



**PERSPECTIVES
THAT DRIVE
ENTERPRISE
SUCCESS**

**3RD QUARTER 2021
Investment Landscape**

Recent Verus research

Visit: <https://www.verusinvestments.com/insights/>

Topics of interest

MEASURING & BUDGETING ACTIVE RISK

Active risk budgeting is valuable in the construction, monitoring, and overall governance of the investment portfolio. An active risk budget identifies how much risk an investor wants to take in the portfolio and where the investor plans to allocate that risk. In this paper we provide an introduction to active risk and demonstrate how to measure and budget that risk. We also discuss the individual sources that drive active risk and why they're important to identify. Last, we review a practical example of how active risk can inform portfolio construction and demonstrate how the Verus active management environment research can be used to inform active/passive allocations throughout the portfolio.

Sound thinking

THINKING SKEPTICALLY

Risk markets are currently trading at all-time highs, cryptocurrencies are soaring, and investment markets are looking forward to a broadly positive post-COVID future. At times like these it can be valuable to consider the role that skepticism plays in the investment process. This short paper is designed to help clarify the role that skepticism can play, and also to clarify how investors can use it as a tool without being captured by it, because excessive skepticism may lead to missed opportunities.

Annual research

2021 REAL ASSETS OUTLOOK

In last year's outlook, COVID-19 was front and center in our views and outlooks across all asset classes. A year later, we are beginning to return to a more normalized pre-COVID lifestyle and with that, a recovery in many of the sectors impacted in 2020. One of the topics being debated among investors is the potential for inflationary pressure, a portfolio risk that hasn't emerged in several decades. That discussion has reignited interest in real assets and capital flows into the asset class.

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2nd quarter summary

THE ECONOMIC CLIMATE

- Real GDP grew at a 0.4% rate year-over-year in the first quarter (+6.4% quarterly annualized rate) as the U.S. recovery continued at a quicker-than-expected pace. It appears that GDP will fully recover in Q2. **p. 12**
- The U.S. unemployment rate has been slow to rebound, despite a full recovery in economic activity. This might suggest that government spending has had an outsized impact, and raises risks around a stimulus “hangover” when spending programs end. **p. 14**
- Economies around the world continued to recover as life began moving back to normal. This description does not apply to all economies, as Brazil, Japan, and much of Africa and Southeast Asia still grapple with effects of COVID and new variants of the virus. **p. 20**

PORTFOLIO IMPACTS

- Credit spreads grew even tighter during Q2, driven by investor demand and improvements in economic fundamentals. High yield spreads tightened to 2.68%—a new cycle low. Investment grade tightened 11 basis points to end the quarter at 0.80%. **p. 25**
- Inflation surprised on the upside in Q2, adding to investor fears. U.S. core CPI rose 4.5% year-over-year, while headline came in at 5.4%. The jump in prices has been concentrated in a few areas, including energy (+24.5% YoY) and used car & truck prices (+45.2% YoY). **p. 13**

THE INVESTMENT CLIMATE

- The Biden Administration’s Infrastructure Plan continues to be up in the air in terms of size and composition. As of mid-July, Democrat legislators had reached an agreement for \$4.1 trillion in spending, comprised of \$3.5 trillion in “human infrastructure” and \$600 billion towards “traditional infrastructure” It is unclear whether this proposal will gain sufficient support from Democrats. **p. 12**
- It seems that investors have put the 2020 pandemic-induced recession behind them. Implied volatility, realized market volatility, and the risks reflected in asset prices are very low. This data suggests that investors perceive a strong economy, a healthy business environment, and very few threats on the horizon. **p. 35**

ASSET ALLOCATION ISSUES

- U.S. equities were a top performer again in Q2 (S&P 500 +8.5%). International equities (+5.2% MSCI EAFE Index) were on par with emerging markets (+5.1% MSCI Emerging Markets Index) on an unhedged currency basis. **p. 28**
- Factor performance suffered during Q2, reversing much of the gains from the prior quarter. Large capitalization stocks beat small (Russell 1000 +8.5%, Russell 2000 +4.3%) and growth stocks beat value (Russell 1000 Growth +11.9%, Russell 1000 Value +5.2%). **p. 30**

Economic progress continues to exceed expectations, though strong optimism may already be reflected in asset prices

We believe a neutral risk stance is warranted in the current environment

What drove the market in Q2?

“Delta Covid variant first found in India spreads to 62 countries, hot spots form in Asia and Africa, WHO says”

GLOBAL COVID-19 CASES (MILLIONS)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
26.3	28.7	30.5	32.3	33.3	33.7

Article Source: CNBC, as of June 2nd, 2021

“Inflation: Is it transitory or not?”

CORE CPI GROWTH (YEAR-OVER-YEAR)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
1.4%	1.3%	1.6%	3.0%	3.8%	4.5%

Article Source: Yahoo Finance, June 15th, 2021

“TREASURIES-U.S. Treasury yield curve flattens as Fed seen more proactive on inflation”

IMPLIED EFFECTIVE FED FUNDS RATE IN DECEMBER 2023

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
0.15%	0.30%	0.40%	0.47%	0.49%	0.80%

Article Source: Reuters, June 18th, 2021

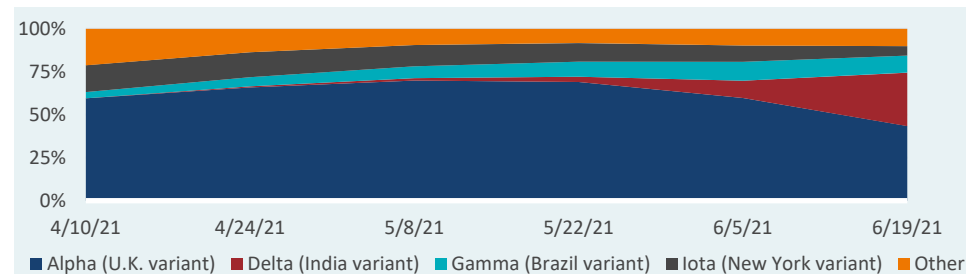
“Is the reflation trade over? What stock-market investors need to watch”

TEN-YEAR U.S. TREASURY YIELD

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
1.07%	1.40%	1.74%	1.63%	1.59%	1.47%

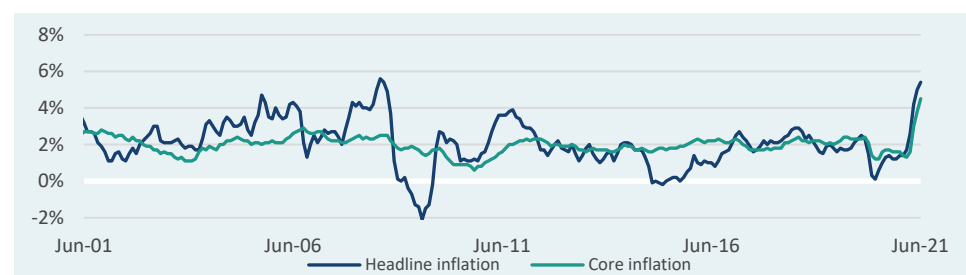
Article Source: MarketWatch, June 21st, 2021

SHARE OF U.S. COVID-19 CASE GROWTH BY VIRUS VARIANT



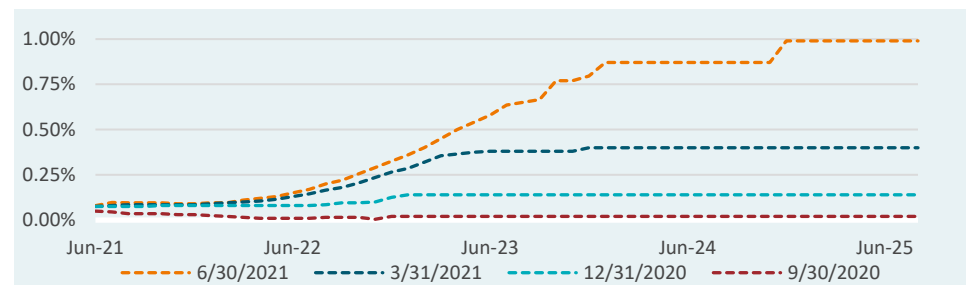
Source: U.S. Center for Disease Control, as of 6/19/21

U.S. INFLATION RATES (YEAR-OVER-YEAR)



Source: Bloomberg, as of 6/30/21

IMPLIED EFFECTIVE FED FUNDS RATE



Source: Bloomberg, as of 6/30/21

Economic environment

U.S. economics summary

— Real GDP grew at a 0.4% rate year-over-year in the first quarter (+6.4% quarterly annualized rate) as the U.S. recovery continued at a quicker-than-expected pace. It appears that gross domestic product (GDP) will fully recover in Q2.

— The U.S. unemployment rate has been slow to improve, falling very slightly from 6.0% in March to 5.9% in June. The labor market remains materially weaker relative to pre-pandemic conditions. This might suggest that a significant portion of the economic recovery has been fueled by government spending, and raises concerns about whether recent strength may prove fleeting when government intervention slows.

— The Biden Administration’s Infrastructure Plan continues to be up in the air in terms of size and composition. As of mid-July, Democrat legislators had reached

an agreement for \$4.1 trillion in spending, comprised of \$3.5 trillion in “human infrastructure” and \$600 billion towards “traditional infrastructure” It is unclear whether this proposal will garner sufficient support from Democrats.

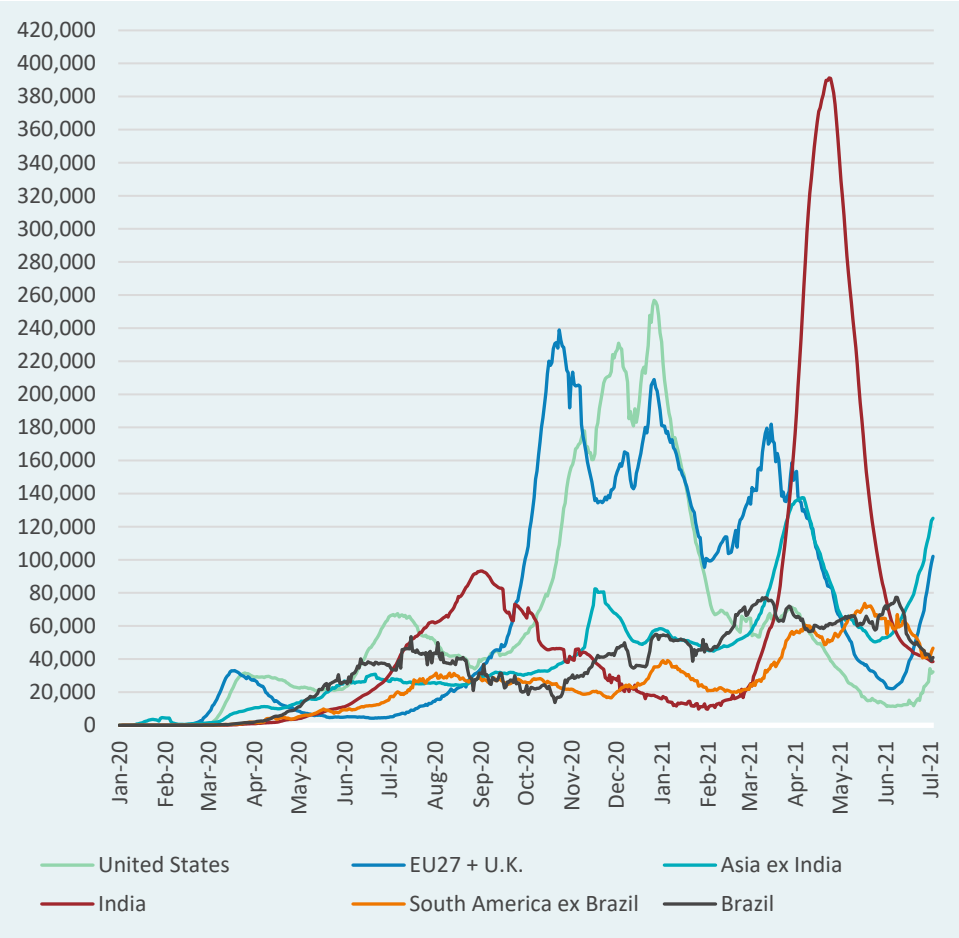
— Inflation surprised on the upside in Q2, adding to investor concerns around a potential sustained rise. U.S. core inflation, which excludes food & energy prices, rose 4.5% year-over-year in June. U.S. headline inflation came in at 5.4%. The rise in prices has so far been concentrated in a few specific areas, including energy (+24.5% YoY) and used car and truck prices (+45.2% YoY).

— Consumer sentiment further improved over the quarter, but has only regained roughly half of the deterioration post-pandemic.

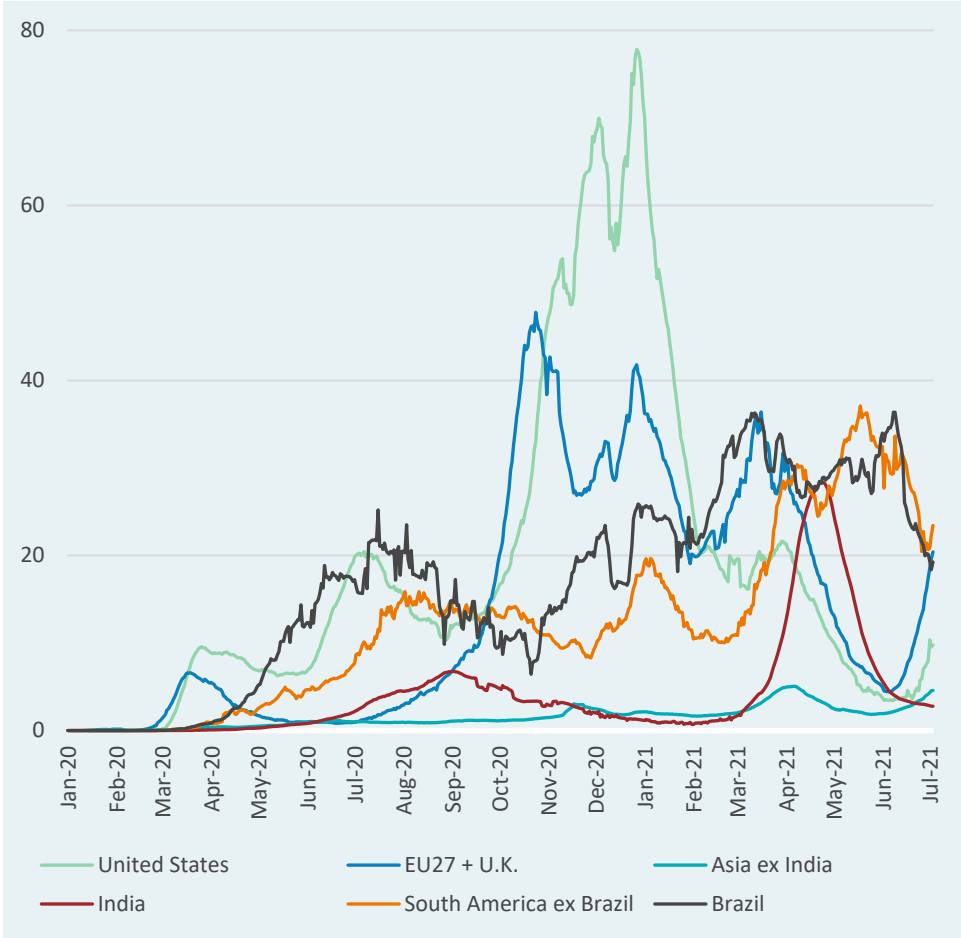
	Most Recent	12 Months Prior
GDP (YoY)	0.4% 3/31/21	0.3% 3/31/20
Inflation (CPI YoY, Core)	4.5% 6/30/21	1.2% 6/30/20
Expected Inflation (5yr-5yr forward)	2.20% 6/30/21	1.5% 6/30/20
Fed Funds Target Range	0% – 0.25% 6/30/21	0% – 0.25% 6/30/20
10-Year Rate	1.47% 6/30/21	0.66% 6/30/20
U-3 Unemployment	5.9% 6/30/21	11.1% 6/30/20
U-6 Unemployment	9.8% 6/30/21	18.0% 6/30/20

COVID-19 case growth

SEVEN-DAY AVERAGE DAILY CASE GROWTH



SEVEN-DAY AVERAGE DAILY CASE GROWTH – PER 100,000 RESIDENTS

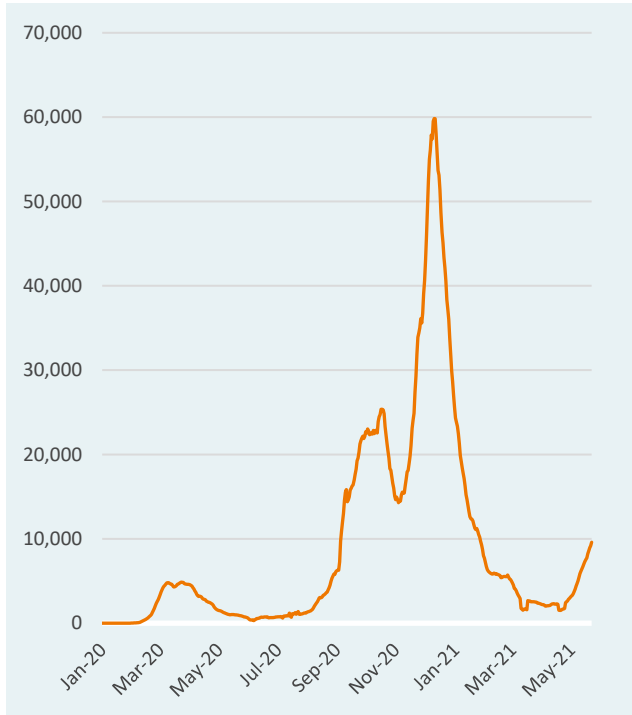


Source: Bloomberg, as of 7/18/21

Delta variant

Spread of the more virulent delta variant (which originated in India) of the coronavirus within the U.K. led officials to push back the date for reopening from mid-June to mid-July, and has sparked concerns in recent months that material spread outside of the U.K. could lead to a reintroduction of social distancing controls.

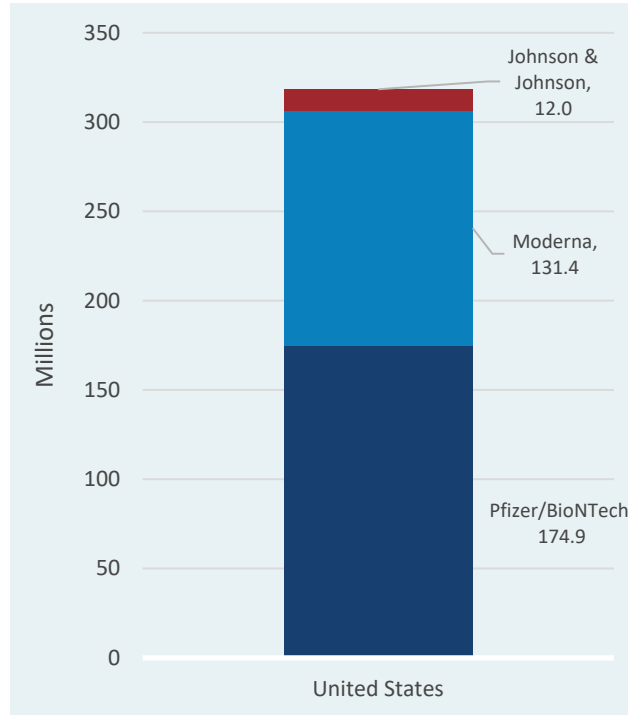
U.K. – SEVEN-DAY AVERAGE CASE GROWTH



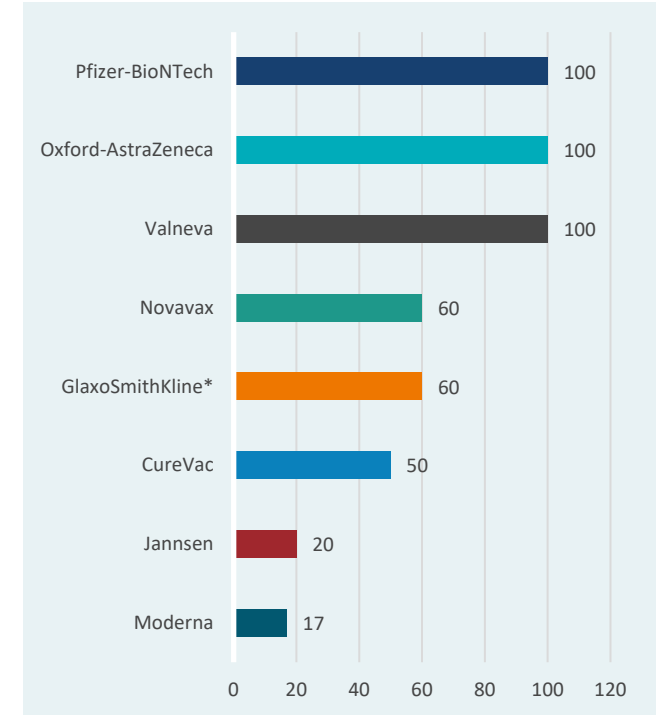
Source: Bloomberg, BBC, U.K. government, as of 6/21/21

*Joint project with Sanofi Pasteur.

