# **End of Easy Money**

**Actionable Ideas Series** 

**Tuesday, July 26, 2022** 



Sandip A. Bhagat Whittier Trust Chief Investment Officer





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### **Discussion Points**

#### Short-Term Outlook

- Evolution of Inflation
- Fed Policy Response
- Interest Rates, Housing, Currency, Profits
- Depth and Duration of Recession / Bear Market

### Longer Term Trends

- Inflation, Interest Rates and Bond Term Premium
- P/E Multiples and Equity Risk Premium
- Secular Shifts and Continuing Constants



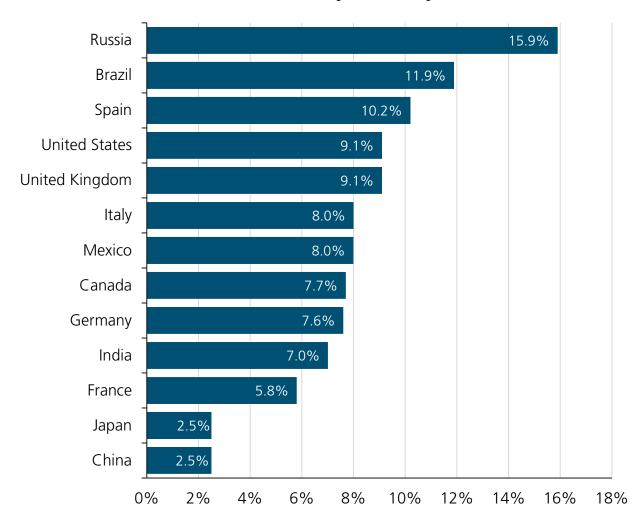
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### Inflation Elevated Across the Globe

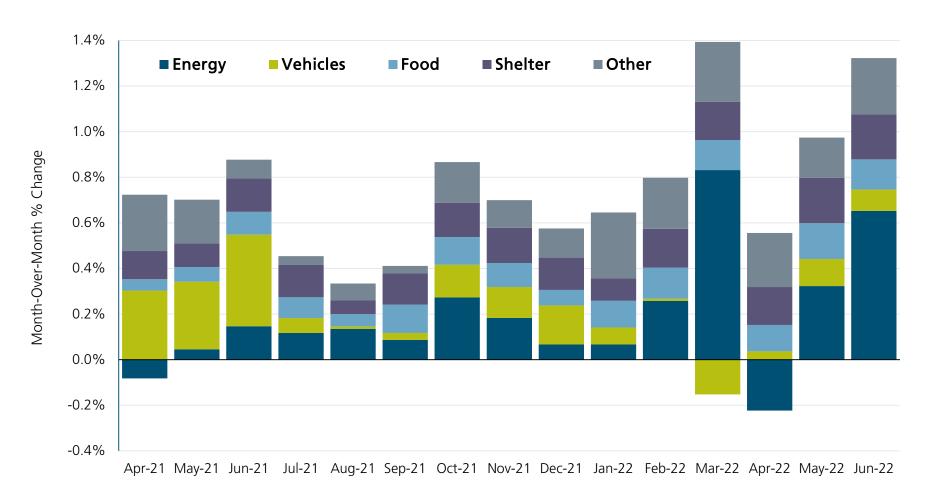
### **Inflation by Country**





# Components of Headline CPI Inflation

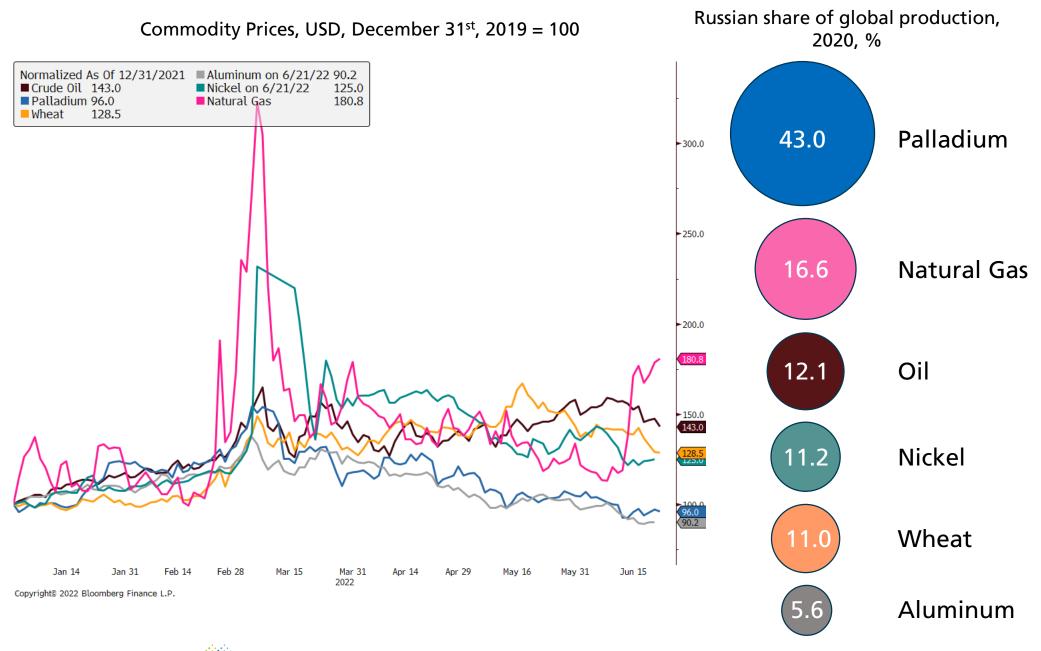
### **CPI Components – Contribution by Month**



• Energy and vehicle prices have accounted for nearly 40% of CPI inflation over the past 15 months.



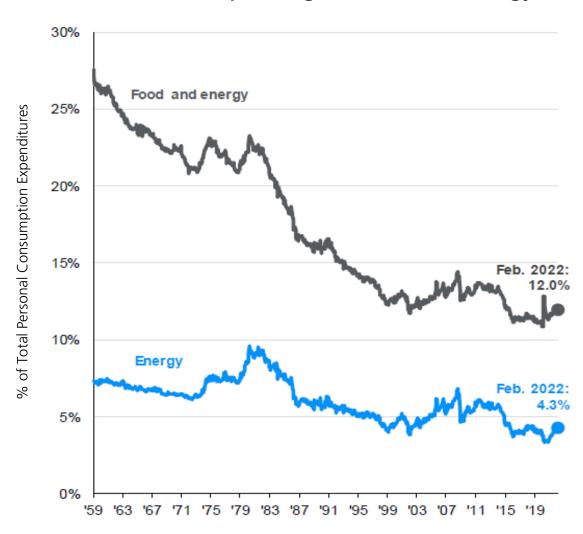
# Impact of Ukraine War on Commodity Prices





