

October 20, 2020

Dear Partners,

During the third quarter of 2020, Prosper Stars & Stripes gained 2.2% compared to a return of 3.6% for our long/short equity peer group represented by the HFRX Equity Hedge Index (the “HFRX”)⁽ⁱ⁾ and 4.9% total return for the Russell 2000 Index (the “Russell”)⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾.

Prosper Stars & Stripes is the UCITS Fund launched in May 2015 designed to run pari passu to the Roubaix Fund Composite (the Composite)⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾, launched in January 2010, where its long/short equity peer group is represented by the HFRI Equity Hedge (Total) Index (the “HFRI”)^(iv). The end of period net exposure was 48.8% compared to a 43.4% average since inception in January 2010.

Year to date, the Composite gained 15.6% on a net basis compared to a modest return of just 2.2% for the HFRI and a loss of -8.7% for the Russell. We believe that Roubaix’s investment philosophy and process directly drove outsized performance thus far in 2020 through maintaining discipline with price targets and stop-loss levels within our narrow focus list of ~300 stocks. The Composite was able to capitalize on both sides of the pandemic-driven market volatility, generating substantial alpha and absolute outperformance during the Q1 market drawdown, yet still capturing a significant portion of the market rebound in Q2 and Q3. Overall, the Composite generated almost 20% gross alpha through September, with almost 11% from the long book and 9% from the short book.

	Roubaix Composite	HFRI Equity Hedge Index	Russell 2000 Total Return
Quarter to Date	3.13%	5.78%	4.93%
Year to Date	15.63%	2.24%	-8.69%
Trailing 1 Year	16.99%	8.04%	0.39%
Trailing 3 Years	8.23%	3.72%	1.77%
Trailing 5 Years	8.02%	5.58%	8.00%
Since Inception (1/1/2010)	9.03%	4.56%	10.02%
Standard Deviation	7.25%	8.17%	18.70%
Sharpe Ratio	1.15	0.52	0.58
Downside Deviation	3.95%	5.79%	12.71%
Sortino Ratio	2.14	0.73	0.85

ECONOMY & MARKETS

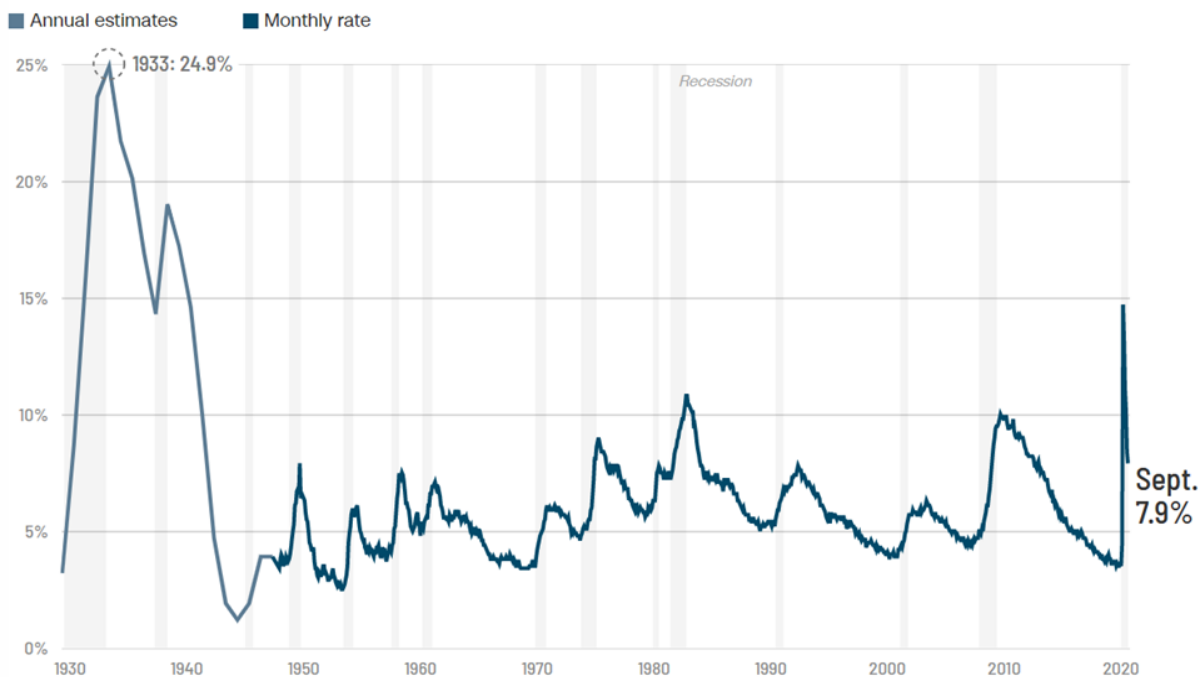
The economic collapse caused by the global pandemic and ensuing lockdowns cratered markets at the start of the year. Uncertainty about the magnitude and length of the crisis understandably weighed on asset

prices. As the trajectory of the virus improved from the initial dire forecasts, the markets began to recover. While the short-term impact was unprecedented, appropriately aggressive monetary and fiscal policy was delivered to offset the disruption. Further, publicly listed companies on Wall Street are better positioned to navigate such a crisis than what are considered Main Street businesses. They are typically larger, more diversified, and better capitalized than true small businesses. Further, many of these public companies continue to grow as certain changes in the economy and consumer behavior benefit their products and services.¹ For these reasons, and certainly some others, equity markets continued to build on the gains that began in the second quarter.

Overall, the economic narrative was largely one sided during the third quarter as the recovery from lockdowns continued. Data points across the board and around the globe steadily improved from the Q2 lows, largely driven by a combination of two things. First, the low base created by the collapse in activity created easy sequential comparisons. This effect has been evident in the job market where the dramatic spike in unemployment was met with a similarly robust rebound with September unemployment falling to less than 8%.²

Unemployment rate since 1929

The unemployment rate declined in September, but at 7.9%, it's the highest unemployment rate heading into an election.



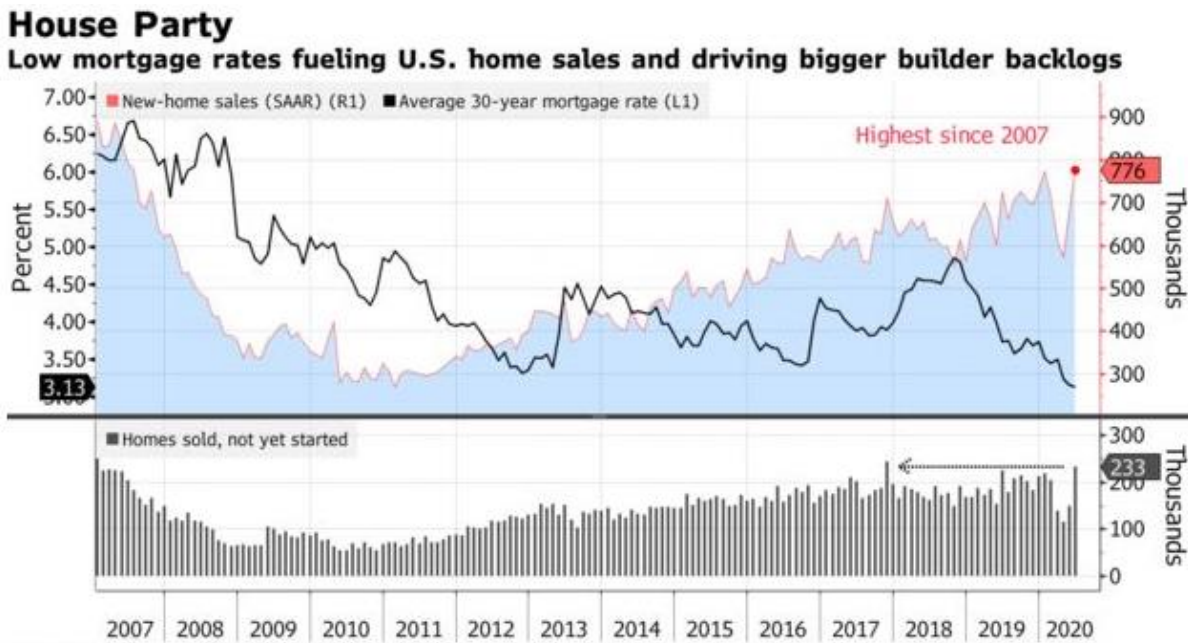
Note: The unemployment rates for 1929 to 1947 are only available as annual averages. From 1948 onward, it's monthly. The 1929 to 1947 data includes the US population ages 14 and up. From 1948 onward, it's 16 and up; An endpoint for the recession that began in February 2020 has not yet been determined.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, NBER
Graphic: Annalyn Kurtz and Tal Yellin, CNN

