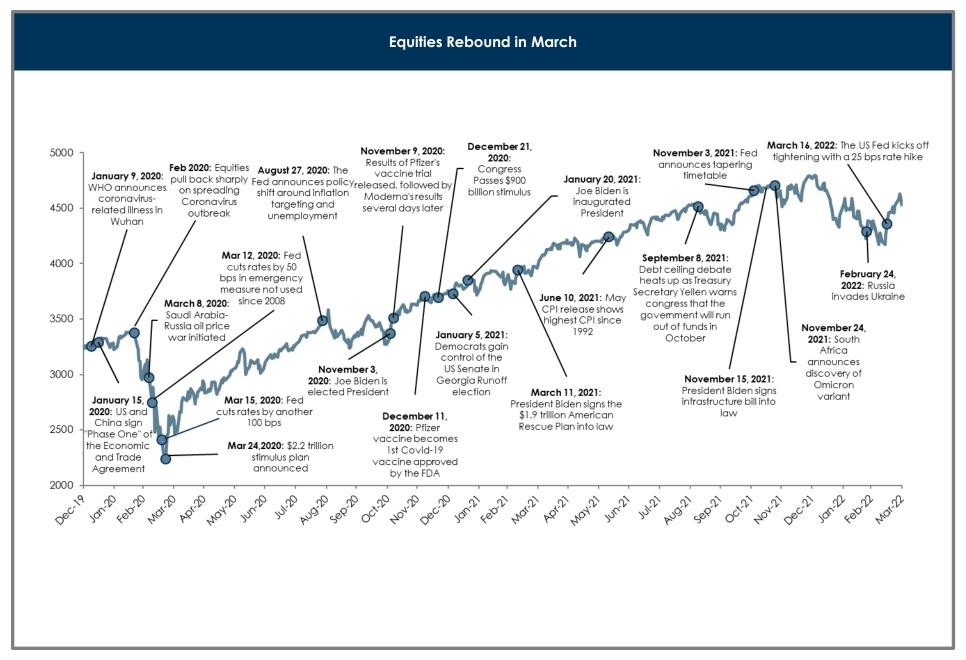
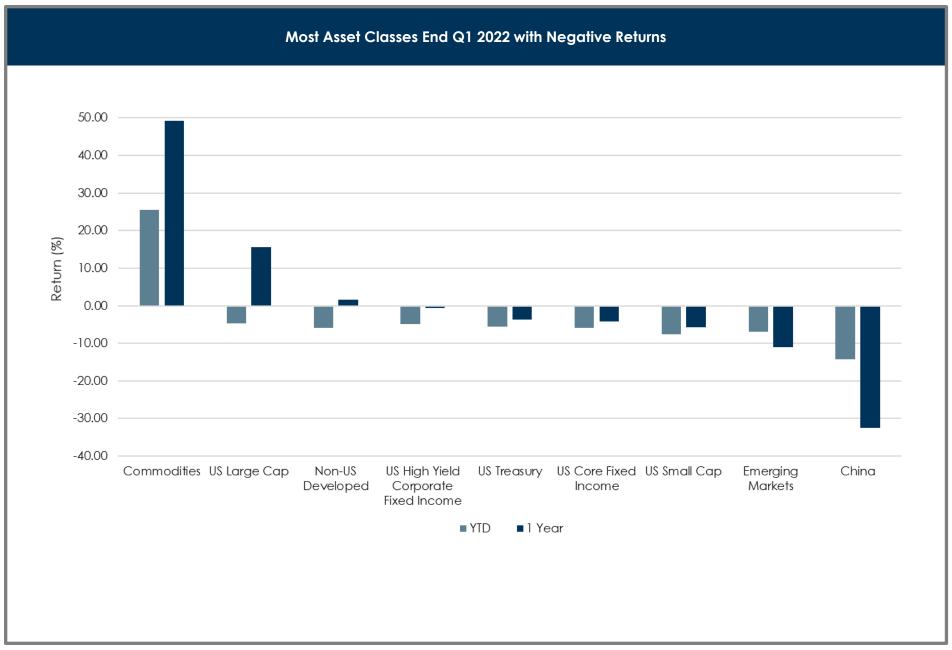
# Global Economic Update

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2022

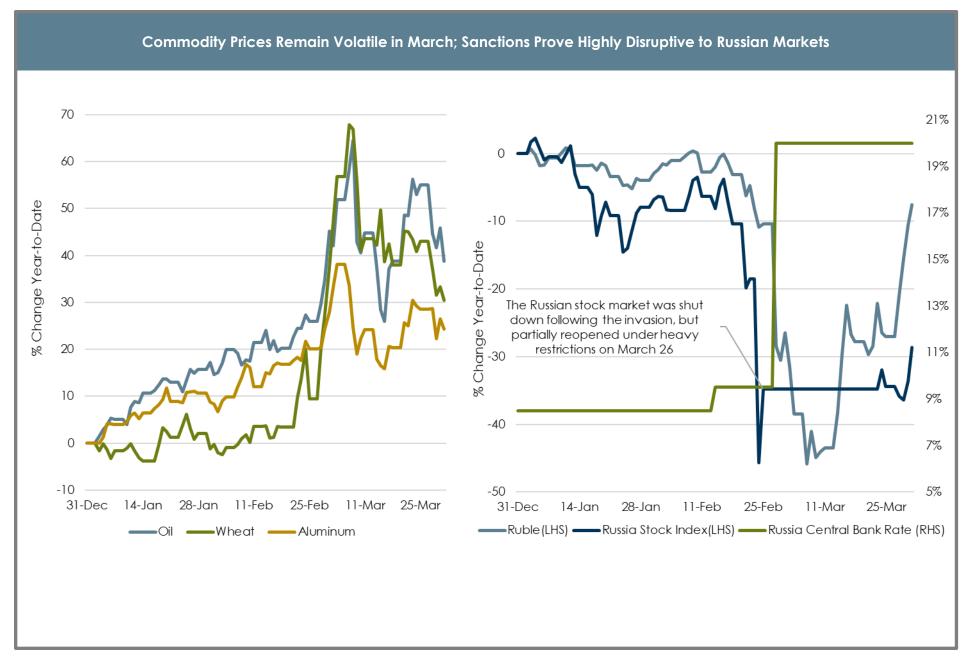
- Russia's invasion of Ukraine rattled financial markets and resulted in harsh sanctions on Russia's economy
- Many commodity prices have hit multi-year highs as the invasion raises risk of supply disruptions
- Omicron wave waning for most of the world while China continues to enforce zero-Covid, leading to additional lockdowns
- Economic data improved in Q4, and growth forecasts for 2022 remain strong
- Monetary policy tilting hawkish, with tapering accelerated to end in March, and as many as eight more rate hikes now projected in 2022
- Infrastructure bill signed in November but 'Build Back Better' stalls, putting additional fiscal stimulus at risk
- Employment growth picking up but remains disrupted, hourly earnings rising
- Inflation is expected to remain elevated through 2022
- Despite elevated valuations, strong earnings forecasts are supportive of equities
- Bond performance struggled in Q1, but rising rates have improved the outlook for bonds going forward