# Food and Energy are Smaller Components of Spending

### **Consumer Spending on Food and Energy**

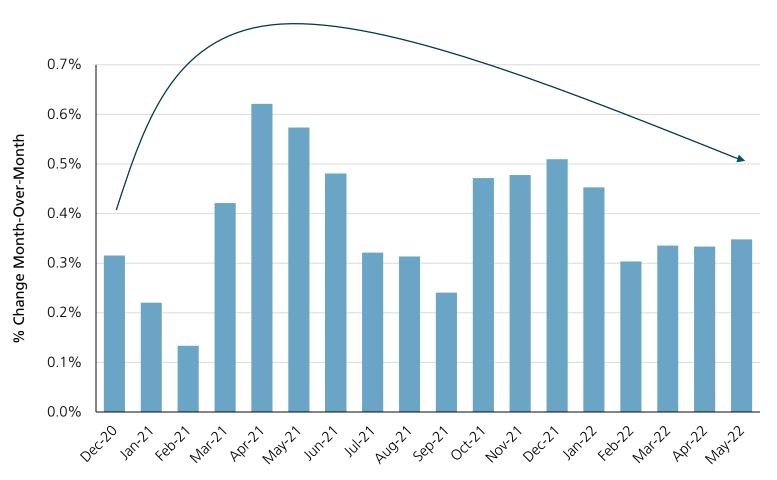


Consumer spending on food and energy is less than half of what it used to be.



# Core Inflation Stabilizing ... and Likely Declining?



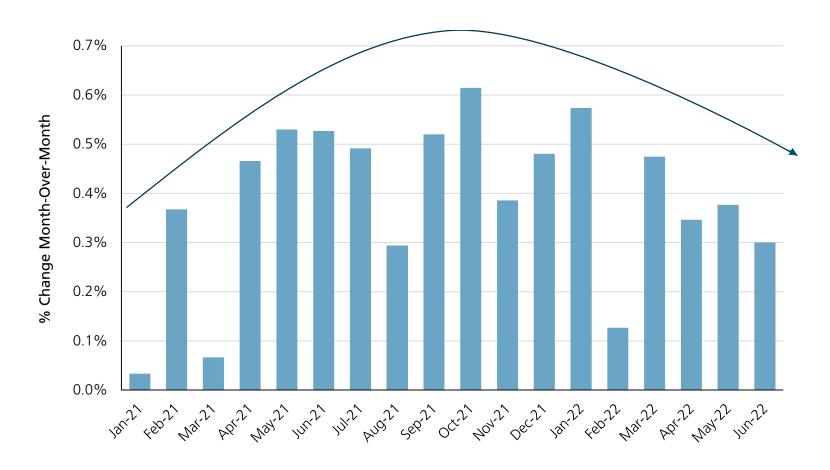


Month-over-month changes in Core PCE Inflation appear to be slowing down.



# Wage Inflation Stabilizing ... and Possibly Declining?

### MoM Average Hourly Earnings (%)

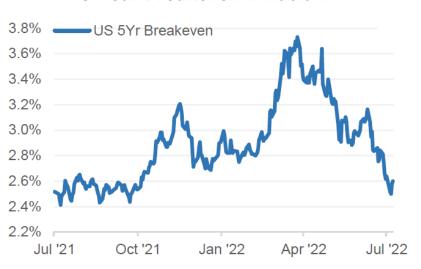


Month-over-month changes in Average Hourly Earnings appear to be slowing down.



# **Recent Disinflationary Trends**

#### 5 Year Breakeven Inflation



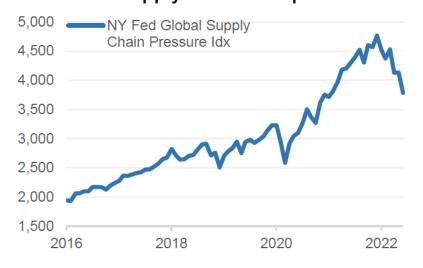
#### Gasoline



#### Copper



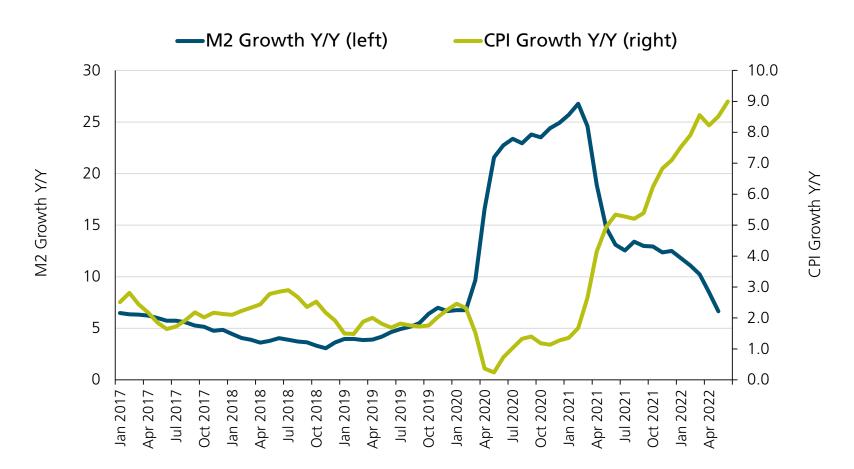
#### **Supply Chain Disruption**





# Dramatic Slowdown in Money Supply Growth

### **Money Supply Growth and Inflation**



Changes in money supply tend to lead inflation by about twelve months

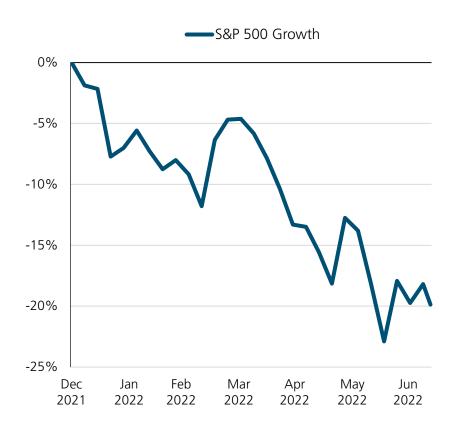


# **Tighter Financial Conditions**

#### **Higher Rates and Stronger Dollar**

#### ——10Y Treasury Yield (left) ——US Dollar Growth (right) 3.5% 15% 13% 3.0% 2.5% 11% 2.0% 9% 7% 1.5% 1.0% 5% 0.5% 3% 0.0% 1% -0.5% -1% Dec Feb Jan Mar Apr May Jun 2021 2022 2022 2022 2022 2022 2022

