

CORPORATE MARGINS ARE FANTASTIC WHICH IS ONE CAUSE OF THE MODERATE INCREASE IN INFLATION

IMPLIES STRONG ARGUMENT FOR A CONTINUATION OF THE BULL MARKET IN EQUITIES

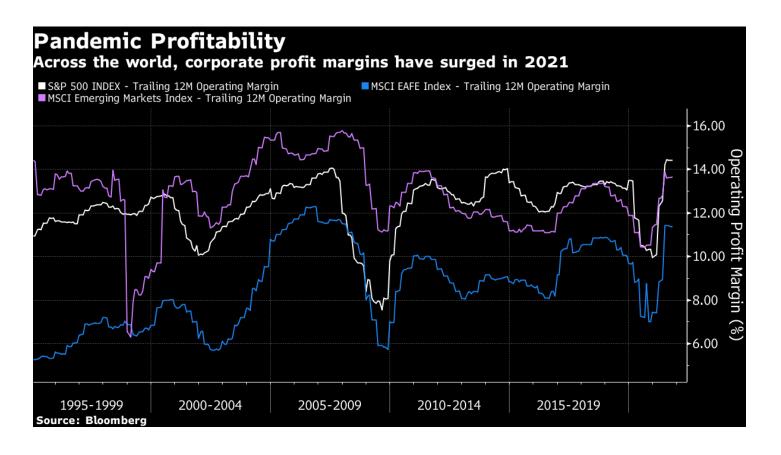


## PROFITABILITY (MARGINS, CASH) DO MAKE AN ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN MUCH LESS LIKLEY

- ✓ Hiring is seen picking up and the unemployment rate falling with US employment numbers due on Friday 8 October
- Mixed Opinions Continue --- Treasury yield curve flattens as inflation expectations steady. 10-yr Bond 1.49%. US Corporate profits on this scale leave companies with lots of cash. Share buybacks? Paying dividends?
- ✓ US inflationary expectations have increased in the range of 2%-3% as can be seen on many charts
- ✓ There is No Alternative to Equities

# CORPORATE PROFITABILITY COMPLIMENTED BY AN IMPROVEMENT IN MARGINS

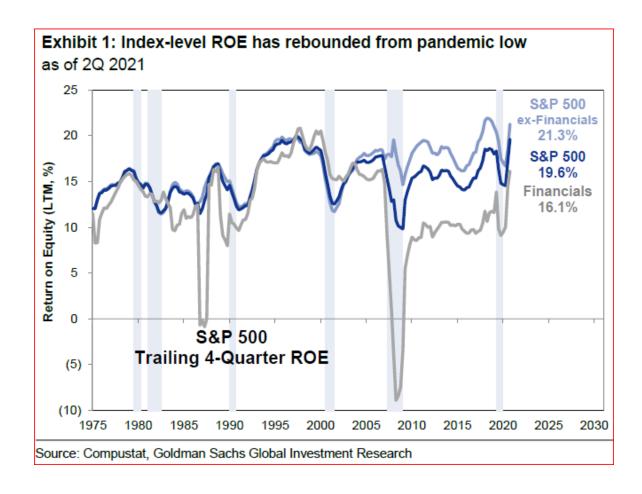
### **Better Margins Helped Improve Corporate Profits.**



- ✓ The COVID-19 pandemic has helped improve corporate margins.
- ✓ US margin improvement outpaced the rest of the world.

# INDEX-LEVEL RETURN ON EQUITY IS BACK AT THE TOP OF ITS RANGE AND CLOSE TO AN ALL-TIME HIGH

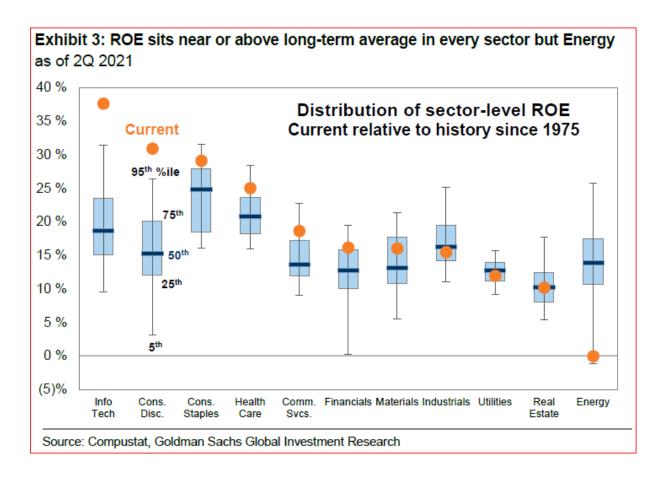
### **Return On Equity (ROE) Has Improved**



