

## Weekly Update

### 04/19/21

		<u>Last Week</u>	<u>YTD Returns</u>
Domestic Equities	S&P 500	1.39%	11.92%
International Developed	MSCI EAFE	1.66%	7.85%
Emerging Markets	MSCI EM	1.41%	4.86%
Fixed Income	BBgBarc US Agg Bond	0.35%	-2.56%

Markets did well last week, with US markets in particular being supported by both strong economic data and a solid start to earnings season. March retail sales surged 9.8% and for the first time since the pandemic began, weekly jobless claims fell under 600,000. Meanwhile, the big banks kicked off earnings season, as they usually do, and the numbers there were also encouraging. The expectation is that Q1 earnings will look good overall and, if economic data matches expectations, we could see stock markets continue to move higher. We believe that some level of caution is warranted though; measures of investor sentiment are heavily skewed to the bullish side and there are signs that this recent uptick in markets may be running too far too fast. Neither of these mean markets are set to crash, but a pullback or prolonged period of sideways trading could be possible. We see stronger fundamentals underpinning a continued push higher in equities through the end of the year though, with normal ups and downs to be expected.

\*Index returns are from Morningstar and are calculated on a total return basis, with dividends reinvested.