QUARTERLY



COORDINATES

# COVID-19

A JOURNEY THROUGH THE UNKNOWN

Lawrence V. Adam III, CFA, CIMA®, CFP® Chief Investment Officer

#### A JOURNEY THROUGH THE UNKNOWN: AGENDA

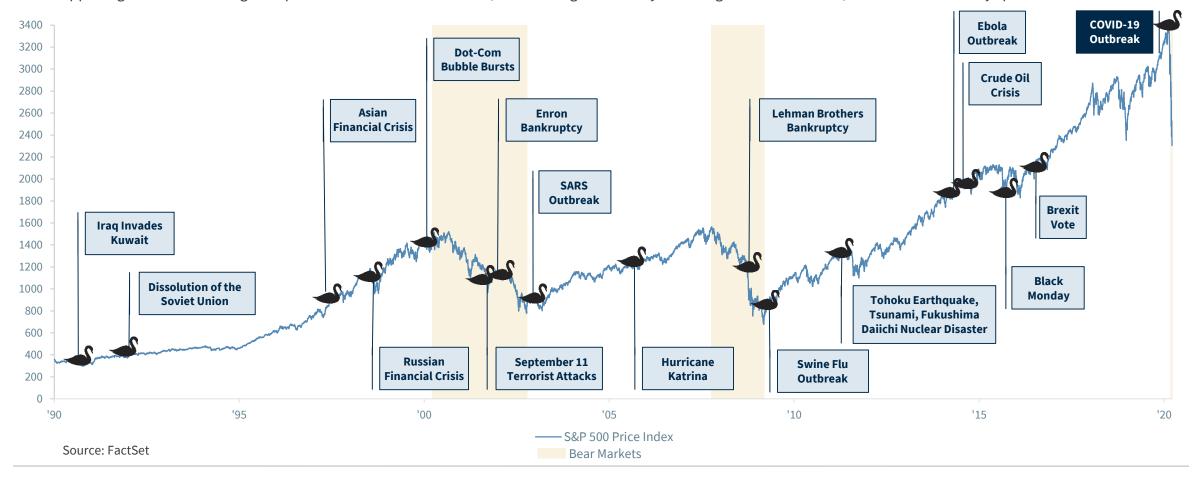
- Black Swans: History of Overcoming Them & COVID-19 Update
- 2 Economy: The "K" Economy
- 3 Policymakers: Speed and Magnitude of Response
- Fixed Income: Interest Rates Lower For Longer
- 5 Equities: Catalysts To Rally
- The US Equity Market is Not the US Economy



#### WHAT IS A BLACK SWAN EVENT?

#### 'BLACK SWANS' ARE TYPICALLY OUTSIDE ANYONE'S SCOPE INITIALLY, BUT CAN OFTEN BE RATIONALIZED WITH THE BENEFIT OF HINDSIGHT

• While the individual events can be debated, what holds true is that the US stock market has faced a number of 'surprising' events over the last 30 years alone. While some happenings are less shocking than pandemics or natural disasters, and although some may take longer to recover from, the market has always persevered.



#### THE US HAS THE BENEFIT OF LEARNING FROM ASIA AND EUROPE

#### DIFFERENT COUNTRIES ARE AT DIFFERENT STAGES OF THE COVID-19 TRANSMISSION. US CASE GROWTH COULD PEAK WITHIN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS.

• With vaccine development still underway, the second wave risk scenario needs to be accounted for as countries plan to reopen.

## Relative Peak In Case Growth Lower Percentage in Risk Scenario: Second Wave Case Growth Time (Usually in Weeks) Source: FactSet

#### Austria's Roadmap to Reopening

**April 14:** Small Stores & Parks Will Reopen

Masks Required in Grocery Stores & on Public Transit

May 2: All Other Stores (Including Malls & Salons) Will Reopen

Mid-May: Restaurants & Hotels Will Reopen

Schools & Graduations Will Be Assessed

**End of June:** Large Gatherings, Movie Theaters, Public Pools, Churches,

& Sport Facilities Will Be Assessed

**Summer:** Domestic Travel Will Be Assessed; International Travel

Likely Dependent On Vaccine

#### Other Discussions:

Sector-by-Sector, Industry-by-Industry Approach

Based on Criticality (UK, Italy)

