Weekly Market Analysis #622 — 10 July 2026

Richard "Doc" Ahrens

This Week

Preferred Stocks

Preferred stocks sit between common stocks and bonds in a company's capital structure. It's a stock, but like a bond, it typically pays a dividend and has a par value. Holders of preferred stocks are paid after bondholders but ahead of common shareholders. Most preferreds are callable by the issuer after five years, which caps upside the same way a bond's call feature does, and their prices behave much like long-duration bonds: sensitive to interest rate moves and issuer credit quality, but with less day-to-day correlation to the common stock than you might expect.

The appeal is straightforward — high yields and prices that are more stable than common stocks. There are still risks: call risk, deferral/suspension risk, credit risk, and interest-rate sensitivity. Individual preferred issues also tend to be thinly traded – with wide bid-ask spreads, – and prospectuses that are dense with issue-specific covenants.

Buying a Preferred ETF Instead of Individual Issues

Evaluating preferred stocks requires study and practice. You have to read the prospectus for call dates, deferral terms, and cumulative status, then you have to assess the issuer's credit standing. By buying a preferred stock ETF, you gain access to the fund manager's knowledge and experience. So if you want to invest in preferred stocks without having to learn all the ins and outs of analyzing them, buying a reputable preferred stock ETF is a way to effectively "hire" the ETF company's expert. In addition, the ETF's diversification across dozens of issuers reduces the damage from any single dividend suspension or credit event (which, by the way, is the single biggest risk in owning a handful of individual preferred stocks directly).

