



# **INVESTMENT STRATEGY BRIEF:**

Storms or Clear Skies Ahead?

STIFEL

### **Inflation and Federal Reserve (Fed) Policy Weigh on the Markets: Storms or Clear Skies Ahead?**

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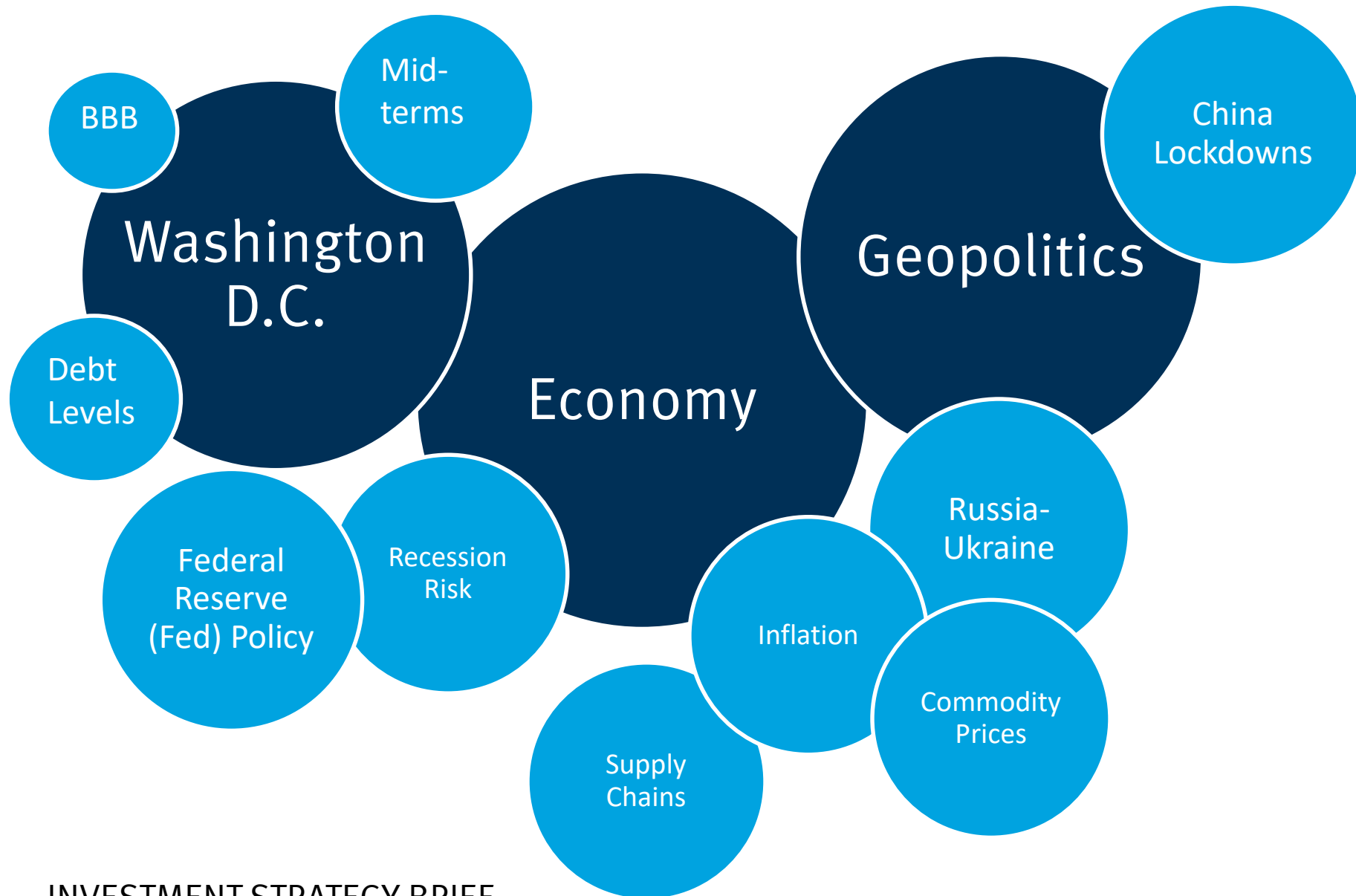
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### **Finding Our Guidance**

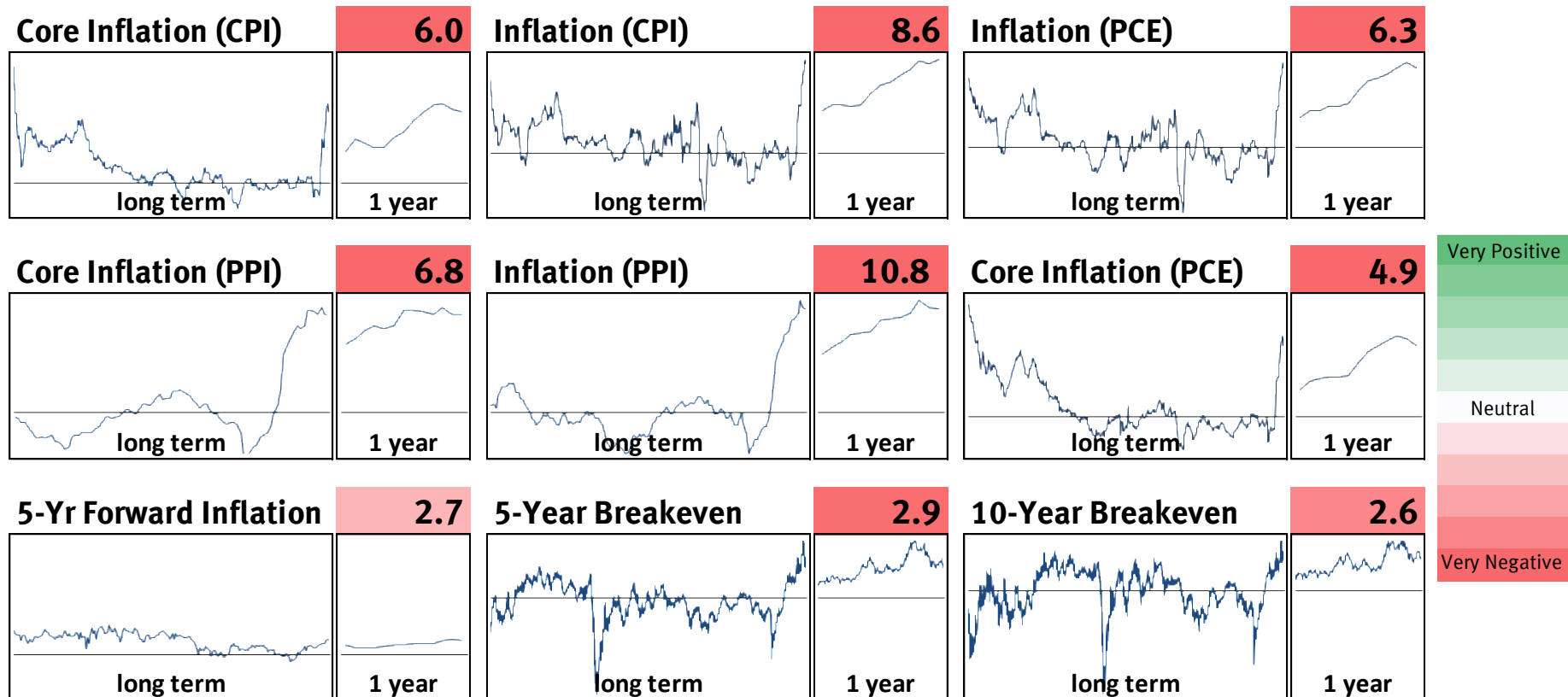
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## **Inflation and Fed Policy Weigh on the Markets: Storms or Clear Skies Ahead?**



## Inflation

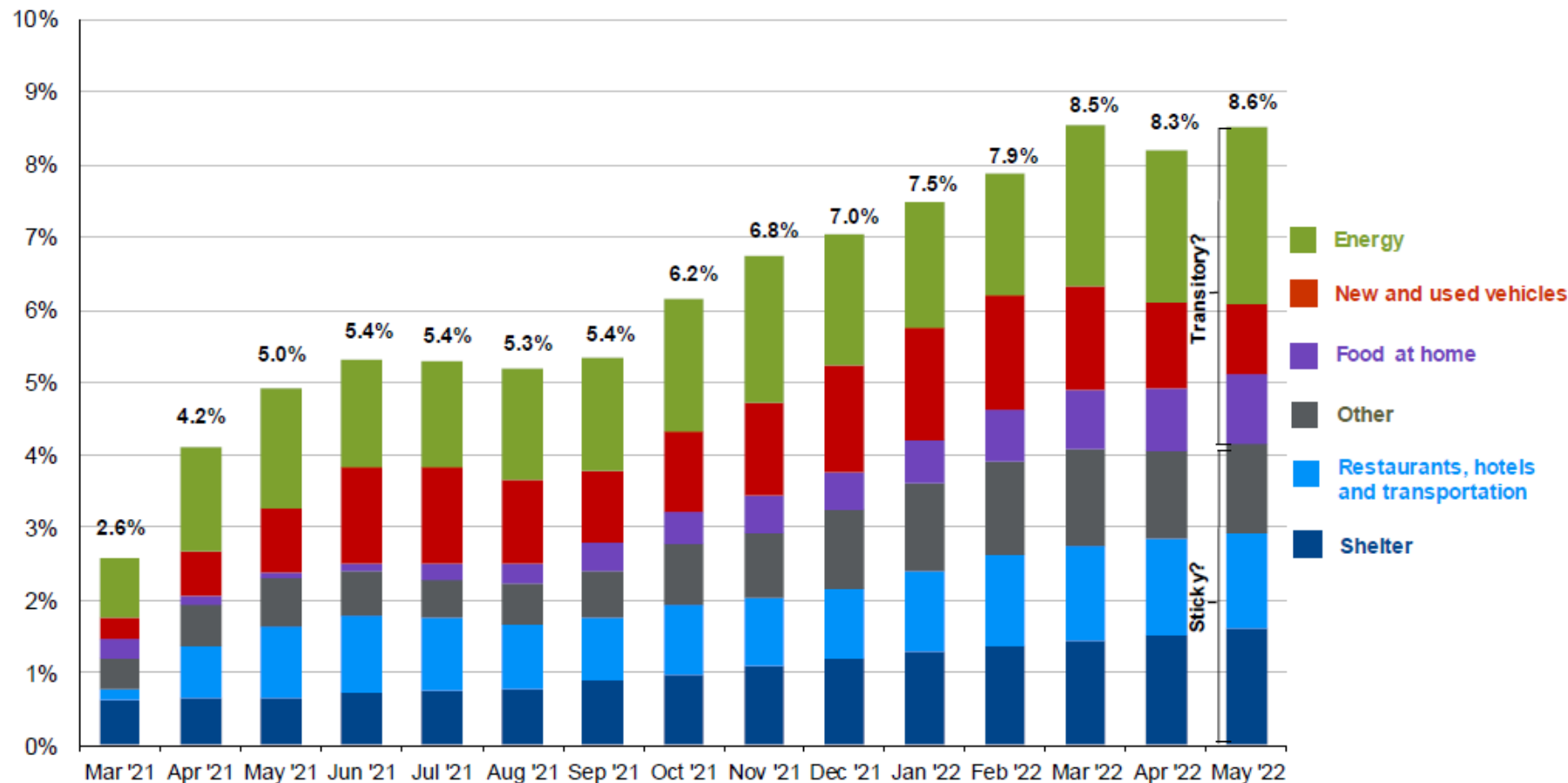


All Inflation numbers reflect percent year-over-year changes.

