

**INFLATION MIRAGE??**

Broadening vaccination availability, easing business restrictions, and a \$1.9 trillion federal stimulus package set the stage for reports of robust economic activity coming out of the first quarter of 2021. The US added 916,000 jobs in March, well ahead of the projected increase of 675,000. Job growth was widespread in March, led by gains in leisure & hospitality, education, and construction. The increase in jobs brought the unemployment rate down from 6.2% to 6.0%. Other broad economic indicators are approaching or setting new highs. The widely followed ISM manufacturing index jumped to 64.7%, a 38-year high. Consumer confidence surged in March to a new post-pandemic high of 109.7 compared to 90.4 just a month earlier, and is closing in on the 20-year highs set in February of 2020 shortly before the onset of the coronavirus pandemic in the US. The PPI (Producer Price Index) data is forecasted to climb 0.5% in March which would push this popular gauge of wholesale inflation to 3.8% on a trailing 12-month basis – a 10-year high.

These rapidly improving economic indicators and unprecedented fiscal and monetary stimulus have investors looking to the horizon for early signs of growth's loathed economic shadow: inflation. The Federal Reserve has repeatedly stated it expects consumer price increases (higher inflation) over the summer as pent-up demand shakes loose but that these price jumps will be temporary, a mirage of sorts, that will not pose a threat to the central bank's ultra-low interest rate policy any time soon. The broad bond market is not convinced. While the Fed has anchored short-term rates, yields further out on the curve rose significantly during the quarter. Intermediate-term yields (10-Year US Treasury) rose from 0.93% to 1.74% during the period, resulting in a price decline of 7.02%. Long-term yields (30-Year US Treasury) rose from 1.65% to 2.41% during the quarter, resulting in a price decline of 15.84%. Based on these interest rate moves, the bond market is projecting higher inflation on the horizon.

So which is it? The Fed seems to be referring to the same playbook that was used coming out of the Great Recession of 2008-09. According to this playbook, well-documented sources of secular disinflation such as demographics, globalization, and technology will continue to offset inflationary pressures from unprecedented growth in stimulus and money supply. Investors are focusing on their own playbook in which the laws of printing money and large increases in the money supply have a long history of creating higher inflation and/or devaluing currency. The US dollar has been around for over 200 years, but nearly a quarter of all US dollars in circulation were printed in 2020. It should follow as no surprise then that the US money supply for February of this year rose 39% year-over-year, an unprecedented pace in modern history.

There is strong consensus building in the financial markets that the US economy will produce unprecedented upside numbers as the economy reopens in unison with the circulation of massive recent economic stimulus. Year-over-year comparisons are likely to reflect extreme short-term data points making it difficult to discern short-term noise from longer-term structural trends. This inability to distinguish between short-term and longer-term economic data will make it very difficult to get a good read on inflation for some time. In the absence of clarity, the speed of the labor market recovery would appear to be front and center. Faster than expected recovery in pandemic job losses coupled with sudden wage growth reflects monetary policy that is too loose and likely to result in higher inflation. The pace of job recovery transitioned from baseline to exceedingly quick during the fourth quarter. If this pace continues, the Fed may be forced to skip ahead a few chapters in their playbook to tighten policy sooner than expected to reign in inflation. This despite their hardline rhetoric of "keeping rates lower for longer."

