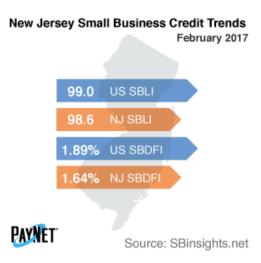


New Jersey Small Business Defaults Increasing in February

PayNet, the leading provider of small business credit data and analysis for the commercial and industrial lending industry, reports that in February 2017 the percentage of New Jersey's small businesses defaulting on existing loans has risen. Of the 18 major industries, defaults worsened in 11 and improved in 6 in the state compared to the prior month.

The PayNet Small Business Default Index (SBDFI) for New Jersey stood at 1.64% after a 5 basis point increase from January. Compared to the national SBDFI level of 1.89%, New Jersey's SBDFI was 25 basis points lower. Financial health is stronger than a year ago in the state despite the recent uptick in defaults. Over the last year, the national SBDFI increased 30 basis points, whereas New Jersey's SBDFI declined 6 basis points.



Transportation and Warehousing (3.21%); Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting (2.03%); and Construction (2.01%) registered the worst default rates of all industries in New Jersey. Nationally, Transportation and Warehousing had a default rate of 4.44%, with a difference of +1.31% compared to the prior year variance of +0.49% in New Jersey.

Coming in at 98.6, New Jersey's PayNet Small Business Lending Index (SBLI) fell 0.4% from the previous month's state level, but still performed on par with the national SBLI level of 99.0 this month. The Index is basically unchanged from a year ago.

"Increased defaults combined with restrained borrowing signals a more pessimist view of economic prospects," states the president of PayNet, William Phelan.

About

PayNet is the leading provider of credit ratings on small businesses enabling lenders to achieve optimal risk management, growth and operational efficiencies. PayNet maintains the largest proprietary database of small business loans, leases and lines of credit encompassing over 23 Million contracts worth over \$1.4 Trillion. Using state-of-the-art analytics, PayNet converts raw data into real-time marketing intelligence and predictive information that subscribing lenders use to make informed small business financial decisions and improve their business strategy. For more information, visit www.paynet.com.

PayNet Small Business Lending Index (SBLI)

The PayNet SBLI is based on new commercial loan and lease originations by major U.S. lenders in PayNet's proprietary database. This index measures the volume of loans to small businesses formulated on a rolling 12-month basis. Small businesses generally respond to changes in economic conditions more rapidly than do larger businesses; this statistic is a leading indicator of macroeconomic and industry trends

PayNet Small Business Default Index (SBDFI)

The PayNet Small Business Default Index (SBDFI) measures the percent of loans and leases to small businesses that have defaulted in the past 12 months.

Media Contact

Media Relations / Email: media@paynet.com / Twitter: @PayNetOnline