

12/14/2021 DOWNTREND Higher Volume with Drop in Indexes = Distribution day

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

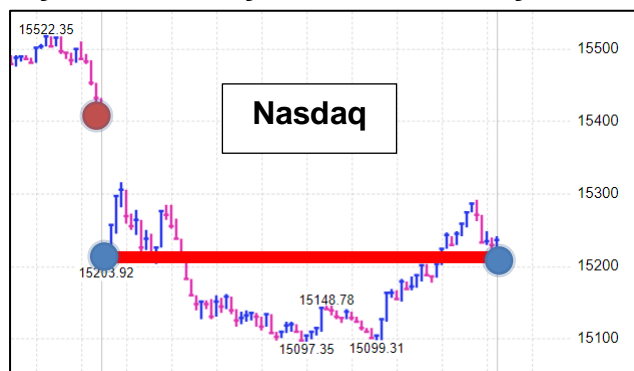
MARKET'S MESSAGE "Nasdaq shows Weakness as it FALLS with VOLUME"

Armchair Investor Trend-following Investment Position:	100% in CASH
Armchair Investor 2021 Returns: See trades on page 2	+13.3% year-to-date*

*Note: The gains on this newsletter in the box above will not change while the market is in Downtrend as wait in cash. Cash does not change value. (Just think of your cash in the bank. No matter what the market does, your cash sits safely in your brokerage cash account.)

TUESDAY'S MARKET: Ouch! The indexes all dropped overnight to open lower, bounced higher in the first half hour or hour (depending on the index), then dropped lower midday, and finally closed the day with a partial recovery.

Do you check in on the market several times a day? Beware of focusing on the intraday price moves (which was flat at the end of yesterday's market.) >>>>>



You might look at the Nasdaq's intraday price movement from open to close (the red line) and not be concerned: The Nasdaq ended the day very close to where it opened the day (see the 2 blue dots – Monday's close and the drop to Tuesday's open. The price damage wasn't done intraday – it was all overnight and showed up at the lower morning open.

TODAY'S CHART LESSON: Do not deny the market's price/volume action... including what happened overnight.

As the indexes continue to fall, avoid the temptation to pick the next low of the market. It's OK to consider where prior resistance was that might repeat the support level, or how deep recent dips were. But the only data that will tell us where the next low will be, is price action we see after it happens and it is in the rearview mirror.

TOMORROW'S LESSON: "TRUE" TRADING RANGE

MARKET DIRECTION RECAP:

The market HOLDS in ATTEMPTED RALLY.

Tuesday was day 8 of an attempted rally – a day later than the most successful Follow-Through (F-T) days which happen on days 4 through 7.

We could still have a new Uptrend in the next few days with a “late” follow-through signal BUT the odds of a successful F-T get lower every day. We are looking for a significant price move and volume rise – a day when one or both major indexes have a “explosive” rise (says William O’Neil in his *How to Make Monday Stocks, Complete Investing System* book.)

- Although the exact required percentage gain changes with volatility in the market, the most recent qualifying rise I have found in William O’Neil’s work is:
 - a 2% rise or more in one or both of the major indexes (Nasdaq and S&P500) --- and
 - The volume must be higher than the day before.
 - *More is better* for both price and volume on a F-T day. The index rise could be 2% or 3% or more and the volume rise could be 5%, 10%, 20% or more.

The bigger the price and volume gains, the more likely the new Uptrend will take off.

One more way to make the F-T day stronger – if BOTH the Nasdaq and S&P500 follow-through on the same day. (this synergy usually happens, but not always. If not the same day, look for the lagging index to fall in-line and follow-through within another day or two.

DAILY MARKET ACTION					
12/14/21	Index Close	Index % Change	Volume % Change	Volume vs 50-day Avg.	Accumulation or Distribution Day?
Nasdaq	15237.64	-1.1%	+5.4%	-5.7%	Major Distribution
NYSE Volume used for S&P500 and DJIA					
S&P500	4634.09	-0.8%	+0.7%	+8.6%	Minor distribution
DJIA	35544.18	-0.3%			Minor distribution

>>>> For Wednesday: I wait in CASH in my Armchair Investor Trend-following position in the Downtrend.

