Weekly Market Analysis #627 — 14 August 2026
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This Week

The Missing Statistic

You may have noticed something missing from my analysis. When I am deciding whether to sell a holding or keep it, I never mention what I paid for it. In fact, I do my best to avoid thinking about my entry price at all.

What you or I paid for a security is meaningless when deciding whether it's time to sell. The sell decision should rest on one question alone: is it turning down (or has it already turned down)? It doesn't matter if I bought it a year ago or ten minutes ago. It doesn't matter if the position is up 20% or down 30%. When your rules say the rally is over – or they say that the probability of loss is now higher that the probability of gain – get out.

How do you tell if a security is turning down? That's your call. One of my rules: if price makes an open and a close below the 8% stop, that's a strong sign the uptrend is over.*

Here are some additional examples of exit (or strong warning) rules:

- On a channel chart, price breaks the lower boundary.
- On an ARI (Auto Regression Index) chart, the black line turns down.
- On an SSlope (Smoothed Slope) chart, the green line turns down.
- On an SSlope chart, the green line drops below the upper orange line.
- On a Keltner Band chart, price closes below the lower green line.
- On a long-term MACD (Moving Average Convergence Divergence) chart, the blue line crosses below the brown one.
- If a 5-day average of price crosses below the 50-day average.
- If your brother-in-law recommends the stock…

There are lots of others. The point is that you need to have an objective measure of “Is this thing making money for me?” If the answer is no, get out. Ignore the voice of greed that says, “What if it starts going up again after I sell it?” Pay attention to what is, not what might be.

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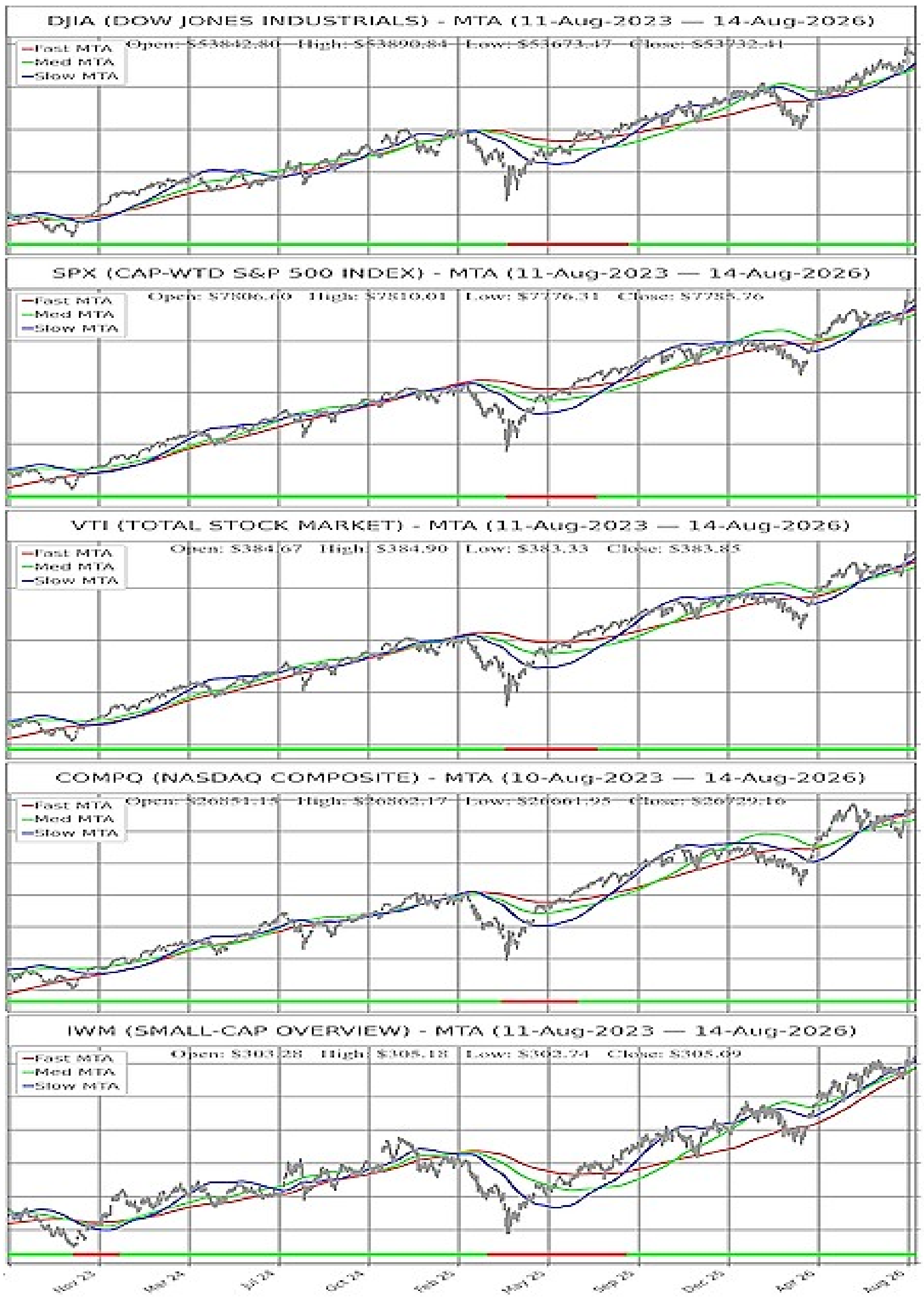
*Some people think an 8–10 percent loss on a position is too much to accept. But they're overlooking how stop size interacts with position size. A 10% position with a 10% stop amounts to just a 1% loss on your total account. They also forget that a tighter stop raises the odds of getting hit on a regular basis. You have to weigh the whole picture — how each parameter change affects the account as a whole.