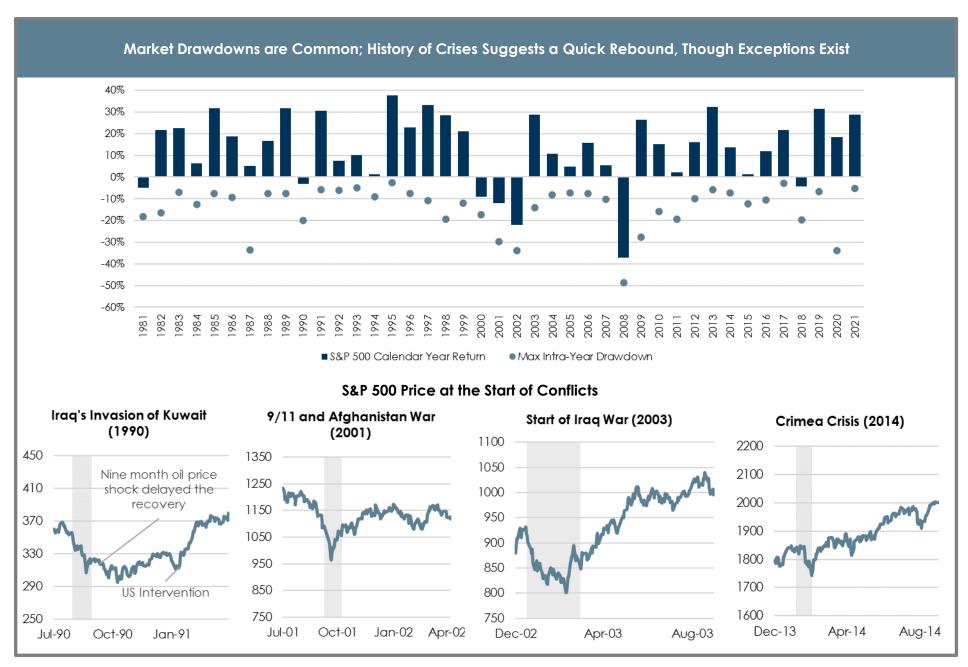
Source: ACG Research, Bloomberg (as of March 31, 2022)



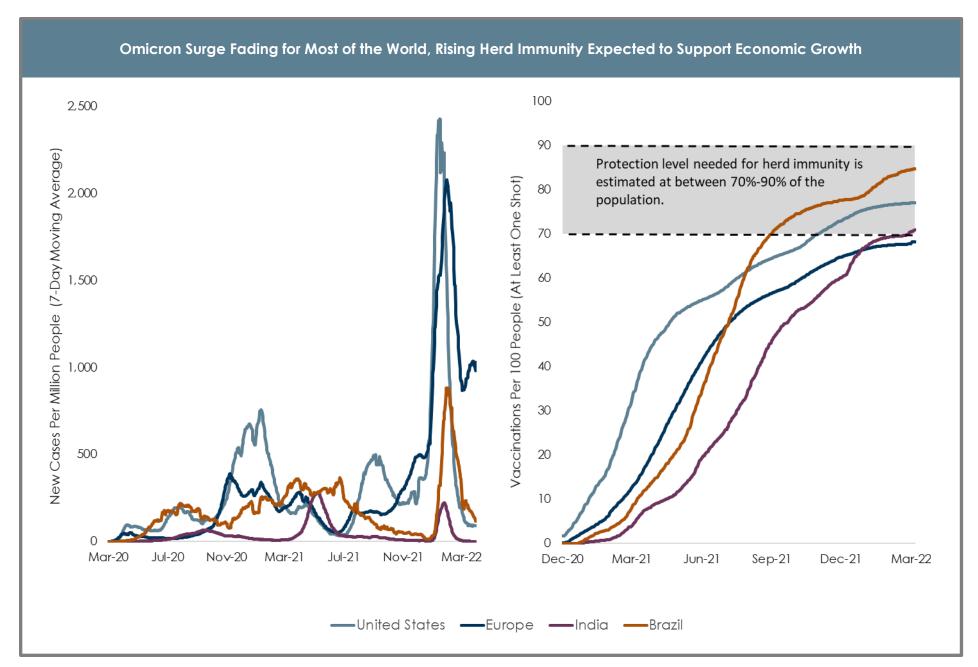
Source: ACG Research, Morningstar (as of March 31, 2022). The following indices used as proxy for asset classes: Russell 2000, Bloomberg Commodity, S&P 500, MSCI EAFE, MSCI Emerging Markets, MSCI China, Bloomberg US Corporate High Yield, Bloomberg US Aggregate, Bloomberg US Treasury



