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Mid-Term Forecast - US Stocks*

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Comments (data as of Aug 07 2026): The the second of three strongly optimistic episodes, which we call Anxiety-Free Periods (AFPs), likely began last week (week ending August 7).

Figure 1 shows that the next several weeks will have a Macro Driver in a positive stance, the Micro Driver trending higher (indicating positive short-term sentiment), and the presence of an AFP (indicating investor euphoria).

Figure 2 shows that the excess price momentum is very high compared to the levels over the last ten years. High excess price momentum is consistent with the presence of an AFP (individually or in a cluster).

This outlook is based on research described in this paper:

https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=5482086

See this blog post for a more detailed discussion of market performance during 2026 relative to our AFP forecasts made in September 2025:

<https://cpminvesting.blogspot.com/2026/08/2026-market-behavior-is-tracking.html>

The next periods of naturally occurring vulnerability are a) early October between the second and third AFP, and b) early December at the end of the third AFP and the shift of the Macro Driver to a negative stance. The period beginning in December is likely to be more vulnerable.

Report Overview

Comments that may change each week are in shaded boxes. The sections of this report include:

- Mega Sentiment Cycle (p1)
- Market Resilience Indexes and Physics-Based Drivers (Figure 1)
- Price Momentum (14-week RSI) - 10 Years (Figure 2)
- Price Momentum (14-week RSI) - 1 Year (Figure 3)
- Dominant News Narratives (Figure 4)

See this link for additional information about the sections: <https://cpminvesting.com/notes>

Mega Sentiment Cycle

The phases of an approximately 13-year cycle have distinct biases regarding returns, volatility, and price-to-earnings ratios. Anxiety-Free Periods (AFPs) occur between Phases 1 & 2, and 3 & 4. Historical average weekly Sharpe ratios are shown below in parentheses. For additional information: <https://cpminvesting.com/notedrivers>

Phase 1: Aspirational Thinking (Optimism), Tolerance for High Valuations (0.09) - **ends May 2026**

Anxiety-Free Period A: Investor Euphoria

Phase 2: Aspirational Thinking (Optimism), High Sensitivity to Valuations (0.11) - **begins early 2027**

Phase 3: Critical Thinking (Pessimism) During Low Market Volatility (0.04)

Anxiety-Free Period B: Investor Euphoria

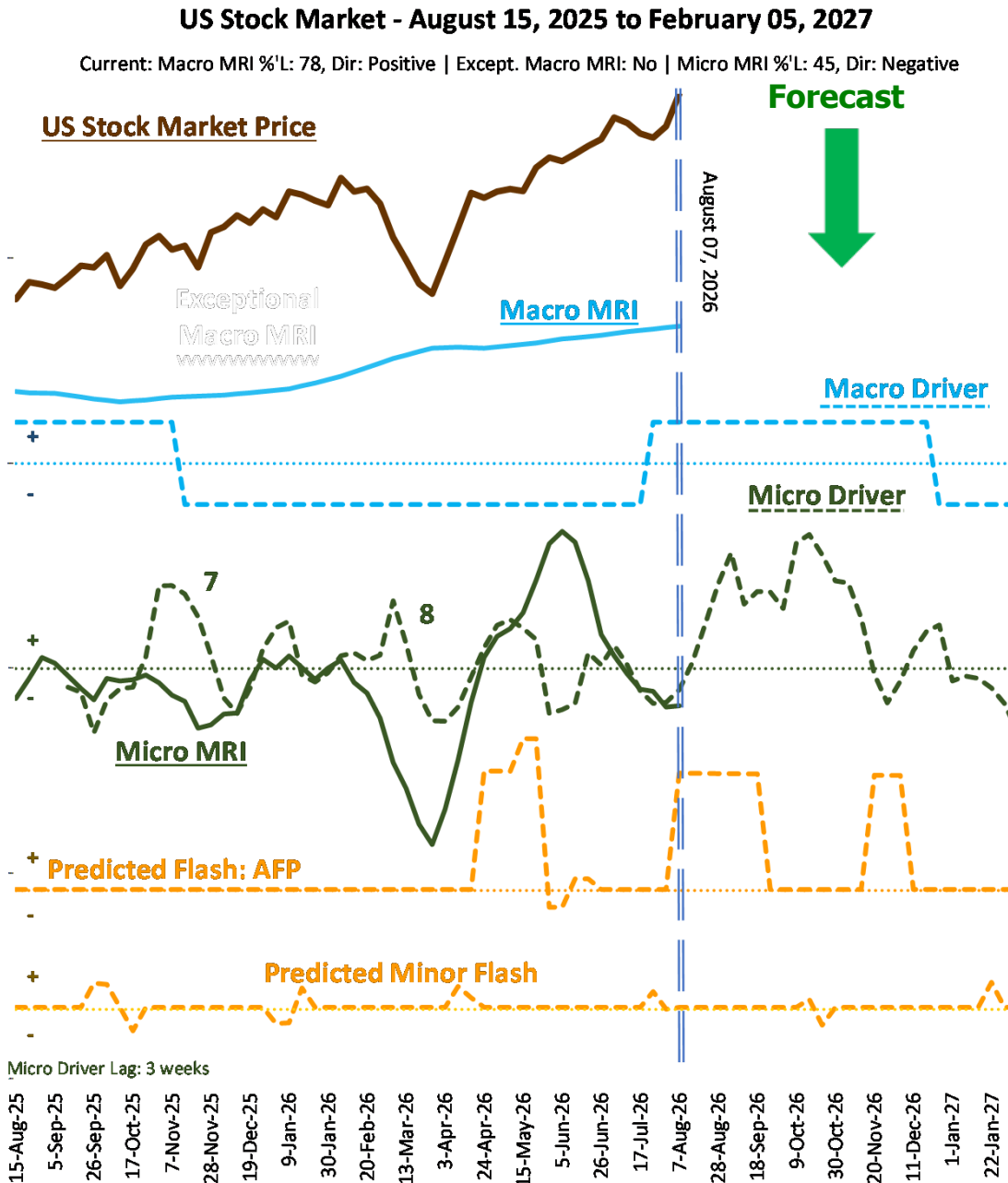
Phase 4: Critical Thinking (Pessimism) During High Market Volatility (0.05)

