

#### THIS ISSUE

#### **Near Term:**

Bullish: Soybeans Corn Euro **British Pound** Silver Bearish: Silver

#### Other:

Smaller Food and Beverage CPI Readings Ups Chances for Fed Rate Cuts This Year

## MAJOR ECONOMIC **EVENTS**

#### **July 15**

- Chinese GDP/IP/Retail Sales
- NY Fed Empire State Survey

### July 16 - Retail Sales

- German ZEW Survey
- Import & Export Prices
- Business Inventories
- NAHB Housing Market Index

### **July 17** - Housing Starts

- Euro Zone/UK CPI's
- Industrial Production
- Fed Beige Book

#### July 18 - ECB Meeting

- Jobless Claims
- Philly Fed Survey
- Leading Indicators
- Treasury International Capital

July 12, 2024

## **Economic Focus**

A slight downtick in US inflation has joined the recent signs of economic slowing in the US, which has emboldened the bull camp in equities and US treasuries. Obviously, an increase in the prospects of a US rate cut in the September Fed meeting has ignited a downtrend in the dollar, which could lend support to gold, silver, natural gas, and petroleum prices.

Several weeks ago, the prospect of a US rate cut was below 50% but ended the week near 90%! Fortunately, history tells us that softening inflation is usually a harbinger of a downshift in economic activity. However, there are countervailing forces from falling interest rates and optimism from investment gains likely to cushion the US economy. Last month, the

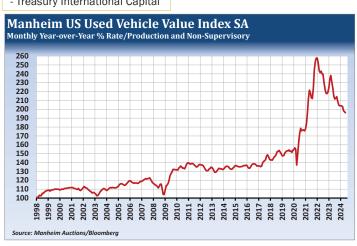
Manheim used vehicle value index saw a decline of nearly 9% in June, likely due to a lack of affordability brought on by lingering high pricing from Covid and loan rates of 7%. We also suspect the US consumer is "tapped out," given inflationary

pricing and average interest rates on credit card balances last week of more than 27%. Confirming the idea of "tapped out" consumers are rising credit card delinquencies and ongoing expansion of total household debt! Certainly, the buildup

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OUR O	PINION MARKET BY MARKET	
Market		*
Stocks	Falling rate optimism returns; uptrend to extend.	L
Bonds	Powell says rate cut prospects improve off CPI dip.	L
Dollar	Lower rate prospects & slowing to keep pressure on.	S
Euro	US \$ vulnerability & shift to the right in Europe bullish.	L
Gold	Outside mkts bullish, lower rate vibe, political anxiety.	L
Silver	Plateau support now @ \$30.71; buy breaks.	L
Copper	China slowing & highest LME stocks since Oct 2021.	S
Crude	June China imports -11% vs 2023, -2.3% in 1st half.	S
Gasoline	Stock building going into a seasonal top in demand.	S
Nat Gas	Long term low around \$2.20 as inventories tick lower.	S
Soybeans	USDA slightly less bearish, short covering due.	L
Corn	USDA update bullish, look for an upside correction.	L
Wheat	USDA reinforces a bearish outlook.	S
Hogs	Key low may be in after major August upside reversal	L
L Cattle	Prices holding support, but uptrend acting tired	L
Sugar	Brazil CS output 15% ahead of last season's pace.	S
Coffee	Vietnam 2024/25 production could reach 13-year low.	L
Cocoa	Improving 2024/25 West African production outlook.	S
Cotton	US should see larger 2024/25 production.	S
* For traders/c	ommercials who need to be in a market. L = Long. S = Short. N = Neutral	

ders/commercials who need to be in a market, L = Long, S = Short, N = Ne flect our opinions for the next 7 days. They may contradict longer term vie sed elsewhere in this publication



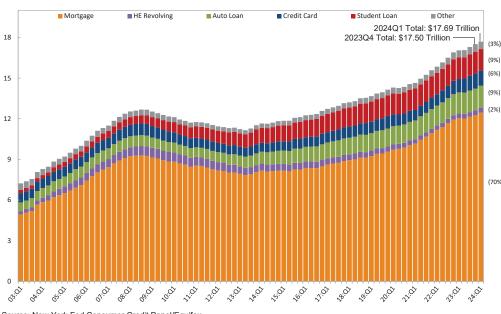
## **Economic Focus**

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of savings from the Covid lockdowns brought down credit balances, which could temper the slowdown in consumer activity. Unfortunately for commodity bulls, many markets are well-supplied and or oversupplied; China is showing signs of slowing; therefore, commercial buyers of commodities are likely to stand back and let prices fall.

