

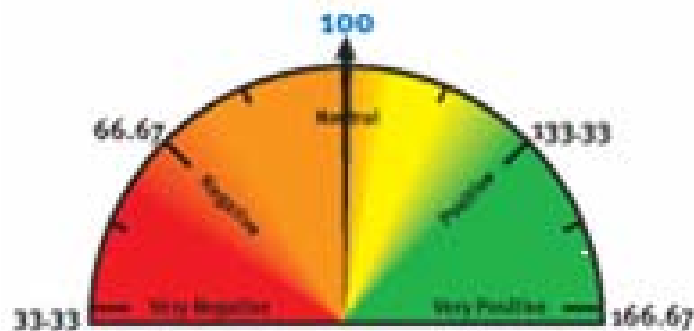


Advisor Confidence Improves Further in May
Advisors are most optimistic about the current economic outlook

May 27, 2008...Rockville, MD... Advisor confidence in the economy and stock market further improved in May, according to Rydex AdvisorBenchmarking. The Advisor Confidence Index (ACI)—a benchmark that gauges advisors’ views on the U.S. economy and stock market—was up 10.5% compared to April. This was a marked improvement to the all-time low of 87 in March 2008.

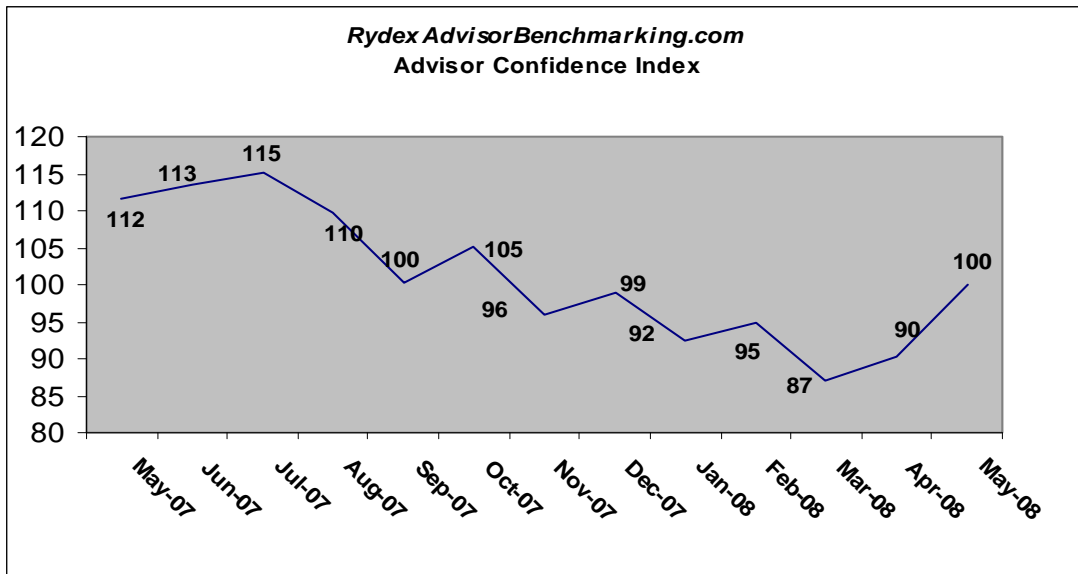
Economic and market outlook is more optimistic

The ACI rose in May to 100.00, from 90.37. Advisors feel more optimistic and believe that the market “seems to be (saying that) the worst is behind us with the credit crisis,” according to Kent Hickey, Journey Financial Advisors, Inc. Also, despite the price of crude and rising inflations, advisors believe that “the next 12 month-period could be one of both opportunity and transition for investors,” according to Garry Clemmons from Texas Capital Management. While many advisors advocate enhanced diversification for clients’ portfolios as a way to weather the uncertainty, others feel that the credit crisis has not completely played out, with auto loans and credit card debt looming.



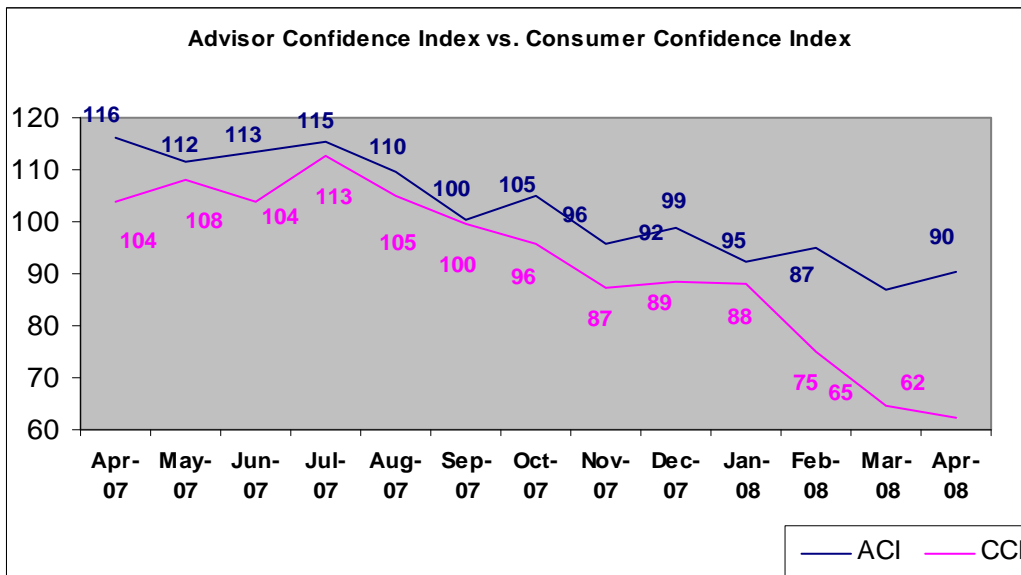
All four economic elements used to calculate the ACI increased in May. Advisors were most optimistic about the six-month economic outlook, which was up 12.87%. A closer look at the components reveals the following:

Current economic outlook	+19.25%
Six-month economic outlook	+12.87%
12-month economic outlook	+6.11%
Stock market outlook	+6.80%



Advisor vs. consumer confidence

The Conference Board Consumer Confidence Index, which has declined since last summer, posted a further decrease in April. The Consumer Confidence Index stood at 62.3, down 3.41%, compared to a 3.99% 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.

“Economic stimulus will provide near-term fuel to drive markets forward, followed by a return to malaise before markets complete a process of delivering.”

-- Steven Brill, Spielberger Dampf Brill & Levine, LLC

“While the subprime train wreck has uncovered a major weakness in the large banks, I believe that we will see a similar train wreck in the subprime auto loan market in the latter part of 2008 and into 2009. I don't understand why bank executives make pronouncements about being adequately capitalized and then within days issue more stock to raise \$4+ billion and then announce plans to sell off \$400 billion in "unrelated" business activities. Are the Citi shareholders really too dumb to understand they have been substantially diluted? ... The question to ask now is how much subprime auto loans and credit cards exposure the banks have. ... The markets are a six- to nine-month forward-looking indicator of the economy and I think we will see a strengthening in market metrics in the second half of the year looking forward to a stronger economy in 2009.”

-- David Cramer, Cramer Financial Services

“Despite the price of crude and rising inflations, [we believe] the next [year] could be one of both opportunities and transition for investors. As investors become more aware of noncorrelated investments, [they] will move from cash to equities, both in the U.S. and international markets that benefit from growing inflation and worldwide improving economies.”

-- Gary Clemmons, Texas Capital Management

“The purse strings are getting tighter and tighter. Don't look for the ‘economic stimulus checks’ to do much more than pay off existing bills. Investors should be very selective going forward as true profit growth will be limited to just a few sectors. Also, look to companies that have significant earnings from overseas markets. Otherwise, stick with cash and look for true bargains as they become available, especially those paying strong dividends that are not in danger of being cut.”

-- George Cheatham, American Financial Consultants Inc.

“The requisite bear market rally appears to have terminated near a 50% retracement of the initial decline. We suspect that the credit crisis will enter its third stage as Alt A and Prime mortgages take center stage and the risk of a very deep recession developing is likely. We remain focused on return of principal rather than return on principal.”

-- James Dailey, TEAM Financial Managers

“We believe the lows of March, culminating with the collapse of Bear Stearns and domination of ‘gloom & doom’ magazine covers, mark the bottom for the year. The market looks ahead and seems to be telling us that the worst is behind us with the credit crisis. This is all a game of confidence and right now the scale has tipped back from the catastrophic collapse some have feared. The markets will be higher by year-end and investors will look back a year from now and find there were some bargains to be had in this market. Outside of financials, earnings were better than expected for Q1 2008. Initial GDP came in at a better than expected 0.6%. With the weaker dollar fueling robust exports, it wouldn't surprise us to see GDP revised up to 1.5% for the first quarter. We are experiencing a slowdown with some industries and regions of the country in

recession. All is not lost. Probably the worst thing to do right now for investors is to sit safely on the sidelines. Investors should consider allocating money back into stocks, including a good international allocation. We like all the emerging markets, including Brazil. S&P upgraded Brazil to 'investment grade' in the last two weeks. Brazil will emerge as the model for South America."

-- Kenny Landgraf, Kenjol Capital Management LLC

"The rise in oil prices has been amazing, though we do not plan to increase our slightly underweight position. Our concern is that prices now seem to be way above production costs, and are high enough for accelerated development of competitive alternatives. Prices are also likely high enough to stimulate conservation and significant improvements in energy efficiency. If, on the other hand, rising prices are wholly justified, inflation is going to be a bigger problem than in the last 20 years."

--Bill Ramsay, Financial Symmetry, Inc.

"The S&P 500's 200-day moving average seems to be a falling ceiling over the stock market, ... falling from 2000 to early 2003. A significant break over the 200-day moving average would be bullish. Also, the 1,400 level on the S&P is an important technical point. It was the floor on the market in 2007 and now appears to be a cap."

-- Michael Sadoff, Sadoff Investment Management LLC

"Real estate and the uncertainty about the election will continue to hold down the market even if corporations have positive earnings reports."

-- Peter Wheeler, Wheeler/Frost Associates, Inc.

"I like to suggest that investors think of long-term stock investments similar to real estate owned. Long-term holders of real estate don't lose sleep about a drop in housing prices over one month to a year. Of course, no monthly statement is sent on a house's value. Over five or 10 years, the house will turn out to be a good investment, and so will a broadly diversified stock portfolio. Keep a long-term approach and stay diversified. Diversification is the only free lunch in the investment world."

-- 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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