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The Kaufman Report

Trade what you see, not what you think.

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Monday March 23, 2009 **Closing prices of March 20, 2009**

Stocks recorded their second consecutive weekly gain last week in spite of dropping Thursday and Friday. All ten S&P sectors advanced last week, with the exception of Health Care -1.79%. The leaders were Utilities +8.16% and Materials +4.03%. Stocks remain overbought short-term, and we expect more weakness in the near term as the overbought condition is digested. Buyers have been buying the dips recently in spite of extreme overbought conditions, and sellers were nowhere to be found. An extremely overbought market that doesn't pull back may be the initiation phase of a strong rally. This week will be a good test of the bull's resolve, and will show whether or not there are buyers on weakness. For now we repeat again that long-term investors should be careful with entry points long, and aggressive traders can continue to look for entries short.

The short-term trend is now up, while the intermediate-term and long-term trends remain down. This continues to be an opportunistic trader's market, with adept traders able to take advantage long or short. Traders should not hesitate to rotate out of lagging sectors and stocks and into leaders.

The S&P 1500 (174.03) was down 2.093% Friday. Average price per share was down 2.57%. Volume was 103% of its 10-day average and 111% of its 30-day average. 14.57% of the S&P 1500 stocks were up, with up volume at 20.08% and up points at 7.14%. Up Dollars was 1.46% of total dollars, and was 2% of its 10-day moving average. Down Dollars was 371% of its 10-day moving average. The index is up 4.37% in March, down 15.08% quarter-to-date and year-to-date, and down 51.17% from the peak of 356.38 on 10/11/07. Average price per share is $20.70, down 52.12% from the peak of $43.23 on 6/4/07.

Percent over 10-sma: 76.47. 13-Week Closing Highs: 12. 13-Week Closing Lows: 31.
Put/Call Ratio: 0.894. Kaufman Options Indicator: 1.14.
The spread between the reported earnings yield and 10-year bond yield is 28%, and 195% based on projected earnings.

Reported aggregate earnings for the S&P 1500 peaked in August 2007 at $19.18 and are now at $5.87, a drop of 69.40%. Estimated aggregate earnings peaked at $21.95 in February 2008 and are now $13.49, a drop of 38.54%. The spread between reported and projected earnings is 130%, near the widest level in years. **If investors believed the estimates stocks would be much higher.**

493 of the S&P 500 have reported 4th quarter earnings. According to Bloomberg, 60.1 % had positive surprises, 8.1% were line, and 31.8% have been negative, a high number. The year-over-year change has been -61.4% on a share-weighted basis, -22.0% market cap-weighted and -30.8% non-weighted. Ex-financial stocks these numbers are -18.7%, -6.1%, and -12.1 %, respectively.

Federal Funds futures are pricing in a probability of 90.0% that the Fed will *leave rates unchanged*, and a probability of 10.0% of cutting *25 basis points to 0.0%* when they meet on April 29th. They are pricing in a probability of 80.4% that the Fed will *leave rates unchanged* on June 24th and a probability of 10.8% of *raising 25 basis points*.

IMPORTANT DISCLOSURES

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Economic News

3/19/09 – Initial Jobless Claims for w/e 3/14 were 646,000, better than the estimate of 655,000. Continuing Claims for w/e 3/7 came in at 5,473,000 versus the 5,323,000 estimate. The Conference Board's Index of Leading Indicators for February was down 0.4% versus the estimate of a decrease of 0.6%. January's number was revised down from +0.4% to +0.1%. The Philadelphia Fed Index of manufacturing shrank for the 15th time in 16 months, coming in at -35.0 versus the estimate of -39.0.

3/18/09 – The FOMC left rates unchanged as expected, but announced they will buy as much as $300 billion of Treasuries and increase purchases of agency mortgage backed securities by up to $750 billion. <u>This caused the biggest decline in 10-year bond yields since records started in 1962.</u> The Consumer Price Index for February was +0.4% versus the +0.3% estimate and up from +0.3% in January. Excluding food and fuel costs the core rate was +0.2%, pushing the annual core rate to +1.8% versus the +1.7% estimate. The U.S. Account Deficit for Q4 narrowed more than forecast to $132.8 billion, the smallest since 2003. Mortgage applications for w/e 3/13 were +21.2%. This includes purchases and refinances.

