

The Economic Outlook for Real Estate Investors

Dr. Mark G. Dotzour College Station, TX mdotzour@gmail.com

## Beginning our Initial Approach for this Flight



Now

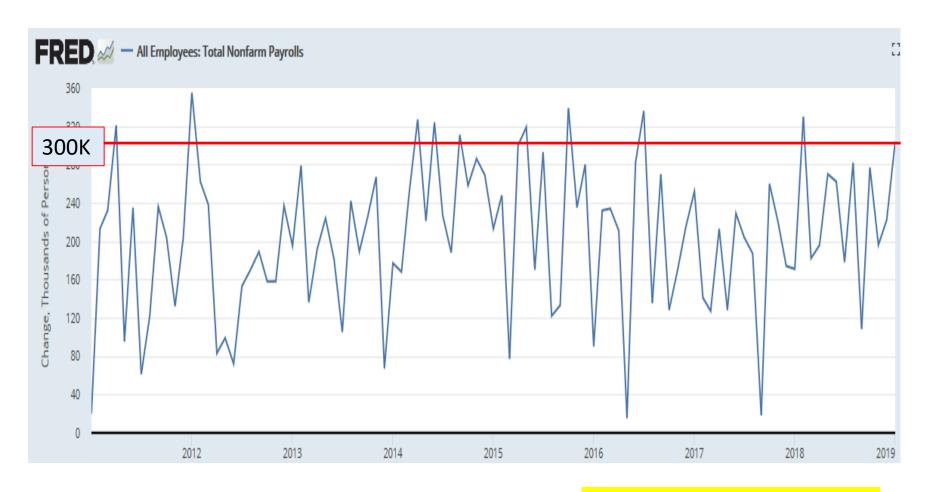
# Still at high altitude at rapid speed, starting a gradual descent



Not touching down

Not a crash and a state of the

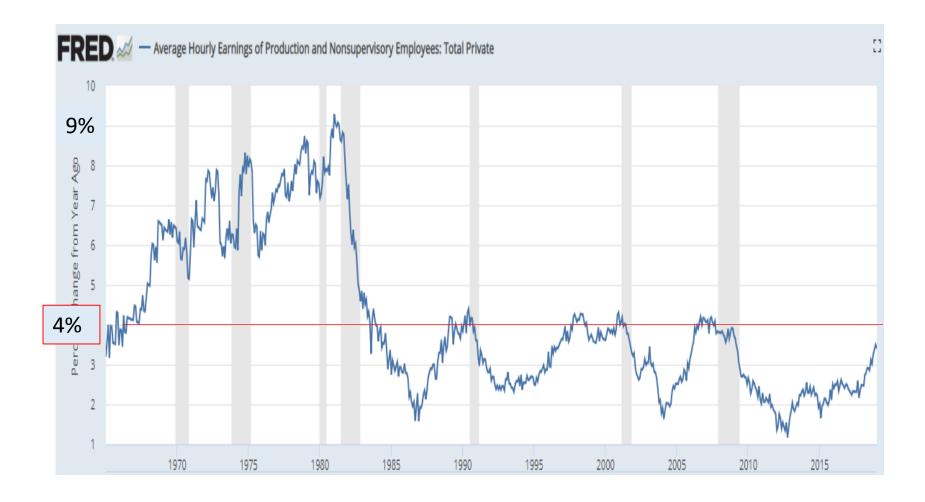
#### Monthly Increase in Jobs 2011 to present



