

Weekly Market Analysis #579 — 12 September 2025

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This Week

Usually Steve Blumenthal and John Mauldin talk about different aspects of the US and world economies, but this week Steve's "[On My Radar – Scales of Fed Justice](#)" and John's "[Thoughts from the Frontline – Modern-Day Punchbowls](#)" shared a number of common themes as they commented on Federal Reserve policies.

They both criticized the Fed's use of unconventional monetary policies — especially quantitative easing (QE), low interest rates, and financial stimulus — as being overused and damaging.

And they both recommended a return to more disciplined and limited intervention, using tools like QE only in true emergencies, and they both supported the views of Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent in his Wall Street Journal article.

John Mauldin talked about how Fed policy has provided a "de facto backstop" for asset owners, fueling wealth concentration among those able to profit from asset inflation, while excluding younger and less affluent households, and Steve mentioned similar points, referring to concentration of performance in a handful of stocks and record-high household equity ownership, arguing that current returns projections are negative for typical investors.

Neither one seems very impressed with the reporting of the BLS (Bureau of Labor Statistics) and they agree that we need an independent review of the Federal Reserve, as well as greater transparency, accountability, and restraint in its policy toolkit. Finally, they both suggest that the lingering effects of decades of monetary policy require active correction, not just wishful thinking about possible improvements.

In "[The first nuclear SMR will be...](#)", Stephen McBride wrote:

The Department of Energy has launched its Nuclear Reactor Pilot Program, selecting ten startups to build America's first wave of small microreactors (SMRs). Its goal is to get three SMRs up and running by July 4, 2026 – America's 250th birthday.

The 10 companies he listed are:

- Aalo Atomics
- Antares
- Last Energy
- Oklo
- Radiant
- Valar Atomics
- Atomic Alchemy
- Deep Fission
- Natura Resources
- [Terrestrial Energy](#)

Even though they are not publicly traded yet, I would say it's worth it to keep an eye on these 10 companies. With backing from the DOE, the resurrection of the nuclear energy industry is now officially underway, and I believe that Small Modular Reactors will bring an end to the building of any more of the old-style, massive nuclear power plants.

Market Barometers

The DJIA, SPX, COMPQ, and VTI made new all-time highs this week. IWM is advancing steadily toward \$240 and it just made a 38-week high. All 5 MTAs remain green.



Week-over-week: **DIA: 1.0%, SPX: 1.6%, VTI: 1.5%, COMPQ: 2.0%, IWM: 0.2%**

Month-over-month: **DIA: 2.3%, SPX: 1.8%, VTI: 2.2%, COMPQ: 2.0%, IWM: 4.4%**

A Closer Look

The SPX went up Monday through Thursday, then closed just a smidge lower on Friday at \$6584. The BPSPX confirmed price movement this week and the NYAD did about the same. But the SPXA50 and the SPXA200 were out of sync with price.



[S&P Price](#) [Bullish Percent](#) [Advance-Dcline Line](#) [Stocks Above Averages](#)

[Bullish Universe](#)

← Use this link to get to the live summary table

[Bearish Universe](#)

← Use this link to get to the live summary table

[Inflation Universe](#)

← Use this link to get to the live summary table

[Auxiliary Universe](#)

← Use this link to get to the live summary table

[Dividend Universe](#)

← Use this link to get to the live summary table

The Relative Strength History table shows all the sectors sorted by slope, with the sector with the highest slope at the top and the sector with the lowest slope at the bottom. The lower table shows the corresponding ETFs and their slopes for the current week.