Market Barometers

All 5 MTAs continue to be green and all indexes are up MoM. SPX, VTI, and COMPQ made all-time highs.



Month-over-Month: DJIA: 2.0%, SPX: 2.8%, VTI: 3.1%, COMPQ: 1.8%, IWM: 3.2%

A Closer Look

The SPX made it from $7758 to $7786 this week, a gain of 0.4%, eking out an all-time high on Thursday. The BPSPX did better than price, and so did the NYAD, the SPXA50R, and the SPXA200R. The SPXA200R made another long-time high. These strong internals imply that next week will be up, also.

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 22-May-2026 to 14-Aug-2026

22 May	29 May	05 Jun	12 Jun	18 Jun	26 Jun	02 Jul	10 Jul	17 Jul	24 Jul	31 Jul	07 Aug	14 Aug
SEMIS	SEMIS	SEMIS	SEMIS	SEMIS	SEMIS	SEMIS	SEMIS	SEMIS	SEMIS	BIOTC	BIOTC	BIOTC
TECHS	TECHS	TECHS	TECHS	TECHS	TECHS	TECHS	BIOTC	BIOTC	BIOTC	SEMIS	SEMIS	SEMIS
ENRGY	ENRGY	ENRGY	ENRGY	TRANS	BIOTC	BIOTC	TECHS	TECHS	TECHS	INSUR	INSUR	INSUR
BIOTC	BIOTC	SP500	SP500	INFRA	TRANS	TRANS	TRANS	TRANS	TRANS	BANKS	BANKS	BANKS
INFRA	INFRA	INFRA	TRANS	SP500	INFRA	INFRA	BANKS	BANKS	BANKS	TRANS	TECHS	TECHS
SP500	SP500	TRANS	INFRA	BIOTC	SP500	BANKS	INFRA	INSUR	INSUR	TECHS	FINAN	FINAN
TRANS	TRANS	BIOTC	BIOTC	ENRGY	INDUS	INDUS	INDUS	INDUS	HLTHY	HLTHY	TRANS	HLTHY
REALE	REALE	REALE	REALE	REALE	BANKS	SP500	SP500	HLTHY	FINAN	FINAN	HLTHY	TRANS
MATER	INDUS	INDUS	INDUS	INDUS	REALE	REALE	INSUR	INFRA	INDUS	INDUS	INDUS	ENRGY
INDUS	MATER	MATER	EUROP	BANKS	ENRGY	DFEND	HLTHY	SP500	INFRA	SALES	SALES	INDUS
NUCLR	EUROP	EUROP	BANKS	MATER	MATER	HLTHY	DFEND	FINAN	SP500	REALE	SP500	DFEND
EUROP	BANKS	BANKS	MATER	EUROP	DFEND	MATER	FINAN	DFEND	REALE	SP500	DFEND	SP500
BANKS	NUCLR	STAPL	STAPL	DFEND	EUROP	EUROP	REALE	REALE	SALES	INFRA	ENRGY	SALES
STAPL	STAPL	DISCR	DFEND	STAPL	HLTHY	INSUR	SALES	SALES	DFEND	ENRGY	INFRA	INFRA
DISCR	DISCR	NUCLR	DISCR	HLTHY	FINAN	SALES	MATER	EUROP	ENRGY	DFEND	REALE	EUROP
COMMS	COMMS	DFEND	HLTHY	FINAN	STAPL	FINAN	EUROP	BLDRS	EUROP	EUROP	EUROP	REALE
UTILS	UTILS	COMMS	FINAN	DISCR	SALES	BLDRS	BLDRS	MATER	MATER	STAPL	MATER	MATER
GOLD	DFEND	UTILS	SALES	SALES	INSUR	ENRGY	STAPL	STAPL	BLDRS	MATER	STAPL	STAPL
INSUR	FINAN	FINAN	COMMS	INSUR	DISCR	STAPL	ENRGY	ENRGY	STAPL	BLDRS	BLDRS	BLDRS
FINAN	INSUR	HLTHY	INSUR	UTILS	UTILS	UTILS	UTILS	UTILS	UTILS	UTILS	UTILS	DISCR
DFEND	GOLD	SALES	UTILS	COMMS	BLDRS	DISCR	DISCR	DISCR	DISCR	DISCR	DISCR	UTILS
SALES	SALES	INSUR	NUCLR	BLDRS	COMMS	BONDS	BONDS	BONDS	BONDS	BONDS	BONDS	COMMS
HLTHY	HLTHY	GOLD	GOLD	GOLD	BONDS	COMMS	COMMS	COMMS	COMMS	COMMS	COMMS	BONDS
BONDS	BONDS	BONDS	BLDRS	NUCLR	GOLD	GOLD	GOLD	GOLD	GOLD	GOLD	GOLD	GOLD
BLDRS	BLDRS	BLDRS	BONDS	BONDS	NUCLR	NUCLR	NUCLR	NUCLR	NUCLR	NUCLR	NUCLR	NUCLR

