

**ARMCHAIR INVESTOR Newsletter: THE MARKET'S MESSAGE**  
*A TREND-FOLLOWING STRATEGY*

**CURRENT MARKET DIRECTION: UPTREND**

<b>Armchair Investor Trend-following Investment Position:</b>	<b>I hold the QQQ</b>
<b>Armchair Investor 2021 Returns</b> See trade details on page 4	<b>+4.6% year-to-date</b> I am holding QQQ position (see page 2)

Investing in individual stocks? You are welcome to visit my Weekly Armchair Investor classes twice. Register here as my guest: [ArmchairInvestor Weekly Classes](#)

**THE MARKET'S MESSAGE:** The Nasdaq opened Monday with a 1% gap up (S&P500 opened flat). But at 10:50 a.m., both indexes took serious dips: The Nasdaq tumbled 2.4% in just 20 minutes (the S&P500 lost 1.5%). Falls like that do not happen without high trading activity as both indexes showed an unusual mid-morning volume spike.

**Was it time to get out?** I'll never tell you not to protect your portfolio. "Could the market be *over-reacting* to some bad news just to scare you out so they could buy in cheaply?" I asked the investor who called. I never tell callers what to do. I just point out what I find is "the obvious." The Nasdaq was down 1.3% from Friday's close.

**By the time we talked, the Nasdaq had already signaled the drop might be over:** After seven 5-minute price bars that fell hard and closed on or near the period's low, the next bar (as we talked) dropped lower and reversed higher to close above the middle of its range – a change in personality that might be a sign that the drop was over (or at least slowing down).

**The next bar was a 0.6% rise... and the "big drop" was over as the market spent most of the rest of the day climbing higher to close the day up 0.7% for the Nasdaq and 0.4% for the S&P500.**

**Whewww! And that is why I don't look at the market (much) during the day. Many days are full of misleading signals that get straightened out by the market close. I hold the QQQ.**

DAILY MARKET ACTION						
1/25/21	Index Close	Index % Change	Volume % Change	Volume vs 50-day Avg.	Accumulation or Distribution Day?	Index Change from 11/4 New Uptrend
Nasdaq	13635.99	+0.7%	+21.8%	+29.2%	Minor accumulation	+15.4%
S&P500	3855.36	+0.4%	Volume +41.9%	NYSE:	Minor accumulation	+10.6%
DJIA	30960.00	-0.1%		+49.0%	Neither	+10.2%

**MY PLAN FOR TUESDAY:** >>> I HOLD the QQQ

ARMCHAIR INVESTOR TREND-FOLLOWING RETURNS All Trades In <b>2021</b>								
Market Direction Signal Change	Direction	Action	# Days	Price	% GAIN Each Trend (See note)	Armchair Investor GAIN In 2020	Value of \$100,000 Portfolio	
Trade	12/31/20	Uptrend	Hold the QQQ	---	\$313.74	-----	-----	\$100,000
	1/25/21	Uptrend	Hold the QQQ	25	\$328.11	+4.6%	+4.6%	\$104,580
<b>TOTAL Growth in 2020:</b>						<b>+4.6%</b>	<b>\$104,580</b>	

ARMCHAIR INVESTOR TREND-FOLLOWING RETURNS All Trades In <b>2020</b>								
Market Direction Signal Change	Direction	Action	# Days	Price	% GAIN Each Trend (See note)	Armchair Investor GAIN In 2020	Value of \$100,000 Portfolio	
Trade	12/31/19	Uptrend	Hold the QQQ	55	\$212.61	+4.3%	+4.3%	\$100,000
1	2/24/20	Uptrend under Pressure	Sold QQQ at Open Wait in CASH	3	\$221.84	0%	+4.3%	\$104,341
2	2/27/20	Downtrend	Bot PSQ at Open	38	\$24.65	+5.6%	+10.2%	\$110,183
3	4/6/20	Attempted Uptrend	Sold PSQ at Open Wait in CASH	2	\$26.03	0%	+10.2%	\$110,183
4	4/8/20	Uptrend	Bot QQQ at Open	155	\$198.08	+39.1%	+53.3%	\$153,270
5	9/9/20	Uptrend under Pressure	Sold QQQ at Open Wait in CASH	9	\$275.54	0%	+53.3%	\$153,270
6	9/18/20	Downtrend	Bot PSQ at Open	13	\$17.01	-4.1%	+47.0%	\$146,963
7	10/1/20	Attempted Uptrend	Sold PSQ at Open Wait in CASH	1	\$16.31	0%	+47.0%	\$146,963
8	10/2/20	Uptrend	Bot QQQ at Open	27	\$276.01	-1.1%	+45.4%	\$145,381
9	10/29/20	Downtrend	Sold QQQ at Open Wait in CASH	27	\$273.04	0%	+45.4%	\$145,381
10	11/5/20	Uptrend	Bot QQQ at Open	7	\$293.41	0%	+45.4%	\$145,381
11	11/13/20	Uptrend under Pressure	Sold QQQ at Open Wait in CASH	4	\$290.01	-1.2%	+43.6%	\$143,613
12	11/17/20	Uptrend	Bot QQQ at Open	--	\$293.40	+0%	+45.4%	\$143,613
---	12/31/20	Uptrend	Hold the QQQ	44	\$313.74	+6.9%	+55.5%	\$155,460
<b>TOTAL Growth in 2020:</b>						<b>+55.5%</b>	<b>\$155,460</b>	

