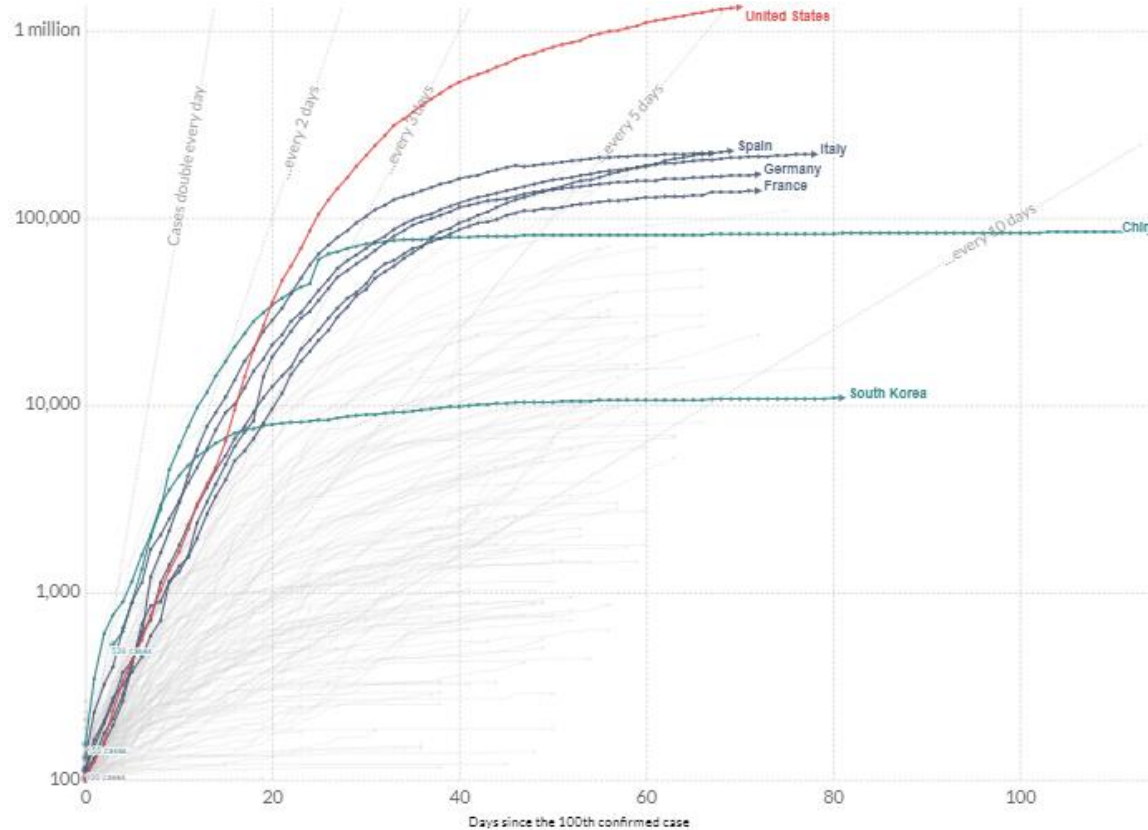


## Economic and Market Update

Data as of May 8, 2020



**Case Count by Select Country: Flattening the Curve<sup>1</sup>**



- There are over 4.2 million cases of coronavirus globally across 187 countries with the US now the epicenter.
- With some improvements in the data, countries are starting to gradually reopen parts of their economies.

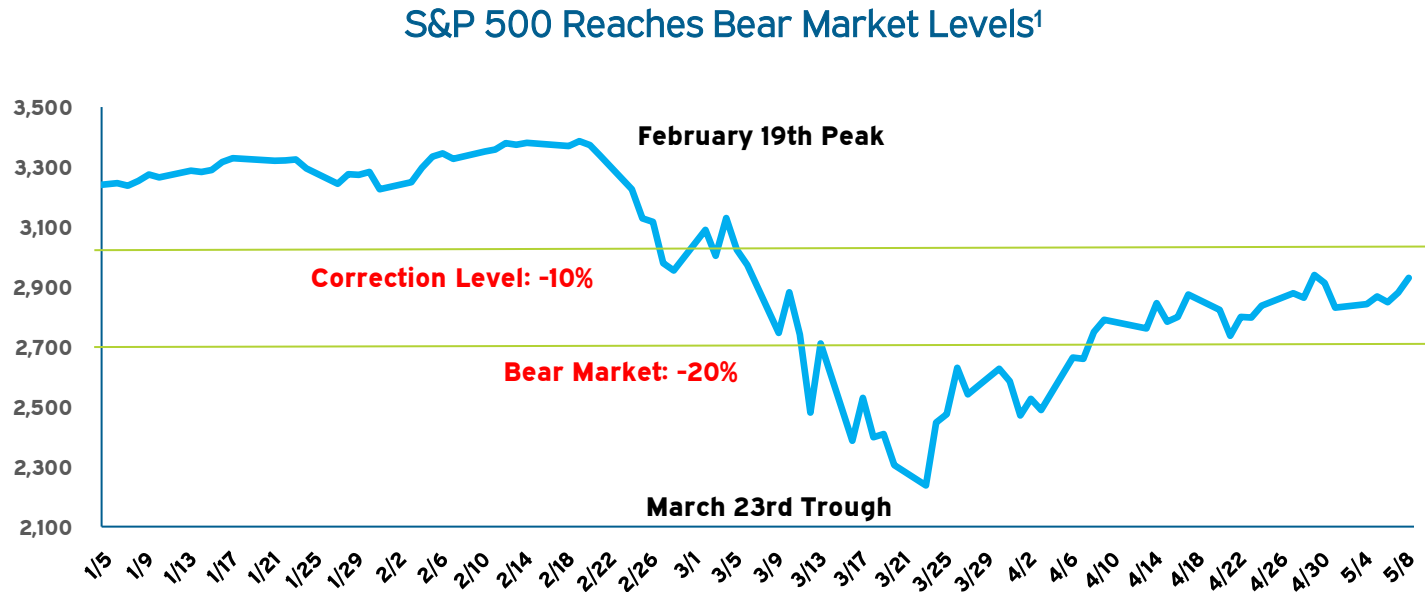
<sup>1</sup> Source: European CDC via Visual Capitalist. Data is as of May 12, 2020. Most data throughout the rest of the document is through May 8, 2020.

**Market Returns<sup>1</sup>**

Indices	YTD	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	20 Year
S&P 500	-8.7%	9.0%	8.9%	12.5%	5.7%
MSCI EAFE	-18.2%	-1.4%	-0.4%	4.6%	2.6%
MSCI Emerging Markets	-17.8%	-0.2%	-0.1%	2.3%	-
MSCI China	-4.5%	8.5%	2.3%	5.8%	--
Bloomberg Barclays Aggregate	4.5%	5.1%	3.8%	3.9%	5.2%
Bloomberg Barclays TIPS	4.5%	4.6%	3.3%	3.5%	5.5%
Bloomberg Barclays High Yield	-8.2%	2.1%	3.5%	6.2%	7.1%
10-year US Treasury	10.3%	7.2%	4.3%	5.2%	5.5%
30-year US Treasury	19.8%	14.9%	8.4%	9.5%	7.9%

- Given uncertainty related to the ultimate impact of the virus on economic growth, company profitability, and societal norms, many investors have sought perceived safe haven assets like US Treasuries.
- Initially, stocks experienced large declines, but fiscal and monetary authorities across the globe have deployed emergency measures to cushion huge economic losses; the S&P 500 has recovered by over 20% percent from its March lows.
- The 2020 decline in US stocks (S&P 500) brought 20-year returns to levels just slightly above US bonds (Bloomberg Barclays Aggregate), as this period also included the popping of the dot.com bubble and the GFC.
- By contrast, 10-year returns for the S&P 500 were 12.5%, far above the bond market's 3.9% annual return, indicating how dramatically long-term returns can shift.

