2020: Covid-19, Shortest Recession, Global Recovery

“ECRI Outlook” – September 2020
Eurozone Growth Outlook Dims a Bit
Well before the Second Wave of infections: “Eurozone growth prospects have started to fade a little, following a rapid recovery from the Covid crisis. That is the implication of the September read of ECRI’s Eurozone Quick Leading Index (EZQLI).” – *International Essentials, September 2020, Vol. XXV, No. 9*

“ECRI Outlook” – September 2020
Inflation Pressures Turn Up
“Though the recovery from recession is far from complete, U.S. inflation pressures are now in an unambiguous cyclical upswing. That is the clear message from ECRI’s forward-looking indexes of inflation.” – *U.S. Essentials, September 2020, Vol. XXV, No. 9*

“ECRI Outlook” – August 2020
China Leaving the Worst Behind
“The Chinese economy is starting to fire on more cylinders, gaining cyclical traction following the earlier recovery in our leading indexes. Now, those forward-looking indexes are pointing to strengthening domestic and external demand.” – *International Focus, August 2020, Vol. XXV, No. 8*

“ECRI Outlook” – July 2020
Improving International Industrial Outlook
“The resilience of the global industrial growth upswing — despite an ongoing pandemic and socio-political turmoil — remains undeniable. That holds until the forward-looking drivers of the cycle, which cut through the economic uncertainty, turn down.” – *International Essentials, July 2020, Vol. XXV, No. 7*

“ECRI Outlook” – July 2020
Eurozone Recovery at Hand
“Concrete signs of a Eurozone recovery are emerging, following a devastating contraction caused by Covid-related disruptions. Our prediction that this would be a short downturn was evident from our analysis of cycle dynamics, and is being borne out by promptly available cyclical indicators of the economy.” – *International Focus, July 2020, Vol. XXV, No. 7*

“ECRI Outlook” – June 2020
Housing Market Outlook in Covid Times
“Following the hit from the coronavirus shutdowns, cyclical forces are driving a revival in housing market prospects.” – *U.S. Essentials, June 2020, Vol. XXV, No. 6*
“ECRI Outlook” – May 2020
Industrial Growth Revival on Horizon
“A nascent revival in global industrial growth is now on the horizon. Those early tidings come from ECRI’s high frequency leading indexes, which are moving off their extreme lows.” – International Essentials, May 2020, Vol. XXV, No. 5
Read May 2020 ECRI Outlook excerpted text

“ECRI Outlook” – May 2020
Leading Indexes Begin to Improve
“Even as the Covid crisis continues to crush the economy, early signs of recovery have started to emerge. Indeed, sighting some light at the end of the tunnel, some of our leading indexes have begun to show sequential improvement.” – U.S. Essentials, May 2020, Vol. XXV, No. 5
Read May 2020 ECRI Outlook excerpted text

“ECRI Outlook” – April 2020
Springtime for Stocks
“If the economy starts opening up, even partially, by mid-year … this would be among the shortest recessions on record. … [and] stock prices … would likely turn up by early spring, possibly by this March or April.” – U.S. Essentials, April 2020, Vol. XXV, No. 4

“ECRI Outlook” – April 2020
China’s Economy Still in Danger
“As a global recession takes hold, massive demand destruction abroad has boomeranged on Chinese industry, and will take a serious toll despite more stimulus.” – International Focus, April 2020, Vol. XXV, No. 4

“ECRI Outlook” – March 2020
Global Recession Takes Hold
“Economies around the world are plunging into concerted contractions, as medically mandated shutdowns bring many to a sudden stop. This is objectively captured by our international coincident and leading indicators.” – International Essentials, March 2020, Vol. XXV, No. 3
Read March 2020 ECRI Outlook excerpted text

“ECRI Outlook” – March 2020
Recession Looms Large
“Widespread mandatory shutdowns have thrown open a cyclical window of vulnerability. This is evident from the plunges in ECRI’s high-frequency indexes, with rampant demand destruction sending the economy into recession.” – U.S. Essentials, March 2020, Vol. XXV, No. 3

