

GROVE STREET FIDUCIARY, LLC
WEALTH AND TRUST ADVISORS

SEPTEMBER 2021

MARKET COMMENTARY & QUARTERLY MARKET REVIEW



CARL A.
JOHNSON



HAZEL E. HENSEL



STEPHANIE SAMUELSON



LISA CAREY

20 Grove Street
Peterborough, NH 03458
Phone: 603.924.9939
www.GroveStreetFiduciary.com

Market Commentary: September 2021

Have you noticed that we tend to forget many things and move on? This weekend is the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. As hard as it is, we must pause and remember, for memories are the foundation of culture and identity. We need memorials and reminders like this <u>because it is far too easy for us to forget</u>.

Undoubtedly, we can become lost in the concerns of the day. And there are many: hurricanes, fires, the tragedy of Afghanistan, the devastating effects of the pandemic. Any one of these present-day worries can be consuming, and taken together, overwhelming, preventing us from reflecting. Just as easily, we can also be preoccupied with the latest success, like the skyrocketing stock market, to hinder us from slowing down and remembering the past to help put current events in perspective. Speaking of the high-flying stock market, let us review the figures for the quarter below (also found on page 2 of the Quarterly Market Review).



The Summer Olympics in Japan may have been muted by the pandemic, but stock markets around the world have continued to achieve gold medals. New world records were made by the U.S. S&P 500 Index, Europe's Stoxx 600 Index, and Australia's ASX 200 Index. Back in March, the one-year return for the S&P 500 Index was an astonishing 56%, the best in the last 30 years. It has continued to hit new highs every month since. Bonds on the other hand, and as expected, looked sleepy while they continued to stabilize your portfolio, protect your short-term income needs, and stand poised to buy stocks at a discount - which will eventually occur.

In the financial world, at least four things seem primed to increase in the short term: taxes, cryptocurrency, interest in investments focused on ESG (Environment, Social and Governance), and globalization as a result of the pandemic. [Watch for a piece from us in the coming months on crypto and blockchain. We are studying these assets/concepts for possible future investments as they grow in use and have the potential to transform finance and technology. For now, as professional fiduciaries, we will steer clear of recommending them because they are unregulated, primarily speculative, and a magnet for an IRS audit.] The

Grove Street Fiduciary, LLC Wealth and Trust Advisors WWW.GroveStreetFiduciary.com 800.258.9939 thriving stock market may begin to slow or even slide quickly as global supply chain disruptions persist and inflation increases. U.S. unemployment stands at the low rate of 5.2%, wages are up 4.3%, meanwhile, most sectors are struggling to find workers. Also of note, retail investing has doubled to 20% of all stock trading since the pandemic began. These are some of the signs and symptoms that indicate domestic stock markets are likely to have even more volatility than we have seen recently. We expect the same for international and emerging markets.

Back to the subject of remembering, what does this have to do with your investments? Markets destroy investors who forget how they work and stray from the best practices of diversification, buying low-cost investments, protecting short-term cash flow, and of course, buying low and selling high. Many know these foundational precepts to investment success, but in practice do not follow them. This market commentary is a reminder of what you have built and how you will maintain financial security despite the risks. As your fiduciaries, we will not forget the tenets of investment success, regardless of the present conditions and distractions.

Practicing reflection also increases our understanding of the present and shapes our future. Consequently, even at these market highs, we have positioned your portfolio for the security and flexibility it must have. Your investment portfolio is not some cookie-cutter allocation built from a 10-question quiz to establish a (false) risk tolerance and a portfolio that does not match your needs. By focusing on the hard numbers of your personal cash flow, <u>our approach is like that of any business or endowment – methodical and professional</u>.

We have greatly enjoyed seeing those of you who have been able to come to the office for meetings! The phone calls and virtual meetings are most helpful and may be necessary for all of us again if the Delta variant risk increases.

As we spend time reflecting this weekend, we remember the responsibility you have entrusted to us – and how very thankful we are for you.

