

# NEIRG

Wealth Management

New England Investment & Retirement Group, Inc.



## Quarterly Considerations

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Q1 2021

# Market Themes

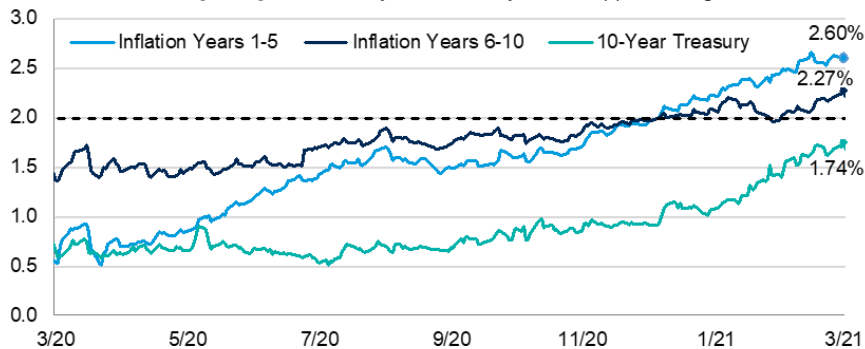
The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and advancing vaccination efforts may serve as a bridge to more sustained positive economic momentum.

Both interest rates and inflation expectations trended higher as global growth accelerated.

Market breadth was strong during the quarter led by a recovery among areas most afflicted by the pandemic.

## Inflation Expectations and Interest Rates

Inflation estimates are rising but at a moderating pace with longer-term projections around the Fed's 2% average target. The 10-year Treasury is also approaching that level.

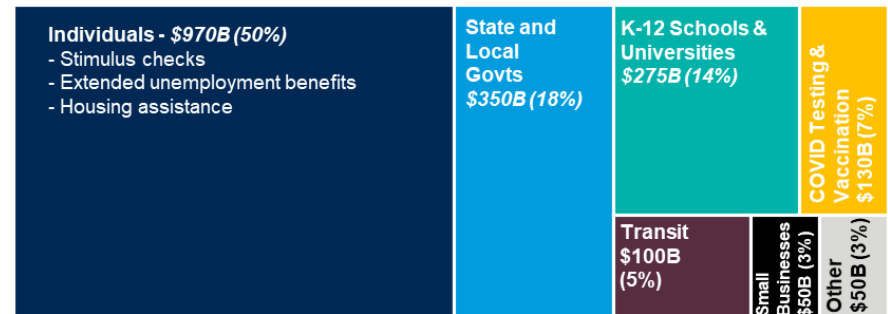


Sources: Bloomberg. Inflation Years 1-5: 5-Year Breakeven Inflation Rate. Inflation Years 6-10: 5 Year Forward Breakeven Inflation Rate.

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## ARPA Stimulus Package Components

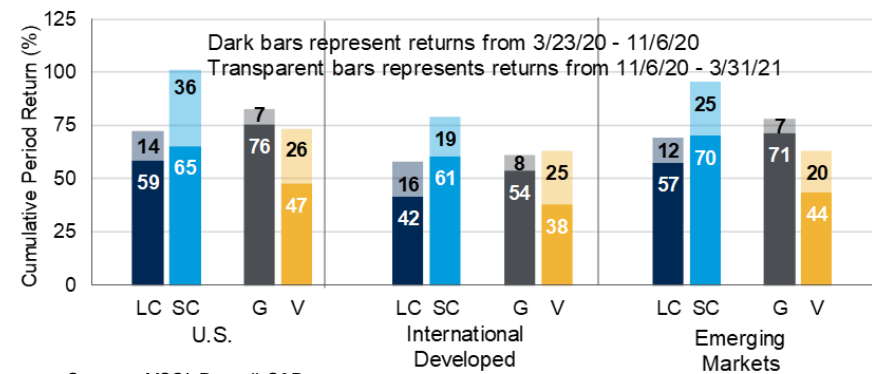
A majority of the recent stimulus package offers support to individuals via checks and extended unemployment benefits, which could encourage more consumer spending.



Congressional Budget Office; staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT).

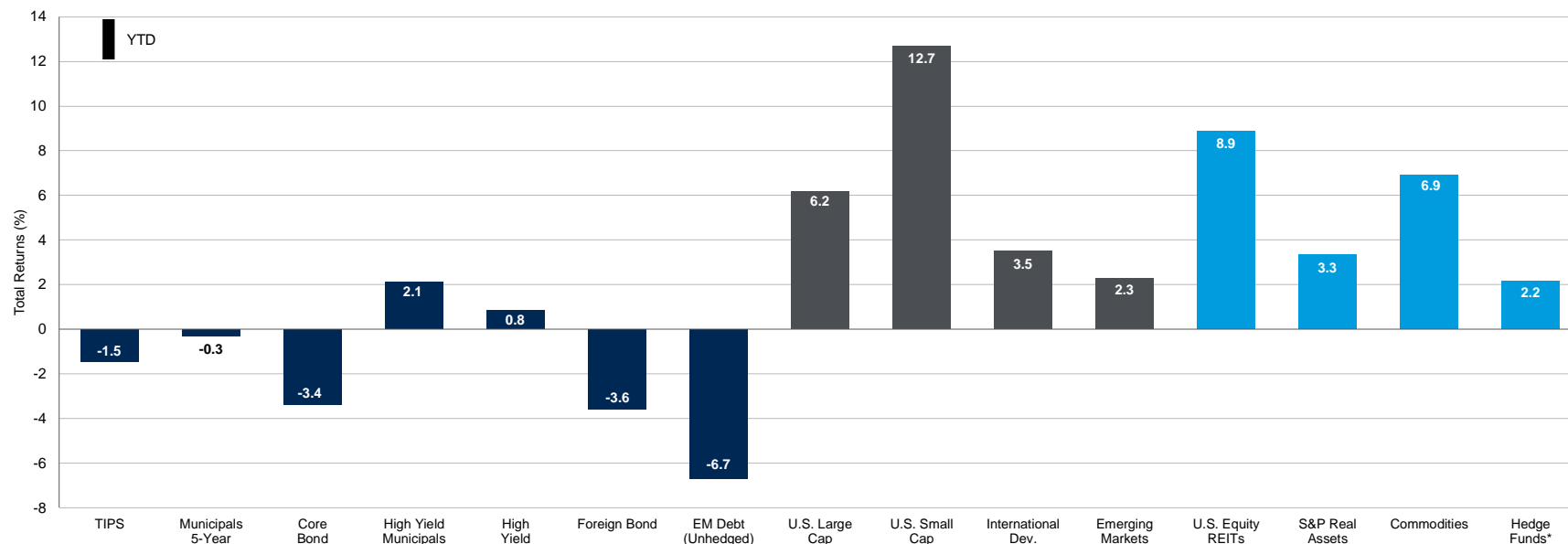
## Market Capitalization and Style Performance

