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Macro Roundup Artcile

Headline: The Effect of Monetary Policy Assumptions on Fiscal and Macroeconomic Analysis

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Tweet: .@ernietedeschi and @riccoja argue that a Fed "captured" by political pressure would lead to median inflation 0.6% higher after six years.

Summary: A "captured" Fed would be one less responsive to inflationary impulses, which allows inflationary pressure to build unchecked. To test the implications of capture, we ran a monetary policy rule that allows for a spectrum of political "capture" through a series of stochastic simulations in FRB/US, the Fed's macroeconomic model. In these simulations, FRB/US picks random historical economic shocks to key variables occurring between 1970 and 2023 and applies them to its forward forecast. We ran 1,000 such simulations each assuming C = 0 (no political capture) and alternatively C = 0.85 (high political capture). C = 1 implies extreme perfect capture, in which the Fed only responds asymmetrically to low inflation and high unemployment. Figure 2 illustrates the results. The x-axis shows cumulative 6-year inflation, while the y-axis denotes the probability of each outcome in our simulations. A captured Fed skews economic outcomes towards more inflation over time. In our simulations, low inflation was just as likely under our two capture assumptions. But the median inflationary outcome was +0.6pp higher after six years under high capture. And the outlier 95th percentile outcome was almost 2pp higher under high capture.

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Primary Topic: Monetary Policy

Topics: GDP, Inflation, Monetary Policy, Op-Ed/Blog Post, Politics, Weekly

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