

# CFNAI Index Suggests Economy Is Slowing

## Inside This Week's Bull Bear Report

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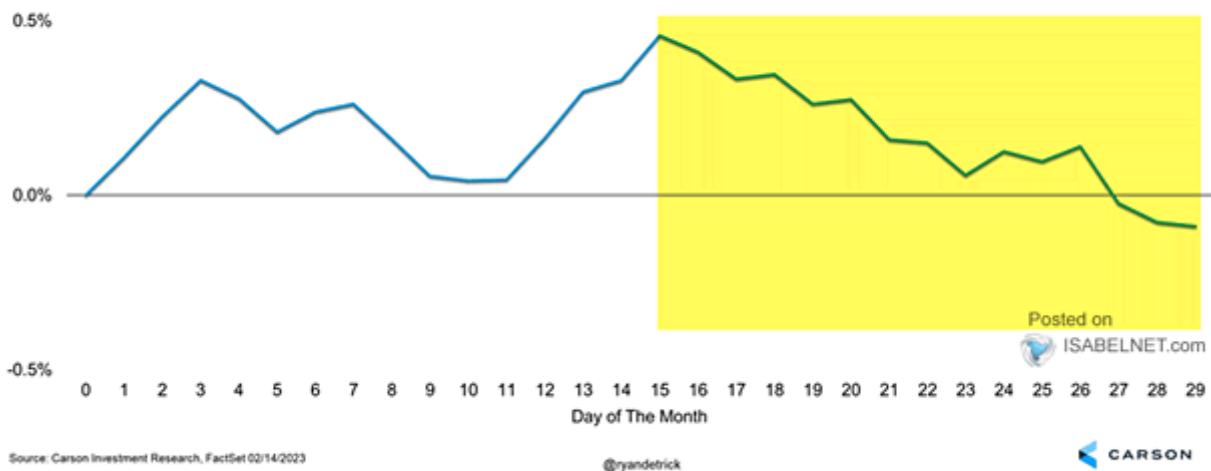
## February Weakness And The Outlook For March

[Last week](#), we discussed that continued bullish exuberance and high levels of complacency can quickly turn into volatility. Over the previous week, the market fell sharply following news of a potential viral outbreak in China and more concerns about tariffs from the Trump Administration. While those were the headlines that gained the market's attention, the reality was that the market was overbought and on a sell signal, setting the market up for pullback. The correction was not unexpected, as [discussed three weeks ago](#):

*?The bullish bias is evident, as witnessed by the recent surge in retail money flows into leveraged ETFs and speculative options trading. However, as is always the case, whenever investors are crowded on ?one side of the boat,? it is often a decent contrarian signal to be a bit more cautious. Furthermore, while there is currently no evidence of a catalyst for a correction, it is worth noting that we are entering into the seasonally weak part of February.?*

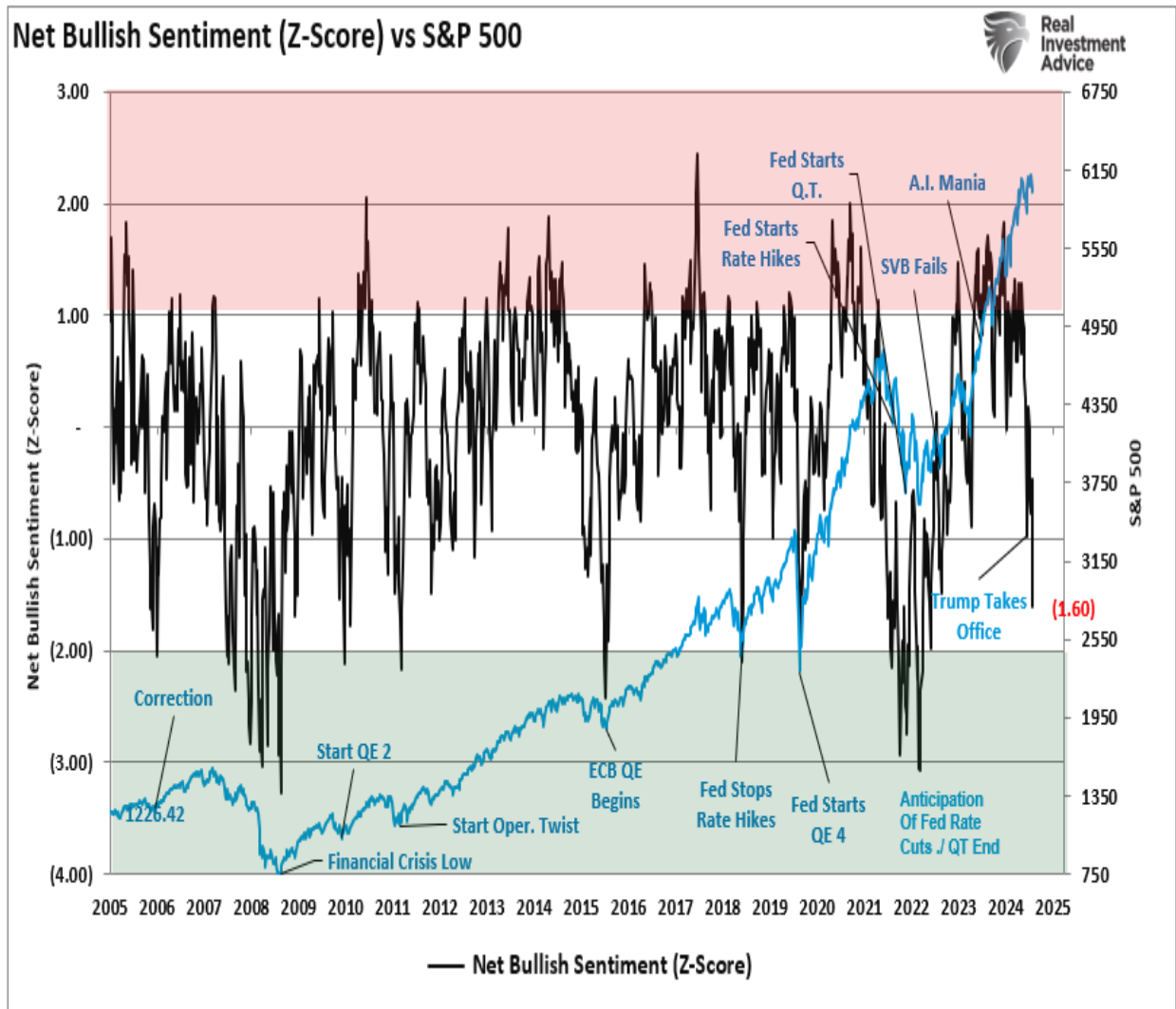
## Late February Can Be Tricky For The Bulls

S&P 500 Index Returns In February (1950 - 2023)



In other words, while the media scrambled to align reasons with the sell-off, the correction was very much in line with seasonal tendencies. Crucially, that sell-off has pushed [investor sentiment to levels](#) typically equating to much deeper corrections. From a contrarian view, that extreme negative sentiment, now combined with oversold conditions, provides a good base for a rally in March.

*?Sentiment is approaching two standard deviations below its average level. Such levels are more coincident with market bottoms than the beginning of a corrective cycle. I have labeled some events along the way. The lesson is that headlines drive sentiment, and when sentiment becomes too negative, as may be the case today, such allows for rallies to form.?*



## Here Comes March

Furthermore, March has a seasonal bias to the upside as we enter the end of the quarter and the last stretch of the seasonally strong period of the year. January, March, and April have the most substantial early-year returns, with March and April having the highest win rates.

## Monthly Return Stats for the S&P500 1964-2023

	Avg Return	% Positive	Best	Worst	Std Dev
Jan	1.1%	58%	13%	-9%	5.0%
Feb	0.0%	53%	7%	-11%	3.9%
Mar	1.0%	65%	10%	-13%	3.9%
Apr	1.6%	73%	13%	-9%	4.1%
May	0.2%	60%	9%	-8%	3.6%
Jun	0.2%	58%	7%	-9%	3.5%
Jul	0.8%	53%	9%	-8%	4.1%
Aug	0.0%	55%	12%	-15%	4.7%
Sep	-0.7%	45%	9%	-12%	4.4%
Oct	1.0%	60%	16%	-22%	6.0%
Nov	1.5%	68%	11%	-11%	4.4%
Dec	1.3%	72%	11%	-9%	3.5%

Source: Topdown Charts, LSEG



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topdowncharts.com

Does this mean the next major bull market rally is set to begin? No. But it does suggest that there are such high levels of negative sentiment that selling today will likely be a mistake. Loss avoidance is one of the psychological factors that leads investors to long-term underperformance. With market sentiment very negative and becoming decently oversold, be patient and wait for a tradeable rally to rebalance portfolio positions as needed. For traders, a decent tradable opportunity is likely in the near term.

However, while there is a potential for a decent tradeable rally over the next month or so, we still expect increased volatility this year. We want to reiterate using rallies to rebalance risk and manage allocations as needed.

The latest readings from the CFNAI index are one reason we remain cautious about our outlook.

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## The CFNAI Index Suggests The Economy Is Weakening

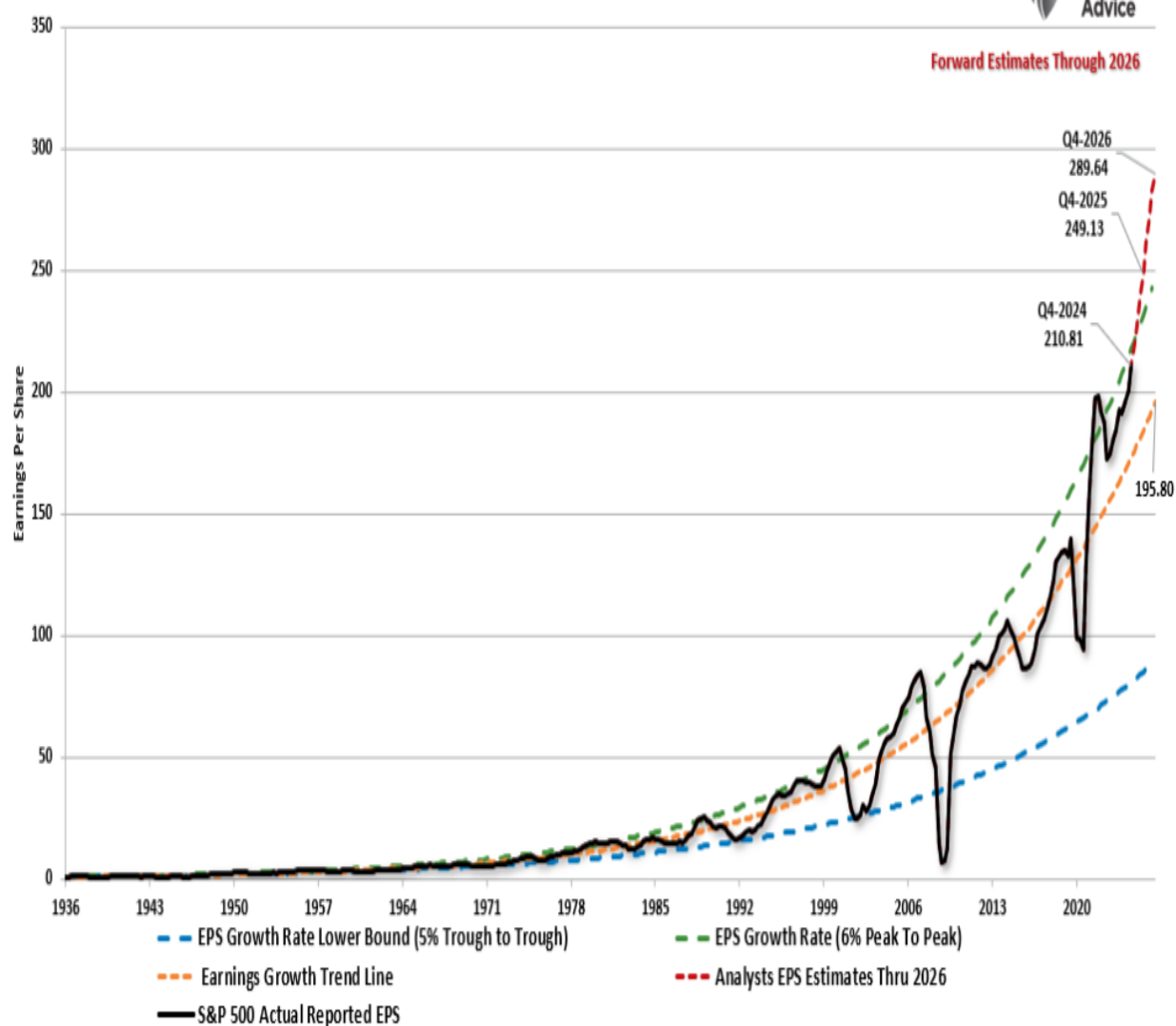
Recent economic reports have shown a more serious activity slowdown, which we have discussed many times in recent months. One indicator we watch closely is the Chicago Fed National Activity Index (CFNAI) which is arguably one of the most important and overlooked economic indicators. Each month, economists, the media, and investors pour over various mainstream economic indicators, from GDP to employment and inflation, to determine what markets will likely do next.

While economic numbers like GDP or the monthly non-farm payroll report typically garner the headlines, the most crucial statistic, in my opinion, is the CFNAI index. Investors and the press mostly ignore it, but the CFNAI is a composite index of 85 sub-components and provides a broad overview of overall economic activity in the U.S.