**Wishing you, “Many Happy Returns,”
Charlotte Hudgin, Editor The Armchair Investor Newsletter**

The **LAST Armchair Investor class of 2021 will be online:**

**Wednesday 12/15/2021 10 a.m. to noon central time
Register at [Meetup.com – Armchair Investor](https://www.meetup.com/Armchair-Investor/).**

**If you have not visited recently, come on over and join us as
my guest.**

The **LAST combined Dallas & Fort Worth IBD Meetup of 2021
will be online :**

Wednesday, 12/22/2021 6:30 -8:30 p.m. central time

If you usually go to the [Dallas IBD Meetup, click here](#)

If you usually go to the [Fort Worth IBD Meetup, click here](#)

**They have the same Meetup link, but participating in your
group will make sure you have opportunity to meet your
neighbors when we start the live classes again.**

Call me if you have questions.

Wishing you, “Many happy returns.”

Charlotte Hudgin, 214-995-6702

WE EARNED 55.5% IN THE 2020 COVID MARKET

The Armchair Investor strategy earned an outstanding 55.5% gain in 2020. (See all trades in 2020 below). It's all about understanding the market direction signals! I'll teach you!

ARMCHAIR INVESTOR TREND-FOLLOWING RETURNS								
All Trades in >> 2020 <<								
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
TOTAL. Growth in 2020:						+55.5%	\$155,460	

ARMCHAIR INVESTOR TREND-FOLLOWING RETURNS							
All Trades In 2021							
Date	Direction	Action	Trend # Days	Closing Price	% GAIN In 2021	\$100,000 Portfolio	
Trade 12/31/20	Uptrend	Hold the QQQ	63	\$313.74	-----	\$100,000	
1 3/4/21	Uptrend under Pressure	Sold HALF the QQQ at open	1	\$308.78	-1.8%	\$98,086	
2 3/5/21	DOWNTREND	Sold 2 nd HALF of QQQ, Wait in CASH	10	\$306.80			
3	Uptrend	3/15/21 Bot HALF QQQ at open	1	\$313.86	-----	\$99,263	
		3/16/21 Bot HALF QQQ at open	13	\$321.09			
5 3/29/21	Uptrend under Pressure	Sold QQQ Wait in Cash	3	\$315.45	-1.4%	8\$98,628	
6 4/1/21	Uptrend	Bot QQQ at open	40	\$323.07	-----	8\$98,628	
7 5/11/21		Sold QQQ	2	\$319.70	-2.4%	\$97,642	
		Bot SPY		\$413.10	----	\$97,642	
8 5/13/21	Uptrend under Pressure	Sold HALF of SPY at 5/13 open	1	\$405.71	-4.6%	\$95,592	
9 5/14/21	Uptrend	Bot Half position in SPY at open, holding full SPY position	27	Bot at 407.07	-----	\$95,752	
10 6/10/21		Sold SPY at Open	46	\$422.96	-----	\$102,081	
		Bot QQQ at Open		Bot \$337.19 EOD\$340.35	+3.0%	\$103,038	
11 7/16/21		Sold QQQ Wait in Cash	6113.81 2/105	\$354.05	+7.5%	\$107,500	
12	UPTREND under Pressure	7/22/21 Bot Half QQQ position at open	5	\$361.77	-----	\$107,500	
		End of Day QQQ		\$363.95	+7.7 %	\$107,740	
		7/23/21 Holding Half QQQ		\$368.20	+8.4%	\$108,444	
13 7/27/21	Uptrend	Bot 2 nd Half of QQQ at open	65	\$367.49	-----	\$108,444	
	Uptrend under Pressure	Holding QQQ		\$368.49	+8.6%	\$108,618	
14 9/30/21	DOWNTREND	Sell QQQ at Open Waiting in CASH	14	10/1 Open Price358.60	+5.8%	\$105,783	
15 10/14/21	Uptrend	Bot QQQ on 10/14 open	49	Bot: 363.69 and 393.82	+13.3	\$113,335	
16	Downtrend	12/3/21	11	Wait in Cash	+13.3%	\$113,335	
		12/13/21					
This table counts <u>calendar days</u> not trading days				TOTAL Growth in 2021:		+13.3%	\$113,335

