



## QUARTERLY MARKET REVIEW

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FIRST QUARTER 2021

# Quarterly Market Review

First Quarter 2021

2020 is finally behind us! That's a relief to be sure. After a rocky start to 2021, the market shook off an insurrection at the Capitol and a semi-peaceful transfer of power in Washington to produce some nice gains in the first quarter. The rapid deployment of vaccines over the past few months has provided a light at the end of the tunnel, allowing many parts of society in the U.S. to begin the re-opening process. This, combined with the passage of a massive aid bill, propelled equities higher. However, fears of inflation resulting from these stimulus measures caused fixed income markets to suffer losses in Q1.

Of course, celebrations about COVID progress may have to be put on hold, as it is still not known how the vaccines will stand up against variants of the virus, or if infection rates will spike again due to the large number of people who still refuse to get vaccinated. And for all the progress made in the U.S., many other countries are struggling mightily at this time.

There is reason to believe that the economy is like a coiled spring ready to explode when things open up fully, which could bode well for equity markets. Thus, the next few months appear to be crucial, as we wait to see if the gains we've achieved can be maintained and built upon, or if the virus will deliver another setback.

Here's hoping you and yours are managing to stay safe!

Warm regards,



Tony Reed, CPA, CFP  
President

## Overview:

Market Summary

World Stock Market Performance

World Asset Classes

US Stocks

International Developed Stocks

Emerging Markets Stocks

Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)

Commodities

Fixed Income

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

# 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%
	<b>2020 Q2</b>	<b>2009 Q2</b>	<b>2009 Q2</b>	<b>2009 Q3</b>	<b>2001 Q3</b>	<b>2008 Q4</b>
Worst Quarter	-22.8%	-23.3%	-27.6%	-36.1%	-3.4%	-2.7%
	<b>2008 Q4</b>	<b>2020 Q1</b>	<b>2008 Q4</b>	<b>2008 Q4</b>	<b>2021 Q1</b>	<b>2015 Q2</b>

