

Crescat Capital LLC 44 Cook St. Suite 100 Denver, CO 80206 (303) 271-9997 info@crescat.net www.crescat.net

December 13, 2021

**Dear Investors:** 

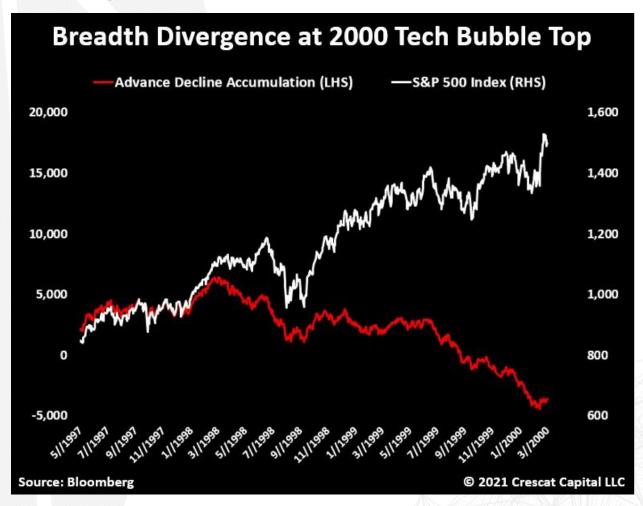
### **Equity Market Warning**

The recent weakness in the broad US equity market is being masked by the outperformance of mega-market cap companies that remain near record valuations. With that in mind, it is remarkable to us how the NASDAQ Composite is just 2.6% from all-time highs while only 35% of its members are above the 200-day moving average. Such a disconnect is corrosive. This backdrop of deteriorating market breadth is present at a time when significantly rising inflation is putting pressure on the Fed to accelerate its taper and begin raising rates sooner than it has signaled to date. With the Fed out of the liquidity pump game, weak stock market internals suggest that the long overdue reckoning of the most inflated financial asset bubble in US stock and bond history is close at hand. We believe there is substantial risk of a significant equity market selloff in the near term, even before year-end. We exclude the energy and materials sectors from this warning where equity fundamentals are driven much more by currently low valuations, scarce supplies, and robust demand.



### Similar Divergence Preceded the Tech Bust at the 2000 Top

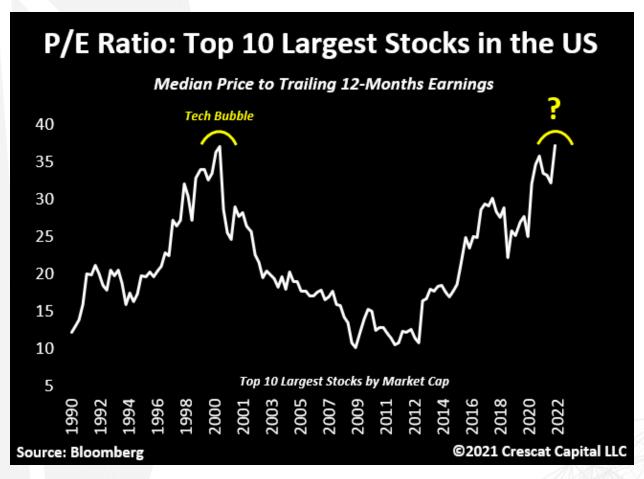
We are wary of times when the generals lead but the soldiers don't follow. It is reminiscent of the breadth deterioration at the peak of the tech bubble in March of 2000.