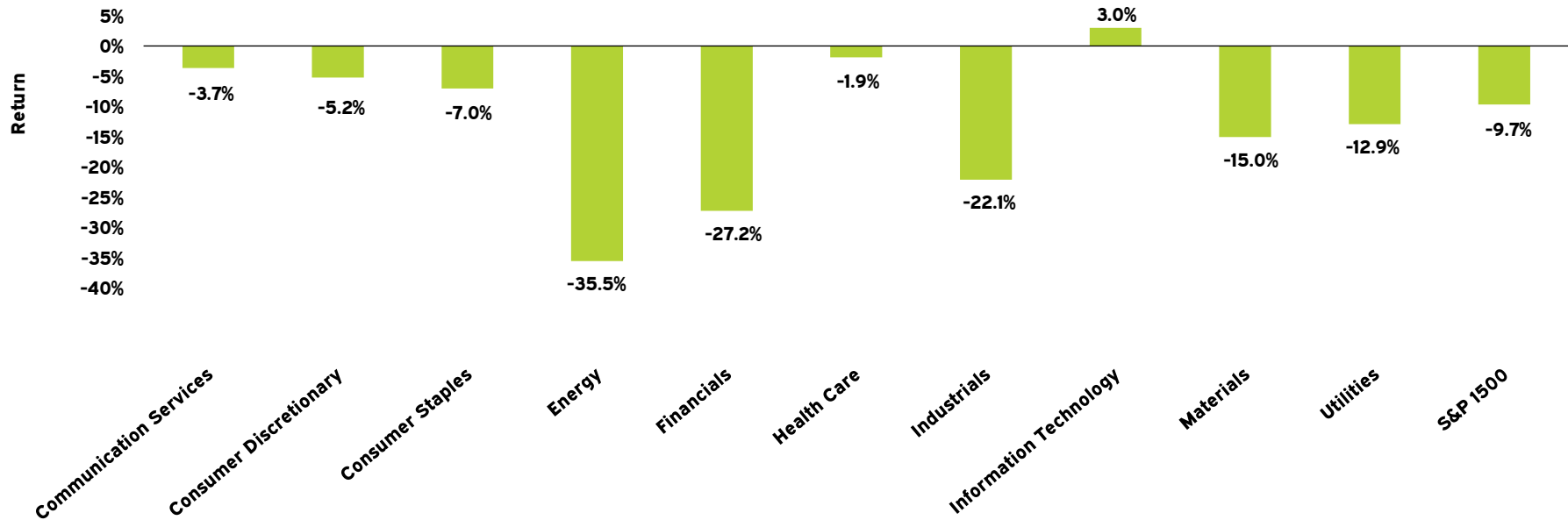
<sup>1</sup> Source: InvestorForce and Bloomberg. Data is as of May 8, 2020.



- Given the economic uncertainty surrounding the pandemic, US stocks declined from their recent peak into bear market (-20%) territory at the fastest pace in history.
- From the February 19 peak, the S&P 500 declined 34% in just 24 trading days.
- The index rebounded from its lows, likely due to the unprecedented monetary and fiscal stimulus announced in the US, improvements in virus data, and some economies reopening.
- It is unclear whether the US equity market has reached a bottom, or if the recent recovery is temporary, with more declines to come as the impact of COVID-19 on the economy becomes more apparent.

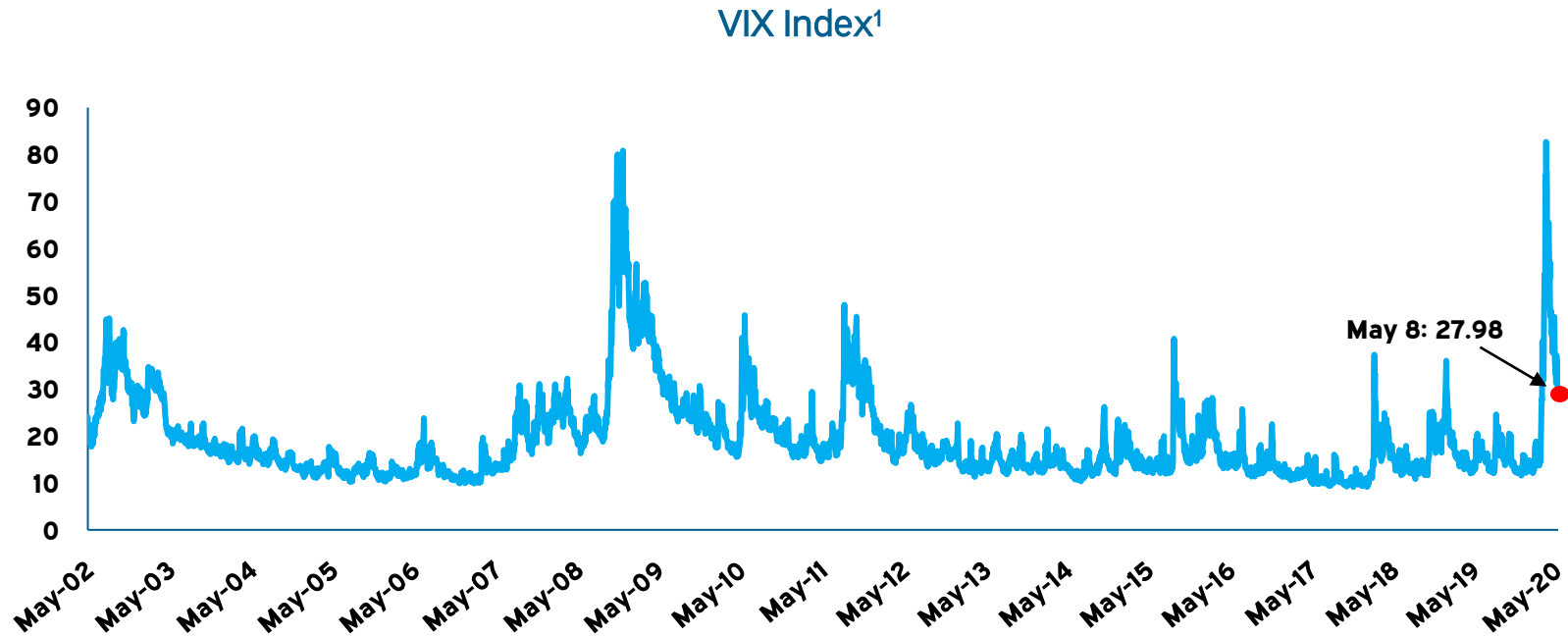
<sup>1</sup> Source: Bloomberg. Data is as of May 8, 2020.

### 2020 YTD Sector Returns<sup>1</sup>



- The energy sector has seen some improvements given the agreement between Saudi Arabia and Russia to cut supply and economies starting to gradually reopen, but it remains the sector with the greatest decline, triggered by the fall in oil prices.
- Financials, industrials, and materials experienced the next largest declines, while sectors like health care and consumer staples experienced smaller depreciation.
- Returns in the information technology sector recently turned positive as consumers moved to online purchases and entertainment under the stay-at-home restrictions.

<sup>1</sup> Source: Bloomberg. Data is as of May 8, 2020.



- Given the recent fiscal and monetary support and corresponding improvement in investor risk sentiment, expectations of short-term volatility, as measured by the VIX index, continue to decline from record levels but remains elevated.
- At the recent height, the VIX index reached 82.7, surpassing the pinnacle of volatility during the GFC, showing the magnitude of the crisis, and of investor fear.
- Going forward there is the risk of additional spikes in volatility, as investors continue to process the impacts of COVID-19 and the effectiveness of the policy response.

<sup>1</sup> Source: Chicago Board of Exchange. Data is as of May 8, 2020.

