# Economic Outlook: From Post-Election to Post-Pandemic

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A presentation of BMO Economics https://economics.bmo.com



Major media outlets declare Joe Biden winner of presidential election... Inauguration January 20

Senate election: Republicans 50 (-1) vs Democrats 48 (+1) ...regular and special Georgia elections now runoffs on January 5

House election: Democrats re-win majority... 218 (-5) vs Republicans 202 (+6) with 15 districts' results pending

Recounts, runoffs and legal challenges loom

President-elect Joe Biden





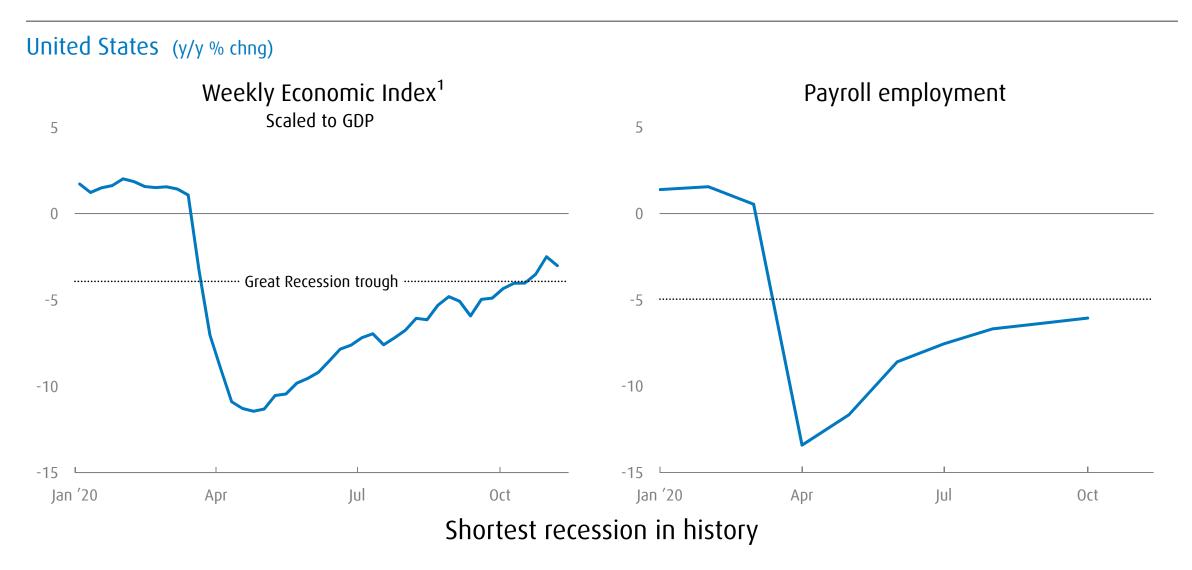
New spending bill by December 11 or government shuts down

Amid surging second wave of COVID-19, more-than-'skinny' fiscal stimulus package likely required asap

Absence of 'blue wave' victory puts hefty tax and spending increases on hold for at least next two years



## Meanwhile, recovery from the deepest post-war downturn continues





## How robust will the recovery be?

**United States** Payroll employment Real GDP (2012 \$ trlns) (mlns) ........ 51 months 8 quarters Should be quicker than recovery from Great Recession (2008-09)



## Massive federal fiscal support so far

#### United States (\$ blns)



Deficit impact <sup>1</sup>	2020	2021	2020-30
Paycheck Protection Program and related provisions	616	13	628
Enhanced unemployment compensation	370	71	442
Recovery rebates for individuals	272	20	292
Direct assistance for state and local governments	150	2	150
Other spending provisions	359	218	713
Other revenue provisions	539	253	375
Total	2,306	576	2,600

CBO: Policies raise 2020 GDP by 4.2%

<sup>2</sup> between zero and \$500 mln



## Fed's four-pronged easing effort

#### Monetary policy measures – United States (\$ blns)

I. Policy Rates	Amount <sup>1</sup>	III. Liquidity Programs		Amount <sup>3</sup>
March 3: -50 bps		Total (topped \$749 bln on June 3)		76
March 15: -100 bps to effective lower bound				
II. Quantitative Easing		IV. Lending Programs		
March 15: \$700 bln cap		Commercial Paper Funding Facility	100	9
March 23: No cap		Corporate Credit Facility	750	46
June 10: Purchase pace no longer pared		Main Street Lending Program	600	42
System Open Market Account		Municipal Liquidity Facility	500	17
Treasuries (~80/mo)	2,015	Term Asset-backed Securities Loan Fac.	100	12
MBS (~40/mo)	628			
Total	2,644	Total	2,050	125