* Note: References to US stocks in this report refer to the SPDR Dow Jones Industrial Average ETF Trust (DIA), which tracks the Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA). See Additional Notes beginning on page 6.



Market Resilience Indexes and Physics-Based Drivers

Fig. 1



Comments: The Macro MRI currently has a positive trend and is at the 78th percentile of levels since 1918.

The Micro MRI is in the downleg of its cycle and is at the 45th percentile.

An Exceptional Macro MRI signal is not present.

The Predicted Flash Driver indicates a period of strong optimism, referred to as an AFP, that likely began last week (week ending August 7).

Figure 1. The Micro Market Resilience Index (MRI) measures actual acceleration of the index and reflects trends lasting several weeks. The Macro MRI reflects the actual price momentum acceleration trends lasting several quarters. The Exceptional Macro MRI appears when the Macro MRI is likely to develop a more positive slope. The MRI series are shown as solid lines. The physics-based drivers are shown as dashed lines and indicate the likely paths for the Micro and Macro MRI during periods of moderate economic and market stress. When an MRI is moving higher than its physics-based driver, it suggests that investors have a positive view of economic and market conditions or there are other drivers affecting the MRI. When an MRI converges with its driver, it suggests that naturally occurring investor emotion is driving market fluctuations. Persistent convergence suggests that prices may become vulnerable to declines when the driver shifts to a negative trend. The MRI series and their drivers move above and below center lines. Figure 1 also shows the Predicted Flash and Minor Flash drivers indicating abrupt episodes of optimism and pessimism. Percentile levels for the MRI are relative to historical observations.