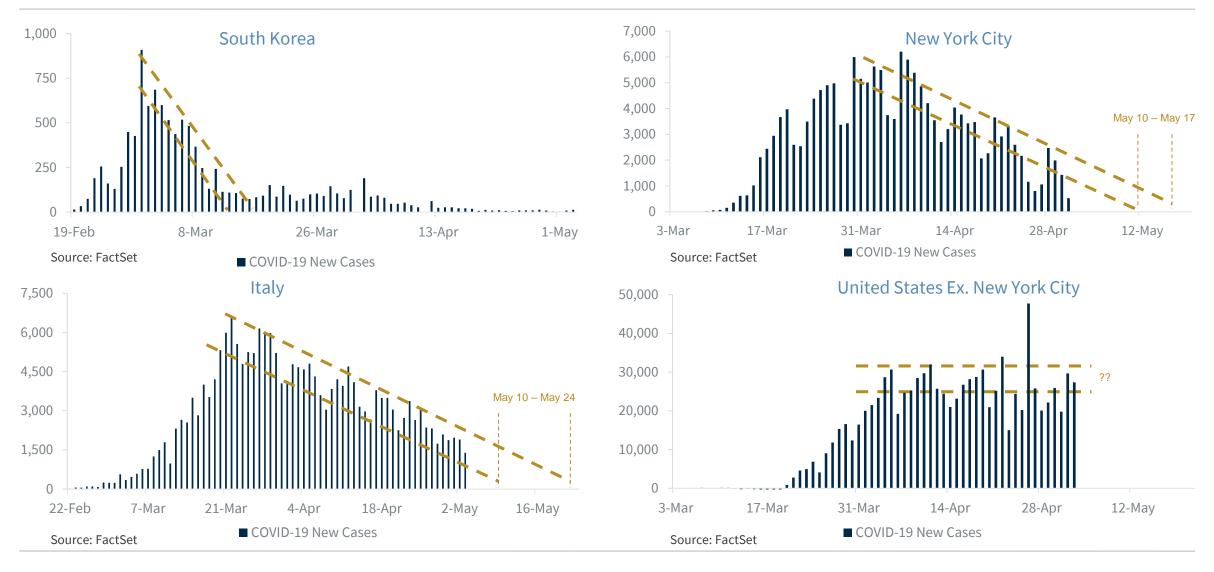
Essential vs. Non-essential (Spain)

Staggered Approach to Avoid Mass Transit Congestion

(Denmark)

Contact Tracing (Germany)

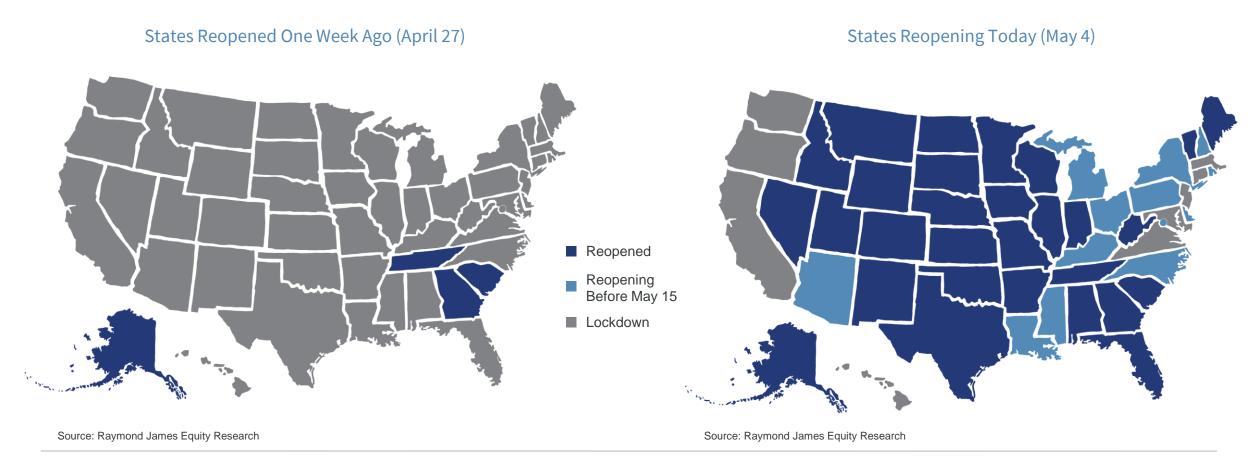
#### **COVID-19 TRENDS**



#### THE PACE OF REOPENING ACCELERATES

#### THE STATES ARE REOPENING, BUT FAR FROM OPERATING AT FULL CAPACITY

• Many states have reopened certain segments of their economies since last week, but most are limiting the reopening to essential and low-contact activities and businesses. Other states that have been significantly more impacted by COVID-19 remain under stay-at-home orders at least until May 15.

