Worth Charting

WORTH CHARTING REPORT

May 22, 2022

We Think the Answer is Yes.

- As long-time readers will know, once in a very rare while we will send an intra-day market update or "market call". Perhaps there have been 10-12 such instances in the past 30 years.
- Friday was such an instance.
- The system-wide email blast to client at 11:35am was titled, <u>A Critical Juncture</u>. The entire 4-sentence communique appears below:

"To not hold here would be deadly. And it's anybody's guess as to whether we hold or break. "Good technique" argues for going with the ball- which is to say - if and as we begin to break, press market shorts if one is short, and reduce/close index longs if one is long. For now, the benefit of the doubt is given: we're at a critical level (right at last week's lows) and we're holding/fighting to hold."

- In the event, the market breached the prior weeks lows (bearish) only to climb back above said lows and close above them (bullish). In the end, a very bad week, yes (down 3.06%) and the seventh down week in a row, yet important intra-day price action on Friday that we believe foretells strength in the day/days ahead.
- When all is said and done, the question that must be asked is whether the market passed a critical test at a critical juncture, on Friday. We think the answer is yes.

Trade well,

-Carter

Carter Braxton Worth

Kimberly Simon



Right off the bat, before presenting a single chart or comment, please note, Friday's intra-day note to clients and this Sunday report have nothing to do with the media's fascination last week with the fact that S&P 500 Index was down 20% and the notion that somehow that figure (said % decline) represents/ defines/ constitutes a "Bear Market".

First, the current Bear Market has been unfolding for more than a year, as all will know, with important indices such as the MSCI World Transportation Index having peaked 12 months ago, and the MSCI All Country World Index ex USA peaking 11 months ago.

<u>Second</u>, major indices are down, already, much more than 20%, with a current peak-to-present reading of -31.5% in the NASDAQ 100 Index,
-30.8% in the Russell 2000 Index, -32.3% in the Philadelphia Semiconductor Index, and -30.3% in the KBW Bank Index.

Third, and most important, nowhere, NOWHERE, is it written that a decline of 20% means a Bear Market. Says who? Based on what? We ourselves, fascinated with the matter in our early 20's scoured the world for "the source" and never found anything. It's nonsense, and not helpful. Worse, it's sensationalism.

sen·sa·tion·al·ism

noun

- 1. (especially in journalism) the use of exciting or shocking stories or language at the expense of accuracy, in order to provoke public interest or excitement
- 2. In journalism and mass media, **sensationalism** is a type of editorial tactic. Events and topics in news stories are selected and worded to excite the greatest number of readers and viewers.

Source: Worth Charting, Bloomberg, FactSet



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USNews.com

Final-Hour Rally Yanks Wall Street From Maw of Bear Market

CMN CNN

S&P 500 briefly falls into bear market territory as recession fears mount

FT Financial Times

Wall Street stocks flirt with bear market as growth concerns mount

y Yahoo Finance

Bear market, GDP, and Davos: What to watch this week

The New York Times

Stocks Rally Out of Bear Market Territory, but End Lower for a 7th Week

B Bloomberg.com

SPX S&P 500 Stocks In Bear Market Amid Brutal Equities Selloff

W MarketWatch

S&P 500 slips below bear-market threshold

NBC News

S&P 500 sees worst losing streak since 2001 as it closes down for the 7th straight week

M Markets Insider

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Stock market outlook: What you need to know about S&P 500 bear markets



PBS

Investors scramble as S&P 500 nears bear market territory

Ts TheStreet

Lost 20% in the S&P 500 Bear Market? Here's What to Do

🎃 USA Today

What stocks should you buy in a bear market? Investing tips to ...

AP AP News

What is a bear market? And is Wall Street close to one now?

🖌 MarketWatch

Buy the dip or sell the 'rip'?: What's next as S&P 500 tests bear-market territory

F Forbes

The S&P 500 Enters A Bear Market, Now What?

USNews.com

Final-Hour Rally Yanks Wall Street From Maw of Bear Market

F Fortune

The S&P 500 is poised to enter bear market territory today after Wednesday's brutal 4% selloff

Reuters

S&P 500 on pace to confirm bear market, falls 20% from record close

Fox Business

S&P 500 falls into bear market, joins Nasdaq

Source: Worth Charting, Bloomberg, FactSet



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With that silliness out of way, let's get to work...

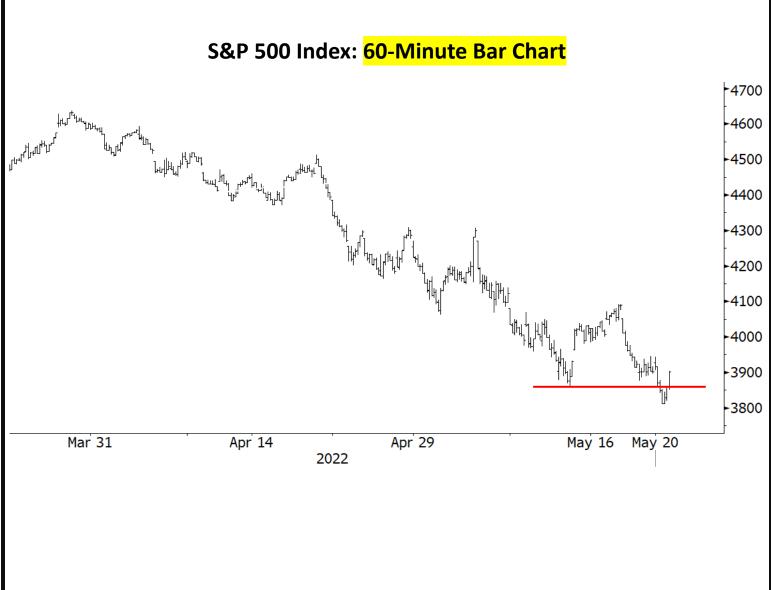




Thursday, May 12th was an important intermediate low for many indices in the U.S and around the world.

At the end of last week, on Friday, May 20th, the SPX broke below its March 12th lows, albeit briefly and barely.

Then it recovered back above the May 12th low and closed above said low...