## Total Debt Balance and its Composition

Trillions of Dollars



Source: New York Fed Consumer Credit Panel/Equifax

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## TRADERS TOOLBOX

OVERVALUED/UNDERVALUED							
Fundamental	Technical	СОТ					
OVERVALUED							
Dollar Index	Coffee	Coffee					
Copper	Cocoa	Copper					
Coffee	Japanese Yen	Silver					
UNDERVALUED							
Natural Gas Sugar Palladium							
Bonds	Soybeans	Notes					
Hogs Corn Natural Gas							

OPTIONS SCAN
Undervalued
Buy Sep Nasdaq 21250/22500 bull call @ 170 on a dip
Buy Aug Bond 119.50 call @ 0-49
Buy Sep Soybean 1120 call @ 7
Overvalued
Sell Aug Copper \$4.62 call @ 0.0520*
Sell Aug Yen 0.6425 call @ 0.00570*
Sell Aug Pound 1.3050 call @ 0.0110* after extension
Trend Reversals
Buy Aug Natural Gas \$2.25 call @ 0.090
Buy Aug Soybean 1110 call @ 12
Buy Sep Sugar 19.25 call @ 0.50
Only use these strategies during periods of high liquidity.

When selling options, only risk to double the premium received.

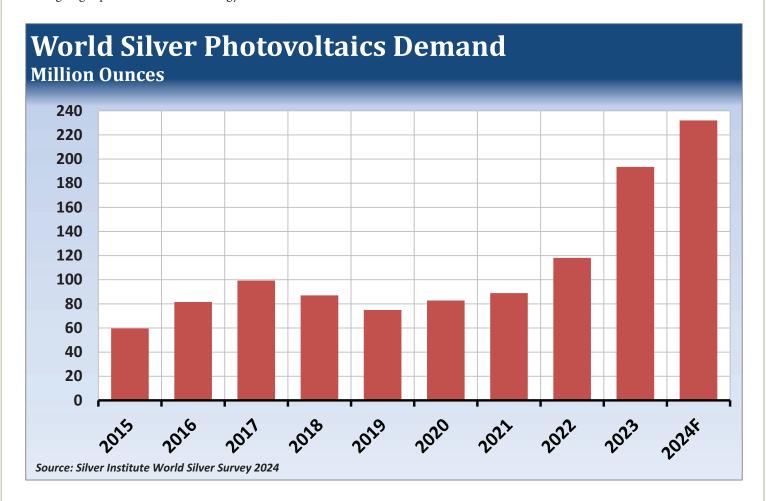
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## POSITIONING FOR A 4TH QUARTER SILVER RALLY

Certainly, the silver market has heavily factored in the forecast of a fourth straight global deficit with the February through May rally of \$10 per ounce. The Silver Institute projects a 2024 global supply deficit of 265 million ounces (excluding Exchange Traded Products or "ETPs"), the second largest deficit in at least ten years. With silver ETF holdings at 802 million ounces, down from nearly 950 million ounces in the second quarter of 2022, ongoing sharp gains in photovoltaic demand and a slight revival of speculative interest could combine with Silver Institute predictions of a 1% decline in supply this year for a bullish fundamental set up that is likely to send prices even higher. Predictions of a 20% increase in 2024 photovoltaic demand to 232 million ounces, four times the 2020 demand, confirm the ongoing expansion of the solar energy sector's demand for silver.

While internal fundamentals justify this year's explosive rally, we believe that more gains in silver prices later this year will result from a combination of stronger demand/lower supply, buying from outside market action (falling rates and a falling dollar), and a long absent flight to quality interest arising from the nearing elections. Unfortunately for the bull camp, the net spec and fund long positioning in silver dramatically overbought with the May 28th COT report the largest net long since January 2021.

Furthermore, given silver's propensity for significant volatility, those looking to buy weakness should hold out for a sizable setback. While we doubt silver will see a first retracement of this year's rally with a return to levels just above \$29.00, a temporary trade below



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## POSITIONING FOR A 4TH QUARTER SILVER RALLY

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\$30 in the December contract is possible. The first retracement of the 2024 rally in December silver is \$29.46, with uptrend channel support pegged at \$30.24. Therefore, we suggest would-be buyers utilize a long-term option strategy to benefit from and ultimately position for a late 2024 Rally!