¹ A fair summary of a few of these points from [McKinsey](#) 'Wall St. Versus Main Street: Why the Disconnect,' October 8, 2020

² Source: [CNN](#), 'Trump Has the Worst Job Losses on Record Heading Into The Election,' October 6, 2020

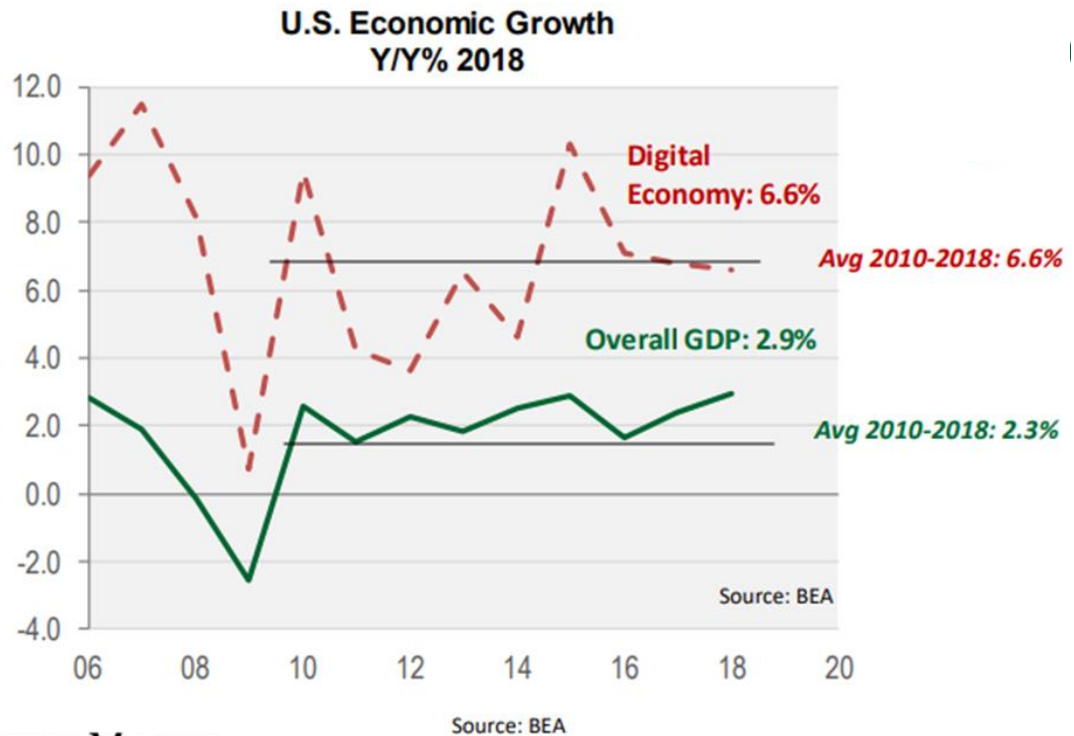
Secondly, while the cessation of certain activities such as travel and leisure devastated this part of the economy, other larger parts of the economy including durable goods have proven quite resilient, if not outright strong. This has been very apparent for housing and autos,³ reflecting that a large portion of the economy remained strong despite the collapse in employment and GDP. These trends may very well persist, supported by low interest rates and structural changes around where people want to live and how they want to commute.



Source: [Bloomberg](#) 'Housing, Auto Demand Are Rare Standouts in Shaky U.S. Recovery, August 5, 2020

Along these same lines, businesses have been able to perform at a high level provided they are not in the sectors most directly impacted by the health crisis. The work-from-home experience has shined a light on areas in which businesses can be more efficient. For example, the need for office space and high cost corporate travel will certainly be reduced as economic activity normalizes. Likewise, the trends towards digitization, automation and e-commerce that have defined the current era have only accelerated amidst the pandemic. Companies will strive to maximize productivity while minimizing incremental costs, likely driving an increase in profitability amidst a return to normalcy.

³ [Housing, Auto Demand Are Rare Standouts in Shaky U.S. Recovery](#), Bloomberg, August 5, 2020



CORNERSTONE MACRO

Source: Cornerstone Macro – Digitization: Strengthening Tailwind for This Expansion

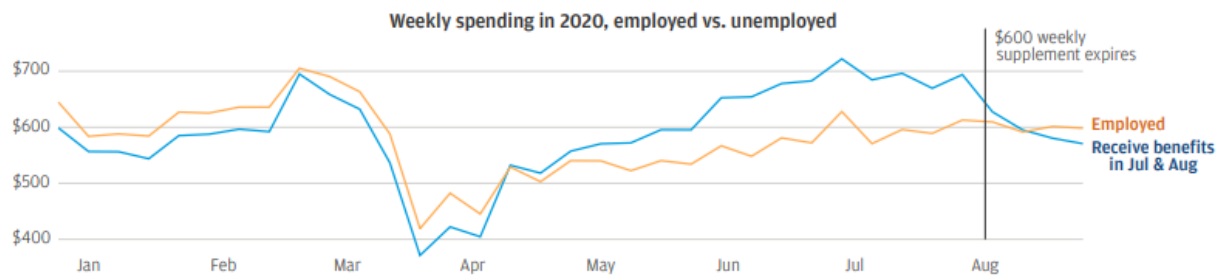
As we approach third quarter earnings season, the short-term market narrative is mixed. The economy sits in an air pocket as most of the fiscal plans have expired and have not yet been replaced. In fact, these programs were very effective as the next chart demonstrates the direct impact on spending and on bank accounts which helped fill the void caused by the sharp drop in activity. While a near-term resolution remains possible, the U.S. elections add a layer of complexity to this issue and the outlook for intermediate government fiscal policy. Further, this is occurring while the health crisis caused by COVID-19 case counts continues to persist if not grow. The summer did not deliver a sustained decrease in cases in the US nor in Europe.⁴ With temperatures cooling, cases rising, and the current virus strain appearing to be more contagious than the earlier strain, “the hardest part is probably ahead,” even though “we’re probably in the 7th inning of the acute phase of this pandemic right now,” since we still have to wait for help from vaccines and therapeutics meaning “there’s really no backstop here.”⁵ We expect this earnings season to show very steep declines that will again be amongst the worst on record. However, as we will discuss in the outlook, we see the backdrop as being relatively benign. The current episode, at least in its severe form, is a short-term experience and the markets are forward looking. We expect progress on the scientific front in terms of understanding the virus itself, improving clinical treatments, and advancing vaccines and therapeutics. This will occur alongside extreme monetary support, and eventually another fiscal support

