



Second Quarter 2022 Investment Perspectives

Economic and Financial Markets Review & Outlook



Key Themes

- 1. A rapid reversal in monetary policy pressured financial markets in the first quarter of the year.
- Rising inflation, especially energy and food prices have hurt consumer and investment sentiment.
- 3. The Russian invasion of Ukraine has increased financial risks and exacerbated inflation, particularly in commodities.
- 4. As the Fed tightens monetary policy to fight inflation, the odds of a policy mistake leading to a recession are rising.
- 5. A consequence of the factors listed above is one of the worst first quarter performances in many years for the bond and stock markets.

Financial markets struggled in the first quarter as the Federal Reserve Bank finally signaled their intention to fight rising inflation by tightening monetary policy and war broke out in Ukraine. The DJIA closed down 4.6%, the S&P 500 fell 4.9% while Nasdaq dropped 9.1%. Growth stocks were particularly hard hit as their higher valuation levels make them more sensitive to changes in interest rates. Bonds were also negative for the quarter with the Bloomberg Aggregate Bond Index off by 6.0%. Energy and commodities were the only notable segments showing positive results year-to-date.

Inflation has been on the rise since the fourth quarter of 2020 with worrisome indicators beginning about a year ago. During that period, many economists warned that the Fed should begin removing its stimulative policies and start raising short-term interests rates. In the first year of the



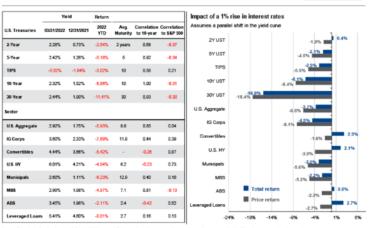
pandemic, the federal government had supported the U.S. economy with over \$4 trillion of Covid-19related funding. In addition, the Fed had slashed the Fed funds rate to zero and purchased \$3.5 trillion of treasury and mortgage-backed securities through March 2021. Rather than removing stimulus, the Fed insisted rising inflation was largely related to the pandemic and was transitory. They suggested that, as the economy fully re-opened, inflation would head back toward their 2% target. In the past twelve months, the Fed kept the Fed funds rate at zero until just a few weeks ago, when they raised rates by 25 basis points (1/4 of 1%). The Fed also purchased another \$1 trillion of bonds in the past year. All of this stimulus, coupled with continued supply constraints, has led to the highest levels of inflation in forty years. Within the past few months, the Fed has become increasingly concerned about inflation, has ended its asset purchase program, and has signaled its intention to steadily raise the Fed funds rate throughout 2022 and 2023. There are increasing suggestions

Economic and Financial Markets Challenges



by Wall Street strategists and Fed officials, including Chairman Jay Powell, that the Fed may raise the Fed funds rate more quickly in the coming months, perhaps by 1 to 1.5 percentage points by the summer. In addition, the Fed has intimated that they might begin to shrink their nearly \$9 trillion balance sheet soon by selling some of the bonds that they have accumulated over the past few years. Interestingly, as the pace of monetary policy tightening has quickened, U.S. treasury yields have jumped, but the yield curve has flattened and much of the treasury curve has inverted, meaning short-term rates are higher than longer-term rates. Inverted yield curves have often been an indicator of an economic slowdown or precursor to recession in the following 12-18 months. Typically, the Fed raises interest rates to try to cool down an over-heated economy. Had the Fed moved earlier to remove their accommodative monetary policies, it is possible it would have prevented inflation from rising as much as it has, while facilitating a smooth slowdown in the economy to a sustainable rate of growth. Having waited until inflation was out of control, there are increasing concerns that the Fed may be reversing monetary policy so quickly in an already

Fixed income market dynamics



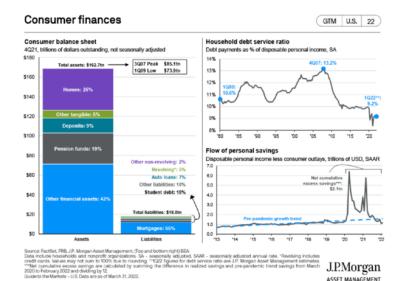
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decelerating economy that they will eventually trigger a recession. Many economists now believe that the odds of the Fed engineering a soft landing, reducing inflation from four-decade highs without increasing unemployment or starting a recession, are unlikely. We believe the partially inverted yield curve is signaling this sentiment.

