

# Market & Economic Review

Second Half 2019







#### **Overview**

- Balanced Portfolios Returns
- Asset Class Returns
- US Stocks
- International Stocks

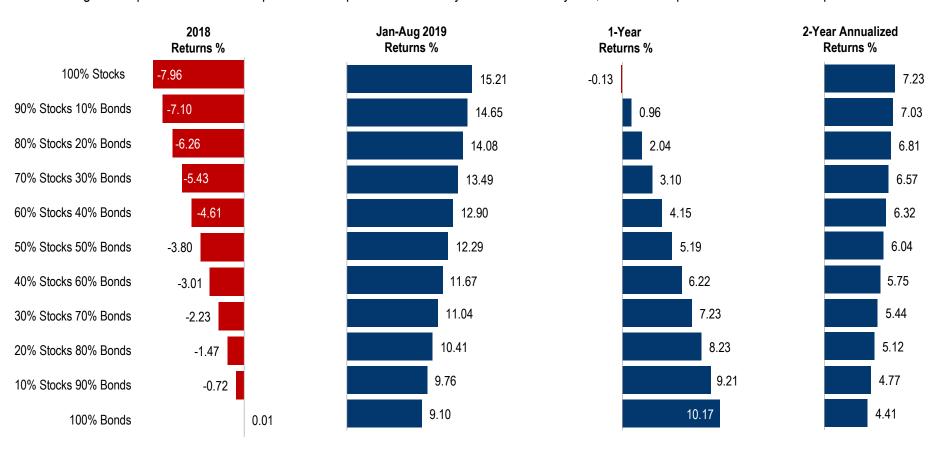
- U.S. Interest Rates
- U.S. Inflation Expectations
- Energy Prices
- □ Currency
- Stock Market Valuations
- ☐ U.S. Corporate Earnings Growth
- Bond Market Valuations



#### Market Review: Balanced Portfolios

Index Returns (%)

□ So far in 2019, balanced portfolios have more than recovered their losses from 2018. Over the past year, bonds have outperformed stocks significantly, reinforcing their importance in balanced portfolios. Despite market volatility over the last two years, all balanced portfolios have delivered positive returns.



Source: Morningstar Direct. Data as of 08/31/2019. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Indices are not available for direct investment. Index performance does not reflect the expenses associated with the management of an actual portfolio.



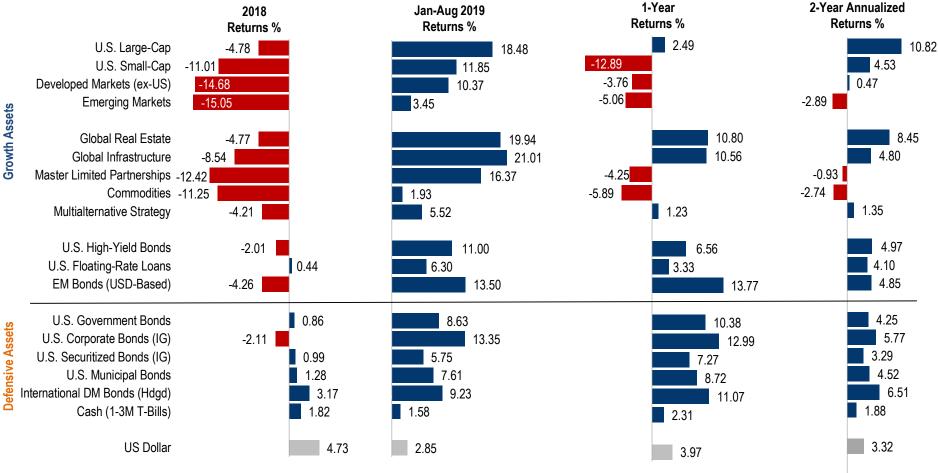
Stocks = 70% Russell 3000 TR USD + 30% MSCI ACWI Ex USA IMI NR USD, Bonds = 100% BBgBarc US Agg Bond TR USD

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#### Market Review: Asset Classes

Index Returns (%)

□ Despite slowing global growth and uncertainty around trade, both Growth and Defensive Assets have surged so far in 2019 due to declining interest rates around the world.



Source: Morningstar Direct. Data as of 08/31/2019. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Indices are not available for direct investment. Index performance does not reflect the expenses associated with the management of an actual portfolio.

U.S.Large-Cap = Russell 1000 TR USD, U.S. Small-Cap = Russell 2000 TR USD, Developed Markets (ex-US) = MSCI World Ex USA IMI NR USD, Emerging Markets = MSCI EM IMI NR USD, Global Real Estate = S&P Global REIT TR USD, Global Infrastructure = DJ Brookfild Glb Infra Comp TR USD, Master Limited Partnerships = Alerian Midstream Energy Select TR USD, Commodities = Bloomberg Commodity TR USD, Multialternative Strategy = Morningstar Category Multialternative (Average), U.S. High-Yield Bonds = BBgBarc High Yield Corporate TR USD, U.S. Floating-Rate Loans = S&P/LSTA Leveraged Loan TR, EM Bonds (USD-Based) = JPM EMBI Global Diversified TR USD, U.S. Government Bonds = BBgBarc US Treasury TR USD, U.S. Corporate Bonds (IG) = BBgBarc US Credit TR USD, U.S. Secutirized Bonds (IG) = BBgBarc US Credit TR USD, U.S. Government Bonds (IG) = BBgB

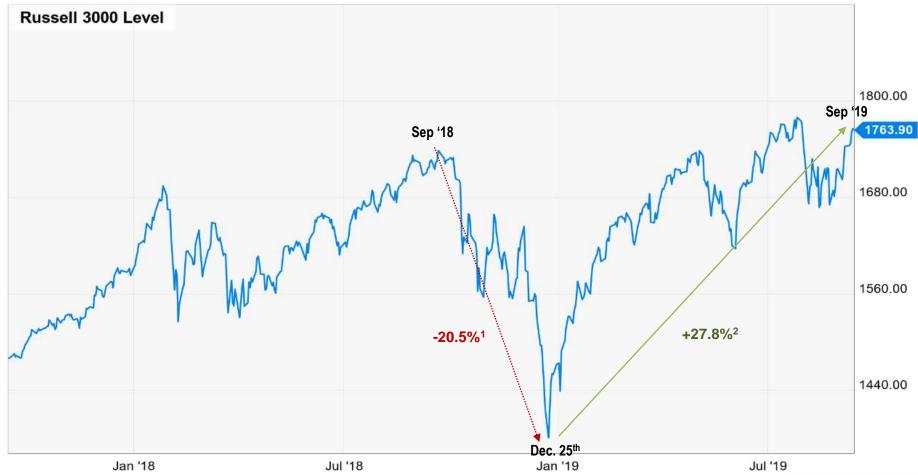


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#### Market Review: U.S. Stock Market

Index Returns (%)

After investor pessimism pulled U.S. stocks down sharply at the end of 2018, U.S. stocks have more than recovered their losses in 2019 and are trading near all-time highs once again. This illustrates the importance of staying invested and avoiding market timing when markets get shaky.



☐ The Russell 3000 Index is a capitalization-weighted stock market index, maintained by FTSE Russell, that seeks to be a benchmark of the entire U.S stock market. It measures the performance of the 3,000 largest publicly held companies incorporated in America as measured by total market capitalization, and represents approximately 98% of the American public equity market.

