

Real Investment Report

The Market Breaks Has The Bull Market Ended?

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The Market Breaks

Over the last few weeks, I have been tracking the markets ongoing consolidation process. As I [noted on Tuesday](#):

"The breakdown on Monday has not yet completely broken the 'bullish case' for the market yet, however, a failed rally from current levels will bring 'Option 3' into focus. With the recent failure at the previous resistance level, we can now adjust our consolidation process for the market."



*"As long as the pattern of 'higher lows' remains, a breakout above the current downtrend line and resistance should signal a move to old highs and the current 2018 target of 3000. However, **a break below the uptrend line will confirm a change to the current market** and will require a shift in allocations to a more neutral stance. **We are potentially at a very critical juncture of this particular 'bull market cycle,'** and as*

Doug Kass noted yesterday: ?I expect a 2018 trading range of 2200-2850 ? with a ?fair market value? (based on higher interest rates, disappointing economic and corporate profit growth, political and geopolitical uncertainties)•of approximately 2400. Compared to the expected trading range, downside risk relative to upside reward is approximately 5x. Against ?fair market value?•(based on my probability distribution of a host of independent variables ? interest rates, inflation, corporate profits, economic growth, valuations, etc.)•downside risk relative to upside reward is about 3x.?

On Friday, the break to the downside occurred putting the bull market cycle at risk and "Option #3," the least favorable path, has come into focus. Interestingly, I received several comments on my predicted paths when I first laid them out 3-weeks ago:

- "Option 3 is TOO pessimistic. It will never happen."•
- "Why are you so bearish, this bull market is still running...."
- "You can't predict the future, so why even try."•

You get the idea...but here is the important point:

"Analysis is not about trying to PREDICT future outcomes, but simply the ANALYSIS of 'possibilities,' (things that might happen,) versus 'probabilities,' (things that will likely happen.)"

Without understanding what the various outcomes "might be," action can not be taken to reduce the risk of capital loss over time. **So, where are we now?** With the breakdown of the market to the 200-dma, the market is now at a much more critical "make or break" juncture. Here are some points to consider:

1. The market triggered a short-term "sell signal" last week with a break of the 75-dma. (bearish)
2. The market is "oversold" on a short-term basis which provides fuel for a reflexive bounce. (bullish)
3. As I will discuss in a minute, the longer-term uptrend of the market remains intact. (bullish)
4. Support held, again, at the rising 200-dma on Friday. (bullish)
5. The short-term downtrend of the market continues to gain strength. (bearish)

Considering all those factors, I begin to layout the "possible" paths the market could take from here. I quickly ran into the problem of there being "too many" potential paths the market could take to make a legible chart for discussion purposes. However, the bulk of the paths took some form of the three I have listed below.



- *Option 1: The market regains its bullish underpinnings, the correction concludes and the next leg of the current bull market cycle continues. It will not be a straight line higher of course, but the overall trajectory will be a pattern of rising bottoms as upper resistance levels are met and breached. (20%)*
- *Option 2: The market, given the current oversold condition, provides for a reflexive bounce to the 100-dma and fails. This is where the majority of the possible paths open up. (50%)*
 - *The market fails at the 100-dma and then resumes the current path of decline violating the current bullish trend and officially starting the next bear market cycle. (40%)*
 - *The market fails at the 100-dma but maintains support at the 200-dma and begins to build a base of support to move higher. (Option 1 or 3) (20%)*
 - *The market fails at the 100-dma, finds support at the 200-dma, makes another rally attempt higher and then fails again resuming the current bearish path lower. (40%)*
- *Option 3: The market struggles higher to the previous "double top" set in February, retraces back to the 100-dma and then moves higher. (30%)*

IMPORTANT NOTE: Regardless, of any potential outcome from Friday's close, **ANY rally back to the 100-dma should be used to reduce equity holdings in portfolios.** As noted in the 401k plan manager below, the triggering of coincident "sell signals" and the breach of the consolidation process has reduced equity holdings in the model by 25% which is the first reduction since late 2015.

Has The Bull Market Ended?

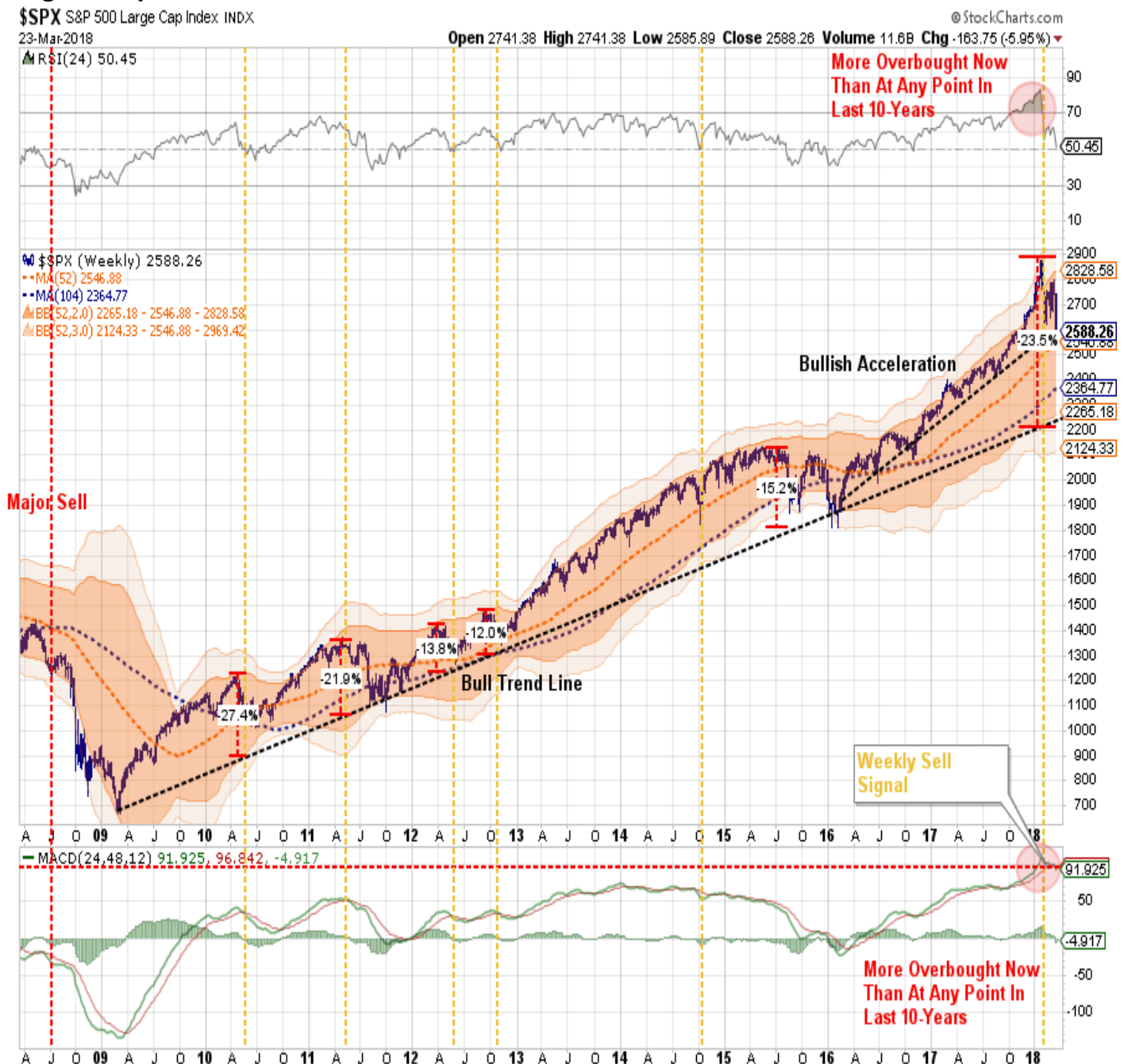
Why am I giving Option #2 above the most weight?• It is the most "bearish" of the three potential outcomes. As I was laying out all of the possible pathways, the majority of the analysis continues to suggest the most likely path currently is lower. The supportive backdrop for asset prices continues to wane:

