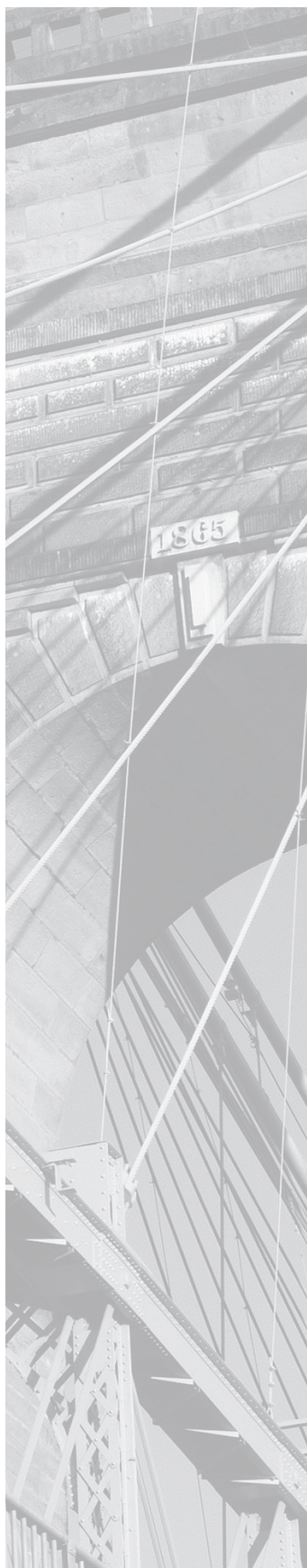


# Emerging Markets Equity Quarter-End Review—2Q2021



International equities rose for the fifth consecutive quarter, the longest such streak of positive returns in more than a decade. The U.S. dollar, which had been weaker by nearly 4% mid-way through the quarter, ended down only marginally as rising inflation caused the U.S. Federal Open Market Committee to signal a shift in its accommodative policy, bringing forward the potential for interest rate increases in 2023. Developed markets outperformed emerging markets during the quarter as a lack of access to vaccines continues to have an outsized impact on emerging markets.

Although international equities have indeed performed well over the past year, they continue to trail their U.S. counterparts. This is a continuation of the trend over the past ten years, with the S&P 500 posting annualized returns of +14.8% versus developed markets returning +5.8% (as measured by the iShares MSCI EAFE ETF) and emerging markets returning +3.6% (as measured by the iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF). Although equity markets are expensive worldwide when compared to their historical norms, the outperformance in the United States has caused valuations to be more extended than their international peers. These stretched valuations will leave little room for error, particularly for expensive high-growth U.S. technology stocks, if the U.S. Federal Reserve raises interest rates at a faster pace than currently expected.

As vaccination rates improve and countries exit lockdowns, economies across the globe are experiencing sharp rebounds in economic activity. For a broad blueprint of the global economic cycle, we continue to look toward China, which was the first country hit with COVID-19 symptoms and the first country to emerge from COVID-related lockdowns. As the year has unfolded, China's economy has seen growth moderate as year-over-year (y/y) comparisons get tougher and supply chain issues impede its recovery. We expect a similar story in the United States and the Eurozone region. They were hampered by COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions far longer

## GEOGRAPHICAL EXPOSURE & PORTFOLIO CHANGES <sup>(1)</sup>

Region	Ending Weight <sup>(2)</sup>	Change from 3/31/2021	Emerging Markets Equity Additions & (Emerging Markets Equity Deletions) <sup>(3)</sup>
Asia/Pacific	64.7%	-2.6%	
North America	15.6%	+3.3%	Coca-Cola FEMSA
Central & South America	8.4%	-1.6%	(TIM)
Eastern Europe	8.3%	+0.2%	MMC Norilsk Nickel (Mobile Telesystem)
Cash	1.6%	+0.7%	
Western Europe	1.5%	0.0%	
Middle East & Africa	0.0%	0.0%	

<sup>(1)</sup>Based on a representative account of the strategy discussed. Portfolio characteristics (e.g., sector weights, valuation, growth rate) are based on a representative account that we believe is illustrative of the strategy. Characteristics and/or holdings may not be the same for all accounts invested in the strategy due to factors such as pending trades or account restrictions. Additions/Deletions reflect security transactions completed by the date stated on this presentation, and the securities mentioned may not be held by all accounts invested in the strategy.