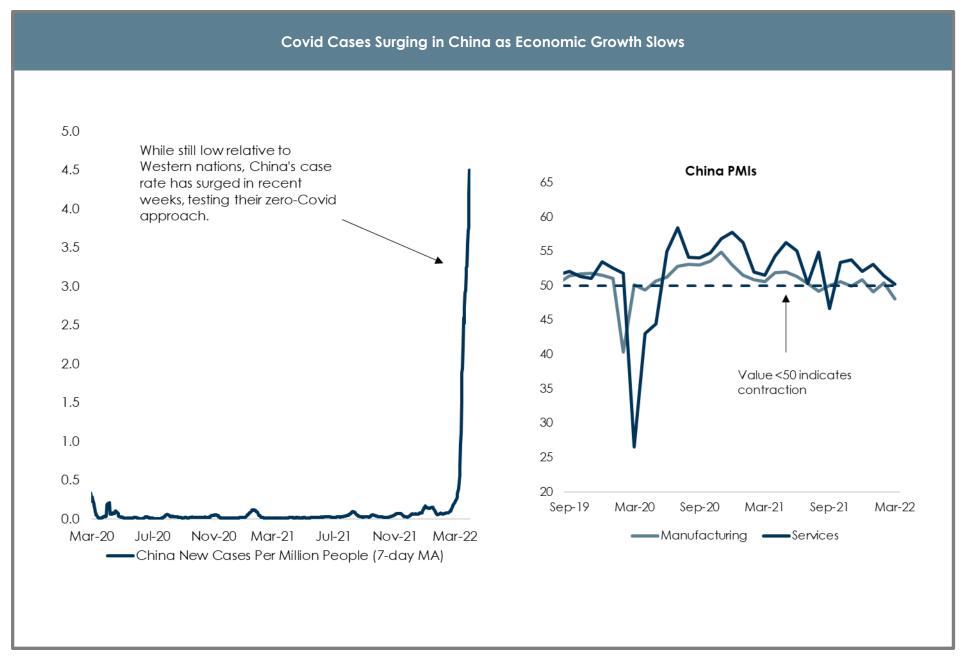
Source: ACG Research, Bloomberg



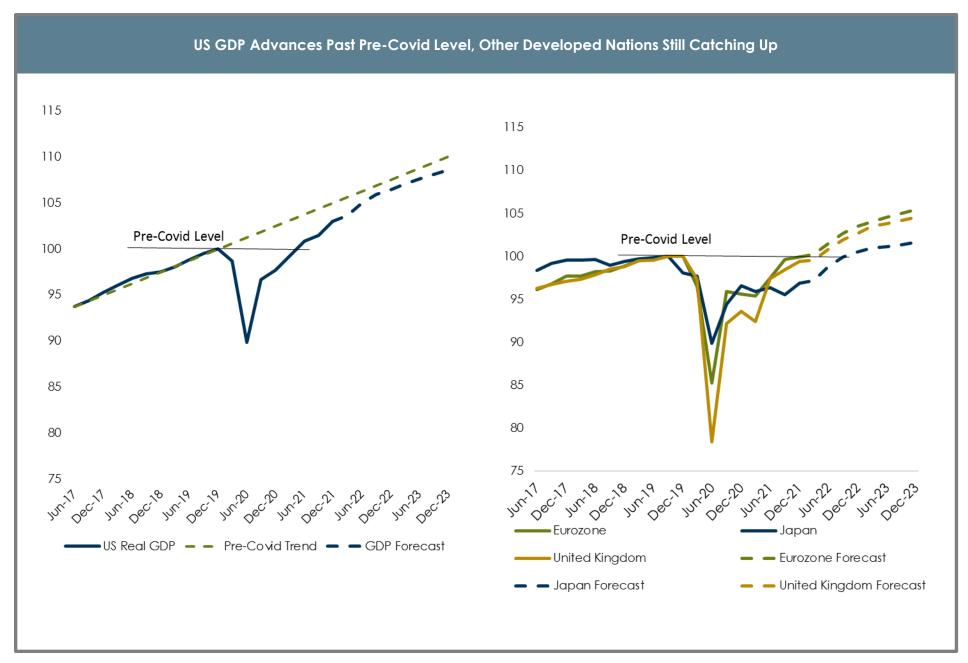
Source: ACG Research, Bloomberg



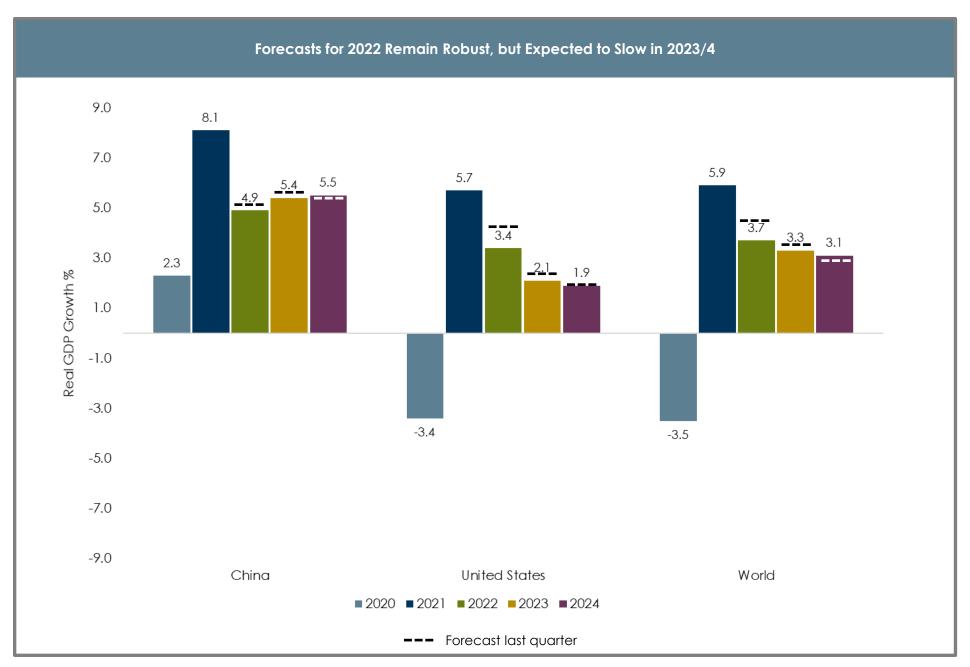
Source: ACG Research, Our World in Data (as of March 31, 2022)



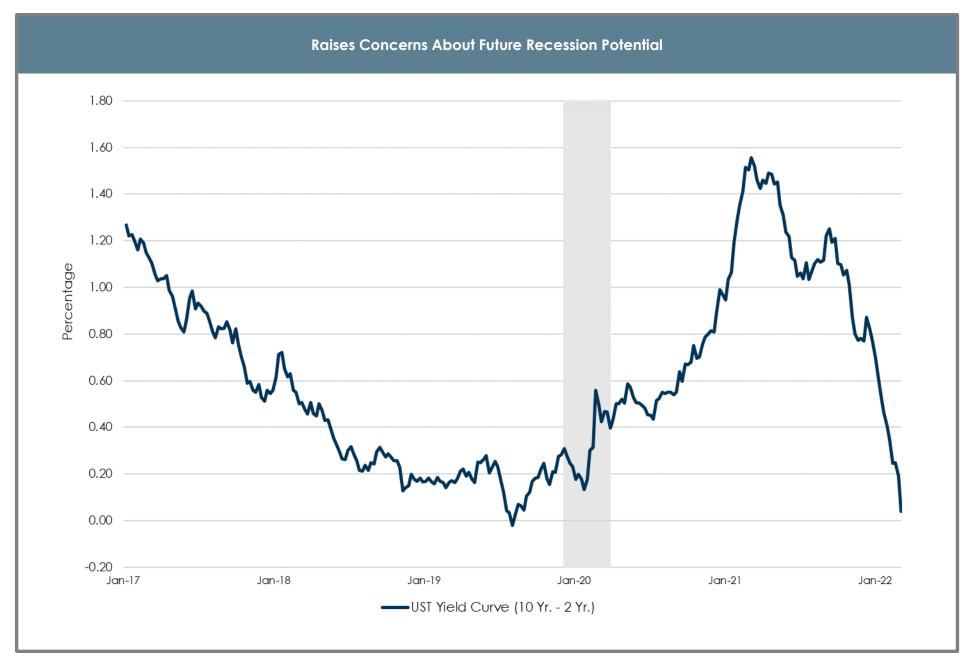
Source: ACG Research, Our World in Data, Bloomberg (as of March 31, 2022)



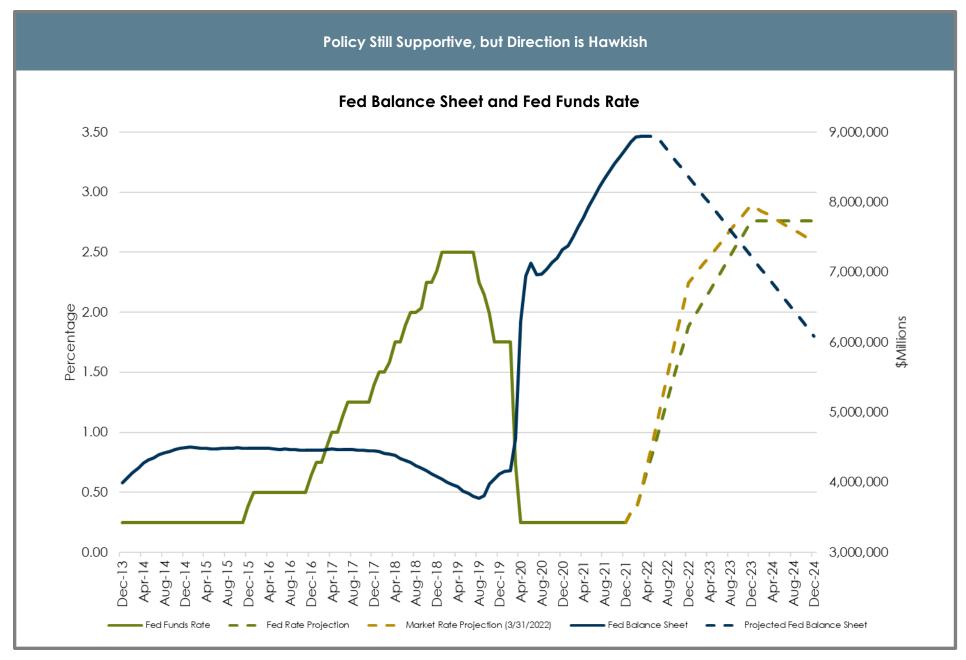
Source: ACG Research, Bloomberg, Oxford Economics (as of December 31, 2021)