### Global Financial Crisis Comparison

	2007-2009 Global Financial Crisis	COVID-19 Crisis
--	-----------------------------------	-----------------

**Primary Causes**

Excess Risk Taking Due to:

- Deregulation, un-constrained securitization, shadow banking system, fraud

Pandemic/Natural Disaster:

- Large scale global restrictions on businesses and individuals leading to immediate and significant deterioration in economic fundamentals

	2007-2009 Global Financial Crisis	COVID-19 Crisis
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**Fiscal Measures**

- American Recovery Reinvestment Act of 2009: \$787 billion
- Economic Stimulus Act of 2008: \$152 billion

- PPP Act: \$659 billion
- CARES Act of 2020: \$2.3 trillion
- Families First Coronavirus Response Act: \$150 billion
- Coronavirus Preparedness & Response Supplemental Appropriations Act 2020: \$8.3 billion
- National Emergency: \$50 billion

	2007-2009 Global Financial Crisis	COVID-19 Crisis
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**Monetary Measures**

Lowering Fed Funds Rate	X	X
Quantitative Easing	X	X
Primary Dealer Repos	X	X
Central Bank Swap Lines	X	X
Commercial Paper Funding Facility	X	X
Primary Dealers Credit Facility	X	X
Money Market Lending Facility	X	X
Term Auction Facility	X	
TALF	X	X
TSLF	X	
FIMA Repo Facility		X
Primary & Secondary Corp. Debt		X
PPP Term Facility		X
Municipal Liquidity Facility		X
Main Street Loan Facility		X

### Global Financial Crisis Comparison (continued)

- The US **fiscal** COVID-19 Crisis response has been materially larger than the 2007-2009 Global Financial Crisis (GFC), and stimulus is acutely focused on areas of the economy showing the greatest need, including small and mid-sized companies. For example, the Paycheck Protection Program helps small businesses keep employees working by offering forgivable loans to cover salaries.
- On the **monetary** side, markets targeted during both crises represent those most in need, but for the COVID-19 Crisis the policy response was dramatically faster, measured in weeks, not years, as in the GFC.
- Of the monetary stimulus measures, the corporate debt (Primary & Secondary Corporate Debt) programs and Main Street Loan Facility are new and garnered much attention from market participants.



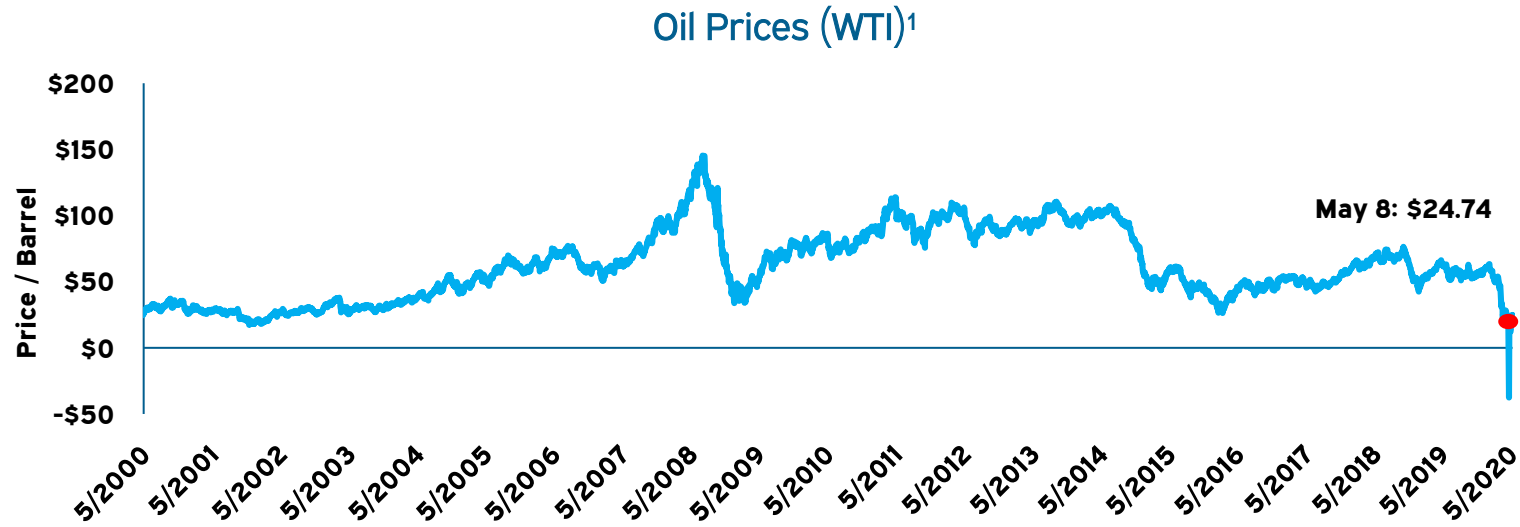
Historic \$2T US Fiscal Stimulus

Destination	Amount (\$ Billion)
Individuals	\$560
Large Corporations	\$500
Small Business	\$377
State & Local Governments	\$340
Public Health	\$154
Student Loans	\$44
Safety Net	\$26

- Late in March, a historic \$2 trillion fiscal package was approved in the US, representing close to 10% of GDP and including support across the economy.
- Individuals are actively receiving cash payments of up to \$1,200 per adult and \$500 per child, and extended and higher weekly unemployment benefits (+\$600/week).
- The package also includes a \$500 billion lending program for distressed industries like airlines, and \$377 billion in loans to small businesses.
- Other parts of the package include allocations to state and local governments, support for public health, student loan relief, and a safety net.
- Recently, the next round of fiscal stimulus was approved with the majority targeted to replenish the depleted small business lending program.

## Policy Responses

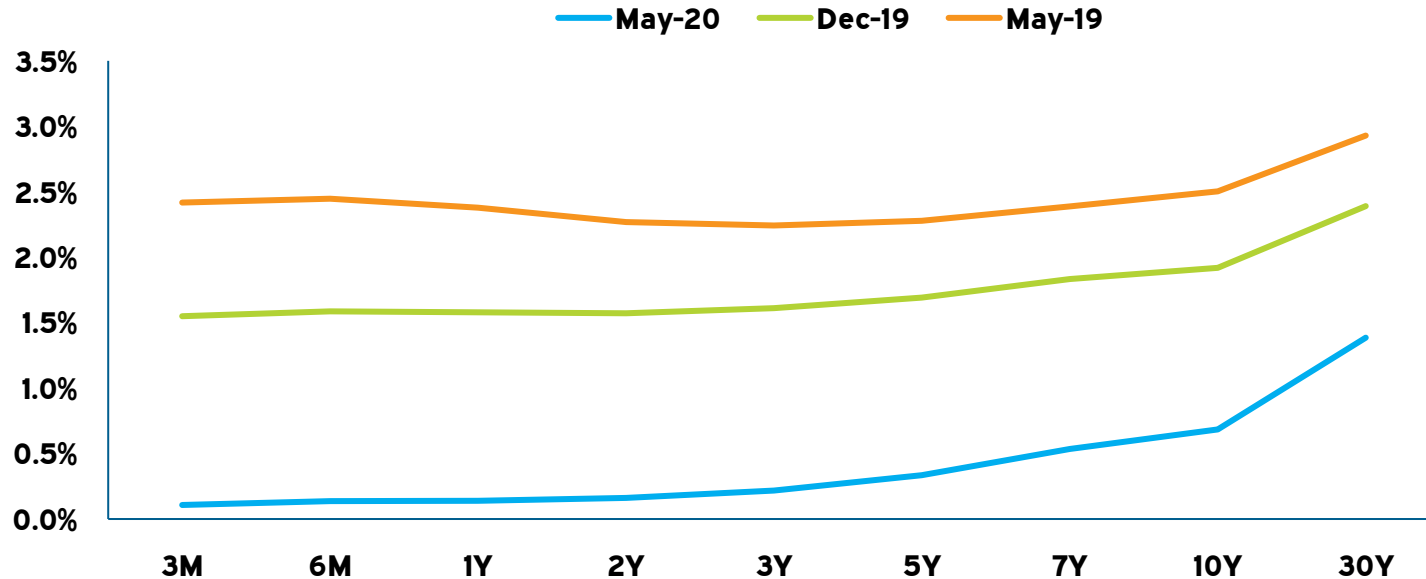
	Fiscal	Monetary
United States	\$50 billion to states for virus related support, interest waived on student loans, flexibility on tax payments and filings, expanded COVID-19 testing, paid sick leave for hourly workers, \$2 trillion package for individuals, businesses, and state/local governments. Additional \$484 billion package to replenish small business loans, provide funding to hospitals, and increase testing.	Cut policy rates to zero, unlimited QE4, offering trillions in repo market funding, restarted CPFF, PDCF, MMMF programs to support lending and financing market, expanded US dollar swap lines with foreign central banks, announced IG corporate debt buying program with subsequent amendment for certain HY securities, Main Street Lending program, Muni liquidity facility, repo facility with foreign central banks, and easing of some financial regulations for lenders.
Euro Area	Germany: Launched 750 billion euro stimulus package. France: 45 billion euro for workers, guaranteed up to 300 billion euro in corporate borrowing. Italy: 25 billion euro emergency decree, suspending mortgage payments for impacted workers. Spain: 200 billion euro and 700 million euro loan and aid package, respectively.	Targeted longer-term refinancing operations aimed at small and medium sized businesses, under more favorable pricing, and announced the 750 billion euro Pandemic Emergency Purchase Program. and then expanded the purchases to include lower-quality corporate debt
Japan	\$20 billion in small business loans, direct funding program to stop virus spread among nursing homes and those affected by school closures, discussion of additional relief in the coming months, and \$240 billion supplementary spending (pending).	Initially increased QE purchases (ETFs, corporate bonds, and CP) and then expanded to unlimited purchases and doubling of corporate debt and commercial paper, expanded collateral and liquidity requirements, and 0% interest loans to businesses hurt by virus
China	Tax cuts, low-interest business loans, extra payments to gov't benefit recipients.	Expanded repo facility, policy rate cuts, lowered reserve requirements.
Canada	\$7.1 billion in loans to businesses to help with virus damage.	Cut policy rates, expanded bond-buying and repos, lowered bank reserve requirements.
UK (BOE)	Tax cut for retailers, small business cash grants, benefits for those infected with virus, expanded access to gov't benefits for self and un-employed.	Lowered policy rates and capital requirements for UK banks, restarts QE program and subsequently increased the purchase amounts.
Australia	\$11.4 billion, subsidies for impacted industries like tourism, one-time payment to gov't benefit recipients.	Policy rate cut, started QE.



