Survey of Primary Dealers

Markets Group, Federal Reserve Bank of New York

July 2015

Policy Expectations Survey

Please respond by **Monday, July 20, at 5:00 pm** to the questions below. Your time and input are greatly appreciated.

This survey is formulated by the Trading Desk at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York to enhance policymakers' understanding of market expectations on a variety of topics related to the economy, monetary policy and financial markets. The questions involve only topics that are widely discussed in the public domain and never presume any particular policy action. FOMC members are not involved in the survey's design.

***Dealer*:**

Monetary Policy Expectations

1) a) Provide below your expectations for changes, if any, to the language referencing each of the following topics in the July FOMC statement. Limit your responses to changes you consider most likely.

	Language Changes Expected
Current economic conditions and the economic outlook:	
Communication on the Committee's policy of reinvesting principal payments on Treasury and agency securities:	
Communication on the expected path of policy rates and forward guidance on the target federal funds rate:	
Other:	

b) How do you expect the July FOMC statement to influence market perceptions of the stance of monetary policy, if at all? (1 = less accommodative, 3 = neutral, 5 = more accommodative)

Perceived stance of monetary policy:

Please Explain:

2) a) How would you grade the Federal Reserve System's communication with the markets and with the public since the policy survey on June 8? Please provide a rating between 1 and 5, with 1 indicating ineffectiveness and 5 indicating effectiveness.

Rating:

Please Explain:

3) a) Of the possible outcomes below, provide the percent chance* you attach to the timing of the first increase in the federal funds target rate or range. Also, provide your estimate for the most likely meeting for the first increase.

2015 FOMC Meetings				2016 FOMC Meetings			
July 28-29	**September 16-17**	**October 27-28**	**December 15-16**	**January 26-27**	**March 15-16**	**April 26-27**	**≥ June 14-15**

** Percentages across row should add to 100 percent.*

Estimate for most likely meeting for first increase in target rate or range:

b) Provide the percent chance you attach to the target federal funds rate or range <u>not</u> returning to the zero lower bound during the 2 years following liftoff.

Probability of not returning to ZLB during the 2 years following liftoff:

Conditional on the target <u>not</u> returning to the zero lower bound, provide the percent chance* you attach to the net change in the target rate or range in each of the two years following liftoff.

	0 - 50 basis points	51 - 100 basis points	101 - 150 basis points	151 - 200 basis points	>200 basis points
First year following liftoff:					
Second year following liftoff:					

** Percentages across rows should add to 100 percent.*

c) Provide your estimate of the most likely outcome (i.e., the mode) for the target federal funds rate or range, as applicable, immediately following the FOMC meetings and at the end of each quarter or half-year period below. If you expect a range, please provide both the top and bottom of the range in the specified fields below. If you expect a target rate, provide your response in the "Target rate" field only.

	2015 FOMC meetings				2016 FOMC Meetings		
	July 28-29	**September 16-17**	**October 27-28**	**December 15-16**	**January 26-27**	**March 15-16**	**April 26-27**
Top of range:							
Bottom of range:							
Target rate:							

	Quarters			Half Years			
	2016 Q2	**2016 Q3**	**2016 Q4**	**2017 H1**	**2017 H2**	**2018 H1**	**2018 H2**
Top of range:							
Bottom of range:							
Target rate:							

d) In addition, provide your estimate of the longer-run target federal funds rate and your expectation for the average federal funds rate over the next 10 years.

Longer run:

Expectation for average federal funds rate over next 10 years:

e) Of the possible outcomes below, please indicate the percent chance* you attach to the target federal funds rate or range falling in each of the following ranges at the end of 2015, 2016, and 2017. If you expect a target range please use the midpoint of the range in providing your response.

	0.00 - 0.25%	**0.26 - 0.50%**	**0.51 - 1.00%**	**1.01 - 1.50%**	**1.51 - 2.00%**	**2.01 - 2.50%**	**≥2.51%**
Year-end 2015:							
	≤0.50%	**0.51 - 1.00%**	**1.01 - 1.50%**	**1.51 - 2.00%**	**2.01 - 2.50%**	**2.51 - 3.00%**	**≥3.01%**
Year-end 2016:							
	≤2.00%	**2.01 - 2.50%**	**2.51 - 3.00%**	**3.01 - 3.50%**	**3.51 - 4.00%**	**4.01 - 4.50%**	**≥4.51%**
Year-end 2017:							

** Percentages across rows should add to 100 percent.*

If you changed your responses to parts a and/or c since the policy survey on June 8, please explain the factors that motivated you to make the change(s):

f) In a March speech, Chair Yellen indicated that the "equilibrium real federal funds rate, the real rate consistent with the economy achieving maximum employment and price stability in the medium term, is currently quite low by historical standards." Conditioned on your expectations for the economy and the future stance of policy, what is your forecast for the level of the equilibrium real federal funds rate at each of the time periods below? Please also provide your estimate of the current level of the equilibrium real federal funds rate.

