

ARMCHAIR INVESTOR **TREND-FOLLOWING STRATEGY***

(*For that part of your portfolio which is invested in a **market-tracking ETF** like the **QQQ**.)



FOR THE WEEK: The Nasdaq and S&P500 had distribution weeks. The higher volume was an easy prediction given the Thanksgiving holiday. But the drops were a surprise.

- Nasdaq DOWN 2.7%, volume UP 59%
- S&P500 Down 1.0%, volume up 71%
- Both indexes had major distribution weeks.

With a still high distribution count for the Nasdaq (8 distribution days in the last 25), and rounding tops of both indexes' price movement, I wonder, "Is the after-election rally is failing?"

- On the opposite side, my cynicism wonders, "Is the dip is only a market manipulation to get you to sell before the market takes off again?"
- What are your insights? (send to editor@ArmchairInvestor.com)

See daily and weekly Nasdaq and S&P500 charts below in FULL newsletter.

The Italian vote Sunday

FRIDAY: After two major distribution days (Wednesday and Thursday), Friday's quiet action was welcome.

The Nasdaq and S&P500 were FLAT (less than 0.1% movement)

The Nasdaq distribution count is 8 distribution days.

The S&P500 distribution count is a less daunting 3 distribution days.

Download the FULL ARMCHAIR INVESTOR NEWSLETTER at:

ArmchairInvestor.com

Click on the **Free Newsletter** tab and then the **Armchair Investor Current Newsletter**

MARKET DIAGNOSIS: "UPTREND under PRESSURE"

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What to do now: Turns out I was a little too hopeful about recent market activity. The Wednesday and Thursday Major Distribution days cannot be ignored.

- I continue to hold my full QQQ position but will exit half if tomorrow is down again.
- Be sure your stops stay active. Some brokers reset stops each month.
- Watch this column nightly for updates

LAST Week's Market Action

Week Ending 12/2/16	Index % Change	Volume % Change	Volume Above/ Below 10-week Avg	Type of Week
Nasdaq	-2.7%	+59.1%	+7%	Major Distribution
S&P 500	-1.0%	S&P 500	Volume	Major Distribution
NYSE Comp	-0.4%	+71.4%	+17%	Minor distribution
DJIA	+0.1%			Neither

The "TYPES OF WEEK" are:

ACCUMULATION WEEK Price RISES 1+% and Volume RISES 1+%

DISTRIBUTION WEEK Price FALLS 1+% and Volume RISES 1+%

Another type of DISTRIBUTION(*): WEEK Price FALLS 1+% & Volume is 15+% above average.

The NYSE volume is used for the S&P500 and NYSE Composite.

ARMCHAIR INVESTOR TREND-FOLLOWING RETURNS FOR CURRENT UPTREND

Uptrend ETFs

12/2/16	Opening Price on 7/1/2015	Today's Price	ETF % Change Today	PROFIT /LOSS from 6/30/2016 Signal: "Market in UPTrend"
QQQ (1x)	107.49	115.70	+0.2%	+7.6%
QLD (2x)	71.14	81.79	+0.3%	+15.0%
TQQQ (3x)	96.15	117.70	+0.4%	+22.4%

If you had purchased the QQQ ETF the morning after the last "Market in UPTREND" signal on 6/30/2016, your investment would be up 10.1%. If you had purchased the TQQQ, you would be up 32.8%.

TREND FOLLOWING IS A VALUABLE TOOL TO ADD TO YOUR PORTFOLIO.

But please remember, the TQQQ fall 3 times the QQQ when the market is dropping.

The ETF QQQ is designed to move WITH the largest 100 stocks on the Nasdaq. QLD is designed to double the price move of the QQQ. The TQQQ is a more volatile Visit Proshares.com for more information.

The "Profit" calculation is based on buying the ETF at the opening price the morning AFTER the signal (as you would have if you followed the ARMCHAIR INVESTOR TREND-FOLLOWING strategy).