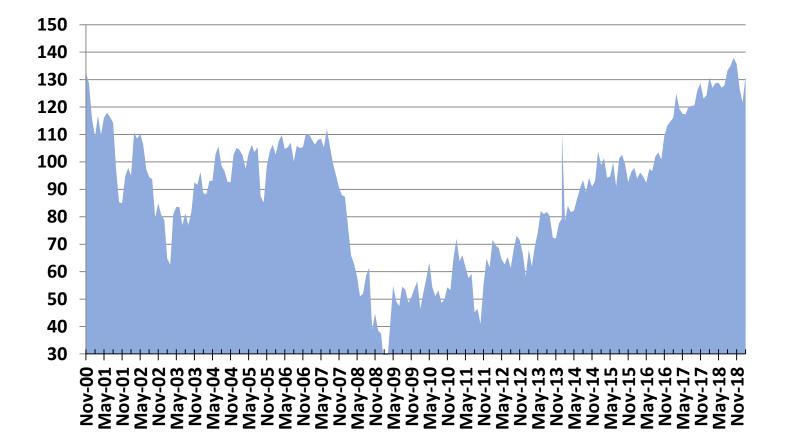
304,000 new jobs in January

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics; Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

#### Rate of Wage Growth 1960 to present

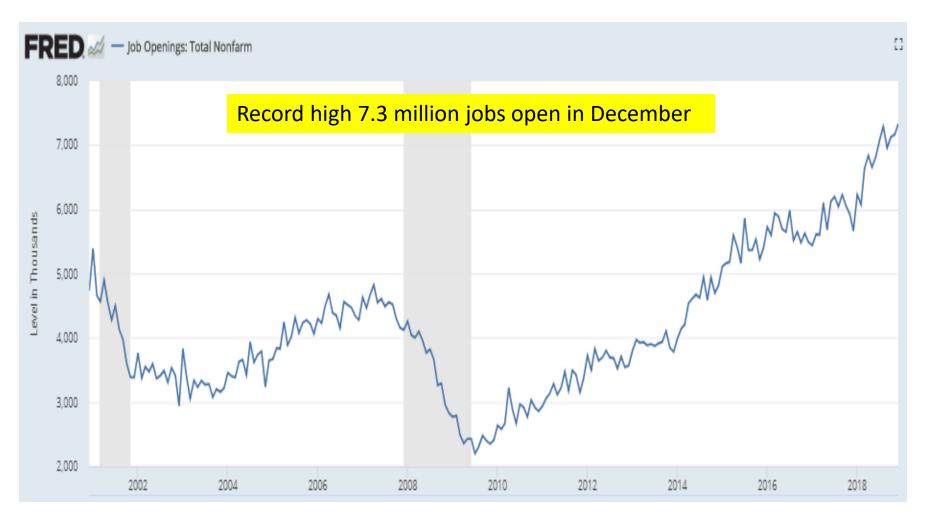


# **Consumer Confidence Index**



18-year high in October '18

#### Job Openings in America Looking for Workers



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

#### Household Net Worth since 2000



# Why 2019 Will Be Slower

- Housing industry appears to have peaked
- Auto industry appears to have peaked
- Smart phone sales declined in 2017 for first time
- Low oil prices will pressure oil and gas
- Heavy duty trade negotiations with China
- Businesses not using tax benefits to expand
- Congress won't be interested in growth
- Downdraft in stocks due to lower earnings growth

# Why 2019 Will Be Slower

- Corporate earnings growth may have peaked
- Defense spending may have peaked
- Federal budget deficits can't get too much higher
- Companies "buying ahead" inventory in front of tariffs
- •2.6% Interest on the 10-Year Treasury

Longest U.S. Economic Expansions Current expansion began in June, 2009

- Mar 1991 to Mar 2001
- Feb 1961 to Dec 1969
- Nov 1982 to Jul 1990
- Jun 1938 to Feb 1945
- Nov 2001 to Dec 2007

