

JANUARY 2021

U.S. Market Update

The S&P 500 Total Return Index rose by more than 3.8% during December and over 18% for the year. The market has risen by more than 10% for seven of the last ten years.

The Catastrophic Stop model exited its March 10th sell signal on May 14th and continues to recommend a fully invested equity position.

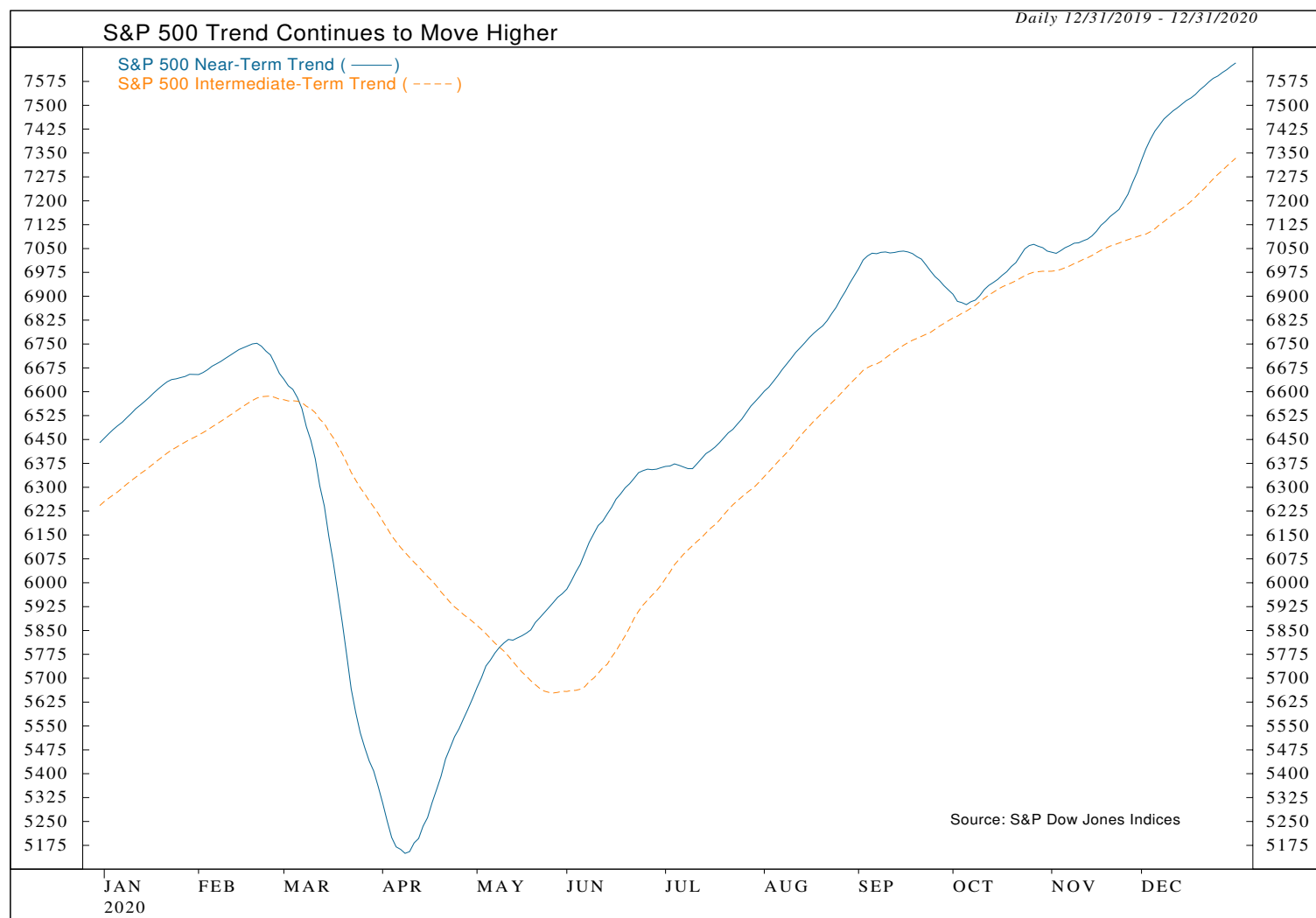
The overall model's composite reading has declined from its early-July highs, indicating increased risks, but the weight of the evidence remains supportive of equities.

