

12/29/2017 **UPTREND** 2018 RESULTS: Nasdaq +28%, S&P500 +19%, DJIA +25%
Friday Volume 16 #251

ARMCHAIR INVESTOR^(sm) MORNING MARKET NEWSLETTER

A TREND-FOLLOWING STRATEGY*

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



The next Armchair Investor weekly classes in Dallas are **Wednesday 10 a.m. to noon in Addison** and **6 to 8 p.m. in north Dallas**.

A CHANGE: The Tuesday Dallas class has been moved to **Friday 3:30 – 5:30**.

You may register to attend one of these classes on:

[Armchair Investor Meetup site](#)

YOU ARE WELCOME TO SEND THIS YEAR-END EDITION OF THE ARMCHAIRINVESTOR NEWSLETTER TO FRIENDS, FAMILY AND COWORKERS. I appreciate the introductions.

MARKET DIANOSIS: UPTREND

FOR THE YEAR: An extraordinary year of mostly low volatility and small upward steps that added up to big gains. Were you happy with your returns this year? Some local investors moaned to me that they did not earn the 2017 returns I show below, even with ETFs. They sheepishly admitted they exited their positions in fear several times this the year as the newscasters predicted the end of this bull market. Now they wish they had heeded a piece of advice that is in this newsletter every night:

THE MARKET CONTINUES IN THE DIRECTION IS IT GOING UNTIL IT DOESN'T.

The good news is that these returns are more common than you might think. About one out 4 years had returns as good as 2017 or better.

- The S&P500 had 12 better years since 1975 (42 years).
- The Nasdaq had 10 better years since 1975.

2017 MARKET ACTION

12/29/17	2016 Closing Price	2018 Closing Price	Index % Change Year-to-Date
Nasdaq	5383.12	6903.39	+28.2%
S&P 500	2238.83	2673.61	+19.4%
NYSE Comp	11,056.90	11,771.61	+6.5%
DJIA	19,762.60	24,719.22	+25.1%

FOR THE WEEK: As usual, a quiet last week of the year.

LAST WEEK'S MARKET ACTION

	Index % Change	Volume % Change	Volume Above/ Below 10-week Avg	Type of Week
Nasdaq	-0.9%	-40.8%	-43.0%	Neither
S&P 500	-0.4%	S&P 500 Volume		Neither
NYSE	+0.1%	-45.3%	-33.0%	Neither
DJIA	-0.2%			Neither

The "TYPES OF WEEK" are:

ACCUMULATION WEEK Price RISES 0.2% or more and Volume RISES 0.2% or more
 DISTRIBUTION WEEK Price FALLS 0.2% or more and Volume RISES 0.2% or more
 Another type of DISTRIBUTION(*): WEEK Price FALLS 0.2% or more & Volume is 15% or more above average even without an increase in volume.

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

FRIDAY: The year wrapped up with some light profit taking.

Light volume CONTINUES on the days after Christmas. The S&P500, DJIA and QQQ ETFs barely moved today. Thus I have not updated the tables in tonight's newsletter. For example: of the 6 ETFs I follow, 3 of them were unchanged today and 3 changed by one penny.

Expect light volume for the rest of the week between Christmas and New Year's. Since January 1st is a Monday holiday, I expect light volume on Tuesday 1/2 as well.

Daily Market Action

12/29/17	Index Close	Index % Change	Volume % Change	Volume vs 50-day Avg.	Accumulation or Distribution Day?	Current Trend: UPTREND Began 6/30/2016
Nasdaq	6903.39	-0.7%	+19.7%	-20.1%	Minor distribution	+42.7%
S&P500	2673.61	-0.5%	NYSE Volume		Minor distribution	+27.4%
NYSE	11,771.61	-0.3%	+12.1%	-28.0%	Minor distribution	+12.2%
DJIA	24,719.22	-0.5%			Minor distribution	+37.9%

REMEMBER:

THE MARKET CONTINUES IN THE DIRECTION IS IT GOING UNTIL IT DOESN'T.

Translation:

- An Uptrending market remains in an Uptrend until it fails.
- Small market dips nor bull-market longevity concerns do not change the diagnosis.

- I hold my full QQQ position and individual stocks.
- You might also consider making an investment in the triple QQQ ETF (TQQQ). You can follow the TQQQ in the ETF Trend-Following table every night in the FULL ARMCHAIR INVESTOR NEWSLETTER.
 - The TQQQ is a riskier position that rises about 2 ½ to 3 times the QQQ's rise.
 - BUT BEWARE – the TQQQ also falls at 2 ½ to 3 times the drops in the QQQ.

You can always download the FULL ARMCHAIR INVESTOR NEWSLETTER at:

ArmchairInvestor.com

Click on the **Free Newsletter** tab and then ...