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# Long-Term Market Summary

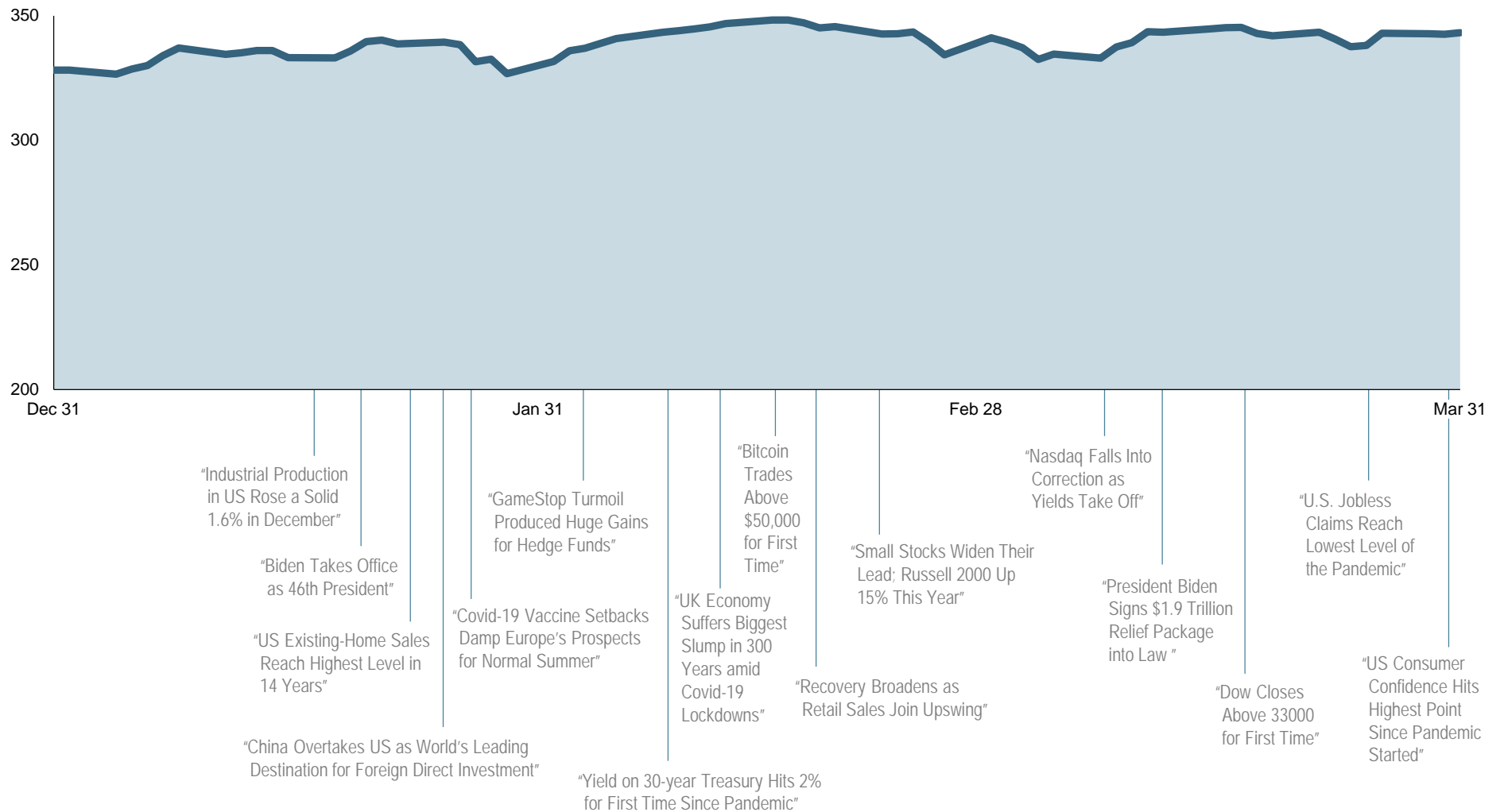
Index Returns as of March 31, 2021

	US Stock Market	International Developed Stocks	Emerging Markets Stocks	Global Real Estate	US Bond Market	Global Bond Market ex US
<b>1 Year</b>	<b>STOCKS</b>				<b>BONDS</b>	
	62.53%	45.86%	58.39%	36.05%	0.71%	1.45%
						
<b>5 Years</b>						
	16.64%	8.92%	12.07%	3.52%	3.10%	3.28%
						
<b>10 Years</b>						
	13.79%	5.21%	3.65%	6.23%	3.44%	4.22%
						

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# World Stock Market Performance

