

# Mid-Year Update — Continuing the Recovery

May 19, 2021

### Disclosures

CliftonLarsonAllen Wealth Advisors, LLC ("CLA Wealth Advisors")

The purpose of this publication is purely educational and informational. It is not intended to promote any product or service and should not be relied on for accounting, legal, tax, or investment advice. The views expressed are those of CLA Wealth Advisors and intended for a broad audience. They are subject to change at any time and do not take your individual circumstances into account. Past performance does not imply or guarantee future results. Investing entails risks, including possible loss of principal. Diversification cannot assure a profit or guarantee against a loss. Investing involves other forms of risk that are not described here. For that reason, you should contact an investment professional before acting on any information in this publication.

Financial information is from third party sources. Such information is believed to be reliable but is not verified or guaranteed. Performances from any indices in this report are presented without factoring fees or charges and are provided for reference and competitive purposes only. Any fees, charges, or holdings different than the indices will affect individual results. Indexes are unmanaged; one cannot invest directly into an index. bonds). Returns assume reinvestment of dividends and interest and when withdrawn, cash is not invested. Indices are unmanaged, do not incur fees and expenses, and cannot be invested in directly. Rebalancing may cause investors to incur transaction costs and, when rebalancing a non-retirement account, taxable events will be created that may increase your tax liability. Rebalancing a portfolio cannot assure a profit or protect against a loss in any given market environment. No one can predict the future and all information presented here is merely a demonstration of past performance.

Investment advisory services are offered through CliftonLarsonAllen Wealth Advisors, LLC, an SEC-registered investment advisor.

The information contained herein is general in nature and is not intended, and should not be construed, as legal, accounting, or tax advice or opinion provided by CliftonLarsonAllen LLP to the user. The user also is cautioned that this material may not be applicable to, or suitable for, the user's specific circumstances or needs, and may require consideration of non-tax and other tax factors if any action is to be contemplated. The user should contact his or her CliftonLarsonAllen LLP or other tax professional prior to taking any action based upon this information. CliftonLarsonAllen LLP assumes no obligation to inform the user of any changes in tax laws or other factors that could affect the information contained herein.



### Introductions

















Market update

### WEALTH ADVISORY | OUTSOURCING AUDIT, TAX, AND CONSULTING

Investment advisory services are offered through CliftonLarsonAllen
Wealth Advisors, LLC, an SEC-registered investment advisor

# Trend 1: In Q2 2021, Investors Embrace Cautious Optimism

#### **Bullish Market Signals**

- COVID-19 vaccine roll-out
- Job recovery
- Strong appetite for fiscal stimulus
- Bi-partisan Infrastructure support



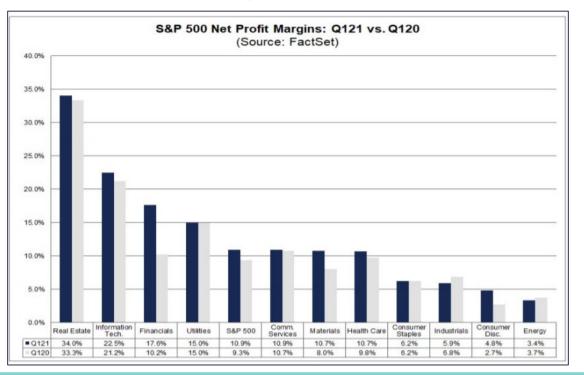
#### **Bearish Market Signals**

- Rich market valuations
- Growing inflation concerns
- Real interest rates begin to rise
- Volatility at the single-security level

Takeaway: Investors should be prepared to navigate any market environment



### Trend 2: Economic recovery is a tailwind to all industries



Takeaway: Given rich valuations, apply a value approach when investing in equities



