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***Trendlines* – Jim Butler, CFP®, AIF®**
Videre Wealth Management, Inc.
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1. Negative interest rates are here – and have been for a while. While attending a Shiva recently, the topic of negative interest rates came up in a conversation. ***What are they?*** Nothing more than a bank, a central government or a lending institution charging depositors a fee to hold their money. (Heck if I could get away with it, I would open a bunch of these in the backyard.) ***Why do it?*** The short answer is to spur economic spending and growth since depositors would have to otherwise “pay” somebody to hold their money. Depositors (or investors if we want to stretch the meaning of the word) with little confidence in the current economic landscape would gladly defer spending now until the future. ***Who currently has negative interest rates?*** a) The European Central Bank (ECB) deposit rate (-0.1%) since June 2014, b) Swiss National Bank (-0.75) as of Sept 2018, c) Denmark’s benchmark interest rate (-0.5%) last recorded in 2018, d) Central Bank of Sweden (-0.5%) as of Sept 2018, and e) The Bank of Japan (-0.1%) since Sept 2018 – to name but a few.
2. If you can enlarge [this graphic](#) on the World’s 100 Biggest Islands (from the Visual Capitalist) , it is a fast lesson in geography. If this were on a test to name even 10 islands, I would definitely not pass! How about you?
3. [This video](#) is not a commercial for any of the participants but it is interesting to hear *fresh-off-the-press* commentary on the recent market highs. And yes, Brad McMillan is the Chief Investment Officer of Commonwealth Financial Network (our broker dealer). You have likely seen or read about his observations in the past. It is only a few minutes long and well worth the time.