# Commercial Real Estate and the Covid-19 Recovery

John D. Worth May 2021



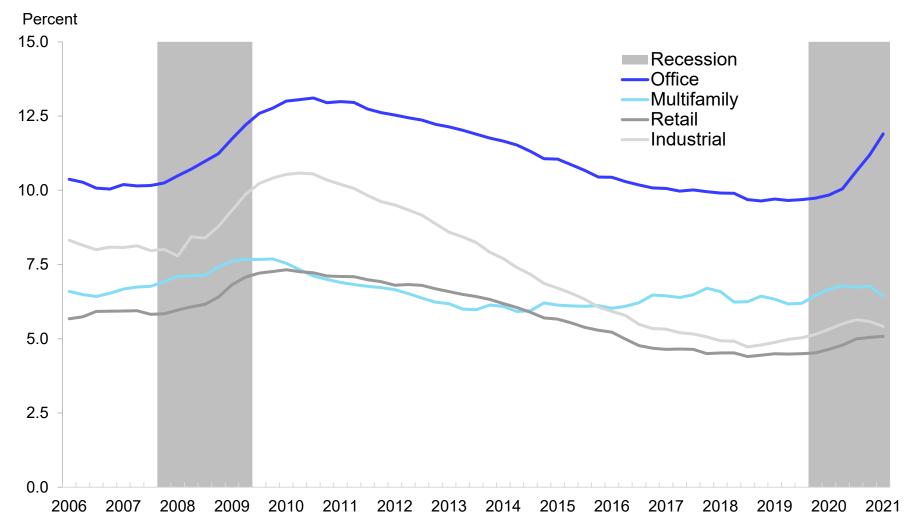
# **Key Themes Emerging from Covid-19**

4 key themes for 2021 and 2022

- Digitization and 21<sup>st</sup> Century real estate
- Work-from-home and the future of offices
- Interest rates and inflation expectations
- ESG integration

## **Vacancy Rates**

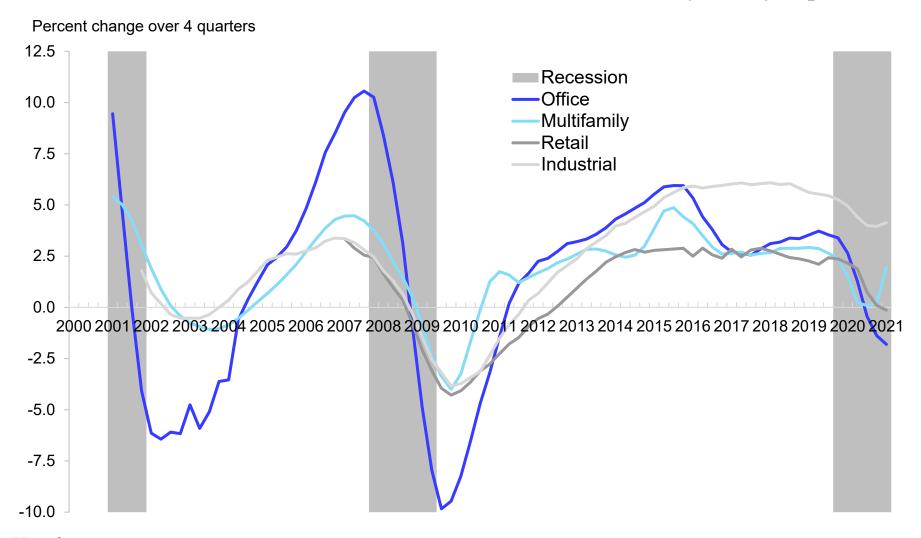
Office vacancy rates moved sharply higher in 2021:Q1. Multifamily and industrial vacancy rates declined, while retail vacancies were little changed