Markets segments hardest hit by the pandemic and subsequent policy measures (e.g., small caps, financials, energy) have recently experienced the most noteworthy gains.



Sources: MSCI, Russell, S&P

# Asset Class Performance



\*Hedge fund returns are lagged 1 month. Sources: Bloomberg, J.P. Morgan, Russell, MSCI, FTSE Russell, Alerian. Hedge Funds returns as of 2/28/21. All other returns as of 3/31/21.

## Fixed Income (1Q 2021)

- Climbing intermediate and long-dated Treasury rates
- + Continued demand for bonds with higher yields benefitted spread sectors
- Dollar strength hurt emerging markets

## Equities (1Q 2021)

- + Continued vaccination efforts supported optimism for growth, particularly in the U.S.
- + Economically-sensitive stocks hardest hit by COVID-19 mitigation efforts led the rally
- Dollar strength hurt emerging markets

## Real Assets / Alternatives (1Q 2021)

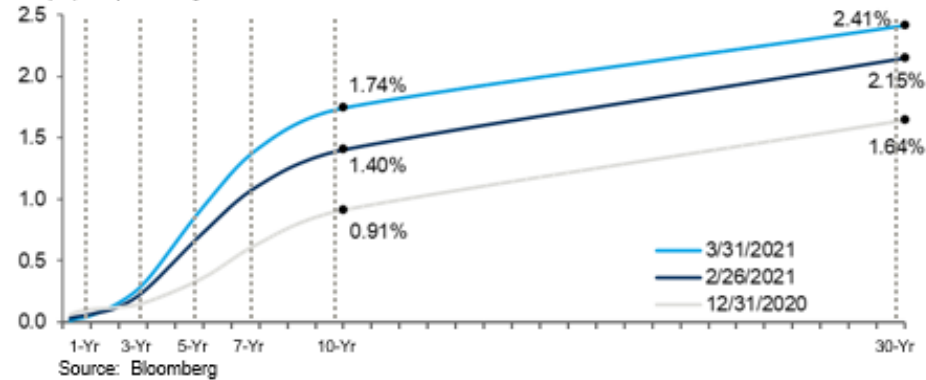
- + Rebound in most REIT sectors, notably retail and residential
- + Higher inflation expectations and extreme cold weather supported oil prices

See disclosures for list of indices representing each asset class. Past performance does not indicate future performance and there is a possibility of a loss.

# Fixed Income Market Update

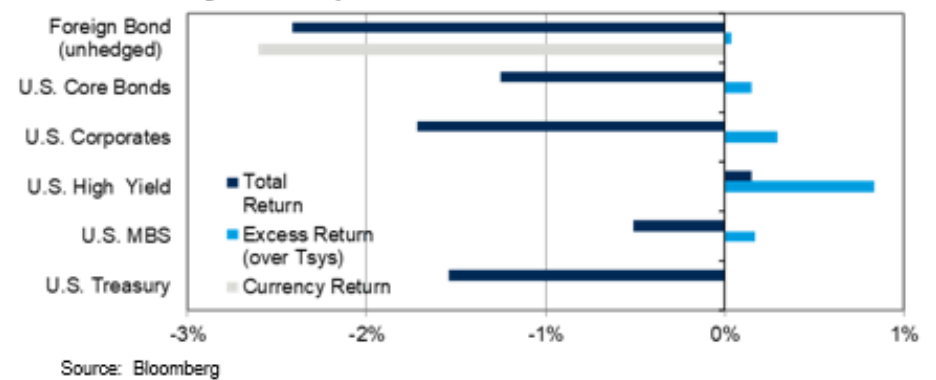
## U.S. Treasury Curve

U.S. Treasuries sold off in March with the 10-year and 30-year rates rising 34bps and 26bps, respectively.



