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Unemployment: Jobs data were improved this week. U.S. Initial Jobless Claims fell from 220K to 211K, the lowest level since last May. Continuing Jobless Claims also declined this week, decreasing from 1,896K to 1,844K.

Consumer Goods & Materials: The Core PCE Price Index, which is the Federal Reserve's preferred measure of inflation, rose only 0.1% (MoM)(Nov), better than expected.

Durable Goods: Durable Goods Orders missed expectations, falling -1.1% compared to -0.3% (MoM)(Nov).

Housing and Building: Building Permits rose 5.2% (MoM)(Nov), which was slightly less than expected. New Home Sales also rebounded, rising 5.9% (MoM)(Nov).

Yield Curve: Yields fell slightly this week. 2-year yields decreased from 4.31% to 4.28%. 10-year yields dropped from 4.62% to 4.60%. Prices & rates move in opposite directions.

M2 Money Stock: The money supply, including time deposits, fell \$186B to \$21.45T (Nov). Money supply is running at 73% of current GDP.

Manufacturing & Services: ISM Manufacturing PMI (Dec) surprised to the upside, rising from 48.4 (Nov) to 49.3, the highest reading since last March. 50 marks expansion/contraction.

S&P 500: The S&P 500 fell 28.37 points, closing at 5,942.47 (up 1.03% YTD). Market volatility, as measured by The CBOE Volatility Index (VIX), held steady, dropping slightly from 16.21 to 16.13 this week.

U. of Michigan Consumer Sentiment: Michigan Consumer Sentiment preliminary numbers increased from 71.8 (Nov) to 74.0 (Dec), higher than expected.

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Always remember that while this is a week in review, this does not trigger or relate to trading activity on your account with Financial Future Services. Broad diversification across several asset classes with a long-term holding strategy is the best strategy in any market environment.

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