Over 12/1 and 12/2, I sold my QQQ position and now hold in CASH.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMENTS and IDEAS SENT to
editor@ArmchairInvestor.com

MARKET FACTORS, COUNTS & RATINGS		12/14/2021	
Type of Day for <u>Nasdaq</u> Index	Major Distribution		
Type of Day for <u>S&P500</u> Index	Minor distribution		
I track the <u>Nasdaq</u> 's price-volume first. It usually leads the market direction.			
Market Direction Uptrend, Under Pressure, Downtrend	Downtrend 8		
<u>Nasdaq</u> Accumulation & Distribution Days (last 20 days) Only accumulation and distribution days since the last market direction change are in this count.		Accumulation Days	Distribution Days
		3	4
NOTE: In the last 10 days, the Nasdaq had 1 minor accumulation day and 3 Major distribution days			
Count of Up Days and Down Days in last 10 days		Up Days	Down Days
		5	5
Rising/Falling Ratio of Leader Stocks with High Volume Nasdaq 10-day ratio		0.8	
The above 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			
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	D+
		S&P 500	E
		DJIA	D-
Are Major Indexes Above or Below Moving Averages?		50-Day	200-Day
Nasdaq		Below	Above
S&P 500		At	Above
DJIA		At	Above
NYSE		Below	Above

MARKET ACTION (Nasdaq) OVER THE LAST 20 DAYS

MARKET ACTION (Nasdaq) OVER THE LAST 20 DAYS							
#	Date	Closing Price	Index % Change	Volume % Change	Current Trend Day Count *	Accumulation, Distribution or Neither (—)	CONSISTENT WITH: UPTREND OR-DOWNTREND?
20	11/16/21	15973.86	+0.8%	+10.1%	24	Minor accumulation	UPTREND
19	11/17/21	15921.57	-0.3%	-7.8%	25	---	UPTREND
18	11/18/21	15993.71	+0.5%	+7.7%	26	Minor accumulation	UPTREND
17	11/19/21	16057.44	+0.4%	-10.4%	27	—	DOWNTREND
16	11/22/21	15854.76	-1.3%	+12.8%	28	Major Distribution	DOWNTREND
15	11/23/21	15775.14	-0.5%	-1.5%	29	---	UPTREND
14	11/24/21	15845.23	+0.4%	-22.9%	30	---	DOWNTREND
13	11/26/21	15491.66	-2.2%	-17.4%	31	---	UPTREND
12	11/29/20	15782.83	+1.9%	+33.2%	32	Major Accumulation	UPTREND
11	11/30/21	15537.69	-1.6%	+35.6%	33	Major Distribution	DOWNTREND
10	12/1/21	15254.05	-1.8%	-3.1%	34	---	UPTREND
9	12/2/21	15381.32	+0.8%	-13.9%	35	---	DOWNTREND
8	12/3/21	15085.47	-1.9%	+7.8%	Down-trend 1	Major Distribution	DOWNTREND
7	12/6/21	15225.15	+0.9%	-12.1%	2	---	DOWNTREND
6	12/7/21	15686.92	+3.0%	-1.3%	3	---	DOWNTREND
5	12/8/21	15786.99	+0.6%	-9.2%	4	---	DOWNTREND
4	12/9/21	15515.37	-1.7%	-2.8%	5	---	UPTREND
3	12/10/21	15630.60	+0.7%	-2.8%	6	---	DOWNTREND
2	12/13/21	15413.28	-1.4%	+4.0%	7	Major Distribution	DOWNTREND
1	12/14/21	15237.64	-1.1%	+5.4%	8	Major Distribution	DOWNTREND

Correction: Yesterday's Index % change was incorreced listed as +1.4% when it was actually a lost, -1.4%. The day was labeled a Major Distribution day which may have been enough to correct my mistake in your take of the day.

