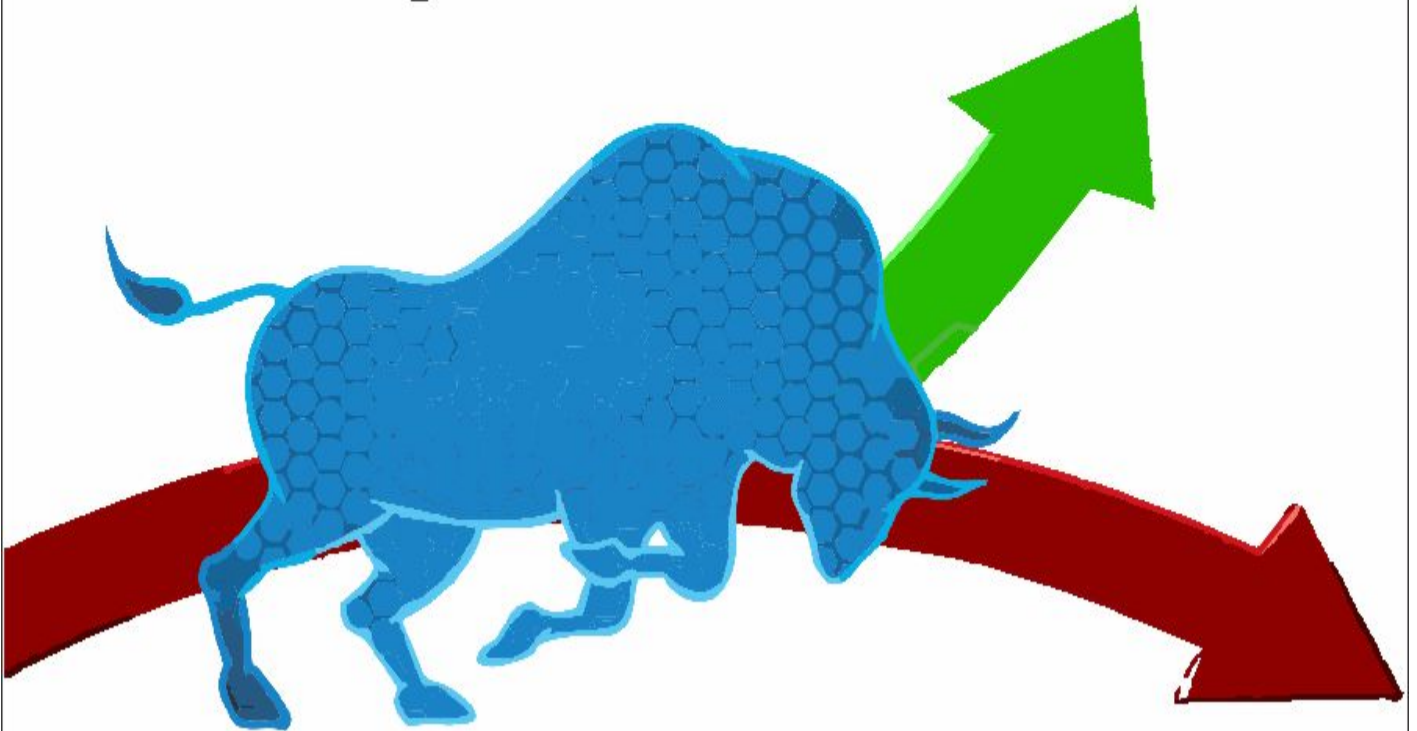


# Market Hits All-Time Highs As Money Flows Peak



In this 06-04-21 issue of "Market Hits All-Time Highs As Money Flows Peak."

- **Market Review And Update**
- **Risk Of A Summer Sell-Off**
- **The Lack Of Value In Value**
- **Portfolio Positioning**
- **#MacroView: Yellen's Push To Offshore Labor**
- **Sector & Market Analysis**
- **401k Plan Manager**

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# Catch Up On What You Missed Last Week



## #WhatYouMissed On RIA This Week: 06-04-21

Written by Lance Roberts | Jun 4, 2021

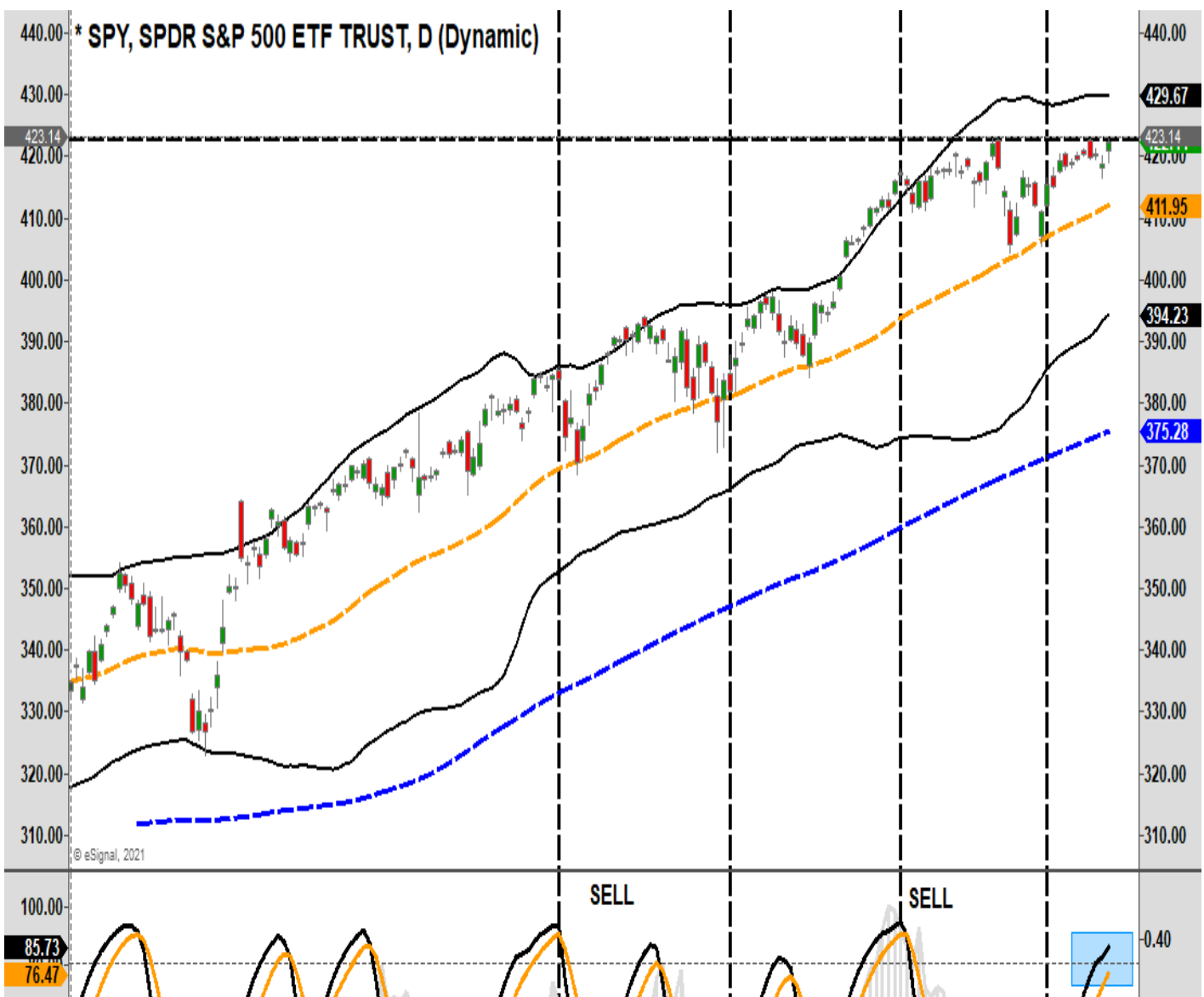
Here is what you might have missed from the RIA Crew last week. A compilation of our best blogs, newsletter, podcasts, the daily radio show and commentary from RIAPRO.NET.