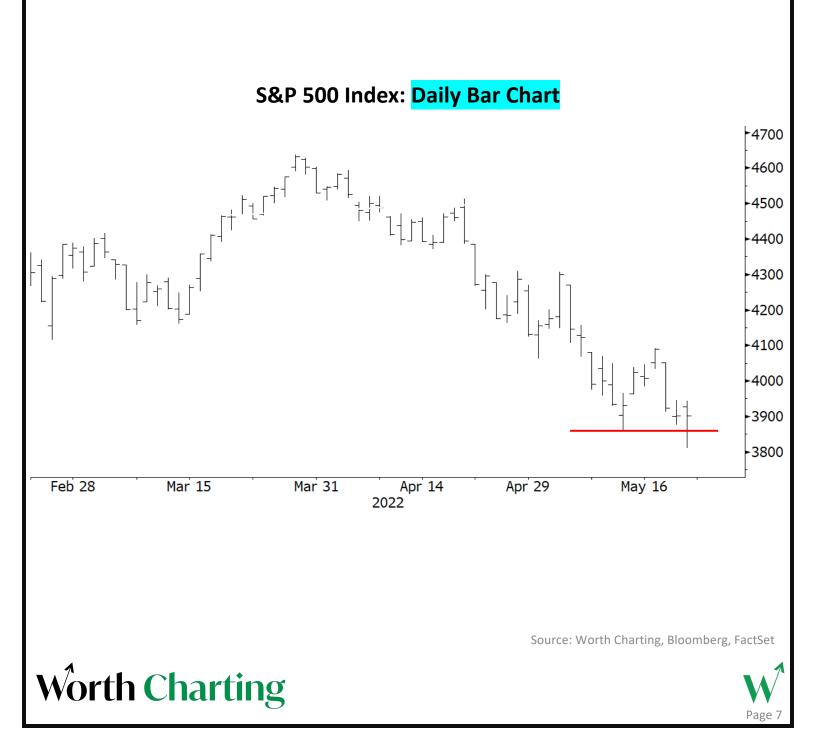
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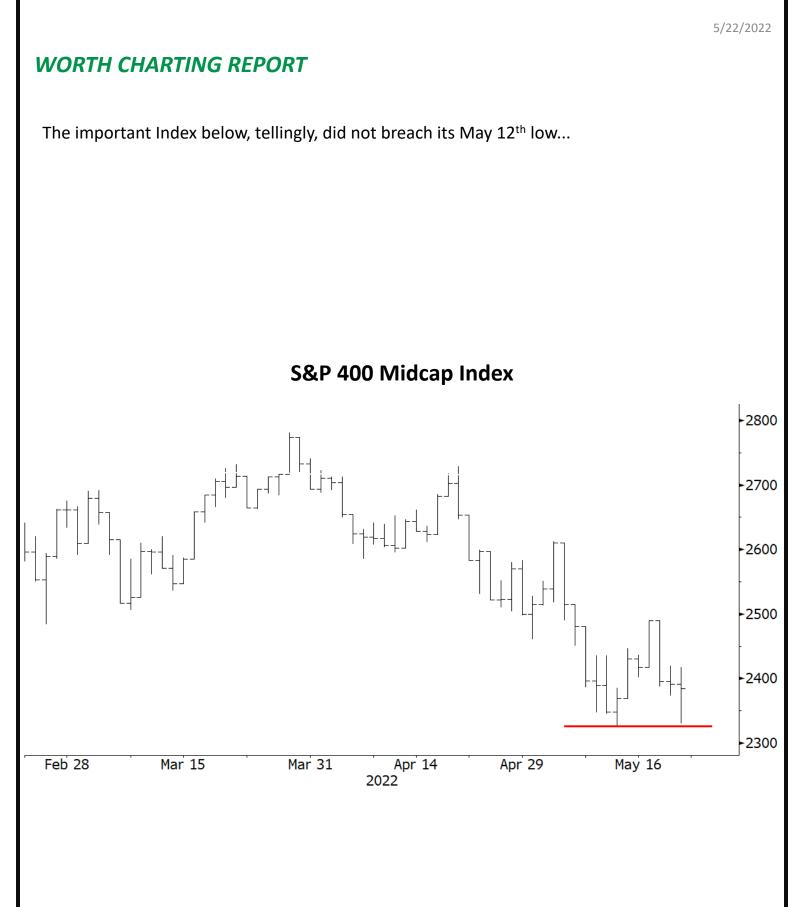


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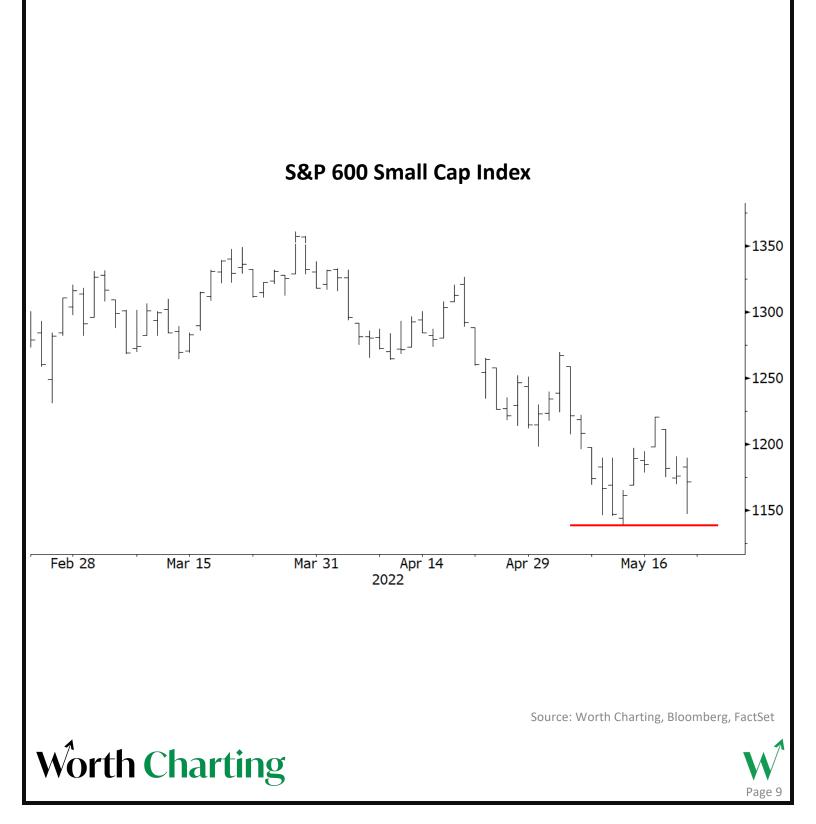