	Current Level	**Year-end 2015:**	**Year-end 2016:**	**Year-end 2017:**
Level of equilibrium real federal funds rate:				

Please list the major factors underlying your estimate for the current level of the equilibrium federal funds rate.

If you expect future levels of the equilibrium real federal funds rate to be different than its current level, please provide the major factors underlying your expectation.

4) a) Of the possible outcomes below, provide the percent chance* you attach to the 10-year Treasury yield falling in each of the following ranges at the end of 2015 and 2016.

	≤1.50%	**1.51 - 2.00%**	**2.01 - 2.50%**	**2.51 - 3.00%**	**3.01 - 3.50%**	**3.51 - 4.00%**	**>4.00%**
Year-end 2015:							
	≤2.50%	**2.51 - 3.00%**	**3.01 - 3.50%**	**3.51 - 4.00%**	**4.01 - 4.50%**	**4.51 - 5.00%**	**>5.00%**
Year-end 2016:							

** Percentages across rows should add to 100 percent.*

If you changed your expectations since the last policy survey on June 8, please explain the factors that motivated you to make the change(s).

b) The 10-year Treasury yield increased 5 basis points between June 16 and July 15. Please decompose this change into changes in the market's expected average real policy rate, expected average inflation rate, and the market-implied nominal term premium. Please ensure that your sum matches the change.

	Change in Market's Expected Average Real Policy Rate	Change in Market's Expected Average Inflation Rate	Change in Market-Implied Nominal Term Premium	Your Sum	Change in 10-year Treasury Yield
Change in 10-year Treasury yield (bps):				0	5

What factor or factors were most material in driving your estimate of the intermeeting change in the each of the subcomponents listed above?

5) **a)** Provide the percent chance* you attach to the unemployment rate falling within the following ranges at the time of the first increase in the target federal funds rate or range.

	< 5.0 %	5.0 - 5.4%	5.5 - 5.9%	6.0 - 6.5%	> 6.5%
Unemployment rate:					

**Percentages across row should add up to 100 percent.*

b) Provide the percent chance* you attach to inflation between 1 and 2 years ahead falling within the following ranges at the time of the first increase in the target federal funds rate or range.

	< 1.25%	1.25 - 1.74%	1.75 - 2.24%	2.25 - 2.74%	≥ 2.75%
Inflation between 1 and 2 years ahead at liftoff:					

**Percentages across row should add up to 100 percent.*

c) Provide your estimate for the most likely value of the following indicators at the time of the first increase in the target federal funds rate or range. When specifying values below, where appropriate, provide your estimate consistent with the last published value prior to the announcement of liftoff. For reference, the level of total U.S. employees on nonfarm payrolls for June, seasonally adjusted, was 141.8 million.

Unemployment rate:	
Labor force participation rate:	
Total U.S. employees on nonfarm payrolls (millions):	
12-month change in average hourly earnings:	
Core 12-month PCE Inflation:	
Headline 12-month PCE Inflation:	
Inflation between 1 and 2 years ahead (at liftoff):	

d) Provide your forecast for the expected levels of the following indicators at the time periods provided below. If you expect a target range, please enter the range. If you do not believe a particular tool will be used during one or more of the time periods below, please enter "N/A". If you do not believe a cap on the O/N RRP will be employed at a particular time period, please write "No cap".

	1 Quarter Prior to Liftoff	Immediately Following Liftoff	1 Year Following Liftoff	3 Years Following Liftoff
Rate of interest on excess reserves (in percent):				
Target federal funds rate or range (in percent):				
Effective federal funds rate (in percent):				
O/N RRP rate (in percent):				
Overnight Treasury GCF repo rate (in percent):				
3-month U.S. Treasury bill rate (in percent):				
Expected demand for O/N RRP ($ billions):				
Expected cap on O/N RRP ($ billions):				

Please note how you expect the Committee's approach to policy normalization to evolve over time. Additionally, comment on any changes you expect over time in the relative levels of money market rates and the expected amount of O/N RRP usage.

e) Please provide the percent chance* you attach to the average effective federal funds rate, excluding month- or quarter-end dates, falling within the following subsets relative to the 25 basis point target range in the first month immediately following liftoff.

	Below the range	Bottom 8 basis points of range	Middle 9 basis points of range	Top 8 basis points of range	Above the range
Expected level of average effective federal funds rate relative to 25 basis point target range:					

**Percentages across row should add up to 100 percent.*

Please explain which factor or factors were most relevant in formulating your expectations and any assumptions made.

6) **a)** Provide your estimate of the most likely quarter and year during which the FOMC will first cease reinvesting some or all payments of principal on Treasuries and/or agency debt and MBS. In addition, please provide your expectation for the timing, in months, relative to the first increase in the target rate or range. If you do not expect the FOMC to cease reinvestments for either or both asset classes during the process of policy normalization, please select "N/A". Please ensure your signs are correct.