Price Momentum (14-week RSI) - 10 Years

Fig. 2

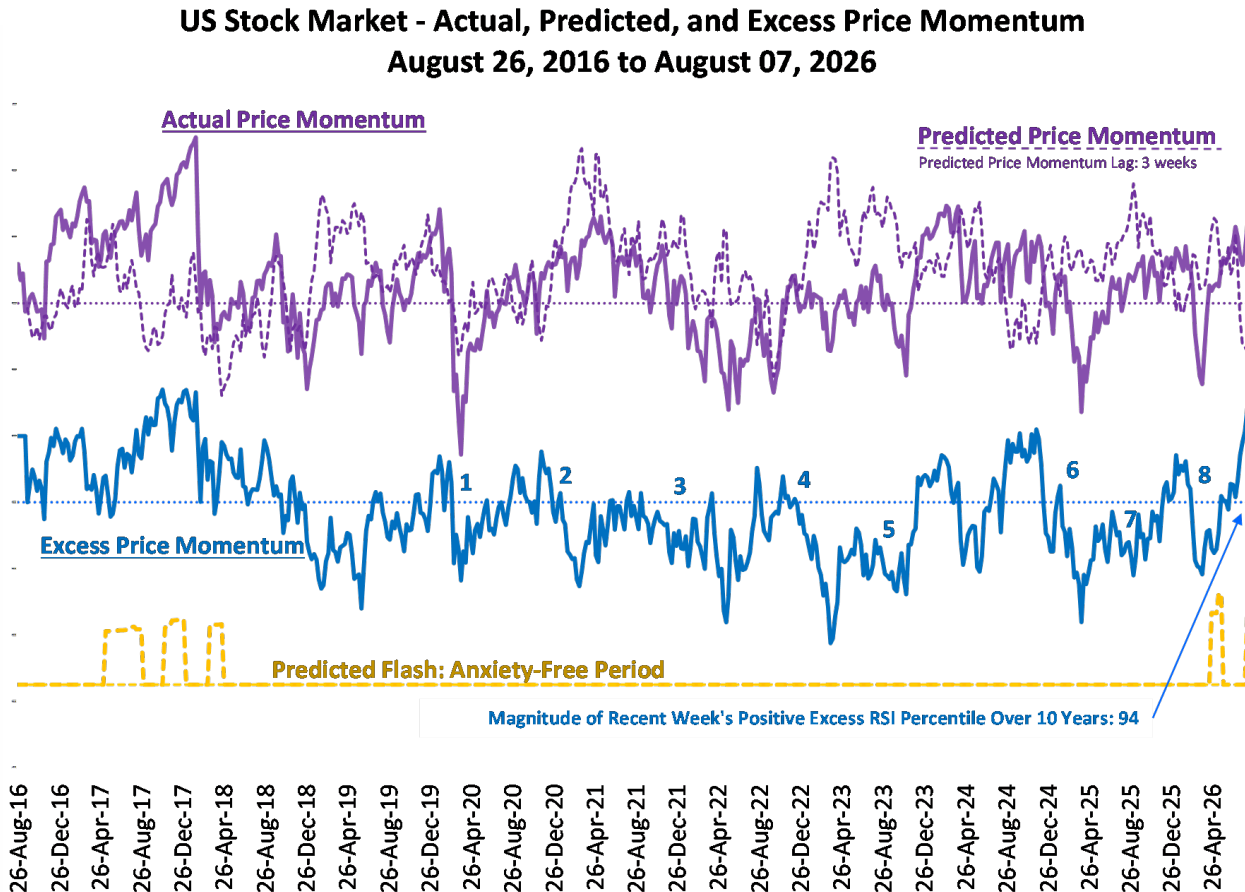


Figure 2. The 14-week RSI is a measure of price momentum that blends short- and long-term influences and is a good single indicator of overall medium-term investor sentiment of the U.S. stock market. This figure shows Actual and Predicted Price Momentum using the 14-week RSI. Our Predicted Price Momentum metric indicates the likely path of Actual Price Momentum during normal market conditions. The upper portion of Figure 2 shows the Predicted and Actual Price Momentum for the past 10 years. The blue line in the middle, labeled Excess Price Momentum, represents the difference between the two series. High values of Excess Price Momentum indicate stronger-than-expected price momentum, often reflecting positive investor sentiment regarding economic and market conditions. Low values suggest weaker-than-expected price momentum, reflecting negative sentiment. Excess Price Momentum captures investor sentiment related to factors such as stock valuations, inflation, interest rates, economic growth, and physics-based factors that are not reflected in the Predicted Price Momentum series. The lower portion of the figure highlights the Predicted Flash: Anxiety-Free Period, which, until May 15, 2026, was included in the Predicted RSI.

Comments (data as of Aug 07 2026): On the far right of Figure 2, Excess Price Momentum (actual minus predicted momentum), shown as the solid blue line, is far above the neutral line (horizontal dotted blue). Positive Excess Price Momentum is at the 94th percentile of all levels over the last ten years. Eight notable changes in Excess Price Momentum since 2020 are indicated by numbers 1 through 8.