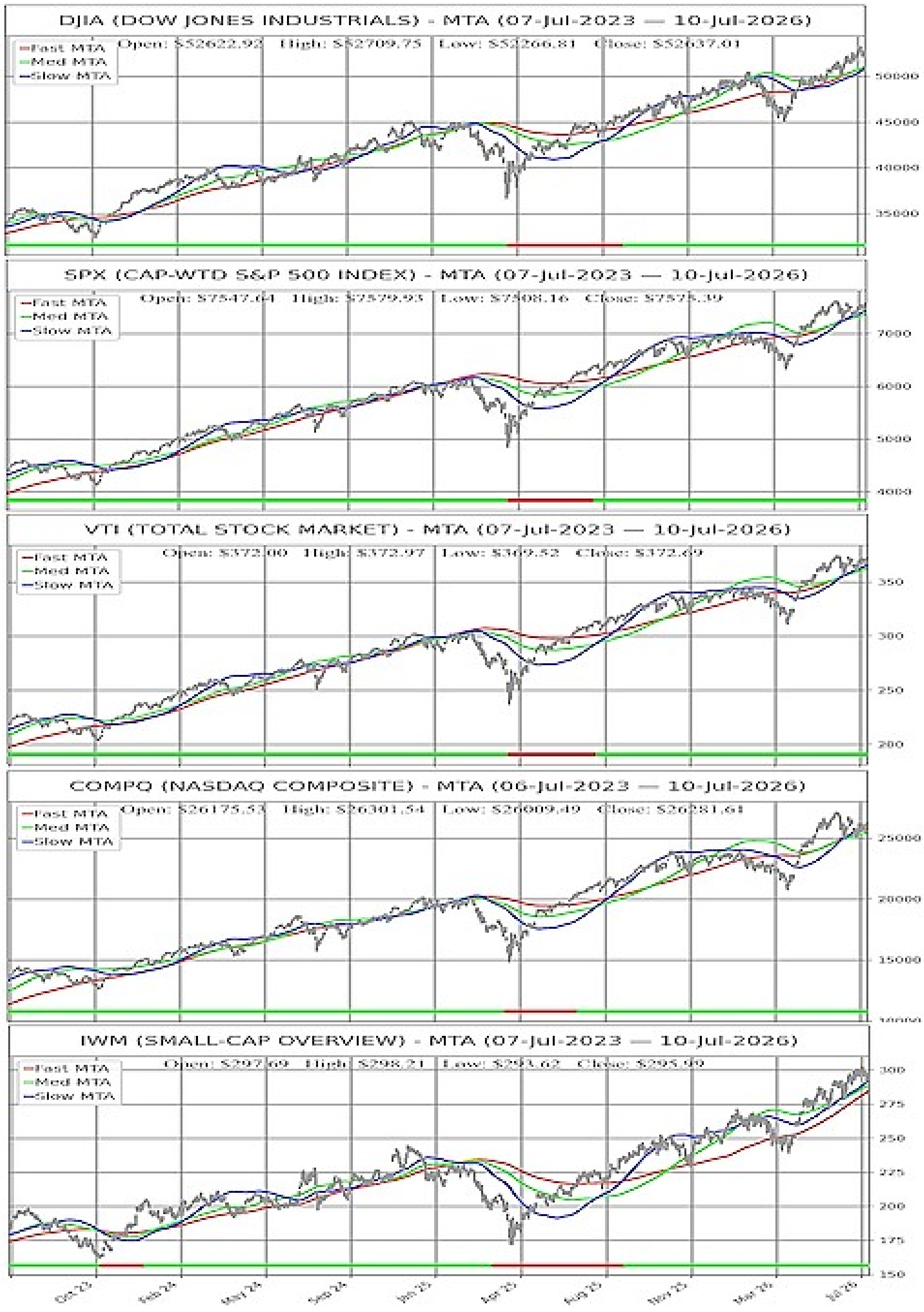
For Example

VanEck Preferred Securities ex Financials ETF (PFXF) tracks the ICE Exchange-Listed Fixed & Adjustable Rate Non-Financial Preferred Securities Index, which lists exchange-listed hybrid debt, preferred stock, and convertible preferred stock issued by non-financial corporations. Most preferred stock ETFs are dominated by "financials", meaning banks and insurers. The "ex Financials" in PFXF's name means it was built to give exposure to REITs, utilities, telecom, energy, and industrial preferreds instead — sectors that have historically offered higher yields than financially-focused preferreds, along with different credit and regulatory risk drivers than a bank-heavy portfolio carries.

My mention of PFXF is <u>NOT</u> intended as a recommendation. I don't own it. I picked it as an example mostly because of its novel "ex financials" approach. It is up to you to decide if this fund fits with your long-term investing goals and your risk tolerance. Be aware that preferred stocks offer very little in the way of capital appreciation because, unlike common stocks, preferreds don't change much in price. In 15 years PFXF only traded between $13 and $22. Do your own research and make you own decisions.

[Market Barometers]()

The DJIA made a new high. All 5 MTAs are up, and all 5 indexes are up at least 4% on a MoM basis.



Month-over-Month: DJIA: 5.4%, SPX: 4.2%, VTI: 4.1%, COMPQ: 4.4%, IWM: 4.9%

A Closer Look

The SPX was up 1.2%, week over week, and it made a 5 week high. The BPSPX didn't do as well as price during the week, but it did make an 11-week high. The NYAD largely tracked price, but ended the week lower. The SPXA50R and SPXA200R followed the same pattern as price, one ending the week slightly higher and the other slightly lower. Overall, the week was up a little.

S&P Price   Bullish Percent   Advance-Decline 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 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 17-Apr-2026 to 10-Jul-2026