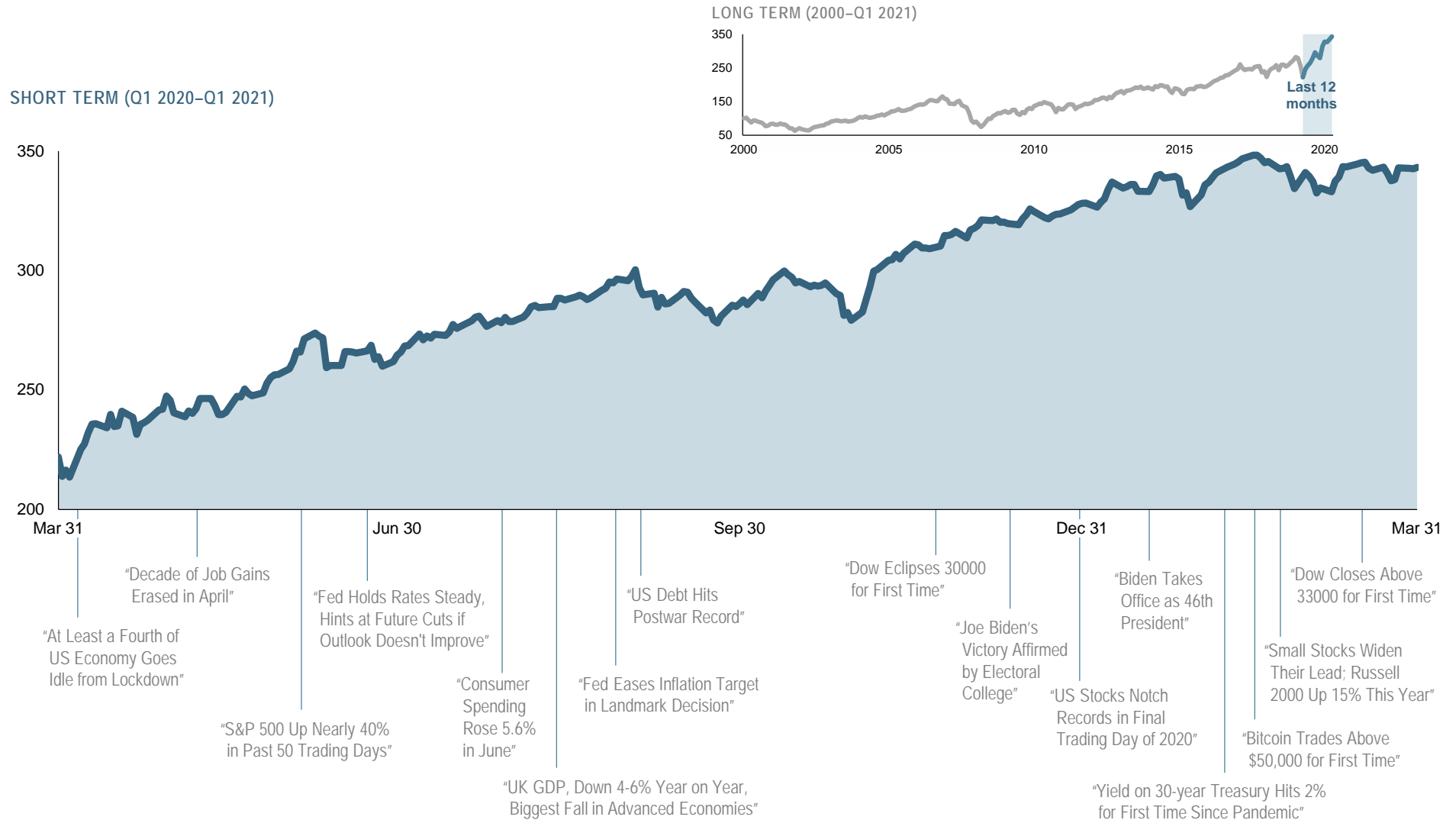
MSCI All Country World Index with selected headlines from Q1 2021



*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.*

# 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.

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.

