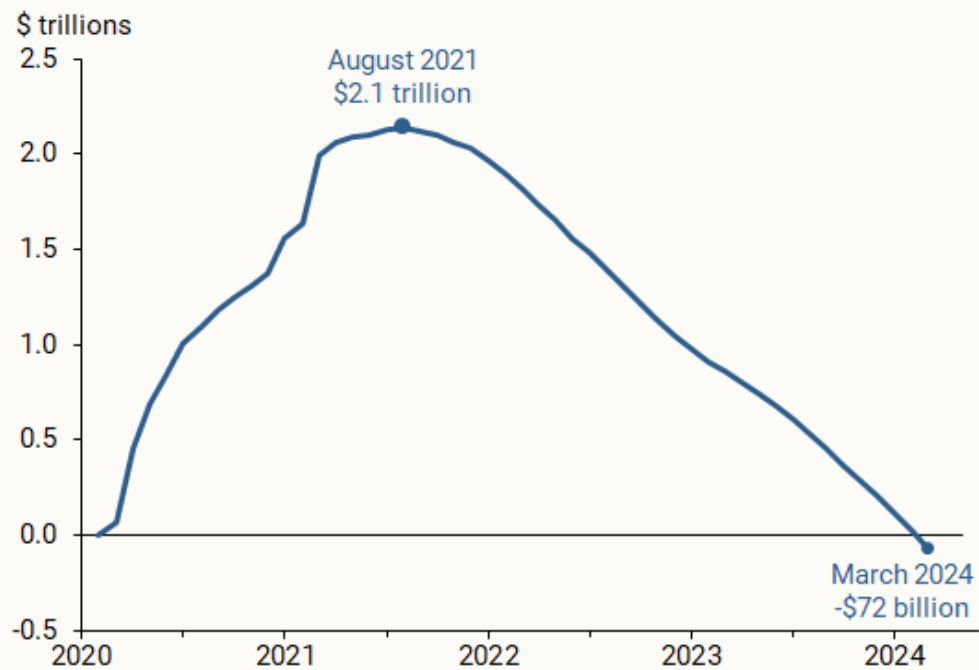




Personal consumption accounts for two-thirds of economic activity. Therefore, the means by which consumers can spend is essential for forecasting economic growth. The San Francisco Fed just released an article warning that a significant source of spending since the pandemic is no longer available. Per their article, [Pandemic Savings Are Gone: What's Next for U.S. Consumers?](#)- *"The latest estimates of overall pandemic excess savings remaining in the U.S. economy have turned negative, suggesting that American households fully spent their pandemic-era savings as of March 2024."*

Since 2021, GDP has grown by 2.93% on an annualized basis, about half a percent greater than during the post-financial crisis - pre-pandemic era. The \$2.5 trillion of excess savings, boosted by fiscal stimulus, helped GDP grow above its natural rate. However, excess savings from the pandemic have been depleted. This does not spell imminent recession. However, it argues growth should return to pre-pandemic levels. Per the Fed article, consumers still have some savings and healthy income growth to support consumption. Higher asset prices may also help. Lastly, per the Fed: *"Consumers could use debt such as credit cards and personal loans to further support their current spending habits, although the current elevated interest rate environment means that the cost of using credit is higher than in the decade preceding the pandemic recession."*

Figure 1
Cumulative pandemic-era excess savings



Note: Excess savings calculated as the accumulated difference in actual de-annualized personal savings and the trend implied by data for the 48 months leading up to the first month of the 2020 recession as defined by the National Bureau of Economic Research.

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis and authors' calculations.

