SARASIN &PARTNERS

## Six Minute Strategy

A most exceptional recovery

1 April 2021



## **COVID** update

UK and US confirmed cases fall – lockdowns in Europe tighten

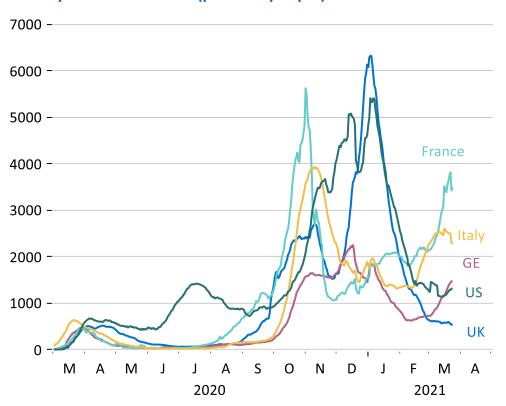


UK and US cases markedly lower – Italy, France rising

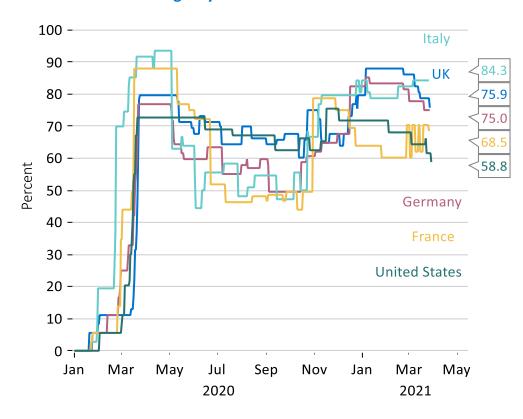


Lockdown in Europe remains close to March 2020 levels

#### Weekly Confirmed Cases (per 1mn people)



#### **COVID-19 Global Stringency Index**



Source: Macrobond, 01.04.21 Source: Macrobond, 01.04.21



### Global economic outlook

Upward revision to global growth on the back of US stimulus, adaptation and vaccinations



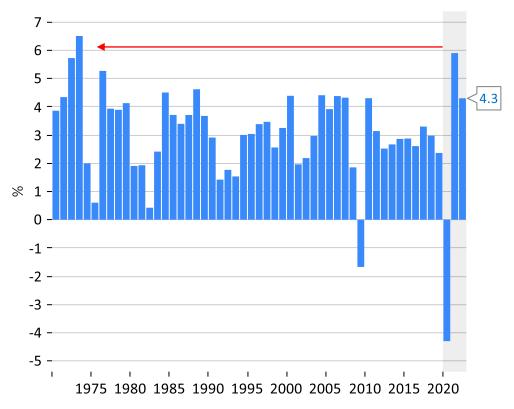
#### **GDP** growth forecasts, annual average %

	2020	2021	2022
	2020	2021	2022
China	2.3 (1.8)	9.0 (9.0)	5.7 (5.7)
US	-3.5 (-4.0)	6.7 (4.1)	4.1 (3.4)
Eurozone	-6.9 (-7.4)	4.8 (5.9)	4.5 (4.3)
UK	-9.9 (-11.3)	5.6 (6.3)	4.0 (4.0)
Japan	- 4.9 (-3.7)	3.2 (3.6)	3.3 (1.5)
World	-4.3 (-4.4)	5.9 (5.5)	4.3 (4.0)

Note: parenthesis are GDP forecasts at time of IPC December 2020

2021 global growth forecasts strongest since 1973





Source: Sarasin and Partners and Macrobond, 2021



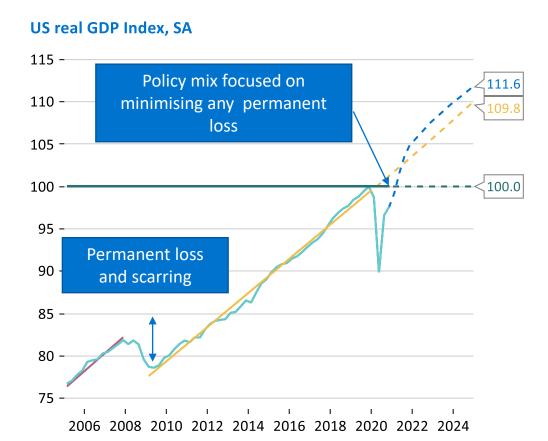
## 1. US: Biden, Yellen, Powell chart a course for the US economy without permanent loss & ready for mid-term elections