Since the beginning of this year, the markets have struggled as they digest news of tariffs, concerns over Artificial Intelligence, and sticky inflation. Even with that pickup in volatility, [as discussed this past week](#), analysts are very optimistic about earnings growth throughout this year and into 2026. Those expectations are predicated upon continued robust economic growth. To wit:

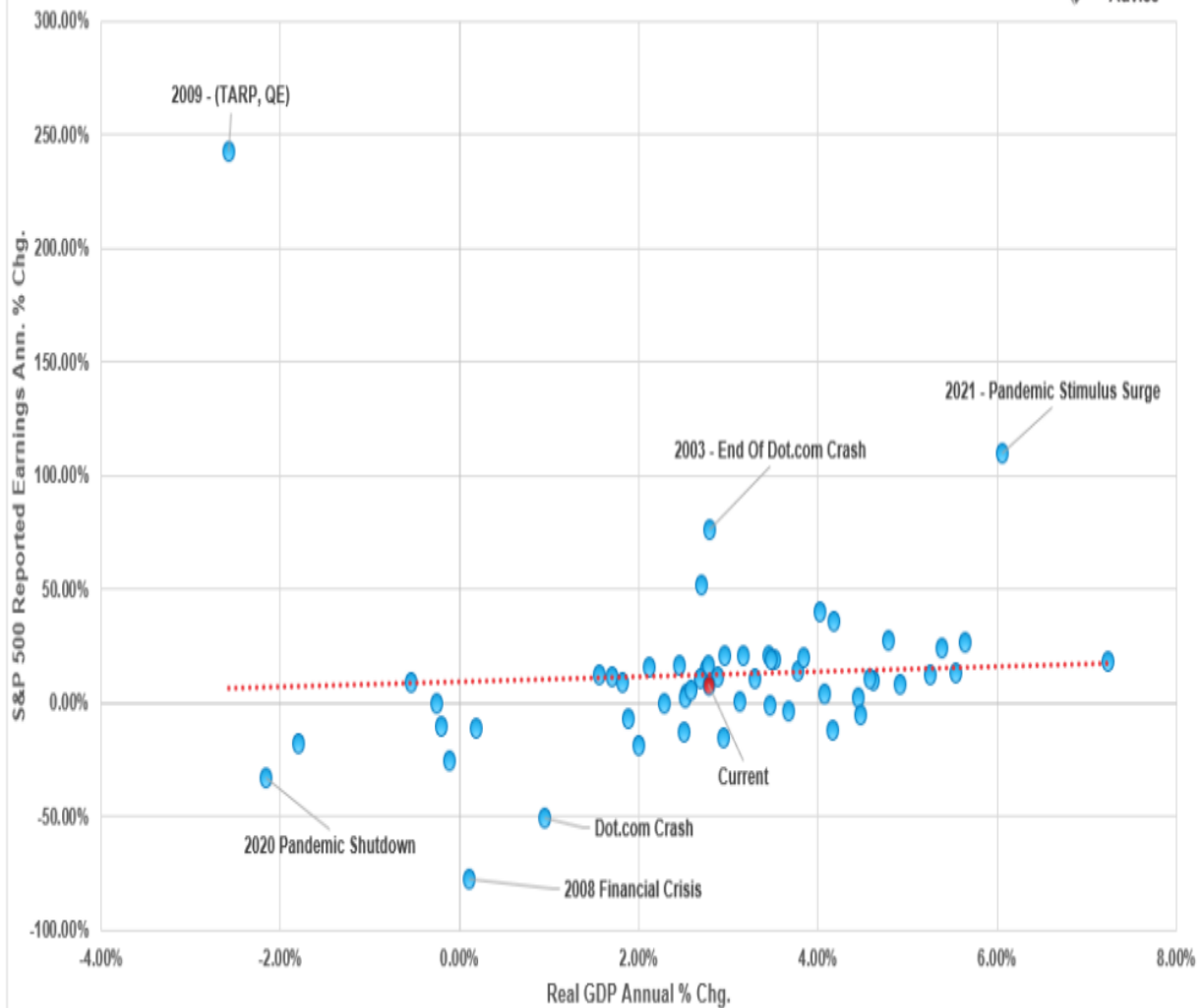
*?The chart below shows earnings? long-term growth. Notably, analysts expect a record deviation above earnings? long-term exponential growth trend of \$195/share and above the 6% peak-to-peak historical growth rate.?*

## Earnings Estimates Well Ahead Of Economic Realities



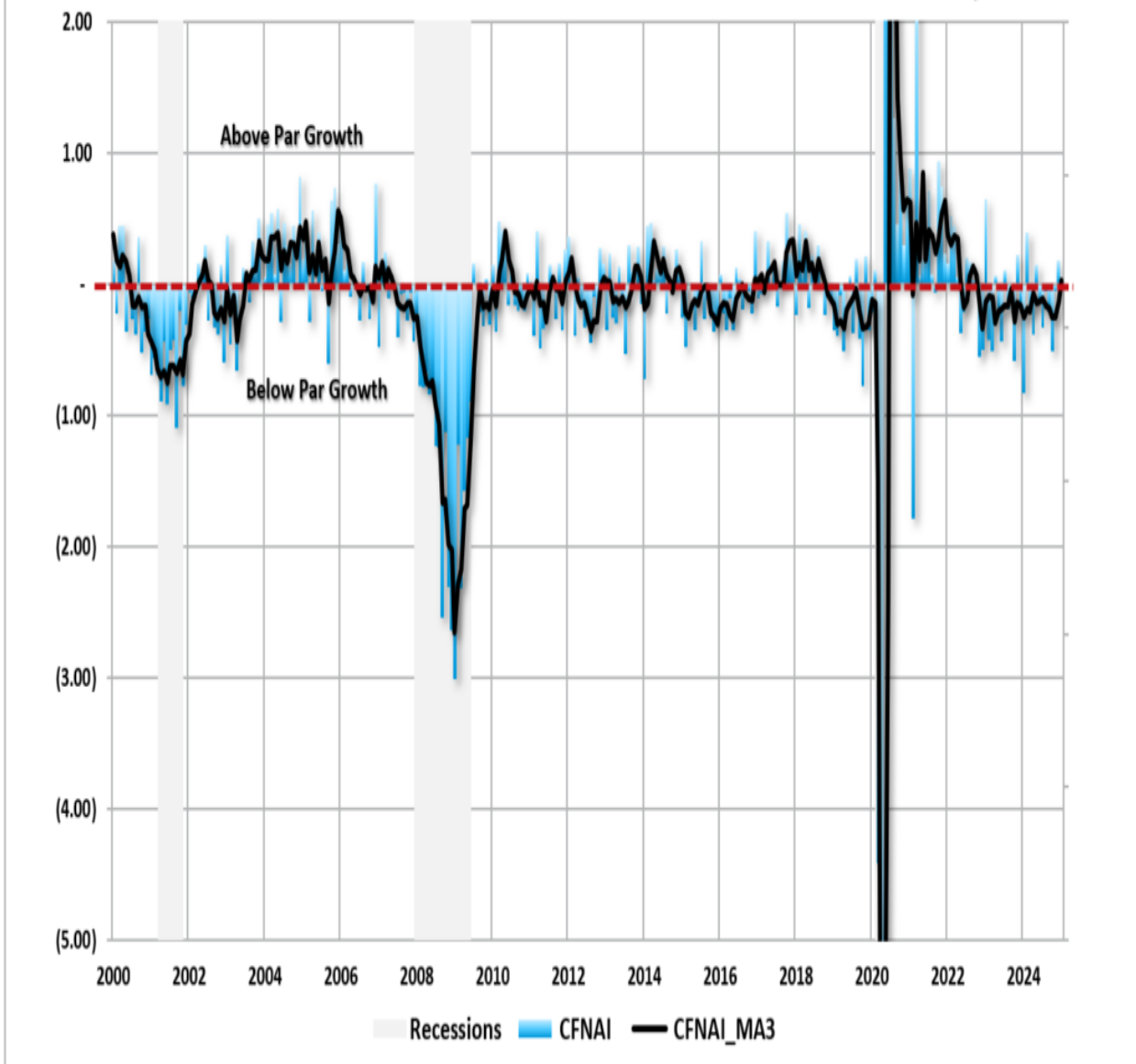
*?The peak-to-peak growth trend is crucial because it is the historical growth rate of nominal GDP. Given that corporate revenue, from which earnings are derived, comes from economic activity, the correlation is logical. There are times when earnings can grow much faster than the economy, such as when the economy emerges from a recession. However, over time, earnings growth returns to the long-term relationship.?*

## Annual % Change In S&P 500 Earnings Growth & Real GDP.



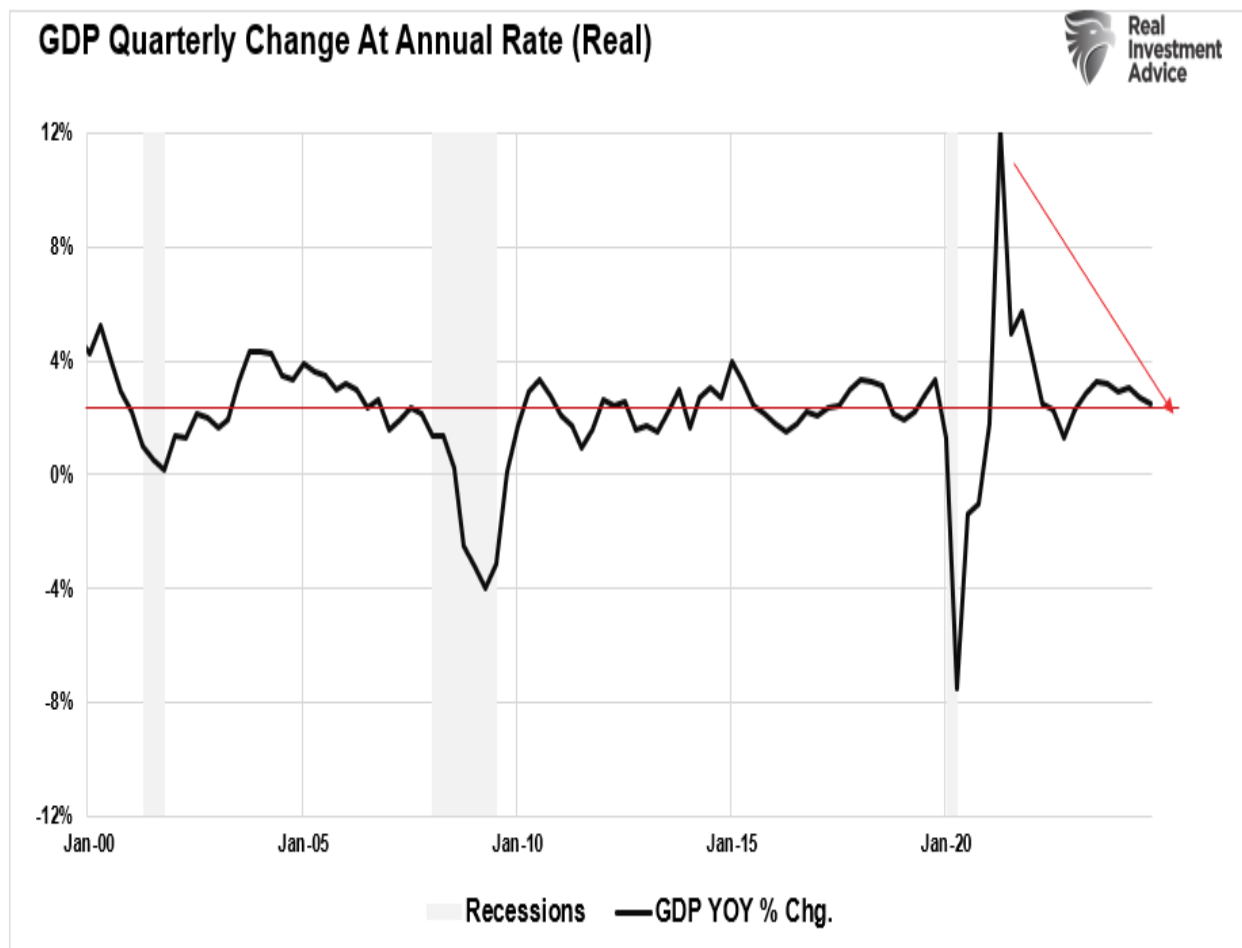
However, if recent CFNAI index readings are any indication, investors may want to temper their expectations heading into this year. While most economic data series, like GDP, are backward-looking statistics, the CFNAI index is a forward-looking metric that indicates how the economy will likely look in the coming months. With a continued reading below zero, such does not suggest economic *robustness* in the months ahead.

## Chicago Fed National Activity Index



Furthermore, the CFNAI index also supports the continued retracement of actual economic growth rates towards 2%, which has been the average since the turn of the century.





So, what is the CFNAI index telling us that the BEA economic reports are not?

## CFNAI Index: Breaking Down The ?Most Important Number?

Understanding the message the index is designed to deliver is critical. A negative reading DOES NOT equate to a recession. From the&#2013266080;[Chicago Fed website](#):

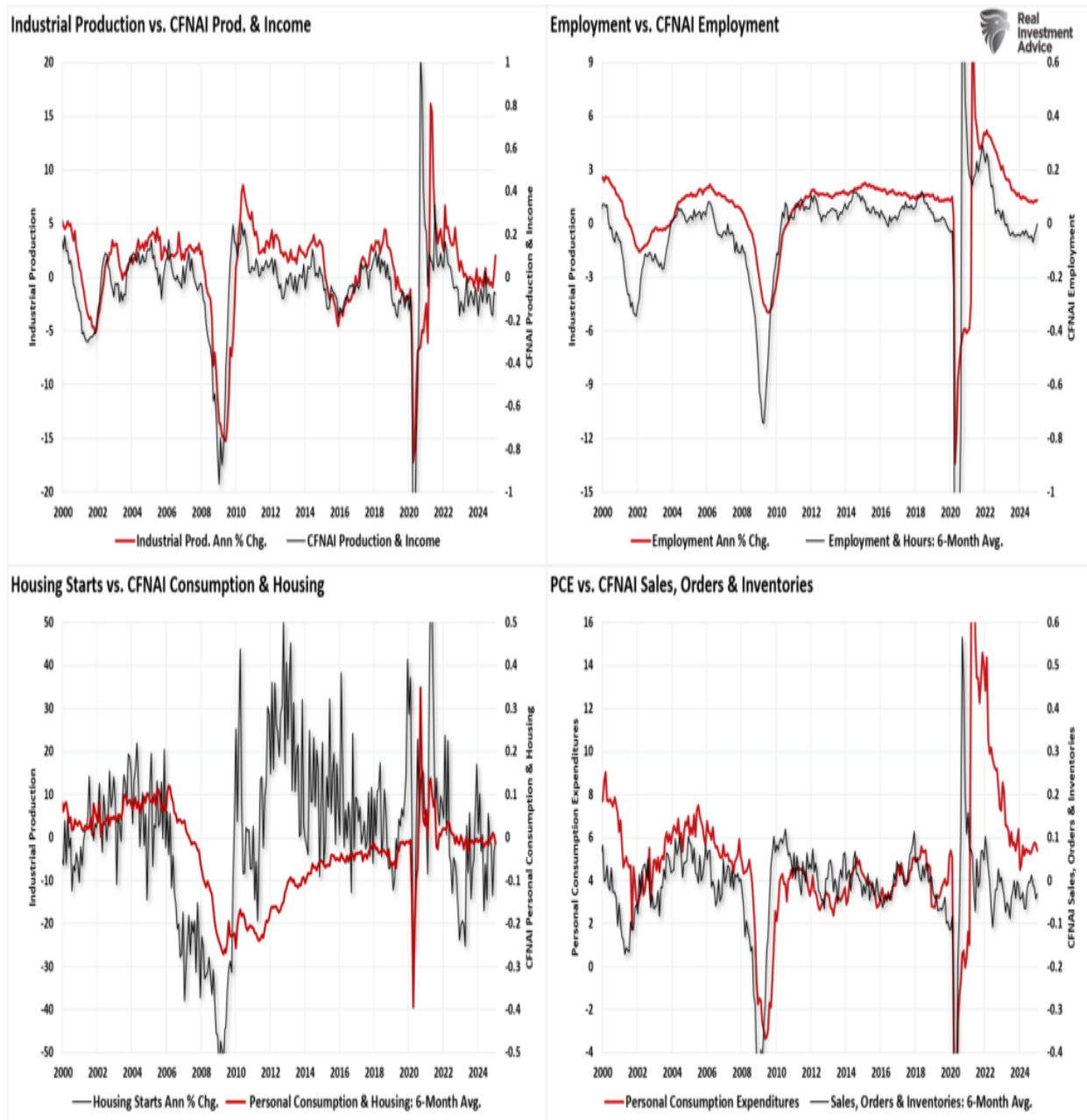
*?The Chicago Fed National Activity Index (CFNAI Index) is a monthly index designed to gauge overall economic activity and related inflationary pressure.&#2013266080;A **zero value for the index indicates that the national economy is expanding at its historical trend rate of growth; negative values indicate below-average growth; and positive values indicate above-average growth.**?*

The overall index is broken down into four major sub-categories, which cover:

- **Production & Income**
- **Employment, Unemployment & Hours**
- **Personal Consumption & Housing**
- **Sales, Orders & Inventories**

I have constructed a four-panel chart better to understand the critical sub-components and their predictive capability. For illustrative purposes, I compare the CFNAI Index sub-components to the four most common economic reports: Industrial Production, Employment, Housing Starts, and Personal Consumption Expenditures. Notably, the CFNAI data is extremely volatile, so I have smoothed the data using a six-month average. Then, to align that data with the CFNAI index, I

