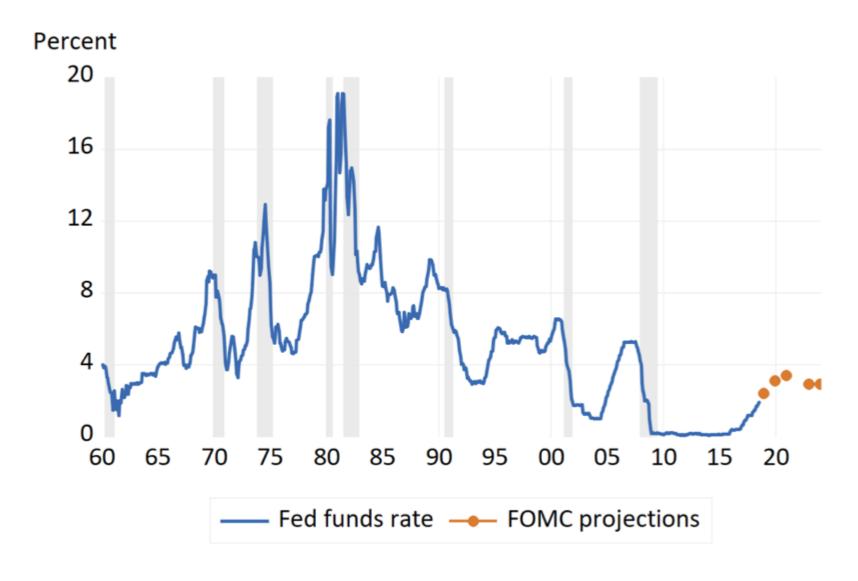
Can advanced-economy monetary policy respond effectively to the next downturn?

John Fernald INSEAD September 5, 2018

Can advanced-economy monetary policy respond effectively to the next downturn?

- Yes
- 1. Won't be able to cut rates as much as in past
- 2. Not necessarily a disaster
 - Forward guidance and QE are substitute
- 3. Strategies put in place <u>now</u> can strengthen monetary tools

Limited scope to cut interest rates in future recessions



Strategies put in place <u>now</u> can strengthen monetary tools

- Raise inflation objective?
 - How often will objective be revised?
 - If forward guidance/QE work, it is not necessary
- Strengthen forward-guidance
 - E.g., price-level target
 - "Bernanke rule" (temporary price level target at ELB) can provide clarity on how long rates will stay at ELB
- Policymakers are discussing these issues