

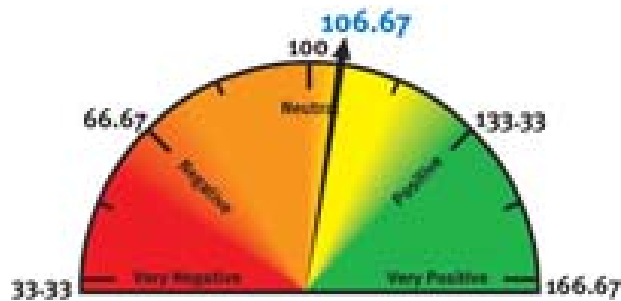
Advisor Confidence Index Bounces Back in December

Advisors are more optimistic as the economy shows signs of improvement

December 28, 2009...Rockville, MD... In December, advisor confidence in the economy and the stock market slightly increased, 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 106.67 in December, up nearly 3% from 103.79 in November. This is a marked (nearly 25%) improvement from where the index stood a year ago when advisors had a firmly negative stance on both the market and economic outlooks.

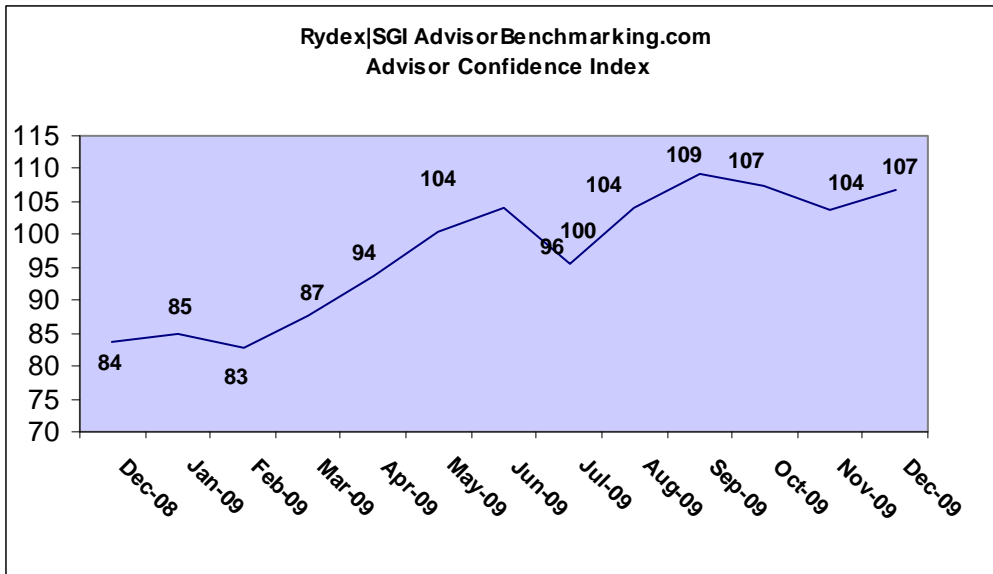
Economic and stock market outlook is slightly more optimistic

The Advisor Confidence Index, which had retreated in November, bounced back in December, as the U.S. economy showed signs of improvement. “Overall, corporations are in a strong financial position, and while unemployment is clearly too high, the corporations are seeing their financial condition improve,” said Bill Ramsay, Financial Symmetry Inc.



