

**A LITTLE MORE UNCERTAINTY**

The Federal Open Markets Committee's (FOMC) statement on September 22, 2021 could be considered as pro-growth. In essence, the Fed has indicated it would allow inflation to run above 2% for some time and that it would likely cut back on its asset purchases soon. While this mild announcement nonetheless garnered comparisons to the 2013 "taper tantrum" in the press, the market's reaction was not draconian; bond yields rose but did not increase significantly. On average, the FOMC's expectations for growth, employment, and inflation were unchanged from the June meeting. Most meeting participants continued to view inflation risks as weighted to the upside but do not expect it to rise materially above 2% over the mid-term and certainly not over the long-run. Unexciting as this is, those with a magnifying glass may take interest in the slight increase in the diffusion of opinions by meeting participants around the average inflation expectation. Under the hood, is the Fed a little bit more uncertain than it was in June?

Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities (TIPS) suggest that the market may be a little bit more worried. As background, principal and interest payments on TIPS adjust for inflation. The yield difference between Treasury bonds and like-maturity TIPS ("break-even inflation") provides a proxy for the market's inflation expectations. Recently, TIPS have been suggesting inflation of 2.5% for the next five years despite the Fed's long-term goal and expectation of 2%. Does the market expect higher inflation or is it just more skeptical that the Fed will stick the proverbial landing? Probably both. TIPS yields incorporate an "inflation risk-premium", a willingness by investors to pay-up to have zero inflation risk. As such, increased concern about inflation may render investors more willing to buy TIPS, driving their prices up and yields down. Recent price movements certainly suggest investors are putting a higher price tag on inflation risk. TIPS returned an impressive 1.75% in 3Q21, whereas Treasury Bonds returned 0.09%. Other textbook inflation-hedges such as Commodities and US REITs returned 6.59% and 1.25%, well ahead of most other major asset classes.

It is understandable that those with money at risk (that is, skin in the game) will express more concern about inflation than those making economic forecasts. After all, the Fed's statement rounds up to being stimulative of growth and comes in addition to COVID-era asset purchases, which already exceed the sum of all those implemented in the aftermath of the financial crisis. And inflation is being stoked by many sources such as labor and supply shortages, abundant liquidity, low productivity growth, stimulated demand, low interest rates, relaxing lending standards, and a tolerant Central Bank.

One can easily formulate a case for higher interest rates: rising inflation may drive up bond yields, which an eventually less accommodative Fed will fight by selling bonds. Logical as this may be, it is sobering to think how such a conclusion was easy to arrive at in the aftermath of the financial crisis of 2008-2009. At that time, in spite of how inevitable rising prices seemed, inflation surprised to the downside and from 2011-2020 Long-Term Treasury Bonds (a very poor place to be during rising rates) returned 7.80% per year versus 3.84% for the US Aggregate Bond Index, handsomely rewarding the anti-inflation bet. While much of the uncertainty around inflation is understandably skewed to the upside, inflation dynamics have amassed an impressive track record at confounding the experts. Those planning to heavily tilt their portfolios to inflation-sensitive assets may wish to keep in mind that this trade has surprised and disappointed investors before.

