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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 1: Rural Mainstreet Economy Last 2 Months & One Year Ago: (index > 50 indicates expansion) | | | | |
|  | Jan. - 18 | Dec. - 18 | | Jan-19 |
| Area economic index | 46.8 | 54.2 | 51.5 | |
| Loan volume | 54.4 | 72.2 | 55.8 | |
| Checking deposits | 57.8 | 55.6 | 67.6 | |
| Certificates of deposit and savings instruments | 43.5 | 55.4 | 47.1 | |
| Farmland prices | 42.2 | 35.7 | 37.9 | |
| Farm equipment sales | 24.4 | 37.1 | 40.9 | |
| Home sales | 51.2 | 47.2 | 45.7 | |
| Hiring | 50.0 | 57.1 | 55.7 | |
| Retail business | 43.5 | 58.3 | 52.9 | |
| Confidence index (area economy six months out) | 46.7 | 44.3 | 45.7 | |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 2: The Rural Mainstreet Economy, January 2019 | | | | | | | |
|  | Percentage of bankers reporting | | | | | | |
|  | Recession | Modest economic downturn | Little or no growth | Modest economic growth | | | Strong economic growth |
| How would you describe the economy in your area? | 0.0% | 31.4% | 45.7% | 22.9% | | | 0.0% |
|  | | | | | | | |
|  | Percentage of bankers reporting | | | | | | |
|  | Rising regulatory costs | Competition from  Farm Credit | Low loan demand | Rising loan defaults | | | Falling farmland values |
| What do you expect to be the biggest economic challenge for agriculturally dependent community banks for 2019? | 5.7% | 14.3% | 11.4% | 42.9% | | | 11.6% |
|  | | | | | | | |
|  | Percentage of bankers reporting | | | | | | |
|  | No rate increases | One rate hike | 2 rate hikes | | 3 rate hikes | More than 3 rate hikes | |
| How much should the Federal Reserve raise short-term interest rates in 2019? | 34.3% | 40.0% | 22.9% | | 2.9% | 0.0% | |