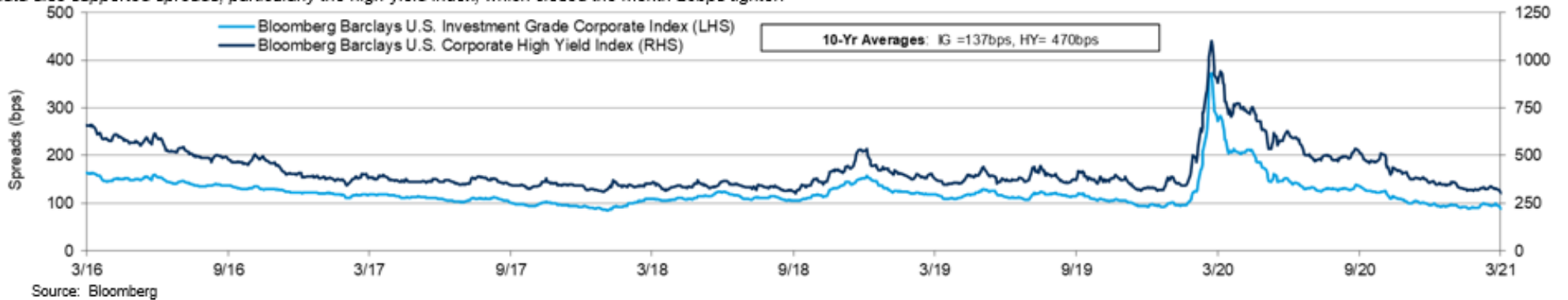
## Index Performance Attribution (March 2021)

The rise in Treasury yields drove total returns for the month of March with most fixed income indices in negative territory.



## Credit Market Spreads – Trailing 5 Years

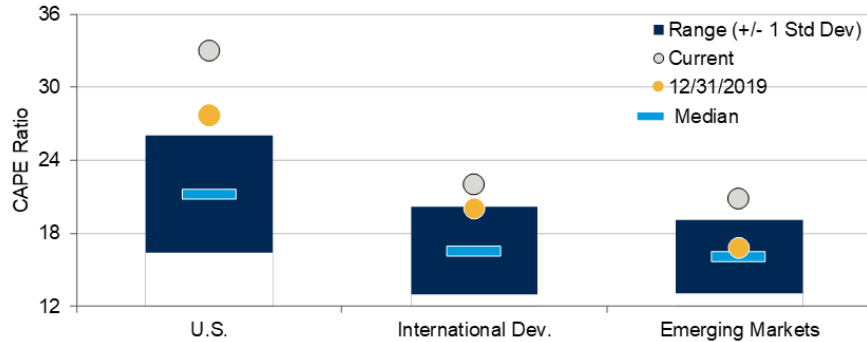
Despite volatile and rising Treasury yields, spreads held in fairly well and benefitted from the continued demand for yield in fixed income markets. Vaccine optimism and improving economic data also supported spreads, particularly the high-yield index, which closed the month 20bps tighter.



# Equity Market Update

## Equity Valuations (Trailing 15 Years)

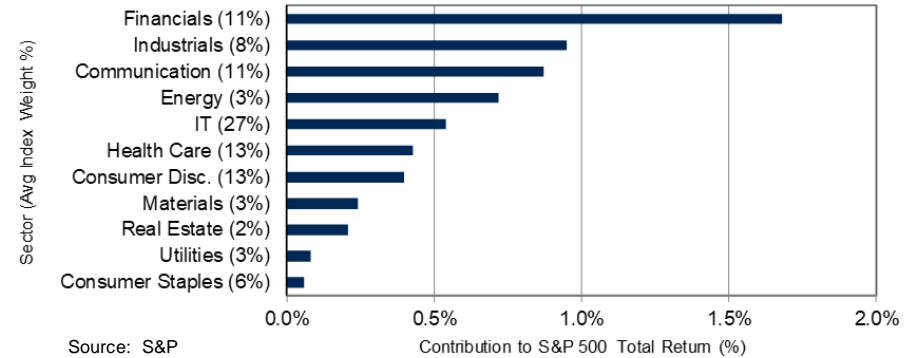
Another positive quarter for global equity returns pushed valuations even higher, and now all markets are trading above historical ranges (+/- 1 standard deviation).



Source: Source: MSCI as of 3/31/21. U.S = USA Price Return USD Index, Int. Dev = World Excluding United States Index, EM = Emerging Markets Index.

## U.S. Equities – Contribution to Return by Sector (1Q 2021)

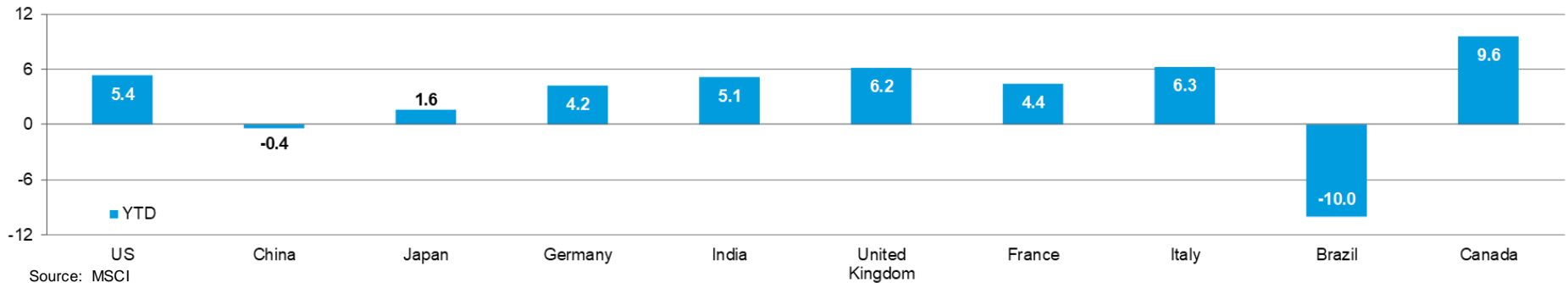
Stocks advanced across industries led by financials, particularly banks, which benefit from higher Treasury rates that support higher loan rates.