⁴ COVID-19’s resurgence isn’t just happening in America. Infections are now rising in Spain, France and the UK – all of which currently have more new daily cases per capita than the US. This summer, it seemed as if America’s COVID-19 response was uniquely ... embarrassing. Today, the group of embarrassed countries is more crowded. ‘How to Keep a Fall Surge From Becoming a Winter Catastrophe’, [The Atlantic](#), October 12, 2020

⁵ [CNBC](#), Dr. Scott Gottlieb: U.S. is in the 7th Inning of the Pandemic but the ‘Hardest Part’ is Likely Ahead,’ October 19, 2020

plan. With the current economic expansion just starting, the Fund has positioned for a recovery in 2021⁶ for these reasons while maintaining its historical focus on stock specific investments.

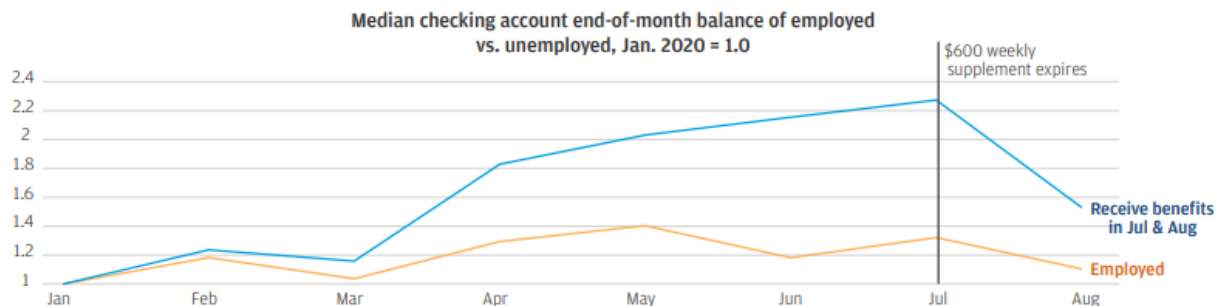
Figure 1: Spending of the unemployed grew upon unemployment benefit receipt, and declined when supplemental benefits expired in August.



Note: This figure shows weekly spending from January through August, 2020, among employed and unemployed households. Spending is defined as the sum of debit card and credit card outflows, cash withdrawals, and a subset of electronic outflows from checking accounts that can be categorized, for example as utility payments. The unemployed group includes Chase customers who receive direct-deposited unemployment benefits in every week of July and August, 2020, while the employed group is never observed receiving direct-deposited benefits in 2020.

Source: JPMorgan Chase Institute

Figure 2: Checking account balances among the unemployed roughly doubled between March and July 2020, then declined when the supplement benefits expired in August.



Note: This figure shows end-of-month checking account balances from January through August, 2020, among employed and unemployed households. The unemployed group includes Chase customers who receive direct-deposited unemployment benefits in every week of July and August, 2020, while the employed group is never observed receiving direct-deposited benefits in 2020. For families who hold multiple Chase checking accounts under the same primary user, we define checking account balance as the sum across all checking accounts.

Source: JPMorgan Chase Institute

Source: JPMorgan Chase & Co Institute, The Unemployment Benefit Boost October 2020

LONG POSITION HIGHLIGHTS

The largest contributor to third quarter long performance was Cambium Networks (CMBM), a provider of wireless broadband networking infrastructure products and solutions. The need for faster high-speed data networks is an investment theme that we continuously pursue. From the rollout of 5G globally, to dedicated enterprise networks, to the internet of things and public safety there are many growth drivers. In the case of CMBM, they sell “purpose built wireless fabric that connects people, places and things across distances

⁶ Source: S&P 500 Likely to Report Second Largest Year-Over-Year Earnings Decline in Q3 since 2009 – [Factset](#), October 12, 2020

ranging from two meters to more than 100 kilometers, indoors and outdoors, using licensed and unlicensed spectrum at attractive economics.”⁷ Put another way, the company sells a suite of products and solutions to enable wireless to replace wireline across numerous use cases. This is a transformation of the communications infrastructure that will go on for some time. We see many opportunities for the company to continue to grow and were encouraged they were able to increase their outlook citing demand for fixed wireless broadband and cloud powered enterprise Wi-Fi.⁸ We have reduced our position size as the stock appreciates towards our base case price target.

The next largest long contributor was Agilysys (AGYS), a software provider to the hospitality sector. The company possesses several characteristics that we seek for successful long investments. First, the business is transitioning from a hardware to a software and services business model. This will increase visibility and profitability – something that investors often reward with a higher valuation. Second, the company vastly improved its fiduciary structure after a respected CEO joined the company and built up his management team. Third, we see the company as part of a broader investment theme that has generated many good ideas – and that is the use of automation to improve customer experiences and business efficiencies. Lastly, the company is focused on a specific niche which we often find enables the focus to be successful in the marketplace. At the time of this writing, AGYS is amongst the largest weights in the portfolio as we continue to see upside as the company executes on its own initiatives and as the travel and leisure sector has ample room to recover in the years ahead.

The largest detractor in the long portfolio during the third quarter was Anterix (ATEX). The company has made quite a bit of progress in the last six months. Most notably, the company’s plan for its 900 MHz spectrum was approved by the FCC in May 2020. Several potential customers were quoted after the approval including Southern Linc noting, “LTE can support grid modernization, the integration of renewable energy resources, enhanced cybersecurity, and other innovations.”⁹ The business case here is simple. Think of the now record-breaking wildfires in California. They are caused when high winds or storms knock live power wires into fire prone areas. If a high-speed data network was available, intelligent sensors could be deployed throughout the network to shut off the power before the live power line could hit the ground and cause a catastrophe. This is one case, but there are several others enabled by a dedicated and secure network including keeping the electric grid safe from cyberattacks.¹⁰ These drivers make us confident Anterix will negotiate favorable contract terms and build a very high margin recurring license revenue stream¹¹ that will be valued highly by the market. However, to date the company has not signed a contract and this disappointing pace of commercialization of the opportunity has led to the stock’s underperformance. We remain confident in our investment thesis and ATEX continues to be a top 10 holding.

⁷ CMBM June 30, 2020 [10-Q](#)

⁸ [Cambium](#) Networks Increases Revenue and Net Income Above High-end of Previous Outlook, October 12, 2020

⁹ [Anterix](#) Announces FCC Adoption of 900 MHz Report and Order, May 13, 2020

¹⁰ Executive Order Shines a Light on Cyberattack Threat to the Power Grid, [IEEE Spectrum](#), July 17, 2020

¹¹ Anterix outlined a [plan](#) on its May 21, 2019 Investor Day, to generate \$125M-\$150M in revenues in 5 years and \$250-\$500M in 10 years and to generate EBITDA margins approaching 80% in 5 years. This would make the company one of the most profitable listed companies in North America.