Price Momentum (14-week RSI) - 1 Year

Fig. 3

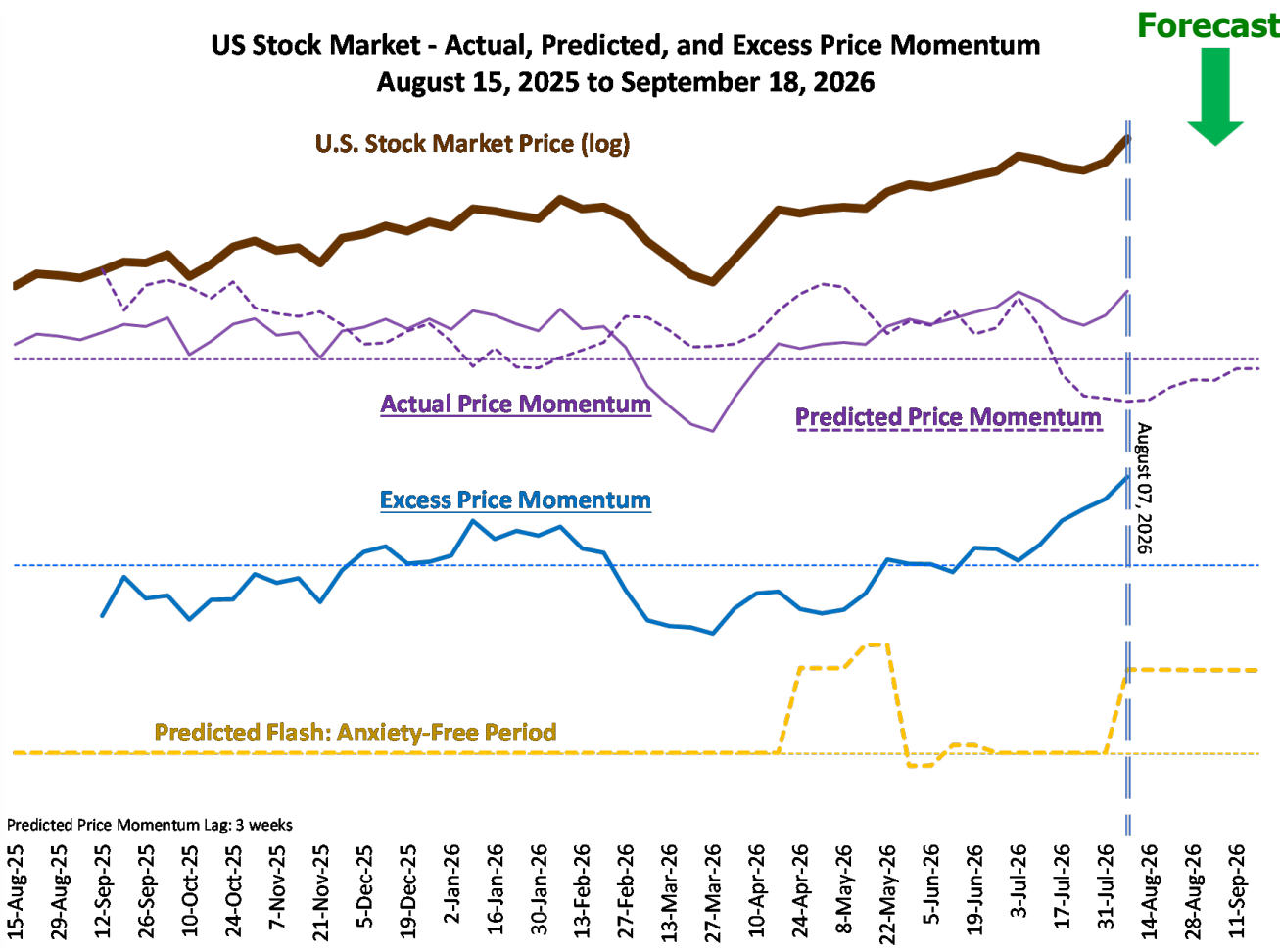


Figure 3. The top panel shows the US stock market price (log scale) as the brown line. Actual Price Momentum (ETF "DIA," 14-week RSI) is shown as the solid purple line and Predicted Price Momentum as the dotted purple line. The Excess Price Momentum is shown as the blue solid line and deviates from its neutral level (dashed horizontal blue line) when Excess Price Momentum is above or below normal. The interpretation of Excess Price Momentum is described in the caption under Figure 2 on the prior page.

The lower portion of the figure shows the Predicted Flash: Anxiety-Free Period.

Comments (data as of Aug 07 2026): The dotted purple line shows Predicted Price Momentum moving slightly higher over the forecast period.