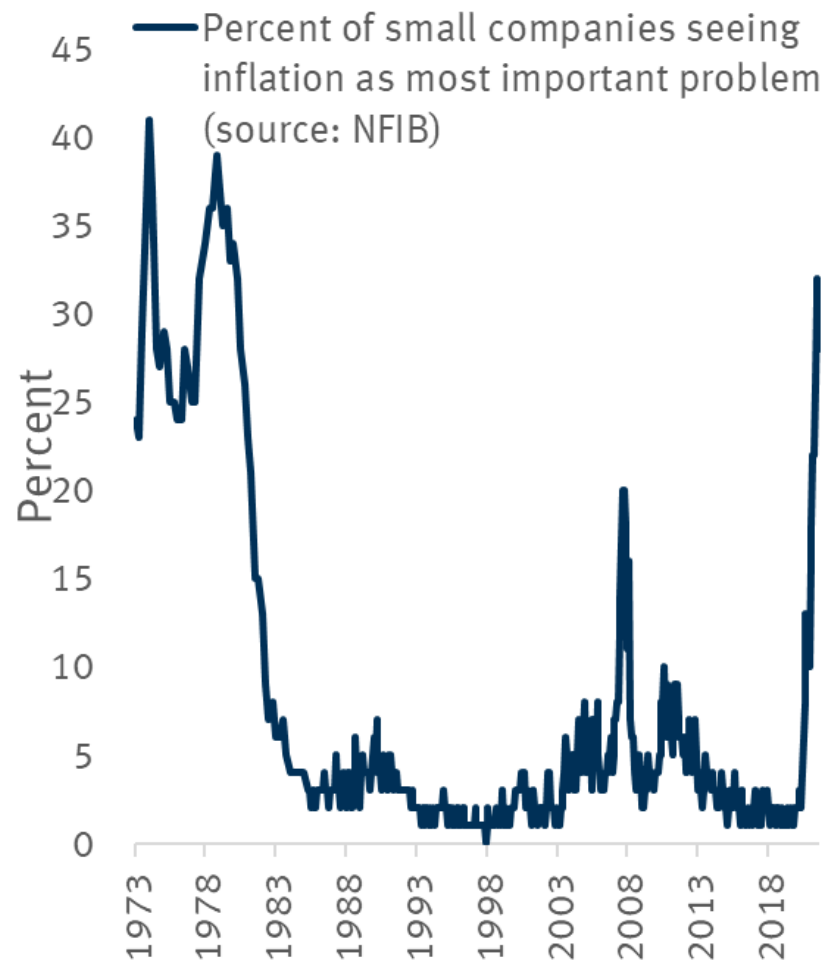
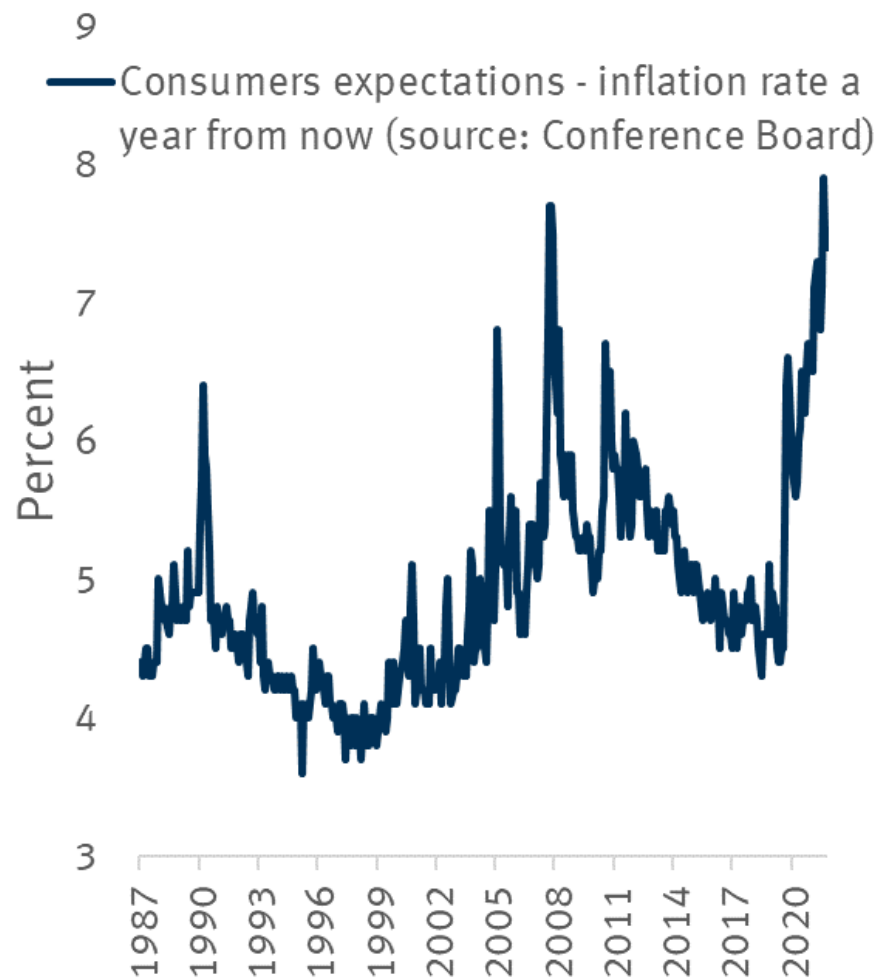
Source: Stifel Investment Strategy via Bloomberg, as of June 16, 2022

## Contributors to headline inflation

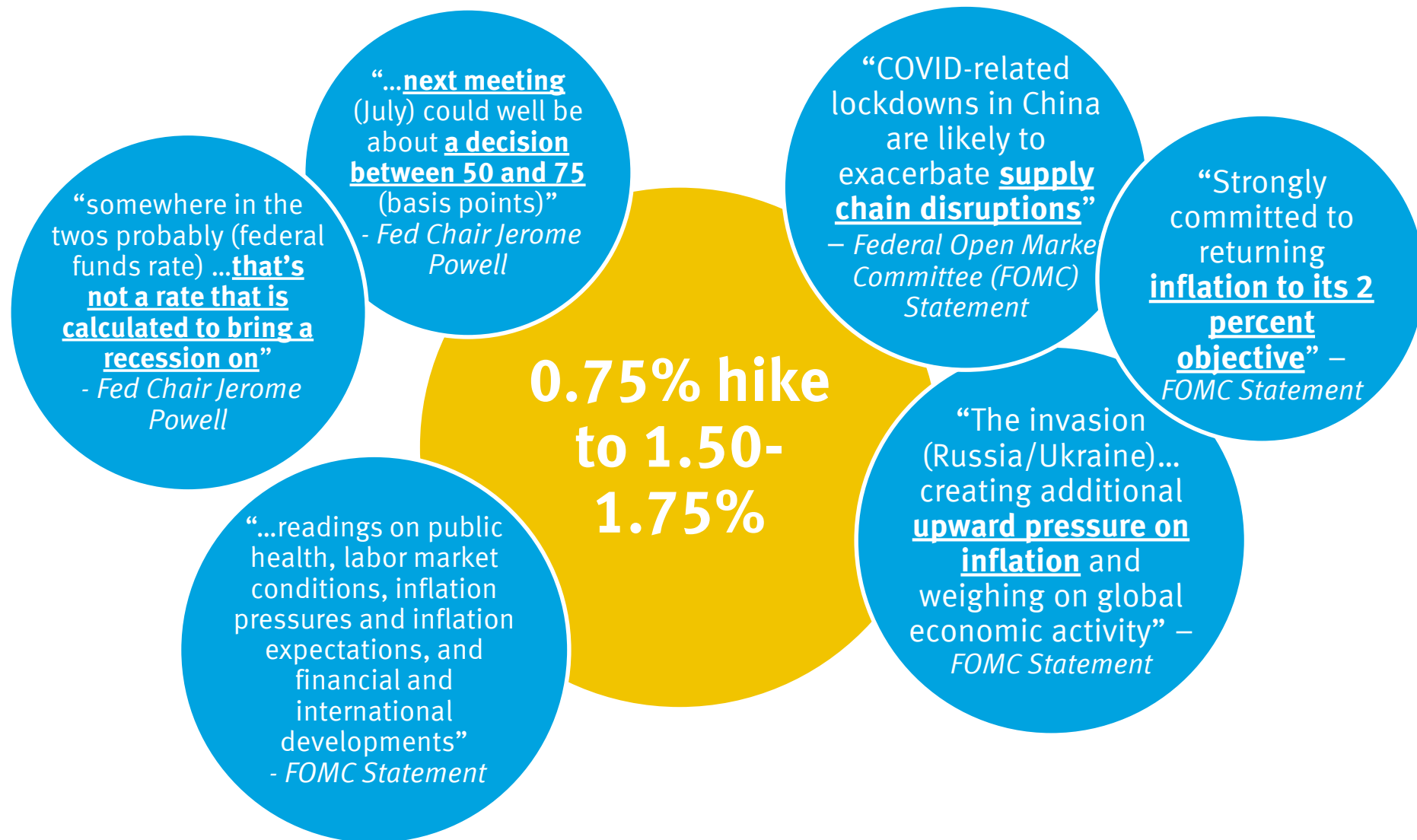
Contribution to y/y % change in CPI, non seasonally adjusted



Source: BLS, J.P. Morgan Asset Management. Contributions mirror the BLS methodology on Table 7 of the CPI report. Values may not sum to headline CPI figures due to rounding and underlying calculations. "Shelter" includes owners equivalent rent and rent of primary residence. "Other" primarily reflects household furnishings, apparel and medical care services.  
 Guide to the Markets – U.S. Data are as of June 15, 2022.