“ECRI Outlook” – February 2020
Coronavirus Collides With Cyclical Strength
“The coronavirus outbreak is especially worrisome because the worst-case scenarios are not merely tail risks. Rather, they are capable of generating major shocks to which the global economy could succumb if its current cyclical strength ebbs.” – International Essentials, February 2020, Vol. XXV, No. 2

“ECRI Outlook” – October 2019
Industrial Outlook Improves in China
Despite the trade war, Chinese industrial growth prospects have begun to improve. This is a key development for the nascent upturn in our forward looking indicators of global industrial growth to gain traction. – International Essentials, October 2019, Vol. XXX, No. 10
Read October 2019 ECRI Outlook Excerpt text

“ECRI Outlook” – September 2019
Global Industrial Slowdown Set to Bottom
Even without a trade deal, nascent upturns in ECRI’s forward looking indicators of global industrial growth are taking shape. Hence, the global industrial slowdown that began in late 2017 – predating the trade war – could well come to a close before the trade war does. – International Essentials, September 2019, Vol. XXIX, No. 9
Read September 2019 ECRI Outlook Excerpt text

“ECRI Outlook” – August 2019
Recession Not Imminent
Although the slowdown continues, the economy is not yet at the doorstep of recession. And while they remain in cyclical downswings, the growth rates of ECRI’s U.S. Long Leading and Short Leading Indexes both ticked up in July. – U.S. Essentials, August 2019, Vol. XXVIII, No. 8

“ECRI Outlook” – June 2019
Green Shoots in the Eurozone
Unbeknownst to virtually all, a growth rate cycle upturn is set to take hold in the Eurozone. … Despite continued weakness in the manufacturing sector, which will remain under pressure in the near term, a broadbased – albeit mild – Eurozone growth rate cycle (GRC) upturn is taking shape. – International Focus, June 2019, Vol. XXVI, No. 6
Read June 2019 ECRI Outlook text

“ECRI Outlook” – May 2019
Inflation to Stay in Cyclical Downswing
The sharp drop in consumer inflation expectations surprised policymakers, but was foreshadowed by the U.S. Future Inflation Gauge (USFIG). Moreover, the cyclical downswing in inflation is set to persist, despite the tariffs and the fresh half-century low in the jobless rate. – U.S. Essentials, May 2019, Vol. XXV, No. 5
Read May 2019 ECRI Outlook Excerpt text

“ECRI Outlook” – April 2019
U.S. Manufacturing Slowdown to Worsen
“ECRI’s suite of leading manufacturing indexes all remain around multiyear lows, suggesting that the ongoing downturns in the growth of manufacturing activity and employment are set to worsen, with implications for recession risk. This also means that PMI data will remain in a cyclical downturn for now … ECRI has developed
the U.S. Leading Index of Manufacturing PMIs, which leads cyclical turns in the ISM and Markit manufacturing PMIs, typically by about one quarter over the ISM and a little more over the Markit PMI.” – U.S. Focus, April 2019, Vol. XXIV, No. 4

Read April 2019 ECRI Outlook Excerpt text

“ECRI Outlook” – March 2019
Chinese Growth Prospects Worsen
“Despite efforts to stimulate growth, an economic recovery in China is not at hand. In fact, a deepening downturn in the growth rate of ECRI’s Chinese Long Leading Index (CNLLI), which is superior to conventional leading indexes, points to further slowing ahead.” – International Essentials, March 2019, Vol. XXIV, No. 3

Read March 2019 ECRI Outlook excerpted text

“ECRI Outlook” – March 2019
G7 Inflation Downturn Confounds Central Banks
“Central bankers do not understand that inflation has its own cycle, distinct from the business cycle, leading to repeated policy delays and mistakes. … ECRI predicted in October that the Fed’s planned 2019 rate hikes were ‘not going to happen’ on the basis of the USFIG downturn, even as markets saw a 90% chance of at least one rate hike in 2019.”