U.S. – VACCINE DOSES ADMINISTERED BY TYPE



U.K. VACCINE DOSE ORDERS (MILLIONS)

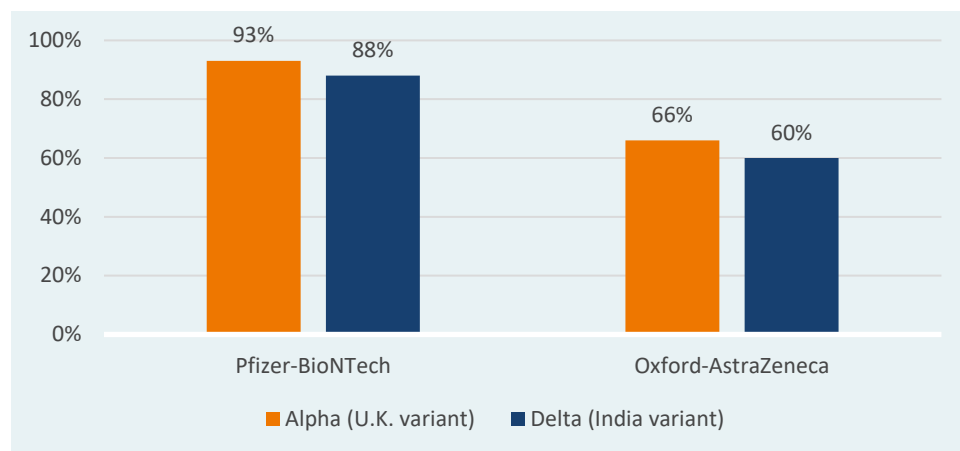


Public Health England (PHE) findings

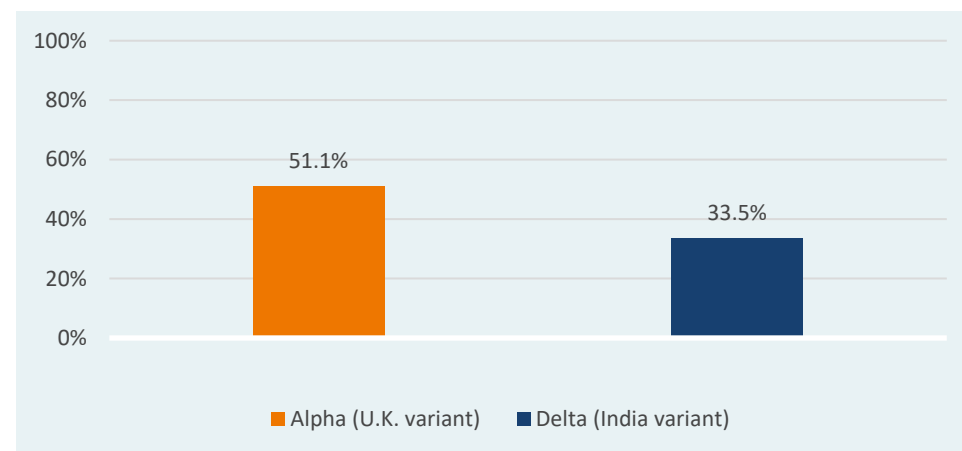
While case growth has picked up from very low levels within the U.K., there are several factors in play which probably reduce the likelihood that delta case growth picks up materially in the U.S.

1. The U.K. has a much higher exposure to the Astra vaccine, which is significantly less effective at preventing symptomatic infection.
2. Early prioritization of the one-dose vaccine regimen in the U.K. resulted in lower levels of protection.

TWO-DOSE REGIMEN EFFECTIVENESS FOR PFIZER AND ASTRAZENECA



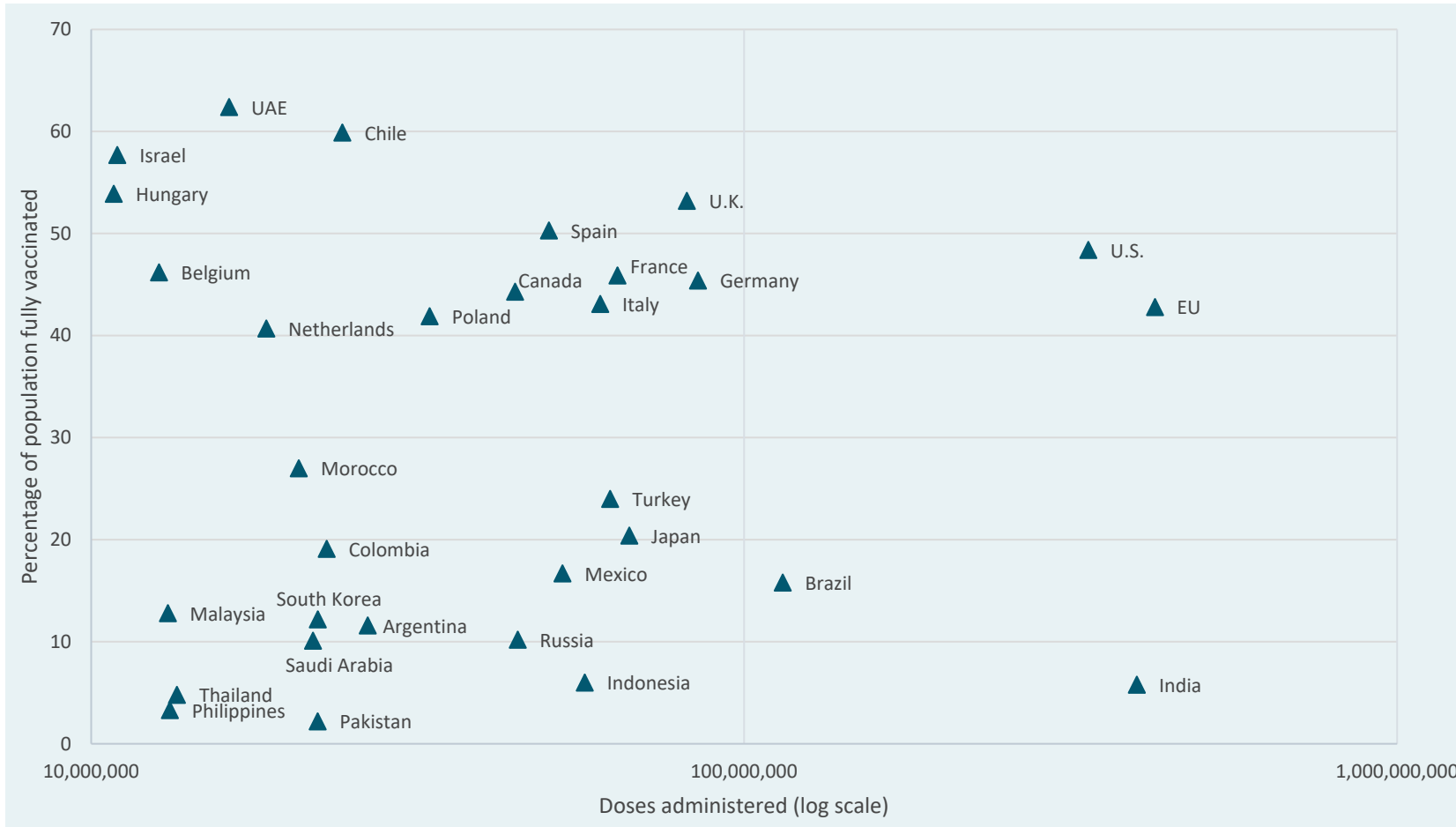
ONE-DOSE REGIMEN EFFECTIVENESS FOR PFIZER AND ASTRAZENECA



Source: <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.05.22.21257658v1>

Global vaccination campaign

DOSES ADMINISTERED RELATIVE TO PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION FULLY VACCINATED



The EU has closed the vaccine gap relative to the U.S. and the U.K., led by a pickup in administration in Germany

Source: Bloomberg, as of 7/16/21

GDP growth

Real GDP grew at a 0.4% rate year-over-year in Q1 (+6.4% quarterly annualized rate) as the U.S. recovery continued at a quicker-than-expected pace. It appears that real gross domestic product (GDP) will once again reach its pre-pandemic level in Q2. The Atlanta Fed GDPNow estimate suggests a 7.9% Q2 growth rate as of July 9th (seasonally-adjusted quarterly annualized rate).

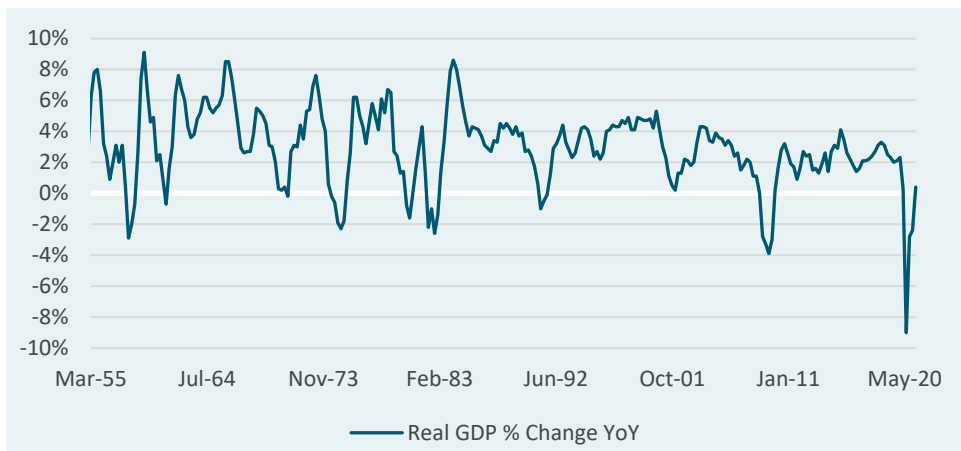
The Biden Administration’s Infrastructure Plan continues to be up in the air in terms of size and composition. As of mid-July, Democrat legislators had reached an agreement for \$4.1 trillion in spending, comprised of \$3.5 trillion in “human infrastructure” (Medicare funding, childcare, government-funded college, and energy transition), and \$600 billion towards “traditional

infrastructure” (roads, bridges, power infrastructure, rail, broadband internet, and water infrastructure). It is unclear whether this proposal will garner adequate buy-in, and it is also unclear whether Republicans will withdraw support, now that Democrats appear ready to proceed with many of the more controversial spending items that the RNC negotiated against.

The Biden Administration has held strong in its push for further government spending, despite an arguably speedy economic recovery. These efforts have been met with opposition, as some view these proposals as excessive, given the stronger state of the economy. Additional government spending may increase the risk of economic overheating and inflation.

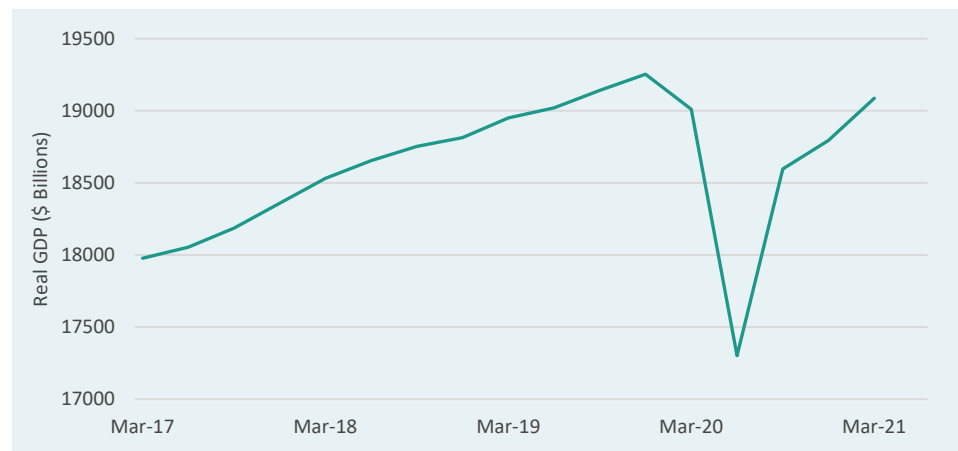
The U.S. economy likely fully recovered during Q2 2021

U.S. REAL GDP GROWTH (YOY)



Source: Bloomberg, as of 3/31/21

U.S. REAL GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT



Source: FRED, as of 3/31/21

Inflation

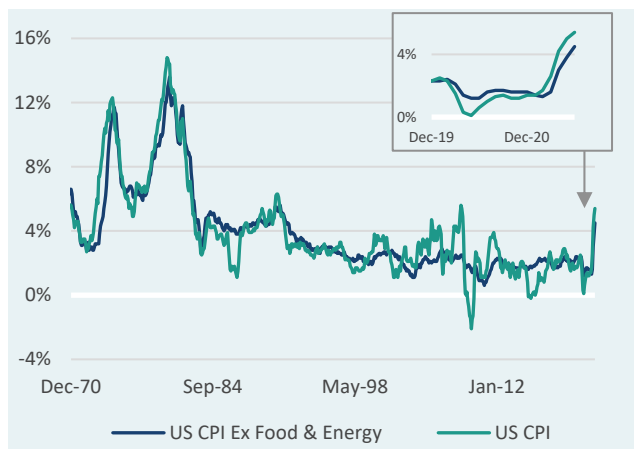
Inflation surprised on the upside in Q2, adding to investor concerns around a sustained rise. U.S. core CPI, which excludes food & energy prices, rose 4.5% YoY in June. U.S. headline inflation came in at 5.4%. The rise in prices has so far been concentrated in a few areas. Energy prices (+24.5% YoY) have had the most significant impact, with extreme gasoline price rises (+45.1% YoY) being very noticeable at the pump. Used automobile prices (+45.2% YoY) have also seen large gains.

We maintain our belief that recent price rises will generally prove transitory as most increases can be explained either by base effects or one-time effects from pandemic supply and spending dynamics. Energy price growth is an example of 'base effects',

where prices fell dramatically in spring 2020 and then recovered by spring 2021, creating the mirage of high inflation (inflation is a 12-month price change measurement). Higher used car prices is likely an example of 'one-time effects' from supply issues (chip shortages led to decreased supply of new cars) and also consumer spending habit changes during COVID (fear of public transportation led to auto purchases, and stimulus checks provided funds for purchases). As auto sales slow, we believe this will mitigate high prices. However, there are also some signs of more structural price rises, such as owner's equivalent rent (OER) which is much slower moving due to the impact of lease arrangements and the longer time it takes for home price increases to impact household budgets more broadly.

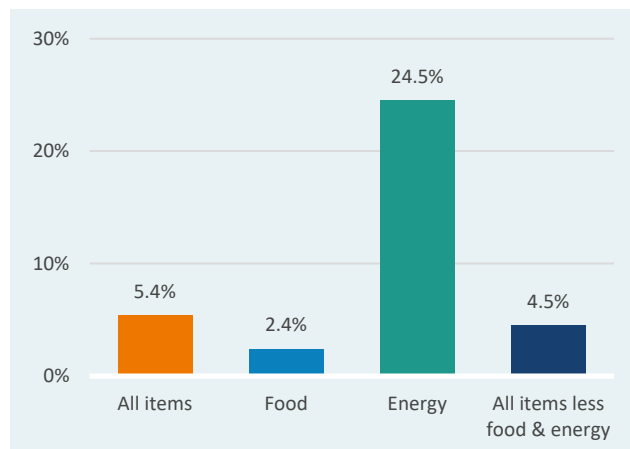
It is important to distinguish between *one-time* and *transitory* price rises in the current environment

U.S. CPI (YOY)



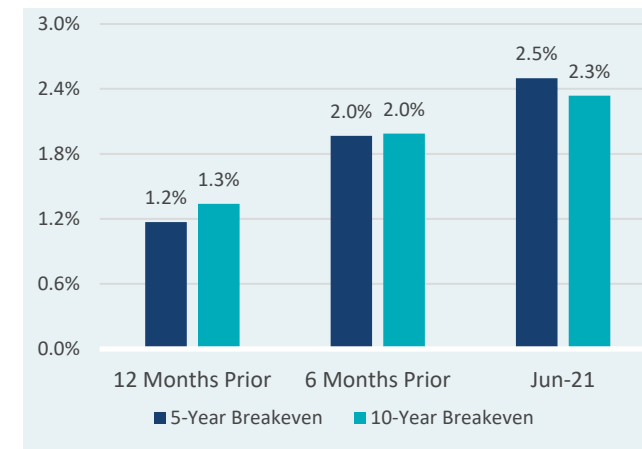
Source: Bloomberg, as of 6/30/21

U.S. CPI (YOY)



Source: BLS, as of 6/30/21

BREAKEVEN INFLATION RATES



Source: Bloomberg, as of 6/30/21

Labor market

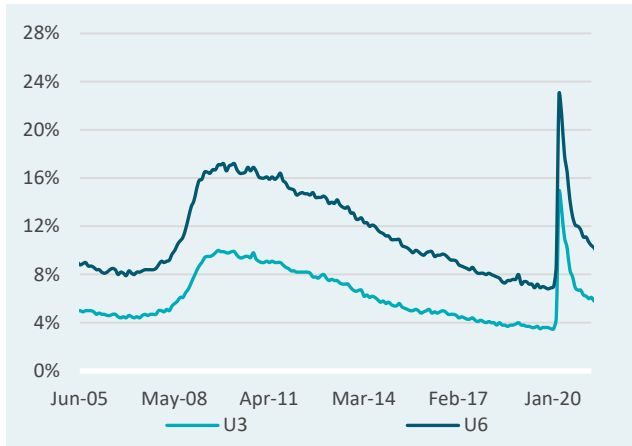
The U.S. labor market rate has been slow to recover, as unemployment fell only slightly from 6.0% in March to 5.9% in June. Labor participation also paints a lukewarm picture, rising from 61.5% to 61.6% during the quarter. The labor market remains materially weaker relative to pre-pandemic conditions. This might suggest that a significant portion of the economic recovery has been fueled by government spending and raises concerns about whether recent strength may prove fleeting once government spending slows.

Beginning mid-June, a few U.S. states decided to stop accepting Federal emergency unemployment benefits. Among the benefits were a \$300 weekly unemployment add-on, expanded eligibility,

and an extension of the duration of benefits overall. Research regarding the impacts of these programs on joblessness are mixed. Based on one study from the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, states that have stopped these programs have seen unemployment fall by 5% more than states that have continued offering expanded benefits (12% unemployment vs. 7%). This study suggests that many unemployed workers may come back into the workforce as government subsidies roll off. It is worth mentioning that other factors are in play regarding the timid labor market recovery, including parents declining work to care for children, fears of workplace safety, and early retirements. These labor dynamics are complex and it may be overly simplistic to attribute problems to a single cause.

