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

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#### Disclaimer

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

#### The Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland

## FRBC's role in the Federal Reserve System

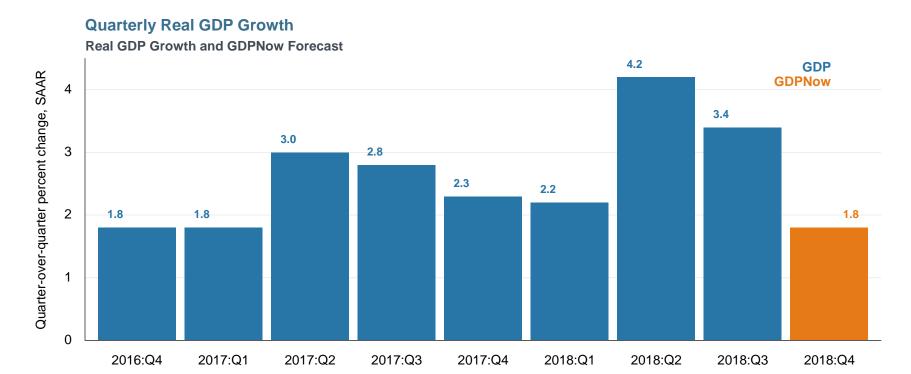
- Payments and cash processing
- Bank supervision and regulation
- Community development
- Research
- Monetary policy

#### Outline

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

# National Economic Conditions

#### The nation had strong growth in 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters of 2018, but slower growth is expected in 4<sup>th</sup> quarter

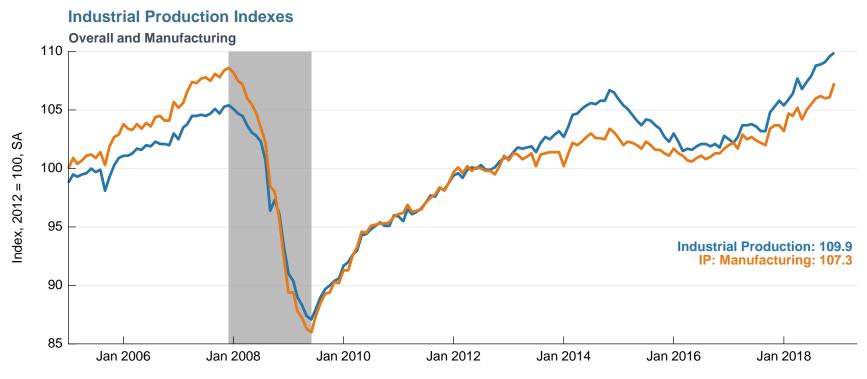


Sources: Bureau of Economic Analysis and FRB Atlanta via Haver Analytics

GDPNow last updated on: Feb. 26, 2019

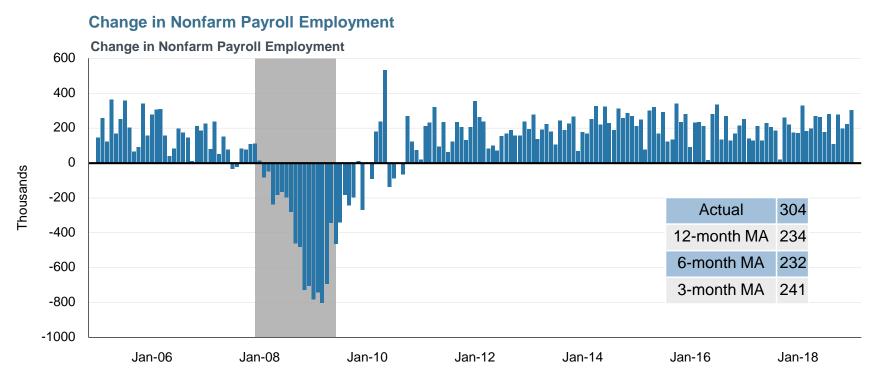
Last data point: 2018:Q3.

#### Manufacturing production rose 3.6 percent in 2018, its strongest growth since 2010



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.



