Market Strategy by STRATEGAS A BAIRD COMPANY





Market Strategy Weekly

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Todd Sohn breaks down what the market's recent rally means for forward returns, how he's thinking about the resurgence of the technology sector, and whether or not sentiment is starting to get too bullish.

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BULLISH SETUP | CYCLICAL LEADERSHIP | SENTIMENT PERCOLATING

ROSS MAYFIELD: Can you contextualize the recent rally in stocks? What does that strength mean for forward returns?

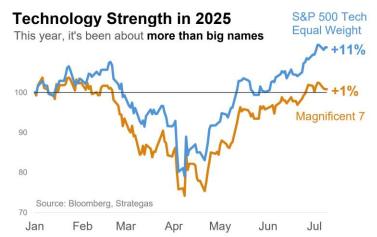
TODD SOHN: From the April lows, we've seen one of the best and fastest S&P 500 snapback rallies ever. What does this mean? Historically, every major market low has been accompanied by a price momentum extreme. In the first one or two months after a big move like that, the returns are a coin flip. But 3, 6, 12 months out, we've historically seen a high probability of above-average returns. I think the point here is, don't be too scared of "too far, too fast." The snapback off the lows is actually a bullish signal for investors. Yes, we may get some setbacks in the near term, but the big picture is that it's a very bullish setup right now.

ROSS: With Tech again outperforming, are you thinking about concentration in indexes?

TODD: Technology has stormed back, particularly off the back of semiconductors (and semis are about as cyclical an industry as you can get). We also see strength from Financials, Industrials and Consumer Discretionary. So, the leadership backdrop is good. As for concentration, we've seen a nice expansion in the number of Tech stocks hitting a new 3-month high, so it's more than just the big names. Still, I think you just have to pay attention to what you own. There's a lot of crossover, especially within popular funds, that may lead your portfolio to having more exposure to a small group of names than you'd like. Is it a big risk? Not necessarily—at least not until things turn—but if you're loading up on ice cream, eventually that's not going to be great for you. We're happy with the leadership here but we're attuned to the concentration risk.

Time from Trough to New High

S&P 500 (15%+ Selloff) Trading Days Month of New High (sorted) Jun 2025 Aug 1982 Aug 1998 Nov 1982 Nov 1998 Dec 2018 Apr 2019 81 Oct 1990 Jul 2010 Feb 1991 Nov 2010 Oct 2011 Feb 2012 Mar 2020 Oct 1966 Oct 1957 Jun 1962 Oct 2022 Aug 2020 May 1967 103 Sep 1958 Sep 1963 Jan 2024 233 Dec 1987 Jul 1989 Mar 2009 Mar 2013 1021 Oct 2002 Oct 1974 May 2007 Jul 1980 1166 Median Time to New High: 143 Trading Days



ROSS: A strong rally, risk-on sector leadership—when does optimism actually become a risk for stocks?

TODD: In our fund flows work we look at where money is going, and we've started to see demand pick up for equity exposure and particularly cyclicals. But there is a way to go before we get into a euphoric or risky zone like we had at the start of this year. I'm okay with the increase in flows to some of the more risk-seeking sectors. I think that's natural given stocks are back at new all-time highs. But we are in a far different sentiment backdrop than we were in January, and that's an important distinction between the new highs today and the new highs at the start of the year. So yes, sentiment is getting hotter, but it's more neutral than any sort of big flashing red light today. We'll keep an eye on that because things change quickly.

IMPORTANT DISCLOSURES

This conversation is lightly edited and consolidated from an interview located at www.youtube.com/@BairdTV.

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