RESPONSES TO SURVEY OF MARKET PARTICIPANTS

Markets Group, Federal Reserve Bank of New York



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The **Survey of Market Participants** 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 participants are not involved in the survey's design.

For most questions, median responses across respondents, along with the 25th and 75th percentiles, are reported.¹ For questions that ask respondents to give a probability distribution, the average response across respondents for each potential outcome is reported. Brief summaries of the comments received in free response form are also provided.

Responses were received from 28 respondents. Except where noted, all 28 respondents responded to each question. In some cases, respondents may not have provided complete responses (e.g. may not have provided forecasts extending to the same time horizon as requested in the survey). In these instances, the number of respondents who answered all parts of the question is indicated.

¹ Answers may not sum to 100 percent due to rounding.

Table of Contents

Q-1)	FOMC Meeting Expectations
Q-2)	Target Federal Funds Rate/Range and Lower Bound Expectations
Q-3)	Reinvestment Policy Expectations
Q-4)	SOMA Value Probability Distributions
Q-5)	Market Impact of Reinvestment Policy Communication
Q-6)	Expectations for the Balance Sheet in 2025
Q-7)	Fiscal Deficit Expectations
Q-8)	Inflation Probability Distributions

1a) Provide below your expectations for changes, if any, to the language referencing each of the following topics in the June FOMC statement.

Current economic conditions:

Several respondents indicated that they expected no or few significant changes to the Committee's assessment of current economic conditions in the June FOMC statement. Additionally, several respondents expected the Committee would acknowledge the slower pace of job gains, while several respondents noted that the Committee would likely acknowledge the recent decline in the unemployment rate. Several respondents also indicated that the Committee could note continued strengthening of the labor market. Lastly, several respondents suggested that the Committee could acknowledge that inflation had recently decreased.

Economic outlook:

(26 responses)

Many respondents noted that they expected no or few significant changes to the Committee's language on the economic outlook.

Communication on the expected path of the target fed funds rate: (25 responses)

Many respondents noted that they expected no significant changes in the Committee's communication on the expected path of the target fed funds rate.

Communication on the Committee's policy of reinvesting principal payments on Treasury and agency securities:

(27 responses)

Some respondents noted that they expected no change in the Committee's communication on its policy of reinvesting principal payments on Treasury and agency securities. Several respondents indicated that the Committee might provide additional detail on the timing or scope of future changes to reinvestment policy, while several noted the Committee could note having discussed the timing and scope of future changes to reinvestment policy. Lastly, several respondents indicated that the Committee could signal that a change to reinvestment policy would occur later this year.

Other:

(6 responses)

Several respondents suggested that President Kashkari would dissent in favor of maintaining the existing target range at the June FOMC meeting.

1b) What are your expectations for the medians of FOMC participants' <u>economic</u> projections in the Summary of Economic Projections (SEP)?

Several respondents reported that they expected no or few significant changes to the medians of FOMC participants' economic projections in the June SEP. Some respondents reported that the medians of FOMC participants' projections for the unemployment rate could decrease through 2019, and several also indicated that the medians of FOMC participants' projections for the longer-run unemployment rate could decrease. Additionally, some respondents expected that the medians of FOMC participants' projections for near-term headline and/or core PCE inflation could decrease.

1c) What are your expectations for the medians of FOMC participants' <u>target federal funds rate</u> projections in the SEP?

	Year-end 2017	Year-end 2018	Year-end 2019	Longer Run
25th Pctl	1.38%	2.13%	2.89%	3.00%
Median	1.38%	2.13%	3.00%	3.00%
75th Pctl	1.38%	2.13%	3.00%	3.00%

Please comment on the balance of risks around your expectations, as well as any underlying assumptions.

(27 responses)

Many respondents noted the potential for the medians of FOMC participants' year-end target rate projections to decrease for 2018 and 2019, and/or the longer-run. Several respondents also noted the possibility that the median of FOMC participants' 2018 projections could increase slightly as a result of recent changes in the composition of Committee participants. Lastly, several respondents suggested that the risks regarding changes to the medians of FOMC participants' year-end target rate projections were generally balanced.

1d) What are your expectations for the Chair's press conference?