Source: S&P

## Country Total Returns (%) – Top 10 Largest Economies

Most developed economies led the first quarter rally while some emerging economies struggled. Some Chinese companies within the consumer industry stumbled on increased concerns of more regulation. Brazil's political troubles and battle with COVID continue to challenge the country.



Source: MSCI

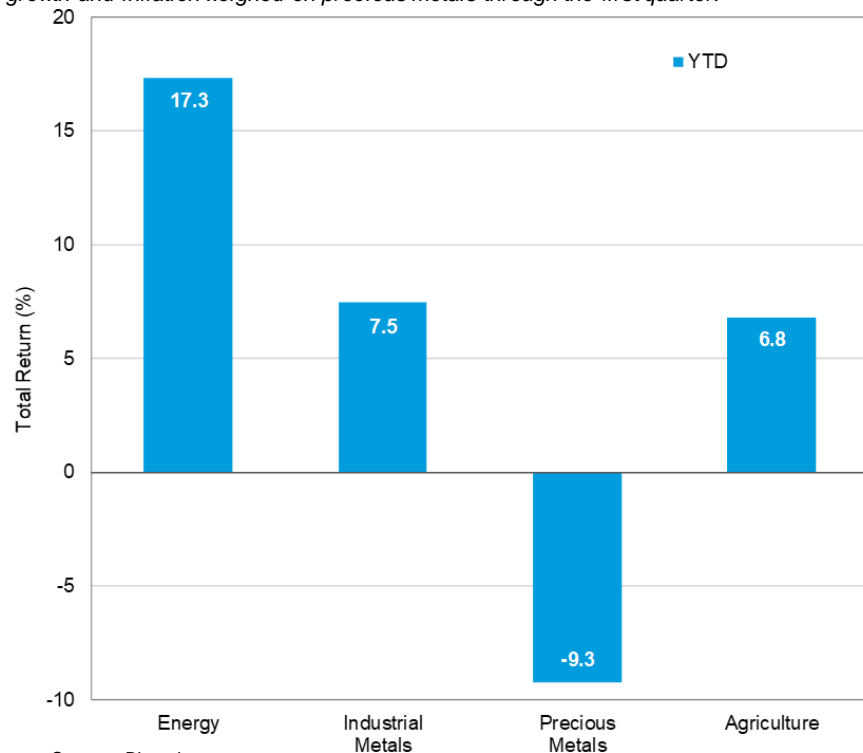
See disclosures for list of indices representing each asset class. Past performance does not indicate future performance and there is a possibility of a loss.

See disclosures for list of indices representing each asset class, region or country. Past performance does not indicate future performance and there is a possibility of a loss.

# Alternatives Market Update

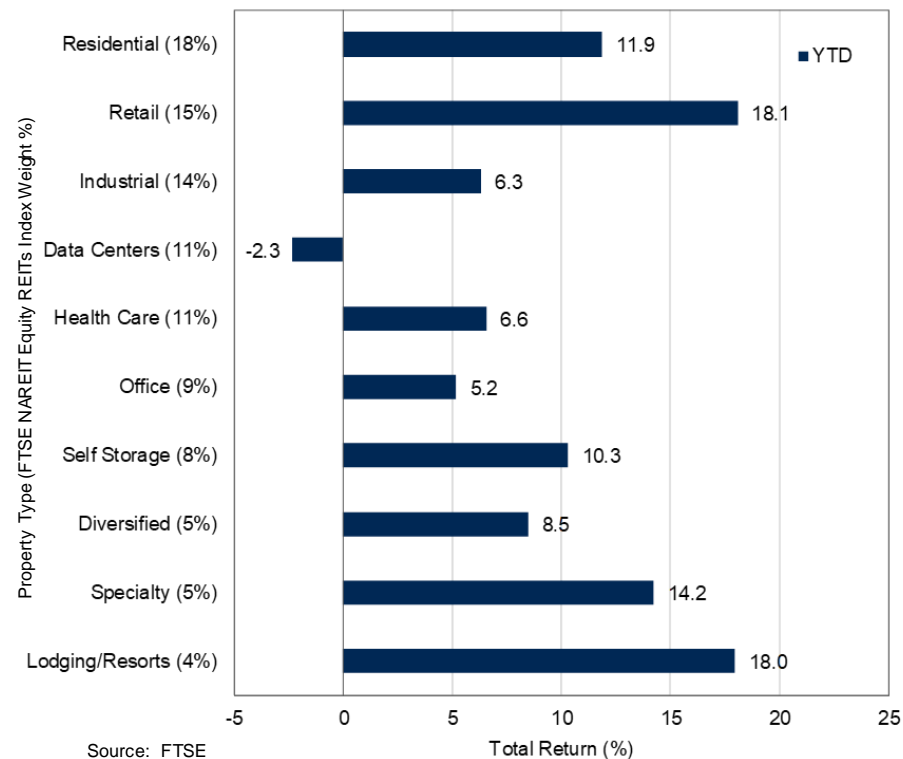
## Real Assets Performance

While rising inflation expectations benefitted commodities in aggregate, accelerating growth and inflation weighed on precious metals through the first quarter.



## REIT Sector Performance

Most REIT sectors generated positive returns in the first quarter on continued vaccine optimism and in anticipation of more economic reopening in the U.S.