- *The ongoing rhetoric from Washington over "trade wars" combined with [complete fiscal irresponsibility](#).*•
- *The reduction in support from Central Banks in terms of liquidity support.*
- *The [continued insistence of the Fed](#) to hike rates which continues to reduce the "low rate supports higher valuations" argument.*
- *The risk of [further contagion](#) from Facebook and other "big data" companies on the technology sector (which comprises roughly 25% of the S&P 500) as global threats of "internet taxes" or other data collection policies are considered.*
- *Revenue growth continues to remain weak which is leading to downward revisions in earnings estimates.*
- *Both domestic and international economic growth has peaked.*
- *[Inflationary pressures](#) from wage growth remains non-existent while the [cost of living continues](#) to rise (this will be exacerbated by Trump's "trade wars.")*
- *The yield curve continues to deteriorate and LIBOR has blown out which have typically been early warning sides of bad outcomes.*•

I can go on (valuations, fundamentals, etc.) but you get the idea. There is little evidence to support the "bullish case" other than "sentiment based" data which can, and does, change very rapidly. **But even with that said - the current ongoing "bull market" that began in 2016 has NOT ended...yet.**•



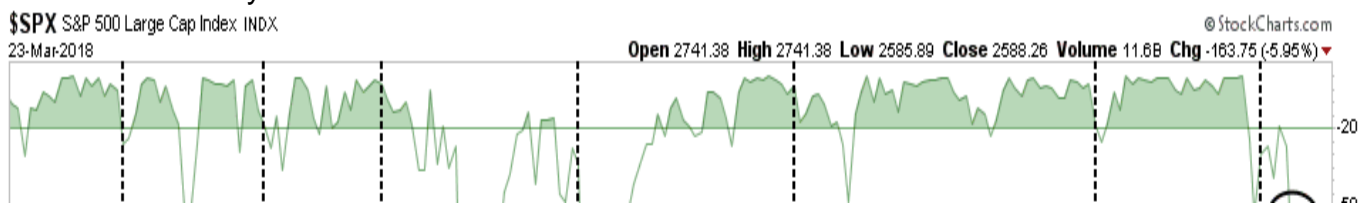
With the market 2-standard deviations oversold with a test of the 200-dma in progress, on a short-term basis a *"reversion to the mean"* HAS occurred. If, and this is a big "if," the market can maintain support at the 200-dma, and the upward trending *"bullish trend"* line, then Option #1 and #3 above remain viable outcomes. However, if we step out to a *"weekly"* basis on our analysis, a much more *"bearish"* backdrop is currently emerging which is why I am giving more weight to *Option #2* above.



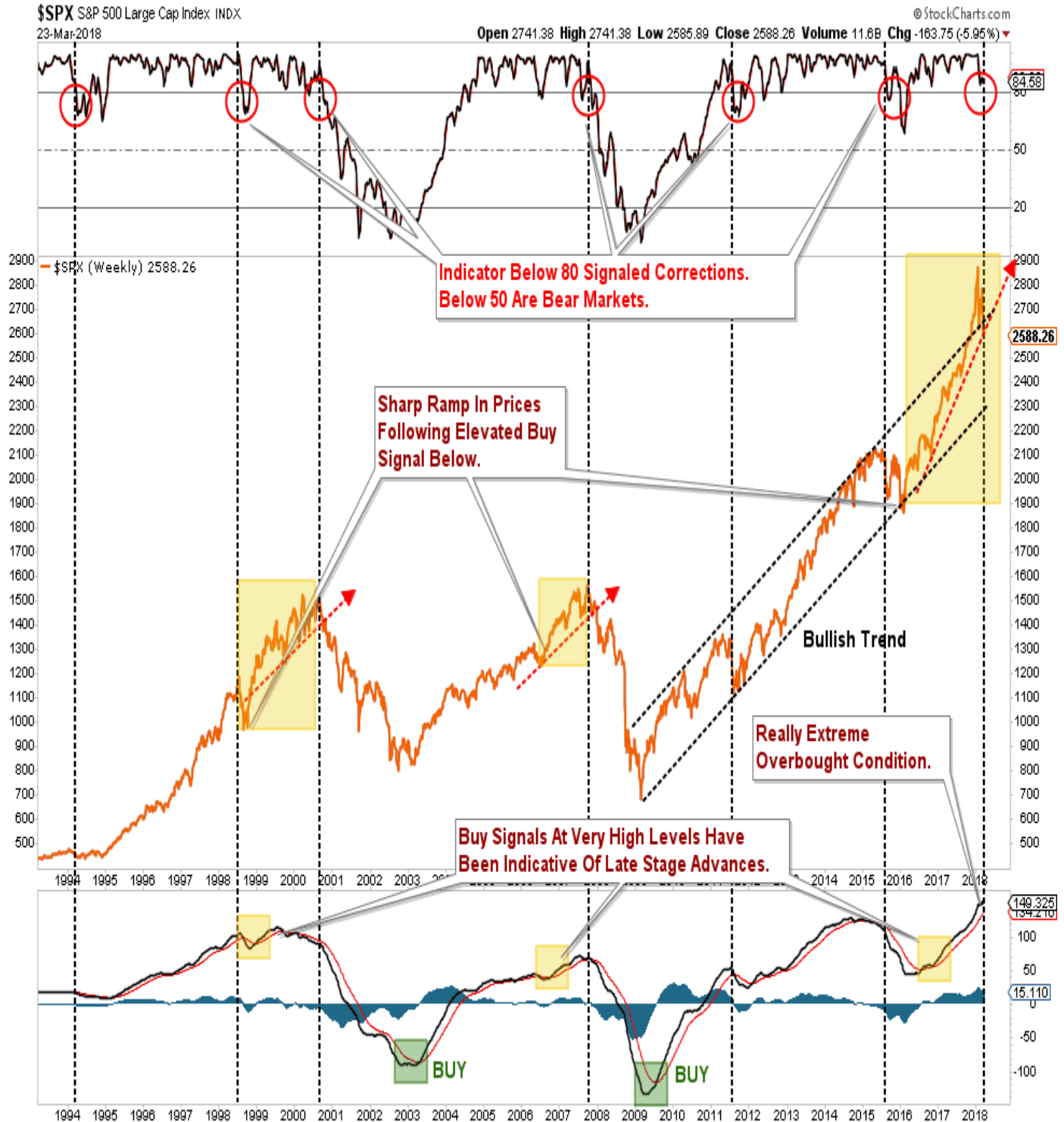
While even on a longer-term basis a correction back to the bullish trend line that began in 2009 would not negate the current bull market, the destruction of capital back to that level will wipe out almost 2-years of gains. In other words, while the *"bull market"* may not have ended, for most investors it will *"feel"* like it has and the destructive consequences to financial plans will be just as bad. •

Note above the gold "vertical" lines which are weekly "sell" signals as we have now. Each occurred with a correction back to the long-term trend or worse. •

This is more clearly shown in the WEEKLY chart below.