International Focus, March 2019, Vol. XXIV, No. 3

Read March 2019 ECRI Outlook excerpted text

“ECRI Outlook” – February 2019
Advanced-Economy Slowdowns to Deepen
“Growth prospects for the major advanced economies – already the worst in over seven years – continue to deteriorate, despite hopes that Chinese stimulus will save the day. Cutting through complacency about a trade deal and dovish central bank pivots, Group of Seven Long Leading Index growth, which turned down well ahead of trade war talk, foresees a sustained synchronized slowdown.”

International Essentials, February 2019, Vol. XXIV, No. 2

Read February 2019 ECRI Outlook excerpted text

“ECRI Outlook” – January 2019
Global Industrial Slowdown to Intensify
“Global industrial growth, having fallen sharply in 2018, is set to weaken further. That is the latest forecast from ECRI’s leading indexes, which is at odds with the growing sense that the worst may be behind us.”

International Essentials, January 2019, Vol. XXIV, No. 1

Read January 2019 ECRI Outlook excerpted text
2018: Global Industrial Growth Slowdown / Commodity Price Downturn, EM Downturn, U.S. Housing and Inflation Downturns

“ECRI Outlook” – December 2018
Falling Inflation Pressures
“The inflation cycle downswing is well underway and set to intensify, even as the Fed continues its rate hike cycle. That is the latest message from ECRI’s U.S. future inflation gauges, which helped us make an accurate contrarian inflation downturn call back in the summer.” – U.S. Essentials, December 2018, Vol. XXIII, No. 12
Read December 2018 ECRI Outlook excerpted text

“ECRI Outlook” – November 2018
Slowing Growth Stoking Financial Stress
“The danger of more market volatility remains, regardless of hopes for seasonal strength. This is because upswings and downswings in financial market risks are related to cycles in economic growth, which our leading indexes anticipate.” – U.S. Essentials, November 2018, Vol. XXIII, No. 11

“ECRI Outlook” – October 2018
Global Industrial Slowdown to Worsen
“The global industrial slowdown we first forecast a year ago is in full swing and set to worsen. Meanwhile, with purchasing managers indexes actually lagging last November’s peak in global industrial production growth, the consensus was caught behind the curve.” – International Essentials, October 2018, Vol. XXIII, No. 10

“ECRI Outlook” – September 2018
Global Slowdown Set to Spread
“The major central banks are poised to tighten monetary policy in the face of the global slowdown.” – International Essentials, September 2018, Vol. XXIII, No. 9
Read September 2018 ECRI Outlook excerpted text

“ECRI Outlook” – September 2018
Chinese Dragon Under Threat
“In the midst of the trade war, China’s economy is starting to look more fragile on a cyclical basis. This is the message from our leading indexes, which help cut through the noise currently generated by geopolitical tensions.” – International Focus, September 2018, Vol. XXIII, No. 9

“ECRI Outlook” – August 2018
Inflation May Surprise to the Downside
“Contrary to consensus expectations, there is rising risk of a downturn in inflation, according to ECRI’s U.S. Future Inflation Gauge.” – U.S. Focus, August 2018, Vol. XXIII, No. 8

“ECRI Outlook” – July 2018
Home Price Growth Set to Fall Further
 “[W]ith (U.S. Leading Home Price Index) growth plunging to a 9½-year low, real home price growth is set to fall further.” – U.S. Essentials, July 2018, Vol. XXIII, No. 7
“ECRI Outlook” – July 2018
Chinese Export Outlook Darkens
“Chinese export growth was set to fall well before trade tensions mounted. That is the clear message from ECRI’s Chinese Leading Exports Index, which also gauges the cyclical susceptibility of China’s exports to negative shocks, like tariffs, that could intensify the slump.” – International Essentials, July 2018, Vol. XXIII, No. 7
Read July 2018 ECRI Outlook excerpted text