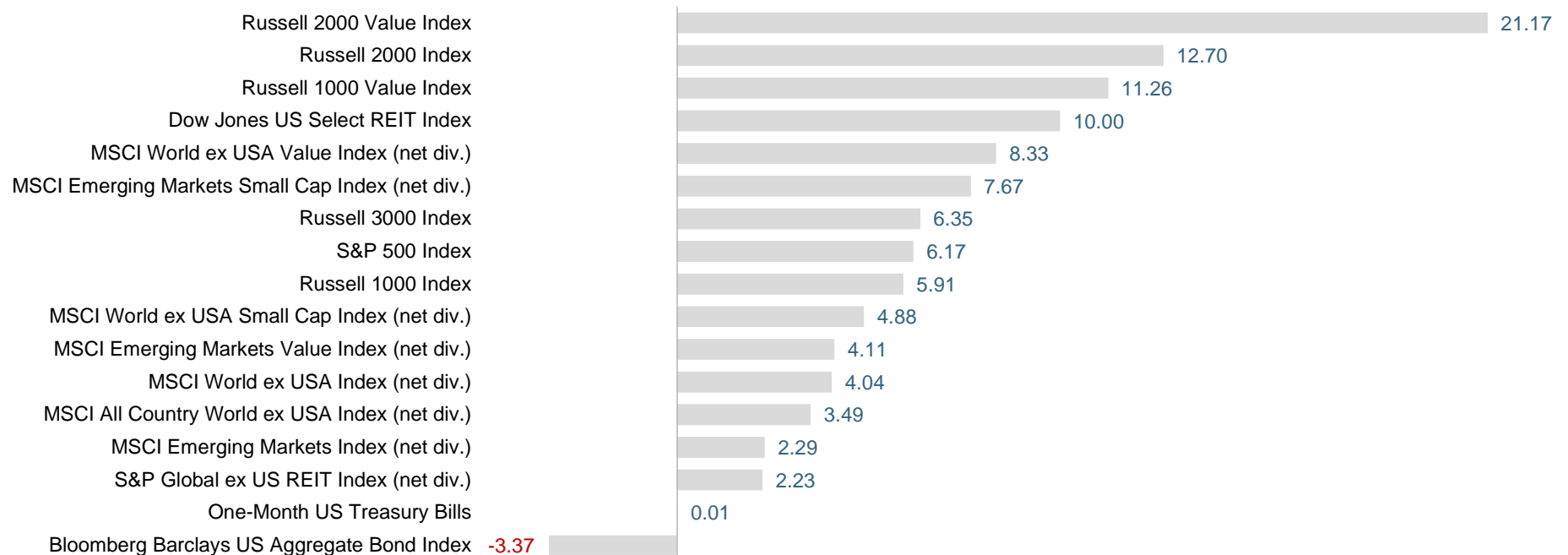
# World Asset Classes

## 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

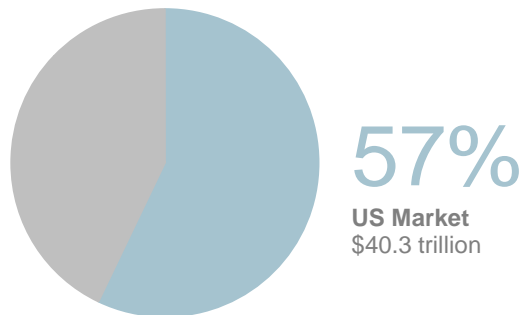
The US equity market posted positive returns for the quarter and outperformed non-US developed markets and emerging markets.

Value outperformed growth across large and small cap stocks.

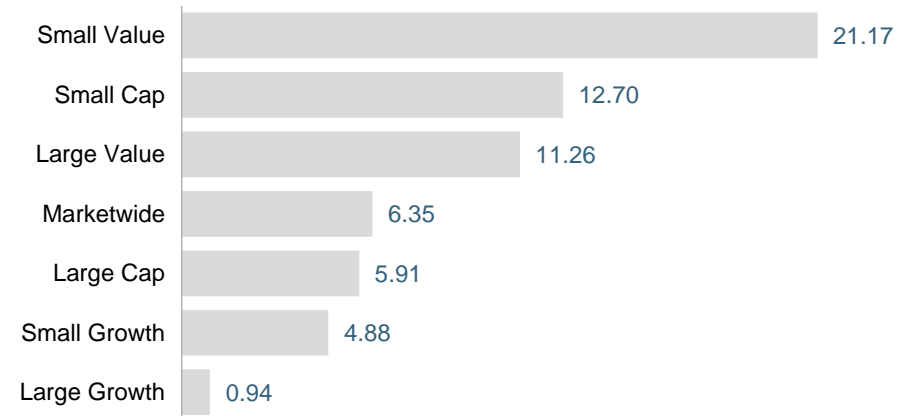
Small caps outperformed large caps.

REIT indices outperformed equity market indices.

### World Market Capitalization—US



### Ranked Returns (%)



### Period Returns (%)

Asset Class	YTD	* Annualized			
		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.