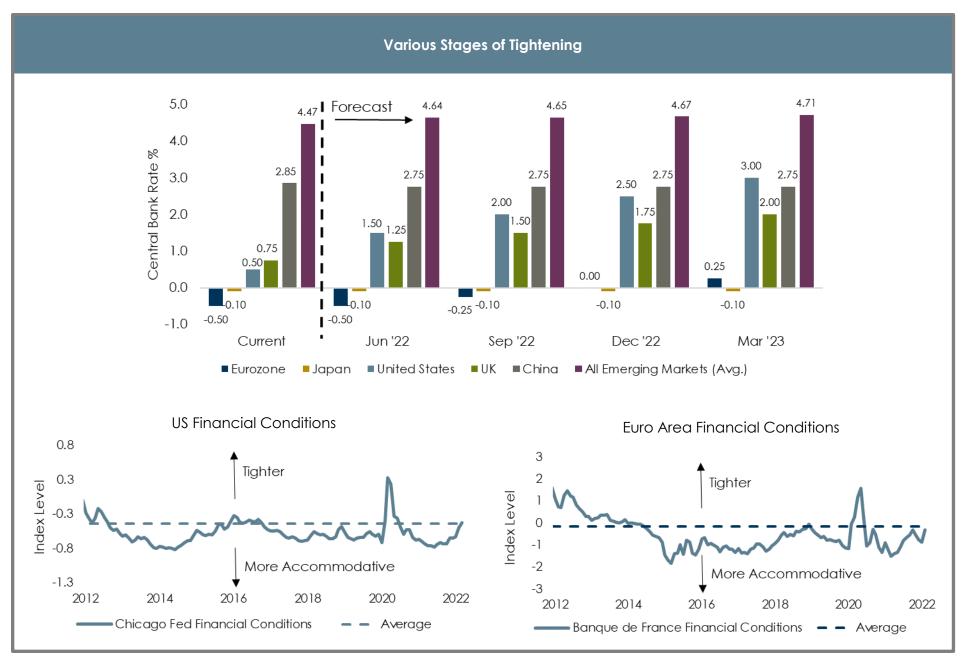
Source: ACG Research, Oxford Economics (as of March 31, 2022)



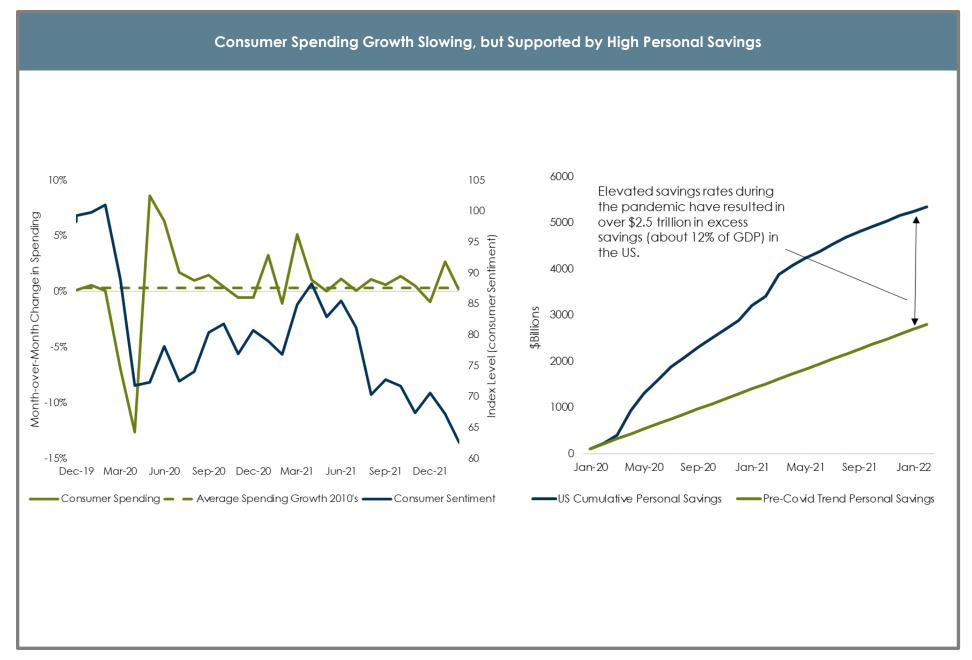
Source: St. Louis Fed, ACG Research (as of March 31, 2022)



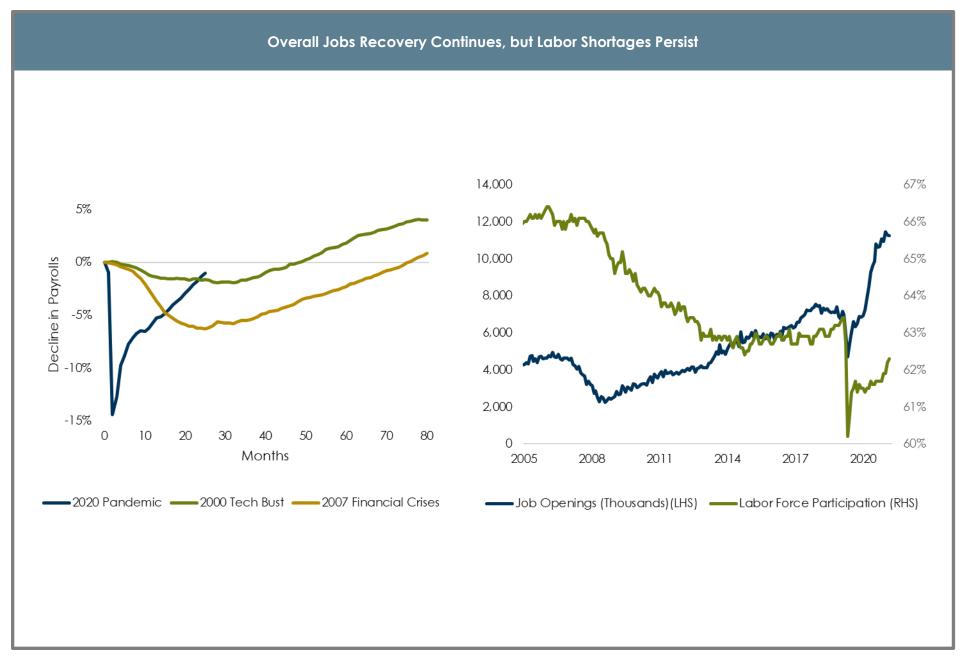
Source: ACG Research, Bloomberg, St. Louis Federal Reserve (as of March 31, 2022). Balance Sheet Projection based on guidance from Fed meeting minutes.



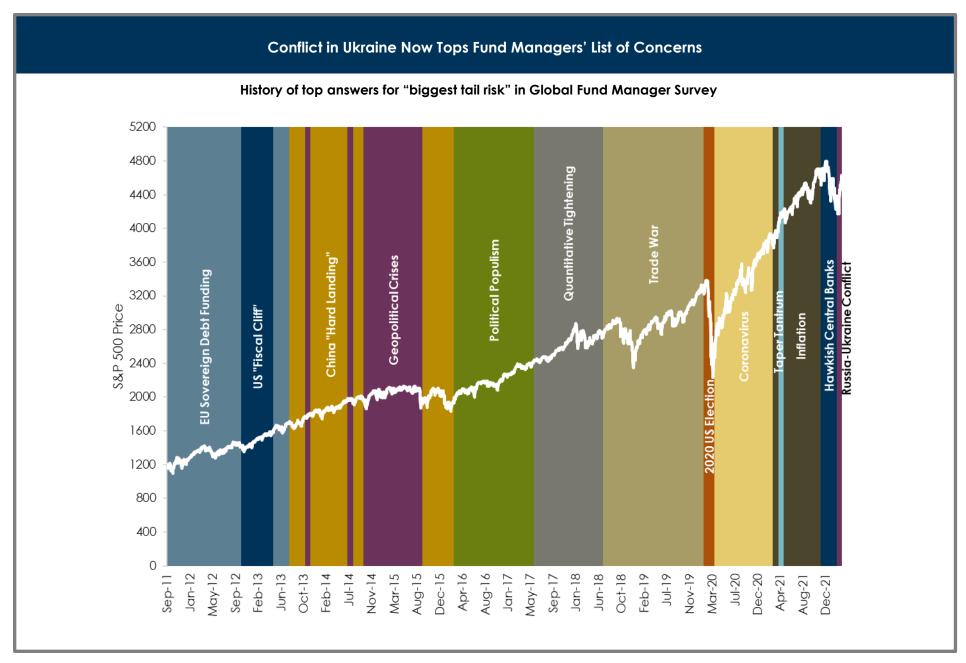
Source: ACG Research, Bloomberg, Federal Reserve, Banque de France, Forecasts from JP Morgan (as of March 31, 2022)