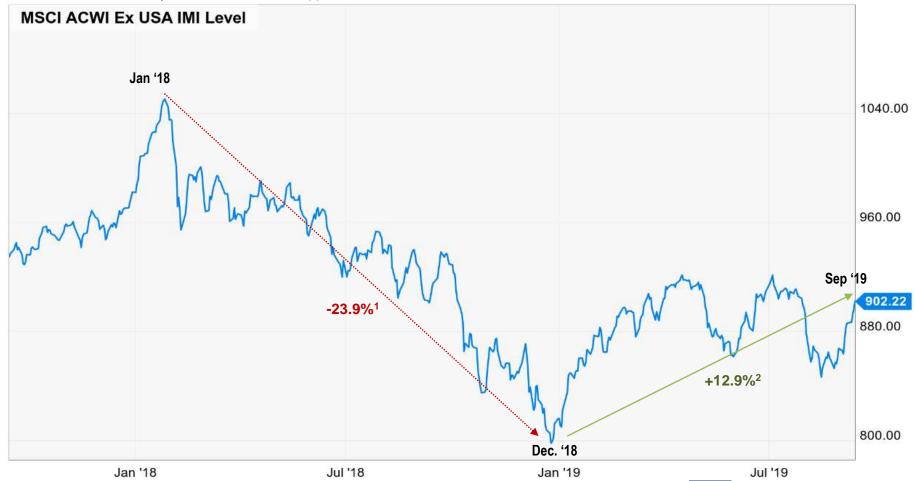


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#### Market Review: International Stock Market

Index Returns (%)

□ While international stocks have recovered some of their losses so far in 2019, slowing global growth combined with geopolitical uncertainty have held back international stocks broadly. Continued U.S. dollar appreciation has further detracted from international returns measured in USD.



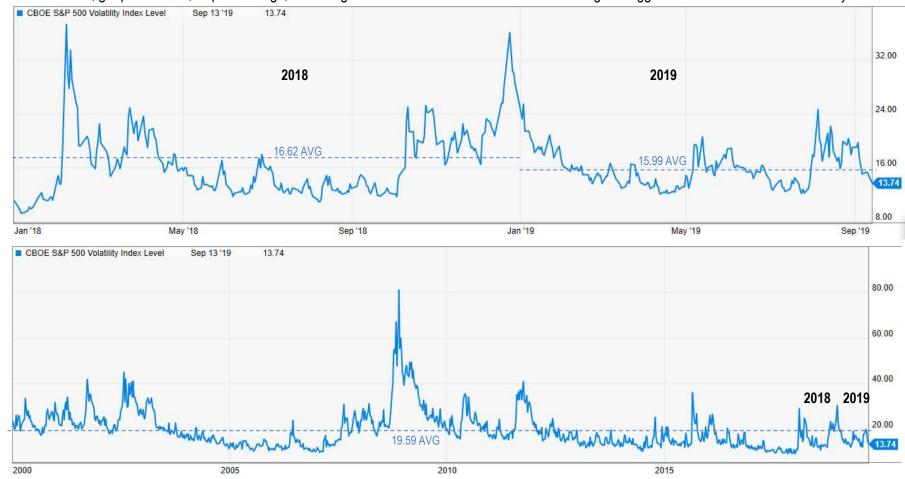
□ The MSCI ACWI ex USA IMI Index is a capitalization-weighted stock market index that captures large, mid, and small cap representation across 22 of 23 Developed Markets (DM) countries (excluding the US) and 24 Emerging Markets (EM) countries. With 6,396 constituents, the index covers approximately 99% of the global equity opportunity set outside the US.



### Market Review: Market Volatility

CBOE S&P 500 Volatility Index

Stock market volatility has slightly declined in 2019 compared to 2018. Average volatility over the last two years has increased relative to 2016 and 2017. Trade tensions, geopolitical risk, oil price swings, and rising interest rates in the U.S. have been among the biggest contributors to recent volatility.



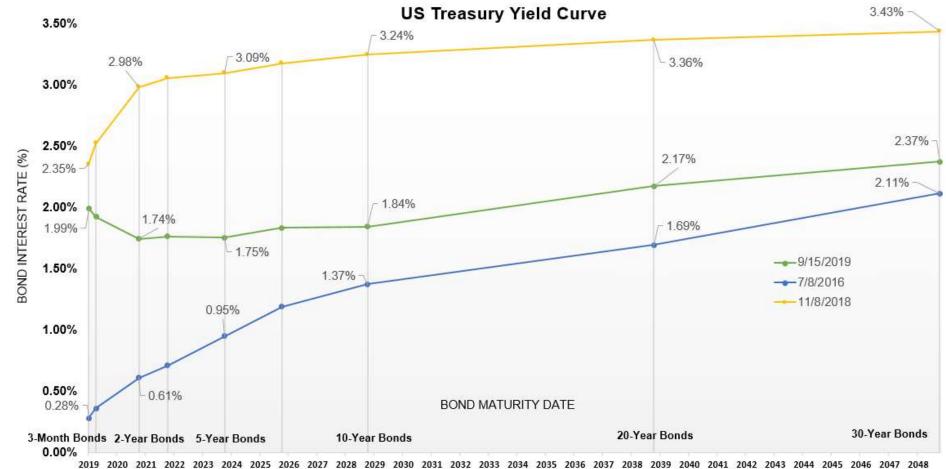
□ Created by the Chicago Board Options Exchange (CBOE), the Volatility Index, or VIX, is a real-time market index that represents the market's expectation of 30-day forward-looking volatility. Derived from the price inputs of the S&P 500 index options, the VIX provides a measure of market risk and investors' sentiments.



#### Market Review: US Interest Rates

Treasury Yield Curve

□ Short-term interest rates in the U.S. have declined since late 2018 in line with a Fed interest rate cut and expectations of more to come. Longer-term rates have declined more significantly due to decreasing growth and inflation expectations; this has caused the yield curve to flatten and partially invert.



The Treasury Yield Curve is a graph of the interest rates (yields) of U.S. government bonds plotted against the time they have to maturity. Treasury yields impact consumer and business borrowing rates (e.g., 10-year Treasury yields influence 30-year mortgage rates).

Treasury Yield Curve Slope

In 2019, the 3-month and 2-year yield slightly dipped below the 10-year interest rate. Inversions usually mean that the market is expecting short-term policy rates to fall because growth and inflation are expected to slow. This has historically been an indicator of a forthcoming recession.



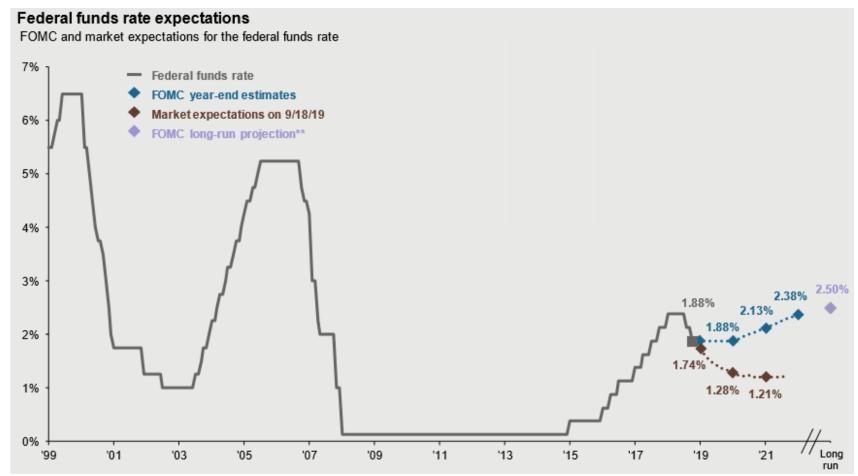
□ The slope of the yield curve provides an important clue to the direction of future short-term interest rates; an upward sloping curve generally indicates that the financial markets expect higher future interest rates (i.e., a stronger economy); a downward sloping curve indicates expectations of lower rates in the future.



#### Market Review: US Interest Rates

Federal Funds Rate

☐ The Fed has cut interest rates twice so far this year (in July and September). Market expectations are for the Fed to cut rates at least two more times by 2021.



☐ The federal funds rate is rate at which banks can borrow and lend to each other overnight. It is one of the most influential interest rates in the U.S. economy because it affects other short-term and long-term lending rates in the U.S. economy (e.g., credit cards, mortgages, home equity lines, etc.). Market expectations are the federal funds rates priced into the fed futures market as of the date of the Juner 2019 FOMC meeting and are through December 2021.



#### Market Review: US Interest Rates

US 10-Year Treasury Yields

☐ The 10-Year treasury yield, which various borrowing rates are based on, had moved up from early-2016 to late-2018 in line with short-term rate hikes by the Fed. Since November, the 10-Year yield has come down significantly as government bond markets priced in a rising risk of recession.



