

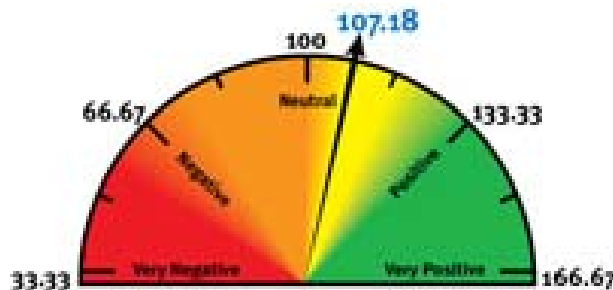
**Advisor Confidence Index Declines in February**  
*Advisors rank unemployment and the budget deficit as their largest concerns for the economy in 2010*

**March 1, 2010...Rockville, MD...** In February, advisor confidence in the economy and the stock market slid, according to Rydex|SGI AdvisorBenchmarking. The Advisor Confidence Index (ACI)—a benchmark that gauges advisor views on the U.S. economy and stock market—was 107.18 in February, down nearly 2% from 109.68 in January.

In February, Rydex|SGI also surveyed advisors on which areas of the economy cause them the greatest concern for 2010. Most advisors (65%) are most concerned about unemployment, The budget deficit (50%) is the second major concern for financial advisors.

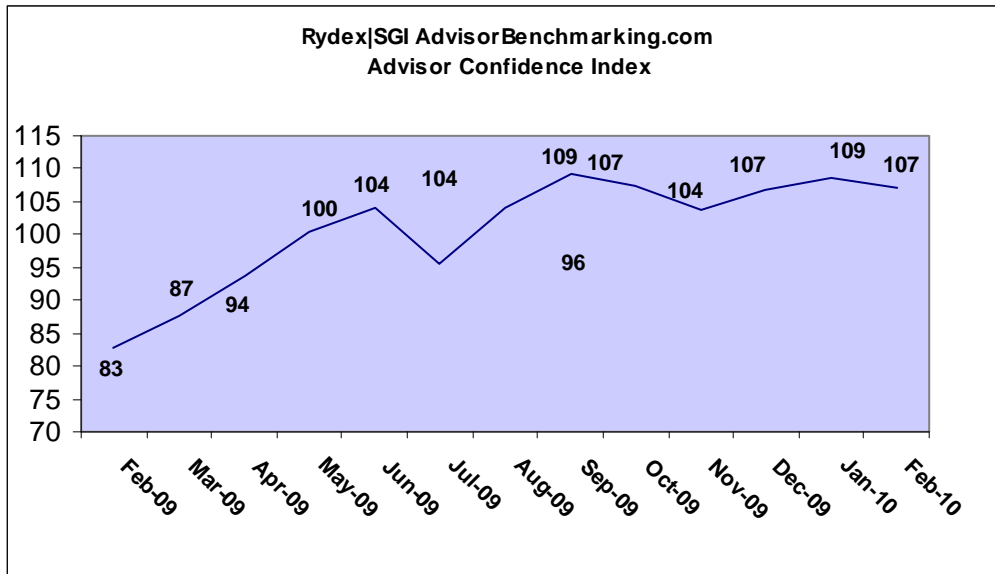
**Current economic and stock market outlook decline**

The Advisor Confidence Index, which had improved in January, retreated slightly in February, as the U.S. economy showed a lack of job growth. “While the fundamentals of the U.S. economy may improve over the next several months into summer, the lack of job growth will continue to be both a psychological and material drag on the economy overall,” said George Cheatham of American Financial Consultants Inc.



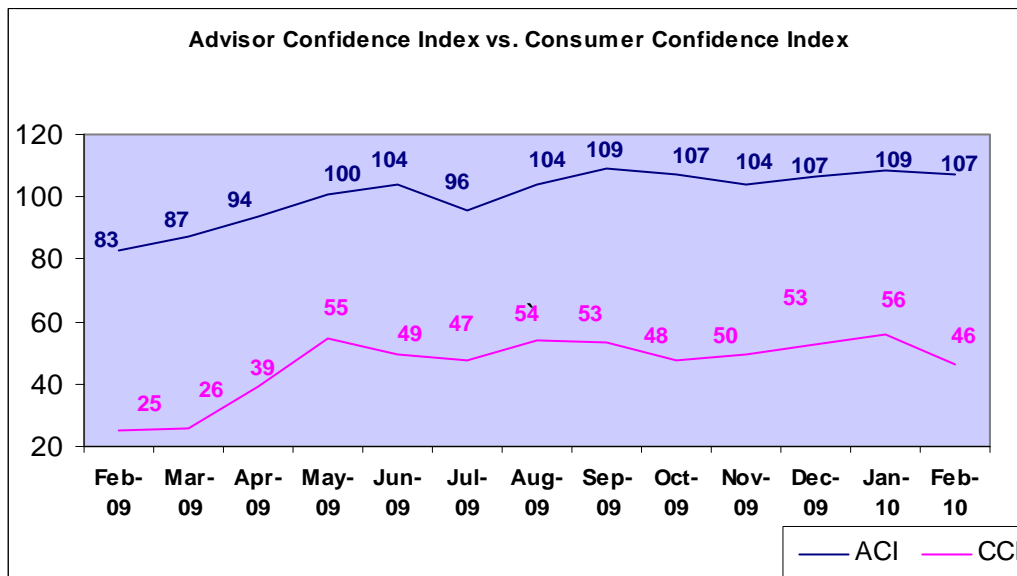
Three of the four measures in the ACI decreased in February, with the most pessimistic forecasts centering on the current economic outlook. A closer look at the components reveals the following:

Current economic outlook	-6.22%
Six-month economic outlook	-2.35%
12-month economic outlook	+3.84%
Stock market outlook	-4.32%



**Advisor vs. consumer confidence**

The Conference Board Consumer Confidence Index®, which had increased in January, declined sharply in February. The Index stood at 46.0 (1985=100), down from 53 in January.



