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## Data Insights: Federal Reserve

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

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[Today's FOMC statement](#): how the language changed from [prior meeting](#)

~~January 28~~ [March 18](#), 2026

### Federal Reserve issues FOMC statement

Available indicators suggest that economic activity has been expanding at a solid pace. Job gains have remained low, and the unemployment rate has ~~shown some signs of stabilization~~. [been little changed in recent months](#). Inflation remains somewhat elevated.

The Committee seeks to achieve maximum employment and inflation at the rate of 2 percent over the longer run. Uncertainty about the economic outlook remains elevated. [The implications of developments in the Middle East for the U.S. economy are uncertain](#). The Committee is attentive to the risks to both sides of its dual mandate.

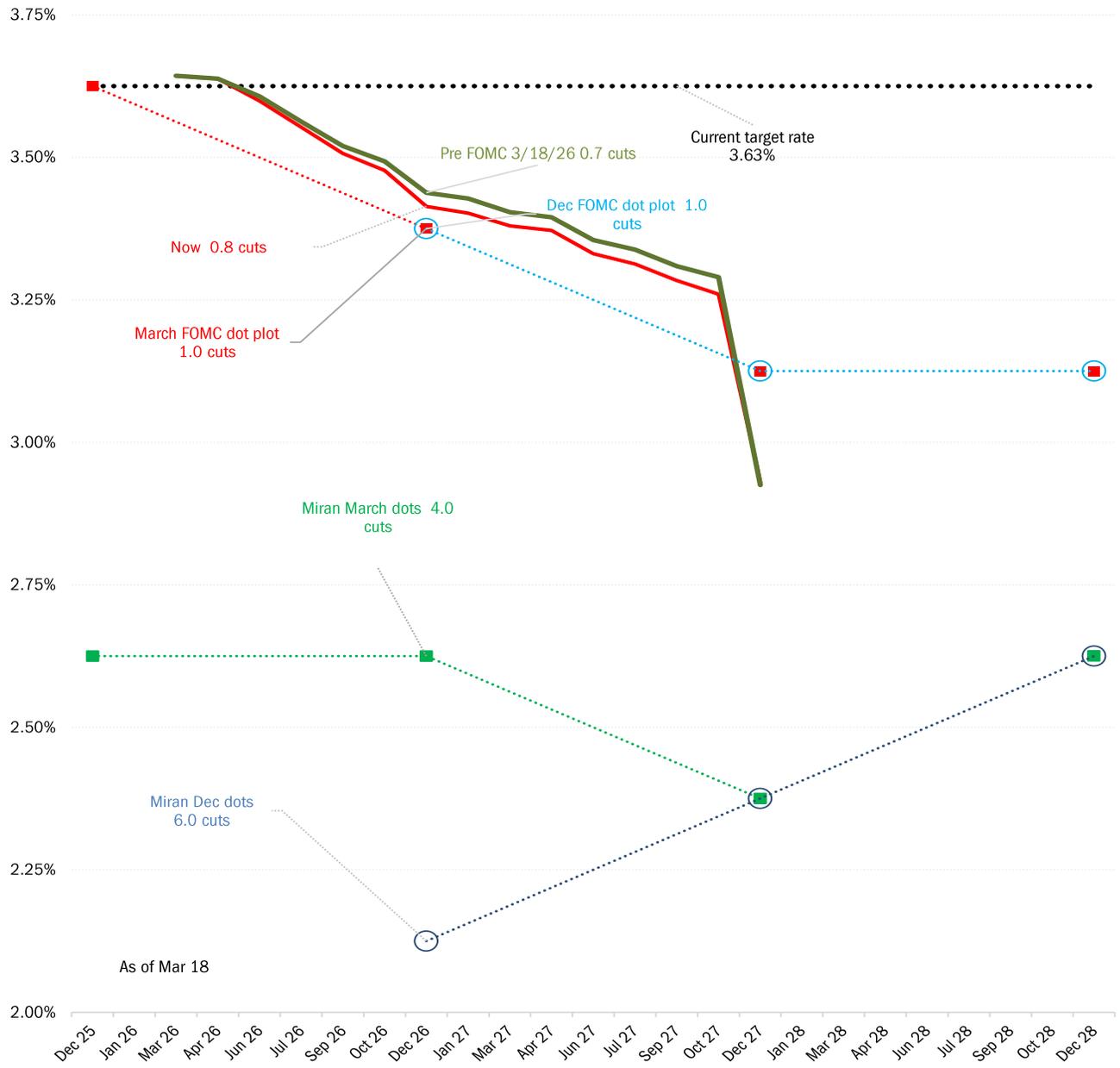
In support of its goals, the Committee decided to maintain the target range for the federal funds rate at 3-1/2 to 3-3/4 percent. In considering the extent and timing of additional adjustments to the target range for the federal funds rate, the Committee will carefully assess incoming data, the evolving outlook, and the balance of risks. The Committee is strongly committed to supporting maximum employment and returning inflation to its 2 percent objective.

In assessing the appropriate stance of monetary policy, the Committee will continue to monitor the implications of incoming information for the economic outlook. The Committee would be prepared to adjust the stance of monetary policy as appropriate if risks emerge that could impede the attainment of the Committee's goals. The Committee's assessments will take into account a wide range of information, including readings on labor market conditions, inflation pressures and inflation expectations, and financial and international developments.

Voting for the monetary policy action were Jerome H. Powell, Chair; John C. Williams, Vice Chair; Michael S. Barr; Michelle W. Bowman; Lisa D. Cook; Beth M. Hammack; Philip N. Jefferson; Neel Kashkari; Lorie K. Logan; ~~and Anna Paulson~~; [and Christopher J. Waller](#). Voting against this action ~~were~~ [was](#) Stephen I. Miran ~~and Christopher J. Waller~~, who preferred to lower the target range for the federal funds rate by 1/4 percentage point at this meeting.