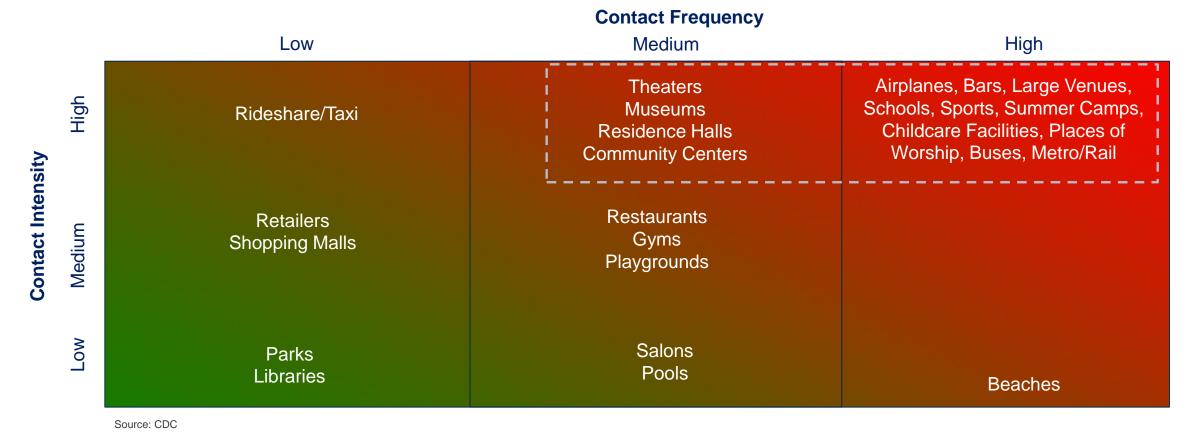


#### **CONTACT INTENSITY AND FREQUENCY**

#### AMERICANS REMAIN WORRIED ABOUT THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

• Despite Americans remaining concerned about the health issues surrounding COVID-19, states are slowly re-opening and basing some of their plans/phases on the intensity and frequency of contact.

#### Potential Strategy for Re-Opening



#### **SEASONAL FLU VS. COVID-19**

#### THE SEASONAL FLU IS LESS INFECTIOUS THAN COVID-19

• The seasonal flu has been around for a long time, and vaccines developed through the years keep its infectiousness rate very low. On the other hand, COVID-19 is almost twice as infectious, and without a vaccine the spread is exponential.

Seasonal Flu		Infectious Ra	te COVID-19 (Conservative Estimate)
1		1	
1		2	
2		4	
2		8	
3		16	
4	• • •	32	
5		64	
6		128	
8		256	
10		512	
<b>12</b>	Source: Raymond James Investment Strategy	1024	

#### **SEASONAL FLU VS. COVID-19**

#### THE SEASONAL FLU IS ALSO SIGNIFICANTLY LESS DEADLY THAN COVID-19

• Only 2% of seasonal flu cases require hospitalization, while almost 20% of COVID-19 cases do. COVID-19's fatality rate is estimated to be between 1 and 3.5%, but even on the lower end of the estimate, it is still 10x deadlier than the seasonal flu.

	Seasonal Flu	Fatality Ra 0.1% vs. 1%	
1		1	
1		2	
2		4	
2		8	
3		16	
4		32	••••••••
5		64	
6		128	
8		256	
10		512	
12	Source: Raymond James Investment Strategy	1024	

#### **SEASONAL FLU VS. COVID-19**

#### THE POWER OF COMPOUNDING

• The estimated range of infection for COVID-19 is between 2x and 3.5x. Although the difference might not seem much, with an infection rate of 3x, it could mathematically take just over 30 days to infect the entire population of the United States, and just a few more days to infect 1 billion people at a 3.5x infection rate.