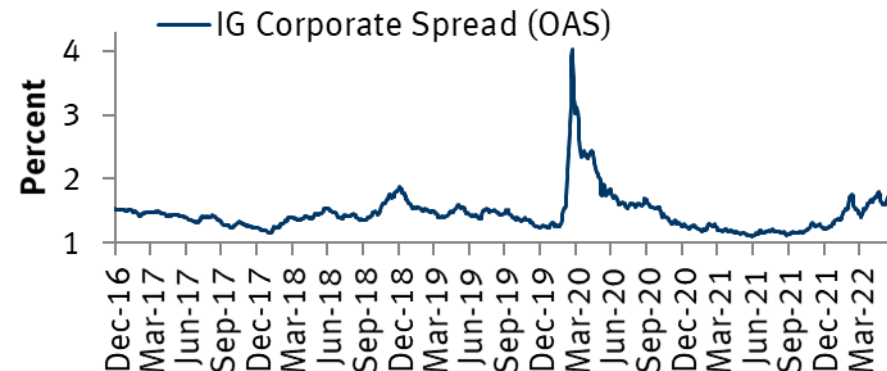
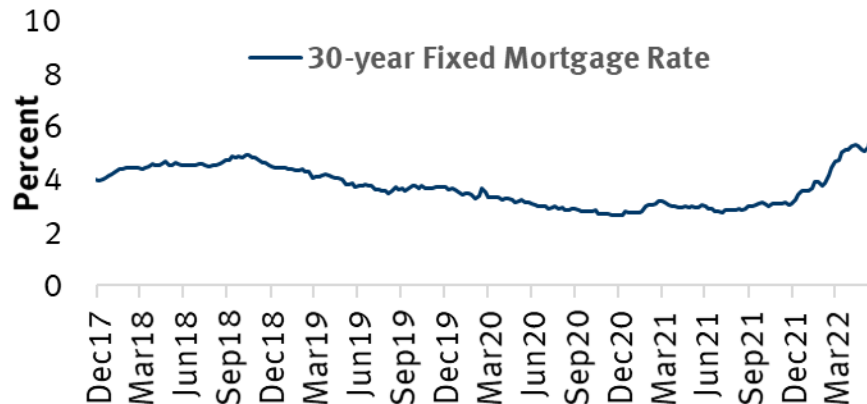
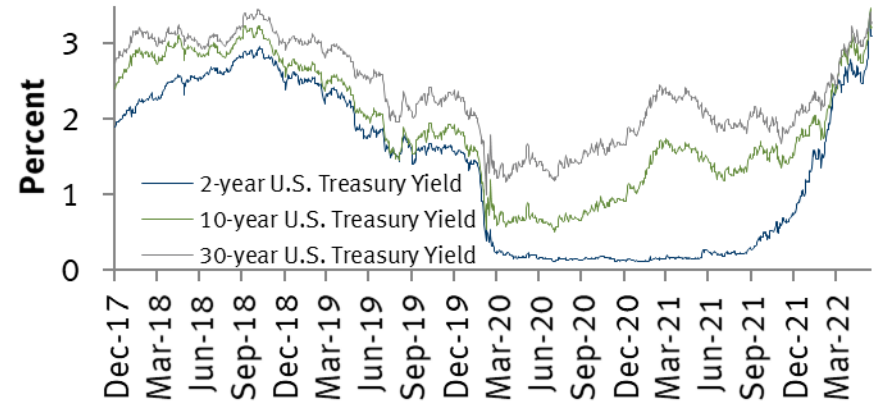
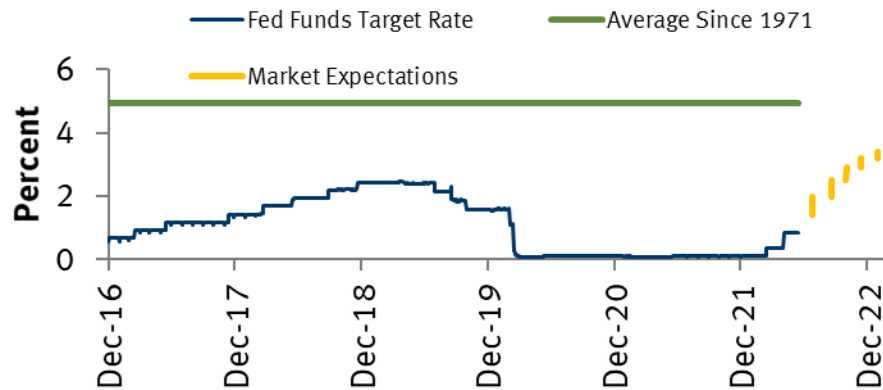
Source: Stifel Investment Strategy data via Bloomberg, as of June 16, 2022





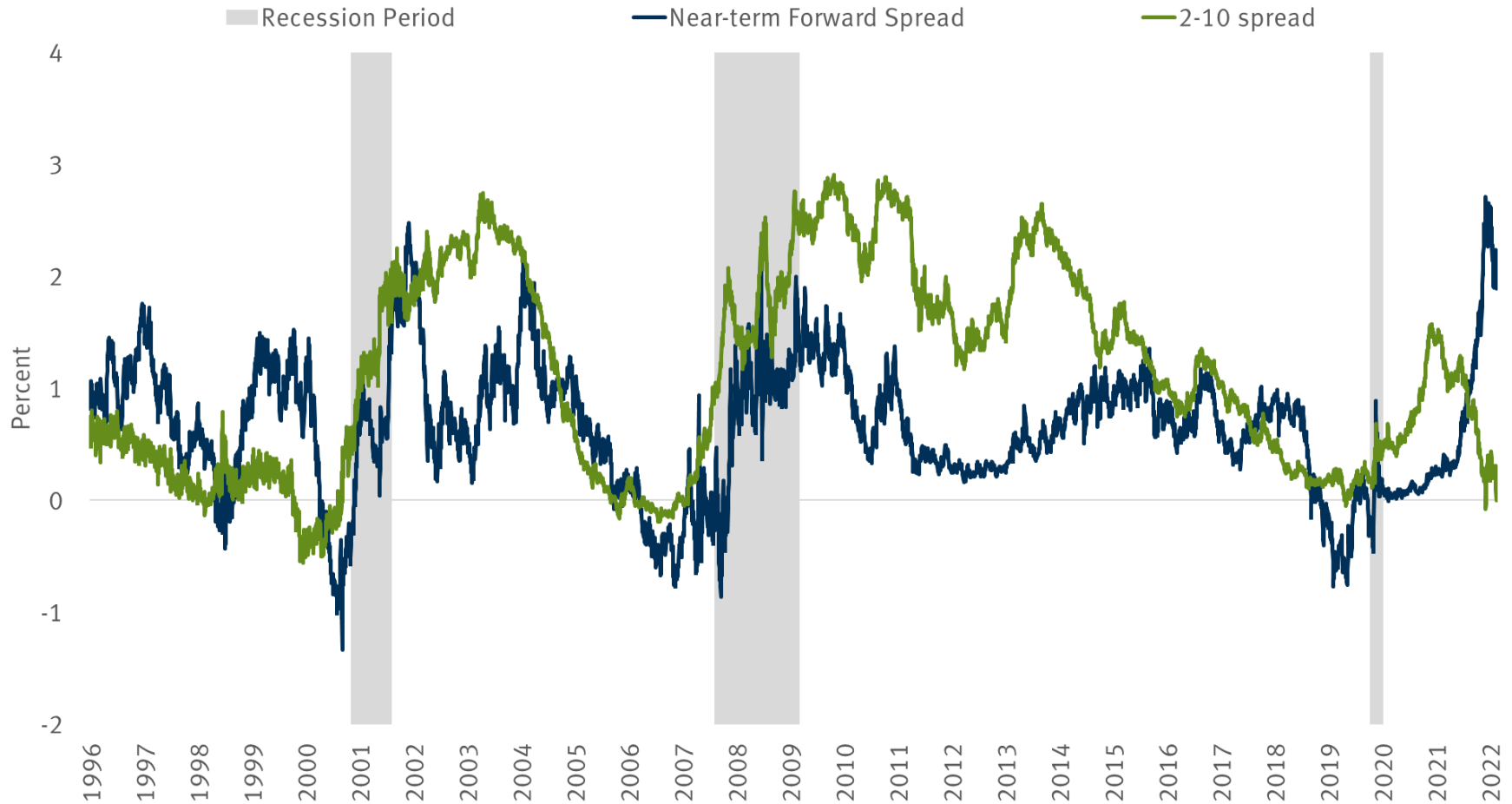
<i>Economic Variable</i>	2022	2023	2024	Longer run
<b>Federal Funds Rate</b>				
FOMC June SEP	3.4%	3.8%	3.4%	2.5%
FOMC March SEP	1.9%	2.8%	2.8%	2.4%
FOMC December 2021 SEP	0.9%	1.6%	2.1%	2.5%
<b>Real GDP (% Change 4Q/4Q)</b>				
FOMC June SEP	1.7%	1.7%	1.9%	1.8%
FOMC March SEP	2.8%	2.2%	2.0%	1.8%
FOMC December 2021 SEP	4.0%	2.2%	2.0%	1.8%
<b>Unemployment Rate (4Q Average)</b>				
FOMC June SEP	3.7%	3.9%	4.1%	4.0%
FOMC March SEP	3.5%	3.5%	3.6%	4.0%
FOMC December 2021 SEP	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	4.0%
<b>PCE Inflation (% Change 4Q/4Q)</b>				
FOMC June SEP	5.2%	2.6%	2.2%	2.0%
FOMC March SEP	4.3%	2.7%	2.3%	2.0%
FOMC December 2021 SEP	2.6%	2.3%	2.1%	2.0%
<b>Core PCE Inflation (% Change 4Q/4Q)</b>				
FOMC June SEP	4.3%	2.7%	2.3%	
FOMC March SEP	4.1%	2.6%	2.3%	
FOMC December 2021 SEP	2.7%	2.3%	2.1%	

## Rates and Spreads



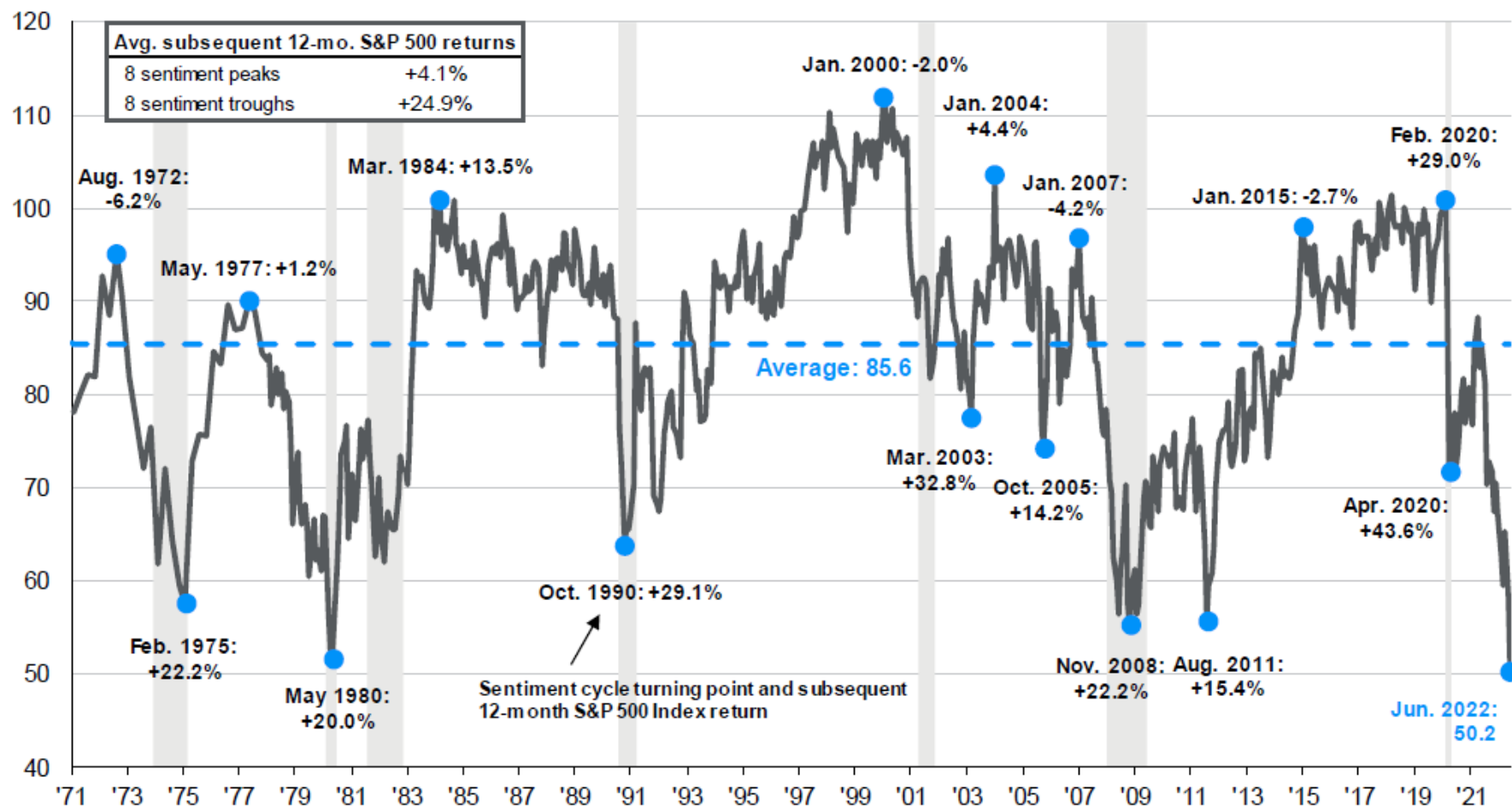
*OAS Spread is the measurement of the spread of a fixed-income security rate and the risk-free rate of return, which is adjusted to take into account an embedded option*