The confirmed "weekly" sell signals, as we have been discussing over the last few weeks, have been warning of a deeper correction. With the market violating accelerated bullish trend line last week, the lower bullish trend line from 2009 comes into focus. Currently, that trend line resides at 2250 which would equate to the roughly 24% decline from the recent peak shown in the longer-term chart above. However, there is a "risk" of an even bigger corrective process. I have extrapolated the chart above back to 1990 on a MONTHLY basis to smooth out data volatility. As you will see, when "buy signals" have been triggered at very high levels, last seen in 2016, it was indicative of a late stage "blow off" rally for the market.



With the market currently overextended, overbought, and overvalued against a backdrop of negative underpinnings, the longer-term bearish case should not be ignored. There are numerous "alarms" going off currently. It is absolutely possible, these alarms are "false" and could be quickly reversed given the right stimulus. However, there is substantially higher possibility currently that "where there is smoke, there is fire." **Has the "bull market" ended?** Not yet. **But if you wait to see it in the "rear view mirror," it won't really make much difference.**

Portfolio Management Rules

As I noted above, the market is 2-standard deviations oversold and testing the 200-dma on a very short-term basis. This is not surprising, as by the time "sell signals" are triggered on a weekly basis, the market is generally "oversold" enough to elicit a "reflexive" bounce. **With confirmed "sell signals" in place, it is time for investors to rethink levels of risk exposure in their portfolios currently.** Over last few weeks, we have repeatedly suggested investors reduce and rebalance portfolio exposures. With the "sell signals" confirmed we will now lower the model weightings for equities by 25% and increase cash levels until the signals reverse. **If you have taken "no actions," up to this point, the following guide can be used when a "reflexive bounce" occurs. Importantly, let me restate, the market is oversold enough for a bounce so don't "panic sell," but rather use the "bounce" to "sell into strength."** Here are some guidelines to think about.

Step 1) Clean Up Your Portfolio

1. *Tighten up stop-loss levels to current support levels for each position.*
2. *Take profits in positions that have been big winners (Technology)*
3. *Sell laggards and losers*
4. *Raise cash and rebalance portfolios to target weightings.*

Step 2) Compare Your Portfolio Allocation To Your Model Allocation.

1. *Determine areas where exposure needs to be increased or decreased (bonds, cash, equities)*
2. *Determine how many shares need to be bought or sold to rebalance allocation requirements.*
3. *Determine cash requirements for hedging purposes*
4. *Re-examine portfolio to rebalance allocations to adjust for relevant market risk.*
5. *Determine exit price levels for each position needing to be sold on a forthcoming rally.*
6. *Determine ?stop loss? levels for each position being maintained.*
7. *Determine ?sell/profit taking? levels for each position.*

(Note: the primary rule of investing that should NEVER be broken is:•?Never invest money without knowing where you are going to sell if you are wrong, and if you are right.?)

Step 3) Have positions ready to execute accordingly given the proper market set up.

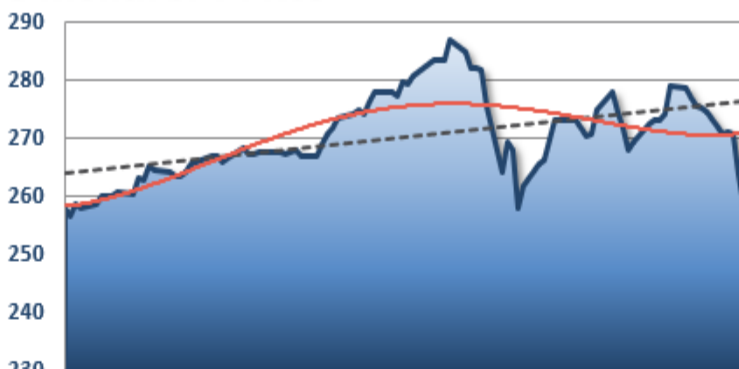
In this case, we are looking for a failed rally to the 100-dma to sell equity holdings into and raise further cash levels. We will also add further market hedges on a rally that fails at resistance. •

Stay alert?I have a sneaky suspicion we are not out of the woods just yet. Have a great week.

Market & Sector Analysis

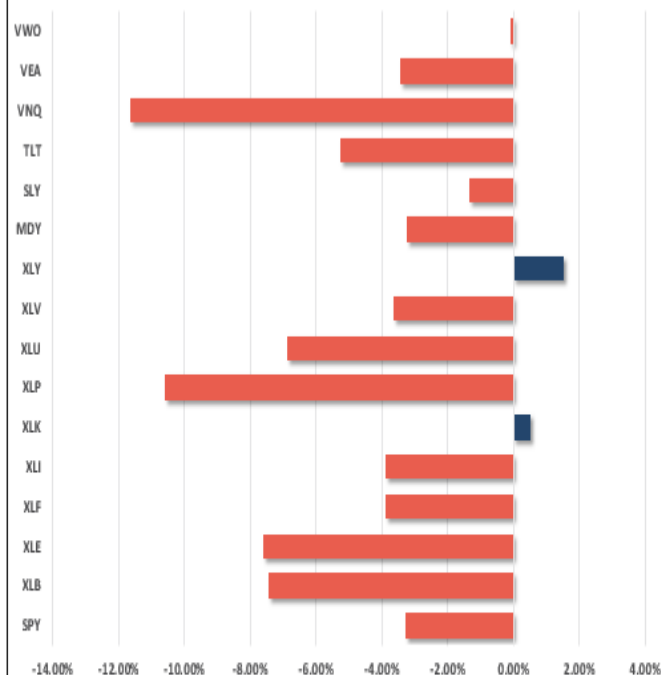
Data Analysis Of The Market & Sectors For Traders

