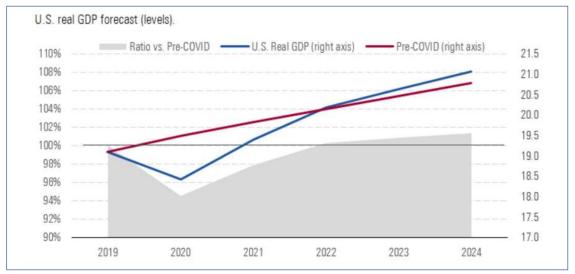
# **Market Recap**

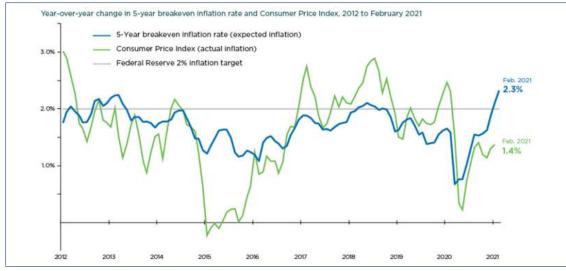


## Accelerating Economic Growth



Source: Morningstar, BEA, BLS

### Inflation Expectations on the Rise



Source: FactSet

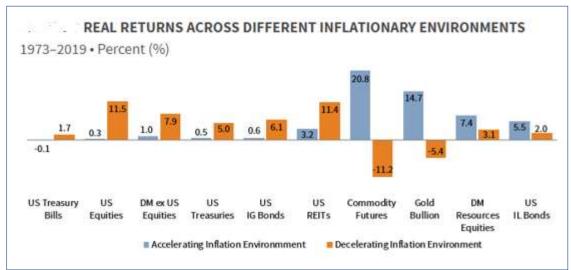
- After temporarily slowing at the end of 2020, economic activity is picking up once again. U.S. GDP is now on track to surpass pre-Covid expectations by the end of 2021 as mass vaccination leads to a snap-back recovery.
- With consumers constrained by the ongoing need to maintain social distance, the current deficit in consumer services expenditure accounts for the entire GDP gap compared with pre-pandemic levels. Once the country achieves herd immunity, consumers will finally be free to unleash pent-up demand.

- As the pandemic winds down and the economy gathers more steam, concerns have grown around building inflationary pressures. With additional fiscal stimulus likely to hit the economy soon, investors have driven up 5-year inflation expectations to the highest level in eight years.
- Although inflation is likely to trend higher from modest current readings, there is still room for it to rise without threatening the Fed's commitment to accommodative monetary policy. The pace at which this happens will be a key driver of whether the Fed is forced to take action sooner than expected.

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### Hedging Against Inflation



Source: Cambridge Associates

### Crypto Collectibles?



Source: Blockchain Simplified

- Protecting hard-earned savings from the erosive effects of inflation is a first-order consideration for many investors. However, depending on your time frame, effectively "solving" for inflation requires different approaches and involves trade-offs.
- Commodities provide some of the best protection against unexpected spikes in inflation. Yet despite the intuitive appeal, the long-term returns of commodities tend to underwhelm compared to other asset classes.
- For patient investors, stocks and real estate have proven to be resilient through periods of both higher and lower inflation.

- Collectibles have been around for centuries, bringing individuals joy and occasionally creating fortunes. Historically, these items have taken shape in the form of stamps, records, or trading cards. As the digital economy rapidly expands, a new intangible collectible has emerged, non-fungible tokens (NFT).
- NFTs are unique assets whose authenticity is backed by a blockchain network. For instance, NBA Top Shot provides a platform for buying and selling videos of player highlights (akin to a digital trading card). Despite the tremendous hype and intrigue, only time will tell if these new collectibles endure or fade away like the tulip mania.



**Contact:** If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact us at 703.992.6164. For more information about Harbour Capital Advisors, please visit our website at <a href="https://www.harbourcapitaladvisors.com">www.harbourcapitaladvisors.com</a>.

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