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## Market Review & Update

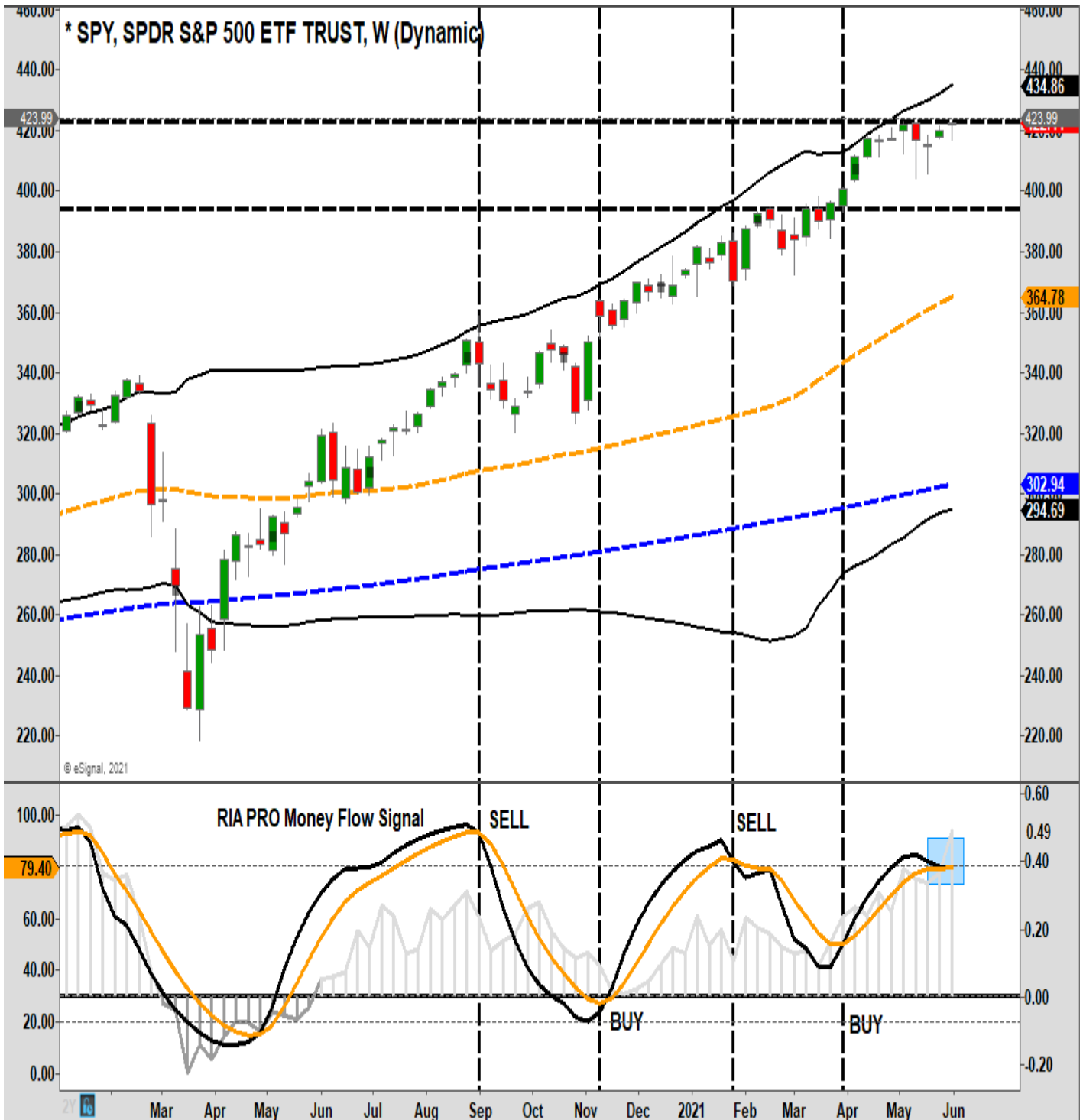
Over the last few week's we discussed the ongoing "buy signals" suggesting the market could retest all-time highs. That occurred this week. However, as [stated last week](#):

*"The good news is that we did indeed get the rally we were expecting. **The not-so-good news is that the rally already consumed a majority of the 'buy signal.'** Such does not mean the market is about to correct; it does suggest that upside remains limited near term."*



As shown in the bottom panel, the [RIA PRO "Money Flow"](#) signal is now into overbought territory. While the markets could undoubtedly break out to new highs next week, the upside remains limited. **Such is due to the weekly signal, which is very close to triggering.**

*"Our more significant concern remains the weekly "sell signal." Historically, these weekly signals typically denote periods of more significant volatility swings or corrections. The biggest correction risk comes when the daily and weekly signals align."*



I will lay out the case for a summer "sell-off" momentarily, but let me recap what these signals do and don't mean.

