



## Westwood Broadmark **Tactical Growth Strategy** **Market Update**

February  
2026

### Strategy Overview

Westwood Broadmark Tactical Growth Strategy is designed to help investors sidestep market downturns, while participating in its growth via the continuous and active management of portfolio market exposure. The strategy seeks to manage risk and enhance alpha with the flexibility to be long, short or neutral on the market.

- The strategy is designed as a core investment for those who worry about losing money in equity market downturns but also want to participate in the market's upside. Using active market exposure management, the strategy moves in and out of the market incrementally based upon macro and technical factors.
- The strategy invests primarily in a diversified portfolio of exchange-traded funds (ETFs) and instruments providing exposure to indices, sectors and industries based on its four-pillar process.
- Proprietary Volume/Breadth-Based Momentum models are used to determine optimal stock market exposure, including entry points, the amount of exposure, the type of exposure and exit points.

### Market Review

The stock market got off to a good start in 2026 with virtually all the major market averages recording positive returns for January. Small-cap stocks, as represented by the Russell 2000 Index, led the way, jumping 5.39%.<sup>1</sup> The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 1.80%, the S&P 500 Index was up 1.45% and the Nasdaq-100 Index gained 1.23%.<sup>1,2</sup>

Two of our four pillars — equity valuations and investor sentiment — are still in negative territory. Warren Buffett's favorite valuation metric — stock market capitalization divided by gross domestic product (GDP) — climbed to another record high. Investor sentiment has grown more optimistic, which is negative from a contrary point of view. However, sentiment is a condition, not a trigger, and our sentiment measures have not yet reached extreme levels.

The other two pillars of our investment process — monetary policy and momentum — both remain positive. With the appointment of Kevin Warsh as the new chair of the U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed), it still seems likely that the Fed will continue to pursue a path to lower interest rates in 2026. Nonetheless, the 10-Year U.S. Treasury Note yield rose during the month to 4.26% from its year-end level of 4.18%.<sup>3</sup> However, credit spreads remain narrow, indicating no signs of credit deterioration.

Momentum remains positive. Up volume is still comfortably above down volume. Our breadth model, however, showed some deterioration in January. Breadth had shown improvement toward the end of last year but has now reversed course. We will be watching market breadth closely in coming weeks for further signs of deterioration.

<sup>1</sup> Bloomberg, January 31, 2026.

<sup>2</sup> Ultimus Fund Solutions, LLC, January 31, 2026.

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of the Treasury, January 31, 2026.



Due to deterioration in relative strength in the metals sector, the Tactical Growth investment team decreased market exposure from 75% to 70% in January.<sup>4</sup> The team would further lower exposure if market breadth continued to deteriorate, credit spreads widened or if investor sentiment became more optimistic. The team would raise exposure once again if breadth improved.

Our assessment of the four pillars of our investment process is as follows:

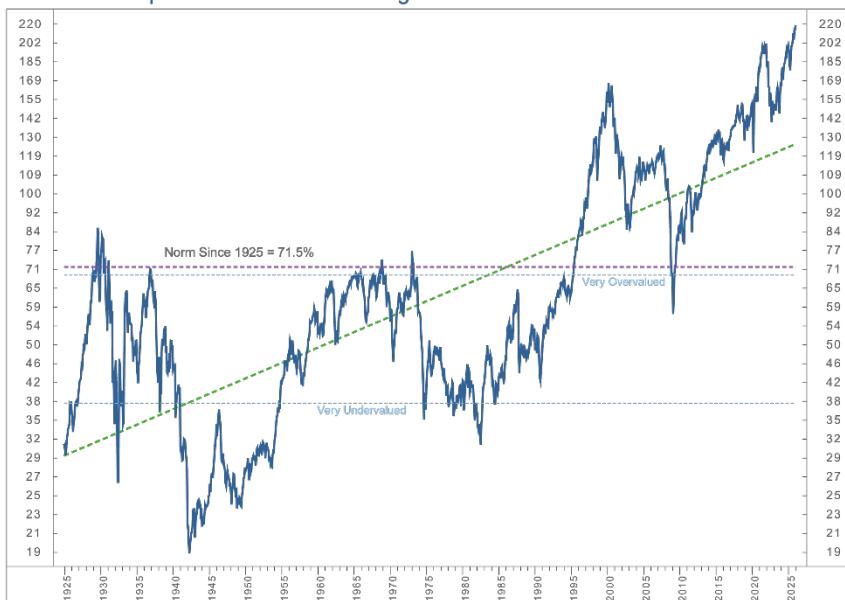
1. **Valuation:** Equity valuations remain elevated, which is negative. Warren Buffett's favorite valuation metric — stock market capitalization as a percentage of GDP — has reached a new all-time high. The most significant peaks in this metric were in 1929, 1973 and 2000 (*Figure 1*).
2. **Monetary factors and credit conditions:** Monetary conditions remain positive. The appointment of Kevin Warsh as the new Fed chair seems to indicate that the Fed will continue to pursue a path toward lower interest rates in 2026. Importantly, credit spreads remain narrow, which is positive sign (*Figure 2*). One metric that we are closely looking at is the yield curve. The curve is steepening, and while this is positive in the long run, history shows us that we have often seen market disruption occur in the early stages of a steepening yield curve (*Figure 3*). On the positive side, the Fed has announced that it will be purchasing Treasury bills, which injects liquidity into the financial system, and provisions of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act could add fiscal stimulus in early 2026.
3. **Sentiment:** Both our intermediate and daily measures of investor sentiment reflect more optimism, which is negative from a contrary point of view. However, these measures have not yet reached extremes, and our daily sentiment model has shown improvement in the last few weeks (*Figure 4*). Nonetheless, a longer-term negative for sentiment is that three major classes of investors are fully committed to stocks. Foreign investment is at a record high, and mutual fund cash is at a record low. In addition, stocks as percentage of financial assets — households and personal trusts — have climbed to a new all-time high. Peaks in this indicator have often led to lower returns in subsequent 10-year periods.
4. **Momentum:** Momentum remains positive, although our breadth model has shown some deterioration in the last month after having improved in late 2025 (*Figure 5*). We will be watching market breadth carefully in coming weeks. A deterioration here could be a precursor of market weakness ahead, although our volume model continues to be in positive territory.

<sup>4</sup> Westwood Management and Broadmark, January 31, 2026.



Figure 1.

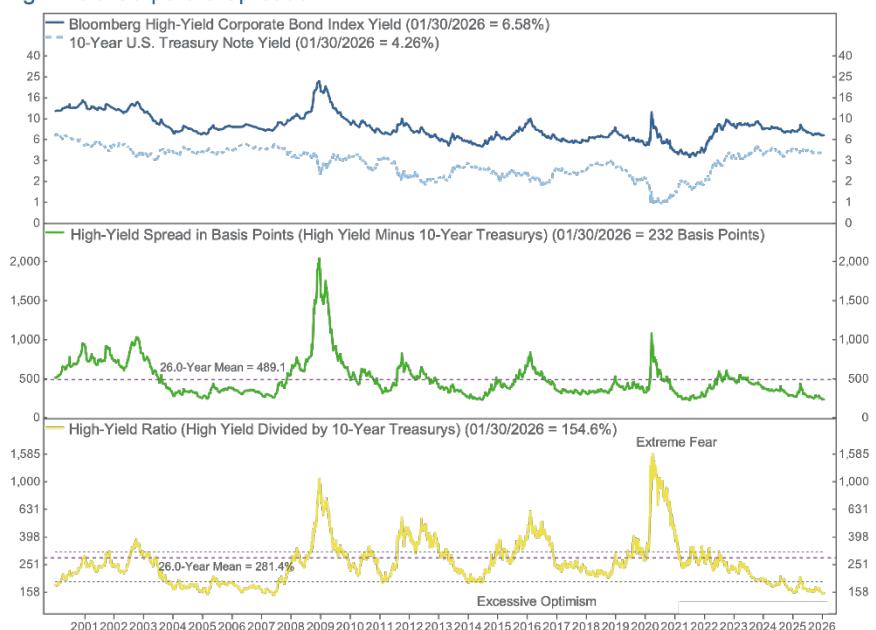
## Stock Market Capitalization as a Percentage of Nominal GDP



Sources: Ned Davis Research (NDR), Bloomberg, Department of Commerce, S&P Global, Jim Bianco. Monthly data 12/31/1924 to 01/31/2026 (log scale). NDR estimated fixed-weighted GDP used from December 1924 to February 1946. Chain-weighted GDP was used after February 1946. Calculation uses NDR estimated common stock market capitalization of U.S.-based companies. Dow Jones total stock market capitalization was used from January 1973 through September 1980. NYSE market capitalization was used prior to January 1973. *Past performance does not guarantee future results. For illustrative purposes only.*

Figure 2.

