

NOVEMBER 2021

U.S. Market Update

The S&P 500 Total Return Index jumped by more than 700 basis points (bps) last month. It was the largest monthly increase since November 2020. The market has risen for 15 of the last 19 months.

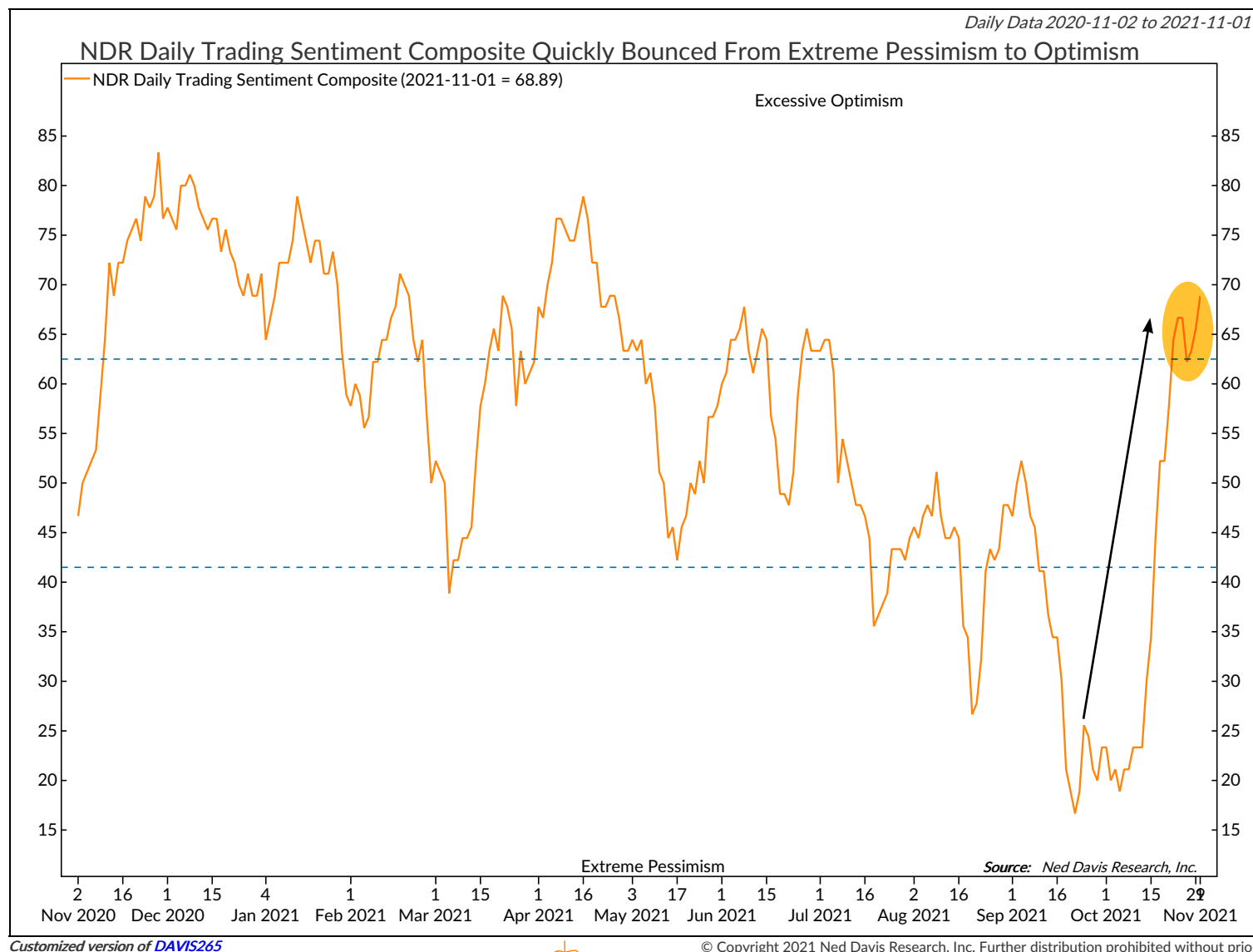
At the start of the month, no technical (internal) indicators were bearish. Global equity market breadth bounced off its early October lows. By the end of the month, more than

two-thirds of global equity markets were trading above their near-term trends.