Excess Price Momentum is currently well above the neutral line.

Dominant News Narratives

Fig. 4

Figure 4 shows the dominant narratives for the weeks highlighted in prior figures. A topic is included if it appears in at least three of six major financial news outlets during the week. Tone (Pos, Neg, Neu) reflects the economic implications in the coverage. Numbers in parentheses indicate the number of outlets reporting the topic. The tables also show the total number of negative stories for each week.

For additional details, see the endnote at <https://cpminvesting.com/noteexcess>.

A. Notable Weeks With Large Negative Sentiment Divergence

		Dominant		Second		Third	
8	2/27/2026 Total Neg: 13	Iran regional conflict risk	Neg (5)	Oil supply disruption concerns	Neg (4)	Federal Reserve policy uncertainty	Neg (4)
7	11/7/2025 Total Neg: 10	Treasury yields rise on inflation concerns	Neg (5)	Fed signals rates higher for longer	Neg (5)	Earnings growth supports resilient equity markets	Pos (4)
6	4/4/2025 Total Neg: 3	Artificial intelligence investment surge	Pos (5)	Fed rate-cut debate	Neu (4)	Commercial property refinancing	Neg (3)
5	11/3/2023 Total Neg: 13	Israel-Hamas war risk	Neg (5)	Oil price volatility	Neg (4)	Higher-for-longer Fed	Neg (4)
4	3/17/2023 Total Neg: 13	Regional banking crisis	Neg (5)	Bank stabilization measures	Neg (4)	Fed policy dilemma	Neg (4)
3	5/13/2022 Total Neg: 14	High inflation surge	Neg (5)	Fed rate-hike cycle	Neg (5)	Ukraine war commodities	Neg (4)
2	3/12/2021 Total Neg: 4	American Rescue Plan	Pos (5)	Rising Treasury yields	Neg (4)	Vaccine reopening optimism	Pos (4)
1	3/27/2020 Total Neg: 9	COVID economic shutdowns	Neg (5)	Fed emergency stimulus	Pos (5)	Historic market volatility	Neg (4)

Table B shows the news narratives for recent weeks.

B. Recent Weeks

8/7/2026 Total Neg: 4	Weak jobs cool rate-hike expectations	Neg (4)	Hormuz diplomacy lowers oil pressure	Pos (3)	Chip rebound lifts technology shares	Pos (3)
7/31/2026 Total Neg: 6	Federal Reserve holds amid inflation risks	Neg (3)	Iran pause sends oil prices sharply lower	Pos (3)	Technology spending raises investor concerns	Neg (3)
7/24/2026 Total Neg: 10	Oil surge revives inflation concerns	Neg (4)	Artificial intelligence spending worries	Neg (3)	New tariffs increase economic pressure	Neg (3)
7/17/2026 Total Neg: 9	Iran conflict raises oil prices	Neg (3)	Chip selloff pressures global markets	Neg (3)	Oil renews inflation concerns	Neg (3)
7/10/2026 Total Neg: 10	Renewed Iran conflict lifts oil prices	Neg (6)	Artificial intelligence chip rally lifts stocks	Pos (5)	Interest-rate outlook remains uncertain	Neg (4)
7/3/2026 Total Neg: 3	Soft jobs lower rate-hike expectations	Pos (4)	Oil falls as Iran supply fears start easing	Pos (4)	Tech weakness drives market rotation	Neg (3)
6/26/2026 Total Neg: 11	Technology shares weaken on valuation worries	Neg (4)	Iran tensions keep oil prices volatile	Neg (4)	Higher rates pressure market valuations	Neg (3)
6/19/2026 Total Neg: 9	Fed rate-hike fears pressure markets	Neg (5)	Oil relief fails to ease inflation fears	Neg (4)	Consumers keep spending despite fuel shock	Pos (4)



Additional Notes

Links

See additional notes:

www.cpminvesting.com/notes

For information on our Anxiety-Free Period (AFP) research see this paper (preprint):

https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=5482086

Please contact us with questions:

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ETFs Tracking Non-Capitalization-Weighted Indexes: References to US stocks in this report refer to the SPDR Dow Jones Industrial Average ETF Trust (DIA), which tracks the Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA). Non-cap-weighted indexes, such as the S&P 500 Equal Weight Index and the Dow Jones Industrial Average Index, more clearly reveal the effects of physics-based sentiment drivers. In capitalization-weighted indexes, themes influencing the largest companies can overwhelm these drivers.

