Weekly Market Analysis #628 — 21 August 2026
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This Week

On Wednesday, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent announced Treasury would double the size of its buyback operations for long-dated bonds (10-20 year and 20-30 year) from $2 billion per operation to $4 billion.

The purpose of this "liquidity support" is not debt reduction. As bonds age and trade less often, it causes wider bid-ask spreads and choppier price moves. When the Treasury increases its buybacks, it gives dealers and investors an easy place to offload older bonds, which keeps the market smoother.

The 30-year yield hit 5.34% on Tuesday, its highest level since 2007. That spike came after a scheduled $2 billion buyback failed to stop yields from climbing. So the Treasury raised the bid to $4 billion. That worked...for a day.

The 30-year bond fell 9 basis points to 5.196% following the announcement. But yields reversed course the next day, with the 30-year climbing back to 5.26% and the 10-year reaching 4.71%, close to its highest level since early 2025.

ING (a large Dutch bank and financial house in Amsterdam that publishes weekly notes on interest rates, currencies, and bonds) wrote that Bessent's intervention "smacks of discomfort" about long-term borrowing costs and raises the chance the administration will do it "again and again." Their conclusion was that the move is unlikely to change the trend of long bond yields on its own, but it serves to remind the market that Treasury can escalate buyback size further if yields spike again.

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Retail Sector

I have decided to replace the S&P Retail ETF (XRT) with the VanEck Retail ETF (RTH). Some 12 years ago when I was assembling the sector universe, RTH and XRT looked more or less interchangeable. I picked XRT because I thought its equal-weighted approach would give a better representation of the sector as a whole.

As seen through the lens of XRT today, the retail sector doesn't do much. It has been volatile and it seldom displays long advances. Since my focus has been on the sectors that perform well, I never paid much attention to it.

This week I was doing some research on the retail world and I decided to bring up long-term charts of both XRT and RTH. Seeing them side by side, the difference was clear. RTH has better performance, longer trends, and less volatility.

When the charts for August 21st come up on the website, RTH will replace XRT. Watch for the change on the Relative Strength History table on page 4.

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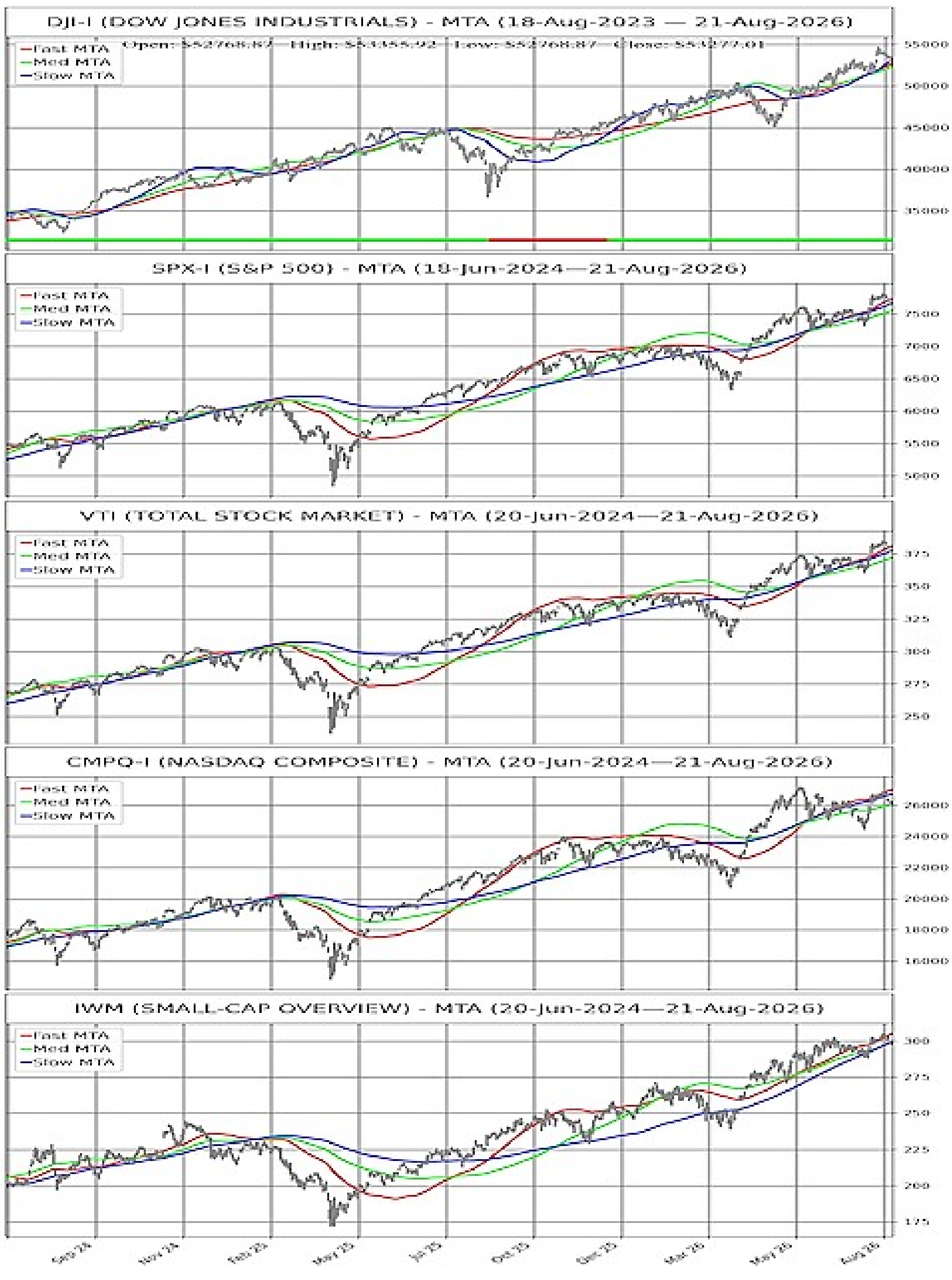
Due to a stock symbol duplication, I have added "-I" to several index symbols. This changed "DJIA" to "DJI-I", "SPX" to "SPX-I", and "COMPQ" to "CMPQ-I".