- Recently, in an unprecedented move, oil prices plunged to negative levels on concerns over storage capacity in the US. This led to producers having to pay to offload their oil for May delivery.
- Negative prices were driven by the futures market that requires physical delivery of oil at contract expirations. As the May expiration date approached, traders sold the contracts given extremely low demand and storage constraints. Prices have since moved back into positive territory, but the risk of a similar dynamic remains as the June expiration date approaches.
- Prior to this, oil markets were already under pressure as the virus lowered global growth expectations, and prices deteriorated further when Saudi Arabia initiated a price war after Russia's decision to not participate in the proposed OPEC+ supply cuts. Russia ultimately agreed to participate and this, along with optimism over economies starting to reopening, provided some support to oil recently.

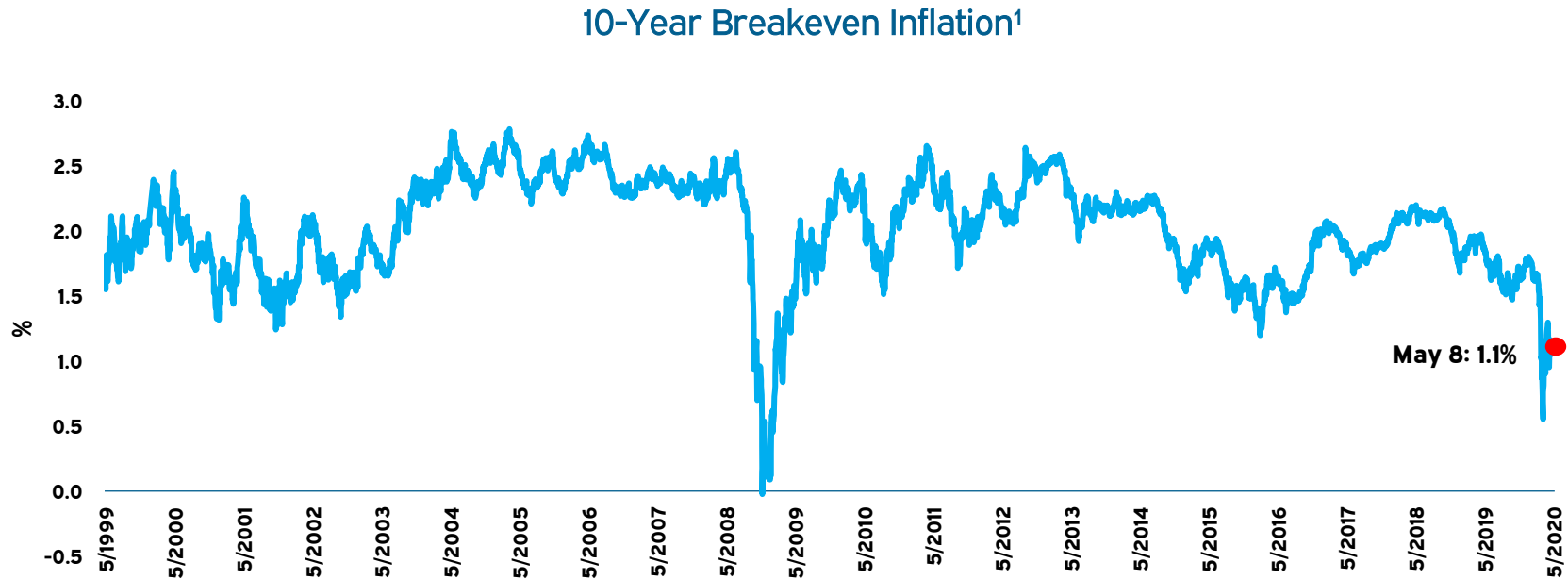
<sup>1</sup> Source: Bloomberg. Represents WTI first available futures contract. Data is as of May 8, 2020.

### US Yield Curve Declines<sup>1</sup>



- The US Treasury yield curve has declined materially since last year.
- Cuts in monetary policy rates lowered yields in shorter maturities, while flight-to-quality flows, low inflation, and lower growth expectations, particularly given indications that economic growth could slow by record amounts, have driven the changes in longer-dated maturities.
- The Federal Reserve’s unlimited quantitative easing purchase program has provided further downward pressure on interest rates.

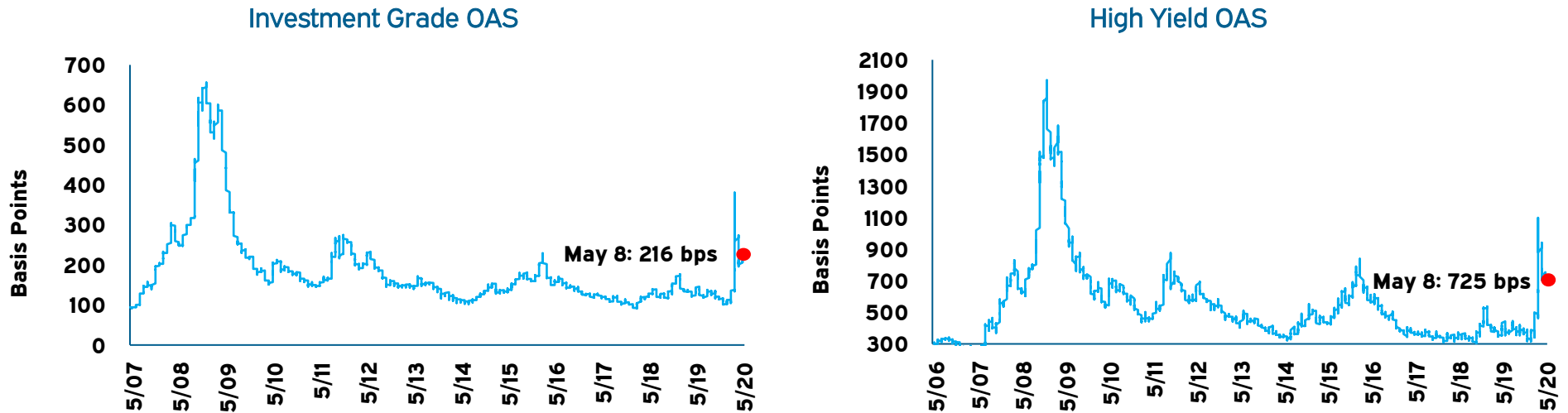
<sup>1</sup> Source: Bloomberg. Data is as of May 8, 2020.



