

Third Quarter Review

November 19, 2021

By: John D. O'Malley Jr.



Fall, a Time of Transition

With a shocking aggregation of events: COVID-19, Stimulus, Demand, Inflation, Interest Rates & Taxes

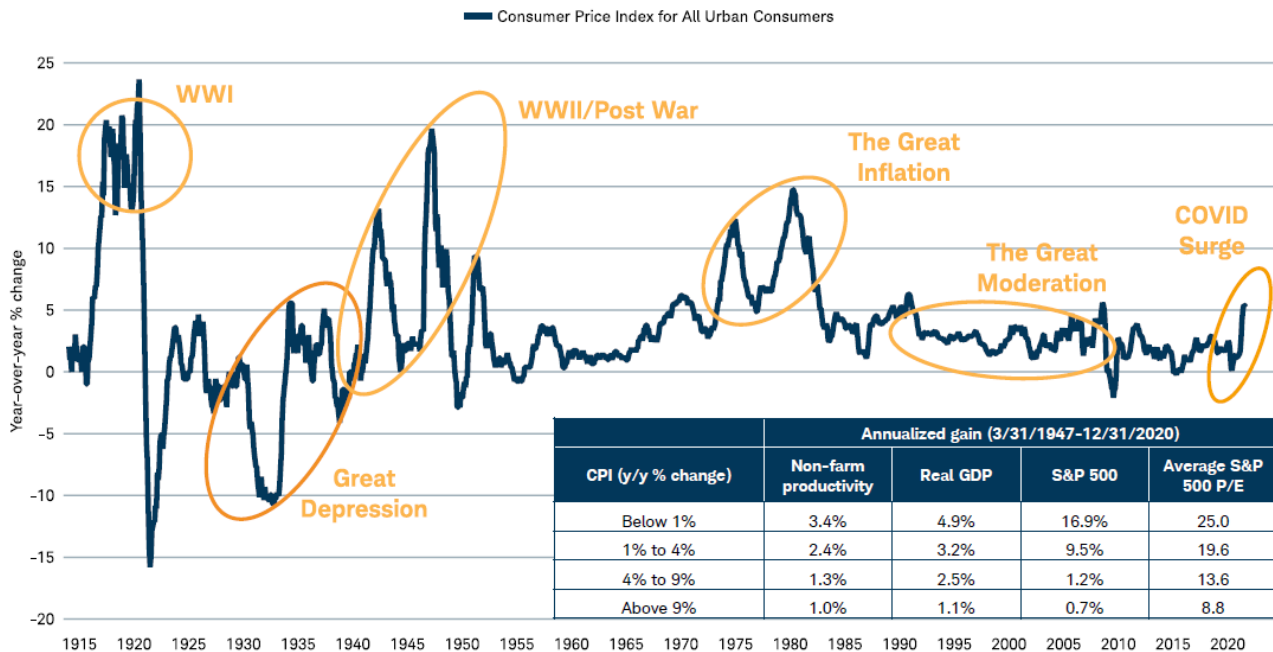
Fall is a time of transition as we move into year-end. Normally, we are looking to evaluate opportunities for tax harvesting, optimizing IRA contributions/conversions and adjustments to retirement plans. This year as we transition, we have several additional, complex events to consider.

Stimulus

The federal government continues to pour more stimulus into the economy with new spending bills, most recently, the \$1 trillion "infrastructure bill" and a potential for another \$1.85 trillion stimulus in the "Build Back Better" spend and tax bill. These are shocking numbers with little precedent. This is largely uncharted territory. We have yet to see how all the effects will shake out.

Inflation

Inflation is high in part due to remarkable demand (potentially stimulus induced) and supply chain disruptions. The US Federal Reserve has announced it may potentially raise interest rates in late 2022. This could reduce support for economic growth. In the meantime, the US economy continues to advance, but many economists are now cutting their growth forecasts. The proposed tax changes are being debated in Washington and weigh heavily on the mind of some investors. The chart below shows the Consumer Price Index for nearly a century.



Source: Charles Schwab, MacroBond, Ned Davis Research using monthly data available as of 9/30/2021. U.S. CPI Urban Consumers YoY NSA (CPI YoY Index). Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

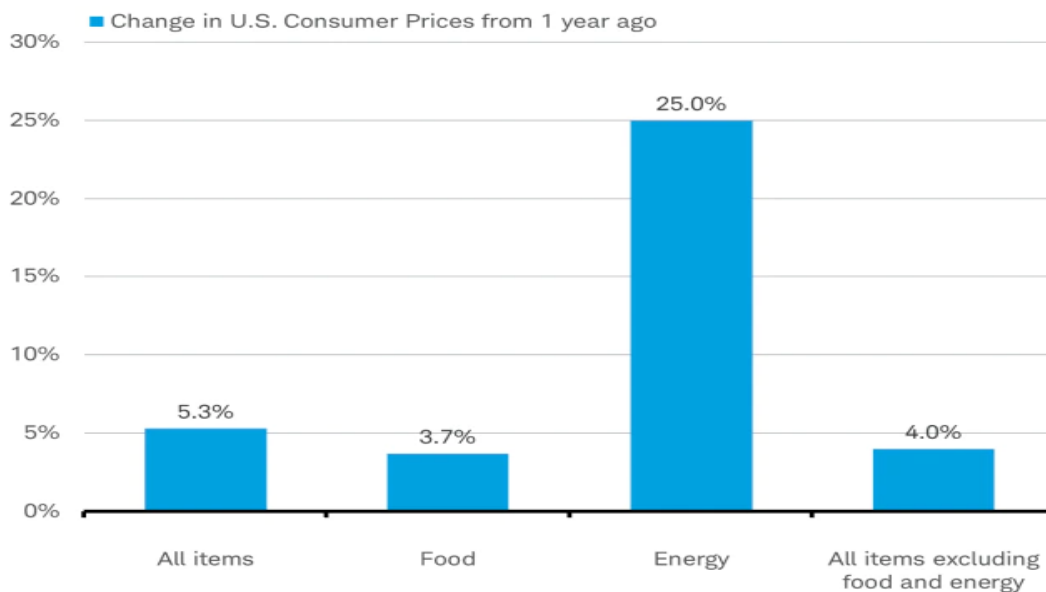
This pick-up in near term inflation, is often described as transitory, however, a growing number of commentators are suggesting inflation may be more persistent. Many factors have contributed to recent higher inflation. Stimulus-related demand surges left suppliers struggling to keep up with demand, bottlenecks in transportation, including ports, have contributed to the shortages. The port delays may be easing, according to data from the Marine Exchange of Southern California, the number of ships waiting to unload at Los Angeles and Long Beach, the busiest ports in U.S., may have peaked September 19th.

Rising rents, wages and energy prices have also been contributing factors. Rising energy prices are driven by disrupted supply, global recovery of demand after COVID lockdowns and political forces. There are recent news reports of potential collusion among the top oil companies to inflate prices.

The rise in energy costs will initially impact households with rising food, transportation, and heating costs just as we go into winter.

Interestingly, these rises could increase the overall earnings of the major stock indexes as noted by Charles Schwab's Jeffrey Kleintop "...although Energy stocks make up 4.5% of the overall market capitalization of the European STOXX 600 Index, those companies are expected to contribute 13.8% of overall revenues to the index in 2021, according to Refinitiv." Kleintop notes that unless inflation climbs to levels that would require central banks to move to aggressively tightening the money supply, the impact on global markets may be positive.

Energy prices lifting inflation



Source: Charles Schwab, Bureau of Labor Statistics August Consumer Price Index data as of 10/9/2021.

