

FIRST QUARTER 2021 REVIEW & OUTLOOK

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

12 April 2021

PORTFOLIO THEMES

- We continue to favour larger, high-quality companies as our assessment is that we remain in a late bull market cycle despite the technical bear in 2020.
- The recent relative strength in smaller and more value-oriented companies is likely a typical countertrend in a longer growth-led cycle.
- Measures of economic growth and inflation likely moderate once last year's deeply depressed base levels are passed, supporting our preference for growth-oriented equities.

MARKET OUTLOOK

- **Expect an Above-Average Year for Global Equities:** We anticipate a strong year for global markets tied to equities' resilience, political clarity and continued vaccine development and distribution.
- **We Believe We are Late in the Market Cycle:** The 2020 downturn behaved more like an outsized correction than a traditional bear so the market cycle did not reset. The vast majority of our sentiment and market indicators point to this being a late cycle bull market, yet many forecasters expect early-cycle leadership.
- **Investor Sentiment is Elevated but not Euphoric and can Remain High for a Long Time:** Positive sentiment can reign for a while before equities reach a euphoric peak, with strong returns along the way. Monitoring sentiment will be key for investors in 2021.

Global markets extended their climb in Q1, rising 4.6%.ⁱ Value equities led growth with Tech and Tech-like equities lagging, however we believe this to be a temporary countertrend. We are monitoring this carefully with the understanding that style volatility is normal. Crucially, our outlook hasn't changed. We still think equities should have a good year, with growth regaining its leadership as markets climb alongside sentiment.

As detailed in past Reviews, 2020's bear market acted like an oversized correction. There was little to no excess before governments shut down the global economy to restrain Covid-19's spread, triggering a contraction unlike normal recessions. Markets priced this rapidly—too fast to reset the market cycle, in our view.

As a result, equities are behaving like they are in the late stages of the bull market that began in 2009—a point when returns are usually strong with growth leading despite irregular value countertrend rallies. Overwhelmingly, most observers now envision a young bull market with years to run amid extended value leadership. Global markets efficiently price in broad expectations and we believe there are fundamental reasons for our current contrarian view. While we believe this bull market has room to run now, it is likely closer to its end than most expect.

Value's leadership dominated headlines globally in Q1—a big sign this is a temporary and fleeting leadership reversal, in our view. Long-term interest rates rose swiftly—which inflated expectations for inflation and fast economic growth to benefit the industries that suffered most during lockdowns—all value categories.

ⁱ Source: FactSet, as of 01/04/2021. MSCI ACWI Index return with net dividends, 31/12/2020 – 31/03/2021.

The steeper yield curve also heightened expectations for bank earnings, another big value component. Fund managers are now more optimistic on value than they have been in many years with retail investors following suit. After a brief bump tied to reopening, economic growth will likely be slower than headlines expect. Inflation probably won't spike, anchoring long-term interest rates—a backdrop favouring growth equities over value. Further, value equities, especially illiquid small ones, are generally lower quality and usually fare worst in bear markets. While we don't think a bear market is imminent, investors shifting heavily to value and not appreciating this bull market's late-cycle traits could be setting themselves up for disappointment.

Sentiment today is classically late-cycle. Optimism abounds. Pockets of euphoria exist in areas such as cryptocurrencies, digital assets called non-fungible tokens (NFTs) and so-called blank check companies (Special-Purpose Acquisition Companies, or SPACs). These fads wouldn't happen in a typical new bull market, when pessimism dominates.

Pockets of skepticism exist though, and politics underpins much of it. Many investors are concerned about spending and potential tax increases. This is understandable, and in the US more legislation may pass early in President Biden's term than we initially envisioned. But plenty of historical data show markets pre-price widely watched bills like taxes and spending, limiting their power over equities—positively or negatively. For example, major tax and spending hikes dominated last year's US presidential campaign and the vast majority of investors expected them in some form. Therefore, efficient markets dealt with all of this by the time President Biden was elected. Also, his "honeymoon" period with lawmakers and voters is nearly over. Gridlock—tied to the Democratic Party's narrow edge in the House and Senate as well as internal divisions—should result in any proposed legislation, such as a tax bill, getting watered down. Pushing bills through repeatedly would likely wear out fast, as many in Congress look ahead to 2022's midterms. As 2021 passes, gridlock's realities should grip tighter.