#### Most Extreme Asset Bubbles Yet

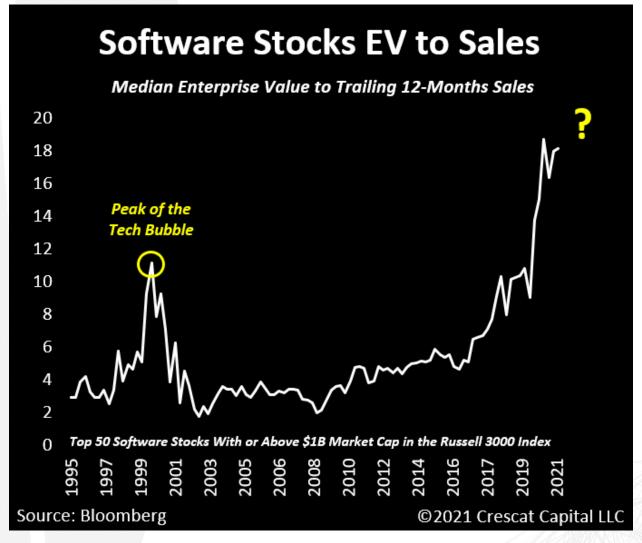
Our equity models continue to flash warning signs of excessive valuations among stocks at large. According to our research, on a median and aggregate basis, US equities are at their most expensive levels ever across a lengthy composite of underlying fundamental measures. Conventional wisdom today believes that mega-cap tech stocks are reasonably valued. However, as we showed in our August research letter, the top five market cap stocks in the US, all tech stocks, were 54% more over-valued relative to GDP than the top five market cap stocks at the peak of the tech bubble in 2000. The common refrain is that it is different this time, that P/E ratios are reasonable, that earnings are stronger, and that growth is more sustainable. P/Es had been the one area still not quite at 2000 top levels but that is not true anymore. It is true that earnings are strong, but they are anything but sustainable. There is a business cycle after all, and we are essentially at the peak of one that has been longest ever US expansion, twelve years now since the GFC. The March 2020 Covid recession was a mere blip, hardly a recession at all because there was no reconciliation of the imbalances, no creative destruction, just more inflating of the same bubbles. When it comes to P/E ratios, we believe most investors today are not even looking at them let alone factoring in the effect that sustainably rising inflation would likely have on compressing

them going forward. The median P/E ratio of the top 10 largest stocks in the US is now as high as it was at the peak of the Tech Bubble, 37 times earnings.

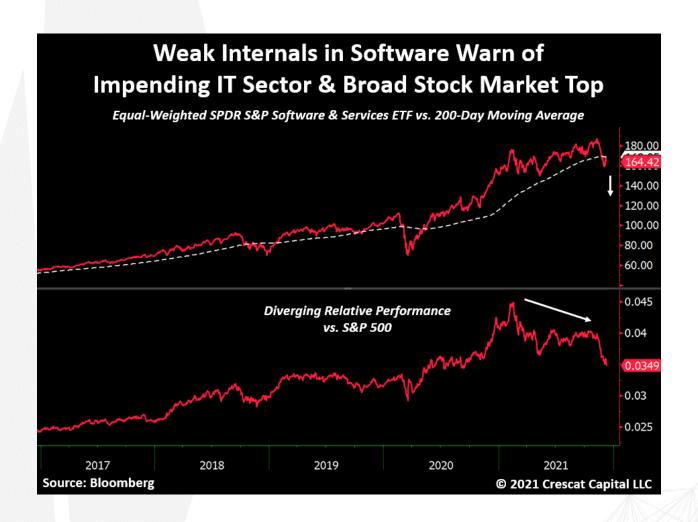


#### Software Is the Tell

In our analysis, the software industry is the most speculative and concerning segment of the stock market. It has been the best performing broad industry group since the 2008-9 Global Financial Crisis and is more than 50% more overvalued than it was at the peak of the dotcom bubble in 2000 based on median enterprise value to sales.



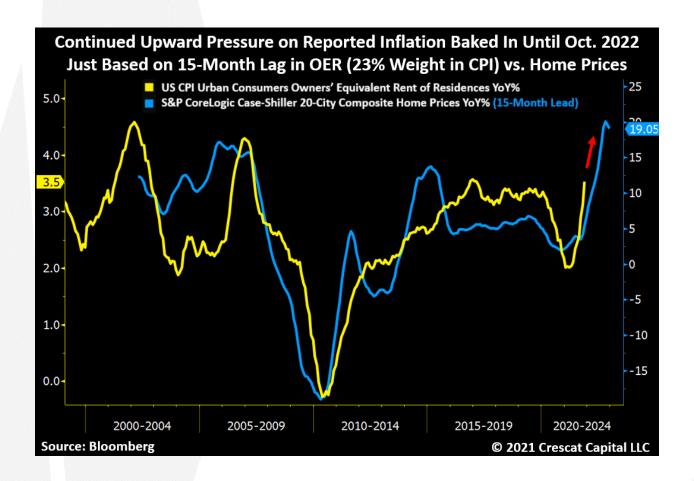
We believe most software companies have already begun a major downturn. In fact, if we look at a list of all the US-listed software companies with a market cap greater than \$1 billion, the median stock is down 34% from its 52-week highs. The performance of the equal-weighted SPDR S&P Software and Services ETF has just broken below its 200-day moving average. This broad software index shows sharply negative relative performance compared to the S&P 500 since February.



