TIMONIER

Wealth Beyond Financial

From the Engine Room

Quarterly Market Review

First Quarter 2021

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This report features world capital market performance and a timeline of events for the past quarter. It begins with a global overview, then features the returns of stock and bond asset classes in the US and international markets.

The report also illustrates the impact of globally diversified portfolios and features a quarterly topic.

Overview:

Intricacies in the Indicies

Market Summary

World Stock Market Performance

World Asset Classes

US Stocks

International Developed Stocks

Emerging Markets Stocks

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Select Currency Performance vs. US Dollar

Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)

Commodities

Fixed Income

Global Fixed Income

Impact of Diversification

YOLO, Meme, and EMH: What's Your Investment Style?

Intricacies in the Indices

Q1 2021: Off to a Great Start

Nicholas Baker, AAMS®
Wealth Planning Advisor

As we begin the second quarter and reflect on the year past, it would be an understatement to say that investors faced historic challenges over the past 12 months. Grappling with the volatility of global markets, navigating sensationalistic headline reports of new and exotic financial products, political changes, stimulus packages, inflation worries and the whispers of sweeping tax law changes, to name a few financial stressors. Pandemic forced lockdowns caused drastic market corrections followed by the subsequent market rally that allowed for a moment of instant gratification and confirmation that staying invested, maintaining a long-term view with a well-thought-out portfolio, and financial plan is an investor's best approach to wealth accumulation and preservation.

The first quarter of 2021 provided positive market returns as indices continue to reach new market highs. It goes without saying that rising markets are positive for investors. As the broad markets continue to climb higher, the underlying asset classes driving returns have shifted over the past several months. Asset classes such as small caps, and value stocks and more have surged during the recovery after trailing technology and growth stocks last year. It may also come as a surprise to learn when reviewing US equities, the Value sector of the market outperformed its Growth counterpart by its largest quarterly margin in 20 years! Thus, it's important to not only focus on the headline index numbers but to understand what is driving performance beneath the surface.

As we review economic indicators as measured by CPI, GDP, housing starts, TSA activity, ISM manufacturing numbers, unemployment rates, retail sales, and more we are seeing positive data across the board alluding to continued healing and steady economic growth. As supply chains further stabilize and vaccines are distributed and adopted, business activity will continue to navigate back towards pre-pandemic activity levels, and we continue to be bullish on equities in the long run.

While remaining cautiously optimistic as 2021 continues to unfold, we will continue to closely monitor the markets, investment portfolios and honor our fiduciary duty to help our clients successfully achieve their financial goals.

As we march towards the 2021 tax filing deadline of May 17th, we continue to support Sam McCraw in his quality work for the Timonier tax clients. If you have any questions or information desires, please feel free to reach out to our office and we will gladly aid. As always, we welcome the opportunity to reconnect, update your financial plan, review your goals and see how they are integrated into your unique financial plan and the processes in place to achieve those goals. I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve as your trusted financial professionals. We also would welcome any feedback on how we can better communicate and serve our clients at the highest level.

I wish for everyone to have healthy, safe, and enjoyable Spring days ahead and look forward to our next interaction.

Quarterly Market Summary

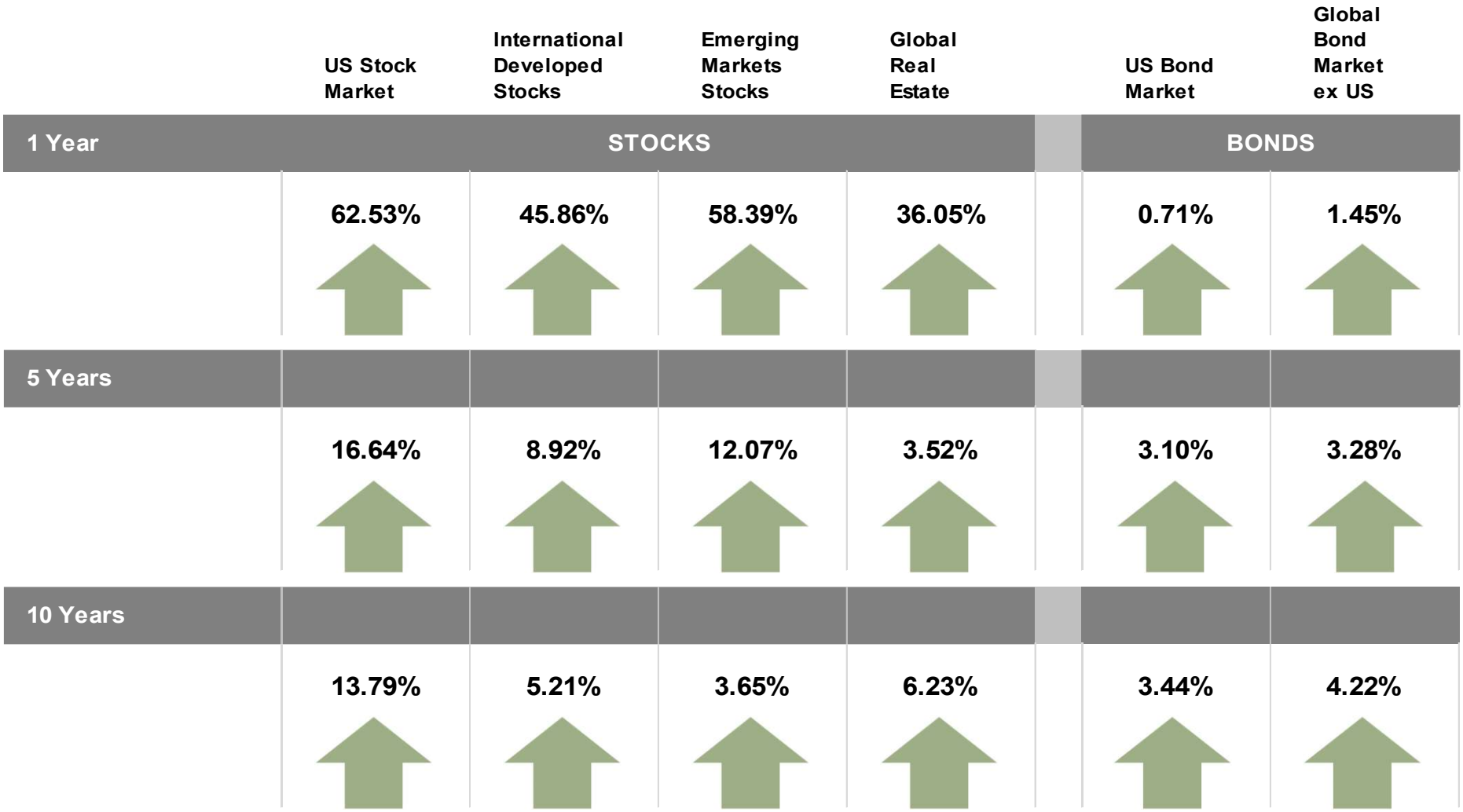
Index Returns

	US Stock Market	International Developed Stocks	Emerging Markets Stocks	Global Real Estate		US Bond Market	Global Bond Market ex US
1Q 2021	**STOCKS**					**BONDS**	
	6.35%	**4.04%**	**2.29%**	**6.22%**		**-3.37%**	**-1.90%**
Since Jan. 2001							
Avg. Quarterly Return	2.4%	1.6%	3.0%	2.5%		1.1%	1.1%
Best Quarter	22.0%	25.9%	34.7%	32.3%		4.6%	4.6%
	2020 Q2	**2009 Q2**	**2009 Q2**	**2009 Q3**		**2001 Q3**	**2008 Q4**
Worst Quarter	-22.8%	-23.3%	-27.6%	-36.1%		-3.4%	-2.7%
	2008 Q4	**2020 Q1**	**2008 Q4**	**2008 Q4**		**2021 Q1**	**2015 Q2**

Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Indices are not available for direct investment. Index performance does not reflect the expenses associated with the management of an actual portfolio.
Market segment (index representation) as follows: US Stock Market (Russell 3000 Index), International Developed Stocks (MSCI World ex USA Index [net div.]), Emerging Markets (MSCI Emerging Markets Index [net div.]), Global Real Estate (S&P Global REIT Index [net div.]), US Bond Market (Bloomberg Barclays US Aggregate Bond Index), and Global Bond Market ex US (Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate ex-USD Bond Index [hedged to USD]). S&P data © 2021 S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC, a division of S&P Global. All rights reserved. Frank Russell Company is the source and owner of the trademarks, service marks, and copyrights related to the Russell Indexes. MSCI data © MSCI 2021, all rights reserved. Bloomberg Barclays data provided by Bloomberg.