"Always remember... You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem and smarter than you think."— Christopher Robin to Winnie the Pooh

Best regards,

Carl Amos Johnson, MBA, CFP®, AIF®

September 10, 2021

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Wealth and Trust Advisors
WWW.GroveStreetFiduciary.com 800.258.9939



GROVE STREET FIDUCIARY, LLC WEALTH AND TRUST ADVISORS



Quarterly Market Review
Second Quarter 2021

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
2Q 2021		STO	СКЅ		ВО	NDS
	8.24%	5.65%	5.05%	10.17%	1.83%	0.35%

Since Jan. 2001						
Avg. Quarterly Return	2.4%	1.7%	3.1%	2.6%	1.2%	1.1%
Best	22.0%	25.9%	34.7%	32.3%	4.6%	4.6%
Quarter	2020 Q2	2009 Q2	2009 Q2	2009 Q3	2001 Q3	2008 Q4
Worst	-22.8%	-23.3%	-27.6%	-36.1%	-3.4%	-2.7%
Quarter	2008 Q4	2020 Q1	2008 Q4	2008 Q4	2021 Q1	2015 Q2

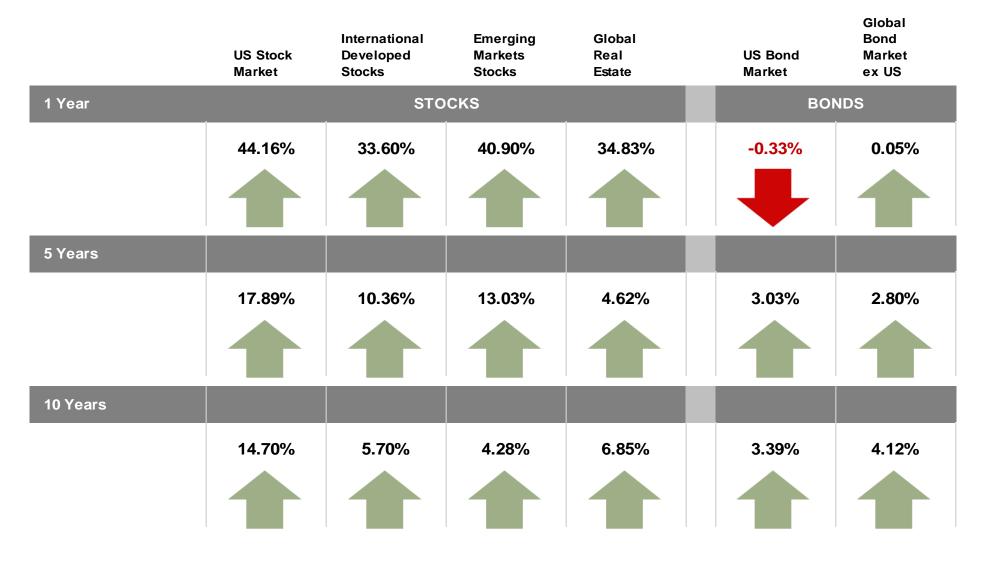
Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Indices are not available for direct investment. Index performance does not reflect the expenses associated with the management of an actual portfolio.

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 June 30, 2021





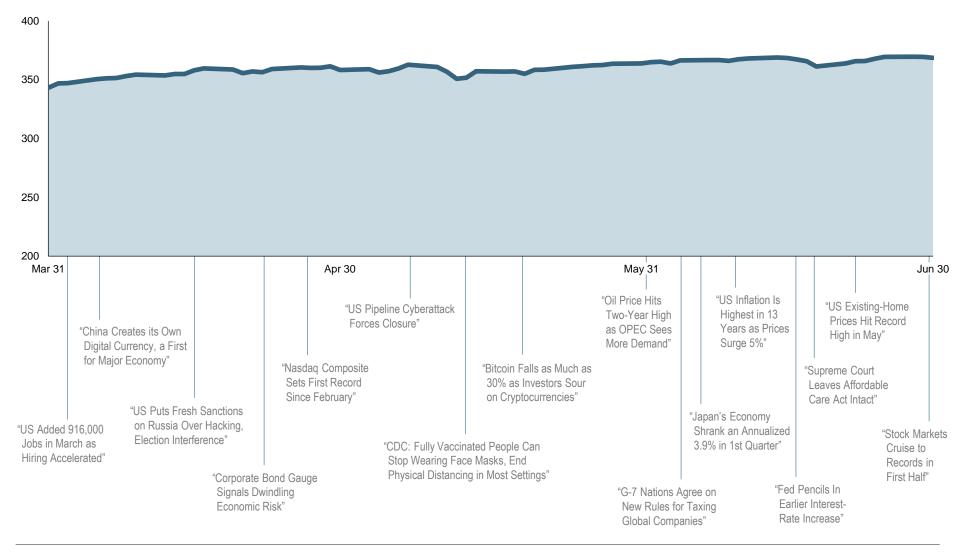
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World Stock Market Performance



