

It is easy not to see the wood for the trees. We can feel the recovery but how strong is it? The numbers show that we are experiencing the strongest quarter-over-quarter growth in the economy at 8% right now, in Q2 2021 (except the wild swings last year of course).

2021 is expected to be a very strong year with U.S. GDP growing at 6.1%. International Monetary Fund made a prediction that U.S. and other advanced economies will not experience lasting damage from COVID19. By 2024, the US economy is likely to be stronger than predicted before the pandemic. Consumers adapted to lock-downs and social distancing in the second wave of the virus, learning to work more effectively from home, shop online and enjoy leisure pursuits digitally.

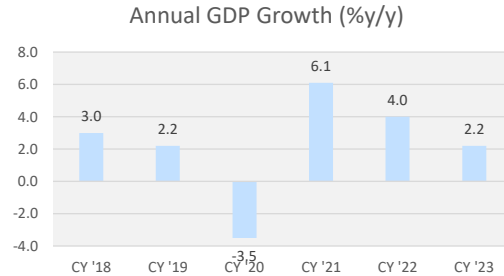
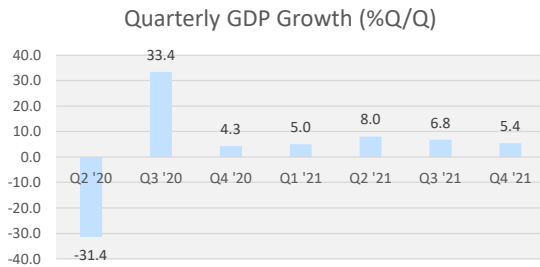
US initial public offerings have exploded this year, driven by the popularity of Spacs. The first quarter of 2021 set a new record for global venture funding with \$125bn raised around the world.

Home prices have been growing at the fastest rate since the great recession driven by the low interest rates and shift to working from home.

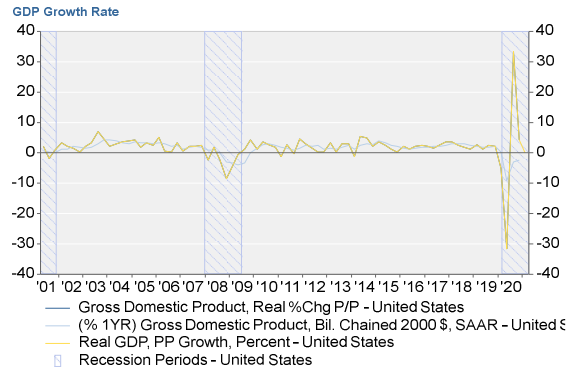
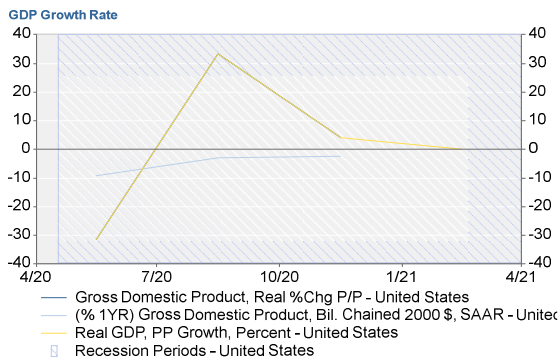
Unemployment continues to work its way down. It is currently at 6% and is expected to recline to 5% by the end of 2021 and to 4% in 2022.