Source: Stifel Investment Strategy data via Bloomberg, as of June 17, 2022



Source: Stifel Investment Strategy data via Bloomberg, as of June 16, 2022

## Consumer Sentiment Index and subsequent 12-month S&amp;P 500 returns



Source: FactSet, Standard & Poor's, University of Michigan, J.P. Morgan Asset Management.

Peak is defined as the highest index value before a series of lower lows, while a trough is defined as the lowest index value before a series of higher highs. Subsequent 12-month S&P 500 returns are price returns only, which excludes dividends. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of current and future results.

Guide to the Markets – U.S. Data are as of June 15, 2022.

## Recession-Recovery Dashboard

## Financial

Yield Curve

Credit Spreads

Money Supply

## Inflation

Wage Growth

Commodities

Inflation (PCE)

## Consumer

Housing Starts

Jobless Claims

Retail Sales

Job Sentiment

## Business Activity

ISM New Orders

Profit Margins

Truck Shipments

Expansion

Caution

Recession

- Flatter yield curve often signals economic growth slowdown
- Credit spreads are approaching historic average levels, but remain low.
- Historically high money supply growth dropping
- Wages growth picking up on pent-up demand and labor market mismatches
- Commodity prices boosted by global demand, geopolitical risk premium, and relative demand/supply deficit
- Prices remain stubbornly high both due to structural and cyclical factors
- Housing starts are elevated on historically low real estate inventory and demand despite significant movement in mortgage rates
- Jobless claims remain subdued on strong hiring
- Growth in retail sector is positive despite real disposable income falling below trend
- More people have been quitting job as leverage has shifted from employer to employees
- Key leading indicator ISM New Orders continue to grow at a decelerating pace
- Profit margins remain historically high but risks are meaningful on price pressures
- Solid truck shipments indicate cyclical recovery

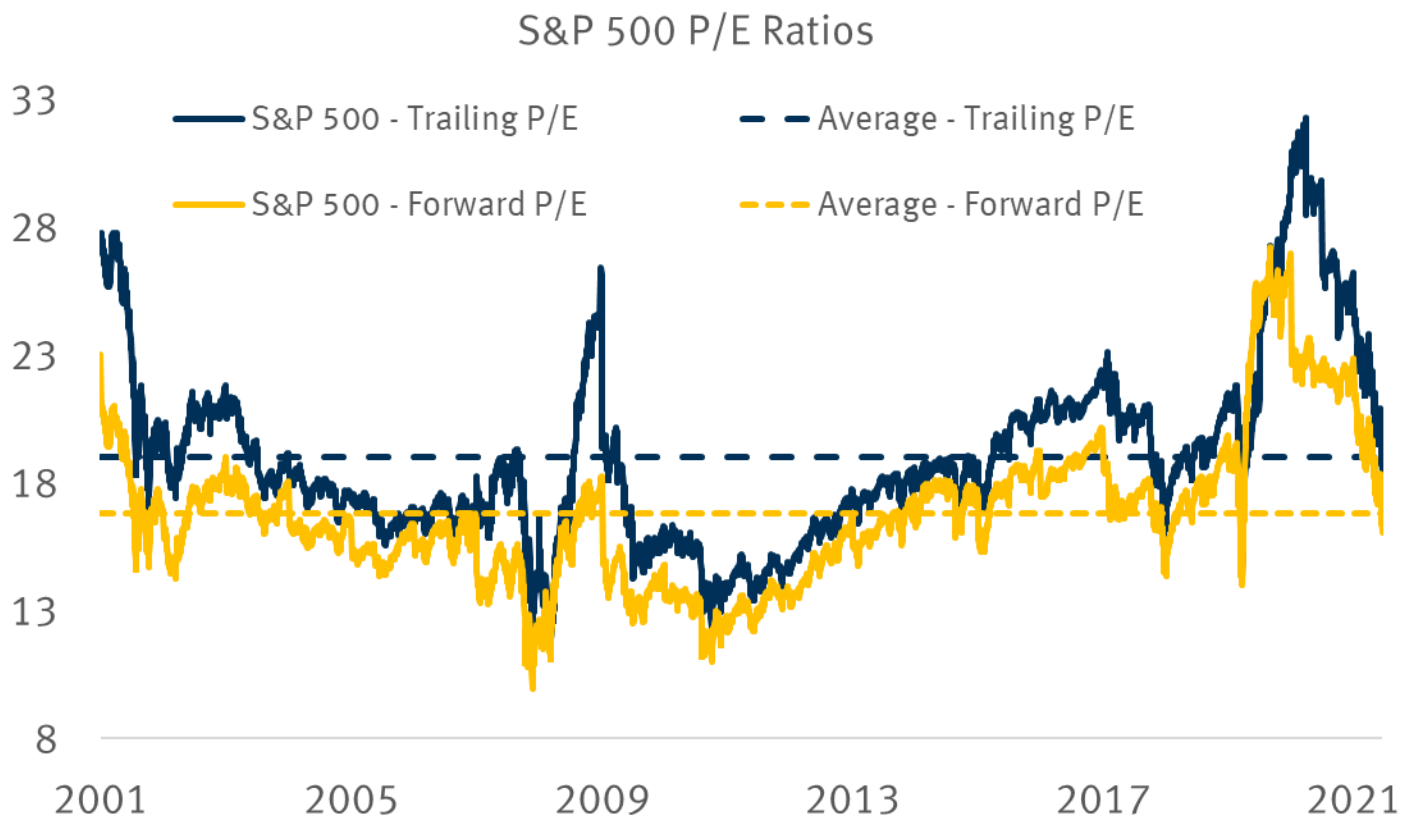
Source: Stifel Investment Strategy data via  
Bloomberg, as of June 16, 2022

U.S. GDP	Q3 21	Q4 21	Q1 22	Q2 22	Q3 22	Q4 22	2020	2021	2022	2023
Consensus Estimates	2.3	6.9	-1.4	3.0	2.4	2.1	-3.4	5.7	2.6	2.0
Stifel*	5.0	3.2	1.2	2.4	1.8	2.1	-3.5	5.3	2.5	1.1
IHS Markit	1.5	6.2	0.7	0.8	2.2	2.5	-3.6	5.7	2.5	1.8
Goldman Sachs	3.3	7.0	1.5	3.0	2.3	1.5	-3.4	5.7	2.5	1.6
Capital Economics	2.6	4.5	1.2	3.6	1.5	1.7	-3.5	5.7	2.6	1.5
Strategas	2.0	5.7	1.0	1.0	2.5	1.0	-3.2	5.6	2.1	1.1
UBS	3.4	6.1	1.5	4.2	2.7	2.1	-3.5	5.6	2.8	2.0
Wells Fargo	3.0	5.9	0.6	4.2	2.2	2.1	-3.5	5.6	2.8	2.1
Bloomberg Economics	3.5	5.0	1.2	2.5	2.2	1.7	-3.5	5.6	2.4	1.6
Barclays	3.0	5.5	1.5	5.0	3.0	1.5	-3.5	5.6	3.0	1.7
JPMorgan Chase	3.0	7.0	1.1	3.3	2.8	2.0	-3.5	5.7	2.7	1.8
Bank of America ML	4.5	6.0	1.0	3.1	2.5	1.8	-3.5	5.6	2.6	1.5
Federal Reserve**							-2.4	5.5	1.7	1.7

Annualized percent change from prior quarter and year-over-year change are shown for quarterly and yearly periods, respectively.

\*Based on Stifel sell-side Economics department estimates. \*\*Percent change from fourth quarter to fourth quarter one year ago.

Source: Stifel Investment Strategy data via Bloomberg, as of June 16, 2022. Federal Reserve estimates are as of June 15, 2022. Figures in grey areas under "Consensus Estimates" represent reported results.

Read: Risks to the Stock Market

Source: Stifel Investment Strategy via Bloomberg, as of June 17, 2022 (intra-day)

*This environment, more than others, is uncertain. In such a setting, we find it helpful to define and evaluate scenarios based on what might happen, how likely it is to happen, and the corresponding economic and market implications.*

**Clouds Darken Ominously: 33%**

**Storms More Likely**

- Inflation remains elevated given supply/ demand imbalances the Fed cannot influence with policy (e.g., supply chain, commodities).
- Interest rates rise with fear of more Fed action.
- Equities decline further given these negatives.
- A more hawkish Fed policy triggers a recession.