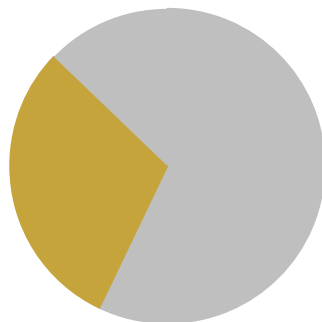
Value outperformed growth.

Small caps outperformed large caps.

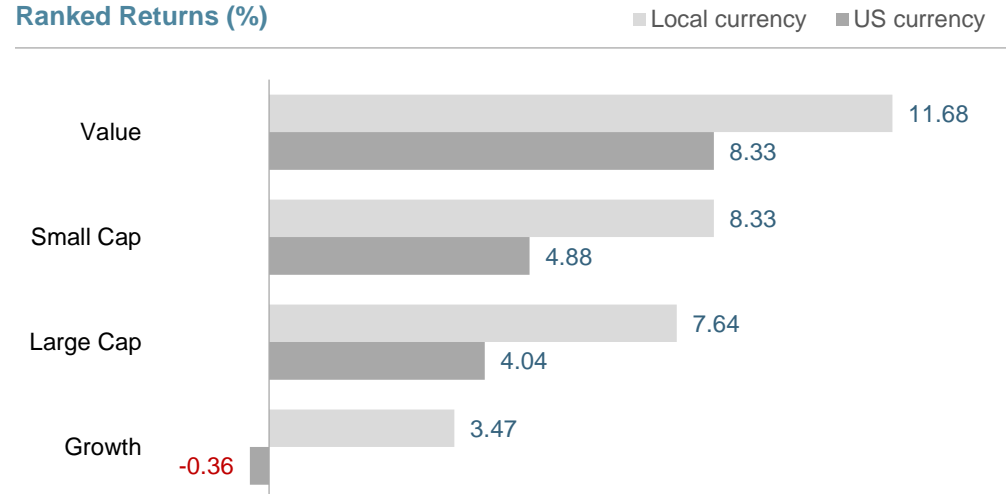
### World Market Capitalization—International Developed

**30%**

International  
Developed Market  
\$21.2 trillion



### Ranked Returns (%)



### Period Returns (%)

	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

\* Annualized

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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.

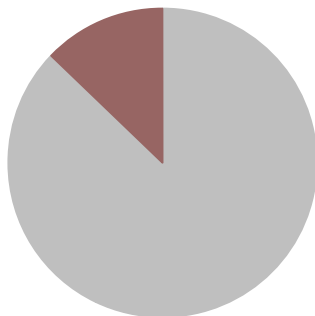
Value outperformed growth.

Small caps outperformed large caps.

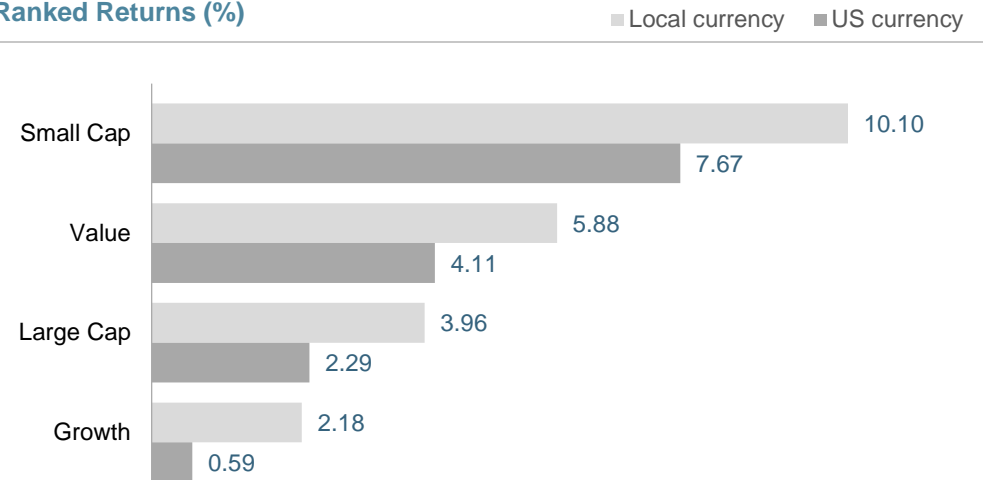
### World Market Capitalization—Emerging Markets

