A VITAL MEASURE OF THE COST OF CALL OPTIONS

The Nations® Large Cap CallDex® Index measures the normalized cost of the most popular large cap index call options. CallDex is a strike-independent measure of the cost of a SPY call option with 30 days to expiration which is struck 1 standard deviation out-of-the-money.

The call options used in CallDex are options on SPY, the SPDR® S&P 500® ETF. SPY options are the most active, liquid options in the world.

CallDex is the first and only measure of the cost of call options. As such, it is a measure of expectations for a rally in large cap equity prices as well as a measure of the likelihood of large cap equity index volatility during the next 30 days.

Interpreting the Value of CallDex

The value of CallDex increases as the price of the 1 standard deviation out-of-the-money call option with 30 days to expiration increases. Higher call option prices indicate expectations for greater volatility during the next 30 days and a potentially upside bias from speculators and traders.

Historical Comparative Results
How is CallDex Related To VolDex

CallDex and VolDex are different measures of the risk of returns for SPY options. VolDex measures the market's perceptions of expected volatility over the next 30 days. CallDex is the normalized price of an out-of-the-money call option. While both are driven by expectations for future volatility, CallDex is also impacted by directional risk as expressed by skew. This is an important measure for investors concerned with expectations for direction, not just absolute volatility of returns.

Annual Range and Average Daily Close

The Nations Suite of Volatility Indexes

Nations Indexes measure important aspects of the large cap index option market and when used together, provide unique insight into the market’s perceptions of risk and/or future direction. For example, PutDex® measures the cost of a 1 standard deviation out-of-the-money SPY put option and when compared to CallDex, provides understanding not offered by other indexes. RiskDex® calculates this relationship and captures the positioning of investors and speculators.

CallDex Construction

The Nations Large Cap CallDex Index measures the normalized cost of a hypothetical SPY (SPDR S&P 500 ETF) call option with precisely 30 days to expiration which is precisely 1 standard deviation out-of-the-money.

CallDex uses current option prices to calculate the 1 standard deviation threshold for the 2 expiration dates bracketing 30 days from today. It then calculates a normalized call option price for each expiration date and interpolated to arrive at a 30 day figure.

The best way to understand everything the SPY option market has to say is to deconstruct skew and CallDex provides insight into this vital portion of the option market.

Nations CallDex Index

Daily Results

Average Close: 19.22
Median Close: 16.35
High Close: 103.96 (November 20, 2008)
Low Close: 3.23 (August 11, 2017)
Largest Daily Increase: 135.46% (March 16, 2020)
Largest Daily Decrease: 47.22% (July 21, 2014)
Correlation to S&P: -0.33
Correlation to VOLI: 0.31
STD of Daily Change: 10.77%
Beta (vs. VOLI): 0.40
R-Squared (vs. VOLI): 0.10

1/31/2005 through 12/31/2021