In European politics, Netherlands Prime Minister Mark Rutte's People's Party for Freedom and Democracy (VVD) won the most votes in mid-March's general election. Yet at the month's end, Prime Minister Rutte became entangled in a long-running childcare scandal, as allegations he tried to silence a whistleblower emerged. Italy has a new government, led by former ECB President Mario Draghi. Some observers think Prime Minister Draghi's popularity and reputation for competence bolster his ability to pass major changes, including overhauling Italy's bureaucracy and implementing sweeping tax reforms. However, we doubt Prime Minister Draghi's government will be much more active than its predecessors. Additionally, two widely watched German regional elections saw outgoing Chancellor Angela Merkel's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) suffer historic losses. Some observers see the results as a precursor for September's federal election, though that seems unlikely to us. No one party looks likely to run away with September's vote, and no politician currently has Chancellor Merkel's popularity. It appears another do-little German coalition government is likely, which should prevent extreme legislation—a positive for equities.

Emerging Markets (EM) also rose in Q1, rising in accordance with Covid-19 vaccine optimism and the value countertrend—helping EM heavy sectors such as Energy and Materials. However, Emerging Markets fell in March, with the biggest detractor a sharp fall in Chinese equities, which account for over 35% of the MSCI EM's market capitalisation.ⁱⁱ Chinese volatility, stemmed primarily from fears over the new enforcement of the Holding Foreign Companies Accountable Act—which raises the possibility of Chinese ADRs being delisted from US exchanges—and regulatory rumblings from Beijing. The People's Bank of China (PBOC) is reportedly planning to toughen oversight of digital commerce and payments—putting some large Tech and Tech-like names in its sights—and financial regulators are also considering measures that would further tighten private credit. While these issues are worth watching, we think the sentiment reaction to them is excessive. Once the sentiment reaction passes, we think the country's favourable economic fundamentals should regain primacy, boosting Tech and e-commerce in particular.

ⁱⁱ Source: FactSet, as of 01/04/2021. MSCI Emerging Markets and constituent countries' market capitalisation on 31/03/2021

We think China's recent decline is a correction, not the start of something much worse, and we still think EM equities are likely to have a good to great year, with growth equities leading.

Markets' ability to pre-price major, widely discussed developments was one of last year's biggest lessons. It won't surprise us if the major economic data swings likely ahead push sentiment up and down. Economic data series are often calculated on a year-over-year basis. Last year's deeply depressed figures will be the base for forthcoming reporting, which will yield huge growth rates even if activity is static month to month. As we move through the second quarter, and last year's sharp rebound becomes the new base, we believe it could drive big slowdowns or even drops for the same reason. We expect to see plenty of headline volatility tied to this dynamic.

This "base effect" will also boost inflation briefly. This looks temporary to us, as inflation and interest rates move globally, not nationally. Global forces are relatively benign. On the economic front, many envision a big, stimulus-fueled boom in the coming months. Economic growth may spike temporarily, but we don't think a huge, lasting surge is ahead. We aren't pessimistic, but late in bull markets, high expectations and greed can drive some investors to make risky, overly optimistic decisions.

While we don't see a bear market as imminent, we are vigilant for what could cause one and we diligently monitor widespread signs which could affect equities broadly. But overall, this looks like a very good, late bull market year to us.

EXHIBIT 1: 1. FISHER INVESTMENTS EUROPE

Fisher Investments Ireland Limited is a private limited company incorporated in Ireland that trades under the name Fisher Investments Europe ("Fisher Investments Europe"). Fisher Investments Ireland Limited and its trading name Fisher Investments Europe are registered with the Companies Registration Office in Ireland under numbers 623847 and 629724. Fisher Investments Europe's registered address is: 2nd Floor, 3 George's Dock, International Financial Services Centre, Dublin 1, D01 X5X0 Ireland. Fisher Investments Europe is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland ("CBI"). You can check this on the CBI's register by visiting the CBI's website <http://registers.centralbank.ie/> or by contacting the CBI at +353 1 2246000. The CBI's address is New Wapping Street, North Wall Quay, North Dock, Dublin 1, D01 F7X3, Ireland.

