# March 2022 Market Commentary





with Ted Kouba
Director of
Investment
Management



## **Market Overview**



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#### THE MONTH AT A GLANCE

	MAR
S&P 500	3.71%
MSCI EAFE	0.64%
MSCI Emerging Markets	-2.26%
Bloomberg US Aggregate	-2.78%

All returns are total returns as of the date of the report unless otherwise noted.

Indices are unmanaged and cannot be invested into directly. The returns do not reflect fees, sales charges, or expenses. The results don't reflect any particular investment. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

# FED LIFTS RATES OFF ZERO AND EXPECTATIONS QUICKLY SHIFT FOR 2022

The Fed reopened its more traditional toolset in March, increasing the Fed policy rate by 25 basis points, lifting rates from their zero-bound. A lot of attention has been focused on the Fed over the last several months as they wound down their quantitative easing (QE) programs and are now on pace for multiple rate hikes over the year. The focus will likely stay on the Fed as well as assessing the first quarter earnings season and how well companies can continue to operate in an environment with labor, supply chain, and inflation challenges.

In equity markets, March started out with bouts of volatility leading up to the Fed's meeting in the middle of the month. Over the last half of March, the S&P 500 rallied to gain 3.71% over the entire month, erasing a 4.4% loss from the first couple weeks of the month. International markets significantly underperformed with developed international gaining 0.64% and emerging markets, being more sensitive to US interest rates and their currency impacts, fell 2.26%

Anticipation of the Fed's policy moves in March, coupled with rapidly rising expectations of future moves, pushed the short end of the yield curve higher throughout the month, creating headwinds for the bond market. Over the month the Bloomberg US Aggregate fell 2.78% with most of the losses coming from the first half of the month, ahead of the Fed's meeting.

## Market Overview



Equity Markets	MTD	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year
S&P 500	3.71%	-4.60%	15.63%	18.89%	15.97%	14.62%
Russell Midcap	2.56%	-5.68%	6.90%	14.86%	12.60%	12.84%
Russell 2000	1.24%	-7.53%	-5.82%	11.70%	9.71%	11.02%
MSCI ACWI	2.17%	-5.36%	7.28%	13.74%	11.64%	9.99%
MSCI EAFE	0.64%	-5.91%	1.16%	7.78%	6.71%	6.27%
MSCI Emerging Markets	-2.26%	-6.97%	-11.37%	4.93%	5.97%	3.36%
Fixed Income Markets						
Bloomberg US Aggregate	-2.78%	-5.93%	-4.15%	1.69%	2.14%	2.24%
Bloomberg US Treasury	-3.11%	-5.58%	-3.67%	1.39%	1.76%	1.68%
Bloomberg US Corporate	-2.52%	-7.69%	-4.20%	3.02%	3.34%	3.65%
Bloomberg US MBS	-2.60%	-4.97%	-4.92%	0.56%	1.36%	1.70%
Bloomberg Municipal	-3.24%	-6.23%	-4.47%	1.53%	2.52%	2.88%
Bloomberg US Corporate High Yield	-1.15%	-4.84%	-0.66%	4.58%	4.69%	5.75%
Bloomberg Global Aggregate	-3.05%	-6.16%	-6.40%	0.69%	1.70%	1.04%
Alternative Markets						
Morningstar Diversified Alternatives	2.00%	-0.30%	3.55%	3.63%	2.33%	2.69%
Dow Jones US Real Estate	6.59%	-6.58%	20.54%	10.60%	10.10%	9.81%
Bloomberg Commodity Index	8.61%	25.45%	49.09%	15.32%	7.82%	-1.31%

#### MARKET HIGHLIGHTS

- US equity markets rallied in the back half of March, though large cap outperformed its smaller peers again with the Russell 2000 underperforming the S&P 500 by nearly 250 basis points. The gains helped claw back some of the losses over the first two months of the year, but year-to-date returns are still well into the red.
- Recently US large cap growth has been hit by periods of rising rates, however, it was one of the best performing sections of the equity market in March, gaining 3.91%
- The upward jolt to the short-end of the yield curve reset bond prices downward and created losses across nearly every segment of the bond market, with long-dated bonds being the most impacted (see next page).
- With the backdrop of commodity prices early in the month, the Bloomberg Commodity Index gained 8.61% in March.

Source: Helios Quantitative Research, Bloomberg

Total returns as of the report date unless otherwise noted. Returns over 1 year are annualized. Indices are unmanaged and cannot be invested into directly. The returns do not reflect fees, sales charges, or expenses and don't reflect any particular investment. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

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## Market Overview



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#### **EQUITY SECTOR PERFORMANCE**

Ranked S&P 500 Sector Total Returns

SECTOR	MAR
Utilities	10.36%
Energy	8.93%
Real Estate	7.79%
Materials	6.11%
Health Care	5.56%
Consumer Discretionary	4.91%
S&P 500	3.71%
Information Technology	3.49%
Industrials	3.38%
Consumer Staples	1.81%
Communication Services	0.95%
Financials	-0.19%

Sector total returns are based on the S&P 500 GICS Level 1 indices.