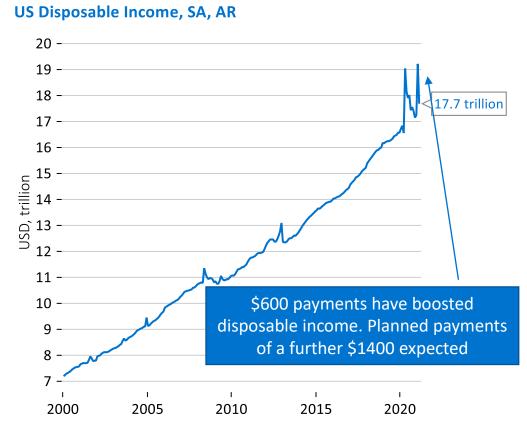


US growth: 6.7% in 2021, 4.1 % in 2022 and 2.2% in 2023



Fiscal support has been aggressive and overwhelming





Source: Macrobond, 01.04.21



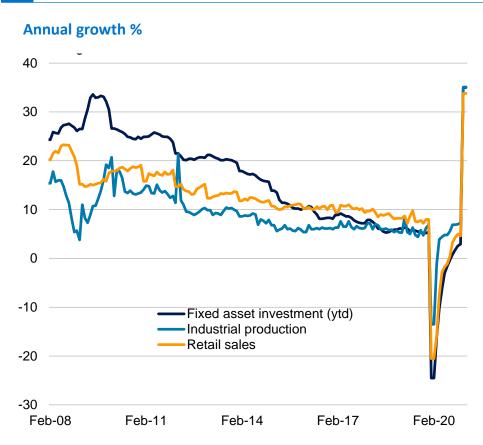
# 2. China: Low base effect from Jan-Feb 2020 is causing distortions, but solid recovery with strong exports



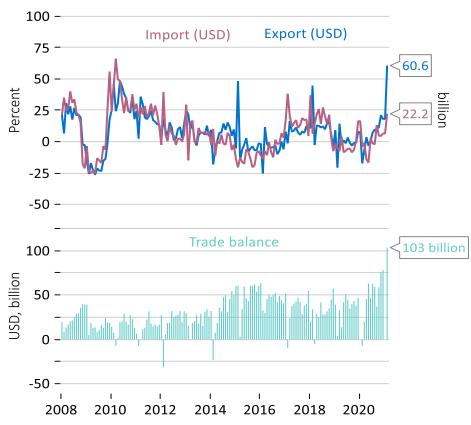
Recent activity data distorted by low 2020 base effects