Interest Rates

The Fed is clearly watching all of this closely. Fed minutes indicate that it is targeting to end their bond purchases by mid-2022, and this process would potentially begin as soon as mid-November. The Fed Committee also indicated that it could begin raising interest rates as soon as 2022. This is expected to slow growth and inflation.

Many economists are cutting their forecast of GDP 2021 growth. In their World Economic Outlook report released on October 11, the IMF also cut their global growth forecast for the US in 2021 to 5.9% from 6%.

Tax Changes

The proposed tax changes in the Build Back Better program have many concerned. The most aggressive tax increases were removed from the bill recently and discussions are now less heated. However, the results of congressional negotiations remain to be seen. The discussions touch upon raising rates, surtaxes on the wealthy, changing some IRA rules and potential significant changes to gift and estate taxes.

There is a great deal of discussion about what may happen. At this point there are many proposals on the table, with the possibility of sudden dramatic changes due to negotiations.

It is important to watch this potential legislation to determine whether it would cause you to revise your tax planning, retirement planning and estate planning. Consult with your wealth advisor to help determine whether changes in stimulus, inflation interest rates or taxes may suggest changes to your financial planning.

As inevitable market swings happen in the investment world we advocate sound asset allocation, global diversification and focus on the long-term, not short-term.

As always, we at Eastgate are here to help map out a plan to help light a path to a secure future.

Quarterly Market Review

Third Quarter 2021

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:

Quarterly Topic: The 50-Year Battle for a Better Way to Invest

Market Summary

World Stock Market Performance

World Asset Classes

US Stocks

International Developed Stocks

Emerging Markets Stocks

Select Market Performance

Select Currency Performance
vs. US Dollar

Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)

Commodities

Fixed Income

Global Fixed Income

Impact of Diversification

The 50-Year Battle for a Better Way to Invest

Third Quarter 2021

David Booth
Executive Chairman and Founder

Mac McQuown recruited me to help create the very first indexed portfolio in 1971. I was 24 years old and living in San Francisco, where more people my age were following the Grateful Dead than the stock market. The think tank Mac set up felt like a start-up, although it was long before anyone used that term. We were excited by the opportunity to turn academic research into a new way of investing. Many people thought we would fail. Some even called what we were trying to do “un-American.”

But we didn’t worry about the attacks; we focused on how indexing could improve the lives of investors. The fund offerings available at the time were actively managed portfolios that tried to outguess the market and were expensive, lacked diversification, and performed poorly. So-called star managers sold investors on their ability to win against the market; they sold products as opposed to solutions. Problem was, there was no compelling evidence they could reliably beat the market. We were confident that indexing—a highly diversified, low-cost investment solution that relied not on a manager’s ability to pick winners but on the human ingenuity of hundreds or thousands of companies—would change lives for the better.

Fifty years later, \$9.1 trillion is invested in index mutual funds and exchange-traded funds (ETFs).¹ This represents 51% of the total \$17.9 trillion in equity ETFs and mutual funds. Six of the original academic consultants Mac hired to work on that first index fund went on to win Nobel Prizes. I have worked with four of them at Dimensional.

When we started Dimensional in 1981, indexing was beginning to catch on. But the primary index used was the S&P 500, made up of 500 of the largest companies in America. My colleague Rex Sinquefeld and I thought investors could be better served by adding small capitalization stocks to the mix, since they were underrepresented in portfolios and offered diversification and expected return benefits. We were the first to treat small cap companies as a separate asset category. It was an exciting idea, but it made many people nervous. An academic paper circulated that said the performance of small cap stocks couldn’t be captured because of trading costs. Many academics, even those who worked with us, were skeptical that we could deliver on our big idea of creating a small cap strategy. (After 40 years of results, the skepticism about our ability to deliver has subsided.)

There was perceived risk in trading against professional investors who might take advantage of us with all their knowledge and experience. But we found a way to turn trading to our advantage: flexibility.

Flexibility is one of the key differences between index investing and Dimensional Investing and where so much of our innovation has taken place. Because we weren’t beholden to tracking any particular index, we could harness the power of markets, even beat the indices. The protocols, systems, and teams we’ve developed—as well as the experience we’ve accumulated—have shown to be applicable to a wide range of strategies, from fixed income to value to international investing.

1. Data obtained from Morningstar on July 6, 2021. The sample includes US-domiciled equity mutual funds and ETFs. Funds of funds and money market funds are excluded.

The 50-Year Battle for a Better Way to Invest

(continued from page 5)

So what happens next? Where will we be in 50 years? I've built a career in finance without making predictions, but I do believe that technological innovation is lowering barriers to entry for everyday investors and enabling greater personalization. In 1971, there was one index fund. In 1981, there was one small cap strategy. Today, investors have more access to customized portfolios than ever before.

Sitting down with a trusted advisor, investors can develop a plan and build a portfolio solution that gives them the best chance of having a good investment experience. For example, many people are interested in environmental, social, and governance (ESG) strategies,

but ESG can mean different things to different people. So rather than choosing from what exists, new technology allows you to get exactly what you want.

For me, working in finance has always been about improving people's lives. We created indexing to improve upon stock picking. We created Dimensional to improve upon indexing. Each day we strive to help our clients in new and better ways. That's why I thought 1971 was the most exciting time to be in this business. Then, I thought 1981 was the most exciting time to be in this business. But the truth is, it's every day, as long as we're able to keep helping people in innovative ways.

Risks include loss of principal and fluctuating value. Investment value will fluctuate, and shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than original cost. Small and micro cap securities are subject to greater volatility than those in other asset categories.

John "Mac" McQuown is a member of the Board of Directors of the general partner of Dimensional Fund Advisors LP.







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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
3Q 2021	-0.10%	-0.66%	-8.09%	-0.08%	0.05%	0.09%
						
Since Jan. 2001						
Avg. Quarterly Return	2.4%	1.7%	2.9%	2.5%	1.1%	1.1%
Best Quarter	22.0% 2020 Q2	25.9% 2009 Q2	34.7% 2009 Q2	32.3% 2009 Q3	4.6% 2001 Q3	4.6% 2008 Q4
Worst Quarter	-22.8% 2008 Q4	-23.3% 2020 Q1	-27.6% 2008 Q4	-36.1% 2008 Q4	-3.4% 2021 Q1	-2.7% 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 US Aggregate Bond Index), and Global Bond Market ex US (Bloomberg 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 data provided by Bloomberg.