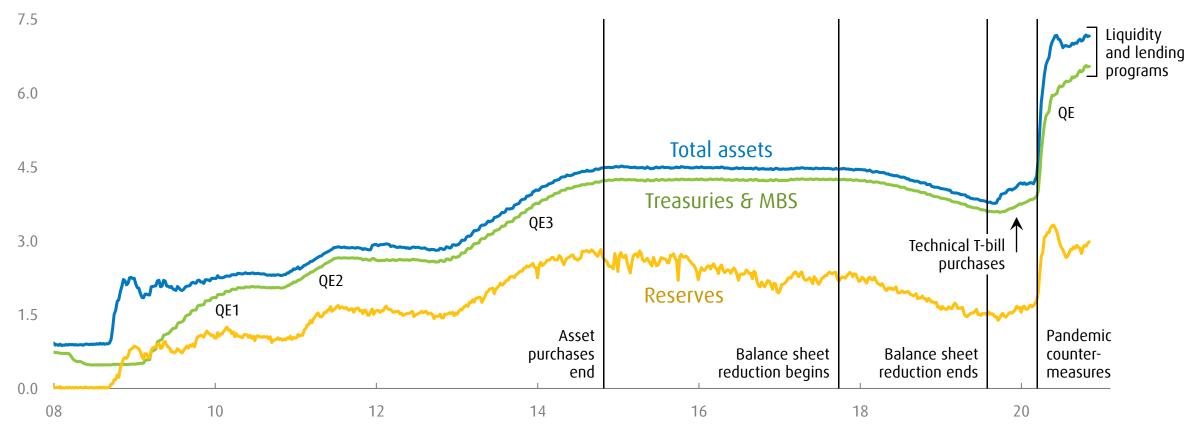
<sup>1</sup> Change since March 11, as of November 4 • <sup>2</sup> \$205 bln Treasury capital backing lending programs, \$289 bln still un-deployed • <sup>3</sup> As of November 4 • Totals may not add up due to rounding



## Fed's balance sheet balloons... now \$7.2 trillion (up \$2.9 trillion since March 11)

United States (US\$ trlns : as of November 4, 2020)

#### Select Fed balance sheet items

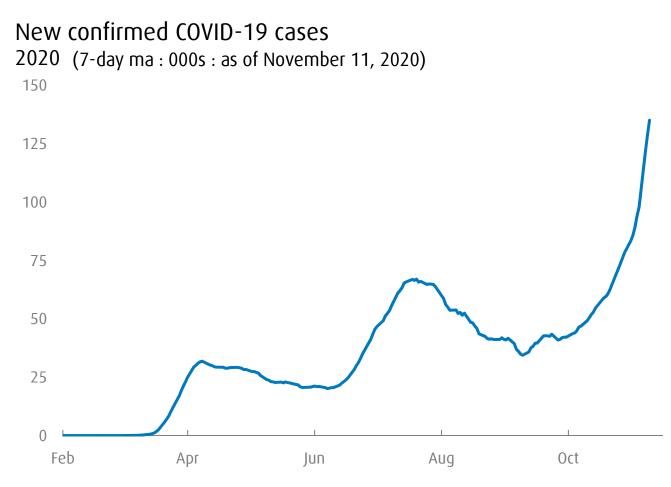




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## Pandemic's path puts economic recovery at risk

#### **United States**



#### States' case rates (incl DC):

- 47 = Higher (>15/100k) and staying high or going up
- 0 = Higher but going down
- 3 = Lower (<15/100k) but going up
- 1 = Lower and staying low or going down