The 10-year treasury yield is the benchmark yield that borrowing rates for mortgage rates and home equity loans, Federal student loans (once a year in May reset) are based on.

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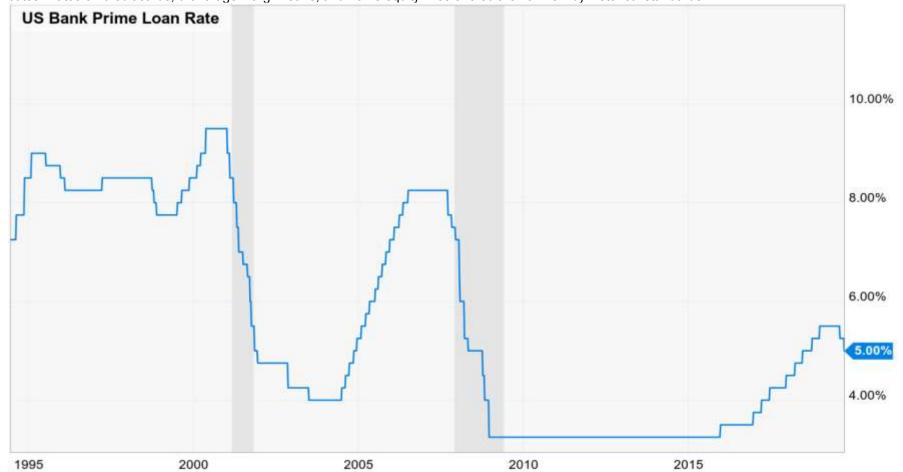
Fixed Mortgage Rates

☐ Mortgage rates peaked in November but have come back down to where they were in late-2016. While the spike in rates last year had a dampening effect on the housing market the recent declines are having the opposite effect.



Prime Rate

■ Many of the major banks increased their prime rates following the Federal fund rate increases over the last three years and should follow suit with Fed rate cutes. Rates on credit cards, brokerage margin loans, and home equity lines of credit remain low by historical standards.



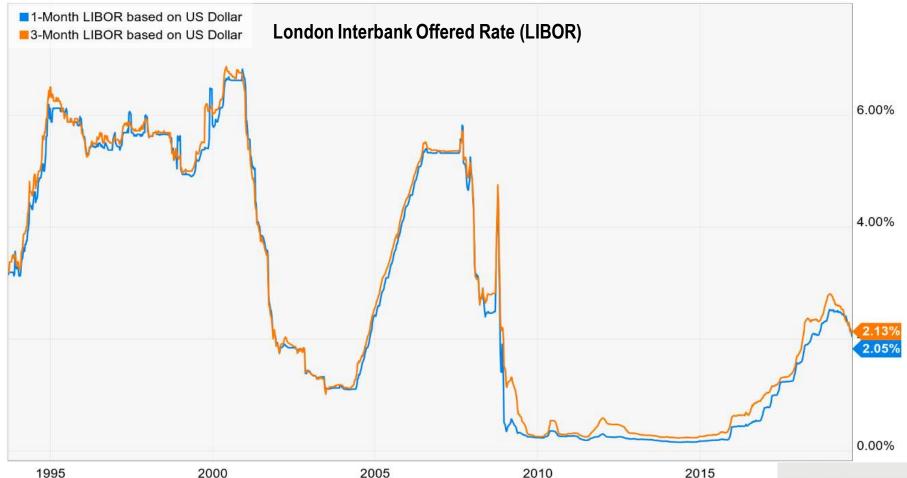
□ The prime rate is the interest rate that commercial banks charge their most credit-worthy customers and large corporations. The prime interest rate, or prime lending rate, is largely determined by the federal funds rate; the prime rate is also important for individual borrowers as it influences credit card rates, 401(k) loans, and home-equity lines of credit.





London Interbank Offer Rate (LIBOR)

□ LIBOR rates have recently declined but the 1-month and 3-month LIBOR remain above 2%. Some variable rate loans (e.g., ARMs) and leveraged loans have been impacted.



☐ The Intercontinental Exchange London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR or ICE LIBOR) is a benchmark rate that some of the world's leading banks charge each other for short-term loans. It stands for and serves as the first step to calculating interest rates on various loans throughout the world.

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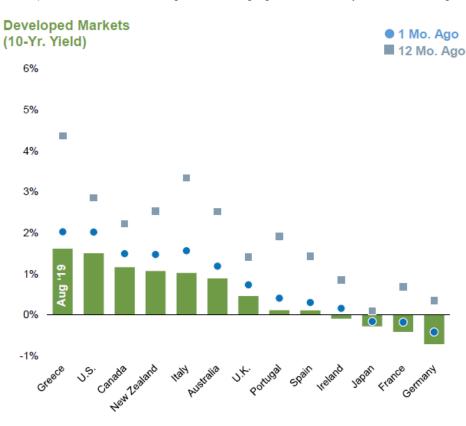
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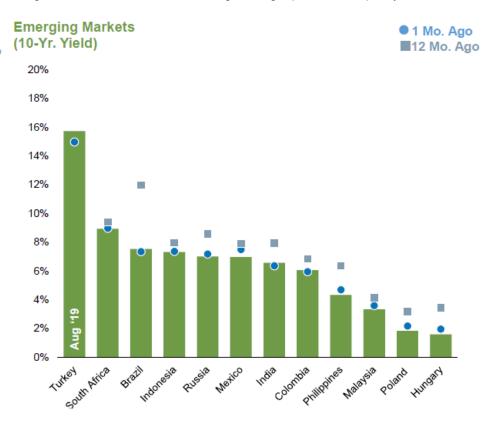


#### Market Review: International Interest Rates

Government Bond Yields (10-Year)

Amongst almost all other developed market countries, U.S. government bonds offer higher yields. Interest rates in countries including Germany, France, Japan, and Ireland are negative. Emerging market bond yields are amongst the highest in the world but come with greater geopolitical and policy risk.







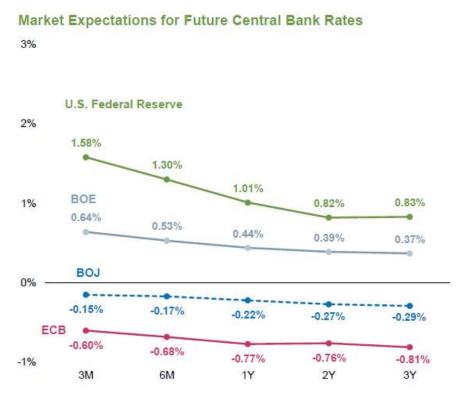


#### Market Review: International Interest Rates

Central Bank Policy Rates

☐ Market expectations are for major central banks around the world to gradually lower rates over the next two years in response to slowing economic growth and falling inflation expectations.

#### Central Bank Policy Rates 10% Current 1-Mo. Ago 12-Mo. Ago 2.25% U.S. Federal Reserve 2.50% 2.00% BOE 0.75% 0.75% 0.75% BOJ -0.10% -0.10% -0.10% **ECB** 0.00% 0.00% 0.00% U.S. Federal Reserve BOE 4% 2% ECB BOJ '00 '02 '04 '06 '08 '10 '12 '14 '16 '18





### Market Review: US Inflation Expectations

**Breakeven Rates** 

☐ Market expectations of future inflation in the U.S. are much lower than they were a year ago. Expectations are now for sub-2% inflation which is considered a muted level of inflation under the Fed's target rate of inflation.



households' spending decisions, which affect actual prices.

