Jeff Scoten Group Newsletter

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The Enduring Human Spirit

An article published by the *Wall Street Journal* shared some fitting advice from endurance athletes, suggesting that those who endure adversity can emerge stronger and more resilient in what is termed "post-traumatic growth."[1] As we enter another year, may we continue to have hope that brighter days lie ahead and we will return to a world not bound by the dominance of the pandemic. Over the past 20 months, we've each had to endure adversity in our own ways. However, the hope is that we will be able to move forward, perhaps a little bit more resilient than before.

These lessons in resilience may be helpful in supporting the investing journey. The pandemic has created new challenges for economies and financial markets: growing levels of government debt, ongoing supply chain issues, the likelihood of rate increases by central banks and persistent inflation. Keeping balanced expectations may be made more difficult given the uncertainties.

It is instructive that even in the face of such unprecedented times, last year's equity market performance was strong. This should remind us that sitting on the sidelines is not a prescription for growth. If we are to prepare for the financial future we want, we must continue to move forward.

We should also never underestimate the capacity of companies, economies and the markets to persist and advance. This past earnings season is one such reminder. Many companies continued to post strong earnings despite unprecedented conditions—partial economic shutdowns, labour shortages, supply chain issues and rising input costs—and some at record levels.

As a testament to this endurance, market strategist Ed Yardeni recently published a series of data that shows how the world has generated unimaginable wealth since the 1940s.[2] Of particular note is the tremendous growth in corporate profits—an upward trajectory over time, despite many short-term setbacks. Even during the global financial crisis of 2008–09, when a deviation occurred, it is notable how quickly this reverted to continue to climb higher.

Market uncertainties will always be with us in some form or another. However, portfolios built on a solid foundation, using securities selected with quality, diversification, strategic asset allocation and individual needs in mind, will often prove to be enduring within the ever-changing investing landscape.

In looking forward, let's expect the best, knowing that we have this plan in place to guide our investing. Here's to much hope, health, happiness and prosperity for 2022 and beyond!

1. "Hard Earned Lessons in Endurance," Bonds Bernstein, Wall Street Journal, May 5, 2021. • 2. www.yardeni.com/pub/sp500marginnipa.pdf

NATIONAL BANK FINANCIAL WEALTH MANAGEMENT

JS JEFF SCOTEN GROUP

Avoid These Five RRSP Pitfalls

It is Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP) season once again! Beyond the importance of contributing to the RRSP to grow funds for retirement, avoiding certain practices can also help to save tax or create a bigger nest egg for the future.

Withdrawing Funds to Pay Down Debt — Consider the implications of making taxable withdrawals from the RRSP to pay down short-term debt. You may be paying more tax on the RRSP withdrawal than you'll save in interest costs. In addition, once you make a withdrawal from the RRSP, you won't be able to get back the valuable contribution room—unlike the TFSA, where contribution room resets itself in the following calendar year.

Contributing Losers In-Kind — In order to fund the RRSP, some investors may choose to move investments from non-registered accounts. If you are considering making in-kind contributions to the RRSP, be careful not to transfer investments that have declined in value. You will be deemed to have sold these investments at fair market value when transferring them to the RRSP, yet any capital loss will be denied. Instead, consider selling them on the open market and contribute cash to the RRSP so you can claim the capital loss (and be aware of the superficial loss rules if you plan on repurchasing them).

Claiming the Deduction in the Wrong Year — With any RRSP contribution, you're entitled to a tax deduction for the amount contributed so long as it is within the contribution limit. Keep in mind that you don't have to claim the tax deduction in the year that the RRSP contribution is made. You may carry it forward if you expect income to be higher in future years such that you may be put in a higher tax bracket, potentially generating greater tax savings for a future year.

Neglecting to Update Beneficiary Designations — It may be beneficial to review account beneficiaries on a periodic basis, especially in light of major life changes. For example, in the event of separation or divorce, be aware that named beneficiaries may not be revoked, depending on provincial laws. Therefore, the designation of an ex-spouse may still be in effect.

