# Chief Investment Officer Monthly Report



Board of Investments
April 14, 2021

Jonathan Grabel
Chief Investment Officer

LOS ANGELES COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

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## **Market Environment**



## Global Market Performance as of March 31, 2021

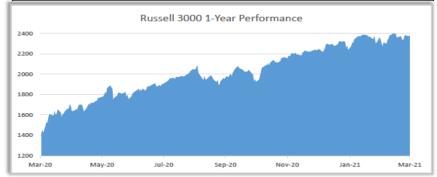
#### MSCI ACWI Index (Global Equity Market)\*

Trailing Returns (%)			Annualized Returns (%)				
1-month	3-month	YTD	1Y	3Y	5Y	10Y	
2.6	5.1	5.1	57.6	11.9	13.2	9.2	



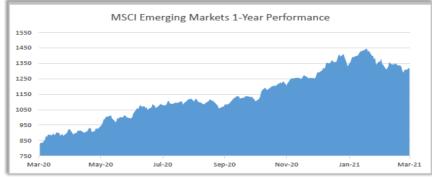
#### Russell 3000 Index (U.S. Equity Market)

Trailing Returns (%)			Ar	nnualized	Returns (	%)	
1-month	3-month	YTD	1Y	3Y	5Y	10Y	
3.6	6.4	6.4	62.5	17.1	16.6	13.8	



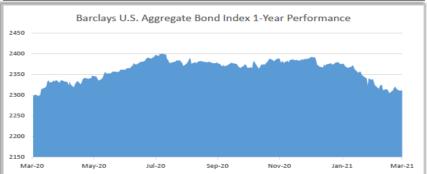
#### **MSCI Emerging Market Index**

Trailing Returns (%)			ıA	nualized	Returns (	%)
1-month	3-month	YTD	1Y	3Y	5Y	10Y
-1.5	2.3	2.3	58.4	6.5	12.1	3.7



#### Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index\*\*

Tra	iling Returns	(%)	ıΑ	nnualized	Returns (	(%)	
1-month	a 3-month	YTD	1Y	3Y	5Y	10Y	
-1.2	-3.4	-3.4	0.7	4.7	3.1	3.4	

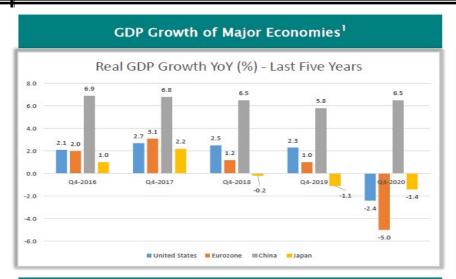


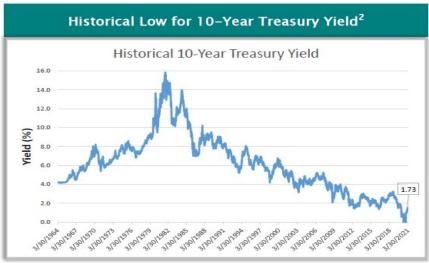
Source: Bloomberg

<sup>\*</sup>Global Equity Policy Benchmark - MSCI ACWI IMI Index

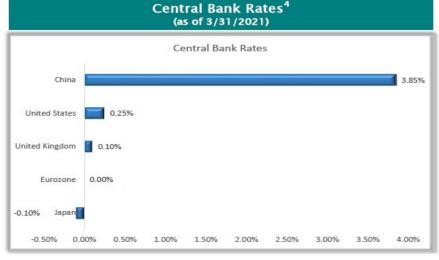
<sup>\*\*</sup>Investment Grade Bonds Policy Benchmark - Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index