## GLOBAL ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE

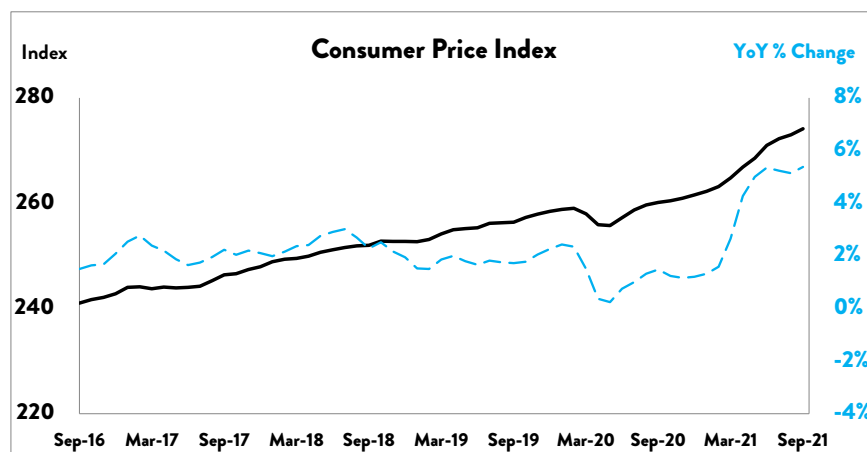
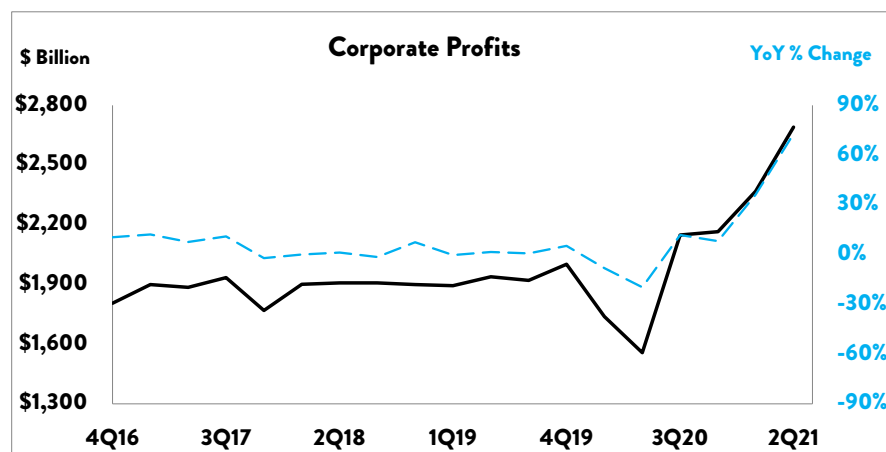
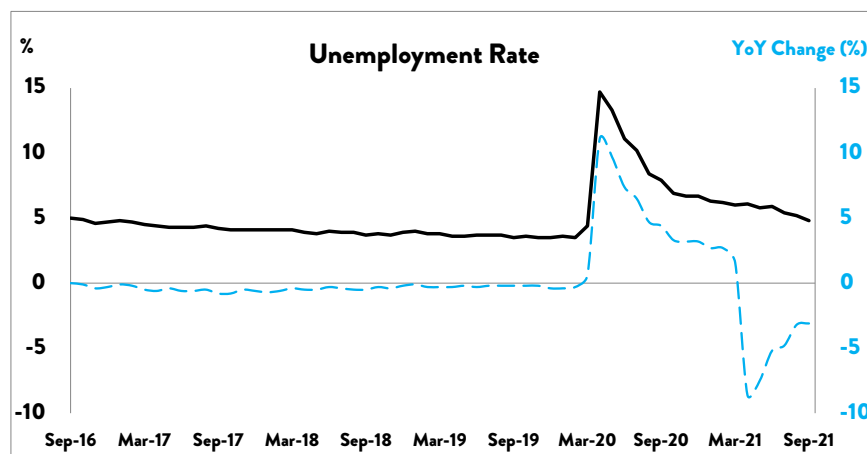
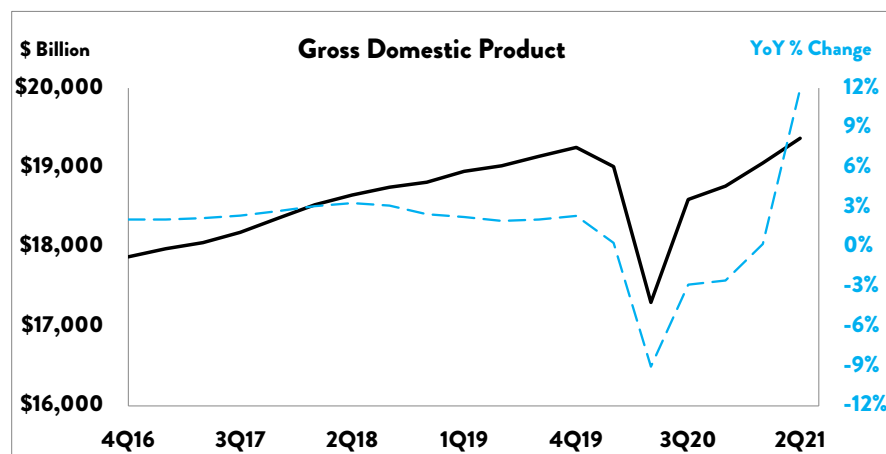
- ▶ The International Monetary Fund (IMF) forecast that the global economy will grow by 6.0% in 2021 and 4.9% in 2022, is essentially unchanged from its April forecast. However, the IMF altered the distribution of growth away from emerging economies, particularly in Asia, and towards developed ones. Public health was a large determinant for this change, as the IMF noted that roughly 40% of developed economies are fully vaccinated compared to less than 15% for emerging ones.
- ▶ Evergrande, China's premier property developer which became the world's most valuable real estate company three years ago, became emblematic of the country's difficulties with over-investment and excessive leverage. During the second quarter the market became increasingly skeptical about its ability to generate cash to pay debt, driving its bonds down to thirty cents on the dollar and rendering the stock worthless.
- ▶ Consumers within the United States continue to appear financially healthy thanks in part to ultra-low interest rates. As of 3Q21, household debt payments as a percentage of disposable income stood at 8.5%, over 35% below its peak level of 13.2% in 4Q07. Consumer assets as most recently measured stood at \$159.3 trillion, or 87% higher than their previous peak levels of \$85.1 trillion in 3Q07.
- ▶ Credit continues to appear likely to remain readily available in the United States. Respondents to the Fed's Senior Loan Officer Survey from July 2021 indicated a tendency towards loosening of credit terms. The survey also reported increased demand for commercial, industrial, and consumer loans after several quarters of weak demand. Increased private sector spending via credit may bolster economic activity after governmental stimulus wanes.