Withdrawals from a Spousal RRSP — For couples in which one spouse will earn a high level of income in retirement while the other may have little retirement income, a spousal RRSP can potentially be a valuable income-splitting tool. However, don't forget that the attribution rules generally apply to a spousal RRSP. If the higher-income spouse has made contributions to the spousal RRSP in the year or in the immediate two preceding years, and if funds are withdrawn from the plan, they may be taxed to the higher-income spouse, as opposed to the lower-income spousal RRSP owner.

RRSP Season Reminders

Contribute — The deadline for RRSP contributions for the 2021 tax year is **Tuesday March 1, 2022**. Contributions are limited to 18 percent of the previous year's earned income, to a maximum of $27,830 for the 2021 tax year. Consider an automatic monthly contribution plan to avoid missing the deadline.

Consolidate — If you hold multiple RRSP accounts at different financial institutions, consider consolidating for improved administration, convenience and potential cost savings.

Collapse — If you are turning 71 years old in 2022, please get in touch to discuss options for closing your RRSP by year end.

Be Aware: Use the TFSA for Longer-Term Investing

Perhaps as a result of a confluence of factors—buoyant markets, social media influence and today's ease of investing—we have been receiving more questions about young investors who want to open up a Tax-Free Savings Account (TFSA) for investing purposes.

While we encourage the use of the TFSA for investing to build wealth on a tax-free basis for the future, we caution about its use for frequent trading purposes. All investors should be aware that there may be tax consequences associated with frequent trading within a TFSA, as prescribed by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).

According to the CRA, the TFSA is intended for an individual "to set money aside tax-free throughout their lifetime." If investments are bought and sold frequently inside the TFSA, the CRA may consider you to be "carrying on a business." While there are no defined limits on trading within a TFSA that constitute carrying on a business by the CRA, one way that the CRA has previously assessed this practice is when a TFSA owner holds securities for only a short period of time.

Prior to the pandemic, the CRA had ramped up its audits of the TFSA, looking specifically at accounts that held large balances. Between 2009 and 2017, it assessed more than $110 million in taxes owing. While the bulk of this amount was related to taxes payable on tax advantages, over $6 million was due for day trading within a TFSA.[1]

1. https://www.investmentexecutive.com/newspaper_/news-newspaper/tfsas-setback-for-the-cra/

TFSA: Do You Have Unused Contribution Room?

The 2022 TFSA dollar limit is $6,000. This brings the total lifetime contribution limit to $81,500 for those eligible. Do you have unused contribution room?

Year	Annual Dollar Amount	Cumulative Amount
2009 to 2012	$5,000	$20,000
2013 & 2014	$5,500	$31,000
2015	$10,000	$41,000
2016 to 2018	$5,500	$57,500
2019 to 2022	$6,000	$81,500

The Timeless Wisdom of Warren Buffett

We may all benefit from some investing perspective as we enter into 2022. Who better to draw on for that wisdom than one of the most successful investors of our time, Warren Buffett. Many of Buffett's messages are timeless. In fact, a more recent academic study analyzed years of Buffett's shareholder meetings, which have attracted tens of thousands of investors from around the world, and confirmed that the Oracle of Omaha's key messages have recurring themes.[1] Here are four:

Don't overlook the power of patience in investing. After a year of strong performance in the equity markets, it may be easy to forget that success in investing can often take time. Consider that even though Buffett has been investing since he was young, over 90 percent of his wealth was made after the age of 65.[2] Time and the power of compounding continue to be the key drivers of wealth creation.

"The nature of compound interest is it behaves like a snowball of sticky snow. And the trick is to have a very long hill."

Invest with a view for the longer term. When Buffett invests in a company, he views himself as an owner and takes a thoughtful and longer-term view of its prospects. He worries less about what happens in the short term, and focuses on businesses that continue to have a competitive advantage over the longer term.

"Nobody buys a farm based on whether they think it's going to rain next year. They buy it because they think it's a good investment over 10 or 20 years."

Maintain self-discipline. Buffett has always said that temperament is key to investing. In this digital age, where we are constantly being fed news and opinion, Buffett reminds us that investing requires the ability to detach from the views of others and make decisions based on the facts.

"You need to be able to look at the facts about a business, about an industry, and evaluate a business unaffected by what other people think. That is very difficult for most people... Don't do anything in life where the answer is, "everybody else is doing it." If you cancel that as a rationale for doing an activity in life, you'll live a better life whether it's in the stock market or any place else."