[Market Barometers]

Month-over-month, all 5 indexes are up, and all 5 MTAs continue to be green.



Month-over-Month: DJI-I: 2.0%, SPX-I: 2.3%, VTI: 2.5%, CMPQ-I: 1.9%, IWM: 2.1%

A Closer Look

Well, so much for strong internals. The SPX declining to $7674.37. The BPSPX declined every day this week, ending at 63.8%. The NYAD looked more like price, while the SPXA50R looked more like BPSPX. After some gyrations, the SPXA200R ended the week just about flat.

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 **29-May-2026 to 21-Aug-2026**

29 May	05 Jun	12 Jun	18 Jun	26 Jun	02 Jul	10 Jul	17 Jul	24 Jul	31 Jul	07 Aug	14 Aug	21 Aug
SEMIS	SEMIS	SEMIS	SEMIS	SEMIS	SEMIS	SEMIS	SEMIS	SEMIS	BIOTC	BIOTC	BIOTC	BIOTC
TECHS	TECHS	TECHS	TECHS	TECHS	TECHS	BIOTC	BIOTC	BIOTC	SEMIS	SEMIS	SEMIS	HLTHY
ENRGY	ENRGY	ENRGY	TRANS	BIOTC	BIOTC	TECHS	TECHS	TECHS	INSUR	INSUR	INSUR	ENRGY
BIOTC	SP500	SP500	INFRA	TRANS	TRANS	TRANS	TRANS	TRANS	BANKS	BANKS	BANKS	INSUR
INFRA	INFRA	TRANS	SP500	INFRA	INFRA	BANKS	BANKS	BANKS	TRANS	TECHS	TECHS	SEMIS
SP500	TRANS	INFRA	BIOTC	SP500	BANKS	INFRA	INSUR	INSUR	TECHS	FINAN	FINAN	BANKS
TRANS	BIOTC	BIOTC	ENRGY	INDUS	INDUS	INDUS	INDUS	HLTHY	HLTHY	TRANS	HLTHY	TECHS
REALE	REALE	REALE	REALE	BANKS	SP500	SP500	HLTHY	FINAN	FINAN	HLTHY	TRANS	FINAN
INDUS	INDUS	INDUS	INDUS	REALE	REALE	INSUR	INFRA	INDUS	INDUS	INDUS	ENRGY	TRANS
MATER	MATER	EUROP	BANKS	ENRGY	DFEND	HLTHY	SP500	INFRA	SP500	SP500	INDUS	SP500
EUROP	EUROP	BANKS	MATER	MATER	HLTHY	DFEND	FINAN	SP500	REALE	DFEND	DFEND	DFEND
BANKS	BANKS	MATER	EUROP	DFEND	MATER	FINAN	DFEND	REALE	INFRA	ENRGY	SP500	INDUS
SALES	STAPL	STAPL	DFEND	EUROP	EUROP	REALE	REALE	DFEND	ENRGY	INFRA	INFRA	EUROP
NUCLR	DISCR	DFEND	STAPL	HLTHY	INSUR	MATER	EUROP	ENRGY	DFEND	REALE	EUROP	INFRA
STAPL	SALES	DISCR	HLTHY	FINAN	FINAN	EUROP	BLDRS	EUROP	EUROP	EUROP	REALE	REALE