## Technical Analysis In A Mania

On Friday, I received an email asking an essential question:

*"I enjoyed your piece this week on [Sell Signals Are Useless In A Mania](#). I am starting to believe the Fed has achieved a '**Permanently High Plateau**' for asset prices because there seems to be nothing to derail the endless risk appetite for any asset. **However, in the futile exercise of trying to stay disciplined I don't want to abandon valuations and technicals.**"*

**The biggest problem is that technical indicators do not distinguish between a consolidation, a correction, or an outright bear market.** As such, if you ignore the signals as they occur, by the time you realize it's a deep correction, it is too late to do much about it. **Therefore, we must treat each signal with the same respect and adjust risk accordingly. The opportunity costs of doing so are minimal.** If we reduce risk and the market continues to rise, we can quickly increase our exposures. Yes, we sacrifice some short-term performance. However, if we reduce risk and the market declines sharply, we not only protect our capital during the decline but have the cash to deploy at lower price levels. **Such is the biggest problem with "buy and hold" strategies.** Yes, you will perform in line with the market, but given that you didn't "sell high," there is no cash available with which to "buy low" in the future. **While I agree you can not "time the markets," [you can "manage risk" to improve your long-term outcomes.](#)**

A promotional banner for the 'Real Investment Show' featuring a portrait of Lance Roberts on the left. The text 'Real Investment Show with Lance Roberts' is on an orange background, and 'Monday to Friday, from 6 to 7am. > Get it now' is on a black background.

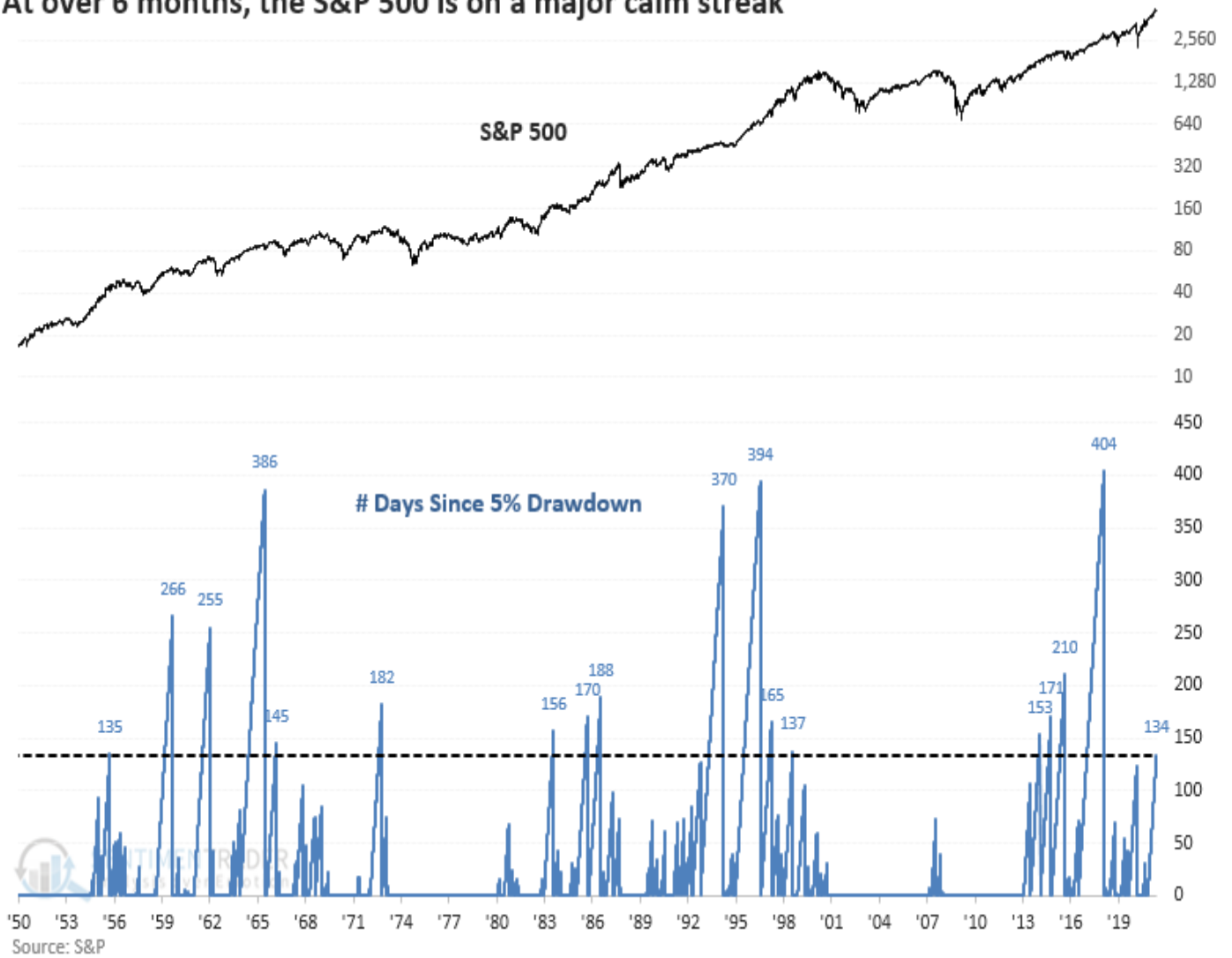
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## Risk Of A Summer Selloff

Over the last three weeks, we have discussed that while we had added exposure to portfolios in anticipation of a short-term rally, we still expect a more significant correction this summer. There are several reasons for this. The first is that a 5% correction is likely one or more times in any given year. Given the last correction was in the summer of 2020, such makes the current stretch of a low volatility advance one of the longer ones on record.