“ECRI Outlook” – July 2018
Clouds Gather over Eurozone Horizon

“ECRI Outlook” – June 2018
Pullback in U.S. Future Inflation Gauge
“ECRI’s U.S. Future Inflation Gauge ... has backed off a bit since February. While this pullback remains modest, it bears watching for early signs of a fresh cyclical downturn in underlying inflation pressures, which would truly baffle Phillips curve devotees.” – U.S. Essentials, June 2018, Vol. XXIII, No. 6

“ECRI Outlook” – June 2018
Rising Cyclical Risks for Emerging Markets
“ECRI’s indexes reveal a growing confluence of cyclical risks for emerging market economies.” – International Focus, June 2018, XXIII, No. 6
Read June 2018 ECRI Outlook excerpted text

“ECRI Outlook” – May 2018
Global Growth Downturn to Widen
“The global growth outlook has dimmed further, undermining hopes that the recent weakness in growth will be transitory. This is the message from ECRI’s international leading indexes, which capture cross-country cyclical contagion.” – International Essentials, May 2018, Vol. XXIII, No. 5

“ECRI Outlook” – April 2018
Global Industrial Outlook Weakens
“Spiking commodity prices have misled the markets into optimism about the global industrial growth outlook. In fact, those prospects have already dimmed, according to ECRI’s leading indexes, which are designed to discern cyclical signals from noise.” – International Essentials, April 2018, XXIII, No. 4
Read April 2018 ECRI Outlook excerpted text

“ECRI Outlook” – March 2018
Chinese Industrial Growth Prospects Dim (pre-sanctions)
Read March 2018 ECRI Outlook excerpted text
“ECRI Outlook” – February 2018
Cyclical Concerns Cloud India’s Structural Promise
“ECRI’s leading indexes show reduced room for policy maneuver, with growth prospects dimming as inflation pressures simmer.” – International Focus, February 2018, XXIII, No. 2

“ECRI Outlook” – February 2018
Global Growth Prospects Fade
“The point is that global growth has started to slow.” – International Essentials, February 2018, XXIII, No. 2

“ECRI Outlook” – January 2018
Global Export Growth Slowing
“At this stage of the global growth upturn ... some pundits would mistake it for a structural shift away from low trend growth and lowflation. But the cyclical avalanche whose rumblings we now hear can be even more damaging when a complacent consensus disregards them.” – International Essentials, January 2018, XXIII, No. 1

“ECRI Outlook” – January 2018
Long Leading Indexes Lead Purchasing Managers Indexes
ECRI’s long leading indexes have statistically significant leads over composite PMIs for the G7 economies and China. [Looking at a] recent case in point ... the IHS Markit composite PMI [has] dropped to a nine-month low; the ISM composite PMI ... to a three-month low. With USLLI growth being a leading indicator of both PMI measures, these ... are likely to amount to cyclical downturns that are not obvious to those who are unaware of the USLLI’s behavior. This is one way to gain an advantage over the consensus at cycle turns, which are typically recognized only well after the fact. For investment managers and corporate decision makers alike, that can make all the difference when dealing with the competition.” – International Focus, January 2018, XXIII, No. 1
2017: Strongest Global Growth Since 2010, Inflation Downturn

“ECRI Outlook” – November 2017
Stealth Slowdown
“[T]he jobless rate will soon start to level off or even tick up in the coming months. That would be consistent with a [growth rate cycle] downturn.” – U.S. Essentials, November 2017, Vol. XXII, No. 11.

“ECRI Outlook” – October 2017
Global Growth Outlook Darkens
“Global industrial growth has rolled over and is poised to weaken in the near term.” – International Essentials, October 2017, Vol. XXII, No. 10.
Read October 2017 ECRI Outlook excerpted text

“ECRI Outlook” – June 2017
International Inflation Pressures Turn Down
“A new international inflation cycle downturn is now assured.” – International Essentials, June 2017, Vol. XXII, No. 6
Read June 2017 ECRI Outlook excerpted text