Long-Term Market Summary

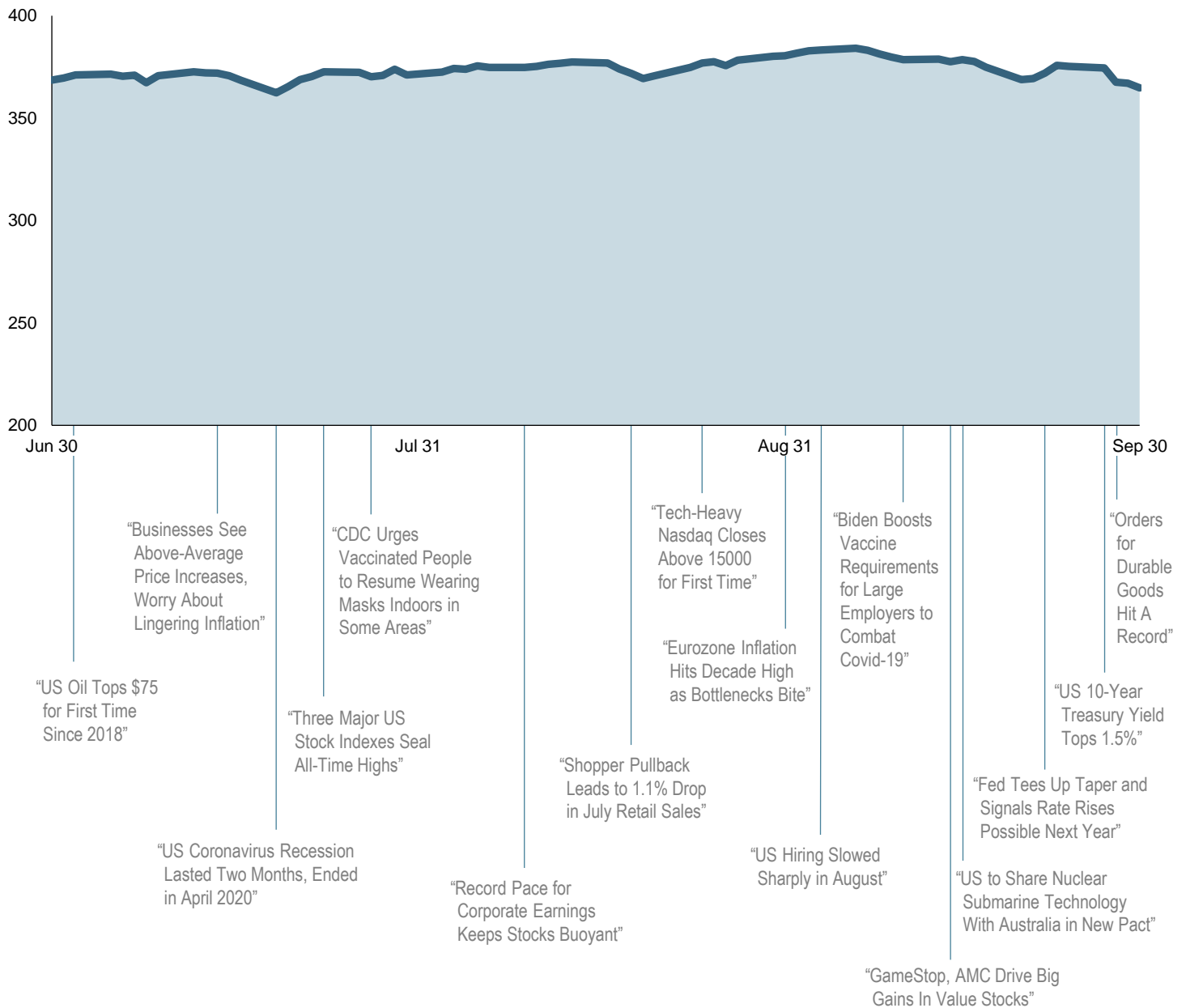
Index Returns as of September 30, 2021

	US Stock Market	International Developed Stocks	Emerging Markets Stocks	Global Real Estate	US Bond Market	Global Bond Market ex US
1 Year	STOCKS				BONDS	
	31.88% 	26.50% 	18.20% 	31.61% 	-0.90% 	-0.54% 
5 Years	16.85% 	8.88% 	9.23% 	4.65% 	2.94% 	2.71% 
10 Years	16.60% 	7.88% 	6.09% 	8.70% 	3.01% 	3.87% 

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World Stock Market Performance

MSCI All Country World Index with selected headlines from Q3 2021

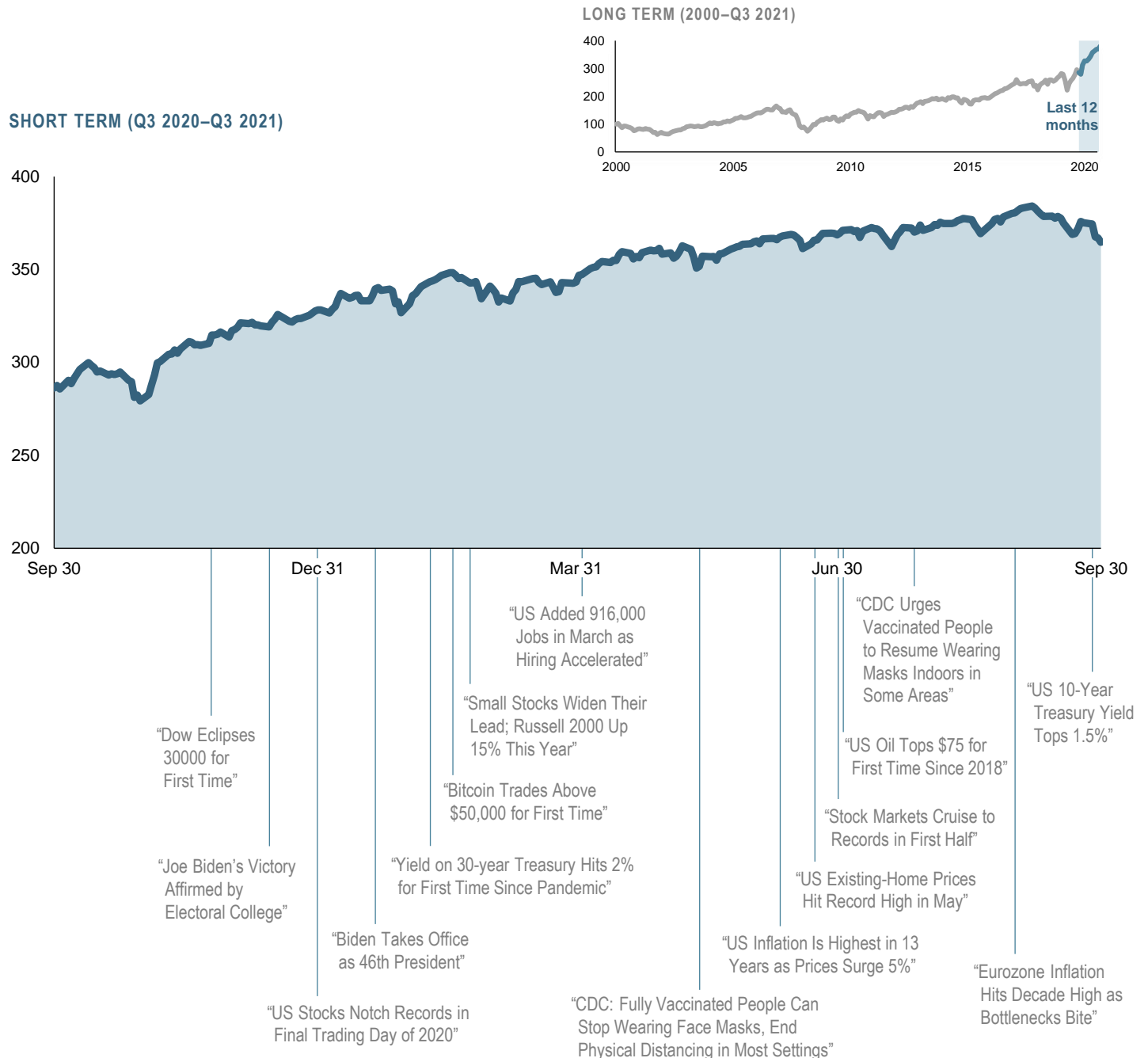


These headlines are not offered to explain market returns. Instead, they serve as a reminder that investors should view daily events from a long-term perspective and avoid making investment decisions based solely on the news.

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



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.

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Past performance is not a guarantee of future results.

