



Conference Call Announcement

Argus Research will host a conference call for clients at 11 a.m. ET on Wednesday, May 1, 2019. The call is entitled ***Financial Services: the Fed Changes Direction***.

Argus Director of Research Jim Kelleher, CFA, will host the call, which will be in webinar format. He will be joined by Director of Financial Services Steve Biggar, as well as Insurance & REIT Analyst Jacob Kilstein, CFA.

After moving to tighten monetary policy in 2018, including multiple rate hikes and balance-sheet deleveraging, the Federal Reserve has moved to the sidelines in 2019 and may even be contemplating a more-accommodative stance. This shift in policy has significant implications for Financial Services firms. A lower-rate environment potentially spurs more mortgage and loan activity; but it also compresses net interest margins, cutting into banks' profitability.

Financial Services firms appear to be well positioned in the current environment, although challenges are also evident. With the economy in good shape, business is strengthening and credit quality is benign. At the same time, loan growth has been disappointing. The consumer has not yet re-engaged in the housing and automotive sectors despite lower financing rates.

Steve will discuss the outlook and catalysts for the banking group, including loan growth, interest margins now that the Federal Reserve has backpedaled on further rate hikes, a potential recovery from the lackluster capital markets environment in the first quarter, credit quality trends, and deregulation. Jacob will discuss the environment for insurers and for real estate investment trusts.

Woven into this discussion, Steve and Jacob will provide top investment ideas across the Financial Services sector. Argus President John Eade will be along to moderate the Q&A.

Please note that the Investments & Wealth Institute has accepted Argus' Monthly Conference Call for one (1) hour of continuing education (CE) credit toward the CIMA/CIMC/CPWA certifications. The program has also been accepted by CFP Board for one (1) hour of CE credit.

The call, as always, will be interactive with a question-and-answer period. We will be recording the call, and a rebroadcast will be available on the password-protected portion of our website. Slides related to the presentation will be posted on our website the day of the call and also will be available via the webcast itself.

To register for the call, please see the instructions on the first page of the PDF version of any Market Digest or Market Update report dated April 26, 2019, or later. If you have any problems registering, contact us at clientservices@argusresearch.com or by calling (212) 425-7500.