EXHIBIT 2: 2. COMMUNICATIONS

Fisher Investments Europe can be contacted by mail at Second Floor, 3 George's Dock, IFSC, D01 X5X0 Dublin 1 Ireland; by telephone on +353 (0) 1 4876510; or by email to institutional@fisherinvestments.co.ir. All communications with Fisher Investments Europe will be in English only. Fisher Investments Europe's web address is <https://institutional.fisherinvestments.com/en-ie>.

EXHIBIT 3: 3. SERVICES

These Terms of Business explain the services offered to professional clients and will apply from when Fisher Investments Europe begins to advise you. Fisher Investments Europe offers restricted advice only (meaning it does not offer independent advice based on an analysis of the whole of the market and does not recommend investment management services of companies other than Fisher Investments Europe or its affiliates). As part of its services, Fisher Investments Europe seeks to:

- a) Reasonably determine your client categorisation;
- b) Understand your financial circumstances and investment aims to determine whether the full discretionary investment service described in Clause 4 and the proposed investment mandate and accompanying benchmark(s) (or an Undertaking for Collective Investment in Transferable Securities ("UCITS") with a similar mandate and benchmark for which Fisher Investments Europe's parent company serves as investment manager) are suitable for you;
- c) Explain features of the investment strategy;
- d) Describe investment performance as it relates to the investment strategy;
- e) Provide a full explanation of costs;
- f) Assist in the completion of documentation;
- g) Where specifically agreed, review your position periodically and suggest adjustments where appropriate.

Fisher Investments Europe is conducting business in the European Economic Area (EEA) on a cross-border basis.

Fisher Investments Europe will not provide ongoing services unless you enter into an agreement for discretionary investment management services or invest in a UCITS as described in Clause 4.

EXHIBIT 4: 4. DISCRETIONARY INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT SERVICE AND INVESTMENTS

To help you achieve your financial goals, Fisher Investments Europe may offer its discretionary investment management services. In such case, Fisher Investments Europe will delegate the portfolio management function and may delegate servicing and trading functions to its affiliates. In particular, the portfolio management function will be delegated to Fisher Investment Europe's parent company, Fisher Asset Management, LLC, trading as Fisher Investments ("Fisher Investments"), which is based in the USA and is regulated by the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Client servicing functions may be carried out by Fisher Investment Europe, its affiliate, Fisher Investments Europe Limited, trading as Fisher Investments UK ("Fisher Investments UK"), which is based in the UK and is regulated by the UK Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), or other affiliates. In addition, trading functions may be carried out by Fisher Investments Europe, its affiliate, Fisher Investments Luxembourg, Sàrl ("FIL"), which is based in Luxembourg and is regulated by the Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier (CSSF), Fisher Investments, or other affiliates (each, a "Trading Delegate"). Fisher Investments Europe may also delegate certain ancillary services to Fisher Investments, Fisher investments UK, or other affiliates.

Subject to applicable regulations, for qualified investors Fisher Investments Europe may recommend an investment in UCITS regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland and for which Fisher Investments serves as investment manager.

EXHIBIT 5: 5. CLIENT CATEGORISATION

Fisher Investments Europe deals with both retail clients and professional clients. All clients and potential clients who deal with Fisher Investment Europe's institutional directors (sales) ("Institutional Directors"), will be treated as professional clients, either through qualification as a professional client or, in the case of local municipal authorities, through opting up to be treated as a professional client. Accordingly, you are categorised as a professional client. You have the right to request re-categorisation as a retail client which offers a higher degree of regulatory protection, but Fisher Investments Europe does not normally agree to requests of this kind.

EXHIBIT 6: 6. INVESTOR COMPENSATION SCHEME ("ICS")

Whilst the activities of Fisher Investments Europe are covered by the ICS, compensation under the ICS in the event Fisher Investments Europe is unable to meet its liabilities because of its financial circumstances is only available to eligible claimants. Because you have been categorised as a professional client, you are unlikely to be eligible. In addition, the protections of the ICS, do not apply in relation to the services of Fisher Investments UK, FIL, Fisher Investments or any affiliates or entities located outside of Ireland. In addition, to the extent your assets are invested in non-Irish funds or ETFs, these protections will not apply. In the event you are eligible and do have a valid claim, the ICS may pay 90% of net loss up to a maximum of €20,000. You can contact Fisher Investments Europe or the ICS (www.investorcompensation.ie/) in order to obtain more information regarding the conditions governing compensation and the formalities which must be completed to obtain compensation.