✓ S&P financials remain extremely good.

# RETURN ON EQUITY IS IN EXCESS OF ALL HISTORICAL NORMS EXCEPT ENERGY

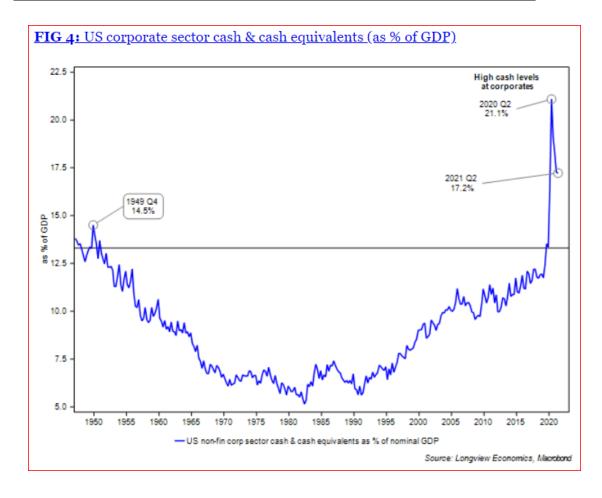
### **Most S&P 500 Sectors Are Above Their ROE Average**



✓ Tech and Consumer Discretionary (Amazon) lead the ROE surge.

### US CORPORATIONS HAVE EXTREMELY HIGH CASH & CASH EQUIVALENTS AS A % OF GDP

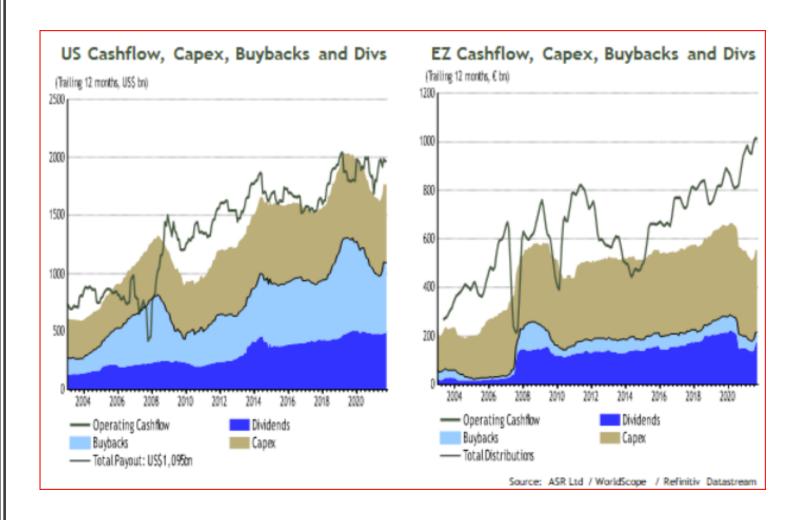
### **Corporate Cash Is Near All-time Highs As A % Of GDP**



✓ Cash on hand helps US Corporations adjust to economic changes.