## WHAT HAPPENED LAST WEEK?

MARKET FACTORS, COUNTS & RATINGS		1/25/2021	
<b>Type of Day for <u>Nasdaq Index</u></b> Accumulation, Distribution or Neither		Minor accumulation	
I track the <u>Nasdaq's</u> price-volume because it usually leadsthe market direction.			
<b>Market Direction</b> Uptrend, Under Pressure, Downtrend		Uptrend	
<b><u>Nasdaq Accumulation &amp; Distribution Days (last 20 days)</u></b> Only accumulation and distribution days <u>since the last market direction change</u> are in this count.		<b>Accumulation Days</b> 7	<b>Distribution Days</b> 2
Note: 2 of the distribution days are OLD (16 and 20 days old).			
<b>Count of Up Days and Down Days</b> Nasdaq's last <u>10-days'</u> price movement		<b>Up Days</b> 6	<b>Down Days</b> 2
Only days that move at least + or - 0.2% are included in the Up/Down count which does not always, therefore, add up to 10 days.			
<b>Rising/Falling Ratio of Leader Stocks with High Volume</b> Nasdaq 10-day ratio		2.2	
This indicator looks at the HEALTH of leading stocks (high RS rating) with strong financials (high EPS rating). Uptrend indicator: 1.5 or higher. Neutral: 1.0 to 1.49. Downtrend: less than 1.0			
<b>Market Accumulation/Distribution Ratings</b> "A": heavy accumulation, "B": moderate accumulation, "C": neutral, "D": moderate distribution, "E": heavy distribution. Accumulation = Institutions are BUYING, Distribution = Inst are SELLING		<b>Nasdaq</b> B-	<b>S&amp;P 500</b> B
		<b>DJIA</b> B-	
The Nasdaq as a whole, continues to lag the other indexes. But remember, just 8 days ago, it had an "E" distribution rating. I focus on the growth to D+.			
<b>Are Major Indexes Above or Below Moving Averages?</b> "At" is within 1% above or below the moving average.		<b>50-Day</b> Above	<b>200-Day</b> Above
Nasdaq		Above	Above
S&P 500		Above	Above
DJIA		Above	Above
NYSE		Above	Above

## MARKET ACTION (Nasdaq) OVER THE LAST 20 DAYS

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

#	Date	Closing Price	Index % Change	Volume % Change	Current Trend Day Count *	Type of Day: Accumulation, Distribution or Neither (—)	CONSISTENT WITH: UPTREND OR DOWNTREND?
20	12/24/20	12804.73	+0.3%	-52.5%	36	—	— (2)
19	12/28/20	12899.42	+0.7%	+50.5%	37	Minor accumulation	UPTREND
18	12/29/20	12850.22	-0.4%	-7.6%	38	—	UPTREND
17	12/30/20	12870.00	+0.15%	+12.2%	39	—	—
16	12/31/20	12888.28	+0.14%	-9.6%	40	—	—
15	1/4/2021	12698.45	-1.5%	+36.5%	41	Major Distribution	DOWNTREND
14	1/5/21	12818.96	+1.0%	+5.2%	42	Major Accumulation	UPTREND
13	1/6/21	12740.79	-0.6%	+11.5%	43	Minor distribution	DOWNTREND
12	1/7/21	13067.48	+2.6%	-11.5%	44	—	UPTREND (1)
11	1/8/21	13201.98	+1.0%	+7.0%	45	Major Accumulation	UPTREND
10	1/11/21	13036.43	-1.3%	-5.0%	46	—	UPTREND
9	1/12/21	13072.43	+0.3%	+4.5%	47	Minor accumulation	UPTREND
8	1/13/21	13128.95	+0.4%	-1.5%	48	—	DOWNTREND
7	1/14/21	13112.64	-0.12%	-5.4%	49	—	—
6	1/15/21	12998.50	-0.9%	-4.6%	50	—	UPTREND
5	1/19/21	13197.18	+1.5%	-3.2%	51	—	DOWNTREND
4	1/20/21	13457.25	+2.0%	+9.6%	52	Major Accumulation	UPTREND
3	1/21/21	13530.92	+0.6%	+6.2%	53	Minor accumulation	UPTREND
2	1/22/21	13543.06	+0.1%	-17.2%	54	—	—
1	1/25/21	13635.99	+0.7%	+21.8%	55	Minor accumulation	UPTREND

The **Green dates** (columns 2 and 3) are "All-time New Closing Highs."

(1) The volume on 1/7/21 is still high, almost equal to the 1/5/21 Major Accumulation day after the +11.5% then -11.5%. Paired with a 2.6% rise to an All-Time High, show this as a strong, upward swinging day. I almost called it a Major Accumulation day with the highest single daily rise in two months!

(2) The market closed early on 12/24 resulting in significantly lighter volume that day and significantly heavier volume the next day that did not signal market "intent."

PROGRESS IN ACCUMULATION/DISTRIBUTION RATINGS							
		A	B	C	D	E	As + Bs
4 weeks ago	12/23	20%	49%	17%	11%	3%	69%
3 weeks ago	12/31	19%	51%	16%	10%	3%	70%
2 weeks ago	1/8	25%	48%	14%	9%	3%	74%
1 week ago	1/15	27%	47%	14%	9%	3%	74%
Today	1/25	25%	49%	15%	9%	2%	74%
# stocks in each	rating:	1730	3451	1026	613	169	
As + Bs remains near all-time highs indicating broad buying of top stocks.							

HOW CLOSE ARE THE INDICES TO ALL-TIME HIGHS?				
1/25/2021	Nasdaq	S&P500	DJIA	NYSE
Date of Index All-time High*	1/25/2021	1/21/2021	1/21/2021	1/14/2021
All-time High	13728.98	3861.65	31272.22	15129.12
Closing Price	13635.99	3855.36	30960.00	14935.29
Below (-) or Above (+) Recent High (%)	0.5%	-0.2%	-1.0%	-1.3%
*New Highs are daily intraday prices and are noted in <b>green for a week</b> , even if the price drops lower.				

If you have any **questions** about the above table or something else in this newsletter, or **suggestions** how to make it clearer or more valuable, please call me to discuss. (214) 995-6702 Thank you!

*Note: I am always looking at how I can enhance the information in this newsletter. Your suggestions help me do that. Keep 'em coming!*

## **Current Signs of Market Strength** (as of Friday 1/19/2021)

- The **Nasdaq** hit a new all-time high Thursday.
- **The Nasdaq volume has been VERY strong for every day of 2021!** I encourage you to pull up a daily Nasdaq charts and join me in the wonder of this new volume (which is almost 50% above the average volume in the end of February – March market crash.)
- The stocks with **A or B accumulation ratings are an amazingly strong 74%**
- All three major indexes have **B or B- Accumulation ratings.**
- The **Nasdaq and S&P500 continue to float above their 10-day moving average lines!**
  - For both indexes, **finding support at their 10-day lines is a strong statement!** It says: >>> This is NOT a wildly swinging market! Perhaps many of the newbie investors are using dollar-cost-averaging! That would support a rising
- Nasdaq has **closed above 12,000 for 9 weeks.**
- All the **major indexes are now ABOVE their 50-day and 200-day m.a. lines**
  - market as their money gently and consistently enters the market.