## Suggested Trading Strategy

**BUY** a September silver \$29.00/\$27.50 bear put spread at \$0.25 with an objective of \$0.93. Risk the trade to \$0.01.



**BUY** a December silver \$35.75/\$40.00 bull call spread at \$0.51 with an objective of \$2.30. Risk the trade to \$0.24.





## SOYBEANS: USDA LESS BEARISH THAN FEARED

The July Supply/Demand report was slightly friendly for beans as old and new crop ending stocks came in 10 million bushels below the average guess and slightly below the June report number. 2023/24 bean ending stocks were lower on a reduction in imports. Crush and exports were left unchanged. New crop ending stocks were down 20 million on smaller acreage and slightly lower beginning stocks. The bottom line of this report is it does not alter the overall bearish long-term fundamentals for beans. However, it is not quite

as bearish as expected before the report. Prices are on an extended slide and are due for an upside correction.

This week, hurricane Beryl's remnants moved through the eastern belt, dropping welcome rains in central Illinois, the northern half of Indiana, and southern Michigan. A drier pattern will develop for the next ten days, but a few scattered showers will be seen, mainly in the eastern belt. Temperatures will be flirting with 100 degrees in the central Plains this weekend, but by midnext week, temperatures will moderate. Late this past week, the Climate Prediction Center said La Nina has a 70% chance of developing in the August-October timeframe, effectively too late to affect the current US growing season.

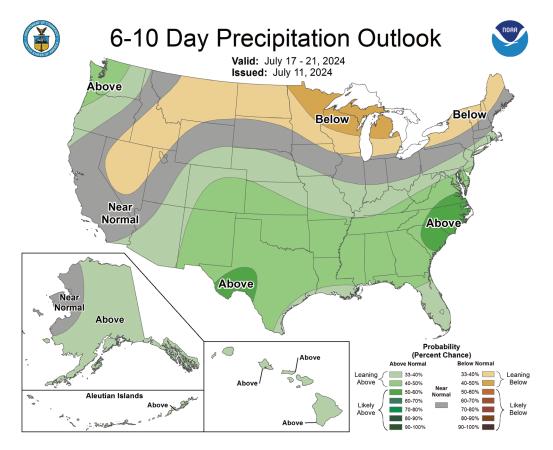
The extreme market weakness seen lately has pushed futures prices down to levels not seen in several years in a search for consumptive demand. Near-record Managed Money shorts for this time of year have had no reason to exit their positions. However, critical pod setting weather is still ahead, and the

crop is certainly not in the bin yet. Due to the deeply oversold conditions, we prefer to position for a technical bounce higher.

## **Suggested Trading Strategy**

**BUY** November Soybean Futures on a break to 1053. Risk 15 cents on the trade. Use an objective of 1111.

USDA SUPPLY/DEMAND									2024/25	
US SOYBEANS					Jul	Jul	Jul	У	ield Scenarios	s
					USDA	USDA	USDA	July	July	July
	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24	24-25	-2%	Yield	+2%
Planted Area (M Acres)	89.2	76.1	83.4	87.2	87.5	83.6	86.1	86.1	86.1	86.1
Harvested Area (Acres)	87.6	74.9	82.6	86.3	86.2	82.4	85.3	85.3	85.3	85.3
Yield (Bu/Acre)	50.6	47.4	51.0	51.7	49.6	50.6	52.0	51.0	52.0	53.0
Beginning Stocks (M Bu)	438	909	525	257	274	264	345	345	345	345
Production	4,428	3,552	4,216	4,464	4,270	4,165	4,435	4,347	4,435	4,524
Imports	14	15	20	16	25	20	15	15	15	15
Supply,Total	4,880	4,476	4,761	4,737	4,569	4,449	4,795	4,707	4,795	4,884
Crushings	2,092	2,165	2,141	2,204	2,212	2,290	2,425	2,425	2,425	2,425
Exports	1,753	1,683	2,266	2,152	1,980	1,700	1,825	1,825	1,825	1,825
Seed	88	97	101	102	75	77	78	78	78	78
Residual	39	11	-4	5	39	37	32	32	32	32
Use, Total	3,971	3,952	4,504	4,463	4,305	4,103	4,360	4,360	4,360	4,360
Ending Stocks	909	525	257	274	264	345	435	347	435	524
Stocks/Use Ratio	22.9%	13.3%	5.7%	6.1%	6.1%	8.4%	10.0%	8.0%	10.0%	12.0%



