

RESPONSES TO SURVEY OF MARKET PARTICIPANTS

Markets Group, Federal Reserve Bank of New York



APRIL 2021

Distributed: 4/14/2021 – Received by: 4/19/2021

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

Responses were received from 28 market participants. Except where noted, all 28 participants responded to each question. In some cases, participants 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)	Federal Reserve System Communication Grade
------	--

Q-3)	Target Federal Funds Rate/Range and Lower Bound Expectations
------	--

Q-4)	Ten-Year Treasury Yield Probability Distributions
------	---

Q-5)	Federal Reserve Assets
------	------------------------

Q-6)	Money Market Rate Spreads
------	---------------------------

Q-7)	Additional Federal Reserve Actions
------	------------------------------------

Q-8)	Fiscal Policy Expectations
------	----------------------------

Q-9)	U.S. Real GDP Growth
------	----------------------

Q-10)	Inflation Probability Distributions
-------	-------------------------------------

Q-11)	U.S. and Global Recession Probabilities
-------	---

- 1a)** Provide below your expectations for **changes**, if any, to the language referencing each of the following topics in the April FOMC statement. **Please write N/A if you do not expect any changes.**

Current economic conditions:
(27 responses)

Some respondents indicated that they expected the Committee to upgrade its assessment of current economic conditions, including several who expected it to upgrade its characterization of economic activity, several who expected it to upgrade its characterization of employment, and several who expected the statement to make reference to an increase in realized inflation. In addition, several respondents indicated that they did not expect material changes to the Committee's characterization of current economic conditions.

Economic outlook and communication on the expected path of the target federal funds rate:
(27 responses)

Most respondents indicated that they did not expect material changes to statement language on the economic outlook or communication on the expected path of the federal funds rate.

Communication on tools other than the target federal funds rate:
(25 responses)

Most respondents indicated that they did not expect material changes to statement language on tools other than the target federal funds rate.

Other:
(15 responses)

Respondents did not provide significant commentary in this section.

- 1b)** What are your expectations for the Chair's press conference?

Some respondents indicated that they expected the Chair to express optimism regarding the economic outlook, and some indicated that they expected his remarks to be similar to recent communications by Federal Reserve officials. Some respondents indicated that they expected the Chair to reiterate that decisions regarding appropriate policy will be made based on outcomes rather than forecasts, and several indicated that they expected him to note that the economy has a long way to go to reach the Committee's goals or for him to emphasize patience in the Committee's policy stance. In addition, several respondents indicated that they expected the Chair to note that near-term increases in inflation are likely to be transitory, and several indicated that they expected him to reiterate guidance that asset purchases will continue at least at the current pace until "substantial further progress" has been made toward the Committee's goals. Finally, several respondents indicated that they expected the Chair to note downside risks to the outlook or uncertainty regarding the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic, and

several indicated that they expected him to reiterate that maximum employment is a broad-based and inclusive goal and/or to note the unequal impact of the pandemic on various demographics.

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

Number of Respondents	
1 - Ineffective	0
2	0
3	5
4	15
5 - Effective	8
# of Responses	28

Please explain.
(27 responses)

Many respondents indicated that overall communications have generally been clear and/or consistent.

- 3a) 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 of the following quarters and years below. For the time periods at which you expect a target range, please indicate the midpoint of that range in providing your response.

	Apr. 27-28	Jun. 15-16	Jul. 27-28	Sep. 21-22	Nov. 2-3	Dec. 14-15	Jan. 25-26
25th Pctl	0.13%	0.13%	0.13%	0.13%	0.13%	0.13%	0.13%
Median	0.13%	0.13%	0.13%	0.13%	0.13%	0.13%	0.13%
75th Pctl	0.13%	0.13%	0.13%	0.13%	0.13%	0.13%	0.13%
# of Responses	28	28	28	28	28	28	28

	2022 Q1	2022 Q2	2022 Q3	2022 Q4	2023 Q1	2023 Q2	2023 Q3	2023 Q4
25th Pctl	0.13%	0.13%	0.13%	0.13%	0.13%	0.13%	0.13%	0.13%
Median	0.13%	0.13%	0.13%	0.13%	0.13%	0.13%	0.25%	0.38%
75th Pctl	0.13%	0.13%	0.13%	0.13%	0.13%	0.38%	0.38%	0.63%
# of Responses	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28

	2024	2025	2026	2027
25th Pctl	0.75%	1.25%	1.63%	1.63%
Median	0.88%	1.63%	2.13%	2.13%
75th Pctl	1.63%	2.28%	2.50%	2.38%
# of Responses	28	28	28	28

If your responses **through year-end 2023** above do not reflect an increase from the current target range at any point, please provide the earliest quarter in which your modal expectation for the level of the target range is higher than the current level.