EXHIBIT 7: 7. RISKS

Investments in securities present numerous risks, including various market and currency fluctuation, political, economic and political instability, differences in financial reporting, liquidity risk, interest rate risk, credit risk, and other risks, and can be very volatile.

Investing in securities can result in a loss, including a loss of principal. Using leverage to purchase and maintain larger security positions will increase exposure to market volatility and risk of loss and is not recommended. Investments in securities are only suitable for clients who are capable of undertaking and bearing a risk of loss. Specific risks associated with particular types of securities that may be held in your account are explained further below.

Past performance is not a guarantee nor a reliable indicator of future investment returns. Fisher Investments Europe cannot guarantee and makes no representation or warranty as to future investment returns or performance. There is no guarantee for avoidance of loss, which is impossible with investments in securities, and you have not received any such guarantee or similar warranty from Fisher Investments Europe or any representatives thereof.

Depending on your investment strategy, Fisher Investments Europe may invest in the following types of securities, which carry the following risks:

Investments in smaller companies may involve greater risks than investments in larger, more mature companies. Investing in derivatives could lose more than the principal amount invested in those instruments. Various investment techniques used by Fisher Investments Europe may increase these risks if market conditions are not accurately predicted.

Equity securities prices may fluctuate in response to many factors, including general market conditions, specific sector and country issues, and company specific information or investor sentiment. Individual equity securities may lose essentially all their value in the event of bankruptcy or other insolvencies of the underlying issuer.

Fixed income securities are subject to various risks, including price fluctuation due to changes in the interest rate environment, market liquidity, changes in credit quality of the issuer, prepayment or call features of the securities, and other factors, including issuer default. While some fixed income securities are backed by the full faith and credit of a sovereign government, this does not prevent price fluctuations nor fully eliminate the risk of default. If fixed income securities are not held to maturity, they may realise losses.

Using borrowed funds to purchase and maintain larger security positions will increase exposure to market volatility. In a declining market, investment losses may be substantially increased, occur more rapidly, or become realised. Fisher Investments Europe does not typically employ margin leverage (gearing) on the overall strategy, but may employ some leverage directly or indirectly as a defensive technique (e.g. margin borrowing of securities to sell short for hedging purposes), or indirectly on a limited basis through individual derivative securities, as described more fully below.

If Fisher Investments forecasts a prolonged and substantial market downturn, Fisher Investments Europe may adopt defensive posturing for your account by investing substantially in fixed income securities, money market instruments, structured or exchange traded notes, put options or other derivatives on securities or indexes or ETFs, selling short securities or ETFs, and other hedging techniques. There can be no guarantee that Fisher Investments will accurately forecast any prolonged and substantial downturn in the market, that Fisher Investments Europe will adopt a defensive strategy, or that the use of defensive techniques would avoid losses.

Derivatives typically derive their value from the performance of an underlying asset, interest rates or index. The price movements of derivatives may be more volatile than those of other securities and result in increased investment risk. Many of these investments may not enjoy as much liquidity as other securities.

Short sales may be used to fully or partially hedge other investments or to seek returns unrelated to other investments. "Short sales" means the borrowing of a security for a period of time and selling the borrowed security on the market; the seller is then required to buy the security on the market at a later time before it is due to be returned. Short sales result in gains or losses depending on whether the price of the security increases versus the price at the time of the short sale (which results in a loss) or decreases versus the price at the time of the short sale (which results in a gain). The loss from a short sale is theoretically unlimited depending on how much the security sold short increases in value.