Have a plan in place... and stick to it during good times and bad. Buffett has always emphasized the importance of having a plan in place to drive the investment process to prevent emotions from influencing decision making. In strong market times, such as those experienced this past year, it can help to prevent investors from taking undue risks due to the fear of missing out. Risk controls remain an important part of every investor's wealth plan. In down-market times, adhering to an investment plan can help investors avoid the urge to sell investments because of the pressure from others doing the same.

"To invest successfully over a lifetime does not require a stratospheric IQ, unusual business insights, or inside information. What's needed is a sound intellectual framework for making decisions and the ability to keep emotions from corroding that framework."

During the height of the pandemic, Buffett offered his views on overcoming the challenges, with a continued view of optimism for the future. These words may be worth reflecting on as we begin another year, with the hope that the worst of the pandemic is now behind us:

"This is a terrible event. But there will be other things that happen in the world in the next 5, 10, or 20 years. That's how the world works; it's not a totally even course. The progress of mankind has been incredible and that won't stop... there will be interruptions, but I also know that we'll come out better on the other end."

Thank you to Warren Buffett for allowing us permission to share his timeless wisdom. Please note that the material is copyrighted and has been used with permission of the author. 1. https://markets.businessinsider.com/news/stocks/warren-buffett-key-investing-tips-holding-cash-patience-shares-business-2020-10-1029698894 • 2. Based on shares of Berkshire Hathaway (BRK-A), 8/30/95: $25,300; 11/23/21: $434,921.

Keep Time on Your Side

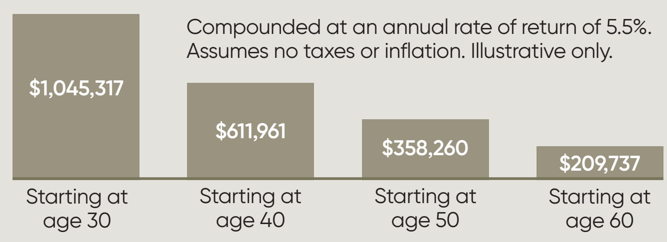
"Greatness is not in where we stand, but in what direction we are moving. We must sail sometimes with the wind, and sometimes against it—but sail we must, and not drift, nor lie at anchor."

– Oliver Wendell Holmes

Being invested can be one of the best ways to grow wealth over the longer term. Yet, after an extended period of gains, some investors may feel hesitant to put money to work in equity markets. While volatility was muted for most of 2021, let's not forget that it is a normal part of equity markets. It is the price paid for the upside potential.

Remember that time can be one of the investor's best allies. If you have (grand)children learning about finances, the accompanying chart may be a worthwhile share. Even with modest returns, starting early and staying invested can yield significant wealth down the road. How about you? Do you have funds sitting idle that can be put to work for your future? The best investment opportunity is valueless unless we actually make use of it. Keep time on your side!

How Much Could You Have by Age 85? The Impact of Investing a Lump Sum of $55,000 at Various Ages



Accessing the Cash Value: The Immediate Financing Arrangement

Life insurance is often viewed as a pure risk management tool. Yet, consider that a permanent life insurance policy with a cash value component, such as universal life or whole life, may also act as a flexible planning tool to support tax planning, fund liquidity needs or facilitate business succession planning.

As the cash value component grows, it may be accessed while the policy continues to provide protection. Generally, this can be done in three ways: i) Withdraw the cash value; ii) Borrow from the insurance company based on the policy's terms; or iii) Use the cash value as collateral for a third-party loan, through an immediate financing arrangement (IFA) strategy.

For high-net-worth individuals and business owners who are comfortable using leverage, an IFA has the potential to be a flexible financial planning tool. The IFA assigns the policy to a lender, such as a bank, as security for the loan, which typically can be between 50 and 100 percent of the cash value. The individual or business pays loan interest to the lender going forward. While the loan can be repaid at any time, the intent is often for it to be repaid upon the death of the insured. Upon death, the life insurance death benefit proceeds would be used to repay the bank loan. Any insurance proceeds remaining after the loan repayment would be paid tax-free to a named beneficiary.

