

# The Long View

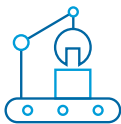


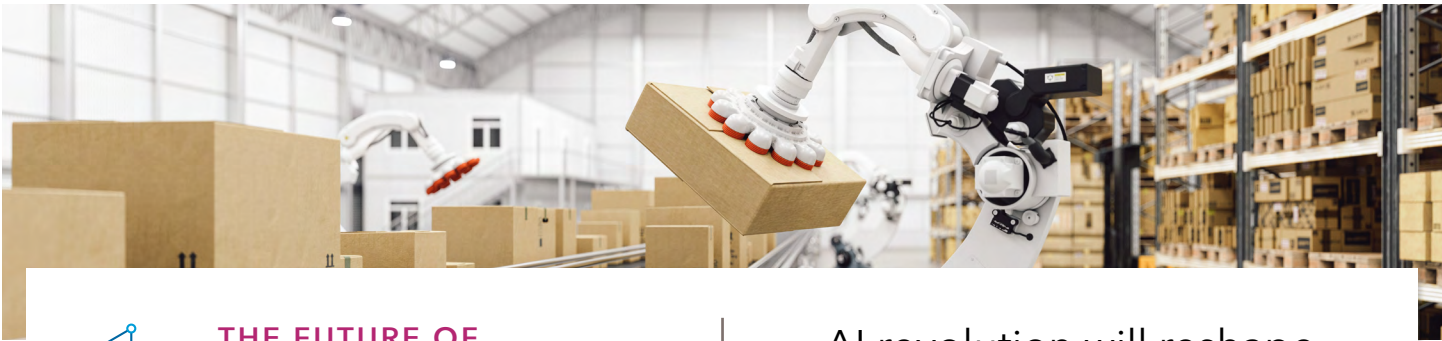
## 4 Megatrends to watch

2024 EDITION

Innovation is a key driver of success for companies as rapid change upends business models throughout the world. In this report, we explore four trends that have captured the attention of our investment teams. Each has the potential to transform multiple industries and create new opportunities for investors.

It's easy to get distracted by the latest headlines or short-term stock movements. Taking a long-term perspective can help investors stay ahead of the curve and potentially benefit from these megatrends as they grow and develop over time.





## THE FUTURE OF Tech

## AI revolution will reshape many industries



**Mark Casey** is an equity portfolio manager with 23 years of investment industry experience.

Artificial intelligence has captured the imaginations of investors in tech companies, but the use of AI will extend well beyond generative chatbots and have lasting impacts across many industries. As interesting as I find large language models like ChatGPT, I suspect AI-powered robots could have an even bigger economic impact over the next decade – with their applications used everywhere from homes to factories to hospitals.