	Earliest quarter*
25th Pctl	Q1 2024
Median	Q2 2024
75th Pctl	Q1 2025
# of Responses	9

* Dropdown selections: Q1 2024, Q2 2024, Q3 2024, Q4 2024, Q1 2025, Q2 2025, Q3 2025, Q4 2025, Q1 2026, Q2 2026, Q3 2026, Q4 2026, Q1 2027 or later.

3b) Provide your estimate for the most likely value for the following indicators at the time of the next increase in the target range for the federal funds rate.
(23 responses)

Most Likely Value of Economic Indicator at Time of First Increase in Target Range				
	Unemployment rate (%)	Labor force participation rate (%)	Total change in the level of real GDP since 2019 Q4 (%)	Headline 12-month PCE inflation (%)
25th Pctl	3.3%	62.7%	8.7%	2.2%
Median	3.5%	63.0%	10.0%	2.3%
75th Pctl	4.0%	63.3%	13.0%	2.5%

3c) 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	1.75%	0.95%
Median	2.00%	1.28%
75th Pctl	2.50%	1.50%

3d) 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 2021, 2022, and 2023. If you expect a target range, please use the midpoint of that range in providing your response.

Federal Funds Rate or Range at the End of 2021										
	< 0.00%	0.00 - 0.25%	0.26 - 0.50%	0.51 - 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	1%	90%	7%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Federal Funds Rate or Range at the End of 2022										
	< 0.00%	0.00 - 0.25%	0.26 - 0.50%	0.51 - 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	2%	64%	21%	8%	3%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%

Federal Funds Rate or Range at the End of 2023										
	< 0.00%	0.00 - 0.25%	0.26 - 0.50%	0.51 - 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	2%	35%	24%	20%	9%	6%	2%	1%	1%	0%

3e) What is your estimate of the target federal funds rate or range at the effective lower bound?
(27 responses)

Level of Target Federal Funds Rate or Range at ELB	
25th Pctl	-0.50%
Median	0.00%
75th Pctl	0.13%

3f) For parts a-e, please explain the factors behind any change to your expectations, where applicable, since the last policy survey.
(25 responses)

Many respondents indicated that they did not make any material changes to their policy rate expectations, while several others indicated that they now expected, or assigned a higher probability to, an earlier increase in the target range.

4) Please indicate the percent chance that you attach to the 10-year Treasury yield falling in each of the following ranges at the end of 2021 and 2022.
(26 responses)

Year-end 2021							
	< 0.00%	0.00 - 0.50%	0.51 - 1.00%	1.01 - 1.50%	1.51 - 2.00%	2.01 - 2.50%	≥ 2.51%
Average	1%	2%	6%	22%	40%	22%	6%

Year-end 2022							
	< 0.00%	0.00 - 0.50%	0.51 - 1.00%	1.01 - 1.50%	1.51 - 2.00%	2.01 - 2.50%	≥ 2.51%
Average	1%	3%	8%	14%	25%	31%	19%

5a) Please provide your modal expectation for the amount of purchases, net of reinvestments, of U.S. Treasury securities and agency mortgage-backed securities (MBS) the Desk will conduct for each month listed below and the total over each of the quarters below. If you expect any of these amounts to be zero in a given period, please enter 0.
(24 responses)

Net purchases of U.S. Treasury securities (\$ billions)							
	Apr. 2021	May 2021	Jun. 2021	Jul. 2021	Aug. 2021	Sep. 2021	2021 Q4
25th Pctl	80	80	80	80	80	80	240
Median	80	80	80	80	80	80	240
75th Pctl	80	80	80	80	80	80	240

	2022 Q1	2022 Q2	2022 Q3	2022 Q4	2023 Q1	2023 Q2	2023 Q3	2023 Q4
25th Pctl	180	120	45	0	0	0	0	0
Median	200	150	115	55	0	0	0	0
75th Pctl	225	180	120	105	50	20	0	0

Net purchases of agency MBS (\$ billions)							
	Apr. 2021	May 2021	Jun. 2021	Jul. 2021	Aug. 2021	Sep. 2021	2021 Q4
25th Pctl	40	40	40	40	40	40	120
Median	40	40	40	40	40	40	120
75th Pctl	40	40	40	40	40	40	120

	2022 Q1	2022 Q2	2022 Q3	2022 Q4	2023 Q1	2023 Q2	2023 Q3	2023 Q4
25th Pctl	82	55	15	0	0	0	0	0
Median	93	70	43	13	0	0	0	0
75th Pctl	113	95	60	45	20	5	0	0

If your responses above do not reflect a period in which the combined pace of net purchases of Treasury securities and agency mortgage-backed securities (MBS) falls to zero, please provide the earliest quarter in which your modal expectation for the combined pace of net purchases of these securities falls to zero.