# Futures-implied policy path per FOMC meeting

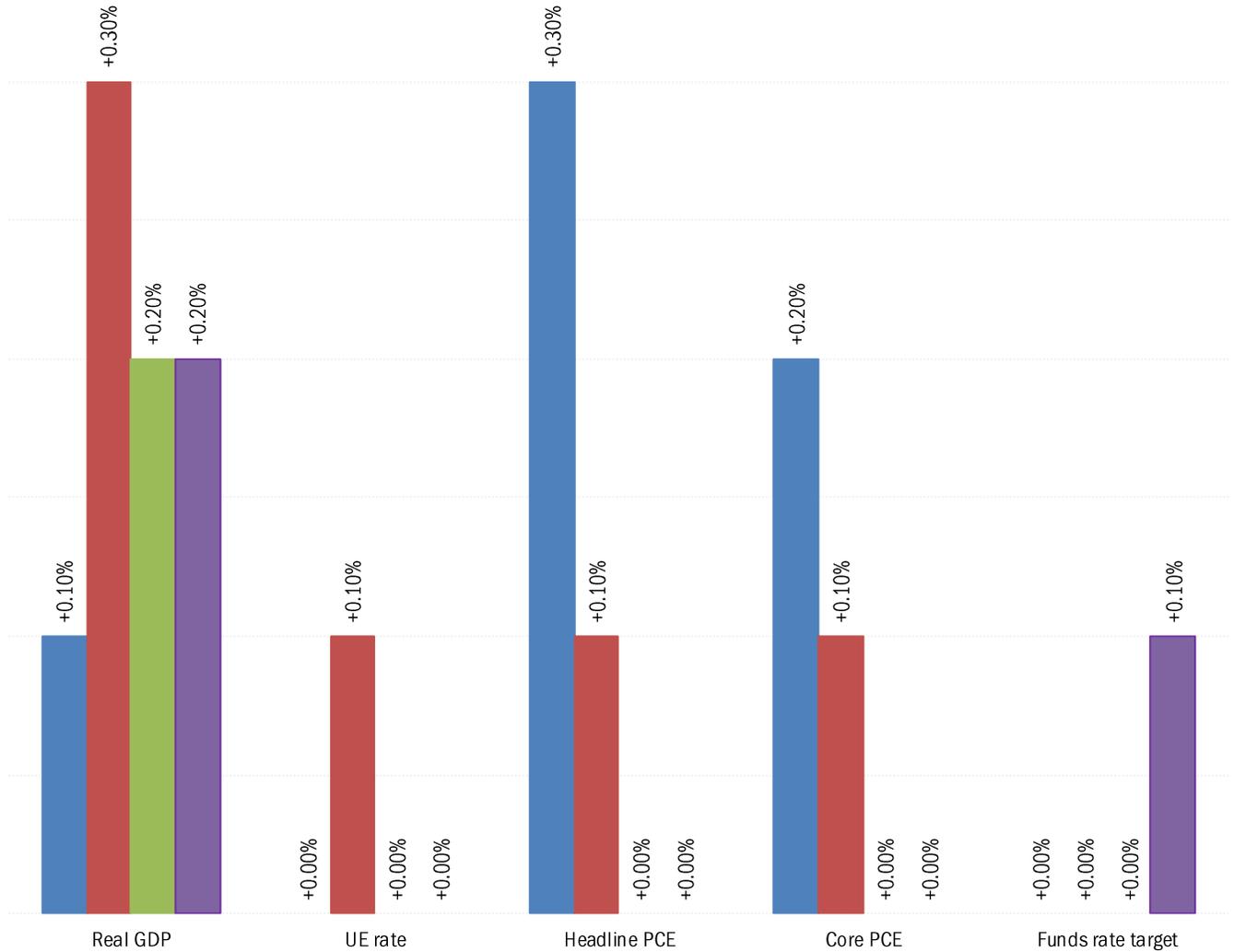
## Based on effective rate, adjusted to target



Source: FOMC, Bloomberg, TrendMacro calculations

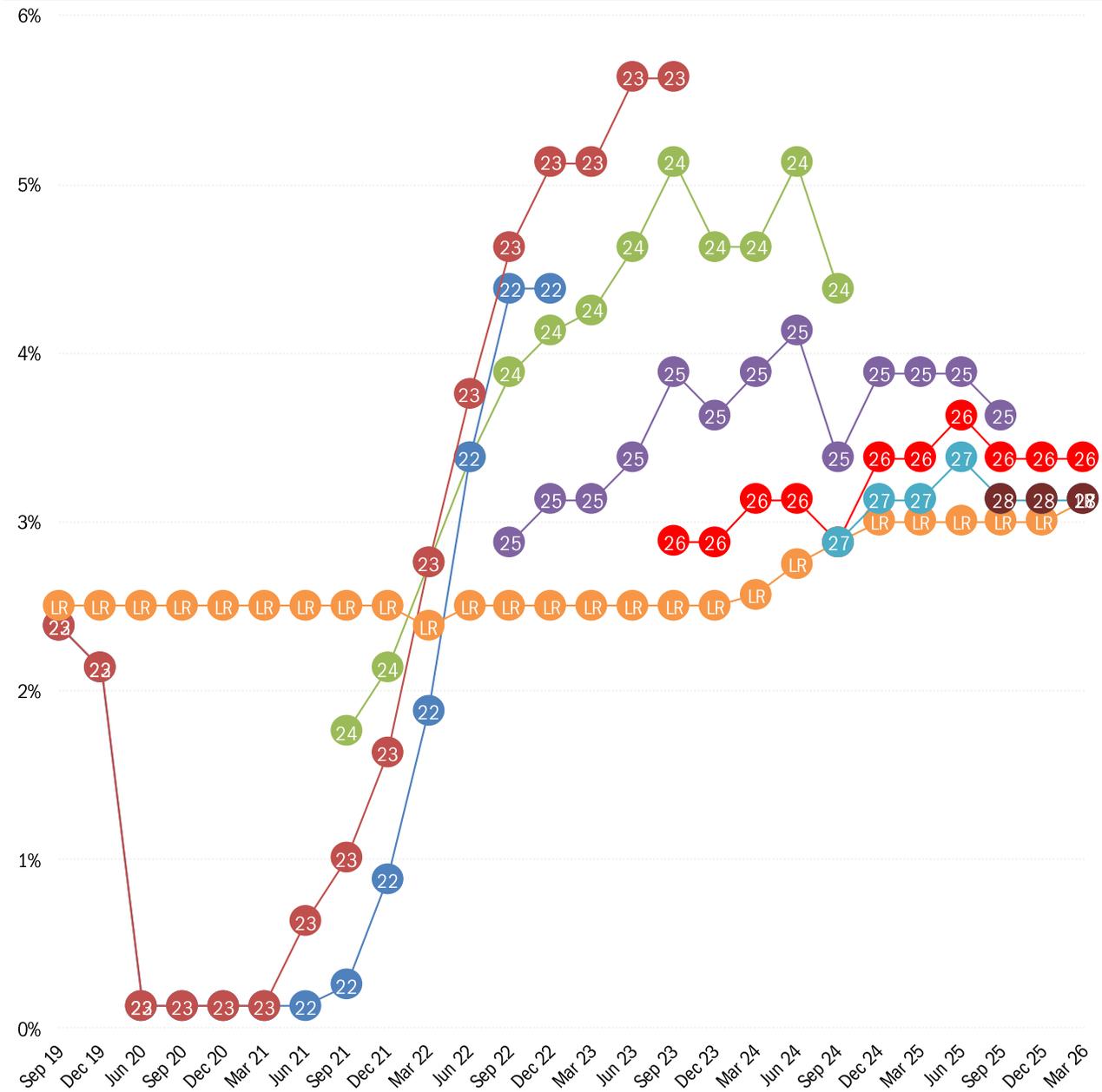
## Summary of Economic Projections at-a-glance (median, level)