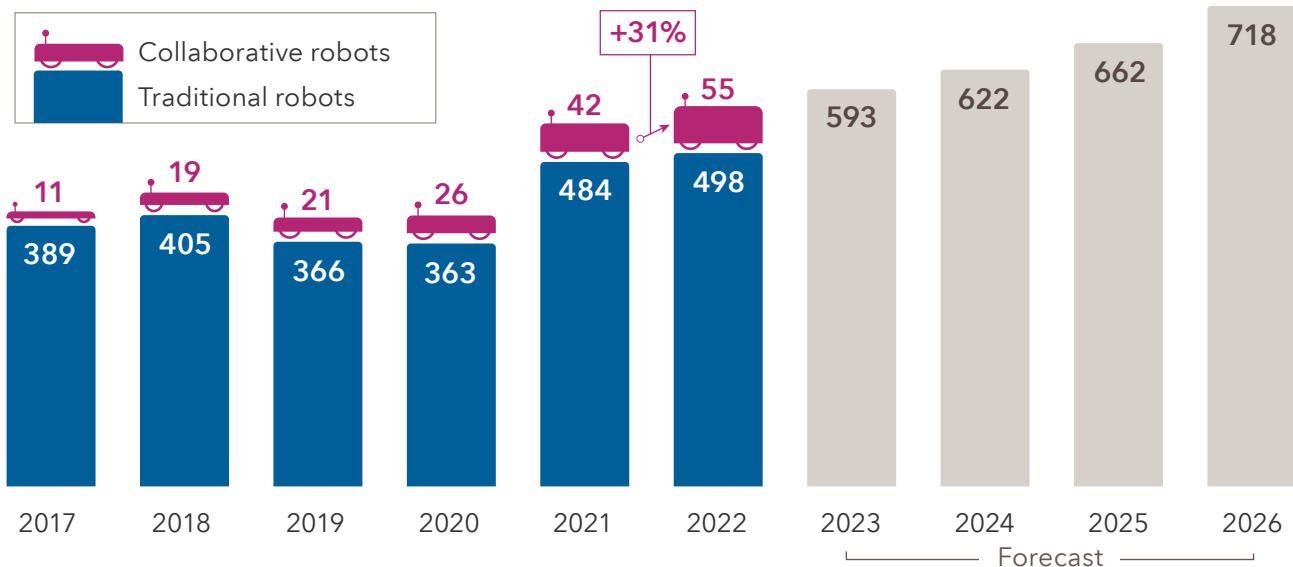
For example, when Amazon started working on robots to pick items and put them in shipping boxes, failure rates were high and successful picks took up to two minutes each. Seven years later, the company's new

"Sparrow" robot can pick and pack two-thirds of the 100 million products in a typical Amazon warehouse, needing just seconds for each. Delivery drones and driverless taxis are more visible examples of AI-enabled robots being tested in select cities across the globe. And in health care, companies are pairing AI with robotics to improve the success of surgeries and diagnostics.

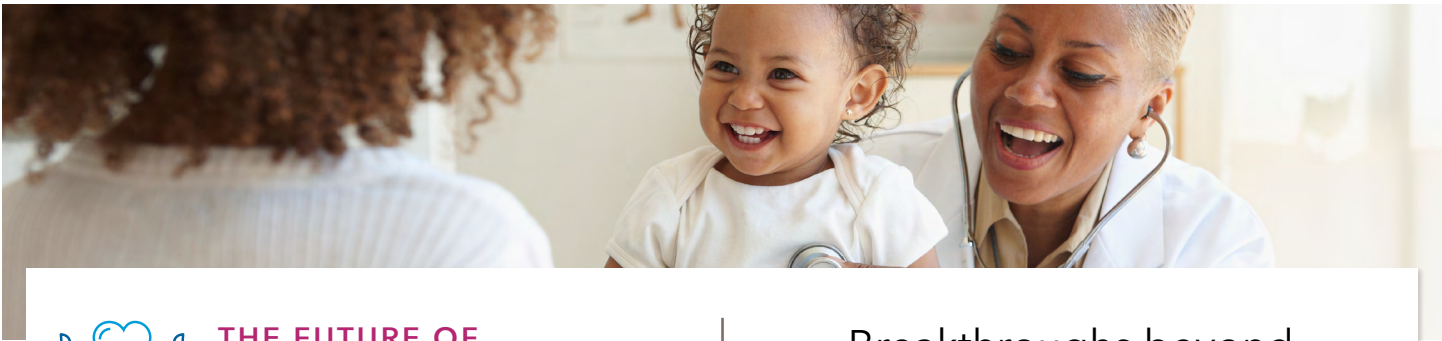
Early stock market winners in the field of AI have been concentrated in the tech industry, particularly in sub-sectors like semiconductors, cloud infrastructure and software. Companies that benefit most from advances in robotics may be spread over a broader set of industries. I want to invest in companies at the forefront of using advanced robots to improve client experiences, efficiency and profitability.

## Collaborative robots are a small but rapidly growing part of industry

Annual installation of new industrial robots ('000 units)



Source: International Federation of Robotics, *World Robotics 2023*. A collaborative robot is an industrial robot that can safely operate alongside humans in a shared workspace. In contrast, traditional robots are hard coded to repeatedly perform one task, work independently and remain stationary.