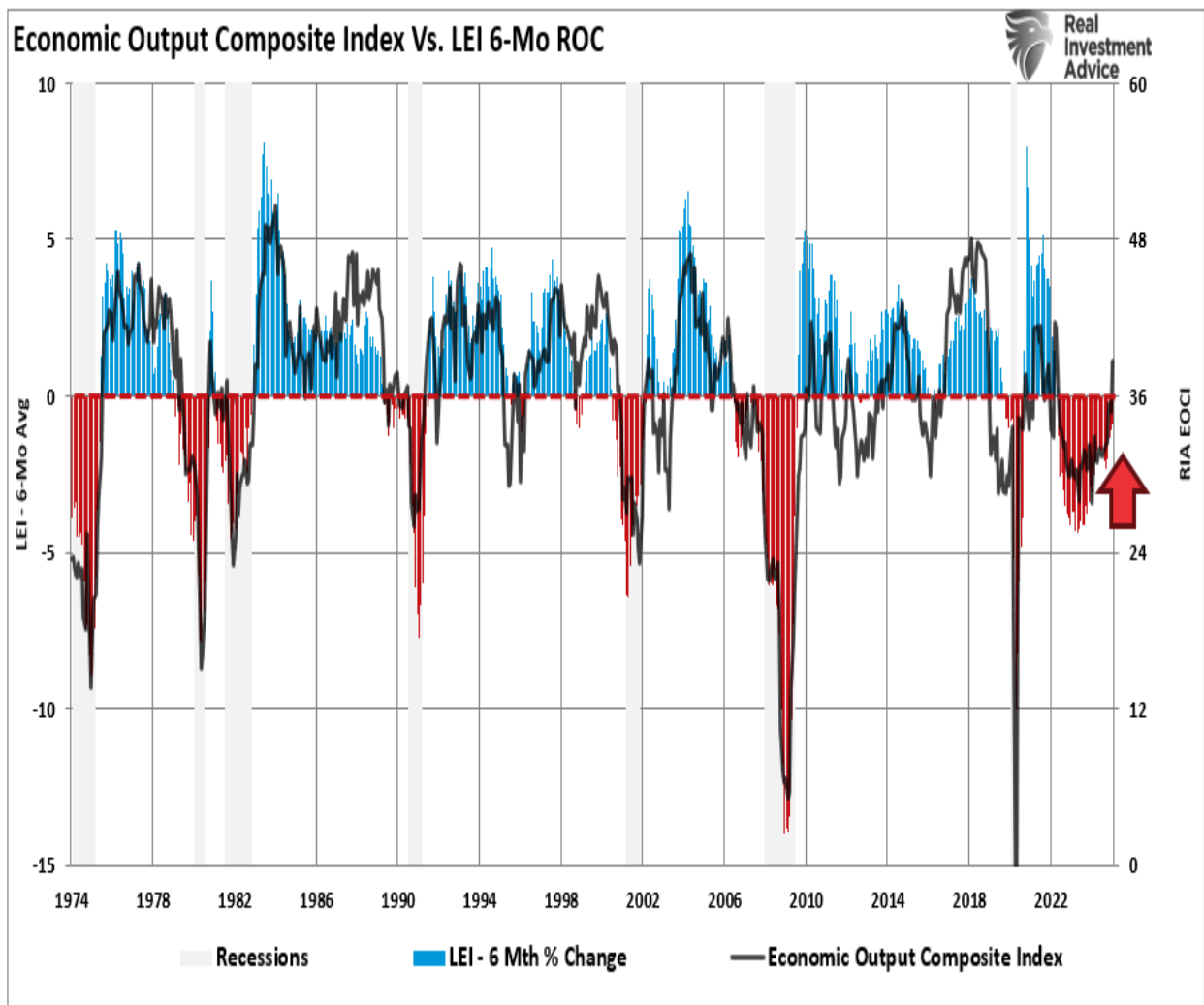
used an annual percentage change for the four mainstream economic components.



The correlation between the CFNAI index sub-components and the underlying major economic reports is high. This is why, even though this indicator gets very little attention, it represents the broader economy. The CFNAI index does not confirm the mainstream view of an economic resurgence that will drive earnings growth in 2026.

## The EOCI Index Comparison

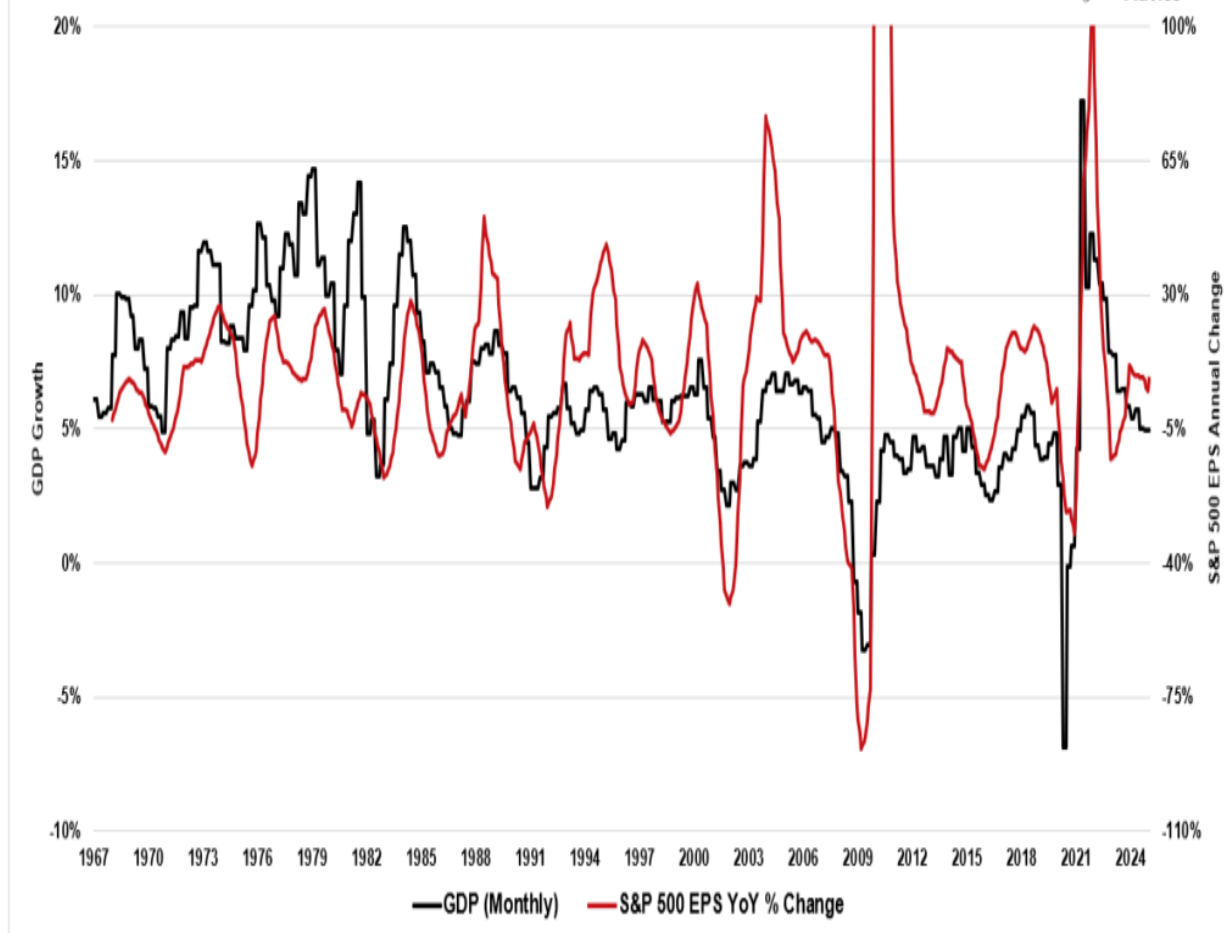
Furthermore, the CFNAI is also essential to our **RIA Economic Output Composite Index (EOCI)**, which is an even broader composition of data points, including Federal Reserve regional activity indices, the Chicago PMI, ISM, the National Federation of Independent Business Surveys, and the Leading Economic Index. The EOCI also confirms that while economic data has improved following the economic shutdown, the hopes of a massive resurgence in economic activity are unlikely. Lastly, given that these indicators are only slightly into expansion territory, any impact from tariffs, deficit reductions, or increased unemployment will push these indicators back into contraction.



Notably, the EOCI and the Leading Economic Index remained in typically recessionary territory for an extended period, yet the National Bureau of Economic Research never called a recession. While readings have reverted to normal, the current state of broad economic data supports an economic growth rate of 2%-ish but not much more than that. Such a low economic growth rate does not support elevated levels of employment, increased wages, or consumption. Such is critical to the outlook for earnings.

*?Again, this is because earnings are a function of economic activity. Therefore, for earnings to match current estimates, expectations for economic growth must improve sharply. However, such seems unlikely given the impact of tariffs and reductions in government spending and employment. Therefore, it is far more likely that we will eventually see a sharp decrease in forward estimates.?*

## GDP vs S&P 500 EPS Ann. % Change

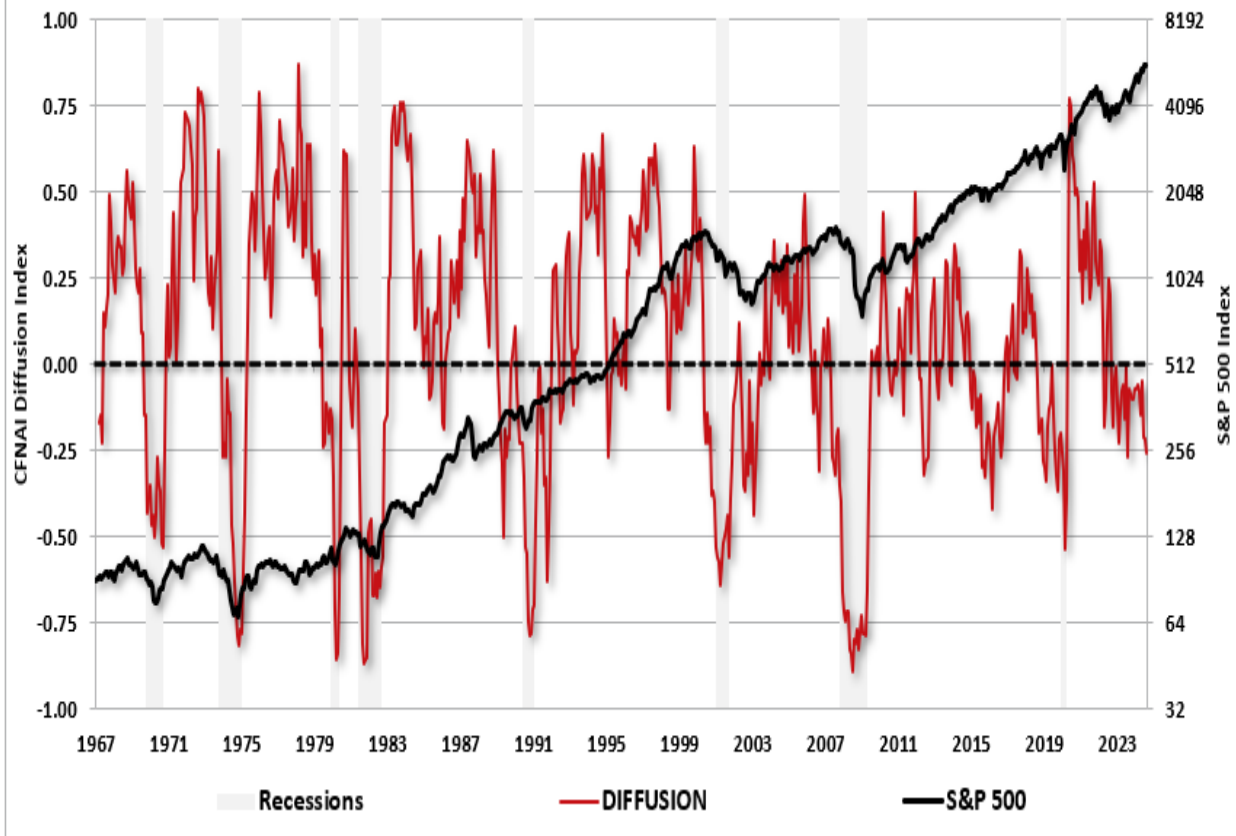


The risk to investors is that if estimates are too elevated, any reduction in those estimates will weigh on asset prices as markets reprice for economic realities.

## It's In The Diffusion

The Chicago Fed also provides a breakdown of the change in the underlying 85 components in a [diffusion index](#). As opposed to just the index itself, the [diffusion](#) of the components gives us a better understanding of the broader changes inside the index itself.

## CFNAI - Diffusion Index Of 85 Subcomponents

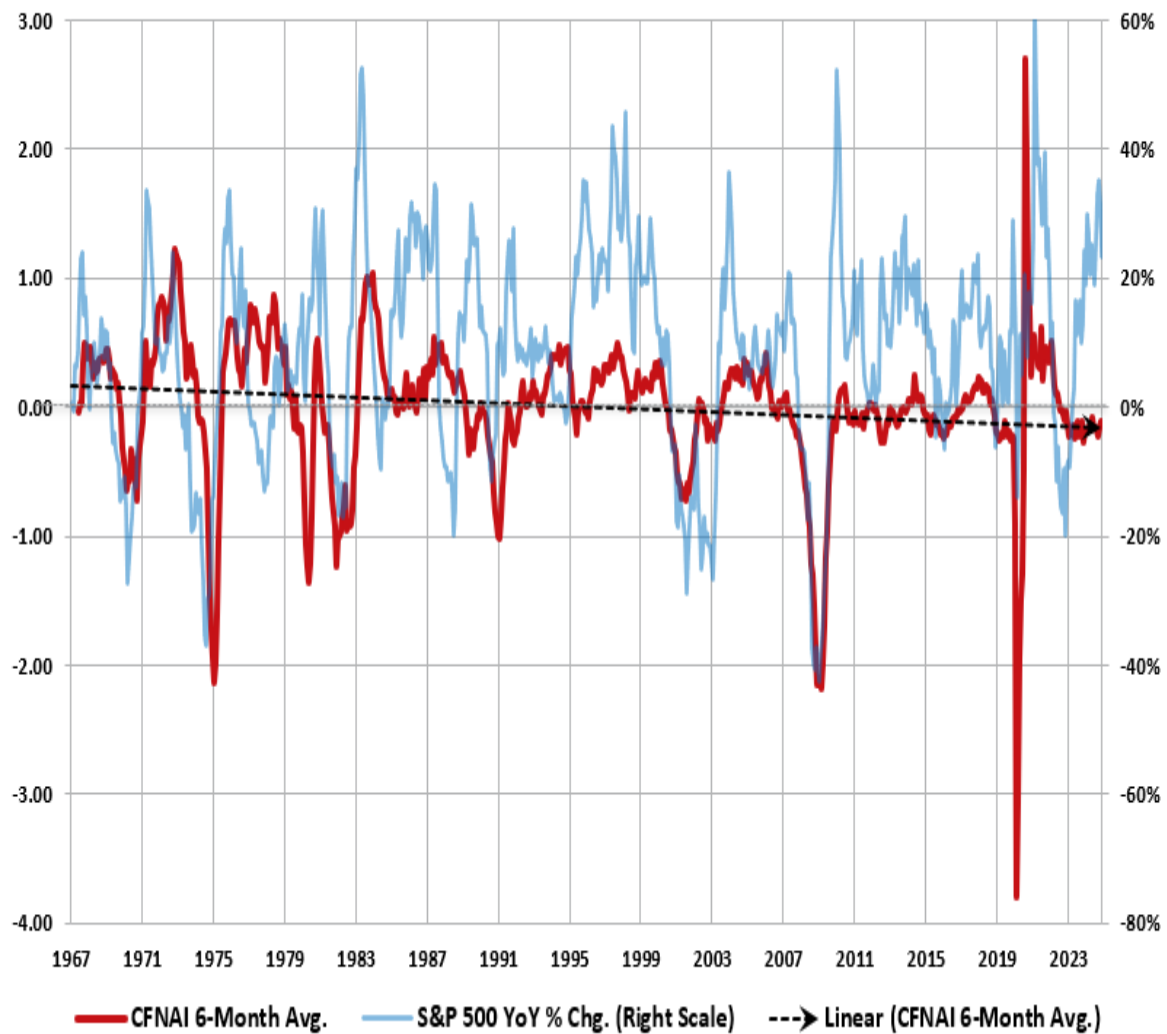


There are two points of consideration:

1. When the diffusion index dips below zero, it coincides with weak economic growth and outright recessions;
2. The S&P 500 has a history of corrections and outright bear markets, corresponding with negative readings in the diffusion index.