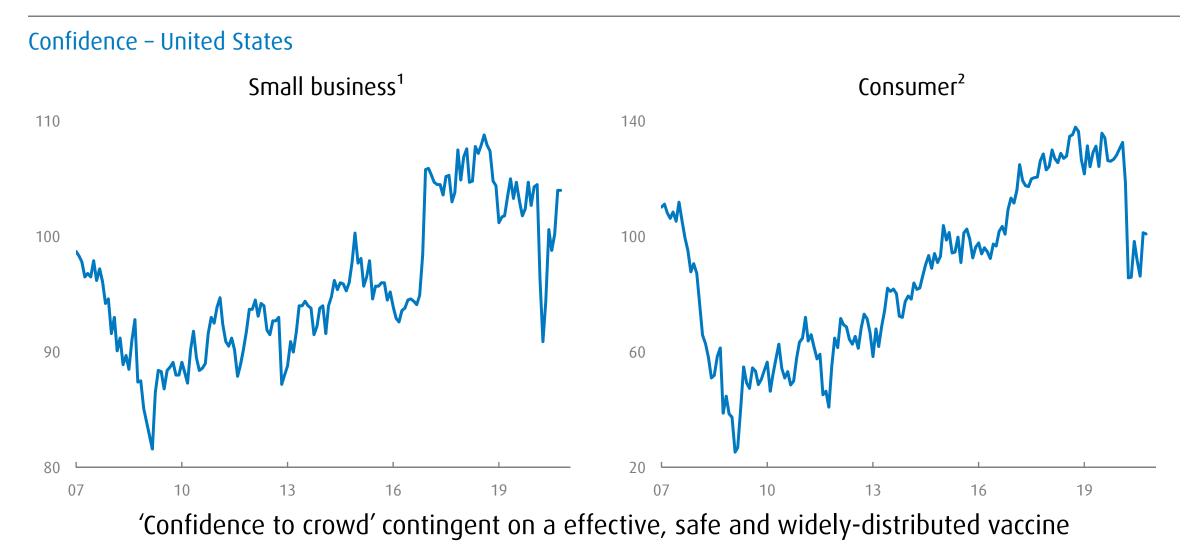
Some states and local jurisdictions increasing or extending restrictions

Renewed damper on business and consumer confidence



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## Confidence constraint



<sup>1</sup> NFIB Small Business Optimism Index (1986 = 100)  $\cdot$  <sup>2</sup> Conference Board Consumer Confidence (1985 = 100)



## Persistent joblessness another headwind for consumer confidence/economy

forecast

2020-end 6.7%, 2021-end 5.5%

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Some job losses are becoming permanent (2.4 mln since February), with many firms...

Having operating constraints (COVID protocols)

Going out of business

Paring personnel to cut costs



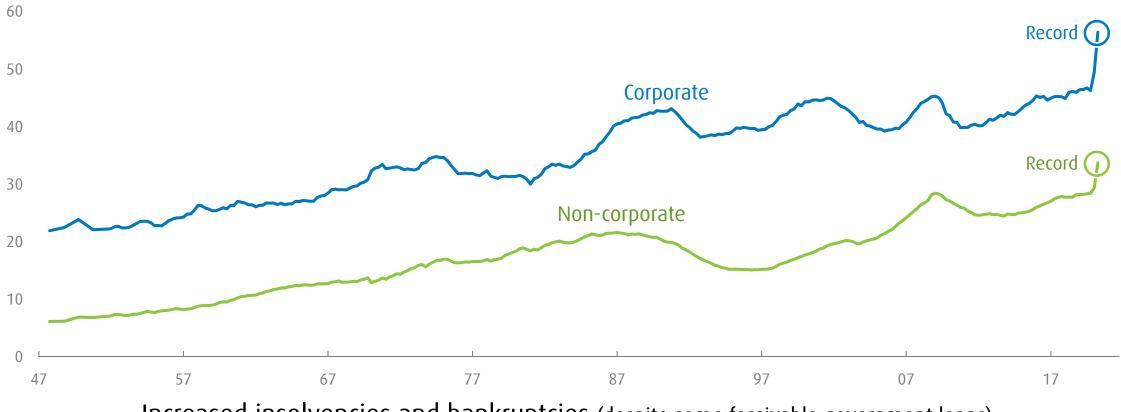
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# Filled to the brim... debt already at record highs by end of last year

United States (% of GDP)