Nareit. Source: CoStar, Nareit

#### **Rent Growth**

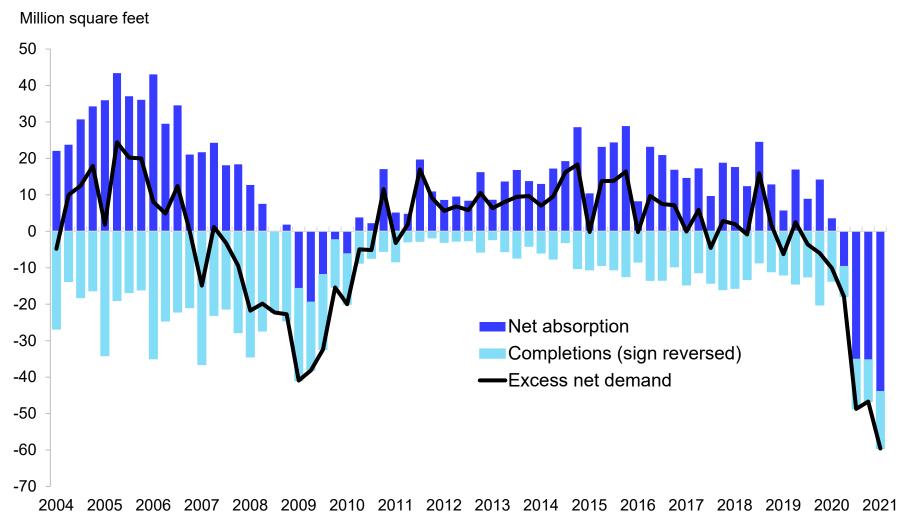
Office rents have declined over the past four quarters, with the largest quarterly declines in 2020 Q2 & Q3. Retail rents are flat, while multifamily rents jumped in Q1



Nareit Source: CoStar, Nareit

# **Demand and Supply of Office Space**

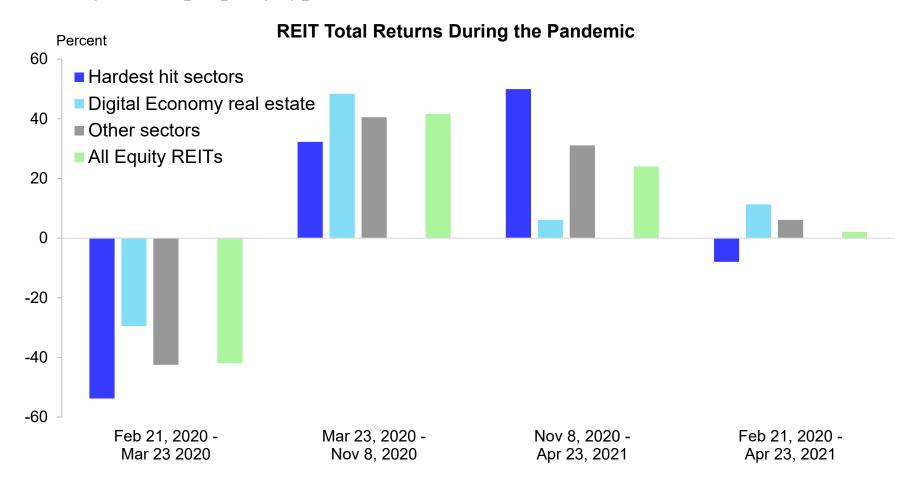
Net absorption of office space was negative 44 million square feet in 2021:Q1, a record decline in leased space



Nareit Source: CoStar, Nareit

#### **REITs and Pandemic Era Returns**

Share prices fell across the board in spring of 2020. Valuations are recovering, but unevenly across property types



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Index / Property Sector	Constituents	Market Cap (\$M)	Total Return (%) Period			
			Feb 21, 2020 - Mar 23 2020	Mar 23, 2020 - Nov 8, 2020	Nov 8, 2020 - Apr 23, 2021	Feb 21, 2020 - Apr 23, 2021
All Equity REITs	158	1,321,849	(41.9)	41.6	24.0	2.1
Equity REITs	150	1,060,162	(44.4)	40.9	27.7	0.1
Retail Shopping Centers Regional Malls Free Standing Lodging/Resorts	32 18 4 10 13	156,390 55,219 41,923 59,248 39,313	(54.6) (52.0) (62.3) (50.3) (56.5)	25.9 11.0 21.8 41.9 25.2	63.5 93.3 90.2 29.8 78.3	(6.5) 3.1 (12.6) (8.5) (2.8)
Infrastructure Data Centers Industrial	4 5 13	223,472 122,998 150,549	(28.5) (24.8) (34.5)	39.7 53.5 58.6	8.0 (3.5) 12.3	7.9 11.4 16.6
Office Residential Apartments Manufactured Homes Single Family Homes Diversified Health Care Self Storage Timber	19 20 15 3 2 16 17 5	90,845 193,552 135,020 29,822 28,711 50,258 122,329 77,799 38,215	(43.8) (44.1) (44.7) (40.9) (44.4) (53.1) (50.6) (30.9) (51.1)	12.7 35.4 27.5 40.0 75.6 33.0 43.8 52.0 91.4	36.7 29.1 35.2 14.8 18.8 36.0 29.8 25.7 37.3	(13.4) (2.4) (4.7) (5.1) 15.9 (15.1) (7.8) 32.0 28.4
Home Financing Commercial Financing	20 13	43,022 26,675	(61.0) (66.2)	53.4 90.8	35.2 55.0	(19.0) (0.2)
Russell 1000 ®			(33.7)	62.0	21.0	30.0

Source: FTSE, Nareit, FactSet.