S&P 500 Tear Sheet

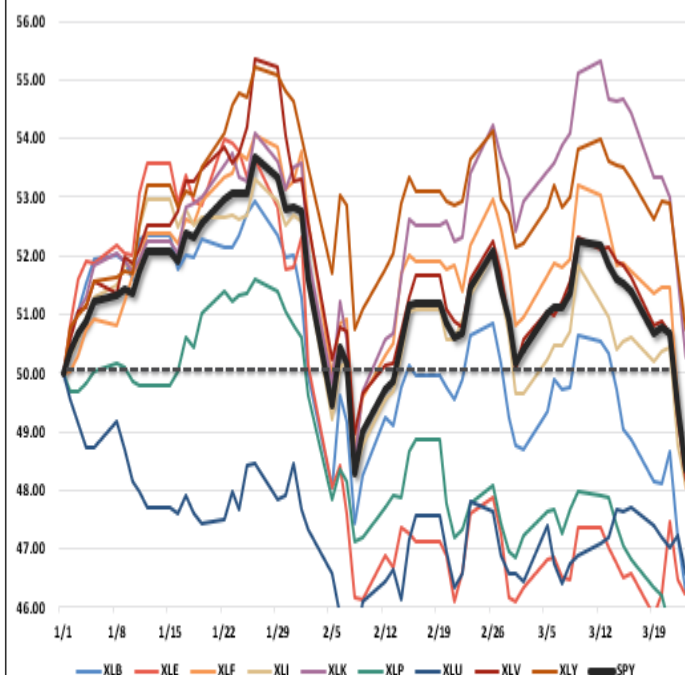
3 Month SPY Price							SPY RISK INFO						
							Item	T 2-Yr	T 1-Yr.	YTD	% Diff YTD/T1-YR		
							Price Return	26.99%	10.26%	(3.30%)	(132.17%)		
							Max Drawdown	-11.76%	-11.76%	-11.76%	0.00%		
							Sharpe	1.43	1.33	(0.68)	(1.51)		
							Sortino	1.52	1.08	(0.72)	(1.67)		
							Volatility	10.49	10.90	19.40	0.78		
							Daily VaR-5%	(2.09)	(5.07)	(44.04)	7.69		
							Mnthly VaR-5%	4.45	15.37	15.37	0.00		
S&P 500 Fundamental Analysis									S&P 500 Market Cap Analysis				
Item	2 years ago	1 year ago	Current	1 Yr % Change	5 Year High	5 year Low	% From High	% From Low	Item	12-M Ago	Current	% Chg	
Dividend Yield	2.17%	1.87%	1.89%	1.16%	2.17%	1.68%	(12.88%)	12.59%	Shares	2,452.6	2,414.2	(1.57%)	
P/E Ratio	17.75	20.19	19.97	(1.11%)	20.11	15.13	(0.7%)	31.98%	Sales	55,845	58,327	4.44%	
P/S Ratio	2.65	3.11	3.21	3.19%	3.51	2.06	(8.67%)	56.05%	SPS	22.8	24.2	6.11%	
P/B Ratio	3.01	3.59	3.64	1.32%	3.98	2.57	(8.67%)	41.46%	Earnings	7,309	7,949	8.75%	
ROE	15.62%	15.23%	16.02%	4.92%	16.02%	15.00%	0.00%	6.79%	EPS TTM	3.5	3.9	11.67%	
ROA	2.92%	2.84%	3.01%	5.82%	3.01%	2.83%	0.00%	6.57%	Dividend	1.3	1.4	7.85%	
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	(3.35%)	5.68%	1.14	32.44	158.38	12.14	(79.5%)	6.6%	3.1%	3.23%	3.05	18.48	
Materials	7.12%	2.88%	1.36	19.53	21.80	14.20	(10.4%)	10.3%	2.0%	5.04%	4.53	16.50	
Industrials	10.61%	10.21%	1.04	20.16	21.21	14.77	(5.0%)	14.8%	2.0%	5.18%	4.88	17.45	
Discretionary	16.15%	12.70%	1.10	23.66	25.45	19.49	(7.0%)	21.2%	1.3%	4.12%	4.08	19.70	
Staples	(5.98%)	7.28%	0.72	19.18	22.53	17.19	(14.9%)	24.1%	3.0%	5.27%	3.97	17.66	
Health Care	7.38%	13.76%	0.98	17.10	20.37	15.12	(16.0%)	27.8%	1.8%	5.76%	5.85	15.86	
Financials	12.66%	14.94%	1.22	16.57	18.26	11.64	(9.2%)	9.1%	1.7%	5.90%	5.19	13.85	
Technology	24.71%	25.13%	1.14	22.81	24.09	14.50	(5.3%)	28.6%	1.1%	4.71%	5.38	21.25	
Telecom	(15.19%)	1.87%	0.53	11.54	17.94	11.75	(35.7%)	19.2%	5.8%	8.36%	3.62	10.69	
Utilities	(5.14%)	2.73%	0.34	16.79	19.58	14.89	(14.3%)	10.6%	3.9%	5.62%	3.34	15.85	
Real Estate	(2.95%)	2.68%	0.69	17.81	24.39	17.25	(27.0%)	8.9%	3.8%	5.65%	3.81	16.72	
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	258.05	(7.15%)	273.80	12	(5.75%)	258.89	#N/A	(0.32%)	5.76%	-9.97%	11.42%	Buy	
Mid Cap	334.17	(6.45%)	348.06	3	-3.99%	333.34	31	0.25%	4.42%	-8.12%	9.98%	Buy	
Small Cap	131.19	(4.60%)	134.83	14	-2.70%	129.49	140	1.32%	4.12%	-6.09%	12.41%	Buy	

Performance Analysis

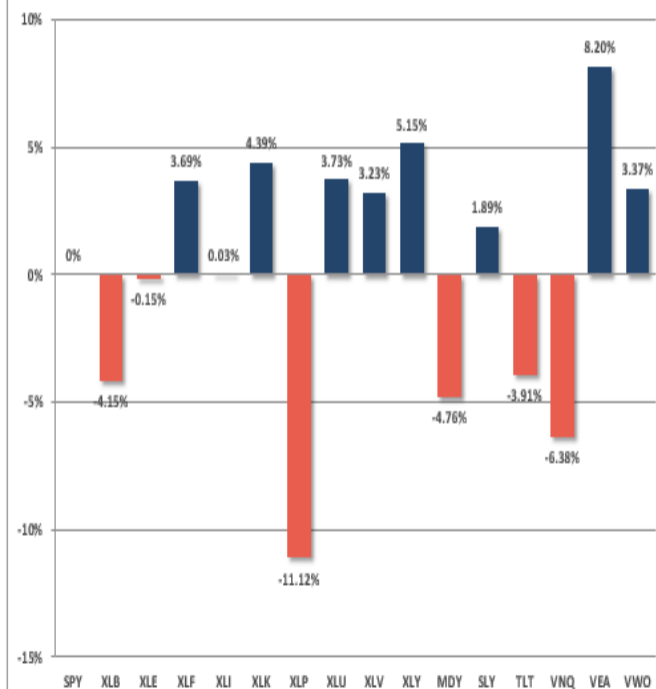
Year To Date Performance



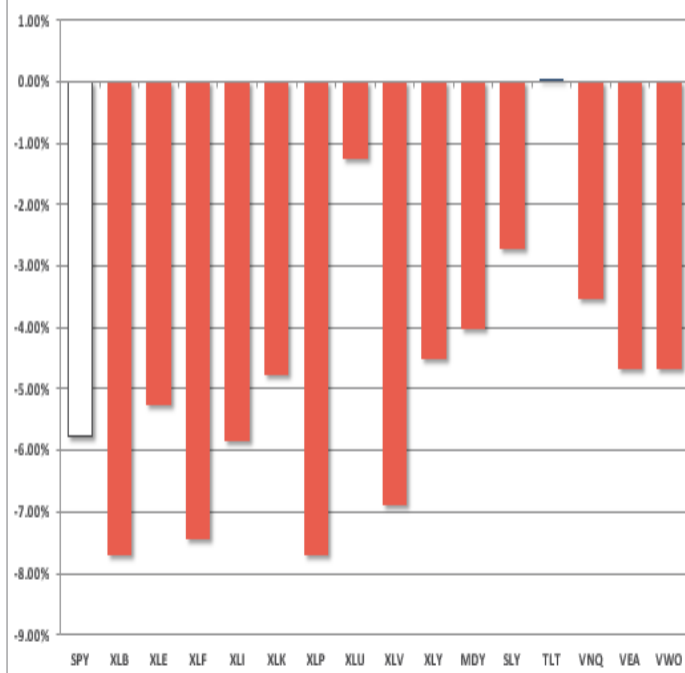
YTD Price - S&P Sectors Recalibrated To \$50/share



