

Recession Coming? Market Says It May Be Here.

In this 05-20-22 issue of "Recession Coming? It May Already Be Here."

- Market Review & Update
- Recession Coming? It May Already Be Here.
- Portfolio Positioning
- Sector & Market Analysis

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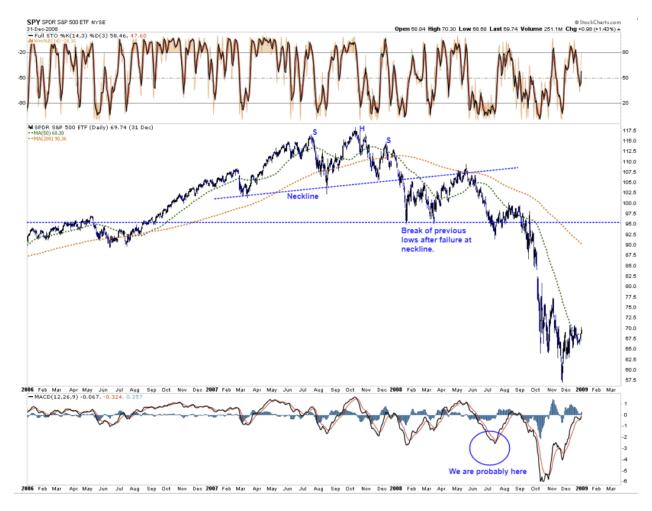
Weekly Market Recap With Adam Taggart

https://youtu.be/N4h_DAujnaY

Market Review & Update

The market rally we hoped for ended abruptly as retail reports showed a recession is coming. However, since the stock market leads the economy, a recession could already be here.

A review of the current market and 2008 is helpful. I am not suggesting a financial crisis is coming, but the market did note a recession was already well in progress.



The head and shoulders topping pattern is quite evident. The break of the rising neckline was the first warning of a recessionary bear market. The subsequent rally to, and failure at, the neckline confirmed the topping process was complete.

We see the same market action in 2022.



Again, we see the topping process, the clear break of the neckline, and a failed test of the neckline, turning it into resistance. While the market sits on critical support, any failure will confirm a recession, and a bear market is underway.

Most importantly, bonds confirm the same. For the last couple of months, bonds remained highly correlated to equities as fears of inflation reigned. That changed as investors started to accept that a "hard-landing" is probable, and bonds are "working" as a risk-asset hedge.



Given the large short-position against bonds currently, the short-covering in longer-duration bonds is likely only beginning. Those short positions will remain a significant source of "covering" risk instability as it occurs.

Such is why we have continued to hold and add to our long-bond positions in portfolios because if Charlie McElligott is correct:

"I just get the sense that as the market crystalizes on this (pre-emptive) move towards 'Contraction / Recession / Hard-Landing' that the market is gonna 'come hard' for this stuff." - Courtesy of ZeroHedge

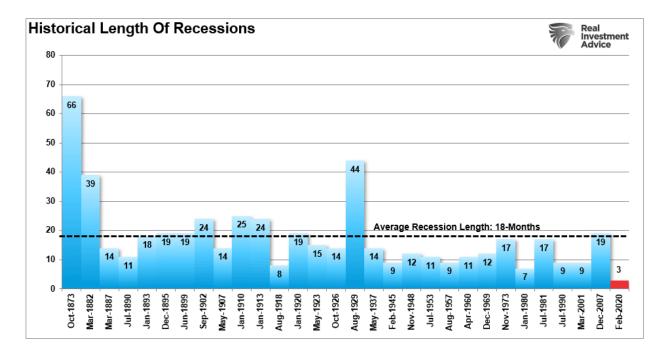
We agree.

So, if a recession is coming, historically, what can we expect?

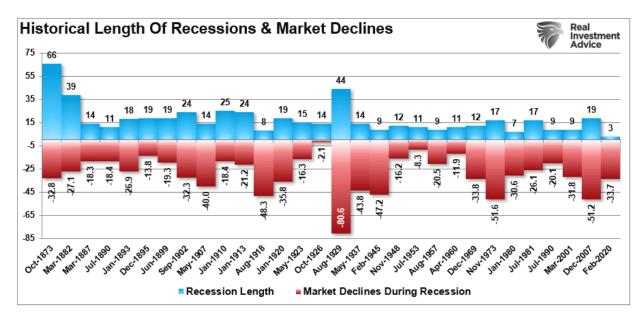
A History Of Recessions & Market Responses

Let's start with the definition of what a recession is. According to the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), the agency responsible for dating recessions, a recession is a period of two, or more, consecutive quarters of negative economic growth. While the "R-Word" gets discussed in the financial media as if it is the "coming apocalypse," in reality, it is a period of declining economic growth.