“ECRI Outlook” – June 2017
U.S. Inflation Pressures Downshift
“The Fed risks being blindsided by a cyclical downturn in inflation. That is the clear and present danger as monetary policymakers continue to dismiss the recent dip in inflation due to ‘one-off’ factors, while clinging to their conviction that the Phillips curve will prevail.” – U.S. Essentials, June 2017, Vol. XXII, No. 6
Read June 2017 ECRI Outlook excerpted text

“ECRI Outlook” – March 2017
Growth Upturn Gathers Steam
“Many are misreading the ‘hard’ data as very weak, even as the Fed is set to stay the course on its rate hike cycle. That is the essence of our earlier outlook that Janet Yellen echoed when she said after last week’s rate hike: ‘The simple message is the economy is doing well.”’ – U.S. Essentials, March 2017, Vol. XXII, No. 3
Read March 2017 ECRI Outlook excerpted text

“ECRI Outlook” – February 2017
Brightest Global Growth Outlook Since 2010
“The days of quantitative easing (QE) are numbered, given the most upbeat global growth outlook in almost seven years. That is the message from ECRI’s 20-Country Long Leading Index (20LLI), whose growth rate remains at an 80-month high.” – International Essentials, February 2017, Vol. XXII, No. 2
Read February 2017 ECRI Outlook excerpted text
“ECRI Outlook” – January 2017
Buoyant Near-Term Global Industrial Outlook
“The global industrial growth upturn we flagged last summer is in full swing, and set to continue over the next few months. That is the unequivocal message from ECRI’s short leading indicators of global industrial growth.”
Read January 2017 ECRI Outlook excerpted text

“ECRI Outlook” – January 2017
U.S. Growth and Inflation to Revive in Sync
“Underlying inflation pressures remain in a cyclical upswing that we called early last year, while inflation expectations have risen from February’s multiyear lows to the highest readings since 2014.” – U.S. Essentials, January 2017, Vol. XXII, No. 1
Read January 2017 ECRI Outlook excerpted text
2016: No U.S. Recession, Global Reflation

“ECRI Outlook” – December 2016

We Have Ignition

“Building on the gradual improvement that has been evident in recent months, the latest forward-looking data finally provides clear evidence that a growth rate cycle upturn is now at hand.” – U.S. Essentials, December 2016, Vol. XXI, No. 12

“ECRI Outlook” – November 2016

Emerging Economies to Outshine Advanced Economies


“ECRI Outlook” – November 2016

India: Growth Outlook Improved Further

“Indian economic growth prospects continued to brighten through the early autumn, according to ECRI’s Indian Long Leading Index ... [Thus, while] Indian economic growth is practically certain to take a serious hit due to the sudden liquidity squeeze in the current quarter and the first quarter of 2017 [it will return] to its prior trajectory [after avoiding recession].” – International Essentials and Country Pages, November 2016, Vol. XXI, No. 11.

“ECRI Outlook” – September 2016

Exceptional India

“While global growth decelerates and world export volumes decline, India is bucking the trend. Moreover, Indian export growth prospects continue to improve.” – International Focus, September 2016, Vol. XXI, No. 9

“ECRI Outlook” – September 2016

Global Industrial Growth Boosting Commodity Prices

“A full-fledged cyclical upturn in industrial commodity prices is underway, consistent with our global reflation call. It also confirms the upturn in global industrial growth.” – International Essentials, September 2016, Vol. XXI, No. 9

“ECRI Outlook” – August 2016

Global Reflation

“ECRI’s international future inflation gauges show a widespread buildup of cyclical inflationary pressures, despite sustained structural lowflation.” – International Essentials, August 2016, Vol. XXI, No. 8

“ECRI Outlook” – August 2016

Recession Risk Retreats

“The U.S. economy has veered away from a recession track, and may finally be on the cusp of a growth rate cycle upturn. If so, the ‘stagflation lite’ we had flagged earlier this year should give way to an inflationary upswing in economic growth.” – U.S. Essentials, August 2016, Vol. XXI, No. 8
“ECRI Outlook” – July 2016
Inflation Pressures Ratchet Up
“In sharp contrast to the decline in longer-term inflation expectations, ‘stagflation lite’ — a cyclical upturn in inflation during a cyclical slowdown, which we had predicted earlier — is already a reality. Looking ahead, with the U.S. Future Inflation Gauge (USFIG) in a decisive upturn that is increasingly pronounced, pervasive and persistent, inflation is poised to mount further in the coming months.” – U.S. Essentials, July 2016, Vol. XXI, No. 7