Earliest quarter*	
25th Pctl	Q1 2024
Median	Q2 2024
75th Pctl	Q1 2026/Q2 2026**
# of Responses	4

* Dropdown selections: Q1 2024, Q2 2024, Q3 2024, Q4 2024, Q1 2025, Q2 2025, Q3 2025, Q4 2025, Q1 2026, Q2 2026, Q3 2026, Q4 2026, Q1 2027 or later.

** Statistic falls between two selections.

In addition, please also provide your modal expectation for the earliest quarter in which the SOMA portfolio declines.

	Earliest quarter*
25th Pctl	Q1 2025
Median	Q1 2026
75th Pctl	Q1 2027 or later
# of Responses	22

* Dropdown selections: Q2 2021, Q3 2021, Q4 2021, Q1 2022, Q2 2022, Q3 2022, Q4 2022, Q1 2023, Q2 2023, Q3 2023, Q4 2023, Q1 2024, Q2 2024, Q3 2024, Q4 2024, Q1 2025, Q2 2025, Q3 2025, Q4 2025, Q1 2026, Q2 2026, Q3 2026, Q4 2026, Q1 2027 or later.

If applicable, please describe your expectations for any changes to key elements of and/or the communications regarding asset purchases going forward.

(19 responses)

Many respondents indicated that they did not expect material changes to key elements of, or communications regarding, asset purchases going forward. In addition, several respondents indicated that they expected an announcement regarding the tapering of asset purchases to be made sometime in the fourth quarter of 2021.

- 5b)** The March 2021 FOMC statement noted that "the Federal Reserve will continue to increase its holdings of Treasury securities by at least \$80 billion per month and of agency mortgage-backed securities by at least \$40 billion per month until substantial further progress has been made toward the Committee's maximum employment and price stability goals."

Please provide your views on the most likely economic and financial conditions prevailing at the time that the Committee judges "substantial further progress" has been made toward its goals. If your views have changed since the last policy survey, please describe the factors behind those changes.

(25 responses)

At the time that the Committee judges "substantial further progress" has been made toward its goals, several respondents indicated that they expected that there will have been inclusive improvement in the labor market, and several indicated an unemployment rate below 5 percent. In addition, several respondents indicated that they expected that risks posed by the COVID-19 pandemic will have subsided and/or that they expected continued progress on vaccinations, and several indicated that they expected rising or stable inflation expectations or inflation expectations that are consistent with the Committee's 2 percent objective.

- 6)** The table below lists the average spreads of selected money market rates* over the past week. Please provide your expectation for each of these rate spreads for the day after each of the FOMC meetings. **Please ensure your signs are correct.**

	Top of target range** minus IOER (in bps)		
	Apr. 27-28	Jun. 15-16	Jul. 27-28
25th Pctl	15.0	10.0	10.0
Median	15.0	12.0	11.5
75th Pctl	15.0	15.0	15.0
# of Responses	16	16	16

	EFFR minus IOER (in bps)		
	Apr. 27-28	Jun. 15-16	Jul. 27-28
25th Pctl	-3.8	-4.5	-4.5
Median	-3.0	-3.0	-3.0
75th Pctl	-3.0	-3.0	-3.0
# of Responses	16	16	16

	SOFR minus IOER (in bps)		
	Apr. 27-28	Jun. 15-16	Jul. 27-28
25th Pctl	-9.0	-9.0	-9.0
Median	-9.0	-9.0	-8.5
75th Pctl	-8.0	-7.0	-5.5
# of Responses	16	16	16

	Bottom of target range** minus ON RRP rate (in bps)		
	Apr. 27-28	Jun. 15-16	Jul. 27-28
25th Pctl	0.0	-3.0	-4.5
Median	0.0	0.0	-1.0
75th Pctl	0.0	0.0	0.0
# of Responses	16	16	16

	3-Month U.S. Treasury bill yield minus 3-Month OIS (in bps)		
	Apr. 27-28	Jun. 15-16	Jul. 27-28
25th Pctl	-6.0	-6.5	-6.0
Median	-6.0	-5.5	-5.0
75th Pctl	-5.0	-5.0	-3.0
# of Responses	16	16	16

* Listed rates include the interest on excess reserves (IOER) rate, effective federal funds rate (EFFR), Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR), overnight reverse repurchase (ON RRP) rate, and 3-month overnight index swap rate (3m OIS).

** Target range for the federal funds rate.

- 7) Beyond your responses provided in the questions above, please describe your expectations for any additional actions or monetary policy measures, or modifications to those previously announced, by the Federal Reserve through year-end 2021.
(22 responses)

Some respondents indicated that they did not expect substantial further actions or measures to be implemented through year-end 2021 beyond what was reported in responses to previous questions.

