# Economic Outlook for U.S. and Columbus Metropolitan Area

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The views expressed today are my own and not necessarily the views of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland or the Federal Reserve System.

## FRBC's role in the Federal Reserve System

- Payments and cash processing
- Bank supervision and regulation
- Community development
- Research
- Monetary policy



- National economic conditions
- Conditions in Columbus metro area
- Availability rates and rents
- Forecast and monetary policy

# National Economic Conditions



**Real GDP Growth and GDPNow Forecast** 



Sources: Bureau of Economic Analysis and FRB Atlanta via Haver Analytics GDPNow last updated on: Feb. 26, 2019 Last data point: 2018:Q3.





Source: Federal Reserve Board via Haver Analytics Last data point: Dec 2018.

## January was 100<sup>th</sup> consecutive month of job gains! Unemployment rate rose to 4 percent.



#### Change in Nonfarm Payroll Employment

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics via Haver Analytics Line represents 12-month moving average. Last data point: Jan 2019.



#### Employment Cost Index

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics via Haver Analytics Last data point: 2018:Q3.

#### **Selected Interest Rates**



Source: FRB BOG and FTSE Russell via Haver Analytics

Last data point: Jan 2019 for U. S. Treasuries, Jan 2019 for the Effective Fed Funds Rate, and Jan 2019 for Citigroup.

- Overall, national economy is doing well
  - GDP on track to grow 3 percent in 2018
  - Manufacturing output grew more in 2018 than any year since 2010
  - Employment has grown 100 months in a row
  - Wage growth has picked up speed
  - Inflation is about 2 percent annually
- Data suggests that economic growth will continue for foreseeable future, but will be slower than in 2018
- Long maturity interest rates have declined in recent months

# Columbus Metro Area Economic Conditions

## Columbus area continues to have strong population growth



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis via Haver Analytics. Last Data Point: 2017 for the United States, 2017 for Ohio, 2017 for Columbus.





Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics via Haver Analytics. Last Data Point: Jan 2019 for the United States, Dec 2018 for Ohio, Dec 2018 for Columbus.





Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics via Haver Analytics

Last Data Point: Jun 2018 for the United States, Jun 2018 for Ohio, Jun 2018 for Columbus.

### In metro, most sectors grew on par with their growth nationally between June 2017 and June 2018

#### Industry Employment Growth



**United States, Ohio and Columbus** 

Total covered employment growth: 1.2% for Columbus, 0.7% for Ohio, 1.5% for United States. Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Last data point: Jun 2018.



#### **Total Residential Building Permits**

Source: Census Bureau via Haver Analytics. Last Data Point: Nov 2018 for the United States, Nov 2018 for Ohio, Nov 2018 for Columbus. Number of units (12-month MA) shown in legend.

- The Columbus region continues to have a robust economy
  - Output per person continues to grow
  - Unemployment rate remains around 4 percent
  - Employment growth has slowed in face of tight labor market
  - Home prices grew 6.2 percent in the last 12 months

- Moody's projects the following for the Columbus metro in 2019:
  - Output will grow 3.1 percent
  - Employment will grow 1.2 percent

# Availability Rates and Rents





Source: CBRE.

Last Data Point: 2018:Q4 for the United States, 2018:Q4 for District MSAs.



Source: CBRE

Last Data Point: 2018:Q4 for the United States, 2018:Q4 for District MSAs.





Source: CBRE.

Last Data Point: 2018:Q4 for the United States, 2018:Q4 for District MSAs.



Source: CBRE. Last Data Point: 2018:Q4 for the United States, 2018:Q4 for District MSAs.



Source: CBRE Last Data Point: 2018:Q4 for the United States, 2018:Q4 for District MSAs.

- National takeaways
  - Offices: Vacancy rate was flat in 2018 and rents continued to rise on trend
  - Industrial: Availability rate continues to fall and at level last seen in 2000
  - Retail: After rising through 2017, availability rate fell in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2018

- Columbus takeaways
  - Offices: Rent was flat in 2018 and vacancy rate jumped up in 1<sup>st</sup> half of 2018
  - Industrial: Availability rate continues to fall and at level last seen in 1995
  - Retail: Availability rate continued steady decline and rents remained stable

# Forecast and Monetary Policy



Source: Congressional Budget Office via Haver Analytics Last data point: 2018:Q3.





Sources: Bureau of Economic Analysis and Federal Reserve Board via Haver Analytics Projections from: Dec 2018





Sources: Bureau of Economic Analysis and Federal Reserve Board via Haver Analytics Projections from: Dec 2018





Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics and Federal Reserve Board via Haver Analytics Projections from: Dec 2018

- At December FOMC meeting, members' median expectation was that the Federal Funds Rate would be 2.75 to 3.00% by 2019's end
- In public comments and in minutes from January FOMC meeting, Chairman Powell and FOMC members have indicated that their expectations are shifting and, given the balance of risks, they expect fewer increases in Federal Funds Rate than previously expected
- According to Fed Watch, the market expects that:
  - Federal Funds Rate target will end 2019 at same level as it is now
  - The odds of a rate decrease are greater than the odds of a rate increase
- Next Summary of Economic Projections comes out on March 20<sup>th</sup>

## Latest official FOMC statement says FOMC is "prepared to adjust" balance sheet path if conditions warrant it, but that the Federal Funds Rate remains the primary tool for adjusting monetary policy



**SOMA Treasury Securities Maturity Profile** 

Sources: Federal Reserve Board and Federal Reserve Bank of New York

## Summary

- Nation's economy had strong growth in 2018
- Wage growth and inflation have been rising
- Mid-term and long maturity interest rates have fallen recently
- The Columbus metro area continues to experience strong growth, though employment growth has slowed in the face of a tight labor market
- Office, industrial, and retail availability trended down in 2018
- Nation's output is forecasted to grow about 2.5 percent in 2019
- Overall, traders expect that the Federal Funds Rate will be unchanged in 2019