SHORT POSITION HIGHLIGHTS

The best performing short position in the third quarter was Rite Aid (RAD). At its simplest level, RAD is the 3rd tier drugstore chain in an increasingly competitive market with reimbursement pressures. The leaders in the space, CVS and Walgreens, are multiples the size of RAD. These competitors also have a degree of integration that puts RAD at a distinct disadvantage. This is a classic structure in small and mid-cap stocks where subscale companies in mature competitive markets are share donors. Also, RAD has used its balance sheet for acquisitions in an attempt to generate their own scale. However, these moves have fallen well short of closing the gap with their larger peers and due to disappointing free cash flow generation, the balance sheet remains highly leveraged. We still expect RAD to be a good short over time, but we exited the position after our price target was met.

The second best short in the quarter was Quidel (QDEL), a manufacturer and distributor of a wide range of testing and diagnostics. The business has benefited from the growth in demand spurred by the health crisis. At the time, our view was that the estimated COVID-19 summer seasonality would lead to fewer cases. In the case of QDEL, we believed the stock price appreciation was too great and embedded expectations set too high a hurdle. This proved to be the case for the stock during the period and we exited our position when our price target was reached, per our process. The company does have an excellent portfolio of products including a rapid COVID and flu test that is likely to be a useful tool in managing the health crisis this fall, and is something we continue to evaluate.

The largest detractor in the short portfolio during the third quarter was ADT (ADT), the leading home security service provider. Our short premise was simple. ADT's product is expensive, antiquated and now faces a bevy of new competition. Further, the competition is coming from the largest, most successful publicly traded companies – Amazon and Google. They see the touch points in the home as a pillar to their strategy of ubiquitously servicing their customers. This means ADT must compete against companies with effectively limitless resources and a very different set of profit goals than ADT. During the period, ADT announced a partnership with Google,¹² which lessened the near-term validity of the thesis and opened the door for ADT to work closely with one of the very internet / tech giants they were unsuccessfully competing against. We viewed this as a change to our thesis and exited the short position. We do observe that the excitement for this partnership has passed, however, and the stock has largely given back the gains that arose from the announcement.

OUTLOOK

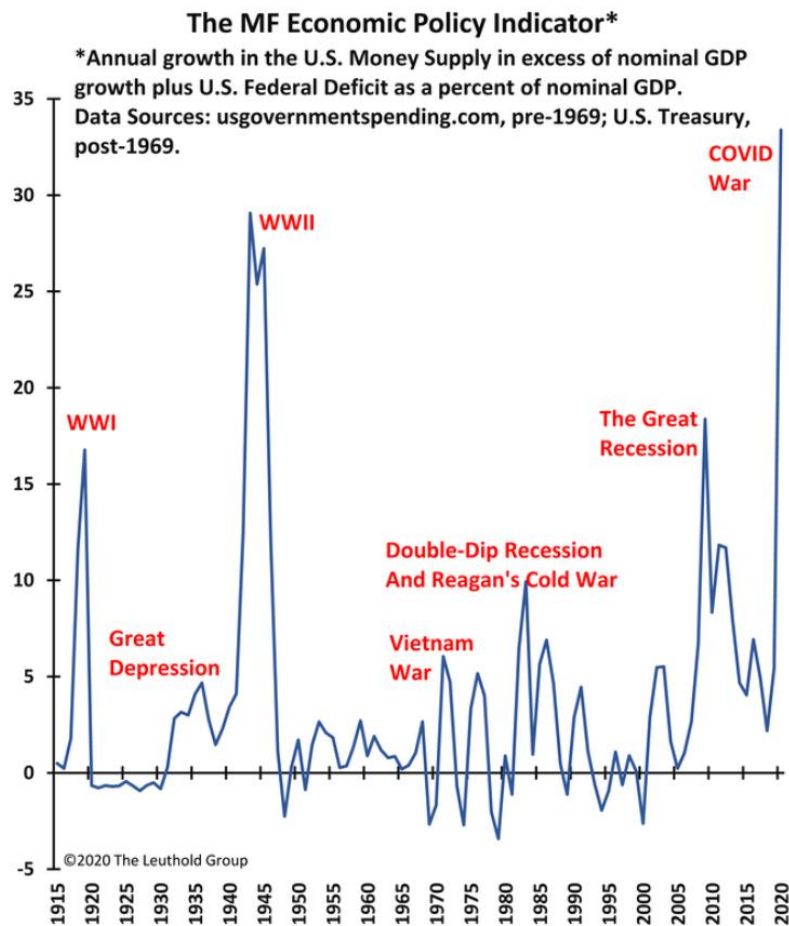
The near-term outlook is dominated by the health crisis. Initial reports, results and estimates were not encouraging at the outset of the contagion in China. The spread was rapid, death rates were high, and this led to alarming projections.¹³ This justified the policy decisions to shut down large pieces of the global economy simultaneously. The economic disruption was historic, causing the largest contraction since the

¹² [ADT](#) and Google Partner to Create Leading Smart Home Security Offering, August 3, 2020

¹³ The estimates from Imperial College London symbolized this line of analysis described in 'After Less Than 2 Months, The Simulations That Drove The World to Strict Lockdown Appear to be Wrong, the Same of the Policies They Generated, [Sage Journals](#), June 17, 2020, that has fortunately proven too pessimistic. For up to date estimates the Global Covid-19 Case Fatality Rates, from the Center for Evidence Based Medicine (CEBM) has a running estimate in mid-October 2020 was 0.18% for North America.

1930s.¹⁴ With that said, the fiscal and monetary response has been extraordinary. The fiscal plans enabled the economy to bridge the void created by unemployment and business closures. The monetary stimulus has kept capital markets open and running smoothly while also supporting higher asset prices.

There was another monetary policy development that is worth noting as it has implications for years to come. The Fed’s annual monetary policy symposium at Jackson Hole has often been the venue to announce material changes in philosophy. Chairman Powell continued this tradition when he announced the Fed would target average inflation going forward.¹⁵ What this effectively means is policy will remain more supportive for longer to create more distance from the challenge of deflation. As we see it, the risk of monetary policy tightening too soon during the next cycle is now very low, and if anything, the Fed desires a longer cycle and prefers the risk of overheating.



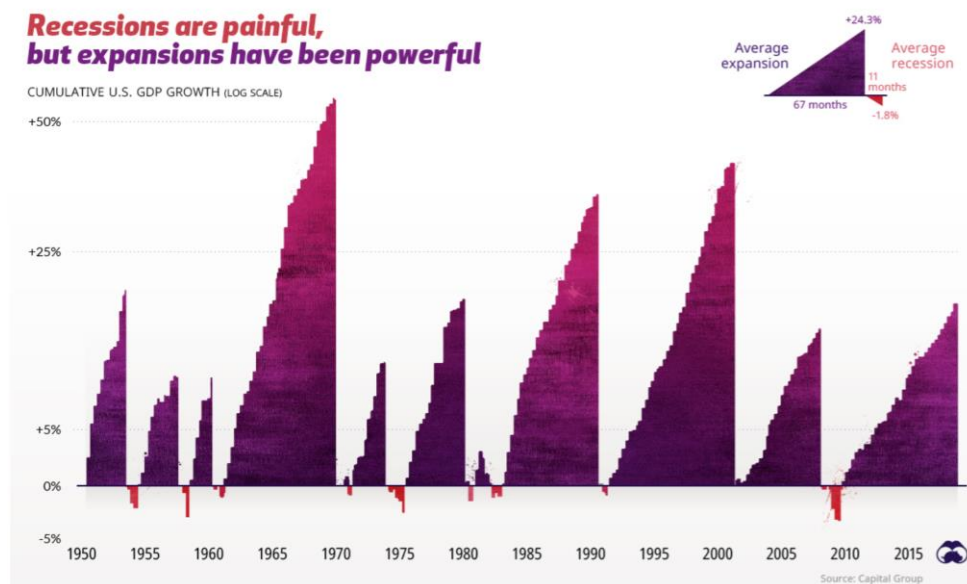
Source: [The Leuthold Group](#), Monetary Madness & Fiscal Folly!, October 19, 2020

