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Unemployment: Initial jobless claims fell to 214k along with continuing claims falling to 1,419k from a past week figure of 1,490k. Both are good signs for worker participation.

Consumer Goods & Materials: Retail Sales (MoM)(Feb) increased .3%. Core PPI (YoY)(Feb) retracted down to 8.4% after over a full year of producer price increases.

Non-Defense Capital Goods: Durable Goods Orders (MoM)(Jan) increased 1.6% matching previous report's increases while Factory Orders (MoM)(Jan) rose by 1.4%.

Housing and Building: Housing Starts rose by 6.8% (MoM)(Feb). Building Permits, however, declined 1.9% and Existing Home Sales fell 7.2% for February.

Yield Curve: 2's & 10's narrowed last week again. 2-year yields rose to 1.97% from 1.75% & 10-year yields rose to 2.14% from 2%. Prices & rates move in opposite directions.

M2 Money Stock: The money supply, including time deposits, rose by \$202B to \$21.840T (Jan). Money supply is currently running 91% of current GDP.

Manufacturing & Services: ISM Manufacturing PMI (Feb) rose to 58.6 from 57.6 which is a turnaround from 3 reporting cycles in decline. Services PMI (Feb) rose to 56.5 from 51.2.

S&P 500: The S&P 500 rose 258.81 points for the week, ending at 4,463.12 and is down 6.36% YTD. The VIX (CBOE Volatility Index) fell to 23.87 from 30.75.

U. of Michigan Consumer Sentiment: Preliminary Michigan Consumer Sentiment (March) fell to 59.7 from 62.8 with high prices continuing to persist amid geopolitical tensions.

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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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