Change from [prior SEP](#) with respect to: 2026 2027 2028 Longer run



Source: FOMC, TrendMacro calculations

# “Dot plots” of “appropriate policy path” in the pandemic funds rate cycle

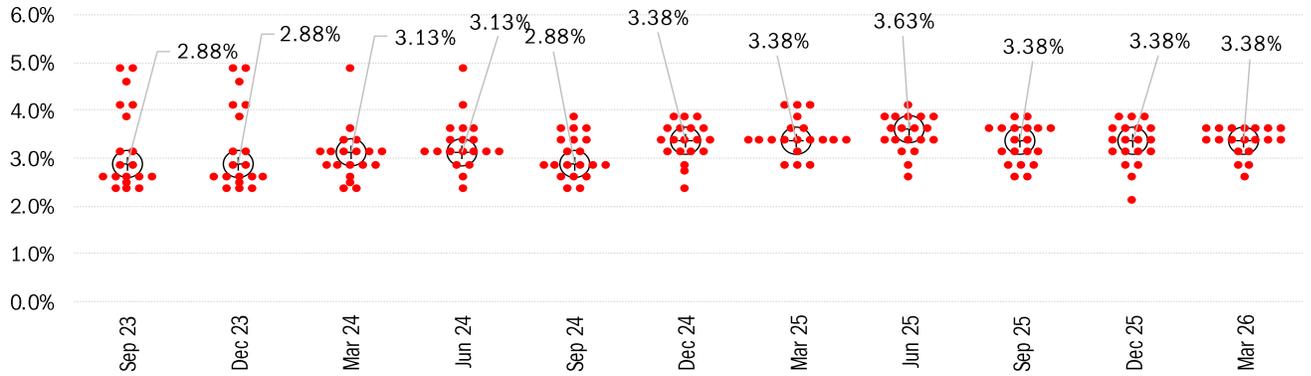


Source: Federal Reserve [SEP](#), TrendMacro calculations

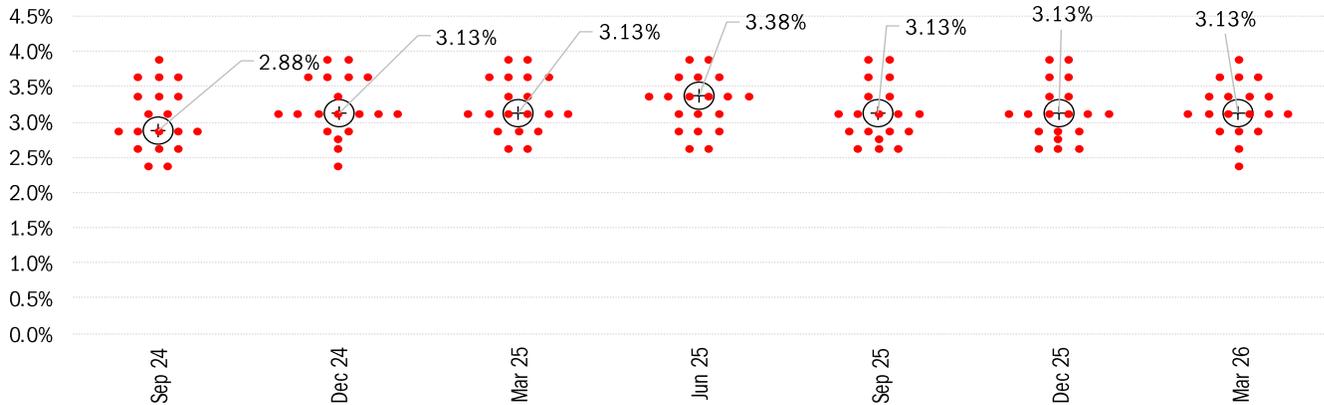
## Tracking the "dotplots" in high-res

FOMC participants' estimate of "appropriate" target fed funds rate ● Vote by participant ○ Median