THE FUTURE OF  
**Health care**

Breakthroughs beyond  
obesity drugs



**Rich Wolf** is an equity portfolio manager with 27 years of investment industry experience.

While obesity drugs have garnered most of the headlines, we are currently in an era of innovation across the health care landscape. Companies are actively pursuing therapies and technologies to treat – and possibly cure – major diseases and improve people’s lives.

One rapidly advancing field is cell therapy, which involves modifying cells outside the body and then infusing them into patients. This approach has gained approval for use against certain blood cancers that previously offered few

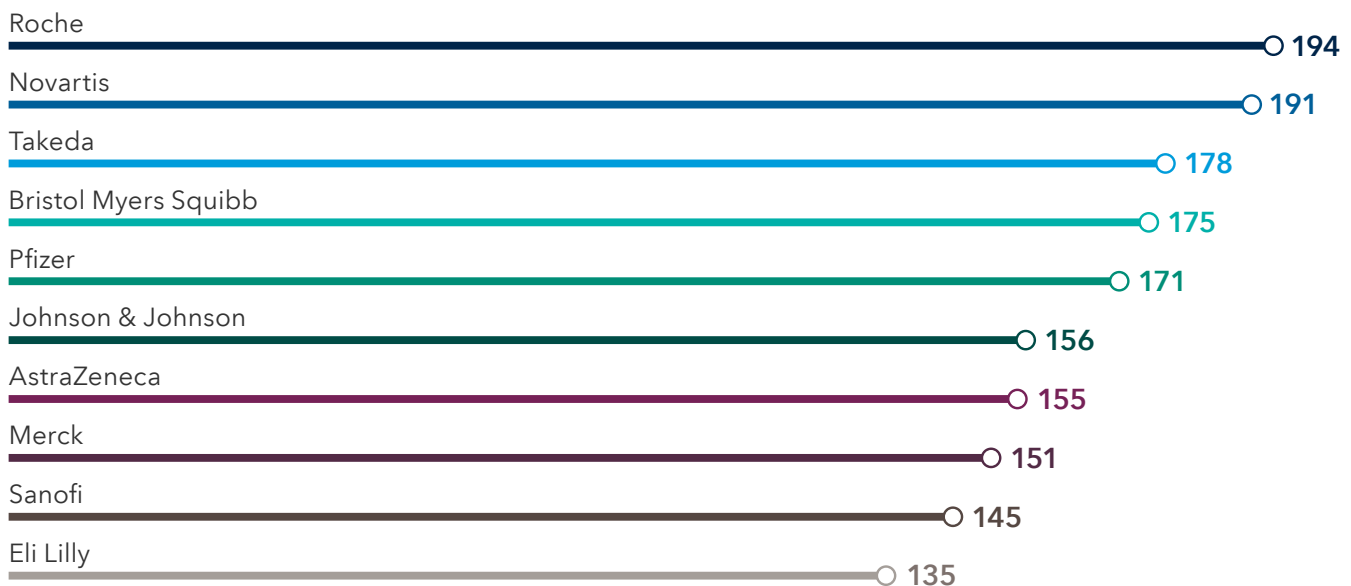
treatment options. Companies are now developing cell therapies for diabetes, liver disease and heart failure.

New gene therapies are also providing opportunities for many pharma and biotech firms. Alnylam Pharmaceuticals, for example, is leading the way in gene “silencing” techniques like RNAi that can selectively suppress genes associated with certain diseases. Additionally, the progress in gene editing systems, such as CRISPR, is particularly interesting. Boston-based biotech Vertex Pharmaceuticals achieved a significant milestone, becoming the first company to receive approval for a CRISPR-based therapy to treat sickle cell disease.

