

# Central Bank and Monetary Policy Outlook

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- I. US monetary policy has passed its turning point, other major countries will follow
- II. Definition, scope and timing of monetary policy normalization are uncertain
- III. Central banking will not return to the old normal

# Part I: Policy is at Turning Point

Global growth is again projected to pick up

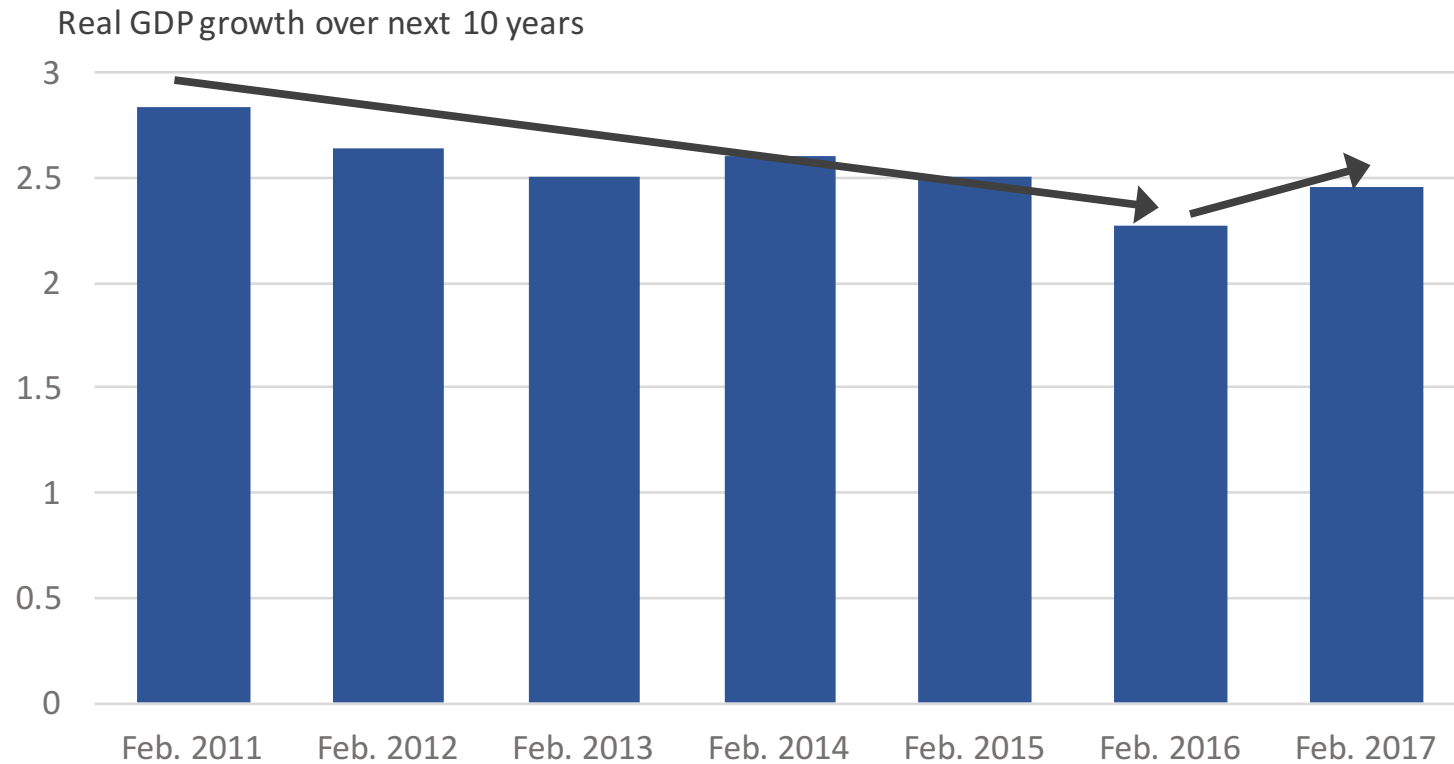
Real GDP Growth (Y/Y) Global Output Growth (PPP weights)	2016	2017	2018
	3.0	3.5	3.7
<b>US: a bump in growth</b>	1.6	2.2	2.2
<b>Euro Area: modest improvement</b>	1.7	1.8	1.8
<b>Japan: more of the same</b>	1.0	1.3	1.0
<b>UK: slower growth ahead</b>	1.8	1.7	1.3
<b>China: gradual slowdown still most likely</b>	6.7	6.5	6.2
<b>India: expansion on track</b>	7.4	7.3	7.6
<b>Russia: modest upturn</b>	-0.5	1.2	1.3
<b>Brazil: bottoming out at best</b>	-3.6	0.1	1.4