TODAY'S MARKET ACTION

12/2/16	Index Close	Index % Change	Volume % Change	Volume vs 50-day Avg	Accumulation or Distribution Day?	Current Trend: UPTREND Began 6/30/2016
Nasdaq	5255.65	+0.09%	-17.5%	+1.1%	Neither	+8.7%
S&P500	2192.02	+0.04%	NYSE Volume		Neither	+4.4%
NYSE	10,838.58	+0.09%	-24.8%	-0.9%	Neither	+3.3%
DJIA	19,171.11	-0.11%			Neither	+7.0%

An **ACCUMULATION** day points at heavy buying by institutional money managers - the mutual funds, pension funds, banks, etc.

A **DISTRIBUTION** day points at heavy selling by institutional money managers.

See additional notes on accumulation and distribution at the end of the FULL newsletter

A **Major ACCUMULATION Day**: Price RISES 1.0% or more higher Volume than the day before

A **Minor accumulation Day**: Price RISES 0.2% but less than 1% and Volume is strong (either higher than the day before or is well-above average volume)

A **Major DISTRIBUTION Day**: Price FALLS 1.0% or more and higher Volume than the day before.

A **Minor distribution Day**: Price FALLS 0.2% but less than 1% and Volume is strong (either higher than the day before or is well-above average volume)

Distribution indicates institutions are selling their stock. The standard mathematical requirements for distribution days are shown above.

And there are additional types of distribution days that show **substantial selling** such as happened on Monday June 27, 2016, when the market fell 2.4%, closed near the bottom of the day's price range but had lighter volume. The volume was still a strong 31% above average. In total, the day was heavy selling and labeled distribution (6/27/2016 was the second day of the market's heavy selling response to England's vote to leave the European Union.)

CURRENT TREND: There are two trends (UPTREND and DOWNTREND). But because most tops are rounded and happen over a couple of weeks or more, we find it useful to modify the Uptrend into "Uptrend under PRESSURE" when the distribution count gets uncomfortably high.

For more detailed explanation of Accumulation and Distribution days, please jump to the end of the FULL newsletter which can be downloaded at www.ArmchairInvestor.com.

PROGRESS IN ACCUMULATOIN / DISTRIBUTION RATINGS for Stocks Over \$5

		A	B	C	D	E	Total
4 weeks ago	11/3	5%	27%	24%	28%	16%	6189
3 weeks ago	11/10	9%	36%	23%	21%	11%	6223
2 weeks ago	11/17	17%	35%	17%	18%	12%	6263
1 week ago	11/25	21%	36%	16%	16%	11%	6295
Today	12/2	17%	34%	17%	18%	14%	
	#	1067	2163	1087	1124	853	6294

The As and Bs of the week with the highest TOTAL of As and Bs are outlined in a heavy solid line.
 The As and Bs of the week with the lowest TOTAL of As and Bs are outlined in a dotted line.
 The highest lowest totals of As plus Bs are highlighted in yellow.

Note: The Accumulation/Distribution ratings are calculated overnight & reported one day delayed. "2 weeks ago" is 10 market days ago; "4 weeks ago" is 20. The ratings which are higher than two weeks prior are colored light GREEN. Those lower are PINK

MARKET ACTION 2016 YEAR-TO-DATE

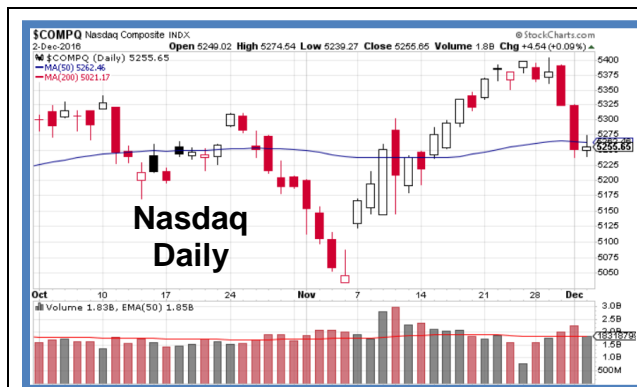
12/2/16	2015 Closing Price	Current Price	Index % Change Year-to-Date
Nasdaq	5007.41	5255.65	+5.0%
S&P 500	2043.94	2192.02	+7.2%
NYSE Comp	10143.42	10838.58	+6.9%
DJIA	17423.03	19171.11	+10.0%

This yearly table is included for your reference. These returns have little relevance to trend-following returns since trend-followers do not hold during "Downtrends" and may lighten their holdings during "Uptrends under Pressure." "Buy and Hold" is never recommended by the Armchair Investor.