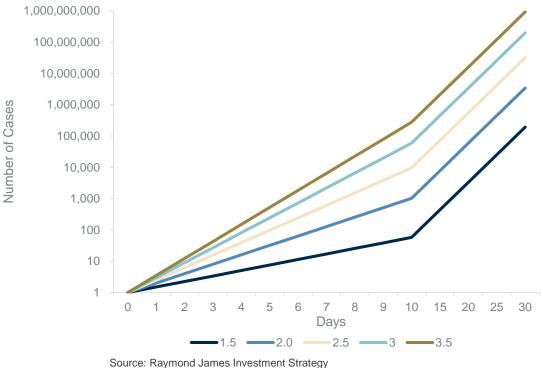
#### Infection Rates and Number of New Cases

#### Infection Rate

		illection reale								
		1.5	2.0	2.5	3	3.5				
Days	0	1	1	1	1	1				
	1	2	2	3	3	4				
	2	2	4	6	9	12				
	3	3	8	16	27	43				
	4	5	16	39	81	150				
	5	8	32	98	243	525				
	6	11	64	244	729	1,838				
	7	17	128	610	2,187	6,434				
	8	26	256	1,526	6,561	22,519				
	9	38	512	3,815	19,683	78,816				
	10	58	1,024	9,537	59,049	275,855				
	15	438	7,776	72,420	448,403	2,094,772				
	20	3,325	59,049	549,937	3,405,063	15,907,174				
	25	25,251	448,403	4,176,082	25,857,196	120,795,103				
	30	191,751	3,405,063	31,712,119	196,353,085	917,287,815				

#### Source: Raymond James Investment Strategy

#### Infection Rates and Number of Cases



#### A PIECE OF THE PUZZLE: CONTACT TRACING

#### CONTACT TRACING IS IMPORTANT TO SAFELY REOPEN OUR ECONOMY, BUT IT IS NOT A STAND ALONE SOLUTION

- The goals of contact tracing are to encourage the quarantine of infected people and to trace those that have previously or are currently in contact with those infected.
- While these goals seem both reasonable and productive, the implementation of contact tracing proves to be quite challenging. Neither methodology (Traditional or Tech-Based) is without faults, and both still rely upon the other pieces of the puzzle, such as readily available testing.

**Steps for Contact Tracing Success** 

#### **IDENTIFY** Infected Person **ISOLATE** Infected Person TRACE All Known Contacts **NOTIFY** Contacts of Exposure **PREVENT** Further Spread

#### Methodologies

## Traditional Approach



#### Pro

- Job Creation
- Laws Protecting Patient Privacy Rights



- Time Consuming
- Subjected To Human Error (i.e., Forgotten Contacts)

#### Tech-Based Approach



#### Pro

- Exposed Persons Are Immediately Notified
- Multiple Contacts
   Notified At Once



- Data Privacy Concerns With Location Services
- Accuracy Concerns
   With Bluetooth

#### OFFICIAL RECESSION CALL DELAYED, BUT WE ARE IN ONE

#### FIVE TOOLS USED BY NBER TO DETERMINE RECESSION

Real GDP on Product and Income

Economy-Wide Employment

Real Income

**Real Sales** 

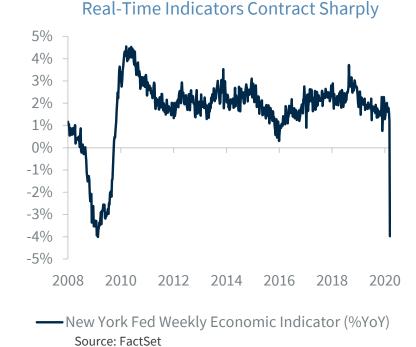
Industrial Production

"Determinations of recession have taken between 6 and 21 months. There is no fixed timing rule. The committee waits long enough so that the existence of a peak or trough is not in doubt, and until it can assign an accurate peak or trough date."