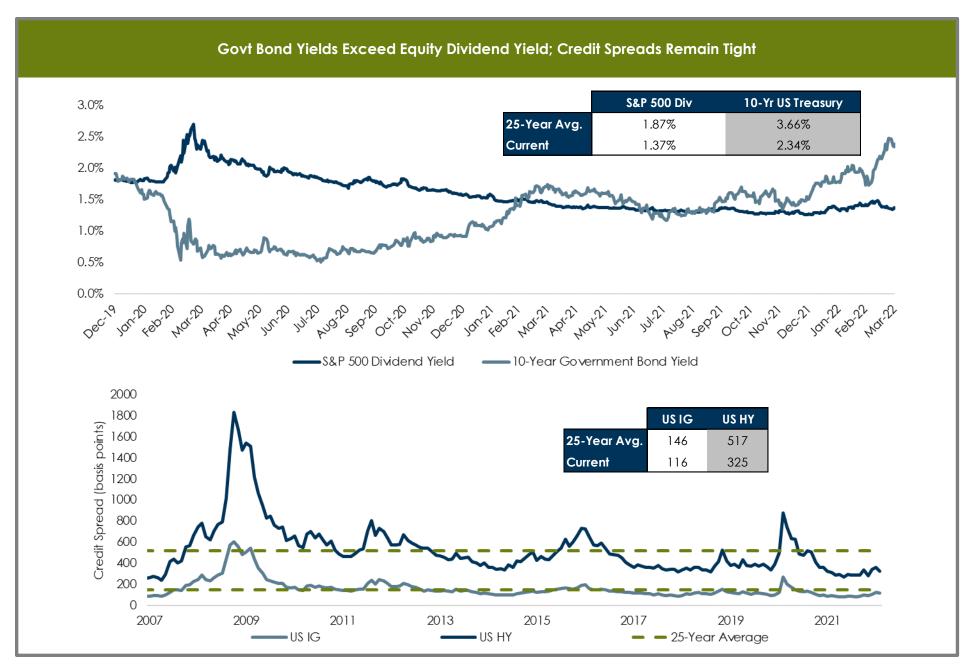
Source: ACG Research, Bloomberg, University of Michigan (as of February 28, 2022)



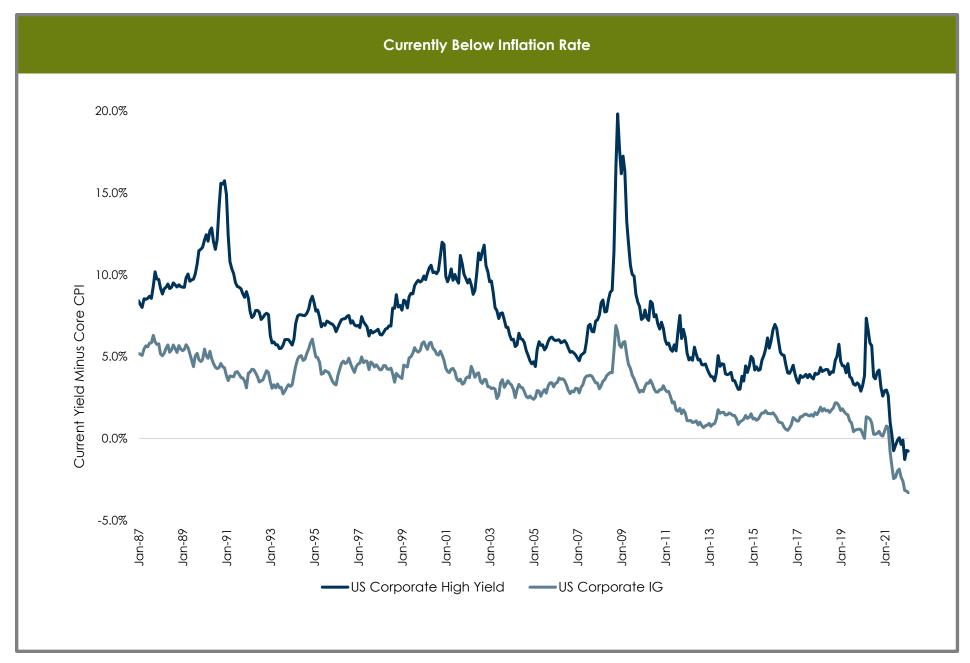
Source: ACG Research, Bloomberg, Bureau of Labor Statistics (as of March 31, 2022)



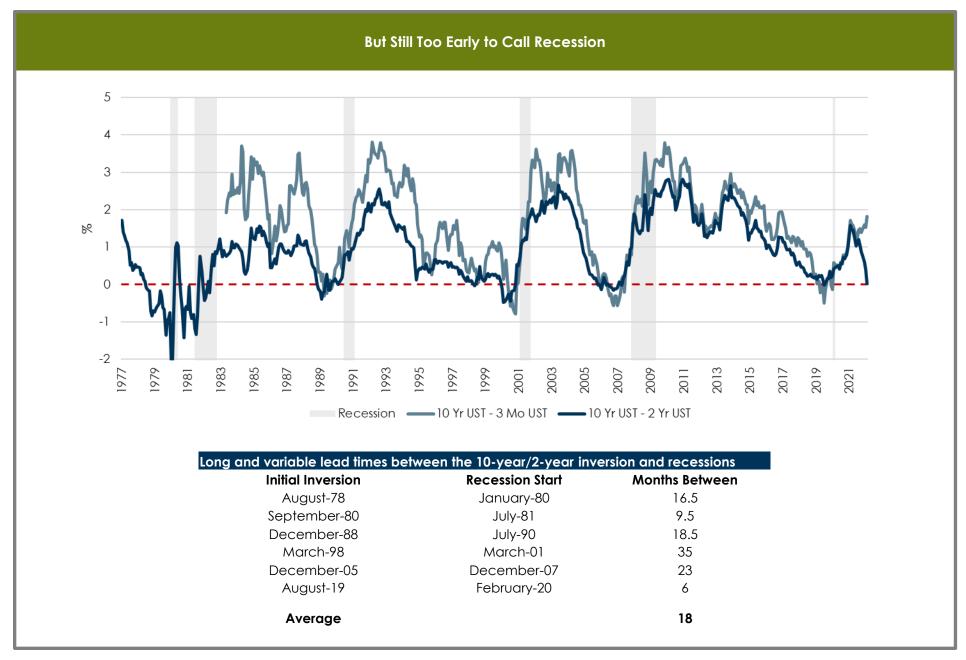
Source: ACG Research, BofA Global Fund Manager Survey (as of March 31, 2022)