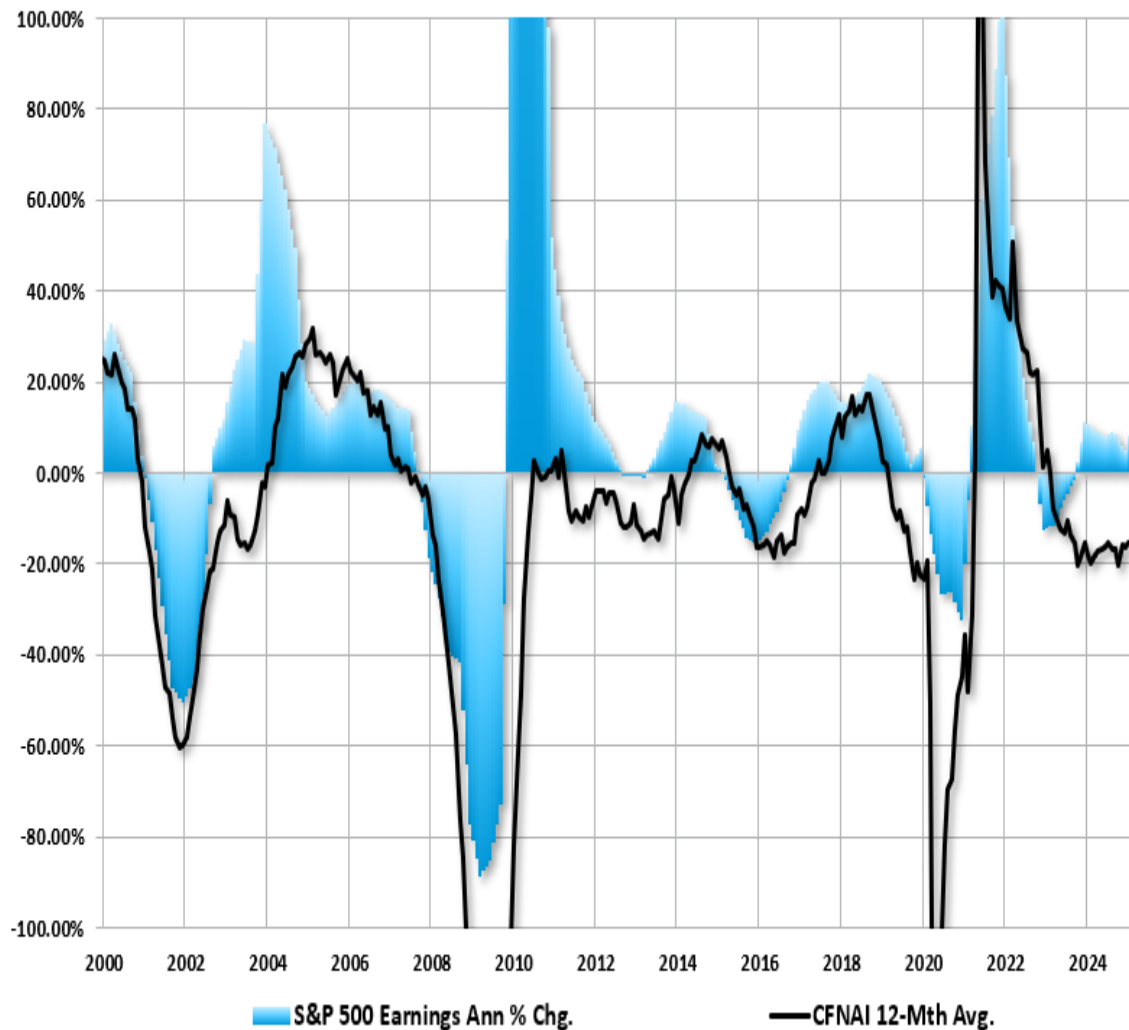
The second point should not be surprising, as the stock market reflects economic growth. Both the EOCI index above and the CFNAI below correlate to the annual rate of change in the S&P 500. However, what is surprising is that since 2023, the market has surged higher despite a continued state of economic weakness in actual activity. Such is because of the massive infusion of capital into the economy through fiscal and monetary measures. The break of the long-term correlation is remarkable and suggests that markets are likely to revert to underlying economic activity rather than the opposite.

## Chicago Fed National Activity Index vs. S&P 500



That exact correlation also shows up in the annual growth rate of earnings. Given that earnings are a function of economic activity, as discussed above, the current deviation between earnings growth and the economy is likely unsustainable. Given that the Fed is maintaining a higher interest rate environment, inflation remains sticky, and the current Administration is taking disinflationary actions through immigration and deficit reduction policies, it is unlikely that the economy will rise to support current earnings growth rates.

## Chicago Fed National Activity Index

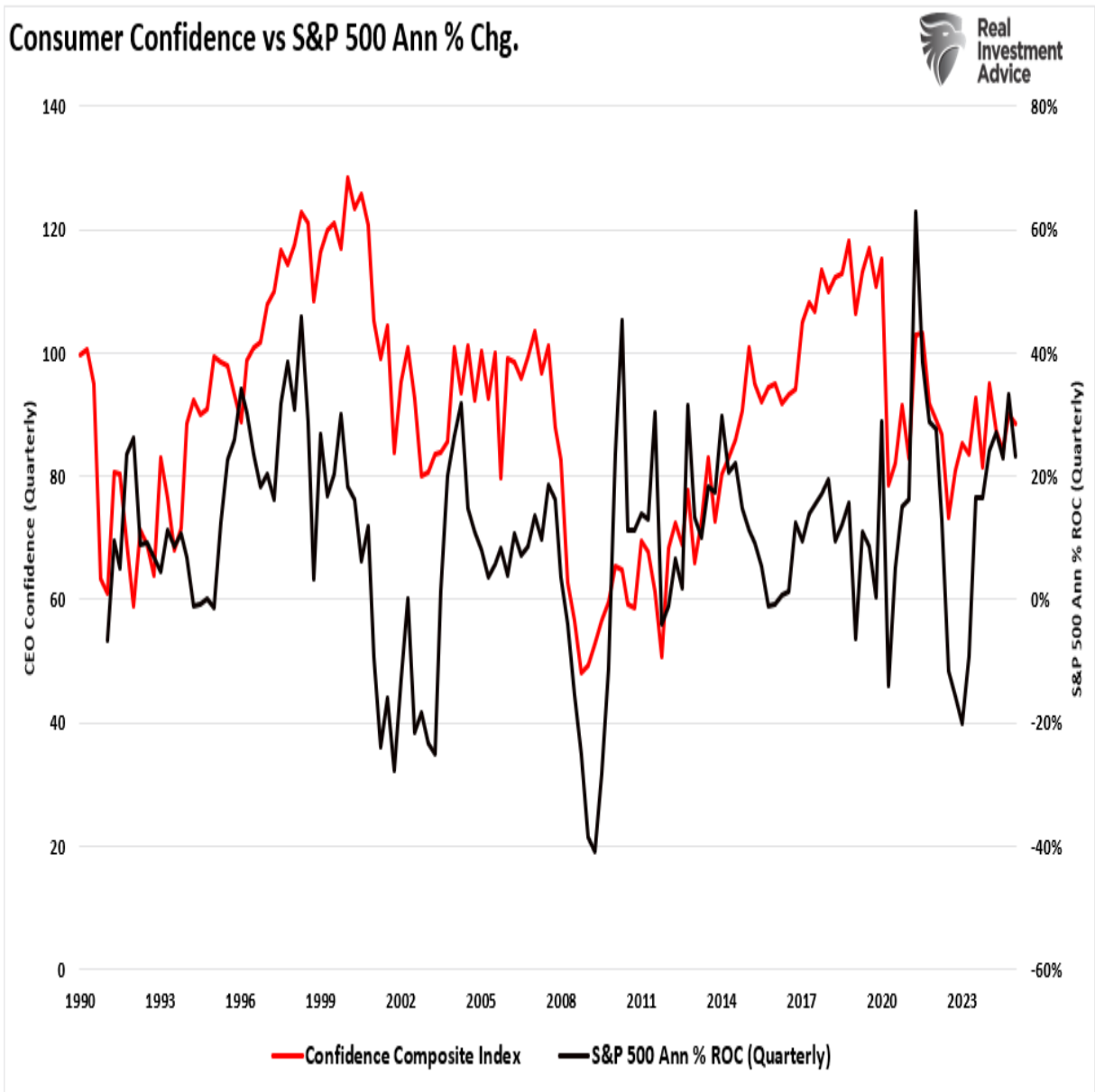


Investors should also be concerned about the current level of consumer confidence readings.

### Not So Confident

The chart below is our consumer confidence composite index. It combines the University of Michigan and the Conference Board's sentiment readings into one index. Unsurprisingly, when consumers are confident, the stock market tends to rise. As Ben Bernanke noted, rising asset prices boost consumer confidence, supporting economic growth. While consumer confidence has risen from the 2022 lows, confidence readings are starting to show signs of stress as consumers run out of excess savings.





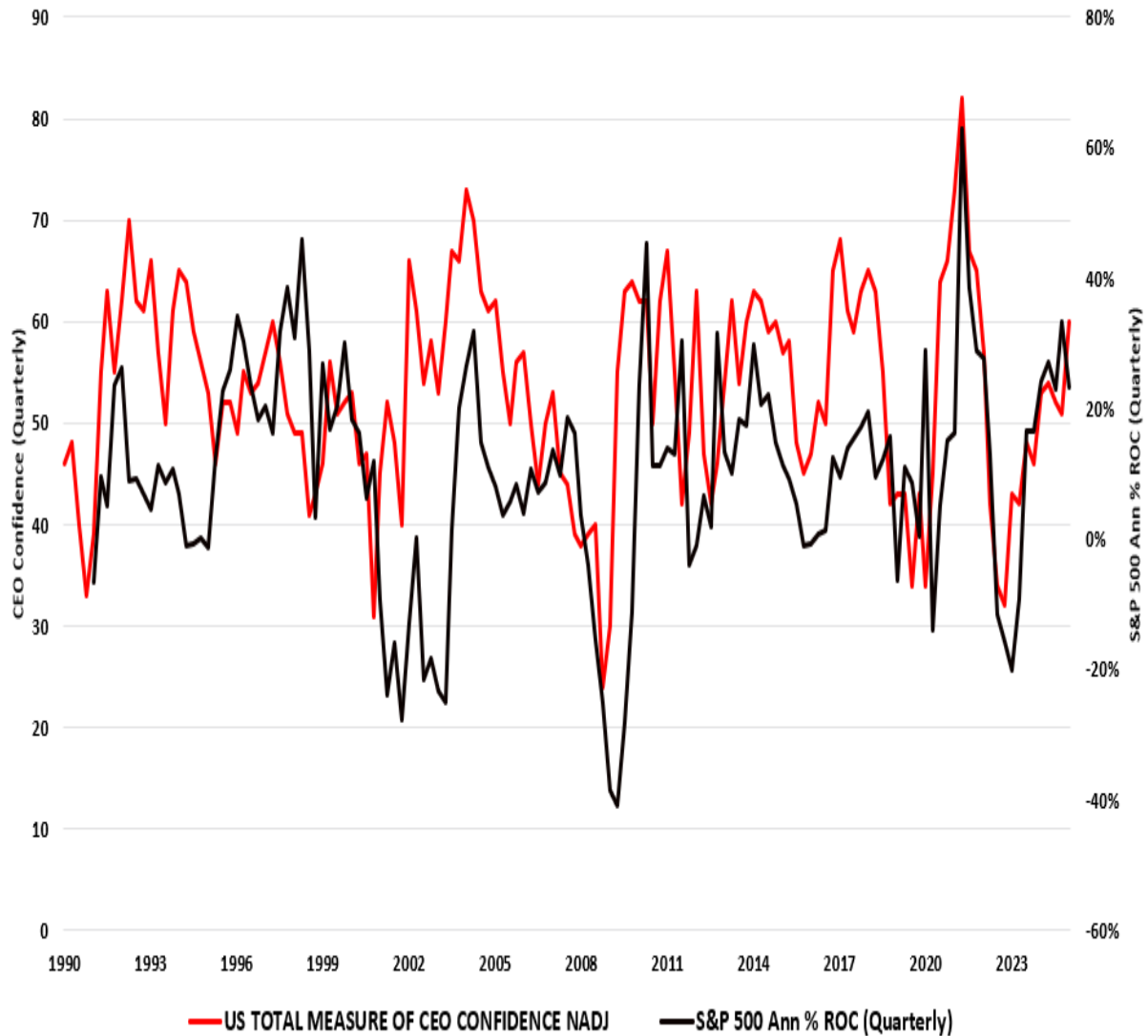
Crucially, consumer confidence feeds CEO confidence.

*?Is it the consumer cranking out work hours, raising a family, and trying to make ends meet? Or the CEO of a company that has the best view of the economic landscape. Sales, prices, managing inventory, dealing with collections, paying bills, tells them what they need to know about the actual economy??*

In other words, when consumer confidence is high and demand for products or services is elevated, CEOs are willing to expend capital for expansion, employment, or increased wages. When consumer confidence reverses, CEO confidence will also reverse, leading to employment reductions, wage cuts, and reduced spending, which impacts economic growth. This is why, given that the market reflects confidence, investors should pay attention to what consumers and CEOs are saying and doing.