The technical (internal) composite currently has one neutral indicator and six bullish indicators. The short-term trend continues to favor stocks (chart at bottom). The market is supported by strong global participation as 94% of global equity markets trade above their 50-day moving averages.

Three external (macro, fundamental, and behavioral) indicators remain bearish this month. NDR's most popular sentiment indicator reflects levels of extreme optimism, indicating that investors have priced in a best-case

scenario for the market. The Baltic Dry Index's near-term trend remains below its long-term average as global shipping rates weakened. Finally, the yield curve continues to suggest headwinds for the market.

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



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Sector Performance Update

Financials (XLF), Information Technology (XLK), and Energy (XLE) were the top-performing sectors last month. They all increased by more than 450 basis points (bps) during December. XLK was the strongest sector during 2020 as it rose over 43%. XLE and XLF both had negative returns last year.

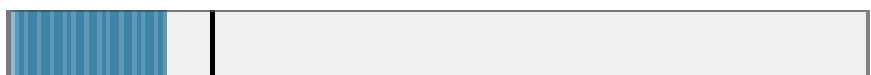
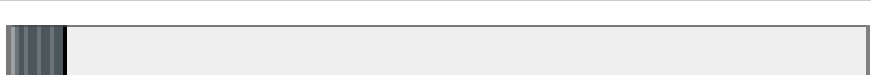
Health Care (XLV) and Communications Services (XLC) each gained over 330 bps last month. XLC was the third-best sector in 2020 as it jumped by more than 26%.

Consumer Discretionary (XLY) and Materials (XLB) both increased by more than 240 bps in December. XLY and XLB also jumped by

over 20% last year.

Industrials (XLI), Consumer Staples (XLP), Utilities (XLU), and Real Estate (XLRE) each gained less than 200 bps last month. XLRE was the second-worst sector in 2020 as it fell over 200 bps.