**BOTTOM LINE:** The **buyers are in a frenzy**; this market is flying higher. **Maybe it's fueled by "new money" or not. I DON'T CARE. Up is Up!**

## **Current Signs of Market Weakness**

- **The S&P500 s high 2021 volume is settling down to more sustainable levels.**

## “Climbing the Wall of Worry” article from Investopedia

### DO INDIVIDUAL INVESTORS BEAT THE MARKET?

The research shows [Most investors didn't come close to beating the S&P 500](#) as stated by CNBC.

**But what you should really be concerned about is .....IS THIS MARKET HEALTHY? My answer: You bet!**

- No **distribution days** in the last 20 Nasdaq count. But there are 3 distribution days on this newsletter's 20 day backwards look. Explanation: When an index rises 5% or more above the close of a distribution day, then that day is considered, “NO LONGER RELEVANT!” The market is hot-dogging higher and those distribution days are long gone from the rear-view mirror.
- A steadily rising market is more sustainable! Watch for additional distribution days.
- **The current up-channel is not quite as steep as last year's 5-month rising channel. That could mean that it won't last as long. Or that, because of the gentler rise, it will last longer.**

**How long will the rise run? (You know my answer: The market will continue higher until..... it doesn't.)**

**The Armchair Investor Strategy has earned extraordinary returns for 2020 (see the earlier). And YOU could have earned this return shown below if you followed this nightly newsletter and made this 12 trades, all broadcast at the end of the day for your action the following morning. Read this newsletter and reap the rewards!**

## **Looking forward to the Armchair Investor and IBD Meetups in 2021.**

Since 2003, I have had the honor of presenting the ARMCHAIR INVESTOR weekly classes and the monthly INVESTOR'S BUSINESS DAILY Meetups in Dallas and in Fort Worth.

A special “Thanks!” to all of you who support us, showing up early to set up the rooms, greet guests and the necessary food tasters at our Christmas parties (but not this year.) I look forward to enlisting your help when we start back with LIVE Meetups!

I especially thank you to:

- **Fred Richards** for his amazing market insights and presentations to the group. He is in the process of moving to a new home in the area and I expect to have him join us in the future.
- **Ron Shaw** for tirelessly greeting guests (one of the most organized, happy guys I know) and handing out the printed copies of the class notes.
- **And all the others** who greeted first time guests, substituted for Ron, found meeting space or stepped in at the last minute to find extension cords, extra tables and chairs, etc. etc. etc.
- The good news, with Wi-Fi, I plan on continuing the Live and Online Meetup!.
- It takes a village! Thank you.

**The next IBD Meetup will be in mid-January 2021 online. Stay tuned!**



# THE NASDAQ UPWARD AND DOWNWARD CHANNELS

One of the features I like about [Investors.com's MarketSmith charts](#) is that I can draw in my own channel lines.

Below is the Nasdaq chart for the last 12 months. It shows:

- the January+ Uptrend that continued in the beginning of the year,
- The pink downtrend as the market crashed in February-March
- The amazing 5-month rise (Uptrend) of the market since March low.

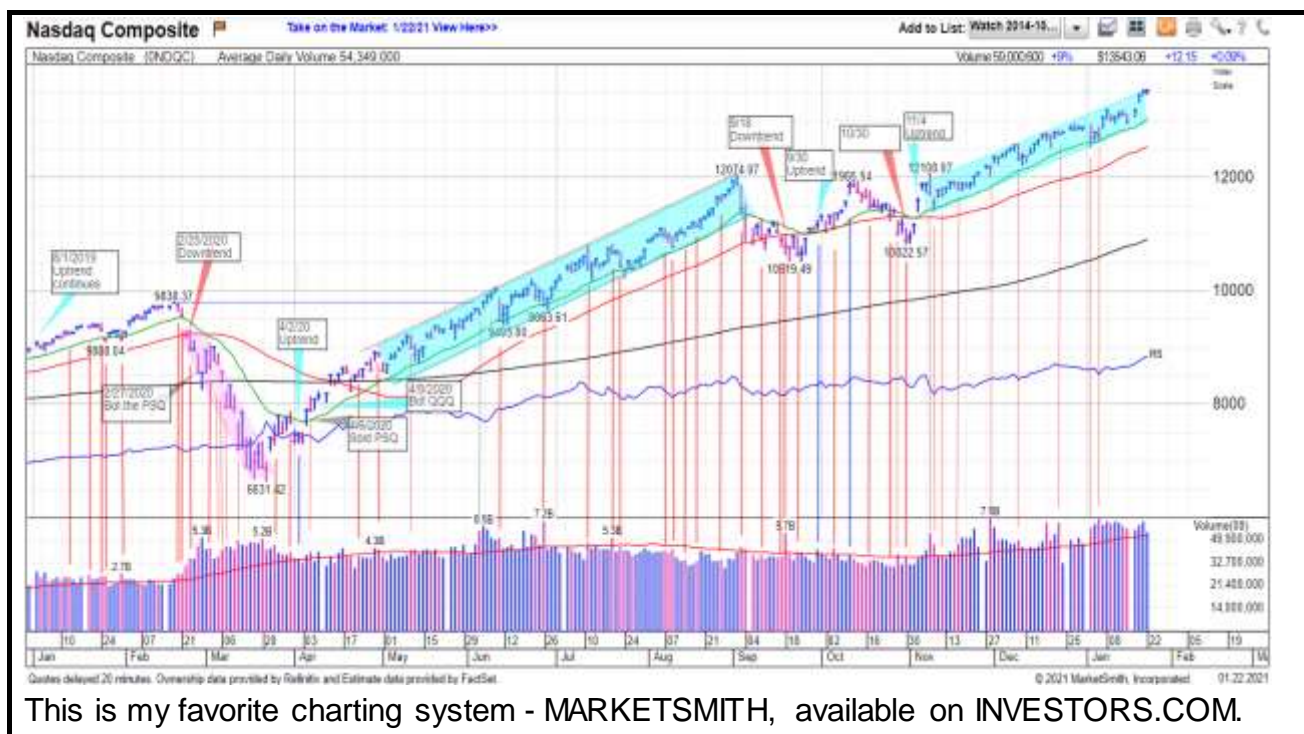
Did you know annotations stay on the MarketSmith charts! Bravo to the designers. My notations will stay on the MarketSmith charts for years! I can go back and visit how I saw the market in 2000, 2008, 2015-16, etc.

