

February 6, 2023 – Economic Commentary

This is a quiet week on the economic front while the financial markets continue to digest Chairman Powell's comments after last week's FOMC meeting and the extremely robust employment numbers released on Friday. There is considerable discussion behind the scenes as to whether the 517,000 net new jobs created in January (an astounding number) is a figure that has been distorted by the seasonal adjustment methodology of the Bureau of Labor Statistics; the last two Januarys were odd months because of COVID/Omicron, the impact was highly differential across industries, and this may be serving to throw off the seasonal adjustment factors now. But even with any errors, it is quite clear that the US economy has not entered any recession. Furthermore, the jobs report appeared to show a continued deceleration in employment cost increases. It is likely that much of the discussion among investors will be not only about the impact of the employment report on the Fed but also the implications for company earnings going forward. Many companies say that they are finding it easier to find labor, which means they may be finding the labor they really want, which in turn may hold hope for an improvement in productivity.

Data to Watch:

1. US Balance of Trade for December, released Tuesday, February 7 NY
2. Fed President Williams speech, Wednesday, February 8
3. US Initial Jobless Claims, released Thursday, February 9

Suggested Reading:

[Housing Market Shows Signs of Thawing](#)

[Yellen: 'You don't have a recession' when U.S. Unemployment at 53-year low](#)

[Immigration Rebound Eases Shortage of Workers, Up to a Point](#)

Disclosures

Investment advisory services offered through Robertson Stephens Wealth Management, LLC ("Robertson Stephens"), an SEC-registered investment advisor. Registration does not imply any specific level of skill or training and does not constitute an endorsement of the firm by the Commission. This material is for general informational purposes only and should not be construed as investment, tax or legal advice. It does not constitute a recommendation or offer to buy or sell any security, has not been tailored to the needs of any specific investor, and should not provide the basis for any investment decision. Please consult with your Advisor prior to making any Investment decisions. The information contained herein was carefully compiled from sources believed to be reliable, but Robertson Stephens cannot guarantee its accuracy or completeness. Information, views and opinions are current as of the date of this presentation, are based on the information available at the time, and are subject to change based on market and other conditions. Robertson Stephens assumes no duty to update this information. Unless otherwise noted, any individual opinions presented are those of the author and not necessarily those of Robertson Stephens. Indices are unmanaged and reflect the reinvestment of all income or dividends but do not reflect the deduction of any fees or expenses which would reduce returns. Past performance does not guarantee future results. Forward-looking performance targets or estimates are not guaranteed and may not be achieved. Investing entails risks, including possible loss of principal. Alternative investments are only available to qualified investors and are not suitable for all investors. Alternative investments include risks such as illiquidity, long time horizons, reduced transparency, and significant loss of principal. This material is an investment advisory publication intended for investment advisory clients and prospective clients only. Robertson Stephens only transacts business in states in which it is properly registered or is excluded or exempted from registration. A copy of Robertson Stephens' current written disclosure brochure filed with the SEC which discusses, among other things, Robertson Stephens' business practices, services and fees, is available through the SEC's website at: www.adviserinfo.sec.gov. © 2023 Robertson Stephens Wealth Management, LLC. All rights reserved. Robertson Stephens is a registered trademark of Robertson Stephens Wealth Management, LLC in the United States and elsewhere.