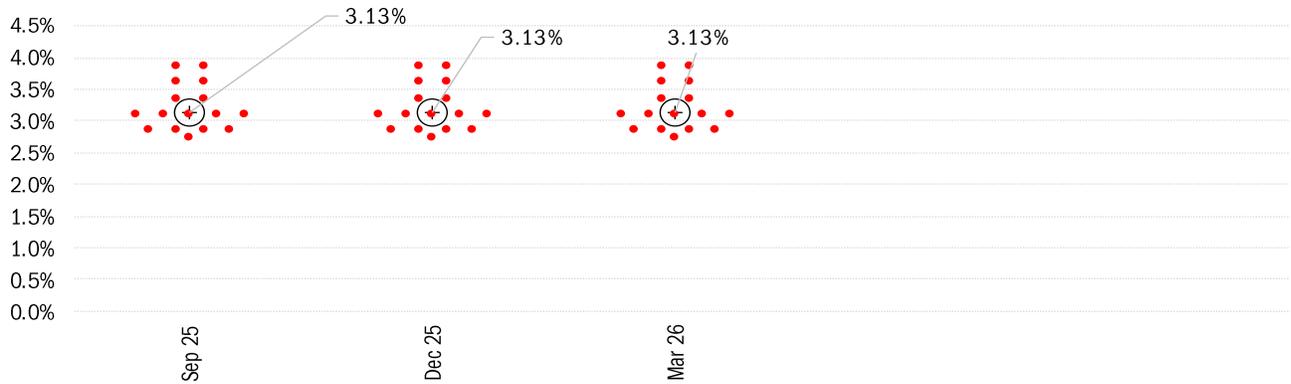
### For year-end 2026



### For year-end 2027



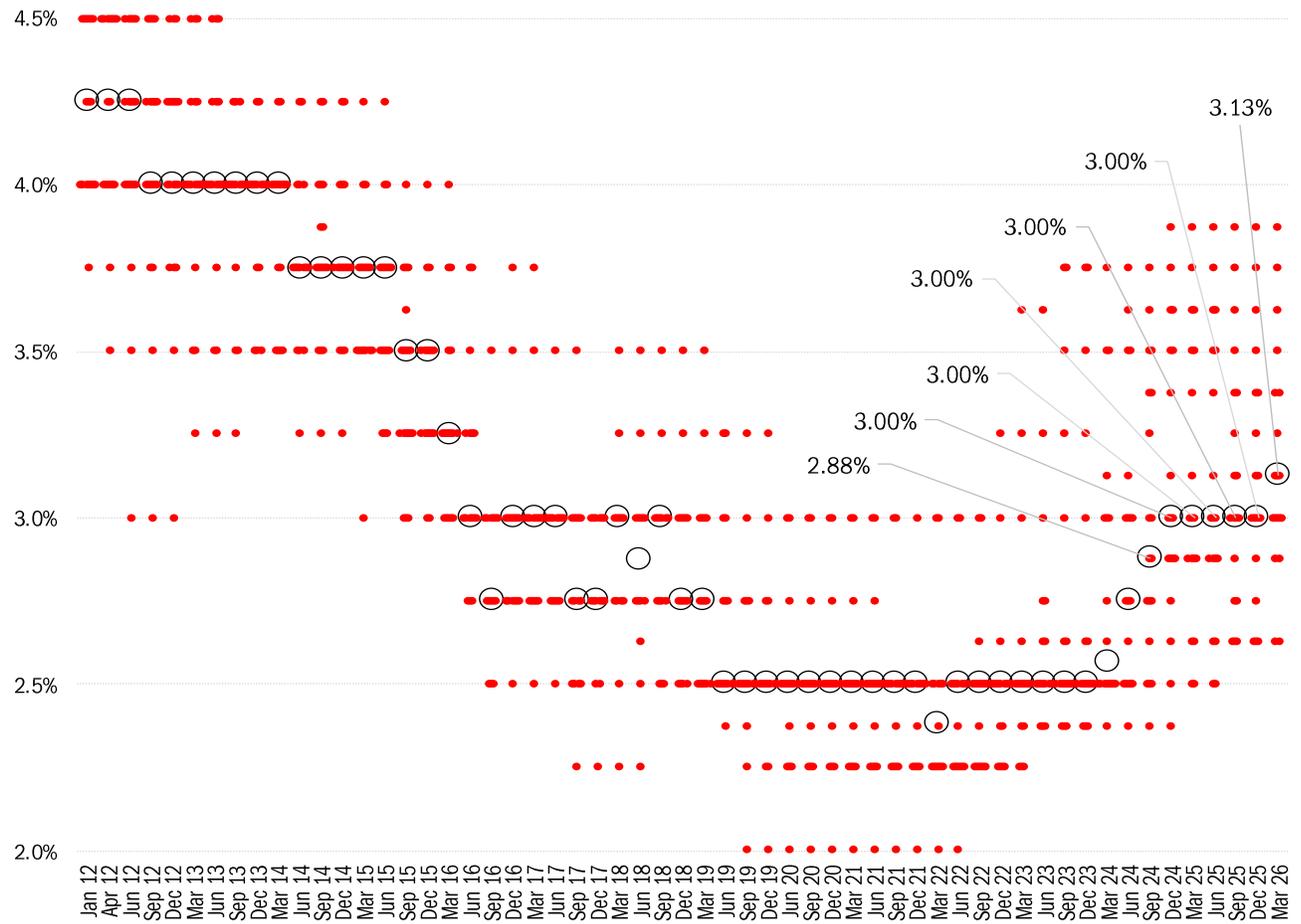
### For year-end 2028



# "R-star" – the ultimate dot-plot

FOMC participants' estimate of "longer run" target funds rate

● Individual participant ○ Median



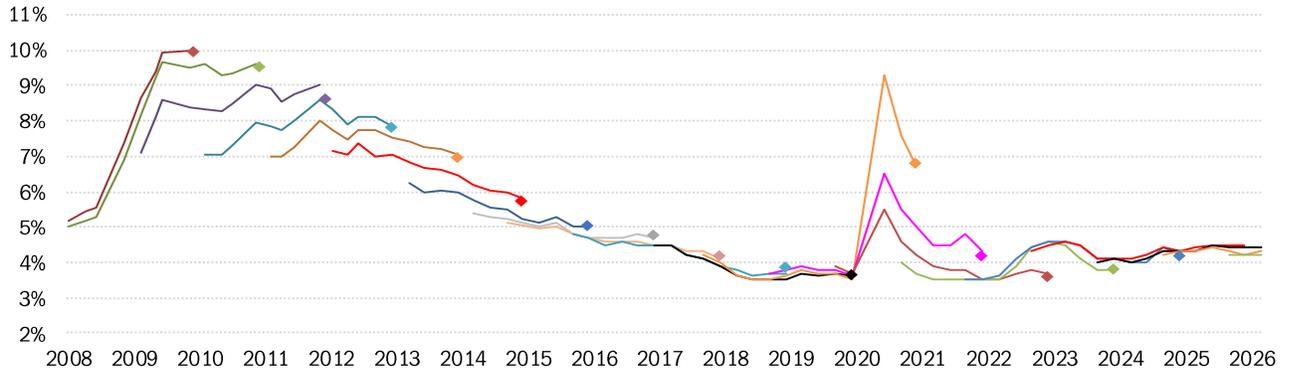
Source: Federal Reserve, TrendMacro calculations

