

JANUARY 8, 2018



Paige Wilhelm
*Senior Vice President
Senior Portfolio Manager
Federated Investment Counseling*

Job market ends 2017 on mostly good note

Last week was shortened due to New Year's Day, but it was not short on releases of important data. The Department of Labor said that the nation added only 148,000 jobs in December, but the 3-month average of new hires exceeded 200,000, a robust figure. Other employment data was more positive, including jobless claims remaining very low. Wages did not rise, but expectations are that they will soon as the labor market tightens.

The consumer had an active December, with both retail and auto sales strong. Lastly, the manufacturing sector continued to improve.

The short end of the London interbank offered rate (Libor) yield ended last week with 1-month Libor at 1.56%, 3-month at 1.70% and 6-month Libor at 1.86%.