Survey of Market Participants

Markets Group, Federal Reserve Bank of New York

December 2015

Policy Expectations Survey

Please respond by **Monday, December 7, 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.

Participant: ______

Monetary Policy Expectations

1) a) Provide below your expectations for changes, if any, to the language referencing each of the following topics in the December 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) What are your expectations for the medians of FOMC participants' economic projections in the Summary of Economic Projections (SEP)?

c) What are your expectations for the medians of FOMC participants' year-end target federal funds rate projections in the Summary of Economic Projections (SEP)?

Year-end 2015: ______ **Year-end 2016:** ______ **Year-end 2017:** ______ **Year-end 2018:** ______

Longer Run: ______

Please explain the most relevant factors underlying your expectations.

d) What are your expectations for the Chair's post-FOMC conference?

e) How do you expect the December FOMC events 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) 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	2016						
Dec. 15-16	**Jan. 26-27**	**Mar. 15-16**	**Apr. 26-27**	**Jun. 14-15**	**Jul. 26-27**	**Sep. 20-21**	**≥ Nov. 1-2**

** 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 **not** 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 **not** 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	2016					
	December 15-16	**January 26-27**	**March 15-16**	**April 26-27**	**June 14-15**	**July 26-27**	**September 20-21**
Top of range:							
Bottom of range:							
Target rate:							

	Quarters					Half Years	
	2016 Q4	**2017 Q1**	**2017 Q2**	**2017 Q3**	**2017 Q4**	**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 2016, 2017 and 2018. 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 2016:							
	≤1.00%	**1.01 - 1.50%**	**1.51 - 2.00%**	**2.01 - 2.50%**	**2.51 - 3.00%**	**3.01 - 3.50%**	**≥3.51%**
Year-end 2017:							
	≤1.50%	**1.51 - 2.00%**	**2.01 - 2.50%**	**2.51 - 3.00%**	**3.01 - 3.50%**	**3.51 - 4.00%**	**≥4.01%**
Year-end 2018:							

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

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

3) 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 October 19, please explain the factors that motivated you to make the change(s).

b) Swap spreads are currently at historically low levels, having declined by around 20 basis points across maturities since early August. Please rate the importance of the following factors that may explain the recent narrowing in swap spreads (1 = not very important, 5 = very important).

Increased net corporate issuance	*Foreign central bank selling of Treasury securities*	*Increased balance sheet costs for cash products*	*Change in credit component due to mandated central clearing*	*Other (please explain)*	If "Other", please explain

Please explain your response, including any assumptions or underlying views.

4) 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.

	< 4.5 %	**4.5 - 4.9%**	**5.0-5.4%**	**5.5-5.9%**	**≥ 6.0%**
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 November, seasonally adjusted, was 142.9 million. *Level updated on 12/04/2015.

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):				
Overnight Treasury tri-party repo rate, ex-GCF (in percent):				
3-month LIBOR 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 explain any changes to your responses since the policy survey on October 19.

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.

5) 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.*

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 the factors behind any change to your expectations in parts a, b, and/or c since the policy survey on October 19.

Economic Indicator Forecasts

6) **a)** For the outcomes below, provide the percent chance* you attach to the annual average CPI inflation rate from December 1, 2015 - November 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 December 1, 2020 - November 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.*

Dropdown Selections

1) **e)** How do you expect the December FOMC events 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 Accomodative
2
3 -- Neutral
4
5 -- More Accomodative

2) **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 the most likely meeting for first increase in target rate or range:

December 2015
January 2016
March 2016
April 2016
June 2016
July 2016
September 2016
November 2016
December 2016

3) **b)** Swap spreads are currently at historically low levels, having declined by around 20 basis points across maturities since early August. Please rate the importance of the following factors that may explain the recent narrowing in swap spreads (1 = not very important, 5 = very important).

Increased net corporate issuance:

5 -- Very Important
4
3
2
1 -- Not Important

Foreign central bank selling of Treasury securities:

5 -- Very Important
4
3
2
1 -- Not Important

Increased balance sheet costs for cash products:

5 -- Very Important
4
3
2
1 -- Not Important

Change in credit component due to mandated central clearing:

5 -- Very Important
4
3
2
1 -- Not Important

Other:

5 -- Very Important
4
3
2
1 -- Not Important

5) **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:

Q4 2015
Q1 2016
Q2 2016
Q3 2016
Q4 2016
Q1 2017
Q2 2017
Q3 2017
Q4 2017
>=Q1 2018
N/A