Source: David J. Stockton, PIIE

This time sustained global expansion may be for real--even if modest

# US Growth Will not Be this Rosy

## Forecasters' Long-term Growth Outlook



Source. Survey of Professional Forecasters

# The US Growth Challenge

**Powerful supply-side factors explain why growth has been tepid relative to the 70s, 80s, 90s**

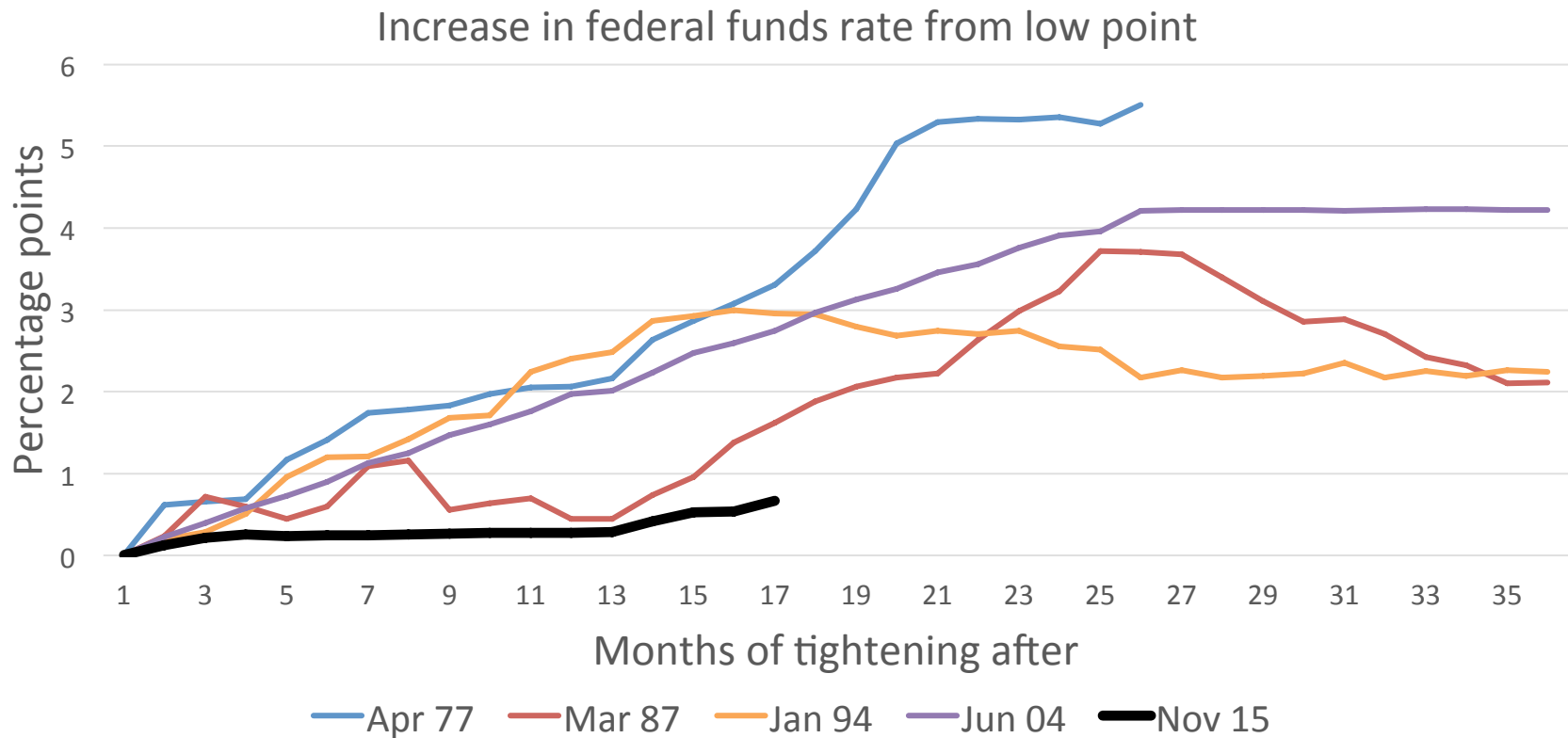
- Women are no longer surging into the workforce
- Baby boomers are starting to retire
- Slow productivity growth

**A sustained higher pace of growth requires boosting the supply-side determinants of output**

- Fiscal expansion and tax and financial reforms won't be enough
- Immigration policy could well be a big negative