Capital Markets, Government Finance, Foreign Exchange, Leading Indicators, Consumer Confidence, Mergers and Acquisitions

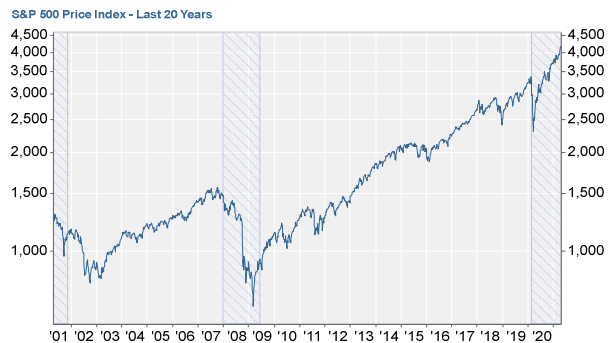
GDP is expected to grow at a very strong 6% in 2021 with the fastest growth happening now in Q2 2021
The outlook has significantly improved in the past 3 months



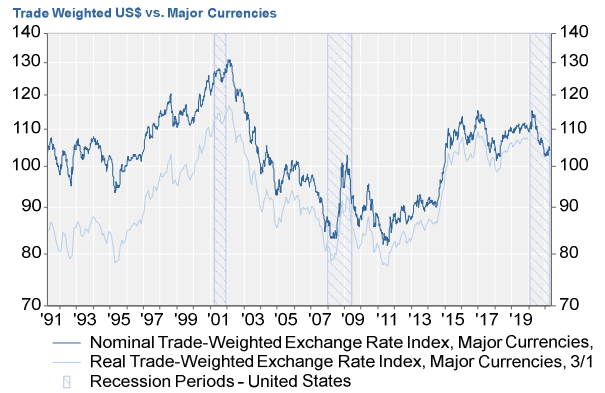
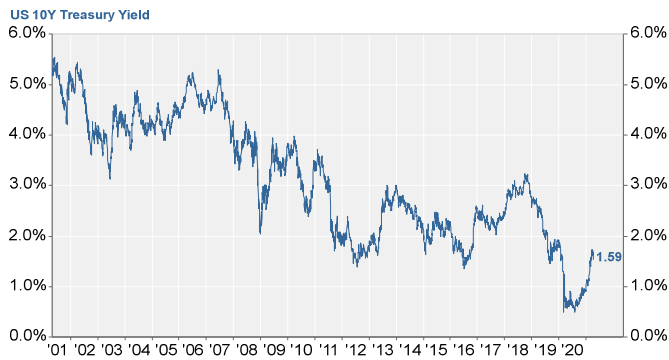
GDP increased by 4% in Q4 2020 and by 5% in Q1 2021 relative to the prior quarter



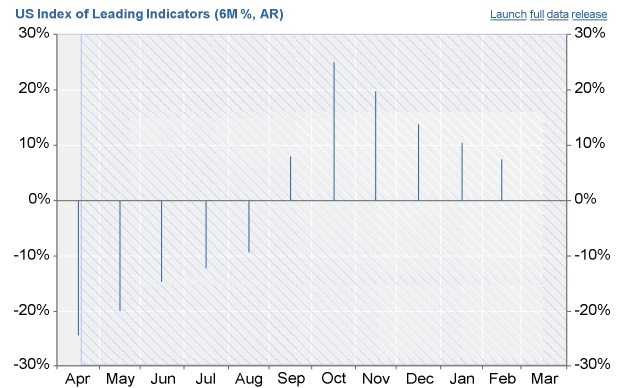
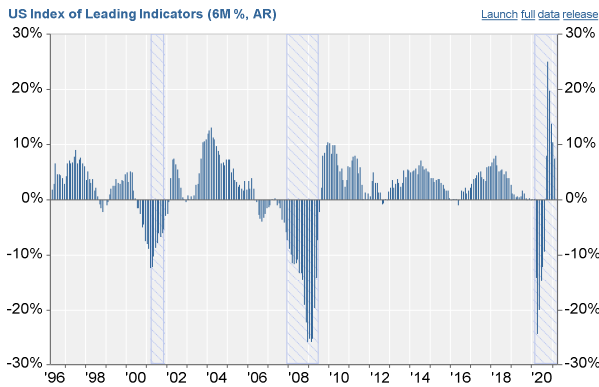
Stock market continued to grow after the US elections reaching new record highs