3/17/09 – U.S. Producer Prices for February rosse 0.1% versus the 0.4% estimate. Excluding food and fuel core prices rose 0.2% versus the 0.1% estimate. U.S. Housing Starts in February unexpectedly surged from a record low of 583,000 annualized versus the 450,000 estimate. <u>This was the biggest jump since 1990.</u> Building permits were reported at 547,000 annualized versus the 500,000 estimate.

3/16/09 – The Empire Manufacturing Index (New York) for March came in at -38.23 versus the estimate of -30.80. New orders and shipments dropped to record lows and the inventories index hit the lowest level since 2001. U.S. Industrial Production for February dropped for the fourth month in a row coming in at -1.4% versus the -1.3% estimate, reflecting automobile cutbacks and plunging exports. Factory Capacity Utilization fell to 70.9%, matching the lowest level ever. Net Long-Term TIC Flows for January were -$43.0 billion versus the estimate of +$45.0 billion as international demand for U.S. financial assets fell.

3/13/2009 – The Trade Balance for January came in at -$36 billion versus the estimate of -$38 billion. The trade deficit narrowed in January to the lowest level in 6 years as imports fell faster than exports. The narrower gap was mainly due to the drop in petroleum prices. The Import Price Index for February fell -0.2% MoM versus the estimate of -0.7%. YoY it was -12.8% versus the -13.5% estimate. A concern for the U.S. economy is the slump in foreign demand for American made goods. Exports decreased 5.7% to $124.9 billion, the lowest since September 2006. The World Bank said the global economy is likely to shrink for the first time since WWII, and trade will decline by the most in 80 years.

3/12/09 – Initial Jobless Claims for w/e 3/7 were 654K versus the 644K estimate, up 9K from the prior week. The 4-week average rose to 650K, the most in over 26-years. Continuing Claims for w/e 2/28 were 5,317K versus the 5,140K estimate. Retail Sales fell 0.1%, less than the forecast -0.5%. Sales less autos climbed 0.7% versus the -0.1% estimate. Business Inventories in January fell faster than sales and were at a 1.43 month supply, the same as December. This shows progress matching inventory to sales, and combined with the increase in retail sales could indicate a stabilizing in the largest part of the economy.

3/11/09 – Mortgage Applications for w/e 3/6 were up 11.3% led by refinancing +13.1%. U.S. foreclosures hit a record 121,756 in February which was up 67% versus January.

3/10/09 – Wholesale Inventories for January were down 0.7% versus the -1.0% estimate. This was the 5th straight monthly decrease, the longest in almost 7 years. Sales dropped 2.9% and there was a 1.3 month supply of inventory, the most since January 2002. China's exports for February plunged 25.7% Y-o-Y, while car sales were up 24%. China's consumer prices in February fell 1.6% Y-o-Y, the first decline in over 6-years. British Industrial Output, which equals 18% of their economy, fell 2.6% in January and 11.4% Y-o-Y, the worst drop since 1981 and the lowest total since April 1993.

3/9/09 – Brazil's Industrial Production plunged a record 17.2% in January Y-o-Y. Japan posted a current account deficit for January of $1.76 billion. Exports to the U.S. were down 53%.

3/6/09 – The Unemployment Rate in February was 8.1%, the highest since 1983. The estimate was 7.9%. The change in Non-Farm Payrolls showed a loss of 651,000 jobs versus the estimate of 650,000. The January number of 598,000 was revised to a loss of 655,000 jobs. Consumer Credit in January rose by $1.76 billion versus the estimate of a decrease of $5 billion. This was the first rise in four months.

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Economic News

3/5/09 – Initial Jobless Claims for w/e 2/28 were 639,000 versus the 650,000 estimate. Continuing Claims for w/e 2/21 were 5,106,000 versus the 5,155,000 estimate. Non-Farm Productivity for Q4 was -0.4% versus the estimate of +1.0%. Unit Labor Costs were +5.7% versus the +3.8% estimate. Factory Orders for January were -1.9% versus the -3.5% estimate. Mortgage Delinquencies for Q4 were 7.88% versus the prior quarter at 6.99%. Productivity, defined as employee output per hour, fell as the economy shrank faster than companies cut jobs and hours.