# **Inflationary Pressure is Real**

The Fed was overly optimistic in its inflation forecasting this year and has been proven horribly wrong. With CPI just clocking in at 6.8% year over year for November, inflation is already much higher than the central bank forecasted four months ago when it sold itself and the world on the idea that inflation would be "transitory". To maintain its credibility, the Fed must now lay out a path to tighten monetary policy at a more aggressive pace.

Inflationary forces in the real world and inside the CPI data are not likely to ease up soon. Based on what home prices have already signaled, and the fact that there is a fifteen-month lag in Owner's Equivalent Rent, the 23%-weighted OER component of CPI appears poised to keep going higher until at least October 2022.



But inflation is also likely to be around for longer and at a higher rate due to structural shortages in the commodity and natural resources sectors of the economy based on years of deteriorating capital investment trends. Meanwhile, tightness in the labor market is also portending a future wage-price spiral that could continue for years. Because of these factors, we think investors are poised to rotate out of the bubble in large cap growth, mega-cap tech, uber-low yielding long duration fixed income, and into stocks and commodities that offer high intermediate-term growth, low valuations, and inflation protection. At Crescat, we refer to this broad macro theme as the Great Rotation.

# Crescat Embraces Moderate Volatility in Pursuit of Superior Value-Driven Returns

At Crescat, we are macro and value investors. The Great Rotation has hardly even begun, but we believe it is poised to start playing out soon in a big way. We are positioned for it in various ways across the firm. We believe natural resource industries, specifically precious metals' companies are true deep-value opportunities that should benefit tremendously from the current economic imbalances in the world today. Additionally, gold and silver stocks look exceptionally oversold and ripe for a major reversal to the upside in our strong opinion. Conversely, as we laid out our fundamental case for being short overall US stocks in our Global Macro and Long/Short funds, we think the recent weakness in market internals is an incredibly bearish sign that we are in the process of a major speculative top. Our Global Macro fund has additional important exposures supported by our macro research including put options on the Chinese yuan and Hong Kong dollar and fixed income short position. We will be elaborating more on in our next research letter that will be out before year end.

While much of the hedge fund industry has attempted to sell low volatility as an attribute, many of those funds have fallen short on delivering performance. Our funds are quite unique in that sense. For the last 22 years of company history, Crescat has embraced a moderate level of volatility as part of our investment process in our efforts to deliver outstanding long-term returns. After having two of the top 10 hedge funds according to Bloomberg in 2020 and delivering over 235% in the first year our recently launched Precious Metals fund, in a down year for gold and silver, it is only natural that we are experiencing a pullback. We believe that such retracements are great opportunities for new and existing clients to add capital. We feel more confident than ever in the underlying value and future appreciation potential of our portfolio.