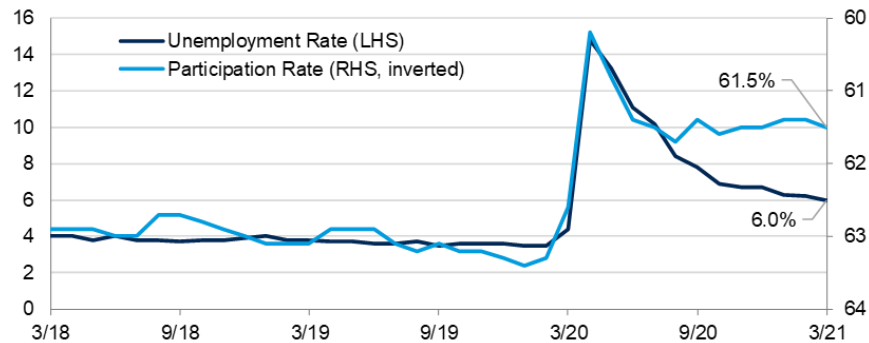


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# Economic Review

## Labor Market Conditions

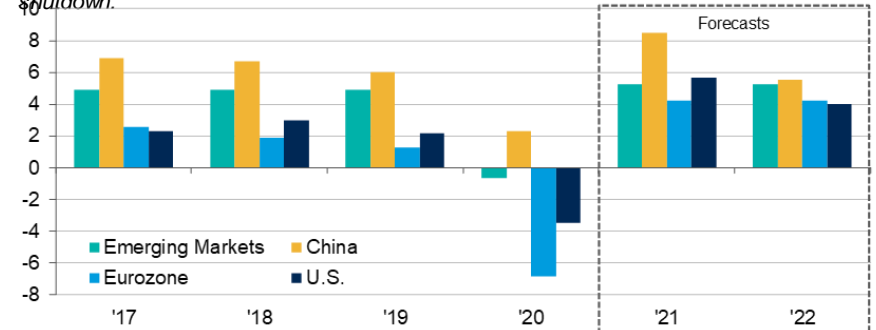
Falling unemployment should support consumer spending (~2/3<sup>rd</sup> of GDP); however, the participation rate remains below average, which could dampen inflation pressures.



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)

## Real GDP Growth (YoY)

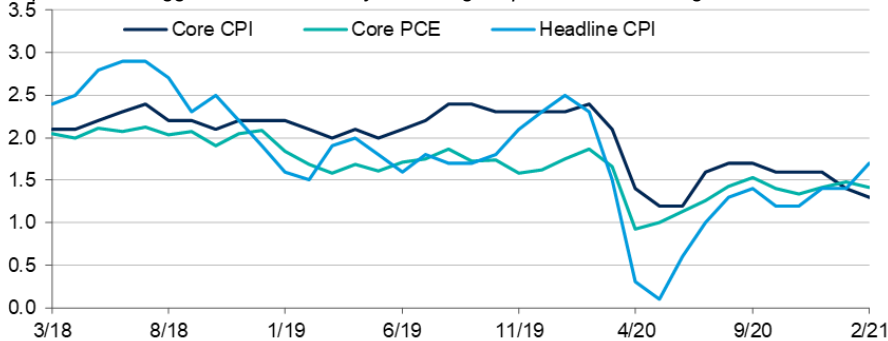
Strong GDP growth is expected in the coming years across all major regions, most notably in China as one of the first countries to emerge from the pandemic-induced shutdown.



Source: Bloomberg. Forecasts based on Bloomberg survey.

## U.S. Inflation

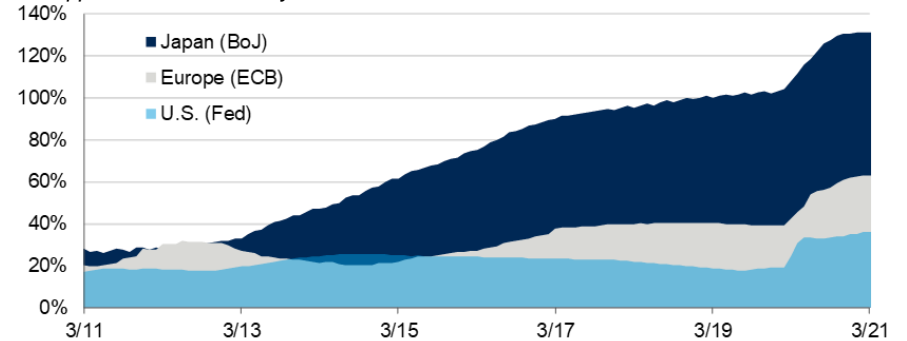
Current inflation measures are still running below the Fed's average 2% target, but rising expectations suggest that we're likely to see higher prints in the coming months.



Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). Subject to one-month lag

## Central Bank Balance Sheets as a Percentage of GDP

Despite unprecedented levels of monetary easing, the Fed has a lot more policy room to support economic activity.



