September 20, 2024



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TITLE: Investment Adviser Rep

TAGS: Jobs, Retail Sales, Housing, Yields, S&P 500



















Unemployment: Initial jobless claims came in at 219K, fewer than last week's 231K. There was also a decrease in the number of continuing jobless claims from 1,843K to 1,829K.

Consumer Goods & Materials: Retail sales ticked up 0.1% (MoM) (Aug), beating expectations and continuing the positive momentum from previous months.

Durable Goods: Durable Goods Orders (MoM) (Jul) rose 9.9%. Core orders, however, which exclude volatile transportation items, fell 0.2% (MoM (Jul).

Housing and Building: Housing Starts (MoM)(Aug) rose 9.6% last month. The annualized number rose to 1.356M, exceeding expectations.

Yield Curve: 2-year yields dropped from 3.57% to 3.55%. 10-year yields, however, rose from 3.66% to 3.73%. Prices & rates move in opposite directions.

M2 Money Stock: The money supply, including time deposits, rose \$2B to \$21.05T (July). Money supply is running 73.5% of current GDP. 2nd Quarter GDP rose from 2.8% from 3.0%.

Manufacturing & Services: The ISM Non-Manufacturing (Services) PMI rose further into expansion territory to 51.5 (Aug) from 51.4 in July. Manufacturing PMI rose slightly from 46.8 in July to 47.2 (Aug). 50 marks expansion/contraction.

S&P 500: The S&P 500 rose 76.53 points, closing at 5,702.55 (up 19.55% YTD. Market volatility, as measured by The CBOE Volatility Index (VIX), dropped from 16.38 to 16.17 this week.

U. of Michigan Consumer Sentiment: Michigan Consumer Sentiment advanced to 67.9 (August) from 66.4 (July).

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