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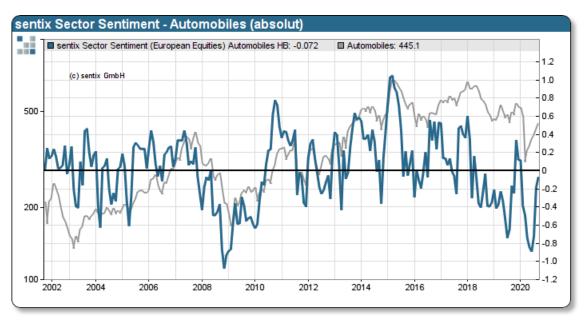


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Investors refuse the car industry

Who would have thought it: in the last few weeks, automobile stocks have become the mainstay of the stock market upswing. The premiums that were offered in Germany in particular for the purchase of new vehicles do not seem to be missing their effect.

Since the beginning of April, automobile stocks have been among the stocks that have outperformed the index. This is somewhat surprising for many investors. For as recently as May, investors were still unwilling to know anything about the stocks in the sector. The absolute sentiment was at its lowest level since 2009.



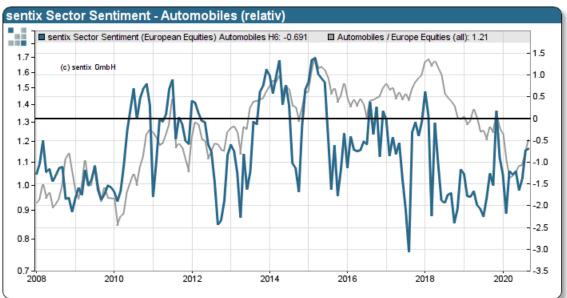
sentix Sector Sentiment Automobiles (absolut) and STOXX 600 Automobiles

This negative attitude now slowly begins to soften. In the last three months the absolute assessment has improved significantly. But still a slight sceptical attitude prevails.

The basic attitude of investors becomes even clearer if we look at the relative sentiment. Here, it was already apparent at the beginning of 2020 in the form of a bullish divergence that investors were too negative about auto stocks. However, the good relative performance of recent months has still not led to a change in sentiment. In behavioral finance terms, this is a "denial" attitude on the part of investors.

If investors are not enthusiastic about rising prices, this indicates a possible cognitive dissonance. Investors are therefore not "open" to new arguments.





sentix Sector Sentiment Automobiles (relativ) and rel. Perf. STOXX 600 Automobiles

And such cognitive dissonance leads in a first step to investors ignoring the movement, later on to hold on to badly performing positions, in this case underinvestment in the auto sector.

At the end of a cognitive dissonance, however, there is usually "acceptance", i.e. the adjustment of investors to the new price reality. And this means that there are still enough buyers waiting to discover the positive price development of cars and to build on their relative strength.



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