

## Talking Points

In the latest *Take Five* released Monday, March 21, 2022, Economist Bill Emmons discusses...

The March 16, 2022, Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) Policy Statement:

- Labor Market and Inflation
  - Indicators of economic activity and employment have continued to strengthen. Job gains have been strong in recent months, and the unemployment rate has declined substantially. Inflation remains elevated, reflecting supply and demand imbalances related to the pandemic, higher energy prices, and broader price pressures
  - The invasion of Ukraine by Russia is causing tremendous human and economic hardship. The implications for the U.S. economy are highly uncertain, but in the near term the invasion and related events are likely to create additional upward pressure on inflation and weigh on economic activity.
- The Federal Funds Target Range
  - The FOMC decided to raise the target range for the federal funds rate at 1/4 to 1/2 percent and anticipates that ongoing increases in the target range will be appropriate.
- Monetary Policy
  - The FOMC expects to begin reducing its holdings of Treasury securities and agency debt and agency mortgage-backed securities at a coming meeting. The FOMC will continue to monitor the implications of incoming information for the economic outlook. The FOMC would be prepared to adjust the stance of monetary policy as appropriate if risks emerge that could impede the attainment of the FOMC's goals. The FOMC's assessments will take into account a wide range of information, including readings on public health, labor market conditions, inflation pressures and inflation expectations, and financial and international developments.

Views expressed in a *Take Five* videos are the views of the presenter and do not represent the official opinions of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis or the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

## Resources

- [FOMC Statement](#)
- [FOMC Press Conference](#)
- [FOMC Summary of Economic Projections](#)