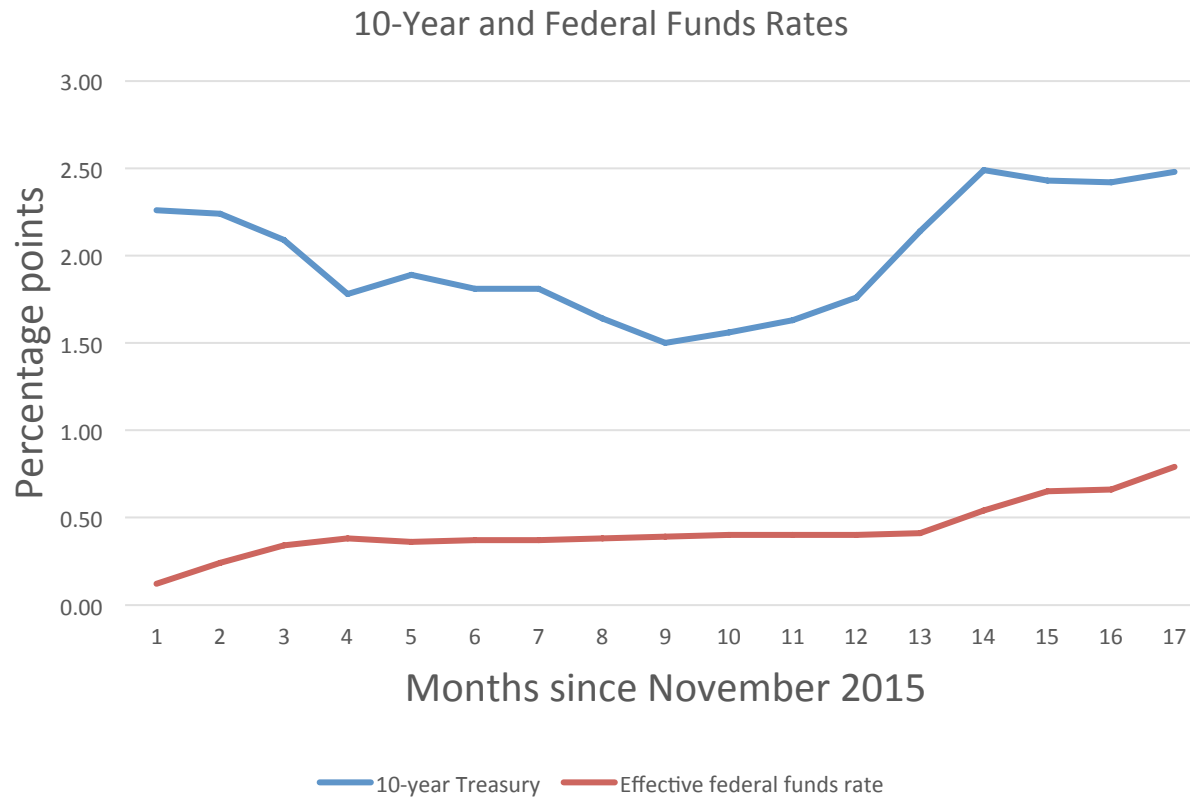
Source: Karen Dynan, PIIE

# The Federal Reserve's Tightening Cycle Is Underway



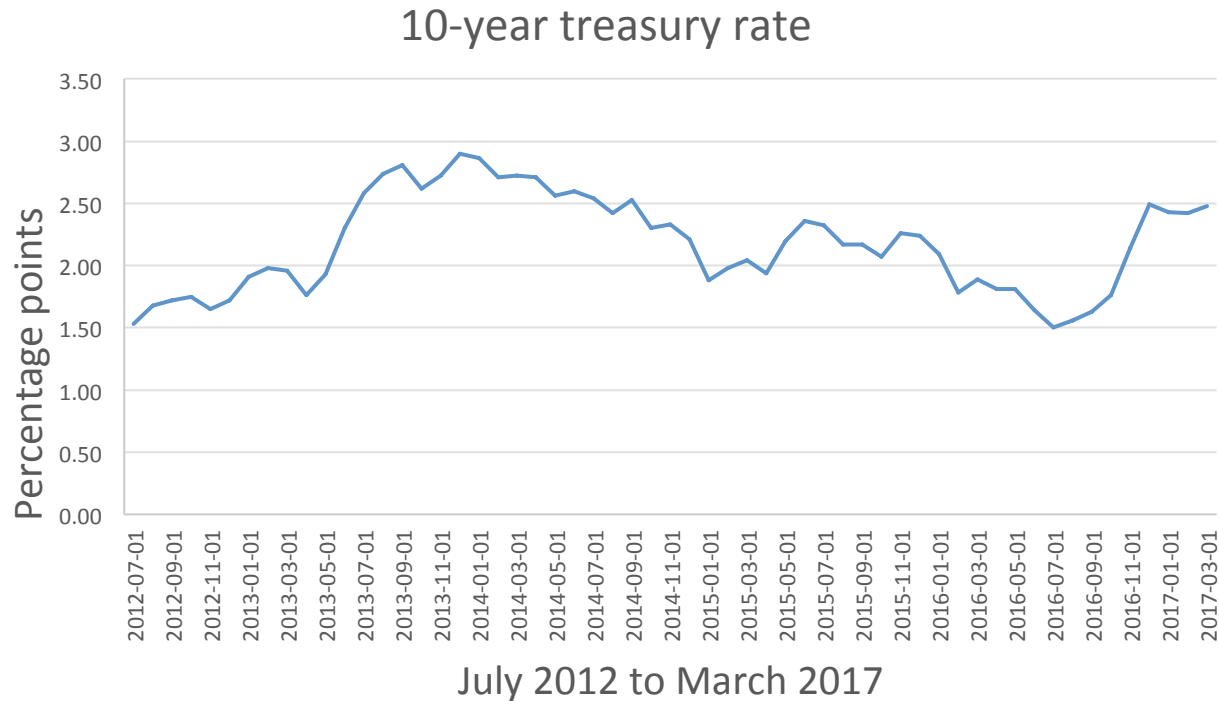