Long-Term Market Summary

Index Returns as of March 31, 2021



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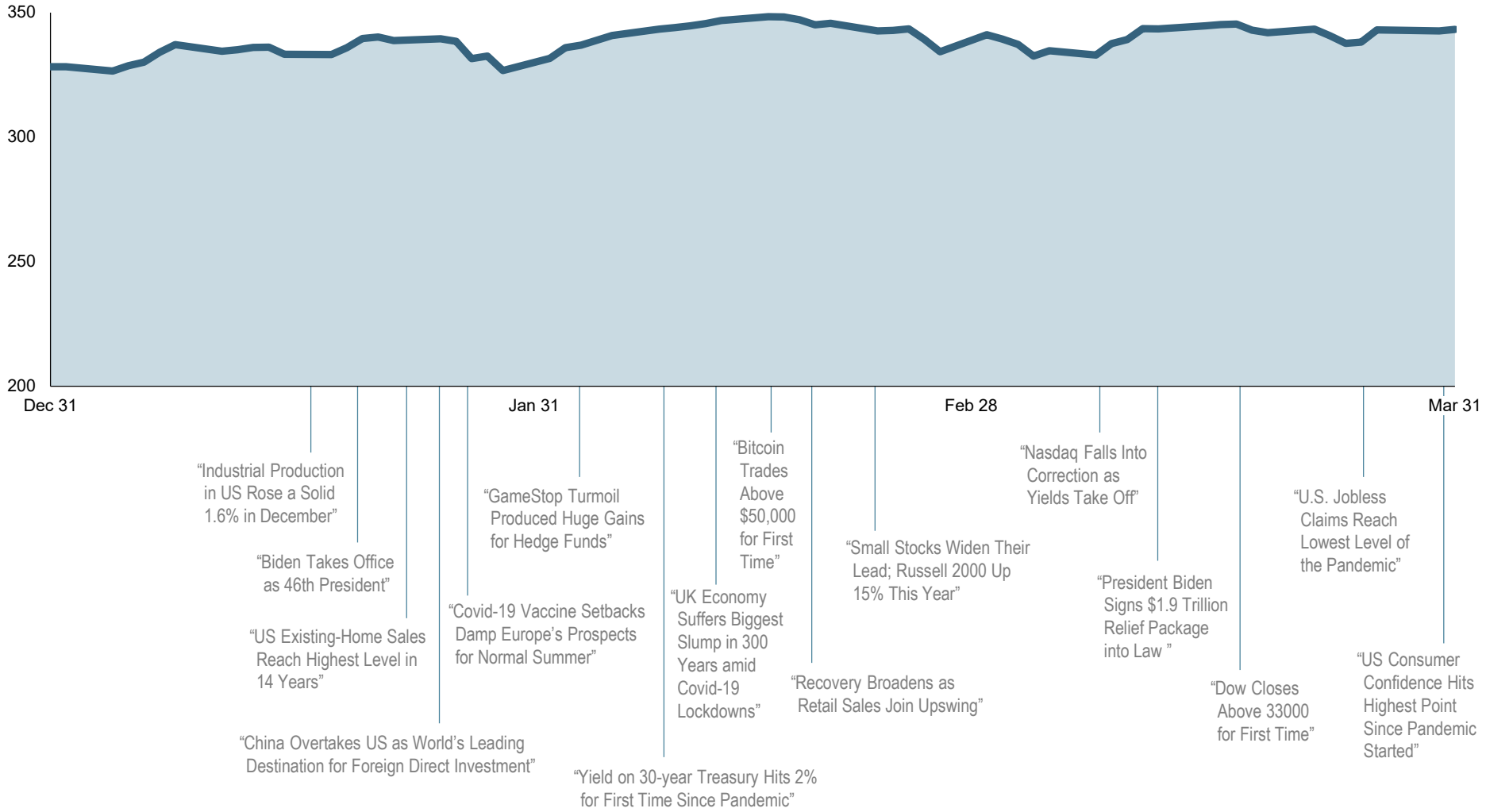
World Stock Market Performance

MSCI All Country World Index with selected headlines from Q1 2021

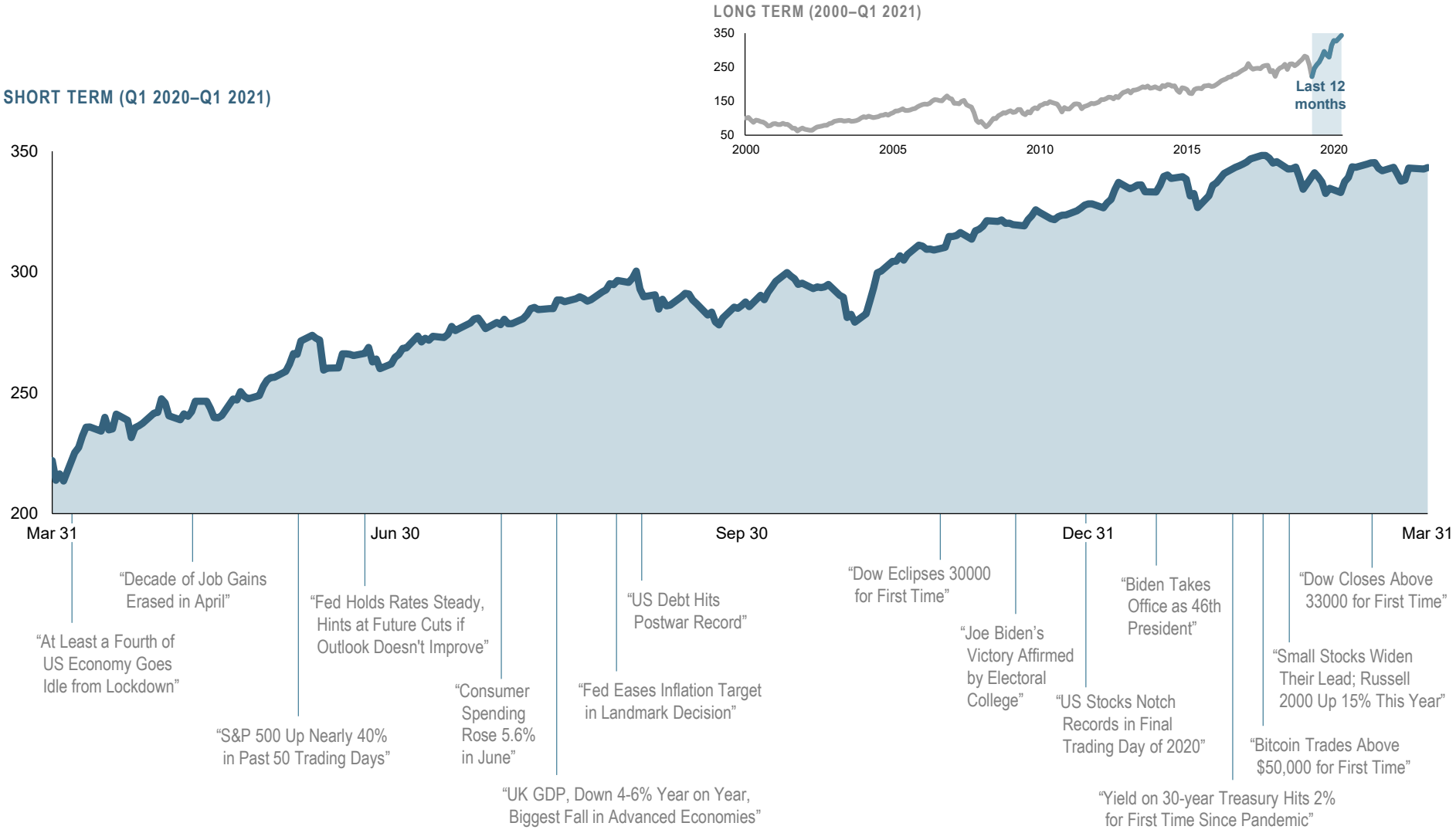


These headlines are not offered to explain market returns. Instead, they serve as a reminder that investors should view daily events from a long-term perspective and avoid making investment decisions based solely on the news.