HOW CLOSE ARE THE INDICES TO ALL-TIME HIGHS?

Below are the highs as of September 2016. I will use these highs until the market has risen above those by at least 5%. Only the Nasdaq and S&P500 are considered "market direction indicators." Recently, the market has found the S&P500 8/15/2016 highs to be resistance (a barrier to rising higher).

	Nasdaq	S&P500	NYSE	DJIA
Date of Index High	All-time High (9/22/2016)	All-time High (8/15/2016)	All-time High (5/21/2015)	All-Time High (8/15/2016)
All-time High	5342.88	2193.81	11254.87	18668.44
Current Price	5255.65	2192.02	10838.58	19171.11
% Off All-Time High	-1.6%	-0.1%	-3.7%	+2.7%
\$ off the All-Time High Price	-\$87.23	-\$1.79	-\$416.29	+\$502.67



Both indexes are significantly below their all-time highs. Both indexes tumbled down a steep slope, closing lower 9 days in a row, then recovered nicely over the last 2 days.

Those highs now appear to be the prices to beat. The “How Close are the Indexes to All-Time Highs?” table (prior page) has been updated to refer to these all-time highs including new highs this year for the Nasdaq, S&P500 and DJIA. The NYSE is still below its 2015 high.

The above charts are from **StockCharts.com**, a valuable site for investors with **many free tools**. On the **daily charts**: The **price50-day** and **200-day moving averages** are shown. If you don't see the 200-day price moving average, it is too low (or high) to show. But stay tuned – it will appear on these charts when the market direction changes. Also, the **volume 50-day moving average** is shown.

On the **weekly charts**: The **price10-week & 40-week moving averages** and the **10-week volume moving average** is shown.

The rest of this newsletter is an in-depth look at today's market meant for those who

enjoy exploring the market forces in more detail and manage individual stocks.

MARKET FACTORS, COUNTS & RATINGS		12/2/2016	
Type of DAY for <u>Nasdaq</u> Major (1%/1%) Accumulation, Distribution or Neither		Neither	
Market Direction Uptrend, Under Pressure, Downtrend, or Attempted Uptrend		UPTREND under PRESSURE	
<u>MAJOR</u> Accumulation / Distribution Momentum 20-day count of NASDAQ Major (1%/1%) Acc & Dist days		Major Accumulation Days 1	Major Distribution Days 2
IBD Distribution Day Count including ALL Major & Minor D-days.		8	
This count is the larger of S&P500 or Nasdaq distribution count for the last 25 trading day (but only since the last market Uptrend signal). The IBD Big Picture does not list accumulation days.			
Count of Up Days and Down Days (10-days on the Nasdaq)		Up Days 5	Down Days 5
Leaders Up/Down with High Volume (10-day ratio)		1.1	
This indicator looks at leading stocks (high RS) and is, thus, biased to the upside. Uptrend indicator: 1.5 or higher. Neutral: 1.0 to 1.49. Downtrend: less than 1.0			
Market Accumulation/Distribution Ratings "A": heavy accumulation, "B": moderate accumulation, "C": neutral, "D": moderate distribution, "E": heavy distribution. Accumulation = Institutions are BUYING, Distribution = Inst are SELLING		Nasdaq E	S&P 500 D+
		DJIA B+	
Are Major Indexes Above or Below Moving Averages? "At" is within 1% above or below the moving average.		50-Day	200-Day
Nasdaq		At	Above
S&P 500		Above	Above
NYSE		Above	Above
DJIA		Above	Above

MARKET DIRECTION ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

More detailed comments on market direction and technical analysis for individual stocks

FRIDAY : Two Major Distribution days in a row? After two minor distribution days – Ouch! Even with Friday’s flat day, those first four days make the week hurt. So, this week’s change of market diagnosis to “Market under Pressure” is not a surprise.

But remember: Many stocks are still rising. If you have a few stocks that are continuing up, you should hold them.

EVEN IF THE MARKET DIAGNOSIS GOES INTO DOWNTREND, YOU SHOULD KEEP STOCKS THAT ARE RISING WELL (without a concentration of distribution days).

