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Unemployment: Initial Jobless Claims fell from 227K to 224K. Continuing Jobless Claims also dropped, decreasing from 1,968K to 1,953K.

Consumer Goods & Materials: Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 0.2% (MoM)(Jul). The annual measure was 2.7%. Producer Price Index (PPI) climbed 0.9% (MoM)(Jul), higher than forecast. PPI measures prices at the wholesale level and is a leading indicator of consumer inflation.

Retail Sales: Retail Sales were up 0.5% in July (MoM), slightly lower than forecast. Retail Sales are the foremost indicator of consumer spending.

Housing and Building: Housing data disappointed this week, as Existing Home Sales fell 2.7% in June (MoM). The annualized number dropped to 3.93M.

Yield Curve: This week the yield curve steepened, as short-term yields edged lower while long-term yields rose modestly. The 2-year yield was down from 3.69% to 3.756%. The 10-year yield increased from 4.27% to 4.33%. Prices & rates move in opposite directions.

M2 Money Stock: The money supply rose \$8B to \$22.02T (Jun). Money supply is running at 73% of current GDP.

Manufacturing & Services: ISM Non-Manufacturing (Services) PMI slowed. It remained in expansion territory with a reading of 50.1 (Jul). 50 marks contraction / expansion.

S&P 500: The S&P 500 rose 60.35 points this week, closing at 6,449.80 (up 9.66% YTD). The CBOE Volatility Index (VIX) decreased this week from 16.08 to 14.81.

U. of Michigan Consumer Sentiment: Preliminary University of Michigan Consumer Sentiment numbers project a decline from 61.7 (Jul) to 58.6 (Aug).

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