Graph Source: MSCI ACWI Index [net div.]. MSCI data © MSCI 2021, all rights reserved.
It is not possible to invest directly in an index. Performance does not reflect the expenses associated with management of an actual portfolio. **Past performance is not a guarantee of future results.**

World Stock Market Performance

MSCI All Country World Index with selected headlines from past 12 months



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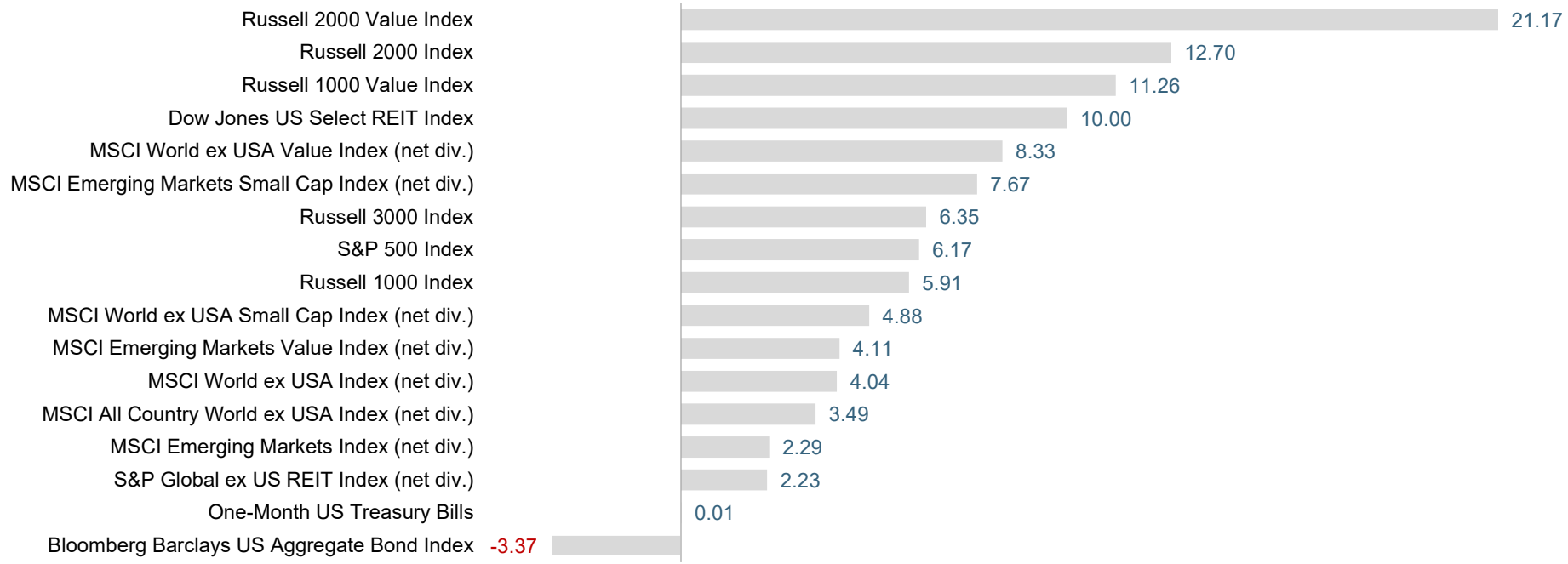
World Asset Classes

First Quarter 2021 Index Returns (%)

Equity markets around the globe posted positive returns in the first quarter. Looking at broad market indices, US and non-US developed markets outperformed emerging markets.

Value outperformed growth across regions. Small caps outperformed large caps across regions as well.

REIT indices outperformed equity market indices in the US and underperformed in non-US developed markets.



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US Stocks

First Quarter 2021 Index Returns

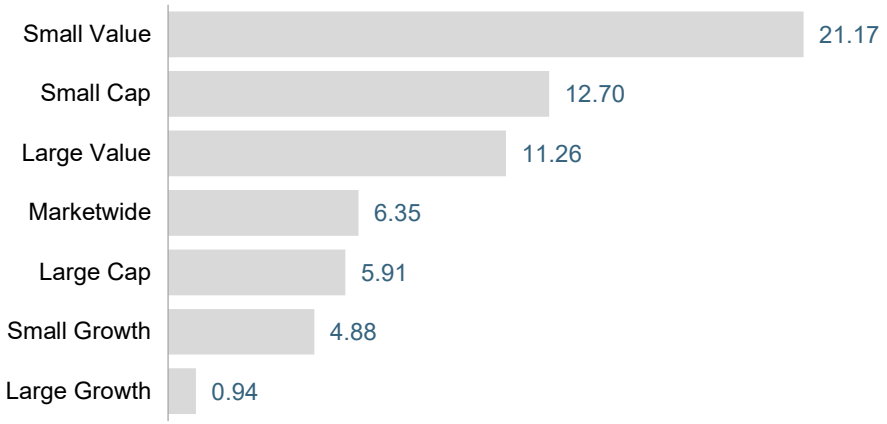
The US equity market posted positive returns for the quarter and outperformed non-US developed markets and emerging markets.

Value outperformed growth across large and small cap stocks.

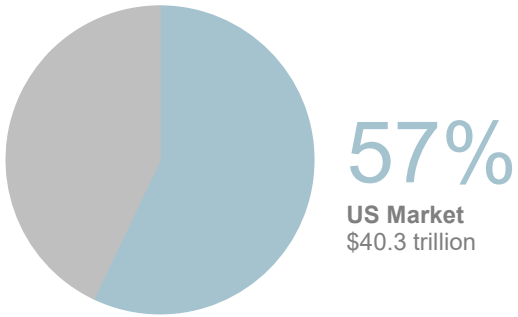
Small caps outperformed large caps.

REIT indices outperformed equity market indices.