- Inflation breakeven rates declined sharply over the last two months, due to a combination of declines in inflation expectations and liquidity dynamics in TIPS during the height of rate volatility.
- As liquidity improved, and given the potential longer term inflationary effects of the unprecedented US fiscal and monetary responses, inflation expectation levels have come off of their recent lows, but remain well below historical averages.

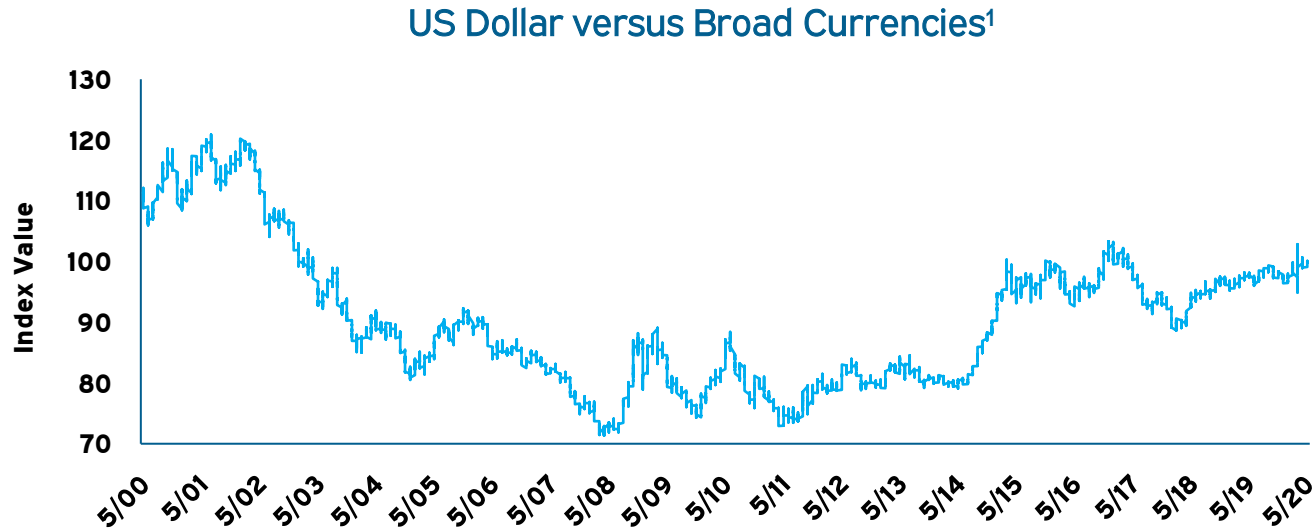
<sup>1</sup> Source: Bloomberg. Data is as of May 8, 2020.

### Credit Spreads (High Yield & Investment Grade)<sup>1</sup>



- Credit spreads (the spread above a comparable Treasury bond) for investment grade and high yield corporate debt expanded sharply as investors sought safety.
- Investment grade bonds held up much better than high yield bonds. The Federal Reserve’s corporate debt purchase program for investment grade and certain high yield securities that were recently downgraded from investment grade, was well received by investors, leading to a decline in spreads.
- Corporate debt issuance has more than doubled since 2008, which magnifies the impact of deterioration in the corporate debt market. This is particularly true in the energy sector, which represents a large portion of the high yield bond market.

<sup>1</sup> Source: Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis Economic Research. Data is as of May 8, 2020.



- When financial markets began aggressively reacting to COVID-19 developments, the US dollar came under selling pressure as investors sought safe-haven exposure in currencies like the Japanese yen.
- As the crisis grew into a pandemic, investors’ preferences shifted to holding US dollars and highly liquid, short-term securities like US Treasury bills. This global demand for US dollars led to appreciation versus most major currencies.
- A relatively strong US dollar makes US goods more expensive for overseas consumers and causes commodity prices outside the US to rise, affecting foreign countries, and particularly emerging markets.
- To help ease global demand for US dollars, the Federal Reserve, working with a number of global central banks, re-established the US dollar swap program, providing some relief to other currencies.

<sup>1</sup> Source: Bloomberg. Represents the DXY Index. Data is as of May 8, 2020.

## Economic Impact

### Supply Chain Disruptions:

- Factories closing, increased cost of stagnant inventory, and disrupted supply agreements.
- Reduced travel, tourism, and separation policies including closed borders: Significant impact on service-based economies.

### Labor Force Impacts:

- Huge layoffs across service and manufacturing economies.
- Increased strains as workforce productivity declines from increased societal responsibilities (e.g., home schooling of children) and lower functionality working from home.
- Illnesses from the disease will also depress the labor force.

### Declines in Business and Consumer Sentiment:

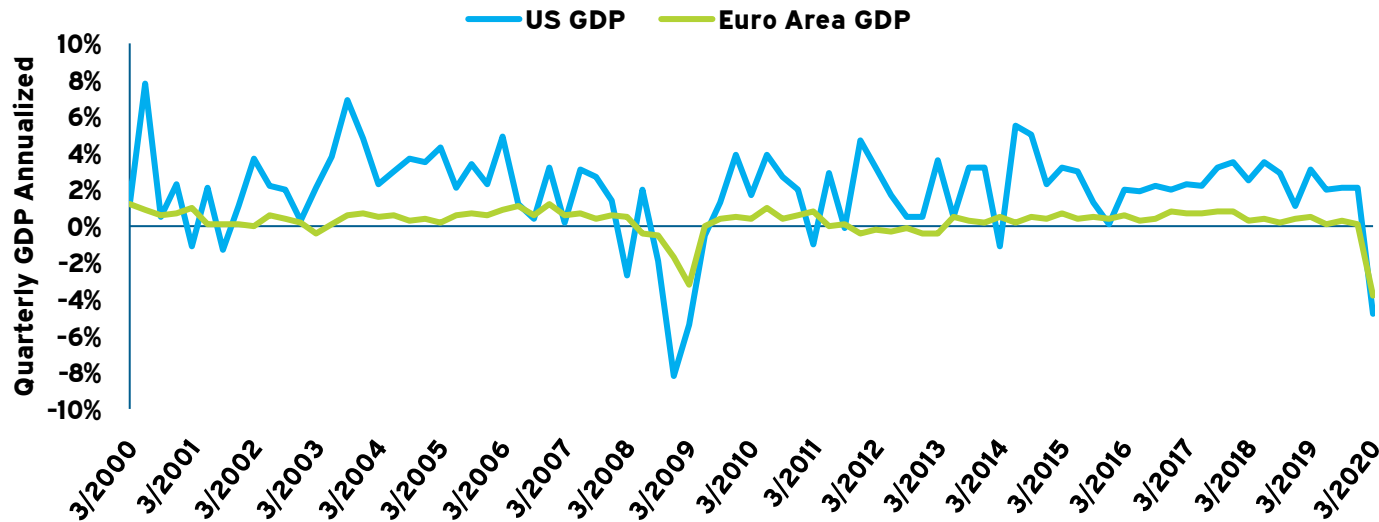
- Sentiment drives investment and consumption, which leads to increased recessionary pressures as sentiment slips.

### Wealth Effect:

- As financial markets decline and wealth deteriorates, consumer spending will be impacted.