World Asset Classes

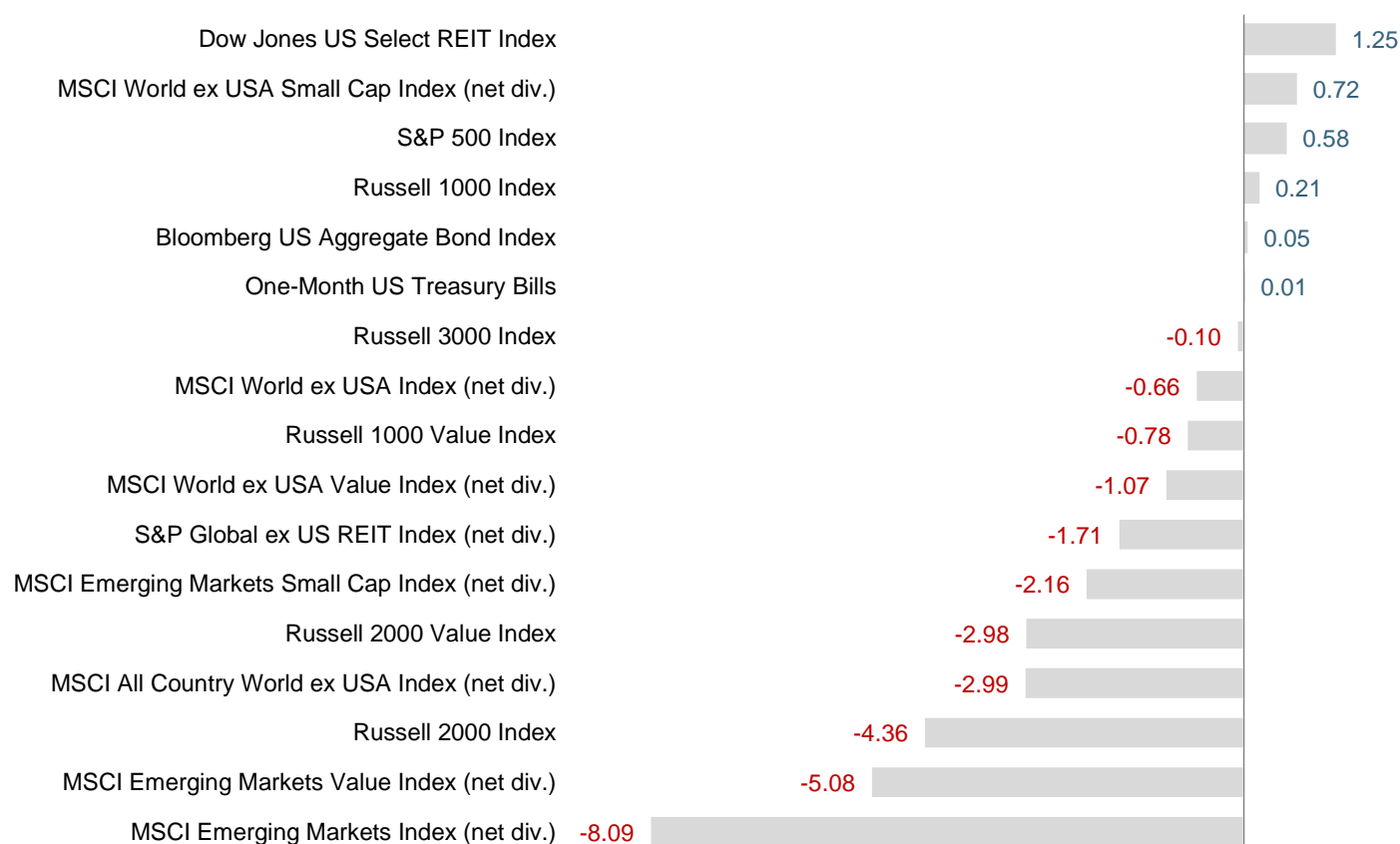
Third Quarter 2021 Index Returns (%)

Equity markets around the globe declined in the third quarter. Looking at broad market indices, US and non-US developed markets outperformed emerging markets.

Value performance was mixed in the US, with small value outperforming small growth but large value underperforming large growth. Value underperformed growth in non-US developed markets and outperformed in emerging markets.

Small caps underperformed large caps in the US but outperformed in non-US developed and emerging markets.

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



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US Stocks

Third Quarter 2021 Index Returns

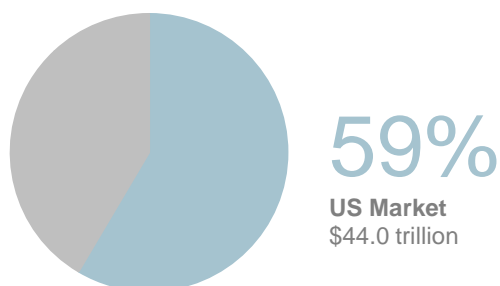
The US equity market was flat for the quarter and outperformed non-US developed markets and emerging markets.

Value underperformed growth in large cap stocks but outperformed growth in small cap stocks.

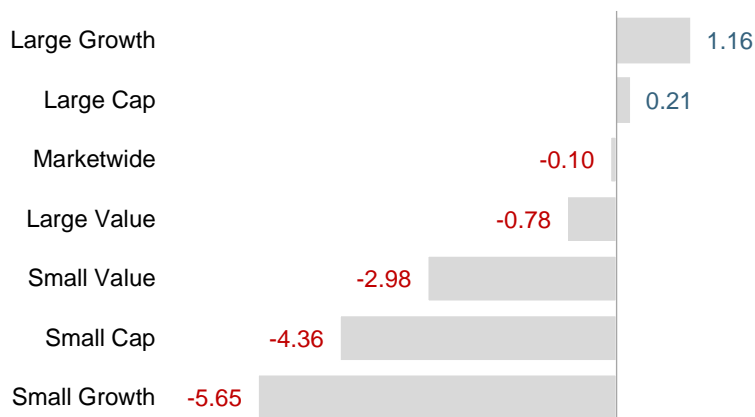
Small caps underperformed large caps.

REIT indices outperformed equity market indices.

World Market Capitalization—US



Ranked Returns (%)



Period Returns (%)

Asset Class	QTR	YTD	1 Year	* Annualized		
				3 Years*	5 Years*	10 Years*
Large Growth	1.16	14.30	27.32	22.00	22.84	19.68
Large Cap	0.21	15.19	30.96	16.43	17.11	16.76
Marketwide	-0.10	14.99	31.88	16.00	16.85	16.60
Large Value	-0.78	16.14	35.01	10.07	10.94	13.51
Small Value	-2.98	22.92	63.92	8.58	11.03	13.22
Small Cap	-4.36	12.41	47.68	10.54	13.45	14.63
Small Growth	-5.65	2.82	33.27	11.70	15.34	15.74

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International Developed Stocks

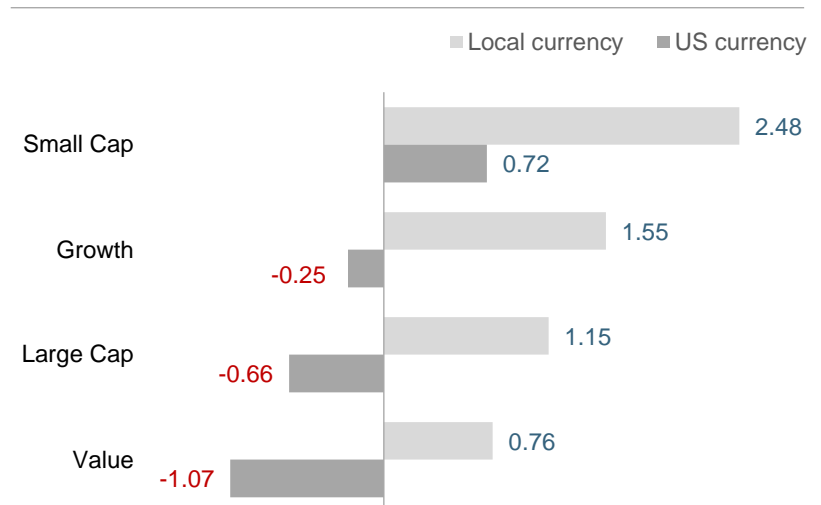
Third Quarter 2021 Index Returns

Developed markets outside the US declined less than 1% for the quarter and underperformed US equities but outperformed emerging markets.