What To Watch Today

Earnings

Time	Symbol	Company Name	Market Cap*	Fiscal Quarter Ending	Consensus EPS* Forecast	# Of Ests	Last Year's Report Date	Last Year's EPS*
🌞	DIS	Walt Disney Company (The)	\$206,579,117,705	Mar/2024	\$1.11	7	5/10/2023	\$0.93
🌞	BP	BP p.l.c.	\$108,203,241,118	Mar/2024	\$1.03	4	5/02/2023	\$1.66
🌞	UBS	UBS AG	\$92,797,200,000	Mar/2024	\$0.23	1	4/25/2023	\$0.32
😊	ANET	Arista Networks, Inc.	\$81,866,237,638	Mar/2024	\$1.56	8	5/01/2023	\$1.26
🌞	RACE	Ferrari N.V.	\$76,598,304,290	Mar/2024	\$2.04	3	5/04/2023	\$1.74
🌞	DUK	Duke Energy Corporation	\$76,549,284,702	Mar/2024	\$1.41	5	5/09/2023	\$1.20
🌞	TDG	Transdigm Group Incorporated	\$70,718,930,614	Mar/2024	\$6.80	7	5/09/2023	\$5.39
😊	MCK	McKesson Corporation	\$69,681,871,817	Mar/2024	\$6.34	8	5/08/2023	\$7.19
😊	OXY	Occidental Petroleum Corporation	\$56,868,433,725	Mar/2024	\$0.56	8	5/09/2023	\$1.09
😊	SU	Suncor Energy Inc.	\$49,381,213,900	Mar/2024	\$0.90	2	5/08/2023	\$1.01
🌞	SRE	Sempra	\$46,064,764,378	Mar/2024	\$1.35	3	5/04/2023	\$1.46
🌞	DDOG	Datadog, Inc.	\$41,636,925,464	Mar/2024	(\$0.04)	12	5/04/2023	(\$0.07)
😊	CPNG	Coupage, Inc.	\$40,349,648,632	Mar/2024	\$0.06	2	5/09/2023	\$0.05
🌞	KVUE	Kenvue Inc.	\$36,606,804,991	Mar/2024	\$0.25	5	N/A	N/A
😊	EA	Electronic Arts Inc.	\$34,354,534,238	Mar/2024	\$1.09	10	5/09/2023	\$1.36
🌞	ROK	Rockwell Automation, Inc.	\$30,944,429,620	Mar/2024	\$2.15	6	4/27/2023	\$3.01
🌞	GFS	GlobalFoundries Inc.	\$26,725,306,613	Mar/2024	\$0.15	7	5/09/2023	\$0.47
😊	EC	Ecopetrol S.A.	\$23,724,332,841	Mar/2024	\$0.60	5	N/A	\$0.58
🌞	BLDR	Builders FirstSource, Inc.	\$23,014,968,434	Mar/2024	\$2.42	6	5/03/2023	\$2.96
🌞	WAT	Waters Corporation	\$18,683,164,713	Mar/2024	\$2.10	8	5/09/2023	\$2.49
🌞	J	Jacobs Solutions Inc.	\$18,210,596,096	Mar/2024	\$1.84	5	5/09/2023	\$1.81
🌞	CELH	Celsius Holdings, Inc.	\$17,315,143,860	Mar/2024	\$0.20	10	5/09/2023	\$0.13
🌞	EXPD	Expeditors International of Washington, Inc.	\$16,391,568,237	Mar/2024	\$1.10	6	5/02/2023	\$1.45
😊	VIV	Telefonica Brasil S.A.	\$15,930,951,790	Mar/2024		N/A	5/09/2023	\$0.10
🌞	NRG	NRG Energy, Inc.	\$15,628,618,631	Mar/2024	\$0.51	1	5/04/2023	\$0.86
🌞	BSY	Bentley Systems, Incorporated	\$15,383,665,090	Mar/2024	\$0.21	4	5/09/2023	\$0.20
😊	OVV	Ovintiv Inc.	\$13,875,719,000	Mar/2024	\$1.34	7	5/09/2023	\$1.82
🌞	BLD	TopBuild Corp.	\$12,992,520,587	Mar/2024	\$4.56	7	5/04/2023	\$4.36
😊	PR	Permian Resources Corporation	\$12,905,535,432	Mar/2024	\$0.36	7	5/08/2023	\$0.34
😊	TOST	Toast, Inc.	\$12,812,240,000	Mar/2024	(\$0.15)	4	5/09/2023	(\$0.16)
😊	AZPN	Aspen Technology, Inc.	\$12,796,826,084	Mar/2024	\$1.15	2	4/26/2023	\$0.78
🌞	RDY	Dr. Reddy's Laboratories Ltd	\$12,452,954,567	Mar/2024	\$0.86	1	5/10/2023	\$0.70
😊	ALAB	Astera Labs, Inc.	\$12,056,887,812	Mar/2024	(\$0.14)	5	N/A	N/A
😊	JKHY	Jack Henry & Associates, Inc.	\$11,841,726,351	Mar/2024	\$1.17	6	5/02/2023	\$1.12
😊	TWLO	Twilio Inc.	\$11,200,387,798	Mar/2024	(\$0.09)	4	5/09/2023	(\$0.37)
😊	WYNN	Wynn Resorts, Limited	\$10,677,696,116	Mar/2024	\$1.43	6	5/09/2023	\$0.29
😊	RIVN	Rivian Automotive, Inc.	\$9,608,329,676	Mar/2024	(\$1.38)	5	5/09/2023	(\$1.25)
😊	AIZ	Assurant, Inc.	\$9,076,334,449	Mar/2024	\$3.87	5	5/02/2023	\$2.75
🌞	HSIC	Henry Schein, Inc.	\$8,815,492,323	Mar/2024	\$0.99	10	5/09/2023	\$1.21
😊	CFLT	Confluent, Inc.	\$8,806,557,908	Mar/2024	(\$0.24)	9	5/03/2023	(\$0.36)
🌞	TPX	Tempur Sealy International, Inc.	\$8,753,129,562	Mar/2024	\$0.48	6	5/09/2023	\$0.53
😊	MTCH	Match Group, Inc.	\$8,386,087,782	Mar/2024	\$0.40	10	5/02/2023	\$0.42