### Trend 3: US Equity Valuations are at all time highs

Equity valuation percentiles (100% = most expensive)

|                              | -                      | •                  |
|------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| S&P 500 valuation metric     | Dec 2019<br>percentile | Current percentile |
| US market cap / GDP          | 99%                    | 100%               |
| Enterprise value / Sales     | 99%                    | 100%               |
| Enterprise value / EBITDA    | 93%                    | 100%               |
| Forward P/E                  | 88%                    | 96%                |
| Cash flow yield              | 85%                    | 96%                |
| Price / Book                 | 90%                    | 94%                |
| Cyclically adjusted P/E      | 89%                    | 94%                |
| Free cash flow yield         | 53%                    | 63%                |
| S&P earnings yield - 10Y UST | 28%                    | 40%                |
| Median metric                | 89%                    | 95%                |

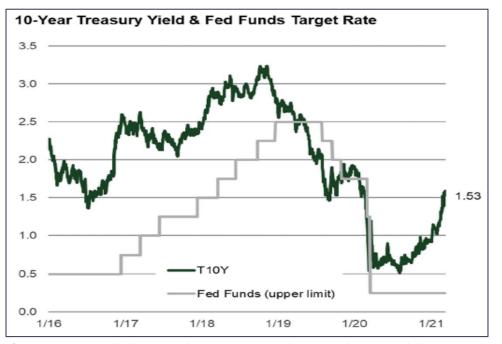
Source: Goldman Sachs Investment Research. EBITDA = earnings before interest, tax, depreciation, and amortization. February 9, 2021.

Takeaway: Focus on Fundamental metrics, such as free cash flow and earnings, when constructing portfolios



Trend 4: Rising interest rates point to an improving

economy

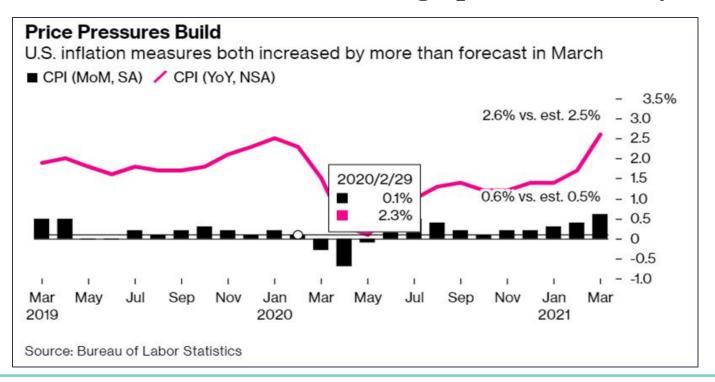


\*Source: Saint Louis Federal Reserve Bank, Green Street Research Commercial Property Outlook

Takeaway: Rising rates could mean an opportunity to invest in financial institutions, who can take advantage of the rising rates



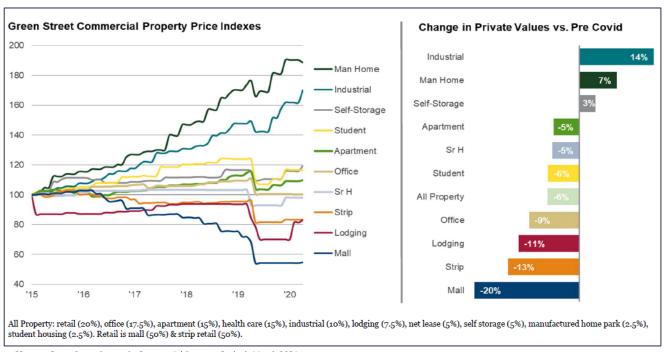
### Trend 5: Potential Inflation showing up in Commodity Prices