Value underperformed growth.

Small caps outperformed large caps.

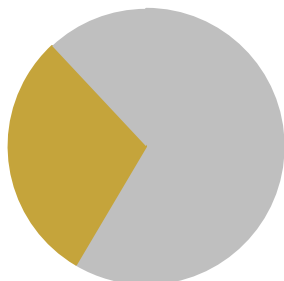
Ranked Returns (%)



World Market Capitalization— International Developed

30%

International
Developed Market
\$22.2 trillion



Period Returns (%)

* Annualized

Asset Class	QTR	YTD	1 Year	3 Years*	5 Years*	10 Years*
Small Cap	0.72	10.71	30.14	9.50	10.33	10.03
Growth	-0.25	6.99	20.50	11.93	11.21	9.64
Large Cap	-0.66	9.19	26.50	7.87	8.88	7.88
Value	-1.07	11.15	32.60	3.45	6.25	5.95

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Emerging Markets Stocks

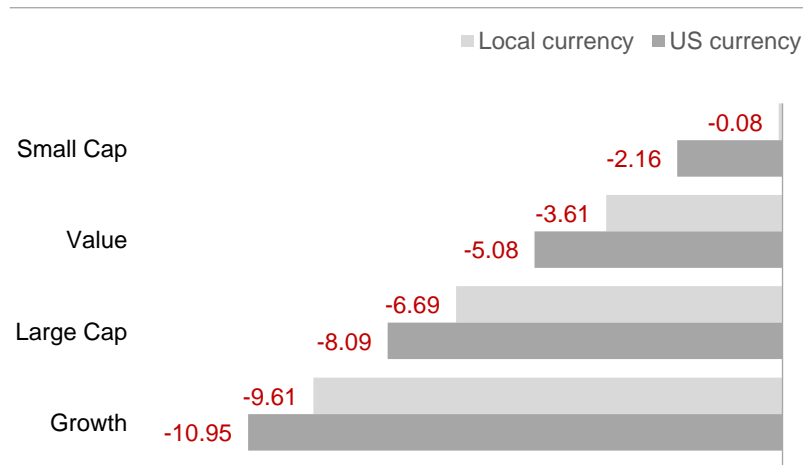
Third Quarter 2021 Index Returns

Emerging markets posted negative returns for the quarter, underperforming the US and non-US developed equity markets.

Value outperformed growth.

Small caps outperformed large caps.

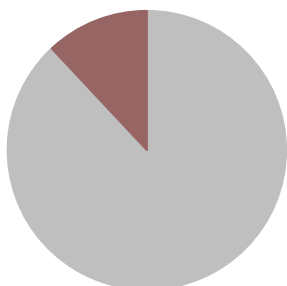
Ranked Returns (%)



World Market Capitalization— Emerging Markets

12%

Emerging
Markets
\$9.0 trillion



Period Returns (%)

* Annualized

Asset Class	QTR	YTD	1 Year	3 Years*	5 Years*	10 Years*
Small Cap	-2.16	17.20	43.24	13.11	9.75	7.21
Value	-5.08	4.43	28.43	4.77	6.87	3.79
Large Cap	-8.09	-1.25	18.20	8.58	9.23	6.09
Growth	-10.95	-6.46	9.28	12.15	11.36	8.23

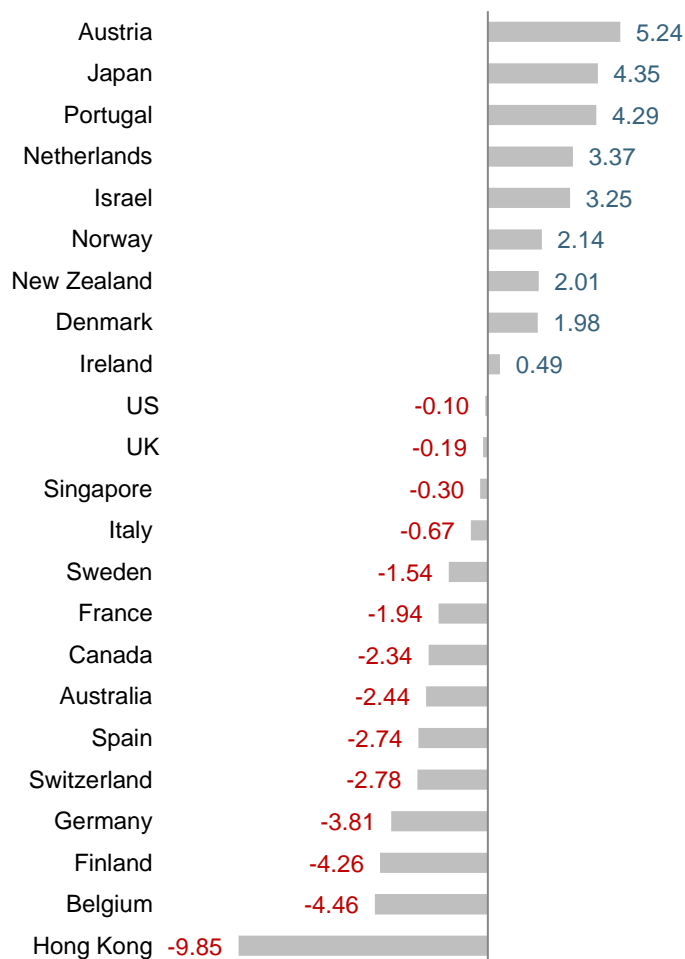
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Select Market Performance

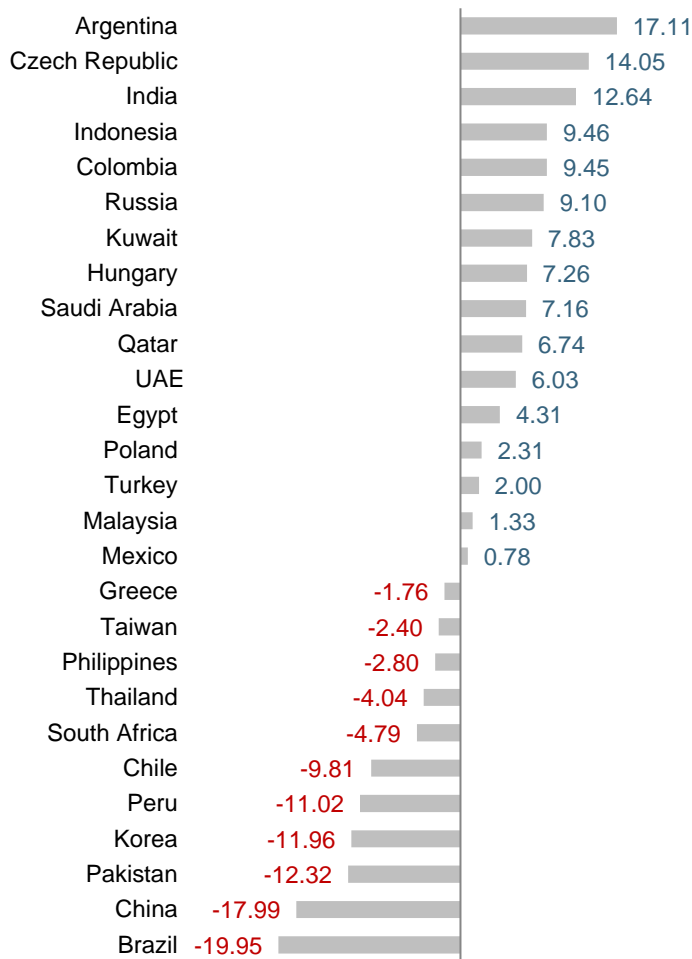
Third Quarter 2021 Index Returns

In US dollar terms, Austria and Japan recorded the highest country performance in developed markets, while Belgium and Hong Kong posted the lowest returns for the quarter. In emerging markets, Argentina and the Czech Republic recorded the highest country performance, while Brazil and China posted the lowest performance.