**Skies Begin to Clear: 67%**

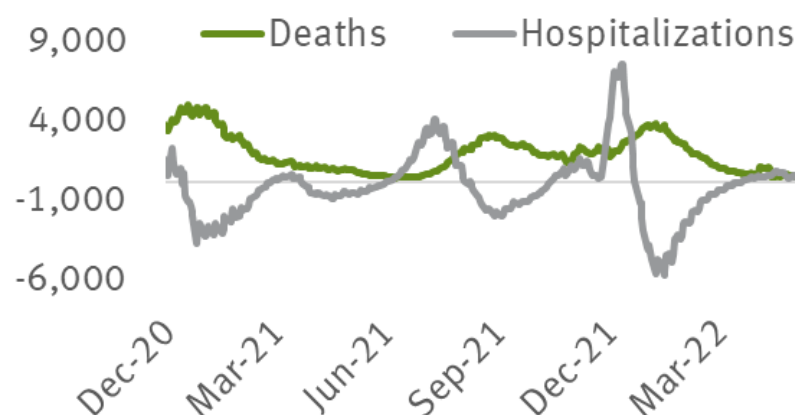
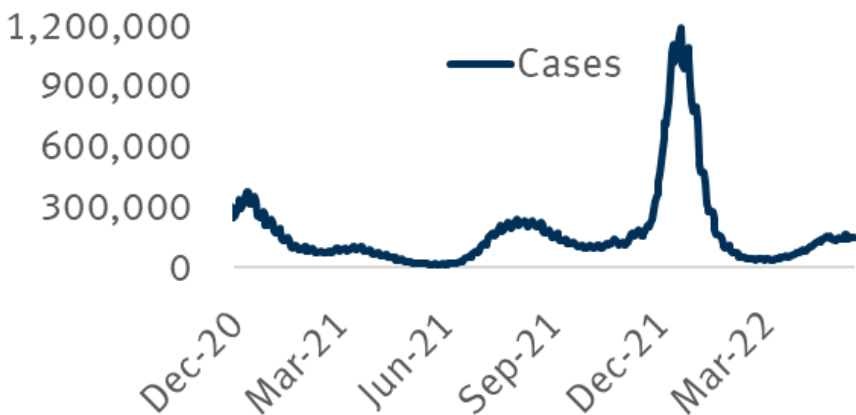
**Rays of Sunshine and Hope**

- Supply chain pressures start to ease and commodity prices (e.g., oil) fall, and headline inflation levels out and starts to decline.
- Rates stabilize as Fed policy softens demand.
- Equities rise on relief, given signs of hope.
- We remain “mid-late cycle,” delaying recession.

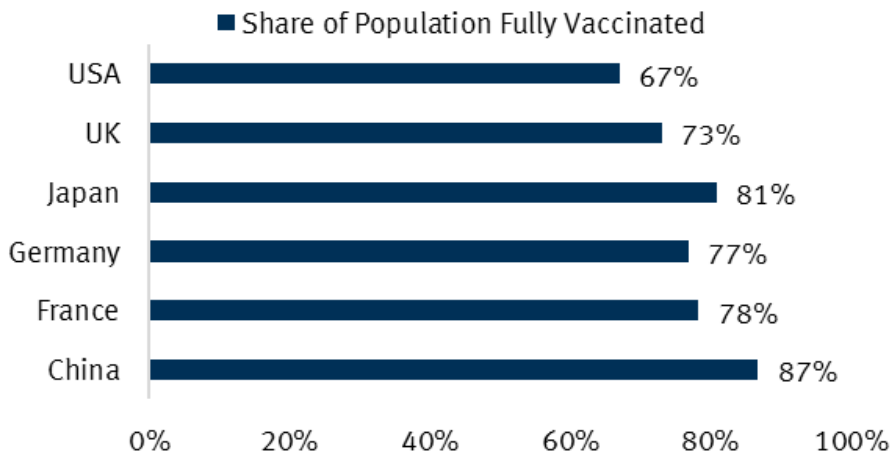




## **Macro Environment**



Source: Stifel Investment Strategy via Bloomberg, Our World in Data, as of June 16, 2022; based on 7-day moving average data. Change in cases, deaths, and hospitalizations shown above.



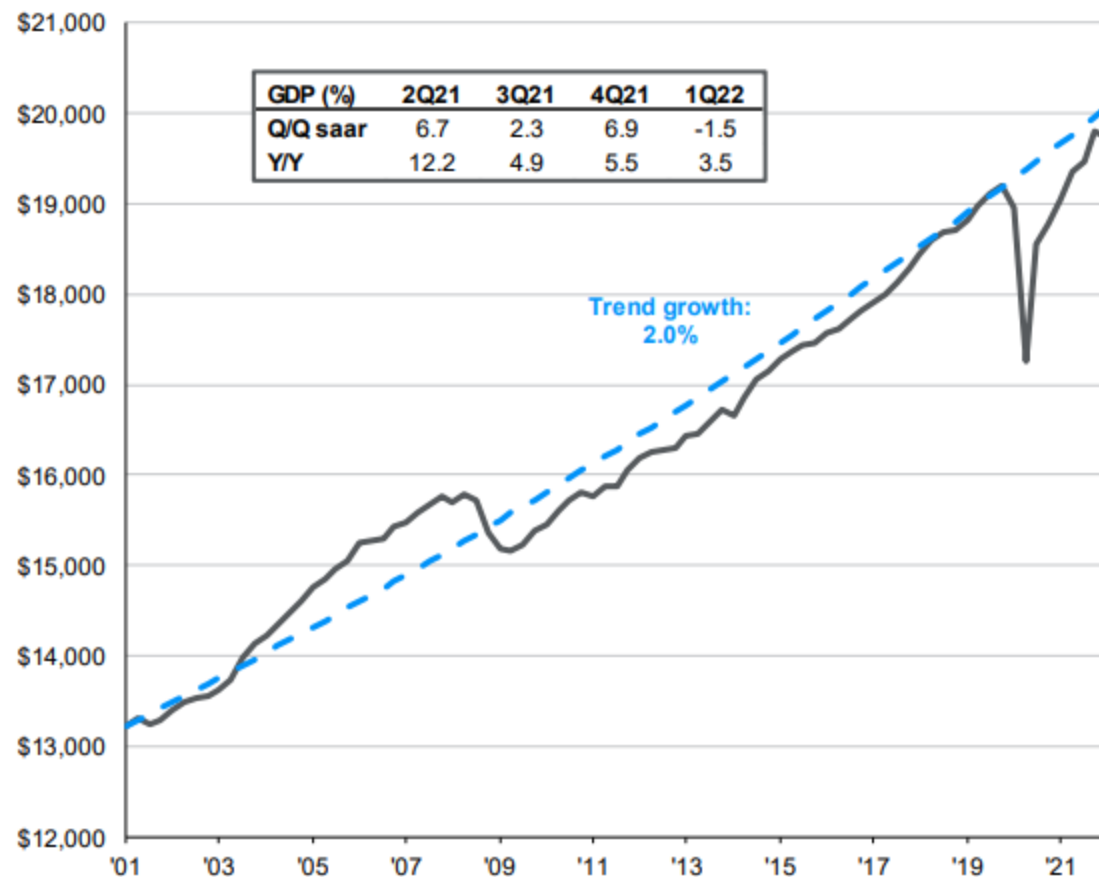
EFFECTIVENESS AT PREVENTING					
		<u>Original Strain</u>		<u>Omicron Variant</u>	
	Vaccine	Severe Disease	Infection	Severe Disease	Infection
U.S.	Johnson & Johnson	86%	72%	57%	33%
	Moderna	97%	92%	73%	48%
	Pfizer/BioNTech	95%	86%	72%	44%
China	CanSino	66%	62%	48%	32%
	CoronaVac	50%	47%	37%	24%
	Sinopharm	73%	68%	53%	35%

Source: Stifel Investment Strategy via Bloomberg, Our World in Data, as of June 16, 2022

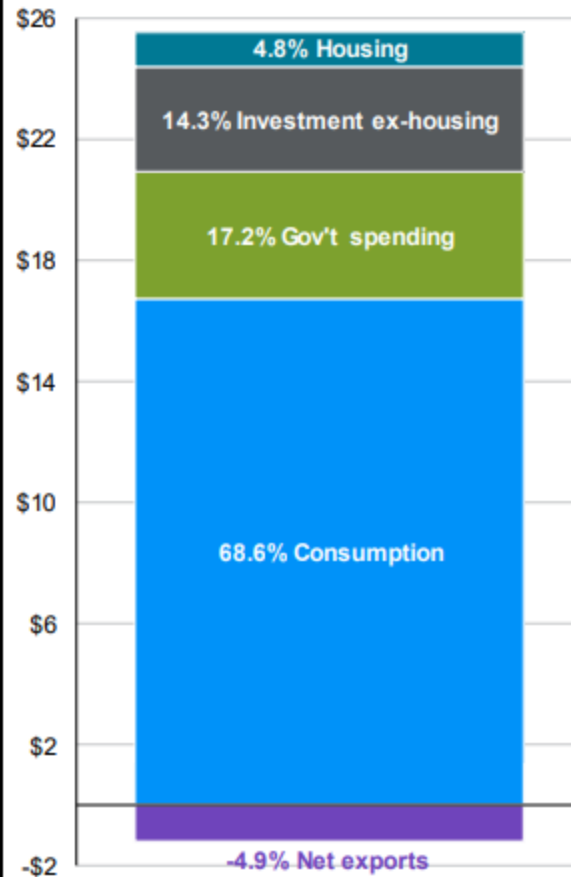
Source: Stifel Investment Strategy via IHME healthdata.org as of February 18, 2022

**Real GDP**

Billions of chained (2012) dollars, seasonally adjusted at annual rates

**Components of GDP**

1Q22 nominal GDP, USD trillions



Source: BEA, FactSet, J.P. Morgan Asset Management, Values may not sum to 100% due to rounding. Trend growth is measured as the average annual growth rate from business cycle peak 1Q01 to business cycle peak 4Q19. *Guide to the Markets* – U.S. Data are as of June 15, 2022.

*The Consumer***106.4**

**Conference Board  
Consumer Confidence**  
*1 year ago: 120.0*

**8.1%**

**Retail Sales**

*1 year ago: 28.9%*

**4.4%**

**Savings Rate**

*1 year ago: 12.6%*

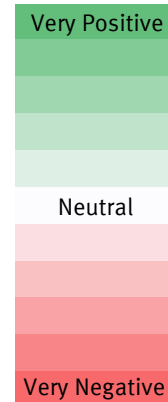
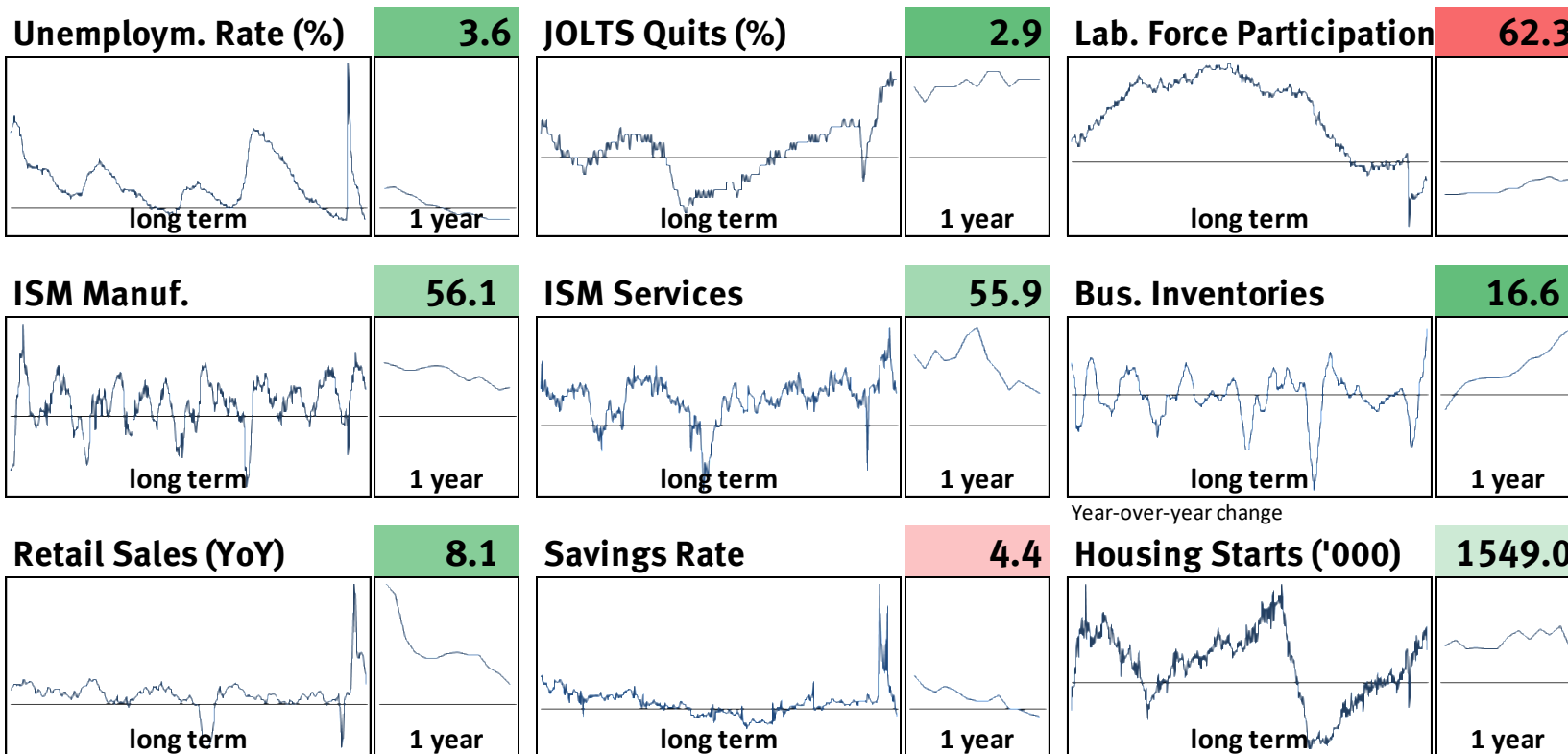
**3.6%**

