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**Unemployment:** U.S. Initial Jobless Claims fell to 238k from a revised number last week of 243k. However, the reading missed the forecasted number of 235k.

**Consumer Goods & Materials:** Core CPI (Consumer Price Index) (inflation excluding food and energy costs), which measures the change in consumer prices, increased .2%, which was lower than expected (May)(MoM).

**Retail Sales:** Core retail sales (excluding automobiles) softened (May) (MoM), to -0.1%, missing the forecasted number of 0.2%. Consumer spending activity will be top of mind as we head into Q3 of 2024.

**Housing and Building:** Housing starts were lower than forecast for the 3rd consecutive month (May), dropping from 1.36M to 1.277M. Existing home sales dropped from 4.14M in April to 4.11M in May, beating the forecast of 4.08M.

**Yield Curve:** 2's & 10's remain inverted. 2-year yields rose from 4.67% to 4.70% and 10-year yields increased to 4.25% from 4.20%. Prices & rates move in opposite directions.

**M2 Money Stock:** The money supply, including time deposits, rose \$26B to \$20.867T (Apr) which reflects cash accumulating in money market funds with their attractive yields. Money supply is running 73.8% of current GDP.

**Manufacturing & Services:** ISM Manufacturing PMI (May), fell to 48.7 from 49.2. However, ISM Non-Manufacturing PMI (Services)(May) rose to 53.8 from 49.4. 50 marks contraction/expansion.

**S&P 500:** The S&P 500 rose 33.02 points, closing at 5,464.62 (up 14.57% YTD). The CBOE Volatility Index (VIX) increased to 13.6 from 12.5.

**U. of Michigan Consumer Sentiment:** Michigan Consumer Sentiment confirmed it has weakened markedly following a robust 1st Quarter 2024 with the gauge dropping to 69.1 (May) from 77.2 (Apr).

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