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# CORN: USDA UPDATE BULLISH ON LARGE ENDING STOCKS CUT

December corn prices have plummeted since mid-May due to a lack of US weather crop threats. However, today's Supply/Demand report was bullish, and prices may finally be ready for an upside correction, especially since funds are likely to be holding a record short position. Significantly lowerthan-expected ending stocks for old crop came from higher exports. Despite increased acreage from the June acreage report, new crop ending stocks also came in well below guesses due to increases in feed/residual and exports. The sharp ending stocks cuts were a surprise and are likely to be supportive to corn after the significant recent break of nearly \$1.00 a bushel on December futures.

Favorable conditions are expected for the bulk of the US Midwest over the next two weeks. Pollination will ramp up in the 2nd half of July, but extreme heat is expected to stay in the northwest corn belt. The southeast US corn growing area has seen the highest crop stress across the corn belt, and reports of very poor conditions in the Carolinas and other Southeast

USDA SUPPLY/DEMAND									2024/25	
US CORN					Jul	Jul	Jul	Y	ield Scenarios	s
					USDA	USDA	USDA	July	July	July
	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24	24-25	-2%	Yield	+2%
Planted Area (M Acres)	88.9	89.7	90.7	92.9	88.2	94.6	91.5	91.5	91.5	91.5
Harvested Area (Acres)	81.2	81.0	82.2	85.0	78.7	86.5	83.4	83.4	83.4	83.4
Yield (Bu/Acre)	176.4	167.5	171.4	176.7	173.4	177.3	181.0	177.4	181.0	184.6
Beginning Stocks (M Bu)	2,140	2,237	2,004	1,235	1,377	1,360	1,877	1,877	1,877	1,877
Production	14,322	13,568	14,087	15,018	13,651	15,342	15,100	14,793	15,100	15,397
Imports	28	42	24	24	39	30	25	25	25	25
Supply, Total	16,490	15,847	16,115	16,277	15,066	16,732	17,002	16,695	17,002	17,299
Feed & Residual	5,392	5,778	5,667	5,671	5,486	5,775	5,825	5,825	5,825	5,825
Food, Seed & Industry	6,792	6,286	6,466	6,757	6,558	6,855	6,855	6,855	6,855	6,855
Ethanol for Fuel	5,378	4,857	5,028	5,320	5,176	5,450	5,450	5,450	5,450	5,450
Domestic Total	12,185	12,064	12,134	12,427	12,044	12,630	12,680	12,680	12,680	12,680
Total Exports	2,068	1,778	2,747	2,472	1,662	2,225	2,225	2,225	2,225	2,225
Use, Total	14,253	13,843	14,881	14,900	13,706	14,855	14,905	14,905	14,905	14,905
Ending Stocks	2,237	2,004	1,235	1,377	1,360	1,877	2,097	1,790	2,097	2,394
Stocks/Use Ratio	15.7%	14.5%	8.3%	9.2%	9.9%	12.6%	14.1%	12.0%	14.1%	16.1%



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# CORN: USDA UPDATE BULLISH ON LARGE ENDING STOCKS CUT

states are likely to continue as temperatures are expected to be well above normal over the next two weeks. However, these are not the so-called "I" states and are unlikely to impact the total US corn production significantly. CONAB on July 11 increased their Brazil total corn production estimate to 115.859 million tonnes, up from 114.144 last month. However, USDA left their Brazil crop estimate unchanged today at 122 million tonnes, and there will be ongoing uncertainty about which government entity will be correct. Also, the USDA is more than 6 million tonnes above private Argentine Grain Exchange production estimates.

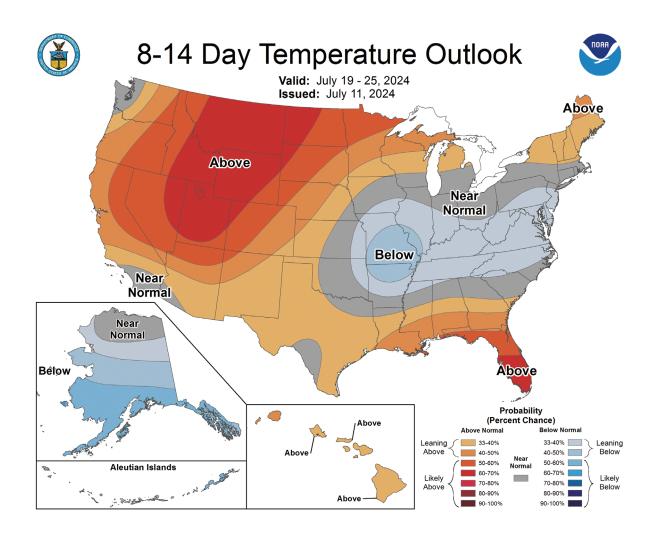
After today's bullish report reversal and the recent aggressive fund selling pushing futures into extreme oversold levels, we prefer to position for a rebound.

