



July 28, 2025

Cboe Volatility Index (VIX) Trending Down – Risk Measure Still Bullish

The Cboe Volatility Index (VIX) is a measure of fear and greed. When the VIX rises to 20 or higher, there is a lot of fear priced into the market and is a contrarian buy signal. When the VIX falls near 10 or lower, there is complacency, which is a contrarian sell signal. The VIX is currently trading at 15 and trending down, pointing to stocks still rising. But we expect the VIX to fall to a level near 10 in August, signaling a risk of the market entering a correction into the fall months.

Cboe Volatility Index (VIX) Trend Down



Interest Rates Still Trending Down

Both short- and longer-term interest rates are trending down. There has been pressure by President Trump on the Federal Reserve (Fed) Chair Jerome Powell to lower interest rates. History has shown that presidents have been known to pressure the Fed to lower rates – however, not to the degree of Trump’s very public criticism of Powell. An economy that has strong growth and growing corporate profits is not one that historically has needed lower interest rates. Let’s keep in mind that the Fed did cut interest rates by 100 basis points in 2024. The pocket of the economy that does need lower interest rates is the housing market. Mortgage interest rates remain high, keeping the housing market stagnant to down. We believe this tension between Trump and Powell seems to be more politics than anything else. After their public meeting last week, it does not appear that Trump is actually going to fire Powell. The Fed Chair’s term ends next spring, and a replacement would typically be named four months in advance of taking the post. So later this year, we should have more clarity on the transition.

What matters most: the trend in interest rates is down, and that trend looks set to continue. This is a positive for stocks and the economy.

2-Year Treasury Yields Trending Down





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10-Year Treasury Yield Biased To Downside



As Many Head For Vacation, Volumes Begin To Fall, Exaggerating Stock Moves

As we go further into the summer months and people go on vacation, the volume of the equity market falls, which can exaggerate stock and market moves. July should close out strong, and we expect August to have a tactical peak that leads to a market correction in September/October. Earnings, economic data, and tariffs can all cause exaggerated moves due to lighter volume over the coming weeks.

Sector Readings: Information Technology Strongest, Health Care Still Weakest

Our sector model analyzes S&P 500 GICS sector classifications, using a weighted measure of price momentum across three time periods. We rank each sector from best to worst based upon the average of its 40-, 26-, and 13-week relative price performances. We rank each sector from 1-11 with 1 being the strongest and 11 the weakest.

Last week, Information Technology was still top-ranked with Communication Services and Industrials completing the top three, while Health Care stayed in last place just behind Energy. Growth sectors are clearly winning over Value.

Sector Rankings By 40-, 26-, And 13-Week Average Relative Price Performance

	Jul 25	Jul 18	Jul 11	Jul 4	Jun 27	Jun 20	Jun 13	Jun 6
Consumer Discretionary	5	5	5	5	5	6	6	6
Consumer Staples	8	7	8	8	8	8	7	7
Energy	10	10	9	9	9	7	9	10
Financials	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	3
Health Care	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11
Industrials	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2
Information Technology	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	4
Materials	7	8	6	6	7	9	8	9
Communication Services	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1
Utilities	6	6	7	7	6	5	4	5
Real Estate	9	9	10	10	10	10	10	8

Source: Bloomberg, Sanctuary Wealth, July 25, 2025

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OBOS List: Information Technology Overbought; Health Care, Consumer Staples, Real Estate, Utilities, Materials, and Energy Oversold

Last week, the Overbought/Oversold list relieved some of the oversold sectors. Earnings growth is concentrated in Information Technology, which is overbought, along with Communication Services, which is near overbought this week. At the oversold end, Materials and Energy together make up Natural Resource stocks, Real Estate and Utilities share considerable exposure to interest rates, Consumer Staples is a defensive sector in a Growth environment, and Health Care, also defensive, remains in intensive care.

Our tactical sector rotation model uses the S&P 500 GICs sector classifications. We apply a 13-week rate of change methodology that normalizes the rankings from overbought (OB) to oversold (OS). An industry group is overbought when it has risen too far too fast, relative to the rest of the market, based upon its normal movement. Conversely, it's oversold when it has lost too much too fast, relative to the rest of the market, based upon its normal movement. Over time, a sector tends to move back toward its normal rate of change, relative to the rest of the market. Overbought sectors tend to slow their pace of gains in relative price, while oversold sectors tend to improve in relative price until they reach their average performance again.

