

#### Institutional Advisory & Solutions

## INFLATION & REAL ASSETS INVESTING



MODERATOR

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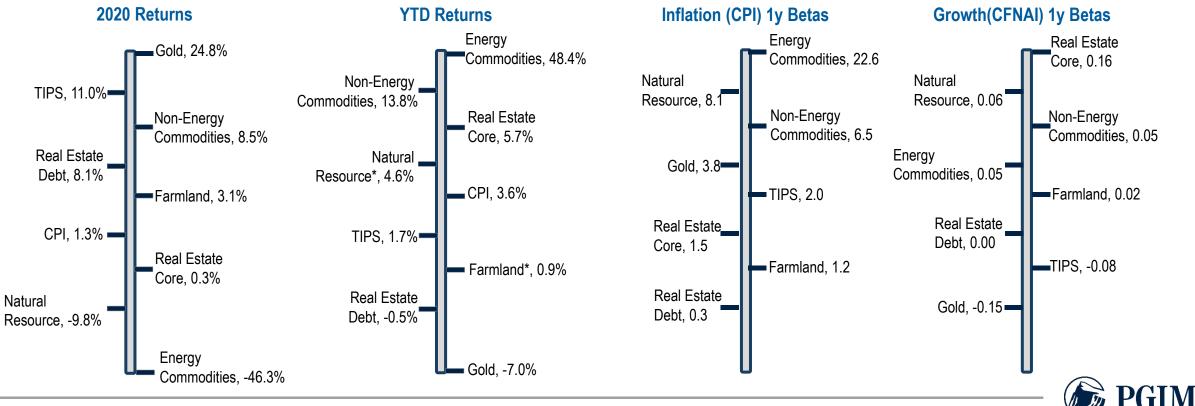
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### THE PURSUIT OF OUTPERFORMANCE

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## The Diversity of Real Assets

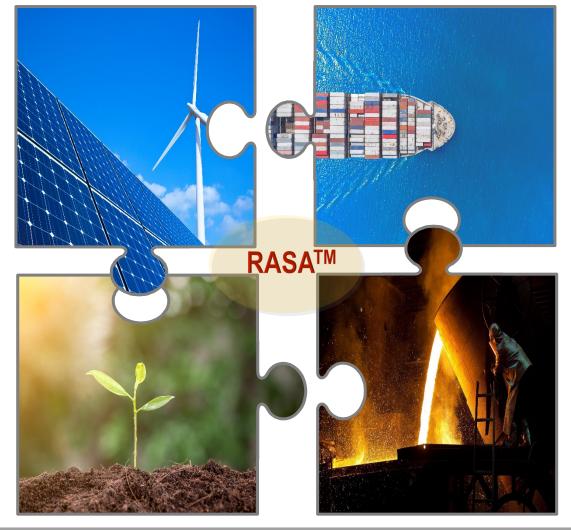
- Investors often group different real assets into a single general category
- In 2020, real assets with high-inflation exposure performed poorly, while assets with low-growth exposure did well
- YTD (as of 6/30/2021), this relative performance reversed, real assets with high inflation or growth exposure did better
- Macroeconomic and market sensitivities also greatly differ at asset-class and subsector levels



## The Four Elements for Successful Real Assets Investing

#### Horizon

 Investor's investment horizon matters
Correlations and betas differ with horizon



#### Uncertainty

- Parameters like betas are very uncertain
- Account for uncertainty in portfolio construction

#### **Economic Environment**

- Betas differ in stagflation vs. stagnation
  Allocations to real assets differ depending on economic
  - environment

