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Unemployment: Jobs data were mixed this week. Initial jobless claims jumped from 220K to 242K, the highest number since mid-December. Continuing jobless claims, however, decreased from 1,867K to 1,862K, better than expected.



Consumer Goods & Materials: The Core PCE Price Index (Jan) (MoM) rose 0.3%, as expected. The index increased by 2.6% YoY, the lowest since last July. Core PCE, which excludes food and energy prices, is the Fed's preferred inflation measure.



Retail Sales: Retail Sales (MoM)(Jan) fell 0.9%, compared to -0.2% forecast.



Housing and Building: Building Permits (Jan) fell from 1.482M to 1.473M, reflecting a decline in the number of permits issued for new construction projects. New home sales (Jan) decreased from 734K to 657K, also missing expectations.



Yield Curve: Yields uniformly declined this week. 2-year yields fell from 4.19% to 3.99%. 10-year yields decreased from 4.42% to 4.24%. Prices & rates move in opposite directions.



M2 Money Stock: The money supply, including time deposits, rose \$3B to \$21.56T (Jan). Money supply is running at 73% of current GDP. 4th quarter GDP was adjusted downward to 2.3% from 3.1% (QoQ).



Manufacturing & Services: ISM Manufacturing PMI (Jan) increased from 49.2 to 50.9, the highest reading since August 2022. 50 marks contraction / expansion.



S&P 500: The S&P 500 dropped -58.63 points, closing at 5,954.50 (up 1.24% YTD). Market volatility, as measured by The CBOE Volatility Index (VIX), increased this week to 21 from 17.1, reflecting uncertainty in the equity markets.



U. of Michigan Consumer Sentiment: Preliminary Michigan Consumer Sentiment is expected to decline, falling from 71.1 (Jan) to 67.8 (Feb).

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