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#### **EQUITY STYLE & SIZE PERFORMANCE**

Ranked Style, Size, and Geography Total Returns

ASSET CLASS	MAR
Large Cap Growth	3.91%
S&P 500	3.71%
Large Cap Blend	3.37%
Mid Cap Value	3.04%
Large Cap Value	2.82%
Mid Cap Blend	2.56%
Small Cap Value	1.95%
Mid Cap Growth	1.61%
Small Cap Blend	1.24%
Developed International	0.64%
Small Cap Growth	0.45%
Emerging Markets	-2.26%

Asset class total returns are based on the Russell 1000, Russell 1000 Growth, Russell 1000 Value, Russell Midcap, Russell Midcap Growth, Russell Midcap Value, Russell 2000, Russell 2000 Growth, Russell 2000 Value, MSCI EAFE, and MSCI Emerging Markets indices.

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#### CREDIT SECTOR PERFORMANCE

Ranked Fixed Income Sectors Total Returns

SECTOR	MAR
Global High Yield	-0.86%
US Corporate High Yield	-1.15%
US Aggregate 1-3 Year	-1.36%
TIPS	-1.86%
EM Bonds (USD)	-2.34%
US Agency	-2.35%
US Corporate	-2.52%
US Aggregate	-2.78%
Global Aggregate	-3.05%
US Treasury	-3.11%
Municipal	-3.24%
US Aggregate 10+ Year	-3.93%

Sector total returns are based on the Bloomberg US Aggregate, US Treasury, US Treasury Inflation Notes, US Agency, Municipal, US Corporate, US Corporate High Yield, Global Aggregate, Global High Yield, and EM USD Aggregate indices.

Source: Helios Quantitative Research, Bloomberg

Total returns as of the report date unless otherwise noted. Returns over 1 year are annualized. Indices are unmanaged and cannot be invested into directly. The returns do not reflect fees, sales charges, or expenses and don't reflect any particular investment. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

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## Short-End of the Yield Curve Rises

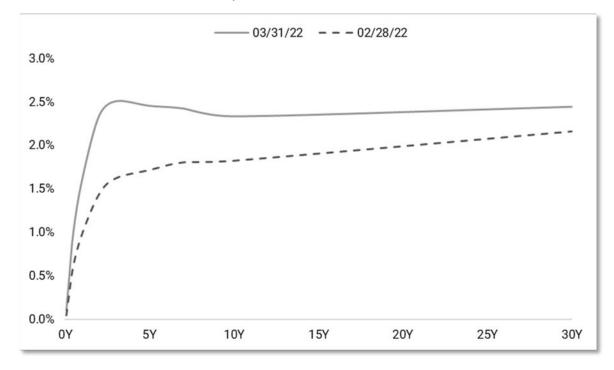


#### WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- Over recent months, the yield curve has flattened as near-term expectations for Fed policy rose.
- These expectations rose considerably following the FOMC meeting in March, pushing the yield curve upward, though the short-end rose considerably more than the longer-dated yields.
- The 3-year yield rose to the highest point along the yield curve, creating the inversion we can see in the graph on the right.
- See slide 11 for a look at the market's expectations of Fed policy.

### SHORT END OF THE US YIELD CURVE INVERTS

March 31, 2022 versus February 28, 2022



# Another (Brief) Yield Curve Inversion

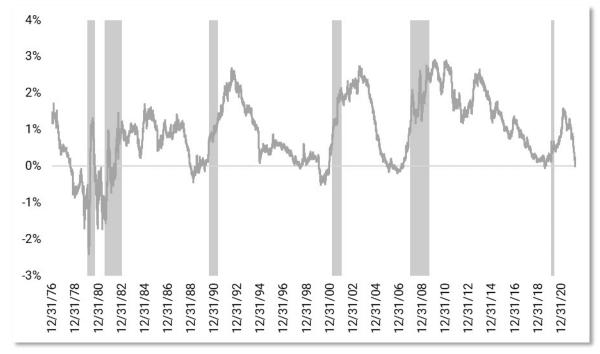


#### WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- A popular measure of the shape of the yield curve, the 10-year minus the 2-year, has come down significantly and briefly inverted on an intraday basis in March.
- When the yield curve inverts, it signals future growth might be in danger and rates will need to fall, pushing many to predict an impending recession.
- While the track record of the signal is fairly good, it requires a few important caveats: the sample set is very small, there can be a long lag between inversion and a recession, and we're not so sure we should give credit to the last inversion in late August 2019 in "predicting" the pandemic recession.

### HISTORY OF INVERSIONS AND RECESSIONS

US 10-year minus 2-year yield, December 31, 1976 to March 31, 2022



Shaded areas indicate US recessions

# Looking at Past Yield Curve Inversions



#### WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- Looking at past yield curve inversions, we can see that the predictive power of an inverted yield curve is not perfect. While inversions do tend to prelude recessions, they may do so by a year or more, and sometimes nearly three years. Further, equity performance following inversions appears random and is not an indicator of future equity performance.
- The selected dates do not include every inversion, once the yield curve inverts it can tend to bounce around over the subsequent months.