Takeaway: Rise in inflation is being driven by rise in fuel and food prices



### Trend 6: Private Real Estate sectors shows diverging performance

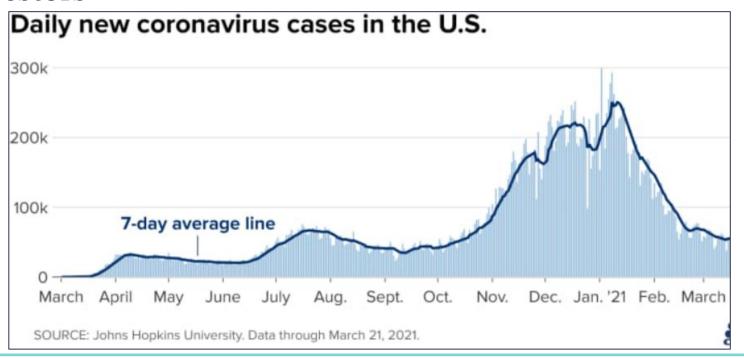


<sup>\*</sup>Source: Green Street Research Commercial Property Outlook March 2021

Takeaway: Manufactured Housing and Industrial sectors are showing resilience in current market environment



# Trend 7: Vaccine rollout puts COVID in rear-view mirror for investors



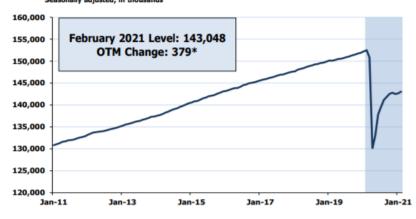
Takeaway: Investor optimism is being seen as money being put to work in both public and private markets



## Trend 8: Rebound in Employment still uneven across industries

Strong Rebound in Job Growth since March 2020

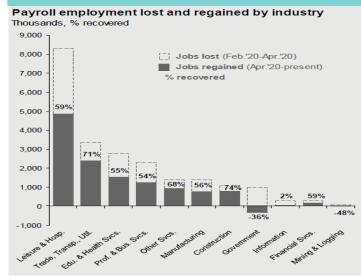
### Employment in total nonfarm January 2011–February 2021



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, March 05, 2021.
Shaded area represents recession as denoted by the National Bureau of Economic Research.
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

\* denotes significance.

### Uneven Job Recovery across industries signals pockets of distress



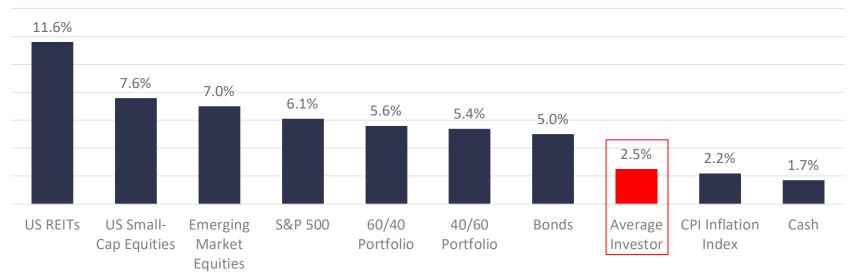
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, J.P. Morgan Asset Management. Guide to the Markets – U.S. Data are as of December 31, 2020.

Takeaway: Robust stimulus measures are effectively targeting industries impacted by COVID



### Trend 9: Staying invested amidst stimulus backdrop

20 Year Annualized Returns by Asset Class (1999-2019)



\*Sources: Bloomberg Data and JPM Morgan Guide to Markets Q1 2021

Takeaway: We see value in US equities, infrastructure, preferred securities, and dividend growth strategies



### Trend 10: Goals-Based Planning Should Drive Investing Strategy

### Low-cost, tax efficient, diversified strategies

Growth

Assets like **stocks** can grow cash flows beyond inflation, though with a high degree of volatility.

- U.S. Equity
- Int'l Developed Equity
- Emerging Market Equity
- Private Equity

Income

Assets like **bonds** often have steady cash flows and lowe volatility.

- Government Bond
- Municipal Bond:
- Investment Grade Bonds
- High Yield Bonds
- Cash Equivalents

**Diversifiers** 

Assets like **real estate** add portfolio diversification.

