

April 16, 2021



**Unemployment:** Weekly Initial Jobless Claims fell to 576K from 769K. This marks the lowest level since the start of the pandemic.



**Consumer Goods & Materials:** Retail sales rose more than expected, by 9.8% (Mar). This was a strong rise after a 2.7% fall in February.



**Non-Defense Capital Goods:** Core durable goods orders fell 0.9% (Feb), missing the 0.6% increase expected.



**Housing and Building:** Housing starts rose 19.4% (Mar), a great restart after a 11.3% fall in February. Building permits rose 2.7% (Mar).



**Yield Curve:** 2's & 10's narrowed last week. 2-year yields were unchanged at .16% & 10-year yields fell to 1.59% from 1.67%. Prices & rates move in opposite directions.



**M2 Money Supply:** The money supply, including time deposits, fell to \$19,514.3B (Feb).



**Manufacturing & Services:** ISM Non-Manufacturing PMI rose to 63.7 (Mar) from 55.3. 50 marks the contraction/expansion line.



**S&P 500:** The S&P 500 rose last week 56.27 points, ending at 4,185.07 and is up 11.42% YTD while the VIX (CBOE Volatility Index) fell to 16.25 from 16.5.



**U. of Michigan Consumer Sentiment:** Michigan consumer sentiment is projected to rise to 86.5 for April, missing expectations of 89.6.

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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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