Ranked Returns (%)



World Market Capitalization—US



Period Returns (%)

** Annualized*

Asset Class	YTD	1 Year	3 Years*	5 Years*	10 Years*
Small Value	21.17	97.05	11.57	13.56	10.06
Small Cap	12.70	94.85	14.76	16.35	11.68
Large Value	11.26	56.09	10.96	11.74	10.99
Marketwide	6.35	62.53	17.12	16.64	13.79
Large Cap	5.91	60.59	17.31	16.66	13.97
Small Growth	4.88	90.20	17.16	18.61	13.02
Large Growth	0.94	62.74	22.80	21.05	16.63

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International Developed Stocks

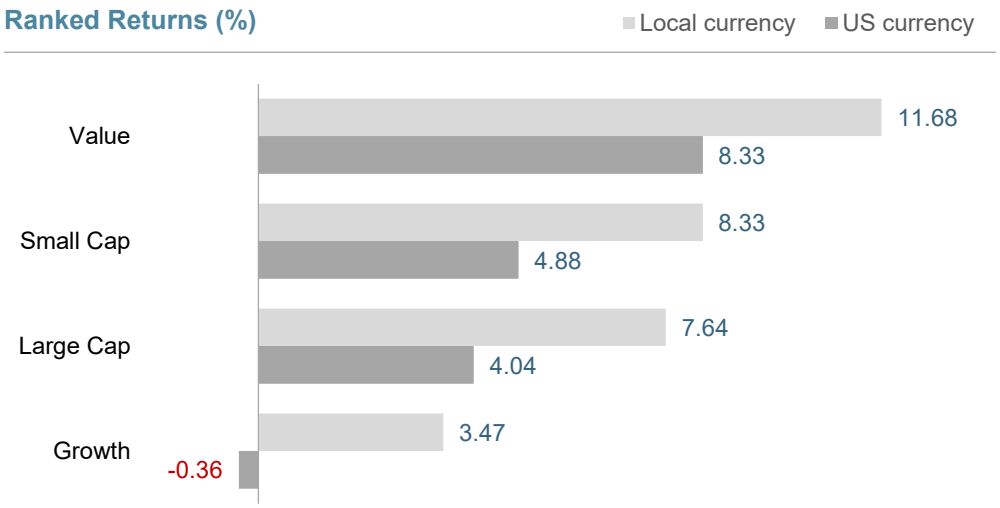
First Quarter 2021 Index Returns

Developed markets outside the US posted positive returns for the quarter, underperforming US equities but outperforming emerging markets.

Value outperformed growth.

Small caps outperformed large caps.

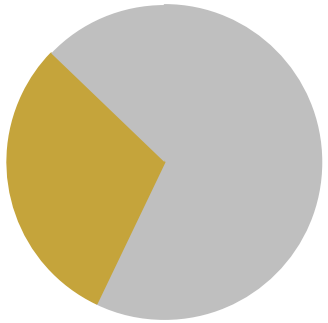
Ranked Returns (%)



World Market Capitalization—International Developed

30%

International Developed Market
$21.2 trillion



Period Returns (%)

** Annualized*

	YTD	1 Year	3 Years*	5 Years*	10 Years*
Value	8.33	47.17	2.25	6.81	3.54
Small Cap	4.88	65.17	6.89	10.55	7.14
Large Cap	4.04	45.86	6.34	8.92	5.21
Growth	-0.36	43.55	10.02	10.72	6.69

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Emerging Markets Stocks

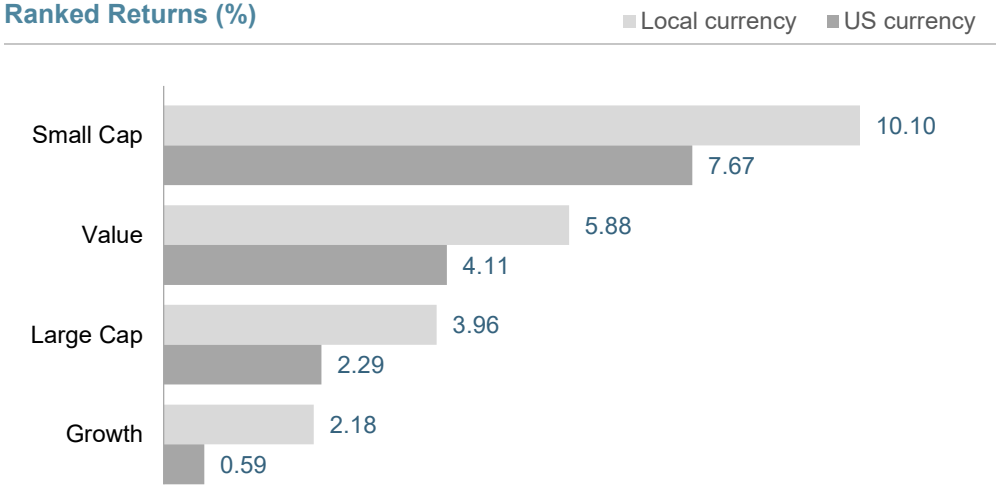
First Quarter 2021 Index Returns

Emerging markets posted positive returns for the quarter, underperforming the US and developed ex US equity markets.

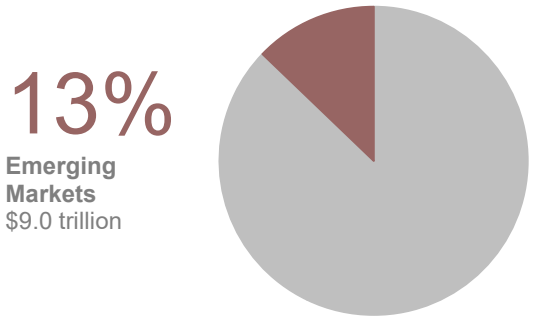
Value outperformed growth.

Small caps outperformed large caps.

Ranked Returns (%)



World Market Capitalization—Emerging Markets



Period Returns (%)

** Annualized*

Asset Class	YTD	1 Year	3 Years*	5 Years*	10 Years*
Small Cap	7.67	87.13	5.19	9.59	3.33
Value	4.11	52.53	2.60	8.42	1.03
Large Cap	2.29	58.39	6.48	12.07	3.65
Growth	0.59	63.78	10.10	15.53	6.15

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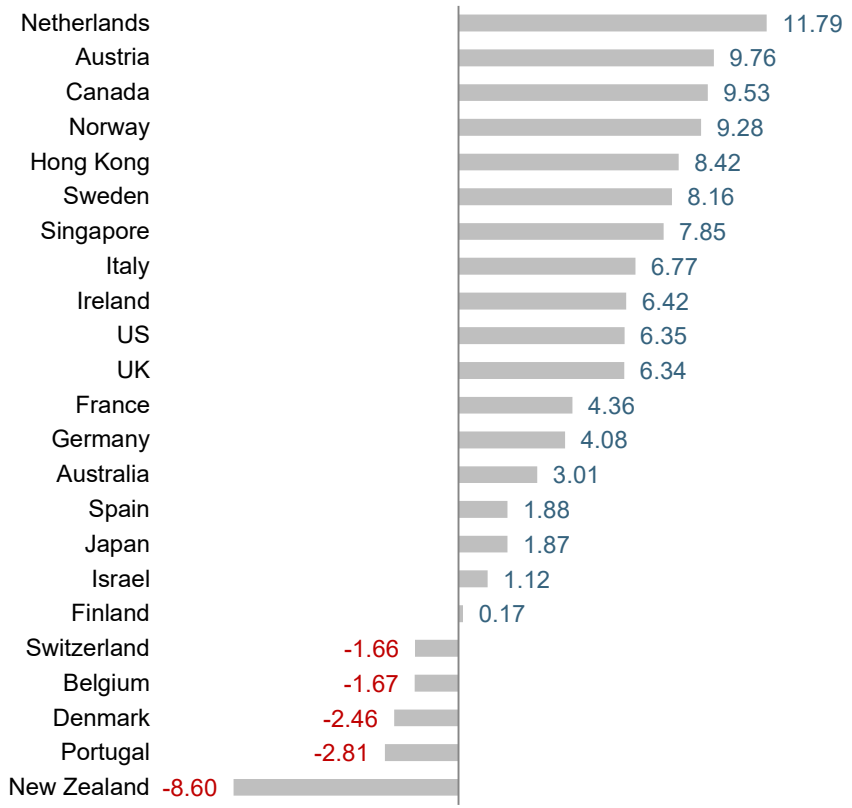
Select Market Performance