## GLOBAL FINANCIAL MARKETS

- ▶ US Large Cap Growth Stocks turned in yet another quarter of outperformance, with the Russell 1000 Growth Index returning 1.16% in 3Q21 whereas the rest of the US market returned negative. Looking forward however, US Value stocks are trading at their cheapest relative to Growth since the Tech crash of 2001. International equity markets also appear more attractively priced relative to the United States than they have been in decades.
- ▶ Bond markets generally turned in a soft and muted 3Q21, both domestically and abroad. The US market returned a mere 0.05% while the international market (hedged to the US Dollar) returned 0.09%. Certain areas such as TIPS (as mentioned), lower-rated high yield bonds, and long-duration bonds returned north 0.5%.
- ▶ Reflecting their divergence in economic growth outlooks and a relatively accommodative Fed, high yield credit risk continues to be less remunerative in the United States than emerging markets. High yield credit spreads in the United States stood at 3.15% at quarter-end versus 6.11% for emerging market corporate bonds. The difference of 2.96% is well above the ten-year average of 1.61%.

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# 3Q2021 Economic Data



Key: — Economic Series

- - - Year-Over-Year Change

Labor Market Statistics (Monthly)					
Category	Recent	5-Yr High	5-Yr Low	5-Yr Avg.	Date
Jobs Added/Lost Monthly	194,000	4,846,000	-20,679,000	43,333	Sep-21
Unemployment Rate	4.8%	14.7%	3.5%	5.1%	Sep-21
Median Unemployment Length (Weeks)	13.9	22.2	4.0	11.4	Sep-21
Average Hourly Earnings	\$30.85	\$30.85	\$25.88	\$27.99	Sep-21

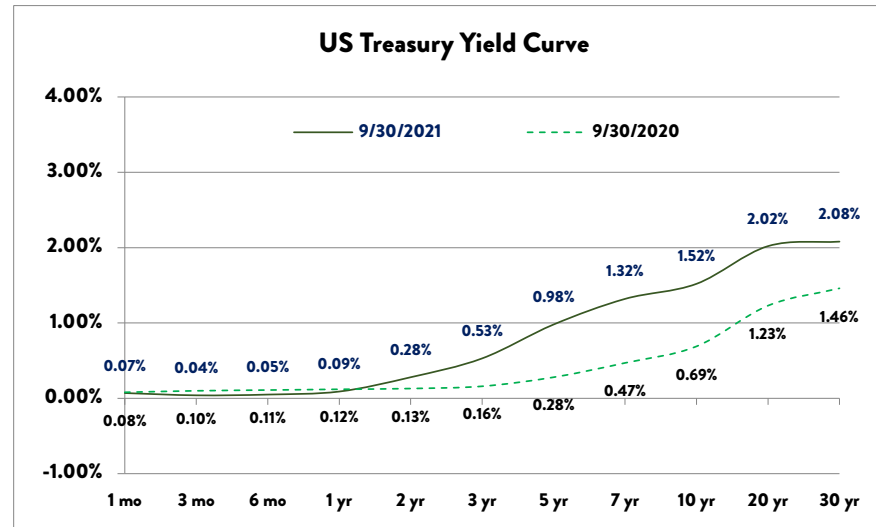
Source: Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis and Bureau of Labor Statistics

Other Prices and Indexes (Monthly)					
Category	Recent	5-Yr High	5-Yr Low	% Off Peak	Date
Gas: Price per Gallon	\$3.16	\$3.16	\$1.80	0.0%	Sep-21
Spot Oil	\$71.65	\$72.49	\$16.55	-1.2%	Sep-21
Case-Shiller Home Price Index	270.9	270.9	189.5	42.9%*	Jul-21
Medical Care CPI	525.6	525.7	469.8	11.9%*	Sep-21