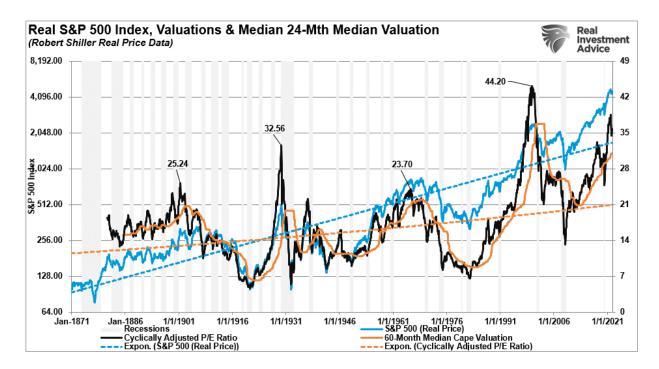
The chart below shows the historical length of recessions over time.



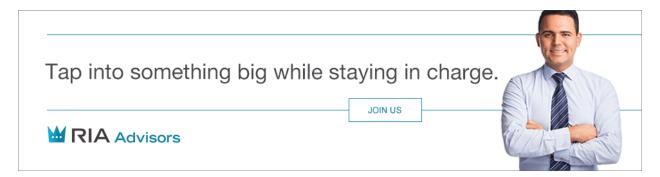
Notably, the risk to investors during an economic recession is high. Historically, markets tend to correct rather sharply during recessionary periods.



The markets reprice the excess valuations given to financial assets during the previous expansion. Higher valuations during expansions tend to precede deeper reversions during recessions.



As is evident, recessions are coincident with market corrections and bear markets. The problem with trying to avoid a recession, from an investment perspective, is this: by the time a recession is evident, it is often too late.



Recession Coming?

"Is a recession coming?" That is the question currently.

A few weeks ago, the mainstream media, Wall Street, and the Fed suggested the economy was strong and "no recession" was visible. Such may have been the case until Walmart and Target reported their earnings for the first quarter noting a sharp drop in revenue and inventory builds.

Those comments changed everything. Suddenly, not only is a recession coming, it may be already here. According to a Quinnipiac poll, many Americans think the economy is heading into a recession.

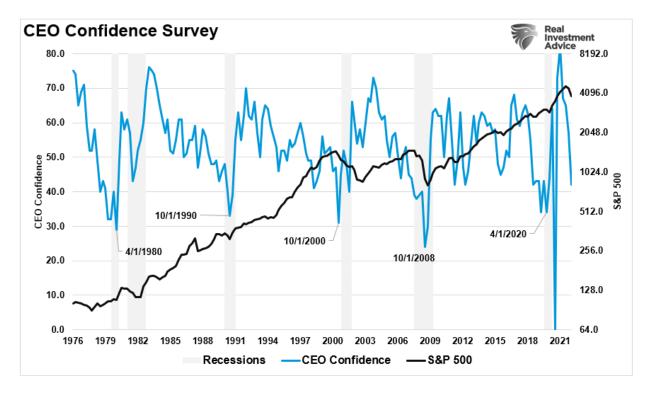
"The Quinnipiac University Poll found that **85% think it is likely or somewhat likely there will be an economic recession in the next year** amid fears of slowing growth and runaway inflation. Only 8% think it is 'not so likely,' and 4% don't see a recession happening at all."

As Quinnipiac concluded:

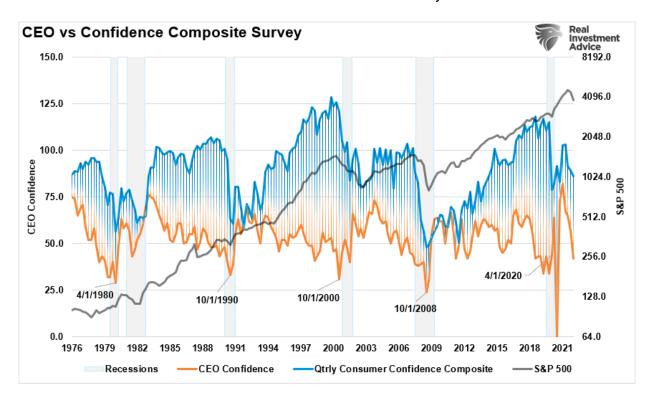
"Americans believe a recession is not a mere threat, it's a looming reality,"

Don't overlook the importance of that poll. Consumption makes up 70% of the economy. If Americans think a recession is coming, they will begin to contract spending and shift behaviors to prepare for a downturn. Ironically, those actions cause the recession to occur.

