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Unemployment: Jobs data disappointed this week. Initial Jobless Claims rose from 224K to 235K, higher than expected. Continuing Jobless Claims also increased, climbing from 1,942K to 1,972K.



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.



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 Starts rebounded for the 2nd consecutive month, increasing from 1.358M (Jun) to 1.428M (Jul). Existing Home Sales also rose from 3.93M to 4.01M, higher than forecast.



Yield Curve: The yield curve was essentially unchanged this week. The 2-year yield was down from 3.75% to 3.68%. The 10-year yield also decreased from 4.33% to 4.26%. 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 17.11 points this week, closing at 6,466.91 (up 9.95% YTD). The CBOE Volatility Index (VIX) decreased this week from 15.03 to 14.57.



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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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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