## HISTORY OF INVERSIONS AND RECESSIONS (CONTINUED)

Selected inversions of the US government 10-year and 2-year yields

		S&P 500 Total Return from Inversion Date				
Inversion Date	Days to Next Recession	6 Month	1 Year	<b>3 Year</b> (Annualized)		
08/17/78	532	-3.49%	8.80%	13.87%		
09/11/80	323	8.57%	1.67%	15.75%		
12/14/88	594	19.74%	31.92%	15.64%		
08/11/89	354	-1.62%	0.67%	10.32%		
05/26/98	1,040	8.94%	20.95%	6.65%		
02/02/00	423	2.69%	-1.39%	-14.14%		
12/27/05	734	-0.46%	15.73%	-9.59%		
04/13/07	262	8.48%	-6.38%	-4.13%		
08/26/19	187	13.14%	21.96%	n/a		

# Mortgage Rates Respond

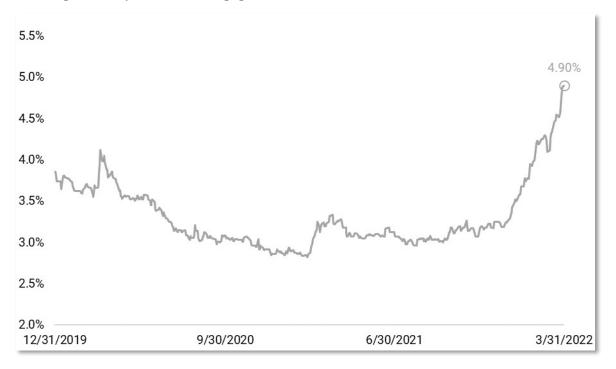


#### WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- Average rates on 30-year fixed mortgages have shot up recently, increasing over 100 basis points since the end of January and pushing the average to the highest since 2011.
- The increase in borrowing costs would typically dampen a hot housing market and put downward pressure on prices but continued low inventories may lessen these impacts.
- According to data from the Mortgage Bankers
   Association, refinancing applications have
   already begun to cool, though purchase
   applications, while off their peak, are showing
   initial resilience to the increased rates.

### MORTGAGE RATES SURGE, PUTTING PRESSURE ON HOUSING MARKET

Average US 30-year fixed mortgage rate, December 31, 2019 to March 31, 2022



# Expectations on Fed Policy

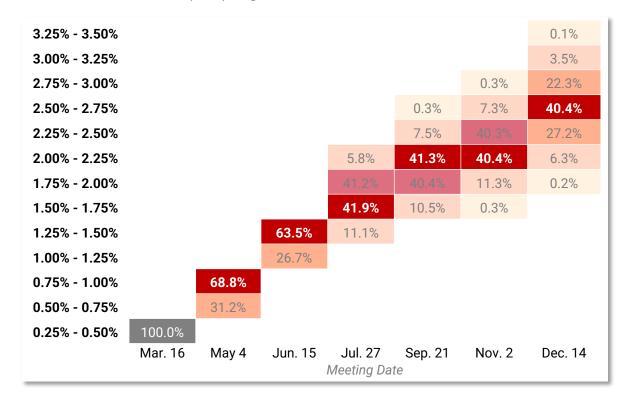


#### WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- The market still has its eyes focused on Fed policy and how quickly rates may change throughout the year to combat inflation.
- Over the last few months, we have seen expectations shift quickly and the market is now expecting multiple 50 basis point rate hikes this year.
- At the current probabilities implied by the Fed futures market, by the end of the year, the Fed's policy rate will be 2.50% to 2.75% This would signal a 250-basis point increase from where it stood just last month.

### MARKET NOW MULTIPLE 50 BPS HIKES

Probabilities of Fed rate policy target, derived from Fed futures market



# Keeping An Eye On Inflation Expectations

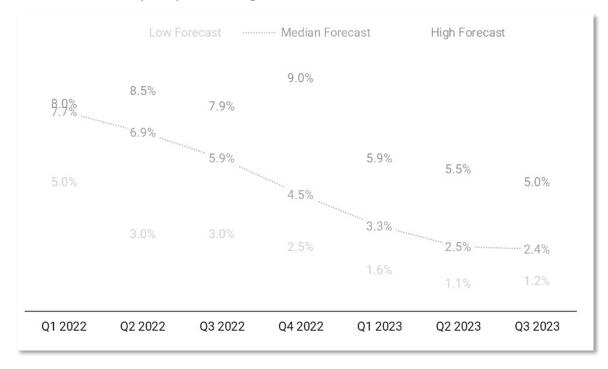


#### WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- Inflation continues to be a hot topic, and one likely in the mind of many investors. With that in mind, we want to keep an eye on how economists are viewing inflation.
- A similar pattern of changing forecasts happened this month as in many other recent months. Near-term inflation has crept up, closer to the previous high forecasts, with the high forecasts nudging upwards as well.
- The expectation of inflation cooling has continually been getting pushed out as inflation remains stubbornly high.