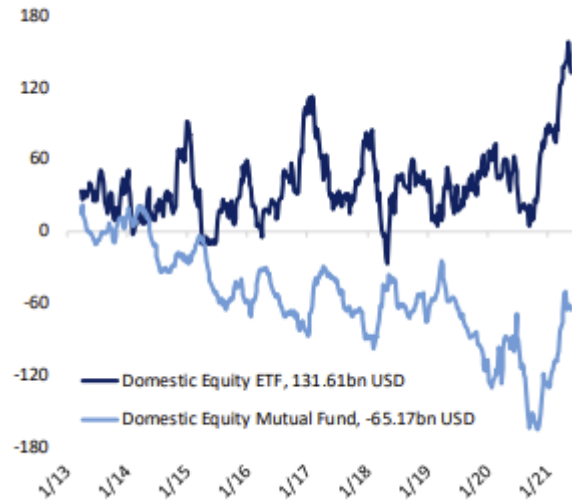
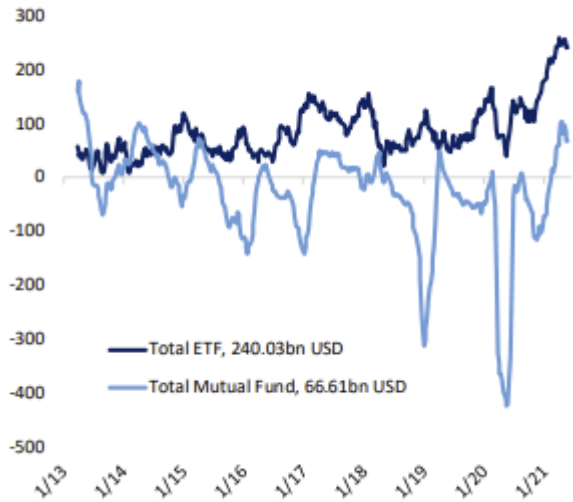
## At over 6 months, the S&P 500 is on a major calm streak



Secondly, as noted by Variant Perception recently, the market has been tracking the post-correction/bear market rally analog. Such also suggests a pause given the strength of the rally from the previous lows.



Record Global Fund Flows Are Starting To Roll Over (Rolling 13w Sums)



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All of

these signposts suggest a risk of a correction in the near term. **However, as stated above, technical analysis does not differentiate between a 5% pullback, a 10% correction, and a 20% decline. You will only find that out once it begins.** Risk management is much like driving a car. If there is a blind spot ahead, and you don't tap on the brakes to control your speed, you are unlikely to avoid the hazard ahead. **Yes, tapping on the brakes to provide more control over the car will slow your arrival time to your destination. However, being late is a much better option than not getting there at all.**

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Risk Is Evident

A recent note from Doug Kass summed up the current market environment well.

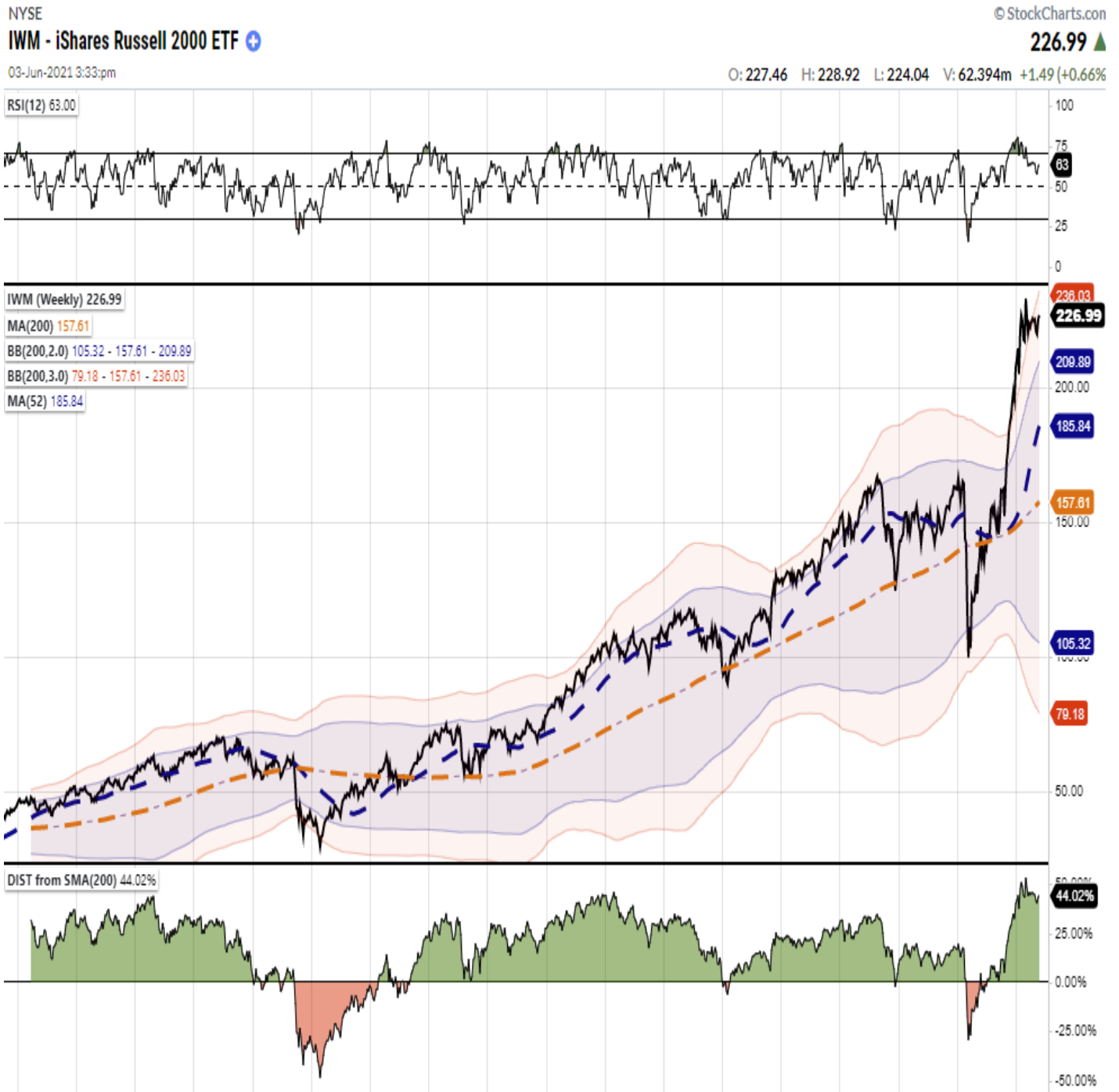
*"Stocks and bonds are richly priced. It makes no sense to say, as many do, that equities are inexpensive against an overpriced asset class (fixed income). Most traditional metrics indicate that stocks are at least in the 95th percentile - a non-trivial amount of indicators of valuation are in the 99th percentile."*

Even using always overly estimated forward earnings, valuations remain extremely rich, suggesting lower returns in the future.