Note the final comment in **Friday’s *Big Picture*** column from Investor’s Business Daily newspaper:

Paul Whitfield wrote:

Market footnote: One statistic that underlines how extreme the market action has been is the trailing 10-day performance for the Russell 2000 and the Nasdaq. The difference between the two indexes reached roughly 9% on two days in November. You have to go back to 1999-2002 to find a similar divergence. More in the Swing Trading column.

What happened after 1999? The market dropped almost three years as many of the over-hyped dot-com stocks fell apart.

Remember: Most of the historic “big crashes” like the one that began in 2000, took years of slowly deflating prices. I don’t know how to **get out at the exact top of a market.** But I know how to get close: **Watch the message from the price-volume action, especially the distribution days.**

Good luck!

Remember:

The market continues in the direction it’s going until it doesn’t.

MARKET DIAGNOSIS: “UPTREND under PRESSURE”

What to do now:

1. Review each stock you own for signs of weakness. Refer to Chapter 11 in Wm O'Neil's "How to Make Money in Stocks" book.
2. Sell any stock with a concentration of distribution days – that shows the institutions are selling.
3. Sell any stocks that have "round tripped" your purchase – are back at the purchase price.
4. Consider adding trailing stops to stocks that are showing climax topping activity or starting to fail. Watch this column nightly for updates

EXPLANATION OF TERMS FOR THE

MARKET ACTION OVER THE LAST 20 DAYS

Four weeks of price and volume action reveal much about the direction of the market and the strength of that movement.

		Price		Volume	
Healthy Uptrend Price-Volume Movement	Strong Action	Up	↑	↑	Up
	Weaker Action	Down	↓	↓	Down
Healthy Downtrend Price-Volume- Movement	Strong Action	Down	↓	↑	Up
	Weaker Action	Up	↑	↓	Down

The chart below identifies the **market direction** indicated by the Nasdaq's price and volume action for the last 20 days at two levels of significance.

ACCUMULATION/DISTRIBUTION COLUMN - TELLS YOU WHERE THE BIG MONEY IS GOING

The listing includes: the date, Nasdaq closing price and percent change of the Nasdaq price and volume.

- The next column identifies days that were **Major Accumulation** (serious UPTREND indicator) or **Major Distribution** (serious Downtrend indicator) using the 1% minimum rise or fall with higher volume.
- **Minor accumulation** and **minor distribution days** are also identified – days that moved 0.2% or more but less than 1%.

"CONSISTENT WITH" – THE MORE SUBTLE, BUT TELLING MOVES

The last column is a more subtle UPTREND /Downtrend indicator.

Think of a healthy Uptrend. It will have many days where the index rises with increased volume. But even in the most robust Uptrend,* not every day will be up. In any Uptrend, there will be some down days. If they have higher volume, then the day becomes a distribution day. But if the volume is lighter (as frequently happens in an Uptrend), then the down day is NOT a distribution day. In fact, a drop on lighter 4747.62 volume says they market is NOT selling off heavily – good news and consistent with the Uptrend.

Using the Healthy UPTREND/Downtrend price and volume movement listed above.

- For example, if the Nasdaq closing price rose 0.7% and the volume rose 2% (up and up), that movement is "consistent with" the price-volume action of a Healthy UPTREND.
- If the price drops 0.5% and the volume rises 1.2% (down and up), that movement is "consistent with" the price-volume action of a Healthy Downtrend as indicated in the table above.
- Any index change less than + or – 0.3% or volume change less than + or – 1% has no "consistent with"

notation. Price and volume movements that small is not strong enough to tell us about the market movement.