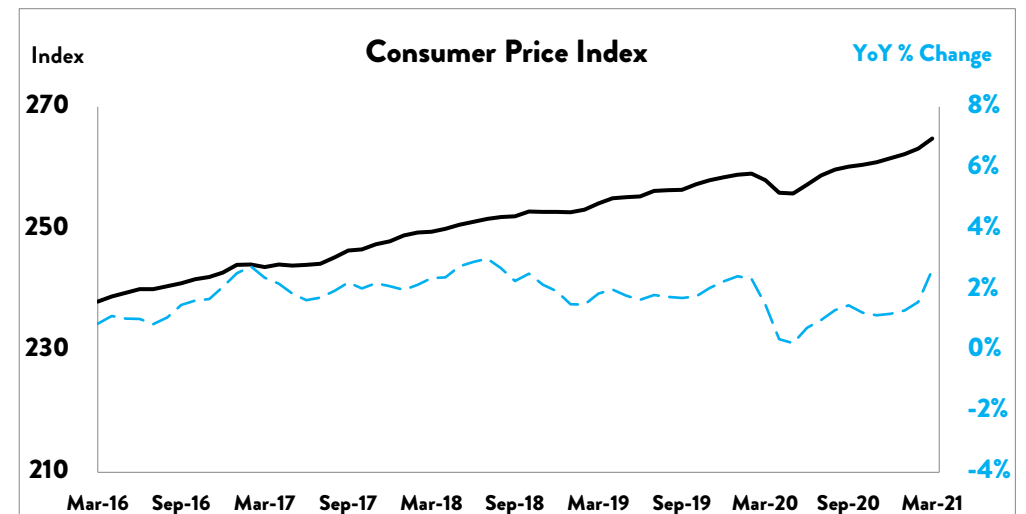
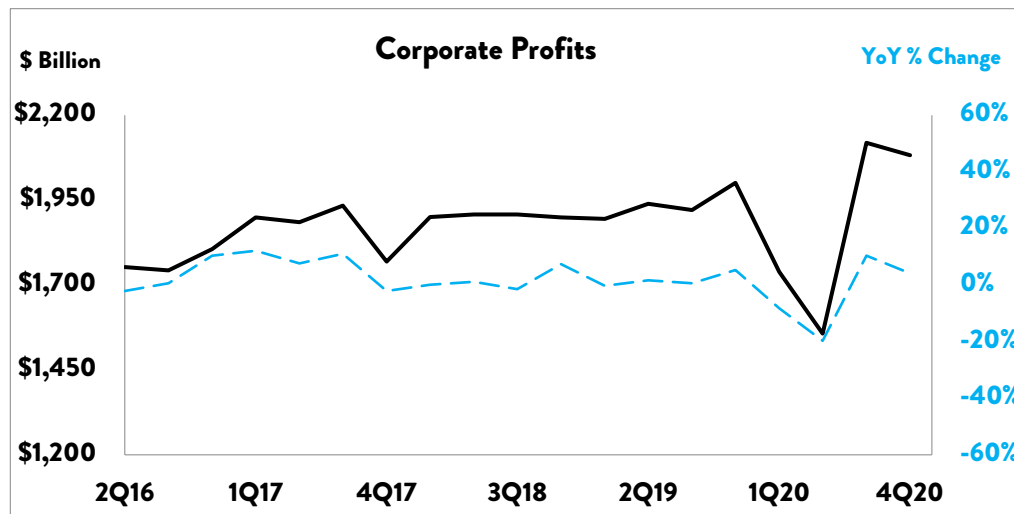
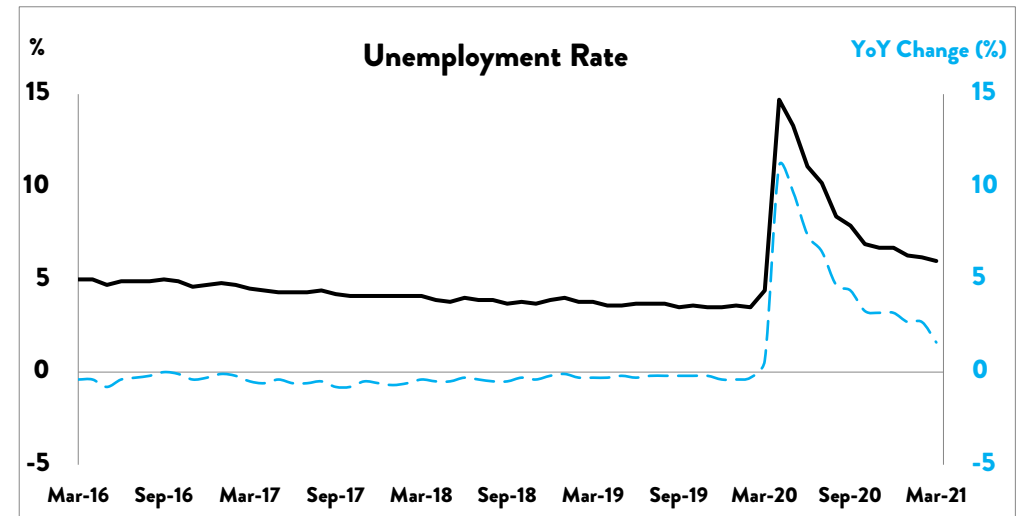
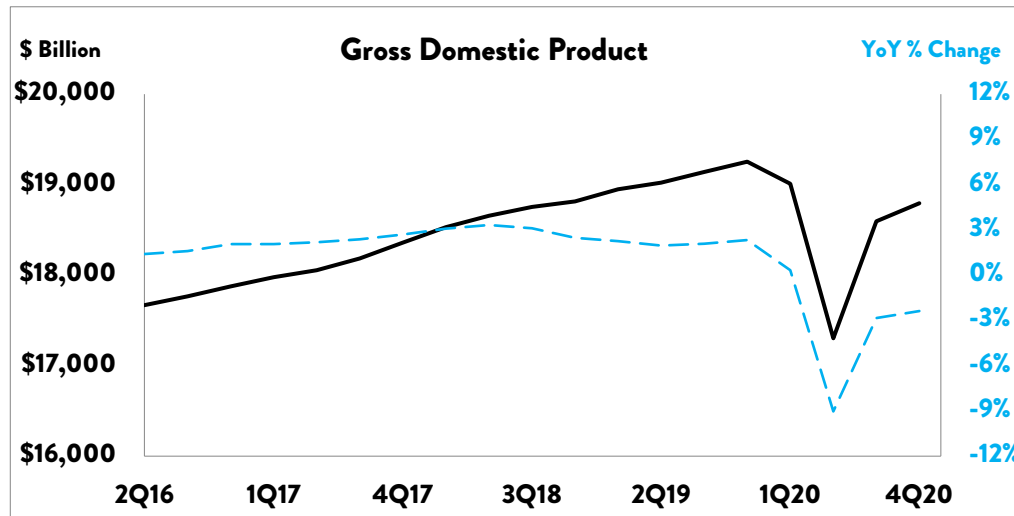
GLOBAL ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE