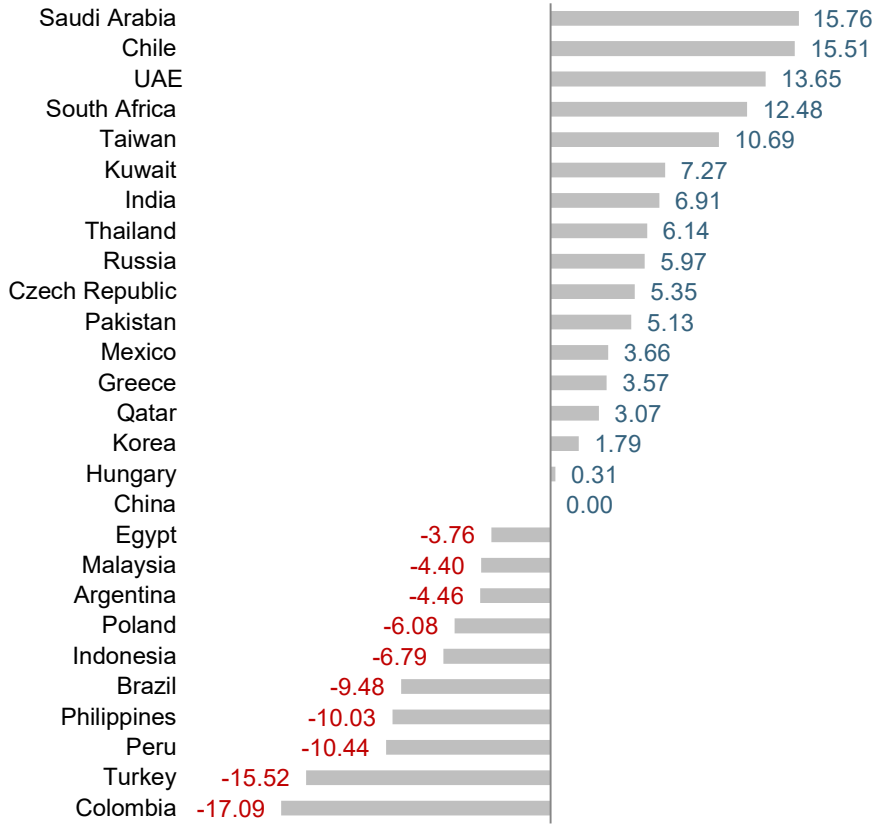
First Quarter 2021 Index Returns

In US dollar terms, the Netherlands and Austria recorded the highest country performance in developed markets, while New Zealand and Portugal posted the lowest returns for the quarter. In emerging markets, Saudi Arabia and Chile recorded the highest country performance, while Colombia and Turkey posted the lowest performance.

Ranked Developed Markets Returns (%)



Ranked Emerging Markets Returns (%)



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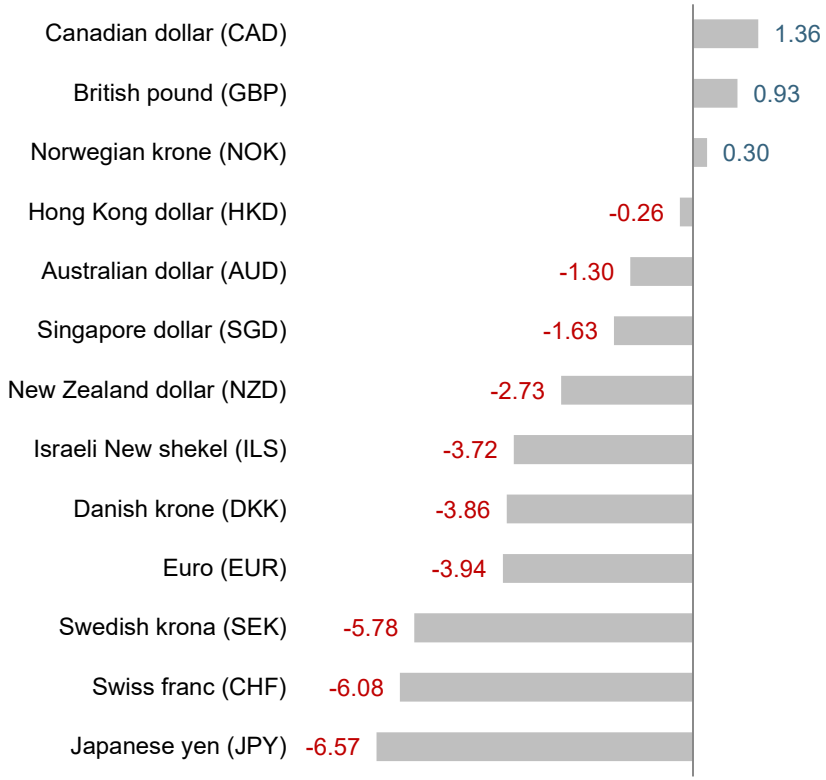
MSCI Index returns are in USD net of dividend withholding taxes. Country returns are the country component indices of the MSCI All Country World ex USA IMI for all countries except the United States, where the Russell 3000 index is used instead. Frank Russell Company is the source and owner of the trademarks, service marks and copyrights related to the Russell Indexes. MSCI data © MSCI 2021, all rights reserved. Indices are not available for direct investment. Their performance does not reflect the expenses associated with the management of an actual portfolio. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results.

Select Currency Performance vs. US Dollar

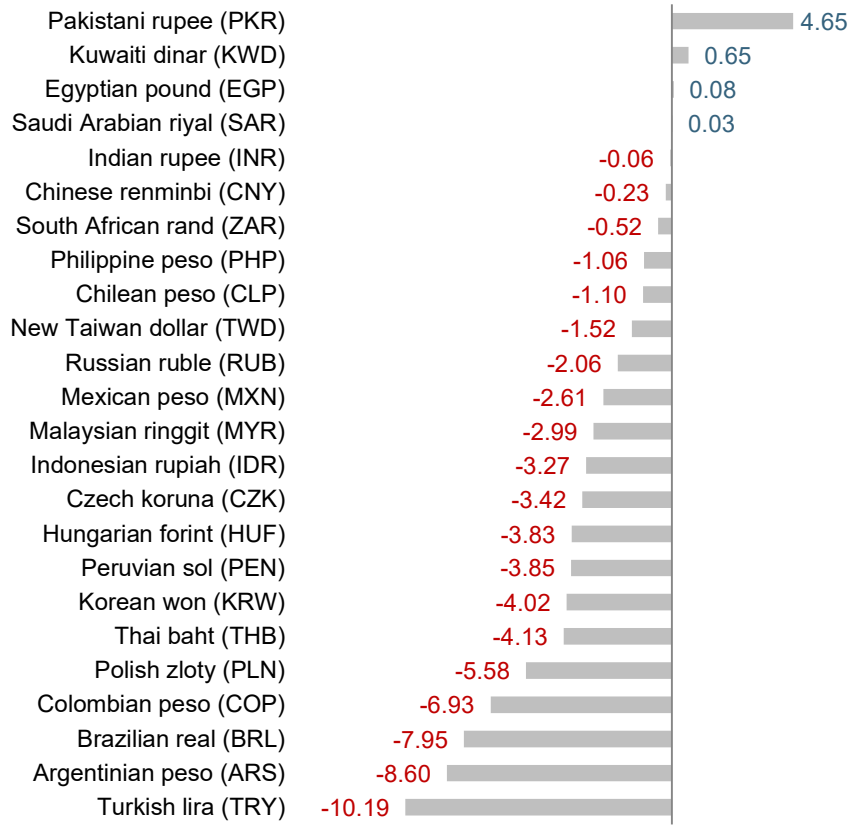
First Quarter 2021

In developed markets, most currencies depreciated versus the US dollar, except the Canadian dollar, British pound, and Norwegian krone. In emerging markets, most currencies depreciated versus the US dollar, but some, notably the Pakistani rupee, appreciated.