3/4/09 – ADP Employer Services Report for February showed a loss of 697,000 joibs versus the estimate of -630,000. January's number was revised down to -614,000 from -522,000. This tracks private employment, not government. The ISM Non-Manufacturing Index came in at 41.6 versus the estimate of 41.

3/3/09 – Pending Home Sales (existing homes) for January fell 7.7% from December, versus the estimate of -3.5%. In December Pending Home Sales were +4.8%.

3/2/09 – The ISM Manufacturing Index for February showed U.S. manufacturing contracted at a slower pace as it rose from 35.6 to 35.8 breaking a string of six straight declines. Personal Income in January was up 0.4% versus an estimated drop of 0.2%. Income was higher due to pay increases to government employees and cost of living adjustments to Federal transfer payments. Salaries and Wages fell 0.2%, the third consecutive decrease. Disposable income was up 1.5%. Personal Spending for January was up 0.6% versus the 0.4% estimate. This was the first time in seven months consumer spending increased.

2/27/09 – GDP for the fourth quarter shrank at a 6.2% annualized pace, the most since 1982 and worse than the estimate of -5.4%.

2/26/09 – Initial Jobless Claims for w/e 2/21 rose to 667,000, the highest since 1982. Durable Goods orders for January fell for a record 6th straight month, down 5.2% versus the estimate of -2.5%. Silver lining: inventories were down 0.8% from December. Singapore's economy shrank the most in 33 years last quarter, as GDP declined at an annualized 16.4% from the prior three months.

2/25/09 – Existing Home Sales for January fell 5.3% to 4.49 million annualized from 4.74 million in December. This was the lowest rate since 1997. Median price dropped 15% Y-o-Y. Distressed properties were 45% of sales.

2/24/09 – The Conference Board's reading of U.S. Consumer Confidence for February dropped to 25, the lowest ever and well below the estimate of 25. The S&P/Case-Shiller index of home prices in 20 U.S. cities plunged 18.5% in December YoY, the fastest drop on record. The MSCI World Index is off to its worst ever yearly start. German business confidence was reported at a 26-year low. Eurozone Industrial Orders fell 5.2% in December versus November and -23-3% YoY.

2/23/09 – Dallas Fed Manufacturing Activity came in at -57.3% versus the estimate of -50.0%.

2/20/09 – The Consumer Price Index for January rose for the first time in six months by +0.3%, hitting the estimate. It was unchanged on an annual basis for the first time since 1955. Energy expense rose 1.7%, led by a 6% rise in gasoline prices.

2/19/09 – Initial Jobless Claims for w/e 2/14 hit 627,000 versus the 620,000 estimate. The prior week was alsos 627,000. Continuing Claims were 4.99 million and set another record. The Producer Price Index for January was +0.8% versus a +0.3% estimate. Leading Indicators rose 0.4% versus the estimate of 0.1%. Some economists said this was a temporary jump.

2/18/09 – Housing Starts for January were the lowest on record at 466,000 annualized, missing the forecast of 529,000 and falling 17% from December. Building permits dropped 4.8% to 521,000 annualized.

2/17/2009 – Empire Manufacturing Index, which shows NY manufacturing, was -34.65 in February versus the -23.75 estimate. It dropped from -22.2 in January for the fastest drop ever. Net long-term TIC inflows, which shows international demand for U.S. financial assets, was $34.8 billion in December, up from -$21.7 billion in November and above the $20 billion estimate.

2/16/09 – Japanese GDP dropped 3.3% from the prior quarter, or 12.7% annualized, the biggest drop since 1974. Exports dropped at an 45% annualized rate as the synchronized global contraction hurts countries where global trade is extremely important.

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On Thursday the S&P 500 was repelled by its 50-sma (not shown on this intra-day chart). It also failed to hold support at the 780 level. Fibonacci retracement levels for this pull back would be the 751 area (38.2%) and the 735 area (50%).

The S&P 500 failed to break through the 50-sma. The 20-sma is currently at 737.45.