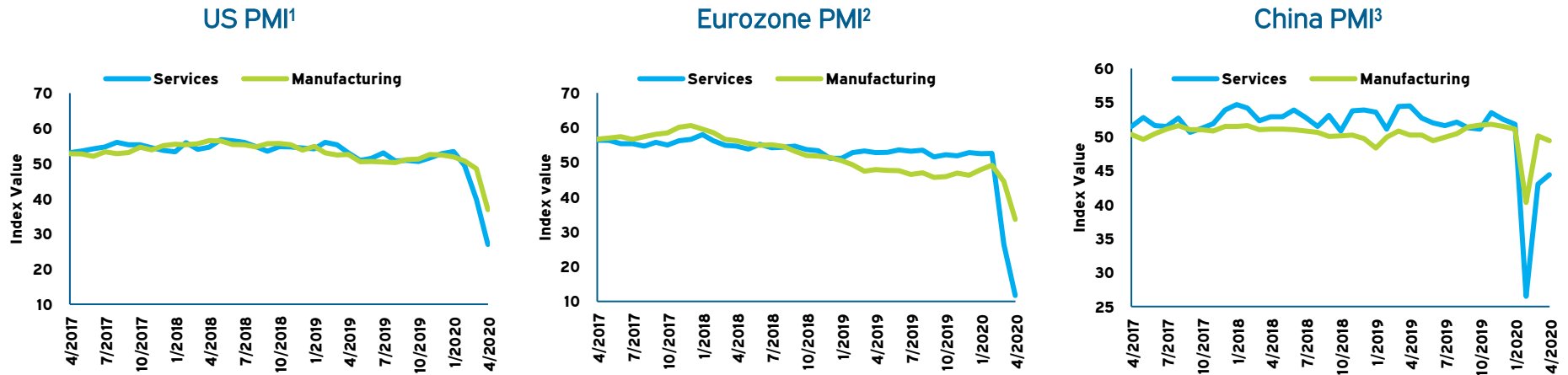
### GDP Data Shows First Signs of Crisis<sup>1</sup>



- The global economy faces major recessionary pressures this year, but optimism remains for improvements in 2021 as economies are expected to gradually reopen.
- In the US, initial estimates for first quarter GDP came in at -4.8%, with personal consumption declining the most since 1980. Eurozone GDP also fell (-3.8%) with the major economies in France, Spain and Italy experiencing historic declines.
- Going forward, Bloomberg Economics estimates that second quarter global GDP could experience further declines and be as low as -9%.

<sup>1</sup> Source: Bloomberg. Q1 2020 data represents first estimate of GDP for Euro Area and United States.

### Global PMIs



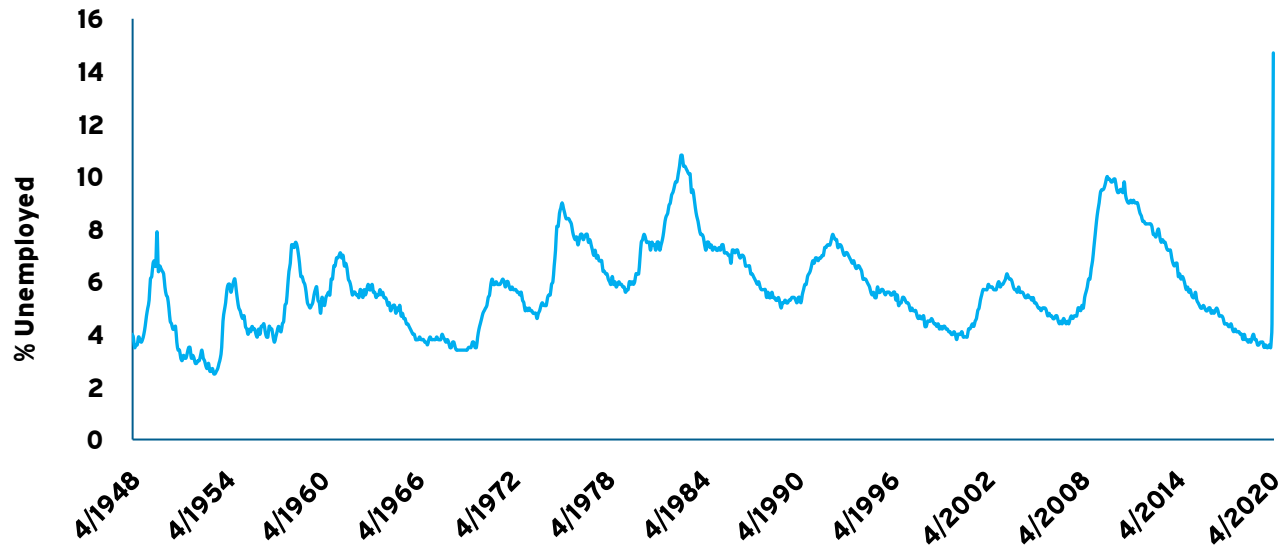
- Purchasing Managers Indices (PMI) based on surveys of private sector companies, collapsed across the world to record lows, as output, new orders, production, and employment have been materially impacted by closed economies.
- Readings below 50 represent contractions across underlying components and act as a leading indicator of economic activity, including the future paths of GDP, employment, and industrial production.
- The services sector has been particularly hard hit given the stay at home restrictions in many places.

<sup>1</sup> Source: Bloomberg. US Markit Services and Manufacturing PMI. Data is as of April 2020

<sup>2</sup> Source: Bloomberg. Eurozone Markit Services and Manufacturing PMI. Data is as of April 2020

<sup>3</sup> Source: Bloomberg. Caixin Manufacturing and Services PMI Data is as of April 2020.

### US Unemployment Rate<sup>1</sup>

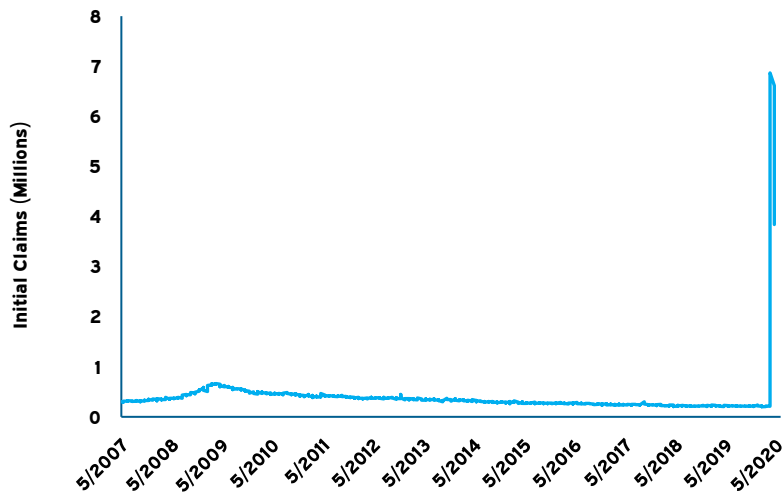


- The April reading of unemployment came in at 14.7%, slightly below estimates of 16%, but representing the highest level since the Great Depression.
- The Bureau of Labor Statistics commented in their release that a large number of workers were likely being misclassified as “employed but absent from work” versus “unemployed on temporary layoff” and that the unemployment rate was probably close to 5% higher than reported.

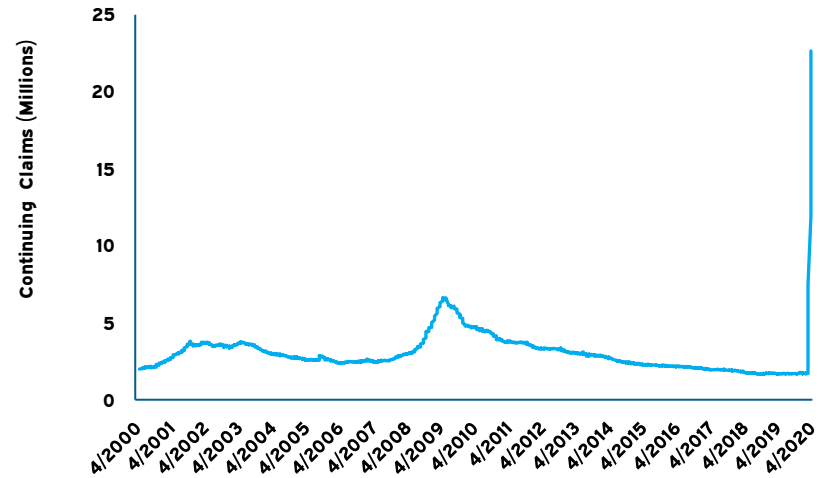
<sup>1</sup> Source: Bloomberg. Data is as of April 30, 2020.

