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Unemployment: Initial Jobless Claims rose from 216K to 222K. However, Continuing Jobless Claims decreased from 1,878K to 1,841K, lower than expected.

Consumer Goods & Materials: Core consumer prices, excluding volatile food and energy, rose just 0.1% in March—below expectations and the smallest monthly increase since June 2024.

Durable Goods: Durable Goods Orders (MoM) (Mar) jumped 9.2%, indicating a significant increase in the total value of new orders for long-lasting manufactured goods.

Housing and Building: Existing Home Sales declined to 4.02M (Mar) from 4.27M (Feb), reflecting a month-over-month drop of 5.9%. Building permits increased from 1.459M (Feb) to 1.467M (Mar), but missed the forecast of 1.482M.

Yield Curve: Yields ended the week lower. 2-year yields fell from 3.81% to 3.74%. 10-year yields decreased from 4.34% to 4.29%. 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: ISM Manufacturing PMI decreased from 50.3 (Feb) to 49.0 (Mar). 50 marks contraction / expansion.

S&P 500: The S&P 500 increased 242.51 points last week, closing at 5,525.21 (down 6.06% YTD). The CBOE Volatility Index (VIX) finished the week unchanged at 27.

U. of Michigan Consumer Sentiment: University of Michigan Consumer Sentiment fell to 52.2 in the final reading, the lowest since July 2022, signaling a sharp drop in consumer confidence.

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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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