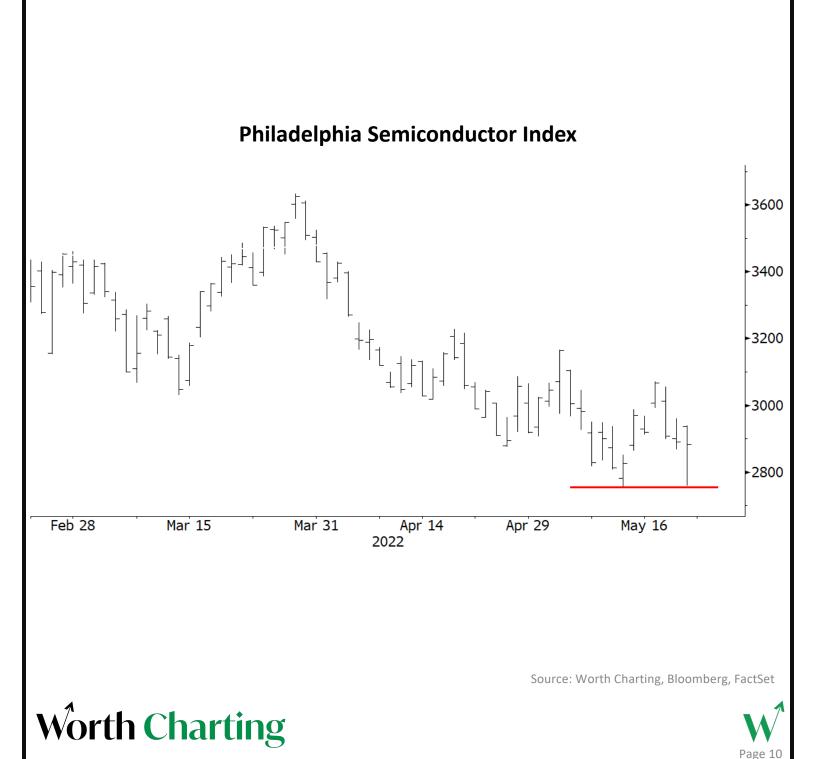
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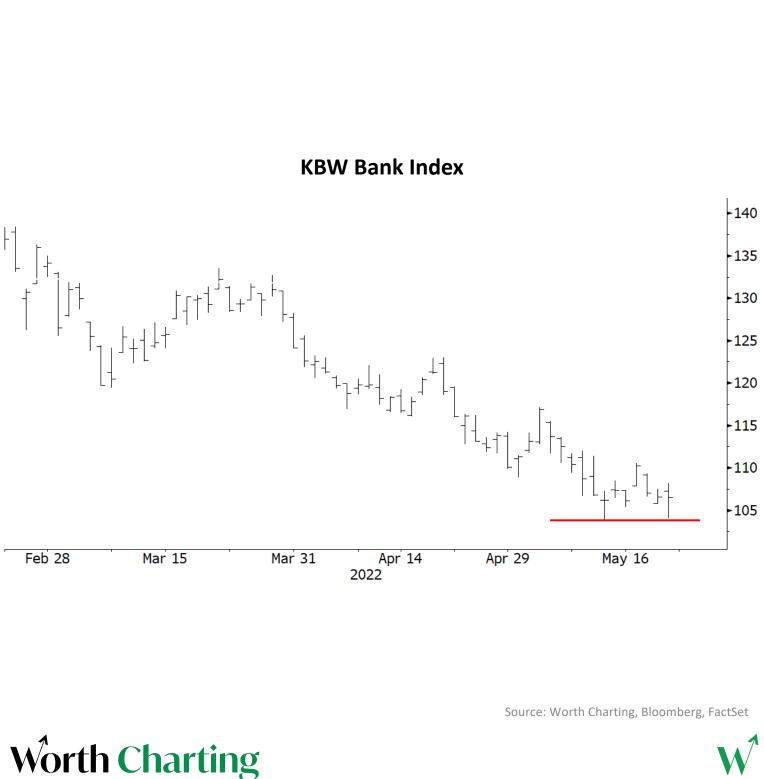
And this Index did not breach its May 12th low...



Nor did this index breach its May 12th low...