Economy

- *No notable economic reports today*

Market Trading Update

In [yesterday's commentary](#), we noted the market was on the verge of breaking above resistance at the 50-DMA. Furthermore, in yesterday's blog, we laid out 3-potential market outcomes. [To wit:](#)

"The stock rally is at a critical juncture, and what happens next will determine whether the current market correction is over. Three possible scenarios over the next month or so exist.

Path A: The market breaks above the 50-DMA and retests previous highs. **While this path is indeed possible, the markets are overbought on a very short-term basis, suggesting further price appreciation will become more challenging.**

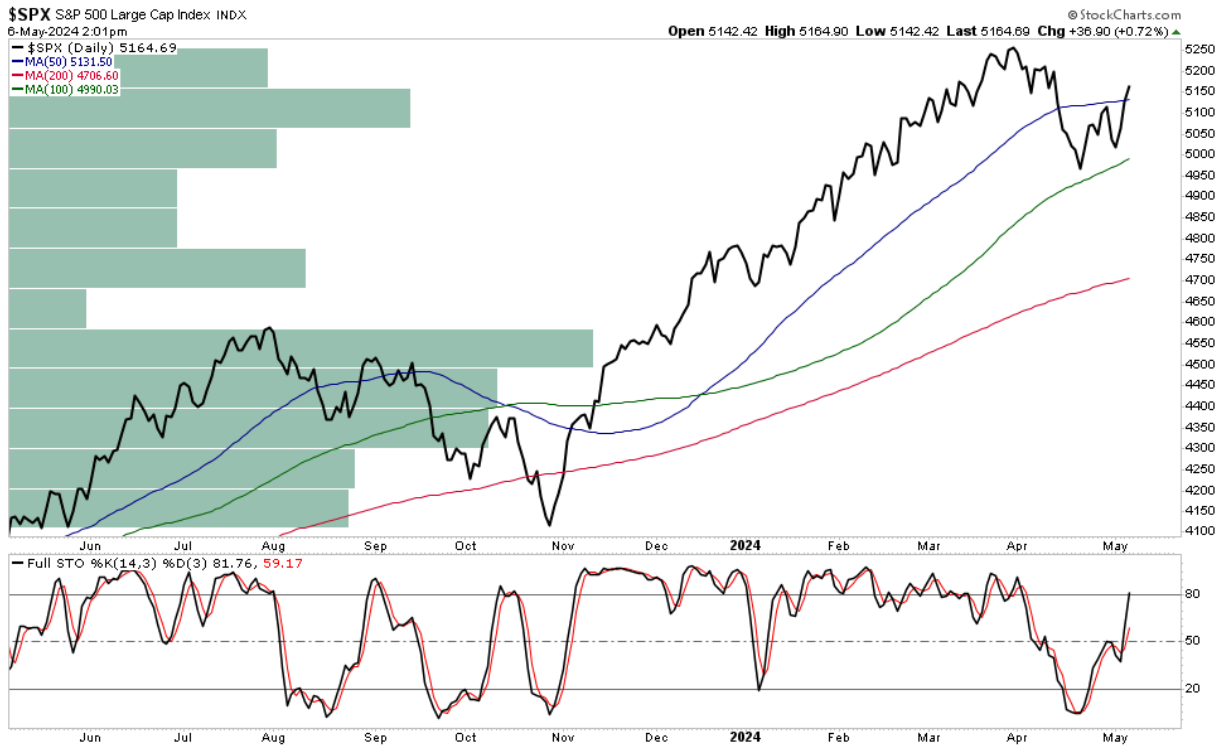
Path B: Many investors were surprised by the recent market decline. As such, these ?trapped longs? will likely use the current stock rally as an opportunity to reduce risk. **Another retest of the 100-DMA seems probable before the next leg of the current bull rally ensues.**

