

Keen monthly insights on both the economy and the markets

## THE ECONOMY

A week doesn't seem to pass without majorly conflicting economic headlines. July closed with a classic example, seeing US GDP for 2Q'25 print a better than expected 3.0%. Then, a mere 2 days later, the US jobs report meaningfully disappointed.

The CESI (Citi Economic Surprise Index) shows this trend, in that it has been chopping back and forth across the zero-line for months – underscoring just how difficult it has been for economists to predict the impacts of the Trump Administration's policies.

Additionally, comparing the CESI to the S&P 500 appears to reinforce our view, that investors are best advised to avoid economic data when gauging the market's health, as no obvious, consistent, correlation looks present.

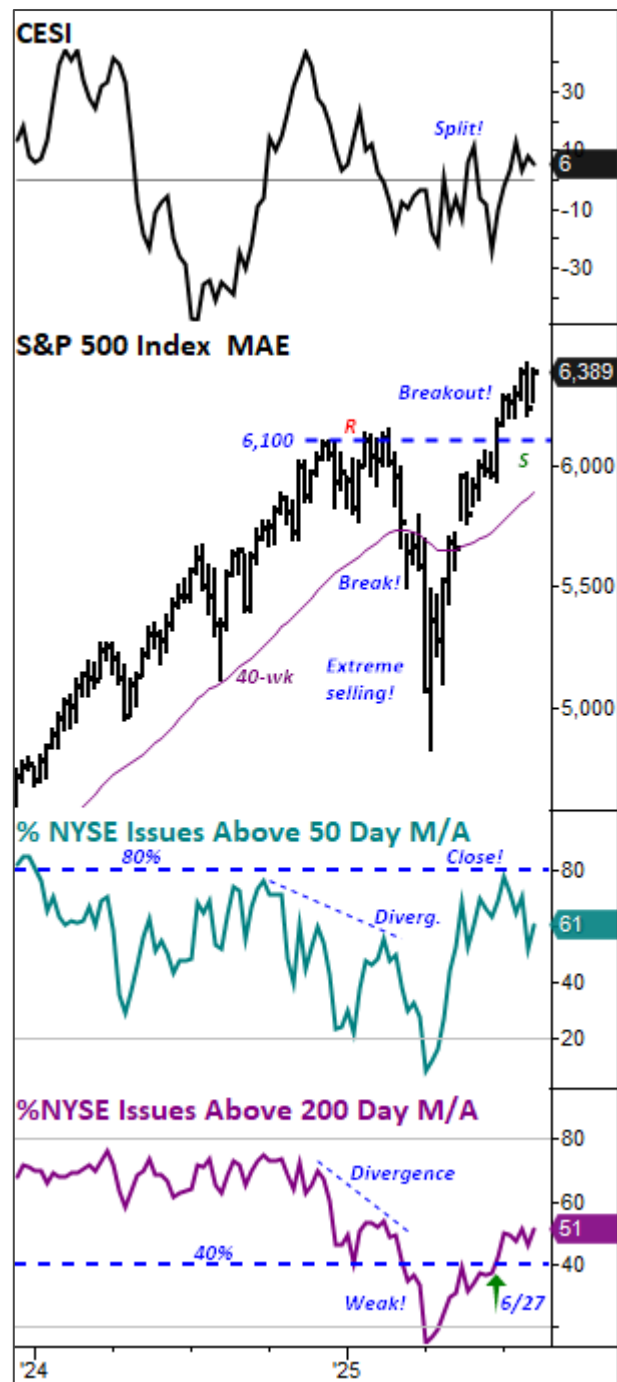
## THE MARKETS

We believe market internals, however, can indeed help when trying to navigate the stock market. As shown to the right, there were clear divergences in place, well ahead of the Trump Tariff Tantrum. These indicators measure market breadth and do a great job of keeping investors on the 'right side' of the trend.

Our primary indicator of the long-term market trend is the percentage of stocks on the NYSE which are trading over their 200-day average. This indicator moved through the key 40% level June 27<sup>th</sup>, confirming the S&P's breakout through 6,100.

While the percentage of stocks above their 50-day avg. has not yet moved through the 80% level, we believe it is just a matter of time before the market gives investors final confirmation that a new bull market is underway.

**Mike Hurley, CMT**  
Chief Investment Officer



Charts courtesy of TradeStation, as of August 8, 2025

## TRADITIONAL STRATEGIES

We start our process with traditional, modern portfolio theory models, then adjust them based on our outlook. Specifically, we seek to:

- 1) Maintain higher cash levels when we're expecting a cyclical downturn, or 'bear' market
- 2) Add gold to portfolios during periods of inflation
- 3) Tilt fixed income positions based on credit conditions and the trends in interest rates

We offer Conservative, Moderate and Aggressive models, which use stock/bond ratios of 40/60, 60/40 & 80/20, as their starting points, respectively.

## ADAPTIVE STRATEGY

Our 'adaptive' model breaks from modern portfolio theory, based on the observation that markets typically become highly correlated when under stress.

This strategy applies momentum and risk parity to a universe of 10 ETFs, selecting a portfolio of 5. The portfolio is rebalanced monthly using the 60-day volatility to weight the top 5 ETFs. The goal being, to provide stock like returns with lower volatility.

## ABOUT NEXADVISORS

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The Cit Economic Surprise Index (CESI) measures data surprises relative to market expectations. A positive reading means that data releases have been stronger than expected, while a negative reading means that the releases have been worse. The S&P 500 is a market-capitalization-weighted index that tracks the market performance of the 500 largest U.S. publicly traded companies.

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