An IFA arrangement may provide various benefits, including:

Tax Planning — Compared to other ways of accessing a policy's cash value, with an IFA income tax is not generally payable by the policyholder and loan proceeds are not considered as income for tax purposes. When the funds from the loan are invested in a business, investment or other income-producing activities, the loan interest may be tax deductible. Assuming the loan interest is deductible, an annual tax deduction is received for the interest paid and the collateral insurance deduction.

Funding Liquidity Needs — The bank loan replenishes the funds used to pay for the life insurance allowing the proceeds from the loan to be used for investment purposes or reinvested into a business. This can reduce net after-tax cash flow by allowing the business to claim tax deductions and keep more funds working within the business while still maintaining insurance protection for the insured.

Business Owner Succession Planning — Generally, when a life insurance policy is held within a corporation, the death benefit amount received less the policy's adjusted cost-basis may be credited to the corporation's capital dividend account (CDA), often allowing a tax-free dividend to be paid to the shareholders of the corporation. With an IFA, the corporation receives a credit to the CDA on the same basis, regardless of the loan amount, even when the death benefit is paid directly to the creditor. This may facilitate business succession planning by providing significant tax savings when distributing assets to shareholders.

Alongside the benefits, there are financial and tax risks associated with any planning strategy when leverage is involved. Depending on the arrangement, there may be tax consequences when the IFA is held within a corporate structure. Typically, proceeds from the loan are received by the policyowner; however, if the loan is made directly to the shareholder, instead of the policyowner, which would be the corporation, there may be additional tax risks. Due to current low borrowing rates, the IFA may appear favourable; yet, IFAs are intended to be long-term arrangements and future increases in interest rates can impact the arrangement. If the spread between the loan interest rate and policy interest rate widens and the accumulated loan balance increases faster than projected, the borrower may need to provide additional collateral, partially repay the loan or surrender the policy. Other risks include potential changes to debt servicing requirements, tax rules, loan requirements due to mortality risk, overall performance of the life insurance policy and the lending institution's practices.

When considering this planning, seek legal and tax advice from professional advisors relating to your own particular situation.

Note: The terms and conditions noted in this article may not apply within the province of Quebec. In Quebec, the use of a life insurance policy as collateral involves the use of a movable hypothec.

"Letters" to a Young Investor: Three Tenets for Successful Investing

In his new book, *Letters to a Young Athlete*, former Toronto Raptors star, Chris Bosh, provides invaluable lessons to the next generation about the value of sweat, the importance of humility and how to tame your inner voice to become your ally. Bosh is seemingly a polymath: he spent his off-seasons learning computer coding, taking guitar lessons and practicing Spanish. His book, he says, is meant for anyone who aspires to greatness in any field: "it takes hard work to achieve your goals."[1]

It is good advice that may be relevant to young investors just starting out. Successful investing is a culmination of many elements—wealth comes from choices, not chances: choosing to save wisely, using time to your advantage and eventually putting in place an investment plan that encourages value, quality, and diversification. Most importantly, and perhaps somewhat lost in today's rapidly ascending markets, investing is also about training your inner voice to have the patience and understanding that building wealth often occurs over the longer term.

Here are three tenets of successful investing that may be worth passing along:

1. Saving can be one of your best investments.

It doesn't matter how skilled you are when it comes to the markets, if you do not have savings to deploy you cannot generate wealth. Wealth is the accumulated difference between what you bring in and what you spend. You can build wealth without a high income but you have no chance without a high savings rate. More importantly, individuals with just modest pay and steady jobs have been able to amass a tidy fortune—all because of saving. Fostering good savings habits at a young age and before you make a lot of money is important: If you can't manage a little, you likely won't be able to manage a lot.

2. Markets will not always be this easy.

Markets don't always go in one direction. Making money over recent times has been easy, but as the saying goes, "never confuse brains with a bull market." While we didn't see significant volatility for most of 2021, volatility is the norm. Markets are cyclical by nature and this means accepting that, sometimes, risk assets will significantly decline in value. Increased potential returns of an investment go hand-in-hand with increased risk. You have to be willing to live through losses in the short term to experience gains over the long term. At the same time, down markets can provide opportunity—to buy in at lower valuations, higher dividend yields and better price points, all of which help to generate better overall wealth years down the road.