- Private Real Estate
- Private Credit
- REITs
- Preferred Securities

Takeaway: A well-constructed, diversified portfolio helps investors weather all market environments





### Legislation tax update

### WEALTH ADVISORY | OUTSOURCING AUDIT, TAX, AND CONSULTING

Investment advisory services are offered through CliftonLarsonAllen
Wealth Advisors LLC an SEC-registered investment advisor

### American Families Plan

### Current Law (2021)

- 37% top rate
- 20% top rate on cap gains & dividends
- 3.8% net investment income tax (over \$250k for couples)
- Income taxes apply upon sale; stepped-up basis at death
- No limit on like-kind exchanges

### President Biden's Proposal

- 39.6% top rate
- 39.6% cap gains & dividends (over \$1 million)
- \$3.8% would also apply to active income from businesses
- Income taxes on appreciation at death (\$1 million exclusion)
- \$500k limit on like-kind exchanges





### Current Tax Rates (Married Couples)

#### Taxable Years Beginning in 2021

| f Taxa | ble | Income | s: |
|--------|-----|--------|----|
|--------|-----|--------|----|

Not over \$19,900

Over \$19,900 but not over \$81,050

Over \$81,050 but not over \$172,750

Over \$172,750 but not over \$329,850

Over \$329,850 but not over \$418,850

Over \$418,850 but not over \$628,300

Over \$628,300

#### The Tax Is:

10% of the taxable income

\$1,990 plus 12% of the excess over \$19,900

\$9,328 plus 22% of the excess over \$81,050

\$29,502 plus 24% of the excess over \$172,750

\$67,206 plus 32% of the excess over \$329,850

\$95,686 plus 35% of the excess over \$418,850

\$168,993.50 plus 37% of the excess over \$628,300





### 39.6% Top Rate Proposal

Fact sheet: There is no mention of income thresholds. (These #s could change!)

#### Taxable Years Beginning in 2021

#### If Taxable Income Is:

Not over \$19,900

Over \$19,900 but not over \$81,050

Over \$81,050 but not over \$172,750

Over \$172,750 but not over \$329,850

Over \$329,850 but not over \$418,850

Over \$418,850 but not over \$62,000 \$509,300



#### The Tax Is:

10% of the taxable income

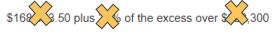
\$1,990 plus 12% of the excess over \$19,900

\$9,328 plus 22% of the excess over \$81,050

\$29,502 plus 24% of the excess over \$172,750

\$67,206 plus 32% of the excess over \$329,850

\$95,686 plus 35% of the excess over \$418,850



\$127,344 plus 39.6% of excess over \$509,300





### 39.6% Top Rate Proposal

Married couple



\$1 million of ordinary income







### 39.6% Top Rate Proposal

Married couple



\$1 million of ordinary income



Extra \$15,000 in taxes



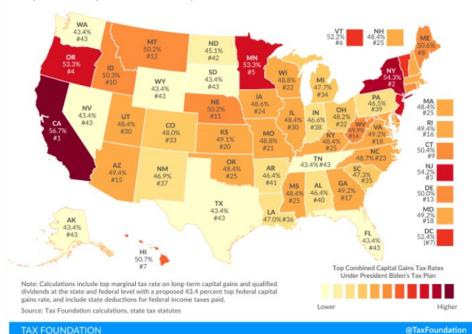




### Capital Gains Proposal

#### Top Combined Capital Gains Tax Rates Would Average 48 Percent Under Biden's Tax Plan

Top Combined Capital Gains Tax Rates by State Under President Biden's Tax Plan



- Top rate is currently20% + 3.8% = 23.8%
- Pres. Biden proposes43.4% (over \$1 million)
- Average top rate at state level is 5.2%
- Combined capital gains tax rates would exceed
   50% in some states



### Capital Gains Proposal

Married couple



\$1 million of capital gains







### Capital Gains Proposal

Married couple



\$1 million of capital gains



Extra \$200,000 in taxes







### Medicare Tax Proposal

- Fact sheet: "Finally, high-income workers and investors generally pay a 3.8 percent Medicare tax on their earnings, but the application is inconsistent across taxpayers due to holes in the law. The President's tax reform would apply the taxes consistently to those making over \$400,000, ensuring that all high-income Americans pay the same Medicare taxes."
- WSJ: The Bidens routed book and speech income through S corps saving \$500k in self-employment tax.