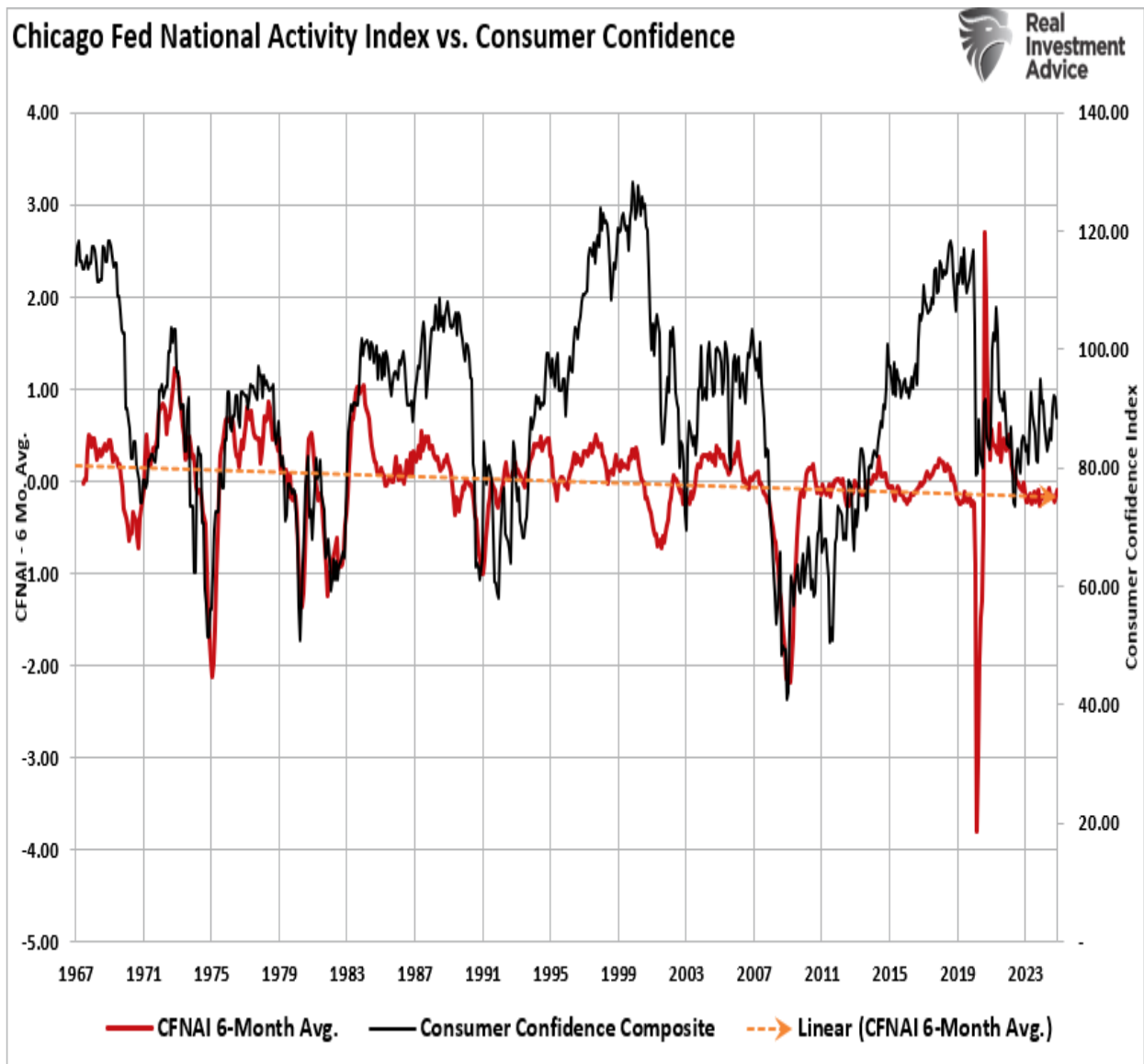


## CEO Confidence vs S&P 500 Ann % Chg.



Despite the recent uptick in CEO confidence since October, which corresponded with strong equity market performance, confidence is hovering near peak expansionary levels.

The CFNAI also tells the same story: significant consumer confidence divergences eventually *catch down* to the underlying index, not vice versa.



## Conclusion

If history is any guide, this chart suggests we will begin seeing weaker employment numbers and rising layoffs in the months ahead.

As noted, the data tells an important story for investors. Notably, the historical data of the CFNAI and its relationship to the stock market have included all Federal Reserve activity.

The CFNAI and EOCI incorporate the impact of monetary policy on the economy in both lagging and leading indicators. This is why investors should hedge risk to some degree in portfolios, as the data still suggests weaker than anticipated economic growth. The current trend of the various economic data points on a broad scale does not show indications of *economic resurgence* to support elevated earnings expectations. Instead, the data suggests an increased risk of disappointment in expectations.

Economically speaking, such weak levels of economic growth do not support more robust employment or higher wages. Instead, we should expect that 2025 could be a year in which corporate earnings and profits disappoint investors as economic weakness reasserts itself.

## How We Are Trading It

Wall Street analysts? overly optimistic assumptions are almost always likely to overshoot reality. As discussed, earnings tend to grow very close to economic activity, with overshoots and undershoots caused by macro-driven events like monetary and fiscal interventions or recessionary outcomes. This time is unlikely to be any different.

Given the current market exuberance, historical overvaluation concerns, and the reliance on buybacks to sustain prices, investors should consider hedging strategies to protect their portfolios.

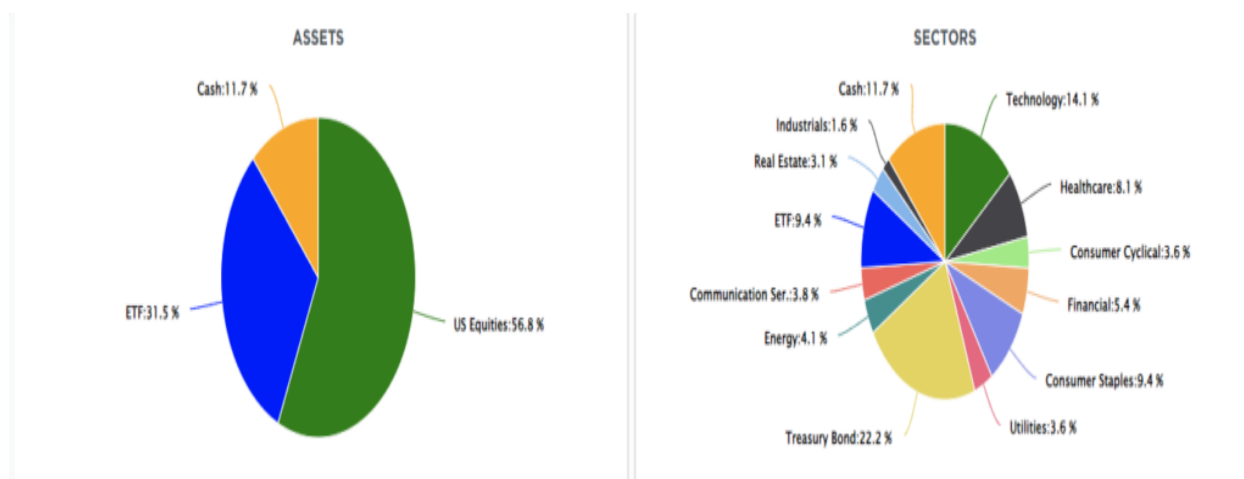
1. **Don?t forget fixed income to lower market-related volatility.**
2. **Don?t be afraid to increase cash levels when uncertain where to invest.**
3. **Focus on fundamentally strong companies with strong dividend histories.**
4. **Monitor corporate buybacks and economic indicators.**

As we head into 2025, investors should expect market volatility to increase. Such is particularly true if buybacks decline due to economic weakness or policy changes. Likewise, tracking macroeconomic indicators such as employment data, inflation trends, and GDP growth can provide early warning signals of a market shift.

We continue to suggest taking small actions within portfolios. Such actions can help investors better navigate the risks associated with an unexpected rise in market volatility.

Or, you can shut your eyes and hope for the best.

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Have a great week.

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**Research Report**

# CAPE-5: A Different Measure Of Valuation



By Lance Roberts | Feb 28, 2025



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## Bull Bear Report Market Statistics & Screens



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## SimpleVisor Top & Bottom Performers By Sector

## Today's Top & Bottom Performer by Sector (Click on a Symbol to see details below)

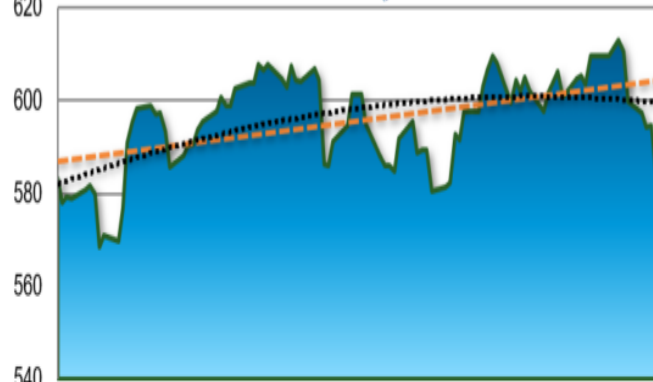
Healthcare					Technology					Consumer Cyclical					Financial				
WST	HUM	MCK	BSX	GILD	AKAM	SWKS	INTC	GLW	TDY	TSLA	RCL	DRI	GM	LVS	ERIE	BAC	AIG	CBOE	GL
3.66%	2.5%	2.23%	1.98%	1.8%	3.54%	3.08%	2.52%	1.99%	1.88%	2.89%	2.37%	2.11%	1.93%	1.74%	7.3%	3.39%	3.18%	1.88%	1.8%
CVS	MOH	DHR	VRTX	MTD	MCHP	ADI	FIS	FICO	TRMB	F	YUM	GPC	EXPE	CMG	GS	MS	AXP	WFC	BRK-B
1.4%	1.31%	0.82%	0.79%	0.74%	1.8%	1.72%	1.72%	1.7%	1.66%	1.52%	1.41%	1.38%	1.34%	1.32%	1.76%	1.57%	1.55%	1.45%	1.38%
IDXX	MRNA	BAX	GEHC	VTRS	EPAM	ON	ACN	SMCI	FSLR	ABNB	APTIV	MGM	IP	CZR	MKTX	L	NTRS	MTB	PGR
-2%	-2.03%	-2.35%	-3.8%	-3.83%	-1.7%	-1.88%	-3.24%	-4.19%	-4.41%	-0.67%	-0.67%	-0.85%	-1%	-1.14%	0.21%	0.13%	0.04%	0.03%	-0.06%
TFX	WBA	SOLV	HCA	UHS	ADSK	ENPH	DELL	HPQ	NTAP	LEN	MCD	HAS	NKE	NCLH	IVZ	APO	C	PYPL	AIZ
-4.87%	-5.08%	-5.35%	-5.87%	-7.13%	-4.57%	-5.65%	-5.79%	-8.5%	-17.07%	-1.4%	-1.53%	-1.73%	-2.16%	-3.94%	-0.12%	-0.17%	-0.27%	-0.48%	-2.72%

Consumer Staples					Industrials					Utilities					Materials				
MNST	SJM	COST	KVUE	WMT	MMM	VRSK	GE	CHRW	TT	AES	EIX	PCG	VST	GEV	CF	CE	SHW	IFF	NEM
4.85%	1.66%	1.34%	1.27%	1.23%	2.88%	1.98%	1.8%	1.61%	1.49%	12.57%	6.51%	3.31%	2.45%	1.93%	2.24%	1.62%	1.05%	1.01%	0.89%
TSN	CLX	GIS	CHD	MKC	WAB	CTAS	PAYX	UAL	FDX	ETR	PPL	AEE	NEE	CNP	LIN	NUE	DOW	LYB	ECL
1.07%	1.04%	0.95%	0.94%	0.92%	1.39%	1.38%	1.37%	1.33%	1.28%	1.68%	1.44%	1.3%	1.23%	1.2%	0.75%	0.7%	0.66%	0.59%	0.57%
KHC	HSY	CAG	KDP	KO	NDSN	PWR	AOS	AXON	MAS	ES	WEC	EVRG	CMS	AEP	APD	DD	VMC	CTVA	MLM
0.03%	-0.04%	-0.06%	-0.16%	-0.16%	-0.18%	-0.19%	-0.2%	-0.42%	-0.52%	0.46%	0.34%	0.28%	0.26%	0.17%	0.08%	0.01%	-0.02%	-0.21%	-0.67%
PM	DG	DLTR	TAP	EL	DE	GNRC	LII	CPRT	BLDR	FE	PEG	NRG	CEG	SRE	PPG	FCX	FMC	ALB	MOS
-0.23%	-0.34%	-0.89%	-1.44%	-1.79%	-0.59%	-0.86%	-1%	-1.09%	-1.2%	0.04%	-0.3%	-0.88%	-1.14%	-1.18%	-1.13%	-1.94%	-2.07%	-2.42%	-4.07%

Real Estate					Energy					Communication Ser.				
INVH	ESS	CSGP	UDR	KIM	TRGP	OKE	TPL	KMI	WMB	WBD	TMUS	DIS	NFLX	FOX
2.24%	1.81%	1.61%	1.53%	1.32%	4.26%	3.62%	3.62%	3.17%	2.79%	3.59%	1.71%	1.49%	1.49%	1.38%
SPG	REG	WELL	AVB	IRM	EQT	BKR	FANG	APA	CTRA	FOXA	CHTR	PARA	T	CMCSA
1.32%	1.2%	0.94%	0.84%	0.8%	2.38%	2.21%	2.11%	1.69%	1.46%	1.27%	1.04%	0.93%	0.87%	0.72%
PLD	CPT	MAA	EQR	AMT	PSX	HES	MPC	HAL	CVX	META	TTWO	LYV	NWSA	OMC
0.25%	0.16%	0.08%	-0.01%	-0.12%	1.31%	1.17%	0.99%	0.75%	0.69%	0.6%	0.53%	0.47%	0.45%	0.38%
SBAC	DLR	EQIX	EXR	PSA	DVN	XOM	VLO	OXY	EOG	IPG	GOOG	NWS	VZ	EA
-0.29%	-0.54%	-0.59%	-0.94%	-1.56%	0.68%	0.58%	0.36%	0.2%	-3.77%	0.37%	0.03%	-0.19%	-0.89%	-1.59%