## YEAR-OVER-YEAR CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) EXPECTATIONS

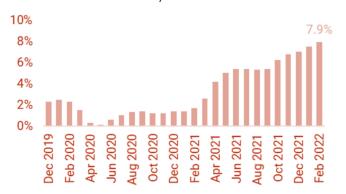
Economists surveyed by Bloomberg, latest as of March 31, 2022



## Charts of the Month



## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX December 2019 to February 2022



## TOTAL NONFARM PAYROLLS February 2020 to March 2022



#### S&P 500 PROFIT MARGINS Trailing 12 month, December 2010 to March 2022



## JOB MARKET REMAINS HOT January 2018 to February 2022



#### WHAT'S IMPORTANT

- Another Consumer Price Index report hits a multi-decade high. February's prices rose 7.9% from the year prior, in line with expectations with increases spilling over from goods and into services.
- Attention will be on how well companies can continue to weather the labor, supply chain, and inflationary environment, or if these headwinds will begin to erode record high profit margins.
- The jobs shortfall continues to shrink with over 1.1 million jobs coming back into the economy throughout February and March. March's job gains underwhelmed economists, while positive revisions to prior months helped.
- The job market continues to be tight with workers leaving their jobs in high numbers, taking advantage of high vacancies and an improved negotiating position.

















## Trend Level Element

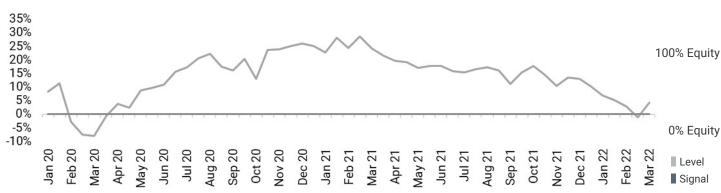


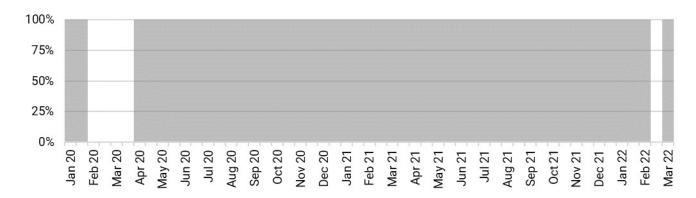
#### TRADE RATIONALE

The Trend Element will reinvest in equities.

Unexpectedly, equity market values have bounced back into a positive state after just 2 weeks in a negative state. While uncommon, this is the "price" of harnessing the long-run potential of market trends. We maintain deep concerns that the recent price appreciation may reverse as the Russia/Ukraine war moves into its next phase, coupled with more Federal Reserve rate hike activity and the related effects on the yield curve. For now, we'll follow the data and hope markets are calmer.

## **SIGNAL**



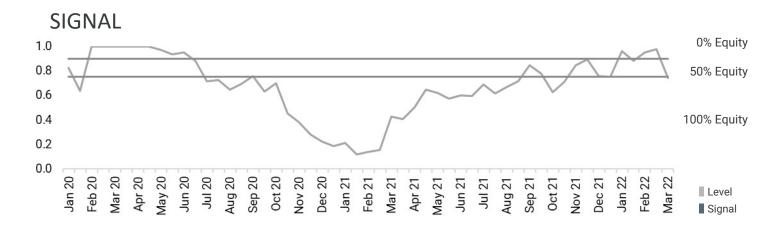


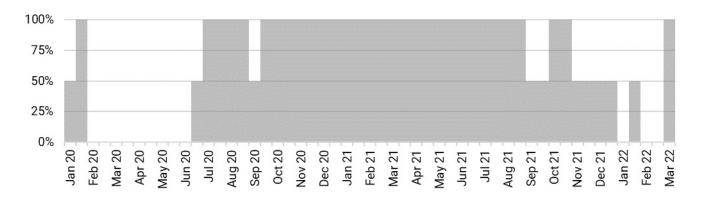
# Volatility Level Element



#### TRADE RATIONALE

The Volatility Element will move to full equity exposure. Since late last year expected volatility has bounced around from headline to headline. Now that the first rate hike is behind us and the shock of sanctions against Russia's energy sector has waned, derivative markets are expecting less volatility going forward. However, we don't believe we are out of the woods just yet, and we should set your expectations that additional trading may be warranted before a new sustained period of gains begins.