### Example

| Current law:       |              |               |               | Social Security   | Medicare   | Additional    | Net Investment |              |
|--------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
|                    |              |               |               | Tax               | Tax        | Medicare      | Income Tax     | Total        |
|                    |              | Business      | Total         | 12.40%            | 2.90%      | 0.90%         | 3.80%          | Payroll      |
|                    | Wages        | <u>Income</u> | <u>Income</u> | (up to \$142,800) | (no limit) | (over \$250k) | (over \$250k)  | <u>Taxes</u> |
|                    |              |               |               |                   |            |               |                |              |
| Во                 | \$14,000,000 |               | \$14,000,000  | \$17,707          | \$406,000  | \$123,750     | 1              | \$547,457    |
| Joe & Joe's S Corp | \$1,000,000  | \$13,000,000  | \$14,000,000  | \$17,707          | \$29,000   | \$6,750       | /              | \$53,457     |



- Bo has a "tell-all" contract with Presidential Publishing Company for \$14 million.
- Joe's S Corp has a contract with Presidential Publishing Company for \$14 million. The S Corp pays Joe a wage (reasonable compensation).
- Bo pays \$500k more in payroll taxes than Joe.





### Example

| Current law:       |              |               |               | Social Security   | Medicare   | Additional    | Net Investment |              |
|--------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
|                    |              |               |               | Tax               | Tax        | Medicare      | Income Tax     | Total        |
|                    |              | Business      | Total         | 12.40%            | 2.90%      | 0.90%         | 3.80%          | Payroll      |
|                    | Wages        | <u>Income</u> | <u>Income</u> | (up to \$142,800) | (no limit) | (over \$250k) | (over \$250k)  | <u>Taxes</u> |
|                    |              |               |               |                   |            |               |                |              |
| Во                 | \$14,000,000 |               | \$14,000,000  | \$17,707          | \$406,000  | \$123,750     |                | \$547,457    |
| Joe & Joe's S Corp | \$1,000,000  | \$13,000,000  | \$14,000,000  | \$17,707          | \$29,000   | \$6,750       |                | \$53,457     |



| Proposal??? |              |               |               | Social Security   | Medicare   | Additional    | Tax on Business |              |
|-------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
|             |              |               |               | Tax               | Tax        | Medicare      | Income???       | Total        |
|             |              | Business      | Total         | 12.40%            | 2.90%      | 0.90%         | 3.80%           | Payroll      |
|             | Wages        | <u>Income</u> | <u>Income</u> | (up to \$142,800) | (no limit) | (over \$250k) | (over \$400k)   | <u>Taxes</u> |
|             |              |               |               |                   |            |               |                 |              |
| Во          | \$14,000,000 |               | \$14,000,000  | \$17,707          | \$406,000  | \$123,750     |                 | \$547,457    |
| Joe         | \$1,000,000  | \$13,000,000  | \$14,000,000  | \$17,707          | \$29,000   | \$6,750       | \$494,000       | \$547,457    |





### Ending the "Stepped-up" Basis Proposal

- President's proposal would tax appreciated property at death
- \$1 million exemption (\$2 million per couple; \$500k home)
- Exceptions
  - Donations to charity
  - Family-owned businesses & farms (if heirs continue to run the business)
- Not yet addressed
  - Lifetime transfers
  - Changes in estate and gift tax rates; changes in exemption