#### -NBER (National Bureau of Economic Research)



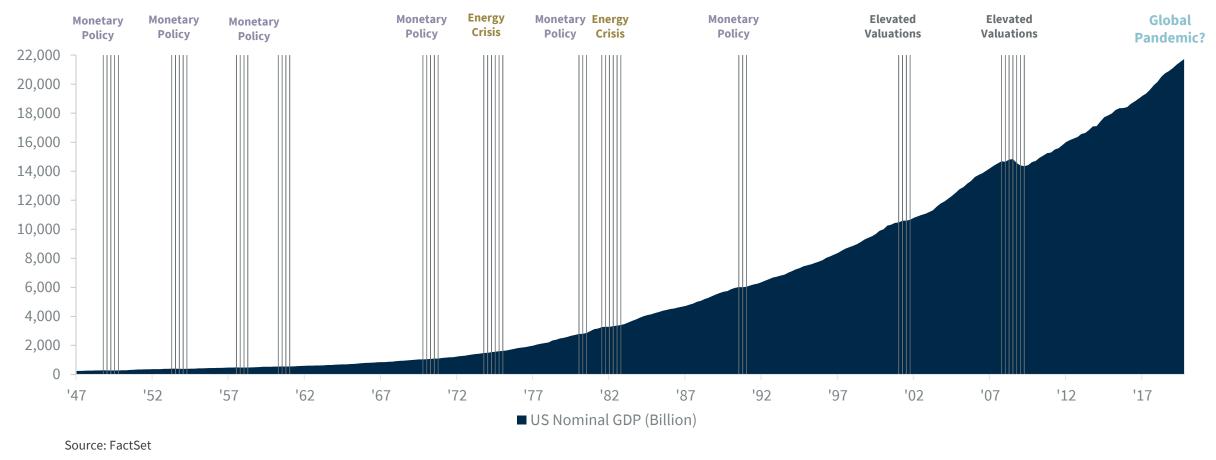




#### **PREVIOUS US RECESSIONS**

#### SINCE 1947, THE US ECONOMY HAS EXPERIENCED 11 RECESSIONS

• The COVID-19 outbreak could be the catalyst for the first virus-induced recession. Since 41 states have implemented stay-in-home orders, consumer spending (which accounts for ~70% of US economic growth) is essentially on lockdown.

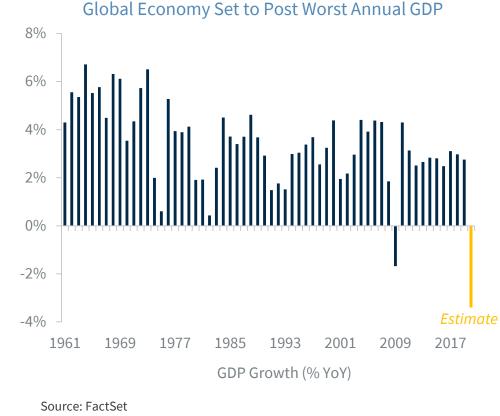


#### US AND GLOBAL ECONOMIC GROWTH DETERIORATING RAPIDLY

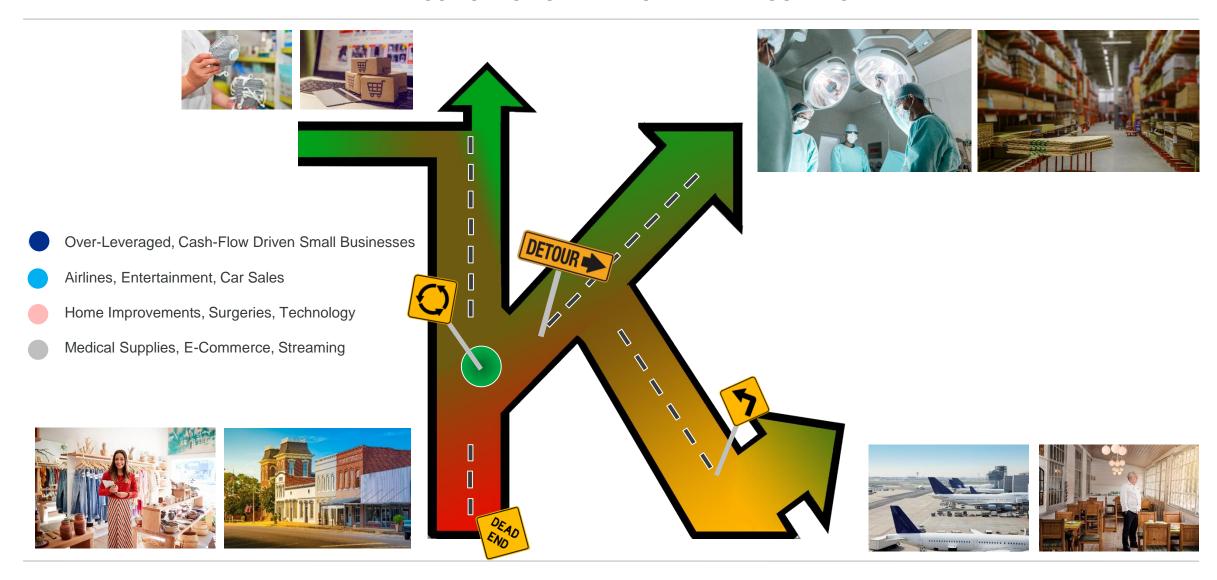
#### THE SHARP DECLINE IN GDP GROWTH IS LIKELY TO BE STAGGERING AND UNPRECEDENTED

- The decline in the second quarter is on pace to be historic, but will likely lead to a rebound during the second half of the year.
- The decline will be due to mandates by state and local governments, as some of the largest states have ordered people to "stay in place."





