



# Liberty National Wealth Management Newsletter

## The Fed Has an Eye on Ukraine

Provided by Liberty National Wealth Management

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has made the Fed's interest rate decision a little more complicated.

The Fed appears set to raise interest rates by 0.25% at its March meeting. Up until recently, there was talk by Fed officials that the economy needed a 0.5% bump to help manage inflation.

Energy prices have been rising since Russia began to assemble forces at the Ukraine border. As prices rise, consumer discretionary spending trends lower as businesses take on higher costs. (Remember, consumer spending accounts for a big chunk of our overall economy.)

Higher energy prices, higher commodity prices, and the prospect of slower economic growth due to lower spending place the Fed in a bit of a pickle; the inflationary impact of these factors could be considerable.

Fed Chair Jerome Powell testified before Congress that he still sees interest rate hikes ahead but acknowledges that geopolitical events have interjected uncertainty into the Fed's outlook.

If you're feeling a bit unsettled, please reach out. Some think that it's best to be proactive at times like this. We can discuss your thoughts and compare them with your overall strategy.

**If you are interested in learning more about the services Liberty National Bank can provide, please contact us for a free consultation at our wealth management locations in Downtown Sioux Falls or Dakota Dunes.**



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