- 2020 was an exceptionally difficult year for global growth given the broad geographic impact of the COVID-19 virus. Global growth declined by roughly 4.5%. The Eurozone proved to be one of the hardest hit, declining nearly 7.5%, while the US declined by 3.5%. China was the notable outlier, with positive GDP growth of 2.3% but significantly lagging pre-COVID levels. However, the broad distribution of vaccines coupled with largely unprecedented global stimulus has brought about rapidly accelerating growth in the first quarter.
- The IMF is expecting a short-term growth divergence between the US and the rest of the world as the US economy is currently recovering faster than initially expected. The faster pace of recovery is due to a much larger fiscal expansion (stimulus spending) relative to its output gap in addition to its leading pace of vaccination. While the US is currently undergoing a faster pace of growth, this appears to be already reflected in market prices. The IMF expects global growth rates to slow sharply from 6.0% in 2021 to 3.3% by 2026. This slowdown is largely the result of a normalization from the recent bounce off a low base.
- A survey from the Federal Reserve of New York suggested that 42% of US households saved their recent stimulus checks compared to 36% in June 2020. The higher savings rate reflects the number of families using the checks to pay debt has declined to 34% from 36%, while the number of families spending checks for consumption has declined to 25% from 29%. The increase in savings and decline in consumption is likely to weaken the initial impact of stimulus policy.

GLOBAL FINANCIAL MARKETS

- A sharp increase in domestic economic growth rates coupled with the passage of a \$1.9 trillion coronavirus stimulus package sparked concerns over higher inflation. This prompted a sharp selloff across investment grade credit markets during the quarter. The current five-year embedded breakeven inflation rate for Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities (TIPS) is at 2.6%, the highest rate since 2008.
- Last quarter we highlighted a regime change in which value stocks, and more specifically cyclical value stocks, outperformed growth stocks reversing an extended period of underperformance. That momentum not only persisted, but accelerated during the first quarter. Since the beginning of this regime change in 4Q20, shares of domestic Energy stocks have climbed nearly 80% with Airlines and Banks up 65% and 60%, respectively. This regime change led to strong outperformance by “deep value” active managers over this period.
- The outperformance by cyclical sectors is largely a global phenomenon as global economies continue to open up post COVID-19 shutdowns. As a result, those countries with more exposure to cyclical stocks are expected to outperform should economic growth continue to accelerate. Cyclical sectors in the US represent a sizable 34% of the equity market, however, this compares to over 50% for the ACWI ex-US (international markets). In contrast, the Technology sector (less cyclical) represents 27% of the US market and only 13% of the international market. An extended cyclical rotation would seem to support strong relative international stock returns.
- The top ten stocks in the S&P 500 Index represent 27.4% of total market capitalization and 26.7% of total earnings, both of which are near all-time highs. These same top ten stocks trade at a P/E ratio of 30.1, which compares to 19.6 for the remaining stocks and a historical average of 16.2 for the index. While the top ten stocks have historically traded at a premium, they are currently trading at 154% of the historical average P/E for the top-ten stocks.