Ranked Developed Markets (%)



Ranked Emerging Markets (%)



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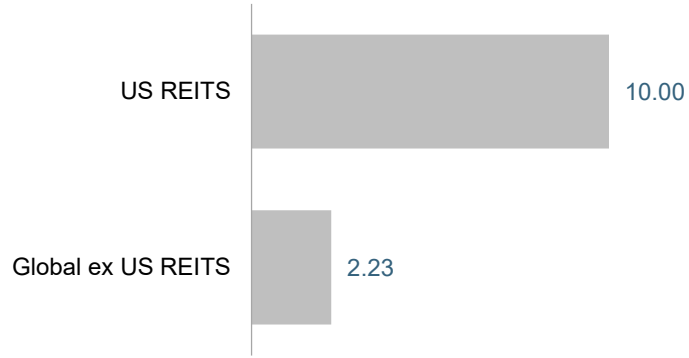
Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)

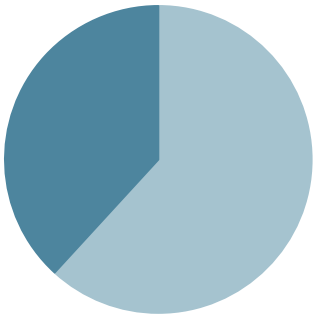
First Quarter 2021 Index Returns

US real estate investment trusts outperformed non-US REITs during the quarter.

Ranked Returns (%)



Total Value of REIT Stocks



38%
World ex US
$523 billion
278 REITs
(25 other countries)

62%
US
$845 billion
114 REITs

Period Returns (%)

** Annualized*

Asset Class	YTD	1 Year	3 Years*	5 Years*	10 Years*
US REITS	10.00	36.66	7.55	3.94	7.89
Global ex US REITS	2.23	36.18	2.12	2.92	4.74

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Number of REIT stocks and total value based on the two indices. All index returns are net of withholding tax on dividends. Total value of REIT stocks represented by Dow Jones US Select REIT Index and the S&P Global ex US REIT Index. Dow Jones US Select REIT Index used as proxy for the US market, and S&P Global ex US REIT Index used as proxy for the World ex US market. Dow Jones and S&P data © 2021 S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC, a division of S&P Global. All rights reserved.

Commodities

First Quarter 2021 Index Returns

The Bloomberg Commodity Index Total Return returned 6.92% for the first quarter of 2021.

Unleaded Gas and Lean Hogs were the best performers, returning 28.95% and 27.47%, respectively.

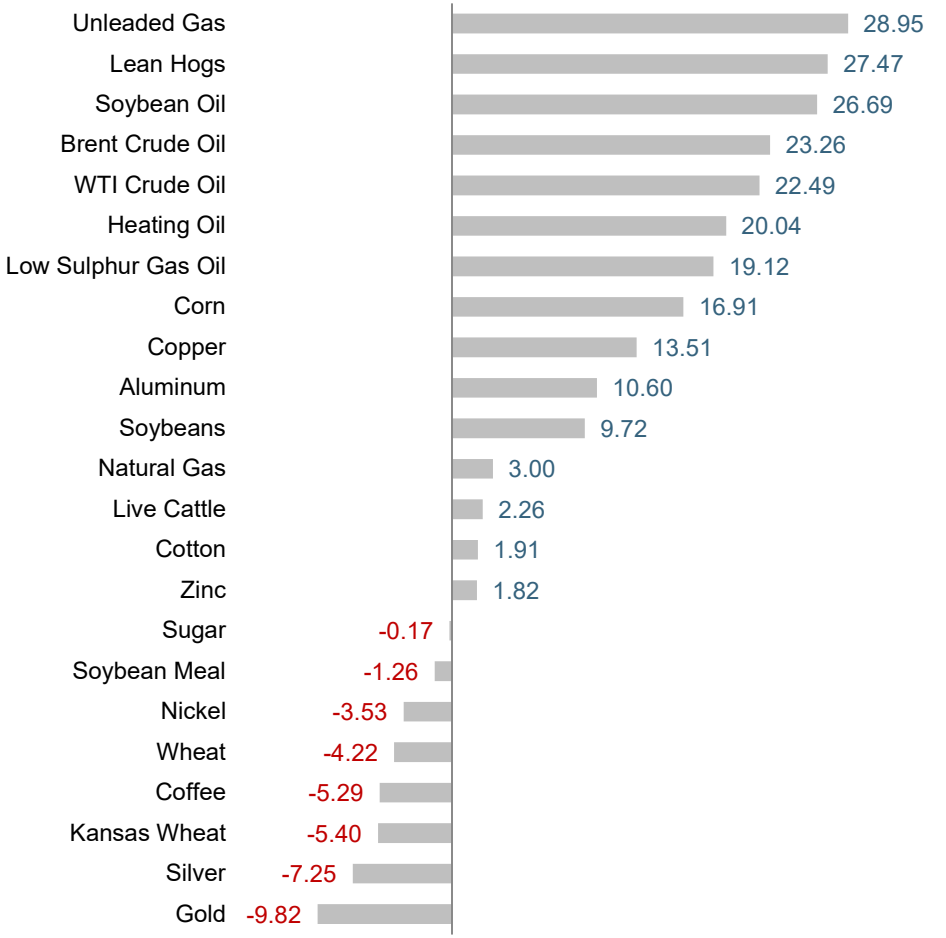
Gold and Silver were the worst performers, declining 9.82% and 7.25%, respectively.

Period Returns (%)

** Annualized*

Asset Class	QTR	1 Year	3 Years*	5 Years*	10 Years*
Commodities	6.92	35.04	-0.20	2.31	-6.28

Ranked Returns (%)



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Commodities returns represent the return of the Bloomberg Commodity Total Return Index. Individual commodities are sub-index values of the Bloomberg Commodity Total Return Index. Data provided by Bloomberg.

Fixed Income

First Quarter 2021 Index Returns

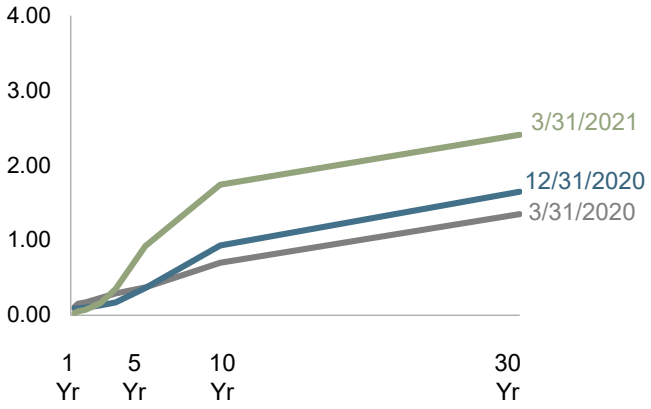
Interest rates generally increased in the US Treasury fixed income market during the first quarter. The yield on the 5-Year US Treasury note rose 56 basis points (bps), ending at 0.95%. The yield on the 10-Year T-note increased 81 bps to 1.74%. The 30-Year Treasury bond yield increased 75 bps to 2.39%.

On the short end of the curve, the 1-Month US Treasury bill yield decreased 3 bps to 0.05%, and the 1-Year T-bill yield fell 5 bps to 0.08%. The yield on the 2-Year US Treasury note climbed 6 bps to end at 0.15%.

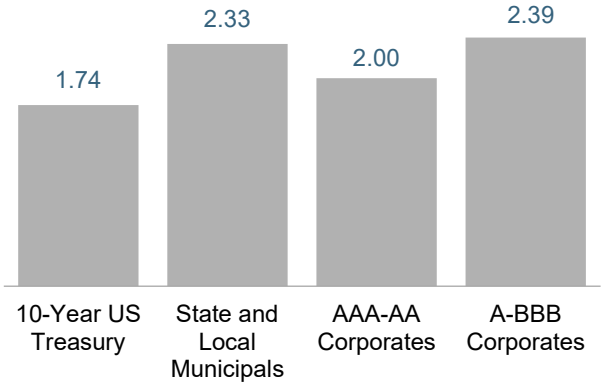
In terms of total returns, short-term corporate bonds declined 0.59%. Intermediate-term corporate bonds declined 2.19%.

