

		<u>Feb 2021</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>1-Year</u>	<u>3-Years</u>	<u>5-Years</u>	<u>10-Years</u>
U.S. Large Cap Equities	S&P 500	2.76%	1.72%	31.29%	14.14%	16.82%	13.43%
U.S. Small Cap Equities	Russell 2000	6.23%	11.58%	51.00%	14.87%	17.92%	11.86%
Energy Infrastructure Equities	Alerian US Midstream Energy Index	8.41%	13.74%	2.48%	-2.42%	4.09%	-
U.S. Real Estate Equities	Dow Jones U.S. Select REIT Index	5.33%	5.12%	1.50%	7.29%	5.06%	7.24%
Global Equities	MSCI All Country World Index	2.32%	1.85%	30.25%	10.29%	14.24%	8.85%
International Developed Equities	MSCI EAFE	2.24%	1.15%	22.46%	4.59%	9.73%	5.04%
Emerging Market Equities	MSCI Emerging Markets	0.76%	3.85%	36.05%	6.35%	15.24%	4.41%
U.S. Taxable Fixed Income	Barclay's U.S. Aggregate	-1.44%	-2.15%	1.38%	5.32%	3.55%	3.58%
U.S. Tax-Exempt Fixed Income	Barclay's Municipal Aggregate	-1.59%	-0.96%	1.06%	4.83%	3.43%	4.44%
High Yield Fixed Income	Barclay's U.S. Corporate High Yield	0.37%	0.70%	9.38%	6.57%	8.97%	6.50%
Floating Rate Loans	S&P/LSTA Leveraged Loan	0.59%	1.76%	5.77%	4.22%	5.86%	4.25%
International Fixed Income	Barclay's Global Aggregate Ex-U.S.	-1.94%	-2.94%	6.28%	2.46%	3.45%	1.58%

- Global equity markets pushed higher in February as new infection rates fell amid the widespread rollout of COVID-19 vaccinations.
- In the U.S., the signing of a series of executive orders was generally well received by investors, and the expectation of congressional approval for the President's \$1.9 trillion "Rescue Plan" sent the Russell 2000 Index (small cap equities) 6.2% higher.
- The rotation from "growth" to "value" continued in February and the Russell 1000 Value Index reported a 6% gain (Russell 1000 Growth was flat at 0%). This performance divergence was driven in part by Energy which gained 23%, amid a \$9 jump in the price of crude oil (+18%).
- Foreign equity markets were broadly positive in February against a backdrop of strengthening PMI data, low borrowing rates and stimulus.
 - International developed outperformed emerging markets equities in February after a strong one-year recovery in emerging markets.
- Government bond yields rose sharply in February amid higher government spending and an expectation of inflation. The 10-year U.S. Treasury yield increased the most, rising nearly 0.4% to 1.5%, which pushed the total return down more than 3% for the month.
- Investment grade taxable and municipal bonds were also negative in February, falling 1.4% and 1.6%, respectively.
- Higher yielding bonds and floating rate loans were sheltered from the February price declines and gained 0.4% and 0.6%, respectively.
- International bonds declined as a result of higher yields and a stronger dollar.

Economic Update

- The U.S. dollar declined 0.3% against the Canadian dollar in February.
- The Canadian economy recorded its worst year on record after shrinking by 5.4%, according to Statistics Canada.
- This compression included 2.3% GDP growth during the final quarter of the year and consistent growth beginning in May.
- The Canadian economy contracted twice as much as the U.S. economy in 2020 despite having far fewer Covid-19 cases per capita.
- Looking ahead, the outlook for 2021 is brighter as analysts expect a rebound in resource sector activity and a robust housing market.
- Guidance also suggests strength in manufacturing and wholesale trade.



Date Range	USD to CAD	+/-
January 2021	1.2754-1.2737	-0.1%
1-Year	1.3411-1.2737	-5.0%
3-Years	1.2807-2.2737	-0.5%

\$USD 1,000,000
 =
\$CAD 1,273,760
 @ 1.27376
 (2/28/2021)

CAD Profile	
*Inflation Rate	1.0% (January 2021)
Interest Rate	0.25% (1/20/2021)
Information	http://www.bankofcanada.ca