#### **Lower Stock Prices**

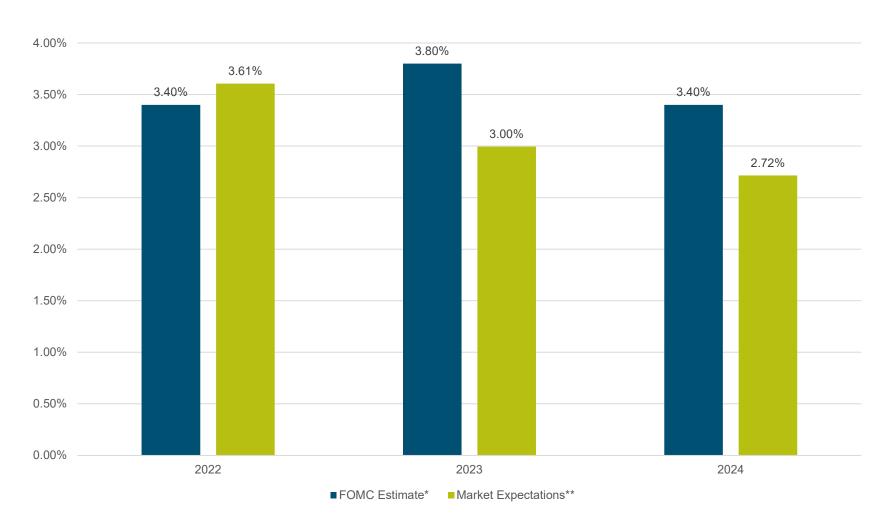


Higher rates, stronger dollar and weaker stock prices have significantly tightened financial conditions



# Fed Poised to Invert Entire Yield Curve by December

### **Federal Funds Rate Expectations (%)**



Fed projections and market expectations have moved significantly higher in recent months



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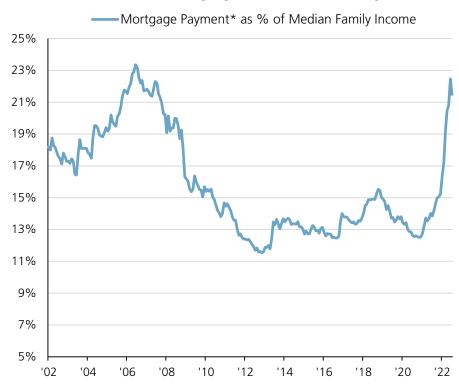


# **Housing Headwinds?**

#### **Mortgage Rates**



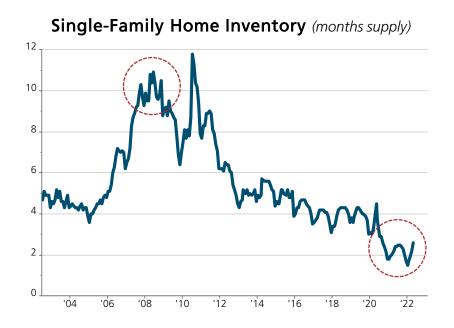
#### Cost of New Mortgage for the Average Home

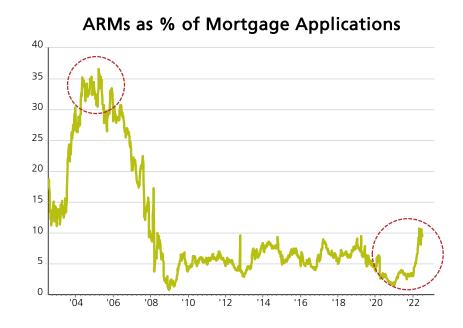


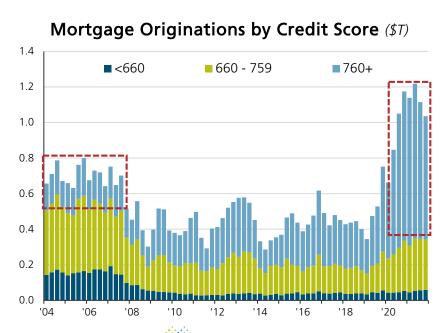
• Rising mortgage rates and housing prices have pushed mortgage costs to highest level since 2007.

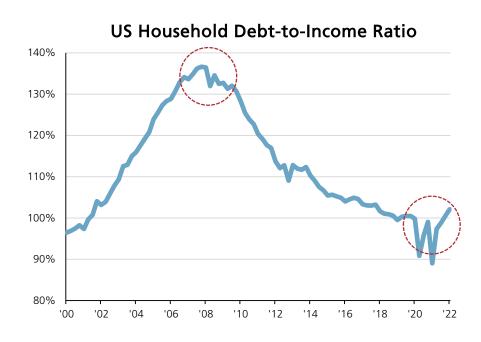


# Housing: Not a Repeat of the Financial Crisis



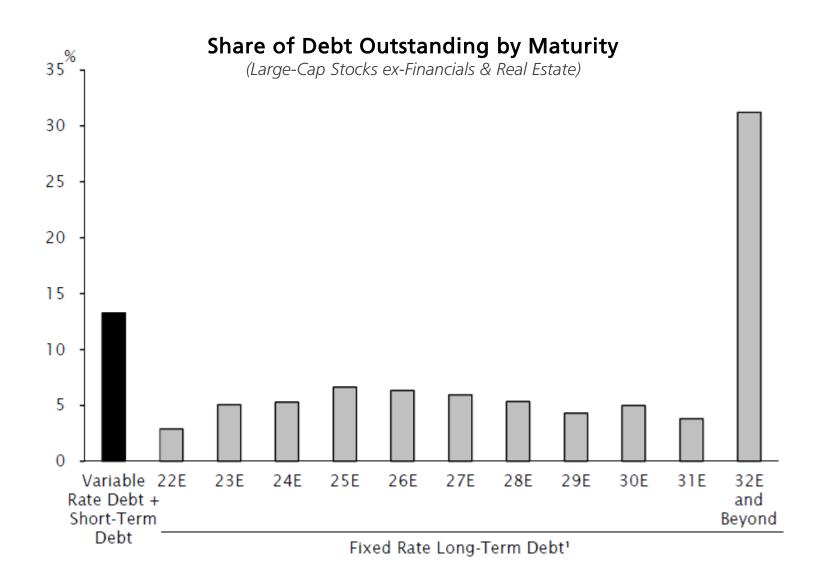








# Higher Borrowing Costs ... but Not Imminent



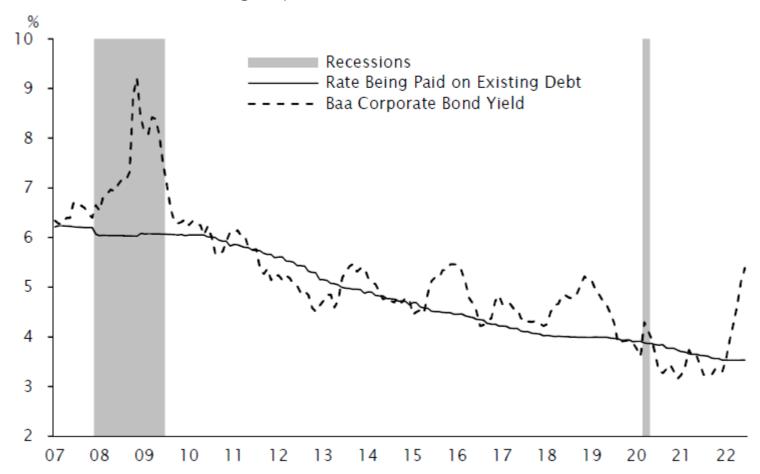
Companies restructured debt in recent years to longer maturities