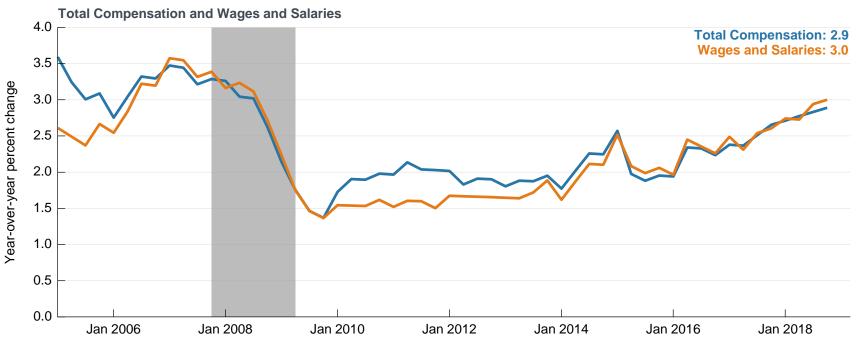
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics via Haver Analytics

Line represents 12-month moving average.

Last data point: Jan 2019.

#### Rate of wage growth increased in 2018 and is getting close to what is historically normal

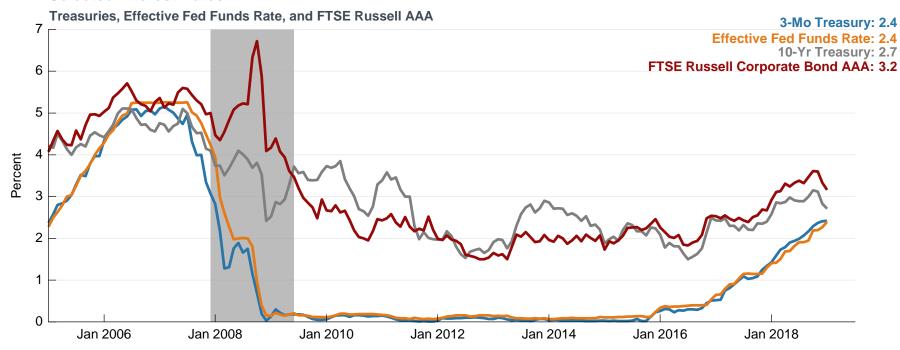




Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics via Haver Analytics Last data point: 2018:Q3.

#### Long run interest rates have fallen in recent months and short term rates have stabilized

#### **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.

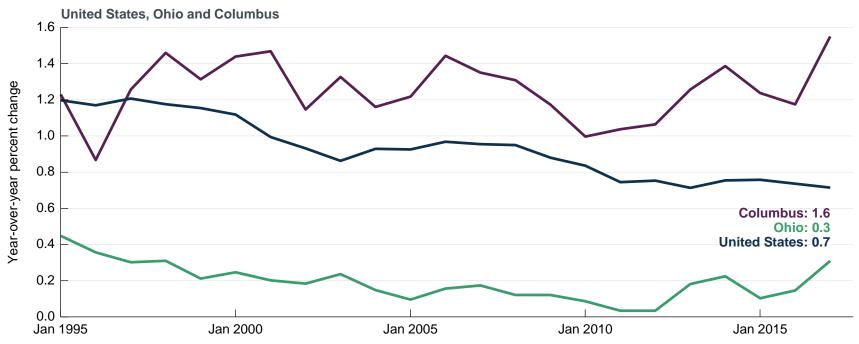
#### Takeaways about national economic conditions

- 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

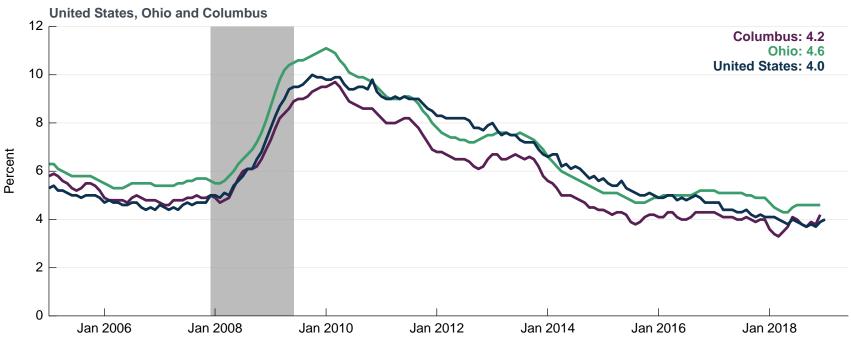




Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis via Haver Analytics. Last Data Point: 2017 for the United States, 2017 for Ohio, 2017 for Columbus.