**13%**

Emerging Markets  
\$9.0 trillion



### Ranked Returns (%)



### 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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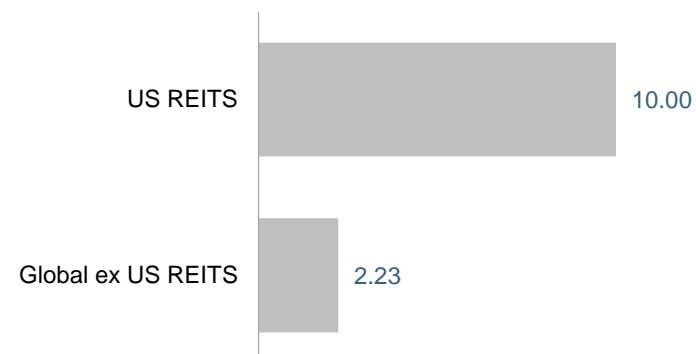
# Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)

## First Quarter 2021 Index Returns

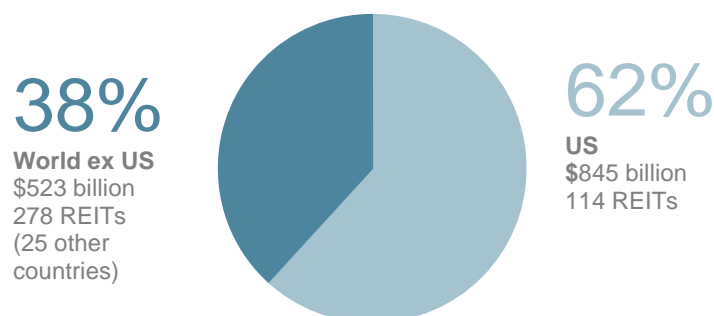


US real estate investment trusts outperformed non-US REITs during the quarter.

### Ranked Returns (%)



### Total Value of REIT Stocks



### 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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# 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.

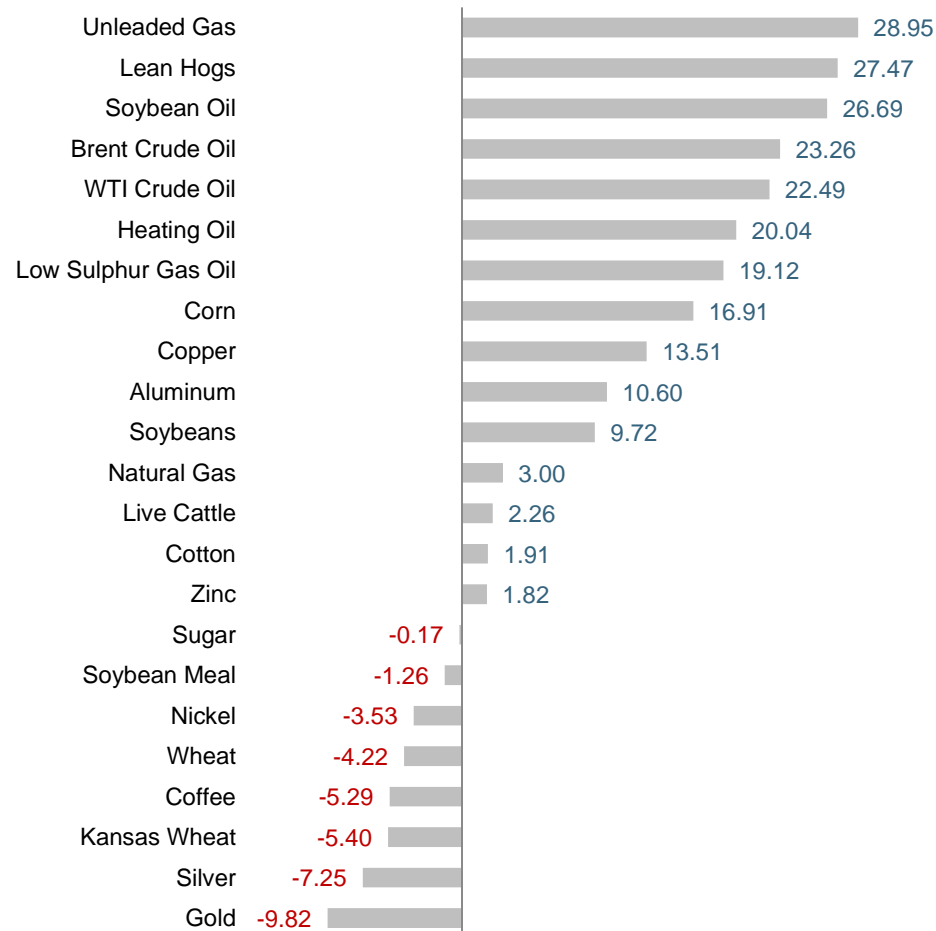
Gold and Silver were the worst performers, declining 9.82% and 7.25%, respectively.