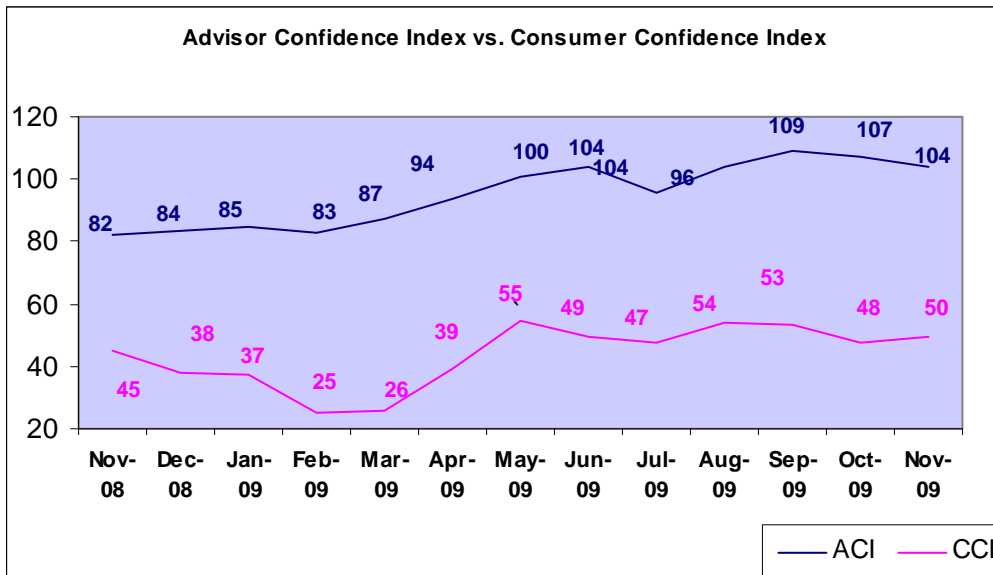
All four measures in the ACI increased in December, with the most optimistic forecasts centering on the 12-month economic outlook. A closer look at the components reveals the following:

Current economic outlook	+2.14%
Six-month economic outlook	+2.74%
12-month economic outlook	+4.55%
Stock market outlook	+1.70%



Advisor vs. consumer confidence

The Conference Board Consumer Confidence Index®, which had declined in October, increased slightly in November. The index now stands at 49.5 (1985=100), up from 47.7 in October.



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. AdvisorBenchmarking can facilitate such interviews for reporters.

“We expect a significant amount of market dispersion in the next few months, as the ‘one trade’ nature of the last eight months transitions into a much more discerning market. We see tremendous pressures building in global currency and sovereign debt markets and expect 2010 to include a series of crises that will likely result in a level of volatility in

currency and bond markets for which most are not prepared. We also see tremendous pressures building in agriculture commodity markets and expect 2010 to include dramatically higher agriculture prices. We are launching the TEAM Asset Strategy Fund (TEAMX) with the intent of capitalizing on these kinds of non-traditional market opportunities.”

-- James Dailey, TEAM Financial Managers

“The U.S. economy is showing signs of improvement while other factors—such as federal debt, high unemployment, the weak dollar, etc.—are keeping the growth in check.”

-- Jim Elder, ElderAdo Financial

“Again, 0.5% in money market doesn't work as a long-term investment plan. Investors have to go somewhere. As CDs and other fixed-income investments mature, investors will be looking at lower yields. It's the same story for insurance companies and pension funds. Investors will have to push out to riskier assets, including high yield, real estate preferred and preferreds to get the extra yield. It appears that some institutions locks in gains for the year by shifting to defensive plays during the fourth quarter, including health care, utilities, telecomm, technology and a return to U.S.-based assets over international (Greece and the Dubai are excuses to sell). Perhaps the U.S. dollar has found a bottom and taken some 'luster' off the gold/silver momentum play and the commodity (oil) play. It wouldn't surprise us to see those bets go back on in January.”

-- Kenny Landgraf Kenjol Capital Management LLC

“We expect to see interest rates rising by second quarter of 2010, and a short-term strengthening of the dollar. But long term, we are concerned about the dollar and U.S. debt and are committing resources overseas to emerging markets as well as to commodities.”

-- Larry Harvey, HFG Wealth Management

“There is plenty of both good and bad news to push investors in either direction. We think having a balanced strategy appropriate for each individual investor is the most appropriate course now.”

-- Rob Siegmann, Financial Management Group

“The rate of the jobs recovery is not politically pleasing to the current administration, thus fueling the potential for an additional \$200 billion stimulus. This will put further upward pressure on government bond yields as the Treasury goes to market to fund out-of-control deficit spending. The result will be further economic drag as our debt to GDP climbs even higher. “

-- Gregory Horn, Persimmon Capital Management

“The recovery is gaining momentum though there is still a question as to whether the private sector will be ready to take the lead as government stimulus ebbs next year. We think the odds are better than most think. Overall, corporations are in a strong financial position, and while unemployment is clearly too high, the majority of corporations are seeing their financial condition improve.”

-- Bill Ramsay, Financial Symmetry Inc

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

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