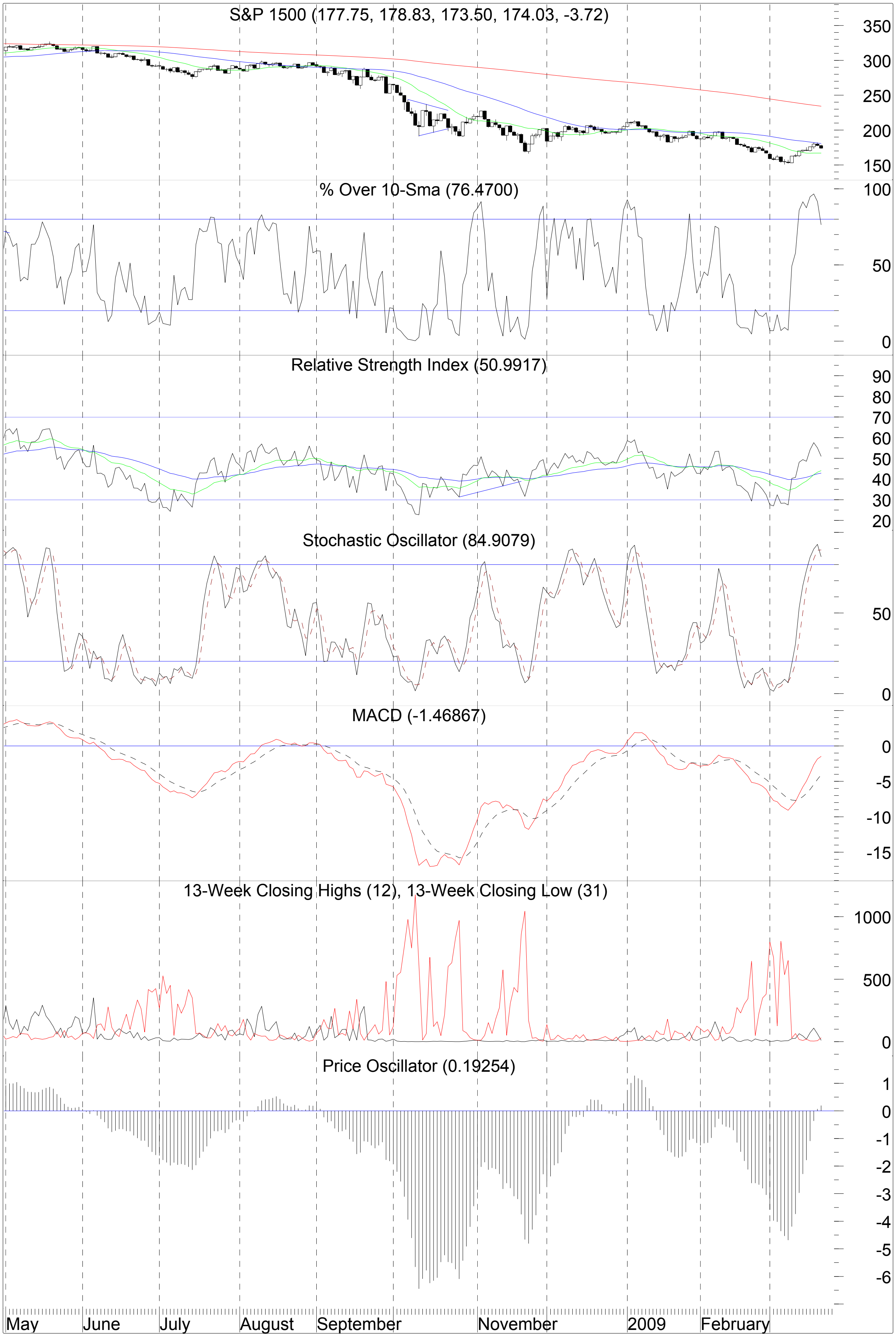
The RSI has topped in an area of prior resistance.

The stochastic is dropping down out of the overbought zone.

The S&P 500 weekly chart printed a bearish shooting star candle last week.

The Nasdaq 100 found support at its 50-sma Friday. Unfortunately the slope of the moving average is still down.

The stochastic has a negative crossover from the overbought zone.