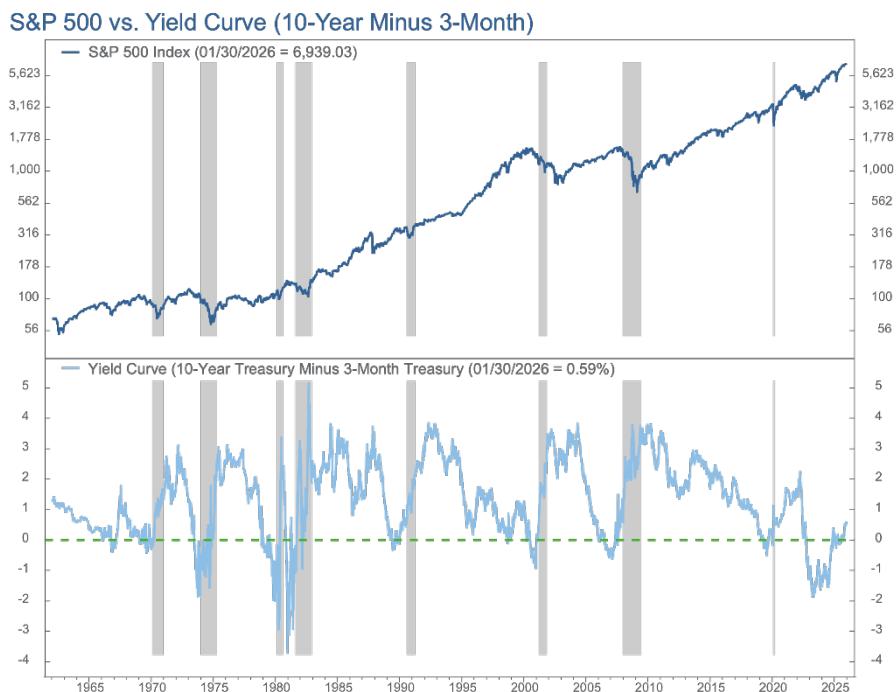
## High-Yield Corporate Spreads



Sources: Ned Davis Research (NDR), Bloomberg Indices, Federal Reserve Board. Daily data 01/03/2000 to 01/30/2026. *Past performance does not guarantee future results. For illustrative purposes only.*

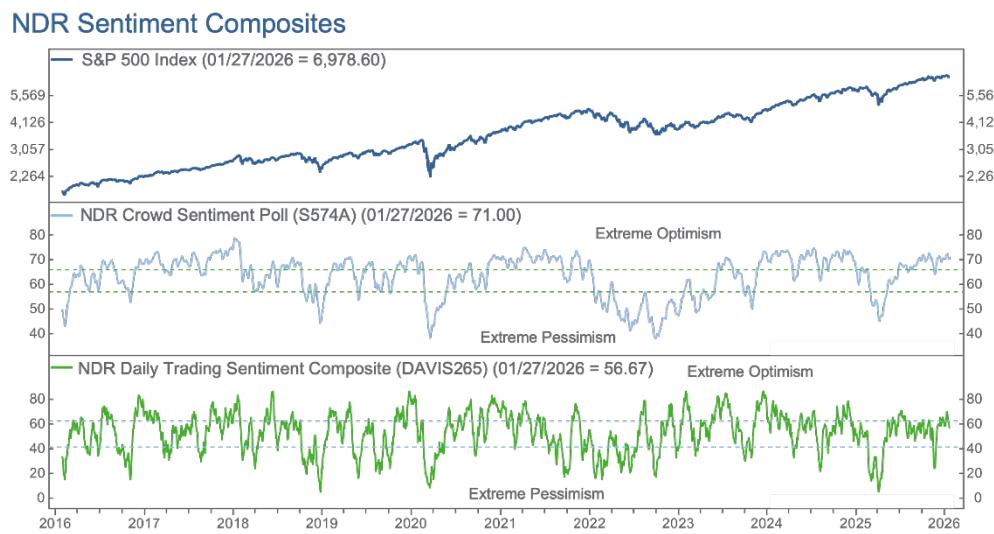


Figure 3.