### US Jobless Claims

US Initial Jobless Claims<sup>1</sup>



Continuing Claims<sup>2</sup>



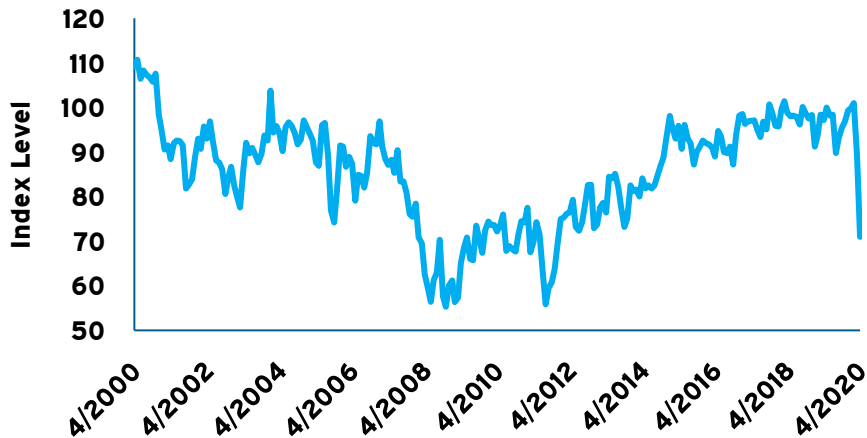
- Over the last seven weeks, over 33 million people filed for initial unemployment. This level exceeds the 22 million jobs added since the GFC, highlighting just how unprecedented the impact of the virus is.
- Continuing jobless claims (i.e., those currently receiving benefits) also spiked to a record level of 22.6 million people.

<sup>1</sup> Source: Bloomberg. First reading of seasonally adjusted initial jobless claims. Data is as of April 25, 2020.

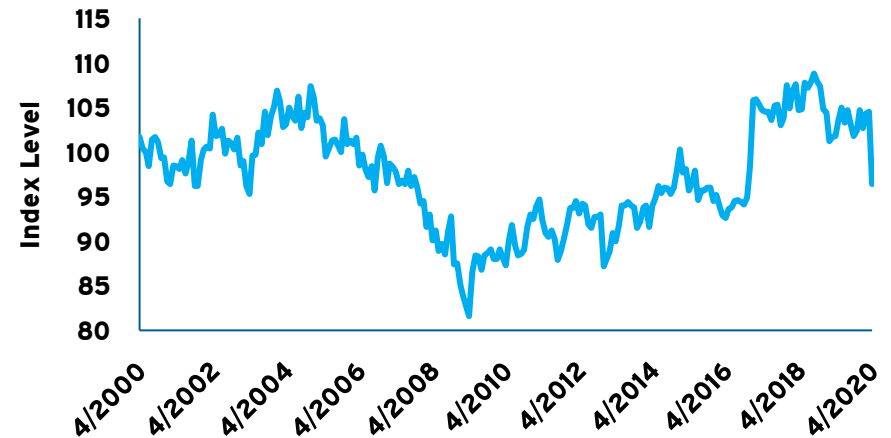
<sup>2</sup> Source: Bloomberg. US Continuing Jobless Claims SA. Data is as of April 24, 2020.

### Sentiment Indicators

University of Michigan Consumer Sentiment<sup>1</sup>



Small Business Confidence<sup>2</sup>

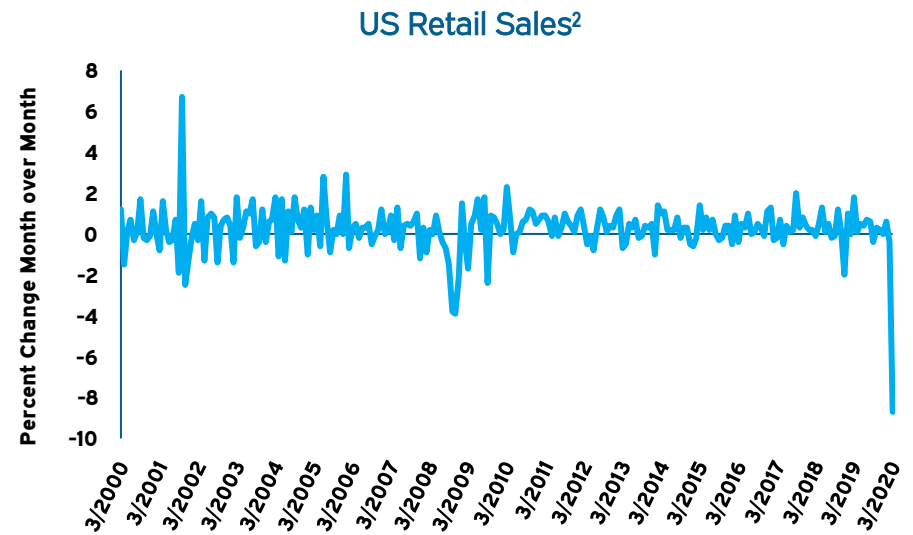
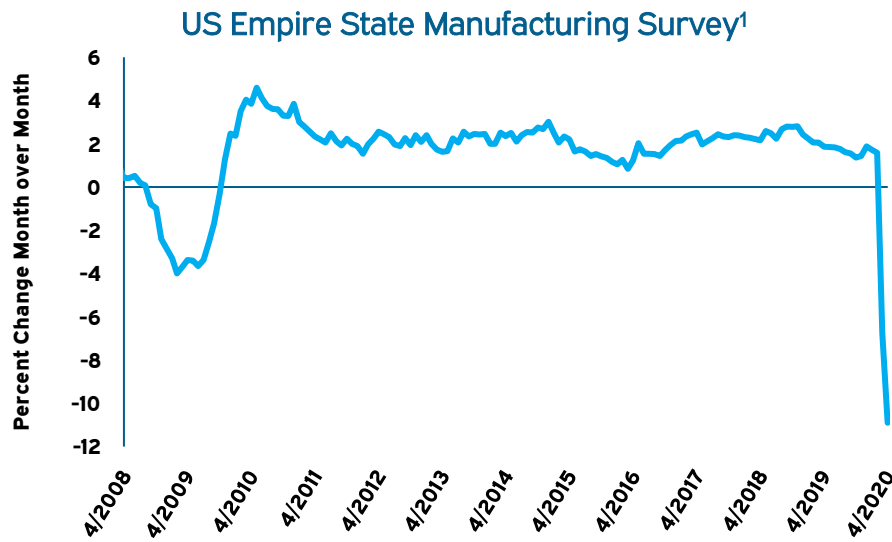


- A strong indicator of future economic activity are the attitudes of businesses and consumers today.
- Consumer spending comprises close to 70% of US GDP, making the attitudes of consumers an important driver of future economic growth. Additionally, small businesses comprise a majority of the economy, making sentiment in that segment important too.
- As restrictions caused many businesses to close and employees to be laid off, sentiment indicators have seen corresponding declines with potentially more to come as the impact of the virus evolves.

<sup>1</sup> Source: Bloomberg. University of Michigan Consumer Sentiment Index. Data is as of April 2020.

<sup>2</sup> Source: Bloomberg. NFIB Small Business Optimism Index. Data is as of March 31, 2020.

### Cracks Starting to Show in Q2 US Data



- Manufacturing in New York during March declined at the fastest pace on record, falling 78.2%, the lowest on record dating back to 2001, with readings below zero indicating economic contraction.
- March US retail sales also fell by a record amount (-8.7%), more than double the prior -3.8% record, set during November 2008. Declines were led by clothing and accessories store sales which fell more than 50% from the previous month.

<sup>1</sup> Source: Bloomberg. Data is as of April 30, 2020 and represents the US Empire State Manufacturing Survey General Business Conditions SA.

<sup>2</sup> Source: Bloomberg. Data is as of March 31, 2020 and represents the adjusted Retail Sales SA Monthly % Change.