But it's not just consumers. CEOs are also increasingly downbeat, which means less hiring, increased layoffs, and less capital spending, contributing to a recessionary drag.



The chart below combines the CEO and Composite Consumer Confidence measures. As shown, previous downturns in both measures tend to denote recessionary outcomes.



This Week's MacroView



The Right Strategy Is Critical When Investing During A Recession!

Written by Lance Roberts | May 20, 2022 | Investing

Investing during a recession can be a very difficult, and often dangerous, prospect. However, it...

> Read More

You Can't Wait For The Announcement

The most considerable risk of investing during a recession is putting a "recession investing strategy" into place at the right time. As I wrote in "Recession Risk Rising:"

"The problem with making an assessment about the state of the economy today, based on current data points, is that these numbers are only "best guesses."

Economic data is subject to substantive negative revisions as data gets collected and adjusted over the forthcoming 12- and 36-months.

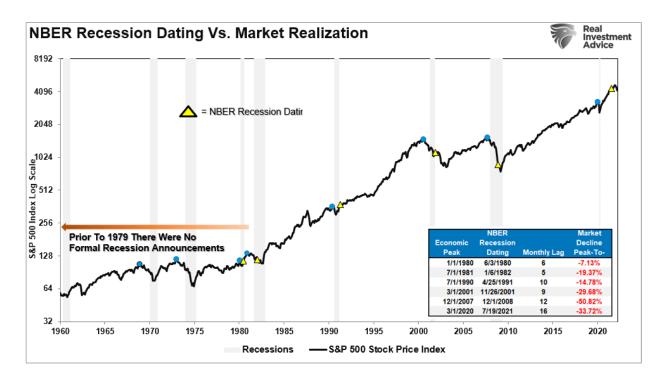
Consider for a minute that in January 2008 Chairman Bernanke stated:

"The Federal Reserve is not currently forecasting a recession."

In hindsight, the NBER, in December 2008, dated the start of the official recession as December 2007.

If Ben Bernanke didn't know a recession was underway, how would we?"

Such is the most significant risk to investors. The chart shows the S&P 500 from 1960 to the present. Each blue dot is the market's peak before the onset of a recession. The yellow triangles are the official NBER recession announcements.



The issue to investors is evident. In 9 of 10 instances, the S&P 500 peaked and turned lower before the recognition of a recession.

The decline from the peak was considered *"just a correction"* as economic growth remained robust. Therefore, investors didn't adjust their strategy to invest during a recession.

In reality, however, the market was signaling a coming recession in the months ahead. The economic data didn't reflect it as of yet.

The problem is in waiting for the data to catch up.

Date Of Market Peak	Market Peak Price	Recession Start	Market @ Recession Start	Market @ Recession Lows	Peak To Trough Decline	Market Lead Of Recession	NBER Recession Recognition	Recognition Lag
7/1/1956	48.78	9/1/1957	43.98	40.30	-17.38%	14	The state of the s	
7/1/1959	59.74	5/1/1960	55.22	53.73	-10.06%	10		
12/1/1968	106.48	1/1/1970	90.31	75.58	-29.02%	13		
1/1/1973	118.42	12/1/1973	94.78	67.07	-43.36%	11	NBER Dates	Recessions
1/1/1980	110.87	1/1/1980	110.87	102.97	-7.13%	0	6/3/1980	6
11/1/1980	135.65	7/1/1981	129.13	109.38	-19.37%	8	1/6/1982	5
6/1/1990	360.39	7/1/1990	360.03	307.12	-14.78%	1	4/25/1991	10
8/1/2000	1,485.46	3/1/2001	1185.85	1,044.64	-29.68%	7	11/26/2001	9
10/1/2007	1,539.66	12/1/2007	1479.23	757.13	-50.82%	2	12/7/2008	12
2/1/2020	3,368.68	3/1/2020	3080.7	2,405.55	-34.78%	1	7/19/2021	16
1/1/2022	4,783.10	???	???	???	???	???	???	???

