

August 16, 2019



**Unemployment:** Initial jobless claims rose last week, coming in at 220K, up from 211K. While a rise, the continuous low level off on losses remains the story.



**Consumer Goods & Materials:** Retail sales rose by .7% in July, up from .3% the month before.



**Non-Defense Capital Goods:** Core durable goods orders (long lasting manufactured goods stripping out transportation) rose a surprising 1.2% in June. 2 Months of a strong growth.



**Building Permits & Housing Starts:** Building permits rose by 8.4% in July, after falling 5.4% in June. Housing starts fell 4% in July.



**Yield Curve:** 2's & 10's narrowed and inverted last week. 2-year yields fell to 1.48% from 1.63%, & 10-year yield fell to 1.55% from 1.74%. Prices & rates move in opposite directions.



**M2 Money Supply:** The money supply, including time deposits, rose by appx. \$91B to \$14.917T in July.



**Manufacturing & Services:** Services PMI increased to 53 in July, up from 52.2. 50 marks the line of contraction and expansion.



**S&P 500:** The S&P 500 fell last week, 29.97 points, ending at 2,888.68, up 15.23% for the year. VIX rose to 19.5 last week, up from 18.6.



**U. of Michigan Consumer Sentiment:** Michigan Consumer Sentiment fell for August, coming in at 92.1. CB Consumer Confidence rose to 135.7 from 124.3 in July.

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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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