Notice the Counts of As and Bs rose from 34% last week to 36% today; the 36% is still less than the 40% an even distribution would generate.

PROGRESS IN ACCUMULATION/DISTRIBUTION RATINGS							
		A	B	C	D	E	As + Bs
4 weeks ago	11/16	13%	44%	21%	17%	8%	56%
3 weeks ago	11/22	10%	38%	22%	20%	9%	48%
2 weeks ago	11/30	8%	34%	24%	22%	12%	42%
1 week ago	12/7	5%	29%	24%	28%	15%	34%
Today	12/14	5%	30%	24%	27%	14%	36%
# stocks in each	Count:	418	2376	1844	2115	1091	7844

HOW CLOSE ARE THE INDICES TO ALL-TIME HIGHS?				
12/14/2021	Nasdaq	S&P500	DJIA	NYSE
Date of Index All-time High*	11/22/2021	11/22/2021	11/8/2021	11/16/2021
All-time High	16,212.23	4,743.83	36,575.63	17,361.71
Closing Price	\$15,237.64	\$4,634.09	\$35,544.18	\$16,652.58
Below (-) or Above (+) Recent High (%)	-6.0%	-2.3%	-2.8%	-4.1%

JOIN ME AS MY GUEST! Chose a class to visit: 3 class each week
Monday 7 - 9 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4 p.m., Wednesday 10 a.m.- noon.

All times are Central time, but you are welcome from any time zone.

Click here >>>>to register for an [ARMCHAIR INVESTOR MEETUP](#)

>>>> **The Armchair Investor newsletter** is produced every day the market is open, as it has for the last 20 years (I've missed less than 1 day a year (average) – traveling in jungles in South American, no internet when cruise ship parked behind mountains in Alaska, flying across the Atlantic before on-flight internet, a few days too sick, 1 day computer problem. Not a bad record!)

Current Signs of Market Strength as of Friday 12/10/2021

This list is updated on Fridays (and Wednesdays *as time allows.*)

- The **S&P500 is just 0.7% below its November 22, 2021 all-time high.**
- The **Nasdaq is up 135% since the March 2020 Covid virus low** (both the Nasdaq and S&P500 have more doubled in 20 months.) Are your long-term holds OK? *BTW I don't have any long-term holdings. I do have time allocated to review ALL my stocks in my portfolio every day. I rarely own more than 5 individual stocks plus the QQQ.)*
- The **S&P500 is up 115%** since the **March 2020 Covid virus low**, reminding you that not all big winners are on the Nasdaq.
- The **Nasdaq is 1.7% above its 50-day moving average line.**

Current Signs of Market Weakness

- The **Nasdaq dropped below 16,000, holding there for almost 3 weeks**
- The **"A" plus "B" rated stocks is at only 38% of all stocks tracked by IBD in the last week.**
- The Nasdaq is **4% below its 11/22/2021 all-time high.**
- The DJIA is **2% below its 11/16/2021 all-time high.**

I am looking forward to the LIVE Dallas and Ft Worth Armchair Investor and IBD Meetups, but not yet!

At the end of 2020. Charlotte wrote:

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.
- **Nick Pollard** for setting up so many great restaurant meeting rooms. (RIP)
- **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 Online Meetups!
- It takes a village! Thank you.

Join the next combined Dallas and Fort Worth Investor's Business Daily's ONLINE Meetup 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. usually on the fourth or last Wednesday of each month. Watch out! Meetup dates change to avoid holidays in November and December.