# Glacial Pass-Through of Higher Borrowing Costs

#### Average Interest Paid vs. Baa Corporate Bond Yield

(Large-Cap Stocks ex-Financials & Real Estate)



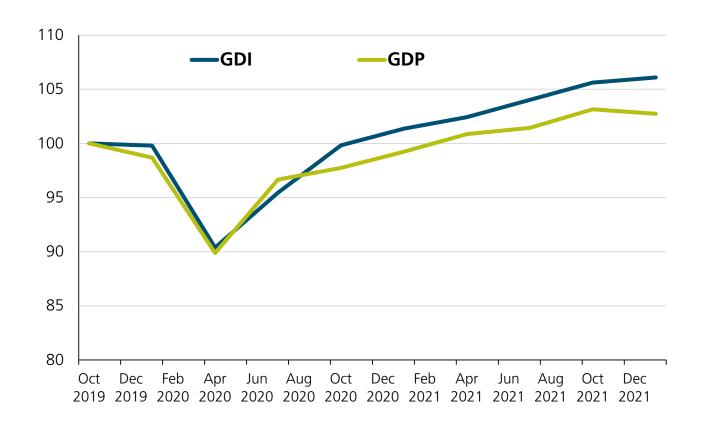
Actual interest expense tends to change far slower than changes in corporate bond yields



### Divergence Between GDI and GDP in 2022

#### Gross Domestic Income vs. Gross Domestic Product

(Indexed to 100 at Q4 2019)

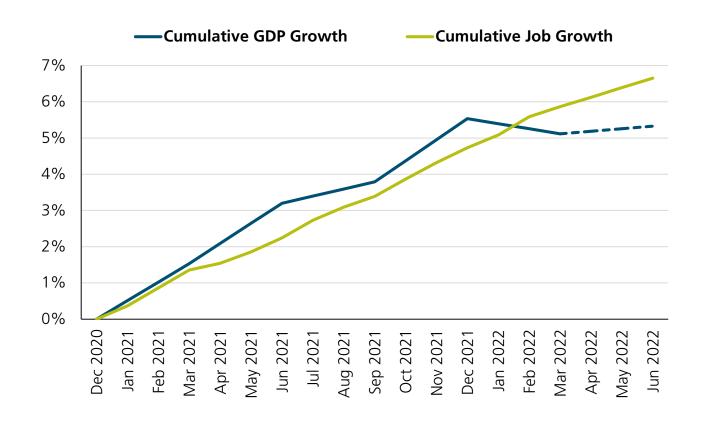


Incomes have been stronger in 2022 than GDP



# Divergence Between Employment and GDP in 2022

### **Employment vs. GDP**



TBD



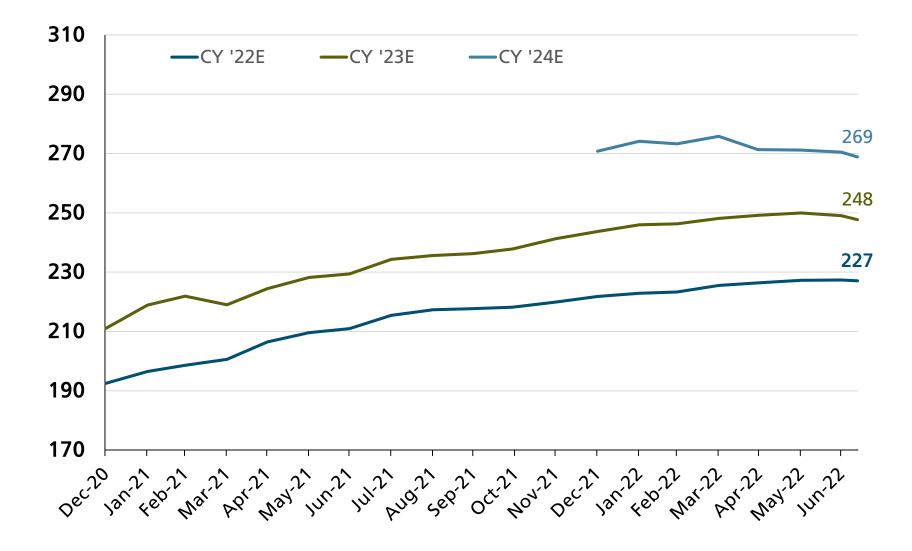
# Stronger Dollar and Impact on Earnings

### A Strong Dollar Leads to Downward EPS Revisions





### **S&P 500 Earnings Estimates Over Time**





### Bull, Bear and Base Case for Equities

- Higher Rates + Stronger Dollar = Weaker Earnings
- Equity Downside Driven by Trough Multiples ... **OR** ... Trough Earnings
  - Trough P/E multiples likely to remain above 14x
  - Trough 2023 earnings likely to remain above 200
- 12-Month S&P 500 Scenarios:

<u>Bear</u>	<u>Base</u>	<u>Bull</u>
3,300 - 3,700	3,700 - 4,100	4,100 - 4,500



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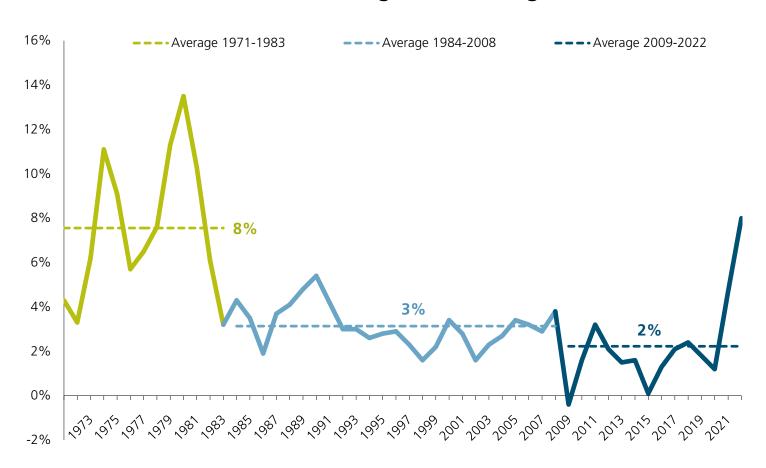
### Longer Term Trends

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# Inflation Likely to be Closer to 3%, not 2%