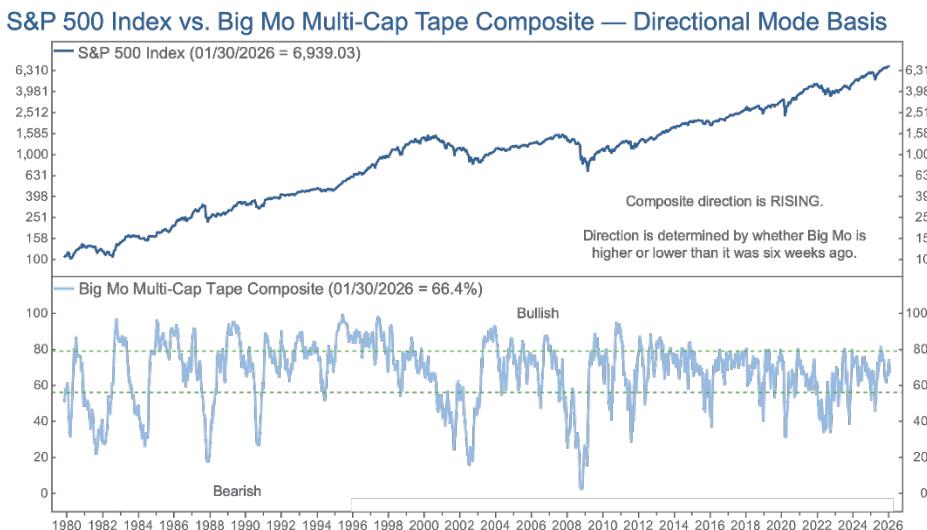
Sources: Ned Davis Research (NDR), S&P Dow Jones Indices, Federal Reserve Board. Daily data 01/02/1962 to 01/30/2026 (Log Scale). Shaded areas represent NBER-defined recessions. *Past performance does not guarantee future results. For illustrative purposes only.*

Figure 4.



Sources: Ned Davis Research (NDR), S&P Dow Jones Indices. Daily data 02/02/2016 to 01/27/2026. *Past performance does not guarantee future results. For illustrative purposes only.*



**Figure 5.**

Sources: Ned Davis Research (NDR), S&P Dow Jones Indices, NDR Multi-Cap Institutional (Universe), S&P Capital IQ, MSCI, Inc (GICS). Weekly data 11/16/1979 to 01/30/2026. *Past performance does not guarantee future results. For illustrative purposes only.*

## About Westwood

Westwood Holdings Group, Inc. is a focused investment management boutique and wealth management firm.

Westwood offers high-conviction equity and outcome-oriented solutions to institutional investors, private wealth clients and financial intermediaries. The firm specializes in two distinct investment capabilities: U.S. Value Equity and Multi-Asset, available through separate accounts, the Westwood Funds® family of mutual funds and other pooled vehicles. Westwood benefits from significant, broad-based employee ownership and trades on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "WHG." Based in Dallas, Westwood also maintains an office in Houston. For more information, please visit [westwoodgroup.com](http://westwoodgroup.com).

### Important Information

The **Tactical Growth composite** seeks to produce above-average, risk-adjusted returns, in any market environment, while exhibiting less downside volatility than the market itself. The strategy is designed to evaluate potential long and short investments in an attempt to isolate those securities believed to be undervalued or overvalued relative to their intrinsic value and offer the greatest risk-adjusted potential for returns. The portfolio primarily invests in ETFs of securities and security indices that can represent long, short, levered long or levered short positions in general asset classes of both U.S. and overseas equity markets. For comparison purposes, the composite's benchmarks are the HFRX Equity Hedge Index and the S&P 500 Index. The HFRX Equity Hedge Index comprises private funds with strategies that maintain both long and short positions primarily in equity securities and equity derivatives. The S&P 500 Index consists of 500 stocks chosen for market size, liquidity and industry group representation. It is a market value-weighted index and one of the most widely used benchmarks of U.S. stock performance. On January 1, 2019, the HFRX Equity Hedge Index replaced the S&P 500 Index as the strategy's primary benchmark index because the new index more closely aligns to the strategy's investment methodologies. Prior to December 31, 2018, the Morningstar Long/Short Equity Index was the secondary benchmark. It is no longer shown as the HFRX Equity Hedge Index more closely aligns to the portfolio's investment strategies.

Separately managed account strategies may not be appropriate or suitable for all investors. There is no guarantee that the strategy's objective will be achieved. It should not be assumed that investments in this strategy have been or will be profitable.