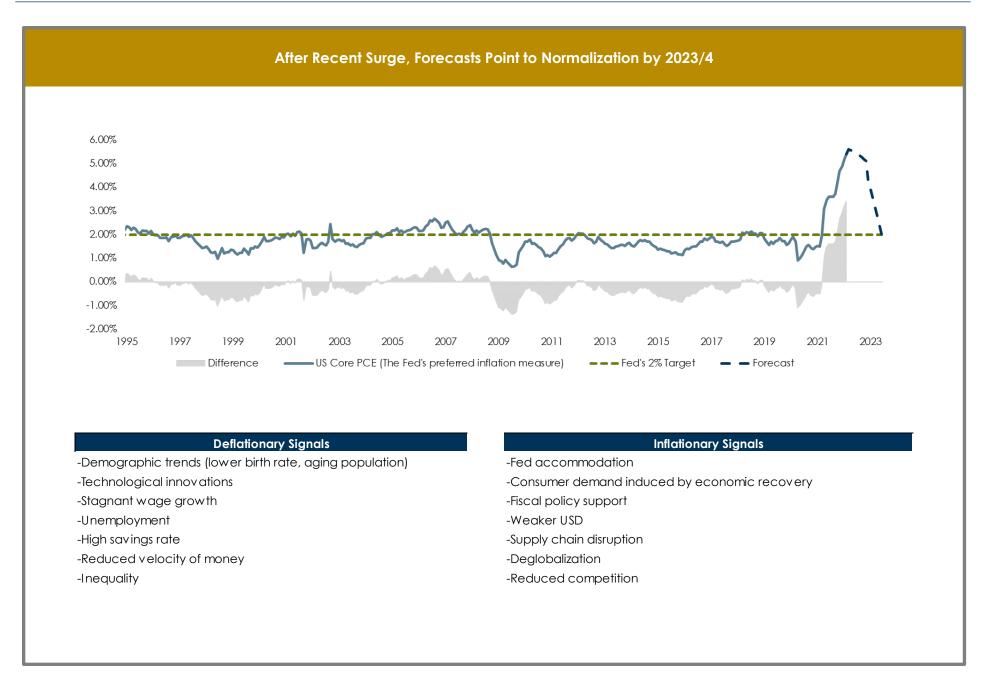
Source: ACG Research, Bloomberg (as of March 31, 2022)



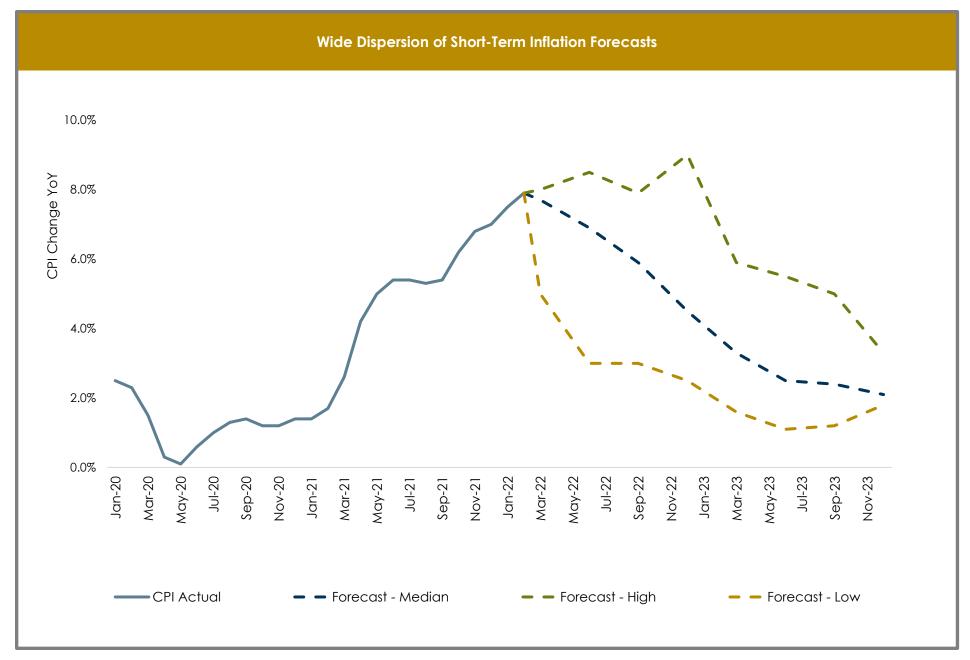
Source: ACG Research, Bloomberg (as of March 31, 2022)



Source: ACG Research, Bloomberg, Oxford Economics (as of March 31, 2022)



Source: ACG Research, Oxford Economics, Bloomberg (as of February 28, 2022)



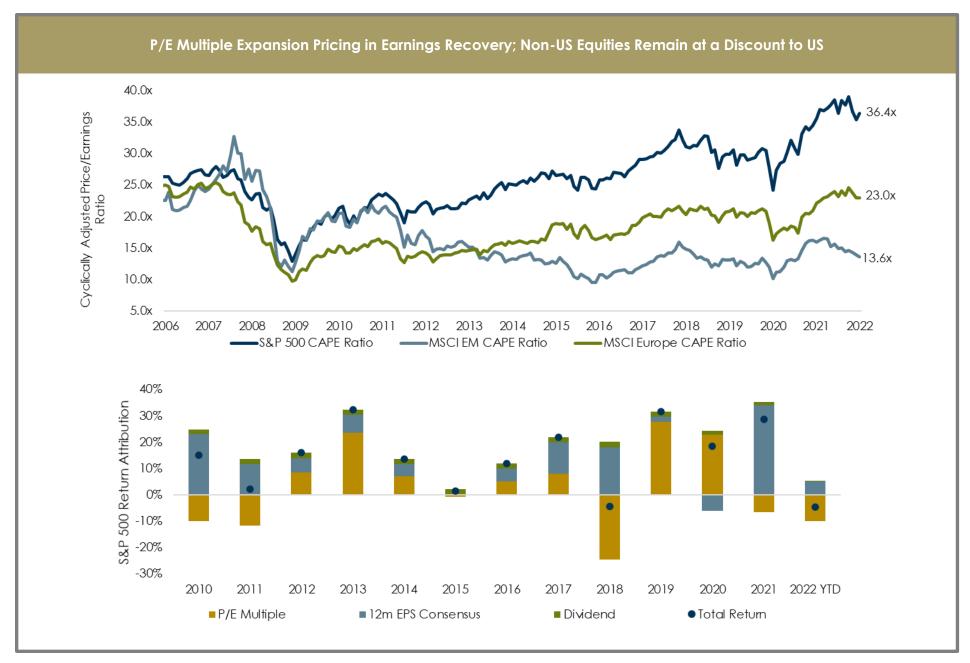
Source: ACG Research,, Bloomberg Forecasts sourced from 52 institutions (as of March 31, 2022)

