



'Extraordinary shock' -Fed Chair Powell assesses economic blow

April 30, 2020



The Federal Reserve on Wednesday left interest rates near zero and repeated a vow to use its "full range of tools" to shore up the U.S. economy amid an ongoing coronavirus pandemic that will not only slam growth in the near term but pose "considerable risks" in the medium term as well.

(SOUNDBITE) (English) U.S. FEDERAL RESERVE CHAIR, JEROME POWELL, SAYING:

"It's an extraordinary shock. Unlike anything, certainly, that's happened in my lifetime."

1. A stark assessment of the U.S. economy, Wednesday, _____

2-1. The Fed left interest rates near zero and _____

2-2. one that's been in a free-fall since _____

2-3. to shut and _____

(SOUNDBITE) (English) U.S. FEDERAL RESERVE CHAIR, JEROME POWELL, SAYING:

"We expect to maintain interest rates at this level until we're confident that the economy has weathered recent events. We will continue to use our tools to assure the recovery when it comes will be as robust as possible."

3-1. Data out Wednesday showed the U.S. economy shrank _____

3-2. ending _____

4-1. In a matter of weeks - the U.S. economy has gone _____

4-2. to seeing more than 26 million people _____

5. And Chairman Powell says _____

(SOUNDBITE) (English) U.S. FEDERAL RESERVE CHAIR, JEROME POWELL,
SAYING:

"I think it will take some time for that to happen - for us to get back to anything that resembles maximum employment."

6. Powell said the strength of the economy _____

(SOUNDBITE) (English) U.S. FEDERAL RESERVE CHAIR, JEROME POWELL,
SAYING:

"How long will it take to get it under control, will there be additional outbreaks...
In the near term we are going to see, you know, significant declines in economic activity, significant declines in employment and increases in unemployment - we're going to see that as a consequence of the virus and the measures we are taking to protect ourselves from it... probably the economic activity will pick up as consumer spending picks up...
But the chances are it won't go right back to where we were because people will, until they're confident, that the virus is well and truly under control, then they will be somewhat reluctant to undertake certain kinds of activity. So it may take some time."

7. Powell's comments came _____

8-1. The Fed said it will continue to buy U.S. treasuries and _____

8-2. in the amounts needed _____

9-1. Powell added that the novel coronavirus _____

9-2. but tried to assure Americans, _____

[Vocabulary]

stark: extreme and obvious; used for describing an unpleasant fact or situation that is very obvious or impossible to avoid • There still remained one stark difference between the two men.

• *His words were in stark contrast to what he had said earlier.*

assessment: the process of making a judgment or forming an opinion, after considering something or someone carefully

• *The investigation was reopened after careful assessment of new evidence.*

- **Federal Reserve:** the central bank of the United States; incorporates 12 Federal Reserve branch banks and all national banks and state chartered commercial banks and some trust companies
- **chair:** the officer who presides at the meetings of an organization
 - *All questions must be addressed to the chair.*
- **Jerome Powell:** (born February 4, 1953) is the 16th Chair of the Federal Reserve, serving in that office since February 2018.
- **Fed:** = Federal Reserve Bank; one of 12 regional banks that monitor and act as depositories for banks in their region
- **free-fall:** an occasion when a price or value suddenly becomes much lower
- **shut:** to close a business at the end of the working day or for a short period of time
 - *There is a tendency to shut museums or shops at a moment's notice.*
- **weather:** to manage a difficult experience without being seriously harmed
 - *The company has weathered the recession.*
 - *The government has weathered its worst political crisis.*
- **robust:** very strong and healthy; successful; healthy
 - *a robust economy*
 - *More women than men go to the doctor. Perhaps men are more robust or worry less?*
- **shrink:** to become smaller in amount, value, or range
 - *The company's profit margins shrank from 32.5 percent to 17 percent.*
 - *The vast forests of West Africa have shrunk.*
- **file for:** to submit the paperwork for something. The phrase is often used in legal matters; sign up for
 - *Is it true that Tina filed for divorce?*
- **jobless benefit:** unemployment benefit; money that the government pays to **unemployed** people who are looking for a job
 - *The truth is that Europeans like early retirement, high jobless benefits and long vacations.*
 - *Also, workers laid off from part-time jobs should be eligible for jobless benefits.*
- **trajectory:** The definition of a **trajectory** is the curved path something takes as it moves through space. An **example** of **trajectory** is the path taken by a paper airplane as it flies through the air.; the way in which a process or event develops over a period of time.
 - *No one seems satisfied with the trajectory of the peace talks.*
 - *Figure 1 depicts the trajectories of the best fitting model.*
- **get something under control:** to succeed in dealing with something so that it does not cause any harm
 - *It took two hours to bring the fire under control.*
 - *The police got the situation under control.*
- **decline:** a reduction in the amount or quality of something

- *There's been a decline in the youth labor force of about 2 and half million people.*
- *There has been a steady decline in public services over recent years.*

□ **consumer spending:** the percentage of an economy that is accounted for by what consumers spend

- *In 1929, consumer spending was 75% of the nation's economy.*

□ **pick up:** to get better; to improve

- *They won't let him out of the hospital until his health has picked up.*
- *It was a rough year, but things have been picking up lately.*

□ **the chances are:** the likelihood is; there is a good chance that

- *The chances are she will visit today.*
- *The chances are slim that what you want will happen.*

□ **policy meeting:** strategy meeting; the formulation of ideas or plans that are used by an organization or government as a basis for making decisions

- *Today, the Bank of Japan will hold a Monetary Policy Meeting.*

□ **videoconference:** a meeting in which people in different places see and hear each other using electronic equipment, including video screens

- *In some courtrooms, many hearings are being held via the videoconferencing software*

Zoom, or telephone.

□ **treasuries:** all the money or valuable objects that belongs to an organization, a government, a company, etc.

- *Yields on ten-year treasuries jumped by 1.3 per cent as stock markets edged down.*
- *Yields on benchmark ten-year treasuries rose to 2.71 per cent, the highest for three weeks.*

□ **mortgage:** a legal agreement in which you borrow money from a bank in order to buy a house. You pay back your mortgage by making monthly payments

- *I sold my apartment since it's dumb to keep paying the mortgage.*

□ **mortgage-backed security:** a security created when a group of mortgages are gathered together and bonds are sold to other institutions or the public; investors receive a portion of the interest payments on the mortgages as well as the principal payments; usually guaranteed by the government

□ **novel:** new, or unusual

- *a novel solution to a problem*
- *Protesters found a novel way of demonstrating against steeply rising oil prices.*

[参照辞書: Merriam-Webster, Oxford English Dictionary, America Heritage of the English language, Collins English Dictionary, Macmillan Dictionary, the Free Dictionary, Wikipedia]