MSCI All Country World Index with selected headlines from Q2 2021

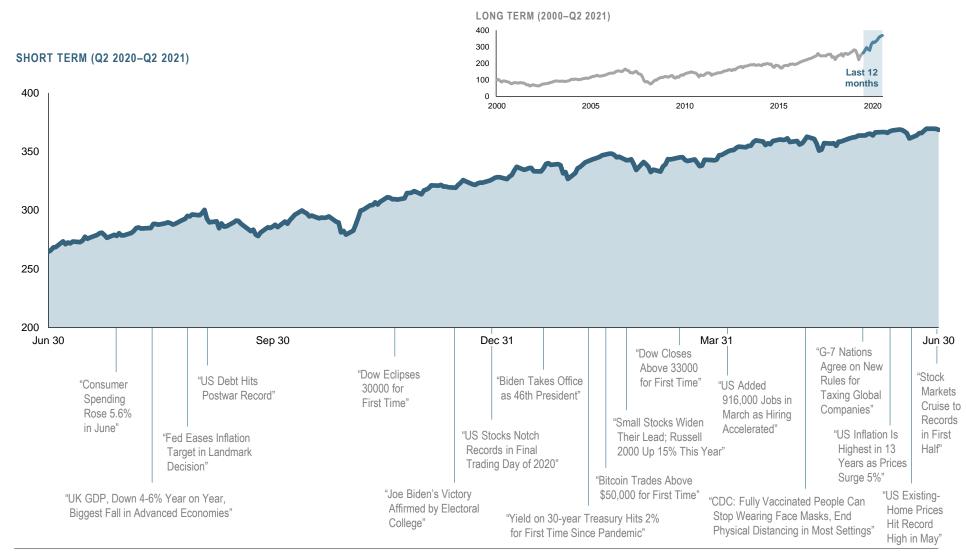


These headlines are not offered to explain market returns. Instead, they serve as a reminder that investors should view daily events from a long-term perspective and avoid making investment decisions based solely on the news.





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.

US Stocks

Second Quarter 2021 Index Returns



The US equity market posted positive returns 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.

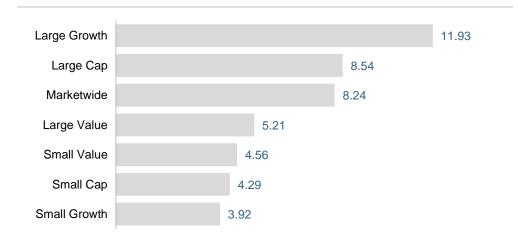
Small caps underperformed large caps.

REIT indices outperformed equity market indices.

World Market Capitalization—US



Ranked Returns (%)



Period Returns (%)

* Annualized

Asset Class	YTD	1 Year	3 Years*	5 Years*	10 Years*
Large Growth	12.99	42.50	25.14	23.66	17.87
Large Cap	14.95	43.07	19.16	17.99	14.90
Marketwide	15.11	44.16	18.73	17.89	14.70
Large Value	17.05	43.68	12.42	11.87	11.61
Small Value	26.69	73.28	10.27	13.62	10.85
Small Cap	17.54	62.03	13.52	16.47	12.34
Small Growth	8.98	51.36	15.94	18.76	13.52

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Market segment (index representation) as follows: Marketwide (Russell 3000 Index), Large Cap (Russell 1000 Index), Large Cap Value (Russell 1000 Value Index), Large Cap Growth (Russell 1000 Growth Index), Small Cap (Russell 2000 Index), Small Cap Value (Russell 2000 Value Index), and Small Cap Growth (Russell 2000 Growth Index). World Market Cap represented by Russell 3000 Index, MSCI World ex USA IMI Index, and MSCI Emerging Markets IMI Index. Russell 3000 Index is used as the proxy for the US market. Dow Jones US Select REIT Index used as proxy for the US REIT market. 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.