- 120 months
- 106 months
  - 92 months
  - 80 months
  - 73 months

#### Current expansion as of April 2019 is 118 months

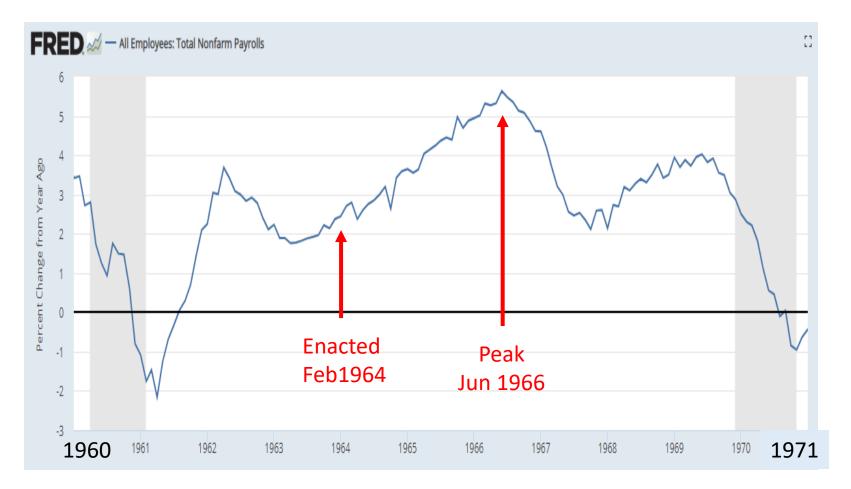
#### HOW LONG CAN IT LAST?



#### Revenue Act of 1964 Enacted February 26, 1964

- Recovery from recession of 1958 was slow.
- •JFK campaigned in 1960 with the slogan of "getting America moving again."
- Proposed cutting individual tax rates from 20-91% to 14-65%
- Proposed cutting the corporate tax rate from 52% to 47%.

# Percentage Change in Employment After the Kennedy Tax Cuts



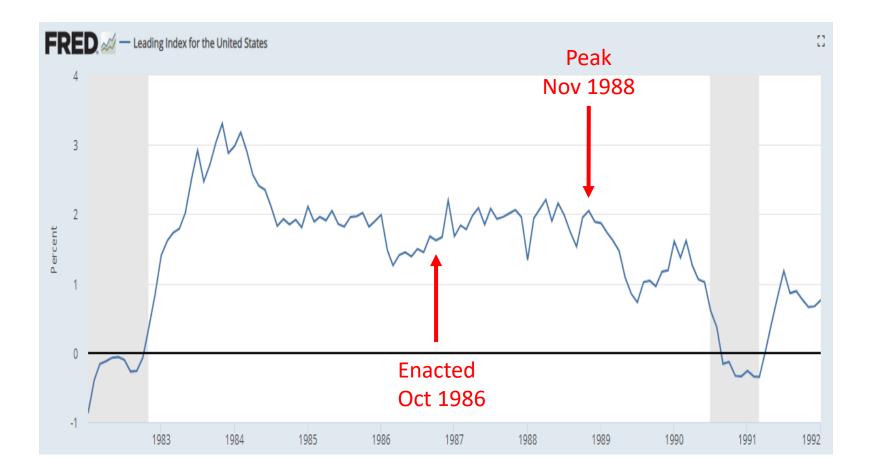
Tax Reform Act of 1986 Enacted October 22, 1986

Top rate for individuals cut from 50% to 38.5%. Major reduction of depreciation for real estate Raised tax rates on capital gains.

Corporate tax rate lowered from 50% to 35%.