Click on the **Armchair Investor Current Newsletter** tab

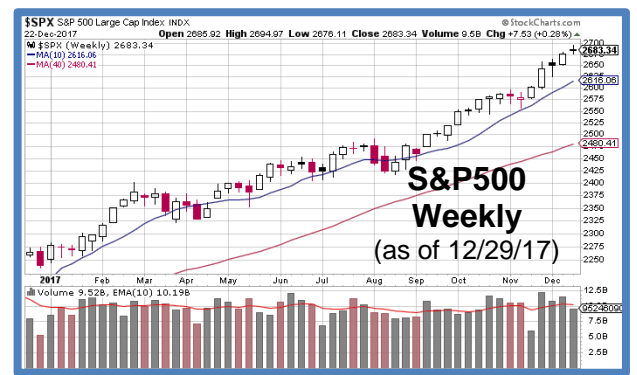
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ARMCHAIR INVESTOR TREND-FOLLOWING RETURNS FOR CURRENT UPTREND				
<i>Uptrend ETFs</i>				
12/29/17	Opening Price on 7/1/2016	Today's Price	ETF % Change Today	PROFIT/LOSS from 6/30/2016 Signal: "Market in UPTrend"
QQQ (1x)	\$107.49	\$155.76	-0.6%	+44.9%
QLD (2x)	\$35.57	\$73.33	-1.3%	+106.2%
TQQQ (3x)	\$48.08	\$138.72	-1.9%	+188.5%
<p>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%.</p> <p>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.</p>				
<p>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.</p>				
<p>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).</p>				

PROGRESS IN ACCUMULATION/DISTRIBUTION RATINGS							
		A	B	C	D	E	Total
Today	12/29	16%	43%	20%	16%	5%	6414
	#	1029	2739	1295	1005	346	
I will catch up with this table as I am able to fill in the history.							
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.							

HOW CLOSE ARE THE INDICES TO ALL-TIME HIGHS THRU 12/29/2017				
12/29/2017	Nasdaq	S&P500	NYSE	DJIA
Date of Index All-time High (green indicates new high)	12/18/17	12/18/17	12/29/17	12/18/17
All-time High	7003.89	2694.97	12866.11	24876.07
Current Price	6903.39	2673.61	12808.84	24719.22
Below (-) or Above (+) Recent High (%)	-1.4%	-0.8%	-0.4%	-0.6%
Below (-) or Above (+) Recent High (#)	-100.50	-21.36	-57.27	-156.85

LAST WEEK'S MARKET ACTION				
12/29/17	Index % Change	Volume % Change	Volume Above/ Below 10-week Avg	Type of Week
Nasdaq	-0.9%	-40.8%	-43.0%	Neither
S&P 500	-0.4%	S&P 500 Volume		Neither
NYSE	+0.1%	-45.3%	-33.0%	Neither
DJIA	-0.2%			Neither
<p>The "TYPES OF WEEK" are:</p> <p>ACCUMULATION WEEK Price RISES 0.2% or more and Volume RISES 0.2% or more</p> <p>DISTRIBUTION WEEK Price FALLS 0.2% or more and Volume RISES 0.2% or more</p> <p>Another type of DISTRIBUTION(*): WEEK Price FALLS 0.2% or more & Volume is 15% or more above average even without an increase in volume.</p> <p>The NYSE volume is used for the S&P500 and NYSE Composite.</p>				



The above charts are from **StockCharts.com**, a valuable site for investors with **many free tools**.
 On the **daily charts**: The **price 20-day, 50-day and 200-day moving averages** are shown. If you don't see the 200-day price moving average, it is too far away from the price bars 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 **price 10-week & 40-week moving averages** and the **10-week volume moving average** is shown.

MARKET FACTORS, COUNTS & RATINGS		12/29/2017	
Type of DAY for <u>Nasdaq</u> Major (1%/1%) Accumulation, Distribution or Neither		Minor distribution	
Market Direction Uptrend, Under Pressure, Downtrend, or Attempted Uptrend		UPTREND	
<u>ALL Nasdaq Accumulation & Distribution Days</u> 20-day count of NASDAQ Major (1%/1%) Accumulation & Distribution days		Accumulation Days	Distribution Days
		2	3
This field is designed to count ONLY Major Distribution days of 1% drop or more. In more volatile markets, this field will have larger counts.			
Count of Up Days and Down Days (10-days on the Nasdaq)		Up Days	Down Days
		2	3
The Nasdaq moved an insignificant amount (less than 0.2%) on 7/28, 8/2, 8/4 & 8/8. Those days are not included in the Up/Down count which does not, therefore, add up to 10 days.			
Leaders Up/Down with High Volume 2-day ratio (but I will build it back to the usual 10-day ratio)		1.3	
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	C+
		S&P 500	B
		DJIA	A+
Are Major Indexes Above or Below Moving Averages? "At" is within 1% above or below the moving average.		50-Day	200-Day
Nasdaq		Above	Above
S&P 500		Above	Above
NYSE		Above	Above
DJIA		Above	Above

MARKET ACTION (Nasdaq) OVER THE LAST 20 DAYS

(For a full explanation of the terms in this table see end of this newsletter)