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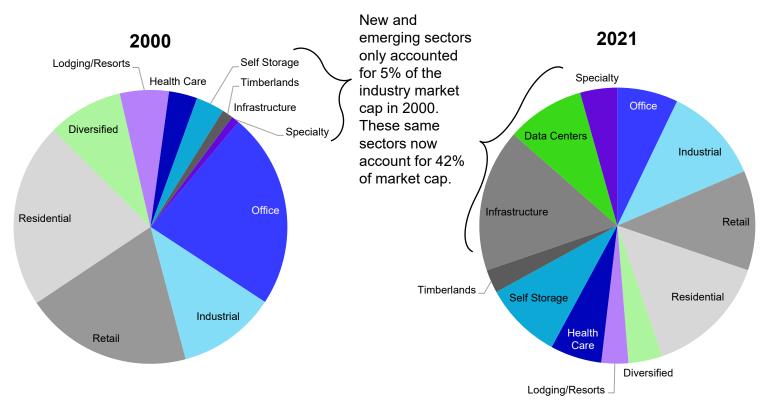
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#### **REIT Sectors over Time**

Listed REIT property ownership has become more diverse over time

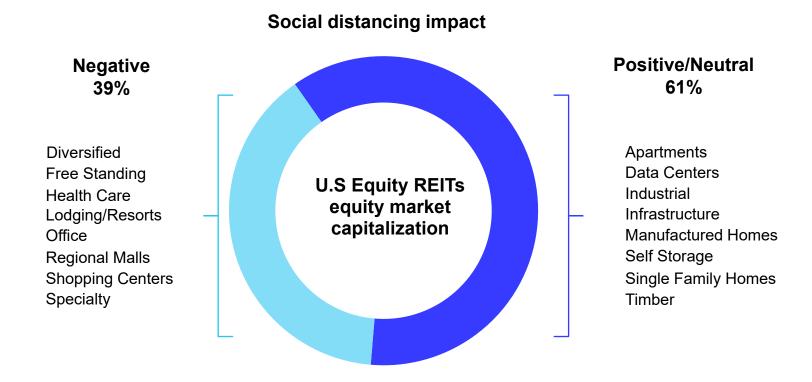


- Historically, the dominant property sectors offering the largest scale and investment opportunity included retail centers, apartment buildings, office buildings, and industrial warehouses.
- The industry has expanded to include property types reflecting the evolution of the changing U.S. economy and providing investors with a broader opportunity set.

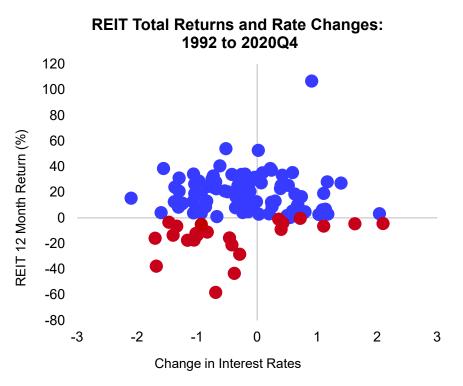


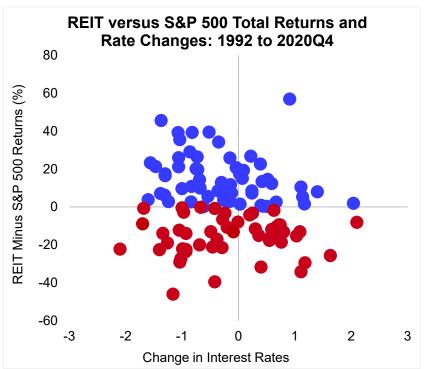
### **Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on REIT Sectors**

