

# February 19, 2021



<b>Unemployment:</b> Weekly Initial Jobless Claims rose to 861K from 848K. This was a large increase from the expected 765K.
<b>Consumer Goods &amp; Materials:</b> Retail sales surged by 5.3% in January, beating a 1.1% increase that was expected.
<b>Non-Defense Capital Goods:</b> Capacity utilization rose to 75.6% in January, surpassing the 74.8% expectation.
<b>Housing and Building:</b> Building permits rose 10.4% in January. Housing starts fell by 6.0% in January. Existing home sales increase 0.6% for January.
<b>Yield Curve:</b> 2's & 10's expanded last week. 2-year yields were flat at 0.11% and 10-year yields rose to 1.29% from 1.20%. Prices & rates move in opposite directions.
<b>M2 Money Supply:</b> The money supply, including time deposits, fell to <b>\$19,514.3B</b> .
<b>Manufacturing &amp; Services:</b> Services PMI (Feb) rose to <b>58.9</b> from 58.3. Manufacturing (Feb) fell to <b>58.5</b> from 59.2. 50 marks the line between contraction and expansion.
<b>S&amp;P 500:</b> The S&P 500 fell last week 28.12 points, ending at 3,906.71 and is up 5.57% YTD while the VIX (CBOE Volatility Index) rose to 21.79 from 19.98.
<b>U. of Michigan Consumer Sentiment:</b> Michigan Consumer Sentiment is projected to fall to 76.2 for February from 79.

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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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