**Register below. This are one combined ONLINE Meetup:
Register either way for the same Meetup.**

- Register for the [Dallas IBD Meetup](#)
- Register for the [Fort Worth IBD Meetup](#)

THE NASDAQ UPWARD AND DOWNWARD CHANNELS

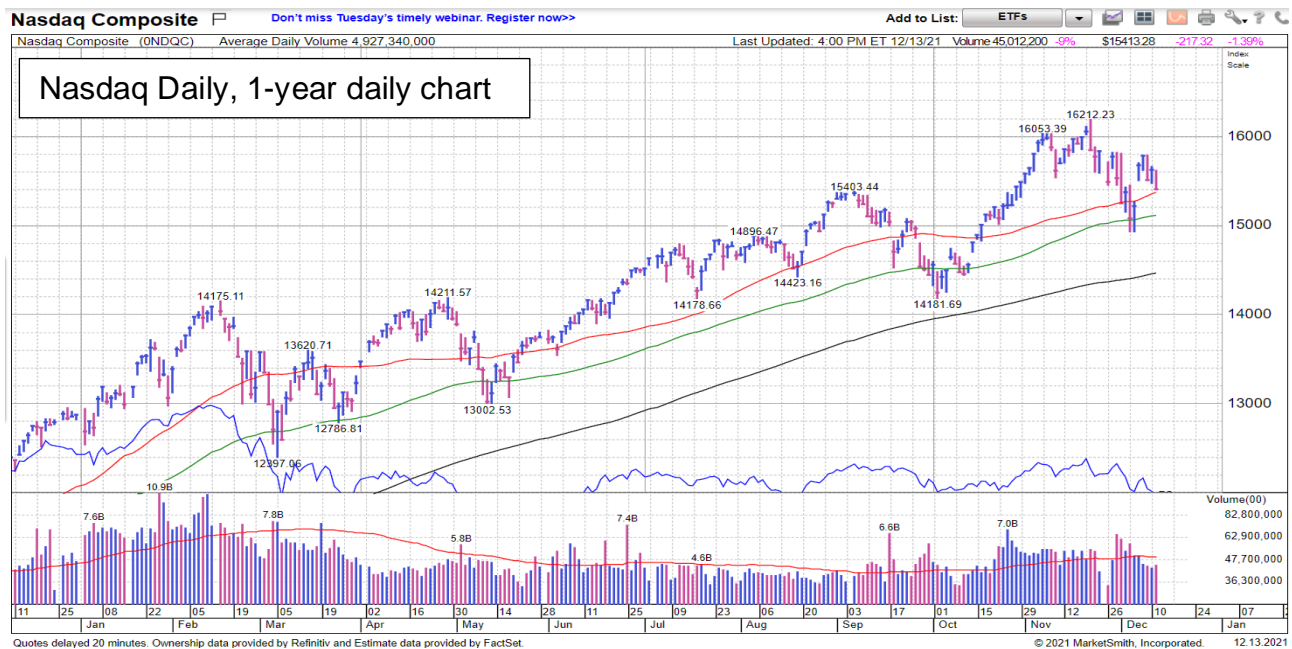
One of the features I like about **Investors.com's MarketSmith charts** is that I can draw in my own channel lines.

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! 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.

All MarketSmith charts include a bumpy blue horizontal line that compares how the price of this financial instrument (stock, ETF, etc.) rises and falls compared to the S&P500. With this valuable tool, you can see if the financial (I'll call them "stocks" for the rest of this article) instrument you are exploring is outperforming or underperforming the S&P500.



MarketSmith is my favorite charting system, available ONLY on INVESTORS.COM.

When the RS line is rising,... the stock/index price is **rising faster** than the S&P500 and **you are making more money** invested in this stock than if you were invested in the S&P500.

And if the RS line is falling, you are making **less money** than if you were invested in the S&P500.