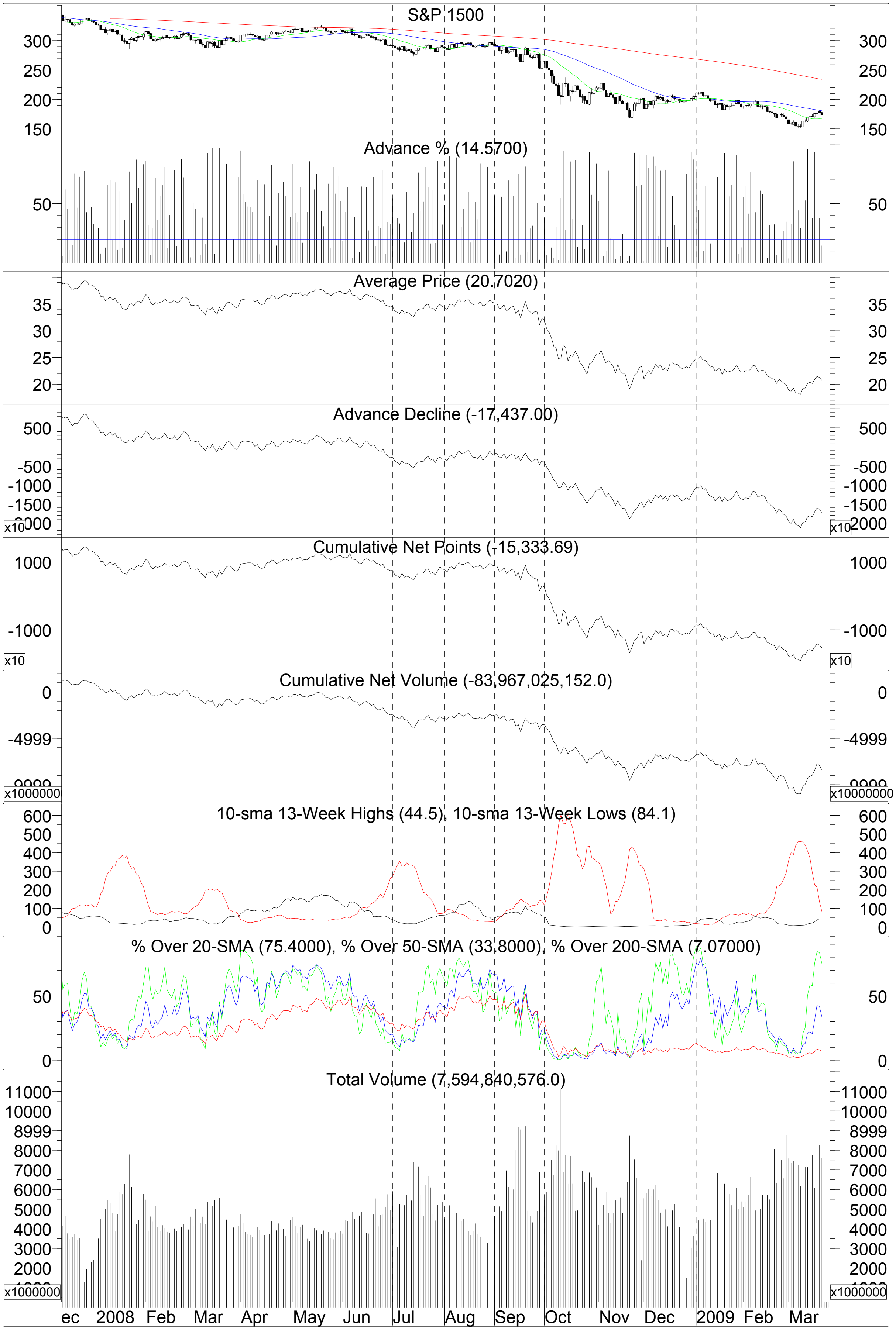


The percent over 10-sma is dropping out of the overbought zone after hitting very extreme levels.

The RSI has hit resistance once again in the area where it had problems recently.