#### Non-financial business sector debt

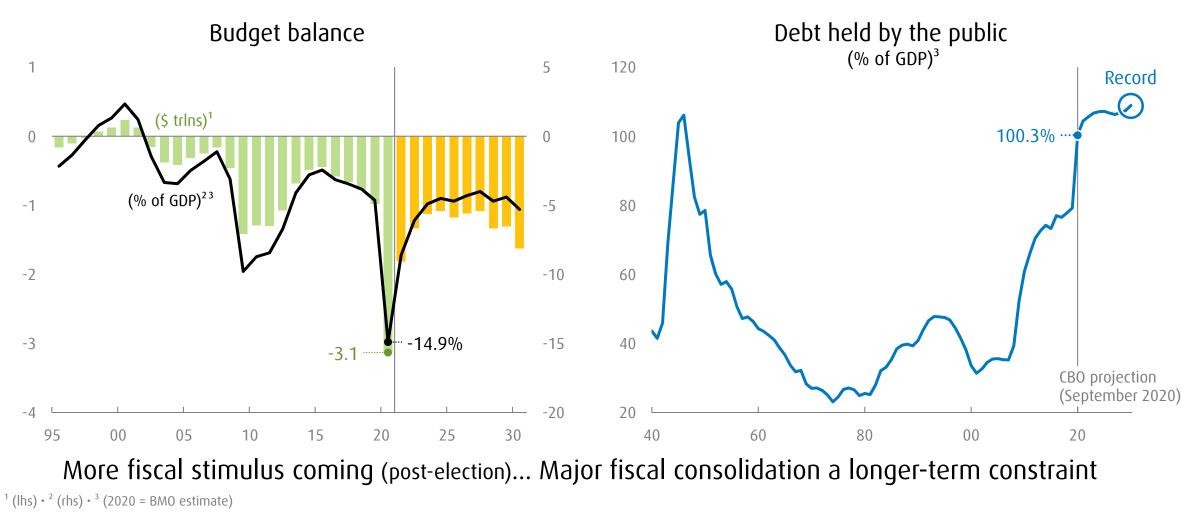


Increased insolvencies and bankruptcies (despite some forgivable government loans)



## Federal budget deficit at post-war highs, public debt at record highs

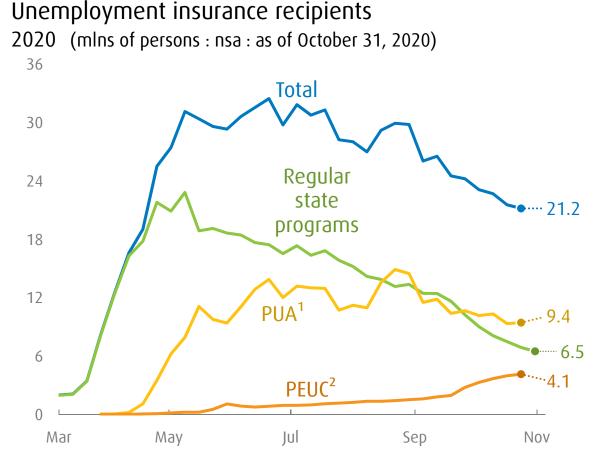
United States (fiscal years)





## Fiscal tailwinds ebbing

#### **United States**



Federal \$600 UI top-up ended (as of August 1), extended as \$300 via executive action (only through September)

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) and Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) programs done by yearend

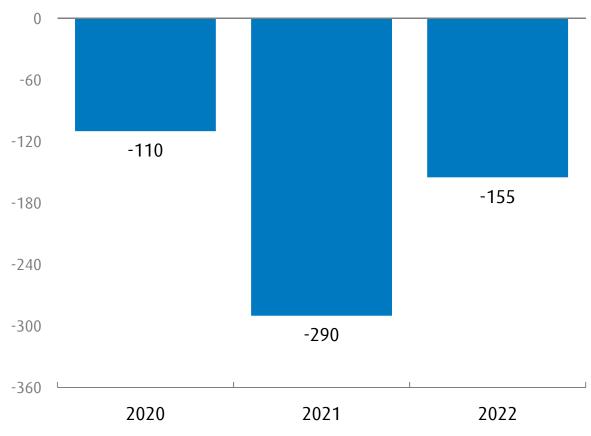
Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) already closed (August 8)

<sup>1</sup> Pandemic Unemployment Assistance • <sup>2</sup> Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation



## Fiscal headwinds forming

#### **United States**



Combined state budget shortfall (fiscal year : \$ blns)