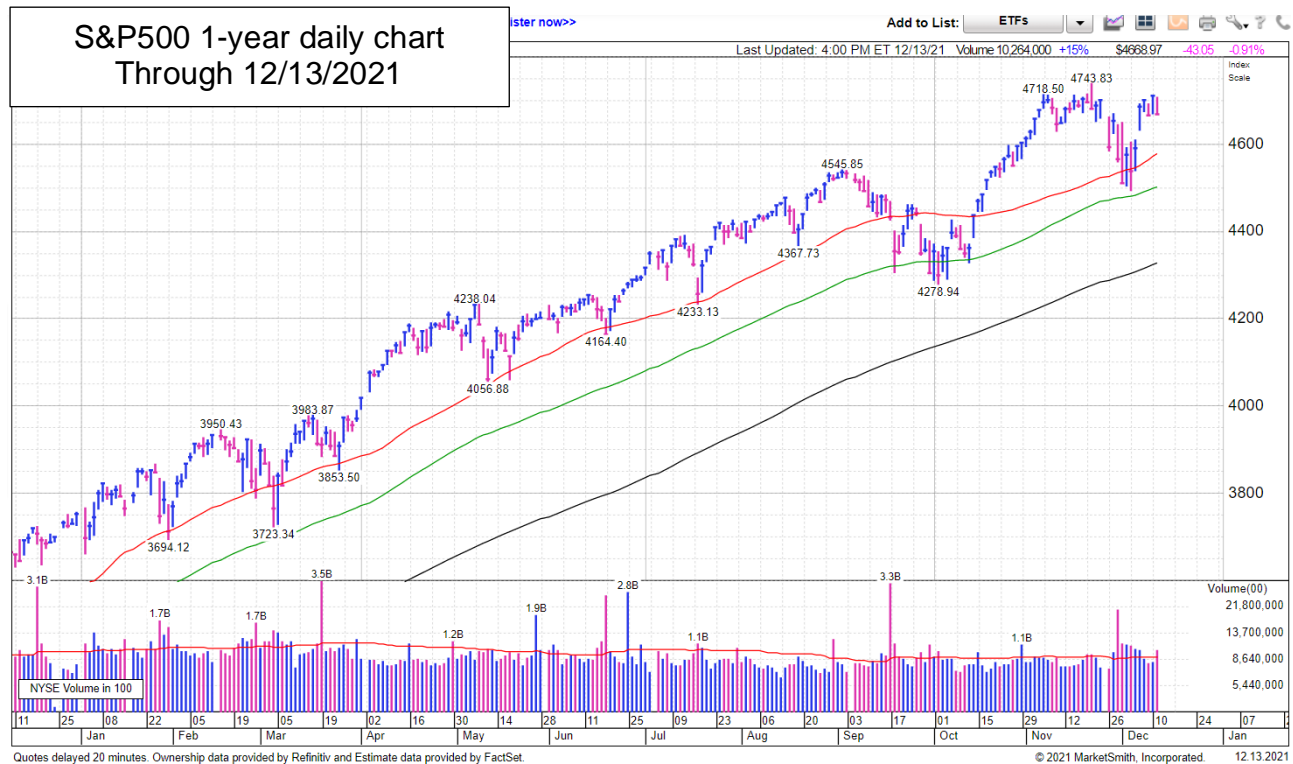
Thus, an investment in the S&P500 or the Nasdaq would have earned the same return. Of course, you can't invest in the Nasdaq, but you can get close using the QQQ (Nasdaq100).

NOTICE: There are times when the S&P500 under-performs or equals the Nasdaq and, occasionally, shorter periods when the S&P500 out-performs the Nasdaq.

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.



An EXAMPLE OF HOW “BUY-AND-HOLD” COSTS YOU BIG BUCKS.

- Over 2020, a “buy and hold” strategy has earned 16.2% for the S&P500.
- “Buy and hold” worked better for the Nasdaq earning 43.6%.
But wait....
- If you invested with the **Armchair Investor strategy**, you were **UP 55.5% for 2020**. Twelve trades for an extra 11.9%! That is the total the market makes in some years.
- Where do you want your money invested? Here's where many answer:
“The Armchair Investor strategy!”

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:

<<. 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 55% last 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. This bi-weekly class is attended by beginners and experts alike. Open to all (at the moment). We meet every-other Sunday with some adjustments around holiday weekend, and other commitments.