3. Time is the ultimate equalizer... and can be a significant asset!

While short-term periods of volatility will be commonplace, over longer time horizons this volatility smooths out. Younger folk have one of the greatest assets available: time. Add in the power of compounding and this provides the significant opportunity to grow wealth into the future. Consider the benefits of starting early: As a 25-year old, if you saved and invested $500 each month for 20 years, and left this amount to compound until the age of 65, you would end up with around $545,000, based on a compounded annual rate of return of 5 percent. If you started later at age 45, you would need to save almost 2.7 times more per month, or $1,327, to end up with the same amount by age 65. Starting early means you'd need less capital to achieve the same outcome: at age 25, this would require $120,000 over 20 years, compared to around $318,000 if you started 20 years later.

1. www.wsj.com/articles/chris-bosh-on-the-sudden-surreal-end-of-his-nba-career-11621528351

Are You Planning for Your Longevity?

With many Canadians now living longer, planning for our longevity has never been more important. When we create financial plans for our clients, one important component is factoring in the potential costs of future care. Have you given serious thought to your plan for a time when you may need long-term care (LTC)?

It is also important for clients to revisit their plan and any assumptions they have made for future care as time goes on. The Covid-19 pandemic reminds us why this may be important as it has caused some to re-evaluate their vision for care. The associated costs may also need to be adjusted. With an estimated tripling of Canadians over the age of 85 by 2050,[1] it is expected that LTC services will continue to rise in cost.

If you don't yet have a plan, here are some ideas on where to start:

Determine the type of care you may need or want.

Care means different things to different people. Preferences for quality of life are very personal, as are the types of custodial support one may feel comfortable with. Some may wish to remain in their own setting for as long as possible. Others may seek a community setting for companionship. However, regardless of the setting, we should plan for a time when we may not be able to care for ourselves.

Consider the logistics of that care.

Most in-home LTC is done by unpaid family caregivers. If you have children, are they going to participate in your care? Is this logistically possible? Have you asked for their perspectives? Providing care can have significant mental, financial and physical impacts on family. If you decide to seek care outside of your home, consider that this may not always be immediately available. Prior to the pandemic, wait lists for various publicly-funded LTC facilities, and some private facilities, were months or years long.

How will you pay for it?

Once you determine your preferences, you will need to plan for the potential costs. LTC costs are not insignificant by any means and may be surprising to many. The accompanying chart shows the average rental cost (not including care), which can be in upwards of $47,000 per year depending on province. In-home care can be even more costly, with specialized care running around $40 to $90 per hour,[2] or $110,000 to $260,000 per year.[3]

One question we often hear: Will the government help? Government support is often limited to low-income individuals. Yet, even if accommodation is subsidized, keep in mind that in this situation you may not have much choice on the type of care received.

Oftentimes, reviewing a financial plan reveals that many investors have enough assets to cover a period in which LTC may be needed. Beyond self-funding, there may also be planning tools to support the cost. Insurance may be one solution. The number of pure long-term care insurance policies has declined over recent years, partly due to high claims rates. This has also led to increasing premiums. However, hybrid products, typically a life insurance policy with a long-term care insurance rider bolted on, or an annuity with a long-term care product, may be cost-effective alternatives to pure LTC policies.

Average Rents for Standard Senior Spaces by Province, 2021

Province	Monthly	Annually
BC	$3,541	$42,492
AB	$3,404	$40,848
SK	$3,116	$37,392
MB	$2,844	$34,128
ON	$3,999	$47,988
QC	$1,922	$23,064
NB	$2,621	$31,452
NS	$3,366	$40,392
PEI	$3,237	$38,844
NFLD&LB	$2,701	$32,412
Average	**$3,075**	**$36,901**

Source: CMHC, 2021.

Write it Down

Like a financial plan, committing your objectives to paper can be a worthwhile exercise. You can discuss your plan with those you are close to, making sure it is practical in the context of resources, abilities and responsibilities to others. The end goal should be to establish a road map to guide your thinking and ensure your wishes for future care are known. As advisors, we can work with you to ensure your broader wealth plan considers your vision for your future care.