- 8) What percent chance do you attach to any additional U.S. federal fiscal policy measures being signed into law over the remainder of 2021?

Probability of Additional U.S. Federal Fiscal Policy Measures	
	Probability
25th Pctl	50%
Median	73%
75th Pctl	83%

If you assigned a non-zero probability above, please provide your estimate of the most likely total amount of additional U.S. federal fiscal policy spending and revenue measures to be signed into law over the remainder of 2021, conditional on there being such additional measures.

(26 responses)

Additional U.S. Federal Fiscal Policy Measures Estimates		
	Estimate of Most Likely Total Amount of Additional U.S. Federal Fiscal Policy <u>Spending</u> Measures (\$ billions)	Estimate of Most Likely Total Amount of Additional U.S. Federal Fiscal Policy <u>Revenue</u> Measures (\$ billions)
25th Pctl	1500	1000
Median	2000	1375
75th Pctl	3000	1800

Please describe any assumptions underlying your estimates above.

(27 responses)

In explaining any assumptions underlying their estimates, some respondents indicated that they expected the total amount of additional fiscal spending measures over the remainder of 2021 to be in line with proposals that had been made by the administration, while several respondents indicated that they expected the amount to be lower. Some respondents noted that the passage of such measures would likely be financed at least in part through tax increases. Several respondents also indicated uncertainty over the outcome of negotiations around potential spending and revenue measures.

9a) Please indicate your modal projections for U.S. real GDP growth for each of the following quarters (seasonally adjusted annual rate).

(27 responses)

Modal Projection for U.S. Real GDP Growth (percent)				
	Q1 2021 (saar)	Q2 2021 (saar)	Q3 2021 (saar)	Q4 2021 (saar)
25th Pctl	5.0%	8.0%	6.0%	4.5%
Median	6.0%	9.2%	7.0%	5.0%
75th Pctl	6.5%	11.0%	8.5%	6.0%

9b) Please provide the percent chance you attach to the following outcomes for U.S. real GDP growth in 2021 and 2022 (Q4/Q4).

(25 responses)

Probability Distribution of U.S. Real GDP Growth in 2021 (Q4/Q4)						
	< 0%	0.00 - 2.00%	2.01 - 4.00%	4.01 - 6.00%	6.01 - 8.00%	≥ 8.01%
Average	2%	4%	12%	26%	39%	18%

Probability Distribution of U.S. Real GDP Growth in 2022 (Q4/Q4)							
	< 0%	0.00 - 1.00%	1.01 - 2.00%	2.01 - 3.00%	3.01 - 4.00%	4.01 - 5.00%	≥ 5.01%
Average	3%	7%	15%	25%	27%	17%	5%

10a) For the outcomes below, provide the percent chance you attach to the annual average CPI inflation rate from April 1, 2021 – March 31, 2026 falling in each of the following ranges. Please also provide your point estimate for the most likely outcome.
(27 responses)

	≤ 1.00%	1.01 - 1.50%	1.51 - 2.00%	2.01 - 2.50%	2.51 - 3.00%	≥ 3.01%
Average	4%	12%	31%	33%	15%	6%

Most Likely Outcome	
25th Pctl	2.00%
Median	2.10%
75th Pctl	2.45%

10b) For the outcomes below, provide the percent chance you attach to the annual average CPI inflation rate from April 1, 2026 – March 31, 2031 falling in each of the following ranges. Please also provide your point estimate for the most likely outcome.
(27 responses)

	≤ 1.00%	1.01 - 1.50%	1.51 - 2.00%	2.01 - 2.50%	2.51 - 3.00%	≥ 3.01%
Average	4%	11%	28%	33%	15%	9%

Most Likely Outcome	
25th Pctl	2.00%
Median	2.20%
75th Pctl	2.30%

11a) What percent chance do you attach to:
the U.S. economy currently being in a recession*?
the U.S. economy being in a recession* **in 6 months**?
the global economy being in a recession** **in 6 months**?

	Currently in U.S. Recession		U.S. Recession in 6 Months		Global Recession in 6 Months
25th Pctl	0%	25th Pctl	1%	25th Pctl	3%
Median	1%	Median	5%	Median	8%
75th Pctl	4%	75th Pctl	10%	75th Pctl	15%

**NBER-defined recession*

***Previous IMF staff work has suggested that a "global recession" can be characterized as a period during which there is a decline in annual per-capita real global GDP, backed up by a decline or worsening in one or more of the following global macroeconomic indicators: industrial production, trade, capital flows, oil consumption and unemployment.*

11b) Please explain the factors behind any change to your expectations in part a since the last policy survey.
(24 responses)

Most respondents indicated that there were no significant changes to their recession probabilities, while several cited improving economic data and several cited an acceleration in the pace of vaccinations in explaining changes to their recession probabilities.