#	Date	Close	Index % Change	Volume % Change	Current Trend Day Count	Type of Day Accumulation, Distribution or Neither (—)	CONSISTENT WITH: UPTREND or Downtrend?
MARKET IN UPTREND							
20	12/1/17	6847.59	-0.4%	-4.5%	360	—	UPTREND
19	12/4/17	6776.73	-1.0%	+4.8%	361	Major Distribution day	DOWNTREND
18	12/5/17	6762.21	-0.19%	-14.6%	362	—	—
17	12/6/17	6776.38	+0.2%	-9.7%	363	—	DOWNTREND
16	12/7/17	6812.84	+0.5%	+2.5%	364	Minor accumulation day	UPTREND
15	12/8/17	6840.08	+0.4%	-6.0%	365	—	DOWNTREND
14	12/11/17	6875.08	+0.5%	-1.9%	366	—	DOWNTREND
13	12/12/17	6862.32	-0.19%	+1.8%	367	—	—
12	12/13/17	6875.80	+0.2%	+1.9%	368	Minor accumulation day	UPTREND
11	12/14/17	6856.53	-0.3%	+3.4%	369	Minor distribution day	DOWNTREND
10	12/15/17	6936.58	+1.2%	+65.3%	370	Major accumulation day	UPTREND
9	12/18/17	6994.76	+0.8%	-34.6%	371	—	DOWNTREND
8	12/19/17	6963.61	-0.5%	-2.5%	372	—	UPTREND
7	12/20/17	6960.96	-0.04%	-8.8%	373	—	—
6	12/21/17	6965.36	+0.1%	-4.0%	374	—	—
5	12/22/17	6959.96	-0.1%	-15.0%	358	—	—
4	12/26/17	6936.25	-0.3%	-16.3%	376	—	UPTREND
3	12/27/17	6939.34	+0.04%	+6.2%	377	—	—
2	12/28/17	6950.16	+0.16%	-3.0%	378	—	—
1	12/29/17	6903.39	-0.67%	+19.7%	379	Minor distribution day	DOWNTREND

MARKET DIRECTION ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

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

FRIDAY :

I encourage you to subscribe to the Investor's Business Daily newspaper and website (to www.investors.com)

YOU ARE NOT SMARTER THAN THE MARKET

PRIOR NOTES THAT ARE STILL RELEVANT :

You can remember my second lesson for every new investor:

**THE MARKET AND STOCKS CONTINUE IN THE DIRECTION
THEY ARE GOING..... UNTIL THEY DON'T.**

I bet a few of you are asking, "What is the first lesson?"
You might know it so well that you have integrated it your investing and forgotten it:

PROTECT YOUR PORTFOLIO WITH AN 8% STOP

And, yes. You may have chosen a tighter 7% or 6% stop. The most important aspect of this first rule is:

CHOOSE YOUR STOP & LIVE BY IT – NO EXCUSES!

And you don't have to wait for your stock to fall to the stop. A concentration of distribution is a good reason to get out wherever it happens!

=====
Uptrending markets usually climb a "wall of worry." The more worry, the better the climb. Consider these perspectives:

- If you heard a lot of worrying news and believed the market was ready to fail, you would sell much of your stock at today's "high prices." If the market continues to rise after you sold, you would eventually reinvest in the market to participate in the uptrend. You would have missed the profit between your leaving the market and

getting back in it.

- The lesson: Follow the market strength signals, not the dramatic words on the news.

Don't be one of the inexperienced investors convinced to sell in an uptrending market.

Remember:

The market AND YOUR STOCKS continue in the direction they are going until they don't.

MARKET DIAGNOSIS: "UPTREND"

What to do now:

1. **WATCH YOUR INVESTMENTS CLOSELY:** Do a quick review of each stock you own every night. Look for strength and weakness signals in the price-volume action, especially watching for distribution (signs of institutional selling)
2. **DON'T LOSE YOUR GAINS:** Sell any stock that is showing a concentration of distribution days
3. If you need cash for a hot new breakout, consider selling a stock that was a strong buy but hasn't taken off. It might be languishing near the buy point or it might have already round tripped – risen from a good buy point and bombed back or below the buy price.

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 SUBTLE, BUT TELLING MOVES

The last column is a 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.

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).

We are on vacation until Tuesday, January 2. The class schedule that week:

Tuesdays 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. Barnes & Noble at Royal & Preston (northeast corner), Dallas

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

Wednesday 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Barnes & Noble at Royal & Preston (northeast corner), Dallas

The current 2018 ARMCHAIR INVESTOR classes schedule then resumes:

Monday 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Barnes & Noble at Royal & Preston (northeast corner), Dallas

Tuesdays 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. Barnes & Noble at Royal & Preston (northeast corner), Dallas

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

- **Guest attendance is limited to ensure class members get their full value. -**
- **Be sure to call to confirm we are having a class and an open chair.**

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

**TO REGISTER FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE, SINGLE SUBJECT
ARMCHAIR INVESTOR WORKSHOPS
OR TO VISIT AN 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 [o](#)

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.