Many respondents noted that they expected the Chair to provide more information regarding the likely timing and/or approach of future changes to reinvestment policy. Additionally, some respondents expected that the Chair would discuss measures of inflation having moved lower, and possibly to attribute this to transitory factors. Lastly, several respondents suggested that the Chair would note that the labor market had continued to strengthen. **2a)** 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 below. For the time periods at which you expect a target range, please indicate the midpoint of that range in providing your response.

	Jun. 13-14 2017	Jul. 25-26 2017	Sep. 19-20 2017	Oct. 31 - Nov. 1 2017	Dec. 12-13 2017	Jan. 30-31 2018	Mar. 20-21 2018
25th Pctl	1.13%	1.13%	1.13%	1.13%	1.38%	1.38%	1 .50 %
Median	1.13%	1.13%	1.38%	1.38%	1.38%	1.38%	1.63%
75th Pctl	1.13%	1.13%	1.38%	1.38%	1.38%	1.38%	1.63%
# of Responses	28	28	28	28	28	28	28
	2018 Q2	2018 Q3	2018 Q4	2019 Q1	2019 Q2	2019 Q3	2019 Q4
25th Pctl	1.63%	1.88%	1.88%	2.13%	2.13%	2.38%	2.38%
Median	1.75%	1.94%	2.13%	2.38%	2.56%	2.69%	2.81%
75th Pctl	1.88%	2.13%	2.38%	2.63%	2.88%	3.06%	3.13%
# of Responses	28	28	28	28	28	28	28

2b) 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	10-yr Average FF Rate
25th Pctl	2.56%	1.86%
Median	2.75%	2.50%
75th Pctl	3.06%	2.75%

2c) Please indicate the percent chance that you attach to the following possible outcomes for the Committee's next policy action in 2017.

	Next Change is	Next Change is	No Change in Target
	Increase in Target	Decrease in Target	Rate or Range in
	Rate or Range	Rate or Range	2017
Average	93%	2%	5%

2d) Conditional on the Committee's next policy action in 2017 being an <u>increase</u> in the target federal funds rate or range, please indicate the percent chance that you attach to the following possible outcomes for the timing of such a change. Only fill out this conditional probability distribution if you assigned a non-zero probability to the Committee's next policy action in 2017 being an increase.

	Increase Occurs at June FOMC meeting		Increase Occurs at September FOMC meeting or later
Average	87%	4%	9%

2e) Please indicate the percent chance that you attach to the target federal funds rate or range falling in each of the following ranges <u>at the end of 2017</u>, conditional on the following possible scenarios for the direction and timing of the Committee's next policy action in 2017. Only fill out the conditional probability distributions for which you assigned a non-zero probability to the conditioning event occurring. If you expect a target range, please use the midpoint of that range in providing your response.

Next change is an increase, occurs at July meeting or earlier											
		0.51 -	0.76 -	1.01 -	1.26 -	1.51 -	1.76 -				
	≤ 0.50%	0.75%	1.00%	1.25%	1.50%	1.75%	2.00%	≥ 2.01%			
Average	2%	2%	5%	28%	44%	15%	3%	1%			

Next change is an increase, occurs at September meeting or later											
	≤ 0.50%	0.51 - 0.75%		1.01 - 1.25%				≥ 2.01%			
Average	2%	3%	8%	48%	31%	6%	2%	0%			

Next change is a decrease											
	< 0.0%	0.00 - 0.25%	0.26 - 0.50%	0.51 - 0.75%			1.26 - 1.50%	≥ 1.51%			
Average	10%	36%	28%	22%	2%	1%	0%	0%			

2f-i) Please indicate the percent chance that you attach to the target federal funds rate or range falling in each of the following ranges <u>at the end of 2018 and 2019</u>, conditional on **not** moving to the zero lower <u>bound (ZLB) at any point between now and the end of 2019</u>. If you expect a target range, please use the midpoint of that range in providing your response.

	Year-end 2018											
1.01- 1.51- 2.01- 2.51- 3.01-												
	≤ 1.00%	1.50%	2.00%	2.50%	3.00%	3.50%	≥ 3.51%					
Average	6%	11%	29%	33%	15%	5%	2%					
Year-end 2019												
		1.01-	1.51-	2.01-	2.51-	3.01-						

23%

15%

Average

6%

8%

17%

6%

25%

2f-ii) Please indicate the percent chance that you attach to moving to the ZLB at some point between now and the end of 2019.