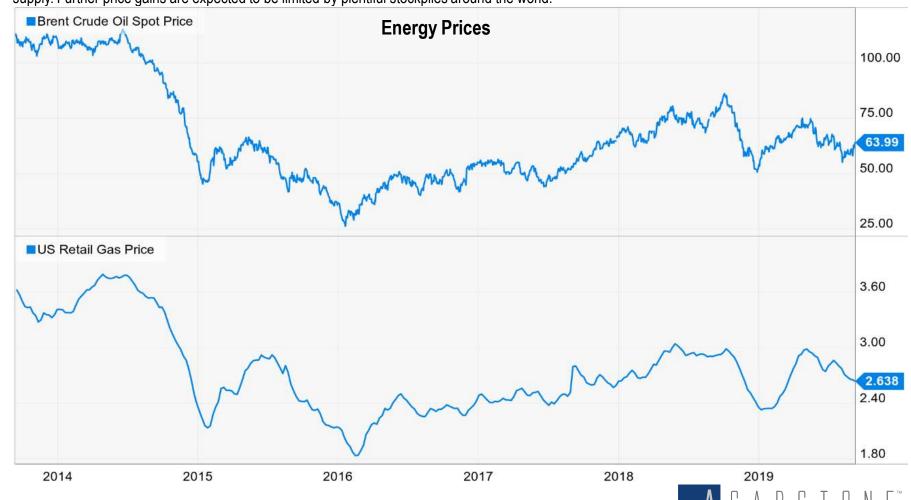
Treasury-Inflation-Protected-Securities. Policy makers pay close attention to inflation expectation because they can influence firms' and

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### Market Review: Energy Prices

Oil & Gas

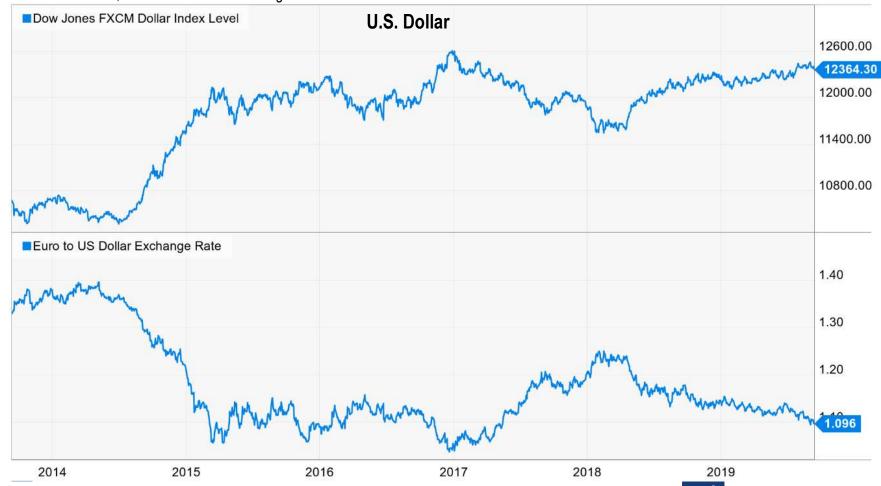
Oil prices recently soared 15% following strikes in Saudi Arabia that disrupted 5.7 million barrels a day of oil production, or roughly 5% of the world's total supply. Further price gains are expected to be limited by plentiful stockpiles around the world.



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# Markets Review: Currency US Dollar

US Dollar appreciated has continued into 2019, negatively impacting the US-dollar returns of international investments. Although interest rates in the U.S. have come down, demand for the dollar has grown because interest rates abroad have declined as well.



The US Dollar Index (DXY) is an index (or measure) of the value of the United States dollar relative to a basket of foreign currencies, often referred to as a basket of US trade partners' currencies. It is a weighted geometric mean of the dollar's value relative to other select currencies. The Euro to US Dollar Exchange Rate is a direct quote of the U.S. dollars per unit of Euro.



#### Markets Review: Valuations

#### Stock Valuations

□ Valuations are currently above average but not at excessively high levels relative to recent history. Large-cap growth stocks in the U.S. are currently the most expensive stocks. International stock valuations broadly remain lower than U.S. stocks.



Source: Eaton Vance, Factset. Data as of 08/31/2019. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Indices are not available for direct investment. Index performance does not reflect the expenses associated with the management of an actual portfolio.

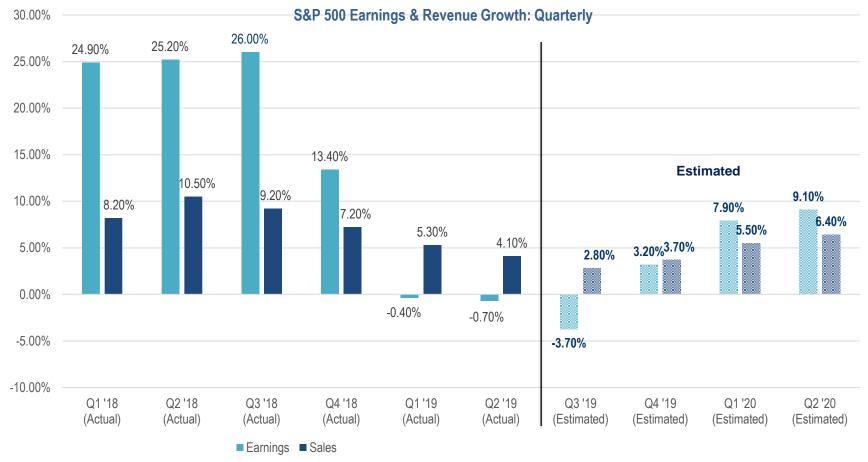




### Markets Review: U.S. Earnings Growth

U.S. Corporate Earnings Growth (By Quarter)

For Q3 2019, U.S. S&P500 stock earnings are expected to decline -3.7%, which would mark the first time the index has reported three straight quarters of YoY earnings declines since Q4-2015 through Q2-2016. Analysts see low single-digit earnings growth in the fourth quarter followed by high single-digit earnings growth early on in 2020.



Source: Factset. Data as of 09/13/2019. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results.

Earnings Growth is the % change in YoY EPS from the prior year.

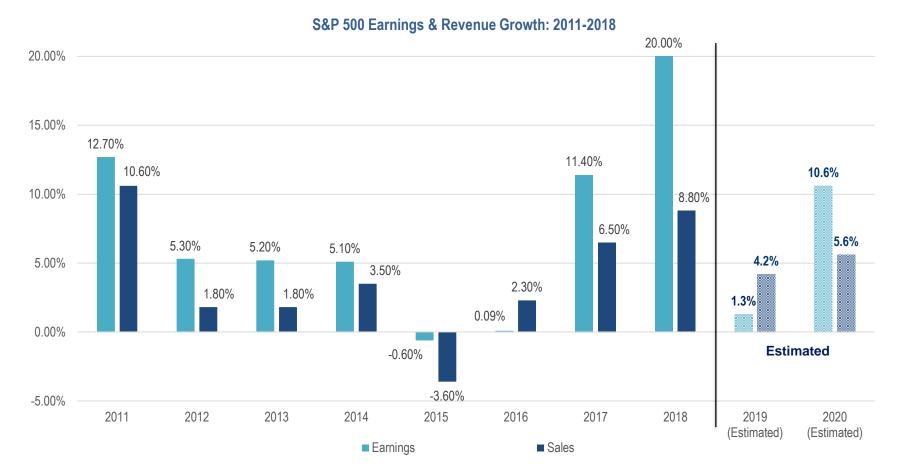




### Markets Review: U.S. Earnings Growth

U.S. Corporate Earnings Growth (By Calendar Year)

□ Following a year of 20% earnings growth (2018) analysts expect more moderate growth but positive earnings growth for 2019 due to moderating economic growth, and the first-year effect of U.S. tax cuts passing. Analysts currently expect growth to increase in 2020.



Source: Factset. Data as of 09/13/2019. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results.

Earnings Growth is the % change in YoY EPS from the prior year.

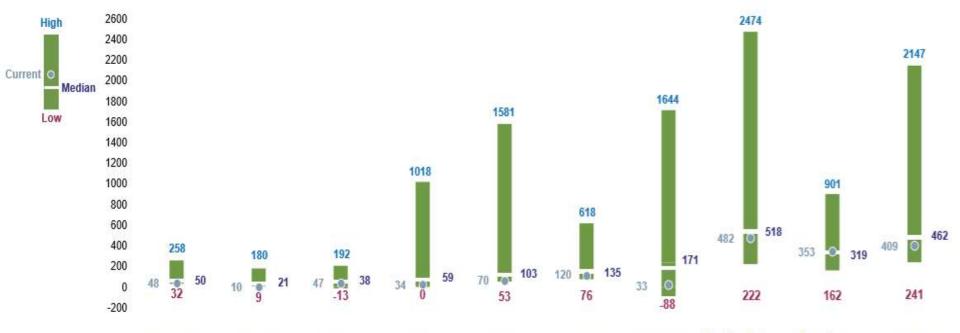


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#### Markets Review: Valuations

**Bond Valuations** 

□ Credit spreads are still at historically tight levels given the significant improvements in corporate fundamentals. Spreads remain tight for lower-grade bonds despite slowing growth and trade concerns in 2019.