Structured notes and ETNs are debt instruments whose return is derived from the performance of a reference index or other underlying securities or investments. The performance of a note is determined primarily by the performance of the underlying investments; therefore, despite technically being a corporate debt instrument, notes can be designed to provide returns similar to other asset classes. These notes may include leverage, which increases risk and volatility. These notes are issued by third-party financial institutions, at the request of Fisher Investments, and thus bear the credit risk of those entities. Whilst a feature of such notes is a maturity date, they may be sold in the market or redeemed with the issuer before maturity. Given the limited number of market makers involved in quoting a given note, price dislocation versus fair value may occur should limit orders not be utilised when sold in the open market. Alternatively, such notes may be redeemed daily back to the issuer, minus a redemption fee specific to each issuer (generally close to 0.10%), implicitly charged in the execution price.

EXHIBIT 8: 8. DATA PROTECTION

To offer and provide the services described in Clause 3, Fisher Investments Europe may collect and process personal data that is subject to data protection laws, in accordance with its Privacy & Cookie Policy. You acknowledge the Privacy & Cookie Policy, which can be found here: <https://institutional.fisherinvestments.com/en-ie/privacy>

EXHIBIT 9: 9. CUSTODY AND EXECUTION

None of the Fisher Investments group companies (the "Fisher Group"), including Fisher Investments Europe, are authorised to hold client money. No Fisher Group company will accept cheques made payable to any of the Fisher Group companies in respect of investments, nor will they handle cash. All client assets are held at external custodian banks where each client has a direct account in their own name.

If you appoint Fisher Investments Europe as your discretionary asset manager, Fisher Investments Europe will arrange (including through its Trading Delegates) for the execution of transactions through selected custodian banks and brokers and at such prices and commissions that it determines in good faith will be in your best interests. Further information regarding selection of brokers is governed by your investment management agreement ("IMA") with Fisher Investments Europe. Fisher Investments Europe does not structure or charge its fees in such a way as to discriminate unfairly between execution venues.

The brokers and dealers to which your transactions may be allocated will use various execution venues, including without limitation:

- a) Regulated Markets in the USA or elsewhere (usually those exchanges where companies have their primary listing and other exchanges on which their securities are admitted to trading);
- b) Multi-Lateral Trading Facilities ("MTF") and Organised Trading Facilities ("OTF") in the USA or elsewhere (i.e. a multilateral system, operated by an investment firm or a market operator, which brings together multiple third-party buying and selling interests in financial instruments—in the system and in accordance with non-discretionary rules—in a way that results in a contract);
- c) Systematic Internalisers (which are investment firms dealing as principal and providing liquidity on a systematic basis);
- d) Other liquidity providers that have similar functions to any of the above;
- e) Counterparties that may access the above venues on behalf of Fisher Investments Europe and/or its Trading Delegates (or their clients) or trade on their own account.

You must be notified and approve of any off-venue trades prior to execution unless previously agreed to by you directly with the custodian. As a result of brokers/dealers using the execution venues mentioned above, your transactions may be executed on an execution venue that is neither a regulated market in the European Union nor an MTF/OTF in the European Union and therefore you will be required to expressly consent to the execution policy of Fisher Investments Europe by signing the IMA.

Fisher Investments Europe's top five trading venues are listed on its website.

Generally, financial instruments will not be affected if a custodian bank suspends payments or goes bankrupt. This is due to the fact that you will normally be able to take possession of your financial instruments based on the bank's registration of your rights. Generally, it is only if the bank fails to handle your financial instruments or register your rights correctly where you may not be able to take possession of the financial instruments.

If you appoint Fisher Investments Europe as your discretionary asset manager, you will receive a periodic statement every calendar quarter. This statement compares the performance of your account with that of a relevant benchmark in order to facilitate the assessment of performance achieved by the account. For performance, management fee calculation and reporting purposes, exchange traded equity securities are valued based upon the price on the exchange or market on which they trade as of the close of business of such exchange or market. All equity securities that are not traded on a listed exchange are valued using a modelled estimate of the bid price, also known as a bid evaluation, provided by Fisher Investments Europe's primary pricing service. Fixed income securities are valued based on market quotations or a bid evaluation provided by Fisher Investments Europe's primary pricing service. All securities are valued daily given a price from Fisher Investments Europe's primary pricing service is provided; otherwise, all securities are valued on at least a monthly basis.

Should you have any questions about any of the information provided above, you can find Fisher Investments Ireland Limited contact info at the below website.

<https://institutional.fisherinvestments.com/en-ie/contact-us>

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