Exhibit 5: S&P 500 Normalized P/E vs. subsequent annualized 10yr returns 1987-4/2021. Current normalized P/E: 27x

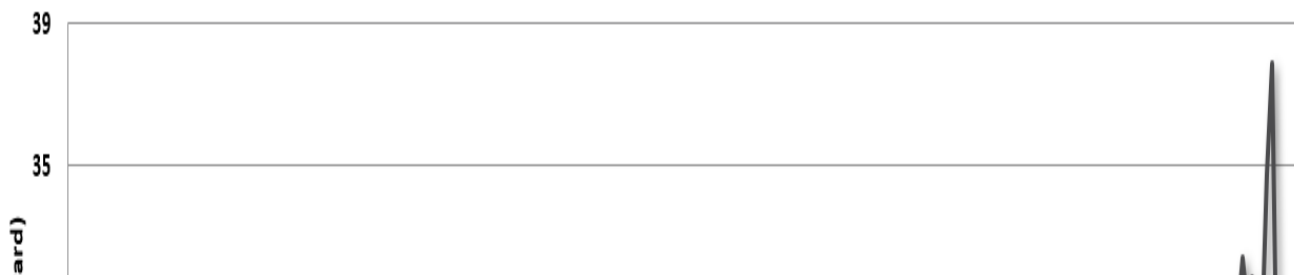


Of course, such **DOES NOT** mean the market is about to crash, and you should hide in cash. However, the elevation in valuations, combined with the chase in "Meme" stocks like AMC, and cryptocurrencies are just the latest manifestations of risk-taking by investors. A look at small-capitalization companies (*which are the riskiest of stocks*) and their deviation from long-term means also is representative of "speculation" (*The 200-week moving average has been consistent support for small-caps since 2008. The current deviation is unprecedented.*)



Even with the expected surge in earnings, the Russell 2000 index is still trading at more the 28x earnings based on estimates 2-years into the future. **Such means that expected returns over the next 24-months for small-cap stocks are now close to zero.**

### Current P/E Based On 2-Year Forward Estimates



Then there is the problem with "value" stocks.

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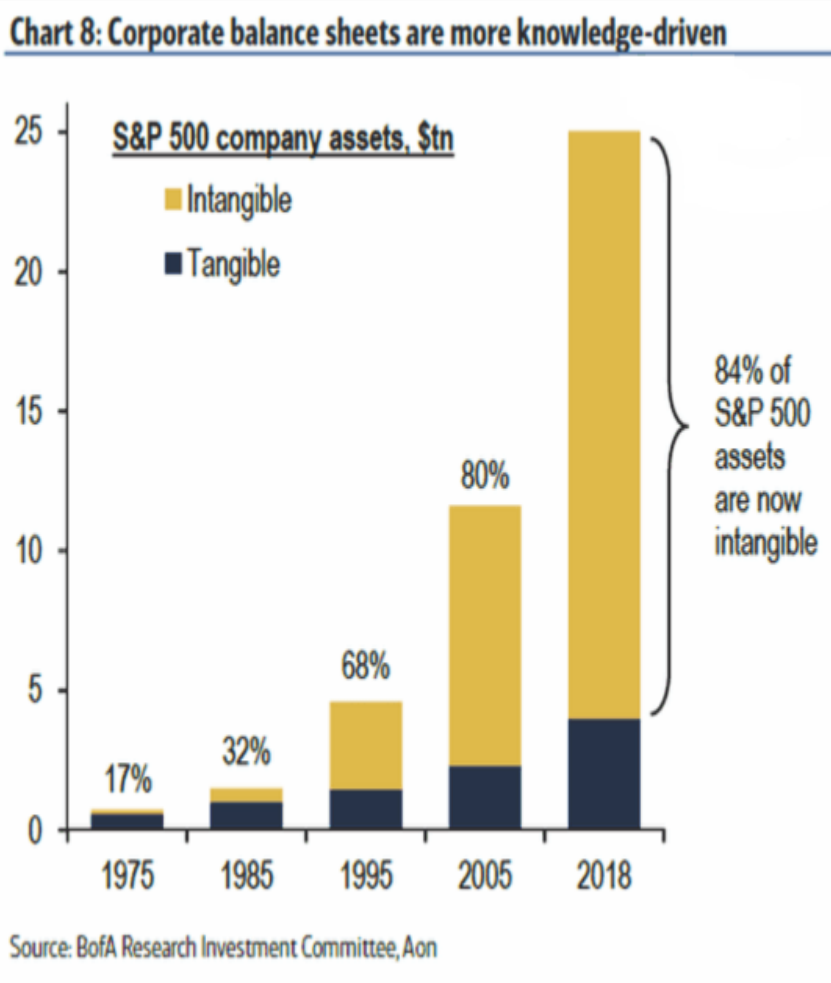
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## The Lack Of Value In Value

Over the years, "value" has been the cornerstone of investing. The reason is that during "bear markets," the speculative excesses get wrung out, and investors search for "value" as a store of safety. **The problem is that since there hasn't been an actual "bear market" since 2008**, there is relatively little value in "value stocks."