## **Option Trade Strategy**

**BUY** September Corn 400 CALL at 13 cents or better. Risk the entire premium paid. Take profits on the position if September futures hits 433.

#### **Futures Trade Recommendation**

**BUY** December Corn Futures at 412. Risk 11 cents on the trade. Use an objective of 438.



# EURO AND BRITISH POUND WILL BENEFIT FROM DOLLAR WEAKNESS

After finishing June on an upbeat note, the Dollar has fallen back on the defensive as it will start the third quarter with a second weekly loss in a row. Following lukewarm US jobs data on July 5, Thursday's CPI data showed consumer inflation continues to ease. As a result, the Fed is more likely to have multiple rate cuts by this year's end, which should keep pressure on the Dollar over the next few weeks.

The European Central Bank (ECB) cut its benchmark deposit rate by 0.25% last month but remains close to a record high of 4% from September 2023 through June. The market has priced in two ECB rate cuts over the rest of this year, but a rebound in Eurozone wage growth may delay any rate moves until the fourth quarter. Steady Eurozone rates should help the Euro to maintain upside momentum during July and August.

The British Pound started July with a 3-cent rally versus the Dollar and maintained an upward momentum following the July 5 UK

Parliamentary election. Although the Bank of England (BOE) should cut its benchmark rate by 0.25% at the August MPC meeting, the prospect of increasing UK inflation by year-end could keep the BOE on hold during the rest of 2024, and that should provide support for the British Pound going forward.

#### **Suggested Trading Strategies**

**BUY** a September Euro 1.1000/1.1250 bull call spread at 36 with an objective of 180. Risk the entire spread premium on the strategy.

**BUY** a September British Pound 1.3000/1.3300 bull call spread at 64 with an objective of 256. Risk the entire spread premium on the strategy.



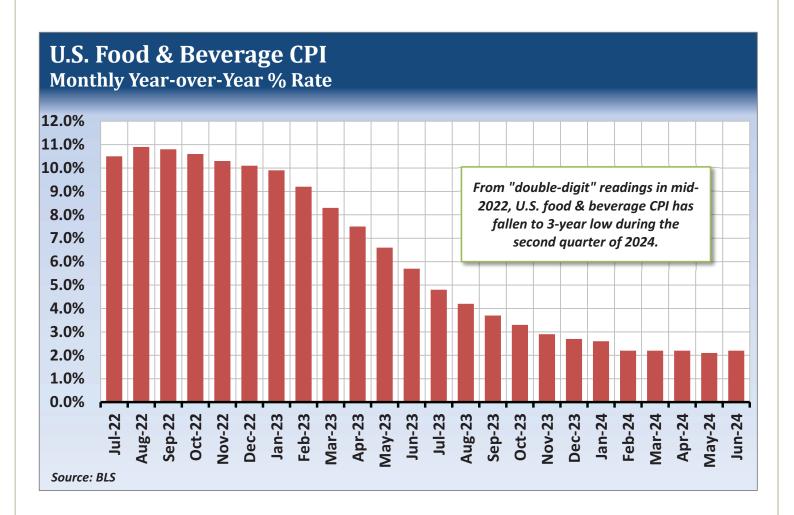
# SMALLER FOOD AND BEVERAGE CPI READINGS UPS CHANCES FOR FED RATE CUTS THIS YEAR

One of the primary reasons for the Fed's decision to postpone rate cuts has been persistently high US consumer inflation. The US Consumer Price Index (CPI), a key metric calculated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics monthly, is a crucial indicator. Of particular importance is the Food and Beverages CPI, as the inflation rate for these items significantly impacts most U.S. consumers.

The year-over-year Food and Beverage CPI rate stayed within a tight range between -0.3% and +4.3% from mid-2012 to mid-2021. After mid-2021, it sharply increased as the year-over-year rate posted "double-digit" readings (a 10% rate) between June 2022 and December 2022, with a high reading of a 10.9% year-over-year rate in August 2022. These were the largest year-over-year readings for Food and Beverage CPI since February 1981, although far below the record high 18.2% reading from August 1973.

