

# LPL Financial Research Current Conditions Index



October 21, 2009

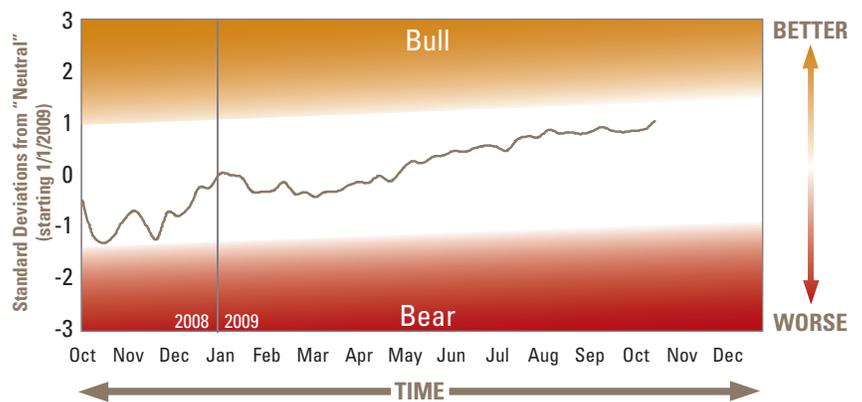
## Overview

The LPL Financial Current Conditions Index is a weekly measure of the conditions that underpin our outlook for the markets and economy. The CCI provides real-time context and insight into the trends that shape our recommended actions to manage portfolios. This index has proven to be a useful tool for investment decision-making.

This weekly index is not intended to be a leading index or predictive of where conditions are headed, but a coincident measure of where they are right now. We want to track the conditions in real-time to aid in investment decision making. There are thousands of indicators—some lead the economy, some lag, while others merely offer a lot of statistical noise. We chose to create our own index tailored to the current environment to provide the clearest and most useful way to track how conditions are aligned with the expectations embedded in our investment recommendations. The components of the CCI are periodically changed to retune the index to those factors most critical to the markets and economy over the next year so it may continue to be a valuable investment decision-making tool.

Over the past week, the LPL Financial Current Conditions Index advanced to 1.0 from 0.8. The index reflects current conditions aligned with the high end of our base case outlook, established at the end of last year, for mid-teen gains in the stock market and mid-single digits gains in the bond market in 2009, as measured by the S&P 500 index and the Barclays Aggregate Index respectively. The markets have already achieved these gains. However, CCI implies the economy and markets are on track for an outcome somewhat better than our original base case outlook for 2009.

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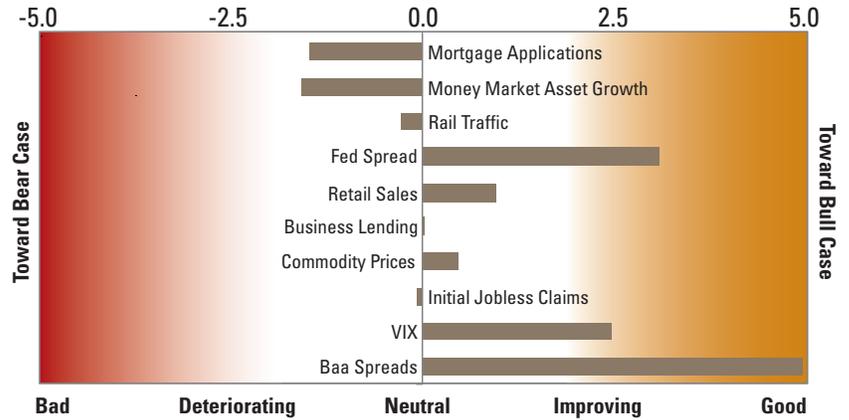
Source: LPL Financial

The primary drivers of the improvement were in Retail Sales, Shipping Traffic, Commodities, Money Market Fund Assets, and the VIX\*—a market based estimate of future stock market volatility and a gauge of the fear present in the stock market. These were only slightly offset by modest deterioration in Baa Spreads and Mortgage Applications (as the 30 year fixed mortgage rate bobbed back up over 5%). Most components of the CCI have improved since the start of the year.

\*The VIX is a measure of the volatility implied in the prices of options contracts for the S&P 500. It is a market based estimate of future volatility. While this is not necessarily predictive it does measure the current degree of fear present in the stock market.

LPL RESEARCH CURRENT CONDITIONS INDEX COMPONENTS

STANDARD DEVIATIONS FROM "NEUTRAL" SINCE 1/1/2009



Source: LPL Financial

IMPORTANT DISCLOSURES

The opinions voiced in this material are for general information only and are not intended to provide or be construed as providing specific investment advice or recommendations for any individual. To determine which investments may be appropriate for you, consult your financial advisor prior to investing. All performance referenced is historical and is no guarantee of future results. All indices are unmanaged and cannot be invested into directly.

Bonds are subject to market and interest rate risk if sold prior to maturity. Bond values will decline as interest rates rise and are subject to availability and change in price.

Stock investing involves risk including loss of principal.

High Yield/Junk Bonds are not investment grade securities, involve substantial risks and generally should be part of the diversified portfolio of sophisticated investors.

The Standard & Poor's 500 Index is a capitalization-weighted index of 500 stocks designed to measure performance of the broad domestic economy through changes in the aggregate market value of 500 stocks representing all major industries.

The Barclays Aggregate Bond Index is made up of the Barclays Government/Credit Bond Index, Mortgage-Backed Securities Index, and Asset-Backed Securities Index, including securities that are of investment grade quality or better, have at least one year to maturity, and have an outstanding par value of at least \$100 million.

CURRENT SNAPSHOT

Component of CCI Index	This Week	One Week Ago	Four Weeks Ago
BAA Spreads	4.7	4.9	4.8
VIX	2.7	2.5	2.3
Initial Jobless Claims	-0.1	-0.1	-0.6
Commodities	0.7	0.5	0.4
Business Lending	-0.1	0.0	0.2
Retail Sales	1.9	1.0	0.7
Fed Spread	3.2	3.1	3.1
Shipping Traffic	0.3	-0.3	0.6
Money Market Fund Assets	-1.4	-1.6	-1.1
Mortgage Applications	-1.9	-1.5	-1.8
CCI	1.0	0.8	0.9

Source: LPL Financial

This research material has been prepared by LPL Financial.

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