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Unemployment: Jobs data were generally positive this week. Initial Jobless Claims fell from 206K to 196K. Continuing Jobless Claims decreased from 1,769K to 1,730K.

Retail Sales: Retail sales data reflected underlying consumer durability. August Retail Sales rose 1.2% (MoM), beating expectations and marking the best month-over-month increase since March.**

Durable Goods: Durable Goods orders climbed 1.1% in July (MoM), which was stronger than expected.

Housing and Building: Housing market indicators showed continued challenges. Housing Starts fell 2.6% in August (MoM) to an annualized rate of 1.275M, while Building Permits decreased 2.7% to 1.394M.

Yield Curve: The yield curve flattened this week. The 2-year yield jumped from 4.63% to 4.76%. The benchmark 10-year yield climbed from 4.96% to 5.01%.

M2 Money Stock: The Money Supply rose $70B to 23.22T. Money Supply is running at 71% of current GDP. Second Release Q2 GDP numbers remain at 1.5%.

Manufacturing & Services: ISM Manufacturing PMI eased slightly in August, falling from 55.6 (Jul) to 54.6. Non-Manufacturing (Services) PMI rose from 54.1 (Jul) to 55.4 (Aug). 50 marks expansion / contraction.

S&P 500: The index fell 6.48 points to close at 7,650.50 (up 11.76% YTD). The CBOE Volatility Index (VIX) fell slightly from 15.84 to 15.31.

U. of Michigan Consumer Sentiment: Preliminary Consumer Sentiment numbers project a decrease in sentiment from 51.7 (Aug) to 47.8 (Sep).

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