#### THE ECONOMIC ROADMAP UNDER THE SURFACE



#### FED AND CONGRESS ACTED SWIFTLY AND AGGRESSIVELY

#### THE SPEED AND SIZE OF THE STIMULUS HAS BEEN UNPRECEDENTED

- Since the start of the recession (assuming March 1), it took Congress less than 30 days to pass \$2+ trillion in stimulus.
- In the early signs of economic weakness, the Fed brought interest rates to zero with two swift emergency rate cuts, announced an unlimited amount of purchases through quantitative easing measures, and widened the scope of its purchases to include municipal and corporate bonds.



#### TREASURY YIELDS LIKELY TO REMAIN LOWER FOR LONGER

#### FIVE REASONS INTEREST RATES ARE UNLIKELY TO RISE SIGNIFICANTLY

Weak Growth

**Muted Inflation** 

Central Bank Easing & Buying Increased Foreign Demand

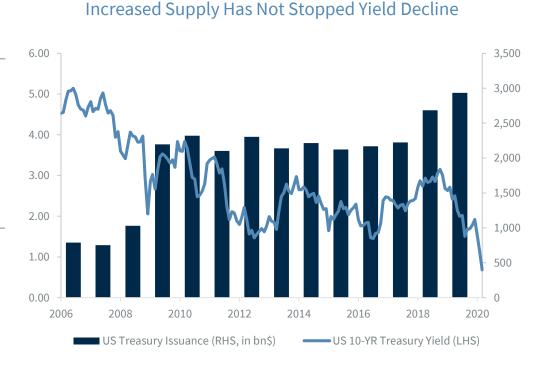
Aging Demographics

Inflation Expectations at Record Low



Source: FactSet

1%
Year-End 10-Year
Treasury Yield
Forecast

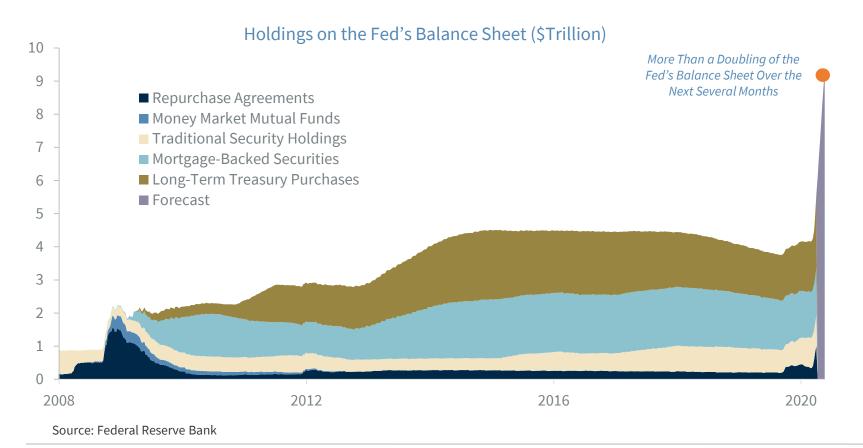


Source: FactSet

#### FED BUYING SUPPORTIVE OF CERTAIN SECTORS

#### FED PURCHASE PLANS EXPANDED TO MUNICIPALS AND INVESTMENT-GRADE CORPORATES

- Fed purchases are another reason we favor investment-grade bonds and municipals.
- Fed purchases should support agency mortgage-back securities, however, pre-payment risk reduces their attractiveness.