That is one of MarketSmith's many truly unique and valuable features! I don't have to figure out what happened in those past periods again

My annotations are there! Updated, Tuesday 10/19/2020. Vertical red lines identify distribution days (down days with higher volume indicating serious selling.)

**>>>> I HIGHLY RECOMMEND IBD's MarketSmith** for your investing CHARTS! Note the excellent annotations and markups I have added on the chart below.

Go to [MarketSmith.com](#) to try it out. All my distribution day notations (pink vertical lines) will be visible for years! I recently went back to the 2000 high. Yes – annotations were there! The vertical red lines indicate “distribution days” of serious selling.



## **DO YOU MAKE THESE INVESTING MISTAKES?**

- **Do you miss buying a great stock at the price you knew was right?**
- **Do you sell too early and watch it continue to rise without you?**
- **Do you hold on too long and lose the gains you just had?**
  
- **Or are you just starting out** and want a simple, proven method that has outperformed the market in just 5 minutes a day?
  
- **Either way, we have an ARMCHAIR INVESTOR class for you!**

## **PICK THE ARMCHAIR INVESTOR ONLINE CLASS THAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU:**

**Be sure to register for you classes – occasionally they change. No Tuesday class this week. Register by clicking the [BLUE LINK](#) at the bottom of this page.**

### **SUNDAY'S 5-Minute Investor with Market Analysis.**

This 1-hour class about Market Direction is foundational – If you get the market direction wrong, you are much more likely to lose money. Attended by beginners and experts alike. FREE to all (at the moment). Once you learn this strategy, it's yours for life!

### **3 TIMES A WEEK Armchair Investor Workshops**

Learn how to buy the best stocks at the right time. And then, learn how to track them to identify the right time to take your profits to the bank!

Choose the BEST CLASS for you: Join us on **MONDAY** 7 – 9 P.M. **Tuesday** 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. or **Wednesday** (10 a.m. – noon) for an [online Armchair Investor class](#)

<<. Are you new to the Armchair Investor classes? **Visit for 2 weeks FREE as my guest!** Call or text me at 214-995-6702 to let me know you are coming.

**[Click here to register for 2 weeks of FREE Armchair Investor Online Classes](#)**

## **VISIT THE ARMCHAIR INVESTOR ONLINE CLASS THAT IS RIGHT FOR YOU TO VISIT:**

<<. Are you new to the Armchair Investor classes? **Visit for 2 weeks FREE as my guest!** Please call or text me at 214-995-6702 to let me know you are coming. Here is why you should visit.

### **SUNDAY: Learn to be a 5-Minute Investor!**

**This strategy has earned over 45% this year – following my 9 trades.**

The weekly 1-hour class about Market Direction is foundational – If you get the market direction wrong, you are much more likely to lose money. Attended by beginners and experts alike. Open to all (at the moment). We meet every other Sunday with some adjustments around holiday weekend, etc.

Join us by clicking here: [online Armchair Investor class.](#)

### **MONDAY, TUESDAY or WEDNESDAY Armchair Investor Stock analysis 2-HOUR CLASS**

This class is given 3 times each week. Choose the BEST TIME for you: Join us on MONDAY 7 – 9 P.M. Tuesday 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. or Wednesday (10 a.m. – noon) for an [online Armchair Investor class](#) Be sure to check for the date your wish to visit. The class meets 11 weeks each quarter (2 weeks off for research and fun).

To join us for a class, click here: [online Armchair Investor class](#)

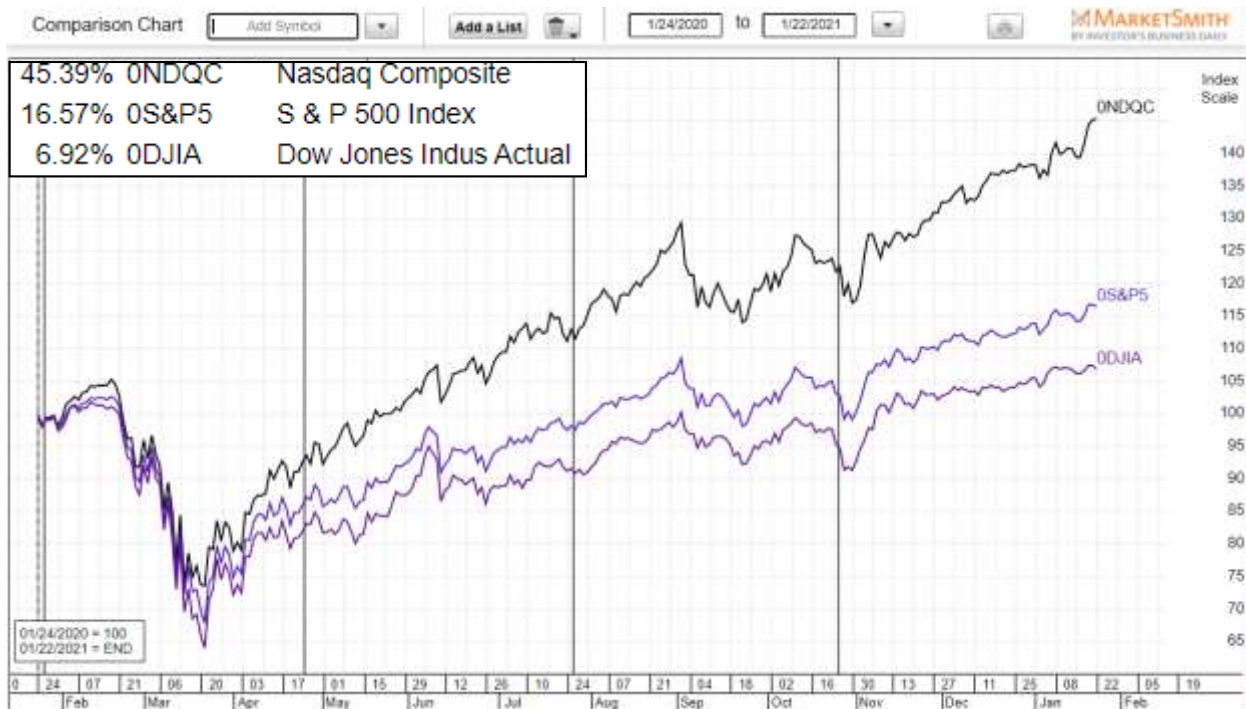
Once you register online – the link to your online meeting will be revealed on the Armchair Investor Meetup site.