Today, we are once again seeing many of the same early warnings. If you have been paying attention to the <u>trend of the economic data</u>, the <u>stock market</u>, and the <u>yield curve</u>, the signs are becoming more pronounced.

Investing In A Recession

As noted in this week's <u>MacroView</u>, recession investing can be dangerous, particularly when valuations across all asset classes are elevated. However, there are some steps to take to ensure you are prepared to weather increased volatility.

- Have excess emergency savings, so you are not "forced" to sell during a decline to meet obligations.
- Extend your time horizon to 5-7 years as buying distressed stocks can get more distressed.
- Don't obsessively check your portfolio.
- Consider tax-loss harvesting (selling stocks at a loss) to offset those losses against future gains.
- Stick to your investing discipline regardless of what happens.

Once you get prepared, what investments do well in a recession?

"A recession is a good time to avoid speculating, especially on stocks that have taken the worst beating. Weaker companies often go bankrupt during recessions, and while stocks that have fallen by 80%, 90%, or even more might seem like bargains, they are usually cheap for a reason. Just remember -- a broken business at an excellent price is still a broken business." - Motley Fool

That is very true. To make money in a recession, focus on companies that:

- Have consistent earnings growth over time.
- Are dividend-payers and avoid high leverage.
- Have free cash flow and strong operating margins.
- Avoid companies dependent on consumer spending, have high cash burn rates or have negative incomes and earnings.
- Invest incrementally using lower prices to build positions.
- Lastly, don't forget about bonds that offer a haven during volatile market environments.

Investing during a recession is not easy due to high volatility, falling prices, and negative media headlines. However, it can be very profitable given a well-thought-out strategy, a longer-term timeline, and an ability to stick to your discipline.

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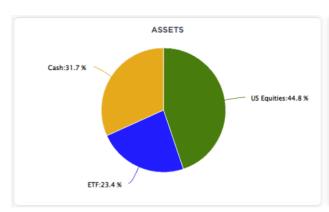
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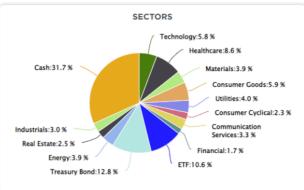
Portfolio Update

Yes. A recession is coming, and the markets are already likely telling us the same. The timing, magnitude, and duration will depend on the Federal Reserve's response to stop fighting inflation with tighter policy.

As such, "Don't Fight The Fed" remains a prudent motto for the time being. Currently, they intend to hike rates to combat inflation even though the stock market, interest rates, and inflation are doing the work for them. If they continue to hike rates with reckless abandon, the risk of a policy mistake rises sharply.

Therefore, we continue to keep our reduced equity exposure at lower levels. We expect a decent reflexive rally to increase cash levels further and reduce risk, but that rally has remained elusive in recent weeks. With markets oversold on many levels, and sentiment extremely negative, a reversal remains highly probable. However, such is not guaranteed.





Fortunately, we can take specific actions to protect portfolios from a recession without sacrificing financial goals. However, such steps are not "free" of cost.

- 1. Properly sizing portfolio positions to mitigate the risk of concentrated positions.
- 2. Rebalancing portfolio allocations
- 3. Take profits from highly overbought and extended positions.
- 4. Sell laggards
- 5. When you are not sure what to do, do nothing. Cash is an excellent *hedge against risk*.
- 6. Don't dismiss the value of bonds in a portfolio.
- 7. Look for non-correlated assets to mitigate risk.

As noted, there is a "cost."

Adding any strategy to a portfolio to mitigate or diversify risk will create underperformance relative to an all-equity benchmark index.