The total return for short-term municipal bonds was flat, while intermediate-term municipal bonds lost 0.52%. Revenue bonds outperformed general obligation bonds.

US Treasury Yield Curve (%)



Bond Yield across Issuers (%)



Period Returns (%)

*Annualized

Asset Class	QTR	1 Year	3 Years*	5 Years*	10 Years*
Bloomberg Barclays US High Yield Corporate Bond Index	0.85	23.72	6.84	8.06	6.48
ICE BofA 1-Year US Treasury Note Index	0.07	0.17	2.14	1.52	0.92
ICE BofA US 3-Month Treasury Bill Index	0.03	0.12	1.49	1.19	0.63
Bloomberg Barclays Municipal Bond Index	-0.35	5.51	4.91	3.49	4.54
FTSE World Government Bond Index 1-5 Years (hedged to USD)	-0.36	0.57	2.88	2.05	1.96
Bloomberg Barclays US TIPS Index	-1.47	7.54	5.68	3.86	3.44
FTSE World Government Bond Index 1-5 Years	-2.39	3.20	1.29	1.43	0.09
Bloomberg Barclays US Aggregate Bond Index	-3.37	0.71	4.65	3.10	3.44
Bloomberg Barclays US Government Bond Index Long	-13.39	-15.60	5.84	3.17	6.30

One basis point (bps) equals 0.01%. **Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Indices are not available for direct investment. Index performance does not reflect the expenses associated with the management of an actual portfolio.** Yield curve data from Federal Reserve. State and local bonds are from the S&P National AMT-Free Municipal Bond Index. AAA-AA Corporates represent the Bank of America Merrill Lynch US Corporates, AA-AAA rated. A-BBB Corporates represent the ICE BofA Corporates, BBB-A rated. Bloomberg Barclays data provided by Bloomberg. US long-term bonds, bills, inflation, and fixed income factor data © Stocks, Bonds, Bills, and Inflation (SBBI) Yearbook™, Ibbotson Associates, Chicago (annually updated work by Roger G. Ibbotson and Rex A. Sinquefield). FTSE fixed income indices © 2021 FTSE Fixed Income LLC, all rights reserved. ICE BofA index data © 2021 ICE Data Indices, LLC. S&P data © 2021 S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC, a division of S&P Global. All rights reserved.

Global Fixed Income

First Quarter 2021 Yield Curves

Government bond yields generally increased in the global developed markets for the quarter.

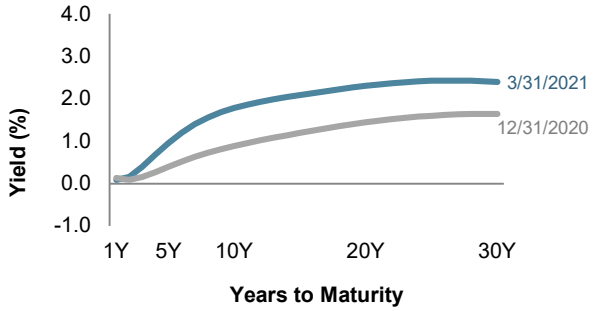
Longer-term bonds generally underperformed shorter-term bonds in developed markets.

Short- and intermediate-term nominal interest rates were negative in Japan and Germany.

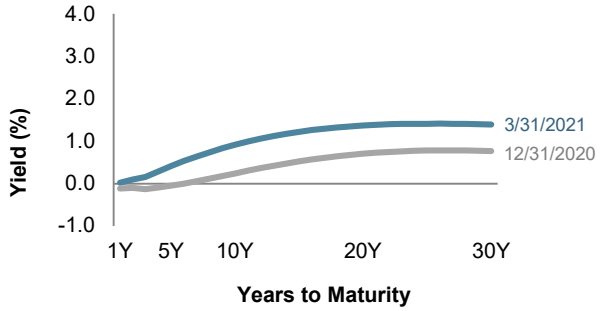
Changes in Yields (bps) since 12/31/2020

	1Y	5Y	10Y	20Y	30Y
US	-4.7	56.1	89.6	86.0	74.9
UK	13.9	46.2	67.6	66.5	62.2
Germany	10.6	10.6	27.5	39.7	40.4
Japan	-1.0	2.5	7.6	7.8	2.7
Canada	1.7	57.8	88.3	82.3	74.7
Australia	2.9	43.2	76.9	79.5	73.2

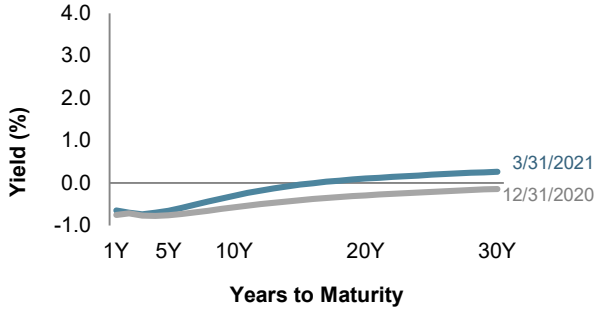
US



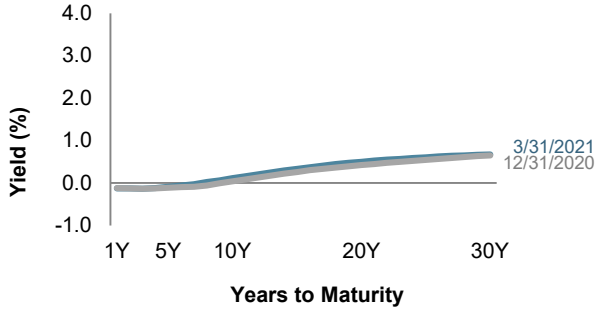
UK



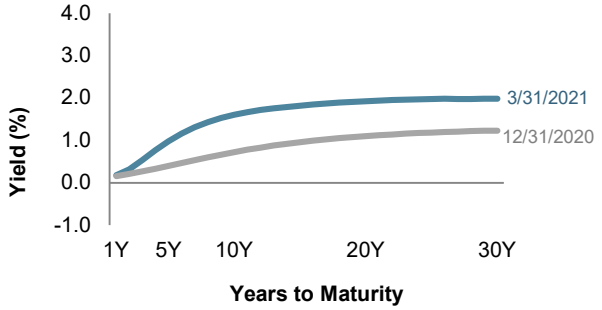
Germany



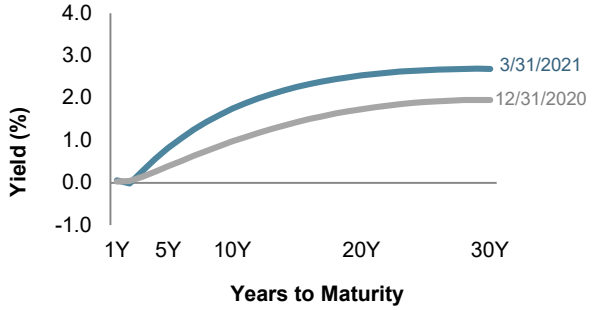
Japan



Canada



Australia



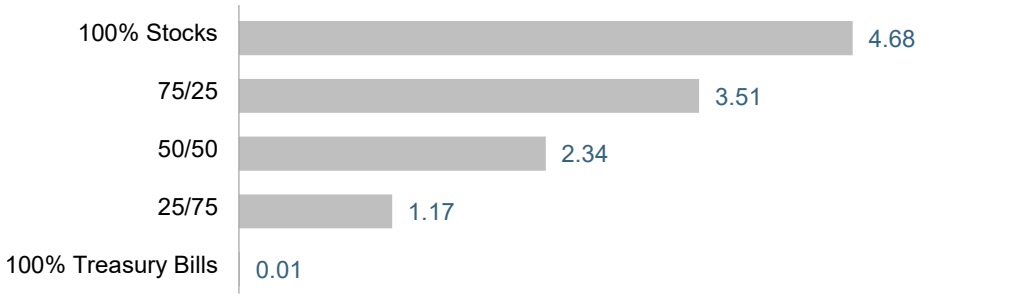
One basis point (bps) equals 0.01%. Source: ICE BofA government yield. ICE BofA index data © 2021 ICE Data Indices, LLC.