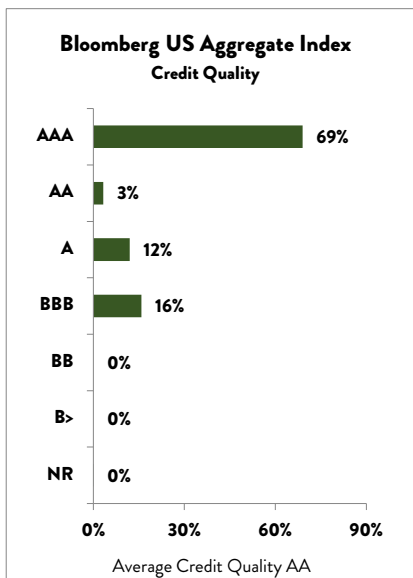
\*% Off Low

# 3Q2021 Bond Market Data

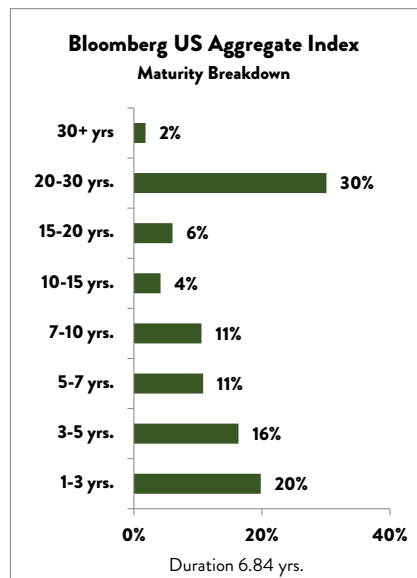
Index	QTR	YTD	1 yr.	3 yrs.	5 yrs.	10 yrs.
90-Day T-Bill	0.01%	0.03%	0.06%	1.03%	1.10%	0.60%
Bloomberg US Aggregate	0.05%	-1.55%	-0.90%	5.36%	2.94%	3.01%
Bloomberg Short US Treasury	0.02%	0.06%	0.08%	1.35%	1.25%	0.72%
Bloomberg Int. US Treasury	-0.01%	-1.15%	-1.38%	4.00%	1.98%	1.81%
Bloomberg Long US Treasury	0.47%	-7.49%	-10.27%	9.22%	3.31%	4.39%
Bloomberg US TIPS	1.75%	3.51%	5.19%	7.45%	4.34%	3.12%
Bloomberg US Credit	-0.03%	-1.30%	1.45%	7.10%	4.37%	4.60%
Bloomberg US Mortgage-Backed	0.10%	-0.67%	-0.43%	3.85%	2.17%	2.41%
Bloomberg US Asset-Backed	0.05%	0.23%	0.59%	3.50%	2.36%	2.13%
Bloomberg US 20-Yr Municipal	-0.47%	1.31%	3.99%	6.19%	4.05%	4.99%
Bloomberg US High Yield	0.89%	4.53%	11.28%	6.91%	6.52%	7.42%
Bloomberg Global	-0.88%	-4.06%	-0.91%	4.24%	1.99%	1.86%
Bloomberg International	-1.59%	-5.94%	-1.15%	3.17%	1.10%	0.90%
Bloomberg Emerging Market	-0.55%	-1.14%	3.31%	5.94%	4.13%	5.69%