Path C: With earnings season mostly behind us and stock buybacks set to resume, a reversion to the 200-DMA seems the least probable. However, as is always the case, it is a risk that we should not ignore. A sharp uptick in inflation or stronger-than-expected economic data could spark concerns about a ?higher for longer? Fed policy. Such an event would likely lead to a further repricing of risk assets."



Yesterday, the market broke above the 50-DMA, putting "Path A" as the potential scenario to consider in the near future. However, if it is going to be confirmed, the market must maintain that breakout through Friday. A failure in the next day or so that takes the market back below the 50-DMA will be considered a "failed breakout," reinforcing resistance at the 50-DMA. In such an event, expect a retest of the 100-DMA shortly thereafter.

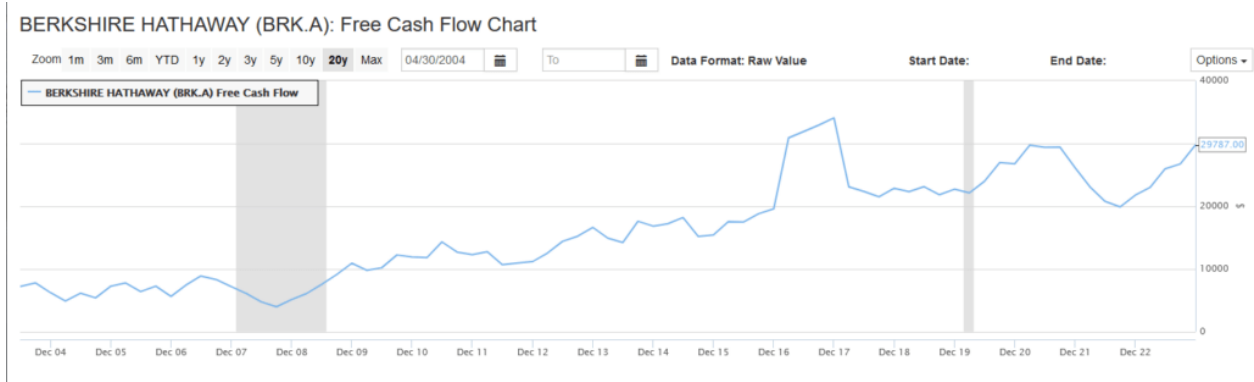
The bullish case is improving short-term, but continue to manage risk until the break above the 50-DMA is confirmed.



Berkshire Is Sitting On A Mountain Of Cash

At Berkshire Hathaway's annual meeting this past weekend, Warren Buffett stated: *"We only swing at pitches we like."* Accordingly, given that they are sitting on \$189 billion in cash, they probably don't like many investment ideas. Indeed, the 5% interest rate on cash lessens the opportunity cost of not being more fully invested. Buffett plans to use some excess cash to buy back its shares but admits the stock *"isn't that liquid, so it's hard to do."*

The graph below shows that Berkshire generates nearly \$30 billion of free cash flow a quarter. Unless Buffett puts cash to work, the amount of cash and marketable securities will continue to grow rapidly. Given that valuations are generally high and Buffett tends to have a value orientation, it's quite likely that Berkshire will wait for a correction. At that time, they will have significant funds to supply liquidity to the market.