The sentiment shifts observed in non-cap-weighted indexes are baseline shifts affecting stocks in general. These baseline effects are additive to sentiment shifts associated with dominant themes in the largest capitalization stocks. Physics-based drivers are better understood as influencing the average stock, rather than the average dollar invested in the stock market, which cap-weighted indexes track.

Sentiment Shifts

Sentiment shifts occur periodically and are described as changes between optimism and pessimism, risk-on and risk-off behavior, resilience and vulnerability, euphoria and panic, and aspirational thinking and critical thinking.

Total sentiment reflects economic forces and the naturally occurring forces that affect investor decision making:

- > Economic and behavioral forces
 - Investor views on economic conditions
 - Investor views on market fundamentals
 - Investor behavior (e.g., trend-following, mean-reverting, calendar effects, response to current events)
- > Naturally occurring forces

Naturally Occurring Shifts Have a Large Impact: These shifts have a larger impact than many investors realize. Our out-of-sample simulation indicates that 88% of the actual short-term inflection points in the 14-week Relative Strength Index (RSI) occur within +/- 1 week of the predicted inflection points. A binomial test indicates that the probability of achieving this alignment by chance is very low ($p < 0.0001$).

<https://cpminvesting.com/simulated-rsi-forecast>

We Infer the Impact of Sentiment Related to Economic and Market Conditions: When total investor sentiment deviates meaningfully from the natural shifts, we infer the sentiment related to economic and market conditions. If we take the actual 14-week RSI, for example, which reflects both economic and natural forces, and subtract the effect of the natural forces (represented by the predicted series), the difference is a reasonable gauge of the impact of the economic and market conditions on the acceleration of price momentum. This impact is shown in Figure 2.

Early Indicators of Market Declines: Key early indicators of an impending market correction are a) when Excess RSI moves to negative levels, and b) when actual sentiment metrics, such as one of our Market Resilience Indexes or the 14-week RSI, converge with a negatively trending predicted metric. See this page:

<https://cpminvesting.com/notes>



Two Types of Physics-Based Drivers: We maintain over three dozen physics-based drivers. There are two general types:

- a) Cyclic drivers - sentiment changes gradually over time. The Macro and Micro drivers are cyclic.
- b) Episodic drivers - sentiment changes abruptly. The Flash and Minor Flash drivers are episodic. Our forecasts of Episodic Drivers tend to be more accurate than those for the Cyclic Drivers.

For descriptions of each driver, see this page:

<https://cpminvesting.com/notes>

Two Sentiment-Related Metrics: We use two different metrics in our forecasts of sentiment. We forecast the 14-week RSI to measure price momentum for a market index. See this page for information on the RSI:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Relative_strength_index

We also forecast our own Market Resilience Index® (MRI) series. The MRI series measure the acceleration of price momentum over different time horizons. Upward-sloping MRI indicate positive sentiment. MRI readings indicate short- and long-term shifts in market resilience for each market index:

- > Micro MRI - short-term trends lasting several weeks
- > Macro MRI - long-term trends lasting several quarters

The RSI and MRI series have different characteristics.

RSI (Relative Strength Index)

- Widely used in the investment industry
- Effective in identifying market bottoms
- Less effective in identifying market tops, as RSI can peak several months before the index price.

MRI (Market Resilience Indexes)

- Designed to identify accurately both market tops and bottoms

For descriptions of each driver, see this page:

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Dominant News Narratives: Each calendar week ending Friday, we identify the dominant economic, policy, and broad market narratives appearing across six major financial news outlets (Reuters, Bloomberg, CNBC, Yahoo Finance, Financial Times, and The Wall Street Journal). A topic qualifies only if it appears in at least three of these sources during that same week. Narratives are ranked primarily by the number of outlets reporting the theme. When counts are equal, broader economic or market relevance is used as a tiebreaker. The three most widely reported narratives are shown each week. Tone classifications, Positive (Pos), Negative (Neg), or Neutral (Neu), reflect the prevailing economic implications in the coverage, and the number of outlets reporting each theme is shown in parentheses. The analysis is performed using data available as of Saturday so that weekend "Week in Review" coverage summarizing the prior trading week can be incorporated. This analysis incorporates AI-assisted methods and may contain errors. For additional information, see this page:

<https://cpminvesting.com/noteexcess>

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