

VOLUME ANALYSIS

CHIEF TECHNICAL ANALYST, BUFF DORMEIER, CMT | MAY 11, 2021

Quick Update

In our last edition of Volume Analysis (4/1), amid a "Ground Hog Month" pullback, we concluded, "Despite these chinks in the armor within the broad markets, most of our indicators remain either neutral or bullish." Since then, the broad markets have moved onward and upward. Our leading indicators can either lead, confirm, or contradict price movements. In this "quick update" edition of Volume Analysis, we will review our indications to gauge the current health of the market.

The first and most important of our leading indicators is our proprietary Capital Weighted Volume flows. Looking at Chart 1 above, notice capital money flows currently are moving in sync with the market rise, thus confirming the market's upward trend.

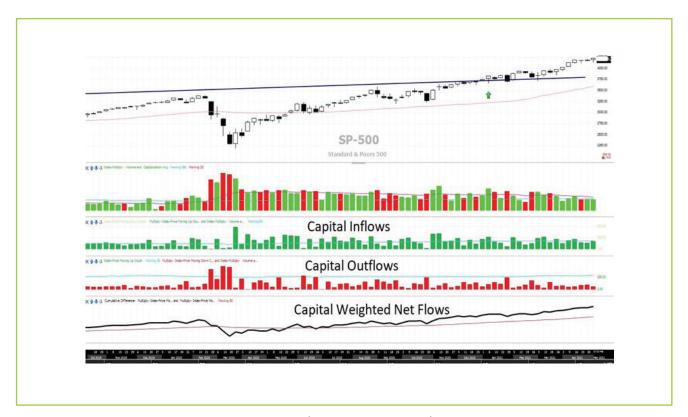


Chart #1 Source: Stockfinder: Worden Inc. Dates: (Oct 2019 - May 2021)

Chart #2 reflects three sets of market breadth indicators. Let's begin with the "% of Stocks @ New Highs". In the last edition of Volume Analysis, we pointed out this was the lone indicator flashing a warning signal. You can see the % of Stocks @ New Highs in the box directly underneath the S&P 500.



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Notice that the trend of % of Stocks at New Highs has since recovered from breaking beneath trend. Now that it has risen above trend, it once again confirms price. Next, observing the Advance-Decline line, this indicator continues to lead the market higher.

However, on the very bottom panel of our chart deck, the % of Stocks Above Trend is actually losing ground. So although the market is trending ever higher, fewer stock components are trading above their own individual trends, suggesting caution. That stated, the number of stocks above trend still resides above its own trendline, thereby keeping it neutral...but worth closely watching.

Thus, all of our traditional leading indicators are either neutral, confirming or leading price movements. Next in Chart 3, a new indicator is introduced, the "Percent Change of Margin Debt". The percentage change in margin debt is calculated by comparing today's margin debt versus one year ago. Margin debt is a contrarian sentiment indicator warning of potential tops in the market, as evidenced by investors heavily borrowing against their investment

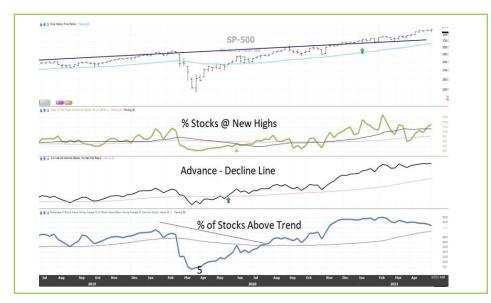


Chart #2 Source: Stockfinder: Worden Inc. Dates: (July 2019 - May 2021)



Chart 3: % of Change in Margin Debt, Source: Investor Business Daily

portfolios. According to Investor Business Daily, a 55% year over year rise in margin debt is "a flag to a major top". Presently, the positive year over year change in margin debt is 73%!!



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This indicator has not flashed a warning signal since mid-2007, making it a new addition to our Volume Analysis indicator commentary.

Investor's Business Daily states that Margin Debt Rate of Change has only triggered three times since the 1970s, making it a very rare signal. Typically, extremes in sentiment indicators may extend for some time before the market actually responds. So, this something to watch but not act upon until capital flow trends reverse.

Enjoy your week, my friends!! - Buff

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