Impact of Diversification

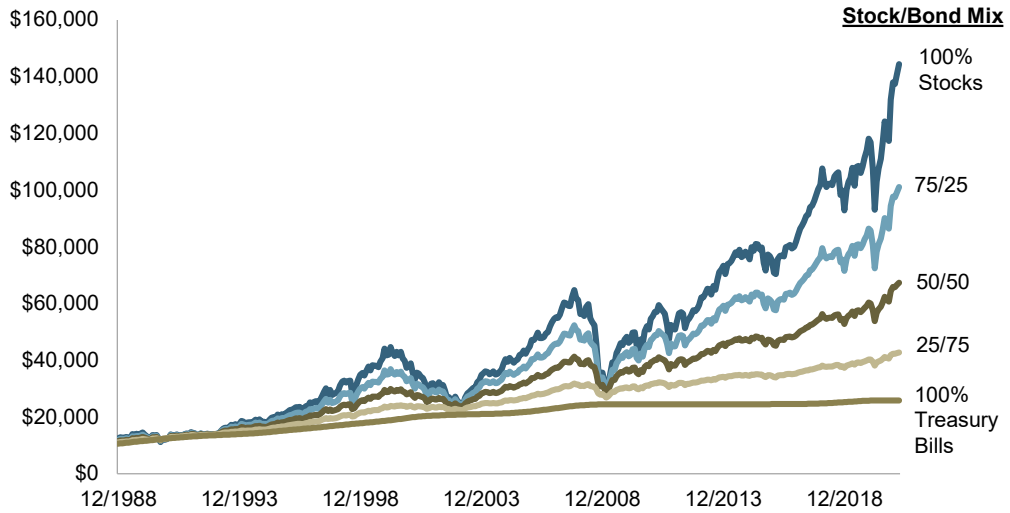
First Quarter 2021

These portfolios illustrate the performance of different global stock/bond mixes and highlight the benefits of diversification. Mixes with larger allocations to stocks are considered riskier but have higher expected returns over time.

Ranked Returns (%)



Growth of Wealth: The Relationship between Risk and Return



Period Returns (%)

** Annualized*

Asset Class	YTD	1 Year	3 Years*	5 Years*	10 Years*	10-Year STDEV[1]
100% Stocks	4.68	55.31	12.66	13.81	9.73	14.07
75/25	3.51	39.64	10.05	10.71	7.57	10.55
50/50	2.34	25.27	7.29	7.55	5.31	7.03
25/75	1.17	12.11	4.38	4.33	2.97	3.51
100% Treasury Bills	0.01	0.08	1.35	1.07	0.55	0.23

1. STDEV (standard deviation) is a measure of the variation or dispersion of a set of data points. Standard deviations are often used to quantify the historical return volatility of a security or portfolio.

Diversification does not eliminate the risk of market loss. **Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Indices are not available for direct investment. Index performance does not reflect expenses associated with the management of an actual portfolio.** Asset allocations and the hypothetical index portfolio returns are for illustrative purposes only and do not represent actual performance. Global Stocks represented by MSCI All Country World Index (gross div.) and Treasury Bills represented by US One-Month Treasury Bills. Globally diversified allocations rebalanced monthly, no withdrawals. Data © MSCI 2021, all rights reserved. Treasury bills © Stocks, Bonds, Bills, and Inflation Yearbook™, Ibbotson Associates, Chicago (annually updated work by Roger G. Ibbotson and Rex A. Sinquefield).

YOLO, Meme, and EMH: What's Your Investment Style?

First Quarter 2021

Marlena Lee, PhD
Global Head of Investment Solutions

You only live once! Social media investors have banded together on unconventional platforms to drive up the prices of a handful of "meme stocks," seemingly without traditional evaluation of investing risks and rewards. They made headlines with their "short squeeze" of GameStop (GME), and, as they garner media attention, their tactics continue. While it's not the intended victim of the YOLO traders, will the efficient market hypothesis be a casualty of these events? The answer depends a lot on your definition of efficient markets. Perhaps long-term investors would be better served questioning the potential impact on their investment philosophy.

Fama (1970) defines the efficient market hypothesis (EMH) to be the simple statement that prices reflect all available information. The rub is that it doesn't say how investors should use this information. EMH is silent on the "correct" ways investors should use information and prices should be set. To be testable, EMH needs a companion model: a hypothesis for how markets and investors should behave. This leaves a lot of room for interpretation. Should asset prices be set by rational investors whose only concerns are systematic risk[1] and expected returns? It seems implausible to link recent meme-stock price movements to economic risks. Rather, they seem fueled by investor demand to be part of a social movement, hopes to strike it rich with a lucky stock pick, or plain old schadenfreude.

There is a vast ecosystem of investors, from individuals investing in their own accounts to governments and corporations who invest on behalf of thousands. Ask investors why they invest the way they do, and you'll likely get a range of goals and approaches just as diverse. It's this complex system that generates the demand for stocks. Another complex system fuels the supply of stocks. Supply and demand meet at the market price. People may contend that the market is not always efficient, or rational, but the stock market is always in equilibrium. Every trade has two sides, with a seller for every buyer and a profit for every loss.

There are plenty of well-studied examples that show supply and demand at work. The huge increase in demand for stocks added to a well-tracked index often creates a run-up in the stock price. Some of this price increase can be temporary and reversed once the tremendous liquidity demands at index reconstitution[2] are met. Index reconstitution is just one example; instances of liquidity-driven price movements happen all the time. It is well documented that liquidity demands can produce temporary price movements.[3] Investors may wonder if temporary price dislocations motivated by users of r/WallStreetBets differ from those caused by changes to an index. Lots of buying puts temporary upward pressure on prices, which later fall back to "fundamental value"–it sounds familiar. The more relevant observation may be that markets are complex systems well adapted to facilitate the supply and demand of numerous market participants.

There are numerous reasons people may be willing to hold different stocks at different expected returns. Can all those differences be explained by risks? Doubtful. To quote Professor Fama, "The point is not that markets are efficient. They're not. It's just a model."[4] EMH can be a very useful model to inform how investors should behave. We believe investing as if markets are efficient is a good philosophy for building long-term wealth. Trying to outguess markets might be a quick way to destroy wealth.

1. Systematic risk is the possibility of an investor experiencing losses due to factors that affect the overall performance of the financial markets in which he or she is involved.
2. Reconstitution involves the re-evaluation of a market index. The process involves sorting, adding, and removing stocks to ensure that the index reflects up-to-date market capitalization and style.
3. For example, see "Tesla's Charge Reveals Weak Points of Indexing" (Dimensional, 2021)
4. "Are markets efficient?" – Interview between Eugene Fama and Richard Thaler (June 30, 2016)

YOLO, Meme, and EMH

(continued from page 18)

It's true, you only live once. The good news is that investors can look to market prices, not internet fads, to pursue higher expected returns. Theoretical and empirical research indicate higher expected returns come from lower relative prices and higher future cash flows to investors. Long-run investors can be better served by using markets, rather than chatrooms, for information on expected returns.

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