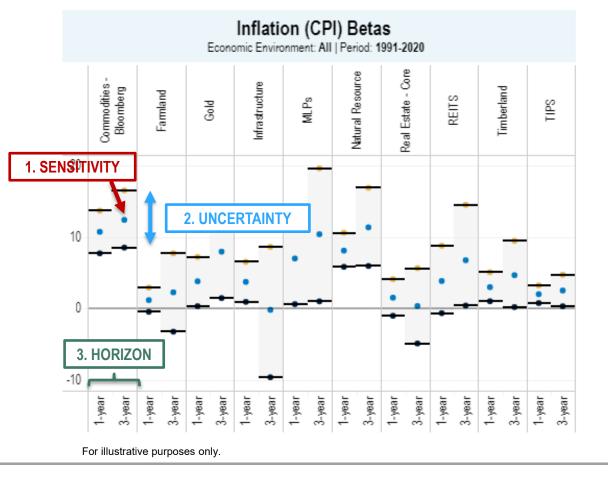
#### Sensitivities

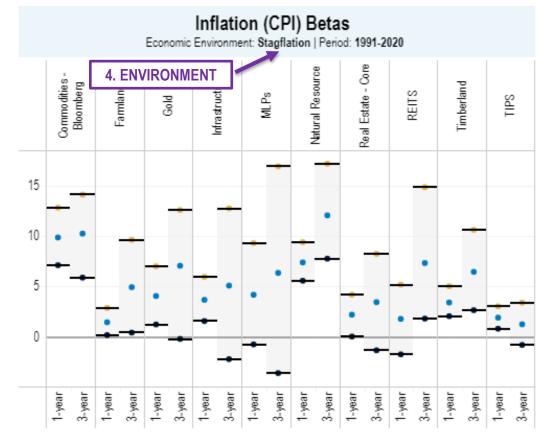
- Real assets sensitivities (*i.e.*, betas) differ widely
- Align allocations with investment objectives



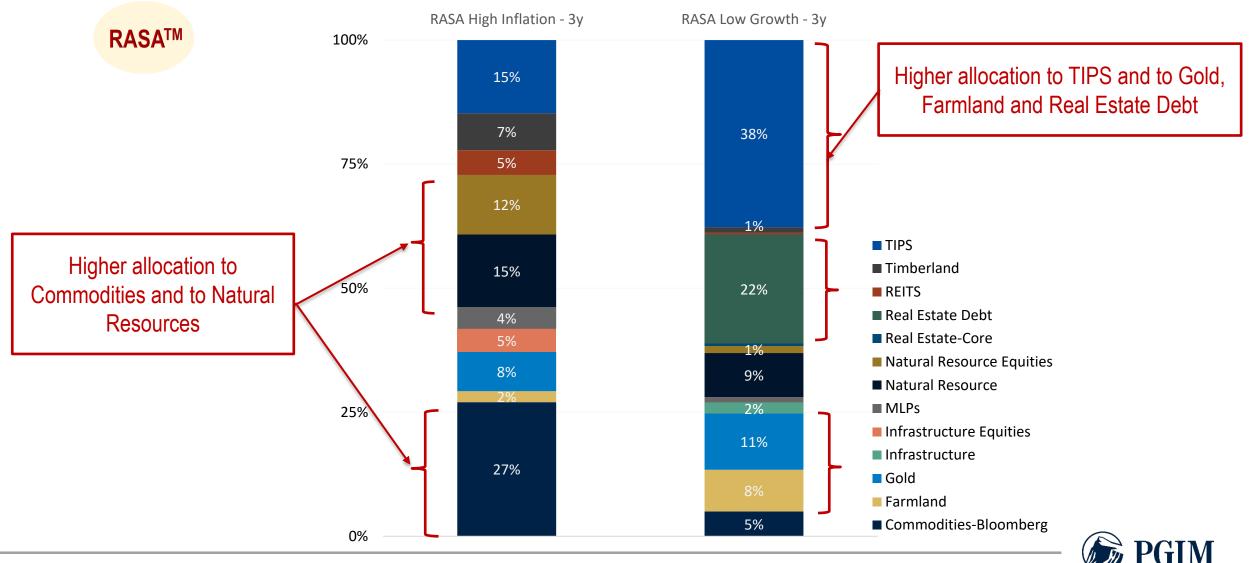
## Visualizing the Four Elements of Real Asset Investing

- Sensitivities to macroeconomic (inflation and growth) and financial (stocks and bonds) variables vary with horizon
- These sensitivities are uncertain, and their accuracy generally decreases as horizon increases
- Sensitivities also differ depending on the economic environment (*i.e.*, stagflation or stagnation)