60% of Equity REITs are less impacted by social distancing



# REIT performance positive and often outperforms stock market during periods of rising rates



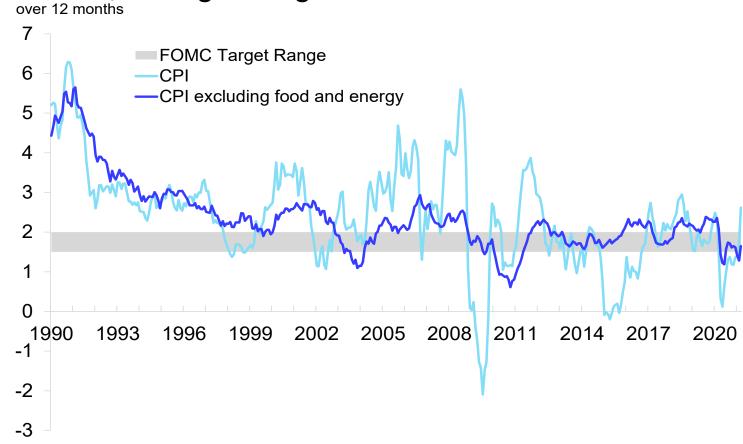


Positive REIT returns in 83% of rising rate periods

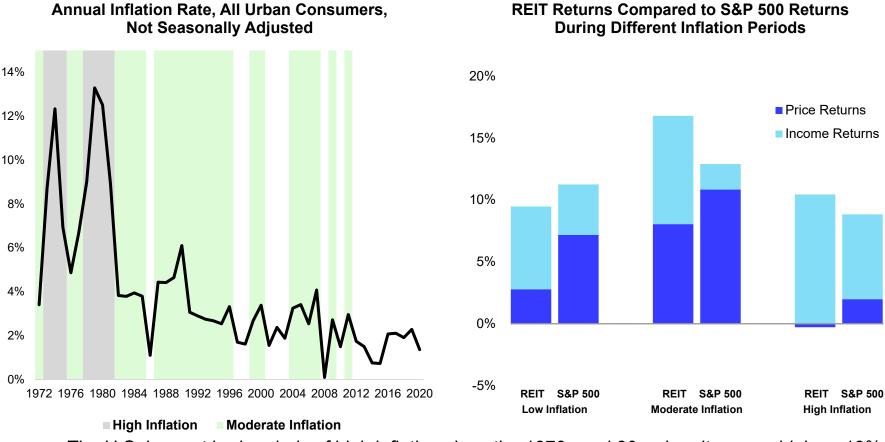
REIT returns exceed S&P 500 in 50% of rising rate periods

# **Inflation Expectations**

Core inflation has stayed near the FOMC's target range since the mid-1990s



#### **REIT Performance At Different Inflation Levels**

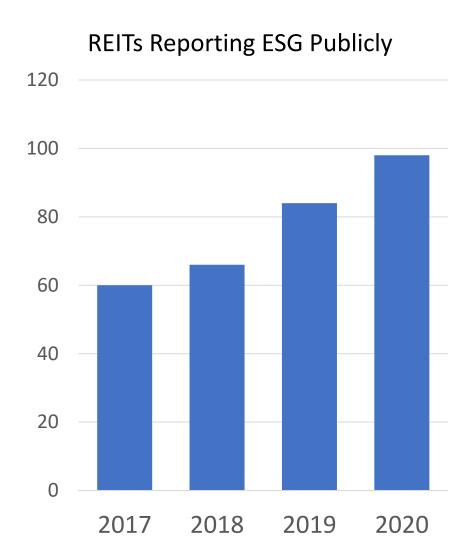


- The U.S. has not had periods of high inflation since the 1970s and 80s when it was as high as 13% annually
- During periods of high inflation, REITs' total return was higher than the S&P 500 while having comparable returns in periods of low and moderate inflation

# **REITs and Sustainability**

REITs are reporting on sustainability and ESG

- The number of REITs that report on ESG each year continues to increase. In 2020, 98 of the 100 largest equity REITs publicly reported on ESG efforts and outcomes.
- REITs are reporting using frameworks including GRESB, CDP and GRI and increasingly are disclosing carbon targets and sustainability goals.
- REITs are also increasing their staff dedicated to sustainability, the diversity of their Boards, and engaging in community development programs.
- Nareit is a resource for information on sustainability initiatives by REITs:
  - REIT Sustainability



#### Contact

#### Disclaimer

If you have any questions, please contact the team

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