

EMERGING MARKETS AND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Svetoslav Dragomirov Angelov

E-mail: sveang99@gmail.com

4th year Bachelor student in International Economic Relations

Dimtar A. Tsenov Academy of Economics - Svishtov

Abstract: Emerging markets offer a compelling investment argument, combining growth potential, risk mitigation, exposure to interesting opportunities, and currency diversification. Emerging market growth equities can be an extraordinary investment opportunity, offering exposure to the potential of emerging markets, its demographics, growing wealth, and transition from manufacturing to services. Investors should consider their risk tolerance, investment horizon, and objectives when constructing a diversified portfolio that includes emerging market equities. Among the 71 developing economies analyzed, 18 countries have consistently outperformed their peers and global benchmarks. Understanding and assessing these risks is crucial for investors to make informed investment decisions in emerging markets.

The report sets out the following tasks:

- Conduct comprehensive analysis of emerging markets in different regions.
- Identify trends, growth potential and challenges specific to each market.
- Evaluate specific business opportunities within these emerging markets.
- Assess the risks associated with investing or expanding into emerging markets.

Consider political stability, regulatory frameworks, currency fluctuations, and cultural differences.

- Analyze existing players and potential competitors in these markets.
- Identify barriers to entry, such as legal requirements, infrastructure limitations, and cultural nuances.

This paper serves as a theoretical analysis of sources. To address the above issues, specialized sources on this research topic were examined.

Key words: Emerging markets, investment, opportunities, growth, economy

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1. Introduction

Emerging markets are economies that are experiencing rapid growth and development. These markets are characterized by increasing industrialization, urbanization, and rising incomes. The objective of discussing emerging markets in the report is to analyze their potential for investment. These markets often present unique opportunities due to their growth trajectory, expanding consumer base, and evolving business landscapes. Investment opportunities encompass a range of financial instruments, assets, or ventures where investors can allocate their capital in order to potentially earn returns. The aim of exploring investment opportunities in the report is to

identify specific areas within emerging markets that are attractive to investors. This may include sectors such as technology, renewable energy, real estate, or specific geographic regions with promising growth prospects.

Emerging markets represented nearly 60% of annual global growth, with China and India the largest drivers. The region accounts for 86% of the world's population and 36% of its exports, but only 12% of its equity market cap. Over the past two decades, emerging markets have expanded at an extraordinary rate, driving higher consumption by both individuals and governments. We expect this growth will continue as emerging markets develop, through infrastructure investments, market reforms, and deepening capital markets. Emerging markets annual real growth could surpass 5% on average per year over the next five years, in our view, or about 3% more than developed markets.

Emerging markets growth equities can be an extraordinary investment opportunity, offering exposure to the potential of emerging markets—its demographics, growing wealth, and transition from manufacturing to services. In addition, emerging markets companies have become leaders in innovation and have developed cutting-edge technology. Investors, however, should weigh each company's growth potential and its price. The potential in more expensive equities may be dramatically lower—and the risk much higher—than less expensive, overlooked peers (Lazard Asset Management, 2024).

To access this opportunity, investors should consider partnering with an active manager that has demonstrated skill in identifying strong emerging markets growth companies at relatively inexpensive valuations.

2. Technological Advancements in Emerging Market Investments

Investment chances in budding lands are now much more straightforward to sail with the aid of the opportunities birthed by technological advancements. Old investment is now more open thanks to varied digital platforms and digital tools that allow users to start dabbling with minimal stuff and knowledge tools. The playing field has become more equivalent as one of the main barriers, informational isolation, has no longer become available for investors. Digital competence stops being a pass, taking the form of a piece that can gather relevant data at the right moment, prepare the proper analysis, and subsequently shape the right financial strategy. Keeping updated with technological eruptions is very significant for effective work in budding lands.

Emerging technology markets offer high growth rates that exceed those of developed markets, particularly in sectors like fintech. These markets provide an opportunity for companies to establish a strong leadership position and gain a first-mover advantage due to reduced competition. However, success in emerging markets is not guaranteed, as demonstrated by the failure of a start-up offering real-time speed dating. Emerging markets also serve as innovation hubs, attracting talent and increasing investment in research and development (World Economic Forum, 2022). New technologies such as blockchain, Internet of Things (IoT), and Artificial Intelligence (AI) are changing the investment landscape and could significantly impact portfolio management and decision-making. Interoperability, particularly in areas like industry, insurance, healthcare, digital infrastructure, and enterprise resource planning, is a crucial factor for investors. Additionally, the strategic trend of digital immune systems, which combine software, development, technology, and data analytics, enhances security and resilience against cyber threats (Pistilli, 2023).

