

A modest slowdown of the global financial markets in 2018 could turn into a more significant slowdown in the coming year. That's according to a federal reserve official who spoke today in Little Rock. KUAR's Sarah Kellogg has more.

**FedEconReport Wrap****1:10****SOC**

*James Bullard, president of the St. Louis branch of the Federal Reserve bank, gave a presentation on the overall economic outlook as a part of the Little Rock Regional Chamber's Power Up Little Rock event.*

*Bullard said that the U.S.'s macroeconomic performance did better than expected in 2017 and 2018. That has led to multiple interest rate raises by the Federal Reserve. The most recent raise happened in December, the fourth time the Fed raised its rates in 2018, a decision Bullard did not agree with.*

**Bullard01****:18****"...an overreach"**

*"What I think happened was, that the economy surprised to the upside and that enabled the fed to normalize the policy rate, and because of the upside surprise I would have gone along with those rate increases, up until the December meeting where I think it was a bit of an overreach."*

*Despite the better than predicted economic performance, the inflation rate has remained low. It is predicted that the Federal Open Market Committee will miss its target inflation rate for the eighth year in a row.*

*This missing of the inflation rate target is a sign that U.S. monetary policy may be too aggressive considering current data.*

*Overall, Bullard recommends that the FOMC should pay attention to these economic trends and signals to keep the US economy on track.*

*Sarah Kellogg, KUAR news.*