DISCR	NUCLR	HLTHY	FINAN	STAPL	BLDRS	BLDRS	MATER	MATER	STAPL	MATER	MATER	MATER
COMMS	DFEND	SALES	DISCR	INSUR	ENRGY	STAPL	STAPL	BLDRS	MATER	STAPL	SALES	SALES
UTILS	COMMS	FINAN	SALES	DISCR	STAPL	ENRGY	ENRGY	STAPL	BLDRS	SALES	STAPL	STAPL
DFEND	UTILS	COMMS	INSUR	SALES	UTILS	UTILS	UTILS	UTILS	UTILS	BLDRS	BLDRS	BLDRS
FINAN	FINAN	INSUR	UTILS	UTILS	DISCR	DISCR	DISCR	SALES	SALES	UTILS	DISCR	DISCR
INSUR	HLTHY	UTILS	COMMS	BLDRS	SALES	SALES	SALES	DISCR	DISCR	DISCR	UTILS	UTILS
GOLD	INSUR	NUCLR	BLDRS	COMMS	BONDS	BONDS	BONDS	BONDS	BONDS	BONDS	COMMS	COMMS
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	GOLD
BLDRS	BLDRS	BONDS	BONDS	NUCLR	NUCLR	NUCLR	NUCLR	NUCLR	NUCLR	NUCLR	NUCLR	NUCLR

Details

Symbol	Slope	Synonym	Sector Name
1. XBI	4.46	BIOTC	BIOTECH
2. XLV	2.91	HLTHY	HEALTH CARE
3. XLE	2.77	ENRGY	ENERGY
4. KIE	2.77	INSUR	INSURANCE
5. SMH	2.74	SEMIS	SEMICONDUCTORS
6. KBE	2.68	BANKS	BANKS
7 IGM	2.59	TECHS	TECHNOLOGY
8. XLF	2.56	FINAN	FINANCIALS
9. IYT	1.92	TRANS	TRANSPORTATION
10. SPX-I	1.78	SP500	S&P 500
11. ITA	1.76	DFEND	AEROSPACE & DEFENSE
12 XLI	1.67	INDUS	INDUSTRIALS
13. VGK	1.40	EUROP	EUROPE

Symbol	Slope	Synonym	Sector Name
14. PAVE	1.28	INFRA	INFRASTRUCTURE
15. XLRE	1.04	REALE	REAL ESTATE
16. XLB	0.99	MATER	MATERIALS
17 RTH	0.78	SALES	RETAIL SALES
18. XLP	0.64	STAPL	CONSUMER STAPLES
19. ITB	0.23	BLDRS	HOMEBUILDERS
20 XLY	-0.08	DISCR	CONSUMER DISCR
21. XLU	-0.73	UTILS	UTILITIES
22. XLC	-0.94	COMMS	COMMUNICATION SRVCS
23. PTY	-1.16	BONDS	CASH EQUIVALENT
24. GLD	-1.41	GOLD	GOLD
25. URA	-3.71	NUCLR	NUCLEAR ENERGY

Biotech still leads, but Healthcare and Energy both jumped, taking over rows 2 and 3, respectively. The semiconductor sector is now down to row #5. Also, Banks and Financials moved down two places.