3. Navigating Emerging Market Risks

Political risks in odd places pose a heavy risk. For example, the presence of a shaky government may lead to a huge loss of money. Wrongdoing may also cause the failure of an attempt. Adjustments and changes in rules could lead to business confusion. Another risk part is currency risk. In this setting, unfavorable changes in the money amount will fail the person trying to make money. With good risk management ideas, a person trying to make money can successfully begin projects in the odd places. A person can spread out the money stuff, hide risk, and start that no-wrongdoing investments.

Emerging markets pose various risks that investors should be aware of before making investment decisions. One such risk is the political and regulatory environment. Emerging markets often have less stable political climates, and changes in government policies, regulations, or leadership can impact investments. Factors like currency controls, nationalization of assets, and geopolitical tensions can create uncertainty and affect investment outcomes. Economic volatility is another key risk in emerging markets. These markets tend to experience greater economic volatility compared to developed countries. Inflation, currency fluctuations, and debt levels can significantly impact investment returns. Economic cycles can be more pronounced, leading to periods of rapid growth followed by downturns, which investors need to navigate.

Liquidity risks are also a concern. Some emerging markets have less liquid financial markets, which can make it challenging to buy or sell assets quickly without affecting prices. Low trading volumes can lead to wider bid-ask spreads and increased transaction costs, limiting the ease of trading (Pinkasovitch, 2022).

Currency risk is a substantial consideration when investing in emerging markets. Currency fluctuations can significantly impact investment returns, as investors are exposed to both local currency and exchange rate fluctuations. A strong local currency can erode returns when converted to the investor's home currency, emphasizing the need for careful assessment of currency risks.

Market concentration is another risk in emerging markets. Certain sectors or industries may dominate specific markets, increasing concentration risk. Diversification across countries and sectors is crucial to mitigate this risk, as over-reliance on a single sector can expose investors to potential losses.

Corporate governance and transparency also pose risks in emerging markets. Some companies may have weaker corporate governance practices, and lack of transparency can lead to accounting irregularities or fraud. It is important for investors to thoroughly research companies and invest in those with strong governance standards to minimize such risks.

Social and environmental risks are additional factors to consider. Social unrest, labor strikes, and environmental issues can impact business operations and thus investment performance. Investors should assess these risks and consider companies that prioritize sustainability and responsible practices, as they may be better positioned to weather these challenges. Infrastructure challenges are prevalent in many emerging markets, which can affect supply chains, logistics, and business operations. Evaluating how infrastructure constraints may impact specific investments is crucial to understanding the potential risks involved.

Legal and contractual risks should not be overlooked. Legal systems vary from country to country, and enforcing contracts or resolving disputes can be complex. It is important for investors to understand the legal framework and contractual obligations before making investments.

Lastly, each emerging market has its own set of specific risks. Brazil, for example, faces inflation volatility, while China faces state intervention, and India deals with

bureaucracy. Staying informed about country-specific developments is essential to effectively manage these risks.

In conclusion, investing in emerging markets carries a range of risks, such as political and regulatory uncertainties, economic volatility, liquidity concerns, currency risk, market concentration, governance and transparency issues, social and environmental risks, infrastructural challenges, as well as legal and contractual risks. Understanding and assessing these risks is crucial for investors to make informed investment decisions in emerging markets.

4. Diversification Benefits of Emerging Markets

The worst thing about the market since 2009 makes getting into developing places much more fun than before. It is no mystery that some systems have failed to act the same way as grown-up ones. This can mean only one thing: fewer risks for brave and clever people who put money in things. Going down for some parts in investment trusts with a large reach could thus be a good idea now. Nevertheless, there is no sensible other choice than understanding the dangers. Political changes, movements in exchange rates, and changes in laws that affect the stock exchange are important things to think about that may predict a winning or losing money move.

Diversification into emerging markets can provide several advantages for investors. Emerging markets were first recognized in the 1980s, referring to economies less developed than the US, Western Europe, and Japan. The initial group of emerging markets included countries like Argentina, Brazil, and Mexico, and has since expanded to include nations such as India, China, and Russia. One key advantage of diversifying into emerging markets is risk mitigation. By investing in a diverse set of emerging markets, investors can reduce the risk associated with economic, political, or currency fluctuations. Different markets may respond differently to these factors, so when one market faces difficulties, others may perform well, balancing the overall risk of the portfolio. Another advantage is the growth opportunities offered by emerging markets. These economies often experience faster GDP growth rates than developed countries. Diversifying allows investors to gain exposure to various sectors and industries that thrive in these dynamic environments, providing unique growth prospects.