## **Key Macro Indicators**\*







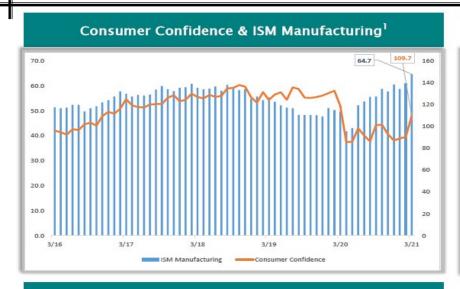


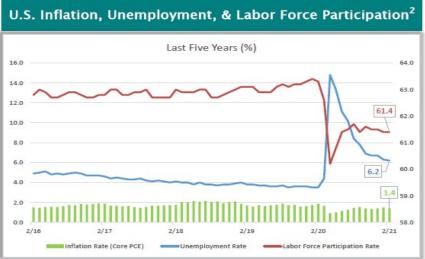
Sources: 1. Bloomberg 3. FactSet 2. St. Louis Federal Reserve 4. FactSet

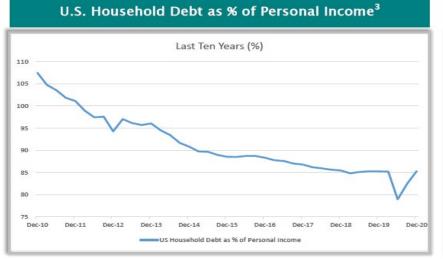
\*The information on the "Key Macro Indicators" charts is the best available data as of 3/31//21 and may not reflect the current market and economic environment.

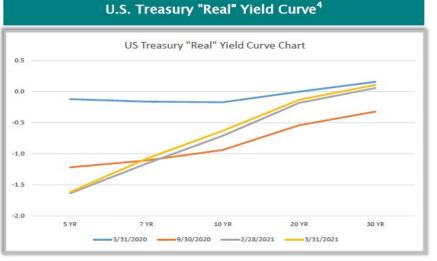


## **Key Macro Indicators**\*









\*The information on the "Key Macro Indicators" charts is the best available data as of 3/31/21 and may not reflect the current market and economic environment.

3. Bloomberg Bloomberg Sources: 2. Bloomberg

4. U.S. Treasury



## Market Themes and Notable Items to Watch

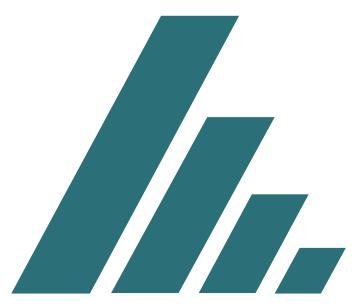
#### **Recent Themes**

- COVID-19
  - More than 128 million cases and 2.8 million deaths worldwide
  - Increase in vaccine options and availability
    - More than 15% of U.S. population has been fully vaccinated against the coronavirus
  - Vaccine passport and travel permissions or behaviors
- The U.S. 10-year treasury yield ended March at 1.74%, up from 0.93% at the end of 2020
- Rising and higher rates adjusts investors cost of capital considerations and impacts markets across many dimensions:
- \$2.3 trillion "American Jobs Plan" unveiled
- Global equities up 3% on the month
- Leverage, volatility, and liquidations
  - Highly levered and directional positions caused a family office to liquidate a reported \$20-30 billion of positions in late March; losses reportedly extended to investment bank counterparties

#### What to Watch

- COVID-19
- Global GDP growth rate
- Social equity and civil rights initiatives
- Unemployment and consumer spending
- Potential government infrastructure spending
- State of liquidity across financial markets
- Inflation pressures and trends
- Geopolitical risks and trade arrangements
- Potential continued rising interest rates
- Economic and consumer behavior impacts as vaccination rates increase

