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Unemployment: Jobs data was generally positive this week. Initial Jobless claims dropped from 215K to 189K. Continuing Claims decreased from 1,808K to 1,785K.

Consumer Goods & Materials: Core PCE Price Index slowed from 0.4% in February to 0.3% in March (MoM). The annual measure increased 3.2%, which was up from February but in line with the forecast. Core PCE is the Fed's preferred measure of inflation.

Durable Goods: Preliminary Durable Goods Orders reflect an increase from -1.2% (Feb) to 0.8% (Mar) (MoM).

Housing and Building: The number of Building Permits issued fell from 1.386M (Feb) to 1.372 (Mar) (MoM). Housing Starts, which are the number of new houses that began construction, rose from 1.356M (Feb) to 1.502M (Mar) (MoM)

Yield Curve: The yield curve flattened this week. The 2-year yield rose from 3.78% to 3.88%. The benchmark 10-year yield increased from 4.31% to 4.39%.

M2 Money Stock: The Money Supply rose \$60B to 22.69T. Money Supply is running at 71% of current GDP. Advance estimate GDP numbers (QoQ) (Q1) project an increase from 0.5% (Q4) to 2.0%.

Manufacturing & Services: ISM Non-Manufacturing PMI slowed from 56.1 (Feb) to 54.0 (MoM)(Mar) but remained in expansion territory. 50 is the contraction / expansion line.

S&P 500: The index rose 65.07 points to close at 7,230.15 (up 5.62% YTD). The CBOE Volatility Index (VIX) remained steady at 19.3.

Consumer Confidence: Conference Board (CB) Consumer Confidence rose from 92.2 (Mar) to 92.8 (Apr) (MoM), higher than forecast.

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