Diversification into emerging markets also provides benefits in terms of correlation. Correlations between emerging markets and developed markets are not

always high. By adding emerging market equities to a portfolio, investors can reduce correlation with their existing holdings, potentially improving overall diversification. Furthermore, diversification provides exposure to different sectors and industries within emerging markets. Each emerging market has its own strengths and weaknesses, and diversifying allows investors to take advantage of a variety of sectors such as technology, consumer goods, financials, and commodities. This broad exposure enhances investment opportunities. Currency diversification is another advantage of investing in emerging markets. These markets often have their own currencies, and by investing in different markets, investors can diversify their currency exposure. This can be beneficial when one currency depreciates, as others may appreciate.

Lastly, emerging markets benefit from young and growing populations. As these populations become more affluent, consumption patterns change, creating investment opportunities in various sectors.

In summary, diversification into emerging markets offers a compelling investment argument, combining growth potential, risk mitigation, exposure to interesting opportunities, and currency diversification. However, it is important to remember that diversification does not completely eliminate risk. Investors should consider their risk tolerance, investment horizon, and objectives when constructing a diversified portfolio that includes emerging market equities.

5. High Growth in Emerging Markets

Economies at the initial stage of industrialization are the budding markets, which also implies that the overall production in these locations is increasing. Therefore, these fields are extremely appealing for investing as any business or investment would produce lofty returns. Some of the grounds for such immense prospect for increase consist of towering customer desire, urban population, and the swift level of technology evolution in the world. In most situations, investors choose to invest in budding markets since they are extremely captivating and appear to draw higher returns equated to the developed fields. An investor will also discover it needful to invest in budding markets as part of portfolio investment so as to diversify risk. All the same, there are also a stack of key risks that the investor needs to contemplate before investing. Some of these risks include political risks, exchange rate risks, risk of non-transparency, and regulatory risk. Existing proof suggests that budding markets have loftier returns than developed nations, but the

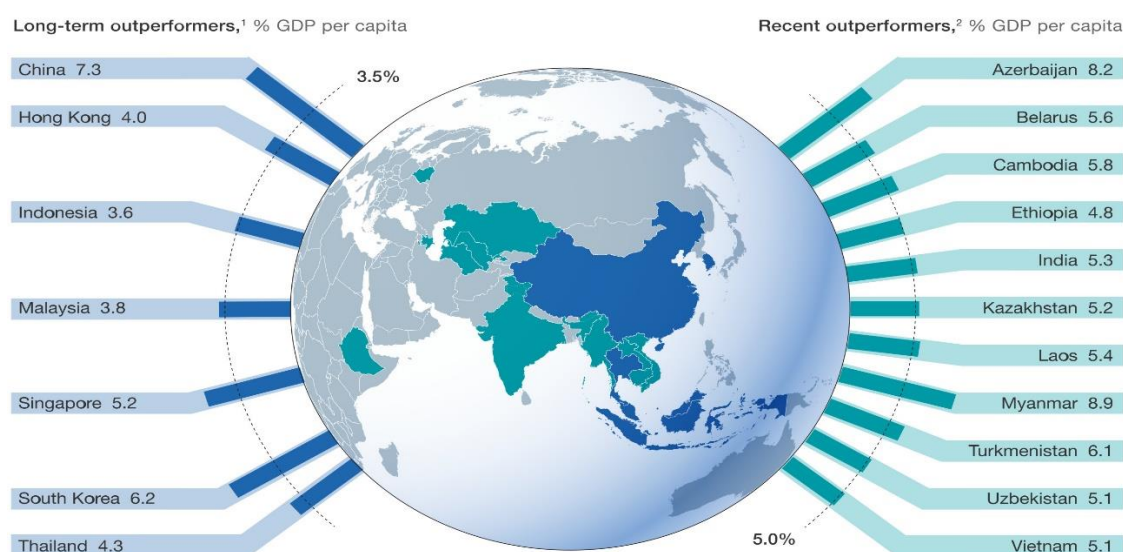
concept of lofty returns should be deliberated together with these attendant risks (Ameriprise Financial, n.d.).