## Using RASA to Align a Real Asset Portfolio with Investor's Objectives

## **Long-Term Dynamics**

#### Demographics

• Sweet spot of dependency ratios are souring mostly around the world

#### Politics

- Worsening inequality has shifted voter preferences to the left on economic matters
- U.S. policymakers seeking to create a "high pressure" economy to boost wages for workers

#### Globalization

- Globalization is no longer advancing and thus no longer disinflationary
- Move toward deglobalization or regional trade blocks would be inflationary

#### Climate spending

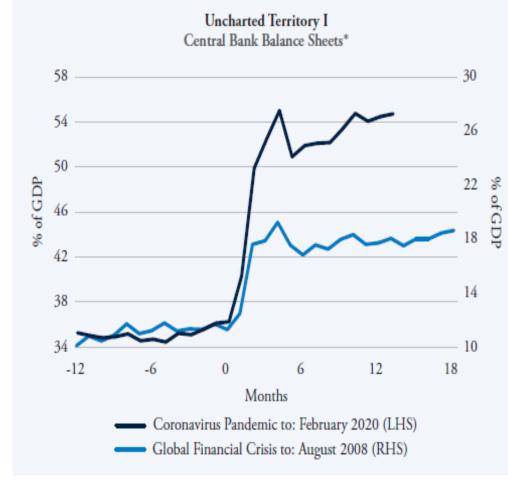
- Massive amounts of "green" investment required to substantially lower carbon emissions could boost inflation
- But, long-term impact of climate change on inflation is complex

#### Technology and productivity

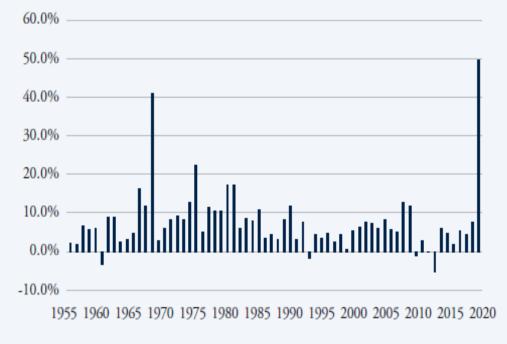
• Signs that companies are massively accelerating automation and digitalization in response to the pandemic may exert downward pressure on inflation that could mitigate and/or potentially offset some of the forces described above



## Where are We Now? Unprecedented Monetary and Fiscal Policy







Source: Haver Analytics. As of 12/31/2020.

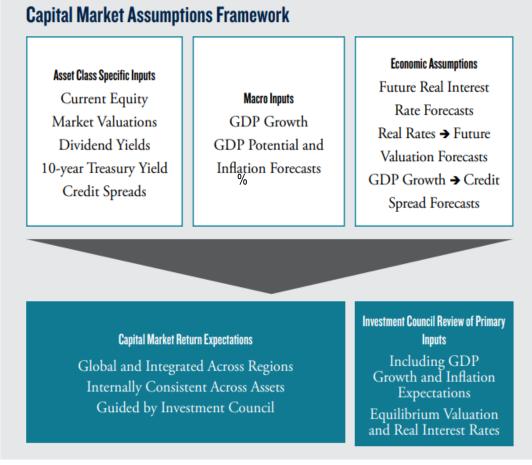
\*Federal Reserve, ECB, Bank of Japan, and Bank of England; GDP is a sum across the four economies. As of 3/31/2020/21.

Source: Haver Analytics.