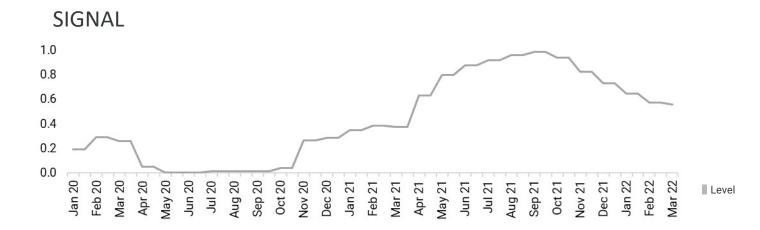


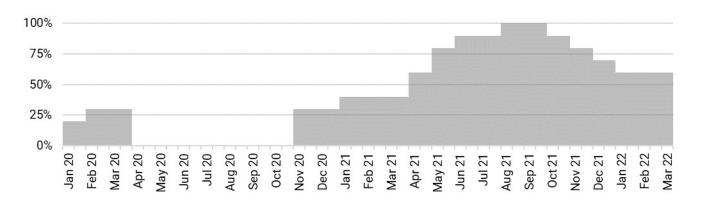
## **Economic Level Element**



#### TRADE RATIONALE

The Economic Element will maintain its allocation at 60. This is a very normal level for the Economic Element to sit at. With all the turmoil going on in the world, domestic economic data is still relatively strong — especially in areas such as housing, production, and earnings. Labor and inflation continue to be areas of concern, but for now this Element suggests a slight overweight to equities relative to a 50% benchmark.



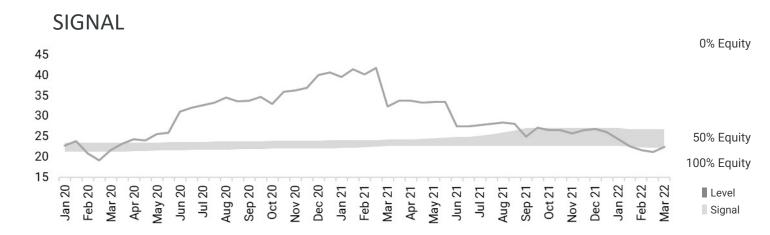


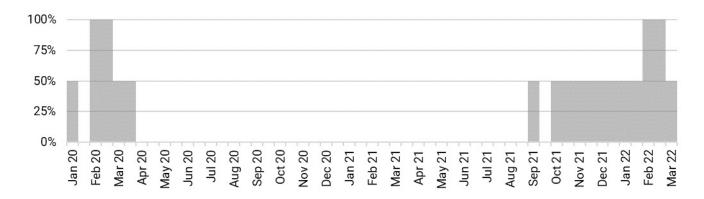
## Contrarian Level Element



#### TRADE RATIONALE

The Contrarian Element will move to 50% equities. With this move, the Element is sitting within its "neutral" positioning. Ideally, this is a comfortable spot for the next few months as corporate earnings are anticipated to be positive again.



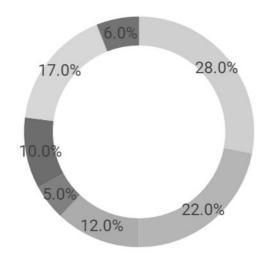


# Passive Equity Style Element

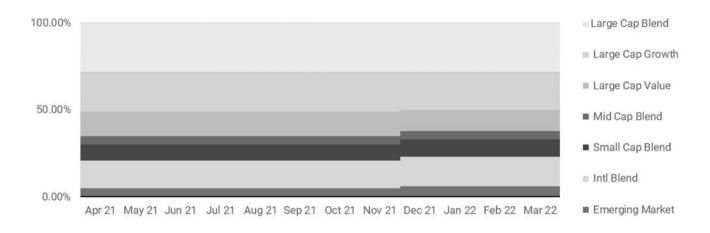


## **SIGNAL**

- Large Cap Blend
- Large Cap Growth
- Large Cap Value
- Mid Cap Blend
- Small Cap Blend
- International
- Emerging Markets



## HISTORICAL EXPOSURE



#### TRADE RATIONALE

No changes to the Passive Equity Style Element. The model rebalanced in November to match the overall return structure of an index comprised of 75% Russell 3000 Index & 25% MSCI ACWI ex-US Index. The next rebalance will be on November 30, 2022.

Source: Helios Quantitative Research, Bloomberg

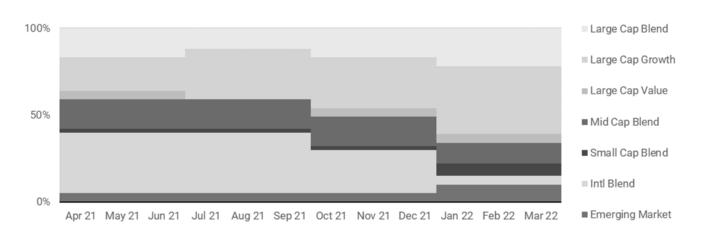
# Active Equity Style Element



### **SIGNAL**



### HISTORICAL EXPOSURE



#### TRADE RATIONALE

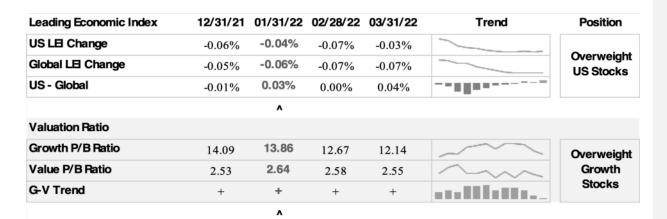
There are no changes this calculation period for the Active Equity Element. Using long-run calculations, Growth stocks continue to be preferred versus Value – despite volatility and rising rates. Risk-adjusted momentum continues to be strong in Large Cap Growth and Large Cap Value as larger companies may have more resiliency in periods of deep uncertainty.