Last December, the FOMC's Economic Projections (the "Dot Plot") projected three 0.25% Fed cuts by the end of 2024. However, during the first 4 FOMC meetings of 2024, rates were left unchanged. The latest "Dot Plot" at the June FOMC meeting only showed one 0.25% cut by the end of this year, with four 0.25% rate cuts projected in 2025 and another four 0.25% rate cuts in 2026.

The Food and Beverage CPI for June 2024 was recorded at a 2.2% year-over-year rate, a slight increase from May's 2.1%. However, these two readings mark the lowest year-over-year results for Food and Beverage CPI since May 2021. This data could potentially influence the FOMC's decision-making, leading to the possibility of two 0.25% rate cuts by the end of this year.



## Long Term Trades

# UPDATES TO PRIOR LONGER-TERM TRADE STRATEGIES Original Trade Date Trade Action Cocoa 7/3/24 BOUGHT a November Cocoa 6,500/5,800 bear put spread at 242. Use an objective of 630 and risk the option strategy to 145. Silver 7/12/24 BUY a December Silver \$35.75/\$40.00 bull call spread at \$0.51 Use an objective of \$2.30 and risk the trade to \$0.24.

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## TOP 12 WHEAT PLANTED AREA 2024

Last month's USDA Acreage report said that US 2024/25 all wheat planted area will be 47.240 million acres which is a 5% decline from the 49.575 million acres planted in 2023/24.

Courtesy of the USDA, these are the 12 states with the largest wheat planted area during 2024/25 (in acres):

,	, ,
Kansas	7,700,000
North Dakota	6,920,000
Texas	5,700,000
Montana	5,280,000
Oklahoma	4,350,000
Washington	2,340,000
Colorado	2,100,000
South Dakota	1,590,000
Minnesota	1,550,000
Idaho	1,210,000
Nebraska	1,000,000
Illinois	770,000





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### **COMMITMENTS OF TRADERS**

Data As of July 9, 2024 Non-Commercial & Non-Reportable Combined Futures & Options

		Combine	d Futures & Options			
Market	Net Position	Net Change	4-Wk Net Change	52-Wk Ranking		
Grains						
CBOT Grains	-550,147	-50,577	-219,854	1		
Corn	-305,719	-16,539	-147,423	2		
KC Wheat	-36,110	-172	-6,945	9		
Minn Wheat	-23,746	-1,337	-17,664	24		
Rice	969	-911	-740	2		
Soybeans	-193,743	-37,351	-68,422	3		
Soyoil	5,194	40,930	59,813	32		
Soymeal	80,515	-13,036	-39,601	22		
Wheat	-50,685	3,313	-4,009	29		
Livestock						
Cattle	65,084	-3,287	-649	27		
Feeder Cattle	-7,402	-1,325	-1,681	2		
Hogs	-1,550	-1,302	-18,708	8		
Metals	,	,	,			
Copper	62,637	5,059	1,038	44		
Gold	282,108	16,474	6,727	51		
Platinum	30,605	-1,005	6,174	47		
Silver	80,826	6,103	6,658	52		
Softs	00,020	0,200	0,000	02		
Cocoa	26,978	2,053	-2,401	10		
Coffee	76,930	6,928	8,787	50		
Cotton	-21,873	-7,223	4,063	2		
Lumber	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A		
		418		51		
Milk	-2,182		26			
OJ	5,269	204	327	47		
Sugar	74,768	-3,485	70,563	18		
Currencies						
Canadian	-113,583	12,158	46,132	5		
Dollar	17,414	-1,139	-2,103	37		
Euro	34,976	18,471	7,106	9		
Energies						
Crude Oil	334,925	9,443	47,102	40		
Gas (RBOB)	54,001	2,437	15,084	13		
Heating Oil	29,208	-5,555	1,048	12		
Natural Gas	-87,031	-11,350	4,354	22		
Financials						
Bonds	35,417	-2,370	6,588	45		
E-Mini S&P	42,384	-46,479	51,711	44		
Dow Jones \$5	11,070	1,962	7,604	32		
T-Notes	-412,333	-23,043	-133,259	44		
	Extreme		Ranking 1	= Shortest Short		
	5% of Extreme	52 = Longest Long				