“ECRI Outlook” – June 2016
Brexit No U.K. Recession Trigger
“While potentially damaging longer-run U.K. and European growth prospects, the vote for Brexit is unlikely to unleash an immediate recession.” – International Essentials, June 2016, Vol. XXI, No. 6
➤Read June 2016 ECRI Outlook excerpted text

“ECRI Outlook” – March 2016
Stagflation Lite
“An end to the economic slowdown remains elusive. Yet, underlying inflation pressures — though relatively restrained — have started perking up.” – U.S. Essentials, March 2016, Vol. XXI, No. 3
➤Read March 2016 ECRI Outlook excerpted text

“ECRI Outlook” – January 2016
Recession Not at Hand
“Although some economists continue to expect a pickup in U.S. growth... with USLLI growth sliding to a 23-month low, there is no end in sight for this GRC downturn. In other words, the slowdown is set to intensify for the foreseeable future, i.e., through the first half of 2016. As to whether this deepening slowdown will culminate in a recession, the jury is still out. Whereas a recession signal requires the level of the USLLI to be in a pronounced, pervasive and persistent downturn, the magnitude of its decline from its August high has so far been modest.” – U.S. Essentials, January 2016, Vol. XXI, No. 1
➤Read January 2016 ECRI Outlook excerpted text
2015: Collision Course

“ECRI Outlook” – December 2015
Rate Hike Cycle Remains Improbable
“With the GRC downturn set to deepen, a full-blown rate hike cycle remains improbable” – *U.S. Cyclical Outlook Essentials, December 2015, Vol. XX, No. 12*

“ECRI Outlook” – July 2015
Collision Course
“The Fed’s rate hike plans are on a collision course with the economic cycle. According to Fed Chairman Janet Yellen’s congressional testimony last week, ‘economic conditions likely would make it appropriate at some point this year to raise the federal funds rate target,’ i.e., if not by September, then by December. But while the Fed clearly expects a pickup in growth, ECRI’s leading indexes suggest the opposite.” – *U.S. Cyclical Outlook Essentials, July 2015, Vol. XX, No. 7*
[N]Read excerpt from ECRI’s July 2015 Outlook

“ECRI Outlook” – July 2015
One-Speed Economy
“The two-speed economy – where manufacturing is in a growth rate cycle (GRC) downturn and services in a GRC upturn – that we flagged in November has come to an inauspicious end. With nonfinancial services growth in a three P’s downturn and growth in the leading and coincident services indexes weakening, the service sector has entered a slowdown, joining manufacturing. This will likely result in an intensification of the ongoing U.S. GRC downturn in the coming months, as we noted recently.” – *U.S. Cyclical Outlook Focus, July 2015, Vol. XX, No. 7*

“ECRI Outlook” – April 2015
Brazilian Carnival: The Music Stops
“[T]he current cyclical outlook remains gloomy, with exports the only glimmer of hope. Therefore, recessionary conditions are likely to persist in the near future.” – *International Cyclical Outlook Focus, April 2015, Vol. XX, No. 4*

“ECRI Outlook” – January 2015
If Not Now, When?
“Given half a chance, the Fed would like to raise rates this year ... The sixty-four thousand dollar question is whether they will get that opportunity. ... [With] 5% GDP growth in Q3 2014, almost 3 million payroll jobs added in 2014, and the jobless rate ... approaching the Fed’s estimate of ‘full employment’ ... more than six years after rates hit the zero lower bound (ZLB), the question has to be, ‘if not now, when?’” – *U.S. Cyclical Outlook Essentials, January 2015, Vol. XX, No. 1*
[N]Read January 2015 ECRI Outlook excerpted text