17 Apr	24 Apr	01 May	08 May	15 May	22 May	29 May	05 Jun	12 Jun	18 Jun	26 Jun	02 Jul	10 Jul
ENRGY	SEMIS	SEMIS	SEMIS	SEMIS	SEMIS	SEMIS	SEMIS	SEMIS	SEMIS	SEMIS	SEMIS	SEMIS
SEMIS	ENRGY	ENRGY	ENRGY	TECHS	TECHS	TECHS	TECHS	TECHS	TECHS	TECHS	TECHS	BIOTC
BIOTC	BIOTC	BIOTC	BIOTC	BIOTC	ENRGY	ENRGY	ENRGY	ENRGY	TRANS	BIOTC	BIOTC	TECHS
MATER	MATER	INFRA	TECHS	ENRGY	BIOTC	BIOTC	SP500	SP500	INFRA	TRANS	TRANS	TRANS
INFRA	INFRA	NUCLR	INFRA	INFRA	INFRA	INFRA	INFRA	TRANS	SP500	INFRA	INFRA	BANKS
UTILS	NUCLR	MATER	NUCLR	NUCLR	SP500	SP500	TRANS	INFRA	BIOTC	SP500	BANKS	INFRA
GOLD	INDUS	TECHS	MATER	SP500	TRANS	TRANS	BIOTC	BIOTC	ENRGY	INDUS	INDUS	INDUS
INDUS	TRANS	TRANS	TRANS	MATER	REALE	REALE	REALE	REALE	REALE	BANKS	SP500	SP500
DFEND	UTILS	INDUS	INDUS	TRANS	MATER	INDUS	INDUS	INDUS	INDUS	REALE	REALE	INSUR
NUCLR	GOLD	REALE	SP500	INDUS	INDUS	MATER	MATER	EUROP	BANKS	ENRGY	DFEND	HLTHY
TRANS	TECHS	BANKS	REALE	REALE	NUCLR	EUROP	EUROP	BANKS	MATER	MATER	HLTHY	DFEND
REALE	REALE	UTILS	BANKS	BANKS	EUROP	BANKS	BANKS	MATER	EUROP	DFEND	MATER	FINAN
EUROP	EUROP	SP500	EUROP	EUROP	BANKS	NUCLR	STAPL	STAPL	DFEND	EUROP	EUROP	REALE
STAPL	BANKS	EUROP	UTILS	STAPL	STAPL	STAPL	DISCR	DFEND	STAPL	HLTHY	INSUR	SALES
BANKS	SP500	GOLD	GOLD	UTILS	DISCR	DISCR	NUCLR	DISCR	HLTHY	FINAN	SALES	MATER
TECHS	DFEND	STAPL	STAPL	DISCR	COMMS	COMMS	DFEND	HLTHY	FINAN	STAPL	FINAN	EUROP
SP500	STAPL	COMMS	DISCR	GOLD	UTILS	UTILS	COMMS	FINAN	DISCR	SALES	BLDRS	BLDRS
COMMS	COMMS	SALES	COMMS	COMMS	GOLD	DFEND	UTILS	SALES	SALES	INSUR	ENRGY	STAPL
HLTHY	SALES	DFEND	SALES	SALES	INSUR	FINAN	FINAN	COMMS	INSUR	DISCR	STAPL	ENRGY
SALES	DISCR	DISCR	DFEND	DFEND	FINAN	INSUR	HLTHY	INSUR	UTILS	UTILS	UTILS	UTILS
INSUR	HLTHY	INSUR	FINAN	FINAN	DFEND	GOLD	SALES	UTILS	COMMS	BLDRS	DISCR	DISCR
DISCR	INSUR	FINAN	INSUR	INSUR	SALES	SALES	INSUR	NUCLR	BLDRS	COMMS	BONDS	BONDS
FINAN	FINAN	HLTHY	HLTHY	HLTHY	HLTHY	HLTHY	GOLD	GOLD	GOLD	BONDS	COMMS	COMMS
BONDS	BLDRS	BLDRS	BLDRS	BONDS	BONDS	BONDS	BONDS	BLDRS	NUCLR	GOLD	GOLD	GOLD
BLDRS	BONDS	BONDS	BONDS	BLDRS	BLDRS	BLDRS	BLDRS	BONDS	BONDS	NUCLR	NUCLR	NUCLR

Details

Symbol	Slope	Synonym	Sector Name	Symbol	Slope	Synonym	Sector Name
1. SMH	10.03	SEMIS	SEMICONDUCTORS	14. XRT	0.94	SALES	RETAIL SALES
2. XBI	5.51	BIOTC	BIOTECH	15. XLB	0.88	MATER	MATERIALS
3. IGM	4.90	TECHS	TECHNOLOGY	16. VGK	0.84	EUROP	EUROPE
4. IYT	3.07	TRANS	TRANSPORTATION	17. ITB	0.73	BLDRS	HOMEBUILDERS
5. KBE	2.39	BANKS	BANKS	18. XLP	0.36	STAPL	CONSUMER STAPLES
6. PAVE	2.37	INFRA	INFRASTRUCTURE	19. XLE	-0.01	ENRGY	ENERGY
7. XLI	2.16	INDUS	INDUSTRIALS	20. XLU	-0.10	UTILS	UTILITIES
8. SPX	1.86	SP500	S&P 500	21. XLY	-0.21	DISCR	CONSUMER DISCR
9. KIE	1.78	INSUR	INSURANCE	22. PTY	-1.29	BONDS	CASH EQUIVALENT
10. XLV	1.70	HLTHY	HEALTH CARE	23. XLC	-1.65	COMMS	COMMUNICATION SRVCS
11. ITA	1.66	DFEND	AEROSPACE & DEFENSE	24. GLD	-3.22	GOLD	GOLD
12. XLF	1.25	FINAN	FINANCIALS	25. URA	-3.96	NUCLR	NUCLEAR ENERGY
13. XLRE	1.20	REALE	REAL ESTATE				

The top 8 entries are mostly unchanged, although Biotech and Technology swapped places and so did Banks and Infrastructure.

