

“Surveying the Economic Landscape,” by Nicholas Parker, senior economic research analyst in the Atlanta Fed’s research department

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Discussion questions

1. Why have the Federal Reserve District Banks and the Board of Governors created their own surveys?
2. What does the University of Michigan Survey of Consumer Sentiment measure? What survey did the Atlanta Fed create to address inflation expectations that were not being captured by the University of Michigan’s survey? Why is this significant?
3. What does the author mean when he states that the Fed’s monetary policy tools “work on a lag”? Cite evidence from the text to support your answer.
4. What goes into the Fed’s Beige Book?
5. Cite evidence from the text to define the term qualitative data. Why is this important to the Fed?
6. What sector in the economy is the most scrutinized and why? Provide a brief summary of the different Fed District Banks’s manufacturing surveys.
7. Describe the process of designing an effective survey.
8. According to Mike Bryan, Atlanta Fed vice president and senior economist, what is the advantage of convening central bank survey practitioners on an annual basis?

Related links

[Atlanta Fed’s Business Expectations Survey](#)

Use the interactive feature of this website to explore the inflationary sentiments of southeastern businesses.

[Beige Book](#)

Students can use this resource as they prepare to conduct an FOMC simulation.

[*macroblog*: “Improvement in the Outlook? The BIE Panel Thinks So”](#)

Have your students read this April 16, 2013, post about how southeastern businesses are expressing more confidence in the economic outlook.

[Surveys of Consumers: Thomson Reuters and University of Michigan](#)

Have students explore the data, tables, and charts on this website.