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The Day Ahead: Paradoxical Reaction to Slightly Higher Inflation

Inflation, via this morning's PCE price index, came in slightly hotter than expected, but bonds are rallying in response. There are a few ways to approach this paradox both in the long and short term. On a more nitty gritty level, the unrounded PCE numbers were fairly close to consensus and that can always help mitigate unfriendly data. In the bigger picture, we can consider a few other factors. On a data-related note, annual PCE (non-core) stayed at 2.5% vs 2.5%--not too terrible considering a 2.0% target. Data aside, we can also consider the gap that we've discussed several times this week and the fact that bonds could simply be rallying because it was finally filled yesterday.

Alan Holom

SVP, Stockman Bank

www.stockmanbank.com

P: (406) 234-8438

2700 King Ave

Billings MT 59102