The Russian invasion and war in Ukraine is not only a human tragedy, but it has added to inflation concerns. Ukraine has been a significant supplier of wheat and other grains to the world markets. Sanctions on Russian goods, particularly oil and



natural gas, have further compromised an already short supply of energy products. At one point last year, an estimated \$2.5 trillion of pandemicrelated savings were held by U.S. consumers. During that timeframe, consumer spending for goods was strong, but much of the service sector had not fully reopened. Now that the economy is nearly fully re-opened from pandemic-related shutdowns, pent-up spending demand still exists, especially for services like dining out and travel. But much of the excess savings have been spent or invested, and consumer sentiment has plummeted, likely due to the rising cost of goods and services.

Economic and Financial Markets Challenges



Real wage growth has been negative for the better part of a year, a factor which will likely crimp consumer spending.

After three years of above-average returns, it is not surprising that financial markets have struggled this year. High inflation, rising interest rates and increased geo-political risks create a level of concern that is likely to exist throughout much of 2022. In addition, the bond market is now reflecting the possibility of recession on the horizon. If the Fed tightens monetary policy too aggressively in an effort to fight inflation in the midst of a slowing economy, the likelihood of a policy error causing recession will increase. Unfortunately, we will not know the full economic impact of changes to monetary policy for 6-9 months as consumer responses happen slowly over time. For instance, mortgage rates have increased by 1% in the past six months, but housing prices are still rising. Homebuyers still believe that, if they don't buy now, prices will be higher in coming months. But, at some point, rising home prices and higher mortgage rates will affect affordability and home prices will stop rising. Demand destruction is

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likely already occurring in some areas, as higher gas and food prices leave less disposable income to spend elsewhere. January and February consumer spending were both below expectations. With all of this in mind, markets are likely to be rangebound within the highs and lows we have experienced year-to-date, until it is clear that inflation is under control and we have a better sense of the trajectory of economic growth.

Regarding investment strategy, long-term investors should focus on the optimal asset mix and risk profile that aligns with their goals and objectives. It is nearly impossible to predict market bottoms or tops. We therefore do not recommend clients spend time focused on short-term market volatility. Our economy and financial markets generally adjust to changing conditions within relatively short periods of time. The average length of recessions and bear markets are both less than one year. We suggest that clients should hold or have access to one year of cash flow needs at all times, so that assets do not have to be liquidated when markets are weak. Cash reserves should be used when markets are weak and replenished when markets strengthen.

We are available to meet or discuss any specific needs or concerns and wish you all a happy and healthy spring!



S&P 500 valuation measures GTM U.S. 5 S&P 500 Index: Forward P/E ratio 27.98x 2.00% 3.09x 11.12x 22x 18x

Profit margins and input costs





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Inflation GTM U.S. 26

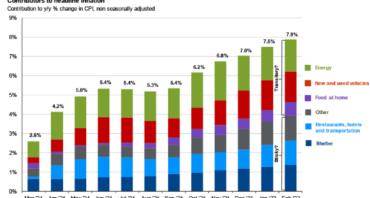


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Inflation components



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\$6

-\$2

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 1001 to business cycle peak 4019.

\$14,000

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Unemployment and wages

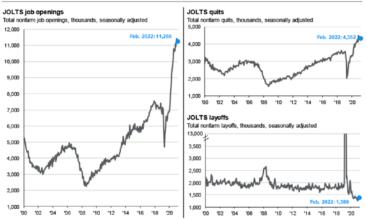




Source: BLS, FactSet, J.P. Morgan Asset Management.