# Index of Leading Economic Indicators After Reagan Tax Cuts







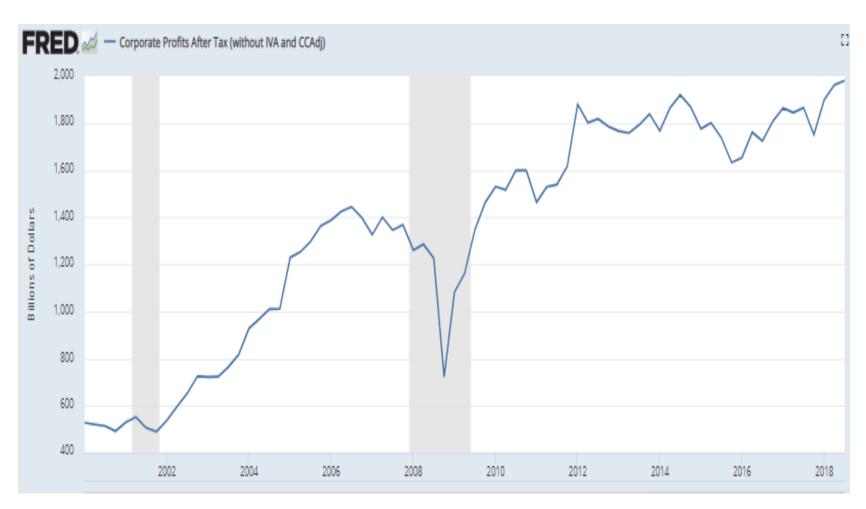
# Early Warning Detection System





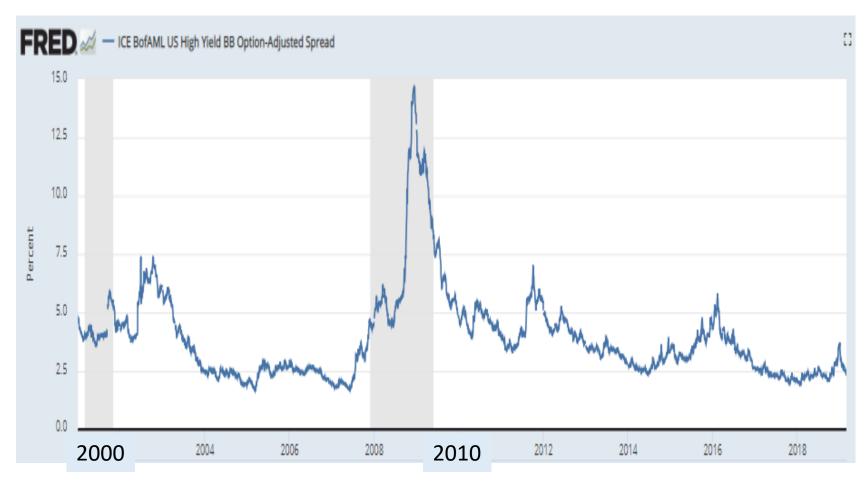


# **Corporate Profits**





#### **Corporate Bond Spread** BB Corporate – 10 Year Treasury



Source: Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis



#### Small Business Confidence: "Now is a Good Time to Expand"

Percent of Respondents

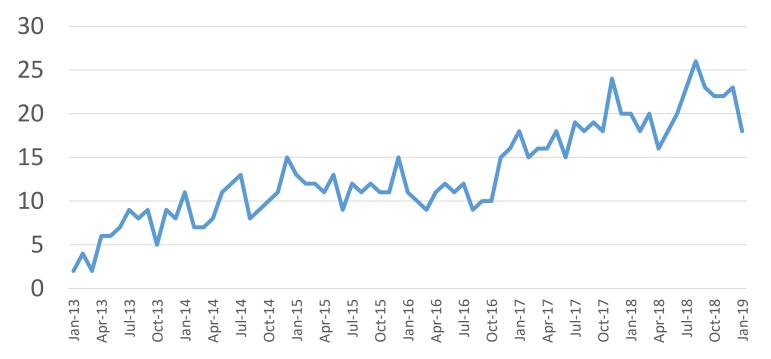


Source: National Federation of Independent Business