Source: Joseph Gagnon, PIIE

# Long and Short Rates Are Rising



Source: FRED

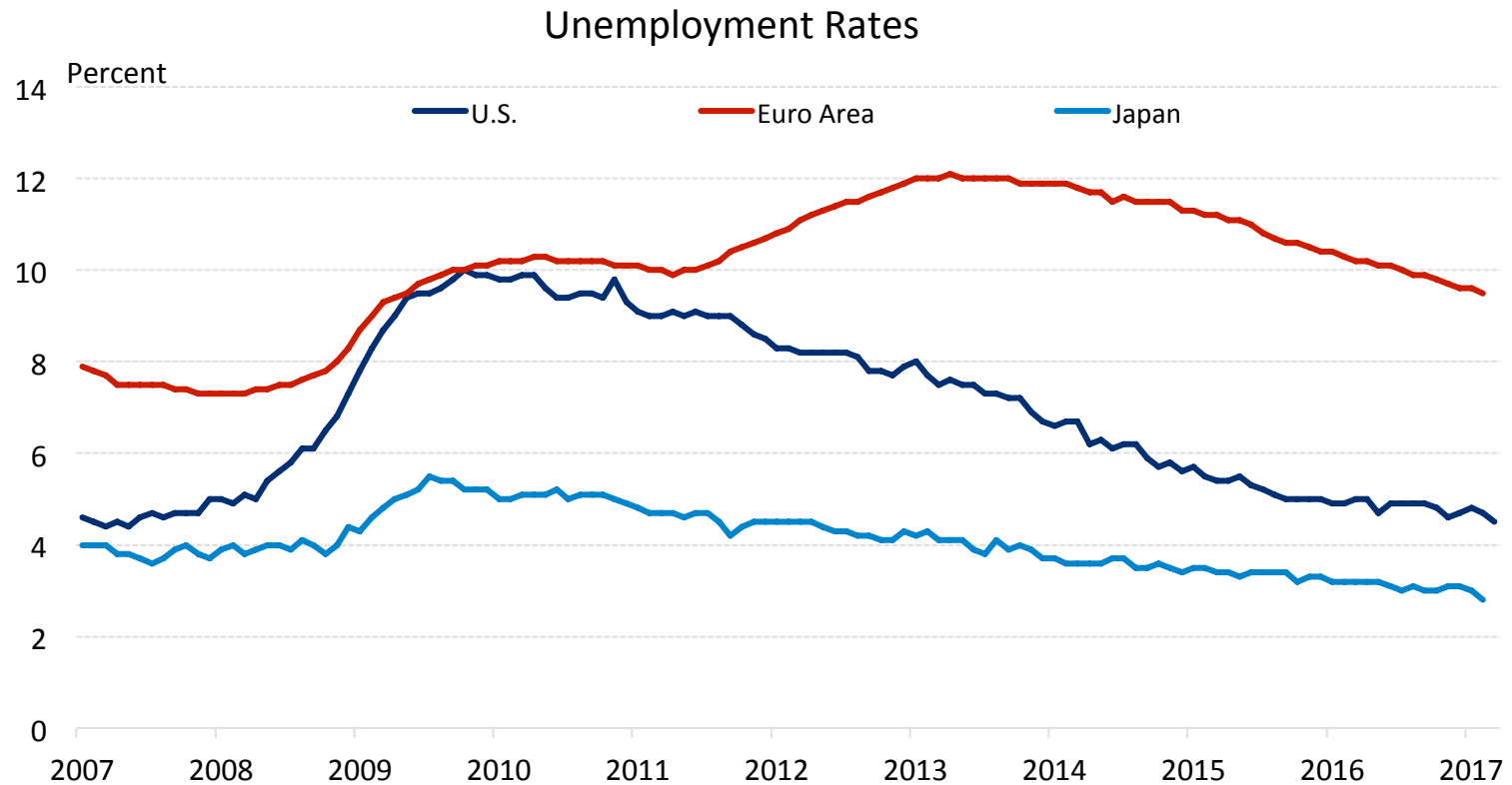
# After Half a Decade of Revised Expectations