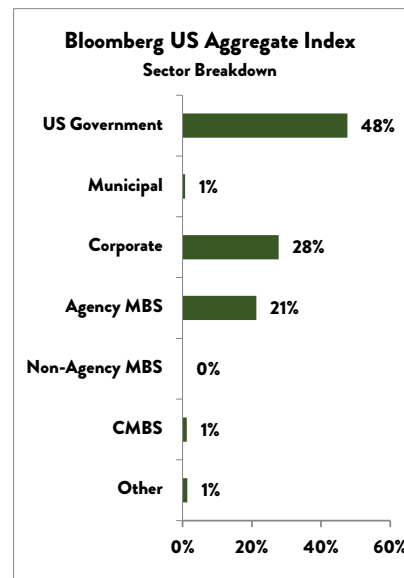
Source: Department of US Treasury



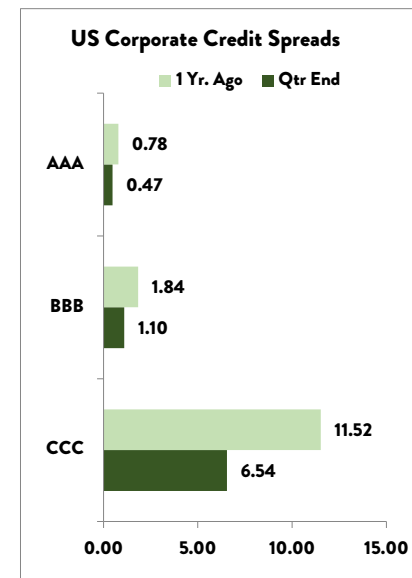
Source: Morningstar



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Source: Morningstar



Source: Federal Reserve / Bank of America

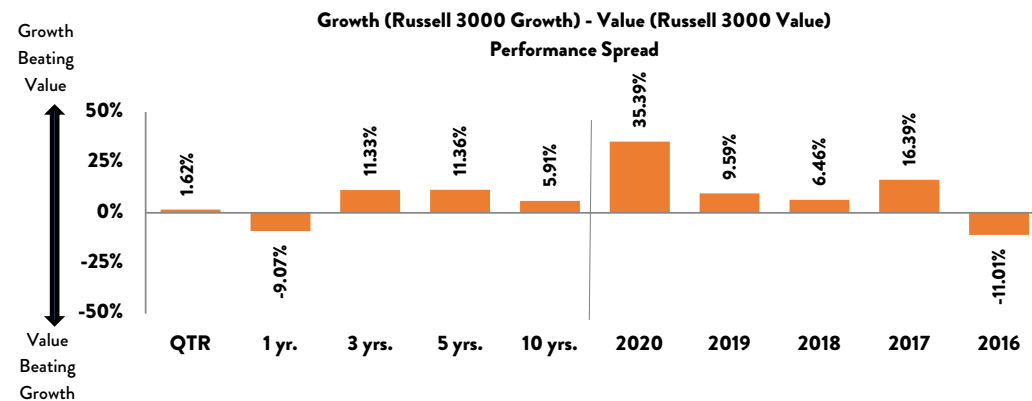
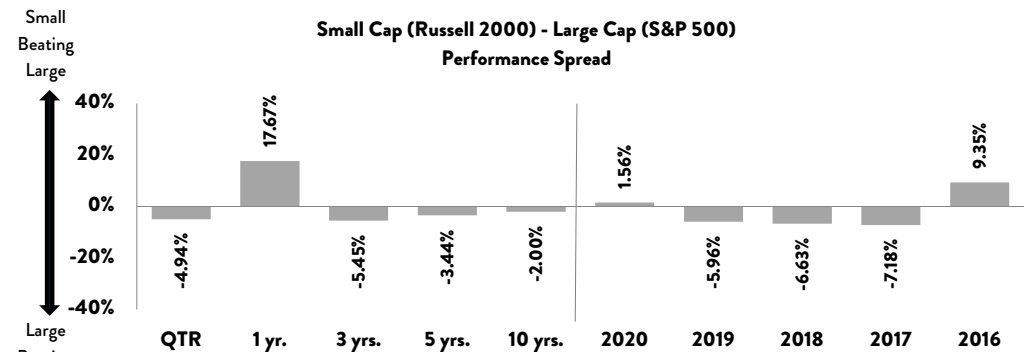
# 3Q2021 US Equity Market Data

## Sectors Weights/Returns (ranked by quarter performance)

	Wgt.	Sector	QTR	YTD	1 yr.
S&P 500 Index	11%	Financials	2.74%	29.14%	59.13%
	2%	Utilities	1.78%	4.20%	11.01%
	11%	Communication Services	1.60%	21.59%	38.39%
	13%	Health Care	1.43%	13.45%	22.56%
	28%	Information Technology	1.34%	15.29%	28.90%
	3%	Real Estate	0.88%	24.38%	30.53%
	12%	Consumer Discretionary	0.01%	10.28%	19.15%
	6%	Consumer Staples	-0.31%	4.69%	11.34%
	3%	Energy	-1.66%	43.22%	82.99%
	2%	Materials	-3.51%	10.49%	26.48%
8%	Industrials	-4.23%	11.48%	28.96%	
S&P Midcap 400 Index	3%	Energy	5.49%	62.10%	112.92%
	15%	Financials	1.83%	24.39%	65.23%
	10%	Real Estate	0.71%	18.84%	41.71%
	11%	Health Care	-0.37%	9.89%	30.79%
	15%	Consumer Discretionary	-2.07%	22.57%	50.07%
	18%	Industrials	-2.59%	15.08%	39.99%
	14%	Information Technology	-2.96%	4.99%	41.62%
	3%	Utilities	-3.58%	7.76%	22.69%
	2%	Communication Services	-3.65%	-0.37%	25.44%
	6%	Materials	-7.23%	16.36%	41.02%
3%	Consumer Staples	-8.07%	2.47%	14.81%	
S&P Smallcap 600 Index	8%	Real Estate	1.29%	19.98%	46.37%
	19%	Financials	1.02%	20.90%	61.72%
	2%	Communication Services	-0.58%	31.94%	62.60%
	5%	Materials	-1.72%	11.52%	62.87%
	17%	Industrials	-2.10%	14.88%	46.65%
	2%	Utilities	-2.24%	6.67%	23.21%
	13%	Information Technology	-2.67%	14.36%	62.07%
	5%	Energy	-4.90%	73.76%	154.58%
	4%	Consumer Staples	-5.53%	16.49%	38.90%
	12%	Health Care	-5.81%	7.74%	38.44%
14%	Consumer Discretionary	-8.04%	32.84%	72.08%	