International Developed Stocks

Second Quarter 2021 Index Returns



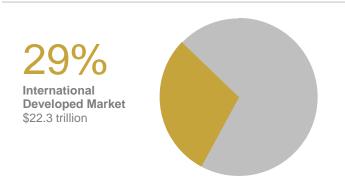
Developed markets outside the US posted positive returns for the quarter, underperforming US equities but outperforming emerging markets.

Value underperformed growth.

Small caps underperformed large caps.



World Market Capitalization—International Developed



Period Returns (%)

* Annualized

Asset Class	YTD	1 Year	3 Years*	5 Years*	10 Years*
Value	12.35	35.85	4.22	8.07	3.87
Large Cap	9.92	33.60	8.57	10.36	5.70
Small Cap	9.92	42.28	8.92	11.88	7.66
Growth	7.26	31.08	12.56	12.35	7.35

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Market segment (index representation) as follows: Large Cap (MSCI World ex USA Index), Small Cap (MSCI World ex USA Small Cap Index), Value (MSCI World ex USA Value Index), and Growth (MSCI World ex USA Growth Index). All index returns are net of withholding tax on dividends. World Market Cap represented by Russell 3000 Index, MSCI World ex USA IMI Index, and MSCI Emerging Markets IMI Index. MSCI World ex USA IMI Index is used as the proxy for the International Developed market. MSCI data © MSCI 2021, all rights reserved. Frank Russell Company is the source and owner of the trademarks, service marks, and copyrights related to the Russell Indexes.

Emerging Markets Stocks

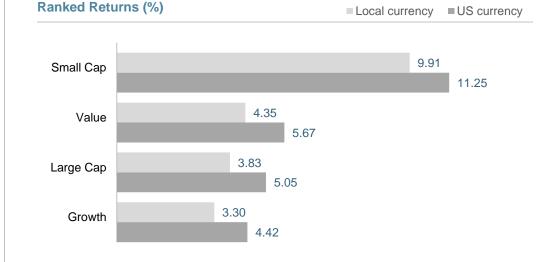
Second Quarter 2021 Index Returns



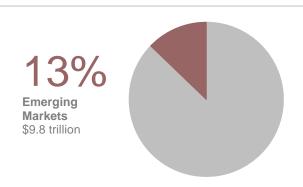
Emerging markets posted positive returns for the quarter, underperforming the US and non-US developed equity markets.

Value outperformed growth.

Small caps outperformed large caps.



World Market Capitalization—Emerging Markets



Period Returns (%)

* Annualized

Asset Class	YTD	1 Year	3 Years*	5 Years*	10 Years*
Small Cap	19.78	63.75	12.31	11.86	4.55
Value	10.01	41.59	7.81	9.70	1.80
Large Cap	7.45	40.90	11.27	13.03	4.28
Growth	5.04	40.08	14.44	16.14	6.63

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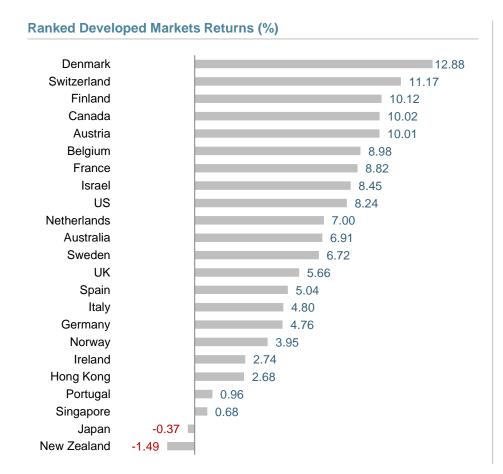
Market segment (index representation) as follows: Large Cap (MSCI Emerging Markets Index), Small Cap (MSCI Emerging Markets Small Cap Index), Value (MSCI Emerging Markets Value Index), and Growth (MSCI Emerging Markets Growth Index). All index returns are net of withholding tax on dividends. World Market Cap represented by Russell 3000 Index, MSCI World ex USA IMI Index, and MSCI Emerging Markets IMI Index used as the proxy for the emerging market portion of the market. MSCI data © MSCI 2021, all rights reserved. Frank Russell Company is the source and owner of the trademarks, service marks, and copyrights related to the Russell Indexes.