1Q2021 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	916,000	4,846,000	-20,679,000	7,767	Mar-21
Unemployment Rate	6.0%	14.7%	3.5%	5.0%	Mar-21
Median Unemployment Length (Weeks)	21.6	21.6	4.0	10.7	Mar-21
Average Hourly Earnings	\$29.96	\$30.07	\$25.53	\$27.51	Mar-21

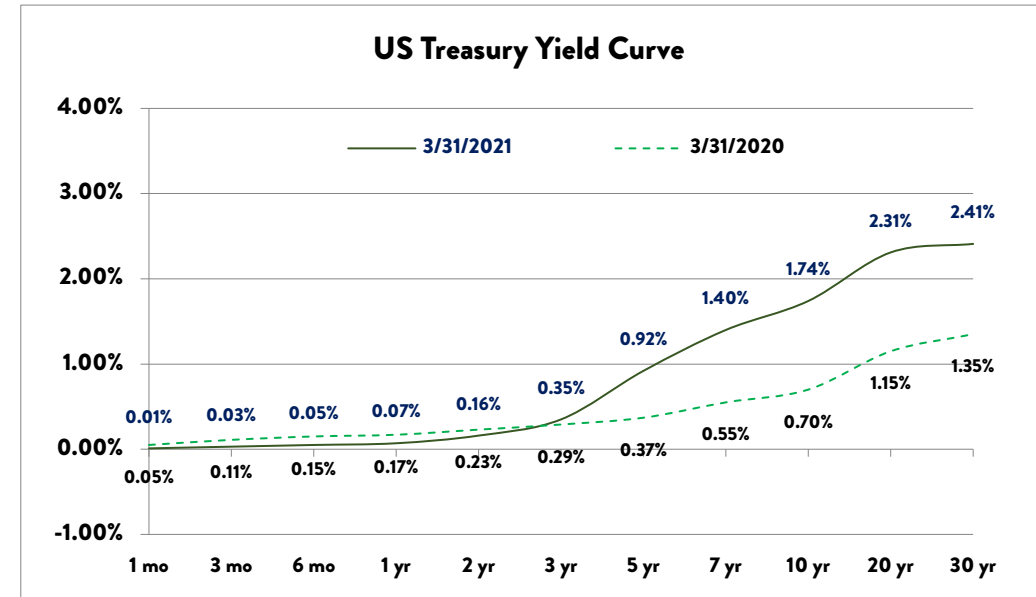
Source: Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis and Bureau of Labor Statistics

Other Prices and Indexes (Monthly)					
Category	Recent	5-Yr High	5-Yr Low	% Off Peak	Date
Gas: Price per Gallon	\$2.79	\$2.88	\$1.80	-3.1%	Mar-21
Spot Oil	\$62.33	\$70.98	\$16.55	-12.2%	Mar-21
Case-Shiller Home Price Index	245.1	245.1	185.4	32.2%*	Jan-21
Medical Care CPI	523.7	523.8	459.3	14%*	Mar-21