Ranked Developed Markets Returns (%)



Ranked Emerging Markets Returns (%)



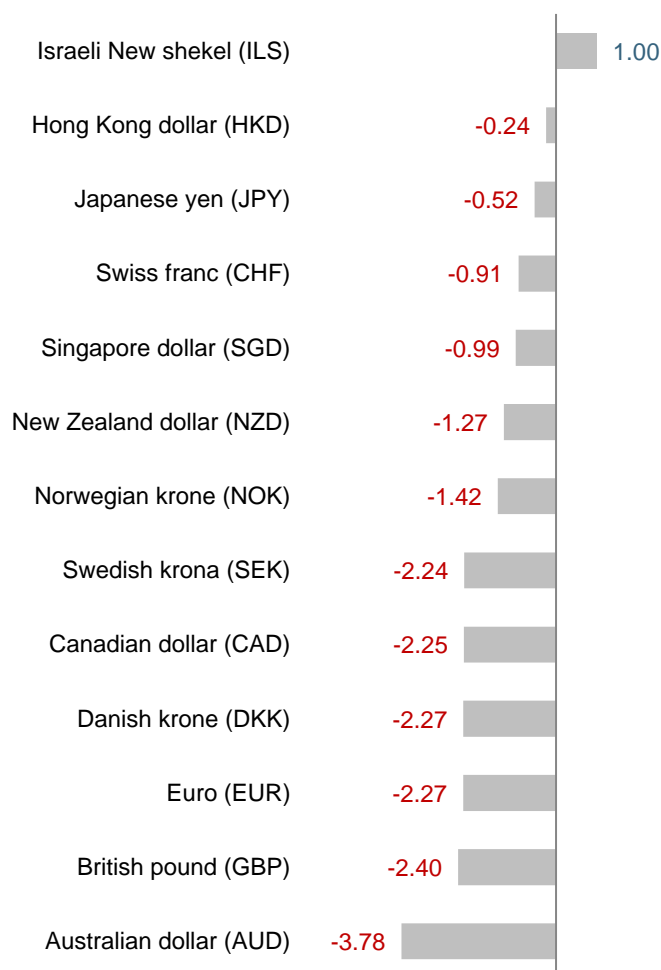
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Select Currency Performance vs. US Dollar

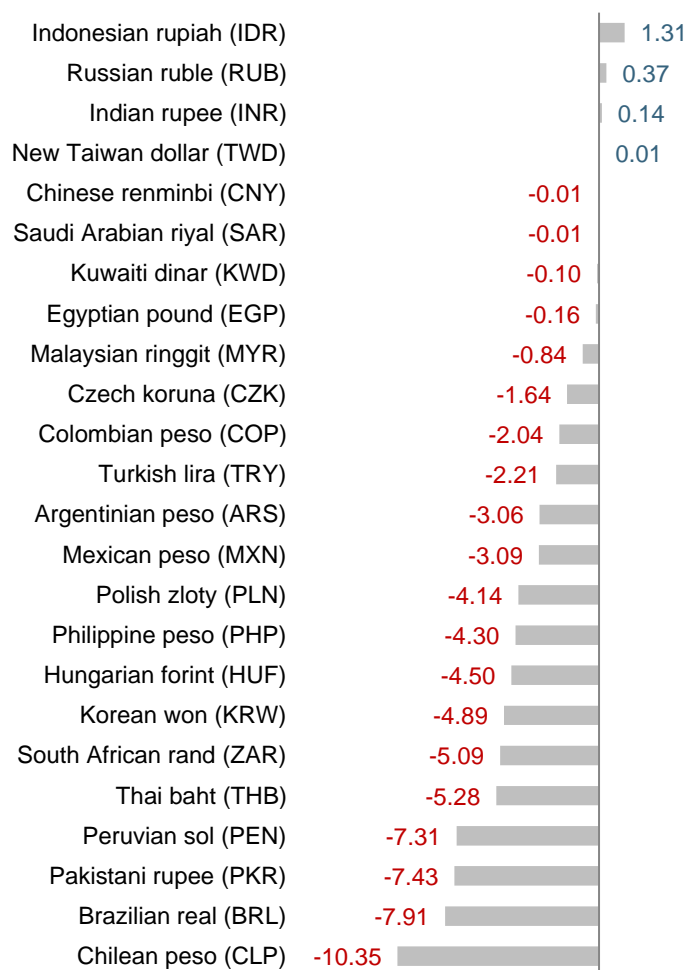
Third Quarter 2021

In emerging and developed markets, most currencies depreciated vs. the US dollar.

Ranked Developed Markets Returns (%)



Ranked Emerging Markets Returns (%)



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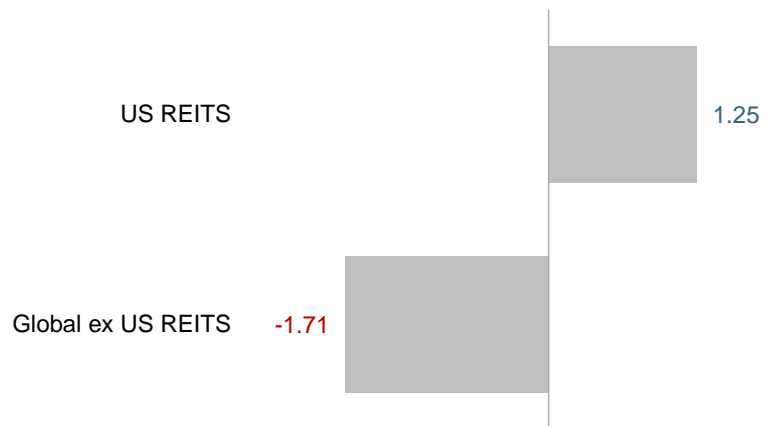
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Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)

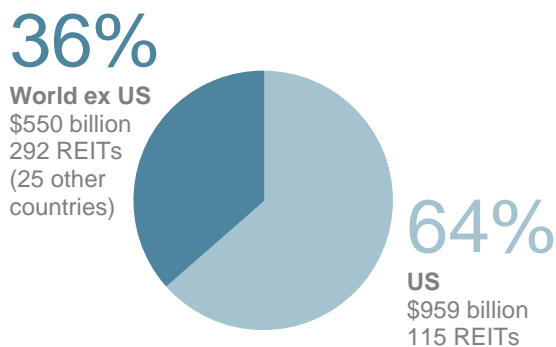
Third Quarter 2021 Index Returns

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

Ranked Returns (%)



Total Value of REIT Stocks



Period Returns (%)

Asset Class	* Annualized					
	QTR	YTD	1 Year	3 Years*	5 Years*	10 Years*
US REITS	1.25	24.48	40.56	8.32	5.68	10.53
Global ex US REITS	-1.71	7.80	24.01	4.52	3.28	6.81

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. 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