Join us by registering on this link: [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.*

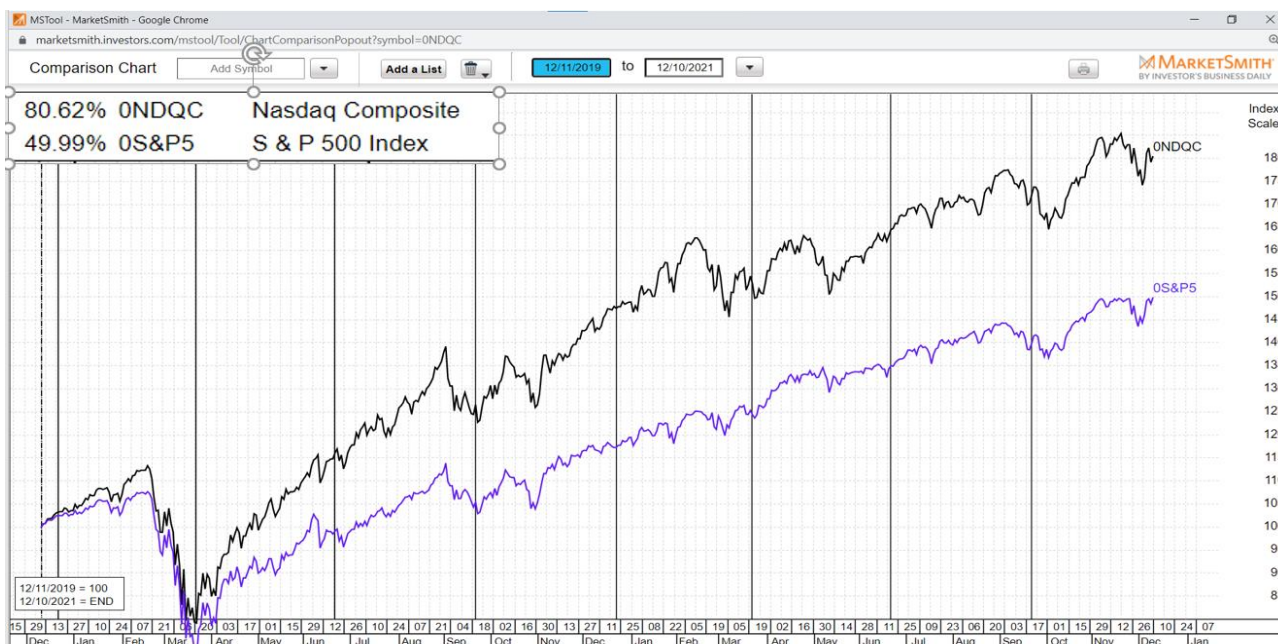
COMPARISON of Nasdaq and S&P500 2-YEAR Returns

The chart below shows the last 2-YEAR returns (in percent growth) of the **Nasdaq and the S&P500**. These results are why I focus on the Nasdaq and QQQ for my trend-following strategy: For the long-term the Nasdaq has always outperformed the S&P500.

Where should you go shopping for a winning bundle of stocks? The answer for me? Nasdaq (QQQ) for long-term hold to grab most of the market! And, yes! I will buy a top stock wherever I find it!

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

Imagine the difference in returns in the chart above if you sell your market ETF and move to 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 2020, a "buy and hold" strategy **Two-year growth comparison of the Nasdaq and S&P500 indexes**
"Buy and hold" worked better for the Nasdaq earning 43.6%.
But wait....
- **If you invested with the Armchair Investor strategy, you were UP 55.5% for 2020.** Twelve trades for an extra 11.9%! That is the total the market makes in some years.
- Where do you want your money invested? Here's where many answers: **"The Armchair Investor strategy! It's fast and beats many other methods**

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.**
 - **Next week: (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. (No 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! This year is not yet over!