Forecast v actual: [economic projections](#) FRB and presidents

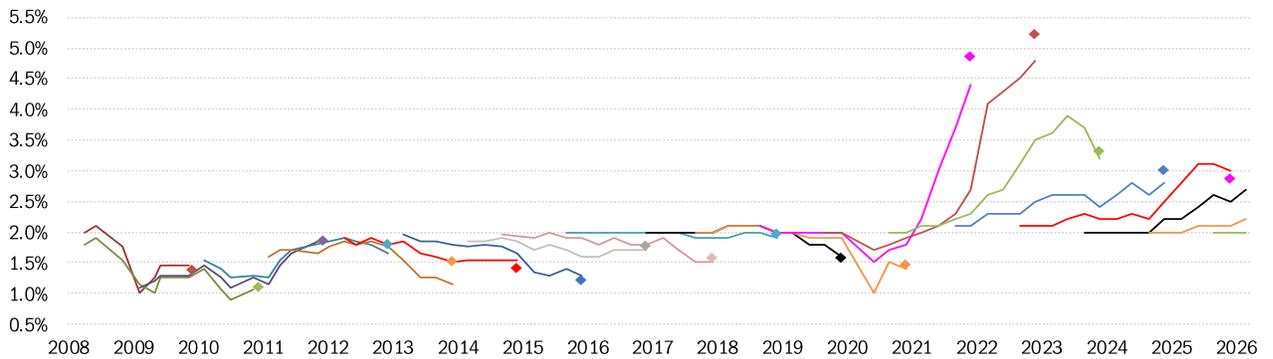
— Forecast ◆ Actual

2009 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 2028

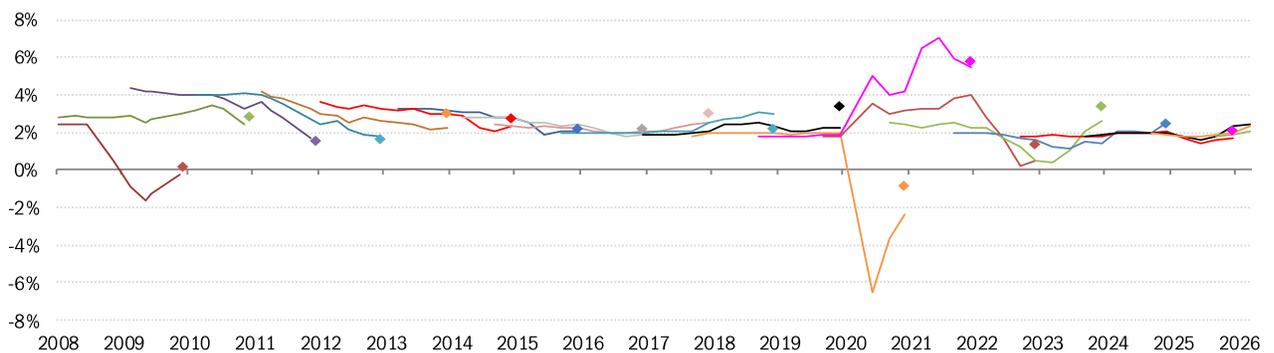
### Unemployment



### Core PCE inflation



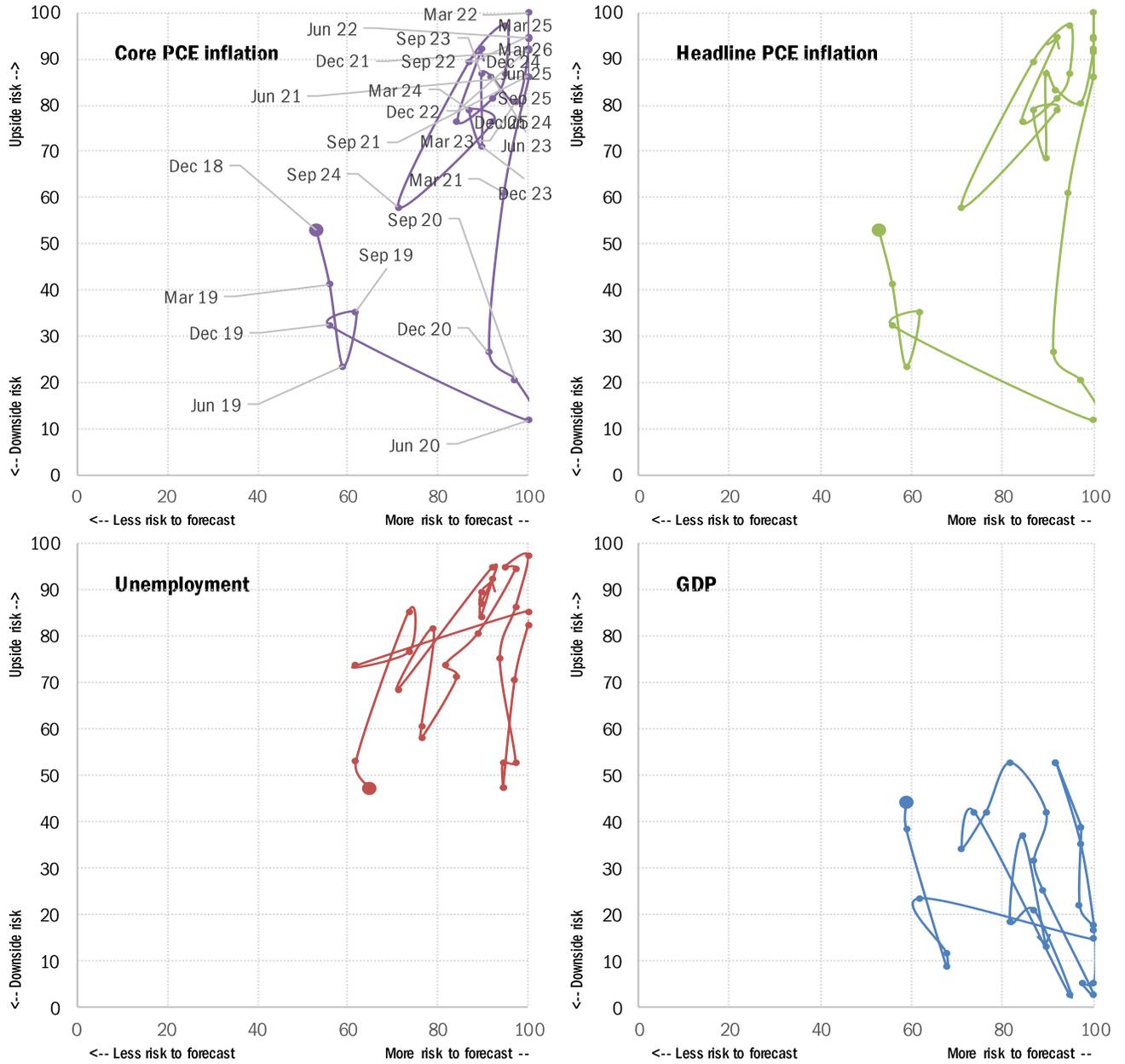
### Real GDP



Source: Federal Reserve, BEA, BLS, TrendMacro calculations