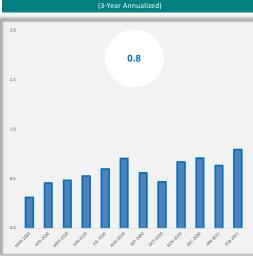
## Portfolio Performance Updates



## **Total Fund Summary**

as of February 2021





**Sharpe Ratio** 





Cash

#### **Asset Allocation** Market Value<sup>1</sup> % of Final (\$ millions) **Total** Target<sup>2</sup> **TOTAL FUND** 66,355 100.0% Growth 34,034 51.3% 47.0% Global Equity 25,241 38.0% 35.0% Private Equity<sup>3</sup> 8,219 10.0% 12.4% Opportunistic Real Estate4 574 0.9% 2.0% Credit 7,277 11.0% 12.0% High Yield 2.164 3.3% 3.0% Bank Loans 2.582 3 9% 4 0% **Emerging Market Debt** 867 1.3% 2.0% Illiquid Credit<sup>3,4,5</sup> 1.664 2.5% 3.0% **Real Assets & Inflation Hedges** 10,735 16.2% 17.0% Core & Value Added Real Estate 4,554 6.9% 7.0% Natural Resources & Commodities 2,843 4.3% 4.0% 1,775 2.7% 3.0% Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities 1,564 2.4% 3.0% 13,710 Risk Reduction & Mitigation 20.7% 24.0% Investment Grade Bonds 11.231 19.0% 16.9% Diversified Hedge Fund Portfolio5 1.931 4.0% 2.9% 547 0.8% 1.0% Overlay Composite<sup>6</sup> 599 0.9% Overlay Composite Risk Reduction & Mitigation 20.7% nflation Hedges Credit 11.0% 51.3%



Transition balances are included in each subcategory total, if applicable

Final target weights effective as of 10/1/19
 Private Equity market values reflect latest available and are adjusted for cash flows

Real Estate market values reflect a 3-month lag and best available values

Hedge Fund market values reflect a 1-month lag
 Reflects net cash position for overlay investing

### Historical Net Performance

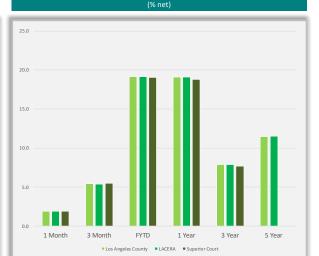
#### as of February 2021

#### **LACERA Pension Fund** (% net) Market Value % of Final Target1 (\$ millions) **Total Fund** 1 Month 3 Month FYTD TOTAL FUND 66.355 7.9 100.0% 100.0% 1.4 4.2 15.5 15.9 8.2 10.3 Total Fund Custom BM 2.2 4.0 16.2 15.7 9.0 10.3 8.3 7% Annual Hurdle Rate 0.57 4.61 7.00 7.00 7.00 1.71 7.00 Functional Composites<sup>2</sup> 1 Month 3 Month FYTD 1 Year GROWTH 34,034 51.3% 47.0% 2.5 6.5 25.4 26.9 Growth Custom BM 4.7 7.4 30.6 28.5 7,277 11.0% 12.0% 1.0 4.6 13.3 7.5 Credit Custom BM -0.1 1.9 8.0 6.8 **REAL ASSETS & INFLATION HEDGES** 10,735 16.2% 17.0% 1.9 3.9 8.7 6.8 Real Assets & Inflation Hedges Custom BM 3.7 8.8 8.1 **RISK REDUCTION & MITIGATION** 13,710 20.7% 24.0% -1.0 -0.8 3.3 Risk Reduction & Mitigation Custom BM -1.1 -0.4 **OVERLAY COMPOSITE** 599 0.9%