	Quarter & Year	Number of months relative to liftoff
Treasuries:		
Agency debt and MBS:		

b) In its Policy Normalization Principles and Plans, the Committee indicated that it "expects to cease or commence phasing out reinvestments" after liftoff. For Treasuries and agency debt and MBS, please indicate the percent chance* you attach to the Committee during the process of policy normalization ceasing its reinvestments all at once, phasing out its reinvestments over time, or not changing its reinvestments.

	No Change to Reinvestments	Reinvestments Ceased All at Once	Reinvestments Phased Out Over Time
Treasuries:			
Agency debt and MBS:			

** Percentages across rows should add to 100 percent.*

Please explain the factors behind any change in your expectations in either parts a and/or b since the policy survey on June 8.

c) If you placed a non-zero probability on reinvestments being phased out over time, please indicate the number of months over which you expect this to occur.

Treasuries:	
Agency debt and MBS:	

Please explain your assumptions for what factors would likely drive the pace at which reinvestments are phased out.

Economic Indicator Forecasts

7) **a)** Provide your estimate of the most likely outcome for output, inflation, and unemployment.

	GDP (Q4/Q4 Growth)	**Core PCE Deflator (Q4/Q4 Growth)**	**Headline PCE Deflator (Q4/Q4 Growth)**	**Unemployment Rate (Q4 Average Level)**
2015:				
2016:				
2017:				
Longer run:				

b) What are the most significant risks to your 2015 GDP forecast?

Most significant upside risk:		**Most significant downside risk:**	

c) How would you characterize the overall balance of U.S. economic data over the intermeeting period? (5= significantly stronger than expected, 3= neutral/mixed, 1= significantly weaker than expected). Please explain which data were most relevant in formulating your characterization.

Characterization of overall balance of economic data:		**Please Explain:**	

8) **a)** For the outcomes below, provide the percent chance* you attach to the annual average CPI inflation rate from July 1, 2015 - Jun 30, 2020. Please also provide your point estimate for the most likely outcome.

≤1.00%	1.01-1.50%	1.51-2.00%	2.01-2.50%	2.51-3.00%	≥3.01%		
						Point estimate for most likely outcome:	

** Percentages across row should add up to 100 percent.*

b) For the outcomes below, provide the percent chance* you attach to the annual average CPI inflation rate from July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2025. Please also provide your point estimate for the most likely outcome.

≤1.00%	1.01-1.50%	1.51-2.00%	2.01-2.50%	2.51-3.00%	≥3.01%		
						Point estimate for most likely outcome:	

** Percentages across row should add up to 100 percent.*

9) **a)** What percent chance do you attach to the U.S. economy currently being in a recession*? **Recession currently:**

b) What percent chance do you attach to the U.S. economy being in a recession* in 6 months? **Recession in 6 months:**

**NBER-defined recession*

Dropdown Selections

1) b) How do you expect the July FOMC statement to influence market perceptions of the stance of monetary policy, if at all? (1 = less accommodative, 3 = neutral, 5 = more accommodative)

Perceived stance of monetary policy:	1 -- Less Accommodative
	2
	3 -- Neutral
	4
	5 -- More Accommodative

2) a) How would you grade the Federal Reserve System's communication with the markets and with the public since the policy survey on June 8? Please provide a rating between 1 and 5, with 1 indicating ineffectiveness and 5 indicating effectiveness.

Communication grade:	5 -- Very Effective
	4
	3
	2
	1 -- Very Ineffective

3) a) Of the possible outcomes below, provide the percent chance you attach to the timing of the first increase in the federal funds target rate or range. Also, provide your estimate for the most likely meeting for the first increase.

Estimate for most likely meeting for first increase in target rate or range:	July 2015
	September 2015
	October 2015
	December 2015
	January 2016
	March 2016
	April 2016
	June 2016
	July 2016
	September 2016
	November 2016
	December 2016

6) a) Provide your estimate of the most likely quarter and year during which the FOMC will first cease reinvesting some or all payments of principal on Treasuries and/or agency debt and MBS. In addition, please provide your expectation for the timing, in months, relative to the first increase in the target rate or range. If you do not expect the FOMC to cease reinvestments for either or both asset classes during the process of policy normalization, please select "N/A". Please ensure your signs are correct.

Quarter & Year:	Q3 2015
	Q4 2015
	Q1 2016
	Q2 2016
	Q3 2016
	Q4 2016
	Q1 2017
	Q2 2017
	Q3 2017
	Q4 2017
	>= Q1 2018
	N/A

7) c) How would you characterize the overall balance of U.S. economic data over the intermeeting period? (5= significantly stronger than expected, 3= neutral/mixed, 1= significantly weaker than expected). Please explain which data were most relevant in formulating your characterization.

Characterization of overall balance of economic data:	1 -- Significantly weaker than expected
	2 -- Moderately weaker than expected
	3 -- Neutral/mixed
	4 -- Moderately stronger than expected
	5 -- Significantly stronger than expected