

RobustQuant Weekly Compass

Weekend Edition | February 1, 2026

 **COMPASS FOR EMOTIONAL DISCIPLINE---NOT TRADING ADVICE**

Weekly boundaries to help reduce fear and greed in market decisions

1 | At a Glance

Asset	Range	Width	Track Record
S&P 500 (SPX)	6,698 – 7,188	±3.6%	55/58 (94.8%)
Gold (GLD)*	404 – 497	±10.4%	27/29 (93.1%)
REITs (XLRE)*	40 – 43	±3.6%	18/19 (94.7%)

*Newsletter-exclusive coverage

Target: ~95% of weekly closes fall within these ranges

Track record details → robustquant.com/predictions

2 | This Week's Summary

SPX 7,000. Gold \$5,000. Compass ranges held. Both S&P 500 and gold touched historic levels during the week, driving strong headlines and emotional reactions. Yet when markets closed Friday, prices remained aligned with predicted ranges.

Key Results:

- S&P 500: **6,939** (mid-upper range) 
- Gold: **445** (lower boundary) 
- REITs: **41** (mid range) 

Pattern of the week: All three assets contained despite intraday milestones. **SPX crossed 7,000** intraday for first time in history but didn't close there. **Gold and silver hit all-time highs**, then whipsawed sharply lower after Warsh nomination. Consumer confidence dropped to 84.5.

Yet Friday closes: all within boundaries.

Big numbers don't automatically mean broken structure. The Compass focuses on where markets actually settle, not on intraday noise or narrative-driven extremes.

3 | What Moved Markets (Jan 26 – Feb 1)

Historic Milestones Hit:

S&P 500 crossed 7,000 intraday on January 28—first time in history—but closed 6,939 (mid-upper range). Gold surged to \$5,600/oz, silver above \$120/oz (all-time highs) during week. Warsh nomination for Fed Chair on January 30 triggered precious metals whipsaw—gold crashed from highs toward the high \$4,800/oz by week end, GLD 445 (lower boundary of 444-486 range).

Consumer Confidence Falls Sharply:

Conference Board Consumer Confidence Index declined to 84.5 in January from a revised 94.2 in December, marking one of the weakest readings in over a decade. The Expectations Index fell to 65.1, remaining well below the 80 level that historically signals elevated recession risk. Despite the deterioration in sentiment data, equity markets showed limited immediate reaction and continued trading within prevailing technical ranges.

4 | S&P 500 (SPX) Boundaries (Feb 6)

🎯 Range: 6,698–7,188

📊 Hit Rate: 55/58 weeks (94.8%)

Last Week's Performance:

Last week: Range 6,667-7,164, closed **6,939** (mid-upper range) 

Current range: 6,698-7,188

Close at 6,939 positioned mid-upper range despite crossing 7,000 intraday. Historic milestone hit but not held—markets settled within systematic boundaries. Range shifts higher whilst maintaining width ($\pm 3.6\%$ unchanged). Track record improved to 55/58 (94.8%), entering 58th week of tracking. Intraday extremes don't determine regime—Friday closes do.

For Your Planning:

- Lower zone (6,698-6,860): Where fear often peaks
- Middle zone (6,860-7,050): Normal trading area
- Upper zone (7,050-7,188): Where excitement builds

Remember: These are weekly movement boundaries, not buy/sell signals.

5 | Gold (GLD) Coverage (Newsletter-Exclusive)

🎯 Range: 404–497

📊 Containment: 27/29 weeks (93.1%)

Last Week's Performance:

Last week: Range 444-486, closed **445** (lower boundary) ✓

Current range: 404-497

GLD closed **445**, recovering to lower boundary (444-486 range) after previous week's breach at 458. Intraday: GLD surged to \$509 ATH, then crashed following Warsh nomination to 436. Dramatic whipsaw echoing November's 403 → 367 → 378 pattern. Friday close contained at lower boundary. Range widens substantially ($\pm 10.4\%$ vs $\pm 4.5\%$) as model adapts to elevated volatility regime. Track record recovered to 93.1% (27/29) after last week's breach.

For Your Planning:

- Lower zone (404-435): Where consolidation may emerge
- Middle zone (435-465): Normal trading area
- Upper zone (465-497): Where safe-haven demand peaks

6 | REITs (XLRE) Coverage (Newsletter-Exclusive)

🎯 Range: 40–43

📊 Containment: 18/19 weeks (94.7%)

Last Week's Performance:

Last week: Range 39-43, closed **41** (mid range) ✓

Current range: 40-43

REITs closed **41** unchanged from prior week, maintaining mid-range stability. Rate-sensitive sector showed no stress response to precious metals whipsaw or consumer confidence drop. Range shifts slightly higher (40-43 vs 39-43, $\pm 3.6\%$ vs $\pm 4.9\%$). Track record strengthened to 94.7% (18/19) as nineteen-week sample builds statistical foundation approaching design parameters.