¹⁴ The World Economic Forum has a simple summary [here](#) ‘World Vs. Virus Podcast, An Economist Explains What COVID-19 Has Done to the Global Economy, September 25,2020

¹⁵ “[New Economic Challenges and the Fed’s Monetary Policy Review](#),” Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Jerome Powell, August 27, 2020

For the markets and for the Fund, this means there is more support for the economy and risk taking in general. High growth companies that are not yet profitable, for example, are generally supported by the low level of interest rates. A number of positions in the fund in healthcare and technology fall into this category. For example, our position in TransMedics (TMDX), which we have discussed in previous letters, is not yet profitable, but they are creating a large and growing opportunity by increasing the availability of human organs for transplantation.¹⁶ The company does this with the Organ Care System, which “replicates many aspects of the organ’s natural living and functioning environment outside the human body.”¹⁷ In technology, Impinj (PI) is making electronic tracking more ubiquitous with low power, low cost chips and they continue to invest and scale. As they describe it, they’ve already enabled 40 billion items across industries including hospitals, retailers, and logistics and see the opportunity reaching trillions of everyday items.¹⁸ Despite a lack of near term meaningful profitability, the company fits well into the value added applications that will accompany next generation wireless infrastructure and the Internet of Things. Likewise, we believe PI will benefit from the value of highly detailed real time information that is enabled by the convergence of these trends.

The current policy stance also makes a cyclical recovery in the economy more likely and potentially more powerful. Continued support from the central bank, and the confidence that it will remain in place even when the economic cycle heats up, adds upside to the next cycle. With a recession now likely behind us, the next expansion is already underway. The debate will likely be about just how strong the recovery can be when the easy comparisons generated in 2020 are lapped with the help of monetary and fiscal stimulus. For the Fund, this gives us more confidence to invest in certain stocks that are cyclical, but also have other unique qualities to increase chances of outperformance.



Source: [Visual Capitalist](https://www.visualcapitalist.com/everything-you-need-to-know-about-recessions/) Everything You Need to Know About Recessions, January 9, 2020

¹⁶ Our note on TMDX is available [here](#) ‘TransMedics: A Medical Device Company Creating a Healthy Ecosystem, Seeking Alpha, June 5, 2020

¹⁷ See the Transmedics June 30, 2020 [10-Q](#)

¹⁸ See the Impinj June 30, 2020 [10-Q](#)

We have discussed Orion Engineered Carbons (OEC) in past writings, but to reiterate, they manufacture a key component of tire manufacturing. Demand was artificially depressed as the economy locked down, but demand for vehicles has since rebounded strongly. We believe this puts OEC in a good position to grow earnings during the cyclical recovery and beyond. We would also note, the CEO led a different industrial company during the last SARS outbreak, and this made the company unusually well prepared for this crisis. He was also an active buyer of the stock during the downturn, a vote of confidence that we like to see. The company has been investing heavily in its plant and equipment for the past few years and we expect to see benefits to free cash flow as the investments slow in the face of higher demand. We are already seeing signs the broader industrial economy is recovering¹⁹ and we similarly see attractive opportunities in a number of other equities.

Agriculture is another cyclical end market that has been hit hard by the recession. We have kept an eye on unique companies within the broader machinery industry that can combine company specific or thematic drivers to layer on top of an expected economic recovery. One such company is Raven Industries (RAVN). The business has been transforming itself over the years to a higher value set of solutions. In its agricultural segment, RAVN has a series of autonomous solutions for farming. These include a system to enable autonomous driving of tractors in day and night-time conditions, as well as a fully autonomous off loader that allows combines to run more continuously. These types of advances are all around us now. The promise here is more productivity and efficiency as software and machines replace the high cost, and at times unreliable, manual labor.²⁰ We believe RAVN will generally benefit from an overall recovery in its end markets, then layer over it the compelling new automation product set that is on trend for where the world is headed and we see multiple ways for the company to generate excellent returns.²¹

Certainly, the health crisis remains a headwind. Case counts are already moving higher in many Western economies, even before cooler temperatures force more indoor time which is likely to increase the spread of the virus. This makes the fall and winter seasons look particularly challenging. However, we believe the passing of the pandemic is a matter of time. To begin, more data has shown that the COVID-19 fatality rate estimate has steadily fallen²² and has now settled towards 0.19%.²³ While no doubt a severe outcome for

¹⁹ [MarketWatch](#) 'Philadelphia Fed Index Outperforms NY Empire State Survey in October, October 15, 2020, noted the strong readings of the Empire State and Philadelphia Fed indexes as they "are the first several regional manufacturing gauges to be released for the month. They can frequently be volatile from month to month, but taken together they present one of the timeliest reads on a critically cyclical sector."

²⁰ A good summary of his trend as it relates to industry giant Caterpillar from [Reuters](#), 'Caterpillar Bets On Self-Driving Machines Impervious to Pandemics', October 12, 2020, noting 'With both small and large customers looking to protect their operations from future disruptions, demand has surged for machines that don't require human operators on board.'

²¹ COVID-19: Do Many People Have Pre-Existing Immunity?, The [BMJ](#), 'Covid-19: Do Many People Have Pre-Existing Immunity?' September 17, 2020, citing studies of pre-existing t-cell immunity ranging from 18-51%. A paper in [Nature](#) 'Cross-Reactive Memory T-Cells and Herd Immunity to SARS-CoV-2, October 6, 2020 was less convinced that t-cell immunity impacted herd immunity to COVID-19 saying 'In sum, we argue that key potential impacts of cross-reactive T-cell memory are already incorporated into epidemiological models based on data of transmission dynamics, particularly with regard to their implications for herd immunity.

²² The [CDC](#) 'COVID-19 Pandemic Planning Scenarios', September 10, 2020 were updated in September to a much lower rate albeit stratified by age

²³ Global Perspective of COVID-19 Epidemiology for a Full-Cycle Pandemic, [European Journal of Clinical Investigation](#), October 7, 2020

the areas impacted early on, this puts the virus in a category similar to other influenza like illnesses²⁴ and on a scale that is moderate vs. the more severe pandemics in history.²⁵ The current strain of the virus may be more contagious but less virulent than the early strains.²⁶ This would certainly help explain the differences in spread of the virus between the US and Europe where initial differences in infection rates have converged, implying something besides policy – perhaps the timing and the strain of the virus – explains the current situation globally. Second, the number of infections in some areas have reached levels that may imply a degree of herd immunity building in communities.²⁷ Third, there is likely a degree of cross immunity to COVID-19 afforded by similar coronaviruses, though this remains contentious on limited research to date. Fourth, there will be progress on vaccines and therapeutics. We don't expect the vaccines to be a perfect solution, but the combination of all the above should put the pandemic into a manageable state by the summer. Fifth, basic responses such as ventilation,²⁸ filtration,²⁹ and other ways of lessening the exposure to viral load³⁰ can meaningfully impact the spread and severity of the disease.³¹ Lastly, human being are resilient and have lived through the specter of diseases³², wars, and countless other challenges throughout time.

