FEDERAL RESERVE BANK of NEW YORK

National Economic Outlook

May 9, 2025 New York State Large Credit Unions CEO Roundtable

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The views here are of the presenter and do not necessarily represent those of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York or Federal Reserve System.

Current State of the Economy

• Growth:

 Real GDP shrunk at a -0.3% annual rate in 2025Q1, expecting higher growth in Q2

Labor market

Conditions remained balanced, but surveys suggest some softening

Inflation

- Above target still
- Uncertainty is *elevated*

Zooming Out on GDP Growth A Bit...



Sources: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Wolters Kluwer via Haver Analytics



Zooming Out on the Labor Market A Bit...

Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistic, Wolters Kluwer via Haver Analytics Notes: 3-month average (right)

Zooming Out on Inflation A Bit...



Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics, NY Fed Survey of Consumer Expectations via Haver Analytics

All Up in the Air Right Now...









Employment Expectations Deteriorating...



But Inflation Expectations Remain (Mostly) Anchored...



Sources: NY Fed Survey of Consumer Expectations, U.S. Treasury via Haver Analytics





Sources: Bloomberg Notes: Market-implied path derived from fed funds and SOFR futures, adjusted for SOFR-FF basis (left); number of 25bp cuts expected in 2025 (right)

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FOMC Economic Projections





Sources: Federal Reserve Board

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FOMC Dot Plot

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Sources: Federal Reserve Board

Uncertainty in Projections...



Sources: Federal Reserve Board

Uncertainty in Projections...







0.75

0.50

0.25

0.00

-0.25

-0.50

-0.75

-1.00



Diffusion index

Sources: Federal Reserve Board

Notes: Responses to "Please indicate your judgment of the uncertainty attached to your projections relative to the levels of uncertainty over the past 20 years;" index = (# of "Higher" responses - # of "Lower" responses) / # of participants

More Details From March FOMC Meeting

Uncertainty:

- "These moves appeared to reflect increased perceived risks—rather than a base case—of a significant deterioration of the U.S. outlook, as investors responded to both weaker-than-expected consumer spending and sentiment data as well as to developments in trade policy that had raised uncertainty"
- "Foreign central banks were increasingly noting that elevated uncertainty about trade policies was clouding their economic outlooks"
- "Uncertainty" appeared 21 times in the meeting minutes (17 pages excluding cover page)

May FOMC Statement

Uncertainty

 "Uncertainty about the economic outlook has increased further. The Committee is attentive to the risks to both sides of its dual mandate and judges that the risks of higher unemployment and higher inflation have risen."

Fundamentals

 "The unemployment rate has stabilized at a low level in recent months, and labor market conditions remain solid. Inflation remains somewhat elevated."



Treasury Markets—How Are They Working?



Treasury Markets—How Are They Working?

Sources: FINRA Trade Reporting and Compliance Engine (left), Brokertec (right) Notes: 5-day moving average of on-the-run price impact, which is the rise in price that typically occurs with a buyer-initiated trade (right)

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Corporate Bond Markets—How Are They Working?



Checking on the Consumer—They *Don't* Fall Down by Themselves



Sources: Bureau of Economic Analysis via Haver Analytics; New York Fed/Equifax Notes: PCE = Personal consumption expenditure, series are HP-filtered cycles (left); 4Q moving average (right)

In Conclusion

- Recession-free disinflation was well underway, remarkable in US history so far.
- Things have shifted. Fed policymakers expect slowing growth, not recession, at this time.
- Uncertainty is very elevated.
- Consumers don't just fall down by themselves.

Appendix



Policy Scenarios: Supply-side Shock vs. Demand-side Shock



Demand-side shock: Increase in aggregate demand

Production rises, prices increase

Inflation rises, employment rises

Monetary Policy Framework Review

January FOMC minutes:

 "This review is focused on two specific areas: the Committee's Statement on Longer-Run Goals and Monetary Policy Strategy, which presents the Committee's approach to the conduct of monetary policy, and the Committee's policy communication practices... occasional reviews of monetary policy frameworks were seen as useful in adapting to evolving economic environments, promoting transparency, and fostering public understanding"

March FOMC minutes

Participants acknowledged that it is difficult to assess maximum employment and that they have been well served by monitoring a wide range of indicators that can vary depending on labor market and economic conditions... reviewed the relationship between the dual-mandate goals and noted that those goals are not necessarily in conflict when both unemployment and inflation are low"

Simplified Federal Reserve Balance Sheet

Assets	Liabilities
Treasury securities	Currency in circulation
Mortgage-backed securities (MBS)	Reserve balances
Loans	ONRRP
Other assets	Treasury General Account (TGA)
	Other liabilities
	Capital

More Balance Sheet Details...

Implementation

- Convey monetary policy stance through federal funds rate target range
- Sets administered rates to support federal funds trading within target range
 - Rate of interest on reserve balances (IORB)
 - Offering rate for overnight reverse repo facility (ONRRP)
- Directs Open Market Desk at the New York Fed to conduct operations to promote money market conditions consistent with target range
- Other tools include the balance sheet and forward guidance

More Balance Sheet Details...

Expanding securities holdings and reserves:

- Desk purchases securities on the open market
- In ample reserves regime, two types of purchases: QE and reserve management

QE (2009-2014, 2020-2022)

- Mostly to accommodate low rates
- Also used at times to address market dysfunction
- Reserve Management (09/2019-02/2020)
 - Help maintain ample reserve balances as economy grows or reserve demand increases

More Balance Sheet Details...

- Reducing securities holdings and reserves:
 - Desk hasn't sold securities in quantity on open market since the GFC
 - In ample reserves regime, two types of purchases: QE and reserve management
- QT (2017-2019, 06/2022-present)
 - Maturing Treasury securities in SOMA
 - Principal payments (primarily early repayments) of MBS
 - Current caps:
 - \$60 billion per month for Treasury securities
 - \$35 billion per month for MBS

Quantitative Easing/Tightening Process



Sell debt instruments (or let them mature)

Price decreases (via less demand) Yield increases and signals tighter monetary policy

Relevant New York Fed Content

Trade

- Do Import Tariffs Protect U.S. Firms?
- Does Trade Uncertainty Affect Bank Lending?
- The Global Supply Side of Inflationary Pressures
- The Impact of Import Tariffs on U.S. Domestic Prices
- Do Import Tariffs Help Reduce Trade Deficits?
- Monetary Policy
 - Why Do Forecasters Disagree about Their Monetary Policy Expectations?
 - The Federal Reserve and its Monetary Policy Implementation Framework
 - Firms' Inflation Expectations Have Picked Up
- Household Issues
 - Borrower Expectations for the Return of Student Loan Repayment
 - When the Household Pie Shrinks, Who Gets Their Slice?
- Banking Matters
 - Flood Risk Outside Flood Zones A Look at Mortgage Lending in Risky Areas
 - The Adverse Effect of "Mandatory" Flood Insurance on Access to Credit
- Treasury Market
 - Measuring Treasury Market Liquidity