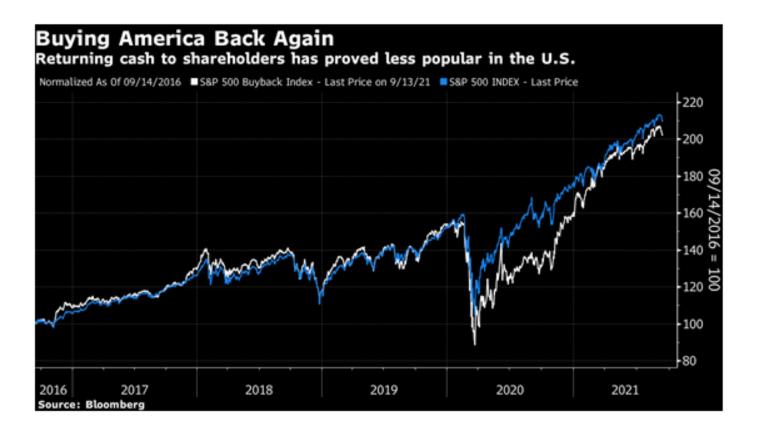
### CORPORATE CASH IS CASHFLOW FOR BUYBACKS AND PAYING DIVIDENDS

### Corporate Cash Gets Returned to Investors through Dividends and Buy Backs.



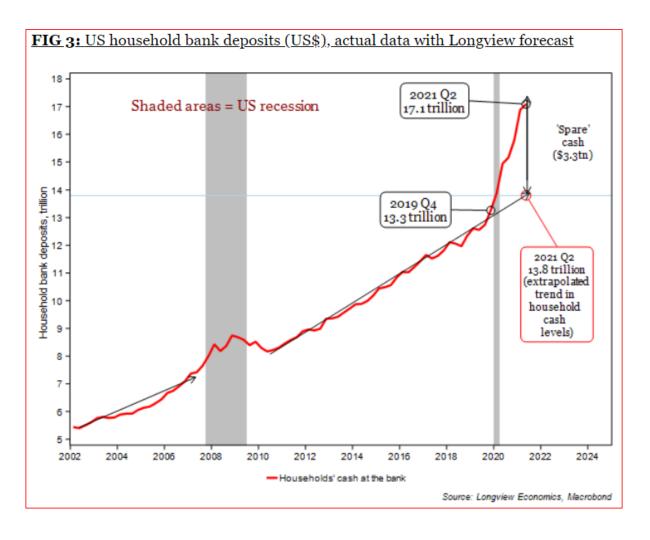
### S&P BUYBACK INDEX VS S&P500 INDEX

### **Corporate Buy Backs Are Correlated With The Rise in the S&P 500**



### US HOUSEHOLD BANK DEPOSITS

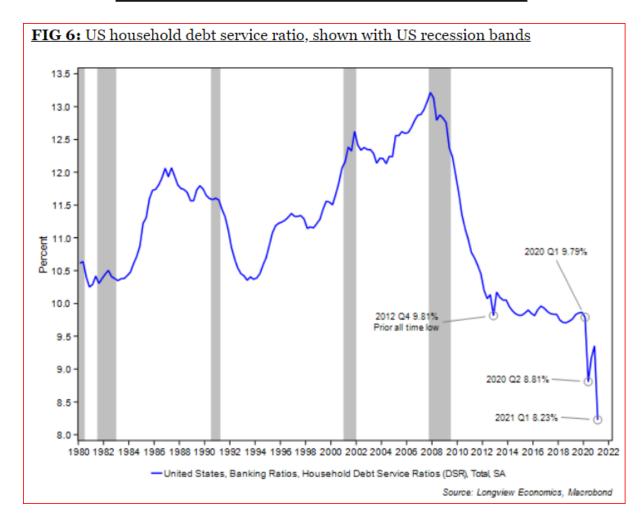
### **US Household Balance Sheets Are Strong**



✓ The US consumer put away cash during the pandemic.