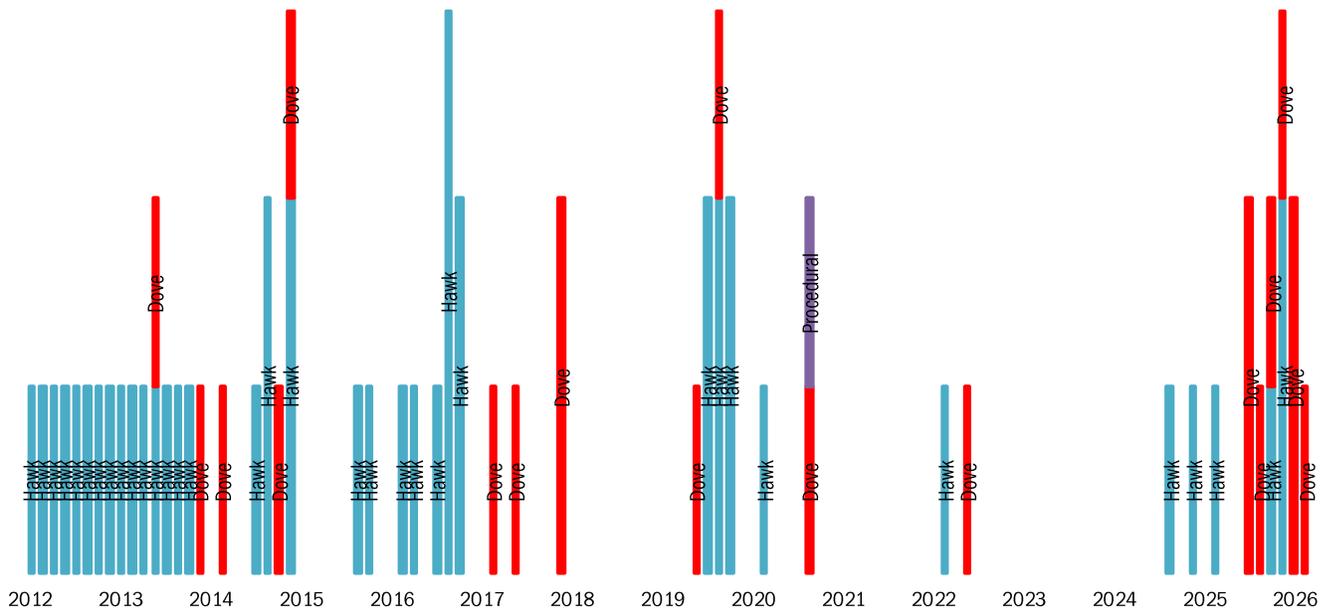
# The evolution of uncertainty

Diffusion indices from FOMC participants' risk self-assessments in [Summary of Economic Projections](#)



Source: Federal Reserve Board, TrendMacro calculations

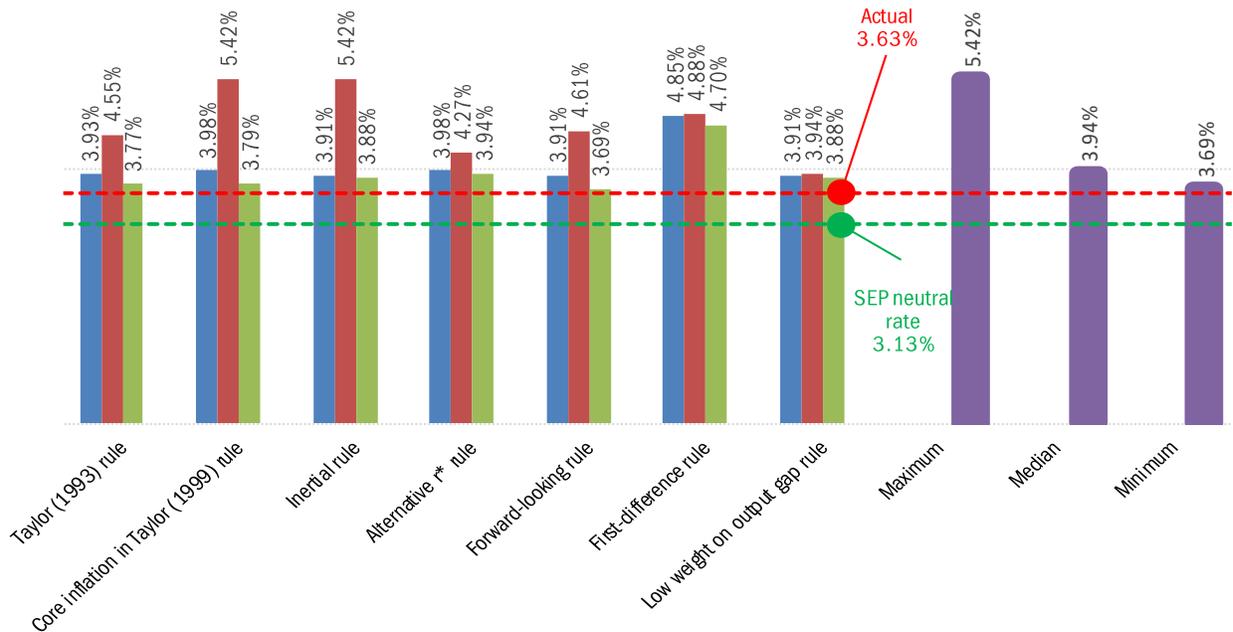
## Other voices: number and direction of FOMC decision dissents