Source: Bloomberg

# The Case for Diversification

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	YTD	10Yr (Ann)
TIPS 13.6	Emerging Markets 18.2	U.S. Small Cap 38.8	U.S. Equity REITs 30.1	U.S. Equity REITs 3.2	U.S. Small Cap 21.3	Emerging Markets 37.3	High Yield Munis 4.8	U.S. Large Cap 31.5	U.S. Small Cap 20.0	U.S. Small Cap 12.7	U.S. Large Cap 13.9
High Yield Munis 9.3	High Yield Munis 18.1	U.S. Large Cap 32.4	High Yield Munis 13.8	Municipals 5-Year 2.4	High Yield 17.1	International Dev. 25.0	Municipals 5-Year 1.7	U.S. Equity REITs 26.0	U.S. Large Cap 18.4	U.S. Equity REITs 8.9	U.S. Small Cap 11.7
U.S. Equity REITs 8.3	U.S. Equity REITs 18.1	International Dev. 22.8	U.S. Large Cap 13.7	High Yield Munis 1.8	U.S. Large Cap 12.0	U.S. Large Cap 21.8	Foreign Bond 0.5	U.S. Small Cap 25.5	Emerging Markets 18.3	Commodities 6.9	U.S. Equity REITs 8.6
Core Bond 7.8	International Dev. 17.3	Balanced 12.2	Core Bond 6.0	U.S. Large Cap 1.4	Commodities 11.7	EM Debt (unhedged) 15.2	Core Bond 0.0	International Dev. 22.5	TIPS 11.0	U.S. Large Cap 6.2	High Yield Munis 7.1
Municipals 5-Year 6.9	EM Debt (unhedged) 16.9	Hedge Funds 9.0	Balanced 5.1	Core Bond 0.6	Emerging Markets 11.2	U.S. Small Cap 14.6	TIPS -1.3	Emerging Markets 18.4	Balanced 8.8	International Dev. 3.5	High Yield 6.5
High Yield 5.0	U.S. Small Cap 16.3	High Yield 7.4	U.S. Small Cap 4.9	Hedge Funds -0.3	EM Debt (unhedged) 9.9	Balanced 13.6	High Yield -2.1	Balanced 17.5	International Dev. 7.8	Emerging Markets 2.3	Balanced 6.2
Foreign Bond 4.2	U.S. Large Cap 16.0	U.S. Equity REITs 2.5	TIPS 3.6	International Dev. -0.8	U.S. Equity REITs 8.5	High Yield Munis 9.7	Hedge Funds -4.0	High Yield 14.3	Core Bond 7.5	Hedge Funds 2.2	International Dev. 5.5
U.S. Large Cap 2.1	High Yield 15.8	Municipals 5-Year 0.8	Hedge Funds 3.4	TIPS -1.4	Balanced 7.6	Hedge Funds 7.8	U.S. Large Cap -4.4	EM Debt (unhedged) 13.5	Hedge Funds 7.1	High Yield Munis 2.1	Emerging Markets 3.6
Balanced 0.9	Balanced 11.5	Foreign Bond -1.0	Municipals 5-Year 3.2	Foreign Bond -2.3	TIPS 4.7	High Yield 7.5	U.S. Equity REITs -4.6	High Yield Munis 10.7	High Yield 7.1	Balanced 1.9	Hedge Funds 3.5
EM Debt (unhedged) -1.8	TIPS 7.0	Core Bond -2.0	Foreign Bond 2.9	Balanced -3.3	Foreign Bond 3.2	Foreign Bond 6.5	Balanced -5.8	Core Bond 8.7	Foreign Bond 7.0	High Yield 0.8	TIPS 3.4
U.S. Small Cap -4.2	Foreign Bond 5.3	Emerging Markets -2.6	High Yield 2.5	U.S. Small Cap -4.4	High Yield Munis 3.0	U.S. Equity REITs 5.2	EM Debt (unhedged) -6.2	TIPS 8.4	High Yield Munis 4.9	Municipals 5-Year -0.3	Core Bond 3.4
Hedge Funds -5.7	Hedge Funds 4.8	High Yield Munis -5.5	Emerging Markets -2.2	High Yield -4.5	Core Bond 2.6	Core Bond 3.5	U.S. Small Cap -11.0	Hedge Funds 7.8	Municipals 5-Year 4.3	TIPS -1.5	Municipals 5-Year 2.9
Commodities -13.3	Core Bond 4.2	TIPS -8.6	International Dev. -4.9	Emerging Markets -14.9	International Dev. 1.0	Municipals 5-Year 3.1	Commodities -11.2	Commodities 7.7	EM Debt (unhedged) 2.7	Core Bond -3.4	Foreign Bond 2.8
International Dev. -12.1	Municipals 5-Year 3.0	EM Debt (unhedged) -9.0	EM Debt (unhedged) -5.7	EM Debt (unhedged) -14.9	Hedge Funds 0.5	TIPS 3.0	International Dev. -13.8	Foreign Bond 6.3	Commodities -3.1	Foreign Bond -3.6	EM Debt (unhedged) 0.5
Emerging Markets -18.4	Commodities -1.1	Commodities -9.5	Commodities -17.0	Commodities -24.7	Municipals 5-Year -0.4	Commodities 1.7	Emerging Markets -14.6	Municipals 5-Year 5.4	U.S. Equity REITs -8.0	EM Debt (unhedged) -6.7	Commodities -6.3

Source: Bloomberg as of 3/31/21. See disclosures for list of indices representing each asset class. Past performance does not indicate future performance and there is a possibility of a loss.