When you register for an online Armchair Investor class, suggest a few stocks review in the class! Please choose profitable growing stocks. *If you own a stock and are considering SELLING THAT STOCK, please note “SELL?” after the ticker.*

## COMPARISON of NASDAQ, S&P500 & DJIA 1- YEAR Returns

This week chart is updated every few days.

The chart below shows the one-year returns of the **Nasdaq, the S&P500, and DJIA**. Where should you go shopping? The answer for me? Nasdaq! And, yes! I will buy a top stock wherever I find it! These results are why I focus on the Nasdaq and QQQ for my trend-following strategy:



### REMEMBER: BUY & HOLD IS NOT A STRONG INVESTING STRATEGY.

Imagine the difference in returns in the chart above if you had just sold your market ETF waited in cash as the market falls and get back in as it starts back up!

- It isn't necessary to get in at the bottom or out at the top!
- Just stepping out of the market somewhere *near the top* and getting back in *near the bottom* has had a HUGE IMPACT on my portfolio.

*It can take YEARS to complete a market Downtrend (correction) then recover back to where you were.*

### An EXAMPLE OF HOW "BUY-AND-HOLD" COSTS YOU BIG BUCKS.

- Over the last year, a "buy and hold" strategy has earned 8% for the S&P500. "Buy and hold" worked better for the Nasdaq earning 44.1%. ***But wait....***
- **If you invested with the Armchair Investor strategy, you are UP 53.6% for 2020.** Anyone want the extra 9.5% (and sometimes the Armchair strategy doubles the buy & hold returns!)
- Where do you want your money invested? Here's where many answer: **"The Armchair Investor strategy!"**

## **MARKET/CHART READING LESSON:**

### **The MarketSmith Relative Strength Line – My favorite!**

Go to any chart on the Investors.com web page. You will see the bumpy line labeled RS for Relative Strength. This line moves up or down with each price bar showing if this stock or index rose more or less than the S&P500.

Look at the Nasdaq daily chart (0NDQC) and notice that the RS line has risen since the Oct 2019 low, indicating it has earned higher returns.

Go to the monthly chart and note that the Nasdaq has consistently outperformed the S&P500. (not ever month but most). The S&P500 does have some great stocks. That rising RS line tells us that, over time, the Nasdaq as a whole has done better than the S&P500. But just like shopping for groceries, I will buy from the market that has the best fruit, on any given day.

The Nasdaq continues to outperform the S&P500. Watch the RS line on Investors.com charts. This important line shows you how a stock or index is performing compared to the S&P500. A rising line indicates that stock or index has risen faster than the S&P500 (measured in percentage change.)

Note: Do not confuse IBD's RS line with the RSI line some charting system use. The RS measures how a stock is moving compared to the S&P500. Rising faster gives a higher rating. *Investopedia.com states: The relative strength index (RSI) is a momentum indicator that measures the magnitude of recent price changes to evaluate "overbought" or "oversold" **conditions** in the price of a stock or other asset.*

*The problem I have found with the RSI line is that some of the best, rising stocks can push an RSI line to the top of the rating (indicating overbought) just when I have a buy signal. As always, I tell you to use the indicators you find useful (profitable).*

**I am excited about the settling down in market volume. But I continue to be concerned about the sustained day-to-day price volatility.** It is surely affected by the uncertainty of the upcoming earnings announcements. **BE SURE YOUR STOPS ARE IN PLACE.**

**Every Day's Lesson: Whether you agree with your stock's daily results or not...**

- **YOUR JOB is to monitor its daily results and adjust your action accordingly.**
  - **Monday: Monitor.....and.....adjust.**
  - **Tuesday: Monitor.....and.....adjust.**
  - **Wednesday: Monitor.....and.....adjust.**
  - **Thursday: Monitor.....and.....adjust.**
  - **Friday: Monitor.....and.....adjust.**
  - **(repeat)**

## **KEY MARKET CONCEPTS USED IN THIS NEWSLETTER**



**If the horse you are riding, dies. GET OFF!**



When the market (or your stock) dies – whether that is in a year, a month or tomorrow, the Armchair Investor Strategy will NOT “stay the course” and we won’t ride a falling market down. Instead, we will use our 20 years of market direction experience to identify optimum times to be in the market and times to be out of the market. *(not guaranties!) (PS I love horses. They are amazing companions.)*

Using my day-to-day price-volume analysis, my students and I have consistently been able to make money by:

“Getting IN near the bottom” and “Getting OUT near the top.”

The Armchair Investor strategy has allowed me to earn well-above-average returns since the 2000 top! See page 4 for this year’s exciting wins!

MARKET ACTION 2021			
1/25/21	2020 Closing Price	Current Price	Index % Change Year-to-Date
Nasdaq	12888.28	13,635.99	+5.8%
S&P 500	3756.07	3,855.36	+2.6%
DJIA	30606.38	30,960.00	+1.2%

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.” Some people like it as a scorecard for their results this year.