	Probability of Moving to ZLB at Some Point between now and the end of 2019
25th Pctl	5%
Median	17%
75th Pctl	30%

2f-iii) Please indicate the percent chance that you attach to the target federal funds rate or range falling in each of the following ranges at the end of 2018 and 2019, conditional on moving to the ZLB at some point between now and the end of 2019. Only fill out these conditional probability distributions if you assigned a non-zero probability to moving to the ZLB at some point between now and the end of 2019. If you expect a target range, please use the midpoint of that range in providing your response. (27 responses)

Year-end 2018										
		0.00-	0.26-	0.51-	1.01-	1.51-	2.01-			
	< 0.00%	0.25%	0.50%	1.00%	1.50%	2.00%	2.50%	≥ 2.51%		
Average	11%	50%	19%	8%	5%	4%	2%	1%		

Year-end 2019								
		0.00-	0.26-	0.51-	1.01-	1.51-	2.01-	
	< 0.00%	0.25%	0.50%	1.00%	1.50%	2.00%	2.50%	≥ 2.51%
Average	14%	62%	15%	6%	2%	1%	0%	0%

2f-iv) What is your estimate of the target federal funds rate or range at the effective lower bound? (27 responses)

	Level of Target Fed Funds Rate or Range at ELB
25th Pctl	-0.25%
Median	0.00%
75th Pctl	0.13%

2g) For parts a-f, please explain the factors behind any change to your expectations, where applicable, since the last policy survey.
 (25 responses)

Several respondents indicated that they shifted earlier their modal forecast for the timing of the next rate hike to the June FOMC meeting or assigned increased probability to a rate hike occurring in June. Additionally, several respondents indicated that they assigned either lower probabilities to higher rate outcomes or higher probabilities to lower rate outcomes in 2018 and/or 2019. Several respondents indicated few significant changes to their responses since the last policy survey.

3a) In its Policy Normalization Principles and Plans, the Committee indicated that it "expects to cease or commence phasing out reinvestments" after liftoff. Please indicate the percent chance that you attach to the Committee ceasing its reinvestments all at once, phasing out its reinvestments over time, or not changing its reinvestments.

		Treasuries	
	Reinvestments Ceased All at Once	Reinvestments Phased Out Over Time	No Change to Reinvestments
Average	4%	88%	8%

	Agency Debt and MBS					
	Reinvestments Ceased All at Once	Reinvestments Phased Out Over Time	No Change to Reinvestments			
Average	4%	89%	7%			

*Includes a phased-in cap approach as discussed in question 3e.

3b) In recent FOMC statements, the Committee has indicated that it anticipates continuing its current reinvestment policy until normalization of the level of the federal funds rate is "well under way."

Conditional on reinvestments either being ceased all at once or phased out over time, please indicate the percent chance that you attach to the following outcomes for the level of the target federal funds rate or range when the Committee first announces a change to its reinvestment policy. Only fill out this probability distribution if you assigned a non-zero probability to reinvestments either being ceased all at once or phased out over time in question 4a. If you expect a target range, please use the midpoint of that range in providing your response.

	≤ 0.75%	0.76 - 1.00%	1.01 - 1.25%	1.26 - 1.50%	1.51 - 1.75%	1.76 - 2.00%	≥ 2.01%
Average	0%	2%	30%	42%	17%	6%	2%

Additionally, please provide your point estimate for the most likely outcome of the level of the target federal funds rate or range when the Committee first announces a change to its reinvestment policy. If you expect a target range, please use the midpoint of that range in providing your response.

	Level of Target Fed Funds Rate/Range
25th Pctl	1.25%
Median	1.38%
75th Pctl	1.38%

3c) The May FOMC minutes reported that "nearly all" FOMC participants indicated that "as long as the economy and path of the federal funds rate evolved as currently expected, it likely would be appropriate to begin reducing the Federal Reserve's securities holdings this year." Conditional on a change to reinvestments occurring, please indicate the percent chance that you attach to the following possible outcomes for when the Committee first announces a change to its reinvestment policy. Only fill out this probability distribution if you assigned a non-zero probability to a change to reinvestments occurring in question 4a.