For Your Planning:

- Lower zone (40-41): Where rate-hike fears typically pressure sector
- Middle zone (41-42): Normal trading area
- Upper zone (42-43): Where rate-cut optimism drives positioning

7 | Psychology & How to Read

7,000. \$5,000. Intraday milestones everywhere. Friday: systematic containment.

This week proved Compass' core value: it tracks where markets actually settle, not intraday drama or narrative-driven extremes. SPX crossed 7,000—first time ever—but closed 6,939 (mid-upper range). Gold hit ATH silver ATH—then Warsh nomination triggered crash.

Yet Friday closes: all within boundaries.

The lesson: **big numbers generate headlines and emotions. Friday closes generate information about actual market structure.**

What They Show:

Weekly boundaries where markets typically move—designed to help you stay calm when historic milestones drive emotional reactions.

What They Don't Show:

Buy/sell signals, price targets, or guaranteed outcomes.

The Retail Trap:

Most individual investors buy high when markets break above ranges (excitement peaks) and sell low when they fall below (fear dominates). This emotional pattern—amplified when seeing "7,000!" or "\$5,000 gold!" intraday—is the primary destroyer of long-term returns. This compass is designed to help you avoid this trap.

Professional Approach:

- Stay systematic within boundaries
- Lower ranges: Fear creates opportunities for planned strategies
- Upper ranges: Excitement may warrant risk review
- Outside ranges: Market behaviour shifting beyond normal parameters

This Week's Context:

Historic intraday levels (7,000 SPX, \$5,080 gold) generated excitement. Warsh nomination triggered precious metals whipsaw. Consumer confidence dropped. Yet systematic containment held—SPX mid-upper, GLD lower boundary, XLRE mid. Intraday extremes are noise. Friday closes are signals.

Key Point:

Your edge isn't predicting whether milestones hold—it's maintaining your strategy, your systematic rules whilst headlines scream chaos. Model tracks settlement behaviour, not intraday drama. That's where real information lives.

8 | Track Record

Performance Since Launch:

- S&P 500: 55 hits in 58 weeks (94.8%)
- Gold: 27 hits in 29 weeks (93.1%)
- REITs: 18 hits in 19 weeks (94.7%)

What This Means:

Track record improvement validates model's focus on Friday closes over intraday extremes.

GLD recovered to 93.1% (27/29) with lower boundary close at 445. Model adapted range substantially ($\pm 10.4\%$ vs $\pm 4.5\%$) recognizing elevated volatility regime in precious metals whilst maintaining systematic framework.

REITs improved to 94.7% (18/19) with mid-range close at 41. Nineteen-week sample approaching statistical significance threshold.

Transparency:

All ranges published before each week starts. No retroactive changes. Complete history available on our website.

9 | Method and Limitations

How Ranges Work:

Combines current volatility patterns, trend direction, and momentum indicators. Targets ~95% weekly containment rate. Model tracks Friday closes, not intraday milestones. GLD range widened substantially ($\pm 10.4\%$) responding to completed whipsaw volatility.

When Ranges Break:

Breakouts signal markets transitioning beyond normal parameters. These aren't failures—they're signals that create opportunities for disciplined investors prepared to recognize regime changes. GLD's previous breach at 458 triggered systematic adaptation—model doesn't resist regime shifts, it documents them.

Current Environment:

Historic milestones reached intraday (7,000+ SPX, \$5,000+ gold) but Friday closes contained within ranges. Warsh nomination for Fed Chair triggered precious metals whipsaw. Consumer confidence at 84.5.

Questions About Your Situation:

Q: SPX crossed 7,000—should I expect breakout continuation?

A: Compass shows mid-upper containment at 6,939—markets touched milestone intraday but didn't close there. Market is in normal state. Keep your strategy. Friday close within range means normal conditions persist, not directive to change positioning established in advance.

Q: Gold whipsawed from ATH to crash—what does this mean?

A: Model adapted range to $\pm 10.4\%$ (from $\pm 4.5\%$) recognizing elevated volatility regime. Extreme volatility means keep an eye on your risk management. Keep your strategy. Don't let headlines distract you from systematic rules defining acceptable risk zones. Be prepared for what you'll do if volatility persists—or normalizes.

Next Week: Ranges for February 6 close

Updates: Quick social media notes if exceptional volatility occurs

This is a hobby project providing market context. Not investment advice. Past performance doesn't guarantee future results. Consult qualified professionals for personal financial decisions.

Systematic over emotional. Structure over speculation.

Technical note: The Appendix section is unavailable this week. Normal format resumes next edition.