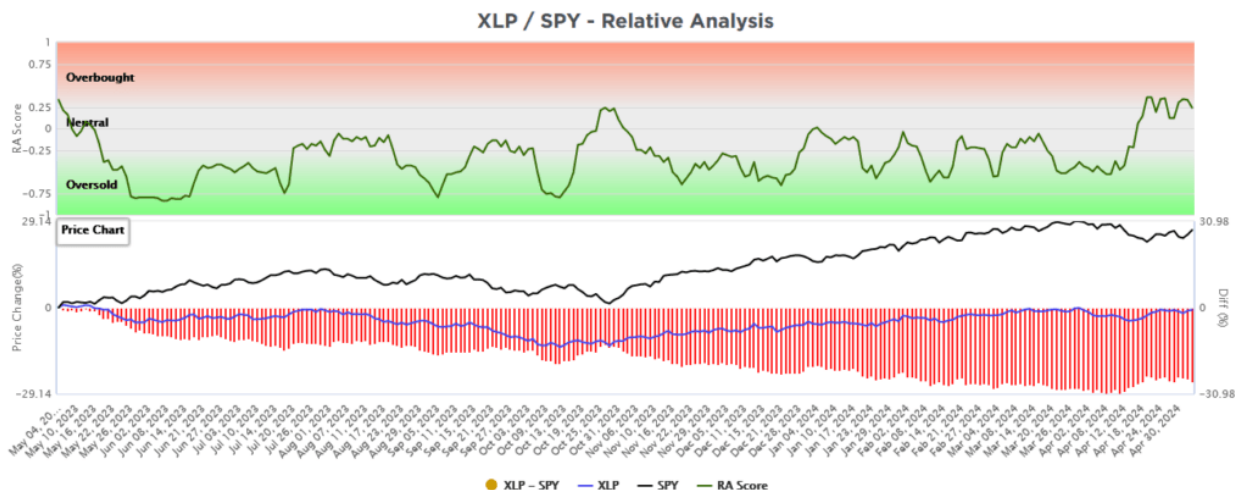
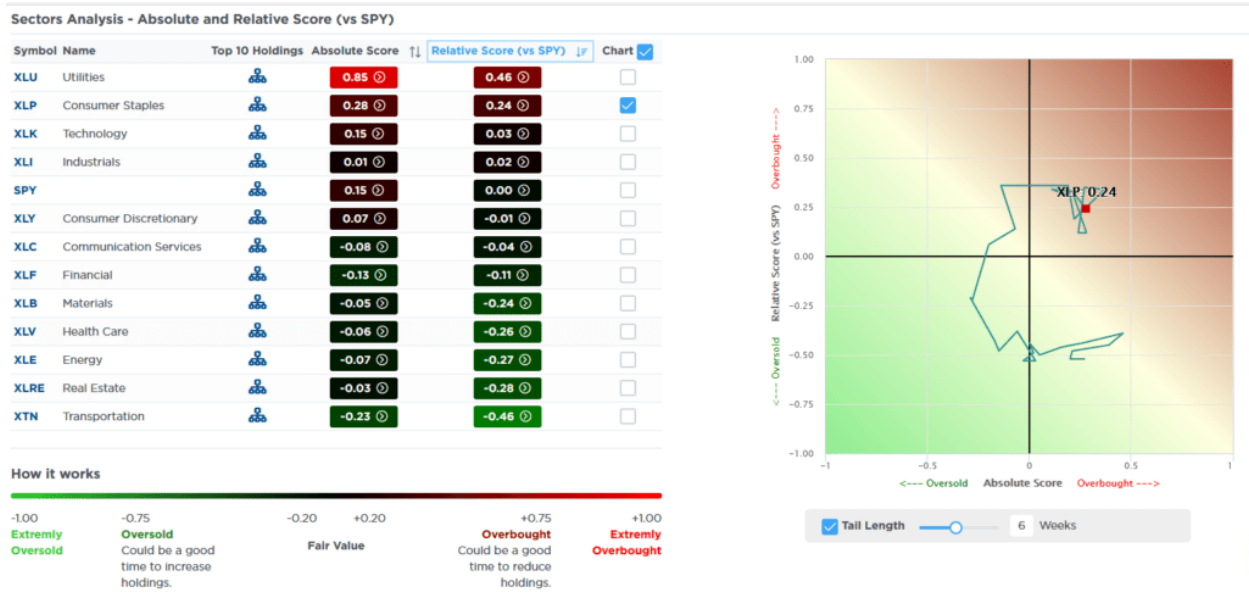