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 21-Aug-2026

Symbol	Synonym	Description	Instr	MTA 3	RelStr	CMF	NH/NL	MCHist
XBI	BIOTC	BIOTECHNOLOGY	ETF	UP	4.46:1.78	«up»	278/0	0.8
XLV	HLTHY	HEALTH CARE	ETF	UP	2.91:1.78	–up–	999/1	1.0
XLE	ENRGY	ENERGY	ETF	UP	2.77:1.78	–up–	999/0	0.3
KIE	INSUR	INSURANCE SECTOR	ETF	UP	2.77:1.78	DN	0/4	1.4
SMH	SEMIS	SEMICONDUCTORS	ETF	UP	2.74:1.78	DN	5/3	-3.5
KBE	BANKS	S&P BANK SECTOR	ETF	UP	2.68:1.78	DN	0/6	1.0
IGM	TECHS	EXPANDED TECH SECTOR	ETF	UP	2.59:1.78	DN	0/3	-0.5
XLF	FINAN	FINANCIALS	ETF	UP	2.56:1.78	=DN=	0/3	1.6
IYT	TRANS	TRANSPORT NDX	ETF	UP	1.92:1.78	DN	0/2	-0.2
SPX-I	SP500	S&P 500	INDEX	UP	1.78:1.81	DN	0/3	0.2
ITA	DFEND	SPACE & DEFENSE	ETF	UP	1.76:1.78	–DN–	0/3	0.4
XLI	INDUS	SPX INDUSTRIALS	ETF	UP	1.67:1.78	DN	0/3	0.2
VGK	EUROP	FTSE EUROPE	ETF	UP	1.40:1.78	«dn»	999/2	0.5
PAVE	INFRA	INFRASTRUCTURE	ETF	UP	1.28:1.78	≡DN≡	7/3	-0.9
XLRE	REALE	REAL ESTATE	ETF	UP	1.04:1.78	≡DN≡	1/0	-0.1
XLB	MATER	MATERIALS	ETF	UP	0.99:1.78	≡DN≡	26/2	-0.4
RTH	SALES	RETAIL	ETF	UP	0.78:1.78	DN	0/3	0.3
XLP	STAPL	CONSUMER STAPLES	ETF	UP	0.64:1.78	«UP»	3/3	0.1
ITB	BLDRS	HOME CONSTRUCTION	ETF	UP	0.23:1.78	DN	0/2	0.4
XLY	DISCR	CONSUMER DISCR	ETF	DN	-0.08:1.78	«dn»	1/2	0.1
XLU	UTILS	UTILITIES	ETF	UP	-0.73:1.78	–DN–	0/28	-0.7
XLC	COMMS	COMMUNICATION SRVCS	ETF	DN	-0.94:1.78	–DN–	1/0	-0.2
PTY	BONDS	PIMCO CORP & INCOME OPPTY	CEF	DN	-1.16:1.78	«dn»	1/3	0.7
GLD	GOLD	SPDR GOLD SHARES	ETF	DN	-1.41:1.78	=UP=	14/1	-0.5
URA	NUCLR	NUCLEAR ENERGY	ETF	DN	-3.71:1.78	«UP»	9/2	-2.1

XBI, XLV, XLE, and VGK made all-time highs.

MoM price changes for the top 5 sectors: XBI: 9.0%, XLV: 9.5%, XLE: 7.5%, KIE: 1.1%, SMH: -4.5%

MoM price changes for the Big 8 (the Mag 7 plus AVGO): AAPL: -5.1%, AMZN: 5.6%, AVGO: -7.1%, GOOGL: 0.8%, META: -12.3%, MSFT: 23.8%, NFLX: 16.1%, TSLA: -3.0%

This Week's Selections

Last week my sector choices were: IYT (10%), KBE (10%), XLE (10%), XLF (10%), and PTY (60%), with buy watches on KIE, XLI, and ITA.