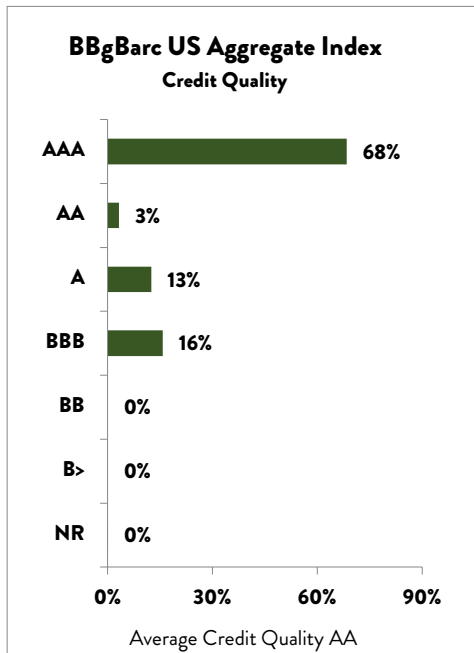
*% Off Low

1Q2021 Bond Market Data

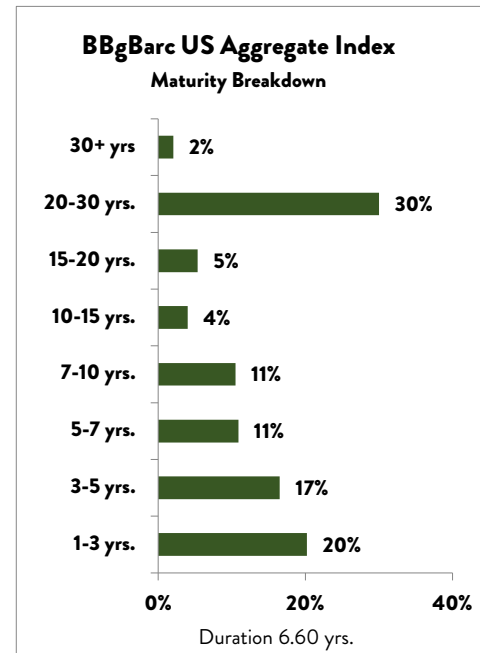
Index	QTR	YTD	1 yr.	3 yrs.	5 yrs.	10 yrs.
90-Day T-Bill	0.01%	0.01%	0.10%	1.36%	1.13%	0.60%
BBgBarc US Aggregate	-3.37%	-3.37%	0.71%	4.65%	3.10%	3.44%
BBgBarc Short US Treasury	0.04%	0.04%	0.15%	1.66%	1.29%	0.73%
BBgBarc Int. US Treasury	-1.76%	-1.76%	-1.27%	3.76%	2.06%	2.33%
BBgBarc Long US Treasury	-13.51%	-13.51%	-15.80%	5.87%	3.13%	6.35%
BBgBarc US TIPS	-1.47%	-1.47%	7.54%	5.68%	3.86%	3.44%
BBgBarc US Credit	-4.45%	-4.45%	7.88%	5.95%	4.67%	4.83%
BBgBarc US Mortgage-Backed	-1.10%	-1.10%	-0.09%	3.75%	2.43%	2.83%
BBgBarc US Asset-Backed	-0.16%	-0.16%	4.57%	3.68%	2.56%	2.51%
BBgBarc US 20-Yr Municipal	-0.30%	-0.30%	6.40%	5.90%	4.38%	5.82%
BBgBarc US High Yield	0.85%	0.85%	23.72%	6.84%	8.06%	6.48%
BBgBarc Global	-4.46%	-4.46%	4.67%	2.80%	2.66%	2.23%
BBgBarc International	-5.29%	-5.29%	7.15%	1.15%	2.13%	1.26%
BBgBarc Emerging Market	-3.48%	-3.48%	13.58%	4.81%	5.22%	5.47%