*"The popular and 'cool guys,' value stocks, are now extended. That (arguably) includes banks, industrials and 'opening' stocks." - Doug Kass*

An excellent example is the **Momentum ETF (MTUM)** that switched from growth stocks to value stocks. The same is occurring in other factor-based ETFs. For instance, the two top holdings of **IWN**, the **iShares Russell 2000 Value ETF**, are **GameStop (GME)** and **AMC Entertainment (AMC)** which are about as far from value as one can imagine. The problem will be whether the "economic expansion" will allow earnings growth to justify current valuations. **However, three massive rounds of stimulus "pulled forward" several years of sales, which will become problematic as economic growth slows.** As noted, there is little ?value? in the "value trade. As discussed in [?The Astonishing Lack Of Value:?](#)






**"Book value analysis and buying companies with low 'price-to-book' ratios have historically been profitable ventures. Companies with machinery, inventory, and equipment, and financial assets tend to have large book values. Significantly, these types of investments are easily valued and liquidated in the event of financial stress or bankruptcy."**

However, today, such is no longer the case. Items such as patents, licenses, human capital, etc., now make up a significant portion of a company's value. **These types of assets are hard to value and more difficult to liquidate. So, how many NON-FINANCIAL companies in the S&P 500 currently have a price-to-book ratio below 1.5x? How about 18.**

Company	Ticker	Price/ Book
Molson Coors-B	TAP	1.02
Corteva Inc	CTVA	1.36
Kraft Heinz Co	KHC	1.07
Carnival Corp	CCL	1.47
Discovery Com-A	DISCA	1.33
Discovery Com-C	DISCK	1.25
Viacomcbs Inc	VIAC	1.39
Viatis Inc	VTRS	0.87
Perrigo Co Plc	PRGO	1.14
Westrock Co	WRK	1.41
Hewlett Pkd Ent	HPE	1.26
At&T Inc	T	1.15
Diamondback Egy	FANG	1.34
Hollyfrontier	HFC	1
Marathon Petrol	MPC	1.44
Marathon Oil Cp	MRO	1.03
Kinder Morgan	KMI	1.3
Mosaic Co/The	MOS	1.45

See the problem?



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## Portfolio Update

With our weekly "sell" signal now triggered on the S&P 500, and the daily signals back to very overbought levels, we liquidated the rest of our QQQ index trading position. The sell locked in the recent gains and raised our cash levels to buffer our overall portfolio allocations. The rest of the portfolio remains balanced between the "inflation" and "deflation" trade to lower overall volatility. The "barbell" approach to the reopening trade has worked well given the rapid rotations between the two "schools" over the last few months. **We certainly don't profess to have all the answers, but there is no argument we will see robust short-term growth and rising inflationary pressures.** Such suggests the value trade may persist for a while longer. **Those sectors remain energy, financials, industrials, and materials for now.** However, we also continue to add to "deflationary" holdings opportunistically as economic growth will return to its 2%ish long-

term trend. **Technology, Staples, and Healthcare remain increasingly recession-proof due to the changing workforce, demographic trends, and living standards. We are firm believers in *value investing*.** However, after years of artificial interventions, accounting gimmicks, share buybacks, and massive balance sheet leveraging, **there is little *real* value in the markets currently.** Given that the markets have not reset, speculators are now simply chasing whatever is moving higher. For now, we have to continue to navigate markets for what they are rather than what we *hope* they could be. **We suspect that this year could wind up disappointing both economists and investors alike.**

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## The MacroView



### **#MacroView: Yellen & The Big Push To Offshore US Labor**

Written by Lance Roberts | Jun 4, 2021

Janet Yellen's latest commitment to support the Biden progressive agenda from higher taxes, to unionization, will not lead to increased economic prosperity. Instead it will lead to more outsourcing and offshoring of U.S. Labor.

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If you need help or have questions, we are always glad to help. [Just email me.](#) See You Next Week **By Lance Roberts, CIO**