### Government Re-Opening Recommendation<sup>1</sup>

Phase One	Phase Two	Phase Three
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vulnerable individuals continue to stay at home.</li> <li>• Avoid groups of more than 10 people if social distancing is not possible.</li> <li>• Minimize non-essential travel.</li> <li>• Work remotely if possible with restrictions in the office for those businesses that open.</li> <li>• Schools remain closed, but some larger venues can open with strict protocols.</li> <li>• Outpatient elective surgeries can resume.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vulnerable individuals continue to stay at home.</li> <li>• Avoid groups of more than 50 people if social distancing is not possible.</li> <li>• Non-essential travel resumes.</li> <li>• Continue to work remotely if possible with restrictions in the office for those businesses that open.</li> <li>• Schools can reopen.</li> <li>• Inpatient elective surgeries can resume</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vulnerable individuals can return to public life with social distancing.</li> <li>• Workplaces can reopen without restrictions.</li> <li>• Larger venues can operate under reduced social distancing protocols.</li> </ul>

- The Trump administration recently announced guidelines for re-opening the US economy.
- Guidelines recommend states document a “downward trajectory” in new cases for two weeks before beginning a three-phase process to scale back distancing measures and reopen local economies.
- States should also document an additional two-week period decline in instances between each of the three phases, and be prepared to reinstate social distancing measures should cases rebound.
- Recently, some states have begun the reopening process, with others considering to start the process soon.

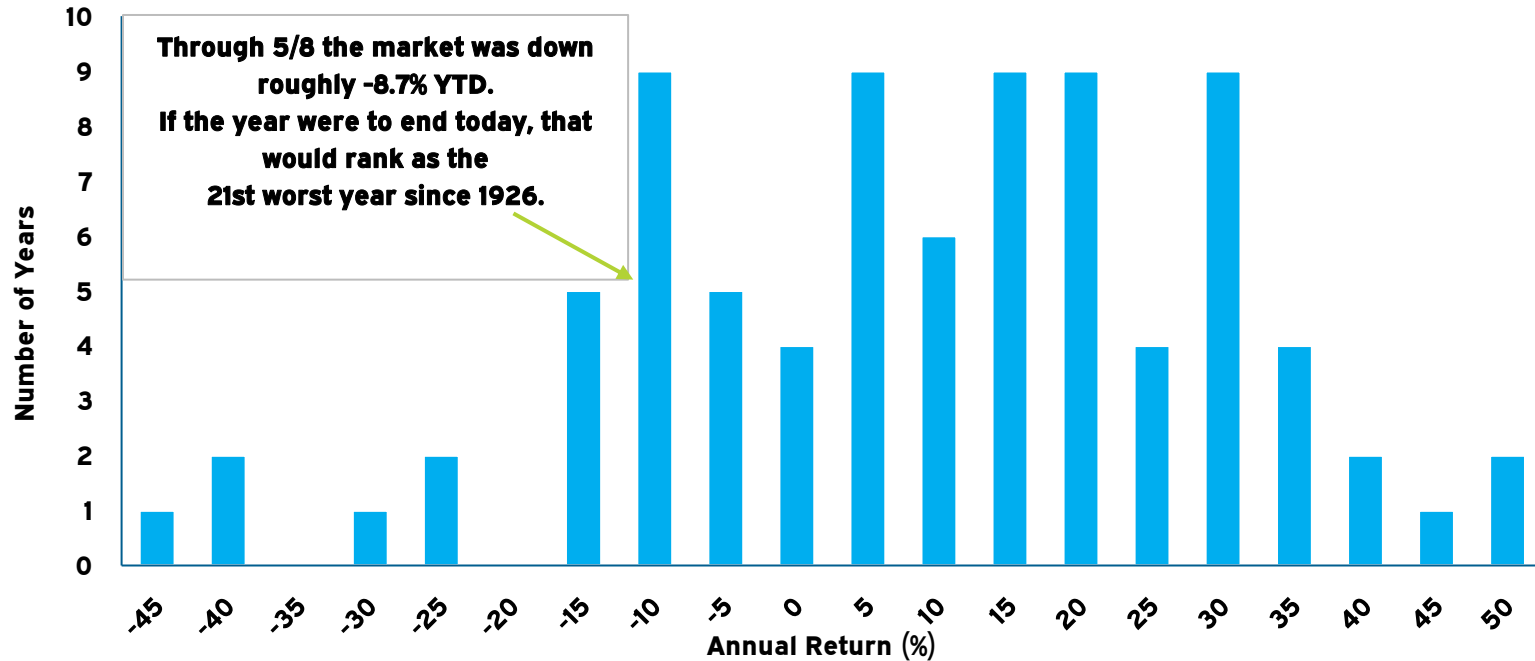
<sup>1</sup> Source: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/openingamerica/>

### Looking Forward...

- There will be significant economic impact and a global recession.
  - How deep it will be and how long it will last depend on factors (below) that are unknowable at this time.
- The length of the virus and country responses will be key considerations.
  - As of now, it is not clear the end is in sight; however, impacted countries are attempting to lay the groundwork to support a recovery.
- Central banks and governments are pledging support, but will it be enough?
  - Based on initial market reactions to announced policies, the answer is no, until the virus gets better contained.
- Expect heightened market volatility given the virus and previous high valuations.
  - This has been a consistent theme over the last weeks; volatility is likely to remain elevated for some time.
- It is important to retain a long-term focus.
  - History supports the argument that maintaining a long-term focus will ultimately prove beneficial for diversified portfolios.



**Distribution of Annual S&P 500 Returns<sup>1</sup>  
(1926-2020)**



- The -8.7% year-to-date decline (through 5/8) in the S&P 500 would be the twenty-first largest in modern history if it ended the year at this level.
- With around eight months remaining in 2020, and trillions of dollars in fiscal and monetary stimulus deployed, we expect asset prices to experience notable volatility over the near term.

<sup>1</sup> Source: Bloomberg. Data is as of May 8, 2020.

Prior Drawdowns and Recoveries from 1926-2020<sup>1</sup>

Period	Peak-to-Trough Decline of the S&P 500	Approximate Time to Recovery
Sept 1929 to June 1932	-85%	266 months
February 1937 to April 1942	-57%	48 months
May 1946 to February 1948	-25%	27 months
August 1956 to October 1957	-22%	11 months
December 1961 to June 1962	-28%	14 months
February 1966 to October 1966	-22%	7 months
November 1968 to May 1970	-36%	21 months
January 1973 to October 1974	-48%	69 months
September 1976 to March 1978	-19%	17 months
November 1980 to August 1982	-27%	3 months
August 1987 to December 1987	-32%	19 months
July 1990 to October 1990	-20%	4 months
July 1998 to August 1998	-19%	3 months
March 2000 to October 2002	-49%	56 months
October 2007 to March 2009	-57%	49 months
February 2020 to May 2020	-34%	TBD
<b>Average</b>	<b>-36%</b>	<b>41 months</b>
<b>Average ex. Great Depression</b>	<b>-33%</b>	<b>25 months</b>

- Markets are continuing to reprice amid the uncertain impact of the virus on markets and the global economy, which means this drawdown is still being defined in the context of history.
- That said, financial markets have experienced material declines with some frequency, and while certain declines took a meaningful time to recover, in all cases they eventually did.
- The current decline is severe, and it is still too early to tell how long a full recovery might take.

<sup>1</sup> Source: Goldman Sachs. Recent peak to trough declines are through May 8, 2020.

### Implications for Clients

- Be prepared to rebalance and take advantage of the age-old wisdom “buy low, sell high”.
  - Before rebalancing, consider changes in liquidity needs given the potential for inflows to decline in some cases.
  - Also, consider the cost of rebalancing as investment liquidity declines.
- Diversification works. The latest decline was an example of a flight to quality leading to gains in very high quality bonds.

### Performance YTD (through May 8, 2020)

S&P 500	ACWI (ex. US)	Aggregate Bond Index	Balanced Portfolio <sup>1</sup>
-8.7%	-18.1%	4.5%	-7.3%

- Meketa will continue to monitor the situation and communicate frequently.
  - The situation is fluid and the economic impact is uncertain at this stage.
- Please feel free to reach out with any questions.
  - We would be glad to assist with performance estimates, memorandums, or phone calls.

<sup>1</sup> Source: InvestorForce. Balanced Portfolio represents 60% MSCI ACWI and 40% Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate.

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