## Index Performance Data

Index	QTR	YTD	1 yr.	Annualized		
				3 yrs.	5 yrs.	10 yrs.
S&P 500	0.58%	15.92%	30.00%	15.99%	16.90%	16.63%
Russell 1000 Value	-0.78%	16.14%	35.01%	10.07%	10.94%	13.51%
Russell 1000 Growth	1.16%	14.30%	27.32%	22.00%	22.84%	19.68%
Russell Mid Cap	-0.93%	15.17%	38.11%	14.22%	14.39%	15.52%
Russell Mid Cap Value	-1.01%	18.24%	42.40%	10.28%	10.59%	13.93%
Russell Mid Cap Growth	-0.76%	9.60%	30.45%	19.14%	19.27%	17.54%
Russell 2000	-4.36%	12.41%	47.68%	10.54%	13.45%	14.63%
Russell 2000 Value	-2.98%	22.92%	63.92%	8.58%	11.03%	13.22%
Russell 2000 Growth	-5.65%	2.82%	33.27%	11.70%	15.34%	15.74%
Russell 3000	-0.10%	14.99%	31.88%	16.00%	16.85%	16.60%
DJ US Select REIT	1.25%	24.48%	40.56%	8.32%	5.68%	10.53%



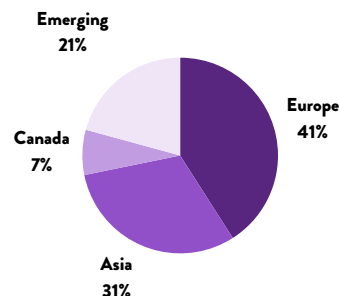
# 3Q2021 International Market Data

## Index Performance Data (net)

Index (US\$)	QTR	YTD	1 yr.	3 yrs.	5 yrs.	10 yrs.
<b>MSCI ACWI ex-US</b>	<b>-2.99%</b>	<b>5.90%</b>	<b>23.92%</b>	<b>8.03%</b>	<b>8.94%</b>	<b>7.48%</b>
<b>MSCI EAFE</b>	<b>-0.45%</b>	<b>8.35%</b>	<b>25.73%</b>	<b>7.62%</b>	<b>8.81%</b>	<b>8.10%</b>
<b>Europe</b>	<b>-1.55%</b>	<b>10.07%</b>	<b>27.25%</b>	<b>7.81%</b>	<b>8.85%</b>	<b>8.15%</b>
United Kingdom	-0.30%	12.19%	31.20%	2.37%	4.82%	5.40%
Germany	-4.26%	4.48%	16.48%	5.96%	7.25%	8.49%
France	-2.03%	11.58%	34.29%	7.44%	11.04%	9.30%
<b>Pacific</b>	<b>1.55%</b>	<b>5.50%</b>	<b>23.14%</b>	<b>7.33%</b>	<b>8.85%</b>	<b>8.08%</b>
Japan	4.56%	5.90%	22.07%	7.54%	9.36%	8.35%
Hong Kong	-9.41%	-0.38%	15.02%	3.56%	5.85%	8.98%
Australia	-3.03%	7.16%	31.69%	8.83%	8.77%	7.19%
<b>Canada</b>	<b>-2.53%</b>	<b>17.54%</b>	<b>33.90%</b>	<b>10.16%</b>	<b>9.39%</b>	<b>5.82%</b>
<b>MSCI EM</b>	<b>-8.09%</b>	<b>-1.25%</b>	<b>18.20%</b>	<b>8.58%</b>	<b>9.23%</b>	<b>6.09%</b>
<b>MSCI EM Latin America</b>	<b>-13.26%</b>	<b>-5.55%</b>	<b>27.34%</b>	<b>-1.36%</b>	<b>1.85%</b>	<b>-1.08%</b>
<b>MSCI EM Asia</b>	<b>-9.59%</b>	<b>-4.15%</b>	<b>13.93%</b>	<b>10.00%</b>	<b>10.73%</b>	<b>8.52%</b>
<b>MSCI EM Eur/Mid East</b>	<b>7.79%</b>	<b>27.80%</b>	<b>46.11%</b>	<b>10.48%</b>	<b>10.02%</b>	<b>2.82%</b>
<b>MSCI ACWI Value ex-US</b>	<b>-2.32%</b>	<b>9.11%</b>	<b>31.38%</b>	<b>3.81%</b>	<b>6.43%</b>	<b>5.50%</b>
<b>MSCI ACWI Growth ex-US</b>	<b>-3.62%</b>	<b>2.66%</b>	<b>16.95%</b>	<b>11.94%</b>	<b>11.22%</b>	<b>9.32%</b>
<b>MSCI ACWI Sm Cap ex-US</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>12.23%</b>	<b>33.06%</b>	<b>10.33%</b>	<b>10.28%</b>	<b>9.44%</b>

## Regional Exposure

MSCI ACWI ex-USA

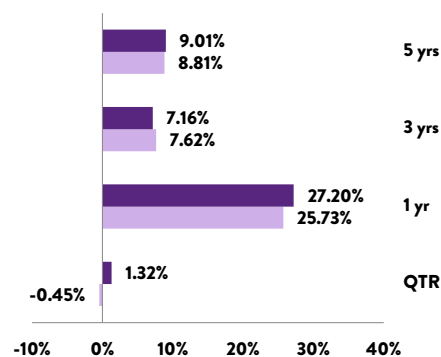


## Top 10 Countries (MSCI AC World ex-USA)

Japan	15%
China	10%
UK	9%
Canada	7%
France	7%
Switzerland	6%
Germany	6%
Australia	4%
Taiwan	4%
South Korea	4%