**Unemployment Rate**

*1 year ago: 5.8%*

Source: Stifel Investment Strategy data via Bloomberg, as of June 16, 2022; Number of 100 and above is considered positive for Conference Board Consumer Confidence.

## The Economy



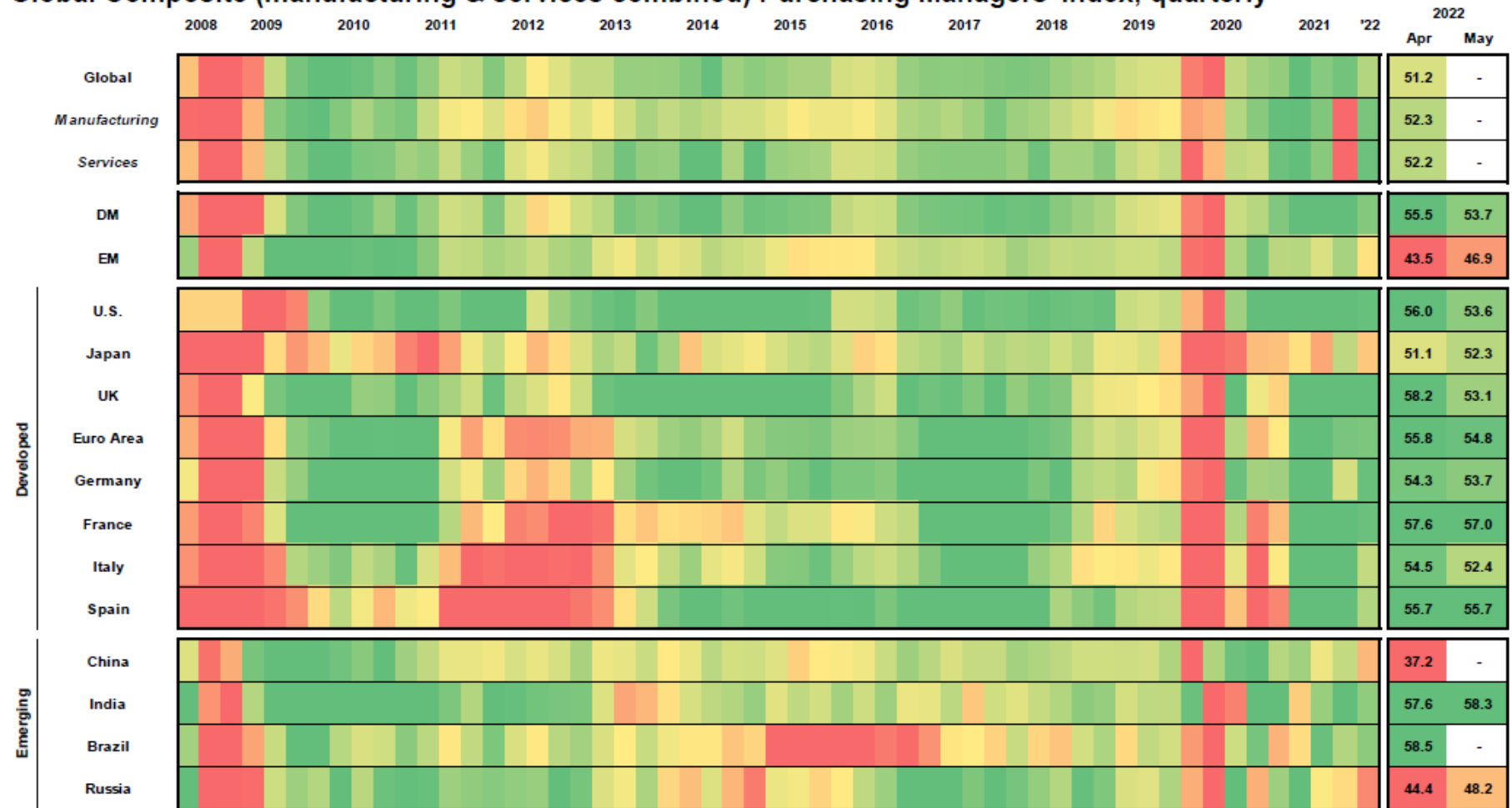
Based on a 3-month moving average

Source: Stifel Investment Strategy via Bloomberg, as of June 16, 2022

EARLY Acceleration in economic growth	MID Positive, but moderating growth	LATE Growth rate slows to trend or below-trend	RECESSION Growth contracts
Lower consumer spending	Recovering consumer spending	Strong consumer spending	Falling consumer spending
Credit creation low	Credit creation rising	Credit creation rising faster	Credit creation declining
Company profits recovering	Company profits peaking	Company profits under pressure	Company profits contracting
Fiscal/monetary policy accommodative	Fiscal/monetary policy shifting to neutral	Fiscal/monetary policy contractionary	Fiscal/monetary policy easing



## Global Composite (manufacturing &amp; services combined) Purchasing Managers' Index, quarterly



Source: Markit, J.P. Morgan Asset Management.

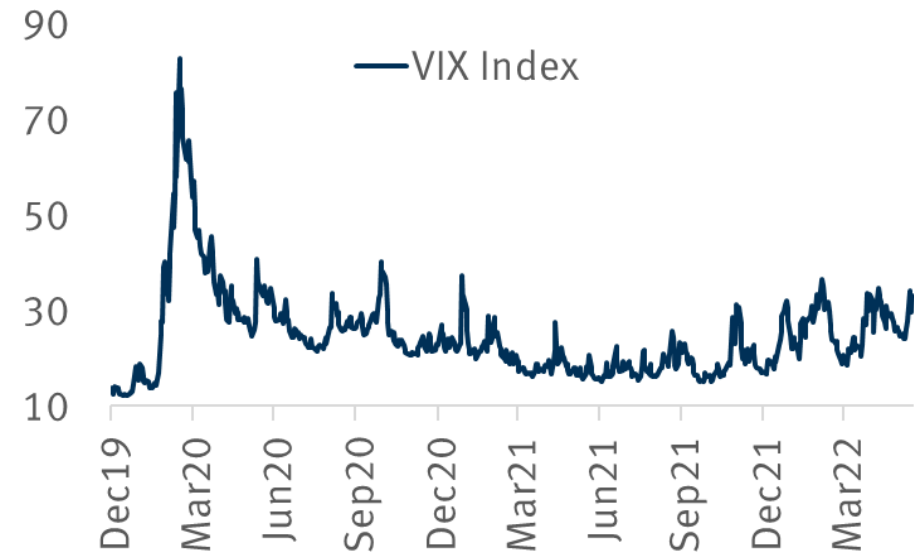
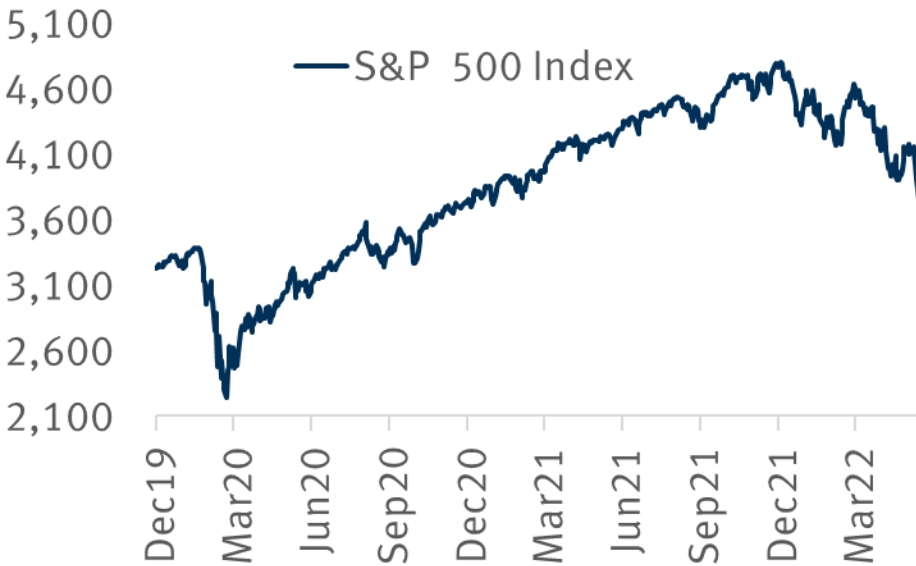
The Composite PMI includes both manufacturing and services sub-indices. Heatmap colors are based on PMI relative to the 50 level, which indicates acceleration or deceleration of the sector, for the time period shown. Heatmap is based on quarterly averages, with the exception of the two most recent figures, which are single month readings. Data for the U.S. are back-tested and filled in from December 2007 to September 2009 due to lack of existing PMI figures. DM and EM represent developed markets and emerging markets, respectively.

Guide to the Markets – U.S. Data are as of June 15, 2022.



## Markets





Source: Stifel Investment Strategy data via Bloomberg, as of June 17, 2022 (intra-day)

*10-year Yield*

Source: Stifel Investment Strategy data via Bloomberg, as of June 17, 2022 (intra-day)

First Fed Rate Hike	Last Fed Rate Hike	S&P 500 Return	Months to Recession
Feb-72	May-74	-7.4%	20
Nov-76	Mar-80	30.3%	37
Aug-80	Dec-80	12.1%	11
Apr-83	Aug-84	8.0%	86
Dec-86	Sep-87	30.5%	43
Mar-88	Feb-89	15.1%	27
Feb-94	Feb-95	0.7%	85
Jun-99	May-00	9.7%	21
Jun-04	Jun-06	16.2%	42
Dec-15	Dec-18	30.5%	50
Median		13.6%	40
Average		14.6%	42
Mar-22	?	-13.5%	?