Source: FRED

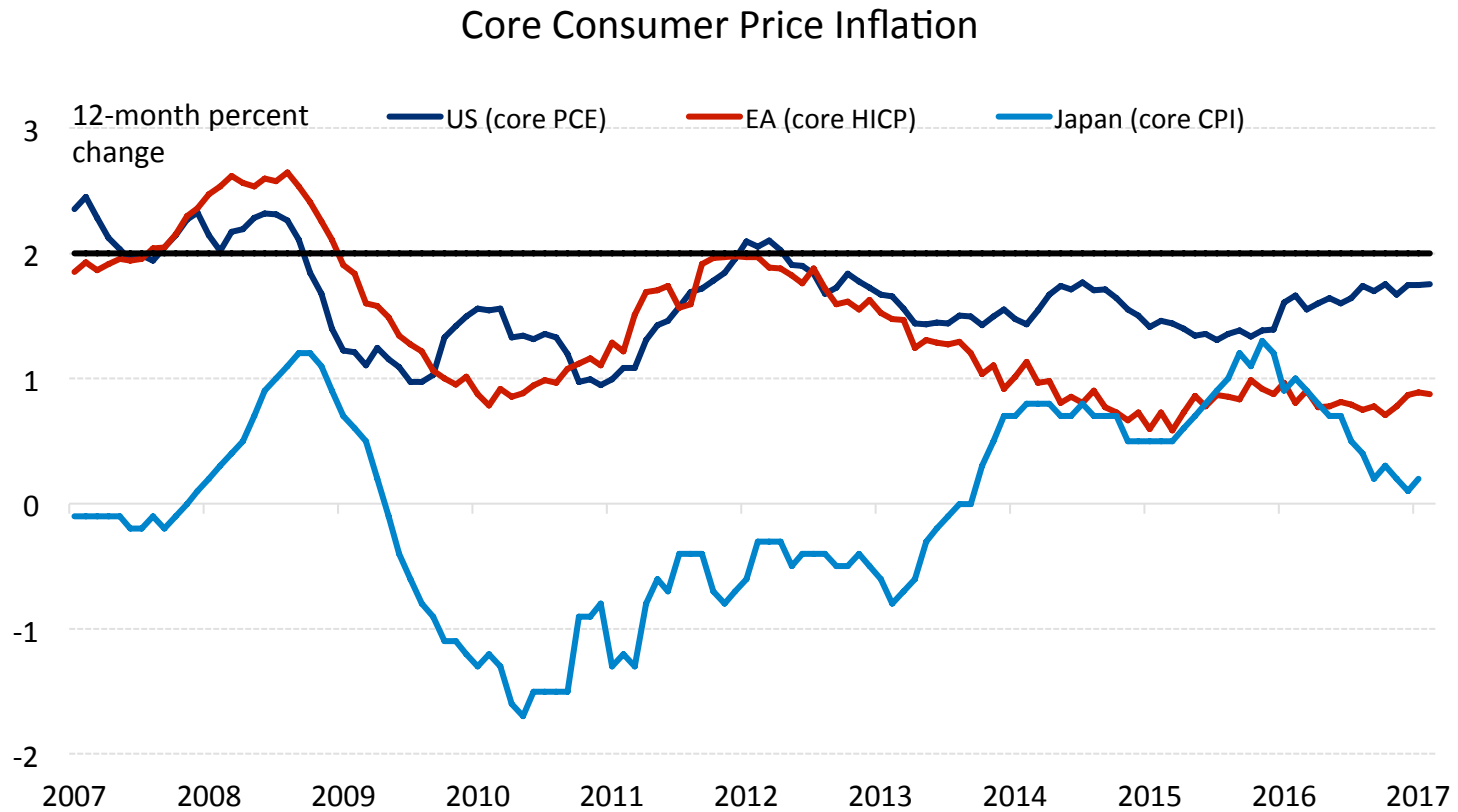


# Global Divergence/Convergence: Unemployment



Source: David Stockton, PIIE

# Global Divergence/Convergence: Inflation



Source: David Stockton