²⁴ Epidemiological Parameter Review and Comparative Dynamics of Influenza, Respiratory Syncytial Virus, Rhinovirus, Human Coronavirus, and Adenovirus, [MerRxiv](#), October 11, 2020

²⁵ Visualizing the History of Pandemics, [Visual Capitalist](#), March 14, 2020

²⁶ Massive Genetic Study Show Coronavirus Mutating and Potentially Evolving Amid Rapid US Spread, [Washington Post](#), September 23, 2020

²⁷ To begin, the WHO was cited in [Time](#), '10% of the World Has Been Infected With COVID-19, WHO Estimates, October 6, 2020, that the case count globally as infecting 1 in 10 which is 20 times the official case count. With the passing of time, this rate of infection continues to climb. While there are many studies and debates on herd immunity and this issue will not be resolved shortly and time will tell. In 'Walking Through the Pandemic Modelling, Exponential Growth and Herd Immunity Maze', [Daily Maverick](#), October 8, 2020 provides a good overview of sorts including citing the work of Gabriela Gomes who has taken the view that the thresholds for herd immunity are lower than generally perceived, see 'Herd Immunity Thresholds for SARS-CoV-2 Estimated from Unfolding Epidemics', [medRxiv](#), August 2020. Japan has been very successful for a non-restrictive policy response on a relative basis. This study actually showed nearly a 50% exposure to the virus in Tokyo, a rather high number and extraordinary vs. the low fatality rates in the country which was also driven by asymptomatic spread implying mild disease in 'Dynamic Change of COVID-19 Seroprevalence Among Asymptomatic Population in Tokyo During the Second Wave', [medRxiv](#), October 11, 2020. Lastly, herd immunity has gotten to be contentious as a policy point that makes sense as lives are at stake. The author of The Great Influenza: The Story of the Deadliest Pandemic in History, John M. Barry wrote 'What Fans of 'Herd Immunity' Don't Tell You', [NY Times](#), October 19, 2020, simply outlines the near term and long term costs of the spreading of a virus such as this one.

²⁸ Early on this topic was highlighted by Zeynep Tufekci, 'We Need to Talk About Ventilation,' [The Atlantic](#) July 30, 2020

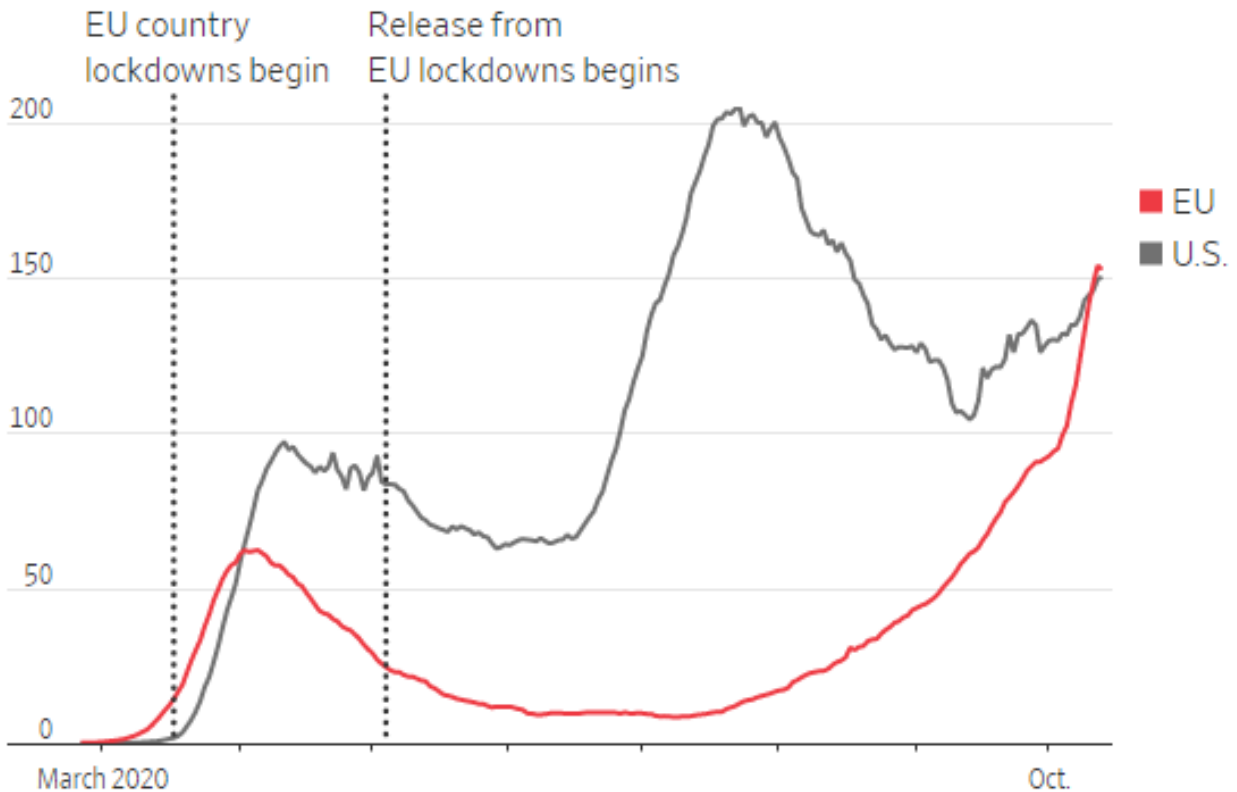
²⁹ 'Protecting against COVID's Aerosol Threat', [Scientific American](#), October 1, 2020 reviews how aerosol transmission has finally been acknowledged as a key factor in virus transmission and the many simple steps to take to reduce risk.

³⁰ 'Face Masks Really Do Matter. The Scientific Evidence Is Growing', [WSJ](#), August 13, 2020

³¹ Japan has done remarkably well, a [WSJ](#) article 'How Japan Beat Coronavirus Without Lockdowns', July 7, 2020 made good points, including the fact that a very small number of people are superspreaders. This was explored at length in, 'This Overlooked Variable Is The Key To the Pandemic', [The Atlantic](#), September 30, 2020

³² History is full of experiences of terrible infectious diseases, which eventually abate, pass or science helps overcome. A brief summary in, 'How Do Pandemics End? History Suggests Diseases Fade But Are Almost Never Truly Gone', [The Conversation](#), October 14, 2020.