## **Prepare yourself for a NEW ECONOMY!**

I expect a major shift in how we do business: more online appointments, more working from home, reduced business travel (with reduced costs to businesses) We might actually see this lockdown period as **a slingshot into the a new, sleeker way of conducting business. And each of those new trends will help some business (online meetings, internet providers, online schools, casual clothing, healthy ready-to-eat food....)**  
**>>>>>>>> I would like to hear your ideas of where the big gains will occur!**

**Which industry groups and specific companies will thrive and which will dive in the after pandemic new economy???**

**WILL HISTORY REPEAT ITSELF?** In the financial crisis of 2007, it took the market 2 1/2 years to recover the 56% drop. Worse yet was the reaction to the dot.com 90's market over-inflation that crashed in March of 2000 and took 19 years for the market to "break even."

WHAT CAN WE (INDIVIDUAL INVESTORS) DO NOW? ONE lesson I have learned from every greatest investor I have studied:

**HUMAN NATURE DOESN'T CHANGE.**

**That is why the cups and handles, double bottoms, etc. continue to work. HUMAN NATURE DOESN'T CHANGE.** Human's nature is to survive and we are, therefore, fear and greed driven. And that is what cups and handles, double bottoms, etc. are all about.

**Stick with the Armchair Investor non-emotional, fact-based analysis to ride the market as it rises and exit as it falls. I have never been ashamed of exiting a failing market or stock..... or of riding a winner up, no matter what "they" say.**

**A SIMILAR TIME IN HISTORY** I've been looking for past examples and see a close one in 1998: a 33% drop during the "dotcom" rally in 1998, Everyone was sure 1998 was the top and got out. When it turned around, they all jumped in again.

When the 2000 crash occurred, their brokers told them to stay in because, "...It always comes back! Just look at 1998. When this market fails, I will just say, "GET OUT."

**Reminder: I do not make recommendations - just ideas to consider.**

**CALL ME IF YOU ARE STUCK! Charlotte – 214-995-6702**  
**>>>>>I'm just hanging around the house waiting for your call!**

## **BONUS CHART-READING HISTORY LESSONS:**

Look at a Nasdaq or S&P500 daily chart as it crashed off the February 2020 all-time highs. (Charts are at the end of this newsletter.)

Notice the DOWN-TRENDING pattern of:

- frequent higher volume DOWN days (serious selling) and
- frequent lower volume UP days (lack of commitment to the upward move).

**NOW NOTICE A SHIFT IN the PRICE-VOLUME PATTERN AS THE MARKET SLOWED DOWN AND THEN STARTED RISING:**

- More consecutive rising days with higher volume (Nasdaq)
- A fresh upward move of 4 rising days in a row (Nasdaq)
- Those moves in the last week bring hope that this Uptrend is gathering steam AND it brings a concern that irrational exuberance may be driving this Uptrend.
- EITHER WAY – I am happy to ride this Uptrend until it dies... next week, next month or next year. **STAY TUNED!**

This “change in personality” is common when a Downtrend becomes an Uptrend.

**DISTRIBUTION DAYS:** >>> Scan across the volume over the last four weeks on a daily chart below. You will see almost all the tall volume bars (sticking up above their neighbors) are ... RED, showing higher volume on down days. T

## **HOW TO SEE DISTRIBUTION ON 2-COLOR CHARTS!**

Distribution action is easiest to see when you are on a chart with two color volume lines, usually red for falling price days and green (or blue) for rising days. The fastest way to get a sense of the accumulation/distribution going on in a stock or index is to swing your eyes across the volume bars – noting the color of the highest bars - the red volume bar indicates the price dropped that day. The taller bar indicates the volume was higher. (MarketSmith and other IBD charts have this 2-color feature!

### **REMEMBER:**

**THE MARKET CONTINUES IN THE DIRECTION IT IS GOING,**

**.....UNTIL IT DOESN'T !**

**With the Coronavirus spreading, it could be a... long... cold... year!**

>>>>But be sure to watch each stock in your portfolio for additional distribution days to signal an exit point. See selling rules chapter of “How to Make Money in Stocks” by William O’Neil, founder of Investor’s Business Daily.



# THE ARMCHAIR INVESTOR TREND-FOLLOWING STRATEGY

*A Simple and Powerful Tool to Increase Your Returns*

## **Armchair Investor Mantra:**

- **Be IN the market** when it is going up
- **Be OUT of the market** when it is going down
- **Protect your portfolio** with 8% stops.

**The primary purpose of this Armchair Investor newsletter is to let you, the reader, earn bigger returns riding the trend of the market.**

By following the best (most reliable) market change signals, you can:

- **Get in the market near the bottom** of a new bull market
- **Exit the market near the top**, and
  - **Capture more of the gains**,
  - **Avoid more of the losses** and, thus
  - **Earn higher returns** than the “buy-and-hold” strategy recommended by many brokers and money managers!

### **Why a “Buy-and-Hold” strategy doesn’t work well:**

When the market has topped and starts to fall, do you really want to let your profits fade away as the market falls – sometimes for years? Of course not! Selling your uptrend position allows you to capture your gains and store them safely away in cash. What is the right time to exit? This newsletter will show you the market’s signal.

**Most downtrends (also called corrections) fall faster than the uptrends rise.**

***I am not willing to sit in a sick, falling market and lose my hard earned gains!***

Cash is a safer position!

Here are the three signals I will give you in this newsletter for the three market conditions:

- **Uptrends:** When the market rises into an Uptrend, buy and hold the QQQ, a stock that rises with the general market.
- **Uptrend showing Weakness:** As a market Uptrend starts to fall, you will receive the signal to exit the QQQ and safely wait in cash.
- **Downtrends:** If the market continues down, you will receive a signal to buy the PSQ, a stock that rises while the market falls.

**FINALLY – For individual stocks:** Use these market signals to help you when buying individual stocks. You increase your likelihood of a successful stock purchase if you only buy stocks when the market is in an Uptrend. Lesson: Don’t fight the market trend!

