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Unemployment: Initial jobless claims increased from 217K to 223K this week, which was more than expected. Continuing jobless claims also missed expectations, rising from 1,853K to 1,899K.



Consumer Goods & Materials: U.S. Core Consumer Price Index (CPI) (MoM) (Dec) data, which measures inflation less food and energy, rose just 0.2%, the smallest increase since August. Year-over-year, Core CPI rose 3.2%.



Retail Sales: Retail Sales (MoM) (Dec) rose 0.4%, missing expectations after increasing 0.8% in November.



Housing and Building: Existing home sales (MoM) (Dec) increased to an annualized 4.24M, the highest number since last February. The MBA 30-Year Mortgage Rate dropped from 7.09% to 7.02%



Yield Curve: Yields held steady this week. 2-year yields were unchanged at 4.27%. 10-year yields rose slightly from 4.61% to 4.63%. 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 Non-Manufacturing (Services) PMI (Dec) increased from 52.1 to 54.1. 50 marks contraction / expansion.



S&P 500: In market news this past week, the S&P 500 rose 104.58 points, closing at 6,101.24 (up 3.73% YTD). Market volatility, as measured by The CBOE Volatility Index (VIX), declined to 14.74 from 15.97 this week.



U. of Michigan Consumer Sentiment: Preliminary Michigan Consumer Sentiment is expected to decline, falling from 74.0 (Dec) to 73.2 (Jan).

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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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