Daily confirmed Covid-19 cases per million people, seven-day rolling average

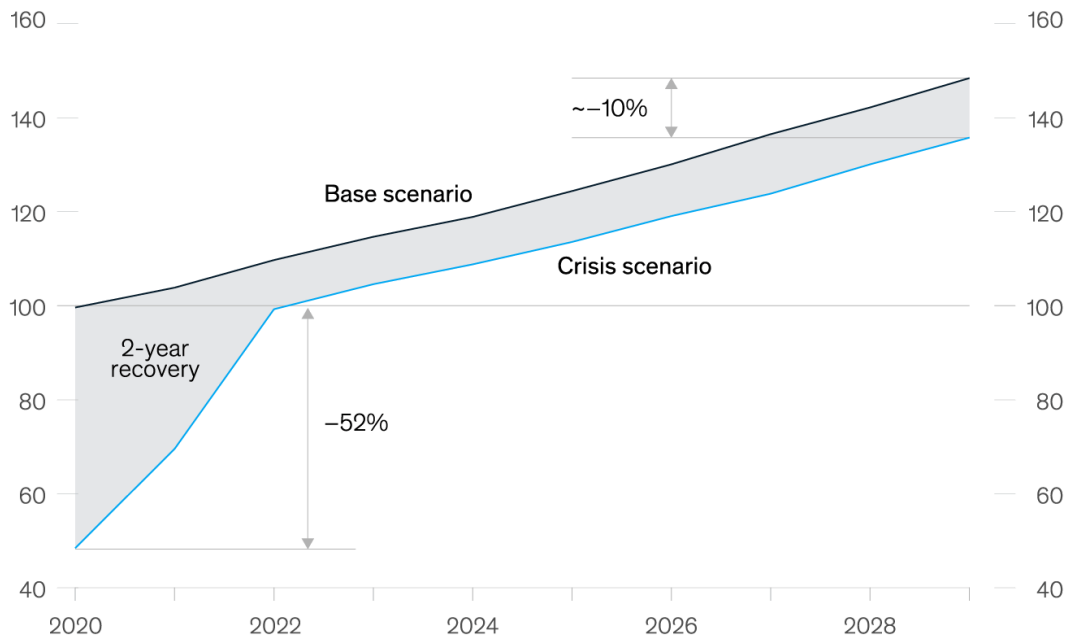


Source: [WSJ](#), Europe Overtakes U.S. In New Cases of COVID-19, October 14, 2020

The idea that the pandemic and its devastating economic effects will be moving behind us by the middle of next year means that this experience will prove to be temporal for the market. After all, very little business value is derived from short-term earnings or cash flows when weighed against all the future periods and terminal value of companies. We believe the market is aware of this as a factor and will continue to highlight it particularly when the constant stream of negative news abates and the panic phase recedes. We also expect the market to be discounting this logic as positive datapoints evolve on vaccines, therapies and on the general understanding of the virus and the clinical and practical means to manage it.

The stock market during the COVID-19 crisis is still focused on the long term.

Illustrative impact of COVID-19 crisis on stock-market value, index (100 = 2020)



McKinsey & Company

Source: [McKinsey](#) 'Wall St Versus Mainstreet: Why the Disconnect, October 8, 2020 showing the impact of a 50% fall in profits over a 2 year period. Current trend would suggest the percent decline will vary but the timing is closer to 1 year than the 2 years used for this demonstration.

We therefore see short opportunities in the category of stocks that have benefited from the disruptions caused by the virus and resulting policy responses. For example, forced lockdowns have shifted discretionary consumer spending at restaurants into consumer staples and the grocery channel, which has exhibited all the signs of a mature ex-growth category to varying degrees for several years. Now, 2020 has turned into a boom year. We believe consumers are anxious to get back to eating out and will not hesitate to leave the pantry full of soup and packaged food. We see companies such as Sprouts Farmers Market (SFM), Natural Grocers Vitamin Cottage (NGVC) and Albertsons (ACI) particularly exposed to this headwind, in addition to having company specific competitive challenges that will make the situation even more difficult to manage.

Similarly, we understand why spending on certain categories has been so strong. Demand for home improvements and all areas of outdoor activity have seen gains that are generational. Some of this momentum will sustain for several more quarters as depleted channel inventories are replenished. However, we expect the market will not assume such mature businesses will be able to grow on top of this year's peak demand. We also believe that consumers have been spending money on home improvement and outdoor recreation because the typical vacations were simply not possible or not practical when either travel bans or two week quarantines were in place, and activities were limited at destinations. As a result,

when the health crisis wanes these spending patterns are highly likely to revert with clear winners and losers. Taking this into account, we are invested in a handful of travel and leisure companies such as Wyndham Destinations (WYND), Alexander and Baldwin (ALEX)³³ and Grupo Aeroportuario del Sureste (ASR)³⁴ and are short companies that have seen extraordinary growth in sales from the current situation, such as Fox Factory (FOXF), Scotts Miracle-Gro (SMG) and Sonos (SONO).

One final thought on our short perspectives is that we see certain structural trends accelerating. We continually seek to identify long investments that benefit from advanced communications, improved productivity, or enable lower costs and greater efficiency. One of the shocking lessons from the experience of the lockdowns and work from home experiment is how well it has worked in many situations. Certainly, many people will return to work as the health crisis fades, but there is a strong case that a certain amount of this change is secular. For businesses, centralized office space and competition for in-market talent had become a basic cost of doing business. But, if a certain percent of employees can work remotely on a permanent basis, then there is an opportunity to reduce office footprints while also casting a wider net for the best talent.³⁵ And it is not just companies that want this. For many consumers, less commuting and more flexibility on places to live is an asset. For this reason, we have been short several office REITs, including Vornado Realty Trust (VNO), Piedmont Office Realty Trust (PDM) and Corporate Office Properties Trust (OFC).

While we hesitate to be overly confident in the political backdrop given lack of credibility in polls, we have framed the upcoming election and policy changes this way. A Democratic win will likely result in higher taxes on certain areas of the economy. However, the Democrats would in turn be very likely to spend aggressively both in reaction to the health crisis and to promote several expansionary agendas that are a part of their core platform. According to some estimates, a Democratic win would be more beneficial to GDP than a Republican one.³⁶ Conversely, if the executive branch remains Republican, taxes are unlikely to change and may even be lowered if the other branches of government are of a similar composition. Further, Republican party has typically been associated with various pro-business and pro-market policies, so they will likely feel pressured to put together another fiscal plan after the election as parts of the economy will remain under unprecedented pressures. The point is, both parties come with puts and takes but both are likely to support spending at varying degrees and promote policies that are either supportive to the economy and/or the markets.

Our investment philosophy focuses on consistently identifying superior long and short stories and investing in those when the risk-reward governed by the movement in prices affords us opportunities. We see a rich opportunity set as we head into 2021. The fact that a new expansion has likely just begun, and the economy looks fairly strong with September retail sales surprising to the upside.³⁷ Monetary policy is guided to be

³³ Just recently, Hawaii eased its travel restrictions making it easier to visit. This practical approach should help leisure travel begin to recover, [AP News](#) Thousands Arrive in Hawaii on First Day Pre-Travel Testing, October 16, 2020

³⁴ Travel to Mexico has been a bright spot for the industry and this will likely strengthen in future periods benefiting ASR, [Travel Off Path](#) 'Cancun Has Become One of the Top Destinations In the World During the Pandemic', September 27, 2020

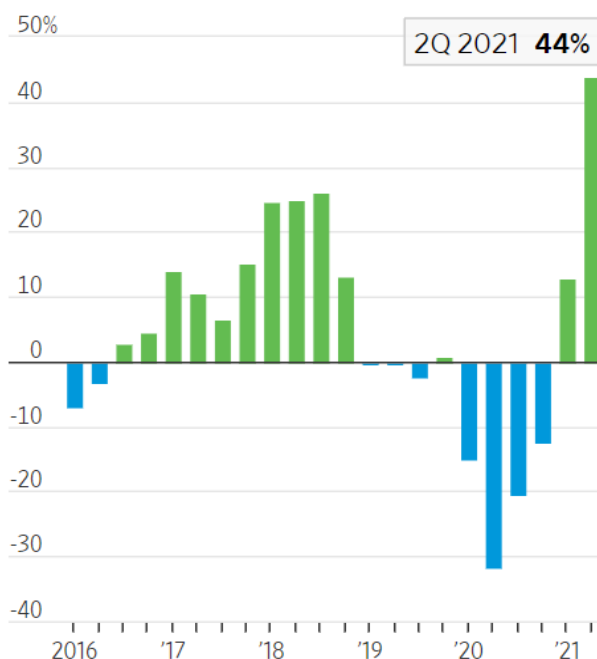
³⁵ [Reuters](#) summarized what many publicly traded companies said last quarter, "Who Still Needs The Office?" July 22, 2020, with one analyst saying, "Every company just went through a mass work-from-home experience and for the majority it was mostly positive." The result is they expect a 15% reduction in office space demand after the pandemic is contained.