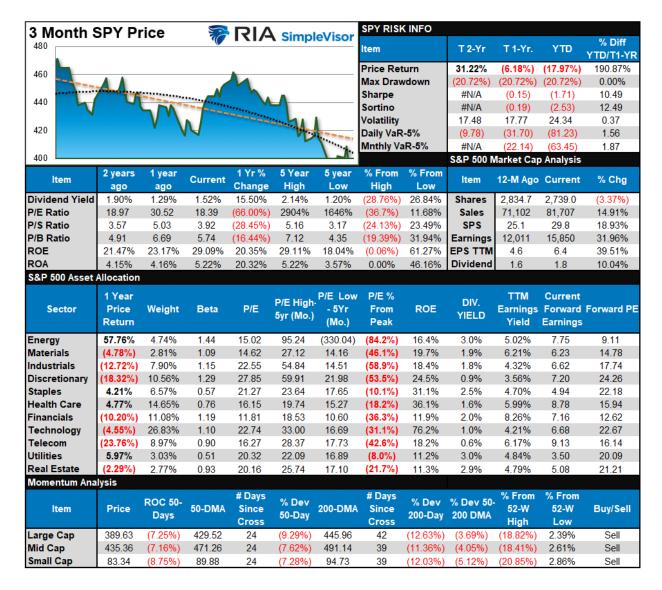
However, isn't short-term underperformance better than spending several years trying to "get back to even" from not reducing risk?

These suggestions are just something to consider.

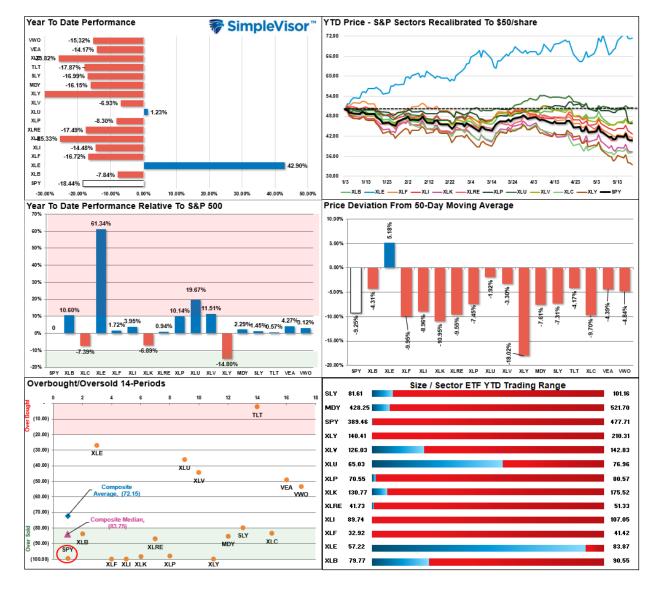
Have a great week.

Market & Sector Analysis

S&P 500 Tear Sheet

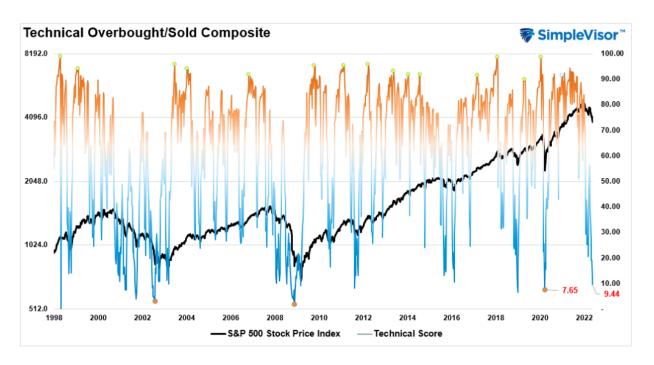


Relative Performance Analysis



Technical Composite

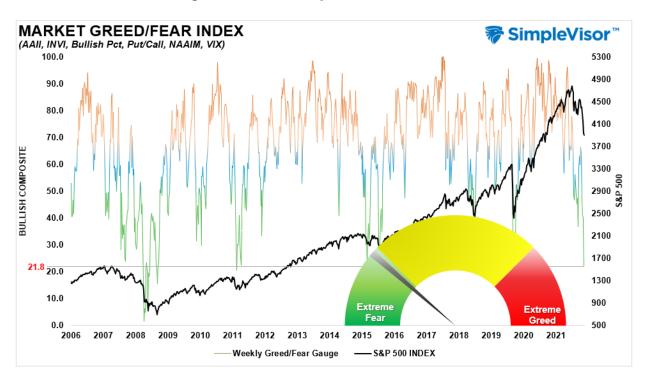
The technical overbought/sold gauge comprises several price indicators (RSI, Williams %R, etc.), measured using "weekly" closing price data. Readings above "80" are considered overbought, and below "20" are oversold. **The current reading is 9.44 out of a possible 100.**



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, to more likely the market is closer to a correction than not. The gauge uses weekly closing data.