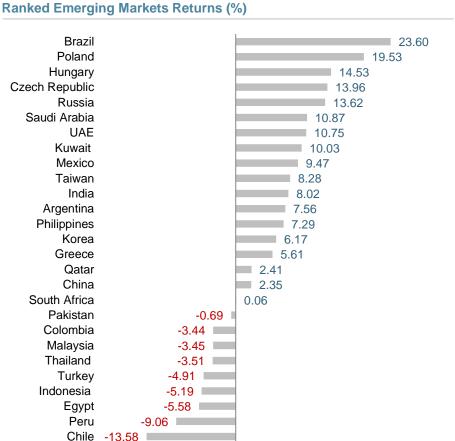
Select Market Performance

Second Quarter 2021 Index Returns



In US dollar terms, Denmark and Switzerland recorded the highest country performance in developed markets, while New Zealand and Japan posted the lowest returns for the quarter. In emerging markets, Brazil and Poland recorded the highest country performance, while Chile and Peru posted the lowest performance.





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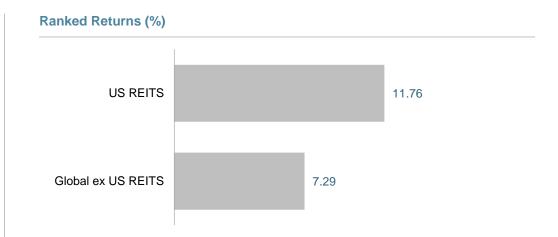
MSCI Index returns are in USD net of dividend withholding taxes. Country returns are the country component indices of the MSCI All Country World ex USA IMI for all countries except the United States, where the Russell 3000 index is used instead. Frank Russell Company is the source and owner of the trademarks, 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.

Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)

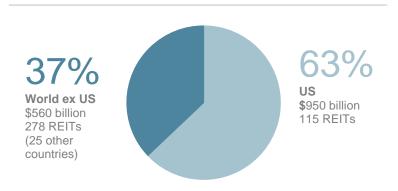
Second Quarter 2021 Index Returns



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



Total Value of REIT Stocks



Period Returns (%)

* Annualized

Asset Class	YTD	1 Year	3 Years*	5 Years*	10 Years*
US REITS	22.94	39.98	8.13	5.16	8.67
Global ex US REITS	9.68	31.93	4.63	4.11	5.00

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

Second Quarter 2021 Index Returns



The Bloomberg Commodity Index Total Return returned 13.3% for the second quarter of 2021.

Soybean Oil and Natural Gas were the best performers, returning 31.82% and 30.29%, respectively.

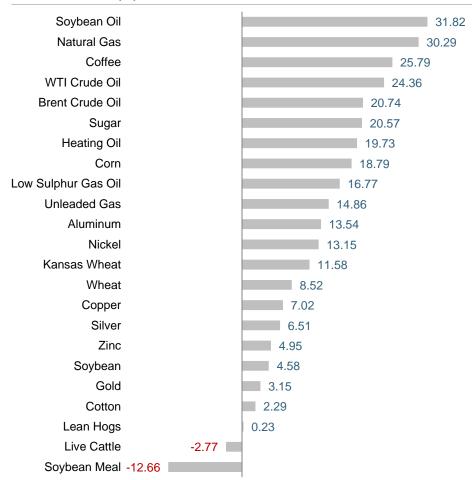
Soybean Meal and Live Cattle were the worst performers, declining 12.66% and 2.77%, respectively.