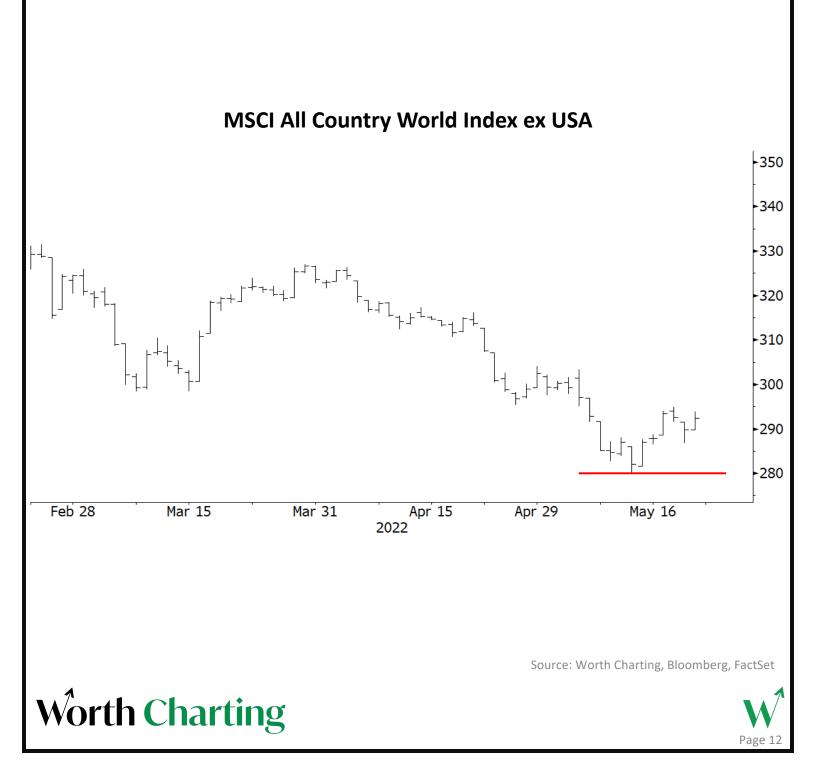


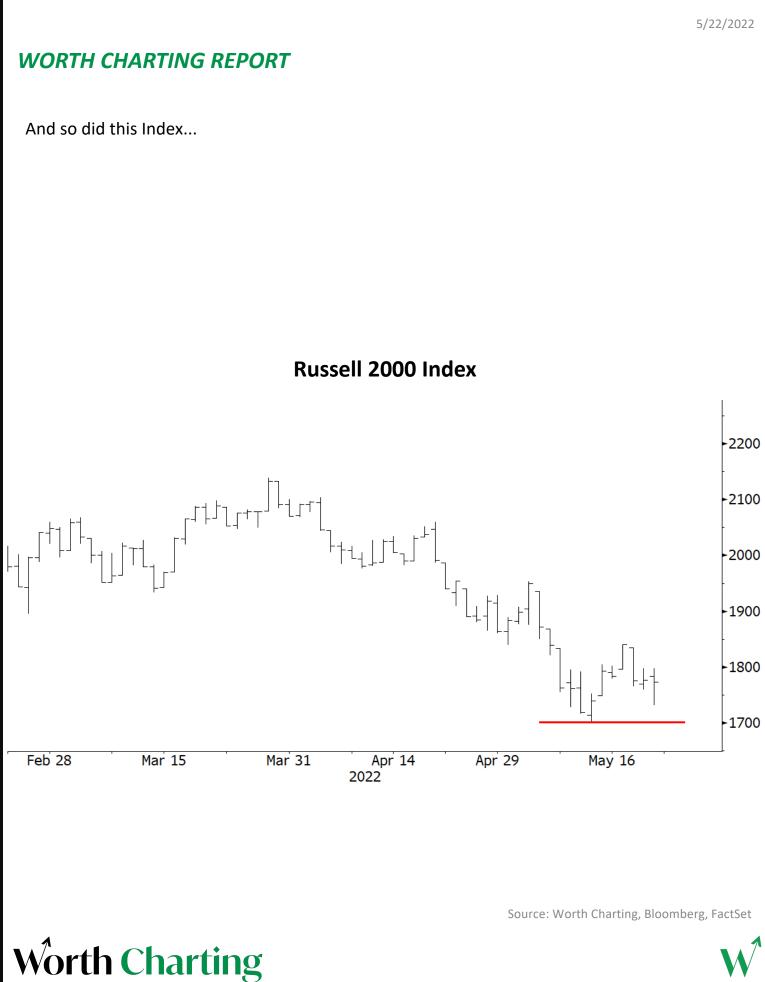
And this Index held above its May 12th low...