Relative Strength History 20-Jun-2025 to 12-Sep-2025

20 Jun	27 Jun	03 Jul	11 Jul	18 Jul	25 Jul	01 Aug	08 Aug	15 Aug	22 Aug	29 Aug	05 Sep	12 Sep
DFEND	DFEND	DFEND	SEMIS	SEMIS	SEMIS	SEMIS	SEMIS	SEMIS	SEMIS	SEMIS	SEMIS	BLDRS
GOLD	SEMIS	SEMIS	DFEND	DFEND	DFEND	DFEND	DFEND	DFEND	DFEND	DFEND	DFEND	SEMIS
SEMIS	GOLD	TECHS	TECHS	TECHS	TECHS	TECHS	TECHS	TECHS	TECHS	TECHS	BLDRS	DFEND
TECHS	TECHS	GOLD	GOLD	INFRA	INFRA	INFRA	INFRA	INFRA	INFRA	BLDRS	TECHS	TECHS
INDUS	INDUS	INDUS	INDUS	INDUS	INDUS	INDUS	INDUS	INDUS	INDUS	SALES	INFRA	SALES
COMMS	COMMS	COMMS	INFRA	COMMS	COMMS	SP500	SP500	SALES	BLDRS	SALES	INFRA	COMMS
INFRA	INFRA	INFRA	COMMS	GOLD	SALES	SALES	SALES	SP500	INDUS	COMMS	COMMS	INFRA
SALES	SALES	SALES	SALES	SP500	SP500	COMMS	COMMS	COMMS	SP500	INDUS	BANKS	BIOTC
SP500	SP500	SP500	SP500	SALES	GOLD	BANKS	UTILS	UTILS	COMMS	SP500	DISCR	BANKS
UTILS	FINAN	FINAN	FINAN	BANKS	BANKS	GOLD	GOLD	BLDRS	UTILS	DISCR	SP500	DISCR
FINAN	UTILS	DISCR	BANKS	TRANS	TRANS	TRANS	BANKS	DISCR	DISCR	BANKS	INDUS	GOLD
DISCR	DISCR	UTILS	TRANS	FINAN	DISCR	DISCR	DISCR	GOLD	BANKS	UTILS	BIOTC	SP500
STAPL	MATER	MATER	DISCR	DISCR	FINAN	FINAN	TRANS	BANKS	GOLD	TRANS	GOLD	INDUS
MATER	INSUR	TRANS	MATER	MATER	MATER	UTILS	FINAN	TRANS	TRANS	BIOTC	UTILS	TRANS
INSUR	STAPL	BANKS	UTILS	UTILS	UTILS	MATER	MATER	FINAN	BIOTC	GOLD	TRANS	UTILS
REALE	TRANS	INSUR	STAPL	ENRGY	BIOTC	BIOTC	BLDRS	BIOTC	FINAN	FINAN	FINAN	FINAN
TRANS	REALE	STAPL	ENRGY	BIOTC	ENRGY	ENRGY	BIOTC	MATER	MATER	MATER	MATER	MATER
BANKS	BANKS	REALE	INSUR	REALE	REALE	REALE	REALE	STAPL	STAPL	STAPL	ENRGY	ENRGY
ENRGY	ENRGY	ENRGY	REALE	STAPL	STAPL	BLDRS	ENRGY	REALE	REALE	ENRGY	STAPL	INSUR
BIOTC	BIOTC	BIOTC	BIOTC	INSUR	INSUR	STAPL	STAPL	ENRGY	ENRGY	REALE	REALE	REALE
HLTHY	HLTHY	HLTHY	HLTHY	BLDRS	BLDRS	INSUR	INSUR	INSUR	INSUR	INSUR	INSUR	STAPL
BLDRS	BLDRS	BLDRS	BLDRS	HLTHY	HLTHY	HLTHY	HLTHY	HLTHY	HLTHY	HLTHY	HLTHY	HLTHY

Details

Symbol	Slope	Synonym	Sector Name	Symbol	Slope	Synonym	Sector Name
1. ITB	4.43	BLDRS	HOMEBUILDERS	12. SPX	2.19	SP500	S&P 500
2. SMH	4.17	SEMIS	SEMICONDUCTORS	13. XLI	1.79	INDUS	INDUSTRIALS
3. ITA	3.75	DFEND	AEROSPACE & DEFENSE	14. IYT	1.38	TRANS	TRANSPORTATION
4. IGM	3.50	TECHS	TECHNOLOGY	15. XLU	1.25	UTILS	UTILITIES
5. XRT	3.35	SALES	RETAIL SALES	16. XLF	1.25	FINAN	FINANCIALS
6. XLC	2.74	COMMS	COMMUNICATION SRVCS	17. XLB	1.07	MATER	MATERIALS
7. PAVE	2.68	INFRA	INFRASTRUCTURE	18. XLE	0.52	ENRGY	ENERGY
8. XBI	2.48	BIOTC	BIOTECH	19. KIE	0.14	INSUR	INSURANCE
9. KBE	2.46	BANKS	BANKS	20. XLRE	0.05	REALE	REAL ESTATE
10. XLY	2.39	DISCR	CONSUMER DISCR	21. XLP	-0.07	STAPL	CONSUMER STAPLES
11. GLD	2.30	GOLD	GOLD	22. XLV	-0.07	HLTHY	HEALTH CARE

Home Builders jumped from #3 to #1, pushing Semiconductors out of first place for the first time in months.

Sector Universe

← Use this link to get to the live summary table

The order of the sector ETF's and their synonyms in this SPX Sector Universe Summary table should always match the order of the synonyms in the rightmost column of the Relative Strength History Table above. This table provides a quick look at MTA status, Relative-Strength, Chaikin Money Flow, the number of weeks since price made a New High and New Low, and the MACD Histogram score.