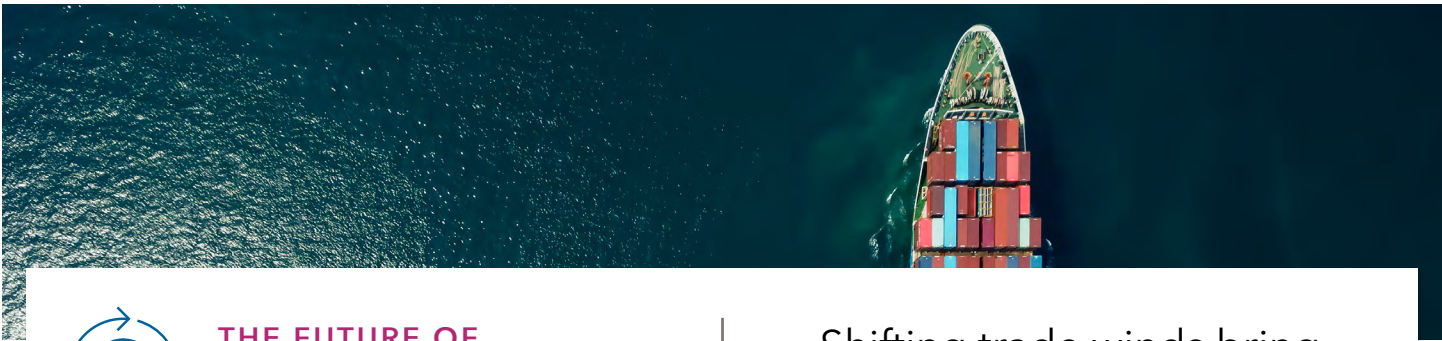
Significant hurdles remain for widespread adoption of these technologies, and not all innovations will succeed. But the future of health care is exciting, and the potential for value creation over the next decade appears promising.

**Robust pipelines could lead to new era of drug discovery**

Top pharmaceutical companies worldwide, by number of drugs in the R&D pipeline



Source: Statista. As of January 2023. RNAi: ribonucleic acid interference. CRISPR: clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats.



## THE FUTURE OF Trade

## Shifting trade winds bring opportunities to new markets



**Brad Freer** is an equity portfolio manager with 31 years of investment industry experience.

I'll be watching and investing around shifts in global trade and supply chains in the years to come. Rising geopolitical tensions and logistical issues during the COVID pandemic forced many companies to adopt a "China Plus One" strategy, diversifying their supply chains out of China. This has resulted in emerging markets like India, Southeast Asia and Latin America benefiting from new trade partners and opportunities.