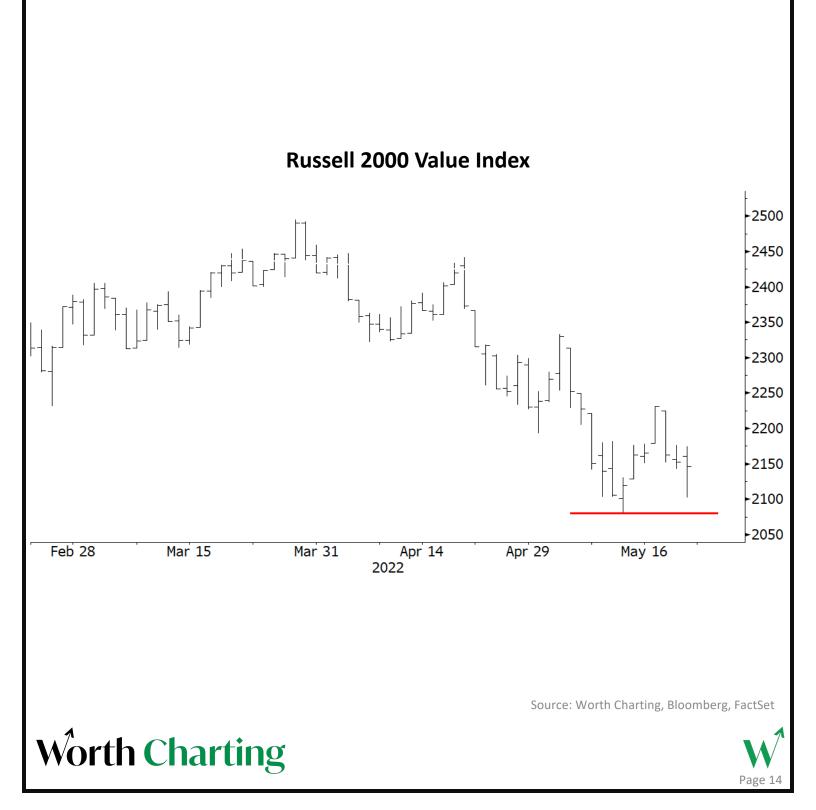
Page 11

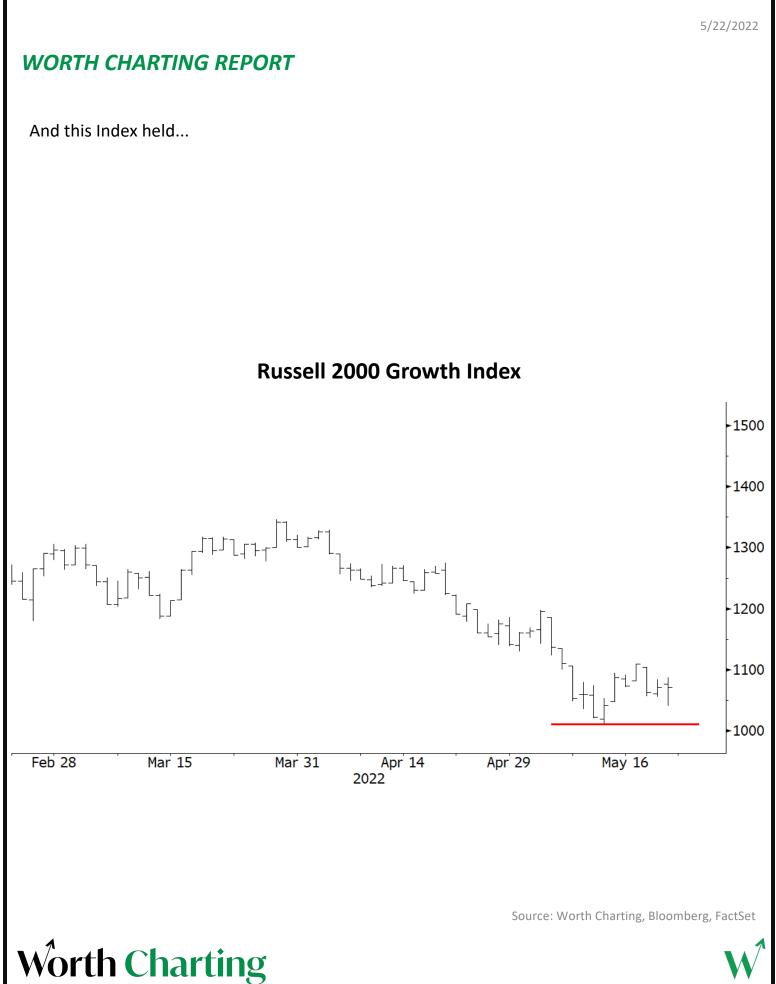
And this Index held above its May 12th low...