	Jun. 13-14 FOMC	Jul. 25-26 FOMC	Sep. 19-20 FOMC	Oct. 31-Nov. 1 FOMC	Dec. 12-13 FOMC	Q1 2018	Q2 2018	≥ H2 2018
Average	3%	3%	29%	11%	35%	12%	4%	3%

3d) Please explain the factors behind any change to your views in parts a-c, where applicable, since the last policy survey.

(23 responses)

Several respondents noted that they assigned increased probability to the Committee announcing a change to its reinvestment policy this year. Additionally, several respondents indicated that they shifted earlier their modal forecast for the timing of an announcement of a change to the Committee's reinvestment policy, with several specifying that they now expect an announcement to occur at the September meeting or that they place an increased probability of an announcement occurring at the September meeting. In explaining their views, several respondents pointed to the May FOMC minutes as prompting the change in their expectations, while several other respondents cited Fed communications more broadly as informing the change in their expectations. **3e)** The May FOMC minutes indicated that "nearly all policymakers expressed a favorable view" of a reinvestment approach in which "the Committee would announce a set of gradually increasing caps, or limits, on the dollar amounts of Treasury and agency securities that would be allowed to run off each month, and only the amounts of securities repayments that exceeded the caps would be reinvested each month." Additionally, the minutes suggested that under such a strategy, the caps would "initially be set at low levels and then be raised every three months, over a set period of time, to their fully phased-in levels."

Conditional on the Committee adopting such a strategy, please indicate the most likely <u>levels</u> (\$ billions) of the caps initially and at their fully phased-in levels.

(26 responses)

		Initial	Fully Phased-In
	25th Pctl	5	15
Treasuries	Median	5	25
	75th Pctl	8	30
	25th Pctl	4	15
Agency Debt and MBS	Median	5	20
	75th Pctl	5	25

Conditional on the Committee adopting such a strategy, please also indicate the most likely number of <u>months</u> from when caps are initially implemented until they are fully phased in. (25 responses)

	Treasuries	Agency Debt and MBS
25th Pctl	12	12
Median	12	12
75th Pctl	15	15

Please indicate the percent chance that you attach to the following possible outcomes for the par value of the SOMA portfolio <u>at the end of 2019</u>, <u>conditional on not moving to the ZLB at any point</u> <u>between now and the end of 2019</u>. For reference, the level of the SOMA portfolio on May 24, 2017 was \$4274 billion, including inflation compensation and settled and unsettled agency MBS, according to the most recent H.4.1 release. Levels referenced below are in \$ billions. (25 responses)

	≤ 3000	3001 - 3500	3501 - 4000	4001 - 4500	≥ 4501
Average	10%	27%	43%	16%	4%

Please indicate the percent chance that you attach to the following possible outcomes for the par value of the SOMA portfolio <u>at the end of 2019</u>, <u>conditional on moving to the ZLB at any point</u> <u>between now and the end of 2019</u>. Only fill out this conditional probability distribution if you assigned a non-zero probability to moving to the ZLB at some point between now and the end of 2019 in question 2. Levels referenced below are in \$ billions.
 (25 responses)

	≤ 4000	4001 - 4500	4501 - 5000	5001 - 5500	≥ 5501
Average	14%	20%	27%	25%	14%

5) What has been the impact to date of Fed communication regarding potential changes to reinvestment policy on the 10-year Treasury yield and 30-year MBS option-adjusted spread, if any? Please provide your responses in basis points.

(24 responses)

	10-Year Treasury Yield	30-Year MBS Option- Adjusted Spread
25th Pctl	0	0
Median	0	1
75th Pctl	5	8

Please also comment on the expected future market impact of the strategy you outlined in question 3e, if any.

Several respondents noted that they expect a relatively modest impact on Treasury yields and MBS spreads from changes to reinvestment policy, conditional on the reinvestment strategy they outlined in question 3e being realized. Additionally, several respondents also noted that they had perceived minimal market impact to date from Fed communication regarding potential changes to reinvestment policy. 6) On average during 2016, the size of the Federal Reserve System's balance sheet was \$4472 billion, and was composed roughly as follows:

Assets	Level (\$ Bn)	Share	Liabilities and Capital	Level (\$ Bn)	Share
US Treasuries	2462	55%	Federal Reserve Notes	1413	32%
Agency MBS	1749	39%	Reserves	2306	52%
All Other Assets*	261	6%	Deposits in Treasury General Account (TGA)	308	7%
Total Assets	4472	100%	Reverse Repos with Private Counterparties	107	2%
			Reverse Repos with Foreign Official Accounts	242	5%
			Other Deposits**	39	1%
			All Other Liabilities and Capital	57	1%
			Total Liabilities and Capital	4472	100%

*Includes net unamortized premiums and discounts on securities held outright, repos, and other assets. **Includes balances held by designated financial market utilities (DFMUs), government sponsored entities (GSEs) and international and multilateral organizations.