MARKET ACTION (Nasdaq) OVER THE LAST 20 DAYS <i>(For a full explanation of the terms in this table see end of this newsletter)</i>							
#	Date	Close	Index % Change	Volume % Change	Current Trend Day Count	Type of Day Accumulation, Distribution or Neither (—)	<u>CONSISTENT WITH:</u> UPTREND or Downtrend?
MARKET IN UPTREND							
20	11/4/16	5046.37	-0.24%	-3.5%	88	—	UPTREND
19	11/7/16	5166.17	+2.4%	-5.8%	89	—	DOWNTREND
18	11/8/16	5193.49	+0.5%	-9.0%	90	—	DOWNTREND
17	11/9/16	5251.07	+1.1%	+62.2%	91	Major Accumulation Day Market back in UPTREND	UPTREND
16	11/10/16	5208.80	-0.8%	+3.2%	93	—	UPTREND
15	11/11/16	5237.11	+0.5%	-23.0%	95	—	UPTREND
14	11/14/16	5218.40	-0.4%	+3.1%	96	Minor distribution Day	DOWNTREND
13	11/15/16	5275.62	+1.1%	-7.9%	97	—	DOWNTREND
12	11/16/16	5294.58	-0.4%	-5.7%	98	—	UPTREND
11	11/17/16	5333.97	+0.7%	+3.3%	99	Minor accumulation Day	UPTREND
10	11/18/16	5321.51	-0.23%	-12.6%	100	—	UPTREND
9	11/21/16	5368.86	+0.9%	-4.6%	101	—	DOWNTREND
8	11/22/16	5386.35	+0.3%	+7.0%	102	Minor accumulation Day	UPTREND
7	11/23/16	5380.68	-0.11%	-13.7%	103	—	—
6	11/25/16	5398.92	+0.3%	-47.9%	104	—	DOWNTREND
5	11/28/16	5368.81	-0.6%	+89.1%	105	Minor distribution Day	DOWNTREND
4	11/29/16	5379.92	+0.2%	+10.7%	106	Stalling distribution Day	--
3	11/30/16	5323.68	-1.1%	+13.1%	107	Major Distribution Day	DOWNTREND
2	12/1/16	5251.11	-1.4%	+11.9%	108	Major Distribution Day	DOWNTREND
1	12/2/16	5255.65	+0.1%	-17.5%	109	—	—

ACCUMULATION / DISTRIBUTION RATINGS FOR MAJOR INDICES

with Prior Trends for Reference

	# of Days in Trend	Trend Details	Nasdaq	S&P 500	DJIA
1/26/16	1	Tue - A Follow-Through day = NEW UPTREND	E	E	E
2/5/16	9	Fri - UPTREND under PRESSURE 1	D-	D-	D+
2/8/16	1	Mon - Distribution = NEW DOWNTREND	D-	D-	D
2/16/16	6	Tue - DOWNTREND Attempted Rally 3	E	E	D-
2/17/16	1	Wed - A Follow-Through day = NEW UPTREND	E	D-	D+
6/24/16	91	Fri - UPTREND under PRESSURE 1	D	C	C-
6/27/16	1	Mon - Distribution = NEW DOWNTREND	E	E	E
6/29/16	3	Wed - DOWNTREND Attempted Rally 2	E	D-	D-
6/30/16	1	Thu - A Follow-Through day = NEW UPTREND	D-	C	C
8/26/16	40	Fri - UPTREND under PRESSURE 3	C-	B-	C
9/2/16	45	Fri - UPTREND under PRESSURE 8	D+	C+	C-
9/6/16	46	Tues - UPTREND	C	B-	C-
9/8/16	48	Thu - UPTREND	C-	C+	C-
9/9/16	49	Fri - UPTREND under PRESSURE 1	D-	C-	D-
9/16/16	54	Fri - UPTREND under PRESSURE 6	C	D	D-
9/23/16	59	Fri - UPTREND	B-	C-	D
10/10/16	70	Mon - UPTREND	B-	C+	C
10/11/16	71	Tues - UPTREND under PRESSURE 1	C-	C+	C+
11/8/16	90	Tue - UPTREND under PRESSURE 21	E	D	C-
11/9/16	91	Wed - UPTREND	D+	C	C+
11/10/16	93	Thu - UPTREND	D-	C+	B
11/11/16	95	Fri - UPTREND	D	C	B
11/14/16	96	Mon - UPTREND	D	C	B
11/15/16	97	Tue - UPTREND	D	C	B
11/16/16	98	Wed - UPTREND	D	C	B
11/17/16	99	Thu - UPTREND	D	C	B
11/18/16	100	Fri - UPTREND	D	C	B
11/21/16	101	Mon - UPTREND	D	C	B
11/22/16	102	Tue - UPTREND	D	C	B
11/23/16	103	Wed - UPTREND	D	C	B
11/25/16	104	Fri - UPTREND	D	C	B
11/28/16	105	Mon - UPTREND	D	C	B
11/29/16	106	Tue - UPTREND	D	C+	B
11/30/16	107	Wed - UPTREND	D	C-	B
12/1/16	108	Thu - UPTREND under PRESSURE	E	D+	B+
12/2/16	109	Fri - UPTREND under PRESSURE	E	D+	B+

ARMCHAIR INVESTOR WEEKLY CLASS SCHEDULE

Join us for the ARMCHAIR INVESTOR classes.

