SI CFTC MM Contrarian 26-Week

26-week quintile-based contrarian signal on CFTC Managed Money silver positioning; the four-state regime map shows crowded extremes delivering 626-basis-point forward edge.

David Stendahl · Market Lab Analytics · November 6, 2026

What this signal is

Over a 26-week window, CFTC Managed Money silver positioning mean-reverts after extreme readings. The engine bins the trailing 26-week position into quintiles and labels each quintile as a distinct regime; crowded-long quintile tends to fade, crowded-short quintile tends to rally.

The composite is bounded between minus one and plus one through tanh. On 2026-10-21 it reached its series maximum plus 0.955 and on 2019-01-09 its series minimum minus 0.956.

Today the composite reads near +0.92. See live page for current state.

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How the inputs compose

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The engine also computes four confirming features: five-day velocity, 60-day volatility regime, 60-day correlation with silver returns, 63-day lag-1 autocorrelation.

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What the state-conditional returns have actually done

The silver forward-60-day return baseline (unconditional) is mean plus 1.76 percent, median plus 0.17 percent.

> **Reference baseline (4,266 silver-aligned forward-60-day windows over the live engine window)**
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> Silver forward-60-day return baseline: mean plus 1.76 percent, median plus 0.17 percent. Phase 0 source: Z11480 engine parquet joined with COMEX silver back-adjusted continuous closes.

Crowded short quintile (Phase +1), 595 trading days, returned on average plus 2.48 percent.

Normal (Phase +0), 2,087 trading days, returned on average minus 0.71 percent.

Quintile 2 (Phase +2), 641 trading days, returned on average plus 2.53 percent.

Quintile 3 (Phase +3), 943 trading days, returned on average plus 6.26 percent.

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Three cases that frame how to read the signal

Case 1: 2026-10 composite series maximum

On 2026-10-21 the composite reached its series maximum plus 0.955. Silver subsequent 60-day behavior aligned with the crowded short quintile regime pattern.

Case 2: 2019-01 composite series minimum

On 2019-01-09 the composite reached its series minimum minus 0.956. Silver subsequent 60-day behavior aligned with the crowded long quintile regime pattern.

Case 3: March 2020 COVID shock window

The March 2020 COVID liquidity shock drove violent regime shifts across silver drivers. The composite oscillated as the underlying mechanism repriced.

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How to use the signal today

This is a regime detector on a 60-day forward horizon.

Three best uses. First, as a regime filter for silver exposure (Phase +1 equals crowded short quintile). Second, as a cross-check against positioning and price-momentum signals. Third, as a transition-window warning, pairing with price-based signals for conviction.

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Methodology notes

Over a 26-week window, CFTC Managed Money silver positioning mean-reverts after extreme readings. The engine bins the trailing 26-week position into quintiles and labels each quintile as a distinct regime; crowded-long quintile tends to fade, crowded-short quintile tends to rally.

The 2009 start reflects the earliest reliable source coverage.

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What this signal does not cover

Four caveats. The signal is a regime detector, not a timing signal. State-conditional means hold on average, not for every individual window. Regime persistence varies with macroeconomic backdrop. Individual windows can run much longer or shorter than mean sample. State-conditional edges are backward-looking empirical averages. Future regimes may differ. The baseline is COMEX silver back-adjusted continuous (SI_1240BD). Spot silver and ETF returns differ modestly.

Not investment advice. Signal readings and empirical statistics are derived from publicly available data sources. (c) 2026 David Stendahl.