<sup>(2)</sup>Weights as of the end of the presentation period. Cumulative total weighting may not add up to 100% due to rounding of percentages to the nearest decimal place.

<sup>(3)</sup>Any securities referenced should not be considered a recommendation to purchase or sell a particular security. These securities may represent a portion or all of the companies held in a representative account in this strategy as of the date stated and are intended for informational purposes only. Non-performance based criteria have been used to select the securities listed. The past performance of these securities is no guarantee of future results. The specific securities identified and described may not represent all of the securities purchased, sold or recommended for this strategy. The reader should not assume that investments in the securities identified or discussed were or will prove to be profitable. Portfolio holdings may not be current recommendations to buy or sell any security, and may no longer be held in the representative account. To request a complete list of portfolio holdings recommendations for the past year, the calculation methodology, or a list showing the contribution of every holding to the representative account's performance for the time period stated, please contact Renaissance at [compliance@reninv.com](mailto:compliance@reninv.com).

Source: Renaissance Research, FactSet

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## CONTRIBUTORS TO RETURN<sup>(1)(2)</sup>

Ticker	Company Name	Average Weight <sup>(3)</sup>	Contribution to Return
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### TOP FIVE CONTRIBUTORS—EMERGING MARKETS EQUITY

CBD	Companhia Brasileira de Distribuicao	2.70%	0.93%
VLRS	Volaris	2.75%	0.81%
ASAI	Sendas Distribuidora	2.16%	0.62%
BYDDY	BYD	1.62%	0.61%
CX	CEMEX	2.69%	0.50%

### BOTTOM FIVE CONTRIBUTORS—EMERGING MARKETS EQUITY

LNVGY	Lenovo Group	3.12%	-0.69%
VIPS	Vipshop	1.67%	-0.65%
YY	JOYY	1.31%	-0.41%
PNGAY	Ping An Insurance Company of China	1.70%	-0.32%
ACKAY	Arcelik	1.73%	-0.29%

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<sup>(2)</sup>The securities listed should not be considered a recommendation to purchase or sell a particular security. These securities represent the top five and bottom five contributors by weight to the performance of a representative account in this strategy as of the date stated and are intended for informational purposes only. The past performance of these securities is no guarantee of future results. The specific securities identified and described may not represent all of the securities purchased, sold or recommended for this strategy. The reader should not assume that investments in the securities identified or discussed were or will prove to be profitable. Portfolio holdings may not be current recommendations to buy or sell a security and may no longer be held in the representative account. To request a complete list of portfolio holdings recommendations for the past year, the calculation methodology, or a list showing the contribution of every holding to the representative account's performance for the time period stated, please contact Renaissance at [compliance@reninv.com](mailto:compliance@reninv.com).

<sup>(3)</sup>Average weights over the presentation period.

Source: Renaissance Research, FactSet

than China but are still experiencing strong growth, highlighted by the Eurozone Economic Sentiment Indicator hitting twenty-one-year highs. This robust growth is leading to fears that inflation could rise faster than expected and may cause central banks to “hit the brakes” by ending monetary easing measures and raising interest rates sooner than anticipated. Inflation has indeed been rising, with the U.S. Consumer Price Index climbing 4.9% y/y in May, its highest level since 2008, and the Producer Price Index rising 6.5% y/y in May, its highest level since 12-month data began in 2010. The Eurozone also reported rising inflation in May with headline inflation hitting +2% y/y. Some of the higher inflation can be explained by soaring commodity prices caused by a surge in demand while supply has been slow to come back online. However, as supply chains have begun to normalize and high prices have put a dent in demand, some commodities have already weakened, including lumber and copper which finished the quarter 58% and 12% off their 2021 highs, respectively (Source: FactSet).

Many economists describe the current spike in prices as transitory because they expect the short-term issues with supply chains to improve. Yet, an argument for longer-run inflation can be made, as economies are still dealing with extremely low inventories that could cause inflation to continue to run high as manufacturers look to rebuild inventories over time. The U.S. inventory-to-sales ratio dropped to 1.25x, a level not seen since 2012, while a Eurozone survey of inventory levels implies that managers believe that stocks of finished products are scarcer than ever. These low levels of inventories will take time to normalize, leading to rising prices for goods including semiconductors and automobiles.