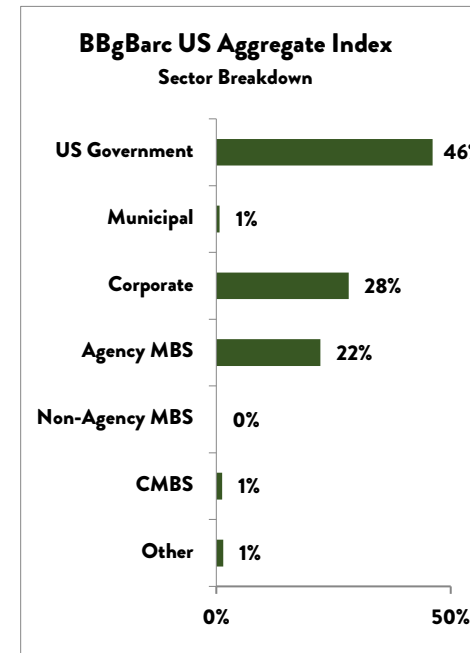
Source: Department of US Treasury



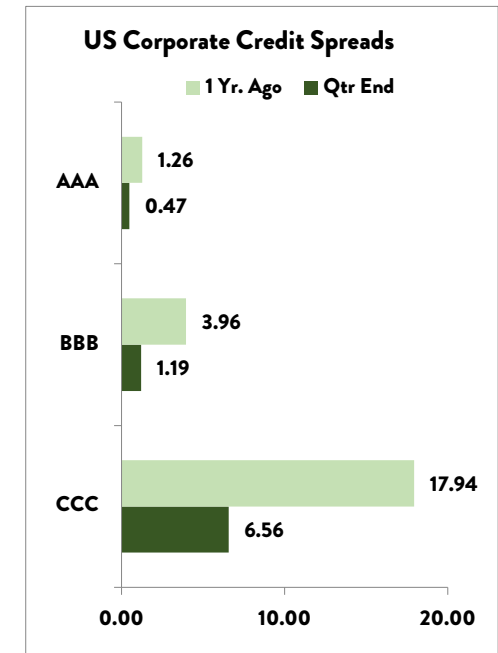
Source: Morningstar



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Source: Morningstar



Source: Federal Reserve / Bank of America

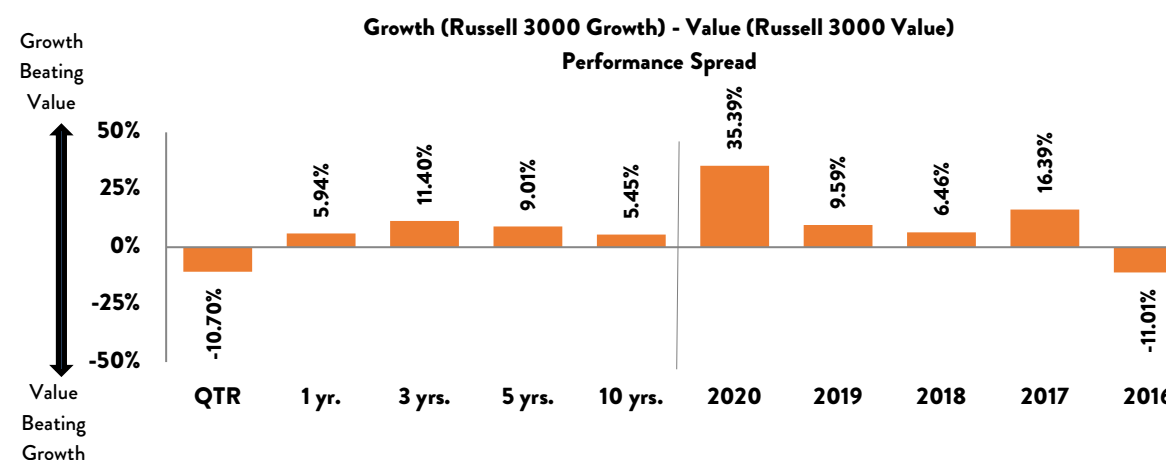
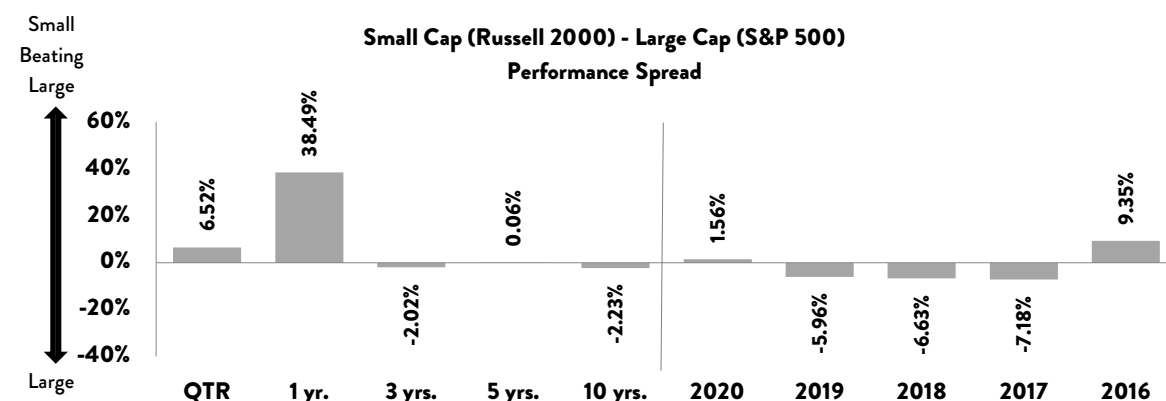
1Q2021 US Equity Market Data

Sectors Weights/Returns (ranked by quarter performance)

	Wgt.	Sector	QTR	YTD	1 yr.
S&P 500 Index	3%	Energy	30.85%	30.85%	75.16%
	11%	Financials	15.99%	15.99%	67.50%
	9%	Industrials	11.41%	11.41%	69.61%
	3%	Materials	9.08%	9.08%	78.29%
	2%	Real Estate	9.02%	9.02%	32.03%
	11%	Communication Services	8.08%	8.08%	60.88%
	13%	Health Care	3.18%	3.18%	34.04%
	12%	Consumer Discretionary	3.11%	3.11%	70.29%
	3%	Utilities	2.80%	2.80%	19.42%
	27%	Information Technology	1.97%	1.97%	66.61%
6%	Consumer Staples	1.15%	1.15%	28.38%	
S&P Midcap 400 Index	1%	Energy	34.73%	34.73%	174.75%
	15%	Consumer Discretionary	21.35%	21.35%	156.70%
	6%	Materials	21.05%	21.05%	96.19%
	16%	Financials	18.69%	18.69%	74.55%
	4%	Consumer Staples	15.40%	15.40%	72.33%
	18%	Industrials	13.63%	13.63%	87.57%
	3%	Utilities	9.80%	9.80%	19.18%
	9%	Real Estate	8.15%	8.15%	42.47%
	2%	Communication Services	6.63%	6.63%	55.36%
	14%	Information Technology	6.37%	6.37%	93.61%
	11%	Health Care	4.58%	4.58%	59.06%
	S&P Smallcap 600 Index	4%	Energy	43.26%	43.26%
16%		Consumer Discretionary	37.88%	37.88%	214.32%
17%		Financials	18.89%	18.89%	67.18%
2%		Communication Services	17.49%	17.49%	53.11%
18%		Industrials	17.40%	17.40%	95.35%
4%		Consumer Staples	15.68%	15.68%	62.89%
13%		Information Technology	11.50%	11.50%	92.68%
7%		Real Estate	10.18%	10.18%	50.22%
5%		Materials	9.99%	9.99%	108.96%
11%		Health Care	8.43%	8.43%	78.03%
1%		Utilities	7.87%	7.87%	6.47%