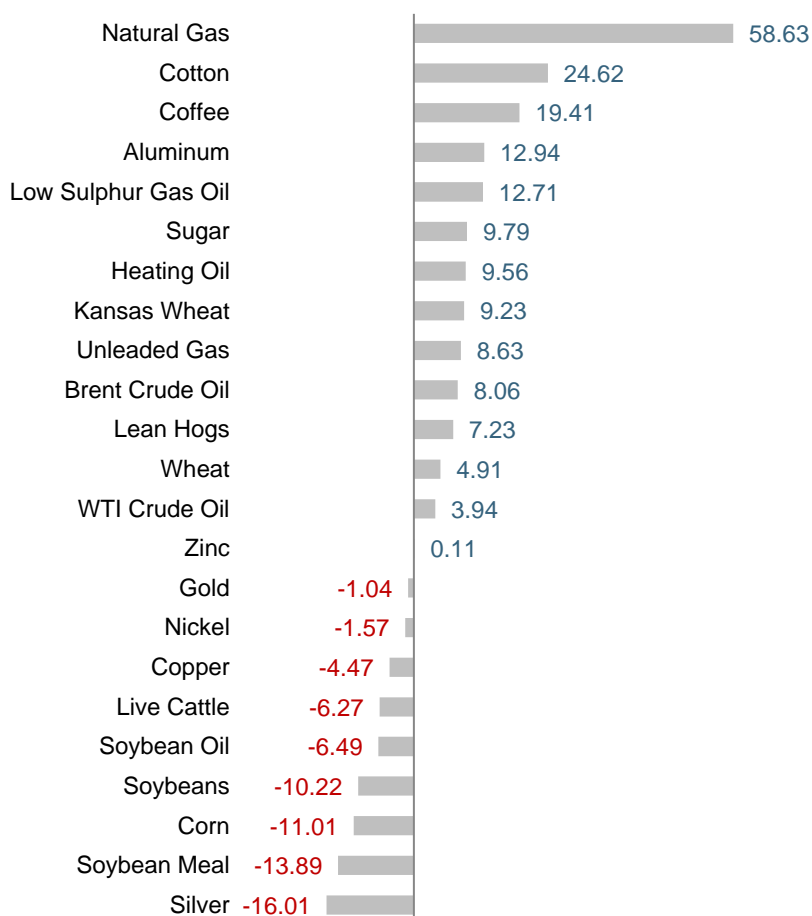
Third Quarter 2021 Index Returns

The Bloomberg Commodity Index Total Return returned 6.59% for the third quarter of 2021.

Natural Gas and Cotton were the best performers, gaining 58.63% and 24.62%, respectively.

Silver and Soybean Meal were the worst performers, declining 16.01% and 13.89%, respectively.

Ranked Returns (%)



Period Returns (%)

* Annualized

Asset Class	QTR	YTD	1 Year	3 Years*	5 Years*	10 Years*
Commodities	6.59	29.13	42.29	6.86	4.54	-2.66

Fixed Income

Third Quarter 2021 Index Returns

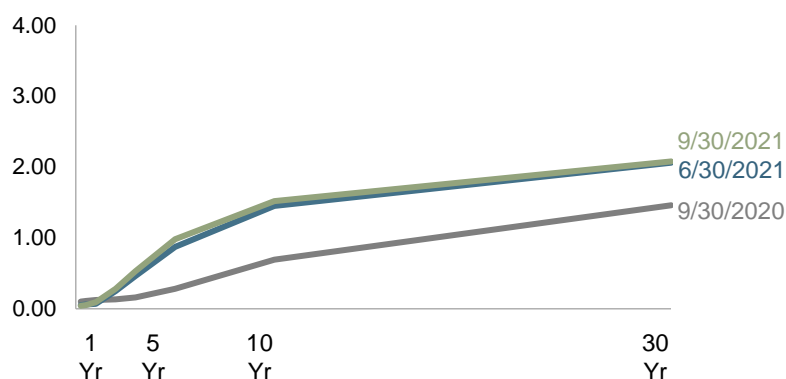
Interest rates in the US Treasury fixed income market generally increased during the third quarter. The yield on the 5-year Treasury note rose 12 basis points (bps), ending at 1.00%. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note increased 8 bps to 1.54%. The 30-year Treasury Bond yield rose 1 bp to finish at 2.05%.

On the short end of the curve, the 1-month Treasury bill yield increased 2 bps, ending at 0.07%, while the 1-year Treasury bill yield decreased 1 bp to 0.09%. The 2-year Treasury note yield increased 5 bps to 0.30%.

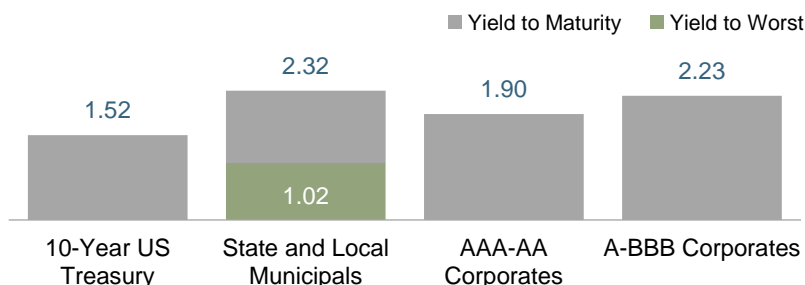
In terms of total returns, short-term corporate bonds returned 0.11%. Intermediate-term corporate bonds gained 0.08%.

The total return for short-term municipal bonds was 0.08%, while intermediate munis lost 0.04%. Revenue bonds performed in line with general obligation bonds for the quarter.

US Treasury Yield Curve (%)



Bond Yields across Issuers (%)



Period Returns (%)

Asset Class	QTR	YTD	1 Year	*Annualized		
				3 Years*	5 Years*	10 Years*
Bloomberg US TIPS Index	1.75	3.51	5.19	7.45	4.34	3.12
Bloomberg US High Yield Corporate Bond Index	0.89	4.53	11.28	6.91	6.52	7.42
Bloomberg US Government Bond Index Long	0.46	-7.40	-10.13	9.17	3.34	4.40
Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index	0.05	-1.55	-0.90	5.36	2.94	3.01
FTSE World Government Bond Index 1-5 Years (hedged to USD)	0.02	-0.28	-0.11	2.77	1.90	1.75
ICE BofA 1-Year US Treasury Note Index	0.02	0.11	0.17	1.88	1.46	0.89
ICE BofA US 3-Month Treasury Bill Index	0.01	0.04	0.07	1.18	1.16	0.63
Bloomberg Municipal Bond Index	-0.27	0.79	2.63	5.06	3.26	3.87
FTSE World Government Bond Index 1-5 Years	-1.00	-3.06	-0.93	2.18	0.98	-0.21

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 ICE BofA US Corporates, AA-AAA rated. A-BBB Corporates represent the ICE BofA US Corporates, BBB-A rated. Bloomberg 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. Sinquefeld). 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