Details

Symbol	Slope	Synonym	Sector Name	Symbol	Slope	Synonym	Sector Name
1. XBI	4.43	BIOTC	BIOTECH	14. PAVE	1.44	INFRA	INFRASTRUCTURE
2. SMH	3.25	SEMIS	SEMICONDUCTORS	15. VGK	1.26	EUROP	EUROPE
3. KIE	3.14	INSUR	INSURANCE	16. XLRE	1.12	REALE	REAL ESTATE
4. KBE	2.86	BANKS	BANKS	17. XLB	0.85	MATER	MATERIALS
5 IGM	2.74	TECHS	TECHNOLOGY	18. XLP	0.57	STAPL	CONSUMER STAPLES
6. XLF	2.60	FINAN	FINANCIALS	19. ITB	0.24	BLDRS	HOMEBUILDERS
7. XLV	2.59	HLTHY	HEALTH CARE	20 XLY	-0.20	DISCR	CONSUMER DISCR
8. IYT	2.22	TRANS	TRANSPORTATION	21. XLU	-0.54	UTILS	UTILITIES
9. XLE	1.96	ENRGY	ENERGY	22. XLC	-1.09	COMMS	COMMUNICATION SRVCS
10 XLI	1.83	INDUS	INDUSTRIALS	23. PTY	-1.12	BONDS	CASH EQUIVALENT
11. ITA	1.79	DFEND	AEROSPACE & DEFENSE	24. GLD	-2.21	GOLD	GOLD
12. SPX	1.74	SP500	S&P 500	25. URA	-4.45	NUCLR	NUCLEAR ENERGY
13 XRT	1.62	SALES	RETAIL SALES				

The top 8 sectors remained unchanged except for Transportation and Healthcare trading places. Energy jumped from 13th to 9th, the fourth up week in a row.

