

2019 IN REVIEW



US/China Trade War
Trade war tensions clouded markets with uncertainty and heightened volatility throughout 2019. The imposition of import tariffs by both countries dominated headlines, yet, pressures appear to have simmered with an initial deal being agreed in December.



Brexit and Boris
Closer to home Brexit plagued sentiment towards both UK Equities and Property. However, the landslide Tory majority provided markets with greater certainty for UK and European assets.

Dovish Central Banks

Monetary easing was the theme for central banks during 2019. Three rate cuts by the FED helped stimulate economic activity with further global cuts still being priced in by the market. Mark Carney has also hinted the BOE may cut should inflation remain subdued.



**Forrester-Hyde
Balanced Portfolio
performance
for 2019:**

15.82%

FH Benchmark: 15.02%

Forrester-Hyde

We remained risk-on throughout the year, but chose to take increased profits during our winter rebalance, dialling down our risk levels heading into 2020.

Looking forward to 2020

Trump Factor

The US presidential election and rising tensions in the Middle East could bring new sources of uncertainty, but also new opportunities for active managers.



Cycle Extends

The global growth outlook was upgraded as the economic cycle extends, however, we remain cautious as markets, such as the S&P 500, reach all-time highs.



Trade Deals

A 'Phase one deal' between the US and China has been reached just before new tariffs targeting consumer goods were set to come in. In Europe, Brexit trade talks are set to continue up until the end of year.



Overall, there seems to be plenty of optimism priced into valuations. We have lowered overall risk across our portfolios and continue to monitor fundamentals to ensure this position remains appropriate for the long term benefit of our investors.