Third Quarter 2021 Yield Curves

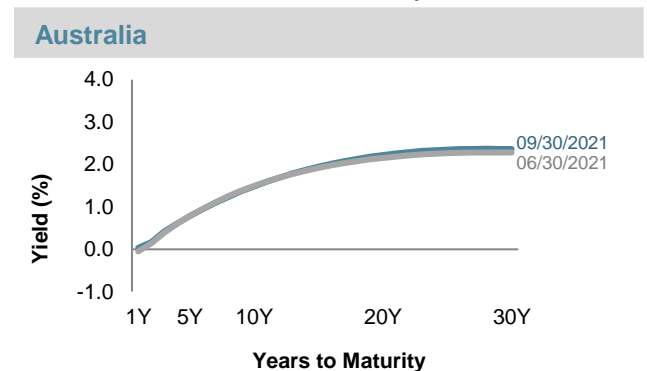
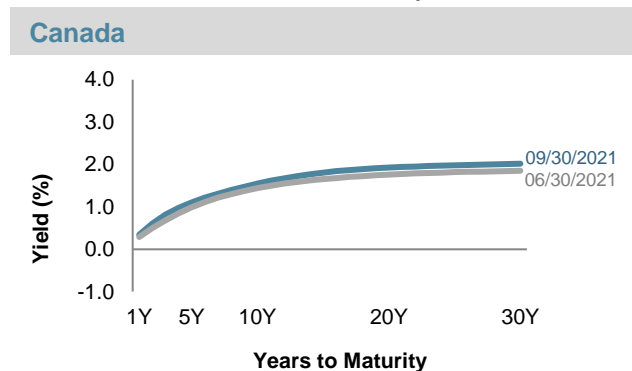
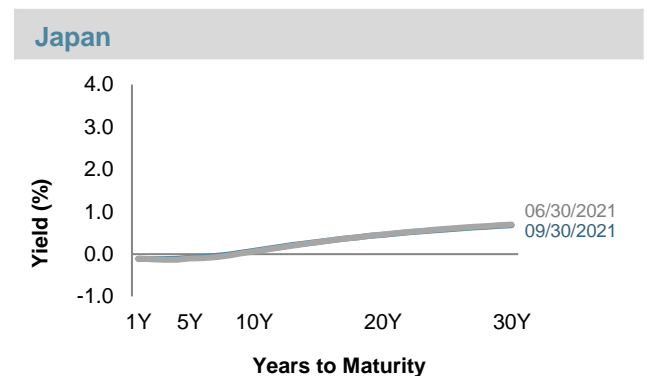
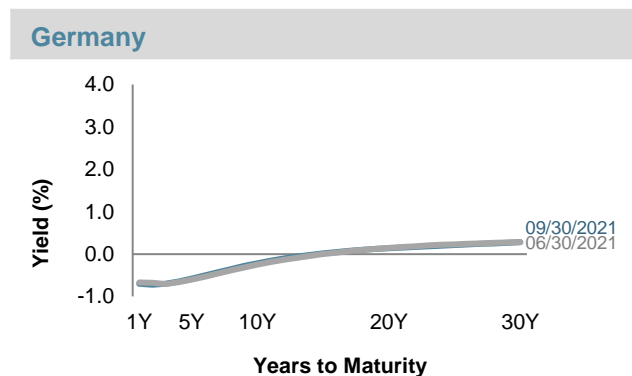
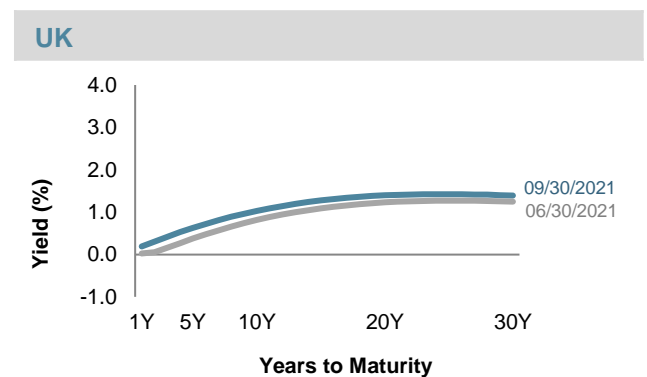
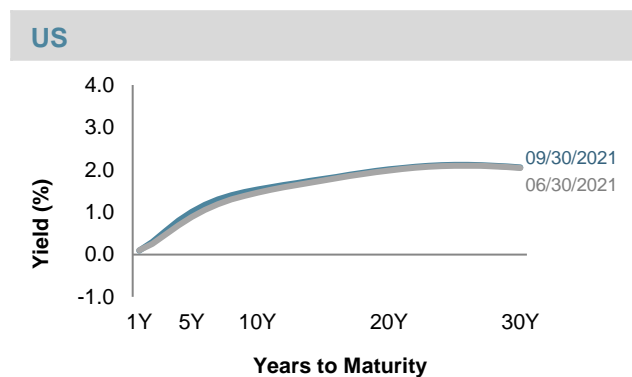
Government bond yields in the global developed markets generally increased for the quarter.

Term premiums were mixed in developed markets.

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

Changes in Yields (bps) since 6/30/2021

	1Y	5Y	10Y	20Y	30Y
US	-1.0	11.9	7.6	2.7	1.0
UK	16.7	25.2	21.6	16.6	14.4
Germany	-2.7	2.3	3.6	-0.8	0.2
Japan	-0.1	2.0	1.2	-0.3	-1.8
Canada	5.4	11.2	10.7	16.5	16.8
Australia	8.3	-0.6	-1.2	6.7	8.1

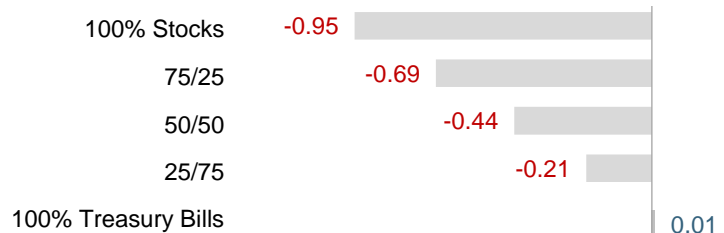


Impact of Diversification

Third 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 (%)

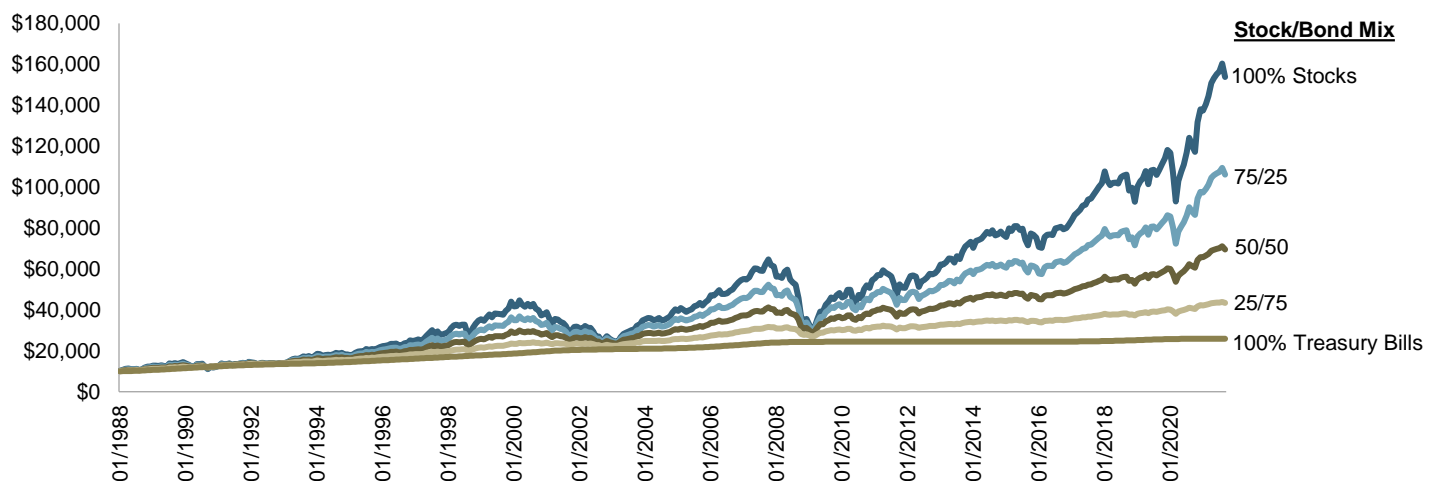


Period Returns (%)

* Annualized

Asset Class	YTD	1 Year	3 Years*	5 Years*	10 Years*	10-Year STDEV ¹
100% Stocks	11.49	27.98	13.14	13.77	12.50	13.46
75/25	8.57	20.59	10.34	10.68	9.58	10.09
50/50	5.68	13.47	7.38	7.53	6.61	6.72
25/75	2.83	6.62	4.28	4.31	3.60	3.35
100% Treasury Bills	0.02	0.04	1.05	1.05	0.55	0.23

Growth of Wealth: The Relationship between Risk and Return



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. Sinquefeld).