# Financial Markets Performance

Global Fixed Income Markets	QTD	YTD	1YR	3YR	5YR	7YR	10YR	15YR
Bloomberg Barclays 1-3-Month T-Bill	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	1.4%	1.1%	0.8%	0.6%	1.1%
Bloomberg Barclays U.S. TIPS	-1.5%	-1.5%	7.5%	5.7%	3.9%	3.4%	3.4%	4.4%
Bloomberg Barclays Municipal Bond (5 Year)	-0.3%	-0.3%	5.1%	3.9%	2.5%	2.6%	2.9%	3.7%
Bloomberg Barclays High Yield Municipal Bond	2.1%	2.1%	15.0%	7.3%	6.4%	6.3%	7.1%	5.4%
Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate	-3.4%	-3.4%	0.7%	4.7%	3.1%	3.3%	3.4%	4.3%
Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Corporate High Yield	0.8%	0.8%	23.7%	6.8%	8.1%	5.4%	6.5%	7.4%
Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate ex-U.S. Hedged	-1.9%	-1.9%	1.5%	3.9%	3.3%	4.0%	4.2%	4.2%
Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate ex-U.S. Unhedged	-5.3%	-5.3%	7.2%	1.1%	2.1%	0.9%	1.3%	3.3%
Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Long Gov / Credit	-10.4%	-10.4%	-2.1%	7.1%	5.5%	6.1%	7.0%	6.9%
JPMorgan GBI-EM Global Diversified	-6.7%	-6.7%	13.0%	-0.8%	3.1%	0.2%	0.5%	4.3%
Global Equity Markets	QTD	YTD	1YR	3YR	5YR	7YR	10YR	15YR
S&P 500	6.2%	6.2%	56.3%	16.8%	16.3%	13.6%	13.9%	10.0%
Dow Jones Industrial Average	8.3%	8.3%	53.8%	13.6%	16.0%	13.1%	13.1%	10.3%
NASDAQ Composite	3.0%	3.0%	73.5%	24.6%	23.5%	19.2%	18.3%	13.5%
Russell 3000	6.3%	6.3%	62.5%	17.1%	16.6%	13.4%	13.8%	10.0%
Russell 1000	5.9%	5.9%	60.6%	17.3%	16.6%	13.6%	14.0%	10.2%
Russell 1000 Growth	0.9%	0.9%	62.7%	22.8%	21.0%	17.5%	16.6%	12.4%
Russell 1000 Value	11.2%	11.2%	56.1%	10.9%	11.7%	9.4%	11.0%	7.7%
Russell Mid Cap	8.1%	8.1%	73.6%	14.7%	14.7%	11.6%	12.5%	9.8%
Russell Mid Cap Growth	-0.6%	-0.6%	68.6%	19.4%	18.4%	14.4%	14.1%	10.9%
Russell Mid Cap Value	13.0%	13.0%	73.7%	10.7%	11.6%	9.3%	11.1%	8.6%
Russell 2000	12.7%	12.7%	94.8%	14.7%	16.3%	11.0%	11.7%	8.8%
Russell 2000 Growth	4.9%	4.9%	90.2%	17.1%	18.6%	12.7%	13.0%	10.0%
Russell 2000 Value	21.2%	21.2%	97.0%	11.5%	13.5%	8.9%	10.0%	7.4%
MSCI ACWI	4.6%	4.6%	54.6%	12.1%	13.2%	9.4%	9.1%	7.0%
MSCI ACWI ex. U.S.	3.5%	3.5%	49.4%	6.5%	9.8%	5.3%	4.9%	4.5%
MSCI EAFE	3.5%	3.5%	44.6%	6.0%	8.8%	4.8%	5.5%	4.1%
MSCI EAFE Growth	-0.6%	-0.6%	42.6%	9.8%	10.8%	7.2%	7.2%	5.5%
MSCI EAFE Value	7.4%	7.4%	45.7%	1.8%	6.6%	2.2%	3.7%	2.6%
MSCI EAFE Small Cap	4.5%	4.5%	62.0%	6.3%	10.5%	7.4%	8.0%	5.7%
MSCI Emerging Markets	2.3%	2.3%	58.4%	6.5%	12.1%	6.6%	3.7%	5.9%
Alternatives	QTD	YTD	1YR	3YR	5YR	7YR	10YR	15YR
Consumer Price Index*	0.6%	0.6%	2.0%	1.8%	2.0%	1.6%	1.7%	1.9%
FTSE NAREIT Equity REITs	8.9%	8.9%	37.8%	9.5%	5.3%	7.7%	8.6%	6.1%
S&P Developed World Property x U.S.	2.2%	2.2%	33.8%	3.1%	5.4%	5.2%	6.0%	4.2%
S&P Developed World Property	5.6%	5.6%	35.9%	6.1%	5.2%	6.2%	7.1%	4.9%
Bloomberg Commodity Total Return	6.9%	6.9%	35.0%	-0.2%	2.3%	-5.8%	-6.3%	-3.4%
HFRI Fund of Funds Composite*	2.2%	2.2%	24.3%	5.6%	5.7%	3.9%	3.5%	2.8%
HFRI Fund Weighted Composite*	5.3%	5.3%	33.1%	7.4%	7.4%	5.2%	4.6%	4.7%
Alerian MLP	22.0%	22.0%	103.1%	-3.0%	-1.3%	-6.5%	-0.9%	4.6%

\*One month lag.

Source: Bloomberg as of 3/31/21. Total returns as of 3/31/21. Periods greater than 1 year are annualized. All returns are in U.S. dollar terms. Past performance does not indicate future performance and there is a possibility of a loss.