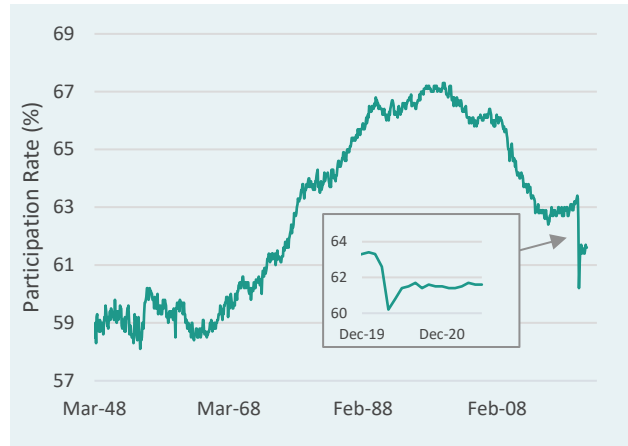
A large portion of the U.S. labor force remains neither employed nor seeking work

U.S. UNEMPLOYMENT



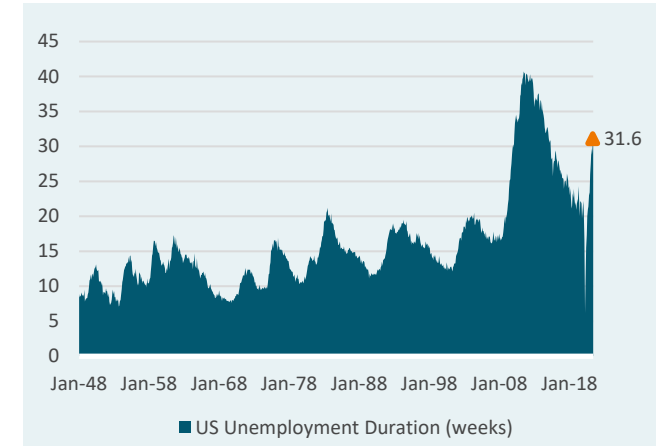
Source: FRED, as of 6/30/21

LABOR PARTICIPATION RATE



Source: FRED, as of 6/30/21

UNEMPLOYMENT DURATION



Source: FRED, as of 6/30/21

Employment conditions

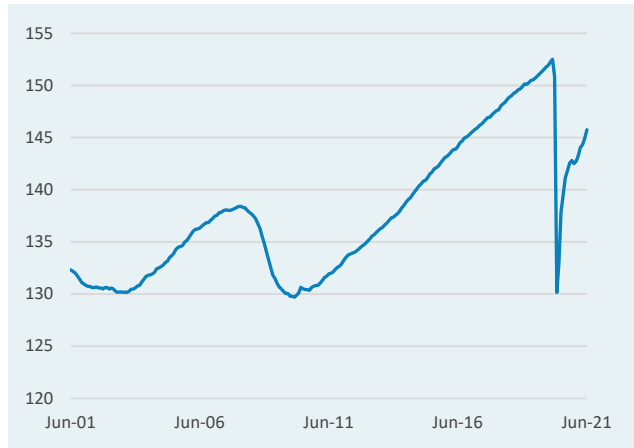
Nonfarm payrolls expanded by 567,000 per month on average in the second quarter, reaching a total of 145.8 million by quarter-end. This number was 6.8 million below the pre-pandemic peak of February 2020. Labor market conditions have been improving overall, but the road has been bumpy, given the ebb and flow of virus cases and the impact on individual state and city policy decisions.

Job openings rose to a fresh record of 9.2 million in May, underscoring the fact that the recent bounce back in consumer demand has outpaced the ability of business owners to hire to meet that demand. In order to address that shortfall, many business owners have begun to raise wages,

offer signing bonuses, offer more flexible work hours, and offer the ability to work from home. Said another way, the sellers have the upper hand in the labor market at present. The number of people who quit their jobs in May (3.6 million) remained near record levels, reflecting workers' confidence in their ability to find other employment.

While employers are struggling to find qualified employees in the current environment, the expiration of a litany of additional unemployment insurance programs through the end of the year could push up labor market supply. Whether the skills of the currently not-working contingent matches up with current labor demand remains to be seen.

U.S. EMPLOYEES ON NONFARM PAYROLLS



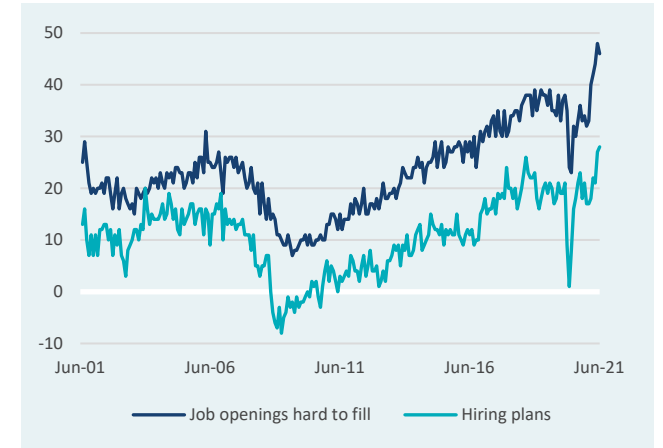
Source: BLS, as of 6/30/21

U.S. JOB OPENINGS (MILLIONS)



Source: BLS, as of 5/31/21

SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS' HIRING CONDITIONS



Source: NFIB, as of 6/30/21

The consumer

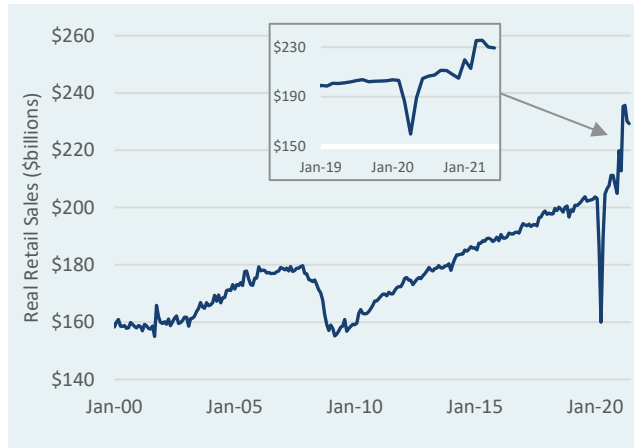
U.S. retail sales would appear red hot if defined on a year-over-year growth basis (+12%). But, as we have mentioned during past quarters, year-over-year numbers are skewed due to the events of early-2020. In reality, retail sales fell -2.5% from Q1 to Q2.

As vast government stimulus translated to hot consumer spending, it might be reasonable to ask what will happen to recent trends as government spending slows and once stimulus money has been spent. This effect might in part explain the recent drop in U.S. auto sales, which have fallen to the lowest level since 2014. We remain cautious about assuming a clean economic turnaround, as much of the recent rebound has been due to government spending rather

than a natural rebound in jobs, spending, and household economic/financial security. This effect may tie closely with the more muted improvement in consumer sentiment and comfort indicators, as illustrated on slide 18.

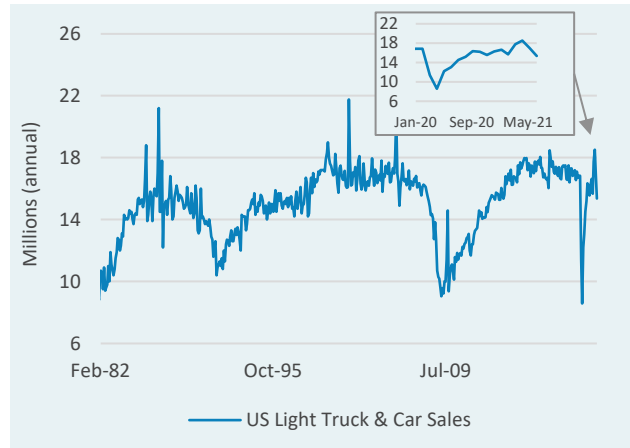
According to anonymized cellular phone data collected by Google for COVID-19 public health research, Americans appear to have returned to normal life in most respects. Travel to the workplace and transit usage, however, remain notably depressed relative to pre-COVID activity. If work-from-home policies are extended or even made permanent at many businesses, it is likely that this type of travel remains lower.

REAL RETAIL SALES



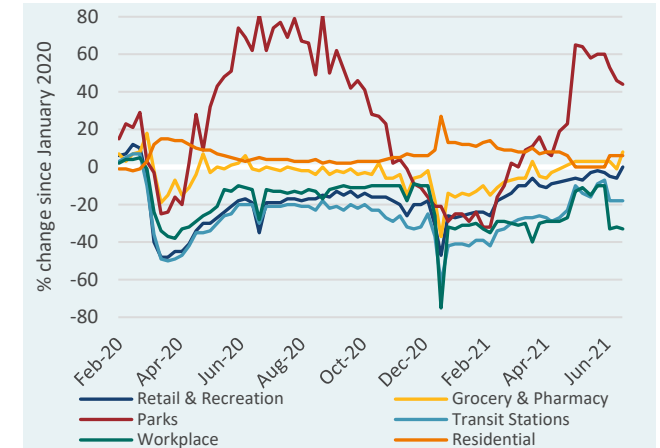
Source: FRED, as of 6/30/21

AUTO SALES



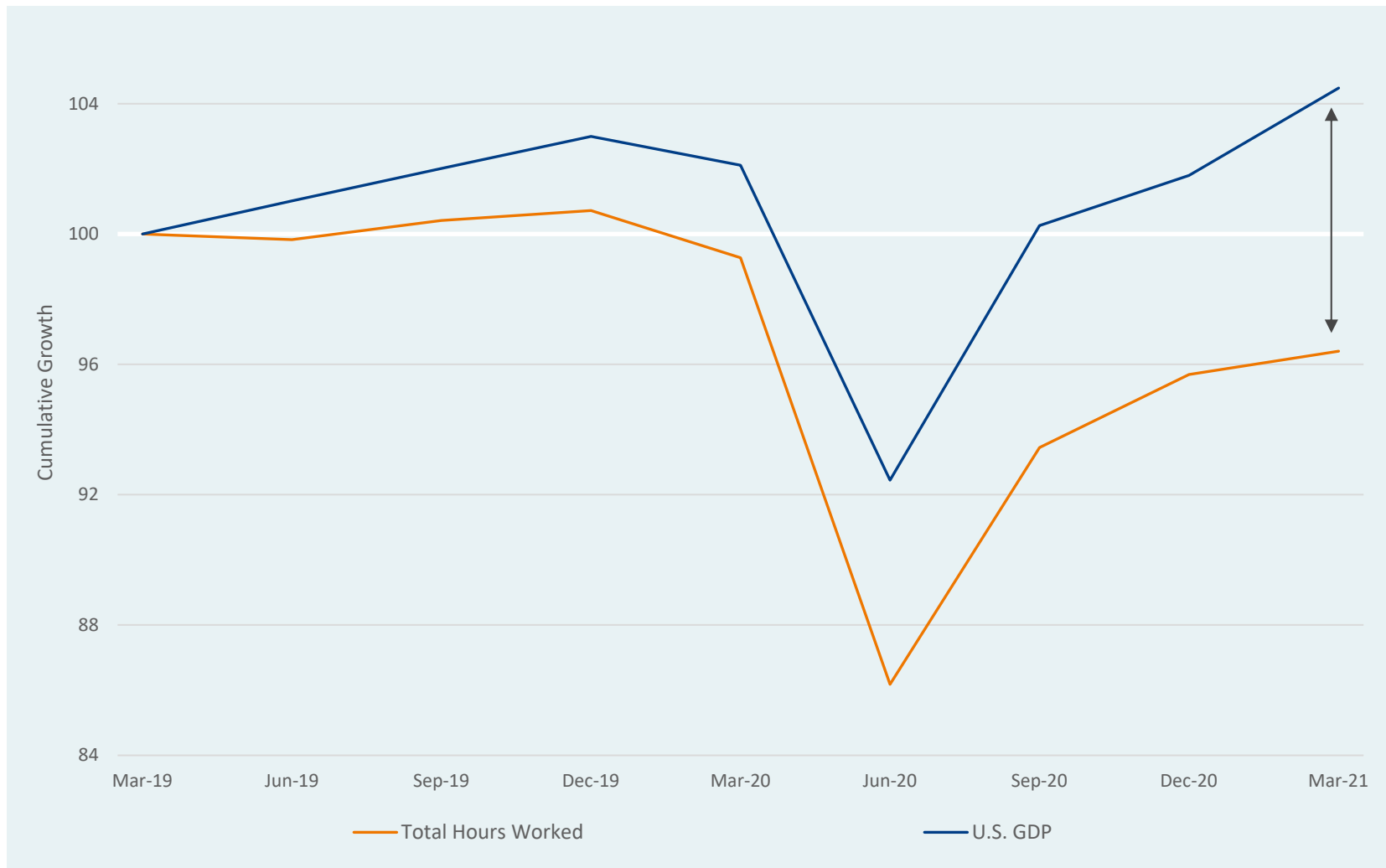
Source: Federal Reserve, as of 6/30/21

GOOGLE U.S. ACTIVITY TRACKER



Source: Google anonymized U.S. citizen mobility, as of 6/30/21

An unbalanced recovery



Despite the strong recovery in U.S. GDP, the labor market remains depressed

The stark contrast between GDP and the total number of hours worked by Americans illustrates this divide

Source: Fred, Verus, as of 3/31/21 – Nonfarm business sector total hours worked, nominal U.S. gross domestic product (GDP)

Sentiment

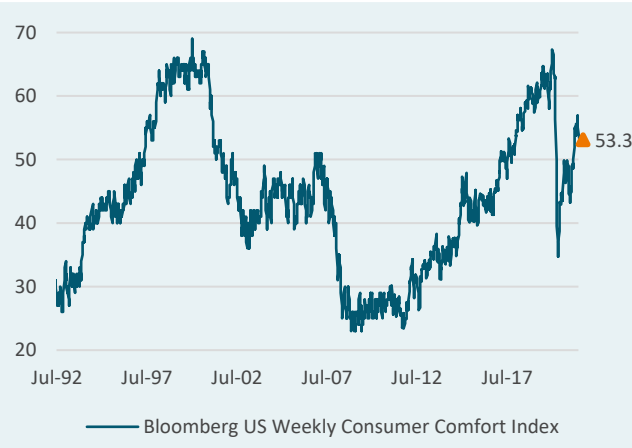
Consumer sentiment further improved over the quarter but has only recovered roughly half of the deterioration post-COVID, according to the indices below.

The Bloomberg Consumer Comfort Index attempts to gauge Americans’ views on the economy, their personal financial situations, and buying conditions. The index rose from 50.0 to 53.3. The University of Michigan Consumer Sentiment Survey attempts to gauge attitudes about the business climate, personal finances, and spending conditions. The index jumped from 84.9 to 85.5. As reported by the university, “...consumers’ complaints about rising prices on

homes, vehicles, and household durables reached an all-time record.” The survey surmised that Americans have accumulated significant savings, and a critical issue going forward will be whether these savings are held for safety or are spent.

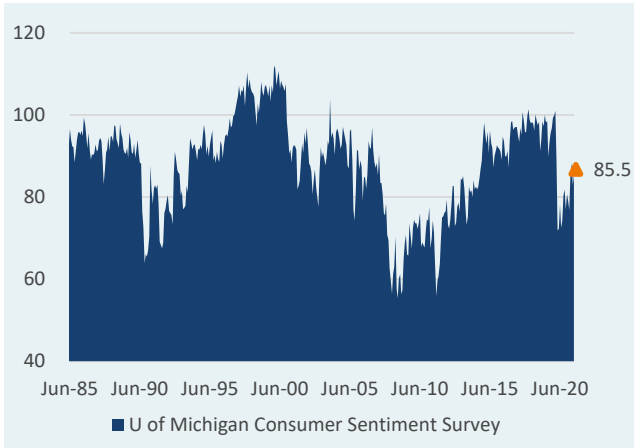
Small business optimism improved over the quarter but remained below pre-pandemic levels. Business owners are optimistic on the outlook, supported by expectations for gradual economic reopening, but continue to struggle to fill open positions due to a shortage of qualified employees in the labor pool.

CONSUMER COMFORT



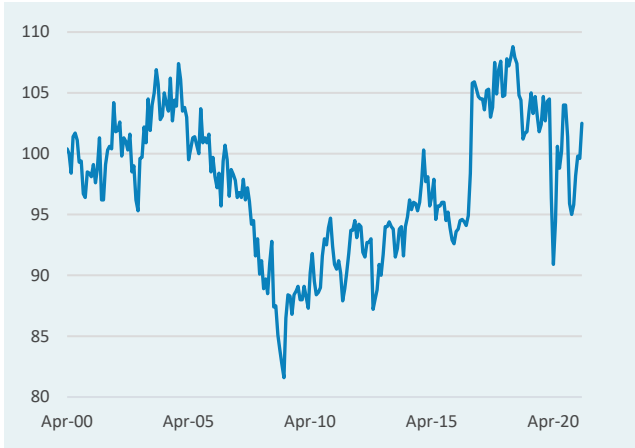
Source: Bloomberg, as of 6/30/21

CONSUMER SENTIMENT



Source: University of Michigan, as of 6/30/21

SMALL BUSINESS OPTIMISM



Source: NFIB, as of 6/30/21

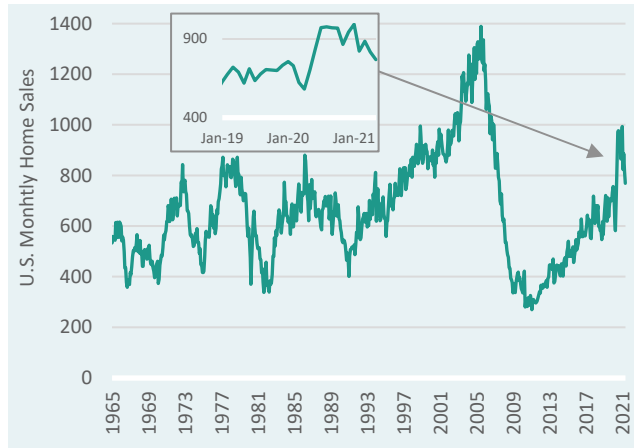
Housing

Home sales activity surged considerably in late 2020, but has slowed year-to-date, closer to pre-COVID levels in May. The median home sales price in May was 23.6% higher than one year prior, pushed upward by very low inventory and very high demand. Recent price rises have been some of the strongest on record, generating wealth for many Americans, but also hurting affordability and diminishing the chance of homeownership for prospective future homeowners.

The strength of the recent housing boom has been surprising. It is not yet clear whether the current upward

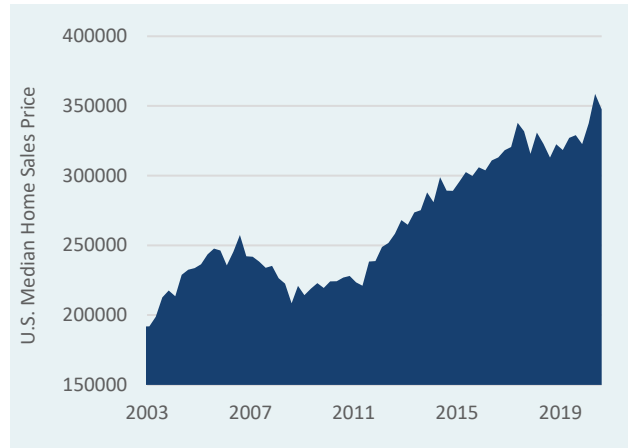
trend will persist. Housing inventory has improved, now standing at 5.1 months of supply, which is closer to pre-pandemic levels. This likely eases some price pressure. Earlier in the year it appeared that mortgage interest rates were rebounding towards prior levels, beginning the year at 2.67% and reaching 3.18% by the end of March. However, this trend reversed course during the second quarter, as rates fell back to 2.98%. An increasing volume of new home construction is likely easing tight inventories, as demonstrated below.

