

## Talking Points

In the latest *Take Five* released Monday, November 6, 2017, Economist Bill Emmons discusses...

### FOMC Policy Statement

- Labor Market
  - The labor market has continued to strengthen and economic activity has been rising at a solid rate despite hurricane-related disruptions. Unemployment currently stands at 4.1%.
- Inflation
  - Gasoline prices rose in the aftermath of the fall hurricanes boosting September inflation. Inflation for items other than food and energy, however, remained flat. Headline and core inflation rates are currently running below 2%.
- No Adjustments to the Federal Funds Target Range
  - The Federal Open Market Committee voted to maintain the target range for the federal funds rate at 1% to 1.25%.
- Fed Balance Sheet
  - The balance sheet normalization program that began in October 2017 is proceeding. The current monthly pace of balance sheet run-off is \$10 billion per month and will accelerate to \$50 billion per month by late 2018.

### Announcement of Fed Chair Nomination

- On Thursday, November 2, the president nominated Federal Reserve Governor Jerome Powell to succeed Chair Janet Yellen as Federal Reserve Chair, when her term expires in February 2018. Powell has served as Governor since 2012.