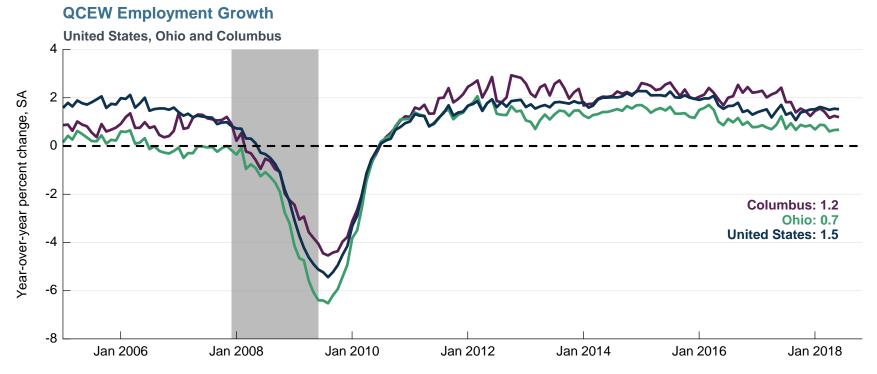
#### The metro's unemployment rate has been in the range economists consider full employment since 2015





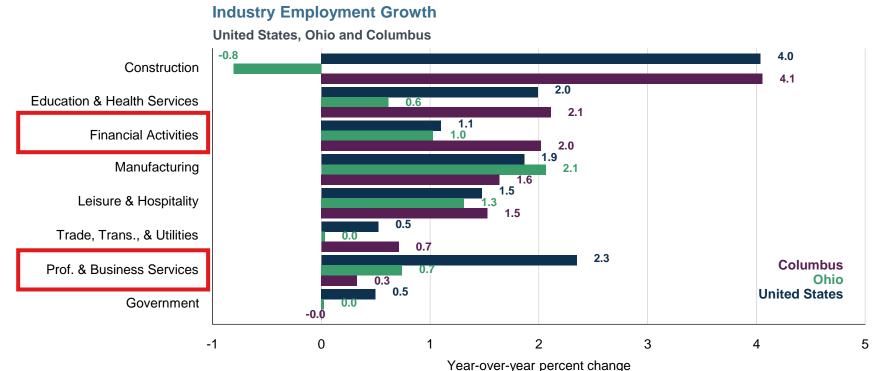
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics via Haver Analytics. Last Data Point: Jan 2019 for the United States, Dec 2018 for Ohio, Dec 2018 for Columbus.

#### With tight labor market, employment growth has slowed here. It remains above Ohio's growth rate.



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.

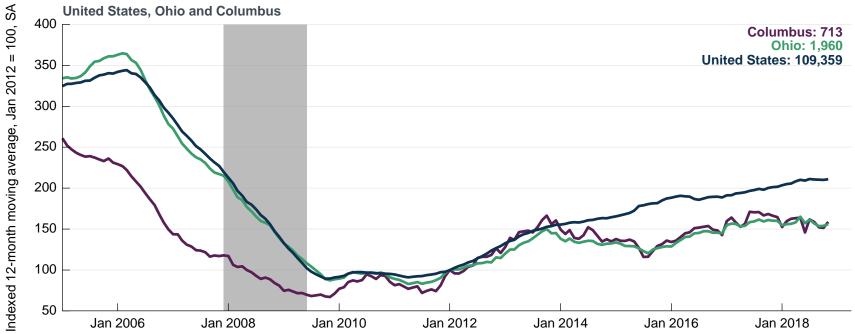
#### In metro, most sectors grew on par with their growth nationally between June 2017 and June 2018



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.

#### While construction employment rose notably, building permits softened in metro a bit in 2018





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.

