

Foreword

Five years after the start of the global financial crisis, many of the world's economies remain in a fragile state. Their recovery faces challenges in the forms of contagion, deleveraging, fiscal austerity and chronic high unemployment.

Policymakers are seeking to prevent a recurrence of the crisis, encourage a recovery while at the zero lower bound, avoid inflation and financial imbalances, all while trying to navigate an unfamiliar and shifting policy landscape. In response, central banks are introducing a host of new policy tools designed to stimulate economies, including pushing interest rates to the effective lower bound, making large-scale asset purchases and developing communication strategies in support of their recovery efforts.

To explore these issues and others, the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City sponsored a symposium, "The Changing Policy Landscape," Aug. 30-Sept. 1, 2012, in Jackson Hole, Wyo. The Jackson Hole symposium provided a range of perspectives on the challenges facing policymakers following the recent global financial crisis and the changing policy landscape in which they operate. The 2012 symposium has furthered our understanding of how the global financial crisis was transmitted among emerging and advanced economies and how to strengthen the global economic and financial system.

We are grateful for the efforts of the authors, discussants, panelists and other participants for their important contributions to the symposium. I also thank members of the staff of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City who helped plan and arrange the symposium.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Esther L. George". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "E".

Esther L. George,
President and Chief Executive Officer,
Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City