Past performance does not guarantee future results.

Other than levered and inverse ETFs, leverage or derivatives are not used. The use of levered and inverse ETFs is anticipated to be infrequent and may not materially impact returns.

The risks associated with ETFs are detailed in the individual ETF's prospectus, which will be provided upon request.

The portfolio is sub-advised by Broadmark Asset Management LLC, an independent registered investment advisor.

Westwood Management Corp. ("WMC") is a wholly owned subsidiary of Westwood Holdings Group, Inc. (NYSE: WHG). WMC is an SEC registered investment adviser under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940. This information is being provided solely for educational purposes and is not an offer to sell or solicitation of an offer to buy an interest in any investment fund. Any such offer or solicitation may only be made by means of a confidential private offering memorandum or prospectus relating to a particular fund and only in a manner consistent with federal and applicable state securities laws.

### **Westwood Investment Glossary**

**3-Month Treasury Bill** is a short-term U.S. government security with a constant maturity period of 3 months.

**10-Year U.S. Treasury Note** is a debt obligation issued by the U.S. Treasury that has a term of 10 years.

**Alpha** is a technical risk ratio that shows a fund's excess return relative to the performance of its benchmark index.

**Basis point (bps)** is a unit of measure that is equal to 1/100th of 1% and used to denote a change in the value or rate of a financial instrument.

**Bloomberg U.S. Corporate High Yield Bond Index** covers the USD-denominated, noninvestment-grade, fixed-rate, taxable corporate bond market. Securities are classified as high yield if the middle rating of Moody's, Fitch and S&P is Ba1/BB+/BB+ or below.

**Breadth** is a technique used in technical analysis that attempts to gauge the direction of the overall market by analyzing the number of companies advancing relative to the number declining.

**Credit spread** is the spread between Treasury securities and non-Treasury securities that are identical in all respects except for quality rating.

**Dow Jones Industrial Average** is a price-weighted average of 30 blue-chip stocks that are generally the leaders in their industry and are listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

**Exchange-traded funds (ETFs)** track an index but trade like a stock on an exchange.

**Federal Reserve** is the central bank of the United States that is responsible for regulating the U.S. monetary and financial systems.

**Gross domestic product (GDP)** is the monetary value of all the finished goods and services produced in a country in a given year. GDP is one way of measuring the size of a country's economy.

**Momentum** is the rate of acceleration of a security's price or volume.

**Monetary policy** refers to the actions of a central bank, currency board or other regulatory committee that determine the size and rate of growth of the money supply, including a change in interest rates or the amount of money banks need to keep in bank reserves.

**Nasdaq-100 Index** is a modified capitalization-weighted index that includes the largest nonfinancial U.S. and non-U.S. companies listed on the NASDAQ stock market across a variety of industries, such as retail, healthcare, telecommunications, wholesale trade, biotechnology and technology.

**NDR Big Mo Multi-Cap Tape Composite** model uses trend and momentum indicators to provide a composite reading on the technical health of the broad equity market.

**NDR Crowd Sentiment Poll** is a composite reading based on seven different individual sentiment indicators designed to highlight short- to intermediate-term swings in investor psychology.

**NDR Daily Trading Sentiment Composite** use various measures of investor sentiment such as surveys, put/call ratios, etc. to define the levels of pessimism that are currently priced into equities.

**Recession** is a period of declining economic performance across an entire economy that lasts for several months.

**Russell 2000 Index** measures the performance of the 2,000 smallest companies in the Russell 3000 Index. The Russell 3000 Index represents approximately 98% of the investable U.S. equity market.

**S&P 500 Index** is an unmanaged index of 500 common stocks chosen to reflect the industries in the U.S. economy.



**Spread** is the difference between two prices, rates or yields.

**Valuation** is the process of determining the value of an asset or company based on earnings and the market value of assets.

**Volume** is the number of shares or contracts traded in a security or an entire market during a given period of time.

**Volume/Breadth-Based Momentum Model** is a proprietary model used by Broadmark Asset Management to determine optimal market exposure.

**Yield** is the interest or dividends received from a security and is usually expressed annually as a percentage based on the investment's cost or on the U.S. government's debt obligations.

**Yield curve** is a line that plots the interest rates, at a set point in time, of bonds having equal credit quality but differing maturity dates.

One cannot invest directly in an index.

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