Top Sector ETFs By Slope

Symbol	MTA	ARI	SSlope	8% Stop	Close	Position
XBI	UP	Up	4.4639%	$155.99	$165.73	**BUY**
XLV	UP	Up	2.9094%	$161.63	$174.62	**BUY**
XLE	UP	Up	2.7737%	$58.65	$63.64	Hold 10%
KIE	UP	Up	2.7720%	$61.13	$63.41	no
SMH	UP	Up	2.7355%	$546.54	$560.42	no
KBE	UP	Up	2.6817%	$65.94	$68.74	Hold 10%
IGM	UP	Up	2.5890%	$152.42	$158.89	no
XLF	UP	Up	2.5645%	$53.60	$57.48	Hold 10%
IYT	UP	Up	1.9161%	$82.81	$87.03	**Watch –**
SPX-I	UP	Up	1.7839%	$7175.07	$7674.37	INDEX
ITA	UP	Up	1.7596%	$232.96	$237.34	no
XLI	UP	Up	1.6716%	$171.59	$180.25	no

Analysis

XBI edged above $160 on Tuesday, then gapped up on Wednesday, ending the day at $169, an all-time high. All basic charts are up. XLV made an all-time high, 5 out of 6 basic charts are up, and one is rising toward zero. XLE made an all-time high. KIE edged further down. SMH is in a 9-week, converging channel. The channel centerline is mostly flat with a small upward bias. KBE – last week's turn up turned down. The zero-lag indicators, KBE, RSI, and CMF are all down. ATS turned down. OBV Osc is still positive, but resumed its decline. $68 looks like an important support level.

IGM peaked over $165 on Monday and then retreated to near $160. XLF tried to get above $58 but then fell back. IYT continues to meander between $85 and $90. SPX had 4 down days and one very small up day on Friday. ITA had 4 down days and ended the week below $240. XLI had 5 down days and found support near $180.

Thoughts and Decisions

Buy XBI and XLV. If I see an open and a close for IYT below $85, then I will sell it.

My sector choices for this week are: IYT (10%), KBE (10%), XBI (10%), XLE (10%), XLF (10%), XLV (10%), and PTY (40%).

New Highs and Lows

6 all-time highs this week. TLT (long-term bonds) made another all-time low.

SECURITIES MAKING NEW HIGHS DURING THE WEEK OF 21-Aug-2026					
SYMBOL	**COMPANY**	**INSTR**	**MTA**	**SLOPE**	**WEEKS**
JNJ	JOHNSON AND JOHNSON (DK)	STOCK	UP	3.14123	999
RTX	RTX Corp	STOCK	UP	4.29893	999
VGK	FTSE EUROPE	ETF	UP	1.39816	999
XLE	ENERGY	ETF	UP	2.77373	999
XLV	HEALTH CARE	ETF	UP	2.90939	999
ACWX	ACWI INDEX MINUS U.S.	ETF	UP	1.25164	925
XOP	OIL & GAS EXP & PROD	ETF	UP	3.20004	598
IVE	S&P 500 VALUE	ETF	UP	1.66305	484
IQLT	GLOBAL QUALITY	ETF	UP	1.61575	481
MOAT	MORNINGSTAR WIDE MOAT	ETF	UP	2.45857	459
KO	COCA COLA (DK)	STOCK	UP	3.23924	340
SPYV	S&P 500 (VALUE)	ETF	UP	1.64455	339
AMGN	AMGEN	STOCK	UP	5.00152	335
INFL	INFLATION BENEFICIARIES	ETF	UP	0.85405	282
XBI	BIOTECHNOLOGY	ETF	UP	4.46395	278
IBB	BIO-TECH & PHARMA	ETF	UP	3.93017	253
MGA	MAGNA INTERNATIONAL/STOCK	x	UP	3.99198	225
TGT	TARGET (DK)	STOCK	UP	6.91756	117
DJIA	FOW 30 COVERED CALLS	ETF	UP	1.14321	74
OGN	ORGANON	STOCK	UP	7.66988	70
SECURITIES MAKING NEW LOWS DURING THE WEEK OF 21-Aug-2026					
TLT	U.S. 20+ YEAR T-BOND	ETF	DN	-1.28192	999
FLO	FLOWERS FOODS	STOCK	DN	-4.40063	328
VICI	VICI PROPERTIES	ETF	DN	-1.78160	280
UTHY	US 30-Year Bond	ETF	DN	-1.26650	169
TLH	10-20 YEAR T-BOND INDEX	ETF	DN	-1.00662	140
TIP	TIPS BOND	ETF	DN	-0.82512	79
LQD	INVESTMENT GRADE CORP BOND	ETF	DN	-0.80442	62
USIG	USD INVESTMENT GRADE CORPORATE BOND	ETF	UP	-0.59899	62