### Example

- Estate tax is based on FMV at death
- Income tax is based on appreciated gain (even if the asset is NOT sold)
- Income tax could exceed estate tax

| <u>Assets</u>             | <u>FMV</u>    | <u>Basis</u> | <b>Unrealized Gain</b> |
|---------------------------|---------------|--------------|------------------------|
| 50,000 shs Ralston Purina | \$6,050,000   | \$50,000     | \$6,000,000            |
| 200,000 shs General Mills | \$12,600,000  | \$1,600,000  | \$11,000,000           |
| Total                     | \$18,650,000  | \$1,650,000  | \$17,000,000           |
|                           |               |              |                        |
| Estate & gift taxes       |               |              |                        |
| Exemption at death (2021) | -\$11,700,000 |              |                        |
| Taxable estate            | \$6,950,000   |              |                        |
|                           |               | 4            |                        |
| Estate taxes              | \$2,725,800   |              |                        |
|                           |               |              |                        |
| Estate & gift taxes       |               |              |                        |
| Exemption at death        |               |              | -\$1,000,000           |
| Taxable gain              |               |              | \$16,000,000           |
|                           |               |              |                        |
| Income taxes              |               |              | \$6,944,000            |





### Example

- Estate tax is based on FMV at death
- Income tax is based on appreciated gain (even if the asset is NOT sold)
- Income tax could exceed estate tax

| A I -                     | ED 4) /       | D '-         |                        |
|---------------------------|---------------|--------------|------------------------|
| <u>Assets</u>             | <u>FMV</u>    | <u>Basis</u> | <u>Unrealized Gain</u> |
| 50,000 shs Ralston Purina | \$6,050,000   | \$50,000     | \$6,000,000            |
| 200,000 shs General Mills | \$12,600,000  | \$1,600,000  | \$11,000,000           |
| Total                     | \$18,650,000  | \$1,650,000  | \$17,000,000           |
|                           |               |              |                        |
| Estate & gift taxes       |               |              |                        |
| Exemption at death (2021) | -\$11,700,000 |              |                        |
| Taxable estate            | \$6,950,000   |              |                        |
|                           |               |              |                        |
| Estate taxes              | \$2,725,800   |              |                        |
|                           |               |              |                        |
| Estate & gift taxes       |               |              |                        |
| Exemption at death        |               |              | -\$1,000,000           |
| Taxable gain              |               |              | \$16,000,000           |
|                           |               |              |                        |
| Income taxes              |               |              | \$6,944,000            |







### Like-kind Exchanges

- Current law
  - Individuals can defer gain on the sale of real estate.
  - There is no dollar limit.
  - Property must be held for productive use in a business or as investment property.
  - Must identify and receive "like-kind" property within deadlines.
- For exchanges after 1/1/2018, likekind exchanges are limited to real estate.





### Like-kind Exchanges

#### Current law

- Individuals can defer gain on the sale of real estate.
- There is no dollar limit.
- Property must be held for productive use in a business or as investment property.
- Must identify and receive "like-kind" property within deadlines.



Property A is sold for \$10x.

No gain recognized in 2021.



Property B is bought for \$10x.





### Like-kind Exchange Proposal

- Fact sheet: "The President would also end the special real estate tax break that allows real estate investors to defer taxation when they exchange property for gains greater than \$500,000. . ."
- Open issues
  - Is it per individual or per taxpayer?
  - o Is it per year? Or every several years?
  - Is it per disposition?
  - For passthroughs, is it at the entity level or member/partner level?
  - When would it be effective?





### Proposed Fiscal Year 2022 U.S. Budget

- When will we have details about President Biden's proposals?
- Green book expected release: last week of May







Panel Discussion



Investment advisory services are offered through CliftonLarsonAllen
Wealth Advisors, LLC, an SEC-registered investment advisor



### Questions

### WEALTH ADVISORY | OUTSOURCING AUDIT, TAX, AND CONSULTING

Investment advisory services are offered through CliftonLarsonAllen Wealth Advisors, LLC, an SEC-registered investment advisor

### We're Here For You



Find additional resources and learn about upcoming events at <a href="CLAconnect.com">CLAconnect.com</a>.



Improving your financial health starts with an honest check-in.

Our guidance can help organizations and individuals stay on the right track.

Learn More





### Thank you!

Tara Frazer @CLAconnect.com

Melissa Labant@CLAconnect.com

Chris Dhanraj @CLAconnect.com



CLAconnect.com









