

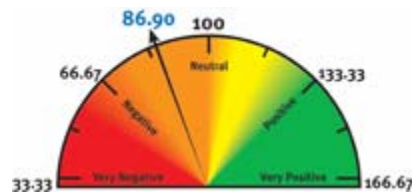


Advisor confidence sinks to its lowest level since index inception.
Advisors are most pessimistic about the current economic outlook.

March 31, 2008...Rockville, MD... Advisor confidence in the economy and stock market sank to a four-year low, according to Rydex AdvisorBenchmarking. The Advisor Confidence Index (ACI)—a benchmark that gauges advisors' views on the U.S. economy and stock market—was down nearly 8% compared to February.

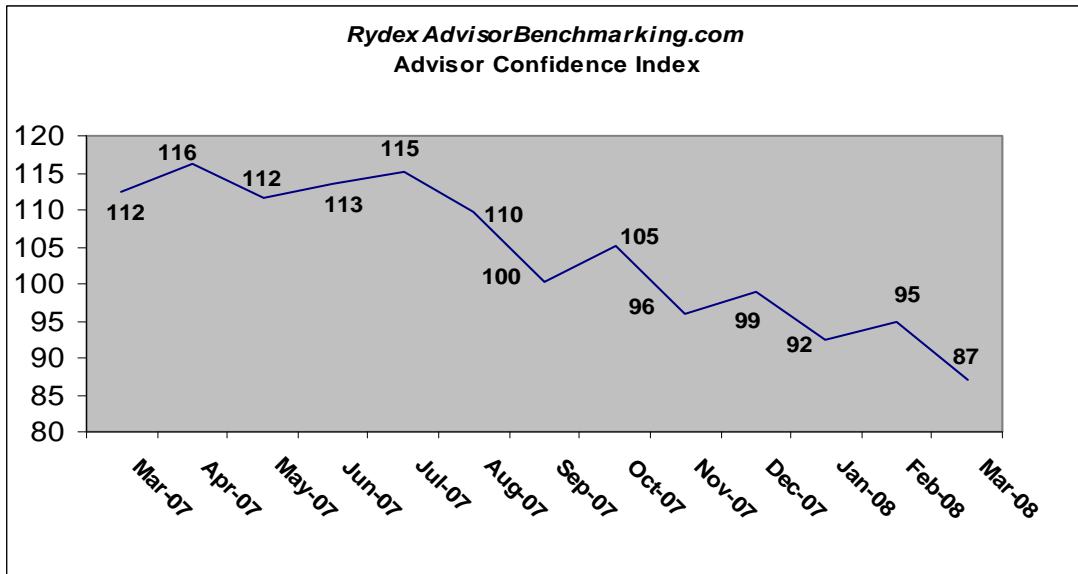
Economic and stock market outlook is pessimistic

The ACI fell sharply in March to 86.90, from 94.91. Advisors feel more pessimistic due to the record-setting housing problems, a strain on financial systems, low 30-year bond rates, the continued decline of the dollar, the economy teetering on recession, inflation (including energy & food increasing), according to Ian Naismith, at Naismith Capital Strategies. As a result of advisors' concerns about the possibility that the economy is falling into recession, the index fell to the negative territory. The index has been weakening since July 2007.



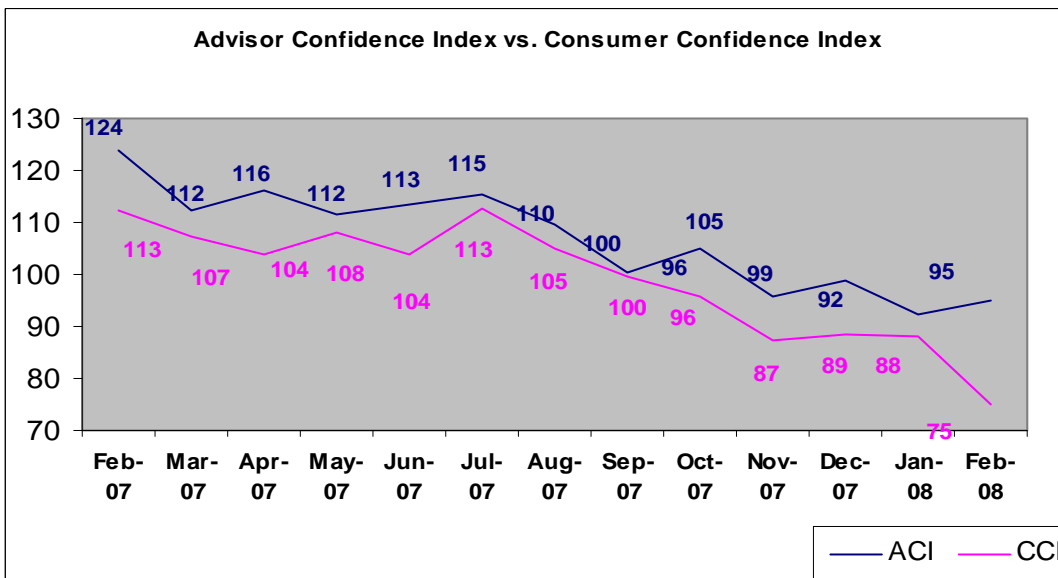
All four economic elements used to calculate the ACI decreased in March. Advisors were most pessimistic about the current economic outlook, which was down 13.82%. A closer look at the components reveals the following:

Current economic outlook	-13.82%
Six-month economic outlook	-9.39%
12-month economic outlook	-6.25%
Stock market outlook	-10.09%



Advisor vs. consumer confidence

The Conference Board Consumer Confidence Index, which has declined since the summer, posted a further decrease in February. The Consumer Confidence Index stood at 75, down 14.68%, compared to a 2.62% increase for the advisor index.



Notable comments from participating advisors

Most of the advisors who participate in the survey elect to have their names made available to reporters who would like to interview them about their economic sentiments. AdvisorBenchmarking can facilitate such interviews for reporters.

“A train wreck in slow motion. The mortgage market as it currently exists cannot digest the problems from the bubble pop. This is because we are going from greater than 100% loan to market value (LTMV)—which caused the bubble, back to a responsible level of 80%-90% LTMV. However, no one will refinance those under water, and owners can't sell their houses while the loan is under water. So,

if nothing fundamental changes, we'll continue to unwind via foreclosures and dropping housing prices. We're starting to hear rumblings of plans that may help facilitate writing off some of the bad debts without every one of them having to go through foreclosure. If done well, it could allow the housing market to stabilize sooner and at higher prices.”

-- Bill Ramsay, Financial Symmetry, Inc.

“The current problems with the economy stem from the ignorance of borrowers and the greed of lenders, which together created the subprime lending crisis. I don't believe we have a housing crisis; I believe we have a valuation problem that manifested itself as a crisis because of the greedy lenders and I do not think that the Fed should get involved in a bailout of greedy banks. Unfortunately this problem has affected the entire economy.”

-- David Cramer, Cramer Financial Services

“The credit bubble unwind remains in the early innings and those who believe that problems are focused in subprime mortgages are in for a rude awakening. The reckless growth in credit has infested the entire global financial system and the aftermath is likely to be very difficult and extended. We expect an "L" recovery in the U.S., as the significant decline in the economy and markets will not be followed by a sharp rebound but rather an extended period of stagnation. Stocks continue to price in a more optimistic environment. As we have been saying for over six months, return OF capital is more important than return ON capital.”

-- James Dailey, TEAM Financial Managers

“The stock market is in a bottoming process as ... investors digest business and economic news.”

-- Jim Elder, ElderAdo Financial

“In the near term we are highly likely to see markets move higher through a volatile process, but intermediate-term prospects for the market are rather grim. The loss of Bear Stearns is likely just a foretaste of more to come. If you look back to the '47-'48 window and the '77-'78 window, though economic conditions and market motivators were very different, we may see similar movements in markets of '07-'08.”

-- Ken Graves, Capital Research

“Due to several imploding bubbles (housing, retail sales and the China & India stock indices), the typical Fed-induced turnaround will take more time and more rate cuts.”

-- Michael Sadoff, Sadoff Investment Management LLC

“An interesting chunky stew of uncertainty comprising of record-setting housing problems, a strain on financial systems, low 30-year bond rates, the continued decline of the dollar, the economy teetering on recession, inflation (including energy & food increasing) is setting the stage for a wonderful buying opportunity.

Remain hedged and/or implement agile trading until some of these uncertainties become certainties.”

-- Ian Naismith, Naismith Capital Strategies

“The credit crisis is overflowing into commerce. Lost homes and lost jobs will not maintain profits at Wal-Mart. A worldwide slowdown will prolong the U.S. recovery.”

-- Peter Wheeler, Wheeler/Frost Associates, Inc

“The headlines and media have done a good job of convincing the consumer that things are bad, and therefore the consumer has pulled back. It appears to us the stock market has priced in a worst case scenario in the short term, and we would expect a rally to ensue in the near term once a current low can be established. How long a rally can sustain itself at this point, however, is still in question. We are more concerned with the next four years ahead, depending on who is elected to the White House and who controls Congress as to how we can stay out of an extended downturn. This is starting to look a lot like the late '70s and early '80s.”

-- Rick Jurrens, FIG Financial

“Cash is king. We expect a negative return from stocks in 2008, and expect the negative to be greater than what we are experiencing now.”

-- Rob Siegmann, Financial Management Group

About Rydex AdvisorBenchmarking, Inc., an affiliate of Rydex Investments

The 2008 Rydex AdvisorBenchmarking survey is now open. All advisors who take the survey will receive a \$5 Starbucks gift card and a free copy of the 2008 study when it is published this summer. Visit www.advisorbenchmarking.com to see how your firm stacks up to the rest of the industry by viewing dynamic charts that instantly reveal industry comparisons versus your firm.

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