

ARMCHAIR INVESTOR^(sm) MORNING
MARKET NEWSLETTER
A TREND-FOLLOWING STRATEGY



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The market is in UPTREND

Yes. Sometimes IBD and I disagree about the market direction call. Today IBD dropped their rating to a cautionary “UPTREND UNDER PRESSURE.” I am not ready to lower my UPTREND rating. With only 2 distribution days and rising lows for both major indexes (see below), my diagnosis is still Uptrend. Stay tuned!

TUESDAY: Since the April 10 Follow-through day signaled the start of a new Uptrend, the markets’ price-volume action has been weak and became weaker Tuesday.

- On Friday the Nasdaq ducked back below its 50-day moving average. Today’s 1.7% drop with higher volume brought the index’s Accumulation/Distribution rating to the lowest E rating.
- But the Nasdaq also has higher highs and higher lows defining its upward trend.
- The S&P500 does not have such a positive defined trend: It does have two recent rising lows. But its second recent high was lower creating a possible sideways triangle. Price may vibrate between the ascending low and the descending high until it breaks out one way or the other.
- **With the distribution counts at only 2 for both major indexes, I am not ready to call “Market under Pressure.” It might just be a sideways “rest.”**
- It is appropriate to reduce any holdings you have that are showing multiple distribution days in the last 20 trading days. Cash is a position! A safer position in a weak market.

I see clear signs of weakness:

- Accumulation/Distribution ratings remain at D- for the S&P500 and dropped to E for the Nasdaq.

- And both major indexes (the Nasdaq and the S&P500) remain below their 50-day moving averages.

I am shaking my head – those factors are not encouraging for the new Uptrend. But some new Uptrends take some time to get going.

DAILY MARKET ACTION						
4/24/18	Index Close	Index % Change	Volume % Change	Volume vs 50-day Avg.	Accumulation or Distribution Day?	Recent Trend Gain/Loss from 4/10/2018 UPTREND SIGNAL
Nasdaq	7,007.35	-1.7%	+26.5%	-7.3%	Major Distribution	-0.7%
S&P500	2,634.56	-1.3%	NYSE Volume		Major Distribution	-0.4%
NYSE	12,513.97	-0.8%	+22.7%	+5.0%	Major Distribution	+0.0%
DJIA	24,024.13	-1.7%			Major Distribution	-1.0%

A STEALTH SELLING LESSON

Some of this selling is what I call “stealth” selling – an indicator that institutions are quietly exiting some of their positions. You can see stealth selling when:

- The stock or index stays flat or rises and the price-volume action is not matched many to a flat environment:
 - Many of the DOWN days have HIGHER VOLUME and
 - Many of the UP days have LOWER VOLUME.

ARE YOUR STOCKS UNDER “STEALTH SELLING?”

- **Check here:**
 - Did the price of your stock end the week unchanged or rise?
 - But the Accumulation/Distribution rating is falling?
- **On a daily basis, Do you see:**
 - Falling days with high volume (distribution) and
 - Rising days with low volume (lack of support).
- **Is your stock’s Acc/Dist rating out of whack with its price?**
 - Is your stock at or near an all-time high?
 - But its Acc/Dist Is a D or E?

Institutions can sometimes cover their selling with these stealth buying techniques but they know this is a short term solution to exiting stocks that are near 9-year highs.

I strongly suggest you track the Acc/Dist rating of each stock you own on a weekly basis (if not daily). If you find you own a stock under stealth selling, consider exiting more quickly.

The Market is in UPTREND

- The most worrisome factor today is that both major indexes stayed below their 50-day moving averages although remaining close.
- The percent of stocks with A or B accumulation ratings is rising slightly but is still only 9%. With 5 categories (A B C D E) an even market would have 20% in each. A rising market would have a higher A and B percentages.
- The Leaders' Up/Down ratio is a low 1.3 ratio.
- With Monday's down day, the Up/Down days reversed to 4 Up days and 5 Down days in the last 10 trading days, A healthy Uptrend could lean much more heavily toward the Up days. And Tuesday was 4 leader stocks up against 8 leader stocks down.

And..... We still need Volume! Without volume there is an underlying weakness to the market. And I am buying smaller positions and buying more cautiously.

Markets usually take off vigorously at the beginning of a new Uptrend but this one is rising acceptably in price, but without strong volume. Is it Syria, China, Korea, the wall, or tariffs? I don't know but I wish the market volume would wake up.

The MARKET FACTORS, COUNTS & RATINGS table (in the full newsletter) is showing less green (uptrend indicators).