U.S. MONTHLY HOME SALES



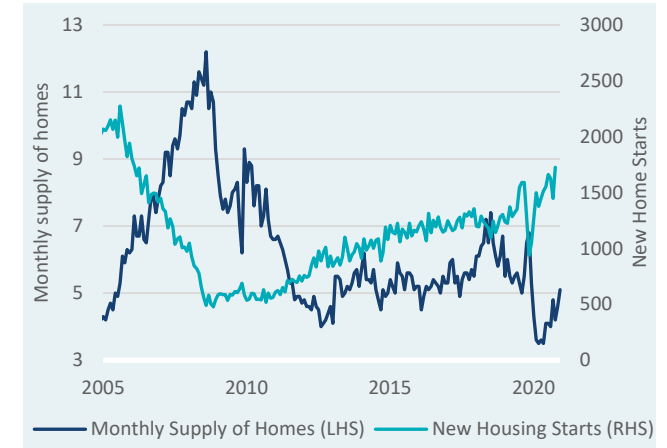
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, as of 5/31/21

U.S. MEDIAN HOME SALES PRICE



Source: FRED, as of 6/30/21

HOUSING SUPPLY VS NEW CONSTRUCTION



Source: FRED, as of 5/31/21

International economics summary

- Economies around the world continued to recover as COVID-19 fears eased, government shutdown orders were removed, and life began moving back to normal. This description of course does not apply to all economies, as Brazil, Japan, and much of Africa and Southeast Asia still grapple with effects of COVID and new variants of the virus.
- While expanding access to quality vaccines enabled mainland Europe to close the gap relative to the U.K. and the U.S. regarding vaccination rates, many countries in Asia, Africa, and Central Europe continued to face procurement issues, which has led public policymakers to respond more forcefully to pickups in case growth.
- Inflation has risen around the world, with the U.S. experiencing one of the largest rises. This will likely be a key theme for markets in the coming months.
- The U.S. trade balance of goods and services remained at a near all-time-low level of \$75B per month, perhaps indicating that the relative strength of the U.S. consumer has pushed up domestic imports to levels above exports. The U.S. trade deficit might be primed to recede if the global recovery were to broaden.
- The pace of global manufacturing sector activity growth remained high, while services sector activity in many countries began to expand.
- Chinese GDP growth reportedly moderated from a year-over-year pace of 18.3% in Q1 to 7.9% in Q2—slightly missing expectations (+8.0%), but keeping the 6% annual target in range. Retail sales (+12.1%) and industrial production (+8.3%) both grew by more than forecast, but policymakers continue to worry that the economic recovery has been uneven in composition, which could weigh on future growth.

Area	GDP (Real, YoY)	Inflation (CPI, YoY)	Unemployment
United States	0.4% 3/31/21	5.4% 6/30/21	5.9% 6/30/21
Eurozone	(1.3%) 3/31/21	1.9% 6/30/21	7.9% 5/31/21
Japan	(1.6%) 3/31/21	0.0% 6/30/21	3.1% 5/31/21
BRICS Nations	13.3% 3/31/21	2.5% 6/30/21	5.7% 12/31/20
Brazil	1.0% 3/31/21	8.4% 6/30/21	14.7% 4/30/21
Russia	(0.7%) 3/31/21	6.5% 6/30/21	4.9% 5/31/21
India	1.6% 3/31/21	6.3% 6/30/21	9.2% 6/30/21
China	7.9% 6/30/21	1.1% 6/30/21	5.0% 5/31/21

NOTE: India lacks reliable government unemployment data. Unemployment rate shown above is estimated from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy. The Chinese unemployment rate represents the monthly surveyed urban unemployment rate in China.

International economics

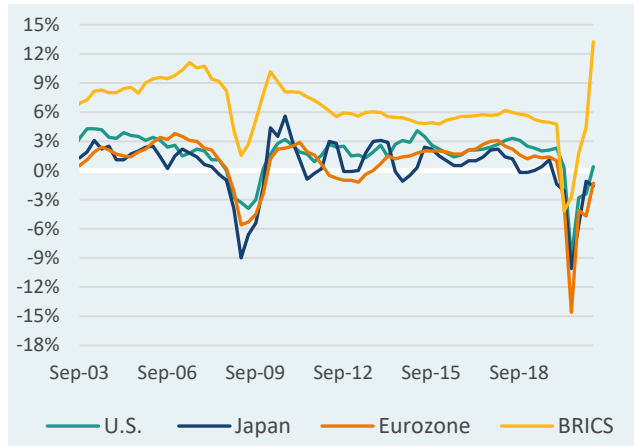
Economies around the world continued to recover, as COVID-19 fears eased, government shutdown orders were removed, and life began moving back to normal. This description of course does not apply to all economies, as Brazil, Japan, and much of Africa and Southeast Asia still grapple with effects of COVID and new variants of the virus.

A third wave of COVID has hit the Asia-Pacific region, as the Delta variant triggered economic restrictions in the area. Slower vaccination rollouts in many countries has resulted in greater vulnerability to new variants.

Inflation has jumped nearly everywhere across the globe, though the U.S. has seen one of the largest rises. This will likely be a key theme for markets and central banks in the coming months.

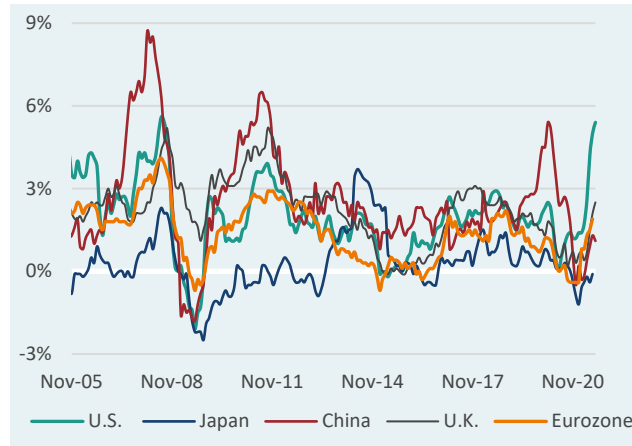
The rate of unemployment was mixed during the second quarter. The U.S. and Eurozone labor markets improved moderately over the quarter, while Japan saw a rise in joblessness. As we have described in prior quarters, governments have taken very different approaches to supporting workers, which has made global labor market trends difficult to compare.

REAL GDP GROWTH (YOY)



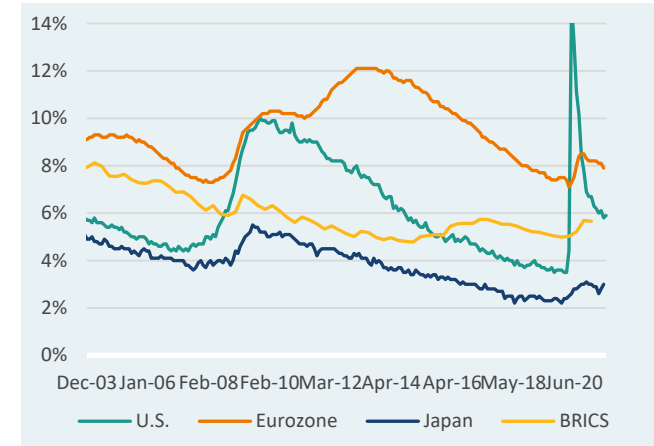
Source: Bloomberg, as of 3/31/21

INFLATION (CPI YOY)



Source: Bloomberg, as of 6/30/21 – or most recent release

UNEMPLOYMENT



Source: Bloomberg, as of 6/30/21 – or most recent release

Fixed income rates & credit

Fixed income environment

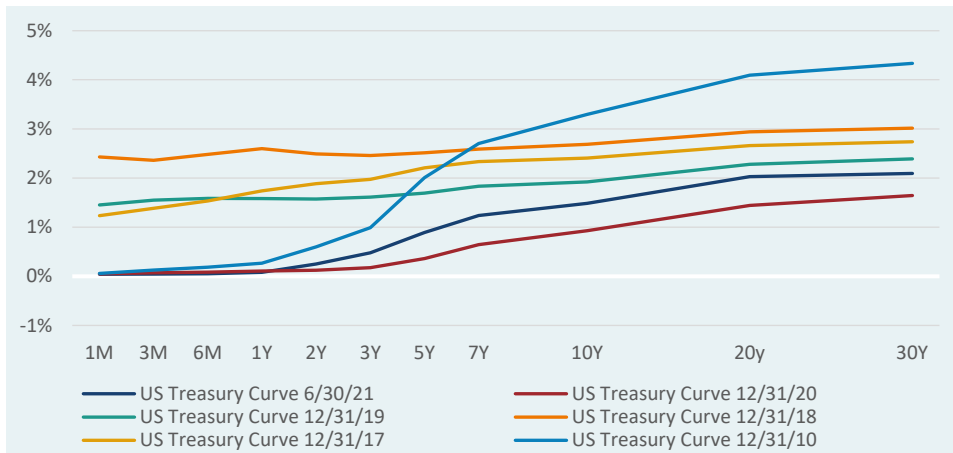
- The 10-year U.S. Treasury yield moved lower during Q2, from 1.75% to 1.44%. Many have attributed this trend to the Federal Reserve’s recent indications that monetary policy will be kept very easy for the medium term. “Lower-for-longer” interest rates may act as a support to risk asset prices.
- Despite very dovish communication from central banks, derivative markets suggest investors are pricing between a 0-0.4% rise in interest rates over the next year in most developed countries.
- Headline Inflation in Brazil has risen to 8.4%, double the pre-pandemic level. Brazil has hiked their central bank rate from 2.00% to 4.25% to battle rising prices. Inflation in Russia has also jumped, now at 6.5%. Russia has hiked their key rate from 4.25 to 5.5%. This might suggest that central banks around the world have different views regarding how “transitory” the recent inflation rise will be.
- Risky credit outperformed over the quarter as spread levels compressed to decade-lows in the United States, and emerging markets debt bounced back. Hard-currency denominated emerging market debt returned 4.1% and high yield credit in the U.S. returned 2.7%.
- Policy shifts from the People’s Bank of China resulted in a drawdown of liquidity across Asian markets over most of the quarter, which weighed on valuations for larger tech companies across the region. More recent concerns over the pace of the economic recovery in China may lead the government to withdraw liquidity more gradually.
- While some developed market central banks (Bank of Canada, Bank of Korea, Norges Bank) have started to marginally tighten (or signal tighter) policy, the Federal Reserve and the European Central Bank are expected to keep policies accommodative for at least the next year to 18 months.

	QTD Total Return	1 Year Total Return
Core Fixed Income (BBgBarc U.S. Aggregate)	1.8%	(0.3%)
Core Plus Fixed Income (BBgBarc U.S. Universal)	2.0%	1.1%
U.S. Treasuries (BBgBarc U.S. Treasury)	1.7%	(3.2%)
U.S. High Yield (BBgBarc U.S. Corporate HY)	2.7%	15.4%
Bank Loans (S&P/LSTA Leveraged Loan)	1.4%	11.7%
Emerging Market Debt Local (JPM GBI-EM Global Diversified)	3.5%	6.6%
Emerging Market Debt Hard (JPM EMBI Global Diversified)	4.1%	7.5%
Mortgage-Backed Securities (BBgBarc MBS)	0.3%	(0.4%)

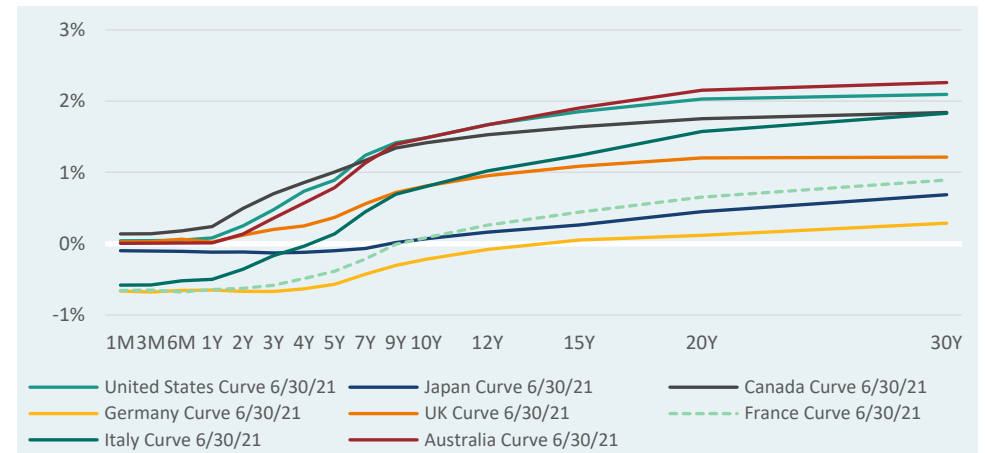
Source: Bloomberg, as of 6/30/21

Yield environment

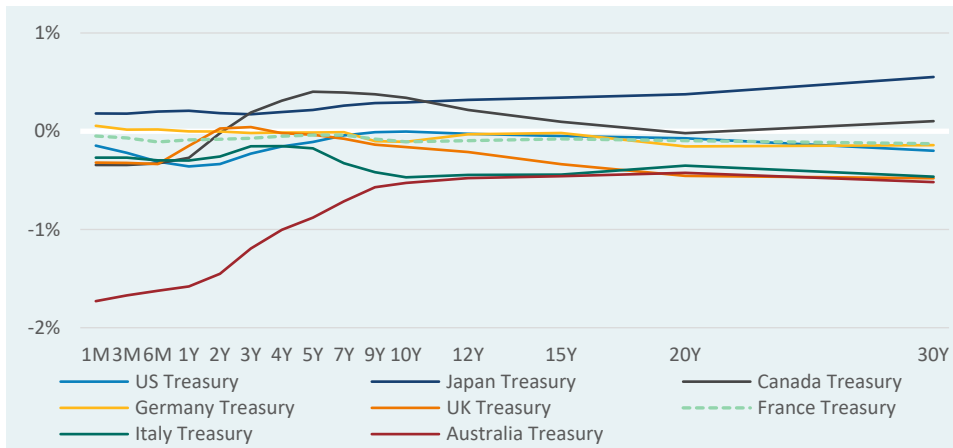
U.S. YIELD CURVE



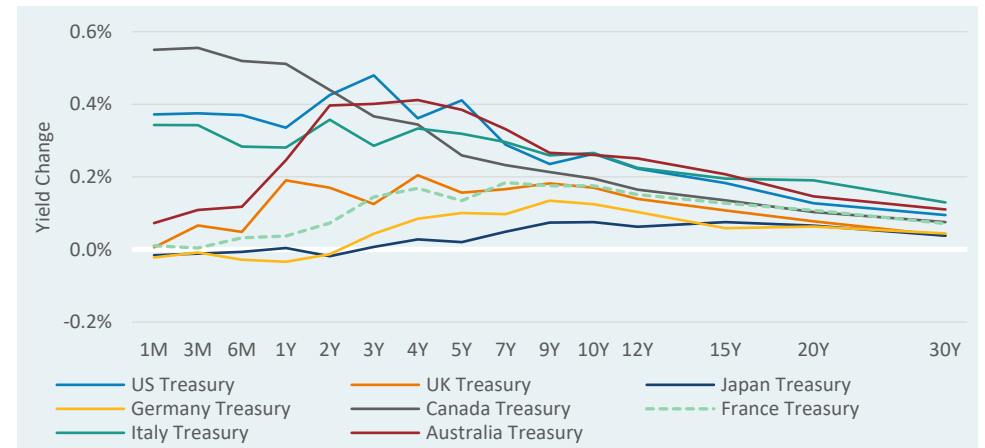
GLOBAL GOVERNMENT YIELD CURVES



YIELD CURVE CHANGES OVER LAST FIVE YEARS



IMPLIED CHANGES OVER NEXT YEAR



Source: Bloomberg, as of 6/30/21

Credit environment

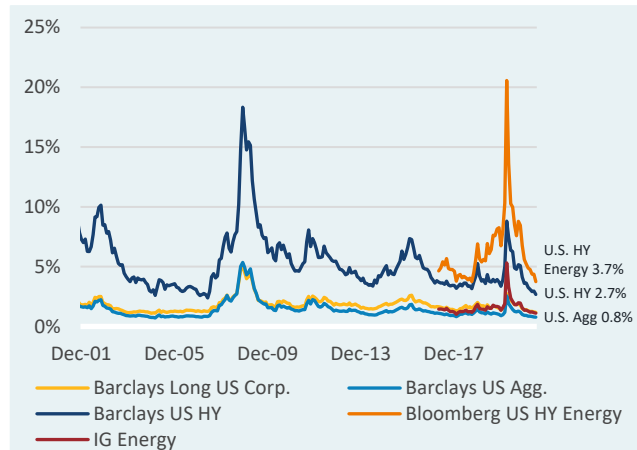
Credit markets performed positively in the second quarter, supported by strong corporate earnings, strong inflows and the expectation that supply will moderate in the second half of the year. Interest rates, specifically on the long-end of the curve, fell over the quarter, providing further duration tailwinds for fixed income securities. Corporate investment grade credit returned +3.6% over the quarter while high yield and leverage loans returned +2.7% and +1.4%, respectively.

Credit spreads grew tighter during the quarter, driven by strong investor demand and continued improvements in

economic fundamentals. High yield spreads tightened 42 basis points to 268 basis points, a new cycle low. Investment grade tightened a more modest 11 basis points to end the quarter at 80 basis points.

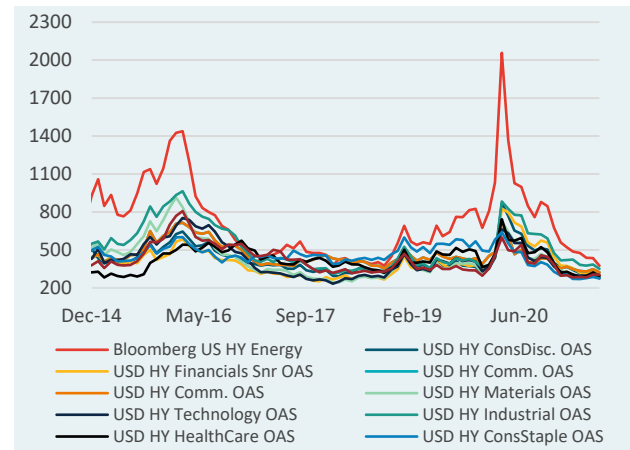
Lower quality bonds continue to outperform within both high yield and leverage loans. CCC bonds have now outperformed the broad high yield bond index in 10 of the past 11 months while split B/CCC loans have outperformed in 11 consecutive months.