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Labor demand JOLTS job openings JOLTS quits



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Consumer confidence and the stock market



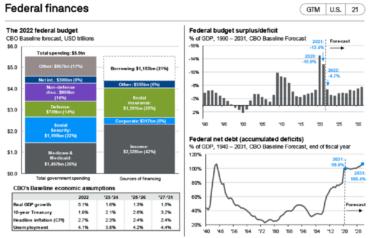


Source: FactSet, Standard & Poor's, University of Michigan, J.P. Morgan Asset Management.

Paiks a defined as the highest index value before a series of loser loves, which is trough is defined as the lowest index value before a series of higher highs. Subsequent T2-month S&P 500 returns are price returns only, which excludes dividends. Plast performance is not a reliable indicate of current and vilture results.

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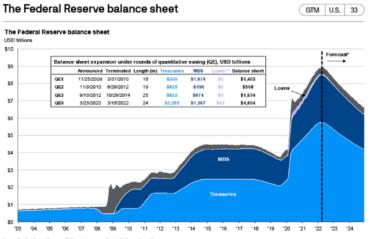




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Source: J.P. Morgan Asset Management; (Top and bottom left) EM; (Right) FactSet; (Bottom left) Baker Hughes.
Ferecasts are from the March 2022 EM Short-Term Energy Outlook and start in 2022 "U.S. crude oil inventories include the Strategic Petroleum Reserve SPR). Active rig court includes both natural pas and oil rigs. Will roude prices are continuous contributed this prices in USD.

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Asset class returns

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																2007	- 2021
2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	YTD	Ann.	Vol.
EM Equity	Fixed Income	EM Equity				Small Cap			Small Cap	EM Equity	Cash	Large Cap	Small Cap		Comdty.	Large Cap	
39.8%	5.2%	79.0%	27.9%	8.3%	19.7%	38.8%	28.0%	2.8%	21.3%	37.8%	1.8%	31.5%	20.0%	41.3%	25.5%	10.6%	23.2%
Com dty.	Cash	High Yield	Small Cap	Fixed Income	High Yield	Large Cap	Large Cap	Large Cap	High Yield	DM Equity	Fixed Income		EM Equity	Large Cap	Cash	Small Cap	EM Equity
16.2%	1.8%	59.4%	26.9%	7.8%	19.6%	32.4%	13.7%	1.4%	14.3%	25.6%	0.0%	28.7%	18.7%	28.7%	0.0%	8.7%	22.9%
DM Equity	Asset All e c.	DM Equity	EM Equity	High Yield	EM Equity	DM Equity	Fixed Income	Fixed Income	Large Cap	Large Cap	REITs	Small Cap	Large Cap	Comdty.	Asset Alloc.	REITs	Small Cap
11.6%	25.4%	32.5%	19.2%	3.1%	18.6%	23.3%	6.0%	0.5%	12.0%	21.8%	-4.0%	25.5%	18.4%	27.1%	-3.9%	7.5%	22.5%
Asset Allec.	High Yield	RETS	Comdty.	Large Cap	DM Equity	Asset Allee.	Asset	Cash	Com dty.	Small Cap	High Yield	DM Equity	Asset Allec.	Small Cap	Large Cap	High Yield	Comdty.
7.1%	-26.9%	28.0%	16.8%	2.1%	17.9%	14.9%	5.2%	0.0%	11.8%	14.6%	-4.1%	22.7%	10.6%	14.8%	-4.6%	6.6%	19.1%
Fixed Income 7.0%	Small Cap -33.8%	Small Cap 27.2%	Large Cap 15.1%	Cash 0.1%	Small Cap 16.3%	Aigh Yield 7.3%	Small \ Cap 4.9%	DM Equity -0.4%	Equity 11.6%	Asset Allec. 14.6%	Large Cap -4.4%	Asset Allec. 19.5%	DM Equity 8.3%	Asset Alloc. 13.5%	R⊟Ts -5.3%	Asset Alloc. 5.7%	DM Equity 18.9%
Large Cap 5.5%	Comdty.	Large Cap 25.5%	High Yield 14.8%	Asset Allec.	Large Cap 16.0%	RETs 2.9%	Cash 0.0%	Asset Alloc.	RETs	High Yield 10.4%	Asset Alloc. -5.8%	EM Equity 18.9%	Fixed Income 7.5%	DM Equity 11.8%	High Yield -5.7%	EM Equity 4.8%	Large Cap 16.9%
Cash	Large Cap	Asset Alloc.	Asset Allec.	Small Cap	Asset Allec.	Cash	High Yield	High Yield	Asset Allec.	RETs	Small Cap	High Yield	High Yield	High Yield	DM Equity	DM Equity	High Yield
4.8%	-37.0%	25.0%	13.3%	-4.2%	12.2%	0.0%	0.0%	-2.7%	8.3%	8.7%	-11.0%	12.6%	7.0%	1.0%	-5.8%	4.1%	12.2%
High Yield		Comdty.	DM Equity	DM Equity	Fixed Income	Fixed Income	EM Equity	Small Cap	Fixed Income	Fixed Income	Comdty.	Fixed Income	Cash	Cash	Fixed Income	Fixed Income	Asset Alloc.
3.2%	-37.7%	18.9%	8.2%	-11.7%	4.2%	-2.0%	-1.8%	-4.4%	2.6%	3.5%	-11.2%	8.7%	0.5%	0.0%	-5.9%	4.1%	11.7%
Small Cap -1.6%	DM Equity -43.1%	Fixed Income 5.9%	Fixed Income 6.5%	Comdty. -13.3%	Cash 0.1%	Equity -2.3%	DM Equity -4.5%	Equity -14.6%	DM Equity 1.5%	Comdty.	DM Equity -13.4%	Comdty.	Comdty.	Fixed Income -1.5%	Equity -6.9%	Cash 0.8%	Fixed Income 3.3%
REITS	Equity	Cash	Cash	EM Equity	Comdty.	Comdty.	Comdty.	Comdty.	Cash	Cash	Equity	Cash	REITs	EM Equity	Small Cap	Com dty.	Cash
-15.7%	-53.2%	0.1%	0.1%	-18.2%	-1.1%	-9.5%	-17.0%	-24.7%	0.3%	0.8%	-14.2%	2.2%	-5.1%	-2.2%	-7.5%	-2.6%	0.7%