Balanced budget requirements

Spending cuts, tax hikes loom

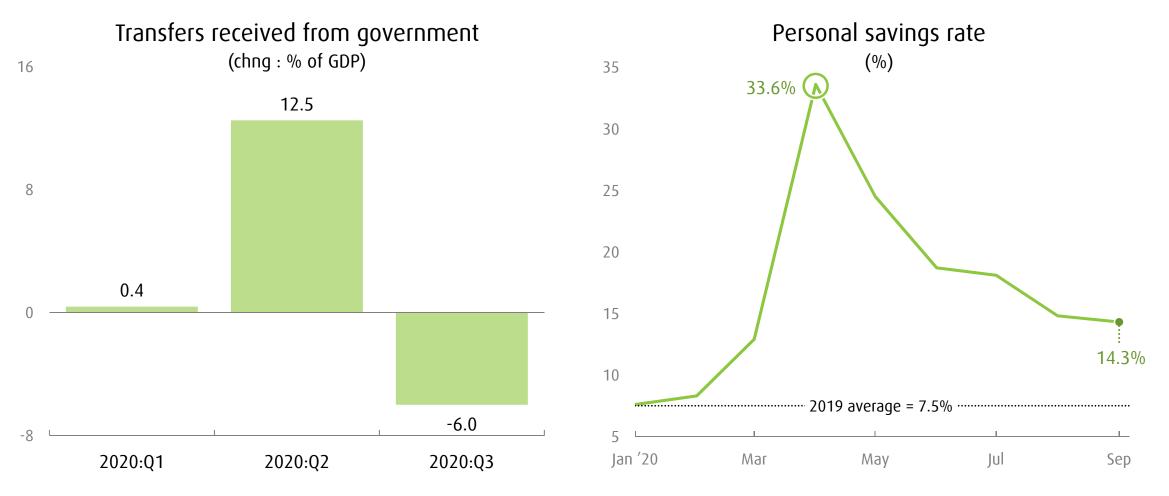
National Governors Association: States need \$500 bln

US Conference of Mayors: Local governments need \$250 bln



## Households had huge income support

**United States** 

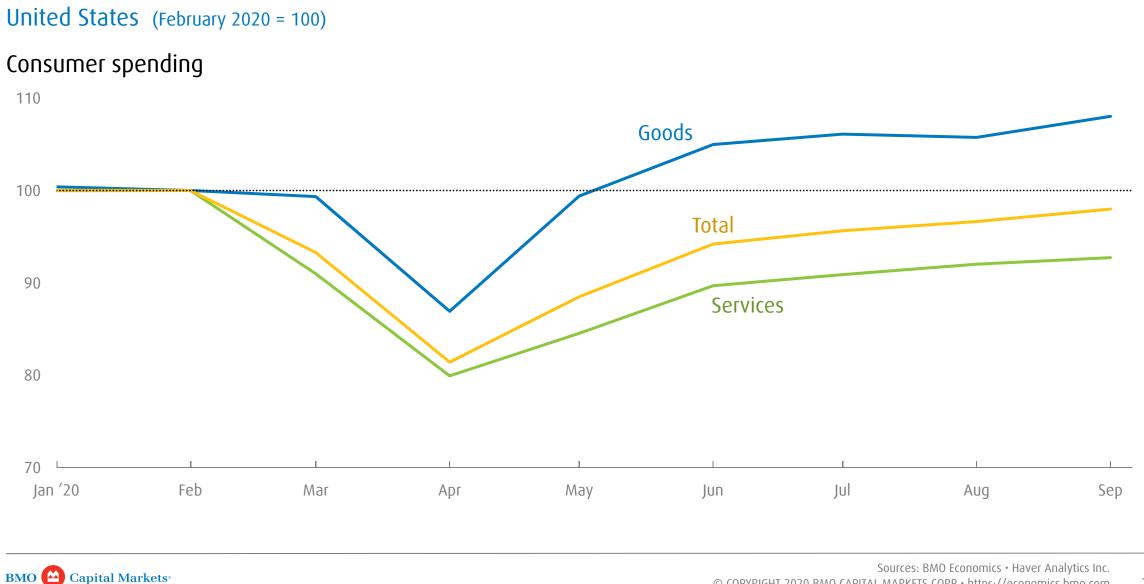




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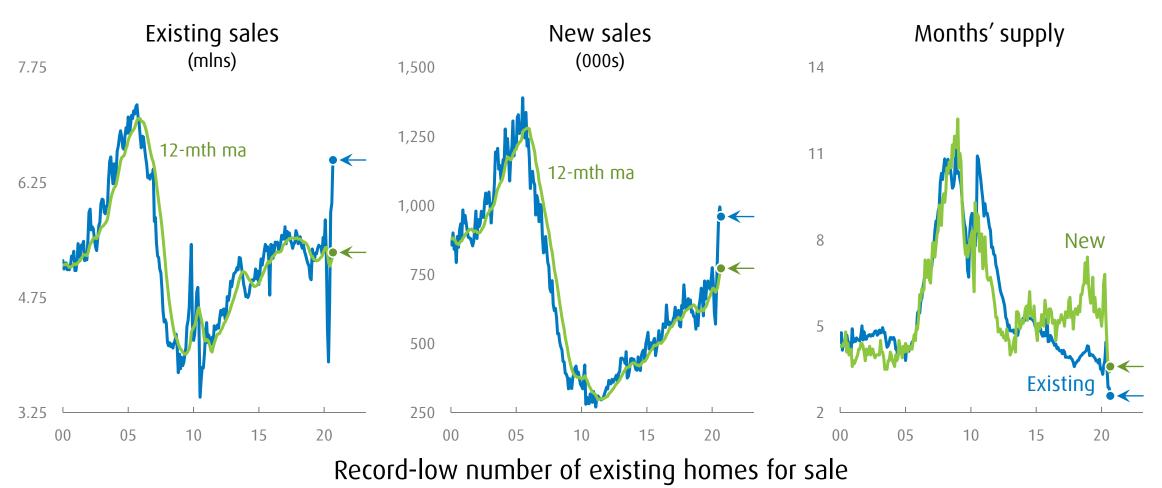
## 'V'-shaped recovery (and then some) for spending on goods