³⁶ The Macroeconomic Consequences: Trump vs. Biden, [Moody's Analytics](#), September 23, 2020

³⁷ [WSJ](#), "US Retail Spending Picked Up Strongly in September" October 16, 2020

supportive for an extended period of time and upcoming fiscal support are two powerful drivers for the markets and corporate earnings. A part of the expansion is simply the recovery from the shock of 2020. But there are also earnings that come from increasing business productivity as they get ever more efficient over time. We see this as constructive for the backdrop and continue to skew our long portfolio as such and relative to our stock specifics. On the short side, many secular trends that have been in place have accelerated due to the pandemic. We see this as a driver for many of our short positions. We also expect the narrative around the health crisis to improve and as it does investors and then consumers will move away from many of the mature areas that benefited from the shutdown in the economy and move back to areas that will see a strengthening recovery.

S&P 500 quarterly earnings, change from previous year



Note: 3Q 2020 and after are estimates
Source: FactSet

Source: [WSJ](#), 'Investors Are Betting Corporate Earnings Have Turned a Corner', October 11, 2020, and for running updates see [Factset](#) Earnings Insight, October 9, 2020

INVESTMENT PHILOSOPHY

We believe the most important drivers of equity value over time are the strength or weakness of a company's business model, the advantages or challenges created by their financial structure, and the quality of the fiduciaries involved. We identify what we believe are the best long and short narratives in the small and mid cap universe of U.S. stocks and track them on a focus list. Our list is dynamic as we evaluate new companies entering our market cap range due to price changes, IPOs, spin-offs and other corporate

developments. Likewise, we eliminate stocks from our focus list when the long thesis plays out and they become too large for our approach, or if the short thesis drives the stock price to a level at which it transforms into a special situation with vastly decreased liquidity and/or increased price volatility. Base, bull and bear case price targets are derived from two year forward valuation, while also considering longer term trends discounted back appropriately. We deploy capital when these differentiated narratives present themselves with a compelling risk/reward profile relative to other stocks in our portfolio.

We concentrate our efforts on smaller companies due to their inherent structural inefficiencies that drive greater price dispersion, in turn enabling higher alpha generation on both longs and shorts. The investment landscape continues its trend of consolidating investment management and advice at ever larger financial institutions. The cost benefit of increased scale has an inverse effect on the ability of investment managers to buy and sell smaller stocks when considering reasonable liquidity parameters. Further, the rapid growth in passive and quantitative investing is reducing the amount of competition from fundamentally driven active stock pickers overall. As an increasing share of daily trading volume shifts to passive from active mandates, there is even less economic benefit to sell side equity research. This in turn reduces the amount of published information, particularly in smaller stocks with lower trading volume. Importantly, we think these inefficiencies are not just persistent, but should move even more in our favor over time.

Smaller companies are likely to remain a reliable source of mispriced investment opportunities that are either overlooked or are not practical investments for larger firms. This is especially true today as the small cap Russell 2000 Index lags the large cap S&P 500 Index by ~15% YTD, and almost 30% over the past three years. We believe our structured fundamental investment process allows us to uncover such unique ideas and generate value through stock selection on both long and short investments. We tend to concentrate individual stock positions in 30-50 longs and 30-50 shorts to maximize the value of our research, and likewise do not utilize ETFs or options to hedge. Position level weights are optimized for exposure to changing fundamental factors, catalysts and risks. To manage overall portfolio risk, we avoid leverage on the long side, maintain consistent net exposure, and remain disciplined with our price targets and stop-loss levels. We believe our strategy is amongst the leaders in small cap l/s equity with a decade of compelling net returns, low volatility, and consistent capital preservation in weak markets.

Thank you for your ongoing support,



Christopher E. Hillary

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- i. HFRX Equity Hedge Index : Equity Hedge strategies maintain positions both long and short in primarily equity and equity derivative securities. A wide variety of investment processes can be employed to arrive at an investment decision, including both quantitative and fundamental techniques; strategies can be broadly diversified or narrowly focused on specific sectors and can range broadly in terms of levels of net exposure, leverage employed, holding period, concentrations of market capitalizations and valuation ranges of typical portfolios. Equity Hedge managers would typically maintain at least 50%, and may in some cases be substantially entirely invested in equities, both long and short. Hedge Fund Research, Inc. (HFR) utilizes a UCITSIII compliant methodology to construct the HFRX Hedge Fund Indices. HFRX Equity Hedge Index is rebalanced on a quarterly basis and is composed of funds that have at least USD 50 million under management and have been actively trading for at least twenty-four months.
- ii. The Russell 2000 Total Return Index is Russell Investments’ Composite Index of 2000 small cap stocks, a widely recognized, unmanaged index of common stock prices. The benchmark index may or may not hold substantially similar securities to those held by the Composite, and thus little correlation may exist between the Composite returns and that of the Index. The Index is not available for direct investments; therefore, its performance does not reflect the expenses associated with active management of an actual portfolio. The return for the Index includes gross dividends reinvested into the index. You cannot directly invest in the Russell 2000 Total Return Index.
- iii. The performance referenced in this letter shows the historical performance of the Roubaix Fund Composite (the “Composite”), unless otherwise noted. The Accounts in the Composite have investment objectives, policies and strategies that are substantially similar. The Composite consisted of two advisory accounts until February 29, 2020. Accounts contained in the Composite are actively managed and characteristics may vary. Net performance for the typical investor reflects the deduction of 1.15% annual management fee, 15% annual incentive allocation and other expenses and includes gross dividends and other income reinvested in the portfolio. Net performance figures reflect performance for a typical investor in the portfolio who invested at the beginning of the period and remained invested throughout the period. The performance for an individual investor may vary based upon various investor-specific factors including, without limitation, the investor’s eligibility to participate in new issues. Advisory fees are deducted monthly while incentive fees are deducted annually and over time each will reduce the net return on a compounded basis. A fee schedule can be found on Form ADV, Part 2A for Roubaix Capital, LLC.
- iv. The HFRI Equity Hedge (Total) Index tracks funds that maintain positions both long and short in primarily equity and equity derivative securities. Equity hedge managers would typically maintain at least 50% exposure, and may in some cases be entirely invested in, equities-both long and short. HFRI Equity Hedge (Total) is a fund weighted index and reflects monthly returns, net of all fees, of funds that have at least \$50 million under management or have been actively trading for at least twelve months. The Index is not available for direct investment.

More frequent performance information is available upon request.

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