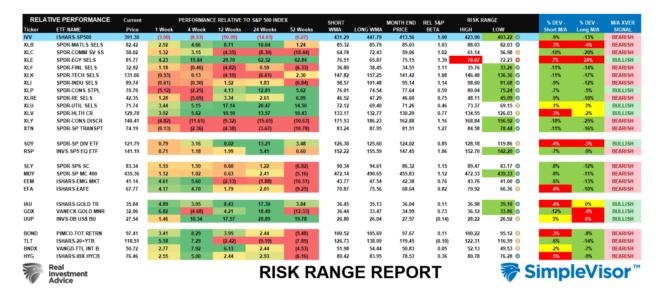
NOTE: The Fear/Greed Index measures risk from 0 to 100. It is a rarity that it reaches levels above 90. The current reading is 21.8 out of a possible 100.



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.
- "M/A XVER" is determined by whether the short-term weekly moving average crosses 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 complete history of all sentiment indicators is under the Dashboard/Sentiment tab at SimpleVisor.



Weekly Stock Screens

Each week we will provide three different stock screens generated from <u>SimpleVisor</u>: (RIAPro.net subscribers use your current credentials to log in.)

This week we are scanning for the Top 20:

- Relative Strength Stocks
- Momentum Stocks
- Technically Strong With Strong Fundamentals

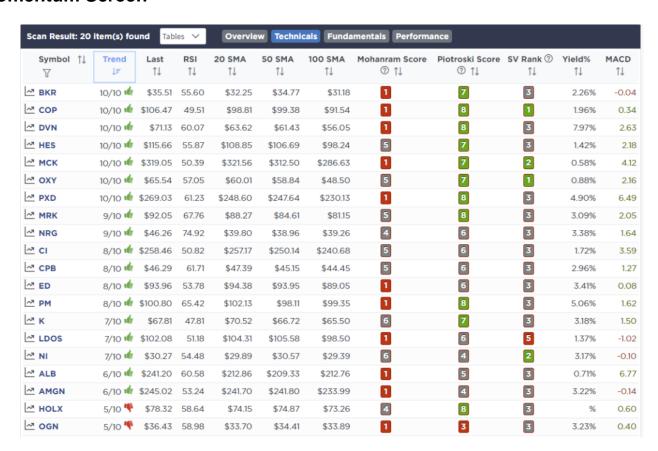
These screens generate portfolio ideas and serve as the starting point for further research.

(Click Images To Enlarge)