## S&P 500 Weekly Tear Sheet



3 Month SPY Price							RIA SimpleVisor		SPY RISK INFO				
							Item		T 2-Yr	T 1-Yr.	YTD	% Diff YTD/T1-YR	
							Price Return		49.95%	16.95%	1.38%	(91.84%)	
							Max Drawdown		(10.93%)	(9.71%)	(5.02%)	(48.30%)	
							Sharpe		1.61	0.99	0.27	(0.73)	
							Sortino		2.24	1.46	0.41	(0.72)	
							Volatility		12.55	12.80	13.22	0.03	
							Daily VaR-5%		4.49	(1.28)	(12.62)	8.87	
							Mnthly VaR-5%		5.68	7.91	7.91	0.00	
S&P 500 Market Cap Analysis													
Item	1 Year ago	2 Year ago	Current	Change	High	Low	% From High	% From Low	Item	12-M Ago	Current	% Chg	
Dividend Yield	1.51%	1.35%	1.22%	(10.56%)	2.14%	1.17%	(42.88%)	3.89%	Shares	5,005.8	5,163.4	3.15%	
P/E Ratio	18.29	24.11	24.93	3.27%	29.03	16.65	(14.1%)	49.70%	Sales	115,428	128,618	11.43%	
P/S Ratio	4.49	4.99	5.71	12.67%	6.14	3.94	(6.92%)	45.18%	SPS	23.1	24.9	8.03%	
P/B Ratio	7.45	7.89	8.25	4.35%	8.91	5.59	(7.49%)	47.55%	Earnings	18,871	24,827	31.56%	
ROE	26.08%	27.25%	31.36%	13.08%	31.36%	19.38%	0.00%	61.81%	EPS TTM	5.1	5.7	11.67%	
ROA	6.14%	6.69%	8.35%	19.86%	8.35%	4.59%	0.00%	81.99%	Dividend	1.6	1.7	10.59%	
S&P 500 Asset Allocation													
Sector	1 Year Price Return	Weight	Beta	P/E	P/E High-5yr (Mo.)	P/E Low-5Yr (Mo.)	P/E % From Peak	ROE	DIV. YIELD	TTM Earnings Yield	Current Forward Earnings	Forward PE	
Energy	6.29%	3.23%	1.23	15.24	86.48	(386.71)	(82.4%)	14.0%	3.2%	7.27%	5.94	13.70	
Materials	(0.39%)	1.98%	1.10	22.38	26.99	11.37	(17.1%)	11.6%	1.9%	4.48%	4.82	19.66	
Industrials	10.98%	8.20%	1.15	25.53	48.41	16.99	(47.3%)	25.7%	1.4%	3.91%	7.03	22.82	
Discretionary	18.19%	10.47%	1.41	30.20	73.18	25.75	(58.7%)	24.1%	0.6%	3.19%	5.95	30.54	
Staples	19.22%	5.78%	0.62	24.13	23.80	18.47	1.4%	27.7%	2.2%	4.13%	4.16	21.90	
Health Care	2.85%	10.67%	0.68	22.06	24.72	14.80	(10.8%)	27.5%	1.6%	4.43%	8.80	17.89	
Financials	31.02%	14.13%	1.16	19.15	21.52	12.80	(11.0%)	12.0%	1.3%	5.02%	8.86	17.31	
Technology	18.19%	31.37%	1.30	36.18	39.37	20.35	(8.1%)	69.7%	0.6%	2.69%	5.90	29.60	
Telecom	27.34%	9.49%	0.95	22.23	28.38	15.42	(21.7%)	29.1%	0.7%	4.23%	7.59	21.14	
Utilities	27.63%	2.41%	0.70	19.25	21.42	15.59	(10.2%)	11.5%	2.9%	5.09%	3.78	17.47	
Real Estate	8.92%	2.17%	1.11	19.85	26.41	15.47	(24.8%)	6.8%	3.3%	5.09%	4.91	18.17	
Momentum Analysis													
Item	Price	ROC 50-Days	50-DMA	# Days Since Cross	% Dev 50-Day	200-DMA	# Days Since Cross	% Dev 200-Day	% Dev 50-200 DMA	% From 52-W High	% From 52-W Low	Buy/Sell	
Large Cap	594.18	0.51%	598.21	31	(0.67%)	573.02	275	3.69%	4.40%	(3.11%)	20.31%	Buy	
Mid Cap	565.80	(0.78%)	580.64	10	(2.56%)	567.53	275	(0.30%)	2.31%	(9.35%)	10.51%	Buy	
Small Cap	43.63	(3.98%)	45.44	9	(3.97%)	44.83	35	(2.67%)	1.36%	(12.79%)	10.04%	Buy	

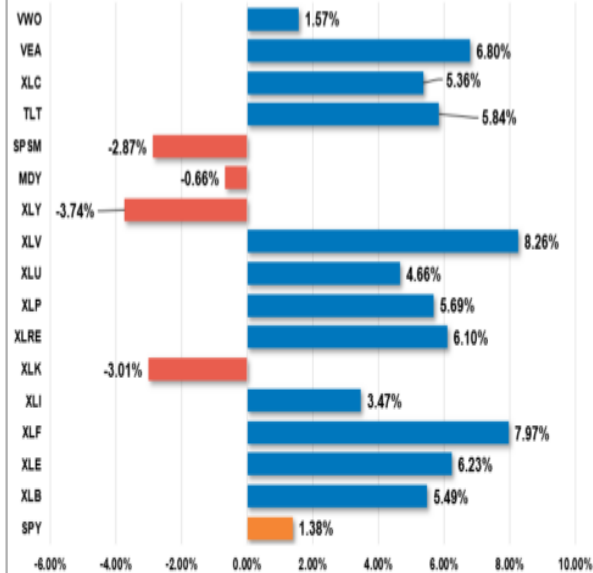
## Relative Performance Analysis

Last week, we noted the collision of options expiration, overbought markets, and news of a potential new viral outbreak in China sent markets lower.

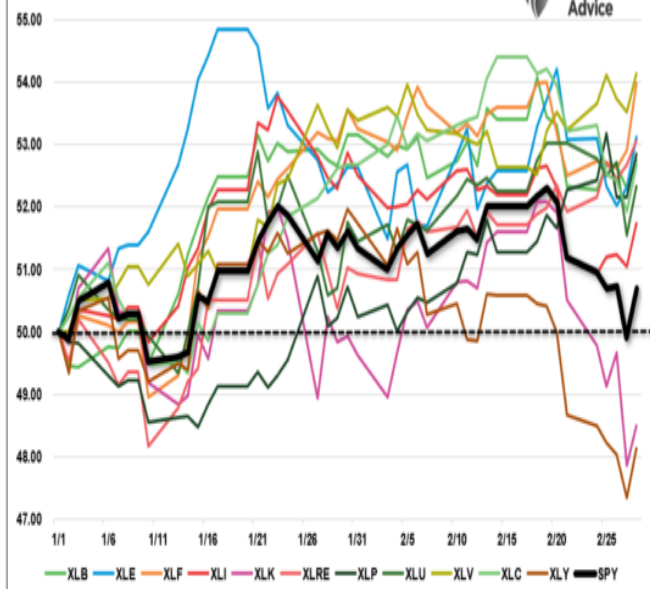
*?Notably, bonds are outperforming stocks for the year, with small, mid-cap, and discretionary stocks sporting a negative return. With the flight into safety over the last week, interest rate-sensitive markets are overbought, and growth markets are oversold. We could see a bit of counter-rotation early next week, but that will depend on how the market absorbs the risk of another viral outbreak.?*

While the outbreak news was quickly dismissed, stocks struggled this week, with bonds, real estate, healthcare, financials, and staples outperforming. Those sectors are now very overbought, and profits should be harvested. Conversely, technology is oversold enough to likely see the rally that started on Friday continue this week.

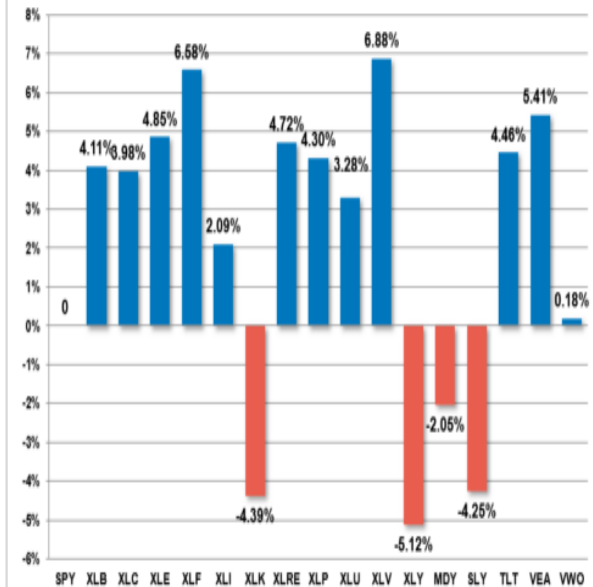
## Year To Date Performance



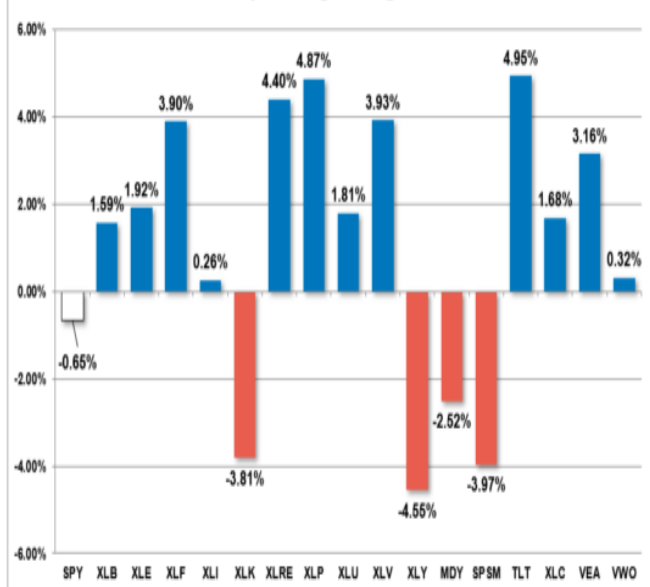
## YTD Price - S&P Sectors Recalibrated To \$50/share



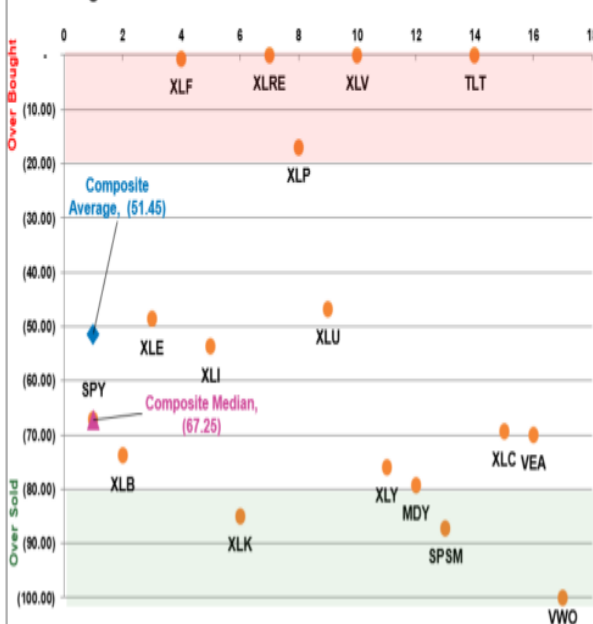
## Year To Date Performance Relative To S&P 500



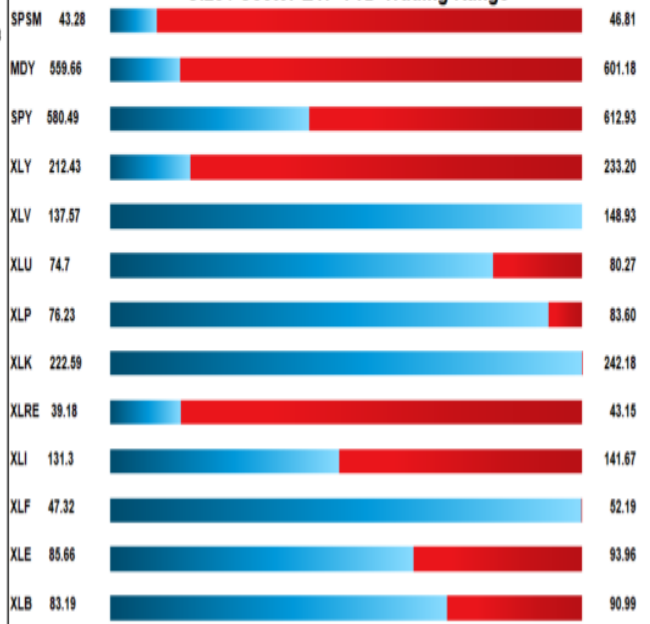
## Price Deviation From 50-Day Moving Average



## Overbought/Oversold 14-Periods



## Size / Sector ETF YTD Trading Range

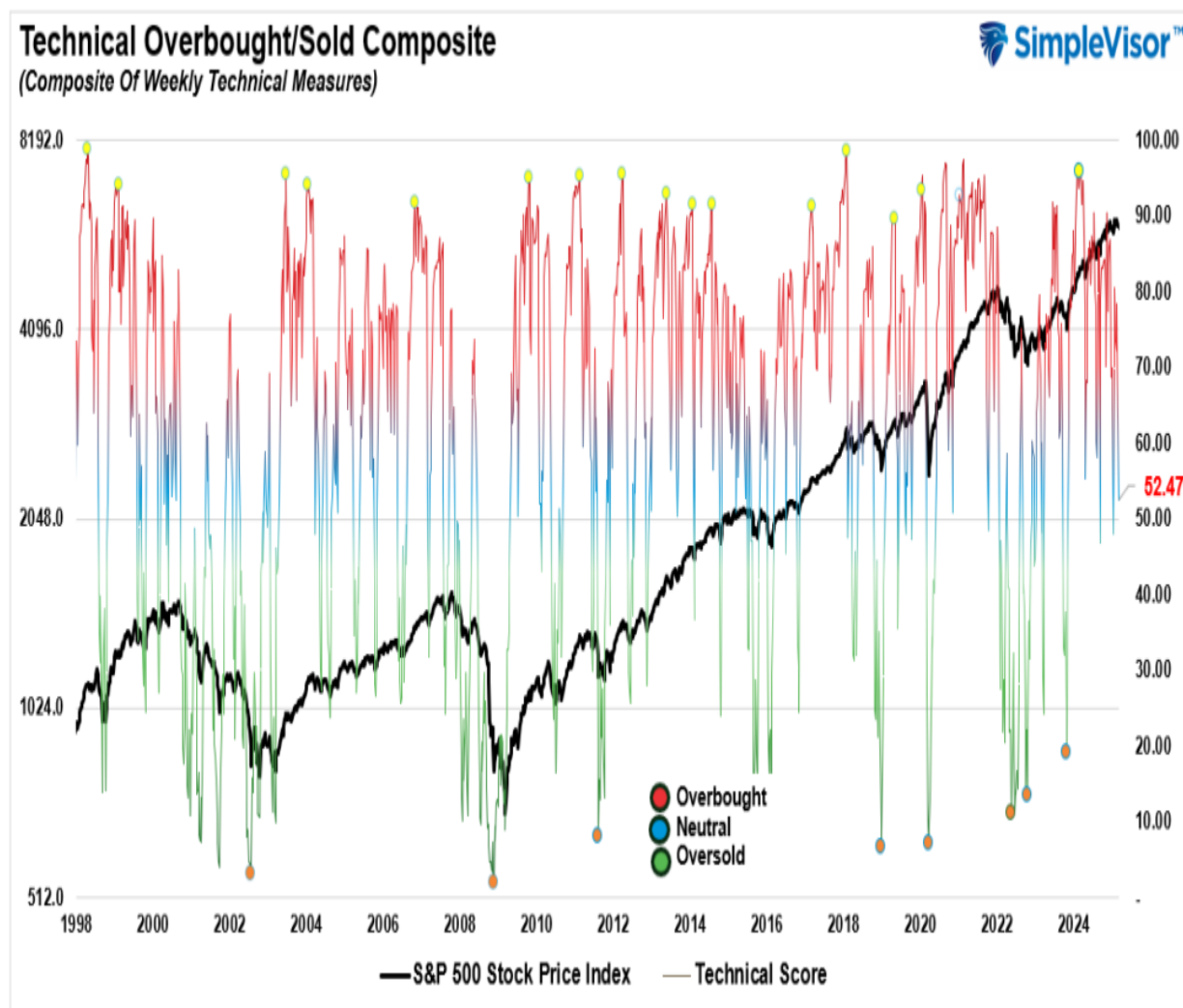




## Technical Composite

The technical overbought/sold gauge comprises several price indicators (R.S.I., Williams %R, etc.), measured using weekly closing price data. Readings above 80 are considered overbought, and below 20 are oversold. The market peaks when those readings are 80 or above, suggesting prudent profit-taking and risk management. **The best buying opportunities exist when those readings are 20 or below.**