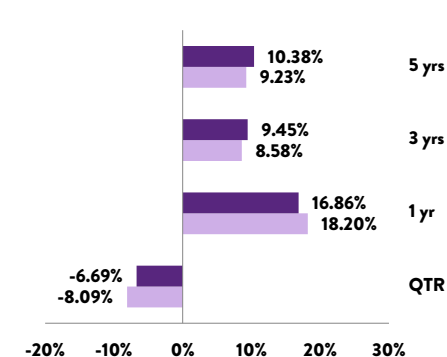
## MSCI EAFE Index Return

Local US\$



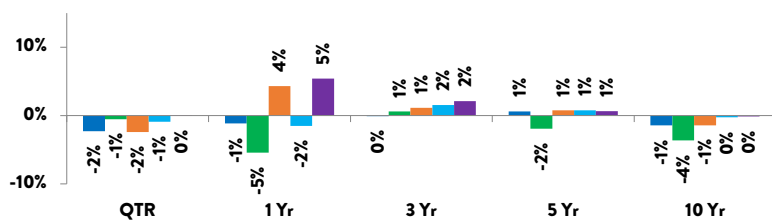
## MSCI Emerging Index Return

Local US\$



## Foreign Currency v. US\$ Returns

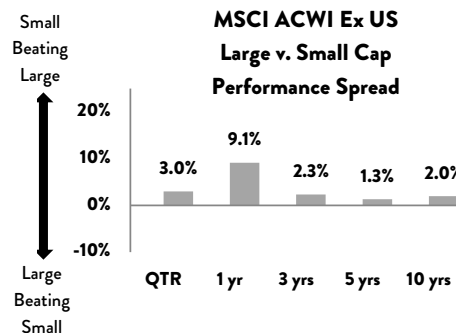
Euro Japanese Yen Pound Sterling Swiss Franc Chinese Yuan



Exchange Rates	QTR	2Q21	1Q21	4Q20	3Q20	2Q20
<b>Japanese Yen</b>	111.50	111.05	110.67	103.19	105.58	107.77
<b>Euro</b>	0.86	0.84	0.85	0.82	0.85	0.89
<b>British Pound</b>	0.74	0.72	0.72	0.73	0.77	0.81
<b>Swiss Franc</b>	0.93	0.93	0.94	0.88	0.92	0.95
<b>Chinese Yuan</b>	6.44	6.46	6.55	6.53	6.79	7.07