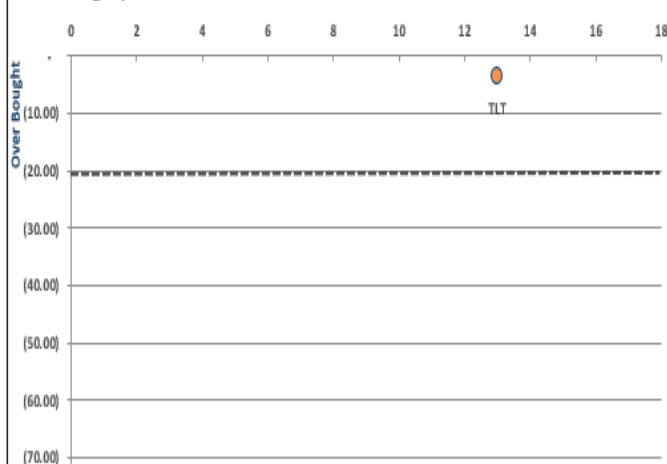
Year To Date Performance Relative To S&P 500



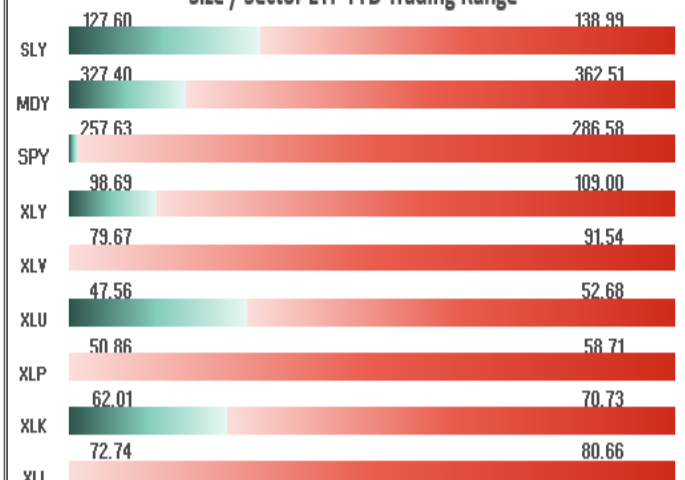
Price Deviation From 50-Day Moving Average



Overbought/Oversold 14-Periods



Size / Sector ETF YTD Trading Range



ETF Model Relative Performance Analysis

RELATIVE PERFORMANCE		Ticker	ETF NAME	Current Price	Model Position Price Changes Relative to Index					SHORT WMA	LONG WMA	% DEV - Short M/A	% DEV - Long M/A	Buy / Sell Signal
					1 Week	4 Week	12 Weeks	24 Weeks	52 Weeks					
BENCHMARK		IVV	ISHARS-SP500	259.83	(6.30)	(6.10)	(3.36)	1.45	10.38	275.22	263.43	-5.59%	-1.37%	BUY
TACTICAL	SECTORS	XLB	SPDR-MATLS SELS	56.02	1.01	(2.49)	(4.10)	(4.70)	(1.94)	60.89	58.61	-8.00%	-4.41%	BUY
		XLE	SPDR-EGY SELS	66.77	5.50	3.15	(4.24)	(3.36)	(12.99)	71.20	68.62	-6.23%	-2.70%	BUY
		XLF	SPDR-FINL SELS	26.82	(0.80)	(1.79)	(0.55)	0.33	3.55	28.82	27.09	-6.94%	-1.00%	BUY
		XLI	SPDR-INDU SELS	72.74	1.29	(0.26)	(0.52)	(0.34)	2.34	77.17	73.31	-5.74%	-0.78%	BUY
		XLK	SPDR-TECH SELS	64.28	(1.36)	0.23	3.87	5.77	11.27	67.00	63.12	-4.06%	1.84%	BUY
		XLP	SPDR-CONS STPL	50.86	1.81	(0.32)	(7.24)	(6.93)	(17.40)	55.48	55.12	-8.34%	-7.73%	BUY
		XLU	SPDR-UTIL SELS	49.06	3.93	3.54	(3.52)	(9.63)	(15.84)	50.15	52.97	-2.17%	-7.38%	SELL
		XLV	SPDR-HLTH CR	79.67	(0.40)	(0.53)	(0.29)	(5.34)	(3.14)	85.26	82.99	-6.56%	-4.00%	BUY
		XLY	SPDR-CONS DISCR	100.18	1.55	0.69	4.86	7.77	5.35	103.97	96.62	-3.65%	3.69%	BUY
	SIZE	MGK	VANGD-MG CAP GR	110.76	(0.19)	0.30	2.84	2.97	6.16	115.97	110.10	-4.50%	0.60%	BUY
CORE	Equal Weight Market	RSP	GUGG-SP5 EQ ETF	97.29	1.27	1.01	(0.35)	(0.62)	(2.05)	102.47	98.52	-5.05%	-1.25%	BUY
	Dividend	VIG	VANGD-DIV APPRC	98.90	1.46	1.29	0.29	1.91	(0.52)	103.75	99.05	-4.68%	-0.15%	BUY
	Real Estate	VNQ	VIPERS-REIT	73.31	2.06	3.93	(8.30)	(13.45)	(20.85)	77.23	81.31	-5.07%	-9.83%	SELL
	International	IDV	ISHARS-INTL SD	32.40	2.81	1.01	(0.76)	(4.82)	(6.24)	34.08	33.73	-4.93%	-3.94%	BUY
		VWO	VANGD-FTSE EM	45.87	2.16	0.39	3.27	1.93	3.69	47.83	45.65	-4.09%	0.49%	BUY
FI	Intermediate Duration	TLT	ISHARS-20+YTB	120.17	6.60	7.83	(1.92)	(4.22)	(10.97)	121.31	124.14	-0.94%	-3.20%	SELL
	International	BNDX	VANGD-TTL INT B	54.56	6.54	6.95	3.70	(1.37)	(9.38)	54.20	54.58	0.67%	-0.04%	SELL
	High Yield	HYG	ISHARS-IBX HYCB	84.92	5.27	4.40	0.67	(5.39)	(12.58)	86.54	87.42	-1.88%	-2.86%	SELL
	Cash	BSV	VANGD-SHT TRM B	78.35										

REAL INVESTMENT ADVICE

Sector & Market Analysis:

With the "sell signal" firmly in place on a short-term basis, the selling pressure has continued to press prices lower over the past week. As I noted last week:

"The market needs to gain some solid footing next week, or weakness could become more pervasive."

Such, turned out to be case. Let's review the major market sectors.



Discretionary, Technology, Industrials, and Financials—after a brief rally attempt, all of these sectors broke back down through their respective 50-dma's. The recent "breakout" of Technology, turned out to be a massive *'head fake,'* and is currently threatening to break below its bullish trend. Each of these sectors do remain in their bullish trend, but are NOT oversold currently which provides enough room for a test of their respective 200-dma's over the next couple of weeks. Take profits and reduce weightings accordingly. **Health Care, Materials, and Energy** —we were stopped out of our small additional Energy trade with the previous break below the 200-dma, and continue to recommend under-weighting the sector for now. The push higher in oil prices is likely not sustainable and energy stock prices are likely reflecting the same. We also closed out our Materials and Industrials trade on "tariff" risks. Health Care has now also broken the 200-dma suggesting reducing weights there as well. **Staples** —our stop level was triggered on Staples last week and we will be eliminating exposure to the sector on a rally. **Utilities** have continued to under-perform in recent weeks, but has been improving as of late with a break back above the 50-dma. We are not recommending adding to the position yet, but we are watching to see what happens next. Stops are set at recent lows.