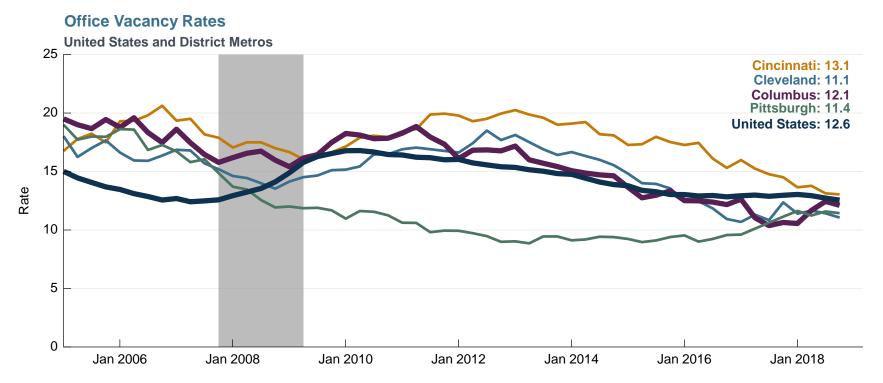
#### Takeaways about Columbus metro area economy

- 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

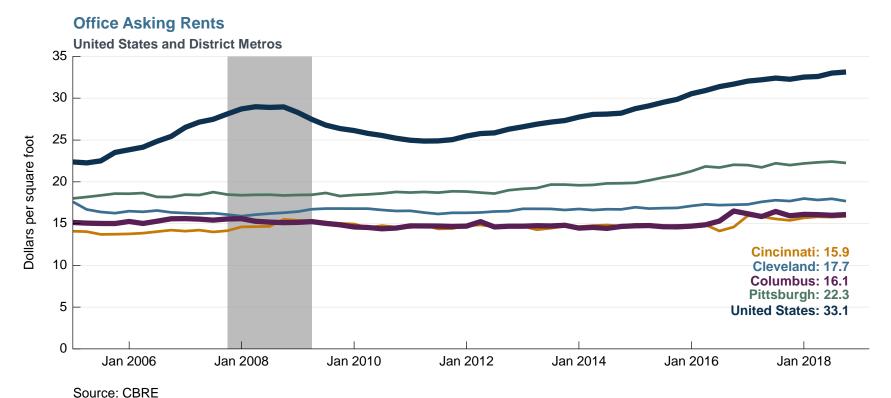
#### While office vacancy rate was stable in nation in 2018, it rose 1.5 percentage points in Columbus region



Source: CBRE.

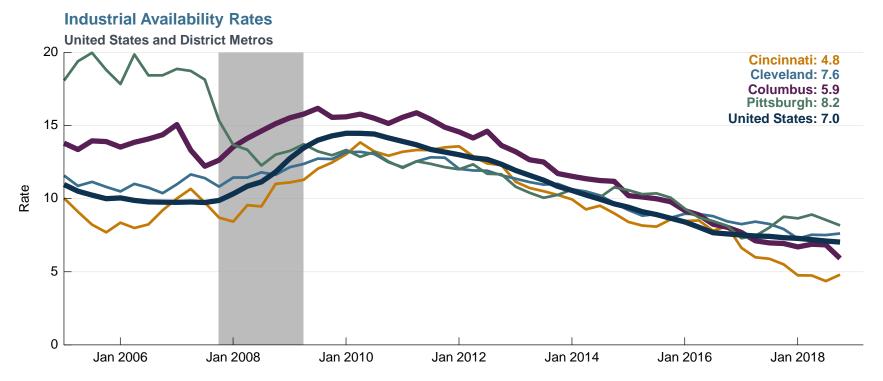
Last Data Point: 2018:Q4 for the United States, 2018:Q4 for District MSAs.

#### Like other large metros in our District, the Columbus region continues to see little growth in office rents



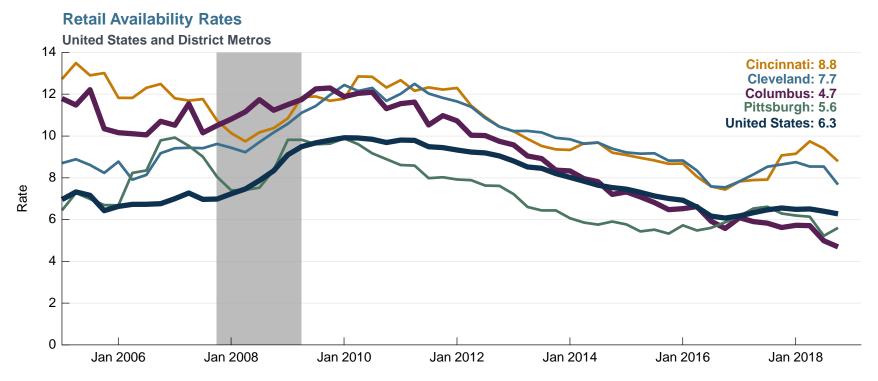
Last Data Point: 2018:Q4 for the United States, 2018:Q4 for District MSAs.