Sector Allocation Summary

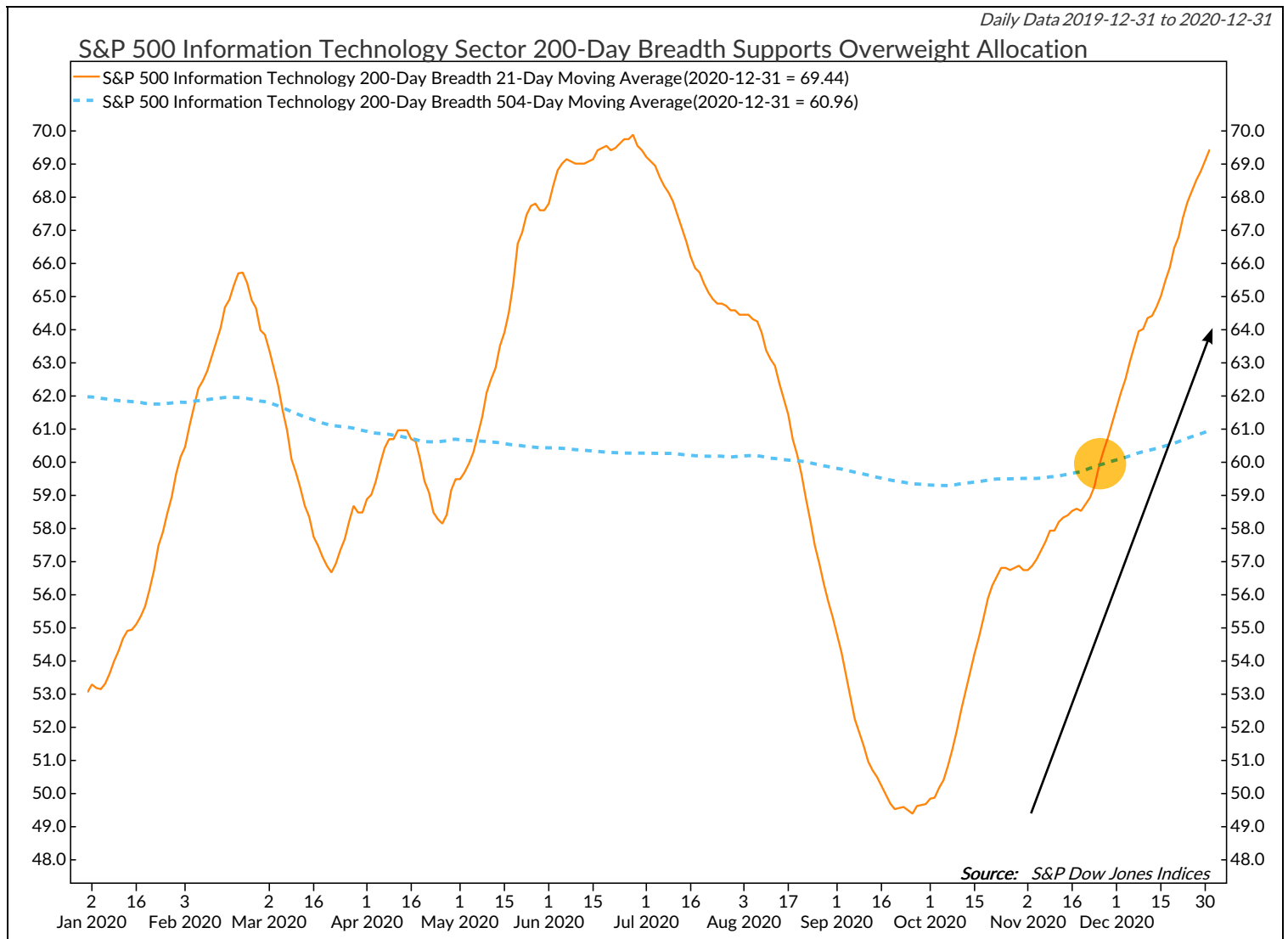
Energy		
Materials		
Industrials		
Consumer Discretionary		
Consumer Staples		
Health Care		
Financials		
Information Technology		
Communication Services		
Utilities		
Real Estate		

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.

- The Information Technology sector's allocation increased to over 1,000 bps above benchmark. All of the sector's technical indicators are positive as overbought/oversold and breadth (chart at bottom) indicators flipped from bearish to bullish
- The Communication Services sector's allocation declined, but remains over 100 bps above benchmark allocation.

- A price momentum indicator switched from bullish to bearish. None of the sector's external (macro, fundamental, and behavioral) indicators are bearish
- The Financials sector's allocation is over 100 bps above benchmark. Citi Economic Surprise and trend measures exited their bearish signals. However, volatility and overbought/oversold indicators produced new bearish

- readings
- The Real Estate sector's allocation is less than 100 bps above benchmark. No indicators changed signals this month
- The Materials sector is slightly above benchmark allocation. Three price-based indicators (overbought/oversold, trend, and volatility) measures generated new bearish signals