# **OPEB Master Trust Fund**

Sub-Trusts	Market Value (\$ millions) <sup>3</sup>	Trust Ownership %	Final Target	1 Month	3 Month	FYTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year
Sub-Trusts	(\$ IIIIIIOII3)	Ownership %	rarget	I MOULUI	3 WOULI	FTID	1 Teal	3 Teal	3 fear
TOTAL OPEB MASTER TRUST	1,945								
Los Angeles County	1,884	96.9%	_	1.9	5.4	19.2	19.1	7.9	11.5
LACERA	7	0.4%	_	1.9	5.4	19.2	19.1	7.9	11.5
Superior Court	54	2.8%	_	1.9	5.5	19.0	18.8	7.7	_
Functional Composites				1 Month	3 Month	FYTD	1 Year	3 Year	
OPEB Growth	985	50.7%	50.0%	2.7	7.6	28.3	31.8	10.6	
Custom OPEB MT Growth Pool				2.7	7.6	28.2	31.5	10.3	
OPEB Credit	379	19.5%	20.0%	-0.1	1.8	9.0	5.7	_	
Custom OPEB MT Credit Pool				-0.1	2.3	9.9	6.5	_	
OPEB Real Assets & Inflation Hedges	395	20.3%	20.0%	3.5	7.1	17.0	7.7	_	
Custom OPEB MT RA & IH Pool				3.5	7.1	17.0	7.2	_	
OPEB Risk Reduction & Mitigation	185	9.5%	10.0%	-1.2	-1.6	-0.6	1.3	4.8	
Custom OPEB MT RR & M Pool				-1.2	-1.6	-0.7	1.2	4.6	
Operating Cash	0.2	0.0%	_						



**Historical Returns** 

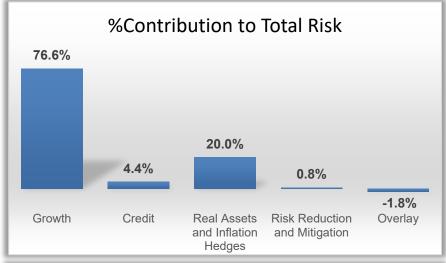


Final target weights effective as of 10/1/19

Functional composites were adopted on 4/1/19

## Total Fund Forecast Risk\*

#### as of February 2021





	%Weight	% Cont. to Total Risk	Standalone Total Risk	Standalone BMK Risk**
Total Fund			14.5	13.3
Growth	51.6%	76.6%	21.9	22.0
Global Equity	38.3%	55.1%	21.5	21.8
Private Equity	12.4%	20.7%	28.6	29.3
Opportunistic Real Estate	0.9%	0.8%	21.7	21.6
Credit	11.2%	4.4%	6.7	5.4
High Yield Bonds	3.3%	1.4%	7.6	6.7
Bank Loans	4.0%	1.1%	5.9	7.0
Illiquid Credit	2.6%	1.3%	9.8	3.8
Emerging Market Debt	1.3%	0.7%	10.5	9.7
Real Assets & Inflation Hedges	15.6%	20.0%	20.8	16.2
Core & VA Real Estate	7.0%	10.5%	31.0	21.6
Natural Resources & Commodities	3.4%	5.0%	24.4	22.6
Infrastructure	2.7%	4.2%	23.8	23.9
TIPS	2.4%	0.3%	5.2	5.1
Risk Reduction and Mitigation	20.7%	0.8%	4.0	3.0
Investment Grade Bonds	17.2%	0.6%	4.6	3.8
Diversified Hedge Funds	2.7%	0.2%	2.4	0.2
Cash	0.8%	0.0%	1.3	0.2
Overlay	1.0%	-1.8%	-	-

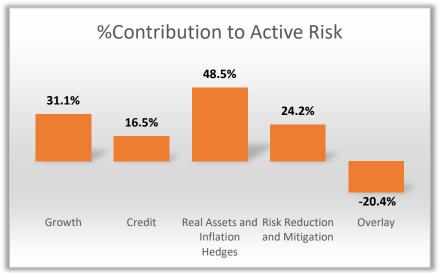
<sup>\*</sup>Implementation of the MSCI Risk Platform is ongoing; reconciliation and refinement of the data is progressing and subject to change.