Small Cap, Mid Cap, Emerging Markets, Equal Weight, and Dividend indices all broke back through their 50-dma last week with Dividend stocks breaking the 200-dma. Two weeks ago, we removed international and emerging market exposure due to the likely impact to economic growth from "tariffs" on those markets. That reduction helped hedge risk this past week. **Gold**—continues its volatile back-and-forth trade but remains confined to a downtrend currently. We currently do not have exposure to gold, but if you are already long the metal, we previously recommended that while the backdrop overall remains bullish, the correctional phase continues so taking profits on rallies remains prudent. **Bonds and REITs**—over the last couple of weeks, these two sectors looked to have bottomed and initiated early "buy" signals. Hold positions for now as interest rates have

started to recognize the economic weakness that has shown up in the data as of late.

Sector Recommendations:

The table below shows thoughts on specific actions related to the current market environment.●

(These are not recommendations or solicitations to take any action. This is for informational purposes only related to market extremes and contrarian positioning within portfolios. Use at your own risk and peril.)



		Over Bought / Sold	50/200 DMA	Trend	Action	OVERWEIGHT	BUY	HOLD	REDUCE	SELL	Notes
XLY	Discretionary	Declining	Positive	Positive	Reduce			➔	X		Reduce On Rally
XLK	Technology	Declining	Positive	Positive	Reduce			➔	X		Reduce On Rally
XLI	Industrials	Declining	Positive	Positive	Sold			➔	X		No Position / Stopped Out
XLB	Materials	OS	Positive	Positive	Sold			➔	X		No Position / Stopped Out
XLE	Energy	Improving	Positive	Positive	Sold			➔	X		No Position / Stopped Out
XLP	Staples	OS	Positive	Positive	Sell On Rally			➔	➔	X	Stop Loss Triggered
XLV	Health Care	OS	Positive	Positive	Reduce			➔	X		Reduce On Rally
XLU	Utilities	Improving	Negative	Warning	Hold			X			Broke Above 50-DMA
XLF	Financials	OS	Positive	Positive	Hold			X			Hold
\$SML	Small Caps	Declining	Positive	Positive	Reduce			➔	X		Reduce On Rally
EEM	Emerging Mkt	Declining	Positive	Positive	Sold			➔	X		No Position
EFA	International	Declining	Positive	Positive	Sold			➔	X		No Position
GLD	Gold	OB	Positive	Positive	No Position						No Position
MDY	Mid Cap	Declining	Positive	Positive	Reduce			➔	X		Reduce On Rally
RSP	SP500 Equal Wgt	Declining	Positive	Positive	Reduce			➔	X		Reduce On Rally
SDY	SP500 Dividend	OS	Positive	Positive	Reduce			➔	X		Reduce On Rally
TLT	20+ Yr. Bond	Improving	Warning	Warning	Hold			X			Looks To Be Bottoming
VNQ	REIT's	OS	Warning	Warning	Hold			X			Looks To Be Bottoming

LEGEND: X = THIS WEEK ➔ PREVIOUS DECLINING ➔ PREVIOUS IMPROVING

Portfolio Update: Last week I wrote:

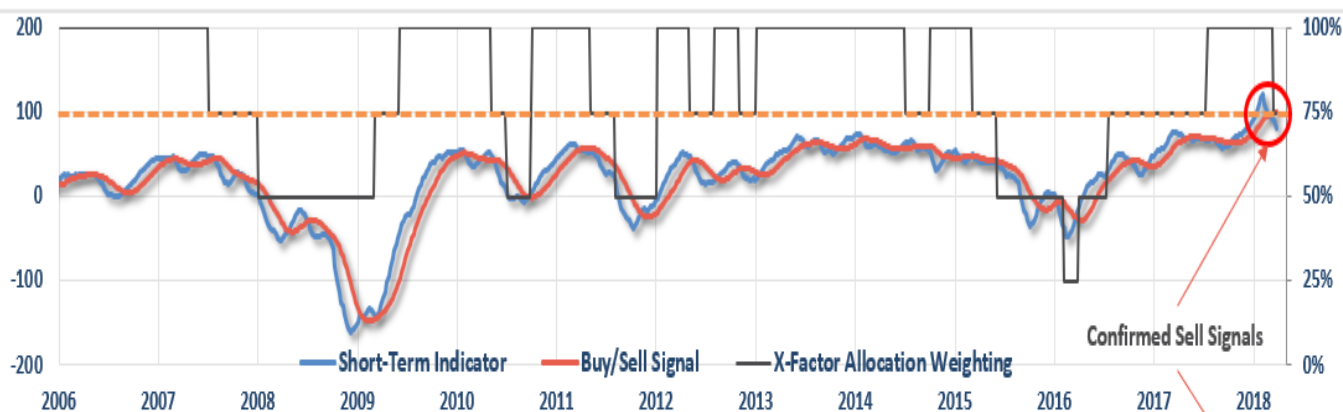
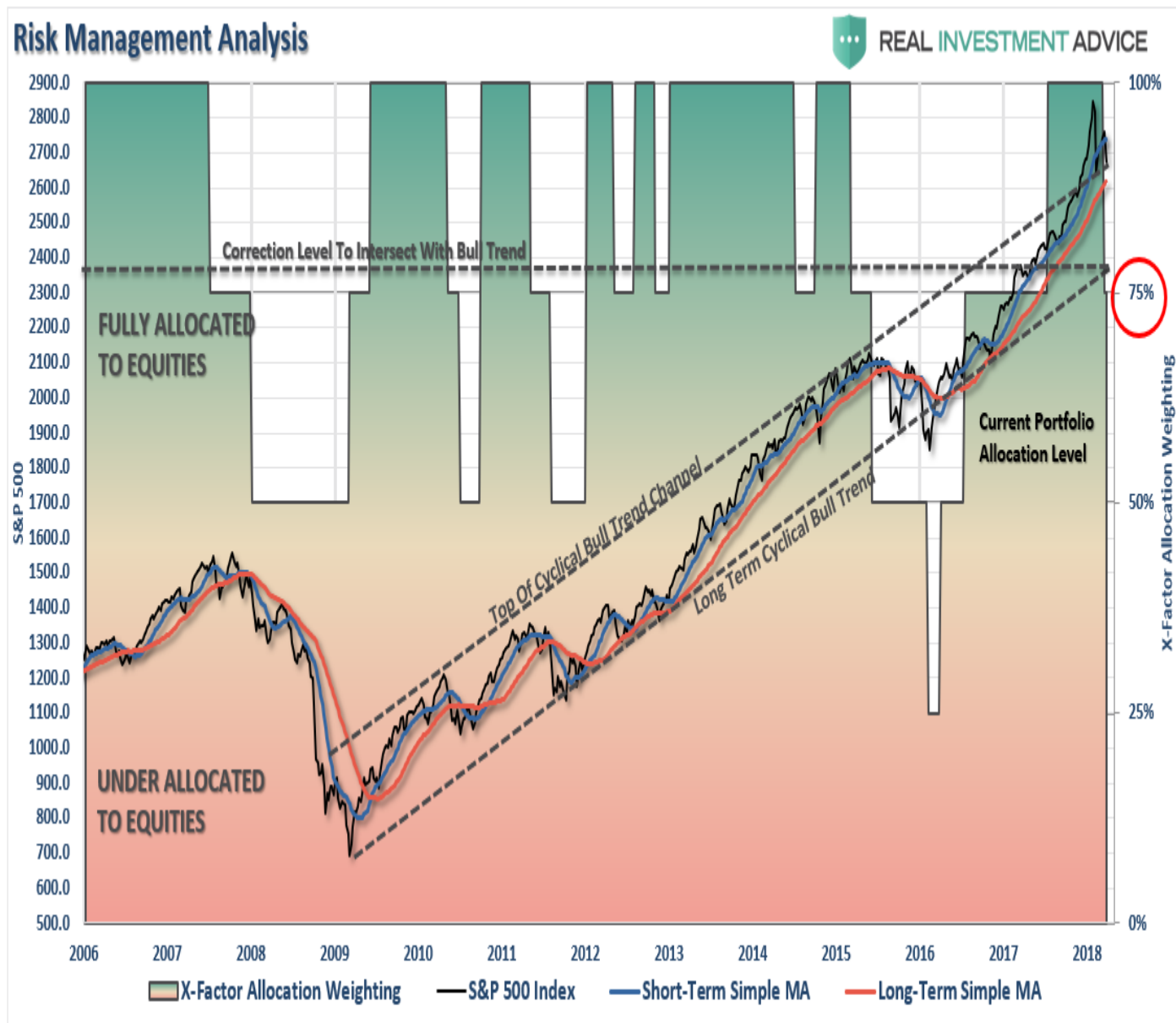
"We continue to monitor the markets carefully as risk has clearly risen since February. However, with the bullish trend clearly intact, we don't want to be overly cautious. While the level of investor optimism is high, and more indicative of turning points in the market, such does not mean it will happen immediately. With the weakness that prevailed last week, a rally early next week off of the 50-dma will not be surprising."