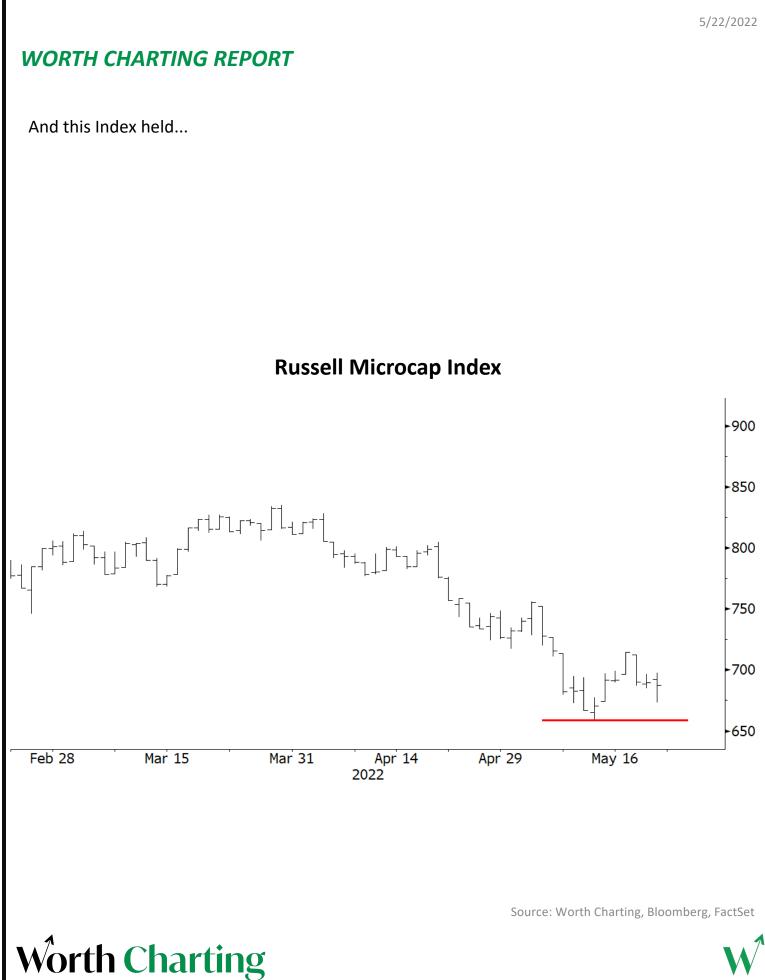


Page 13

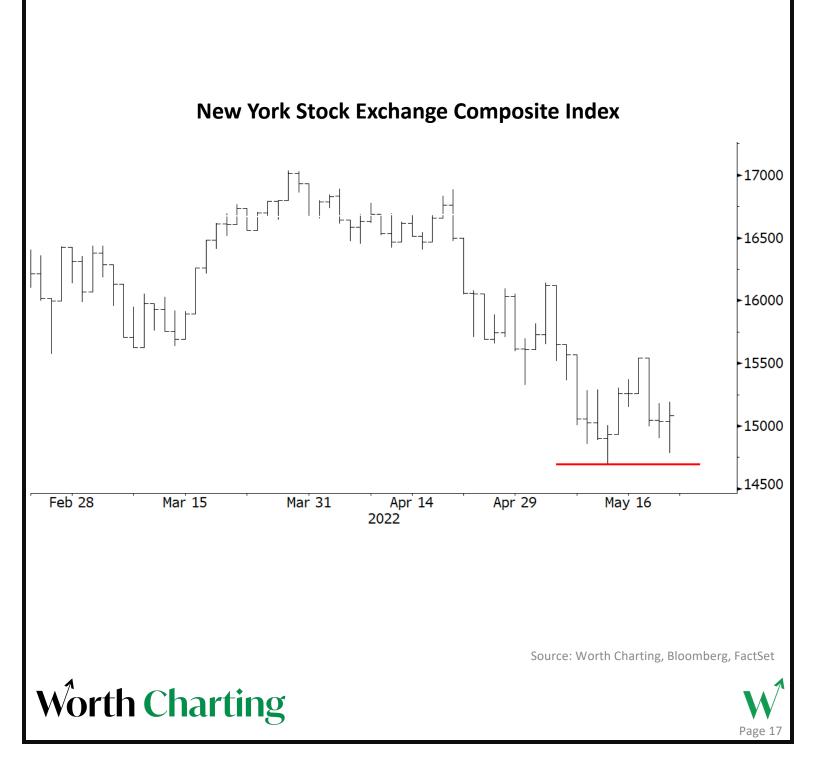


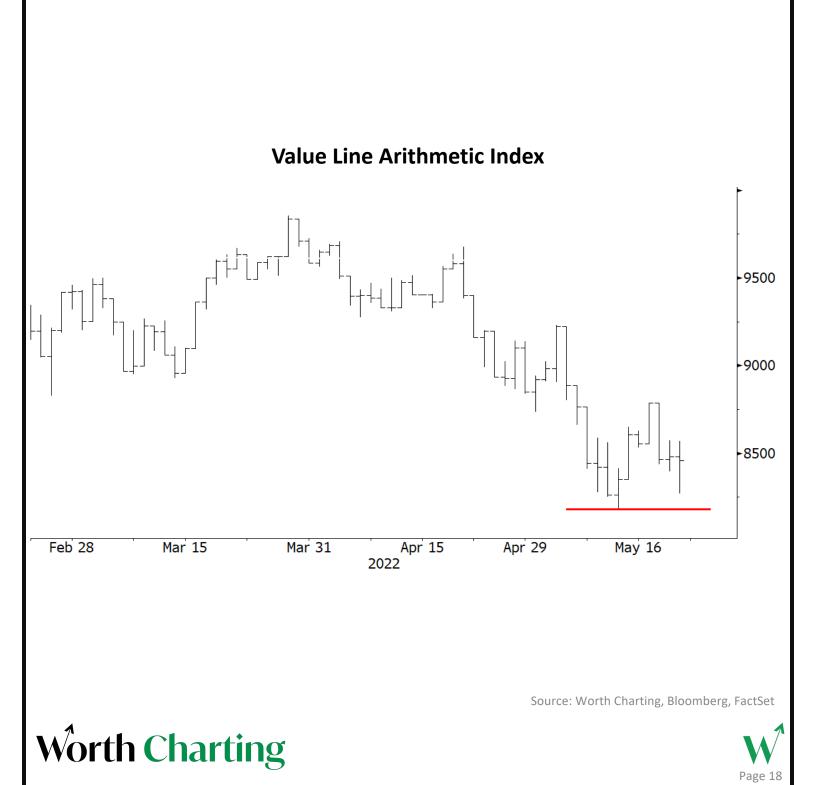


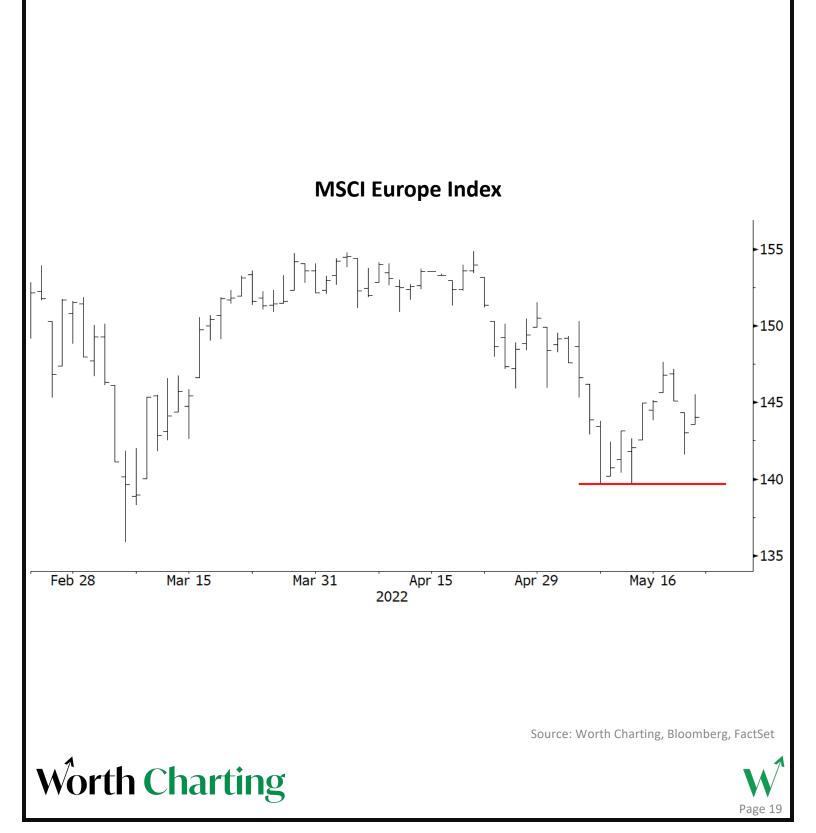
Page 15



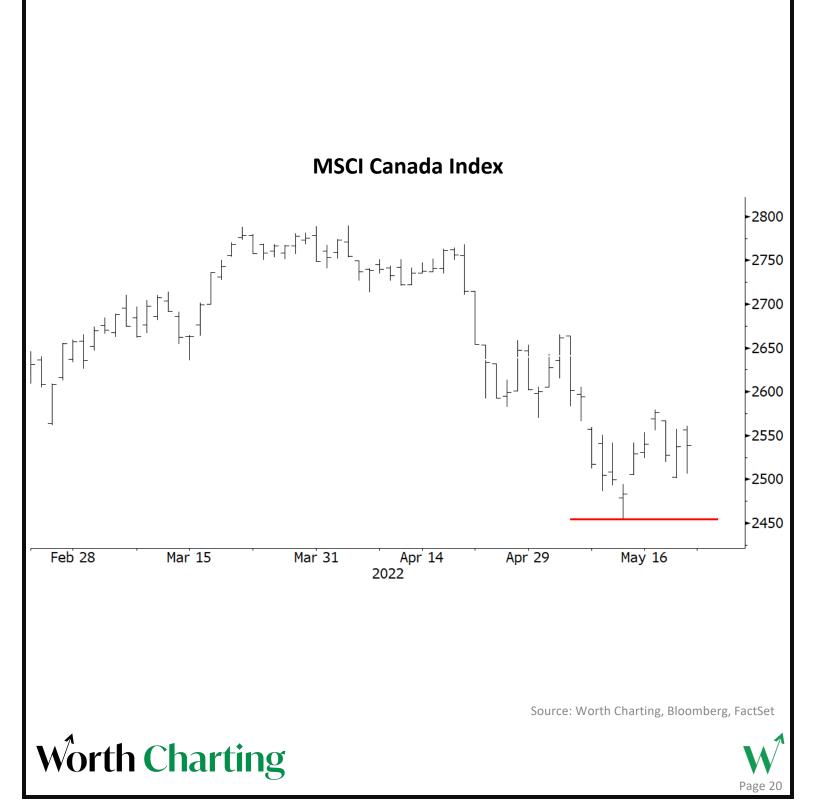
Page 16









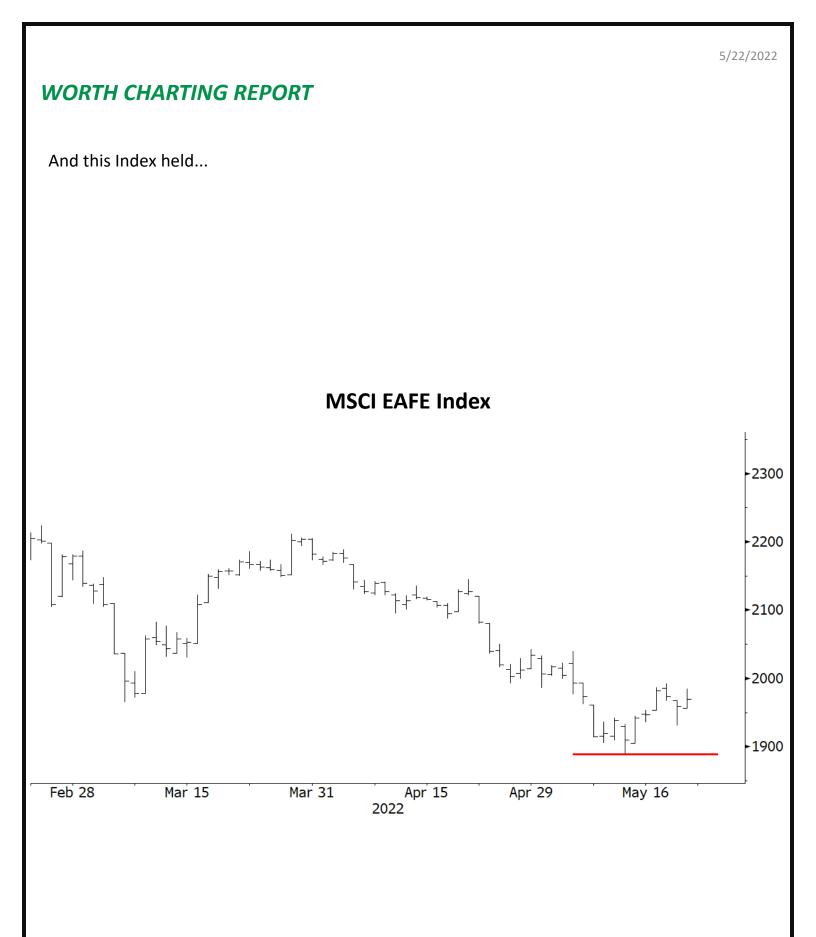




Page 21

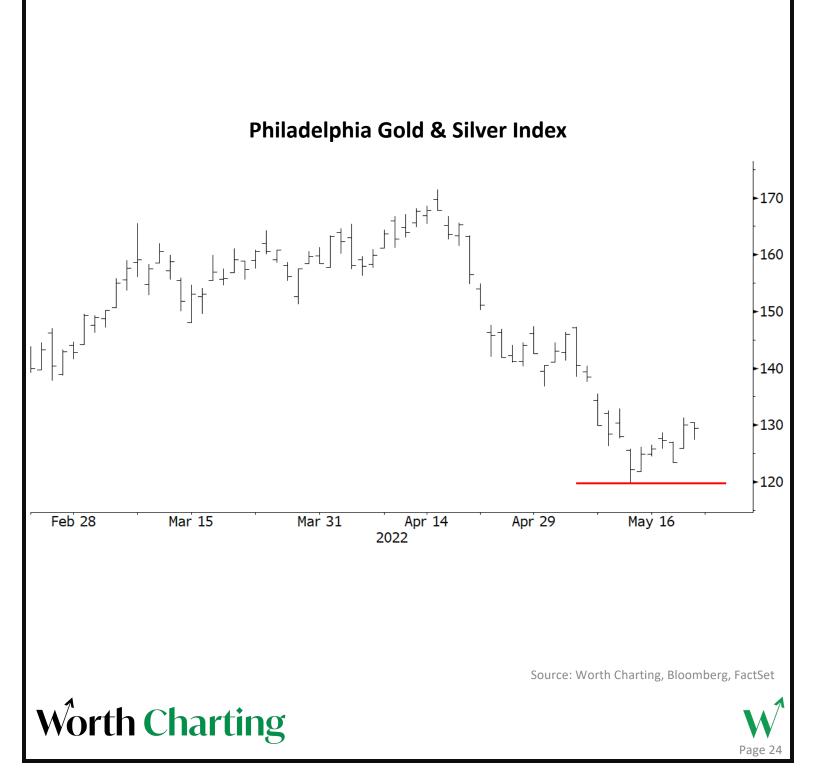


Page 22



Worth Charting





Page 2

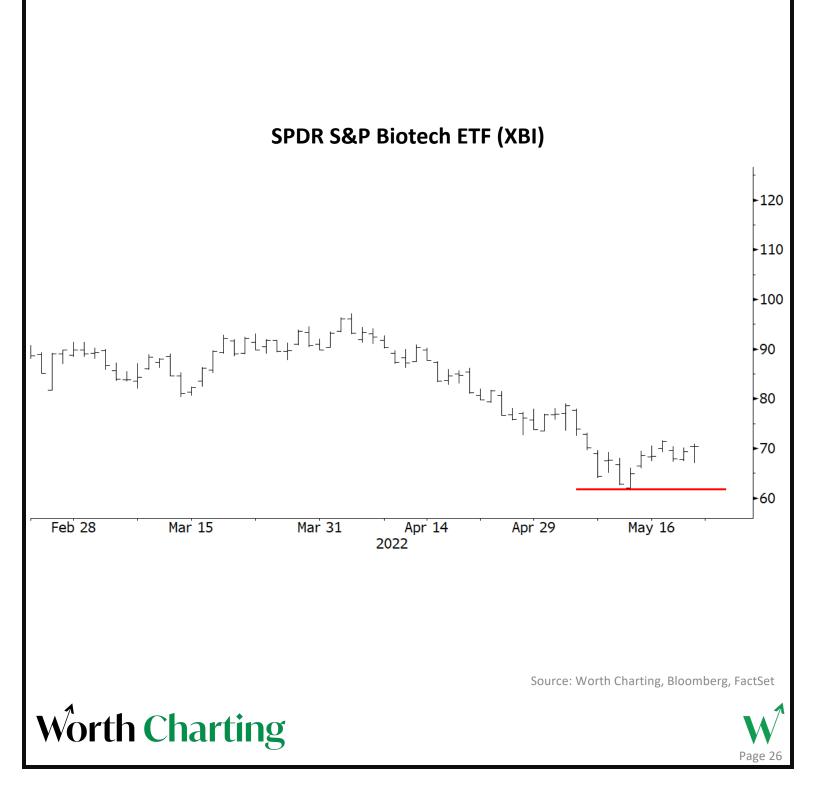
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And this key ETF did not breach its May 12th low...





And this key ETF did not breach its May 12th low...