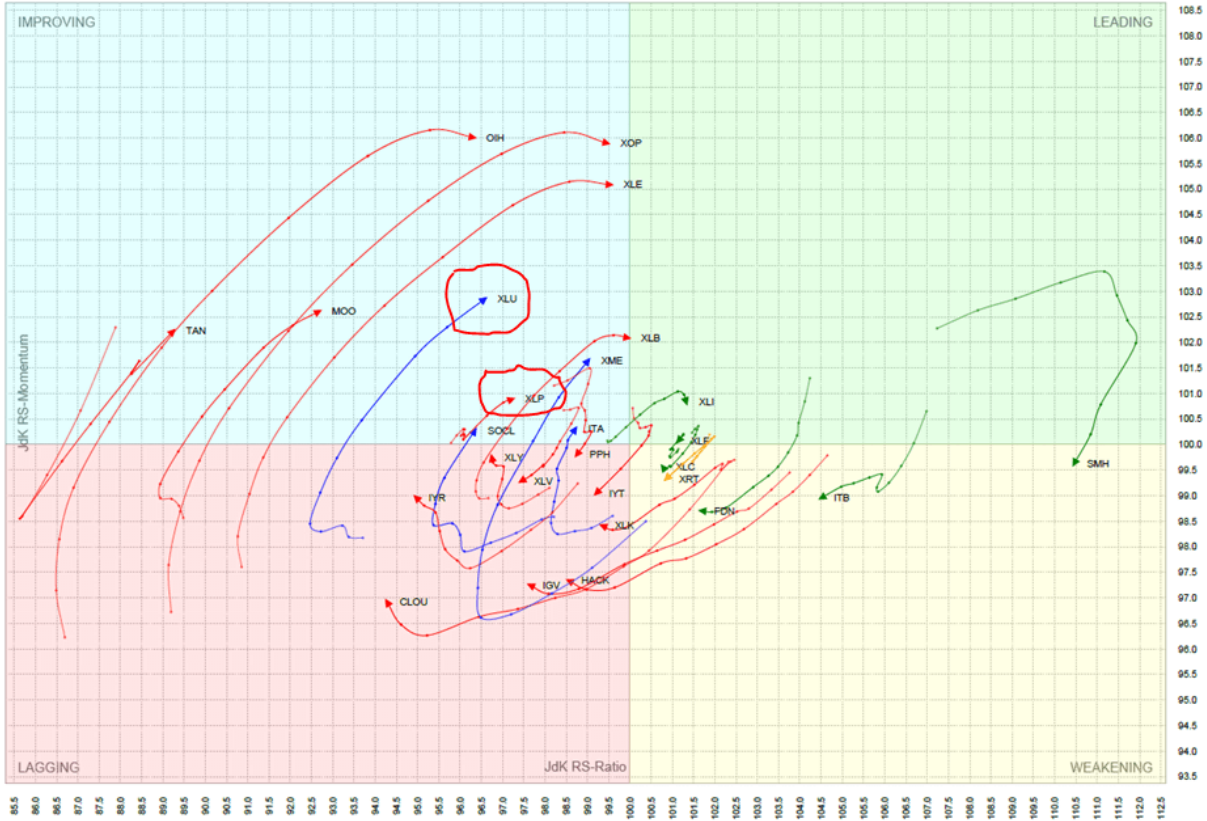
Staples Following Utilities Lead

Two weeks ago, we shared a [SimpleVisor sector analysis](#), showing that the utility sector was leading the market. While the sector continues to outperform every other sector and the broader S&P 500, consumer staples (XLP) stocks are now following their lead. The first SimpleVisor graphic below highlights that staples are now the second most overbought sector behind utilities. The graph on the right side plots the rotation of its absolute and relative SV scores for the past six weeks. As we often find, stocks and sectors rotate from oversold on an absolute and relative basis to overbought. Currently, the staples sector is overbought but only moderately so. There is plenty of room to become more overbought.

The second graph charts its relative score in the top graph. The bottom graph highlights the relative performance versus the S&P 500. As shown, its recent scores in the top graph are the highest or most overbought in a year. The relative performance of staples has been lousy this past year. However, that leaves plenty of room for it to catch up with the market.

The third graph below is from the [TPA weekly RRG report](#). TPA is a standalone service within SimpleVisor offering its subscribers a unique way to take advantage of sector and stock rotations. The third graph below from Monday's relative rotation report shows the rotations of 27 sectors and subsectors. As we circle, utilities (XLU) and XLP are "improving" and likely headed toward the "leading" quadrant. TPA's analysis argues that both sectors have more relative upside performance. The following link shows TPA's RRG model and how sectors and subsectors move in and out of favor over time: <https://youtu.be/jl7nGbZKWa0>





Tweet of the Day



Michael Brown @MrMBrown · 7m

US exceptionalism looks to be slowly but surely fading away...spread between Citi's US economic surprise index & an equally-weighted average of said index for 7 other DM economies is at its lowest in around a year...



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