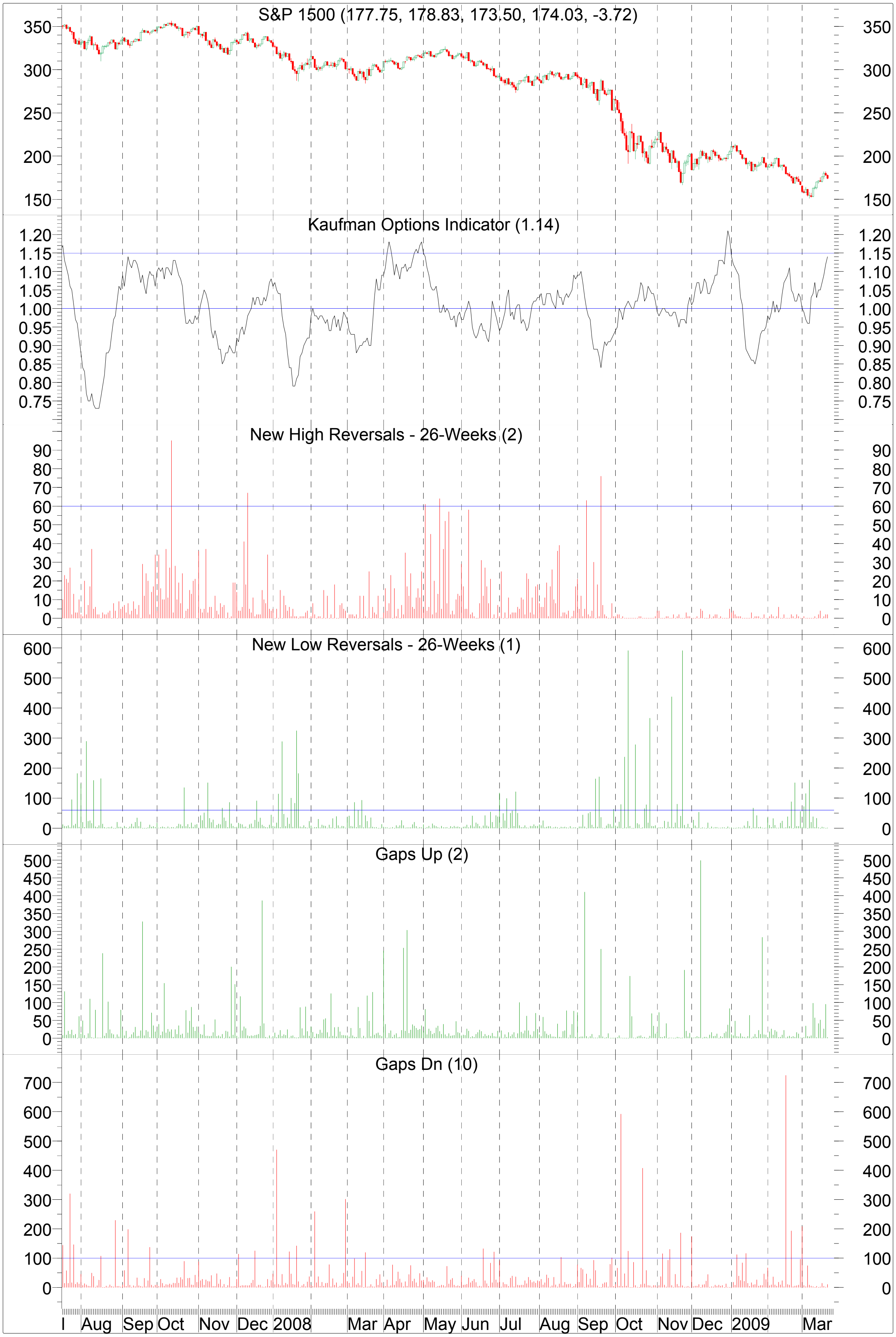
The stochastic has a negative crossover in the overbought zone.

Our price oscillator has moved just over neutral. It hasn't stayed there the last couple of times. A move back to negative would obviously be bearish.



14.57% of stocks traded higher Friday.

Volume decreased Friday.



Our proprietary options indicator is showing far too much optimism among options buyers. When the indicator is this far above neutral stocks are vulnerable to drops.

The recent increase in new low reversals show bottom fishers becoming more active.

The increase in stocks gapping up shows buyers becoming anxious. Of course, this can be short covering.

Our statistics of supply (red lines) versus demand (green) shows the recent rally has been due more to a decrease in sellers rather than a big increase in buyers. The big increase in up volume is probably skewed by the cheap financial stocks like C which have rallied recently.