Low volume continues to plague the market

TREND-FOLLOWING ACTION: With the new shift to Uptrend, you have two Trend-following actions to take in a new Uptrend:

1. Buy an Uptrend ETF such as the QQQ, QLD and TQQQ.
2. Cover any individual stocks you have shorted.

REMEMBER:
THE MARKET CONTINUES IN THE DIRECTION IT'S GOING
UNTIL IT DOESN'T.

THE ARMCHAIR INVESTOR strategy is SIMPLE:

- **Be in the market when it is going up.**
- **Be out or (or short) the market when it is going down.**
- **Protect yourself with an 8% stop.**

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Uptrend ETFs	Armchair Investor Trend-following Returns for Current Uptrend			
4/24/18	Opening Price on 4/12/2018	Today's Price	ETF % Change Today	GAIN OR LOSS SINCE 4/10/2018 UPTREND SIGNAL
QQQ (1x)	\$160.20	\$158.46	-2.1%	-1.1%
QLD (2x)	\$76.02	\$74.17	-4.2%	-2.4%
TQQQ (3x)	\$142.60	\$137.07	-6.3%	-3.9%

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.

MARKET ACTION 2018 YEAR-TO-DATE			
4/24/18	2017 Closing Price	Current Price	Index % Change Year-to-Date
Nasdaq	6903.39	7007.35	+1.5%
S&P 500	2673.61	2634.56	-1.5%
NYSE Comp	12,808.84	12,513.97	-2.3%
DJIA	24,719.22	24,024.13	-2.8%

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."

HOW CLOSE ARE THE INDEXES TO ALL-TIME HIGHS?				
4/24/2018	Nasdaq	S&P500	NYSE	DJIA
Date of Index All-time High	3/13/2018	1/26/2018	1/26/2018	1/26/2018
All-time High	7537.27	2872.87	13637.02	26616.71
Current Price	7007.35	2634.56	12513.97	24024.13
Below (-) or Above (+) Recent High (%)	-7.0%	-8.3%	-8.2%	-9.7%
Below (-) or Above (+) Recent High (#)	-529.92	-238.31	-1123.05	-2592.58

LAST WEEK'S MARKET ACTION				
4/20/2018	Weekly Index % Change	Weekly Volume % Change	Volume Above/Below 10-week Avg	Type of Week
Nasdaq	+0.6%	-4.6%	-9.0%	Neither
S&P 500	+0.5%	S&P 500 Volume		Minor accumulation
NYSE	+0.5%	+4.6%	+3.0%	Minor accumulation
DJIA	+0.4%			Minor accumulation
<p>The "TYPES OF WEEK" are:</p> <p>ACCUMULATION WEEK PRICE RISES 0.2% or more and VOLUME RISES</p> <p>DISTRIBUTION WEEK PRICE FALLS 0.2% or more and VOLUME RISES</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>				

PROGRESS IN ACCUMULATION/DISTRIBUTION RATINGS						
		A	B	C	D	E
4 weeks ago	3/26	6%	28%	25%	27%	16%
3 weeks ago	4/3	5%	27%	23%	29%	16%
2 weeks ago	4/10	6%	31%	25%	25%	12%
1 week ago	4/17	8%	35%	25%	23%	9%
Today	4/24	9%	35%	25%	22%	10%
<p>Stocks with an A or B rating are under accumulation (being bought.)</p> <p>Stocks with a D or E rating are under distribution (being sold).</p> <p>"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. Lower ratings are PINK.</p>						

Nasdaq Daily chart, 3 months

The Nasdaq daily price still under recent support. Selling volume declining.



Nasdaq Weekly chart (last week), 1 year

The Nasdaq weekly closed higher but near bottom of week's range, volume lower.



These charts are from StockCharts.com, a valuable site for investors with many free tools.

S&P500 Daily chart, 3 months

The S&P500 dropped below recent support but staying close.



