

PRIMARY CREDIT RATE CHANGE

February 1, 2006

The Federal Reserve Board approved action by the Board of Directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, increasing the primary credit rate from 5.25 percent to 5.50 percent, effective February 1, 2006.

According to the Federal Reserve press release, the Federal Open Market Committee arrived at the following conclusion:

Although recent economic data have been uneven, the expansion in economic activity appears solid. Core inflation has stayed relatively low in recent months and longer-term inflation expectations remain contained. Nevertheless, possible increases in resource utilization as well as elevated energy prices have the potential to add to inflation pressures.

The Committee judges that some further policy firming may be needed to keep the risks to the attainment of both sustainable economic growth and price stability roughly in balance. In any event, the Committee will respond to changes in economic prospects as needed to foster these objectives.

If you have any questions, please call Kim Nelson, Vice President, toll free at 1-866-666-8316, or locally at (314) 444-8735.