<sup>\*\*</sup>BMK Risk stands for Benchmark Risk



## Total Fund Forecast Active Risk\*

as of February 2021





	%Weight	Active Weight%	Active Risk	Active Risk Allocation	Active Risk Selection
Total Fund			1.49	0.39	1.11
Growth	51.6%	4.56%	0.46	0.31	0.16
Global Equity	38.3%				
Private Equity	12.4%				
Opportunistic Real Estate	0.9%				
Credit	11.2%	-0.81%	0.25	0.06	0.19
High Yield Bonds	3.3%				
Bank Loans	4.0%				
Illiquid Credit	2.6%				
Emerging Market Debt	1.3%				
Real Assets & Inflation Hedges	15.6%	-1.38%	0.72	-0.01	0.74
Core & VA Real Estate	7.0%				
Natural Resources & Commodities	3.4%				
Infrastructure	2.7%				
TIPS	2.4%				
Risk Reduction and Mitigation	20.7%	-3.32%	0.36	0.33	0.03
Investment Grade Bonds	17.2%				
Diversified Hedge Funds	2.7%				
Cash	0.8%				
Overlay	1.0%	0.95%	-0.30	-0.30	0.00

\*Implementation of the MSCI Risk Platform is ongoing; reconciliation and refinement of the data is progressing and subject to change.

## Change In Fiduciary Net Position





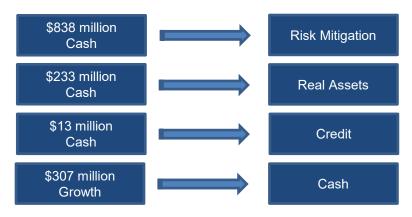
## Portfolio Structural Updates



## Portfolio Structural Updates

#### **Portfolio Movements**

#### **Rebalancing Activity**



#### **Hedges and Overlays**

Program	February Return	February Gain/Loss	Inception <sup>*</sup> Gain/Loss
Currency Hedge**	0.1%	-\$41.3 Million	\$816.6 Million
Cash/Rebalance Overlay***	-0.2%	-\$11.0 Million	\$24.5 Million

#### **Current Search Activity**

#### Status of Active Searches – Subject to Change

Name	RFP Issued	Due Diligence	BOI Review
High Yield Fixed Income Investment Management Services	•		April 2021 BOI
Private Equity Advisor Services	•		Anticipated Summer 2021
Proxy Research and Proxy Voting Platform Services	•		April 2021 BOI

#### **Quiet Period for Search Respondents**

Please see the Appendix for this month's list of respondents to active searches



# Key Initiatives and Operational Updates



## Notable Initiatives and Operational Updates

#### **Key Initiative Updates**

- Onboarding process of new risk, performance system, and real estate administrator continues
- Ongoing implementation and development of LACERA TIDE initiative
- Strategic Asset Allocation Study is ongoing

#### **Completed Actions**

- Financial Analyst II & III searches for Public Equity,
   Portfolio Analytics (Corporate Governance) and Real Assets were completed
- Legal work for the securities lending program has been completed

#### **Operational Updates**

- Completed the Annual Contract Compliance exercise for public markets
- Investments formed a "Back To Office" working group
- Financial Analyst III search
  - Credit

#### Manager/Consultant Updates

■ IDR, manager of the Core Property Index Fund, ownership has changed. The firm is now majority owned by the U.S.-based institutional management firm that previously owned a minority interest. Management and governance of the vehicle remains unchanged.