Emerging economies have played a significant role in shaping the global landscape over the past 15 years. These dynamic markets account for nearly two-thirds of the world's GDP growth and more than half of new consumption. However, economic performance varies widely among individual countries.

Among the 71 developing economies analyzed, 18 countries have consistently outperformed their peers and global benchmarks. These outperformers have achieved remarkable per capita GDP growth rates over extended periods. Notably, seven economies—**China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, and Thailand**—achieved or exceeded an impressive 3.5% annual growth for an entire 50-year period (Woetzel et al, 2018).

Figure 1. McKinsey & Company seven top emerging economies

Seven economies had real annual per capita GDP growth of at least 3.5 percent for 50 years, while 11 other, less-heralded economies grew at least 5.0 percent annually over the past 20 years.



McKinsey&Company | Source: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; McKinsey Global Institute analysis

Source: (Woetzel et al, 2018)

Additionally, a second group of 11 more recent outperformers, including countries like India, Vietnam, and Ethiopia, achieved an average annual growth rate of at least 5% between 1995 and 2016.

These economies have implemented policies that prioritize productivity, income, and demand, driving exceptional economic growth. Often overlooked but significant, productive companies within these countries have played a pivotal role in driving growth. Collectively, these outperformers have lifted one billion people out of extreme poverty, enabling the emergence of new middle and affluent classes¹. As we look ahead, emerging economies have the potential to create new opportunities. If all emerging economies emulate the outperformers, the global economy could receive an astounding \$11 trillion boost (Woetzel et al, 2018). These high-growth markets continue to evolve, and their impact on the world stage remains a compelling narrative.

6. Investment Due Diligence in Emerging Markets

Firstly, it is necessary to conduct a meticulous research in particular sectors and certain businesses prior to investing. There are several reasons for due diligence when altering budding markets. One of them is market patterns. The development of the industry or the company can be observed through the general picture of market progression. The vibrant market opens up opportunities for novel investments. An analysis of other players is also welcome, as it will assist in clarifying if there are any monopolies, how long the companies operate and what their management is akin to. We also recommend that you scrutinize the cultural aspect of the industry, otherwise there may be perils of insolvency when investing. Since the political factor promptly erases all efforts, it is worth examining the political situation in the country before investing. Inflation can slay the business soon, so the economic situation in the country must also be considered. The exchange rate situation is anticipated both in the near future and in the long term.

Investing in emerging markets poses unique challenges that differ from those in established markets. One challenge is regulatory complexity, as emerging markets often have different regulatory regimes that can impact investment decisions. Political interference is also common in these markets, creating uncertainty and affecting market dynamics. Weak reporting standards make it difficult to assess the financial position of companies, adding to the complexities. Additionally, the nature of capital markets in emerging economies, which are still developing, presents its own set of challenges. Due diligence in these markets goes beyond balance sheet analysis and requires active techniques. Building trust and knowledge of companies and industries through

networking and discussions with management is essential. Engaging in competitor analysis and understanding supply chains and operational aspects further enhances due diligence. Interacting with regulators and government officials can also provide valuable insights. A case study highlighting the long-term partnership with Banco Bradesco in Brazil demonstrates the benefits of active participation and informed investment decisions based on trust and familiarity. Overall, due diligence gives investors a competitive advantage in navigating the complexities of emerging markets.

7. Critical Factors in Emerging Market Investments

Considering the influence of political, monetary, and social factors is crucial when analyzing the finance of emerging markets. Therefore, it is essential to observe these risk factors in order to determine the viability of investing in emerging markets. Additionally, seeking advice from experienced individuals who have worked in this field can provide valuable insights and knowledge about successful events in these markets.

Investing in emerging markets offers several advantages. One of the major benefits is the potential for high growth. These markets often experience rapid economic expansion, which can lead to significant investment returns. Furthermore, investing in international markets provides diversification for investment portfolios. Economic downturns in one country or region can be offset by growth in another, reducing the overall risk of the portfolio.

However, investing in emerging markets also carries certain risks. Experts typically categorize these risks into three main categories. Firstly, political risk is a concern as emerging markets may have unstable governments and political unrest can have severe consequences for the economy and investors. Secondly, economic risk is prevalent in these markets due to factors such as insufficient labor and raw materials, high inflation or deflation, unregulated markets, and unsound monetary policies. These factors can pose challenges for investors. Lastly, currency risk is a significant consideration as the value of emerging market currencies compared to the dollar can be highly volatile. If a currency is devalued or experiences a significant drop, it can potentially diminish investment gains.

