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Unemployment: Initial jobless claims fell to 223k from 239k and continuing jobless claims remained steady at 1,621k. Companies continue to see wage growth pressure in hiring.



Consumer Goods & Materials: Inflation data drove markets lower this week with the highest reading since 1982. The CPI (YoY)(Jan) totaled 7.5%; Core CPI (YoY)(Jan) jumped to 6.0%.



Non-Defense Capital Goods: Factory Orders (MoM)(Dec) fell .4% following a 1.8% increase the prior month (Nov).



Housing and Building: Pending Home Sales (MoM)(Dec) fell 3.8% marking the second consecutive month of decline while New Home Sales (MoM)(Dec) rose by 11.9%



Yield Curve: 2's & 10's narrowed last week. 2-year yields rose to 1.50% from 1.31% & 10-year yields fell to 1.92% from 1.93%. Prices & rates move in opposite directions.



M2 Money Stock: The money supply, including time deposits, rose by \$202B to \$21.638T (Dec). Money supply is currently running 94.11% of current GDP.



Manufacturing & Services: ISM Manufacturing PMI (Jan) fell to 57.6 from 58.8 (Dec). 50 marks the contraction/expansion line.



S&P 500: The S&P 500 fell 81.89 points for the week, ending at 4,418.64 and is down 7.29% YTD. The VIX (CBOE Volatility Index) fell to 23.5 from 24.7 .



U. of Michigan Consumer Sentiment: Preliminary Michigan Consumer Sentiment (February) is projected to fall significantly to 61.7 (from 67.2) due to poor wage growth and high inflation.

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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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