

Table 1: Rural Mainstreet Economy Last 2 Months & One Year Ago: (index > 50 indicates expansion)

	Jan. 2025	Dec. 2025	Jan. 2026
Area Economic Index	42.3	50.1	52.0
Loan Volume	60.0	71.4	62.0
Checking Deposits	48.0	69.0	66.0
Certificates of Deposit and Savings Instruments	58.0	52.4	54.0
Farmland Prices	42.0	52.5	46.0
Farm Equipment Sales	17.4	15.0	18.8
Home Sales	40.0	42.9	48.1
Hiring	47.9	45.0	50.0
Retail Business	44.0	54.8	48.1
Confidence Index (area economy six months out)	42.3	40.9	44.0

Table 2: The Rural Mainstreet Economy, January 2026

	Percentage of Bankers Reporting			
	Current Recession	OK But Expect Recession in First Half 2026	Solid Growth. No Recession Ahead	Very Strong Growth. No Recession Ahead
Which of the following best describes the economy in your area?	34.7%	26.9%	34.4%	4.0%
Percentage of Bankers Reporting				
	Reduce Short-Term Interest Rates by .25%	Leave Rates Unchanged	Raise Short-Term Interest Rates by .25%	
What interest rate action should the Federal Reserve take at their next meetings on Jan. 27-28?	23.1%	73.1%	3.8%	
Percentage of Bankers Reporting				
	Tariffs Should Be More Severe	Trump's Tariff Approach is About Right	Trump Should Pull Back on Tariffs	
Regarding Trump's imposition of tariffs:	3.9%	57.7%	38.4%	

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