Index Performance Data

Index	QTR	YTD	1 yr.	Annualized		
				3 yrs.	5 yrs.	10 yrs.
S&P 500	6.17%	6.17%	56.35%	16.78%	16.29%	13.91%
Russell 1000 Value	11.26%	11.26%	56.09%	10.96%	11.74%	10.99%
Russell 1000 Growth	0.94%	0.94%	62.74%	22.80%	21.05%	16.63%
Russell Mid Cap	8.14%	8.14%	73.64%	14.73%	14.67%	12.47%
Russell Mid Cap Value	13.05%	13.05%	73.76%	10.70%	11.60%	11.05%
Russell Mid Cap Growth	-0.57%	-0.57%	68.61%	19.41%	18.39%	14.11%
Russell 2000	12.70%	12.70%	94.85%	14.76%	16.35%	11.68%
Russell 2000 Value	21.17%	21.17%	97.05%	11.57%	13.56%	10.06%
Russell 2000 Growth	4.88%	4.88%	90.20%	17.16%	18.61%	13.02%
Russell 3000	6.35%	6.35%	62.53%	17.12%	16.64%	13.79%
DJ US Select REIT	10.00%	10.00%	36.66%	7.55%	3.94%	7.89%



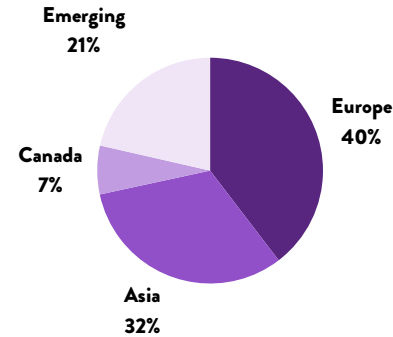
1Q2021 International Market Data

Index Performance Data (net)

Index (US\$)	QTR	YTD	1 yr.	3 yrs.	5 yrs.	10 yrs.
MSCI ACWI ex-US	3.49%	3.49%	49.41%	6.51%	9.76%	4.93%
MSCI EAFE	3.48%	3.48%	44.57%	6.02%	8.85%	5.52%
Europe	4.08%	4.08%	44.95%	5.65%	8.18%	5.08%
United Kingdom	6.19%	6.19%	33.54%	0.92%	4.33%	3.26%
Germany	4.23%	4.23%	59.28%	4.26%	8.02%	5.15%
France	4.42%	4.42%	50.01%	5.91%	9.96%	5.25%
Pacific	2.53%	2.53%	43.99%	6.63%	10.20%	6.44%
Japan	1.57%	1.57%	39.73%	6.32%	10.47%	7.20%
Hong Kong	7.26%	7.26%	37.29%	5.38%	10.08%	7.28%
Australia	3.41%	3.41%	68.44%	9.03%	9.75%	4.36%
Canada	9.59%	9.59%	59.27%	9.56%	9.62%	2.39%
MSCI EM	2.29%	2.29%	58.39%	6.48%	12.07%	3.65%
MSCI EM Latin America	-5.32%	-5.32%	50.07%	-6.05%	4.04%	-4.05%
MSCI EM Asia	2.16%	2.16%	60.13%	9.45%	14.48%	6.63%
MSCI EM Eur/Mid East	6.54%	6.54%	42.69%	1.98%	6.31%	-2.85%
MSCI ACWI Value ex-US	7.06%	7.06%	48.68%	2.40%	7.25%	3.02%
MSCI ACWI Growth ex-US	-0.08%	-0.08%	49.36%	10.31%	12.03%	6.69%
MSCI ACWI Sm Cap ex-US	5.53%	5.53%	69.82%	6.61%	10.40%	6.32%

Regional Exposure

MSCI ACWI ex-USA

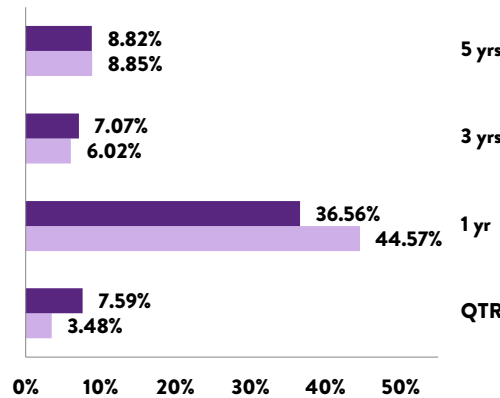


Top 10 Countries (MSCI AC World ex-USA)