#### Small Business Confidence: "Hiring Plans in the Next Three Months"

Net Percent of Respondents



Source: National Federation of Independent Business



# Large Corporate Hiring Plans: Next 6 Months

# <u>Q4-18</u> <u>Q3-18</u> <u>Q2-18</u> <u>Q1-18</u>

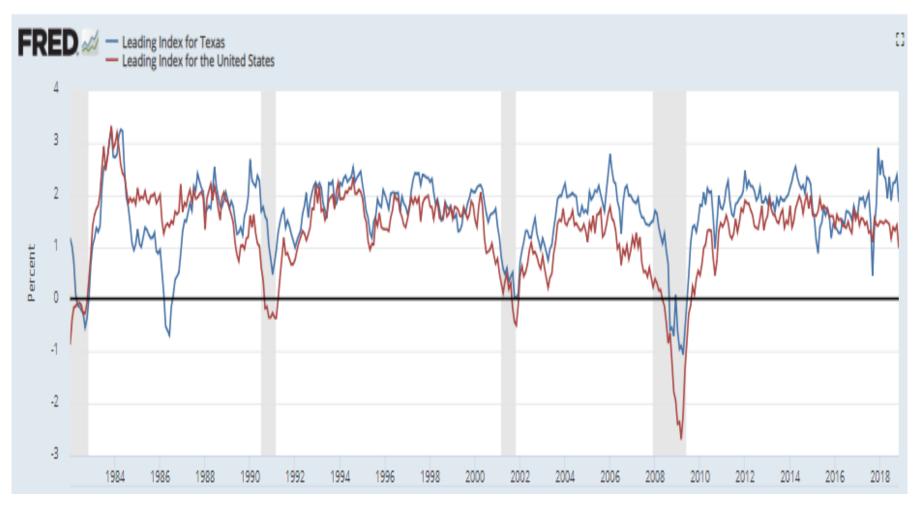
#### More Jobs 56% 56% 58% 61%

### Less Jobs 14% 13% 13% 18%

Source: Business Roundtable



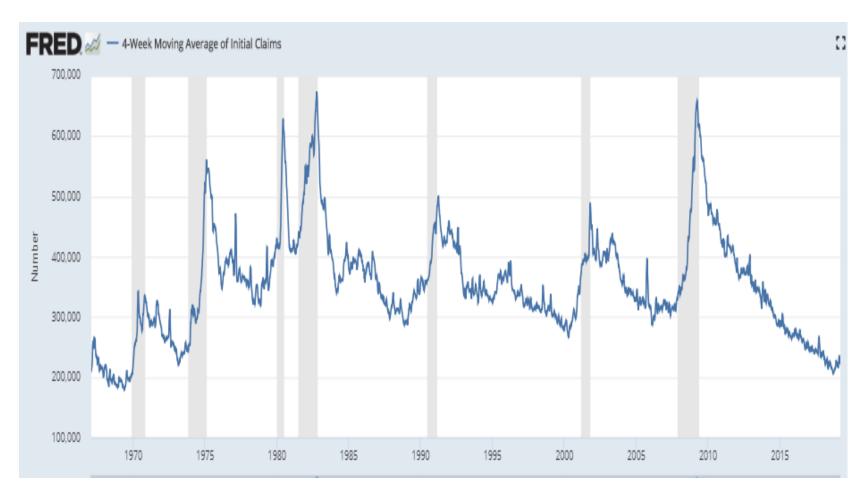
#### Leading Index of Economic Indicators 1982 to present



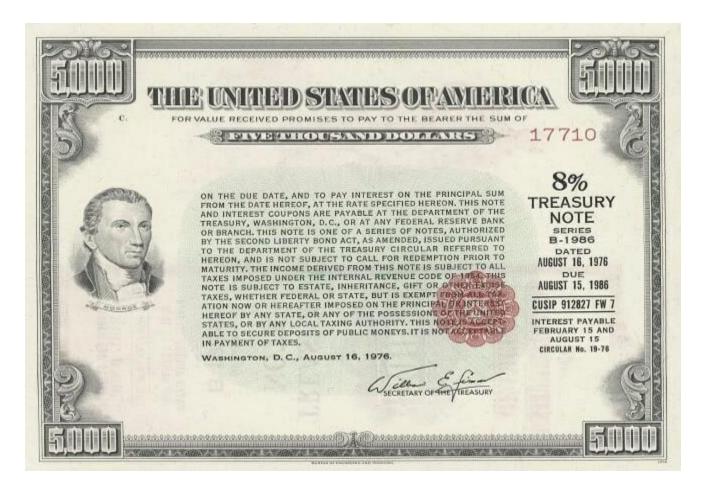
Source: Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis



# Initial Claims for Unemployment



# Where Do Interest Rates Go From Here?



Rate Impact on the Housing Market



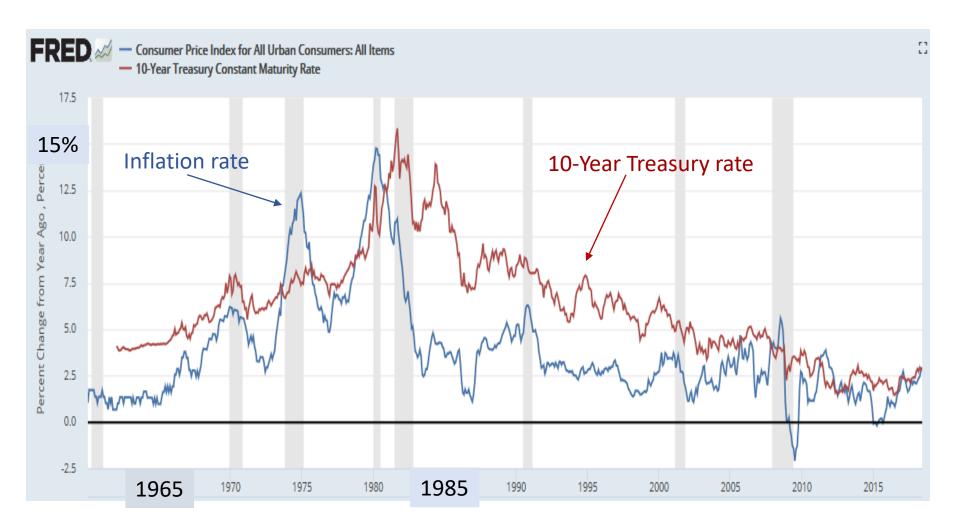
- •Thirty-year mortgage rates are highly correlated with the 10-year U.S. Treasury bond rate
- •The 10-year bond rate is <u>not</u> controlled by the Fed
- •The 10-year bond rate moves up and down with the <u>expected</u> rate of inflation
- •Conclusion: mortgage rates increase only when inflation expectations increase

# Rate Impact on the CRE Market



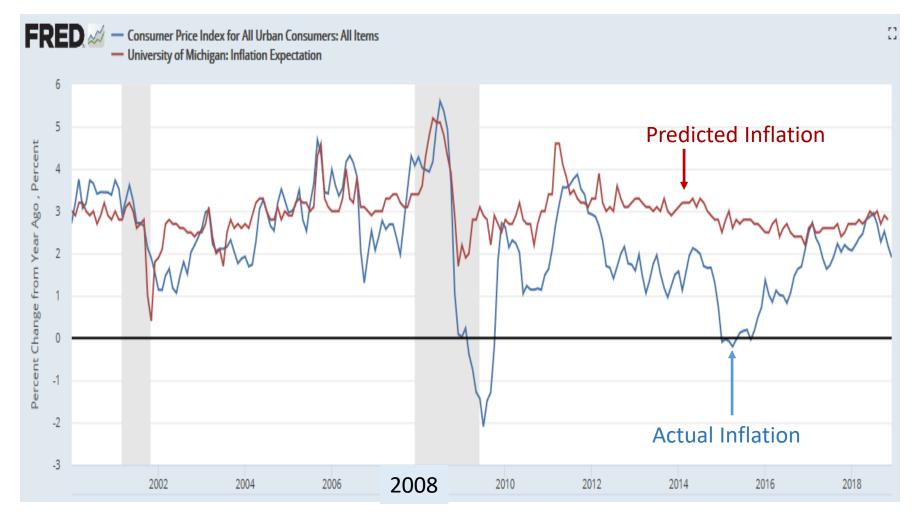
- •Cap rates are <u>moderately</u> correlated with the 10-year U.S. Treasury bond rate
- •The 10-year bond rate is <u>not</u> controlled by the Fed
- •The 10-year bond rate moves up and down with the <u>expected</u> rate of inflation
- •Conclusion: Cap rates <u>might</u> increase when inflation expectations increase

