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Unemployment: Jobs were front and center this week. Nonfarm Payrolls showed an increase of 178K jobs in March, which was better than expected. JOLTS job openings fell from 7.240 (Jan) to 6.882 (MoM)(Feb). Unemployment rate fell from 4.4% to 4.3%.



Consumer Goods & Materials: Producer Price Index (PPI) rose 0.7% in February (MoM), higher than forecast and the top reading since last July. The annual measure increased 3.4%.



Retail Sales: Retail Sales rebounded in February, rising 0.6% after a 0.1% decrease in January (MoM).



Housing and Building: Pending Homes Sales rose 1.8% in February (MoM), following a decline in January. Building Permits declined in January (MoM) but were better than expected at 1.386M annualized.



Yield Curve: The yield curve flattened this week. The 2-year yield fell from 3.88% to 3.84%. The benchmark 10-year yield decreased from 4.44% to 4.35%.



M2 Money Stock: The money supply rose \$210B to 22.65T (MoM) (Feb), now roughly 72% of current GDP.



Manufacturing & Services: ISM Manufacturing PMI rose from 52.4 to 52.7 (MoM)(Mar), expanding for the third straight month. 50 is the contraction / expansion line.



S&P 500: The index ended a five-week slump, rising 213.84 points to close at 6,582.69 (down 3.84% YTD). The CBOE Volatility Index (VIX) remained steady at 25.2.



Consumer Confidence: CB Consumer Confidence increased from 91 (Feb) to 91.8 (MoM)(Mar).

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