	Aggregate	Agency	MBS	ABS	CMBS	Corporate	Preferred	Floating-Rate Loans	Emerging Markets (USD)	High Yield
Max Spread Date	12/3/2008	11/20/2008	12/3/2008	1/6/2009	11/21/2008	12/3/2008	3/9/2009	12/19/2008	10/24/2008	12/15/2008
Min Spread Date	2/23/2005	3/12/2013	7/27/2010	10/1/2009	12/8/2004	3/11/2005	12/6/2017	3/31/2006	6/1/2007	6/1/2007
Spread on 12/31/18	54	16	35	53	86	153	242	551	415	533
Spread on 12/31/17	36	14	25	36	62	93	-30	405	285	358
Spread on 12/31/16	43	21	15	59	75	123	211	465	342	421



### Economic Review Overview

#### **Overview**

- U.S. Growth
- U.S. Inflation
- U.S. Job Market
- U.S. Consumer
- ☐ U.S. Housing Market

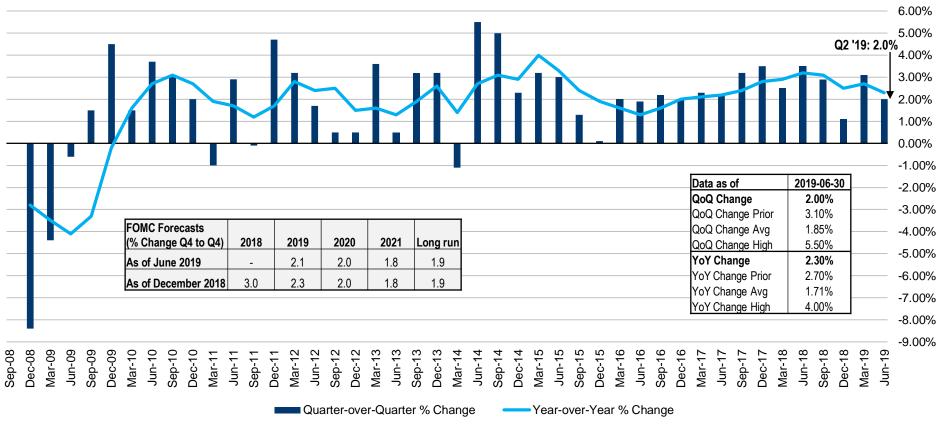


#### **Economy: US Growth**

Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

☐ The U.S. economy has continued to expand modestly while economic growth rates have decelerated across the globe. After growing at a 3% rate in 2018 following U.S. fiscal stimulus measures (i.e., tax cuts and new government spending), growth in the U.S. is expected to moderate toward 2% in 2019.

#### **US Real GDP Growth**



☐ Gross domestic product (GDP) is the monetary value of all the finished goods and services produced within a country's borders in a specific time period. Though GDP is usually calculated on an annual basis, it can be calculated on a quarterly basis as well. GDP includes all private and public consumption, government outlays, investments and exports minus imports that occur within a defined territory. GDP is a broad measurement of a nation's overall economic activity.



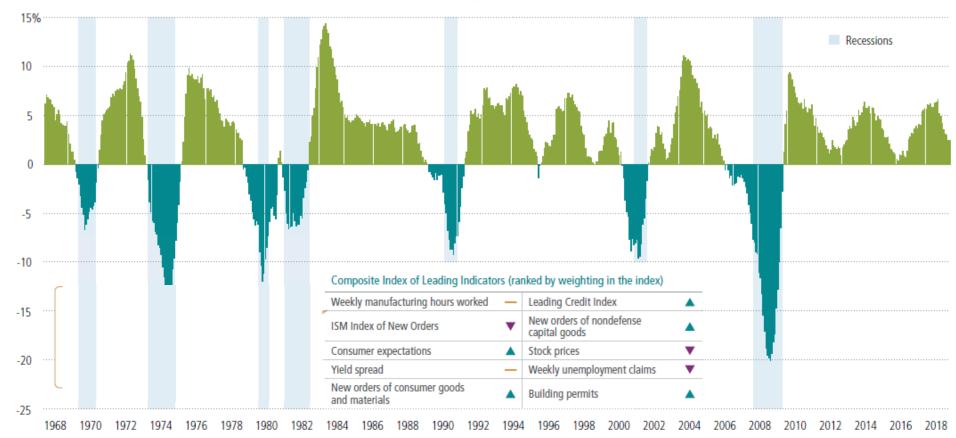
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### **Economy: US Growth**

#### Leading Economic Indicators

Leading economic indicators (LEI) in the U.S. have been declining lately and point to a moderation of growth. However, LEI remain positive and not showing evidence of trouble yet.

#### Year-over-year change in the Composite Index of Leading Indicators



☐ The Composite Index of Leading Indicators is an index published monthly by The Conference Board, used to predict the direction of the economy's movements in the months to come. The index is made up of 10 economic components whose changes tend to precede changes in the overall economy.



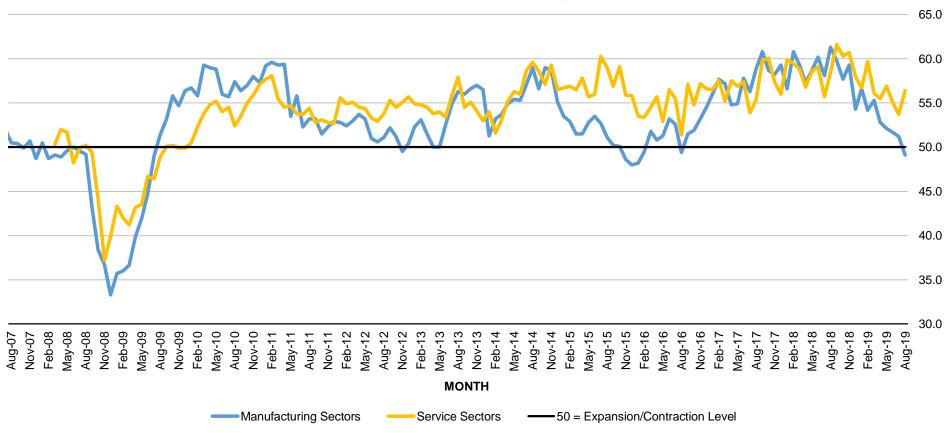
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#### **Economy: US Growth**

Manufacturing & Service Sectors

☐ The health of U.S. service sectors remains strong, while the health of the manufacturing sectors has deteriorated as the manufacturing sector continues to struggle with trade-related headwinds

#### **US ISM Manufacturing PMI**



□ The Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) is an indicator of the economic health of the manufacturing and service sectors. The PMIs based on five major indicators: new orders, inventory levels, production, supplier deliveries and the employment environment. It provides information about current business conditions to company decision makers, analysts and purchasing managers. It is produced from monthly surveys sent to purchasing executives at approximately 300 companies. Readings over 50 imply expansion.



