

Is the bull still kicking? This has been the biggest concern on traders and investors' minds every time they have a sip of coffee in the morning. As various "common catalysts" failed to ignite the markets and yet no big correction is likely to happen in the near future, Wall Street has been at a sticky stage since the end of January. The markets were dragged by many lagging factors. For the week, the **Dow** was higher by 1.3% and closed at 12,673.68. The **Nasdaq** added 1.7% to 2468.38 and the **S&P 500** rose 1.8% to 1,445.94. On the bond side, traders sent rates down as they believe the recent mild readings from the Labor Department signaling a cooling off economy. The 10-year Treasury note was up 2/32 in price, yielding 4.83%, and the 30-year bond advanced 2/32 to yield 4.93%.

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Oil prices have been pretty bumpy as the cold weather returned. In addition, Saudi Arabia's flip flopping decision on cutting the production pushed oil futures up to close at \$59.02 a barrel. It might go up to between \$60 to \$63 and then drop when the weather gets warmer again. Besides the weather, the increasing geopolitical concern is back on the table when Iran's ambition on nuclear development strengthens.

For the 322 members of the S&P 500 that reported fourth quarter earnings, the average growth was 8.2 % while the expectation for the next quarter was reduced to only 5.4%. At a sticky market like this, it is not good to short, especially with many laggings drag along everyday. Despite this bull market lasting more than eight months, the scale is small compared to the other four bull markets in the past, which were also longer than eight months. The market's big self-correction might have passed after last May. For investors who do not trade actively or regularly should probably stay away and wait for the next big correction.

On the other hand, professional traders or investors can take this opportunity to nipple quality stocks little by little each time during the intraday swings. Investors could pay more attention to some of the quality stocks such as Boeing (BA), NYSE Group (NYX), Goldman Sachs (GS), Bank of American (BAC), Altria Group (MO), CISCO (CSCO), and Microsoft (MSFT). Even though some analysts believed that Airline's growing cycle is approaching to an end. However, orders for new airplanes remain high and ongoing. The stock performance of Allegheny Technologies (ATI), the production company of a range of specialty metals especially for aircrafts, has hit the all time high, which is a good indicator for the Aerospace & Defense sector. On top of these, the national budget on this sector remains a big part. If Boeing (BA) fell below \$85, it would probably be a good opportunity to nipple some. Instead, investors could also buy the ETF of PowerShare Aerospace & Defense (PPA) for the entire sector.

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Although Bank of America has done many acquisitions lately, which increased its liabilities, it is a fundamentally good company. As for the tobacco giant, Altria (MO), the separation from its joint food company **Kraft** (KFT), might finally give Altria a room to breathe. Compared to other tobacco companies' P/E ratio, a giant like Altria is relatively cheap.

On Wednesday, Cisco's (CSCO) better-than-expected earning reports boosted the stock market. The S&P 500 also rose to six-year high. With many innovations and breakthroughs on the telecommunication sector and last year's acquisition of SME, Cisco is at the right place and right time. As for Microsoft (MFST), investors probably can weigh in some when the price drops below \$28.