Here's our methodology: the overbought-oversold table of sectors measures the 13-week rate of change in the relative price of each sector. We then average (i.e., smooth) this for 3 weeks and normalize the results. Normalized oscillator values over 1.0 are considered overbought, while those between 0.6 and 1.0 are considered near overbought. Normalized oscillator values below -1.0 are considered oversold, while those between -0.6 and -1.0 are considered near oversold.

Sector Overbought / Oversold List as of 25 July 2025

<i>rank</i>	<i>S&P Sector</i>	<i>normalized Oscillator</i>
1	Information Technology	2.8014 <i>Overbought</i>
2	Communication Services	0.6165 <i>Near Overbought</i>
3	Consumer Discretionary	0.4721 <i>Neutral</i>
4	Industrials	0.3949 <i>Neutral</i>
5	Financials	-0.7849 <i>Near Oversold</i>
6	Energy	-1.1958 <i>Oversold</i>
7	Materials	-1.3359
8	Utilities	-1.3584
9	Real Estate	-1.8076
10	Consumer Staples	-3.1390
11	Health Care	-3.4775

Source: Bloomberg, Sanctuary Wealth, July 25, 2025



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Market Performance: Gold Still The Best Performing Asset Year To Date, Followed Closely By Bitcoin

	Last 7/25/2025	Month End 6/30/2025	Month to Date	Quarter End 6/30/2025	Quarter to Date	Year End 12/31/2024	Year to Date	Year Ago 7/25/2024	Year To Year
S&P 500	6388.64	6204.95	3.0%	6204.95	3.0%	5881.63	8.6%	5399.22	18.3%
NASDAQ Composite	21108.32	20369.73	3.6%	20369.73	3.6%	19310.79	9.3%	17181.72	22.9%
NASDAQ 100	566.37	551.64	2.7%	551.64	2.7%	511.23	10.8%	458.27	23.6%
Russell 2000	2261.07	2175.04	4.0%	2175.04	4.0%	2230.16	1.4%	2222.98	1.7%
S&P Consumer Discretionary Sector	1817.76	1753.81	3.6%	1753.81	3.6%	1831.16	-0.7%	1460.10	24.5%
S&P Consumer Staples Sector	889.29	897.10	-0.9%	897.10	-0.9%	853.65	4.2%	833.54	6.7%
S&P Energy Sector	665.99	648.68	2.7%	648.68	2.7%	654.85	1.7%	702.29	-5.2%
S&P Financial Sector	888.61	871.95	1.9%	871.95	1.9%	804.44	10.5%	711.27	24.9%
S&P Health Care Sector	1588.68	1572.52	1.0%	1572.52	1.0%	1604.75	-1.0%	1736.11	-8.5%
S&P Industrials Sector	1311.04	1249.13	5.0%	1249.13	5.0%	1115.65	17.5%	1050.52	24.8%
S&P Information Technology Sector	5185.43	4964.64	4.4%	4964.64	4.4%	4609.52	12.5%	4148.14	25.0%
S&P Materials Sector	580.44	556.09	4.4%	556.09	4.4%	529.77	9.6%	566.07	2.5%
S&P Real Estate Sector	268.53	260.30	3.2%	260.30	3.2%	255.92	4.9%	251.36	6.8%
S&P Communications Sector	380.20	377.94	0.6%	377.94	0.6%	341.66	11.3%	287.91	32.1%
S&P Utilities Sector	429.07	414.79	3.4%	414.79	3.4%	384.95	11.5%	357.95	19.9%
S&P 500 Total Return	14128.12	13712.71	3.0%	13712.71	3.0%	12911.82	9.4%	11781.57	19.9%
3 month Treasury Bill Price	98.91	98.93	0.0%	98.93	0.0%	98.92	0.0%	98.67	0.2%
3 month Treasury Bill Total Return	263.29	262.44	0.3%	262.44	0.3%	256.97	2.5%	251.44	4.7%
10 Year Treasury Bond Future	110.98	112.13	-1.0%	112.13	-1.0%	108.75	2.1%	110.80	0.2%
10 Year Treasury Note Total Return	307.15	309.38	-0.7%	309.38	-0.7%	293.94	4.5%	295.35	4.0%
iShares 20+ Year Treasury Bond ETF	86.43	88.25	-2.1%	88.25	-2.1%	87.33	-1.0%	92.27	-6.3%
S&P Municipal Bond Total Return	275.86	277.66	-0.6%	277.66	-0.6%	278.14	-0.8%	275.37	0.2%
iShares S&P National Municipal Bond NAV	103.35	104.29	-0.9%	104.29	-0.9%	106.40	-2.9%	107.17	-3.6%
S&P 500 Investment Grade Corporate Bond Total Return	482.98	483.50	-0.1%	483.50	-0.1%	465.24	3.8%	457.92	5.5%
S&P Investment Grade Corporate Bond	91.44	91.77	-0.4%	91.77	-0.4%	90.28	1.3%	90.44	1.1%
S&P Investment Grade Corporate Bond Total Return	515.34	515.54	0.0%	515.54	0.0%	495.89	3.9%	487.51	5.7%
SPDR Bloomberg High Yield Bond ETF	97.04	97.27	-0.2%	97.27	-0.2%	95.47	1.6%	95.28	1.8%
iShares iBoxx High Yield Corporate Bond ETF	80.49	80.65	-0.2%	80.65	-0.2%	78.65	2.3%	78.04	3.1%
Gold	3337.30	3303.14	1.0%	3303.14	1.0%	2624.50	27.2%	2364.56	41.1%
Bitcoin	117104.31	107606.61	8.8%	107606.61	8.8%	93714.04	25.0%	65275.46	79.4%