Source: Stifel Investment Strategy data via Bloomberg, as of June 17, 2022 (intra-day)

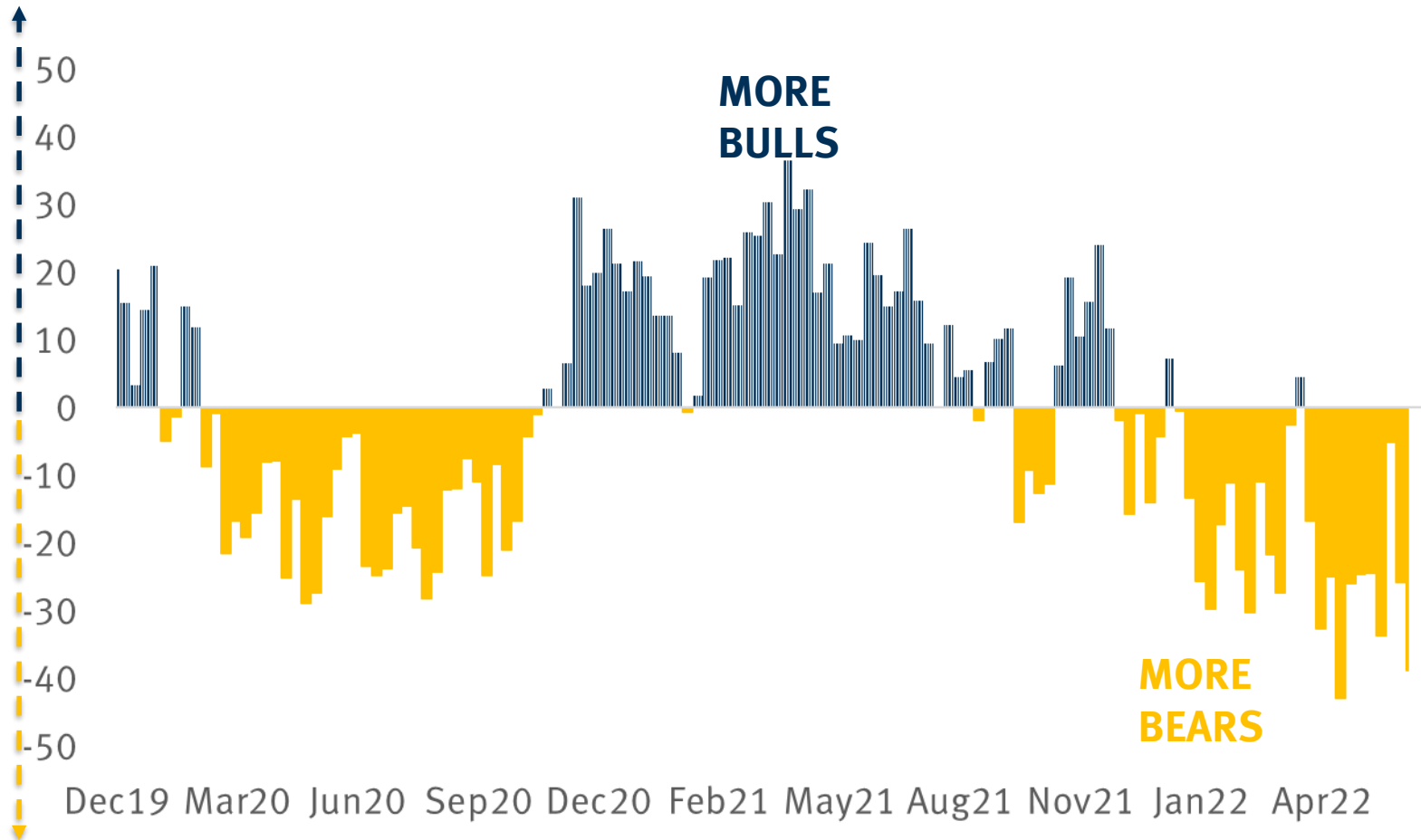
Index	2021 1 <sup>st</sup> Half	2021 2 <sup>nd</sup> Half	2021 Full Year	2022 YTD
S&P 500 Index	15.2%	11.7%	28.7%	-22.5%
<i>Software &amp; Services</i>	14.8%	11.0%	27.4%	-27.6%
<i>Retail</i>	12.1%	6.4%	19.3%	-33.8%
<i>Semicond's &amp; Semi Eq.</i>	21.9%	23.5%	50.5%	-35.5%
<i>Consumer Dur. &amp; Apparel</i>	15.8%	5.7%	22.4%	-36.1%
<i>Media &amp; Entertainment</i>	22.9%	3.3%	26.9%	-36.0%
S&P 500 Equal Weighted Index	19.2%	8.7%	29.6%	-19.3%
NYSE FANG+ Index	15.2%	2.1%	17.7%	-35.9%
Russell 2000 Index	17.5%	-2.3%	14.8%	-26.1%
MSCI EAFE Index	8.8%	2.2%	11.3%	-19.6%
MSCI EM Index	7.4%	-9.3%	-2.5%	-17.3%
Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate	-1.6%	0.1%	-1.5%	-11.5%

*Read more: The “60/40” Portfolio Breaks Down: What Should Investors Do?*



Source: Stifel Investment Strategy data via Bloomberg, as of June 16, 2022

*Weekly, AAll % bulls less % bears*



Source: Stifel Investment Strategy data via Bloomberg, as of June 16, 2022

***Read: A positive “season” so far: Where are earnings headed?***



Source: Stifel Investment Strategy via FactSet, as of June 17, 2022

The cycle of markets is inevitable, however, bull markets have historically lasted longer than bear markets and recessions.



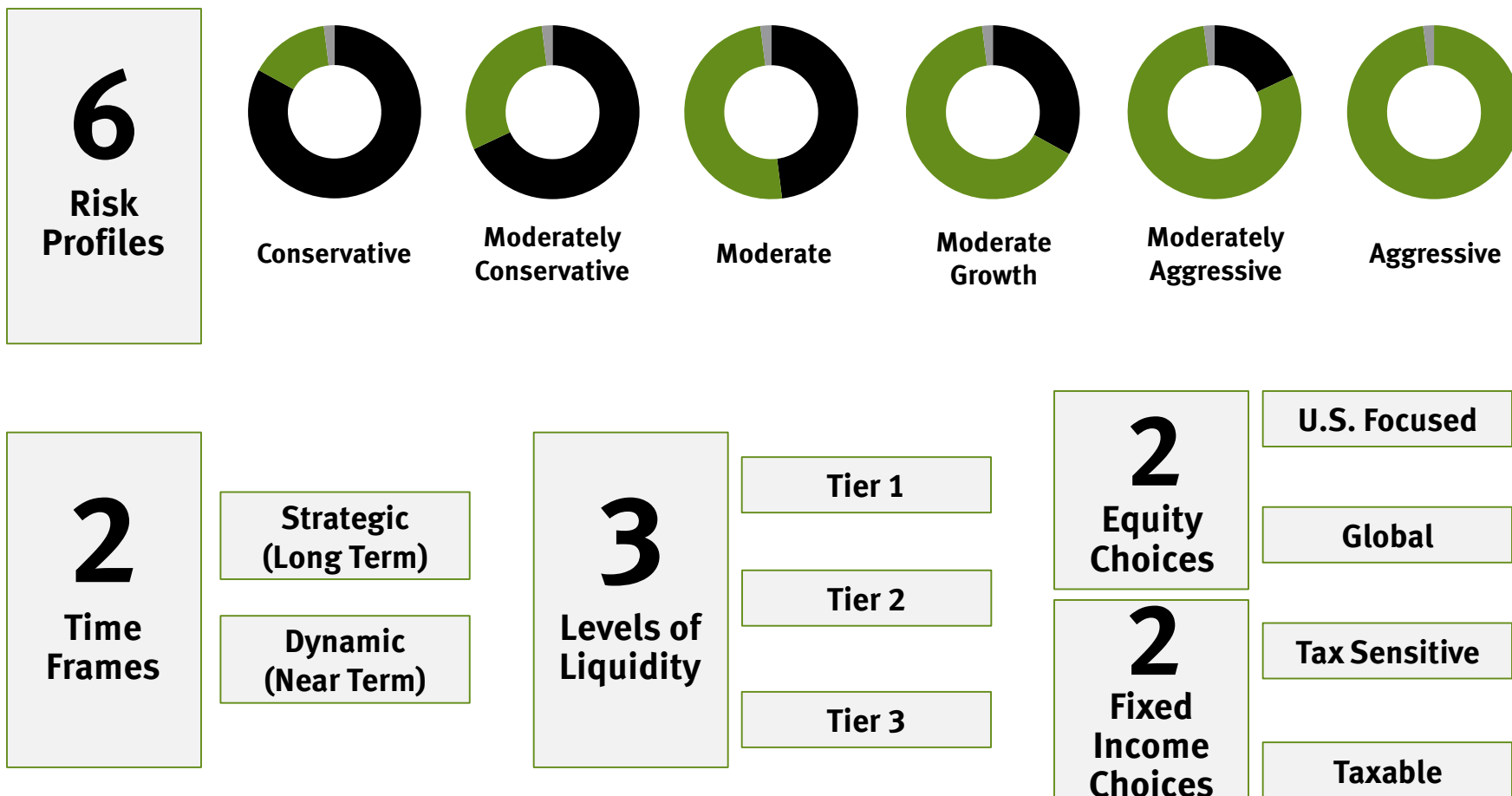
Source: Stifel Investment Strategy data via Bloomberg, Strategas Research Partners, as of Jun 17, 2022 (intra-day)

























## **Dynamic leanings**

## 144 ASSET ALLOCATION MODELS FOR YOUR SELECTION



INVESTMENT THEMES					 Underweight  Neutral  Overweight		
ASSET CLASS	CHANGE	CURRENT			COMMENTS		
EQUITY	U.S. Equity vs. Non-U.S. Equity	=			We remain overweight non-U.S. stocks as a result of better relative valuations, their more cyclical orientation, and the prospect for further economic reopening post-COVID. We acknowledge the risks stemming from the tragic war in Ukraine and China's COVID lockdowns, but we believe that absent a sharp escalation in the war, markets may have largely priced in the uncertainty of the current environment.		
	U.S. Large Cap vs. U.S. Small Cap	=			We guide investors to implement our overweight to U.S. small caps through active management given our preference for companies with strong fundamentals. Higher rates, a shortage of labor, and higher costs can put pressure on smaller company margins. For passive implementation, we suggest a neutral (versus our strategic asset allocation) small cap position.		
	U.S. Large Value vs. U.S. Large Growth	=			We continue to actively review our overweight to large value given the recent underperformance of growth stocks, and we elected to maintain our dynamic leaning for now, given the expectations for economic growth, higher rates, and elevated inflation. Within value, we have a preference for profitable companies with solid financials and stable cash flows.		
	Non-U.S. Developed Markets vs. Emerging Markets	=			We are neutral within non-U.S. equity between developed and emerging markets, as we find the risks to be balanced between both. Our team is closely following the developments in Europe and China, and we are prepared to act swiftly as we receive further clarity on the macroeconomic outlook.		
	Europe vs. Japan	=			We are increasingly positive on the corporate governance reform in Japan that is likely to enhance shareholder value in the medium-to-long term. Given the highly uncertain environment, we elected to maintain our neutral leaning for the time being.		