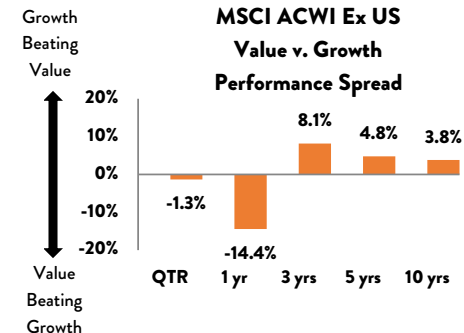
## MSCI ACWI Ex US

Large v. Small Cap Performance Spread



## MSCI ACWI Ex US

Value v. Growth Performance Spread



# Historical Market Returns

Ranked by Performance

2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	YTD	3Q21
Emerging Markets 32.14%	Emerging Markets 39.42%	US Bonds 5.24%	Emerging Markets 78.51%	Small Cap 26.85%	Core Real Estate 14.96%	Emerging Markets 18.22%	Small Cap 38.82%	Large Cap 13.68%	Core Real Estate 13.95%	Small Cap 21.30%	Emerging Markets 37.28%	Core Real Estate 7.36%	Large Cap 31.49%	Small Cap 19.96%	Commod. 29.13%	Commod. 6.59%
Intl 26.65%	Intl 16.65%	Global Bonds 4.79%	High Yield 58.21%	Mid Cap 25.48%	TIPS 13.56%	Mid Cap 17.28%	Mid Cap 34.76%	Mid Cap 13.21%	Large Cap 1.38%	High Yield 17.12%	Intl 27.19%	Cash 1.69%	Mid Cap 30.54%	Large Cap 18.40%	Large Cap 15.92%	Core Real Estate 6.42%
Small Cap 18.37%	Commod. 16.23%	Cash 1.39%	Intl 41.45%	Emerging Markets 18.88%	US Bonds 7.84%	Intl 16.83%	Large Cap 32.39%	Core Real Estate 11.44%	US Bonds 0.55%	Mid Cap 13.79%	Large Cap 21.83%	US Bonds 0.01%	Small Cap 25.52%	Emerging Markets 18.31%	Mid Cap 15.17%	TIPS 1.75%
Large Cap 15.79%	Core Real Estate 14.84%	TIPS -2.35%	Mid Cap 40.48%	Commod. 16.83%	Global Bonds 5.64%	Small Cap 16.35%	Intl 15.29%	US Bonds 5.97%	Cash 0.03%	Large Cap 11.95%	Mid Cap 18.52%	Global Bonds -1.20%	Intl 21.51%	Mid Cap 17.10%	Core Real Estate 12.42%	High Yield 0.89%
Core Real Estate 15.27%	TIPS 11.64%	Core Real Estate -10.70%	Small Cap 27.17%	Core Real Estate 15.26%	High Yield 4.98%	Large Cap 16.00%	Global Balanced 14.46%	Small Cap 4.89%	TIPS -1.43%	Commod. 11.76	Global Balanced 15.87%	TIPS -1.26%	Global Balanced 18.86%	Global Balanced 13.93%	Small Cap 12.41%	Large Cap 0.58%
Mid Cap 15.26%	Global Bonds 9.48%	Global Balanced -24.51%	Large Cap 26.46%	High Yield 15.12%	Large Cap 2.11%	High Yield 15.81%	Core Real Estate 12.95%	TIPS 3.64%	Global Balanced -1.45%	Emerging Markets 11.18%	Small Cap 14.65%	High Yield -2.08%	Emerging Markets 18.42%	TIPS 10.99%	Global Balanced 6.24%	US Bonds 0.05%
Global Balanced 14.53%	Global Balanced 9.07%	High Yield -26.16%	Global Balanced 20.49%	Large Cap 15.06%	Cash 0.06%	Global Balanced 11.06%	High Yield 7.44%	Global Balanced 3.17%	Mid Cap -2.43%	Core Real Estate 7.76%	High Yield 7.50%	Large Cap -4.38%	High Yield 14.32%	Intl 10.65%	Intl 5.90%	Cash 0.01%
High Yield 11.85%	US Bonds 6.97%	Small Cap -33.79%	Commod. 18.91%	Intl 11.15%	Global Balanced -0.97%	Core Real Estate 9.76%	Cash 0.07%	High Yield 2.45%	Global Bonds -3.15%	Global Balanced 5.38%	Global Bonds 7.39%	Global Balanced -5.30%	US Bonds 8.72%	Global Bonds 9.20%	High Yield 4.53%	Global Balanced -0.31%
Global Bonds 6.64%	Mid Cap 5.60%	Commod. -35.65%	TIPS 11.41%	Global Balanced 9.40%	Mid Cap -1.55%	TIPS 6.98%	US Bonds -2.02%	Global Bonds 0.59%	Small Cap -4.41%	TIPS 4.68%	Core Real Estate 6.66%	Mid Cap -9.06%	TIPS 8.43%	US Bonds 7.51%	TIPS 3.51%	Global Bonds -0.88%
Cash 4.85%	Large Cap 5.49%	Large Cap -37.00%	Global Bonds 6.93%	US Bonds 6.54%	Small Cap -4.18%	Global Bonds 4.32%	Global Bonds -2.60%	Cash 0.04%	High Yield -4.46%	Intl 4.50%	US Bonds 3.54%	Small Cap -11.01%	Commod. 7.69%	High Yield 7.11%	Cash 0.03%	Mid Cap -0.93%
US Bonds 4.33%	Cash 4.44%	Mid Cap -41.46%	US Bonds 5.93%	TIPS 6.31%	Commod. -13.32%	US Bonds 4.21%	Emerging Markets -2.60%	Emerging Markets -2.18%	Intl -5.66%	US Bonds 2.65%	TIPS 3.01%	Commod. -11.25%	Global Bonds 6.84%	Cash 0.37%	Emerging Markets -1.25%	Intl -2.99%
Commod. 2.07%	High Yield 1.87%	Intl -45.53%	Cash 0.16%	Global Bonds 5.54%	Intl -13.71%	Cash 0.08%	TIPS -8.61%	Intl -3.86%	Emerging Markets -14.90%	Global Bonds 2.09%	Commod. 1.70%	Intl -14.20%	Core Real Estate 4.41%	Core Real Estate 0.35%	US Bonds -1.55%	Small Cap -4.36%
TIPS 0.41%	Small Cap -1.57%	Emerging Markets -53.33%	Core Real Estate -30.40%	Cash 0.15%	Emerging Markets -18.42%	Commod. -1.06%	Commod. -9.52%	Commod. -17.00%	Commod. -24.60%	Cash 0.25%	Cash 0.71%	Emerging Markets -14.58%	Cash 2.30%	Commod. -3.12%	Global Bonds -4.06%	Emerging Markets -8.09%

Global Balanced is composed of 60% MSCI World Stock Index, 35% BBgBarc Global Aggregate Bond Index, and 5% US 90-Day T-Bills.