So... where might we be headed in the day/days ahead?

Our thinking is we get a decent bounce... +5-6%, perhaps a bit more.

Is the prospective bounce playable? Yes, if one is nimble (read: small in size) and has dexterity.

Does this mean buy, buy, buy, everything is fine, the coast is clear, new all-time highs for the market around the corner? No chance. That's ridiculous.

Have we been in a Bear Market for a while? Yes.

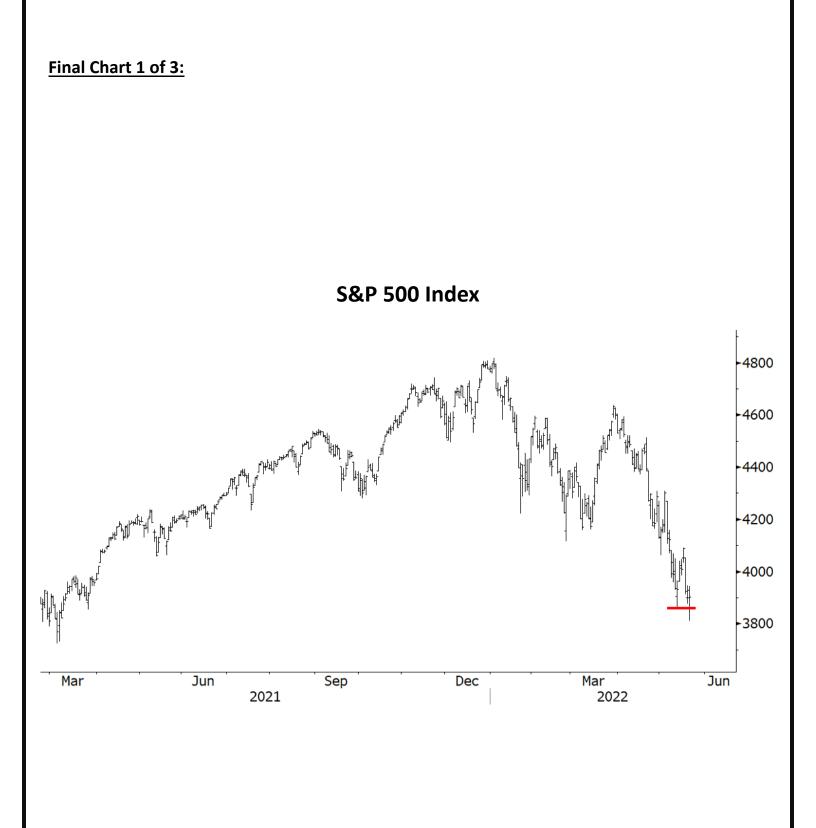
Are we in a Bear Market right now? Yes. Right now, more than half of the stocks in the Russell 3000 Index are down 30% or more. The Russell 3000 Index represents 98% of the investable capital in the U.S.

