

Insights

In-depth perspectives from portfolio managers and industry experts on the issues that matter most to investors.

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[Following a choppy Q1, high yield bonds appear poised to strengthen](#)

By: [Steve Concannon](#), [James Croom, CFA](#) | June 10, 2021

Although the U.S. high-yield market faced some challenging crosscurrents in Q1, it appears to have entered a recovery phase -- supported by economic growth, falling default rates, and U.S. monetary and fiscal policies.

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[Taking a shine to acute care hospitals post-pandemic](#)

By: [James Croom, CFA](#), [Stephen C. Concannon, CFA](#) | June 8, 2021

Boston - Earlier in the year, we saw fairly consistent leadership in the high-yield market by some of the more cyclical sectors, led by entertainment & film, air transportation, publishing & printing and energy. One area in particular that has captured our attention is acute care hospitals.

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Responsible Investing

[The investment case for water stewardship](#)

By: [Jade Huang](#) | June 10, 2021

Washington - World Oceans Day, celebrated annually on June 8, was created as a way of encouraging everyone to celebrate the role that oceans play in our lives. It also highlights the importance of water in general, essential to survival but a scarce resource for so many.

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[Fed delivers "hawkish surprise" as economy — and inflation risk — grow](#)

By: Eric Stein, CFA | June 17, 2021

Boston - The June 16 meeting of the Federal Open Market Committee delivered a bit of a hawkish surprise, as the consensus projection for new rate hikes moved up to 2023, compared with March when no FOMC members predicted hikes that early.

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[Hawkish comments by Fed reflect change in tone, not core policy](#)

By: Eric Stein, CFA | June 3, 2021

Boston - Recently, we have heard a slew of what I would call "mildly hawkish" comments from Federal Reserve Board governors and regional Federal Reserve Bank presidents. This is especially interesting because the observations also came from two who are usually considered dovish. All the comments were generally in the direction of slowing the Fed's tapering sooner rather than later and taking the foot off the accelerator.

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[Recent crypto sell-off suggests emerging links with broader markets](#)

By: Eric Stein, CFA | May 28, 2021

Boston - In recent weeks, we have witnessed a substantial sell-off and partial recovery in Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies, in the wake of negative comments from Elon Musk and moves by Chinese authorities to clamp down on Bitcoin mining. As a relatively new asset class, cryptocurrency is hardly unusual in exhibiting such volatility, even if the approximately 30% one-day drop in Bitcoin on May 18 was probably more than many crypto observers would have thought likely.

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[Inflation concerns are back, and they're real, but they shouldn't be overstated](#)

By: Eric Stein, CFA | May 21, 2021

Boston - Last week's inflation report came in much higher than expected — the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was up 0.8% month over month (including food and energy), for an annual rate of 4.2%. The market had been expecting a monthly increase of 0.2%. From a statistical perspective, that's a "miss" of 10 standard deviations to the upside.

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[Fed threads the needle with upbeat economic message and dovish stance](#)

By: Eric Stein, CFA | April 29, 2021

Boston - In some key respects, the April 28 meeting of the U.S. Federal Reserve might be considered "perfect." Fed Chair Jay Powell and members of the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) succeeded in threading the needle by sounding more upbeat about the economy than at the last meeting in March, while also continuing their very dovish messaging about monetary policy — much a "steady as she goes" announcement.

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[Dovish Fed signals commitment to "average inflation targeting"](#)

By: Eric Stein, CFA | March 18, 2021

Boston - The U.S. Federal Reserve reinforced its dovish stance at the March 17 Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting, while projecting stronger growth and employment, and — importantly — high inflation. While the Fed said it expects inflation to exceed its 2% target in 2021 and 2023, 11 of 18 FOMC members expect no change to the federal funds rate through the end of 2023. Seven members forecast the rate to exceed its current range of 0% to 0.25% by 2023.

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[New FOMC minutes renew Fed's commitment to dovish policy](#)

By: Eric Stein, CFA | February 18, 2021

Boston - The newly released minutes for the Federal Open Market Committee's meeting on January 26 provided interesting reinforcement of the Fed's dovish stance.

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[With Democratic Senate control, market focus shifts to fiscal stimulus](#)

By: Eric Stein, CFA | January 6, 2021

Boston - Just two months ago, the talk was about how the "blue wave" of Democratic victories failed to pan out in the general election. But in the wake of the Georgia elections and the victories of both Democratic candidates, we now have what I call a "blue wave—lite." Democrats will have unified control of the White House and both houses of Congress, but with narrow majorities in both chambers.

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[Fiscal policy likely to take center stage with Yellen at Treasury](#)

By: Eric Stein, CFA | January 5, 2021

Boston - The appointment of Janet Yellen as Treasury secretary by President-elect Joe Biden marks a milestone in what I believe has been a major trend since the 2008 global financial crisis: the blurring of monetary and fiscal policy.

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