# Inflation moves the 10-Yr Treasury Rate



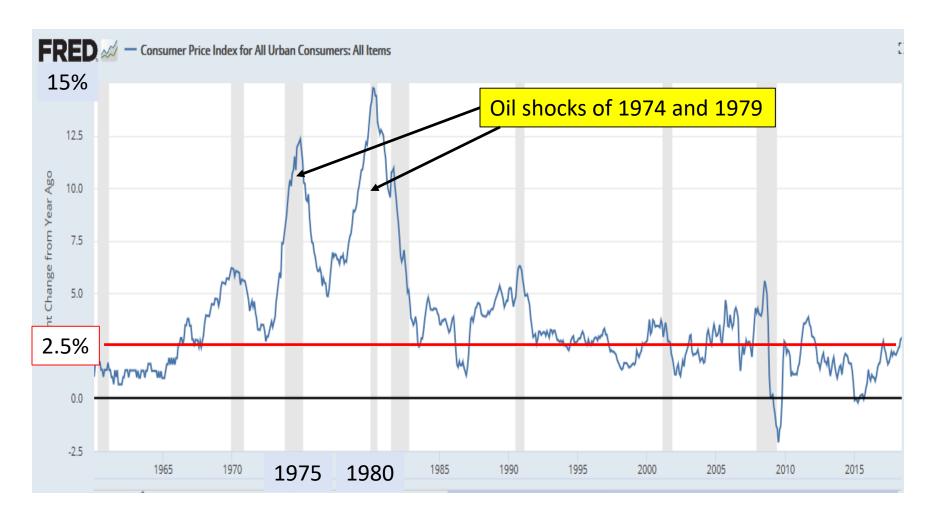
Source: Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

# Economists Have Overestimated Inflation Consistently Since 2007



Source: University of Michigan and Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

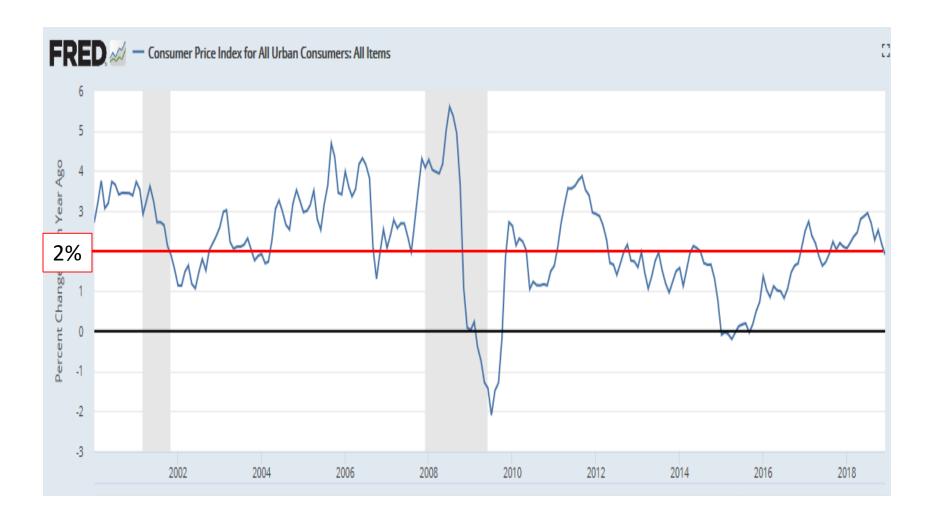
# Inflation Rate since 1960



# Inflation Rate since 1960



# Inflation Rate since 2000



## The Neutral Rate of Interest



"It is very difficult to know where that socalled neutral rate is. But we probably will know it when we are there because we will observe a certain degree of balance, which we had not perceived before, which would suggest that we are somewhere very close to where that is."

Alan Greenspan, Financial Advisor News, June 9, 2005

# Conclusions

- Positive job growth through presidential election.
- Interest rates unlikely to increase further.
- Tight supply and limited new single-family construction will continue to fuel demand for apartments.
- •Industrial demand from e-commerce continues.
- Intense appetite for commercial real estate continues.
- Stock market vulnerable to slowing growth of earnings.
- •Credit markets look strong.