Continued on next page

INVESTMENT THEMES				 Underweight  Neutral  Overweight		
ASSET CLASS	CHANGE	CURRENT			COMMENTS	
						
FIXED INCOME	U.S. Investment Grade vs. U.S. High Yield	=			Within fixed income, we remain overweight to U.S. high yield relative to U.S. investment grade with the use of active management. Strong commodity prices have helped many companies shore up their balance sheets and default rates remain low amid continued economic growth.	
	Corporates Government/Agency MBS	=			We recommend a diversified approach to the full spectrum of investment-grade fixed income.	
	Duration	=			We don't expect interest rates to rise much higher from here, but above-trend economic growth and inflation will likely provide some upward pressure. We view duration as a diversifier in a multi-asset class portfolio and remain neutral to the overall market.	
ALTERNATIVES	Private Assets	=			For investors interested in alternative investments and able to handle illiquidity, exposure to some combination of private equity, private debt, and/or private real estate can be considered as part of a diversified portfolio.	
	Hedge Funds	=			For investors interested in alternative investments and able to handle less liquidity who have conviction about manager skill, exposure to hedge funds can be a helpful part of a diversified portfolio. This is especially true in volatile, low-return environments.	



## **Finding Our guidance**

The following summarizes how we deliver our economic and market analysis and corresponding investment guidance, along with some helpful links.

- *Market volatility [page](#) hosting a selection of our material.*
- *Sight/Lines* is a weekly note for clients, along with a [video summary](#) and a podcast on [Spotify](#), [Apple](#), [Omny](#), and [Google](#).
- [Stifel Bits](#) is designed for clients and prospects who might appreciate a breezy, lighthearted approach to our insights.
- [Market Pulse](#) is shared when the S&P 500 Index moves up or down 2%.
- The monthly *Investment Strategy Brief* [video series](#) shares our update on the current economic and market environment. The podcast: [Spotify](#), [Apple](#), [Omny](#), and [Google](#).
- The [weekly](#), [monthly](#), and [quarterly](#) *Market Perspectives* provide a recap of the most recent period's global market results.
- The monthly [Favorite 15](#) shares our favorite 15 slides for the month.
- *Stifel's [Allocation Insights](#)* provides our dynamic asset allocation leanings quarterly.
- The [Stifel 2022 Outlook Report](#) and [Video](#): provide our annual outlook and related articles.
- [Stifel's Approach to Asset Allocation](#) summarizes our asset allocation approach and provides a catalogue of various recommended asset mix models.
- The *Stifel Financial ID* [video series](#) provides an overview of our work in behavioral finance and the related *Stifel Financial ID* model.
- In [Conversations Podcast](#), Stifel's Chief Investment Officer, Michael O'Keeffe, sits down with leaders at Stifel and in the finance industry to have thought-provoking conversations related to the finance industry. Episodes are released monthly.

Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Index returns include the reinvestment of dividends but do not include adjustments for brokerage, custodian, and advisory fees.

Indices are unmanaged, do not reflect fees and expenses, and are not available for direct investment.

Past performance does not guarantee future results. Investing involves risk, including the possible loss of principal. Asset allocation and diversification do not ensure a profit or protection against loss.

**Alternative Investments or Non-Traditional Assets** – Alternative investments may include, but are not limited to: Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs), Commodities, Futures, Hedge Funds, Venture Capital, Limited Partnerships, etc.

**Real Estate** – When investing in real estate companies, property values can fall due to environmental, economic, or other reasons, and changes in interest rates can negatively impact the performance.

**Commodities and Futures** – The risk of loss in trading commodities and futures can be substantial. You should therefore carefully consider whether such trading is suitable for you in light of your financial condition. The high degree of leverage that is often obtainable in commodity trading can work against you as well as for you. The use of leverage can lead to large losses as well as gains.

**Hedge Funds** – *Investors should be aware that hedge funds often engage in leverage, short-selling, arbitrage, hedging, derivatives, and other speculative investment practices that may increase investment loss. Hedge funds can be highly illiquid, are not required to provide periodic pricing or valuation information to investors, and often charge high fees that can erode performance. Additionally, they may involve complex tax structures and delays in distributing tax information. While hedge funds may appear similar to mutual funds, they are not necessarily subject to the same regulatory requirements as mutual funds.*

**Venture Capital** – Venture capital investments involve substantial risks. The risks associated with investing in companies in the start-up or expansion stages of development are greater than those of companies in later stages, because the companies' business concepts generally are unproven and the companies have little or no track record.

**Limited Partnerships** – Generally, limited partnership investments are suitable only for a narrow class of relatively sophisticated investors. Limited partnership investments may be speculative in nature and be subject to resale restrictions or illiquidity. An investment is appropriate only for investors who have the capacity to absorb a loss of some or all of their investment.

**Bonds** – When investing in bonds, it is important to note that as interest rates rise, bond prices will fall. High-yield bonds have greater credit risk than higher quality bonds.

**Duration** – Duration is a measure of the sensitivity of the price -- the value of principal -- of a fixed-income investment to a change in interest rates. Duration is expressed as a number of years.

**Standard Deviation** – Standard deviation is a measure of the dispersion of a set of data from its mean. It is calculated as the square root of variance by determining the variation between each data point relative to the mean. If the data points are further from the mean, there is higher deviation within the data set.

**International and Emerging Markets** – There are special considerations associated with international investing, including the risk of currency fluctuations and political and economic events. Investing in emerging markets may involve greater risk and volatility than investing in more developed countries.

**Private Equity** – *Private equity funds are not appropriate for all investors. Investors should be aware that private equity funds may contain speculative investment practices that can lead to a loss of the entire investment. Private equity funds may invest in entities in which no secondary market exists and, as such, may be highly illiquid. The funds are not required to provide periodic pricing or valuation information to investors and often charge high fees that can erode performance. Additionally, they may involve complex tax structures and delays in distributing tax information.*

**Short Positions** – The investor should note that when a short position moves in an unfavorable way, the losses are theoretically unlimited. The broker will demand more collateral and the manager might have to close out that short position at an inopportune time to limit any further losses.

**Small Company Securities** – Small company securities are typically more volatile and carry additional risks, since smaller companies generally are not as well established as larger companies.

**Bloomberg U.S. Treasury Bills 1-3 Months Index** includes all publicly issued zero-coupon U.S. Treasury Bills that have a remaining maturity of less than three months and more than one month, are rated investment grade, and have \$250 million or more of outstanding face value.

**Bloomberg U.S. Corporate IG Index** is an unmanaged index considered representative of fixed-rate investment-grade taxable bond debt.

**Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Corporate Index** is an unmanaged index considered representative of fixed-rate investment-grade taxable bond debt.

**Bloomberg U.S. Corporate High Yield** is an unmanaged index considered representative of fixed-rate, noninvestment-grade debt.

**Bloomberg U.S. Government Bond Index** is an unmanaged index considered representative of fixed-rate, investment-grade US Government debt.

**Bloomberg Global Aggregate** This index provides a broad-based measure of the global investment-grade, fixed-rate debt market.

**DXY Index** is a measure of the value of the U.S. dollar relative to the value of a basket of currencies of the majority of the U.S.'s most significant trading partners.

**S&P 500 Index** is a capitalization-weighted index of 500 stocks. The index is designed to measure performance of the broad domestic economy through changes in the aggregate market value of 500 stocks representing all major industries.

**Russell 1000 Index** represents approximately 1,000 of the largest companies in the U.S. equity markets, the Russell 1000 is a subset of the Russell 3000 Index. The Russell 1000 (maintained by the Russell Investment Group) comprises over 90% of the total market capitalization of all listed U.S. stocks and is considered a bellwether index for large cap investing.

**Russell 2000 Index** measures the performance of the 2,000 smallest companies in the Russell 3000 index.

**MSCI EAFE Index** captures large and mid cap representation across Developed Markets countries around the world, excluding the U.S. and Canada. With 914 constituents, the index covers approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in each country.

**MSCI Emerging Markets (EM) Index** captures large and mid cap representation across 23 Emerging Markets (EM) countries. With 837 constituents, the index covers approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in each country.

**Morgan Stanley Market implied pace of hikes index (MSPOKE)** is the number of Fed rate hikes in the 12 months following the first rate hike implied by the Eurodollar interest rate futures market.

The **MSCI World Index** is a free float-adjusted market capitalization-weighted index that is designed to measure the equity market performance of developed markets.

**Wilshire 5000 Index** is a market-capitalization-weighted index of the market value of all stocks actively traded in the United States.

**VIX Index** shows the market's expectation of 30-day volatility. It is constructed using the implied volatilities of a wide range of S&P 500 index options.



**EURO STOXX 50** is a stock index of Eurozone stocks designed by STOXX, an index provider owned by Deutsche Börse Group. According to STOXX, its goal is "to provide a blue-chip representation of Supersector leaders in the Eurozone

**Cash & Cash Eq.** is represented by the Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Treasury 3-6 months Bill Index, comprised of treasury bills issued by the U.S. government with less than one year to maturity.

**U.S. Government Bonds** is represented by the Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Government Bond Index, comprised of the U.S. Treasury and U.S. Agency indexes.

**U.S. Corp IG Bonds** is represented by the Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Corporate Bond Index, comprised of the investment grade, fixed-rate, taxable corporate bond market.

**High-Yield Bonds** is represented by the Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Corporate High Yield Bond Index, comprised of U.S. Dollar denominated, high-yield, fixed-rate corporate bond market securities.

**U.S. LC (Large Cap)** equities is represented by Russell 1000 Index, comprised of 1,000 of the largest U.S. securities based on a combination of their market cap and current index membership.

**U.S. SC (Small Cap)** equities is represented by the Russell 2000 Index, comprised of 2,000 of the smallest U.S. securities based on a combination of their market cap and current index membership.

**Dev International Equities** is represented by the MSCI EAFE Index, comprised of equity securities that belong to markets outside of the U.S. and Canada.

**Emerging Markets Equities** is represented by the MSCI EM Index, comprised of equity securities that belong to emerging markets.

**Moderate Bench** stands for moderate benchmark portfolio return which is a blended portfolio of stocks (60% weight, represented by MSCI AC World Index) and bonds (40% weight, represented by Bloomberg U.S. Agg Gov/Credit).

**MSCI AC World Index** is comprised of equity securities belonging to 23 developed markets and 24 emerging markets countries.

**Bloomberg U.S. Government/Credit Bond Index** is comprised investment grade, dollar-denominated, fixed-rate Treasuries, government-related and corporate securities.

**KBW Restoration Index** is composed of 13 high-frequency economic indicators. These indicators include those with longer histories (initial jobless claims, MBA mortgage applications, and steel production) along with newly developed gauges tracking mobility, dining reservations, and airport traffic, among others. KBW set each of the 13 indicators to 100 as of the end of February 2020, the official end of the longest economic cycle in U.S. history, and update the Index each week.