Household financial indicators show little change compared to previous months. Personal bankruptcy filings declined slightly, dropping 21,014 to 314,564, while credit card loss rates increased somewhat to 4.38%. Consumer delinquencies on bank credit cards and installment loans scarcely increased. Late payments on mortgage loans showed no change from previous figures.

Bank loan officers indicated a minor tightening in the credit card terms offered to customers. Credit limits remained steady at large banks and tightened slightly at other banks. Minimum payments on credit cards displayed a minor increase. Interest rates increased slightly relative to the cost of funds at all reporting banks.

During the last few weeks of 1999, interest rates on home mortgages continued the upward trend seen throughout 1999. The overall increase during 1999 in 15- and 30-year home mortgage rates was approximately 130 basis points (bp). During the same period, one-year adjustable-rate mortgages increased approximately 100 bp, whereas interest rates on home equity lines of credit rose nearly 50 bp.