*Total CPI Inflation

Sources: xe.com, Statistics Canada, bankofcanada.com

¹ Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development

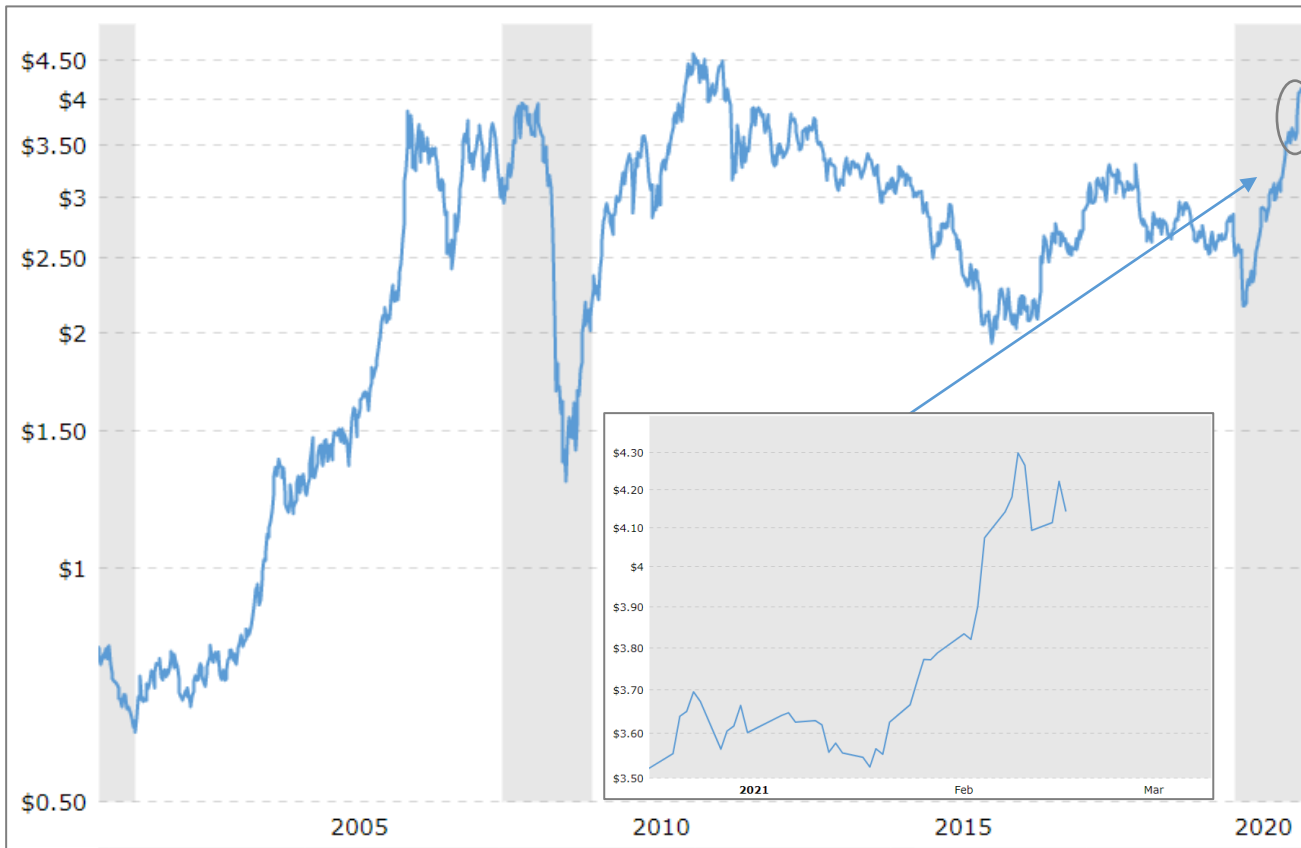


Independence

Asset
Advisors

The larger chart below shows the historical daily COMEX copper price, which is displayed in U.S. dollars per pound. The chart provides 20 years of price history as well as past recessions. The chart embedded in the bottom right-hand corner provides a zoomed-in image of the 2021 calendar year copper price movement.

The price of copper as of February 28th was \$4.09 per pound. Over the past 12 months the price of copper has increased \$1.55, or 61%.



Copper Price Outlook

Copper prices continued to rise in February as a result of strong expected demand and supply constraints.

The outlook for the commodity is favorable over the short and long-term due in part to President Biden's plan to invest heavily in U.S. infrastructure as well as China's ongoing economic recovery.

China, the world's largest buyer and consumer of copper, reported economic growth of 2.3% in 2020, its lowest annual growth rate in nearly 50 years. Consensus guidance suggests higher growth in 2021, which should generate greater demand for copper.

According to BDA Research, Chinese demand for copper "is so high that inventories there are at their lowest level in nearly 10 years."

While China was the primary driver of copper prices in 2020, demand is growing globally as the economic recovery broadens.

According to Bank of America Merrill Lynch, 2021 prices could eclipse copper's previous high of \$4.54.



The chart below shows the historical daily West Texas Intermediate (WTI or NYMEX) crude oil prices per barrel, displayed in U.S. dollars. The chart provides 20 years of price history and includes shaded columns to reflect past U.S. economic recessions.

Oil prices were up \$16.74 per barrel year-to-date, or 37%.

Since the \$11.26 low point on April 21, 2020, prices have soared \$50.24 per barrel, or 446%.

The price of crude oil was \$61.50 per barrel as of February 28, 2021.



Oil Price Outlook

Oil prices rose \$9.30 per barrel in February, or 17.8%. The rapid increase resulted from a dramatic 14 million barrel domestic gasoline stockpile decline and an uptick in consumer and commercial demand.

It should be noted that the U.S. gasoline inventory decline was the steepest since 1990, the result of a polar blast that reduced refining capacity in the U.S. Gulf Coast by more than 5 million barrels per day during the latter part of February.

Looking ahead, focus will shift to OPEC+, which has maintained production cuts, and its potential production ramp-up by 500,000 barrels-per-day in April amid an expectation for higher demand for gasoline as government restrictions are loosened with the widespread distribution of COVID-19 vaccines.

The price outlook for crude oil remains positive with the expectation of a brief pullback in April.

