

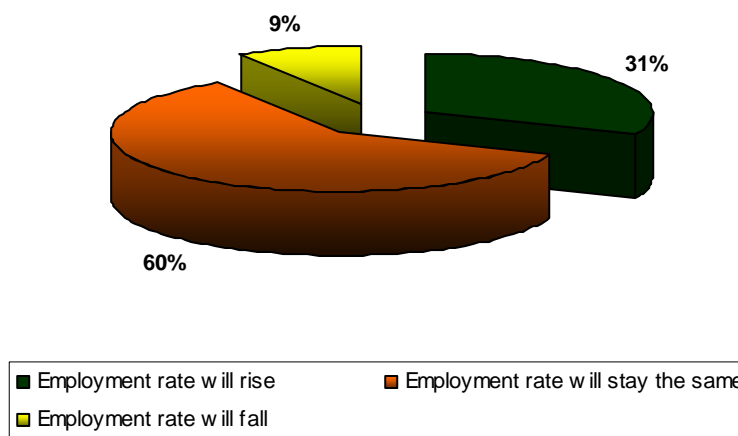
**Advisor Confidence Index Improves in March**

*Advisors believe the unemployment rate will remain unchanged in the next six months*

**March 29, 2010...Rockville, MD...** In March, advisor confidence in the economy and the stock market improved, according to Rydex|SGI AdvisorBenchmarking. The Advisor Confidence Index (ACI)—a benchmark that gauges advisor views on the U.S. economy and stock market—was 108.59 in March, up nearly 1% from 107.18 in February.

In March, Rydex|SGI also surveyed advisors on their predictions for the employment rate will in the next six months. Most advisors (about 60%) think the employment rate will stay the same.

**Employment Rates Projections**

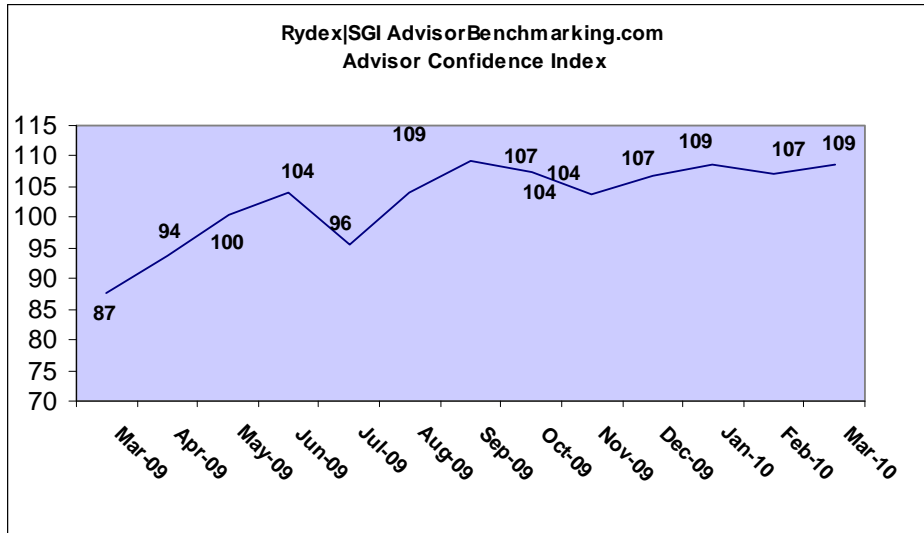


The Advisor Confidence Index, which had slid in February, bounced back in March, as the U.S. economy slowly continued its recovery. “Reasonable earnings growth will fuel a positive trend in financial markets, aided by continued accommodation in monetary policy, while underlying economic conditions gradually improve,” said Steven Brill, Spielberger Dampf Brill & Levine, LLC in Jericho, NY.



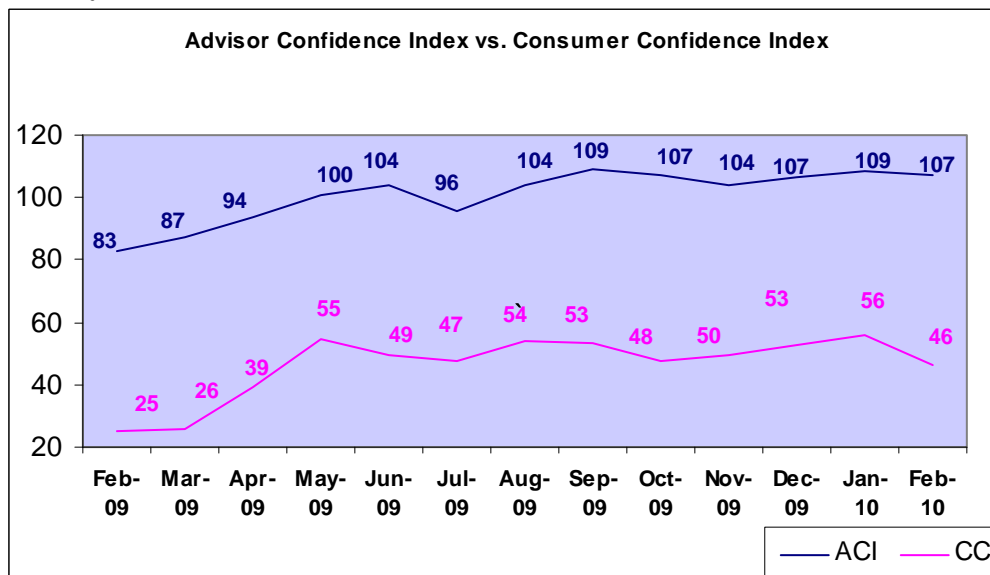
Three of the four measures in the ACI increased in March, with the most optimistic forecasts centering on the six-month economic outlook. A closer look at the components reveals the following:

Current economic outlook	+0.17%
Six-month economic outlook	+7.11%
12-month economic outlook	-3.33%
Stock market outlook	+1.82%



**Advisor vs. consumer confidence**

The Conference Board Consumer Confidence Index®, which had increased in January, declined sharply in February. The index stood at 46 (1985=100), down from 56 in January.



### **Notable comments from participating advisors**

Most of the advisors who participated in the survey elected to have their names made available to reporters who would like to interview them about their economic sentiments. Rydex|SGI AdvisorBenchmarking can facilitate such interviews for reporters.

“The cyclical outlook continues to be positive as it's beginning to look like the handoff from government stimulus to private sector demand may be less problematic than feared. The financial sector looks set to be smaller and less innovative. We believe this will be a positive for long-term economic growth as it seems the sector's large size and innovation not only added fragility to the global financial structure but also caused massive misallocations of capital and human resources. We think the U.S. is still facing at least three big long-term problems: excessive health care costs, the need for economically viable energy alternatives to fossil fuels and the need for China's consumer sector to be a bigger portion of their economy (thus reducing their dependence on exports). All three are getting a lot of attention.”

-- Bill Ramsay, Financial Symmetry Inc.

“Reasonable earnings growth will fuel a positive trend in financial markets, aided by continued accommodation in monetary policy, while underlying economic conditions gradually improve.”

-- Steven Brill, Spielberger Dampf Brill & Levine LLC

“The sovereign debt crisis and its relationship to the financial markets reminds us of the spring of 2007 as the mortgage market began to implode. Many felt that crisis was relatively narrow and would be ‘contained.’ We believe markets are whistling through the graveyard as the seeds of the next major crisis are beginning to take root. Greece is to Bear Stearns as the U.S. and Japan are to Fannie and Freddie.”

-- James Dailey, TEAM Financial Managers

“The national economy is beginning to gain ground, and earnings are improving. However, the unemployment rate will remain high due to businesses staying cautious and leery of bringing on more expenses.”

-- Jim Elder, ElderAdo Financial

“The economy has stopped shedding jobs. It's just that companies are not adding jobs and will delay until they squeeze existing resources as much as possible (higher productivity). Also, the hiring landscape for companies will be to use temporary and contracted services for the appropriate workload. With the uncertainty of the healthcare reforms and higher taxes, companies will err on the side of not hiring. That's the bad news. The good news is that company profits are expanding and companies are sitting on more cash. From there, we will see increases in dividends (example: Walmart) as well as stock buybacks. We expect a sideways market into September. Historically, the second year of the presidential election cycle is the weakest. Investors continue to pour into bonds and other asset classes as the yield on money market is nothing—and negative if you are holding money market in a variable annuity. Some money will find its way into stocks or the emerging use of ETFs. The Federal Reserve (Fed) is on hold until the fall—no movement there until employment numbers start to move up and unemployment starts to go down. The Fed cannot afford to start raising rates only to see the economy roll back over.”

-- Kenny Landgraf, Kenjol Capital Management LLC

“As long as Keynesian economic policy rules, growth will be low and unemployment will be high.”

-- Paul Byron, Professional Financial Strategies, Inc

“As long as government monetary and fiscal policy decisions are being properly managed, we expect the economy to continue its course towards growth.”

--Rob Siegmann, Financial Management Group

“For the past year or more, we have been positioning client portfolios for inflation by utilizing TIPs, gold and energy, to name a few asset classes. Some may say that we may have started doing this a bit early in the game; but it is difficult to obtain flood insurance when you are standing in water up to your knees. We feel that in the next 24-30 months inflation is likely; too much money in the system chasing too few goods.”

-- Paul Bennet, c5 Wealth Management

**About Rydex|SGI AdvisorBenchmarking, an affiliate of Rydex|SGI:**

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