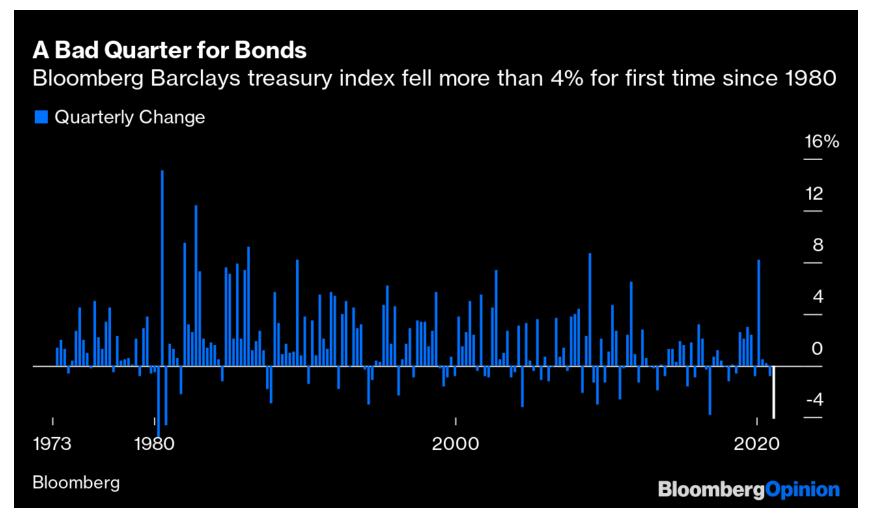


## Commentary



### **Staff Chart of the Month\***

## U.S. Treasuries; Worst Quarter since 1980



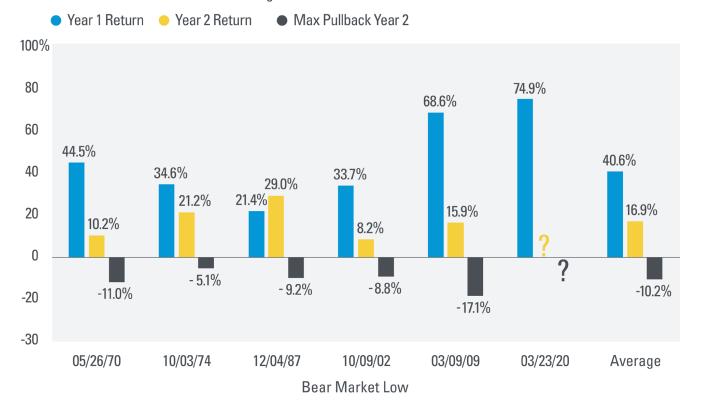
Source: Bloomberg Opinion, March 31, 2021.



# Staff Chart of the Month\* S&P 500 Performance following >30% Bear Market

#### NEW BULL MARKETS HISTORICALLY BUILD ON YEAR ONE GAINS IN YEAR TWO

S&P 500 Index Performance Following >30% Bear Market Bottoms



Source: LPL Research, FactSet 03/19/21

All indexes are unmanaged and cannot be invested into directly. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.



# Appendix



## Quiet Period for Search Respondents

#### High Yield Fixed Income Investment Management Services

- ✓ Advent Capital
- ✓ Alliance Bernstein
- ✓ Ares
- ✓ AXA
- ✓ Barings
- ✓ BlackRock
- ✓ Columbia Threadneedle
- ✓ Credit Suisse
- ✓ Crescent Capital HY
- ✓ DDJ Capital
- ✓ Eaton Vance
- √ Federated Hermes
- ✓ HPS Investment Partners
- ✓ JP Morgan
- ✓ KKR
- ✓ Loomis Sayles
- ✓ Lord Abbett
- ✓ MacKay Shields
- ✓ Mellon
- ✓ Morgan Stanley
- ✓ Muzinich
- ✓ Nomura
- ✓ Payden and Rygel
- ✓ PGIM
- ✓ PIMCO
- ✓ PineBridge
- ✓ Post Advisory
- ✓ Seix Advisors
- ✓ Shenkman Capital
- ✓ T. Row Price
- √ Van Eck Associates
- ✓ Wellington
- ✓ Western Asset
- ✓ Yorkville Asset Management

## Private Equity Advisor Services

- ✓ Albourne America LLC
- ✓ StepStone Global LLC
- ✓ Wilshire Associates Inc.

## Proxy Research and Proxy Voting Services

- ✓ Equilar, Inc.
- ✓ Glass, Lewis & CO., LLC
- ✓ Institutional Shareholder Services Inc. ("ISS")