### CONSIDER BUYING WHAT THE FED NOW HAS THE POWER TO PURCHASE:

- Municipals (+)
- Investment-Grade Corporates (+)
- Mortgage-Back Securities (=)

#### FOUR CATALYSTS TO PROPEL THE EQUITY MARKET

WITH MARKET VOLATILITY STILL WELL ABOVE ITS HISTORICAL AVERAGE, THERE ARE FOUR CATALYSTS THAT COULD CALM INVESTOR FEARS AND PROPEL THE EQUITY MARKET HIGHER OVER THE INTERMEDIATE TO LONGER TERM









Aggressive Monetary Policy



Aggressive Fiscal Policy



Development of a

Therapeutic or Vaccine

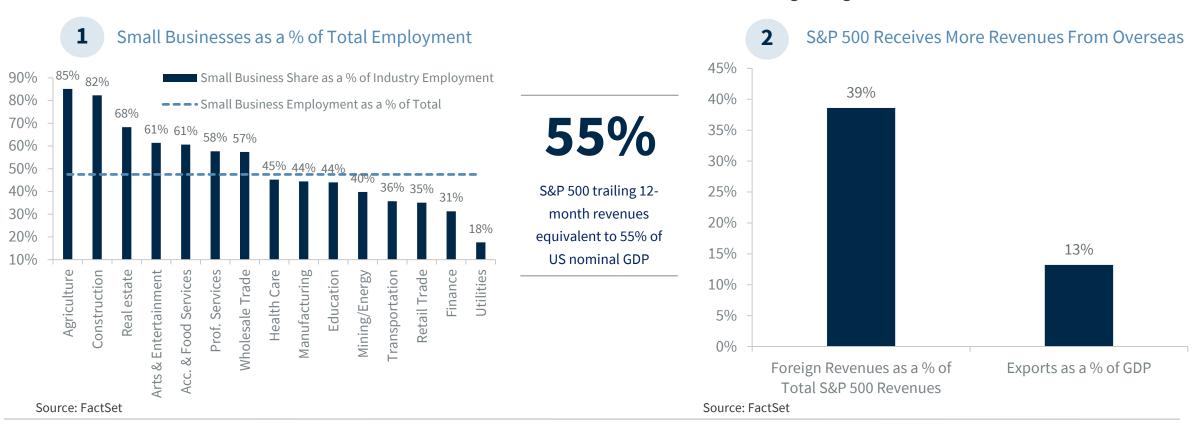


No Longer
Dominating
the Nightly
News



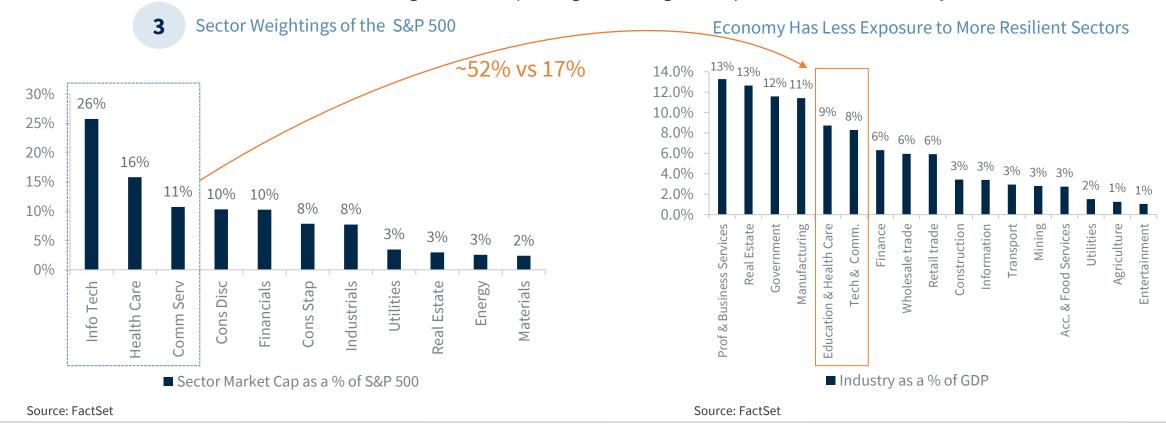
THE EQUITY MARKET HAS STRONGLY RALLIED WHILE ECONOMIC DATA HAS DETERIORATED. WHILE THIS SEEMS INCONSISTENT, IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT THE STOCK MARKET IS NOT NECESSARILY THE US ECONOMY.

- The US economy has over 28 million companies. Small businesses make up ~99% of all firms and ~48% of all employment in the US.
- The S&P 500 receives more of its revenues from overseas, so it should benefit from a turnaround in global growth.