Period Returns (%)

* Annualized

Asset Class	QTR	YTD	1 Year	3 Years*	5 Years*	10 Years*
Commodities	13.30	21.15	45.61	3.90	2.40	-4.44

Ranked Returns (%)



Fixed Income

Second Quarter 2021 Index Returns

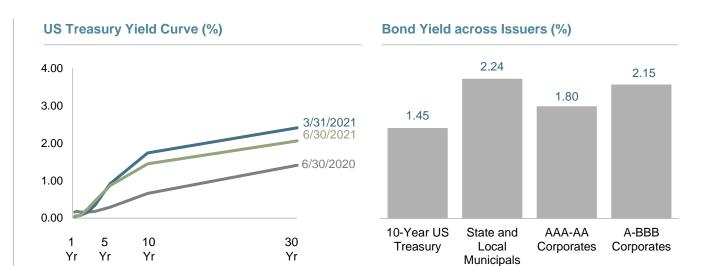


Changes in interest rates in the US Treasury fixed income market were generally mixed during the second quarter of 2021. The yield on the 5-Year Treasury note decreased 7 basis points (bps) to 0.88%. The yield on the 10-Year T-note decreased 28 bps to 1.46%. The 30-Year Treasury bond yield declined 35 bps to 2.04%.

On the short end of the yield curve, the 1-Month US Treasury bill yield remained unchanged at 0.05%, and the 1-Year T-bill yield increased 2 basis point to 0.10%. The 2-Year Treasury note increased 10 bps to 0.25%.

In terms of total returns, short-term corporate bonds gained 0.70%. Intermediate-term corporate bonds returned 1.70%.

The total return for short-term municipal bonds was 0.30%, while intermediate-term munis returned 0.80%. Revenue bonds outperformed general obligation bonds.



Period Returns (%)

*Annualized

Asset Class		QTR	YTD	1 Year	3 Years*	5 Years*	10 Years*
Bloomberg Barclays US Government Bo	nd Index Long	6.43	-7.82	-10.42	7.97	3.18	6.62
Bloomberg Barclays US TIPS Index		3.25	1.73	6.51	6.53	4.17	3.40
Bloomberg Barclays US High Yield Corp	orate Bond Index	2.74	3.62	15.37	7.45	7.48	6.66
Bloomberg Barclays US Aggregate Bond	d Index	1.83	-1.60	-0.33	5.34	3.03	3.39
Bloomberg Barclays Municipal Bond Inde	ex	1.42	1.06	4.17	5.10	3.25	4.28
FTSE World Government Bond Index 1-5	Years	0.31	-2.08	2.08	2.31	1.27	-0.13
FTSE World Government Bond Index 1-5	Years (hedged to USD)	0.07	-0.30	0.11	2.82	1.92	1.88
ICE BofA 1-Year US Treasury Note Index		0.02	0.09	0.22	2.01	1.47	0.90
ICE BofA US 3-Month Treasury Bill Index		0.00	0.02	0.09	1.34	1.17	0.63

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

Second Quarter 2021 Yield Curves

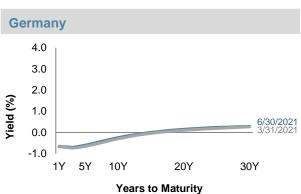


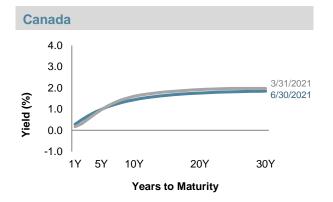
Changes in government bond yields in the global developed markets were mixed for the quarter.

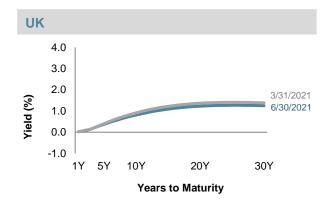
Term premiums were mixed in developed markets.

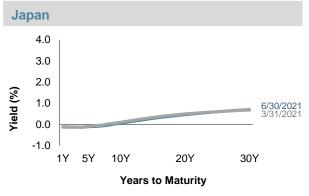
Short- and intermediate-term nominal interest rates were negative in Japan and Germany.