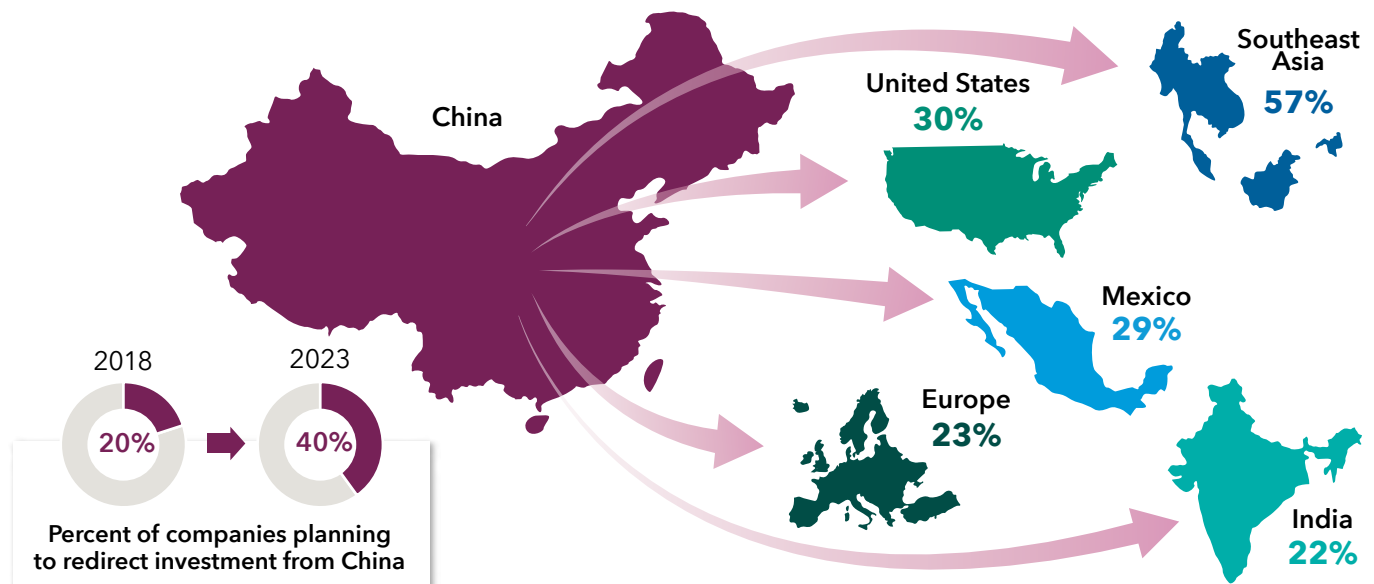
I believe this trend will continue to grow, with Mexico being a prime beneficiary of nearshoring. During my recent trip to Monterrey and Tijuana, I witnessed

multinational companies like Carrier and Kia building factories to take advantage of the low-cost and efficient labor force. These multi-million-square-foot facilities with their thousands of workers reminded me of the early days of China's manufacturing boom.

I'll be looking to invest in businesses that could benefit from this change. For example, construction and materials companies will be needed to build new facilities. Real estate developers, who are getting their pick of customers in many locations, also appear attractive. And finally, nimble multinationals that embrace diversified supply chains may gain an edge over competitors not able to adapt as quickly.

## As companies diversify supply chains, new winners will emerge

Top destinations for companies redirecting investments from China



Source: AmCham Shanghai 2023 China Business Report, published September 19, 2023. Based on a survey of 325 foreign companies doing business in China. Of those companies, 40% said they were redirecting investments from China to other locations, including Southeast Asia, the United States, Mexico, Europe and India, among others. Survey respondents could provide multiple responses, so total does not add up to 100%.



## THE FUTURE OF Food

## Cultivating innovation across the agricultural landscape



**Gigi Pardasani** is an equity investment analyst with 14 years of investment industry experience.

The world's food system is undergoing an exciting transformation. Companies are exploring innovative solutions to revolutionize agriculture and the industries it impacts. One trend I'm following is precision agriculture – which is essentially the use of high-tech tools to grow crops more efficiently.

Farmers armed with cutting-edge technology using machine learning, geolocation and sensors are able to make smarter decisions in the field.