# P/E Multiples Could Remain Elevated Near-Term

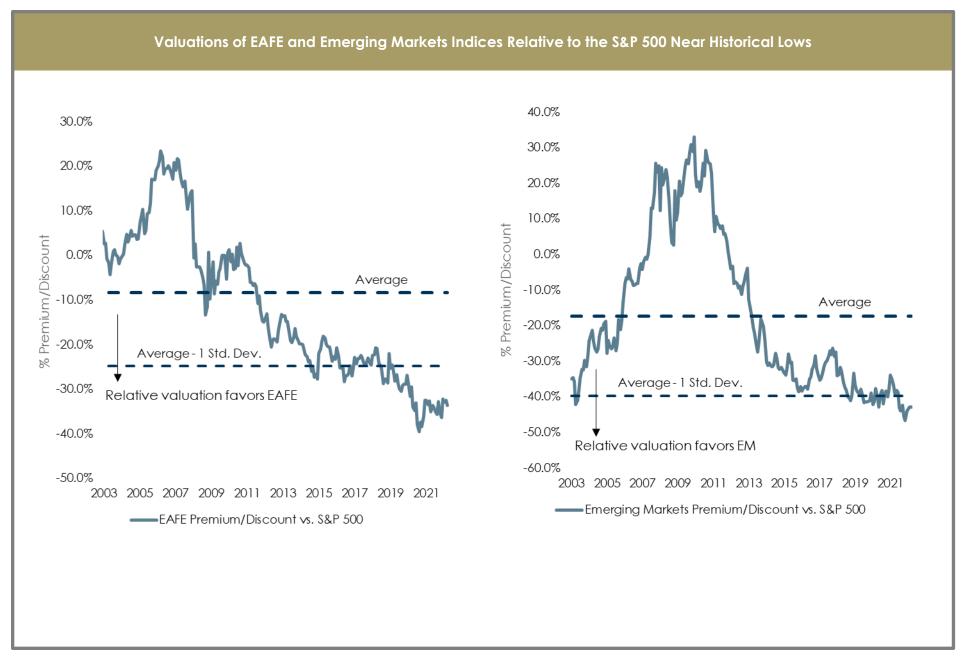
- Based on several metrics, the S&P 500 Index appears expensive (3/31/22 closing price of \$4530)
- Consensus earnings estimates for 2022 (\$227) suggest a forward p/e of 19.92x (vs. 25-year average of 16.8x)
- Consensus estimates are higher for 2023 (\$250) yet the forward p/e for '23 is still 18.13x (vs. 25-year average of 16.8x)



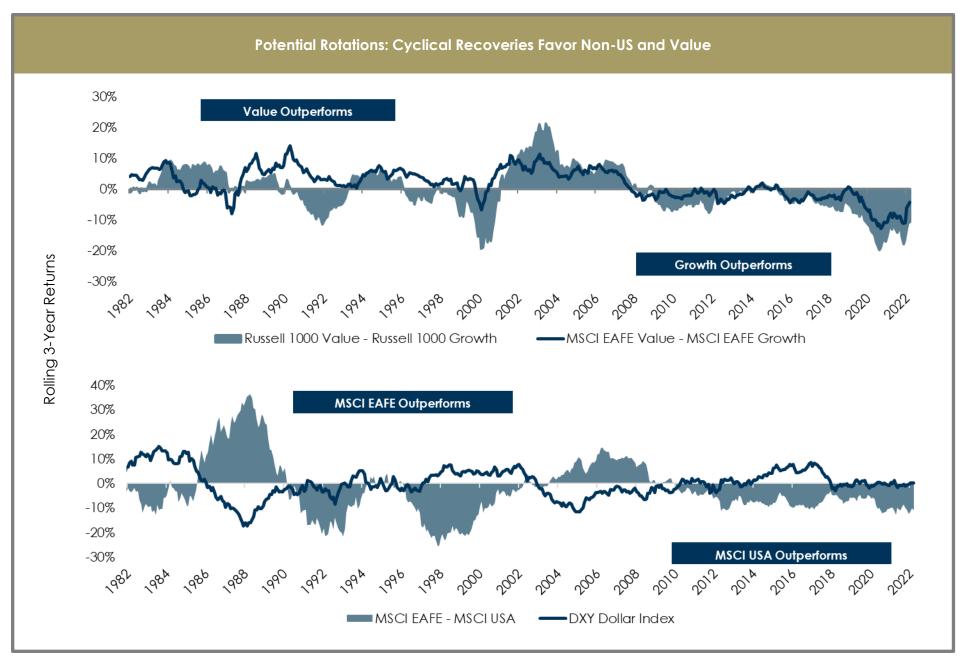
Source: FactSet, FRB, Robert Shiller, Standard & Poor's, J.P. Morgan Asset Management



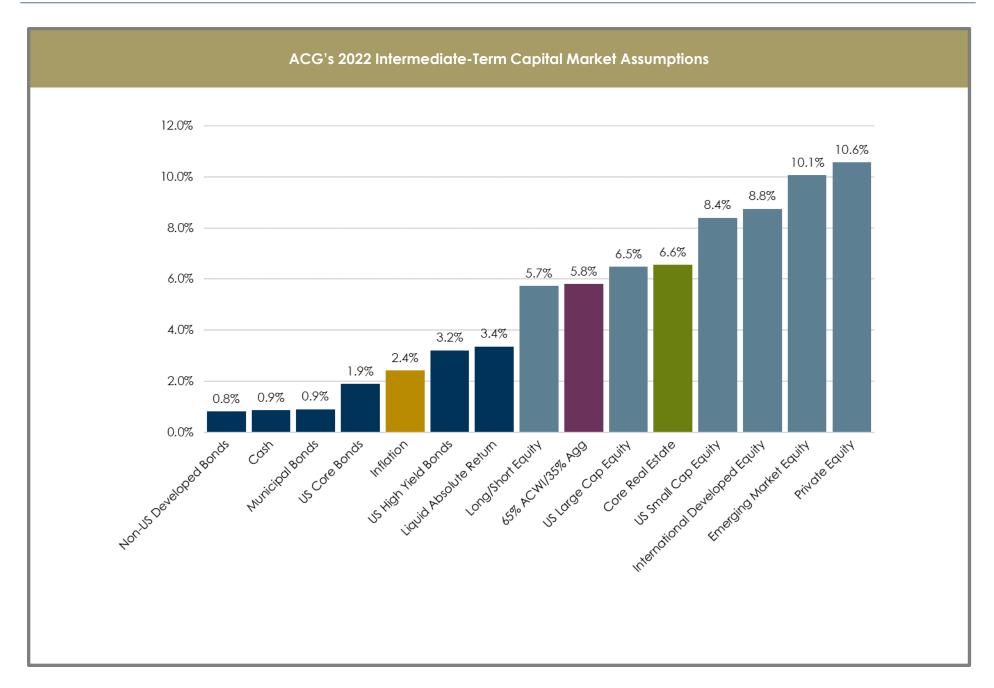
Source: ACG Research, Bloomberg, Robert Shiller (as of March 31, 2022)

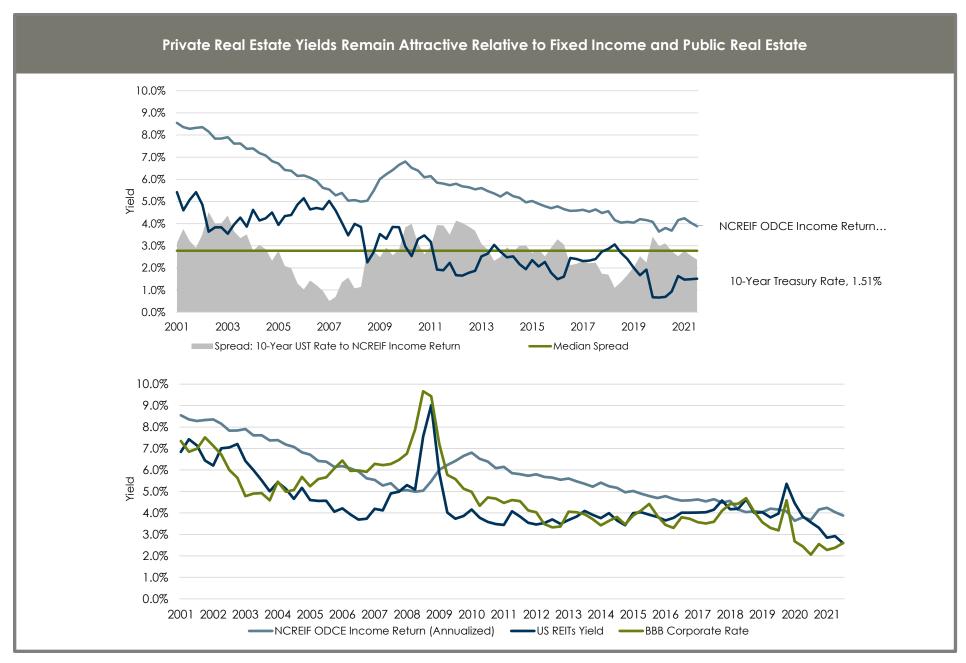


Source: ACG Research, Bloomberg (Valuations are Bloomberg's "Long-Term" PE, using an average of the last 10 years earnings discounted for inflation), (as of March 31, 2022)