**HOW CAN YOU CAPTURE THOSE  
GREAT MARKET GAINS SHOWN ABOVE?  
USE THE ARMCHAIR INVESTOR PLAN:  
*It's as easy as 1- 2- 3!***

**STEP 1:** Ride a rising market - hold the QQQ .

**STEP 2:** Protect your investments during a weakening Uptrend

**STEP 3:** Go to cash or PSQ in a falling market.

This newsletter will identify the market direction, (step 1, step 2 or step 3) and explain what you can do to grow and protect your portfolio.

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**STEP 1: In an Uptrend, hold the QQQ, a Nasdaq100 ETF**

**Find the market direction diagnosis every night in this newsletter.**

- In the Uptrend, buy the QQQ the next morning if you don't yet have that position. This newsletter will alert you to the Uptrend signal! *The QQQ follows the ups and downs of the Nasdaq100, allowing you to grab the rises of an Uptrend.*
- With some additional positive action, you may decide to switch to the double QQQ ETF (QLD) or triple QQQ (TQQQ). I do not recommend these moves for the first time investor.

**Just in case protection:** When you receive your confirmation of the purchase, place an **8% STOP LOSS** order to protect your portfolio from a sudden market reversal (executing this sale is rare – I almost always sell when the market goes into “under pressure” or Downtrend – see Step 2 below). Your broker can help you set up this order.

**This upward ride is the most exciting part of trend-following – Ride the escalator up, up, up as the market rises. Exit when the market starts to show significant weakness (read this newsletter nightly!**

**Although not every Uptrend signal generates a positive return, most do.**

## **STEP 2: When the Uptrend slows down: “Uptrend under Pressure”**

“Uptrend under Pressure” is a **Warning Message** and means:

- The market is showing significant distribution (selling pressure.)  
**Investors should:**
  - **Be concerned about the strength of this Uptrend.**  
During an Uptrend under Pressure, this newsletter may move into CASH position to avoid possible losses.
  - **Check on the health of your investments each night!** Many investors do not buy new stock positions during this period due to higher failure rates.
- **From STEP 2, “Uptrend under Pressure,”** the market diagnosis will go one of two ways:
  - **Rise** with price and volume strength, and return to **Uptrend – (STEP 1)**, or
  - Continue to add more distribution days and **fall** into a **Downtrend (correction)**
- This is a time to pay attention to the market behavior.

## **STEP 3: When the market diagnosis goes to “Downtrend”**

**Capture much of the gains from the Uptrend by selling your Uptrend ETF position (QQQ, QLD or TQQQ) when the market diagnosis goes into Downtrend to capture much of the gains earned in Steps 1 & 2 above.**

**After exiting the Uptrend ETF, wait in cash** until the next Uptrend signal. More recent Downtrends have been short term and not tradable.

**The Uptrend has been years long and strong. The market is due for a long dive. I will invest in the PSQ (inverse QQQ) ETF which makes profits as the market falls!**

**NOTE: Not every market direction signal ends with a positive return.** But overall, this Market Tracking Strategy has outperformed the market when traded according to these signals.

**BONUS:** Plus the market direction signals will help you by indicating when it is most effective to consider adding individual stocks to your portfolio (with a strong uptrending market).

## **DO YOU INVEST IN INDIVIDUAL STOCKS?—**

**Always consider taking some profit if significant distribution is showing up for your individual stocks.** However, many individual stocks are rising with gusto! Look at all the lists in the Investor's Business Daily newspaper for stocks breaking out with high volume. **They are there!**

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**To schedule a class visit: Contact Charlotte Hudgin at 214-995-6702**

One of the reasons I pay so much attention to the Investor's Business Daily strategies and books (*How to Make Money in Stocks* series) is that they work consistently.

## **Visit an ARMCHAIR INVESTOR CLASS**

We have 3 live classes given each week in Dallas. These classes will be given **ONLINE** until we are cleared to meet in person. **Visit any class this week and next as my guest (2 free visits!).**

Register at the [Armchair Investor Meetup class site](#) to join the class you are interested in. Click on one of the links below to register. I occasionally take off for a class (or a week of them) for my own education or fun. If that is the case, those days will not be available for registration on Meetup.

- [Introduction to 5- minute investing Sundays 7 – 8 p.m.](#)
- [Monday nights 7 – 9 p.m.](#)
- [Tuesday afternoons 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.](#)
- [Wednesday mornings 10:00 a.m. to noon](#)
- All Classes meet ONLINE (during this “stay at home” time).
- Online classes and consultations available by appointment – **Call me for a FREE introduction!**

**Newsletter readers get a FREE class visit:**

Monday evening, Tuesday afternoon or Wednesday morning online.  
Register on Meetup.com or call or text me to set up your visit.

**Pre-REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR YOUR FREE VISIT**

Just Call or Text me: 214-995-6702

**CALL EARLY: Guest Seating is limited.**

## WHAT HAPPENED LAST WEEK?

Three weeks into the year and the Nasdaq is still leading the price rise.

LAST WEEK'S MARKET ACTION			
1/22/21	Weekly Index % Change	Weekly Volume % Change	Volume Above/ Below 10-week Avg
Nasdaq	+3.3%	-23.5%	+3.0%
S&P 500	+1.2%	NYSE 500 Volume	
DJIA	+0.6%	-23.7%	-0.1%

Monday was a holiday (Martin Luther King Day.) I pay more attention to the Nasdaq than the other indices because on most days, it has been rising more than the other indexes. Therefore, that is where I look for the best stocks.