Those who've already embraced

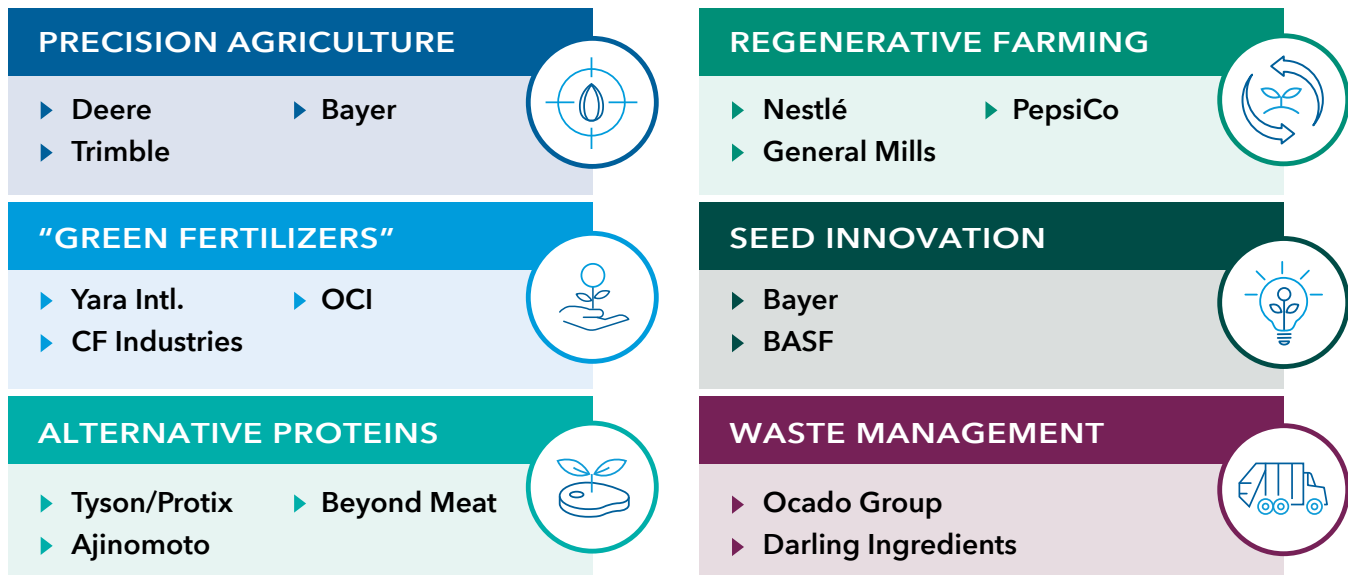
precision agriculture have seen up to 30% greater productivity through a reduction in the number of

passes on the field and improved soil. Real-time data has been a game changer, with many farmers becoming increasingly reliant on analytics and visualizations to improve their processes. Artificial intelligence could further drive improvements. While this latest technology clearly benefits agricultural machinery companies, it should also have environmental and productivity benefits for a host of other businesses.

From seed innovation to regenerative farming and even alternative proteins, the industry is evolving. The agricultural cycle can require patience, but the developments are promising. I believe these are multi-year shifts that long-term investors should have on their radar.

### Who's innovating in agriculture?

Examples of companies working on current agricultural trends



Source: Capital Group. Statement about 30% productivity increase is compared to prior generation of machinery, as of March 2024. The graphic is a non-exhaustive list provided by analysts of companies working on these trends. These examples are not based on holdings or recommendations and are for illustrative purposes only.

# 4 Megatrends to watch



## THE FUTURE OF Tech



**Mark  
Casey**

*"AI will extend well beyond generative chatbots and have lasting impacts across many industries."*



## THE FUTURE OF Health care



**Rich  
Wolf**

*"We are currently in an era of innovation across the health care landscape."*



## THE FUTURE OF Trade



**Brad  
Freer**

*"I'll be investing around shifts in global trade and supply chains in the years to come."*



## THE FUTURE OF Food



**Gigi  
Pardasani**

*"From seed innovation to regenerative farming, the industry is evolving."*

Get industry-leading insights  
in your inbox.



getcapitalideas.com

Subscribe to Capital Ideas.™



**Voted #1**

for thought leadership\*

2019 2020 2021 2023

\*Source: Marketing Support: The Advisor View, May 2023, July 2021, June 2020; Fund Intelligence, February 2020. FUSE Research surveys of 500-1,000 advisors identifying the "most-read thought leaders." Survey was not conducted in 2022.

Statements attributed to an individual represent the opinions of that individual as of the date published and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Capital Group or its affiliates. This information is intended to highlight issues and should not be considered advice, an endorsement or a recommendation.

This content, developed by Capital Group, home of American Funds, should not be used as a primary basis for investment decisions and is not intended to serve as impartial investment or fiduciary advice.

All Capital Group trademarks mentioned are owned by The Capital Group Companies, Inc., an affiliated company or fund. All other company and product names mentioned are the property of their respective companies.

American Funds Distributors, Inc.