Be my guest (FREE) if you have not visited in the last six months (guest seating limited).

The regular ARMCHAIR INVESTOR class schedule (subject to change) is:

Mondays 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. at the Barnes & Noble at Royal & Preston (northeast corner), Dallas

Mondays 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the Barnes & Noble at Royal & Preston (northeast corner), Dallas

Wednesdays 10:00 am – noon, Barnes & Noble, on Beltline just east of Montfort, Addison

NOTE: The Armchair Investor classes are on vacation two weeks each quarter.

- Guest attendance is limited to ensure class members get their full value. -
- Be sure to call to confirm we are having a class and to reserve your spot.

Call me at 214-995-6702 to schedule your FREE visit (new visitors only) to an ARMCHAIR INVESTOR class.

TO REGISTER FOR THE INTENSIVE ARMCHAIR INVESTOR WORKSHOPS OR TO VISIT A ARMCHAIR INVESTOR CLASS:

CALL OR TEXT CHARLOTTE HUDGIN AT 214-995-6702

Wishing you "Many Happy Returns,"

Charlotte Hudgin, 214-995-6702, Editor, the Armchair Investor

DISCLAIMER, "Buyer Beware" WARNING:

This newsletter shares the ideas I use in my investing. It is not investing advice but should be taken as education only. Your investment decisions are your responsibility as are the results. If you are not comfortable with or do not understand a strategy completely, I recommend that you paper-trade until you are successful and can sleep at night.

Questions may be submitted to Editor@ArmchairInvestor.com
Some of your questions will be used in future newsletters.

Armchair Investor, P.O. Box 671146, Dallas, TX 75367, USA

Additional notes follow:

EXAMPLE OF ACCUMULATION AND DISTRIBUTION WITH EXPANDED EXPLANATION OF TERMS:

Today's Market Action with explanation						
2/5/16	Index Close	Index % Change	Volume % Change	Volume vs 50-day Avg	Accumulation or Distribution Day?	Current Trend: DOWNTREND Began 1/4/2015
Nasdaq	4363.14	-3.2%	+13.8%	+21.8%	Major Distribution	+11.3%
S&P500	1879.92	-1.9%	NYSE Volume		Neither	+6.6%
NYSE	9,390.33	-1.5%	-5.3%	+15.0%	Neither	+6.2%
DJIA	16,204.62	-1.3%			Neither	+5.5%

A **Major Accumulation Day**: Price RISES 1.0% or more and higher Volume than the day before
A **Minor accumulation Day**: Price RISES 0.2% or more and Volume is strong (either higher volume or is well-above average volume)

A **Major Distribution Day**: Price FALLS 1.0% or more and higher Volume than the day before.
A **Minor distribution Day**: Price FALLS 0.2% or more, Volume is strong (either higher volume or is well-above average volume)

A **Stalling minor distribution Day**: Only in an up trending index or stock, price is FLAT or DOWN slightly compared to the day before, closing in the bottom half of the day's range and volume is heavier or about equal to the day before or strong compared to the past market. It's the price closing low in the day's range after an uptrend that is the key for this designation. Price close to flat and higher or consistent volume indicates the big money (institutions: mutual funds, banks, etc.) are gently selling, trying to sneak out so you won't notice.

** The "CURRENT TREND" column calculates how far each index has moved in the current trend assuming you purchased the index (which is not buyable) at the opening price on the day after the trend change signal.

- **When this column is GREEN, the index has moved in the direction of the market trend.**
- **HOWEVER, when this column is RED, the index change has fallen into negative territory (which could be a rise during a Downtrend)**

An **ACCUMULATION** day points at heavy buying by institutional money managers - the mutual funds, pension funds, banks, etc.
A **DISTRIBUTION** day points at heavy selling by institutional money managers.