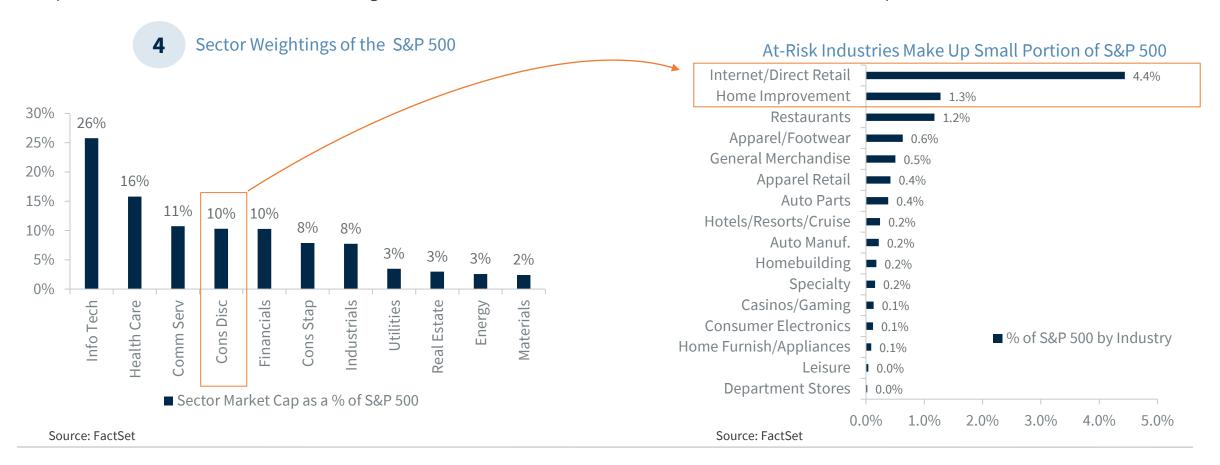
#### S&P 500 NOT REFLECTIVE OF UNDERLYING US ECONOMY

- The three biggest sectors of the S&P 500—Tech, Health Care, and Communication Services—represent 52% of the market cap of the S&P 500 versus only representing about 17% of the US economy.
- Professional and business services, real estate and government spending are the largest components of the US economy.



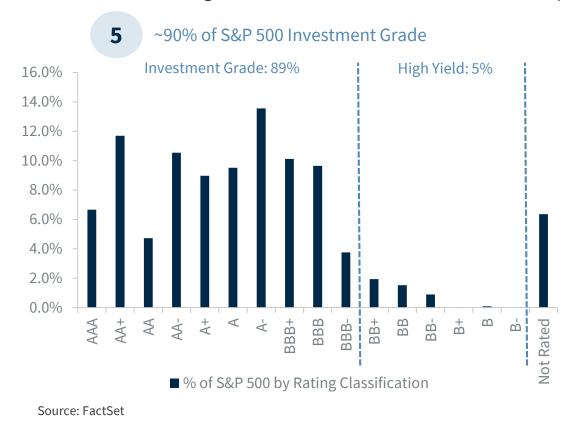
#### CONSUMER DISCRETIONARY SECTOR HEAVILY WEIGHTED TO E-COMMERCE AND HOME IMPROVEMENT

- Internet/direct retail and home improvement companies make up over half (~57%) of the Consumer Discretionary sector.
- Department stores, leisure, home furnishings, casinos, auto manufacturers, hotels, and homebuilders make up ~1% of the S&P 500.



#### FINANCING CONDITIONS FAVOR THE LARGEST AND HIGHEST QUALITY COMPANIES

- ~90% of the S&P 500 is rated as investment grade, which should give these companies access to financing and allow them to benefit from the Fed's corporate bond purchases.
- Interest rates, on average, are much more favorable for S&P 500 companies over small businesses.



#### Corporate-Bond Yields Remain 'Relatively' Low



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#### **INVESTMENT STRATEGY**

Lawrence V. Adam III, CFA, CIMA®, CFP®

Chief Investment Officer

**Matt Barry, CFA** 

*Investment Strategy Analyst* 

**Scott Brown** 

Senior Vice President, Chief Economist

Liz Colgan

Investment Strategy Analyst

**Giampiero Fuentes** 

Investment Strategy Analyst

J. Michael Gibbs

MD, Equity Portfolio & Technical Strategy

**Kevin Giddis** 

MD, Chief Fixed Income Strategist

**Taylor Krystkowiak** 

*Investment Strategy Analyst* 

Joey Madere, CFA

Senior Portfolio Analyst

**Richard Sewell, CFA** 

Senior Portfolio Analyst

**Anne B. Platt** 

VP, Investment Strategy & Product Positioning

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