Japan	16%
China	11%
UK	9%
France	7%
Canada	7%
Germany	6%
Switzerland	6%
Australia	4%
Taiwan	4%
South Korea	4%

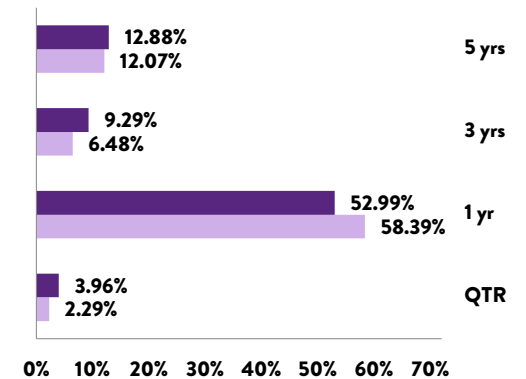
MSCI EAFE Index Return

Local (Dark Purple) vs US\$ (Light Purple)



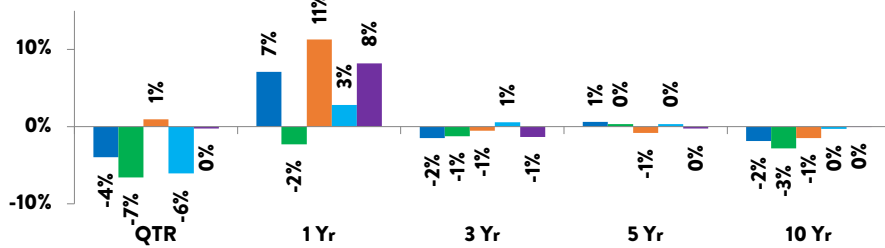
MSCI Emerging Index Return

Local (Dark Purple) vs US\$ (Light Purple)



Foreign Currency v. US\$ Returns

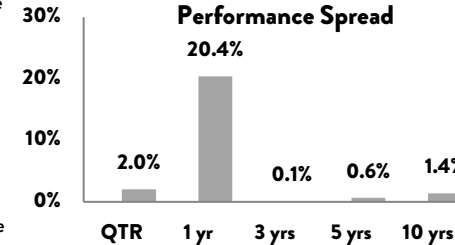
Euro (Blue), Japanese Yen (Green), Pound Sterling (Orange), Swiss Franc (Light Blue), Chinese Yuan (Purple)



Exchange Rates	QTR	4Q20	3Q20	2Q20	1Q20	4Q19
Japanese Yen	110.67	103.19	105.58	107.77	107.53	108.67
Euro	0.85	0.82	0.85	0.89	0.91	0.89
British Pound	0.72	0.73	0.77	0.81	0.80	0.75
Swiss Franc	0.94	0.88	0.92	0.95	0.96	0.97
Chinese Yuan	6.55	6.53	6.79	7.07	7.08	6.96

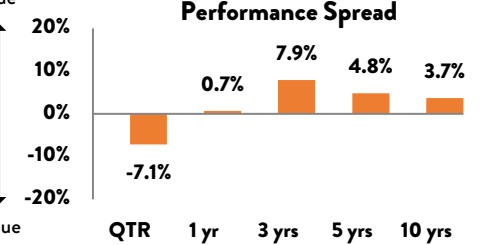
MSCI ACWI Ex US Large v. Small Cap Performance Spread

Small Beating Large (Upward Arrow) vs Large Beating Small (Downward Arrow)



MSCI ACWI Ex US Value v. Growth Performance Spread

Growth Beating Value (Upward Arrow) vs Value Beating Growth (Downward Arrow)



Historical Market Returns

Ranked by Performance

2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	1Q21
Emerging Markets 34.00%	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%	Small Cap 12.70%
Commod. 21.36%	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%	Mid Cap 8.14%
Core Real Estate 20.15%	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%	Commod. 6.92%
Intl 16.62%	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%	Large Cap 6.17%
Mid Cap 12.65%	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%	Intl 3.49%
Large Cap 4.91%	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%	Emerging Markets 2.29%
Small Cap 4.55%	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%	Core Real Estate 1.91%
Global Balanced 4.16%	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%	Global Balanced 1.39%
Cash 3.25%	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%	High Yield 0.85%
TIPS 2.84%	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 0.01%
High Yield 2.74%	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%	TIPS -1.47%
US Bonds 2.43%	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 -3.37%
Global Bonds -4.49%	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 -4.46%

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