SPX Sector Universe Summary for 12-Sep-2025								
Symbol	Synonym	Description	Instr	MTA 3	RelStr	CMF	NH/NL	MCHist
ITB	BLDRS	HOME CONSTRUCTION	ETF	UP	4.43:2.26	<<up>>	37/0	-0.0
SMH	SEMIS	SEMICONDUCTORS	ETF	UP	4.17:2.26	-up-	999/0	0.1
ITA	DFEND	SPACE & DEFENSE	ETF	UP	3.75:2.26	≡UP≡	1/2	-0.2
IGM	TECHS	EXPANDED TECH SECTOR	ETF	UP	3.50:2.26	UP	999/0	0.4
XRT	SALES	RETAIL	ETF	UP	3.35:2.26	<<up>>	185/0	0.1
XLC	COMMS	COMMUNICATION SRVCS	ETF	UP	2.74:2.26	UP	999/0	0.3
PAVE	INFRA	INFRASTRUCTURE	ETF	UP	2.68:2.26	<<up>>	999/0	-0.2
XBI	BIOTC	BIOTECHNOLOGY	ETF	UP	2.48:2.26	<<up>>	37/0	0.6
KBE	BANKS	S&P BANK SECTOR	ETF	UP	2.46:2.26	≡up≡	0/0	0.0
XLY	DISCR	CONSUMER DISCR	ETF	UP	2.39:2.26	-UP-	36/0	0.0
GLD	GOLD	SPDR GOLD SHARES	ETF	UP	2.30:2.26	≡up≡	999/0	0.6
SPX	SP500	CAP-WTD S&P 500 INDEX	INDEX	UP	2.19:2.26	<<up>>	999/0	0.0
XLI	INDUS	INDUSTRIALS	ETF	UP	1.79:2.26	<<up>>	1/0	-0.1
IYT	TRANS	TRANSPORT NDX	ETF	UP	1.38:2.26	<<up>>	0/0	-0.1
XLF	FINAN	FINANCIALS	ETF	UP	1.25:2.26	<<up>>	0/0	-0.1
XLU	UTILS	UTILITIES	ETF	UP	1.25:2.26	=UP=	2/7	-0.4
XLB	MATER	MATERIALS	ETF	DN	1.07:2.26	<<up>>	38/2	-0.1
XLE	ENRGY	ENERGY	ETF	DN	0.52:2.26	up	0/2	-0.0
KIE	INSUR	INSURANCE SECTOR	ETF	UP	0.14:2.26	=up=	0/3	-0.1
XLRE	REALE	REAL ESTATE	ETF	DN	0.00:2.26	UP	5/0	0.0
XLV	HLTHY	HEALTH CARE	ETF	DN	-0.07:2.26	<<up>>	18/0	0.1
XLP	STAPL	CONSUMER STAPLES	ETF	UP	-0.07:2.26	UP	0/5	-0.1

MoM price changes for the top 5 sectors: DIA: 2.3%, SPX: 1.8%, VTI: 2.2%, COMPQ: 2.0%, IWM: 4.4%

MoM price changes for the Big 7 are: AAPL: 0.6%, AMZN: -1.2%, GOOGL: 18.7%, META: -3.4%, MSFT: -2.4%, NFLX: -3.4%, TSLA: 18.0%

This Week's Selections

Last week my sector choices were: ITA, ITB, IGM, PAVE, SMH, URA, XLC, XLY, and XRT.

Top Sector ETFs By Slope

Symbol	MTA	ARI	SSlope	8% Stop	Close	Position
ITB	UP	Up	4.43%	\$107.77	\$113.68	Hold 10%
SMH	UP	Up	4.17%	\$279.97	\$304.32	Hold 10%
ITA	UP	Up	3.75%	\$184.11	\$199.42	Hold 10%
IGM	UP	Up	3.50%	\$112.64	\$122.38	Hold 10%
XRT	UP	Up	3.35%	\$81.11	\$86.34	Hold 10%
XLC	UP	Up	2.74%	\$107.96	\$117.35	Hold 10%
PAVE	UP	Up	2.68%	\$43.37	\$46.52	Hold 10%
XBI	UP	Up	2.48%	\$88.04	\$94.12	No
KBE	UP	Up	2.46%	\$56.70	\$60.99	No
XLY	UP	Up	2.39%	\$219.54	\$238.63	Hold 10%
GLD	UP	Up	2.30%	\$308.59	\$335.42	No
SPX	UP	Up	2.19%	\$6060.47	\$6584.29	INDEX
URA	UP	Up	6.70%	\$39.24	\$42.05	Hold 10%

Legend: Up: ↑, Down: ↓, Flat/Stable: —

Analysis

[ITB](#) closed down by 2.5% versus last week, but KB, ATS, RSI, and CMF are still up. [SMH](#) made an all-time high and closed above \$300. [ITA](#) continues to trade between \$195 and \$200. [IGM](#) made an all-time high and closed above \$120 every day this week. [XRT](#) made a 3.55-year but closed slightly lower that last Friday.