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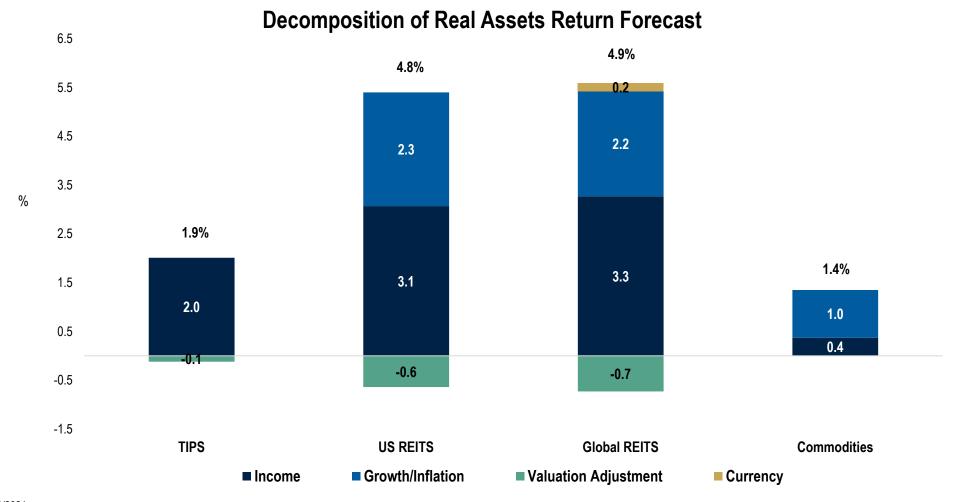
## QMA Capital Market Assumptions (Q3 2021)



Shown for illustrative purposes only. Source: QMA.

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## **QMA** Capital Market Assumptions (Q3 2021)

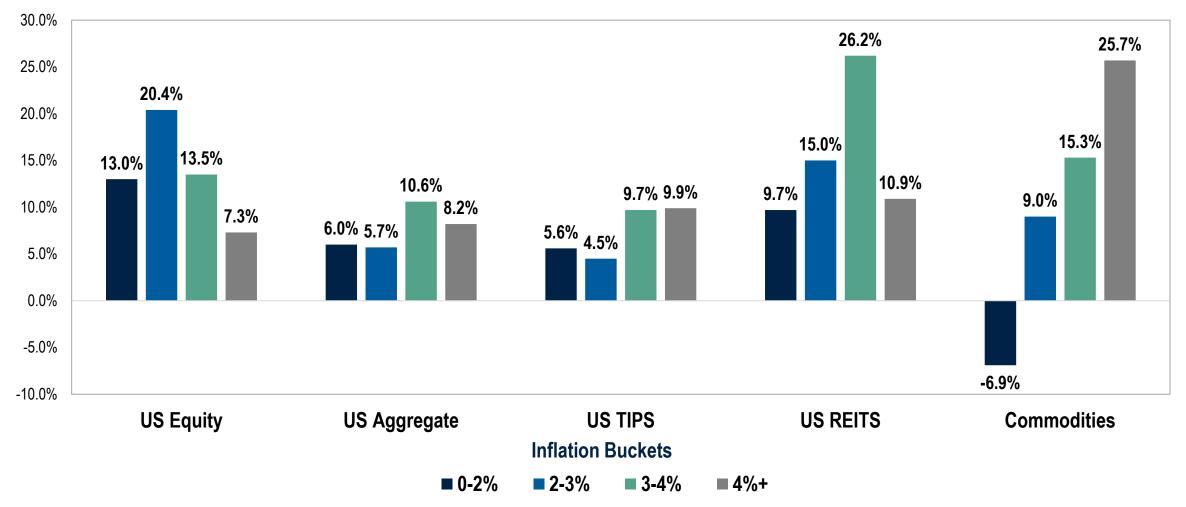


As of 6/30/2021. Source: QMA.

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## What to Do? Asset Class Performance at Various Inflation Levels



Notes: Average annualized returns for real and nominal assets within different inflation buckets. Quarterly returns data and YoY inflation at quarterly frequency. As of 5/31/2021. Source: Datastream, Bloomberg, FactSet, QMA. For illustrative purposes only. Please see 'Notes to disclosure' page for Important Information including risk factors and disclosures. Past performance is not a guarantee or a reliable indicator of future results.

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## **Presenting RASA<sup>™</sup> Interactive**

#### Current Real Assets Portfolio



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#### Alternative Real Assets Portfolio







# THANK YOU

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