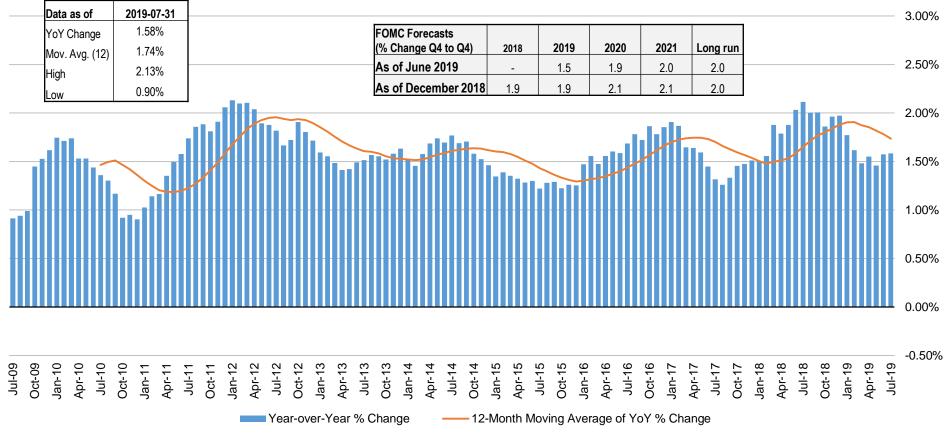


### **Economy: US Inflation**

Core Personal Consumption Expenditures Price Index (Core PCE)

□ Inflation has declined once again in 2019. The Federal Reserve's preferred measure of inflation, Core PCE, has fallen significantly since mid-2018, after it finally reached their target of 2%. FOMC forecasts are now for 1.5% Core PCE inflation in 2019 and back to 1.9% in 2020.

#### **US Core PCE Price Index**



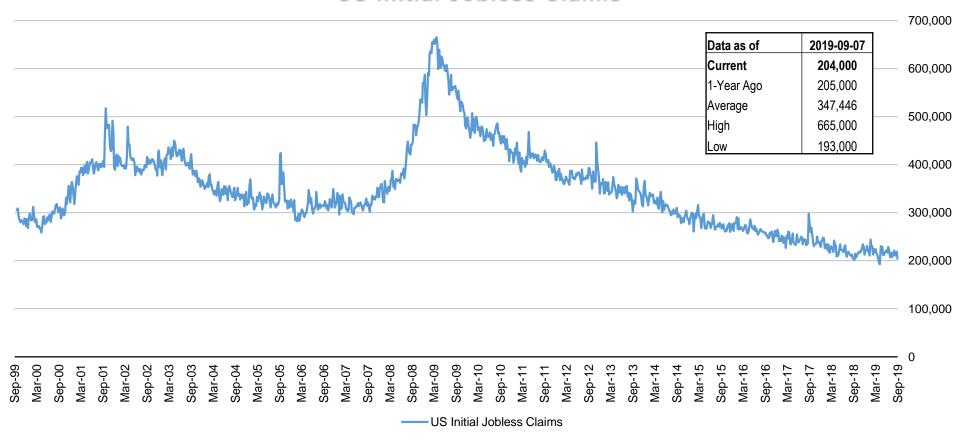
□ The Core Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) Price Index is a measure of the price changes of consumer goods and services excluding food and energy. While it shares similarities with the Consumer Price Index (CPI), it is considered a more comprehensive, dynamic and reliable inflation metric. The Fed prefers it when reviewing economic conditions.



### Economy: US Job Market Jobless Claims

The downward trend in Jobless Claims, a proxy for layoffs, has continued throughout 2019, and is at a historically low level signaling a healthy job market. The number remains at the lowest level since November 1973. This means that employers are generally content to maintain and expand their payrolls.

#### **US Initial Jobless Claims**



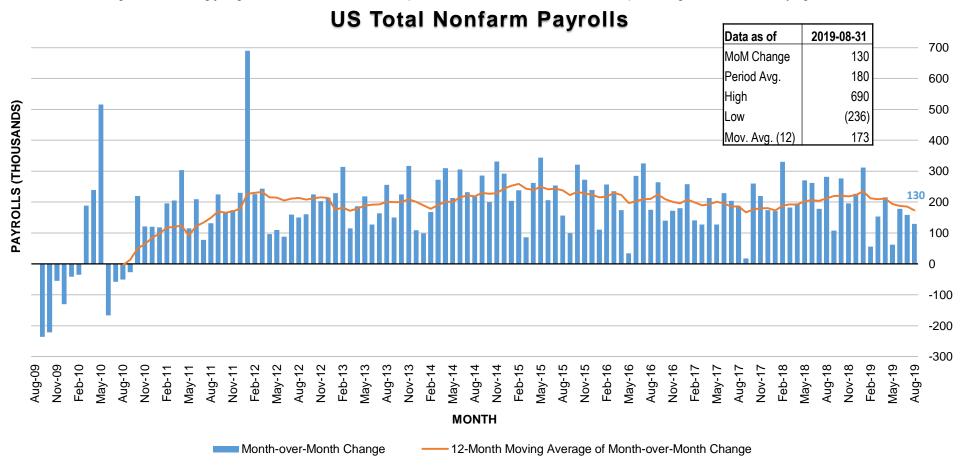
□ Initial claims for unemployment insurance offer weekly information on layoff activity. Any reading below 300,000 is considered low in a historical context. In the post-war period, when initial claims head above 320,000 per week on a consistent basis, a recession is just around the corner.



### **Economy: US Job Market**

Change in Nonfarm Payrolls

U.S. companies continue to hire at a healthy pace. Over the last 12 months, employers have added an average of 173,000 jobs per month, but there has been a declining trend. Slowing job growth is not unusual or unexpected for this late in the economic expansion given the extremely tight labor market.



■ Nonfarm payroll is a monthly report intended to represent the number of additional jobs added from the previous month Despite the name nonfarm payroll, the report excludes workers from general government jobs, private household jobs, employees of nonprofit organizations and farm employees.



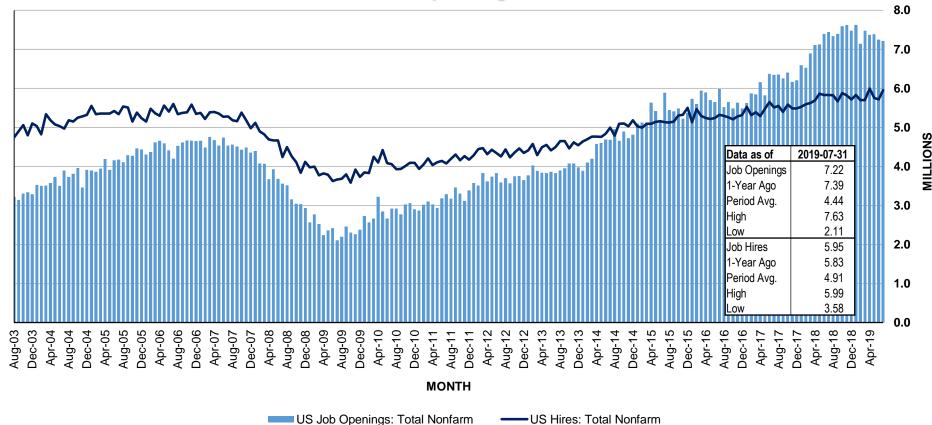


### **Economy: US Job Market**

Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS)

The lack of labor market slack is evident in the near record number (7.2M) of job openings, which are well above the level of hiring (5.9M), also at cycle highs. Recently however, job openings have been decreasing, which could be a sign of waning confidence and expectations for diminished demand ahead.

#### U.S. Job Openings & Hires



The job openings and labor turnover survey (JOLTS) is a survey done to help measure job vacancies. It collects data from employers each month. The survey results include total job openings, hires, and separations (including quits, layoffs and discharges, and other separations). The difference between total hires and separations is approximately equal to the increase or decrease in monthly payrolls.



# Economy: US Job Market Unemployment Rate

The official unemployment rate (U-3) remains below a level that is consistent with "full employment" (i.e., 5%). The broader unemployment rate that includes part-time workers (U-6) is now below its pre-2008/2009 recession levels. FOMC forecasts are for a 3.6% unemployment rate (U-3) in 2019.