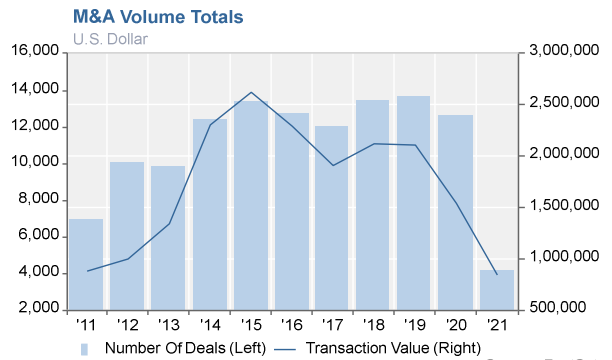
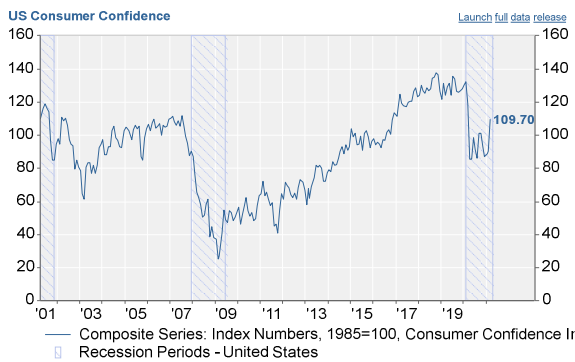
**Interest rates are ultra low as government is focused on encouraging investment
US Dollar declined against other currencies in 2020**



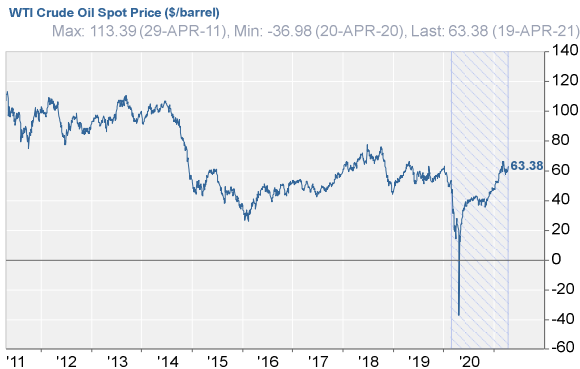
Leading indicators were negative, at 2008 levels, in March - August 2020, however, they turned positive in September 2020



**Consumer confidence has been weak since the beginning of pandemics.
Households have been hoarding cash and are expected to start spending it in 2021**



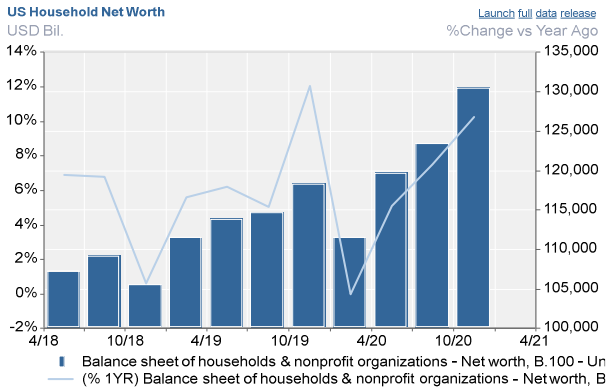
Oil has been weak due to low demand and high supply



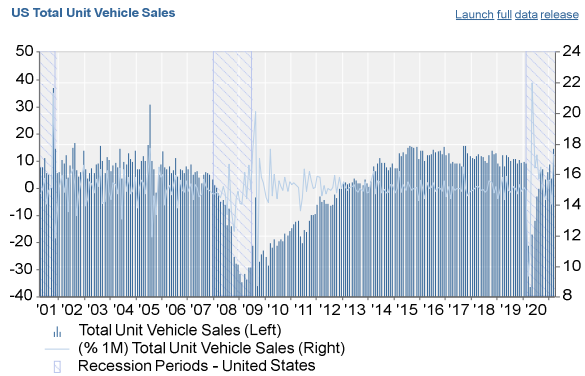
Gold is seen as safe haven as in prior recessions