Source: Helios Quantitative Research, Bloomberg

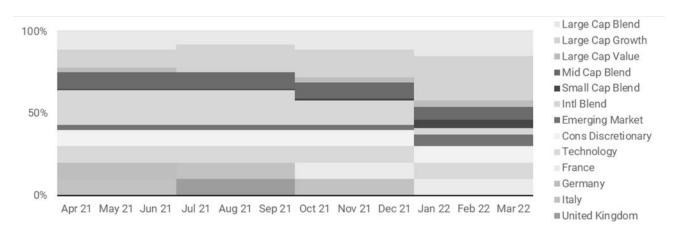
# Active+ Equity Style Element



### **SIGNAL**



### HISTORICAL EXPOSURE



#### TRADE RATIONALE

There are no changes this calculation period for the Active+ Equity Element. Using long-run calculations, Growth stocks continue to be preferred versus Value – despite volatility and rising rates. Risk-adjusted momentum continues to be strong in Large Cap Growth and Large Cap Value as larger companies may have more resiliency in periods of deep uncertainty. Within the US markets, the sectors showing the highest valuation growth continue to be Consumer Discretionary and Technology (shockingly). Abroad, France remains the favorite based on leading economic data.

# Active+ Equity Style Element (cont'd)



**SIGNAL** 

Countries	12/31/21	01/31/22	02/28/22	03/31/22		
Canada (EWC)	-0.05%	-0.15%	-0.13%	-0.14%		
France (EWQ)	0.05%	0.06%	-0.02%	-0.07%		+10%
Germany (EWG)	-0.16%	-0.24%	-0.07%	-0.02%		
Italy (EWI)	-0.07%	-0.15%	-0.16%	-0.19%		
Japan (EWJ)	-0.04%	-0.05%	-0.03%	-0.02%		
United Kingdom (EWU)	-0.09%	-0.13%	-0.09%	-0.17%		
Sectors					'	
Communications (XLC)	0.58	0.51	0.33	0.12		
Cons Discretionary (XLY)	1.28	1.30	0.68	-0.13		+10%
Cons Staples (XLP)	0.20	0.38	0.43	0.48		
Energy (XLE)	0.41	0.41	0.45	0.55		
Financials (XLF)	0.27	0.28	0.24	0.23		
Health Care (XLV)	0.40	0.47	0.37	0.29		
Industrials (XLI)	0.43	0.47	0.32	0.21		
Materials (XLB)	0.32	0.41	0.35	0.27		
Real Estate (XLRE)	0.53	0.64	0.55	0.41		
Technology (XLK)	1.52	1.68	1.43	0.85		+10%
Utilities (XLU)	0.05	0.12	0.14	0.13		
Risk-Adjusted Momentum						
Large Cap Growth (IVW)	3.43	(0.73)	(1.30)	(1.09)		+5%
Large Cap Value (IVE)	2.06	0.47	0.48	(0.05)		+5%
Mid Cap Blend (IWR)	1.34	(1.31)	(1.03)	(0.91)	~~~~	-5%
Small Cap Blend (IWM)	0.20	(1.55)	(1.13)	(1.02)	~~~	-5%
Intl Blend (EFA)	0.81	(1.27)	(0.77)	(1.07)		-5%
Emerging Market (EEM)	(0.21)	(0.86)	(0.55)	(1.03)		+5%
Last Reblance Date		٨				

# Passive Fixed Income Style Element

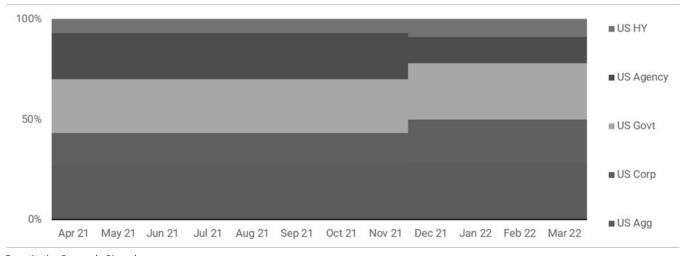




#### TRADE RATIONALE

No changes to the Passive Fixed Income Style Element. The model rebalanced in November to match the overall return structure of the Bloomberg US Universal Total Return Index. The next rebalance will be on November 30, 2022.