Two of the external (macro, fundamental, and behavioral) indicators were bearish at the end of October. High yield option-adjusted spreads (OAS) widened during October, indicating an elevated risk outlook. Broad sentiment also quickly reversed from extreme pessimism to broad optimism (chart, below).

Overly optimistic sentiment can reflect a “best case scenario” already priced into the market.

However, further deterioration from both price-based and macro-fundamental indicators is required for the Catastrophic Stop model to turn bearish. For now, the weight of the evidence recommends that the Smart Sector® strategy maintains a 100% equity allocation.



Sector Performance Update

Consumer Discretionary (XLY) and Energy (XLE) both jumped by more than 1,000 basis points (bps) during October. XLY had its best monthly return since April 2020 and has risen for four of the last five months. XLE produced its best monthly return since February. XLE has risen by more than 800 bps for the last two months, which it had not done since 2016.

Materials (XLB), Real Estate (XLRE), Financials (XLF), and Information Technology

(XLK) all increased by more than 700 bps last month. XLRE has produced positive returns for eleven of the last twelve months. It was the best monthly return for XLK and XLB since November 2020. XLK has increased for four of the last five months. XLF had its best monthly gain since February.

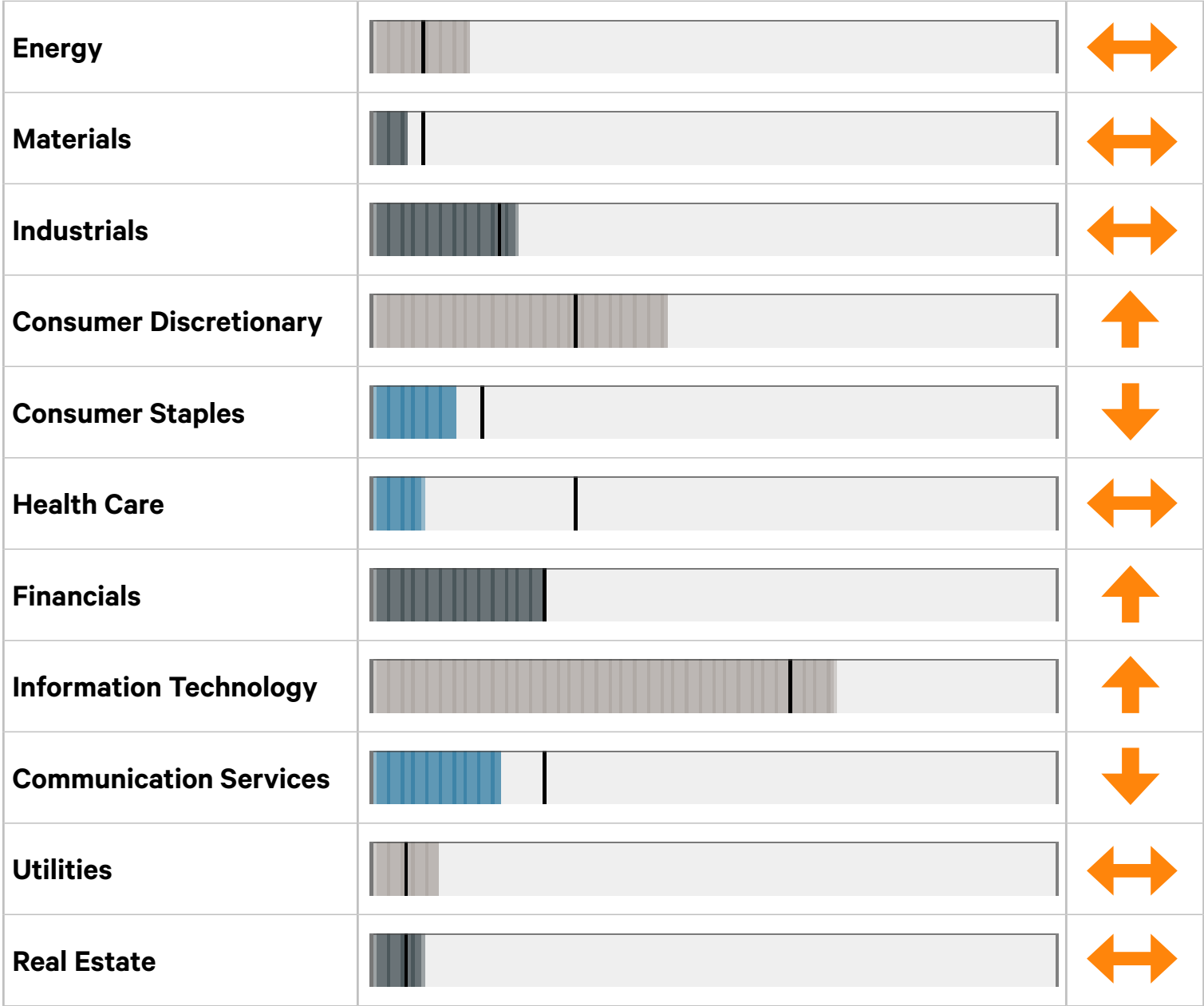
Industrials (XLI) and Health Care (XLV) both rose by more than 500 bps. XLI had it best month since March and it has risen for three