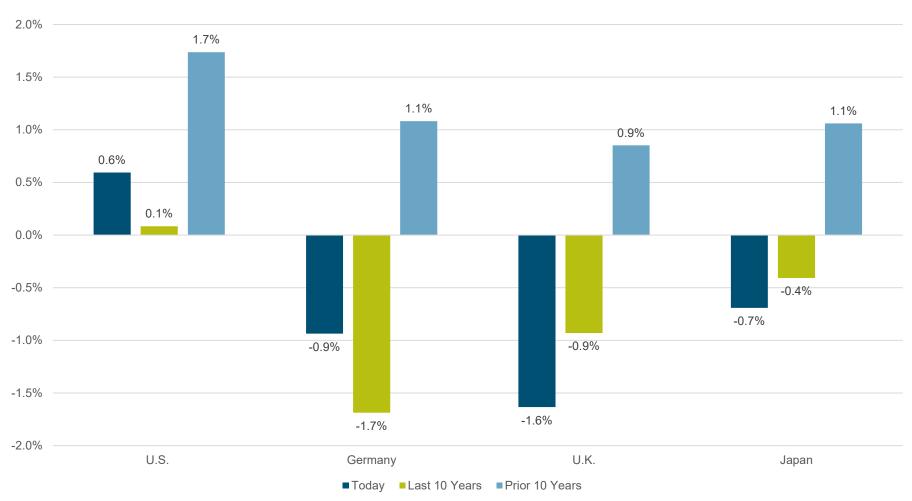
### **CPI Inflation During Different Regimes**





# Positive Real Rates Likely in Future





• Real bond yields are rising ... and are likely to be positive for the next several years



# Low Treasury Term Premium Likely to Persist

### 10-year Treasury Term Premium (%)



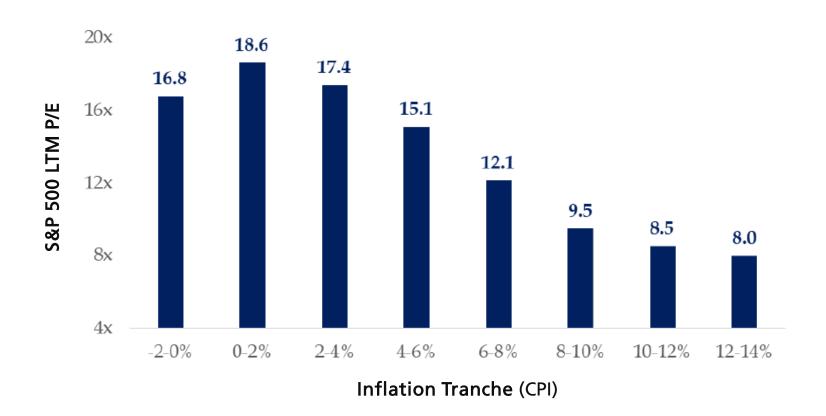
- Central bank asset purchases have played a big role in decline of the term premium since 1985.
- Low term premium makes inversions more likely and less reliable.



# P/E Multiples by Inflation Regime

S&P 500 Valuations vs. Level of Inflation

(1950 - Current)



Equity P/E multiples are high when inflation is below 4%



# **NEXT** Economic Cycle and Bull Market

• A more normal(ized) backdrop likely in next cycle

<u>Predicted Economic Parameters</u>		Predicted Market Parameters	
Inflation	2.8 - 3.3%	P/E TTM	18 - 19x
Fed Funds Rate	2.8 - 3.3%	P/E NTM	16 - 17x
Treasury Bond Yields	3 - 4%	Expected Stock Returns	7 - 11%
Real GDP	1.5 - 2.3%	Expected Bond Returns	3 - 6%
Earnings Growth	6 - 10%	Expected Equity Risk Premium	4 - 5%



# **Secular Shifts and Continuing Constants**

### **Shifts**

- Diversification in private markets
- Profitability and cash flow over growth
- Greater cost of leverage and speculation

### **Constants**

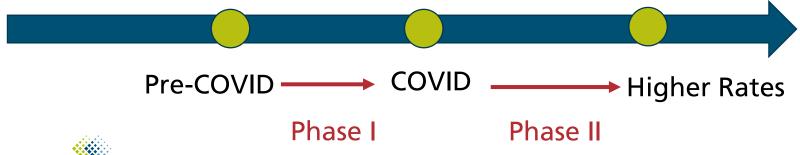
High quality growth



### The Evolving Private Market Landscape

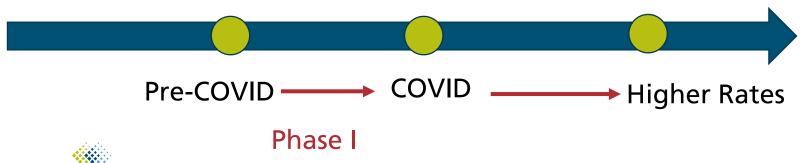
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# The Evolving Private Market Landscape – Phase I

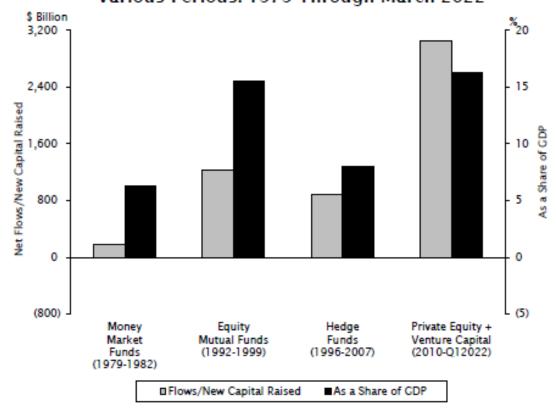




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# Private Capital Fundraising All-Time High

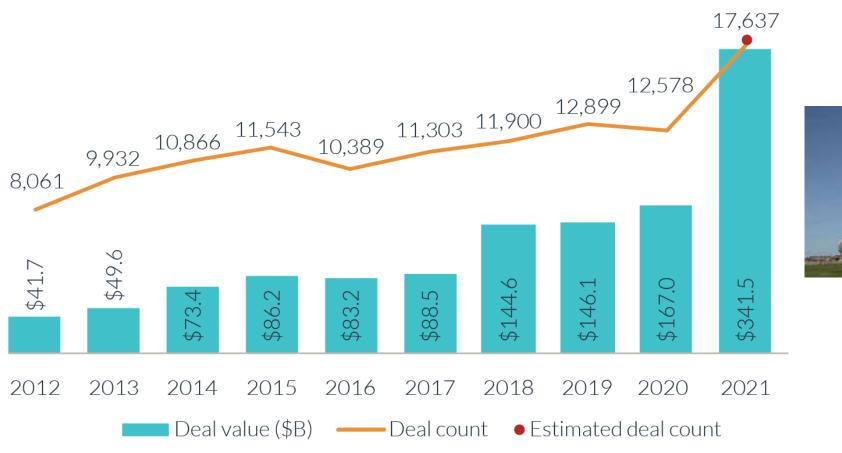
Exhibit 2: Net Flows Into Mutual and Hedge Funds and ETFs and New Capital Raised by Private Equity and Venture Capital Firms Totals and as a Share of GDP Various Periods: 1979 Through March 2022



Source: PitchBook, Preqin, Hedge Fund Research, Investment Company Institute, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Empirical Research Partners Analysis.