SPREADS



Source: Barclays, Bloomberg, as of 6/30/21

HIGH YIELD SECTOR SPREADS (BPS)



Source: Bloomberg, as of 6/30/21

Market	Credit Spread (OAS)	
	6/30/21	6/30/20
Long U.S. Corp	1.2%	2.0%
U.S. Inv Grade Corp	0.8%	1.5%
U.S. High Yield	2.7%	6.3%
U.S. Bank Loans*	4.3%	6.2%

Source: Barclays, Credit Suisse, Bloomberg, as of 6/30/21

*Discount margin (4-year life)

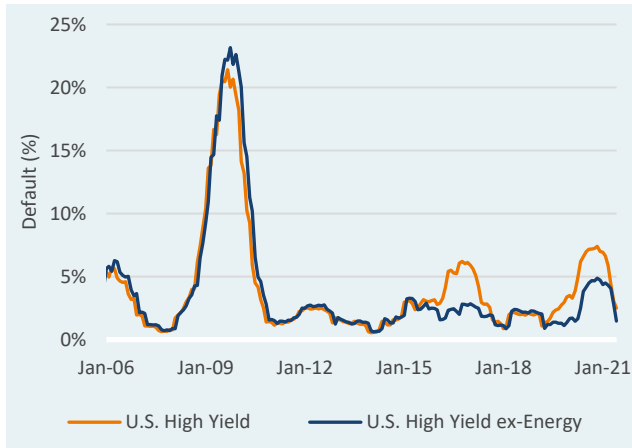
Default & issuance

Default activity remained modest over the quarter, with defaults totaling \$3.5 billion on bonds and loans. Notably, fewer defaults occurred during the past two quarters than at any time in the past two years—an impressive development, given that the U.S. economy is still recovering from the pandemic. In addition, rolling twelve-month defaults have fallen as larger default volumes experienced last June exited the rolling window. This brought the par-weighted U.S. high yield default rate down 3.4% to end the quarter at 2.5%. Similarly, the loan par-weighted default rate ended the quarter at 1.9%, down 1.9% since March and down 2.5% year-to-date.

High yield bond issuance remains elevated, but has slowed from the record-setting levels experienced last quarter. Gross issuance for the quarter was \$160.8 billion, bringing the year-to-date total to \$338.4 billion. This was notably greater than the \$238.0 billion issued in the first half of 2020. Leveraged loan issuance also slowed to \$119.3, down from \$163.9 billion issued in the first quarter.

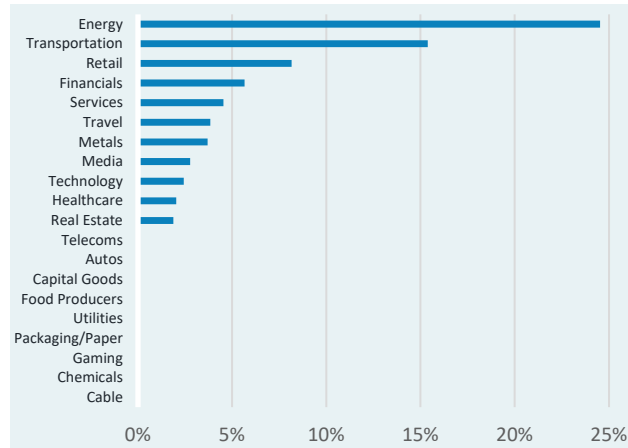
Investment grade issuance for the quarter totaled \$350 billion, below the four-year average second quarter issuance of \$401, and less than the \$423 billion issued in Q1.

HY DEFAULT RATE (ROLLING 1-YEAR)



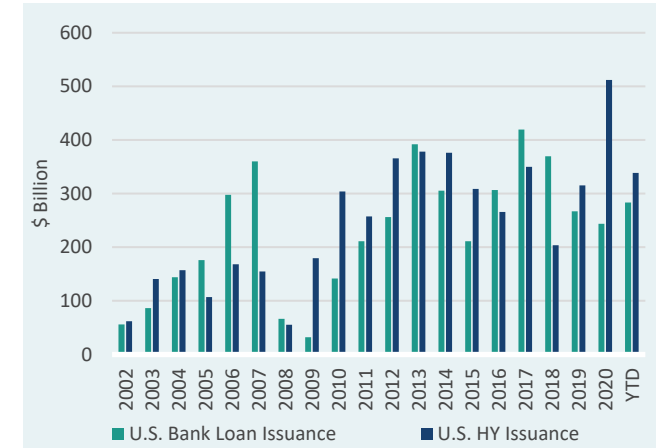
Source: BofA Merrill Lynch, as of 6/30/21

U.S. HY SECTOR DEFAULTS (LAST 12 MONTHS)



Source: BofA Merrill Lynch, as of 6/30/21 – par weighted

U.S. ISSUANCE (\$ BILLIONS)



Source: BofA Merrill Lynch, as of 6/30/21

Equity

Equity environment

- U.S. equities were a top performer again in Q2, returning +8.5%. International equities (+5.2% MSCI EAFE Index) were on par with emerging markets (+5.0% MSCI Emerging Markets Index) on an unhedged currency basis.
- Following the notable turnaround in value stock performance during Q1, growth stocks once again took the lead in Q2. Growth stocks beat value by 6.7% during the quarter, dampening excitement for a value comeback.
- U.S. small-cap stocks (+4.3%) lagged large-cap stocks (+8.5%) as the reflation trade lost steam, but have still outperformed by 21.2% over the last year.
- It seems that investors have put the 2020 pandemic-induced recession behind them. Implied volatility, actual market volatility, and the risk reflected in asset prices is very low. This data suggests that investors perceive a strong economy, a healthy business environment, and very few risks on the horizon.
- Per FactSet, the estimated year-over-year earnings growth for the S&P 500 Index as of Q2 2021 is 64.0%. If that rate were to materialize, it would mark the highest year-over-year growth rate reported by the index since Q4 2009 (109.1%).
- Global equities have marched higher without many hiccups over the last six months. The MSCI ACWI Index has not closed more than 5% below its prior peak level since November 2nd, 2020. In the second quarter, the furthest the ACWI ever closed below its prior high-water-mark was 3.3%.

	QTD TOTAL RETURN		1 YEAR TOTAL RETURN	
	(unhedged)	(hedged)	(unhedged)	(hedged)
US Large Cap (S&P 500)	8.5%		40.8%	
US Small Cap (Russell 2000)	4.3%		62.0%	
US Large Value (Russell 1000 Value)	5.2%		43.7%	
US Large Growth (Russell 1000 Growth)	11.9%		42.5%	
International Large (MSCI EAFE)	5.2%	4.9%	32.4%	28.0%
Eurozone (Euro Stoxx 50)	5.8%	5.1%	35.4%	29.7%
U.K. (FTSE 100)	5.8%	5.7%	31.9%	18.5%
Japan (NIKKEI 225)	(1.6%)	(1.0%)	27.0%	31.7%
Emerging Markets (MSCI Emerging Markets)	5.0%	3.5%	40.9%	35.1%

Source: Russell Investments, MSCI, STOXX, FTSE, Nikkei, as of 6/30/21

Domestic equity

U.S. equities were a top performer again in Q2, returning +8.5%. Per FactSet, the estimated year-over-year earnings growth for the S&P 500 Index as of June 30th was 64.0%. If that rate were to materialize, it would mark the highest year-over-year rate reported by the index since Q4 2009 (109.1%).

Concerns over the potential of the coronavirus delta variant to crimp the growth outlook helped to drive a rotation away from the more cyclical sectors that had driven the advance in U.S. equities since last August. Interest rates fell substantially, supporting outperformance of the Real Estate (+13.1%), IT

(+11.6%), and Telecom (+10.7%) sectors. The shift in sentiment towards more cautious risk positioning led the quality factor (+10.6%) to outperform relative to MSCI's suite of long-only factor indices.

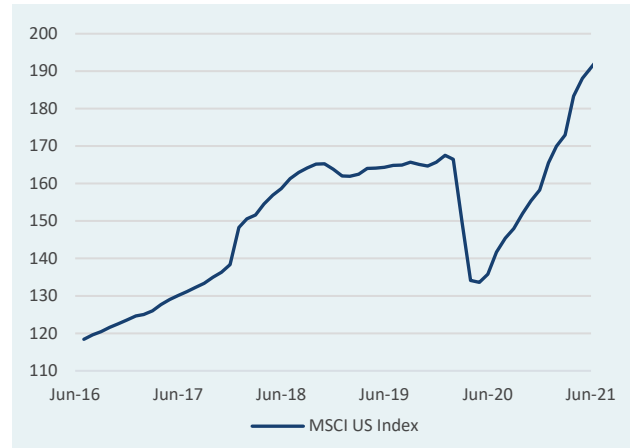
While it appears possible that equities could continue rallying into next year, the road could well become bumpier from here, given high valuations and the level of optimism baked into prices. We retain a cautiously optimistic view, given the uncertainty which shrouds the outlook.

S&P 500 INDEX



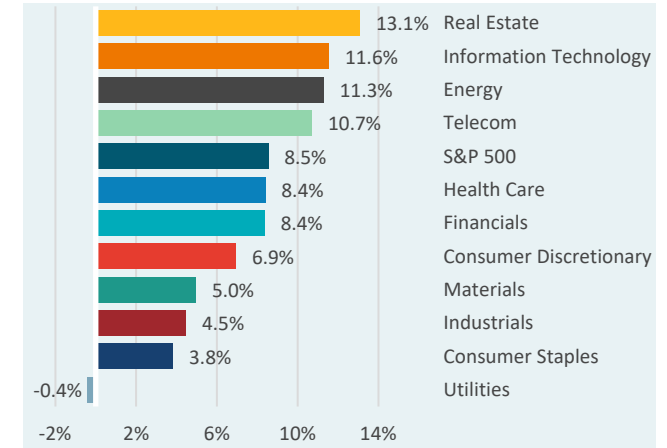
Source: Standard & Poor's, as of 6/30/21

FORWARD 12-MONTH EARNINGS PER SHARE



Source: MSCI, as of 6/30/21

Q2 SECTOR PERFORMANCE



Source: Standard & Poor's, as of 6/30/21

Domestic equity size & style

Large capitalization stocks beat small (Russell 1000 +8.5%, Russell 2000 +4.3%) and growth stocks beat value (Russell 1000 Growth +11.9%, Russell 1000 Value +5.2%), as investors rotated portfolios away from riskier exposures to larger, more quality names amid a more cautious risk outlook.

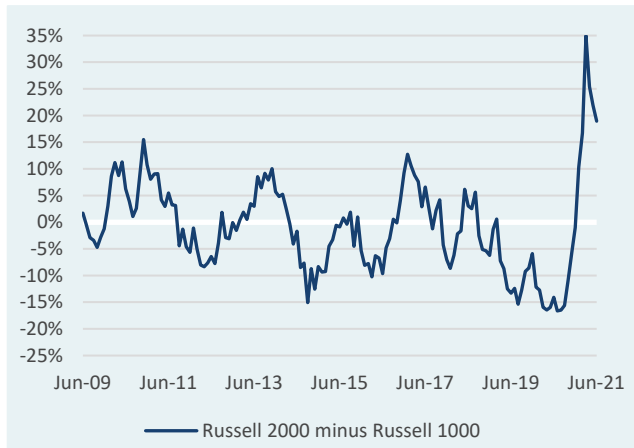
Following the notable turnaround in value stock performance during Q1, growth stocks once again took the lead in Q2, dampening excitement for a value comeback. As we have noted recently, sector trends can have large impacts on

factor behavior. This may have been the case with value in the first quarter. Small capitalization stocks have exhibited a spectacular run over the past year, outperforming large cap stocks by 21.2% (Russell 2000 +62.0, Russell 1000 +43.1%).

In general, factor performance tends to be noisy and difficult to predict, which suggests that style investing should in most cases involve a longer-term focus.

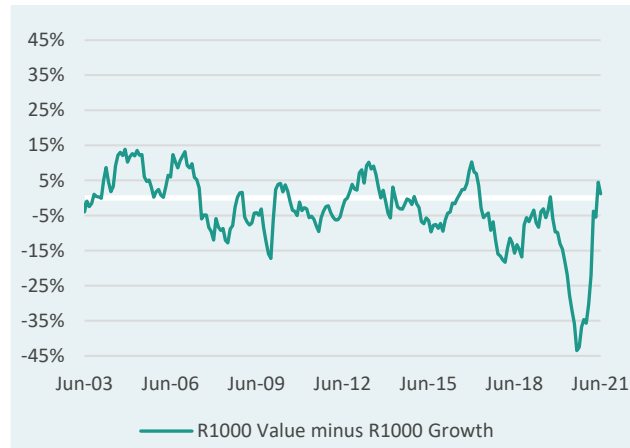
Small cap and value stocks delivered strong relative performance during Q1

SMALL CAP VS LARGE CAP (YOY)



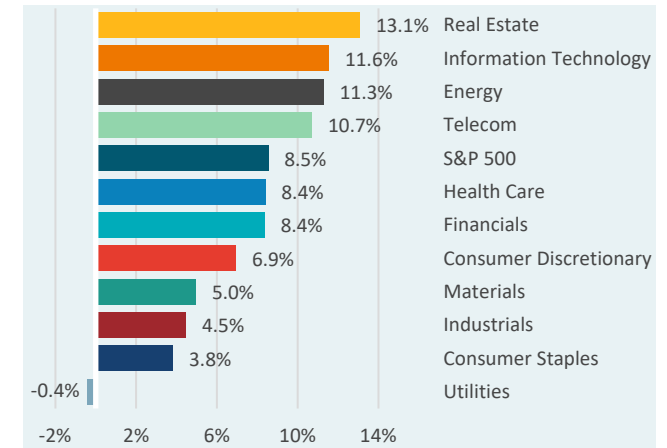
Source: FTSE, as of 6/30/21

VALUE VS GROWTH (YOY)



Source: FTSE, as of 6/30/21

Q2 SECTOR PERFORMANCE



Source: Standard & Poor's, as of 6/30/21

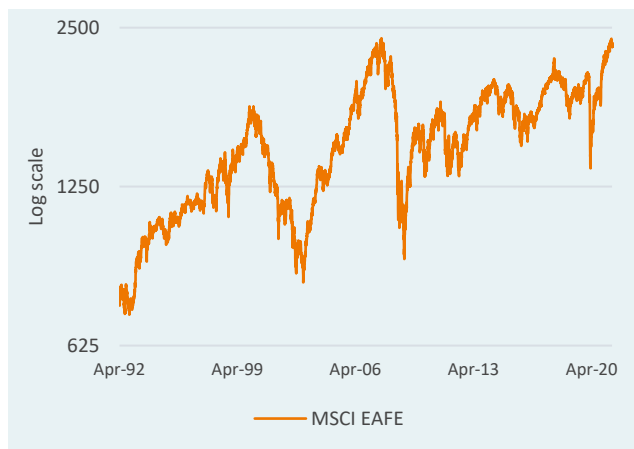
International developed equity

International equities delivered +5.2% (MSCI EAFE Index) during the quarter on an unhedged currency basis, lagging U.S. equities but in line with emerging market equities (MSCI Emerging Markets +5.0%). Broad dollar weakness over most of the quarter boosted returns for unhedged investors in international developed equities by 0.3%, European equities by 0.7%, and emerging markets by 1.5%. The Japanese yen depreciated slightly relative to the U.S. dollar, which presented headwinds for unhedged investors in Japanese equities. Fading of risk-on sentiment in June helped to spur a turnaround in the U.S. dollar late in the quarter, though short

covering dynamics also played a factor.

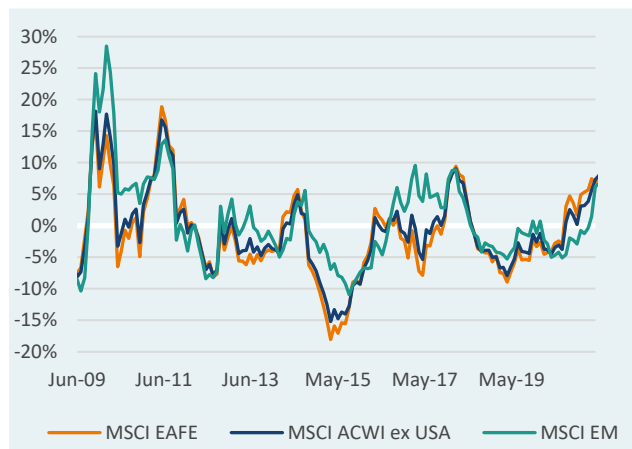
Fresh concerns over the growth outlook following the emergence of the new, more virulent delta strain of the coronavirus pushed ECB policymakers to accelerate the pace of weekly asset purchases within the Pandemic Emergency Purchase Programme slightly, with the goal being to preserve financial conditions supporting a strong recovery. The commitment to easier policy over the short-to-intermediate term helped to keep interest rates at relatively low levels, which buoyed the valuation of European equities.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPED EQUITIES



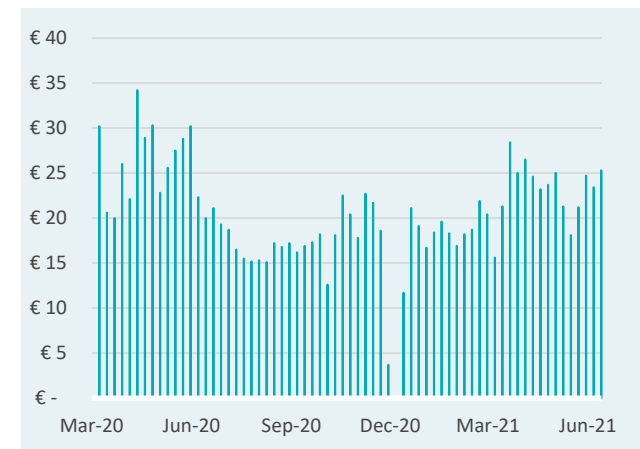
Source: MSCI, as of 6/30/21

EFFECT OF CURRENCY (1-YEAR ROLLING)



Source: MSCI, as of 6/30/21

ECB WEEKLY PEPP PURCHASES (BILLIONS)



Source: Bloomberg, ECB, as of 7/9/21

Emerging market equity

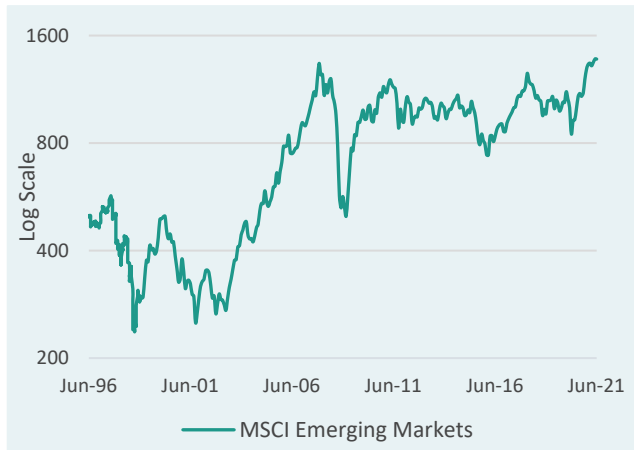
Emerging market equities (MSCI EM +5.0%) underperformed U.S. (S&P 500 +8.6%) and were in line with international developed equities (MSCI EAFE +5.2%) during the second quarter.

Latin American equities once again took the lead during the second quarter, outperforming the broader index by 10% (MSCI Latin America 15.0%, MSCI Emerging Markets +5.0%). Much of this performance was due to the notable underperformance of Chinese equities, which lagged the overall index by -2.8% during Q2 and -14.4% over the past year. Single countries in the emerging markets complex often

display high volatility. In other words, large idiosyncratic moves such as the one witnessed recently by Chinese equities are not unusual.

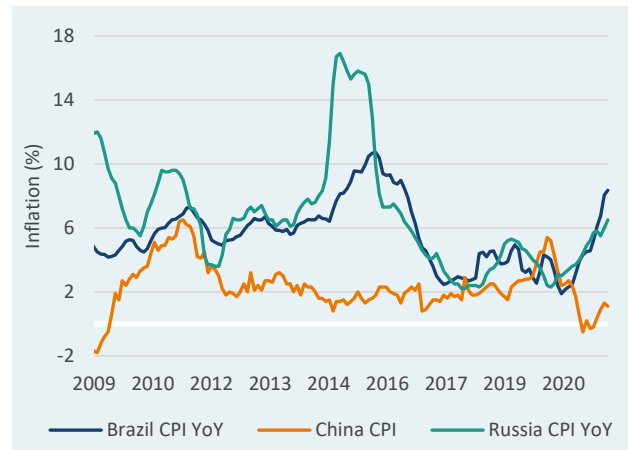
Headline Inflation in Brazil has risen to 8.4%, which is double the pre-pandemic level. Brazil has hiked their central bank rate from 2.00% to 4.25% to battle rising prices. Inflation in Russia has also jumped, now at 6.5%. Russia has hiked their key rate from 4.25% to 5.50%. This might suggest that central banks around the world have different views regarding how “transitory” the recent inflation rise will be, although volatile rates of inflation are common in the emerging markets.