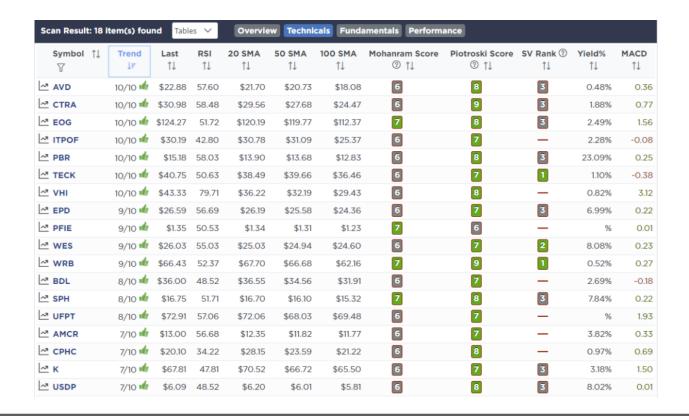
RSI Screen

Scan Result: 20 Item(s) found Tables V Overview Technicals Fundamentals Performance													
	ymbol	↑↓	Trend ↑↓	Last ↑↓	RSI ↑↓	20 SMA ↑↓	50 SMA ↑↓	100 SMA ↑↓	Mohanram Score ⑦ ↑↓	Piotroski Score ⑦ ↑↓	SV Rank ⑦ ↑↓	Yield% ↑↓	MACD ↑↓
<u>~</u> A	PA		10/10 🐗	\$41.75	49.01	\$40.75	\$40.90	\$36.69	5	6	1	1.31%	0.00
<u>~</u> B	KR		10/10 📫	\$35.51	55.60	\$32.25	\$34.77	\$31.18	1	7	3	2.26%	-0.04
<u>~</u> в	BMY		9/10 🐗	\$76.12	56.89	\$76.28	\$74.30	\$69.54	5	8	3	2.83%	0.69
<u>~</u> c	F		10/10 🐗	\$102.15	52.09	\$98.53	\$100.33	\$86.80	1	9	3	1.71%	0.98
<u>~</u> c	ОР		10/10 📫	\$106.47	49.51	\$98.81	\$99.38	\$91.54	1	8	1	1.96%	0.34
<u>~</u> c	TRA		10/10 🐗	\$30.98	58.48	\$29.56	\$27.68	\$24.47	6	9	3	1.88%	0.77
<u>~</u> c	:VX		10/10 📫	\$169.20	53.28	\$163.59	\$165.28	\$148.97	5	7	2	3.48%	1.70
<u>~</u> □	VN		10/10 📫	\$71.13	60.07	\$63.62	\$61.43	\$56.05	1	8	3	7.97%	2.63
<u>~</u> E	OG		10/10 📫	\$124.27	51.72	\$120.19	\$119.77	\$112.37	7	8	3	2.49%	1.56
<u>~</u> н	IAL		10/10 📫	\$36.61	47.79	\$36.23	\$37.30	\$33.53	5	7	3	1.39%	-0.31
<u>~</u> н	IES		10/10 📫	\$115.66	55.87	\$108.85	\$106.69	\$98.24	5	7	3	1.42%	2.18
<u>~</u> м	1CK		10/10 🐗	\$319.05	50.39	\$321.56	\$312.50	\$286.63	1	7	2	0.58%	4.12
<u>~</u> м	105		10/10 📫	\$62.28	45.71	\$63.28	\$65.78	\$54.81	5	9	2	0.76%	-1.32
<u>~</u> м	1PC		10/10 📫	\$97.50	62.04	\$91.48	\$86.05	\$79.51	_	9	1	2.50%	2.81
<u>~</u> м	1RO		10/10 📫	\$27.45	53.50	\$25.89	\$25.30	\$22.67	1	8	1	1.27%	0.50
<u>~</u> o	XY		10/10 📫	\$65.54	57.05	\$60.01	\$58.84	\$48.50	5	7	1	0.88%	2.16
<u>~</u> ₽	XD		10/10 📫	\$269.03	61.23	\$248.60	\$247.64	\$230.13	1	8	3	4.90%	6.49
<u>~</u> s	LB		10/10 🐗	\$41.22	51.13	\$40.34	\$41.18	\$39.30	5	7	2	1.82%	0.01
<u>~</u> ∨	/LO		10/10 🐗	\$125.82	61.47	\$117.71	\$105.68	\$94.30	_	8	1	3.26%	6.08
<u>~</u> x	ОМ		10/10 🐗	\$92.00	58.77	\$86.70	\$84.31	\$78.86	3	8	1	4.06%	1.68

Momentum Screen



Technical & Fundamental Strength Screen



SimpleVisor Portfolio Changes

We post all of our portfolio changes as they occur at Simple Visor:

May 16th

"This morning we added 0.5% to our position in Costco (COST) after its recent decline to oversold conditions. With a Price/Sales ratio of 1, and a steady cash flow stream from membership fees, we like this company long-term and continue to accumulate it on declines.

We also added 1% to our SPDR Healthcare ETF (XLV) increasing that position from 8-9% due to the demographic trends in the U.S. that will continue to support profitability in that sector."

Equity Model

Add 0.5% of the portfolio to Costco (COST)

ETF Model

Add 1% to XLV, increasing the portfolio weight from 8% to 9%.

May 18th

"After adding value-oriented positions to our model over the last couple of weeks, we had increased equity exposure above target levels. We were holding the SPDR S&P 500 Index (SPY) for a rally that started last week.

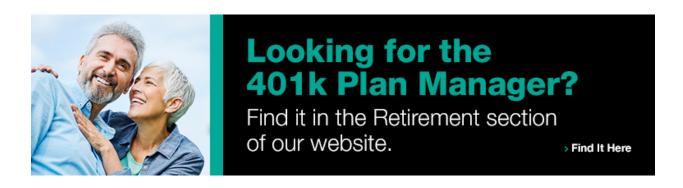
However, that rally came to an abrupt end this morning following the dismal report by Target (TGT) which reeked of recessionary warnings about the consumer, inventory builds, and supply change issues. To raise cash and reduce equity exposure for the time being we sold our 3% SPY position."

Sell 100% of SPY

May 19th

"We had previously bought a small starter position in IAU that we intended to add to if gold corrected and held support. That price action occurred as expected so we are now adding again to our position."

• Increase IAU to 4% of the portfolio in both models



Lance Roberts, CIO

Have a great week!