1. The Future Co$t of Long-Term Care in Canada, National Institute on Ageing, Oct. 2019. • 2. https://www.sunlife.ca/en/tools-and-resources/money-and-finances/understanding-health-insurance/five-things-to-know-about-long-term-care-insurance/ • 3. Based on 8 hours per day, 7 days per week for 52 weeks.

Finding Income in Today's Low-Rate Environment

How do we help our clients prepare for income in retirement? In today's low-rate environment, this continues to be a challenge.

Thirty years ago, we could easily have expected to achieve annual income of seven percent on a laddered government bond portfolio. For $1 million of savings, $70,000 could support many retirees. Fast forward to today and a yield of around 1.3 percent would be more aligned to expectations for a similar portfolio: $13,000 would hardly provide adequate income.

Most low-risk, fixed income investments yield low rates, often amounting to negative returns after considering inflation. Yet, they may still have a place within many portfolios as they can help to preserve capital, provide downside protection and diversify due to their negative correlation with equities. Other fixed income investments may generate highly respectable income, such as emerging market or high-yield debt products; however, these come with greater risks. Of course, these options depend on specific individual needs, including desired capital preservation, income generation, diversification and time horizon.

Aren't Interest Rates Expected to Rise?

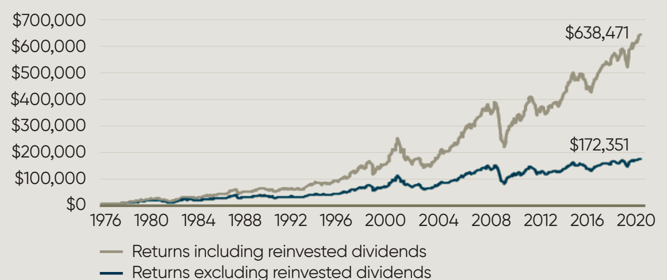
While there has been talk of looming interest rate hikes by the Bank of Canada for 2022 as a result of more persistent inflation, we suggest that many headwinds are likely to keep rates from significantly increasing, including lower productivity growth, aging demographics and increasing income inequality. Monetary policy is likely to continue playing an important role. Let's not forget that governments are grappling with higher debt-to-GDP ratios as a result of significant pandemic stimulus and need to service this debt—with any increase in interest rates, the cost of carrying this debt also rises.

Finding Income, Beyond Fixed Income

So—where to for income investors? In some cases we've had to readjust the longstanding assumptions we've made about asset allocation—the traditional balance between equities and fixed income to achieve portfolio diversification. Diversification remains important, but we can take a deeper approach—considering risk factors such as value, growth, capitalization size and region, that help to manage volatility, when looking to deliver potentially higher returns.

When we look to equities to support the generation of a reliable stream of income, the use of quality, dividend-paying equities has been a good strategy. In many cases, well-established, stable dividend-paying businesses have continued to grow their dividends. With many corporations posting strong earnings, various Canadian companies announced increasing dividend payouts in the latter part of 2021. Some analysts expect this to continue as dividend growth has lagged the earnings surge.[1] Historically, dividends have consistently and significantly contributed to total returns (chart above), helping to offset declines during market volatility. As an added benefit, for Canadian investors, dividends and capital gains are taxed at a lower rate than ordinary and interest income.

Impact of Dividends in Contributing to Total Returns: Growth of $10,000 Invested in S&P/TSX Composite Index, 1977–2020



We may also consider other investment vehicles as we look to generate income depending on individual circumstances, such as preferred shares, managed equity investments targeted to income generation or alternative strategies.

As liquidity becomes a focus for many clients in retirement, these are just some of the many considerations. We continue to position portfolios to meet these changing needs while adapting for factors like interest rates, and others, in the ever-changing investing landscape.