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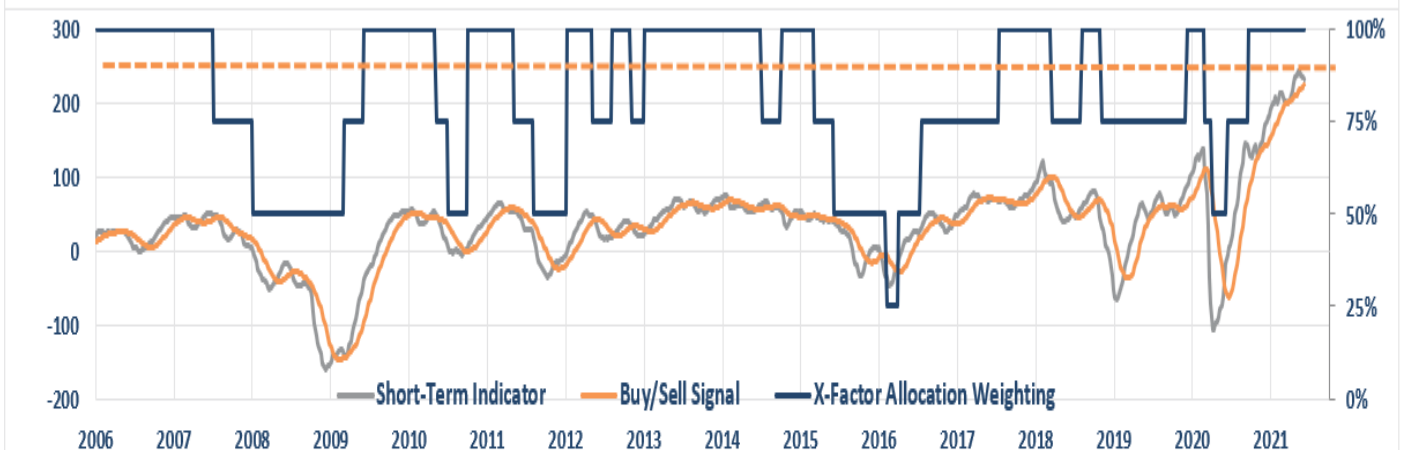
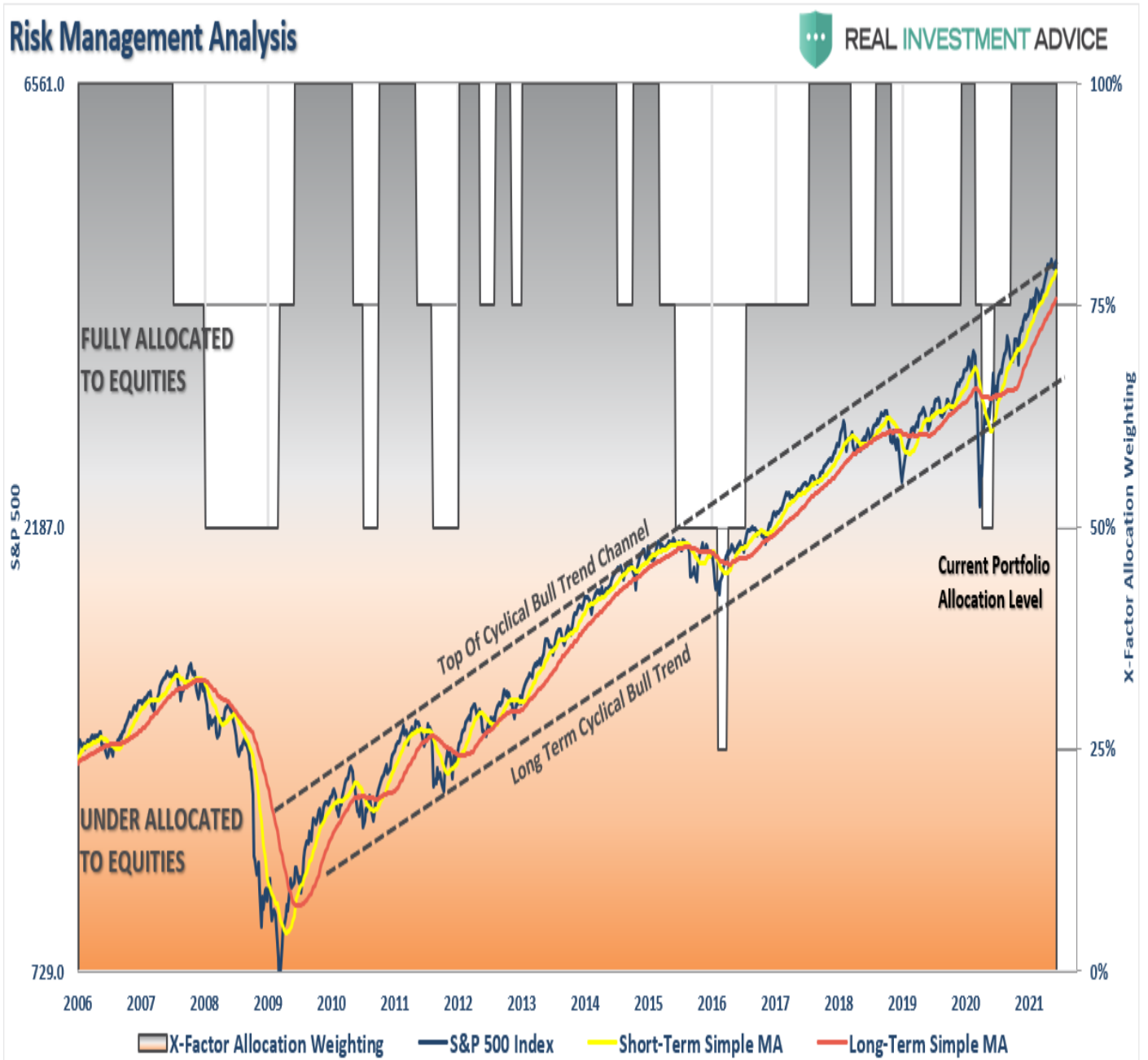
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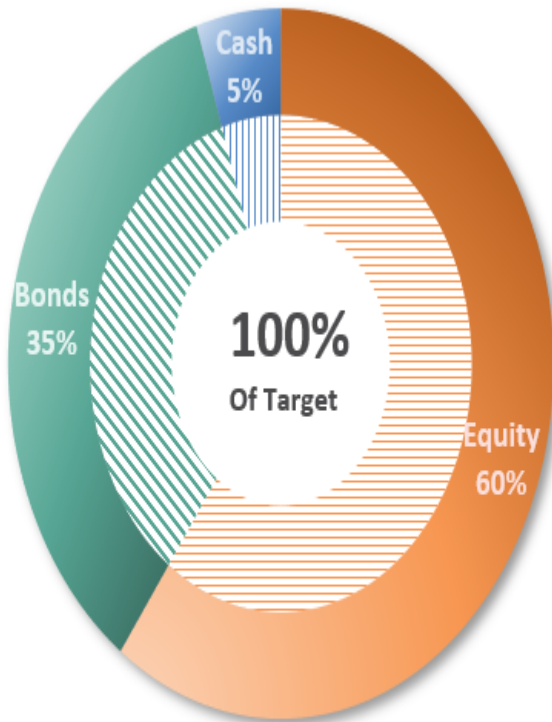
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# THE REAL 401k PLAN MANAGER

## A Conservative Strategy For Long-Term Investors



## Current Portfolio Weighting



## Current 401k Allocation Model

### 5.00% Cash + All Future Contributions

*Primary concern is the protection of investment capital*

Examples: Stable Value, Money Market, Retirement Reserves

### 35.00% Fixed Income (Bonds)

*Bond Funds reflect the direction of interest rates*

Examples: Short Duration, Total Return and Real Return Funds

### 60.00% Equity (Stocks)

*The vast majority of funds track an index.*

*Therefore, select on ONE fund from each category.*

*Keep it Simple.*

20% Equity Income, Balanced or Conservative Allocation

30% Large Cap Growth (S&P 500 Index)

5% International

5% Mid-Cap

## Portfolio Instructions:

Allocation Level To Equities	Recommendation	When To Take Action
Less Than Target Allocation	Hold Current Exposure	Hold Exposure
Equal To Target Allocation	Hold Current Exposure	Hold Exposure
Over Target Allocation	Hold Current Exposure	Hold Exposure

## Commentary

After registering a buy signal two weeks ago, the Nasdaq rallied back to its previous lower high. The S&P 500 also confirmed the bullish advance by issuing a buy signal as well.

However, as stated last week, market action remains weak, and the buy signals won't last long if performance doesn't begin to improve soon. Breadth is narrowing and technical indications are getting more extremely overbought.


We did pare back some of our holdings this week just to realign our portfolios with the model. We suggest you do the same. Take profits in areas where you are overweight due to the recent advance. HOWEVER, do NOT buy holdings that have been declining or lagging the recent rally. Just hold extra cash for now.

There is no need to be aggressive here. There isn't likely a lot of upside to the market as we head into summer, so we would recommend not being overly aggressive.

If you need help after reading the alert, do not hesitate to [contact me](#).