[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 14-Aug-2026

Symbol	Synonym	Description	Instr	MTA 3	RelStr	CMF	NH/NL	MCHist
XBI	BIOTC	BIOTECHNOLOGY	ETF	UP	4.43:1.77	«UP»	5/1	0.7
SMH	SEMIS	SEMICONDUCTORS	ETF	UP	3.25:1.77	DN	4/1	-3.4
KIE	INSUR	INSURANCE SECTOR	ETF	UP	3.14:1.77	-UP-	1/3	1.6
KBE	BANKS	S&P BANK SECTOR	ETF	UP	2.86:1.77	=dn=	999/1	0.9
IGM	TECHS	EXPANDED TECH SECTOR	ETF	UP	2.74:1.77	up	10/0	-0.5
XLF	FINAN	FINANCIALS	ETF	UP	2.60:1.77	-UP-	999/0	1.4
XLV	HLTHY	HEALTH CARE	ETF	UP	2.59:1.77	UP	999/1	0.9
IYT	TRANS	TRANSPORT NDX	ETF	UP	2.22:1.77	=dn=	3/0	0.0
XLE	ENRGY	ENERGY	ETF	UP	1.96:1.77	UP	19/0	-0.5
XLI	INDUS	SPX INDUSTRIALS	ETF	UP	1.83:1.77	up	999/1	0.2
ITA	DFEND	SPACE & DEFENSE	ETF	UP	1.79:1.77	«UP»	999/2	0.5
SPX	SP500	CAP-WTD S&P 500 INDEX	INDEX	UP	1.74:1.77	≡DN≡	999/0	0.1
XRT	SALES	RETAIL	ETF	UP	1.62:1.77	DN	0/3	0.5
PAVE	INFRA	INFRASTRUCTURE	ETF	UP	1.44:1.77	DN	6/1	-0.8
VGK	EUROP	FTSE EUROPE	ETF	UP	1.26:1.77	DN	0/0	0.2
XLRE	REALE	REAL ESTATE	ETF	UP	1.12:1.77	-UP-	2/6	-0.0
XLB	MATER	MATERIALS	ETF	UP	0.85:1.77	-up-	22/1	-0.6
XLP	STAPL	CONSUMER STAPLES	ETF	UP	0.57:1.77	UP	2/2	0.0
ITB	BLDRS	HOME CONSTRUCTION	ETF	UP	0.24:1.77	«DN»	0/1	0.4
XLY	DISCR	CONSUMER DISCR	ETF	DN	-0.20:1.77	«DN»	0/2	0.0
XLU	UTILS	UTILITIES	ETF	UP	-0.54:1.77	dn	2/10	-0.5
XLC	COMMS	COMMUNICATION SRVCS	ETF	DN	-1.09:1.77	UP	4/2	-0.4
PTY	BONDS	PIMCO CORP & INCOME OPPTY	CEF	DN	-1.12:1.77	DN	3/2	0.6
GLD	GOLD	SPDR GOLD SHARES	ETF	DN	-2.21:1.77	«DN»	9/0	-1.6
URA	NUCLR	NUCLEAR ENERGY	ETF	DN	-4.45:1.77	=up=	7/0	-3.3

ITA, KBE, XLF, XLI, and XLV made all-time highs.

MoM price changes for the top 5 sectors: XBI: 0.8%, SMH: -0.5%, KIE: 3.4%, KBE: 3.0%, IGM: 3.4%

MoM price changes for the Big 8 (the Mag 7 plus AVGO): AAPL: -6.6%, AMZN: 3.0%, AVGO: -0.3%, GOOGL: -6.7%, META: -13.4%, MSFT: 25.2%, NFLX: 6.1%, TSLA: -13.2%

This Week's Selections

Last week my sector choices were: IYT (10%), XLF (10%), and PTY (80%).

Top Sector ETFs By Slope

Symbol	MTA	ARI	SSlope	8% Stop	Close	Position
XBI	UP	Up	4.4307%	Off	$157.41	no
SMH	UP	Up	3.2466%	$541.99	$587.82	no
KIE	UP	Up	3.1383%	$61.13	$64.25	**watch +**
KBE	UP	Up	2.8574%	$65.94	$71.67	**BUY**
IGM	UP	Up	2.7388%	$152.42	$164.67	no
XLF	UP	Up	2.6005%	$53.60	$58.16	HOLD 10%
XLV	UP	Up	2.5920%	$154.96	$167.37	no
IYT	UP	Up	2.2154%	$82.81	$87.44	WATCH –
XLE	UP	Up	1.9598%	$56.96	$61.91	**BUY**
XLI	UP	Up	1.8339%	$171.59	$186.51	**watch +**
ITA	UP	Up	1.7878%	$232.96	$253.22	**WATCH +**
SPX	UP	Up	1.7434%	$7175.07	$7785.76	INDEX

Analysis

XBI ran up, said hello to $160, then went back down to $157.41. SMH advanced 0.51% WoW, but it’s still down 0.50% MoM. KIE is still below $65. KBE made an all-time high and its basic charts are up or turning up. IGM broke up out of its 9-week declining channel but I want to see an open and a close above $165 before I’ll buy it. XLF made a 3rd all-time high and all basic charts are still up. XLV made an all-time high, 5 out of 6 basic charts are up, and one is rising toward zero.