We're here to help.



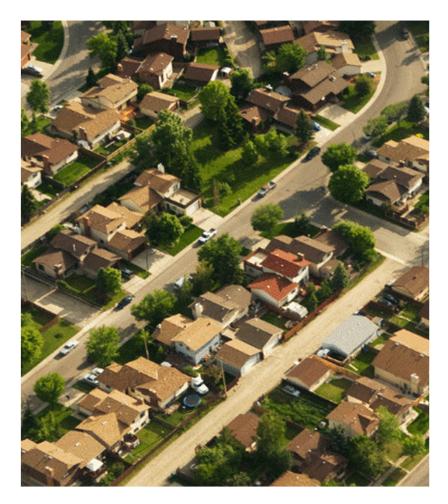
## Home sales surge past pre-pandemic trend

Homes – United States





## Post-COVID housing demand drivers



Sales pent-up during pandemic unwinding Record low mortgage rates Preferences shifted: Bigger abodes (owing to 'work from home') Less dense dwellings (single- over multi-family units) Less dense areas (suburban/exurban/rural over urban)

Pandemic could be the tipping-point for the anticipated 'millennial migration' (from renting downtown to owning in the 'burbs)



## Pandemic's ultimate imprints on economic and social trends

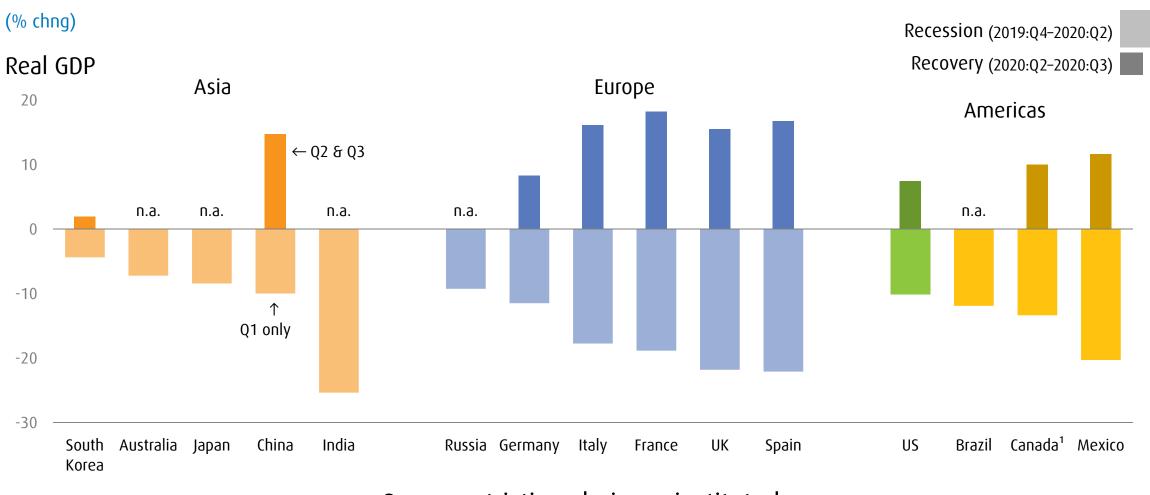


Speed up existing trends Technology Slow down existing trends Globalization Be a catalyst for new trends Work from home Be a tipping-point for pending trends

The 'millennial migration'



