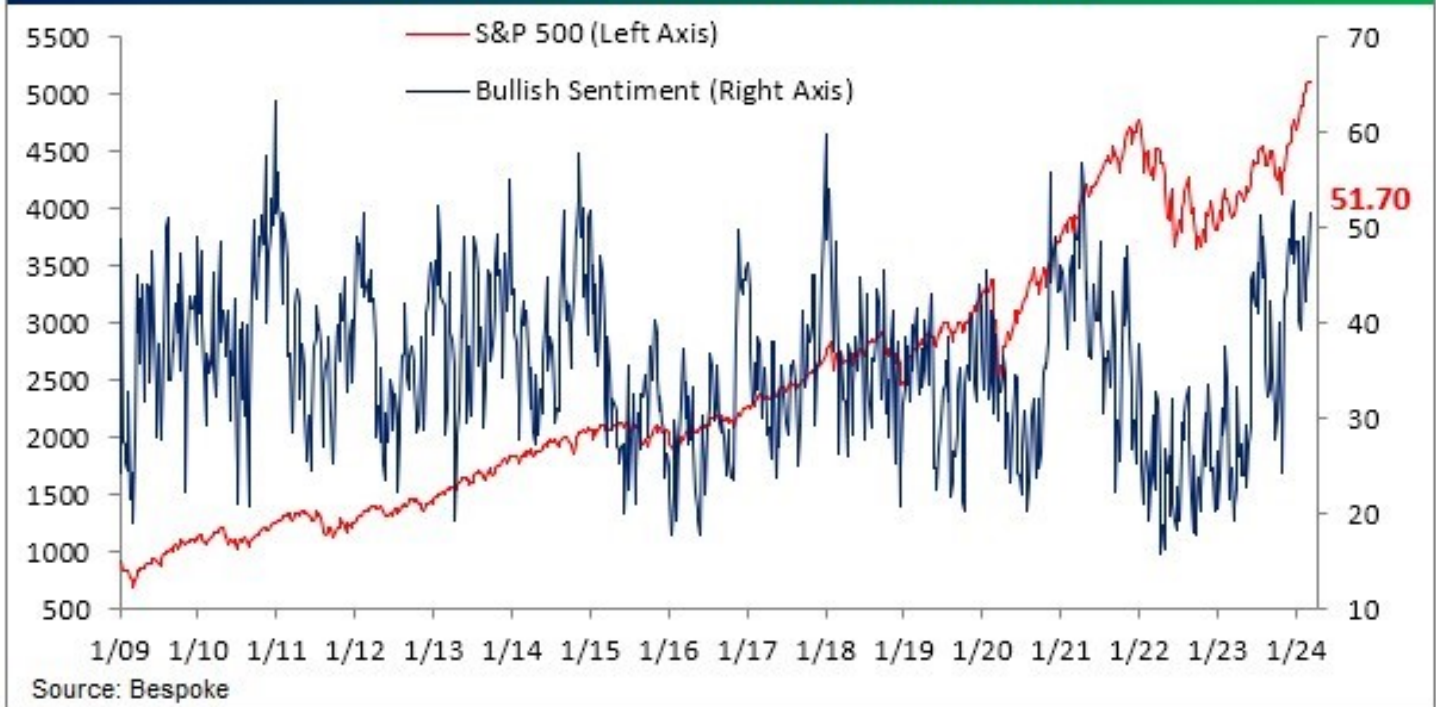


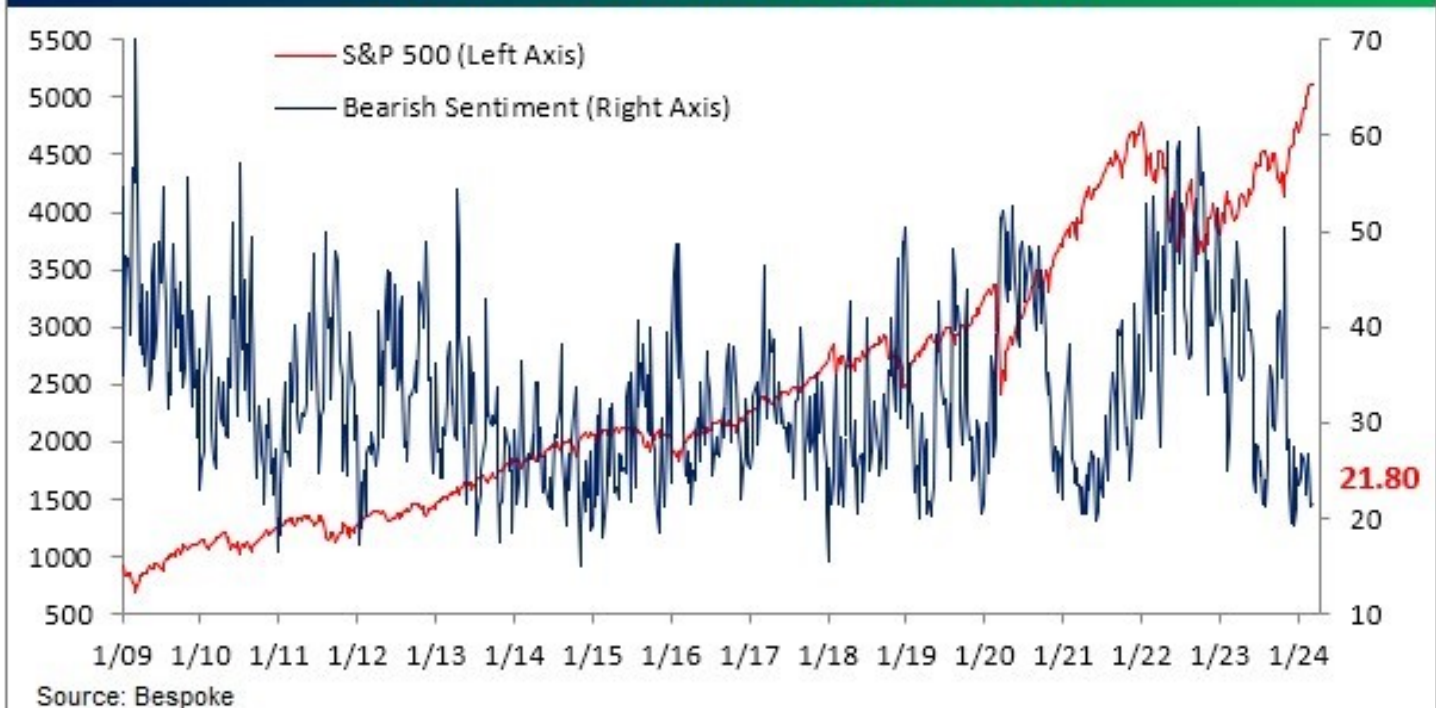
# CHART OF THE MONTH

MARCH 2024

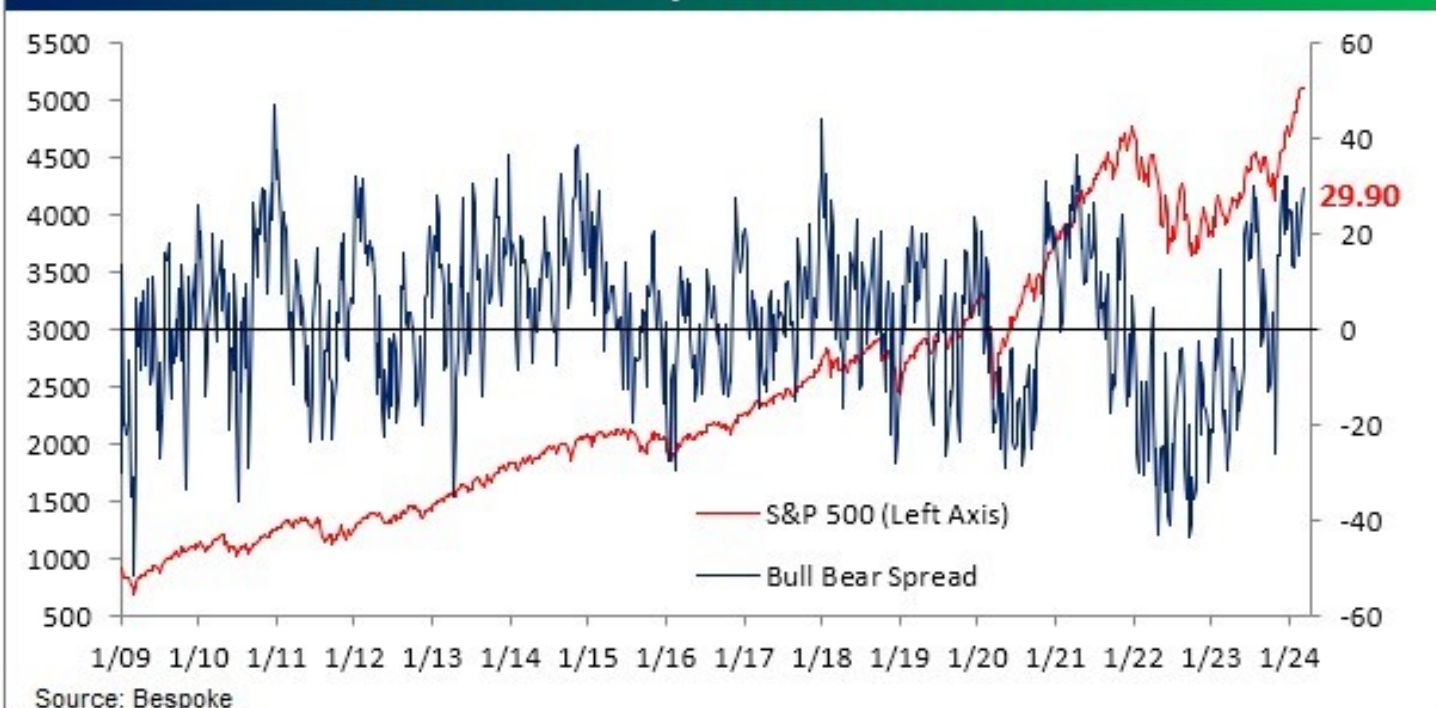
AAll Bullish Sentiment: 2009 - Present



AAll Bearish Sentiment: 2009 - Present



AAll Bull-Bear Spread: 2009 - Present



The American Association of Individual Investors and Investors Intelligence provide the most well-known sentiment surveys, each designed to measure on a weekly basis whether investors are bullish or bearish.

Generally speaking, investors tend to be bullish when the stock market indexes are high and bearish when they are low. With the Dow Jones Industrial Average, S&P 500, and Nasdaq all hovering near their all-time highs, it should not be surprising that investors are much more bullish than bearish now.

As shown in the top two charts above, the latest AAll poll showed 51.7% of respondents are bullish and 21.8% bearish. Both are near multi-year highs and lows, respectively. As shown in the third chart, the spread between bulls and bears is now 29.9%. Spreads in the 30s and 40s have proven to mark interim highs and lows.

With bulls at 60.9% and bears at 14.5%, the Investors Intelligence Bull/Bear *Ratio* (as opposed to spread) is at 4.2, its highest reading since December 2017 (see below). The average over time has been 1.89. Notably, the AAll and the Investors Intelligence surveys both indicate that investor sentiment is excited, if not euphoric.

The results of these surveys can serve as contrarian indicators, suggesting that the market is overbought or oversold and poised to reverse course when the sentiment readings are at or near extreme levels. As such, while the market may have room to climb a bit higher in the short term, a pullback might be in the offing this spring or summer.