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As COVID-19 infections recede and economies reopen, fiscal support from governments, which helped prop up economies for the past year-and-a-half, will continue to be reduced as governments attempt to rein in extremely high debt levels. Government debt levels rose markedly across the globe in 2020 as Europeans ditched austerity measures and China, which had been attempting to decrease debt levels throughout its economy even at the expense of economic growth, allowed debt levels to grow. While some investors fear this fiscal cliff, the strength of economies across the globe should lead to a smooth transition from government stimulus to consumer and corporate spending-driven stimulus of the economies. In the United States, the world's largest economy, capital spending and job openings are at their highest levels on record. This elevated level of job openings should lead to higher wages and help to replace enhanced unemployment benefits and stimulus checks. In turn, this should allow American consumers to continue spending, helping export-driven countries in Europe and China.

The portfolio had positive absolute returns and finished ahead of the benchmark during the quarter. Strong stock selection in the Consumer Staples and Utilities sectors helped to offset weak selection in the Financials and Information Technology sectors. Brazil and Mexico contributed the most to returns, while China and Indonesia detracted the most from returns.

We continue to monitor COVID-19 trends, particularly with the fast-spreading Delta variant causing countries such as Australia and South Africa to reimplement lockdown measures. Nevertheless, as vaccination rates increase across the globe, we are confident that economic growth will continue, which should lead to positive equity returns going forward.

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### DISCLOSURES

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The opinions stated in this presentation are those of Renaissance as of June 30, 2021 and are subject to change at any time due to changes in market or economic conditions.

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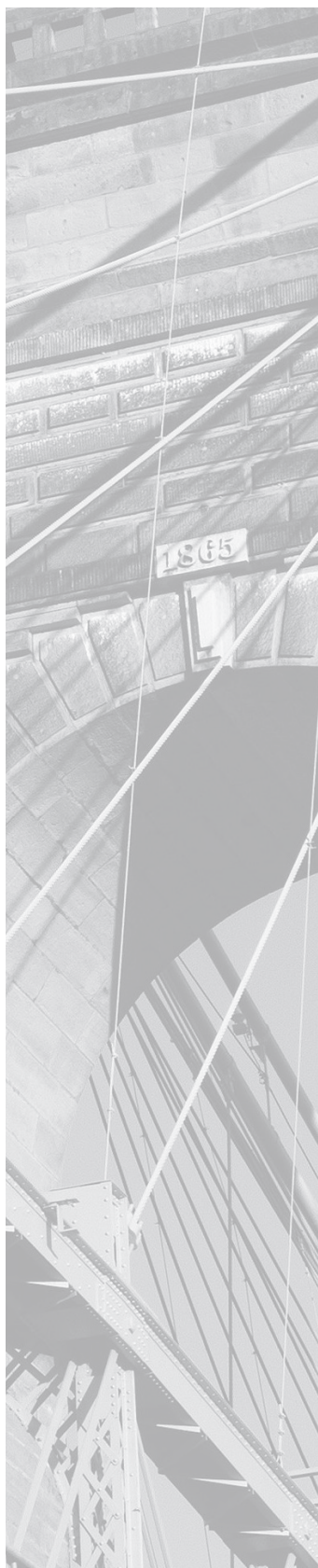
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a client portfolio may be affected by a variety of factors, including the initial balance of the account, the timing and amount of any additions to or withdrawals from the portfolio, changes made to the account to reflect the specific investment needs or preferences of the client, durations and timing of participation as a RIM client, and a client portfolio's risk tolerance, investment objectives, and investment time horizon. All investments carry a certain degree of risk, including the loss of principal and are not guaranteed by the U.S. government.

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**Consumer Price Index**—The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure that examines the weighted average of prices of a basket of consumer goods and services, such as transportation, food and medical care. It is calculated by taking price changes for each item.

**iShares MSCI EAFE ETF**—The iShares MSCI EAFE ETF seeks to track the investment results of an index composed of large- and mid-capitalization developed market equities, excluding the U.S. and Canada.

**iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF**—The iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF seeks to track the investment results of an index composed of large- and mid-capitalization emerging market equities.

**S&P 500 Index**—The S&P 500 Stock Index is a market capitalization weighted index and consists of 500 stocks chosen for market size, liquidity and industry group representation.

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