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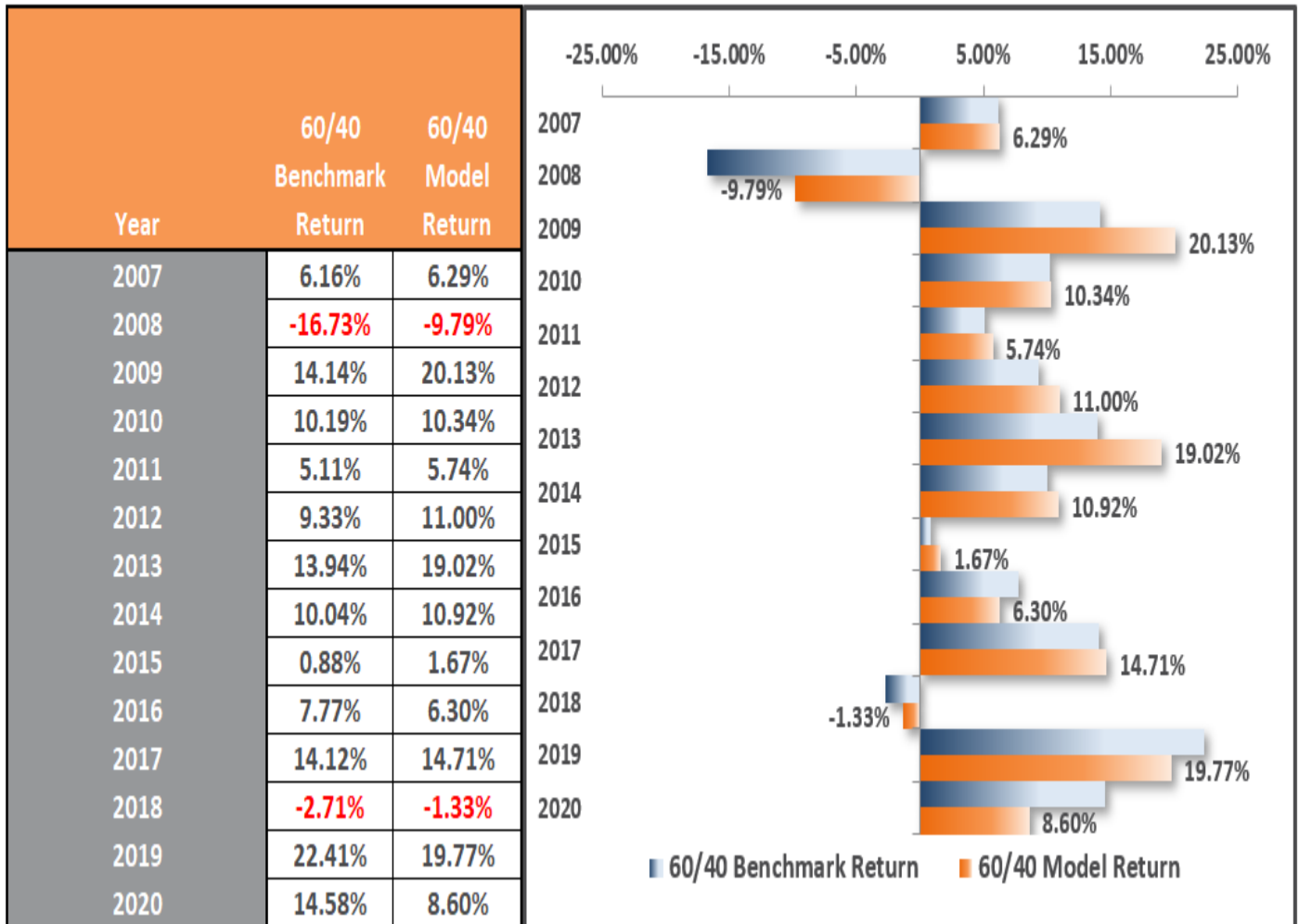
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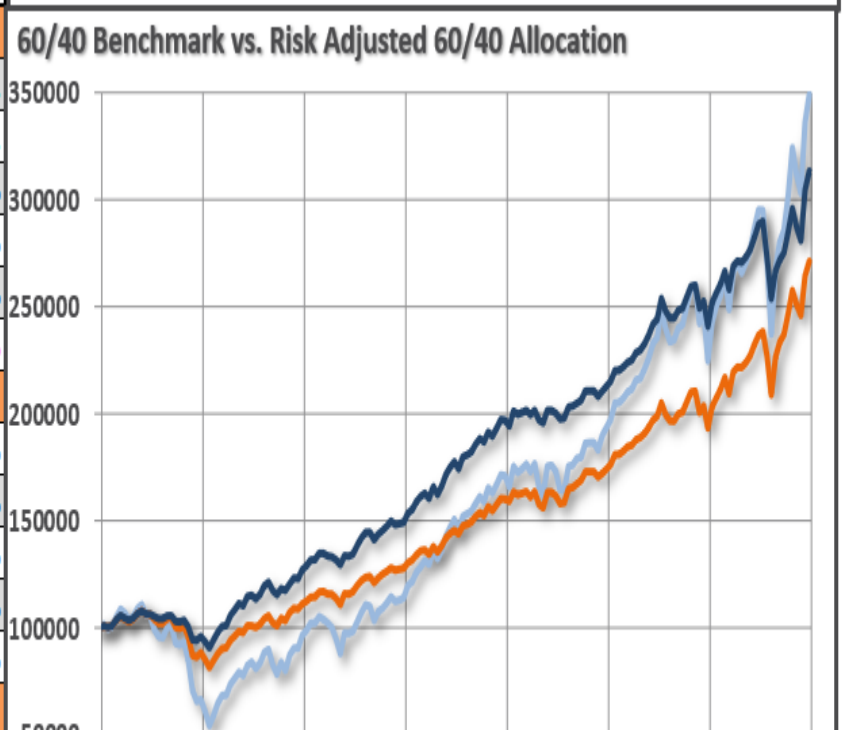
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*Model performance is a two-asset model of stocks and bonds relative to the weighting changes made each week in the newsletter. Such is strictly for informational and educational purposes only, and one should not rely on it for any reason. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Use at your own risk and peril.*



Portfolio vs Benchmark Statistics	
Number of Up Years	12
Number of Down Years	2
Best One Year Return Of Benchmark	22.41%
Best One Year Return Of Model	20.13%
Worst One Year Return Of Benchmark	-16.73%
Worst One Year Return Of Model	-9.79%
Benchmark Return 2007-Present	171.16%
Model Return 2007-Present	213.32%
Total Alpha Generated	42.17%
Mean Annual Return Of Benchmark	7.80%
Mean Annual Return Of Model	8.81%



Have a great week!