[XLC](#) made an all-time high and all basic charts are up. [PAVE](#) has run between \$45.50 and \$47 for the last 5 weeks but it made an all-time high. [XBI](#) won't be really interesting until it breaks psychological and historical resistance at \$100. [KBE](#) has been consolidating between \$60 and \$62.50 for 3 weeks.

[XLY](#)'s continues to move higher. [GLD](#) started to climb on the 19th, went kind of flat this week, but then made an all-time high on Friday. [SPX](#) made an all-time high of \$6587 on Thursday then declined slightly to \$6584 on Friday. [URA](#) made an all-time high on Thursday, matching the movement of the SPX.

Thoughts and Decisions

Other than that, things remain pretty stable, so my sector choices this week are: ITA, ITB, IGM, PAVE, SMH, URA, XLC, XLY, XRT, BIL (10%).

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New Highs and New Lows

There were 60 all-time highs this week and 4 all-time lows. Now that the SPX is above \$6500, this could be a sign of the next leg up, but it could also be telling us the market is overbought.

SECURITIES MAKING NEW HIGHS DURING THE WEEK OF 12-Sep-2025					
SYMBOL	COMPANY	INSTR	MTA	SLOPE	WEEKS
ABBV	ABBVIE INC	STOCK	UP	3.05	999
ALAB	ASTERA LABS	STOCK	DN	27.79	999
AVGO	BROADCOM	STOCK	UP	8.76	999
BMO	BANK OF MONTREAL (DS 1829)	STOCK	UP	4.38	999
CM	CANADIAN IMPERIAL BANK (DS 1868)	STOCK	UP	3.90	999
COMPQ	NASDAQ COMPOSITE	INDEX	UP	3.08	999
DIA	DOW JONES INDUSTRIALS	ETF	UP	1.51	999
EMXC	EMERGING MARKETS x CHINA	ETF	UP	2.13	999
GDV	MARKET VECTORS GOLD MINERS	ETF	UP	8.15	999
GLD	SPDR GOLD SHARES	ETF	UP	2.30	999
GLDM	GOLD MINISHARES	ETF	UP	2.32	999
GOOGL	ALPHABET INC	STOCK	UP	7.18	999
GS	GOLDMAN SACHS GROUP	STOCK	UP	4.75	999
IEFA	EUROPE/AUSTRALIA/FAR-EAST	ETF	UP	2.04	999
IGM	EXPANDED TECH SECTOR	ETF	UP	3.50	999
INFL	INFLATION BENEFICIARIES	ETF	UP	0.92	999
IONQ	IONQ INC.	STOCK	UP	3.84	999
IQLT	GLOBAL QUALITY	ETF	UP	1.07	999
JPM	JPMORGAN CHASE	STOCK	UP	2.89	999
KBWB	BIG BANKS	ETF	UP	3.31	999
PAVE	INFRASTRUCTURE	ETF	UP	2.68	999
PSTG	PURE STORAGE	STOCK	UP	8.64	999
QLTY	GMO U.S. QUALITY	ETF	UP	1.73	999
QQQ	NASDAQ 100	ETF	UP	2.61	999
RSP	EQU-WTD S&P 500 INDEX	ETF	DN	1.36	999
RSPD	EQU-WTD CONSUMER DISCRET	ETF	UP	2.88	999
SMH	SEMICONDUCTORS	ETF	UP	4.17	999
SPX	CAP-WTD S&P 500 INDEX	INDEX	UP	2.19	999
SPY	S&P 500 (LARGE-CAP)	ETF	UP	2.21	999
TSM	TAIWAN SEMICONDUCTOR	STOCK	UP	4.41	999
SECURITIES MAKING NEW LOWS DURING THE WEEK OF 12-Sep-2025					
CRB-PA	EQUAL-WEIGHT COMMODITY EX-AG	ETF	UP	-32.79	999
FLO	FLOWERS FOODS	STOCK	DN	-4.03	999
HRL	HORMEL FOODS (DK)	STOCK	DN	-3.32	999
STZ	CONSTELLATION BRANDS	STOCK	DN	-4.33	999
AMCR	AMCOR PLC (DK)	STOCK	DN	-3.22	272
KVUE	KENVUE	STOCK	DN	-2.78	55