EMERGING MARKET EQUITY



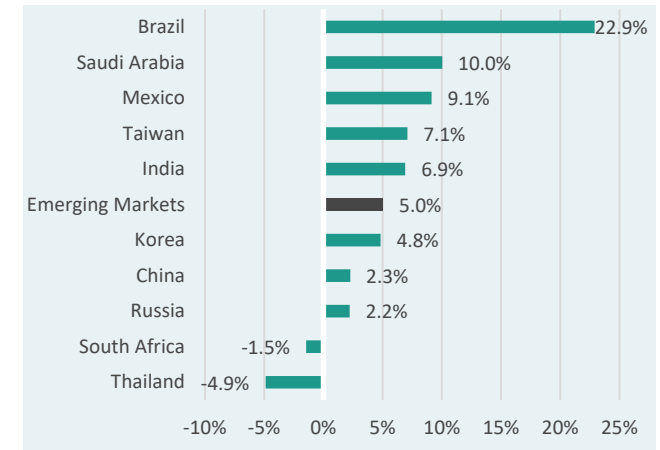
Source: MSCI, as of 6/30/21

INFLATION (YOY)



Source: Bloomberg, as of 6/30/21 or most recent data

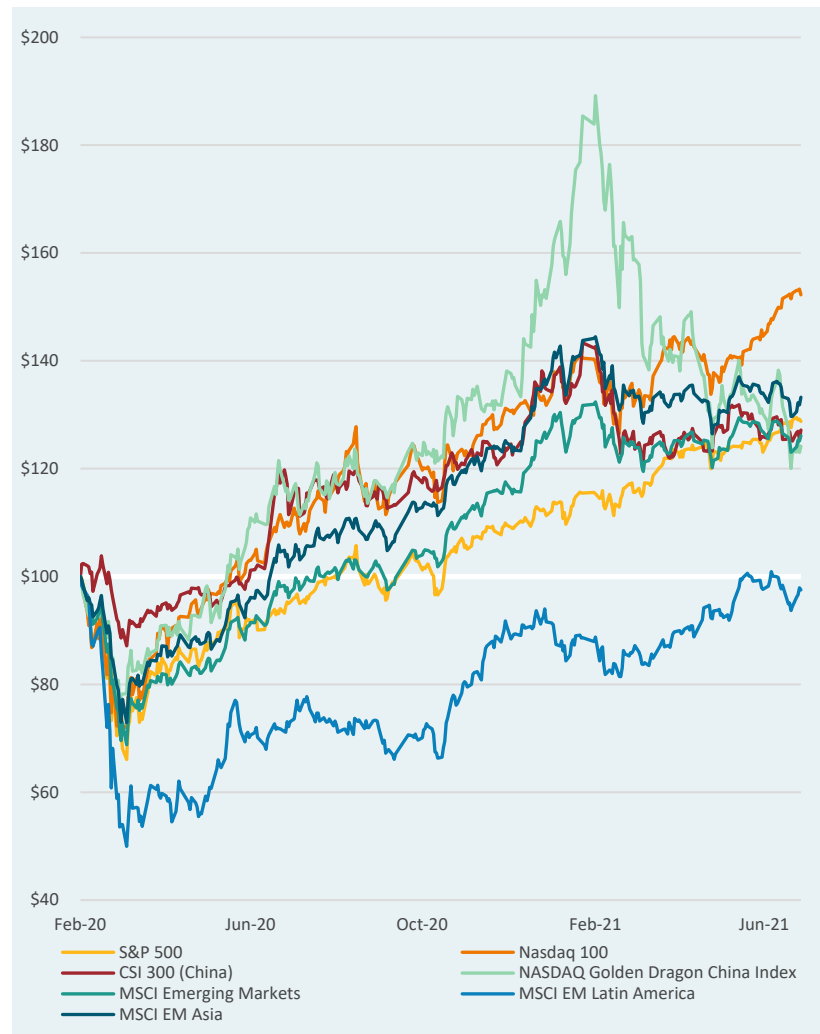
Q2 PERFORMANCE – TOP 10 EM CONSTITUENTS



Source: Bloomberg, MSCI, as of 6/30/21, performance in USD terms

Chinese markets

- The Chinese equity market has now lagged the broader emerging markets by -1.1% on a 3-year annualized basis, -13.8% on a 1-year basis, and -5.7% year-to-date (MSCI China, MSCI Emerging Markets).
- Chinese equities began to sell off in late February, with the initial catalyst appearing to be a decision by the People's Bank of China to shift its focus away from an accommodative financial stance towards tightening, with the aim of limiting the risks that excessive leverage within certain segments of the economy poses to the economy.
- This shift in focus from ensuring economic recovery to managing the risks of financial excesses came in the form of a marginal tightening of liquidity across the country, which sparked a sell-off in some of the high-flying tech companies that had driven outperformance in the early days of the pandemic. Losses in China accelerated in the second quarter of 2021 when regulators cracked down on some national champions in the IT industry, reportedly over concerns around the risks of the data gathered by those companies falling into the wrong hands, which could undermine the position of the Communist Party of China. While it appears that both general liquidity conditions have begun to improve and the tech crackdown has showed signs of easing, these issues remain front and center for the broader emerging market universe.
- Recent larger idiosyncratic moves in the Chinese market highlight the benefits of gaining diversified exposure to the asset class.



Chinese tech companies listed in the U.S. but whose business is primarily conducted in China have sold off significantly since late February 2021

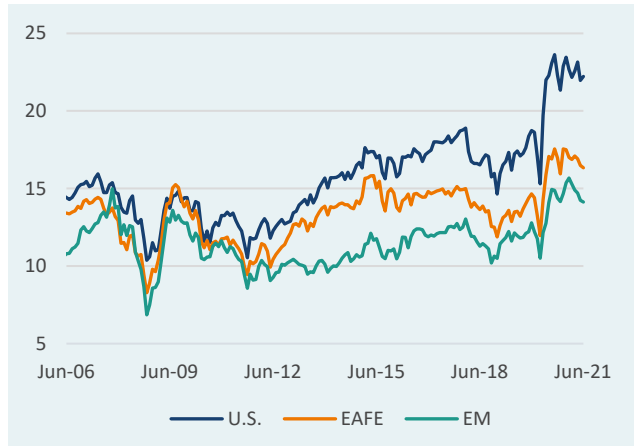
Equity valuations

Industry analysts forecast a 11.2% gain over the next 12 months for the S&P 500, according to FactSet, despite record-high valuations.

Valuations remain at very high levels relative to history, supported by extremely low interest rates, central bank accommodation, and unprecedented government spending. As is often the case when valuations rise, opinions differ regarding whether: a) valuations are supported by the environment and will stay elevated for the long-term, resulting in lower expected returns, or b) valuations are

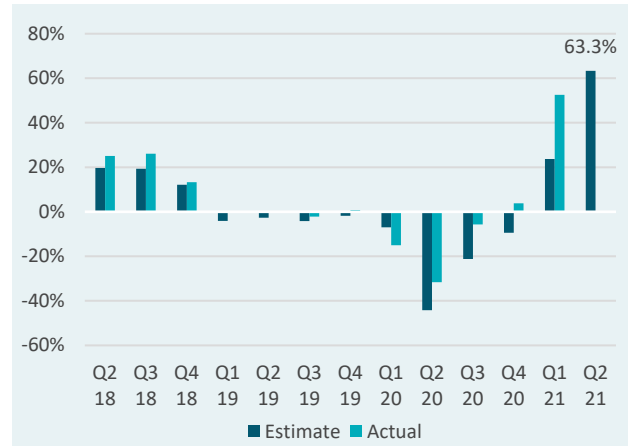
excessive and will come back down due to a market correction. Some investors might question the possibility of a third scenario – that future earnings growth will be strong enough to naturally bring down valuations. However, this third scenario is not currently supported by earnings forecasts. Our view on these conditions continues to be somewhat aligned with scenario “a”—that valuations are indeed high, but that unusual conditions and a potentially synchronized global economic comeback may support these high prices for the medium term. Nonetheless, with such optimism baked into risk asset prices, it will be important to watch closely for any disruptions to the market’s optimistic outlook.

FORWARD P/E RATIOS



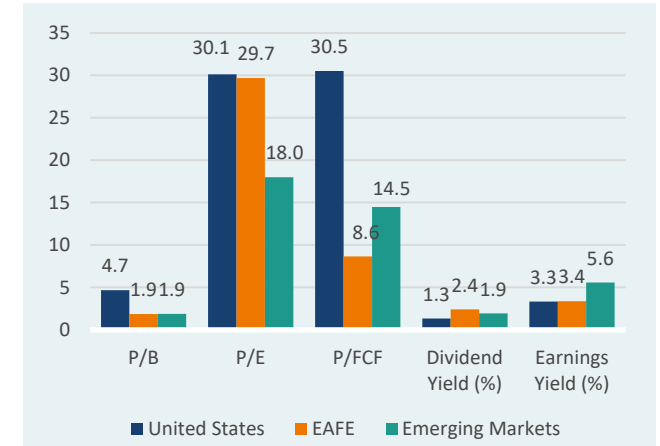
Source: MSCI, 12m forward P/E, as of 6/30/21

S&P 500 EARNINGS GROWTH VS. FORECASTS



Source: Bloomberg, as of 6/30/21

VALUATION METRICS (3-MONTH AVERAGE)



Source: Bloomberg, MSCI as of 6/30/21 - trailing P/E

Equity volatility

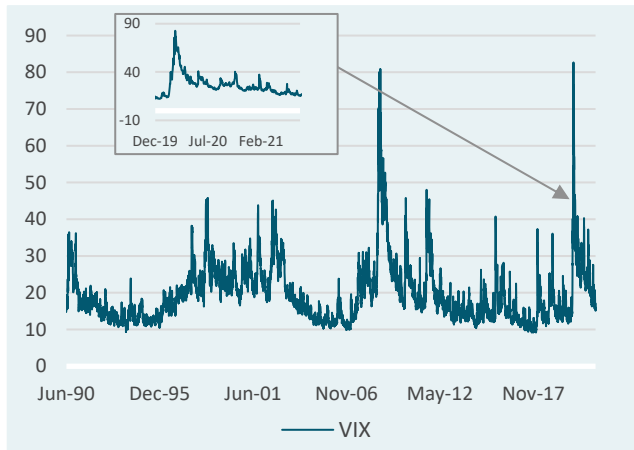
The Cboe VIX Index has fallen further year-to-date, reaching 15 in June. This compares to the longer-term average of 19. One-year trailing realized volatility has now returned to pre-COVID levels.

It seems that investors have put the 2020 pandemic-induced recession behind them. Implied volatility, actual market volatility, and the risk reflected in asset prices is very low. This data suggests that investors perceive a strong economy, a healthy business environment, and very few risks on the horizon. However, it is reasonable to question the degree to

which unprecedented government stimulus and easy money has influenced markets as of late.

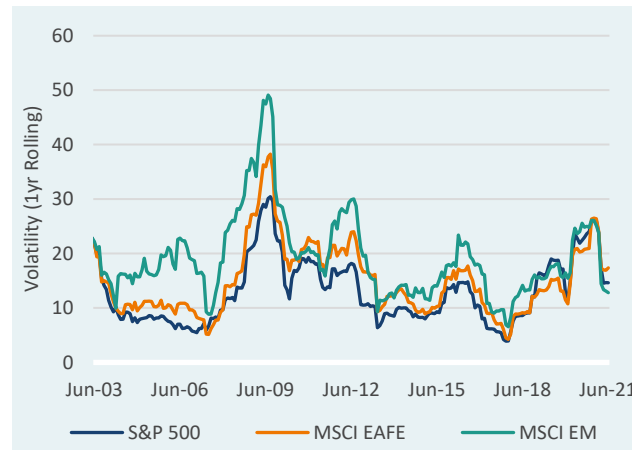
The Cboe Skew Index, which measures the perceived tail risk of the distribution of S&P 500 Index returns over a 30-day horizon, rose to 161.9, 35% above its average level since inception in 1990. The high level of the skew index indicates a steep implied volatility curve, which could be interpreted as more bearish bears, more bullish bulls, or both. In any case, disagreement among investors appears to be wide at present, which could allow for larger short-term price swings.

U.S. IMPLIED VOLATILITY (VIX)



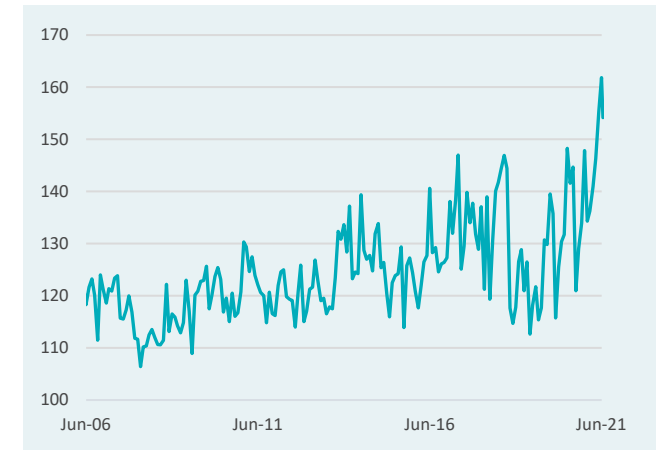
Source: Cboe, as of 6/30/21

REALIZED VOLATILITY



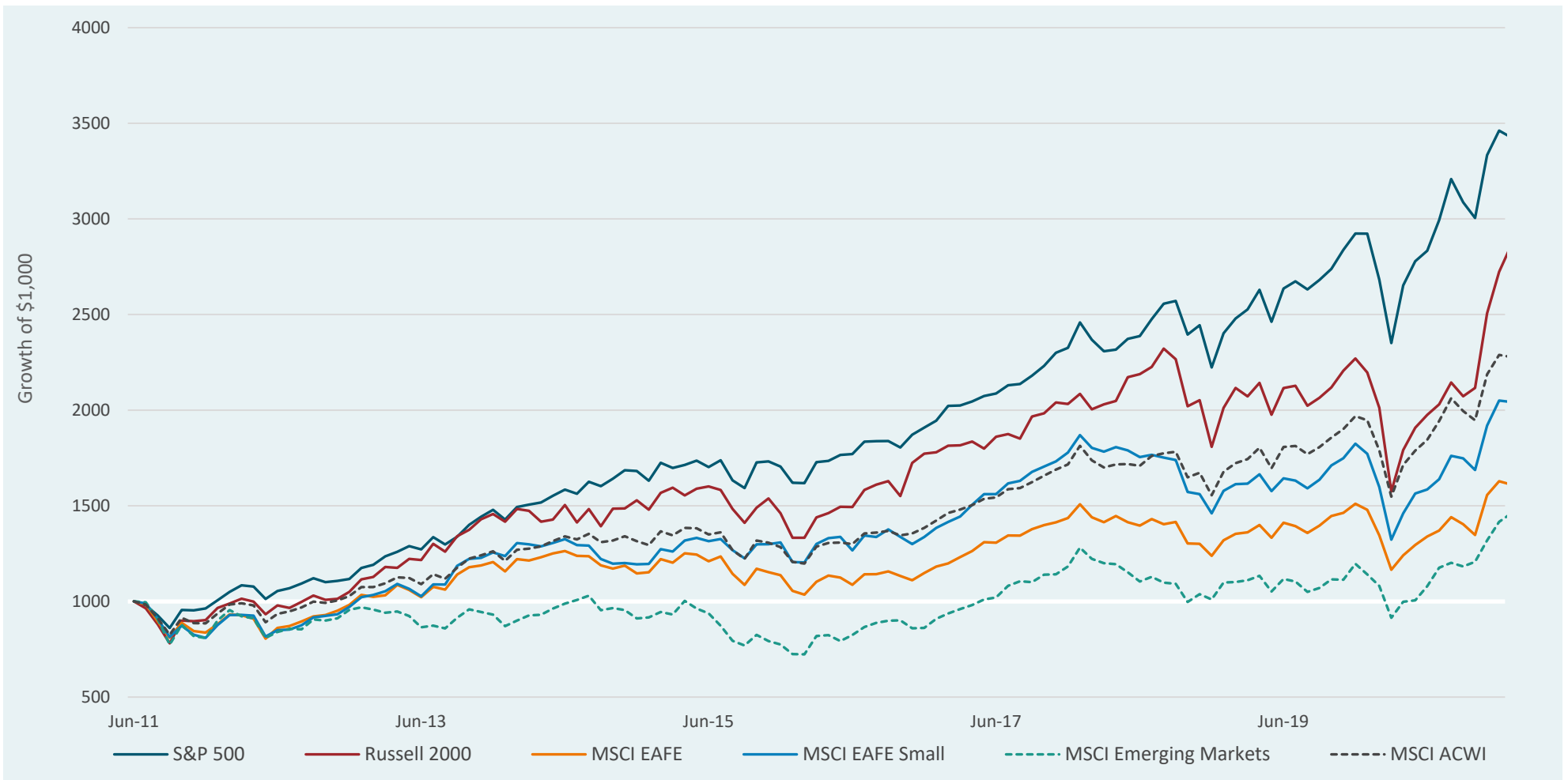
Source: Standard & Poor's, MSCI, as of 6/30/21

CBOE SKEW INDEX



Source: Cboe, Bloomberg, as of 6/30/21

Long-term equity performance



Source: Morningstar, as of 6/30/21

Other assets

Currency

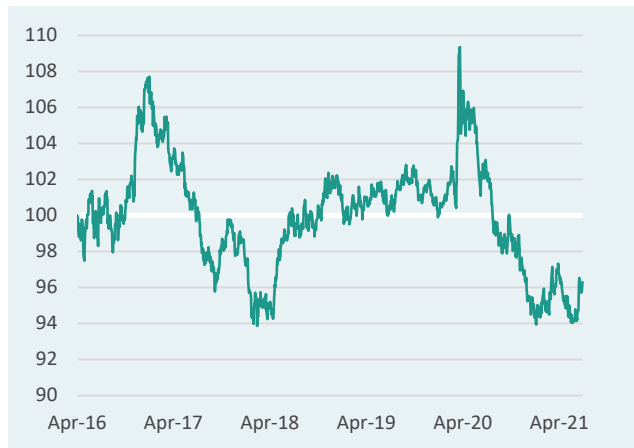
The stabilization in the U.S. dollar that took place in the first quarter as Treasury yields rose began to fade as longer-term interest rates declined from pandemic-era high levels. The dollar sold off relative to major currencies in April and May, before finding a bid in June on the back of slightly more cautious sentiment. Investors remain quite polarized over the medium-to-long term path of the dollar, which might increase the probability of more volatility in the future.

Despite U.S. dollar weakness relative to the euro and British pound over the quarter, those two European currencies remain relatively cheap on a purchasing power parity basis. The

Japanese yen became even cheaper relative to the dollar over the period, while the Swiss franc and Norwegian Krone remained at relatively expensive valuations.