### HISTORICAL EXPOSURE



Source: Helios Quantitative Research, Bloomberg

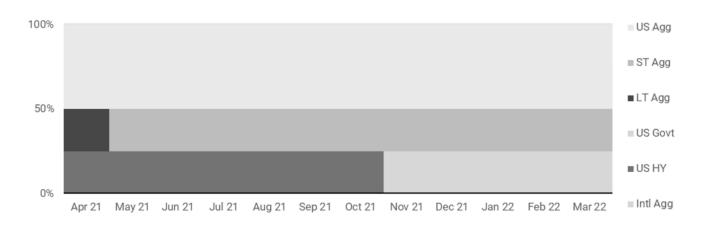
# Active Fixed Income Style Element



### **SIGNAL**

Indicator	12/31/21	01/31/22	02/28/22	03/31/22	Trend	Position
Inflation	5.50	6.00	6.40	6.40	7	<
2-Year Yield	0.73	1.18	1.43	2.33		SHORT
10-Year Yield	1.51	1.78	1.83	2.34	Hiteananan	
Credit Spreads	2.70	3.50	3.77	3.62	<b>       </b>	TREASURIES
Intl Agg (BWX)	28.27	27.53	27.20	26.03		0%

### HISTORICAL EXPOSURE



#### TRADE RATIONALE

No changes to the Active Fixed Income Element this calculation period. With inflation remaining elevated compared to historical levels, we maintain a tilt toward short-term bonds that may reduce interest rate risk. In addition, our fixed income approach remains "boring" and high-quality to maximize the defensive capabilities of the fixed income portion of the portfolio during periods of high equity market uncertainty. From our perspective, this isn't the time to swing for the fences with bonds.

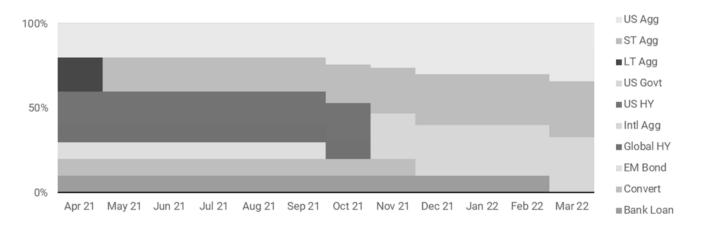
# Active+ Fixed Income Style Element



### **SIGNAL**

Indicator	12/31/21	01/31/22	02/28/22	03/31/22	Trend	Position
Inflation	5.50	6.00	6.40	6.40	/	< CHOPT
2-Year Yield	0.73	1.18	1.43	2.33		SHORT
10-Year Yield	1.51	1.78	1.83	2.34	1111	BOILTION
Credit Spreads	2.70	3.50	3.77	3.62		TREASURIES
Intl Agg (BWX)	28.27	27.53	27.20	26.03		0%
Global HY (GHYG)	49.29	47.77	47.00	46.16		0%
EM Bond (EMB)	109.06	105.38	99.20	97.76		0%
Convert (CWB)	82.96	76.82	75.90	76.95	B========	0%
Bank Loan (BKLN)	22.10	21.98	21.77	21.77	8888-88	0%

#### HISTORICAL EXPOSURE



#### TRADE RATIONALE

The Active+ Fixed Income Element removed bank loans this calculation. Although bank loans "hung tough" while other bond subsectors struggled, trends finally broke over the last month. With inflation remaining stubborn and the Fed signaling potentially higher magnitude rate increases, this Element is in its most defensive positioning. From our perspective, this isn't the time to swing for the fences with bonds.



METHODS, DEFINITIONS, AND MORE



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Index Benchmarks presented within this report may not reflect factors relevant for your portfolio or your unique risks, goals or investment objectives. Past performance of an index is not an indication or guarantee of future results. It is not possible to invest directly in an index.

The Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate® Index is a flagship measure of global investment grade debt from twenty-four local currency markets. This multicurrency benchmark includes treasury, government-related, corporate and securitized fixed-rate bonds from both developed and emerging markets issuers.

The Bloomberg Commodity® Index (BCOM) is a broadly diversified commodity price index distributed by Bloomberg Index Services Limited.

The Bloomberg Emerging Markets USD Aggregate Bond Index is a flagship hard currency Emerging Markets debt benchmark that includes fixed and floating-rate US dollar-denominated debt issued from sovereign, quasi-sovereign, and corporate EM issuers.

The Bloomberg Global Aggregate® Index is a flagship measure of global investment grade debt from twenty-four local currency markets. This multi-currency benchmark includes treasury, government-related, corporate and securitized fixed-rate bonds from both developed and emerging markets issuers.

The Bloomberg Global High Yield Index is a multi-currency flagship measure of the global high yield debt market. The index represents the union of the US High Yield, the Pan-European High Yield, and Emerging Markets (EM) Hard Currency High Yield Indices.



The Bloomberg US 1-5 year Government/Credit Float-Adjusted Bond Index is a float-adjusted version of the US 1-5 year Government/Credit Index, which tracks the market for investment grade, US dollar-denominated, fixed-rate treasuries, government-related and corporate securities.

The Bloomberg U.S. Agency Index includes native currency agency debentures from issuers such as Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and Federal Home Loan Bank.

The Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond® Index, or the Agg, is a broad base, market capitalization-weighted bond market index representing intermediate term investment grade bonds traded in the United States. Investors frequently use the index as a stand-in for measuring the performance of the US bond market.

The Bloomberg US Corporate Bond Index measures the investment grade, fixed-rate, taxable corporate bond market. It includes USD denominated securities publicly issued by US and non-US industrial, utility and financial issuers.