# Venture Capital Deal Value and Count Rocket Higher



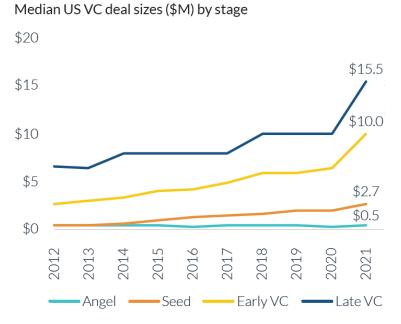


PitchBook-NVCA Venture Monitor \*As of June 30, 2022



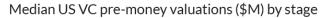
### **Venture Round Sizes and Valuations Follow**

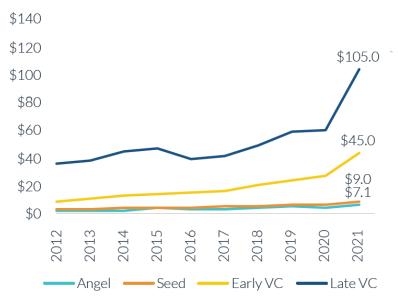
### Late-stage VC deal size median slides



PitchBook-NVCA Venture Monitor \*As of March 31, 2022

### Valuations continue growth

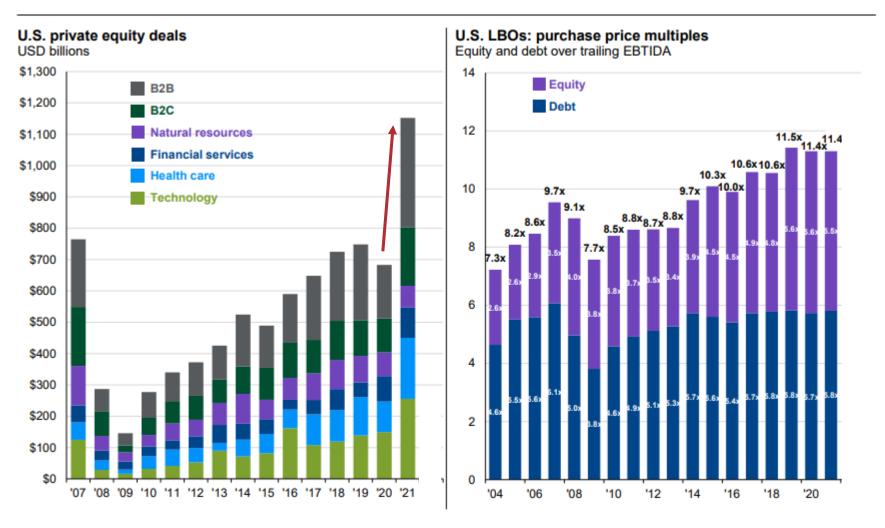




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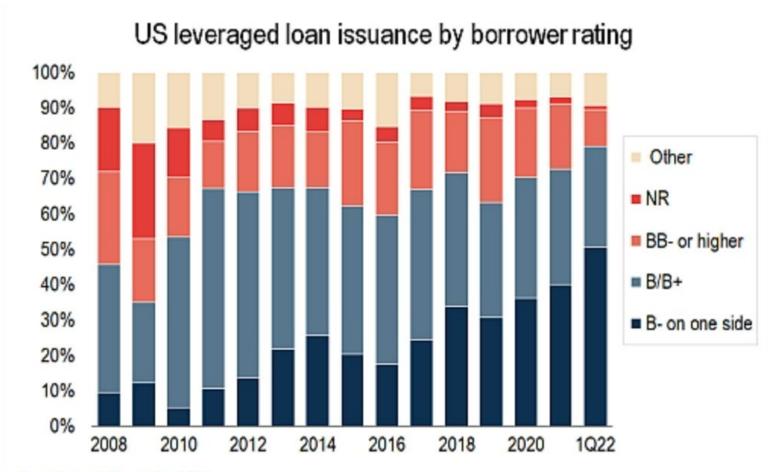
### U.S Private Equity Deals and Multiples – 2021 Acceleration



Source: PitchBook, S&P LCD, J.P. Morgan Asset Management.
B2B is business to business. B2C is business to consumer. Natural resources = Materials & resources and energy. Private equity and multiple data are as of March 31, 2022.
Data is based on availability as of May 31, 2022.



### **Lower Quality Borrowers**



Data through March 21, 2022.

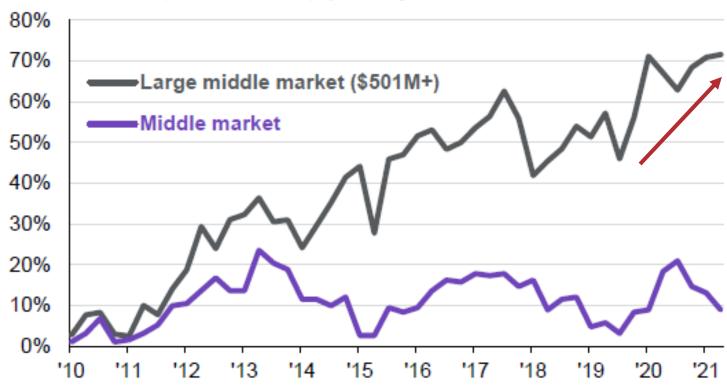
Source: Leveraged Commentary & Data (LCD)



### **Covenant-Lite loans**

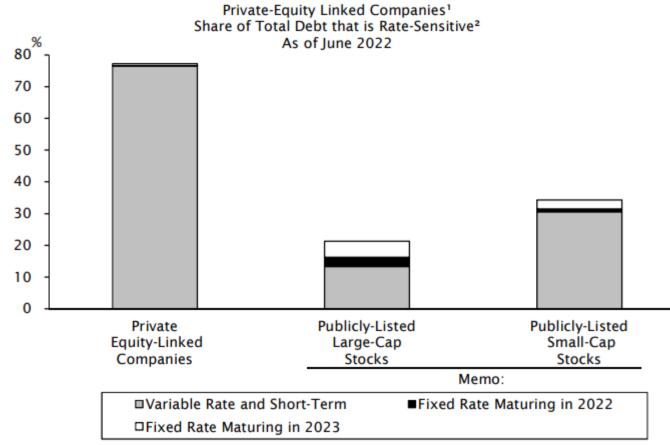
#### Covenant-lite loans

% of total loans, 4Q10–1Q22, quarterly





### Significant Floating Rate Debt



Source: PitchBook, FactSet Research Systems, Empirical Research Partners Analysis.