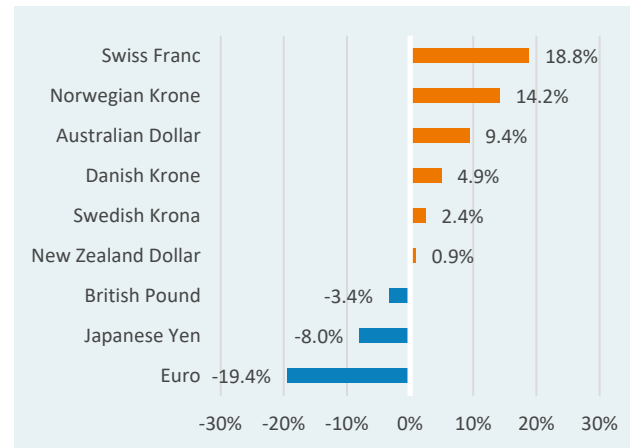
The embedded currency portfolio of the MSCI EAFE Index returned 0.3% over the quarter, but returned 4.4% over the trailing year on the back of a weakening U.S. dollar. Within Verus' preferred currency beta benchmark, the momentum factor (-6.8%) contributed significant headwinds to one-year trailing returns, as frequent shifts in market risk sentiment limited the capacity of risk-on and risk-off currencies from sustaining trends in one direction or the other.

BLOOMBERG DOLLAR SPOT INDEX



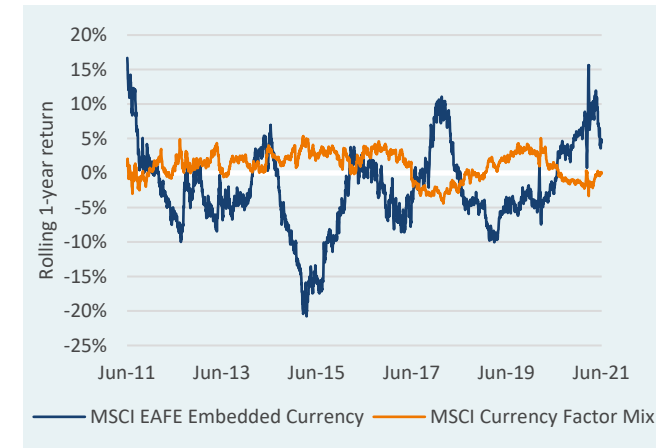
Source: Bloomberg, as of 6/30/21

PURCHASING POWER PARITY VALUATIONS VS. U.S. DOLLAR (OECD)



Source: Bloomberg, as of 6/30/21

CURRENCY BETA RELATIVE PERFORMANCE



Source: Bloomberg, MSCI, as of 6/30/21

Appendix

Periodic table of returns

BEST

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	YTD	5-Year	10-Year
Small Cap Value	66.4	31.8	14.0	25.9	56.3	26.0	34.5	32.6	39.8	5.2	79.0	29.1	14.3	18.6	43.3	13.5	13.3	31.7	37.3	6.7	36.4	38.5	26.7	23.7	17.9
Commodities	43.1	22.8	8.4	10.3	48.5	22.2	21.4	26.9	16.2	1.4	37.2	26.9	7.8	18.1	38.8	13.2	5.7	21.3	30.2	1.9	31.4	34.6	21.1	18.8	14.9
Small Cap Equity	33.2	12.2	7.3	6.7	47.3	20.7	20.1	23.5	15.8	-6.5	34.5	24.5	2.6	17.9	34.5	13.0	0.9	17.3	25.0	0.0	28.5	21.0	17.5	18.0	13.5
Large Cap Value	27.3	11.6	3.3	1.6	46.0	18.3	14.0	22.2	11.8	-21.4	32.5	19.2	1.5	17.5	33.5	11.8	0.6	12.1	22.2	-1.5	26.5	20.0	17.0	16.5	12.3
Large Cap Equity	26.5	7.0	2.8	1.0	39.2	16.5	7.5	18.4	11.6	-25.9	28.4	16.8	0.4	16.4	33.1	6.0	0.0	11.8	21.7	-3.5	25.5	18.3	15.0	13.6	11.6
Large Cap Growth	21.3	4.1	-2.4	-6.0	29.9	14.3	6.3	15.5	10.3	-33.8	23.3	16.1	-2.1	15.3	23.3	4.9	-0.8	11.2	14.6	-6.0	22.4	14.0	13.0	13.0	10.8
Small Cap Growth	24.3	6.0	2.5	-5.9	30.0	14.5	7.1	16.6	10.9	-28.9	27.2	16.7	0.1	16.3	32.5	5.6	-0.4	11.3	17.1	-4.8	22.0	10.3	9.0	11.9	8.8
International Equity	20.9	-3.0	-5.6	-11.4	29.7	12.9	5.3	15.1	7.0	-35.6	20.6	15.5	-2.9	14.6	12.1	4.2	-1.4	8.0	13.7	-8.3	18.6	7.8	8.8	10.3	6.9
Emerging Markets Equity	13.2	-7.3	-9.1	-15.5	25.2	11.4	4.7	13.3	7.0	-36.8	19.7	13.1	-4.2	11.5	11.0	3.4	-2.5	7.1	7.8	-9.3	18.4	7.5	7.4	9.8	5.9
60/40 Global Portfolio	11.4	-7.8	-9.2	-15.7	23.9	9.1	4.6	10.4	5.8	-37.6	18.9	10.2	-5.5	10.5	9.0	2.8	-3.8	5.7	7.7	-11.0	8.7	4.6	6.0	6.1	4.3
Hedge Funds of Funds	7.3	-14.0	-12.4	-20.5	11.6	6.9	4.6	9.1	4.4	-38.4	11.5	8.2	-5.7	4.8	0.1	0.0	-4.4	2.6	7.0	-11.2	7.8	2.8	4.7	5.8	3.8
Real Estate	4.8	-22.4	-19.5	-21.7	9.0	6.3	4.2	4.8	-0.2	-38.5	5.9	6.5	-11.7	4.2	-2.0	-1.8	-7.5	1.0	3.5	-12.9	7.7	0.5	1.7	3.0	3.4
Cash	-0.8	-22.4	-20.4	-27.9	4.1	4.3	3.2	4.3	-1.6	-43.1	0.2	5.7	-13.3	0.1	-2.3	-4.5	-14.9	0.5	1.7	-13.8	6.4	0.5	0.0	2.4	0.6
US Bonds	-1.5	-30.6	-21.2	-30.3	1.0	1.4	2.4	2.1	-9.8	-53.2	-16.9	0.1	-18.2	-1.1	-9.5	-17.0	-24.7	0.3	0.9	-14.6	2.1	-3.1	-1.6	1.1	-4.4

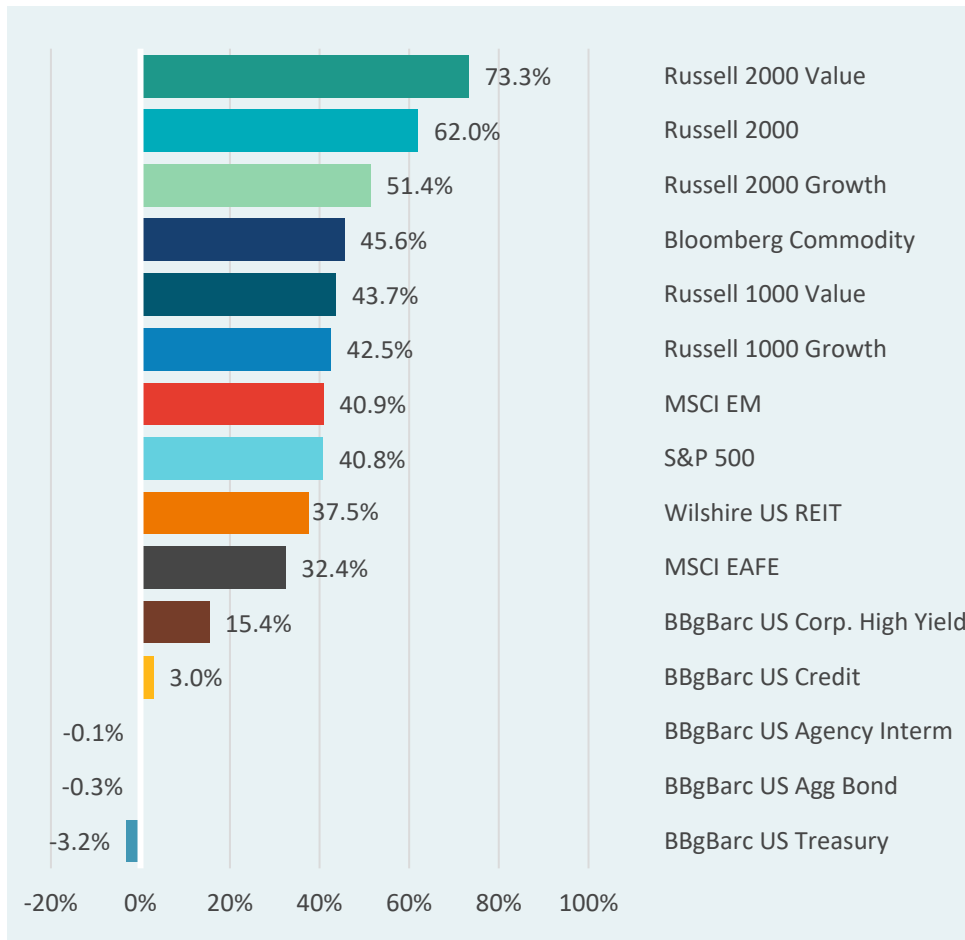
WORST



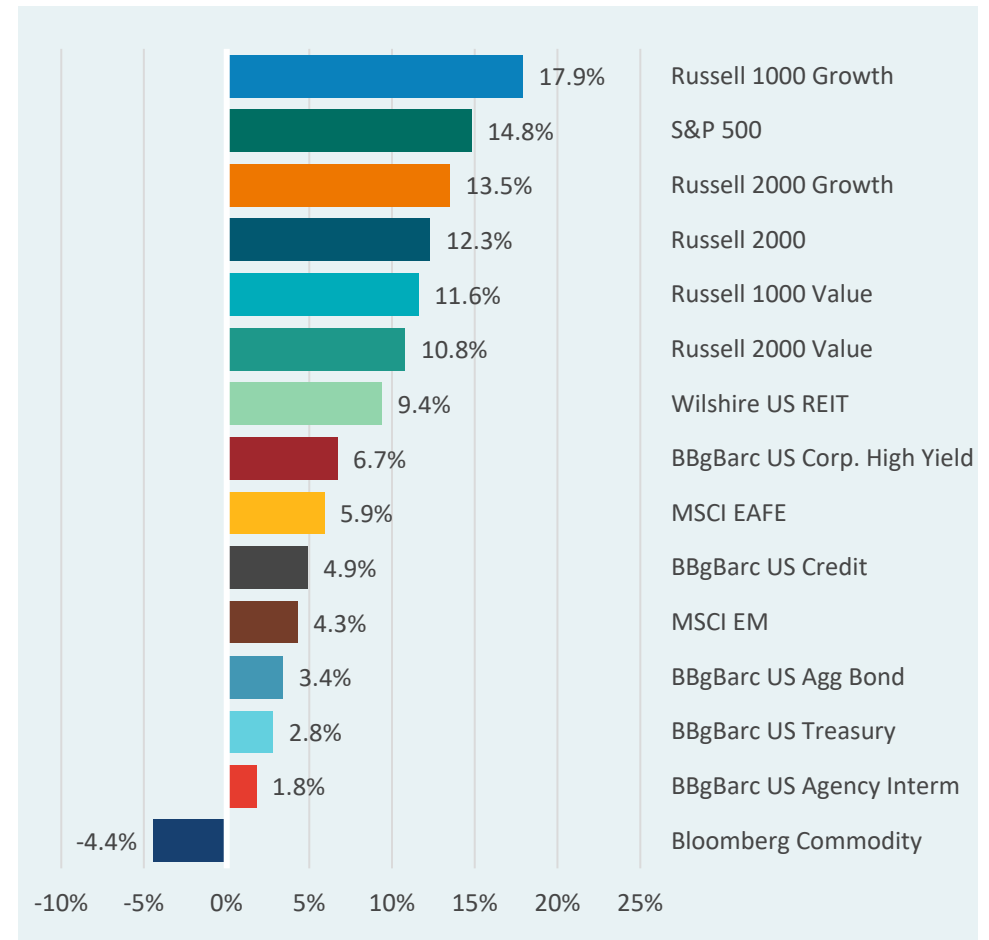
Source Data: Morningstar, Inc., Hedge Fund Research, Inc. (HFR), National Council of Real Estate Investment Fiduciaries (NCREIF). Indices used: Russell 1000, Russell 1000 Value, Russell 1000 Growth, Russell 2000, Russell 2000 Value, Russell 2000 Growth, MSCI EAFE, MSCI EM, BBgBarc US Aggregate, T-Bill 90 Day, Bloomberg Commodity, NCREIF Property, HFRI FOF, MSCI ACWI, BBgBarc Global Bond. NCREIF Property Index performance data as of 3/31/21.

Major asset class returns

ONE YEAR ENDING JUNE



TEN YEARS ENDING JUNE



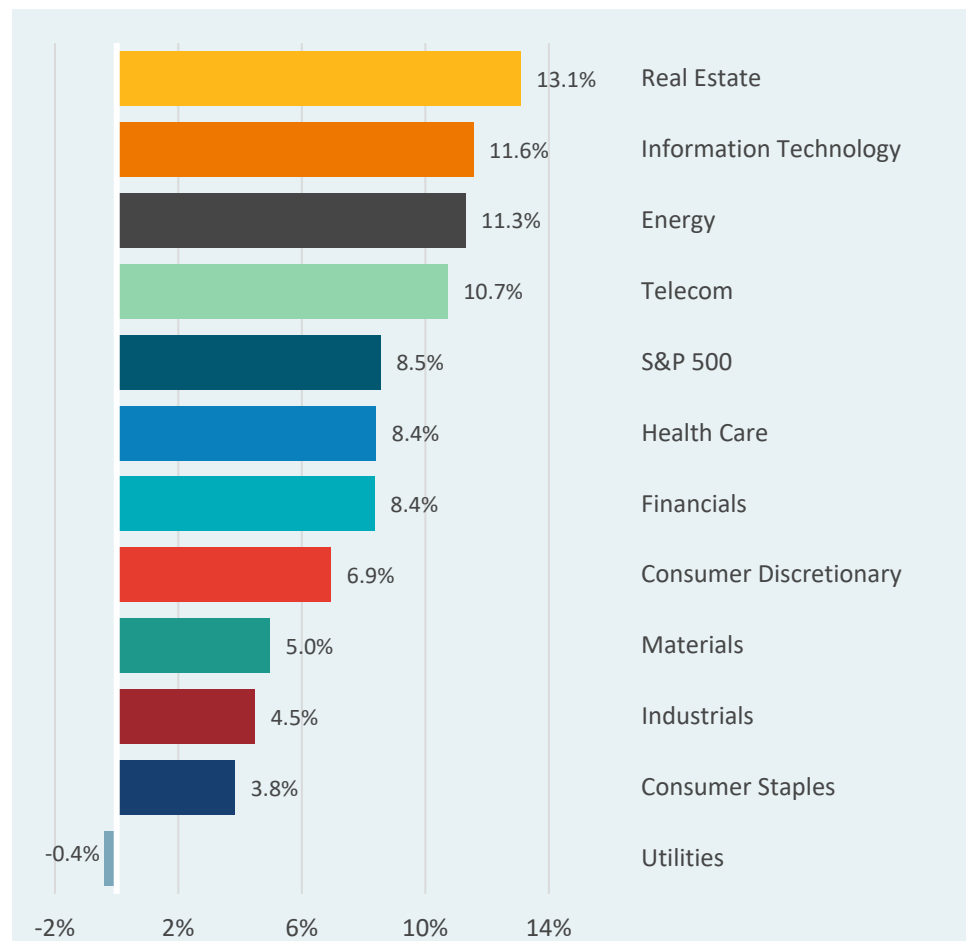
*Only publicly traded asset performance is shown here. Performance of private assets is typically released with a 3- to 6-month delay.