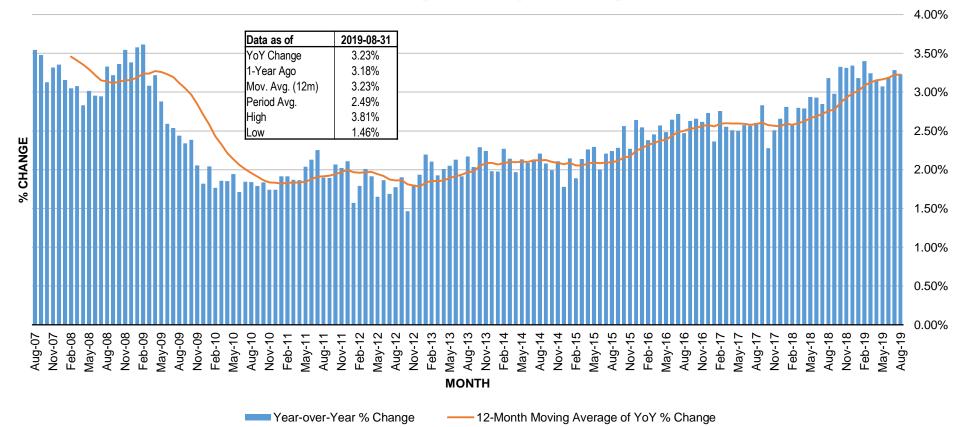
☐ The unemployment rate is the percentage of the total labor force that is unemployed but actively seeking employment and willing to work. The U-3 rate is the officially recognized rate of unemployment, measuring the number of unemployed people as a percentage of the labor force. The U-6 rate includes people who work part time because full-time work is not available due to economic conditions.



### Economy: US Job Market Wage Growth

☐ Hiring has reduced enough slack in the labor market to put upward pressure on wages, but not enough (i.e. >4%) to put pressure on the Fed. Wage growth has outpaced inflation in recent years and is now growing at its highest rate since 2009. Wage growth has started to put pressure on corporate margins.

#### **US Average Hourly Earnings**



Average hourly earnings is the average basic hourly rate for most major industries.



# Economy: US Consumer Consumer Sentiment

Consumer sentiment remains high but upward trend has flattened recently. This level of consumer sentiment however, is still consistent with improving labor market conditions and growing wealth.

#### **US Index of Consumer Sentiment**



□ The U.S. Consumer Sentiment report is published by the University of Michigan. Data is collected from a query of 500 adults regarding their attitude on financial and income situations. Interviewers ask 50 core questions, and the responses are standardized on a 100 point scale.



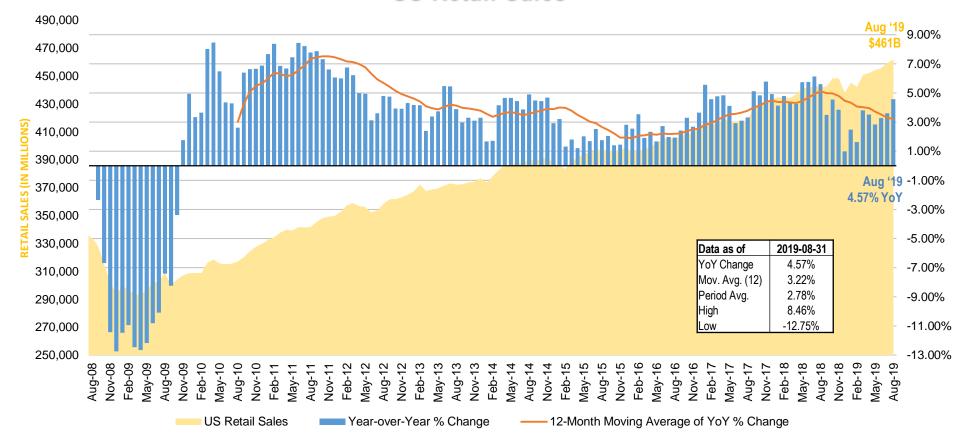


### **Economy: US Consumer**

Retail Sales (Consumer Spending)

☐ Growth of household spending has picked up throughout 2019 due to still favorable economic conditions in the U.S. particularly the job market. After dropping at the end of 2018, sales have been climbing their way back up.

#### **US Retail Sales**



■ Retail sales, a measure of purchases at stores, gas stations, car dealerships, restaurants and online, is a substantial portion of consumer spending and an important indicator of economic health. Increased consumer spending is generally considered a sign of stability and growth. Retail sales are important measure of consumer spending, which accounts for more than two-thirds of economic activity in the U.S.



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### **Economy: US Consumer**

U.S. Personal Savings Rate

☐ The personal savings rate in the US has been on a long decline since the 1970s, a trend that began to reverse after the financial crisis. Recently it has been increasing.

#### **US Personal Saving Rate**



#### MONTH

US Personal Saving Rate
12 per. Mov. Avg. (US Personal Saving Rate)

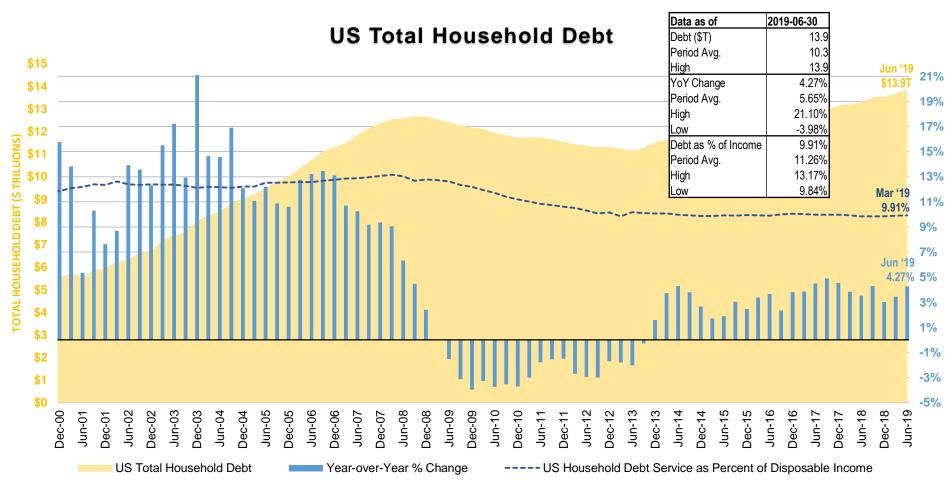
A savings rate is the amount of money, expressed as a percentage or ratio, that a person deducts from his disposable personal income to set aside as a nest egg or for retirement.



### **Economy: US Consumer**

U.S. Total Household Debt

☐ Household debt reached \$13.9 trillion as of June 30, 2019, 21% above the post-financial-crisis low that hit in the second quarter of 2013.



☐ Household debt is includes home mortgages, home equity loans, auto loans, student loans, and credit cards. The household debt service ratio is an estimate of the ratio of debt payments to disposable personal income.

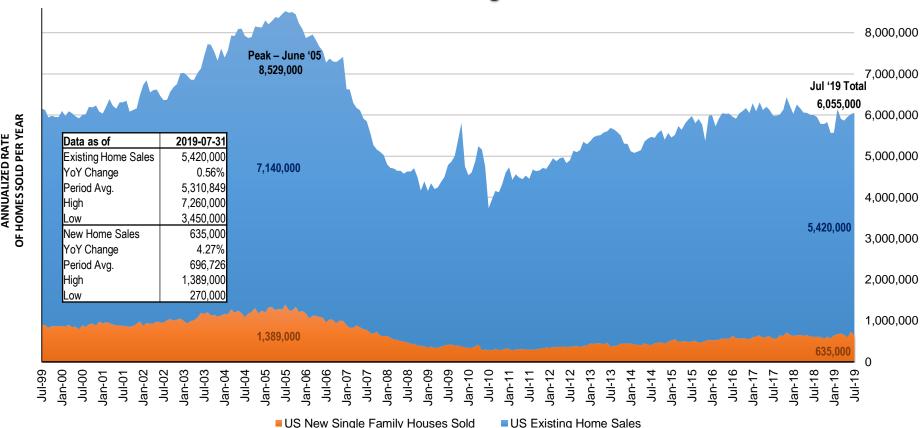


#### **Economy: US Housing Market**

Home Sales

☐ The housing market is still healthy, supported by home buying. The current annual rate of home sales is around 65% of the rate in 2005. Higher mortgage rates in 2018 weighed on activity, but given the decline in rates this year, housing sales may begin to pick back up.