[**Sector Universe**] ← **Use this link to get to the live summary table**

The order of the sector ETFs and their synonyms in this SPX Sector Universe Summary table should match the order of the synonyms in the rightmost column of the Relative Strength History Table above. This table provides a quick look at sector 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 10-Jul-2026

Symbol	Synonym	Description	Instr	MTA 3	RelStr	CMF	NH/NL	MCHist
SMH	SEMIS	SEMICONDUCTORS	ETF	UP	10.03:1.96	«dn»	1/3	1.8
XBI	BIOTC	BIOTECHNOLOGY	ETF	UP	5.51:1.96	UP	272/1	1.8
IGM	TECHS	EXPANDED TECH SECTOR	ETF	UP	4.90:1.96	«UP»	1/1	0.9
IYT	TRANS	TRANSPORT NDX	ETF	UP	3.07:1.96	=dn=	999/2	0.9
KBE	BANKS	S&P BANK SECTOR	ETF	UP	2.39:1.96	«UP»	0/2	0.6
PAVE	INFRA	INFRASTRUCTURE	ETF	UP	2.37:1.96	=dn=	0/4	0.1
XLI	INDUS	SPX INDUSTRIALS	ETF	UP	2.16:1.96	«dn»	999/2	0.5
SPX	SP500	CAP-WTD S&P 500 INDEX	INDEX	UP	1.86:1.96	=UP=	5/1	0.3
KIE	INSUR	INSURANCE SECTOR	ETF	UP	1.78:1.96	=up=	999/1	0.8
XLV	HLTHY	HEALTH CARE	ETF	UP	1.70:1.96	=up=	999/1	0.8
ITA	DFEND	SPACE & DEFENSE	ETF	UP	1.66:1.96	«dn»	999/2	0.6
XLF	FINAN	FINANCIALS	ETF	DN	1.25:1.96	-dn-	25/0	0.6
XLRE	REALE	REAL ESTATE	ETF	UP	1.20:1.96	«dn»	1/1	0.2
XRT	SALES	RETAIL	ETF	UP	0.94:1.96	UP	2/2	0.4
XLB	MATER	MATERIALS	ETF	UP	0.88:1.96	=dn=	0/4	-0.6
VGK	EUROP	FTSE EUROPE	ETF	UP	0.84:1.96	=UP=	2/0	-0.1
ITB	BLDRS	HOME CONSTRUCTION	ETF	UP	0.73:1.96	≡DN≡	0/3	0.9
XLP	STAPL	CONSUMER STAPLES	ETF	UP	0.36:1.96	=DN=	0/1	-0.1
XLE	ENRGY	ENERGY	ETF	UP	-0.01:1.96	«UP»	3/0	-2.1
XLU	UTILS	UTILITIES	ETF	UP	-0.10:1.96	≡DN≡	0/1	-0.3
XLY	DISCR	CONSUMER DISCR	ETF	DN	-0.21:1.96	dn	0/1	-0.0
PTY	BONDS	PIMCO CORP & INCOME OPPTY	CEF	DN	-1.29:1.96	«DN»	8/1	0.5
XLC	COMMS	COMMUNICATION SRVCS	ETF	DN	-1.65:1.96	-dn-	3/1	-1.3
GLD	GOLD	SPDR GOLD SHARES	ETF	DN	-3.22:1.96	dn	2/0	-4.8
URA	NUCLR	NUCLEAR ENERGY	ETF	DN	-3.96:1.96	=dn=	0/31	-4.8

MoM price changes for the top 5 sectors: SMH: 7.0%, XBI: 23.4%, IGM: 5.6%, IYT: 5.9%, KBE: 5.3%

MoM price changes for the Big 8 (the Mag 7 plus AVGO): AAPL: 8.1%, AMZN: 3.1%, AVGO: 7.5%, GOOGL: 0.2%, META: 17.2%, MSFT: -3.1%, NFLX: -10.5%, TSLA: 6.9%

This Week's Selections

Last week my sector choices were: IYT (10%), PAVE (10%), XBI (10%), and PTY (70%).

Top Sector ETFs By Slope

Symbol	MTA	ARI	SSlope	8% Stop	Close	Position
SMH	UP	Up	10.0289%	$615.40*	$611.03	no
XBI	UP	Up	5.5136%	$151.14	$159.03	Hold 10%
IGM	UP	Up	4.9039%	$151.88	$161.60	no
IYT	UP	Up	3.0671%	$81.13	$88.12	Hold 10%
KBE	UP	Up	2.3871%	$63.83	$68.75	Watch +
PAVE	UP	Up	2.3745%	$55.19	$56.69	Watch –
XLI	UP	Up	2.1603%	$170.72	$181.92	no
SPX	UP	Up	1.8607%	$7001.00	$7575.39	INDEX
KIE	UP	Up	1.7798%	$59.26	$63.46	Watch +

* Last Active Low 8% Stop

Analysis

SMH is rising but is still below its last active 8% stop of $615.40. The new low stop is $562.15 but it's not active yet, also, most of the basic charts are turning down. XBI was down on Friday but it made a 5.23-year high and all charts are up. IGM's money flow is down and its price has been flat for since May 26 (6 weeks). IYT made another all-time high, CMF continues to rise, and all other charts are positive.

