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Unemployment: Unemployment numbers declined this week. Initial jobless claims fell from 225K to 224K. Continuing jobless claims dropped from 1,881K to 1,856K.



Consumer Goods & Materials: The Core PCE Price Index—the Fed’s preferred gauge of inflation—rose by 0.4% (MoM) (Feb), outpacing forecasts. On an annual basis, it increased 2.8%, remaining well above the Fed’s 2% long-term inflation target.



Retail Sales: Retail Sales (MoM)(Feb) ticked up just 0.2%, falling short of the 0.6% forecast.



Housing and Building: Building Permits (MoM) (Feb) fell 1.0%, generally in line with expectations. The actual number of new permits issued, a key signal of future activity, decreased from 1.473M to 1.459M.



Yield Curve: Yields ended mixed after a week of fluctuations. 2-year yields fell from 3.94% to 3.89%. 10-year yields rose slightly from 4.25% to 4.27%. Prices & rates move in opposite directions.



M2 Money Stock: The money supply rose \$11B to \$21.67T (Feb). Money supply is running at 73% of current GDP. 4th Quarter GDP was adjusted up to 2.4% (QoQ).



Manufacturing & Services: February’s ISM data showed a divergence between sectors. Manufacturing PMI decreased from 50.9 to 50.3. Non-Manufacturing (Services) PMI rose from 52.8 to 53.5. 50 marks contraction / expansion.



S&P 500: The S&P 500 fell -86.62 points, closing at 5,580.94 (down -5.11% YTD). The CBOE Volatility Index (VIX) increased to 20 from 19.2 last week.



U. of Michigan Consumer Sentiment: Revised Michigan Consumer Sentiment was adjusted downward from 57.9 to 57.0 (Mar).

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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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