Leading Indicator Watch

February 14, 2020



















Unemployment: Initial jobless claims rose slightly last week to 205K up from 203K. Unemployment rose in January to 3.6% on healthy participation. Wages also rose by 3.1% annually.

Consumer Goods & Materials: Factory orders increased by 1.8% in December. This followed a fall of 1.2% in November.

Non-Defense Capital Goods: Core durable goods orders (long lasting manufactured goods stripping out transportation) fell 0.1% in December.

Building Permits & Housing Starts: New home sales fell 0.4% in the month of December

Yield Curve: 2's & 10's expanded slightly last week. 2-year yields rose to 1.42%. 10-year yields were unchanged at 1.59% last week. Prices & rates move in opposite directions.

M2 Money Supply: The money supply, including time deposits, rose by appx. \$67B to \$15.494T in January. A strong build on the 4th quarter data.

Manufacturing & Services: ISM Manufacturing jumped from 47.8 to 50.9 in January. 50 marks the line of contraction and expansion. Markit Services rose to 53.4 from 52.8 in January.

S&P 500: The S&P 500 rose last week, 52.45 points, ending at 3,380.16 up 4.62% for the year. VIX fell last week, coming in at 13.68, down from 15.47.

U. of Michigan Consumer Sentiment: CB Consumer Confidence in January increased to 131.6. Michigan Consumer Sentiment rose to 100.9 from 99.8 in February.

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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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