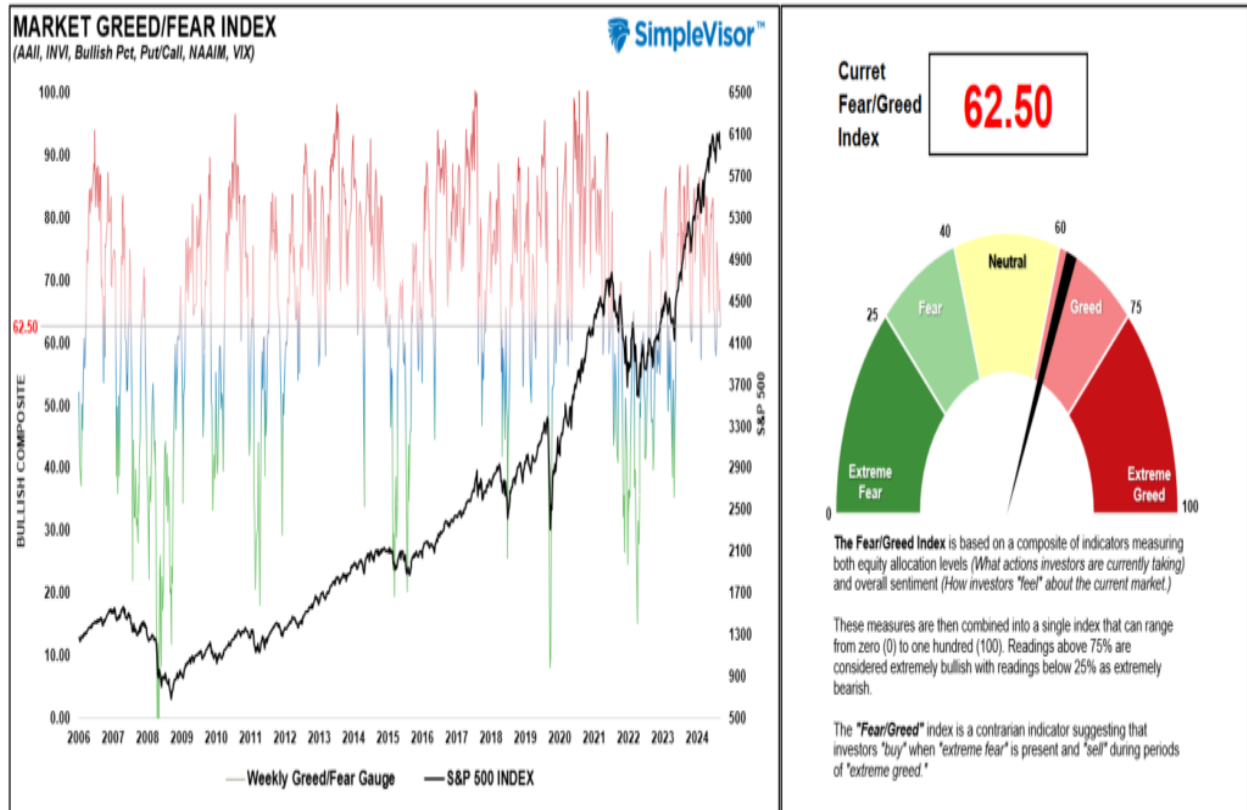
The current reading is 52.47 out of a possible 100.



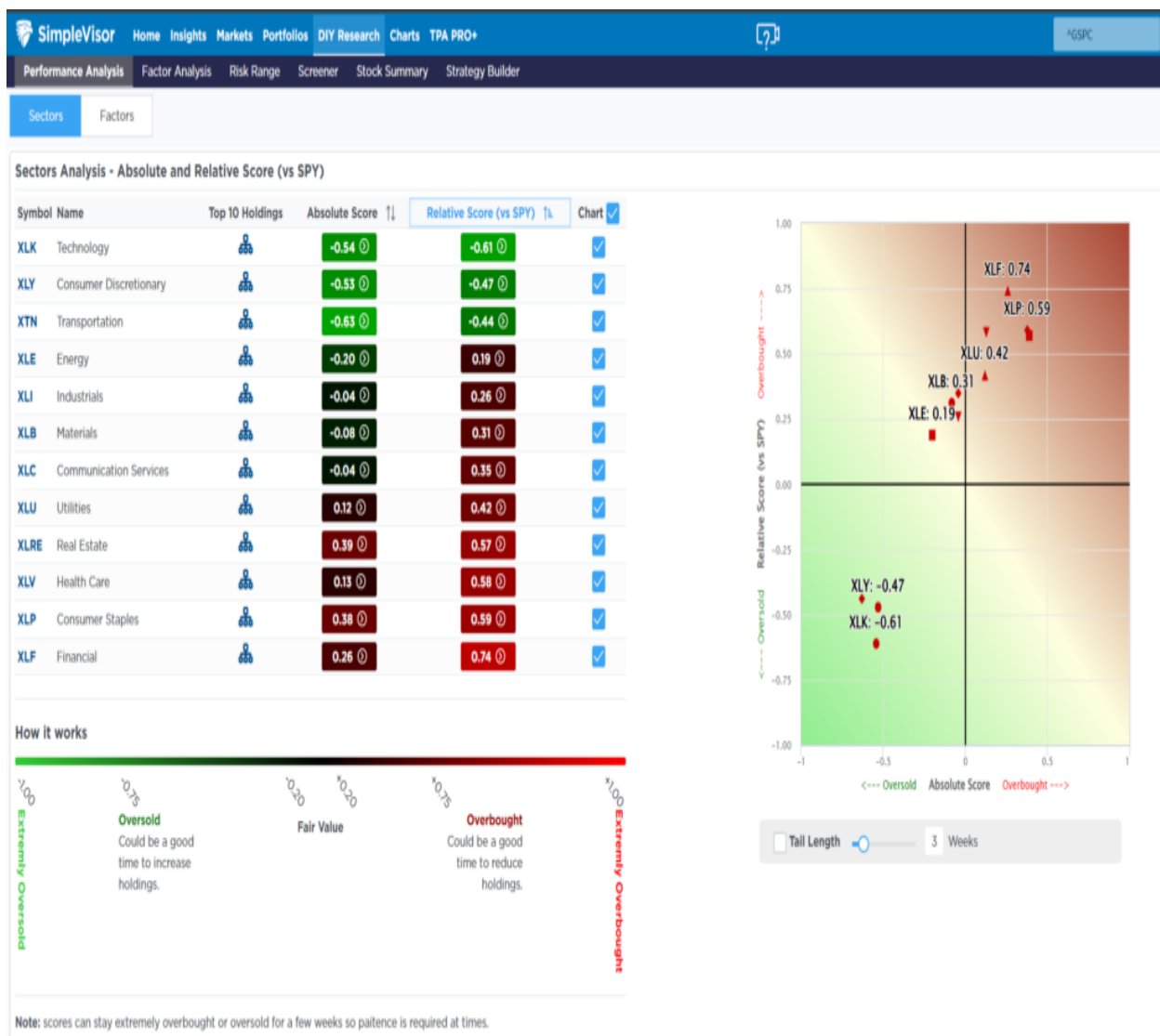
## Portfolio Positioning Fear / Greed Gauge

The Fear/Greed gauge is how individual and professional investors are positioning themselves in the market based on their equity exposure. From a contrarian position, the higher the allocation to equities, the more likely the market is closer to a correction than not. The gauge uses weekly closing data.

**NOTE:** The Fear/Greed Index measures risk from 0 to 100. It is a rarity that it reaches levels above 90. The current reading is 62.50 out of a possible 100.

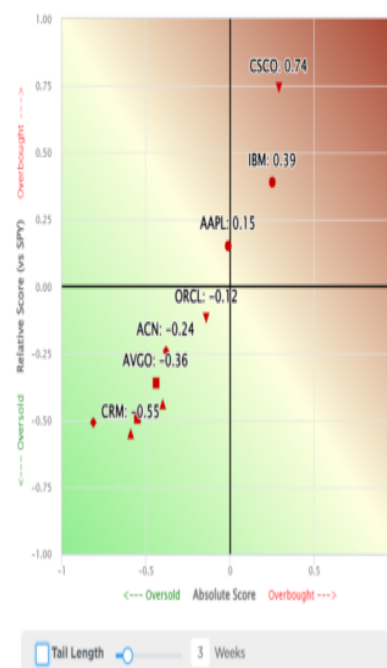


## Relative Sector Analysis



## Most Oversold Sector Analysis

## Technology Analysis - Absolute and Relative Score (vs SPY)



### How it works



**Note:** scores can stay extremely overbought or oversold for a few weeks so patience is required at times

### Top 10 Holdings Relative Analysis with Each Other

AAPL/	ACN/	AVGO/	CRM/	CSCO/	IBM/	MSFT/	NOW/	NVDA/	ORCL/	XLK/		
0.00 ↻	-0.28 ↻	-0.37 ↻	-0.55 ↻	0.41 ↻	0.23 ↻	-0.64 ↻	-0.46 ↻	-0.69 ↻	-0.13 ↻	-0.50 ↻	AAPL	Apple Inc
0.28 ↻	0.00 ↻	-0.24 ↻	-0.31 ↻	0.84 ↻	0.74 ↻	-0.06 ↻	-0.05 ↻	-0.17 ↻	0.18 ↻	0.01 ↻	ACN	Accenture PLC Class A
0.37 ↻	0.24 ↻	0.00 ↻	-0.12 ↻	0.58 ↻	0.52 ↻	0.08 ↻	-0.09 ↻	0.13 ↻	0.36 ↻	0.38 ↻	AVGO	Broadcom Inc
0.55 ↻	0.11 ↻	0.12 ↻	0.00 ↻	0.67 ↻	0.53 ↻	0.16 ↻	0.01 ↻	-0.08 ↻	0.44 ↻	0.52 ↻	CRM	Salesforce Inc
-0.41 ↻	-0.84 ↻	-0.58 ↻	-0.67 ↻	0.00 ↻	-0.17 ↻	-0.77 ↻	-0.63 ↻	-0.69 ↻	-0.71 ↻	-0.83 ↻	CSCO	Cisco Systems Inc
-0.23 ↻	-0.74 ↻	-0.52 ↻	-0.53 ↻	0.17 ↻	0.00 ↻	-0.47 ↻	-0.34 ↻	-0.48 ↻	-0.40 ↻	-0.41 ↻	IBM	International Business Machines Corp
0.64 ↻	0.06 ↻	-0.08 ↻	-0.16 ↻	0.77 ↻	0.47 ↻	0.00 ↻	-0.43 ↻	0.17 ↻	0.19 ↻	0.25 ↻	MSFT	Microsoft Corp
0.46 ↻	0.05 ↻	0.09 ↻	-0.01 ↻	0.63 ↻	0.34 ↻	0.43 ↻	0.00 ↻	-0.04 ↻	0.19 ↻	0.21 ↻	NOW	ServiceNow Inc
0.69 ↻	0.17 ↻	-0.13 ↻	0.08 ↻	0.69 ↻	0.48 ↻	-0.17 ↻	0.04 ↻	0.00 ↻	0.50 ↻	0.25 ↻	NVDA	NVIDIA Corp
0.13 ↻	-0.18 ↻	-0.36 ↻	-0.44 ↻	0.71 ↻	0.40 ↻	-0.19 ↻	-0.19 ↻	-0.50 ↻	0.00 ↻	-0.19 ↻	ORCL	Oracle Corp
0.50 ↻	-0.01 ↻	-0.38 ↻	-0.52 ↻	0.83 ↻	0.41 ↻	-0.25 ↻	-0.21 ↻	-0.25 ↻	0.19 ↻	0.00 ↻	XLK	

## Sector Model Analysis & Risk Ranges

### How To Read This Table

- *The table compares the relative performance of each sector and market to the S&P 500 index.*

- *?MA XVER? (Moving Average Crossover) is determined by the short-term weekly moving average crossing positively or negatively with the long-term weekly moving average.*
- *The risk range is a function of the month-end closing price and the ?beta? of the sector or market. (Ranges reset on the 1st of each month)*
- *The table shows the price deviation above and below the weekly moving averages.*

The risk/range report has reset for the beginning of the month. However, I want to restate the following from last week:

*?One of the early warning indicators the risk-range report provides is the moving average crossover (last column) of intermediate and long-term measures. A few months ago, only bonds and international traded on bearish crossovers. Since then, we have sharply increased the number of bearish crossovers in various sectors and markets. Such suggests an ongoing deterioration in price action in the markets, which has yet to spill over into the S&P 500 completely. While this does not mean that investors should immediately become bearish, it does suggest that risks are building for a more substantial market correction at some point if these sub-markets do not start to improve soon.?*

RELATIVE PERFORMANCE		Current	PERFORMANCE RELATIVE TO S&P 500 INDEX					SHORT		MONTH END	REL S&P	RISK RANGE		% DEV -	% DEV -	MA XVER
Ticker	ETF NAME	Price	1 Week	4 Week	12 Weeks	24 Weeks	52 Weeks	WMA	LONG WMA	PRICE	BETA	HIGH	LOW	Short M/A	Long M/A	SIGNAL
IVV	ISHARS-SP500	597.04	(0.97)	(1.26)	(2.26)	5.66	15.84	601.84	581.72	597.04	1.00	611.97	582.11	-1%	3%	BULLISH
XLB	SPOR-MATLS SELS	88.76	1.75	0.50	(1.17)	(9.90)	(14.93)	88.03	90.96	88.76	1.07	91.93	85.59	1%	-2%	BEARISH
XLC	SPOR-COMM SV SS	102.00	(0.02)	1.29	3.32	11.76	11.63	100.27	93.47	102.00	1.04	105.61	98.39	2%	9%	BULLISH
XLE	SPOR-EGY SELS	91.00	1.04	2.19	2.24	0.66	(11.41)	89.38	90.13	91.00	1.16	94.33	87.67	2%	1%	BEARISH
XLF	SPOR-FINL SELS	52.18	3.78	2.64	5.79	11.57	13.67	50.09	47.29	52.18	1.05	54.03	50.33	4%	10%	BULLISH
XLK	SPOR-TECH SELS	225.53	(3.01)	(1.03)	(4.10)	(3.35)	(8.83)	235.24	228.06	225.53	1.13	233.73	217.33	-4%	-1%	BULLISH
XLI	SPOR-INDU SELS	136.33	2.07	(0.20)	(0.75)	(1.25)	(3.66)	136.53	133.83	136.33	1.09	141.22	131.44	0%	2%	BULLISH
XLP	SPOR-CONS STPL	83.08	2.06	6.45	3.11	(6.67)	(4.27)	79.82	80.47	83.08	0.57	85.63	80.53	4%	3%	BEARISH
XLRE	SPOR-RE SELS	43.15	3.15	5.44	0.84	(10.22)	(6.71)	41.89	42.50	43.15	1.01	44.86	41.64	4%	2%	BEARISH
XLU	SPOR-UTIL SELS	79.22	(0.34)	2.98	1.67	(4.80)	12.51	77.91	77.35	79.22	0.58	81.66	76.78	2%	2%	BULLISH
XLV	SPOR-HLTH CR	148.93	2.67	2.86	5.48	(10.29)	(14.07)	143.13	147.84	148.93	0.67	153.65	144.21	4%	1%	BEARISH
XLY	SPOR-CONS DISCR	215.96	(0.15)	(5.72)	(4.98)	6.54	0.88	227.40	207.34	215.96	1.24	224.03	207.89	-5%	4%	BULLISH
XTN	SPOR-SP TRANSP	83.27	(0.73)	(5.63)	(7.41)	0.45	(14.83)	88.84	84.56	83.27	1.35	86.48	80.06	-6%	-2%	BULLISH
SDY	SPOR-SP DIV ETF	138.29	2.25	4.05	0.87	(7.09)	(5.96)	134.79	136.82	138.29	0.85	142.92	133.66	3%	1%	BEARISH
RSP	INVS-SP5 EQ ETF	180.18	1.17	0.68	(0.45)	(2.71)	(5.93)	179.87	177.13	180.18	1.06	186.59	173.77	0%	2%	BULLISH
SPSM	SPOR-PRT SC	43.63	(0.08)	(4.38)	(7.67)	(7.55)	(11.99)	45.97	45.40	43.63	1.14	45.22	42.04	-5%	-4%	BULLISH
MDY	SPOR-SP MC 400	565.80	0.84	(2.95)	(4.81)	(3.79)	(9.41)	584.68	573.10	565.80	1.13	586.32	545.28	-3%	-1%	BULLISH
EEM	ISHARS-EMG MKT	43.21	(2.80)	2.41	0.80	(4.77)	(9.10)	43.01	43.52	43.21	0.71	44.60	41.82	0%	-1%	BEARISH
EFA	ISHARS-EAFE	81.58	1.02	4.21	4.13	(5.60)	(11.25)	78.53	79.61	81.58	0.86	84.32	78.84	4%	2%	BEARISH
IAU	ISHARS-GOLD TR	53.87	(1.78)	3.15	10.69	4.73	20.88	51.74	49.69	53.87	0.20	55.32	52.42	4%	8%	BULLISH
GOX	VANECK-GOLD MNR	39.72	(1.68)	3.21	10.13	(6.58)	29.49	37.76	38.30	39.72	0.94	41.09	38.35	5%	4%	BEARISH
UUP	INVS-DB US\$ BU	29.39	2.03	0.85	0.45	(1.37)	(11.03)	29.57	29.11	29.39	(0.22)	30.06	28.72	-1%	1%	BULLISH
BOND	PIMCO-ACTV BOND	92.90	2.24	3.38	2.25	(7.92)	(13.96)	91.06	92.26	92.90	0.28	95.49	90.31	2%	1%	BEARISH
TLT	ISHARS-20+YTB	92.43	4.11	6.58	0.18	(13.61)	(18.00)	88.92	92.73	92.43	0.35	95.07	89.79	4%	0%	BEARISH
BNDX	VANGO-TTL INT B	49.50	1.58	1.93	0.06	(7.21)	(14.24)	49.37	49.66	49.50	0.21	50.84	48.16	0%	0%	BEARISH
HYG	ISHARS-IBX HYCB	80.13	1.57	1.77	2.55	(5.03)	(12.02)	79.36	79.19	80.13	0.46	82.50	77.76	1%	1%	BULLISH