In conclusion, analyzing the impact of political, monetary, and social factors is essential when evaluating the finance of emerging markets. Understanding the risks and advantages associated with investing in these markets is crucial for making informed

investment decisions. Seeking advice from experienced individuals in this field can provide valuable insights and knowledge about successful events in emerging markets.

8. Conclusion

Emerging Markets investment features many perils. Firstly, the political risk is a peril that occurs on account of the state of the nation. There are grand chances of military action, and this can influence returns in a detrimental way. Secondly, currency risk must be scrutinized to acquire a better grasp of the enterprise. Small nations have currencies that oscillate frequently. Thirdly, the recompense-to-risk ratio is a good degree of investment in foreign stocks that have inferior covariance with domestic stocks. Considering diversification is almost nonexistent. When investing in emerging markets, the investor should anticipate a sluggish progress in the recompense. Lastly, the progress is the loftiest despite the above-discussed perils. Specialization and political risks are factors that should be taken into contemplation when investing in emerging markets.

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ГЛОБАЛНИ И РЕГИОНАЛНИ ИЗМЕРЕНИЯ НА МЕЖДУНАРОДНИТЕ ИКОНОМИЧЕСКИ ОТНОШЕНИЯ

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Списание „Глобални и регионални измерения на международните икономически отношения“ (съкратено **ГРИМИО**) е правопреемник на изданията с научните резултати от ежегодната *студентска научно-практическа конференция*, организирана от *катедра „Международни икономически отношения“* при Стопанска академия „Димитър А. Ценов“ – Свищов. До 2020 година изданията са сборници със самостоятелни ISBN номера, а от 2021 до 2023 година са периодичен сборник с постоянен ISSN номер – достъпни във Виртуалната библиотека на Стопанската академия на адрес dlib.uni-svishtov.bg.

Първата конференция е проведена през 1996 година по идея на проф. д-р ик. н. Иван Стойков и на гл. ас. д-р Симеон Момчев, преподаватели към катедрата. Участници са студентите от трети курс на специалност МИО към Стопанската академия, а тематичният фокус е върху международните инвестиции.

От 2014 година към събитието се присъединяват преподаватели и студенти от *катедра „Международни икономически отношения“* при Икономически университет – Варна, а през 2015 година и от *катедра „Икономика и международни отношения“* при Русенски университет „Ангел Кънчев“.

През годините конференцията се утвърди като форум за научна изява на студентите и докторантите извън учебната аудитория и създаде възможност за разчупване на формалните отношения лектор-обучаем, обмяна на опит в провеждането на мероприятия, свободно споделяне на творчески идеи. Постепенно тематиката се разшири и обхваща широк спектър от области, влизащи в сферата на международните икономически отношения и международния бизнес.

Пленарната сесия на *Двадесет и осмата конференция* се проведе на 18 май 2024 г. присъствено в Базата за обучение на Стопанска академия в с. Орешак и в дистанционен формат чрез платформата BigBlueButton.

Journal “Global and Regional Dimensions of International Economic Relations” (abbreviated **GRDIER**) is the legal successor of the publications with the scientific results of the annual *student scientific-practical conference*, organized by *the Department of International Economic Relations* at Dimitar A. Tsenov Academy of Economics - Svishtov. Until 2020, the editions are conference proceedings with independent ISBN numbers, and from 2021 to 2023 they are periodical collections with a permanent ISSN number - available in the Academy’s Virtual Library at dlib.uni-svishtov.bg.

The first conference was held in 1996 on the idea of Prof. Ivan Stoykov and Head Assistant Simeon Momchev, lecturers at the department. The first participants were the 3rd year IER students at the Tsenov Academy of Economics, and the thematic focus was on international investments.

Since 2014, the event has been joined by professors and students from *the Department of International Economic Relations* at the University of Economics – Varna, and in 2015 from *the Department of Economics and International Relations* at the Angel Kanchev University of Ruse.

Over the years, the conference has established itself as a forum for the scientific expression of students and doctoral students outside the classroom and has created an opportunity to break the formal lecturer-student relationship, exchange experience in conducting events, and freely share creative ideas. Gradually, the topics have expanded and cover a wide range of areas, entering the sphere of international economic relations and international business.

The plenary session of *the Twenty-eighth conference* was held on May 18, 2024 at Dimitar Tsenov Academy’s Training and Recreation Center in the village of Oreshak and online through the BigBlueButton platform.

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