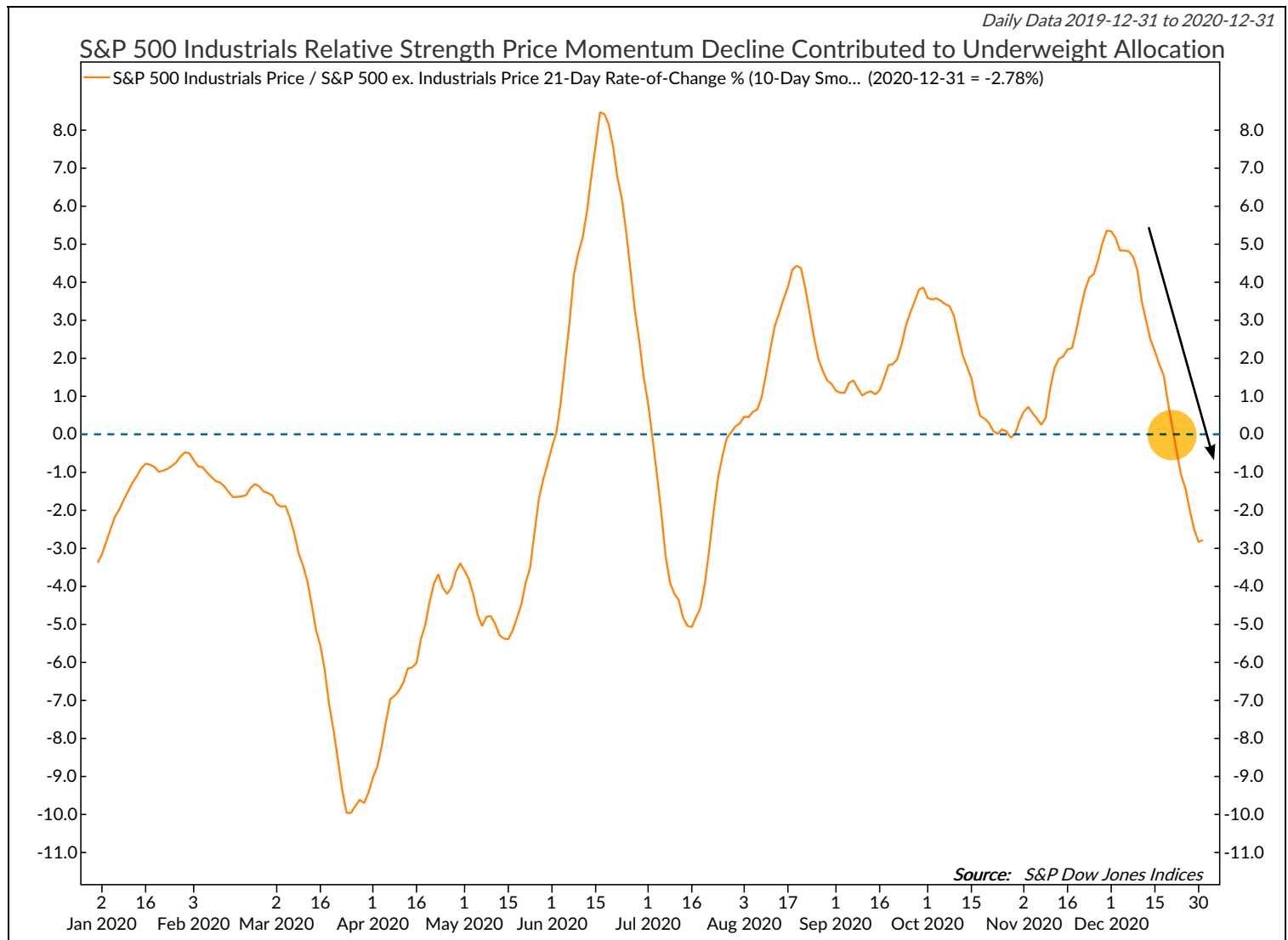


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- The Health Care sector's allocation improved by over 300 bps, but remains below benchmark. An earnings revisions indicator produced a new bearish signal, while price momentum and breadth measures flipped from bearish to bullish
- The Energy sector received more than 100 bps in allocation after having no allocation last month. USD, trend, and crude oil sentiment indicators exited their bearish readings. However, an overbought/oversold measure flashed a new bearish signal
- Industrials' weighting plummeted by over 300 bps. Price momentum (chart at bottom), volatility, and oil price indicators generated new bearish signals
- The Consumer Discretionary sector's allocation remains over 200 bps below benchmark. There were offsetting signal changes as a credit conditions measure switched to bullish, while a Treasury yield indicator flipped to bearish
- The Utilities sector received no allocation this month. Only one of its indicators (overbought/oversold) is bullish
- The Consumer Staples sector's allocation fell to more than 400 bps below benchmark weight. All of the sector's price-based indicators are bearish



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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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