FAMILIES AREN'T EXPERIENCING ANY PARTICULAR DIFFICULTY PAYING THEIR DEBTS BECAUSE INTEREST RATES REMAIN HISTORICALLY LOW

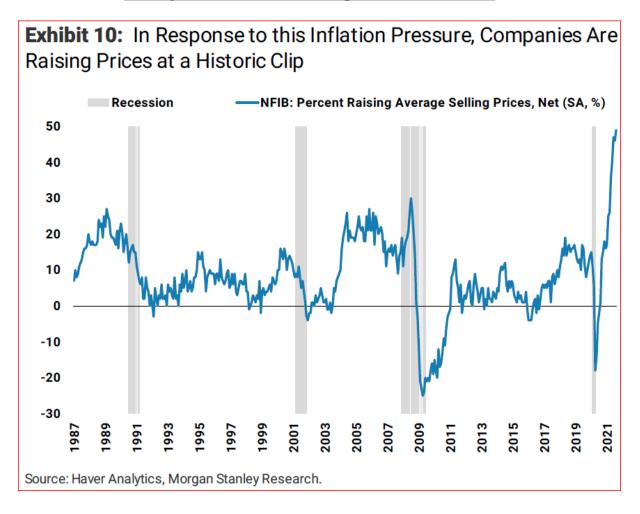
### **Interest Rates Remain Near All-time Lows**



✓ Along with strong balance sheets, the US consumer can borrow at low rates.

COMPANIES BELIEVE THEY HAVE PRICING POWER AND THEY WIDELY INTEND TO TRY TO PASS COSTS ONTO THE CONSUMER

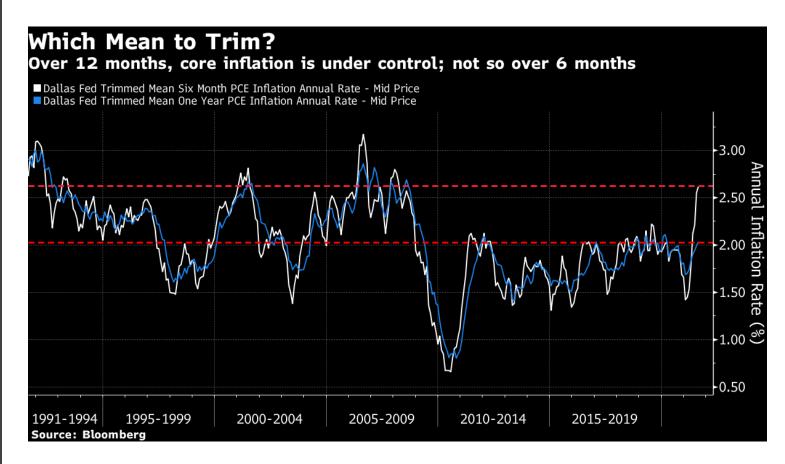
### **Companies Are Passing On Cost Hikes**



✓ So far the consumer has accepted these price hikes.

# THE RESULT OF THESE THINGS AND BOTTLENECK IN OUR ECONOMIES ARE LEADING TO INFLATION

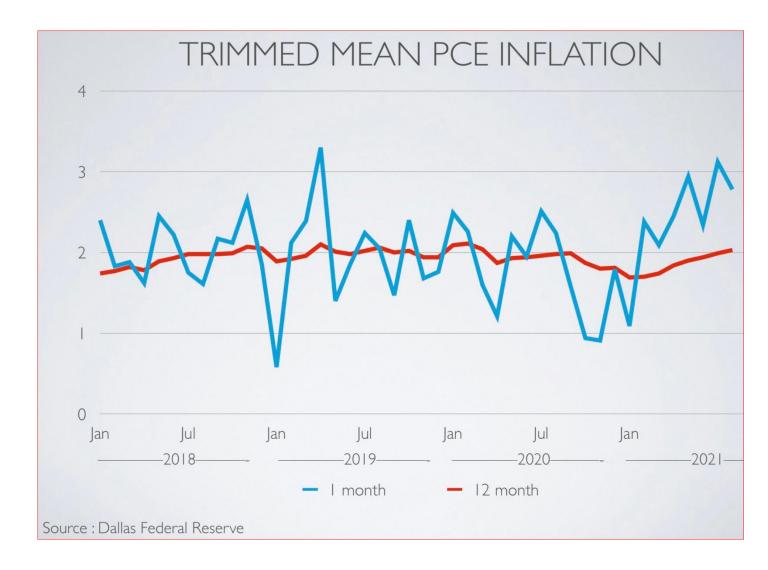
### **Inflation hasn't Run Away**



✓ Although inflation is up, it is only returning to levels seen in 2008.

### THE UNDERLYING RATE OF INFLATION IS NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT

### **Underlying Inflation Rate Remains Reasonable**



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