**Notable comments from participating advisors**

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

“I find it ironic that there is a vocal group who credits Ronald Reagan with getting us out of the early ‘80s recession and World War II with getting us out of the Depression—both of which involved very large deficits—yet these same people insist that our current deficit situation is going to bankrupt the country. Perhaps the volume of their protests is a result of cognitive dissonance. Of course, the projected long-term deficit situation is a

problem due primarily to health care costs. Since the entire rest of the world spends so much less as a percent of GDP with by and large no worse health outcomes (and in many cases better outcomes), I have confidence we'll eventually figure out the health care puzzle. The economy also must adjust to the finance sector being a smaller part of the economy, but it appears to us that the sector was too big for the last 20 years and its size and reach caused significant capital misallocations. Having it look more like it did prior to the '80s-'90s is likely to be a positive for our long-term economic growth."

-- Bill Ramsay, Financial Symmetry Inc.

"Near-term inflation seems very unlikely, as Fed plans to sop up excess liquidity look good."

-- Curt Weil, Weil Capital

"While the fundamentals of the U.S. economy may improve over the next several months into summer, the lack of job growth will continue to be both a psychological and material drag on the economy overall. The second big concern that will begin to flow through the markets will be the impact of lower public spending by state and local governments and the strains it will put on the credit ratings of the various states and local governments, particularly as each state struggles with its own budget battles. A very high percentage of "stimulus" money is being diverted to plugging budget gaps and to propping up existing programs at current levels. That option will soon run out and must be addressed on a long-term basis. Continue to look for better opportunities in the international markets both in the equity and bond markets, where returns should continue to be helped by a declining dollar."

-- George Cheatham, American Financial Consultants Inc.

"Structural challenges remain daunting, but the cyclical rebound appears intact. The recent correction is likely to usher in the secondary phase of the cyclical recovery in the financial markets. We continue to position for commodity-related industries to assume market leadership. Energy, precious metals and agriculture remain areas of focus."

-- James Dailey, TEAM Financial Managers

"The U.S. economy continues to sputter along as the politicians in Washington, D.C. work on legislation to help boost jobs and more regulation to avoid future financial catastrophes."

-- Jim Elder, ElderAdo Financial

"The fall of the U.S. dollar is by and large over for now ... it is currently rising. This is due to a technical bottom, as well as a longer-term cyclical bottom of the U.S. dollar. High-yield credit issuance hit a historical all-time high in late January. This does NOT bode well for credit markets. We will likely see an increased demand for the U.S. bond in world markets. That could mean rising prices on U.S. bonds or simply mean that they fall more slowly if inflation kicks in, which is less likely due to slow world demand for products/services. Credit quality matters and it will become a very relative item as opposed to being an absolute issue going forward."

-- Ken Graves, Capital Research

"2010 looks to be a bumpy ride as investors are still flocking to bonds and bond funds. We have now moved to the next bubble being the bond bubble, especially in Treasury. So investors have migrated from a tech bubble, housing bubble to zero percent on money markets. It is hard to convince investors that bonds are not the best place to be. Just like in 2000, when investors couldn't get enough of tech stocks, a decade later investors can't

get enough of bonds. Our concern is that investors will be disappointed with the returns of bonds when looking back, just like they are disappointed with equity and equity funds today. 2010 will also be filled with political fireworks as the Democrats look to steady their ship amid the recent election surprises.”

-- Kenny Landgraf, Kenjol Capital Management LLC

“If we are in a true bull market, the S&P 500 should hold above its rising 200-day moving average.”

-- Michael Sadoff, Sadoff Investment Management LLC

“The outlook at Beaton Management remains that the economy continues to improve. We are forecasting higher interest rates and a strong stock market as we move through 2010.”

-- Terry Beaton, Beaton Management Company Inc.

“The Greece contagion, among other factors, is clearly causing investors to de-risk after the beta rally of 2009. This will hopefully allow fundamentals to matter again, which will benefit alpha-based strategies such as hedge funds.”

-- Gregory Horn, Persimmon Capital Management

“Until earnings are driven by real top-line revenue growth as opposed to cost-cutting measures, the economy will continue to move in a sideways fashion.”

-- Paul Bennett, c5 Wealth Management

**About Rydex|SGI AdvisorBenchmarking, an affiliate of Rydex|SGI:**

Rydex|SGI AdvisorBenchmarking is a research and analysis center focused on the registered investment advisor (RIA) marketplace. Every year through its survey web site, [www.AdvisorBenchmarking.com](http://www.AdvisorBenchmarking.com), the firm conducts multiple surveys of advisors, covering a host of business management and investment management practices. The findings and analysis of the data are then released to the marketplace as annual studies, quarterly research notes, monthly newsletters and a confidence index. The service is aimed at helping advisors grow and enhance their firms by comparing how their businesses fare against other advisors. Advisors also learn best practices of the most successful advisors in the business. AdvisorBenchmarking is an affiliate of Rydex|SGI.

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