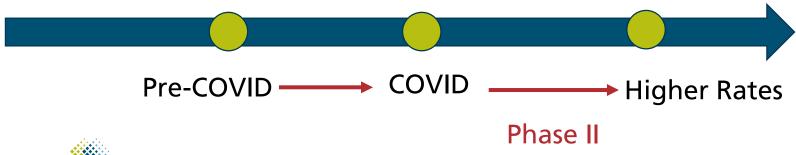


<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Private equity-linked firms are those currently backed by private equity. Excludes the private equity firms themselves. All cohorts exclude financials and real estate.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Rate-sensitive debt is all variable rate debt, short-term debt, and long-term fixed rate debt maturing this year or next year.

### The Evolving Private Market Landscape – Phase II

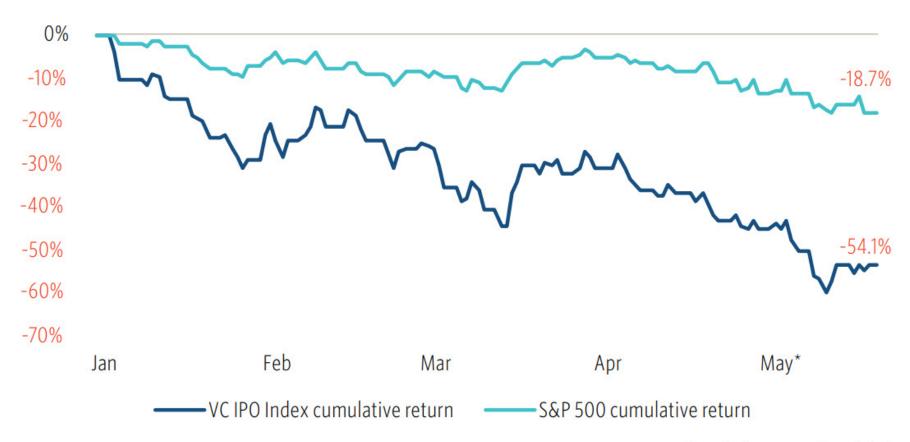




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### **Bad Time for VC Exits**

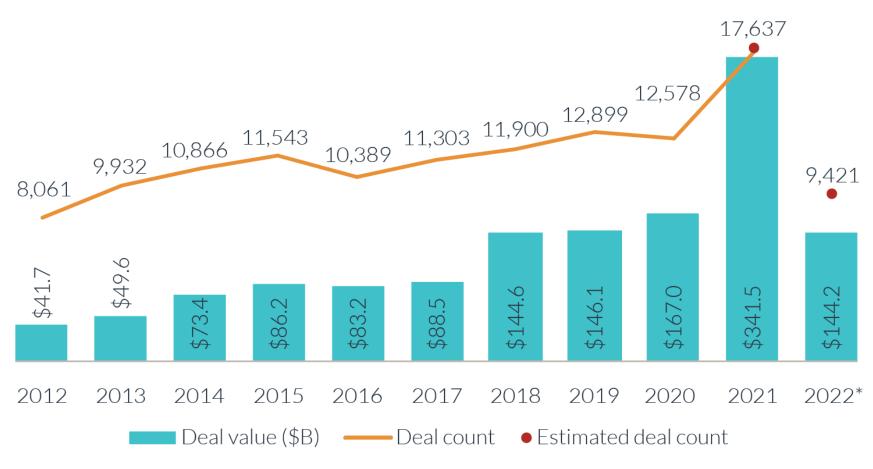
### PitchBook VC IPO index vs. S&P 500



Source: PitchBook | Geography: Global \*As of May 20, 2022



### Volumes Down but Still Robust

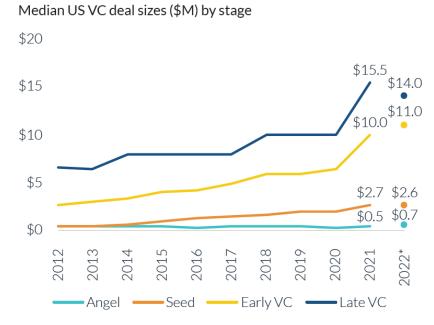


PitchBook-NVCA Venture Monitor \*As of June 30, 2022



### Deal Size Down but Valuations Up

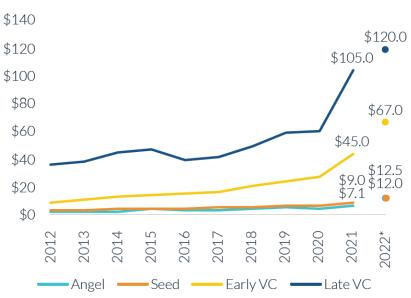
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#### Valuations continue growth

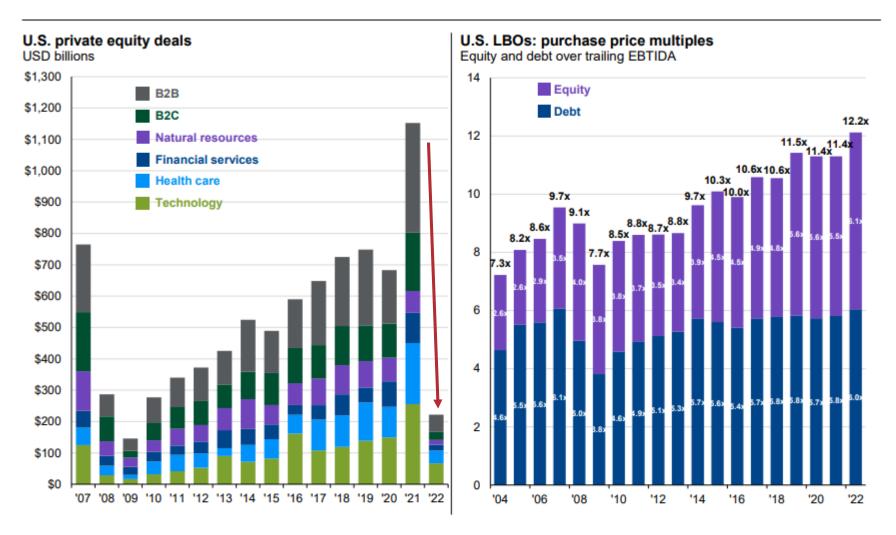
Median US VC pre-money valuations (\$M) by stage