**Very strong export data – PPE/work from home/electronics** 







Source: Sarasin & Macrobond, March 2020

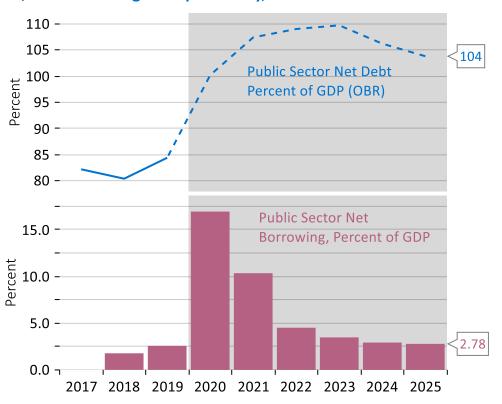


## 3. UK: Fiscal stimulus, vaccinations and re-opening to drive a very strong rebound from Q2 2021

## **UK fiscal forecasts**

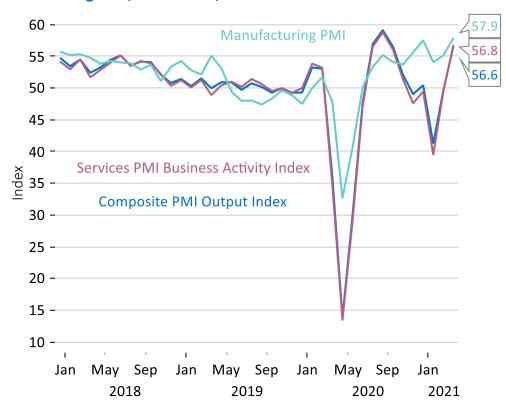


#### **UK, Office for Budget Responsibility, Estimate**



#### United Kingdom, IHS Markit, SA

Source: Macrobond, 01.04.21





### Markets 2020

Bonds prices fall – UK rallies – global equities climb steadily

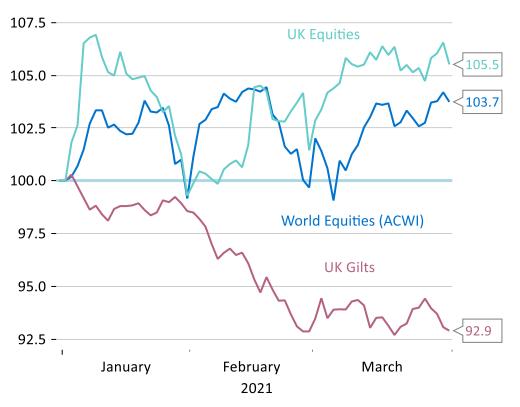


**Equity rally continues on election, Brexit and vaccine news** 

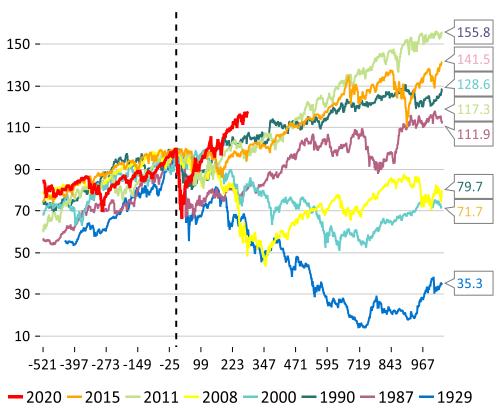


The fastest recovery from a bear market on record

#### **Global Asset Class Returns 2021 (GBP)**



#### **S&P500** Corrections from Peak



Source: Macrobond, 01.04.21



## Vaccine led global recovery gathers pace

Bond yields trend higher – earnings and dividends climb – volatility to rise



**Global strategy update March 2021** 

Bonds	<ul> <li>Strong Underweight</li> <li>Strong UW Government Bonds – a robust global recovery implies upside risks for yields</li> <li>UW Investment Grade Credit – yield spreads narrow - UK charity &amp; infrastructure issues offer social impact benefits</li> </ul>	
Equities	<ul> <li>Owerweight</li> <li>OW Global equities – equity risk premium still attractive while earnings have scope to surprise - volatility to rise</li> <li>OW UK equities – valuations attractive - flow of funds back to UK probable on Brexit deal</li> <li>OW EM equities – China centric Asia managed COVID well –commodity/energy rally supports other EM</li> </ul>	
Alternatives	<ul> <li>Overweight</li> <li>OW Other Alternatives— infrastructure and renewables beneficiaries of fiscal spend - liquidity issues remain</li> <li>OW Uncorrelated Alternatives — add to gold positions following recent price correction as Govt borrowing soars</li> </ul>	
Cash	<ul> <li>Underweight</li> <li>Central Bank commitment means negative real yields - first US rate rise forecast for 2023</li> <li>No currency preference given similar macroeconomic policies/rates worldwide</li> </ul>	
Risks	Current: Resurgence in virus variants in 2021, disorderly bond markets  Longer-term: Inflation pressures become entrenched, central bank policy error, China-Taiwan tensions	



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