of the last four months. XLV jumped the most in one month since November 2020 and it has increased for seven of the last eight months.

Consumer Staples (XLP) and Utilities (XLU) each gained more than 300 bps. Both sectors had their best one-month gains since the first quarter, and they have risen for three of the last four months.

Communications Services (XLC) was the

Sector Allocation Summary



The vertical, black line represents the benchmark weight. The dark shading represents the sector’s allocation. Shading significantly to the right (left) of the benchmark line represents an overweight (underweight) position. The direction of the arrow indicates whether the allocation increased, decreased, or remained approximately the same as the previous month.

worst-performing sector in October as it increased by less than 50 bps. However, XLC has risen for ten of the last twelve months.

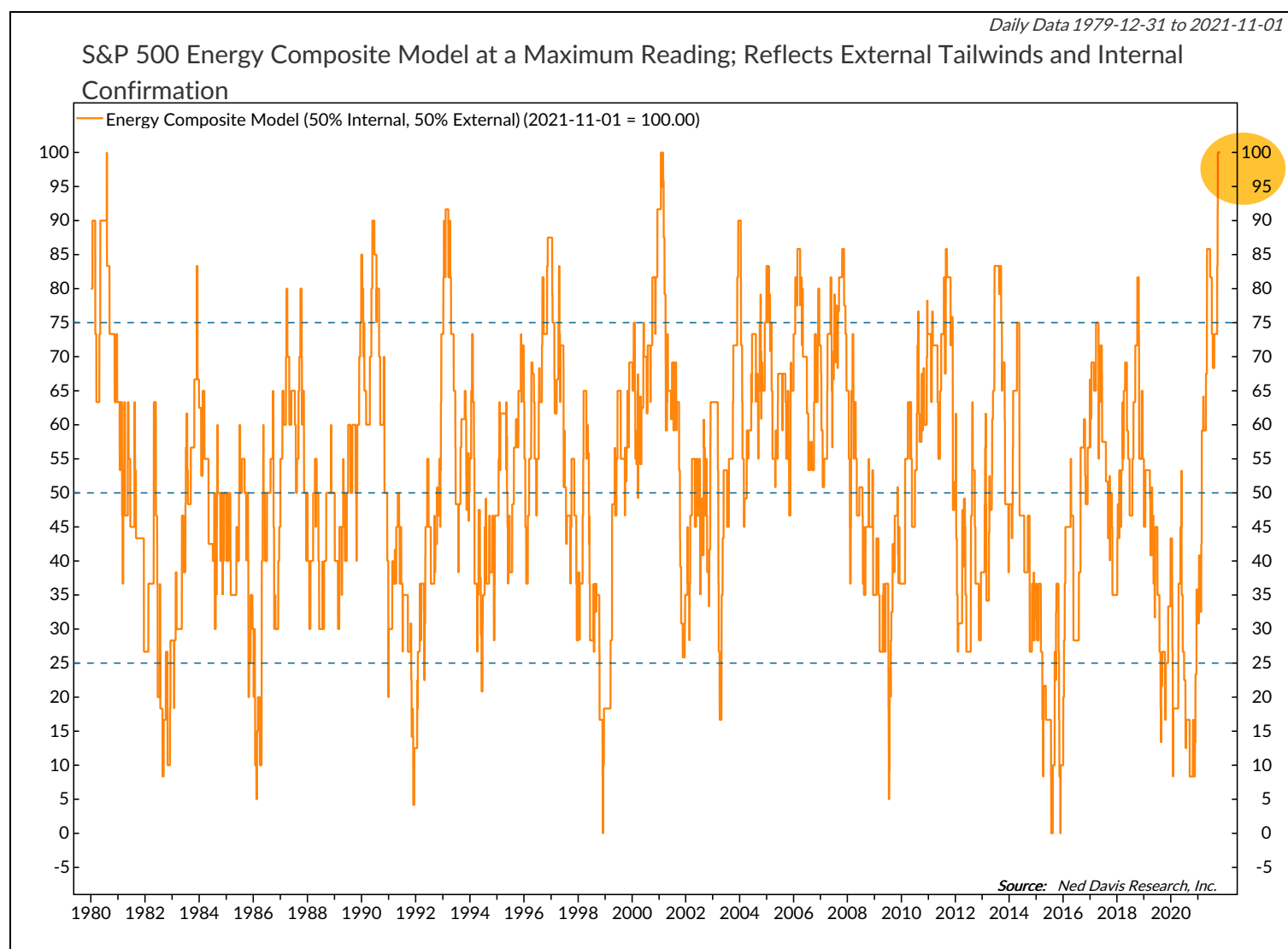
- The Consumer Discretionary sector continues to have the largest allocation above benchmark. An intermediate-term breadth indicator, measuring net new highs, turned bullish. All but one of the price-based (internals) indicators is bullish. Two-thirds of the external (macro, fundamental, and behavioral) indicators are bullish.
- The Energy sector's allocation remains overweight. No indicators changed signals. All the sector's internal and external indicators are bullish (chart,