With a brief rally early in the week, the Trump Administration push of "tariffs" was more than the market could bear. The break down at the end of the week has pushed the market to a short-term, oversold condition, and is testing support at the 200-dma. It is crucially important the market maintains support at current levels and musters a rally next week. After having reduced exposure to "tariff" related areas a couple of weeks ago (materials, emerging and international markets), we will use any rally in the next week or so to further reduce equity risk exposure in portfolios. We will also look to add additional hedges to the portfolio on any rally that fails at overhead resistance. With portfolios already underweight equity and overweight cash, **we will make further**

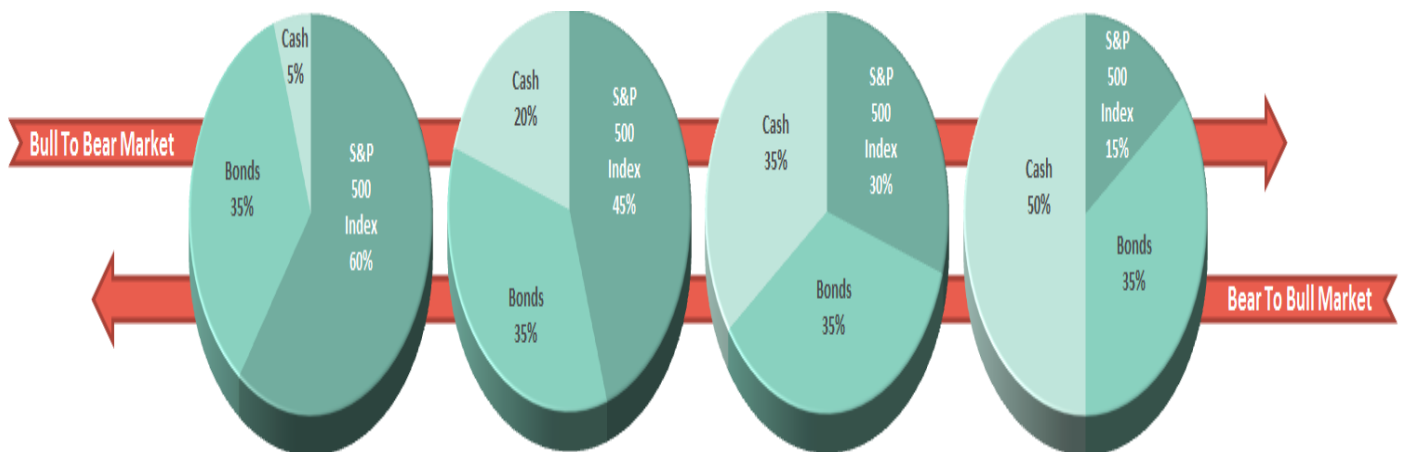
adjustments to allocations as longer-term risks have clearly risen. Furthermore, we remain keenly aware of the intermediate "sell signal"•which has now been "confirmed" by the recent market breakdown. We will take actions to further hedge risks and protect capital until those signals are reversed.

THE REAL 401k PLAN MANAGER

The Real 401k Plan Manager - A Conservative Strategy For Long-Term Investors



There are 4-steps to allocation changes based on 25% reduction increments. As noted in the chart above a 100% allocation level is equal to 60% stocks. I never advocate being 100% out of the market as it is far too difficult to reverse course when the market changes from a negative to a positive trend. Emotions keep us from taking the correct action.