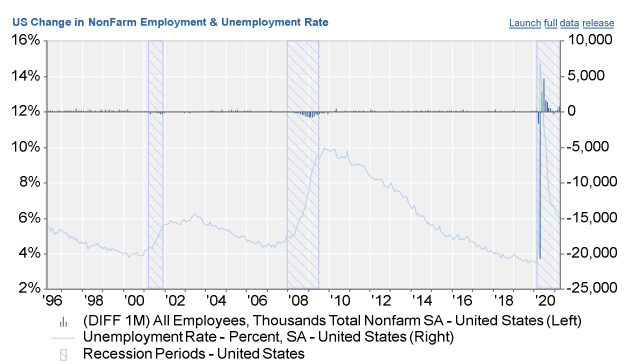
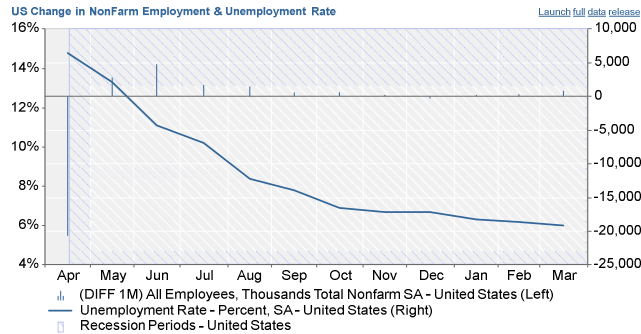
Net worth held up partially due to strong real estate



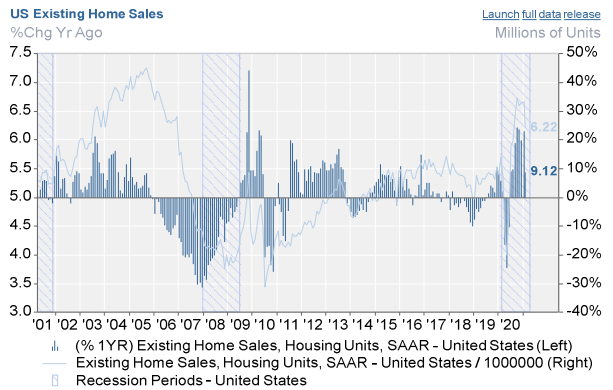
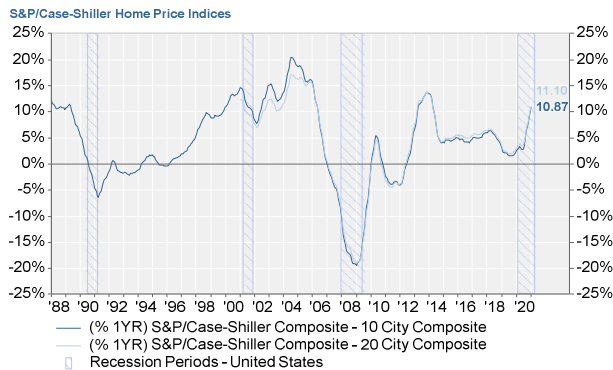
Vehicles rebounded in a switch from the public transit



Unemployment is expected to decline to 5% at the end of 2021, close to the long-term average



House prices increased unlike in the prior recession



Experience

SMU and IBI - Adjunct Professor of Finance
General Motors, AAA and Private equity - Finance and Corporate development positions (6 years)
RBC - Vice President and Associate, Investment Banking, Toronto, Canada (7 years)
Yukos Oil Co - Investor Relations Manager and M&A Analyst, Moscow, Russia (5 years)

Education

MBA, University of Toronto, 2006
Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA), 2006
Advanced Degree in Economics, Moscow State University, 2001
Bachelors of Science in Business, Oklahoma City University, 1998

Interests

Full-time positions in finance or corporate development
Temporary and volunteer work with startups and non-for-profits
Teaching and training for corporate clients

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