below).

- The Utilities sector is still overweight. Although the sector is no longer oversold, near-term breadth and trend reversal indicators have turned bullish. All but one of the sector's externals is bullish, as a measure of capacity utilization turned bearish this month.
- The Financials sector's allocation has risen above benchmark. The sector has gotten cheaper, and the yield curve has steepened. Both conditions are bullish for the sector. Over half of the external indicators support the sector.
- The Information Technology sector's allocation improved, remaining

above the benchmark. The sector is reversing from an oversold condition and has more attractive valuations. All but one of the external indicators are bullish.

- The Real Estate sector's weighting continues to be modestly above the benchmark. There were offsetting indicator changes. The sector is reversing higher from an oversold reading, but the homebuilder stocks are rolling over, which may reflect headwinds for the broad real estate sector.



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- Industrials' weighting has risen slightly above benchmark allocation. Multiple measures of price momentum have improved, but volatility has also increased.
- The Communication Services sector's allocation plummeted below the benchmark. The sector is reversing from an overbought condition. Both trend (chart, below) and price momentum indicators confirmed the technical deterioration. All but one of

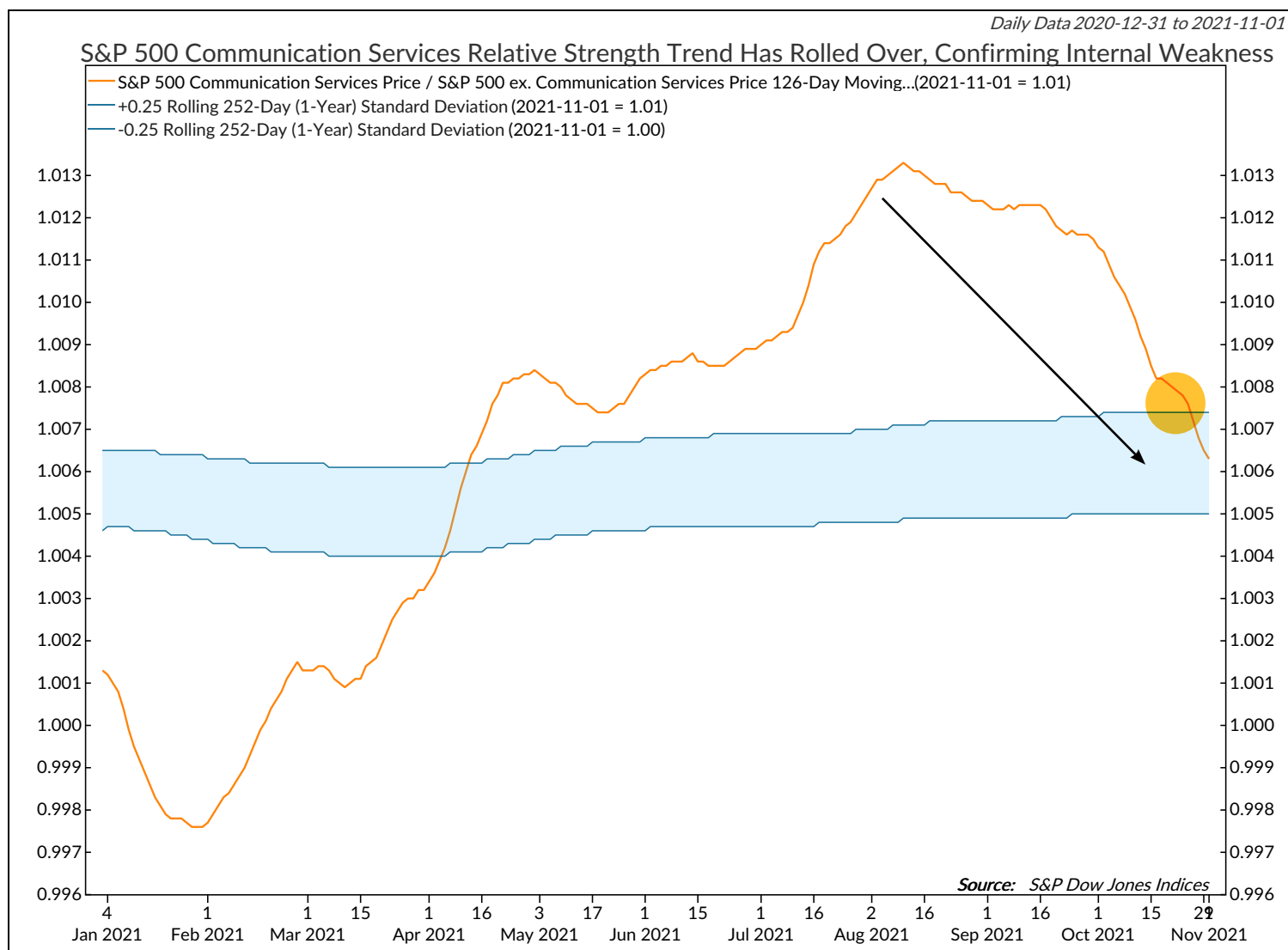
the internal indicators are bearish.

- The Consumer Staples sector's weighting fell further below benchmark allocation. Near-term breadth weakened, so now only one of the sector's internals is bullish. More than two-thirds of the externals are bearish.
- The Materials sector's allocation improved, but it continues to reside below the benchmark. The sector is now reversing higher from oversold levels. Two-thirds of the sector's