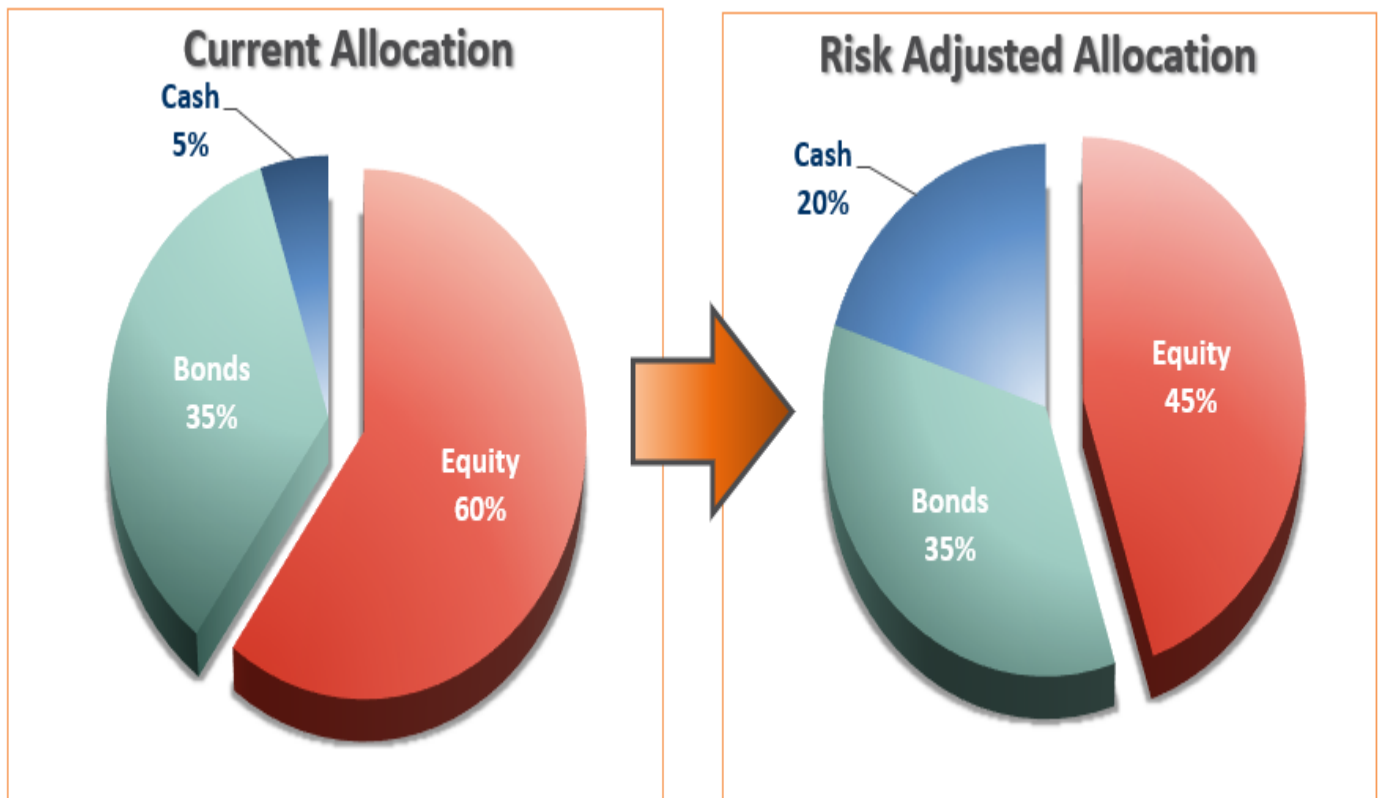


Reducing Model Weightings

As I noted last week:

"While the bullish trend is intact, we are nearing the end of the seasonally strong time of year. Furthermore, the things happening in Washington are NOT beneficial for the economy or the markets. So pay attention - policy does matter."

This week, the markets broke on several fronts which have triggered confirmed "sell signals" on several levels requiring a reduction to equity risk exposure. In accordance with the model adjustments above, begin reducing portfolio equity weighting by 25% on any failed rally attempts.



IMPORTANTLY - this does NOT mean go "sell" everything Monday morning. As noted above

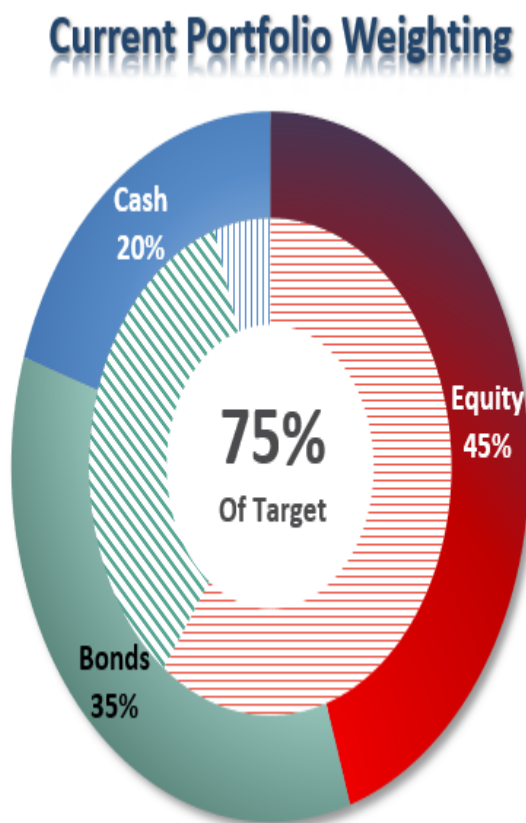
in the main analysis, we are slightly reducing equity exposure on a rally•to hedge risks of a further decline until the current volatility phase passes. **Importantly, as always, portfolio management is about making SMALL adjustments as evidence presents itself and should never be perceived as an "all or nothing" issue.**

*The model below is just a "sample" allocation. Feel free to adjust the weights according to your own age, risk tolerance and goals. **Importantly, while the market remains "bullishly biased" in the short-term, the longer-term picture of increased volatility, low-forward returns and capital destruction risks still prevail.** If you are near retirement, moderate your allocation accordingly to reduce the risk of loss.*

If you need help after reading the alert; don?t hesitate to [contact me](#).

Current 401-k Allocation Model

The 401k plan allocation plan below follows the K.I.S.S. principle. By keeping the allocation extremely simplified it allows for better control of the allocation and a closer tracking to the benchmark objective over time. *(If you want to make it more complicated you can, however, statistics show that simply adding more funds does not increase performance to any great degree.)*



Current 401k Allocation Model	
20.00%	Cash + All Future Contributions <i>Primary concern is the protection of investment capital</i> Examples: Stable Value, Money Market, Retirement Reserves
35.00%	Fixed Income (Bonds) <i>Bond Funds reflect the direction of interest rates</i> Examples: Short Duration, Total Return and Real Return Funds
45.00%	Equity (Stocks) <i>The vast majority of funds track an index. Therefore, select on ONE fund from each category. Keep it Simple.</i> 10% Equity Income, Balanced or Conservative Allocation 30% Large Cap Growth (S&P 500 Index) 0% International Large Cap Dividend 5% Mid Cap Growth

401k Choice Matching List

The list below shows sample 401k plan funds for each major category. In reality, the majority of funds all track their indices fairly closely. Therefore, if you don't see your exact fund listed, look for a fund that is similar in nature.

Common 401K Plan Holdings By Class

Cash	<i>Stable Value Money Market Retirement Savings Trust Fidelity MIP Fund G-Fund Short Term Bond</i>	Equity Large Cap	<i>Vanguard Total Stock Market Vanguard S&P 500 Index Vanguard Capital Opportunities Vanguard PrimeCap Vanguard Growth Index Fidelity Magellan Fidelity Large Cap Growth Fidelity Blue Chip Fidelity Capital Appreciation Dodge & Cox Stock Hartford Capital Appreciation American Funds AMCAP American Funds Growth Fund Of America Oakmark Growth Fund C-Fund (Common Assets) ALL TARGET DATE FUNDS 2020 or Later</i>
Fixed Income	<i>Pimco Total Return Pimco Real Return Pimco Investment Grade Bond Vanguard Intermediate Bond Vanguard Total Bond Market Babson Bond Fund Lord Abbett Income Fidelity Corporate Bond Western Asset Mortgage Backed Bond Blackrock Total Return Blackrock Intermediate Bond American Funds Bond Fund Of America Dodge & Cox Income Fund Doubleline Total Return F-Fund</i>	Balanced Funds	<i>Vanguard Balanced Index Vanguard Wellington Fund Vanguard Windsor Fund Vanguard Asset Allocation Fidelity Balanced Fund Fidelity Equity Income Fidelity Growth & Income American Funds Balanced American Funds Income Fund ALL TARGET DATE FUNDS 2020 or Sooner</i>
International	<i>American Funds Capital World G&I Vanguard Total International Index Blackrock Global Allocation Fund Fidelity International Growth Fund Dodge & Cox International Invesco International Core Equity Goldman Sachs International Growth Opp.</i>	Small/Mid Cap	<i>Vanguard Mid Cap Growth Fidelity Mid Cap Growth Artisan Mid Cap Goldman Sachs Growth Opportunities Harbor Mid Cap Growth Goldman Sachs Small/Mid Cap Opp. Fidelity Low Price Stock Fund Columbia Acorn US Federated Kaufman Small Cap Invesco Small Cap</i>

The above represents a selection of some of the most common funds found in 401k plans. **If you do not see your SPECIFIC fund listed simply choose one that closely resembles the examples herein.** All funds perform relatively similarly within their respective fund classes.