



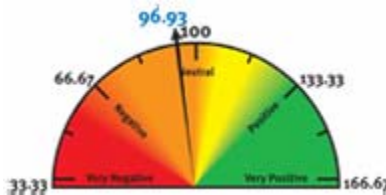
### **Advisor Confidence Declines in June**

*Advisors are most pessimistic about the stock market outlook*

**June 30, 2008...Rockville, MD...** Advisor confidence in the economy and stock market declined in June, 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 3.07% compared to May.

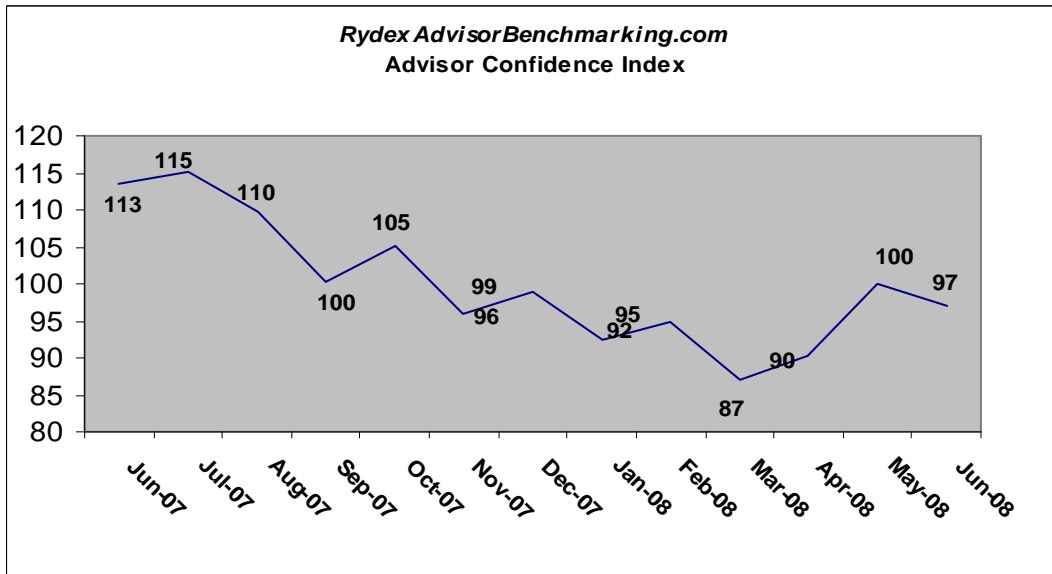
#### **Economic and market outlook is more pessimistic**

The ACI fell in June to 96.93, from 100. Advisors feel more pessimistic due to heightened concerns about rising energy costs, higher inflation and the sub-prime crisis. Some advisors are also negative “because the leadership of the banking industry (has) zero credibility,” according to David Cramer, Cramer Financial Services. Investment professionals believe that “the next 12 to 24 months are going to be tough sledding in the market,” according to Paul Bennett, c5 Wealth Management.



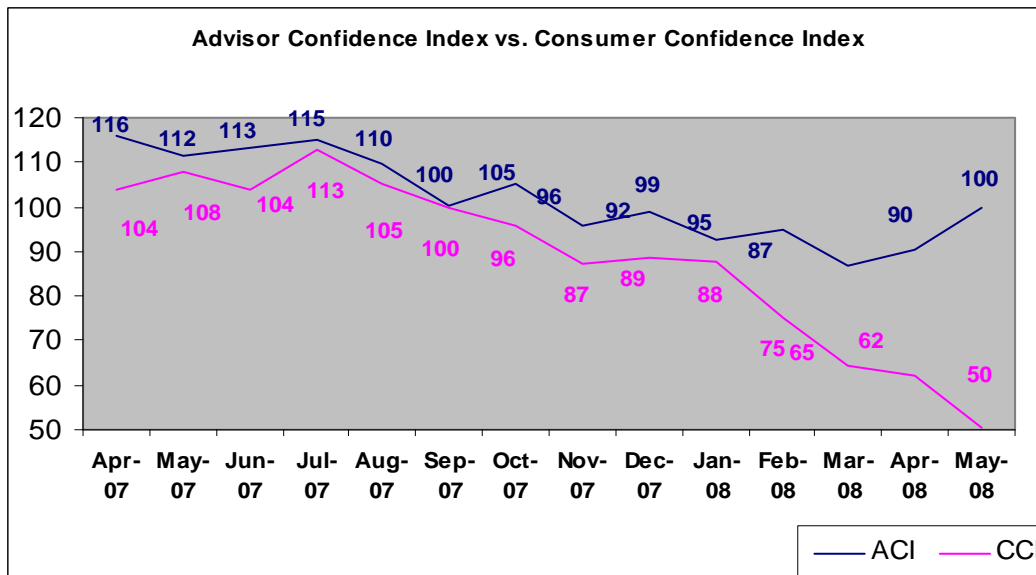
Three of four economic elements used to calculate the ACI decreased in June. While the current economic outlook was slightly positive, advisors are pessimistic about the 12-month economic outlook (-3.46%) and the stock market outlook (-6.32%). A closer look at the components reveals the following:

|                            |        |
|----------------------------|--------|
| Current economic outlook   | +0.12% |
| Six-month economic outlook | -2.08% |
| 12-month economic outlook  | -3.46% |
| Stock market outlook       | -6.32% |



**Advisor vs. consumer confidence**

The Conference Board Consumer Confidence Index, which has declined since last summer, posted a further decrease in May. The Consumer Confidence Index stood at 50.4, down 19.10%, compared to a 10.65% increase for the advisor index since April.



**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.

“Today we get our first high profile arrest for the mortgage mess. This is another part of the healing process as it makes it easier for the public to accept greater government intervention. In the end, we should have a more responsible credit creation regime with appropriate supervision, something clearly lacking over the last several years.”

-- Bill Ramsay, Financial Symmetry, Inc

“My negative views of the markets and the economy can be made to do an about-face if something is done to get the energy costs to a reasonable level and if the sub-prime train wreck eases. I am also negative because ... the leadership of the banking industry (has) zero credibility. Good management would not have allowed the crisis to occur and honorable management would have been very proactive in handling it rather than trying to mitigate the negative results caused by incredibly poor greedy management.”

-- David Cramer, Cramer Financial Services

“As American investors slowly change their focus from investments to the political conventions and the election, September could usher in a period of high volatility and low stock prices as well as political confusion. If indeed the Democrats do take control of the White House, 2009 could be a year of significant gains in the stock market.”

-- Gary Clemmons Texas Capital Management

“The requisite bear market rally off of the successful March retest of the January low appears to have run its course. We believe that the next phase of the bear market will result in significant damage which spreads to the energy and basic materials sectors (possibly excluding agriculture), as we believe it is increasingly likely that growing economic weakness globally will overwhelm many commodity prices at some point over the next couple of months. We continue to stress return of capital over return on capital.”

-- James Dailey, TEAM Financial Managers

“The mood of the American public will be (one) of doom as long as they perceive that energy prices are high. Once consumers get over the initial shock and realization that energy will be expensive from now on, the public will begin to accept the higher energy costs and adjust their lifestyle.”

-- Jim Elder, ElderAdo Financial

“As the Fed turns to their focus from a staving off a “true” recession to fighting inflation, we believe there will be short term release of pressure from the oil sector as investors start to see the value in U.S. equities. We see short term consolidation of the markets, and believe cash will sit on the sidelines until we get past the election. Staying well balanced in cash, bonds and stocks, while incorporating alternative investments for a portion of the portfolio, will help investors manage the downside.”

-- Vince Pastorino, Buttonwood Financial Group, LLC

“The lending crisis is not fully known as some suggest. We have only seen a few chapters. It may not turn out to be a novel that rivals War and Peace in its length, but the lending crisis will also not be the short story of 2008 either. More lending troubles ahead, more financial segments will be affected well beyond lending—banks, investment banking, insurance, underwriting will all continue to take it on the chin. Inflation is in its infancy and we all know the troubles that brew when things enter their adolescent phases...Stay tuned, stay agile and as Mom said, ‘Wear your mittens and your golashes in bad weather.’”

-- Ken Graves, Capital Research

“I’ve seen more fear in the client population than I have since the 80’s. People are mad at all politicians, upset about inflation and insecure about the global safety against terrorists.”

-- Pat Raskob, Rasdkob Kambourian Financial

“The US economy and citizens are challenged with higher prices and lower paying jobs. This will encourage large multi-nationals to seek growth outside the US. It’s back to the basics for financial planning. If you need cash within 18 months, don’t invest it. Stay the course and remain diversified.”

-- Rob Siegmann, Financial Management Group

“The next 12 to 24 months are going to be tough sledding in the market. Paying extremely close attention to fundamentals will be more important than ever. Many investors will be running for the exits even though there will be valid reasons to remain invested.”

-- Paul Bennett, c5 Wealth Management

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

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