LAST WEEK'S NASDAQ DAILY MARKET ACTION						
	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	FOR THE WEEK
	1/18	1/19	1/20	1/21	1/22	
Nasdaq	Stock Market Holiday	+1.5%	+2.0%	+0.6%	+0.1%	+3.3%
Volume		-3.2%	+9.6%	+6.2%	-17.2%	
		Neither	Major Accumulation	Minor accumulation	Neither	

**A Major Accumulation Day:** Price RISES at least 1.0% or more with higher Volume than prior day.  
**A Major Distribution Day:** Price FALLS at least 1.0% or more with higher Volume than the day before.  
**A Minor accumulation Day:** Price RISES at least 0.2% and less than 1% with strong Volume (either higher than the day before or is well-above average volume).  
**A Minor distribution Day:** Price FALLS at least 0.2% and less than 1% with strong Volume (either higher than the day before or is well-above average volume).  
**A Neither day:** Price/volume action does not meet accumulation or distribution criteria

## NASDAQ Daily 4 month chart (updated Friday 1/23/2021)

These DAILY charts are usually updated on Wednesdays and Fridays.  
**Nasdaq rises to new highs. Note HUGE volume since Jan 1.**



## NASDAQ Weekly 1 year chart, (updated Friday 1/23/2021) Nasdaq Index continues rising to NEW HIGHS.



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

## S&P500 **Daily 4 month** chart (updated **Friday 1/23/2021**)

These daily charts are usually updated on Wednesdays and Fridays.  
**The S&P500 continues rising in up-channel.**



## S&P500 **Weekly 1 year** chart, (updated **Friday 1/23/2021**)

**The S&P500 continues rising in up-channel.**



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



# **FYI: 2021 THE MARKET HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

I'm updating my 2021 spreadsheet and calendars to note the days the market is closed and has an early close. I thought you might want to update also.

the 2021 holiday and early closure schedule for the NYSE and Nasdaq:

The Nasdaq Stock Market and New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) close for nine holidays each year and two "early closure" days (sometimes misnamed "half days"):

Here is the 2021 holiday closure schedule for the NYSE and Nasdaq:

- **New Year's Day:** **Friday, Jan. 1**
- **Martin Luther King Jr. Day:** **Monday, Jan. 18**
- **Presidents Day:** **Monday, Feb. 15**
- **Good Friday:** **Friday, April 2**
- **Memorial Day:** **Monday, May 31**
- **Independence Day:** **Monday, July 5** (July 4 falls on a Sunday)
- **Labor Day:** **Monday, Sept. 6**
- **Thanksgiving:** **Thursday, Nov. 25**
  - **Black Friday** **Friday, Nov 26** (early close at 1 p.m.)
  - **Day Before Christmas** **Thursday, Dec. 23** (early close at 1 p.m.)
- **Christmas:** **Friday, Dec. 24** (12/25 falls on a Saturday)

On regular trading days, the main trading session runs the normal schedule of 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. (New York City time, i.e. Eastern time)

On early close trading days, the main trading session runs from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. ET.

When a holiday falls on a Saturday, the NYSE and Nasdaq close on the Friday before. Holidays that land on a Sunday are observed on the following Monday.



**Access the FULL ARMCHAIR Investor newsletter each night in just 2 clicks:**

[WWW.ARMCHAIRINVESTOR.COM](http://WWW.ARMCHAIRINVESTOR.COM)

The go down to the bottom of the page – click on **ARCHIVE**

The **Archive will be open** until we work out the new **subscription-only** access system.

To guarantee your continued access to this newsletter, sign up for a newsletter subscription or for the weekly classes (which include the newsletter)

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 your paper-trade until you are successful and can sleep well at night.

**Call me to explore your investing questions!**

**Charlotte Hudgin, 214-995-6702**

**See additional definitions on the following pages....**

**EXAMPLE** of the DAILY MARKET ACTION table  
with explanation of terms and signals:

THE DAILY MARKET ACTION						
9/27/19	Index Close	Index % Change	Volume % Change	Volume vs 50-day Avg.	Accumulation or Distribution Day?	Recent Trend Gain/Loss from 8/13/2019 UPTREND SIGNAL
Nasdaq	7,939.63	-1.1%	+8.5%	-11.0%	Major Distribution	+1.7%
S&P500	2,961.79	-0.5%	NYSE Volume		minor distribution	+3.4%
DJIA	26,820.25	-0.3%	+5.1%	-12.0%	minor distribution	+3.8%

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If the day's price/volume action does not meet the accumulation or distribution definitions above, it is a **neither day**.

\*\* The **Recent Trend Gains/Losses** column calculates how far each index has moved from the recent trend change assuming you purchased the index (in an Uptrend) or sold the index (in a Downtrend) at the opening price on the day after the signal. Although not every year outperforms the common "buy and hold" strategy, using these signals has significantly OUTPERFORMED the buy-and-hold strategy in total since 1/1/2000.

**Why are my Final Volumes Sometimes Different than Yours?** Why do the volume numbers on this table not always match other web sites? The 4:00 close of the market immediately shows an accurate final price. But the volume figures continue to trickle in for hours. At some time, the accumulation of volume numbers has to be cut off and different sites use different cut-offs. Also, some sources include the volume of stocks listed on one exchange but traded on another (e.g. Apple stock listed on Nasdaq but also traded on other exchanges.) And some sources do not. The most important rule is to consistently use only one source for volume.

**EXAMPLE and DEFINITIONS used in this newsletter:**

<b>DAILY MARKET ACTION</b>						
10/25/19	Index Close	Index % Change	Volume % Change	Volume vs 50-day Avg.	Accumulation or Distribution Day?	Recent Trend Gain/Loss from 8/13 UPTREND SIGNAL
Nasdaq	8,243.12	+0.70%	+1.2%	-2.1%	Neither	+5.3%
S&P500	3,022.55	+0.41%	NYSE Volume		Neither	+5.3%
DJIA	26,958.06	+0.57%	-9.2%	-1.5%	Neither	+4.3%
<p>A <b>Major Accumulation Day</b>: Price RISES at least 1.0% or more with higher Volume than prior day.</p> <p>A <b>minor accumulation Day</b>: Price RISES at least 0.2% and less than 1% with strong Volume (either higher than the day before or is well-above average volume).</p> <p>A <b>Major Distribution Day</b>: Price FALLS at least 1.0% or more with higher Volume than the day before.</p> <p>A <b>minor distribution Day</b>: Price FALLS at least 0.2% and less than 1% with strong Volume (either higher than the day before or is well-above average volume).</p> <p>If the day's price/volume action does not meet the accumulation or distribution definitions above, it is a <b>"Neither" day</b>.</p>						
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