internal indicators are bearish.

Emerging Markets relative strength versus Developed Markets has improved, which typically coincides with Materials sector outperformance.

- The Health Care sector's allocation declined, and it continues to be underweight. Although relative price momentum has improved, earnings revisions breadth has deteriorated. Only one indicator is bullish on the sector.



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Strategy description

- The Smart Sector® with Catastrophic Stop strategy combines two Ned Davis Research quantitative investment strategies: The NDR Sector Allocation and the NDR Catastrophic Stop.

The process is based on the weight of the evidence

- The fund begins by overweighting and underweighting the S&P 500 sectors based on Ned Davis Research's proprietary sector models.
- Each of the sector models utilize sector-specific, weight-of-the-evidence composites of fundamental, economic, technical, and behavioral indicators to determine each sector's probability of outperforming the S&P 500.
- Sectors are weighted accordingly relative to benchmark weightings.

When market risks become extraordinarily high — reduce your portfolio risk

- The model remains fully invested unless the Ned Davis Research Catastrophic Sell Stop (CSS) model is triggered, whereupon the equity-invested position is trimmed to 50%.
- The NDR Catastrophic Sell Stop model combines time-tested, objective indicators designed to identify periods of high risk for the broad U.S. equity market. The model uses price-based, breadth, deviation from trend, fundamental, economic, interest rate, behavioral and volatility-based indicator composites.

When market risks return to normal — put your money back to work

- When the NDR CSS model moves back to bullish levels, indicating lower risk, the strategy immediately moves back to fully invested.

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