Source: Morningstar, as of 6/30/21

Source: Morningstar, as of 6/30/21

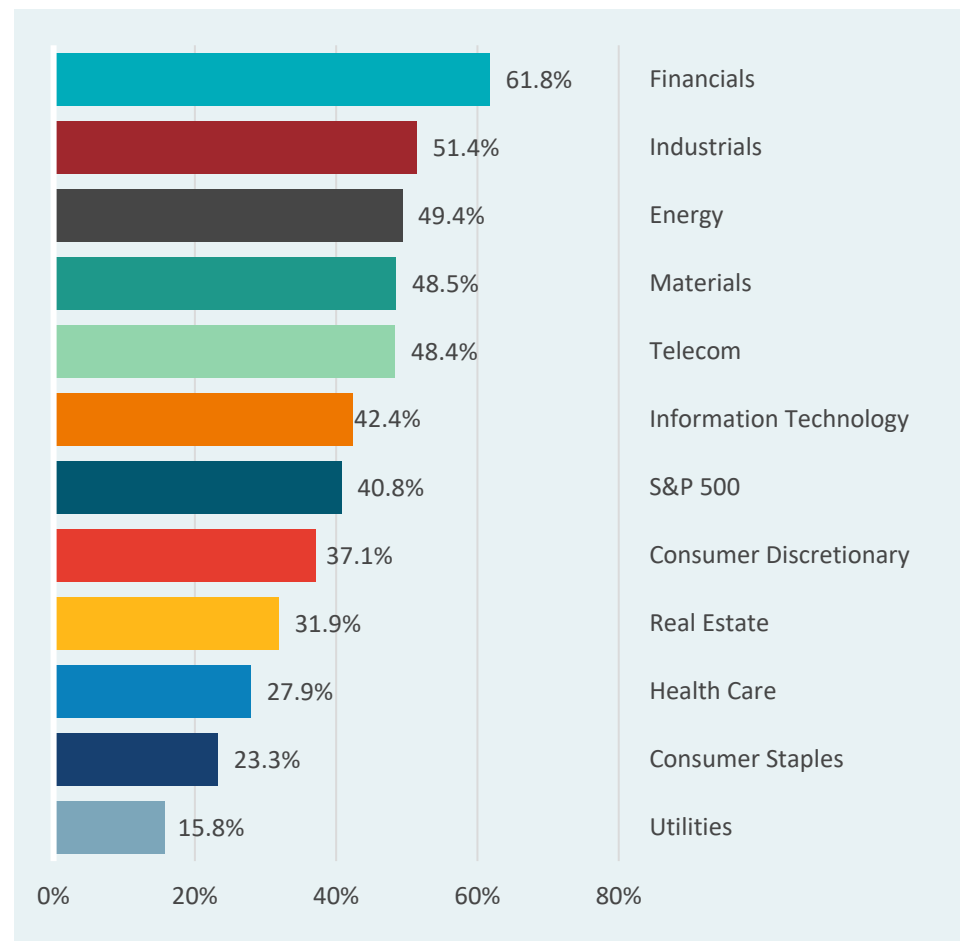
S&P 500 sector returns

Q2 2021



Source: Morningstar, as of 6/30/21

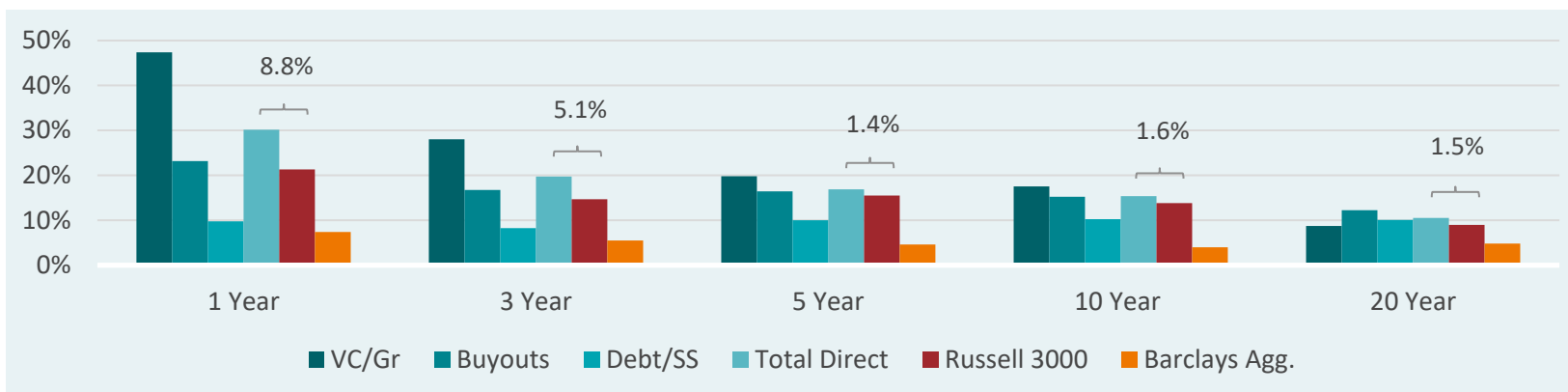
ONE YEAR ENDING JUNE



Source: Morningstar, as of 6/30/21

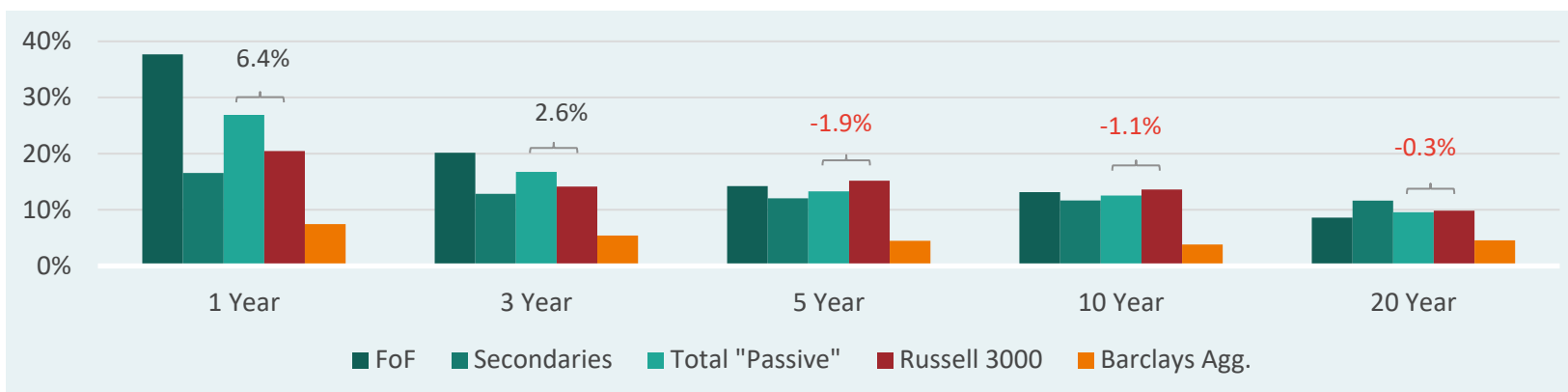
Private equity vs. traditional assets performance

DIRECT PRIVATE EQUITY FUND INVESTMENTS



Direct P.E Fund Investments outperformed comparable public equities across all time periods.

“PASSIVE” STRATEGIES

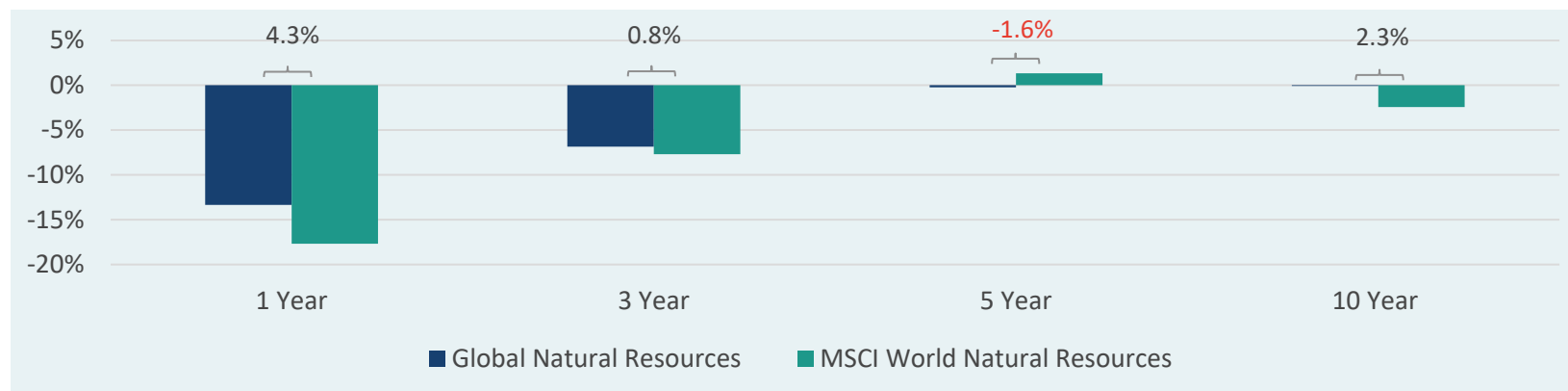


“Passive” strategies underperformed comparable public equities across all time periods, aside from the 1 and 3-year basis.

Sources: Thomson Reuters Cambridge Universe’s PME Module: U.S. Private Equity Funds sub asset classes as of December 31, 2020. Public Market Equivalent returns resulted from “Total Passive” and Total Direct’s identical cash flows invested into and distributed from respective traditional asset comparable.

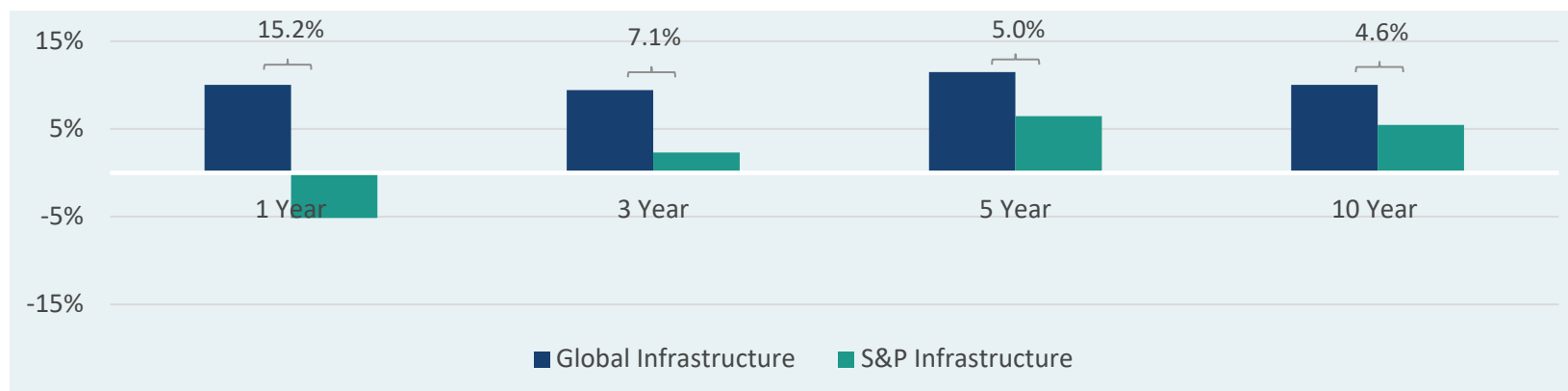
Private vs. liquid real assets performance

GLOBAL NATURAL RESOURCES FUNDS



N.R. funds outperformed the MSCI World Natural Resources benchmark across all time periods, aside on a 5-year basis.

GLOBAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDS

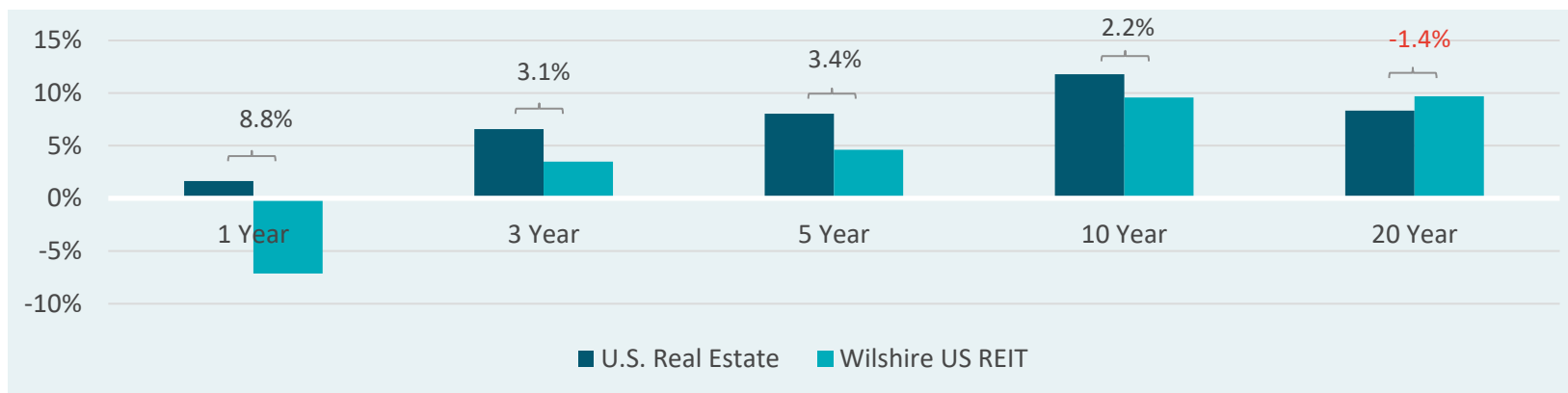


Infra. funds outperformed the S&P Infra. across all periods.

Sources: Thomson Reuters C|A PME: Global Natural Resources (vintage 1999 and later, inception of MSCI World Natural Resources benchmark) and Global Infrastructure (vintage 2002 and later, inception of S&P Infrastructure benchmark) universes as of December 31, 2020. Public Market Equivalent returns resulted from identical cash flows invested into and distributed from respective liquid real assets universes.

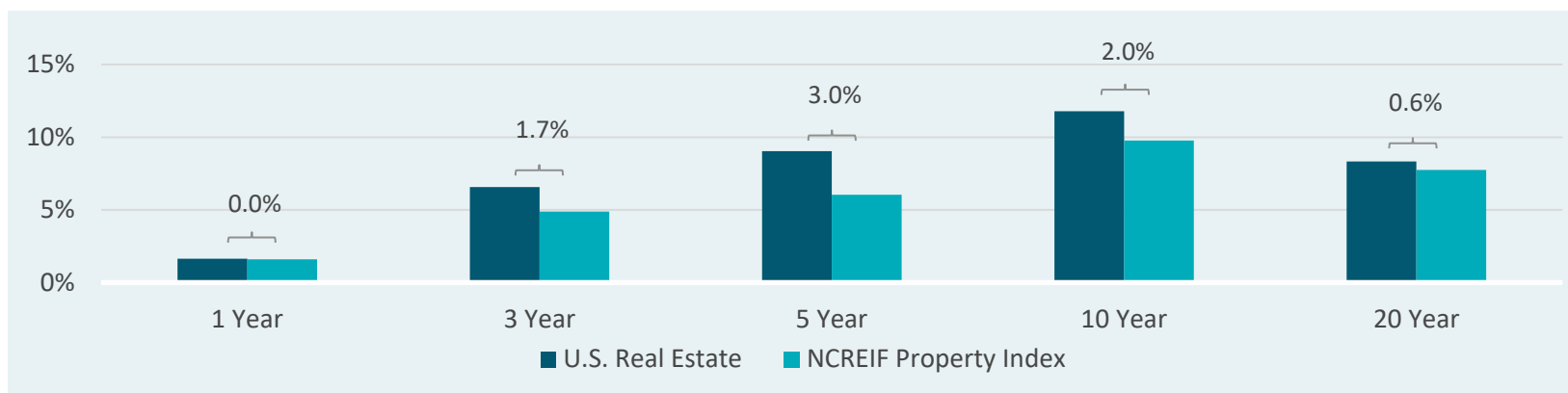
Private vs. liquid and core real estate performance

U.S. PRIVATE REAL ESTATE FUNDS VS. LIQUID UNIVERSE



U.S. Private R.E. funds outperformed the Wilshire U.S. REIT Index over the past 10 years, but have lagged on a 20-year basis.

U.S. PRIVATE REAL ESTATE FUNDS VS. CORE FUNDS



U.S. Private R.E. Funds outperformed the NCREIF Property Index across all time periods, besides the past year.

Sources: Thomson Reuters C|A PME: Global and U.S. Real Estate universes as of December 31, 2020. Public Market Equivalent returns resulted from identical cash flows invested into and distributed from respective liquid real estate universes.

Detailed index returns

DOMESTIC EQUITY

	Month	QTD	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year
Core Index							
S&P 500	2.3	8.5	15.3	40.8	18.7	17.6	14.8
S&P 500 Equal Weighted	0.1	6.9	19.2	50.7	16.4	15.7	13.8
DJ Industrial Average	0.0	5.1	13.8	36.3	15.0	16.7	13.5
Russell Top 200	2.9	8.9	14.5	40.8	20.2	18.9	15.6
Russell 1000	2.5	8.5	15.0	43.1	19.2	18.0	14.9
Russell 2000	1.9	4.3	17.5	62.0	13.5	16.5	12.3
Russell 3000	2.5	8.2	15.1	44.2	18.7	17.9	14.7
Russell Mid Cap	1.5	7.5	16.2	49.8	16.4	15.6	13.2
Style Index							
Russell 1000 Growth	6.3	11.9	13.0	42.5	25.1	23.7	17.9
Russell 1000 Value	(1.1)	5.2	17.0	43.7	12.4	11.9	11.6
Russell 2000 Growth	4.7	3.9	9.0	51.4	15.9	18.8	13.5
Russell 2000 Value	(0.6)	4.6	26.7	73.3	10.3	13.6	10.8

INTERNATIONAL EQUITY

Broad Index							
MSCI ACWI	1.3	7.4	12.3	39.3	14.6	14.6	9.9
MSCI ACWI ex US	(0.6)	5.5	9.2	35.7	9.4	11.1	5.4
MSCI EAFE	(1.1)	5.2	8.8	32.4	8.3	10.3	5.9
MSCI EM	0.2	5.0	7.4	40.9	11.3	13.0	4.3
MSCI EAFE Small Cap	(1.7)	4.3	9.0	41.0	8.4	12.0	8.4
Style Index							
MSCI EAFE Growth	0.0	7.4	6.8	31.0	12.5	12.5	7.8
MSCI EAFE Value	(2.3)	3.0	10.7	33.5	3.8	7.8	3.9
Regional Index							
MSCI UK	(2.4)	6.0	12.5	31.3	1.9	5.7	3.7
MSCI Japan	(0.3)	(0.3)	1.3	24.8	7.2	10.2	7.2
MSCI Europe	0.7	6.7	(1.1)	1.1	5.6	3.5	3.7
MSCI EM Asia	0.1	3.8	6.0	41.0	13.1	15.3	7.0
MSCI EM Latin American	2.7	15.0	8.9	44.9	5.1	5.9	(2.5)

FIXED INCOME

	Month	QTD	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year
Broad Index							
BBgBarc US TIPS	0.6	3.2	1.7	6.5	6.5	4.2	3.4
BBgBarc US Treasury Bills	(0.0)	0.0	0.0	0.1	1.4	1.2	0.7
BBgBarc US Agg Bond	0.7	1.8	(1.6)	(0.3)	5.3	3.0	3.4
BBgBarc US Universal	0.7	2.0	(1.1)	1.1	5.6	3.5	3.7
Duration							
BBgBarc US Treasury 1-3 Yr	(0.2)	(0.0)	(0.1)	0.1	2.7	1.6	1.2
BBgBarc US Treasury Long	3.6	6.5	(7.9)	(10.6)	8.0	3.1	6.7
BBgBarc US Treasury	0.6	1.7	(2.6)	(3.2)	4.7	2.2	2.8
Issuer							
BBgBarc US MBS	(0.0)	0.3	(0.8)	(0.4)	3.8	2.3	2.6
BBgBarc US Corp. High Yield	1.3	2.7	3.6	15.4	7.4	7.5	6.7
BBgBarc US Agency Interim	(0.1)	0.5	(0.6)	(0.1)	3.3	1.9	1.8
BBgBarc US Credit	1.5	3.3	(1.3)	3.0	7.4	4.6	4.9

OTHER

Index							
Bloomberg Commodity	1.9	13.3	21.1	45.6	3.9	2.4	(4.4)
Wilshire US REIT	3.1	12.8	22.8	37.5	10.1	6.4	9.4
CS Leveraged Loans	0.4	1.4	3.5	11.7	4.4	5.0	4.5
Alerian MLP	5.2	21.2	47.8	64.0	(1.1)	(2.0)	1.3
Regional Index							
JPM EMBI Global Div	0.7	4.1	(0.7)	7.5	6.7	4.9	5.7
JPM GBI-EM Global Div	(1.2)	3.5	(3.4)	6.6	4.1	3.2	0.5
Hedge Funds							
HFRI Composite	0.4	4.0	10.0	27.4	8.7	7.9	5.1
HFRI FOF Composite	0.3	2.7	4.7	18.1	6.2	6.1	3.8
Currency (Spot)							
Euro	(3.0)	0.9	(3.1)	5.6	0.5	1.3	(2.0)
Pound Sterling	(2.8)	0.1	1.1	11.8	1.5	0.7	(1.5)
Yen	(1.4)	(0.4)	(7.0)	(2.8)	(0.1)	(1.6)	(3.1)

Source: Morningstar, HFRI, as of 6/30/21

Definitions

Bloomberg US Weekly Consumer Comfort Index - tracks the public's economic attitudes each week, providing a high-frequency read on consumer sentiment. The index, based on cell and landline telephone interviews with a random, representative national sample of U.S. adults, tracks Americans' ratings of the national economy, their personal finances and the buying climate on a weekly basis, with views of the economy's direction measured separately each month. (www.lanqerresearch.com)

University of Michigan Consumer Sentiment Index - A survey of consumer attitudes concerning both the present situation as well as expectations regarding economic conditions conducted by the University of Michigan. For the preliminary release approximately three hundred consumers are surveyed while five hundred are interviewed for the final figure. The level of consumer sentiment is related to the strength of consumer spending. (www.Bloomberg.com)

NFIB Small Business Outlook - Small Business Economic Trends (SBET) is a monthly assessment of the U.S. small-business economy and its near-term prospects. Its data are collected through mail surveys to random samples of the National Federal of Independent Business (NFIB) membership. The survey contains three broad question types: recent performance, near-term forecasts, and demographics. The topics addressed include: outlook, sales, earnings, employment, employee compensation, investment, inventories, credit conditions, and single most important problem. (<http://www.nfib-sbet.org/about/>)

NAHB Housing Market Index - the housing market index is a weighted average of separate diffusion indices for three key single-family indices: market conditions for the sale of new homes at the present time, market conditions for the sale of new homes in the next six months, and the traffic of prospective buyers of new homes. The first two series are rated on a scale of Good, Fair, and Poor and the last is rated on a scale of High/Very High, Average, and Low/Very Low. A diffusion index is calculated for each series by applying the formula $(\text{Good-Poor} + 100)/2$ to the present and future sales series and $(\text{High/Very High-Low/Very Low} + 100)/2$ to the traffic series. Each resulting index is then seasonally adjusted and weighted to produce the HMI. Based on this calculation, the HMI can range between 0 and 100.

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