## Pandemic slams global growth... Recoveries started as lockdowns lifted



#### Some restrictions being reinstituted

<sup>1</sup> Q3 advanced estimate, Statistics Canada



Real GDP	eal GDP			BMO forecast		
(y/y % chng)	2018	2019	2020	2021		
China	6.8	6.1	2.0	8.0		
South Korea	2.9	2.0	-1.0	3.7		
Australia	2.8	1.8	-3.5	3.7		
US	3.0	2.2	-3.5	4.0		
Russia	2.5	1.3	-4.1	2.8		
Japan	0.3	0.7	-5.0	4.0		
Germany	1.3	0.6	-5.5	5.0		
Canada	2.0	1.7	-5.6	5.5		
Brazil	1.3	1.1	-7.0	2.8		
Italy	0.8	0.3	-8.0	7.5		
France	1.8	1.5	-8.5	8.0		
Mexico	2.2	-0.3	-9.0	3.5		
UK	1.3	1.5	-11.0	6.0		
India	6.1	4.2	-10.3	8.8		
Spain	2.4	2.0	-12.8	7.2		
World	3.5	2.8	-4.0	5.5		

## Key to robustness of recoveries:

Continued (if not even more) accommodative polices

Coronavirus is contained (vaccine?)... no return to widespread lockdowns

Pandemic's legacies (eg, joblessness, indebtedness) don't become problematic

Ranked by 2020



## Greenback drops from pandemic peak... downdrift to continue amid choppy pattern



#### Five drivers:

Ebb and flow of perceived global economic risks

Fed easing aggressively

Pandemic hitting US hard

Massive US budget deficit + stubborn total trade deficit = concerns over 'twin deficits'

Lingering political uncertainty

(January 2, 2000 – 100)

## USMCA took effect July 1



## Key elements:

Modernizes NAFTA (1994), along the lines of TPP (2016)

Autos 75% NA content from 62½%... >40% wages of US\$16/hour or higher

Greater tariff-free access to Canada's supply-managed agricultural sectors

More stringent labor/environmental rules enforcement

6-year re-look, 16-year minimum length

#### Mostly business as usual...

Two-way trade with Canada worth \$725 bln annually (\$2.0 bln daily)... Mexico \$684 bln (\$1.9 bln)

#### ...but:

US/China trade war

- + COVID-19 pandemic
- = More re-shoring potential

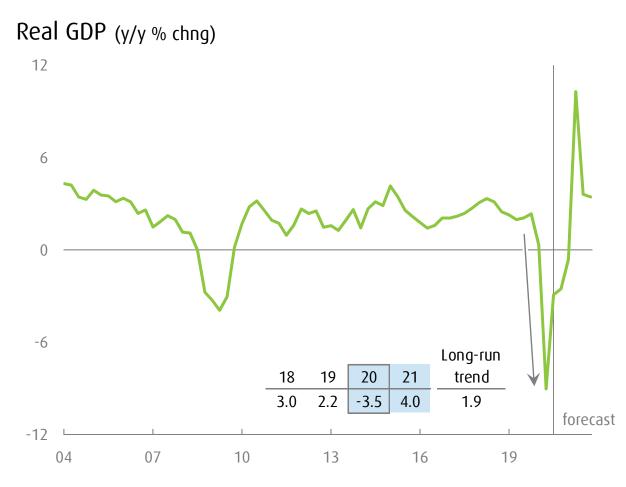
USMCA provides North American trade certainty in an era of global trade uncertainty

US/**Wisconsin** goods exports: Canada 17.8%/**31.1%**, Mexico 15.6%/**15.1%** 



## GDP recovery by end-2021

#### **United States**



Initial growth rates will look stellar (owing to base effects)

Some sectors will lead a lot (eg: health care and social assistance; information; food and beverage stores; warehousing and storage)

Some sectors will lag a lot (eg: accommodation and food services; arts, entertainment and recreation; air transportation; mining)

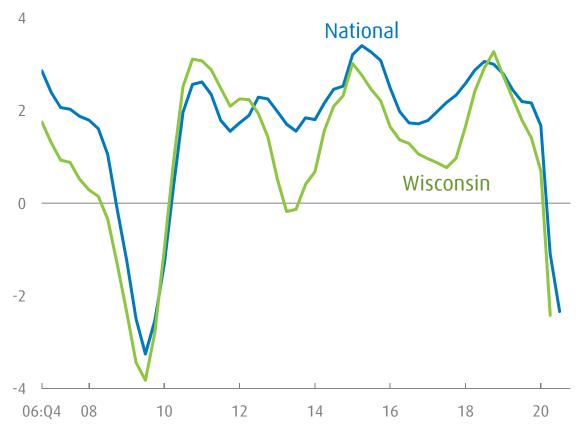
Economic slack will linger afterwards



## Wisconsin's worse downturn

#### United States (4-qtr ma : y/y % chng)

Real GDP



#### Depth of recession (Q1 and Q2 alone)

US: -10.1% WI: -11.4%

#### Slower pre-pandemic momentum

US-China trade war pushed factory sector into recession

## Wisconsin's industrial mix

Relatively high exposure to sectors with deepest downturns... durable manufacturing... health care & social assistance