The figures above refer to averages of Wednesday levels from 2016 H.4.1 releases. For further details, see also the "Report on Domestic Open Market Operations during 2016" prepared by the Markets Group of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

Please indicate your expectations for the composition of the Federal Reserve System's balance sheet, on average, in 2025, conditional on not moving to the ZLB at any point between now and the end of 2025. Please provide your responses in levels (\$ billions). Please ensure total assets are equal to total liabilities plus capital.

(22 responses)

Results to this question are on the following page.

Question text related to these results are on the previous page.

Assets			Liabilities and Capital		
		Level			Level
US Treasuries	25th Pctl	1750	-	25th Pctl	1700
	Median	2400	Federal Reserve Notes	Median	1936
	75th Pctl	2945		75th Pctl	2102
	25th Pctl	400		25th Pctl	400
Agency MBS	Median	563	Reserves	Median	644
	75th Pctl	800		75th Pctl	1000
	25th Pctl	145		25th Pctl	219
All Other Assets*	Median	200	Deposits in Treasury General Account (TGA)	Median	300
	75th Pctl	260		75th Pctl	372
			Reverse Repos with Private Counterparties	25th Pctl	60
				Median	100
				75th Pctl	190
			Reverse Repos with Foreign Official Accounts	25th Pctl	130
				Median	241
				75th Pctl	250
			Other Deposits**	25th Pctl	25
				Median	40
				75th Pctl	50
			All Other Liabilities and Capital	25th Pctl	35
				Median	51
				75th Pctl	60

*Includes net unamortized premiums and discounts on securities held outright, repos, and other assets. **Includes balances held by designated financial market utilities (DFMUs), government sponsored entities (GSEs) and international and multilateral organizations.

	Total Assets	Total Liabilities and Capital
25th Pctl	2400	2600
Median	3250	3275
75th Pctl	3845	3845

Note: Due to partial responses, total assets may not equal total liabilites/capital at all percentiles.

Provide your estimate of the most likely outcome for the U.S. federal fiscal deficit (as a percent of GDP) for fiscal years 2017, 2018 and 2019.

(26 responses)

	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
25th Pctl	2.95%	3.20%	3.50%
Median	3.00%	3.50%	3.85%
75th Pctl	3.40%	4.00%	4.70%

Please explain any changes to your estimates since the policy survey on April 24. (16 responses)

Some respondents indicated few significant changes to their responses since the last policy survey, while several respondents noted they adjusted their responses given a lower perceived likelihood of fiscal stimulus measures being enacted under the current administration.

8a) For the outcomes below, provide the percent chance you attach to the annual average CPI inflation rate from June 1, 2017 – May 31, 2022 falling in each of the following ranges. 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%
5%	12%	29%	32%	15%	8%
	25th Pct	1 .9	8%		
	Median	Median 2.10%			
	75th Pct	2.2	8%		
		≤ 1.00% 5% 12% 25th Pct Median	 ≤ 1.00% 1.50% 2.00% 5% 12% 29% Most Outc 25th Pctl 1.9 Median 2.1 	≤ 1.00% 1.50% 2.00% 2.50% 5% 12% 29% 32% Most Likely Outcome 25th Pctl 1.98% Median 2.10%	≤ 1.00% 1.50% 2.00% 2.50% 3.00% 5% 12% 29% 32% 15% Most Likely Outcome 25th Pctl 1.98% Median 2.10%

8b) For the outcomes below, provide the percent chance you attach to the annual average CPI inflation rate from June 1, 2022 – May 31, 2027 falling in each of the following ranges. 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%		≥ 3.01%
Average	5%	11%	25%	32%	18%	10%
				Likely come		
		25th Pc	tl 2.0	0%		
		Median	2.1	8%		
		75th Pc	tl 2.2	8%		