Source: FOMC, TrendMacro calculations

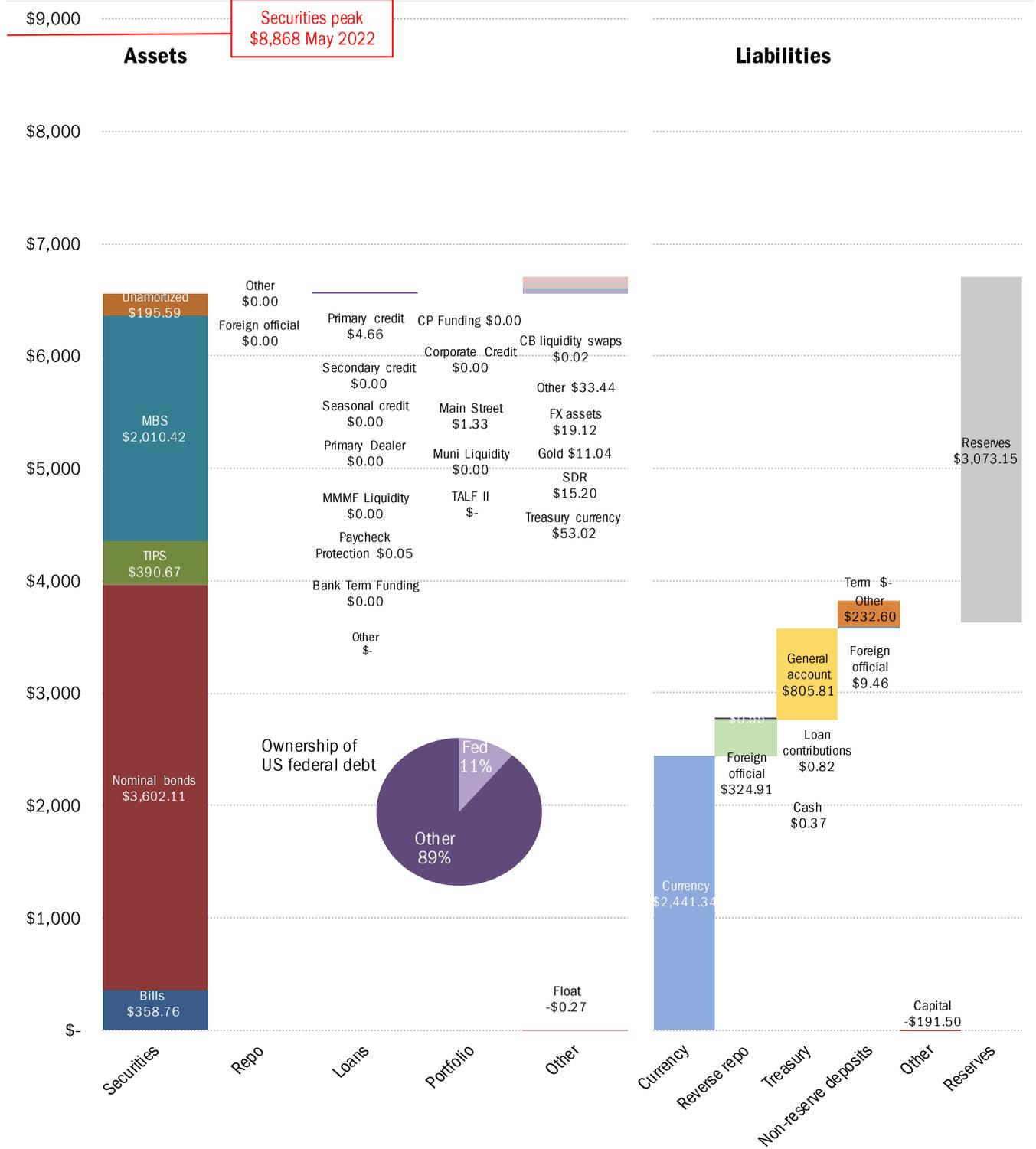
## So many policy rules, so little inclination to follow any of them...

Updated March 6, 2026 Funds rate target based on inputs from: ■ FOMC SEP ■ CBO ■ Cleveland Fed



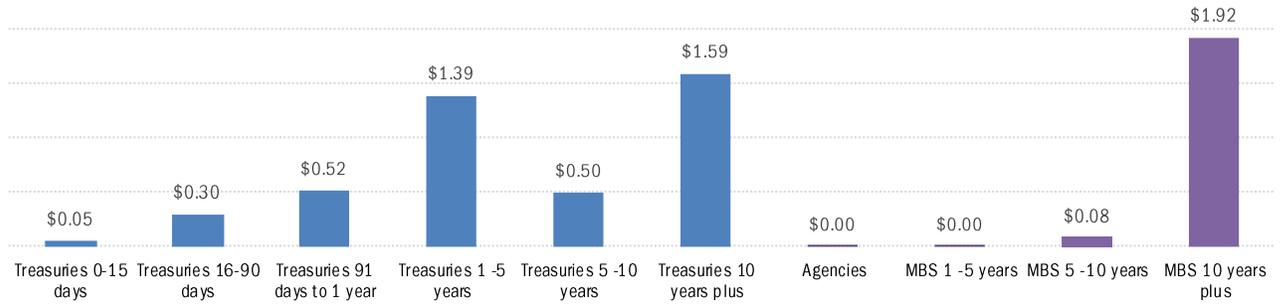
Source: [Cleveland Fed](#), TrendMacro calculations

# The Fed's assets, and how they are funded (USD billions)



Source: Federal Reserve H.4, US Treasury, TrendMacro calculations

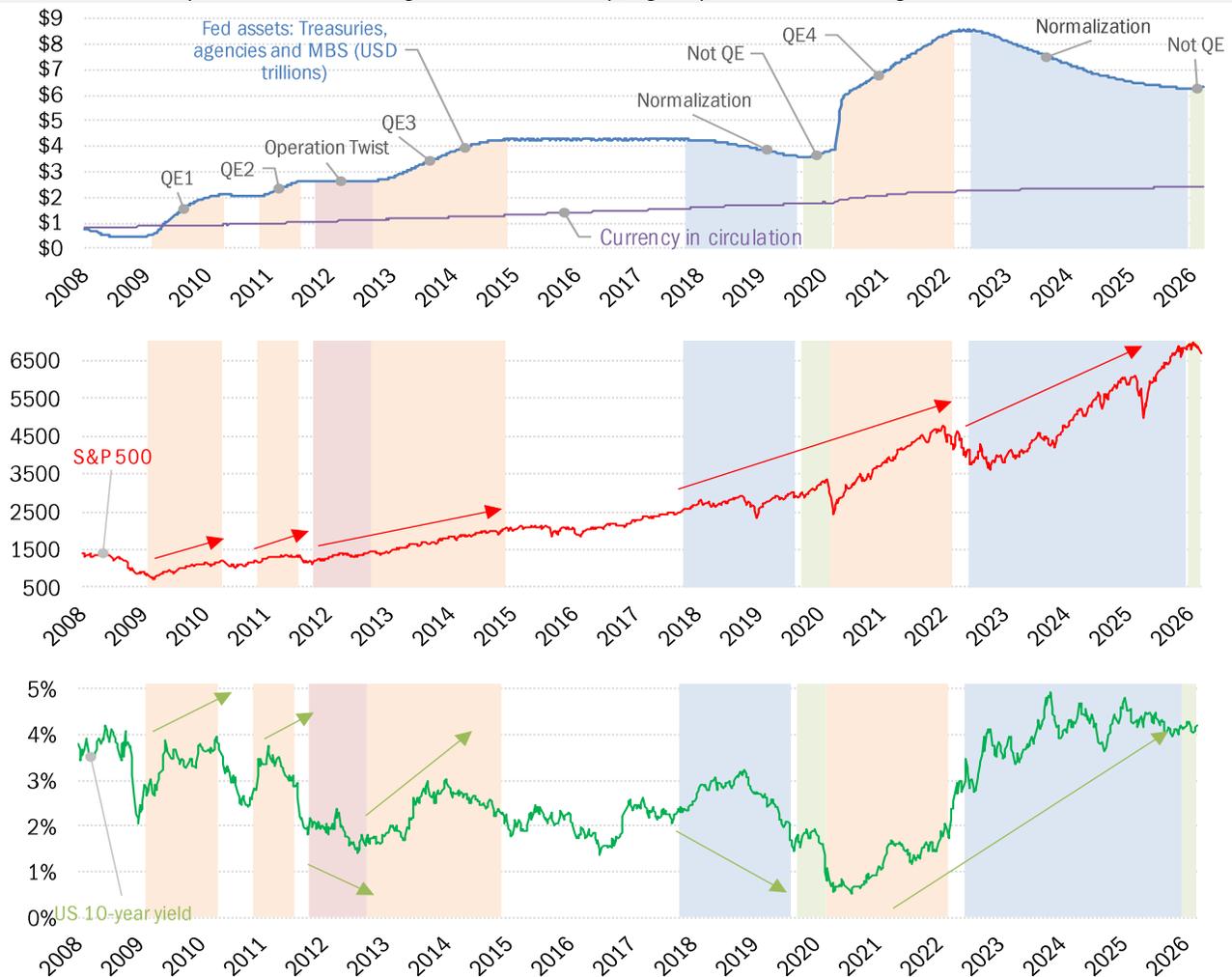
## Sector and maturity breakdown of Fed government securities, USD trillions