# **November Performance Update**

# Crescat Strategies Net Return Estimates through November 30th, 2021

			Annualized Trailing				
CRESCAT STRATEGIES VS. BENCHMARK (Inception Date)	November	YTD	1-YEAR	3-YEAR	SINCE INCEPTION	CUMULATIVE SINCE INCEPTION	YEARS SINCE INCEPTION
Global Macro Hedge Fund (Jan.1, 2006)	-0.1%	-17.7%	1.0%	7.0%	11.0%	425.3%	15.9
Benchmark: HFRX Global Hedge Fund Index	-1.3%	3.2%	5.7%	5.5%	1.3%	22.0%	
Long/Short Hedge Fund (May 1, 2000)	-0.4%	-12.0%	8.5%	11.2%	7.5%	369.9%	21.6
Benchmark: HFRX Equity Hedge Index	-1.2%	10.3%	14.2%	6.9%	2.7%	78.4%	
Precious Metals Hedge Fund (August 1, 2020)	-4.0%	4.5%	32.2%	-	127.8%	179.8%	1.3
Benchmark: Philadelphia Gold and Silver Index	0.6%	-8.4%	-1.9%	27.8%	-10.8%	-14.2%	
<b>Large Cap SMA</b> (Jan. 1, 1999)	-2.3%	-2.2%	-6.0%	8.2%	10.0%	777.2%	22.9
Benchmark: S&P 500 Index	-0.7%	23.2%	27.9%	20.3%	7.9%	471.7%	
Precious Metals SMA (June 1, 2019)	-10.7%	-8.1%	-7.6%	-	47.8%	157.0%	2.5
Benchmark: Philadelphia Gold and Silver Index	0.6%	-8.4%	-1.9%	27.8%	29.5%	91.1%	

Sincerely,

Kevin C. Smith, CFA
Member & Chief Investment Officer

Tavi Costa Member & Portfolio Manager

For more information including how to invest, please contact:

Marek Iwahashi Client Service Associate miwahashi@crescat.net 303-271-9997 Cassie Fischer
Client Service Associate
<a href="mailto:cfischer@crescat.net">cfischer@crescat.net</a>
(303) 350-4000

Linda Carleu Smith, CPA Member & COO <u>lsmith@crescat.net</u> (303) 228-7371

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### **Important Disclosures**

Performance data represents past performance, and past performance does not guarantee future results. An individual investor's results may vary due to the timing of capital transactions. Performance for all strategies is expressed in U.S. dollars. Cash returns are included in the total account and are not detailed separately. Investment results shown are for taxable and tax-exempt clients and include the reinvestment of dividends, interest, capital gains, and other earnings. Any possible tax liabilities incurred by the taxable accounts have not been reflected in the net performance. Performance is compared to an index, however, the volatility of an index varies greatly and investments cannot be made directly in an index. Market conditions vary from year to year and can result in a decline in market value due to material market or economic conditions. There should be no expectation that any strategy will be profitable or provide a specified return. Case studies are included for informational purposes only and are provided as a general overview of our general investment process, and not as indicative of any investment experience. There is no guarantee that the case studies discussed here are completely representative of our strategies or of the entirety of our investments, and we reserve the right to use or modify some or all of the methodologies mentioned herein.

Separately Managed Account (SMA) disclosures: The Crescat Large Cap Composite and Crescat Precious Metals Composite include all accounts that are managed according to those respective strategies over which the manager has full discretion. SMA composite performance results are time weighted net of all investment management fees and trading costs including commissions and non-recoverable withholding taxes. Investment management fees are described in Crescat's Form ADV 2A. The manager for the Crescat Large Cap strategy invests predominatly in equities of the top 1,000 U.S. listed stocks weighted by market capitalization. The manager for the Crescat Precious Metals strategy invests predominantly in a global all-cap universe of precious metals mining stocks.

Hedge Fund disclosures: Only accredited investors and qualified clients will be admitted as limited partners to a Crescat hedge fund. For natural persons, investors must meet SEC requirements including minimum annual income or net worth thresholds. Crescat's hedge funds are being offered in reliance on an exemption from the registration requirements of the Securities Act of 1933 and are not required to comply with specific disclosure requirements that apply to registration under the Securities Act. The SEC has not passed upon the merits of or given its approval to Crescat's hedge funds, the terms of the offering, or the accuracy or completeness of any offering materials. A registration statement has not been filed for any Crescat hedge fund with the SEC. Limited partner interests in the Crescat hedge funds are subject to legal restrictions on transfer and resale. Investors should not assume they will be able to resell their securities. Investing in securities involves risk. Investors should

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Investors may obtain the most current performance data, private offering memoranda for a Crescat's hedge funds, and information on Crescat's SMA strategies, including Form ADV Part II, by contacting Linda Smith at (303) 271-9997 or by sending a request via email to <a href="mailto-lsmith@crescat.net">lsmith@crescat.net</a>. See the private offering memorandum for each Crescat hedge fund for complete information and risk factors.