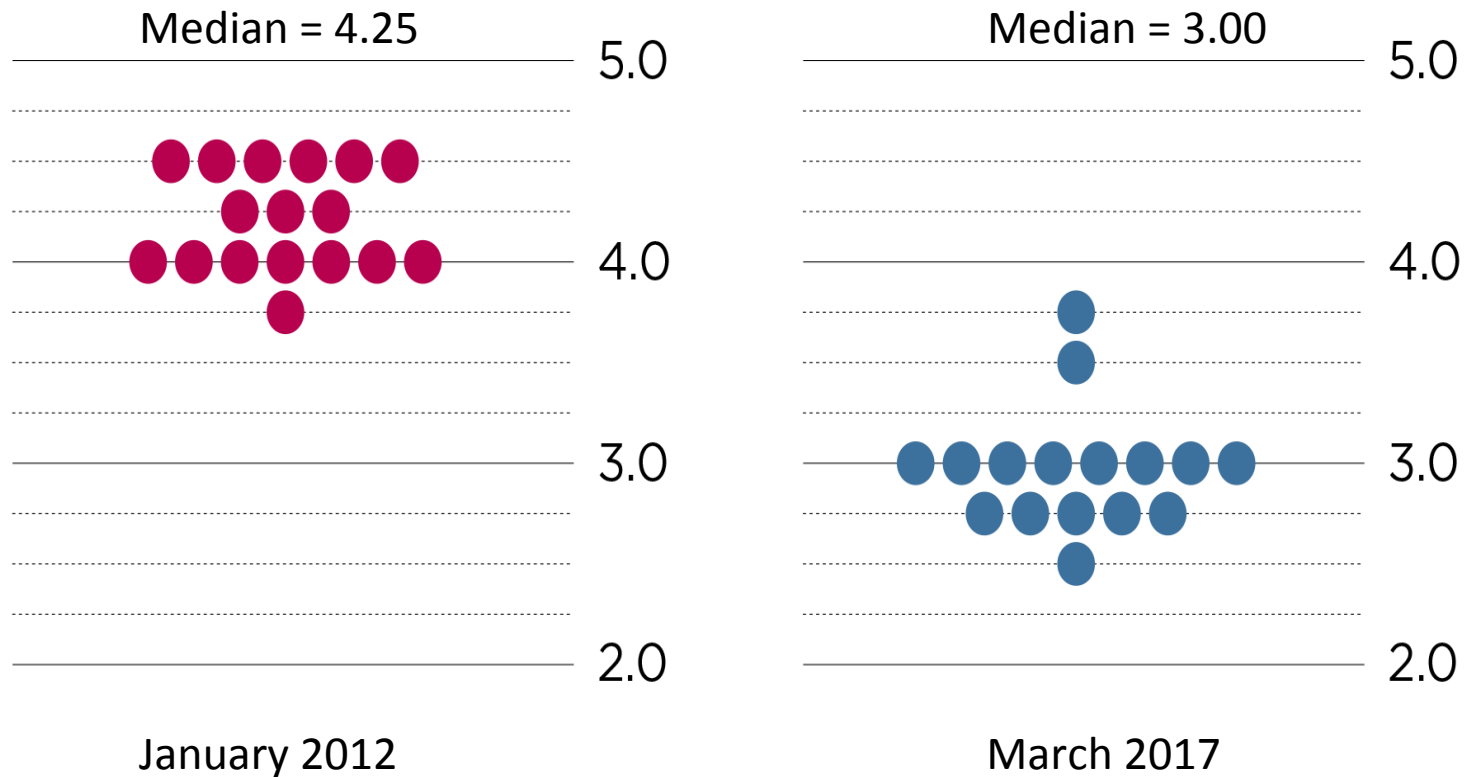
# Part II: Monetary Policy Normalization

- The United States has started monetary policy normalization
  - What is normal?
  - What will be the processes?
  - How long will it take?