Changes in Yields (bps) since 3/31/2021

	1Y	5Y	10Y	20Y	30Y
US	1.8	-6.5	-31.9	-31.8	-35.0
UK	0.8	-3.1	-9.9	-13.8	-13.8
Germany	-2.2	5.4	5.1	4.4	1.5
Japan	1.9	-1.5	-4.4	-3.7	2.2
Canada	11.1	1.8	-16.0	-16.1	-12.8
Australia	-11.0	-3.2	-24.7	-37.3	-40.5

Inflation: An Exchange Between Eugene Fama and David Booth



Second Quarter 2021

David Booth, Executive Chairman and Founder Eugene Fama, PhD, Nobel laureate, Director, and Consultant

With the economy starting to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and investor concerns turning increasingly toward inflation, Dimensional Founder David Booth talked with Nobel laureate Eugene Fama about inflation and how investors should think about it in their portfolios. Excerpts from their conversation have been edited for clarity.

ON PREDICTING INFLATION

David Booth: Gene, you are a founding Director of Dimensional and have been involved in our research and corporate governance for more than 40 years. People may not know that you've also done a lot of research on inflation and interest rates.

We always tell people, "We don't try to forecast. We try to be prepared for various outcomes." Inflation is one of those things you want to be prepared for. There's a pickup in inflation risk that wasn't there, say, 10 years ago. Does that cause you to worry?

Eugene Fama: Historically what's happened is, when there's a spike, the spike persists for a long time. Inflation tends to be highly persistent once you get it. Once it goes down, it tends to be highly persistent on the downside. You've got to be prepared for that. Predicting next month's inflation may not be very hard because this month's inflation can be a pretty good predictor of next month's inflation, or next quarter's inflation, or even the next six months' inflation. Persistence is a characteristic of inflation.

We haven't been in a period of high inflation, or even moderate inflation, for at least 10 years, so I'm not particularly concerned that inflation will be high soon.

ON HOW INVESTORS SHOULD THINK ABOUT INFLATION AND THEIR FINANCIAL GOALS

Booth: Conditions change, so is there anything about the current environment and the risk of inflation heating up that would cause you to change your portfolio?

Fama: I don't think anybody predicts the market very well. Market timing is risky in the sense that you've always emphasized: You may be out of the stock market at precisely the time when it generates its biggest returns. The nature of the stock market is you get a lot of the return in very short periods of time. So, you basically don't want to be out for short periods of time, where you may actually be missing a good part of the return.

I think you take a long-term perspective. You decide how much risk you're willing to take, and then you choose a mix of bonds, stocks, Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities, and whatever else satisfies your long-term goals. And you forget about the short term. Maybe you rebalance occasionally because the weights can get out of whack, but you don't try to time the market in any way, shape, or form. It's a losing proposition.

Booth: As you get to the point in life where you actually need to use your portfolio, does that change the kinds of allocations you'd want?

Fama: The classic answer to that was, yes, you'd shift more toward short-term hedges, short-term bonds. Once you had enough accumulated wealth that you thought you could make it through retirement, you'd want to hedge away any uncertainty that might disturb that. That's a matter of taste and your willingness to take risk and your plans for the people you will leave behind, like your

Inflation: An Exchange Between Eugene Fama and David Booth



(continued from page 14)

charities or your kids. All of that will influence how you make that decision. But the typical person who thinks they'll spend all their money before they die probably wants to move into less risky stuff as they approach retirement.

Booth: The notion of risk is pretty fuzzy. For example, if I decide that I want to hold Treasury bills or CDs when I retire, and you did that 40 years ago, when we started the firm, and you've got that 15% coupon, that's pretty exciting. With \$1 million at 15%, you're getting \$150,000 a year. Today you might get less than 1%.

Fama: Right, but I remember when inflation was running at about 15%, so not much better off!

Booth: Those are different kinds of risks.

Fama: When you approach retirement, you're basically concerned about what your real wealth will look like over the period of your retirement, and you have some incentives to hedge against that. You face the possibility, for example, that if you invest in stocks, you have a higher expected return, but you may lose 30% in a year and that might be devastating for your long-term consumption.

Booth: I think part of planning is not only your investment portfolio, but what to do if you experience unexpected events of any kind. We're kind of back to where we start our usual conversation: "Control what you can control." You can't control markets. What you can do is prepare yourself for what you'll do in case bad events happen. Inflation is just one of many risk factors long-term investors need to be prepared for.

Eugene Fama is a member of the Board of Directors of the general partner of, and provides consulting services to, Dimensional Fund Advisors LP.

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