The Bloomberg US Corporate High Yield Bond® Index measures the USD-denominated, high yield, fixed-rate corporate bond market. Securities are classified as high yield if the middle rating of Moody's, Fitch and S&P is Ba1/BB+/BB+ or below.

The Bloomberg US Long Government/Credit Float-Adjusted Bond Index is a float-adjusted version of the US Long Government/Credit Index, which tracks the market for investment grade, US dollar-denominated, fixed-rate treasuries, government-related and corporate securities.

The Bloomberg US Mortgage-Backed Securities® (MBS) Index tracks fixed-rate agency mortgage-backed pass-through securities guaranteed by Ginnie Mae (GNMA), Fannie Mae (FNMA), and Freddie Mac (FHLMC).

The Bloomberg U.S. Municipal® Index covers the USD-denominated long-term tax-exempt bond market. The index has four main sectors: state and local general obligation bonds, revenue bonds, insured bonds and pre-refunded bonds.

The Bloomberg US Total Return Index measure US dollar-denominated, fixed-rate nominal debt issued by the US Treasury, investment grade corporations, and non-investment grade corporations.

The Bloomberg U.S. Treasury Bond® Index includes public obligations of the US Treasury, i.e. US government bonds. Certain Treasury bills are excluded by a maturity constraint. In addition, certain special issues, such as state and local government series bonds (SLGs), as well as U.S. Treasury TIPS, are excluded.

The Bloomberg US Treasury Inflation-Linked Bond Index (Series-L) measures the performance of the US Treasury Inflation Protected Securities (TIPS) market. Federal Reserve holdings of US TIPS are not index eligible and are excluded from the face amount outstanding of each bond in the index.



The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change over time in the prices paid by urban consumers for a market basket of consumer goods and services.

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) is a monthly measure of the average change over time in the prices paid by consumers for a market basket of consumer goods and services.

The Dow Jones U.S. Real Estate® index is designed to track the performance of real estate investment trusts (REIT) and other companies that invest directly or indirectly in real estate.

The Leading Economic Index (LEI), is an index published monthly by The Conference Board. It is used to predict the direction of global economic movements in future months. The index is composed of 10 economic components whose changes tend to precede changes in the overall economy.

The Morningstar Diversified Alternatives® Index is designed to provide diversified exposure to alternative asset classes while enhancing risk-adjusted portfolio returns when combined with a range of traditional investments.

The MSCI ACWI (All Country World Index) is a stock index designed to track broad global equity-market performance. Maintained by Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI), the index is comprised of the stocks of about 3,000 companies from 23 developed countries and 26 emerging markets.

The MSCI ACWI Ex-U.S.® Index is a stock market index comprising of non-U.S. stocks from 22 developed markets and 26 emerging markets.

The MSCI EAFE® Index is a broad market index of stocks located within countries in Europe, Australasia, and the Middle East.

The MSCI Emerging Markets® Index is a selection of stocks that is designed to track the financial performance of key companies in fast-growing nations.

The Russell 1000® Index represents the top 1000 companies by market capitalization in the United States.

The Russell 1000 Growth® Index measures the performance of the Russell 1000® 's growth segment, which is defined to include firms whose share prices have higher price-to-book ratios and higher expected earnings growth rates.

The Russell 1000 Value® Index measures the performance of the large-cap value segment of the U.S. equity universe. It includes those Russell 1000® companies with lower price-to-book ratios and lower expected and historical growth rates.



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The Russell 2000® Index measures the performance of the 2,000 smaller companies that are included in the Russell 3000® Index, which itself is made up of nearly all U.S. stocks. The Russell 2000® is widely regarded as a bellwether of the U.S. economy because of its focus on smaller companies that focus on the U.S. market.

The Russell 2000 Growth® Index measures the performance of the small- cap growth segment of the US equity universe. It includes those Russell 2000® companies with higher price-to-value ratios and higher forecasted growth values.

The Russell 2000 Value® Index measures the performance of the small-cap segment of the U.S. equity universe. It includes those Russell 2000® companies with lower price-to-book ratios and lower forecasted growth values.

The Russell 3000 Index is a market-capitalization-weighted equity index maintained by FTSE Russell that provides exposure to the entire U.S. stock market. The index tracks the performance of the 3,000 largest U.S.-traded stocks, which represent about 97% of all U.S.-incorporated equity securities.

The Russell Midcap® Index is a market capitalization-weighted index comprised of 800 publicly traded U.S. companies with market caps of between \$2 and \$10 billion. The 800 companies in the Russell Midcap® Index are the 800 smallest of the 1,000 companies that comprise Russell 1000® Index.

The S&P 500® Index, or the Standard & Poor's 500® Index, is a market-capitalization-weighted index of the 500 largest U.S. publicly traded companies.

The Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) is the branch of the Federal Reserve System that determines the direction of monetary policy.

Growth value (G-V) trend is the prevailing direction of the price over some defined period of time.

The price-to-book ratio (P/B ratio) is used to compare a firm's market capitalization to its book value. It's calculated by dividing the company's stock price per share by its book value per share (BVPS).