#### **US New and Existing Homes Sold**



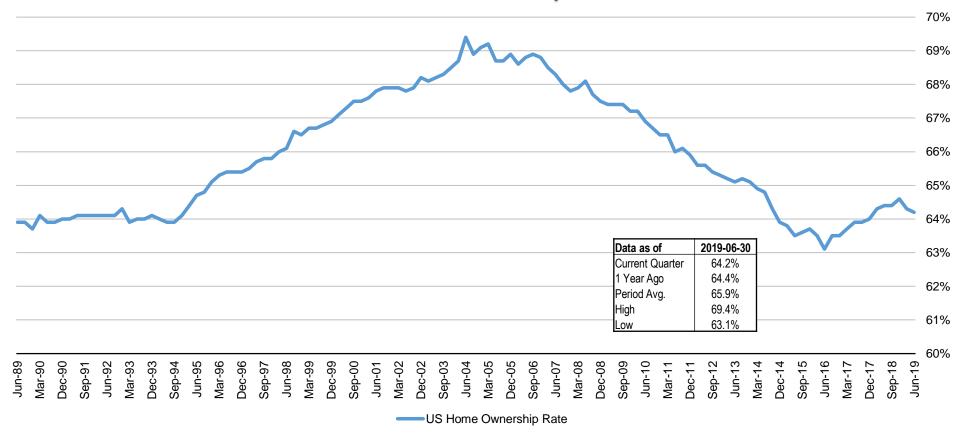
Existing home sales is an economic indicator of both the number and prices of existing single-family homes, condos and co-op sales (which is the vast majority of home sales) over a one-month period. New Homes Sales measures sales of newly built homes. A new home sale is considered to be any deposit or contract signing either in the year the house was built or the year after it was built.



# Economy: US Housing Market Homeownership Rate

Homeownership remains at a 50-year low. Although mortgage rates have remained affordable, many economists believe the main reason for falling homeownership is mortgage availability due to tough lending standards. Homeownership has declined the most among people under the age of 30.

#### **US Home Ownership Rate**



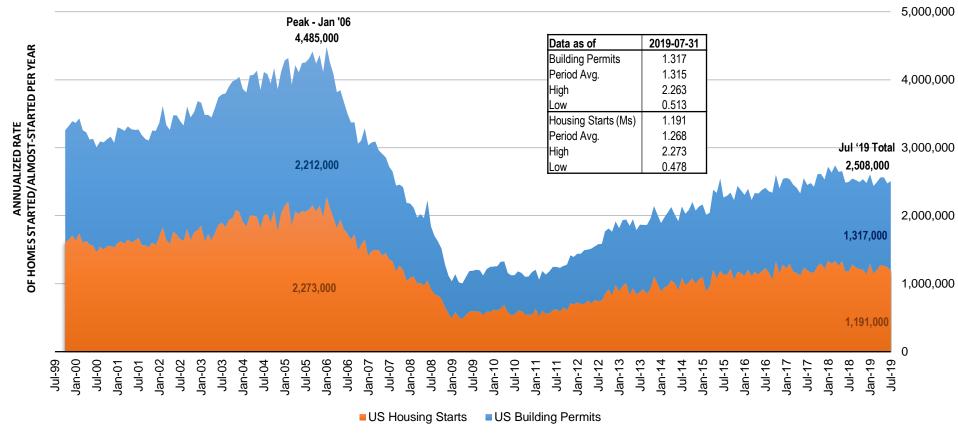
☐ The homeownership rate is the percentage of homes that are owned by their occupants; it is not the percentage of adults that own their own home. The homeownership rate is computed by dividing the number of owner-occupied housing units by the total number of occupied housing units



# Economy: US Housing Market Home Building

☐ Homebuilders continue to slowly increase the pace of construction. Shortages of skilled workers and available lots have weighed on the industry. Recent moderation in home-buying demand has tempered the pace of construction lately. The current annual rate of home building is around 56% of the rate in 2006.

#### **US Housing Start + Building Permits**



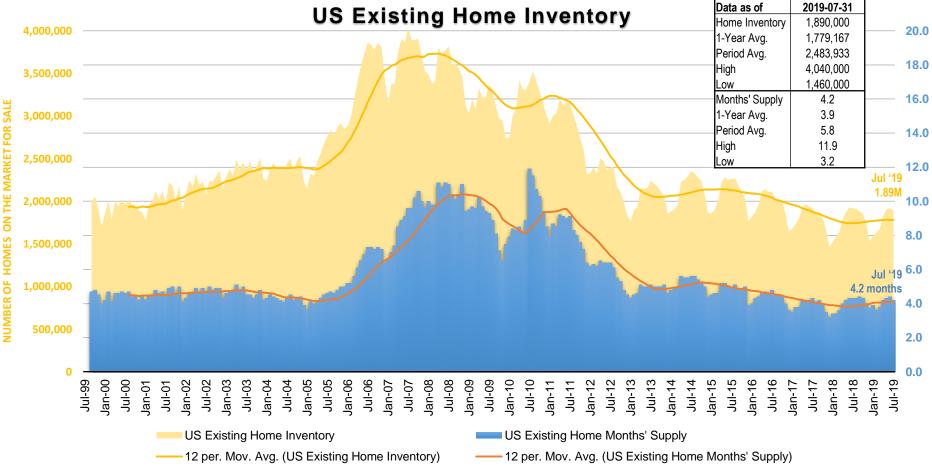
■ Housing starts are the number of new residential construction projects that have begun during any particular month. Building permits are a type of authorization that must be granted by a government or other regulatory body before the construction of a new or existing building can legally occur.



### **Economy: US Housing Market**

Home Supply

☐ The supply of homes available for sale remains tight. There are currently 1.89 million existing homes for sale, which equates to about 4.2 months' supply. A balanced market holds about 6 months' supply.



Existing home inventory is the number of existing single-family homes, condos and co-ops for the United States. Inventory levels are provided through the "months' supply" figure, a number that represents the length of time in months required to burn through all of the existing inventory measured during the period.

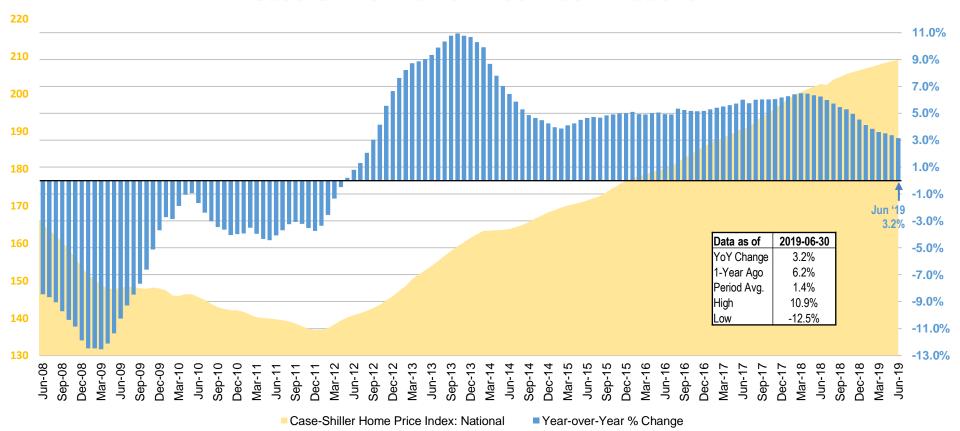


**MONTHS WORTH OF SUPPLY** 

# Economy: US Housing Market Home Prices

On a national level, single-family home prices have increased 3.2% over the past year, as of June 2019. Low inventories continue to push prices higher as buyers compete over limited number of homes; however, the rate of price increases has declined as the homeownership rate has remained low.

#### **Case-Shiller Home Price Index: National**



Source: YCharts, Standard and Poor's. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results.

the January 2000.

☐ The S&P/Case—Shiller U.S. National Home Price Index is a composite of single-family home price indices for the nine U.S. Census divisions. It is calculated monthly, using a three-month moving average. The S&P national index is normalized to have a value of 100 in



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