Source: Federal Reserve, Bloomberg, TrendMacro calculations

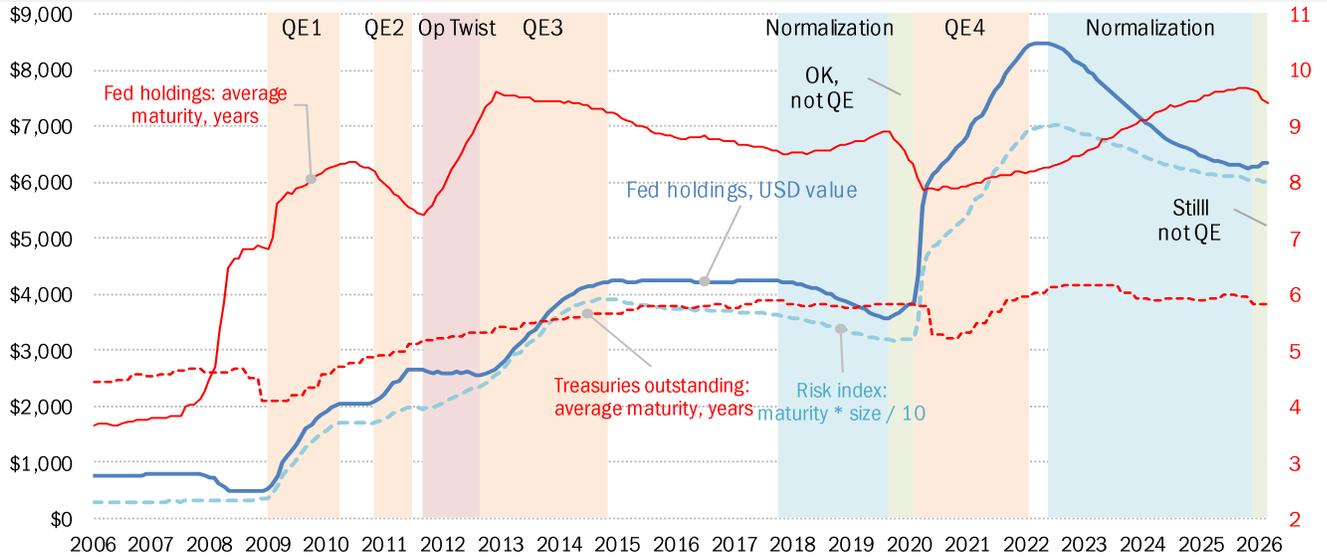
## The Fed's asset purchases, and their effects on markets

Stocks and bond yields react to changes in Fed Treasury, agency and MBS holdings



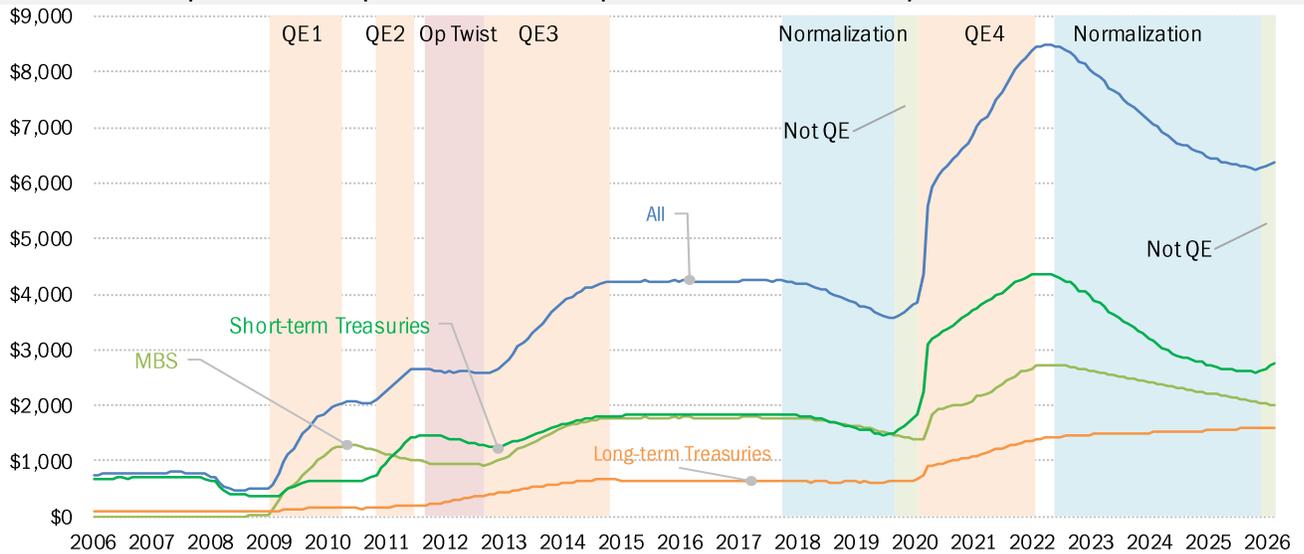
Source: Federal Reserve, Bloomberg, TrendMacro calculations

## Fed Treasury and MBS portfolio: size, maturity and risk index



Source: Federal Reserve, Bloomberg, TrendMacro calculations

## Fed Treasury and MBS portfolio: size by sector and maturity



Source: Federal Reserve, Bloomberg, TrendMacro calculations