Three (3) final SPX charts on the pages that follow...





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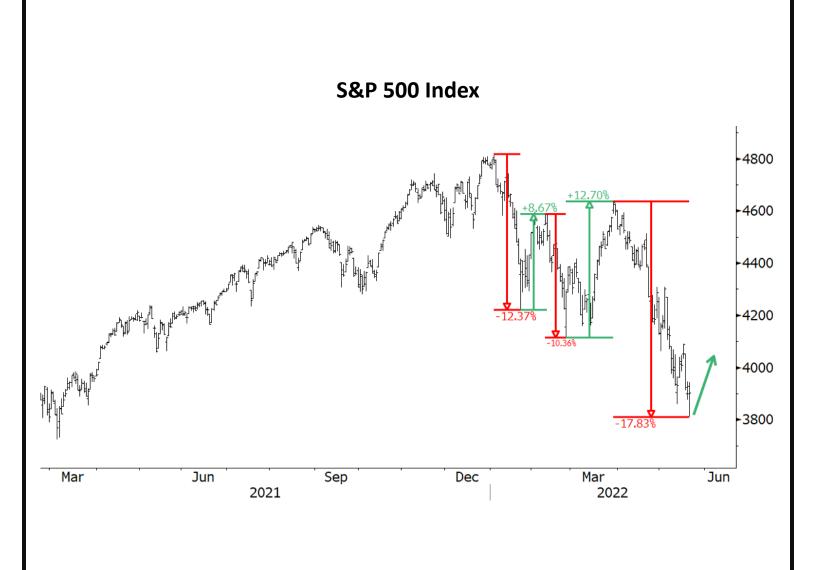




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Final Chart 3 of 3:

"Sequencing" calls for a bounce here, by our work. See green arrow drawn.



Source: Worth Charting, Bloomberg, FactSet



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Source: Worth Charting, Bloomberg, FactSet



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