Relatively low exposure to sectors with shallowest slumps... information... real estate, rental & leasing



# Payrolls rebound... but recovery's robustness jeopardized

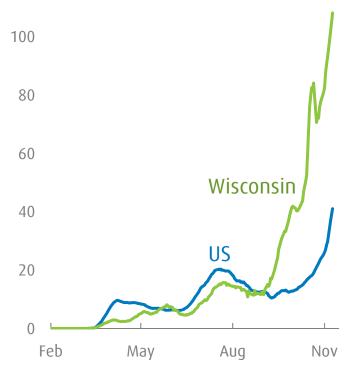
#### **United States**

Employment (thousands)						
	February	March- April	Jobs lost	May- September	Jobs recovered	
Region	(level)	(chng)	(%)	(chng)	(%)	
National	152,463	-22,160	-14.5	11,432	51.6	
Wisconsin	2,994	-476	-15.9	263	55.3	
Select Northeastern Wisconsin MSAs <sup>1</sup>						
Appleton	127	-18	-14.5	9	46.7	
Fond du Lac	49	-8	-15.2	5	69.3	
Green Bay	182	-26	-14.3	15	57.5	
Oshkosh-Neenah	97	-13	-13.3	9	71.3	
Total	455	-65	-14.2	38	58.6	

New confirmed COVID-19 cases

2020 (7-day ma : per 100,000:

as of November 11, 2020) 120



US recovery rate now 54.5% (October)



<sup>1</sup> Metropolitan Statistical Area • Sources: BMO Economics • Haver Analytics Inc. © COPYRIGHT 2020 BMO CAPITAL MARKETS CORP • https://economics.bmo.com

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## Inflation plunges... to remain well contained

#### **United States**



Broad downward pressure due to economic slack

Secular forces of disinflation to counter cyclical pressures: Technology (e-commerce, telework, automation, AI)... Demographics

#### Risks:

Scattered pockets of upward pressure caused by capacity constraints, supply shortages, PPE costs

Medium-term legacy of massive fiscal and monetary policy stimulus



## Fed's longer-run goals redefined

#### **United States**



#### Maximum employment:

Policy decisions informed by "shortfalls" of employment from its maximum level, no longer "deviations"

Means no preemptive tightening as jobless rate approaches and even falls below natural rate (4.1%) again

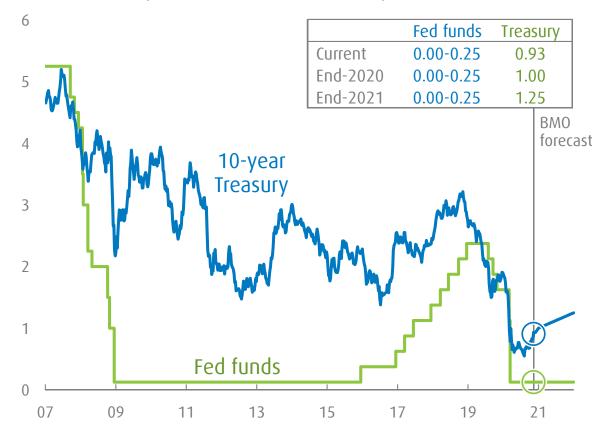
## Price stability:

Inflation that "averages" 2% over time

Policy will target "moderately above 2% for some time" after periods of persistent sub-2% inflation



#### **United States**



#### Interest rates (% : as of November 11, 2020)

#### FOMC projects no rate hikes until after 2023:

Unanimous view for 2020 and 2021... only 1 of 17 participants project hikes in 2022 with 4 in 2023

#### Mild bond yield rise:

Investor risk appetites whetted as economic recovery continues... amid persistent big budget deficits

[history] weekly averages • [forecast] monthly averages



## Bottom line



GDP recovery by 2021-end amid mixed industry performance... Wisconsin to lag

Employment recovery by mid-2023 with higher-running jobless rate

Inflation pressures well contained (for now)

Fed rate hikes on hold (2024 at the earliest)

## Key risks:

Pandemic's path, lingering political uncertainty, US-China relations, extreme climate events



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