# Disclosures and Definitions

## INDEX AND BENCHMARK DEFINITIONS:

- **Bloomberg Barclays Treasury U.S. T-Bills-1-3 Month Index** includes aged U.S. Treasury bills, notes and bonds with a remaining maturity from 1 up to (but not including) 3 months. It excludes zero coupon strips.
- **Bloomberg Barclays Capital US Treasury Inflation Protected Securities Index** consists of Inflation-Protection securities issued by the U.S. Treasury.
- **Bloomberg Barclays Muni 5 Year Index** is the 5-year (4-6) component of the Municipal Bond index.
- **Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Index** covers the U.S. investment grade fixed rate bond market, with index components for government and corporate securities, mortgage pass-through securities, and asset-backed securities.
- **Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate ex. USD Indices** represent a broad-based measure of the global investment-grade fixed income markets. The two major components of this index are the Pan-European Aggregate and the Asian-Pacific Aggregate Indices. The index also includes Eurodollar and Euro-Yen corporate bonds and Canadian government, agency and corporate securities.
- **Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Corporate High Yield Index** covers the universe of fixed rate, non-investment grade debt. Eurobonds and debt issues from countries designated as emerging markets (sovereign rating of Baa1/BBB+/BBB+ and below using the middle of Moody's, S&P, and Fitch) are excluded, but Canadian and global bonds (SEC registered) of issuers in non-EMV countries are included.
- **JP Morgan Government Bond Index-Emerging Market (GBI-EM) Index** is a comprehensive, global local emerging markets index, and consists of regularly traded, liquid fixed-rate, domestic currency government bonds to which international investors can gain exposure.
- **The S&P 500** is a capitalization-weighted index of 500 stocks designed to measure performance of the broad domestic economy through changes in the aggregate market value of 500 stocks representing all major industries.
- **The Dow Jones Industrial Index** is a price-weighted average of 30 blue-chip stocks that are generally the leaders in their industry.
- **The NASDAQ** is a broad-based capitalization-weighted index of stocks in all three NASDAQ tiers: Global Select, Global Market and Capital Market.
- **Russell 3000** is a market-cap-weighted index which consists of roughly 3,000 of the largest companies in the U.S. as determined by market capitalization. It represents nearly 98% of the investable U.S. equity market.
- **Russell 1000** consists of the largest 1000 companies in the Russell 3000 Index.
- **Russell 1000 Growth** measures the performance of those Russell 1000 companies with higher P/B ratios and higher forecasted growth values.
- **Russell 1000 Value** measures the performance of those Russell 1000 companies with lower P/B ratios and lower forecasted growth values.
- **Russell Mid Cap** measures the performance of the 800 smallest companies in the Russell 1000 Index.
- **Russell Mid Cap Growth** measures the performance of those Russell Mid Cap companies with higher P/B ratios and higher forecasted growth values.
- **Russell Mid Cap Value** measures the performance of those Russell Mid Cap companies with lower P/B ratios and lower forecasted growth values.
- **Russell 2000** consists of the 2,000 smallest U.S. companies in the Russell 3000 index.
- **Russell 2000 Growth** measures the performance of the Russell 2000 companies with higher P/B ratios and higher forecasted growth values.
- **Russell 2000 Value** measures the performance of those Russell 2000 companies with lower P/B ratios and lower forecasted growth values.
- **MSCI ACWI (All Country World Index) ex. U.S. Index** captures large and mid-cap representation across Developed Markets countries (excluding the United States) and Emerging Markets countries. The index covers approximately 85% of the global equity opportunity set outside the US.
- **MSCI ACWI (All Country World Index) ex. U.S. Small Cap Index** captures small cap representation across Developed Markets countries (excluding the US) and Emerging Markets countries. The index covers approximately 14% of the global equity opportunity set outside the US.
- **MSCI EAFE** is an equity index which captures large and mid-cap representation across Developed Markets countries around the world, excluding the US and Canada. The index covers approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in each country.
- **MSCI EAFE Value** captures large and mid-cap securities exhibiting overall value style characteristics across Developed Markets countries around the world, excluding the US and Canada. The value investment style characteristics for index construction are defined using three variables: book value to price, 12-month forward earnings to price and dividend yield. The index targets 50% coverage of the free float-adjusted market capitalization of the MSCI EAFE Index.
- **MSCI EAFE Growth** captures large and mid-cap securities exhibiting overall growth style characteristics across Developed Markets countries around the world, excluding the US and Canada. The growth investment style characteristics for index construction are defined using five variables: long-term forward EPS growth rate, short-term forward EPS growth rate, current internal growth rate and long-term historical EPS growth trend and long-term historical sales per share growth trend. The index targets 50% coverage of the free float-adjusted market capitalization of the MSCI EAFE Index.
- **MSCI Emerging Markets** captures large and mid-cap representation across Emerging Markets countries. The index covers approximately 85% of the free-float adjusted market capitalization in each country.
- **FTSE NAREIT Equity REITs Index** contains all Equity REITs not designed as Timber REITs or Infrastructure REITs.
- **S&P Developed World Property** defines and measures the investable universe of publicly traded property companies domiciled in developed markets. The companies in the index are engaged in real estate related activities, such as property ownership, management, development, rental and investment.
- **S&P Developed World Property x U.S.** defines and measures the investable universe of publicly traded property companies domiciled in developed countries outside of the U.S. The companies included are engaged in real estate related activities, such as property ownership, management, development, rental and investment.
- **Bloomberg Commodity Index** is calculated on an excess return basis and reflects commodity futures price movements. The index rebalances annually weighted 2/3 by trading volume and 1/3 by world production and weight-caps are applied at the commodity, sector and group level for diversification.
- **The Alerian MLP Index** is the leading gauge of energy Master Limited Partnerships (MLPs). The float adjusted, capitalization-weighted index, whose constituents represent approximately 85% of total float-adjusted market capitalization, is disseminated real-time on a price-return basis (AMZ) and on a total-return basis.

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