Source: Bloomberg, FactSet, MSCI, NAREIT, Russell, Standard & Poor's, J.P. Morgan Asset Management.

Large cap: S&P 500, Small cap: Russell 2000, EM Equity: MSCI EME, DM Equity: MSCI EAFE, Comdty: Bloomberg Commodity Index, High Yield: Bloomberg Global HY Index, Fixed Income: Bloomberg US Aggregate, REITs: NAREIT Equity REIT Index, Cash: Bloomberg 1-3m Treasury. The "Asset Allocation" portfolio assumes the following weights: 25% in the S&P 500, 10% in the Russell 2000, 15% in the MSCI EAFE, 5% in the MSCI EME, 25% in the Bloomberg US Aggregate, 5% in the Bloomberg 1-3m Treasury, 5% in the Bloomberg Global High Yield Index, 5% in the Bloomberg Commodity Index and 5% in the NAREIT Equity REIT Index. Balanced portfolio assumes annual rebalancing. Annualized (Ann.) return and volatility (Vol.) represents period from 12/31/2006 to 12/31/2021. Please see disclosure page at end for index definitions. All data represents total return for stated period. The "Asset Allocation" portfolio is for illustrative purposes only. Past performance is not indicative of future returns. Guide to the Markets – U.S. Data are as of March 31, 2022.

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*Any performance-related data listed in this report may represent un-audited results compiled by Covenant Asset Management or others. It could be intended to reflect results that are indicative of Covenant's individual client's equity performance who religiously invest according to our model portfolios. This performance data represents past performance and individual client results may vary materially. Past performance does not guarantee future results and current performance may be higher or lower than the performance data quoted.



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