#### Industrial availability rates continue to trend down and have reached levels last seen in the late 1990s



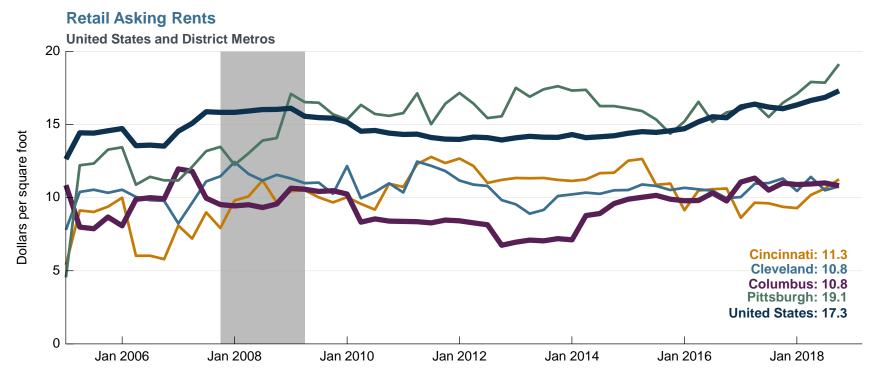
Source: CBRE. Last Data Point: 2018:Q4 for the United States, 2018:Q4 for District MSAs.

#### After rising in 2017, national retail availability rate has leveled off. Columbus's rate continues to tick down.



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

#### After rising from 2014 through 2016, retail rents have been flat in Columbus region since start of 2017



Source: CBRE

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

#### Takeaways about availability and rents

## National takeaways

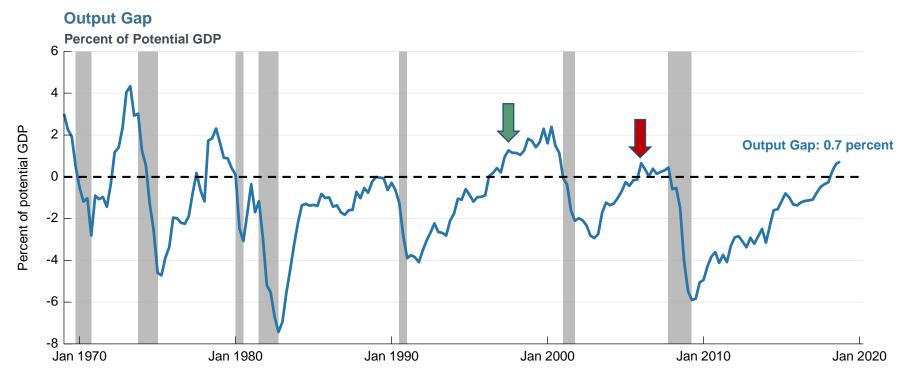
- Offices: Vacancy rate was flat in 2018 and rents continued to rise on trend
- Industrial: Availability rate continues to fall and at level last seen in 2000
- Retail: After rising through 2017, availability rate fell in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2018

## Columbus takeaways

- Offices: Rent was flat in 2018 and vacancy rate jumped up in 1st 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