S&P500 Weekly chart (last week), 1 year

S&P500 weekly closed higher but near bottom of week's range, volume up slightly



These charts are from StockCharts.com, a valuable site for investors with many free tools

MARKET FACTORS, COUNTS & RATINGS		4/24/2018	
Type of DAY for <u>Nasdaq</u> Accumulation, Distribution or Neither		Major Distribution	
Market Direction Uptrend, Under Pressure, Downtrend, or Attempted Uptrend		UPTREND	
<u>ALL Nasdaq Accumulation & Distribution Days</u>		Accumulation Days	Distribution Days
Count of NASDAQ Accumulation & Distribution days		5	4
The usual 20-day count was dropped to 11 to show the recent accumulation and distribution around the "Uptrend under Pressure" and "Downtrend" period.			
Count of Up Days and Down Days (10-days on the Nasdaq)		Up Days	Down Days
		4	5
. 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 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	E
		DJIA	D-
Are Major Indexes Above or Below Moving Averages? "At" is within 1% above or below the moving average.		50-Day	200-Day
		Nasdaq	Below
		S&P 500	Below
		NYSE	At
		DJIA	Below
			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?
THE COLOR OF THE "CURRENT TREND DAY COUNT" tells you the current market direction: Red = Downtrend, Yellow = Uptrend under Pressure, Green = Uptrend							
20	3/27/18	7008.81	-2.9%	+0.2%	1	Major Distribution day <i>Market moves into Downtrend</i>	DOWNTREND
19	3/28/18	6949.23	-0.9%	+8.0%	2	Minor distribution day	DOWNTREND
18	3/29/18	7063.45	+1.6%	+2.9%	3	Major Accumulation day	UPTREND
17	4/2/18	6870.12	-2.7%	-6.4%	4	—	UPTREND
16	4/3/18	6941.28	+1.0%	-4.2%	5	—	DOWNTREND
15	4/4/18	7042.11	+1.5%	-3.7%	6	—	DOWNTREND
14	4/5/18	7076.55	+0.5%	-5.8%	7	—	DOWNTREND
13	4/6/18	6915.11	-2.3%	+12.4%	8	Major Distribution day	DOWNTREND
12	4/9/18	6950.34	+0.5%	-11.6%	9	—	DOWNTREND
11	4/10/18	7094.30	+2.1%	+8.3%	1	Major Accumulation day <i>Market moves into UPTREND</i>	UPTREND
10	4/11/18	7069.03	-0.4%	-19.7%	2	—	UPTREND
9	4/12/18	7140.25	+1.0%	+10.8%	3	Major Accumulation day	UPTREND
8	4/13/18	7106.65	-0.5%	-12.3%	4	—	UPTREND
7	4/16/18	7156.28	+0.7%	+1.2%	5	Minor accumulation day	UPTREND
6	4/17/18	7281.10	+1.7%	+5.5%	6	Major Accumulation day	UPTREND
5	4/18/18	7295.24	+0.19%	-0.9%	7	—	—
4	4/19/18	7238.03	-0.8%	+5.7%	8	Minor distribution day	DOWNTREND
3	4/20/18	7146.13	-1.3%	-5.5%	9	—	UPTREND
2	4/23/18	7128.60	-0.3%	-9.7%	10	—	UPTREND
1	4/24/18	7007.35	-1.7%	+26.5%	11	—	DOWNTREND

The CURRENT TREND column colors: **Green:** Uptrend. **Yellow:** Uptrend under Pressure. **Red:** Downtrend.

FOR INVESTORS IN INDIVIDUAL STOCKS

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

TUESDAY: I am looking for strong individual stocks to buy which are breaking out of good bases with high volume on the breakout day. Volume is the factor which is hard to find right now but I can wait! ----- With the current weakness in the market, I may buy a new position, but it will be a smaller size as a first bite.

CASH IS A POSITION.

The market diagnosis is UPTREND.

REMEMBER:

YOU ARE NOT SMARTER THAN THE MARKET

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

PROTECT YOUR PORTFOLIO WITH AN 8% STOP

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!

What to do now:

1. **WATCH YOUR INVESTMENTS CLOSELY:** Sell stalling and falling stocks quickly.
2. 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)
3. **DON'T LOSE YOUR GAINS:** Sell any stock that is showing a concentration of distribution days. I sell more quickly in a Downtrend

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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, Please be sure to register through the Meetup site listed below or a text or call to Charlotte.

Please register on the Meetup site so I will have a handout for you (25 pages of articles and [Link to registering for the Armchair Investor Meetup- CLICK HERE](#)

The 2018 ARMCHAIR INVESTOR classes schedule.

Pre-register please! Schedules change! See phone number below:

Mondays 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

Wednesdays 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 (we are occasionally on vacation) and have 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: Editor@ArmchairInvestor.com
Some of your questions will be used in future newsletters.

Additional notes follow:

EXPLANATION OF TERMS FOR THE					
MARKET ACTION OVER THE LAST 20 DAYS					
<i>Four weeks of price and volume action reveal much about the direction of the market and the strength of that movement.</i>					
		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 an 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 4747.62volume 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.

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
Index	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.