### 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 (%)



# 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%.

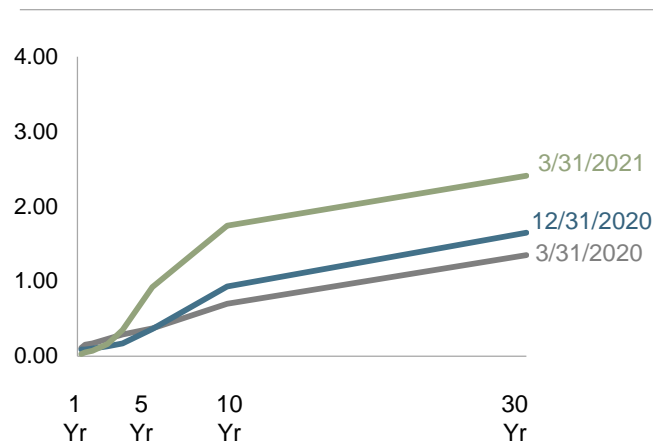
On the short end of the curve, the 1-Month US Treasury bill yield decreased 3 bps to 0.05%, and the 1-Year T-bill yield fell 5 bps to 0.08%. The yield on the 2-Year US Treasury note climbed 6 bps to end at 0.15%.

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

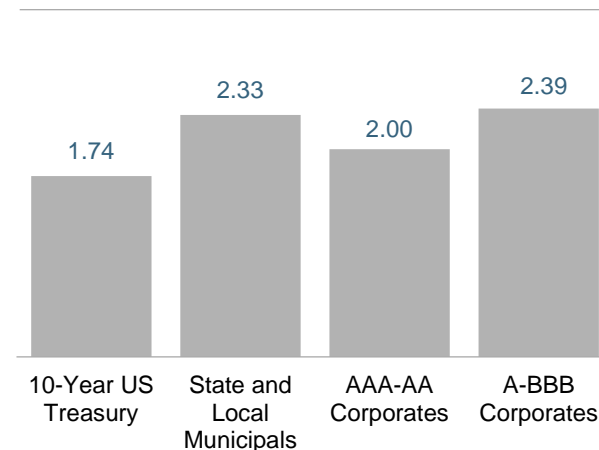
Intermediate-term corporate bonds declined 2.19%.

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 (%)

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

\*Annualized

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 (S&BBI) 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.

# 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<sup>1</sup> 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<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup> 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.”<sup>4</sup> 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 14)

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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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