# We Likely Face a New Normal of Low Rates?

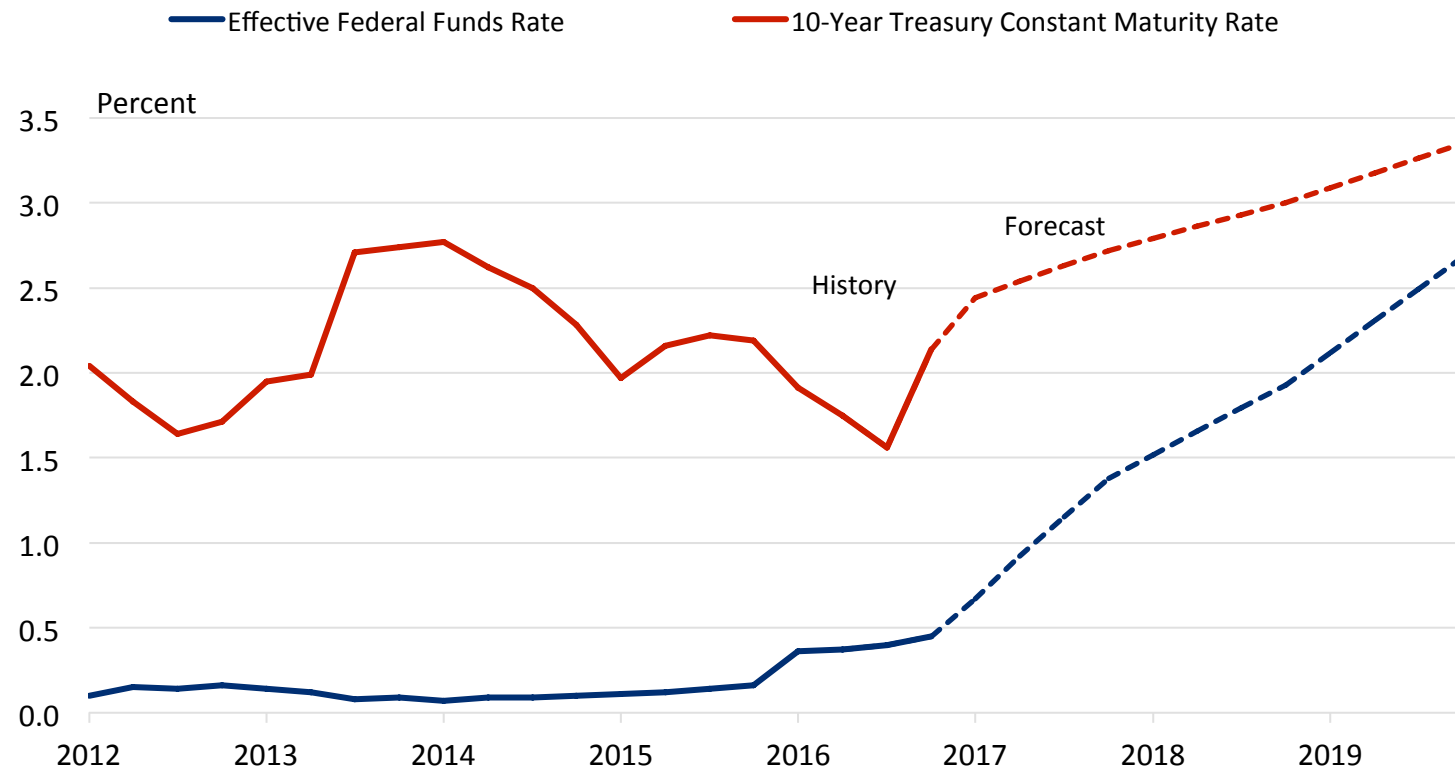
- Secular stagnation
- Low population growth
- Retirement saving
- Low productivity growth
- Global saving glut/FX policies
- Demand for safe assets

# FOMC Participants “Forecasts” of Long-run Federal Funds Rate



Source: Federal Reserve Board and Joseph Gagnon, PIIE

# US Monetary Policy Forecast



Source: David Stockton, PIIE

# What is Normal?

If “normal” for the Federal Reserve is a funds rate at 3 percent

- The Fed may take three years to get there
- In the meantime, US monetary policy will remain accommodative
- The scope for overshooting on both inflation and employment is considerable