IYT may be turning down. If I see an open and a close below $85 support level, then I will look hard at selling it. XLE’s SSlope has risen 4 weeks in a row. Its price easily moved up through resistance at $60. CMF is up and OBV is turning up. XLI made an all-time high and an open and a close above $185. A little follow-through will convince me about this one. ITA made a new high, money flow is up, all basic charts are up. If this moves up a little way from the gravity of $250 I will buy it. SPX — For the last 9 days, price has been mostly flat with a mildly positive bias. The long-term MACD is essentially flat. So is the money flow.

Thoughts and Decisions

Still waiting for KIE to get above $65. XLI needs just a little nudge to become a buy. As soon as ITA shows a little space between it and $250, I’ll buy it.

My sector choices for this week are: IYT (10%), KBE (10%), XLE (10%), XLF (10%), and PTY (60%).

New Highs and Lows

13 all-time highs this week. 1 all-time low...TLT, the long (20-30 year) bond fund.

SECURITIES MAKING NEW HIGHS DURING THE WEEK OF 14-Aug-2026					
SYMBOL	COMPANY	INSTR	MTA	SLOPE	WEEKS
GDV	GABELLI DIVIDEND & INCOME	CEF	UP	1.42668	999
ITA	SPACE & DEFENSE	ETF	UP	1.78776	999
IWM	SMALL-CAP OVERVIEW	ETF	UP	2.32730	999
KBE	S&P BANK SECTOR	ETF	UP	2.85740	999
RSP	EQU-WTD S&P 500 INDEX	ETF	UP	2.03764	999
RTX	RTX Corp	STOCK	UP	4.11631	999
SPX	CAP-WTD S&P 500 INDEX	INDEX	UP	1.74340	999
SPY	S&P 500 (LARGE-CAP)	ETF	UP	1.74125	999
VALUG	VALUELINE GEOMETRIC INDEX	INDEX	UP	1.55507	999
VTI	TOTAL STOCK MARKET	ETF	UP	1.76908	999
XLF	FINANCIALS	ETF	UP	2.60054	999
XLI	SPX INDUSTRIALS	ETF	UP	1.83394	999
XLV	HEALTH CARE	ETF	UP	2.59196	999
ACWX	ACWI INDEX MINUS U.S.	ETF	UP	1.12010	925
USMV	USA MIN VOLATILITY	ETF	UP	1.17519	745
KBWB	BIG BANKS	ETF	UP	3.39628	486
VIG	DIVIDEND APPRECIATION	ETF	UP	1.71344	485
IVE	S&P 500 VALUE	ETF	UP	1.58979	483
IEFA	EUROPE/AUSTRALIA/FAR-EAST	ETF	UP	1.16764	480
IQLT	GLOBAL QUALITY	ETF	UP	1.42783	480
IWN	SMALL-CAP VALUE	ETF	UP	2.64718	480
XAR	EQU-WTD SPACE & DEFENSE	ETF	UP	0.75300	477
MOAT	MORNINGSTAR WIDE MOAT	ETF	UP	2.10262	458
BMO	BANK OF MONTREAL (DS 1829)	STOCK	UP	4.87748	438
BNS	BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA (DS 1833)	STOCK	UP	3.75319	438
CSQ	CALAMOS STRATEGIC	CEF	UP	1.44834	438
JPM	JPMORGAN CHASE	STOCK	UP	3.80241	355
CM	CANADIAN IMPERIAL BANK (DS 1868)	STOCK	UP	3.42174	339
SPYV	S&P 500 (VALUE)	ETF	UP	1.56880	339
VTV	US LARGE CAP VALUE	ETF	UP	2.19004	339
SECURITIES MAKING NEW LOWS DURING THE WEEK OF 14-Aug-2026					
TLT	U.S. 20+ YEAR T-BOND	ETF	DN	-1.21374	999
CCI	CROWN CASTLE INTL	STOCK	DN	-3.87374	334
DUAVF	DASSAULT AVIATION	STOCK	DN	-4.45914	321
TLH	10-20 YEAR T-BOND INDEX	ETF	DN	-0.99167	139
TIP	TIPS BOND	ETF	DN	-0.84807	78
BND	TOTAL BOND MARKET	ETF	UP	-0.49597	61
LQD	INVESTMENT GRADE CORP BOND	ETF	DN	-0.78507	61