PitchBook-NVCA Venture Monitor \*As of March 31, 2022



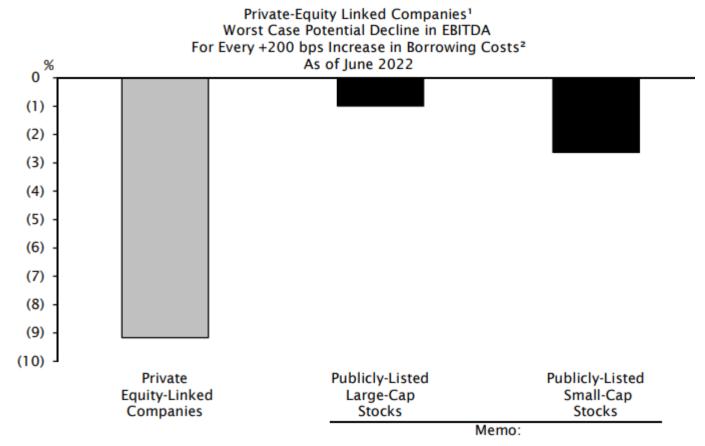
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Source: PitchBook, S&P LCD, J.P. Morgan Asset Management.
B2B is business to business. B2C is business to consumer. Natural resources = Materials & resources and energy. Private equity and multiple data are as of March 31, 2022.
Data is based on availability as of May 31, 2022.



## Higher Borrowing Costs for Private Equity



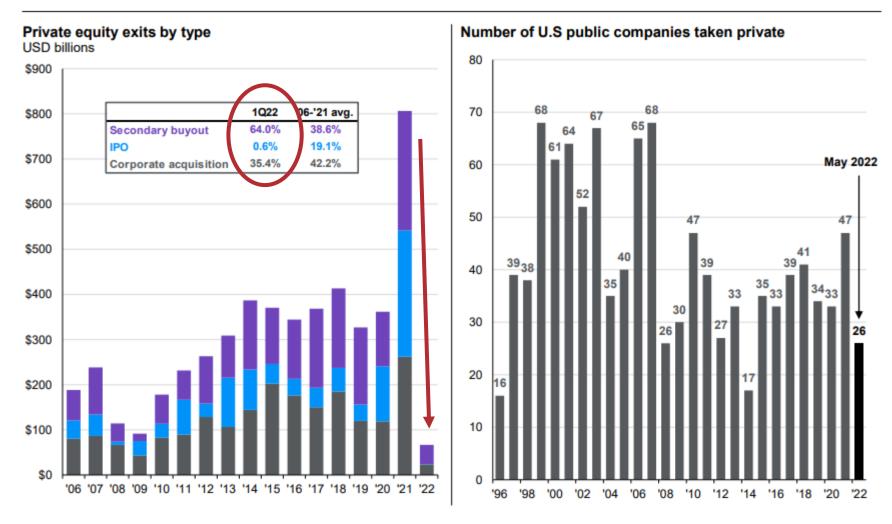
Source: PitchBook, FactSet Research Systems, Empirical Research Partners Analysis.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Private equity-linked firms are those currently backed by private equity. Excludes the private equity firms themselves. All cohorts exclude financials and real estate.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Assumes all rate-sensitive debt (variable rate debt, short-term debt, and long-term fixed rate debt maturing this year or next year) is repriced by +200 bps. Worse case scenario assumes no interest rate hedging.

### **IPO Window Closes**



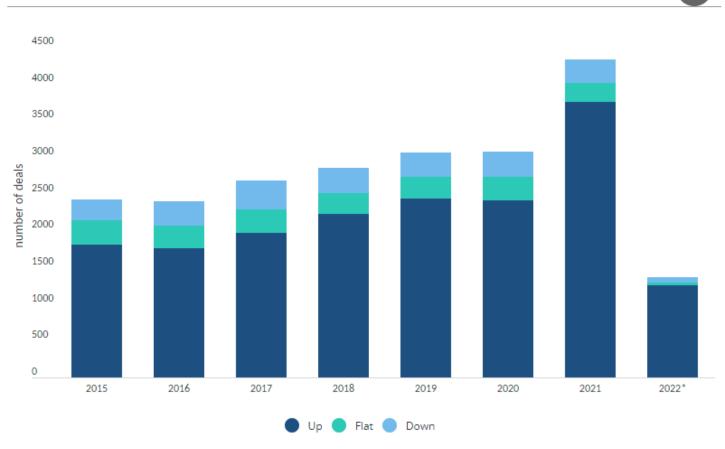
Source: Dealogic, PitchBook, J.P. Morgan Asset Management.
Private equity exit data are as of March 31, 2022. Data on the number of companies taken private are as of May 10, 2022.
Data is based on availability as of May 31, 2022.



### Structured Rounds = The New Down Round?





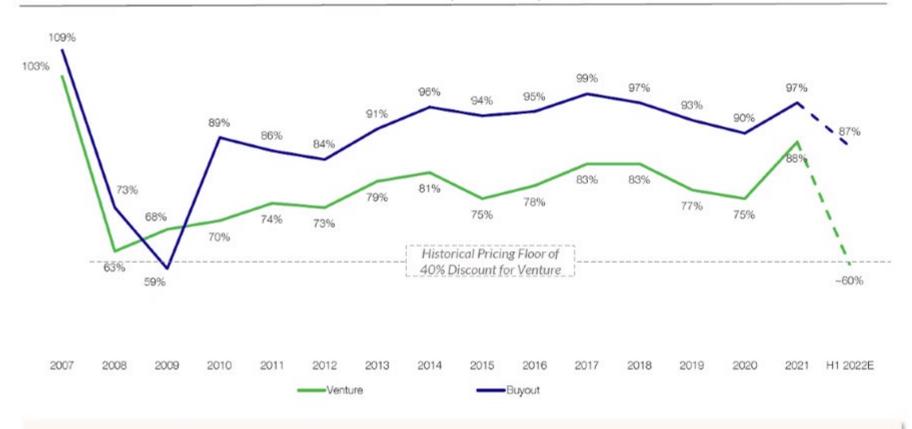


\*as of June 13, 2022 Source: PitchBook



# Opportunity to be a Liquidity Provider

#### SECONDARY LP INTEREST PRICING BY STRATEGY (% OF NAV) (1)



Early data suggests that pricing has adjusted downward, as in prior economic cycles



### **Summary**

- Easy money isn't so easy any more
- Quality matters
- Be a liquidity provider
- Flexibility is an advantage



## Whittier's All-Weather Approach to Alternative Investing

Best-in-class managers

• It's more than just multiple expansion

Flexibility and specialization

• Be a liquidity provider

Hybrid Architecture



# Whittier's All-Weather Approach to Alternative Investing

Best-in-class managers





It's more than just multiple expansion

# WARBURG PINCUS

Flexibility and specialization





Be a liquidity provider





Hybrid Architecture





## Summary and Key Takeaways

#### We believe:

- Inflation will moderate soon and then recede gradually
- Short and long rates are less likely to exceed 4%
- Potential recession is less likely to be deep and protracted
- Asymmetric equity upside relative to downside ... in the intermediate term
- High quality profitable growth will continue to be rewarded



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