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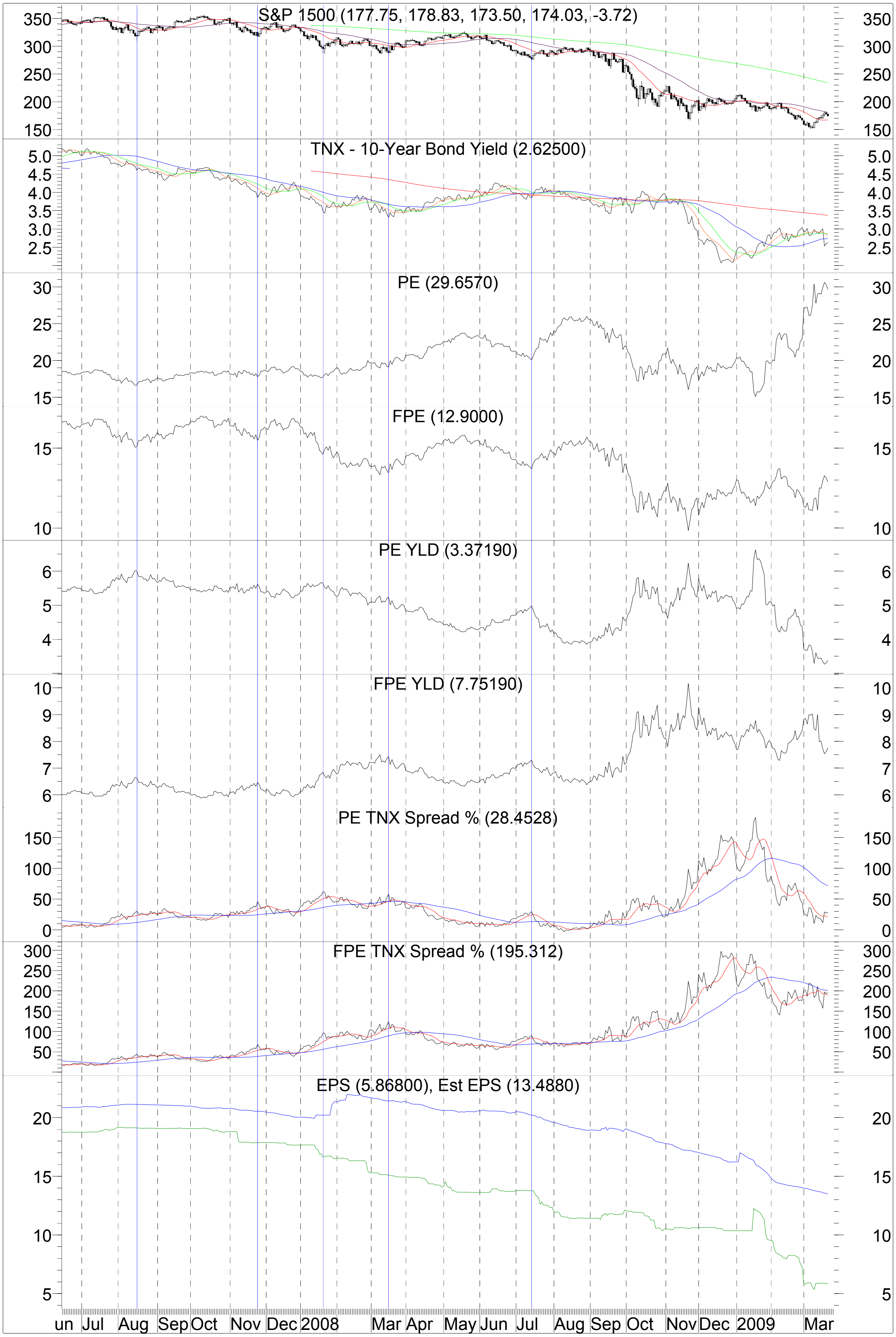
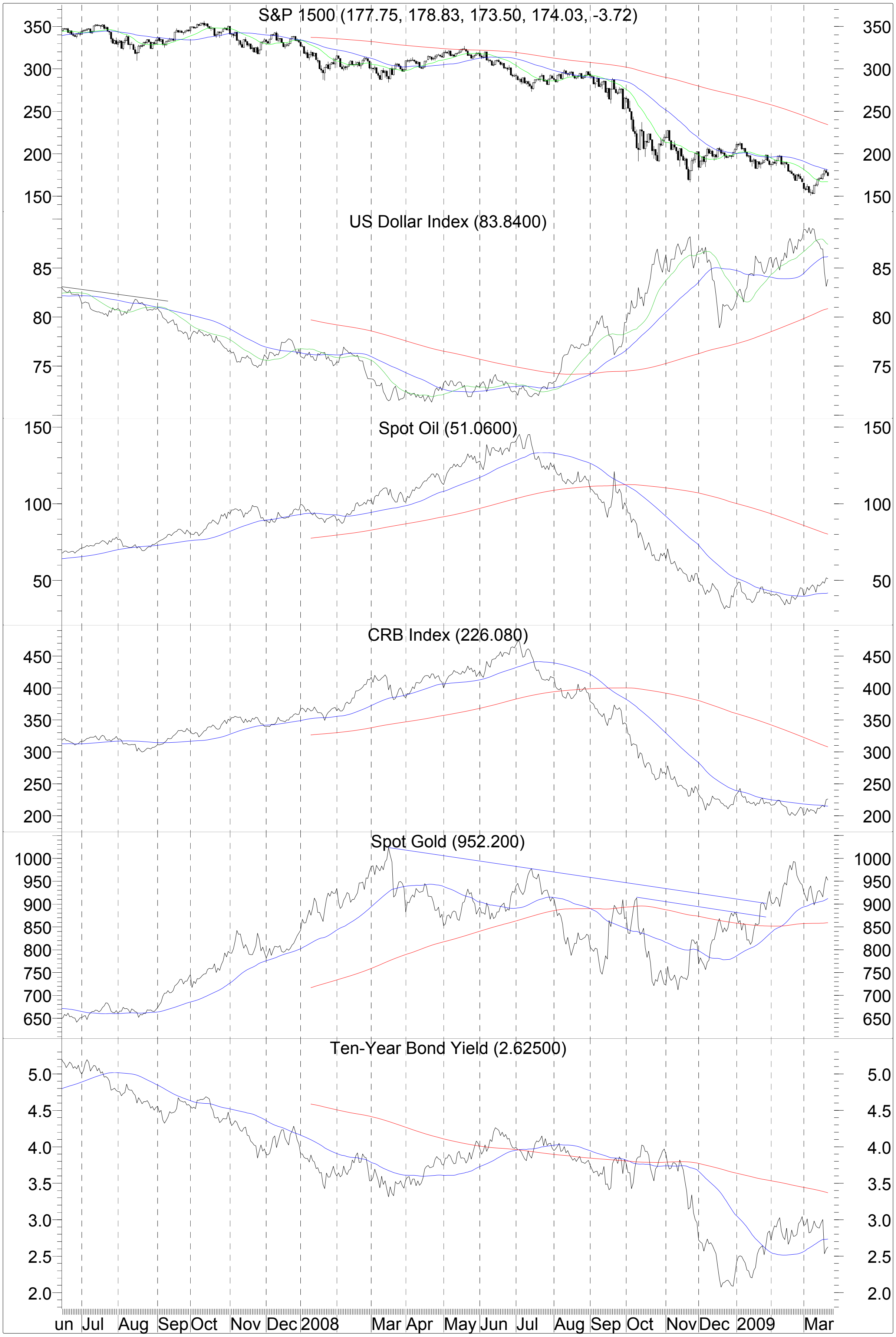


Bond yields crashed after the FOMC announcement.

The P/E ratio remains very high, while the forward P/E seems reasonable. Do you trust analyst estimates?

The spread between the reported earnings yield and bond yields is supportive only if you believe Q1 earnings will not disappoint. The spread based on estimates is where stocks should be very attractive, but again, do you trust analyst estimates?



The U.S. Dollar Index dropped like a stone after the FOMC meeting. There is support around the 200-sma (red).

Oil continues its up trend and remains above the 50-sma (blue).

The commodity index is following oil and is back above its 50-sma.

Gold spiked after the FOMC meeting and remains above its 50-sma, but interestingly it is still below the high it hit in February.