MARKET ACTION 2021 YEAR-TO-DATE			
12/14/21	2020 Closing Price	Current Price	Index % Change Year-to-Date
Nasdaq	12888.28	15237.64	+18.2%
S&P 500	3756.07	4634.09	+23.4%
DJIA	30606.38	35544.18	+16.1%

“Knowledge is Power”

THE LESSON: Riches await the patient investor.

The start of 2021 was volatile for the **Nasdaq**: A rising month and a half, taking it all and more back in the next month, rising to the prior high over the next 2 months, giving back most of it in the next 2 weeks. The reward for your patience was the 2-month rise of 13.1% ending up . The half year results: +14.1%; **now UP 17.1%**.

Meanwhile, the slow but steadily rising **S&P500** beat the Nasdaq, **now +21.0%**.

The Lesson: All indexes had admirable half year returns! **Occasionally, the S&P500 wins.**

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 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

**>>>With Covid out there, 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!**

>>>>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.

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 end 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!**

To get a deeper sense of the health of the market, look at the **MARKET FACTORS, COUNTS & RATINGS table** included each day in the FULL Armchair Investor newsletter. It looks at 7 key market direction factors and highlights the leaning of each:

- If the factor leans toward the **Uptrend**, that box will be **green**
- If the factor leans toward the **Downtrend**, that box will be **orange** or **red**

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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:

This weekly review is shown near the front of the Armchair Investor newsletter only on the weekend edition. It is always shown near the end of the newsletter for the rest of the week as a reference.

12/10/2021 WEEKLY SUMMARY: The market recovered part of the recent drop off the all-time high 3 weeks ago.

- The Nasdaq rose a total of 3.6% last week
- But Volume was lighter each day last week showing weakness in the rise.

LAST WEEK'S DAILY MARKET ACTION						
	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	FOR THE WEEK
	12/6	12/7	12/8	12/9	12/10	
Nasdaq	+0.9%	+3.0%	+0.6%	-1.7%	+0.7%	+3.6%
Volume	-12.1%	-1.3%	-9.2%	-2.8%	-2.8%	
Type of Day	Neither	Neither	Neither	Neither	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

WHAT HAPPENED YEAR TO DATE:

MARKET ACTION 2021 YEAR-TO-DATE			
12/10/21	2020 Closing Price	Current Price	Index % Change Year-to-Date
Nasdaq	12888.28	15630.6	+21.3%
S&P 500	3756.07	4712.02	+25.5%
DJIA	30606.38	35970.99	+17.5%

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

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.*)
- **Christmas:**
 - **Day Before Christmas** Thursday, Dec. 23 (*early close at 1 p.m.*)
 - **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

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....

Is this market “Climbing a Wall of Worry”

DO INVESTORS IN INDIVIDUAL STOCKS 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 isIS THIS MARKET HEALTHY? My answer: Follow the accumulation and distribution days!

- A market with **just a few distribution days** in since the last market **UPTREND** showing **broad market buying**. Then look for **distribution days**. You can see just one since the new Uptrend. See the **MARKET ACTION (Nasdaq) OVER THE LAST 20 DAYS** table.
- Explanation: When an index risers 5% or move 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 earned **extraordinary returns for **2020** (see the table on prior page). And YOU could have earned this return shown below if you followed this nightly newsletter and made these 12 trades, all broadcast at the end of the day for your action the following morning. Read this newsletter and reap the rewards!**

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

THE DAILY MARKET ACTION (NOT CURRENT PRICE & VOLUME)						
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%

A **Major Accumulation Day**: Price RISES 1.0% or more with higher Volume than the day before.
A **Minor accumulation Day**: Price RISES 0.2% and less than 1% with strong Volume (either higher than the day before or is well-above average volume).
A **Major Distribution Day**: Price FALLS 1.0% or more with higher Volume than the day before.
A **Minor distribution Day**: Price FALLS 0.2% and less than 1% with strong Volume (either higher than the day before or is well-above average volume).
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.

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CALL EARLY: Seating is limited to no more than 3 guests at each session to ensure the paid subscribers receive full value.