We’ve seen a million dollars a carat paid for a Burmese ruby recently, and £200,000 a carat for a Kashmir sapphire.”

The market for pearls is also extremely buoyant, says Mr Sancroft-Baker. “There is a lot of demand from the Gulf States, who are buying back their heritage. I recently valued a pair of natural pearl earrings at a million pounds.”

Once again classic cars have been the strongest performer in KFLII over both the long and short term, with the value of the HAGI Top Index rising by an astounding 487% over the past 10 years and growing 16% in 2014. This actually represents something of a slowdown, following the index’s staggering 47% surge the year before.

HAGI founder Dietrich Hatlapa says the market is returning to normal – although a 1962 Ferrari 250 GTO Berlinetta did set a new world record when it went under the hammer for $38m at the Bonhams Quail Lodge sale in August.

In general, however, classic Porsches models performed most strongly in 2014, while more-modern supercars from the 1970s and 80s, like the Lamborghini Countach and Ferrari F40, are growing in popularity, adds Mr Hatlapa.

After a few years of relatively languid performance, art appears to be bouncing back, with annual growth of 15%, according to data from Art Market Research.

“Art market has fully recovered from the economic crisis,” says Harvey Mendelson, of art advisory firm 1858 Ltd. Chairiot, by Giacometti, was the most expensive auction sale of the year, making almost $48m at Sotheby’s record-breaking November sale of modern and impressionist art in New York.

However, instability in certain parts of the world is having an impact on specific sectors of the market. At a Sotheby’s evening sale of Russian art in London only 32% of the 37 lots on offer found buyers.

Coins were the only other asset class to achieve double-digit growth in 2014 with gains of 13%. A rare Edward VII, 1933 Patek Philippe Supercomplication pocket watch was another record breaker when it sold for 23.2 million Swiss francs at Sotheby’s in Geneva, the highest price for any timepiece sold at auction.

The overall watch market, however, remained stable with annual growth of 4%. Knight Frank’s Fine Wine Icons Index was up 7% on the year, with strong growth for certain US and Italian vintages. But the top end of the Bordeaux market is yet to stabilise, although it should finally bottom out in 2015, says Nick Martin of Wine Owners, which compiles the index.

The value of antique furniture continued to fall in 2014.

Overall, KFLII grew by a further 10% in 2014 and has risen by 205% over the past 10 years. Although this doesn’t take into account any storage, maintenance, insurance or dealing costs, it does help explain the ongoing interest in luxury investments.
Multifaceted investment opportunity

To coincide with the introduction of coloured diamonds into the Knight Frank Luxury Investment Index, industry expert CLAIRE ADLER explores the growing appeal of diamonds as an investment of passion.

There is nothing quite like holding a 30-carat D-Flawless diamond in the palm of your hand. This tiny thing could assure the financial security of a couple of generations of an entire family.

Robust returns on diamonds of more than one carat, mounting demand from Asia and the prospect of mines running dry are pointing to the increased attractiveness of precious natural diamonds as an investment asset. Global diamond supply is expected to plateau by 2020 and drop off significantly in the following decade, according to mining giant De Beers. “Since 2009 the price of polished diamonds measuring one carat or more has risen 5%,” says Ari Epstein, CEO of Antwerp World Diamond Centre.

Bruce Cleaver, Executive Head of Strategy at De Beers, now anticipates a rise in diamond prices. “With growth in diamond demand expected to outstrip growth in supply, there are different possible outcomes, but we believe higher diamond prices would account for a significant amount of the gap,” he says.

The concept of diamonds as a store of wealth is not new. Diamonds are arguably the most transportable form of wealth in existence.

While diamond aficionados may be madly in love with the stones they buy, they also regard them as a means to increased wealth. In 2006 billionaire jewelry laureate Laurence Graff bought the 78.1-carat Maharajah diamond. It had not been seen in 50 years because it had been in a bank vault. “The translucency, the life in that stone, is beyond anything I have ever seen,” Mr Graff said at the time. The next day, he sold it for an undisclosed profit.

Fancy colour diamonds (technical term in the industry for stones of exceptional colour), which are far rarer than white diamonds, are performing particularly strongly. The 9.75-carat Mellon Blue diamond classified the many thousands of different qualities of diamonds, which incorporate a spectrum well beyond the traditional four Cs of cut, carat, colour and clarity, while also offering easy access to individuals beyond the diamond industry.

Menacho-based diamond expert Ehud Arye Laniado believes increased transparency will prove transformative. “A fully transparent pricing system will unlock an opportunity for savvy consumers to view diamonds as a store of wealth in ways not yet possible, ushering in a new era in which informed buyers will be able to make confident purchasing decisions,” says Mr Laniado, the principal of Mercury Diamond, which advised Cora International, a New York jeweller specialising in rare diamonds, on acquiring the 29.6-carat Blue Moon for $26.6 million.

London-based, Russian-born jeweller designer Yana Zaikin, founder of Emily H London, has noticed her USH211 clients increasingly hedging their bets on top-quality diamonds, while adorning themselves in the meantime.