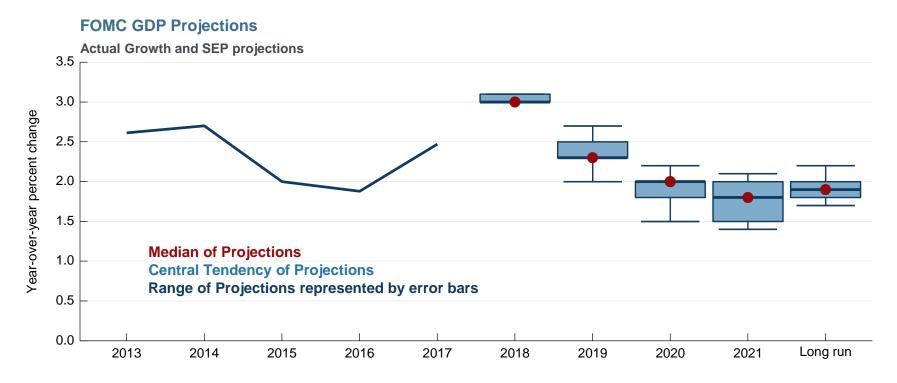
# Forecast and Monetary Policy

#### Output is greater than estimate of "potential output," so economy is essentially at capacity



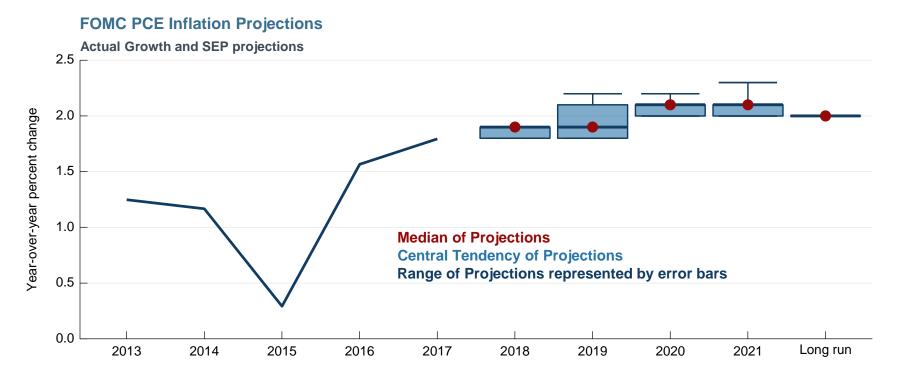
Source: Congressional Budget Office via Haver Analytics Last data point: 2018:Q3.

#### Federal Open Market Committee members predict that output will grow 3.0% in 2018 & 2.3% in 2019



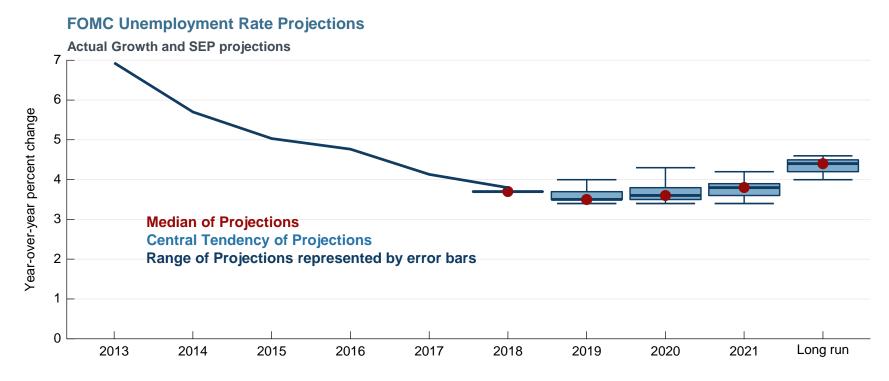
Sources: Bureau of Economic Analysis and Federal Reserve Board via Haver Analytics Projections from: Dec 2018

#### FOMC members expect inflation to be about 2 percent for the foreseeable future



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

#### The unemployment rate is expected to reach 3.5 percent in 2019



Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics and Federal Reserve Board via Haver Analytics

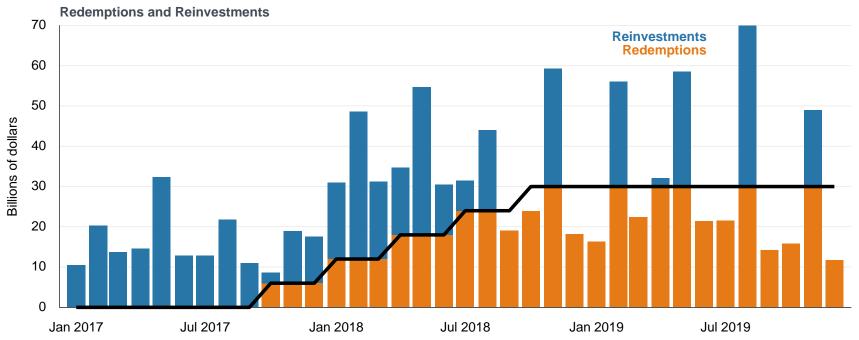
Projections from: Dec 2018

#### Recent developments in Federal Funds Rate expectations

- 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





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