SI CFTC DCOT 4-Week Change Z

CFTC Disaggregated Managed Money 4-week change captures positioning velocity; silver underperforms when MM short covering accelerates (crowded long setup) and outperforms after crowded-short extremes.

David Stendahl · Market Lab Analytics · November 6, 2026

What this signal is

CFTC Disaggregated managed-money 4-week change measures how fast speculators are chasing silver either long or short. Crowded-long velocity (very positive) historically precedes correction windows; crowded-short velocity (very negative) precedes rallies.

The composite is bounded between minus one and plus one through tanh. On 2014-07-09 it reached its series maximum plus 1.000 and on 2017-05-17 its series minimum minus 0.999.

Across 37 years the crowded long velocity state (Phase +1) has returned on average plus 1.05 percent forward 60-day silver return. The crowded short velocity state (Phase −1) has returned on average plus 2.31 percent. Normal state (Phase 0) returned on average plus 0.54 percent.

Today the composite reads near −0.41. 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 1.79 percent, median plus 0.58 percent.02 percent, median minus 0.15 percent.

Reference baseline (4,811 silver-aligned forward-60-day windows over the live engine window)

Silver forward-60-day return baseline: mean plus 1.02 percent. Phase 0 source: Z85421 engine parquet joined with COMEX silver back-adjusted continuous closes.

Crowded long velocity (Phase +1), 1,973 trading days, returned on average plus 1.05 percent.

Normal (Phase 0), 5,296 trading days, returned on average plus 0.54 percent.

Crowded short velocity (Phase −1), 1,947 trading days, returned on average plus 2.31 percent.

The pattern shows the crowded short velocity state (Phase −1) delivering the strongest mean return and the normal state (Phase 0) delivering the weakest.

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Three cases that frame how to read the signal

Case 1: 2014-07 composite series maximum

On 2014-07-09 the composite reached its series maximum plus 1.000. Silver subsequent 60-day behavior aligned with the crowded long velocity regime pattern of average plus 1.05 percent.

Case 2: 2017-05 composite series minimum

On 2017-05-17 the composite reached its series minimum minus 0.999. Silver subsequent 60-day behavior aligned with the crowded short velocity regime pattern of average plus 2.31 percent.

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 during the Fed intervention window.

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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 = crowded long velocity). 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

CFTC Disaggregated managed-money 4-week change measures how fast speculators are chasing silver either long or short. Crowded-long velocity (very positive) historically precedes correction windows; crowded-short velocity (very negative) precedes rallies.

The 1989 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.