1. www.theglobeandmail.com/investing/article-with-banks-and-the-oil-patch-leading-the-way-canada-is-headed-to-a/

Staying the Course: Look Forward with Confidence

Given the upward climb in equity markets for most of 2021, some are asking if further upside can be had as we look ahead to 2022. While predicting the near-term direction of the markets is never possible, there may be reasons to support a continued upward climb:

Still room for growth! — Let's not forget that in 2021, Canada's economy struggled through recovery mode. Our economy remained shut down much longer than the U.S., and recent growth has been hindered by factors including supply chain bottlenecks, labour supply issues and continuing pressures as a result of the Delta variant. These are expected to normalize as full economic recovery takes course. For instance, labour issues may have been exacerbated by generous pandemic stimulus cheques; workers are likely to head back as this support runs out.

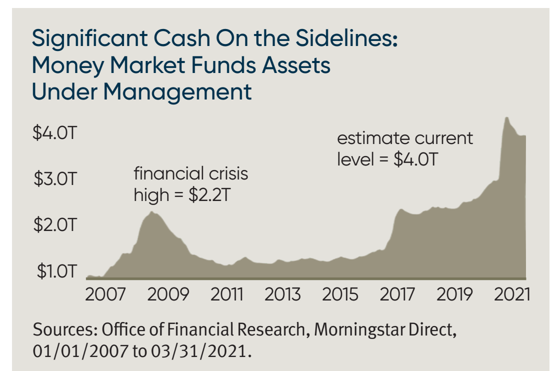
An accommodative Federal Reserve — Many central banks have been highly accommodative and have expressed patience with their policies. While many have indicated that increasing rates are on the horizon, we suggest that rates are not likely to rapidly rise. Monetary policy is likely to play an ongoing role as nations grapple with higher debt-to-GDP ratios as a result of pandemic stimulus—they still need to service this debt, and with higher interest rates, the cost of carrying this debt becomes larger. Markets are also forward-looking in nature and expectations for rate increases in 2022 have been largely priced in. It may also be worth remembering that the timing is still uncertain: when the Fed started to taper in 2013 after the financial crisis, investors expected the first rate increase within the year, about a full year before it actually happened.[1]

Significant cash on the sidelines — Many companies built substantial cash reserves for insurance throughout the pandemic; by some estimates, the largest non-financial companies have a record $7 trillion of cash on their balance sheets.[2] Given continued strength in earnings, these companies may look to unwind their reserves to fund projects and investments to drive growth. Similarly, households are sitting on record amounts of cash, which may suggest that consumer spending will be unleashed as supply constraints are resolved.[3] The amount of assets in money market funds also remains at highs, suggesting potential for this to be injected into higher-return equity markets.

Inflation: deflate your concerns — While many pandemic-related headwinds that have pushed inflation higher are expected to moderate in 2022, even if more persistent inflation is here to stay longer, there is no clear risk to equity markets. History suggests that there isn't a distinct pattern between high inflation and equity market returns. As one market analyst recently suggested: "deflate your inflation concerns!"[4] It should also be noted that staying invested in the equity markets is one of the best inflation hedges, as history shows that stocks beat inflation over the long term.

There are, no doubt, many challenges ahead, but their eventual outcomes on the markets are often difficult to predict. Don't let them stop you from staying the course. Look forward with confidence!

1. www.wsj.com/articles/narrowing-yield-gap-in-treasurys-signals-worries-over-fed-growth-11635586201 • 2. www.cnn.com/2021/08/17/investing/cash-companies-balance-sheet/index.html • 3. www.wsj.com/amp/articles/americas-cash-might-stay-on-the-sidelines-11632423163 • 4. www.wsj.com/articles/deflating-your-inflation-investing-fears-11635519805



Sources: Office of Financial Research, Morningstar Direct, 01/01/2007 to 03/31/2021.

Stock Market Returns During High Inflation Years

Inflation	S&P 500 Returns	Year	Inflation	S&P 500 Returns	Year
14.4%	5.2%	1947	8.5%	-8.4%	1946
13.6%	31.7%	1980	7.9%	23.7%	1951
11.3%	18.5%	1979	7.7%	5.7%	1948
11.1%	-25.9%	1974	7.6%	6.5%	1978
10.9%	19.2%	1942	6.5%	-7.0%	1977
10.3%	-4.7%	1981	6.2%	-14.3%	1973
9.1%	37.0%	1975	6.1%	20.4%	1982

Source: awealthofcommonsense.com/2021/10/inflation-vs-stock-market-returns/

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