Source: Bloomberg, Sanctuary Wealth, July 25, 2025

Data, Data And More Data

This week fires a bazooka of market-moving events – economic data, earnings, and fresh Fed commentary – all hitting at once.

Against a background of falling trade volumes in the equity market due to personal vacation, we're entering a week that is just jam-packed with important economic data releases and announcements. We're getting everything from 2Q GDP data to jobs and inflation data to a FOMC* (Federal Open Market Committee) meeting with an interest rate decision! Granted, no one is expecting a rate cut (including us), but Fed Chair Powell's comments will get headlines and attention. Meanwhile, we're in the midst of earnings season and this week several big names are scheduled to announce, including members of the Magnificent 7: Microsoft, Meta (Facebook), Amazon, and Apple.

With all of this happening, you can expect equity and interest rate moves this week!

*By the way, it's important to remember that the FOMC has 12 voting members: 7 members of the Board of Governors, who were appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate; the president of the New York Fed, who has a permanent vote; and 4 of the remaining 11 regional Fed bank presidents, who rotate into voting roles each year. While all regional presidents attend FOMC meetings and contribute to policy discussions, only 5 vote at any given time. As Chair of the Federal Reserve, Jerome Powell is one of the 7 Governors and serves as a permanent voting member and leader of the Committee; his vote carries the same weight as the others.



Calendar

Mon.

Earnings Microsoft, Principal Financial Group*

Tue.

8:30 am Advanced U.S. trade balance in goods, Advanced retail inventories, Advanced wholesale inventories
9:00 am S&P Case-Shiller home price index (20 cities)
10:00 am Consumer confidence, Job openings
Earnings Procter & Gamble, Ares Capital, UBS AG

Wed.

8:15 am ADP employment
8:30 am GDP
10:00 am Pending home sales
2:00 pm FOMC interest-rate decision
2:30 pm Fed Chair Powell press conference
Earnings Meta Platforms, Kraft Heinz

Thu.

8:30 am Initial jobless claims, Employment cost index, Personal income, Personal spending, Core PCE index
9:45 am Chicago Business Barometer (PMI)
Earnings Amazon.com, Apple

Fri.

8:30 am U.S. employment report, U.S. unemployment rate
9:45 am S&P final U.S. manufacturing PMI
10:00 am ISM manufacturing, Construction spending, Consumer sentiment (final)
TBA Auto sales
Earnings Ares Management

*Earnings reflect highlights
Source: MarketWatch/Kiplinger's/CNBC

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