KBE — I'd really like to see this break psychological resistance at $70 before I jump in. PAVE has 4 declining basic charts (KB, ATS, RSI, and OBV) but it did that on May 19th before turning up again. On the other hand, right now it's getting very cozy with its 8% low stop. XLI made yet another all-time high before returning to $180. SPX — This week rose weakly. KIE's ARI turned up and CMF got above its neutral zone 8 days ago, its SSlope broke up out of the neutral zone 6 days ago, and this week it made an all-time high.

Thoughts and Decisions

KBE hesitated below $70 and KIE hesitated below $65. If those levels are overcome, those sectors will become buys. If PAVE closes below $55, I will definitely sell it.

For now my sector choices for this week remain: IYT (10%), PAVE (10%), XBI (10%), and PTY (70%).

New Highs and Lows

There were 10 all-time highs this week and no all-time lows.

SECURITIES MAKING NEW HIGHS DURING THE WEEK OF 10-Jul-2026					
SYMBOL	COMPANY	INSTR	MTA	SLOPE	WEEKS
AAPL	APPLE	STOCK	UP	2.89311	999
DJIA	DOW JONES INDUSTRIALS	INDEX	UP	2.01469	999
GDV	GABELLI DIVIDEND & INCOME	CEF	UP	0.88728	999
ITA	SPACE & DEFENSE	ETF	UP	1.66248	999
IYT	TRANSPORT NDX	ETF	UP	3.06710	999
JNJ	JOHNSON AND JOHNSON (DK)	STOCK	UP	2.75322	999
KIE	INSURANCE SECTOR	ETF	UP	1.77982	999
RSP	EQU-WTD S&P 500 INDEX	ETF	UP	1.90623	999
XLI	SPX INDUSTRIALS	ETF	UP	2.16027	999
XLV	HEALTH CARE	ETF	UP	1.70438	999
PSCF	SMALLCAP FINANCIALS	ETF	UP	2.40494	799
USMV	USA MIN VOLATILITY	ETF	UP	0.49280	740
KBWB	BIG BANKS	ETF	UP	3.29733	480
VIG	DIVIDEND APPRECIATION	ETF	UP	1.53230	479
IVE	S&P 500 VALUE	ETF	UP	1.32554	477
IQLT	GLOBAL QUALITY	ETF	UP	0.94997	474
IWN	SMALL-CAP VALUE	ETF	UP	3.05168	474
BMO	BANK OF MONTREAL (DS 1829)	STOCK	UP	5.68178	433
BNS	BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA (DS 1833)	STOCK	UP	4.36595	433
CSQ	CALAMOS STRATEGIC	CEF	UP	1.86217	433
JPM	JPMORGAN CHASE	STOCK	UP	2.11207	350
CM	CANADIAN IMPERIAL BANK (DS 1868)	STOCK	UP	3.44135	334
RY	ROYAL BANK OF CANADA (DS 1870)	STOCK	UP	5.24596	334
SPYV	S&P 500 (VALUE)	ETF	UP	1.32992	333
NJR	NEW JERSEY RESOURCES	STOCK	UP	1.61627	322
ADX	ADAMS DIVERSIFIED EQUITY	CEF	UP	2.19355	316
EUFN	EUROPEAN BANKS	ETF	UP	1.63846	294
XBI	BIOTECHNOLOGY	ETF	UP	5.51356	272
IBB	BIO-TECH & PHARMA	ETF	UP	2.87486	247
VALUG	VALUELINE GEOMETRIC INDEX	INDEX	UP	1.45802	234
SECURITIES MAKING NEW LOWS DURING THE WEEK OF 10-Jul-2026					
BCE	BCE INC	STOCK	DN	-2.13248	333
CCI	CROWN CASTLE INTL	STOCK	DN	-2.26937	329
DUAVF	DASSAULT AVIATION	STOCK	DN	-3.15152	316
VICI	VICI PROPERTIES	ETF	DN	-1.93034	274
CRWD	CROWDSTRIKE	STOCK	UP	1.72324	134
TIP	TIPS BOND	ETF	DN	-0.53597	62