## RISK RANGE REPORT



## Weekly SimpleVisor Stock Screens

We provide three stock screens each week from 2013266080; [SimpleVisor](https://www.simplevisor.com).

This week, we are searching for the Top 20:

- *Relative Strength Stocks*

- Momentum Stocks
- Fundamental & Technical Strength W/ Dividends

(Click Images To Enlarge)

## RSI Screen

Strongest S&P 20 Relative Strength												
<div> <div>Save</div> <div>Save as New</div> <div></div> </div>												
<div> <div>Scan Result: 20 ticker(s) found</div> <div>Add more Filters</div> <div>Reset</div> </div>												
<div> <div>Technical Rating: At least 8</div> <div>Indices: S&amp;P 500</div> <div>Run Screen</div> </div>												
<div> <div>Tables</div> <div>Overview</div> <div>Technicals</div> <div>Fundamentals</div> <div>Performance</div> </div>												
Symbol	Sector	Trend	Last	FairValue	RSI	20 SMA	50 SMA	100 SMA	Mohanram	Piotroski	SV Rank	Yield%
		↑↓	↑↓	↑↓	↑↓	↑↓	↑↓	↑↓	↑↓	↑↓	↑↓	↑↓
ETR	Utilities	10/10	\$86.71	\$37.93(-128.59%)	66.11	\$81.18(6.81%)	\$77.88(11.33%)	\$73.02(18.74%)	3	5	2	3.29%
EXPE	Consumer Cyclical	10/10	\$196.15	()	51.70	\$191.98(2.17%)	\$185.95(5.49%)	\$178.17(10.09%)	1	8	3	%
FFIV	Technology	10/10	\$287.15	\$181.68(-58.05%)	47.99	\$302.44(-5.06%)	\$277.49(3.48%)	\$256.70(11.86%)	8	5	5	%
GILD	Healthcare	10/10	\$114.01	\$110.79(-2.91%)	75.52	\$103.36(10.30%)	\$96.72(17.88%)	\$92.81(22.84%)	5	6	3	3.47%
HWM	Industrials	10/10	\$135.06	\$67.29(-100.71%)	59.55	\$130.32(3.63%)	\$121.98(10.72%)	\$115.67(16.76%)	1	7	3	0.32%
LYV	Communication Ser.	10/10	\$141.63	()	42.09	\$148.64(-4.72%)	\$139.95(120%)	\$132.31(7.04%)	3	5	3	%
NFLX	Communication Ser.	10/10	\$977.39	\$454.32(-115.13%)	44.49	\$1,007.78(-3.02%)	\$944.98(3.43%)	\$875.82(11.60%)	4	—	5	%
PLTR	Technology	10/10	\$83.39	\$1714(-386.52%)	40.64	\$102.77(-18.86%)	\$86.10(-3.15%)	\$70.29(18.64%)	—	1	3	%
RCL	Consumer Cyclical	10/10	\$243.80	()	41.84	\$256.31(-4.88%)	\$244.27(-0.19%)	\$231.71(5.22%)	1	—	4	0.79%
RL	Consumer Cyclical	10/10	\$270.03	\$273.45(1.25%)	54.37	\$269.74(0.11%)	\$250.58(7.76%)	\$229.98(17.41%)	3	8	1	1.67%
TPL	Energy	10/10	\$1,405.08	\$1,081.22(-29.95%)	51.87	\$1,352.84(3.86%)	\$1,290.19(8.90%)	\$1,273.05(10.37%)	—	2	3	0.43%
TPR	Consumer Cyclical	10/10	\$84.83	\$72.99(-16.22%)	59.68	\$81.99(3.46%)	\$73.51(15.40%)	\$62.91(34.84%)	—	8	2	3.15%
UAL	Industrials	10/10	\$93.40	()	35.41	\$103.27(-9.56%)	\$102.25(-8.66%)	\$92.45(1.03%)	4	7	3	%
WBD	Communication Ser.	10/10	\$11.40	()	58.85	\$10.43(9.25%)	\$10.42(9.36%)	\$9.69(17.60%)	—	—	—	%
CRWD	Technology	9/10	\$385.38	()	40.74	\$417.73(-7.74%)	\$385.54(-0.04%)	\$356.69(8.04%)	5	4	2	%
JBL	Technology	9/10	\$153.40	\$158.06(2.95%)	36.70	\$163.97(-6.45%)	\$156.96(-2.27%)	\$142.94(7.31%)	5	8	3	0.26%
AXON	Industrials	8/10	\$523.22	\$170.96(-206.05%)	37.93	\$623.84(-16.13%)	\$613.16(-14.67%)	\$571.90(-8.51%)	6	4	4	%
CCL	Consumer Cyclical	8/10	\$23.65	()	36.78	\$25.80(-8.35%)	\$25.52(-7.35%)	\$24.31(-2.74%)	1	—	3	%
EQT	Energy	8/10	\$47.74	\$40.63(-17.50%)	34.04	\$51.68(-7.62%)	\$49.55(-3.65%)	\$45.10(5.85%)	1	5	3	1.70%
LULU	Consumer Cyclical	8/10	\$362.36	()	36.67	\$388.09(-6.63%)	\$387.41(-6.47%)	\$351.33(3.14%)	6	7	3	%

## Momentum Screen



## Strongest Momentum S&P 500

Save Save as New

Scan Result: 20 ticker(s) found

Add more Filters

Reset

Technical Rating: At least 5

Indices: S&P 500

Run Screen

Tables <span>▼</span>												
Overview		Technicals	Fundamentals		Performance							
Symbol <span>⬆️</span>	Sector <span>⬆️</span>	Trend <span>⬆️</span>	Last <span>⬆️</span>	FairValue <span>⬆️</span>	RSI <span>⬆️</span>	20 SMA <span>⬆️</span>	50 SMA <span>⬆️</span>	100 SMA <span>⬆️</span>	Mohanram <span>⬆️</span>	Piotroski <span>⬆️</span>	SV Rank <span>⬆️</span>	Yield% <span>⬆️</span>
GILD	Healthcare	10/10 <span>🟢</span>	\$114.01	\$110.79(-2.91%)	75.52	\$103.36(10.30%)	\$96.72(17.88%)	\$92.81(22.84%)	5	6	3	3.47%
SOLV	Healthcare	10/10 <span>🟢</span>	\$78.98	()	75.85	\$75.69(4.35%)	\$72.11(9.53%)	\$71.44(10.55%)	—	—	—	%
TPL	Energy	10/10 <span>🟢</span>	\$1,405.08	\$1,081.22(-29.95%)	51.87	\$1,352.84(3.86%)	\$1,290.19(8.90%)	\$1,273.05(10.37%)	—	2	3	0.43%
AON	Financial	9/10 <span>🟢</span>	\$407.02	\$360.16(-13.01%)	72.76	\$387.22(5.11%)	\$371.09(9.68%)	\$370.83(9.76%)	6	5	3	0.76%
GRMN	Technology	9/10 <span>🟢</span>	\$226.99	\$98.68(-130.03%)	54.84	\$219.65(3.34%)	\$214.65(5.75%)	\$204.24(11.14%)	—	3	4	1.85%
ABBV	Healthcare	8/10 <span>🟢</span>	\$206.48	\$131.19(-57.39%)	77.99	\$194.46(6.18%)	\$182.38(13.21%)	\$182.83(12.94%)	5	8	3	3.27%
MCK	Healthcare	8/10 <span>🟢</span>	\$634.72	\$572.17(-10.93%)	60.42	\$604.52(5.00%)	\$591.65(7.28%)	\$575.44(10.30%)	1	7	2	0.56%
ORLY	Consumer Cyclical	8/10 <span>🟢</span>	\$1,364.61	\$884.27(-54.32%)	63.63	\$1,320.81(3.32%)	\$1,263.03(8.04%)	\$1,235.98(10.41%)	5	8	3	%
PGR	Financial	8/10 <span>🟢</span>	\$278.60	()	72.37	\$260.15(7.09%)	\$249.09(11.85%)	\$251.40(10.82%)	—	5	3	0.16%
RSG	Industrials	8/10 <span>🟢</span>	\$235.35	\$160.38(-46.75%)	70.70	\$225.72(4.27%)	\$214.51(9.72%)	\$211.27(11.40%)	1	8	3	1.15%
WTW	Financial	8/10 <span>🟢</span>	\$337.76	\$240.93(-40.19%)	64.87	\$326.05(3.59%)	\$319.72(5.64%)	\$312.59(8.05%)	—	—	—	1.21%
AZO	Consumer Cyclical	7/10 <span>🟢</span>	\$3,455.01	\$3,150.74(-9.66%)	57.32	\$3,420.44(1.01%)	\$3,332.19(3.69%)	\$3,238.51(6.69%)	5	7	3	%
BRK-B	Financial	7/10 <span>🟢</span>	\$509.36	\$464.88(-9.57%)	69.55	\$479.66(6.19%)	\$465.96(9.31%)	\$464.83(9.58%)	—	—	—	%
DPZ	Consumer Cyclical	7/10 <span>🟢</span>	\$485.66	\$200.32(-142.44%)	62.14	\$468.25(3.72%)	\$444.42(9.28%)	\$441.36(10.04%)	6	5	4	1.46%
MAA	Real Estate	7/10 <span>🟢</span>	\$167.04	\$94.10(-77.51%)	74.50	\$158.13(5.63%)	\$154.20(8.33%)	\$155.34(7.53%)	1	9	3	3.77%
TRV	Financial	7/10 <span>🟢</span>	\$256.85	()	62.32	\$244.76(4.94%)	\$242.97(5.71%)	\$247.52(3.77%)	1	7	3	1.64%
CINF	Financial	6/10 <span>🟢</span>	\$146.41	()	62.75	\$137.45(6.52%)	\$140.18(4.44%)	\$143.34(2.14%)	0	8	1	2.34%
ESS	Real Estate	6/10 <span>🟢</span>	\$309.41	\$175.97(-75.83%)	68.55	\$292.64(5.73%)	\$286.54(7.98%)	\$291.98(5.97%)	6	4	3	3.25%
LLY	Healthcare	6/10 <span>🟢</span>	\$911.05	\$300.95(-202.72%)	68.26	\$862.15(5.67%)	\$809.57(12.53%)	\$822.27(10.80%)	—	5	3	0.58%
VRTX	Healthcare	6/10 <span>🟢</span>	\$478.25	\$297.77(-60.61%)	58.10	\$470.28(1.70%)	\$441.56(8.31%)	\$457.35(4.57%)	1	6	2	%

## Technically Strong With Buy Rating

Tables <span>Overview</span> <span>Technicals</span> <span>Fundamentals</span> <span>Performance</span>												
Symbol	Sector	Trend	Last	FairValue	RSI	20 SMA	50 SMA	100 SMA	Mohanram	Piotroski	SV Rank	Yield%
RL	Consumer Cyclical	10/10	\$270.03	\$273.45(1.25%)	54.37	\$269.74(0.11%)	\$250.58(7.76%)	\$229.98(17.41%)	3	8	1	1.67%
TPR	Consumer Cyclical	10/10	\$84.83	\$72.99(-16.22%)	59.68	\$81.99(3.46%)	\$73.51(15.40%)	\$62.91(34.84%)	—	8	2	3.15%
CVCO	Consumer Cyclical	9/10	\$521.00	\$645.30(19.26%)	52.50	\$525.36(-0.83%)	\$485.05(7.41%)	\$473.02(10.14%)	5	7	1	%
GPI	Consumer Cyclical	9/10	\$457.05	()	47.55	\$465.18(-1.75%)	\$444.63(2.79%)	\$417.28(9.53%)	6	8	2	0.54%
MIDD	Industrials	9/10	\$164.22	\$227.68(27.87%)	50.71	\$167.78(-2.12%)	\$152.19(7.90%)	\$145.31(13.01%)	6	8	2	%
AZZ	Industrials	8/10	\$95.55	\$143.59(33.46%)	54.74	\$94.68(0.92%)	\$89.14(7.19%)	\$86.95(9.89%)	5	8	2	0.89%
MCK	Healthcare	8/10	\$634.72	\$572.17(-10.93%)	60.42	\$604.52(5.00%)	\$591.65(7.28%)	\$575.44(10.30%)	1	7	2	0.56%

## SimpleVisor Portfolio Changes

We post all of our portfolio changes as they occur at [SimpleVisor](#):

### Feb 26th

*?This morning, we are doing a tax loss harvest and swapping in the portfolio. We are selling all of AMD (AMD), which has been underperforming, and swapping it into Arista Networks (ANET). This swap provides two purposes to the portfolio. First, it diversifies the portfolio into hardware on the technology side, to which we had no exposure. Secondly, it reduces our exposure to semiconductors ahead of the Nvidia (NVDA) earnings report tonight.*

*If NVDA reports well, that report should benefit ANET, which is very oversold, and AMD. However, a poor report would likely impair AMD more than ANET. While we still like AMD, the swap reduces the portfolio risk overall.?*

### Equity Model

- Sell 100% of AMD
- Initiate a 1% of the portfolio position in Arista Networks (ANET)

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Lance Roberts, C.I.O., RIA Advisors