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‘Five years ago my clients preferred investing in gold rather than wearable diamond jewels,’ says Mrs Zaikin. ‘With currency fluctuations, they’re now diversifying with diamonds. Some keep jewels in the safe, but most wear them. One bought three identical brilliant stones for three rings, which they keep in each of their homes, in Palm Beach, London and New York.’

The Fancy Color Diamond Price Index (2001 to 2014)

Overall, fancy pink, yellow and blue diamonds have increased in value by 167% since 2006, according to the new index. Individuals looking to invest in diamonds can buy stones from diamond traders and pay for storage and insurance, or buy shares in diamond companies. The Singapore Diamond Investment Exchange and Los Angeles-based Investment Diamond Exchange partner with banks offering private clients purchasing, valuation and certification services.

Asset management firms including Diamond Capital Fund sell shares in stores of physical diamonds. Sciens Colored Diamond Fund, owned by USH211 John Rigas, invests in red, pink, blue, green, orange and yellow diamonds sourced from mines for individuals and institutions.

“Since the 1990s the price of the diamonds we invest in has never dropped,” says Mahyar Makhzani, Co-Managing Director at Sciens Colored Diamond Fund. Investing in diamonds poses challenges. Unlike gold, diamonds are not fungible – one carat is not equal to another carat. Although the internet has brought about increased pricing transparency, there is no standardised pricing index that accounts for the different qualities of diamonds, which incorporate a spectrum well beyond the traditional four Cs of cut, carat, colour and clarity, while also offering easy access to individuals beyond the diamond industry.

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The Fancy Color Diamond Price Index (2001 to 2014)
### Regional wealth distribution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Billionaire populations</th>
<th>% change</th>
<th>Centa-milllionaire populations</th>
<th>% change</th>
<th>Ul high-net-worth populations</th>
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#### Country-level distribution

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*The numbers behind the trends*

**Comprehensive wealth distribution data and regional Attitudes Survey results**

By its very nature, a printed publication such as The Wealth Report can only hope to describe and analyse trends in any detail at a fairly broad level. However, over the following pages we have included two highly granular datasets that provide a huge amount of information for those interested in global wealth distribution and the results of the report’s annual Attitudes Survey.

The wealth distribution data, provided by WealthInsight, includes historic, current and 10-year predictions for SWNWI, centa-millionaire and billionaire populations in almost 100 countries. Regional millionaire population data is included, but is also available on request at a country level. City wealth numbers for over 100 locations can also be requested.

In terms of the 2015 Attitudes Survey (p.68), we have included the results at a regional level for the majority of the survey’s findings, but further data for selected countries is also available for those wanting to delve deeper. To take part in next year’s survey please contact: Edward.Parry-Jones@KnightFrank.com

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### Source: WealthInsight
What percentage of your clients are concerned about the following issues regarding their wealth, business or lifestyle?

- Rock your clients’ philanthropic activities to change in 2015 compared with 2014?
- Are your younger clients more philanthropic than their parents’ generation?
- How do your clients spend more on luxury goods than their parents’ generation?
- Do your younger clients spend more on luxury goods than their parents’ generation?
- Are your clients considering permanently changing their domicile or country of residence?
- Are your clients becoming more interested in the following property investments?
- What percentage of your clients do you think are considering permanently changing their domicile or country of residence?
- What percentage of your clients are considering purchasing another home in the next 12 months?
- Are your clients becoming more interested in the following property investments?
- What percentage of your clients are concerned about the following issues regarding their wealth, business or lifestyle?
- Are your clients interested in the following factors reasons why your clients might want to move?
Housing affordability is moving up the investment agenda

Liam Bailey
Global Head of Research
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One of the biggest trends we are monitoring across pretty much all the markets we focus on is the ongoing globalisation of demand for property. The biggest counter-trend I see at play is protectionism (pp35–39).

Compared with other capital flows, money moving into residential property often attracts controversy. New demand is accused of hiking prices, as well as creating market access and affordability issues for local residents.

The counterargument, that new investment flows lead to new supply in precisely the places where demand is highest, appears to be falling on deaf ears. As a result, taxes on expensive homes and property investments are being extended.

This renewed focus on the impact of wealth on housing affordability is set to be a dominant political theme globally for the next decade. As The Economist magazine noted earlier this year, 60 million rich-world households spend more than 30% of their income on housing; in the emerging world 200 million households live in slums. With rapid urbanisation, these numbers will only grow.

Opportunities for investors in this area are enormous. Innovations in housing design, funding, land assembly and construction are developing rapidly. And this is an area where the flow of ideas and experience is moving both ways, between developed and emerging economies.

We are already working with a number of developers who are assessing every stage of the development process to see how they can design and deliver better homes, more cheaply and more rapidly.

In my view, this area will become an increasingly dominant area of focus for our clients. As challenges and opportunities come, they don’t get much bigger, or more important.

Please contact me if you would like to discuss this or any of the issues raised in this year’s report.