# Part III: Central Banking Will NOT Return to Normal

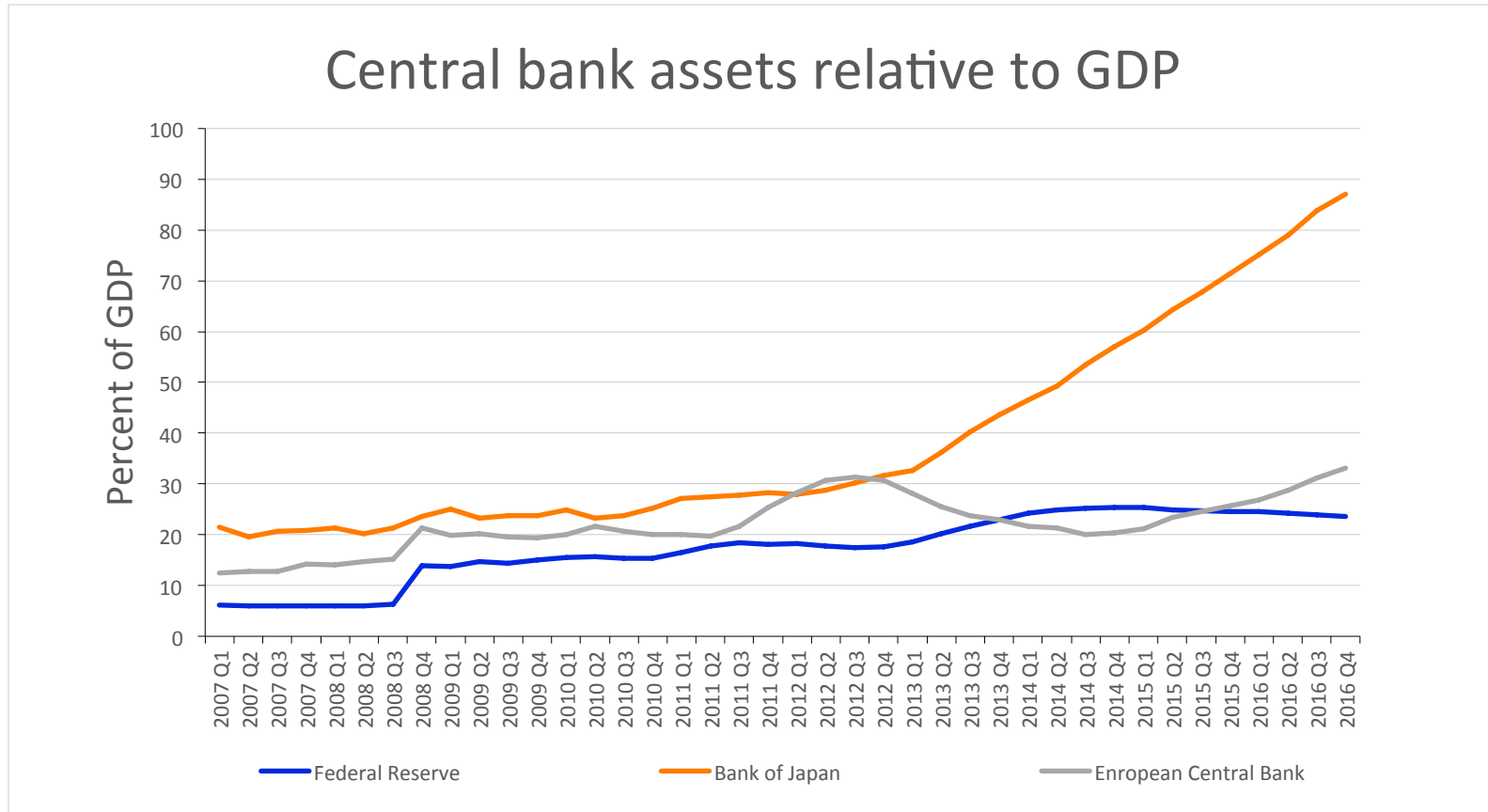
- Central bank mandates have been expanded de facto and de jure
- Markets will expect central banks to keep their powder dry but available
- Central banks and their critics will not be able to put the genie back into the bottle



# Central Banks Will Not Focus on Inflation Alone

- Central banks appropriately have regained a role in promoting financial sector stability
- Macro-prudential policies are largely untested in AEs, but are expected to play a role
- Unfortunately, some tools of crisis management have been taken away

# Central Bank Balance Sheets Are Said to be Bloated



Source: FRED and author's calculations

# Case for a Rapid Shrinking of Balance Sheets Is Weak

- The Federal Reserve is committed to normalizing the stance of monetary policy, starting with the funds rate
- Shrinking the Fed's balance sheet is a secondary objective
  - It already has started
  - It will and should trail the normalization of the federal funds rate
  - The case for a return to “normal” rests on considerations of market efficiency with the funds rate as the primary instrument of policy in normal times
  - The anti-inflation argument has been discredited by the events of the past decade

# My Three Points

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- II. Definition, scope and timing of monetary policy normalization are uncertain
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# Thank you