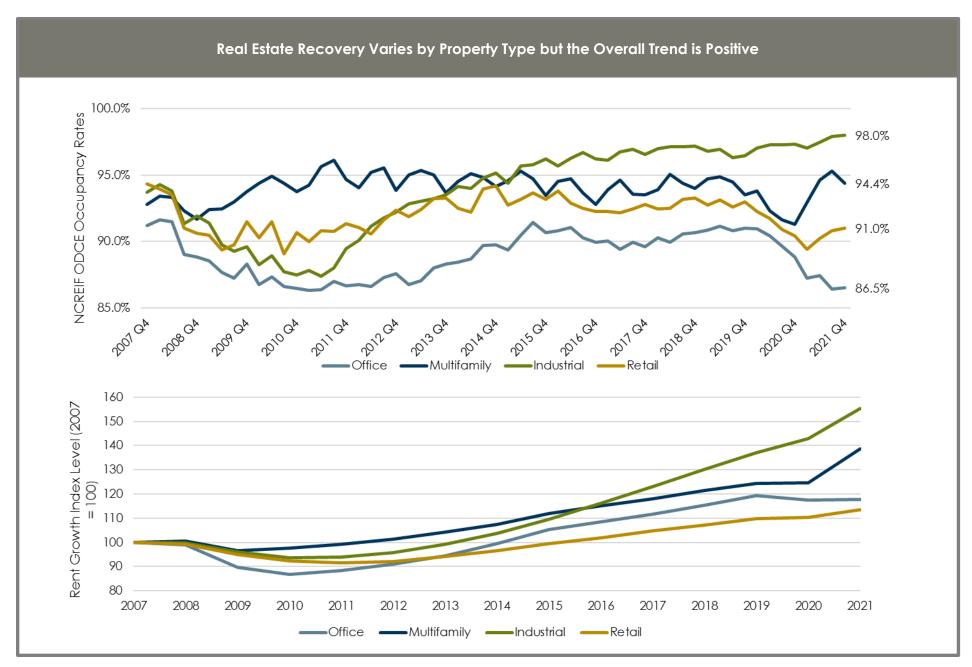


Source: ACG Research, Bloomberg, MSCI, Morningstar (as of March 31, 2022)





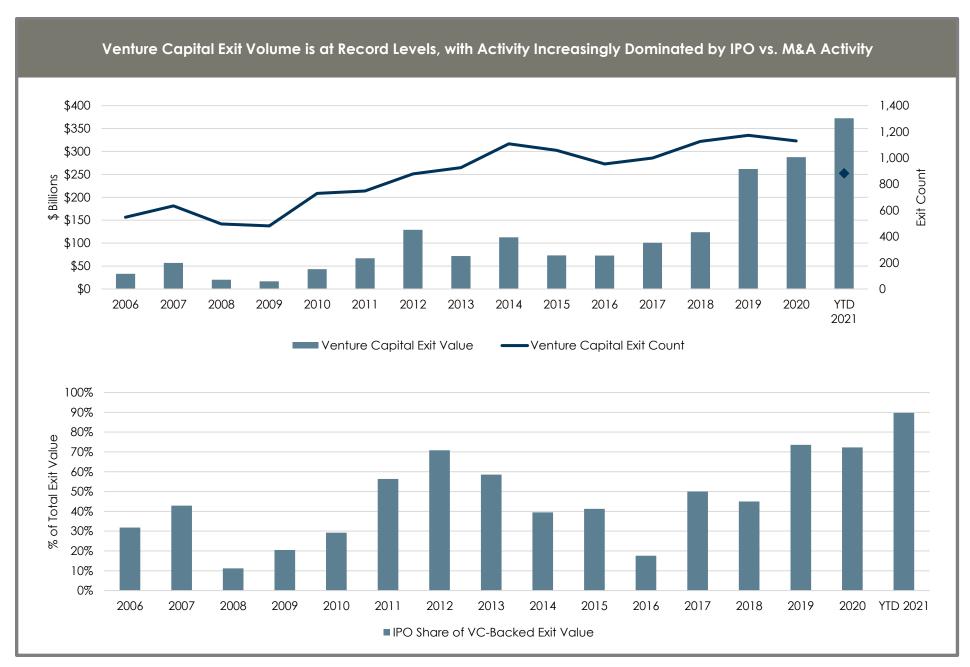
Source: Bloomberg, ACG Research (as of December 31, 2021)



Source: AEW, CoStar, ACG Research (as of December 31, 2021)



Source: S&P LCD, CIBC Capital Markets, GF Data, ACG Research (as of March 31, 2021)



Source: Renaissance Capital, PitchBook, ACG Research (as of June 30, 2021)

ACG's Investment Committee outlines key themes that will drive investment returns over the intermediate term. In this quarterly update, we highlight market and economic factors that support each theme. Path of recovery will vary by region, sector, Low yields, narrow spreads, demographics, pace of elevated equity valuations vaccine, and impact of **Evolving** still a challenge, but ongoing new variants Global Growth stimulus and cash on **Dynamics** sidelines could propel markets higher in near-term **Heightened Risk Return Expectations** Factors Collaboration Customization Implementation Pandemic, cyber ACG's attacks, geopolitical **Disciplined** ESG awareness has tensions, trade accelerated during **Process** agreements, political COVID: more holistic regime changes, central portfolio approach bank policy mistake **VIlocation Demand for** Responsible **Challenging Yield** Investment and **Environment Diversity** Negative real yields; Money supply high and diverging central bank policies velocity low, labor Conflicting market improving but **Inflationary Signals** confidence still subdued; supply chains disrupted but improving

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#### **Evolving Global Growth Dynamics**

- Maintain long-term strategic allocations
- Pursue active/focused/opportunistic strategies in less efficient markets

## Heightened Geopolitical & Social Risks

- Embrace global diversification, with a modest reserve of dry powder
- Private strategies and long/short equity can limit near-term price impacts

#### **Challenging Yield Environment**

- Maintain high-quality core fixed income exposures for portfolio ballast
- Incorporate "non-traditional" strategies for flexibility and yield enhancement

# **Conflicting Inflationary Signals**

- Shorter-dated fixed income and floating rate securities protect against inflationary surprise
- Diversified real assets can provide enhanced income amid rising prices

## **Demand for Responsible Investment**

- Consider a high-quality portfolio orientation
- Opportunities in both stocks and bonds for impact oriented investment

## **Muted Return Expectations**

- Revisit overall risk tolerance and investment objectives
- Focus on strategic plan versus frequent tactical shifts

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